



Every Family Has a History . . .

Every History Has a Story . . .

Dear Guest,

The story begins with two bells that accompanied the first fifteen settlers who came to Frankenmuth in 1845. These bells were inscribed with the words *Concordia Res Parvae Crescunt* which translates “through harmony great things come from small beginnings”.

Over the years, beginning with these first fifteen settlers, Frankenmuth people have utilized a “likeminded work & play attitude” that includes the Christian philosophy “treat others as you would like to be treated”. This attitude accompanied by a strong work ethic is how the people of Frankenmuth approach projects and challenges realizing that “through harmony great things do come from small beginnings”. Recognizing that the success of Frankenmuth came about because of its people, it was considered appropriate and rewarding to carry out the idea that sparked my interest during a visit to a resort where I noted that their hospitality rooms were named after “famous people”. The thought that came to my mind was, “Wouldn’t it be unique to honor the ‘famous founding fathers’ of Frankenmuth by naming the Bavarian Inn Lodge guestrooms after them?” This thought inspired further thinking to also name guestrooms after other individuals and influences that contributed to the growth and success of the community of Frankenmuth at large.

Each guestroom at the Bavarian Inn Lodge is named to honor either a local Frankenmuth family, a neighboring community, or an individual who has impacted the history of Frankenmuth. In 1986 Phase I of the Bavarian Inn Lodge was built and included one hundred guestrooms. These guestrooms were named after those first fifteen settlers who came to Frankenmuth in 1845, plus the second group of ninety settlers that arrived in 1846.

The addition of ninety-eight guestrooms in 1989, which was Phase II, brought about the challenge of selecting guestroom names by a lottery system because there were so many choices to consider. Families who had deep history roots in Frankenmuth and/or had civically contributed to the Frankenmuth community were selected.

When it came time to add the one hundred fifty-six guestrooms of Phase III in 1995, again there were many possible choices to consider. Selection this time was determined by a family residency of at least twenty-five years in Frankenmuth and involvement in the economic and civic well-being of the Frankenmuth community.

Many people have worked on this project. We owe our thanks to Raymond Bergdolt, Bavarian Inn Lodge Historian, who took on the leadership role; to the many families who assisted by researching their own histories and returning that information to us along with family photos and memorabilia; to the Frankenmuth Historical Museum, under the direction of Mary Nuechterlein, who was a key resource at the beginning of this project and continues to offer additional historical information through the Museum website www.frankenmuthmuseum.org; and to the following individuals who contributed their photographic skill, historical research, and writing expertise: James Engel, Karen Fischer, Carolyn Goodchild, Marie Haubenstricker, Margaret Kueffner and Joan Ramm.

At the Bavarian Inn Lodge we strive to promote friendships, partnerships, and a “sense of family” with our guests, team members, and vendors. The guestroom families honored at the Lodge add to this “sense of family”.

We are proud to present the families of Frankenmuth.

Welcome! Enjoy Your Stay!

Judy Zehnder Keller
President & Owner
Bavarian Inn Lodge