# History of Irankenmuth



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# History

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Frankenmuth



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HISTORY
OF
FRANKENMUTH
Saginaw County, Michigan

# FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE PRESENT TIME

Including an outline of the History of Frankenmuth, with short sketches of the First Settlers.

GATHERED BY T. J. POLLEN



T. J. POLLEN

This history of Frankenmuth, published around 1914 by Mr. T. J. Pollen, is the product of a man who lived most of his life in the area, and reflects the views of those times. Many of the events which he describes were undoubtedly recounted to him either by participants in the events or by those who had heard of these events from a participant. The basic information about the families was gathered by one of the original pioneers, Mr. John G. Rummel and entitled "Zum 50 Jahren Jubilaeum von Frankenmuth, 1895". Mr. Pollen has relied heavily on this small, and now very rare work for much of the early history of this immigrant colony. However, since he was a resident of the area for many years and had formed many friendships with descendants of the original colonists, he was fortunately able to follow up on the original history and to bring this information forward to the date of the printing of this book. Some of the events are described with his own feelings in mind and are not such as are found in other writings.

Those theories which the reader may notice in the following pages reflect the thoughts and feelings of early twentieth-century America; the ensuing sixty five years have done much to change both these thoughts and feelings.

Regardless of this, only such mistakes in spelling as are attributable to typographical errors have been corrected; others have been left as found in order to retain the general flavor of the content.

Many of the names found in this book can still be found in the pages of a current telephone directory. Many of the names never were spelled in the current manner until after the turn of the present century and a number of names were distorted by illegiblity and ignorance on the part of the original recordkeeper.

Mr. Pollen was a native of Norway, born in Skien, October 1st, 1850. He received a primite education in a little red schoolhouse where his uncle was teacher. He started in high school but did not finish the course and took to farming as generations of his folks had done before. He married on March 21, 1871 to Miss Agnes Anderson and emigrated to America in 1880, headed for Minnesota, but stopped on his way in Bridgeport and never got any further. Tyge Jacob Pollen, according to his death record, was born 1 October 1859 and died 27 May 1926, ae 75, in Bridgeport Township. His wife, Agnes (Anderson) Pollen, was born in Norway in 1854 and died 5 March 1931, ae 77 years, 1 mo. 6 days. Both are buried in Pinegrove Cemetery.

This change from an European to an American is not an easy process; the transformation takes the best of a person's lifetime



# PREFACE

and in some cases the job is never done. In the case of this author, the transformation required few years and these pages are a result of his enthusiasm for his new environment and neighbors.

Still, even with the peculiarities of spelling and philosophy which appear in this book, it can be recommended as helpful to persons interested not only in early Frankenmuth history, but also of this area in general. For those having only a passing interest in the community, it provides a delightful insight into the mores and manners of a relatively small area. For those who are descended from these early, hardy pioneers, this book is a definite must, since much of the information contained herein can be found nowhere else.

Good reading!

Selenci (Natria)
Leland R. Watrous

Saginaw Genealogical Society

1980

# HISTORY OF FRANKENMUTH

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# HISTORY OFFRANKENMUTH

# WITH SHORT SKETCHES OF THE OLD SETTLERS

# COMPILED BY T. J. POLLEN

Where is the German Fatherland? Is it Prussia, Schwaben is it the Strand, Where grows the wine, where flows the Rhine? Is it where the gull skims the Baltic's brine? Bavaria, Brunswick or Franconia? Westphalia, Bayern or Pomerania? Is it where the Zuyder Zee extends, Where Styrian toil the iron bends, Where Zurich's waveless waters sleeps, Where Weser winds, where Danube sweeps? Is it Narva's heather, Leipzig's plains Or Lutzen's hills or Frank-am-Main? Is it where Tyrol's green mountains rise, The Switzer's land at dear bought prize By Freedom's purest breezes built To Alpine peaks in sunlit gilt? Is it Austria great and groud and bold, In wealth unmatched, in glory old? Is it Alsac or Loraine, that gem Torn from imperial diadem, By William sought, by Bismark planned? -- No, these are not the German's land. BUT

Wherever resounds the German tongue
Where German hymns to God are sung,
Where word is word and man is man,
Where valor lights the flashing eye,
Where love and truth in deep hearts lie
And zeal enkindles Freedom's brandThere is the German's Fatherland.
Great God look down and bless that land,
"The Courage of Franconia,"
And may her noble children's souls
Thee cherish while existance rolls,
And love with heart and aid with band
The fair and free New Fatherland.

Within eight years after the admission of Michigan into the Union of States and within nine years of the organization of Saginaw County, the peoples of Central Europe began to direct their attention to the land of great forests on the Western Hemisphere, and the name 'Michigan' began to have a familiar sound among them. From 1845 and on, they commenced to contribute their quota to the settlement of this State.

Soon representatives of all the countries from the Rhine to the Russian frontier could be found beginning a new life on every section of the lands of this country.

Great numbers of Germans who came here between 1845 and 1859 made this country their permanent home and have contributed in a high degree to raise it to its present prosperous condition. They can justly claim the pioneer honors and have acted the patriotic part in peace and in war. This can be most truly said of the pioneers of Frankenmuth, who made that town a star among the townships of the State, a jewel so nearly devoid of flaw and fissure that Saginaw County can proudly point to it as the diamond on the Michigan diadem.

And all that has been achieved without the facilities of railroads or shipping; without tourist's travel streams who spill money on the way; without the prosperity incident to adjacent mines; without booms of speculations nor glaring advertising posters, and without any boasting from the outside world. It grew in strength and prosperity; grew in favor with God and man; grew out of its own soil under the pluck and industry of these hardy, honest and God-loving people who worked diligently and unceasingly six days in the week and went to church on Sunday.

In the early '40s it appears that a Pastor Loche in Germany, was in communication with a brother pastor, by name of Schmidt, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and they planned a German colony for the Saginaw Valley. Pastor Schmidt selected first the present site of Frankenmuth, which had just been surveyed, and Pastor Loche directed a company of fifteen persons just ready to emigrate from Bavaria, to seek Michigan and the Saginaw Valley as their future home. They were in charge of Rev. August Cramer, whose wife and five-year-old adopted child accompanied them. The other members of the party were Martin Hospel and wife, Lorenz Loesel and wife, J. C. Weber and wife, John List and wife, John George Pickelmann and wife, Leonard Bernthal and John Bierlein.

On their departure from the Fatherland, they were admonished by Pastor Loche to dwell together in unity, to keep nigh unto God and convert the Indians to the Christian religion. It was his vision that the new colony should be the center of missionary work among the Chippewas as well as a center of a German population, as there were hundreds who wanted to emigrate. In August, 1845, this little band of Franco-Bavarians arrived in Detroit, from where they gook passage on the ship Nelson Smith, Captain Munson commanding. On arriving at the mouth of the Saginaw river, they met adverse wind and storm, and after waiting in vain three days for a favorable breeze, the men resolutely took ropes and waded along the marshy shores, and pulled the Nelson Smith up the river to a landing place near South Saginaw, from where a road was cut to Bridgeport. In Saginaw the Germans excited great curiosity among the French and English on account of their peculiar clothing and strange language.

They wended their way along trails, following the Cass River, under the guidance of a surveyor, and at last camped in a place about a mile west of where the village of Frankenmuth now is. There they set to work to build log houses on lands they picked out for homes, and in a short time were snugly housed and had cleared and made ready some patches of ground for the sowing and planting of the next spring.

It was no picnic to start in that wilderness. The land was covered with first growth timber, thick and almost impenetrable, where the wild deer roamed and the Chippewa braves hunted the bear and the wolverine. The mighty oaks and monster elms spread their branches over a thick undergrowth of brush and brambles, while the towering peaks of conical pines rose sentinel-like above the forest. The hoot of the night owl, or scream of the crane, would break the stillness and send shudders up the back of young and old alike. Then there were the myriads of mosquitoes, the heat of August and the strange sickness, chills and ague, altogether enough to make the newcomers wish themselves back in the Bavarian Valley, but they stuck to it and called this place Frankenmuth--The Courage of Franconians.

Meanwhile they did not forget their Pastor. They turned to and helped him build a log house containing three rooms; one room to be used as a church in which to hold the Sunday services, one for the pastor's study and one for the kitchen and living room. This house was completed at Christmas, and the first service held on Christmas Day. On New Year's Day a bell was hung on a tree in front of the church, and the little colony rejoiced exceedingly when its clear tones were heard, calling them together to worship God in the manner they had been taught in the Old Fatherland.

They endured great privations; they had none of the commodities and conveniences that we look upon as necessities of life. They had no stoves, only open fireplaces, no lamps, only pine torches to light up at night; their main street was only an Indian trail through the forest, where not even a wagon could be drawn.

They were inexperienced in a life in the woods, and suffered from exposure and strange diseases, and often for want of proper

food. A trip to Saginaw took days and what they were able to buy had to conveyed up the Cass river, or carried on their backs from Bridgeport. But with all their troubles, their ills and privations, they held on and held out. They had found what they sought; freedom, political liberty, religious liberty, social liberty, and they were welcome to the land as they found it. No counts, barons or dukes made their lives one of misery and servitude, they could be their own barons here in the Land of the Free.

Rev. Craemer immediately began his mission work, and by the spring of 1846 had gathered fifteen Indian children together with his own family and the family of the interpreter, a half-breed by the name of Jim Grant, all under one roof in the mission school, which was the Pastor's home. It soon became necessary to erect larger quarters, and in the same year the first regular church was built, a good substantial log structure, 42x26 feet, and it was dedicated with impressive services on the second Christmas they enjoyed in their new country.

The congregation had increased largely, because during the year 1846 over a hundred more emigrants had arrived, mostly from the neighborhood from whence the first colony had started from. They were directed to this place by letters sent back from here, telling about this free country which held great possibilities for the future.

Among the newcomers this year, were the Hubinger brothers, who by their craftsmanship as millwrights did much to make Frankenmuth what it is today. Their history and achievement will be described more fully in the sketches of the pioneers.

The Indian mission in Frankenmuth soon became extinct because of the ravages of smallpox had thinned them out greatly, and the few who were left soon departed from this part of the country and joined their tribes at other places. Rev. Mr. Craemer, however, did not give up his mission work among them, but traveled to many other places, even as far as Kawkawlin, everywhere the Indians congregated. Such travels were always on foot or in a canoe. The hardships he endured in his eagerness to bring the gospel of Christ to the Indians can hardly be imagined, besides caring for his ever increasing flock at home.

In 1846, there was one birth and one death in the colony. The 30th of July, John Pickelmann was born, he being the first white child born in Frankenmuth. August 28th, the eight-days-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz Loesel died. That funeral being the first one in the colony.

John G. Hubinger opened the first store in 1849, near the sawmill he erected in 1847.

George A. Ranzenberger opened a store near the church the same year. He also owned the first horse brought into the township, which was almost useless as there were no roads. Mr. Ranzenberger also was the first postmaster in the town.

In 1847 another colony of settlers came in, but part of them settled in what is now Frankentrost and Frankenlust. The colony in Frankentrost cleared an opening in the dense forest and lived ten years without a road to the outside world.

In 1850 the now-large colony suffered a hard blow. Their beloved counselor and friend, Pastor Craemer, was called to a new and important field of work, as Director of the Theological Seminary of the Missouri Synod, at Fort Wayne, Indiana. It took months before Mr. Craemer could decide to leave his flock or stay where he had builded so well, but after long conferences, he was made to see that his usefulness in the Master's work was needed in the new and responsible position to which he had been called, and he accepted.

In November, 1850, Rev. Mr. Craemer left Frankenmuth and on the 5th of May, 1851, Rev. C. A. W. Roebbele came from Liverpool, Ohio, to take up his duties as pastor. Under his pastorage the second church was erected. It was a frame building 74x40 feet and 24 feet high inside. It was dedicated with the usual ceremonies on September 29, 1852. By this time the congregation numbered 345 persons all told. The old log blockhouse was now used as a parochial school, which had at that time 47 pupils. The teacher was Mr. L. Flessa.

Rev. Mr. Roebbele continued to serve the community as pastor until 1857, when he was compelled to resign on account of his health, which had broken down under his arduous labors and he returned to the Old Country, where he died in 1860, sincerely mourned by his Frankenmuth people.

Rev. J. A. Huegle acted as pastor for one year and was succeeded in 1858 by Rev. Ottomar Fuerbringer, who administered to the spiritual needs of the community for 34 years. In 1892 he passed away universally beloved by all. His biography will be found in the history of the early settlers.

Up to the year 1853, Frankenmuth belonged to the Township of Bridgeport. As the early township records are lost, we do not know much of the early proceedings, but we have heard that the Bridgeport township officers did not do much for the Frankenmuth community but to collect taxes. But the people of this community got together and made some laws and regulations of their own.

We are indebted to Rev. E. A. Mayer for the following remarkable document which he found in the archives of the church. It

shows the lawabiding and conservative disposition, the strict and yet love-breathing spirit of the first settlers, and explains at the same time some of the singularities of the now living generation.

Because all were members of the same church, the minister was in some degree not only the spiritual advisor, but they came to him also in other troubles. The cases between neighbors were often cases of church discipline, and the officers of the church were also officers of trust in public life. All things pertaining to church matters only are omitted from the translation. The document, of course, is in the German language. There is no date given, but it is concluded from the circumstances that it was made between the years 1850 and 1852:

## LAWS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY OF FRANKENMUTH

1.

Whereas, It is the will of God that all things should be done decently and in good order, and whereas, the laws of our country impose only few restrictions on the single citizen toward a streictly regulated public life, therefore we, the citizens of Frankenmuth, have agreed from our own free will, to bind ourselves to the following regulations, under this understanding that we thereby in no way despise or try to evade the laws of this country, but want to thwart the arbitrariness of our people and the necessity of taking recourse to court. We do this with the greater pleasure, since it is customary that neighbors make such agreements for their mutual benefit.

Paragraphs 2, 9, 10 refer to the duties towards the church to which at that early time all the inhabitants belonged; I omit them as not belonging in a document of this kind.

3.

Public work shall be done in this manner: That every male of over 18 years is obligated to do one day's work, and that every landholder be willing to work more, if necessary.

4.

Where the lawful section lines are not sufficient, we agree mutually to give the land necessary for such other roads as may be necessary now or in the future, provided that they shall not cut the fields. As a rule, every quarter-line shall be opened and a road laid out 4 rods wide. Roads on the quarter of a mile may be demanded and shall have a width of 2 rods. All obstructions of roads by fallen trees shall be removed by the adjoining neighbors as soon as possible. The building of roads must be executed

with the greates possible care. Roads laid out shall be recorded in the records of this community with an exact description.

5.

Regarding partition fences, the following is our agreement:

- a. If fences are of use to both neighbors, they shall erect them on their line at the expense of both.
- b. If one has fenced his land already, and the neighbor afterwards makes use of this fence, he is under obligation to pay half of what it is worth at that time.
- c. If by mistake a fence runs into the neighbor's land, the two shall settle in the best possible manner, but always in a friendly way.
- d. All fences all be made to fully suit their purpose. They should therefore be 5 ft. high, and the lower 4 rails not be more than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. apart.
- e. To make sugar, syrup or vinegar in the open woods, where horses, cattle and pigs have free access to the pails used there, is prohibited at a fine of \$5.00. Anyone that sees one do this, shall report him. And if cattle should die in consequense of drinking from these pails, the guilty party has to make full reparation to the loser.

6.

Regarding all damage done by other people's cattle or fowl, we agree to the following:

- a. If cattle or horses jump fences and damage the crops, and, if the parties cannot come to a peaceable adjustment, it shall be investigated, whether the fence is right and in good condition, whether the corn is not nearer the fence than six feet, whether the owner of the cattle has taken sufficient care to hinder his cattle from jumping. It it appears to a certainty that he knew his cattle were jumpers, and has not used the common preventive measures, and that the fence was right and good, he shall repair for the damage and pay the cost of the investigation. Cattle that can by no means be prevented from jumping, must be either killed or kept inclosed.
- b. If pigs do damage, the owner shall be notified, that he may pen them up. If he neglects this, or is not willing to do it, he is responsible for damage and all expenses; but the other party has no right to kill or hurt the pigs.

c. If fowl continually do damage in the neighbor's land, and the owner refuses to make reparation, he shall be forced to dispose of his fowl and pay for the damage.

7.

- a. If, in felling a tree, or otherwise, cattle are injured or killed, and the parties cannot come to a peaceable understanding, the first party has to repair the loss. Cattle shall be kept inclosed in the forenoon during the months of January and February.
- b. If a dead animal is found in the land or on the road, the finder shall immediately notify the owner to remove it. If the animal is unknown, the finder shall take two or three men to look at it, and then bury or remove it.
  - c. Bad dogs shall not run without muzzle.
- d. Boars have to be penned up from the 25th of July to the 31st of October. Otherwise, their owner is due to make amends for all damage done.

8.

To enforce these regulations, to arrange their execution, to make the necessary inspection, to give decisions in doubtful cases and litigations, the community elects annually on the 6th day of January two trustees who with the chairman of the church, constitute a forum to judge in all cases that may fall under this agreement, with power of imposing fines and indemnities. They are allowed to collect from the party found guilty for their time and trouble. In the administration of their office they are responsible to the community, to whom they are to report in the annual meeting.

11.

All of these regulations shall continue to be in force as long as they are not appealed or changed by a majority of 3/4 of the members present at the regular meeting. New sections may be added by a simple majority of the voters present. Those who cannot attend, may send in their votes in writing.

Though the first settlement of the Germans was made in the vicinity of where the St. Lorenz church now points its tall spire skywards, that place was not destined to be the Village of Frankenmuth.

One mile farther up the stream, where the Cass River bends in an almost perfect right angle, there was a rapids and there the Hubinger brothers made a dam of logs and stones so as to create a waterfall, which they utilized as motive power for their sawmill, and consequent gristmill. In the course of a few years, a cluster of houses were erected adjacent to the mills, and it gradually became the village by the ever increasing influx of new people. It soon became evident that the new settlement must be made a township. The Board of Supervisors were petitioned to that effect and at their meeting on the 31st day of January, 1854, enacted the following resolution:

# TOWNSHIP 11, NORTH OF RANGE 6 EAST

The above described territory be and the same is hereby duly organized into a township to be known and distinguished by the name of FRANKENMUTH, Saginaw County, State of Michigan, and be it further ordered that the first annual meeting for the election of officers described by law, be held in the Old Church in said township of Frankenmuth on the first Monday in April, 1854. Be it further ordered that G. A. Ranzenberger, G. M. Schaefer and Doctor A. Koch be and are hereby designated and appointed to preside as an election board and to perform the duties required by the statute.

George Schmidt was appointed as clerk for the election.

The following officers were elected:
Supervisor--George Schmidt
Clerk--George A Ranzenberger
Treasurer--John A List
Justices of the Peace--George A Ranzenberger, George
M. Schmidt and John M. Arnold.

Mr. Schmidt held two offices, and was supervisor eight terms.

Mr. Ranzenberger also held two offices.

Mr. List served as treasurer for four terms.

These first elected men were very faithful in performing their public duties, and with the farseeing business acumen that characterized their private life, soon evolved from the wilderness a system of roads and other improvements that laid the foundation for the fine township it is today.

We must believe that this first election was non-partisan. Afterwards, however, the township became solidly democratic. In the later years many have voted the republican ticket and in 1904 was recorded for the first time one solitary socialist vote. No prohibitionist vote had ever been recorded.

John G. Rummel was elected Representative to the Legislature in 1883. He also served 20 years as Justice of the Peace. All others who served the township as officers for many terms, are:

John G. Breiter, who was elected School Director for 20 years and also held other offices; John L Krafft was Supervisor for nine years, also the first Highway Commissioner and afterwards School Inspector. John G. Hubinger served as Highway Commissioner and also as Treasurer for many years. John M. Gugel was Supervisor for many years and held successively almost all the town offices. George M. Williams was Justice of the Peace for 20 years. He ran for Representative in the Legislature in 1879, but was defeated by only 3 votes: George Veenfleet of Frostville froze him out.

In January, 1904, the village of Frankenmuth separated from the township and was incorporated. It thus became a village in fact as well as in name.

The first officers were as follows:
President - Peter Schluckebier.
Clerk--John M. Gugel.
Treasurer -- Paul Gugel.
Justice of the Peace -- John Rupprecht.
Assessor -- Lorenz Hubinger.

Peter Schluckebier held the office of President for five years.

The village has since steadily been improved in a safe and economical manner.

# MARGARET'S WEDDING CAKE

A certain Lena tells about a German girl, Margaret, who came to her grandfather's house in Saginaw as a domestic. Margaret had come over from Germany with one of the colonies, who arrived in Frankenmuth before 1850. Lena described her as being five feet five inches tall, broad shouldered with brawny arms, her feet covered with thick cloth shoes 9x14, lined with sheepskin, red and black petticoat and thick close jacket. After about a year she announced to her mistress that she had to quit and go back to Frankenmuth; she was going to be married and the wedding day was set.

"My grandmother," says Lena, "made her a fine wedding cake to take along and Margaret started on the trail to Frankenmuth. She told afterwards that she walked all day and, exhausted, she sat down under a tree to rest. She fell asleep and it was dark when she awoke. Starting on again, she took the wrong trail and did not arrive in Frankenmuth at the appointed time.

The waiting bridegroom got anxious and set out toward Saginaw to meet her. He arrived at grandfather's house to learn that his sweetheart had departed the day before. Grandfather went with him and summoned others to help find Margaret. They arrived in Fran-

kenmuth at night and postponed the search until the next morning. Grandfather was given a bed four feet long, feather ticks over and under, slats above where chickens roosted and two pigs under the bed. Mosquitoes kept grandfather awake until the rooster crowed and the pigs grunted for breakfast in the morning.

Next day, a large number of men searched the woods and Margaret was found at Portsmouth, near Bay City. She was brought to Saginaw in a canoe and a cannon was fired to inform other searchers that she was found. She had been over three days without food but she still carried her wedding cake intact. Not a crumb of it was broken.

The party then proceeded to Frankenmuth, where the wedding was celebrated and the guests, including most of the searchers were treated to a wedding dinner consisting of smoked ham boiled with rice, which was served in wooden bowls. Needless to say that the wedding cake occupied a conspicuous place on the table and was much admired.

# THE MEDICINE MAN

In the early 50s there were yet many Indians roaming the woods around Frankenmuth. A certain Herr Wintzel (that was not exactly his name) lived with his frau Karoline on a new clearing and as new-comers, with little means, they were very poor and it was hard to get along, especially through the winter. Many Indians came to Wintzel's house, asking for a little supper and lodging. The good frau let them sleep in the hay in the new log barn and gave of her scant store, but Herr Wintzel didn't like it and upbraided her for her misguided philanthropy.

One stormy night, a faint rap came on the door and Oglaja, the old medicine man stood there, cold and shivering. He asked for a little supper and shelter. Karoline was willing but Herr Wintzel said no. He talked to the poor old fellow in German and in half Indian and in broken English, and interpreted it with fighting gestures in a most impressive manner but the old Indian stood calm and looked to the Frau with imploring gaze. She prevailed again and the medicine man was allowed to bury himself in the hay in the barn, but he got no supper. Afterwards, however, she stole down to the barn with a dish of warm milk. She found two other strangers in the barn but could not make out who they were.

Next morning, they found their storehouse broken into and some clothing and all the money they had, which was saved to buy seed in the spring, was gone. Herr Wintzel got wild and upbraided his wife for the loss. Down to the barn they went but found only Oglajo sleeping soundly. Wintzel prodded him heraus with a wooden pitch fork and only his wife's interference prevented him from

doing great bodily harm to the old fellow. Oglajo asked what it was all about and when told of the robbery said: "Never mind Wintzel, You have good frau. You not bad man. No my tribe do this. I show you something. Come with me." The old man trudged ahead and Wintzel took his gun and followed, mostly through curiosity. Suddenly the Indian stopped, crouched and pointed. Wintzel followed the direction of his finger, and saw a fine buck on the river brink. When the smoke from his musket had cleared, he saw the buck sprawling in the snow. But this was not all. The Indian told him where to put the net in the river and next morning, Wintzel had to get his good frau to help get it out. It contained over a hundred fish, some very large. Herr Wintzel had planned to put a padlock on the barn but never did. His barn was used by many Indians since, and he never disturbed them. He also joined his frau in hospitality to the poor, the tramps and outcasts, and his "Gluck gemacht sie Lust zu jagen der Hochwild und die sogenannten woodchucks, und der fischfang im Cassflusz die vielbegehrten 'Sturgeons' Kerle von vier bis sechs fusz lang im Netze war."--So sagte Herr Wintzel.

# SOME SIXTY YEARS AGO

A song for the early times out here
In our green old forest home,
Whose pleasant memories freshly yet
Across the bosom come;
A song for the free and gladsome life
In those early days we led,
With a teeming soil beneath our feet
And a smiling heaven overhead!
Oh, the waves of life were rough sometimes,
But they had a forward flow
In the days when we were pioneers,
Some sixty years ago.

Our forest life was rough and hard
And danger lurked around;
But here, amid the tall old trees,
Freedom we sought and found,
Oft, through our dwellings wint'ry blasts
Would rush with chill and moan;
We cared not, though they were but frail,
We felt they were our own!
Oh, for the free and manly lives we led
'Mid verdure and 'mid snow.
In the days when we were pioneers,
Some sixty years ago.

We felt that we were fellow men. We felt we were a band.

