

Weirauch Family



he first Weirauch member of the family to move into the Frankenmuth community was Herbert Weirauch Sr. in 1919. His father Oscar was the first Weirauch to come to America.

Oscar was born in a small town near Berlin. He made the voyage to America when he was only 16 years old. He settled in Saginaw and worked at the Mershon Lumbering Company. Eventually, he was able to earn enough money to bring his family from Germany to Saginaw. He married Caroline Sommer.

Frankenmuth is about 13 miles from Saginaw and the two communities have always had a close relationship. It was in Saginaw that Frankenmuth's original 15 colonists stayed when they first arrived in mid-Michigan. They made the trip to Frankenmuth a few weeks later after the men in the party were able to build shelters and a community cabin to house them.

The early settlers made frequent trips to Saginaw, first on foot and then by wagon, when they needed supplies. They bought livestock there as well as grains. Once a saw mill and flour mill were established in Frankenmuth, the settlers were less dependent on the town of Saginaw for food.

They still relied on Saginaw for jobs. Many Frankenmuth farmers earned money to purchase their acreage, farm machinery, and supplies, by taking a second job in Saginaw. The thriving lumber mills and salt mines provided many opportunities for the unskilled to improve their standard of living.

Eventually, Saginaw was connected to Frankenmuth with a good road system so that travel was made easier.

Saginaw continued to be an important employer of Frankenmuth residents – but the jobs were no longer in the lumber mills or salt mines. The General Motors automotive plants of Saginaw attracted many Frankenmuth workers.

It was in Saginaw that Herbert C. Weirauch Sr. was born January 10, 1900. He was baptized February 4, 1900 at Trinity Lutheran Church at 9th and Cherry Streets. He was confirmed there, too. He married Ada nee Rauh in 1923 and they had three children: Herbert Jr. became a building inspector; John was a farmer and brewery worker; and Elaine was a registered nurse and homemaker.

Herbert and his family settled on a farm at 8845 South Dehmel Road. In addition to farming, he was a vice president and agent for the Frankenmuth Fire Insurance Company until its merger with the Frankenmuth Auto Insurance Company to form Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance Company.

He joined the Frankenmuth Rotary Club in 1942 and served as president of the organization from 1956-1957. During his 41 years of Rotary, he compiled 34 years of perfect attendance. Frankenmuth Rotarians honored him in 1983 with the Paul Harris Fellow Award, a prestigious international honor.

Herbert and Ada had 13 grandchildren. They are: Mark, Paul, Ron, Kevin and Dawn Kern; Cathy, Rod and Steve Weirauch; and David, Dennis, Tim, Tom and Anne Weirauch.

As of the year 2005 the family descendants total 27 persons.



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