

**NOTE: THIS IS A ROUGH DOCUMENT. The content was copy/pasted from our old Web Site before it went offline. The new Website is under construction in 2023 You will find broken links and formatting errors in this document. Those will fixed when transferred to online.**

**Thank you for your patience. New Site: [www.schmid1848.com](http://www.schmid1848.com)**

In the meantime, LINKS to PHOTO ALBUMS on shutterfly – enjoy

**Joseph & Elizabeth Photos** <https://link.shutterfly.com/Bu2M7KW58zb>

My 2017 Trip to Minnesota

VOS & SCHMID Cousins I met in 2017 when I drove through VOS & SCHMID country in Hennepin, Carver and Stearns Counties, visiting numerous Cousins, Farms, Cemeteries.

[Link to PDF on google drive](#)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yFk4RuZQgGjD2-y5NzdM-9VZDKt0AYQF?usp=sharing>



*This 1881 bird's-eye view of Joseph Schmid's barnyard*

SCHMID FARMHOUSE RUINS (CLICK youtube link below)

- [CLICK HERE: view the historic Schmid Farmhouse TODAY](#)

The Schmid Farmstead on Lake Minnetonka

**Photos: Above Left, Farm in 1880**

**Above Right, Farmhouse later in 1924 c. when it was the Woodend Farm**

Courtesy of Three Rivers Park District (left); and from the family photo album of John amp Katherine Stein, of Mound, MN (right)

Joseph arrived in Victoria Parish in 1853. Benedict arrived in the area around 1855, then left for Ohio, then returned to Hennepin Co in 1857.

In 1856, brothers Joseph amp Benedict Schmid, in Benedict's name, claimed 156 acres along the shores of Lake Minnetonka in the Township of Minnetrista, where they built a wood (most likely log) frame house, various outbuildings, and soon began clearing the land for farming. The land was PAID IN FULL in 1859. The wooden farmhouse was destroyed by fire, and was later replaced by a stone farmhouse in 1876. The ruins of this stone house were entered into National Register of Historic Places in 2015. [see links and photos below]

**How the SCHMID FARM in Minnetrista came to be in our family:**

An 1850s Plat Map of Minnetrista Land Ownership, places "Benedict Schmidt as "claiming" **156.50 Acres on July 12, 1856**. See our copy of the U.S. General Land Office document, which states that the land was PAID IN FULL, and ownership certified, on July 1, 1959, by Benedict Schmid. We are not sure why Benedict made the initial transactions, and not older brother, Joseph.

They settled and worked this land, along the shores of Lake Minnetonka where they built a wood (most likely log) frame house, various outbuildings, and soon began clearing the land for farming.

**In August 1856, Joseph married Elisabeth SCHWEICKERT**, and their first child, Elizabeth, was born on this property in 1857. The original house was later destroyed by fire, and replaced by a **fieldstone house in 1876. Joseph, Sr & Elisabeth raised 7 children on this farm, from 1857 to 1868**

**Benedict married Rosina AUER in May 1859. They had 11 children. Benedict's Diary - a MUST read.**

Census Records and Plats place Benedict & Rosina in Lake Town Township, close to his sister Mary (Mrs. John PFEIFFER,) and also near in-laws, LEUTHARD. Later, they moved to Lake Minnewashta.

Some time around 1878, Joseph & Elisabeth traveled to Baker Township, Stevens County, where daughter Elizabeth and husband John Casper LEUTHARD where started their family.

Their **oldest son, Joseph SCHMID, Jr**, now age 19, runs the 156 acre farm. The 1880 Census places him here, along with his younger sisters Mary & Magdalena, and brothers Frank & Henry.

The 1885 MN Census places parents Joseph Sr, Elisabeth, and their three youngest sons, Thomas, Frank, and Henry, up north in Baker Township, Stevens County.

**Meanwhile, back on THE FARM in Minnitrista, Joseph SCHMID, Jr and wife, Mary Johanna POPPLER** raised 7 of their 9 children in this farmhouse. Joseph expanded the farm to 190+ acres.