Sustained here in the wilderness By Heaven's upholding hand, And when the solemn Sabbath came, Around our Pastor we stood, Lifting our hearts in prayer To God, the only good. Our temples were not as magnificent As those we now can show, In the days when we were pioneers, Some sixty years ago.

But now our course of life is short, And as, from day to day, We are walking on with halting steps And fainting on the way, Another land, more bright than this, To our dim sight appears, And on our way to it we'll soon Again be pioneers! But while we linger, may we all A backward glance still throw To the days when we were pioneers, Some sixty years ago.

# EARLY PIONEERS.

In sketching the biographies of most of the early pioneers, we must go back to the Fatherland in old Germany.

Franconia, or Franken, is a name originally applied to the German country on both sides of the river Main. It was colonized by Frankish settlers under Tierry I., eldest son of Clovis I, in the year 511. Conrad, Duke of Franconia, was elected King of Germany, November 8, 911 and princes of that same house occupied the throne until 1250. The Emperor Winceslaus in 1387 divided the empire into four circles (kreise), and Maximilian I., in 1512 erected Franconia into a distinct circle.

In 1806 it was divided among Wurtemberg, Baden, Hesse-Kassel, Saxony and Bavaria, but since 1814, the greater part has belonged to Bavaria. In 1837 the division into Upper, Middle and Lower Franconia was established. Upper Franconia includes the North East portion of Bavaria, while Middle Franken abuts upon Wurtemberg. The district is noted for its mineral springs at Kissingen, Orb and Wiyfeld. It was there that, in the village of Kloster Heilbronn, that the widely known Pastor,

JOHANNES KONRAD WILHEIM LOEHE served the Lutherans as pastor for thirty-five years. He was born in Fuerth, February 17, 1805 and died in Neuendettelsau, January 28, 1872.

He was a man of great achievements. He built a Mission house, a Diakonisse house, a medical school, two hospitals, one asylum for epileptics and idiots, a Magdalena Old People's home and a manual school for young maidens. But this extensive work in the interior was not enough for this ambitious servant of God, and his attention was directed to foreign missions as well, especially to Sar-off America.

The inhabitants of Bavaria at that time were mostly Catholics, and the Protestants or Lutherans being only about twenty-five percent. The Catholics were very active in missionary work and Rev. Loehe saw that the Lutherans must do something or the Catholics would soon have the Western Hemisphere alone. He organized a foreign missionary society in 1841, consisting at first of only twenty-five families. Among them was soon found some persons who were willing to volunteer to go to America for the dual purpose of establishing a colony of their countrymen and bringing the gospel to the Indians.

Rev. Loehe then looked around for a leader for the little flock and found the right man in

# AUGUST CRAMER

born in Kleinlangheim, Lower Franconia, May 26, 1812. He was a merchant's son and received his first education in Wurzburg Gymnasium, studied theology in the University at Erlangen and philology at Munchen Seminary. After teaching in his home land, he went to England, in the house of Lord Lovelace in Devonshire, where he was engaged in teaching the German language. He was also favorably spoken of as a candidate for the professorship of modern literature at Oxford, but as a strong Lutheran he conflicted with the established church of England and was called back to Germany by Professor Karl von Raumer and other friends to be the guide and leader of the contemplated mission colony which was to seek a new home in the forests of Michigan.

Being master of the English, and other, languages, he was eminently well fitted for this undertaking, and in the winter of 1844-45, the little mission band held regular meetings for the preparation and study of their voluntary task.

It was in one of these meetings that they named themselves "Frankenmuth," the Courage of Franconians.

The departure from their old homes and from Rev. Loehe in Neuendettelsau was mingled with glory and sorrow. It was April 4th, 1845, they started on their travel through Schwerin and Mecklenburg to Bremen harbor where a two-mast ship, Carolina, Captain Wolkman, was to convey them "Uber die Meer."

Their longing to--and fear of the great unknown can be expressed thus:

Wonder! Oh wonder what we shall meet Uber die Land und Meer.
On untrodden roads our weary feet Over byways and paths shall beat, With courage in storm and stillness, And prayers in health and illness.

Eagles sail on powerful wings,
Uber die Land und Meer;
To us a silent longing brings
To follow their flights in rings and swings.
Farewell! Farewell old neighbor,
We go four our Lord to labor.

Out! We will out oh so far far far Uber die Land und Meer! Breaking down ev'ry closing bar, Follow trusty our leading star, Just as it calls us, winking In western horizon sinking.

Oh, shall we never, never arrive, Uber die Land und Meer? Shall we for everlasting strive And ourselves of the goal deprive? Shall those great waves rocking Ever our longing be mocking?

Sometime, we know, we shall reach the shore Uber die Land und Meer.
God of our Fathers! We Thee emplore,
Lead us Thou straight, and go before,
Until we reach the haven
For which our longing has craven.

# JOHANN LEONARD BERNTHAL

was one of the colony. He was born in Bavaria, in 1821, and married Mary M. Veitengruber in 1846. He related from his reminiscences how the ship *Carolina* weighed anchor on Sunday noon, April 20, and left the harbor at Bremen under the guidance of a pilot. This pilot must have been inefficient, as on the second morning out, the craft struck a sandbank, presumably the Dogger Bank in the North Sea. The tide, however, soon lifted them off this precarious position and they proceeded seawards, where seasickness soon overtook them. The "Ach mich!" was heard in painful accents night and day.

Contrary winds hindered Captain Volkmann from taking the southern route through the English Channel and he had to go north around Scotland. They cleared the coast of Scotland on April 29, and set out on the great Atlantic proper. They encountered the usual storms, and some unusual ones too, in the fifty-one days they were confined on the second deck of the little boat,--little, very little it was, compared with the ocean liners of today.

On May 4, the mountain-like waves rolled constantly over the Carolina and the passengers had to be kept below with the hatchways closed. Down there they were rolling in fear and sickness, and with them were rolling trunks, boxes and bedding. Utensils, victuals, water-crocks and everything seem mixed up with a suffering and moaning mass of humanity. Utter darkness and a suffocating atmosphere did its part to make the poor landlubbers think the end of it all had come. And welcome the end would be as present conditions seemed unbearable. In the night of May 13, they collided with an English trawler. The bowsprit of the Carolina was broken and the other boat was also damaged. Further on, icebergs became a dangerous menace to the travelers, especially in the thick fogs on the Newfoundland Banks, that prevailed at that time as well as now.

The last few days of the journey, however, was accompanied by fine weather, and the German emigrants, in their gratitude for relief, held religious services every morning and evening until they, at last, on June 8, arrived in New York harbor and on Monday, June 9, were transferred to Castle Garden. Here another trouble beset them in the runners and confidence men, who were at that time free and unhampered in preying upon emigrants, but Pastor Cramer warned his flock and the runners did not get any of the Franconian's money.

In New York, Pastor Cramer married Dorothea Benthien, who was born at Achim, Hanover, February 12, 1818. She had arrived in New York with her brother and his family, who settled in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Mrs Cramer died November 11, 1884.

From New York, the Frankenmuth colony proceeded on a steamboat up the beautiful Hudson river to Albany. There, they took the railroad, in an emigrant car, to Buffalo. As they were rolling along in peace and happiness, there was a crash, a sudden stop, and the emigrants were thrown over the seats, while glass from the shattered windows was flying through the car. The train had collided with a coal train, but fortunately none of our travelers were injured to any extent. They were returned to Albany, where they took the more safe canal boat, and arrived in Buffalo on June 14. In Buffalo, they were provided with food and lodging by a Pastor Hattsted, who had known many of them in the old country.

From Buffalo they took a steamboat over Lake Erie to Detroit.

Here the Americans made so much fun of the Franconian women's head-dresses, which were not built for the July sun of America, that several of them bought straw hats and discarded their heavy woolen hoods.

On July 3, they boarded a small vessel for Saginaw, and on Lake St. Clair, the day after, our travelers had another scare, in the shooting and crackling of fireworks. It was the Fourth of July. One week after, they arrived at Bay City on the ship *Nelson Smith*, Captain Munson, and proceeded to Frankenmuth, as has been related before.

Mr. Bernthal and his frau experienced to the full extent, all the hardships of pioneer life, but with untiring energy he cleared 400 acres of fertile lands with improvements second to none.

#### JOHANN KONRAD WEBER

was born in Bayern, in 1804. He joined the Loehe missionary Frankenmuth society in Franconia and left for America with the first emigrants. He married Kunigunda Bernthal, who was also one of the first colony. He bought a large tract of land and wrested from the wilderness a beautiful farm. He died in May 1861 and left his children in good circumstances.

According to verbal reminscences of the first colony, as related in "Zum 50 Jahren Jubilaeum von Frankenmuth, 1895," by John G. Rummel, we gather more particulars of the colonist's first days in this country.

When they arrived in Saginaw, Pastor Cramer acted as interpreter, which was a good thing for the Germans, as they could not understand or make themselves understood, there being no Germans in Saginaw at that time. They visited the pastor and the missionary of the place and as soon as possible they started, guided by a surveyor, over the trails to the place which Pastor Schmidt had selected, about 14 miles east from Saginaw and five and a half miles west of the little village of Tuscola. The land was looked over and corner stakes shown and the place for the first clearing selected on the banks of the Cass river, which runs in many swings and bends 125 miles from the east until it empties into the Saginaw river about three miles south of the Court street landing. The place was near the present location of the St. Lorenz church. The land was high and dry, very rich and very cheap. The men set about work with axes, saws and shovels on the sites picked out as homesteads. One hundred and forty-one acres were reserved for the Indian mission. The homesteads were selected in a circle around the nucleus of the settlement, which was set aside for the new village, the pastor's house and the "Gottesacker" or church property.

The men had to walk twenty miles to Flint, where the land

office was located, to perfect their title to the selected lands. The women folks were left in Saginaw until cabins could be erected, and after about two weeks, the men came to take them to the new homes in the wilderness. An ox team and wagon was procured and the trunks, boxes, etc., they had brought with them, together with provisions, were loaded on, and driven through the newly cut out State road in the direction of Tuscola. When they arrived at the place to turn off for the new settlement, they had to cut a road through the underbrush until at last they reached the place, where a shed-like cabin constructed of slabs, was erected to receive the pastor and his family. It was indeed a primitive affair. A piece of rag carpet was hung to serve as a door. The trunks and household goods filled the room, and when the little cook stove brought along was in use, and the burning August sun warped and split the slabs on the roof, it was almost impossible to stay inside. When showers of rain descended, it came right through the cracks in the roof between the shrunken and twisted slabs so umbrellas had to be used in the hut as well as outside.

About this time Pastor Cramer was taken sick with malarial fever, and, as there was no physician in the colony, he had to be taken to Saginaw for treatment. Hospel and Bernthal got a canoe and made a bed in it of leaves and branches and laying their beloved Pastor on it, paddled down-stream to Saginaw where there was medical aid.

Later in the fall, the colony was visited by Pastor A. Ernst from Ohio, and Conrad Schuster, who remained with the colony and afterwards helped in the Indian school. Rev. Ernst served the spiritual needs of the colony until Rev. Mr. Cramer was well enough to return and take up his work among them. But before Mr. Ernst left, a large log cabin had been erected, containing under one roof a school room, an interim church and the pastor's study.

On the first Christmas Day in Frankenmuth, the first church service was held. A large trunk covered with a beautiful red cloth served as an altar, while another served for pulpit. Above the altar was suspended an oil painting, "Christ on the Cross," which was painted by a master in Germany and presented to the Frankenmuth colony when they left the Fatherland. It was a day of gladness and rejoicing, and a true Thanksgiving day.

By New Year's Eve, a bell, also brought with them, was hung in a nearby tree and at midnight its clear tones rang in the new year, 1846, and the sound borne on the frosty air far and wide, and was heard even in Tuscola.

About Candlemas time, a separate log house for the pastor was erected and occupied, which made more room for the Indian school. The settlers now went out on their respective homestead sites and commenced to cut down trees, burning and clearing with a view of

becoming American farmers.

And here we start to build Our homes anew in forest shade. To ply the farmer's trade And clear the virgin field. Hi-lo, hi-lee, tra la, The echo answers from each tree, "Hi-lo, hi-le-e-e, Hi-lo-o-o!"

And if there fell some rain,
What is the use to stew and fret?
We never shunned the wet,
But sang our old refrain,
Hi-lo, hi-le, tra-la,
The echo of the Deutchman's song
Through maple groves rang:
"Hi-lo-o-o!

When sun sinks in the west The cabin door will swing, A woman's smiles will bring Us welcome to our rest, Hi-lo, hi-le, tra-la. The echo of a woman's love, Hi-lo-o-o!

Soon the settlers came more in contact with the neighboring farmers, and trading, buying, selling and bargaining became more common occurences. In all cases the pastor had to act as interpreter and the neighbors gave them the reputation as being close bargainers and prompt payers.

The first cow bought and brought into the settlement disappeared soon after, and the menfolks set out on a cow hunt. They felt some anxiety that the cow had mired in a swamp or gone wild in the forest. But the cow had gone straight back to her former owner in Tuscola, where she was found and brought back to the joy of the settlement.

# THE HUBINGER FAMILY

This family came originally from Hungary, and can be traced back to an ancestor who lived about 1620, when Ferdinand II was emperor, and who, with his great generals Wallenstein, Tilly and Pappenheim unmercifully persecuted the Lutherans in the Thirty Years War. About this time, the "Snow King" from Sweden, Gustavus Adolphus arrived from the north with his little army of almost invincible, hardy and highly disciplined soldiers and defeated the imperial generals, in battle after battle, driving back the Cath-

olic forces from Pomerania, Narva, Magdburg, and conquered a large part of Germany, until he fell in the battle of Lutzen, 1632. It was difficult to be a Lutheran in those times and live. It was equivalent to being a traitor, and their lives were in peril, and thousands were slain for no other cause.

Thus, the ancestors of the Hubingers, being a strong adherent of the Lutheran reform, was trailed and shadowed by "Mummes," the graymantled silent monks who acted efficiently as spies. By dropping the perhaps very true remark that the "Peter's Penny" was filched by the Mummes, he was seized one night and never was seen afterwards. His family, consisting of three sons and two daughters. hid themselves in a hogpen under some pea straw, where they remained for five days before they saw a chance to escape. One night they made a daring dash for liberty and continued their flight until they heard the familiar tones of Martin Luther's great hymn sung by the soldiers of Gustav Adolphus, "Vor Gud han er saa fast en Berg" in the language of the army from the North. In the original German it is "Eine feste Burg ist unser Gott" and translated into English, "A mighty fortress is our God." They knew then they were among friends, and were well treated. They followed in the trail of the victorious army, which in December, 1631 took Mayance, the ancient ecclesiastical metropolis of Germany. General Tilly withdrew into Bavaria, where he attempted to prevent the gallant Swedes from crossing the river Lech. Here Tilly received a mortal wound and Wallenstein was again called to the front as supreme commander. In the battle at Nuremberg, Gustavus was repulsed and took another course into Saxony. Here the three brothers and two sisters left the army and settled down on the banks of the river Aurach. They started a village, Frauenaurach, which is now the thriving city of Herzogenaurach and the neighboring city, Muenigaurach, was also founded by them. They built mills on the Aurach, one of which still remains in the family. There are numerous descendants in Bavaria of those five Hubinger children who escaped from Hungary in the perilous times of the 30-Years War. Milling seems to have been the principal occupation of the family for 300 years.

# JOHANN MATTHIAS HUBINGER

was born in Louismuehle, near Ausbach, Bavaria, in 1820 and

# JOHANN GEORGE HUBINGER

his brother was born in 1823, in the same place. When they reached young manhood, they decided to join the second colony, which was formed in Franconia to emigrate to America.

When John G. was 14 years old he was confirmed on the last Sunday in April, 1837. After that he went to learn the milling craft, together with his brother, John M. Later they worked in a mill in Schweinfurt, Franconia, and while there heard of the second

colony which was started to emigrate to the forests of Michigan. Their beloved mother died and was buried and the brothers decided to join the colony as there seemed nothing left to bind them to the Fatherland. The colony consisted of sixty-five persons, most all young men and women, and on the 5th of March, 1846, left their homes. A new railroad, just built, took them from Nuremberg. From there to Leipzig, they were conveyed by stage and then had to march on foot to Bremen, where they arrived March 12th.

In the harbor of Bremen, a sailing ship was ready to leave on the long voyage to unknown shores. Ten couples of the young emigrants from Franconia decided to marry before embarking on the boat, and so make this voyage their honeymoon trip. Among the ten were the Hubinger brothers, and on the 17th of March, John G. married Rosina Barbara Keller, a farmer's daughter, and John M. was united in wedlock to Anna P. Walter of Rosstall, Bavaria. The great tenfold wedding was held in the house of Pastor Haufstengel and performed by the ship's pastor, Rev. Mr. Lehmann.

Immediately after the wedding, they embarked on the ship, which was a two-masted vessel, used to bring back tobacco on the return trip. It, therefore, smelled terribly of tobacco in the rooms where our emigrants were to stay for the next seven weeks.

Besides the sixty five Franconians, there were aboard six Catholic families, four Saxons, three from Hessen and Jews. The victuals were fearfully poor, but none died from hunger.

May 8th, the ship arrived in New York harbor and the emigrants were only too glad to again set foot on terra firma. It appears that the Hubinger brothers had brought with them a large box containing some machinery for a saw mill that the customs officers would not pass without payment of duty. Every piece of the outfit was charged with a dollar in tariff duty, though the original cost was only a Prussian thaler per piece.

A steamboat took them up the Hudson river to Albany, where some took the canal boat and some the railroad, but all came together again in Detroit. From Detroit the same boat, the Nelson Smith, which conveyed the first colony, took them to Saginaw. The captain told them it would only take 24 hours from Detroit to Saginaw, but it took them five times 24 hours, and the food they had brought along gave out so they were quite hungry on their arrival in Saginaw. They went to a hotel to get a square meal, but they, having no interpreter with them, could not make themselves understood. The hotel keeper sent word to a Deutschman, Sitterding, or Sitterling, who lived two miles away, but when he came he could only speak Plattdeutsch, which the Franconians could not understand, and exclaimed in anger, "Ihr muszt Deutsch reden!" After some parleying, an understanding was arrived at and a meal made ready.

A ferryboat was ordered and the necessary paraphernalia of the colony was loaded into it. The larger trunks and boxes were left for the time being and the men, guided by the ferryman, set out to paddle up the Cass river fifteen miles to Frankenmuth.

At last the ferryman shouted, "Here we are!" and they beheld the great trees, brush and bushes, and in between was the pastor's house, the log church and mission school combined, where thirtytwo Indian children were gathered with an interpreter. The colony that thus arrived in Frankenmuth consisted of nine families with their children, the ten newly-wedded couples and some unmarried young people.

The Hubinger brothers were well educated in the old country; they were then young men, John M., being twenty-three years of age and John G., twenty-five; mentally and physically they were well fitted to take up life's battle in the wilderness.

John G. located 200 acres of land on sections 27 and 35, part of which is now the Village of Frankenmuth. While clearing his land, he with his brother built the first dam at the bend of the river and created a waterfall sufficient to exert some motive The rough machinery for a sawmill was ordered from Buffalo, power. and shipped to Saginaw, where it was loaded on a scow and taken up the Cass river by poling and tugging. It is said that the enterprising brothers persuaded the farmers along the river to turn out and hitch to the towlines. They got the waterwheel made, the machinery placed, and soon the wheel turned and made the gangsaw move. There was not far to go for logs; they were abundant all around, and they were the finest logs, running two to three feet through. The saw worked rather slow from the start; the men would put a log on the automatic feed carrier and set it agoing, and go out fishing for a while and when the slab was cut through, they would change the log over and go fishing again. The sawmill was completed in 1848, and it proved of great advantage to the settlers, as they now could improve their huts, erect houses and barns, and the community now improved very fast. In 1848, wheat, oats and corn were raised, but as yet it had to be taken to Flint for milling. The dauntless Hubingers set to work and built a flourmill, the motive power first taken from the single waterwheel. Now the settlement became independent of the outside world for building material and bread flour. In fact, some neighboring settlements now came to Frankenmuth for these things.

In 1851, John G. bought his brother's part in the mill and improved it into a first class plant. He operated both mills until 1881, when he transferred his interests to his three sons, John L., John M., and George M. Mr. Hubinger continued to some extent in lumbering, and in 1886 erected a creamery in company with Henry Rau. He was a Democrat in politics; served as highway commissioner and as treasurer of the township. In the '60s he ran as a candidate

for the legislature, but was defeated owing to the minority of his party. He died August 5, 1909, leaving besides his three sons, three daughters, Barbara, Margaret and Anna.



#### J. G. HUBINGER

John M. Hubinger, after selling out his part in the mills to his brothers, started a store, where he served his customers for many years, and was by them called "Uncle John." In 1874 he built a steam flouring mill farther up on the hill. This was the "Star of the West Mills," which, now has been dismantled, and removed to the fine mill now operated by a stock company, successors to the old mill. He owned a farm of 300 acres, besides giving each of his sons a farm when they started for themselves. He was postmaster for eleven years and township treasurer for a number of terms, also a trustee of St. Lorenz Church. He had eight children, of whom Lorenz married Maria Fuerbringer; Johanna E. married Leonhard Heine, who was then storekeeper in Frankenmuth, and Gottfried J. married Mary Riedel, daughter of teacher Reidel.

John G.'s son, John L., was the first child born in what is now the Village of Frankenmuth. He first saw daylight, sheltered by the leafy limbs of a basswood tree. The second son, Matthias Hubinger, was born in May, 1850, in the mill house by the river and was raised in the first frame house built int the village. He married Anna Barbara Zehnder.

John M. Hubinger died in 1903, and thus passed away the pioneer Hubingers. They were men of character and of ability; their enterprises will live in the history of Frankenmuth as the two main builders of the town.

# JOHANN RODAMMER

came to Frankenmuth in 1846 with his parents. When he had attained manhood, he settled on a farm and married Kate, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz Loesel, who was one of the first colony.

#### JOHANN H. KRAFFT

was born in Bavaria in 1826. When 20 years of age, he joined the 1846 colony and was one of the ten men who got married in Bremen just before boarding the emigrant ship. He married Elizabeth Laemmermann. Somehow he left the colony in Detroit, and did not arrive in Frankenmuth until late in the fall. He came overland from Detroit and experienced great difficulties in the journey through the woods and wilderness of those days. He located on 160 acres on section 22, where he made a beautiful and fertile farm. He was an active public man, being elected as supervisor for nine terms, and was the first commissioner of highways, school inspector and an elder of the Lutheran Church. He had six children.

# JOHANN M. GUGEL

was born in Rosstal, Germany, March 5, 1830. He came directly from the fatherland to Frankenmuth in 1846 or 1847, and was employed in the building and running of Hubinger's first mill. Afterwards he became a clerk in Hubinger's general store, where he remained for fourteen years. He was married to Miss Barbara Bernthal December 29, 1852. He purchased a farm on section 28, to which he subsequently retired. His first wife died in 1872 and his second wife, who was Miss Gundia Weiss, died in 1889. His third wife was Barbara Hauck.

Of his many children, Paul and Fred Gugel formed a partnership in the mercantile business in 1888 under the name of Gugel Brothers. They are still so engaged, and with honesty coupled with ability have won a large circle of patronage.

Mr. Gugel was identified with various interests which has made the township and village foremost in the State. He held almost all the town offices of trust in the gift of the people, being supervisor for many years. He was a faithful member of the Lutheran Church and an adherent of the democratic principles in politics. He died in Frankenmuth, July 30, 1891. Christian Gugel, a son, is the present supervisor of Frankenmuth township, which office he has held for about ten years, and was nominated and elected this spring without opposition. He is a successful farmer.

Another brother, Balthas Gugel, is a successful undertaker at Saginaw, W.S.

# MICHAEL LUDWIG REICHLE

was born in Wurtemberg, Obersteinfeld Destrict of Marbach in 1808. In 1836 he emigrated to America and located in Philadelphia, where he worked at his trade in a wagon shop, where he made wagons for the government for use in the war with Mexico. He was married in Philadelphia to Elizabeth Schoenewald. He heard about the new German colonies started in Michigan and removed with his family to Ann Arbor about 1847. After staying there about four months, he started with a team for Frankenmuth. Three boys, Louis, Christian and Henry, were born in Philadelphia, and Friedrich was born in Ann Arbor; Elizabeth, Johanna, Leonard, Martin and Margaret were born in Frankenmuth, where Mr. Reichle was engaged in the wagonmaking trade. At that time he was the only man in the township who could speak good English. He died on the 27th day of March, 1879.

#### LEONARD REICHLE

was born in Frankenmuth, in 1845, and married Miss Sophia Geyer and lives on the old Reichle homestead, a fine farm adjoining the village on the north.

# HENRY CHR. REICHLE

was born in Philadelphia, April 2, 1845, and lived in Ann Arbor four years and in Cleveland, Ohio, two years; was confirmed April 17, 1869, and in 1867 married Martha Helen Ernst in Cleveland. He died December 23, 1908 and left, besides his widow, eight children of whom seven survive. Mr Reichle started a general blacksmith business in Frankenmuth, having learned that trade in Ann Arbor and traveled through several states in the interests of his trade. Was school director of District No. 1 from 1882 to 1904; trustee and treasurer of the German-Frankenmuth Insurance Association. The descendants are: Mrs. Karl Koch of Boston; Lorenz, Ernst, Mrs. Jacob Schluckebier, Lucius, of Saginaw; Henry C. and Julius of Frankenmuth. There are ten grandchildren. Sisters of Mr. Reichle were Mrs. Wirsing of Frankenmuth; Mrs. John Jordan of Richville and Mrs. Henry Boehning of Cleveland, Ohio.

