

## William and Ida Mae Chappel Farm

Kinde • Established April 11, 1905

The William and Ida Mae Chappel Farm was established in April 1905 in Huron County. Farm founder William Clare Chappel Sr.—whose parents emigrated from Cornwall, England—was born in Pennsylvania in 1873. His parents moved the family to Michigan to work and live on a farm, also located in Huron County. Chappel then married Ida Mae Wolfe in 1889, and the couple had one son and two daughters. On April 11, 1905, William bought an 80-acre parcel down the road from his parents' farm and worked the land with his two horses. He grew corn for his beef cattle, along with oats and hay. Next to the farmhouse, an orchard of fruit trees and a large garden provided food for the family.

William owned the farm until he passed away in 1949, leaving the property to his son, William Jr., and his daughter Ida Mae. They continued to run the farm together, but after both siblings married, Ida Mae sold her interest to William Jr. and his wife. In 1959, he passed the farm to his son and daughter-in-law, William A. and Nancy. In the 1960s, the barn burned down, and the couple purchased a new house. William A., Nancy, and their son—also named William—still live and work on the farm today. A large Snow apple tree from the original orchard still remains—a reminder for the family of their farm's humble beginnings.



*Above top: An aerial view of the Chappel Farm. Above: A recent view of the barn. Right: Workers and horses on the farm.*

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## Joseph and Irene Romanski Farm

St. Helen • Established August 31, 1920

The Joseph and Irene Romanski Farm was founded in Roscommon County in August 1920. Born in Lukowa, Poland, Dmytro Romanczyk immigrated to the United States in 1905. After saving money while working in the Pennsylvania coal mines, Dmytro sent for his sweetheart, Oryuka, who was still overseas. The young couple wed in 1910 and moved west, settling in Michigan since the landscape reminded them of home. Dmytro took on work as a laborer at a dairy farm in Roscommon County, but he and his wife were required to change their names as a condition for receiving employment. Dmytro and Oryuka Romanczyk became Joseph and Irene Romanski. The surname later underwent another change, becoming the current family name of "Romancky."

In 1920, the couple purchased their own property to use for dairy farming. Tragically, Joseph died of pneumonia in 1931, leaving Irene and their 12 children—the youngest of whom was six months old—behind. When Irene passed in 1956, all of the siblings agreed the property should go to their brother George, who expressed the most interest in the farm. George promptly converted the farm from dairy to beef cattle and even started his own pulpwood production company to supplement the family income. George continued to work the farm alongside his wife, Wanda, and their three daughters until he passed away in 2004, leaving Wanda as the owner of the farm. Wanda continues to operate the farm—raising beef cattle and farming hay—with the help of her daughters.



*Above: The Romanski family with farm founder Irene (back row, second from the right). Right: Calves on the farm decades ago.*

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