

## Ferdinand Brader...Tramp Artist

After arriving in Pennsylvania from his native Switzerland in the 1870s, Ferdinand Brader worked his way across the state as an itinerant artist, knocking on doors in search of food and a place to sleep in exchange for an oversized pencil drawing of the family's farm. His earliest drawings were made in Berks and Lancaster counties.

Brader passed through Allegheny and Beaver counties in 1883 as he made his way into Ohio, remaining long enough to make four drawings that included Adam and Mary Blum's Camp Meeting Road farm in Sewickley Township. In addition, he drew the Ferry farm in Economy, the Hammerle farm in Freedom and the Schuring farm in Franklin Township. It is unknown if there were others.

The majority of his drawings were made in and around Stark County, Ohio where he continued to work until returning to Switzerland in 1890 when nothing more was heard of him. Today, his exquisitely detailed drawings are in museum collections and fetch thousands of dollars at auction.



(Detail from the Adam and Mary Blum drawing shows a child at play.)



The Schuring Farm was located between Wharrey Drive and Magee Road in Franklin Park. The drawing is in the collection of the Art Institute of Chicago.