

THE MUEHLENHARD FARM LAND

Excerpts from the Coleraine Historical Society Pageant, March, 2011

This land was part of the Symmes Purchase, but does not appear to have been involved in any ownership dispute.

The following is an interpretation of the "Tree of Tenure" from Dan Strengfeld's thesis:

In 1792, John Cleves Symmes purchased the property from the US Government. In 1794, William Tendel purchased the land from Symmes. Subsequent owners were Jacob Compton (1796-1800), and William Hankins (1800-1848).

William Craig and Abraham Tunney acquired it in 1848, and by 1859 it was divided into three separate farms with owners Craig, Tunney and John Hankins. In 1862, Craig sold his farm to Joseph Stout Jr, and in 1863-1864 Abraham Stout bought all three farms.

In 1869, Aaron Stout was the owner until he sold it to Herman Muehlenhard in 1865. Herman leased the farm to his son, William H Muehlenhard from 1910 to 1922 and William bought it in 1922. In 1956, William Muehlenhard sold the property to Cincinnati Building Inc and it became part of the Northbrook subdivision.

From this we learn that the Muehlenhard family owned and farmed this land for over 70 years (1885-1956); almost a third of the time since its purchase by Symmes (1792-2011).

MUEHLENDARDS AN ICON OF COLERAIN

By John Overbeck excerpts from Press Community Newspapers, Colerain Township Bicentennial, September 28, 1994

The four of them Bob, Bill and Norm Muehlenhard, and their sister Florence Goetz, sat around the kitchen table in Bob's Northbrook Subdivision home, remembering how it used to be, and gently arguing over the date of this and that event.

The farm where they were raised is gone, but the memories remain. Bob, Norm and Florence live next to one another, in three tree shaded brick homes at the end of Manhattan Drive, on lots that used to be part of the Muehlenhard family Farm. Bill also still lives in Colerain Township, on Hanley Road in White Oak.

All four, plus their older sister Esther Huss, and their older brother, Herb, were raised on the family's 100 acre farm. Only Florence, the youngest, was born in a hospital. The other five were born at home. The Muehlenhard family's farm, which was mainly a dairy farm, fronted on Pippin Road just north of what is now Northbrook Shopping Center at Pippin and Adams roads. The farm, and the rural life that part of Colerain Township had known since the 19th century,

became a part of the past in the 1950's, as Cincinnati's suburban outreach transformed the area into residential neighborhoods.

In adulthood, only Herb, who lives pretty much retired in rural Butler County, followed in his father William Henry Muehlenhard's footsteps as a farmer.

Bill was a brick mason for almost 45 years, and both Bob and Norm worked for more than 40 years at Procter & Gamble. Florence also spent seven years working at P & G until her first child came along.

But as they sat around Bob's kitchen table, as they must have many years ago in the kitchen of the family farm house, the four of them remembered how it was when their father ran the Muehlenhard place.

They remembered the Mt Healthy Airport, located west of the Muehlenhard farm at the site of the present-day Northgate Shopping Center, and they remember, Bob said, when the land "wasn't even an airport," when it was just 'vacant farmland.' Norm remembers the airport being built in about 1925 and closing around 1947. "I remember them plowing over there to make the runway", said Bill. Both Norm and Bill had private pilot's licenses and Bill joked that when he got married, he "traded my pilot's license for a marriage license." Norm flew out of the Mt Healthy Airport and Bill out of Lakewood Air Park, which was built, the brothers said, after World War II near the present-day Northbrook Shopping Center.

All four remember the day that three military jet fighters, low on fuel, made an emergency landing at Lakewood. And Bob recalled the 1928 airplane crash on the Muehlenhard farm that killed a student pilot and an instructor operating out of Mt Healthy airport.

In their youth, Bob remembers, "we had no running water in the house." But, he added, they did have the 'luxury' of an indoor pump connected to the cistern. Indoor plumbing came to the farmhouse in 1936 or 1937, and electricity sometime after that.

Norm remembers that the family had to buy the poles that carried the electric wires to the house, and Bill recalls that 'the electric bill was three or four dollars a month.' "We know what it is to study by kerosene lamp," Bob said, referring to the days before the Muehlenhard home had electricity.

Their generation was the first in the family to finish high school. All graduated from high school, Bob said, except their older sister Esther, who attended high school, but did not finish because "she was needed to help at home."

Norm was the first in the family to attend the Colerain Township Centralized School, a grades 1-12 school located at the present site of Colerain Elementary School. The four also remember such things as sledding on Pippin Road in the winter without having to worry about automobile traffic, the family mailbox being located some distance from the house, at the corner of Pippin and Adams roads, and the newspaper, which came through the mail, always arriving a day after publication.

The family dairy, Norm said changed with the times from a retail to a wholesale operation. Their father, he said, “retailed milk for a number of years, until they required pasteurization and then he wholesaled it.”

Bill remembers that their father had the first tractor in the neighborhood and also the first potato planter and first hay loader, and Norm remembers that their dad had the neighborhood’s first milking machine. The end came for the farm in 1956, when William Henry Muehlenhard sold the property to Cincinnati Builders and the rolling land that the family farmed since 1883 became part of the Northbrook Subdivision.

Bob and Norm and Florence built their homes on the northern edge of the Muehlenhard farm property around 1951. They have made their lives outside farming and have seen their farm turn into a neighborhood. But they still live on the land where they were brought up. Not many can make that claim.

2019 UPDATE

Herb, Bob, Bill, Norm and Esther Muehlenhard have passed. Only the youngest sibling, Florence Muehlenhard Goetz, age 95 is with us to recall their legacy.

THE SEARCH FOR THE “LONGEST CONTINUOUS RESIDENT” OF COLERAIN TOWNSHIP

A longtime member of the Coleraine Historical Society, Florence Muehlenhard Goetz, age 95 could have been the “Longest Continuous Resident” of Colerain Township for the 225 Anniversary search; but in 2017 she moved to the Hamilton area.



NORB



ROBERT

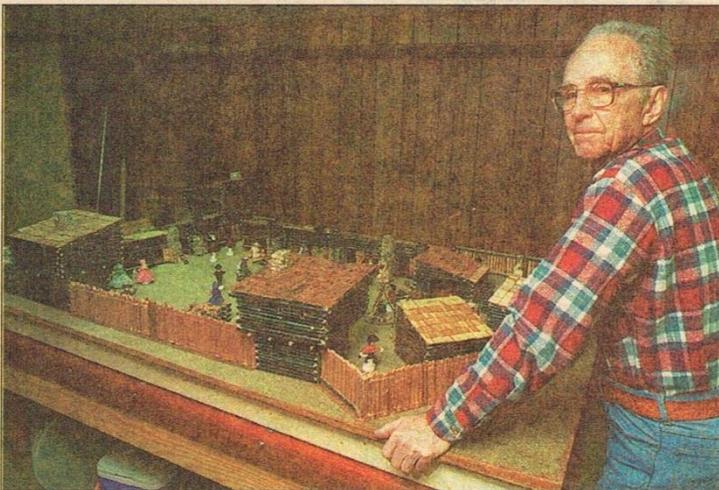


Florence



JOHN OVERBECK/CONTRIBUTOR

Standing outside Bob Muehlenhard's Northbrook home are, left to right, Bob's brothers Bill and Norm Muehlenhard, their sister Florence Goetz, and Bob. Bob, Norm and Florence live next to one another in homes located on what was once part of their father's and grandfather's farm.



The Cincinnati Enquirer/Robin Christman

Bob Muehlenhard spent two years constructing this model of Dunlap's Station. He made the blockhouses out of grapevines.