

CHARLES JUSKEWICZ FARM

GARDEN, MICHIGAN

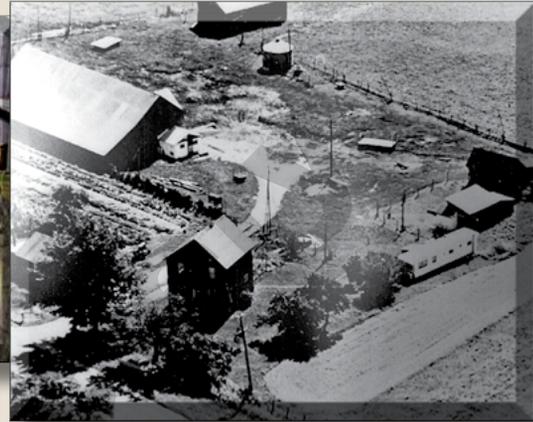
ESTABLISHED MAY 27, 1915

The Charles Juskewicz Farm was established on May 27, 1915, in Delta County, Michigan. Prior to his move to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Charles lived and worked in Illinois as a coal miner. When salesmen from the Grimmer Land Company showed him photographs of completed farm buildings and fertile land in Michigan, Charles spent \$800 on the farm supposedly featured. However, when he arrived on the Garden Peninsula in 1915, he was greeted not by an operable farm but rather by 40 acres of cutover woodland and no buildings.

Having spent his life's savings on the land and being accustomed to hard work from his childhood on a farm in Lithuania, Charles persevered in creating a life in Michigan. He cleared the acreage for crop farming and built a log cabin and barn. In 1918, he married Amelia Sckulko and adopted Steve Pscodna Sr., then three and a half years old, as his stepson. The family purchased an additional 160 acres of farmland in 1936.



Steve Pscodna Sr. pictured on a John Deere tractor in the early 2000s.



An aerial photo of the farm taken in 1964.

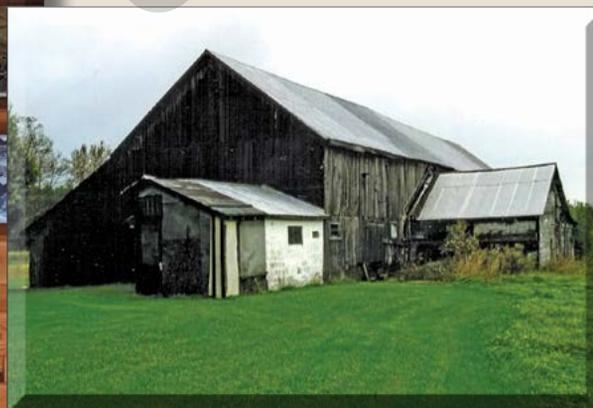
Steve Sr. married Josie Bartus in 1939 and purchased Pscodna's Grade-A dairy farm from Charles a decade later. Some Garden residents recall going to the dairy farm with their gallon jugs to purchase milk each evening. In addition to milking cows, raising chickens, and gardening for more than 40 years, the couple was active in both their Garden and greater Michigan communities.

In 1968, the original farmhouse was destroyed when lightning started a fire. Fortunately, the family dog, Corkie, alerted Steve Sr. and Josie of the danger by opening the door to the house and waking the sleeping couple in time for them to escape. Neighbors helped

provide clothing, food, and water to the family while a new house was constructed.

Steve Sr. and Josie sold their cows in 1978 and entered into a semi-retirement consisting of crop farming, fishing, and traveling. After Josie passed away in 1986, their son Steve Jr. entered into joint ownership of the farm with his father. Steve Sr. spent most of his remaining years on the homestead.

Steve Jr. and Roseanne Lesh, who married in 1963, are the current owners of the Juskewicz Farm. They use the farmhouse primarily as a summer residence and rent out the 320-acre farm to grow black beans, oats, corn, barley, and hay. Their children and grandchildren plan to keep the farm in the family and carry on the rich farming traditions that began with Charles Juskewicz more than a century ago. ☒



Far left: A wall of family history, located in the farmhouse. Left: The barn and milk house.