

Goetz Family



The Frankenmuth family-style chicken dinner had its origin in the various hotels that served the travelers going through Frankenmuth and also the local people in the community. The first meals served to the public were served in The Exchange Hotel in 1856, only eleven years after the founding of Frankenmuth. The Hotel was built by Henry Reichle. His wife, as was always the case then, was the cook. They served breakfast, dinner and supper, but only at mealtime hours. Between meals, bountiful lunches were available, often free with beer. Salesmen stopped on their rounds (they were called "agents") and they told others back home about the excellent and reasonably priced meals served in Frankenmuth. Lodging and breakfast with shelter and feed for a horse was as little as 75 cents.

Henry Goetz was one of the early hoteliers, operating the Exchange Hotel for seven years. In 1899, he built a new hotel, which he called the Goetz Hotel. He operated the hotel until 1926 when Henry and Mary Fischer purchased it and renamed it the Fischer Hotel. The Saginaw News, on May 20, 1969, quoted the late Arthur Schupp of Saginaw as saying, "My family used to drive with horse and buggy out to Frankenmuth for a Frankenmuth dinner. It took so long for us to get there and back by horse and buggy that Henry Goetz used to pack a lunch for us to eat on our way home, after we had been to his place for dinner."

Henry's father, Andreas (Andrew) Goetz, was born in Bavaria, Germany in 1821. In 1858 shortly after the birth of his daughter, Eva Marie, Henry brought his wife and daughter to America. They lived in New York where a son, Henry, was born. In 1869 they left New York and came to Frankenmuth where he farmed. He was respected for his excellent and upright character.

In the early hours of April 26, 1906 a fire started in the kitchen of the Goetz Hotel. Andrew had a room on the second floor above the kitchen and suffocated before he could escape. Leonard Traubner, another hotel guest, also died in the fire. Andrew is buried in the Frankenmuth Township Cemetery.

Eva Marie Goetz was born on April 22, 1858 in Germany. On April 22, 1873 she married Jacob August Zuellig. Eva Marie was only 15 years old at the time, but her mother was seriously ill and encouraged her to get married. Jacob August Zuellig was born in St. Gallen, Switzerland, and came to the United States when he was 28 years old. Eva Marie and Jacob August had 13 children, two of whom died shortly after birth. Their children were: Anna (Mrs. William Nagel); Grace (Mrs. George Stern); Ruth Zuellig Fischer; Bertha (Mrs. Paul Patten); Henry; Otto; Louis; John, Charles; Paul and George. Jacob August Zuellig died March 20, 1934 and Eva Marie died November 5, 1939. They were members of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Henry Goetz was born May 20, 1860 in Jefferson County, New York. He married Anna Maria Stipel on January 16, 1887. Anna Maria was born on September 18, 1866 and died July 3, 1908. Henry Goetz then married Anna Marie Friederike Mantel on August 27, 1908. Henry died on June 18, 1937. Anna Marie Goetz married George Rummel in 1941 and died July 21, 1962. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and the Saginaw Elks Lodge. Henry Goetz is buried in the Frankenmuth Township Cemetery.



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