

## GRIEGER HISTORY

In 1864, many young men were making the trip across the Atlantic to America. Among these was twenty year old Louis Grieger from Posen Germany. He had been a tailor but did not care for the work. (Two of his distant relatives, Fred and Samuel Grieger, were also tailors. They established the Grieger Clothing Store in Michigan City, Indiana.) Louis left his home, went to Berlin, and obtained passage on a sailboat to America. He paid his passage by shoveling coal on the boat. The voyage took nine weeks; and on the way, he said they saw whales.

Louis came to Michigan City because he had friends from Germany living there. While in Michigan City, he heard of a job in the Pinery in the middle part of Michigan. This Pinery was a lumbermill. Before long he had saved enough money to buy a transportation card for a girl in Germany named Pauline Martin. These transportation or free cards paid passage to New York City.

In Posen, Pauline had not been interested in Louis. But everyone was eager to come to America, so she did not turn down the opportunity. She made the trip by steamer in a matter of days.

The two if they were married in Medaryville, Indiana, where Louis' parents lived. For a while they lived there but had a little in-law trouble so they moved north about one <sup>50</sup> hundred miles to an area called Furnessville. Their first home was a smokehouse on the Edward Wilkie property. The smokehouse was no more than a shanty with board walls and many cracks. Pauline covered the walls with newspapers.

Life was not dull for Pauline. In Germany, there were no such things as snakes, but it was not long before she made their acquaintance in this country. One day as she was working in the house she noticed a strange creature peering through a crack in the wall. Needless to say she was very frightened.

Louis bought seven acres of land adjacent to the Welkie property from Louis Payne. The first home he built was of lumber but had no plaster inside. It had one big room with a kitchen added on later. In 1895, it was replaced by a frame home which is still on the property. His second land purchase was twenty acres for farming purposes. This land was located south of the house and across the Michigan Central Railroad tracks (now the New York Central Railroad).

Louis actually was never a farmer. He worked on the Michigan Central section gang for seventeen years. His wages were one dollar a day. When Louis retired from the railroad, he bought calves, slaughtered them, and sold them to the William Miller Meat Market in Michigan City. After this he bought bees from Edwin Furness. His wife sold the honey on the west side of town for ten cents a pound.

Farming Louis Grieger's land was taken care of by the son's. They had the first threshing machine in this part of the state. It was a rotary type of machine operated by horsepower.

Their oldest son, Emil, attended school for a few years at the Congregational Church in Furnessville. It has since burned down. He then ran the farm at home for several years before leaving to work on farms in this area. He bought a

farm west of Michigan City. For several years, Emil was employed at the Haskell-Barker Car Works (now Pullman-Standard Manufacturing Company) in Michigan City. He lived on the city's west side. Leaving the car works, he owned and operated in succession two farms on what is now Highway 20 before retiring and returning to live in Michigan City.

When Emil left home, William ran the farm. Soon he took a job on the section gang for the Michigan Central, but he did not like it. Management and labor problems on this railroad were no different than in any other industry in the country at the time. William got a job at the Haskell-Barker Plant and lived with his brother, Emil. After retiring from the factory, he continued his blacksmith and light mechanical work shop in Michigan City.

Edward managed the farm when William left. It was not long before he took a job on the Michigan Central section gang. He became a brakeman and lived in Michigan City. The state of Michigan had a law requiring the presence of three brakemen on a train, so Edward was transferred to New Buffalo. While on the railroad, he opened a butcher shop. During the depression years, railroading fell off, and the shop was his source of income. He operated it until he retired.

The youngest son, Henry, began taking care of the farm when he was fifteen. He had gone to school for six years at the red schoolhouse in Furnessville. It is still standing in Furnessville. Henry bought forty acres one mile south of his father's home.

At one time, he was farming his father's land, his land, plus one hundred acres for the Furness family. In 1916, he became road superintendent for Porter County at wages of \$2.50 per day. Then this job involved putting gravel on the roads. In 1933 he resigned the position and farmed exclusively until 1936. From 1936 to 1952 he did landscaping for Michigan City schools and for Beverly Shores residents. He was janitor for the Westchester Township schools from 1952 to 1955 when he retired to the Grieger homestead.

Louis and Pauline Grieger also were parents of four girls, Augusta, Albertina, Ida, and Delia. All the girls attended school--Augusta and Albertina went to the Congregational Church, and Ida and Delia went to the red schoolhouse for three and six years, respectively.

Augusta met her husband, Fred Mahns, when he was transferred by the Michigan Central to telegraph operator at the Furnessville Station. After their marriage, they moved to Crisman, Indiana, where her husband was made ticket agent at the Michigan Central Station.

Albertina's Husband, Henry Vetterly, had boarded at the Grieger home for eight years while he worked for the Michigan Central. They built and lived in a house south of her parents'.

Ida and Delia worked for families in the Furnessville-Beverly Shores area. Ida met her husband, Charles Dirks at a birthday party at her brother Emil's farm. She and Charles lived on the west side of Michigan City as he worked at the Haskell-Barker Plant. Delia met her husband, Martin Nicholson, through her sister Augusta's son. Delia and her husband have always lived in Furnessville.

The house Louis built in 1895 was about sixty feet from the Michigan Central tracks. In 1933 when the relief highway was put through for the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago, the house had to be moved north sixty feet.

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