

Cheney Family



he story of the Cheney family coming to this area has quite a bit of history to share prior to their arrival. It is believed John Cheney (1765-1837) was born in Plaistow, New Hampshire, the son of Dustin and Sarah Mount Cheney, and the grandson of John

Cheney who came from England to Massachusetts in 1636. This was just 15 years after the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth.

John and his wife, Lucy Warren Cheney, had four children: Sara, Dustin (1791-1841), Merrill, and Ira. John and his family later moved to New York where another son, Samuel, was born.

Dustin, born in Tunbridge, Orange County, New York, accompanied his parents to Parma, Monroe County, New York in 1810, when he was 19 years old. Dustin served in the War of 1812. His marriage to Abigail Lamb was blessed with seven children: Lucinda, Lorenzo, Martha, Betsey, Louisa, William, and Merrill.

In 1833 the family moved to what is now Fenton, Genesee County, Michigan. Fenton then was a wilderness and Abigail was the first white woman in that area. Their eighth child, Harrison (1834-1916), was the first white child born in Fenton. Their youngest son, James, was born four months after his father's death. Abigail was left to raise her large family by herself. She contracted smallpox later in life, leaving her blind for her last 16 years.

Harrison spent his entire life in Fenton. His marriage to Mary Connor was blessed with six children: Edwin Harrison, Rose, James, Mary Ella, Sarah May and Clara.

Edwin Harrison (1860-1931) married Margaret Torrence and the family was blessed with one child.

No information is available as to what happened to Margaret or her child. After Edwin's marriage to Guiametta Chapman, the couple went to Kansas by prairie Schooner. After their first child Claude was born, they returned to Fenton where Charles and Freda were born. Edwin Harrison engaged in truck farming in the Fenton area and sold his produce in Flint.

Charles (1888-1972) married Grace Tobias and the couple was blessed with eight children, seven living beyond infancy: Edwin H., Dorothy, Lavern, Doris, Lelia, Gerald and Joyce. Charles worked at Buick, Fischer Body and Chevrolet plants in Michigan.

Edwin H. Cheney married Lily Krueger of Birch Run, and took over the operation of her father's 68 acre farm which was located just 3½ miles southeast of Frankenmuth. Ed also worked at Eaton Manufacturing in Vassar for 32 years. He retired from both farming and Eaton in 1968.

Ed and his wife Lily had two children, Patricia and Jack. Patricia married Louis Depping and lived in Texas. Jack married Mary Ann Dolfi and the couple had one child, Matthew. Two months after their son's birth, Jack and Mary Ann tragically died in a plane crash September 22, 1968. Jack's mother, Lily, died 13 days later.

After the death of Lily (1909-1968), Ed married Margaret nee Broad Krueger. Margaret died in 1985. Ed died on April 27, 1996.

Edwin's descendants include his daughter, Patricia, who is a retired registered nurse, and his grandchildren: Thomas, James, Beth and Amy Depping; and Matthew Cheney; and numerous great-grandchildren.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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