

Speer Family



The Speer family came to this country from Germany by way of a fifty year stop in Scotland. They settled on Sparrow Hawk Island on the St. Lawrence River in the 18th Century. This 80-acre island remained in the family until it was absorbed by the St. Lawrence Seaway. The family expanded into upstate New York and owned and operated a butter factory.

The Adams family came to New England early in its beginnings. They moved west to Vermont in the 18th Century and on to upstate New York after the revolution. The Adams family owned and operated the City Dairy in Canton, New York.

The Speer and Adams family were joined in 1926 with the marriage of Webster E. Speer and Hilda D. Adams. They had four children from this union: Virginia (1927), William (1929), John "Jack" (1933) and David (1938).

William Bruce Speer was born August 20, 1929 in Canton, New York to Dr. Webster E. Speer and Hilda Dorothy nee Adams. At that time, "Bill" and his older sister, Virginia, lived on the campus at Cornell University while their father attended school for veterinarian medicine. Dr. W.E. Speer graduated in 1934 and established his own veterinarian practice in Canton, New York. Following his death, Bill's youngest brother, Dr. David M. Speer, took over the practice.

Bill graduated from Canton High School in 1946, and from Purdue University in January 1952 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, a Commission in the United States Air Force, and a new job at Saginaw Steering Gear a Division of General Motors. Bill was called to active duty in March 1952 and served as an electronic instructor.

Bill worked for General Motors Corporation as Manager of Manufacturing Engineering at Saginaw Steering Gear. Bill retired after 40 years of service. He is a Registered Professional Engineer.

Bill was involved in various community organizations. He was a past Chairman of the 1975 Bavarian Festival and was a City Council member. He served on the City Planning Commission, the Library Board and was a member of the American Legion Post #150.

Bill had four children and their spouses and families:

Sherry Lynn, born December 18, 1952, married Robert E. Galsterer. They had three children: Matthew, William and Stephanie.

Dru Anne, born June 17, 1954, married John P. Deterding. They had three daughters: Elizabeth, Emilie and Rebecca.

Michael Bruce was born December 1, 1955. He and his wife Mary had two children, David and Jennifer.

Dawn Marie, born August 25, 1961, married Phillip Bernthal. They had four children: Dru, Gwen, Nathan and Jacob.

Bill also has twelve great-grandchildren as of the year 2006.

Bill Speer has always been proud that he moved his young and growing family to Frankenmuth in 1962. The community has offered him and his family a wholesome environment. With its many churches, excellent schools, friendly and helpful neighbors, the majority of Bill's family also chose to live and raise their families in Frankenmuth.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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