

CENTENNIAL FARMS SPOTLIGHT

CARL MARTIN SIEGRIST FARM

WHITTEMORE, MICHIGAN

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 29, 1914

*Right: Carl and Martha Siegrist with their children.
Below: The old stone house.
Built by Carl Siegrist and his father-in-law circa 1917.*



In the early 1900s, Carl Siegrist emigrated from Kleinvillors, Germany, to the United States. He came by way of Rotterdam, Holland, at the age of 21 on the vessel *Amsterdam*. Carl ended up moving from downstate to purchase land in the far southwest corner of Burleigh Township in Iosco County. He began clearing and creating productive farmland—growing white beans and grains, raising sheep, and starting up a small dairy operation.

Carl later married Martha Frey, who taught him to speak English, and they had four children. The farm became known as Pleasant View Farm due to Martha's observations outside on a fall day. The trees around the creek and back of the farm were full of color, and Martha remarked, "My! Isn't that a pleasant view?"

When the couple later divorced, Carl left the farm to Martha. The land and farming operation was eventually transferred to their two sons, Martin and Harold. The daughters, Violet and Helen, gave up their interest in the farm to their brothers in 1944 for \$3,000.

Martin married Helen Grober in 1939. Together, Helen and Martha raised and butchered chickens, canned them, and rendered lard for making soap, among other duties. Dairy eventually became the farm's main product and source of income, and Helen was often found tending to the calves. The men of the family spent much of their time in the fields with the horses.

The barn's original top blew down during a storm, and records indicate



*Right: Quonset (tool shed), granary, and corn crib.
Below: Martin and Helen marry March 4, 1939.*



Below: Aerial view of Pleasant View Farm.



that the second barn top was erected in 1927. The farm's original corn crib and wheat granary still stand today.

Martin's son, Roger, now owns the farm. It is set to be passed on to Sean and Conrad Siegrist, Roger's sons.

Today, the Siegrist men enjoy the sawmill and tending to a small herd of beef cattle because it is difficult for small farmers to compete with large corporate farms. Some acres are rented to a neighbor, Reed McLean, who understands the Siegrists' desire to protect the land and keep Carl's legacy alive. ☒



Above: Herd from east looking west. Left: Working on the farm. Below: Pleasant View Farm Art Gallery.



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