

**Lake Villa, Illinois:  
“A History of Our Town”**

Edited by  
**J.K Trychta**

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## **Preface**

Lake Villa, by many current accounts, is a village that reached its peak at the turn of the century when the great Lehmann family estates and hotel flourished within the township boundaries. Once the town lost its magnificent Lake City Hotel to fire, and the elder Lehmann passed on, the village was left to its own devices. Having been settled by Yankee and immigrant stock in the late 1830's, Lake Villa did not perish upon the demise of its benefactor. Like Halley's Comet which was blazing its trail when the town's resort trade flourished, the success of the Lehmann ventures passed, leaving only a brilliant memory in the minds of the townspeople.

With this in mind, one is tempted to ask what enabled Lake Villa to survive? According to the historian and former Allendale pupil, Allan Eckert, Lake Villa (in the 1940's) was a typical American small town, with huge white homes and tree-lined streets; a soda fountain with a marble counter top; movies in the park and, of course, traditional fireworks displays. This assessment may explain the continuity of life in Lake Villa, in that the village began as a family community, and remained that way in spite of investment by the very wealthy, and ultimate loss of that resource.

Life goes on in Lake Villa. The village has survived and will see yet another passing of Halley's Comet.

**J.K. Trychta  
Lake Villa, Illinois  
28 September 1984**

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# **History of Lake Villa, Illinois**

**Lake Villa - 1918**

Compiled by  
**Seventh and Eighth Grades**  
(Written by Edna Wallace when  
Alice Smith was teacher and presented to  
Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Hamlin)

## I - Location and Geological History

The town of Lake Villa occupies twenty-six square miles or sections lying in four different townships, as follows: Sections twenty-five to thirty-six in township forty-six, range ten; sections one to twelve in township forty-five, range ten; section thirty-six in township forty-six, range nine; section one in township forty-five, range nine, all east of the third principal meridian.

To describe the location differently, the town of Lake Villa is in the northwestern part of Lake County, Illinois.

The village of Lake Villa lies very near the center of the Town of Lake Villa and occupies parts of sections thirty-two and thirty-three, township forty-six, range ten; and sections three, four, and five, township forty-five, range ten. The northern limit of the village is but four and one-half miles south of the Wisconsin state line, and the eastern limit of the village is thirteen miles west of Lake Michigan.

The village occupies about one thousand ninety-two acres.

All of Cedar Lake and part of Deep Lake lie inside the village limits.

The Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railroad, which is a branch of the Canadian Pacific, runs through the village.

Long ages ago all that part of the globe which is now North America was under water. At length over in the east the land began to appear, a long narrow chain which is known to us as the Appalachian Mountains. Later the Rocky Mountain region rose in the west. The rising and sinking continued for ages, and each time it rose, broader belts of land were formed. Almost midway between these two mountain regions remained a valley, the Mississippi Valley. Further rising and sinking of the land produced the coal areas of Illinois.

Later the entire valley rose and remained above sea level.

Then in time came the great ice-sheet or glacier from the north. In and around the town of Lake Villa are many evidences of the great glacier. It scooped out our lakes and left mounds and banks of gravel and diversified and made beautiful our landscape.

The great gravel banks at Fox Lake are moraines heaped there by the glacier. The high banks around Deep Lake and the island in Cedar Lake are also mounds where the great ice-sheet dumped gravel.

It is evident also that the soil was formed by the glacier, for most of the soil in the town of Lake Villa is yellow-gray silt loam which is a glacial soil. It has the characteristic billowy appearance which is a feature of moraines. This soil is deficient in organic matter and needs nitrogen and ground limestone for the most profitable agriculture. A small part of the soil is yellow silt loam which occurs in the highest part of the Valparaiso Moraine, and is due to the piling up of the material.

The town of Lake Villa contains eight lakes and part of two others, Fourth or Miltimore [sic] Lake, Sand Lake, Hastings Lake, Crooked Lake, Deep Lake, Cedar Lake, Sun Lake and Douglas Lake and part of Petite Lake and Fox Lake. The largest lake wholly within the town in Fourth Lake which is one and one-fourth miles long and one mile wide in its widest part.

The presence of so many lakes, having in many cases, high wooded shores and islands; the rolling hills and deep valleys, the forests and meadows and winding streams gives the whole town an unusually beautiful scenery.

## II - The Indians

Of course the Indians were the first settlers of Lake Villa. They had occupied the land for unknown generations before the white man came.

By a treaty with the United States in 1829 the Pottawattamies [sic] gave up to the United States all their land east of the Mississippi, but the Indians were to be allowed seven years more or until August 1836 before removing to their new lands assigned to them west of the Mississippi River.

In September, 1833 the final treaty was signed. By this treaty white men were forbidden to settle on the land until the seven years mentioned in the first treaty had expired. Nevertheless, the white men came and settled and the Indians did not object.

The Indians were using fire-arms long before the coming of the white men to Lake County but the little Indian boys still practiced with bow and arrows.

Many arrow heads and spears have been plowed up in this region, also some copper instruments have been found which had probably been brought down from the Lake Superior region by the Indians.

A well known Indian trail ran from Fox Lake, along the west side of Cedar Lake, past the present site of our school house and thence to Fourth Lake. From there it ran to Gurnee, crossing the Des Plaines River on a gravel shoal a few rods north of the present Gurnee bridge, and on to Little Fort on the shore of Lake Michigan. Another trail led from Libertyville to Cedar Lake.

The Indian trail may still be seen crossing the Manzer farm.

The Indians cultivated corn about Fox Lake and in a few other places, and had cornfields of considerable extent on the island in Fox Lake.

No white man was ever harmed by an Indian in this region but the Indians were persistent beggars and sometimes stole.

## III - Early Settlers

It was a wild but beautiful and fertile country into which the first white settlers of our town came.

The streams and lakes were larger and fuller in those days than they are now. Waterfowl were abundant and deer were often seen and even increased in numbers for a few years after the Indians left. Occasionally a bear, a lynx, or a wild cat was killed, and wolves and foxes were plentiful enough to be a nuisance to the early settlers.

The first recorded white settlers in this section were Noel [sic, Noer] Potter and his sons Ira and Tingley who settled a short distance south of Deep Lake in 1835 and spent the following winter there. In the spring they returned to Pennsylvania [sic].

In 1837 Mr. Potter and Tingley returned to their claims driving teams. It took them five weeks to make the trip.

The Des Plaines River was so high that they could not cross but were forced to follow the east bank of the river all the way from Joliet to the settlement of William Cooley near the present village of Libertyville. There they left their teams and crossed the river in a boat and continued their journey with an ox team which Mr. Cooley had west of the river.

Mr. Potter's claim was east of the present highway on what is now called "the Wilmington farm" where Everett Fish now lives and Tingley Potter's claim was west of the road, being what is now called "the Mort Kapple farm" Mrs. Mortimer Kapple was a daughter of Tingley Potter.

Ira Potter and Christopher Manzer walked from Pennsylvania [sic] in 1837. Christopher Manzer "took up" from the government the land which is now the Manzer farm, "Oak Grove" recently purchased by Will Fish, and other land in this section. He is said to have owned from eight hundred to one thousand acres.

In 1845 Mr. Manzer went to the county seat, according to an old history of Lake County, to borrow money for a neighbor who was in trouble. A severe storm came on - it was winter - and in the morning he was found frozen to death within half a mile of his home where the family were [sic] waiting his return.

He left four sons, James, Lazell Christopher, Henry and Gurnsey.

The tract now the Cable farm was bought from the United States by Oren Parker in March 1843. It was owned by various men - Horatius Stevens, Morris Lampher and others - until it came in time into the hands of "Amzi Burnett and Joan, his wife" who sold it to George B. Cable.

A man by name of A. W. McGill bought a part of this land from the government in October 1844 but did not hold it long.

There were three Parker brothers and they held other land, notably that which is now the William Walker farm east of the village.

The Eugene Wilton farm was a part of the entry by Oren Parker and this was sold also to Amzi Burnett and then to Jerome Burnett, the father of Mrs. Eugene Wilton. The farm was taken up in March 1843.

All the south part of what is now the Village of Lake Villa and much more was brought [sic] from the government by Stephen Sherwood, and grandfather of Frank and Ramie Sherwood who still live here. The present site of our school house was on the Sherwood farm and a brick yard a little west of the site of the school house made bricks for a large brick house which stood exactly where the school house now stands. The brick yard was later moved to another part of Mr. Sherwood's land.

Farther west Gustavus Farnsworth took up a claim at \$1.25 per acre. His old home, somewhat altered, is still standing.

The land was sold (in) 1879 to Miss Nancy McDade. Part of it is now the farm of C. B. Dicks and part of it was platted in 1889 as "Richardson's addition to Lake Villa."

Mr. Gustavus Farnsworth died at Antioch in 1860. A daughter of

Mr. Farnsworth was Mrs. Walker. The Walkers built a log house on the corner now vacant across from the school house. Another daughter Mrs. Elizabeth Farnsworth Doolittle is still living at Mount Vernon, Washington.

