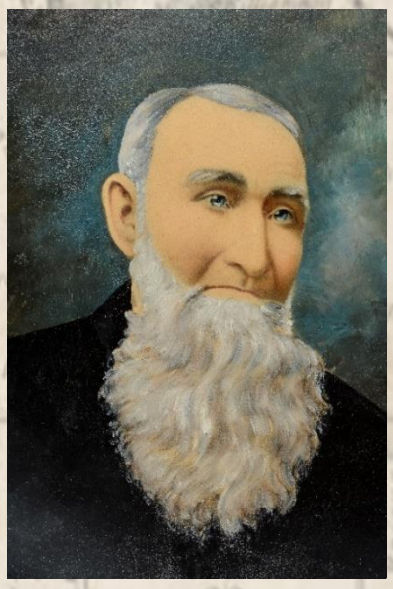
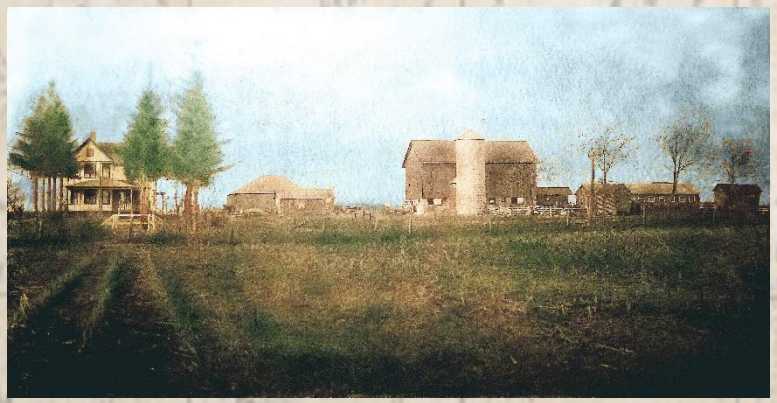
The History of the Pope Farm Conservancy Land

Owners, Settlers, and Farmers

By: The Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy©





Contents

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Preface

This project entitled “The History of Pope Farm Conservancy Land: Owners, Settlers, and Farmers” is a product of the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy Education Team. The Conservancy specifically highlights agricultural education for students and the public. Interpretive signs, annual field trips, Native American and pioneer gardens are all designed for 4th graders of the Middleton-Cross Plains School District. This History is the second in a series of six “Stories of the Land” the Friends are building to offer an in-depth understanding about the land where Pope Farm lives.

In 2020, the first of two schools were completed on the Pope Farm property. Having the 105-acre Conservancy literally out the back door of an elementary and a middle school is a tremendous opportunity to link curricula and on-site learning to a new generation. In 2019, the Friends produced our first app as a Visitor’s Guide. This history of land ownership will be our second app available for visitors to download as they walk through the Conservancy.

As Editor, Mel Pope coordinated this historical compilation since 2018. Mel has not only been involved with the Friends since their inception, he lived on the farm and has many connections to families who are important to this story. The Friends discovered who owned the land from public records. After those owners were identified, we began working closely with people, or the descendants of those people, who lived on the land. In a sense it became a neighborhood project and many community members enthusiastically pitched in. Government documents and local historical records supplemented personal conversations with many descendants. This work would not be the same without the rich histories found in family albums, stories, and pictures!

When we couldn’t locate families. we turned to word of mouth, sometimes finding the most obscure relatives within hours. Middleton still has the intimacy of a small town and we are grateful for all those who jumped on board to help us make connections. Many of those we found were willing to share their own remembrances of living on these properties and we’ve included them to give the reader a range of real-life experiences to carry with them as they visit the Conservancy.

We are confident that we have completed a thorough review of both formal and informal sources for the almost 200-year recorded history of this land. Despite our exhaustive search, there are still pieces of this history we were unable to find or dates we were only able to estimate. We look forward to additional stories and resources that may emerge as this work is more widely available.

The materials are organized chronologically for each of three 80-acre farms that form the Conservancy. While we began with a focus on ownership records, we soon began to see the

character of these people and their contributions to the community. The wide range of these stories are broken out into seven chapters.

Chapter 1: The story begins with how one square mile of land was given to a Native American woman as part of the Third Treaty of Prairie Du Chien. Discussion ranges from the Treaty of 1829, to the sale of those lands to speculators, and the subdivision for sale to European immigrants.

Chapters 2 - 4: These chapters contain the history of European settlement on the Eastern, Central, and Western farms. Chapters begin with a Timeline and Chronology of each owner and end with Remembrances of some of the children and grandchildren who lived on these properties.

Chapter 5: This chapter tells three stories of Agriculture: Fritz Elver farming on Black Earth Creek in 1861, Mel Pope's remembrances of farm work in the 1960s, and highlights of agricultural advancements since 1880.

Chapter 6: This chapter shares the stories of community life including schools, the "white" church, and the famous Engel - Brumm wedding that lasted 3 full days in 1890.

Chapter 7: Three members of the Pope Family that made the Conservancy possible are introduced: Art, Vivian, and Betty Pope. The chapter concludes with the story of the race to save the land as a Conservancy in 1999.

Conclusions and Observations: As editor, Mel Pope concludes with four key observations that emerge from these stories: Land is King, Mecklenburger's Community Involvement, Sacrifice for a New Life, and Living in the Wilderness.

Mel Pope, Editor
Chair, Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy
Fall 2020

The Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy (FOPFC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed in the spring of 2013. The purpose of the FOPFC is to enhance the educational opportunities at Pope Farm Conservancy (PFC), preserve the balance of its wildlife habitat and historical features, and protect its scenic landscapes and tranquility for the enjoyment of the public. Pope Farm Conservancy is owned and operated by the Town of Middleton. The Friends offer many opportunities to enhance and enjoy this breathtaking conservancy.

FIGURE 1 – State of Wisconsin[1]

Dane County Highlighted

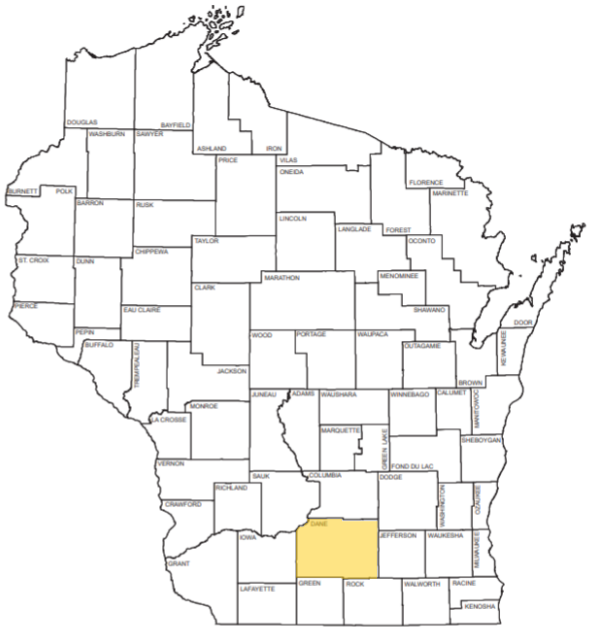
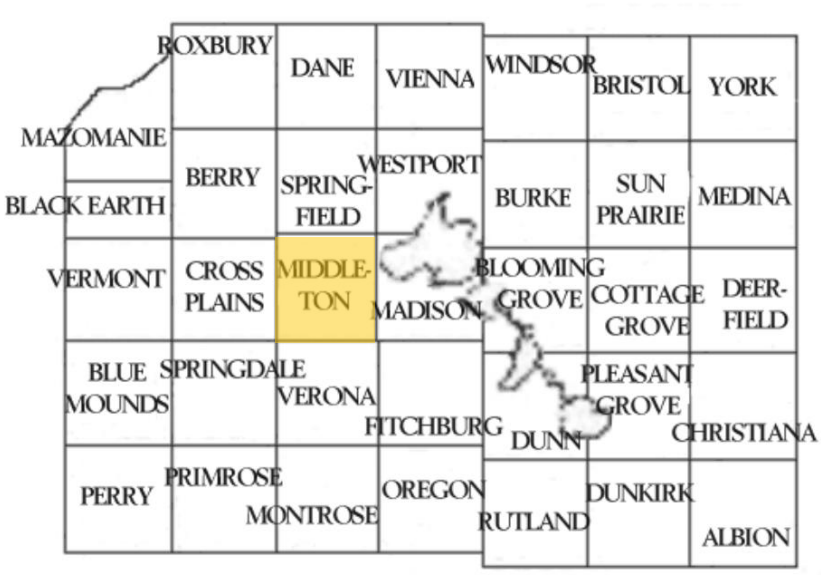


FIGURE 2 - Dane County Map[2]

Township of Middleton Highlighted



[1] Wisconsin outline maps, State Cartographer's Office UW Madison, highlighted by the FOPFC, 2020.

[2] http://www.comportone.com/cpo/govment/wi-counties/dane/townshipmap.htm

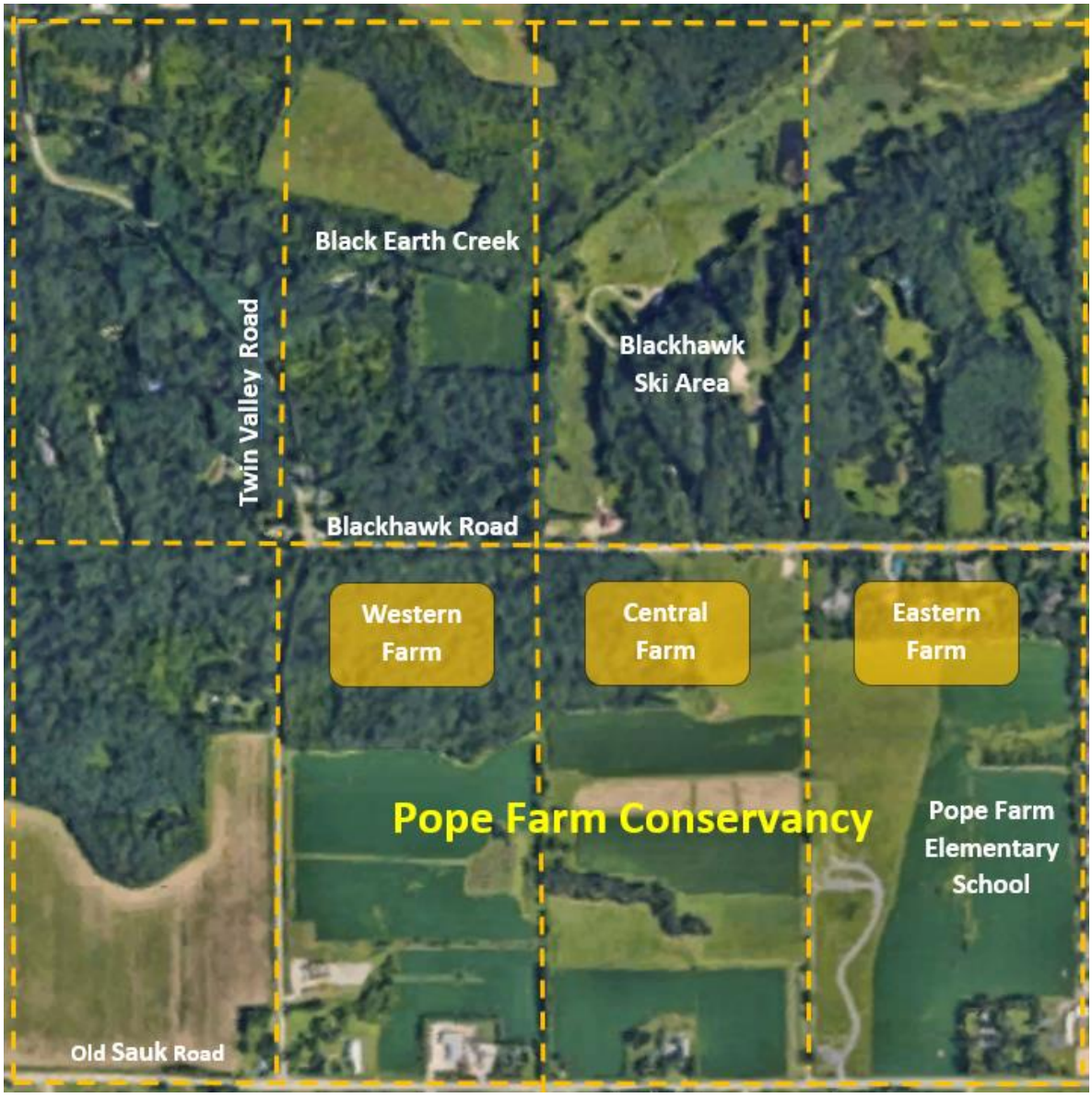
FIGURE 3 – Dane County Plat Map, 1861

Section 17 Highlighted.

FIGURE 4 - Town of Middleton

Section 17 showing eight original 80-acre parcels.[3]

North



South

[3] Dotted lines superimposed on google.com/maps indicate approximate original 80 acre parcels in Section 17.

FIGURE 5 – Three Farms

Satellite image with three farms.[4]

North

South

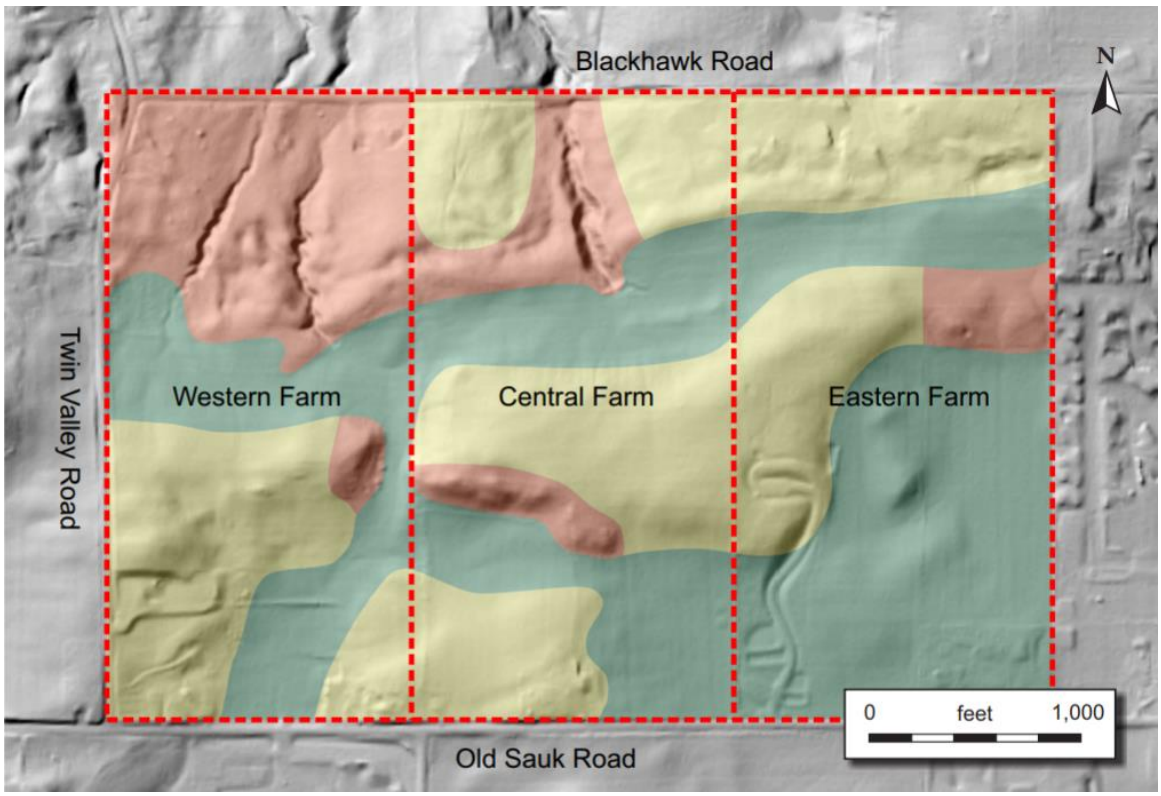
Satellite image of the three original 80-acre parcels on which Pope Farm Conservancy sits today.

[4] Boundaries of three farms superimposed on google.com/maps image. (2020)

FIGURE 6 – Glacial Debris

LiDAR image of glacial debris on three farms.[5]

North



South

Topography and glacial debris of three original 80-acre parcels.

Least amount of galcial debris, good top soil =

Heavy glacial debris (stones), difficult to farm =

Non tillable land, too difficult to plant crops =

[5] Courtesy of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, University of Wisconsin – Madison. (2020)

FIGURE 7 - Town of Middleton

Section 20.[6]

North

South

Eight original 80-acre parcels in Section 20.

[6] Dotted lines superimposed on google.com/maps indicate approximate original 80 acre parcels in Section 20.

Chapter 1 – PRE-SETTLEMENT OF POPE FARM CONSERVANCY

Pope Farm Conservancy Prior to 1853

The story of Pope Farm begins many thousands of years ago, in the time of the Ho-Chunk and their ancestors. The Native peoples of Wisconsin lived on the land that is now Pope Farm Conservancy for over 14,000 years before the arrival of Europeans. The Native story of Pope Farm prior to the era of removal is a rich one and will be told in its own section—reflecting the importance of the contributions that Native peoples have made to the history of the land. This document instead covers the written history of Pope Farm, as recorded in the years following the forced expulsion of the Ho-Chunk from their homes. The Friends of Pope Farm recognize that Pope Farm Conservancy falls within the ancestral lands of the Ho-Chunk Nation. We acknowledge the trauma of colonization endured by the Ho-Chunk people and honor their perseverance and strength.

Known Timeline of Pope Farm Conservancy Prior to 1853

Dates in some cases are approximations

1829 - Third Treaty of Prairie Du Chien signed between the U.S. Government and the Ho-Chunk Nation, which leads to the loss of Ho-Chunk lands in the lead district of southwestern Wisconsin. The treaty includes a brief list of individuals with both French and Native American heritage, given one or two square mile tracts of land in lieu of the annuities promised to Tribal members of full Native heritage. Members of the Ho-Chunk branch of the Grignon family—comprised of fur trader Pierre Grignon and his children, including daughter **Genevive Grignon**—are listed in Section V of the treaty. The locations of the treaty lands are not specified.

1830 - About this time Genevieve Grignon marries Louis Corbielle and gives birth to a daughter named Angelin ("Angel").

1832 - The U. S. General Land Office completes the first survey of the land that will become Pope Farm. The survey does not acknowledge the presence of the Treaty parcels.

1836 - Genevieve Grignon dies (Approximate).

1838 - Genevive's husband moves from Portage, WI, to Green Bay, WI, with daughter **Angelin.**

1848 - Wisconsin becomes a State. One square mile of land is posthumously given to **Genevive Grignon** in accordance with the Treaty of 1829, including the area that will become Pope Farm Conservancy.

1851 - **Angelin,** as heir of **Genevive Grignon**, sells the entire square mile of land to **Emanuel Boizard** pending approval from the President of the United States.

1852 - President **Millard Fillmore** approves the land sale to Emanuel Boizard.

1829 – 1848, The Third Treaty of Prairie du Chien and Legal Limbo

Dr. Amy Rosebrough,
Wisconsin Historical Society.

On August 1, 1829, prominent members of the Ho-Chunk Nation met with representatives of the U.S. Government in Prairie du Chien. They placed their marks on a treaty drawn up by the Government, and at that moment lost control of the lead district of southwestern Wisconsin. Article V of the treaty (now known as the Third Treaty of Prairie du Chien) contains a brief list of people granted one or two-square mile properties in exchange for the greater loss of land. Their family names are not Ho-Chunk, but French, and read like a roll call of Wisconsin's fur trade history: Grignon, Pacquette, Brisbois, St. Cyr, Myott, Amelle, Thibault, Palen, Peyet, Gagnier, Gleason, and Lupien.

Despite their French surnames, each person named in Article V was of Ho-Chunk as well as French descent. During the early 1800s, the U.S. Government considered people who had both European and American Indian ancestors to be American Indian. At the same time, some Native Nations passed family membership along the father's line and did not consider those whose Native heritage came from their mother's or grandmother's line to be full tribal members. People of European and American Indian descent thus were at risk of being denied payment when communal tribal lands were sold and might not be permitted to participate in Tribal decision-making. In recognition, U. S. Government treaties sometimes set aside lands for the specific benefit of those of mixed heritage. In the racially charged vernacular of the day, such lands were termed "Half-Breed Reserves."

In 1832, following the panic of the Black Hawk war, a new treaty was signed that ceded the remaining Ho-Chunk lands in southern Wisconsin, including what would become Pope Farm, the future site of Madison, Wisconsin, and other territories between the Sugar and Rock Rivers. In 1837, the Ho-Chunk lost their remaining territory in Wisconsin, leaving them without formal title to any portion of their former homeland. A policy of forced removal of the Ho-Chunk to territories west of the Mississippi River was enacted by the U. S. Government. New treaty parcels for those of mixed heritage were established in northeastern Iowa.

Despite the intentions of Article V, the lands lost by the Ho-Chunk would not be formally surveyed until the early 1830s. More years would pass before the United States decided which particular square mile Sections would become Treaty lands. Until then, the land that would become Pope Farm fell within a legal limbo—no longer in Ho-Chunk hands, but also not property that could be bought or sold. In 1848, the U. S. Government finally fulfilled their obligations by transferring a square mile containing the future Pope Farm into the legal ownership of Genevive Grignon.

1848 – 1851, Genevive Grignon

Dr. Amy Rosebrough,
Wisconsin Historical Society.

Who was Genevive Grignon? Genevive Grignon was a daughter of one of the largest and most powerful fur trading families in Wisconsin. Their dynasty was founded by Pierre Grignon, Sr., a French-Canadian who settled in Green Bay not long after it was founded in the late 1700s. There, he set up a fur-trading post and took a Menominee woman as his wife.

Pierre Sr.'s marriage probably was less for love than for profit. French fur traders often created trading partners by intermarrying with prominent Native families. Their children acted as cultural intermediaries, speaking the languages of both their mothers and fathers. Some remained with their Native families for most of their lives, others were sent to Quebec for formal schooling and military training, and many moved freely in both worlds. A few—like the first generation of Grignon children—became the patriarchs and matriarchs of dynasties that controlled Wisconsin's economy, political life, and social leanings for the next century. Pierre and his Menominee wife had three sons, including Pierre Grignon L'Avoine (Pierre Grignon the Menominee), who was more commonly known as Perriche. After the death of their mother, Perriche Grignon and his two brothers were joined by seven more half-brothers and several half-sisters following their father's marriage to the daughter of Charles Langlade, the 'Father of Wisconsin'. Perriche, his brothers, and his half-brothers—and their many children—expanded the Grignon holdings to create a business empire that stretched from Green Bay to Prairie du Chien, encompassing the fur trade, general trade, milling, and more.

Upon adulthood, Perriche married Chauwaukau (also known as Mary Dekorra), the sister of the Ho-Chunk Chief Dekorra and daughter of the famous Chief Spoon Dekorra, extending the Grignon family's alliances to the Ho-Chunk Nation. Perriche and four of his children—Genevive, Margaret, Mariette, and Amable—are specifically named in Article V of the 1829 treaty with the Ho-Chunk. The siblings were awarded (or perhaps claimed) lands including the square mile that encompasses Pope Farm and the square mile to its west. Genevive specifically is listed in historic records as the first owner of Pope Farm.

It is unlikely that Genevive ever lived at Pope Farm. By that point, her immediate family's social and business interests were based in the young but strategically located community of Portage, while her uncles, aunts, and cousins held considerable lands along the Fox River between Portage and Green Bay. Genevive's whereabouts when the treaty was signed are unknown, but she is believed to have married husband Louis Corbielle around that date or shortly afterwards. In or around 1830, she gave birth to her only known child—a daughter named Angel.

1851 – 1853, Angelin Baunino

Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy.

Dane County land records of 1848 begin the chain of title to Pope Farm Conservancy by listing Genevive Grignon as the owner. By then, she had been dead for more than a decade. Her husband had moved back to Green Bay, taking daughter Angelin with him. There, Angelin grew up and married. Title transferred from Genevive Grignon to Angelin and her husband in 1851, presumably as Wisconsin's legal system caught up with the reality of the situation. It is unlikely that the couple had much interest in what was then a plot of wilderness west of the Four Lakes. In 1851, Angel and her husband sold Pope Farm to a French immigrant and resident of Green Bay named Emanuel Boizard. The sale was approved by President Millard Fillmore in 1852. At that point, Pope Farm passed out of the hands of those who could claim descent from the land's original inhabitants, and the era of European settlement began.

1852 – 1853, Emanuel Boizard

Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy.

No picture of
Emanuel Boizard
was found.

Ancestry.com

Matilda Boizard

Emanuel Boizard immigrated to America from France and became a U.S. Citizen in Green Bay on May 17, 1847. He was 37 years old. Green Bay had a substantial French population, and we know that Emanuel Boizard lived among them. In 1848, some 18 months after he arrived in the U.S., Emanuel Boizard married Matilda Marshall in Green Bay. By 1850 Emanuel Boizard was quite wealthy, owning over 300 acres of land with the cash value of his

farm listed at $5,000[7]. Among his neighbors were members of the Grignon family. We do not know how Emanuel Boizard got involved with Angelin (Grignon) Baunino and her husband, but in the fall of 1851, they sold 640 acres to Emanuel. [8] This included what we know today as the Pope Farm Conservancy. These 640 acres or one square mile, represented section 17 in the Town of Middleton, WI, the land that was originally given to Angelin's mother from the U.S. Government as part of the Third Treaty of Prairie Du Chien in 1829.

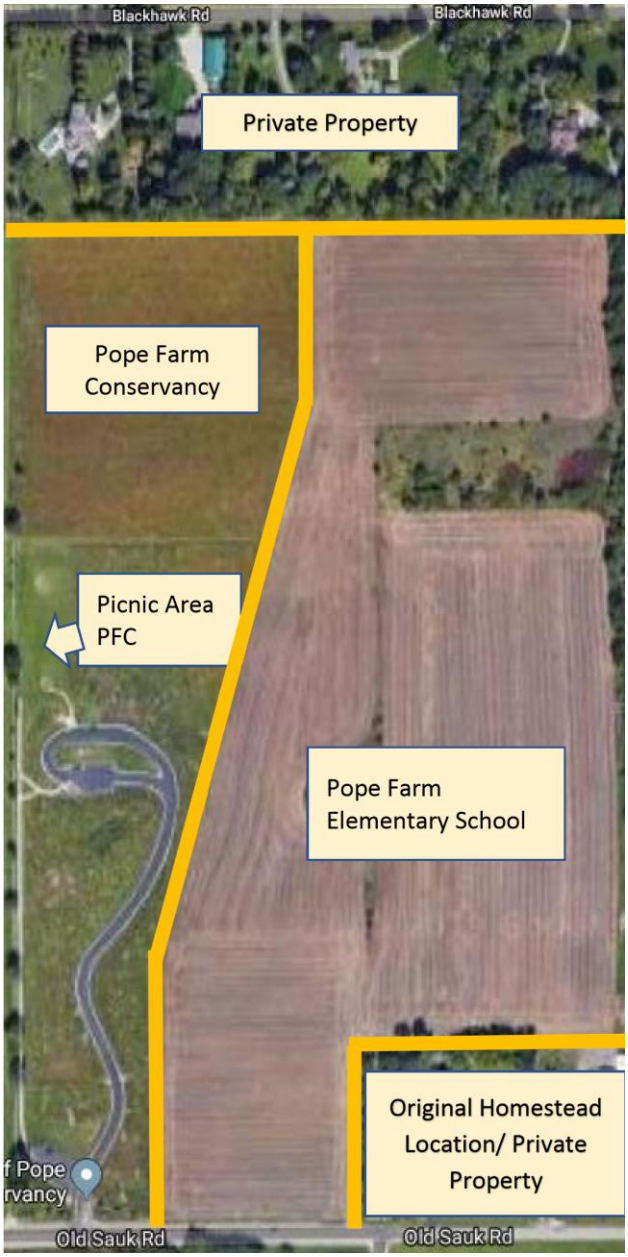
We know that in 1853 Boizard divided part of this land into three homesteads as 80-acre parcels and sold it. This meant that he created the parcels, legally divided the land, and then sold it only a year or two after acquiring it. Given the short time frame between the time he purchased the land and the time he sold it, and the fact that he was living in Green Bay and running a large farming operation at the same time, leads us to believe Emanuel Boizard never lived on the land he sold. Instead, he subdivided the one square mile of land and sold those parcels as farmland at a profit.

[7] Approximately $164,000 in 2020.

[8] The document was recorded in August of 1852.

CHAPTER 2 – CHRONOLOGY OF OWNERSHIP

The Eastern Portion of Pope Farm Conservancy[9]



80 acres of the Eastern Farm.

[9] Boundary of Eastern Farm and Pope Farm Conservancy superimposed on google.com/maps image. (2020)

Historical TimeLine of the Eastern Portion of Pope Farm Conservancy.

Dates in some cases are approximations.

1829 - Third Treaty of Prairie Du Chien signed between the U.S. Government and the Ho-Chunk Nation, which leads to the loss of Ho-Chunk lands in the lead district of southwestern Wisconsin. The treaty includes a brief list of individuals with both French and Native American heritage, given one or two square mile tracts of land in lieu of the annuities promised to Tribal members of full Native heritage. Members of the Ho-Chunk branch of the Grignon family—comprised of fur trader Pierre Grignon and his children, including daughter **Genevive Grignon**—are listed in Section V of the treaty. The locations of the treaty lands are not specified.

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1852 - President **Millard Fillmore** approves the land sale to Emanuel Boizard.

1853 - Emanuel Boizard subdivided the property and sold an 80-acre parcel to **George Sibert and wife.**

1854 - George Seibert family, including his wife and three teenage sons were living at this location.

1855 - Seibert family built the stone house and some outlying sheds for his stock.

1854 - 1860 The Seibert family had cleared off 40 acres of their 80-acre farm and the value increased to $2,000.[10]

1866 - The farm was sold by George Sibert and wife to **Rev. Charles Schenck**. The Schenck family included four young daughters.

1866 - Henry Schenck was born at home, becoming the first American with European heritage born on the property.

1868 - Building improvements made, probably addition to the home.

1868 - Charles Schenck Jr. was born at home.

[10] Almost $66,500 in 2020.

1865 - 1870 Charles Schenck was farming the land with a wife, four young daughters, and two boy toddlers.

1870 - Emil Schenck was born at home.

1870 - Charles Schenck had cleared an additional 22 acres of land for a total of 62 improved acres of land and 18 acres in woodlands. The farm was valued at $3,200.[11]

1870 - 1880 - Charles Schenck added 40 acres of land to the east along Old Sauk Road. Now was farming 120 acres.

1879 - Christine Schenck died at 53 years old.

1880 - Charles Schenck lived on the farm with five of his children and his mother. Farm valued at $5,000.[12]

1881 - Charles Schenck married a widow, Marie Beckman.

1883 - Reverend Charles Schenck died at age 60.

1889 - **Charles T. Schwenn** (Charles Schenck's son in law) purchased the farm from the Schenck family.

1889 - George Schwenn born at home.

1893 - Eleanor Schenck (Rev. Charles Schenck's mother) died at age 90-91.

1895 - Victor Schwenn born at home.

1898 - Otto Schwenn born at home.

1901 - Original stone house torn down. New home completed (still stands today).

1911 - Charles T. Schwenn and family gave up farming and moved into Middleton, WI. Continued to rent the farm.

1914 - Charles T. Schwenn sold the farm (120 acres) to **F.W. Lappley**.

1914 - Fred Lappley and his wife Anna moved into the "big house" along with their daughter Thelma and her husband Louis Grob. Louis Grob was running the farm.

1916 - Delores Grob born.

1919 - Frederick (Fritz) Grob born.

1920 - Franklin Grob born.

1924 - James Grob born.

1930 - Louis and Thelma Grob, along with their four young children, were running the farm, Thelma's parents also living there.

1934 - Anna Lappley, age 61, died.

1939 - Fredrick Grob married and moved to Madison, worked at Gisholt Machine Co.

1940 - Louie and Thelma Grob farmed with Franklin (19), James (15), and Shirley Ann (5). Thelma's father lived with them.

[11] Approximately $66,000 in 2020.

[12] Almost $126,000 in 2020.

1946 - Wayne Mahoney quit his job in Madison and joined Louis Grob (his father in-law) to farm.
1946 - Wayne Mahoney purchased two chicken coops from the U.W., converted them into a “little house” and moved into it with this wife Delores and son King (3).
1956 - F.W. Lappley sold the farm to **Thelma Lappley Grob** (his daughter).
1958 - Louis Grob, age 67, died.
1960 - F.W. Lappley died.
1960 - Thelma Grob sold the farm to **Wayne and Delores Mahoney**.
1960 - Running water was installed into both the big house and the little house.
1960 - Wayne and Delores Mahoney sold four lots along Blackhawk Road.
1965 - Wayne and Delores Mahoney sold the farm to **Art and Vivian Pope**.
1971 - The “little house” was moved further west on Old Sauk Road to the Pope Homestead across the road from the Town of Middleton Hall.
1973 - Art Pope sold the barn and buildings.
1976 - Pope family sold 41 acres of land fronting Old Sauk Rd.
1999 - Pope family sold the remaining farm to the **Town of Middleton**.
2000 - The Land became part of the Pope Farm Conservancy.
2006 - TOM sold 40 acres to **Middleton Cross Plains Area School District.**
2020 - Pope Farm Elementary School ready to open.

1853 –1865, George and Christina Seibert (aka Sibert)

George Siebert was the first settler to live on this farm. According to the tax rolls he was the first settler in Sections 17 and 18 in the Town of Middleton. He was born in 1798 in Germany or France (depending on which country controlled the area at the time), and died in 1872 at Primrose Township, Dane County, Wisconsin. George married Christina Beyerte in 1828 in the Town of Germersheim, Germany. In 1835, George, Christina, and their sons Jacob (4) and Henry (1), left the port of Le Havre, France and arrived in New York at the Castle Garden Immigration Center.

Castle Garden
Immigration Center, New York[13]
(1893)

We believe George Seibert and his family continued to live in New York until 1853 when he purchased this land from Emanuel Boizard. The 1854 Tax Rolls show that George Siebert was resident owner and paid taxes that year. The 1855 Wisconsin Census shows that there were four males and one female living in the household. The 1860 Census shows George Siebert, wife Christina, sons Henry (24), and George (22) living on the farm. The 1861 plat map confirms they are living on the 80-acre farm which is now part of the eastern portion of the Conservancy.

In 1863, all three of George Siebert's sons registered for the draft for the Civil War.

The 1860 Dane County Agricultural Census shows the following property and produce listings for George Sibert.

George Sibert, 1860 Agricultural Census

Improved Land: 40 acres
Unimproved Land: 40 acres
Cash Value of Farm: $2,000
Value of Farm Implements: $20
Livestock: Horse - 4

[13] Photo from The Norway Heritage Center.
http://www.norwayheritage.com/gallery/gallery.asp?action=viewimage&categoryid=11&text=&imageid=787&box=&shownew=

Cows – 2
Working Oxen – 2
Swine – 4
Value of Livestock - $325
Bushels of:
Wheat – 128
Corn – 60
Oats – 100
Irish Potatoes – 20
Pounds of Butter – 100
Hay in Tons – 1
Value of animals slaughtered - $25

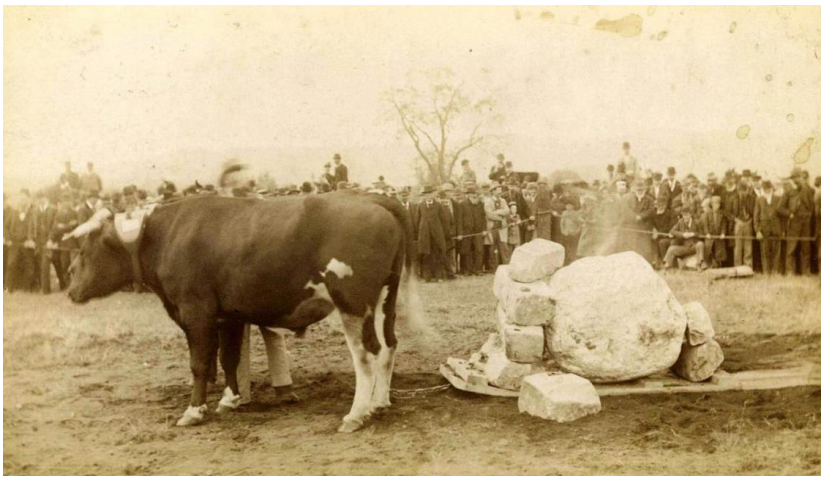
This information reveals the Siebert's were successful farmers. After living in the wilderness for only six years, the Siebert's had cleared off and improved 40 of the 80 acres they owned. This now became 40 acres of tillable land where crops could be planted. In addition, the family had three able-bodied men to work the land and successfully produced a number of crops. The Siebert family will have five more years of farming this land before it is sold to Charles Schenck in 1865.

It would have been impossible for the Siebert's to grow the volume of crops listed in the 1860 Census without clearing the land first. George Siebert and his sons were builders of the stone fence. Before they could till/plow the land and plant their crops, farmers first had to clear the fields of glacial debris (stones). They used stone boats, horses, and oxen to carry the stones to the property line between the two farms. So, at the same time as they cleared the land in order to plant crops, they also made the stone fence. It probably took them at least 10 years to

Photo: Janie Starzewski
Eastern side of Stone Fence built by the Siebert Family.

clear the 80-acre parcel of the stones you now can see as part of the stone fence in the Conservancy.

Another interesting aspect of the 1860 Dane County Census is that the Siebert family owned two working oxen. Oxen are stronger than horses and were used to move stones or pull the plow through deep prairies to break up the sod. Given the size of some of the stones in the stone fence, it makes perfect sense that oxen would have been superior to horses at pulling the stone boats to the boundary line. To give you an idea of raw pulling power, a single ox could pull around twice as much as a single horse, but it would take around twice as long to cover the same distance.[14]



Ox Pulling competition at an agricultural fair using a stone boat. (1889) [15]

George Siebert listed himself as a mason on his immigration papers. Later, in the 1870 Census, he lists himself as a retired stone mason. We do not know for sure what type of temporary shelter or outbuildings first housed the Siebert family, but they would have been very temporary. Since George Siebert knew how to build with stone, by 1855 they had built a solid home of bricks. This home, with additions, housed at least three families over the next 45-50 years.

[14] Sue Bowman, "Oxen No Has-Beens When It Comes to Hard Pulling," *Lancaster Farming,* Oct 29, 2011. https://www.lancasterfarming.com/news/northern_edition/oxen-no-has-beens-when-it-comes-to-hard-pulling/article_b79a5f8f-5d4b-578d-997a-f385095dc7c9.html

[15] Stephen Gilbert, "A cozy history lesson on New Hampshire's county fairs", *SentinelSource.com*, February 21, 2016. https://www.sentinelsource.com/news/local/a-cozy-history-lesson-on-new-hampshire-s-county-fairs/article_fc0098da-4be1-590e-9bcb-92b875d98068.html

Stone house torn down in about 1901.

At 67 years old, George was farming without the help of his sons. It was time for George and Christine to move closer to their children. George Jr. and Henry lived in Primrose (in Dane County) and were expanding their own farming operations. George sold the farm on Old Sauk Road in 1866 and moved to the town of Primrose.

In the 1870 Census, the Sibert's have changed their last name to Seibert.

1865 – 1885, Carl and Christine Schenck

Courtesy: First Lutheran Church

Reverend Carl Schenck
1823-1883

Schwenn Family

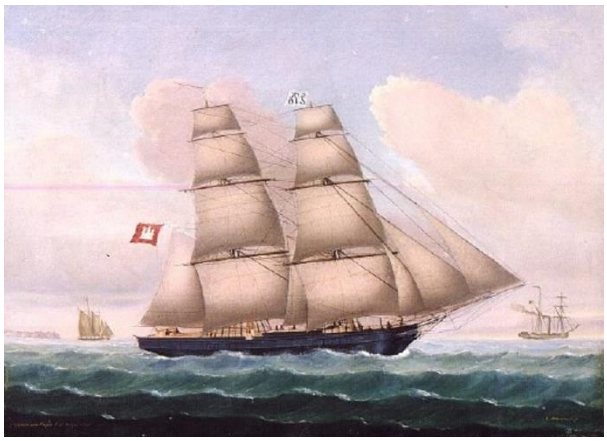
Christine Schenck
(1826-1879)

by Paul D. Schwenn,
5th generation of the Schenck and Schwenn families
with comments from Sandy Schwenn Reno, and Sharon Goss.

I will begin with the Rev. Carl Schenck's side of my family. In 1854, he and Christine (Granzow) immigrated to America with their daughter Henrietta (1). What prompted them to make the perilous journey to a foreign land? Perhaps it was living conditions, political chains by the German government or the high taxes. We just don't know, but what we do know is that they sought "freedom."

On April 15th, 1854 they embarked on their journey aboard the Bark Elbe. They traveled in steerage (2nd or 3rd) class. It was not a pleasure cruise. The conditions were deplorable and daunting. Their journey took 35 days. Christine's mother Maria Granzow (58) and 22-year-old brother Johann traveled with them. Carl was 30 and Christina was 27.

Bark Elbe



Schwenn Family Album

They arrived in New York on May 20th, 1854. It was a time when the U.S. was eagerly accepting immigrants. It took another 10 days for the family to make their way to Milwaukee where they shopped for the final leg of the trip.[16] After two more days they arrived at their first home at the intersection of the towns of Roxbury, Dane, Berry, and Springfield. Carl, Christine, Henrietta, along with Christine's mother and brother,[17] lived in a one room cabin on this 40-acre plot from 1854 until 1862.

While there, Carl started or continued multiple congregations. These churches included (but were not limited to) St. John's Lutheran Church (Roxbury) founded in 1850, St. John's Lutheran Church (Hering Church Town of Berry), St. Martin's Lutheran church (Cross Plains), and the First German Lutheran church (Town of Middleton). In 1862 Rev. Schenck resigned his pastorate in Roxbury and became the first Pastor of the First German Lutheran Church outside the Town of Middleton.

At the same time, the Schencks moved to the 80-acre (Eastern) farm on Old Sauk Road a mile or so west of the church. According to the 1870 Census, Carl and Christine were living on the farm with their six children: Henrietta (17), Caroline (13), Mary (11), Augusta (7), Henry (4), and Charles (2). August Schroeder, a 16-year-old farm laborer from Mecklenburg, Germany lived with them.

In addition to his knowledge of theology and Lutheran doctrine, Carl was one of the most educated people in the area. He had been a teacher in Germany before becoming a pastor, and he taught parochial school classes in the original log cabin church. Probate records indicate he subscribed to three different newspapers!

[16] Milwaukee had a population of 30,000 at that time.

[17] Maria Granzow (1799-1859) and Johann Granzow (1834-1895).

Courtesy: First Lutheran Church

First German Evangelical Chapel 1854

The original First German Evangelical Lutheran Church, built in 1854, was located at the bottom of the hill on Pleasant View Road between Old Sauk and Blackhawk Roads. Rev. Schenck preached in this log church and oversaw the building of the new expanded Church in 1866.

Courtesy: First Lutheran Church

First Lutheran Church today

Carl Schenck, 1870 Agricultural Census

Acres improved = 62

Acres Woodland = 18

Value of Farm = $3,200

Value of Farm Implements and Machinery = $400

Total value of wages paid including board = $200

Number of horses = 2

Number of Milking Cows = 4

Number of Swine = 4

Value of Stock = $500

Bushels of Wheat = 726

Bushels of Corn = 300

Bushels of Oats = 175

Bushels of Irish Potatoes = 320

Pounds of Butter = 200

Tons of Hay = 4

Value of animals slaughtered and sold for Slaughter = $50

Estimated value of all farm production including betterments and additions to stock = $1,025

"Carl Schenck was married to Miss Christine Granzow, of Mecklenburg Germany, who died in 1879. Mr. Schenck has seven children all living in Wisconsin; has a beautiful farm of 120 acres, valued at $5,000,[18] eight- and one-half miles from Madison, from which he has a view of Lake Mendota and the Capital [*picnic area in the Conservancy today*]. Mr. Schenck is an earnest Christian man, a good neighbor and citizen. In politics he is a conservative".[19]

Carl Schenck, 1880 Agricultural Census

Tillable acres = 110

Woodlands = 10

Value of farm including land, fences, and buildings =$4,000

Farming implements and machinery $500

Value of livestock = $400

Cost of building and repairs in 1879 = $20

Amount paid for wages for farm labor during 1879 including value of board = $60

[18] Over $125,500 in 2020.

