

Creger Family



he Creger name, unlike so many of the names featured in the rooms of this Lodge, did not appear in this area until the early 1920's when Grover Creger, Sr. moved his family from Pontiac, Michigan to Birch Run, Michigan.

Grover's parents, Wilhelm and Christina Creger, emigrated from Nürnberg, Germany and settled in the Pontiac area. Grover was born here November 12, 1892. On August 19, 1916 Grover married Frances Langley in Wallaceburg, Ontario. The couple was blessed with seven children: Wallace, Iva VanEvery, L.G., Carl E. Jr., Rose Mary Goodlander and Irene Markby.

Entering Frankenmuth from Birch Run in 1924, Grover and his family would have seen Rupprecht's Corner Store, Rummel & Schaefer's Garage and the Frankenmuth Brewery, producers of "dog-gone good" beer and ale.

Across the bridge they viewed the Trading Post and the Hubinger Lumber Co. On each side of the street, facing one another, was located the Fischer Hotel and the Zehnder Hotel. Next was the old Goetz Hotel, run by jovial Henry Fischer. The hotel of Lorenz Kern, called the Commercial House, was occupied by "The Frankenmuth News" (now Frankenmuth Historical Museum).

One would then pass the old Frankenmuth Woolen Mill and Cider Mill of the Abrahams. A few steps up the hill was located the Frankenmuth Mutual Auto Owners Insurance Co. and the Nuechterlein Supply Co.

After those businesses came the office of the Geyer Bros. Brewing Company and on the corner of Tuscola and Main was the Frankenmuth State Bank.

Across the street they greeted Hattie Hubinger who had treats for all the children of her grocery patrons. Further down the street was the old Star of the West Milling Co. founded in 1875.

Across the corner from Hattie's was Ortner's General Store and further along came Rupprecht's family home and sausage factory.

Next, along Main Street, came the Gugel Grocery Store, the Gugel General Store, the Cheese Factory (where the farmers delivered their milk) and then Fechter Hardware, with Weiss Farm Equipment Store across the street. They had gone down Main Street of Frankenmuth in 1924.

There is an interesting story that has passed on through the generations . . . Years ago a young student, who had heard of the "well-to-do Frankenmuthers" drove over from Saginaw to sell a set of the works of William Shakespeare. He knocked at the door of one of the homes. A friendly elderly lady opened the door. The lad tried to explain to her the works of Shakespeare. She did not understand but said, "I will ask my man." She did this and then returned and said to the lad, "I am sorry, my man says Jake's beer may be good, but we will stay by Geyer's beer."

The second and third generations of the founders of this "Mission Colony" kept alive the principles and practices of the community of 1845. They have also maintained the faith of the founders who settled on the Cass River in order that they might carry out the principles of a well-regulated Christian community.

Grover Creger died in 1970 and his wife Frances died in 1981. The couple had 23 grandchildren.



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