#### LOUIS REICHLE

second son of Michael L. Reichle, born in Philadelphia in the early '40s, enlisted in the Civil War in 1861, served three years and enlisted again. In the battle of Antietam he was lost and reported missing and was never heard from afterward.

# OTTOMAR FUERBRINGER

was born in Gera Reuss, Germany, in 1810. In 1827, he entered the University of Leipzig and graduated in 1830. In 1839, he emigrated to America. He was one of the founders of Concordia College at



# OTTOMAR FUERBRINGER

St, Louis, Mo., and was engaged as one of its professors in classics for one year; he was successively pastor of Elkhorn Prairie, Ill., and Friestadt, Wisconsin, from whence he came to Frankenmuth in 1858, as pastor of the St. Lorenz Church. He was married in St. Louis, Missouri, to Mrs. Agnes Walther in 1842. She was born as Miss Buenger in Etydorf, Saxony, in 1819.

# LUDWIG FUERBRINGER

a son of Ottomar, was born in Frankenmuth, in 1864. He attended the Village school until 1877, when he went to Concordia College, then removed to Fort Wayne, Indiana, from which he graduated in 1882.

After fitting himself for the ministry in Concordia Seminary St. Louis, Mo., he came to Frankenmuth and was ordained as pastor July 12, 1885, and served as his father's assistant in St.Lorenz Church, succeeding to the pastorate on the death of his father



#### LUDWIG FUERBRINGER

finally was appointed to a professorship in Concordia Seminary, which he still fills.

#### GOETZINGER BROTHERS

Herman Goetzinger was born in 1855 and Fritz Goetzinger in 1857, in Kleinasbach, district of Wurtemberg; came to Frankenmuth in 1861. They have both engaged in the butcher and drover business and in buying and selling of horses.

#### JOHANN G. BREITER

was born in Bavaria in 1835; in 1852 he came to America with his sister, and located in Frankenmuth on 80 acres of wild land, which he cleared and made into a fine farm. In 1859 he married Mary Ann Kempf. Mr. Breiter was Justice of the peace two terms and school director for 20 years.

# FREDERIC EILRICH

was born in Prussia in 1832, came to America in 1855, and settled first in Rhode Island; from there he went to Canada, and in 1858 he came to Saginaw county. He bought a farm in Frankenmuth and gave a gold watch for a team of horses to work it with.

#### BENJAMIN B. FELGNER

was born in Saxony in 1851 and came to America in 1871, homeless, friendless and almost penniless. He had been a bookkeeper in his father's flouring mill in Leipzig. Quite a change when he came here and had to seek work as a sectionhand on a railroad. He came to Frankenmuth in 1873 and married Miss Margaret Hoffmann in 1878, and the same year bought the old Exchange Hotel property.

#### JOHANN ADAM HELD

came to this state in 1852 and located 50 acres on section 30; subsequent additions made him a farm of 210 acres, which is second to none in Frankenmuth. In 1856 he married Anna M. Schnell and twelve children were born to them.

#### JOHN G. GEYER

was born in Bavaria in 1845, emigrated to this country in 1869. He represented the brewing interests of Frankenmuth which he commenced in 1874 and was a successful man in his business. He married Mary B. Roedel. Mr. Geyer has retired from the business, which is now carried on by two of his sons John L., and Fred Geyer.

#### HENRY RAU

was born in Prussia in 1841, emigrated to America in 1865, coming by way of Quebec, and arrived in Frankenmuth in 1867. He was the first manufacturer of shingles. He married Mary C. Ranke, a native of Pennsylvania.

# VALENTINE RAUPP

was born in Detroit, Mich., in 1854; his parents removed to Saginaw, where they resided, but Valentine moved to Frankenmuth, where he was married to Mary Schmitzer.

#### GEORGE L. ROEDEL

was born in Germany in 1842, and came with his father to Franken-muth, and in 1861 enlisted in Co. B., 16th Reg., Michigan Volunteer Infantry; participated in Sherman's March to the Sea, and also in the "final grand review" at Washington, D.C. He returned to Frankenmuth and engaged in farming. In 1873 he married Barbara Woeltzlein, a daughter of one of the early settlers.

#### JOHANN RUPPRECHT

was born in Bavaria in 1841. He came to Frankenmuth with his parents in 1851. He first engaged in the brewing business and afterwards bought some land which he platted into village lots. In

1881 he erected a two story hotel over which hepresided as "mine host."

#### AUGUST KOCH

commonly called Dr. Koch, was born in Regensburg, Bavaria. He was a barber in the old country. He also performed certain surgery such as phlebotomy or venesection, which is bleeding by opening a vein. Another mode of old time treating of diseases was cupping, which draws off blood by suction. It seems that such operations belonged to the barber trade in old Germany up to that time, and a barber would thus require a certain knowledge of human ills, especially the exterior, by setting broken limbs or treating sores. For the internal ills, the bleeding was most common, very little medicine being used. Only the kind called "Dyvelsdruck," (Devil's drink) a terrible strong and nasty decoction being sometimes used, though patients often would rather stay sick than use it.

Mr. Koch came to Frankenmuth in 1853 with his family, consisting of wife and two baby boys. Here he found the colony in need of medical assistance and practiced as a doctor the rest of his life. He was a rough and ready fellow and was known and sought by the surrounding settlers in Frankentrost, Tuscola, Birch Run and Bridgeport. He acquired an Indian pony to ride on, but the pony being small, the doctor's feet almost touched the ground. Some one asked him if it wasn't inconvenient to have that pony between his legs when he was out walking, so he discarded the pony and got a very tall horse which he called Nimrod, on which he rode around to his patients.

#### FRITZ KOCH

a son of August Koch, was born in Bavaria and came over with his parents. He grew up in Frankenmuth and at the age of 18 years entered the study of medicine at Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He completed his studies at Piladelphia, after which he settled in Frankenmuth as a physician. He died there, still a young man.

#### GEORGE A. RANZENBERGER

came with the second colony in 1846. He was born in Pappenheim, near Nuremberg, Bavaria, in 1814. He received a good education and as a young man he was in the employ of a banker by the name of Kropf for eight years. He joined the colony which started for this country, and was one of the ten young men who entered the holy bonds of matrimony in Bremen before boarding the emigrant ship Carolina. He married Margaretha Schleyer, born in 1814, who was one of the colony together with her mother. It is related before that he was the first postmaster and the owner of the first store in Frankenmuth; he was the first to acquire a team of horses in the colony. When the township was organized, he was elected to

two offices; that of clerk and that of justice of the peace. Mrs. Ranzenberger died February 24, 1897, aged 83, and Mr. Ranzenberger died May 13, 1899, aged 85 years.

#### GEORGE R. RANZENBERGER

eldest son of George A., was born in Frankenmuth in 1848; attended the schoo! here and at the age of 19 enlisted in the Light Artillery of the regular U. S. Army in 1867, and was sent to suppress the Ku Klux Klan and the moonshiners in Virginia and North and South Carolina, where he experienced some rough and tough times. After returning to Frankenmuth, he married Barbara Reichle in 1872. There are three sons and five daughters of this union living; three sons and one daughter live in Richville, and one daughter in Gera and one at Bay City and one at home.

Mr. Ranzenberger has been janitor and caretaker of the St. Lorenz Church for 24 years; served as justice of the peace for 16 years, of which 8 years were served in the township of Birch Run and 8 years in Frankenmuth. In politics, he is a Republican, and as such has stoutly maintained the Frankenmuth end when party politics were in evidence, sometimes being the lone opposition to the prevailing political faith of the township, but held his ground without fear or favor.

#### JOHN and KATHERINA RANZENBERGER

John was the second son of George A., and was born in Frankenmuth in 1850; he married Kunigunda Nuechterlein, and is a baker by trade and living in Saginaw.

Katherina is a sister of the above, and is married to Christian Gauderer and is living in Saginaw.

#### THE LIST FAMILY

This large and highly esteemed family has a chronological record which runs back over 200 years.

On March 6, 1690, a boy was born in Rosstal, Bavaria, who was named Leonhard List. He lived in the vicinity of that town as a carpenter and farmer and died in March, 1760 at the age of 70 years. His son, Conrad List, was born November 17, 1713, and died July 26, 1780. His son, Johann List was born December 8, 1755 and died October 14, 1808. His son, John George List, was born February 2, 1784. He married Kunigunda Bierlein, who was born May 23, 1786. They had ten children, of which the first two died in infancy. Johann Adam, born September 9, 1810, died December 14, 1811. Andreas, born October 2, 1812, died on November 13, the same year.

#### JOHANN ADAM LIST

the third son of Johann George, was born December 25, 1814. He married Margaretha Mueller in the Kingdom of Bayern. She was born September 10, 1815. Mr. List was one of those who emigrated to America with his family and came to Frankenmuth with the second colony in 1846, arriving in the township the 28th of May. He was the father of Johann M. List, Frankenmuth Township Clerk. He died in Frankenmuth, February 7, 1874 and his wife died November 4, 1899.

#### JOHANN LIST

the fourth son of Johann George, was born in Bayern, December 3, 1816. He was one of the first colony which arrived in Frankenmuth in 1845. He was a great help to the pioneers as a carpenter and builder. He also engaged in farming after making a clearing in the wilderness. He died in Frankenmuth, April 20, 1882. He was the father of Michael List.

The fifth child of Johann George, was Sophia Barbara List, born November 26, 1818. She died in Germany.

John George List, the sixth child, was born July 29, 1820 and was the father of Adam List.

Johann George Conrad List was born December 7, 1822, and died in Munchen, Germany.

The eighth and ninth children were girl twins, one of whom died in infancy. The other emigrated to America and married John M. Arnold of Frankenlust. She died March 26, 1908, at Salzburg, Michigan.

The tenth and last child of Mr. and Mrs. Johann George List was Johann Michael List, born November 19, 1827. He died of small-pox in Tuscola in 1873.

The Lists have been carpenters and farmers from generation to generation. John George List was about 60 years old when his two sons left the Fatherland for America to make new homes in the Michigan wildwoods. He died September 10, 1859 in Germany.

Johann Adam List and his wife Margaretha (Mueller) have had 13 children. They are:

John List List, born September 23, 1846 in Rosstal, Bavaria. He is now located in Chicago.

Sophia Barbara, wife of John M. Stuetzer, born in Rosstal, July 20, 1838.

Anna Maria, born October 4, 1840. She married John M. King and lives in Illinois. Mr. King is dead.

John Jacob List, born May 25, 1842. He is a carpenter and living in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He enlisted in the Army in 1861 and went to fight the Rebels with the other Frankenmuth volunteers.

John Michael List, born June 27, 1844. He is the past and present--and perhaps the future Clerk of Frankenmuth township.

All these were born in Rosstal and came over with their parents to Frankenmuth in 1846.

The sixth child was Johann Leonhard List, born August 22, 1846 and was the second white child born in Frankenmuth township. He is now a teacher in a Lutheran parochial school in Chicago.

Anna Barbara, wife of Ferdinand Zehnder, was born July 17, 1848 in Frankenmuth.

Johann George List was born November 27, 1850, and is a farmer in Frankenmuth.

Michael Johann List was born November 27, 1851. He is a carpenter and farmer in Frankenmuth.

George Adam List, born August 28, 1853. He married Margaretha Hubinger and is engaged in farming.

Johann Frederick List was born June 15, 1855; he married Marie Barbara Rohrhueber, who died, and afterwards he married Elizabeth Bernthal. He was engaged in farming until he retired, in Lakefield, and is now living in Detroit.

Margaretha, born February 7, 1855, and died May 5, same year.

Margaretha, the 13th and last child of John Adam List, was born June 11, 1859. She married Conrad Smolt and is living in Chicago, Ill., where her husband is employed by a street railroad company.

## JOHN ADAM LIST

son of John George List, married Sophia Mossner. Mr. List was for many years engaged in the liquor business and was president and manager of the Frankenmuth Brewing company and connected with many other business enterprises in the village. He is now president of the List Brewing company, of Plattsville, Wisconsin.

#### MICHAEL JOHN LIST

son of Johann, fourth son of Johann George List, is a farmer and resides in this village. He married Barbara Roth.

#### JOHANN M. LIST

was born in 1844, in the Kingdom of Bayern and was two years old when he arrived in Frankenmuth with his parents. He attended the parochial school from the time he was seven until fourteen years of age, under teachers Pinkepank and Simeon Riedel. After being



confirmed, he learned the carpenter trade, which he followed for many years. On September 18, 1870, he married Anna Maria Schleier. In the same year he bought a house and lot, and in 1892 erected a new comfortable house. Mr. and Mrs. List have eleven children, five boys and six girls. One of their sons, Heinrich, is a teacher at Adair, Iowa. Mr. List was elected township clerk in 1874. To this office he has been continuously re-elected every year since, and is now serving his fortieth term, having been nominated and elected without opposition. He also officiated as village clerk for two years after the incorporation of the village. A similar case of holding an elective office will hardly be found in the United States of America.

#### DR. M. F. SCHICK

When the Frankenmuth doctors, August Koch and Fritz Koch had passed away, M. F. Schick, M. D., of New York, came in 1883 after he had completed his studies. He practiced in Frankenmuth and

neighboring districts and subsequently removed to Indianapolis, Indiana.

#### FRANZ RANKE

is an American by birth but of German descent. He was born in Block House, Pennsylvania in 1855. He came to Frankenmuth as a one-year-old baby with his parents in 1856, and has lived here ever since. In 1889 he bought the cider mill and afterwards added a jelly factory, which has been much appreciated by his many customers and gave him a large business. It speaks even better for Mr. Ranke's business ability that he established a woolen mill in connection with this, which was the first and for many years the only woolen mill in Saginaw County. The patronage has therefore been very large and has compelled the mill to run overtime. Mr. Ranke has been, and is now connected with many of Frankenmuth's industries and is president of the Woolen Mill Co., Frankenmuth Milling Co., and the Light & Power Co., whose successful organization was due in a large measure to his efforts. He was for a number of terms, president of the village, succeeding its first president, Hon. Peter Schluckebier. He married Crescendia Bierschneider.

#### JOHN FALLIERS

was the first man to brew beer in Frankenmuth. He first started a tinshop and built the Rodsler place, which he exchanged with Gottfried Ranke, and then started a brewery at the Stahl place. The bulk of the population of Frankenmuth, being natives of Bayern and Bavaria, naturally missed their national beverage which they were used to, not as a luxury or intoxicant, but because it was to them a household necessity. Those mountainous countries have the best and purest water to be found anywhere and the beer brewed in Bavern of such water and richly malted is considered the standard beer of the world. It is without the obnoxious adulterations so much used in our times and is a healthy and invigorating drink, holding about four per cent. alcohol. The people of Bayern consume more beer per capita than any other nation on the globe, but they are nevertheless a strong, healthy and sober people. The manufacture of ale or beer is of very high antiquity. Herodotus ascribes the invention of brewing to Isis, and it was certainly practiced in Egypt at the dawn of history; Xenophon mentions it as being used in Armenia, and the Gauls were early acquainted with it. Pliny mentions a spirited liquor made of corn and water as common to all the nations of the west of Europe. A rude process of brewing is carried on by many uncivilized races; thus chica or maize beer is made by the South American Indians, millet beer by various African tribes, etc. Lager beer is a German name and means stored beer, because it is usually kept 4 to 6 months before being used. The first beer brewed in Frankenmuth by John Falliers did not come up to the beer of the Fatherland, as much as Cass river water comes short in purity to the mountain streams of Germany whose waters

emanate from the snow on the Alpine peaks. But the brewing business of Frankenmuth has steadily improved as it passed from hand to hand. Wilhelm Knaust subsequently owned the brewery and he sold out to John G. Geyer, who after retiring from business, left it to his three sons.

#### JOHN MICHAEL RANKE

was born February 23, 1802, in Oburg, Sachsen-Weimar, Germany. He married Dorothea Fuecksel, who was born July 25, 1797, in Colba, Germany. In 1850, they moved with their family to America and settled at Block House, Pennsylvania, where Mrs. Ranke died in 1854. In 1856, Mr. Ranke moved to Frankenmuth where he engaged as wagon-maker and farmer until his death in 1878.

#### C. ERNST RANKE

second son of John Michael Ranke, was born in Colba, on February 12, 1842, and came to America with his parents in 1850. He married Miss Mina Rauh and lives in the village with his son Herman, who is a florist.

# CHRISTINA RANKE

daughter of John M. Ranke, was born in Colba, Germany, in 1822 and came to this country with her parents in 1850. In 1851 she was united in marriage to Michael Vogel in Pennsylvania. She died in Saginaw in 1881.

# C. FREDERICK RANKE

son of John Michael Ranke, was born in Colba, Germany, on January 16, 1836 and came to America with his parents in 1850. He worked in John G. Hubinger's mill, after which he took to farming from which he has retired and resides in the village with his wife, whom



he married on May 30, 1858. She was Miss Margaretha Zehnder and was born in Mausendorf, Bayern, Germany, on March 24, 1841. They had 13 children.

Wilhelmina Ranke, daughter of John Michael Ranke, was born in Colba, Germany, in 1838. She came to America in 1850 and married Theo. Haubenstricker in Frankenmuth, and died in 1863.

Anna M,, daughter of C. F. Ranke, was born May 2, 1859, and married Matthias Bierlein in 1876.

Johann, son of C. F. Ranke, was born December 5, 1861 and died May 26, 1863.

Catherine W., daughter of C. F. Ranke, was born January 20, 1863, married Theodore Fischer, May 14, 1882.

Barbara G. C., fourth daughter of C. F. Ranke, was born January 20, 1864 and married David Moser and resides in Reese.

A. Maria J., fifth child of C. F. Ranke, was born March 18, 1866. She married John Boesenecker, who died in 1906. She is now Mrs. Louis Farber and resides in the village.

John E., sixth child of C. F. Ranke, was born September 20, 1867. He married Miss Marie Rummel and resides in Birch Run.

Frederick M., seventh child of C. F. Ranke, was born March 30, 1869. He married Miss Margaretha Trump in Richville, where he now resides.

Wilhelmina B., eighth child of C. F. Ranke, was born March 2, 1871. She married John Bartel, deceased. She is now married to Fred Boesenecker and resides on the farm here.

- J. Wilhelm M., ninth child of C. F. Ranke, was born January 3rd, 1873. He married Catherina Diechritz and is living on a farm in Reese.
- G. Matthias, tenth child of C. F. Ranke, was born May 23, 1875, married Veronica Ruffenzopher and is a carpenter. He lives in Richville.

Anna C., eleventh child of C. F. Ranke, was born January 20, 1877. She married John Ruffenzopher. She is now the wife of Carl Koboldt and resides in the village.

Rudolph J., twelfth child of C. F. Ranke, was born March 31, 1879. He died September 8, 1906.

M. Agnes L., thirteenth and last child of C. F. Ranke, was

born July 22, 1881 and died September 9th of the same year.

#### LORENZ LOESEL

was born March 4th, 1817, in Bavaria, Germany, and was one of the first colony. He married Margaretha Walther, April 20, 1845; she died March 8th, 1855. On June 27, 1855, he then married Barbara Roth, who died July, 1910. To the former union was born John Matthias Loesel, August 20 who died August 28, 1846 and was the first death and burial in St. Lorenz congregation. Mr. Loesel was Pastor Loehe's coachman at the time he planned to send the mission to the Indians of America, and it was though Mr. Loesel's efforts that the men of the first colony were enlisted in the enterprise. He was a man thoroughly trusted by Pastor Loehe and his fellow emigrants, and was one of the elders of the St. Lorenz Church from 1845 until 1879, when he retired. He and his first wife, of whom Pastor Loehe spoke of as a "Young woman high in figure, high in mind and high in courage," attacked the wilderness with courage and vim, and succeeded in carving a home from the forest of the Cass River country, which today, with the broad fields cleared by his efforts, his descendants enjoy. He died August 22, 1880, survived by his wife and 10 children. The children are Mrs. Michael Rodammer and John L. Loesel, children of the first wife, and Mrs. George Grueber, Andrew, Mrs. Leonard Trinklein, Mrs. J. P. Bickel, Conrad, Mrs. A. F. Bickel, Lorenz and J. W. Loesel.

#### EUGENE WILLIAMS

the genial hotel clerk at Fischer's Union Hotel in Frankenmuth, was born in Gasport, Niagara County, New York, in 1850. In 1858 he arrived with his parents in Frankenmuth, where his father, George M. Williams, settled on a farm on December 19th. Mr. Williams was the only child of George M., and for many years he followed the lumberwoods and the river-drives. He is a Mason fraternally and can be found greeting the guests at the Fischer hotel. His father was Justice of the Peace for about 20 years and in 1879 ran for representative in the Michigan Legislature. He was defeated by only three votes. Veenfleet of Frostville, Genesee County beat him that much.

# JOHN LEONARD BERNTHAL

was born in Rosstal, Bavaria, September 27th, 1821. He came to this country with the little band of fifteen settlers in 1845. On October 8th, 1847, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Veitengruber, who died in 1905. He was one of the founders of the St. Lorenz Church and was a consistent member up to the time of his death, January 17th, 1911. He had six children; George Leonard Bernthal of Reese, George Michael Bernthal and John George Bernthal of Frankenmuth, Mrs. Peter Kern of Reese and Mrs. Jacob Woelzlein of Frankenmuth.



JOHN LEONARD BERNTHAL

# JOHANN STAHL

who was "Mine Host" in Hotel Stahl, was born in Erlangen, Bayern. He came to America in 1853 and to Frankenmuth in 1854. He made a trip back to the Fatherland where he remained in Erlangen two years. He then returned to America in 1858 and settled in Battle Creek, Michigan, where he married Marie Mayer in 1860. They lived in Battle Creek 22 years and moved to Frankenmuth, where he started the Hotel Stahl in 1880. Mr. Stahl was widely known and respected by all with whom he came in contact. He died in 1892; his widow survives him.

#### JOHN BOESNECKER

was born in Bayern in 1865 and came to Frankenmuth in 1884. He went to work for John G. Geyer in the brewery, where he became, in time, master brewer. When the Frankenmuth Brewing Company was founded, he went to work in the same capacity for that company and remained until his death, February 29, 1906. He married Marie Ranke.

#### MARTIN ZUCKER

was born in Frankenmuth in 1860 and has lived here all his life.

In the early '90s he built a business block in the village together with John Zucker, John G. Rummel and Oscar Pausch. John Zucker occupied the store in front for his furniture trade, while Mr. Rummel occupied the rooms back of the store as his office and Mr. Pausch used the upper story for his photograph gallery. Mr. Pausch was an expert in his line of business and made a success in "half-tone" cuts.

#### THEODORE FISCHER

came from Saxony, Germany, where he was born in 1855. He came to Detroit in 1879 and from there to Frankenmuth in 1880 and started to work for John G. Hubinger. He married Miss Katerina



# THEODORE FISCHER

Ranke, May 14, 1882. In 1884 he purchased the Exchange Hotel of Benjamin Felgner and ran it for four years. After disposing of the Exchange Hotel, he built the Union Hotel, now called Fischer's hotel, where he has since served his numerous patrons. In 1894 he built a hall which is used as an opera house, for shows, public meetings, dances, lodge or society gatherings, etc. He is a 32nd degree mason. He has five children living. Mr. Fischer is one of the solid men of the community and enjoys the respect and regard of the whole community for miles around.

#### JOHN JACOB BICKEL

was born in Germany on the 20th day of April, 1817, and came to

this country, settling in Frankenmuth in 1851, at the age of 34. In 1874 he was united in marriage to Miss Veitengruber. He carved out his home from the wilderness and succeeded in producing one of the fine farms for which Frankenmuth is noted. On May 8th, 1909, he passed away at the ripe old age of 92 years.

#### GEORGE ADAM BICKEL

was born in Mittlefranken Dairen, Germany and came to this country in 1846 and remained in Saginaw a year before coming to Frankenmuth. On the 5th of November, 1850, he was married and has lived on his farm in Frankenmuth ever since. He had seven children; John M., Michael, Mrs. John Keinath, Mrs. George Maurer and Mrs John Loesel of Frankenmuth, Leonard of California and Jacob of Tuscola.

#### JOHN ZEHNDER

was born in Weissenborn, Bayern, Germany, in 1809, married Miss Marie Margaret Fuerwitt, who gave birth to three children in Germany. As a shoemaker he made a living, but on learning of the Colony plan, made up his mind to go also, so he and his good wife gathered their goods and children and embarked for America. On the ship, Mrs. Zehnder gave birth to her fourth child, and to three more afterwards in the Frankenmuth home. They arrived in 1846 and he continued to follow his trade in the new colony.

## JOHN SIGMUND ZEHNDER

eldest son of John Zehnder, was born in Weissenborn in 1836, came to Frankenmuth with his parents in 1846 and engaged in farming. In



MR. AND MRS. JOHN SIGMUND ZEHNDER

1860 he was united to Catherine Rau, who bore him eight children; Mrs. Mike Kern, Mrs. Math. Kern, Fred, George and Mathias, of Frankenmuth; Mrs. Wm. Mossner of Gera; Mrs. Ernest List of Buena Vista and Melchoir of Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Zehnder are still hale and hearty and live on their farm just over the township line in Birch Run.