[19] Consul Willshire Butterfield (ed.), *History of Dane County: Biographical and Genealogical*, Vol 2 (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1880) 1215. https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_Dane_County_Wisconsin_Contain/3QcrAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=history+of+Wisconsin+Dane+county+1880&printsec=frontcover

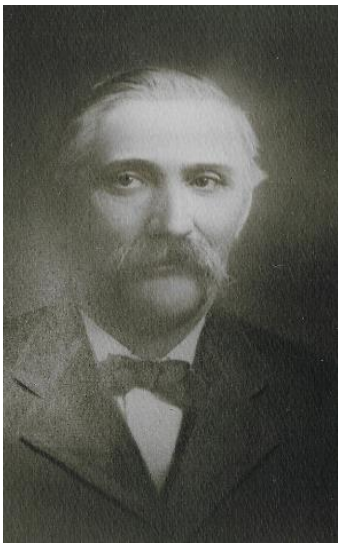
Estimated value of all farm productions (sold, consumed, or on hand for 1879) = $800
Horses of all ages on hand, June 1, 1880 = 4
Milk Cows on hand, June 1, 1880 = 6
Other on hand, June 1, 1880 = 4
Calves dropped = 6
Cattle sold living = 5
Pounds of butter made on the farm in 1879 = 350
Sheep on hand June 1, 1880 = 2
Fleeces, spring of 1880 = 2
Pounds of wool, spring of 1880 = 17
Swine on hand June 1, 1880 = 16
Poultry on hand June 1, 1880, exclusive of spring hatching (barnyard) = 40
Poultry on hand June 1, 1880, exclusive of spring hatching (other) = 2
Eggs produced in 1879 (dozens) = 200
Barley 1879, 3 acres planted, 100 bushels produced
Indian Corn 1879, 10 acres planted, 400 bushels produced
Oats 1879, 7 acres planted, 208 bushels produced
Rye 1879, 3 acres planted, 52 bushels produced
Wheat 1879, 35 acres planted, 450 bushels produced
Irish Potatoes, 1879, 1 acre planted, 150 bushels produced
Apple trees, 1879, 1 acre with 30 bearing trees
Value of Forest products sold or consumed in 1879 = $40

It appears that in 1880 Carl was primarily raising wheat, and other crops. Since he served as pastor of the First Lutheran Church as well as farming, his concentration on crops versus cattle was presumably a result of those divided responsibilities. The cattle business required intensive efforts both daily and year-round.

According to the 1880 U.S. Census, Carl was a widower living on the farm with five children: Caroline (23), Augusta (17), Henry (14), Charles (12), and Emil (10). Carl's mother, Elenore (78), had come from Germany and was living there as well. On Oct. 15, 1881 Rev. Schenck married a widow, Marie Beckman. She was known as a wonderful stepmother to the younger children and caregiver for Carl's aging mother.

Rev. Schenck died in 1883 and was buried alongside his first wife in the First Lutheran Church cemetery. His survivors remained on the farm until its sale in 1885 to Rev. Schenck's daughter Henrietta and her husband Charles T. Schwenn.

1885 – 1914, Charles T. Schwenn and Henrietta Schenck Schwenn[20]



Charles T. Schwenn
1850 – 1928

Henrietta Schenck Schwenn
1853 - 1925

By Paul D. Schwenn,
5th generation of the Schenck and Schwenn families
with comments from Sandy Schwenn Reno.

Charles Theodore Schwenn was five when he left Germany for America. He came to Wisconsin with his parents, Carl Friedrich Schwenn and Johanna Sophie Dorothea (nee Pollow). Also emigrating with him were siblings Marie Mathilde (known as Mary Ann) and Friedrich Wilhelm Johann (John). They left Hamburg, Germany on Oct 1, 1856 aboard the ship *Bark Elise.*

Die Bark Elise[21]

[20] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Schwenn Family.

[21] The *Elise* was owned by Albrecht & Dill trading company in the 19th century. The Company still operates out of Hamburg, Germany. Photo found at https://albrecht-dill.de/?lang=en_gb

In 1866, ten years after emigrating, Charles' father paid $600 to purchase 40 acres of land located in Section 29 along what is now Pioneer Road, south of Mineral Point Road. In 1867 he bought an adjacent 40 acres for about $1000. The elder Carl died in 1871 and, in 1874, his widow sold the farm to their son Charles. On October 23 of that year, Charles Theodore married Henrietta Schenck, daughter of Rev. Carl Schenck.

Not long after Henrietta's father died, she and Charles T. also purchased the Schenck home and farm on Old Sauk Road. They bought it from members of her family in 1885 and made it their homestead for almost 25 years. The couple raised eight children: Charles, Wilhemina, Augusta, Henry, Erwin, George, Victor, and Otto.

Charles T. and Henrietta (Schenck) Schwenn's family. (1900)
L to R: George (11), Henrietta (47), Otto (2), Augusta (21), Erwin (19), Charles T. (50), Victor (6), Henry (20), missing Charles and Minnie.

While farming, Charles T. was active in political affairs and served on various town committees. He was elected Town Chairman and County Supervisor for many years. He served on the church council at First Lutheran for many years and sang with the German Maennerchor (men's choir).

Charles T. Schwenn in the First Lutheran Church Maennerchor.

Courtesy: First Lutheran Church

In 1901, when the stone house was 46 years old, the Schwenns tore it down. That original house had been home to the Siebert family, the Carl Schenck family, and the Charles T. Schwenn family. In its place, they built the large two-story wood frame home shown below. This house still stands today, adjacent to the Pope Farm Elementary School property on Old Sauk Road.

New home of Charles T. Schwenn built in 1901.
L to R: Henry, Victor, Otto, and Minnie (1905)

In 1911 Charles and Henrietta gave up farming and moved to the Village of Middleton. There Charles joined the Middleton Fire Insurance Company and was elected their President from 1913 to 1925. Meanwhile, the farm was managed by his oldest son for a short period of time before it was sold to F.W. Lappley in 1914.

The Schwenn's were active members of the First German Lutheran Church. Henrietta died in 1925 and Charles Theodore in 1928. Both are buried in the cemetery of the First Lutheran Church.

1914 – 1956, Fred W. and Anna Lappley[22]

Fred Lappley purchased the farm in 1914. He and his wife Anna lived there with their only child Thelma and her new husband Louis Grob.

Courtesy: Middleton Historical Society

Photo of Fred W. Lappley farm in approximately 1916.

This photo (above) of the Fred Lappley farm was taken around 1916. The buggy is going west on Old Sauk Road. Today the Middleton Community Church would be on the left side of the road and Schewe Road would be across from the house. The new Pope Farm Elementary School would be on the other side of the house. On the left side of the photo, you can barely make out a faint image of a barn and home further up the road – that is the barn on the Pope Farm Homestead. We believe the pines trees between the home and the road would have been a windbreak for the original stone house that was torn down 13-14 years before this photo was taken.

[22] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Mahoney and Grob Families.

Lappley farm facing South toward Schewe Road around 1920.

Contributions by King Mahoney and Shirley Grob Storkson.

Fred Lappley was a “gentlemen” farmer and worked in Madison at Gisholt machine company and at the train station on West Washington Ave. Fred was dressed up much of the time and spent his time in the living room of the big house. He was not much of a farmer. He was somewhat politically inclined and was the Assessor for the Town of Middleton. Fred belonged to the Masonic Lodge 180 in Middleton and was the Grand Master in 1934.

In 1935 Anna Lappley died and was interred in the Lutheran Cemetery in Cross Plains, WI. Fred remained on the farm the rest of his life and sold the farm to his daughter Thelma in 1956. Fred W. Lappley passed away in 1960 and was buried next to his wife, Anna, in Cross Plains, WI.

F.W. Lappley, his wife Anna and granddaughter Delores.

L to R: Unknown, Thelma Lappley Grob, baby Delores Grob, and Anna Lappley

Louis Grob was the man behind the Lappley farming operation. Louis was originally from the Town of Berry outside of Cross Plains. His father, Adam, had immigrated to America from Germany in 1861. While Louis was a young boy, he lost six siblings and his mother to the diphtheria epidemic between 1894 -1904. He married Thelma Lappley in 1914 and the newlyweds moved in with Fred and Anna Lappley on Old Sauk Road.

Thelma and Louis started their young family with Delores Mae, born in 1916, and Frederick Raymond, born in 1918. The family grew to include Franklin William in 1920, James Merlin in 1924, and Shirley Ann born in 1934. All the children grew to adulthood in the house. There was a girl stillborn in 1922 that was not named.

Family Tree at Ancestry.com

Louis Grob
1891 - 1958

Louis Grob did the farming and eventually had the help of his children. Louis finished 5th grade in school and by all accounts was a very smart and successful farmer. Louis would read the daily paper after milking at night. He was a huge baseball fan and that was his outlet for entertainment. Louis Grob was a member of Masonic Lodge 180 in Middleton and passed away in 1958 at 67 years of age.

1956 – 1960, Thelma Grob[23]

In 1956, ownership of the farm was transferred from F.W. Lappley to his daughter Thelma. Thelma had lived with Fred, in the "big house" until his passing in 1960. In 1960, after both her husband and her father passed, Thelma's daughter Delores and her son-in-law Wayne Mahoney moved into the big house with her.

Thelma Lappley Grob
1896 – 1980

1960 – 1964, Wayne Mahoney and Delores Grob Mahoney[24]

In 1960 the title of the farm was transferred from Thelma Grob to her daughter and son-in-law, Delores and Wayne Mahoney. In 1946 Wayne Mahoney quit his job in Madison to join his father-in-law, Louis Grob, to farm the 80 acres on the Eastern section of PFC By 1960, Wayne had helped run the farm for over 14 years.

[23],[24] Unless otherwise noted, pictures in these sections provided courtesy of the Mahoney and Grob Families.

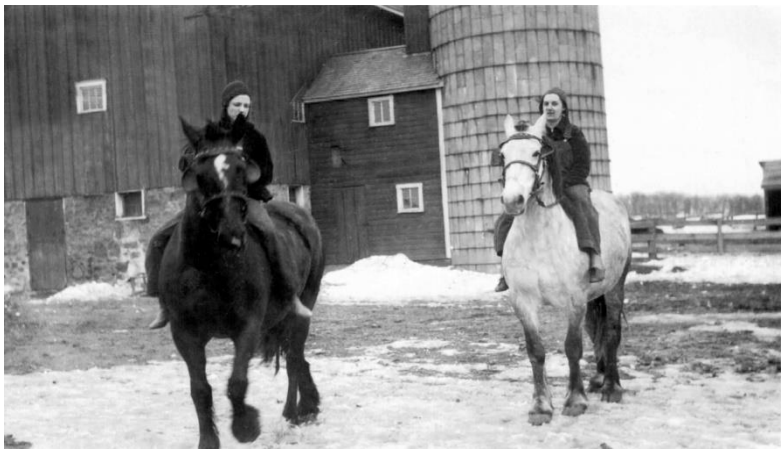
Wayne and Delores Grob Mahoney.

By 1946 Delores and Wayne, along with their 3-year-old son King, had moved into a converted chicken house located on the front lawn of the house. That was referred to as the "little house" and the farmhouse was the "big house."

They lived there until Wayne and Delores bought the farm from Thelma in 1960. They dug a well and a septic system for both places. Upon Fred Lappley's passing in 1960, Wayne, Delores and King moved into the "big house" with his widow Thelma. Wayne Mahoney was a butcher by trade and trained sailors in the navy how to butcher a carcass on the ships while out to sea.

Their son, King, and Sharon were married in 1964, and they lived in the "little house" until moving to Blue Mounds in 1966.

The little house was located on the lawn between the "big house" and Old Sauk Road close to its intersection with Schewe Road. In 1971 the "little house" was moved down Old Sauk Road to a new location next to the Pope Farm Homestead. Unfortunately, it burned down in 2004.



Delores Grob riding bareback on white draft horse.

Shirley Grob Storkson

1965 – 1999, Pope Family[25]

Art Pope

In 1965, Art and Vivian Pope purchased the "Mahoney" property from Wayne and Delores Mahoney. They already owned the two farms to the west. In order to expand his sheep and beef herds, Art needed the land for grazing, pasture, and crops. He was also very aware of the beautiful view of the Capitol and Lake Mendota from this property and was concerned someone would develop that land. The combination of preservation and agricultural expansion drove his decision to purchase this farm.

View of Madison and Lake Mendota looking over the "Mahoney" Farm. (1964)

[25] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Pope Family.

The farm was primarily used for pasture. Some of the pasture had Kentucky Blue Grass seed. As the Town of Middleton began cutting the ground cover to make the picnic area, the Kentucky Blue Grass and the beautiful lawn area came up from the original pasture. The Town never had to plant grass seed in the picnic area!

After the stone fence was built in the 1850s and 1860s, the fence was covered with weeds for many years. This photo is taken across the stone fence (foreground), from what is now the opening to the picnic area at Pope Farm Conservancy toward the Pope Farm Homestead. Photo taken in the 1970s.

2000 – Today, Town of Middleton, Pope Farm Conservancy

In 1999, the land was sold by Art Pope and the heirs of Vivian Pope to the Town of Middleton with the provision that it be a Park. The Town purchased the property as a Conservancy and the land was transferred on January 1st, 2000.

In 2004 a Master Plan for the land was approved by the Town of Middleton and it became an educational conservancy dedicated to teaching stories of the land to students and the public. The portion of the Conservancy that is part of the original 80 acres of the "Mahoney" Farm would be turned into parking, picnic area, trails, two amphitheaters and 20 acres of prairie restoration.

Lower Parking Area and road to top of the hill. (2005)

In 2005, the Town of Middleton started building the Conservancy's infrastructure, beginning in the section that was once known as the "Mahoney" Farm.

Photo: Janie Starzewski

Trails were built on the eastern portion of the Pope Farm Conservancy.

The Grand Opening of the Pope Farm Conservancy took place in August of 2006 and was well attended. Approximately 26 acres of the original 80 acres “Mahoney” Farm was now part of an Educational Conservancy.

Courtesy of the Pope Family

Pope - Zoerb Family at the Pope Farm Conservancy Grand Opening. (2006)

MCPASD Field Trips

Field Trips began for MCPASD students in 2005 and continue to this day.

2006 – Present, Middleton Cross Plains Area School District

Photo: Janie Starzewski

Pope Farm Elementary School. (2020)

In 2006, the Town of Middleton sold 40 acres (part of the historical 80 acres) to the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District. In 2019 they broke ground for the first of two

schools that will be on this property: Pope Farm Elementary School. This school, set to open in 2020, will house 525 elementary grade school students.

The MCPASD also has plans for a middle school on the 40 acres. The Middle School will be named Pope Farm Middle school.

Over 170 Years of Recorded History

From the Native Americans through Genevieve Grignon, through German immigrant families who came from their homeland, to the modern-day farmers, to a Conservancy, these 80 historical acres have so many stories to tell. Hard work, perseverance and love of the land laid the foundation for what it will be in the future. This farm will be home to approximately 1,400 students, parking areas, trails, two amphitheaters and an observation point with a beautiful overlook of the Capitol and Lake Mendota. It has become an educational center for people to learn about the history of the land and its many stories. The land and the people who lived on it have been good to us.

REMEMBRANCES

By Shirley Grob Storkson, 1940s – 1950s[26]

Daughter of Thelma and Louis Grob

Shirley Grob Storkson and King Mahoney

Life on the Farm/Working/Chores

The farming was primarily dairy farming, along with chickens and hogs. The chicken money was used to pay for Shirley's piano lessons for many years. During the depression. the family grew and raised their own food, but they still needed to purchase basic staples. As an example, they would purchase 25 lb. bags of flour at a time. They would slaughter and butcher their own stock and in later years they would rent a meat locker in Cross Plains to keep their meat frozen. There was a huge garden out by the road, and there was a kitchen garden at the north end of the "big house."

Milk production was very important. For years Dad even kept a bull and he said one time the dog Major saved him from getting gored by the bull.

After school I had to help feed cattle, clean chaff out of the pens etc. Not difficult and I liked being around the animals. After supper I would go out to the barn when dad went out to milk. I remember that we had milking machines and the milk was put in cans, taken to the well house, and put in the tank of cold water.

I worked hard to help with planting, cultivating etc. when crops needed attention. When we were making hay, I drove the tractor to haul it into the barn where it was lifted with a huge fork and stored in the hay loft.

[26] Photos in this section provided courtesy of the Grob Family.

My dad planted corn so he could cultivate easily. He was very particular about this. You could look at the rows "sideways" and they were perfect. Dad only had 5 years of school. Education has changed but even my husband who is 90 now was told he didn't need to go to college - he could be a farmer.

Social Activities

Fred played the violin and Louie would play the trumpet, and they would actually perform for dances in the local schools!

Other things that changed were not so much of a problem for my age group (during world war II). I did not wear nylons. Another item that was rationed included sugar. Gasoline that we needed for farm work was to be kept separate from the gas used for recreation.

I attended a one room school on Old Sauk Road known as Pleasant Site. I loved school and was a good student.

World War II

I remember well December 7, 1941, the Sunday afternoon when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. We had a radio in the kitchen and heard the news. My brother Frank had left home on Dec. 2 to report to serve in the Army. Frank and Fritz served and survived World War II. Frank served in the Pacific theater and Fritz served in the European theater. I always wondered, did I really remember or just heard about it so often that I began to think that I had, and so life changed but gradually.

We had air raids at night because of the Badger Ammunition works.[27] We had old dark green window shades to hide the lights.

Some activities developed at school to help with the war effort. We picked milk weed pods to harvest the part of the pod that was used in making life preservers for the Navy. We worked in the fields after school down by a marsh on the Brumm farm. We got very tired.

Interesting Facts and Animals

Adopting a calf

I enjoyed being involved with the animals too - calves etc. What fun it was to get them to drink milk from a pail when they were taken away from the cow.

[27] About 25 miles north.

Family

I did have some college, but I had hoped to be an RN. I had a wonderful opportunity to work as a Public Health Nurses Aide in the Madison School system because I (who tested with 80 others), did well on the test.

One of my friends said well, you can play Nurse. Things changed and I ended up at the Madison Fire Department - nothing to do with nursing but worked in Fire Prevention. I am 85 now. Our children, even Julie, had education beyond high school. I did work for 16 years as a Public Health Nurses aide.

REMEMBRANCES

By King Mahoney, 1940s – Early 1960s[28]

Son of Wayne and Delores Mahoney

Life on the Farm/Working/Chores

The "little house" were two chicken coops that had siding put between them to double the size. After World War II there was a shortage of lumber, so my dad (Wayne) purchased the chicken coops from the UW. The inside had two small bedrooms, a small living room, kitchen and did not have running water until 1960. By today's standards it was tiny, but comfortable. Wayne Mahoney's family lived there from 1946 to 1960. King Mahoney and his wife Sharon lived in it from 1964 to 1966.

[28] Photos in this section are courtesy of the Mahoney, Grob Families.

King Mahoney in front of the "Little House."

Interesting Facts and Animals

Cookie the sheep

Cookie was a sheep that often visited in the "big house." It was an orphan that someone brought out to the farm. It was raised up and sheared each year. Then the wool was made into a quilt. Cookie got her name because she would go to the cupboard where the cookie container was and wait for her cookie.

Jody the pigeon

Wayne Mahoney had a pet pigeon called Jody. It had fallen out of a nest in the barn, so he picked it up and brought it to the "little house" and raised it. Full grown, it would sit on the roof of the back porch of the "big house" in the evening waiting to go to bed. Before dark someone would open the door, it would fly in and roost on the ledge above the windows. In the morning, Wayne would go up and let her fly out for the day on his way to the barn.

After milking each day, Wayne would drive the cans of milk over to the cheese factory on Mineral Point Road. (where the Kwik Trip is today), and Jody would fly along to the factory. When she was there, she sat on the factory roof and then would fly alongside him on the way back home. Shirley Grob Storkson says that it would make a mess on her sheet music when it perched on the piano.

Stinky the Skunk

Wayne and Delores Mahoney had a cat that had one kitten. Paul Phillips (neighbor on Schewe Road) had killed a skunk and then discovered she had new babies under his brooder house. So of course, Delores volunteered to have her cat raise the skunks along with her kitten.

All made it. Dr. McDermitt, our farm veterinarian, “descented” them. Delores kept one (Stinky), and homes were found for the rest.

Playful racoons

Two raccoons were brought out to the farm. As they grew, they were brought into the house when people came over for entertainment. A bowl with a little water and some ice cubes provided a humorous time. They would run over people’s legs, around their shoulders and everyone was laughing. Eventually they got too big and were donated to the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison.

The Gray Fox

Someone brought out a young Gray Fox in the spring. Through the summer, Fred Lappley would put it on a leash and walk him around. It would sit on his lap to be petted. Kids would play with him. By the fall he was reaching adulthood and play got a little too rough, so we sent him to live at the Zoo also.

Perky the parakeet

“Perky” was F.W. Lappley’s pet parakeet. Frederick didn’t have an abundance of hair, so he wore a hat when the bird was loose. Sometimes the bird would walk around the rim of his hat and then swing down to look him in the face. When Fred didn’t have his hat on and the bird landed on his head to pull out a few hairs, the bird got yelled at. Thelma Grob would make her father Fred a breakfast of a bowl of oatmeal. “Perky” would fly in and sit on the edge of the bowl and they would eat together.

Frederick Lappley wearing his hat.

Dog tries to save King

When King was around seven or eight, his uncle boarded seven or eight fox hounds at the farm. In the winter he would walk up to the gravel pit. He was warned to stay off the ice. One time he evidently slipped, and he woke up laying at the bottom of the hill with one of the dogs licking his face. He just got up and walked home.

Family

Great Grandpa Frederick Lappley with grandson King Mahoney. (About 1947)

One year for Christmas, when King was about eight years old, he wanted a double gun holster set. After opening presents - there was no gun holster set. King was heartbroken. Then his mother found one more present. His father brought in a brand-new slop jar.[29] King already had a perfectly good slop jar. Why would he want another? No words to describe the disappointment. Everyone kept encouraging him to open the lid. Finally, to silence them and get this night over with he lifted the lid. Wonder of all wonders? There was his double gun holster set.

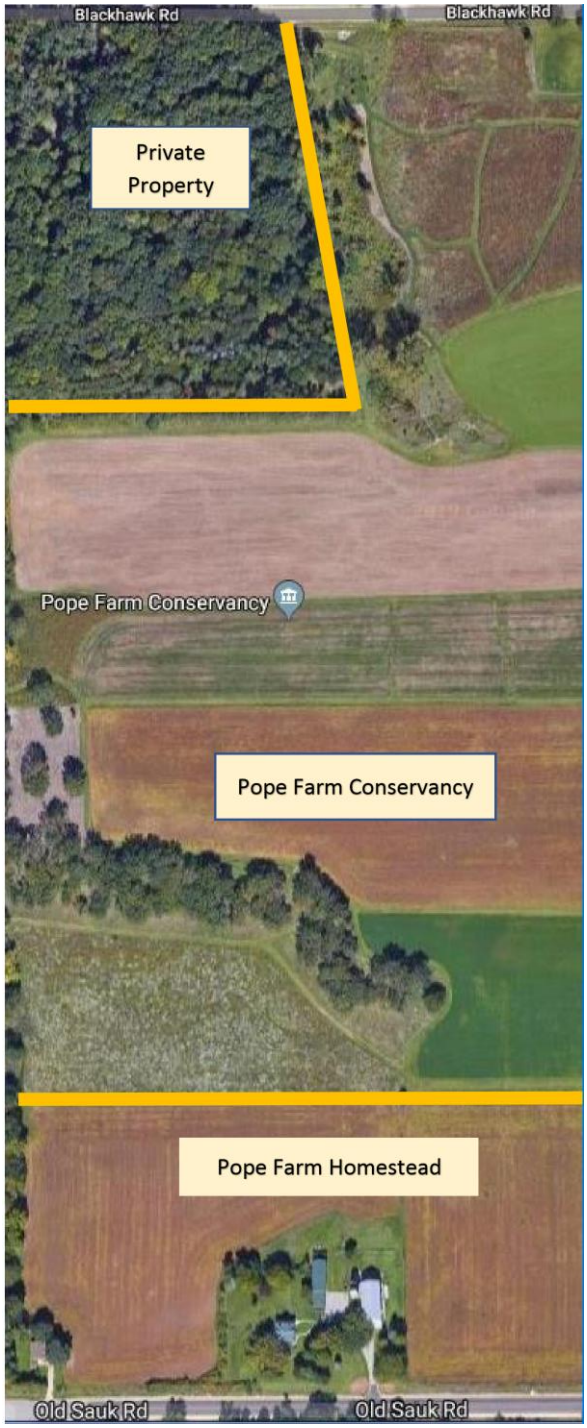
When King was around 11 years old, Wayne made him a sort of garden tractor for him to drive around. Then a year or so later he converted it to a car.

[29] A slop jar refers to a Chamber Pot used before an indoor bathroom was available.

King Mahoney with his bike on Old Sauk Road. (About 1955)

CHAPTER 3 - CHRONOLOGY OF OWNERSHIP

The Central Portion of Pope Farm Conservancy



80 acres of the Central Farm.[30]

[30] Boundary of the Central Farm superimposed on google.com/maps image. (2020)

Historical TimeLine of the Central Portion of Pope Farm Conservancy.

Dates in some cases are approximations.

1829 - Third Treaty of Prairie Du Chien signed between the U.S. Government and the Ho-Chunk Nation, which leads to the loss of Ho-Chunk lands in the lead district of southwestern Wisconsin. The treaty includes a brief list of individuals with both French and Native American heritage, given one or two square mile tracts of land in lieu of the annuities promised to Tribal members of full Native heritage. Members of the Ho-Chunk branch of the Grignon family—comprised of fur trader Pierre Grignon and his children, including daughter **Genevive Grignon**—are listed in Section V of the treaty. The locations of the treaty lands are not specified.

1830 - About this time Genevieve Grignon marries Louis Corbielle and gives birth to a daughter named **Angelin** ("Angel").

1832 - The U. S. General Land Office completes the first survey of the land that will become Pope Farm. The survey does not acknowledge the presence of the Treaty parcels.

1836 - Genevieve Grignon dies (Approximate).

1838 - Genevive's husband moves from Portage, WI, to Green Bay, WI, with daughter **Angelin.**

1848 - Wisconsin becomes a State. One square mile of land is posthumously given to **Genevive Grignon** in accordance with the Treaty of 1829, including the area that will become Pope Farm Conservancy.

1851 - **Angelin,** as heir of **Genevive Grignon**, sells the entire square mile of land to **Emanuel Boizard** pending approval from the President of the United States.

1852 - President **Millard Fillmore** approves the land sale to Emanuel Boizard.

1853 - Emanuel Boizard sells the land to Madison land speculators and law partners **Chauncey Abbott and J.T. Clark.**

1854 - Chauncey Abbott and J.T. Clark sell the land to **Charles Brackenwagen.**

1855 - Charles Brackenwagen living on the property with wife Rosina, and daughters Emma (2) and Clara (1).

1856 - Birth of Francis Wilhelmina Brackenwagen, First European Born on the Land.

1858 - Black Earth Creek Road was discontinued.

1859 - Charles Frank Brackenwagen Jr. Born on the Farm.

1860 - Charles Frank Brackenwagen Jr. Dies on the Farm.

1860 - 1861 Charles Brackenwagen sells the land to **John Prien.**

1864 - John Prien sells the land to **Bernhard Peemueller.**

1866 - Bernhard Peemueller sells land to **John Wittenburg.**

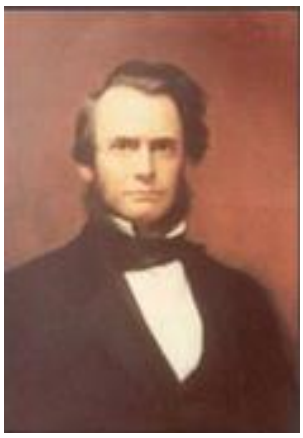
1869 - John Wittenburg to **Charles Wittenburg.**

1878 - Charles Wittenburg to **John Wittenburg**.

1890 - Recorded John Wittenburg to **J. W. Wittenburg**.
1908 - Recorded John Wittenburg and Rekka Wittenburg (wife) to **Chas Brumm.**
1910 - 1911 Charles Brumm house built on the property.
1911 - Charles Brumm moves into home with Lena and their seven children.
1910 - 1912 barn and machine shed built.
1933 - **Clarence Brumm** and **Elmer Brumm** take over ownership of the farm.
1935 - Elmer Brumm marries Helen Punswick.
1937 - Janice Brumm born on the farm.
1940 - John Brumm is born at home.
1940 - Clarence Brumm moves to nursing home.
1941 - Clarence Brumm dies at age 41.
1942 - **Elmer Brumm** is now owner of the farm.
1943 - Mary Brumm is born at home.
1944 - Garage added.
1949 - Helen Punswick dies at age 34.
1959 - Elmer Brumm dies at age 55.
1960 - **Arthur** and **Vivian Pope** purchase the farm from the estate of Elmer Brumm.
1961 - Home is modernized.
1961 - Hampshire sheep flock arrives.
1962 - Pope Family moves into home.
1962 - Farm buildings converted for cattle and sheep operations.
1962 - Horses and Herford cattle added to farm operations.
1964 - **Arthur and Vivian Pope** purchase the Eastern Farm from Wayne and Deloris Mahoney.
1971 - Honeymoon cottage moved from Eastern Farm to Central Farm.
1973 - Eastern Farm home and barn sold.
1973 - Vivian Pope dies at 52; Art marries Betty Nord Zoerb.
1976 - 41 acres sold on the Eastern Farm along Old Sauk Road.
1997 - 20 acres of woods on the Western Farm sold.
1999 - Art Pope sells 145 acres of Pope Farms to the **Town of Middleton.**
2000 - 105.5 acres become **Pope Farm Conservancy.**
2006 - 145 acres sold back to the Pope family, restrictions added, boundary adjustments made, and then sold back to the Town of Middleton, who sell 39.5 acres to the MCPASD.
2009 - Art Pope sells his Hampshire Sheep flock.
2010 - Arthur Pope dies at the homestead at age 89.

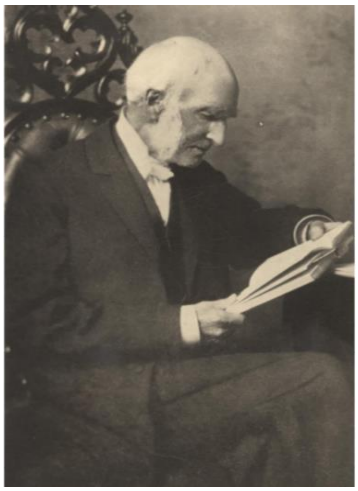
1853 – 1854, Chauncey Abbot and J. T. Clark

Chauncey Abbott and J.T. Clark were law partners in Madison who were very prominent and well connected to state government. They were keenly aware of the Restricted Land that had recently been purchased by Emanuel Boizard.



Chauncey Abbott
1815 – 1872

Chauncey Abbott came to Wisconsin in 1841, and for a brief period of time practiced law at Fort Winnebago (later became Portage). By 1850 he is living in Madison and is a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly from the Dane 2nd district. Between 1850 and 1853 he was the postmaster of Madison. From 1852 to 1853, Mr. Abbott is president (mayor) of Madison. During this entire period, he was practicing law. We believe he was very aware of the land opportunities created by the sale of the Winnebago Reserve property. Chauncey Abbott was wealthy in his time and died in 1872. He is buried in the Forest Hill Cemetery, in Madison, WI.



J.T. Clark
1814 – 1908

Julius T. Clark came to the Wisconsin Territory in 1840 and settled in Madison. From the Wisconsin Historical Society Proceedings of 1908, we learn that:

> soon after his arrival here, that is December 1841, Governor Doty appointed him auditor of public accounts for Wisconsin Territory for the term of three years. July 6th, 1843, he was given the office of educational agent among the Chippewa Nation of Indians, the tribe then being located mainly in Northern Wisconsin, to hold such office during the pleasure of the president.[31]

Later he wrote a well-known poem called the *Ojibwe Conquest*. In 1850 he was the first village clerk in the Town of Madison (later, City of Madison). Mr. Clark served on the first Board of Regents for the University of Wisconsin-Madison. When he left Madison in 1870, he sold his farm in the middle of Madison to Col. William Vilas. Julius Clark was buried in Topeka, KS in 1908.

By 1858 Abbott and Clark were purchasing parcels of land throughout the State of Wisconsin. In 1853 they obviously became aware of the land that Emanuel Boizard was selling and purchased both the Central and Western 80-acre parcels that currently comprise Pope Farm Conservancy. We also know that they purchased an additional 400 acres of Section 17 at the same time. Abbott and Clark sold the land to Charles Brackenwagen in 1854.

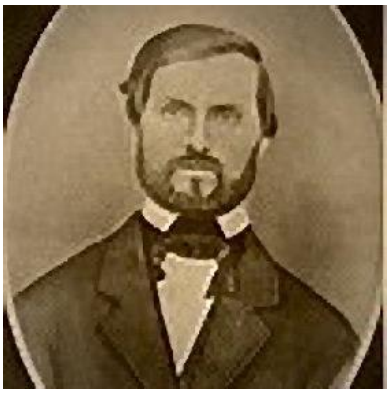
1854 -1860, Charles and Rosina Brackenwagen[32]

Carl Friedrich August Brackenwagen (in the U.S. he was known as Charles) was born December 6, 1824 in Grabow, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany. He immigrated to the United States in 1853. Charles and Rosina purchased the property in late 1854. In the 1855 Wisconsin Census they were living on the farm. In the same census his brother, Franz, was living on a farm about 300 yards to the northeast on what is currently Blackhawk Road.

Rosina Brackenwagen was born in June 1829 in Mecklenburg, Germany. In 1855 Charles (31) and Rosina (26) were living on the property with their two daughters, Emma (2), and Clara (1). They were on the Western frontier in the new State of Wisconsin, ready to grub out a living.

[31] "Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 56th Annual Meeting," October 15, 1908 (Madison: Democrat Printing Co., 1909): 142. https://archive.org/stream/1908proceedings00wiscuoft/1908proceedings00wiscuoft_djvu.txt

[32] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Brackenwagen Family.



Charles Brackenwagen
1824-1869

Rosina Brackenwagen
1829 – 1901

In this wilderness they had to prevent their livestock from wandering off, rocks were strewn all over steep hillsides and they found challenges everywhere. One can imagine a young Charles building a log cabin on that 80-acre parcel with a wife and two little girls. They had come a long way from Mecklenburg in two short years.

Rosina Brackenwagen surrounded by her daughters. (1900)

By 1860 the Brackenwagen family had grown. They were Charles (36), Rosina (31), Emma (7), Clara (6), Francis (4), and Mattie (1). The Dane County Agricultural Census in 1860 paints a detailed picture of what the Brackenwagen family farm operations looked like.

Charles Brackenwagen, 1860 Agricultural Census

Improved land = 32 acres
Unimproved land = 48 acres
Cash value of farm = $1,200[33]
Value of farm implements and machinery = $50
Other Cattle = 3
Horses = 2
Milk cows = 1
Working Oxen = 2
Swine = 3
Value of Livestock = $326
Wheat, bushels of = 348
Indian Corn, bushels of = 20
Oats, bushels of = 100
Irish Potatoes, bushels of = 25
Butter, pounds of = 100
Hay, tons of = no response
Value of animals slaughtered = $20

When comparing the Brackenwagen farm and the Siebert farm next-door, it is interesting to note that both families started at approximately the same time, 1854-1855, with the same amount of land next door to each other. In 1860 the Siebert farm is valued at $2,000, and Brackenwagen is valued at $1,200. We believe that contributing factors to this disparity are twofold. First, the workforce at the Siebert farm included 3-4 able bodied young men in their early twenties and late teens compared to the young Brackenwagen family. Second, the degree of difficulty presented by the land itself. The Siebert farm had more tillable land and less glacial debris to deal with. The Brackenwagen farm had three very rocky recessional moraines on it and steep hills in the northern part of the property. This resulted in more acres that were untillable and made it more difficult to farm. By 1860, after 6 years, the Brackenwagen's with their two oxen had cleared 32 acres on their 80-acre farm.

1860 would be the Brackenwagen's last year on the farm before they sold to John Prien and moved to Green County, WI. The final straw may have been when their 9-month old baby, Charles, died of Whooping Cough the same year. They had had a hard five or six years trying to settle on the Central Farm.

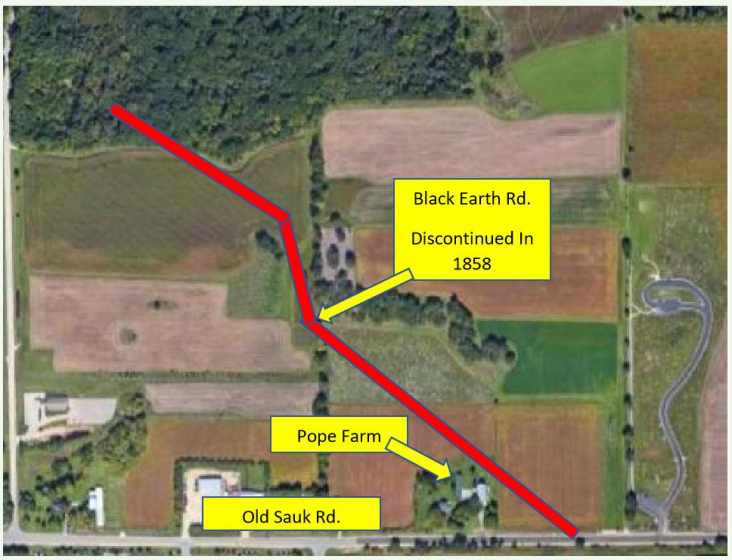
[33] Equal to over $37,200 in 2020.

Black Earth Creek Road

In the 1840s and 50s, the two main roads on the west side of Madison were Mineral Pt. Road that ran toward the mining communities of southwest Wisconsin and the road we know today as HWY 12 that ran northwest toward Sauk City. There was no road going directly west from Madison (like HWY 14 today), because of the huge marsh surrounding Mud Lake.

If you wanted to go west from Madison to places like Black Earth or Spring Green you would travel to Middleton Junction (at the Beltline and Mineral Pt. Road), then northwest and ultimately cross todays Pope Farm Conservancy. From there, you would continue northwest down to Black Earth Creek, then follow the Black Earth valley to the west.

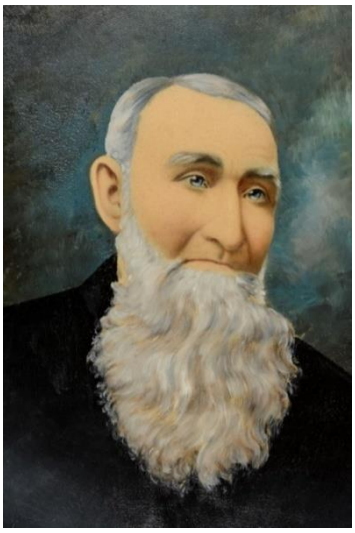
This "Black Earth Road" was used in the early years and discontinued in 1858 while the Brackenwagen's lived on the property. The road ran through their fields and was within shouting distance of their cabin and out-buildings.



Charles Brackenwagen died in December of 1869 at only 45 years old. This left Rosina a widow at 40 years old with four girls ranging from 10 to 17. Rosina lived another 30 years and died in March of 1901 at 72. Both Charles and Rosina are buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Monroe, WI.

1861 – 1864, John Prien

Christian Prien and his wife Julia (Baack) lived in Mecklenburg Schwerin, Germany where their son John was born May 19, 1827. They spent their lives in [the] Fatherland, but their three sons and daughter immigrated to America.[34]



Courtesy: Middleton Historical Society

John Prien
1827 – 1915

No picture of

Rosetta Behm Prien
(1832-1904)

was found.

In 1852, at the age of 25, John Prien came to America making the voyage in a sailing boat that was bound for New York but was driven by storms to New Orleans. The vessel was nine weeks on the voyage, arriving on Dec. 7, 1852. Mr. Prien set out for Middleton where some of his relatives were living. After disembarking at New Orleans, he worked his way up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, and then on to Milwaukee where he remained for a short time. During the winter of 1853, he walked almost 100 miles from Milwaukee to Middleton![35]

Recollections by Kurt Prien Hambrecht,
5th Generation descendent of John Prien.

According to family records, John met up with a man by the name of Pierstorff on the voyage. Pierstorff was apparently a wealthy man as he had an ample food supply for the journey. However, Pierstorff became ill and could not eat, so John Prien enjoyed his food. Both men settled in the Town of Middleton. John's brother, Henry Prien, was the first blacksmith in the Pheasant Branch area, and we believe John was the first blacksmith and wagon maker in East Middleton (later known as Middleton Junction).

[34] Found in the Prien Family Album.

[35] Henry Noll, *Wisconsin State Journal*, May 30, 1937, found in the Prien Family Album.

Courtesy: Middleton Historical Society

Four Generations: L to R Mary Prien Pierstorff, baby Velva Pierstorff, William Pierstorff, John Prien

After John arrived, he probably stayed with his brother for a short period of time. It is reasonable to assume Henry introduced John to the rest of the Mecklenburg community.

In June of 1853, John married Rosetta Behm, daughter of Christian and Marie Behm of Westphalia, Germany. In late 1853, or early 1854, John Prien and his wife took their infant to a newly formed congregation to be baptized. It was the first baptism of what would be known later as the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church. The 1853 Tax Rolls show John Prien owning 40 acres in the Pheasant Branch area close to his brother Henry, but he sells the property, and by 1856 John and his young family were living on small 35-acre parcel across Old Sauk Road from what is today the Pope Farm Conservancy. The location of their cabin was very close to where Madison's water tower sits today. Their cabin sat next to the Black Earth Creek Road that ran from Middleton Junction northwest to Black Earth Creek.

Mr. Prien was earning his living as a blacksmith and wagon maker, supplementing that income with farming. We believe his blacksmith shop was in Middleton Junction, about 2 miles from his home. The Black Earth Creek Road would have taken him directly to his business.

The 1860 Agricultural Census shows that the Prien family included John (33), Rosetta (26), Minnie (6), Rosetta (4), Mary (2), and Henry (1 month old). Late in 1860, John Prien sold his 35-acre parcel on the south side of Old Sauk Road and purchased the 80-acre parcel on the north side of the road from Charles Brackenwagen (currently the central part of the Pope Farm Conservancy). During the 3 years that John Prien owned the property, it appears that few improvements were made on the 80-acre farm, including clearing the land. The estimated real estate value was $800[36] when he purchased it and $700 when he and his wife sold it four years later. The Prien's sold the farm in late December 1864 and moved the family and his blacksmith shop into the growing community of Middleton Station (Middleton). The 1870 Census shows the Prien's home and blacksmith shop close to where downtown Middleton is located today.

What's in a Name?

In the early 1850s, East Middleton or what later became Middleton Junction was a center for trade along what is now Mineral Point Road by the Beltline near Junction road. Middleton Junction was the metropolis of the town, containing two hotels, two saloons, a store, a post office, a blacksmith shop, and a tailor shop. However, when the Milwaukee Road located its route through present day Middleton in 1856, that berg became known as Middleton Station. The commerce from Pheasant Branch and Middleton Junction slowly began to shift toward the new railroad town called Middleton Station (now Middleton).

John and Rosetta had six children. This included Henry F. Prien who, in 1891, became the undersheriff in the Town of Middleton. The Prien's were one of the original 14 families to fund and build the log cabin which housed the First Lutheran Church on Pleasant View Road. John held memberships in the Masonic Lodge, Odd Fellows, and Eastern Star; in political sympathy he was a Democrat.[37] He retired from blacksmithing in 1891 - after 50 years on the job! Rosetta died in 1904 and John died in 1915; both are buried in the First Lutheran Cemetery.

[36] $800 would be just over $23,000 in 2020 currency. $700 would be approximately $13,700.

[37] *History of Dane County: Biographical and Genealogical*, Vol 1, (Madison: Western Historical Association, 1906): 731. https://books.google.com/books?id=TgUrAQAAMAAJ&printsec=front cover#v=onepage&q&f=false

1865 – 1866, Bernard Peemueller

Little is known about Mr. Peemueller. His name is spelled numerous ways on the tax rolls and public records. We could find no record of him. We suspect he was a lender of sorts and never lived on the land. He, or his relatives do not show up in any plat map or other tax roll activity in the Town of Middleton that we could find. We do know that John Prien was a Mason attending Lodge meetings in Madison prior to this sale and that he had social relationships beyond the township. Mr. Peemueller sells, or signs off on the land in 1866 in favor of John Wittenburg.

1866 – 1869, John Wittenburg

John Wittenburg pays the 1866 taxes for the property. His son Charles would have been 30 years old. We do not know but suspect that Charles moved onto the property about that time. We know that 3 years prior, in 1863, he was still living with his parents. Charles married in 1869 and tax records show that improvements were made on the buildings on the property during that year. In 1869, ownership transfers from John Wittenburg, to his son Charles. John Wittenburg will be discussed later in this report.

1869 – 1875, Magnus Karl (Carl) aka Charles Wittenburg[38]

Charles Wittenburg was born in 1836 in Mecklenburg, Germany, the oldest child of John Wittenburg. He came to America with his parents in 1858, arriving when he was 22 years old. In 1860, Charles was living with his parents on the Wittenburg farm on Old Sauk Road where the Jefferson Retirement Community now stands. In 1863 Charles was still farming with his father and registered for the (Civil War) draft.

In 1869 Charles Wittenburg married Sophia Berg in Dane County, WI. In that year they took up the task of settling the family on the 80-acre farm that is now the central part of Pope Farm Conservancy. He also purchased an additional 30 acres across Old Sauk Rd. He was 34 years old with a one-month old baby. Fortunately, they had a 20-year-old hired hand from Hanover, Germany living with them.

[38] Unless otherwise noted, photos of this section provided courtesy of the Wittenburg Family.

No picture of

Charles Wittenburg
(1836-1910)

was found.

Sophia Berg Wittenburg
1846 - 1927

Here is the 1870 Dane County Agricultural Census for the Charles Wittenburg farm.

