

Wienberg Family



The majority of the families featured in the Bavarian Inn Lodge emigrated to America in the 1800s. A few individuals came to Frankenmuth from their European homeland after World War I. One individual who came to Michigan to seek a better life was

Henry Wienberg.

Henry, the son of Herman and Gesche nee Peters Wienberg, was born June 16, 1900, in Melau, Germany near Stade. Soon after his birth, he was baptized in the Wilhadi Kirche in Melau, where he was later confirmed. Henry also attended school in Melau, and as an adult, worked as a farm laborer. In 1924, at the age of 24, his cousin sponsored his emigration to the United States.

Carsten Gosen, Henry's cousin, owned and operated a hotel in Hemlock, Michigan. After working for his cousin in the hotel business for a year, Henry had saved enough money to send for his fiancée, Elsa Hansen, from Hamburg, Germany. Henry and Elsa were married on August 25, 1925 at Zion Lutheran Church in Iva, Michigan.

From Hemlock, Henry moved his family to Saginaw where he was employed as a chef at the Home Dairy Company. His culinary skills eventually brought him to Frankenmuth as a chef for Zehnder's Restaurant.

During World War II, Henry assisted in the war effort by working at Universal Engineering in Frankenmuth.

Henry and Elsa were blessed with four children:

Dorothy nee Wienberg Rausch was a housewife and a real estate sales associate. She married Clarence Rausch and lived in Frankenmuth. Dorothy is deceased.

Margot Weinberg died at the age of six months as a result of pneumonia.

Henrietta nee Wienberg-Weirauch-Weiss was a housewife and lived in Frankenmuth. She married Herbert Weirauch and after he died she married Gilbert Weiss.

Marilyn nee Wienberg Yonke was a housewife and lived in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Carl Wienberg was an attorney and lived in Detroit. He died July 11, 1994.

Henry and Elsa's grandchildren include: David, Dennis, Tim and Tom Weirauch; Ann Brickel; Terri Haepers, Michael, Mark, and Scott Rausch; and Chris and Todd Wienberg. Their descendants, as of the year 2005, number thirty-six.

Elsa Wienberg was known for her skill in handiwork, especially crocheting. An altar cloth that she crocheted many years ago adorned the altar at St. John's Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth during their communion services. Elsa died in 1977 and is buried in Roselawn Cemetery in Saginaw, Michigan. Henry passed away October 16, 1994 at the Frankenmuth Lutheran Home.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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