

# Braeutigam Family



The community of Frankenmuth was growing by the time Henry Nicolaus Braeutigam arrived in the mid 1800's. Nearly 200 persons lived in the settlement, good crops warranted a flour mill, and more money prompted a saw mill. Primitive log cabins were replaced by attractive wood frame houses. Traveling was easier once the old Indian trails to Saginaw were cut wider to accommodate wagons.

But for all of the advancements since the community was established in 1845, Frankenmuth was still pretty isolated. Huge trees surrounded the settlement cutting it off from the free-flowing American frontier. The people kept to themselves and set a mold for the community that paralleled the towns they came from in Germany.

Ethnic customs, manners and beliefs were intact in their new home. The church and its moral expectations remained the central activity in their lives. They clung to their native German language. They insisted upon honesty and integrity in their family training and expected the same standards from their neighbors and friends.

They were almost addicted to hard labor, working from sun up to sun down. Most were farmers glad to have acreage to grow their crops. In Germany land was not only expensive, but also many times was unavailable.

Henry Braeutigam was a farmer in Eisfeld Germany. He was born on December 27, 1821. He married Elizabeth Katherine nee Otto.

Henry was in his 30's when he arrived in Frankenmuth.

He declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States in a document dated, October 1, 1855.

Henry and Elizabeth settled on a farm two miles south of Frankenmuth in Birch Run Township. They had five children: Michael Friedrich, a farmer; Johanna Glenora Sophia, a housewife; Johann August Friedrich, a farmer; Johann Jakob, a farmer; and Martin Bernard, a bartender.

Life in the new "land of opportunity" was not easy for Henry's family. They lived in a log house and were very poor. In fact, the children were forced to leave home by the time they were 10 years old to live with farm families in the surrounding area.

Henry and Elizabeth have 50 grandchildren including: Norman, Ruben and Dr. Harold Braeutigam; Caroline Palmreuter; Milda Block; Lorine Pagels; Erwin, Walter, Arnold and Michael Braeutigam; Emma Doud; Elsie Wazny; Esther Maul; and Lydia Korycki.

Also, the late Ottomar Winterstein, Arthur, John, Ted, Edwin, William, Louis, Paul and Carl Winterstein, Olga Boylan; Hulda Leader; and Ruth Gropp.

Henry is the son of Anna Margaret Gruebel and Peter Braeutigam. He died on March 14, 1904, at the age of 82. Henry is buried in the St. Lorenz Cemetery.



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