

# Chase Family



he village of Frankenmuth was originally settled by 15 individuals who emigrated from Germany for the express purpose of doing mission work among the American Indians. After the settlers arrived, they continued to use the German language and German

customs.

Future immigrations brought more German speaking people to the community. However, by 1906, when the community numbered 800 people, some of the community leaders realized the difficulties an isolated community could create for its residents, particularly its young people. An English newspaper for Frankenmuth originated at that time.

Although there were non-German speaking families living in the Frankenmuth area at this time, it was not real common for a non-German speaking family to move into the community. Usually, at least one member of a family could speak/understand the German language.

It was in 1932 that Orlando Chase moved to Frankenmuth from Montrose, Michigan. Orlando was the grandson of Orlando A. Chase and Eliza nee Kenhin and he was son of Leonard Chase and Maude nee Cole.

Orlando was born on December 2, 1912 in Montrose, where he was, also, baptized and confirmed.

After coming to Frankenmuth, he was employed as a bartender at Fischer's Hotel (now the Bavarian Inn Restaurant). It was here that he met his wife, Gretchen Fischer, a waitress at the same restaurant.

Orlando then worked at Universal Engineering in Frankenmuth until he purchased the Main Street Tavern in 1948.

Prior to 1933, a bicycle and buggy repair shop had been located on the property. At one time, a barber shop and a telephone office were, also, located on the property.

Soon after prohibition, Armin and Florence Zucker transformed the buildings into a bar. From 1938 to 1949, the bar was known as the Main Street Tavern. Later it was known as the Frankenmuth Bier Haus.

Orlando died March 18, 1976, and his wife, Gretchen died on April 1, 1973.

The couple's marriage was blessed with three children: Leonard, Tom (died at age 6 months), and Donald, (former police officer in Frankenmuth).

Their grandchildren include: Wendy Marie, Corrine Gretchen, Rebecca Lee, Mitchell Orlando and Ashley Lynne.

The family crest carries the Chase motto: "Necede Malis" – "Yield Not to Difficulty".



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