In 1844 Mr. Lafayette Allen took up government land on the west bank of Cedar Lake. This land was a part of what is now "Allendale." The Allen log house home stood near the present entrance to "Allendale."

The land where the Allendale buildings now stand, a "fractional forty" more than half of which is in the lake was bought by Veni Smith of Fremont when it was sold for delinquent taxes. Mr. Smith then sold it to Mr. Cicero Allen, son of Lafayette Allen.

Capt. Bradley camped on the west bank of Cedar Lake with a boys' choir of which (he) was leader many years ago. He was struck with the beauty of the spot and he effected its purchase and started the Allendale Farm and School.

The land north east of the present village was bought from the government by Warren Hall. His son Frank Hall married Sophia Dennick. Another of the Dennick sisters married Judd Rogers whose parents took up a claim and built a log house upon it near where the Dibble's now live. An eccentric Irish family lived where the Koppen's home is now located. Many were the stories about Jim and Mollie Henessey.

After a time the log house at the cross roads from our school house was bought by Thomas Kerr. It was moved with twelve yoke of oxen straight across the fields to the Kerr farm and this log-house home became the happy meeting place of the young people of the neighborhood. Thomas Kerr played the violin and there were many "sings," "and sometimes we danced a little" confesses an old settler.

In the early days all the cattle belonging to the settlement ran on the "common" which stretched south and west from the Allen, Sherwood and Farnsworth claims. Each family had a cow-bell on one cow of its herd, and all the cow-bells were of different tone. The Farnsworth [sic] are said to have owned the best and most musical bell. In the still of the evenings when the tinkle and chime of the bells was heard far away across the prairie, and when the boys drove them home, separating each herd from the drove as they came to the owners shacks, the sound was very sweet and musical. "I'd give a good deal to hear it again," Cicero Allen says.

There was plenty of sport for the young people in those early day, [sic] – coasting and skating in winter, boating and swimming and fishing in summer, hunting and trapping.

A muskrat hide was worth ten cents; a coon-skin fifty cents, and a fox hide sometimes as much as a dollar and a half in those days.

#### IV - Early Government

Lake County was originally a part of McHenry County but was set off and named Lake County about 1838.

This section, embracing what is now Warren, Avon, Grant, Newport, Lake Villa, Antioch, was called Abingdon Precinct according to the first division of Lake

County into precincts. This division was made at a meeting held at the home of Charles Bartlett near Libertyville, Saturday [sic], June 10, 1837.

Charles Bartlett was at that time one of the County Commissioners, and Samuel Brooks, Jared Gage, and Willard Jones were named election judges for this precinct. The home of Thomas McClure was appointed the polling place.

An election was held July 3, 1837 at which two Justices of Peace and two Constables were elected from each precinct.

In December 1840 the northwest corner of Lake County, eight miles east and west by nine miles north and south was named Bristol Precinct and Hiram Buttrick, Christopher Manzer and Leoma Pearsons were named election judges.

There were never any slaves held in Lake County. About 1855 there was considerable anti-liquor agitation in the United States and in that year Illinois voted on the question. Lake County went "dry" by a majority of 1055 votes which was an overwhelming majority for its comparatively small population. But the majority in the state went "wet" and so Lake County was forced to remain "wet."

In November 1849 Lake County voted to proceed to Town organization.

Town officers were first elected the first Tuesday in April, 1850 and the Lake County Board of Supervisors held its first meeting April 22, 1850.

## V - Civil War Period

Lake County with a population of little over 18000 according to the census of 1860, furnished 1895 soldiers to the Civil War. This section was not behind the rest of the County in patriotism.

Gurnsey Manzer killed at the battle of Pea Ridge March 7, 1862 is believed to have been the first soldiers [sic] from Lake County killed by a rebel bullet. Henry and Lazell Manzer were also in the service and the latter returned as Lieut. Manzer.

Three Fiddler brothers went from this community, Mason and Oscar Douglas, Daniel Sherwood and several others. Daniel Sherwood was killed in the last fight before Richmond at the age of fifteen years and five months.

Henry Fiddler, also, was killed before Richmond and John Fiddler at Chickamauga. Oscar Douglas and Conroy Fiddler also gave their lives to the service. Others lived to return and help to build up the country after the war, of whom were A. R. Douglas, Isaac Mason Douglas, Benjamin Hamlin, John Isbester, Walter Stickles, Michael Kelly and William Wallis.

## VI - The Post Office

Post offices of the early days were located at Monaville, Sand Lake - called Angola -, Millburn, Gurnee, Antioch, Gages Lake, and other points but there was none [sic] at what is now Lake Villa.

For many years Mr. Frank Hooper was mail carrier making the round trip from Monaville, through Angola, Millburn, Gurnee to Waukegan and return twice each week.

Monaville was a small but important center in those days.

The first mail that ever passed through Lake County was carried by a "runner" from Milwaukee to Chicago, May 29, 1836.

The post-office at Sand Lake was first called Angola and was established February 23, 1847 with Mr. Amaziah Smith as post master [sic].

He held the office for ten years. July 9, 1857 William Peck became postmaster. May 15, 1862, Chas Woodward was appointed. Through many years the post office was moved from house to house.

The name was changed to Sand Lake, May 4, 1863. Later postmasters at Sand Lake were as follows:

Dec. 23, 1863, John Swindells  
Feb. 5, 1864, Henry Sherwood  
Oct. 15, 1864, Mrs. Eunice Taylor  
Mar. 30, 1865, Henry Sherwood  
Oct. 26, 1870, Mrs. Sarah Parker  
Dec. 12, 1871, Orange Parker  
Apr. 14, 1873, Chas. Woodward  
Oct. 8, 1880, Geo. Kendall

The Sand Lake post-office [sic] was discontinued July 14, 1882 and on October 23, 1882 the new post office of Stanwood, now Lake Villa, was opened.

The people had chosen the name "Lake City" but as there was already a post office by that name in the state of Illinois the government would not allow another and changed the name to Stanwood.

Mr. Geo. Grice was the first postmaster at Stanwood, and was succeeded June 25, 1886 by Mr. Henry Thacker. The name was again changed by consent of the postal authorities upon petition of the people and August 21, 1886, it became Lake Villa. Henry Thacker remained postmaster until Jan. 22, 1891 when he was succeeded by Mr. Lincoln Rowling.

Mr. Rowling occupied the position for twenty-two years or until February 19, 1913, when Miss Hattie Miller was appointed. Miss Miller is postmistress at the present time.

At one time the post-office [sic] was in Henry Sherwood's brick house on the present site of our school-house [sic]. Later it was moved on the hill opposite the church. Then into Rowling's store west of the railroads [sic] tracks.

When the store burned it was kept for a time in a barn and then was moved to its present quarters.

## VII - The School

The first school-house [sic] in our district was built opposite the cemetery in 1845 and was called Angola School. Mr. Morris Lampher was the first teacher. The schools at Monaville and in the Cribb district are older than ours, and so probably is also the Sand Lake school. The first school house at Sand Lake was made of mud.

Our first school-house [sic] was a one-room frame building the material for which was hauled from Chicago.

Some of the early teachers were Miss Elizabeth Farnsworth, now Mrs. Doolittle of Mt. Vernon, Washington; Miss Charlotte Miller, a sister of Mr. Henry

Miller, who was later Mrs. Matthew Cribb; the Misses Sarah, Ruth and Sophia Dennick; Miss Ellen Warner who became Mrs. Hiram Wright; Henry Sherwood, Solon Fairman and Ransom Gilbert.

Through all the years that the school was located opposite the cemetery, the pond remained, summer and winter, an unfailing source of pleasure to the pupils.

In the earliest days a rowing [sic] band of Indians would occasionally [sic] pass the school and cause some excitement.

Later the game of "ball," the forerunner of our modern baseball enlivened the recess periods, when the teacher, Mr. Henry Sherwood, and Cicero Allen, who had become one of the big boys, would "stand" the school.

The first school house was struck by lightning and burned during a severe thunder storm one afternoon in August 1898.

The second school building was a frame structure with three school rooms, cloak rooms and basement. It was furnace heated and was quite modern, for its time.

This building burned from some unknown cause in the night April 10, 1909. Mr. Felker was principal at that time with Miss Darby in the Intermediate room and Mrs. Felker in the Primary room.

When the question of rebuilding came up it was decided to build nearer the village, so a lot was secured from the Lehman [sic?] estate, the location of the present school.

School was held the remainder of that term and the opening of the next year in vacant rooms above the barbar [sic] shop and the hardware store up town.

The new building is a modern two-story and basement structure built of brick – a building of which the district may well be proud. It has four schools [sic] rooms, two on each floor, and a well lighted, well equipped library. The whole building is a pleasant and attractive with-out and within [sic]. And no more beautiful and convenient location could have been found for it than the one which it occupies.

The school entered this building after the holiday vacation, January 1910 and here it remains industrious and happy.