1895 Census shows Joseph & Elisabeth, ages 65, living in Hennepin Co with their son Joseph Jr

Between 1903 to 1905, Schmid sold off the property.

After changing owners a few times, the Farm landed in the hands of Three Rivers Parks System, and sits within Lake Minnetonka Regional Park

The ruins of the 1876 Schmid fieldstone house still stand today, and were entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 2015.

Thousands of SCHMID descendants have visited the site of our Ancestors' historic homestead.

In 2023, the ruins will be stabilized so that visitors may safely tour the structure.

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### ***farmers from Germany ...***

Jan 2016 article by By Amanda Schwarze, published in the **Lakeshore Weekly News** (excerpt) View full article at link.

[https://www.swnewsmedia.com/lakeshore\\_weekly/news/local/local-ruins-on-register-of-historic-places/article\\_be98fb8e-16f3-5562-b553-25bf131f4f49.html](https://www.swnewsmedia.com/lakeshore_weekly/news/local/local-ruins-on-register-of-historic-places/article_be98fb8e-16f3-5562-b553-25bf131f4f49.html)

Before Lake Minnetonka's era of grand hotels and affluent residents, farmers spent long, physically grueling hours working the land, and now a symbol of that time has been recognized as a historic place.

Joseph Schmid worked his way from a newly arrived German immigrant, to a subsistence farmer, to a success story. He arrived in Minnesota in 1853, and his younger brother Benedict followed in 1855. The brothers exchanged ownership of a 156.5-acre property in Minnetrista, according to the National Register of Historic Places registration form for the site. Benedict purchased it in July of 1856, but by the early 1860s he had sold it to Joseph.

As of 1860, just six acres of the land had been improved and were being farmed. During the next decade, Joseph grew the farming operation. **By 1874, the Schmid farm was at its peak acreage of 334.36 acres and at least 30 acres were improved.**

While the farm was growing, Joseph, his wife, Elizabeth, and their seven children likely lived in a log home, according to the registration form. After the family had settled into the area and their farm became more of a success, they built a new house out of field stones in 1876, lending an air of permanence to their home and farm.

Joseph continued to grow and diversify the farming operation. By 1880, 56 acres were improved, while 40 acres were permanent meadows, pastures, orchards and vineyards, the form notes. Among the crops harvested in 1879 were 496 bushels of wheat, 50 tons of hay, 50 bushels of Irish potatoes, 384 bushels of oats and 50 bushels of apples. That year the Schmids also manufactured 200 pounds of butter and their hens produced 120 eggs.

Joseph gradually began giving the farm over to his son, Joseph Jr. As the Lake Minnetonka area entered its era of extravagance, standard agriculture started to diminish, and Joseph Jr. began selling off large portions of the property around the turn of the century.

A tornado hit the area Aug. 20, 1904, and destroyed a large barn that was on the property, and likely other buildings as well, according to the registration form. However, the stone home that had marked a time of prosperity and a sense of permanence for the Schmids remained standing.

In December of 1905, the last 80 acres of the Schmid farm were sold to Albert C. Loring to be added to his Woodend Dairy Farm, the form notes. Even though the house never had indoor plumbing or electricity, it was sometimes rented to Woodend employees until about 1948.

- view the full article at link below, *Lakeshore Weekly News*, Jan 2016

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**Land description:** *the West half of the South East quarter, the South East quarter of the South East quarter, and the lot numbered one of Section thirty five in Township one hundred and seventeen of Range twenty four West of the fifth principal Meridian in the District of lands formerly subject to sale at Minneapolis now Forest City Minnesota containing one hundred and fifty six acres and fifty hundredths of an acre. per U.S. General Land Office documentation. The entire document is linked below. PAID IN FULL*

