



Cranberry Lake Farm

By Alicia McCullough for the Oakland Township HDC

Cranberry Lake Farm's History

Cranberry Lake Farm was purchased by Seymour Fletcher in 1837 from the Federal Government. The development of the farmstead and complex of buildings began with John Axford, who purchased the original 80 acres from Fletcher. The Greek Revival Main House and Caretaker House's architecture date to the 1840s and are attributed to Axford.

In 1848, famer Jacob Kline, purchased the land and proceeded to operate the farm. The Kline's expanded the farm from 80 to 160 acres and operated the farm with their descendants until the 1920s.

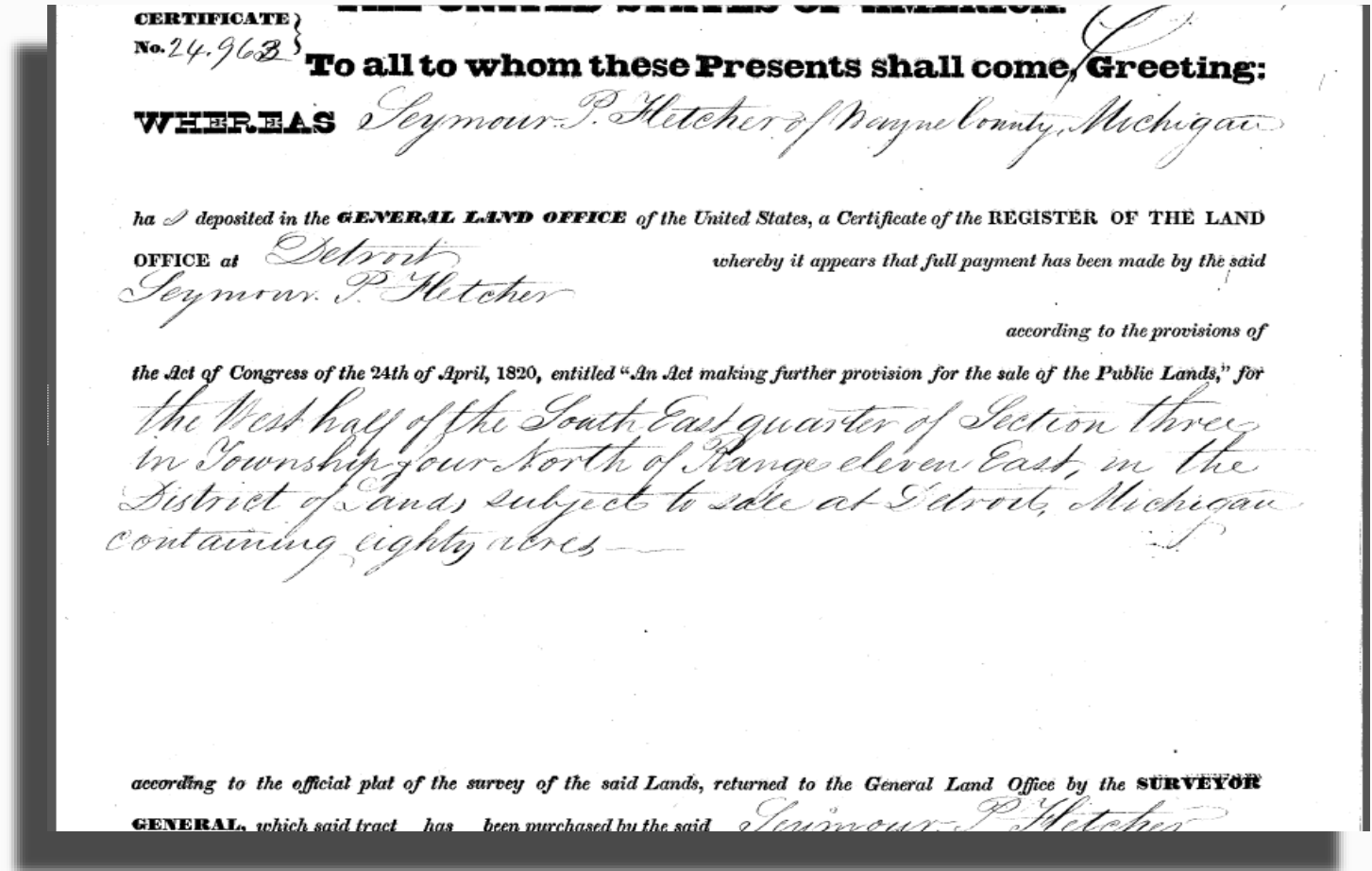


Image of original Seymour Fletcher's 1837 Land Patent for the original 80 acres of Cranberry Lake Farm.