# JOHN FREDERICK ZEHNDER

was born in Bavaria, June 20, 1843. He came to Frankenmuth in. 1846 and started to work for Hubinger Brothers, building their sawmill. He was a prominent member of St. Lorenz congregation and organizer of the Frankenmuth Band, of which organization he was a member for 27 years. He was married August 23, 1868 to Anna Barbara List, and 12 children graced their home. He died June 9, 1911. Mrs. Zehnder still survives.

#### HON. JOHN G. RUMMEL

This honorable and highly respected citizen of Frankenmuth was born in Bayern in 1843. As a boy of eight years, he came to Frankenmuth in 1851 and received his first education in the common school and some instruction in Latin and music. After confirmation he learned the carpenter trade and went to Chicago and other places, working at that trade several years. In December, 1865 he returned to Frankenmuth, and in 1867 married Marie Pickelmann, and worked at carpenter work in this town.

Mr. Rummel was elected as a representative in the state legislature in 1882, and in the session of 1883, which lasted five months, introduced two resolutions, one about the saloon license and the other about the extension of the public library, both acts passing the legislature and becoming law.

After that time he attended to his farming interests and held several town offices; that of justice of the peace he held for upwards of twenty years, and that of school inspector yet longer.

Mr. Rummel compiled the first history of Frankenmuth, which was printed in the German language under the title of "Funfzig-jahrigen Jubilaeum von Frankenmuth, 1895," and from which we have gleaned some of the narratives contained in this history.

Mr. Rummel died at Pontiac in October, 1911

Mr. and Mrs. Rummel had thirteen children; John of Sebewaing, George, Jacob, Leon, Herman, John A., Oswald, of Frankenmuth; Albert of Saginaw; Margaret, Mrs. John Knoll, Mrs. Otto Neuchterlein, Mrs. Adolf Nuechterlein and Emma, of Frankenmuth, all with

his widow, living at this date.

#### JOHN PICKELMANN

was born in Bayern, Germany and came over with the first colony. He was married by Rev. Mr. Cramer with other couples before leaving for America, as narrated before in this history, to Miss Margaret Auer. They went through the hardships with the other colonists and helped to make the wilderness blossom into what it is now. They were graced with eight childrn: Johann, who was the first white child born in the colony, John, Leonhard, Lorenz, George, Mrs. George Fischer, Mrs. John G. Rummel and Mrs. George Rupprecht. Mr. Pickelmann died in 1865.

Mrs. Pickelmann was born in Bayern, Germany, May 12, 1822. Her parents dying while she was an infant, she was cared for by her God mother, Mrs. Schuettnueff and then adopted by Mr. and Mrs. George Schmidt. She went to work in the family of Rev. Fr. Loehe as housemaid, where she remained for seven years. When the first band of pioneers sailed for America, she was among them and as stated before, married John Pickelmann. After being a widow for thirteen years, she married John George List in 1878. He died on November 10th, 1902. Mrs. List died October 18th, 1906 at the age of 84 years. She was a noted midwife in the colony and assisted in bringing 800 children into the world in 55 years and never lost one.

#### JACOB HEINE

was born in Wurtemburg, Germany. He married Mrs. Heine, who was born in 1823, and in 1863 they sailed for America. They spent a few months in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and then came to Frankenmuth where they started a general store. Mrs. Heine died on October 21st, 1906 at the age of 83 years. They were blessed with four children, three sons and one daughter, Frederick, who was born in Germany and came to America with his parents as a six-month-old baby. He was reared on a farm until eight years of age when he went into his father's store as an assistant. He died in 1905. Leonard Heine resides on a farm in Birch Run. He married Miss Hannah Hubinger. They are very widely known as "Pa" and "Ma" Heine. Charles Heine lives in Omaha, Nebraska, where he successfully runs a large laundry. Johanna Heine, only daughter of Jacob Heine, was born in Frankenmuth on August 21st, 1862. In the winter of 1888 she was united in marriage to Jacob Freudenstein, who died in March, 1908. She died August 7, 1910.

#### GEORGE M. DAENZER

was born in Bavaria, Germany, on February 25th, 1831 and emigrated to this country in 1855, locating finally in this township on a farm two miles south-east of the village in 1858. In 1862, he was

united in marriage to Mrs. W. Beyer, nee Caroline Eischer, who bore him twelve children. He passed away on August 27, 1906. Mrs. Daenzer died February 6, 1910.

#### GEORGE SCHELLHAAS

was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1835 and emigrated to Frankenmuth in 1854, where he carved from the wilderness, a fine large farm. At the time of his death, June 15, 1907, he was road commissioner of this township; also a director of the German county insurance society. He was the father of nine children; Casper of Tuscola, Adam, of Winona, Minnesota; William of Birch Run, and Leonard, Lena, Agnes, Mary, Mrs. Ziegler and Mrs. Herzog of Frankenmuth.

#### THERE IS SOMETHING IN A NAME

In the sketches of the pioneers of Frankenmuth, it will be noticed that the names of the Germans, both male and female, do not vary much. Especially the name. "John" will be found to predominate. John is the English for the German "Johann," Hebrew, "Johannis," French "Jean." The name is of Jewish origin and means "The Gracious Gift of God." Four Johns are mentioned in the New Testament; 23 Popes have borne that name---one of them was a woman, Johanna--and a great number of Kings and other celebrities. Poets, authors, reformers, statesmen and clergymen have borne that name, and some of the greatest financiers the world has ever seen, bore that name with more or less dignity.

Next in order we find the name "George." It is a true German name, though found in English history, as borne by kings and others. The long list of English kings by that name begins with George I, who was of German descent on his father's side and was born in Hanover in 1660, by an English princess. The name has probably its origin in St. George, the patron of chivalry. The story is that he was born of noble Christian parents in Cappadocia, became a great soldier and after testifying to his faith before Diocletian, was tortured and put to death at Nicomedia, April 23, 303. The name signifies landholder, husbandman.

"Michael" is another name in Frankenmuth history. It is a Hebrew name and signifies an interrrogation, "Who is like the Lord?" It had its origin in the Archangel St. Michael, who in the book of Daniel is described as having special charge of the Israelites as a nation. In the Book of Jude, he is disputing with Satan about the body of Moses, in which dispute he says, "The Lord rebuke thee, Oh Satan!"

'Matthias' is after the Evangelist Matthew, the same as Levi, the son of Alpheus, and means Gift of Jehovah.

In 1458, Bohemia and Hungary had a king by that name, Matthias

Corvenus, born in Klausenburg in 1443. He successfully expelled the Turks, who invaded that country under his reign. In 1607, Bohemia elected a king who afterwards became Emperor Matthias of Germany. In 1617, he resigned the crown of Bohemia to his cousin Ferdinand, who, by the persecution of the Protestants, occasioned the Thirty Years War, in which the map of Germany was considerably changed.

"Leonhard" (Lionheart), means strong and brave. The Latin "Leo" is the fifth sign in the zodiac. A number of Popes have borne this name.

In feminine names of Frankenmuth, we find certain ones predominating. One of these most tenaciously clung to is "Barbara." It means foreign, strang. Its origin is uncertain, though being a German name, may have originated in Berber, a synonym for the old invaders of Germany, who check the Roman advance north, and at last became the cause of the downfall of the Roman Empire.

"Maria" is a Hebrew name (Miriam) and is much used all over the Christian world because of Mary, the mother of Christ. Four other Marys are mentioned in the New Testament and an endless arrayment of Marys are found in the history of queens and princesses in all parts of the world.

"Anna" (Anne, Ann) is also a Hebrew name and means Grace.

"Bertha" is a Teutonic name and means bright, beautiful.

"Elizabeth," a Hebrew name, means "Worship of God." This was the name of the mother of John the Baptist. There was an Empress of Austria named Elizabeth, born in Possenhofen, Bavaria, December 24, 1837. Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, born August 19, 1596, became the grandmother of George I, of Great Britain. The greatest Elizabeth in secular history was the queen of England, born September 7, 1553, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She ascended the throne November 17, 1558, established the Protestant religion, assisted the English in colonizing America, repulsed the Spanish Armada, encouraged literature and made England respected abroad. Her reign was a glorious one, called the Elizabethan Era, but it was sadly blotted by her execution of Mary, Queen of Scots.

"Martha" is a Hebrew name, and means "Ruler of the House."

"Margaretha" is a true German name and means, "A Pearl." The Margaretha which Johann Wolfgang von Goethe made the leading figure in his famous "Faust," was certainly a pearl of beauty and love. She was conceived after Margaretha who was the idol of his first love.

#### WILLIAM SCHMIDT

son of Jacob and Agnes Schmidt, was born in Baranbach, Bavaria, February 2, 1852. At the age of 17 years, he came to America and engaged in the blacksmith trade at Saginaw, thence removing to Frankenmuth, where he opened the shop now owned by Herman Fischer. On June 4, 1882, he was united in marriage to Miss Marie Beyerlein, and from this union were born seven children: John G., Bernard, Agnes, Amelia, Ruben, Walter and Alma, the latter two dying November 5, 1893 and November 21, 1899. Mr. Schmidt died Saturday, May 9, 1909.

#### FERDINAND SEIBERTH

was born in Benatek, Austria, May 7, 1842. In 1876 he was married to Pauline Volkmer. In 1882 they came to America, stopping in New Jersey a few months, then coming to Frankenmuth, where he entered the employ of Hubinger Brothers, as a miller, where he was employed for 23 years. He was a member of the Concordia and Arbeiter societies and of St. Lorenz Church. He passed away July 28, 1907.

#### FERDINAND NEFFE

was born in Austria-Hungary, September 1865, and came to America in 1872, settling in this township. In 1889 he was married to Miss Rosa Guthohn. Up to the time of his death, June 22, 1909, he was employed in the Herzog Art Furniture Company's factory at Saginaw.

#### JOHN GEORGE ROTH

was born in Germany, June 16th, 1823, and came to America in 1851. In 1855 he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Koeppendorfer, who died in 1877. Later he married Miss Anna S. Wagner, who died September 17th, 1881. In 1886, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna R. Kundinger. He was the father of six children: John, Jacob, George, Mike, Andrew and Mrs. Leonard Veitengruber. He died Monday, February 28th, 1910 at the age of 87 years.

#### CHRISTIAN FREUDENSTEIN

was born in Hesse-Cassel province, Germany, June 15th, 1829. He emigrated to Frankenmuth in 1851, where for many years he was engaged in buying and selling cattle, and also conducted a meat market. He married Miss Martha Otto. From this union were borne five children: William, Mrs. William Sowatsky, Mrs. Henry Busch and Mrs. Herman Zoellner, of Saginaw, and Mrs. Charles Link of Frankenmuth. Mr. Freudenstein passed away, Tuesday, September 7th, 1909.

#### JOHN G. WEBER

was born in Frankenmuth, April 25th, 1847. On April 28th, 1876, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Alonea. They moved to a farm in Richville township, near Denmark Junction, where he died Saturday, May 21st, 1910. They had seven sons and one daughter; John, Matthew, Christopher, Herman, William and Jacob of Richville, Lorenz of Saginaw and Mrs. John Rupprecht of Frankenmuth.

# JOHN CONRAD WEBER

was born in Frankenmuth on the 27th day of October, 1857. On June 9th, 1875. he was united in marriage to Miss Christiana Buckhardt. He lived on his farm on Church street until the time of his death, Saturday, March 18th, 1911. He had six children; Lorenz of Millington and Leonard, Mrs. John Zehnder, Mrs. Leonard Herzog, Mrs. Leonard Geyer and Mrs. George Schmitt of Frankenmuth.

#### JOHANNES KEINATH

came to this country and to Frankenmuth in the year 1854 at the age of 6 years, from Wurtemburg, Germany, where he was born November 11th, 1838. In 1863, he was united in marriage to Miss Barbara Nuechterlein. They had twelve children: Frederick, Caspar, Jacob, Ferdinand, Mrs. John Schluckebier, Mrs. Leonard Knoll, Mrs. George Brenner, Mrs. Henry Reichle, Mrs. Julius Reichle, and Mrs. Emil Rau, of Frankenmuth and Mrs. Jacob Bauer of Richville. Mr. Keinath was a prominent and valuable member of the St. Lorenz Church, serving as deacon for 25 years previous to the time of his death, Saturday, May 25th, 1909.

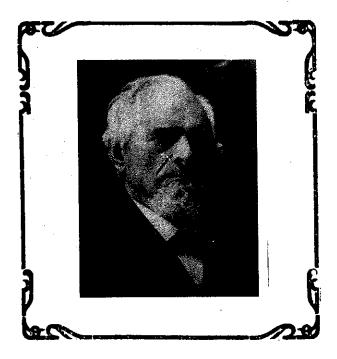
#### JOHN P. HAAS

was born in Bavaria, Germany in 1829. He came to this country when 21 years of age, stopping at Detroit for a year, moving to Frankenmuth in 1851. He was united in marriage to Mary Laickeham in 1855, who died in 1880. From this union were born three boys and three girls; Fred, George and Jacob and Mesdames Lena Summerfield, E. G. McNally and Gus. Miller. He passed away January 4th, 1909, at the age of 80 years.

# SIMON RIEDEL

was born in Germany in the year 1827 and grew to manhood there. In 1854 he became a resident of the little colony of Frankenmuth, and teacher of its only school. He continued to teach until after 48 consecutive years he resigned. He has the distinction of having taught the longest number of terms of school in one community than anyone in the county, in the state and probably in the nation, and is also the oldest teacher in the county in years. He is also the oldest surviving member of the St. Lorenz congregation. He was

married, and has one son, Herman of Detroit, and one daughter, Mrs.



G. J. Hubinger. He is still hale and hearty for his age, and attends church regularly every Sabbath.

#### JOHN PAUL MAURER

was born in Germany, November 24, 1826, and came to this country in 1853. He was united in marriage to Miss Marie Schwartz in 1856, who bore him one son, John G., and three daughters, Mrs. Jacob Bickel and Mrs. Fred Hochthanner of Tuscola, and Mrs. Adam Veitengruber of Frankenmuth. He passed away April 2, 1912, respected by the entire community.

#### JOHN MICHAEL BEYERLEIN

was born July 3, 1821, in Altenmun, Germany, and came to this country and to Frankenmuth in 1846. He was a mason by trade and also a farmer. He was married and had four children, G. M., W. M. Beyerlein, Mrs. William Schmidt of this township; John A. Beyerlein of Sebewaing. He passed away March 1, 1912, having lived more than the allotted three score and ten years, respected and highly regarded.

# MRS. BALTHAS DEURING

was born in Bavaria, March 14, 1836, came to this country in 1848,

was married to Frederick Bernthal, who died in 1862. In 1864 she was married to Balthas Deuring. Her maiden name was Reif. She had nine children: John and Leonard Bernthal, Mrs. Leonard Bierlein, Frank, Balthas, Jacob and Adam Deuring of Frankenmuth; Mike and Frederick Deuring of Idaho. She passed away Thursday, May 4, 1911 at the age of three score and fifteen years.

#### THEODORE REBUEHR

was born in Germany in 1827. In 1858, he was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Gipp and came to Frankenmuth in 1874. They were the parents of four children; Theodore and Mrs. Fred Keility of Ellington and Mrs. Herman Pitsch and Mrs. Carl Kirchnick of Saginaw. He was a member of the St. Lorenz Church. He died on Saturday, February 11th, 1911, at the age of 84 years.

#### JOHN ZUCKER

was born February 23, 1834, in Stoekoch, Bavaria, Germany, coming to this country with the second colony in 1847 and came directly to Frankenmuth, April 26, 1854. He married Barbara Nuechterlein, who died in 1865. From this union five children were born, two of whom, Martin and Michael, are still living. On September 7, 1865, he married Martha Scmitzer, who whom was born a son, John of Arbela, and two daughters, Mrs. George Reif and Mrs. Alex List of Frankenmuth.

Mr. Zucker was one of the founders of the St. John's Lutheran Church. He passed away July 30, 1913, universally respected and loved.

# WILLIAM MICHAEL HOERAUF

was born in Bavaria, May 12, 1841, and was the son of Adam Hoerauf, who came to America and Frankenmuth in 1853. He served in the Civil War and received an honorable discharge. On November 12, 1865, he was married to Margaret Rau, who survives him. Four sons and three daughters came from this union; John of Saginaw; Wolfgang of Detroit; Adam and William of Frankenmuth; Mrs. Henry Nuechterlein of Saginaw; Misses Mary and Julia of Detroit; also 19 grandchildren. He was a member of St. Lorenz Church and of the Concordia Luther Bund. He passed away December 30, 1912.

# ANTIQUITY OF THE GERMANS

In closing these pages, in which we have endeavored to preserve some of the happenings, and sketching some of the biographies of the early settlers, we by no means close the Frankenmuth History. That will go on indefinitely, and judging by the past, the future history will be as full of bright pages as the past, and more so.

We have tried to gather as much of the lives of the German pioneers as possible and have also traced their ancestry in the old country as far back as the records would allow. In conclusion, we may point to the fact that the Teutonic nation, or rather family, of the Aryan race, can be traced back to the tenth chapter of Genesis. There are many who never have read that chapter, and many who have read it but have not found in it a verification of the Apostle's word: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, or for instruction in righteousness." But later research, comparisons, and deductions have made that chapter a mine of information to the anthropologist, and in the light of the results of those researches, we stand amazed at the marvelous knowledge of the author (Moses).

Thirty-four hundred years ago, he pointed out in a few short verses, in a simple matter of fact language, in a seemingly uninteresting chapter, what learned men today, after years of study and hard work in translating and philological comparisons, have found to be the simple, unerring truth of the origin of races from Noah down. Verse 2 says: The sons of Japeth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Ivan, Tubal, Moshech and Tiras. Japeth is a personal name, but the others are considered to mean descendants or the principal races that sprang from Noah's youngest son. Thus Gomer, according to Strabo, designates without doubt the great and powerful race of Celts. The Asyrians called them Gimiri, the Greeks, Kimmerii. They have been identified with the Cimbrians of Roman times and by them called Cambri and their country Cambria. The name lingers yet in Cumberland and also of the Cymry, which the English now call Welsh.

Magog (Ma here means land or home--land of Gog--Rev. 20, 8) designates the somewhat vague family or horde called Sythians. They were in great power at the time of Ezekiel (Chapters 38-39) in the 7th century, B.C. Their weapon was the bow and they always fought on horseback. But their time in history is short and they were possibly mingled and absorbed by other nations. The Slavs are considered a remnant of them.

Madai; there is no shadow of doubt about the Madai, the great and powerful race of Medes.

Ivan is the nearest possible expression in Hebrew of the Greek term, Iaxon-es (Ionians), and includes the Greco-Italians.

Tubal and Meshech, which Ezekiel constantly couples together are somewhat obscure. Tubal seems to be entirely lost or absorbed, while some commentators think Meshech alludes to the Russians, called Muscovitos. No proof, however, is offered, only similarity of names.

The last name in Gen. 10, 2 is Tiras. This is the most obscure of the names in the Japthetic list, as no other passage of

of Scripture throws any light on it. Jewish tradition, however, asserts that the Thracians are the people intended. (see Josephus)

Geographically, as well as etymologically, the identification is suitable and may be accepted as the only plausable explanation. Thracian tribes occupied the northern parts of Asia Minor from remote antiquity. The Thrynians were always admitted to be Thraceans, according to Strabo. A strong Thracian character belonged to the Briges (Phrygians) and Maesi. The author of Gen. 10, may well be understood to include among the descendants of Japeth, the vast nation of Thracians, which extended from the Hulys in Asia Minor to the Drave and the Save in Europe.

The Thracians must then surely include the German or Teutonic race of people. The greatest of modern ethomologists, Prof. Max Muller, says: "There was a time when the ancestors of the Celts, the Germans, the Slavs, the Greco-Italians and Hindoos were living together beneath the same roof as it were, separated from the Semitic and Turanian races and there is a legitimate relationship between Hindoo, Greek and Teuton.

This is the result of advanced modern inductive science, a result which is the boast of the Nineteenth Century to have arrived at, and it is exactly that which Moses, writing fifteen hundred years ago, laid down dogmatically as simple historical fact.

The Thracian tribes of Getae and Dacini did undoubtedly grow into the nations of Goths and Danes in northern Europe. The renowned writers of old, Herodatus and Tacitus, found a number of Thracian words to be decidely Teutonic, while there is also a strong resemblance of the Thracian and the Teutonic customs. The original home of these Jophethic families is supposed to have been on the highlands of Central Asia, east of the Caspian Sea and north of the Hindu-Kush mountains. This upland country is now mostly arid and uninviting, but was in remote times an ideal and delightful region. Gradual changes in climate have rendered this country inhospitable and it is now only sparsely settled.

But 5000 years ago, the Aryan families lived here in peace and harmony. They tilled the ground, domesticated the horse, cow and dog, were fair builders and understood the extracting and use of metals. They could count to 100 and had some knowledge of using symbols for writing. They worshiped one God, but the worship of minor deities gradually crept in until the Prophet Zoroaster arose among them with a stricter and more pronounced religion. This seems to have disrupted the families and migration commenced.

When this migration took place, we do not exactly know, as the historians are at variance about the time and date of Zoroaster. Some say that he lived about the year 3,000 B.C. and some place the date as late as 600 or 700 B.C. Some even hold that Zoroaster was not a person at all--only an era or age commencing about 1500 B.C.

The Indo-Iranic branch, the regular Aryans, climbed the snowy passes of the Hindu Kush Mountains and went southward, where they became the progenitors of the Medes and Persians. Their subsequent history is the most complete, as they have left whole libraries of bricks impressed with characters in wedge, or cuneiform letters.

The second division, known as the Thracians passed southward south of the Pontus Euxinus or Black Sea and occupied the Balkan Peninsula, giving it the name of Thracia. Meanwhile, the Celts had passed north of the Euxinus and spread themselves over what is now Germany and Austria in the heart of Europe.

After some centuries, we do not know how many, the Thracians migrated northward and encountered their cousins, the Celts, whom they drove before them to the utmost borders of Europe, but in time they, themselves, were pressed and driven away by the great and powerful nation of Slavs---a branch of the old Scythians--who swarmed in from the East in hordes of uncounted numbers.

It seems that the Thracians, or Teutons, as we now can call them, were driven clear across the Mare Suevicum--The Baltic--into Thule--Scandinavia--where ample proofs are now found in the ancient mounds of an early Teutonic occupation.

According to fragmentary accounts of Pytheas, preserved to us by Strabo and Pliny, the Teutons here encountered a people who were yet in the Golden Age. The Grecian account calls them the Hyperboreans, people dwelling beyond the north wind. They were a truly happy people, living in unbroken peace among themselves, and with their Gods, free from want and care and disease, in the enjoyment of health and strength. Death came not to them in the usual form with pain and sickness, but in old age, when wearied of life, they crowned their heads with flowers and plunged joyously into the sea and thus ended their life's journey.

This may be Utopian and we may pass the wierd legends which carry us back to those antidiluvian times, when "Gods walked with men." The historian of Northern antiquity, Mr. E. C. Otto, says: "We may be tolerably sure that a colony of Goths, of the Teuton race, left their native settlements in the South or East at some remote period, before the Christian era, and after a long series of wanderings, at last took possession of the islands of the Baltic, and ultimately, of the mainland. Here they dispossessed a still older race, who were driven into the mountain fastnesses of the extreme north, where their descendants, the Laplanders and Finns, still dwell and retain traces of their separate (Turanian) race. But the Teutonic have been highly fruitful and multiplies, and as time went by--probably two centuries---a healthy and vigorous

posterity soon made those lands too limited. They again migrated southward and in alliance with the Cimbri, the branch of Celts who had occupied Denmark and the lands better known as Angles and Saxonia, they bounded down over Germanica, driving the Slavs and Celts to the right and left and never stopped in their invincible marches until they decended over the plains of Northern Italy, and made the world empire of Rome tremble. In 113 B.C., they advanced into Illyria and defeated Papirius Carbo at Norcia, and then forced their way into Roman Gaul, where Manlias and Scipio were defeated in 105 B.C. The following year, they invaded Hispaniola, but on their return were met by the strong Roman army under Marius at Aqua Sextic and suffered defeat, in 102 B.C. But they held the country around the Carpathian Mountains and to the north, which the Germans called Germanica, hence the people were called Germans. Here they defeated the Roman advances to the north, time and time again, until the decisive battle at Teutonburg, where Caesar Augustus had sent Varus with his legions. The Roman legions perished and were utterly annihilated by the Germans under Arminians. If the Romans had won in that battle, there would probably have been no Germany today, and the great English nation would have been stricken out of existance. This happened when Jesus of Nazareth was nine years old.

The following five or six centuries were an almost continual strife between the Germans and Romans, but at last Rome crumbled and went to pieces. The Germans set up an empire of their own, which through ups and downs has lasted to this day.

The Romans describe the Germans as being tall, handsome, fair, with blue eyes, fierce in expression and having light or red hair which they wore long. The women were said to be as tall and as strong as the men. They cultivated the ground and bred cattle, and between wars were a peaceful and domestic nation.

The long and beautiful locks of the Germans' hair came in to fashion in Rome and became an article of considerable export, also the amber found on the shores of the Baltic. These things the Roman ladies would have at any cost; and this fad made the upper classes covet the lands to the north. It was one of the causes of the many wars, and incidentally, one of the causes of the fall of Rome.

The later history of Germany is well known to every school-boy, and therefore we close here, thanking the reader for his interest in these pages. It is certainly true that the Almighty God has led the German race of people as He led the Israelites until the "fullness of time". The God of Abraham, "Isak and Jakob" is also the God of Japhet and Tiras and through the shifting ages has led their descendants to great power, honor, and glory.

