

History of the House Known as "Quentin House"/"Hershberger House"/"Red Oaks"

*Long Grove Historical Society
Aaron Underwood, Historian*



1) Summary/Conclusion

The house was most likely constructed by the widow Wilhelmine Sophia "Mine" Lemker circa 1884, following the death of her husband Heinrich, and the ensuing estate sale of the farm where they were living. Following shows the list of residents and the years residing:

circa 1884 – 1897 - Lemker

1897 – 1907 - Rupert

1909 – 1911 - Quentin

1911 – 1918 - Cordes

1918 – 1963 - Hershberger

1963 – converted to the Red Oaks Business

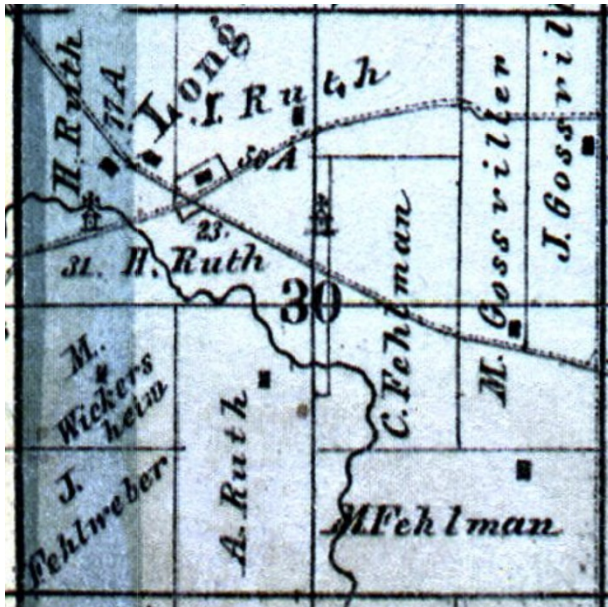
2) Supporting Details

The above summary is what I consider to be the most likely history, after a thorough review of all the records and accounts I could find. Our own archives contain relatively little information on the home – most of the information I was able to find came from the county archives and local newspaper archives. The reader is invited to consider their own opinion regarding the certainty of this conclusion, based on the supporting details outlined below.

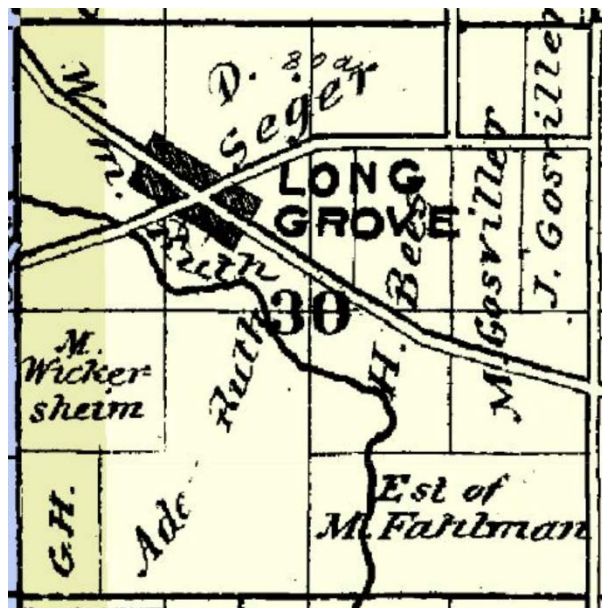
The primary historical records for this home are real estate deeds and plat maps so we'll look at these first, as they tend to be the most factual information. The primary factual risk would be an error of omission - a change of hands on the property that was unrecorded or missed in the survey of records.

2a) Plat Maps

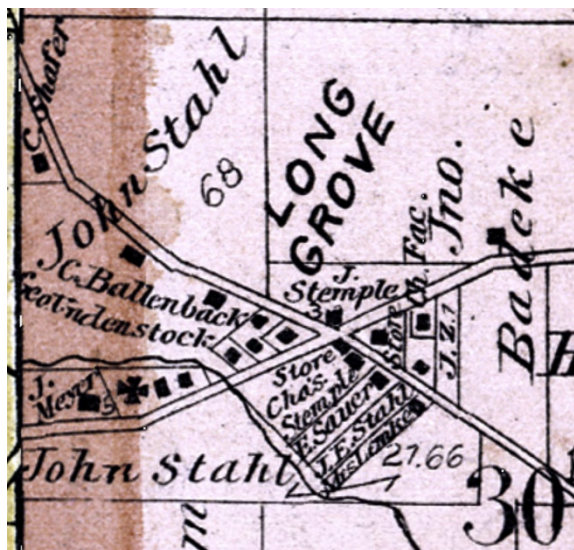
The house is located in the northwest quadrant of Section 30, Twp 43N Range 11E. The Long Grove “crossroads” is approximately in the middle of this quadrant (the quadrant would be upper left quarter of the 1861 graphic below). The government initially sold this quadrant, comprising 160 acres to George Ruth on March 10th, 1843 (see Figure 1). George Ruth passed away in 1850, and presumably passed the property to his family.



The first applicable plat of this area is from 1861, where the ownership is still in the hands of the Ruth family. Houses are indicated on this plat as black rectangles. Note the area where the home would be located, approximately where the “23” is written, notes no structure, implying that the house is yet to be built, so would be no older than 1861.



