*DESTINATION LODI*

*A HISTORICAL JOURNEY*

*TOWSLEE HILL FARM 1939*

*Another ride takes us pass the Triple O, under the arch make a right on Rte. 42. On the left, up on a hill another farm that belonged to another prominate early settler of Lodi, Darius Towslee. Remember the railroad did not exist so the land was across the road and beyond. Could you imagine the view? There are two homes that still stand with many out building across Rte. 42.*

*Nathan Marsh and Gideon Towslee (Darius’s father) were next-door neighbors according to 1790 census of Pownal Bennington Co. Vermont. Their children Darius and Sarah (nee Marsh) Towslee were married in Vermont, June 24, 1804. They first settled in New York, worked a dairy farm that produced a special brand of butter and cheese.*

*In 1815, Nathan Marsh along with the Joseph Perkins family arrived at the Harrisville settlement. Both family acquired land two ½ miles S.W. of Harrisville. Marsh occupied the north and Perkins occupied the south “Albert Section” at Crawford Corners. Together they operated a sawmill.*

*In, 1838 the Darius Towslee family followed his wife Sarah’s family to Harrisville and settled one and a fourth miles west of Harrisville. They came by tugboats on the Erie Canal, then with their teams and wagons over the “Buffalo Trail”. The farm is located on the west bank of the Black River. The couple had fourteen children.*

*Medina Co. Court records of real estate transfers read “John D. Haynes to Darius Towslee, 51 acres June 24, 1839, Solomon Pease to Darius Towslee 57 50/100 acres September 20, 1839.*

*Their two young sons and Grandfather Marsh built a log cabin. The cabin replaced later with a substantial frame building and future additions. The house later moved to the south of US 224 and remodeled.*

*Some of the Towslee’s children moved away. Son Hiram married Mary Park in 1843 and purchased a farm south-west of Lodi. Hiram (10th child) was described as tireless, thrifty, enterprising and honorable. He held a 12-year champion wrestler title and championship belt that spanned four counties. Wife Mary known for her keenness, brightness and sense of humor.*

*After the passing of parents, Darius and Sarah, son George and wife Maria (nee Pollock) became the owners of the family farm on the hill. Both Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Towslee were prominent citizens. Two daughters born to them, Dr. Lillian Towslee, a physician in Cleveland, and Ella Towslee Webster Spear of Cleveland.*

*The youngest of the Darius and Sarah was daughter Juliette who married Henry Selders. If you remember from one of my previous articles, the Selders were quite prominent, greatly esteemed in business and social circles. Their house located at the corner of Park and Medina Street.*

*I was able to talk with current owner and family member Paul Towslee Webster the third. Nice person who loves history and is willing to talk with me the next time he is in town. More info to come!*

*Correction from Last article. Pete Remington not Rex. Sorry people Old and Blonde!*

*As donations come in for the Museum fund, we will try to thank ASAP. Big thanks to the Vic Grimm family. They donated $400 as a Christmas present to Vic and Donna. Thanks!*

*Dinner (Spaghetti) with Frank (Sinatra impersonator). LHHS fundraiser on March 25 th Lodi American Legion starting at 5:00 p. $20 per person. Limited to 100 tickets. Tickets available at Lodi Music, Village Square Antiques and Lodi Farmer Bank. Alternatively, call me at 330-635-7294.*