

The Gaetjen Family of Parksville

This Family Profile was collected by Wanda Story. Thanks to Helen Harrington for sharing her information.

1854 - Herman Gaetjen was born on February 9th in Germany.

1856 - Henry Gaetjen was born in Germany.

- Gustav A. Gaetjen was born in Germany.

1885 - Meta Gaetjen was born to Henry Gaetjen.

- The family story is that 3 Gaetjen brothers (Herman, Henry and Gustav) came over from Germany to hunt game to provide food for the workers when they were building the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

- The brothers then decided to go to Alaska in search of gold but had enough when they got to Vancouver.

1888 - Herman Gaetjen came to Canada.

- Herman and Henry homesteaded a section of land on Vancouver Island.

- Gustav returned to the east. Gustav met Elizabeth and stayed in the east and married. Gustav had been widowed in Germany and had left his daughter with relatives when they came over. After marrying he brought his daughter over. Elizabeth had two daughters by a previous marriage and she and Gustav had 2 more daughters and a son Gustav. Gustav moved to Elizabeth New Jersey, USA and became a tool and die maker.

1891 - Herman Gaetjen is listed in the 1891 Parksville area census as 35 years old, and a single farmer. He is listed as German and belonging to the Luthern Church.

- There is a picture of the brothers with a pole lined with cougars that they had apparently killed.

1901 - Herman Gaetjen is listed as 47 years old, and a single farmer in the **1901 Parksville area census**. He is listed as Luthern, born on 09 Feb 1854 in Germany and as having come to Canada in 1888.

1911 - Meta Gaetjen married Albert Herman Doehle also from Germany. Meta and Albert Dohle raised an English war orphan.

1921 - Henry Gaetjen died on April 12th in Parksville, BC at the age of 65. Estate papers were processed in BC.

1927 - Herman Gaetjen died and Estate papers were processed in BC.

1974 - Meta Doehle nee Gaetjen died on February 1st in Nanaimo, BC at the age of 89 years. It is believed that Meta and Albert Dohle lived on the last acre of Gaetjen brothers original section of land when they died. There is both a Doehle Avenue and Gaetjen Avenue in Parksville near the ocean front.