

Warnick Family



he other German immigrants who traveled to Frankenmuth in the early years did not come “in style” as John Warnick came. He sailed first class on an expensive passenger ship with his wealthy relatives while others had to make the passage via a converted freighter or even a ship that leaked.

John Warnick was born in 1863 and was a direct descendant of Hans and Regina Warnick. The family was centered in Rosstal. The Warnicks originated in Kärnten, Austria but were forced to leave when they didn't convert from Lutheranism to Catholicism – the religion of the ruling powers.

John's passage to America was arranged when relatives from Cleveland, Ohio visited the Warnicks in Germany. It was the relatives who paid John's fare. Although his journey was not typical of most of Frankenmuth's early settlers, he did have one thing in common with them . . . he was young, only 16 years old, and he came with hope for economic prosperity.

At first John worked as a farmhand for another relative named George Fischer. Eventually he bought his own farm of about 100 acres. That parcel became the Warnick homestead and is located about two miles southwest of Frankenmuth on a road which bears the family name. The farm is still owned by the descendants of John's youngest son, Martin Warnick Sr. Martin's grandson, Anthony, and his wife Erin live in the original home.

John married Katherine (Knoellinger) in 1893. They had nine children: Laura, Emma, Louisa, Clara Rosa, Lillian, Lena, Albert and Martin. John's youngest son, Martin Warnick Sr. married Maybelle (Gilmour) in 1932 and they had seven children. They had ten grandchildren.

By 1880 John's older brother Leonard came to America and Frankenmuth with friends. But he was not able to duplicate his younger brother's success here. Leonard contracted tuberculosis and left Frankenmuth 10 years later in 1890 because of his poor health. He settled in Oregon.

John's father, also named John, and his mother Appolonia, immigrated to America the year after Leonard in 1881. Three crop failures in Germany made it easier for them to leave. They brought their remaining two children – Margaret who was 15 and Conrad who was 10. They lived with John.

John's father died in 1890. His mother lived until 1920. His sister Margaret married Nicholas Koch in 1893 and moved to Alexandria, New York. Conrad later married Margaret Rauschert in 1895 and purchased 40 acres on Curtis Road, four miles west of Frankenmuth. Conrad and Margaret had four children: Edna, Henry, Hulda and Alma.

Henry married Helen Weiss in 1920. Helen's grandfather, Johann Adam Weiss Sr, was the original owner of the land on which this Bavarian Inn Lodge stands. He purchased it in the early 1850s. Henry and Helen Warnick had one child, son Rudolph. Rudy and his wife Gertrude had three children and lived on Conrad's farm on Curtis Road.

John and Conrad were the only original landowners with the Warnick name in the Frankenmuth area. John died in 1924. As of the year 2005, his descendants number about 85. They are employed as farmers, builders, tradesman, merchants, public officials, teachers, doctors and other professionals.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
For copies of Family Histories go to www.bavarianinn.com/familyhistory