DESTINATION LODI

A HISTORICAL JOURNEY

MILLER SHEEP FARM 1873

During my walks, trying to rid myself of extra fluffiness and preparing for my son’s wedding, I scout out historical homes that need to be recognized. Thanks to the friends at Alloy Fabricators, I have 10 more plaques to place. I have dropped off many, but I have more to deliver. Larry and I will hang them for you. If you have a home with significant history or story please call.

I was looking at an old picture of the Lodi Academy and in the background was a farmhouse on the hill. Built in 1873, the Miller Sheep farmhouse still stands.

I stopped in and spoke with present owner Jessie Keene. He was gracious enough to give me some history of his home. Planning to bring back house to its original state Mr. Keene started with the front porch. The carriage house that still stands has one of the original Lodi Village streetlights hanging on the outside. The Miller old driveway is now High Street, donated by The Miller family making a road for the school in the late early 1900s. The Miller back acres once held the football field for the school and still have the original field lights. When the school replaced the gym floor, the previous owner salvaged the wood that is now the floor in one of the bathrooms. The Keene Family showed me a picture frame passed down from the original family of the home. The picture frame will remain with all owners.

The land was originally part of the Joseph Harris estate. According to court records, Mary Warren bought part of the land in 1874 that was next to the home that now belongs to the Hershberger family. There were two parcels of land sold at separate times. Joseph Harris, J.C. Rogers, James Redfield and Elmer Haskets (that order) once owned the second parcel that the farmhouse is built. J.C. Rogers appears to have built the farmhouse in 1873. William Isaac (1873-1949) and Eldora (Ella) nee Wagner (1878-1966) bought the farm in early 1900s from Elmer Haskins.

 Son Ralph W. (1911-1998) and wife Cecelia (1911-1995) continued farming, Grandson William Corwin (Corky) raised on the farm married Mary Lambert building a home on the property.

The historical plaque will read J.C. Rogers/Miller Sheep Farm Circa 1873

The pictures show the house on the hill behind Lodi School and the old farmhouse today.

We are looking for new members. Check out our website [www.lodiharrisvillehistorical.org](http://www.lodiharrisvillehistorical.org). for member applications or call me at 330-635-7294. I will also place forms at the Lodi Library.

Once again, we have established Building Fund at the Farmers bank in Lodi. The funds earmarked for buying a home/building for the Lodi-Harrisville Historical Society. We are hoping to establish a Building Committee of local Lodians to help with this endeavor. Many thanks to those who have donated.