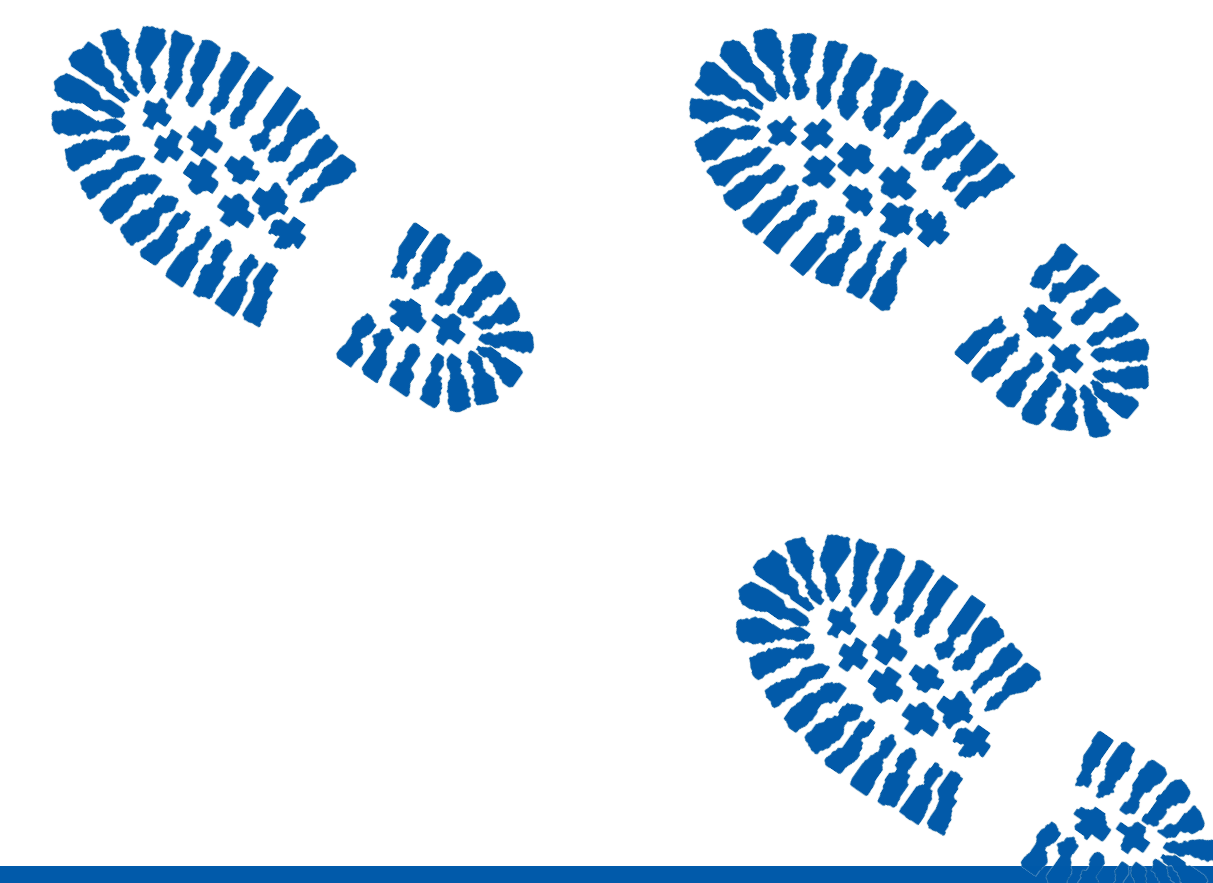


Woodland HERITAGE TRAIL



The Disappearance of Lake Smith

The farmland visible through the trees used to be at the bottom of an inland lake! Three small lakes once dotted this area: Lake Burwell, Lake George, and Lake Smith. Lakes Burwell and George were drained by the Canada Company in 1875, but Lake Smith endured.

Lake Smith was an important staging area for bird migration and provided excellent cover and food for a variety of animals. Indigenous groups camped on the shores of this lake because of the abundant fish and game. The lake varied in size each year from 300 to 400 acres of open water with 600 to 700 acres of floating bog.



IMAGE: Gordon and Elva Hagmeier, c. 1955.

In 1955, Lake Smith was drained by Dr. Gordon Hagmeier, who owned 7,500 acres of land around the lake. Reports about why the lake was drained vary, but the result was very productive farmland for root vegetables.



IMAGE: Contemporary satellite view of the former Lake Smith.

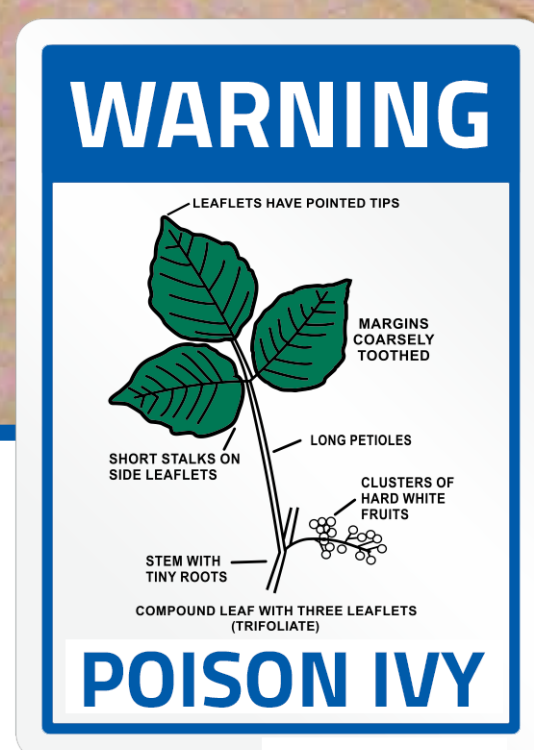


IMAGE: Canada Co. Map, 1874.

