

# Strobel Family



he Strobel family name came to Frankenhilf, Michigan, now known as Richville, sometime before 1892. Martin Strobel was born July 17, 1859, in Altdorf, Germany. He and his brother George attended military school and served in the Prussian Army. Martin, his wife Katharina, their three children, along with his brother, George, brought the Strobel name to Frankenhilf. Martin was a harness maker by trade and lived in Frankenhilf until 1900; and then he farmed on Wilder Road between Reese and Richville.

Martin Strobel was a talented individual and very interested in music. He and his sons played in the Richville Band and St. Michael's Lutheran Church Band. He was a charter member of the Saginaw Eddy Band. Martin was also instrumental in organizing a fire brigade in Richville in 1892, patterning it after a fire-fighting agency in his hometown in Germany. He served as the department's first chief from 1893-1897. Everyone paid 10 cents to finance the brigade.

Katharina Strobel, Martin's wife, was born April 27, 1856. Katharina and Martin had four children: John, Otto, George and Hedwig. Katharina died on April 28, 1895 while giving birth.

John Strobel (1883-1940) married Emma Bartels. Their children were Helmuth, Esther and Genevieve. Helmuth John was born January 8, 1907 and grew up in Caro, Michigan. Inspired by his grandfather Martin, he attended Michigan State Normal College and received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1930. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Central Teachers College in 1938 and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1947. He taught physics, chemistry, band, and coached high school sports for 36 years before retiring in 1968. Esther was born December 20, 1908 and Genevieve was born May 31, 1915. Esther and Genevieve married Schultz brothers.

Otto Strobel was born October 10, 1886. He and his wife Julia married in 1917 and had nine children: Mrs. Frieda Kern, Rudolph, Otto, Clarence, Edwin, Mrs. Caroline Curtis, Mrs. Arlee Ann Colosky, Jack and Donald. Otto Strobel retired from Carling Brewing Company of Frankenmuth in 1957.

George Strobel moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and changed his name to "Strabel." Relatives of George living in Wisconsin are: Eleanor, Don and Marge, Lorretta and Lorraine, Frank and Carrie.

Hedwig (Hattie) Strobel (1893-1951) was born in Richville, Michigan. Hattie married Ernest Kowalk and had a daughter, Cleta Geyer (1911-1988). Hattie and Ernest Kowalk are buried in the Denmark Township Cemetery.

After the death of his first wife, Martin Strobel married Anna Sabina Halbig in 1896. Anna Sabina was born in Wertsburg, Germany on January 15, 1867 and came to the United States in 1887.

Martin and Anna Sabina had four children: William Strobel (1893-1970) married Amanda Campau (1902-1960) and they had two children: Frederick (1926-1968) and Marguerite who married John Krumnauer. Gertrude Strobel married Norman Janson and they had one son, Sam Lanning. Frieda Strobel married Frank Muessig. They had two sons, Frank William (Feb. 17, 1930-July 24, 1994), and Robert. Herman Strobel (July 21, 1905-1971) married Louise Ott (born Sept. 23, 1910). They had two children: Marie Crane Tewes Wells, and Herman Carl (born August 2, 1938).

Anna Sabina Strobel died in 1934 and Martin died in 1938. Both are buried in Reese, Michigan.