Cranberry Lake Farm's History

TOOLS THAT EAT INTO HARD METAL

Many Varieties of Saws That
Will Cut Anything, and
Other Metal Tools.

Realizing the importance of Detroit in the metal trades the Barnes Saw & Equipment company, with a manufacturing plant at Springfield, Mass., established a Detroit branch at 40 East Fort Street.

This company produces and has in stock in Detroit approved tools for the cutting of metals. The band saws have milled teeth and are oil tempered, being made for all machines and all kinds of work. These saws come in reels from which the desired length is cut, and in the brazing the edges are beveled on a wheel, making the contact perfect.

The Quality hack saws come in three grades, and are made by men of experience under the company's own process of milling and hand-filing. The Expert brand for hand use are hard or flexible.

The farm went into foreclosure during the Great Depression. In 1934, the brothers William O. Barnes and Dorance L. Barnes purchased the property. William O. Barnes was a successful businessman that owned the prominent W. O. Barnes Saw and Equipment Company based in Detroit, Mi.

Howard A. Coffin and his wife, Abbie purchased the farm from Barnes in 1939. Coffin, a prominent Detroit business man and US Congressman, and continued to operate the farm, including dairy farming. They would use the farm as a country retreat with their main residence in Sherwood Forest, Detroit.

Howard A. Coffin was the U.S. House of Representative from District 13, elected to the eightieth Congress from 1947 to 1949.