May the fire fiend spare this building the third one of our schools!

## VIII - The Church

There was no church building in this district for more than thirty years after its settlement.

A man named Palmer lived in a log house on a claim south of Thomas Kerr's for a time and preached Sunday's [sic] in the Monaville school house. Some times a "traveling" preacher would come through and word would be sent around among the settlers that there was to be preaching in the Sand Lake school-house [sic].

The school houses were used for funerals and other public meetings.

A little later a Methodist church was organized at the Angola schoolhouse and Sunday School and Class Meeting were held but there was no regular preaching. This point was one of a circuit and was visited by a pastor occasionally [sic].

In 1876 Centennial M. E. Church was built on the west side of the road between the present residence of Will. Fish and Mr. Pfannenstiehl.

In 1892 this church was moved to its present location and the addition built.

## IX - The Railroad

The Wisconsin Central Railway was built through the village in 1887. It has since become a part of the Canadian Pacific system and its name has been changed to the Chicago, Minneapolis and Sault Ste. Marie.

The coming of the railroad really made the town, but the building of the railroad was a great task in this section.

The slough back of the Manzer farm proved to be a "sink hole" which the workmen labored in vain to fill. Piles were driven and a bridge built to span the worst part of the slough. They then backed the engine up near the bridge and cabled it to a string of small cars on the other side of the bridge. This was to test the bridge and the firmness of the adjoining road-bed. As the line of about seven cars was passing over the bridge it suddenly broke and the cars went down and out of sight.

Then the railroad company bought five acres of standing timber in Wisconsin. This they had cut and hauled to the troublesome "sink hole."

The timber was sunk in the hole, brush and all, and put in immense quantity of gravel upon it [sic]. At length a firm road-bed was obtained.

For some time the depot had a low sloughy tract surrounding it and the depot platform was built over a damp cellarlike hole.

As the depot platform contained many holes and cracks and the unwary travelers often lost their small change through the platform [sic].

In the cavity the boys who "drove bus" did some profitable silvermining.

## X - The Village

There was a hotel the "Stewart House," owned by McDougal brothers between Deep Lake and Cedar Lake before the railroad was built.

The late E. J. Lehman purchased the "Stewart" farm and projected the town as a business center and summer resort. He built splendid [sic] additions to the hotel and a club house on the island in Cedar Lake.

Before the railroad was built the hotel guests were brought from Gurnee or Waukegan by buses.

When the railroad came Mr. Lehman secured, by grants of rights and land to the company, the advantage which Lake Villa still enjoys of having so many trains stop here.

Unfortunately Mr. Lehman's health failed and with it, his keen mind, his plans were never carried out. It was a great misfortune to Lake Villa.

The village was at first built, not at the depot but on the higher and more attractive ground near the hotel. The post-office [sic], now Lund's Tailor shop, was opposite the church on the east side of the street, and a Livery Stable was north of the post-office [sic].

A meat market and a restaurant were across from the church on the north side of the street. A hotel called the "Derby House" is now the Jarvis Hotel.

West of the tracks there were no houses except the Sherwood farm-house [sic] and Faber's. The Hughs [sic] house was moved to Lake Villa in 1888. Mr. Shepardson's house was on the bank of Cedar Lake and was occupied by Mr. Peacock.

The Sherry Lumber Company occupied the present site of Kellar's. Wendland's and Dixon's Sugar's [sic] Store was opposite the Derby House.

The ice-house was built in 1893 and 1892 [sic] and contained twenty rooms when finished. There was also a large boarding house. These were torn down in 1915.

The Sherry Lumber Company sold out and later the business passed into the hands of Charles Harbaugh and Company and was moved to its present location.

One of the stores on the hill burned and other buildings were moved to the present site of the village.

"The parsonage" was originally at Sand Lake near where Donnelly's house now stands. Later, the present parsonage was built.

Many other residences were built in and around the village; the homes and country estates of the different members of the Lehman family are of unusual beauty. The beautiful east shore of Deep Lake was sold off in small tracts and is occupied by many summer homes.

The great hotel was burned one night in the spring of 1915.

## A Letter from Mrs. Elizabeth Farnsworth Doolittle

Mt. Vernon, Wash.,  
May 10, 1918

Miss Alice E. Smith  
Lake Villa, Ill.

My dear Miss Smith,

Your letter of April 30<sup>th</sup> recieved [sic] and I gladly reply to it. How I love to hear from Lake Villa! My earliest childhood was spent there, and though now I have passed the eightieth mile-stone it stirs old memories to hear from there.

I came to that part of the country in 1846 with my parents, and my father Augustus Farnsworth took up the land on the west half of what is now Lake Villa. A man by the name of Charles McClellan took up the eastern portion. (This was

from the government). Cicero Allen, I am sure, remembers just where both lived. His father Lafayette Allen took up farther west, I think now called "Allendale."

Then South, next to Lake Villa the land was taken up by Stephen Sherwood. He built a brick house and lived there for years and raised a large family. He first lived in a log house and worked at the blacksmith. In 1850 he went to California, returned well rewarded for his trip, started a brick yard and built that brick house the finest in the land. Henry Sherwood, his son, lived on a portion of the farm and I suppose some of his children still live in that vicinity.

The next on the south was a man by the name of Morris Lampher. He also took up his land from the government and it went clear to Angola Cemetery.

Across the road to the east from [sic] the Cemetery was the first school-house [sic] of that locality built in 1845.

The first church organization was in that school house. I don't remember the pastor's name but Morris Lampher was the Class Leader. It was the M.E. denomination and was very prosperous for a long time.

The cemetery land and south from [sic] there was taken up by three brothers, John, Oren, and Abel Parker, and all lived on the same.

John Parker died in 1845 or 1846 and they laid out that cemetery. I think he was the first person buried there but all three brothers rest in that cemetery and many of their families and descendants. My father lies there, buried in 1860.

I moved from there in 1862 and have been back but once since.

The next south from the Parker brothers was Christopher Manzer. He had a large tract of eight or nine quarters. He went to Chicago to enter another eighty and on his way home got bewildered and lost and froze to death. That was in 1846. He had four sons. One of the sons did live there when I visited there, but I think I have since heard that he, too, is gone.

Then farther south were three brothers by the name of Potter. They entered their land, too, and lived there; and all these families I have mentioned and their children and myself have worshiped in and attended school in the old Angola school house, and spent many pleasant days in and around there.

Later I taught school in the same school house in 1856 and '57.

In the 40's occasionally [sic] a tribe of Indians would pass through, but they never did any harm only were great beggars.

North of Lake Villa a man by the name of Mr. McCredie took up eighty acres, but only stayed a few years. A man by the name of Warren Hall bought of [sic] McCredie and the next was a man by the name of Hennesey. He and his wife, Mollie, lived there when I moved away.

They used to have some lively times. Their house was of logs with a loose floor, and if things didn't suit Mollie and Jim went down cellar [sic] she would grab the tea kettle and pour boiling water down the cracks. Then he would retaliate and take the mop or broom and beat her. Often my father and mother have been called to quell their affairs.

Still they kept on and from driving their ox team they came to driving a spirited span of horses. And he complained that if he fed them a half bushel of oats they wouldn't take his advice and stop when he said "Whoa."

The livery stable and hotel were not known in that locality in those days and their [sic] was no railroad nearer than Chicago. In 1856 one was built into Waukegan. Everything was primitive. The stranger was welcomed at any house. We received no mail oftener than once a week and walked to Antioch for that. Our first letters from the East were without envelopes and at a cost of twenty-five cents. When my mother could write to Vermont for only ten cents postage she was delighted and later at three cents it was a marvel.

Our first schools were apportioned so much to a pupil and the parents paid the tuition. My first salary as a teacher I collected, one half from each pupil; boarding around the district, and the other half in November or April from the township treasurer.

I could tell you many incidents of singing schools and spelling schools. We had rare times in summer, boating and fishing on those lakes, and in winter on the ice.

I knew all those older settlers—the Smiths of Sand Lake, Wrights and Pecks, but I suppose all or nearly are in the better land.

If Mrs. Henry Sherwood is living or Mr. or Mrs. Mason Douglas they will remember me as Elizabeth Farnsworth. Mrs. Hattie Rowling and Cicero Allen have occassionally [sic] written to me. I really like that country better than this.

I didn't say about that brick yard what I should. I think the first one was about thirty rods west of the brick house and two or three years later it was moved a mile or so to the southwest near a large sand bank on the same farm. Then brick was made on a large scale to sell.

So many names crowd my memory from Deep Lake and Cedar Lake over to Fox Lake. What was later called Monaville had only a small log school house and a blacksmith shop. There the Baptists had a very prosperous organization.

I was there to war meetings for enlistment for the dear boys that [sic] went to the Civil War and many friends and school mates left and are now lying in southern cemeteries. But this war is more terrible. Nearly every able-bodied young man is gone from here. I have one grandson in France. He is guarding prisoners now.

If I can help you further in any way I will gladly do so.

