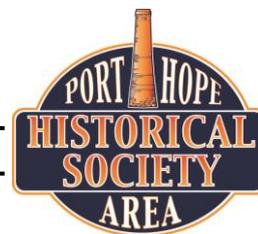


# “Their Stories”



Issued Jun. 30, 2022

## PORT HOPE FARMS OF 1880

Submitted by Daniel Fantore

Port Hope now has farms with hundreds of acres and dairy farms are few and far between, but those that remain are each milking hundreds of cows. How did farms start in Port Hope? Thankfully we have the 1880 Agricultural Schedule of the US Census to tell us about those Port Hope farms.

The Port Hope farms of 1880 were just a few years away from woodlands. My Paschke family arrived in Port Hope in 1871. They and their Thoms relations bought 40- or 80-acre farms in Rubicon Township all for under \$1000. The Lawitzke farm was on Kinde Road at the northwest corner of Rubicon Township, and the other family farms were on the Port Hope Road south of town.

In 1880, farms were small compared to today's farms. The Lawitzke, Lange and Thoms farms were 40 acres, the Viert and Paschke farms were 80 acres. Most of the farms were a mix of tilled land and woodlands; the farmers were still clearing their land of trees and brush. Port Hope farms in 1880 had cleared land ranging from as little as five acres to as many as 40 of 80. While the farmers were clearing their land, the wood was put to use whether as firewood or possibly wood for their home and farm structures.

Every farm had working animals, either horses or oxen. Gustav Thoms had one ox, Carl Lange two oxen, the Viert farm two horses, and the Paschke and Lawitzke farms had three horses each. There were two to four milch (milk) cows on each farm, four on the Viert, three on Paschke, two each on Lawitzke, Thoms & Lange farms. Significant butter was churned on each farm, from 150 pounds on the Thoms & Lange farms, to 300 pounds on the Viert farm. Each of these five farms had between 2 and 10 acres in grasslands or hay. These acres yielded the farms between four and 20 tons of hay for the winter for their livestock.

Every farm had two swine, except Gustav Thoms who had three. This is interesting because this farm would later be known to be a significant hog farm as compared to many of their neighbors who would raise just two or three hogs per year. As many of you know, Thoms Family Hog Roasts are famous nationwide. Herman Viert had 12 sheep on hand in June of 1880 his wife's brother-in-law, Albert Lawitzke had three sheep on hand. Each of the farms had barnyard fowl, which were probably chickens: 25 on the Viert farm, 10 on Paschke, 20 on Lawitzke, and five on the Lange and the Thoms farms.

The crops raised on each farm were similar with some variations. The most predominant crop on each farm was wheat, with each farm raising from 15 to 24 bushels per acre. The Viert and Paschke farms usually grew from one to three acres of oats, yielding from 25 To 40 bushels per acre. The Lawitzke farm grew a half-acre of barley. Each farm raised significant bushels of Pulse, Canadian peas. Potatoes are part of any good German diet of the 1880s and each farm devoted between a quarter acre to a full acre to potatoes, yielding between 25 and 100 bushels. Each farm had between a quarter to a half-acre planted in apple trees.

I read that four of Huron County's acres were planted in tobacco in 1880. Imagine my surprise when I found out great-great grandfather August Paschke was one of those Huron County farmers growing tobacco in 1880! He reported raising 20 pounds of tobacco on 1/8 acre as did step-son-in-law Herman Viert who raised 30 pounds on the same amount of land.



*Lawitzke Farm & Family*

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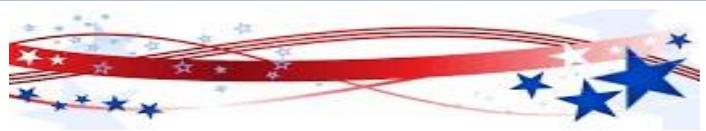
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*Time For a Little Refreshment*

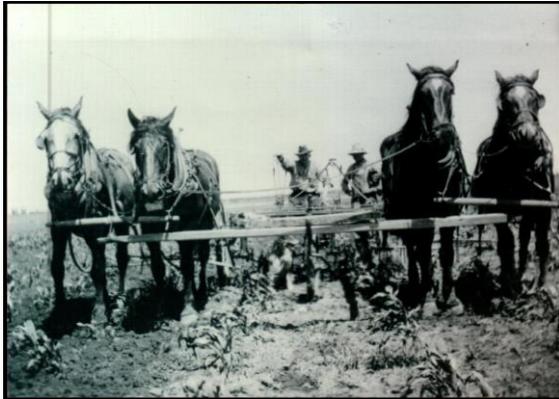
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*“Their Stories”*



**PORT HOPE FARMS OF 1880** *Cont'd from page 2*

These family farms raised a variety of crops and livestock that the family lived on. Milk, butter and eggs were raised from “milch” cows and chickens. Oats and hay were raised for the livestock. Wheat was grown to make the family’s flour. Each family had a couple or three pigs, enough to meet their meat or pork needs for the year. Potatoes were grown on each farm. Acreage devoted to apple trees was counted on the census but



