

People

**FRANK A. JENNE**  
**1860 -- 1927**

**Mysterious Hermit**  
**Wrote instrumental pieces which have been published**  
**And which bear his name.**  
**Including the "BAY VIEW MARCH"**  
**For Bay View**

**Frank A. Jenne  
1860 -- 1927**

The Petoskey Record  
Thursday, January 16, 1913

**HERMIT F. JENNE ADJUDGED INSANE  
Taken To Traverse By Sheriff  
Mysterious Man Lived in Lonely Hut  
Near Bay View and Wrote  
Good Music**

After ten or twelve years of solitary life in a dingy, dirty cabin near Bay View, Frank A. Jenne, the mysterious hermit who has been the cause of much comment about Petoskey, was determined insane Thursday afternoon in Probate Judge Gilbert's court and was taken by Sheriff Purple to the Northern Michigan state hospital at Traverse City.

Where Jenne came from is not known. He has appeared regularly in Petoskey and nearby towns, dressed in rags and with bandages about his feet in place of shoes. He was under the hallucination that he was a great teacher of music, and it is true that he has written instrumental pieces which have been published and which bear his name, some of them being considered high grade music. Among these is the "BAY VIEW MARCH."

Each summer, Jenne has appeared at Bay View, passing his professional cards among the resorters, and on rare occasions he has secured pupils, who, however, on account of his unpresentable appearance and strange behavior, did not remain long with him. He was likewise unbalanced concerning his financial condition. He believed he was a rich man, whereas his only valuable possession was twelve acres of land near Bay view, held for him by a brother-in-law who resides in Benzonia.

The interior of Jenne's hut presented the appearance generally credited to a genius, and in many respects the man was so considered. He wrote a fine hand, and when summoned to appear before Judge Gilbert sent the latter one of his "professional" cards and likewise a communication reading.

*"To the Hon. Edward E. Gilbert, Judge of Probate,  
Frank A. Jenne, Competent. Ha! Ha! The Last Call."*

Jenne was considered harmless.

**Greenwood Cemetery Records**

**Frank A.  
Jenne  
1860 -- 1927**



**Name:** Jenne, Frank A.

**Age:** 68

**Date of Birth:** 0/0/1860

**Date of Death:** 03/19/1927

**Cemetery:** Greenwood, Petoskey

**Memo:**

**Status:**

**Section K, Block 101, Lot 7**

**History Memo:**

**HOFFMAN CENTENNIAL FARM  
4 MILES EAST OF PETOSKEY**

**Receiving plaque commemorating 100 years**

*Pet History  
Binder I*

*People  
Hoffman Centennial  
Farm 1991*

*After Frank  
Jenne*

*Olanson*

# 5 to 9 job

## Hoffman farm honored

Petoskey News-Review, page 1 & 2

Friday, July 12, 1991

By Stephen Brede

News-Review Writer



Bear Creek Twp.: Mike Hansen of Top O' Michigan Electric Co. (right) presents Rose Mary McMaster and her brother, Joe Hoffman, with a plaque commemorating the 100 years the Hoffman family has

worked their Emmet County farm. The Michigan Historical Commission certifies centennial farms, and the markers are provided by power companies.

**BEAR CREEK TWP. — Farming: The 5 to 9 job.**

It's been that way from 1877 to 1991 at the Hoffman farm on Mitchell Road, four miles east of Petoskey.

So, 14 years after the farm's 100th birthday, the 9-to-5 bunch at the Michigan Historical Commission have certified the farm a centennial farm.

No rush, it looks like the family will be running the farm for another 100 years at least.

"Since the Centennial Farm Program was begun in 1948, this office has certified more than 6,000 centennial farms," Michigan Secretary of State Richard Austin said in a statement announcing the Hoffman designation. "I commend Joseph E. and Ruth Hoffman and Joseph's sister Rose Mary Hoffman McMaster for their commitment to Michigan agriculture and the preservation of our heritage."

Wednesday afternoon Joe Hoffman walked out of his sister's two-story, white frame house — his father built it to replace the one that burned down in 1903 when a spark from the steam tractor landed on the roof — and greeted Mike Hansen and Dave Guzniczak of Top O' Michigan Electric

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# 5 to 9 job

Hoffman farm honored

## Hoffman farm recognized for centennial

### HOFFMAN

Continued from page 1

Co.

The two men came to present Joe and his sister with a centennial farm marker.

Yes, Joe tells them, it must have been a spark from the old tractor. He said it used to get real hot coming up the steep hill behind the house.

Everyone looked down the hill past the windmill tower, beyond the gray weathered barns, the roofs of which are eye-level from here, and out to the green fields below.

"There was no fire engine," Joe told them. "There was no nothing."

For generations tractors have pulled loads of vegetables to the top of that hill. When third-generation family members Joe and Rose Mary were growing up, the produce was loaded on a truck early in the

morning, six days a week, and delivered to town.

"When we were 8 years old we had to go on the route with an older one," Rose Mary recalled. That was the age when the first of the 10 children started the route, and that was the age when Joe — "I'm the baby of the family, I'm 63" — started.

Joe said the family delivered produce to the inns and hotels in Petoskey.

"6:30 is the latest we ever arrived at the hotels," he said. Then the truck finished the morning delivering door to door through Bay View.

"We worked, believe me," Rose Mary said. They still work hard, she said, "But it's worth it. It's nice to live on a farm because you raise all your own food. You know what you're eating."

Joe and Mike wrestled with the cardboard box with "State of Michigan Industries" stamped on it, and then pulled out the forest-green

marker.

"Owned by the same family over 100 years," it says.

Over 100 year ago Joe and Rose Mary's grandparents, John W. and Barbara Hofmann, came to the United States from Germany.

Joe said he's not sure how to spell the name of the German town they came from, but he pointed to the sturdy house up on the road where he and his wife, Ruth, live (Joe built it, masonry is just another thing he's found time to master) and said he has the name written on some papers there. It's also on a beer bottle he's saving.

Joe said his grandfather worked for a while in the coal mines of Pennsylvania. In 1877, after he was able to save a bit, he and Barbara made the move to Michigan and started their homestead.

Joe, Rose Mary and Mike stand in front of the windmill tower holding the sign and Dave snaps a photo. The windmill has been vaneless ever since electricity came to the

farm. And Joe remembers the day in 1940 when the power came.

"We had a brand new (cream) separator, and boy, what a joy," he said. "The power was more critical than the light bulb. A fiddle motor sitting there doing a whole lot of work."

A lot of other changes — besides power lines and changes to the family name — have taken place at the farm, including Rose Mary's son Bill opening Bill's Farm Market on the hill about five years ago. The family still grows the beautiful vegetables sold at the market, but the dairy cows are gone and Joe raises beef cattle now.

But some things remain the same.

After Dave takes the picture, everyone turns and looks out at Little Traverse Bay shimmering in the distance. Joe said he can see Beaver Island on a clear day.

And no one has to ask why John Hofmann decided to plant his seeds where he did 114 years ago.