

# Gehrs Family



The Gehrs family is able to trace its family back to 1706 with the birth of Johann von Gehrdes in Winzen an der Aller (Provinz Hanover) Germany. In 1742, Johann married Marie Martine Ebeling. The couple had two sons: Johann Friedrich who remained unmarried and Juergen Heinrich (1747-1821) who married Dorothea Lahrs (1757-1832), the daughter of Gottfried Diedrich and Marie Krueger Lahrs.

During the Seven Year War (1756-1763) the name "von Gehrdes" was changed to "Gehrs".

Juergen and Dorothea's youngest son Franz Heinrich Gehrs (born 1801) married Marie Bartels (1806-1868). Their oldest son Franz Heinrich Gehrs II (1832-1919) married Dorothea Heine. The couple had one child but the mother died soon after the child was born.

In 1866, Franz Heinrich II then married Louise Drewes (1840-1921). The following year, 1867, Franz Heinrich II, his wife, his daughter, and his brother Johann Friedrich William Gehrs and his family, immigrated to America and settled in Chicago on June 1, 1867.

Seven children were born to Franz Heinrich II and Louise.

Their sixth child, Ferdinand (1881-1964), after graduating from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, served Lutheran congregations in North Dakota and in the Chicago area.

He married Pauline Breither (1878-1961). Their union was blessed with eight children: Gerhard, Walter, Margaret, Gertrude, Carl J., Ruth, Pauline and Martin C.

Martin C. (born 1919) attended both high school and college at Concordia College, River Forest, Illinois. Upon graduation from Concordia, Martin taught at Pilgrim Lutheran School in Chicago where he was involved with the athletic program, served as superintendent of the Sunday school, and was advisor to the Walther League.

In 1949, Martin accepted a teaching position at St. Lorenz Lutheran School in Frankenmuth where he served the congregation for thirty-three years. He served as principal of the school during the 1955-1956 school year, and as assistant principal from 1973-1982. Besides teaching, he worked in the athletic program of the school as well as in the youth program and in the Sunday school.

For many years Martin served as an officer of the Frankenmuth High School Alumni Association and as a member of the City of Frankenmuth Recreation Committee. He served as Secretary of the Aid Association for Lutherans, Branch 204 for over thirty years.

Martin married Mildred Schalk in Detroit in 1944. They had three children: David, Michael and Barbara.



*Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge*  
*For copies of Family Histories go to [www.bavarianinn.com/familyhistory](http://www.bavarianinn.com/familyhistory)*