

Strieter Family



The Strieter name came to Frankenmuth when Frederick Strieter was “called” to teach in 1884 and his brother Ernest in 1886. Eighty years after Frederick was “called”, his great-granddaughter, Anne Heldt Bronner, was also asked to serve as a teacher at St. Lorenz Lutheran School.

Rev. John Strieter (1829-1920) and his wife, Elizabeth nee Ernst, were married in Vermillion, Ohio January 17, 1854. Three of the couples’ thirteen children lived in the Frankenmuth area: Frederic, Ernest and Mamie. In 1850, John Strieter lived in Frankenmuth during the summer and fall months to be tutored by Rev. Friedrich Craemer in order to prepare for him to attend the Lutheran Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Rev. John’s parents, John Jacob (1789-1847) and Marie nee Wiesenauer Strieter immigrated to America with their seven children in 1837. They had emigrated from Affalterbach Wuerttemberg, Germany and settled in Freedom Washtenaw County, Michigan. The family’s pastor was Frederick Schmidt, a Lutheran circuit rider. He made the rounds of his preaching stations every six weeks.

Frederick, son of Rev. John Strieter, was born in Cleveland, Ohio on December 26, 1854. After graduating from Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1876, he was “called” to teach at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Dubuque, Iowa. Here he met and married Lucy Zumhoff in 1877. Three years later, he accepted a teaching position in Akron, Ohio. The couple was blessed with three children: Immanuel was a Lutheran school teacher who later served in the Postal Service. Winfried owned a Cyclone Fence Company and organized and led the first Cleveland Bach Chorus. Lillie Bernecker was a housewife.

In 1884, Fred was called to teach at St Lorenz’s Central School. Slightly more than a year after his

arrival in Frankenmuth, his wife Lucy died and was buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery. On May 25, 1886 Fred married Marie Schick in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. She was the sister of Dr. Martin Schick, who was a practicing physician in Frankenmuth at that time.

The couple was blessed with eight children: Martin owned several Ford agencies in Davenport, Iowa and Rock Island, Illinois and served as treasurer of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod for many years.

Theophilus served as a missionary in Brazil and Venezuela and later a pastor in Indiana and Illinois.

Lucy (Gernand) worked in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Central District office.

Ottomar was a chemist with the Bureau of Standards in Washington D.C.

Frederick owned a Ford agency in Rock Island, Illinois and served on the Board of Directors at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana.

Gertrude (Heckel) was a missionary in India.

Marie (Kahler) was a housewife.

Edgar worked in the Ford agencies with his brothers.

Fred Strieter and his family left Frankenmuth in 1897 after accepting a call to St. Paul’s Lutheran congregation in Cleveland. In 1903 he began teaching at Concordia Teachers College at Seward, Nebraska; received his professorship and taught for 24 years; then retired due to cancer. He died December 15, 1927 in Davenport, Iowa. His wife Marie died on February 2, 1933. Both are buried in Rock Island, Illinois. Besides his eleven children, Professor Strieter had forty-one grandchildren.

Brother Ernest Strieter taught school in Frankenmuth from 1886-1900. Sister Mamie married Henry List, who taught school in Frankenlust for many years. Their daughters, Esther (Mrs. Marcus Kern) and Alice (Mrs. Helmuth Conzelmann), lived in Frankenmuth where many descendants still reside.