The next known plat, the 1870 plat is somewhat inconclusive, as it shows a “block” around the crossroads, as if to indicate the area was too detailed to draw. So there may have been structures within that area, but without any detail as to how many or where, or who owned them.



The next known plat, the 1885 plat, shows considerably more development of the crossroads area, and a square rectangle appears where our subject house is today with ownership of the lot attributed to Mrs. Lemker.

To summarize the plat maps, the information is a bit sparse, but would indicate the house to have been built between 1861 and 1885, with the oldest recorded owner of the lot where the house resides being “Mrs. Lemker”.

2b) Real Estate Deeds

Figure 1 shows the original transference from the government to George Ruth. I did not attempt to trace the property within the Ruth family in the aftermath of George’s death, but rather picked it up from when it could find the Ruth family first selling it outside of the family in 1873. In that year, William Ruth sold 90 acres, which encompass the house and lot in question to John Stahl – see the deed in Figure 2. An interesting aspect of the property description of this deed is that it enumerates and excludes acreages previously parceled out to others. The implication is... if the said house existed at this point, it would be owned by one of those enumerated (and not by John Stahl). In reviewing the acreages and names enumerated, I don’t find any size that matches this lot, nor individuals previously associated with this lot. This would imply the property was still undeveloped in 1873, and owned by John Stahl, along with 90+ other acres around it.

In 1883 we find the first deed where the lot in question has been parceled out. Figure 3 shows the transfer of the property from John Stahl to Mine Lemker. Mine and her husband, Heinrich, appear to have formerly lived on a farm near Rt. 83 and 22. Here husband passed away in 1880, and his estate subsequently sold most of his property, including the house where they were living. Presumably she is the “Mrs. Lemker” shown as owner of the lot and house on the 1885 plat. Assuming there was no house on the lot when parceled out/purchased in October of 1883, and based on there being a house there on the 1885 plat... asserting that the house was built circa 1884 seems reasonable. Mine had a son, William, born in 1859, that worked as a blacksmith for the Umbdenstocks, and it’s possible he lived with her in the house in pursuit of that job.

Figure 4 shows the 1897 transfer of the property from Mine Lemker to Frank Rupert. While the Ruperts were living there, they also purchased the lot next door, and you see these two properties being handled together for some time post-Rupert. Both Frank Rupert and his wife died in March of 1907, about a week apart. I didn't find a record of how the estate handled the house, but somehow there was apparently a dispute and the court ordered it sold at auction in February of 1909. George Quentin was the high bidder. Figure 5 shows the court awarding the property to him. It's possible the home may have been occupied by one of the parties involved in dispute in 1907/8 before Quentin took possession.

Figure 6 is the 1911 transfer of the property from George Quentin to Frank Cordes

Figure 7 is the 1918 transfer of the property from Cordes to Charles Hershberger.

Figure 8 shows the 1963 transfer of the property from Hershberger to Bob McNitt of Red Oaks. It is interesting to note the price of \$10 – there's probably a story there. Bob was well liked in the community and was seeking a new home for his furniture business after the prior location had burned.

2c) Oral History

Please note that oral history is often not particularly accurate. It also is not entirely fabricated either. It is often provided by an older person doing their best to remember details about distant events, with those details often having been provided to them second hand many years ago.

The primary "most authoritative" bit of oral history comes from a 1963 interview with house owner Hershberger, which is included in Figure 9. Regarding credibility, positives include the first hand knowledge of Mr. Hershberger having grown up in the area and having owned the house himself... negatives include it being reported second hand by another resident (the articles author), and Mr. Hershberger's advanced age of 90, coupled with the time that had elapsed since they had purchased the home. The key extracted assertions are:

- a) it's a 110 year old farmhouse, implying it was built in 1853
- b) Hershbergers bought the house in 1918
- c) the house was built by Mrs. Lemker, then owned by George Rupert, George Quentin, Frank Cordes, and then purchased by the Hershbergers
- d) Mr. Hershberger was born in a log house located on a farm on McHenry road, and lived there previous to purchasing the house in question in 1918.

The assertions track very well with the deeds and plats, except the age stated is considerably older. If the 1853 age was a mis-communication, perhaps it was related to the "log house" where he was born in 1873. I suppose also the characterization of it as a "farmhouse" is somewhat at odds with the previous records that imply the house didn't exist until it was a "town lot".

In 1973, the downtown businesses published a marketing focused faux old time paper that included some historical tidbits. The author or source of these tidbits is unknown, though one could speculate they were stories passed around between merchants. One of those related to the house in question:

The tall pine trees standing in front of Red Oaks were brought from Alsace, Germany by Coral and Charles Hershberger in the mid-1800's. They were planted the day their house went up. Everyone came from miles around, bringing their own yellow pine lumber (which was floated to Chicago from Michigan) and their own square nails, so nothing matches. And that's the way a house went up in those days... The front of the wandering shop is the original farmhouse, built in a day in a house-raising in 1847.

This description correlates with almost nothing from the previous records and accounts. It's fun to speculate that, if the widow Lemker did build the house, she may well not have had the means to build it herself, so maybe everyone pitched in? Pure speculation – I find no other account or reference to this "house raising".

