

# Otter Family



The family of John Kenneth (Jack) Otter and Patricia Ann nee Jacques Otter came to Frankenmuth from Saginaw in September 1964. The Otter's family roots trace back to Germany where Jack's great-grandfather, Gottlieb Otter, was born in Oberhausen, Germany in 1841. Gottlieb, son of Johann and Anna Otter, came to America in 1861 at age 20. He married Martha Elizabeth Leidorf in Sandusky, Ohio in March of 1869. Martha was born in Messen-Kassel, Germany in 1849.

Gottlieb and Martha had ten children and among them was John Peter Otter. John Peter was the grandfather of Frankenmuth's Jack Otter. John Peter Otter and Emma May Walters married in Monroe, Michigan in 1901. They moved to Fremont Township in Saginaw County in 1906, where they farmed until John Peter's retirement in 1939. John and Emma raised nine children on the Fremont Township farm. A tenth child, Edith, died shortly after birth.

Kenneth John Otter, one of John and Emma's ten children, was born on February 10, 1904. He grew up on the farm and later married Ruth Wilhelmina Pushert June 30, 1927. Shortly after, they moved to Saginaw, Michigan, where Kenneth started working in the trucking business. He ultimately became owner of Otter Trucking Company, which at the time was one of Saginaw's largest trucking firms. Sugar and fertilizer were hauled by the company, as well as beer from the Frankenmuth Brewery.

Kenneth and Ruth Otter had one child, John Kenneth (Jack) Otter. Jack and his wife, Patricia, were married on June 11, 1955. They had three sons, who were baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. The family lived in Frankenmuth.

The first son, Gregory John Otter was born September 5, 1956. He married Lynne Elizabeth Meurlot.

They had two children: Kristen Leigh born May 4, 1984 and Gregory John II born January 30, 1988. Gregory John II is the fifth generation of the Otter family. He graduated from Frankenmuth High School, Delta College, and Saginaw Valley State University. Gregory is employed at Delphi Saginaw Steering. Lynne is a respiratory therapist at a Saginaw hospital.

David Alan Otter was born July 24, 1959. He graduated from Frankenmuth High School. David is single and resides in Bay City. He is the owner of "Days Gone by Classic Cycle" in Linwood, Michigan.

Dennis Lee Otter was born November 16, 1964. He graduated from Frankenmuth High School. He married Janelle Kathryn Coulter and they had three children: Cody Lee born April 16, 1991, Kade Coulter born July 12, 1996, and Haley Nicole born December 22, 1998. Dennis is director of maintenance at Independence Village in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

John (Jack) Otter graduated from Arthur Hill High School in Saginaw in 1953. He worked at Saginaw Steering Gear Division of General Motors Corporation. He held several positions there before being appointed to the Public Relations staff in 1976. He retired in 1993 and was an executive assistant to State Senator Jon Cisky until 1997.

Always active in community affairs, Jack was president of the Frankenmuth Jaycees, a Jaycee State Vice President, and Jaycee National Director. He was active for many years in the Frankenmuth Bavarian Festival, serving as its president and chairman in 1972. He chaired the City of Frankenmuth's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 1969-1970. He was a member of the Fordney Club and the Saginaw Club.

Jack died April 2, 1997.



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