

Baker-Fagan Family



Peter Baker (left) with his son Art and Ken McCormick

James Fagan came to West Deerfield Township with his brothers, Christopher and John, and sister Ann in 1835. The Fagans settled in the area of West Lake Forest/Bannockburn, along what is now Telegraph Road. Ann Fagan married Michael Devon; their daughter, Ann Devon was born on June 9, 1838. Ann Devon was the first Caucasian child born in the West Deerfield Township area. Ann Devon was three years old when her father died in 1841 of appendicitis. Ann Devon was married to James Redmond on June 16, 1861. They settled on a farm on Telegraph Road which is now occupied by Mary Bertucci. We'll hear more about the Redmonds and Bertuccis later.

In 1841, James Fagan Sr. donated the land for St. Patrick's cemetery in Lake Forest. In order to get a higher piece of ground for the cemetery, James Fagan traded an acre of land, at that time worth a dollar and a quarter, with Michael Yore. Then James Fagan gave his desired acre to the south of his farm for the cemetery. The first person buried in the cemetery was Michael Devon, his brother-in-law. In 1851, James Fagan Jr. was born in West Deerfield Township. Sarah Fagan was born on the Fagan farm at Route 22 and Ridge Road; she was the daughter of James Fagan, Jr.

Pieter Bakker (later Americanized to Peter Baker) was born in Friesland in the Netherlands in 1871. He was sponsored for emigration to the United States by George Bouma of Waukegan around 1892-93. Peter came to Bouma Farm with his sister Nellie, who later married Mr. Bouma. After serving his six-year contract there, he came to Lake Forest and worked two years on Laurence Armour's estate. From there, he moved on to the John Andrews King estate at 165 North Green Bay Road and worked as a gardener. While working at this estate, he brought over his parents, Arthur and Dora Baker, and his brothers and sisters.

Peter Baker met Sarah Fagan at a dance at Fort Sheridan and married her in April, 1903. Early in their marriage, they lived on the King estate. In 1915 Peter Baker started a road construction business; his first asphalt plant was established at Conway Road in 1938 (where the West Lake Forest train station now stands), and around 1951-52, the plant moved to Rondout, where it still stands.

Peter and Sarah Fagan Baker had a son, Arthur, and a daughter, Elizabeth Catherine. Elizabeth was born June 10, 1908, at the Bakers' home on Woodlawn in Lake Forest. She was a member of the first graduating class of St. Mary School in Lake Forest in

1921. She graduated from Deerfield-Shields Township High School in 1925. After graduation, she worked at the high school as school secretary, until she was married. Elizabeth married Michael James Rafferty in Lake Forest in 1931. Mr. Rafferty's ancestors emigrated from Germany, Ireland, and Scotland in the early 20th century and also settled in North Shore towns, namely Evanston and Highland Park.

Michael and Elizabeth Baker Rafferty had 5 children: Annette, Patricia, Margaret, Michael Jr., and Sarah. All four girls attended the School of St. Mary, and Patricia, Margaret and Sarah attended Lake Forest High School. Annette attended Holy Child High School in Waukegan. Their lives soon took them to different ends of the country, settling in areas as distant as California, Florida and Denver.

Michael James Rafferty, Jr. was born to Michael Sr. and Elizabeth on December 21, 1939, in Alice Home Hospital. He attended the School of St. Mary, then Lake Forest High School. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University. After college, Michael returned to Lake Forest. Michael has made numerous contributions to the community over the years, serving as President of the Lake Forest Jaycees, Director of the Lake Forest Chamber of Commerce, Scout Master of Scout Troop 48, and one of the founders of the Jaycees Lake Forest Youth Football program. He has also served 6 years on the Lake Forest Caucus and 5 years as Chairman of the 3rd Ward Committee on Candidates.

Service to the Lake Forest community runs in the family. Michael Rafferty's wife, Kathy Faulks Rafferty, owns the Lake Forest Frame and Design Studio on Westminster and Forest Avenue. Her father, Herb Faulks, served as a Lake Forest Alderman for 6 years. Michael's father, Michael Rafferty Sr., was one of the co-founders of the Lake Forest Savings and Loan Association.

Michael Rafferty, Jr. and Kathy Faulks Rafferty have five children: Susan, Mary, Timothy, Katie, and Jennifer. Their daughter Susan Rafferty Athenson has served 6 years on the Building Review Board, and is currently serving on the Board of the Lake Forest Preservation Foundation.