Nancy Shumm-Burgess book, *Images of America-Long Grove*, includes a paragraph on the house, along with a picture attributed to the LaMarche family, whose ancestors lived in the downtown. My understanding is the LaMarche's were the source of the information in the book about the pictures they provided. That paragraph reads as follows:

This home had several owners through the years before becoming a business in 1863. It is thought to have been built by Charles Quentin around 1860. Quentin had six children, five boys and a girl. Later it was owned by William Lemker, who in 1880 was a blacksmith's apprentice to George Umbendstock, Sr. One of his sons, Frederick, later married Emma Umbdenstock, George Umbendstock, Sr.'s daughter. In 1897, Lemker's widow, sold the home for \$1,300 to Frank Ruppert and his wife. When they died around 1907, Charles Hershberger's family purchased the home.

While this account references many of the same players associated with the home in documents previously discussed, the specific facts don't foot very well. A couple of facts related to the above story for reference - Charles Quentin (born 1813) was the father of George Quentin (born 1862). Fred Lemker, son of Heinrich and Mine Lemker (the widow referred to earlier) and brother to William, married Emma Umbdenstock on 19 January 1892.



The LaMarche photograph of the house from Nancy's book, shown above next to a modern picture, is undated, though makes an interesting reference for how the house has evolved. Photography by the middle class in America began around 1900, with the advent of the Kodak Brownie, so odds are the picture is post-1900. Also, it's interesting to note the front pine trees should be visible, if they existed when the photo was taken, though they do not appear. It should be possible to date the pine trees, via a current circumference and standard growth rates, if anyone is so inclined.

The Long Grove Historical Society's 1988 walking tour had this description for the home:

The home was built over 100 years ago and lived in by the Hershberger family. The original part is the two-story section with a porch facing Old McHenry Road. As a store, it has had many additions, but the front is still graced with it's Victorian decorative trim.

This description implies the age of the home to be before 1888. The comment about the Victorian trim seems at odds with the older photo (with no trim) shown in Nancys book.

Figure 10 includes a 1998 article from the Villages Newsletter. It is included for completeness.

Also included for completeness is another 1963 article, Figure 11, that appears to be a synopsis of the original “authoritative” 1963 article discussed previously. It is interesting to note that the house is referred to in this article as “Long Grove’s oldest home” at more than 100 years old (e.g. pre-1863).

Long Grove’s official history, Long Grove Lore and Legend, contains no references to the house, aside from noting the transition of it from Hershberger to Red Oaks.

Figure 1 - George Ruth Original Purchase of NW Quarter of Section 30

154th *Red Envelope*
CERTIFICATE
No. 7811

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS *George Ruth, of Cook County, Illinois.*

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND
OFFICE at *Chicago*
George Ruth, whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said

according to the provisions of

the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for
the North West quarter of Section thirty, in Township forty, three
North, of Range Eleven East, in the district of lands subject to sale
at Chicago Illinois containing One hundred and sixty two acres
One hundred and sixty two acres.

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR
GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said *George Ruth,*

NOW KNOW YE, That the

United States of America, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in
such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto
the said *George Ruth.*

and to *his* heirs, the said tract above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights,
privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said *George Ruth.*

and to *his* heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, *John Tyler*

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the
SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the *tenth* day of *March*
in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *forty three* and of the
INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the Sixty *seventh*

BY THE PRESIDENT:

John Tyler

By

R. Tyler

Sec'y.

J. Williamson — RECORDER of the General Land Office.

2 X 3 2 2 5



Figure 2 – William Ruth to John Stahl – July 22, 1873

As these deeds are very long, I'll only include the key elements.

William Ruth to John Stahl Filed for Record July 22nd A. D. 1873

Revenue Stamp
to the amount of \$ _____ on this INSTRUMENT.

This Indenture, Made this Twenty day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy Three BETWEEN William Ruth and Sarah Jane his wife of the County of Cook and State of Illinois of the first part and John Stahl of the County and State aforesaid party of the second part,

WITNESSETH, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Five Thousand and Five Hundred Dollars in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and the said party of the second part forever released and discharged therefrom, have granted, bargained, sold, remised, released, aliened and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, remise, release, alien and confirm unto the said party of the second part, and to their heirs and assigns forever, all the following described lot, piece or parcel of land, situated in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, to wit:

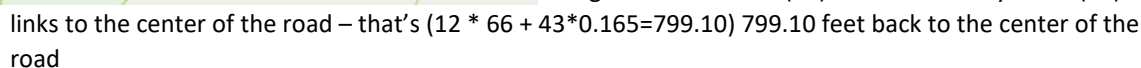
Commencing at the North West corner of Section No. Thirty (30) in Township Forty Three (43) Range Eleven East of the third principal meridian thence East to the North West corner of the North East quarter of the North West quarter of Section Thirty (30) aforesaid thence South to the center of the St. Henry road (so called) thence South Easterly in center of said road to the East line of the North West quarter Section aforesaid thence South to the South East corner of said quarter Section thence West to the section line thence North to the place of beginning, excepting however from the above described tract about three acres formerly deeded to John Meyer also about three acres deeded to John Meyer also about three acres deeded to the Evangelical Lutheran Church also about two acres formerly deeded to Philip Meyer also about one half acre deeded to D. B. Rose also about three acres formerly deeded to D. A. Crosby also one half acre deeded to Charles Bollenbach and George Understock all of which several parcels are reserved containing what is hereby conveyed ninety one acres more or less.

