DESTINATION LODI

A HISTORICAL JOURNEY

THE SHULENBERGER/GRANNIS HOUSE

CIRCA 1904

W.Jay Shulenberger (1864-1932) was a well-known proprietor of the Shulenberger Livery, feed and stable in Lodi. The big yellow house at 323 Bank Street was his home, just up the street from his business.

According to the “History of the Western Reserve, Vol. #3” it states Mr. Shulenberger monopolized the livery business in Lodi. He was sociable, straightforward and enterprising. Mr. Shulenberger was a prosperous and leading citizen.

Born near Smithville to John and Elizabeth (Gilbert) Shulenberger, he had two brothers, Samuel and Henry and one sister Lavern. Brother Henry became a Physician that practiced in Smithville.

 At the age of twenty, he left his father’s farm and started his first business. His first business was dealing in lumber and stock in Canaan, Wayne County for 8 years. His next employment was with the Empire Harvesting Machine in1890, selling their machines. It was in March 1896, he began his livery business providing first class stock and the best rigs at the most reasonable prices. His business was just west of C.W. Sommers.

On September 24, 1891, he married Ella M. Gearhart born July 3, 1866 in Burbank. The union produced three daughters, Mary, Catherine and Gladys and one son, Jay. There youngest daughter Gladys drowned at the age of two, Catherine passed away at age nineteen of heart disease.

Daughter Mary would marry Ralph Grannis. If you remember the Grannis –Baker family had land and farm where Verne Anderson lived. Ralphs parents were William Roscoe Grannis (1848-1934) and Rosella Baker (1858-1939). Mary and Ralph would eventually take over the Shulenberger family homestead on Bank Street. Mary and Ralph had five children. The Shulenberger-Grannis family lived in the house until 1952.

I ‘m a little confused when I found during my research his household census 1900 included Horace ( his partner) and wife Flora Myers, Melvin Kline (waiter), Ella Kime (nurse), Margarete Kulp (waiter), Albert Nelson, William Lucas, Frank Lab, Benjamin Kimble, and Obed Billman all boarders. The 1900 census stated occupation under W.J was HOTEL and livery. Under his partner Horace Myers, it states Vet/surgery. This makes sense for he bought and sold horses. Was the hotel part of his livery? Was the house a hotel, the house built in 1904? The census usually spans a decade. Need help if anyone knows, please give me a call.

As automobiles became available, he transitions to auto sales. He also provided hauling services during the building of the B&O arches.

Larry remembers Russell Beard and wife Artie lived in the house for many years.

The home now owned by the Samantha Marinoff family are remodeling the house. They finished restoring the hardwood floors on the second floor. I believe the family is excited to know the history of this important family of Lodi.

If you were not at the library for the lecture on area Indians by Rick Elias you missed a good one. The next historical lecture on July 12 @ 6:30pm will be on early settlements by Rick Kindig.

Once again, an account has been set up at Farmers Bank for our new museum. We have a goal. We would like to pay off the debt ASAP. This endeavor is so important to the citizens of Lodi and our community.