

ANTON AND MARIE GRIGAR FARM

PERRY, MICHIGAN
ESTABLISHED AUGUST 3, 1911

Anton Grigar was born in Moravia, now a part of the Czech Republic, in June 1864. On November 26, 1889, he married Marie Zasterova and together they worked for wealthy Moravian landowning farmers. The couple lived in a one-room home with a dirt floor for 14 years, during which time they had six children. After a diphtheria epidemic struck the area and four of their children died within three weeks, Anton and Marie knew their lives needed to change.

At the time, Marie's sister had recently moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and begun saving money to help the Grigars join her. In 1903, Anton went ahead of a pregnant Marie to work in Ohio. He sent money frequently to Marie and finally saved enough to bring her and their remaining children to Ohio to join him in December 1904.

In Ohio, Anton worked at a foundry, while Marie earned additional money cleaning the foundry's offices. Word came that there was work in Michigan's sugar beet fields. The Grigar family moved to Michigan. On August 3, 1911, Anton and Marie entered into a land contract in

order to purchase an 80-acre farm for \$7,500. For Anton and Marie, it was a dream come true.

Anton and Marie Grigar's daughter, Rose, married Tony Slavik Jr. in 1921, and the couple helped her parents work on the farm. Anton passed away in 1924 and, in 1930, Marie deeded the farm to Rose and Tony, who expanded the farm operations. Their youngest son, Ray, stayed on the farm. He built a house across the street from the original homestead.

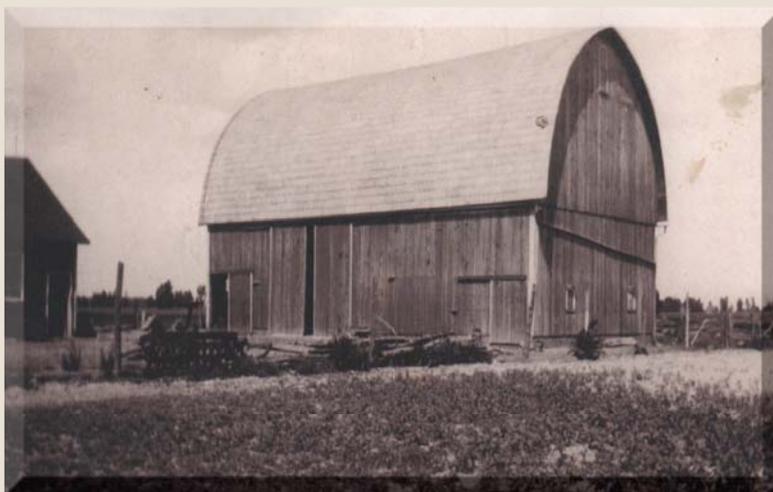
In 1965, Ray and his wife, Wava, moved into the main homestead and took over farm operations. Ray continued to expand by renting further land and was actively tilling 1,000 acres in the 1970s. Today, the family grows corn, soy, and wheat on the farm. ☒



Anton and Marie Grigar.



Below: The original Grigar barn. Right: The current Grigar homestead.



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