

# The Haases<sup>1</sup>

## From Bayern to South Manitou

As December settled over New York City in 1853, it should have been hinting at what was to come. But instead of chill winds and snow flurries, it had thus far been unusually mild; almost Spring-like.<sup>2</sup> That was a lucky situation for the 211 passengers arriving on the Bremen Barque *Hudson*. The three-masted clipper had departed from Hamburg on the 26th of October, arriving in New York's harbor on the 5th with 201 adult passengers and 10 infants; two passengers having died during the voyage, their remains committed to the sea.<sup>3</sup>

Among the steerage passengers was a family of four from "Baiean" headed for "Zinzinati:"

Georg Haas, a 27-year old "Farmer"  
Barbara, his 30-year old wife  
Johann, his son, age 2  
Johachim, another son, age 8-months

The Haases who arrived on South Manitou Island a few years later were apparently called "George," "Maria," "John" and "Joseph," so obviously this is not an exact match. But there are several reasons, if perhaps all circumstantial, to believe that the family arriving aboard the Hudson was the same one that eventually came to the island.

First, the ages of all four are approximately correct, with all other records indicating that George was a few years younger than his wife.

Secondly, subsequent census records and oral tradition indicate that the Haases were, like the Hutzlers, from Bavaria. The ship's purser or mate was apparently not chosen by virtue of his spelling capabilities and penmanship; "Johachim" being a misspelling of "Joachim," "Zinzinati" obviously meaning "Cincinnati," and "Baiean" probably more correctly having been "Bayern" (German for "Bavaria").

Thirdly, "Maria Barbara" was a very common name for girls born in Bavaria around the time of Frau Haas' birth.<sup>4</sup> In Germany, the tradition would have been to commonly use the second of the given names, "Barbara," while in America, had she not insisted otherwise, she probably would have eventually become known by the first; "Maria."

Fourth, since the two boys were very young, Johann probably soon became known as "John" as the family integrated into neighborhoods including persons of English and American heritage. Bavarian Catholics probably would have pronounced "Joachim" in the biblical way as "DZHO-uh-kimn."<sup>5</sup> It doesn't seem like much of a stretch to guess that this boy's young friends would probably have called him "Joe;" that eventually leading to an assumption that his given name was Joseph, rather than the awkward and unfamiliar "Joachim."

Fifth, although their intended destination was given as Cincinnati, there is no record of this family ever having lived there. That may have been because of growing tensions between Roman Catholics and a liberal group calling itself the *Freemen's Society*, which, being stirred up and constantly provoked by Cincinnati's German newspaper *Hochwacher*, culminated in violence in Cincinnati not long after Haases arrived in New York.<sup>6</sup> That the given names of the mother and the two sons were traditionally Catholic, suggests that was

probably their religious tradition or, at least, the mother's. Had they intended to go to Cincinnati, they would have traveled by rail via Buffalo, thence along the lakeshore (Lake Erie) to Toledo, making a connection there with another rail service to Cincinnati. They evidently did not proceed further than Buffalo, since that became the birthplace of their third child, a daughter they named Elizabeth, born sometime between mid-August and early December of 1855.<sup>7</sup>

Sixth, by oral tradition, the Haases were said to have become acquainted with the Johann Hutzler family somewhere before they arrived on South Manitou Island. The *Sir Isaac Newton* and the *Hudson* were both sailing vessels. These ships were not tightly scheduled, departing only after having taken on their capacity in cargo and passengers and then when weather conditions were favorable. This usually involved long waiting times for departing passengers. Since the Hutzler family departed from Hamburg only a few days prior to the time that the Haas family sailed, it is possible that the acquaintance developed at Hamburg while waiting for their ships to sail.

Seventh, and finally, an exhaustive search of all online archives, including the definitive *19th Century Germanic Immigrants to USA* database,<sup>8</sup> which covers all U.S. ports of entry, finds no other Haas, Hass, or Haase family entering the U.S. during the 1850s which might, even approximately, match the one that eventually wound up on South Manitou Island.

## Coming to the Island

This family was somehow passed over in the 8th U.S. Census taken in 1860, so there is no record of them in the United States between their arrival, and the U.S. Census of 1870, which finds them on South Manitou Island, Michigan, having added three more children to the family: Elizabeth, William and Henry.<sup>9</sup> Most writers and genealogists assert that the family probably arrived at South Manitou in 1858, and that the two youngest sons were born there, some records indicating that Bill Haas was born as early as 1858. With only nineteen households (73 people) on the island when the 1860 census was taken, it seems unlikely that a family of six or seven people would have been missed. One possible explanation is that the Haases, like the Johann Hutzlers, might have been in transit, migrating to the island between the times that the census was taken there in mid-summer and in Buffalo's German wards in the fall of that year. Tradition has it that the two families were close friends, so it would not be unreasonable to suppose that they might have moved from Buffalo to the island at the same time. On the other hand, since others who are thought to have established farms on the island prior to 1860 are also missing in the 1960 enumeration, it would appear that census-taker Philo Beers, either through oversight or on account of declining health, might have neglected to venture into the island's interior.<sup>10</sup>

Over the next 39-years, George Haas would become a successful South Manitou Island farmer. Nine days after the Homestead Act of 1862 went into effect on January 1, 1863, his neighbor and friend, George Johann Hutzler, filed on 160-acres about a mile northwest of Burton's Wharf. Three weeks later Thomas Kitchen filed on the 1/4-section immediately south of the Hutzler claim. Seven weeks later, George filed on the neighboring 1/4-section immediately west of the Hutzler claim, with Christoph Beck filing on the 1/4-section immediately south of the Haas claim. These were the first four homestead claims on South Manitou Island. The Hutzlers and the Becks would become the island's most

productive farming families, with the Haases running a close third. Thomas Kitchen died only one year after having filed his claim; lost while attempting to cross to the mainland on foot over the late January ice to fetch the island's mail.

