



W. Warner Diefenbach

472 S 11000W Road
Bonfield, IL 60913

Quilt Block: Quiltmakers Block

Farm: Was bought by Louis and Anna Piper Diefenbach from the Wilhelm Piper Estate in September 1917.

Age of Barn: Built in early 1900 (40 ft x 54 ft); added 18ft to make it 40 ft x 72 ft in 1933.

Materials and Architecture: wood timbers 8 inches by 8 inches; remodeled materials purchased from Van Voorst Lumber Co., Union Hill, IL

Original Use or Purpose of Structure: Horse barn, then dairy, old tractors and storage.

Miscellaneous Information: Louis Diefenbach and Anna Piper were married in September, 1917. They had two children, Florence R. and W. Warner Diefenbach.

Louis and Anna purchased the 247 acre farm and building in 1926 for \$35,000 from the Wilhelm Piper Estate. 1929 was the year of the Great Depression and the last farm payment was due. Louis and Anna had purchased shares of Warner Brothers some years before – their only asset. They were happy to learn that the price per share was the same as when they had purchased them. The shares were sold to make the final farm payment.

The barn was enlarged in 1933 to its present size. Charles T. Norgaard was the contractor and suggested that the east end of the barn be cut loose and be moved out to a new foundation 18 feet further east. The new concrete foundation was poured. Three skid rows were made by placing bundles of singles flat on the ground. Then 2 ft by 6 ft planks were laid on top and were coated with used oil so the barn would slide easier. On a quiet morning, Warner's uncle came with his JD 1932 steel wheeled tractor and the entire east end of the barn was pulled out to the new foundation. Warner was only eleven years old but remembers it as an exciting event. By the end of the day, it was completely boxed in so the wind would not blow it out. Men worked 10 hours per day at 40 cents per hour.

Louis Diefenbach passed away in March, 1934. Warner graduated from Herscher High School in 1940 and began the dairy herd. Inspected Grade A milk was sold for the next 43 years. The milk house and bulk tanks were added in 1956.

In 1958, Warner and his sister, Florence R. Diefenbach inherited the farm from the Anna Piper Diefenbach Estate. The present owner of this Centennial Farm is W. Warner Diefenbach F.L.T.