

# Fugmann Family



The Fugmann family was one of the many German families that left their homeland after World War I during the high inflation in Germany and came to the United States. Franz J. Fugmann was born September 28, 1926 in the village of Schney, province of Oberfranken, Germany. Schney is a little village on the Main River between Bamberg and Coburg. Franz's parents were George (April 4, 1890-1976) and Anna Lina nee Mahr Fugmann. His grandparents were Wilhelm and Dorothea nee Stegner Fugmann. George served his apprenticeship as a "metzger" (meat cutter) in Coburg and then worked in Nuernberg and Berlin. He came to the United States for the first time in 1913, earning his passageway by shoveling coal in the boiler-room of an ocean liner. During World War I, he was considered an "enemy alien" and had to work on a farm in Kenyon, Minnesota. After the war, he worked as a butcher in various United States cities, returning to Germany around 1920. He married Anna Lina Mahr and they had two children, Franz and Winnifred. When conditions in Germany became unbearable, George returned to the United States in 1927. His wife Anna and children came in 1928.

The Fugmann family settled in Pontiac, Michigan where another daughter, Virginia, was born. Franz graduated from Pontiac High School in January of 1945. He was drafted into the United States Army on February 7, 1945, and served 21 months at Fort Knox, Kentucky. After returning home from the service, he worked at his family's meat market and grocery store in Birmingham, Michigan, becoming the manager. Franz moved to Birmingham in 1951. In 1958, Franz returned to Germany to visit relatives. He met Johanna Kissling from Rosstal, Germany. They were married in St. Laurentius Church on June 27, 1959. Franz and his new bride left Germany and returned to Birmingham, where they worked together in the family grocery store.

In the mid 1960's, Johanna's parents, George and Elizabeth Kissling, visited Franz and Johanna. Mr. Kissling was extremely interested in Frankenmuth since some of the early settlers of Frankenmuth were from Rosstal, including a List family that was related to the Kisslings. They visited Frankenmuth several times during their stay and got acquainted with a number of people who had Rosstal roots. Eventually Franz, Johanna, and their children moved to Frankenmuth in 1971. Franz went to work in the meat department at the Bavarian Inn Restaurant, later becoming manager. He worked there until 1988 and then started selling real estate for Century 21 Roger Smith Realty. Franz retired in 1992.

Johanna Kissling Fugmann was born in Nuernberg, Germany November 1, 1936. She was baptized in Nuernberg and confirmed in St. Laurentius Church in Rosstal on April 16, 1950. After finishing school, she worked for Siemens in Nuernberg. Johanna and Franz had two children, Ingrid and Dieter.

Ingrid Christel Fugmann was born December 26, 1961 in Pontiac, Michigan. She graduated from Frankenmuth High School and then attended Ferris State College where she received a bachelor's degree in business and ophthalmic dispensing. At the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology, she earned her degree and state certification as an ophthalmologist and surgical technician. Dieter Bernard Fugmann was born February 23, 1969 in Royal Oak, Michigan. He graduated from Frankenmuth High School and attended Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University, graduating in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. On September 20, 1995 he married Holly Kibbe from Vassar, Michigan. They have a daughter, Sky McKenzie, born May 23, 2001.

Franz Fugmann died January 2, 2008.



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