

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

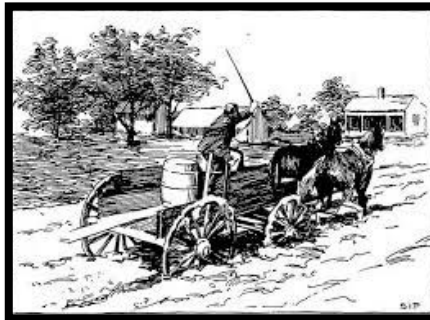


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## Early Roads in Genoa Township — Bauer, Crooked Lake and Sweet Roads

Prior to the construction of Interstate 96, Bauer Road ran south from Grand River for five miles, through Genoa Township. On the way it intersected Crooked Lake Road, Challis and Brighton Roads passing Cunningham Lake Road, also Bishop Lake and Teahan Roads before ending at Hamburg Road in Hamburg Township. August 3, 1859, George Bauer and wife, Barbara, with five sons, buy 40 acres in Genoa, Section 24. Five years later more land was purchased and again in 1867. A total of 320 acres was acquired at various times. The five sons were surely kept busy. The Bauer name is still on signposts, however it now begins south of I-96. The 3/4 miles north of I-96, commencing at Grand River, are now name Hubert Road.

Construction of I-96 also interrupted Crooked Lake Road. In 1955, Crooked Lake Road began at Grand River, heading west, bisecting Genoa Township for six miles intersecting Bauer, Dorr, Latson and Chilson Roads. When the Detroit, Lansing, Lake Michigan Railroad was built, the Genoa Post Office was constructed at the crossing of the Crooked Lake and Dorr Road flag station. Joe Bogan managed the station in 1875. Post Offices were later located in nearby cities and villages on the railroad. By 1915, Crooked Lake Road crosses Chilson Road to the Marion Township line. The two miles east of I-96 have been named Herbst Road, commemorating the early Herbst family land purchases. Herbst Road ends a Dorr Road.



A family of hard working farmers named Sweet arrived in the area c. 1865. They continued their productive way. By the 1870 Census, Newberry C. 53, of Pennsylvania owned property valued at \$7,500; Ambrose 45, of New York owned property valued at \$4,000; and John B. 32 of Pennsylvania owned property valued at \$2,200, all in Genoa Township. Ambrose and Newberry may have been brothers. In 1870-71, Newberry served as Justice of the Peace in Genoa. Other Sweet family landowners in 1875 were Cyrus S., Henry, Mrs. N.C., Miss Evalena, and Theodore, all in Sections 8, 9, 16 and 17.

The township plat map locates 450 acres in the Sweet name at the time. By 1961, the Sweet family disposed of all that acreage. Sweet Road ran east from Latson Road for one mile to Fishbeck Road on the line between Sections 9 and 16, crossing the Detroit, Lansing, Lake Michigan Railroad tracks. The construction of Interstate 96 causes Sweet Road to end at the half-mile mark. However, their name lives on in the half-mile off Latson Road. Maria, Ambrose Sweet's wife, and two other members of the family are interred in the Old Village Cemetery in Brighton. Not only did Detroit Edison have a hand in road name assignments, it would appear interstate construction did also.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: John and Janice Field transcriptions of the Cemetery; "1880 History of Livingston County" by Milton Charboneau; and census records. Additions/corrections requested 810-229-6402.)