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#### LAWRENCE EULER AND THE 'DUTCH' GROCERY

In 1835, John Euler, Sr., sons Peter and John Jr. and nephew Jacob, took up land in Sections 11 and 12 in Genoa Township. Sons Lawrence and Henry arrived the next year from the east. All had immigrated to the U.S. in 1828 from Hessen, Germany. John Sr. and Peter moved to near Byron in Shiawassee County in 1838.

The Grand River Trail, a major route for pioneers, ran diagonally through Sections 11, 13, 14. By the time the Euler family arrived the cholera epidemic in Detroit and the Black Hawk War had subsided. They were among the flood of settlers seeking to buy government land. Many were of German nationality as were the Eulers. These included the Fishbecks, Martins, Conrads, Hartmans, Dorrs, Ranschers and Baetckes. The comfort of others nearby, speaking one's mother tongue, meant a great deal.

In 1837, Thomas and Abigail Pinckney sold an acre of land on the south side of the Trail to Lawrence Euler for \$10.00 (at the end of Euler Road). Here he built a log store and tavern, one of the first business ventures in Genoa. He also built a frame barn close by to stable travelers' horses and the teams which drew freight wagons and stage coaches. These kinds of stage stops, 10-15 miles apart usually also provided lodging, food and liquid refreshment to the travelers and teamsters. Other enterprising settlers also built similar businesses along the Trail but the 'Dutch' Grocery persisted into the mid 1970s.

About 1848 John Weimeister became the proprietor. As postmaster he located the post office in the Dutch Grocery. Township elections were held there for many years. Shortly after the original log store burned, 1880s, Ferdinand and Augusta Krebs purchased the site and built a two story frame store with living quarters at the rear and above. Until Rural Free Delivery of mail, the Dutch Grocery was the place to pick up and mail letters, hear the news, read a newspaper, etc. Krebs had a card table and in the evenings or on rainy days men gathered to play, visit and smoke. Krebs also sold wine and hard cider. Augusta could tell a young mother how to care for a sick child and how to make a dollar go three times as far. The arrival of the stage, changing of the horses, or unloading of freight was exciting to see. Altho' water was available at the pump, thirsty travelers had to come into the store for the dipper and might also buy something in appreciation.

About 1920 John Gage and George Russell bought it and added a gas station and small service garage. Angus Coulter leased the property in 1928/1933. Then Elmer Gage took over the store and Al Zimmerman ran the gas station. When the 18th amendment was repealed, Elmer obtained a license and operated a beer garden for a year before selling to Edward Koch. About 1945 Jacob Rindle and Andrew Welzer purchased the site. February 19, 1947, saw the old 'Dutch Inn' leveled by fire. (Compiled from atlases and writings of Bill Pless. The Society would appreciate copies of photos connected to the site.)