And may he do so forever!

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by T. J. Pollen 1914

Compiled by Leland R. Watrous 1980

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# HISTORY OF FRANKENMUTH Saginaw County, Michigan

# FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE PRESENT TIME

Including an outline of the History of Frankenmuth, with short sketches of the First Settlers.

GATHERED BY T. J. POLLEN

#### PREFACE

This history of Frankenmuth, published around 1914 by Mr. T. J. Pollen, is the product of a man who lived most of his life in the area, and reflects the views of those times. Many of the events which he describes were undoubtedly recounted to him either by participants in the events or by those who had heard of these events from a participant. The basic information about the families was gathered by one of the original pioneers, Mr. John G. Rummel and entitled "Zum 50 Jahren Jubilaeum von Frankenmuth, 1895". Mr. Pollen has relied heavily on this small, and now very rare work for much of the early history of this immigrant colony. However, since he was a resident of the area for many years and had formed many friendships with descendants of the original colonists, he was fortunately able to follow up on the original history and to bring this information forward to the date of the printing of this book. Some of the events are described with his own feelings in mind and are not such as are found in other writings.

Those theories which the reader may notice in the following pages reflect the thoughts and feelings of early twentieth-century America; the ensuing sixty five years have done much to change both these thoughts and feelings.

Regardless of this, only such mistakes in spelling as are attributable to typographical errors have been corrected; others have been left as found in order to retain the general flavor of the content.

Many of the names found in this book can still be found in the pages of a current telephone directory. Many of the names never were spelled in the current manner until after the turn of the present century and a number of names were distorted by illegiblity and ignorance on the part of the original recordkeeper.

Mr. Pollen was a native of Norway, born in Skien, October 1st, 1850. He received a primite education in a little red schoolhouse where his uncle was teacher. He started in high school but did not finish the course and took to farming as generations of his folks had done before. He married on March 21, 1871 to Miss Agnes Anderson and emigrated to America in 1880, headed for Minnesota, but stopped on his way in Bridgeport and never got any further. Tyge Jacob Pollen, according to his death record, was born 1 October 1859 and died 27 May 1926, ae 75, in Bridgeport Township. His wife, Agnes (Anderson) Pollen, was born in Norway in 1854 and died 5 March 1931, ae 77 years, 1 mo. 6 days. Both are buried in Pinegrove Cemetery.

This change from an European to an American is not an easy process; the transformation takes the best of a person's lifetime

#### **PREFACE**

and in some cases the job is never done. In the case of this author, the transformation required few years and these pages are a result of his enthusiasm for his new environment and neighbors.

Still, even with the peculiarities of spelling and philosophy which appear in this book, it can be recommended as helpful to persons interested not only in early Frankenmuth history, but also of this area in general. For those having only a passing interest in the community, it provides a delightful insight into the mores and manners of a relatively small area. For those who are descended from these early, hardy pioneers, this book is a definite must, since much of the information contained herein can be found nowhere else.

Good reading!

Leland R. Watrous

Saginaw Genealogical Society

1980



T. J. POLLEN

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# HISTORY OFFRANKENMUTH

# WITH SHORT SKETCHES OF THE OLD SETTLERS

## COMPILED BY T. J. POLLEN

Where is the German Fatherland? Is it Prussia, Schwaben is it the Strand, Where grows the wine, where flows the Rhine? Is it where the gull skims the Baltic's brine? Bavaria, Brunswick or Franconia? Westphalia, Bayern or Pomerania? Is it where the Zuyder Zee extends, Where Styrian toil the iron bends, Where Zurich's waveless waters sleeps, Where Weser winds, where Danube sweeps? Is it Narva's heather, Leipzig's plains Or Lutzen's hills or Frank-am-Main? Is it where Tyrol's green mountains rise, The Switzer's land at dear bought prize By Freedom's purest breezes built To Alpine peaks in sunlit gilt? Is it Austria great and groud and bold, In wealth unmatched, in glory old? Is it Alsac or Loraine, that gem Torn from imperial diadem, By William sought, by Bismark planned? --No, these are not the German's land. BUT

Wherever resounds the German tongue Where German hymns to God are sung, Where word is word and man is man, Where valor lights the flashing eye, Where love and truth in deep hearts lie And zeal enkindles Freedom's brand—There is the German's Fatherland. Great God look down and bless that land, "The Courage of Franconia," And may her noble children's souls Thee cherish while existance rolls, And love with heart and aid with band The fair and free New Fatherland.

Within eight years after the admission of Michigan into the Union of States and within nine years of the organization of Saginaw County, the peoples of Central Europe began to direct their attention to the land of great forests on the Western Hemisphere, and the name 'Michigan' began to have a familiar sound among them. From 1845 and on, they commenced to contribute their quota to the settlement of this State.

Soon representatives of all the countries from the Rhine to the Russian frontier could be found beginning a new life on every section of the lands of this country.

Great numbers of Germans who came here between 1845 and 1859 made this country their permanent home and have contributed in a high degree to raise it to its present prosperous condition. They can justly claim the pioneer honors and have acted the patriotic part in peace and in war. This can be most truly said of the pioneers of Frankenmuth, who made that town a star among the townships of the State, a jewel so nearly devoid of flaw and fissure that Saginaw County can proudly point to it as the diamond on the Michigan diadem.

And all that has been achieved without the facilities of railroads or shipping; without tourist's travel streams who spill money on the way; without the prosperity incident to adjacent mines; without booms of speculations nor glaring advertising posters, and without any boasting from the outside world. It grew in strength and prosperity; grew in favor with God and man; grew out of its own soil under the pluck and industry of these hardy, honest and God-loving people who worked diligently and unceasingly six days in the week and went to church on Sunday.

In the early '40s it appears that a Pastor Loche in Germany, was in communication with a brother pastor, by name of Schmidt, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and they planned a German colony for the Saginaw Valley. Pastor Schmidt selected first the present site of Frankenmuth, which had just been surveyed, and Pastor Loche directed a company of fifteen persons just ready to emigrate from Bavaria, to seek Michigan and the Saginaw Valley as their future home. They were in charge of Rev. August Cramer, whose wife and five-year-old adopted child accompanied them. The other members of the party were Martin Hospel and wife, Lorenz Loesel and wife, J. C. Weber and wife, John List and wife, John George Pickelmann and wife, Leonard Bernthal and John Bierlein.

On their departure from the Fatherland, they were admonished by Pastor Loche to dwell together in unity, to keep nigh unto God and convert the Indians to the Christian religion. It was his vision that the new colony should be the center of missionary work among the Chippewas as well as a center of a German population, as there were hundreds who wanted to emigrate. In August, 1845, this little band of Franco-Bavarians arrived in Detroit, from where they gook passage on the ship Nelson Smith, Captain Munson commanding. On arriving at the mouth of the Saginaw river, they met adverse wind and storm, and after waiting in vain three days for a favorable breeze, the men resolutely took ropes and waded along the marshy shores, and pulled the Nelson Smith up the river to a landing place near South Saginaw, from where a road was cut to Bridgeport. In Saginaw the Germans excited great curiosity among the French and English on account of their peculiar clothing and strange language.

They wended their way along trails, following the Cass River, under the guidance of a surveyor, and at last camped in a place about a mile west of where the village of Frankenmuth now is. There they set to work to build log houses on lands they picked out for homes, and in a short time were snugly housed and had cleared and made ready some patches of ground for the sowing and planting of the next spring.

It was no picnic to start in that wilderness. The land was covered with first growth timber, thick and almost impenetrable, where the wild deer roamed and the Chippewa braves hunted the bear and the wolverine. The mighty oaks and monster elms spread their branches over a thick undergrowth of brush and brambles, while the towering peaks of conical pines rose sentinel-like above the forest. The hoot of the night owl, or scream of the crane, would break the stillness and send shudders up the back of young and old alike. Then there were the myriads of mosquitoes, the heat of August and the strange sickness, chills and ague, altogether enough to make the newcomers wish themselves back in the Bavarian Valley, but they stuck to it and called this place Frankenmuth--The Courage of Franconians.

Meanwhile they did not forget their Pastor. They turned to and helped him build a log house containing three rooms; one room to be used as a church in which to hold the Sunday services, one for the pastor's study and one for the kitchen and living room. This house was completed at Christmas, and the first service held on Christmas Day. On New Year's Day a bell was hung on a tree in front of the church, and the little colony rejoiced exceedingly when its clear tones were heard, calling them together to worship God in the manner they had been taught in the Old Fatherland.

They endured great privations; they had none of the commodities and conveniences that we look upon as necessities of life. They had no stoves, only open fireplaces, no lamps, only pine torches to light up at night; their main street was only an Indian trail through the forest, where not even a wagon could be drawn.

They were inexperienced in a life in the woods, and suffered from exposure and strange diseases, and often for want of proper

food. A trip to Saginaw took days and what they were able to buy had to conveyed up the Cass river, or carried on their backs from Bridgeport. But with all their troubles, their ills and privations, they held on and held out. They had found what they sought; freedom, political liberty, religious liberty, social liberty, and they were welcome to the land as they found it. No counts, barons or dukes made their lives one of misery and servitude, they could be their own barons here in the Land of the Free.

Rev. Craemer immediately began his mission work, and by the spring of 1846 had gathered fifteen Indian children together with his own family and the family of the interpreter, a half-breed by the name of Jim Grant, all under one roof in the mission school, which was the Pastor's home. It soon became necessary to erect larger quarters, and in the same year the first regular church was built, a good substantial log structure, 42x26 feet, and it was dedicated with impressive services on the second Christmas they enjoyed in their new country.

The congregation had increased largely, because during the year 1846 over a hundred more emigrants had arrived, mostly from the neighborhood from whence the first colony had started from. They were directed to this place by letters sent back from here, telling about this free country which held great possibilities for the future.

Among the newcomers this year, were the Hubinger brothers, who by their craftsmanship as millwrights did much to make Frankenmuth what it is today. Their history and achievement will be described more fully in the sketches of the pioneers.

The Indian mission in Frankenmuth soon became extinct because of the ravages of smallpox had thinned them out greatly, and the few who were left soon departed from this part of the country and joined their tribes at other places. Rev. Mr. Craemer, however, did not give up his mission work among them, but traveled to many other places, even as far as Kawkawlin, everywhere the Indians congregated. Such travels were always on foot or in a canoe. The hardships he endured in his eagerness to bring the gospel of Christ to the Indians can hardly be imagined, besides caring for his ever increasing flock at home.

In 1846, there was one birth and one death in the colony. The 30th of July, John Pickelmann was born, he being the first white child born in Frankenmuth. August 28th, the eight-days-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz Loesel died. That funeral being the first one in the colony.

John G. Hubinger opened the first store in 1849, near the sawmill he erected in 1847.



George A. Ranzenberger opened a store near the church the same year. He also owned the first horse brought into the township, which was almost useless as there were no roads. Mr. Ranzenberger also was the first postmaster in the town.

In 1847 another colony of settlers came in, but part of them settled in what is now Frankentrost and Frankenlust. The colony in Frankentrost cleared an opening in the dense forest and lived ten years without a road to the outside world.

In 1850 the now-large colony suffered a hard blow. Their beloved counselor and friend, Pastor Craemer, was called to a new and important field of work, as Director of the Theological Seminary of the Missouri Synod, at Fort Wayne, Indiana. It took months before Mr. Craemer could decide to leave his flock or stay where he had builded so well, but after long conferences, he was made to see that his usefulness in the Master's work was needed in the new and responsible position to which he had been called, and he accepted.

In November, 1850, Rev. Mr. Craemer left Frankenmuth and on the 5th of May, 1851, Rev. C. A. W. Roebbele came from Liverpool, Ohio, to take up his duties as pastor. Under his pastorage the second church was erected. It was a frame building 74x40 feet and 24 feet high inside. It was dedicated with the usual ceremonies on September 29, 1852. By this time the congregation numbered 345 persons all told. The old log blockhouse was now used as a parochial school, which had at that time 47 pupils. The teacher was Mr. L. Flessa.

Rev. Mr. Roebbele continued to serve the community as pastor until 1857, when he was compelled to resign on account of his health, which had broken down under his arduous labors and he returned to the Old Country, where he died in 1860, sincerely mourned by his Frankenmuth people.

Rev. J. A. Huegle acted as pastor for one year and was succeeded in 1858 by Rev. Ottomar Fuerbringer, who administered to the spiritual needs of the community for 34 years. In 1892 he passed away universally beloved by all. His biography will be found in the history of the early settlers.

Up to the year 1853, Frankenmuth belonged to the Township of Bridgeport. As the early township records are lost, we do not know much of the early proceedings, but we have heard that the Bridgeport township officers did not do much for the Frankenmuth community but to collect taxes. But the people of this community got together and made some laws and regulations of their own.

We are indebted to Rev. E. A. Mayer for the following remarkable document which he found in the archives of the church. It

shows the lawabiding and conservative disposition, the strict and yet love-breathing spirit of the first settlers, and explains at the same time some of the singularities of the now living generation.

Because all were members of the same church, the minister was in some degree not only the spiritual advisor, but they came to him also in other troubles. The cases between neighbors were often cases of church discipline, and the officers of the church were also officers of trust in public life. All things pertaining to church matters only are omitted from the translation. The document, of course, is in the German language. There is no date given, but it is concluded from the circumstances that it was made between the years 1850 and 1852:

#### LAWS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY OF FRANKFINMUTH

1.

Whereas, It is the will of God that all things should be done decently and in good order, and whereas, the laws of our country impose only few restrictions on the single citizen toward a streictly regulated public life, therefore we, the citizens of Frankenmuth, have agreed from our own free will, to bind ourselves to the following regulations, under this understanding that we thereby in no way despise or try to evade the laws of this country, but want to thwart the arbitrariness of our people and the necessity of taking recourse to court. We do this with the greater pleasure, since it is customary that neighbors make such agreements for their mutual benefit.

Paragraphs 2, 9, 10 refer to the duties towards the church to which at that early time all the inhabitants belonged; I omit them as not belonging in a document of this kind.

3.

Public work shall be done in this manner: That every male of over 18 years is obligated to do one day's work, and that every landholder be willing to work more, if necessary.

4.

Where the lawful section lines are not sufficient, we agree mutually to give the land necessary for such other roads as may be necessary now or in the future, provided that they shall not cut the fields. As a rule, every quarter-line shall be opened and a road laid out 4 rods wide. Roads on the quarter of a mile may be demanded and shall have a width of 2 rods. All obstructions of roads by fallen trees shall be removed by the adjoining neighbors as soon as possible. The building of roads must be executed

with the greates possible care. Roads laid out shall be recorded in the records of this community with an exact description.

5.

Regarding partition fences, the following is our agreement:

- a. If fences are of use to both neighbors, they shall erect them on their line at the expense of both.
- b. If one has fenced his land already, and the neighbor afterwards makes use of this fence, he is under obligation to pay half of what it is worth at that time.
- c. If by mistake a fence runs into the neighbor's land, the two shall settle in the best possible manner, but always in a friendly way.
- d. All fences all be made to fully suit their purpose. They should therefore be 5 ft. high, and the lower 4 rails not be more than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. apart.
- e. To make sugar, syrup or vinegar in the open woods, where horses, cattle and pigs have free access to the pails used there, is prohibited at a fine of \$5.00. Anyone that sees one do this, shall report him. And if cattle should die in consequense of drinking from these pails, the guilty party has to make full reparation to the loser.

6.

Regarding all damage done by other people's cattle or fowl, we agree to the following:

- a. If cattle or horses jump fences and damage the crops, and, if the parties cannot come to a peaceable adjustment, it shall be investigated, whether the fence is right and in good condition, whether the corn is not nearer the fence than six feet, whether the owner of the cattle has taken sufficient care to hinder his cattle from jumping. It it appears to a certainty that he knew his cattle were jumpers, and has not used the common preventive measures, and that the fence was right and good, he shall repair for the damage and pay the cost of the investigation. Cattle that can by no means be prevented from jumping, must be either killed or kept inclosed.
- b. If pigs do damage, the owner shall be notified, that he may pen them up. If he neglects this, or is not willing to do it, he is responsible for damage and all expenses; but the other party has no right to kill or hurt the pigs.

c. If fowl continually do damage in the neighbor's land, and the owner refuses to make reparation, he shall be forced to dispose of his fowl and pay for the damage.

7.

- a. If, in felling a tree, or otherwise, cattle are injured or killed, and the parties cannot come to a peaceable understanding, the first party has to repair the loss. Cattle shall be kept inclosed in the forenoon during the months of January and February.
- b. If a dead animal is found in the land or on the road, the finder shall immediately notify the owner to remove it. If the animal is unknown, the finder shall take two or three men to look at it, and then bury or remove it.
  - c. Bad dogs shall not run without muzzle.
- d. Boars have to be penned up from the 25th of July to the 31st of October. Otherwise, their owner is due to make amends for all damage done.

8.

To enforce these regulations, to arrange their execution, to make the necessary inspection, to give decisions in doubtful cases and litigations, the community elects annually on the 6th day of January two trustees who with the chairman of the church, constitute a forum to judge in all cases that may fall under this agreement, with power of imposing fines and indemnities. They are allowed to collect from the party found guilty for their time and trouble. In the administration of their office they are responsible to the community, to whom they are to report in the annual meeting.

11.

All of these regulations shall continue to be in force as long as they are not appealed or changed by a majority of 3/4 of the members present at the regular meeting. New sections may be added by a simple majority of the voters present. Those who cannot attend, may send in their votes in writing.

Though the first settlement of the Germans was made in the vicinity of where the St. Lorenz church now points its tall spire skywards, that place was not destined to be the Village of Frankenmuth.

One mile farther up the stream, where the Cass River bends in an almost perfect right angle, there was a rapids and there the Hubinger brothers made a dam of logs and stones so as to create a waterfall, which they utilized as motive power for their sawmill, and consequent gristmill. In the course of a few years, a cluster of houses were erected adjacent to the mills, and it gradually became the village by the ever increasing influx of new people. It soon became evident that the new settlement must be made a township. The Board of Supervisors were petitioned to that effect and at their meeting on the 31st day of January, 1854, enacted the following resolution:

# TOWNSHIP 11, NORTH OF RANGE 6 EAST

The above described territory be and the same is hereby duly organized into a township to be known and distinguished by the name of FRANKENMUTH, Saginaw County, State of Michigan, and be it further ordered that the first annual meeting for the election of officers described by law, be held in the Old Church in said township of Frankenmuth on the first Monday in April, 1854. Be it further ordered that G. A. Ranzenberger, G. M. Schaefer and Doctor A. Koch be and are hereby designated and appointed to preside as an election board and to perform the duties required by the statute.

George Schmidt was appointed as clerk for the election.

The following officers were elected:
Supervisor--George Schmidt
Clerk--George A Ranzenberger
Treasurer--John A List
Justices of the Peace--George A Ranzenberger, George
M. Schmidt and John M. Arnold.

Mr. Schmidt held two offices, and was supervisor eight terms.

Mr. Ranzenberger also held two offices.

Mr. List served as treasurer for four terms.

These first elected men were very faithful in performing their public duties, and with the farseeing business acumen that characterized their private life, soon evolved from the wilderness a system of roads and other improvements that laid the foundation for the fine township it is today.

We must believe that this first election was non-partisan. Afterwards, however, the township became solidly democratic. In the later years many have voted the republican ticket and in 1904 was recorded for the first time one solitary socialist vote. No prohibitionist vote had ever been recorded.

John G. Rummel was elected Representative to the Legislature in 1883. He also served 20 years as Justice of the Peace. All others who served the township as officers for many terms, are:

John G. Breiter, who was elected School Director for 20 years and also held other offices; John L Krafft was Supervisor for nine years, also the first Highway Commissioner and afterwards School Inspector. John G. Hubinger served as Highway Commissioner and also as Treasurer for many years. John M. Gugel was Supervisor for many years and held successively almost all the town offices. George M. Williams was Justice of the Peace for 20 years. He ran for Representative in the Legislature in 1879, but was defeated by only 3 votes: George Veenfleet of Frostville froze him out.

In January, 1904, the village of Frankenmuth separated from the township and was incorporated. It thus became a village in fact as well as in name.

The first officers were as follows:

President - Peter Schluckebier.

Clerk--John M. Gugel.

Treasurer -- Paul Gugel.

Justice of the Peace -- John Rupprecht.

Assessor -- Lorenz Hubinger.

Peter Schluckebier held the office of President for five years.

The village has since steadily been improved in a safe and economical manner.

#### MARGARET'S WEDDING CAKE

A certain Lena tells about a German girl, Margaret, who came to her grandfather's house in Saginaw as a domestic. Margaret had come over from Germany with one of the colonies, who arrived in Frankenmuth before 1850. Lena described her as being five feet five inches tall, broad shouldered with brawny arms, her feet covered with thick cloth shoes 9x14, lined with sheepskin, red and black petticoat and thick close jacket. After about a year she announced to her mistress that she had to quit and go back to Frankenmuth; she was going to be married and the wedding day was set.

"My grandmother," says Lena, "made her a fine wedding cake to take along and Margaret started on the trail to Frankenmuth. She told afterwards that she walked all day and, exhausted, she sat down under a tree to rest. She fell asleep and it was dark when she awoke. Starting on again, she took the wrong trail and did not arrive in Frankenmuth at the appointed time.

The waiting bridegroom got anxious and set out toward Saginaw to meet her. He arrived at grandfather's house to learn that his sweetheart had departed the day before. Grandfather went with him and summoned others to help find Margaret. They arrived in Fran-

kenmuth at night and postponed the search until the next morning. Grandfather was given a bed four feet long, feather ticks over and under, slats above where chickens roosted and two pigs under the bed. Mosquitoes kept grandfather awake until the rooster crowed and the pigs grunted for breakfast in the morning.

Next day, a large number of men searched the woods and Margaret was found at Portsmouth, near Bay City. She was brought to Saginaw in a canoe and a cannon was fired to inform other searchers that she was found. She had been over three days without food but she still carried her wedding cake intact. Not a crumb of it was broken.

The party then proceeded to Frankenmuth, where the wedding was celebrated and the guests, including most of the searchers were treated to a wedding dinner consisting of smoked ham boiled with rice, which was served in wooden bowls. Needless to say that the wedding cake occupied a conspicuous place on the table and was much admired.

### THE MEDICINE MAN

In the early 50s there were yet many Indians roaming the woods around Frankenmuth. A certain Herr Wintzel (that was not exactly his name) lived with his frau Karoline on a new clearing and as new-comers, with little means, they were very poor and it was hard to get along, especially through the winter. Many Indians came to Wintzel's house, asking for a little supper and lodging. The good frau let them sleep in the hay in the new log barn and gave of her scant store, but Herr Wintzel didn't like it and upbraided her for her misguided philanthropy.

One stormy night, a faint rap came on the door and Oglaja, the old medicine man stood there, cold and shivering. He asked for a little supper and shelter. Karoline was willing but Herr Wintzel said no. He talked to the poor old fellow in German and in half Indian and in broken English, and interpreted it with fighting gestures in a most impressive manner but the old Indian stood calm and looked to the Frau with imploring gaze. She prevailed again and the medicine man was allowed to bury himself in the hay in the barn, but he got no supper. Afterwards, however, she stole down to the barn with a dish of warm milk. She found two other strangers in the barn but could not make out who they were.

Next morning, they found their storehouse broken into and some clothing and all the money they had, which was saved to buy seed in the spring, was gone. Herr Wintzel got wild and upbraided his wife for the loss. Down to the barn they went but found only Oglajo sleeping soundly. Wintzel prodded him heraus with a wooden pitch fork and only his wife's interference prevented him from

doing great bodily harm to the old fellow. Oglajo asked what it was all about and when told of the robbery said: "Never mind Wintzel, You have good frau. You not bad man. No my tribe do this. I show you something. Come with me." The old man trudged ahead and Wintzel took his gun and followed, mostly through curiosity. Suddenly the Indian stopped, crouched and pointed. Wintzel followed the direction of his finger, and saw a fine buck on the river brink. When the smoke from his musket had cleared, he saw the buck sprawling in the snow. But this was not all. The Indian told him where to put the net in the river and next morning, Wintzel had to get his good frau to help get it out. It contained over a hundred fish, some very large. Herr Wintzel had planned to put a padlock on the barn but never did. His barn was used by many Indians since, and he never disturbed them. He also joined his frau in hospitality to the poor, the tramps and outcasts, and his "Gluck gemacht sie Lust zu jagen der Hochwild und die sogenannten woodchucks, und der fischfang im Cassflusz die vielbegehrten 'Sturgeons' Kerle von vier bis sechs fusz lang im Netze war."--So sagte Herr Wintzel.

### SOME SIXTY YEARS AGO

A song for the early times out here
In our green old forest home,
Whose pleasant memories freshly yet
Across the bosom come;
A song for the free and gladsome life
In those early days we led,
With a teeming soil beneath our feet
And a smiling heaven overhead!
Oh, the waves of life were rough sometimes,
But they had a forward flow
In the days when we were pioneers,
Some sixty years ago.

Our forest life was rough and hard
And danger lurked around;
But here, amid the tall old trees,
Freedom we sought and found,
Oft, through our dwellings wint'ry blasts
Would rush with chill and moan;
We cared not, though they were but frail,
We felt they were our own!
Oh, for the free and manly lives we led
'Mid verdure and 'mid snow.
In the days when we were pioneers,
Some sixty years ago.

We felt that we were fellow men. We felt we were a band.

