

ALTA VISTA

You can see this house if you walk the public path around Geneva Lake or enjoy a boat ride on the lake. Sometime in the late fall to early spring you can see the house from a distance as you travel Snake Road in the Town of Linn.

The original wood home was built in 1880 for Orrin W. Potter, president of the Chicago Rolling Mills. It was then sold to Frederick Countiss around 1908. During his tenure, newspaper articles tell of lavish entertainment, refreshment tent with roof strung with grape vines in fruit and ice cream molded as fully rigged yachts. In 1919 Countiss sold the 90 acre estate to Col. Wm. Nelson Pelouze. Countiss had purchased Loramoor, the Moore property on the south shore of Geneva Lake. Mrs. Pelouze was the sister of Chicago mayor, Big Bill Thompson. Soon after the purchase, the home burned. The fire started in the third floor and quickly engulfed the entire roof. Volunteers helped remove the furniture, rugs, tapestries and other contents of the house. Mrs. Pelouze was carried from the house in her wheelchair. She was still at the time with depression. The excitement of the fire seemed to revive her and her health improved.

The Colonel hired Howard Van Doren Shaw to design a new home, resembling an Italian villa. The current exterior is cream plaster; originally it was cool gray. The Pelouze family owned the property until 1954. In this year the property was subdivided; but the house survived.

A news article in the historic reference file at the Lake Geneva Public Library tells about Mr. Pelouze's farm foreman experiment to get rid of quack grass in his corn field. The year before the corn crop was almost worthless because of this pest. The ten acre field was covered in manure in the fall. Later, just before frost set in the field was plowed. After the ground was frozen it was again covered with manure. In spring it was plowed again. That year it produced one of the heaviest crops of corn in the area. The year was 1931.

The Pelouze farm was a dairy farm with fifteen Guernsey cows. It provided milk for the Women's Athletic Club of Chicago, the Palmer House and the Belden Stratford Hotel on a daily basis.

In 1971 a description of the house was given as follows: Home of the James McMahons. Mrs. McMahons is the former Phyllis Vick. She is a descendent of the founder of Vicksburg and heiress to Vick Pharmaceutical Company. Mr. McMahons is in the fumigating business in Oak Park. In the 1990s the house suffered some neglect.

A couple of years ago the house was restored and again is a fine looking mansion on the lake.

VILLA HORTENSIA

This is yet another house which can only be seen by walking the public path around Geneva Lake or by taking a boat ride on that lake. Some people know this house as the Swift house. Mr. Swift named it Villa Hortensia to honor his wife, Hortense.

This house was built for Edward F. Swift in 1906. Howard Van Dorn Shaw was the architect. Edward was one of seven sons of Gustavus Franklin Swift, founder of Swift and Co. That company is now known as Swift-Hunt-Wesson Foods. G. F. Swift also had two daughters. Edward was the only one of that family to have a home on Geneva Lake.

This Mediterranean-style mansion has a 10 car garage and well-kept grounds. By 1911 the estate had three greenhouses. Bird houses around the estate match the house. In 1911 the gardener on this estate was Robert Sampson. In 1930 the foreman was Emil Faber.

Swift was very interested in horticulture. He looked into ways of preserving trees by eliminating dead branches and brought in experts from Ohio. He gave his gardeners and foremen free rein to experiment in the vegetable gardens and flowerbeds. He wanted his estate to be named receiving

the top prizes at the fairs.

Edward and Hortense had four children, Annie May, Theodore, Philip and Edward Foster.

Swift sold the property in 1922 to Silas J. Llewellyn who changed the estate name to Pen-Y-Bryn. He became the president of Interstate Iron and Steel and Chicago Malleable Castings.

A later owner was John J. Lynch, a Chicago gambler. Reports indicate that he did share his winnings with friends and charities. He sold it to Davis P. Shupe. Lynch named the estate, Edgewood.

The next owner, George Getz, Jr. bought this home in November, 1948 and changed the name to Vista sul Lago. He brought his “Hall of Flame” collection of firefighting equipment to Lake Geneva in July, 1963. He started the museum in Kenosha; the collection is now in Scottsdale, AZ.

Thomas Gelderman was the next owner. When the current owners purchased the property it was called Edgewood.

BONNIE BRAE

We continue with another house you can only view if you walk the public path around Geneva Lake or view it during a boat ride on that lake. Bonnie Brae was built in 1881 for Judge Thomas J. Withrow. He named the house for his daughter, Bonnie.

Withrow was an attorney for the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. C. A. Alexander was the architect. Squire Beckwith was the surveyor and O. T. LaSalle was the contractor. The house is of Swiss Chalet architecture. At one time the estate was 98 acres with 1250 feet of lake frontage. Withrow died on February 3, 1893. His only daughter, Bonnie, was married at the house on September 30, 1896.

In 1897 it was purchased by Martin A. Ryerson who owned Chicago lumber yards. He owned the only lumberyard in Chicago that remained after the Chicago fire of 1871. Ryerson doubled the size of the house. At age 36, he was named the richest man in Chicago.

Martin L. Ryerson was born in New Jersey in 1818. At age 16 he traveled to Detroit to work with Indian traders. He bought a saw mill in Michigan. In 1851 he headed to Chicago and founded the lumberyard of Williams, Ryerson & Co. The first yard was at Fulton and Canal. Soon another was established on Beach Street. He reorganized his business in both Michigan and Chicago in the 1860s. His son, Martin A. joined the firm in 1880. Martin L died in 1887.

Bonnie Brae was deemed one of the finest houses on the lake when Martin A. bought the property. However, he started a remodeling project with cost about \$70,000. He added to the house and to the acreage.

Ryerson was a personal friend of Claude Monet and John D. Rockefeller. During his lifetime he collected artwork, especially that of the impressionists. Much of his art collection was donated to the Art Institute of Chicago. The house remained in the Ryerson family until 1939.

The home has a three sided front porch and a two story balcony. It is a very light green with a red roof and port cochere.

Their original boat house remains on the lakefront. It was built before 1900 to house the family's steamboat. The boat house is now a private home. In 1986 Bonnie Brae was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

FORMER ZENDA SCHOOL HOUSE

This red brick building was constructed in 1910 for Town of Linn School District #9. The district was organized in that year by the consolidation of Four Oaks and Walsh districts, Districts #2 and #5. In addition, children from Nichols (District #7) came to this school after theirs was closed.

The building is now owned by the Melges Boat Works and has been beautifully restored for their offices and sales room. The old school bell has been equipped with a new marine rope so it still can be run. Areas of the original wood floors can be seen, as well as the original stairs and rail.

Although both boys and girls attended this school they were separated in the early days. Upstairs there was a room for the boys and another for the girls. Each had a separate stairs.

FORMER NICHOLS SCHOOL HOUSE

You can see this former school house on County B just west of West Road in the Town of Linn. It was Joint District #7 with the Town of Bloomfield.

Leona Kuester was the teacher for the 1909/10 school year. She had 19 students ranging in age from five to sixteen. Kiester received \$40 per month as her salary.

In one of her reports, she indicated that the room was in good condition. The windows, doors and stove were all good. There were 75 volumes in the library, all in good condition. The school had painted blackboards.

This school closed after the 1913/14 school year. Mary Cooper was the teacher the last year. She received \$50 a month as salary. This was a \$5 per month increase for her from the previous year. In one of last reports for that year, it noted that water for the school was carried from the Chas. Nichols well which was 1/8 mile away.

SITE OF THE FORMER WALSH SCHOOL

You are looking at the site of the former Walsh School which was located on Maple Ridge Readjust north of the intersection with County B. in the Town of Linn. The schoolhouse was on the west side of the road.

In 1902 C. Palmer, Hebron, was the district clerk. Elizabeth Mergamer was the teacher during the 1909/10 school year. In 1910 the district voted to join District #9, Zenda School.

It was called Walsh School because the land on which it was located had been part of the Walsh farm. According to Butterfield's History of Walworth County. John Walsh emigrated from Ireland in 1848. [According to Beckwith's History of Walworth County he came to this country in 1846.] He settled in Section 21 in the Town of Linn around 1850. He married Bridget Welsh around 1850.

Frank was one of five Walsh children; he was born in 1859. Jackson was the oldest; he lived and worked in Chicago. Mary and Henry lived on the old homestead. Jennie lived in Chicago. John died on February 18, 1901; Bridget died February 18, 1911.

Frank attended public schools in the area. He was a great baseball player and acquired a good reputation for his ability in this sport. He taught school in Illinois, saving his money to be able to buy his father's farm. He bought the farm which was in Section 24 from Grove Sears in 1882. It is in this section where the schoolhouse was located. His holdings eventually totaled 360 acres.

He was secretary and manager of the Maple Ridge Creamery for about ten years. In 1904 he helped organize the Zenda Milk Company and was secretary for some time. He was Linn township treasurer for 14 years and township clerk for 12 years. Later he became town assessor.

Frank married Ella Welch on September 12, 1893. They had two sons, Edward James and Franklin Eugene. The land no longer is owned by a Walsh.

The 1857, 1873 and 1907 Plat Books shows a school at this location. The 1920 Plat Book does not indicate a school at this location.

THE FORMER MICKLE SCHOOL HOUSE

The former Mickle School house is located on Swamp Angel Road in the Town of Linn, Section 31. The name recalls an early settler on whose land the school was built.

This school eventually became Joint Districts #3 and #11 with Walworth. Their very first school was a log building on Mrs. Mabel Mickle's property. Their next school house was built in 1855 and was 25' x 18' x 10'. It was used for 63 years.

According to a historic listing Wm. Rowbotham was clerk for these two districts. Apparently they had joined in 1902. In 1909/10 school year Irma Porter was the teacher. She received \$35 a month to teach 23 children. Another report listed only 20 children. Seven were in the primary grade and ranged in age from 5 to 9. Four were listed as 2nd Intermediate and were ages 8-10. Seven were in 1st Intermediate and ranged in age from 10 to 14. Five were in Advanced and were ages 12 to 16. P. J. Peterson was the district director that year.

The teacher the next year was C. Estelle Crumb who was paid \$30 a month. Blanche Sancer was the teacher in 1911/12. She was paid \$45 a month. In September her report indicated 22 students; however, a later report listed 27 pupils. Her report also indicated the value of the equipment in the school at \$200.

A new school was built in 1918. That building still exists and is now a private home. In 1948 Mrs. Ethel Hanna was the teacher. During the 1955/56 school year Mrs. Mary Nichols was the teacher. The school board included Mrs. Roy Wilson, clerk; Richard Cornue, director; and Mrs. Ralph Lottig, Sr., treasurer. On July 1, 1955 the district joined Linn #6, Reek School. School records for August, 1961 noted that the district became a part of Reek School. A 1959/60 report lists Luella Schmidt as the teacher with 17 students. The school closed in 1960. The building was sold and it was remodeled into a private home.

THE FRANKLIN WALSH HOME AND FARM

The former Walsh house and farm is located on County B, just west of Maple Ridge Road in the Town of Linn. John Walsh emigrated from Ireland in 1846. He first settled in Southport [Kenosha], and then moved to this location. He bought 40 acres of land in Section 21. He married Bridget Welsh in 1850. She also had emigrated from the same area of Ireland. She was working in Lake Geneva until her marriage.

John and Bridget had five children. Jackson, the oldest went to Chicago to live and work. Mary and Henry lived on the old farmstead. Jennie also went to Chicago to live. The fifth child was Frank.

Frank began his adult life as a teacher in Illinois. He saved his money so he was able to buy his father's farm. By using modern methods of agriculture he was able to increase his holdings to 360 acres. He was the secretary and manager of the Maple Ridge Creamery for about ten years. In 1904 he helped organize the Zenda Milk Company. Frank was also secretary for this business.

Frank was always interested and active in politics of both the township and county. He served as Town Treasurer from 1886 until 1898 and Town Clerk from 1899 until 1912. He was school treasurer for 25 years and served as town assessor.

Frank married Ella Welch on September 12, 1893. She had grown up in Elkhorn. She taught school for two years in Linn township and also in South Grove. They had two children: Edward born on January 6, 1896 and Franklin born May 15, 1906. Edward finished high school. He never married. He resided on the family farm until his death. Franklin completed his education at Milton College and then returned to the family farm.

Franklin married Eunice Thomas on October 26, 1932. They had no children. Franklin served on the Linn Town Board from 1945 until his death. He was chairman of that Board continuously from 1950. He served on the County Board of Supervisors from 1950 until April, 1982.

While on the County Board he served on many committees. He was on the UW-Extension Committee and was their chairman for many years. Both times that I was hired as the Walworth County Extension Home Economist, Franklin was chairman of that committee.

Eunice served on the Lake Geneva Public Library Board of Trustees from 1948 until 1986. Franklin then took that position from 1986 until 1990. In the 1960 they sold their farm and retired to a home on Black Point. Eunice died on April 26, 1986; Franklin died June 4, 1990. The property on which their house is located is owned by NFS.