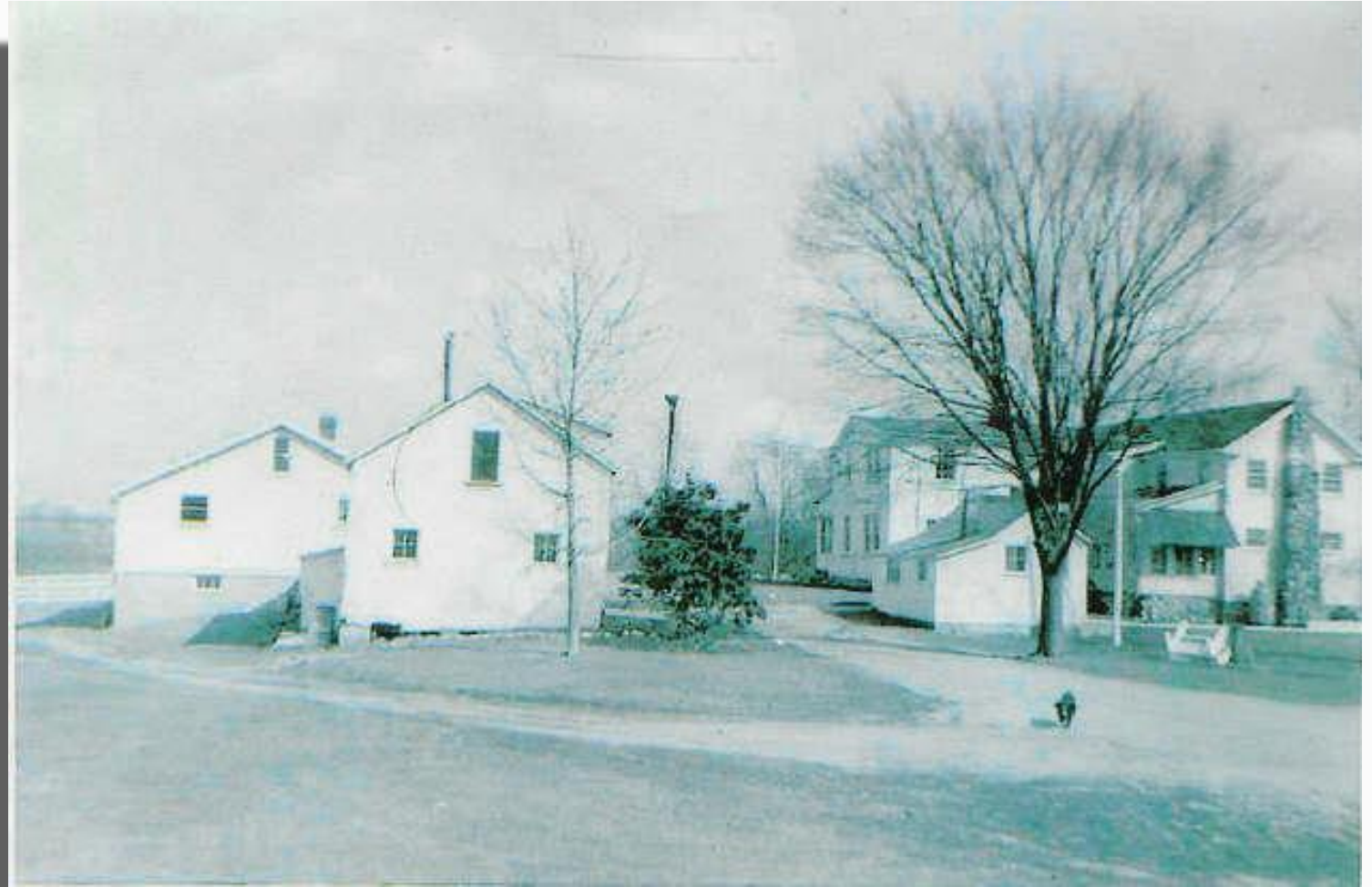
Howard A. Coffin

Article from Detroit Free Press, 1916
about W. O. Barnes Saw and Equipment
Company.

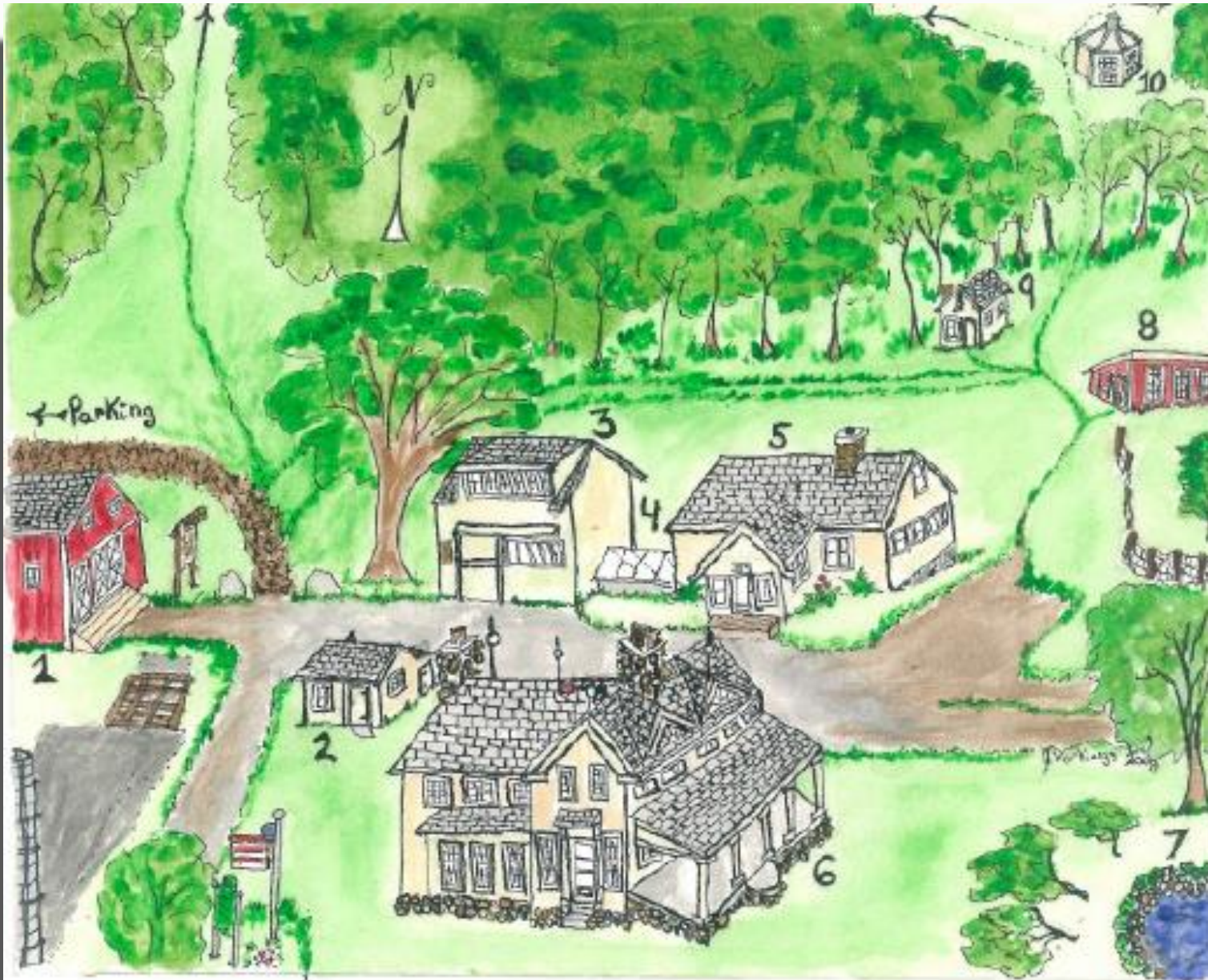
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The farm, buildings, and houses were rented after Coffin sold the property in 1951 until 1996 when it was acquired by Oakland Township. Major architectural renovations were made during Coffin's ownership which have remained largely intact.

