

Kroeger Family



The Kroeger name came to Frankenmuth in 1943, when Edward George Louis Kroeger (1913-1952), from Cincinnati, Ohio, was united in marriage July 13, 1940 with a Frankenmuth resident, Verna Trinklein. Edward Kroeger, the son of Frederick Henry (1887-1935) and Clara Marie nee Diegritz (1892-1975), and the grandson of Henry Louis (1857-1935) and Anna Louisa Sophia nee Cordes (1860-1913), was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the only son in a family of five children. Both his father and grandfather were farmers. Edward's maternal grandfather, George Diegritz, came from Germany and settled in Saginaw, Michigan before moving to Cincinnati. Edward attended and was confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Madisonville, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati. After elementary school, he attended Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, for several years, in anticipation of entering the Lutheran ministry. However, as he entered Concordia at the age of 14, he decided he missed his family too much to be separated from them and he returned to Cincinnati.

When Edward was eighteen, his father died tragically when a tree, he was cutting down to make firewood, fell on him. Edward's grandfather, Henry Louis, died the same year and the younger family and grandmother moved in together.

In 1939, Edward and his mother traveled to Saginaw to visit his mother's aunt. While there, they visited the aunt's in-laws, John and Mary Ranke in Birch Run, Michigan. Here, Edward met Mr. & Mrs. Ranke's granddaughter, Verna Trinklein. The couple was married at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth in July 1940. Edward and Verna lived in Cincinnati for two years before returning to Frankenmuth and looking to improve Edward's job opportunities.

While in Cincinnati, Edward was a member of the Choral Club and an Elder in his church. He was employed at the Cincinnati Playing Card Company. After moving to Frankenmuth, the couple joined St. Lorenz Lutheran Church where Edward again served as an Elder. He worked for S&E Machine Company, Schroeder Block and Tile, and was Frankenmuth Village Marshal for a year and a half. Health problems, due to diabetes, plagued him beginning in 1949, causing his death in 1952 at the age of 38. Two years after Edward's death, Verna married Erwin Meyer, the best man at her marriage to Edward.

Edward and Verna's children include: Marilyn, born in 1941, and married to Bruce Faerber; Frederick, born in 1943, and married to Jean nee Manley; and Roger, born in 1946, and married to Linda nee Naragon Strefling.

Edward and Verna's grandchildren include: Robin Faerber Hutchisson; Valerie Faerber Alberts and husband Craig Sr.; Sharon Faerber Middleton and husband Timothy; Stephanie Kroeger Baarck and husband Eric; Derek Kroeger and wife Michelle; Erika Kroeger Marini and husband Michael; Micah Kroeger and wife Mia.

Step-grandchildren include: Amy Strefling Peterson and husband Daniel; Gina Strefling Woods and husband Matthew.

Great-grandchildren include: Craig Alberts Jr., Michael and Rachel Hutchisson, Kelsey and Jakob Baarck, Keely and Ryen Kroeger, Lukas Marini and Erin Middleton.

Step-great-grandchildren include: Lindyn, Lauren and Meghan Peterson, Jordan Phillips, Austin and Mattisyn Woods, Kody, Samantha, Angeline and Kayla Middleton.