## George Haas – the Civil War Soldier

Shortly after the planting season, on June 11th of 1864, George was inducted into Company K of Michigan's 5th Infantry Regiment, listed as *George Haasse*, age 38, originally from Bavaria, a substitute for "Mr Burton" of Manitou County. Although his term of enlistment was evidently three years, he was discharged at Alexandria, Virginia the following year, on June 28, 1865, the war having officially ended the previous month. During his term of service, the 5th Michigan was engaged in Tennessee and Virginia, in the Skirmish at the Strawberry Plains Railroad Bridge, the Siege of Petersburg, the **Battle of Trent's Reach** on the James River, the Battle of Peebles's Farm (or Poplar Springs Church), and the Battle of Hatcher's Run.<sup>11</sup>

The "Mr. Burton" mentioned above is usually mistakenly identified as William Burton. In reality, the "draft" during the Civil War was implemented mostly as a threat, or an inducement for states to provide troops. The federal Enrollment Act of 1863 imposed quotas on each state, requiring the states to register eligible men between the ages of 20 and 45 in two classes. The first class included all men liable to military service between the ages 20 and 35. The second class included all unmarried men fit for duty above the age of 35 but below 45. There were four "Mr. Burtons" living on the island around the time that George Haas volunteered to become a Civil War Soldier. William Burton would have been seventy-two years old at the time, and his son William N. Burton forty-seven; both beyond the age of conscription. William Burton's son Ellison would have been just forty-five in 1864, but was married with children and was therefore not required to register. That left the youngest son, James Covell Burton, who was married, but only 33-years old.

For those who did not wish to serve in the Union Army, there were a few alternatives. One was called *Commutation*; upon paying a fee of \$300 a man was considered to have fulfilled his patriotic obligation, and his name would be removed from the register for three years. During the Civil War, the Union was able to raise millions of much-needed dollars in commutation fees. Another method of avoiding conscription was *Substitution*, which involved paying an otherwise ineligible man to serve in one's place. Since George Haas was, according to his induction records, 38-years old, but married with children, he would have not been required to register, but would have been eligible to substitute. At the time, substitutes were generally paid the same amount as the government's commutation fee; \$300 ... a lot of money in 1864. And in addition to that, the Union Army was paying privates \$16 a month. In today's money, that would have amounted to \$4,200 and \$224 per month respectively, so there was a rather robust competition for opportunities to substitute, especially among eligible men in the larger towns and cities. It probably wouldn't have made any difference to the Burtons whether they paid \$300 to the government, or gave that same amount to anyone who might be willing to go in James' place. Thus we can safely assume that George Haas saw a good opportunity, and very willingly took advantage of it.

## The Haas Farm

When George Haas went to war, he left his wife Maria and sons John and Joseph, alone on the Haas homestead, which probably hadn't been developed much at that time beyond the building of their home and the clearing of a few acres. The two boys were only twelve and eleven years old, so if the farm was at all productive that year, it was probably thanks to help from the neighboring farmers.

But by 1870 the Haas farm was well-established. With four strong boys now available to help with the work ... John 18, Joseph 17, William 12, and Henry 9 ... they had gotten thirty-five of their 160-acres under cultivation, producing wheat, rye, feed corn, and oats. They had also built a large house, two barns, dug a well, and planted apple and peach orchards. But it would appear that George was mainly interested in producing beef and pork, since he had more cattle and hogs than any other farm on the island, and didn't produce as much grain overall as most of the others.<sup>12</sup>

Ten years later, the value of the farm had more than doubled, it then ranking fourth in terms of assets ... real estate and livestock. But the Haas farm shared second place with the Johann Hutzler farm in terms of the value of what it produced, outranked only by the Conrad Hutzler farm.<sup>13</sup> John, Joseph and Elizabeth were now gone; John having married and moved to Muskegon, and Joseph also having married and now living elsewhere on the island, as had and was Elizabeth. That left George, Mary (as she was now usually called) and their two youngest children, William and Henry, on the farm. The Haases were apparently still concentrating on the production of beef and pork, which was sold in Traverse City,<sup>14</sup> but they had now also become one of the two largest potato growers on the island. Besides being good farmers, the Haases were also good friends, and knew how to show others a good time when invited to their farm on special occasions.<sup>15</sup>

In January of 1886, two of the leading farm families became linked when Henry Haas married Margaret Hutzler. George Haas and Conrad Hutzler pooled enough resources to buy the derelict Sheridan farm for the new couple as a wedding gift, and the couple moved down onto that place. John, having lost his wife and only child, returned to the island about that same time, probably for the wedding celebration, so George, Mary, John and William were now alone on the home place. Over the years that followed, John and "Bill" would take over, John taking responsibility for the housekeeping and animal husbandry, with Bill working the fields.<sup>16</sup>

George lived to be 72-years old, finally succumbing to stomach cancer on Thursday, November 2, 1899. He was laid to rest in an orchard that he and his sons had established on the family farm so many years before.<sup>17</sup> Maria passed away six years later, on Monday, May 7, 1906. She was 84-years old. Two days later she was buried at George's side.<sup>18</sup>

## The Haas Children

George and Maria Haas had five children. Joseph and John were born in Germany and arrived in America as a toddler and an infant, respectively. Elizabeth was born in Buffalo, New York. Their last two, William and Henry, were born on South Manitou Island.