298 No. 29108 Filed for Record the 15th day of October A. D. 1883, at 8 o'clock A.M.

This Indenture, Made this fourth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty three BETWEEN John Stahl (a widower) of the town of Genoa County of Lake State of Illinois party of the first part, and Olivia Stenker wife of Henry Stenker deceased of the town of Genoa County of Lake State of Illinois party of the second part, WITNESSETH, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of three hundred five (365) Dollars, in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and the said party of the second part forever released and discharged therefrom, has granted, bargained, sold, remised, released, aliened and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, remise, release, alien and confirm unto the said party of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns forever, all the following described lot piece or parcel of land, situate in the County of Lake and State of Illinois, to-wit:

Being a part of the North West quarter of section number thirty (30) in Township Forty three (43) North of Range number Eleven (11) East of the third principal meridian & described as follows: Commencing in the center of the Wheeling and McHenry Road at a point five (5) chains and nine & one half links (97 1/2) South sixty degrees (60) East from a stone corner at the crossing of centers of roads, and running thence South forty and a fourth degrees West Eleven (11) chains and ninety five (95) links, thence South four and thirty four degrees East One chain and four links (14), thence North forty one & one fourth (41 1/4) degrees East twelve (12) chains and forty three (43) links to the center of the road, thence North sixty degrees West along center of road One chain and two links (12) to the place of beginning containing One acre & twenty two hundredths of land (1 ²²/₁₀₀) intending to convey a strip of land four rods & one chain wide

TOGETHER WITH ALL AND SINGULAR the herebefore and hereinafter



A) Commencing in the center of the Wheeling and McHenry Road at a point five (5) chains and nine and one half links (9 1/2) south sixty degrees (60) East from a stone corner of the crossing of centers of roads – that's $(5 * 66 + 9.5 * 0.165 = 331.57)$ 331.57 feet
B) and returning thence south forty and a fourth degrees west eleven (11) chains and ninety five (95) links – that's a segment of $(11 * 66 + 95 * 0.165 = 741.68)$ 741.68 feet
C) thence south thirty four degrees East, one chain and four links (4) – that's $(66 + 4 * 0.165 = 66.66)$ 66.66 feet
D) thence north forty one and one fourth (44 1/4) degrees east twelve (12) chains and forty three (43)

D) thence North sixty degrees West along center of road one chain and two links(2) to the place of beginning

Figure 4 – Lemker to Rupert – December 11, 1897

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No. 69528 Filed for Record the 11th day of December A. D. 1897, at 8 o'clock A. M.
Recorder.

THIS INDENTURE, Made this Ninth day of December in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety seven BETWEEN *Wilhelmine Sophie Lemker a widow* of the Town of Elva in the County of Lake and State of Illinois party of the first part, and of the Town of Elva in the County of Lake and State of Illinois party of the second part, WITNESSETH, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of *One thousand three hundred* (\$1300 00/100) DOLLARS, in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and the said party of the second part forever released and discharged therefrom, has granted, bargained, sold, remised, released, conveyed, aliened and confirmed, and by these presents does grant, bargain, sell, remise, release, convey, alien and confirm, unto the said party of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns, forever, all the following described lot, place or parcel of land, situated in the County of Lake and State of Illinois and known and described as follows, to-wit:

Being a part of the North West quarter of section number thirty (30) in Township thirty three (33) North of Range number eleven (11) East of the Third (3d) Principal Meridian, & described as follows: Commencing in the center of the Wheeling and McHenry road at a point five (5) chains & nine (9) links (7 1/2) links south sixty (60) degrees East from a stone corner at the crossing of centers of roads and running thence south forty & one fourth (40 1/4) degrees East eleven (11) chains & ninety (90) links, thence south twenty four (24) degrees East one chain & four (4) links, thence North forty one & one fourth (41 1/4) degrees East twelve (12) chains and forty three (43) links to the center of the road, thence North thirty (30) degrees East along center of road one chain & two (2) links to the place of beginning containing one acre & twenty two hundredths (1 22/100) of land, including to convey a strip of land four (4) rods & one chain width. Possession of said premises received by the grantor on the 11th March first A. D. 1895

Figure 5 – Lake County to George Quentin, February 18, 1909

No. 12/007. This Indenture made this 18th day of February A. D. 1909, Feby 19th, 1909, between Edmund L. Clarke, Master in Chancery of the Circuit Court of Lake County, Illinois, party of the first part and George Quentin of the County of Lake and State of Illinois, party of the second part;

Witnesseth, Whereas in pursuance of a decree made and entered of record at the October Term A. D. 1908 by the Circuit Court of said Lake County, in a certain case then pending therein, on the Chancery side thereof, wherein Frank Ulrick was complainant and Julia Maether and others were defendants being Gen. No. 3847 in said Court the said Master in Chancery duly advertised according to law and said decree, the premises hereinafter described together with other premises for sale at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash on Wednesday the 10th day of February A. D. 1909, at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon of said day at the North Front Door of Charles Sternfels store at Long Grove, in the Town of Vernon, Lake County Illinois.

And Whereas at the time and place so as aforesaid appointed for said sale the said Master in Chancery attended to make the same and offered and exposed said

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premises for sale at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash, and thereupon said George Quentin offered and bid therefor the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2000.00), and that being the highest and best bid offered for said real estate hereinafter described said Master in Chancery according struck off and sold to said George Quentin for said sum of money the said land and real estate hereinafter described.

