

# Baker Family



he Baker name came to America through Gustave Francis Baker (1873-1961) who was born in Pommern Mecklenburg, Germany to William and Amelia nee Linde Baker. On September 11, 1883, Gustave, with his brother William, Jr., sisters Marie and

Amelia, and their parents, set out from Pommern and sailed to the United States and New York Harbor.

After arriving in America the family traveled by train to Rosedale, Michigan, where they settled. However, William Sr. died within a year and Amelia was left to raise their four children by herself.

Ernst Brandt Sr., who lived in Rosedale with his wife and three children, had also come from Pommern on the same boat as the Bakers, but the families had never met. Mr. Brandt's wife also died leaving him with three children. Widow Amelia Baker and widower Ernst Brandt became acquainted for the first time in Fraser, Michigan; and it was there that they married in 1888.

The couple heard of the new land that was opened up to those who cared to brave the rough life of a pioneer; and so they came to Marlette Township in Sanilac County, bringing with them their respective children: Amelia Baker Simon (? -1928), Gustave Baker (1873-1961), William Baker (1875-1948), Marie Baker Dean (1877-1959), Anna Brandt (1879- ?), Charles Brandt (1882-1961), and Ernest Brandt, Jr. Six more children were born into the Brandt family: Edward, Oscar, Emma Wiegert, Martha, John and Frieda Falkenhagen.

The land they selected was near the only state highway, but this was a mere cow path and could not be traveled many months of the year.

Amelia Brandt later recalled, "There were trees everywhere. We had to bring our furniture and other supplies on the backs of horses and oxen. Lumber for our home was hewed from six and eight foot pine logs. Every log felled provided new ground to raise food for our family."

The brick that was used to build their house was hauled from Sandusky during the months when the state road could be used.

Gustave resided here until 1889 when he moved to the Frankenmuth area where he worked on the farms of Jacob Bickel, John and George Maurer.

After working for some local builders constructing houses and bars, Gustave decided to start his own builder's business.

Gustave and his wife Amanda nee Ruff were blessed with seven children: Emma Beyerly, Amelia (d.1917), Walter (d.1935), Nora Eischer (d.1971), Norman, Herman (d.1917) and Arnold.

Gustave lived in his house on Cass Street, which he built in 1916, until his death in 1961. In 1938, his son, Arnold, took over the business and began general contracting.

Arnold's son, Robert F. Baker, purchased the business known as Baker Builders from his father in 1985. The business has since been discontinued.



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