Today, Cranberry Lake Farm is a beautiful 16 acre Historic District that sits within Cranberry Lake Park in the Charter Township of Oakland. The Historic District Commission together with Oakland Township Historical Society look to promote the site as a Community Historical Center with the goal to offer a variety of programs and events, a museum, and local archives for the public's enjoyment.



Photograph taken by former resident, Evan Williams in 1949.



Over the years many buildings have existed at Cranberry Lake Farm. Additional barns for pigs, chickens, dairy cattle, horses and a tool shed have not survived. This map shows the existing complex of buildings on site. The original apple orchard and silo still exist but are not represented on the map.

Key:

1. Flumerfelt Barn
2. Spring House
3. Carriage Barn Reconstruction
4. Greenhouse
5. Caretaker House
6. Main House
7. Ornamental Reflection Pond
8. Hen House
9. Hatchling House (Pigeon /Apple House)
10. Wild Game Brooder

Watercolor Map of Cranberry Lake Farm by Judy Workings

Main House



The Main House approximately 1925-1929.

The Main House has evolved and transformed throughout its history with many additions and modifications. The farm house was originally constructed in c. 1840 attributed to Greek Revival style. Later additions show a primitive Arts and Crafts style that include a first story wing, two porches, a kitchen wing and small room are associated to 20th century construction. In 1939, Cranberry Lake Farm was purchased by the Coffin's and turned into a country retreat. The house further received updates including the large unique fieldstone fireplace, an office, master bedroom, and opening of the ceiling in the great room (former parlor).

Main House



Unique fieldstone fireplace that includes staircase running through the fireplace.



Main House from 2001 photo

Caretaker House



The original portion of the Caretaker House was built c. 1840 and may have been a cabin during the Main House construction. It has seen many additions since it was first built, such as the Greenhouse, a ½ story addition with basement and modernization updates. The house was home to many during the farm's history, including those who helped manage and labor on the farm. The Oakland Township Historical Society now occupies the house as a museum and basement storage. The museum is home to local artifacts donated by Oakland Township and Greater Rochester area residents.