Charles Wittenburg, 1870 Agriculture Census (80 acres + 30 acres)

Acres improved = 65
Acres Woodland = 45
Value of Farm = $3,600[39]
Value of Farm Implements and Machinery = $200
Total value of wages paid including board = 0 (had a hired man living there)
Horses, number of = 2
Milking Cows, number of = 2
Sheep, number of = 0
Swine, number of = 1
All Livestock, value of = $300
Spring Wheat, bushels of = 600
Indian Corn, bushels of = 0
Oats, bushels of = 400
Barley, bushels of = 100
Wool, lbs. = 0

[39] Almost $71,000 in 2020.

Irish Potatoes, bushels of = 40
Butter, pounds of = 0
Hay, tons of = 3
Value of animals slaughtered and sold for slaughter = $32
Estimated value of all farm production including betterments and additions to stock = $ 875

What is interesting is that there were still 45 acres of unimproved land in 1870. Ten years prior, in the 1860 Agricultural Census, there were 48 acres of unimproved land. In ten years only about 3 acres of land have been cleared by Prien, Peemueller, and John Wittenburg.[40] There was a tremendous amount of glacial debris from the three recessional moraines and steep hillsides throughout the central and northern portion of this 80-acre farm. Charles Wittenburg had a challenge ahead of him.

We know Charles became a U.S. Citizen in 1875. Charles and Sophia continued to grow their family and in 1877 they were on the farm with John (7), Louisa (5), Amanda (4), Sophia (2), and infant Fredericka. Charles Wittenburg was 41 years old, with little physical assistance from his children in sight.

By 1880 the Wittenburgs had moved to Schuyler, Colfax, NE. We do not know why Charles and Sophia moved there, but we do know they purchased an 80-acre farm with 70 improved acres and 10 unimproved acres. The value of their new farm was $800, plus $50 of farm machinery, and $150 of livestock. Before Charles left for Nebraska, he turned the farm over to his father, John Wittenburg Sr.

Charles Wittenburg died on December 22, 1910 at 74 years of age and Sophia died on August 12, 1927 at 81 years old. Both are buried in Schuyler, Colfax, NE.

[40] 28 acres of the newly purchased 30 acres across Old Sauk Road were improved per the 1960 Agricultural Census.

1880-1890, John Wittenburg, Sr.

Courtesy: First Lutheran Church

John Wittenburg, Sr.
1814 – 1899

No picture of

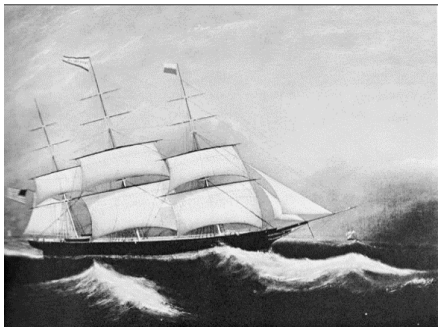
Louise Wittenburg
(1813-1884)

was found.

Contributions by Alice Voss Drake, and Emily Zarndt Knoche.

Johann Jürgen Joachim (John)Wittenburg (August 4, 1814), his wife Christine (Louise) Christiane Pierstorff (February 12, 1813), and their seven children sailed from Hamburg, Germany aboard the vessel "John Bertram," arriving in New York on May 26, 1858.

John Bertram[41]



[41] Found at https://www.wikitree.com/photo/jpg/John-bertram-1850-s.

Courtesy: Middleton Historical Society

Barn at the Wittenburg Homestead on Old Sauk Road where the Jefferson Retirement Community now stands.

By 1880, John Wittenburg, Sr. had removed the buildings on the 80-acre Central farm. John Wittenburg was simply farming the tillable land on that 80-acres as part of his larger farming operation and his family continued to do so for the next 30 years.

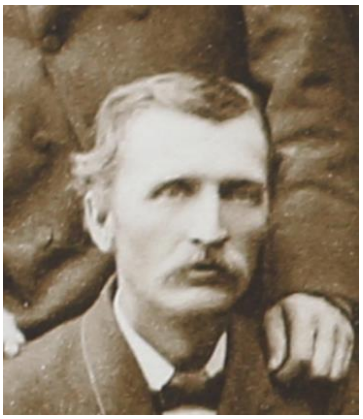
The Wittenburgs were also members of the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church when it was a log chapel on Pleasant View Road. In 1866, they were among those who contributed $82 per family to build the "big white church on the hill," now known as the historic First Lutheran Church on the corner of Old Sauk and Pleasant View Roads.

John Wittenburg passed away in 1899 and Louise passed away in 1884. Both are buried in the First Lutheran Church cemetery. In 1890, the land was passed from John Wittenburg, Sr. to his son J.W. Wittenburg.

1890 – 1908, John William Wittenburg

J.W. Wittenburg was the second eldest son of John and Louise Wittenburg, Sr., and the younger brother of Charles Wittenburg.[42] He was 10 years old when he immigrated from Mecklenburg Germany to America with his family. In the U.S., John W. Wittenberg spent his entire life farming in the Town of Middleton.

[42] Though many Wittenburg descendants still survive, the Wittenburg surname does not. It ended with the 2013 death of Elmore and Carrie's grandson, Donald Richard "Rick" Wittenburg (1948-2013) and his mother, Loretta (Raemish) Wittenburg, who died in 2017 at the age of 102. Both rest in the Middleton Junction Cemetery.



Courtesy: First Lutheran Church

John William Wittenburg
1848 – 1926

Courtesy: The Wittenburg Family

Fredericka Wittenburg
1859 - 1934

At 35 years of age, John William married Fredericka "Rekka" Wesenberg who was 24. They had three children. John and Rekka were also active in the First Lutheran Church. John passed away in 1926, and Rekka passed in 1934. Both are at rest in the Middleton Junction Cemetery.

In all, the father and two sons of the Wittenburg family farmed the 80-acre Central section of today's Pope Farm Conservancy for over 40 years. John W. Wittenburg sold the land to Charles Brumm in 1908.

1908 – 1933, Chas. Brumm[43]

Charles Brumm
1864 – 1937

Lena Engel Brumm
1867 – 1941

[43] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Brumm Family.

In 1864, Charles Brumm was born to John E. and Dorothy Brumm. John was a direct descendent of Mecklenburg, Germany. John was exclusively a livestock farmer.[44] Charles and his two brothers grew up on the family farm south of Mineral Pt. Road. In October of 1890, Charles married Lena Engel in a wedding that is somewhat of a legend in Dane County – it was a celebration that lasted for three days! (See page 199.)

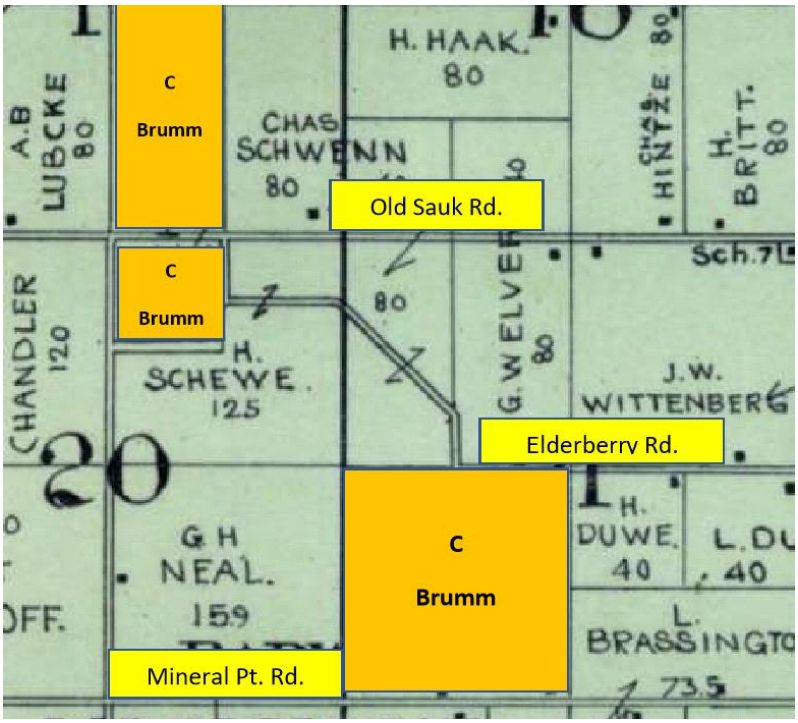
From the Brumm Family album.

Charles and Lena were married for 47 years and had nine children. There were two sets of twins, one of girls and one of boys. Only the two boys (Alva and Elmer) lived to adulthood. The children were Leslie Johann Will (born in 1895); Carl Johann Chas (1897); Marie Ida Rosette 1899); Clarence Fritz Johann (1900); Alva George Will (1904); Elmer John (1904); and Forest Johann Frank (1907). Marie and the six boys grew up riding horses and milking cows. Some stayed on the farms and others became truck drivers and a secretary.

Children of Charles and Lena Brumm.

Charles' father, John E. Brumm, was a livestock man and Charles would have learned about raising livestock from him. By 1904, Charles Brumm owned the 160 acres farm his father purchased on the north side of Mineral Pt. Road.

[44] *History of Dane County: Biographical and Genealogical*, Vol 2 (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1880): 1208. https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_Dane_County_Wisconsin_Contain/3QcrAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=history+of+Wisconsin+Dane+county+1880&printsec=frontcover



1911 Plat Map
Charles Brumm adds the 80-acre parcel north of Old Sauk Road.

With their ever-growing family, Charles and Lena were looking to expand their operations. In 1908 they purchased the 80 acres north of Old Sauk Road that is currently the Central Section of the Pope Farm Conservancy. They also purchased 35 acres on the south side of Old Sauk Road and 60 more acres across Blackhawk Road to the north of the present-day Conservancy (presently Blackhawk Ski Club land). This gave them 175 acres at this new site. According to the 1911 plat map, there were no buildings on these properties. However, we believe that the home was under construction from 1910 and was finished in the summer of 1911. The Brumm's were farming their new land using their farm on Mineral Pt. Road as the base for their operations for the first couple of years. Travel between the two farms was easy because Elderberry Road (now Schewe Road) ran directly between them.

The 60 acres north of Blackhawk Road, was mostly non tillable land because of the steep bluffs and marshland bottoms, but it had water running through it in the form of Black Earth Creek. We believe Charles was running a livestock operation like his father, and this additional 60 acres could be used as low-cost pastureland for cattle. It is important to note that adding these lands to the original 80-acre Central section gave him 175 acres to farm. We believe that the original 80-acre farm did not have enough land to make a profit because of the glacial debris and ravines that ran through it. Additional lands were necessary in order to be productive enough to try and support a family.

In 1910 we believe the Brumm family began building their home. It is confusing as the 1910 Census has them living at the Old Sauk Rd. location with Old Sauk neighbors on each side of them, and still using a Mineral Pt. Rd. address. However, the tax roll information shows a large amount of improvements being made in 1910. That combined with the picture below, shows a well-constructed home with an established lawn when we believe this picture was taken in about 1912. Therefore, we believe the home was started in 1910, and completed in the summer of 1911. The house and homestead buildings still stand today and are known as the Pope Homestead.

In 1912, Charles and Lena had seven children ranging from 5 to 16 years of age living at home. This wonderful home built by the Brumm family included six bedrooms, an upstairs bathroom, kitchen, dining area, living room, full attic, and a full basement. The ceilings were unusually high with ornamental woodwork. We believe Charles Brumm and his family moved into the home in approximately 1911. This would be their new homestead from which they would manage 335 acres of farmland.

Some of the Charles Brumm children in front on the newly built house. (1912)
Notice the shed is already built in the background.

We believe Charles Brumm built the machine shed and granary in 1910-1912 at the same time as the house and barn. The tax roll information confirms continuing building improvements to the farm during that time period. On the second floor of the shed (nearest the garage), was a granary where oats were stored. Bags of oats were carried upstairs, then emptied so gravity could pull them back down to ground level through a small chute that was accessed on the outside of the building. One of the corn cribs was in the lean-to on the far right of this picture.

Photo: Janie Starzewski

Shed built by Charles Brumm.

Photo: Jack Sherman

Current Photo of Pope Barn built in 1910 -1912 by Charles Brumm.

The upper barn could hold enough hay to feed livestock through the winter, and straw to bed the animals. The original barn built by Charles had four individual openings (half-doors) in the lower eastern side of the barn for horse and cattle stalls.

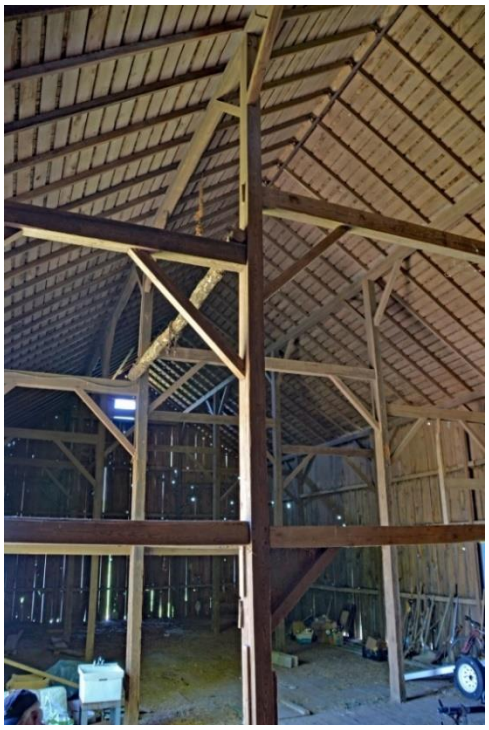


Photo: Janie Starzewski

The barn is a 5-Bay barn for hay and straw storage with a full lower level for livestock.

Half doors are a clue that Charles was primarily in the cattle business. The half stalls could be used for horses, bulls, or livestock that needed special help and treatment. Manure from the stalls were cleaned from the outside barnyard area.

Location of half-doors for horses/stock stalls.

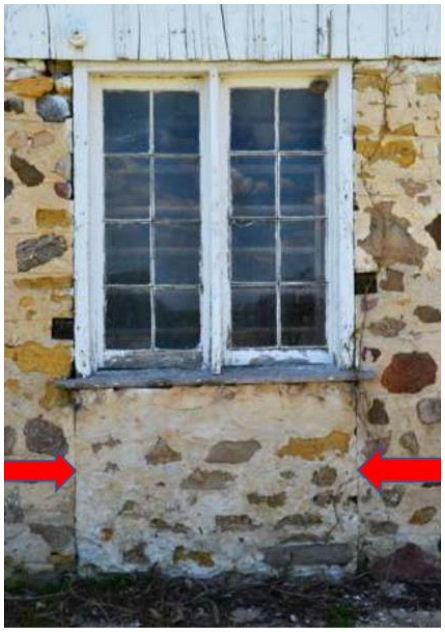


Photo: Janie Starzewski

Marie Brumm (left) on horseback. (About 1921)

The above photo shows the same style of half-door in the front of the lower barn that was repeated along the eastern side of the barn. In 1921 the silos have yet to be built. Notice an outbuilding in the right in the photograph. The area around this outbuilding between the barn and Old Sauk Road is believed to have been the location for previous cabins and sheds that were used by the early settlers on the property.

Charles Brumm children riding horses in front of the barn. (About 1912)

The photo above, taken about the same time as the other 1912 photos, shows that the silos had not been constructed, and the lean-to that is later attached to the front of the lower barn had not been built yet.

Lena Brumm and some of her children by the new barn. (About 1912)

The photo above is interesting for several reasons. The family is standing where the silos will be eventually located, and you can see the recessional moraine in the background where the Oak Savannah is located in Pope Farm Conservancy today.

As Charles and Lena's family grew older, their property was divided between four of their sons: Carl and Leslie took over the Mineral Pt. Road farm, and in 1933, Elmer and Clarence ran the Old Sauk Road farm. Elmer, Clarence, and their parents all lived on the Old Sauk Road homestead. After Elmer married Helen Punswick in 1935, Charles and Lena moved to the Mineral Pt. farm and lived with their son Leslie for the rest of their lives.

Charles Brumm died in 1937 and Lena died in 1941. They are interred in the Middleton Junction Cemetery.

1935 – 1941, Elmer and Clarence Brumm[45]

Elmer Brumm grew up on the Old Sauk farm and in 1935 married Helen Punswick from Black Earth. They made their home at the Old Sauk Road homestead and Clarence Brumm lived with them.

Clarence Brumm
1900 – 1941

A few years later, Clarence fell off a wagon and was badly hurt. Dr. Rowley came out from Middleton and said that if he was up walking the next day, he would be fine. If he could not walk, he would be paralyzed the rest of his life. Unfortunately, he never walked again. Helen took care of Clarence until their son, John, was born in 1940. Clarence was moved to a care facility in Madison where he died a year later in 1941. Clarence was buried in the Middleton Junction Cemetery.

[45] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Brumm Family.

1941 – 1960, Elmer Brumm[46]

Elmer Brumm
1904 – 1959

Helen Punswick Brumm
1914 – 1949

Elmer and Helen had three children. Janice Brumm was born in 1937, John Brumm in 1940, and Mary Brumm was born in 1943. Helen and Elmer both died at an early age. Helen of Leukemia in 1949 at age 34 and Elmer died at age 55 in 1959 of bladder cancer. Both are interred at Middleton Junction Cemetery.

L to R:
Mary, John, and Janice Brumm

We believe that the Brumm family was originally interested in cattle production. When Charles Brumm purchased the property in 1908, the land was used primarily for crops and grazing land for cattle. The 60 acres on the north side of the farm (currently Blackhawk Ski Club), had water but limited use as cropland. It was used for grazing cattle, and given the availability of water, the cattle could graze unsupervised for extended periods of time.

[46] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Brumm Family.

Sometime in the 1930s, perhaps when Elmer and Clarence took ownership of the farm, the family changed to dairy farming. A milk house was added, and the primary focus was on Holstein cattle. The half-doors were eliminated and filled in with brick. Cow milking stanchions were put in both sides of the lower portion of the barn. Elmer Brumm milked about 20 cows and the milk went to the cheese factory over on Mineral Pt. Road (where the Kwik Trip is today).

Straw for bedding, hay, and silage were used as part of their dairy operation. The first silo on the left was probably built in the late 1920s for silage. Notice both silos in the first photo below have their original roofs. We believe the second silo on the right was built in the early to mid-1930s.

Haying in the mid to late 1930s, before baling.

Men filing the silos.

This photo was taken in the later 1940s to early 1950s and shows the tree line in the background that are still there in today's conservancy. Notice that the silo on the right has had its roof replaced since the prior photo. The man at the top opening is directing the green fodder into the silo. A small room at the bottom of the silos connected to the lower barn where sileage could be easily transferred to feed the cows.

Elmer Brumm with Holstein bull.

Addition of horse stalls in front of barn. (1930s)

Photo: Janie Starzewski

Horse stalls were added to the front of the lower section of the barn and the doors were widened so that a tractor could be driven in one end and out the other.

Over time the carriages and some of the old wagons were becoming obsolete and were taking up valuable space in the shed up by the barn. In the late 1930s, Elmer built a storage shed in the little woods astride the recessional moraine north of the barn. This location is now along the southern boundary of the Pope Farm Conservancy. There is no evidence left of its existence.

Location of the carriage shed up against the hillside north of the barn.

Photo: Janie Starzewski

Remnant of the old carriage shed in disrepair. (1962)

The Spillway

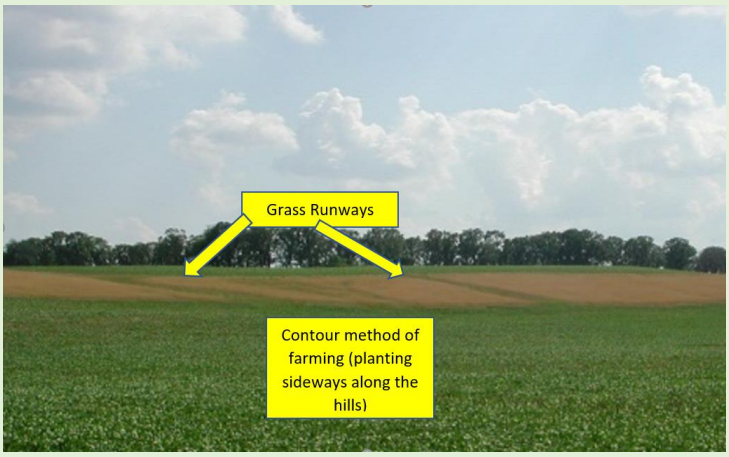
In the mid-1930s, the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) approached Elmer and Clarence Brumm about containing the erosion that was taking place in the deep ravine on the northern part of the Central farm. The SCS would put in a spillway to slow the erosion if Elmer and Clarence would use contour plowing in the future and put in grass waterways to carry the water off the hillside. In 1938, the SCS and the CCC put in the spillway that is still protecting the ravine today. It took them several weeks to complete. A local man on the CCC crew (Mertin Dauck) took this photo when they were finished in 1938.

Courtesy: Mary Dauck Nelson

Spillway upon completion still stands at PFC. (1938)

Elmer and Clarence followed the proposed plan by putting in two grass waterways on the hillsides and continued to use contour methods of planting crops.

The SCS and the CCC planted Black Locust trees in the ravine at the very bottom of the property to try to stop erosion on its sides. They also planted Black Locust trees in other areas of what is now Pope Farm Conservancy, and throughout the Black Earth Creek Valley. It was controversial at the time because Black Locust trees are very aggressive and will take over a forest. Today Black Locusts are considered invasive species and cause serious damage. After the Town of Middleton purchased the land, the Black Locusts were removed in order to enable prairie restoration projects at PFC. The spillway has been effective in stopping the hillside from eroding for over 80 years.



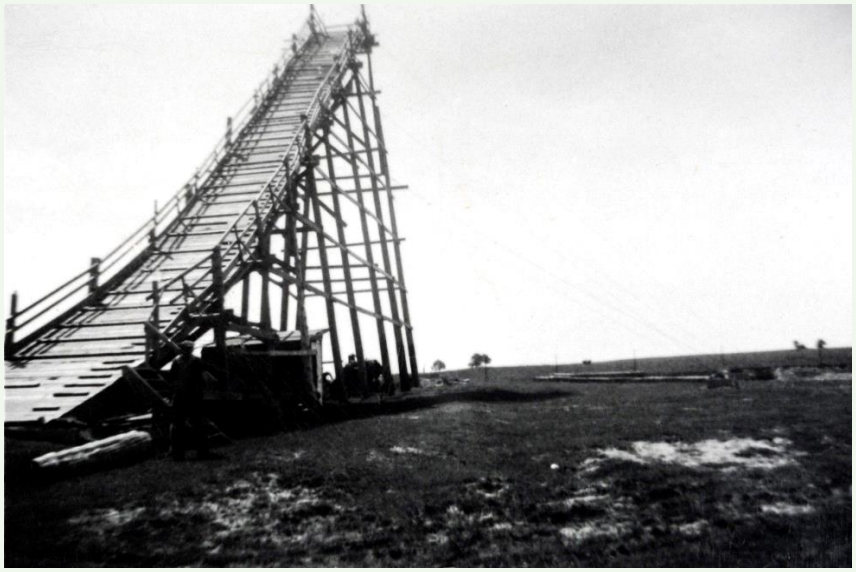
Grass waterways seen in the fields above the spillway have existed since 1938.

Spillway still works in 2020.

Removing Black Locusts planted by the CCC in 1938. (2009)

Origins of the Blackhawk Ski Club

In the early 1950s, Elmer Brumm sold 60 acres north of Blackhawk Road to a group of ski enthusiasts who wanted to build a ski jump. This group included Stan DeRose and Jake Jacobson. Ultimately this land would become home to the Blackhawk Ski Club. Elmer probably sold the land to help pay for medical bills for his wife Helen who passed away in 1949.



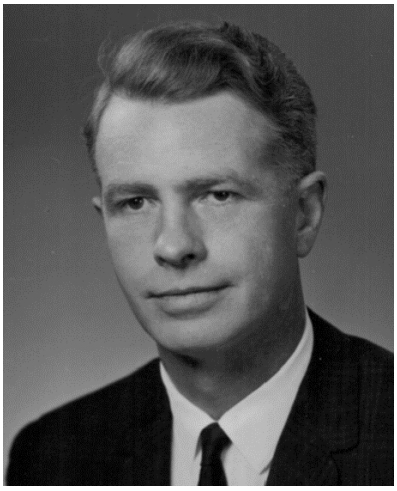
Courtesy Brumm Family

First Ski Jump at Blackhawk Ski Club. (1950s)

This photo is the first ski jump erected by the Blackhawk Ski Club. Notice there are no pine trees like there are today. Along the ridge in the background you can see the trees up by the stone fence that still stand at the top of the hill in the Conservancy. In the 1800s until the mid-1900s the land around the ski jump and along Blackhawk Road was tilled and used as cropland.

1961-1973, Arthur and Vivian Pope[47]

Contributions by the Pope Family.



Arthur L. Pope
1921 – 2010

Vivian Tretsven Pope
1920 -1973

Art Pope was born in Caldwell, Idaho in 1921 and grew up in Southern Michigan on a small 83-acre farm. Vivian Tretsven Pope was born in Bozeman, MT and grew up there. The two met in Madison and married in 1944. They had four children, Mel born in 1945, Kathleen born in 1947, Lucille born in 1951, and Bill born in 1953. Both Art and Vivian are interred at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Madison.

Art and Vivian purchased the farm that was located on the corner of Old Sauk Road and Twin Valley Road (Western Farm) in 1958. They quickly realized they would need more land and another location for their farming operation.

First, the family would need a bigger home to accommodate 4 children, and the Brumm home would be able to accommodate the family. Second, Art wanted to expand his farming operation to include beef cattle and grade (crossbred) ewes for increased production. More buildings would be required to accomplish this, and the Brumm barn and shed would fill this need perfectly. Third, Art was a full-time professor and part time farmer. To make his farming operation viable, he would need to partner with a local farmer to plant and harvest the crops. The farmer would receive one half of the crop for payment and Art would receive the other half as feed for his livestock. This meant that Art did not have to invest in major agricultural equipment, and he would not be required to spend time managing those crops. However, it

[47] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Pope Family.

meant he would need more land to utilize this shared method of cropping the land. Finally, the Brumm farm was contiguous to the farm that was already owned by the Pope Family and that made the purchase even more desirable.

After the Brumm farm was purchased in 1960, the house was remodeled and modernized. New insulation was installed, new plumbing put in, the kitchen was revamped, ceilings lowered, new electrical outlets installed, and a new entryway was put on the eastern side of the house. Using pick and shovel, Art dug out a crawl space under the first-floor bathroom to allow basement heat to keep the pipes from freezing in the winter.

Lower level is remodeled, and new entrance added.

In August of 1961, Art and Vivian Pope moved into the house with their children Mel (16), Kathleen (14), Lucille (10), and Bill (8).

The Pope family L to R Kathy, Vivian, Lucy, Mel, Art, and Billy.

During the early 1960s livestock were added. Art Pope brought his flock of purebred Hampshire sheep over to Wisconsin in 1961. That same year, he also added 23 cross bred ewes

Some of these sheep were part of the Art's flock of purebred Hampshire sheep brought to Wisconsin. Photo taken on the original Pope Homestead in Michigan.

from the mountain ranges out West. These were easy keepers and required much less labor. Although there was more wool per sheep, it was selling lambs that was the primary advantage. Cross breeding, having purebred meat rams cross with big "rangy" ewes that could easily give birth to large, fast growing, "meaty" lambs was the holy grail of what Art was teaching to students and farmers.

Herefords grazing with the sheep at Pope farm. Photo facing stone fence.

In 1962 Art purchased a small herd of Hereford cattle from Northern Wisconsin. These cattle were very complimentary to grazing with the sheep. If packs of dogs would attack the calves or sheep flock (which did occur), the cows would use their horns to chase them away.

By 1969 - 1971 the sheep herd had grown to 60 or 65 ewes about 1/3 Hampshire's and 2/3 grade (crossbred) ewes. The cattle herd had grown to 30 cows.

The buildings had to be converted from the Brumm dairy operation to accommodate the sheep operation. To do this, the cow stanchions were removed in the lower part of the barn. The milk house was moved to a neighbor and used as a shed. As the house was modernized, and the barns were converted, a number of outbuildings that were not needed were either moved or torn down. The old carriage shed was torn down and cleaned up so that cattle would not pick up wire in their stomachs when grazing.

Photo: Janie Starzewski

Cow stanchions removed to accommodate lambing operations.

In 1964, Art and Vivian Pope purchased the Eastern Farm from Wayne and Delores Mahoney. This provided more land for farming operations and the Mahoney home was rented out.

Pope Family home in the early 1970s.

The farm was changing, and a new era was set to begin. The farm production peaked between 1969 and 1971, but it became apparent that downsizing was inevitable as the Pope's were aging and the children were leaving home. In the early 70s, Art made several significant decisions to address future cattle and sheep operations. The cows and sheep would remain but not as many as the preceding years.

At the time, Art Pope was a full-time professor in the Meat and Animal Science Department at the University, and Vivian Pope was teaching special education at the Verona Independent School.

The Popes began thinking about selling the barn and buildings on the Eastern Farm, but before they did they moved what the Mahoney's called the "little house" to the southeast corner of the Central farm (across Old Sauk Road from the present day Town of Middleton hall). What the Pope's called the "honeymoon cottage" was available for reduced or no rent to a caretaker in exchange for helping with daily chores and Saturday projects.

The "little house" is moved from the Eastern Farm to the Central Farm. (1971)

The ""Honeymoon Cottage" at the Central Farm location.

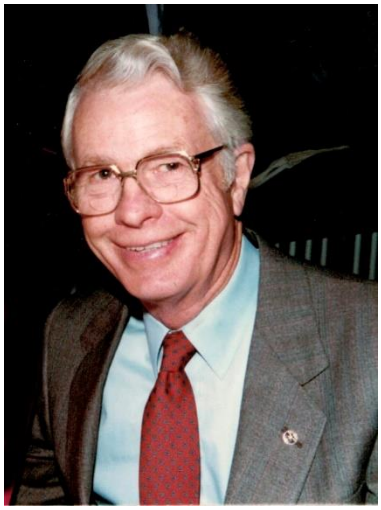
Unfortunately, this honeymoon cottage burned down in 2004 but was replaced with the modular home built on the same site. It continues to house a part-time helper for the farm.

Pope Farm in the late 60s early 70s.
Note: the sheep and cattle in the surrounding fields.

Cancer took Vivian's life in January of 1973 when she was 52 years old. She was obviously instrumental in the purchase and development of the Pope Farm. A stone amphitheater dedicated to her sits at her favorite view looking west over the Black Earth Creek Valley on top of the Blackhawk prairie.

1973 – 1999, Art Pope and Betty Zoerb Pope[48]

Contributions by the Pope Family.



Arthur L Pope
1921 - 2010

Betty Nord Zoerb Pope
1923 –

[48] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Pope and Zoerb families.

After the death of Vivian, Art began dating a long-time family acquaintance, Betty Nord Zoerb. Betty was a widow, an Extension Information Specialist and Extension Home Economist. Art and Betty were married in 1973. Betty brought three grown Zoerb sons into the marriage. In 1973, David Zoerb was 27, Hans Zoerb 25, and Erik Zoerb 20.

L to R David, Betty, Erik, and Hans Zoerb

The 1970s was a period of downsizing the farming operation. This included the reduction in the number of sheep, and also the amount of the family's land holdings. In 1973 Art sold the home and buildings on the Eastern Farm. In 1976, he sold 41 acres on the Eastern Farm that fronted Old Sauk Road. There was a boom in land prices at the time and Art did not need as much land for his farming operation.

In 1980 the agriculture community was promoting Birdsfoot Trefoil as a wonderful grazing crop to provide protein to livestock. Once it is planted it comes back year after year and puts enough nitrogen in the soil that fertilizing is not necessary. Another important benefit to using this plant is that cattle will graze it but will not bloat.

This is a Birdsfoot Trefoil field at an unidentified location.[49]

It took a couple of years to get this crop going and then it took off.

Photo: Courtesy of Jack Sherman

In the early 1980s, this current field of corn in PFC was the "Birdsfoot Field."

The crop was discontinued because the plant was so aggressive it started getting into other fields and causing damage. The land could not be rotated because once the Birdsfoot Trefoil took hold, it grew every year. Today it is deemed an invasive species in Wisconsin because it can form dense low growing mats that shade out native plants. Since this planting back in the early 1980s, the seeds have stayed in the soil for over 35 years and Birdsfoot Trefoil continues to come up in the prairies and trails at PFC.

[49] Joe Boggs, "Birdsfoot Trefoil Foiling Landscapes and Naturalized Areas," *Buckeye Yard and Garden OnLine* (OSU), July 19, 2016. https://bygl.osu.edu/node/438

In 1994 Art sold the cattle herd to a grad student who had lived in the honeymoon cottage and was now running his own operation. In 1995, the grade ewes were sold. In 1997, Art sold 20 acres of woods on the northern section of the Western Farm as he continued to reduce his holdings.

In 1998, the city of Madison attempted to take some of his property through condemnation for use as a water tower. Although Art was not ready to sell, this action by the City of Madison forced him to sell the land immediately to avoid the land being developed (which the family did not want). Instead of maximizing the amount of money he could receive by annexing his property into the City of Madison, Art chose to sell 145 acres of the farm to the Town of Middleton with 105 of those acres dedicated to become a Conservancy. This will be covered in the Pope section of this "History of Pope Farms."

1999 - Present Town of Middleton

Courtesy : Pope Family

Art and Betty Pope at the dedication of Pope Farm Conservancy.

In 1999, the family sold 145 acres to the Town of Middleton. In the year 2000, the land became a Conservancy. At that point Town representatives asked Art if he would consider running his sheep on the Conservancy to keep the weeds down. Art agreed. The sheep used about eight acres along the south moraine for pasture, including what is now the Oak Savanna. In 2009 Art retired from farming, finally selling the entire flock to the UW-River Falls where they would remain together. He had owned his Hampshire sheep flock 76 years!

Trail sign used to notify the park visitor that the area was closed for sheep to graze.

Art and Betty both enjoyed watching the development of the Conservancy. Art died at the age of 89 in 2010 and Betty continued to live on the homestead.

Art and Vivian Pope are interred at Sunset Memory Gardens in Madison. Betty enthusiastically attended the 2019 groundbreaking for the Pope Farm Elementary School at the age of 96!

REMEMBRANCES

By Janice Haynie Brumm, 1940s – 1950s[50]

Daughter of Elmer and Helen Brumm

Life on the Farm/Working/Chores

I remember new kitchen cupboards were built by Norman Guild from Verona. By then WWII happened with shortages and rationing. Meat, clothes, shoes all went to the war effort. We rented locker space from butcher Albright in Black Earth. We had a 1941 Ford car and a pick-up truck. We also had a John Deere tractor and an old McCormick Deering Farmall. Father kept a team of Belgium horses, Tom, and Jerry, for emergencies. I remember using horses to haul milk to the cheese factory – Gudel's on Mineral Pt. Road on bad snow days.

[50] Photos in this section provided courtesy of the Brumm family.

Hired hand with a team of horses at the farm.

We usually had a live-in hired man after Uncle Clarence was impaired. We had families living upstairs in the house including Oswin and Cora Braun, Jim and Elsie Grob, Howard and Darlene Richardson, Jim and Annie O'Neil, and Victor and Rosie Uebersetzig.

Early on we had a furnace in the basement and lots of wood to burn. Just before the war they got a coal fired stoker for extra heat. One hired man chopped a lot of wood down there and found mother's canned beef, pork, and chicken. He started eating cold chicken from jars and replaced bones in the back row on the shelves. When my parents found out, the man was fired.

We had a large garden by the road. After the war, my parents got a new, huge freezer as mother had been canning a lot. We kept it on the back porch adjoining our parents' bedroom. The brother of Mrs. Helm, our upstairs tenant, rebuilt the freezer room into a new bathroom when I was in high school.

Garage being built in the late 1940s still stands today.

About that time Victor Uebersetzig and Albert Hintz built a new garage with cement bricks. Everything was sold at two auctions. I remember butchering a lot of chickens, cows and pigs which were hung from a tree, and we dried steaks in the attic. After the auctions, my father bought a new gas stove for the kitchen and washer and dryer to replace the old wood stove in the kitchen.

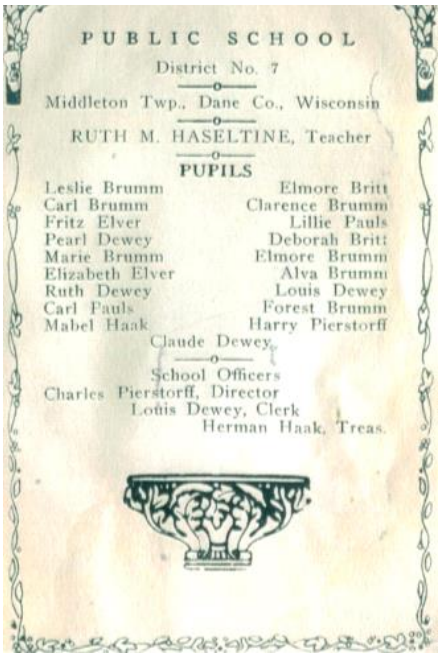
By then I was in high school. We had hired domestic help for about a year or two until father could not afford it anymore. One was a girl named Barbara Statz (then Endres) from a large family in Cross Plains. She had 3-4 younger siblings, Raymond and Harold were the two oldest, so she shared her pay with parents.

Janice Brumm feeding chickens

Social Activities

I started school in 1942 and had three classmates: Tom and Ann Phillips, and Donald Pierstorff. My grade schoolteachers were Mrs. Fuller, Helen Haas, Mrs. Henningson, and Mrs. Hoagland (who married to a U.W. student after the war). Milda Williamson taught the 7th and 8th grades.

Pleasant Site School, Old Sauk Rd school building is still standing



PUBLIC SCHOOL

District No. 7

Middleton Twp., Dane Co., Wisconsin

RUTH M. HASELTINE, Teacher

PUPILS

Leslie Brumm	Elmore Britt
Carl Brumm	Clarence Brumm
Fritz Elver	Lillie Pauls
Pearl Dewey	Deborah Britt
Marie Brumm	Elmore Brumm
Elizabeth Elver	Alva Brumm
Ruth Dewey	Louis Dewey
Carl Pauls	Forest Brumm
Mabel Haak	Harry Pierstorff
Claude Dewey	

School Officers

Charles Pierstorff, Director

Louis Dewey, Clerk

Herman Haak, Treas.

Graduation program early 1900s Pleasant Site School

Sunday school and church were at West Middleton Lutheran and it was especially important.

Elmer Brumm right, confirmation class at the First Lutheran Church.

Fun Facts and Animals

Horses in the wintertime

Father kept a team of Belgium horses, Tom and Jerry, for emergencies. I remember using horses to haul milk to the cheese factory – to Gudel's on Mineral Pt. Road on bad snow days.

Family

Mother had not gone to high school as the family was too remote from Black Earth. Eventually she worked as a domestic until meeting father at a dance in Black Earth. She had Rheumatic fever as a child. They were married at Vermont Lutheran Church in October 1935. Social life was mainly mother's large family in Black Earth.

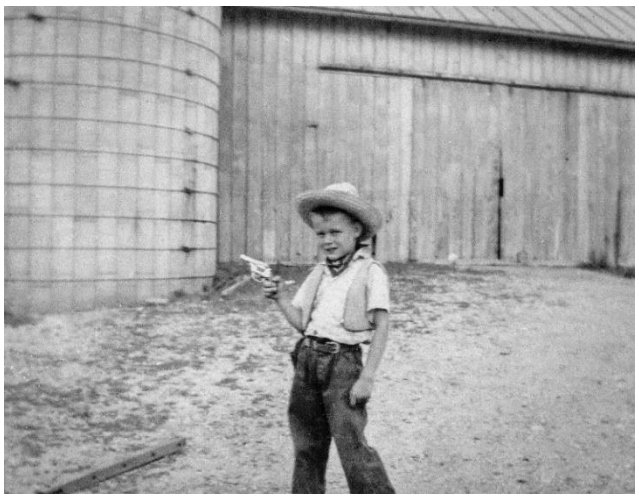
After Elmer and Helen were married, they began a family on the farm on Old Sauk Road. They had three children; Janice Brumm was born in 1937, John in 1940, and Mary in 1943.

Helen and Elmer both died at a young age. Helen of Leukemia in 1949 at age 34, and Elmer of bladder cancer in 1959 at age 55. Both are interred at Middleton Junction Cemetery.

Mary, John, and Janice Brumm

I was born at home April 13, 1937 and brother John on February 13, 1940. On March 15, 1943 I came downstairs to find Grandma Punswick sitting by the open wood stove in the kitchen. She was bathing our newborn sister (Mary Ann) in a dishpan in her lap. Mother was in an adjoining bedroom. Dr. Rowley from Middleton had gotten there too late – just mom and grandma were there to deliver Mary Ann! Father was not comfortable witnessing birth and had

to stay outside. Aunt Marian Brumm was working in the kitchen preparing food. I got the day off from school! Baby Mary's neck got twisted during birth, so the first trip out was for Gonstead Chiropractor in Mt. Horeb for adjustments, and it worked.



John Brumm

Being farmers, they knew how to schedule dates for deliveries. There were no pregnancies in summer as there was too much work to do.

Mary Ann Brumm (1947)

Mother was sick a lot. Eventually she got Strep Throat, then Rheumatic Fever – in those days there was no treatment for this serious illness. Mother saw a lot of chiropractors, especially Dr. Norman Frankenstein from Madison. One year we raised turkey chicks for him, and he gave us back two turkeys to freeze. Eventually mother ended up at Madison General

with Leukemia. She died on April 10, 1949. Father went to pick up Grandma and mother was buried the following Tuesday - that was my 12th birthday.

I turned 17 in April 1954 and graduated from high school in May. I graduated with honors even though I had no guidance and all that work at home. There was no question about college as there were no funds, and I had no idea what to study. So, I got a job in Madison. Neighbors Irv and Carlene Backus gave me a ride in every day. Lovely people!

I wanted to get off the farm and away from those responsibilities. So, I got an apartment with a friend and within six months was hired as a cashier at Wisconsin General Hospital's business office. I loved it and moved several times until 1960 when I moved with roommates to Denver. We loaded up Father's Buick which I bought from the estate.

Three years later I met Mr. Haynie and moved to California for two or three years, then went to New York. We were married for 6 years when I returned to Wisconsin. John and Mary also got married and each started a family.

At supper one-night in 1954, father talked about blood in his urine and eventually clots. I had a fit – get to a doctor! So, Dr. Lappley in Cross Plains removed the bladder cancer and followed up with X-ray therapy. Five years later it was back, and things were awful until Christmas Day in 1959 when he died at St. Mary's hospital. By then I think the Popes were actively interested in purchasing the farm.

REMEMBRANCES

By Mel Pope, 1961 – 1972[51]

Son of Art and Vivian Pope

Social Activities

<u>High School working on farm projects.</u>

An Agriculture shop course was offered at Middleton High School in the 1960s. Mel and his classmates built a number of creep feeders, feeding troughs, sheep panels, a wool bagger, and stock hauling racks for the truck.

[51] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Pope Family.

The Town of Middleton, a great place to live.

Athletics were available in a small community and, at the age of 16, Mel pitched for Middleton Junction in the home talent league. Games were played at the old Town of Middleton field on the northeast corner of the Beltline and Mineral Point Road. It was a wonderful era, full of opportunities, and of course hard work and chores on the farm.

Showing livestock, the highlight of the summer.

One of the opportunities for youth was showing livestock through 4-H. All the Pope kids showed some of the purebred Hampshire sheep at the Dane County and State Fairs. In 1962, Mel had the champion Hampshire flock of sheep at the Junior show at the Wisconsin state fair as well as the champion flock of market lambs. Lucy had the Champion Hampshire flock at the Wisconsin State Fair in 1966. It took a great deal of effort to wash, clip, and prepare the sheep to show, and many hours were spent in preparation.

Bill showed the greatest variety of livestock including sheep, pigs, horses, and a steer. This was solid training for his showmanship as a student in the UW College of Agricultural. By his senior year he was Chair of the Little International Livestock Show.

Champion Pen of Market Lambs, WI State Fair. (1962)
L to R standing, Chuck Homman, Alice in Dairyland, and Mel

Fun Facts and Animals

Sheep would not drink.

When crossbred ewes arrived from the mountain ranges out West in 1961, there was a problem. They were not drinking water. They never had to drink water from a tub before (grazing with natural ponds) and did not know how to drink from an artificial container. Solution? Let the water run in the hose and as the water overflowed the tubs, the ewes would drink.

Confusion, confusion, where do I eat?

We sheared the ewes (mother sheep) right before they lambed. One of the reasons for doing this was to eliminate confusion for the lambs when they were born. They would know where the ewe's teat was versus a clod of wool.

Lamb suckling ewe that has been sheared.

Lambs in a whole new world.

One of the highlights of the year was when we opened the lower barn door in the spring to the great outdoors. The lambs had been in the barn their entire lives, and never had seen anything like it. Some were afraid to leave the barn, but when they did, they would run frantically, jump, and spin around. They could not contain their joy to be in a new world.

Sheep can't roll over.

Once sheep get on their back, they can die because they cannot easily right themselves. When you find them in this position you simply push them over so they can stand.

Hiding in the truck

We would catch the calves when they were first born, put iodine on their navel, and ear tag them. The cows were not happy with this procedure, and on occasion, we spent time in the pickup truck for protection.

The Ram and the Stone Fence.

