

Haligus Road Park Site

Site Historical Context

The Haligus Road Park site is an historic Frontier to Post-War (1862-present) era farmstead site situated on dissected outwash plain in Grafton Township. The land is poorly drained, so the site was most likely used for raising stock for dairying. Dairying was a large industry in the township by 1866 as evidenced by local creameries and the construction of a cheese factory which was producing 600,00 lbs of cheese a year and 100,000 lbs of butter by 1877.

The property on which the farmstead is located was originally purchased from the government by **John D. B. Lawson** on December 22, 1846 (ISA 2023). A house is first depicted in the project area on the 1862 map on property that is now owned by **D. Robinson** (Figure 3). The Robinson family owned the property until sometime before 1872 when it was purchased by **T. W. Hathaway**. By 1877, the Hathaway family had sold the property to **William Clark** (Walker & Co. 1877:215) (Figure 3). The Clark family retained ownership of the property until sometime before 1923 when **D. Love** is shown as the owner. The Love family owned the property until sometime before 1951 when **Frank and Johanna Brosseit** are listed as owners. By 1954, the property was owned by **Wilmar Stevners and Jeannett Knoth**, who remained owners until at least 1957. Presumably, all or several of the property owners occupied the site. In 2003 The Village of Lakewood purchases the land.

The original stone silo, Silo B, was constructed sometime between the 1870's to 1890's when the land was owned, and the farmstead occupied by the **William Clark** family. The William Clark family owned the property from at least 1877 (Walker & Co. 1877:215) until sometime between 1908 and 1923 (Figure 3). Very little information is available for William Clark. In 1877, he is reported as a farmer living in Section 3 of Grafton Township and having a Crystal Lake post office address (Walker & Co. 1877:215). He was married to Kate, the daughter of Daniel Norton and Elizabeth Duffey (Inter-State 1885:661). William was a charter member of St. Thomas Catholic Church in Crystal Lake which was organized in 1881 (Munsell Publishing Company 1922). In 1880, William was 36 years old and his wife Kate, 26 years (U.S. Population Census 1880:28). They had two sons, John aged 8 and James aged 1 year, and a daughter, Eurena(?) aged 4. The cement block stave portion added to the top of the stone silo post-dates 1910. This was likely done when Silo A, the concrete block stave silo, was constructed. This was either built during William Clark's occupation or D. Love's who had purchased the property sometime after 1908 and before 1923 (Figure 3).