

Link Family



he Germans, primarily from Baiersbronn, started settling in the Crediton area of Ontario, Canada around 1850. Baiersbronn is a community in Wurttemberg not too far from the Trossingen area. From 1855 to 1865, the tide of immigration from

Germany was stronger than ever. Included in the list of settlers are the names of Jacob Link (born 1810) and Paul Messner (born 1822), brothers-in-law, living on neighboring farms. Jacob and his brother, Johannes (born 1809), and their families, had come to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania the previous year, and then followed their countrymen into Canada.

Charles Frederick Link was born in Canada in 1869. He was the son of Jacob and Regina nee Finkbeiner Link and grandson of Jacob Link and Paul Messner. At the age of 2½ years, his mother Regina died. His paternal grandparents then raised him until he was about eleven years old. He then went to live with his father who had remarried. From the age of 14 years he worked as a farm hand for various relatives and acquaintances. At the age of 17 he came to Kilmanauh, Michigan to live with his uncle.

In 1888, Charles worked as a clerk for Christ Link, who purchased a store and Cedar Yard. The community was subsequently named Linkville. Christ sponsored most of the Links coming from Canada by providing them with food, shelter, and work. During this time Charles contracted with a partner to peel and saw logs and haul hemlock tanbark to the railroad station. In the fall of 1890, he went to Detroit to clerk in a grocery store. The following year he worked at a farm implement and seed store. After a trip to Frankfort, Michigan, and seeing an advertisement for sheet metal and plumbers, Charles went into partnership with his brother and started a sheet metal shop in Pigeon, Michigan.

In 1895, the brothers decided to start a second shop and after visiting Reese and Frankenmuth, determined Frankenmuth would be the better location. In 1896, they built the shop with living quarters on the second floor. When he had sheet metal work outside of town, he would rent a horse and wagon. In addition to doing this work, he also made kitchen tin ware and added heating and cook stoves. Later he added hardware.

In the fall of 1895, Charles married Margaret Freudenstein, the daughter of Christ Freudenstein, a sausage maker in Frankenmuth. They had four children: Meta Wickson, a piano teacher and beauty shop operator; Wolmar H., a tire and hardware shop owner and manufacturing superintendent at Universal Engineering Company; Vera Fisher, a corporate secretary at Universal Engineering Company; and Mildred, a domestic and caretaker for her parents. His grandchildren include: Jack W. Link, Charles H. Link, Betty Link Turner, Rose E. Fisher Manzer, and Peter Fisher.

After his death on January 13, 1957, the Frankenmuth News included the following in his obituary: *“Frankenmuth lost one of its finest and most respected citizens . . . in the death of Charles F. Link 87, former village president, township treasurer, and a booster of Frankenmuth until the time of his death. Mr. Link’s distinguished presence will be missed by many, for in spite of advanced years, and right up to his last illness, he enjoyed a spryness of step which took him on a daily walk to the post office near his home, and a remarkable memory which made his conversation an enjoyable experience for anyone privileged to visit with him . . . (Mr. Link was) extremely well read and retained an interest in civic affairs throughout his life time.”*



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
For copies of Family Histories go to www.bavarianinn.com/familyhistory