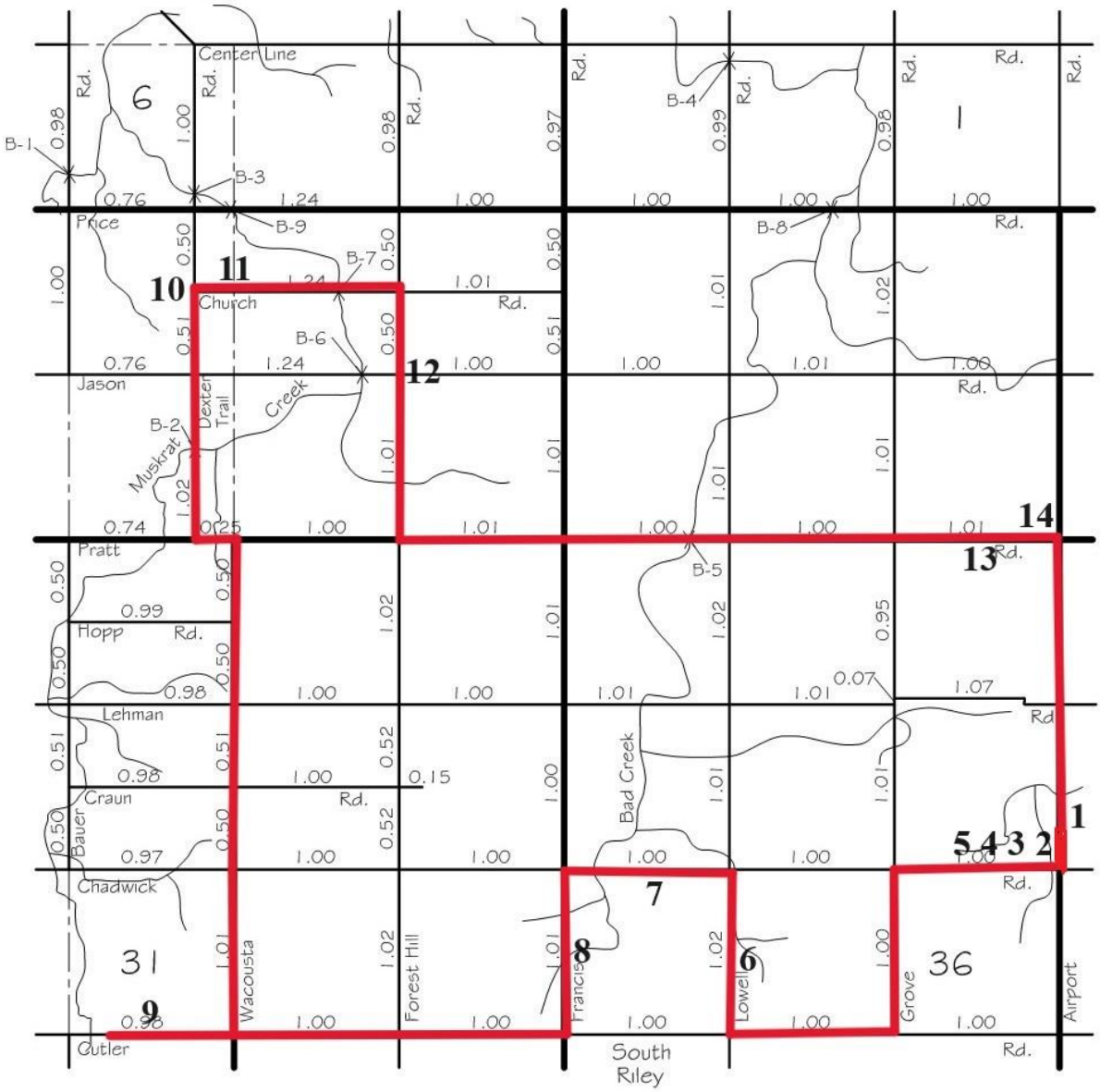
Riley Township Tour

This tour begins and ends on Airport Road and may be toured either forward or backward. It's recommended you read the Suggested Readings before doing this tour.



1	**Simmons-Welton House** 9747 Airport Road This upright and wing farmhouse was built in 1860 by Daniel Tucker for George R. and Elizabeth (Tucker) Simmons. Daniel Tucker was Elizabeth's brother. The house later was occupied by the Pike and Welton families. This house is on the Olive Township side of the road, but is included in this tour as it is part of the Simmons family of houses. Go south on Airport Road to Chadwick and turn west.

