*DESTINATION LODI*

*A HISTORICAL JOURNEY*

*The James Redfield Farm*

*As you know many streets in Lodi were named for significant citizens in our history, Redfield Street is one of those streets*

 *James Redfield was eleven years old when he arrived in Harrisville with the Joseph Harris family on February 14th 1811. He helped the Harris family settle into their new life.*

*Involved in many facets of our community, James become so important to Lodi throughout his life. As a young man he was known for his trapping skills of wolves. It’s noted that he had trapped at least 120 wolves up to 1830. In the fall of 1816 he cut the road (Rt. 42) between Lodi and Medina. In 1834, obtaining a government contract, he was the first to run mail from Wooster to Elyria twice a week. On October 23, 1846, Harrisville Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons #137 was formed with James as one of the first officers.*

*James married Polly Perkins formally of Jefferson Co. New York in 1831. Polly arrived with her family the fall of 1817 using the road her future husband had forged. The union produced 7 children, Rachel Harris, William, James Perkins, Joseph Harris, William Henry, Russell, and Mary Jane. After the death of Polly, James married Mary Mason Rowe having one child, Alvaretta.*

*Originally build in 1900, the picture is the home at 222 Redfield Street. Looking at this picture you would never know this old farm house would become the late Dr. Velbinger office/resident.*

*The James Redfield farm included Highland, Young, Grove, Janice, and Lakeview Streets. According to old records James purchased the land in 1835. I’m not sure where and when he built his home but according to records in 1859 the First Harrisville Agricultural Society held its first fair on his farm located ½ mile east of Lodi. The land remained in the Redfield family until 1897. The land was then purchased by Nelson Harris who I’m assuming built the present farmhouse. The property remained in the Harris family until 1943 when it was purchased by Robert and Faith Young. It remained in the Young family until 1953.*

*I spoke with Jan Young Barnhart who lived with her parents and two brothers in the old farmhouse. She gave us the picture of the house, the old barn that burnt down in the 1950s and a picture of the cows her family raised. She thought her grandfather build the lake (known as Young Lake) which was located in my old back yard on Grove Street. She also stated there was a Sugar bush located near that area. In 1953 her family then moved down the street to a new house that still stands. (Now owed by Pat May)*

*It was around 1950 that Dr. Hermann Velbinger and family arrived from Frankfort Germany to practice medicine in America. I had a wonderful visit with Mrs. Velbinger, known to my children as Oma (German for Grandmother). In 1953, while staying with a pastor in Sandusky who sponsored the family, a notice in the local paper advertised a need for a Doctor in Lodi. They had many offers from many places but decided to settle in Lodi. She said after renting the house on Redfield, the first day of arrival the house was full of people. She said she was confused at first but soon learned the people of Lodi were there to clean the house for the new Doctor and his family. It was later that year they bought the farmhouse and started the remodeling. Dr. Velbinger added on to the house, changed the outside, landscaped and added a lake. In 1978, after Mrs. Velbinger built a new house on Lake View, the property was sold to Gary Rickel Realtors then to the Klinect family.*

*The Lodi-Harrisville Historical Society received a letter of invitation to attend an opening ceremony from the new owner of this historic home. Newbridge Place have purchased this home, remodeled it and now become Newbridge Veterans Place, a facility that houses low –income veterans.*