

Ferguson Family



he Ferguson name came to this area through Gerald Dale Ferguson. Gerald was born four miles south of Frankenmuth on his grandfather's farm. In 1957, Gerald purchased a two bedroom home in Birch Run for his family. In 1963, with a family of four sons, he purchased a home on Sunburst Drive which his wife saw on a trip to Frankenmuth.

Gerald Dale was born on October 6, 1930 to Stanley N. and Louise O. nee Westphal. After graduating from Birch Run High School in 1948, he started working for General Motors at the Fischer Body Division. On July 17, 1950 he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served in Korea from June 1952 to June 1953. He was honorably discharged July 17, 1954. During Gerald's last year in service he was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington D.C. There he met Lillian Bernice nee Moran Jacobs. Lillian "Pat", was divorced and had a son Robert Dwight Jacobs born September 1, 1946. Gerald and "Pat" married September 21, 1954 in Angola, Indiana.

After his discharge, Gerald returned to work for General Motors in Flint. On March 11, 1955 Bradley J. was born, and on August 22, 1960, twin sons Jeff K. and John K. were born. On August 1, 1987, Gerald retired after 38 years and 9 months at General Motors. "Pat" was employed for 18 years in dentistry, and having changed careers, retired in 1990 as manager of the Manhattan Factory Outlet Store in Birch Run.

Robert graduated from Birch Run High School and worked as a Hi Lo repair mechanic for General Motors Truck and Bus in Flint, Michigan. Robert and Janet had two children, Scott and Joe.

Bradley, John and Jeff attended St. Lorenz School and graduated from Frankenmuth High School. After attending Delta College for two years, Bradley had his own landscaping business, "Scenic Landscapes".

Bradley and his wife Judy have two children, Megan and Sharlyn. Jeff graduated from Ferris State College with a degree in business administration and later earned a Masters Degree from Saginaw Valley College. He worked at Michigan National Bank in Saginaw as a sales consultant. Jeff and his wife Jamie have two children, Evan and Chelsea. John attended Ferris State College for six years, acquiring a doctorate in optometry. John had two optometry clinics in Macomb County until he passed away in early 1995 at the age of 34.

The Ferguson name came to America from Scotland, "Celt Fearghus", meaning "a man of strength". William Henry Ferguson was born December 19, 1840 in Waterloo Seneca County, New York, son of Jeremiah G. and Sallie J. nee Honeystead. William Henry served in the Civil War from May 1861 to June 1863. In 1865 he married Mary Anna King who was born in Lancaster, England in 1842. In recognition of his service in the Union Army, William was given a 40 acre land grant in Birch Run Township. William and Mary made this land grant their homestead. They had seven children: William H. Jr., Louisa, John K., George, Lucinda, Clara and Maude.

John K. Ferguson, grandfather of Gerald, was born January 2, 1876 in Birch Run. June 1, 1900 he married Anna nee Hadstate, daughter of Fred and Elda nee Hooker Hadstate. They had three children: Stanley N., Fred, and Louise. John died in 1959 and Anna died in 1928. Stanley Norwood Ferguson, father of Gerald, was born July 30, 1903. September 12, 1923 he married Louise O. nee Westphal, born January 25, 1905, to Herman F. and Martha C. nee Griese Westphal. They had five children: Donald D., Robert S., Gerald, Betty I., and Cathy. Stanley worked for Fischer Body Division in Flint for 42 years. He died February 24, 1973.