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Like many immigrants, the Schmids established homesteads to make their livelihoods through farming. They claimed land in neighboring townships and began clearing fields. Land records indicate Benedict paid cash for 156.5 acres of land in 1859. The land was identified as being in **Section 35, Township 117 North, Range 24 West—Minnetrista Township, Hennepin County**. Joseph acquired a patent to 109.25 acres of land in **Sections 2 and 3, Township 116 North, Range 24 West** from Private Thomas Bennett of Captain Dossey's Company in the Georgia Militia. The following April, Joseph bought 24.68 additional acres of land in **Township 116, which is Laketown Township, Carver County**. It appears that the brothers exchanged claims at some point. Although Benedict's claim was in Minnetrista Township, he was counted in the 1860 federal census as a resident of Laketown Township. Conversely, Joseph's original claim was for land in Laketown Township, yet a map from 1860 shows "J. Smidt" as owning part of the southeast quarter of Section 35, the land identified as Benedict's original claim. According to the abstract of title, **Benedict deeded the Minnetrista land to Joseph for five hundred (\$500) dollars in 1862**, after which point there is greater clarity regarding the location of the brothers' homesteads. Their Civil War records indicate that when they were drafted in 1864, Joseph lived in Minnetrista Township and Benedict was a resident of Laketown Township. After the brothers were discharged from military duty, they returned to their respective homesteads to resume farming. - this history was published in the ***Historic Structures Report prepared for Three Rivers by Miller/Dunwiddie, 2013***. view the full report at link below.

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Two tidbits about Joseph according to *Bill Walker, Three Rivers Park District*

It is interesting that Joseph built his home with stone, since most of the farmhouses in this period were built of Chaska brick. An 1888 biography of Joseph states that he worked in a brick factory outside of New York when he first immigrated. It seems ironic since Jos. built his farm house with fieldstone instead of brick which was more typical of the neighboring farms. Was it for decorative nature? Was it to make a statement?

Also, of note, in the later years of his farming, Joseph was unique in that he moved away from wheat, oats, corn, hay, potatoes, and towards more fruits and vegetables - produce. Apparently he had beautiful produce, which was important to the large fancy hotels on the lake, and they purchased from him due to the high-quality. His produce farm was even noted in tourist information guides.

NOTE: to see a wonderful in-tact German farm house of the same era, visit the Grimm Farmstead. This Chaska brick house has the same "gabled-el" plan as the Schmid farm house, and was probably built the same year.

Info at: <https://www.threeriversparks.org/location/grimm-farm-historic-site>

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When **Joseph amp Benedict** joined the Civil War in 1864, **Elizabeth** remained on the farm with their five children at the time.

Shortly after the brothers returned from the war, **Joseph took sole ownership of the farm**. They had two more children after Joseph returned from the war.

Although Benedict was believed to have lived briefly on the **Minnetrista Township** property on **Lake Minnetonka**, it was **Joseph amp Elizabeth** and their family who lived and worked on the 156-acre farm until Joseph transferred the farm to his son, Joseph (Jr). Their livestock included dairy cows, horses, cattle, pigs, chickens, and sheep and the primary crops were wheat, oats, corn, hay, potatoes, and apples. By 1874, the Joseph Schmid farm in Minnetrista was at its peak acreage of 334.36 acres and at least 30 acres were improved.

**Benedict amp Rosina** lived and raised their family on their farm in **Chanhassen Township** on **Lake Minnewashta**.

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*Below is an excerpt from article Taking its Place in History quotes by **Bill Walker of Three Rivers Park District**, 2015 article published by **The Laker amp The Pioneer** newspaper.*

"Located in the Lake Minnetonka Regional Park, the Schmid (stone) Farmhouse was originally built in 1876 for German immigrant Joseph Schmid. Now, the farmhouse is a ruin.

While many of the exterior walls remain, the roof and floors inside have collapsed. This mortared-fieldstone structure is not currently open to the public due to significant safety concerns.

But, Three Rivers Park District, the agency campaigning to have the Schmid Farmhouse on the National Register, is doing so in hopes of attracting funding to restore the property and allow visitors to see this glimpse into Lake Minnetonka's past.

