

# *Oldenburg Family*



The Oldenburg name came to this area through Frederick Oldenburg. He was the son of Karl and Carolina nee Nevermand and was born in Mecklenburg, Germany in 1849. In 1867, at age 17, Frederick, along with his mother, three brothers (Joachim,

Ludwig and William), and two sisters (Agnes Warnemeunde and Dora Beck), came to America. His mother became ill on the voyage and was buried at sea. The children continued the trip and came to Saginaw County.

Frederick, who was a sheepherder in Germany, worked as a hired man on a farm for Joachim Harmes for many years. Mr. Harmes died in 1871 and in 1876 Frederick married his widow, Elizabeth Buetow Harmes. In 1877, he purchased the farm now belonging to Clarence Landskroener on Reese Road, just south of M-46. This farm was located in the community now called Richville. Originally this community was called Frankenhilf (Franconian help) and was settled in 1850.

Elizabeth's children by her first marriage included: Herman, Elizabeth, Lena Thormeier and Frederika Frahm. She had three more children with Frederick: Albert, Henry, and Emma Bader.

Albert married Rosa Ruff in 1902 and later took over the family farm. Albert and Rosa had two children, Wilhelmina and Carl. Albert died in 1951 and is buried in Blumfield Township Cemetery.

Henry married Elsie Walz in 1904 and farmed in Tuscola County just west of Richville on M-46. He was secretary-treasurer of the Richville Cheese and Butter Company for many years. Richville town folk would bring their buckets or bottles and dip milk from a ten-gallon milk can.

A flat of cheese and some crackers was always in the waiting room. Most farmers charged their cheese and butter and had the charge deducted from their milk check. It took the entire family to tabulate all the charges so that accurate deductions could be made when the milk checks were due at the end of the month.

By this time Richville had numerous businesses. There was a slaughter house, an ice-cream parlor that also had a connecting barber shop, a general store which also housed the post office, and three hotels. The blacksmith was also a beekeeper, collecting people's unwanted swarms of bees. The undertaker was also a house painter.

It was in this environment that Henry and Elsie raised their five children: Verna Anderson, Eleanor Buchinger, Elizabeth Walz, Ann Denton and Henry Jr. Henry died in 1964 and is buried in Blumfield Township Cemetery.

Emma Oldenburg married Charles Bader, a farmer, in 1902. They purchased the John Deere Implement business in Reese, Michigan, which is still run by Bader Bros. in Reese and Birch Run. A grandson operates the business in St. Louis, Michigan. Emma and Charles had fourteen children: Carl, Geneva Krieger, Helen Aven, Arnold, Dorothy, Pearl Haines, Charles, Norman, Elsie Boelter, Harry, James, Marion Miller, and Henry. A fourteenth child died as an infant.

Emma died in 1974 and is buried in Blumfield Township cemetery.

Elizabeth died in 1907 and Frederick in 1917. Both are buried in Blumfield Township cemetery. As of 2005, their descendants number 340.



*Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge  
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