Sincerely Yours, E. H. Doolittle

# HISTORY OF OUR TOWN

(Written by the Illinois History Class of 1918:  
Blanche McCarthy; Hilda Wolff (Pilz);  
Raymond McCarthy; and Herman Wolff)

## Lake Villa Town

Until 1912 Lake County consisted of sixteen towns. In that years [sic], the residents of the Northern part of township 45 petitioned the legislature for a separation from the towns of Antioch and Avon of which it formed a part. These petitions met with success and in 1912 that portion of land was set aside or organized as a new town, receiving the name of Lake Villa. To form this new town, 2 rows of sections, or twelve square miles of land was received from Antioch, the same number from Avon was donated. From the town of Grant lying West of this land two sections each one mile square was [sic] taken. This forms a tract of land four miles wide, and six miles long with an additional two miles on the Western end. The first town meeting was held April 1, 1912. At it the town officers were elected. Very few trials or courts of Justice have met to administer justice to erring persons. One trial which occurred in 1917 was the result of a murder in which Harry Kerr, a farmer living in the vicinity of Lake Villa was shot by his brother-in-law. The shooting was a result of a quarrel between the two men, and Mr. Kerr was shot in the streets of Lake Villa. The case was taken to Waukegan, and Mr. Kerr's brother-in-law was liberated on a plea of self-defense. Another case which took place recently was one in which a laborer, removing the hay and straw etc. of the Arcady Farm, which had rented the Fowler farms on Sand Lake, was accused of embezzling the hay. He was brought to trial, but as the evidence was all circumstantial, and no one being able to prove the accusation, the case was dismissed. The village of Lake Villa boasts of having but one or two justice-trails, all trifling matters.

## Significance of Name "Lake Villa"

The county surrounding the village of Lake Villa is unusually attractive and picturesque, abounding in lakes, hills and rugged beauty. In this locality, Mr. E. J. Lehman [sic] a wealthy Chicago merchant, in 1883 built a hotel. This was erected solely to entertain his guests and friends, of whom he had a great number. On account of its nearness to Cedar Lake and Deep Lake, he contemplated on calling the place "Lake City." On making inquiries he found that the name "Lake City" had already been bestowed upon another post office in Illinois, so this name was given up. A little later the name "Stanwood" was conferred on the little village. This title remained until the present name of "Lake Villa" was decided upon. Mr. Lehman [sic] who by this time had purchased the immense "Stewart" farm, was working hard in the interests of the town. A branch of this "Lake City Hotel" was started at Gurnee, and a stage line established between that station and Lake Villa, which was to meet all trains. At that time the Wisconsin Central (Sioux Line) had not commenced operations in the county.

Accordingly the St. Paul Station at Gurnee, or the "Northwestern" at Waukegan were the only places where one could reach Lake Villa from [sic]. In this way numbers of people visited the "Lake City" and impressed by its rugged prettiness built small country homes along the margin of the lakes. Then because of the many villas, or homes, along the different lakes, the town came to receive its very appropriate title of "Lake Villa." This hotel of the Lehmann family was consumed by fire in later years, and Mr. Lehmann who had done so much for the little village was afflicted with insanity and died a few years later. Three of his sons, Otto, Edward and Ernest E. have beautiful homes on Fox Lake, Deep Lake and Sand Lake, respectively.

### Early Settlers

Most of the early settlers who located in the county came by foot to their new found homes or traveled in prairie schooners with their families. The early pioneers landed their families and household goods in the southwest portion of the county in the neighborhood of what is now Half Day or along the old O'Plain, Aux Plain or Des Plaines River, as we call it. Among the very early settlers, the names of Daniel Wright, S. D. Warner, Lewis A. Paddock, and Elam Phillips are noted.

#### **Lazell Christopher Manzer**

Mr. L. C. Manzer was born in Avon Township in the limits of what is now the town of Lake Villa in 1842. Here he lived during his early and late years, being engaged in farming. He served in the Civil War, enlisting in 1861 for three month's service and later reenlisting for unlimited service. He served on Mexican frontier and was mustered out as first lieutenant [sic]. He also served as county treasurer in Lake County. Three children, G. P. Manzer, D. Rand, A. A. Manzer survived him.

#### **Guernsey B. Manzer**

G. B. Manzer, born in Avon Twship. [sic] was a brother to L. C. Manzer. He also served in the Civil war, having joined Co. C. 37<sup>th</sup> Ill. regiment. He was killed at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, and was the first of the Lake Co. volunteers, to meet death in battle.

#### **James M. Manzer**

Mr. J. M. Manzer, farmer and brother of L. C. and G. B. Manzer was born in Avon township. Enlisting in Co. F. 39<sup>th</sup> Ill. regiment he was wounded at Richmond June 1864, and later was discharged for disability, dying soon after in 1867. The great-grandfather of these men served in the revolutionary war under Gen. Washington, he was then Capt. Jos. Potter. He also crossed the Delaware in the same boat with Wash. [sic] The father of the Manzer brothers, Chris. Manzer came on foot to Avon in 1835. After locating here, he brought his family in a large prairie schooner. They have made their home here since.

#### **Mortimer August Kapple**

Mr. Kapple was born in Avon, Feb 8, 1851, being a son of early pioneers, who had made their way here from New York. His father was the first settler in Avon. Devoting most of his time to farming. [sic] In 1918 he sold the old farm and moved to Waukegan.

### **Horatio J. Nelson**

H. J. Nelson, a native of Buffalo, New York, migrated to Avon township in 1845. He taught school several terms in Avon, and Antioch. He engaged in farming until his retirement in 1896. He served as school trustee and town clerk. The family moved to Waukegan in 1916 where Mr. Nelson died some time later. His widow and five children are still living.

### **William Nelson**

A resident of Monaville, located in Avon in 1848, having come from the Isle of Man. His life was devoted to farming, and blacksmithing. He was a steady member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1901, he died.

### **I. M. Douglass**

Mr. Douglass migrated to Avon in 1845, having come from Chateaugay, N. Y. They settled on the N. W. bank of Sand Lake, where they lived until seven years ago. Mrs. Douglass also from N. Y. arrived here in an old schooner completing the journey in three weeks and three days. She lived until her marriage not far from Hastings Lake. Mr. Douglass enlisted in the 39th Ill. as a cook. He took part in the battles at Look Out Mt. Mr. Douglass is still living in the village of Lake Villa.

### **Archibald McCredie**

Mr. McCredie was born in Scotland. He came to this country stopping in Buffalo, New York. In 1852 he with his family moved to Lake Co., Illinois. At that time no railroad had been built along the North Shore, so Mr. McCredie packed his household goods on the boat which conveyed him from Chicago to Waukegan. About twelve miles North West of Waukegan he located on a farm. Here his family was raised, and his life was devoted to farming. He died in 1914, after having reached the age of 89 years.

## **Stage Roads and Stages**

Two important stage lines crossed the town of Lake Villa in the early days. These both terminated in Waukegan, and one started in Wauconda, running to the county seat, and the other began at Fox Lake and ended in Waukegan. The stage line at that time was the only mode of travel to or from Waukegan in the early days. These stage coaches were drawn by four or six horses and usually started at noon on one day stopping over night at the taverns along the road and arriving at their destination the following day. Mr. Hooper, the father of Mr. Bert Hooper of Lake Villa was the stage driver on the Fox Lake coach line for a number of years. His coach conveyed passengers, and carried mail. The mail usually arrived in Fox Lake on Saturday afternoon and left on the next Tuesday.

A Mr. Allen also drove this stage coach for some time. On the Wauconda to Waukegan line, Mr. Theron Oakes served as a driver for a while. In those days, a more welcome sight could not be seen, than the weekly coach arriving. The townfolk crowded around, each one looking for a paper, a letter, or some friend who was to visit them. When the railroads found their way into the county a little later, the stages gave up their business, as mail, freight, and passengers preferred the quiet of a crude train than the excitement of a stage ride. [sic]

### Early Churches

In the first days of our county many of the school buildings were used to hold religious ceremonies in [sic]. This holds true at Sand Lake where the early Methodist congregation met in both the old mud school and also in the present one. In the village of Lake Villa the Methodists organized at the school house which in 1850 was a mile South of the present one. Here they carried precedings until 1876, when the congregation erected a church in Antioch Township a few miles from Cedar Lake. A little later it was removed again to the Village of Lake Villa, where it was dedicated Dec. 11, 1892.

In 1841 the townfold [sic] of Milburn [sic] congregated in the old log school house there, and led by Rev. Wm. B. Dodge, performed all religious rites. Mr. Dodge, a resident of Lake Villa Township, finally erected a permanent house of worship which may still be seen, and which has a pleasant location amid a rock grove of pine trees in the village of Milburn. Everyone revered and honored Mr. Dodge until his death in 1861. He left seven children; all of whom were members of the Congregational Church at Milburn. The very first meeting held in Milburn was in 1839, by Elder Young and Davenport. A Catholic Church also held services in Fox Lake, altho [sic] no church was erected until later. At present the Catholic persons of the vicinity attend in Antioch, and services are held in a hall (Barnstable Hall) in Lake Villa.

