

Schiefer Family



The Schiefer name came to America in the mid 1800's. Johann Georg Schiefer arrived in Frankenmuth June 30, 1852 when he was 22. He was born Nov. 8, 1829 in Höfsetten, Germany, baptized and confirmed in Bürglein. Two months after he arrived in America, he married Magdalena Margaretha Hofmann, born in 1826 in Leichendorf, Germany. They lived at 537 Block Road and later moved to 9766 W. Frankenmuth Rd. in Tuscola Township. This homestead is still in the Schiefer family. The Schiefers had 10 children (6 boys and 4 girls). Three sons and a daughter died at childbirth. The surviving sons were Paul, Leonhard and Michael. The daughters were Barbara Bierlein, Dorothea Weiss, and Mary Zorn.

J. Georg's father was Georg Schiefer (1795-1840), and his mother was Anna Elizabeth Schmidt (1795-1846). His grandparents were Johann Simon Schiefer and Katharina Schmidt. His great-grandparents were Georg Michael Schiefer (1721-1783), from Betzendorf, and Anna Christina Zehnder. The Schiefers can be traced to Martin Schiefer (1656-1728). J. Georg's son Leonhard married Anna Barbara Frosch June 10, 1896. She came to America from Moosbach, Germany on Nov. 10, 1892, and to Frankenmuth two years later. The couple had five children – Martin, Albert, William, Dr. Herbert and Olga. Leonhard and Anna Barbara had 35 grandchildren and a total of 597 descendants.

Georg's son Johann Paulos (1869-1935) married Marie Barbara List (1873-1941) in Aug. 1896. The home of Paul and Marie was located 3 miles east of Frankenmuth on 6196 Hart Road, Tuscola Township. They had 12 children.

Florence (6-8-1897 to 8-6-1982) married Richard Maurer and then Mike Bergdolt. Edwin (10-1-1898 to 5-7-1979) married Louise Warnick. Walter (7-4-1900 to 4-1-1988) married Linda Schwab.

Bertha (1-16-1902 to 3-27-1997) married George Ehrlinger. Lydia (8-15-1904 to 7-27-1967) married Otto Schluckebier. Richard (5-7-1906 to 7-9-1987) married Hilda Daenzer. Henry (2-9-1909 to 1-17-1982) married Edna Schmandt. Ada (4-8-1911 to 6-29-2003) married Albert Loesel. Carl (1-23-1913 to 10-6-1981) married Gretchen Bickel. Alma (5-21-1915 to 3-3-1996) married Carl Schmitzer. Anna (1907) and Elmer (1918) both died the day after they were born.

The homestead on Hart Road was the homestead of Richard and Hilda Schiefer until they retired. It was then sold to the Stuart Bierlein family. Paul kept the family busy with farming. In the spring of the year he operated a maple syrup business tapping 1,000 hard maple trees. From the sap he garnered, he would produce about 200 gallons of syrup which he then sold in the surrounding area of Saginaw, Birch Run, Vassar, Reese, Richville and Frankenmuth. His sons Richard and Henry continued this tradition until the 1960's.

A motto that could be attributed to the Schiefer family is "*Erst die Arbeit und dann das Spiel*," translated "*first we work and then we play*." This was evident when planting, threshing, cooking maple syrup or celebrating a birthday. With the work and play came the refreshments and eating of sausage, bread, cheese and the like.

Paul staked each of his five sons to a farm in the surrounding area. With the exception of one, the daughters of Paul and Marie also married farmers. The family of Paul and Marie Schiefer still enjoy family reunions held on the first Sunday of August, with an average attendance of 175. As of January 1, 2006, the total descendants from Paul and Marie number right at 460.

Johann Georg Schiefer died June 5, 1893 at the age of 63. Magdalena Margaretha died April 6, 1899 at age 72. Both are buried in the St. Lorenz Cemetery.



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