Sustained here in the wilderness
By Heaven's upholding hand,
And when the solemn Sabbath came,
Around our Pastor we stood,
Lifting our hearts in prayer
To God, the only good.
Our temples were not as magnificent
As those we now can show,
In the days when we were pioneers,
Some sixty years ago.

But now our course of life is short, And as, from day to day, We are walking on with halting steps And fainting on the way, Another land, more bright than this, To our dim sight appears, And on our way to it we'll soon Again be pioneers! But while we linger, may we all A backward glance still throw To the days when we were pioneers, Some sixty years ago.

# EARLY PIONEERS.

In sketching the biographies of most of the early pioneers, we must go back to the Fatherland in old Germany.

Franconia, or Franken, is a name originally applied to the German country on both sides of the river Main. It was colonized by Frankish settlers under Tierry I., eldest son of Clovis I, in the year 511. Conrad, Duke of Franconia, was elected King of Germany, November 8, 911 and princes of that same house occupied the throne until 1250. The Emperor Winceslaus in 1387 divided the empire into four circles (kreise), and Maximilian I., in 1512 erected Franconia into a distinct circle.

In 1806 it was divided among Wurtemberg, Baden, Hesse-Kassel, Saxony and Bavaria, but since 1814, the greater part has belonged to Bavaria. In 1837 the division into Upper, Middle and Lower Franconia was established. Upper Franconia includes the North East portion of Bavaria, while Middle Franken abuts upon Wurtemberg. The district is noted for its mineral springs at Kissingen, Orb and Wiyfeld. It was there that, in the village of Kloster Heilbronn, that the widely known Pastor,

JOHANNES KONRAD WILHELM LOEHE

served the Lutherans as pastor for thirty-five years. He was born in Fuerth, February 17, 1805 and died in Neuendettelsau, January 28, 1872.

He was a man of great achievements. He built a Mission house, a Diakonisse house, a medical school, two hospitals, one asylum for epileptics and idiots, a Magdalena Old People's home and a manual school for young maidens. But this extensive work in the interior was not enough for this ambitious servant of God, and his attention was directed to foreign missions as well, especially to far-off America.

The inhabitants of Bavaria at that time were mostly Catholics, and the Protestants or Lutherans being only about twenty-five percent. The Catholics were very active in missionary work and Rev. Loehe saw that the Lutherans must do something or the Catholics would soon have the Western Hemisphere alone. He organized a foreign missionary society in 1841, consisting at first of only twenty-five families. Among them was soon found some persons who were willing to volunteer to go to America for the dual purpose of establishing a colony of their countrymen and bringing the gospel to the Indians.

Rev. Loehe then looked around for a leader for the little flock and found the right man in

### AUGUST CRAMER

born in Kleinlangheim, Lower Franconia, May 26, 1812. He was a merchant's son and received his first education in Wurzburg Gymnasium, studied theology in the University at Erlangen and philology at Munchen Seminary. After teaching in his home land, he went to England, in the house of Lord Lovelace in Devonshire, where he was engaged in teaching the German language. He was also favorably spoken of as a candidate for the professorship of modern literature at Oxford, but as a strong Lutheran he conflicted with the established church of England and was called back to Germany by Professor Karl von Raumer and other friends to be the guide and leader of the contemplated mission colony which was to seek a new home in the forests of Michigan.

Being master of the English, and other, languages, he was eminently well fitted for this undertaking, and in the winter of 1844-45, the little mission band held regular meetings for the preparation and study of their voluntary task.

It was in one of these meetings that they named themselves "Frankenmuth," the Courage of Franconians.

The departure from their old homes and from Rev. Loehe in Neuendettelsau was mingled with glory and sorrow. It was April 4th, 1845, they started on their travel through Schwerin and Mecklenburg to Bremen harbor where a two-mast ship, Carolina, Captain Wolkman, was to convey them "Uber die Meer."

Their longing to--and fear of the great unknown can be expressed thus:

Wonder! Oh wonder what we shall meet Uber die Land und Meer.
On untrodden roads our weary feet Over byways and paths shall beat, With courage in storm and stillness, And prayers in health and illness.

Eagles sail on powerful wings,
Uber die Land und Meer;
To us a silent longing brings
To follow their flights in rings and swings.
Farewell! Farewell old neighbor,
We go four our Lord to labor.

Out! We will out oh so far far far Uber die Land und Meer!
Breaking down ev'ry closing bar,
Follow trusty our leading star,
Just as it calls us, winking
In western horizon sinking.

Oh, shall we never, never arrive, Uber die Land und Meer? Shall we for everlasting strive And ourselves of the goal deprive? Shall those great waves rocking Ever our longing be mocking?

Sometime, we know, we shall reach the shore Uber die Land und Meer.
God of our Fathers! We Thee emplore,
Lead us Thou straight, and go before,
Until we reach the haven
For which our longing has craven.

#### JOHANN LEONARD BERNTHAL

was one of the colony. He was born in Bavaria, in 1821, and married Mary M. Veitengruber in 1846. He related from his reminiscences how the ship Carolina weighed anchor on Sunday noon, April 20, and left the harbor at Bremen under the guidance of a pilot. This pilot must have been inefficient, as on the second morning out, the craft struck a sandbank, presumably the Dogger Bank in the North Sea. The tide, however, soon lifted them off this precarious position and they proceeded seawards, where seasickness soon overtook them. The "Ach mich!" was heard in painful accents night and day.

Contrary winds hindered Captain Volkmann from taking the southern route through the English Channel and he had to go north around Scotland. They cleared the coast of Scotland on April 29, and set out on the great Atlantic proper. They encountered the usual storms, and some unusual ones too, in the fifty-one days they were confined on the second deck of the little boat,--little, very little it was, compared with the ocean liners of today.

On May 4, the mountain-like waves rolled constantly over the Carolina and the passengers had to be kept below with the hatchways closed. Down there they were rolling in fear and sickness, and with them were rolling trunks, boxes and bedding. Utensils, victuals, water-crocks and everything seem mixed up with a suffering and moaning mass of humanity. Utter darkness and a suffocating atmosphere did its part to make the poor landlubbers think the end of it all had come. And welcome the end would be as present conditions seemed unbearable. In the night of May 13, they collided with an English trawler. The bowsprit of the Carolina was broken and the other boat was also damaged. Further on, icebergs became a dangerous menace to the travelers, especially in the thick fogs on the Newfoundland Banks, that prevailed at that time as well as now.

The last few days of the journey, however, was accompanied by fine weather, and the German emigrants, in their gratitude for relief, held religious services every morning and evening until they, at last, on June 8, arrived in New York harbor and on Monday, June 9, were transferred to Castle Garden. Here another trouble beset them in the runners and confidence men, who were at that time free and unhampered in preying upon emigrants, but Pastor Cramer warned his flock and the runners did not get any of the Franconian's money.

In New York, Pastor Cramer married Dorothea Benthien, who was born at Achim, Hanover, February 12, 1818. She had arrived in New York with her brother and his family, who settled in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Mrs Cramer died November 11, 1884.

From New York, the Frankenmuth colony proceeded on a steamboat up the beautiful Hudson river to Albany. There, they took the railroad, in an emigrant car, to Buffalo. As they were rolling along in peace and happiness, there was a crash, a sudden stop, and the emigrants were thrown over the seats, while glass from the shattered windows was flying through the car. The train had collided with a coal train, but fortunately none of our travelers were injured to any extent. They were returned to Albany, where they took the more safe canal boat, and arrived in Buffalo on June 14. In Buffalo, they were provided with food and lodging by a Pastor Hattsted, who had known many of them in the old country.

From Buffalo they took a steamboat over Lake Erie to Detroit.

Here the Americans made so much fun of the Franconian women's head-dresses, which were not built for the July sun of America, that several of them bought straw hats and discarded their heavy woolen hoods.

On July 3, they boarded a small vessel for Saginaw, and on Lake St. Clair, the day after, our travelers had another scare, in the shooting and crackling of fireworks. It was the Fourth of July. One week after, they arrived at Bay City on the ship *Nelson Smith*, Captain Munson, and proceeded to Frankenmuth, as has been related before.

Mr. Bernthal and his frau experienced to the full extent, all the hardships of pioneer life, but with untiring energy he cleared 400 acres of fertile lands with improvements second to none.

### JOHANN KONRAD WEBER

was born in Bayern, in 1804. He joined the Loehe missionary Frankenmuth society in Franconia and left for America with the first emigrants. He married Kunigunda Bernthal, who was also one of the first colony. He bought a large tract of land and wrested from the wilderness a beautiful farm. He died in May 1861 and left his children in good circumstances.

According to verbal reminscences of the first colony, as related in "Zum 50 Jahren Jubilaeum von Frankenmuth, 1895," by John G. Rummel, we gather more particulars of the colonist's first days in this country.

When they arrived in Saginaw, Pastor Cramer acted as interpreter, which was a good thing for the Germans, as they could not understand or make themselves understood, there being no Germans in Saginaw at that time. They visited the pastor and the missionary of the place and as soon as possible they started, guided by a surveyor, over the trails to the place which Pastor Schmidt had selected, about 14 miles east from Saginaw and five and a half miles west of the little village of Tuscola. The land was looked over and corner stakes shown and the place for the first clearing selected on the banks of the Cass river, which runs in many swings and bends 125 miles from the east until it empties into the Saginaw river about three miles south of the Court street landing. The place was near the present location of the St. Lorenz church. The land was high and dry, very rich and very cheap. The men set about work with axes, saws and shovels on the sites picked out as homesteads. One hundred and forty-one acres were reserved for the Indian mission. The homesteads were selected in a circle around the nucleus of the settlement, which was set aside for the new village, the pastor's house and the "Gottesacker" or church property.

The men had to walk twenty miles to Flint, where the land

office was located, to perfect their title to the selected lands. The women folks were left in Saginaw until cabins could be erected, and after about two weeks, the men came to take them to the new homes in the wilderness. An ox team and wagon was procured and the trunks, boxes, etc., they had brought with them, together with provisions, were loaded on, and driven through the newly cut out State road in the direction of Tuscola. When they arrived at the place to turn off for the new settlement, they had to cut a road through the underbrush until at last they reached the place, where a shed-like cabin constructed of slabs, was erected to receive the pastor and his family. It was indeed a primitive affair. A piece of rag carpet was hung to serve as a door. The trunks and household goods filled the room, and when the little cook stove brought along was in use, and the burning August sun warped and split the slabs on the roof, it was almost impossible to stay inside. When showers of rain descended, it came right through the cracks in the roof between the shrunken and twisted slabs so umbrellas had to be used in the hut as well as outside.

About this time Pastor Cramer was taken sick with malarial fever, and, as there was no physician in the colony, he had to be taken to Saginaw for treatment. Hospel and Bernthal got a canoe and made a bed in it of leaves and branches and laying their beloved Pastor on it, paddled down-stream to Saginaw where there was medical aid.

Later in the fall, the colony was visited by Pastor A. Ernst from Ohio, and Conrad Schuster, who remained with the colony and afterwards helped in the Indian school. Rev. Ernst served the spiritual needs of the colony until Rev. Mr. Cramer was well enough to return and take up his work among them. But before Mr. Ernst left, a large log cabin had been erected, containing under one roof a school room, an interim church and the pastor's study.

On the first Christmas Day in Frankenmuth, the first church service was held. A large trunk covered with a beautiful red cloth served as an altar, while another served for pulpit. Above the altar was suspended an oil painting, "Christ on the Cross," which was painted by a master in Germany and presented to the Frankenmuth colony when they left the Fatherland. It was a day of gladness and rejoicing, and a true Thanksgiving day.

By New Year's Eve, a bell, also brought with them, was hung in a nearby tree and at midnight its clear tones rang in the new year, 1846, and the sound borne on the frosty air far and wide, and was heard even in Tuscola.

About Candlemas time, a separate log house for the pastor was erected and occupied, which made more room for the Indian school. The settlers now went out on their respective homestead sites and commenced to cut down trees, burning and clearing with a view of

becoming American farmers.

And here we start to build Our homes anew in forest shade. To ply the farmer's trade And clear the virgin field. Hi-lo, hi-lee, tra la, The echo answers from each tree, "Hi-lo, hi-le-e-e, Hi-lo-o-o!"

And if there fell some rain, What is the use to stew and fret? We never shunned the wet, But sang our old refrain, Hi-lo, hi-le, tra-la, The echo of the Deutchman's song Through maple groves rang: "Hi-lo-o-o!

When sun sinks in the west The cabin door will swing, A woman's smiles will bring Us welcome to our rest, Hi-lo, hi-le, tra-la. The echo of a woman's love, Hi-lo-o-o!

Soon the settlers came more in contact with the neighboring farmers, and trading, buying, selling and bargaining became more common occurences. In all cases the pastor had to act as interpreter and the neighbors gave them the reputation as being close bargainers and prompt payers.

The first cow bought and brought into the settlement disappeared soon after, and the menfolks set out on a cow hunt. They felt some anxiety that the cow had mired in a swamp or gone wild in the forest. But the cow had gone straight back to her former owner in Tuscola, where she was found and brought back to the joy of the settlement.

## THE HUBINGER FAMILY

This family came originally from Hungary, and can be traced back to an ancestor who lived about 1620, when Ferdinand II was emperor, and who, with his great generals Wallenstein, Tilly and Pappenheim unmercifully persecuted the Lutherans in the Thirty Years War. About this time, the "Snow King" from Sweden, Gustavus Adolphus arrived from the north with his little army of almost invincible, hardy and highly disciplined soldiers and defeated the imperial generals, in battle after battle, driving back the Cath-

olic forces from Pomerania, Narva, Magdburg, and conquered a large part of Germany, until he fell in the battle of Lutzen, 1632. It was difficult to be a Lutheran in those times and live. It was equivalent to being a traitor, and their lives were in peril, and thousands were slain for no other cause.

Thus, the ancestors of the Hubingers, being a strong adherent of the Lutheran reform, was trailed and shadowed by "Mummes." the graymantled silent monks who acted efficiently as spies. By dropping the perhaps very true remark that the "Peter's Penny" was filched by the Mummes, he was seized one night and never was seen afterwards. His family, consisting of three sons and two daughters. hid themselves in a hogpen under some pea straw, where they remained for five days before they saw a chance to escape. One night they made a daring dash for liberty and continued their flight until they heard the familiar tones of Martin Luther's great hymn sung by the soldiers of Gustav Adolphus, "Vor Gud han er saa fast en Berg" in the language of the army from the North. In the original German it is "Eine feste Burg ist unser Gott" and translated into English, "A mighty fortress is our God." They knew then they were among friends, and were well treated. They followed in the trail of the victorious army, which in December, 1631 took Mayance, the ancient ecclesiastical metropolis of Germany. General Tilly withdrew into Bavaria, where he attempted to prevent the gallant Swedes from crossing the river Lech. Here Tilly received a mortal wound and Wallenstein was again called to the front as supreme commander. In the battle at Nuremberg, Gustavus was repulsed and took another course into Saxony. Here the three brothers and two sisters left the army and settled down on the banks of the river Aurach. They started a village, Frauenaurach, which is now the thriving city of Herzogenaurach and the neighboring city, Muenigaurach, was also founded by them. They built mills on the Aurach, one of which still remains in the family. There are numerous descendants in Bayaria of those five Hubinger children who escaped from Hungary in the perilous times of the 30-Years War. Milling seems to have been the principal occupation of the family for 300 years.

## JOHANN MATTHIAS HUBINGER

was born in Louismuehle, near Ausbach, Bavaria, in 1820 and

## JOHANN GEORGE HUBINGER

his brother was born in 1823, in the same place. When they reached young manhood, they decided to join the second colony, which was formed in Franconia to emigrate to America.

When John G. was 14 years old he was confirmed on the last Sunday in April, 1837. After that he went to learn the milling craft, together with his brother, John M. Later they worked in a mill in Schweinfurt, Franconia, and while there heard of the second

colony which was started to emigrate to the forests of Michigan. Their beloved mother died and was buried and the brothers decided to join the colony as there seemed nothing left to bind them to the Fatherland. The colony consisted of sixty-five persons, most all young men and women, and on the 5th of March, 1846, left their homes. A new railroad, just built, took them from Nuremberg. From there to Leipzig, they were conveyed by stage and then had to march on foot to Bremen, where they arrived March 12th.

In the harbor of Bremen, a sailing ship was ready to leave on the long voyage to unknown shores. Ten couples of the young emigrants from Franconia decided to marry before embarking on the boat, and so make this voyage their honeymoon trip. Among the ten were the Hubinger brothers, and on the 17th of March, John G. married Rosina Barbara Keller, a farmer's daughter, and John M. was united in wedlock to Anna P. Walter of Rosstall, Bavaria. The great tenfold wedding was held in the house of Pastor Haufstengel and performed by the ship's pastor, Rev. Mr. Lehmann.

Immediately after the wedding, they embarked on the ship, which was a two-masted vessel, used to bring back tobacco on the return trip. It, therefore, smelled terribly of tobacco in the rooms where our emigrants were to stay for the next seven weeks.

Besides the sixty five Franconians, there were aboard six Catholic families, four Saxons, three from Hessen and Jews. The victuals were fearfully poor, but none died from hunger.

May 8th, the ship arrived in New York harbor and the emigrants were only too glad to again set foot on terra firma. It appears that the Hubinger brothers had brought with them a large box containing some machinery for a saw mill that the customs officers would not pass without payment of duty. Every piece of the outfit was charged with a dollar in tariff duty, though the original cost was only a Prussian thaler per piece.

A steamboat took them up the Hudson river to Albany, where some took the canal boat and some the railroad, but all came together again in Detroit. From Detroit the same boat, the Nelson Smith, which conveyed the first colony, took them to Saginaw. The captain told them it would only take 24 hours from Detroit to Saginaw, but it took them five times 24 hours, and the food they had brought along gave out so they were quite hungry on their arrival in Saginaw. They went to a hotel to get a square meal, but they, having no interpreter with them, could not make themselves understood. The hotel keeper sent word to a Deutschman, Sitterding, or Sitterling, who lived two miles away, but when he came he could only speak Plattdeutsch, which the Franconians could not understand, and exclaimed in anger, "Ihr muszt Deutsch reden!" After some parleying, an understanding was arrived at and a meal made ready.

A ferryboat was ordered and the necessary paraphernalia of the colony was loaded into it. The larger trunks and boxes were left for the time being and the men, guided by the ferryman, set out to paddle up the Cass river fifteen miles to Frankenmuth.

At last the ferryman shouted, "Here we are!" and they beheld the great trees, brush and bushes, and in between was the pastor's house, the log church and mission school combined, where thirtytwo Indian children were gathered with an interpreter. The colony that thus arrived in Frankenmuth consisted of nine families with their children, the ten newly-wedded couples and some unmarried young people.

The Hubinger brothers were well educated in the old country; they were then young men, John M., being twenty-three years of age and John G., twenty-five; mentally and physically they were well fitted to take up life's battle in the wilderness.

John G. located 200 acres of land on sections 27 and 35, part of which is now the Village of Frankenmuth. While clearing his land, he with his brother built the first dam at the bend of the river and created a waterfall sufficient to exert some motive The rough machinery for a sawmill was ordered from Buffalo, power. and shipped to Saginaw, where it was loaded on a scow and taken up the Cass river by poling and tugging. It is said that the enterprising brothers persuaded the farmers along the river to turn out and hitch to the towlines. They got the waterwheel made, the machinery placed, and soon the wheel turned and made the gangsaw move. There was not far to go for logs; they were abundant all around, and they were the finest logs, running two to three feet through. The saw worked rather slow from the start; the men would put a log on the automatic feed carrier and set it agoing, and go out fishing for a while and when the slab was cut through, they would change the log over and go fishing again. The sawmill was completed in 1848, and it proved of great advantage to the settlers, as they now could improve their huts, erect houses and barns, and the community now improved very fast. In 1848, wheat, oats and corn were raised, but as yet it had to be taken to Flint for milling. The dauntless Hubingers set to work and built a flourmill, the motive power first taken from the single waterwheel. Now the settlement became independent of the outside world for building material and bread flour. In fact, some neighboring settlements now came to Frankenmuth for these things.

In 1851, John G. bought his brother's part in the mill and improved it into a first class plant. He operated both mills until 1881, when he transferred his interests to his three sons, John L., John M., and George M. Mr. Hubinger continued to some extent in lumbering, and in 1886 erected a creamery in company with Henry Rau. He was a Democrat in politics; served as highway commissioner and as treasurer of the township. In the '60s he ran as a candidate

for the legislature, but was defeated owing to the minority of his party. He died August 5, 1909, leaving besides his three sons, three daughters, Barbara, Margaret and Anna.



#### J. G. HUBINGER

John M. Hubinger, after selling out his part in the mills to his brothers, started a store, where he served his customers for many years, and was by them called "Uncle John." In 1874 he built a steam flouring mill farther up on the hill. This was the "Star of the West Mills," which, now has been dismantled, and removed to the fine mill now operated by a stock company, successors to the old mill. He owned a farm of 300 acres, besides giving each of his sons a farm when they started for themselves. He was postmaster for eleven years and township treasurer for a number of terms, also a trustee of St. Lorenz Church. He had eight children, of whom Lorenz married Maria Fuerbringer; Johanna E. married Leonhard Heine, who was then storekeeper in Frankenmuth, and Gottfried J. married Mary Riedel, daughter of teacher Reidel.

John G.'s son, John L., was the first child born in what is now the Village of Frankenmuth. He first saw daylight, sheltered by the leafy limbs of a basswood tree. The second son, Matthias Hubinger, was born in May, 1850, in the mill house by the river and was raised in the first frame house built int the village. He married Anna Barbara Zehnder.

John M. Hubinger died in 1903, and thus passed away the pioneer Hubingers. They were men of character and of ability; their enterprises will live in the history of Frankenmuth as the two main builders of the town.

#### JOHANN RODAMMER

came to Frankenmuth in 1846 with his parents. When he had attained manhood, he settled on a farm and married Kate, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz Loesel, who was one of the first colony.

### JOHANN H. KRAFFT

was born in Bavaria in 1826. When 20 years of age, he joined the 1846 colony and was one of the ten men who got married in Bremen just before boarding the emigrant ship. He married Elizabeth Laemmermann. Somehow he left the colony in Detroit, and did not arrive in Frankenmuth until late in the fall. He came overland from Detroit and experienced great difficulties in the journey through the woods and wilderness of those days. He located on 160 acres on section 22, where he made a beautiful and fertile farm. He was an active public man, being elected as supervisor for nine terms, and was the first commissioner of highways, school inspector and an elder of the Lutheran Church. He had six children.

## JOHANN M. GUGEL

was born in Rosstal, Germany, March 5, 1830. He came directly from the fatherland to Frankenmuth in 1846 or 1847, and was employed in the building and running of Hubinger's first mill. Afterwards he became a clerk in Hubinger's general store, where he remained for fourteen years. He was married to Miss Barbara Bernthal December 29, 1852. He purchased a farm on section 28, to which he subsequently retired. His first wife died in 1872 and his second wife, who was Miss Gundia Weiss, died in 1889. His third wife was Barbara Hauck.

Of his many children, Paul and Fred Gugel formed a partnership in the mercantile business in 1888 under the name of Gugel Brothers. They are still so engaged, and with honesty coupled with ability have won a large circle of patronage.

Mr. Gugel was identified with various interests which has made the township and village foremost in the State. He held almost all the town offices of trust in the gift of the people, being supervisor for many years. He was a faithful member of the Lutheran Church and an adherent of the democratic principles in politics. He died in Frankenmuth, July 30, 1891. Christian Gugel, a son, is the present supervisor of Frankenmuth township, which office he has held for about ten years, and was nominated and elected this spring without opposition. He is a successful farmer.

Another brother, Balthas Gugel, is a successful undertaker at Saginaw, W.S.

### MICHAEL LUDWIG REICHLE

was born in Wurtemberg, Obersteinfeld Destrict of Marbach in 1808. In 1836 he emigrated to America and located in Philadelphia, where he worked at his trade in a wagon shop, where he made wagons for the government for use in the war with Mexico. He was married in Philadelphia to Elizabeth Schoenewald. He heard about the new German colonies started in Michigan and removed with his family to Ann Arbor about 1847. After staying there about four months, he started with a team for Frankenmuth. Three boys, Louis, Christian and Henry, were born in Philadelphia, and Friedrich was born in Ann Arbor; Elizabeth, Johanna, Leonard, Martin and Margaret were born in Frankenmuth, where Mr. Reichle was engaged in the wagonmaking trade. At that time he was the only man in the township who could speak good English. He died on the 27th day of March, 1879.

### LEONARD REICHLE

was born in Frankenmuth, in 1845, and married Miss Sophia Geyer and lives on the old Reichle homestead, a fine farm adjoining the village on the north.

# HENRY CHR. REICHLE

was born in Philadelphia, April 2, 1845, and lived in Ann Arbor four years and in Cleveland, Ohio, two years; was confirmed April 17, 1869, and in 1867 married Martha Helen Ernst in Cleveland. He died December 23, 1908 and left, besides his widow, eight children of whom seven survive. Mr Reichle started a general blacksmith business in Frankenmuth, having learned that trade in Ann Arbor and traveled through several states in the interests of his trade. Was school director of District No. 1 from 1882 to 1904; trustee and treasurer of the German-Frankenmuth Insurance Association. The descendants are: Mrs. Karl Koch of Boston; Lorenz, Ernst, Mrs. Jacob Schluckebier, Lucius, of Saginaw; Henry C. and Julius of Frankenmuth. There are ten grandchildren. Sisters of Mr. Reichle were Mrs. Wirsing of Frankenmuth; Mrs. John Jordan of Richville and Mrs. Henry Boehning of Cleveland, Ohio.