Carriage Barn Replica and Greenhouse



The Carriage Barn was reconstructed in 2006 with a generous donation from Charles, Loyal and William Eldridge. The original structure had to be demolished due to severe deterioration.



Greenhouse before and after restoration

The Greenhouse is between the Caretaker house and Carriage Barn. Possibly used to start and grow seedlings for the farm, store harvested grains, produce, and dairy farming products. It features an original fieldstone exterior wall and cast iron gutters. During the spring of 2007 it was reconstructed.

Spring House and Hatchling House



Spring House

Restored in the spring of 2008, this building has served many functions throughout its life. With a built-in sink and shower stall, this house may have been used as a wash house for farm laborers.



Originally called Building H, and Pigeon/Apple House

This building is attributed to being built around the same time as the Hen House. It is unsure of its function at the farm, however the heat source hints at evidence that it may possibly have been used as a house for hatchlings. Inside the building is a brick hearth with chimney, evidence of electricity, and a water faucet. A small pigeon landing was added later on in its history.

Wild Game Brooder and Hen House



Wild Game Brooder

The original building was one of 3-4 that were located in this area, and the only remaining brooder left. The six-sided hexagon shape, was reconstructed in the spring of 2008. A company stamp on the outside wall read, "Economy Portable Housing Co. West Chicago, ILL". It is thought that these yurt style buildings were made from kits and sat on skids for moving. The thought is these structures housed fowl, turkey or wild game for purposes of hunting.



Hen House

This 82' long shed roof structure is believed to have been part of egg and poultry production at the farm. It may have been adapted later to fit other needs for the farm. The Hen House was restored in the spring of 2005. The building is now used for programs and storage.

Barns at Cranberry Lake Farm



In CLF's history, many barns have existed as animal shelter, hay lofts, storage for equipment and implements, and assisted with farming needs. A devastating fire in 1981 burned four farm buildings in this image except for the silo.



This photo shows the long Hen House in the foreground and the tall horse barn with three ventilators on the roof, which was lost in the 1980s due to deterioration of the roof.

Fire at Cranberry Lake Farm



Images from the fire in 1981 at Cranberry Lake Farm courtesy of Bonnie and Dave Mackley.

Flumerfelt Barn



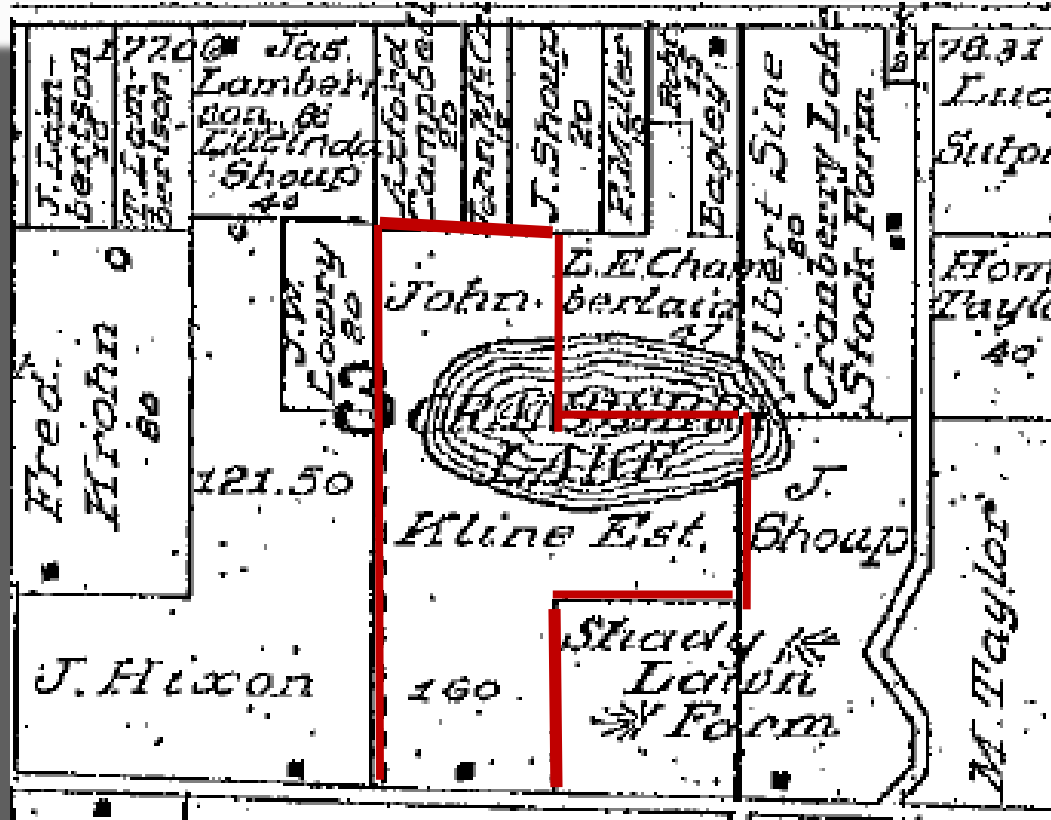
This fully restored barn was built in 1879 at nearby Flumerfelt Farm in Oakland Township. In August 2004, the Oakland Township Historical Society orchestrated moving and the raising of the barn with the help of volunteers. The move helped to ensure the safety and future of the barn, in addition to replacing a barn at Cranberry Lake Farm that was lost to fire.



