

Nuechterlein Family



he descendants of Johann Jacob Nuechterlein are the only descendants of the members of the original Nuechterlein families who first settled in Frankenmuth to carry on the Nuechterlein name.

Johann Jacob was born in 1814. He married Anna Margarete Breiter in 1843 and they had seven children: Johann, Anna (Barbara), J. Jacob, J. Christoph, J. Ferdinand, (Anna) Barbara, and J. Georg.

All of the sons received training as carpenters and cabinetmakers. J. Christoph, in addition, was trained as a mortician and set up his business at 516 South Main, Frankenmuth, Michigan, in 1878.

It was Christoph who joined the Deutschen Frankenmuther Unterstutzungs Verein (German Frankenmuthers' Aid Association) and was elected secretary in 1885. In 1868, the Mutual Aid Society was formed in a spirit of Christian charity to help the victims of fire, lightning, and other Acts of God. "Germans who are residents of Frankenmuth and vicinity" could insure their buildings, furniture, farm tools, and other property.

Forty years later, when Christoph retired as secretary, the Association had grown into the financially successful Frankenmuth Fire Aid Association and a second local insurance business (this one for automobiles).

Christoph's son, Carl, took up where his father had left off. Carl served as the secretary-treasurer of the new Frankenmuth Mutual Auto Insurance Company and was its sole employee in 1921.

In 1925, he also succeeded his father as secretary of the Fire Aid Association and served both organizations for many years.

When the two merged in 1958 to form the Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance Company, Carl was named Chairman of the Board of the enlarged corporation.

Carl's son, Arnold, served as President, Chairman of the Board, and Director at Frankenmuth Mutual. He had succeeded his father as secretary of the Fire Aid Association in 1941. Arnold retired in 1978.

Frankenmuth Fire Aid Association's 1939 minutes book documents the change from German to English as the "official" language. At the time, the State Insurance Department required all insurance organizations operating in Michigan to keep at least one set of records in English.

Before this, a team of examiners had come to inspect the records while Carl was busy with a funeral. They soon discovered that the records were in German, so they went to business owners and asked if the company paid its bills (there hadn't been any fires that year so there hadn't been any bills). Soon after, however, the company was asked to incorporate.

This branch of the Nuechterlein family joined the Zehnder family history in 1938 when Arnold "A. C." Nuechterlein married Ermia "Bowsie" Zehnder.

Arnold Nuechterlein and Ermia Zehnder Nuechterlein had four children: Karl William Nuechterlein, Kay Sue Nuechterlein Johanson, Michael Nuechterlein and Christopher Nuechterlein. They had 5 grandchildren.