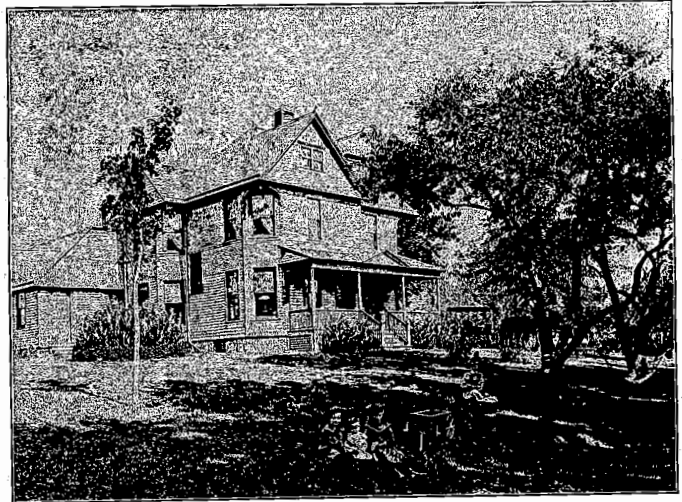
FORMER ALBERT S. ROBINSON HOME

The former home of Albert S. Robinson is located on South Lake Shore Drive and Elm Street in the Town of Linn. This area and up to the intersection of Willow Bend and Hillside Roads was listed as Robinson in the early Plat Books. Robinson was born in the township on February 3, 1855, the son of Samuel and Jane (Reed) Robinson. Samuel came to Walworth County in 1844 and purchased land in Linn township but did not settle here until two years later. Samuel and Jane had another son, Charles. He drowned in Geneva Lake when he was four.

Albert grew up on his father's farm. He attended Traver, the local grade school and high school in Lake Geneva. In 1882 he had his own farm of 80 acres. From 1890 until 1910 he was secretary and manager of the Lakeview creamery which he had helped organize. By 1912, according to Beckwith's History of Walworth County, he was farming 270 acres of land. In 1911 he was elected president of the Farmers National Bank of Lake Geneva. The house in the picture was built in 1895. It was one of the most attractive and modern of its time. The same could be said of his farm buildings. The house maintains most of its original features. Albert married Mrs. Sarah Towslee on March 27, 1888. She was the daughter of Benjamin and Louisa Sutton and was the widow of George Towslee. Albert and Sarah had three children: Blanche Alice, Miles Albert and Hugh Irving.



A. S. Robinson



RESIDENCE OF ALBERT S. ROBINSON

A WALL AROUND WOOD SCHOOL

A wall encompasses the Wood School property. If you have ever taken a good look at the original part of the school you will notice the date, 1858, on the building. The property for the school was donated by Mr. S. B. Chapin; he also gave the original section of the wall.

Around 1950 his daughter, Virginia Chapin Frye, gave an additional acre of land to the school district with the provision that the wall be extended to that property.

Woods School was named for its location in the community of Irish Woods. Irish settlers lived in the dense woods in this area and the original Wood School was a wooden structure. The east room of the current building was built in 1886; the west room was built in 1900. The south wings are more contemporary additions, including a very recent addition.

Mr. Chapin founded the S. B. Chapin Company in 1891. He built his north shore home, Flowerside Inn in 1898. His farm, also named Flowerside, was across Snake Road to the north. In his time, this property had 538 feet of lake frontage. In 1908 the Chapin family moved to New York but continued to return to Lake Geneva for the summers. Chapin helped found the Lake Geneva Water Safety Patrol. In 1940 Chapin's New York office merged with Hutton & Co. and the Chicago office merged with Clement Curtis & Co.

REEK SCHOOL

Reek School is located on South Shore Drive between Fontana and Lake Geneva at the intersection with Walnut Ridge Road. Reek School is a part of the Big Foot School District. The following information was obtained from a history of the school compiled by George Merwin.

The first school in the Reek School district was a log house built on land donated Mr. John Reek, Jr., grandfather of Bennett Reek, in the year 1843. The original Reek farm was on Lake Shore Drive. In the early 1950s it was occupied by Charles Yanke and his son, Lyle.

At this time there were two other schools active within that is now the Reek district. One was located on the Walworth road near what is now the Merwin Farm; the other was on the same road closer toward Lake Geneva.

The Reek log school was used for a very few years and was replaced by a small frame building. When this second house became too small it was moved to Linton. Later it was tom down and the good lumber used for the construction of a building north of the former Red Eye Tavern.

The new school was a larger frame building and used until 1939 when it was sold to Bud Miller of Lake Geneva; he remodeled it into a dwelling. The school was replaced by a brick building at a cost of \$14,000.

In 1947 due to increasing enrollment the school was organized into a State Graded School. The basement was temporarily used for a class room. In 1952 it was voted to build an additional two class rooms with basement playroom. [At this point in the Merwin history, he indicates that this “last” addition to the school was completed and was being dedicated that evening.]

The original school grounds, donated by John Reek, Jr., was added to in 1927 by a purchase of one acre of land from Wm. Rader. In 1953 more land was added by a donation of approximately two acres from Edward Mulhem.

Until 1897 they held only 8 months of school each year. The first woman teacher was hired in 1897 to teach 9 months of school at \$29 per month.

In 1908, at the annual school meeting they voted to have department cards. In 1909 they voted to mop the floor of the school once a month. In 1910 at the annual meeting they voted to furnish the text books free. In 1912 the district voted to install seats and a teacher's desk. Until that time benches were used. In 1919 it was voted that a furnace and electricity be installed.

In 1953 there were two children on the school register which represented four generations to receive their elementary education in the Reek School. They were Mary Kaye and Ernest Merwin, who were preceded by their father George Merwin, their grandmother Alice Reek Merwin, and their great grandfather, James Reek, son of John Reek Jr. who donated the original plot of land for the school house. Since that time an additional generation was added with the sons of Ernest and Becky Merwin - G. W. and James Merwin.

FORMER BOYD SCHOOL HOUSE

Most people will recognize this as the top of the entrance and the window over the main entrance of the Pilgrim Church, located at the intersection of Hwy. 120 and Willow Road. The original part of the building started out as the Locust Grove or Boyd School house.

The name Locust Grove came from the grove of trees growing nearby. The trees had been brought to the area from New York. In 1876 it was known as Boyd School, for a nearby farm family who probably donated land for the school.

Locust Grove's first school was built in 1843. It was replaced in

1852 with a red structure with white trim. As a result, the school became known as, "The Little red School House." A new building was constructed in 1901-02. That is the older part of the church which you see. The school was closed in 1950. The Pilgrim Church was established here in 1965. The left wing of the church was added after that time.

TRAVER SCHOOL

Traver School is located on Linton Road, old County BB. Linn School District #4 was known as Traver as early as 1866. That was the year of their first recorded school district meeting.

In 1866 a frame building replaced the log school house. According to school records, another frame building was erect in 1897. That school house was 36 feet long, 24 feet wide and 12 feet high. It had 140 square feet of black boards.

At that meeting \$205 was raised for their yearly expenses. The group voted to hire a "man teacher who was able to beat all the big boys in school and to teach higher arithmetic." The teacher that year was J. L. Marsh. His salary was \$35 a month for teaching the 44 pupils. By 1871 there were sixty-two students attending this school.

Elena Mohr was listed as the teacher in the 1901/02 school year. She had 36 pupils and received \$45 a month. The next year her salary increased by \$5 a month. Mrs. A. S. Robinson, of Lake Geneva, was the School District Clerk in 1902.

The current structure was built in 1909-1911 with an addition made in 1956. By this time the school employed three teachers. During the 1962 school consolidation, this district gained that of Locust Grove was located at the corner of Hwy. 120 and Willow Road, the former Pilgrim

Church. Records indicated that there were four teachers during the 1963/64 school year. An extensive addition and remodeling was done in 2002.

Judson Traver who owned 40 acres surrounding the school came to the township in 1839. He was a carpenter by trade as was his father. Judson's father and family came to the area from New York. Judson had one of the first threshing machines and self binders in the area.

Judson's son, William, was superintendent of the Farmer's Creamery and operated stores in Springfield and Lake Geneva. He organized the Lakeside Tea Co. and later had the Ford and then the Dodge agency in Lake Geneva. Later he operated the Traver Hotel... later it was the Metropolitan Church Association on Broad Street.

Early plat books show a cemetery halfway between Traver School and the next intersection, on the left side of the road.

HITCHING POST ON THE PALMER FARM

Several years earlier it was much easier to see. Then it stood as it was originally placed in front of the large house on Maple Ridge Road. Now you can see it on County Road B just West of Mill Road on the Palmer Farm.

The house on Maple Ridge Road was the home of James and Julie Kaye Reek. They were married December 25, 1881. They had six children: Nettie Mabel (Leedle), Lillian Ethel (Palmer), James Bennett, Alice K. (Merwin), Robert Arthur, and Harriet who died in infancy. Each of the Reek children received 120 acres of land from their parents. The Maple Ridge property was the James Bennett Reek land. The land on which the hitching post now resides was the Lillian Ethel Reek Palmer

land.

For those who do not know what a hitching post is ... it was used to tie a horse to back in the days of horse and carriage.

LINN TOWN HALL

The Linn Town Hall is located on Franklin Walsh Street in Zenda. The hall was built in 1914. This structure serves the township as a meeting place for many community events including the Linn 4-H Club, the Linn Neighborly Club and the Linn Garden Club meetings, as well as, town board meetings and elections.

It was the sight of the former Linn Farmers' Fair, a popular community event for almost 65 years. This group started as the Lake View Farmers' club, organized in March, 1913 with about 150 members. In 1914 their fair was expanded to include a school children's township fair. This proved to be highly successful. As a result of this success the town people decided that a town hall was needed. The winter following construction a five part lecture series was held. Because of its popularity this winter lecture series continued for several years. In 1916 a four day agricultural school was held at the town hall.

The first town meeting was held April, 1844 with Supervisors Ira Turner, chairman, Seymour Hatch and Samuel Ryland. Linn was named in honor of Dr. Lewis Field Linn, a Senator from Missouri. Actually three names were suggested: Franklin, Lake, and Liberty. Franklin was voted as the favorite but when the bill was sent to Madison it was discovered there was another Franklin and someone there changed the name to Linn... to honor an early patriotic statesman of Missouri who had recently died.

WISCONSIN'S FIRST 4-H CLUB MARKER

The state historical marker and the small stone next to it is just east of the intersection with Willow and South Shore roads. The club started out in 1914 as the Linn Junior Farmers Club. The marker is on property donated by Seymour Hatch, whose relatives were the first club leaders. Seymour Hatch is also the grandson of the Seymour on whose land the Lake Geneva Country Club was built.

The Linn Farmer's Club was started at a community picnic in 1913. Its purpose was to promote lectures, farmers' institutes and a township fair. They were instrumental in advancing, the idea of the Linn Town Hall in Zenda as the site for their fair. It was this organization, also, which was the impetus for starting the Linn Junior Farmers Club the next year, The Linn Farmer's Fair was held for many years.

Linn 4-H Club is the current name of this very active 4-H club. It is one of the largest clubs in the county.

The plaque on the stone next to the historical marker recognized the Merwin family. Both George and Gladys Merwin and Ernest and Becky Merwin were past general leaders of the Linn 4-H Club. The Merwins are relatives of the Kaye and Reek pioneers, early settlers and prominent families in Linn Township.

FORMER LINN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

This former church can be found in Zenda at the intersection of Zenda Road and Franklin Walsh Street. This is not the original site for this building. In 1922 it was moved three miles across field from Hebron.

The building was put on logs which served as skids and pulled by a horse. The church, which is 65 feet long and 35 feet wide, took only

three men and one horse to make the move. It took two weeks to get it to its present site. Fences were taken down, telephone wires removed from its path and railroad tracks were crossed between train runs.

One of the movers said, "Believe it or not, we did it without even cracking the plaster in the church. It cost us \$1,000 in moving fees."

At one point the former church was an art school. Later, it was a private home for a film-maker/photographer. Currently it appears unoccupied.

The congregation's current church is located on Willow Road near the intersection with County BB. That new church was built in 1978. Their congregation was formed on September 14, 1844.

In the records of this early church it indicates that when someone had done an injustice to another, the matter was brought before the Session rather than having the people go to court. Both parties were called in, the case was heard and an attempt was made at a settlement. Sometimes it was successful; other times it was not and it became necessary to excommunicate the stubborn one from the Church. This was effective discipline because at that time the church was a vital part of the social life. If a person was left out, they became isolated.

EUNICE WALSH BIRD SANCTUARY

This area is located on the east side of Maple Ridge Road just south of Linton. Eunice Walsh had a great interest in nature. After Eunice and Franklin sold their farm, the new owners removed all of the trees and shrubs. However, Eunice insisted that they be replaced so this nature preserve could remain.

At one time, the knoll was a homestead site for some of the Walsh

relatives who came to this country right after the potato famine in Ireland. A former Linn resident remembered stories of how the Walsh men tied a long rope from the bam to the house so they could safely travel that distance during winter blizzards.

THE FORMER JAMES AND JULIA KAYE REEK HOME

The former home of James and Julia Kaye Reek is located on Maple Ridge Road about a half mile north of County B in the Town of Linn.

