

Wendt Family



he name Wendt came to Frankenmuth on January 1, 1950 when Howard E. Wendt purchased Nuechterlein Funeral Home from Arnold C. Nuechterlein, the grandson of Christopher Nuechterlein, who founded the business in 1870.

The Wendts had lived in Bay City since 1883. Karl Johann Wendt was born on March 11, 1833 in "Hinterpommern" now a part of Poland. He married Johanna Christick, who was born February 2, 1833, and lived in the same area as Karl Johann Wendt. They had nine children, five of whom died in "Hinterpommern", then a part of the Kingdom of Prussia. The other four, Ida, Gustav, Frederick and Charles, came with Karl Johann and Johanna to Bay City in 1883. Karl Johann Wendt found employment as a teamster in a lumber mill. He died on April 16, 1919 and Johanna died on May 16, 1927.

Charles Sr., the grandfather of Howard Wendt, was born January 30, 1870 in New Carven, Germany. He was 13 years old when his parents brought him to Bay City in 1883. He married Emilie Louise nee Kerl, who was born July 7, 1875 in Hanover, Germany and came to the United States in 1885. They were blessed with eight children: Otto J., born June 19, 1897; Charles G., born April 19, 1899 and died December 1, 1927; Ernest, born October 17, 1900; Hilda, born February 24, 1903; William, born February 12, 1905; Edwin, born September 1, 1906; Laura, born April 7, 1908; and Clarence, born September 30, 1909. Charles Sr. died on March 24, 1924 and Emilie Louise died on June 19, 1955.

For many years, families from Frankenmuth and the surrounding area had a great influence on the Wendt family. That is why it was not strange that Howard considered moving to Frankenmuth.

Howard's mother, Hilma A. Foerter, was baptized on January 22, 1899 by Reverend John J. Trinklein. She went to school at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Frankenlust, near Bay City, where she had Henry List as a teacher. Howard's parents, Charles G. and Hilma Wendt, were united in marriage on August 14, 1919 by Reverend George Nuechterlein. Howard's wife, Madeline B. nee Nuffer, was born September 16, 1926 and baptized shortly thereafter by Reverend Fred Bickel in Amelith. Howard and Madeline were both confirmed in 1940 by Dr. H.A. Mayer at Zion Lutheran Church in Bay City, and then married on June 17, 1950 by Reverend Herman A. Zehnder.

Howard E. Wendt was born on March 5, 1924 in Bay City, baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church. He graduated from Central High School in 1942 and entered the Army in February of 1943. He served for 26 months in the Pacific – taking part in the invasion of the Eastern Mandates – Kwajalien, Leyte in the Philippines, Okinawa in the Ryukyus, and then Seoul, Korea. He returned to Bay City in December of 1945. He started a two year apprenticeship to become a funeral director. He received his license to practice Mortuary Science when he graduated on June 30, 1949. He started practicing in Frankenmuth on January 1, 1950.

Howard and Madeline had three children:
Kristine A., born on May 29, 1952 and died June 23, 1977.
Cynthia A., born on September 14, 1953 and married Randall Morris June 23, 1978.
Katherine L., born on February 26, 1957 and married Bruce Colvin December 13, 1986.

They had three grandchildren: Jeffrey R., Matthew C., and Stephanie A. Morris.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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