

Faerber Family



he name Faerber means “one who is a painter.” Louis Fewswick Faerber was born in 1875, the second son of George and Henrietta Ruch Faerber. His brothers and sisters included: George, Henry, Phillip, Fred, Madeleine and Henrietta.

In 1903, Louis and his brother Fred left their home in Alsace-Lorraine, which at that time was part of Germany, and obtained work on a ship headed for New York. Louis worked his way to Frankenmuth and in 1904 he started working at the Frankenmuth Brewery as a “kettle-man.” During Prohibition Louis worked at the Chevrolet Division in Flint. However, he did not forget his love for the brewing industry and made beer in his basement, employing some of the neighbor girls to wash bottles.

After Prohibition, Louis went to the Kling Brewing Company in Flint as an Assistant Brewmaster. As an additional venture he went into partnership with Franz Schindelbeck as a deep rock well driller, drilling many of the wells in the area.

In 1906 Louis married A. Maria Ranke Boesenecker, daughter of Margaretha nee Zehnder and C. Frederick Ranke, who was one of the first farmers in Frankenmuth. Maria was the widow of John Boesenecker and mother of their nine children. Louis and Maria were blessed with two children: Louis Heinrich Frederick George (known as Henry) and Elmer Adolph Henry. Louis died in 1942 and was buried in the Frankenmuth Township Cemetery.

Henry married Adeline Techentien, daughter of George Techentien. The couple was blessed with three children: Duane Henry, Bruce Allen, and Janet Fay. Duane and Bruce were born at home, delivered by their Aunt Anna, a mid-wife.

After his mother’s death, Henry and Adeline bought the homestead on Jefferson Street. Henry inherited his father’s love for the brewing business and worked at Geyer’s Brewery in Frankenmuth and, like his father, moved on to the Kling Brewing Co., where he was hired for \$1.50 an hour “running the cooler.”

Later Henry ran a beer truck route for Dunn Beverage Co. and also for Zeilinger Beverage. However, he always found time to help his father Louis on the well rig as well as to help his father-in-law on the farm during harvest time.

At the time of his retirement in 1976, Henry was working for the Johnson Carbide Co. Adeline passed away in 1956 after a lingering illness and Henry passed away in 1993. His children and grandchildren still reside in the area.

In 1941, Elmer, the second son of Louis and Maria, married Pauline Grassmick, the daughter of Henry Grassmick. They resided in Saginaw and there raised their children, Michael Louis and Dale Thomas. Elmer worked for Garber Buick while attending Bliss Alger Business College.

Besides painting bridges for the State Department of Transportation, Elmer found employment at Bronner Brothers Construction, C. H. Donaldson Co., Winkler-Lucas Ice Fuel Co., and the Saginaw Steering Gear, from which he retired in 1976. Like his brother Henry, Elmer always found time to help his father Louis on the well rig. Elmer passed away in 1998 and Pauline followed in 2003. They have grandchildren to carry on the Faerber name.



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