

## THIES FARM

The "Thies Farm" on Carson Road, located near Highway 70, has been the home of five generations of the Thies Family. Johann Heimrich Thies and his wife, Marie Broeker, both born in 1840 and married in 1860, were the first owners in the family chain. They purchased the property on August 15, 1881 from John & Lizzie O'Brien. Owners preceding them included John G. Watson and Loring & Catherine Geiger.

At the time of the purchase, Johann H. Thies was superintendent of the Evangelical "St. Peters Cemetery" where he lived with his family on Lucas-Hunt Road. Six children were born to them--4 girls and 2 boys.

H. Wilhelm (William) Thies, the oldest boy, with his father built and developed the newly-acquired land into a fruit and vegetable farm. William married Marie Bangert in 1885 and to them six sons were born. The large two-story frame farm home still stands today which housed the grandmother, grandfather, as well as William, Marie, six sons and a maiden Aunt Emma who never married.

In the early 1900's, public schools were not available, so the Evangelical Church provided German elementary schools for their children. Later, the Normandy Public Schools replaced these parochial schools and replaced the German language with English.

Fruits, vegetables, etc. were hauled to the market in St. Louis by horse and buggy. Most of William & Marie's sons stayed with farming as their life work and as they grew older and married, they established farms of their own in St. Louis County, Ferguson and Robertson.

Edwin Thies, one of the "middle sons", remained on the Carson Road farm with his father. In 1919, Edwin married Bettina Petersen. They established their home on Carson Road and operated Thies farm. Three children were born to them.

Trucks have replaced the horse and buggy, tractors have replaced the horses, and greenhouses have replaced the "hotbeds".

Mr. Edwin Thies, who is now retired (but still works in the vegetable stand at the farm) will be 80 years old this year. His oldest son, Edgar, his wife and 4 children are now tilling the soil to carry on the "Thies Fruit and Vegetable" tradition. 1881-1973!!

-- Written by Norma Thies