

# Plans Are Finalized For Leisz Family Reunion

Plans have been finalized for the four-day weekend celebration of descendants of the Leisz family, pioneer residents of Turtle Lake, Wisconsin. Leisz family members traveling to Barron County from as far away as British Columbia for this special 100th year celebration this fall.

The 2018 "Homeward Bound" Leisz Family Reunion being held September 27-30 in Turtle Lake is drawing Leisz siblings and cousins from as far away as Victoria, British Columbia, a distance of 1,864 miles. Sandra Podd Carelius, who is making this remarkable journey to Turtle Lake this fall along with her sister Gail Brubacher, is the granddaughter of Leisz Brother Frank (1875-1949), who settled in Turtle Lake with his five brothers, one sister and mother shortly after the family immigrated to America from Peregu Mare, Arad, Romania in May 1893.

Highlights of the Leisz Family Reunion weekend include a Turtle Lake Museum tour, a supper party and entertainment, family storytelling and oral history, fish/brat fry and bowling tournament, and a Leisz family Memorial Service and Brunch. All programming, downloadable registration forms, costs and more can be found online at <http://leiszfamily.com>. Or you can email [leiszreunion@gmail.com](mailto:leiszreunion@gmail.com).

It was 100 years ago that Anna Maria "Mary" Schmidt Leisz, the one common ancestor for Turtle Lake Leisz Family ancestors, passed away at age 78. This year's family reunion is to honor her life and anniversary of her passing. It's been 16 years



*Anna Maria Schmidt Leisz, matriarch of the Leisz Family, pioneer descendants of Turtle Lake, Wisconsin. Anna Maria had 12 children with husband Lipot (Leopold) Leisz, and was widowed in February 1893 when he died in a tragic tavern fire. Yet she and her children carried through with plans to immigrate to America, and departed from the Port of Bremen in May 1893 for the United States. Anna Maria died on July 31, 1918, and to memorialize her life, descendants from across the U.S. and Canada are gathering in Turtle Lake Sep. 27-30, 2018 for a Centennial Family Reunion.*

since the family last gathered in Turtle Lake in 2002, with more than 160 members traveling from across the United States, Canada and even as far away as Vietnam to attend.

Planning for the reunion began last October, and members have built a Leisz Family History Web site at [www.leiszfamily.com](http://www.leiszfamily.com). Members from Cleveland, California, British Columbia, Texas and more are planning to attend.

Lodging for out-of-the-area family members can be made at the St. Croix Casino Hotel in Turtle Lake, where a block of rooms has been set aside. To add your name to the Leisz Family Mailing List or for more information on the September Centennial Reunion, email [leiszreunion@gmail.com](mailto:leiszreunion@gmail.com) or call Denise Leisz Pazur, granddaughter of Leisz Brother Joseph, at 920-207-8747.



*Second youngest of the six Leisz brothers, Anton Leisz and his family in 1927 are (from left): BACK: August Jacob Leisz (1914-1998), Anton Frank "Tony" Leisz (1906-1997), Sophia "Bobbi" Leisz Kelly (1903-1980), George Henry Leisz (1912-1970), Julia Leisz Harnden (1908-1935), and Henry George "Hank" Leisz (1910-1988). FRONT: Patriarch Anton Leisz (1880-1942), Gladys Leisz Wick (1924-2010) (front), Helen Leisz McCoy (1919-2006) (at back), Matriarch Sophia*