

# Techentien Family



The Techentien name came to this area through Johann Friedrich Techentien (1832-1914). Johann Friedrich was the son of Johann Peter Techentien and was born in Hamburg Schleswig, located in the Mecklenburg Schwinn farming region in the northern part of East Germany. In 1862 Johann Friedrich became a U.S. citizen.

Johann Friedrich married Mary Fetting (1833-1868). When and where the marriage took place and when the couple actually came to America is unknown. Two children were born to the marriage: William (b.1863) and Ida (b.1864). In 1864, Friedrich also purchased a 40-acre farm in section 12 of Bridgeport Township for \$280.

After the death of Friedrich's first wife, he sent to Germany for her younger sister Elizabeth Fetting (1846-1922). Friedrich and Elizabeth's marriage was blessed with nine children: Anna, John, Wilhelmina, Theodore, Albert, Alvina, Frederick Jr., Augusta and George Christian.

Friedrich was one of nine men who organized St. Matthew's Lutheran Church located on the corner of King Road and Portsmouth Road. He was elected trustee and held this position for many years.

The small congregation held services in a log school located east of the present church.

Groundbreaking for the new church took place in the spring of 1882. Timbers were cut from the surrounding woods, hauled to the site, and hand hewn by the members. The building was erected under the direction of August Baker of Frankentrost, for about \$4,000. The members of the congregation mortgaged their own farms to pay for their new church.

Friedrich died in 1914 at the age of 81 years. His youngest son George then bought the farm from his mother. George's marriage to Rose Veitengruber in 1912 was blessed with three children: Eleanor, Adaline, and Melvin. George worked the farm and did custom threshing of dry beans for farmers in the neighboring communities. George would arrive early on threshing day with his "beaner". The neighboring farmers and sons would gather together to fork the beans onto wagons. These were pulled over to the "beaner" by horse team to be threshed. The children, too small to help, would carry drinks out to the workers. It was a long, hot and dusty day of hard work. The farmer's wife, with the help of any daughters, had the job of feeding this entire crew of men with huge appetites. Of course, all the meals had to be cooked on wood stoves.

The farm, as of the year 2006, still houses a blacksmith shop with a working forge, which was used to fit horseshoes for the horses. George and Rose lived on the farm until their retirement in 1944.

Melvin, George's only son, took over the farm at this time, along with his wife, Marie nee Boensch. They had three children: Carolyn, Joanne and Donald.

Melvin went threshing with his father and the two worked the farm together. Melvin later took a job at the Bancroft Hotel in Saginaw, working with his uncle who was a talented carpenter, locksmith and handy man. Upon his uncle's retirement, Melvin had full responsibility for the hotel maintenance.

In 1950, Melvin left the Bancroft Hotel to begin his own plumbing and heating contracting business. Although semi-retired, Melvin and his wife Marie resided on the original farm, and remained active members of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.



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