

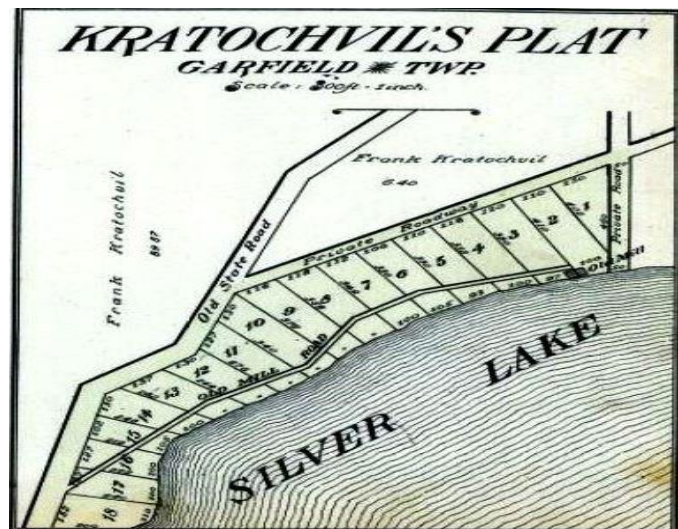
LAKE KRATOCHVIL

What if we said "We live on Lake Kratochvil" instead of Silver Lake - now wouldn't that be interesting?
In researching Silver Lake's history - found this to be true. I found much information on it's original platting as Kratochvil Plat, including family information and pictures, how it came to be named Silver Lake - quite fascinating - this is the story ...

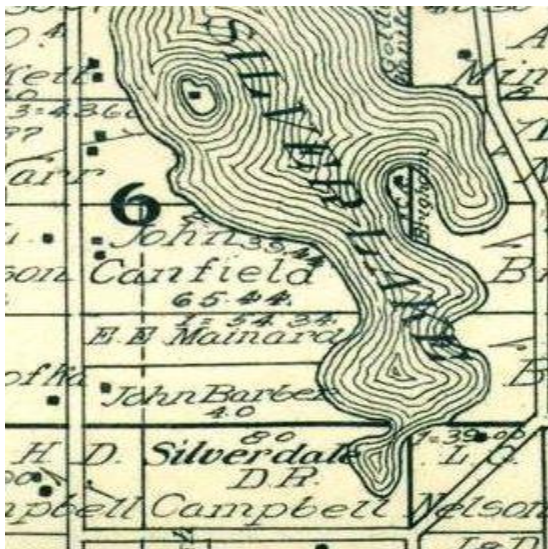
The U.S. congress passed a bill in 1820 to sell "public lands", mainly looking at states that weren't as developed, so in 1866 President Franklin Pierce sold a large section on the NW corner of the lake shore area to the Martindale's, it changed hands several times and finally was purchased by the Kratochvil's in 1897, they built a homestead, purchased more property and developed their own little community and it became known as Kratochvil Lake.



They even platted out a section along the lakeshore known as Prospect Park in 1902, which it is still called. Interesting that West Silver Lake Rd was still known as Old State Road? When did it become West Silver Lake Road?



The Kratochvil's continued to purchase more land around the lake, and owned a piece on the SW end in Blair Township, labeled H D Silverdale on the following map.



The story goes that one of the contingencies of the exchange of property between the Kratochvil's and the Silverdale's was that the Silverdale's wanted the lake name changed to Silver Lake - and it did happen!

Am continuing research into the lake history - as more information becomes available, will share .. if anyone has more data, would welcome hearing from you and hope you have enjoyed what we have so far.

One final note, we have a Kratochvil family descendant that has moved back to the lake recently - Welcome, it is an honor to have you - your ancestors are happy, we're sure !

Nancy Knight, SLIA Communications Committee