

# Krueger Family



The Krueger name came to this area through Augustus Krueger and his wife Margareta in 1849, four years after the German Lutheran colony of Frankenmuth was settled in mid-Michigan. By this time the earlier settlers reported that life was improving. There were about 40 homes in the colony and a Lutheran congregation of nearly 200 souls. A saw mill was in operation with reports of a grinding mill soon to come. A German doctor took up residency, as did merchants. A post office was 1½ hours away.

The Frankenmuth people relied on the Cass River. It allowed them to be in touch with the English settlements nearby and to transport the food and goods they could not provide for themselves. Plank roads were beginning to be built to make travel by wagon and foot easier.

Although Frankenmuth was established as a mission colony to convert the Indians to Christianity, not much progress was reported by 1849. Pastor August Craemer set up a school for the Indian children and eventually baptized some – but their numbers were not significant. By 1850, only 31 had been converted, one more baptized in 1851, two in 1854, and one in 1858, for a total of 35 children baptized.

There appears to be no simple answer as to why the missionary experiment failed in Frankenmuth as well as other colonies in the Saginaw Valley. Certainly the nomadic lifestyle of the Indians made it impossible for missionaries to follow them and keep in touch with them. The Lutherans lacked properly trained personnel and funds to launch a full-scale effort.

There was also rivalry from the whiskey agents who sold “firewater” to the Indians and spread false reports about the Lutherans.

The broken treaties and promises of the U.S. government and the dishonest treatment the Indians received at the hands of the fur traders also made them suspicious of the settlers.

The lifestyle the German Lutherans brought with them from their homeland was so different from what the Indians were accustomed. The Indians were hunters. They were not prepared to accept the German work ethic of laboring from sun up to sun down. Many left the Frankenmuth area and eventually about 800 Indians from the Saginaw Valley moved to the government reservation in Isabella County near Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Like most of the early settlers, Krueger became a farmer in Frankenmuth. He settled in the northeast section. He and his wife had three sons: Charles, August, and Louie. Like their father, they were all farmers.

The Krueger grandchildren are: Robert Krueger, Amanda and Amelia Buchinger, Alma Richmond, and Bertha Gnos.

The descendants of Robert and Anna nee Mueller Krueger are: Arnold Krueger, Robert Krueger, Erna Loesel, and May Auernhammer.

Arnold Krueger was CEO of Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance Company until his retirement. Arnold and Miriam Krueger had two sons and four daughters.

Robert Krueger farmed the original homestead. Robert had two adopted sons.

Both of the daughters married area farmers. Erna had two sons and May had two sons and two daughters.



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