James and Julia were married on Christmas Day in 1881. They had six children: Nettie Mabel (Leedle), Lillian Ethel (Palmer), James Bennett, Alice Kaye (Merwin), Robert Arthur, and Harriet who died in infancy. When each of the remaining children married they received a dowry of 120 acres of land from their parents.

The Maple Ridge property was the James Bennett Reek land. It is interesting to note that four of the five properties are still within the family. According to Beckwith's History of Walworth County, James was the son of John and Amelia Bennett Reek. Julia was the daughter of Abram and Harriet (Bradshaw) Kaye. She was the youngest of the ten Kaye children. Her oldest brother, Arthur, operated Kaye's Park.

James was president of the Old Settler's Society in 1908. This was the forerunner of the Walworth County Historical Society. He served as an associate supervisor for the Town of Linn from 1885 until 1895.

BOYD'S CORNERS

If you travel on South Lake Shore Drive out of Lake Geneva and continue toward the intersection with Pilgrim Church Road you will see a small triangle where one road continues directly south toward Hwy. 120.

This area was called Boyd's Comer. General John William Boyd lived at this comer where you now see a Bed and Breakfast establishment.

When the Linn Neighborly Club history was written by Alice Massey in 1961 she indicated that their club took over the care of this park in 1926. This was during the time that Elizabeth Lasch was club president. Later there was a marker put in the park dedicating it to the early Town of Linn pioneers. At that time it was called Linn Memorial Park. Today widened roads have shrunk this former park area.

General John William Boyd was born in Saratoga County, New York. He came here in June, 1844, purchased land in Section 11. According to Beckwith's History of Walworth County, he was one of the most successful farmers in the county. He represented the county at the first state constitutional convention and served on one of the committees. He was the first state senator from Walworth County.

REPLICA OF GENEVA LAKE

The small body of water in the Big Foot State Park which you can see from South Lake Shore Drive is a replica of Geneva Lake. This manmade replica of Geneva Lake was part of the Maytag estate. F. L. Maytag added the area which now encompasses part of Big Foot State Park and the Lake Geneva Youth Camp to their estate. It had been owned by Sunnyside Land Company. The area was very swampy.

Maytag drained the land and made a small pond. It was an exact replica of Geneva Lake... on a scale of 1000 to 1. He had plans to make a park for the Town of Linn next to it. However, he died before this was accomplished. The property was divided between two sons. The Maytag family owned the property for twenty years.

The Lake Geneva Youth Camp was the former Ceylon Court Farm which was a model farm for raising prize winning animals. The buildings were converted to sleeping quarters, meeting rooms and other rooms for the camp.

MERRY WATER FARM

“Girl’s Favorite” is the name of the quilt depicted on the barn at the Merry Water farm. It is located at N1240 Hillside Road in the Town of Linn.

The 1857 Plate Map shows that this farm was owned by L. Traver and T. Ledger. The Traver name is well known in this area. Judson Traver who owned 40 acres surrounding the school came to the township in 1839. He was a carpenter by trade as was his father.

Judson's father and family came to the area from New York. Judson had one of the first threshing machines and self binders in the area. Judson's son, William, was superintendent of the Farmer's Creamery and operated stores in Springfield and Lake Geneva. He organized the Lakeside Tea Co. and later had the Ford and then the Dodge agency in Lake Geneva. Later he operated the Traver Hotel... now the Metropolitan Church Association on Broad Street.

The 1873 and 1907 Plat Books show the owner of this property in Section 23 as Thomas Ledger. The 1930 book indicates the owner as A. Ledger. Then in 1966 the owner was Walter York. From 1977 to 1982 the owner is listed as the Walter York Estate. The farm is still in the York family.

Thomas Ledger came from England to this area in 1852 and worked on this farm. He went back to England to marry Miss Fannie Shephard and returned to the farm. He bought the farm in 1856. The farm

has been in the family since then. He died in April, 1908.

His son, Walter took over on the farm. Walter had two sons: Walter, Jr. and Edward and two daughters: Eunice and Mrs. Aspinall. Edward stayed on the family farm.

Lawrence York married Eunice Ledger. Lawrence was the son of William and Nellie Ford York. Lawrence and Eunice had three sons - James, Walter and Ellis and two daughters - Ardith and Margaret.

Lawrence was a charter member of the Linn 4-H, the first 4-H club in the state of Wisconsin. That club will be celebrating their centennial next year. He was also a charter member of the Linn Farmers Fair. Lawrence died in May, 1987. Eunice died in August, 2003.

THE MERWIN FARM

The Merwin farmstead, home of Ernie and Becky Merwin, is located at W4322 Linton Road. The Merwin family can claim ancestors of three early Walworth County settlers, Merwin, Reek and Kaye.

Benjamin Smith Merwin and his family came to Walworth County in 1857 and first settled 1 1/2 miles north of Williams Bay. They farmed there until 1868 when they purchased land in Section 28 of the Town of Walworth. He then moved to Delavan and his son, George Herman farmed the land in Section 28. Later Benjamin moved back to Walworth where he died on May 20, 1896.

George first farmed the property on shares for four years. Then he rented from his father for four more years and then bought the property. He lived here until 1895 when he moved into the village. He was a deputy sheriff for about ten years and was a town supervisor. He and his wife Mary had four children: Florence, Thomas, Sarah, and Ernest L.

Ernest L. married Alice Kaye Reek on November 11, 1916. This marriage brought the three early families together. Alice Kaye's mother was Julia Kaye. She was born in the Town of Linn on February 4, 1855. She was one of ten children of Abram and Harriett Kaye. Her brother, Arthur is the one who owned and operated Kaye's Park in the late 1800s.

Julia married James S. Reek on December 25, 1881 after he came home from having spent ten years in the gold fields of Nevada. James purchased land and became an excellent farmer. He built his home on Maple Ridge Road. By turn of the century he had 50 dairy cows, 20 horses and four hired hands to help with the farming of well over 600 acres. He was a long time member of the Linn Township Board and was an officer of the Maple Ridge Creamery located in Linton.

James and Julia had six children: Nettie, Lillian, James Bennett, Alice, Harriett (who died in childhood), and Robert. When each of the children married they were given 120 acres of the Kaye/Reek farm acreage and a building.

Ernest and Alice settled on the land which Alice's parents gave her. This is the land where the current Merwin household is located. At that time the farm was known as Alern Farms. In addition to farming, Ernest was a skilled carpenter. He built a modern barn on the property in 1916.

He added 90 acres to his farm and in 1922 built the home which still exists on the property and is the home of Ernie and Becky. Ernest L. raised registered Holstein cattle. He farmed with both horses and tractor. He served as Town of Linn treasurer for two years and was a life-long treasurer for Reek School district. Later, his wife, Alice, took over this last job and then it passed on to their son, George.

Ernest and Alice had three children, George Reek, Janice Lucille

and Mary Alice. George attended Reek School and then Walworth High School. He enrolled in the College of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. He graduated with high honors with a degree in Agronomy in 1940.

On February 16, 1941 he married Gladys Lucille Schnitcke. They bought a farm in Town of Linn south of where he was born. Later that year Ernest died and George and Gladys moved back to Alern Farms and sold their other farm.

George and Gladys had two children, Mary Kaye and Ernest James. When Ernest James graduated from Big Foot High School he went into partnership with his father. In 1980 they changed the farm name to Merwin Farms, Inc. The acreage of the farm has increased to 660 acres. It now includes land from three of the Kaye/Reek dowries.

The 1916 bam was expanded in the 1950s and at that time accommodated 124 head of milking cows. A second bam was built for young stock. Later an addition was added to this bam to house a pig farrowing operation.

Horses were also a part of the farm operation. Mary Kaye and her father raised and trained registered Shetland ponies. This venture helped Mary Kaye finance her college education.

In January, 1972 there was a major farm fire and the entire dairy operation was lost. At that point George and Ernie decided not to rebuild the dairy bam. They decided to go into a beef, pig, and lamb operation. Later they moved out of this and now the farm produces com and soybeans.

Ernie married Becky Nafziger on September 28, 1968. At that time they moved into the farmstead. George and Gladys moved onto the

original house of James Reek and Julia Kaye Reek on Maple Ridge Road. Ernie and Becky had two sons, George William and James Benedict. George died March 28, 1993. James graduated from Marquette University and later obtained his MBA from the University of Arizona. He is currently part of Kohler Company.

IRISH WOODS/SUNSET RIDGE FARM.

At one time this was one of the six farms owned by S. B. Chapin. It is located on Hwy. 50 west of Woods School. Sources indicated that at one time Chapin owned six farms in the county extending west from Lake Geneva from Geneva Lake's north shore to Lake Como's south shore. Two farms were west of Wood School. Each farm had its own specialty.

Chapin founded the S. B. Chapin Co. in 1891. In 1941 the New York office merged with Hutton & Co. and the Chicago office with Clement Curtis & Co. In 1908 the Chapin family moved to New York but continued to return to Lake Geneva for the summers. Their home on the lake was Flowerside Farm. Chapin helped found the Lake Geneva Water Safety Patrol.

The 1857 Plat Book lists T. Bame as owner of part of the property. It appears there were a number of smaller, unnamed plats. T. Hannifan is the listed owner in 1873 and again in 1891. In 1907 the owner was Martin Nohelty.

S. B. Chapin is shown as the owner in 1930. The Plat books from 1966 until 1982 show the owners of this property as Jas. Phillip and Wm. Bell. The 2010 Plat book lists the owner as Mathew & Margaret Walsh Trust. The name, Irish Woods, on the gates indicates the original names for this area. Many families of Irish descent lived in homes surrounding this area. Many of them worked in the lakeside mansions.

HOUSE IN THE WOODS

The House in the Woods is located on the north shore of Geneva Lake. By car it can be accessed from Snake Road. It was once the home of the Adolphus C. Bartlett who was in the hardware distribution business in Chicago. He was a founding trustee for the Art Institute of Chicago and a trustee of the University of Chicago. He was also active with Beloit College and Chicago's Central Church.

Building began under a circus tent during the winter of 1905 so it could be a surprise for his wife. The tent came from the P. T. Barnum circus in Delavan. The architect was Howard Van Dorn Shaw; Frederick Clay Bartlett, son of the owner, an artist/muralist, also had a hand in it. He not only helped with the architectural plans but also painted murals on the home's walls. These no longer exist, having been removed by later owners.

Frederick was one of the first artists to be accepted into Munich's Royal Academy of Art. He was awarded a silver medal at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis.

Richard Soutar was the local contractor. He had to get his workers from Chicago because so many other mansions were being built in the area. The Olmsted brothers did the landscaping of the estate.

In 1909 the Ladies Home Journal described it as "...a house built around three sides of an inner court and on the fourth side stands a studio." The outside walls were natural cream gray cement with blue-green trellis work, window frames and eaves. The sashes were white and the shingled roof gives an effect of weathered silver-gray.

Bricks that were used for the piers, chimneys and paving were warm red with raked-out white joints. The magazine included a two page

collection of pictures of the home in their June issue.

The 45 acres of property on which it was built was purchased from L. Z. Leiter at \$1111 per acre. The land contained the Mallory Springs, famous for its purity and medicinal qualities. Some cures were attributed to its use.

In 1936 the property was purchased by Col. William M. Spencer, a manufacturer of insulated railway cars. He sold it in 1972 when he was 80.

The large "C-shaped" main house is 110 feet by 78 feet with the longest part facing the lake. The house acquired its name because it is set back from the shoreline among the trees. The main house was originally only used during the summer.

The smaller studio building contained a studio, dining room, two bedrooms, bath and kitchen. It was used by the family during the winter and as a guest house for the Spencers.

The house has been restored by the current owner and is a delight to see from either the public shore path or from a boat.

FLOWERSIDE INN

Flowerside Inn is located on the north shore of Geneva Lake. By car it can be accessed from Snake Road. It was once the home of the S. B. Chapin family.

Simeon Brooks Chapin was born May 31, 1865. He was the son of Emery and Marietta Armour Chapin. He died January 6, 1945. He and other members of his family are buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Lake Geneva. He was one of several Chicago/Geneva Lake residents who

helped hire Horace W. S. Cleveland to design that cemetery. Cleveland was a protege of Frederick Law Olmsted.

The lakeshore home is not visible from the road. It was built in 1898; the architect was Benjamin Marshal. Marshal also was the architect for the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago. Flowerside Inn is a rambling, hipped-roof house covered with wood shingles.

The house featured a living room, 68 feet by 26 feet, with an Aeolian pipe organ at one end and an Italian hand carved fireplace. The organ could be played like a player piano and had its own heating system. In 2002 the then current owners donated the organ to the Indiana University School of Music. The dining room is 34 feet by 26 feet. It was built with a marble floor and wood-beamed ceiling.

S. B. Chapin founded the S. B. Chapin Co. in 1891. In 1941 the New York office merged with Hutton & Co. and the Chicago office merged with Clement Curtis & Co. In 1908 the Chapin family moved to New York but continued to return to Lake Geneva for the summers.

The Chapin estate started in 1898. By 1930 Chapin owned five farms in the area, each with its own specialty. The farm across the road from their home was called Flowerside Farm. It was known for its Brown Swiss cattle. In 1909, their bull, "Nick of Allenhurst" No. 2873, was the Jr. Champion at the National Dairy Show in Chicago.