Michigan enacted its first compulsory education act in 1871, but until 1905 the power to compel attendance rested with township boards, effectively giving localities the option of enforcing it or not. At best, a child between the ages of six and sixteen could be

compelled to attend school for only four days a month for four months out of the year. The presently existing schoolhouse on South Manitou Island was built in 1899, with a somewhat earlier structure supposedly existing on the opposite side of the road not far south. Thus it would appear that there was no formal education on the island until the 1880s, by which time all of the Haas children would have been well beyond school age. Furthermore, compulsory education laws were originally highly unpopular with Catholics, who generally interpreted the movement as an attack on parochial education and, as mentioned above, the Haases religious tradition, such as it might have been, was probably Catholic. Whatever the case might have been, all of the Haas children grew up functionally illiterate.<sup>19</sup>

**John Haas**, the eldest son, was born in Bavaria, probably on January 15, 1852.<sup>20, 21, 22</sup> He married Melissa Kitchen, the daughter of Richard and Sarah Kitchen at Traverse City's Methodist Episcopal Church on June 25, 1879. He gave his age as 28; she was seventeen.<sup>23</sup> They promptly moved to Muskegon, Michigan where John had found employment working in a saw mill. By mid-summer of the next year, he was unemployed and partially disabled, the couple living in a boarding house with several other former mill employees.<sup>24</sup> Their first child, a daughter, was stillborn on December 1, 1880.<sup>25</sup> Melissa and her second child, John Haas Jr. died in childbirth at Muskegon on April 15, 1883. The child was baptized at St. Paul's Episcopal Church with his aunts Lizzy Kitchen Johnson and Mary Kitchen Shoup in attendance, after which the two were laid to rest in Muskegon's Oakwood Cemetery.<sup>26, 27</sup> John returned to the island three years later, in February of 1886,<sup>28</sup> where he remained for the rest of his life, living and working on the family farm. He died there on February 15, 1925, and was buried in the Haas plot in the island's main cemetery.<sup>29</sup>

**Joseph Haas** is, without question, the most storied of the George and Maria Haas children, mostly by virtue of his marriage to a uniquely stalwart young woman. Joseph was also born in Bavaria, probably on June 15, 1853.<sup>30</sup> As winter ended in 1879 he eloped with sixteen-year old Florence Raimau and the two were married at Manistee, Michigan. Family tradition has it that the young couple ran off together because his mother didn't like the girl and didn't approve of their relationship, and that Maria Haas remained embittered towards her son and Florence for the rest of her life. A variety of reasons have been suggested for the estrangement, including that both were strong-willed and highly opinionated women, that Florence was sharply anti-Catholic, that the Raimau's were dirt-poor and she brought nothing to the marriage by way of a dowry, etc.<sup>31, 32</sup>

That being as it may, the U.S. Census taken the following summer found Joseph, Florence and infant son George Isaac living on the island's southeast end, between the Raimaus and the Conrad Hutzlers, with Joseph listed as a farm laborer, probably working on the nearby Hutzler farm.<sup>33</sup> In March of 1883 Joseph filed a homestead claim on 138-acres along the shoreline at that location. His land patent was received some nine years later in April of 1892, but was amended in December of 1898 to exclude the ten acres within his claim where the government had established the island's light station.<sup>34</sup> Florence's father, Isaac Raimau, a sailor, probably lived along the shore at this location with his wife Isabella and their seven other children, and presumably Joseph and Florence established their original home nearby.<sup>35</sup> They would have two more children here; daughter Jesse Belle Haas in 1883,<sup>36</sup> and another son, Lawrence O. Haas on December 31, 1885.<sup>37</sup>

Florence became known as a very capable midwife, and is supposed to have claimed that she had "never lost a baby."<sup>38</sup> That part of the story is probably folklore. Benth Johnson came to the island with his family in 1890, settling on the neighboring 128-acres,

formerly the James Miller homestead, and the two families reportedly became very close friends.<sup>39</sup> Unhappily, Gesine Johnson, Ben's wife, died in childbirth, as did her last baby, in June of 1894, with Florence in attendance, having been summoned from the swamp on the north end of "the Little Lake" by the Johnson children to handle their mother's emergency.<sup>40</sup>

At some point, the island's inland lake, "the Little Lake" as it was called, came to be known as Lake Florence. On his 1847 survey map, Deputy Surveyor Orange Risdon called it "South Manitou Lake." One of the Johnsons' sons, Sigval, joined the Life Saving Service on the island and went on to become a Rear Admiral in the Coast Guard. The renaming of the lake is sometimes attributed to him, which might date it to the time when he was serving at the station on South Manitou; about 1912.<sup>41</sup> On the day of Gesine's death, her five young children, including Sig, who would have been the oldest at just eight years old, were hustled off to the nearby Haas home. In the years that followed, the children would grow up on their family farm with Ben and their two step-brothers, Theodore and Thomas Thompson. During this time, Ben remained a widower and five and six years later, respectively, the step-brothers married the Beck sisters, Matilda and Hattie. It therefore seems quite likely that Florence Haas became the mother figure in the lives of the young Johnson children, in which case it would be easy to believe that the oldest, Sig, would forever have a special place in his heart for her, and at some point decided to call the beautiful little lake adjoining the Johnson farm "Lake Florence." Whatever the case, nobody has ever suggested that the name was not intended to honor and memorialize Florence Haas.