2	**Simmons Homestead** 4030 Chadwick This simple house was built in 1864 by Daniel Tucker for Atwell and Lovina (Knapp) Simmons to replace their log cabin which sat on the same site. Atwell and Lovina were the first settlers of Riley Township having arrived in 1836. For many years the intersection of Chadwick and Airport Roads was known as Simmons Corners. See also Cook Family Letters. Continue west on Chadwick Road.
3	**Old Simmons School** 4212 W. Chadwick Road This school served students from Riley, Olive and Watertown Townships and was built in 1889. The first school in this district was held in 1846. School was held in several different locations until this brick building was constructed at a cost of $1,850.72. The building is currently a residence.
4	**Cook-Zischke House** 4468 W. Chadwick This two-story upright and wing farm house was built in the mid-1870's for Amori and Amina (Simmons) Cook. See also Cook Family Letters.
5	**Freeman-Huhn House** 4638 W. Chadwick This two-story upright and wing farmhouse was built in the mid-1870's for Phineas and Abigail (Cook) Freeman. See also Cook Family Letters. At Grove go south 1 mile, then west 1 mile on Cutler, and then turn north on Lowell.
6	**South Riley Cemetery** Lowell Road between Cutler and Chadwick Roads Founded in 1845. Near the back is the grave of Chesley Dew, an African-American man, who was murdered by neighbors. See *Clinton County Trails* June 2004 for the story. Go north to Chadwick and then turn west.
7	**Old South Riley School** 6517 Chadwick Road The South Riley School traces its beginnings back to the 1840's. The current building was built in 1878. After the school closed it was purchased by the South Riley Bible Church. They added an addition in 1976. Go west to Francis Road and then turn south.
8	**South Riley** The area known as South Riley includes the area around Francis Road between Cutler and Chadwick Roads. It features the South Riley Bar at 10777 S. Francis Road noted for good food. At one time the building also had a store and gas station. Continue south to Cutler and turn west.
9	**Rose Farm** 9650 Cutler Road The grainery of the farm was the original home. The existing Modified Victorian house was built in 1885. Back track to Wacousta Road. Go north to Pratt and turn west ¼ mile to Dexter Trail. Turn north. While the route of the road has changed, the Dexter Trail was the first road from DeWitt to Ionia.

10	**Boughton Cemetery** Dexter Trail at Church Road The Boughton Cemetery contains the graves of many early settlers of this area. Notable is the grave on the north side of Abigail Corbin Peck who was a nurse during the Revolutionary War. At one time the Boughton school house was across the road to the east. Turn east on Church Road.
11	**St. Peter Lutheran Church and Cemetery** 8990 Church Road Originally known as the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Peter it was founded in 1850 with the first church building constructed 1867 about 3 ½ miles south of Fowler next to where the St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery is on Wright Road. In 1886 the congregation purchased 5 acres on Church Road at the intersection of the Dexter Trail and built the current church. The first service in the new building was held on October 28, 1888. Behind the church they created a new cemetery to replace the old one. The St. Peter's School has been operating since 1941. Go east on Church Road to Forest Hill. Then go south ½ mile.
12	**Forest Hill Site (**Also known as **Riley)** Jason and Forest Hill Road Intersection This was once the location of the town of Forest Hill. It had a cheese factory, post office, blacksmith shop, ashery, Woodman Hall, and a general store. There was also a sawmill just west on Jason Road. You can read about it on the CCHS website. Continue south 1 mile and turn east on Pratt Road.
13	**VanDyke-Coffman House** 4609 Pratt Road This one and a half story Greek Revival style farm house with a saltbox shape was built around 1850 for William VanDyke, one of the earliest settlers of Riley Township.
14	**Old Plowman School** 4016 W. Pratt at Airport Road intersection The bones if this renovated residence is the old Plowman School which was built in 1877. Originally the building faced Airport Road, but was turned to face Pratt Road in 1905 so students could get more light through the side windows. Turn south on Airport Road.

Additional Reading Suggestions:

Forest Hill History (Available on CCHS website.)

Chesley Dew Murder, *Clinton County Trails*, June 2004 (Available on CCHS website.)

Cook Family Letters [sites 1-4 & 14] (Available on DeWitt District Library History and Genealogy Page)