The Gilmour name came to Frankenmuth through William “Slim” Gilmour, Jr., born June 18, 1924 to William Gilmour, Sr. and Florence Prueter in Saginaw, Michigan. “Slim” attended school in Saginaw and worked with his father in farming and in the Gilmour Dairy Business. His next job was with Morgan Construction Company in Saginaw as a carpenter. Carpentry became a life-long occupation for “Slim”.

On February 7, 1959, William “Slim” Gilmour married Charlotte Magdalene Bronner, the daughter of William and Charlotte Loesel Bronner. Charlotte was born April 12, 1936 and is a great-granddaughter of Lorenz Loesel, one of the first 15 settlers who came to Frankenmuth in 1845.

“Slim” and Charlotte had three children (all three received their education from St. Lorenz Lutheran School and Frankenmuth High School): William (Bill) J. Gilmour III was born October 27, 1959. He graduated from Lake Superior State College in 1979 and from Michigan Technological University in 1982. He currently lives in Metropolis, Illinois and works as a Civil Engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers. He is the Assistant Resident Engineer for the Corps at his job in Olmsted, Illinois.


“Slim” and Charlotte made their home in Frankenmuth. “Slim” began working for William Bronner & Son Contractors and worked there until his retirement in 1987. “Slim” was involved in building Bronner’s CHRISTmas Wonderland, additions to Zehnder’s Restaurant and the Bavarian Inn Restaurant, Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance Company, and St. Lorenz School. “Slim’s” many hobbies and interests include: working in his workshop with his grandsons, assisting his son in the business, golfing, bowling and traveling to their northern Michigan cottage located on the Muskegon River.

Charlotte worked as a housewife until 1976 after which she worked at Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance Company as a Payroll Benefits Specialist, until her retirement in 1996. She also did Wm Bronner & Son Company books for many years until “Slim’s” retirement and currently does Gilmour Construction recordkeeping and payroll. Her hobbies include: needlework, golfing, biking, cross country skiing and various crafts.

“Slim” and Charlotte are members of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. “Slim” has been a trustee, worked on the annual fish fry and volunteered for various projects in the church. Charlotte is a member of the choir.

The Gilmours trace their heritage back to Scotland where “Slim’s” grandparents originated. His grandmother’s maiden name was Mackie – also from Scotland. “Slim’s” mother, Florence Prueter Gilmour, was the daughter of Emil Prueter and Elizabeth Becker. The Prueters have traced their heritage back to Germany, where some relatives presently live.