When S. B. Chapin first bought property from L. Z. Leiter there was a huge gravel pit left from the building of roads. This was graded to form a large bam yard. The old fence posts which outline the original farm are unique. They have carved tops.

Sources indicated that at one time Chapin owned six farms in the county extending from Geneva Lake's north shore to Lake Como's south

shore. Two farms were west of Wood School. At one time the Chapin home had 538 feet of lake frontage.

Chapin helped found the Lake Geneva Water Safety Patrol. He was one of the founders of the Geneva Lake Historical Society. He supported the YMCA camp at Williams Bay and helped form the Geneva Lake Level Company.

Mrs. Chapin was also very active in the area. She served as president of the Lake Geneva Garden Club from 1923 to 1925. The Chapin were benefactors of the Fresh Air Association, the group which founded and supports Holiday Home. The Chapin foundation continues to support local churches, schools, libraries and the YMCA.

The current owners continue to maintain this historic house. The gardens were restored and are carefully tended. In the early days the estate had as many as fifteen gardeners to maintain the property.

LINTON

This little community of Linton is located at the intersection of Linton Road (former County BB), and Maple Ridge Road. Linton's name is a shortening of Linn Township. It was originally spelled Linnton.

This community is often called "Slopville" by the local residents. It acquired this nickname because of the whey which used to flow across the road from time to time. A creamery was located on the NW corner of the intersection. The 1882 History of Walworth County indicates that Wm. Fowl operated that factory.

One resident said that the houses used to sit in a hollow and rain, the creamery and an area pig farmer all helped contribute to the mess. Another resident said there was a slaughter house on the NW corner; the

owner did not use very sanitary standards in his procedures. There used to be deep ruts in the road in the area.

The 1882 history also indicates that the first public school was located in Section 21. Linton is located in Sections 20 and 21. Miss Garcia Ward was the teacher at that log school house in 1843.

A store used to be in the building on the NE corner. Later, that building was the location of the "Red Eye" tavern and Chinese restaurant. Arthur Kaye a prominent township farmer and business man operated the grocery store for 17 years. It was the first store in the township.

Linton was another cheese factory Post office from March 2, 1898 to March 31, 1902. In the early days the post office was often located in the cheese factory. It was here where farmers would come on a daily basis to deliver milk. Therefore, it was a convenient place to pick up the mail. It was probably after it was no longer the location of the post office that the extra "n" was dropped.

The 1882 history tells of the difficulty in receiving mail. If there was a half ounce letter in the post office in Chicago, the recipient would have to call for it in person. The alternative was to send a written order for its delivery. If the letter had come over 400 miles the recipient would have to pay twenty five cents. Later a post office was established at Crystal Lake; this was much more convenient for the people in the Town of Linn.

Eventually a post office was established in Tirade. That is in Section 32 near the intersection of State Line Road and Swamp Angel Road. It was there from June 23, 1852 until December 23, 1875 with Allen McBride as postmaster.

Bissell was the next cheese factory Post Office located at the intersection of Mohawk and Bissell Roads from July 11, 1895 to

February 28, 1903. Charles F. Sommers was postmaster. The Zenda Post Office began on April 10, 1902 and is still operating. Its first postmaster was Walter A. Palmer.

It was in this area and up toward Big Foot State Park that the U. S. Air Force wanted to establish their Air Force Academy. The area was one of three finalists during the selection process in the mid-1950s along with Alton, Illinois and Colorado Springs.

Many county residents were very happy but most township residents did not have the same opinion. Our state governor was reassuring the Air Force that all paths would be smoothed to make this site a possibility. At the same time local residents were in federal court trying to prevent this site from consideration. It took several years for feelings of resentment on both sides to calm down.

THE FORMER SILAS INGALLS FARM

The 1845 farm of Silas Ingalls was in Section 19 of the Town of Linn. The 1857 Plat Map shows a small section was also in Section 18. Beckwith's History of Walworth County indicates that Ingalls came from Greene County, New York in 1845.

The 1873 Plat Book shows Silas Ingalls owning 80 acres in Section 19. A farm adjacent to the west listed the owner as Est. Enoch Ingalls. That plat book shows a sketch of the Silas Ingalls farm. The 1891 Plat Book shows Silas owning 300 acres in Sections 18, 19, and 20.

Silas married Helen Snell. Their children were: Jerome, Wallace, John P., Henry A., Frank, Hiram and Amos. Silas died August 26, 1907.

In a history of Linn Township written by Florence Agem Patton, Silas could trace his history back to 1629 in Lynn, Massachusetts. He

taught the first school on the Big Foot Prairie and he had the first threshing machine in the township.

The 1919 Prairie Farmer's Directory of Farmers and Breeders list Amos Ingalls as owner of "Ingallside Farm No. 2". His 142 acres were in Section 20. There is also a Harold Ingalls list as tenant on the 120 acres owned by Wallace. Another lists Herman Ingalls, tenant on 140 acres owned by Cyrus Ingalls, Est. in Section 19. Edward Ingalls is shown as the manager of 320 acres in Section 18 for Edward E. Ayers. His farm was known as Upland Farm.

Amos drove a Buick. Edward drove Republic and Overland trucks. Harold drove a Ford and Herman is listed with Buick, Ford and Chevrolet cars. Edward had a 10-20 Titan tractor.

Edward is listed as having a brick silo on the Ayers farm. Harold had a cement silo and Herman had a stave one.

The 1907 Plat Book lists Silas owning 200 acres in Sections 18 and 19. In addition an adjoining farm of 143 acres was owned by C. Ingalls and a 40 acre farm was owned by F. Ingalls.

The 1921 Plat Book shows Wallace owned 120 acres in Sections 18 and 19. Amos had 142 acres in Section 20; H. H. had 145 adjoining acres and J. Ingalls had 20 acres.

The 1930 Plat Book shows Wallace continuing his ownership, Herman has 80 acres and J. continues with the 20 acres. The book, which is labeled "after 1937 and before 1942", lists the owner of the 80 acres as W. Ingalls. In 1948 the owner is shown as Haría Ingalls owning the property bordered by Academy Road and the current Linton Road and Ralph Lottig as the owner of the southern portion.

In the 1961 book, Walter & Theodora Lottig are listed as the owners of the southern portion and Peter & Helen McCabe owning the northern section. The 1964 book shows Ralph Lottig as the owner of the southern portion and Fahrмор Corp owning the northern section.

The 1966 Plat Book again shows that Walter and Theodora Lottig are the owners of the south portion. They are listed as the owners also in 1972, and 1978 through 1990. The northern portion across the road was owned by Fahrмор Corp in 1966; they continue this ownership through the 1970 book. Both owners had additional adjoining acreage. Ralph & Donna Lottig are listed as the owner of the southern portion in 1970 and 1973 books.

The 1977 plat book indicates that Pauline Seipp Armstrong owed the north section. Don H. Moritz was the owner in 1980. In 1982 that section became a part of the Merwin farms.

The 1992 through the 1999 books the southern section owner was shown as Walter F. II and Theodora Lottig. Then in 2002 the section along with other acreage is listed as Lottig Field Corp. I humorously call that area the Zenda International Airport.

VANDERSTAPPEN FARM

The Martin and Nancy Vanderstappen farm is located at W3523 Mohawk Road in the Town of Linn. Their farm property is in Sections 33 and 34. The major portion is in Section 34.

The 1857 Plat Map shows that the major portion of this farm was owned by Chas Beardsley. He had 120 acres in section 34. That ownership continues through the 1900 Plat Book. Another section of the current farm was owned by Alfred Thatcher. A small portion was owned by Joseph Wickham.

Beckwith's "History of Walworth County" has a biography of Charles Beardsley's son, Hermon. Charles married Susan Copeland. He was born in Oswego County, New York; she came from England. He came to Walworth County in 1843. A year later he returned to New York to bring his family back to this county. This included Hermon, Amelia and George Franklin. Both Charles and Susan died in 1903.

The 1907 Plat Book shows the owner as G. F. Beardsley. The farm closer to Bissell Road was owned by Carl York and the small portion on the west side of Bissell Road was owned by Chas. Whiting.

The Prairie Farmer's Reliable Directory of Farmers and Breeders indicates that George F. Beardsley was owner of 175 acres in Section 34 in 1919. His farm was called "Oak Grove Farm." He had married Lizzie H. Sylvester and their children were Lillian, Arthur, Muriel, Genevieve, Guy, and Wray. The latter three mentioned no longer were living at home. George had come to the area in 1866. He raised Holstein cattle, Rhode Island Red chickens and Duroc Jersey hogs. There was a wood silo on his farm. George drove a Dort car.

That same book shows a William York owning property in Section 34 of Linn township. His farm is named "Maple Grove Farm." He was married to Nellie M. Ford. Their children were Lawrence, Helen, Clayton, Edna and Thurlow. This family came to the area in 1894. He drove a Ford and had two stave silos on his farm.

In 1921 Plat Book the owner changed to Jacob Miller. Carl York continued on his "Maple Row Farm." The small section was now owned by Chas Weidemann. These ownerships continued in the 1930 Plat Book.

The Prairie Farmer book includes Jacob Miller with land in Section 34. He was married to Emma A. Weber and their children were Arthur,

Margaret and Dorothy. He came to this area in 1905. He raised Holstein cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs. He drove a Ford car and had a stave silo on his farm.

Charles Weidemann was married to Rike Keicko and the children were Carl, Ella and Frank. Their farm was named "Clover Heights Farm" and located in Section 33. He raised Holstein cattle, Chester White hogs and Barred Plymouth Rock hens. The latter two included breeding stock for sale. He drove a Buick car and had a tile silo on his farm.

The plat book labeled "after 1936 and before 1942" shows the owners included J. Miller, Arthur Wieberg, H. Thatcher and First National Bank of Harvard, ILL. This continues in the 1948 plat book except for the bank's ownership changing to Richard Puhl.

The 1966 and 1982 Plat Books shows the property of 145 acres being owned by M. and A. Vanderstappen. It then changes to Martin, Jr. and Nancy Vanderstappen. Their acreage eventually totals more than 400 acres. It extends east from Bissell Road into both Sections.

Bissell Road got its name from the fact that on that short road there used to be a creamery and a Post Office. I believe that these were located on the west side of the road. The Town of Linn had Post Offices in Linton, Tirade and in Robinson before it was located in Zenda.

ROBERT AND CHRISTINE JONES FARM

The Jones farm is located in Section 16 in the Town of Linn on the north side of Linton Road. It is just west of the intersection with Zenda Road. Their bam quilt is called Sunflower Star.

The 1857 Plat Map indicates that the owner of this property was

Patrick Cullen. He owned 160 acres. The 2010 Plat Book shows the Jones property as 147.12 acres. Some of the acreage on the north side of the farm facing Lake Shore Road now has several private dwellings.

The 1882 History of Walworth County indicates that Patrick Cullen was the first blacksmith in the Town of Linn. He built the first smithy in Walworth County. Patrick emigrated from Ireland to Canada in 1846 and came to this county soon after. He bought this farm in 1849. He served as the town Justice of the Peace in 1859 and 1860. Patrick died on July 4, 1864 at the age of 73. His daughter, Anna, was the wife of Arthur Kaye, owner of Kaye's Park.

The 1873 Plat Book shows that E. Cullen is the owner of this farm. In 1891 it is listed as Edward Cullen. Edward was the son of Patrick. Edward served the township as an Associate Supervisor in 1876.

An 1893 Portrait and Biographical Record of Walworth and Jefferson Counties indicates that Edward served for six years as a blacksmith in a foundry at West Point, New York. He returned to his father's farm for two years. Next he worked at the Franklin Forge in New York City and at the Morgan Iron Works. Next he worked as a blacksmith in San Francisco for two years. The next nine years were spent as a prospector and returned to the farm in May of 1863. In November of that year he v/as drafted but paid a substitute \$300 so he could remain on the farm because his father was not well.

He married Elizabeth Kelley on May 3, 1864. They had five children: Laura A., Frank J., George Philip, Walter Herbert and Harold Edward. He had a herd of thirty dairy cows and several "fine blooded" horses. Laura was listed as one of the best horse women of Walworth County. She also was an excellent musician.

In 1907 the plat book shows that the farm had a name. "The

Homestead”. The owner is shown as W. H. Cullen. That most likely was Walter Herbert.

In 1921 the Plat Book shows the owner of this farm as O. J. Smith. The 1930 Plat Book has the owner as C. J. Smith. Another book which is listed as at least 1937 and before 1942 shows the owner as O. J. Smith. In 1948 the owner is shown as Alvena Smith.

The Jones family bought this farm in 1960. In the 1966 Plat Book the owners are listed as Robert, Marion and Robert O. Jones. In the 1982 book only Robert O. is shown as the owner. That continues until the 2010 book which shows the owners as Robert O. & Christine L. Jones Trust.

They still farm it with cows, calves and crops. In addition, for the last 30 years they also had a business of selling cocoa mulch. It was here that they raised their two children. Their four grandchildren also live on the farm.