Cemeteries grew up often near a church. At Sand Lake there is a private one, in the village of Lake Villa there is the "Angola Cemetery." South of the schoolhouse a half mile or more Monaville also possesses one, and Milburn also owns a very pretty one. In a certain part of a field in Milburn, is the remnant of the first grave yard. The bodies were removed to the present place and the early one abandoned. Looking at the quiet little field, one could not imagine it to be the resting place of some of the early pioneers.

### Early Industries

While many of the early settlers engaged in farming still there were a few who built blacksmith shops, operated grist mills, and worked in brick yards. One of these early brick yards was part of what is now the "Sherwood Farm" in the village of Lake Villa. Another was located near Rollins, some miles east of the station. An old blacksmith's forge was found at Monaville, a Mr. Nelson being the smithy. Another was the "Ames" farm near Sand Lake; still another was found on Fourth or Miltimore [sic] Lake. Besides these, several were run in the vicinity of Millburn, and one was located at the village of Lake Villa. Near the outlet of Fourth Lake, a Moses Esty conducted both a sawmill and grist mill [sic]. He also

had mills at the S. E. [sic] corner of Third Lake. In Milburn [sic], a saw and grist mill were doing fine business in these early days. But in the early days, Milburn was considered a growing, thrifty little village. Here on the "Mill Creek" as it came to be known as, a Mr. Alen Southerland conducted a barley mill.

### Hunting, Fishing, Trapping

Being the proud possessor of almost ten small lakes, Lake Villa abounds in good fishing, and hunting. Some years previous many animals indeed were trapped alas, but of late years, partly on account of the close proximity and watchfulness of the people, the trapping has decreased. Mr. Douglas relates that when he was still a young boy living on the West bank of Sand Lake, he with his brothers were startled on seeing a wolf some rods away in the clearing. They were milking at the time, and being too frightened to run to the house for a gun, they watch it sniffing along, but it finally disappeared in the woods, and was not seen again, having probably been shot by some hunter. Outside these rare occasions, very few wolves were seen in this part of the county. Wild deer were plentiful here at one time, and had established a regular little trail which led from Fox Lake across country to the shores of Fourth Lake. Many and often small herds of from ten to fifteen were seen slowly walking along the trodden path to the Lake shore. From here the trail led off to the Des Plaines, following the lakes thence. Wild pigeons were also very plentiful here in the pioneer days, but there are none left at present. These birds appeared in huge flocks, and were shot unmercifully. They were good eating birds, and of the size almost of the tame pigeons of today. They often became rather tame, and fed from the chicken yards with the tame fowls. The lakes were always the scene of duck shooting, and fishing. Today, at certain seasons, the lakes have large flocks of wild geese floating on the waters, but they remain only for short lengths of time. But before the country became settled they stayed for weeks and even months at a time. Still the fish are almost as plentiful as before, and fishermen are seen early in the spring out in small boats seeking them. Many of the lakes are private and are seined for carp, the government putting in a stock every so often. In the woods and around the lake shores, many small animals are trapped during the winter. These consist of minks, skunk, weasels, opossum, musk-rats [sic] and occassionaly [sic] an ermine. One of the boys of the school caught some seventy odd rats, in 1916, also a skunk and one or two minks. The larger animals are vanishing rapidly, but their abundance now denotes their greater supply long ago.

### Our School

The exact date for the organization of the Sand Lake school district is not known but it probably dates back to the year 1848 or 50 [sic]. The original school house stood on the site of the present one, and was a small structure built of mud, and straw. At that time, but one man in the vicinity knew how to construct these houses, a Mr. Hockaday from the neighborhood of Milburn [sic]. Because Mr. Hockaday had erected it, the school came to be "Hockaday's Monument." In those days the school was kept by the parents of those who had children

attending but as early as 1864 the school was maintained in much the same way as those of to-day [sic].

The interior of this early building was of rough plaster. A huge stove, capable of holding a half dozen or more four foot logs stood in the center of the room. The seats were arranged around the walls and consisted of a long board bench, with a wide plank or board for a desk. The books of the early days went into detail a great deal more than those of to-day on certain subjects. The early settlers ridicule our present day primary books as being foolish. No little rhymes for them, only common sense and hard words. "Spell downs" were held quite often, both for children and grown-ups of the districts, These were a delight on long winter evenings, and Mr. Douglas relates that one word which would "get" them all was Chateaugay, his native village in New York.

The teachers of the early days received a very wee salary in comparison with to-day. At that time many a teacher received a dollar and a half a week and was satisfied with it. "Boardin' 'round" gave her sufficiency of food, and each week found the teacher encamped at a new homestead. The number of children in the household determined her length of residence. The early records, dating from '64 show from \$18 to \$20 a month salary. Some of the teachers who have taught at Sand Lake are the Misses:

Lizzie Atwell	Carrie Cropley	Cathie McCredie
Katie O'Hara	Alfred Spaford	(1878)
Tina Walsh	Vera Worden	Blanche Dennison
Laura Ogsdon	Georgia Vasseller	(1909, 1911)
Julia White	Edith Van Alstine	L. H. Rice
Inez Ogsdon	Miss Rutledge	(1873)
Jennie Stanford	Julia Hardin	Mary Amann
Nellie Lane	Raymond Morehouse	(1914)
Delia Gaggin	Maggie Lawrence	Agnes Kerr
E. Murrie	Una Minto	Mary C. Deering
Lottie Cropley	Olive Nelson	(1915-18)
Martha James	Jessie Corrin	Abba Bary
Tessie Cunningham	Lulu Thain	B. T. Stedman
Alice Dodge	(1880)	Mary Bonner
Abbie Wilson	Maude Snyder	
	(1911, 1912, 1913)	

The pupils who have been enrolled since 1889 are:

Ella Schults	Benny Ames	Lonnie Wells
Olive Spool	Maria Hoch	Royal Coskill
Bessie Spool	Louis Hoch	Dora Carpenter
Ruby Falch	Harry Hoch	Benny Stickles
Mabel Falch	Pansy Hoyt	Celia Rogers
Royal Falch	Clarence Bulthius	Archie Rogers
Lillian Falch	Marie Bulthius	Lucy Middleton

Royal Ehlert  
Grace Schaft  
Arthur Trieger  
Pearl Trieger  
Nettie Parks  
Willie Parks  
Florence Hoch  
Marguerite Meylos  
Marguerite Connor  
Willie Conner  
Henry Oldorf  
Elmer Larson  
Hazel Grady  
Frank Klop  
Ethel McMahon  
Ella Knutson  
Otto Schuelsser  
Walter Douglas  
Blanche Nellis  
Francis Charles  
Mamie Charles  
David Charles  
Emmet Charles  
Arthur Thayer  
Carrie Cropley  
Ralph Fairman  
Lottie Ames  
Cora Ames  
Violet Ames  
Rich Ames  
Russel Ames  
Gladys Ames  
Hazel Ames  
Edwin Larson  
Eddie B. Miller  
Mary D. Middleton  
Meta Borngnaber  
Laura Freeman  
Elmer Wolff  
Herman Wolff  
Hilda Wolff  
Edith Horton  
Anita Bounn  
Donald Noyes  
George Kick

Carl Feenstra  
Henry Feenstra  
Anna Feenstra  
Fanny Wynberger  
James Slavin  
Beatrice Vickers  
Hattie Miller  
Mabel Bartlet  
Irene Bairston  
Helen Bairston  
Inez Dalrymple  
Wm. Nieman  
Nettie Wright  
Fred Wright  
Lucy Wright  
Frank Wright  
Leina Wright  
Mary Miller  
Fred Miller  
Lewis Miller  
Chas. Nichols  
Alma Nell  
Charles Neff  
Myrtle Neff  
Alvin Neff  
George Beck  
Daisy Taylor  
Frank Stickles  
Floyd Horton  
Ethel Miller  
Nettie King  
Leo King  
Olive Wells  
Lloyd Kick  
Everett Kick  
Lola McCarthy  
Inathe McCarthy  
Raymond McCarthy  
Blanche McCarthy  
Mildred McCarthy  
Jane McCarthy  
Merle McCarthy  
Pearl Nellis  
Alma Neff

Genevieve Rogers  
Sadie Grady  
Marguerite Wallace  
Fred Congdon  
Pierce Congdon  
Louise Larson  
Villa Larson  
Wm. Board  
Wm. Gonyo  
Faddie Fenlow  
Alfred Wallis  
John Wallis  
Cora Wallis  
Rosell Wallis  
Joe Horton  
Louis Horton  
Alice Larson  
Oscar Douglas  
Doris Denman  
Bart Denman  
Pearl Trieger  
Don Ziechel  
John Spool  
Peter Spool  
Mary and  
Agnes Lamenga  
Schultz, Alf  
Samie Shindgler  
Robert Gonyo  
Tom Warren  
Frank Warren  
Effie Thayer  
Fanny Minto  
Gertrude Ostrander  
Luella Freeman  
Clarence Strom  
Alice Strom  
Ethel Strom  
Edwin Strom  
Eddie Freeman  
Edwin Hoyt  
Frank Hoyt  
Mildred Hoyt  
Mary McKinley

From the early records there appears the following: "At an annual meeting held in school district No. 7, Township 45, Range 10, East, county of Lake, and state of Illinois, a vote was taken to raise 2% of all the taxable property in said district for building a new school house in Dist. No. 10." Signed – Mason Douglas, clerk.

