

Krauseneck Family



he oldest known member of the family von Krauseneck is Johannes von Krauseneck, a general in the Bohemian army in the year of 1400. Additional details are not known. His descendants had moved at the time of the Lutheran Reformation, some to Bohemia and some to Franconia. Those moving to Franconia left the Catholic faith and joined the Evangelical Confession. Some of them became Lutheran pastors.

In 1854, Frederick William, Gustave Carl, and Betty Krauseneck and her husband, Anton Schmitz, came to Blumfield Township (north of Frankenmuth). They were the children of Friederich Wilhem Krauseneck (1797-1881) and his wife, Maria nee Benoit (1798-1860).

Frederick William Krauseneck was born in 1819. In 1861, having lived in Blumfield Township for seven years, he volunteered to fight in the Civil War. He was wounded in battle and died in a Washington D.C. hospital in 1864. Records indicate he had no children.

Frederick's younger brother, Gustave Carl, born in Koblenz, Prussia in 1836, farmed in Blumfield Township. He married Matilda Olde, whose parents owned a department store in Mt. Clemens.

The couple had nine children:

Frederick William (1863-1940) lived in Mount Clemens, Michigan and had four children.

Charles Albert (1865-1950) lived in Saginaw, Michigan and had three daughters.

Henry Gustave (1867-1937) lived in Blumfield Township, Michigan and had eight children.

Bertha Amanda (1869-1939) married George Jenny, lived in Lansing, Michigan and had no children.

Alma Mathilda (1872-1940) married Edward Hodges, lived in Saginaw, Michigan and had two children.

Arthur Ernest (1874-1946) lived in Minnesota and had no children.

Otto Herman (1876-1956) lived in Mount Clemens, Michigan and never married.

Lora Maria (1879-1956) married Charles Chambers, lived in Detroit, Michigan and had one son.

Meta Emma (1882-1961) lived in Detroit, Michigan and never married.

Gustave loved to tell his grandchildren of the many animals and the friendly Indians he would meet as he walked through the forest to visit his brother and sister. On one cold winter day, while he was delivering a barrel of salt pork, he met some hungry wolves. To keep the wolves away from his horses, he had to open the barrel and throw them a piece of salt pork every now and then. Like his father, Gustave wrote many poems about his family, the wilderness, and its animals. He had a collection of flutes which he played, and he frequently entertained his grandchildren with singing and the teaching of songs.

In 1906, after Gustave retired, his son Henry took over the family farm. Henry and his brother Otto played coronets in the Arthur Community Band. Henry also played the violin. Henry had a small blacksmith shop on his farm and did odd jobs for his neighbors. He was Secretary-Treasurer of the Arthur Thrashing Company for a number of years. He also served on the Arthur School District Board as long as his children attended the Arthur School. After Henry's death, in 1937, his son Lawrence became the owner of the Krauseneck farm.

Betty Krauseneck Schmitz came to America with her husband, Anton, and lived in Blumfield Township. They had three children. Anton Schmitz was very influential in the development of the Germania Society in Saginaw, donating 1000 books to the Society's library, as well as leaving an endowment to the organization.



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