Rambouillet Ram

Art Pope purchased a Rambouillet ram from the mountain ranges of Wyoming. When the ram arrived, he was put in a field where the stone fence separated him from the ewes on the other side. Up to this point the stone fence had been an effective fence that the animals would not cross. Then it happened. On his first day in the pasture, the ram casually looked over the stone fence and saw the ewes on the other side, and promptly went right over it. Bad news! The rest of the flock, who up until this time had great respect for the fence, promptly followed the ram over the fence as well.

Fencing was added to stone fence after the Rambouillet ram discovered how to climb over it.

That was the end of the working stone fence. After that incident, fencing had to be put up along the stone wall to make it keep the sheep apart.

The Cow and the Spillway.

One time we discovered a cow and a calf at the bottom of the CCC spillway. The calf evidently had fallen down the spillway, and the cow went down after her calf. She injured herself, and we brought water and hay to her while she recovered. After a few days, the cow and the calf meandered down the ravine, got up on the high ground and joined the rest of the herd.

Cow and calf go down the spillway.

The Cattle protect the Sheep from danger

These cattle were not "polled" Herefords (still had their horns). They were very complimentary to grazing with the sheep. If packs of dogs would try to kill the sheep (which occurred), the cows would chase them away to protect their calves.

Babies, Babies everywhere

Betty Pope helps granddaughter Heidi feed the lamb.

What did kids do for fun on the farm?

It was always fun to go down to the barn during lambing season. It was so quiet, all the sheep were chewing their cuds and sleeping with their lambs. When lambs had to be bottle fed, they would run up to the fencing and start waggling their tails – so excited to see you coming! They could hardly contain themselves when you pulled out a bottle.

Sometimes, when a lamb or calf was really sick, Dad would bring them into the house in a big box. Mom would turn on the stove and set the box in front of the open oven. One time, Bill was raising chickens for 4-H and we had 52 little yellow chicks in the kitchen until they were old enough to go down to the barn.
Baby animals were always fun!

Lucy Pope, Art, and Vivian's daughter

Kitties on the farm

Elissa Zoerb (Hans and Jan Zoerb's daughter) intrigued with the kitties.

There's always cats on a farm! They keep the mice population down, have a warm bed in the haymows, and, if they're wild, they can live independently. Several times a year, batches of kittens were born, and it was always an adventure to find where they were hidden.

Lucy Pope, Art and Vivian's daughter

Making wool blankets

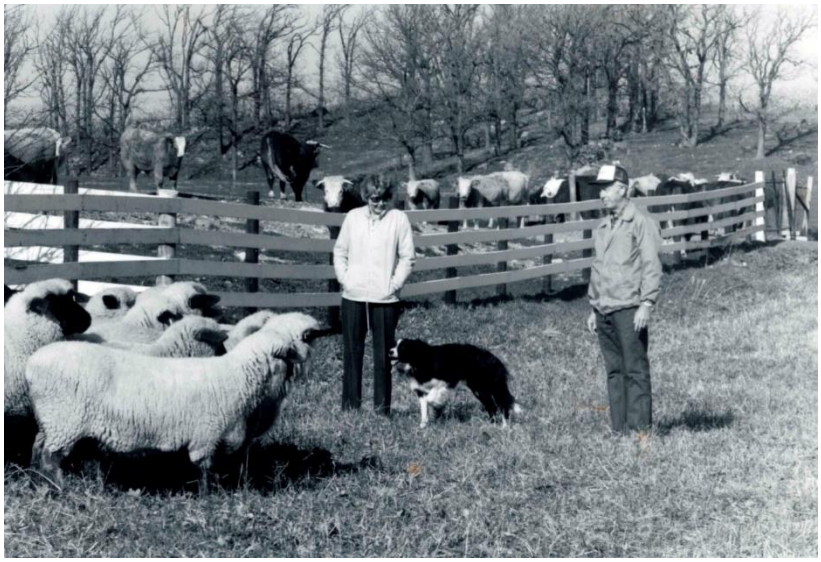
If the shearing is done properly the fleece can be spread out like a blanket.

Tamping down the wool

From an early age, shearing was a big day! The older boys and Dad would do the very hard work of bending over, controlling the sheep while holding heavy electric clippers to hopefully getting a solid fleece of wool. The fleece was folded into a bale that was thrown into a huge gunny sack. Before Mel built a frame to hang the bag, the bag would be hung from the upper floor of the barn down through the hay chute. A smaller child, whoever was 6-7 years old, would be lowered into the bag. That would leave you hanging and swinging free in mid-air a foot or so off the first floor. As each bale flew in, it was your job to stomp it down, packing it tightly. Eventually, as the bag filled, you would reach the top and climb out. Now that was fun!

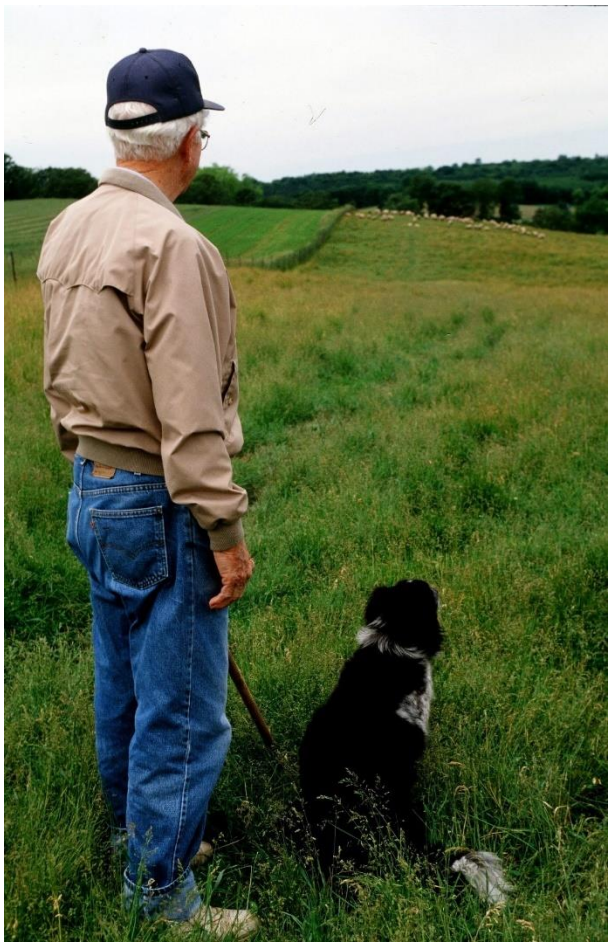
Lucy Pope, daughter of Art and Vivian Pope

Roy the Sheep Dog



Betty, Roy, and Art

Shortly after their marriage, Betty purchased a sheep dog for Art. Art took some convincing. Jack Knox was a well-known dog trainer from Scotland who trained Border Collies to herd sheep. He convinced Art that a sheep dog would be worth its weight in gold. Roy came to the farm fully trained. He could work the sheep better than 15 high school students working together! Roy could bring the sheep right up to Art so that he was standing in the middle of the flock. He would go out in the field and bring them back to the barn following Art's commands very closely. Roy was an incredible working partner and was always by Art's side out in the fields. Roy was followed by other Border Collies including, Mac, Liz, and Liz II.



*Art and Roy out in the fields. Roy waits for a command. The sheep are in the distance***.**

Photo: Jeff Martin

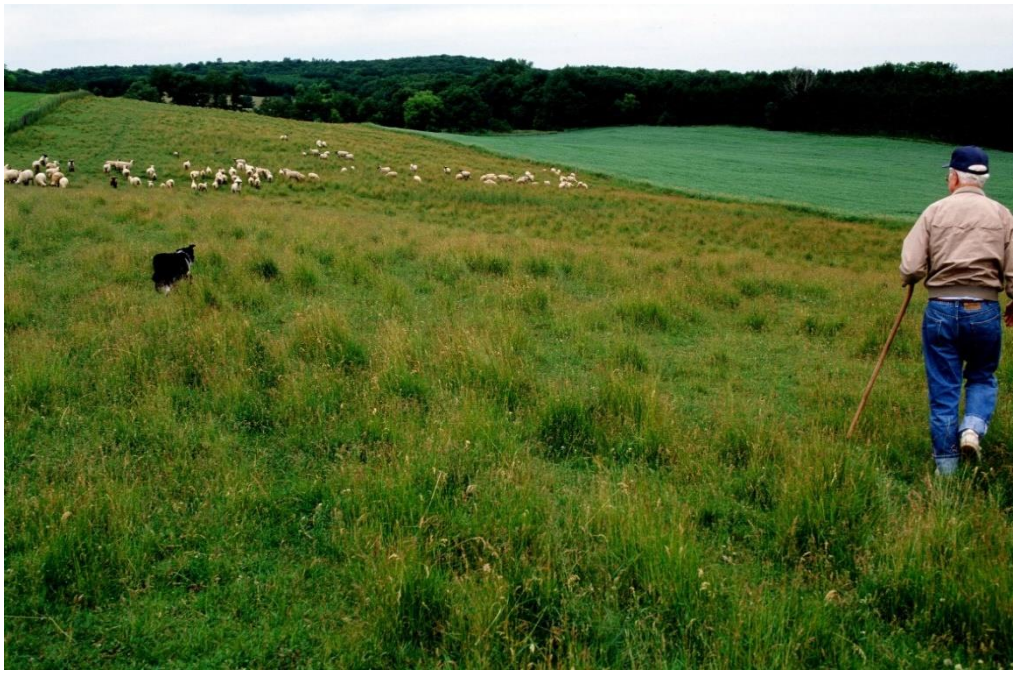


Photo: Jeff Martin

Roy has been given the command to bring the sheep, as Art watches.

Photo: Jeff Martin

Roy has brought the sheep close to Art.

<u>Art's loved his sheep almost all his life</u>

Art Pope had brought his flock of Hampshire sheep over to Wisconsin in 1961. He began this flock on his home farm in Michigan as a 4-H project when he was 12 years old. He would own that flock 76 years until he sold them all together when was 88 years old.

REMEMBRANCES

By Erik Zoerb, 1973 - 1999

Son of Betty Zoerb Pope

When the lambs were ready to be released to pasture around Easter it was always an "all hands-on deck" Saturday. Art enjoyed inviting folks to watch as the little ones hopped, bounded and bounced out into the barnyard. Great fun for the spectators but the 3 or 4 of us hired hands immediately went to work. Straw bedding and manure for 2-3 months across the entire barn floor made for layers of tedious fork duty, especially if there was a bull housed in the front pen. Each fork load hoisted manually into the manure spreader. It was not until later years that Mel finally convinced Art to hire out Mel's buddy's Bobcat. This shortened the workload by half or better and saved several aching backs. Classic Art…his comment after, "Don't know why we never got one of these before."

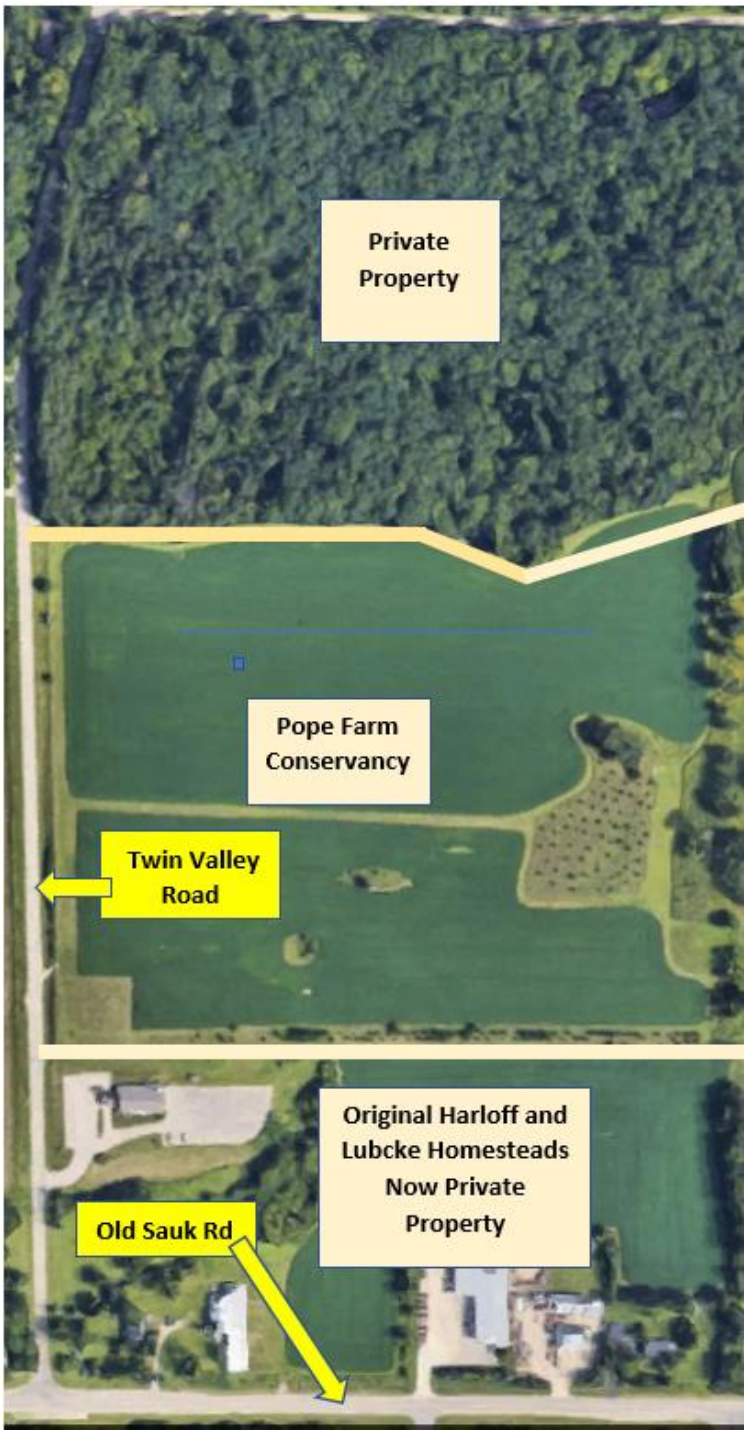
When to bale hay was never an exact science at the Farm. Art had to work with Jim, the cropper who had the machinery, and then time that with drying weather, while putting together a last-minute crew. That crew was generally Bill and I and maybe a friend or two and evolved into Brad, Brian, Mel and me. I think Hans and Jan even got in on the fun for several years.

Jeff and I were painting houses during the day during college summers and I was working 20 or so hours at the Brathaus. If Art deemed conditions favorable, Mom would call early in the morning and remind me to call in at lunch time. My only out was if I was working a 4 PM shift at the Brathaus. In my memory that never coincided, and it was always the absolute hottest weather of the summer. After hauling and stacking bales in the 100-degree mow once, Jeff learned to politely decline. But we always got it done and that 5:30 beer with Art never tasted so good.

Pope/Zoerb family at Art and Betty's 25th Wedding Anniversary. (1998)
Missing: Laurie Zoerb (Erik) and Michelle Pope.

CHAPTER 4 – CHRONOLOGY OF OWNERSHIP

The Western Portion of Pope Farm Conservancy



80 acres of the Western Farm.[52]

[52] Boundary of the Western Farm superimposed on google.com/maps image. (2020)

Historical TimeLine of the Western Portion of Pope Farm Conservancy

Dates in some cases are approximations

1829 - Third Treaty of Prairie Du Chien signed between the U.S. Government and the Ho-Chunk Nation, which leads to the loss of Ho-Chunk lands in the lead district of southwestern Wisconsin. The treaty includes a brief list of individuals with both French and Native American heritage, given one or two square mile tracts of land in lieu of the annuities promised to Tribal members of full Native heritage. Members of the Ho-Chunk branch of the Grignon family—comprised of fur trader Pierre Grignon and his children, including daughter **Genevive Grignon**—are listed in Section V of the treaty. The locations of the treaty lands are not specified.

1830 - About this time Genevieve Grignon marries Louis Corbielle and gives birth to a daughter named **Angelin** ("Angel").

1832 - The U. S. General Land Office completes the first survey of the land that will become Pope Farm. The survey does not acknowledge the presence of the Treaty parcels.

1836 - Genevieve Grignon dies (Approximate).

1838 - Genevive's husband moves from Portage, WI, to Green Bay, WI, with daughter **Angelin.**

1848 - Wisconsin becomes a State. One square mile of land is posthumously given to **Genevive Grignon** in accordance with the Treaty of 1829, including the area that will become Pope Farm Conservancy.

1851 - **Angelin,** as heir of **Genevive Grignon**, sells the entire square mile of land to **Emanuel Boizard** pending approval from the President of the United States.

1852 - President **Millard Fillmore** approves the land sale to **Emanuel Boizard**.

1853 - Emanuel Boizard sells the land to Madison land speculators and law partners **Chauncey Abbott and J.T. Clark.**

1854 - Chauncey Abbott and J.T. Clark sell the land to **John Teckam, John Stolte, and John Elver.** All three buyers are local Mecklenburg settlers, and farmers.

1856 - James Harloff family settles on the land.

1857 - James Harloff builds home and other improvements.

1857 - Alvina Harloff becomes the first European born on this farm.

1859 - Charles Harloff born on farm.

1861 - Gustav Harloff born on farm.

1861 - Daniel Tenney (Referee) to **Fritz Elver.**

1861 - Fritz and Sophia Elver to **James Harloff.**

1865 - Mary Harloff born on farm.

1867 - James and Dora Harloff sell the farm to **Fritz Elver** via two intermediaries (lenders)

1867 - Fritz Elver builds a cabin to be used by a hired hand.

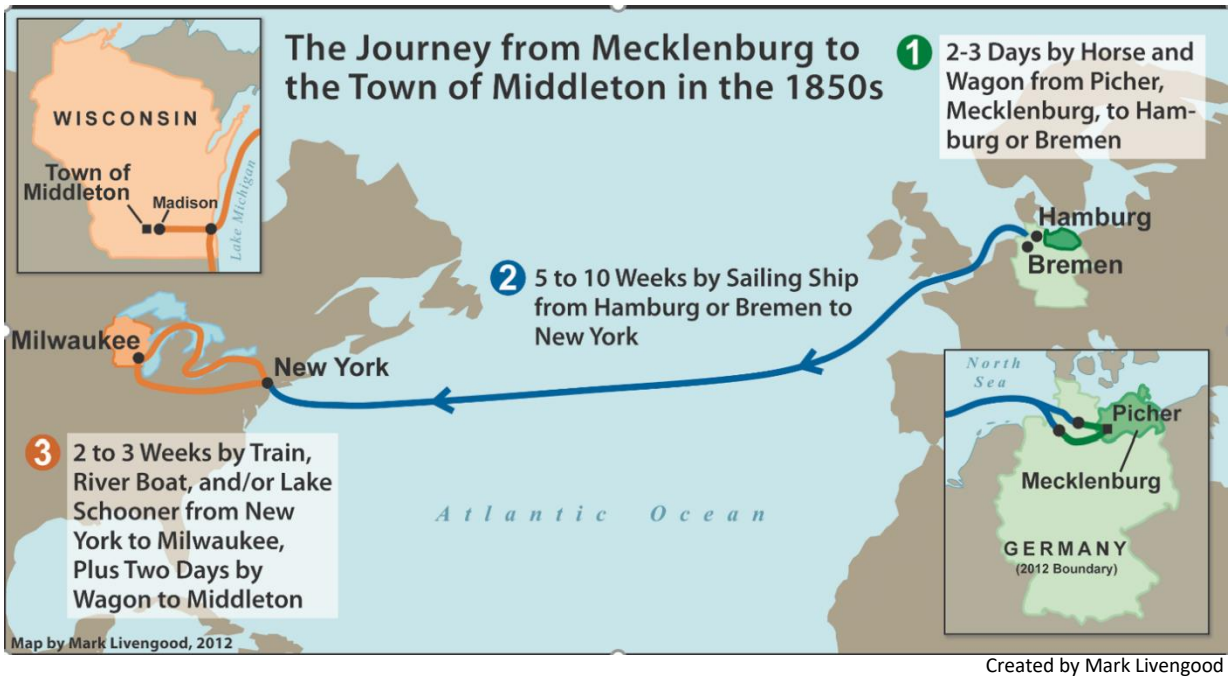
1867 - Joachim Goth arrives from Mecklenburg as hired man and moves into cabin.

1868 - Fritz Elver begins building a new homestead across Old Sauk Road to the South.
1889 - Fritz Elver dies.
1898 - Sophia Elver dies.
1906 - Adolph Elver (Elver Estate), sells the 80-acre farm to **William Lubcke.**
1906 - William Lubcke conveyed the land to an intermediary, who conveyed the land to **Albert Lubcke** via a land contract.
1907 - House built on the Western farm.
1910 - Albert and Nellie Lubcke are living on the farm.
1911 - Barn built on the Western farm.
1912 - Maynard Lubcke born on the farm.
1920 - Albert (45), Nellie (48), and Maynard (7), living on farm.
1930 - Albert (55), Nellie (58), and Maynard (17), living on farm.
1932 - Henry Bryan is added to the title in exchange for a land contract with Albert Lubcke.
1934 - Nellie Brassington Lubcke dies at 62 years of age.
1937 - Title from Albert Lubcke to Henry Bryan.
1938 - Title from Henry Bryan to **Lawrence Spahn.**
1940 - Lawrence Spahn to **George Clayton and Evelyn Cole.**
1940 - George (33), and Evelyn (34), living on farm.
1942 - George at war and Evelyn moves into town
1944 - Janice Marie Cole born, Evelyn in Madison.
1945 - George and Evelyn Cole are back on the farm.
1946 - Robert Cole born.
1950 - Karen May Cole born.
1950 - George and Evelyn Cole sell the farm to **Hazel Holmes.**
1950 - Oliver (39), Hazel (35), and Larry (1), move to the farm.
1958 - Oliver and Hazel Holmes sell the farm to **Art and Vivian Pope.**
1960 - Art and Vivian Pope sell off the south 18 acres of the farm including barn and house.
1997 - Art, Mel, Lucy, and Bill Pope sell 20 acres on the northern portion of these 80 acres.
1999 - Remaining portion of Western Farm sold to the Town of Middleton.
2000 - Land becomes Pope Farm Conservancy.

Note:
The history of the Western Farm reads very differently than the Eastern or Central Farms in Chapters 2 and 3. The active financial involvement of the Mecklenburgers between 1854 and 1906 gives insight into the complicated relationships of early immigration and settlement. The effort to purchase Section 17 by these Mecklenburgers forms a lasting impact on the lands that today we call Pope Farm Conservancy. For this reason, we have included their story.

1854 – 1855, John Stolte, John Teckam, and John Elver

All the families who purchased Section 17 shortly after it became available for sale were immigrants from Mecklenburg, Germany. John Elver had been in the Town of Middleton for a couple of years and others, like Stolte, had recently arrived. Coming to America had been a long and arduous trip to get from their homeland. Below is an example of how long it took for these Mecklenburger's to get from Mecklenburg, Germany to the Town of Middleton during this period. [53]



Created by Mark Livengood

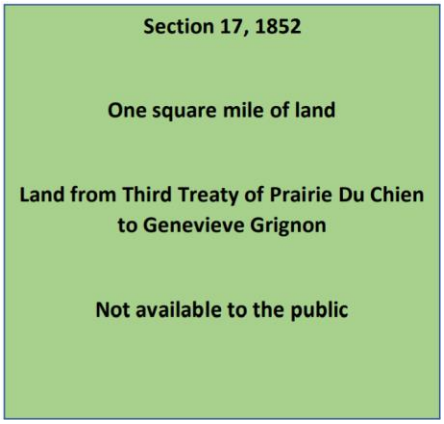
The Journey from Mecklenburg to the Town of Middleton, 1850s.

By 1854, the Mecklenburger's had already started to farm the lands surrounding the restricted land, and now that those 640 acres of Section 17 were for sale, John Teckam, John Stolte, and especially John Elver jumped at the chance to purchase these newly available lands. The three worked together to acquire the land.

Section 17 has its southern boundary on Old Sauk Road, and contained all the lands that are currently part of Pope Farm Conservancy.

[53] Antje Petty, "Traces in the Landscape: Immigration from Mecklenburg to Middleton, Wisconsin," *Max Kade Institute Friends Newsletter* 21, 2 (Spring 2012): 1. https://mki.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1100/2014/10/MKI_Spring_2012.pdf Also see "From Mecklenburg to Middleton: A Local History Project," 8. https://mki.wisc.edu/research/immigration-communities/from-mecklenburg-to-middleton-a-local-history-project/ See also interpretive signs at Cabin Site in Pope Farm Conservancy. http://popefarmconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/German-Immigration-to-Wisconsin.pdf

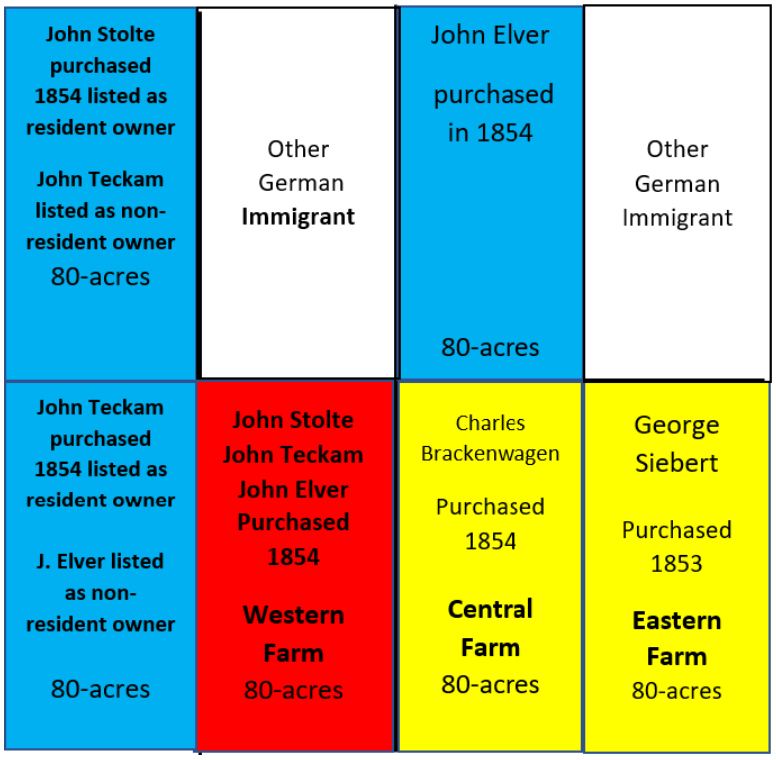
North



Old Sauk Rd

Within two years after the restricted land became available for purchase, it was completely owned by farmers from the Mecklenburg community. In the figure below, based on the 1855 Middleton Township Tax Rolls, you can see who purchased section 17. The Western Farm, highlighted in red, was purchased by Stolte, Teckam, and Elver. In addition to working together on the Western farm, you can see the other properties they acquired in Blue. The farms hi-lighted in yellow are the Central and Eastern farms purchased by Charles Brackenwagen, and George Siebert.

North



Old Sauk Road

Middleton Township Section 17, per the 1855 Tax Rolls.

John Teckam and John Stolte were newly arrived immigrants and were looking to purchase land to farm.[54] Notice that each of these men purchased an 80-acre parcel in Section 17 by having someone help them by adding their name to the title. Teckam is listed as an additional owner with Stolte, and John Elver is listed as an additional owner with Teckam. Then Stolte, Teckam and Elver were all listed as owners on the farm, part of which is the Western Portion of the Conservancy today.[55]

We do not know what the agreement was between Stolte, Teckam, and Elver, but it looks like they were working together to obtain these lands. To the Sellers (Abbott and Clark law firm) or the lender, adding additional signatures to the contract would probably make the transaction more attractive. If one buyer had a problem meeting the debt, there would be another buyer that would be responsible. We suspect that John Elver was coordinating this effort because he had been here for a couple of years and was more established. John Elver was already farming in the area before the sale of Section 17 occurred. In 1853, he purchased 90 acres in Section 20 (on the south side of Old Sauk Road) close to the new water tower.

While this coordinated effort was going on in 1854, John Elver purchased an additional 80-acre parcel individually, as can be seen in the map above. This 80-acres is known today as the Blackhawk Ski Club.

Together, individually and jointly, Teckam, Stolte, and Elver ended up controlling 320 acres or about one-half of the newly opened land in Section 17.

We do not know the prices paid, but on the tax roles in 1855 the 80-acre parcels are valued for tax purposes at $150 each.[56] We also suspect that the purchase price of these 80-acre parcels varied. We know, for instance, that the 80-acre parcel that John Elver purchased contained what is the Blackhawk Ski Club today, has land where much of it was not tillable because of the steep slopes and marshy wetlands from the outflow of Mud Lake. We believe this 80-acre parcel would be less expensive than the land up on Old Sauk Road where a higher percentage of the land could be planted. We also know that some Mecklenburger's started in the Black Earth Creek valley on less expensive land and, as they grew their operation, they purchased more tillable lands on higher ground.[57]

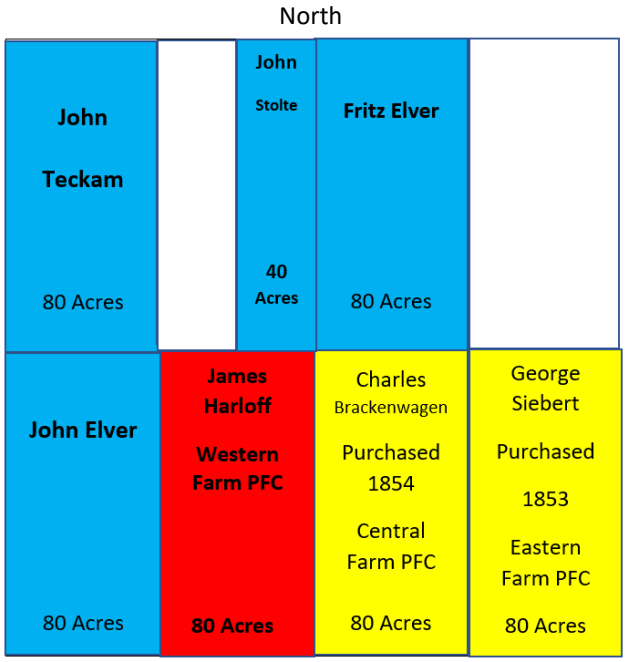
[54] Eileen and Tom Daniels, "Souvenir veterans centennial carnival, August 27-28-29: History of Middleton" (Middleton WI: Middleton Times-Tribune, 1948): 57.

[55] Town of Middleton Tax Rolls, Section 17, 1855–1857.

[56] $150 would be worth almost $4,500 in 2020.

[57] Daniels, "Souvenir veterans centennial carnival," 43.

Once Stolte, Teckam, and Elver controlled these 320 acres with their purchase in 1854, they rearranged their holdings. From 1855 (above map) to 1856 (map below) the land ownership changes significantly between them.



Ownership change in Section 17, Town of Middleton 1855 – 1856.[58]

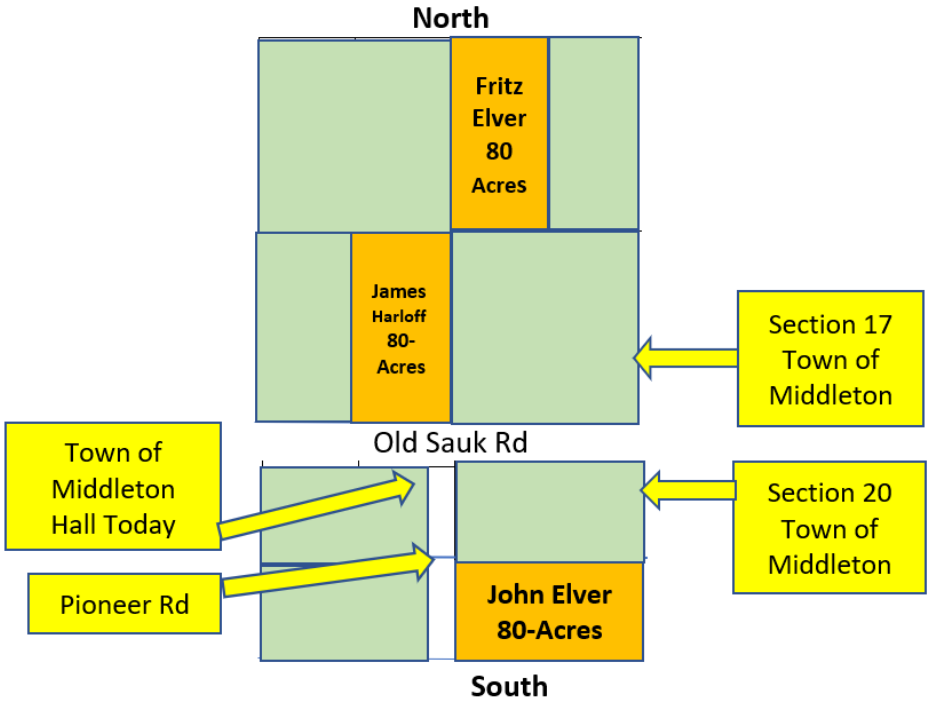
-John Elver transfers ownership of the 80-acres (Blackhawk Ski area) to his son Fritz.
-John Elver now owns another 80-acres from John Teckam
-John Teckam owns 80-acres from John Stolte
-John Stolte owns 40-acres east of Teckam.

During this transitional period, John Elver is obviously trying to set up his children with land holdings. The farm he purchased outright in 1854 (Blackhawk Ski area today) was transferred to his 21-year-old son Fritz. John Elver's daughter, Dora, and her husband James Harloff had already moved onto an 80-acre parcel (Western Farm) that he, Stolte, and Teckam had originally purchased. According to the 1856 Town of Middleton tax roll information, James Harloff is already listing himself as owner of that parcel and paying taxes.

In the end, all of John Elver's buying, selling, transferring, and co-signing in Section 17, ended up with his son and daughter (wife of James Harloff) each owning an 80-acre parcel of

[58] Middleton Township Tax Rolls, Section 17, 1856.

land. This can be seen below. This shows the Elver land holdings in Section 17 per the 1857 Tax Rolls.



Elver family land holdings in the Town of Middleton. (1857)

Even though James and Dora Harloff had settled the Western Farm and had been paying the taxes since 1856, John Elver, John Stolte, and John Teckam must have remained on the title. In 1859 John Stolte died, and the land was foreclosed on. In 1861, a referee from the court gave title to the land all three had signed for to Fritz Elver.[59] He in turn gave title to his brother-in-law James Harloff the same day.

John Teckam, Part Owner, 1854

Courtesy: First Lutheran Church

John Teckam
1821-1898

[59] Dane County Register of Deeds, 1861.

John Teckam was born in Mecklenburg in 1821 and was 33 years old when he purchased property in Section 17. He married Mary Kading in 1858 and they had four children. He was a member of the First Lutheran Church. He and his wife are buried in St. Johns cemetery in the Town of Middleton.

John Stolte, Part Owner, 1854

No picture of

John Stolte
1821-1859

was found.

Courtesy: Goth Family

Sophia Stolte-Goth
1825 - 1906

Courtesy: The Goth Family

Carl and Sophie Goth in front of their cabin on Old Sauk Road. (1890)

This picture shows the Goths posing in front of the cabin they lived in when they moved to this location in 1866. By the time the picture was taken, they were living in other quarters and this cabin was boarded up and vacated. We do not know for sure, but we believe that Carl

and Sophia either built the cabin or moved it to this location. The 1861 Plat Map shows a prior building existing on the property, but further away from Old Sauk Road. This German log cabin home was very typical of the types of cabins used in this area in the 1850s to 1860s. It probably was much like the cabin they lived in along Black Earth Creek.

Contributions: Mae Goth Hartwig,
3rd generation descendent of Carl and Sophia Goth.

> John Stolte was born in 1821 in Germany. He was married to Sophie Lueth in 1848. They came to this country in 1854 and stayed with friends in Middleton while Mr. Stolte worked by the day on farms. They soon bought a small farm near Mud Lake, the land being mostly the top of the hill. The log house was at the foot of the hill, near the little creek.
>
> Mr. Stolte died in 1859, leaving his wife with three small sons: William, who married Georgia Bailey, August, who married Sophia Roder, and Charles, who married Mary Bailey. From an interview with his son August Stolte they bought 80-acres of wild land and they built upon the prospective farm a log cabin in which their son August was born. Three years later Mr. Stolte died, and his wife was married a second time.[60]

John and Sophia Stolte's cabin was on Black Earth Creek down the hill from present day Blackhawk Road. The area was known as Twin Valley at the time and eventually the road going between these two valleys was named Twin Valley Road.[61] John Stolte was farming this land after purchasing the property in 1854. In 1857-1858, the Stolte's hired a newly arrived Mecklenburg immigrant as a helper, and his name was Carl Goth. According to Mae Hartwig (granddaughter of Carl and Sophia),

> John Stolte became seriously ill, and asked Carl to take care of his family. He died in 1859 leaving his widow Sophia and three small children. Within a year the widow Sophia married Carl Goth. In addition to the three children she had with John Stolte, she had five more with Carl Goth. They farmed it until they moved their operation to higher ground along Old Sauk Road in 1866, close to where Goth Conservancy is today.

John Stolte died in 1859 and was interred in the old portion of the original First Lutheran cemetery (where the little log church was) north of the present-day church.

[60] Daniels, "Souvenir veterans centennial carnival," 57.
[61] Daniels, "Souvenir veterans centennial carnival," 43.

The German Log Cabin Home

The Max Kade Institute
University of Wisconsin-Madison

In the 1850s and 1860s, the first house of most immigrant settlers was a one-room log cabin. Logs were stacked one on top of the other until the desired height had been reached. Spaces between the logs were filled with wood, moss, lime, and clay. The roof was made of boards covered with wooden shingles. Most cabins had only one door and one window.

Inside, the earth was covered with coarse planks. The cabin's one room was the family room, dining room, bedroom, kitchen, and guest room. A ladder led up to a small attic space, where the children slept on straw bedding. An outhouse was located a few steps from the cabin. Furnishings were sparse, frequently consisting only of a handmade wood table, a few wood benches, and the trunk that had contained the immigrants' possessions on their journey from Europe. In the cabin, the trunk served as closet, cupboard, and desk. There was no intricate craftsmanship in this log cabin, since it usually functioned as a shelter only until the family had saved enough to build a bigger house.

Interpretive Sign, PFC Cabin Site

John Elver – Part owner 1854[62]

Contributions by Jeff Elver, Lee Elver, Tom Elver (and wife Paula),
6th generation descendants, and Dick Sawyer,
5th generation descendant of Johann and Marie Elver.

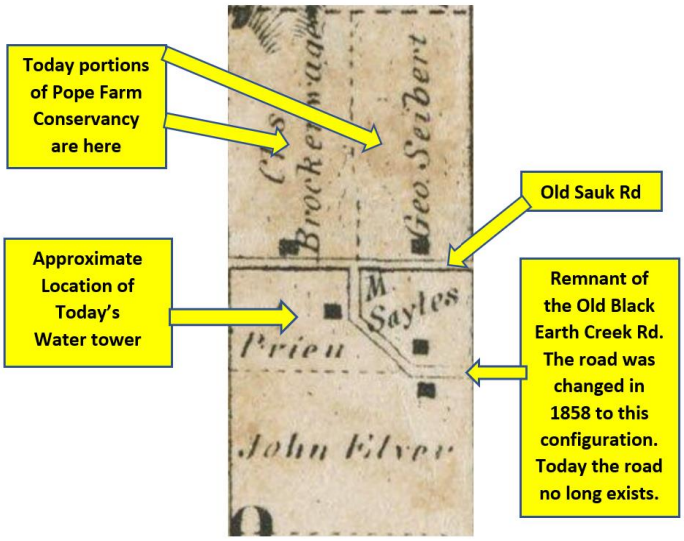
Original church records from Strohkirchen (Picher Parish) in Mecklenburg list the marriage of Johann Friederich Elver to Catharine Marie Meibohm on December 10, 1826. At the time of the marriage Johann was listed as a small farmer and innkeeper in the town of Kuhstorf. Johann apparently changed residences and occupations after this marriage, because records from the same parish at the birth of his second child list him as a bricklayer from Strohkirchen.[63]

On September 2, 1852 two families from the German province of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. arrived in New York from Hamburg, Germany. According to the passenger list, one family is listed as Johann Ellwert (Elver) (52), wife Marie (46), son Fritz (18), daughter Caroline (11), and

[62] We found no pictures for John Elver (1801-1886) or Mary Elver (1787-1882).
[63] Found in the Elver Family information provided to the FOPFC. (2020)

son Carl (2). The other family listed is Joachim Harloff (Johann Elver's son in law) (28), wife Dorothea (25), daughters Lisette (2), and Friedricke (6 months). Dorothea, or Dora, was the daughter of Johann and Marie Elver. We believe the two families arrived in the Town of Middleton, Wisconsin in the late fall of 1852.

In late 1852, or early 1853, Johann (John) purchased 90 acres of land in Section 20 in the Town of Middleton (close to where today's water tower sits on the south side of Old Sauk Rd). At the time, his cabin was located on "The Black Earth Creek Road" that crossed Old Sauk Road a short distance away.



John Elver's original homestead in Section 20, Town of Middleton, Wisconsin.[64]

1854 was a big year for John Elver: He was 53 years old, living with his wife Mary 46, son Charles 5, and daughter Caroline 13. He was clearing and farming his 90 acre homestead, purchased another 80-acre in section 17, signed a deed with two other farmers to help obtain another 80-acre parcel for his son in law, Joachim Harloff, helped fund the First German Lutheran Church and then helped build its' chapel.

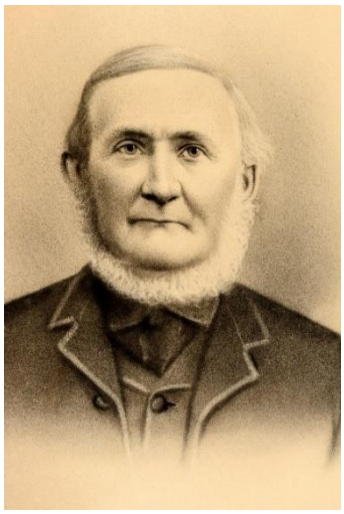
Sixteen years later, as he became ill, John Elver quit farming and they moved into Middleton Station (Middleton). He was 68 years old and Mary was 64. He was also listed as a bee and honey dealer while he was living in Middleton. The farm was then run by his youngest son Charles, until he sold it in about 1874.

After several business ventures, Charles became a prominent businessman. He owned the historic Hotel Ruby Marie in Madison. When he died, he left funds to the City of Madison to purchase land and build a park in his name. Today it is known as Elver Park in Madison.

[64] Dane County Plat Map, Section 20, 1861.

In 1882, after being married for 55 years, Mary passed away at 74 years of age, and was interred in the First Lutheran Cemetery. In 1883, about 13 months after Mary died, John Elver, at age 81, married Sophia Tiedemann. Sophia was a widow and both families had known each other. John Elver died in 1886 at the age of 84 years and was buried in the First Lutheran Cemetery. His estate papers show loans to several fellow Mecklenburger's.

1855 – 1866, Joachim (James) and Dora Elver Harloff



Courtesy: Middleton Historical Society

James Harloff
1824 - 1893

Dora Elver Harloff
1826 – 1910

James Harloff, farmer and general stock-raiser, Secs, 20, 29, and 32; P.O. West Middleton; is a native of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, born in 1824, and is a son of Joachim and Dora Harloff. He married Miss Dora Elver, of Germany, by whom he has seven children living viz: Lisette, born Sept. 22, 1849; Wilhelm, born Sept. 14, 1853; Alvina, born Jan 13, 1857; Carl, born Dec. 10, 1859; Gustav, born Nov. 9, 1861; Maria, born May 1, 1865; Paul, born Oct. 8, 1868; Francis and Minnie, twins, born Dec. 20, 1851, Minnie died at birth, and Francis lived until she was 19 years old and died Jan. 10 1871; Lisette married John Findorff, a farmer and resides in the Town of Middleton; William, the oldest son, is a miller at Chippewa Falls, Wis; the other 5 children are all living at home. All the family belong to the Independent Lutheran Church of Middleton. Mr. Harloff came to Wisconsin in the Fall of 1852, and purchased 40 acres where the church now stands; he sold that and bought a farm just a mile north; after selling again, he purchased where he now lives, in 1870; he has a beautiful farm of 260 acres, worth from $8,000 to $10,000[65], adapted to stock-raising, about 10 miles from the city, and 5 miles from Middleton Station; when Mr. Harloff first came, it was comparatively a

[65] $8,000 to $10,000 in 1870 would be worth approximately $159,000 to $199,000 in 2020.

wilderness; by hard work and industry he has accumulated a competency; he is an honest man, respected by all. Conservative in politics. He still runs his own farm.[66]

On September 2nd, 1852 Joachim Harloff (28), his wife Dorthea (Dora) (26), and daughters Lissette (2), and Friedricke (6 months), arrived in the port of New York from Hamburg, Germany. They were traveling with Johann Elver (Dora's father). All were from a little village in Mecklenburg, Germany called Picher, and their destination was the Town of Middleton, Wisconsin. There, they joined other Mecklenburgers who had settled in Middleton township.

After arriving, Joachim (James) purchased 40 acres of land where the First Lutheran Church would eventually be located (the northeast corner of Pleasant View and Old Sauk Roads). We believe that occurred in 1853. James and his family were clearing the land and joined other Mecklenburgers who were worshiping in neighboring homes. James Harloff was one of the 14 families who founded the First German Lutheran Church and helped build the log chapel on adjacent land in 1854.

