

Schuknecht Family



he family name Schuknecht was established in Frankenmuth at the turn of the century when Carl August Schuknecht moved to Frankenmuth from nearby Saginaw. He had been in America for 23 years, having come from Stettin-Pomerania, Germany in 1878. He spent the early years in Sauk County, Wisconsin and came to Saginaw later in 1894.

Carl was born in Stettin-Pomerania on January 3, 1874. His mother was Fredericka Wilhelmine (Federman) and his father was Carl August Schuknecht. His paternal grandparents were Elizabeth (Horn) and Christoph Schuknecht, while his mother's parents were Wilhemina (Hoppe) and William Federmann.

Carl married Marie Elizabeth Laesch, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Laesch of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth, on Sunday, October 23, 1898, at 10:45 a.m. Their wedding reception was held at the home of the bride's parents following the ceremony.

In 1901, the young couple settled 2½ miles southwest of the village of Frankenmuth in Birch Run Township. Carl worked as a farmer and carpenter.

The Schuknechts had a large family of 10 children which included a son, Clarence Theodore, who became a Lutheran pastor. Their other children were: Alfred Carl and Elmer William, who were both farmers; Stella Roedel, Evelyn and Doris Schultz; Ella Elizabeth, Martin H., Marie W. and an unnamed baby boy, all died in infancy.

Their 13 grandchildren were:

Arthur and Wilfred Schuknecht, Elaine Walter, Mary Ann Rummel, Sharon Huber, Frederick and Allen Roedel, Ruth Geyer, Lois Seboldt, Richard Schuknecht, Barbara Cloutier, Donald Schultz and Susan Spickand.

Frankenmuth was a thriving community at the turn of the century. There were more than 30 businesses established, including two slaughterhouses, blacksmiths, a tavern, a furniture manufacturer, general stores, a woolen and cider mill, a barber, a bakery, a hat shop, a jewelry and watch repair shop, a tannery, a cobbler, a photo studio, a tailor, two saw mills, and two flour mills.

Cheese was made at two different companies; beer was brewed at the Cass River Brewery; and there was a funeral director. Wagons were manufactured; there was a meat and sausage shop; and hotels fed and lodged visitors and boarders.

The mills and other manufacturing places were powered by steam. Shrill steam whistles blew at 6 a.m. to signal the start of the work-day and again at 6 p.m. when work ended. After hours the residents enjoyed a baseball club, a Ladies Aid Society, a coronet band and two choirs.

The village had its own telephone office with a telegraph office four miles north in Gera. There were more than 2000 people in all living in Frankenmuth Township.

Carl Schreiner was a church elder at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church before he died May 3, 1933 at the age of 59. His wife Marie Elizabeth lived 20 years longer and died October 12, 1953. They are both buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery.



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