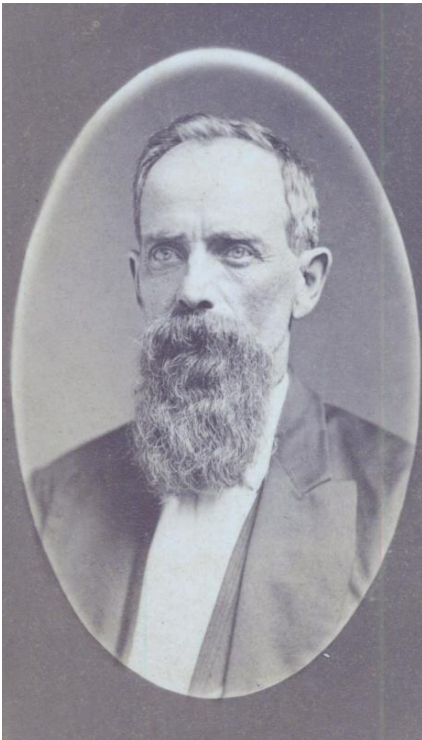


Akey Farmhouse in its original configuration. Richland County History Room photos unless noted otherwise.

Lemuel Akey Farmhouse – 31258 CTH TB – Town of Buena Vista, Richland County.



Lemuel and Mary (Krouskop) Akey.

Lemuel and Mary (Krouskop) Akey.

When Lemuel Akey was born on April 23, 1828, in Ohio, his father, James, was 43 and his mother, Sarah, was 37. He had seven brothers, one sister, and one other sibling. He died on March 25, 1913, in Richland Center, Wisconsin, having lived a long life of 84 years. Akey had been ill for quite some time, but a fall down the basement stairway at his Park Street home precipitated his death.

Mary Krouskop was born March 7, 1834, in Logan County, Ohio. She was the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Miller Krouskop, pioneer settlers of Richland County. Her siblings were William, George, Abiel, Letitia and Cynthia; all were successful and well-known citizens of the county. Her brother George became quite well-to-do and served as a Wisconsin state senator and Abiel out did his brother George as he was Richland County's first millionaire.



Mrs. Mary (Krouskop) Akey.

October 4, 1953, at age 63 in Nueces County, Texas; and a daughter born in July 1892.

Lemuel Akey purchased his farm in Buena Vista Township when that area of the county was near wilderness. It consisted of 900 acres to begin with but grew to 1700 acres shared between Buena Vista and Orion Townships. He was well-known for his expertise in raising and tending sheep. Akey was known to have one of the largest flocks of sheep in the county with a well-earned reputation for producing large amounts of quality wool.

When the State Bank of Richland Center was organized in January 1892, Akey was chosen to fill the position of president. Like his in-laws, the Krouskop family, he was a leader in the Democratic Party.

The Akey home was known as one of the best and most well-appointed in the county. In its original form, it was distinctive by its pronounced utilization of many Italian Renaissance characteristics of the Italianate style: emphatic eaves supported by corbels, a low-pitched roof with a wide projection. During the mid-nineteenth century, motifs drawn from the Italianate style were incorporated into the builders' vocabulary, and appear in Victorian architecture to the late 19th century. This architectural style became more popular than Greek Revival by the late 1860s. Its popularity was due to its being suitable for many different building materials and budgets, as well as the development of cast-iron and press-metal technology making the production of decorative elements like brackets and cornices more efficient. However, the style was superseded in popularity in the late 1870s by the Queen Anne style and Colonial Revival style.

Lemuel Akey and Mary Krouskop were married May 18, 1856, in Sextonville. She died June 18, 1901, at age 67, and was buried in the Richland Center Cemetery. The three daughters born to Mary Krouskop and Lemuel Akey were Martha, Nellie and Amanda. Martha was born March 18, 1858, and died September 29, 1930, at age 72, and was buried in the Richland Center Cemetery. Martha married Nelson H. Burgor, a banker from Viola, in 1883.

Nellie Blanche Akey was born April 14, 1861, and died January 10, 1913, at age 51. Nellie married Lewis Cass McCollum. He died June 24, 1933, at age 85, and was buried in the Sextonville Cemetery. Lewis was the son of Asa and Hadassah (Kingsbury) McCollum and the brother of Julian Leroy McCollum who married Eliza Krouskop, his wife's aunt. Asa McCollum, born in 1801 in Ohio, practiced medicine there and was the physician for the Barton family. He attended Clara Barton, of Red Cross fame, through a bout of smallpox. Asa moved west with his family in 1848 and became the first doctor in Sextonville. He also operated a drugstore.

Amanda Elizabeth Akey was born in November 1866 and died April 23, 1940, at age 73 in Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas. Amanda married Clark H. Pease September 22, 1886, in Richland County. Clark was born in March 1867 in Wisconsin and died between 1920 and 1930 in Corpus Christi where he and his family moved between 1900 and 1910, and where he was president of City National Bank. The couple had children Myron A., born in August 1890 and died



Above: The Akey farm house – CTH TB, Buena Vista, Richland County. Below: The Akey's Queen Anne style home – 420 N. Park St.



In 1899 the Akeys moved to a home located at 420 North Park Street. Here, both Mary and Lemuel passed away; she on June 18, 1901 and he on March 25, 1913.