According to nomination materials prepared for the Minnesota Historical Society's State Review Board, the site is significant because it is representative of the agriculture settlement around Lake Minnetonka before the area became known for resorts and summer homes.

"It's a section of Lake Minnetonka history that gets forgotten," said Bill Walker, cultural resources program manager for Three River's Park District.

"This is a tangible reminder of a time when Lake Minnetonka supported farms," he added.

These ruins are a reminder of **German immigration**, concentrated in the area of **Minnetrista and Laketown township in Carver County**. In fact, 56 percent of the population of Minnetrista Township in 1860 was born in one of the German states.

According to the nomination materials, the farmhouse was constructed for **Joseph Schmid, a German immigrant who arrived in Minnesota in 1853. He was soon joined by his brother, Benedict Schmid, in 1855.**

Nomination materials state that in 1879 the farm produced wheat, corn, hay, Irish potatoes, oats and apples. Livestock on the farm as of 1880 included horses cows, sheep and swine.

In 1905, as tourism began to grow in the area, the house was sold to Albert Loring as an addition to Loring's **Woodend Dairy Farm**. Employees of Woodend rented the farmhouse until approximately 1948, when it was vacated.

TRPD acquired the property, formerly owned by **wrestler Verne Gagne**, in 1991 through a controversial use of eminent domain. Eminent domain is the power certain governing bodies have to take private property for public use with just compensation."

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In 1904, Joseph's son, Joseph (Jr) sold the farm to Loring amp Fulton for \$20,000.

The property was absorbed into Albert C. Loring's successful **Woodend Dairy Farm**. (more info is available at Westonka Historical Society.)

**The ruins of the Joseph Schmid stone farmhouse were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2015.**

RESTORATION Plans + Progress Reports

[3 OPTIONS for Farmhouse Restoration - 31 pages.pdf](#)

(2.80 MB)

[18 Page Excerpt Schmid Farmstead History + Restoration Report 2013.pdf](#)

(8.36 MB)

[Entire 111 Page Report - Historic Structures Report Schmid Farm Ruins 2013](#)

(13 MB)

Links of Interest 14

[MUST READ: Historic Structures Report, Schmid Farmhouse Ruins](#)

["Lake Minnetonka ruins listed in National Register", Star Tribune, Jan 2016](#)

[YouTube The Schmid Stone Farmhouse today, Lake Minnetonka](#)

[Maps, Plats, Deeds, Articles about the Schmid Farmstead in Minnetrista](#)

[1892 Plat showing land holdings of Joseph \(Sr & Jr\) & Benedict](#)

[1879 Plat showing both Joseph's & Benedict's Farm Properies](#)

["Taking its Place in History" article in The Laker & The Pioneer, 2015, Bill Walker interview](#)

[Excellent article in the Lakeshore Weekly News, January 2016](#)

["Forgotten Minnesota" article & photos Joseph Schmid Farmhouse](#)

[2015 "Sun Sailor" article about Schmid Farmhouse, National Registry](#)

[Schmid Farmstead on "Stuff About Minneapolis" Blog](#)

[Homestead Act of 1862 \(AFTER Jos & Ben acquired their lands\)](#)

[Wiki history of Lake Minnetonka](#)

[Historical Q & A About Lake Minnetonka](#)

Files of interest

[Feature story: SCHMID Westonka Historical Society Newsletter Fall 2017](#)

(4.36 MB)

[1856 Benedict Schmid's Claim of 156 Acres, Lk Minnetonka First Abstract Map](#)

(1.69 MB)

