



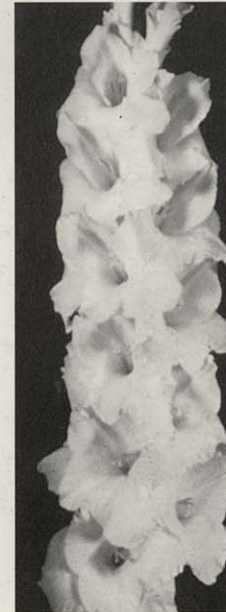
Since 1846, the Cook family homestead has operated as a Walworth County farm, with present owners, Vivian and Floyd George, representing the fourth generation. Much credit must be paid to Anna Cook, who continued to farm after losing her husband, Gerhard, to blood poisoning, in a wood-splitting accident just 7 years after their arrival from Germany. Their son Alex, took over the 227 acre farm and from him it passed to Joe Cook, Mrs. George's father.

Jim Lloyd's painting shows Mrs. George comforting a lamb whose mother was stolen from their front yard when the lamb was just 5 days old.

The stone house, plaster-faced by German standards, housed ghandidancers as they built the Mississippi railroad bed prior to 1852, cooking in a cellar fireplace made of sand brick.

The original 100 foot, all stone barn was razed in 1896 because it was believed that moisture condensation on the stone caused tuberculosis in cattle, transmitting it to humans through milk. Less than 2 years later, as the then new frame dairy barn was being completed, the true cause was discovered.

The sheep barn, built in 1885, still functions in that capacity today, where the



Georges, for the past 40 years have raised 250-275 lambs annually from their 135 ewe flock of Suffolk and Dorset sheep. They regularly produce club lambs for 4-H and FFA members with 35 shown at the Walworth County Fair in 1997 by their young owners.

They were recipients of Wisconsin's Master Shepherd award in 1994. In addition, the Georges are marking their 56th year as gladioli growers for the local trade.

*Vivian and Floyd George
1281 Spring Valley Road
Burlington, Wisconsin 53105*