James and Dora Harloff were not at this location for long. During that same year (1854), John Elver (father in-law), purchased 80 acres of land about a mile further west on Old Sauk Road with Teckam and Stolte. By 1856 James Harloff and his family sold their 40-acre parcel and moved to this new location. He is listed as the owner on this farm on the 1856 Tax Rolls for the Town of Middleton. The farm was in Section 17.

In 1856, James Harloff (32), Dora (30), Lissette (8), Fredericka (4), and an infant son William were the first family to live on this land. They were truly a pioneer family, and as James Harloff found "It was comparatively a wilderness."[66] They carved out an opening in the woods, moved the rocks and built a cabin in the southeast corner of the property (across from today's Town of Middleton Hall).[67]

[66] Butterfield, "History of Dane County," 1211.
[67] Dane County Plat Map, Section 17, 1861.

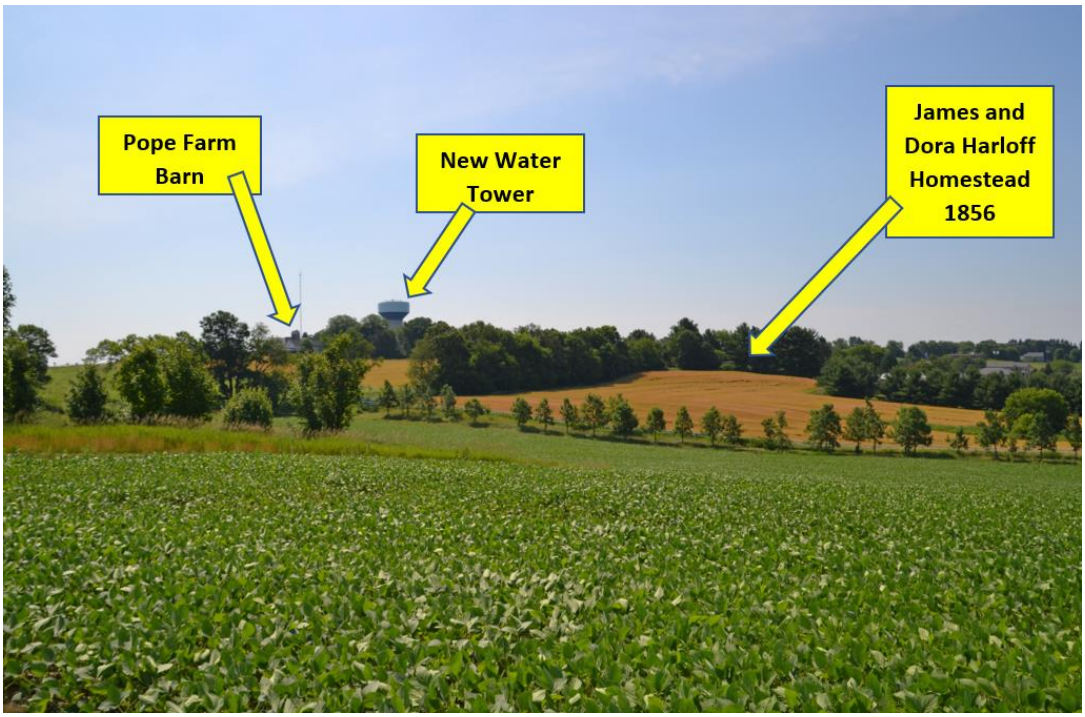
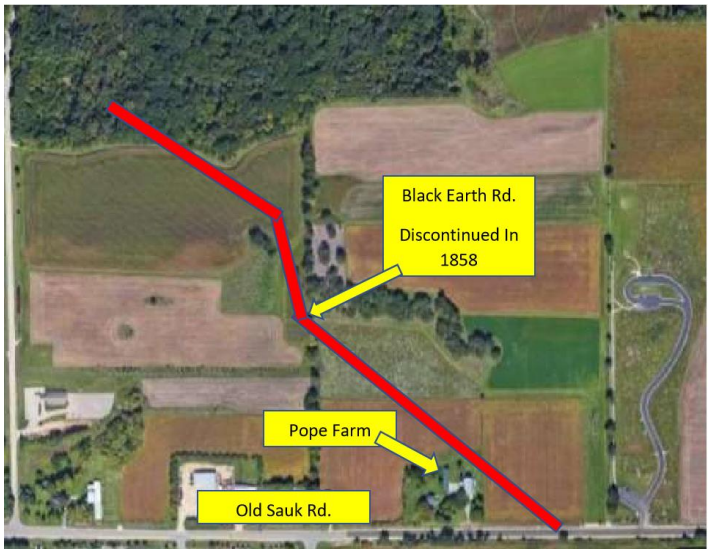


Photo: Janie Starzewski

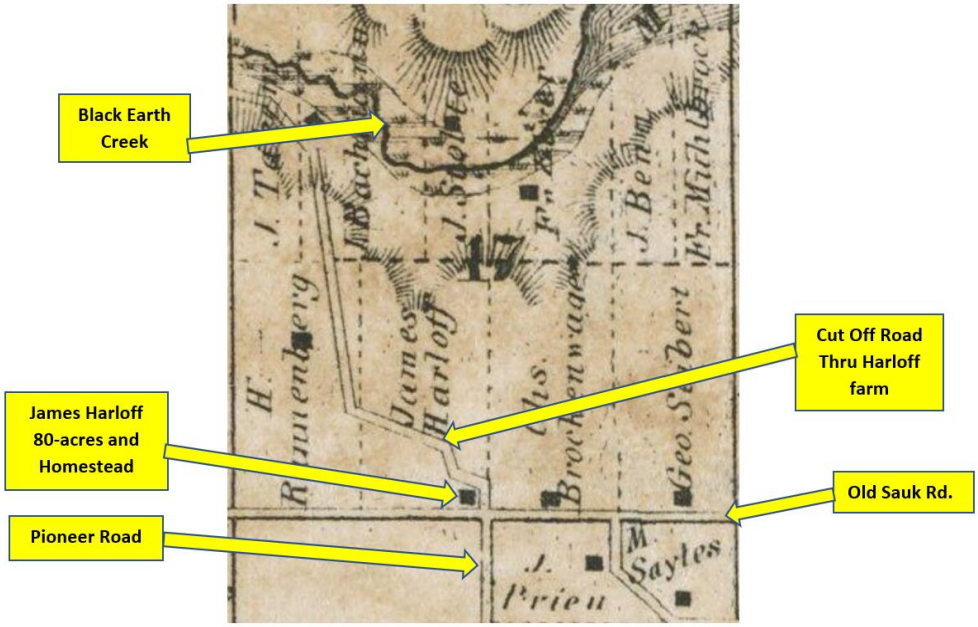
Photo taken looking southeast across Pope Farm Conservancy.

During this period, the "Black Earth Creek Road" (more of a path than a road) ran through the farm. The two main roads on the west side of Madison were Mineral Pt. Road that ran toward the mining communities of southwest Wisconsin, and the road that ran northwest toward Sauk City (today's HWY 12). If you wanted to go west from Madison to places like Black Earth or Spring Green in the 1840s – 1850s, you would use the "Black Earth Road". There was no road going directly west from Madison (like HWY 14 today), because of the huge marsh created by Mud Lake and surrounding areas. To go west from Madison, you would go to Middleton Junction (today the Beltline and Mineral Pt. Road). At the Western edge of Middleton Junction, you would catch the Black Earth Creek Road that would take you northwest and ultimately cross the Harloff farm (part of which is now Pope Farm Conservancy), northwest, down to Black Earth Creek, and then follow the Black Earth valley to the west. This road was used in the early years and was discontinued in 1858 about two years after James Harloff began living on the property.



Section of Black Earth Creek Road thru Western PFC farm. [68] *Discontinued in 1858.*

After the Black Earth road was discontinued in 1858, people still had to get around Mud Lake if they were traveling west. The 1861 plat map shows that a new road was created thru the Harloff farm to get from Old Sauk Road and Pioneer Road north to Twin Valley Road and along Black Earth Creek to the west. By 1873, Twin Valley Road was extended directly south to join Old Sauk Road where that junction remains today. The cut off thru this 80-acre parcel was discontinued.



Dane County Plat Map, 1861

[68] Superimposed information from Dane County Highway Map (1855) onto google.com/maps.

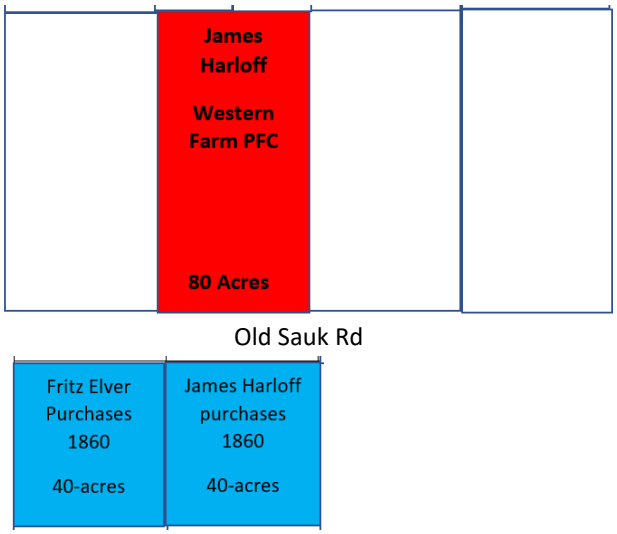
James Harloff was clearing the land, planting crops, and basically trying to provide for his family. In 1857 a daughter Alvina was the first European child born on this farm, followed by his son Charles in 1859.

In 1860, James and Dora Harloff had been in America for eight years. James (36), Dora (34), Lisette (12), Fredericka (8), William (5), Alvina (3), and Charles (2) were living on the Western Farm. James and Dora had been living on their homestead for four years (at location pictured above).

> Note:
> At this point Section 20 becomes key to this story. Section 20 is south of Section 17, across Old Sauk Road from present day Pope Farm Conservancy. This land stretches from Old Sauk Road to Mineral Pt. Road, including where the Town of Middleton lands are located today. Both James Harloff and Fritz Elver (owners of the Western Farm) had their sights set on lands in Section 20. Fritz Elver would ultimately build his new homestead south of Old Sauk Road. He would operate and control surrounding lands, including the Western Farm, for 40 years. It is an important part of the history of the Western Farm.

It did not take James and Dora Harloff long to realize they needed more land. In 1860 without improving much of the 80-acre Western Farm, they purchased 40 acres of tillable land across the road in Section 20. We believe that they understood how many years it was going to take to clear the land, and instead began purchasing land that was tillable.

Portion of Section 17 (1861)



Portion of Section 20 (1861)

James Harloff, 1860 Dane County Agricultural Census

Improved land = 40 acres (mostly purchased in Section 20 above)
Unimproved land = 80 acres
Cash value of farm = $2,500
Value of farm implements and machinery = $55
Horses = 2
Milk cows = 1
Other cattle = 3
Swine = 2
Value of Livestock = $250
Wheat, bushels of = 360
Indian Corn, bushels of = 20
Oats, bushels of = 200
Irish Potatoes, bushels of = 20
Butter, pounds of = 100
Hay, tons of = 3
Value of animals slaughtered = $20

This new 40-acre parcel gave Harloff additional improved lands on which he could plant more crops. This can be seen with his production of wheat. We believe that James Harloff and Fritz Elver were working together to acquire additional acreage south of Old Sauk Rd in Section 20. At this time, it appears that James Harloff is clearing land very slowly on his original 80-acre parcel. The value of his farm is $2,500[69] which shows the additional purchase of the 40-acre parcel. By 1860 he had made substantial improvements on his homestead.

In 1866, the oldest Elver daughter, Lisette Harloff, married John Findorff. In 1885 their son, John Findorff, founded the Findorff & Son, construction company. As this is written in 2020, it is ironic that J.H. Findorff & Son Inc. is the construction company that is building Pope Farm Elementary School several hundred yards away from where it all started.

The tax rolls are revealing! In 1858, Harloff had personal property valued at $259, which was unusual because most of the other property owners had no personal property valued at all. This might have occurred because in 1856 and 1857, shortly after settling on the property, a substantial home/barn was built for the growing family of James and Dora. Obviously, something was going on in 1857. Assessed value for taxation is different than the value used in the Agricultural Census Data. In 1857, the Harloff tax assessment showed the value of real

[69] Worth over $78,000 in 2020.

estate plus the value of personal property was $450. The next year, in 1858, the assessed value of his real estate was $700, and his personal property was $259 for a total assessment of $959, which was more than twice as much as the prior year. This may indicate that the Harloff's made substantial improvements (home and outbuildings) in 1857.[70]

James and Dora continued to live off the land and grow their operation. In 1861, a son Gustav was born, followed by daughter Mary in 1865. James and Dora had nine children including Paul, an electrician, who wired the State Capitol building and hired Frank Lloyd Wright to design Monona Terrace!

In 1867, James and Dora Harloff conveyed their 120-acre farm, via a lender, to their brother in-law, Fritz Elver. This conveyance included the 40 acres south of Old Sauk Road in Section 20. They still wanted more land. After selling their farm, they purchased 160 acres of land along Mineral Pt Road. This new farm would back up to Fritz Elvers farm. These two farms would stretch from Old Sauk Road to Mineral Pt. Road and include 320 acres of land. The 1873 Dane County Plat Map shows that the original Harloff buildings at the Old Sauk Road homestead were removed and a new homestead built on Mineral Pt Road.

Courtesy of Jim Dahlk

James Harloff Homestead on Mineral Pt Road. (1916)
Dirt ruts are Mineral Pt. Road.

The photo above shows the Harloff farm that was located across Mineral Pt. Road from the current West Middleton School. We believe these are the original buildings, but we are not sure how much this infrastructure existed before Harloff moved there. However, the prior owner was primarily a wheat farmer and had little in the way of livestock.[71] Therefore, we

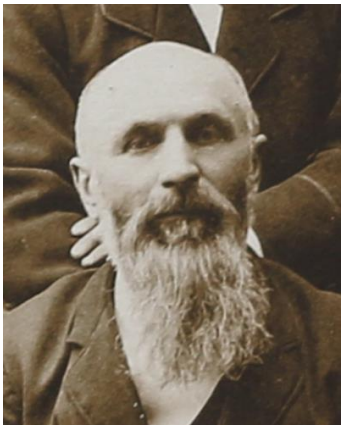
[70] Town of Middleton Tax rolls, Section 17, 1856–1859.
[71] Dane County Agricultural Census (1860) retrieved from Ancestry.com.

believe most of these buildings were constructed by James Harloff and his family as they added livestock over the years.

James Harloff died in 1893 and Dora passed away in 1910. Both are interred in the First Lutheran Cemetery.

In 1911, the Harloff family sold this farm to William Voss.

1867 – 1889, Fritz and Sophia Elver



Fritz Elver
1834 – 1889

No picture of

Sophia Elver
1838-1898

was found.

Although, Fritz Elver never lived on the Western farm, he and the Elver family owned or controlled this land for 50 years. They were an important part of the history of the Western portion of Pope Farm Conservancy.

> **Fritz Elver** Settled in Section 20 in the town of Middleton in 1852. He was married to Miss Sophia Binger about 1856. The family had 15 children. Mr. Elver was town chairman, a member of the assembly from this district in 1881 and was a member of the Pleasant Site school board during the early days. Mr. Elver also lived in Section 17 for a time.[72]

Fritz Elver was 18 years old when he came to America with his family in 1852. His father, John Elver, purchased an 80-acre farm (today's Blackhawk Ski Club lands) in 1854. In 1855, John Elver transfers title to that 80 acres to Fritz, who was then 21 years old. Fritz began building a cabin along Black Earth Creek.[73]

Fritz Elver was interested in purchasing more land. Fritz, along with his brother-in-law James Harloff had the land between Old Sauk Road and Mineral Pt. Rd. in their sights. In 1861,

[72] Daniels, "Souvenir veterans centennial carnival," 41.

[73] Passenger list found at Ancestry.com. Town of Middleton Tax Rolls Section 17, 1853–1856.

Fritz purchased 40 acres next to Harloff on the South side of Old Sauk Rd., and eventually this would become his homestead. The following illustrates the land acquisitions by Fritz Elver[74]:

	Cumulative Acres Owned
1856 = 80 Acres, from John Elver (Blackhawk Ski Club area today)	80
1861 = 40 Acres, purchases along Old Sauk Road in Section 20 (future homestead)	120
1861 = 80 Acres, rents in Section 20 adjacent to his holdings of 40 acres	
1862 = 40 Acres, purchases contiguous to 40-acre parcel he already owns	160
1862 = Adds moderate improvements.	
1864 = 20 Acres, sells part of creek bottom of his original 80 acres	140
1866 = 40 Acres, purchased -contiguous to other acreage in Section 20	180
1866 = 120 Acres, purchases Harloff owned lands[75]	300
1868 = New home and barn built as Elver's new homestead on Old Sauk Rd.	

In 1867, ten years after living near the creek, Fritz and Sophia have taken some significant steps. They now own 300 acres of land (part of which is Pope Farm Conservancy today) and the Harloff's moved to their new location on Mineral Pt. Road.

In 1868 Fritz and Sophia built what must have been a dream home to them on Old Sauk Road (kitty corner across from today's Pope Farm Conservancy lands). We also believe a barn and most of the outbuildings were built at that time. Valuation jumped 65% in that year.

[74] Town of Middleton Tax Rolls, Sections 17 and 20, 1853–1869.

[75] Although two lenders took title to the property from James Harloff, we believe they did so with financial arrangements which led to acquisition of title by Fritz Elver. Elver was operating the land and paying taxes on it during this time.

Courtesy: Mae Hartwig

Fritz Elver Homestead from approximately 1868 to 1906 along Old Sauk Road in Section 20.

The photograph above was a postcard that was postmarked 1913. Therefore, we are estimating it was taken in 1910-1913 but it could have been earlier.

The home and barn still stand today next to the Town of Middleton hall. The house was very upscale in its time. Below is a picture of the elaborate stonework in the root cellar.

Photo: Doug Normington

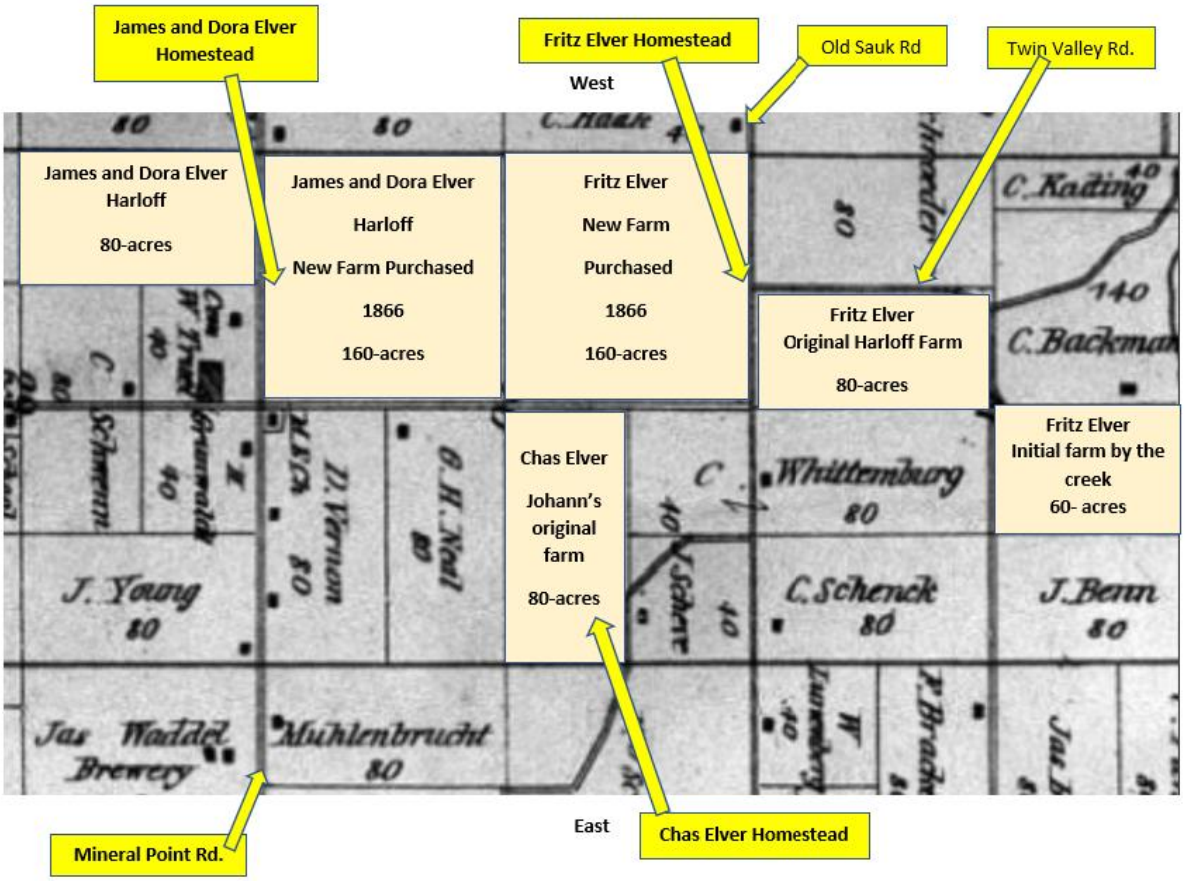
Root cellar at the home Fritz and Sophia Elver built in 1868.

With these additional acquisitions, Fritz Elver needed more help with his operations. At the time (1867), his children were still very young, Fritz J. (8), Adolph (6), Hugo (5), George W. (4), and Emil (3). Fritz Elver was now running 300 acres of land. This will be discussed later in this report.

In the end, the results of all these transactions by the Elver/Harloff families from 1852 to 1868, can be shown in this 1873 Dane County Plat Map for Middleton Township below.

According to the 1873 plat map, all the Harloff buildings on their original homestead had been removed.

The farm that Pope Farm sits on today was probably used for crops on the southern half (closest to the Elver Homestead), and probably grazing on the northern half.



Johann Elver descendants' land holdings. (1873)

Photo Janie Starzewski

From the Black Earth Creek bottom looking southwest toward the Elver Homestead.

Before Blackhawk Road was built, the cattle would probably have been herded between the two farms from the northeast corner of the Western farm and cross into the southwest corner of the farm along Black Earth creek (today's Blackhawk Ski Area).

Fritz Elver was very involved in his community. From Masonic records, we know that Fritz and his friend John Prien were Mason's and would travel to downtown Madison to attend a Lodge named Concordia #83.[76] We believe this occurred in the late 1860s.[77] In 1871, Fritz and John Prien joined the Middleton Ionic Lodge 180, which was much closer to home.[78]

At one time Fritz Elver was a board member for the Pleasant Site School on Old Sauk Road and, in 1881, he was elected as Chair of the Township of Middleton. In 1882, Fritz was elected to represent his district in the state assembly. He was successful and, according to Mae Hartwig, the Goth family affectionally called him "Herr" Elver. He was a commanding figure in his time.

Fritz and Sophia lived into the 1880s. After being married for 33 years and raising 15 children (13 survived), Fritz Elver, age 55, passed away in 1889 in Phoenix Arizona. He was

[76] The Concordia Lodge existed for 24 years between 1857 – 1882.

[77] In discussions with several of the current members of the Middleton Ionic Mason Lodge 180, one of the reasons they might have gone there was that Concordia #83 used French rites which was unusual. The meetings were conducted in German and perhaps they were trying to become better acquainted with those rites which would help them when they ultimately joined an English-speaking Lodge.

[78] Emails and phone calls with Jason Statz, Middleton Ionic Masonic Lodge 180, February 2020.

interred in the Mason cemetery there. Sophia lived for another nine years and died in 1898 at the age of 60 years and was buried in the First Lutheran Church cemetery on Old Sauk Road.

Throughout the history of the James Harloff and Fritz Elver ownership of the 80-acre farm (some of which is now PFC), there were several individuals who appeared on and off the land title. None lived on the land. We believe that this was being done for some sort of financial consideration.[79] All were owners or investors in properties that had portions of what today is Pope Farm Conservancy.

To this point, the 80 acres of the Western Portion of PFC was used for grazing cattle, crop production, and a settler's homestead. From 1866 until approximately 1900 these 80 acres was part of a larger farming operation, but that would soon change.

After the death of Fritz Elver in 1889, the farm was handled by the Elver Estate until 1906.

1867 – 1880, Joachim (James Goth)[80]

Contributions by Mae Hartwig, granddaughter of Carl Goth and the Max Kade Institute, UW Madison.

In 1867 Fritz Elver purchased additional lands and had 300 acres to farm. His children were too young to provide heavy labor that would be needed to run his operation.

To solve part of this problem, Fritz Elver built a cabin for a hired man at the same time these land transactions were taking place in 1867. The cabin was located on the Harloff farm he had just purchased and is currently called the "cabin site" at Pope Farm Conservancy.

James Goth, his mother Hanne Sophie, his wife Sophia Maria, and some of their ten children lived in this 15' X 15' cabin. Although James Goth never owned the land, he would live in the cabin for at least 13 years while he worked for Fritz Elver[81]. James Goth and his family are an important part of the history of Pope Farm Conservancy.

[79] One of these individuals was a man by the name of Henry Prien and he was only on the deed for about a year. Henry was the older brother of John Prien and was mentioned earlier in Chapter 3 on the Central Farm. Henry, like John, was a blacksmith and had the first blacksmith shop in Pheasant Branch. (*History of Dane County*, Vol. 2, 1906, 730) He was quite successful, and in later years invested in several properties in the Township of Middleton. Henry was noteworthy because he, along with his brother John, James Harloff, and John Elver headed the households of four of the fourteen families that founded the First Lutheran Church and helped build the log chapel.

[80] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Goth Family.

[81] Found in Goth family records. (2020)

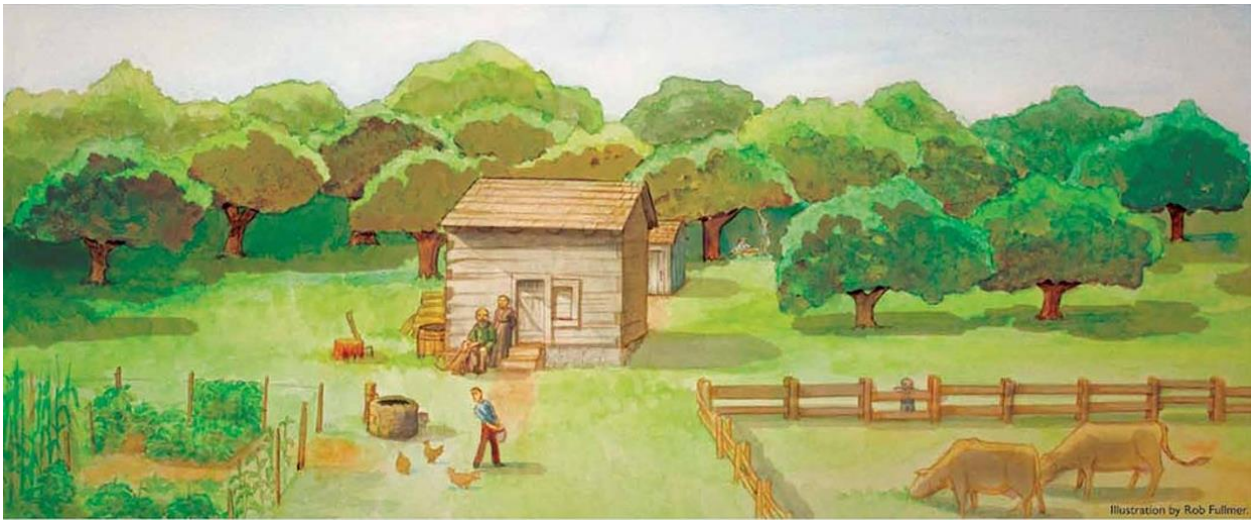
James Goth with his mother Hanne Sophie.

On July 6, 1867, James Goth, his wife Sophia Maria, their seven-month-old son Wilhelm (William), and Joachim's and Carl's 65-year-old mother Hanne Sophie boarded the steamship Alemannia in Hamburg and headed across the ocean for New York.[82]

In late 1867 or early 1868 James and his family were living in Fritz Elver's cabin and working at the Elver Homestead about 500 yards away.[83]

[82] Found in Goth family records. (2020)

[83] Found in Goth family records. (2020)



Artist Rendering of James Goth Cabin, drawn by Robert Fullmer.[84]

Photo: Janie Starzewski

Taken in Pope Farm Conservancy above the Cabin Site looking southwest.

This photo shows the location of the James Goth cabin in relationship to the homestead of Fritz Elver. James would walk this route to go to work. The Fritz Elver Homestead is hidden in the trees in this photo but is kitty corner to the right of the white barn seen on the left-hand side of the photo.

[84] Max Kade Institute, "German Immigrant Cabin Site, 1880." Interpretative sign provided by the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy at http://popefarmconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/German-Immigrants-Log-Cabin-Site.pdf

According to the 1880 U.S. Census, James Goth was a farm laborer and his wife kept house. Their cabin was surrounded by a small orchard and a garden plot where Sophia Maria would have grown much of the produce needed to feed her family. Joachim and Sophia Maria had nine more children: Hermann Carl (1868), Frieda (1869), Emma (1871), Bertha (1873), Amanda (1876), Arthur (1878), Pauline (1880), and twins Albert and Emil (1884). While not all children lived at home at the same time, it still must have been very tight quarters in the little 15' x 15' cabin.

In 1878, Hanne Sophie Goth, Carl's and Joachim's mother, passed away at 76. Sometime in the 1880s the remaining family moved to rural Verona, just outside of Middleton. James died in 1892 at the age of 56. His wife Sophia Maria was 70 when she passed away in 1915. They are both buried in Middleton Junction Cemetery.

1889 - 1906, Elver Estate

After the death of Fritz Elver in 1889, the lands he owned went into the Elver estate. These lands would remain in the Elver estate for 17 years.

What we do know is that by 1900 the Elvers had left their homestead on the south side junction of Old Sauk Road and Twin Valley Road. The 1900 Census showed William (34) and Albert (26) Lubcke renting the home at the Elver estate. William is listed "head" of household and "Farmer" and Albert is listed as "brother" and "Farm Laborer". Both are renting and farming. Also living at this location is a family by the name of John and Lena Witt and their five children. The census listed the Witt family as "lodgers". We believe that William and Albert Lubcke were running the farming operation for the Elver estate while living at the home previously occupied by the Elvers. The cattle and the equipment were located there as well.

Although Albert and William Lubcke were born in Dane County, their parents, Fritz and Elizabeth (Eliza), came to America from Mecklenburg Germany in 1852. William and Albert Lubcke were closely connected to the Elver family and to the executors of the Fritz Elver estate. Their sister Mary Lubcke married George Elver in 1888 and was Fritz and Sophia Elver's daughter in-law.

Sometime before 1906, William Lubcke undertook the task of purchasing the lands in the Elver estate. Even though he had a relationship with the Elver family it would have taken a significant effort for all the Elver descendants and a creditor to reach agreement! In early 1906, William Lubcke proceeded to get 11 different signatures in place to purchase these lands - it is easy to imagine how long it took him.

William Lubcke was a “middleman”, and during 1906 he sold all 300 acres he had purchased from the Elver estate. He sold that acreage into 3 different parcels to three different buyers during that year. One of those properties was the 80-acres that form the Western Farm that is now part of Pope Farm Conservancy. The Western Farm was sold to his brother Albert Lubcke.[85] After William Lubcke sold these holdings, he moved to Elroy, Wisconsin where he spent the rest of his life. William died in 1947 and is buried in the First Lutheran Cemetery.

1906 – 1937, Albert B. and Nellie Lubcke[86]

Contributions by Mae Hartwig, Neighbor.

After living on the Elver estate in 1900, Albert Lubcke (28) married Nellie Matilda Brassington (31) in the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1903. In 1906 Albert purchased the 80 acres of the Western Farm from his brother William[87].

We believe Albert and Nellie built their house and a few outbuildings on the Northeast corner of Old Sauk and Twin Valley Roads property in 1907.[88] In the 1910 U.S. Census, Albert (35) and Nellie (38) are living at this location. Their son, Maynard Lubcke, was born on the farm in 1912.

Photo: Janie Starzewski

Home built by Albert and Nellie Lubcke in 1907, home is still standing today.

[85] Although a lender took title to the property from William Lubcke, we believe they did so with financial arrangements which led to acquisition of title by Albert Lubcke. Albert Lubcke was operating the land and paying taxes on it during this time

[86] We found no photos of Albert B. Lubcke (1875-1955) or Nellie Brassington Lubcke (1871-1934).

[87] Same as footnote 86 above.

[88] Town of Middleton Tax Rolls, Section 17, 1905-1908.

We believe the barn was built around 1911[89] and was added on to in the 1960s. More recently a garage door was added. The foundation of the silo is field stone on the inside and we suspect that the original silo was of wooden stave construction. According to neighbors and previous owners, the original barn was of poor design. It was reconfigured some 35-40 years later by a subsequent owner.

Photo: Janie Starzewski

Original Lubcke barn, original wooden stave silo was replaced in the 1950s.

Albert purchased the farm in 1906 through a land contract with a man named Samuel Martin. By late 1907, Martin wanted out of that land contract. Albert gave Martin a Quit Claim Deed and Martin conveyed the land to Timan Gordon by a Warranty Deed. In 1913, Timan Gordon conveyed the land to H.T. Thompson, also by Warranty Deed and on the same date, Thompson conveyed the land to Albert. Finally, late in 1913, Albert Lubcke paid off whatever obligations existed and received a Warranty Deed. We believe that at his point, Albert Lubcke is mortgage free. The 1930 U.S. Census shows Albert (55), Nellie (58), and Maynard (17) farming the Western Farm. In late 1932 (during the great depression), Albert and Nellie needed monies of some sort and made an agreement with Henry Bryan to exchange a quit claim for a land contract as a financing device. Henry Bryan lived in Middleton Junction and it was known he would lend money to local farmers.

[89] Town of Middleton Tax Rolls, Section 17, Town of Middleton, 1905-1915.

Nellie (63) died of Pneumonia in 1934 and was interred in the Middleton Junction Cemetery. Mae Hartwig remembers waiting in the Lubcke living room as her mother went in to say goodbye to Nellie. According to Mae, Albert moved away from the area after her death.

Photo: Janie Starzewski

Lubcke home. (2020)

We do not know what happened to Albert Lubcke for the next 10 years. We cannot find him in the 1940 U.S. Census data, but we believe he defaulted on his land contract with Henry Bryan. When Henry found Albert in 1937, Albert signed over his 80-acre farm to Henry Bryan and his wife.

Farming this 80-acres was a tough go for Albert and Nellie Lubcke. He was one of thousands who lost their farms in the Great Depression.

We found Albert Lubcke in 1944. Maynard who was a soldier in WWII was home on leave and spent time with his father Albert Lubcke in Lone Rock, WI. After the war, Maynard farmed in the Lone Rock area.

Albert Lubcke died at the age of 80 in 1955 on his farm in Monticello, WI, and was interred with his wife Nellie in the Middleton Junction Cemetery.

1938 – 1940, Lawrence J. and Veronica Spahn

Lawrence and Veronica Spahn purchased the property from Henry and Lydia Bryan in 1938. Little is known about them. We can't be sure but believe they did not actually live at that location. They are not remembered by neighbors who would have known them at the time. In 1940, they sell the farm to George Clayton and Evelyn Cole.

1940 – 1950, George Clayton and Evelyn Cole[90]

George Clayton Cole
1908 – 1994

Evelyn Mueller Cole
1916 – 2002

Contributions by Janice Cole Lokken, Karen Cole Ames, John and Ruth Koberle, Mae Goth Hartwig.

George Clayton Cole was born in Ashland, WI, in 1908. By 1930 his parents had moved to Dane County, and in 1936 he married Evelyn Anna Mueller.

George (32), and Evelyn (24), purchased the Western Farm in 1940. George was a military man who served in the Navy. The 1940 Census information shows George and Evelyn living on the farm in 1940. It also shows that George and Evelyn were working in Madison, George at Rayovac, and Evelyn as a telephone operator. When World War II broke out, they were not listed as farmers in the 1940 U.S. Census. George served as the Chief Machinist mate aboard the U.S.S. Fox 234.[91] During the war, Evelyn moved into Madison, and they rented the farm to a young family by the name of Harpold, who farmed a small operation during the war years. On October 6, 1944, their first daughter Janice Marie Cole was born. After the war George, Evelyn, and Janice moved back to the farm. On August 29, 1946, their son Wayne Robert Cole was born.

[90] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Cole Family.
[91] Provided to the FOPFC by the Cole Family. (2020)

Janice and Wayne Robert Cole

Evelyn and George Cole

Janice Cole feeding chickens.

George and Evelyn milked a few dairy cows and raised a few chickens, geese, and pigs.

George Cole's dairy herd, looking east from the barn. (late 1940s).

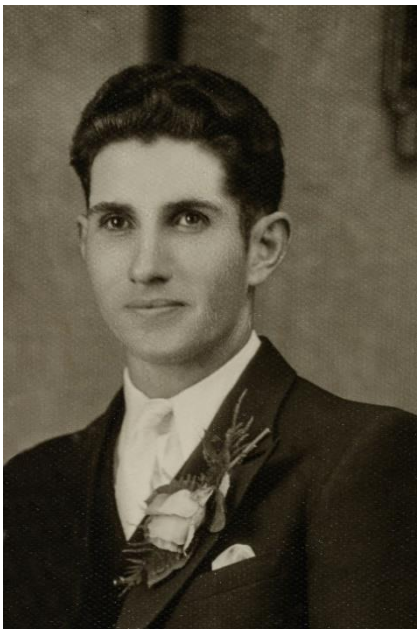
In the photo above, notice the Brumm farm on top of hill, and the ridge of sparce trees in the background is the recessional moraine that is on the southern edge of Pope Farm Conservancy.

Over the years, the barn became twisted and sagging on the south and the west side. The barn was poorly designed and George, along with his neighbors used a come-along and a cable to untwist and straighten, then reinforce it. The wooden silo was also in bad shape and needed additional support. It had been neglected for many years.

When the University offered farmers the opportunity to analyze their farming operation, George signed up. After looking over the results of this study, George and Evelyn realized that farming this 80-acre parcel would never make any money and decided to sell the farm. On April 18, 1949 George and Evelyn welcomed a daughter, Karen May Cole. Soon after, they sold the farm to Hazel Holmes in 1950, and moved to another farm in Riley, Wisconsin.

While living on the farm, Mae Hartwig told us, *"the young couple was very well liked and fit into the neighborhood socially very well."*

1950 – 1958, Oliver and Hazel Holmes[92]



Oliver Holmes
1915 – 2003

Hazel Strommen Holmes
1911 - 1983

[92] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Holmes Family.

Contribution by Larry Holmes, son of Oliver and Hazel Holmes.

Oliver and Hazel Holmes owned the Western 80-acres from 1950 to 1958. Their story is interesting and adds to the rich tapestry of those who worked the land that is now part of Pope Farm Conservancy.

Hazel Strommen Holmes was born in Greenwood, WI. In 1911, Oliver Holmes was born in Frankfort, MI and grew up in Two Rivers WI. When growing up, he worked on local farms as a laborer. By 1935, Oliver had moved to Madison and worked in a wholesale business.

Oliver and Hazel married in 1935. They moved back to Two Rivers where Oliver worked as a welder on submarines as part of the war effort in World War II. In 1946, Oliver and Hazel moved to Middleton. Oliver worked with his two brothers who were taking over a farm implement business. They sold Minneapolis Moline tractors and Gehl implements, as well as electronic appliances such as Maytag and Hotpoint.[93] Unfortunately, the business only survived until 1950.

In 1950, Hazel Holmes purchased the 80-acre farm and Hazel (35), Oliver (39), and their son Larry (1) moved there. The Holmes farmed the land as dairy farmers, but also raised hogs and chickens. Oliver Holmes replaced the old wooden stave silo and put up the concrete silo that exists today. He also added the addition on the far end of the barn. He used older equipment, including an old Minneapolis Moline tractor, to work the land and milked about 25 cows.

Hazel and Larry Holmes. (1957)
New silo and addition at the far end of the barn can be seen.

[93] Daniels, "Souvenir veterans centennial carnival," 10.

Larry Holmes on the old Minneapolis Moline tractor.

As Oliver was running his operation, local farmers realized he had a special talent as a welder. When their equipment would break down, they would take their implements to Oliver for welding repair. This provided Oliver with additional income and soon the checks he received from his welding efforts were greater than his milk checks!

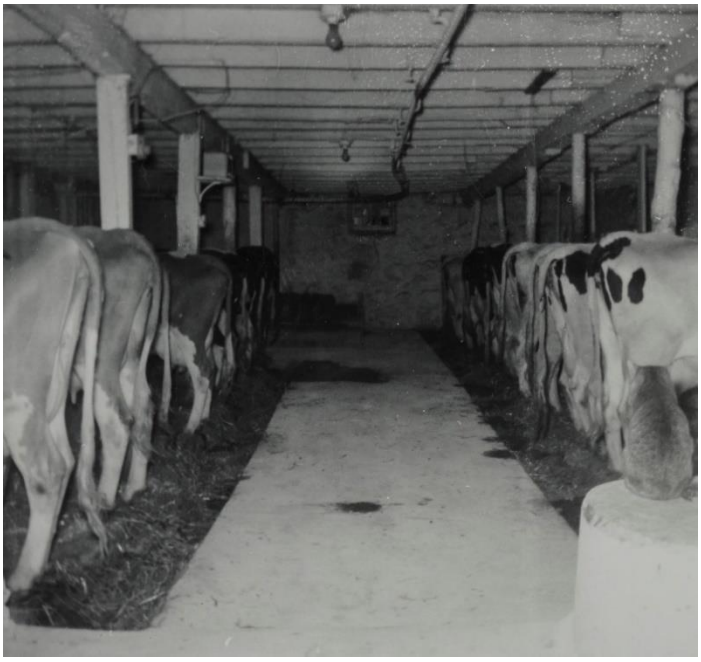
The farm was small, and it was difficult to make a living. It had glacial debris (stones) everywhere and some of the land was not tillable. The local farmers called it the “The Big Stone” Farm.

Photo: FOPFC

Big Stone that was originally on the Western section of the farm.

The big stone in the picture above was in the middle of a field and was way too big for farmers to move, so they planted around it. In 2005, it took heavy equipment to move the stone to its current location by the water fountain at Pope Farm Conservancy. Today it serves as a bench**.**

Oliver still wanted to expand his farming operation, but there was a problem. He needed more milk cows to be able to show a reasonable profit. He was limited to about 25 milking cows because the land could only produce enough crops to feed them, and no more.



The Holmes dairy operation, small barn, and limited number of milk cows.

The answer was to purchase more land that could produce more crops so he could increase his herd size and make a reasonable living. Oliver approached a neighbor about purchasing more land, and unfortunately the neighbor was not interested in selling. With little opportunity for success in the dairy business, Oliver decided to get out of farming and concentrate on his welding business.

In May of 1958, Oliver and Hazel Holmes had a farm auction and sold their farming equipment and accessories. Oliver and Hazel also sold a corner lot at the junction of Twin Valley and Blackhawk Road. In June of 1958, they sold the farm (less two acres at the southeast corner of the property) to Art and Vivian Pope.

As Oliver and Hazel sold the farm, they built a house on the two acres they had retained. Today that home still stands across Old Sauk Road from the Town of Middleton Hall. Oliver built a small building on this property that housed his welding business.

Photo: Jim Watts

The Holmes family's new home and Oliver's welding shop. (1961)

Today this house is across from the Town of Middleton hall. It is the same site that James Harloff and his family used to build their homestead in 1856 as part of the Western Farm.

In 1960, Hazel began working at the U.W. Primate lab. Her job was interesting as she became the surrogate mother for many of the primates that were housed there. She worked there for 17 years before retiring in 1977.

In 1964, Oliver started fixing radiators as an addition to his welding business and was soon concentrating solely on radiator repair. In 1966 he moved his business into Middleton and set it up in the back of Vern Denner's filling station. In the fall of 1967 Oliver and Hazel sold the home on Old Sauk Road and moved into Middleton permanently.

Oliver passed away in 1983 at 72 years of age, and Hazel passed away in 2003 at 88 years old. Both are interred at the Sunset Memory Gardens in Madison, WI.

1958 – 1973, Art and Vivian Pope[94]

Arthur L. Pope
1921 – 2010

Vivian Tretsven Pope
1920 -1973

Contributions by Mel, Lucy, and Bill Pope, 2nd generation.
Recollections from Dick Vilstrup, Mike Vilstrup, and Larry Holmes.

In the mid-1950s, Art and Vivian Pope were living on the near west side of Madison with their four children. Art was a professor in the Animal Husbandry Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and had been doing research on livestock. His specialty at the UW was sheep and sheep production.

Vivian was a stay at home mom, like so many university wives in the 1950s. The lives of Art, Vivian, and their family, were about to change. They were going to move out into the countryside and many opportunities and changes awaited them.

Before the Pope's move out to the country, lets digress a bit, and look at why Art Pope wanted to purchase a farm in 1958.

Art grew up on a small 80-acre farm in southern Michigan during the depression. As hard as things were, his parents were able to purchase Art a purebred Hampshire ram and two purebred Hampshire ewes for a 4-H project.

