

Zuellig Family



he family name Zuellig does not have the German origin that most of the other early Frankenmuth names have. Instead, Jacob August Zuellig came to America from St. Gallen, Switzerland where his parents owned a flour mill.

The Zuelligs were different from the other settlers in another way, too. They were Catholics who arrived in a community founded as a Lutheran mission to convert the Indians. There wasn't a Catholic Church around for miles.

The Zuelligs had the same hard-working spirit as the early Germans in Frankenmuth. They were farmers, tradesmen, and businessmen. Jacob began a line of Frankenmuth descendants that total 267 as of the year 2005.

Jacob was born July 20, 1843 at St. Gallen and baptized at the Catholic Church there the following month. He was confirmed in 1857. He worked for a time as a miller at his parent's flour mill and left Switzerland in 1872 at the age of 29. At first he lived in St. Clair, Michigan. There he married Eva Marie nee Goetz on April 22, 1873 (Eva's 15th birthday). She came from Germany with her family. Her mother was very ill and urged the marriage to be sure there would be someone to take care of Eva. The Zuelligs came to Frankenmuth the following year.

Like most of the other settlers, Jacob took up farming and owned acreage three miles south of town. Jacob is probably best known for helping the other immigrants clear their forest land for farming. The area was dense with huge oak, pine and other trees. Zuellig had a "stump machine" that pulled up the heavy roots. It saved the immigrants from digging out the stumps by hand.

Zuellig changed his church affiliation as soon as he arrived in Frankenmuth. Since there was no Catholic church to attend, he joined St. John's Lutheran Church.

He helped build the original frame church on West Tuscola in 1880. The building was 37 feet by 66 feet with a tower and two bells. A tornado destroyed it in 1996 and a new church was built at 1200 E. Genesee and then dedicated in 2000.

Jacob and Eva had thirteen children, including two daughters that died shortly after birth. Their oldest son Henry became a carpenter, while Charles, John, Louie and Otto were farmers like their father. George was a cement mason and Paul owned a coal yard. The Zuellig daughters were: Grace Stern, Anna Nagel, Bertha Patton and Ruth Fischer.

Their grandchildren were: Arthur and Oscar Zuellig, Selma Sproul, Hulda Cole, Walter Zuellig, Clara Gray, Erma Veitengruber, Delmar Zuellig, Gladys Dubrulle, Elsie List, Herbert Stern, Esther Braeutigam, Helen Enszer, Harold Zuellig, Ruth Marie Miller, Edith Zeilinger, Dorothy Belill, Perl Zuellig, Edna Pietras, Robert, Emil, Earl and Carl Zuellig, Paul Patton, Henrietta Landrith, Dorothy Nitzschke, Ernest Fischer, Verna Hennagir, Barbara Bierlein, Otto Jr. and Patrick Zuellig.

Otto Jr.'s spouse was living on the homestead as of the year 2005.

Eva's family owned the Goetz Hotel in Frankenmuth, one of the hotels that earned Frankenmuth its reputation for good food and hospitality. Her father died in a fire there about 1906. Jacob died March 20, 1934 at the age of 90. His wife died in October of 1939.



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