CARVED FENCE POSTS ON FLOWERSIDE FARM

If you drive along Snake Road, look on the north side of the road to see these old, carved fence posts at Flowerside Farm. These carved posts outline the original farm. You can also see the farm buildings which were once a part of the Chapin estate beginning in 1898. The farm house was built in 1906.

By 1930 Chapin owned five farms in the area, each with its own specialty. Flowerside Farm was known for its Brown Swiss cattle. In 1909, their bull, “Nick of Allenhurst” No. 2873, was the Jr. Champion at the National Dairy Show in Chicago.

When S. B. Chapin first bought property from L. Z. Letter there was a huge gravel pit left from the building of roads. The pit area was

graded to form a large bam yard.

SNUDDEN FARM

You are looking at the Steve Snudden Farm which is located in the Town of Linn, Sections 21, 22, 27 and 28. This farm was the site of Wisconsin Farm Technology Days. It is an event for both farm and city people to learn more about current trends and see how farming has changed. There were hundreds of exhibits and demonstrations during the three day expo. There were programs in the family living tent and activities for the children.

You were able to “walk around Geneva Lake” on the farm. A small version of the lake was dug. Six sites highlighted either current or historic sites around the lake. Guides at each site told highlights of that location.

Steve knew his wanted to farm from the time he was in grade school. He was an active 4-H and FFA member. By time he graduated from high school he had a herd of 20 milk cows and took over operation of the farm. He now had over 1,500 milk cows and is one of the largest dairy operations in the county.

According to an article in the March 31, 2016 “Lake Geneva Regional News”, the farm had been in the family since 1925. Steve’s grandfather, Harvey Snudden bought eighty acres in Section 27. He started with 22 milk cows.

There are a good number of workers on the farm plus Steve’s two daughters. Carly, who is a senior at Big Foot High School, does the book work and mans the computers. Abby is a junior at Big Foot; she works where ever she is needed. Steve’s son, Austin is a student at UW-Platteville, majoring in marketing.

According to the 1857 Plat Map the 80 acres which Harvey purchased was then owned by M. Newberry. The 1873 Plat Book shows the owner as G. S. Conklin. The 1882 History of Walworth County reports that G. S. served as Town Treasurer in 1872.

In 1891 the owner was listed as J. Rowbotham Est. Aug. Heling is depicted as the owner in the 1900 Plat Book. In both the 1907 and 1921 Plat Books the owner is shown as A. Heling & Son. In 1924 it is the start of the Snudden farm.

The 1919 "Prairie Farmer's /Directory of Farmers and Breeders" lists William F. Heling as the owner of 80 acres in Section 27 of the Town of Linn. He married Johanna Waltenberger. Their children were Christian, Albert, and Alma. Their farm was named "Cedar Lawn Farm." He came to the area in 1871. He drove a Ford car

That same directory lists Harvey Snudden as a tenant in Section 24 in the Town of Linn. The farm was owned by Mrs. Himes. Harvey was married to Anna C. Haase. Their only child listed was Donald. Clifford or Kip as he was known came later.

Harvey raised Holstein cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs and Rhode Island Red poultry. He drove a Ford car and there was a cement block silo on that farm in Section 24.

Harvey's family must have also worked on another farm. I can remember Kip telling me that he lived across from the Bissell cheese factory. That was located on Bissell Road. The cheese factory served as a

post office for a short time.

SARNA BARN/EVERGREEN SEPTIC

This business and its barn quilt is at the northeast corner of County B and Hwy. 120 in the Town of Linn. The barn quilt is “Evergreen,” a most appropriate choice for the Evergreen Septic business.

The land surrounding this company is owned by George A. and Jackie Leedle and is in Section 25. According to the 2016 plat book Leedle also owns land in Section 36 in the Town of Linn and Section 31 in the Town of Bloomfield. According to the 1857 Plat Map this land in Section 25 was owned by S. J. Nichols. This ownership continued through the 1873 and 1891 Plat Books. He served as the town treasurer in 1864 and as an associate town supervisor in 1865

Beckwith’s “History of Walworth County” has a biography of Levi Adams Nichols. He was the son of S. J. and was listed as a very successful Lake Geneva businessman. S. J. and his wife Mary A. Adams came to this township in 1854. At one time S. J. owned almost a thousand acres of farming land.

Levi owned some of his father’s land. He married Ada Rice in 1876; they had four children, two sons and two daughters.. John E. and Charles both farmed parts of their father’s land. Charles married Helen Brown and they had two children, Velma and John.

Levi is shown as president of the Walworth County Agricultural Society in 1901. He was director of the First National Bank of Lake Geneva and eventually president. He spent twenty five years on this farm and later moved to Hebron, Illinois.

The 1900 Plat Book shows Jas. Nichols as the owner of 160 acres in this section. The 1907 Plat Book indicates that J. G. Nichols was the owner. Their farm was called “Bloom Prairie Farm” and their mailing address was RFD #2, Hebron, IL. The “Prairie Farmer’s Reliable Directory of Farmers and Breeders” list James G. Nichols as the owner of 350 acres in Section 25. He was married to Harriet M. Taylor. Their children (as of 1919) were Eleanor and Alice.

He raised Shorthorn beef, Duroc Jersey hogs, Shropshire sheep. Barred Plymouth Rock poultry. Bronze turkeys and Percheron horses, including breeding stock for sale for all of these breeds.

James drove a Hupmobile car. He had a brick, a tile and a stave silo on his farm. The 1930 Plat Book listed Jas. Nichols as owner of this land. I assume this is the abbreviation for James.

The plat book labeled “after 1936 and before 1942” shows the owner of this property as Eleanor Behrens. Eleanor Nichols had married Ralph Behrens. This ownership continues in the 1948 plat book. The plat books dated 1961 through 1973 show the owners John L. Nichol, etal.

HENRY BARN QUILT

You will find this barn quilt at the farm at the corner of County B and Indian Hills Road, just east of Walworth. It is on the Henry farm in Section 24 in the Town of Walworth. The quilt is called “Morning Star.”

The 1857 Plat Map shows that this farm was owned by D. C. Porter. This ownership continued in the 1873 Plat Book. According to the 1882 “History of Walworth County,” Porter was a vice-president of the Old Settler’s Society from 1874 through 1876, representing the Town of Walworth. He came to this area in 1837, settling on Section 24.

He was a Town Supervisor in 1848 and 1859. He was chairman of the Town Board and served on the County Board in 1852. Porter, in addition to being a farmer, was the senior member of Porter & Montague, the owners of Fontana Park. This area had been the camp grounds of Chief Big Foot. These grounds opened in 1875. Porter was born in Massachusetts on September 16, 1815. He lived in that state until he was 21. Then he moved to Ohio for three years before heading to Wisconsin and Walworth township. He returned to Ohio and on August 14, 1839 married Nancy Hanchet.

They had three daughters and five sons. The eldest, Dwight W. died in childhood. The next were the daughters, Eliza J., Amelia and Adeline. Adeline married Leonard C. Church. Doric N., William P., Lester C. and David W. followed. Doric C. died in June, 1901.

In both the 1891 and 1907 Plat Books the owner was T. T. Greene. The 1930 Plat Book showed the owner as Glen Green. Apparently the family dropped the last "e." The plat book labeled "after 1936 and before 1942" showed the owner as Wm. Austin. Richard A. Miller is shown as the owner in the plat books from 1948 through 1988. William James Henry is the owner in 1990 and the current owner.

CORNUE FARM QUILT

This farm is located at W726 Lakeville Road in the Town of Linn. It is in the lower third of Section 30 of that township. The quilt which is attached to the lower section of the bam is called "Spinning Spools."

The 1857 Plat Map shows the owner of this property as a farm for J. A. Maxon and J. D. Green. A small portion of this current farm was also owned by John Millard.

By 1873 the two earlier mentioned farms were owned by W. H.

Crandall. It was interesting to note that this book showed an illustration of the D. I. Cornue & Sons farm. It was listed as being in Section 32 of this township. However, the plat did not show that ownership. There was a D. A. Cornue in Section 29.

The 1882 “History of Walworth County” indicates that W. H. Crandall was a member of the Old Settler’s Society. He came to the area in 1857. He served as an associate supervisor for the township in 1877.

Both the 1891 and 1907 Plat Books indicated that W. H. Crandall was the owner of most of this farm. Morris Millard owned a smaller section of this current farm. The only change in the 1930 Plat Book was that the smaller section was owned by John Millard.

The 1919 “Prairie Farmer’s Reliable Directory of Farmers and Breeders” lists George B. Crandall as living on a farm in Section 30. He was married to Florence May Merwin on August 16, 1893. Their children were Glenna Belle, Vivian Iola, and Marion Irene. The owner of the farm was W. H. Crandall. George is listed as coming to this area in 1871. George drove a Ford car.

The 1882 history indicates that George was wounded in the Civil War when he served in Company F of the Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry. He was a long time member of the local school board.

The plat book which is labeled “after 1936 and before 1942” shows that Ernest Merwin was the owner of most of that land. I do know that his son, George and wife, Gladys, were on that property after they were married in 1941. After Ernest died, George moved back to the family farm in Section 20.

The 1966 and 1977 plat books show the owners as Richard & Mildred “Tilly” Cornue. The 1982 plat book shows the ownership as Cornue Corporation. That continues to this day with their son and then

grandchildren working the property.

FAIR LAWN

This white house with a pillared porch was built in 1894 for Charles H. Wacker. You can see this house either by walking on the public path around Geneva Lake or going for a boat ride on the lake. It is located on the south shore, west of the Geneva Inn and Casa del Sueno but before the former Loramoor estate.

He was a Chicago businessman for whom Wacker Drive was named. Wacker was the chairman of the Chicago Planning Commission. He helped lay out the centralized modern grid of the city.

Wacker was born on August 29, 1856. He was educated in Chicago and in Europe. He then joined his father's brewing company. He was a director for the Com Exchange Bank, Chicago title and Trust, the London and Chicago Contract House and a member of the Stock Exchange and the Board of Trade.

He was a vice president of the Chicago Commercial Association, a governing member of the Art Institute of Chicago. He was director of the World's Fair and was on the Ways and Means Committee for that event. He was a member of the Lake Geneva Country Club and the Lake Geneva Yacht Club.

The clapboard Southern Colonial house has a long front porch. According to "Newport of the West" the pillars are of cypress. According to the Wolfmeyer and Gage book, "Newport of the West," Wacker inspected every board that was used for this house. He said that you could not find a single knot in any of the wood that was used.

Its location on a high knoll gives the occupants a wonderful view of the lake. Compared to many of the other mansions on the lake it is quite

simple.

This house was the family's get-away from the hustle and bustle of Chicago. They enjoyed the house from early spring until late fall. Wacker would ride the "Millionaire's Special" railroad up to Williams Bay each Friday after a busy week in the city.

This train received its name because it often had men like Crane, Mitchell, Swift, Selfridge Allerton and Smyth as passengers. They would ride to Williams Bay and then get on their steam yachts and head to their estates around the lake.

When Mr. Wacker died in 1929 a news article indicated that he was the longest tenure summer resident of Geneva Lake. His obituary in the Lake Geneva News indicated he was credited with "...turning Chicago from a 'muddy, oversized village into one of the most beautiful cities in the world.'" The Wacker family sold the house in 1975.

THE LAKE GENEVA COUNTRY CLUB

You can find the entrance to the Lake Geneva Country Club on South Lake Shore Drive, just before the stop sign at the intersection with Linton Road and Willow Road. This is a private club. If you want to see the club house and some of the grounds you will either need to walk the public lake path or take a boat cruise.

Soon after many of the Chicago families who had homes on Geneva Lake, the idea was floated that there should be a golf course in this area. Newport, Rhode Island had big houses, steam boat and a golf course. If the Chicago summer residents wanted to rival their eastern summer community, they needed more than just big homes and steam ships on the lake.

In 1895 the first golf course in Wisconsin was laid out on land across the road from Mr. Fairbank's home. The Butternuts. It was a five-hole course and was kept very busy that summer.

In the fall of that year a group of Chicago men leased 80 acres from Seymour Hatch, a farmer on the south side of Geneva Lake. They planned to have a six-hole course ready for next summer. On December 30, 1895 eleven men met in Chicago to create the Lake Geneva Golf Club. It was incorporated under the laws of Wisconsin.

Those involved included: Samuel Allerton, Herbert Beidler, Frank Chandler, R. T. Crane, George Isham, Wiley McCrea, Henry Porter, George Rumsey, Julian Rumsey, Harry Selfridge and George Walker.

In the following month the group applied for a charter for the Lake Geneva Country Club. This was granted a few days later. Next, they offered 240 shares in the club at \$50 each. A total of 40 people are listed in the club's secretary book as having the initial shares. Three of the shareholders were women.

A six-hole course was laid out in such a manner that it could be extended into a nine-hole layout. This was done the following year. In 1898 the course expanded to 18-holes.

The first club house was designed and built by Richard Soutar. According to the club's centennial history, it was better than the two Chicago area golf club houses. The club hired Scotsman golf pro, John Conicher and they were open for business on May 30, 1896.

