

Heidenreich Family



he Heidenreich family can trace its ancestry back to 1729 with the birth of Johann Friederich Hans Heidenreich (born 1729), a sheds-man and owner of a house for farm laborers.

The fourth son of eight children born to Hans and his wife, Catharina Sophia nee Siems, was Jacob Friederich. Jacob and his wife, Elizabeth Maria nee Schild, had 11 children. Their second child Friederich Carl (born 1840) married Sophia Maria Friederica nee Garloff.

Friederich served in the German Army during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 as a prison guard; and he also served during a short war with Austria.

Friederich, Sophia Maria, and their four children applied for and were granted permission to emigrate from Mecklenburg, Germany to the United States in 1884. They settled in Saginaw, Michigan.

Christoph Carl Friederich Heidenreich, the only son of Friederich and Sophia, attended St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran School, the Saginaw Public School and the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary, all located in Saginaw. After graduating in 1896, he was ordained and installed at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth, Michigan on Sunday, June 28, 1896.

In December of 1896, he received and accepted a call from Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church at Marshall, Michigan. Although Rev. Heidenreich lived in Frankenmuth only 6 months, he remained long enough to meet his future wife, Mary Wirth, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Wirth, who lived across the street from St. John's Church. The couple was married the following year.

After leaving Frankenmuth, the family frequently returned to visit Mary's family and to see other acquaintances.

Rev. Heidenreich continued a friendship with the Zehnder family and became godparent to William (Tiny) Zehnder Jr. Rev. Heidenreich served the Zion Lutheran Church faithfully for 50 years. During his ministry at Zion he started St. Paul's Lutheran Congregation in Battle Creek, Michigan and was also chaplain at Fort Custer during the World Wars.

Rev. Heidenreich and Mary had six children: Theophil Christopher Emanuel (1898-1977), an employee of Eaton Manufacturing and for many years the organist at Zion Lutheran. Marie Hobus (1899-1987); Walter (1902-1997), a dentist in Marshall; Lawrence Otto (1905-1994), a dentist in Albion; Herbert (1909-1994), a Lutheran pastor serving congregations in Hillsdale and Sturgis, Michigan; and Marguerite (1912-2006), who worked at the Department of Social Services in Calhoun County.

The second youngest son, Lawrence John Otto, married Ruth Laubengayer (1909-2005) and raised a family of four children: Norman (1932-1963), Frederick L. (born 1934), Katherine Marie (born 1935), and Carolyn Fox (born 1942).

Frederick L. and Katherine Marie returned the family name to Frankenmuth.

Frederick Heidenreich, a retired pharmaceutical salesman, and his wife, Sharon nee Diver and their two daughters, Julie Heitsch and Karen have made Frankenmuth their home since 1967.

Katherine Marie Heidenreich is a retired schoolteacher from the Frankenmuth School District.



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