

Genoa Township Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 2

October, 1989

Not So Ancient History

Bette Swift

Curiosity about the names of roads in Genoa Township led me to the door of the Herbst Family, who reside on Crooked Lake Road. Lyle Herbst, a life-time resident of Genoa Township, is happy to share his knowledge of the township's history with anyone who will ask. His family is one of the early settlers of the community and his first hand history is one that he has lived. Besides being a member of a "first" family, he is a member of a "first" church, St. George Lutheran. Whatever Lyle has forgotten, which isn't much, can be found in the records of St. George's Church. Detailed accounts of births, confirmations, marriages, and burials are available from St. George's.

As early as 1837, the German settlers in Genoa held Lutheran Church services in their houses, barns, and the open air. A list of their early members are as familiar to all of us as the roads we travel: Bauer, Beck, Conrad, Dorr, Euler, Fishbeck, Herbst, Hyne, Musch, Seim, Truhn, and Westphal. There are still many descendents of these early settlers in our community. These names are not only synonymous with roads but many of our distinguished residents.

A record of the early German settlers has been described in wonderful detail by William A. Pless, in his account *Settlement of Germans in Genoa Township*. Lyle was kind enough to loan me his copy. Specific history is given of many of these local families. The marvelous part of this book is the maps and military records dating from 1875.

One of our most popular tourist attractions in Genoa Township is the Mount Brighton Ski Hill and Lodge. It



The second St. George Lutheran Church Built in 1861 at a cost of \$2,800.00, on the corner of Bauer and Crooked Lake Roads (currently Herbst and Hubert).

is situated on Bauer Road. This land was first owned by John Bauer. It is not known when John Bauer arrived in Genoa Township, however, he purchased government land in 1854. His son George had four sons: Albert, married Amelia Behrens, a daughter of Richard and Magdalene (Conrad) Behrens; Charles married Mary Herbst, daughter of John Herbst, Sr.; Emil Bauer married Jennifer Mills, a sister of Mrs. Louis Becker; and, Ed-

ward married Maude Hartman, a daughter of Fred Hartman who was a son of John and Maria (Westphal) Hartman. They (Edward and Maude) are the parents of Gerald Bauer, the only descendant of the Bauer Family. Gerald sold the acres of the Albert Bauer farm to the ski lodge and left the area.

Our history is interesting and our roots are worth being remembered. Thank you Lyle Herbst.