

Boesnecker Family



The Boesnecker name, originally spelled Boessnecker, was brought to this area from Reichenau Bavaria, Germany, by two brothers; John George Boesnecker in 1884 and J. Frederick Boesnecker in 1885. The community of Frankenmuth was already 39 years old, having been established in 1845. The men found work in a local brewery. At first John was employed by John G. Geyer at the Cass River Brewery as brewmaster and later became the first brewmaster at the Frankenmuth Brewing Company, later known as G. Heileman Brewing Company, Inc.

John was born on February 9, 1865. He married Anna Maria Ranke and the couple had eight children. Their oldest son Walter married Clara Knoll and was a Lutheran school teacher at the Boesnecker School House in nearby Richville. A daughter Hulda was a brewmaster like her father; she married Lorenz Freiman, also a brewmaster. The couple started a brewery in upper Sandusky, Ohio. John's son Rudy was a sports writer for the Chicago Tribune and married Olga Lander. The other children were Agnas Schmid, Nina Schmitdke, Emma Munzel, Olga Shiveley and Linda Johnson.

The year after John arrived in America, he paid the passage of \$14.95 to have his brother J. Frederick come to America. Frederick was a "metzger" (sausage maker or butcher) in Germany; but he became an assistant brewmaster to his brother in Frankenmuth. He also owned and worked a farm on M83 near the southern city limits, now the Elmer Kuck farm. It was the first farm in Frankenmuth to have electricity.

Frederick was born on April 29, 1866. He married Anna Barbara Ranke. They had one son, Adolph. When Anna died, the care of the infant was left to the widow Wilhelmina Bartel, a local registered midwife.

A year later, in 1892, Frederick married Wilhelmina. Wilhelmina, better known as "Tante Mina", attended the birth of more than 1000 babies in the community. She was also a "Gold Star Mother". In all, Frederick and Wilhelmina raised seven children.

Frederick's son, Adolph, grew up to be a milkman, but was killed during WWI in 1919 in France. Their other children were: Alma, who worked for Dr. Hohn; Herbert, a cheese master at the Frankenmuth Cheese Plant; Otto, who worked at the Maxwell Car Factory in Flint; Hildegard, employed at Michigan Bell and American State Bank; Lorna, a hostess at the local Fischer's Hotel; and Anna, who died in infancy.

Frederick had asthma and the couple eventually sold their farm. They bought a house in town located on School Street and Main Street. Frederick lived to the age of 76. He died October 1942. His brother John, the original settler of the family, died of pneumonia February 19, 1904 at the age of 39.

Frederick and Wilhelmina had 16 grandchildren: Adolph Boesnecker II; Fred, Dr. Edward, Hilbert, Lorenz Jr. and Kurt List; Ida Wiesenmaier; John, Donald and Harry Boesnecker; Doris Boesnecker Bernthal; Marjorie (Margie) Boesnecker Engel; Paul Laesch; Ruth Deinlein; Gertrude (Trudy) Nuechterlein; Mary Luzi; David and Michael Honold.

Harry Boesnecker was a local pharmacist for over 50 years, graduating from Wayne State University in 1951. Harry served in the Korean War; serving in Korea for over 17 months.

There are 39 great-grandchildren, three of whom carry the Boesnecker name: Keith, Kenneth and Quinn.



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