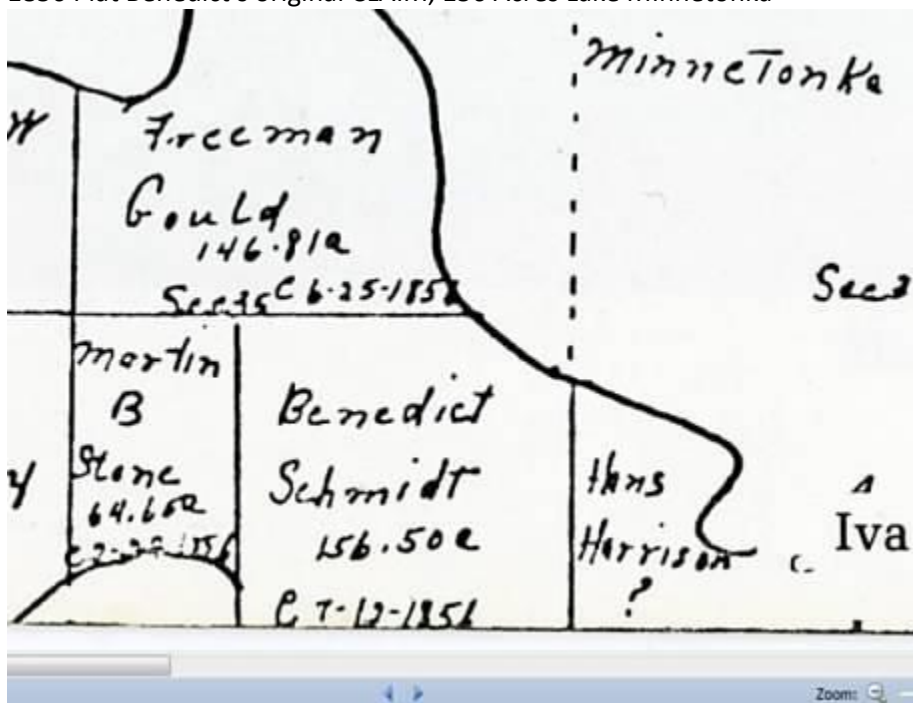
[1959 - 156 acres U.S. General Land Office - PAID IN FULL](#)

(90 KB)

[1860 Play showing Joseph Schmid's Homestead](#)

(122 KB)

1856 Plat Benedict's original CLAIM, 156 Acres Lake Minnetonka



1859 - 156 Acres PAID IN FULL

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ΣCERTIFICATE  
No. 1765

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas Benedict Schmid, of Hennepin County Minnesota

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at Minneapolis whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said

Benedict Schmid

according to the provisions of the

Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for

the West half of the South East quarter, the South East quarter of the South East quarter and the lot numbered one of Section thirty five in Township one hundred and one north of Range twenty four West of the fifth principal Meridian in the District of lands formerly subject to sale at Minneapolis now Forest City, Minnesota containing one hundred and fifty six acres and fifty hundredths of an acre

according to the official plot of the Survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract hereunto, has purchased by the said Benedict Schmid

NOW KNOW YE, That the

United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said

Benedict Schmid

and to his heirs, the said tract, above described: To have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, therewith belonging, unto the said Benedict Schmid

and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I James Buchanan

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the First day of July  
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Eighty three and of the  
INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the eighty three.

BY THE PRESIDENT,

James Buchanan  
by J. B. Leonard

Secretary.



M. Braxton Recorder of the General Land Office.



## *Minnetrista site added to National Register of Historic Places*

The Schmid Farmhouse Ruin in Minnetrista was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in December. The farmhouse, located in Lake Minnetonka Regional Park, was built in 1876 for German immigrant Joseph Schmid and is now a ruin. Three Rivers Park District, the agency which led the push to have the farmhouse listed, would like to attract funding to restore the property. Listing on the National Registry protects the property under federal laws and makes a restoration project eligible for more grant opportunities. (Laker photo by Katie Morford)

A Secret Christmas Visitor



The farmhouse ruins in 2015





1924 view of former Schmid Farm on Lake Minnetonka. courtesy of Delores Dudek



Photos, Maps, Plats, etc

[Schmid Farmhouse Photos, then and now\(76\)](#)

