

White Lake Area Historical Society

July 21, 2022

Valley View

8411 Old Channel Trail, Montague, Michigan

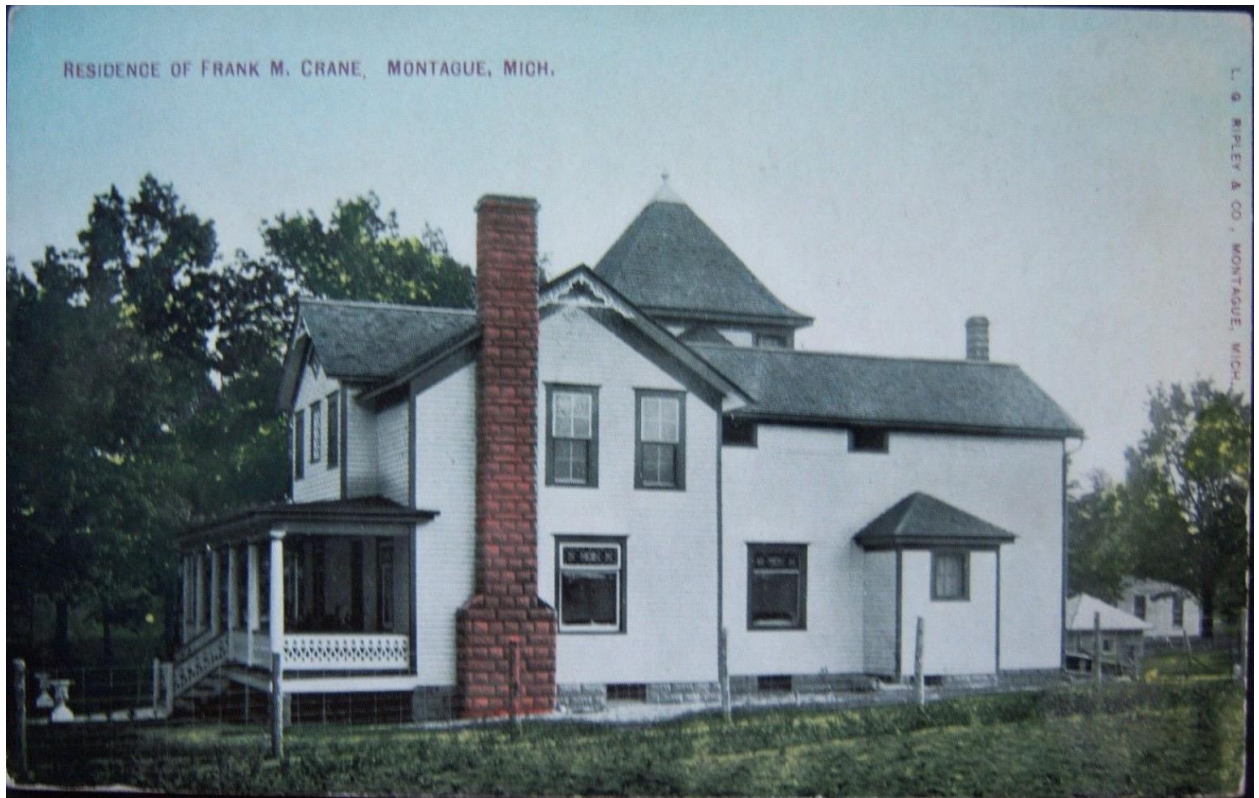
Following the Montague path of the Frank Cranes, (he was the Chicago Montgomery Ward executive) we now arrive at 8411 Old Channel Trail. After leaving the Cranes Nest Red Brick Farmhouse at 5280 Stanton Boulevard, the Cranes purchased this property called Valley View. The property contained the main house, the big red barn and the corner concrete brick pumphouse.