And Whereas a report of said sale has been filed in the Circuit Court of Lake County and said report of sale was on the 13th day of February A. D. 1909 approved by said Court and said sale confirmed and a conveyance of said land and real estate hereinafter described directed to be made by the said Master in Chancery to the said George Quentin and

Whereas said George Quentin has paid the full amount of his said bid to said party of the first part,

Now, Therefore, in consideration of the premises the said party of the first part doth hereby convey unto the said party of the second part the said premises which are situated in the County of Lake and State of Illinois and described as follows to-wit:

A part of the Northwest quarter of section thirty (30) in Township forty-three (43) North, Range number eleven (11) East of the Third Principal Meridian in Lake County, Illinois, described as follows:

Commencing in the center of the Wheeling and Mc Henry Road at a point five (5) chains and nine and one half ($9\frac{1}{2}$) links south sixty degrees (60 degrees) East from a stone corner at the crossing of centers of roads; and running thence south forty and one fourth ($40\frac{1}{4}$) degrees west eleven (11) chains and ninety-five (95) links; thence south thirty four (34) degrees east one (1) chain and four (4) links; thence north forty one and one fourth degrees ($41\frac{1}{4}$ degree) east twelve (12) chains and forty three (43) links to the center of the road; thence north sixty (60) degrees west along the center of the Road one (1) chain and two (2) links to the place of beginning, containing one and twenty-two hundredths (1.22) acres of land;

Also beginning at a point in the center of the Mc Henry Road four hundred three and sixtenths (403.6) feet south sixty degrees (60 degrees) east from a stake at the intersection of said road with the Dundee Road; running thence south forty one and one fourth ($41\frac{1}{4}$) degrees West, eight hundred fifty one (851) feet to the center of Buffalo Creek; thence southeasterly along the center of said creek twenty seven and sixtenths (27.6) feet; thence North forty one and one fourth degrees ($41\frac{1}{4}$ degree) east, eight hundred sixty one (861) feet to the center of the road; thence north sixty degree (60 degrees) west, twenty five and eight tenths (25.8) feet to the place of beginning, containing one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) acres and being a part of the northwest quarter of section thirty (30) Township forty three (43) North, Range eleven (11) East of the Third Principal

Figure 6 – Quentin to Cordes – April 29, 1911

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No. 135263 Filed for Record the 29th day of April, A. D. 1911, at 11⁴² o'clock A. M.
Recorder.

THE GRANTOR *George Quentin and Louie Quentin, his wife,*

of the *Village of Libertyville* County of *Lake* and State of *Illinois*
for and in consideration of the sum of *Twenty five Hundred (\$2500.00)* Dollars, in hand paid, convey and
warrant to *John of Elia* County of *Lake* State of *Illinois*
of the *John of Elia* County of *Lake* State of *Illinois*
the following described Real Estate, to-wit:

A part of the northwest quarter of Section thirty (30) in Township forty-three (43) North, Range number eleven (11) East of the Third Principal Meridian in Lake County, Illinois, described as follows: Commencing in the center of the Wheeling and Mc Henry Road at a point five (5) chains and nine and one half (9 1/2) links south sixty degrees (60 degrees) East from a stone corner at the crossing of centers of roads and running thence South forty and one fourth (40 1/4) degrees West eleven (11) chains and ninety five (95) links; thence South thirty-four (34) degrees East one (1) chain and four (4) links; thence North forty-one and one fourth (41 1/4) degrees East twelve (12) chains and forty-three (43) links to the center of the Road; thence North sixty (60) degrees West along the center of the Road one (1) chain and two (2) links to the place of beginning containing one and twenty-two hundredths (1.22) acres of land.

Also beginning at a point in the center of the Mc Henry Road four hundred three and six-tenths (403.6) feet south sixty degrees (60) East from a stake at the intersection of said road with the Dundee Road, running thence south forty-one and one fourth (41 1/4) degrees West eight hundred fifty-one (851) feet to the center of Buffalo Creek; thence southeasterly along the center of said Creek twenty-seven and six-tenths (27.6) feet; thence North forty-one and one fourth degrees (41 1/4) degrees East eight hundred sixty-one (861) feet to the center of the road; thence North sixty degrees (60 degrees) West twenty-five and eight tenths (25.8) feet to the place of beginning, containing one half (1/2) acres and being a part of the Northwest quarter of Section thirty (30) Township forty-three (43) North, Range eleven (11) East of the Third Principal Meridian.

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DEED RECORD 209.

WARRANTY DEED—Statutory form, Illinois.

No. 177488, Filed for Record this 30th, day of April, A. D. 1918, at 9⁴⁵ o'clock A. M.

The Grantor, Frank Cordes and Edna Cordes, his wife,

of the Town of Vernon in the County of Lake and State of Illinois

for and in consideration of the sum of Thirty-two Hundred and no/100 DOLLARS,

in hand paid, CONVEY and WARRANT to Charles M. Hershberger

of the Town of Ela County of Lake and State of Illinois

the following described real Estate, to-wit: A part of the Northwest quarter of Section thirty (30) in Township forty-three (43) North, Range eleven (11) East of the 3rd Principal Meridian in Lake County, Illinois, described as follows: Commencing in the center of the Wheeling and Mc Henry Road at a point five chains and nine and one half links south sixty degrees East from a stone corner at the crossing of centers of roads and running thence south forty and one fourth degree West eleven chains and ninety five links, thence south thirty-four degrees East one chain and four links, thence north forty-one and one fourth degree East twelve chains and forty-three links to the center of the road, thence north sixty degrees West along the center of the road one chain and two links to the place of beginning, containing one and twenty-two hundredths acres of land.

