

# Rausch Family



The Rausch name came to this area through Richard Rausch, born in the Richville, Michigan area in 1884. His father, Frederick, who had emigrated from Bremen, Germany, and his mother Magdalen nee Wegel, owned and operated a farm in Richville.

Richville is one of the four communities founded by a small group of people who, together with their pastor, came to Michigan to settle and form a congregation. The four communities comprising the Franconian colonies included Frankenmuth in 1845, Frankentrost in 1847, Frankenlust in 1848, and Frankenhilf (now Richville) in 1850.

Frederick and Magdalena Rausch were blessed with three daughters and a son: Frieda Lehman, Lena Kabat, Marguirete Schultz, and Richard. To supplement their farm income, Frederick purchased what is believed to be the oldest commercial building in Tuscola County still in use as of 2005. Part of the building was built as a general store with living quarters in 1865. The other part was added in 1895 and has been remodeled several times since. As of the year 2005, it is still known as Fritz's Restaurant and owned and operated by Don and Marlene Diedrich, a great-grandson of Frederick. The building was located at the intersection of M15 and M46 in Richville. Prior to that Frederick owned a bar at what was known as Blumfield Corners.

When Richville was founded in 1851 there was no road of any sort linking Richville to any other community. Their pastor suggested that the colonists get together and try to clear a path between Frankenmuth and Richville. Working together, the colonists felled trees, pushed logs and cleared out underbrush until it was finally possible to travel to Frankenmuth in a wagon, and then, usually only in dry weather.

This road led obliquely from Richville directly to Frankenmuth and was called the Deindoerfer Road, after the pastor who suggested the idea.

Vassar, a new community, began developing along the Cass River beyond Tuscola, and finally a roadway was built directly towards this community. M15 follows the path of the first road to Vassar.

Richard Rausch (1884-1931) married Lydia Rogner (1890-1981), the daughter of John G. and Ida nee Buetow Rogner at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in 1908 (Ida had been born in a log cabin in Richville and was the oldest of 15 children). Richard and Lydia farmed the Richville property and there raised their family of five children: Erwin, Helen Martin, Richard, Florence Marzec, and Clarence.

After graduating from Vassar High School and the Saginaw Business Institute, Clarence Rausch was employed as a supervisor for Standard Oil in Saginaw, Michigan. In 1956, after a transfer to the Detroit office and daily commuting from Birmingham, Michigan, Clarence purchased the Village Store in Frankenmuth. He and his wife, Dorothy nee Wienberg operated the business for ten years. After graduating from the Real Estate Institute, they purchased property at the top of the hill on Main Street and opened the C. Rausch Realty Office, which was maintained until the selling of the building in 1986.

Dorothy and Clarence were blessed with four children: Terri Haepers, Michael C., Mark J., and Scott R., who conducts his own real estate business in Frankenmuth.

Clarence and Dorothy had seven grandchildren.

Clarence and Dorothy are deceased.



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