

## JOSEPH FRANKE (1870-1943)

By Bob Kosters & Daisy Franke Sterling

Each year, as July rolls around, we look forward to meeting people we know and some we seldom see, who attended Cherry Valley or Duvall schools many years ago. This year, we had the good fortune to meet Daisy Franke Sterling, who was born and raised in Duvall. After living in other states, she now lives on the Olympic Peninsula, and was able to come to the picnic and meet old friends. She also took the time before she came to gather a packet of pictures, newspaper clippings, and several 1912-13 *Duvall Citizen* papers her father had saved. These papers included meetings and signatures of all those who signed a petition to King County for the incorporation of Duvall.

The house and shoe shop Joe Franke built in Duvall eighty-six years ago are still in use. The following was written by daughter, Daisy.

Joseph Franke was born April 29, 1870, in Glocou, Silesia, an area of east Germany. He was apprenticed at a very early age with a shoemaker. The date of his immigration to the United States

was 1904. He homesteaded in Brainard, Minnesota, and had a shoe shop there. In 1908 he married Meta O. Wohlfeil in Minnesota and their first child, Helen R. (Soper) was born there.

In 1911 he purchased nine lots in Duvall and opened a shoe store in his house. Three more children were born: Harold J., Velma P. (Van Duren), and Alice L. (Klanke). Meta died in 1920.

In 1923 he married Eva E. Vogt and one child was born to this union: Daisy (Sterling).

A shoe store was built on Main Street where Mr. Franke sold new shoes and did repair work for thirty-one years. As the business slowed and people went to Seattle for their shoe purchases, he rented out half of the 1936 building. (Dr. Pfeifer had his office there for a number of years.) During the second World War he was viewed by some townspeople with suspicion because he was of German extract. His business fell off drastically. He finally made the decision to retire in the early summer of 1943. He was then past 73.

With a lifetime of very hard work, both in the store and maintaining a large garden and orchard, his life of ease was not to be. On August 29, 1943, he suffered a severe stroke and died on September 16. Mr. Franke was very active physically and enjoyed excellent health all his life. He especially liked to walk, and with many friends located in the Novelty area, he would walk there to visit, while family members rode the train.

In the summer a very large garden was grown and a large orchard on the hill below third Avenue was planted. The house was continually being improved also. Of course, wood and coal were used for cooking and heating. Once a large tree (old growth size) was delivered in the alley and sawed by hand into slabs which were then chopped to stove size. In the summers there were wild blackberry gathering picnics in the woods north of Duvall, and in the fall it was hazel nut gathering.

He was a charter member of the IOOF Duvall Lodge #311 which was set up in November, 1914. He was also a member of the Cherry Valley Grange and served as a councilman in Duvall for a number of years.

Mr. Franke was a reserved, quiet-spoken man who was ready to help someone out with shoes or repairs when they could not pay. He was robbed once by a group of young men who also robbed several places in the area. He had some very close friends who played pinochle weekly. (Chris Larson was one). In general, he led a quiet and unassuming life. His second wife (Eva) began boarding school teachers in the Depression years of the 1930's, continuing on for eleven years. This meant a lot of extra work, both in preparing and maintaining the house for boarders and growing more produce. About 1500 quarts of vegetables and fruit were canned each year. Jellies and jams were prepared, eggs were preserved, and crocks of sauerkraut were put up.



**Inside Duvall  
Shoe Store**

*Helen Franke,  
Meta Franke  
holding Harold.  
Unidentified woman  
holding Velma Franke.  
Joseph Franke*