

Time Tracs by Jim Ingram

Charles K. Carpenter Farm

This is the second in a series on Orion Township farms.

The farm of Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Carpenter was located on the north side of Orion Road at Conklin Road. The farm still exists on the northeast corner of Orion and Conklin Roads.

Charles was born in 1826 in Stuben County, New York. He came with his family to Orion Township in 1837 and settled on the property along East Clarkston Road, bordering Paint Creek.

The family in 1840 moved to the acreage along Orion Road.

At age 21, Charles married Jannett Corell, 16, of Orion Township. They had eight children.

Charles always followed the occupation of farming. He was a member of the state legislature in 1849.

In 1872, he was one of the incorporations on the Detroit and Bay City RR and was instrumental in bringing the route of the railroad through Orion and Oxford.

Charles was one of the first directors of the railroad and served on the board of directors for many years.

Mr. Carpenter and others formed the Orion Park Association in 1872 which began the development of Lake Orion as a major summer resort.

Thus, he served as a bridge from the agrarian community to the developing resort community of Orion Township.

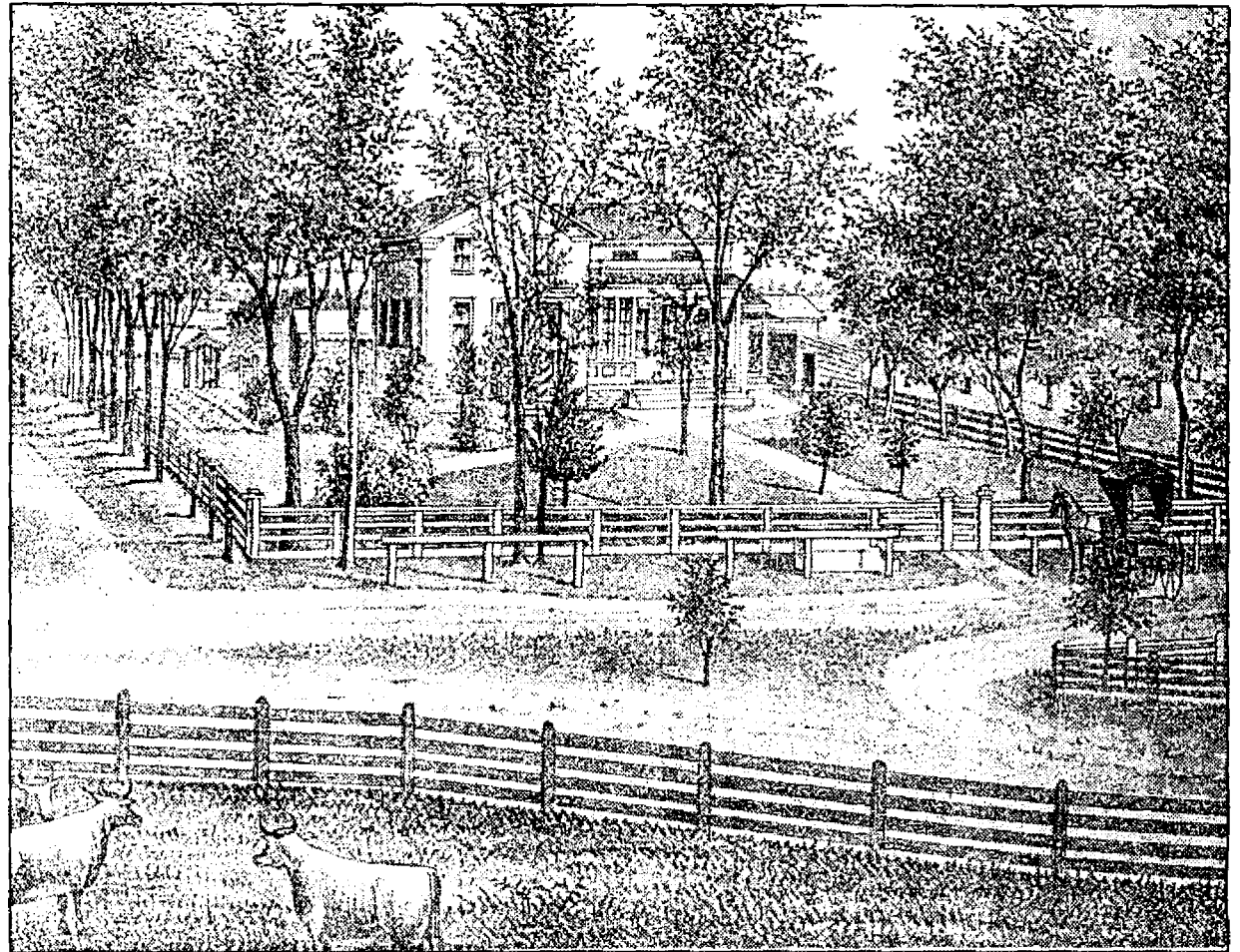
The Carpenter family was quite sophisticated for this rural agrarian environment.

Of the six children who grew to maturity, five graduated from Michigan State College (now Michigan State University). Three became professors there.

Rolla later became Professor of Engineering at

Cornell University. William became a justice at the Michigan Supreme Court. Louis became Director of the Colorado Experimental Station and State Engineer of Colorado.

Mary married a classmate at MSU, Dr. Nelson S. Mayo of Highland Park. Blanch married Charles Seeley of Orion and Janette married Col. Mark Wheeler, US Army.



The Charles Carpenter Farm.