Barn Raising in 2004! Timber frame barn being raised with help of volunteers; Michigan Barn Preservation Network and Oakland Township Historical Society.

Photo from the Oakland Township Historical Society Archives

Farming at Cranberry Lake



Until its most recent history, the property and land was operated as a farm and used for farm animals.

Agriculture Census records during the Kline's ownership detail the farming production during the 1850s-1880s. It shows they had: chickens, dairy cows, sheep, horses, and pigs. Wheat, corn, potatoes, oats, apples, and buckwheat were all grown on the property during this time. They were also producing milk and butter.

Other information tells that honey bees, goats, and egg production also took place at the farm.

Cranberry Lake Farm (John Kline Estate) in 1908 map.

Selected U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880 for John Kline

Michigan > Agriculture > 1870 > Oakland > Oakland

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SCHEDULE 3.—Productions of Agriculture in Town of Oakland in the County of Oakland, in the State of Michigan.
Post Office: Lakeland

Name of Agent, Owner, or Manager	ACRES OF LAND			FARMY GEAR VALUE			LIVE STOCK, JUNE 1, 1870														PRODUCE MONEY VALUE				
	Improved	UNIMPROVED		Of Horses	Of Bowsing Implements and other machinery	Total amount of stock and other personal property	Horses	Mules and Asses	Milch Cows	Working Oxen	Other Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Value of all live stock	WHEAT			Indian Corn	Oats	Duck-wheat	Barley	Buckwheat	Tons	Lbs.	
		Weed land	Other unimproved												Spring	Winter	Other								
No.	No.	No.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Dolls.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Lbs.	Lbs.		
<u>Chapman Hub</u>	<u>20</u>			<u>3000</u>	<u>200</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>870</u>		<u>250</u>			<u>300</u>	<u>120</u>							

31	<u>Sander Egoth</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>3000</u>			<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>250</u>											
32	<u>Dorn Joseph</u>	<u>40</u>		<u>1200</u>	<u>200</u>		<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>			<u>1</u>	<u>420</u>	<u>50</u>				<u>100</u>	<u>80</u>							
33	<u>Koraid John</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>6000</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1050</u>	<u>300</u>			<u>600</u>	<u>250</u>								
34	<u>Belles Emanuel</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1300</u>	<u>400</u>			<u>1200</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>200</u>							
35	<u>Kline Manassah</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>7000</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>740</u>	<u>250</u>			<u>300</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>50</u>								
36	<u>Taylor Abram</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>9000</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1300</u>	<u>300</u>			<u>500</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>50</u>							
37	<u>Kline John</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>7000</u>	<u>300</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>980</u>	<u>400</u>			<u>600</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>20</u>							
38	<u>Taylor Robert</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>8000</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>320</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>500</u>			<u>400</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>50</u>						
39	<u>Lourey James</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>2000</u>			<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1775</u>	<u>500</u>			<u>600</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>100</u>						
40	<u>Park Frederick</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5000</u>			<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>120</u>			<u>300</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>25</u>							

1870 production of agriculture, John Kline, 130 farmable acres, 30 weed-acres, \$7,000 cash value of farm, \$300 of farming machinery, 4 horses, 4 milking cows, 4 other cattle, 75 sheep, 11 pigs all valued at \$980.

