

Lemke's Country Store and Tavern is located on the corner of Country Aire and Pleasant Valley Rd. in the Town of Jackson, Washington County, Wisconsin. This log building has been around for about 131 years. Some parts of the building might be older, but nobody knows for sure. My grandparents, Henry and Margaret Lemke, own it now, and have owned it for 30 years. I interviewed seven people to find out about this building. I asked the questions; Who built it and when? Who were some of the different owners? Also, in the early years, what type of business was conducted there?

Well, let's start with "Who built it and when?" We went back to 1845 (in the deed that my grandparents have) and found out that a man named Charles Detmering bought 160 acres from the State. He built a 2 room farm house and a shed. There also is a barn but we don't know when it was built.

There was a Catholic Church kitty corner from the house. This church was later taken down by Joe Guterman, who built a home on the property using the bricks from the church. Across the road to the west was a shed which included an ice house and a stable that could hold four teams of horses. A short distance to the west was a blacksmith shop and a little further, a cheese factory, long since torn down. At this time most of the people were Irish. Apparently the descendants of the Irish either died or moved away and the area was resettled by Germans.

This property was owned by many different people. The earliest entry on the deed was March 24, 1845, when Charles Detmering bought it from the government. The following are the owners listed in order:

Jan. 27, 1846 - Ludwig Detmering
Nov. 18, 1848 - Charles Detmering
Aug. 31, 1850 - Ludwig Bruss
July 12, 1858 - John Schmeikert
Jan. 17, 1865 - Carl Scheunemann (See agreement #1)
Feb. 17, 1865 - Wilhelm Scheunemann
Apr. 27, 1882 - Charles Stauske (See agreement No. 2)
Mar. 15, 1909 - Henry Stauske
Apr. 8, 1937 - Arnold Hafemann
June 25, 1946 - Henry Lemke

AGREEMENT NO. 1

The said parties of the first part for full value received in money, labor, etc. We do hereby agree, covenant, and promise unto the said parties of the second part during their lifetime, the following privileges; to have their own separate dwelling houses, containing 40 acres of land, more or less, further to receive annually 30 bushels of wheat, 10 bushels of rye, 2 bushels of potatoes, 300 pounds fat pork and bushels of oats, 2 pounds wool, 2 fat geese with feathers, six dollars in cash. Also to give them one cow with the necessary feed, winter and summer, and if the cow shall not be in milk, give them another cow; the necessary firewood to be delivered to their dwelling house cut and ready for stove; likewise to have the use of one-half acre of land for garden, and dragged. We also agree to carry the necessary rye and wheat to the mill and ground to their directions, also do we agree to drive that party to church anytime they might desire it. Parties of the second part are also allowed to keep ten hens and one rooster, namely to furnish them. To make sure of the performance of the above agreements I, Carl Scheunemann, and Sophie, my wife, have this day signed and executed bond in favor of Wilhelm Scheunemann, and Charlotte, his wife, to the amount of \$600.00.

AGREEMENT NO. 2

Agreement between Henry F. Stauske and Emilie Stauske, his wife to Charles Stauske and Carolina Stauske, his wife, at for in consideration of certain lands and personal properties this day conveyed and more particularly described in warranty deed and bill of sale herewith. The said parties of the first part, each for themselves and their prospective heirs, promise to agree to perform certain services, deliver certain articles necessary for life, and pay certain sums of money to their parents, Charles Stauske and Carolina Stauske, parties of the second part as follows here and after mentioned. To allow the exclusive occupation of the southeast room joined together with the free and unobstructed passage to and from the same, as well as to all parts of the building and surrounding premises to this day conveyed. Further to care for and support in sickness and in health, with all necessary and comforts of life suitable to their former conditions, the said parents, Charles Stauske and Carolina Stauske, so long as both of them shall live. And after their death to give each of them a decent and respectable burial as customary and according to the rules and regulations of the congregation in which they are members. Also purchase and cause to be erected a respectable monument to their memory. And sooner agreed the parties of the first part, their heirs shall furnish respectable board to the parties of the second part and allow them to take the doctor of their own choice, and such medical aid as is necessary in the event of sickness. Also do all washing and mending of clothes, beds, bedding and rooms, etc., or cause to be done. To furnish all the necessary dry firewood ready for use and deliver the same to their rooms as the need it. Also furnish a horse and buggy whenever parties of the second part desire to make use of such. It is further agreed that if the parties of the second part shall at anytime for good reason be dissatisfied with the care and support furnished under the contract, they shall have the right and option to receive and demand the sum of \$3,000.00, which shall become due on demand with interest at the rate of 4% per annum, and the said \$3,000.00, when so paid, shall be in full satisfaction of all the care and support to which the said party of the second part are entitled under this contract. The said parties of the first part, for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant and agree with the said party of the second part that these are hereby intentionally made to be a lien on the land and premises, on this day conveyed by warranty deed for the security of the payment of each and every one of the items mentioned, and the faithful parties of all the covenants and stipulations here and before mentioned, the further secured by the mortgage of date herewith.

The building also served as a post office and was called Salters Post Office, named after the many local residents. In 1905 the Post Office was discontinued and rural route delivery was started.

The store had a pot belly stove in the middle of the room, a bar on one end, complete with footrail and spittoons. Whiskey was 5¢ with a mug of beer on the side. When a whiskey bottle was empty, they went to the basement and filled it from 50 gallon barrels. Beer also came only in barrels, kept cool by ice, cut by a crew of local residents from a creek nearby. The ice was covered with sawdust so it would last all summer.

Things people could buy from the store included crackers from a barrel, fresh ground coffee, yard goods, hardware, mens work clothing, shoes, and vinegar from a barrel. In fact, everything had to be weighed and packaged. Children enjoyed the penny candy. Chocolate drops were favored and came in red and blue striped packages. Some people traded their farm products for merchandise from the store.

Outhouses were the "in thing" in those days. Although water was in the building earlier, it was not until Arnold Hafemann came that toilets were installed. Kerosene was the main source of light in the building.

Charles Stauske used gas light for about 5 years, then switched to generator electricity. He used a generator with about 9 batteries in the basement. Electricity was installed in about 1917.

The original structure was 2 rooms, built of logs, and was used just as a farm house. Other buildings were a barn, woodshed, pigshed, and garage. There were 3 additions to the building to make it what it is today.

The farm is no longer part of the business property. When Paul, son of Henry Stauske, was married they built a separate house down the road, on the farm.

Many changes have occurred, much history has passed, but the building still stands and the business goes on. This building is the only original building left on that corner.

I still enjoy going there to visit my Grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lemke who operate Lemke's Country Store and Tavern at Stauske's Corners.

REFERENCES

1. Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Krueger, grandson of Charles Stauske.
The Krueger farm is in its 5th generation.
2. Mr. & Mrs. Paul Stauske, son of Henry Stauske. Mr. Stauske was born and raised here and now lives in West Bend.
3. Mr. & Mrs. Henry Lemke, present owners.
4. Mrs. Marilyn Nummendor, daughter of Henry Lemke, who spent a few years here while growing up.
5. The Warranty Deed.