



~ Memories ~

Newsletter of the Jenison Historical Association & Museum

jenisonhistory.org

28 Port Sheldon, Jenison, Michigan
49429

JHA Board Members

Chair - Liz Timmer [2023] 457-3708

Curator/Tours - Ken Williams [2023]
772-6523

Treasurer - Ruth Lowing [2023] 540-4709

Social Secretary - Nellie DeLaat [2022]
457-1193

Recording Secretary - Linda Droog [2021]
457-3016

Archivist - Barb Semeyn [2023] 560-6383

Maintenance/Historian - Mike Timmer [2022]
616-204-5833

Trustees =
Yvonne Williams [2023] 772-6523

Gene Kort [2022] 534-6769

Township Rep - Becky Steele

Editor - Ronnie Aungst [] 780-1056

Contact Information

Museum phone: 457-4398 to leave a message

Email: info@jenisonhistory.org

Facebook: Jenison History Association

Monthly Meetings

January 21, 2021 -Meeting:
Due to COVID-19, our meetings are being held on Zoom. If you wish to participate, please contact Liz Timmer @ 457-3708



Membership & Volunteering

Support the local history and museum by becoming a member. A year's dues is just \$10 [Jan. to Dec.].

We are always excited to have new people volunteer. Come to a meeting or open house once we re-open. We will be happy to show you what we do and how you can join in.

~ 2021 Museum Open Houses ~

We are still **closed** while we navigate our way through this COVID-19 reopening. Please call to verify that we are open before making a visit. Thank you for your patience. Call the museum at **616-457-4390** or **Ken Williams at 772-6523**.

History of Georgetown Library -

More Than Just Books

- AND -

Gizmos & Gadgets of the Past

- On Hold -

Jenison Historical Association Living History Project

The Jenison Historical Association is kicking off a new, ongoing project. We want to involve the Jenison community in helping us preserve Jenison history with pictures and stories of your Coronavirus experience. Its a great project for young and old alike! Click on this link to get started:

Here is a link - <http://bit.ly/JHASurvey>

The Gene & Ken Show

Stuck at home during this Covid-19 business? Well, Gene Kort and Ken Williams have put some interesting history of Jenison online. They have 10 programs available for your viewing pleasure. Go to **YouTube.com** and put “Jenison Historical Association” in the search box.

Lucas and Fannie Vanderveen

“.....Under the date of September 16, 1872, the Wyoming townships declare:

“Whereas the Township Board of Health for Wyoming had become advised of the fact that the Holland people in the eastern portion of Georgetown, Ottawa County, are infested with small-pox and whereas to prevent the spread of this loathsome disease and to provide suitable care and vigilance against communication with the infected district and persons therein exposed, resolved... that all communication with the infected district be hereby stopped...that all persons exposed be notified to remain at home...on penalty of fine and imprisonment...that they are precluded from coming to this district or attending any public school and that the churches of the vicinity are ordered to be closed until public notice.”

Source: Bend In The River, page 66

On September 19, 1872, Coy Vanderveen died from small-pox at the age of 42 years. He was buried in the small-pox cemetery. He left behind a wife, Jane, and five children: Lucas, Hiram, Siert, Jacob and daughter, Greitji. It appears there was a lot of trouble certifying Coy's last will and testament because it was not discharged from probate until February 7, 1881. In his will, real estate and some cash was left to his wife and all his children. By this time, his wife had remarried. Coy's son, Lucas, married Fannie Vander Molen, May 12, 1885, in Grandville. She was the daughter of Nicholas Vander Molen and Anna Hekkema.

In time, Lucas added to his property by buying some portions from his mother and a couple of siblings. There he and Fannie farmed and raised chickens. Fannie was often seen *“walking along the road with her basket of eggs”* to the markets. According to the 1900 census, Lucas and Fannie had two children but sadly, both had died before 1900.

In January 1917, Lucas and Fannie sold approximately 10 acres of their property on the Grand Haven Road [Baldwin] to Carl W. Moody. Then on March 9, 1917, sold 10 acres to Albert Mekkes. for \$1,500.00.

