

Pretzer Family



The name Pretzer derived from Bretzer, meaning baker of crackers and pretzels. Later it was changed to Pretzer. The family originated in Alsace-Lorraine, which had been part of Germany and also of France, and tradition has it that they left the area to preserve their Protestant religion. The first Pretzer recorded was Heinrich Pretzer, who lived near Mannheim and Heidelberg in West Germany in the late 1600's. The family moved to Pomerania, the northeast corner of Germany and now the western edge of Poland.

The Saginaw County Pretzers are descendants of Carl and Esther Pretzer who came to America in 1854. Carl was a farmer from Locknitz, west of Stettin, and a city on the Polish/German border. Upon arrival in America, they went to Macomb County, Michigan, where they were farmers until 1880, when most of the family moved to Richland Township (Hemlock) in Saginaw County. Carl died in 1899. Their children were: Charles, Henry, John, C. Frederick, William, Ferdinand (Irene Pretzer's grandfather), Bertha, Julius and August. Ferdinand was born in Pommern July 31, 1851 and came to Michigan at age 3. He married Bertha Achterburg (12-25-1861) from Prussia in 1879. They had ten children: Charles, Frederick, August, William (Irene Pretzer's father), John, Ferdinand, Henry, Ester, Emma, and Arthur.

William Pretzer born May 27, 1886 married Anna B. Stenzel (5-4-1890) on April 29, 1914. He farmed the same land his father farmed and, with his son Delbert, continued until his retirement. Delbert lived in the Pretzer homestead, and when he retired he rented his farm acreage which was designated "A Centennial Farm". William died August 11, 1974 and Anna died December 30, 1976.

William and Anna had eight children: Clarence born May 8, 1915 died of tonsil hemophilia August 13, 1925 at age 10.

Delbert born October 21, 1918 married Evelyn Beyersdorf October 26, 1968. Delbert died July 10, 2006. Donald born April 19, 1922, married Marlene Trier October 26, 1951. They had two children, Kim and Polly. Donald died of cancer March 23, 1986. Alice born September 18, 1923, married Roy Newton August 4, 1946. Alice was a supervisor for Wm. C. Wiechmann Co. in Saginaw. They had four children: Karen, Clifford, Dean and Robert. Alice died September 5, 2002. Roland born April 14, 1926, married Miriam Riemer August 28, 1950. They had six children: Barbara, Joanne, Beverly, Jim, Bryan and Jay.

Irene married Wallace Bronner June 23, 1951. Wallace was the Originator and General Manager of Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland in Frankenmuth, Michigan. Irene taught music in the public school and was involved in the family business. They had four children: Wayne born October 6, 1952 married Lorene Scholtz June 21, 1974. Wayne is Assistant General Manager of Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland and Lorene is Salesroom Manager. They have two sons, Dietrich born December 10, 1979 and Garrett born December 14, 1981. Carla born July 16, 1955 married Robert Spletzer October 25, 1986. He is Human Relations Manager at Bronners. Carla is Assistant Vice-President of Bronners and in charge of advertising. They have three sons: Ryan born March 6, 1990; Paul born December 3, 1991; and Gregory born September 29, 1994. Randall born October 7, 1957, is an Electrical Engineer in Fountain Hills, Arizona. Maria born July 8, 1966 married Christopher Sutorik May 21, 1988. She is Marketing Manager at Bronners and Chris is Visual Merchandising Manager.

Viola born July 21, 1928 married Charles Turgeon February 2, 1952. They had four children: Richard, Mark, David and William. Viola died October 10, 2003. Loretta born October 7, 1931 married Roland Bessinger December 18, 1954. They had five children: Diane, Craig, Thomas, Paul and Sandra.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
For copies of Family Histories go to www.bavarianinn.com/familyhistory