Florence's father, Isaac Reimeu, a sailor, was originally from Canada. He brought his wife and eight children, including eight-year old Florence, to South Manitou Island in 1871.<sup>42</sup> Where and how the family was living up to that time has not been discovered, but it is evident that somehow Florence picked up the rudiments of her father's profession. She too was a "sailor," and in 1911 become one of the first women licensed to carry passengers on a motor launch on the Great Lakes.<sup>43</sup> Her serious sailing career had apparently begun about 1895 with a 24-foot sailing vessel called the *Reliance*. About eight years later the boat was decked over and equipped with a gasoline engine. That original *Reliance* was replaced with a more modern motor launch; probably about 1912 when Joseph took over the mail contract, and the Haases began making regular runs between South Manitou Island and Glen Haven. Her ability at the helm was documented in the media with newspaper features claiming *Woman Captain Is Pride of Officers*<sup>44</sup> and *She Is a Captain – Woman Knows No Fear*.<sup>45</sup> Her sailing career apparently ended in the early 1920s after serving for a time a steward aboard the car ferry *Ann Arbor No. 4* out of Elberta (Frankfort,) Michigan. Built in Cleveland in 1906, the 256-foot "No. 4" quickly gained the distinction of having the worst accident record in the Ann Arbor Railroad's line, and came to be known as a bad-luck boat, or one that had been jinxed. Of its several mishaps, one of its worst episodes involved its arduous battle with Lake Michigan on Valentine's Day in 1923. Having departed Elberta in a dead calm, she encountered a severe late-winter storm at mid-lake, resulting in heavily laden rail cars breaking loose below decks. Reversing course, the severely crippled ship was able to struggle back into the harbor at Elberta before sinking in 22-foot water next to the jetty, all hands therefore being saved.<sup>46, 47, 48</sup> But that might very well have been Florence's last trip on the "No. 4" or any other boat.

Joseph had died accidentally thirteen years before, drowning in the bay at South Manitou, on Wednesday, July 10, 1912.<sup>49</sup> He had made the regular mail run to Glen Haven, and was transferring cargo from the *Reliance*, which was anchored offshore, to his skiff,

when he slipped and fell into the water. Some say that he had stepped off the *Reliance* onto the skiff with a heavy case of beer on his shoulder, which struck him in the head as he fell, possibly rendering him unconscious, his moment of distress supposedly having been observed by the Surfman on watch up in the USLSS lookout tower.<sup>50, 51, 52</sup> He was quickly recovered from the depths and taken immediately to the USLSS dock for resuscitation, but in spite of repeated attempts, by Surfman Sigval Johnson and others, he failed to respond. His grave may be found below an impressive marker in South Manitou's main cemetery.

After Joseph died, Florence and her son Lawrence continued making the mail runs for about a year, and then apparently gave up the contract, with Theodore Thompson taking over once again. In the summer of 1913, she and Lawrence left the island, leasing the Joseph Haas place to Ray Kent for five years.<sup>53</sup> She and Lawrence then returned to Green Bay, Wisconsin, where they had a second home on Doty Street, living on and off with her daughter Jesse Belle, whose husband Lewis Hutzler was the lightkeeper there.<sup>54</sup> In the spring of 1917 Lawrence married Myrtle Beeman of Empire,<sup>55</sup> and soon thereafter they, Lawrence, Myrtle and Florence, apparently moved back to South Manitou Island. The Ann Arbor Railroad's car ferries were frequent visitors at South Manitou, and it might have been there that the three decided to sign on with the system, moving to Frankfort in 1919; all three listed as "cooks" a year later on the *Ann Arbor No. 4*.<sup>56</sup> After *No. 4's* Valentine's Day disaster in 1923, the four (daughter "Lois" having been born to Lawrence and Myrtle) moved back to Wisconsin – to Milwaukee this time, Lewis Hutzler having been reassigned to the light station there, and Lawrence finding employment there as an automobile mechanic.<sup>57, 58</sup> About seven years later, Lawrence, Myrtle and their children returned to Frankfort, with Florence, then 71-years old, having moved to Huston (Galena Park,) Texas.<sup>59, 60</sup> She remained there for the rest of her life, passing away on December 10, 1943 at the age of 83. Her remains were returned to Wisconsin, where she was buried in Green Bay's Fort Howard Memorial Park, to be joined later in repose there by her daughter and son-in-law.<sup>61</sup>

**Elizabeth "Lizzie" Haas** was born in Buffalo, New York towards the end of 1885. On Saturday, June 28, 1873 she and August Beck were married in Glen Arbor by Justice of the Peace George Ray, with Mrs. Ray and Andrew Burdick as their witnesses.<sup>62</sup> She was 17; he was 21. During their time together, they would have ten children, all born on South Manitou Island, some delivered by her mother, Florence Haas:

Mary Carolina on July 22, 1874,  
Josephine ("Josie") on June 27, 1876,  
David on June 1, 1877,  
Alvina on April 1878,  
George E. on December 22, 1880,  
Matilda Agnes on October 1881,  
Hattie Elsie on September 1883,  
Irwin August on June 11, 1887,  
Harley Robert on July 20, 1895, and  
Robert, who died at birth.

