

Satchell Family



he Satchell name came to this area through Frank Satchell. Frank was an adopted child of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Satchell, who owned and lived on a farm on Curtis Road along the Cass River. The younger Frank continued to live on the farm after marrying Ida Bidwell of Birch Run.

Frank and Ida had six children:
Ethel never married.

Jess married John Geary. They had no children.

Gladys married Herman Griese and they had three children: Robert, Jesse Joyce and Ida Jean.

Ralph married Edna Knodel. They had no children.

Jess, Gladys and Ralph are deceased.

Nelson remained on the farm until his death in 1991. Nelson married twice. His first wife was Margaret Corbein. They had three children: James, Beverly and Judy. After Margaret's death in 1962, he married Alma Rosencrants. They had two daughters, Crystal and April. Beverly and her husband both died in an automobile accident leaving four children. Nelson and his wife also raised these four grandchildren.

Harold married a country school teacher, Ruth Rundell West, in October 1917. They had nine children: Frank, David, Frederick, Donald, Esther, Martha, Janice and twins, Ruth and Rhea.

Of these six children, only one remains in Frankenmuth – Ruth Satchell Abraham Baker. Ruth married Harold Abraham whose father owned the Frankenmuth Woolen Mill.

Ruth and Harold operated the Frankenmuth Oil Company for 25 years until his retirement.

They had four children: Tim, who lived in Kailua, Hawaii and is now deceased; Ruth and Richard Montcalm, who live in Monroe, Michigan and have two children, Caroline and Jonathan; Mary (deceased) and Stephen Scott who lived in Columbia, South Carolina had two children, Michael and Renee; Christine and Jim Cook live in Frankenmuth and have five children: Jeff, Jessica, Jason, Erika and Elissa.

Mrs. Ida Bidwell Satchell served chicken dinners in her home in the early 1900s through the 1930s on Saturdays and Sundays. Many people came from Saginaw, Flint, Midland and Bay City to enjoy her home-cooked chicken dinners.

The Satchell homestead also had one of the finest clay tennis courts in Saginaw County built in approximately 1910. On Sundays, at the homestead, you could find men playing tennis (sometimes the women were allowed to participate) and the ladies played croquet on the lawn after the dinners were served.

Mrs. Satchell's flowers were her pride and joy and she loved to have visitors tour her flower gardens.

A noted Saginaw County Historian, Fred Dustin, lived in a small cottage on the farm during the summer. Located near the river, it was a favorite visiting spot for the Satchell grandchildren. He entertained them with stories about the Native Americans in the area, Native American folklore, and shared the many treasures he found along the banks of the Cass River.



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