

Hart Family



he Harts first came to this area in 1836, eight years before the first German missionaries. That winter Lovira Hart Jr. (1808-1892) visited land he had purchased in Tuscola County. He drove a team of oxen and a milk cow nearly 500 miles from Mt.

Morris, New York and built a log cabin on the property. He returned to New York State in the early summer of 1837 to bring his family to their new Michigan home.

Lovira Hart Jr. was born in Durham, Green County, New York on November 8, 1808, and his family moved to Avon, New York in 1812. After his father Lovira Hart Sr. (1778-1819) died, young Lovira Jr. and his elder brother, Albert, had to work on their New York farm to make a living. Lovira Jr. married Hannah Emeline Abbey (1808-1841) in 1834.

In the late summer of 1837 Lovira Hart Jr., his wife, two young daughters, and mother Anna, began their long journey. At Buffalo they boarded a steamship bound for Detroit. From Detroit they traveled by an oxen-drawn wagon to Tuscola County via Pontiac, Grand Blanc, and Mt. Morris. They lived in a log cabin until 1852, when Lovira Jr. built the large white Greek revival farmhouse that still stands at Harts' Corners on the corner of Hart Road and Frankenmuth Road, three miles east of Frankenmuth.

When Lovira Jr. and Hannah's fourth child was born in 1841, Hannah died from complications of childbirth. In 1842, Lovira Jr. married Esther Maria Parker (1812-1889) of Mt. Morris, New York. They had three children.

Lovira's son, Lemuel Parker Hart (1848-1933), married Clarabelle Rachel Hoyt (1853-1931) in 1874. They had six children. Two of these children, Lemuel Jay (1875-1961) and George Scott (1877-1958), farmed at Harts' Corners.

Jay built the brick farmhouse one-quarter mile south of the original homestead, while George built the farmhouse and barns on the 100 acres northwest of the corner.

Throughout the years, milk from the farms was taken to the cheese factory in the village of Tuscola two miles away. The Harts used horse-power to work the land until 1941, when the family purchased their first tractor.

Lemuel Jay Hart (1875-1961) married Esther Maria Ashe (1878-1959) and they had five boys: Hildred Jay, James Lemuel, Newell Ashe, Raymond Caley, and Ted Stanley. Several Hart descendants, including those of Newell Ashe Hart (1911-2005), still live in the Frankenmuth area.

Raymond Caley Hart (1916-2002) married Martha Isabelle Latta (born 1917) in 1940 and operated the Harts' Corners farm until 1954, when he started working full time in a machine tool firm near Bridgeport.

The Michigan Department of State named the Hart farm a Sesquicentennial Farm in 1987, because it had been owned by the Hart family since Michigan became a state in 1837. The house and farmland, now owned by Martha and her five sons, were honored in 2004 by being listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Harts were early settlers not only in Michigan, but also in America itself, arriving soon after the Pilgrims. Deacon Stephen Hart, who was born in Ipswich Suffolk County, England, in 1602, and his family were part of the Braintree Company, which sailed to New England in 1632 on the ship Lyon. Stephen was a deacon in Reverend Thomas Hooker's church at Cambridge (Newton), Massachusetts in about 1633.



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