Crops were wheat 400 bushels, Indian Corn 600 bushels, other 300 bushels, and duck-wheat 20 bushels.

Implements



Farming implements are on display on the former barn complex foundations. These are part of the Oakland Township Historical Society's collection and help to visualize past farming equipment that may have been used to operate the farm.

The Reflection Pond



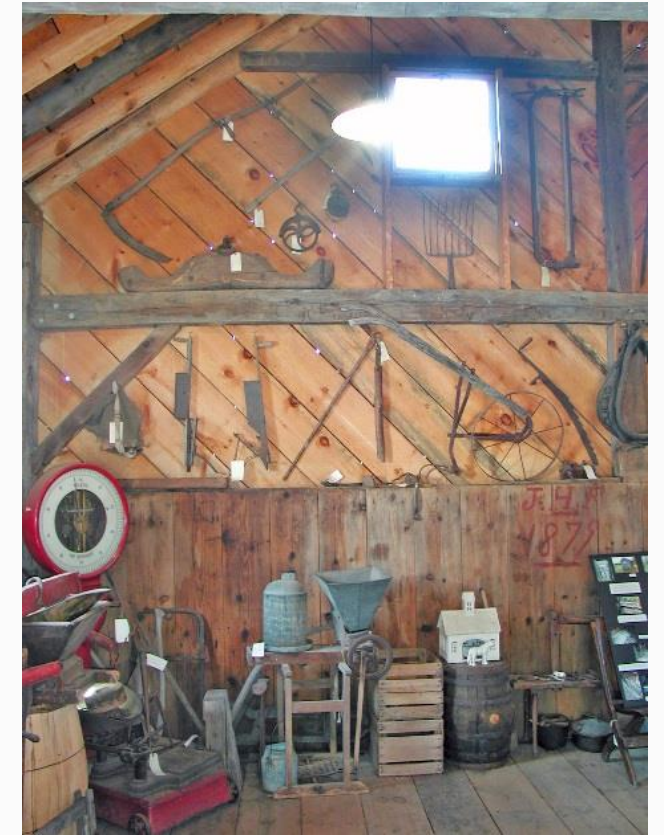
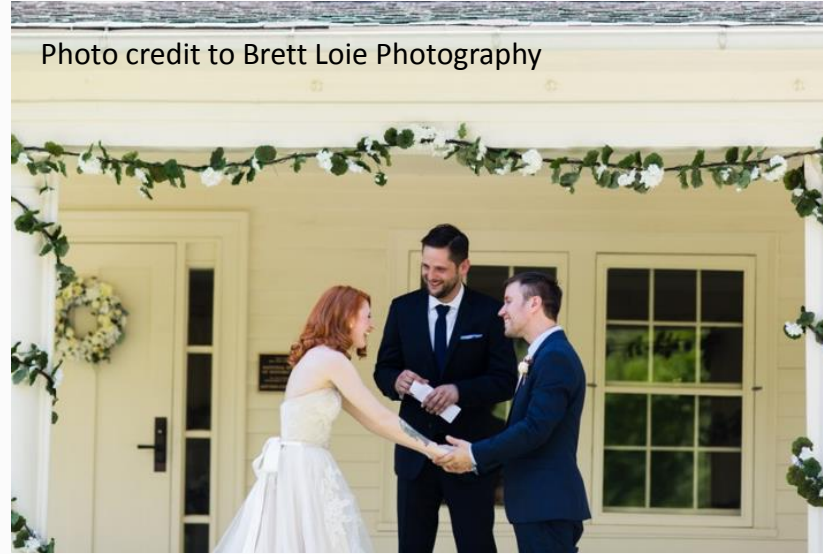
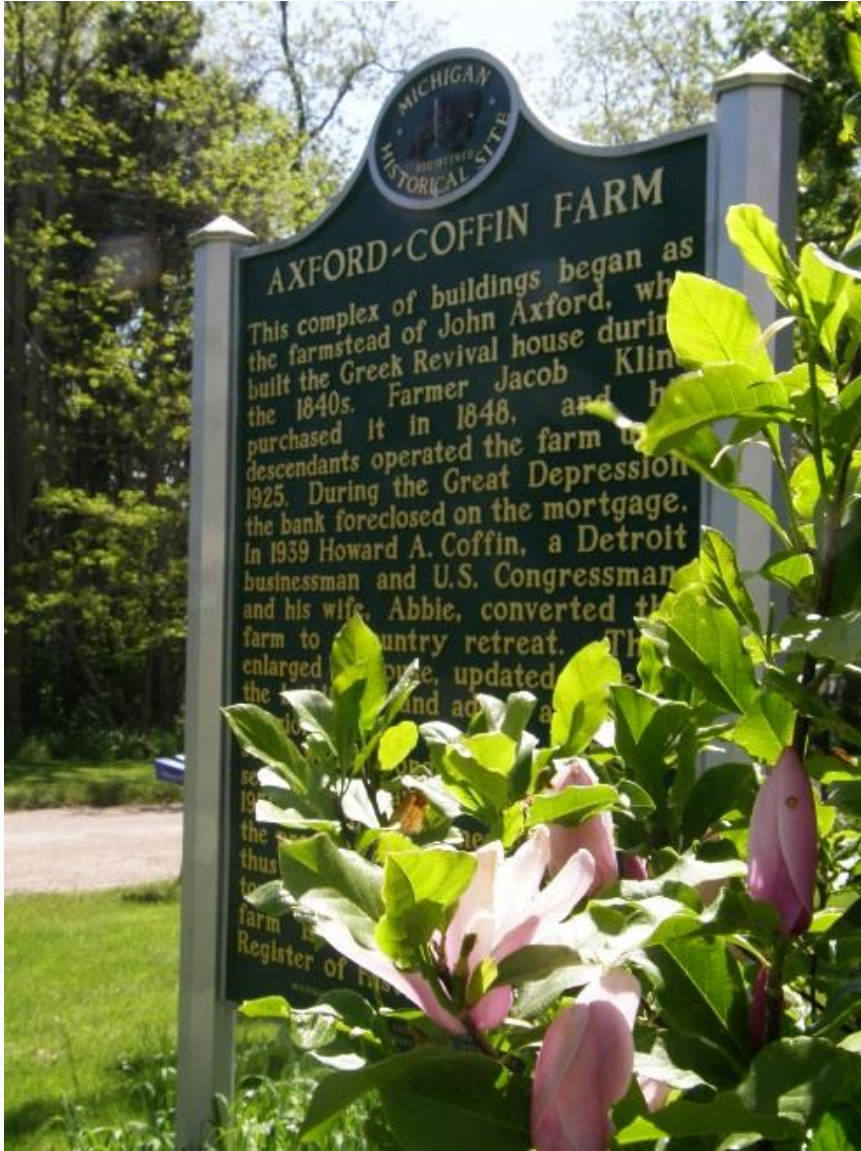
This beautiful fieldstone pond can be viewed from the east entrance and side of the main house. Howard A. Coffin would have enjoyed the vista over-looking the Reflection pond, and formal garden area. The fieldstone remains of a pump house for water distribution is located to the north of the pond. Restoration and repair to the pond is a slated as a future project in 2016.

Today at Cranberry Lake



Photograph of Cranberry Lake by George Ingram

Today at Cranberry Lake Farm



Today at Cranberry Lake Farm



Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District today is a valuable historical and cultural resource, capturing and embodying rural farming life, with an eclectic and diverse history. The Charter Township of Oakland Historic District Commission will continue to provide education, memorable experiences and the preservation of our local history.



Photo credit to Brett Loie Photography

Photo credit to John Sanderson