***DESTINATION LODI***

***A HISTORICAL JOURNEY***

***The Henry Selders House***

***The house at 321 Medina Street belonged to one of our many outstanding citizens of Lodi. It’s stated he was named on the list of Lodi citizens that worked hard and given liberally to the benefit of Lodi. This statement noted in the 1911 Home Coming and Centennial booklet. The booklet also stated a memorial should be erected in honor of several named citizens. No memorial was ever erected. So, with the help of Alloy Fabricators, my next project will be to mark their graves I can locate.***

***Henry Selders was born on 1/24/1829 in Tuscarawas Twp. in Stark County. He was the youngest of eight children. His father, George was a blacksmith by trade. In 1850, Henry settled in Lodi, going into business with W.B. Gaylord. He married Juliette Townlee in 1854, daughter of a prominate citizen of Lodi. Henry will follow his father’s trade, opening his own blacksmith business in Lodi in 1855. Son Aldelbert was born in 1855 and son Ernest was born in 1863 He was contracted to delivered mail from 1860-1864.***

***It was in 1862 Henry purchased land from Jeremiah Higbee. If you remember the Higbees had a house at the corner of Elyria and Medina, was then moved to the corner of Baker and Wooster. The property purchased stretched from Elyria Street to Woodlawn Cemetery, to the park hill. (Park Street was plodded until after WW11.)The date the Selders house was built is not exact, this will be an educated date.***

***According to the History of Medina County 1881 it states, Henry Selders was a Blacksmith but in later years makes more a specially of horseshoeing being one of the best in the country; although coming here poor he acquired a good property and a pleasant home. It’s my understanding it was also a horse farm.***

***He had filled different offices of trust and responsibility as a Trustee of the Academy, Director and Teller of the Bank and served 13 years as a Township Trustee. He had always been of the side of progress, a man of sound mind, public spirted and a useful citizen in the community. He also was on the Board of the Harrisville Agricultural Society in 1859 holding the position of Treasurer. The first fair was held on the Redfield Farm ½ east of Lodi. Oh….and he was a Republican.***

***In 1873, Henry received rewards at the Ohio State Fair for his double petunias and gladiolus. Their home was noted for their gardens.***

***In 1897 the Lodi Directory stated Henry Selders occupation as “Implements”.***

***In 1896, Henry Selders filed a patent for a folding table. He describes in his patent the table as folding, which can occupy a small space when not in use. Card table?***

***I had a pleasant visit with current owners Robert and Carole McKee. I appreciate their knowledge and research help. They bought the newly restored home in January 2015. The McKee’s have one daughter who lives in Wadsworth. Welcome to historical Lodi!***

***They will receive a plaque stating Henry Selders, Blacksmith, Honored Citizen, and Circa 1870.s.***

***The Lodi-Harrisville Museum will be opened this Saturday during the Antique Fest. We are located at the Harris Twp. Hall.***