

Honold Family



The community of Frankenmuth was ten years old when Johann J. Honold and his wife, Maria Katherina nee Hoffman, arrived from Wieseth Bayern, Germany with their six year old son, Johann Christian. Johann was a "bauer" (farmer) in Germany and continued his occupation in Frankenmuth Township.

By this time there were permanent homes in Frankenmuth, a variety of businesses were started, and roads were improved, making travel by wagon easier. Many of the earlier hardships had been overcome and the settlers enjoyed more opportunities than they ever could have in Germany.

Since the community was founded as a mission to teach the Indians Christianity, St. Lorenz Lutheran Church was the focal point of the settlement. Several homes were built nearby but most were spread far apart across the countryside. In Germany, homes were built close together in a row even though the residents owned land in other areas. In Frankenmuth, however, every family wanted to live on their own land. Although this meant the settlers had to travel to attend church services, to shop or to visit, they remained conveniently close to their farm work.

Johann Christian grew up to be a farmer like his father and owned acreage. He married Anna Magdalena nee Haas May 10, 1876 in Frankenmuth.

The couple had seven children. Three were boys: Ludwig married but had no children; Lorenz died in infancy; and Herman was co-owner of a slaughterhouse and cattle farm with his father-in-law Fred Goetzinger for 40 years, a member of the St. Lorenz male choir and the Grey Fox (a social club), and served on the Frankenmuth Fire Department.

Herman and his wife Clara nee Hubinger had two children: Gertrude, who married Rev. Clarence Pickelman, and Erwin. Their homestead was downtown on Main Street, north of Zehnder's Hotel (Restaurant). The structure is now Rapunzel's; a solidly built and beautiful house that withstood many downtown floods from the Cass River before the present dike was built.

Johann and Anna's daughters were Maria Margaret Barbara, Martha Wilhelmina Christina, Emma Maria Sophia, and Charlotte Karoline Friederika.

There are about 35 grandchildren. All of Johann Christian's descendants that carry on the family name were from the Erwin Honold family.

Erwin was a certified General Motor's mechanic and later worked as a waste treatment operator.

Erwin and his wife, Lorna nee Boesenecker, had four children: Trudy and her husband Jerry Nuechterlein, who live in Frankenmuth and owned Frankenmuth Travel for many years; Mary and her husband Armin Luzi, who live in Northville; twin boys- Michael, who married Sue nee Horvath and lives in Swartz Creek, and David, who married Nancy Daenzer and lives in Frankenmuth.

Erwin and Lorna's grandchildren are: Kirk and Ellen (Blakkan) Nuechterlein; Jerry and Kathy (Nuechterlein) Ladwia; Derek, Brent, Nicholas and Amanda Honold.

The great-grandchildren are: Kaitlin and Anna Nuechterlein; Elizabeth, Alexandra and Benjamin Ladwia.



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