Also beginning at a point in the center of the Mc Henry Road four hundred three and six tenths feet South sixty degrees East from a stake at the intersection of said road with the Dundee Road; running thence south forty-one and one fourth degrees West eight hundred fifty-one feet to the center of Buffalo Creek, thence south East along the center of said Creek twenty-seven and six tenths feet, thence North forty-one and one fourth degrees East eight hundred sixty-one feet to the center of the road, thence North sixty degrees West, twenty-five and eight tenths feet to the place of beginning, containing one and one half acres and being a part of the North West quarter of Section thirty Township forty-three (43) North, Range eleven (11) East of the Third Principal Meridian,

situated in the Town of Vernon in the County of Lake, in the State of Illinois, hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of the State of Illinois.

Figure 8 – Hershbergers to Bob McNitt, Red Oaks – February 1, 1863

345744

WARRANTY DEED

THE GRANTORS, CHARLES M. HERSCHBERGER and CORA HERSCHBERGER, his wife, of the Village of Long Grove, County of Lake and State of Illinois, for and in consideration of TEN (\$10.00) DOLLARS, and other good and valuable considerations in hand paid, CONVEY AND WARRANT to ROBERT McNITT and RUTH L. McNITT, husband and wife, of the Village of Long Grove, County of Lake and State of Illinois, not in Tenancy in Common, but in JOINT TENANCY, the following described Real Estate situated in the County of Lake, in the State of Illinois, to wit:

PARCEL 1: That part of the North West quarter of Section 30, Township 43 North, Range 11, East of the 3rd P.M., described as follows: Commencing in the center of the Wheeling and McHenry Road at a point 3.57 chains South, 60 degrees East from a stone corner at the crossing of centers of roads and running thence South 40 1/4 degrees West along the Easterly line of lands conveyed by John Stahl, to Frederick Sauer by Deed dated October 4, 1883, and recorded October 18, 1883, as Document 29199; 11.24 chains; thence South 34 degrees East 1.56 chains; thence North 40 1/4 degrees East 11.95 chains to the center of the road; thence North 60 degrees West along center of road, 1.525 chains to the place of beginning (except beginning at a point in the center of the Wheeling and McHenry Road, so called, at a point South 60 degrees East 3.57 chains, 235.62 feet, from the intersection of Dundee and Wheeling and McHenry Roads, so called; thence South 41 degrees 31 minutes West 250 feet; thence South 60 degrees East 75 feet; thence North 41 degrees 31 minutes East 250 feet to the center of the Wheeling and McHenry Road, so called; thence North 60 degrees West 75 feet to the place of beginning), in Lake County, Illinois.

PARCEL 2: That part of the North West quarter of Section 30, Township 43 North, Range 11, East of the 3rd P.M., described as follows: Commencing in the center of the Wheeling and McHenry Road at a point 5.095 chains South 60 degrees East from a stone corner at the crossing of centers of roads; and running thence South 40 1/4 degrees West 11.95 chains; thence South 34 degrees East 1.04 chains; thence North 41 1/4 degrees East 12.43 chains to the center of the road; thence North 60 degrees West along the center of the Road 1.02 chains to the place of beginning, in Lake County, Illinois.

PARCEL 3: That part of the North West quarter of Section 30, Township 43 North, Range 11, East of the 3rd P.M., described as follows: Beginning at a point in the center of the McHenry Road, 403.6 feet South 60 degrees East from a stake at the intersection of said road with the Dundee Road; running thence South 40 1/4 degrees West 851 feet to the center of Buffalo Creek; thence South Easterly along the center of said Creek 27.6 feet to the North Westerly line of Lot D as shown on plat of survey recorded in Book "V" of Plats, page 50; thence North 40 1/2 degrees East 861 feet along the North Westerly line of said Lot D to the center of the road; thence North 60 degrees West to the place of beginning, in Lake County, Illinois.

hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of the State of Illinois. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said premises not in tenancy in common, but in joint tenancy forever.

Subject to general taxes levied for the year 1962 and subsequent years; roads and highways; public utility easements of record.

DATED this 1st day of February, 1963.

Charles M. Herschberger (SEAL)
Charles M. Herschberger

Core Herschberger (SEAL)
Core Herschberger

News of Kildeer Countryside

Emma Keller

Gilberts' 8-4296

60 Pigeons 'Figure' in Sale Of Herschberger's Landmark

Where will Long Grove's 60 pigeons go now that Bob McNitt is going to commercialize the Charles Herschbergers' property? What is going to happen to the giant pine trees that for so many years have spread their shade over the Herschbergers' old fashioned lawn swing that creaked and swayed lazily while it tempted neighbors to rest in seclusion from the summer sun?

MCNITT, who this week confirmed the purchase of the Herschbergers' 110-year-old midwestern farm house, has happy answers to both questions. The pines will be spared and the pigeons are to be left in their shed. Bob is already planning a "deal" whereby he will "swap" some of his next summer's back-land hay crop for enough of Neighbor Gus LaMarche's corn to feed the pigeons.

THE MCNITTs hope to be making hay frontward and backward when they move their Red Oaks Shop to the Herschberger quarters, where they'll open for business the end of April. Remodeling will start March 4.

