

# Hilbrandt Family



he name Hilbrandt came to this area through John L. Hilbrandt. John was born April 2, 1883 in Saginaw County to August and Wilhemina nee Link Hilbrandt. August and Wilhemina came from Germany and settled in the Taymouth area of Saginaw County.

Later they moved to Saginaw where August was a merchant and cigar maker.

John L. Hilbrandt was baptized and confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church, on Second Street and Federal Street in Saginaw. He married Sabina E. Kern (1885-1964) of Frankenmuth on September 4, 1908.

John manufactured handmade cigars in Frankenmuth from 1906 to 1915. During the first years of their marriage, they lived just north of Zehnder's Hotel (Restaurant) near the Cass River bank. Later, John built the original building on the southwest corner of Genesee and Main Street, where he manufactured cigars, sold groceries, and had an ice cream parlor. This corner was the Frankenmuth stop for the Interurban electric train that ran between Flint and Saginaw.

Both John and Sabina were cigar makers. John made them into bunches and put them into the molds, while Sabina put the finish leaf on the outside.

In 1917, John and Sabina purchased a grocery store at the corner of North Michigan and Weiss Street in Saginaw, Michigan. They moved their operations again in 1921 when they moved to a store at the corner of Schaefer and Weiss Streets in Saginaw.

After Prohibition, this store was changed to a bar, or, as we would say in German, a "beergarten".

In 1940, the business was taken over by his son, George, and remained there until I-675 expressway was built through that site.

The final move was made to Church Street in Carrollton in 1940. Frankenmuth brand cigars were made there until 1950.

Johan and Sabina Hilbrandt had eight children: Albert E., Thusnelda E., Mable L., George M., Vera P., Margaret (who lived only one year), another girl delivered stillborn; and Dale A.

Albert E. (1901-1982) married Mary Napora. They had six children.

Thusnelda E. (1911-1990) married Samuel Yearsley. They had five children.

Mable L. (1913-1982) married Russell Harris. They had two children.

George M. (born 1916) married Ruth Fischer. They had four children.

Vera P. (born 1916) married George Mozader. They had four children.

Dale A. (born 1929) married Ruth Diener. They had three children.

There were 24 grandchildren.

John L. Hilbrandt died in 1955. Sabina died in 1964. They are buried in Bethlehem Lutheran Church Cemetery in Saginaw, Michigan.



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