August Beck died at his son Irwin's home in Empire on Sunday, May 4, 1941. He was preceded in death by his wife Elizabeth, who passed away in the care of her daughter Mary Morris, at the Morris' home in Beulah, on Friday, December 5, 1927. Both were laid to rest in the island's main cemetery, not far from their farm, and next to their son George.<sup>63, 64</sup>

**William “Bill” Haas** (sometimes called “Willie” or “Wil”) is thought to have been the first of the George and Maria Haas children to be born on South Manitou Island, coming into the world there in April of 1859.<sup>65</sup> He never married, remaining on the farm where he was born for the duration of his seventy-seven years, the farm’s last permanent resident. He and Johnny Hutzler, a boy from the neighboring farm who was some three years younger, became close life-long friends and companions, separated only briefly by Johnny’s short-lived marriage to Bertha Peth. Bill became the island’s blacksmith, the island’s source of horseshoes, while also serving as the repairman of farm implements, harnesses and other leather goods. Having gained a reputation for being a good amateur veterinarian, he was always apt to be called upon by a farmer with a sick animal. In later years his widowed brother John returned to the island, and the two worked together as bachelor farmers; Bill doing most of the field work, while John cared for the livestock and did the cooking. Besides operating a still during the prohibition years, as did many other island farmers, Bill and John produced hard cider in volume, pressing enough apples from their orchard each year to produce two 55-gallon barrels of the naturally fermented intoxicating juice. Bill’s blacksmith shed and all of its contents were destroyed by fire in the early 1920s, and shortly after John’s death in 1927 the Haas farmhouse was struck by lightning, burned, and was a complete loss. Friends and relatives pitched in to help him construct a small cabin on the property, which he occupied until failing health made it impossible for him to continue living alone.<sup>66</sup> In 1936 he was taken off the island by his nephew Laurence Haas, to Frankfort, Michigan where he was cared for by Mrs. (Myrtle) Haas until his death the following year.<sup>67</sup> He died in Frankfort on February 15, 1937 at age 77. His remains were returned to the island, where he was buried in the Haas family plot at the main cemetery.<sup>68</sup>

**Henry Haas**, the last of the George and Maria Haas children, was born on South Manitou Island in March of 1861.<sup>69</sup> At the age of 24, he married sixteen-year old Margaret "Maggie" Hutzler, the daughter of Conrad Hutzler and Marianna Schenk, their marriage celebrated at the Haas farm on New Years Day of 1886.<sup>70</sup> According to family tradition, they were given the derelict Aaron Sheridan farm as a wedding gift, jointly provided by their parents, George and Maria Haas, and Conrad Hutzler and Marianna Schenk. There they would spend the rest of their lives, giving birth to two children; Rose (“Rosie”) in October of 1886, and Harrison in November of 1889.<sup>71</sup> Henry became the *de facto* island dentist, his services limited mostly to the pulling of defective teeth, and rendered with equal skill whether the patient was animal or human. He was also known as a producer of high quality maple syrup, quantities of which Maggie made into maple candies. Besides the usual farming and gardening, the Haas’ also produced ginseng, a highly-valued cash crop, in a specially constructed shed. Maggie was credited as being a skillful homemaker and meticulous housekeeper; the Haas home always said to be clean and neatly kept, with a bright and cheery atmosphere.<sup>72</sup> Henry’s life ended on April 3, 1947. Maggie remained on the farm until she passed away six years later, on November 20, 1953.<sup>73</sup> Both are buried in South Manitou Island’s main cemetery. After Maggie’s death, the farm was eventually sold to Joseph Harold, who offered it as a summer rental resort property until ultimately selling his properties to the government as South Manitou Island became part of the National Park. As a victim of the park’s initial wilderness agenda, the farm was permitted to molder, eventually becoming one of the island’s ruins.



## Conclusion

The Haases came to South Manitou Island in the late 1850s. Their family would be represented on the island for almost 100-years through three generations. The last to leave was Rosie (Haas) Warner, granddaughter of settlers George and Maria Haas, and her husband August Warner, who moved from the island to Glen Haven following the death of Rosie's mother, Maggie Haas, in 1953.

August, who grew up in Port Oneida, apparently met Rosie while working as a woodchopper on the island. After their marriage, they moved onto a small farm in Port Oneida which came as a wedding gift from August's mother and stepfather, Richard and Kate Werner. They returned to the island in 1923, bringing four children with them. Giving up their farm in Port Oneida, they moved into what is now known as "the Johnson House" – the odd-looking house with the pyramid-shaped roof on Sandy Point; the first structure coming into sight after the light station when approaching South Manitou Island. They apparently rented the home from Benth Johnson and his heirs for some thirty-years, August variously working as the mail boat operator, a fisherman, buyer for Dornbos Fisheries of Grand Haven, Constable, head of the island's School Board, and *ad hoc* transportation provider between the island and Glen Haven in his intrepid old boat, the *Lenore*. For many years Rosie's kitchen was the "mess hall" for the Coast Guard crew, the station having no food service facilities of its own, and she also provided laundry services for the men stationed there.