In the following year, 1864, the contract was let to Mr. Wm. Bonner, for (\$160) one hundred sixty dollars, and he thereby agreed to complete it on or before Nov. 15 of that year. Accordingly this was done at the specified time and sessions were begun in the new building. This same building is the one now in use though it would not be readily recognized as a number of alterations have been performed, and in the summer of 1917, the two East [sic] and west walls were remodelled, giving it its present pleasing appearance. The seats in use in 1918 are the identical ones used in the days of twenty years ago. They are the old fashioned double variety and cut into them are the names of several older residents of the neighborhood.

The old school house was once the meeting house on the Sabbath for the Methodists of the surrounding territory. Here too, were transacted all affairs concerning the district in school affairs. Entertainments also took place quite frequently, to benefit the school.

## The Indians

When the early settlers to Avon came, the Indians were few, but their trails led thru [sic] the town, along the lake shores and the natives saw them often wending their quiet way along the old trails, or thru the woods.

The Indians' mounds are quite plentiful in Lake Villa town. Many of them have been dug away by the farmers, but there are still a number left. A Mr. Samuel Miller who has been in Lake County since 1835 reported that in clearing away a mound, he found a huge skeleton which measured eight feet across. The head was unusually large, also. Besides, the skeleton, quantities of beads, some silver trinkets, and earrings were found. A number of other skeletons in the vicinity were unearthed and each one measured close to seven feet.

The mounds in our town reveal many Indian weapons, arrow heads, clubs, stone knives, spear points, and stone axes and hatchets. None of the tools are of iron. At the northeast end of Fox Lake, an Indian cemetery once stood. Here numerous mounds have been cleared away and all show remains of Indian weapons. Behind our school house is a piece of land, numbering sixty or more acres, and from the great quantity of arrow heads, spear points and other articles of warfare, it is deemed to have been an Indian battlefield. Another early camping ground, and battlefield was on the A. S. McCredie farm. Here, on the shores of the lake (Fourth) toward the east, they encamped, regularly every Fall. After pitching their tents, the hunters trailed around in search of food or game, and stayed here until the food was gone. Then packing their tents away, they slowly and silently recommenced their journey, following as closely as possible the lake shores. An old Indian trail led from Fox Lake, straight east thru the village of Lake Villa across country to Fourth Lake from here to Third, Druces, and Gages Lakes.

Often the trail separated in the village and one division wound their way past Deep and Crooked Lakes, to Hastings Lake. Here they went further South and encamped near the present "Tower Farm," east of the village. They were almost all friendly to the few bold, scattered pioneer families, occasionally aiding them, and always advising. They told the settlers not to plant their corn, until the leaves on the Oak tree were as large as a rabbit's ear. The Indians were often seen in the winter to wrap themselves in a blanket, build a fire around a huge tree, place their feet toward the fire, and go comfortably to sleep. The fire burning around the tree trunk gave sufficient warmth to the Indian to keep from freezing.

The Indians traversed Lake Villa frequently on their way to the Wisconsin woods, finding it rich in game and fish in the lakes which abound there. There still remain signs of these old trails around Fourth Lake. On one occasion, a Mr. Tom Conklin, dug up a skeleton on the Douglas farm across (on West Bank) [sic] Sand Lake, but he was arrested for doing it. A few weeks ago, in planting shrubs in the school yard, an arrowhead was found, and the presence of three mounds in the yard leads to the belief that there are many tokens of Indian life lying within them.

Lake County, in fact, part of the Illinois state was not settled until 1836 owing to the claim the Indians had on the land. As the years go by, we know less and less of those early red men, and signs grow fewer and will perhaps finally cease, and the Red race will be almost forgotten.

### Civil War

Among those who gave their services in aiding the Union side, during the Civil War (1861-1865) were William Bonner, George Dodge, Jim Martin, Henry Bater, Eli Thayer, George Thayer, George Jamison, James Jamison, Ben Hamlin, Henry Dobski, Charles Rowling, John Will and Archie McCredie, Al Manzer, Mike Sheahen, John Isbester, I. M. Douglass, and A. D. Douglass.

### Spanish-American War – 1898

But one name can be found who enlisted in this war; that of Arthur Rowling.

### Great European War

The names of the boys who very nobly went to defend their country in this great war are as follows: (Left September, 1917) Ray Kerr – Engineer Corps; Paul Cys – Infantry; Charles Green – Infantry; Walter Danniels – Engineer; (left February, 1918) Fred Bartlett – Infantry; James McKenzie – Infantry; Hessel Faber – Infantry; Paul King – Engineer; Wm. Armstrong – Reg. Canadian; Harold Kraft – 342<sup>nd</sup> Infantry; Tom McKenzie – 342<sup>nd</sup> Infantry; Earl Potter – Great Lakes; Otto Kufault – 342<sup>nd</sup> Infantry; Julius Loefer – 342 Infantry; (left April, 1918) Frank Koppen – Rockford; Albert Kick – Rockford; Robert Good – Rockford; Gustive Bumbalgard – Rockford.

### The White Farm

One of the prettiest spots in Lake County in its early years was the White Farm. This farm, so called because all buildings, wagons, stables, fences, and stones bordering the driveway were painted white, was situated on the north bank of Sand Lake, opposite the present Sand Lake school. Mr. Robert Emmet was the owner of this estate. He devoted much of his time to raising thoroughbred horses of which he had a good number.

A large race track was on the other side of the road where the animals were trained. Mr. Emmet's wife was once the famous actress, Katie Howard. Nothing remains at the present to show of the once beautiful White Farm.

### "Lindenhurst Farm"

One of the prettiest spots in the town of Lake Villa is "Lindenhurst Farm," the home of Mr. E. E. Lehmann on Sand Lake. The farm itself occupies some 240 acres of land. The residence which overlooks the Lake in one of its choicest spots, is constructed in the bungalo [sic] style, with several long low porches overlooking the water. The exterior is white with a stained roof of green, as are all the buildings. Surrounded by a mass of beautiful shrubbery, green lawns, and graceful elms, the house is barely visible from the road, but on entering the drive, one sees the beauties of the rose garden, the fish pond, the pergola, and the flower garden. A lane of silver maple trees adjoins the farm, leading to the Fowler farms, across the lake, and this adds to the picturesqueness [sic] of the place. Near the approach to the house is the garage, a pretty little building, wrapped in green foliage, and to the right of this are the dog kennels. Part of the Kennel is separated from the rest and is used as a sleeping room for the dog tender. A small hall leads into a little room which serves as a bath room for the dogs. Here they are bathed and nursed if ill. Leading off from this is the sleeping rooms [sic] for the dogs. There are eight of these stall-like arrangements which are partitioned with wire with wood for base. In each little compartment is space for three or four beds. Each bed is fitted up with pillows, blankets, and mattresses. From each bedroom, a door leads to the outside, a sort of alley-like arrangement, extending some eight or ten feet. If opened these eight passages run into a small yard, where the little dogs are often seen, frolicing [sic] around. All the floors thru out [sic] the building save that of the bath room are of hardwood: that of the bathing room being of cement. The wood work is of dark stain. Underneath the Kennels is a basement in which is installed the heating plant for the buildings. A man is kept constantly in attendance of the dogs. The dogs are very valuable, many being Pekingese and are often displayed at fairs.

On the opposite side of the road are the tenant houses, the main barn, a smaller one where the bulls are housed, a large wagon house, creamery, ice house, and milk house. The barn is a very large one and has been remodeled since its erection in 1914. The owner built it at first for cows, and it then was about 35 x 20 [sic]. Sometime after he built on an addition which was to serve for the cows alone. The horses occupy the front part of the barn. Their stalls are separated by a long passage way [sic] which extends the length of the barn. Leaving the stalls of the horses, one comes to a number of stalls where in [sic] are kept the young stock. Beyond this are the bulls, which occupy a house by

themselves in the warm weather. Leading from this is a passage way, where the "milkers" are kept. This is especially pleasing in appearance being light and airy; the floor is of cork and cement, the stanchions of steel, and everything is perfect in cleanliness. Each cow has an individual drinking cup from which she may lift the cover, and water enters. When her thirst is quenched, the cup is closed, and her water is free from all dust floating thru [sic] the air. The name of each cow appears above its head. Certain cows are "test" cows. These, as well as all the rest, undergo an inspection every month. Many of the cows and bulls are taken to fairs held during the year. A creamery is behind the barn, a separate building where the milk is separated, butter made and dairy business attended to. The barn was built at about a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars.