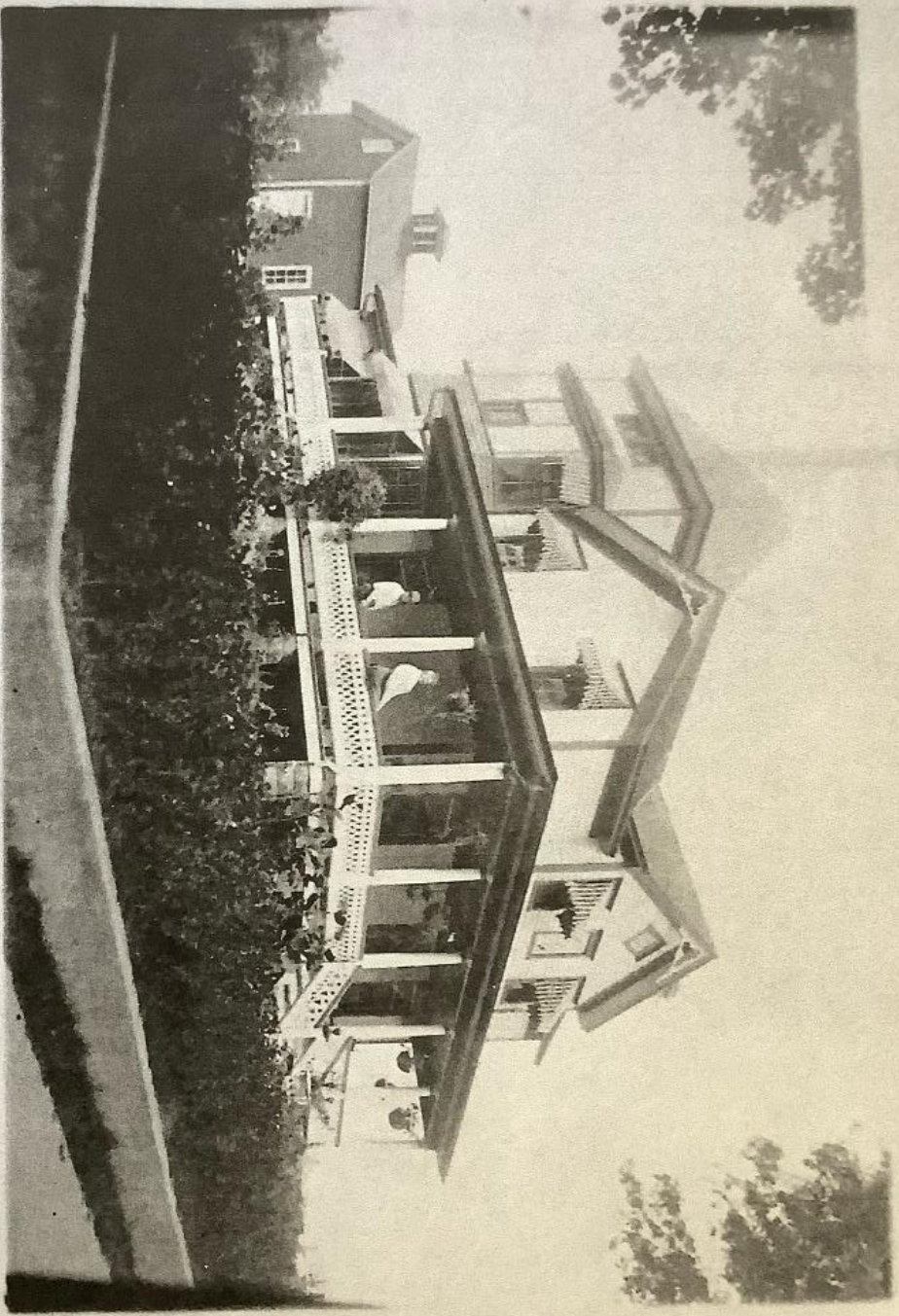
Montgomery Ward, a leading catalogue company published a newsletter "Among Ourselves". It promoted the White Lake area as a pleasant summer vacation spot. You can read more about this company promotion in Dan Yakes 2 books "Cross River Rivals. Interesting reading on the evolution of Montague and Whitehall.

After various owners Rod and Maggie Vanderstelt purchased the property in 1999. Both Rod and Maggie love old houses and have wonderful skills and talents in maintaining and improving old houses. They are also interesting collectors and will give us some stories of living in and caring for their old property. They can also talk about their interesting inside and outside decorations.

We will tour the main floor and see their collections and improvements. Please be careful in your walk through and come on back outside for some Jan Grady refreshments.

Roger Scharmer
July 21, 2022





THE FRANK CRANE RESIDENCE
ON OLD CHANNEL TRAIL



Updated Brief Timeline of
Frank Crane's "Crane's Nest"
and the "Valley View"

August 1898 – William Thieman sold his farm including his tools and buildings and nearly all his livestock to Frank Crane.

May 1901 – Cranes' farmhouse has been greatly improved and was christened "Crane's Nest. The building and fences received a fresh coat of white paint.

July 1903 – A beautiful rustic summer house was built on the premises of the Cranes. On the roof of the building there was a sign with the name. (This must be the rustic red brick summer house that was built and attached to the former Theiman farmhouse.)

March 1907 – Frank Crane has invested in valuable real estate in Montague. He has purchased Block 36 – the lakefront property of Mrs. E. L. Dodge.

March 1908 – Crane bought Dr. Johnson's house on Coon Creek and had it moved to Block 36. He will remodel it into a modern dwelling.

November 1908 – Mr. & Mrs. Frank Crane moved from the "Crane's Nest" into their new house on Prospect Street (OCT).

September 1909 – Mrs. Crane hosted a picnic at the "Crane's Nest" which indicated they still owned it.

August 1916 – Frank M. Crane dies.

1922 – Three sisters – Nan, Irene and Elizabeth Powers – bought the late Frank M. Crane house in Prospect Street (OCT). Mr. & Mrs. A. Hurd come to visit Mrs. Hurd's three sisters.

August 1923 – The three Powers sisters name their place "The Valley View Cottage."

1932 – Mr. & Mrs. Hurd came to Valley View, the home of his wife's 3 sisters and remained here attracted by the quiet and beauty of the area. Mrs. Hurd, whose health was poor, died a few months after arriving. And the husband, his health failing, remained here.

November 1933 – Mr. Hurd passed away.