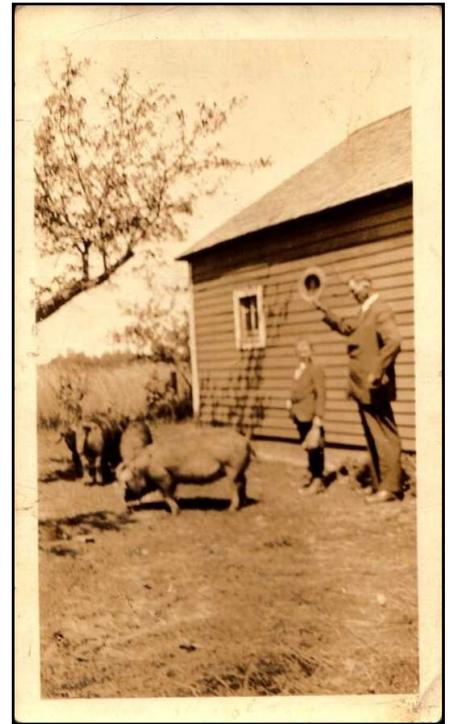
*Four horse team needed to pull the heavy equipment*

Swine and 30 barnyard poultry, eight working oxen, six milk cows, 46 other cattle, six dropped calves, purchased five cattle, sold 10 alive, and slaughtered 10.

The value of the farms in 1880 was estimated between \$1500 and \$3000 each, including between \$100 and \$500 in livestock each. My how times have changed!

what is missing undoubtedly were the large gardens full of cabbage, rutabagas, carrots, and undoubtedly other vegetables that made it to the family table and cellar.

These 1880 family farms were different than the largest farm in Rubicon Township; the W.R. Stafford farm which was 600 acres of tilled land, 100 of permanent pasture, meadow, orchards or vinyards. In 1880 Mr. Stafford owned 36 horses, 130 sheep, eight



*Earl & Charlie Schave at Uncle Will's farm*

Dan Fantore

**1910 - PORT HOPE FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION**

**CELEBRATION WAS A HUMMER**

**Three Thousand People at Port Hope, July 4th**

**That Hustling Little Burg Took Good Care of Her Guests, and Everybody Returned Home Happy.**

Port Hope entertained over three thousand folks within her gates Monday, the drawing card of the day was “An old fashion Fourth” in all its vim and glory. The good business men of that town got together in one solid determination to give the people of Huron county, a good time, Monday, and their efforts were satisfactory in the extreme.

Everything was carried out just as advertised, even to good weather.

The contests in the line of sports were interesting and nicely managed, and the prize winners were happy in the fact that there was no slippery work on the part of the judges. It was a nice clean contest and all received their prize packages with smiles.

The ball game between Grindstone City and Port Hope had just enough Harbor Beach talent on each side to add interest to the exhibition and ended

in Port Hope winning, 3 to 4. Outside of a little rough language on the part of one of the Grindstone players, the game was as smooth as velvet.

Mitchell & Lester, the money making members of the Harbor Beach Rural Carrier's Association, were present with their merry-go-round and new piano, and made an acre of fun for their customers, coming back to this city with almost enough money to start a bank.

Other Harbor Beach money getting talent that followed the big show were:

George Mitchell with his famous trick mule, Maud He-Haw. Mitchell claims a record breaking business for one day.

William Young with his pop corn and hot peanut machine, to which is attached a whistle that toots each time its owner takes in a nickel. When Mr. Young finished the day, the whistle was hoarse.

Balmer Brothers sold enough pop corn to cause a shortage in the supply of dairy butter for the next two weeks.

One of the great surprises of the day, was the sale, at one stand, of 20 barrels of Orange Cream Vim. Why thusly we know not.

Over 1000 people from Harbor Beach, were at the celebration. Many young men were accompanied by their best girls.

**1941 - FOURTH ANNUAL BRINKER LUMBER BARN DANCE**

**FOURTH ANNUAL BARN DANCE BY BRINKER LUMBER COMPANY**

The Brinker Lumber Yard, Port Hope, is announcing its Fourth Annual Barn Dance, which will take place on the evening of Saturday, August 23 (this Saturday evening) to its friends.

Dancing will start at nine o'clock that evening with the “Plank Heavers” dishing up the music. The termination of the dancing will come in the wee small hours of the next morning.

Added attractions will be a street parade at seven that evening with several “surprise entertainers.”

If you have a float that is not busy that evening or if you are a clown, or even think you are, get in the parade is the word from the entertaining committee, which consists of Clarence Cook, R. B. Hunter and Doctor Ernschaw.

Everything is free as the air, the committee states.

**BOOK NOW AVAILABLE AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING**

**PORT HOPE MAIN STREET**  
*Connections With The Past*

**You've seen the diorama, now read the book**



**\$18.00**

**UPDATED AND REVISED**