August and Rosie were my Grandparents.

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*Editors Note:* This essay is a compilation of information from a variety of sources, including Internet genealogical databases, and other Internet web sites. While information from these sources is not always in agreement, the information contained in this work represents an earnest attempt to remain faithful to the facts, or what was probable given the times and the circumstances of the events.

Copies of documents referenced herein are available on the [www.manitouislandsarchives.org](http://www.manitouislandsarchives.org) web site, or for copyrighted material see the bibliographical information.

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<sup>1</sup> Pronunciation Note: The Haas family name appears in several variations, including Haase, Hayse, Hayce, Hass, and so on. In the Bavarian dialect of the mid-nineteenth century, the name would most likely been pronounced like "Hayce," the double "aa" being pronounced like a long "a" and with the final consonant strongly devoiced, while in northern German dialects, the pronunciation would have been more like "Hass" (eg., "gas") ... which probably accounts for the spelling variations found on documents related to this family. On the island, the name became Americanized to the extent of being pronounced more like "Haze" (without the strong devoicing of the final consonant.) People who knew the Haases would have never pronounced their name like the currently popularized English version, "Hahs."

<sup>2</sup> *New York Weather and The Weather At Buffalo*, The New York Times, December 17, 1853

<sup>3</sup> Passenger Arrival List, Bremen Ship *Hudson*, December 5, 1853

Note: From the records of the Bremer Wasserschout (an official seamen's registry) - the barque *Hudson* departed Hamburg, headed for New York, on October 26, 1853, with a crew of fourteen under the command of Christof Nordenholz, Captain, and mate Franz Töpfer. The Hamburg Passenger Lists (Hamburg State Archive) gives the departure date as November 1, 1853. That list gives the origin of the family as a place in Bayern called "Kuska." In the 1900 U.S. Census, John Haas gives his arrival date as 1854; Mary Haas (in Milwaukee) gives her arrival date as "1851" but stating that she had been in the U.S. for 48-years, which would mean the year should have been 1852.

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- <sup>4</sup> “Maria Barbara” is very common given name in Germany, per FamilySearch.Org, Ancestry.Com, etc.
- <sup>5</sup> Note: The Haases are presumed to have been Catholic on the basis of the given names “Maria,” “Barbara,” “Johann,” and “Joachim;” all names of Catholic saints or revered persons (Joachim is, in legend, the father of the Virgin Mary.)
- <sup>6</sup> Riots In Cincinnati – New York Times Articles, December 1853
- <sup>7</sup> Marriage Record – August Beck & Lizzie Haas, June 28, 1875  
Note: The birth date for Elizabeth Haas is estimated on the basis of the reported birth dates given on the marriage record and various census forms.
- <sup>8</sup> *19th Century Germanic Immigrants to U.S.A* database, [www.germanimmigrants1850s.com](http://www.germanimmigrants1850s.com)
- <sup>9</sup> 9th U.S. Census, 1870, South Manitou Island, Michigan, pg 2
- <sup>10</sup> Note: Those not listed in the 1860 U.S. Census for South Manitou Island include the George Haases, the Johann Hutzlers and the Christoph Becks, all of whom lived on adjacent 160-acre farms in the interior of the island. Moreover, the companion non-population census for that year includes no listings for South Manitou Island. Philo Beers, then 61-years old, was prominent in the area, having been a Deputy U.S. Marshall, builder and first keeper of the “Cat Head Light” (a.k.a. the Grand Travers Light at the tip of the Leelanau peninsula,) a Probate Court Judge, and in 1960 was Supervisor of Leelanau Township, then a part of Grand Traverse County.  
  
(Apparently from the Charlevoix Sentinel) **April 7, 1872 – Death of Hon. Philo Beers;** At twenty minutes past twelve o'clock on the morning of Wednesday last, Hon. Philo Beers of this village, departed this life, aged 73 years. For several years past Mr. Beers has suffered much rheumatism, which by its attack on the heart, has now caused his death. In his decease Charlevoix County has lost an efficient officer and a good citizen and the community will miss him as an officer and citizen. This aged veteran has gone to rest and may his rest be sweet. He was buried on Friday with honors, by the Masonic Fraternity, of which he has been a zealous member for over fifty years.
- <sup>11</sup> *Forest Haven Soldiers: The Civil War Veterans of Sleeping Bear & Surrounding Leelanau*, Leonard G. Overmyer, Overmyer Historicals, 1999 (ISBN 0-9679259-0-8)
- <sup>12</sup> 1870 U.S. Census Non-Population Schedules, Manitou & Fox Islands, Michigan
- <sup>13</sup> 1880 U.S. Census Non-Population Schedules, South Manitou Island, Michigan
- <sup>14</sup> Grand Traverse Herald, October 15, 1885, *Manitou County* news column
- <sup>15</sup> 1886-1889 Grand Traverse Herald Social Notes re South Manitou Island
- <sup>16</sup> Notes on John & Bill Haas, Exploring North Manitou, South Manitou, High and Garden island of the Lake Michigan Archipelago, Robert H. Ruchhoft, The Pucelle Press, Cincinnati – 1991, pgs 126 & 127
- <sup>17</sup> Death Certificate – George Haas
- <sup>18</sup> Death Certificate – Maria Haas
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid. 12 & 1880 U.S. Census data for Muskegon, Michigan, pg 28  
Note: Later enumerations indicate that as adults, these persons may have developed some reading and writing skills.
- <sup>20</sup> 1900 U.S. Census – Glen Arbor Twp, MI, pg 6A
- <sup>21</sup> Death Record – John Haas, February 15, 1925
- <sup>22</sup> Headstone and Burial Data – John Haas, South Manitou Island
- <sup>23</sup> Marriage Record – John K Haas & Melissa Kitchen, 1879
- <sup>24</sup> 1880 U.S. Census – Muskegon, MI, pg 28
- <sup>25</sup> Birth & Death Records – Infant Haas, December 1, 1880
- <sup>26</sup> Death Record – Melissa Kitchen Haas, April 15, 1883; from the records of St. Paul’s Methodist Episcopal Church in Muskegon, Michigan  
Note: In his book, *Isle of View*, Charles M. Anderson reports, apparently incorrectly, “John Haas had been married and they had a baby girl. Mother and daughter died and were buried near the dock at the center of the harbor. John had put a picket-fence around the two graves then painted it white.” This would not have come from first-hand knowledge, since the Anderson family arrived on South Manitou Island in 1913, some thirty years after the death of Mrs. Haas and her child.