In 1939, Art went off to college at Michigan State University and asked his dad and mom to "take care of my sheep while I'm gone." A constant in Art's letters from MSU and eventually from Madison, were queries and instructions on the management of his sheep. Art missed those sheep. He loved to watch them, making copious notes on their characteristics and well-

[94] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Pope Family.

being. For example, he made a scale from one to five of how much wool covered the face (sometimes a sheep's wool will grow so much they can experience being "wool blind" until shorn, and it all starts over again). Each year Art kept records of what their face score was and if their subsequent offspring/lambs would inherit those (parental) scores.

Photo: Jeff Martin

Art Pope with his Hampshire Sheep in what is now Pope Farm Conservancy.

Art Pope in his later years with one of his flock of Hampshire's.[95]

[95] Hampshire is a large, black faced breed of sheep known for meat and wool.

Around 1953-4, Art was a tenured professor at the UW and practically every holiday was a trip to Michigan to visit his folks, and his sheep. In 1955, his dad reminded Art he was still taking care of his sheep 16 years later. Art began to plan for how to have his sheep closer. In 1956 he brought a 'hand full' of ewes and a ram from his flock in Michigan to Wisconsin. He worked out a cooperative deal to house and pasture his ewes with his friend Gilman Voss who was living near the corner of Timber Lane and Mineral Point Roads.

So, Art got comfortable driving out from Madison and taking care of his sheep on Madison's far west side while maintaining his duties on the University of Wisconsin faculty.

When Oliver and Hazel Holmes put their farm up for sale in 1958, Art and Vivian were ready to buy. They purchased the property and began looking at how they might live on the farm. One of the options they considered was to build a house at the top of the hill on Twin Valley Road overlooking the Black Earth Creek Valley and surrounding area. This spot is where the Goth amphitheater sits near the church on Twin Valley Road.

Photo: Janie Starzewski

View to the southeast from corner at the top of the hill on Twin Valley Road.

As they were reviewing their options, the Central Farm came up for sale and they ultimately purchased those 80 acres in June of 1960.

Art and Vivian then sold the home, buildings, with about 18 acres in the Southern portion of the property along Old Sauk Rd.

The family was still a bit apprehensive about moving way out in the country (7 miles), and Art had a plan to move forward, yet provide flexibility in the event they did not like living

that far away from the suburbs. After purchasing the Central Farm, Art did two things: first, he sold the home, the buildings, and about 18 acres of the Western farm. He did not need those improvements because he now owned a home and farm buildings on the Central Farm. The sale of those improvements on the Western Farm also helped finance the purchase of the Central Farm. The second part of his plan was more interesting. Art had a close friend who was coming to Madison as a graduate student. An agreement was made where a graduate student would rent the upper level of the house on the Central Farm, while the lower level was remodeled. After the Pope family was able to move in, the graduate student would move into the home vacated by the Popes on the near west side of Madison. This arrangement would give the Popes the option of returning to their home in Madison if they did not take to the country life. The family fell in love with their new home, and 2 years later, after the graduate student completed his studies, the house in Madison was sold.

Fencing the Western Farm commenced so that when the sheep arrived, the fields would be ready for grazing. Art's beloved flock arrived from Michigan to Pope Farm in 1961 - their blood line would stay there for another 48 years.

Photo: Jeff Martin

Art Pope's flock arrived in Wisconsin. (1961)

After Vivian Pope passed away in 1973, Art married Betty Nord Zoerb, a widow the family had known for many years.

In 1997, 20 acres of woods on the north end of the farm was sold to a private party. In 1999, ten acres of the woods on the northeast corner of the farm was obtained by Mel Pope.

The primary use of the land that remained on the Western Farm until it was sold to the Town of Middleton in 1999, was historically used to raise crops, and was grazing land for sheep and beef cattle.

2000 – Today, Town of Middleton, Pope Farm Conservancy

Today the Western portion of the farm at Pope Farm Conservancy contains two large fields for crops, the German immigration cabin site, two amphitheaters, the hillside prairie, a savannah, a stand of burr oak trees, and a stand of Maple trees.

Photo: Jack Sherman

The south field on the Western portion of Pope Farm Conservancy today.

Photo: Jack Sherman

The north field on the Western portion of Pope Farm Conservancy today.

REMEMBRANCES

1856 – 1880, James Goth and the Goth Family in the Town of Middleton[96]

By Antje Petty,
The Max Kade Institute for German Immigration Studies UW Madison
and Mae Goth Hartwig, granddaughter of Carl Goth

Photo: Janie Starzewski

Looking down at German Immigration site and the Sugar Maples in PFC in 2021.

Walking the land on Pope Farm Conservancy, Mel Pope noticed a depression at the bottom of a gentle slope that looked like the footprint of a simple dwelling. Intrigued he consulted researchers at the Wisconsin State Historical Society, who confirmed his hunch that this could have been the site of a pioneer cabin. But who had lived here? Mel talked to long-time residents in the area and found Mae Hartwig, neé Goth. Mae remembered that her older brother Roy Goth had mentioned that their family lived on land that is now part of the Conservancy. Not only that. Thanks to Mae's recollections, additional family research, and now

[96] The following is a story about the Goth family that was done by Antje Petty from the Max Kade Institute UW Madison. She studied the information about the Goth Family, the journey James and his family took to arrive in the Township of Middleton, and how he ended up at the cabin as a hired hand for Fritz Elver. It is a story worth telling.

the translated letters, the story of the Goth family, one of Middleton's early settler families, has come to life.

The Goth family originated in Picher, a small village near Hagenow in the German Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. They were among several hundred immigrants from that region who settled in the Town of Middleton in the 1850s and 1860s. The first Goth to arrive was Jürgen Goth (also known as Jörn or John). Jürgen was born in 1812, the fourth child of a farmer who owned his own modest-size farm. Landownership was rare among small farmers in Mecklenburg at the time, as most land belonged to only a few, large, family estates. Most people worked as laborers on these estates. When Jürgen's father died in 1846, the family farm went to the oldest son Jürgen's brother, who was also named Joachim, and who was known in the family as "Uncle Goth."

We don't know much about Jürgen's years in Germany, but in the early 1850s, in his mid-thirties and single, he left Mecklenburg for America. Why did he choose to come to Middleton? Jürgen knew many of the families who were settling here, and he must have heard that land in Dane County was cheap and of good quality. Jürgen likely brought some money with him, for shortly after his arrival, he bought his own land.

Next to follow, in early 1857, was Carl Goth, Jürgen's nephew and Joachim's (James') older brother. There were three sons on this branch of the Goth family: Carl (born 1828), Fritz (born 1830), and Joachim (born 1836). They also had a sister, who had died in infancy. Their father had passed away in 1841 and they grew up with their mother, Hanne Sophie Goth.

Family lore has it that Carl had to leave Picher rather abruptly after an incident that involved the killing of a deer in the Duke of Mecklenburg's private forest. A few months later Carl, Maria Sophia Frederieke Grandt, a young woman from the nearby town of Warlow, also crossed the Atlantic to marry Jürgen Goth. Uncle Joachim had paid the way for both.

The family in Mecklenburg was eager to hear from their relatives in America, but postal service was slow. Sometimes letters took several months, other times they did not reach their destination at all. Uncle Goth wrote to his brother Jürgen:

> *I wrote to you right after I received your letter.[…]However, since a lot of time has passed and I have not heard back from you, I write again with the request to please let me know as soon as possible if Maria has arrived at your place. Let Carl Goth know that I received his letter written on June 7th only at the end of November. It had been sitting in Madison until the 31st of October.* [December 24, 1857]

Carl's mother Hanne Sophie was also concerned. She could not read and write and dictated her letters to one of her sons.

What is happening that we don't hear from you, Carl? If we hadn't heard from Jürgen that you are in America, we would think that you are still on route from Hamburg to Bremen. Maria Grandt, who left on August 1, also hasn't been in touch.

Everybody wanted to know about life in America. Carl's brothers and some of his friends contemplated emigration. Hanne Sophie wrote:

Your friends Johann Graband and Johann Grünwald […] would like to follow you, but they don't know the way to where you went. The work situation is very bad here. In the spring, 14,000 Germans went to Denmark. Fritz Nädler […] also hopes to still follow you this October. [November 22, 1857]

Johann Graband had many more questions including whether

it is advisable to bring a bride, or if we will be able to find a bride over there. Marriage is no fun in Mecklenburg anymore, [because of the long-drawn-out festivities]. But if they have the same traditions there, tell us. Then it can't be helped, and we must resign ourselves to getting married here. [July 1861]

But was life easier in America? Mixed messages had reached Mecklenburg. Some of the stories seemed too good to be true. Uncle Goth, for example, wanted to know "the truth about Beckman."

I heard he bought 4 horses, that he does not use oxen at all anymore, and that he already drives around in a carriage. Please write honestly: are things better where you are than they are here? [December 29, 1859] Other settlers wrote about hardships, deprivations, and the daily struggle to make it in the new world. Some gave up on America and returned home. Naturally, Carl's family wondered about him. His brothers asked: *Do you work on the railroad? As a farm hand? Or are you still staying with your uncle?* [March 11,1859]. *If Carl doesn't like it there, let him know, and if he wants to come back, I will pay for his journey as a gift to him*. Uncle Goth wrote to his brother Jürgen. [December 29, 1859]

As it turned out, Carl had found work on the farm of Johann (John) Stolte and his wife Sophia (née Lüth). Sophia, from Picher and John from the nearby village of Kuhstorf, had come to Middleton in 1854. Tragically, John Stolte fell ill and passed away in June 1859. In December 1859, Carl and Sophia married. With Sophia's three sons Wilhelm (William), August, and Charley, they were a family of five. Together Carl and Sophia had five more children: Frank (b. 1860), Fritz (b. 1862), Theona (b. 1866), Sophie (b. 1868), and Martin (b. 1871), who was Mae (Goth) Hartwig's father.

A decade would pass, however, before the time was right for Joachim Goth, Fritz Goth, and some of Carl's friends to make the journey to America. Back in 1857, Joachim had to join the Mecklenburg army. By the time he had fulfilled his military obligation, the American Civil

War had broken out. Suddenly, America was not such an attractive destination. But as the war was coming to an end, Carl received a long letter from his brother Joachim.

> *Dear brother, last year, our dear mother and I planned to follow you. Now I have to tell you that we will not come after all. First our mother got sick [and we] stayed for three years with our uncle in the heath region. […] Then our uncle insisted that I get married, and now I got married this year after Christmas [January 13, 1865]. My wife is from Warlow. She is the daughter of Herman Dahl. I have a very good wife. […] I would so very much like to follow you, but I can't as long as our mother is still alive. My wife, too, is eager to travel to America. Our mother always says, if only the great ocean were not there, she would like to come along. Mother is too afraid that she might not make it anymore.*
>
> *Dear brother, you asked me to bring some books for your children along. As much as I would like to send them by mail now, I can't afford it. You must know how expensive it is to be married. I work in Hamburg on the docks. If I didn't have to, I wouldn't work there. [...] but if I hadn't hired myself out this year, I would have had a very hard time making ends meet. […] Everything I own, I have paid for with my own hard-earned money. I managed to save about 100 Thaler.* [July 2, 1865]

Two years later, on March 24, 1867, Joachim wrote another letter:

> *Dear brother and sister-in-law, we were very happy to read your letter. I was most delighted to see your beautiful horses. Please tell us, are you the guy sitting on the machinery?*
>
> *[…] If you think I would be better off where you are, write me, and let me know. I am eager to come and so is my wife. And mother says that if we all go; she will join us. She is now worried that I will not be able to save enough for all of us to make the journey.*

Carl must have written an encouraging letter, because on July 6, 1867, Joachim Goth, his wife Sophia Maria, their seven-month-old son Wilhelm (William), and Joachim's and Carl's 65-year-old mother Hanne Sophie boarded the steamship Alemannia in Hamburg and crossed the ocean for New York.

In 1871, Fritz Goth, his wife Wilhelmine (Minna), and their five-year-old daughter also moved to America but did not settle in Dane County. That same year, Joachim and Carl's friend Johann Graband arrived in Middleton. He had gotten married in Mecklenburg after all and now brought his wife, three children, and a sister. His brother Fritz and his family, as well as their widowed mother followed shortly.

The families of Jürgen, Carl, and Joachim Goth, and the extended Graband family were all part of the vibrant Mecklenburg immigrant community in Middleton. They were early members of the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church and were instrumental in supporting the construction of the new church building in 1866. Their children went to school and were instructed in German. Most of the Goth children married someone from another Mecklenburg immigrant family. As they became adults, some stayed in the town of Middleton, others moved west to states like Minnesota or Nebraska, where land was cheaper and where they could afford to own a farm of their own. Often several people from Middleton moved on to the same place, creating new, second-generation, Mecklenburger communities in America.

As it turned out, Carl had found work on the farm of Johann (John) Stolte and his wife Sophia (née Lüth). Sophia, from Picher and John from the nearby village of Kuhstorf, had come to Middleton in 1854. Tragically, John Stolte fell ill and passed away in June 1859. In December 1859, Carl and Sophia married. With Sophia's three sons Wilhelm (William), August, and Charley, they were a family of five. Together Carl and Sophia had five more children: Frank (b. 1860), Fritz (b. 1862), Theona (b. 1866), Sophie (b. 1868), and Martin (b. 1871), who was Mae (Goth) Hartwig's father.

Once in Middleton, Joachim, now calling himself James, started to work as a laborer on different farms. He didn't have enough money to purchase his own land or house. At some point he and his family, including his mother, moved to a cabin on the land that is now Pope Farm Conservancy, which in the 1870s, belonged to Fritz Elver. Fritz, like John Stolte, was born in Kuhstorf Germany and had come to Middleton in 1852 as an 18-year old with his parents and siblings. The Elvers owned quite a bit of land in Middleton. It is likely that the cabin was not built by Joachim Goth, but by someone in the Elver family shortly after their arrival. By 1870, the elderly Elver parents and their adult children had all moved into larger, "real" houses.

According to the 1880 U.S. Census, James Goth was a farm laborer and his wife kept house. Their cabin was surrounded by a small orchard and a garden plot where Sophia Maria would have grown much of the produce needed to feed her family. Joachim and Sophia Maria had nine more children: Hermann Carl (1868), Frieda (1869), Emma (1871), Bertha (1873), Amanda (1876), Arthur (1878), Pauline (1880), and twins Albert and Emil (1884). While not all children lived at home at the same time, it still must have been very tight quarters in the little cabin. In 1878, Hanne Sophie Goth, Carl's and Joachim's mother, passed away. She was 76. Sometime in the 1880s the family moved to rural Verona, just outside of Middleton.

Joachim died in 1892 at the age of 56. His wife Sophia Maria was 70 when she passed away in 1915. Carl Goth passed away in January 1904, followed by his wife Sophia only eleven months later. They are all buried in Middleton Junction Cemetery. Jürgen Goth lived to be 83. According to the church book of the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church, he died of old

age. His wife followed him in 1915. Their burial place is the First Lutheran Cemetery on Old Sauk Road, right next to the church that had been such an important center of their community.

REMEMBRANCES

By Janice Cole Lokken, Karen Cole Ames, 1940s

Daughters of George Clayton and Evelyn Cole.

The most important thing in the world to George was his family, he always had time to play and teach his children valuable lessons about love of life and everything around you. George was a very handy man; in his spare time, he would make beautiful belts out of Macramé Cord and rings out of stainless steel. He was a man that could always find something to accomplish. He was a jack of all trades and a master of none. He could build, do plumbing, electrical work, stonework, you name it, and he could do it!

George was always there to help each of us with our predicaments that we got ourselves into. Evelyn was not very mechanically inclined and could not back the car up so George would have to go wherever she was and bring the car back home. As kids, we were too young to have chores to do, but we were there, and did get into some problems!

REMEMBRANCES

By Larry Holmes, 1950s – 1960s

Son of Oliver and Hazel Holmes.

Hazel and Larry standing in front of a very tall corn crop.

Holmes family and relations shows house in 1954

Looking east on Old Sauk Rd.
Notice it is a gravel road.
The ridge on the upper left-hand portion of the photo
is the recessional moraine in Pope Farm Conservancy. (1958)

CHAPTER 5 – AGRICULTURE ON THE LAND

Story #1

Fritz Elver 1860 – 1880

Fritz Elver was 18 years old when he came to America with his family in 1852. His father, John Elver, purchased an 80-acre farm in 1854 (today's Blackhawk Ski Club lands). In 1855, John Elver transferred title for that 80 acres to Fritz, who was then 21 years old. Fritz began building a cabin along Black Earth Creek.[97]

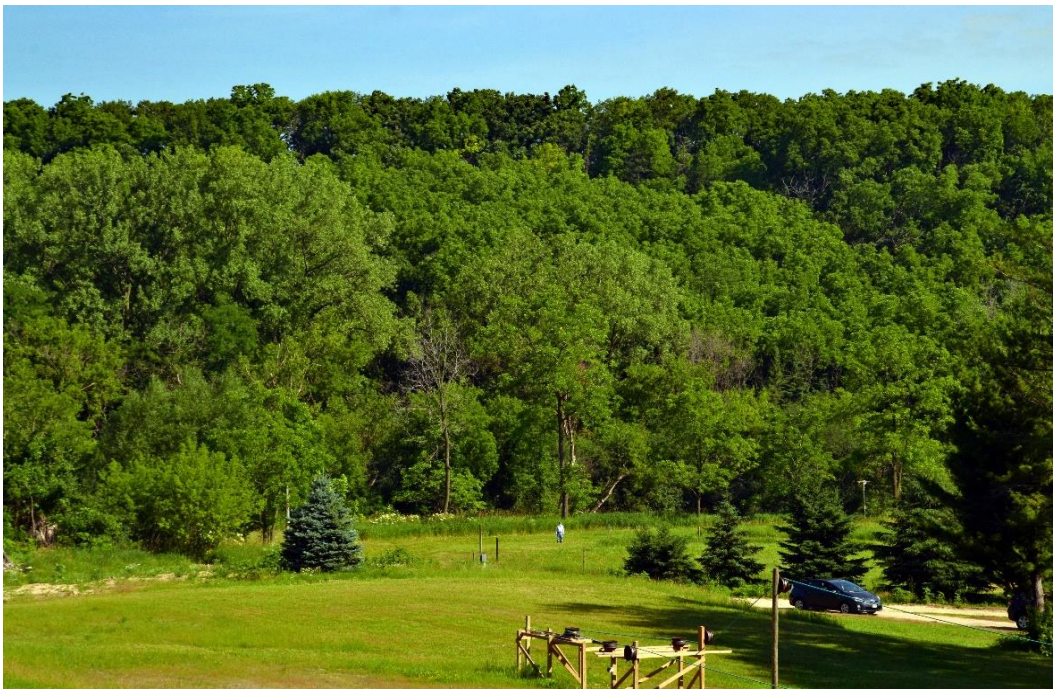


Photo: Janie Starzewski

Approximate Location of Fritz and Sophia Elver Cabin Site. (2020)

In the lower center of this photo, a man is standing at the approximate location of the Fritz Elver cabin site along Black Earth Creek.[98] This land is now owned by the Blackhawk Ski Club on Blackhawk Road in the Town of Middleton.

In 1856, Fritz and Sophia began life together in their little cabin on Black Earth Creek. It was very hilly land with steep bluffs in the middle of the property, and marshy areas along the creek bottom. The 1861 Dane County Plat Map shows their cabin was by the outflow of Mud

[97] Passenger list from Ancestry.com. Town of Middleton Tax Rolls, Section 17, 1853–1856.
[98] Dane County Plat Map, 1861.

Lake as it entered the creek. It was a wilderness when they began clearing the land with a team of oxen.[99]

Photo: Janie Starzewski

View of Bluff from Elver Cabin Site. (2020)

It was difficult land to clear, because the tillable land was mostly on top of the bluffs in the middle of the farm and the homestead was at the bottom. The area in the foreground was marshy and probably not tillable, but good for grazing cattle.

Land from Ski Jump to Blackhawk Road was Fritz Elver's tillable land for crops. (mid-1950s)

Courtesy: The Brumm family

[99] Dane County Agricultural Census, 1860.

Notice how open the land was between the Ski Jump and Blackhawk Road in the above photo. What is now Pope Farm Conservancy can be seen in the distance. Fritz Elver was the first to farm this field at the top of the bluffs. Janice Haynie Brumm remembers that it was farmed for crops until the ski Jump was built.

Imagine climbing up and down those bluffs to clear the land with a team of oxen day after day. After the land was cleared, it had to be planted and harvested using that same team of oxen. Hauling hay and produce down the bluffs with oxen was dangerous. According to Mae Hartwig "there are many harrowing accounts of oxen hauling a harvest down those steep bluffs."[100]

Like the other pioneer settlers, work was incredibly hard as they fought for survival. In 1859, Fritz's son, Fritz J. Elver, was the first European child born on that 80-acre parcel.

Photo: Jane Starzewski

Site of trail used to get up and down the bluffs.

Fritz and Sophia had been carving a farm out of the wilderness for four years and were living in their cabin in the valley. The 1860 Dane County Agricultural Census shows the progress they were making.

[100] Daniels, "Souvenir veterans centennial carnival," 43.

Fritz Elver, 1860 Agricultural Census (along Black Earth Creek)

Improved land = 35 acres
Unimproved land = 45 acres
Cash value of farm = $1,000
Value of farm implements and machinery = $70
Other cattle = 3
Horses = none
Milk cows = 1
Working Oxen = 2
Swine = 3
Value of Livestock = $120
Wheat, bushels of = 330
Indian Corn, bushels of = 75
Oats, bushels of = 50
Irish Potatoes, bushels of = 10
Butter, pounds of = 50
Hay, tons of = 6
Value of animals slaughtered = $15

Like the other settlers in the area, the Elvers were surviving with enough food to feed their family and to feed their stock through the winter. These efforts are the beginning of what would be a remarkable journey for Fritz and Sophia Elver.

Fritz was using oxen because they are stronger than horses. They were needed to pull the plow through the prairie sod that had existed for hundreds of years. They were also needed to help clear the timber. Unique at this location are the stones from the glacial debris. Although there were probably few stones in the valley where Fritz and Sophia's cabin was, that was not the case in the area Fritz was clearing at the top of the bluffs. The Elver's neighbors were John and Sophia Stolte who lived several hundred yards away in the same valley and were farming the same bluffs. They would say later, "the land being mostly the top of the hill and the log house was at the foot of the hill, near the little creek."[101] If Fritz Elver was clearing land by himself, clearing 35 acres of this difficult land in four years is remarkable. The 1860 Federal Census does not show a hired hand staying with them, but we do not know if someone was helping him.

[101] Daniels, "Souvenir veterans centennial carnival," 57.

Son Adolph Elver was born in 1861, followed by Hugo in 1862, George W. in 1863, and Emil in 1865. All were born in the cabin by the creek. The Fritz and Sophia Elver family was growing rapidly.

Fritz Elver was interested in purchasing more land. Fritz, along with his brother-in-law James Harloff had the land between Old Sauk Road and, eventually, Mineral Pt. Road in their sights. In 1861, Fritz purchased 40 acres next to the Harloff's on the South side of Old Sauk Road, and eventually this would become his homestead. The following illustrates the land acquisitions by Fritz Elver[102]:

	Cumulative Acres Owned
1856 = 80 Acres, from John Elver (Blackhawk Ski Club area today)	80
1861 = 40 Acres, purchases along Old Sauk Road in Section 20 (future homestead)	120
1861 = 80 Acres, rents in Section 20 adjacent to his holdings of 40 acres	
1862 = 40 Acres, purchases contiguous to 40-acre parcel he already owns)	160
1862 = Adds moderate improvements.	
1864 = 20 Acres, sells part of creek bottom of his original 80 acres	140
1866 = 40 Acres, purchased -contiguous to other acreage in Section 20	180
1866 = 120 Acres, purchases Harloff owned lands[103]	300
1868 = New house and barn built as Elver's new homestead on Old Sauk Rd.	

In 1867, ten years after living near the creek, Fritz and Sophia had taken some significant steps. They now owned 300 acres of land (part of which is Pope Farm Conservancy today) and the Harloffs moved to their new location on Mineral Pt. Road

In 1870, Fritz and Sophia Elver were living on their new homestead on Old Sauk Road.[104] According to the U.S., living with them were Fritz J. (11), Adolph (9), Hugo (8), George W. (6), and Emil (4).

The 300 acres includes: his original 60-acre parcel down on Black Earth Creek. The creek bottom land and the slopes of the bluffs would be excellent for grazing cattle, 160 acres of tillable land south of Mineral Pt. Road, plus the 80-acre (Western Farm) of which 30 acres were

[102] Town of Middleton Tax Rolls, Sections 17 and 20, 1853–1869.

[103] Although two lenders took title to the property from James Harloff, we believe they did so with financial arrangements which led to acquisition of title by Fritz Elver. Elver was operating the land and paying taxes on it during this time

[104] It is possible that Fritz and Sophia moved to a log cabin at this location as early as 1862. Moderate improvements were made that year. The 1864 valuation of his property along Black Earth Creek decreased which might indicate a move that vacated his cabin there.

woodlands. This helps explain how these acres are utilized on the 1870 Agricultural Census below.

Fritz Elver, 1870 Agricultural Census (Included 80 acres of the Western Farm.)

Acres improved = 220
Acres Woodland = 60
Other unimproved = 20
Value of Farm = $9,000
Value of Farm Implements and Machinery = $395
Total value of wages paid including board = $1,000
Number of horses = 9
Number of Milking Cows = 5
Other cattle = 3
Number of sheep = 13
Number of Swine = 22
Value of Stock = $1,900
Bushels of Wheat = 2,060
Bushels of Corn = 550
Bushels of Oats = 1,400
Bushels of Barley = 220
lbs. of wool = 52
Bushels of Irish Potatoes = 50
Pounds of Butter = 200
Tons of Hay = 10
Value of animals slaughtered and sold for Slaughter = $400
Estimated value of all farm production including betterments and additions to stock = $ 3,500

At this time, we believe Fritz was starting the process of building his cattle business. Given the type and number of crops produced, it appears that Fritz was concentrating on growing crops to sell to generate revenue while slowly building his swine and cattle herd. The 1870 Dane County Agricultural Census shows that Fritz did not have that many cattle at this point. Fences probably had to be put up, and the cheapest way to increase the herd was to breed the cattle and sheep, keeping the females to increase their numbers. Therefore, we are assuming that Fritz Elver concentrated on crops to sell on his newly acquired land.

The barn provided storage for hay and straw for feeding cattle and sheep during the winter. Fritz was moving toward a cattle, swine, and sheep operation and selling excess crops. The barn is unusually large with six bays and a complete lower level for working with livestock.

Photo: Janie Starzewski

The house and barn have been remodeled but both still exist in 2020.

Here is a quote from 1877 from a history of Madison and surrounding towns:

> "The following firms are engaged in the purchase of cattle and hogs, and have convenient yards and buildings erected for successfully carrying on their business: Messrs. Dufrenne, Lyle & Richardson; Messrs. Richard Green & Daniel Vernon; Mr. Fritz Elver."[105]

By 1880, Fritz Elver's farming operation was in full swing. The 1880 Federal Census lists the Elver family living on the Old Sauk Road homestead as: Fritz (45), Sophia (40), Hugo (18), George W. (16), Emil (14), Ruthvin (3), and Victor (1). Fritz had the help of his three teenage sons and probably used hired hands like James Goth.

<u>Fritz Elver, 1880 Agricultural Census</u>

Tillable acres = 260

[105] A.B. Parmenter (Esq), "Middleton," in *Madison, Dane County, the Surrounding Towns; Being a History and Guide* (Madison WI: Wm J Park & Company, 1877). http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/WI/WI-idx?id=WI.MadDane

Permanent meadows, pasture, orchards, vineyards (acres) = 40
Woodlands (acres) = 40
Value of farm including land, fences, and buildings = $10,000
Farming implements and machinery = $300
Value of livestock = $1,300
Cost of building and repairs in 1879 = $50
Amount paid for wages for farm labor during 1879 including value of board = $500
Estimated value of all farm productions (sold, consumed, or on hand for 1879) = $2,150
Mown grasslands (acres) = 20
Tons of hay = 25
Clover seed harvested (bushels) = 2
Grass seed harvested (bushels) = 2
Horses of all ages on hand, June 1, 1880 = 11
Milk Cows on hand, June 1, 1880 = 7
Other (cattle) on hand, June 1, 1880 = 22
Calves dropped = 10
Cattle sold living = 6
Cattle slaughtered = 1
Cattle died, strayed, or stolen, and not recovered = 2
Pounds of butter made on the farm in 1879 = 600
Cheese made on the farm = 50
Sheep on hand June 1, 1880 = 48
Lambs dropped in 1879 = 23
Sheep purchased = 1
Sheep sold living = 18
Sheep slaughtered = 1
Sheep killed by dogs = 1
Sheep died of disease = 3
Fleeces, spring of 1880 = 31
Pounds of wool, spring of 1880 = 340
Swine on hand June 1, 1880 = 115
Poultry on hand June 1, 1880, exclusive of spring hatching (barnyard) = 40
Poultry on hand June 1, 1880, exclusive of spring hatching (other) = 9
Eggs produced in 1879 (dozens) = 170
Barley 1879, 40 acres planted, 1000 bushels produced
Indian Corn 1879, 60 acres planted, 2,000 bushels produced
Oats 1879 = 30 acres planted; 1,200 bushels produced
Rye 1879 = none

Wheat 1879 = 60 acres planted; 800 bushels produced
Canada peas dry in 1879 (bushels) = 4
Beans dry in 1879 (bushels) = 8
Irish Potatoes, 1879 = 1 acre planted, 20 bushels produced
Apple trees, 1879 = 2 acres with 30 bearing trees
Honey produced in 1879 (pounds) = 720
Bee wax produced in 1879 (pounds) = 10
Amount of wood cut in 1879 = 10 cords
Value of Forest products sold or consumed in 1879 = $60

Comparing Fritz Elver's 1870 Agricultural Census with his 1880 Census shows the growth in his ever increasing cattle operation.

Description	1870	1880
Value of farm	$9,000	$10,000
Value of farm implements and machinery	$395	$300
**Total wages paid including board*	1,000	$500
Value of stock	1,900	1,300
Value of farm production, including addition to stock	3,500	2,150
*** Total acres*	300	340
Improved (tillable) acres	220	260
Unimproved (woodlands, orchard, vineyards, other acres)	80	80
Number of horses	9	11
Number of milk cows	5	7
Number of other cattle	3	22
Number of Sheep	13	48
Number of Swine	22	115
Bushels of Wheat	2,060	800
Bushels of Corn	550	2,000
Bushels of Oats	1,400	1,200
Bushels of Barley	220	1,000
Bushels of Irish Potatoes	50	20
Pounds of Butter	200	600
Tons of Hay	10	25

** Children able to help now*
*** Additional 40 tillable acres*

It is hard to know much from this comparison. However, what we do see is that in 10 years, cattle numbers increased dramatically. The crops have been generally switched from wheat to corn because corn is needed for feeding his livestock. In addition, his hay production

has gone from 10 tons to 25 tons, also for the purpose of feeding his livestock. Elver Fritz's barn and outbuildings were being put to good use and he is advertising to purchase more stock.

The other factor in the 1880 Agricultural Census is how diverse his operation was. His family was subsisting on the land. Orchards, vineyards, gardens, milk, butter, eggs, and wool were consumed and probably sold. Wood was burned for heat in the winter and for cooking year-round.

Of course, the fact that in 1879 his farming operation produced 720 pounds of honey, and 10 pounds of bee wax is quite impressive. In the same year of this Dane County Agricultural Census (1880), Fritz Elver showed off his bee operation at the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society at the fairgrounds in Madison (Old Camp Randall). The Wisconsin State Agricultural Society was the forerunner of today's Wisconsin State Fair and in 1880 it happened to be held in Madison. It was a huge event. President Grant came from New York to be the guest speaker.

Fritz Elver bee showing results 1880 Wisconsin State Agricultural Society[106]

Fritz Elver; Best practical beehive exhibit	= Second best	= $3.00
Fritz Elver; Best honey extractor	= First	= $5.00
Fritz Elver; Best extracted honey	= First	= $5.00
Fritz Elver; Best Italian Bees, four exhibits	= Second best	= $3.00
Fritz Elver; Best and largest display of Apiarian supplies and equip.	= First	= $5.00

Fritz Elver's father, John, was also listed as beekeeper and honey dealer in Dane County Towns by Parmenter.[107] It is obvious the Elver family took bee keeping to a remarkably high level.

Story #2

Living on the Farm 1960s -70s

by Mel Pope[108]

Son of Art and Vivian Pope

[107] "Transactions of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society," 10, No. 62 (Madison Wi: David Atwood, State Printer, 1881). http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/WI.WSASv19

[107] A.B. Parmenter (Esq), "Middleton", in *Madison, Dane County, the Surrounding Towns; Being a History and Guide* (Madison WI: Wm J Park & Company, 1877): 591. http://images.library.wisc.edu/WI/EFacs/WILocHists/MadDane/reference/wi.maddane.parme01.pdf

[108] Unless otherwise noted, photos in this section provided courtesy of the Pope Family.

Life on the Farm/Working/Chores

There was always work to do at the farm, and daily chores were part of it. From October to May, chores took about 1-2 hours every morning and night, 7 days a week. The animals could not take care of themselves and you had a responsibility to take care of them every day, no matter what your own desires were. The cattle depended on you.

Chores were easier in the summertime because the sheep and cattle were grazing out in the pasture. However, the cattle and sheep were checked and counted every day to make sure they were healthy. Usually that occurred when they came up to the barn for water.

One time we noticed a cow and a calf were missing. We searched the fields and had a difficult time finding them. We were concerned they had gotten through the fences. We found them at the bottom of the CCC Spillway. The calf evidently had fallen down the spillway and the cow went down after her calf. She had injured herself, so we brought water and hay to her while she recovered. After a few days, the cow and the calf meandered down the ravine, got up on the high ground and joined the rest of the herd.

Occasionally, the sheep had a different problem. Once they got on their back, they could die because they cannot easily right themselves. When you found them in this position you would simply push them over so they could stand.

The calves were born about April 1st, and we would catch them when they were first born to put iodine on their navel and ear tag them for identification. The cows were not happy with this procedure and, on occasion, we'd leap into the pickup truck for protection. These are examples of why it was important to check on the livestock daily.

Bigger projects were done in the summer including fencing, haying, gardening, and of course getting livestock ready to show at the fairs.

Filling the barn with hay and straw was a hot, dirty job essential to livestock production.

All farms had large gardens. Without refrigeration or the convenience of grocery stores nearby, families raised most or all their own vegetables and fruit. Each year, the women needed to put up (can) enough food to last through the winter months: corn, tomatoes, jams, jellies, pickles, dried berries, and apples. Potatoes, onions, carrots, and squash were stored in a root cellar or cool basement.

During the heat of the summer, dinner was fresh out of the garden with plates of corn on the cob, tomatoes, and cucumbers in vinegar to make sandwiches on white bread. Dad would plant corn every three days so it would ripen consistently through the season.

Dad was in a never-ending battle with the racoons who loved his corn! Finally, as he aged, he discovered the joys of a Farmer's Market and retreated from the battle.

Lucy Pope, Art and Vivian's daughter

Photo: Jeff Martin

Art Pope checking sheep at the shed.

Ewes in winter eating nice second cutting hay high in protein content.
Picture taken facing east toward the stone fence.

In the fall and winter months, the cattle remained out in the fields and hay was taken out to them every day with a tractor and wagon. When the snow got too deep to do this, we used an old upside-down car hood loaded with hay and towed out to the cattle by snowmobile.

The pregnant ewes initially were housed in the shed with the ability to get water and hay in the paddock area.

Sheep were fed grain in the upper shed to supplement their diets. Measured quantities of grain and hay were taken up to them every morning and evening along with fresh water. Straw was used at night for bedding.

Livestock Chores: Shearing Sheep

Art helped teach shearing school at the UW Field Station in Spooner, WI for many years and taught two generations of the Pope family how to shear. Art helped shear the sheep into his eighties.

The shearing process began when sheep were brought to the shearing floor at the front of the barn. Sheep were set on their rumps and their hooves were inspected and trimmed. Shearing is truly an art form. The shearer must keep the sheep in certain positions during the process. At any time, the shearer should be able to control the sheep with his/her legs and have both hands free to do the actual shearing. If the shearer is "out of position," the sheep will struggle to get free. It is very hard on the shearers back as they are bent over all day struggling and shearing. On a few occasions a shearer will have a difficult time standing up straight again after shearing for long periods of time.

When sheep are sheared, there is a certain sequence to the position of the sheep when different blows (strokes) are required. There are two main objectives to protect the wool during shearing. First, you need to shear close to the skin to avoid "second cuts." One of the factors to the value of wool is its length, and cutting the wool twice shortens the length. Second, if the

Three generations of Pope's shearing. Counterclockwise: Art, Mel, Brian, and Brad

shearing is done properly with the right position of the sheep and the right sequence of blows, the fleece should come off like one big blanket.

If the shearing is done properly the fleece can be spread out like a blanket.

After the wool is laid out on the cutting floor, the fleece is tied and ready to be weighed before being put into the wool bag.

Wool being tied with clean (skin) side out.

Bagging the wool. Brad Pope, one of Art's grandchildren, is climbing down into the wool bag.

Brad magically appears when the bag fills with wool.
Notice the scale for weighing the wool.

The wool was weighed so that the production characteristics of each animal could be tracked over time. When the shearing was done, the wool was taken to Milwaukee and sold.

<u>Livestock Chores: Lambing Season</u>

Pregnant ewes in the lower barn ready to shear before lambing.

As lambing season was about to begin, the ewes closest to lambing were taken down to the lower part of the barn. They continued to be fed measured amounts of grain and hay twice a day and always had fresh water. At night, straw was spread to bed them down.

Shearing took place in late February – early March. The objective was to shear the sheep right before they lambed. One of the reasons for doing this was to eliminate confusion for the lambs when they were born. They would know where the ewe's teat was versus a clod of wool.

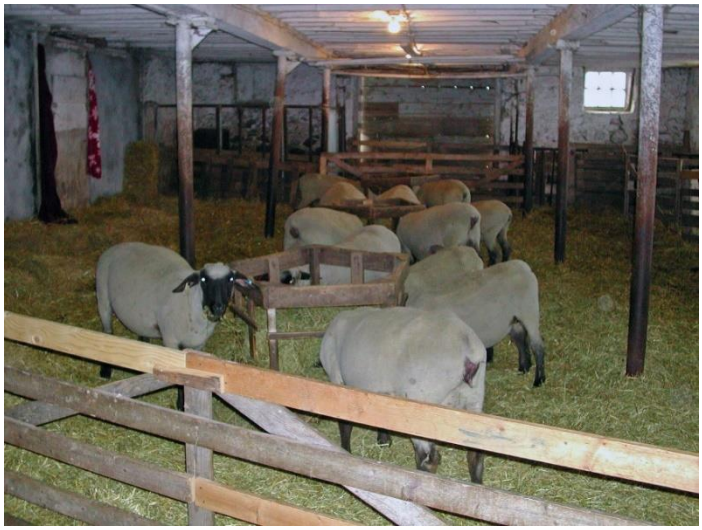
Lamb suckling ewe that has been sheared.

On the sheep side of things, the lambing crop would be a determining factor in whether the season was profitable. The goal was to achieve a 200 percent lamb crop or two lambs for every ewe. Most ewes would have twins, some would have singles, and others would have triplets. The ewes were intently watched and needed to be checked throughout the day and night. Many a time we would walk down to the barn on a cold February night around 2:00 a.m. to check the ewes. There was no heat in the barn, but it was a bit warmer there because of the thick walls and the body heat of the sheep.

When a ewe was lambing, we wanted to make sure the ewe did not need help. However, if help was necessary, we all knew how to help deliver the lambs. If the ewe was having twins or triplets, it took a lot of waiting down in the barn. Once the lamb was born, iodine was put on the navel and we helped the lamb get some colostrum (first milk) from the ewe. Colostrum contains antibodies that protect newborns against disease. The ewe and lamb were put together in a pen of their own for a few days.

Lambing pens where the ewe and her lamb could be separated from the flock.

The lambs also had to be fed grain, hay, and water separately. Sometimes it would be necessary to use heat lamps to keep the newborn lambs warm, but not often. After the ewe had recovered, the ewe and her lambs were turned into the main area in the lower barn with the other ewes and lambs.



Main feeding area in the lower barn where ewes and lambs were fed together.

If a lamb needed adoption, we would put it in a small pen with a new ewe and hold her head so the new lamb could suck, trying to get the ewe to own it. The ewe can tell her own lamb by sense of smell. Then, there were times when we had no alternative and had to bottle feed a lamb.


Art's grandchildren Brian and Michelle help feed the lambs in the 1980s.

Spring brought out the grass, and the sheep were turned out to graze. One of the highlights of the year was when we opened the lower barn door to the great outdoors. The lambs had never seen anything like it. Some were afraid to leave the barn, but when they did, they would run frantically, jump, and spin around. They could not contain their joy to be in a new world.

All those sheep spending winter in the barn left about two feet of manure! Cleaning the barn was a huge project. The manure was tossed onto the manure spreader with a pitchfork (later we would use the neighbor's bobcat). The smell of ammonia made our eyes water as we 'pitched manure' down in the barn.

It is during the spring season that livestock farmers try to predict the weather in the up-coming summer to guess how much acreage to dedicate to hay production[109] and how much for grazing. The farmer must predict how much hay they need to feed their animals in the winter versus how much acreage they need to graze (feed) their animals over the summer months. One must decide, in an "either-or" scenario, do I make hay or let them graze a field? Art often said, "A farmer doesn't have to go to Vegas to gamble."

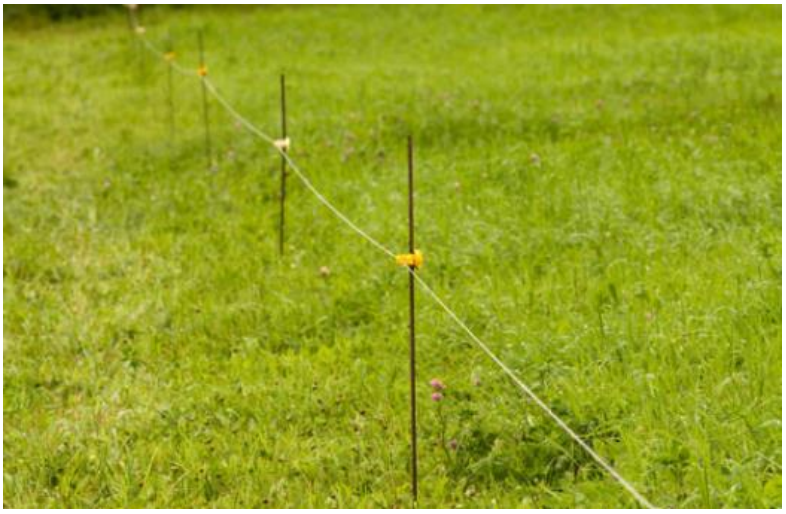
When Art had his greatest number of cows and ewes, he needed more hay for the upcoming winter than usual. Anticipating that there would not be enough grazing acreage, Art again turned to his old friend, Gilman Voss, to lease his large hilltop pasture[110] for his cows to graze for two months in the summer. Why just the cows and not both sheep and cows? Cows eat (graze) much more than sheep, so cows would relieve more grazing demand on the Pope Farm acreage and make sure the feed would last through the year.

Relatively new in the late 60s and early 70s was portable electric fencing. Temporary, battery powered fences were becoming rather easy to put up and maintain to contain grazing cows and their calves. Cattle only need one electrified, "hot" wire to be contained. On the other

[109] Technically called "first cutting hay."

[110] On the east side of the present corner of Timber Lane and Serene Court.

hand, sheep need multiple strands nearer to the ground where the hot wires can get shorted out by grass touching the wire. Today, with fiberglass rods, lightweight aluminum wire and solar powered chargers, it is even easier to set up temporary livestock fences. Fencing has come a long way from the labor needed to build a stone fence!



Electric fences are low cost, effective, and easy to put up and take down.

Story #3

From 1880 to 2020 - How Agriculture has Changed.

In 1880 Charles Schenck was farming a 120-acre farm which included what today is part of Pope Farm Conservancy and where Pope Farm Elementary School is located. He had been farming and clearing the land since 1865. In 1880, Charles Schenck filled out the 1880 Agricultural Census form for Dane County. This census was extensive and revealing. It showed the cost of equipment, the number of cattle, the production and yield of his crops, and the fact that his farm produced $800 in 1879. This included food his family consumed. We chose this census as the beginning point of a comparison because it is the only extensive information available from that time period for lands directly affiliated with Pope Farm Conservancy. When Charles Schenck ran the farm in 1880, his net production of food could feed approximately four people. Today, in 2020, a farm the same size could produce enough food to feed approximately 42 people.