Renovation will include the addition of a large sun porch, with an entrance leading out onto a patio and terrace, and a stock room will be added to the back.

Lou Tanner, an Antioch builder, has been awarded the construction job and Theodore Brickman and Son will do the landscaping. Plan also includes a parking lot. Regarding the house as a landmark and one of Long Grove's finest examples of midwestern farmhouse architecture, the McNitts are anxious to preserve its character in harmony with the village atmosphere.

When the Charles Herschbergers walk arm in arm out of their home March 1 to take over the next door house of the Elmer Hasemans, they'll be looking back on 44 years of memories under one roof. They moved here in 1918 after farming for 15 years on their McHenry Road farm, where Mr. Herschberger, 90, was born in a log house.

THEY RECALL that the late Mrs. Lemker, Walger Gossweiler's grandmother, built the Long Grove house. Next in line as owners were the George Ruperts; then George Quinlen, the village cheesemaker, who sold it to the Frank Cordes, from whom the Herschbergers bought. Mr. Cordes now lives in Palatine.

Until about 20 years ago the Herschbergers owned a cow and two horses. About 1929 they stored away their kerosene lamps and somewhat reluctantly fell into step with the pace of the times. Somehow their large flock of pigeons always seemed to stay on—

In their house next door, the couple look forward to living out their years among friends and familiar surroundings. The Elmer Hasemans will purchase a new home in Arlington Heights.

IF THE NEED arises Long Grove will send a representative to Springfield to continue its protest of the new proposed routing of Ill 53. It was agreed by trustees at last Thursday's village board meeting. As planned, residents stand solid on the contention the new route would cut and disrupt the school district, split the village and destroy its beautiful open country and 125-year-old landmarks. Trustees allocated \$200 for Baxter and Woodman, road engineers, to make a preliminary study as to what action should be taken regarding the Oakwood Road bridge, vintage 1910, whose vehicle capacity is six tons. The bridge is now being used by 20-ton trucks. Appearing to present his views on the subject was Clyde Bolton of Abbot Laboratories.

The zoning ordinance was amended to define the specifications for recreational clubs whose principal activities center around golf, riding stables, tennis and swimming. The new ordinance limits golf clubs to nine holes and not less than 80 acres. Riding stables must have a minimum of 40 acres and tennis and swimming clubs, no less than 10 acres.

IN LINE with the above specifications Mrs. Blanche Kio man's petition to annex her Arcadia Farm to the village was accepted. Trustees have accepted for study a list of model subdivision regulations which after several weeks' consideration by the plan commission has been forwarded to them.

Everett Lindgren requested permission to divide a 6-acre tract on the corner of Hicks and Ill. 53 into four lots plus a private road, the over-all average amounting to 1.5 per lot. In the immediate area Long Grove Country Club Estates will divide into tracts having an over-

all average of 1.76 acres. Since Lindgren's request is not in conformance to zoning ordinance specifications he was advised to petition for a variation from the village zoning board of appeals.

The village denied Cyril Fanning's request to sell his small house and one acre on Cuba Road to the present tenant, Alois Wieser. Area is in 3-acre zoning. Fanning was also advised to appear before the zoning board of appeals.

AN ORDINANCE, in agreement with the Illinois Municipal Code, was accepted which concerns Long Grove and Kildeer village boundaries to the west of Long Grove. Under discussion by both villages has been a defined map and ordinance which provides that property owners on the boundary line cannot withdraw from one village to the other without the mutual agreement of Long Grove and Kildeer. Ordinance will receive Long Grove's signature upon its final acceptance by Kildeer.

An agricultural amendment stipulating restrictions on farming enterprises and keeping of farm animals within the village was referred to the plan commission. Such a change will require a future public hearing.

It was agreed to direct a protest to the Lake County Zoning Board of Appeals pointing out the county's violation of Long Grove's master plan in its Elmhurst Township zoning ordinance. Long Grove has until April 22 to file protest.

Brought up for discussion was the Crossroads' parking problem and the blocking of approaches to mail boxes. Further consideration will be given these matters at next month's session.

CANDIDATES HAVE until Feb. 25 to file petitions for village trustee. So far, in the running will be Stewart Richmond, Milton Wingquist and incumbent James Webster.

Art Edmunds has filed a petition to run as candidate in the Kildeer School Board election April 13.

Earth moving news concerning the Long Grove Country Club Estates development: the excavation for Sentinel Lake, north of the Donald Armstrongs, has begun. All of the lakes are to be completed this winter. The contract for the golf course has been awarded.

Mrs. James Webster appeared at the three Women's Guild circles the past week to present this year's plan to promote a sacrificial meal observance as a family ritual, timed before the ingathering of the March 24 "One Great Hour of Sharing."

Then and now...

Red Oaks

Very little is known for sure about the origin of the building now known as Red Oaks, but it certainly makes for interesting research. The property is located on the west side of Old McHenry Road south of the crossroads downtown. The original ownership of the house also is uncertain. By now, though, it probably doesn't matter all that much. Anyhow...

The structure, which dates from the Civil War era, initially consisted of a parlor and three bedrooms and may have been built as a one-day houseraising project. A living room, kitchen and pantry, and a fourth bedroom, were added some years later. There is some indication

that the addition actually was a separate house that had been added to the original. (We do know that Long Grove settlers were the original recyclers: In the Village's early days, buildings were moved and reused, not torn down.)