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<sup>27</sup> Birth Record - John Haas Jr., April 15, 1883; from the records of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church in Muskegon, Michigan

<sup>28</sup> Grand Traverse Herald, February 1886 – John Haas returns to South Manitou Island from Muskegon

Note: Frequently-quoted oral traditions include a story about John Haas returning to the island alone to prepare the Haas home to receive his wife and newborn child, furnishing the home rather handsomely, but closing up that part of the house upon the death of his wife and infant daughter, who had never lived long enough to see it. On the basis of the facts reported herein, the accuracy of these oral traditions can probably be totally discounted.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. 20 & 21

<sup>30</sup> Death Certificate – Joseph Haas, July 11, 1912

<sup>31</sup> *Florence Haas – A Remembrance*, Don Roy, South Manitou Memorial Society Newsletter, Vol. 3 No. 3, November 1, 1992.

Note: Florence Haas' death certificate gives her date of birth as September 21, 1860, which is probably in error, since all other citations (census records and headstone) indicate that she was actually born in 1862. Her correct birth date is therefore presumed to be September 21, 1862. Since census records indicate that she was married at age sixteen, the marriage would have occurred on or after September 21, 1878; a timeline analysis suggests that was probably sometime during the first four months of 1879.

Note: The Reimo family name appears in several different versions, including Raimau, Raymo, Raimo and Raimaw. "Raymo" is probably an Americanized version of whatever it originally was.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid. 30; also Vent, Myron. *South Manitou Island: From Pioneer Community to National Park*. 1973. New York: Center for Cultural Resources, 1988. 35p. Print.

<sup>33</sup> 1880 U.S. Census – South Manitou Island, pg 1

<sup>34</sup> Homestead Certificate No. 6666, Joseph Haas, South Manitou Island

<sup>35</sup> Ibid. 32

<sup>36</sup> Marriage Record - Jesse Belle Haas & Lewis Hutzler, May 1, 1899

<sup>37</sup> Birth Record, Lawrence O. Haas, December 31, 1885

<sup>38</sup> Ibid. 30

<sup>39</sup> *The Johnson/Thompson Family of South Manitou Island*, a biographical essay on [www.manitouislandsarchives.org](http://www.manitouislandsarchives.org)

<sup>40</sup> Transcript from CD audio, Interview with the Johnsons (George and Goldie Johnson), August 1972 on South Manitou Island, at [www.manitouislandsarchives.org](http://www.manitouislandsarchives.org)

<sup>41</sup> Ibid. 30

<sup>42</sup> Ibid. 33

<sup>43</sup> Michigan Women: Firsts and Founders, Rachael B. Harley, Michigan Women's Studies Assn (June 1992), pg 100.

<sup>44</sup> Muskegon Daily Chronicle, August 1, 1907. "*Woman Captain Is Pride Of Officers*"

<sup>45</sup> Evening Post, Grand Rapids MI, October 15, 1904. "*She Is A Captain*"

<sup>46</sup> 1920 U.S.Census – Frankfort, Michigan, pg12A – Florence Haas employed as "Cook" on "steamboat."

<sup>47</sup> "*I Remember ...*" excerpts from South Manitou Memorial Society Newsletters of April and November 1995, Theron Haas (Grandson), Florence Haas as steward aboard *Ann Arbor No. 4* carferry.

<sup>48</sup> *The Great Lakes Car Ferries*, George Woodman Hilton, Ch.3 - pgs 80-827 – re: the wreck of the "No.4" on Valentine's Day of 1923.