By 1910 the group bought another 68 acres of land from Seymour Hatch. In 1915 the clubhouse burned. The next year the current structure was designed and built by Maltsch & Reinert on the original site. Over the years the building has been added onto and improved.

SWINGHURST

Swinghurst is another house along the south shore of Geneva Lake which you can only see from the public lake path or from a boat. It was built in 1884 for Professor David Swing.

Swing graduated from Miami University in Ohio and then became a member of their faculty, teaching Latin and Greek. He then studied for the ministry. Because he disagreed with the theology taught by Dr. Nathan L. Rice, he changed to studying with another pastor.

According to the Wolfmeyer and Gage, “Newport of the West,” in 1866 he was invited to preach at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Chicago. His sermons were very popular. However, not all ministers felt he was preaching the proper message. In 1874 charges of heresy were brought against him by the Chicago Presbytery. A two week trial acquitted him but the case was appealed and he resigned his ministry.

He was encouraged to continue his sermons and these continued to attract growing numbers of his followers. The Chicago Music Hall was rented for him.

Swing first came to the Geneva Lake area in 1874 as the guest of the George Sturges family. Later he was the guest of the Fairbanks and the Leiter families. He found this area as a “place of refreshment” after all the controversy in Chicago.

In 1883 he bought land on the south shore of Geneva Lake and built his home. This was after his wife had died a few years earlier. He called his house, “Six Oaks.” The Swings had two daughters, Helen, who married Mason B. Starring and Marion, who married Jewett C. Ricker. According to newspaper reports it was the Starrings who spent more time at this home.

Swing died in 1894 and even after his death there was controversy surrounding him. Marion wanted him buried in Ohio and Helen wanted

him to be buried in Chicago. According to Wolfmeyer/Gage, Swing is buried in Ohio and the Starring got the lake property. The family kept the lake home until 1934. Although the land was divided the original house remains.

COVENANT HARBOR BATH HOUSE

The bath house at Covenant Harbor is west of the Lake Geneva Public Library and Geneva Manor. It can be viewed from the public path around Geneva Lake or from a boat on the lake.

It is the only remaining building from the George Sturges estate. Sturges built his estate in 1881. He named his fifty room home, Snug Harbor.

This is the home which he built after their house and land in Lake Geneva was donated to the city for a library and park. Sturges was president of Northwestern Bank of Chicago. According to the 1882 “History of Walworth County”, he served as Geneva village treasurer in 1870 and 1874 through 1878.

George’s wife, Mary, is credited as the one who gave the land and building to the city for the library. In addition, she was one of several women instrumental in the formation of Holiday Home, a camp on Geneva Lake. She was also instrumental in many philanthropic ventures in Chicago and the Geneva Lake area.

Their three-story home was described as French Chateau. It looked like a castle with its tall tower. It had 20 rooms, most with a fireplace. The Sturges had nine children. Their library was filled with books from ceiling to floor.

George died in 1890. Mary died in 1901. Their daughter, Ethel Sturges Dummer, continued in her mother's philanthropic footsteps.

On April 10, 1919 John Borden purchased Snug Harbor for \$50,000. He had leased the home since 1910. According to "Lake Geneva: Newport of the West" by Ann Wolfmeyer and Maggie Gage, Borden made his fortune from Colorado silver and real estate investments in Chicago. This was similar to the fortunes made by Marshall Field and Levi Leiter. This Borden family was not related to the "milk" Bordens.

His eldest daughter, Ellen, married Adlai Stevenson. Later they were divorced.

Charles Benjamin Smith bought Snug Harbor in 1923. The house and land became Covenant harbor Bible Camp in 1947. Cost for a week's stay at the camp in the beginning years was \$13 to \$17.

According to the January 18, 1957 Janesville Gazette, the house was destroyed by fire. Only the shell of the structure's foundation remained. It was assumed that the fire was caused by an electrical problem.

THE FORMER WYCHWOOD ESTATE

This house is on the north shore and is situated west of the Wrigley estate. Gen. A. C. Ducat was an early owner of this property from 1874 until 1901. Ducat was president of the board of Underwriters. A September 7, 1894 article in the Lake Geneva Herald indicated that he was debating about either building on his property or using it as a private park. He sold the property to Charles L. Hutchinson in August of 1901.

Wychwood was named for the witch hazel trees on the land. This estate home was begun in 1902 and was modeled after Shakespeare's home at Stratford on Avon. The area was developed into a wildflower and wild life preserve by Hutchinson and his wife, Frances. Credit is also given to Mr. and Mrs. William Langland, caretakers of the estate.

Hutchinson was born in Lynn, Massachusetts on March 8, 1854. He came to Chicago with his parents two years later. He was an outstanding student in the Chicago schools and wanted to continue on in college. However, his father wanted him to start working in the Com Exchange Bank. His father was one of the founders of this institution. The son became president of the bank in 1881. The bank later merged with the Illinois Merchants Trust Company. Hutchinson was a trustee and treasurer of the U. of Chicago and president of the Com Exchange Bank.

Hutchinson was also a director of the Northern Trust Company, the Chicago Street Railway Company and the Chicago Packing and Provision Company. In 1882 he became the president of the Chicago Art Institute. He later donated much of his collection to the Art Institute. He was chairman of the fine arts committee for the Columbian Exposition, Chicago Athenaeum, Hull House and the Chicago Orphan Asylum. He died on October 7, 1924.

He was a life time member of the Lake Geneva Yacht Club and a very interested proponent of Horticultural Hall.

Mrs. Hutchinson was the driving force for starting the Lake Geneva Garden Club. She was their first president. In 1928 she wrote a book about their estate, "Wychwood, the History of an Idea." It was dedicated to her husband. That book is available for reading in the reference area of the Lake Geneva Public Library. In 1932 she was honored by the Wisconsin Horticultural Society for her outstanding work.

Both Hutchinsons were enthusiastic botanists and developed their property with many paths through wild flowers and shrubs, both native and imported. Mrs. Hutchinson wrote a book, "Our Summer Home," which included an index of plants and trees on their property. It was 270 pages in length!

The property was given in trust to the University of Chicago in 1932 for the study of wild plants and other wild life. Mrs. Hutchinson retained the house and a few acres for her enjoyment. She died in 1936.

In 1938 the Lake Geneva Garden Club established a fund in her honor to promote the growth of wild flowers. The \$2000 gift was given to the Garden Club of America to be administered by them.

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In 1958 the University sold the estate to three individuals under terms allowed in the trust. In 1960 one of the owners became sole owner.

An August 20, 1958, Chicago Tribune article indicated that originally there were plans to raze the house. Frederick Crane Gartz, architect, suggested that the upper level of the house be removed. It is now a ranch Tudor-style home.

THE FORMER “ALOHA” LODGE

This was the name of the Drake home on the South Shore of Geneva Lake. This is another house that you can only see via the lake or the lakeshore path. The house has increased in size after the Drake's tenure. The center section of the current house is original.

The house was also known as Drake House and was designed by Howard Van Doren Shaw. It was built by Richard Soutar of Lake Geneva for Tracy Corey Drake in 1900. Drake owned both the Drake and Blackstone Hotels in Chicago.

The house has six two story pillars and three dormers and a “hanky-panky porch.” The latter served two bedrooms. The third floor originally was a ballroom but later had sleeping quarters. To enhance the property, 120 year old flaming maple trees were planted. Instead of the red color in fall, the established trees turn a deep yellow.

One of Drake's yachts was called “Kaiulani” because they loved the Hawaiian Islands and were friends of Queen Liliuokalani, the last ruler of the islands. That yacht burned in 1906 and their next one was named “Aloha.” The Drakes lived here until 1935. One of their granddaughters was Betsy, the movie star who married Cary Grant. When Sidney Smith moved in next door a huge wall was built between the two estates because of the noisy parties which occurred at the Smith's.

In 1936 the twelve acres and ten room house was bought by Richard G. Lydy. He was in the auto parking business in Chicago. The property also included greenhouses and a caretaker's house and other outbuildings along with 400 feet of lake frontage. In 1960 it was purchased by Robert C. McNamara, Jr. of Evanston. It has had numerous owners since then.

FORMER GEORGE P. BRAUN HOME

This is a house which you can only view if you walk the public path around Geneva Lake or see it by boat. “Echoes” was the name of the home built by George P. Braun. He was a Chicago business man.

He had this shingle-style Queen Anne house built in 1895. The architect was Henry Lord Gay, who designed a number of homes in the area. The original home was on sixty acres. Over the years that estate was subdivided many times. According to the May 1, 2014, “Welcome Home” section in the Lake Geneva Regional News, this land was a part of the earlier Cook’s Camp.

Braun was a manufacturer of oleomargarine. It is interesting that he choose Wisconsin as the site of his summer home. In 1885 Wisconsin was one of several states that outlawed the sale of that product.

The biggest problem was that manufacturers dyed the product to resemble butter. I’m sure that older residents might remember white oleo with a capsule of yellow dye. You would break the capsule and knead the color into the mixture.

In 1913 the house was sold to Amariah Cox, another Chicago business man. He named the house, Pleasant Hill.” Cox originally was a paint manufacturer. Next he purchased the Zeno Gum factory.

One of his customers was William Wrigley, who was a soap salesman. Wrigley used gum as a prize for his customers. It was so popular that he switched to selling gum. He partnered with Cox and eventually bought the Zeno Company and changed it to Wrigley’s Gum. Wrigley was president and Cox was vice president and treasurer.

This led to another connection with the two families. In 1927 William's son, Philip married Helen Atwater, Amariah's granddaughter. That connection to Geneva Lake continues to this day.

The name of the house had changed. There have been some changes to the house, but the basic structure remains. When I look at this house I am glad that I am not the person to wash the windows. I am sure that the inhabitants, however, have a wonderful sunlit interior.

BLACKTOFT

This is another house which you cannot see unless you walk the public path around Geneva Lake or take a boat ride on the lake. It is located on the north shore east of the Wrigley complex and west of Lake Geneva Manor. Blacktoft has a massive, white, wrap around screened porch and three chimneys. The big windows help to catch the cooling lake breezes.

The home was built beginning in 1881 for John T. Lester, member of the Board of Trade. A February 3, 1882 news article indicated that 30 men were still working on the house. A month later it was reported that a Chicago firm was installing electric bell in the house. Later that summer their clipper, "Rinette" was launched in the lake.

Lester engineered a comer on the com market according to a news article in the Lake Geneva Herald on October 13, 1882. Several articles in 1887 detail his illness, described as "resembling vertigo." According to his doctor it was as a result of heat and overwork. He partially recovered but sold his business in 1889.

He died of paresis in March, 1890 at age 47. He left an estate valued at \$750,000 in cash, stocks, bonds and real estate. His wife received the Chicago and Geneva Lake houses plus the furnishings in the

lake house and \$100,000. \$275,000 was to be invested in a trust for his children, Nellie Jane /Booth, Mary E. Armour and Charles H. Lester.

In 1892 his wife, Rinette, married Wiley S. McCrea. In the late 1890s she was active in the women's suffrage movement. In 1915 she was one of the charter members of the Lake Geneva Garden Club along with Mrs. Hutchison, Mrs. Swift, and Mrs. Allerton.

The Three Graces statute which is in Flatiron Park was a gift from Rinette to the city. She gave \$5000 for the statue and its maintenance. The names of her woman friends are inscribed on the base. She died in 1917; her estate was settled in 1919 and the monument was erected in 1920.

A 1919 article in the Lake Geneva News Tribune stated that there was a delay in fulfilling this legacy because it was given to the "Town of Lake Geneva." There is no such town. Eventually it was decided that Mrs. McCrea meant the city of Lake Geneva. She asked that Frederick Bartlett, Robert Allerton and Dr. W. H. Macdonald be in charge of the selection and supervision of the statue.

In 1989 the statue was badly damaged. Because Rinette had given money for its maintenance it was repaired. The Lake Geneva Regional News printed a picture of the restored statue on August 31, 1989.

The next owner of this home was Alonzo G. Fischer of Elmhurst, Illinois and Beverly Hills, California. He was a banker and financier of DuPage County. He died in early 1948 and was survived by a sister and two nieces.

In 1948 Mrs. Gordon C. Thorne bought this home from the Fischer estate. Mrs. Thorne's husband had died in 1938 and had been the head of Montgomery Ward and Co. When her husband died he left an estate of \$2,600,000. Mrs. Thorne sold Blacktoft in June, 1952.

DANTUMA FARM

You can see the Dantuma Farm and their Windmill Star barn quilt at W3090 State Line Road. Probably the easiest route is to take Hwy. 120 south toward the Illinois state line. Then head west about a half mile. Their barn is on the north side of the road. The farm is located in Section 35 in the Town of Linn.

The 1857 Plat Map of the county shows the owner of this property as Est. of J. Goodfellow. Then from the 1873 Plat Book through the 1907 Plat Book the owner is listed as R. R. Nutt. The current owners assume that the buildings were erected during this time.

Fred Kolls became the owner by 1919. His ownership is listed in the Prairie Farmer's Reliable Directory of Farmers and Breeders of Walworth County, Wisconsin. That book was copyrighted in 1919.

