Early Residents Remember When...

Walnut Lake was called Black Walnut Lake in the early 1850's. In 1824, Peter Richardson settled on the lake. In 1859, John B. Richardson and son, John J. Richardson, formed the Richardson land company and cleared land around the lake.

The Whitmer homes on the southwest side of the lake were on land originally owned by Edward Ellery, A. H. Whitmer, P. S. Whitmer, S. C. Whitmer, and married Annis Titus. John B. Richardson had been born and raised in a house on island near Black Walnut Lake. The present day buildings are on land where he lived.

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Pickering Farm Still Covered With Apple Trees

Cooper Pickering and his wife, Elizabeth, came to Bloomfield from England some time in the early 1860's. Their son George was born in 1836 on their Franklin Road farm in a home no longer standing. George married Lutey Farnam in 1859 in the home that stands at 114 Franklin Road. He and his wife lived in the home until 1870. The home has been a part of the property owned by the Farnam family ever since.

The Pickering Farm was built in 1850 and is looking for a new owner at the present time.

DURING THE 1840's two hotels were built at Orchard Lake. Local government began in West Bloomfield when the area became a township in 1835. Prior to this time, it had been a part of Bloomfield, Michigan.

On April 7, 1834, the first annual meeting of the township was held at Nelson Ro- wlett's home. Rowlett served in the township government from 1836 to 1842. The meeting was held at the home of John Ellensowd and Sidney Hin- ton.

At the meeting the township elected men to the offices of supervisor, auditor, collector, and recorder. John Ellensowd and Sidney Hinton were elected.

Old Homes Landmarks Of Past

Robert and William Harmon purchased on the road from the land in the early 1800's. Their great-grandson, Mrs. Lorraine T. Harmon and her son, Gary, now live there at 4252 South Road.

Eliaja Willis was Mrs. Forman's great-grandson, and Harmon is descended from her family. Her grandfather, John Harmon, settled first at Page Lake, then in Southingfield. The home in Southingfield where her father was born in 1828 is still standing on Lake Road near Ten Mile.

William Forman purchased the farm in the 1860's. His son, Samuel, was born in a cabin here in 1860. Leola L. Forman, Samuel's sister, was born in the white farm house which is furnished with farm equipment.

Descendants of Josiah Bartley still live on the land that was patented to the government in 1823. Bartley was the grandson of the Joseph J. Daniel of 19500 W. 14 Mile Road. His father, Josiah Bartley, built his home on the land where the Earl Long farm is now.

Three generations of them have attended West Bloomfield School. Bartley served on the school board many times.

W'B'field Bustling In 1800's

By JANE MANN

In the year 1797, West Bloomfield, the "lake township" of Oakland County, was commissioned to the Legislature as a township; but in 1838 there were all that remains of the old settlement, and nearly all the roads in the area to the north of the lake. A few roads are still visible, and what is now west Bloomfield was named "Bloomfield" from the town of Bloomfield, New York, which had come from the city of Bloomfield, England. The first house in the area was built by John Bluff on a tract of land on the south side of Fish Lake and built the first home in the township.

NOT LONG AFTER the first settlers arrived, something at full-scale colonisation of the area was made by Edward Ellery, a wealthy Englishman, who purchased the entire 80-acre area of land from the government and began the settlement of the area by groups of English immigrants who planned to bring their knowledge and skills to America. After completing the necessary preparations here, Ellery returned to England on a trip to recruit settlers.

Still with enthusiasm for his project, Ellery chose the site of West Bloomfield, specifically on the east side of Green Lake. The site had a small lake, the land was fertile, and the area was ideal for farming. Ellery chose the small lake, the land was fertile, and the area was ideal for farming. Ellery chose the small lake, the land was fertile, and the area was ideal for farming. Ellery chose the small lake, the land was fertile, and the area was ideal for farming.

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