Charles Schenck 1880 Agricultural Census

Tillable acres = 110
Woodlands = 10
Value of farm including land, fences, and buildings = $4,000
Farming implements and machinery = $500
Value of livestock = $400
Cost of building and repairs in 1879 = $20
Amount paid for wages for farm labor during 1879 including value of “board” = $60
Estimated value of all farm products (sold, consumed, or on hand for 1879) = $800
Horses of all ages on hand, June 1, 1880 = 4
Milk Cows on hand, June 1, 1880 = 6
Other on hand, June 1, 1880 = 4
Calves dropped = 6
Cattle sold living = 5
Pounds of butter made on the farm in 1879 = 350
Sheep on hand June 1, 1880 = 2
Fleeces, spring of 1880 = 2
Pounds of wool, spring of 1880 = 17
Swine on hand June 1, 1880 = 16
Poultry on hand June 1, 1880, exclusive of spring hatching (barnyard) = 40
Poultry on hand June 1, 1880, exclusive of spring hatching (other) = 2
Eggs produced in 1879 (dozens) = 200
Barley 1879, 3 acres planted, 100 bushels produced

Indian Corn 1879, 10 acres planted, 400 bushels produced
Oats 1879, 7 acres planted, 208 bushels produced
Rye 1879, 3 acres planted, 52 bushels produced
Wheat 1879, 35 acres planted, 450 bushels produced
Irish Potatoes, 1879, 1 acre planted, 150 bushels produced
Apple trees, 1879, 1 acre with 30 bearing trees
Value of Forest products sold or consumed in 1879 = $40

So, what would this Agricultural Census look like if it were taken in 2020? The world has changed in the last 140 years. If Charles Schenck were alive today, he would marvel at the incredible story of American agriculture since his time.

100 years earlier, in 1798, Thomas Malthus warned that the geometric increase in human population would someday surpass our ability to produce food and result in a pandemic failure to feed the world.[111] Amazingly, between 1880 and today, the opposite has happened, thanks to advances made in American (and international) agriculture. The number of people in the world has increased from 1.7 to 7.8 billion, yet the percent of the world living in extreme poverty has decreased from 80 to 10 percent. In 1880, the average person in the United States spent 43 percent of their wages on food, today it is 9.7 percent.

Presently, far from starvation, the average American eats 600 more calories per day than those living in 1880, obesity rates in the U.S. are over 40 percent, and Americans lead the world in wasting over 20 percent of their food. The average weight of a soldier in the Civil War was 143 pounds versus a 20-year-old man today at 198 pounds.

How has agriculture production increased since 1880 when Charles Schenck was here?

The following paragraphs highlight six significant advancements in agriculture that allowed for a massive increase in food production; recognizing that this list is by no means inclusive of all the new technologies that have impacted farming since 1880. In the United States, this is an amazing story of how fewer farmers (6 million in 1880 vs 2 million today), on less land (175 acres of agricultural land is lost every hour to development), have geometrically increased food production and outpaced human needs.

<u>Food Storage</u>

Food has a shelf-life. Food will eventually perish. The list of six key advancements that resulted in improved agriculture output starts with the broad category of improving our ability to store food. Grain must be dried before being stored or it will get moldy and rot. Grain must be drier than it normally was at harvest gathering time when Charles Schenck was farming in

[111] For classroom discussion of Malthusian theory, see Topic #2 on page 187.

the 1880s. Today, improvement in plant genetics allows corn, for example, to be drier at harvest.

The ancient Egyptians let the grain dry in the sun prior to storage. Today we might call that a fancy bird feeder, as all kinds of birds and rodents have a keen desire to eat grass seeds (which is what most grains are). In 1880, and for several decades following, one-third of a rice crop was destroyed and eaten by rodents in the paddies and in storage. So, grains are now stored in complete containers (bins) away from all kinds of predation and away from being rained on and getting wet. Additionally, through mechanization and relatively) cheap fuel (discussed later), grains can be dried, stored for years, and then traded as an international commodity.

Photo: Jim Witkowski

Grain Bins in Goodyear, Arizona [112]

Refrigeration has a high impact on the ability to store milk, meat, fruits, and vegetables. Keeping food cold significantly slows, almost stops, bacterial growth. Until recently, milk was temporarily stored in milk cans kept in cool tanks surrounded with well water, typically in a "milk house" or "milk shed". Today milk is kept refrigerated from moments after milking until it arrives in the grocery store.

[112] Photo by Jim Witkowski found on Unsplash. https://unsplash.com/photos/ZaVUNY5rHmY

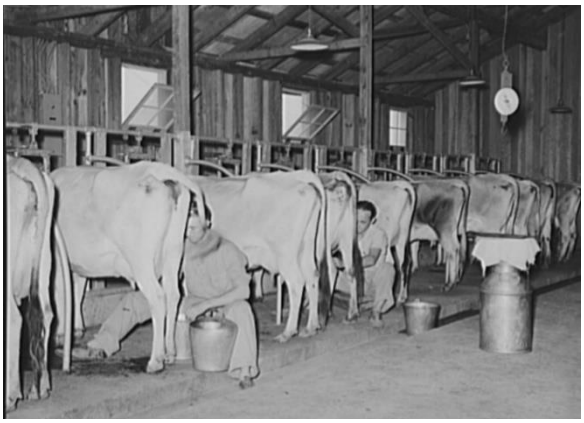


Photo: Russell Lee

Milking cows. (1938)[113]

Michigan State University Extension

Milk tank truck. (2019)[114]

In 1857, Louis Pasteur heated milk and postponed the souring process. Before 1890, when pasteurization of milk started in the U.S., milk was "stored'' as cheese. Today it is common to pasteurize milk and many other foods. Milk can be stored roughly three to five times longer than untreated "raw" milk. Since 1890, three significant events allowed for safer processing and storage of milk and meat; mandated pasteurization of milk (except cheese) to destroy disease pathogens (1987); the initiation of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (1883) and passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act (1906)[115]; and the first formalized Veterinary School in the U.S. (1879).

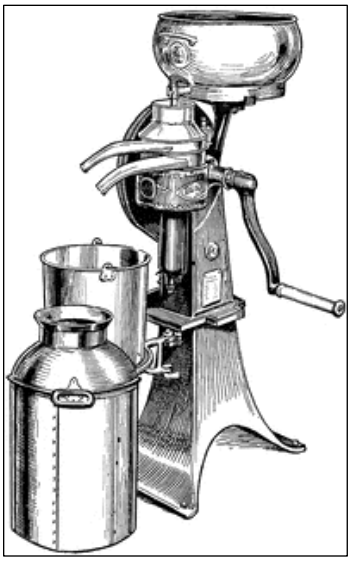
In 1878, Gustaf de Laval merchandized the cream separator making it possible to separate the cream more easily and quickly from milk, then refrigerate it, reducing the chances of the milk souring. In 1890, Dr. Babcock at the University of Wisconsin, developed a quick and reliable test to measure butterfat content in milk. Today, milk is immediately and continuously refrigerated from the farm to the store, pasteurized and homogenized at the factory, and sold on the basis of pounds of milk and milk fat.

[113] Russell Lee, photographer. "Milking cows in dairy barn. Lake Dick Project, Arkansas," Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Black-and-White Negatives (October 1938). https://lccn.loc.gov/2017781572

[114] Philip Durst, "What is going on in dairy?" Michigan State University Extension (November 20, 2019). https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/what-is-going-on-in-dairy

[115] Dr. Harvey Wiley (1883). The Pure Food and Drug Act (1906) also known as the 'Wiley Act'.

Louis Pasteur patented a pasteurization process. (1873)[116]



Cream Separator[117]

Mechanization and Transportation

Call it the Green Revolution or the Industrial Revolution, one begat the other. In 1880, 50 percent of the labor force were farmers. That percentage dropped quickly as working at a factory job in the city became more profitable and more appealing. Today, only two percent of the work force is in farming.

"My horse gets tired", Charles Schenck would say, but today we would never think of a tractor getting tired. Soldiers returning from World War II had witnessed what mechanized machinery and a country that was "scaled up" to produce cheap machines/tractors could do. Although there were gasoline powered tractors in 1892, after World War II, all of a sudden a farmer could, and wanted to, "work" a bigger field.

[116] Found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Pasteur

[117] Emmet S. Goff and D. D. Mayne, *First Principles of Agriculture* (New York: American Book Company, 1904): 168. Found at The Florida Center for Instructional Technology, https://etc.usf.edu/clipart/27200/27260/cream_separa_27260.htm

Ears of corn were picked by hand and thrown against a 'bang board" to then fall into the wagon. (1931) [118]

Photo: *Wolfgang Eckert*

Today, kernels of corn can be harvested at a rate of 30 tons per hour. [119]

At the same time the government recognized the importance of interstate travel for commerce and national defense. They began massive new projects to upgrade river and barge transport, dams then nuclear reactor construction for electrical supply, and the all-important development of the interstate highway system. It was the perfect storm for supporting the profits associated with expanding ALL aspects of marketing food.

Photo: USDA

Grain moved efficiently by river barge. (2019)[120]

[119] Walter R. Wullschleger, "Gathering the Corn Crop," *Marshall County News* (December 4, 1931). https://sites.google.com/site/kurtandjane/home/reverend-walter-r-wullschleger/gathering-corn-crop

[119] Image of corn combine harvest by Wolfgang Eckert (2020) from Pixabay. https://pixabay.com/photos/corn-harvest-combine-harvester-5604152/

[120] USDA photo, "Moving Grains: Barge, Rail Traffic Face Continuing Flood Problems," (June 6, 2019). https://agfax.com/2019/06/06/moving-grains-barge-rail-traffic-face-continuing-flood-problems/

Technology

All food originally comes from plants, which in turn get their energy from sunlight. Most food producing plants have leaves to convert sunlight into starch (carbohydrates). To a farmer, maximizing the pounds of starch per acre equates to more food per acre.

The body composition of some insects is up to 40 - 60 percent protein. Where do insects go to get a good source of protein? Plant leaves, particularly alfalfa and soybean leaves, are some of the best sources of protein in the environment, so naturally insects eat leaves. Farmers have maximized photosynthesis per acre and pounds of starch per acre, by controlling insects. Producing safe insecticides, and to keep generating new pesticides that compete with an insect's ability to become resistant to those treatments, is a very technical science. Advances in pesticides have had a high impact on most forms of grain production and storage.

Computers, computer chips and Bluetooth technologies are everywhere in modern agriculture. Today, fertilizers can be drilled in the fall and automatically injected at different rates depending on satellite imagery of soil type, testing, and topography. Then, in the spring, when the farmer starts to plant that same field, they can place seeds exactly on top of last spring's fertilized site. So, the whole field does not have to be fertilized. Similarly, computer chips can monitor each cow's feed and milk production plus her body temperature that day and her activity when she is eating and when she is laying down. We can monitor how 20,000 genes are interacting with 20,000 other genes at any moment in production. One experiment that monitored all those genes interacting with each other generated so much information that the major university where that study was done had to double the whole university's computer system just to manage all the data.

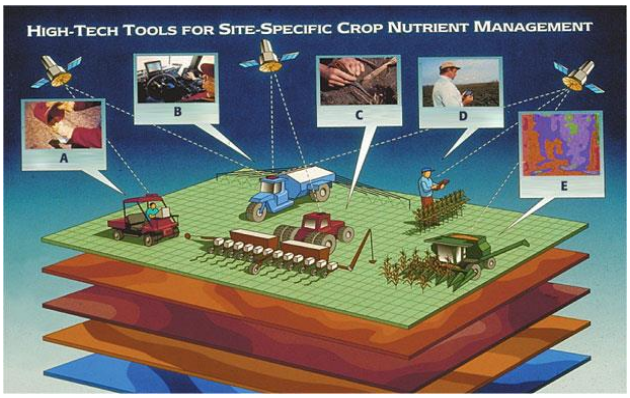
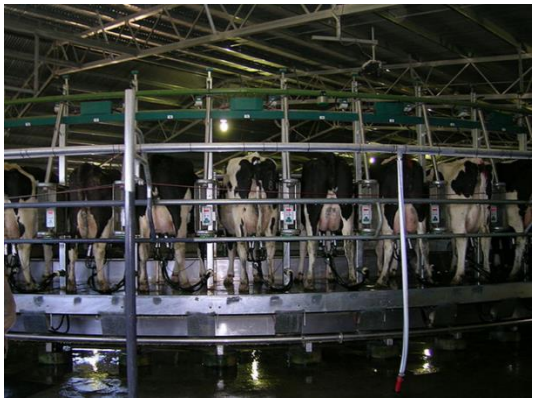


Figure: C Goodwin

Precision Farming Model. (1996)[121]



80 stand rotary, computerized milking parlor. (2009) [122]

At present, dairy farmers know how many steps a cow takes each day, how much energy the cow uses to walk around, and how the energy to walk competes with energy to make milk. Is she walking on a flat and level field or a hill or incline? How many bites she will take in a day till her mouth gets tired and therefore, how to make a pasture denser with plants, so she consumes more in each bite. Dairy farmers can transfer excess heat from their milk cooler (refrigerator) to warm the water the cow drinks. When she drinks warm water instead of cold water she doesn't waste energy to warm the water up to her body temperature in her stomach. That saved energy will be used for making more milk.

A new technology that animal producers use today controls the sex of their animal's young. Cattle, for example, are raised for meat or for milk. A producer might select primarily male calves for meat production as they grow faster. By controlling that a cow gives birth to primarily a heifer/female calf, more cows are put into dairy production.[123] There is presently such a need for new milking cows that who will raise a female calf from birth through adolescence and who will eventually own and milk that cow has all been predetermined.

Sometimes forgotten in the modern world is the impact of disease(s) on families and communities. A better diet accounts for some resistance to disease, but the advent of vaccines and immunizations have literally been lifesavers to people today. In 1880, a significant number of diseases were spread through the handling and processing of food and/or the food itself. Through the work of the USDA Safety and Inspection Service, communicable diseases and

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[121] S. Sonka and Y. Cheng, "Precision Agriculture: Not the Same as Big Data But…." *farmdoc daily* 5, No. 206, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (November 5, 2015). Figure 1: A Mid-1990s View of Precision Farming from the CCNetAg Group, Sonka and Coaldrake (1996). https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2015/11/precision-agriculture-not-the-same-as-big-data.html

[122] By Cgoodwin - Own work [adapted], CC BY-SA 3.0 (May 14, 2009). https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6792607

[123] For classroom discussion of dairy cow inbreeding, see Topic #5 page 188.

parasites from animals, for example, have been significantly reduced and in some cases virtually eliminated. Likewise, drug withdrawal times prior to slaughter are constantly being evaluated and monitored for all animals and birds before they enter the human food chain. Unquestionably, between 1880 and 2020, food became much safer and more wholesome.

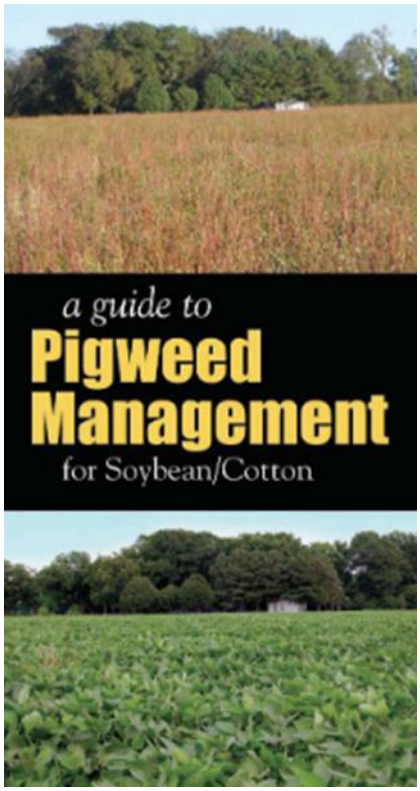
Cheap Energy

Most of the older generation will remember when gasoline was over $4.00 a gallon. Since 1880, energy has been relatively abundant and inexpensive. Modern farmers use a lot of fuel. Tractors and all kinds of equipment use gas or diesel. The driers to dry the grain use primarily natural gas. The supplies a farmer orders to keep all the wheels on the farm turning and hauling grains or animal products to market require fuel.

Another big need for fuel is the transport of fertilizers. Without the addition of fertilizers to grain fields, production would be lower and eventually unprofitable. Not adding fertilizers to a field is called "mining the field." As a mine removes valuable minerals from the earth and obviously doesn't replace them, so too when a ton of grain is removed from a field, many pounds of organic minerals and water are also removed. Minerals must be replaced with fertilizers for new plants and crops to grow.

Genetic Improvements[124]

Weeds in a pasture for animals or a grain field do two things: 1) they can produce toxins that can be detrimental, even kill, animals or humans that consume them and/or, 2) compete for sunshine and moisture in the soil and reduce that starch per acre goal mentioned above. A farmer in 1880 who spent hours hoeing a field by hand would think they were in Heaven if he or she could see a weed-free field of wheat, soybeans, or corn. Even the concept of a weedless field would have been unthinkable.



A weed infestation (top) in 2009: A treated crop in the same field (bottom) in 2010.[125]

[124] For classroom discussion of genetic improvements, see Topic #4 on page 188.

[125] Extension brochure from the Arkansas Soybean Promotional Board and University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/cotton/guide-pigweed-management-aspb.pdf

In 1865, Gregory Mendel discovered the fundamental laws of inheritance in peas by controlling the parentage from different male and female parts of pea plants. He was controlling which plant "crossed" with another plant. Plant biologists have since developed the technology to further control plant genetics by inserting genes that make the host plant resistant to a specific herbicide. A field of such plants, like a field of GMO (genetically modified organisms) corn, can be sprayed or treated with a herbicide that kills all plants except the grain producing host plant – a weedless field is created. This concept of a weed free field was unthinkable in 1880 but is common today.

Every aspect of a plant's performance can be improved from generation to generation through gene selection. This is called Mendelian genetics. The terms "hybrid corn" or "hybrid vigor" are straight out of Mendel's early (but crude) description of segregating genes from parent plants that were inbred (called homozygous). This produces, after crossing, a level of production called heterosis, higher than the average of the pure parents. Examples of row crop plant characteristics that have been improved by heterosis and other genetic mechanisms include drought and disease resistance, seed/grain production, faster maturity, better seed germination, and more preharvest moisture loss (or drying). Agronomic companies throughout the U.S. have impressively improved virtually all aspects of every crop plant's ability to produce grain (seeds).

Charles Schenck produced 40 bushels of corn per acre in 1880, and today 180 bushels per acre can be produced. Likewise, comparing yields in 1880 and today, wheat yields rose from 2.2 to 8 tons per hectare and rice from 1500 to 7500 pounds per acre. Before we just race by those numbers, we have witnessed and benefited from four to seven-fold increases in grain production through continually using better and better genetics. Similarly, every aspect of a forage plant's ability to survive on a pasture and support grazing animals has improved. Plants now live longer into the winter, have more and bigger leaves. Additionally, if a plant is too short and gets overgrown by taller forage "breed" plants, it can be bred to be taller. Forage plants are bred to be more drought resistant, more desirable for grazing animals to eat, and more resistant to specific plant diseases. Today, forage crops can produce ten tons per acre versus a typical bluegrass pasture in Charles Schenck's 1880 field that would have produced one to two tons per acre.

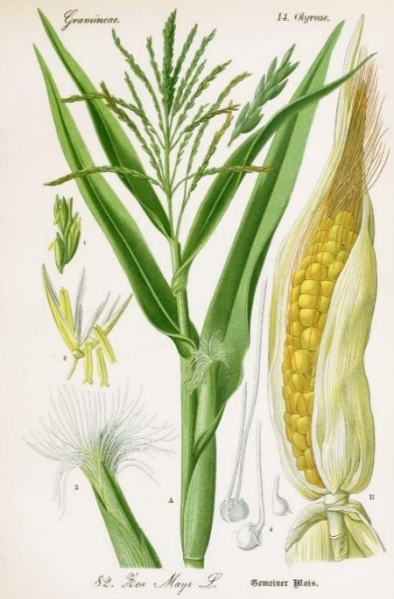


Illustration of corn plant (1903)[127]

Photo: Altamir Lavoratti

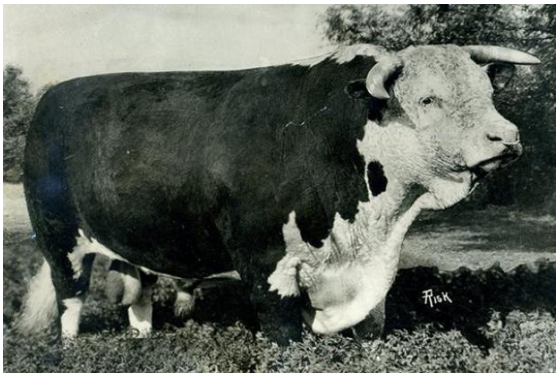
Modern Field Corn[126]

Genetic selection allowed for impressive advancements, but so does the deliberate importation of certain plant species. Since 1880, the most significant crop to gain acceptance has been soybeans, imported originally from China in 1765. By the late 1800s soybeans might have been grown near the homestead farm, although from the census we know Charles Schenck did not grow any. It was thought that this rather bushy and leafy soybean plant might be good for a pasture forage. However, in 1904, soybeans were switching over to become a row crop because of their high content of protein. Soybeans are sometimes called the "meat of the field" because the protein content in its fruit and its grain is equivalent to meat. It is such a good source of proteins and oils that by 1950 the U.S. became the biggest exporter of soybeans. As history often flips on itself, China is now one of the biggest importers of soybeans from the United States.

Charles Schenck probably would not recognize how genetics has changed animal production. Beef cattle today are, on average, twice as heavy as cows in 1880 (1600 vs 800 pounds). Dairy cows went from producing 1800 to 8400 Kg of milk per year. Even though the number of dairy cows has fallen by 70 percent, total milk production has increased.

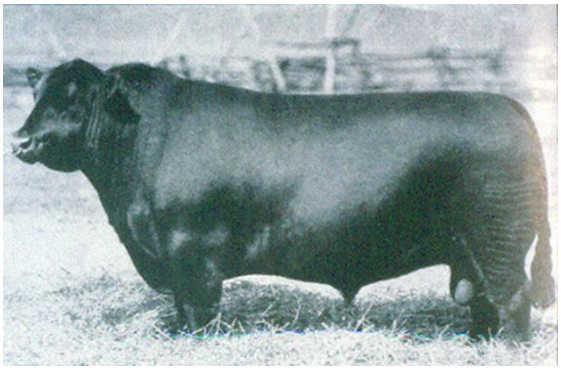
[126] Image by Altamir Lavoratti from Pixabay. https://pixabay.com/photos/corn-yellow-rural-ruaral-show-more-774710/

[128] Illustration of Corn, Antique Botanical Print (circa 1903). https://pfaf.org/user/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Zea+mays



Prince Domino, Hereford bull. (1915)[128]

Modern polled Hereford bull.[129]



"Idolmere", Grand Champion Angus Bull, International. (1919)[130]

Photo: Mark Sims

Grand champion bull, LSU Junior Angus Show. (2017)[131]

In another example, through genetic selection and technological advancements in diet formulation for pigs at each stage of their growth, a pig born at three pounds can weigh 260 pounds six months later. Imagine if people grew that fast! In 1880, pigs were sold at about half that weight. Similarly, raising chickens is now split between those raised for egg production and those for meat. Those raised for meat can, through genetic selection, convert almost a pound of feed into a pound of gain in body weight. A chicken is "sent to market" to be processed into food seven weeks after it hatches.

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[128] Jes-c French, "Otto Fulscher and his astounding bull are local legends," *The Holyoke Enterprise* (2017). https://www.holyokeenterprise.com/ag-business/otto-fulscher-and-his-astounding-bull-are-local-legends

[129] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hereford_cattle

[130] Harlan Ritchie**, "**Historical Review of Cattle Type," *Animal Science Staff Paper* 390, File No. 19.112, (Revised July 2002). https://msu.edu/~ritchieh/historical/cattletype.html

[131] Mark Sims photo, American Angus Association (2017). Comite Hills Blue Chip 1513 owned by Wyatt Olsen, Saint Francisville, LA. Louisiana State University AgCenter. http://www.angus.org/Show/ShowResultsDetails.aspx?ShowId=DgAAAESb3As7JgRBskRK1yhHYcI%3D

Genetic improvement has a storied history of being accelerated by using artificial insemination. Using this technology, one bull can father up to 2000 cows! So genetically superior sires can produce many, many more offspring than what was possible in 1880. Nine million dairy cows are presently related to two "super" bulls. Cattle are rather unique in how many offspring can result from each bull collection, so these results are limited to cattle versus pigs, sheep, horses, or chickens. That is why there is a large AI (artificial insemination) industry in cattle. All commercial turkeys in the U.S. are now artificially inseminated, primarily because of physical disparities and structural differences between todays large toms (males) and hens (females).[132]

Specialization

From Charles Schenck's time in 1880 to 2020, the sixth and final factor to improve food production and respond to economic pressures, was a natural progression to specialized farming. In 1880, farming was considered 'subsistence farming', but the higher cost of living after 1880 promoted a shift to the specialization farming of today. People living off the farms typically worked in factories and as the industrial revolution progressed, they were paid comparatively more and had more disposable income than farmers. The cost of living increased as well.

In 1880 Charles Schenck had, for all practical purposes, some chickens in the driveway, a few dairy cows, a couple sows and a boar, a team of horses, an orchard, and a huge garden. Sunshine was free and, barring any unfortunate incident(s) and a somewhat reliable rainfall, farm families were relatively self-sufficient. Of course, the heartbreaks, the unfortunate incidents, always came and changed those "best of intentions". For perspective, in 1930, midway between 1880 and 2020, 58 percent of farms had one car, 13 percent had electricity, 34 percent had a telephone, and 70 percent of farms milked cows. If Charles Schenck wanted to remain on the farm in 1880, support his family and buy things that were increasing in value (land, housing, clothes, car, gasoline, lumber etc.), he had to obtain more and more income from his farm. But, farmers were competing with city dwellers who could pay more for similar things in the common marketplace.

If you were good at a unique thing, or your land allowed you to produce a unique product or provide a service better than someone else, you shifted your time and costs into that specialized food or service. (See Holmes story in Chapter 4: Western Farm, page 139.) For example, the muck ground up by Tomah, WI, is uniquely suited for making bogs to raise cranberries. Those farmers specialized in raising cranberries because they could make more money at doing that than someone not living in that area.

[132] For classroom discussion of artificial insemination, see Topic #5 on page 189.

Some farmers specialized in milking cows, others in growing corn, still others in raising beef cows and selling calves for meat. Often these decisions were based on the topography, soil, climate, etc. For example, dairy cows need uniquely high-quality forage, called alfalfa hay. Corn needs a 100-day growing season and cotton needs hot-humid weather with some rain almost every afternoon. So, cotton is grown down south, corn in Iowa and southern Wisconsin and alfalfa hay and milking cows in northern Wisconsin. As another example, one-third of the world's agricultural land is non-tillable as the land, soil, and rainfall are too poor or too uneven to support row crops. This land can only be used as pasture and is used to raise beef cattle as cows are cheap grass-grazing animals.

To keep up with inflation, agriculture also increased to scale – farms got bigger. In 2020, the average farm is over 450 acres and each farmer feeds 166 people. By comparison, net production at Charles Schenck's farm of 120 acres could feed about four people in 1880, and net production on the same land today could feed about 42 people.

With time and competition, the profit margin for farmers became smaller and smaller. Today, farmers receive only 15 cents for every dollar spent at the grocery store for food. In 1880, farmers received 31 cents per dollar of groceries. After 1880, those farmers who remained small had difficulties making a livable wage and supporting their families. Many lost their farms and moved into the cities to get jobs that paid more. Unlike 1880, small farmers today are not making a living from "the farm" itself. They are making their living through non-farm means. About half of today's farmers sell less than $10,000 worth of food per year. Estimates are that only large farmers who bring in gross receipts of more than $350,000 per year are "living" off the land as farmers. Likewise, as these large farms scaled up, they could afford expensive things like huge tractors, specialized equipment, and irrigation wells and pivots. Being able to afford large machinery helped them gain additional production advantage over smaller farmers. So, it's not surprising that these larger farms are only four percent of all farms yet produce two thirds of the food.

Foods from different kinds of crops also grew and specialized. In 1880, Charles Schenck raised barley, corn, oats, rye, and wheat mostly for the subsistence of his family. Today, half of all the crop income is from corn and soybeans. The uses of corn grew into new products: corn as a food, processed into chips, corn starch, corn syrup, and ethanol for fuel. We are so specialized in corn production that during growing season, NASA has documented that more "photosynthesis" (carbon fixation) is seen in the Corn Belt[133] than the rest of the world. "Our friend corn", has exploded . Presidential candidates desiring a photo op with farmers will

[133] The Corn Belt states include Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

inevitably go to Iowa and stand in front of some large grain bins. That is the perception of what a farm is in 2020.

Ok, Great, But at What Cost to the U.S.?

Most things in life come at a cost and the final portion of this discussion will challenge the reader to consider the costs for these impressive changes in agriculture - to individuals and to our society.

The following is written for Middle or High School students to consider and to spark further discussions. Often these topics, after being introduced to the reader, will end with a question. Some of the following issues are those which the students might already be aware of; students and teachers might have additional issues to consider.

1. Food is Requisite to Life.

There is no argument that food is requisite to life. Collectively, the increases in food production have promoted world peace, assisted the less fortunate people of the world, allowed our society to enjoy interests other than food gathering, increased longevity and our standard of living, and reduced disease and hunger across the world. Wars are fought over resources, including food and good farmland. Depriving people of food has, throughout history (even in your grandparent's lifetime), been used as a weapon to control people and, at its worst, win wars.

2. The Malthusian Trap

The Malthusian trap, eluded to on page 174, where the population growth exceeds the food supply has not happened. American farmers held off the terrors of human needs, surpassing the demand for food through advancements in food storage, mechanization, transportation, technology, cheap energy, genetic improvement, and specialization of farms. Had it not been for the tremendous increase in food production and distribution, the world would look much different: pandemic hunger, human agony, and perhaps wars over resources.

Question: How would your family be affected if food were difficult to get?

3. Biological Diversity

Biological concerns that come with our present agricultural practices might raise some broader societal issues. On the grand scale, biological diversity allows for a broad genetic pool of organisms to respond and adjust to change. Today, we control hundreds of acres to produce just one species of a plant (crop). Usually in nature, if one thing becomes abundant, something

else will increase, to bring the predominant species back into balance. Nature is often a dynamic pendulum of species competing with each other for available resources.

Question: With less diversity, can environmental changes upset this competition or allow for adjustment to an imbalance fast enough?

4. Genetic Selection

Biologically, plants and animals have thousands of genes. Corn, for example, has one defined characteristic of yield that is definitive in a genetic selection program: tons per acre. By changing the frequency of those related genes and putting much more selection pressure on pounds of corn per acre or the weight in a kernel, tremendous improvement has been achieved. But, without more of a balance, or without considering more characteristics, other gene frequencies or characteristics wane. For example, wild corn has historically been nine percent protein. Now, without putting any emphasis on the percent of protein, corn is eight percent protein. Again, yield is the paramount criteria of selection at the expense of protein content.

Questions: *We need a balance of nutrients in our diets. What do you think about changing the composition in a common food source? In this case, we can rather easily adjust to another food to supplement that 1 % lower amount of protein in today's corn.*
As long as the change in composition of a food is made known to the public, is this change in the percentage of protein in corn significant or alarming to you?

5. Artificial Insemination

In the genetic improvement section on page 180, we discussed how, as a result of artificial insemination, the resulting daughters (cows) have more milk production. Biologically, we are pushing the envelope of interrelatedness (called inbreeding coefficient) of dairy cows. (See page 186.)

Question: Is reducing the diversity in animals, like reducing plant diversity (#3), acceptable?

6. Use of Hormones

Beef cattle destined to be food and enter the human food chain are sometimes treated with hormones to make them grow faster. To assure the public that none of these hormones are still in the animal at slaughter, the federal government licenses and monitors the use of these hormones. Animals must have a waiting period from when the drug was last administered to when the animals can enter the food chain. The federal government also monitors all aspects of the research that goes into scientifically determining this waiting period,

called a ‘withdrawal period’. Groups of scientists independently examine how fast these hormones are metabolized and eliminated from the body tissues (including muscle and fat).

Question: *Do you trust scientific experiments to establish that these ‘withdrawal Periods and Protocols were conducted properly?*

7. Pigs in Farrowing Crates

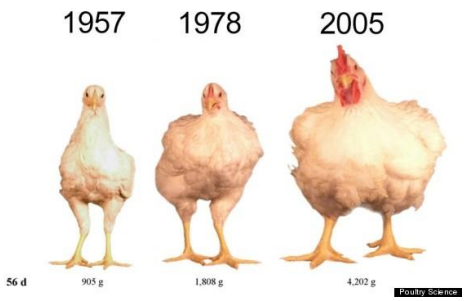
Pigs now-a-days grow very fast and they live their entire life inside a climate-controlled building. Even though pigs have good fresh feed and clean water to drink, these buildings have a ripe, ammonia smell. It is common for a mother (sow) in an open pen to accidently lay on one of her dozen, 3-lb piglets. This can permanently damage the bones or joints of their piglets or crush them to death. To prevent this and protect the piglets, a few days before giving birth, the sow is placed into a farrowing (the word for pigs giving birth) crate. A farrowing crate is narrow enough so the sow cannot turn around. Its purpose is to allow her to have controlled “laying down” movements instead of a quick flop. Farrowing crates have strong metal bars projecting off to the sides of the sow that are high enough to shelter the piglets and to help them move away when the sow lays down. For three weeks, until the piglets are weaned, the sow lives in these farrow crates where there is not enough room for her to turn around. We like to live in climate-controlled houses, but we like to independently move around.

Question: Do you think that the mother pig should have enough room to turn around while nursing her piglets for three weeks if it means the piglets could be crushed to death? Which is more important?

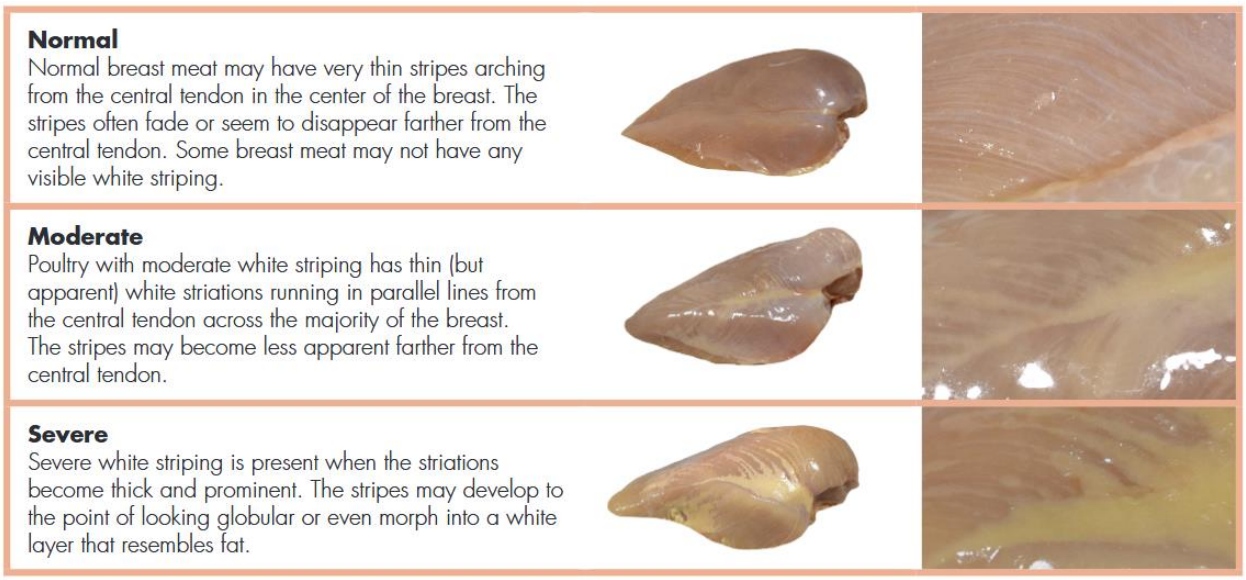
8. Free Ranging Chickens

In several pictures of farming in the early days, you’ll see chickens roaming freely and being fed by the children of the family. (See Brumm and Cole photos in Chapters 3 and 4, pages 86 and 136.) Today, many commercial chickens that lay eggs are kept in small cages. On other farms, chickens can freely go outside and have natural interactions with their environment. When consumers buy eggs in the store, they are voting, through their purchasing power, on which method of raising chickens they prefer.

Genetic change in chicken's physique in 50 years.[134]



White striping in broiler breasts "is more prevalent in frequency and severity as the growth rate of broilers increases."[135]



The science of raising chickens for meat has gotten so specialized that a significant number of birds and turkeys do not, and cannot, live a normal life span. Even if they could live a normal lifespan, they would have problems with their immune, skeletal, muscular and heart/circulatory systems. Many birds would be crippled and unhealthy if allowed to live a normal lifespan.

Questions: Is that ethical?

Some people argue that because they are normal right up until they are killed for processing, the birds are not suffering. What do you think?

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[134] M.J. Zuidhof, et al, "Growth, efficiency, and yield of commercial broilers from 1957, 1978, and 2005," *Poultry Science* 93, No. 12 (2014): 2970-82. Adapted from Figure 1. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4988556/figure/f1

[135] Rebecca Fortner and Amand Mohan, "White Striping in Broiler Breast Meat," *UGA Cooperative Extension Bulletin* 1472 (March 2017): 3. Figure *3.* https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201472_1.PDF

9. Tail Docking of Sheep

Today, some people raise traditional farm animals for reasons completely different from those of farmers like Charles Schenck did in 1880. Many people who own sheep are not sheep farmers. Now-a-days, a significant number of people only own their sheep for a few months then show them at a fair or livestock show. Many exhibitors do not raise their lambs from birth, they simply buy their sheep at an auction from professional show "club lamb" sellers, house these lambs for a few months, show them, and then sell them to someone else. They're called market lambs.

In the United States, between 1880 and the 1970s, farm lambs and show lambs had a (distal) portion of their tail removed in a procedure called 'docking'. Docking is a precautionary treatment to prevent a buildup of feces that encourages 'fly strike'. This leaves a little tail stub of two to four inches that you see in sheep on a farm.

Longer docks on sheep shown in England. (2016)[136]

But today, many of the market lambs exhibited at the county and state fairs across the U.S. are completely missing their tails. Presently, some market lambs are docked so short the tail is slightly pulled to remove the last joint (see illustration below). The result is that none of the tail structure remains – they are 'short docked'. Not having any tail is strictly for cosmetic purposes as some think it makes the lamb's rump musculature look bigger when they are being judged. But without the normal structures in the tail, it can be difficult for the lamb to hold the rectum in a proper position when the lamb defecates or coughs. When that happens, they can get a painful medical condition called a rectal prolapse.

[136] The short docking trend has changed in England. Dr. Bob Leder, "Docking tails too short: A risk for our industry's image and our animals," *Shepherd Magazine* 62, No. 2 (February 2017): 13. http://americanromney.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Tail-Docking-2-2017.pdf

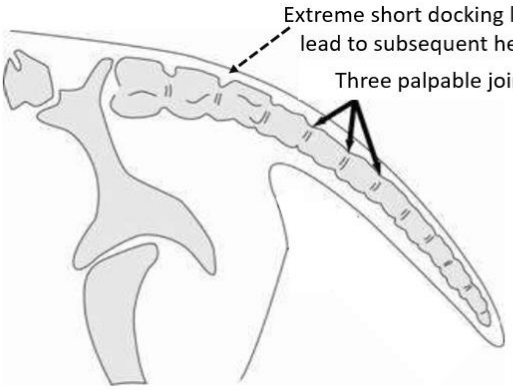

Diagram of joints in lambs' tail and note on short docking length.[137] *Normal docking would be at one of the three palpable joints.*

Short dock at lamb sales in the U.S. (2016)[138]

At show auctions, "club" lambs are already docked by the club lamb professionals, so when inexperienced exhibitors buy these lambs they might not know of the medical problems with short docking. They might just be following what club professionals tell them has become acceptable in the show ring. But a well-known 2003 university study published was in a scientific journal. They concluded that short-docked lambs "so that virtually no tail remains, results in a significant increase in the incidence of rectal prolapse … *a fad promoted by the show ring that compromises the health and well-being of sheep.* The practice should be abandoned."[139]

Today it is difficult to Google up a rear-end view of club lambs. They are almost exclusively shown from a side view, so their docked end is intentionally hidden on social media.

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[137] Adapted from Australian Veterinary Association Sheep Standards and Guidelines Writing Group, "Sheep Standards and Guidelines, Tail Docking – Discussion Paper" (January 2013): 7. http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/files/2011/05/Sheep-Tail-docking-discussion-paper-5.3.13.pdf

[138] Leder, "Docking tails too short,"15. http://americanromney.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Tail-Docking-2-2017.pdf

[139] D.L. Thomas, et al., "Length of docked tail and the incidence of rectal prolapse in lambs," *Journal of Animal Science 81, No. 11 (*2003): 2725. https://doi.org/10.2527/2003.81112725x

Yet, short-docked lambs are right out in the open for the public to see at fairs and livestock shows. There's been serious discussion of short-docked lambs in the show ring. Club professionals and youth leaders certainly understand that short docks have a higher incidence of developing prolapses and yet they continue to promote this practice. So, we have to ask, do exhibitors seeking prizes and money also know that there's been a call to abandon this potentially painful medical practice?

Questions: *Should people who don't own sheep have a say in the practice of short docking?*
If the showring is a different use of sheep, does that excuse short docking?

10. Pollution of Lakes and Streams

Another ethical question to consider is introduced in the following scenario. We know exactly how much phosphorus to feed a cow to make her grow or produce the maximum amount of milk and be at her peak health. Biologically, it is impossible for all the phosphorus fed to a cow to be absorbed in her body. A small portion of the phosphorus that is fed, like any mineral, vitamin, or nutrient, will pass straight through the cow (or a human) and be excreted. Excess phosphorus from humans and animals ends up on the land or in the soil. If it gets into waterways it can accelerate aging of lakes and streams. Reducing phosphorus run off from farms is promoted to reduce algae contamination of waterways and lakes.

Question: Do we, or do we not, feed cows enough phosphorus to be at their best health?

11. Agricultural Advancements

Finally, we have discussed the changes in food storage, mechanization, transportation, technology, genetics, cheap energy, and specialization.

Questions: What would happen if we began rolling back these advancements in Agriculture?
What would be the advantages and disadvantages?

12. Growing Up on a Farm

Progressing to some societal issues that might have resulted from the changes to agriculture between 1880 and today, consider the following. Half the population in the U.S. in 1880 grew up on a farm. They had to work very hard. Children spent most of their day working with their brothers and sisters, father and mother, and probably grandparents and another relative or two. They worked in the kitchen, garden or out in the barn or fields. They had a lot

more contact as a family. They were probably in relatively constant conversations, no TV and no iPhone. They were busy working hard for a common goal.

Question: What might be different about those children and their philosophies as they grew up than children or families today?

13. Life Experiences

Growing up on a farm you probably came to understand the importance of nature, the importance of a timely rain, how the summer heat affected plant growth, and the importance of working especially hard to get a crop harvested before the weather changed. They learned that hard work often pays off and you get rewarded with a better crop. If you raised livestock, as most did, you learned some difficult life lessons. You became familiar with 'the cycle of life'. You saw and helped animals being born but also, unfortunately, saw animals you cared for die. You probably saw a competition for life between your animals and natural predators. That predators out in nature that could, and did, compete with your desire to raise food. You became familiar with all kinds of animals and how they behaved. You learned that you had chores to do and had to take care of the livestock no matter how you felt, and no matter what else you wanted to do. As a family, you fought through hardships and through tribulations like an unexpected hailstorm ruining a crop or a drought or an early frost making some weeds in the pasture poisonous. You learned, first-hand, you could fight through many of life's setbacks. You learned where food comes from and that there are seasons to life, some good, some tough.

Question: How do you think that children who grow up on a farm have a different outlook on life?

CHAPTER 6 - CHURCH AND SCHOOL

The First Lutheran Church

From the First 150 years of the First Lutheran Church photo book.[140]

The congregation of First Lutheran Church was established by immigrants from the Mecklenburg region of Germany. In September 1852, Gustav Polkow invited a few of his German neighbors to worship in his home. As time went by, he and Friederich Niebuhr alternated hosting and leading the group in worship. Fourteen heads of families made up the first congregation.

Courtesy: First Lutheran Church

Log Cabin Chapel built in 1854.

Since, in the course of years, more settlers arrived, the church members decided to build a small chapel even if it be only tiny and meet the most necessary needs. A report from 1854 concluded that every family head should bring one long and one short building beam. Mr. Friederich Niebuhr donated one acre of land for a building site and for the cemetery. On a predetermined day, the members arrived, each with a span of oxen dragging two building beams. The day of erection was determined, and no one was missing to help with the building of the chapel and to see his own materials used.

The chapel was still not completed on the inside. It was decided to give every member the job of providing a bench for their own family. Since there was no particular

[140] Katie Carter McEnaney (Ed.), "The First 150 years of the First Lutheran Church" (2016) np. Text referenced to the HistoricFirstLutheranMiddleton.org

pattern provided for them, the benches were of varying lengths, widths, and heights but everyone was happy to come on Sundays and celebrate God's word in the ways of their forefathers.

Because of the increasing population in the area, the discussion of building a new and lager church was brought up repeatedly. Mr. Gustav Polkow donated one acre of land for church and cemetery." In May of 1866, the new church was completed. 31 families donated $82 for its construction.

Courtesy: First Lutheran Church

New Chapel First Lutheran Church built in 1866.