#### LOUIS REICHLE

second son of Michael L. Reichle, born in Philadelphia in the early '40s, enlisted in the Civil War in 1861, served three years and enlisted again. In the battle of Antietam he was lost and reported missing and was never heard from afterward.

### OTTOMAR FUERBRINGER

was born in Gera Reuss, Germany, in 1810. In 1827, he entered the University of Leipzig and graduated in 1830. In 1839, he emigrated to America. He was one of the founders of Concordia College at



### OTTOMAR FUERBRINGER

St, Louis, Mo., and was engaged as one of its professors in classics for one year; he was successively pastor of Elkhorn Prairie, Ill., and Friestadt, Wisconsin, from whence he came to Frankenmuth in 1858, as pastor of the St. Lorenz Church. He was married in St. Louis, Missouri, to Mrs. Agnes Walther in 1842. She was born as Miss Buenger in Etydorf, Saxony, in 1819.

# LUDWIG FUERBRINGER

a son of Ottomar, was born in Frankenmuth, in 1864. He attended the Village school until 1877, when he went to Concordia College, then removed to Fort Wayne, Indiana, from which he graduated in 1882.

After fitting himself for the ministry in Concordia Seminary St. Louis, Mo., he came to Frankenmuth and was ordained as pastor July 12, 1885, and served as his father's assistant in St.Lorenz Church, succeeding to the pastorate on the death of his father



# LUDWIG FUERBRINGER

finally was appointed to a professorship in Concordia Seminary, which he still fills.

### GOETZINGER BROTHERS

Herman Goetzinger was born in 1855 and Fritz Goetzinger in 1857, in Kleinasbach, district of Wurtemberg; came to Frankenmuth in 1861. They have both engaged in the butcher and drover business and in buying and selling of horses.

# JOHANN G. BREITER

was born in Bavaria in 1835; in 1852 he came to America with his sister, and located in Frankenmuth on 80 acres of wild land, which he cleared and made into a fine farm. In 1859 he married Mary Ann Kempf. Mr. Breiter was Justice of the peace two terms and school director for 20 years.

# FREDERIC EILRICH

was born in Prussia in 1832, came to America in 1855, and settled first in Rhode Island; from there he went to Canada, and in 1858 he came to Saginaw county. He bought a farm in Frankenmuth and gave a gold watch for a team of horses to work it with.

## BENJAMIN B. FELGNER

was born in Saxony in 1851 and came to America in 1871, homeless, friendless and almost penniless. He had been a bookkeeper in his father's flouring mill in Leipzig. Quite a change when he came here and had to seek work as a sectionhand on a railroad. He came to Frankenmuth in 1873 and married Miss Margaret Hoffmann in 1878, and the same year bought the old Exchange Hotel property.

#### JOHANN ADAM HELD

came to this state in 1852 and located 50 acres on section 30; subsequent additions made him a farm of 210 acres, which is second to none in Frankenmuth. In 1856 he married Anna M. Schnell and twelve children were born to them.

# JOHN G. GEYER

was born in Bavaria in 1845, emigrated to this country in 1869. He represented the brewing interests of Frankenmuth which he commenced in 1874 and was a successful man in his business. He married Mary B. Roedel. Mr. Geyer has retired from the business, which is now carried on by two of his sons John L., and Fred Geyer.

#### HENRY RAU

was born in Prussia in 1841, emigrated to America in 1865, coming by way of Quebec, and arrived in Frankenmuth in 1867. He was the first manufacturer of shingles. He married Mary C. Ranke, a native of Pennsylvania.

## VALENTINE RAUPP

was born in Detroit, Mich., in 1854; his parents removed to Saginaw, where they resided, but Valentine moved to Frankenmuth, where he was married to Mary Schmitzer.

#### GEORGE L. ROEDEL

was born in Germany in 1842, and came with his father to Franken-muth, and in 1861 enlisted in Co. B., 16th Reg., Michigan Volunteer Infantry; participated in Sherman's March to the Sea, and also in the "final grand review" at Washington, D.C. He returned to Frankenmuth and engaged in farming. In 1873 he married Barbara Woeltzlein, a daughter of one of the early settlers.

### JOHANN RUPPRECHT

was born in Bavaria in 1841. He came to Frankenmuth with his parents in 1851. He first engaged in the brewing business and afterwards bought some land which he platted into village lots. In

1881 he erected a two story hotel over which hepresided as "mine host."

# AUGUST KOCH

commonly called Dr. Koch, was born in Regensburg, Bavaria. He was a barber in the old country. He also performed certain surgery such as phlebotomy or venesection, which is bleeding by opening a vein. Another mode of old time treating of diseases was cupping, which draws off blood by suction. It seems that such operations belonged to the barber trade in old Germany up to that time, and a barber would thus require a certain knowledge of human ills, especially the exterior, by setting broken limbs or treating sores. For the internal ills, the bleeding was most common, very little medicine being used. Only the kind called "Dyvelsdruck," (Devil's drink) a terrible strong and nasty decoction being sometimes used, though patients often would rather stay sick than use it.

Mr. Koch came to Frankenmuth in 1853 with his family, consisting of wife and two baby boys. Here he found the colony in need of medical assistance and practiced as a doctor the rest of his life. He was a rough and ready fellow and was known and sought by the surrounding settlers in Frankentrost, Tuscola, Birch Run and Bridgeport. He acquired an Indian pony to ride on, but the pony being small, the doctor's feet almost touched the ground. Some one asked him if it wasn't inconvenient to have that pony between his legs when he was out walking, so he discarded the pony and got a very tall horse which he called Nimrod, on which he rode around to his patients.

# FRITZ KOCH

a son of August Koch, was born in Bavaria and came over with his parents. He grew up in Frankenmuth and at the age of 18 years entered the study of medicine at Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He completed his studies at Piladelphia, after which he settled in Frankenmuth as a physician. He died there, still a young man.

## GEORGE A. RANZENBERGER

came with the second colony in 1846. He was born in Pappenheim, near Nuremberg, Bavaria, in 1814. He received a good education and as a young man he was in the employ of a banker by the name of Kropf for eight years. He joined the colony which started for this country, and was one of the ten young men who entered the holy bonds of matrimony in Bremen before boarding the emigrant ship Carolina. He married Margaretha Schleyer, born in 1814, who was one of the colony together with her mother. It is related before that he was the first postmaster and the owner of the first store in Frankenmuth; he was the first to acquire a team of horses in the colony. When the township was organized, he was elected to

two offices; that of clerk and that of justice of the peace. Mrs. Ranzenberger died February 24, 1897, aged 83, and Mr. Ranzenberger died May 13, 1899, aged 85 years.

#### GEORGE R. RANZENBERGER

eldest son of George A., was born in Frankenmuth in 1848; attended the school here and at the age of 19 enlisted in the Light Artillery of the regular U. S. Army in 1867, and was sent to suppress the Ku Klux Klan and the moonshiners in Virginia and North and South Carolina, where he experienced some rough and tough times. After returning to Frankenmuth, he married Barbara Reichle in 1872. There are three sons and five daughters of this union living; three sons and one daughter live in Richville, and one daughter in Gera and one at Bay City and one at home.

Mr. Ranzenberger has been janitor and caretaker of the St. Lorenz Church for 24 years; served as justice of the peace for 16 years, of which 8 years were served in the township of Birch Run and 8 years in Frankenmuth. In politics, he is a Republican, and as such has stoutly maintained the Frankenmuth end when party politics were in evidence, sometimes being the lone opposition to the prevailing political faith of the township, but held his ground without fear or favor.

### JOHN and KATHERINA RANZENBERGER

John was the second son of George A., and was born in Frankenmuth in 1850; he married Kunigunda Nuechterlein, and is a baker by trade and living in Saginaw.

Katherina is a sister of the above, and is married to Christian Gauderer and is living in Saginaw.

### THE LIST FAMILY

This large and highly esteemed family has a chronological record which runs back over 200 years.

On March 6, 1690, a boy was born in Rosstal, Bavaria, who was named Leonhard List. He lived in the vicinity of that town as a carpenter and farmer and died in March, 1760 at the age of 70 years. His son, Conrad List, was born November 17, 1713, and died July 26, 1780. His son, Johann List was born December 8, 1755 and died October 14, 1808. His son, John George List, was born February 2, 1784. He married Kunigunda Bierlein, who was born May 23, 1786. They had ten children, of which the first two died in infancy. Johann Adam, born September 9, 1810, died December 14, 1811. Andreas, born October 2, 1812, died on November 13, the same year.

## JOHANN ADAM LIST

the third son of Johann George, was born December 25, 1814. He married Margaretha Mueller in the Kingdom of Bayern. She was born September 10, 1815. Mr. List was one of those who emigrated to America with his family and came to Frankenmuth with the second colony in 1846, arriving in the township the 28th of May. He was the father of Johann M. List, Frankenmuth Township Clerk. He died in Frankenmuth, February 7, 1874 and his wife died November 4, 1899.

## JOHANN LIST

the fourth son of Johann George, was born in Bayern, December 3, 1816. He was one of the first colony which arrived in Frankenmuth in 1845. He was a great help to the pioneers as a carpenter and builder. He also engaged in farming after making a clearing in the wilderness. He died in Frankenmuth, April 20, 1882. He was the father of Michael List.

The fifth child of Johann George, was Sophia Barbara List, born November 26, 1818. She died in Germany.

John George List, the sixth child, was born July 29, 1820 and was the father of Adam List.

Johann George Conrad List was born December 7, 1822, and died in Munchen, Germany.

The eighth and ninth children were girl twins, one of whom died in infancy. The other emigrated to America and married John M. Arnold of Frankenlust. She died March 26, 1908, at Salzburg, Michigan.

The tenth and last child of Mr. and Mrs. Johann George List was Johann Michael List, born November 19, 1827. He died of small-pox in Tuscola in 1873.

The Lists have been carpenters and farmers from generation to generation. John George List was about 60 years old when his two sons left the Fatherland for America to make new homes in the Michigan wildwoods. He died September 10, 1859 in Germany.

Johann Adam List and his wife Margaretha (Mueller) have had 13 children. They are:

John List List, born September 23, 1846 in Rosstal, Bavaria. He is now located in Chicago.

Sophia Barbara, wife of John M. Stuetzer, born in Rosstal, July 20, 1838.

Anna Maria, born October 4, 1840. She married John M. King and lives in Illinois. Mr. King is dead.

John Jacob List, born May 25, 1842. He is a carpenter and living in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He enlisted in the Army in 1861 and went to fight the Rebels with the other Frankenmuth volunteers.

John Michael List, born June 27, 1844. He is the past and present--and perhaps the future Clerk of Frankenmuth township.

All these were born in Rosstal and came over with their parents to Frankenmuth in 1846.

The sixth child was Johann Leonhard List, born August 22, 1846 and was the second white child born in Frankenmuth township. He is now a teacher in a Lutheran parochial school in Chicago.

Anna Barbara, wife of Ferdinand Zehnder, was born July 17, 1848 in Frankenmuth.

Johann George List was born November 27, 1850, and is a farmer in Frankenmuth.

Michael Johann List was born November 27, 1851. He is a carpenter and farmer in Frankenmuth.

George Adam List, born August 28, 1853. He married Margaretha Hubinger and is engaged in farming.

Johann Frederick List was born June 15, 1855; he married Marie Barbara Rohrhueber, who died, and afterwards he married Elizabeth Bernthal. He was engaged in farming until he retired, in Lakefield, and is now living in Detroit.

Margaretha, born February 7, 1855, and died May 5, same year.

Margaretha, the 13th and last child of John Adam List, was born June 11, 1859. She married Conrad Smolt and is living in Chicago, Ill., where her husband is employed by a street railroad company.

### JOHN ADAM LIST

son of John George List, married Sophia Mossner. Mr. List was for many years engaged in the liquor business and was president and manager of the Frankenmuth Brewing company and connected with many other business enterprises in the village. He is now president of the List Brewing company, of Plattsville, Wisconsin.

#### MICHAEL JOHN LIST

son of Johann, fourth son of Johann George List, is a farmer and resides in this village. He married Barbara Roth.

### JOHANN M. LIST

was born in 1844, in the Kingdom of Bayern and was two years old when he arrived in Frankenmuth with his parents. He attended the parochial school from the time he was seven until fourteen years of age, under teachers Pinkepank and Simeon Riedel. After being



confirmed, he learned the carpenter trade, which he followed for many years. On September 18, 1870, he married Anna Maria Schleier. In the same year he bought a house and lot, and in 1892 erected a new comfortable house. Mr. and Mrs. List have eleven children, five boys and six girls. One of their sons, Heinrich, is a teacher at Adair, Iowa. Mr. List was elected township clerk in 1874. To this office he has been continuously re-elected every year since, and is now serving his fortieth term, having been nominated and elected without opposition. He also officiated as village clerk for two years after the incorporation of the village. A similar case of holding an elective office will hardly be found in the United States of America.

# DR. M. F. SCHICK

When the Frankenmuth doctors, August Koch and Fritz Koch had passed away, M. F. Schick, M. D., of New York, came in 1883 after he had completed his studies. He practiced in Frankenmuth and

neighboring districts and subsequently removed to Indianapolis, Indiana.

#### FRANZ RANKE

is an American by birth but of German descent. He was born in Block House, Pennsylvania in 1855. He came to Frankenmuth as a one-year-old baby with his parents in 1856, and has lived here ever since. In 1889 he bought the cider mill and afterwards added a jelly factory, which has been much appreciated by his many customers and gave him a large business. It speaks even better for Mr. Ranke's business ability that he established a woolen mill in connection with this, which was the first and for many years the only woolen mill in Saginaw County. The patronage has therefore been very large and has compelled the mill to run overtime. Mr. Ranke has been, and is now connected with many of Frankenmuth's industries and is president of the Woolen Mill Co., Frankenmuth Milling Co., and the Light & Power Co., whose successful organization was due in a large measure to his efforts. He was for a number of terms, president of the village, succeeding its first president. Hon. Peter Schluckebier. He married Crescendia Bierschneider.

### JOHN FALLIERS

was the first man to brew beer in Frankenmuth. He first started a tinshop and built the Rodsler place, which he exchanged with Gottfried Ranke, and then started a brewery at the Stahl place. The bulk of the population of Frankenmuth, being natives of Bayern and Bavaria, naturally missed their national beverage which they were used to, not as a luxury or intoxicant, but because it was to them a household necessity. Those mountainous countries have the best and purest water to be found anywhere and the beer brewed in Bayern of such water and richly malted is considered the standard beer of the world. It is without the obnoxious adulterations so much used in our times and is a healthy and invigorating drink, holding about four per cent. alcohol. The people of Bayern consume more beer per capita than any other nation on the globe, but they are nevertheless a strong, healthy and sober people. The manufacture of ale or beer is of very high antiquity. Herodotus ascribes the invention of brewing to Isis, and it was certainly practiced in Egypt at the dawn of history; Xenophon mentions it as being used in Armenia, and the Gauls were early acquainted with it. Pliny mentions a spirited liquor made of corn and water as common to all the nations of the west of Europe. A rude process of brewing is carried on by many uncivilized races; thus chica or maize beer is made by the South American Indians, millet beer by various African tribes, etc. Lager beer is a German name and means stored beer, because it is usually kept 4 to 6 months before being used. The first beer brewed in Frankenmuth by John Falliers did not come up to the beer of the Fatherland, as much as Cass river water comes short in purity to the mountain streams of Germany whose waters

emanate from the snow on the Alpine peaks. But the brewing business of Frankenmuth has steadily improved as it passed from hand to hand. Wilhelm Knaust subsequently owned the brewery and he sold out to John G. Geyer, who after retiring from business, left it to his three sons.

### JOHN MICHAEL RANKE

was born February 23, 1802, in Oburg, Sachsen-Weimar, Germany. He married Dorothea Fuecksel, who was born July 25, 1797, in Colba, Germany. In 1850, they moved with their family to America and settled at Block House, Pennsylvania, where Mrs. Ranke died in 1854. In 1856, Mr. Ranke moved to Frankenmuth where he engaged as wagon-maker and farmer until his death in 1878.

#### C. FRNST RANKE

second son of John Michael Ranke, was born in Colba, on February 12, 1842, and came to America with his parents in 1850. He married Miss Mina Rauh and lives in the village with his son Herman, who is a florist.

#### CHRISTINA RANKE

daughter of John M. Ranke, was born in Colba, Germany, in 1822 and came to this country with her parents in 1850. In 1851 she was united in marriage to Michael Vogel in Pennsylvania. She died in Saginaw in 1881.

#### C. FREDERICK RANKE

son of John Michael Ranke, was born in Colba, Germany, on January 16, 1836 and came to America with his parents in 1850. He worked in John G. Hubinger's mill, after which he took to farming from which he has retired and resides in the village with his wife, whom



he married on May 30, 1858. She was Miss Margaretha Zehnder and was born in Mausendorf, Bayern, Germany, on March 24, 1841. They had 13 children.

Wilhelmina Ranke, daughter of John Michael Ranke, was born in Colba, Germany, in 1838. She came to America in 1850 and married Theo. Haubenstricker in Frankenmuth, and died in 1863.

Anna M,, daughter of C. F. Ranke, was born May 2, 1859, and married Matthias Bierlein in 1876.

Johann, son of C. F. Ranke, was born December 5, 1861 and died May 26, 1863.

Catherine W., daughter of C. F. Ranke, was born January 20, 1863, married Theodore Fischer, May 14, 1882.

Barbara G. C., fourth daughter of C. F. Ranke, was born January 20, 1864 and married David Moser and resides in Reese.

A. Maria J., fifth child of C. F. Ranke, was born March 18, 1866. She married John Boesenecker, who died in 1906. She is now Mrs. Louis Farber and resides in the village.

John E., sixth child of C. F. Ranke, was born September 20, 1867. He married Miss Marie Rummel and resides in Birch Run.

Frederick M., seventh child of C. F. Ranke, was born March 30, 1869. He married Miss Margaretha Trump in Richville, where he now resides.

Wilhelmina B., eighth child of C. F. Ranke, was born March 2, 1871. She married John Bartel, deceased. She is now married to Fred Boesenecker and resides on the farm here.

- J. Wilhelm M., ninth child of C. F. Ranke, was born January 3rd, 1873. He married Catherina Diechritz and is living on a farm in Reese.
- G. Matthias, tenth child of C. F. Ranke, was born May 23, 1875, married Veronica Ruffenzopher and is a carpenter. He lives in Richville.

Anna C., eleventh child of C. F. Ranke, was born January 20, 1877. She married John Ruffenzopher. She is now the wife of Carl Koboldt and resides in the village.

Rudolph J., twelfth child of C. F. Ranke, was born March 31, 1879. He died September 8, 1906.

M. Agnes L., thirteenth and last child of C. F. Ranke, was

born July 22, 1881 and died September 9th of the same year.

#### LORENZ LOESEL

was born March 4th, 1817, in Bavaria, Germany, and was one of the first colony. He married Margaretha Walther, April 20, 1845; she died March 8th, 1855. On June 27, 1855, he then married Barbara Roth, who died July, 1910. To the former union was born John Matthias Loesel, August 20 who died August 28, 1846 and was the first death and burial in St. Lorenz congregation. Mr. Loesel was Pastor Loehe's coachman at the time he planned to send the mission to the Indians of America, and it was though Mr. Loesel's efforts that the men of the first colony were enlisted in the enterprise. He was a man thoroughly trusted by Pastor Loehe and his fellow emigrants, and was one of the elders of the St. Lorenz Church from 1845 until 1879, when he retired. He and his first wife, of whom Pastor Loehe spoke of as a "Young woman high in figure, high in mind and high in courage," attacked the wilderness with courage and vim, and succeeded in carving a home from the forest of the Cass River country, which today, with the broad fields cleared by his efforts, his descendants enjoy. He died August 22, 1880, survived by his wife and 10 children. The children are Mrs. Michael Rodammer and John L. Loesel, children of the first wife, and Mrs. George Grueber, Andrew, Mrs. Leonard Trinklein, Mrs. J. P. Bickel, Conrad, Mrs. A. F. Bickel, Lorenz and J. W. Loesel.

#### EUGENE WILLIAMS

the genial hotel clerk at Fischer's Union Hotel in Frankenmuth, was born in Gasport, Niagara County, New York, in 1850. In 1858 he arrived with his parents in Frankenmuth, where his father, George M. Williams, settled on a farm on December 19th. Mr. Williams was the only child of George M., and for many years he followed the lumberwoods and the river-drives. He is a Mason fraternally and can be found greeting the guests at the Fischer hotel. His father was Justice of the Peace for about 20 years and in 1879 ran for representative in the Michigan Legislature. He was defeated by only three votes. Veenfleet of Frostville, Genesee County beat him that much.

### JOHN LEONARD BERNTHAL

was born in Rosstal, Bavaria, September 27th, 1821. He came to this country with the little band of fifteen settlers in 1845. On October 8th, 1847, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Veitengruber, who died in 1905. He was one of the founders of the St. Lorenz Church and was a consistent member up to the time of his death, January 17th, 1911. He had six children; George Leonard Bernthal of Reese, George Michael Bernthal and John George Bernthal of Frankenmuth, Mrs. Peter Kern of Reese and Mrs. Jacob Woelzlein of Frankenmuth.



JOHN LEONARD BERNTHAL

### JOHANN STAHL

who was "Mine Host" in Hotel Stahl, was born in Erlangen, Bayern. He came to America in 1853 and to Frankenmuth in 1854. He made a trip back to the Fatherland where he remained in Erlangen two years. He then returned to America in 1858 and settled in Battle Creek, Michigan, where he married Marie Mayer in 1860. They lived in Battle Creek 22 years and moved to Frankenmuth, where he started the Hotel Stahl in 1880. Mr. Stahl was widely known and respected by all with whom he came in contact. He died in 1892; his widow survives him.

# JOHN BOESNECKER

was born in Bayern in 1865 and came to Frankenmuth in 1884. He went to work for John G. Geyer in the brewery, where he became, in time, master brewer. When the Frankenmuth Brewing Company was founded, he went to work in the same capacity for that company and remained until his death, February 29, 1906. He married Marie Ranke.

# MARTIN ZUCKER

was born in Frankenmuth in 1860 and has lived here all his life.

In the early '90s he built a business block in the village together with John Zucker, John G. Rummel and Oscar Pausch. John Zucker occupied the store in front for his furniture trade, while Mr. Rummel occupied the rooms back of the store as his office and Mr. Pausch used the upper story for his photograph gallery. Mr. Pausch was an expert in his line of business and made a success in "half-tone" cuts.

#### THEODORE FISCHER

came from Saxony, Germany, where he was born in 1855. He came to Detroit in 1879 and from there to Frankenmuth in 1880 and started to work for John G. Hubinger. He married Miss Katerina



# THEODORE FISCHER

Ranke, May 14, 1882. In 1884 he purchased the Exchange Hotel of Benjamin Felgner and ran it for four years. After disposing of the Exchange Hotel, he built the Union Hotel, now called Fischer's hotel, where he has since served his numerous patrons. In 1894 he built a hall which is used as an opera house, for shows, public meetings, dances, lodge or society gatherings, etc. He is a 32nd degree mason. He has five children living. Mr. Fischer is one of the solid men of the community and enjoys the respect and regard of the whole community for miles around.

# JOHN JACOB BICKEL

was born in Germany on the 20th day of April, 1817, and came to

this country, settling in Frankenmuth in 1851, at the age of 34. In 1874 he was united in marriage to Miss Veitengruber. He carved out his home from the wilderness and succeeded in producing one of the fine farms for which Frankenmuth is noted. On May 8th, 1909, he passed away at the ripe old age of 92 years.

#### GEORGE ADAM BICKEL

was born in Mittlefranken Dairen, Germany and came to this country in 1846 and remained in Saginaw a year before coming to Franken-muth. On the 5th of November, 1850, he was married and has lived on his farm in Frankenmuth ever since. He had seven children; John M., Michael, Mrs. John Keinath, Mrs. George Maurer and Mrs John Loesel of Frankenmuth, Leonard of California and Jacob of Tuscola.

#### JOHN ZEHNDER

was born in Weissenborn, Bayern, Germany, in 1809, married Miss Marie Margaret Fuerwitt, who gave birth to three children in Germany. As a shoemaker he made a living, but on learning of the Colony plan, made up his mind to go also, so he and his good wife gathered their goods and children and embarked for America. On the ship, Mrs. Zehnder gave birth to her fourth child, and to three more afterwards in the Frankenmuth home. They arrived in 1846 and he continued to follow his trade in the new colony.

#### JOHN SIGMUND ZEHNDER

eldest son of John Zehnder, was born in Weissenborn in 1836, came to Frankenmuth with his parents in 1846 and engaged in farming. In



MR. AND MRS. JOHN SIGMUND ZEHNDER

1860 he was united to Catherine Rau, who bore him eight children; Mrs. Mike Kern, Mrs. Math. Kern, Fred, George and Mathias, of Frankenmuth; Mrs. Wm. Mossner of Gera; Mrs. Ernest List of Buena Vista and Melchoir of Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Zehnder are still hale and hearty and live on their farm just over the township line in Birch Run.

