

Ziegler Family



he Ziegler family name came to America through Johannes Ziegler. He was born in Oberstenfeldt, Germany, and in 1857, he came to America with his friend Balthas Deuring. Johannes worked in New York for a couple of years then decided to go to California. He left without saying anything to his friend Balthas. He took the southern route by boat through the Panama Canal, as the railroad across the mainland of America had not yet been completed. Johannes worked in California for a couple of years, but because he didn't like the California climate he went back to New York. By this time the railroad was completed so he took the train across America back to New York.

Upon return, his friend Balthas told him about a German settlement in Michigan. When he heard about this he knew that is where he wanted to settle. It is believed he came to Frankenmuth in 1861 and a year later purchased a farm. According to an 1877 Atlas of Saginaw County, this farm was 120 acres of farmland, 1½ miles east of Frankenmuth, on what is presently Tuscola Road.

May 10, 1863, he married Anna Katherina Stern, whom he had met in Germany. Anna Katherine was born in Gräfensteinberg Gunzenhausen, Germany. It is said that she would carry a sack of wheat 3½ miles to a gristmill south of Tuscola on Perry Creek to be ground into flour. This must have been an all day task at that time given the amount of time it took to walk back and forth carrying a heavy load and waiting on the time and procedure of grinding the wheat into flour while in Perry Creek. The couple was blessed with five children: John Michael (1867-1951), Balthas (1873-1921), Mary Ziegler Simmindinger, Sophia Ziegler Herdlein and Christianna Barbara Ziegler Keinath (1-27-1866 to 9-25-1954).

Johannes died in Dec. 1900 and Anna Katherina died in 1928.

John Mike Ziegler married Anna Bickel (1865-1905). They had two daughters, Anna (1894-1981) and Mary (1896-1966). These two daughters never married.

After the death of his wife Anna in 1905, John married Anna Margaret Schellhas (1869-1944) in 1906. They had one son, John G. Ziegler. It probably was John Mike, mentioned in the Petzold family history, who, 'in typical hospitality', took newcomers Paul Petzold and his brother-in-law home to spend the night.

John G. Ziegler (1907-1987) married Clara Herdlein (1909-2005) in November of 1931. They had two sons, Eugene J. born in 1935, and James R. born in 1940. John farmed the Tuscola Road Homestead in addition to buying additional land in the Millington area. He served on the School Board of the Frankenmuth School District from 1946 to 1955. He also served on various boards at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church.

Eugene J. married Eileen Daenzer in 1960. Their children are Michael E. (b.1-30-62), who married Patricia Green on April 25, 1987; Connie L. (b.8-29-67), who married Kent Singer on June 22, 1991; and Diane M. (5-10-71), who married David Alsvig on May 30, 1998. Eugene farms on Murphy Lake Road in Millington.

James R. Ziegler, the second son of John G. Ziegler, married Judith LaBeau in 1962. They have three children: Thomas J. (Jan. 7, 1964); John R. (Nov. 16, 1966); and Amy S. (July 4, 1971). James is also engaged in farming and lives on the original Tuscola Road homestead that Johannes Ziegler bought.



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