On April 23, 1918, Lucas and Fannie sold 40 acres to John and Bessie Closterhouse for \$6,000.00. On April 24, 1918, Lucas Vanderveen died, age 65 years. Lucas was buried in Grandville Cemetery. One can only suspect if selling the farm off was because of Lucas's health or just their desire for less work as they aged. At any rate, Fannie moved from the farm to Grandville. In the 1930

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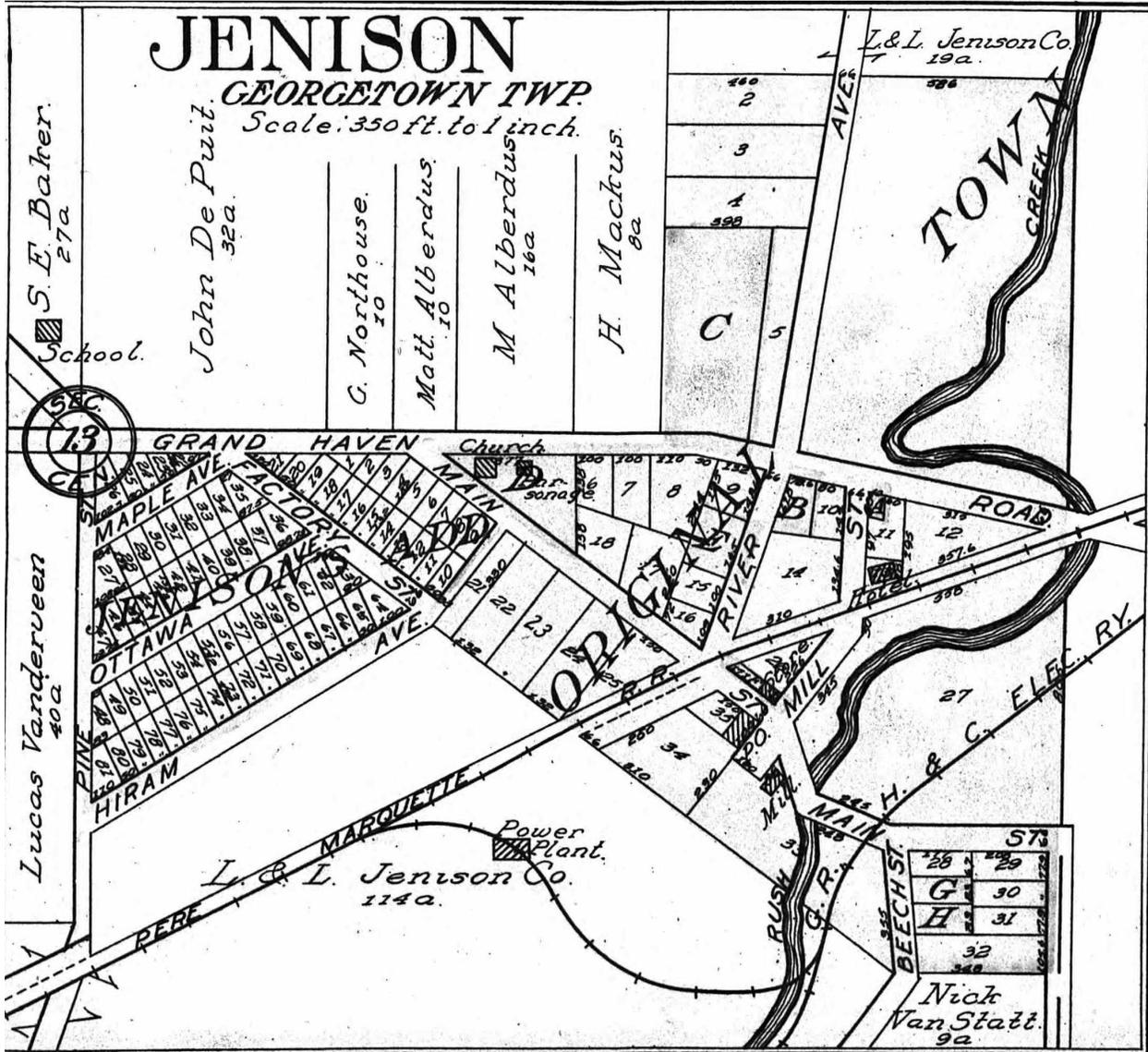
census, Fannie is living on Canal street and has three young women in their 20s as “boarders”. Fannie died November 9, 1942, age 83 years, at a Grand Rapids Hospital. She is buried with her husband in the Grandville Cemetery.

Today, their farm is the location of the Meijer store. They certainly would not recognize their old farm!

Sources: Bend In The River, Federal Census Records, Ottawa County Property Records, Coy Vanderveen’s Last Will and Testament, Death Certificates, Marriage Record, Grandville Cemetery Records, Jenison 1912 Map.



Lucas and Fannie Vanderveen on their farm — today it is Meijer.



On the lower left hand corner is the Lucas Vanderveen property. You can see the Grand Haven Road, now known as Baldwin, in the middle of the map. The road running next to the farm was called Pine, today it is known as Cottonwood.



Jenison's Meijer Thrifty Acres today.