<sup>49</sup> Death Certificate & Headstone - Joseph Haas

<sup>50</sup> From "*Interview with the Johnsons (George and Goldie Johnson) August 1972 – on South Manitou Island*" regarding the death of Joseph Haas (ref: [www.manitouislandsarchives.org](http://www.manitouislandsarchives.org)):

"I don't know just what was the matter with her. But she died. So we come to that funeral. And when I come on the boat, the day after the funeral ... the day before the funeral, there was a boat at the station down here, and Sig was working on somebody. And when I looked who it was, gol', it was Joe Haas. He went out there ...he was carrying the mail, with his wife ... and he went out there to get a case of beer off the boat, and when he ... it was in a small boat he had that case of beer ... he lost his balance, and him ... the case of beer and him fell down, and the boat slid over, and he drowned. And when I come in, there was Sigval working on him, and trying to bring him back to life again, and

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picked him up. Somebody must have seen it, and they picked him up on the bottom, and brought him in to the Coast Guard, and he worked on him. So we was staying July the twelfth, to the fifth. That was when Tom's ... er, Theodore's wife's funeral was. Then we stayed a day or two longer, and that was ... ah, Hasses ... Mr. Haases funeral. And then it was right after that when Dad bought this property. Well, I'd say two years after that."

<sup>51</sup> From "Florence Haas – A Remembrance" by Don Roy in the South Manitou Memorial Society Newsletter of November 1992 (ref: [www.manitouslandsarchives.org](http://www.manitouslandsarchives.org)):

"My great grandfather, Joseph Haas, drowned in Lake Michigan in 1912. He was alone and he apparently fell while loading a box from his boat hitting his head on the side of the boat thus rendering himself unconscious. He was spotted from the lookout and a boat was launched in minutes. Although there was still air bubbles in the water, he could not be revived."

<sup>52</sup> From "Flashback to the Past" by Sandra M. Black in the South Manitou Memorial Society Newsletter of November 1992 (ref: [www.manitouslandsarchives.org](http://www.manitouslandsarchives.org)):

"**FEBRUARY 3, 1881**, two men came from the South Manitou Island, to Glen Haven, on skates. If you think that was exciting, on March 22, 1883, JOSEPH HAAS, crossed Lake Michigan on foot from South Manitou Island to Leland. It was the first time the feat had been performed that particular winter. Joseph Haas had scarcely arrived in Leland before a seam opened behind him exposing quite a broad strip of water. Mr. Haas must have been a daring man as he lost his life from accidental drowning on July 10, 1912, at the age of 59. If there any truth to the story, I heard that Joseph Haas was transferring a case of beer from a large boat to his rowboat anchored off South Manitou Island when he slipped overboard and drowned as the case of beer fell on top of him?"

<sup>53</sup> Lease Agreement – Florence Haas & Ray Kent

<sup>54</sup> 1910 U.S. Census – Green Bay, Wisconsin, pg 5A

<sup>55</sup> Death Notice for Lawrence O. Haas; The Benzie County Patriot, Thursday, December 17, 1942

<sup>56</sup> 1920 U.S. Census – Frankfort, Michigan, pg 12A

<sup>57</sup> Ibid. 54

<sup>58</sup> 1930 U.S. Census – Milwaukee, Wisconsin, pg 9B

<sup>59</sup> 1940 U.S. Census – Frankfort, Michigan, pg5B

<sup>60</sup> 1930 U.S. Census – Galena Park, Texas, pg 7A

<sup>61</sup> Death Notice, Certificate, Burial Record & Headstone - Florence Haas

<sup>62</sup> Marriage Record – August Beck and Elizabeth Haas

<sup>63</sup> *Flashback to the Past*, South Manitou Memorial Society Newsletter, November 1993. Transcriptions of articles from the Grand Rapids Herald and Traverse City Record-Eagle, submitted by Sandra M. Black.

Note: There are several other unmarked graves on this same row in the cemetery; possibly other members of the August & Elizabeth Beck family whose wooden headboards deteriorated and disappeared over time.

<sup>64</sup> August and Elizabeth Beck headstone, South Manitou Island Cemetery

<sup>65</sup> Date and location of birth for William Haas is uncertain. The date reported, April 1859, is extrapolated from data from the 1870 thru 1930 U.S. Census', his death record, and his headstone. All records give his birthplace as "Michigan," which presumably refers to South Manitou Island.

<sup>66</sup> *Coming Through With Rye*, Brenda Wheeler Williams, National Park Service – Omaha, 1996 - John and William Haas tenure of George Haas farm, pgs 140-141; as blacksmith and cobbler, school newspaper ad for Bill Haas services, p157. *Isle of View*, Charles M. Anderson, 1979 - John and William Haas tenure of George Haas farm, pg 99; Bill Haas as veterinarian, pg 50 and pg 73; as bootlegger and blacksmith, pgs 53-54.

<sup>67</sup> *I Remember When ...*, Island Recollections by Theron Haas, South Manitou Memorial Society Newsletter, April 1995.

<sup>68</sup> William Haas Death Record and Headstone.

<sup>69</sup> Date and location of birth for Henry Haas is reported as March 1861 in the U.S. Census for 1900, which complies with the ages given in data from the 1870 thru 1930 U.S. Census', his death record, and his headstone. All records give his birthplace as "Michigan," which presumably refers to South Manitou Island.

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<sup>70</sup> 1930 U.S. Census – Glen Arbor Twp, Michigan, pg 5A; Grand Traverse Herald, January 1886.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid. 20. Birth Record for “boy” (Harrison) Haas, March 11, 1889.

<sup>72</sup> *Coming Through With Rye*, Brenda Wheeler Williams, National Park Service – Omaha, 1996, pg 132. *Isle of View*, Charles M. Anderson, 1979, pgs 89- 92.

<sup>73</sup> Personal History Summary & Headstones - Maggie& Henry Haas.