### JOHN FREDERICK ZEHNDER

was born in Bavaria, June 20, 1843. He came to Frankenmuth in 1846 and started to work for Hubinger Brothers, building their sawmill. He was a prominent member of St. Lorenz congregation and organizer of the Frankenmuth Band, of which organization he was a member for 27 years. He was married August 23, 1868 to Anna Barbara List, and 12 children graced their home. He died June 9, 1911. Mrs. Zehnder still survives.

# HON. JOHN G. RUMMEL

This honorable and highly respected citizen of Frankenmuth was born in Bayern in 1843. As a boy of eight years, he came to Frankenmuth in 1851 and received his first education in the common school and some instruction in Latin and music. After confirmation he learned the carpenter trade and went to Chicago and other places, working at that trade several years. In December, 1865 he returned to Frankenmuth, and in 1867 married Marie Pickelmann, and worked at carpenter work in this town.

Mr. Rummel was elected as a representative in the state legislature in 1882, and in the session of 1883, which lasted five months, introduced two resolutions, one about the saloon license and the other about the extension of the public library, both acts passing the legislature and becoming law.

After that time he attended to his farming interests and held several town offices; that of justice of the peace he held for upwards of twenty years, and that of school inspector yet longer.

Mr. Rummel compiled the first history of Frankenmuth, which was printed in the German language under the title of "Funfzig-jahrigen Jubilaeum von Frankenmuth, 1895," and from which we have gleaned some of the narratives contained in this history.

Mr. Rummel died at Pontiac in October, 1911

Mr. and Mrs. Rummel had thirteen children; John of Sebewaing, George, Jacob, Leon, Herman, John A., Oswald, of Frankenmuth; Albert of Saginaw; Margaret, Mrs. John Knoll, Mrs. Otto Neuchterlein, Mrs. Adolf Nuechterlein and Emma, of Frankenmuth, all with

his widow, living at this date.

### JOHN PICKELMANN

was born in Bayern, Germany and came over with the first colony. He was married by Rev. Mr. Cramer with other couples before leaving for America, as narrated before in this history, to Miss Margaret Auer. They went through the hardships with the other colonists and helped to make the wilderness blossom into what it is now. They were graced with eight childrn: Johann, who was the first white child born in the colony, John, Leonhard, Lorenz, George, Mrs. George Fischer, Mrs. John G. Rummel and Mrs. George Rupprecht. Mr. Pickelmann died in 1865.

Mrs. Pickelmann was born in Bayern, Germany, May 12, 1822. Her parents dying while she was an infant, she was cared for by her God mother, Mrs. Schuettnueff and then adopted by Mr. and Mrs. George Schmidt. She went to work in the family of Rev. Fr. Loehe as housemaid, where she remained for seven years. When the first band of pioneers sailed for America, she was among them and as stated before, married John Pickelmann. After being a widow for thirteen years, she married John George List in 1878. He died on November 10th, 1902. Mrs. List died October 18th, 1906 at the age of 84 years. She was a noted midwife in the colony and assisted in bringing 800 children into the world in 55 years and never lost one.

#### JACOB HEINE

was born in Wurtemburg, Germany. He married Mrs. Heine, who was born in 1823, and in 1863 they sailed for America. They spent a few months in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and then came to Frankenmuth where they started a general store. Mrs. Heine died on October 21st, 1906 at the age of 83 years. They were blessed with four children, three sons and one daughter, Frederick, who was born in Germany and came to America with his parents as a six-month-old baby. He was reared on a farm until eight years of age when he went into his father's store as an assistant. He died in 1905. Leonard Heine resides on a farm in Birch Run. He married Miss Hannah Hubinger. They are very widely known as "Pa" and "Ma" Heine. Charles Heine lives in Omaha, Nebraska, where he successfully runs a large laundry. Johanna Heine, only daughter of Jacob Heine, was born in Frankenmuth on August 21st, 1862. In the winter of 1888 she was united in marriage to Jacob Freudenstein, who died in March, 1908. She died August 7, 1910.

### GEORGE M. DAENZER

was born in Bavaria, Germany, on February 25th, 1831 and emigrated to this country in 1855, locating finally in this township on a farm two miles south-east of the village in 1858. In 1862, he was

united in marriage to Mrs. W. Beyer, nee Caroline Eischer, who bore him twelve children. He passed away on August 27, 1906. Mrs. Daenzer died February 6, 1910.

### GEORGE SCHELLHAAS

was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1835 and emigrated to Frankenmuth in 1854, where he carved from the wilderness, a fine large farm. At the time of his death, June 15, 1907, he was road commissioner of this township; also a director of the German county insurance society. He was the father of nine children; Casper of Tuscola, Adam, of Winona, Minnesota; William of Birch Run, and Leonard, Lena, Agnes, Mary, Mrs. Ziegler and Mrs. Herzog of Frankenmuth.

### THERE IS SOMETHING IN A NAME

In the sketches of the pioneers of Frankenmuth, it will be noticed that the names of the Germans, both male and female, do not vary much. Especially the name "John" will be found to predominate. John is the English for the German "Johann," Hebrew, "Johannis," French "Jean." The name is of Jewish origin and means "The Gracious Gift of God." Four Johns are mentioned in the New Testament; 23 Popes have borne that name---one of them was a woman, Johanna--and a great number of Kings and other celebrities. Poets, authors, reformers, statesmen and clergymen have borne that name, and some of the greatest financiers the world has ever seen, bore that name with more or less dignity.

Next in order we find the name "George." It is a true German name, though found in English history, as borne by kings and others. The long list of English kings by that name begins with George I, who was of German descent on his father's side and was born in Hanover in 1660, by an English princess. The name has probably its origin in St. George, the patron of chivalry. The story is that he was born of noble Christian parents in Cappadocia, became a great soldier and after testifying to his faith before Diocletian, was tortured and put to death at Nicomedia, April 23, 303. The name signifies landholder, husbandman.

"Michael" is another name in Frankenmuth history. It is a Hebrew name and signifies an interrrogation, "Who is like the Lord?" It had its origin in the Archangel St. Michael, who in the book of Daniel is described as having special charge of the Israelites as a nation. In the Book of Jude, he is disputing with Satan about the body of Moses, in which dispute he says, "The Lord rebuke thee, Oh Satan!"

'Matthias" is after the Evangelist Matthew, the same as Levi, the son of Alpheus, and means Gift of Jehovah.

In 1458, Bohemia and Hungary had a king by that name, Matthias

Corvenus, born in Klausenburg in 1443. He successfully expelled the Turks, who invaded that country under his reign. In 1607, Bohemia elected a king who afterwards became Emperor Matthias of Germany. In 1617, he resigned the crown of Bohemia to his cousin Ferdinand, who, by the persecution of the Protestants, occasioned the Thirty Years War, in which the map of Germany was considerably changed.

"Leonhard" (Lionheart), means strong and brave. The Latin "Leo" is the fifth sign in the zodiac. A number of Popes have borne this name.

In feminine names of Frankenmuth, we find certain ones predominating. One of these most tenaciously clung to is "Barbara." It means foreign, strang. Its origin is uncertain, though being a German name, may have originated in Berber, a synonym for the old invaders of Germany, who check the Roman advance north, and at last became the cause of the downfall of the Roman Empire.

"Maria" is a Hebrew name (Miriam) and is much used all over the Christian world because of Mary, the mother of Christ. Four other Marys are mentioned in the New Testament and an endless arrayment of Marys are found in the history of queens and princesses in all parts of the world.

"Anna" (Anne, Ann) is also a Hebrew name and means Grace.

"Bertha" is a Teutonic name and means bright, beautiful.

"Elizabeth," a Hebrew name, means "Worship of God." This was the name of the mother of John the Baptist. There was an Empress of Austria named Elizabeth, born in Possenhofen, Bavaria, December 24, 1837. Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, born August 19, 1596, became the grandmother of George I, of Great Britain. The greatest Elizabeth in secular history was the queen of England, born September 7, 1553, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She ascended the throne November 17, 1558, established the Protestant religion, assisted the English in colonizing America, repulsed the Spanish Armada, encouraged literature and made England respected abroad. Her reign was a glorious one, called the Elizabethan Era, but it was sadly blotted by her execution of Mary, Queen of Scots.

"Martha" is a Hebrew name, and means "Ruler of the House."

"Margaretha" is a true German name and means, "A Pearl." The Margaretha which Johann Wolfgang von Goethe made the leading figure in his famous "Faust," was certainly a pearl of beauty and love. She was conceived after Margaretha who was the idol of his first love.

#### WILLIAM SCHMIDT

son of Jacob and Agnes Schmidt, was born in Baranbach, Bavaria, February 2, 1852. At the age of 17 years, he came to America and engaged in the blacksmith trade at Saginaw, thence removing to Frankenmuth, where he opened the shop now owned by Herman Fischer. On June 4, 1882, he was united in marriage to Miss Marie Beyerlein, and from this union were born seven children: John G., Bernard, Agnes, Amelia, Ruben, Walter and Alma, the latter two dying November 5, 1893 and November 21, 1899. Mr. Schmidt died Saturday, May 9, 1909.

### FERDINAND SEIBERTH

was born in Benatek, Austria, May 7, 1842. In 1876 he was married to Pauline Volkmer. In 1882 they came to America, stopping in New Jersey a few months, then coming to Frankenmuth, where he entered the employ of Hubinger Brothers, as a miller, where he was employed for 23 years. He was a member of the Concordia and Arbeiter societies and of St. Lorenz Church. He passed away July 28, 1907.

#### FERDINAND NEFFE

was born in Austria-Hungary, September 1865, and came to America in 1872, settling in this township. In 1889 he was married to Miss Rosa Guthohn. Up to the time of his death, June 22, 1909, he was employed in the Herzog Art Furniture Company's factory at Saginaw.

#### JOHN GEORGE ROTH

was born in Germany, June 16th, 1823, and came to America in 1851. In 1855 he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Koeppendorfer, who died in 1877. Later he married Miss Anna S. Wagner, who died September 17th, 1881. In 1886, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna R. Kundinger. He was the father of six children: John, Jacob, George, Mike, Andrew and Mrs. Leonard Veitengruber. He died Monday, February 28th, 1910 at the age of 87 years.

#### CHRISTIAN FREUDENSTEIN

was born in Hesse-Cassel province, Germany, June 15th, 1829. He emigrated to Frankenmuth in 1851, where for many years he was engaged in buying and selling cattle, and also conducted a meat market. He married Miss Martha Otto. From this union were borne five children: William, Mrs. William Sowatsky, Mrs. Henry Busch and Mrs. Herman Zoellner, of Saginaw, and Mrs. Charles Link of Frankenmuth. Mr. Freudenstein passed away, Tuesday, September 7th, 1909.

### JOHN G. WEBER

was born in Frankenmuth, April 25th, 1847. On April 28th, 1876, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Alonea. They moved to a farm in Richville township, near Denmark Junction, where he died Saturday, May 21st, 1910. They had seven sons and one daughter; John, Matthew, Christopher, Herman, William and Jacob of Richville, Lorenz of Saginaw and Mrs. John Rupprecht of Frankenmuth.

# JOHN CONRAD WEBER

was born in Frankenmuth on the 27th day of October, 1857. On June 9th, 1875. he was united in marriage to Miss Christiana Buckhardt. He lived on his farm on Church street until the time of his death, Saturday, March 18th, 1911. He had six children; Lorenz of Millington and Leonard, Mrs. John Zehnder, Mrs. Leonard Herzog, Mrs. Leonard Geyer and Mrs. George Schmitt of Frankenmuth.

#### JOHANNES KEINATH

came to this country and to Frankenmuth in the year 1854 at the age of 6 years, from Wurtemburg, Germany, where he was born November 11th, 1838. In 1863, he was united in marriage to Miss Barbara Nuechterlein. They had twelve children: Frederick, Caspar, Jacob, Ferdinand, Mrs. John Schluckebier, Mrs. Leonard Knoll, Mrs. George Brenner, Mrs. Henry Reichle, Mrs. Julius Reichle, and Mrs. Emil Rau, of Frankenmuth and Mrs. Jacob Bauer of Richville. Mr. Keinath was a prominent and valuable member of the St. Lorenz Church, serving as deacon for 25 years previous to the time of his death, Saturday, May 25th, 1909.

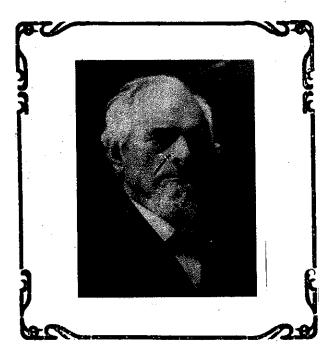
### JOHN P. HAAS

was born in Bavaria, Germany in 1829. He came to this country when 21 years of age, stopping at Detroit for a year, moving to Frankenmuth in 1851. He was united in marriage to Mary Laickeham in 1855, who died in 1880. From this union were born three boys and three girls; Fred, George and Jacob and Mesdames Lena Summerfield, E. G. McNally and Gus. Miller. He passed away January 4th, 1909, at the age of 80 years.

### SIMON RIEDEL

was born in Germany in the year 1827 and grew to manhood there. In 1854 he became a resident of the little colony of Frankenmuth, and teacher of its only school. He continued to teach until after 48 consecutive years he resigned. He has the distinction of having taught the longest number of terms of school in one community than anyone in the county, in the state and probably in the nation, and is also the oldest teacher in the county in years. He is also the oldest surviving member of the St. Lorenz congregation. He was

married, and has one son, Herman of Detroit, and one daughter, Mrs.



G. J. Hubinger. He is still hale and hearty for his age, and attends church regularly every Sabbath.

### JOHN PAUL MAURER

was born in Germany, November 24, 1826, and came to this country in 1853. He was united in marriage to Miss Marie Schwartz in 1856, who bore him one son, John G., and three daughters, Mrs. Jacob Bickel and Mrs. Fred Hochthanner of Tuscola, and Mrs. Adam Veitengruber of Frankenmuth. He passed away April 2, 1912, respected by the entire community.

### JOHN MICHAEL BEYERLEIN

was born July 3, 1821, in Altenmun, Germany, and came to this country and to Frankenmuth in 1846. He was a mason by trade and also a farmer. He was married and had four children, G. M., W. M. Beyerlein, Mrs. William Schmidt of this township; John A. Beyerlein of Sebewaing. He passed away March 1, 1912, having lived more than the allotted three score and ten years, respected and highly regarded.

### MRS, BALTHAS DEURING

was born in Bavaria, March 14, 1836, came to this country in 1848,

was married to Frederick Bernthal, who died in 1862. In 1864 she was married to Balthas Deuring. Her maiden name was Reif. She had nine children: John and Leonard Bernthal, Mrs. Leonard Bierlein, Frank, Balthas, Jacob and Adam Deuring of Frankenmuth; Mike and Frederick Deuring of Idaho. She passed away Thursday, May 4, 1911 at the age of three score and fifteen years.

#### THEODORE REBUEHR

was born in Germany in 1827. In 1858, he was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Gipp and came to Frankenmuth in 1874. They were the parents of four children; Theodore and Mrs. Fred Keility of Ellington and Mrs. Herman Pitsch and Mrs. Carl Kirchnick of Saginaw. He was a member of the St. Lorenz Church. He died on Saturday, February 11th, 1911, at the age of 84 years.

#### JOHN ZUCKER

was born February 23, 1834, in Stoekoch, Bavaria, Germany, coming to this country with the second colony in 1847 and came directly to Frankenmuth, April 26, 1854. He married Barbara Nuechterlein, who died in 1865. From this union five children were born, two of whom, Martin and Michael, are still living. On September 7, 1865, he married Martha Scmitzer, who whom was born a son, John of Arbela, and two daughters, Mrs. George Reif and Mrs. Alex List of Frankenmuth.

Mr. Zucker was one of the founders of the St. John's Lutheran Church. He passed away July 30, 1913, universally respected and loved.

# WILLIAM MICHAEL HOERAUF

was born in Bavaria, May 12, 1841, and was the son of Adam Hoerauf, who came to America and Frankenmuth in 1853. He served in the Civil War and received an honorable discharge. On November 12, 1865, he was married to Margaret Rau, who survives him. Four sons and three daughters came from this union; John of Saginaw; Wolfgang of Detroit; Adam and William of Frankenmuth; Mrs. Henry Nuechterlein of Saginaw; Misses Mary and Julia of Detroit; also 19 grandchildren. He was a member of St. Lorenz Church and of the Concordia Luther Bund. He passed away December 30, 1912.

#### ANTIQUITY OF THE GERMANS

In closing these pages, in which we have endeavored to preserve some of the happenings, and sketching some of the biographies of the early settlers, we by no means close the Frankenmuth History. That will go on indefinitely, and judging by the past, the future history will be as full of bright pages as the past, and more so.

We have tried to gather as much of the lives of the German pioneers as possible and have also traced their ancestry in the old country as far back as the records would allow. In conclusion, we may point to the fact that the Teutonic nation, or rather family, of the Aryan race, can be traced back to the tenth chapter of Genesis. There are many who never have read that chapter, and many who have read it but have not found in it a verification of the Apostle's word: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, or for instruction in righteousness." But later research, comparisons, and deductions have made that chapter a mine of information to the anthropologist, and in the light of the results of those researches, we stand amazed at the marvelous knowledge of the author (Moses).

Thirty-four hundred years ago, he pointed out in a few short verses, in a simple matter of fact language, in a seemingly uninteresting chapter, what learned men today, after years of study and hard work in translating and philological comparisons, have found to be the simple, unerring truth of the origin of races from Noah down. Verse 2 says: The sons of Japeth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Ivan, Tubal, Moshech and Tiras. Japeth is a personal name, but the others are considered to mean descendants or the principal races that sprang from Noah's youngest son. Thus Gomer, according to Strabo, designates without doubt the great and powerful race of Celts. The Asyrians called them Gimiri, the Greeks, Kimmerii. They have been identified with the Cimbrians of Roman times and by them called Cambri and their country Cambria. The name lingers yet in Cumberland and also of the Cymry, which the English now call Welsh.

Magog (Ma here means land or home--land of Gog--Rev. 20, 8) designates the somewhat vague family or horde called Sythians. They were in great power at the time of Ezekiel (Chapters 38-39) in the 7th century, B.C. Their weapon was the bow and they always fought on horseback. But their time in history is short and they were possibly mingled and absorbed by other nations. The Slavs are considered a remnant of them.

Madai; there is no shadow of doubt about the Madai, the great and powerful race of Medes.

Ivan is the nearest possible expression in Hebrew of the Greek term, Iaxon-es (Ionians), and includes the Greco-Italians.

Tubal and Meshech, which Ezekiel constantly couples together are somewhat obscure. Tubal seems to be entirely lost or absorbed, while some commentators think Meshech alludes to the Russians, called Muscovitos. No proof, however, is offered, only similarity of names.

The last name in Gen. 10, 2 is Tiras. This is the most obscure of the names in the Japthetic list, as no other passage of

of Scripture throws any light on it. Jewish tradition, however, asserts that the Thracians are the people intended. (see Josephus)

Geographically, as well as etymologically, the identification is suitable and may be accepted as the only plausable explanation. Thracian tribes occupied the northern parts of Asia Minor from remote antiquity. The Thrynians were always admitted to be Thraceans, according to Strabo. A strong Thracian character belonged to the Briges (Phrygians) and Maesi. The author of Gen. 10, may well be understood to include among the descendants of Japeth, the vast nation of Thracians, which extended from the Hulys in Asia Minor to the Drave and the Save in Europe.

The Thracians must then surely include the German or Teutonic race of people. The greatest of modern ethomologists, Prof. Max Muller, says: "There was a time when the ancestors of the Celts, the Germans, the Slavs, the Greco-Italians and Hindoos were living together beneath the same roof as it were, separated from the Semitic and Turanian races and there is a legitimate relationship between Hindoo, Greek and Teuton.

This is the result of advanced modern inductive science, a result which is the boast of the Nineteenth Century to have arrived at, and it is exactly that which Moses, writing fifteen hundred years ago, laid down dogmatically as simple historical fact.

The Thracian tribes of Getae and Dacini did undoubtedly grow into the nations of Goths and Danes in northern Europe. The renowned writers of old, Herodatus and Tacitus, found a number of Thracian words to be decidely Teutonic, while there is also a strong resemblance of the Thracian and the Teutonic customs. The original home of these Jophethic families is supposed to have been on the highlands of Central Asia, east of the Caspian Sea and north of the Hindu-Kush mountains. This upland country is now mostly arid and uninviting, but was in remote times an ideal and delightful region. Gradual changes in climate have rendered this country inhospitable and it is now only sparsely settled.

But 5000 years ago, the Aryan families lived here in peace and harmony. They tilled the ground, domesticated the horse, cow and dog, were fair builders and understood the extracting and use of metals. They could count to 100 and had some knowledge of using symbols for writing. They worshiped one God, but the worship of minor deities gradually crept in until the Prophet Zoroaster arose among them with a stricter and more pronounced religion. This seems to have disrupted the families and migration commenced.

When this migration took place, we do not exactly know, as the historians are at variance about the time and date of Zoroaster. Some say that he lived about the year 3,000 B.C. and some place the date as late as 600 or 700 B.C. Some even hold that Zoroaster was not a person at all--only an era or age commencing about 1500 B.C.

The Indo-Iranic branch, the regular Aryans, climbed the snowy passes of the Hindu Kush Mountains and went southward, where they became the progenitors of the Medes and Persians. Their subsequent history is the most complete, as they have left whole libraries of bricks impressed with characters in wedge, or cuneiform letters.

The second division, known as the Thracians passed southward south of the Pontus Euxinus or Black Sea and occupied the Balkan Peninsula, giving it the name of Thracia. Meanwhile, the Celts had passed north of the Euxinus and spread themselves over what is now Germany and Austria in the heart of Europe.

After some centuries, we do not know how many, the Thracians migrated northward and encountered their cousins, the Celts, whom they drove before them to the utmost borders of Europe, but in time they, themselves, were pressed and driven away by the great and powerful nation of Slavs---a branch of the old Scythians--who swarmed in from the East in hordes of uncounted numbers.

It seems that the Thracians, or Teutons, as we now can call them, were driven clear across the Mare Suevicum--The Baltic--into Thule--Scandinavia--where ample proofs are now found in the ancient mounds of an early Teutonic occupation.

According to fragmentary accounts of Pytheas, preserved to us by Strabo and Pliny, the Teutons here encountered a people who were yet in the Golden Age. The Grecian account calls them the Hyperboreans, people dwelling beyond the north wind. They were a truly happy people, living in unbroken peace among themselves, and with their Gods, free from want and care and disease, in the enjoyment of health and strength. Death came not to them in the usual form with pain and sickness, but in old age, when wearied of life, they crowned their heads with flowers and plunged joyously into the sea and thus ended their life's journey.

This may be Utopian and we may pass the wierd legends which carry us back to those antidiluvian times, when "Gods walked with men." The historian of Northern antiquity, Mr. E. C. Otto, says: "We may be tolerably sure that a colony of Goths, of the Teuton race, left their native settlements in the South or East at some remote period, before the Christian era, and after a long series of wanderings, at last took possession of the islands of the Baltic, and ultimately, of the mainland. Here they dispossessed a still older race, who were driven into the mountain fastnesses of the extreme north, where their descendants, the Laplanders and Finns, still dwell and retain traces of their separate (Turanian) race. But the Teutonic have been highly fruitful and multiplies, and as time went by--probably two centuries---a healthy and vigorous

posterity soon made those lands too limited. They again migrated southward and in alliance with the Cimbri, the branch of Celts who had occupied Denmark and the lands better known as Angles and Saxonia, they bounded down over Germanica, driving the Slavs and Celts to the right and left and never stopped in their invincible marches until they decended over the plains of Northern Italy, and made the world empire of Rome tremble. In 113 B.C., they advanced into Illyria and defeated Papirius Carbo at Norcia, and then forced their way into Roman Gaul, where Manlias and Scipio were defeated in 105 B.C. The following year, they invaded Hispaniola, but on their return were met by the strong Roman army under Marius at Aqua Sextic and suffered defeat, in 102 B.C. But they held the country around the Carpathian Mountains and to the north, which the Germans called Germanica, hence the people were called Germans. Here they defeated the Roman advances to the north, time and time again, until the decisive battle at Teutonburg, where Caesar Augustus had sent Varus with his legions. The Roman legions perished and were utterly annihilated by the Germans under Arminians. If the Romans had won in that battle, there would probably have been no Germany today, and the great English nation would have been stricken out of existance. This happened when Jesus of Nazareth was nine years old.

The following five or six centuries were an almost continual strife between the Germans and Romans, but at last Rome crumbled and went to pieces. The Germans set up an empire of their own, which through ups and downs has lasted to this day.

The Romans describe the Germans as being tall, handsome, fair, with blue eyes, fierce in expression and having light or red hair which they wore long. The women were said to be as tall and as strong as the men. They cultivated the ground and bred cattle, and between wars were a peaceful and domestic nation.

The long and beautiful locks of the Germans' hair came in to fashion in Rome and became an article of considerable export, also the amber found on the shores of the Baltic. These things the Roman ladies would have at any cost; and this fad made the upper classes covet the lands to the north. It was one of the causes of the many wars, and incidentally, one of the causes of the fall of Rome.

The later history of Germany is well known to every school-boy, and therefore we close here, thanking the reader for his interest in these pages. It is certainly true that the Almighty God has led the German race of people as He led the Israelites until the "fullness of time!" The God of Abraham, "Isak and Jakob" is also the God of Japhet and Tiras and through the shifting ages has led their descendants to great power, honor, and glory.

And may he do so forever!

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by T. J. Pollen 1914

Compiled by Leland R. Watrous 1980

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