

Time Tracs with Jim Ingram The Casamer Farm

This farm was located west of M 24 along Casamer Road (the street name is locally misspelled) At its largest the farm totaled 270 acres in the 1850s and ran north along Buckhorn Lake to the shore of Lake Orion

The bay behind Park Island at that time was known as Casamer Bay

Isaac Casamer came to the Michigan Territory in 1835 buying nearly 200 acres in what was to become Orion Township He then returned to Sussex County New Jersey where his wife and children were living

In 1837 Isaac brought his wife Prudence S (Buchner) Casamer and their three children Catherine Samuel and Mark to the property he had purchased in Orion

The parents and children worked to clear the land and plant crops They build a log cabin from timber on the property about a mile west of M 24 on the north side of Casamer Road

Isaac was a stone mason and Prudence a dress maker and they continued to practice these trades in Orion They also developed a small gristmill on their property

A large substantial farmhouse was erected by the Casamers in 1845 on the approximate site of the original log house

The first floor consisted of a parlor living room bedroom and a large kitchen across the rear of the house Upstairs were three additional bedrooms

Many of the Casamers were born married and died in this house The house still stands west of Lapeer Road (M 24) at 560 Casamer Road

Together Prudence and Isaac Casamer had a total of nine children In addition to the three that came with the family from New Jersey were Emily (1836) Frederick (1839) Silas (1842) Theodore (1844) George (1846) and Hannah (1848)

Samuel Silas George Theodore and Frederick all served in the Civil War Samuel was a Lieutenant in the 30th Wisconsin Infantry Silas and George were with the Michigan 22nd Infantry as Corporals Frederick and Theodore both served as Corporals with the 10th Michigan Infantry

American native Indians were allowed to stay and live on the Casamer's land for many years Isaac employed several Indians and accepted the American Indians as partners in farming and hunting the land

The Casamer family was known for treating the Indians after the onset of many European diseases such as Small Pox

These Indians were from the tribe the Makopacs which meant Pine Forest This was most fitting due to the many white pine trees in the Lake Orion area There were also many Chippewa and Potawatomi Native Americans living in the same area

After the death of Isaac Casamer in 1867 Prudence and some of her sons continued to run the farm Prudence lived into her 90s and dies in 1900 in the family farm house on Casamer Road

Most of the original Casamer family is buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Lake Orion

Frederick and Theodore Casamer continued to farm after their mother's death They started to sell some of the property in the 1920s and 30s

The Page family bought part of the farm and lived there in the 1930s and 40s The Pages were related to the Casamers and Dorothy Page Carpenter lived in Orion Township until her death this July

The last of the Casamer line bought houses in Lake Orion after selling the farm property They resided in Lake Orion until the 1970s

Much of the Casamer family history came from Douglas M Casamer the last



Isaac Casamer lived from 1807 1867
Photo courtesy of Jim Ingram.

original bloodline of this historical Orion farm and pioneer family