

Daeschlein Family



he Daeschlein name was brought to the Frankenmuth area in 1914 by William Martin Daeschlein. He was born on September 4, 1896 in Frankenlust Township near Bay City, Michigan. He was baptized and confirmed in St. John's Lutheran

Church in Amelith. William was one of nine children in the family.

William's aunt and uncle, Carrie and John Wolkensdorfer, lived on a farm northwest of Frankenmuth, on Maple Road. They didn't have any children, and because they were unable to do their farm work, they did what was common in those days; they looked to relatives with large families for help. William Daeschlein came to live with the Wolkensdorfer's and worked the farm. They encouraged him to look for a hard-working German Lutheran wife. He found the wife in Emma Schlicker, from Amelith. They were married June 5, 1921 and had two children, Elmer John Herman and William Martin. They lived with the Wolkensdorfers and eventually bought the farm from them.

William enjoyed music and played five instruments including the violin and organ. He was a self-taught mechanic; therefore the surrounding neighbors depended on him to keep their cars running.

John Wolkensdorfer died in 1930. When William died two years later, their wives kept the farm going with the help of Emma's youngest brother who was sent by their father to help out.

When William Martin (Bill) was old enough, he took over the farming. On October 8, 1949 Bill married Marjorie Klemm of Saginaw. While Bill worked the farm, Marjorie went to work as a waitress at the Fischer Hotel in 1951. In Marjorie's own words, "I worked for 13 years, and it was the perfect job because I wanted to be a full-time mother".

My husband baby-sat while I worked Wednesdays, Saturday nights, and all day Sunday."

In 1960, Bill started growing spruce trees. He started with two acres. Thirty-five years later, the "Christmas trees" covered 20 acres, and the farm was known as the Daeschlein Tree Farm.

In 1975, Bill was going to demolish the "old house" that the Wolkensdorfers had first built on the farm. When he started taking the siding off, he noticed that it was an old log house, the original log house built by the pioneer, John Wolkensdorfer. The Frankenmuth Historical Society learned that this log house existed, took it apart log by log, and put it together again in Cross Park, south of Frankenmuth.

Bill and Marjorie had three children:

Michael was born January 12, 1951 and married Dr. Melinda Wilson in 1990. They had two daughters, Lillian and Amber.

John was born December 12, 1953 and married Karen James in 1976. They had two sons and one daughter. John died May 25, 2002 of a heart attack.

Kathryn was born July 17, 1958 and married Kenneth Ritter in 1978. They had one son and two daughters.

William's brother, Elmer, married Katherine Burback June 5, 1950.

William (Bill), at the age of 68, continued to work hard running the tree farm. He donated many trees to area churches and schools. His special charity project has been the Frankenmuth Beautification Committee. He donated more than 50 trees to beautify the Frankenmuth Cass River bank.

Marjorie Daeschlein died on November 9, 2005.

