

Looking Back at Lake County – Beloved Businesses 1

This month, our look into the hidden gems of Ohio's smallest county will include this longtime entrepreneurial success.

Mountain Creek Tree Farm



Orlin Goudy



Orlin Goudy & family

Located at 7185 Williams Road in Concord Township, **Mountain Creek Farm** is a third-generation family enterprise that is a best kept agricultural secret. For many township or county residents, this 52-acre **Christmas tree farm** is a family tradition. Grab a saw and a



sled and hike out into rows of pines to search for that perfect holiday tree.

Although the original evergreens were planted in 1949 with the first official retail tree sold in 1956, this family story dates further back in Concord Township history.



The first house on the property was a small cabin built in 1836. According to current owner Ken Reeves, his great uncle **Orlin Frank Goudy** (1896-1987) bought the property in 1926 as a working farm. Goudy was an attorney



who grew up in Cleveland. In 1947, he decided to add the holiday tree chapter to the family farm history. It seemed that after WWII, a desire for Christmas trees ran rampant. Cutting down trees in local parks, city parks, national parks and elsewhere led to Federal Government restrictions.

Goudy seized the entrepreneurial spirit that



this increased demand offered, and local history was made. Saplings normally take between seven to ten years to mature to the desired



holiday heights. Starting with a goal of 1000 trees and hoping to sell the same amount annually, the farm now boasts over 12,000 trees on site. In the beginning, it was simply: park down the road, pay in the house, grab a sled and saw, followed by cut & take your own tree.



When Interstate-90 opened under President Eisenhower, business increased. Today, families may still cut their own tree on-site or just visit the family barn for a pre-cut selection. The vintage barn is worth a visit in itself as it predates the 1836 cabin.

As was often the case, pioneers traveled along Girdled Road as they settled the Western Reserve. They usually built a barn for livestock first, then built their family homes or additions

in the years to follow, Ken Reeves has their family farm fully documented and historically recognized. Stop by this winter season and learn his family's history and the great stories he can recite from Christmases past.

Sources: The News-Herald, August 24, 2016, November 30, 2019, November 24, 2023. Hidden History of Lake County, Jennifer B. Engelking, 2021 Concord Township archives, Perry archives.

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