

# Koch Family



he Koch name came to this area through Roland George Oswald Koch. Roland George was born January 18, 1923 in Beaver Township, Michigan, to Ernest Emil and Erna Marie Henrietta nee Riess. He was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church and attended Zion Lutheran School. He worked on his father's farm until he was eighteen. On April 21, 1941, he began work at Universal Engineering in Frankenmuth. On January 20, 1943, Roland was inducted into the army and served in India, Burma and China. After the war in 1945, he returned to work at Universal Engineering. On November 1, 1947, he married Loris Marie Spengler at Zion Lutheran Church in Beaver Township. They lived in Frankenmuth.

Roland attended Saginaw High School and used the GI Bill to attend General Motors Institute, Flint, Michigan, where he studied management/engineering, and graduated with a degree in industrial engineering. At Universal Engineering, he progressed from industrial to chief engineer in 1952, plant superintendent in 1958, and president in 1962. He continued with Universal until 1973, and then started his own business, Saginaw Valley Tooling, Inc., until his retirement in 1992. Roland served on the Frankenmuth Planning Commission for 45 years, 40 years as chairman, retiring from this committee in January, 2004. Roland is a life member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. He served at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church as an usher, chairman of the ushers, a finance committee member and chairman.

Roland and Loris had two children, Kevin Allen and Veridea Marie. Kevin married Jenine Unger and they had two children, Brett Aaron and Katharine Anita. Veridea married Elmo (Ric) Heft and they had two children, Jenna Leigh and Kali Marie.

The Koch family can be traced to the Harz Mountains in Braunschweig (Brunswick) Germany.

On February 15, 1799, Frederick Louis Charles Koch was born to Charles Ernestina Augustus and Jane Elizabeth nee Helbring. Frederick married Augusta Rippard and they were blessed with three children: August, Caroline, and Bernard. Caroline married Rev. Ferdinand Sievers Sr., a missionary pastor, who served St. Paul Lutheran Church in Frankenlust for 45 years. Nothing is known of Bernard. The third child, August, is the great-grandfather of Roland Koch. He was born October 21, 1821, and came to America in the early 1840's. He married Johanna Meier October 2, 1854 and they had four children: Augustus, Augusta, Lena, and Henry. Augustus married Christian Selle May 29, 1879 and moved out west to the state of Washington. Lena married August Gruno October 29, 1881.

Henry, the grandfather of Roland, was born August 15, 1863. He was 10 years old when his father, August, died. Henry married Rosalie Gruno September 15, 1882. Henry and Rosalie cleared land in Beaver Township and farmed. They were charter members of Zion Lutheran Church, organized 1887. Henry and Rosalie had 11 children: Carl, died in infancy; George Carl married Minnie Wirsing; Johann Pauline married Ernest Wirsing; Ida Minnie married Andrew Ittner; Frieda Anna Dorothy married Henry Ittner; Eleanore married Rev. Oswald G.L. Riess; Ernest Emil married Erna Riess; Henry Roland married Laura Feinauer; Arthur married Alvina Weber; Elsie married Rev. George M. Krach; Helen Johanna married Herman Kube (Elsie and Helen were identical twins).

Ernest Emil and Erna Marie Henrietta Riess were married April 23, 1922. They had five children of which Roland was the oldest; the other children were: Norbert Henry Carl married Ellen Schuman; Margaret Ida Flora married Walter Barber; Raymond Arthur married Sharon Sampier; and Donald Ernest married Val Aspin.



*Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge*  
*For copies of Family Histories go to [www.bavarianinn.com/familyhistory](http://www.bavarianinn.com/familyhistory)*