

Liminga Farm area:

Don Heikkila who grew up in Liminga shares this about Liminga: .. "I think it (Liminga) has a Finnish Namesake, like Liminkä

Sandy's garage/store is what you are referencing (where is Liminga?). The center may also have been the Liminga Hall located just past the old current township hall/old Liminga School. That was the cultural center in the early 1900s. I have known the hall only to be a hay storage barn. Although, family folklore has it that my mom and dad met at a dance at the hall in the 30s.

Don Heikkila shares this about local growers:

Jacob Heikkila (1891-1956) Jacob was my father's cousin. His father Michael (1862-1925) and my father's father, Leander were brothers. Michael raised two of the four children (Helen and Wayne) of Leander's after their mother died. My father, and brother Andrew, were raised by the Perala family in Liminga.

Jacob's farm was north on the Puuri Road about 1/2 - 3/4 mile. (See map section 14 80 acres) It was located on the East Side of the road. If my memory serves me, the farm was bought by Ensio Bjorkland and later by a Mr. Frank Donnelly (of D & N) and a new home constructed. A Mr. R. Wuori (51630 Puuri Rd.) currently owns it. (Barb adds: Jacob and Ida and family also lived in Redridge and Heinola before Puuri Road.)

John Puuri. I talked to my brother about this John Puuri and, given the year of the Extension report being 1944, it is probably Matt's (1892-1981) brother. John later moved to Wisconsin (and farmed there also) and later returned to the Houghton - Baraga County line area and farmed there as well. When traveling to the Baraga area there is a 'Puuri' road and homestead along the highway (left side on the way south) named after the family. I remember the wife or daughter's name as Ventala or Ventla (something like that) having lived in the homestead. Robert Puuri and an Ingrid Puuri (widow of Edwin) survive. Ingrid lives near my old farm.

Wm. Lahnala. (1896-1950) Check out section 18 on the Liminga Rd. He was the Father of Joe (actually Charles (1918-1987) was known as Joe); this is the property currently owned by Charles Turuc (behind the Bishop Horse Farm property).

I worked on the Wm. Lahnala farm (Operated then by a son Joe/Charles) in the late 50s. I split seed potatoes, planted and picked; hauled; graded, packed and shipped potatoes. We had a crew of 4-5 kids that worked for Joe over several years. This was big business in the area. Many moms would join in the fall harvest to make a few bucks. We would get 8-10 cents a bushel for picking spuds. A good picker could pick a 100-bushel a day!)

Art Lindstrom (1904-1985) (father to Clara Swaggart, once principal of EB Holman) He was a well-known area farmer especially in the strawberry business in later years. That farm is located on the North side of the highway just before the EB Holman School Road. The large evergreen trees border the entrance drive and the trees hide the house.

Henry Eilola/ Henry farmed the family property- I think. Henry moved down state (near Grass Lake) around this time.

Picking Potatoes.

Don Heikkila shares: I worked the potato farms for Joe Lahnala (**William Lahnala's son**) and Art Lindstrom. Schools would allow days off to pick spuds. There were ladies who would pick 100+ bushels a day (at \$.10 per bushel) to make extra bucks! I remember working in the fall picking, grading, and shipping potatoes.

In the spring 4-5 of us kids would gather in the Lahnala farm home basement first (and a root cellar later) to "split" potatoes – we would slice the potato into pieces so each would have an "eye". This would be called a "seed" potato. We (2 kids) would then sit on the back of a planter and spend all weekend planting the things.

At Harvest we would grade and pack 15# bags and fill a semi trailer that would be shipped to the "big city" (Houghton).

Most names below were still farming in the 50s/60s.

A **1934** Gazette article states:

"Want Potato Warehouse. Houghton

A farmers' co-operative non-profit corporation for the erection and management of a potato warehouse in the Portage Lake District was organized last night at the Community Building.

The following board of directors was elected:

Alex Olson of Oskar, William Lahnala of Liminga, **Johns Harma** of Onnela Armas Perskari of Pilgrim, and William Johnson of Franklin".

Don continues: L.L. Best was probably the eventual owner/operator of the potato warehouse. It was located in Ripley – I think you know Mrs. Best. (yes, 4-H leader and Extension Homemaker and friend/neighbor of my husband's parents).

Taken from Extension Agriculture Agent's reports. 1944. Local growers: **John Puuri, Wm. Lahnala and Matt Puuri** of Atlantic Mine raised Green Mountain certified seed potatoes. 14, 22, and 13 Acres respectively. New farmer, **Jacob Heikkila** of Atlantic Mine grew 15 acres of Green Mountain potatoes.

The Extension Annual report of 1944 Barb Koski finds the following potato grower's names:

1944. For the Potato Show local growers were: **John Puuri** (Atlantic Mine) with yield of 479 bushels per acre. **Alex Olson/** 416.1, **Jacob Heikkila** 407.1, **Art Lindstrom** (father to Clara Swaggart, principal of EB Holman) 403, **Wm. Johnson** 374.5, **Matt Puuri** (Atlantic Mine?) 348, **Art Oinas** 340, **Waino Lahti** (Bob Lahti's father) 333, and **Henry Eilola/Oskar** with yield of 315.

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