

Historical Highlights

- 1850**---John Henry Bremer, Sr. (son of William Henry Bremer), was born in Hanover, Germany.
- 1857**---William Henry Bremer and family arrived in the U.S. from Germany, acquired the first 50 acres of the estate, and built the family home on the site.
- 1880-1891**---Adjacent properties purchased by John Henry Bremer, Sr.
- 1893**---The second (larger) Bremer home built on the new site.
- 1899**---William Henry Bremer died; the land and home were purchased by John Henry Bremer, Sr., from the other heirs.
- 1921**---John Henry Bremer, Sr. died; the land and buildings were purchased by John Henry Bremer, Jr., and brother Louis, from the other heirs.
- 1937**---Louis Bremer died; land and buildings acquired by John Henry Bremer, Jr.
- 1976**---John Henry Bremer, Jr. died; estate left to his two daughters, Helen & Betty.
- 1977**---H & B Bremer Wildlife Sanctuary was established and dedicated to the Illinois Audubon Society.
- 1977-1999**--- Individual parcels were periodically donated to the IAS.
- 1980**--- Hickory Hills Chapter was formed.
- 1982**---Betty Bremer died; leaving her holdings to sister, Helen.
- 1985**---Renovation projects began on the barn.
- 1999**---Helen Bremer died; leaving the last parcel of land to the Illinois Audubon Society. The current sanctuary consists of 8 parcels totaling 203 acres.