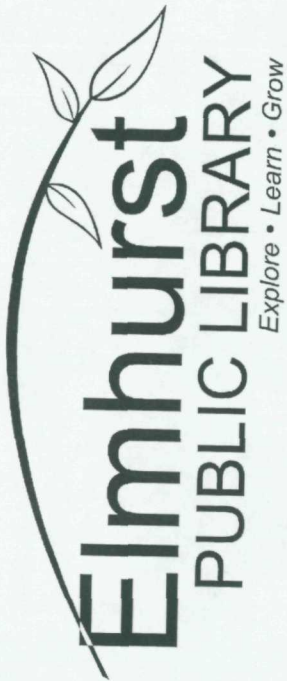


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Last Of The Graue Settlers Keeps Homestead Fire Burning

by Margaret Stenftenagel

(FROM: R77.324 ELM - Reflections of the Past)

In 1883 Frederick Graue, his wife Lucie, and six children arrived in America from Hanover, Germany. After a brief stay in New York, they ventured west and settled in a part of the prairie area that later became Cottage Hill.

Three years after he had staked his claim in the Graue Woods area, Frederick was killed by a falling log. His son Diedrich received two land grants of 160 acres each which now constitute most of

North Elmhurst.

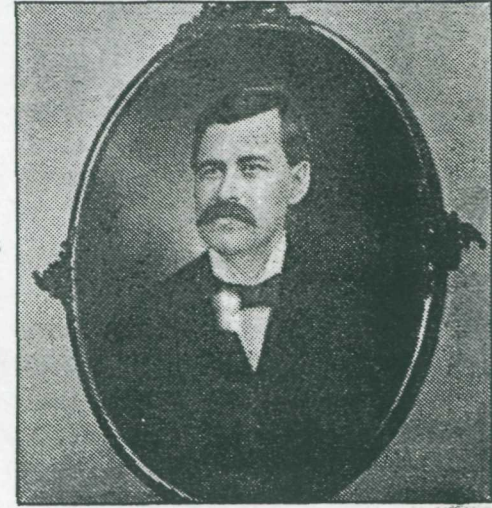
In 1854, son Ludwig established the Graue General Store on Park Avenue in Elmhurst. Operated by brothers William and Julius Graue, it was known as the Graue Brothers Store. In 1885 it advertised dry goods, notions, paint, and shoes for sale.

At the rear of the store stood three horses and wagons ready for quick free delivery service. When August Graue was

proprietor with his sons William and Julius helping, the store stayed open late Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings, and soon became a social center. They operated the store until 1921. The building still stands today and is occupied by Better Radio and T.V.

August was Frederick's youngest son, and it was his son, William Graue, who married Clara Marquardt, cousin of Dr.

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William Graue

Dorothy Graue, the last of a family of Elmhurst settlers, sits on the porch of her home at Cottage Hill Avenue and Virginia Street. Her father, William, in photo on wall, was Elmhurst's postmaster at one time and operated the Graue Brothers Store on Park Avenue.

Dad The Mailman...

(Continued from Page 9)

Edward Marquardt. His youngest child, Dorothy Graue, is the last of the Graues. She was born in the house that still stands on the corner of Virginia Street and Cottage Hill Avenue. A last vestige of the spacious private homes of the past, it is now surrounded by modern brick apartment buildings.

Everything about the house is big. Ceilings drift upward at least 12 feet, and leaded glass windows are everywhere. Eighty years of years of history are here in this house.

Dorothy Graue has lived in the house all her life, and considers herself lucky to have grown up in the carefree days when Elmhurst was still a prairie town. "Elmhurst was well-planned. It was carefree, very carefree. Everyone had a good-sized lot with room for a garden, and there was

always a vacant lot nearby for baseball.

"We had so many trees around here, and of course the roads were dirt. Everyone knew who lived in each section. We knew what was going on that way; it was nice. If there was a wedding, it was always a big deal. Funerals and weddings were very well-attended."

She attended Hawthorne school, Immanuel Lutheran School and graduated from York High school.

Her father served as postmaster, and was a grocer and banker during his lifetime. He started working in the Graue General Store when he was 14. She remembers when the Graue Store was expanded to include dry goods and notions, not just groceries.

"They delivered all over town with horses and buggies. They really gave people service, and a lot of the business was

'on the books'. They trusted people."

They moved in this house in 1906. Her father was postmaster. He had a chicken coop and he kept bees.

She remembers her father as a great conversationalist and storyteller. On many drives into the country he would tell his children stories of the past.

"You didn't have to go far to get to the farms. He would tell us who used to live there," she remembers.

"Another outlet for people was the telephone. Women would call and find out what was going on, but so many of us had party lines. Private lines were rare."

Games were different in those days.

"We played hopscotch, jacks, jump-the-rope, marbles. Now they jog — we played jump-the-rope."

When Old Hawthorne school burned down, a woman who lived with the Graues, Anna, was sitting in the kitchen, and all of a sudden they heard her yell. She had seen the flames from the Hawthorne school fire from the kitchen win-

dow.

She has fond memories of Dr. Edward W. Marquardt, the doctor who specialized in housecalls.

"He did everything. I'd go over there in the afternoon and he'd be taking a nap, because he'd been up all night delivering a baby."

A lot of time has passed, and many of Dorothy Graue's friends and most of her close relatives have passed away. Times had to change, she explains, because people die, and things happen. "Why are some people able to go on?"

"They have to feel loved and cared for, not let down or alone. As long as you have somebody interested in you... I had a wonderful childhood, and we were very fortunate.

"Last time I talked to Vern Pedersen, (who also grew up here, and owned a funeral parlor), he said, you know, Dorothy, this sure was the place to grow up in."