*DESTINATION LODI*

*A HISTORICAL JOURNEY*

*V.A. HOMAN FARM*

*There is a dedication in “Growing a Village, Lodi’s 175th Anniversary” stating in the 1911 Home Coming Centennial booklet a number of citizens that needed a memorial in their honor. Men that worked hard and given liberally to benefit Lodi. I’m hoping someday I will be able to follow through with this mission.*

*When researching homes and farms the names of these men keep surfacing. One time or another many had owned several parcels of land in Harrisville/Lodi and this is what makes things so confusing. One of our prominent citizens whose name keeps surfacing is V.A. Homan.*

*My journey to locate certain farms continue down Lodi Road to a property now owned by Cher Neufer. The Neufer family bought the property in 1971. The home was built by V.A. Homan between 1913 and 1916.*

*It’s noted in the History of the Western Reserve, approx. 1870 John Carr Ritchey owned the 50 acres, Lot 94 and was the number one “woolen factory” in Medina County.*

*Not sure where he lived on the property but it’s my understanding the small house owned by Rex Remington was moved to build the big house that still stands. Was this part of his farm?*

*According to the History of the Western Reserve, J.C. Ritchey (some places the name is spelled Richey) born 1846 was the son of John and Sarah (nee Norton) Ritchey. We do know after the death of his father, John Carr, his mother and sister lived with Timothy Burr, his home, a noted station on the Underground railroad. The text stated, “John Carr became acquainted with the great patriot principles that agitated many people in the North in the abolition of slavery”, witnessing many slaves escape to freedom. It’s noted in a family blog John Carr lived unpretentiously and yet humble. He loved the truth and ever sought to speak it. He was just in his relations to his fellow man, and kind to all.*

*The current house was built by V.A. Homan. According to Cher Neufer the forms to make the house pillars are still in the barn. The sand and gravel used in house construction was taken from the Black River that runs through the property. Cher said you can still see where gravel was removed. The silo was removed years ago and the house has been a double since the 1960’s. Many barns and outbuildings still remain.*

 *Mr. Homan farm was noted for shipping hay and his livestock. According to Larry’s Uncle Glen, Larry’s Grandpa Meek worked for the Homan Farm and when Grandpa lost 3 sons within three years, Mr. Homan gifted cemetery lots to bury his sons.*

*This is a tribute to two extraordinary men in Harrisville/Lodi history showing community spirt and caring.*

*Big thank you once again to those who have donated to our Historical Museum Building Fund.*

*The Lodi-Harrisville has an event planned for March 25th. We are having a fundraiser Italian dinner featuring a “Frank Sinatra” impersonator. Details will follow. Mark your calendar.*

*Happy New Year!*