

Parlberg Family



he ancestry of more than 200 Parlberg descendants in America can be traced back to Magnus Parlberg who brought the family name here in 1888. Magnus was born in Rugen, Germany (Halb Insel) a peninsula north of Berlin. He was a farmer and coachman. He, also, served in the German Army.

Magnus married Emily Wasnick. The couple had five children. At least two of the sons, Magnus Jr. and Charles, accompanied their parents on the voyage across the Atlantic Ocean.

The family settled in Saginaw once they reached Michigan. At first they lived at 13th and Burt Streets. Saginaw was a thriving city full of lumber mills and salt mines. Both offered opportunities for jobs, as did the industry in the area. Saginaw had a large German population, particularly on the east side. A good plank road connected the city to the community of Frankenmuth.

Magnus' oldest son, William, joined his parents in Saginaw in 1889. The following year he sent for his wife Bertha and twin children, Anna and William.

Magnus moved to Frankenmuth when he purchased a small farm on Block Road. In addition to farming, he worked as the custodian at St. John's Lutheran Church. Later he bought more acreage on Busch Road, west of Gera Road (M-83).

William also moved his family to Frankenmuth. They lived on a farm at Gera and Lange Roads. In 1903, they left Frankenmuth and returned to Saginaw to live at 1814 Cherry Street. William worked for Apple Bakery at 6th and Lapeer Streets, delivering baked goods by horse drawn wagon.

Later in life, he had a concession stand at the Pere Marquette Railroad.

Another son Magnus Jr. attended Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw and studied to become a pastor. In later years he was a florist. He had an outstanding voice and was a vocalist. He performed in numerous choruses at the Chicago Opera House.

The youngest son Charles continued to operate the family farm once his parents moved into the village. In the late 1920's he sold the acreage and moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan. There he went into the construction business, building and selling houses. His enterprise expanded to Washington, D.C.

Magnus spent his later years in the village. He bought a home at 531 Cass Street. He raised chickens there and had a cow and pigs in the backyard. He also helped his son Charles on the Busch Road farm.

Magnus died in 1919. His wife died in 1941. The couple had 24 grandchildren. They were: Edward and William Parlberg, Martha Gillman, Anna Emma Karl, Elizabeth Iserhoth, Elsie Perry, Edith Nachtman Parlberg, Hilda May, Ludwig and Raymond Parlberg.

Also: Minnie Stein, Emma Henderson, William and Ed Holtz, Wanda Graves, Lionel and Archiebald Parlberg, Maxine Beadlow, Edward and William Buttner, Wilma Livingston, Norman Kasch, Anita McClure and Wallace Parlberg.



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