The settlers and owners of the land which currently comprise Pope Farm Conservancy were intimately involved with the First Lutheran Church. Some were part of the congregation before the first chapel was built, another preached at the church, some were part of the church expansion and relocation in 1866. The First Lutheran Church was the central part of the social and religious fabric of the Mecklenburg community for over one hundred years. Baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals, and worship brought these people together week after week, and year after year.

Although we do not know how all of the owners of the land that currently comprises Pope Farm Conservancy were involved with the church, we do know how some of them were. The following is what we do know.

Courtesy: First Lutheran Church

Reverend Charles Schenck

Charles Schenck was pastor of First Lutheran Church from 1859 to 1883 and oversaw the move from the log cabin chapel to the frame structure that we know today. Charles Schenck owned and operated the Eastern Farm from 1865 to 1883. Today, part of Pope Farm Conservancy and Pope Farm Elementary School sit on what used to be his homestead. Charles Schenck and his wife Christine are both interred in the First Lutheran Cemetery.

Charles T. and Henrietta Schwenn were one of 31 families that donated materials and $82 each to build the church in 1866. Charles T. was Reverend Schenck's son-in-law, served on the church council for many years, and sang with the German Maennerchor (men's choir). Charles T. Schwenn and Henrietta, owned the Eastern Farm from 1889 to 1914. Both are buried in the First Lutheran Cemetery.

Charles and Rosina Brackenwagen lived on the Central Farm from 1854 to 1861. We are not sure about their involvement in the First Lutheran Church. We do know that his niece was buried in the First Lutheran Log cabin cemetery, and his son Charles, might have been buried there as well.

John and Rosetta Prien were one of the 14 families that started the First Lutheran Church and helped build the log chapel. John and Rosetta's oldest daughter Mina was the first person baptized in the First Lutheran congregation. John Prien owned the Central Farm from 1860 to 1864. John and Rosetta also donated $82 for the church expansion in 1866. The Pope Homestead sits on what used to be John Prien's farm. John and Rosetta are both interred in the First Lutheran Cemetery.

John and Louise Wittenburg were one of 31 families that donated materials and $82 to build the church in 1866. John sang with the German Maennerchor of the church and sat on the church council. John owned the Central Farm for 15 years. John and Louise are both buried in the First Lutheran Cemetery.

J.W. and Rekka Wittenburg were active in the First Lutheran Church. J.W. Wittenburg sang with the German Maennerchor (men's choir) and was a trustee of the church. They owned the Central Farm for 18 years.

Elmer Brumm was active in the First Lutheran Church and went to confirmation there. He owned the Central Farm for 25 years.

John Elver and Mary Elver were one of the 14 families that started the First Lutheran Church and helped build the log chapel in 1854. They also donated $82 for the church expansion in 1866. John Elver was part owner of the Western Farm for two years. John Elver was instrumental in securing the Western Farm for his son-in-law James Harloff. John and Mary Elver are interred in the First Lutheran Cemetery.

John Teckam sang with the German Maennerchor (men's choir) at the First Lutheran Church and contributed $82 for the church expansion in 1866. John Teckam was part owner of the Western Farm in 1854 to 1856.

John Stolte was a member of the First Lutheran Church and is interred in the old log chapel cemetery. He was part owner of the Western Farm from 1854 to 1856.

James and Dora Harloff were one of the 14 families that started the First Lutheran Church and helped build the log chapel in 1854. In 1866, James and Dora contributed $82 toward expanding the First Lutheran Church. James Harloff was the first to settle on the Western Farm and built his homestead there in 1856 -1857. He farmed that land for 10 years. James and Dora Harloff are buried in the First Lutheran Cemetery.

Fritz and Sophia Elver were members of the First Lutheran Church and gave $82 for its expansion in 1866. Fritz sang with the German Maennerchor (men's choir). Fritz Elver owned the Western Farm for 22 years. Sophia Elver is interred at the First Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Henry Prien was one of the 14 founders of the First Lutheran Church, helped build the log chapel, and in 1866 contributed $82 for the church expansion. Henry Prien was an investor in the Western Farm for a brief period of time. He and his wife Mary are both interred in the Frist Lutheran Cemetery.

We are sure there was much more involvement than what is listed above, but certainly these are examples of the interaction between these Mecklenburg farmers and the First Lutheran Church. It was the center of their lives for over 100 years.

The Famous Engel - Brumm Wedding – 1890

In October of 1890 Charles Brumm married Lena Engel in a wedding that is somewhat of a legend in Dane County. The marriage celebration lasted for three days and was described in the following newspaper article from the *Capitol Times* in Madison years later.[141] Charles and Lena Brumm purchased the Central farm in 1908 and built their home which still stands- today as the Pope Farm Homestead.

A Wedding Unmatched.

By Betty Cass, Day by Day
Capital Times, 1890

As they lingered, at lunch one day last week, on the details over the royal English wedding, several Madison women began to recall elaborate weddings of their own memories. Each one remembered was more than the preceding one, until someone remembered the Engel-Brumm wedding celebration in 1890 that lasted three days and set a record for weddings in Dane County which has never been surpassed as far as anyone present can remember.

At the time it was customary, in the German Settlement around Middleton, for a "bidder" to ride to homes of all prospective wedding guests to invite them to the ceremony in style. When Lena Engel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Engel, who lived five miles South of the present village of Middleton, settled on the date of her wedding to Charles Brumm then, the next task the young couple had was to choose the "bidder" who was to carry their invitations.

They chose William Lubcke, a close friend, and on the appointed day, William started out, dressed in his best, riding a fine horse, and armed with a list of wedding guests and the invitation in rhyme, which he had memorized.

Now, word of the approaching marriage had "got around," of course, and when William arrived at the home of each potential guest, the guest, or guests, went on to the porch to greet him. William, in his turn, rode into the yard and up to the porch where he recited the invitation rhyme with many flourishes. When it was finished, the head of the household thanked him, accepted the invitation, and then pinned on him or his horse a ribbon, a flower, or a silk handkerchief.

The "bidder" left all of these bright bits just as the guests pinned them on, and by the first time he had reached the end of his list, he was a gay figure indeed, with his "colors flying." In the case of William Lubcke, "bidder" for the Engel-Brumm affair, he must have truly been a magnificent sight for there were two hundred families – not individuals, but families…invited.

[141] Article provided by the Brumm Family.

As the day of the wedding approached, the bride, her aunt, and her bridesmaid, Minnie Lambert, (who is now Mrs. Oscar W. Engel, 111 Rutledge Street) baked forty-eight cakes, twenty-five apple pies, eighteen lemon pies, and innumerable cookies, and her mother and a few assistants baked bread and coffee cake, and enough fry cakes for an army.

The ceremony itself took place on Friday morning…October 31, 1890…in the nearby church, and when the wedding procession wound its way back to the Engel home from the church, there was William the "bidder" still in his decorations, leading the way. And when the guests arrived at the place, there was William, already dismounted, but still decorated, waiting to welcome them. Other male members of the wedding party, the ushers and the best man, also rode horseback, but beside the bridal carriage, and the rest of the guests followed up in other carriages.

At noon, the wedding banquet was served…to more than four hundred people, and at night another wedding feast, almost as elaborate, was served, with the reception and considerable jollification going on in between.

After "supper" the guests repaired to the granary, where a floor had been laid, and danced to the music of an enthusiastic German band until morning.

Saturday there was sort of a breathing spell while the men went home to do chores more thoroughly than they had done them the night before, women went to look after small children or change their clothes for fresh ones, and the bride and her mother, aunts, cousins, and the bridesmaid took inventory of the larder and made more pies and cakes and bread and cooked more meat which had been butchered especially for the occasion.

But Saturday night everyone started in all over again, first with a big dinner, and then with dancing and games and singing, and it wasn't until dawn Monday morning, after a third night of dancing, that the last guest went home and William, the "bidder," who had been one of the main "spark plugs" of the entire celebration, was able to take off his decorations and relax.

It was, as the Madison women, some of whom were guests at the wedding, recall, the most successful wedding celebration ever held hereabouts, and the marriage was equally successful. The Brumm's, both of whom are now dead, lived together happily for half a century and their five sons and one daughter are living nearby: Carl, Leslie, Alva, and Elmer on rural routes outside of Madison and Middleton, Forrest in Crestwood, and Marie is Mrs. Marie Boy in Milwaukee.

The custom of the "bidder" died a few years after this wedding, however, and this, Mrs. Engel, and Miss Ida Engel, sister of the bride who still lives in Middleton, may account for there never having been another so successful.

Pleasant Site School

The public-school system in the Town of Middleton started with the farming community in the 1850s. Tax records from as early as 1853 show that the farmers were paying a school tax. In the Town of Middleton there were eight or nine schools. Many were one room schools located within walking distance of the surrounding farms. The school that served the families that lived on the land that is currently Pope Farm Conservancy was called Pleasant Site School.

Courtesy: The Brumm family

Pleasant Site School, Old Sauk Road

The school was located on Old Sauk Road, and the building has been converted into a small house which still stands today.

The image below shows where the Pleasant Site school was located on Old Sauk Road. It was about one mile east of Pope Farm, on the south side of the road.

Google.com/maps

Pleasant Site School in Relation to Pope Farm

History of the Pleasant Site District in the Town of Middleton

Quoted in context from the Veterans Centennial History of Middleton.[142]

"On the 23rd day of April 1858, notice was served by William Anketell, Town Superintendent of Middleton, on John Ben to notify every member of the school district to meet on the third day of May, 1858, at 5 p.m. for the purpose of forming a new school district.

The meeting was duly held May 3, 1858. F. Niebuhr was elected chairman of the meeting. The following school officers were elected: F. Niebuhr, Director, Francis Brackenwagen, Treasurer, and Cotton Durgin, Clerk.

An annual meeting the Monday of September 1858. The same school board was re-elected and the meeting voted to raise $50 to pay teachers wages, etc.

Minutes of a later date, September 27, 1868, indicate that his old school was on the East ½ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 16, which would be the present William Bauman farm, right across the road to the West of the First Lutheran Church. The minutes of that date show that another meeting was to be called to organize a new school district.

This meeting was held on April 10th, 1869. John Findorff was elected Director, Henry Taylor, Clerk, and James Benn, Treasurer.

[142] Daniels, "Souvenir veterans centennial carnival," 79.

They voted to build the new frame school on the Northeast corner of Section 21 which is now the Don Wittenburg farm. It further ordered that the building be started on June 1, 1869, and that they have five months of school that summer.

An adjourned meeting held Oct. 4, 1869 revealed that a motion was carried to raise $1,400 presumably to build the new school, and conduct affairs of the district. There is a possibility that some of the money was borrowed, for at another point in the meeting $600 was raised for building purposes, and $400 for the teacher's salary, wood, and miscellaneous expenditures. This meeting also voted to have two 3-month terms, one in the winter, and one in the summer.

Perusal of old records reveal that many interesting customs prevailed. For example, money was often borrowed from private individuals instead of banks. The minutes of a meeting on Feb. 14th, 1871 indicate that the district paid Annie Mechricke three hundred- and 20-dollars interest.

Present officers of the Pleasant Site District, Herbert Jacobs, Treasurer, Elmer Brumm, Director, and Harry Pierstorff, Clerk."

The setters and the owners of the lands that today are Pope Farm Conservancy were involved with public education shortly after the lands were settled. Fritz Elver, who controlled the Western Farm for 22 years, was a member of the Pleasant Site School board. J.W. Wittenburg was on the school board for many years. The Wittenburg family owned the Central Farm for over 50 years. Elmer Brumm was a director of the Pleasant Site School board and the Brumm family owned the Central Farm for another 50 years. The School District was small by today's standards and everyone had to do their part for their local school to operate successfully, and they did so.

<u>Quotes from Former Students of Pleasant Site School</u>

Shirley Grob Storkson

I attended a one room school on Old Sauk Road known as Pleasant Site School, from 1939 to 1948. I loved school and was a good student. Some activities developed at school to help with the war effort (World War II). We picked milk weed pods to harvest the part of the pod that was used in making life preservers for the Navy. We worked in the fields after school down by a marsh on the Brumm farm. We got very tired.

Janice Brumm Haynie

I started school in 1942 and had three classmates: Tom and Ann Phillips, and Donald Pierstorff. My grade schoolteachers were Mrs. Fuller, Helen Haas, Mrs. Henningson, and Mrs. Hoagland (who married to a U.W. student after the war). Milda Williamson taught the 7th and 8th grades.

Eric Nelson

I was a student at Pleasant Site school from 1947 thru 1953 1st through 6th grade. Pleasant Site was a typical "one room schoolhouse" with an Outhouse [outdoor toilet]. The driveway went around the schoolhouse, so people didn't have to back out of the driveway. At recess, one of our amusements was playing softball in the West yard. There were a few other games we played, none of which anyone would recognize today. Walking or riding our bikes was our most common transportation mode on nice days.

I recall students, grades 1 through 8, taught by one teacher, Mrs. Wesley [Milda] Williamson. I can't remember anyone being in my grade with me, or exactly how many total students there were. Some older were Tom & Ann Philips. I believe their father was a professor at UW. Elizabeth & Billy Jacobs. She might have been my age, Billy was younger. Their father was Herb Jacobs, a writer for the Capitol Times. Janice, John & Mary Brumm, King Mahoney, Gary, Lee, Paul & Chuck Bollenbach... It was a much simpler time, but a GREAT period to grow up in.

King Mahoney

I started grade school at Pleasant Site School in 1948 and went there until it merged with Middleton Junction Grade School.

During recess in the winter, the boys would chase the girls who ran into the girls' outdoor toilet. While they were in there, the boys would throw snowballs through the air vent opening in the peak of the roof and snow would splatter all over the girls.

The school did not have indoor plumbing, so the families took turns bringing the drinking water each day. It was placed in a 5-gallon container that had a bubbler hooked up to it. You pushed a button and the water bubbled up. The excess water ran down a tube and out the building to the ground outside.

CHAPTER 7 – POPE FAMILY

Introducing the Popes

Arthur "Art" Pope
1921 – 2010

Art Pope was born in Caldwell, Idaho and raised on an 83-acre hardscrabble farm in southern Michigan during the Depression. The hard work needed to survive during those tough years had an impact on Art for the rest of his life. Living on a farm at that time was an advantage because they had huge gardens that could feed the family. At the age of 12, his parents purchased Art a Hampshire (breed of sheep) ram and two Hampshire ewes as a 4-H project. This would be the beginning of a long love affair with sheep and sheep farming.

Art was the first in the Pope family to go to college. In 1938 he went off to Michigan State University and began studies in Animal Science. Art helped his way through college by working in the MSU sheep barns as a herdsman. Art received a bachelor's degree in Animal Husbandry from MSU in 1942, then headed for the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he earned a Master of Science in Animal Nutrition in 1943 and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Animal Nutrition in 1946. Art spent his career as a faculty member of the Department of Meat and Animal Science at the UW-Madison where he taught and conducted research in animal science and small ruminant nutrition for 43 years. He served as Department Chair for 12 years before retiring in 1989.

While a student, Art married Vivian Tretsven in 1944. Prior to Vivian's death in 1973 they raised four children: Mel (1945), Kathy (1947), Lucille (1951), and Bill (1953). After Vivian's death, Art married Elizabeth (Betty) Nord Zoerb who shared his life for 37 years. Betty, who was

also widowed, brought three sons into their marriage: David (1946), Hans (1948), and Erik (1953).

In the late 1940s and the 1950s, the family lived on Madison's west side. One of Art's responsibilities was to be in charge of the university's sheep flock at the Hill Farms (where the Hilldale shopping complex is located today). He travelled the State of Wisconsin teaching farmers about raising sheep, shearing, and was always there for assisting 4-H clubs. Vacations and holidays were usually spent on the small farm in Michigan with his parents and his flock of sheep. In addition to his wife and children, Art enjoyed a family of students, farmers, and fellow academia throughout the world.

In the early 1960s Art, Vivian, and the family moved way out in the country to establish Pope Farm on Old Sauk Road. Art brought his Hampshire flock over from Michigan and added beef cattle as he began farming part-time. At the peak of his farming operation, Art was farming about 240 acres of land with about 65 ewes and 30 head of beef cattle. At the same time, he continued his duties on the University faculty.

In the 1970s and through the rest of his life, Art traveled the world and enjoyed life with Betty and his new expanded family, including his grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

As Art retired, he watched the urban development spread rapidly west toward his farm. He was approached by many developers who wanted to purchase at top dollar and develop the land, especially the land overlooking Lake Mendota and the Capitol. As the City of Madison tried to acquire some of his property through condemnation to build a water tower, Art decided that the land was unique and too beautiful to be developed. To preserve this unique property, he helped the Town of Middleton acquire and establish a 105-acre educational conservancy.

As the conservancy was being created, Art was thrilled to watch its development. His favorite time of the year was when fourth grade students would come to the Conservancy for field trips. Cane in hand, Art would slowly walk out to watch the students learn about the stories of the land.

Art was an internationally renowned expert in sheep production. He conducted pioneering research in selenium/glutathione peroxidase structure and function in metabolism which led to cures for numerous nutrient-related diseases in animals. His research and educational outreach took him all over the world to advise governments and universities in developing countries on food production for USAID-CRSP. He conducted research in Australia as a Fulbright Scholar, was a Fellow in the American Society of Animal Science, and received their highest honor, the Morrison Award. For 62 years he remained as dedicated to shepherding his own commercial flock and mentoring 4-H youth as he was to conducting research and teaching.

At 12 years of age, Art's work on a 4-H project led him to purchase his first purebred Hampshire ewes. It was a flock that he cared for and nurtured for 76 years to the age of 88. He took great pride in the success of his last lambing season before he transferred the flock to UW-River Falls. Art died within a year after they were sold, passing away in 2010.

Vivian Tretsven Pope

Vivian Tretsven Pope
1920 – 1973

Vivian Tretsven Pope was born and raised in Bozeman Montana, a small, tight-knit agricultural community with the then small campus of what became Montana State University. Vivian loved any activity available in the mountains: skating, swimming, camping, hiking, sledding and horseback riding. Her father was on the extension faculty at the state college where he became known as Montana's "Father of Dairy." Vivian had strong roots in agriculture and university life.

In 1942, Vivian graduated from Montana State College with majors in Science and Physical Education, and a minor in music. She was in the first class of women allowed to receive a degree in Physical Education and was an active and dynamic student leader. After college, Vivian taught high school physical education, science, and health; one year in a small town along the North Dakota/Montana border and one year at West High in Madison.

Vivian came to Madison to spend the summer of 1943 with her brother who was studying for a master's degree at the University of Wisconsin. Her brother, Art Pope, and Ed Zoerb were fraternity brothers and it's through the fraternity that they all met, including Ed's girlfriend Betty Nord. "Viv" married Art in Madison the spring of 1944, and they settled into the Sunset Village community on the west side.

Vivian was the mother of four children: Mel (1945), Kathleen "Kathy" (1947), Lucille (1951), and Bill (1953). By the time Kathleen was two or three, Vivian realized there was a problem with Kathleen's intellectual development, a life-changing discovery. Vivian spent two years in an extensive, national search for a diagnosis and treatment protocol. She found neither.

When Kathleen was born in 1947, it was accepted practice that children with an intellectual disability would be institutionalized. Despite that social pressure, Vivian did not consider this an option. Instead, when she understood how limited the resources were for this population, she joined others who were working to create community-based resources.

In the late 1950s, a parent's movement called for public school classes for "educable" or "trainable" students.[143] In 1966, Vivian was a member of the newly created Madison Area Association for Retarded Children (MARC) and the Southern Wisconsin Education Association. These were organizations providing leadership for the creation of funding streams, group homes, special education classes, and day school resources. Vivian was fully engaged in advocating for these changes through her intense involvement in teaching, advocacy, and researching innovations.

In 1960, when the Pope family moved out to Old Sauk Road, Vivian was mother to a junior in high school, a 13-year-old disabled child living at home, a 5th grader, and a 3rd grader. That same year, she returned to the University of Wisconsin to work toward a master's degree in education (special education was not yet a career path). She also began teaching at the Verona Independent School, a retired one room school way out in the country south of town. She was paid $3,000 in 1961.[144]

As a physical education major, Vivian was thrilled with creation of the Special Olympics in 1968 and immediately began training her students to participate. In 1965 the Association for Special Class Teachers and Parents of the Handicapped presented Vivian a Certificate of Recognition for "outstanding professional competence, superior contributions, and wholehearted dedication on behalf of handicapped children." That same year, she was one of 47 teachers in the U.S. honored for daily instructional efforts by the Bureau for Handicapped Children.[145] Upon her death, the family created the Vivian T. Pope Distinguished Teacher Award

[143] Anne V Rugg (Thesis), "Children of Misfortune: One Hundred Years of Public Care for People with Mental Retardation in Wisconsin, 1871-1971," (Madison, WI: The Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities, March 1984). https://mn.gov/mnddc//parallels2/pdf/80s/83/83-COM-WCD.pdf

[144] Would equal $26,000 in 2020.

[145] State of Wisconsin, Department of Public Instruction, Bureau for Handicapped Children, *The Pointer*, 9, No. 3 (1965).

which each year acknowledges an exceptional MARC staff member. [146]

Early in 1973, Vivian passed away from cancer. Vivian's life was dedicated to her children, education, and any natural activity that would bring Montana closer. An amphitheater dedicated by the Pope family in her memory sits on the north side of the Conservancy.

Elizabeth J. (Betty) Zoerb Pope

Betty Nord Zoerb Pope
1923 –

Betty was born to Frances Marie (Spies) and Johannes K. Nord in Hastings, Minnesota in 1923. She was the youngest of 3 children. Her family later re-located to Madison where her father found work as a watchmaker. Betty attended local schools, graduating from West High School in 1941. Betty then enrolled in the University of Wisconsin where she met her future husband, Edgar Zoerb. They were married in May 1944. Betty completed her BS in 1945. After World War II, they moved to Columbus, Ohio, where Ed attended the Ohio State University Veterinary School. After Ed's graduation in 1951, they moved to Kiel, WI where they purchased a large animal veterinary practice which they operated and where they raised their three sons, until Ed passed away in 1967. Betty then returned to Madison and went back to school to get a master's degree in Home Economics at the University.

During that time, she also worked for UW Extension in Madison and then served as the Door County Extension Home Economist. In September 1973, she married Arthur Pope, and they spent the next 37 years residing in the farmhouse at Pope Farm. During that time, Saturdays were workdays on the farm for any family members around, their friends, and

[146] MARC – Madison Area Rehabilitation Center supports work sites for adults with developmental disabilities aging out of school system.

occasionally one of Art's students. (The only breaks in the Saturday work schedule was "time off" for Saturday Badger football and basketball games. Art had season tickets for both.) Also, every Saturday workday Betty prepared a huge lunch for the hungry work crew which often included a wide variety of her homemade specialties including hearty soups, homemade cookies, desserts, and a generous helping of several flavors of Babcock ice cream.

As a lifelong knitter, Betty took advantage of Art's work and connections in the wool industry, even learning to spin wool yarn and using wool from Art's sheep to knit a wide variety of items for family and friends. An accomplished seamstress as well, Betty also closely examined any potential clothes purchase to see "how well it was made". Between knitting and sewing, she usually had a "project" in process for herself or members of her blended family.

Active in a variety of community activities, Betty was a loyal and dedicated member of the West Middleton Lutheran Church. She also was a longtime benefactor and season ticket holder of both the Madison Symphony and Madison Opera. In fact, she enjoyed traveling on many Madison Opera tours to see and hear some of the world's greatest and most popular operas and performers.

Betty and Art travelled around the world, often where Art had friends or colleagues. One of their last adventures was a trip to the southern tip of South America where Art was in a group that took a rubber raft from the tour boat to see the sheep herds on Tierra Del Fuego Island. Many of these foreign friends often visited them in Madison, and Betty was a perfect hostess seeing that they saw all the local sights and were well fed. She also was the farm "business manager" paying the bills and doing their taxes throughout their marriage, well into her 90s. In 2018, Betty moved from the farm to a senior living facility. In 2019, she attended the official groundbreaking for the new Pope Farm Elementary School, named to recognize the Pope family's stewardship of the land.

Pope Farms Becomes a Conservancy

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Town of Middleton was a tranquil agricultural community. Most people knew each other, and the community was about growing crops, milking cows, and working very hard to farm the land.

Unseen at the time was the impact that would come with the ever-growing population and growth of the City of Madison. The Town was originally 6 miles long and 6 miles wide, running East from Timber Lane to the Old Middleton Road, now in the City of Madison. In the 1960s, the city began annexing town lands. The city continued to annex lands to the west, first to Gammon Road, then to the Beltline. By the 1990s they had moved beyond the Beltline with the addition of Menards on Mineral Pt. Road.

As the Town of Middleton lost more lands to the City, they were concerned about losing the Township or being cut in two. To combat this problem, the Town strategy was to purchase a green space buffer between the Town and the City. The City could not condemn land owned by another municipality so the buffer could effectively stop the City from annexing more land. The first property purchased by the Town as part of this strategy was the Eastwood Farm that ran from Mineral Pt. Road to Elderberry Road.

In the meantime, the number of housing developments in the Township were rapidly increasing. Developers were looking west and looking for properties to develop. They were particularly interested in lands with a "view" and Pope Farms were a primary target. Developers by the dozens approached Art Pope to try and purchase the property. Landscapers would ask him if they could take the stones from the stone wall - they would clean up the mess (stone fence) for free.

In the mid-1990s the City of Madison had annexed lands up to and contiguous with the Pope farms. In that environment, Art had a study done to determine the number of lots that would be possible if it went into development as part of the City of Madison. The study showed that if Art would agree to annex his property into the City, he could sell it with a density of about three lots per acre on developable land.

In 1999, the City of Madison tried to condemn part of the Pope Farms for a water tower. The land they were trying to condemn is currently the picnic area in Pope Farm Conservancy that overlooks Lake Mendota and the Capitol. The Town was genuinely concerned that, if the Pope Farms were ultimately annexed by the City, lands all the way to Twin Valley Road would be part of Madison. The Town was concerned that it would eventually be cut in half and cease to exist. They were also interested in the property because Pope Farms ran from Old Sauk Road on the south, to Blackhawk Road on the north. This property was key to linking the Green Belt with the Eastwood Farm if they were going to be successful in preventing the City from annexing more Town lands.

The Pope family had an immediate decision to make. In the early 90s, discussions took place within the family about whether the land should become green space. The family did not want to develop the land. They believed the beauty of the land and the environmental impact on area watersheds was far more important than maximizing the dollars on a land sale.

Art had studied what that land would look like if it were part a high-density housing development. If they simply let the water tower go up and annexed all three farms into the City, they would greatly increase the amount of money they would receive, because the building density would be much higher in Madison, versus the Town of Middleton.

In 1999, the decision had to be made quickly as the City of Madison began taking action to condemn the land. The family decided to support the Town's greenspace strategy and sell to the Town of Middleton for the (greatly reduced) "farmland" price. A race was now taking place between the Town of Middleton working with the Pope family against the City of Madison. A Town meeting of the residents was quickly held; the Town residents overwhelmingly approved the acquisition. Negotiations were completed in a matter of days. The land purchase agreement was signed, and the Town attorney hand carried the document to be recorded at Dane County register of deeds office. The next day the Pope family received a letter from the City of Madison stating that there should be no attempt to encumber the land in question. Madison was one day too late and today we have Pope Farm Conservancy.

The net land sale for 145 acres was completed in 1999 and the land was transferred to the Town of Middleton in the year 2000. It was agreed it would be a park and maintained as such by the Town of Middleton. It would remain free and open to the public, and not commercialized.

Part of the agreement was that the Town could sell 39.5 acres at the market price in order to defray the original cost of the purchase. In 2006 the Town of Middleton sold those acres to the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District. In order to facilitate a boundary change and add height restrictions to preserve the panoramic views from the Conservancy, the Town sold the land back to the Pope family, the changes were made, and then sold back to the Town for one dollar.

The sale of the land to the MCPASD by the Town of Middleton included the Pope family as part of that agreement. It was a wonderful transaction for the Town as they more than defrayed their original cost to purchase the land in 1999. After deducting the original cost for the purchase of the property from the Pope family, the Town of Middleton gained more than a 1.6-million-dollar windfall from that sale of the 39.5 acres to the school district.

Art and Betty Pope were thrilled with Town of Middleton's Master Plan for Pope Farm Conservancy which promotes education and agriculture.[147] The next 16 years were devoted to implementing the Plan, turning the property from working farms into a scenic, tranquil Conservancy that features stories of the land.

[147] The Pope Farm Conservancy Master Plan (2004) can be found at https://town.middleton.wi.us/vertical/sites/%7B97A50AAB-3824-4833-ACEA-EF2B9A14C856%7D/uploads/Master_Plan(1).pdf

CHAPTER 8 – OBSERVATIONS

Mel Pope,
Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy.

When I started this project, I had no idea what it would look like when it was finished. Learning the history of a recorded piece of land is quite unique. Learning about the people who lived on the land, and what they did on the land for almost 200 years was so very interesting. However, doing three farms side by side and learning the history of each was rare. Each 80-acre parcel had its own story, and differences both obvious and subtle began to appear between them. Some of these differences became patterns that revealed a few interesting observations. Please keep in mind that these are my opinions.

The Land is King

Perception of a Farm

The U.S. Government gave Genevieve Grignon one square mile of land known as a Section. It appears they randomly chose a Section to give her (other Sections scattered about were given to her sisters). I could not see where the government used any planning or thought in determining where those square mile tracts would be, no information on the quality of the land was looked at, and no specific location was requested by her. It was like shuffling a deck of cards and saying, "here is your square mile of land". She lived in Portage, and experts believe it is probable that she never set foot the land that was given to her. When Emanuel Boizard purchased the square mile of land from Genevieve's daughter, he immediately wanted to sell it. How does one sell one square mile of land?

One square mile of land (Section 17) is 640 acres. Boizard realized the easiest way to sell this land was to simply break the 640 acres down into 80-acre land parcels and sell them as farms. So, why 80 acres? It was simply because 80 is a factor of 640. So, the square mile (Section 17) was broken down into eight 80-acre farms, and eventually sold that way to the first settlers. They were 80-acre rectangles without regard to fertile land, tillable land, water, glacial debris, or forest cover. It was simply an 80-acre rectangle.

I am convinced some of these parcels were sold sight unseen to some of the settlers. When the settlers purchased these 80-acre parcels of land, what did they think they were purchasing? In my opinion, they were not purchasing just an 80-acre piece of land, they believed they were purchasing their farm or homestead, they were purchasing their future. They purchased these farms to clear and make a living in the middle of a wilderness. The enthusiasm and excitement must have been strong when they each started with their 80-acre farms in the mid-1850s.

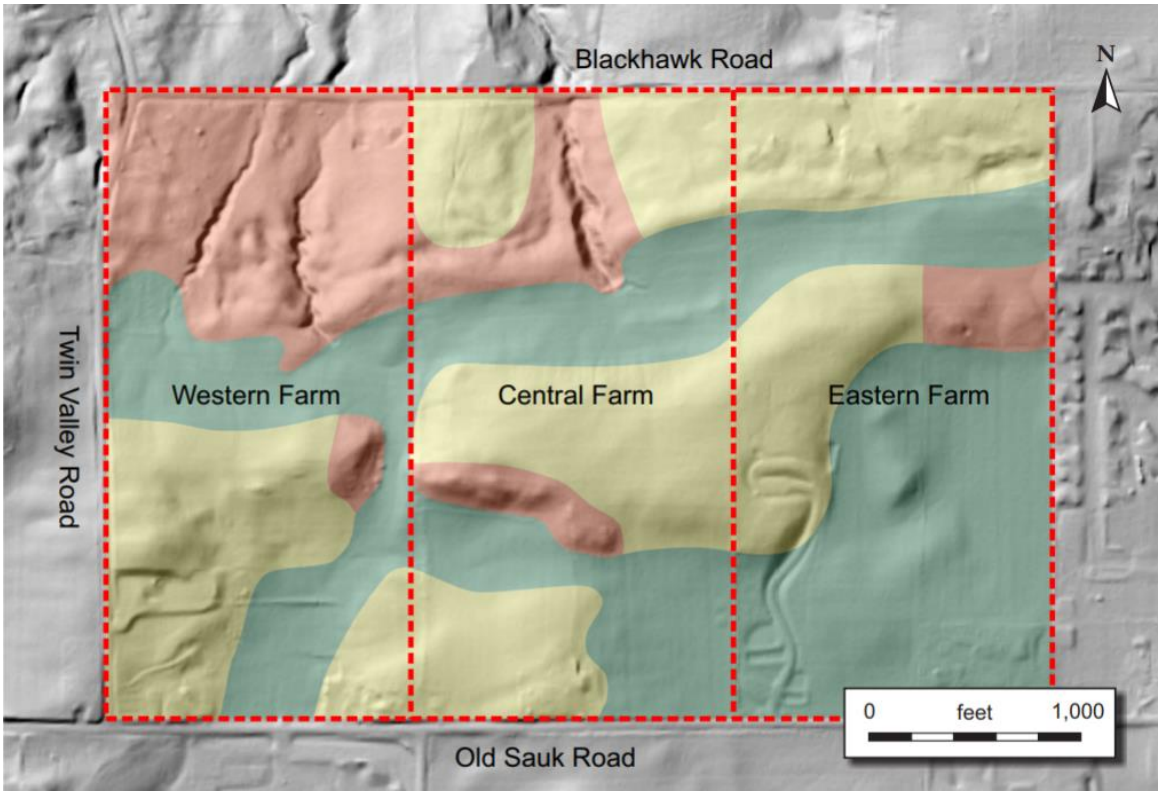
Reality

The image below uses LiDAR technology which provides three-dimensional elevation maps of the terrain by using high precision distance to the ground pulsed laser. It is accurate within inches. This image shows the dramatic differences in terrain between the three farms, and ultimately these differences will dictate the behavior of the people who farmed the land.

Least amount of glacial debris, good top soil =

Heavy glacial debris (stones), difficult to farm =

Non tillable land, to difficult to plant crops =



The terrain and the settlers, the difference between the three farms.[148]

The three settlers begin, and one of the first differences that appears between them is the amount of land they are able to clear in order to plant crops. The Eastern Farm had the least amount of glacial debris (stones), and you can see this in image above. The first measuring

[148] Courtesy of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2020.

point is in 1860 when the three settlers fill out the Dane County Agricultural Census form. At that point they have been farming their land for about five or six years.

1860 Dane County Agricultural Census

	Acres Cleared For Planting	*Value of Farm*
Eastern Farm	40	$2,000
Central Farm	32	$1,200
Western Farm	(not comparable)	

These farms are beginning to show a difference in production, taxes paid, and improvements. This can be attributed to two factors. First is the labor available and, in this case, there were two or three teenage boys on the Eastern Farm, and there were four young girls under the age of seven on the Central Farm. The second factor is a difference in the land itself. Note the amount of glacial debris the farmer had to clear in the Central Farm versus the Eastern Farm. After five years of farming, these settlers have been there long enough to realize how much tillable land is needed to raise stock and make a living. They also realized just how hard it will be to clear the rest of their original acreage because they would have saved the hardest acreage to clear last. It is interesting to see how they will deal with these realities.

The settler on the Western Farm was the first to make a move. After being there for only four years, and without clearing much of his 80-acre parcel, he purchases 40 additional acres of tillable land across the road. I believe the effort and cost it would have taken to clear his original land covered with heavy glacial debris, versus immediately purchasing better land for crops, was calculated.

The settler on the Central Farm could also see that something needed to be done. He knew how hard it was to clear the land of timber and glacial debris and knew the hardest acres to clear were ahead of him. After six years he sells the farm and moves to the Driftless Area where most of the land was already cleared and tillable.

The settler on the Eastern Farm where there was little glacial debris and better soil, continued farming until he retired after living there for about 11-12 years.

This scenario repeats itself. The Eastern Farm does well, and families live on it for years, while there is more buying and selling of the Central and Western Farms. One principal holds true, if the original 80-acre farm becomes part of a larger farming operation, the farmer will survive. However, if the 80-acre farm is the only land the farmer is farming, it will not be economically sustainable. Those who realize that the 80-acres are simply a number and has nothing to do with how much land is needed to make a profit, do well. Those who look at their 80–acre farm as their homestead, and they are going to make it work, simply can’t.

Eastern Farm

Excellent soil, 90%+ tillable land, moderate amount of glacial debris to clear. First settler owns for 11-12 years does well and retires. Second family purchases 40 additional acres of tillable land and lives there for about 50 years. Third family farms the land for about 50 years. Then sold to the Pope's.

Central Farm

Some excellent soil at bottom of hills, but much clay on top. Three recessional moraines, much glacial debris, glacial kettles, and ravines in the northern portion of the farm. About 75% tillable. First owner sells after six years, buys a farm in Green County, WI. Second owner sells after five years, moves into Middleton. Third owner sells after nine years, purchases farm of mostly tillable land in Nebraska. Fourth family lives there 30 years by making 80-acres part of a large farming operation. Fifth family lives there 50 years and the 80-acres are part of a larger farming operation.

Western Farm

Some excellent soil at bottom of hills, but clay and stony tops. Moraines running thru middle of the farm and one in the northern section with steep ravines. About 60% tillable. First family lives there ten years, purchasing an additional 40 acres in the first four years and continues to purchase more land. Second family lives there 50 years, 80-acre farm is part of a large farming operation. Third family stays 30 years, but now owned as an 80-acre farm, struggles financially and finally loses the farm in the Depression. Fourth family stays ten years, but interrupted by World War II, actually farming for five years. Could not make it go, sells, and purchases a farm in the Driftless Area. Fifth family lived there ten years. After five years of trying to farm 80 acres, takes up a different vocation to supplement income, cannot survive on 80-acres. Sells to the Pope family.

What is happening is the land is dictating the behavior of the settlers. The moraines, ravines, glacial kettles and glacial debris are there. The land will be difficult to clear and the quality of the soil in some places will not be that good. The reason these 80-acre parcels were created was convenient - that 80 was a factor of 640. It was meaningless.

The most successful owners of the land were those who recognized the 80-acre number was just that, a number. The quicker they added additional land as an ingredient to their farming operation, the more successful they were. They realized what the land offered and how to utilize both tillable and untillable land. Some for crops, and some for pasture. They did not try to tame what they could not tame. In a way, they moved with the land instead of trying to make something work that could not.

Sacrifice

In 1852, John and Mary Elver boarded the ship “Southerner“ in Hamburg, Germany with all their children, their son-in-law, and their grandchildren. The Elvers are going to America to start a new life. I know this story of immigration is repeated thousands of times in our history, but after working on this project, John and Mary Elver’s journey deserves a closer look. It’s true that their story is like so many others, but to this author it crystalizes the meaning of sacrifice for one’s family.

Much discussion among the family had to have taken place about going to America before 1852. Everyone involved ultimately agreed to go. John Elver was 52 years old when he stepped onto that ship headed to America. Why would someone in the “early fall” of their lives start over in a strange land across the ocean? Dora, the eldest daughter was married with children and she and her husband would make their own decision to come. Fritz, the second oldest, was 18, and he too could decide for himself. John and Mary would have to make that decision for younger children Caroline, and Charles. In the end, they all came to America together.

John and Mary purchased 90 acres of land and built their cabin in 1853. Their children, including Fritz, are living with them. John Elver begins to show his intentions the following year (1854) when former Indian lands across the road become available for sale. To acquire more land, he is wheeling and dealing as part of a small group of fellow Mecklenburger’s. It becomes evident the John Elver is not doing this for himself, he is doing this for his children. In two more years, as the dust clears, John Elver has helped acquire an 80-acre homestead for his daughter and her family. He has also obtained another 80-acre homestead for his son Fritz. But what about John and Mary?

During this period of time as John is setting up his children with land, his own holdings do not change. By 1860, he still owns the original 90 acres he started with seven years prior. It is clear that John and Mary are not about expanding their own farming operations, they are about helping their children expand theirs.

An example of their sacrifice takes place between 1862 and 1866. In 1862, Charles (13) is the only child left living at home with John and Mary. With all the chores, crop work, and general labor necessary on the farm, Charles would have been of great assistance. However, Charles wanted to work as an apprentice at the gristmill down the road. I believe as an apprentice he would have put in long hours at the mill. This of course would have taken a particularly important labor component away from the farm and put more work on John, who at the time would have been 62 years old. That is what happened. Charles served as an apprentice at the mill from ages 13-17. Obviously, John and Mary stood behind Charles

decision. It was more important for him to learn and follow his dreams than to help out at home.

In the late 1860s, the families of Dora and Fritz were well on their way to becoming large and successful farmers. In 1870, John became ill, and he sold his farm to his son Charles and moved into town. What is interesting is that John and Mary turned their 90-acre farm over to Charles. The same 90 acres that he and Mary had owned for 17 years after first arriving in America. Through all of their dealings and land transactions, they never added any acreage to their own holdings. It was all about getting their children started in America and, in the end, their son ended up with all the acres they started with. It was about sacrifice.

Dora and Fritz, along with their families did remarkably well, both families owned over 300 acres of land and were prosperous farmers. Son Fritz was elected to represent his district in the state assembly. Charles sold the farm after paying it off and continued his remarkable journey toward the American dream. He owned a mill of his own in Vermont, WI. Ultimately, he was elected to be the Chair of the Dane County Supervisors and became a very prominent businessman in Madison. He owned the Ruby Marie Hotel and Elver park is named after him.

John and Mary lived to see the results of their sacrifice, and I am sure they were so very proud of their decision to take that journey to America with their family in 1852.

Involvement

It was obvious that the Mecklenburger's were incredibly hard-working people, and serious about their farming and their church. One thread I found after reviewing many different sources, is how many of these German farm owners would reach out and serve their community in various capacities. Of course, the information I looked at was about the owners of the three farms in this project and does not reflect service from many other farmers in the Township of Middleton. I am sure I am missing many incidents of public service and community involvement, but here are a few examples from those who were owners or their families.

Franz Brackenwagen (brother of Charles), First treasurer of Pleasant Site School board in 1858.

Elmer Brumm, Director of the Pleasant Site School Board.

John E. Brumm, Clerk West Middleton School Board, Chair of the Board of Supervisors Town of Middleton, Treasurer, and Assessor.

Fritz Elver, member of the Pleasant Site School Board, Town Chairman, and a state assemblyman from the district in 1881. Fritz Elver was a Mason and joined the Concordia Lodge #83 in the 1860s and then joined the Middleton Lodge 180.

Louis Grob, member of the Masonic Lodge 180 in Middleton.

Fred Lappley, Assessor Town of Middleton, Grand Master of Masonic Lodge 180 in Middleton.

John Prien, member Masonic Lodge Concordia #83 in Madison and then Masonic Lodge #180 in Middleton. One of the founders of the Odd Fellows Club in Middleton.

Charles T. Schwenn, Director of the West Middleton School Board, Town of Middleton Chairman, and County Supervisor.

John W. Wittenburg, Clerk Pleasant Site School.

Most of these men were immigrants, or the sons of immigrants. It became clear that these immigrant farmers wanted to become involved as good citizens and help shape their communities in their new country. Today, we notice when someone gets involved but in these small communities back in the 1800s, almost everyone needed to contribute what they could to make their community function. They obviously were incredibly busy with their farms, crops, chores, and putting in long intense hours, especially during the harvesting season. However, they did find time to serve their community. It was important to them and it was necessary.

The Wilderness

Questions and thoughts

It is hard to imagine what these settlers thought when they laid eyes on the land that they would call home. Mature forests with some prairies would create herculean effort to clear in order to plant crops. How did they start? Everything must have been temporary. Did they live in a tent camp until they could build a rustic log cabin? So many things had to happen in order to survive each day let alone prepare for a Wisconsin winter. How did they find a little land open enough to grow crops that first year? How did they get enough feed put away for their livestock? How did they keep their oxen and milk cow from wandering off? How soon could they put in a wood burning hearth to cook and provide heat for the cabin? How much wood would be needed to be split to provide heat during the winter? Where did they start? What was the order of their priorities, and if they would get those priorities wrong, would it mean catastrophe?

While working on this project, I could not help but think of the determination of these brave people. Imagine standing in front of these huge trees armed with just an ax. Charles Brackenwagen was there with his wife and two little infant girls in 1854. It is true that his brother lived less than a mile away, but the pressure to get critical things done in order to survive the winter must have been huge.

Clearing the land must have taken an enormous amount of time, but some of that could be done during the winter. Around the perimeter of their “space” they could have girdled trees to kill them and let more sunlight in for growing crops. Once the trees were down the slash had to be cleared and burned to expose the soil. Then grubbing the stumps began with oxen and stump axes, this had to be done in the summer after the crops were planted. Imagine cutting down those trees and plowing the prairies only to expose all the stones that laid on the land as part of the glacial debris. They must have known that felling the trees with an ax was the easy part - cutting them up, grubbing the stumps, and removing the stones was the hard part. Then the prairies had to be plowed by oxen and turning the soil over that first time was slow. It would take years.

Then there was the livestock. Where do they graze if there is little pasture, the woods would offer some grazing but was that enough? What type of barrier would they construct to keep their cattle from wondering off? Did they use the slash from the trees to form a rustic brush fence? What type of feed did they have for their livestock during the winter? If oxen where used for logging in the winter, they would have to have enough feed to provide them with enough calories to do the grueling logging work.

What would happen if they got sick or were injured? There was no “safety net.” Could they get help from their extended families or possibly count on the good will of their neighbors? What would happen to their livestock and crops in the event they could not continue?

I certainly don’t have the answers to many of these questions, but when you really think about what these people were faced with, you have to marvel at their effort, and they probably thought they were luckiest people in the world!