June 08, 2017



Figure 2. View of Schmid farmhouse, circa 1936

The Schmid Farmstead is also linked to a nearby farmstead of statewide, and perhaps national, significance. The Grimm farmhouse is located in Hennepin Parks' Carver Park Reserve, just a few miles southwest of the Schmid Farmstead. The Grimms developed a hardy strain of alfalfa particularly suited to Minnesota's harsh climate. This winter-hardy alfalfa allowed for the early development of Minnesota's dairy industry. Grimm alfalfa was grown across the midwest until the 1930s when it was replaced by bacterial-resistant strains. Like the Schmid family, the Grimms were German immigrants. Their Chaska brick farmhouse has the same "gabled-el" plan as the Schmid farm house and was probably built in the same year.



In 1859, immigrant German farmers Wendelin and Julianna Grimm purchased a plot of land in northern Carver County. Among the possessions they brought from their native land was a small wooden box containing the seeds of everlasting clover, which they planted on their farm.

For the next fifteen years, Wendelin Grimm religiously collected and planted seeds from the plants that survived the harsh Minnesota winters. This selection practice, called seed saving, resulted in the first winter-hardy alfalfa in North America. Today, Grimm alfalfa is the source of all modern varieties of alfalfa grown on more the 25 million acres in the United States and valued at \$10 billion annually.

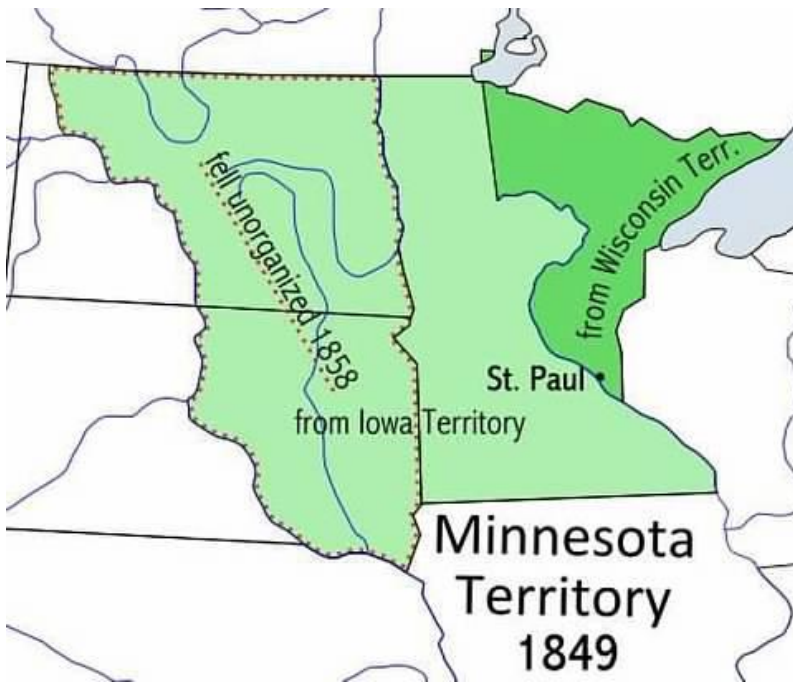


Our thanks to the John amp Katherine Stein family, of Mound, MN, for sharing their wonderful 1920s to 1950s photos of the stone farmhouse. treasures!

We can see that the house probably did not change much from when Joseph Schmid Jr sold it around 1905.

[Maps & Plats\(32\)](#)