Then in the 1966 plat book the owners are shown to be James & Effie Kolls. James is Fred's son. Effie is listed as the owner in the 1977 book. In 1982 Keith Kolls is shown as the owner. He is James and Effie's son.

The original barn burned in 1982 and was replaced the next year. It was used to house the dairy cattle. The original home was removed and replaced in 1992. Michael and Linda Dantuma purchased the farm in 1990 - 100 acres.

The original pig house now houses pygmy goats, peacocks and chickens. The barn is home to Sicilian miniature donkeys. The chimney from the pig house is located in the front of the house with a gazing ball. The windmill fan was restored in 1998.

The Dantuma have sold most of the original acreage. They kept the

farmstead and six acres.

The only reference I could find for Nutt in Beckwith's History of Walworth County was for a Polly Nutt. She was married to John Mickle. This family lived in Section 31 of the Town of Linn. This reference was in a biography of Walter E. Ledger. He was a well known and successful Town of Linn farmer.

The information in the Prairie Farmer Directory about Fred Kolls indicates that he was married to Anna H. Schaeht. Their children were Laura, James, Clifton, Elsie and Jessie. The latter two named children were not living on the farm in 1919. Kolls owned 87 acres; he lived in the county since 1898. "Echo Farm" was the name of his farm.

GATE ENTRANCE TO FLOWERSIDE INN

This is one of the many lovely homes located on the north shore of Geneva Lake. The private entrance is on Snake Road in the Town of Linn. For many years this was part of the S. B. Chapin estate started in 1898. S. B. Chapin bought the property from L. Z. Leiter.

Sources indicated that at one time Chapin owned six farms in the county extending from Geneva Lake's north shore to Lake Como's south shore. The estate had 538 feet of lake frontage.

Simeon Brooks Chapin was born in 1865, the son of Emery Chapin and Marietta Armour Chapin. He married Elizabeth Mattocks in 1892. They had four children, Marietta, Elizabeth, Simeon, Jr., and Virginia. Marietta married Harold Hartshome. Elizabeth married Kenneth Patterson. Simeon Jr. married Elsa Bartholomay. Virginia married Rev. Francis Drake and later Burton Frye.

The lakeshore home, not visible from the road, was built in 1898.

The architect was Benjamin Marshall who also did the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago. It is a rambling, hipped-roof house covered with wood shingles. It features a living room, 68 feet by 26 feet, with an Aeolian pipe organ at one end and an Italian hand carved fireplace. The dining room, 34 feet by 26 feet, has a marble floor and wood-beamed ceiling.

S. B. Chapin founded the S. B. Chapin Co. in 1891. In 1941 the New York office merged with Hutton & Co. and the Chicago office with Clement Curtis & Co. In 1908 the Chapin family moved to New York but continued to return to Lake Geneva for the summers. Chapin helped found the Lake Geneva Water Safety Patrol.

Chapin died in January 1945; his wife died in March, 1946. Their daughter, Virginia, lived in the home until she sold it in 1954, The Chapin legacy continues in Wisconsin and throughout the country through four foundations which Chapin established before his death.

THE FORMER BARTHOLOMAY HOME

This is the former home of the Bartholomay family. At one time it was part of the Black Point Estate. This house was built in 1905 at the direction of Catherina Seipp, widow of Conrad Seipp, Sr. She used this house, called The Cottage, in the spring and fall. During the summer, because of the large number of guests at Black Point, she gave it to one of the Seipp families.

Catherina died on January 1, 1920. The estate was then purchased by her three daughters, Emma Seipp Schmidt, Clara Seipp Bartholomay and Elsa Seipp Madlener. Elsa gave up her portion of the estate the next year. She and her husband, Albert, bought an adjoining property.

In 1940 Clara and Emma divided the property. Clara took the Cottage and Emma had Black Point. Clara had married Henry

Bartholomay, Jr. on July 12, 1894. The wedding took place at Black Point. According to some family history, thirty four guests were present. That was the first of four weddings of the Seipp family at Black Point.

A news article from 1936 in the Lake Geneva Regional News stated that Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bartholomay were both active in the Lake Geneva Garden Club. He was known for his gladioli, both in their size and range of color. The house stayed in the family for many years. It no longer is a part of the Seipp/Bartholomay family.

The name Bartholomay may sound familiar. William C. Bartholomay was part of the seven person syndicate who bought the Milwaukee Braves in 1962. He was a grandson of Clara.

It is usually not possible to see this home from any of the public roads or the Geneva Lake public path. However, if you take a tour of Black Point, you may be given a glimpse of the house as you are taken on the outdoor portion of the tour. Details of the tour can be obtained from Gage Marine.

ENTRANCE TO THE BOYD FARM HOUSE

You are looking at the entrance to the General Boyd home which is now a bed and breakfast establishment. It is located on South Shore Drive, near the junction which soon connects with Hwy. 120.

General Boyd was born in New York in 1811 and came to this area in June, 1844. He purchased a 130 acre farm and soon became well known not only in Linn township but throughout the county. Twenty years later his holdings included 320 acres. He was a successful farmer and stockman. He became Town Chairman in 1845 and 1846 was a member of the first state Constitutional Convention in 1846 and a member of the first state Senate.

He served as Major General in the 3rd Wisconsin Militia although he never saw any active duty. He was President of the Madison Mutual Insurance Company. He started out as a Democrat but later he was elected as a Republican, changing his political affiliation because the Democratic platform conflicted with his antislavery convictions.

He was very active in the community and in the state. He was instrumental in bringing the railroad to Lake Geneva. He played an important part in the development of the state's constitution and the University of Wisconsin. Boyd died January, 1892.

It is part of this family who resides on the property. The home is a white side-gabled colonial house which dates from 1843. An addition built between 1867 and 1870 greatly enlarged the home. The original portion is to the west and has a cobblestone chimney.

BLACK POINT

Black Point is a historic home located on the south shore of Geneva Lake in the Town of Linn. You can see it best by taking a tour of this home during the summer. Information about the tours can be obtained from Gage Marine's Lake Geneva Cruise Line.

The Indian name for Black Point is "Makate Neashe." In 1887 Conrad Seipp purchased the land which had been part of Warwick Park. The property size is currently at 27 acres with 650 feet of lake frontage. Seipp had this house designed by Adolph Cudell and built in 1888. It has been in the family every since. This three story Queen Anne Victorian house with a four story tower and thirteen bedrooms commands an excellent view of Geneva Lake.

Seipp enjoyed only two summers at this place before his death in 1890 at age 62. Seipp came to Chicago from Langen, Germany in 1849.

He operated a hotel and a brewery in Chicago. Seipp's yacht was called "Die Loreley". The estate was originally named Die Loreley, after World War I the name was changed back to Black Point because of anti-German feelings.

In 1900 Catherine, his widow, hired Olaf Benson to landscape the property. The next year she bought some adjacent property, increasing the estate to almost 50 acres. Her son, Conrad, bought out a nursery and over seventy different species of evergreens were planted on this hillside. In addition to the evergreens there are white and black oaks, hard maples, basswood, walnut and white birch trees on the property. Because of disease there no longer are black oaks on the estate.

In 1902 the family added more land to this estate. In 1904 a second house was built on the property. Catherine died in 1920 and two daughters divided the property. Emma Seipp Schmidt took the 1888 house and Clara Seipp Bartholomay took the 1904 house. In 1942 Emma's daughter, Alma Schmidt Peterson, became the owner of the 1888 home.

The house has never been winterized. In 1946 a modern kitchen was built in the house. Prior to this a service building housed the kitchen, laundry, ice room and the servants' quarters. A few closets were turned into bathrooms. The original house had only one water closet.

This house and adjoining land has been donated to the State of Wisconsin as a museum by Alma's son, William. The idea to do this was first mentioned by Alma Peterson. Almost all of the furnishings date back to Conrad and Catherine Seipp.

On the property is a cornerstone of the Seipp brewery taken when the building was razed in 1930. The museum opened to the public in June, 2007. It is open only during the warm weather months and is

accessible through Gage Cruise Line.

THE FORMER HAYLOFT

You are looking at the former Hayloft which is located in the Town of Linn at 760 S. Lake Shore Drive. It was originally a barn on the Loramoor Estate. Later it was a restaurant and gift shop. It now houses several condominium apartments.

There are several buildings remaining from the original Moore estate, Loramoor. A long low building on the same side of the road as the Hayloft used to be the Loramoor chicken coop. It is now a private home. Two smaller buildings of construction similar to the Hayloft can be seen on the right side of the road to the east. One was the laundry; the other was the garage. They are now private homes.

A stone wall outlines the area of the Loramoor house, stables and gatehouse area. The house, which no longer exists, was built beginning in 1900 by James Hobart Moore. The estate eventually contained 30 separate buildings in addition to the main house, all designed by Jarvis Hunt. The estate was originally 234 acres, purchased in 1899 for \$3,500,000. It was eventually enlarged to 400 acres with 1100 feet of lake frontage.

Mr. Moore was a lover of horses... racing, driving and draft. His stable was a showplace which could house 60 horses in oak stalls with brass trim. Wicker mats covered the floors.

The stable was built in 1899 and was converted to a library in 1951 by the Franciscan Friars, who were owners of the property at that time. In 1987 it was purchased by an internationally known cartoonist and the building was converted into a home.

Mr. Moore wore a white shirt when he came out to check his horses before riding... rubbing his arm over the animals to see if they were clean. If his shirt sleeves did not remain clean the grooms would have to get another horse. Bands played regularly in the stables to accustom the horses to the noises of parades and celebrations. Every afternoon the Tally-ho, a big surrey, with a man on back and driver in front with four matched black horses would take their usual route through the township roads. As one former resident said, "You could set your clocks when you heard them blowing their tally-ho."

If you are interested in getting more of a flavor of this type of transportation, stop at the Lake Geneva City Hall. There is a large mural painted by George Pollard of J. H. Moore's "Tally-Ho" leaving Loramoor. There are four other paintings there depicting the city's history.

Mr. Moore started out in law eventually forming a partnership with his brother. They branched into other enterprises and formed the Diamond Match Company. When that failed, leaving them with many debts, they organized the National Biscuit Company and the American Tin Plate Company. Some other ventures in which he was active include Frazer Lubricator Co., Price Baking Powder Co. and American Strawboard Co. Mr. Moore was, also, the president of the Rock Island Railroad.

The three story main house was designed so one could view the lake from any of its 27 rooms. The house had 15 bathrooms. In addition, there was a large attic and basement which contained a two-lane bowling alley, recreation room, tap room, and wine cellar. The house boasted a barber shop and an elevator large enough to handle large trunks.

At one time Mr. Moore had 40 servants working in their home. On the grounds there was a 9 hole golf course and 10 greenhouses.

After Mr. Moore's death in 1916 the house was sold to the Frederick Countiss family who had it from 1917 to 1923. The next owner was the Kishwaukeee Country Club (1923-29), then J. E. McCauley (1933-42) and the Lasker family owned it from 1942-1950.

In 1951 it was purchased by the Franciscan Friars of the Assumption B. V. M. They used the main house and stable as a study house until 1980 when it was sold to a local realtor, LaVerne Twist. After unsuccessfully looking for buyers for the main house, it was demolished in 1984. The gatehouse and the stables remain.

THE HARVARD CLUB

This group of summer houses is one of the oldest on the south shore of Geneva Lake. It was established in 1875 on 14 acres of Edward Ayer's 1200 acre farm estate. It originally started out as a campsite for some Harvard families and a few from Chicago.

Ayer gave 250 feet of lake frontage with a depth of 600 feet. It stretched from shore to road. The land was staked out into fifty lots. Each was 25 feet square, enough for a tent. After a few years cottages were built and the lots were combined.

The club was formed by a group of businessmen from Harvard, Illinois. Ayer's father, Elbridge, founded the village of Harvard. All of the 24 houses were built before 1896. The members own their individual homes but the property upon which a house stands is owned by the club.

Originally all members ate at the Hotel Minier which was located on the west side of the club. The hotel also served as the club house. After the hotel burned it was not replaced and kitchens became a part of the individual homes.

According to an article in the April 7, 1975 Lake Geneva Regional

News, a book of rules was drawn up in the 1920s.

- "1. No parakeets or quadrupeds allowed.
2. No painting or construction is permitted between June 15 and September 15.
3. Screens or shrubbery must not obstruct view of the lake.
4. Drying of laundry and bathing suits to be concealed from public.
5. Radios are not to be played on porches.
6. A quiet hour between 2 and 4 PM must be observed for napping.
7. Children are requested to behave like ladies and gentlemen.
8. Fraternalizing with alcoholic beverages frowned upon.
9. Membership in Harvard Club is by application and investigation and limited to 25 members.

A fire swept through Harvard Club in 1963 destroying seven homes. Only 2 were replaced as zoning laws had changed." This club was included in the Geneva Lake Intensive Survey and Architectural-Historical Report done in August 1985.

LAKE GENEVA YACHT CLUB

The Lake Geneva Yacht Club is located on Geneva Lake and South Shore Drive. This group was first organized in 1874. Their first commodore was N. K. Fairbanks.

