

## **Our Song of Durmersheim,**

Durmertscher Song - "Longing"

(to the tune "Where the old Rhine with its waves ..." - Dort wo der alte Rhein mit seinen Wellen ...)

He must have been plagued by strong homesickness when Franz Denninger, an emigrant from Durmersheim, wrote his "Song of Longing" in New York in 1914 to the melody of the Rhenish folk song "Where the Old Rhine with its Waves" with melancholy memories of his old home Durmersheim.

Franz Denninger was born (according to Martin Burkart's Durmersheim family book) in Durmersheim on 18 June 1849. His family comes from Münzweiler in Alsace.

His grandfather Franz Ignaz Denninger married Catharina Schuler from Durmersheim in 1817 and thus came to Durmersheim.

His father Ludwig Denninger was a carpenter by profession. In 1880 he emigrated to the USA with his wife Magdalena née Schmäh, who came from Steinmauern, and seven children.

Franz Denninger was the oldest child. He lived in the village for 31 years and always remembered it as his home.