June 08, 2017



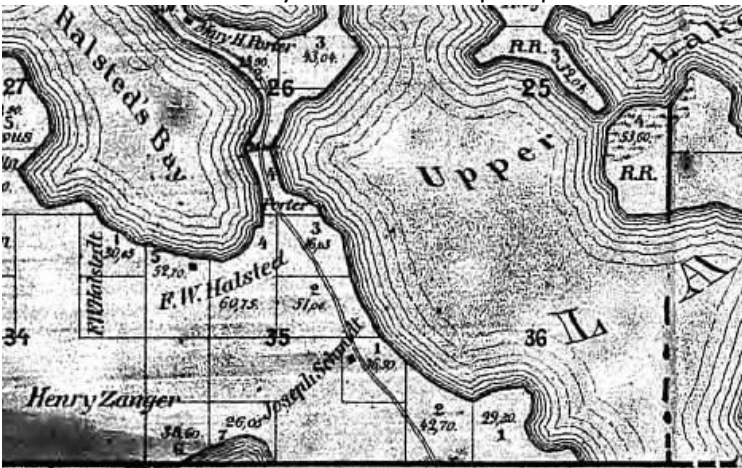
[Seasons by Barb Johnson Coyle\(14\)](#)  
 September 13, 2017



typical log cabin back in the day - 1850s



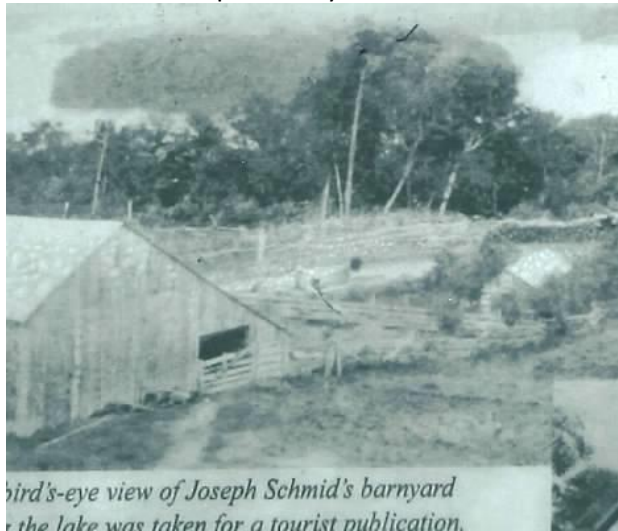
1873 US Indexed County Land Ownership Map



1876 Fieldstone house after Joe Schmid, Jr. sold off the last of the property



1881 view of Joseph's barnyard



A bird's-eye view of Joseph Schmid's barnyard at the lake was taken for a tourist publication.

1896 Joseph & Benedict's land holdings



1904 Schmid Farm is Sold for \$20,000

## SELLS HIS ELEGANT FARM

Jos. Schmidt of Zumbra Heights Sells His Farm to Messrs. Loring and Fulton.

They Pay Him the Magnificent Price of \$20,000 For the Same. Will Be Used for Live Stock Purposes.

Jos. Schmidt of Zumbra Heights recently closed a sale for his 190 acre farm overlooking Mantonka Lake, to Messrs. Loring and Fulton, who already own considerable land adjoining this farm for the sum of twenty thousand dollars. The new owners are extensive breeders of blooded stock and will, we understand, start an extensive creamery at that place, costing about 40,000 dollars. work to be commenced on the same as soon as the weather will permit.

We have not had an opportunity to interview Mr. Schmidt since he sold, but are informed that he will purchase a home in this county for a future home.

WVH  
1904  
JAN 14  
Pg 1

1905 Sale of additional 80 acres to A. C. Loring \$13,000

The Minneapolis Journal. Pub. Date December 17, 1905

enth century.  
brother was a sea cap-  
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he captain brought over  
logs of this wood.  
was then building in  
t, and the brother sug-  
is wood, which lay in  
old, might be of value  
was brought up from  
the workmen could not  
their tools and the logs  
ito the garden, out of  
y for a long time with-  
eing paid them, until one

terinis. Shelves for a collection of old  
china or family silver may be fitted in  
home jog or angle of the wall.

**Adds to Woodend Farm.**  
The real-estate records show that A.  
C. Loring has added eighty acres to his  
Woodend farm on the shores of upper  
Lake Minnetonka. He has bought the  
Schmidt farm, adjoining his original  
estate, for \$13,000. This enlarges this  
magnificent property to several hundred  
acres.

Lake Minnetonka Park (ruins circled in red)

