

Linus Niemeyer Family



Linus and Catherine, Circa 1903



John Niemeyer (center) with sons John and Frank

Linus Niemeyer was born in Chicago in 1837 and grew up in Dixon and Freeport, IL. In 1864, he married Catherine Mullen, an Irish immigrant, and had three children in Freeport. Linus, a carpenter relocated his family to the Chicago area after the Great Fire with the promise of plentiful work.

According to family tradition, John V. Farwell encouraged Linus to settle in Lake Forest. The Niemeyers are listed in the 1880 census in the Deerfield Township. In November of 1893, the Niemeyers received the land deed for the location now known as 689 North McKinley Road and built a Victorian home. The homestead remained in the family until the death of their daughter Helen in 1946, and was recently razed.

In Lake Forest, the Niemeyers had two additional children. Linus continued his trade as a carpenter and passed his skills onto his son who founded the firm, John Niemeyer, General Contractor. His company oversaw the construction of many Lake Forest mansions in the early 1900s. John married Bertha Behrens in 1903 and they had 4 sons: Frank, John, George and Edward. The family lived at 488 Ryan Place, which remained in the family for three generations. Frank and George joined their father and formed a partnership after his retirement. After their retirements, Frank's son James ran the company for some 37 years, through 2006. Niemeyer Brothers Building Contractors still survives today.

Nomination prepared by George Niemeyer, Jr. and Anna Niemeyer Robertson