DESTINATION LODI

A HISTORICAL JOURNEY

THE E.R. HOWE FARM HOUSE 1898

The house at 702 Bank Street is near and dear to my heart, it was my Grandfather Miner’s house. Grandpa and Grandma Letha rented the house before buying. When Grandma Letha passed away, grandpa married Mabel Clinker Arnold staying in the house. My grandfather was a mail carrier and became Post Master of Lodi. My grandpa also shoed horses. When my parents, Bill and Mim Heffelfinger married in 1940 on Easter Sunday, they held their wedding reception at this house. When my parents would go on business trips, I spent many a night in this house. I remember the beautiful woodwork and the staircase going up stairs. There was no bathroom upstairs, so I used a chamber pot at night. I was horrified.

I finally stopped by and spoke with current owner Mathew Sprowl and his wife. I had an old picture of the house I wanted to show his family. The picture shows a porch that spanned the front of the house and a much larger barn. I understand there was a fire that destroyed the larger barn.

The house was part of the Howe Farm known for short horn cattle. Noted in the American Short Horn Herd Book from 1881; T.G. Loomis bought cattle from E.R. Howe. Howe was a member to the Holstein Friesian Association, noted for pedigrees of shorthorn cattle. Noted in the Cattle book, the Howe name for owning as well as breeding.

The date of the current house built in 1898 means this could not be the original homestead on this property.

We have a street named Howe. Joe Warner has a photo of a land run circa late 1800s in the area of Howe and Ohio Street. Again, information welcomed.

Edwin Ruthban (E.R.) Howe (1846-1929) married Agnes C. Morgan (1851-1927). They had four children, Mary (1873-1890), Roy Edwin (1878-1945), Ray Franklin (1879-1953) and Claudie (1889-1889). Their son Roy Edwin studied at Ohio State University was on the O.S.U.Board of Trustee of Engineers. His name is in Who’s Who in Engineering: Vol 1. 1923-1924. Ray Franklin was a schoolteacher.

The First Congregational Church of Lodi is celebrating 200 years this year. Pastor Dake invited Larry and me to attend a program given by Kenneth Hammontee portraying Oskar Schindler. I must say it was over whelming. After the program, I was looking at the names of the church stain- glass windows, one window dedicated to Mary Howe. The information about Mary stated she died of measles, knew she was dying and planned her entire funeral. She was a strong, lovely and spiritual young woman. The entire Howe family are buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Caulk another up for Lodi for an outstanding family and award winning cattle.

It is that time of year; we are planning “Ye Olde Tyme Christmas” characters. If anyone is interested in helping, please call me.

We will have a quarterly meeting on October 26 at Lodi Library 7pm. Author Joann King will be our program following our meeting.

Thank you for all the generous donations, we are over half way to our goal. We are launching membership campaign. We have membership forms on our website lodiharrisvillehistorical.org. We provide a newsletter every other month is available.