

# Hartwig Family



he Hartwigs represent a family of strong German heritage whose descendants recently came to Frankenmuth. Gottlieb Hartwig's grandson, Donald Duane Keller, arrived here after he married Judith Zehnder Keller in 1969.

Judy is the owner and president of the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Lodge. Donald is the sales and marketing director for the Bavarian Inn Lodge as well as the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Restaurant, both owned and operated by the William Zehnder, Jr. family.

Gottlieb Hartwig was born November 18, 1885 in Prussia in the Wolin district of what is now Poland. He married Pauline Mantek February 5, 1908.

In 1911, they traveled to America with their two year old daughter Edith. They made the voyage on a cattle boat in the worst traveling conditions possible. They settled in Benton Harbor where they began a fruit farm.

In 1921, they moved seven miles south to Bridgman along Lake Michigan.

The couple had seven more children after Edith was born, although one died in infancy. Adolph was the first son born in America. He was followed by Rudolph, Elsie Lutz, Bernice Herman, Erna Keller and Rita Zelmer. After working on the farm in their youth, most of the children married and moved out of the state of Michigan to raise their own families.

Five of Gottlieb's brothers and sisters remained in Germany. A sister Julia preceded him to America.

A brother Edmund made the journey in the early 1950's following the loss of all of his possessions in World War II.

Several of Gottlieb's grandchildren, nieces and nephews are pastors in the Assembly of God churches throughout the United States.

The couple operated their fruit farm for 34 years. They retired and moved to Florida in 1957. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary the following year.

Pauline died at the age of 72 in 1962. Six hours later, Gottlieb died of a heart attack.

Their daughter Erna married Arthur Keller, also of Bridgman, May 31, 1941. They had four children: Glenn, Donald (of Frankenmuth), Joyce Singer (of St. Joseph), and Lorraine Smith. There are seven grandchildren.

Donald and Judy Zehnder Keller have three children – Michael John, Martha Jean and William Jacob.



*Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge*  
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