The structure is believed to have been the home of Heinrich and Wilhelmina Sophia Lemker and their six children. It is actual fact that the house was sold for \$1,300 in 1897 by the Widow Lemker.

Frank and Sophia Ruppert subsequently lived in the house until their deaths, only a week apart, in 1907. The house and property were then purchased by Charlie and Cora Herschberger, whose

The second in a series of profiles of historic buildings in the Village's Antique Business District.

family resided there until the early 1960s. In 1962, after his Red Oaks Gift Shop on Long Grove Road (now Robert Parker Coffin Road) was destroyed by fire, Bob McNitt relocated his business to the Herschberger home. Additions were made in the 1960s and 1970s.

Current owner Bob Stoll, who began working for the McNitts during his sophomore year in high school, learned the business from the ground up. He and Sarah, his wife, bought the business from Ruth McNitt in 1993 and last year became proud owners of the homestead as well.

(Continued next page)



Historic house which is now home to Red Oaks. If you have not stopped in, anytime is a good time.

(Photo by Long Grove resident Nancy Burgess.)

Long Grove Bridge

1st Quarter 1998

Red Oaks—

Bob and Sarah have continued the fine tradition started by the McNitts. Red Oaks today is a landmark for fine traditional furnishings and accessories and has earned a solid reputation for quality and outstanding customer service. Many of the furniture pieces are made in Wisconsin exclusively for Red Oaks.

If you appreciate Long Grove's

rural character and heritage, you should make it a point to visit the old Herschberger homestead. Note the two front entrances (one for family, one for guests), the "egg and dart" mouldings in the living room wing, the dry sink in the kitchen, and built-in grain bins in the pantry. Could any structure be better suited for displaying the classic offerings of Red Oaks' fine home furnishings and accessories?

The historic information in this article was provided by Fran Alton, Dori Hoyne and Sarah Stoll. If any local historians have additional information about this and other buildings in the Antique Business District, please contact a member of the Historical Society, or Karen Schmitt at 438-0399. They would love to hear from you.

In Retrospect—

to the side of the fireplace. The oven was usually about two feet in diameter with a smaller opening to minimize heat loss. The oven door was either wood or cast iron.

Lydia Maria Child, writing in the *American Frugal Housewife* in 1832, assumed even then that hearth ovens were universal. "Heating ovens must be regulated by experience and observation," she advised her readers. A fire was built directly in the oven to heat the bricks. When the interior was judged hot enough the ashes were raked out and the food was placed inside.

A woman needed a substantial amount of experience and good judgment to know when the oven had reached the right temperature for that day's baking. A common

test was to place one's hand inside and count to a certain number, which presumably varied with the intestinal fortitude of each baker. If one's hand had to be withdrawn before that number was reached the oven was too hot. Conversely, keeping one's hand in beyond the magic number indicated that the oven was not yet hot enough. It is recorded that one pious woman sang the Doxology a certain number of times instead of counting.

Mrs. Child suggested that "If you are afraid your oven is too hot throw a little flour in and shut it up for a minute. If the flour scorches black immediately, the heat is too furious. If it merely browns it is right."

Today, life in the kitchen is less hazardous.

Recycle grass clippings, yard waste

If you want a lush green lawn with a healthy root system, especially during summer's "dog days" when things tend to dry up, don't collect grass clippings when you mow. Let them blow free. Don't worry about thatch build-up: the clippings will decompose quickly as the nutrients they contain make their way into the soil.

Otherwise, use them for moisture-preserving mulch on your vegetable and flower gardens and around the base of trees and shrubs. This will also reduce weed growth.

(Continued next page)

Village employee—

togetherness." In addition to fishing, movies, and snowmobiling "up north," Ron serves his church as Head Usher and, not surprisingly, chairman of the building and maintenance committee.

He's also a charter member of the Long Grove Lions Club.

Unless you plan to make some structural, mechanical, or topographical alterations at your place, or build something new, you probably won't meet Ron Damitz. But whether you do or not, it's important to appreciate his contribution to the quality of each of our lives here. However, if you do meet him somewhere along the way, you're certain to agree that it was a worthwhile experience.

Figure 11 – Frontier Enterprises – Feb. 1963

The oldest house in Long Grove, formerly owned by Charles Herschberger, oldest resident in the crossroads area, will this spring open its doors to customers of one of the village's new and very successful businesses, Red Oaks.

"We're aiming for April 25," owner Bob McNitt ways, "even though we have major remodeling work facing us. In making certain necessary improvements in plumbing, heating and rewiring, however, we're making every effort to retain the charm and atmosphere of this home. We even plan to leave the bushes and other planting around the porch just as it is now."

A 14-by-29-foot room will be added to the north side of the house for display of glassware. A patio is planned for the back and a stockroom 21-by-30.

Charles and Cora Hersch-



LONG GROVE'S OLDEST HOUSE TO BE RED OAKS' NEW HOME

berger have lived in the house for 44 years, and say the house is over 100 years old. Mr. Herschberger, born in a log cabin north of Route 22 and east of McHenry Road, will celebrate his 92nd birthday next Oct. 31.

The Herschbergers plan to move next door to the house now occupied by the Elmer Hasemans, who in turn will

move to Arlington Heights. Mrs. Haseman is a daughter of the Herschbergers.

D-1

Charles

Frontier Enterprises