

Meyer Family History

1st Generation -

Florent was born in 1855 in the vineyard town of St. Petersholz Alsace, Germany to Joseph and Odelia Meyer. He was the oldest child of five. Florent's father died when he was 14 (1870) and before he reached 21 (1876) he sailed from Germany to United States and settled in Illinois, where he worked for room and board and \$17/month. A few years later his brother and one sister also moved to the United States at different times, followed by another sister a few years later. After saving for 10 years, brothers Joe and Florent bought a farm in Iowa in 1886. In 1889, a cholera epidemic swept the country and killed their herd of hogs. After that, Florent and his sister Mary moved west to Rosalia, WA.

When Florent and Mary reached Rosalia in 1889 he work until he purchased a bar, named Meyer's Saloon. In 1891 Mary joined the Benedictine Sisters and was stationed in Uniontown, WA, so Florent began visiting his other sister Nellie and family more who also moved to Rosalia. That is where he met his future wife Christine Budde, who helped with housework and care of the children.

Christine Budde parent's met and were married in Iowa, where they farmed and also of German descent. Christine was born in 1876 and their only child, after her sister died at birth. Christine's parents moved from Iowa, to California, then to Albany, OR before they settled and farmed in Rosalia. Both Florent and Christine had similar backgrounds. Christine and Florent married in 1895 and spent a short honeymoon in Spokane, WA.

Christine and Florent worked together in Meyer's Saloon and by 1901 they had 3 children and grew anxious to get back to farming. Florent heard of some rich farm land in Colton area he went to take a look and bought over 240 acres for \$23/acre. He moved his family into the small and poorly built house along Union Flat Creek, and immediately made plans for a large house and barn to be built the coming Spring in 1902 on land ½ mile closer to town and on the country road.



Vince Meyer hauling grain in 1919.

The large house was built on the knoll above the barn. One souvenir they brought from their saloon in Rosalia, was the large mirror bar back, which they placed on the wall of the living room and is still in the Meyer family today. Wheat was the main crop, but they also grew barley and oats that were used for feed. Christine's parents also purchased 80 acres in Colton area to be close to Christine and Florent and their grandchildren.

Florent and Christine had a total of 9 children: Monica, Walt, Mildred, Hubert, Leona, Vince, Beatrice, Ray, and Geneva.



Florent and Christine Meyer's Family in 1925.

Standing from left: Monica, Walt, Mildred, Hubert, Leona, Vince, Beatrice.

Seated from left: Florent, Ray, Geneva, and Christine.

2nd Generation

Florent and Christine, like most other farm families taught their children to help in many ways, the boys around the farm and girls around the house. Ray Meyer, was born in 1913 and worked along with his brothers Vince, Walt and Shup. After high school Ray stayed to run the farm and married Dolores Heitstuman in October 1937, when he was 34. They continued to run and expand the farm and had 5 children; Roy, Karen, Chris, Greg, and Shelley.



Ray and Dolores on their wedding day, October 19, 1937.



Ray and Dolores' Family in 1967. Greg, Karen, Ray, Dolores, Chris, Roy, and Shelly.

3rd Generation

Rays' sons, Roy and Greg continued on the successful farming tradition. Ray expanded the Colton farm to Genesee, ID and Roy moved to that farmstead. Greg stayed in Colton, married Barbara Haupt in 1968 and had 3 children; Kori, Ty, and Shelby.

4th Generation

Ty helped with the farm as he grew up through college at Washington State University, which was 12 miles away graduating with an Ag Business degree in 1993. Ty married Kay Wolf in July 1997 and they have 2 children, Jackson and Maggie. Kay also grew up in a four generation farm family in Uniontown, WA, 3 miles from Colton, attended WSU for Business degree and returned for a Masters of Business. Upon graduation at WSU Kay and Ty held several positions in agriculture, technology, project management, marketing, and hospitality industries. Their farm roots were always strong and once they had children wanted to move back and put a new spin on farming, the start of Red Barn Farms.