

Hendrick Family



The Hendrick family was introduced to the Frankenmuth community in 1985 when the firm R.C. Hendrick & Son, Inc., of Saginaw was awarded the contract for general construction of the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Lodge.

The firm celebrated its 110th year in business in 1986, and was in the fourth generation of ownership. Roger G. Hendrick Jr., the great-great-grandson of James Hendrick, managed the construction of the \$7 million first phase project. Since then, four more phases were added to the Lodge, all by the R.C. Hendrick & Son, Inc. firm.

James Hendrick came to North America in the early 1850's when the German Lutheran colony of Frankenmuth was about five years old. James was born September 29, 1834, in Wexford County, Ireland. He settled in London Ontario, Canada, and married Ann Clancy, an Irish immigrant from County Mayo, Ireland.

The couple had four children. The oldest child, Rodger Clancy Hendrick, was born July 11, 1855. Rodger founded the construction firm that is still in operation. Their other children were John (1858), Ellen (1860), and Tessie (1861).

The family came to Saginaw in 1862, and Ann gave birth to her fifth and last child, James Clancy Hendrick, in 1863. On November 29, 1863, James Hendrick, father of five, died at the age of 29.

Ann then married Nelson Ball in August of 1864. The couple had six children. Ann Clancy Hendrick Ball died in Chicago, March 22, 1934, at the age of 96. Ann is buried next to her first husband, James Hendrick, at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Saginaw.

In 1876, at the age of 21, Rodger Clancy Hendrick established his masonry contracting business in Saginaw. He married Alice Coleman of Lewistown, New York in the 1880's, and had three children:

Edward (1881), Tessie (1889), and Joseph (1892). Rodger Clancy Hendrick died in 1937.

James Hendrick, the second child, moved to Chicago and died in 1931.

Ellen Hendrick married Frank Goyer and they had one child.

Esther (Tessie) Hendrick lived in Saginaw and became a nun. She joined the Daughters of Charity Order and took the name of Sister Pelagio Hendrick. She worked at St. Vincent Orphanage and later moved to Baltimore, MD, where she died in 1954.

The youngest son, James C. Hendrick, married Emma Mayhew in Iowa. They had three children. James came to Saginaw in 1903 and founded the firm – James C. Hendrick & Son, Carpenter, Contractors and Builders. The company dissolved when James C. retired in 1933.

The contracting business that Rodger Clancy Hendrick established in 1876 was taken over by his son, Joseph P. Hendrick, in 1937. Joseph's sons, Roger J. and William A., joined their grandfather's firm in the late 1940's and worked with their father, Joseph P., until his death in 1972. Roger J. and William A. each had a son and namesake in the business. Roger J. joined the firm in 1969 and William A. Jr. in 1976. By 1982 Roger J. had two more sons join the business: Kieran M. and Joseph Phillip. In 2002, a fifth generation working in the family business, William A. Jr.'s son, William A. III (Trace), began with the company.

Over the years, R.C. Hendrick & Son, Inc. has constructed numerous buildings, including schools, hospitals, department stores, parking ramps, banks, churches, and other commercial and industrial landmarks in Saginaw, Bay City, Alpena, Flint and other Michigan cities. The firm has also worked in Toledo, Ohio and in Brownsville, Fort Smith, and Fort Griffin, Texas.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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