Cleanliness is shown thru out, in the operating of the milk duties. Herdsmen, attired in white, attend to the animals and this is their sole duty. One is well repaid by visiting the barn, and observing the shining coats of the herd, the stainless floors, and orderly arrangement of the building thru out.

### Prehistoric Indians of Lake Villa

(The following is an essay written in 1975 by student Scott Kimball, and submitted to the Lake Villa Library.)

The lake, forest and abundance of wildlife attracted the American Indian for almost 8,000 years. Throughout the Lake Villa area I have found artifacts spanning this amount of time.

The areas in which I have found artifacts seem to have several things in common. One; they are usually on high ground with proper drainage. Two; they are usually near water, and three; they are usually near wooded areas. The sites where all three of these are present, artifacts from several different ages of Indians can be found, showing how desirable the spot was.

The later Indians at these sites undoubtedly found artifacts left by earlier Indians. In several cases I have found where a broken point may have been reworked to make a blunt stunning point or something showing rework of earlier artifacts.

As far as the material of these artifacts; they seem to be Ohio white flint. The presence of Ohio flint in this area shows that the Indians must have had some sort of trading system. This is further proven by the fact that shells from Florida, copper from Michigan, obsidian from the west and of course the flint from Ohio have been found in Indian sites far away from their origin.

One thing I found very interesting was the different workmanship on the pieces. It is almost as if each was a different work of art. I have found many pieces which were obviously done by masters of the art of arrowhead making and many which were made by beginners or unskilled makers. I have found many broken or unfinished pieces, and these are numerous.

It is really impossible to categorize these points into the tribes from which they originated because the era in which they were made deals with pre-history. They were most likely made by the Hopewellians, a peaceful, mound-building tribe, which was located in this area.

These are the dates for the various ages and cultures.

Stage	Date	Culture
Early Palco-Indian	10,000 to 7,000 B.C.	Fluted Point Hunters
Late Palco-Indians	7,000 to 4,500 B.C.	Aqua-Plano
Archaic	7,000 to 100 B.C.	Old Copper (3,000 to 1,000 B.C.) Red Ocher (1,000 to 100 B.C.)
Early Woodland	1,000 to 100 B.C.	Woodland
Middle Woodland	100 B.C. to 800 A.D.	Hopewell (100 B.C. to 500 A.D.) Woodland (100 to 800 A.D.)
Late Woodland	800 to 1600 A.D.	Woodland Upper Mississippi (Oneota) Middle Mississippi (1,000 to 1,300 A.D.)
Historic	1634 to present	

The Indians of course had different uses for different artifacts.

The Durst Stemmed type was a medium sized projectile used for games such as rabbits, raccoons, etc.

The Madison Side-notched type which is wider and heavier was, of course, used for larger game.

The Reed point was used for small birds, as is shown by its size and weight.

The Fox Valley Truncated Barb was also used for medium game, but was more effective in staying in the animal, because of the barb on its side.

The Stunning Point was, of course, used simply to stun animals. These points are prime examples of reworked points.

The Osceola point was used for large game, but was also used as a ceremonial point on some occasions. These are examples of projectiles done by experienced point makers.

The Buffalo Effigy, although crudely done, definitely represents a buffalo. These pieces were thought to have medicinal powers by the Indians.

These pieces which are illustrated are only part of my collection of artifacts but are very good representative pieces showing the different types of points and the different types of workmanship.\*

Personally I feel that more attention should be given to studying the ways of our first Americans. This is one of my main reasons for cataloguing and presenting this information about our First Americans.

\*Illustrations mentioned are in the Lake Villa History File at the Lake Villa Library.

## **When Lake Villa was spelled: 'L-E-H-M-A-N-N'**

By Christine Walsh Angelos

(The following is an excerpt from an article written by Christine Walsh Angelos for the Waukegan News-Sun, on Nov. 22, 1979, and is reprinted here with permission from the newspaper and the author.)

In the late 1800s, it was envisioned as a resort area catering to grand and gracious living – another Lake Geneva, by some accounts. But fire and other tragedies put an end to the dream E.J. Lehmann had for Lake Villa.

Lehmann was founder of the Fair Department Store in Chicago. In its day, the State Street store was on par with Marshall Field & Co. and other major retailers.

By the early 1900s, the promise of gracious living was being emulated by Lehmann's six children, who acquired land and built their own mansions in the Lake Villa area. The dream which eluded the father now belonged to his heirs.

The eldest son, Edward John, began purchasing land just north of his parents' estate on Milwaukee Avenue (Rte. 83) where he grew up. Edward dubbed his 1,100 acres Longwood Farm and began raising show horses there.

Another son, Ernst, purchased several hundred acres east of the family compound, calling it Lindenhurst Farm. His home, featuring a glass atrium, faced Sand Lake.

A third son, Otto, took over the family's Fox Lake hotel branch and called his acreage Chesney Farm.

Daughter Augusta maintained her parents' mansion after their death. The house and 33 acres were later sold to the Central Baptist Children's Home. A second daughter, Edith, married Ben Behrand and lived in one of the cottages on the property.

A third daughter, Emilia Wilhelmina, married C.D. Peacock, son of the founder of Peacock Jewelers. Their property is now a subdivision – Deep Lake Shores. After they died, the home was owned by their daughter, Margaret, and her husband, George William Reynolds, who had been living just a short distance away on Crooked Lake. Another of Emilia's daughters, Katherine and husband Maurice V. Reynolds, brother of George William Reynolds, lived on one side of the estate. A third daughter, Mildred, and her husband William Haerther built on the east side, facing Deep Lake Road, and across the street from Margaret and G. W. Reynolds.

By the 1950s, the golden glow of the mansions had begun to tarnish. The war had ended and the times and families were changing. Developers started sectioning off the lawns for subdivisions. An entire village began sprouting on Ernst's Lindenhurst Farm. Its name, appropriately enough, was Lindenhurst. Otto's Chesney Farm was subdivided into areas now known as Chesney Shores

and Fox Lake Hills. Other homes were transformed into a nursing home, a restaurant, and rental apartments. Vandals claimed still others.

Rapidly, a grand era came to an end. It was an era envisioned almost three quarters of a century earlier by E. J. Lehmann. Ironically, though Lehmann never fully realized his dream, his children did. They helped contribute to their father's hopes simply by building homes that could only be described as mansions. True, the old estates are gone. But they have left behind a part of Lake Villa that would have suited Lehmann's plans. The part, that in its day, could have rivaled Lake Geneva.

In 1883, E.J. Lehmann built the first step of his dream. Advertising handouts of the time would do today's copywriters proud. They promoted his Lake City Hotel and its surrounding as arranged "regardless of expense for the accommodation and comfort of guests." Patrons were promised "picturesque scenes, romantic ravings, historic hills, beautiful lakes, lovely lawns, mammoth oaks and more extensive hunting and fishing grounds than all the other advertised resorts combined."

Sweeping verandas welcomed guests to the 150-room structure. A bowling alley was available for patrons, who could choose to stay either in the main hotel, a large white building, or smaller guest cottages that were rented either furnished or unfurnished.

The site, on Milwaukee Avenue north of Cedar Avenue in Lake Villa, was on a hill overlooking Cedar Lake. Guests could walk from the hotel to the beach through an underground tunnel. Once known as the Stewart Farm, an early historian of the village remarks that Lehmann built "splendid additions" to the existing hotel, plus a clubhouse on an island in Cedar Lake.

Lehmann's guests to the Lake City Hotel were business associates, friends and vacationers, remembers grandson-in-law William Haerther. Fair Department Store employees would pay \$1 a day to relax at the resort.

Transportation to the hotel was by train from Fox Lake, Waukegan, or Gurnee.

### Baptist Children's Home

At Gurnee and Fox Lake, branches of the main hotel were set up. Those wishing to continue traveling to McHenry would transfer to paddle boats and cross the Chain O'Lakes. Carriages or "stages" transported guests the eight miles between Gurnee and Lake City or the two miles from Fox Lake. In one of the original brochures of the hotel, the Fox Lake to Lake City portion of the journey is described as being "not quite two miles over a mountain country."

Lehmann's early planning set aside land for the railroad's expansion. In 1877, the plan paid off when the Wisconsin Central Railway was built through the village. By the 1920s, the town was well recognized as the hub of northern Illinois resort traffic with as many as 18 passenger trains arriving and departing over a 24-hour period. Wavie Swanson of Gurnee was a teenager at the time. She remembers the carriages waiting to take their passengers, dressed in long gowns and carrying parasols, to their destination. The train station closed in 1963.

For a time, Lehmann's dream of a grand lifestyle existed, even though neither he nor his hotel were a part of it for long. The Lake City Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1915. The limited history available about that era says Lehmann's health faltered and he suffered a nervous breakdown and died. Local wags are less kind, attributing the cause more directly to the bottle. By this time, the area was settling on a name for itself. First the town was known as Lake City, then Stanwood, and finally Lake Villa.