According to one story I heard, General Sheridan, of Civil War fame, came to this area to do some fishing on Geneva Lake. He noticed some of the sailboats on the water and asked if they did any racing. His friends said nothing really organized but something could be arranged. Thus, the first Sheridan Cup Race was organized.

That first race was the start of the Geneva Lake Yacht Club. The

Sheridan Cup Race has been held annually ever since. Julian Rumsey was the owner of the winning first race. He was the winner of many of the early races.

In the early 1890s another club was organized in the Fontana area, called the West End Yacht Club. In 1894 these two clubs reorganized into the Lake Geneva Yacht Club. They had their own building on rented property at Cedar Point from 1906 until 1915. For the next ten years they were without a yacht club building. They continued to race each year using one of their member's piers.

In 1925 some of their officers and some members were determined to find a home for the club. They found a home on the south shore almost opposite the mouth of Williams Bay. The building was remodeled and piers and docks were installed. They shared the property with the Geneva Lake Boat Company.

In 1941 they started the Sailing School to help young people learn and enjoy the art of sailing. In 1953 this school was reorganized as the Geneva Lake Sailing School.

The yacht club's lease with the Geneva Lake Boat Company ended in 1967. Ernest Schmidt donated a strip of land just east of the boat company. This area was cleared and new facilities were installed. In 1989 the Yacht Club purchased the Geneva Lake Boat Company property.

The club continues to grow and improve. Their members increase their skills over the years and have received national and international recognition. Their two outstanding members are Harry C. (Buddy) Melges, Jr. and Jane Pegel. Their new structure now honors Buddy Melges.

An 84 page history was written by Hal Hamlin, their centennial chairman, in 1974. It is filled with lots of pictures and stories about the various races and sailors.

ENTRANCE TO CASA DEL SUENO

You are looking at the entrance to Casa Del Sueno which is located on the south side of Geneva Lake on County BB. The home is a sixteen room Spanish revival villa. Recently it was the home of Lee Philips and William Bell, of television fame. Casa del Sueno means "House of Dreams," was built by C. B. Smith in 1929. In the 1935 Mrs. P. T. Starck whose husband had been part of the Starck Piano Company purchased the estate. The family lived there until the early 1950's.

The original home on this property was called "Galewood." In 1892 John C. Hatley bought five acres of land for this estate from C. C. Boyle. Mrs. Jessie Bartlett Hooper became the owner of this property in 1923. Fire destroyed the frame home in 1928. She then built this current house.

Also on the property, on the lake shore, is a boathouse which was built to resemble a lake steamer. It is now a guest house. That structure was also built in the 1920s.

SITE OF THE FOUR OAKS SCHOOL

This school house was located at the SW corner of Mohawk and Hillside Roads in the Town of Linn. In 1902 Frank Beardsley with a Hebron, IL address was district clerk. Nancy Andrews was the teacher during the 1909/10 school year.

In 1910 the district decided to join District #9, Zenda School. The building was sold and moved to the Stoneall farm.

The 1882 History of Walworth County shows a Joseph Stoneall in Town of Linn. He was born in England on February 7, 1816 and came to

the U.S. with his father, Richard, in 1840. He first went to Kane County, IL but soon moved to Walworth County and acquired property around 1852. He came to this area poor.

Beckwith's history indicates that the family had been tailors in England and knew nothing about farming. However, Joseph acquired fine property by hard work and economy. He later became known as an excellent farmer. He also tended an orchard. He had 180 acres by 1882. He married Lucy Rowe, a daughter of Lucian Rowe. Her first husband was Hiram Everson who had died. She came to Genoa Junction in 1857.

Mr. and Mrs. Stoneall had three children - Mattie, Seymour and George. Mrs. Stoneall had one son by her first marriage - Herbert C. Everson. Joseph's sister, Mary, married Seymour Hatch. He was another prominent farmer in the Town of Linn.

Joseph died in 1897. George was born February 23, 1869. George married Anna Rodawig of Saybrook, IL. They had three children - Winefred, Bernice and Milfred. By 1912 George had acquired 220 acres of land.

According to the Prairie Farmer's Reliable Directory of Farmers and Breeders of Walworth County, Wisconsin, he was engaged in general farming and raising Holstein cows. He drove an Overland car and had a concrete silo on his farm.

The 1977 and 1982 plat books show the property owners as Rex and Madge Stoneall. The 2010 book shows the owner as Linda Stoneall.

NORTHWOODSIDE

This Swiss-style house can only be seen from the Geneva Lake shore path or from a boat on the lake. It is located on the north shore west of Covenant Harbor. The house with a cuckoo clock balcony was built in

1876 for Gen. Henry Strong, a doctor and a lawyer. The architect was Henry Lord Gay.

Before Strong built his house here he had pitched his tent at various locations around the lake to find the coolest spot. Strong became president of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad. He also dealt in real estate.

An active person, he often played 54 holes of golf - even at age 81. Strong was born in Glasgow, Scotland. This was because his father, an American, was the United States Counsel General for Scotland at that time. Strong came to the U.S. at age 5. After graduating from Rochester University he studied medicine and practiced for several years. Then he studied law and practiced that mainly in Iowa.

In 1854 he married Mary Halsted. He first came to Lake Geneva in 1874. He was one of the Chicago business men who promoted the idea of the Geneva Lake area as a summer residence. He was the owner of the Republic building in Chicago.

The house has green trim with a red brick foundation, ornamental railing and dormer windows. Gen. Strong had a separate cottage built for his enormous pipe organ, powered by waterpower. Strong was an accomplished organist and tended to play in the early morning hours. Neighbors thought the organ was haunted.

A Lake Geneva Herald article of December 10, 1886 indicated that Strong now had land in Washington D.C. He intended to build a block size building on it costing \$200,000. The article stated that his annual income from his real estate was also \$200,000. In addition he was very successful in his railroad operations. A later article in March, 1887 described the finished home to be about as large as the Chicago Courthouse and very fancy.

In a 1901 news article Strong describes his Santa Barbara, California home. He indicated that the country club building was more pretentious than the one on Geneva Lake, but he didn't like the course in California.

In 1904 Strong moved a 20 ton red granite boulder to Oak Hill cemetery as a family monument. The three mile trip took four days.

Mrs. Strong died in 1904; she was 74 and had been ill for some time. Strong died in 1911 at the age of 82. His obituary indicates that four of his children survived him. There were Mrs. Charles Denison, Mrs. Theodore Sheldon, Gordon Strong and Mrs. John A. Jameson. The property was maintained by the Strong children until 1921.

The house was rented by Francis Beidler I from 1911 until 1923. Francis II was another accomplished organist and spent many hours playing the instrument. The senior Beidler died in 1924. After the Beidlers left this home, the organ was not used. Later it was disassembled and the pipes were sold for their zinc.

Next the house was owned by Olaf Lavender, inventor of the paper milk bottle cap. He became a millionaire and was able to retire at age 26 with that invention. He was born in Sweden. During this tenure, some Florida Spanish features were added to the house.

The next owner was Dr. Frank Lagorio. His son, Dr. Ambrose, married Eleanor lavender in 1947. Later it became part of the Phillip K. Wrigley estate. It was rented by Mr. and Mrs. William Trinke.

RICHARD T. CRANE

“Prominent Citizens and Industries of Chicago” has biographies for men who had connections with Walworth County. One was Richard

Teller Crane.

He was born in 1832 in Paterson, New Jersey of poor parents. At an early age he had to go to work to support himself In 1847 one of his uncles obtained a job for him in Brooklyn, New York at a brass and iron factory. After four years of apprenticeship there, he went to New York City for another four years perfecting his trade.

In 1855 he moved to Chicago; a place he thought had good potential for opening a factory. His uncle, Martin Ryerson, allowed him to open a small foundry in his lumber yard. Soon it was so successful that Richard's brother, Charles S., joined him.

Soon the lumber yard site was too small. The factory moved to West Lake Street. By 1865 this site also was too small and a move was made to Jefferson Street, between Lake and Randolph. The headquarters remained here but branches were developed in other areas of the city and in several cities throughout the country. By 1873 R. T. bought out Charles' share of the company. Eventually it moved into the plumbing business.

All employees were given the option to buy shares of the company with the stipulation that if they wanted to sell them the company had first option. Crane showed great appreciation of his workers. Those who were injured on the job could recuperate on his place on Lake Como. Children could also vacation at this facility.

In 1879, R. T. first came up to the Geneva Lake area. His son, Bert, had come to this area for a summer camp. He wanted his horse; so the family brought it up behind their surrey. "Lake Geneva: Newport of the West" tells this story. The lake area was mainly for hunting and fishing, although there were seven established estates by this time.

R. T. fell in love with the area and soon bought 23 acres about three miles west of the village of Geneva. Eventually the estate would be 95 acres with almost a quarter of a mile of shoreline. The estate was called Jerseyhurst in honor of his birth place.

R. T. and his first wife, Mary Prentice, had seven children: Charles, Herbert (Bert), Kate, Mary, Frances, Emily and Richard, Jr. The daughters were enrolled in the Lake Geneva Seminary. Mary died in 1885 and R. T. married her sister, Eliza. She died in 1900 and he married Caroline Hutchinson Ryerson, who was the widow of Martin Ryerson.

Kate married Adolph Gartz in 1889. They lived in the Crane hunting lodge next door to the main house. They had five children, but two were killed in the Iroquois Theatre fire in 1903. Those remaining were Adolph, Jr., Richard and Gloria. Gloria never married.

Herbert married Jessie Doolittle. Their home on Jerseyhurst, El Nido, was built in 1887. They had four children: Herbert Jr., Dorothy, Valentine and Charles R. II. Dorothy married A. K. Maxwell. Charles R. married Cornelia Smith. They had four children: Richard III, Frances, Josephine and John. A fourth major home was built for them on the estate, Cloverbank.

ALVAN E. TYLER

Alvan Elnathan Tyler is one of four persons from Walworth County highlighted in "Representative Men of the United States: Wisconsin Volume." He was born in Milford, Massachusetts on October 22, 1838.

At age 19, he left home and became a mercantile clerk in Kennedy, New York. In April, 1861 he worked in the office of the Atlantic & Great Western Railway at Corry, Pennsylvania. His dedication to his job earned

him several promotions until he became an agent for the railroad and the United States Express Company.

He became the treasurer and director of the Vermillion Coal Company in Streator, Illinois. This included work with the Ottawa, Oswego & Fox River Valley Railroad. In July, 1871 he was working with the Chicago & Paducah Railroad. Three years later he co-partnered with M. J. Luther and bought control of the Streator Coal Company.

This later became the Luther & Tyler Coal Company. In 1882 he divested himself of the coal business and moved to Lake Geneva. While he was living in Chicago, he would summer in Lake Geneva. He had holding in Mexico silver mines and Dakota gold fields. He bought a farm on the south side of Geneva Lake. Later this property became the J. H. Moore estate. There he raised harness race horses. He sold this farm in 1892.

In 1886 he was named president of the First National Bank of Lake Geneva. He continued his work with the bank until 1922 when poor health forced his retirement.

He was an active Mason, a Knight Templar and a member of the Ottawa, Illinois Commandery, No. 10.

According to his biography his success was due to his business methods: attention to details, integrity and good faith in his dealings. Tyler died in early January, 1932 at the age of 93.

The other three Walworth County men in this book are George W. Peck, John Goodland and the Hon. William P. Lyon.

MARTIN RYERSON

Martin A. Ryerson, Jr. was a Chicago businessman who had close ties to Geneva Lake. His summer home, Bonnie Brae, was located on the north shore.

Martin Ryerson, Sr. was born near Patterson, New Jersey on January 6, 1818. At age 16 he traveled to Detroit and worked with several Indian traders. According to his biography in “Prominent Citizens and Industries of Chicago”, it was there that he saw that lumber presented a good business. He bought a saw mill in Muskegon, Michigan.

He came to Chicago in 1851 and established his first lumber yard at Canal and Fulton Streets. Another was soon started at Dekoven and Bunker Streets. His lumberyards were spared during the great Chicago fire. As a result business was soon booming!

He married Louisa Duvernay in 1851. After her death he married Mary Campau. He died September 6, 1887.

Martin A. grew up in wealth. After school in Chicago he spent seven years in Paris studying literary and scientific education. On his return to Chicago in 1880 he entered his father’s business.

In 1897 he purchased Bonnie Brae, a home which had been built for Judge Thomas Withrow. The home was named for the Judge’s daughter, Bonnie. At that time the estate covered 31 acres. Soon Ryerson increased this to 98 acres with 1250 feet of lake frontage.

According to his obituary in the News Tribune of Lake Geneva on August 18,1932, he was born on October 26,1856 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He married Carrie Hutchinson in 1881.

He retired from the lumber business many years before his death. He was a director on several banks In 1922 he retired from the board of trustees of the University of Chicago after serving for many years.

At age 36, he was named the richest man in Chicago. He was a personal friend of Claude Monet and John D. Rockefeller. Much of his art collection was donated to the Art Institute of Chicago. According to the obituary these included four galleries at that institution.

Bonnie Brae stayed in the family until 1939. That house continues to be seen on the north shore of Geneva Lake.