

## *Town of Marshfield Pioneer Martin Arndt and Family*

Martin Arndt was born in 1842 in Jagow, Germany, a small town between Berlin and the Baltic Sea. In 1870 he married Johanna Daebel of Kutzerow, Germany, and in 1873 with their infant daughter and Martin's 64 year old mother immigrated to America on the ship S.S. Frisia. They settled in the Town of Rubicon in Dodge County for eight years before moving to the Town of Marshfield, purchasing land which is now the site of the Marshfield Milling Company. They built a log house while clearing land for farming, and later a brick home was constructed. They were the parents of five children: Ernestina, Charles, Albert, Herman, and Emil. They were founding members of Immanuel Lutheran Church where Martin served as an elder until his death in 1907. Johanna was a midwife helping with births in the Towns of Marshfield and McMillan. After the death of her husband, she continued living on the family farm with her son Herman and family until her death in 1935.



*The Martin Arndt family, 1903. Seated: Johanna, Martin, and Ernestine. Standing: Emil, Herman, Charles, and Albert.*

Ernestina married Herman Stracker who was an engineer at the Marshfield Electric and Water plant in the very early 1900's, and they lived in a house close to what is now the lower pond at Wildwood Park. By 1907 they had left Marshfield as he became superintendent of the light and water plant at Thorp. Charles never married, and remained on the home farm until his death two weeks before his mother. Albert became a Lutheran minister serving mainly in the Watertown and Chicago area.

Herman married Amanda Tews, daughter of Carl and Alvina (Sell) Tews in 1905. The Tews were also pioneer settlers in the Town of Marshfield arriving in 1877. Herman was employed as a shipping clerk for the Roddis Plywood Corp. from 1900 to 1911 when he left to run the family farm. He later returned to employment with the Roddis Corp. and in 1942 sold the family farm moving to a home on East Fifth St. living there until his death in 1959. He also was a skilled carpenter and cabinet maker. He served as a director of American National Bank, Secretary-Treasurer of Farmer's Co-op, and held several Lutheran Church offices. Herman and Amanda were founding members of Christ Lutheran Church. Their children were Ermine married to Arthur Woltmann, Martin married to Martha Fruehbrodt, and Everett married to Evelyn Michels.

Martin's youngest son, Emil married Martha Beer and they had one son, Wilbur who now lives in Sarasota, Florida. Emil was a fireman in the City of Marshfield until his death in 1955. He joined the force as a volunteer in 1915 and in 1920 became the first paid fire-truck driver for the department. He also served with Company A, Second Regiment, Wisconsin National Guard during the Mexican Border Campaign and was a member for 11 years. The only living grandchildren of Martin are Wilbur and Everett. They both served in World War II, Wilbur in the Navy, and Everett in the Army with the 4th Division throughout the European Campaign.

*Submitted by Evelyn Arndt  
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