

The Pomeroy

(Wayne Steffensen)

Two of the early settlers in Buffalo Township were brothers Royal N. and F. Howard Pomeroy, sons of Benjamin and Abigail Pomeroy. The brothers were farmers and were instrumental in establishing the post office and outlining the streets in BC. They bought many acres of prairie sod directly from the government and later sold much of it to the railroads.

Royal was the one who petitioned the Post Office Department in Washington, DC for a post office to be named Buffalo Center. It was to be on the Pomeroy farm, which already had a small store, about one half mile east and one and a half miles south of the present Buffalo Center (the Gary Garst farm). But when the town was relocated to its present location, because of the railroad, Royal again petitioned, in August 1892, to have the post office moved here.

Royal N. Pomeroy was born in Wisconsin in 1853, married Sophia Fick of Dodge County, Wisconsin, and raised his three children on the farm near Buffalo Center. Later he returned to Wisconsin and left the farm to one of his sons, Reuben.

Royal's brother, Fernando Howard Pomeroy, was the owner of the 160-acre farm that is actually the site of the present Buffalo Center. Howard is the one who, after the original platting of the town, used a mower to cut swaths in his wheat field to show where the streets would be and set laths to outline the lots offered for sale to the highest bidder.

In July, 1892, Howard sold the farm to the Iowa Investment Company of Forest city and then bought the farm just to the north (the John Davids farm) and built a small house there, which was later moved a half mile south and expanded. He married Anna Tegland on November 20, 1894. Anna and her family had lived in a sod house about two miles east of BC (in the vicinity of the Paul Steinberg house).

Howard and Anna had eleven children. One that I knew was Maye Pomeroy Steinberg, who donated this rocker to the museum. It belonged to her parents; this is their picture.

Royal Pomeroy's son Reuben was responsible for starting the Timely Mission Nursing Home in town. He had an 80-acre farm a mile west of Buffalo Center and wanted to have "something to show for it." In May 1963, he donated the 80 acres and all cash assets, a \$26,000 value, to a group of local leaders for the purpose of building a nursing home for the aged.

Reuben was born on November 16, 1878 at Rudd, IA. and came to Buffalo Township with his parents in 1883. He married Florence Griggs in 1905 and they had one daughter, Ruth, who was born on the farm southeast of town (the original site of Buffalo Center). Ruth married Edward Kelly, and they had three daughters and one son.

Reuben seems to be the earliest truck farmer in the area. He raised fruit of all kinds, had several berry pickers, and sold his fruit from his farm. He also raised cane and made sorghum, averaging about 500 gallons a year, which he sold for \$1.00 a gallon. The sorghum was used as a sweetener and in baking.

Florence passed away on December 11, 1951, and Reuben on August 11, 1966.

So the Pomeroy family, who can trace their family history back to the year 1000 A.D. in Normandy, France, made some major marks on early Buffalo Center history.