Although Lehmann's vision to see Lake Villa developed into a business center and summer resort ended with the fire and his failing health, some of his dream did live through his children and the mansions they built. "Lake Villa was quite a town for all the millionaires surrounding it," remembers long-time Lake Villa resident Mary Atwell.

Little published information is available on the Lehmanns. "They just didn't ask for it," said Robert, grandson of the patriarch, E. J. Lehmann. In fact, he claims "the family never had that idea" of turning the area into a resort capital. They never tried to develop it. They bought land up there because they liked it.

Residents still talk of the Prohibition Days, when life at the mansions was in its glory. Irv Buchta remembers the cottages on Cedar Lake Island where guests would "drink, gamble and whatever." Ron Walker says the story about \$35,000 buried on the island still circulates. But Stanley Christian, who was the sheriff of Lake County at the time, insists no gambling went on in those cottages. One thing he does remember is that his first political contribution came from the Lehmann family.

Even though the families have moved from the area, old-timers still remember them. "Wonderful people" is how Mary Atwell of Lake Villa describes the clan. Although they lived in "very elaborate, very beautiful homes, they had no airs. They were common people," she said.

At the time, Lake Villa residents were local farmers or members of the various branches of the Lehmann family tree. Elmer Wolff, who now runs a tavern and resort on Grand Avenue, says the people from the mansions "hung by themselves."

"The families kept a lot of people going during the depression," reflects Ron Walker. But the money also brought unhappiness to their personal lives, according to Helen Cremin, who used to help train the horses at Otto Lehmann's Chesney Farm. "It was kind of a tragic family," she said.

Some criticize the family for holding the town back. Comments Walker "Another Lake Geneva would have been the best thing. There's all kinds of potential in this town with the resort type of thing."

But Robert Lehmann, grandson of the founder of the Lake City Hotel, insists the town was never meant for that. Whatever the case, Lake Villa still retains its memories of the grand era when the Lehmann mansions reigned.

## Chronology of Lake Villa Historical Events

Compiled by J. K. Trychta

- 1778-82 Land to become State of Illinois claimed by the colony of Virginia (Clayton, p. 7)
- 1787 Northwest Territory organized under the Ordinance of 1787 (Clayton, p. 7)
- 1800 Division Act creates the territories of Indiana and Ohio, of which Illinois is a part (Clayton, p. 9)
- 1809 Territory of Illinois is separated from Indiana Territory (Clayton, p. 15)
- 1818 Illinois admitted to the Union as a State. An Enabling Act by Congress changed the northern boundary of the state from the south end of Lake Michigan to the parallel of 42° 30' north latitude; from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. (Clayton, p. 17)
- 1828-33 Series of Treaties in which 6,405,888 acres of Indian lands are ceded to the United States, including land in Lake County area. (Clayton, pp. 13-14)
- 1831-33 Northern boundary of Illinois marked by John Messenger and Lucius Lyon (Bateman & Selby, pl. 620)
- 1833 Last Indian Treaty of Illinois, September 26, 1833, "Treaty of Chicago" (Clayton, p. 14)
- 1836 Final date for Indian removal, August, 1836 (Clayton, p. 11; Partridge, p. 623)
- 1839 Lake portion of McHenry County separated by an Act of Legislature, March 1, 1839 (Clayton, p. 44; Partridge, p. 634)
- 1840 U. S. Census, Lake County population 2,634, June 1, 1840 (Halsey, p. 75) State Census, Lake County population 2,905, September 1, 1840 (Halsey, p. 75)
- 1842 First burial recorded at Angola Cemetery – "Fanny Parker, August 6, 1842" (Cemetery Committee, p. 2, verified by ed.)
- 1843 First burial recorded at Home Oaks Cemetery – "Asenith Sortor, December 28, 1843" (Cemetery Committee, p. 40, verified by ed.)
- 1845 Angola School established (Wallace)
- 1846 First burial at Sand Lake Cemetery – "Martha A. Ladd, March 22, 1846" (Cemetery Committee, p. 47, verified by ed.)
- 1847 Angola Post Office established, February 23, 1847 (Halsey, p. 599; Adams & Keller, p. 279)
- 1849 Lake County organized by the Town Incorporation Act adopted on February 10, 1849 (Halsey, p. 98) (two dates given in same source, ed.)
- 1850 U. S. Census, Lake County population 14,226 (Bateman & Selby, p. 643)  
Angola P. O. reestablished, March 6, 1850 (Adams & Keller, p. 279)

- 1863 Angola P. O. becomes Sand Lake P. O., May 4, 1863 (Halsey, p. 599; Adams & Keller, p. 279)
- 1873 First Methodist Episcopal Church of the Town of Avon at Monaville established, April 5, 1873 (W. A. M., p. 8)
- 1882 Sand Lake P. O. discontinued – mail forwarded to “Carp Postoffice” (Halsey, p. 583; Adams & Keller, p. 498)
- 1883 E. J. Lehmann purchases “Stewart Farm” and develops hotel site for Lake City Hotel, 150-room facility overlooking Cedar Lake (Wallace)
- 1884 Post Office reestablished in Lake Villa by name of Stanwood P. O., October 23, 1884 (Halsey, p. 583)
- 1885 Wisconsin Central Railway Company extends line from Schlesingerville, Wisconsin, through Lake County, to Chicago. Stations North to South include: Antioch, Loon Lake, Lake Villa, Cedar Lake, Rollins, Gray’s Lake, Rockefeller, Leithton, and Prairie View. (Halsey, p. 389)
- 1886 Stanwood P. O. Becomes Lake Villa P. O., August 21, 1886 (Halsey, p. 583; Adams & Keller, p. 412)
- 1892 First Methodist Church of the Town of Avon – “Centennial Church” – razed and moved by wagon to be rebuilt in Lake Villa. Name changed to “Methodist Episcopal Church of Lake Villa” (Smith, pp. 27-28)
- 1892-93 Knickerbocker Ice House located on the south shore of Deep Lake (called “Richenbacher” in some accounts) (Wallace)
- 1894-97 Captain and Mrs. Edward L. Bradley establish Allendale Farm for Boys on a permanent, year-round basis (Bradley, p. 9)
- 1898 Telephone service established in area on July 13, 1898. By December 31, 1898, seven subscribers (History of Telephone Service)  
Angola School destroyed by fire in August (Wallace)
- 1900 Village of Lake Villa formally incorporated (Blenz, p. 293)
- 1903 Village moved from east of Railroad tracks to west of same (Martin interview)
- 1904 Rural mail delivery route begun in Lake Villa, June 15, 1904, Ernest T. Shepardson first carrier, at \$600.00 per year salary, plus horse hire (Hucker and Anderson interview)
- 1904-05 Fire destroyed village remaining east of Railroad tracks (Martin interview)
- 1909 Wisconsin Central Railway Company becomes Soo Line (Chicago, Minneapolis, Sault Ste. Marie) (Halsey, p. 812)
- 1910 U. S. Census, Lake Villa population 342 (Halsey, pl 250)
- 1912 Tornado hits Lake Villa destroying portions of Allendale (Bradley, p. 75)
- 1913 Lake Villa Township established, John Stratton, Supervisor (Johnson, p. 65)
- 1913/

- 1915? Lake City Hotel destroyed by fire (Cribb)
- 1915 Knickerbocker Ice House torn down (Murrie interview)
- 1920 Stockyards or holding pens at Railroad Station, along with coal shute (Murrie interview, verified by ed.)  
First "Lake Villa Day" celebration, October 19, 1920 (Original brochure)
- 1923 Concrete roads constructed in Lake Villa: Rt. 132, West to Rt. 59, and East to Sand Lake Road; Rt. 83, intermittent from Rollins Road to Antioch (Highway Department Map)
- 1924 Fire at Allendale, Bradley House and Corwith – Cramer Cottage nearly destroyed (Bradley, p. 75)
- 1927 Tornado hits Lake Villa, Fish farm damaged (Atwell interview)
- 1933 Volunteer Fire Department formed (Lake Villa Fire Department)
- 1934 Village Hall erected (date on structure)
- 1934-37 Waterworks installed; watertower built (date on structure)
- 1942 Golden Anniversary of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Lake Villa (W. A. M.)
- 1942-44 Historian and author Allan W. Eckert's student years at Allendale School for Boys (Eckert interview)
- 1946 Completed consolidation of School Districts #40 and #1 (Monaville and Lake Villa), #48 (Sand Lake) and #32 (Cedar Lake) to form Lake Villa Community Consolidated School District #41 (Letter from Lake County Superintendent of Schools)
- 1952 Lake Villa Library formed (Lake Villa Library)
- 1954 Lake Villa Township Women's Club organized, October 26, 1954 (Club minutes)
- 1956 Village of Lindenhurst established (Lindenhurst historical article)  
Lake Villa Rescue Squad organized (Lake Villa Rescue Squad)

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