



Klock Connections

A Klock Family Newsletter

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Hans Pennink/Gazette Photographer
Juanita and Keith Handy
Handy Hills Farm

Cathy Ossenfort of Caroga Lake, New York sent me an article that was in the local newspaper "Reach Gazette", February 12, 2007. The Handy Hills Farm was recently accredited as one of 11 Bicentennial Farms—farms that have been worked by the same family for 200 years. With permission from the newspaper I will reprint the article below.

"Bicentennial Farm is a 200-year legacy."

By Daniel Devries
Gazette Reporter

"Innovation, hard work, faith given credit
For successful longevity of Handy Hills"

The foundation of Keith and Juanita Handy's farmhouse is made from limestone that was quarried on the same land that their family has worked for more than 200 years.

It is on that foundation that generation after generation of Handy's family has lived while working the farm.

Keith Handy credits a family drive to innovate when things get tough, hard work and faith in God as hallmarks of a long-lasting dairy farm. The Handy Hills Farm was

recently accredited as one of 11 Bicentennial Farms – farms that have been worked by the same family for 200 years – this year by the New York State Agricultural Society.



This early photo shows the Handy Hills Farm in St. Johnsville.

The farm, on Crum Creek Road just near the Fulton County Line encompasses 350 acres and another 500 that the family

rents to grow grain and corn that it sells, as well as space for the dairy herd. Keith Handy said they milk 100 head and have another 70 young cows not ready for milking.

The farm was originally purchased by the Groff family in 1792. It passed on to generations of Groff's since then until Keith's great uncle, Floyd Groff, passed it on to him in the mid 1960s because he did not have a son of his own.

"It's been in continuous agriculture the whole time. We've never stopped farming," Keith Handy said on a blustery Friday afternoon, sitting in the same house that his father and grandfather lived in.

Juanita says Handy's father was born on the table that remains in the dining room. An old wooden ice box, with tin lining, is now used for storage and they still can't decide how to refinish woodwork that dated back to the 1800s.

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Handy Hill Farm Continued

Keith, 57, has worked on the farm his entire life, he said, with the exception of two years when he went to college for agriculture.

Keith Handy and his brother Dean, along with Keith's son Israel, run the operation together. They take turns milking at night, so there is not a constant demand to take away from family time, and they rotate milking duties on the weekend.

"Everything is systemized. Everybody has a schedule and everybody knows when they have to work. I don't like chaos and confusion," Keith Handy said. "Farming has enough surprises as it is. We can't control the weather, but you can organize."

And organize they do, with each person having their own chores: Most milking and daily work is done from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. with the rest of the day typically relegated to field work and other tasks.

The family has a legacy of innovation to keep things running, Keith Handy said, adding that his great uncle invented a milking machine that they built on the property, called the Simplicity Milk Machine.

The farm was also one of the first to have electricity in the barn, even before rural power was available, Keith Handy said there was a battery system set up to keep the lights on.

"We've always been willing to diversify, like when my uncle built that milk machine factory," he said.

They used round baling to increase hay production, and work in close contact with an artificial insemination specialist, a veterinarian and dietitian to keep the herd in good health.

Israel Handy, 30, said he didn't know when he was growing up if he would stay on the farm. He worked for two years as a mechanic while in college and spent another year in construction before coming back to farm work.

"You've got to want to do it," Israel Handy said.

Keith Handy said he focuses on keeping the farm running to sustain his family, and to provide for the next generation. It's one of the

principles he holds close, making sure the farm is passed on, without any debt, so others can enjoy life on the farm.

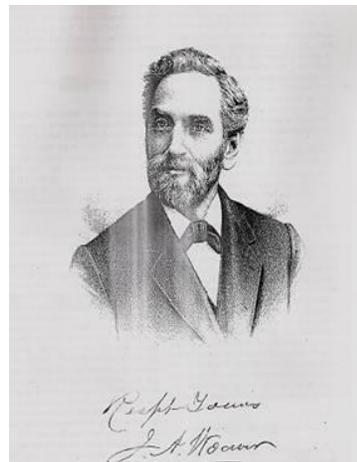
"We never sell to the next generation. It's either gifted or willed," he said. "We're stewards of the farm. You're not looking at the money of what you can sell the farm for, you're looking at taking care of your family."

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I would like to thank Judy Patrick of the Reach Gazette for allowing me to reprint the article in this newsletter.

I have the parents of Keith Handy as: Keith R. Handy and Janice Shead. Keith R. Handy was the son of Herbert Asa Handy and Gertrude E. Groff, who was the daughter of Fayette Groff and Antoinette Burkdorf. Antoinette Burkdorf was the daughter of John Burkdorf and Gertrude Klock (Johann George, George I., Johannes, Han Henrich and Hendrick Klock)

Portrait and Biographical Record of Saginaw and Bay Counties, Michigan Published 1892



James A. Weaver

James A. Weaver

On the opposite page appears a portrait of this gentleman, who was identified with the business interests of Saginaw for a quarter of a century. After a protracted illness he passed

from life on the 12th of April 1880. He was born at Vernon, N.Y., March 21, 1830, and his parents were Zachariah and Maria (Truax) Weaver, both natives of New York State and of old Holland ancestry. The father was born November 25, 1786, and the mother July 15, 1790.

At Rochester our subject learned the
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James A. Weaver Continued

carpenter's trade at an early age, and was only eighteen years of age when he came West. His first work in Michigan was done in the car shops of the Michigan Central Railway at Detroit, and in a short time he was promoted to superintending the supply department in the building, which place he held up to the time of his coming to Saginaw in 1865, a period of fifteen or sixteen years. In that trusted position of responsibility he was considered by his employers to be one of best men they ever had. When Mr. Weaver came to Saginaw he engaged with his nephew, Charles H. Wilkins, in the boot and shoe business and later formed a partnership in the same line with Jacob Seligman, the firm being Weaver and Seligman. Meanwhile the senior member of the firm was the proprietor of a furniture house and, until his factory was destroyed by fire, gave employment to a large number of men. The boot and shoe business was closed in 1885, but the furniture establishment was conducted until 1888. Thoroughly practical in his transactions and understanding every department of his business, he built up a prosperity commensurate with the merits of his goods and the superior facilities he enjoyed. A conservative and successful business man, Mr. Weaver never met with failure during his entire business career. His store was located at No. 220 Genesee Avenue, where the People's Savings Bank is now situated, and the property is still in the hands of the family. He became one-fourth owner of the Everett House Block in 1877. Eight years after his health commenced to fail and he was obliged to abandon his business. Previous to his illness he was a man of fine physique, tall and stately. In his political views he was in sympathy with the Republican party but never devoted his attention to politics, as his time and strength were all absorbed by his private business. The family mansion at No. 325 South Jefferson Street, was erected in 1875, at a cost of not less than \$12,000, and is finished in

elegant style, with hard wood trimmings. The marriage of Mr. Weaver took place September 25, 1856 at Oneida, N.Y., and he was then united with Miss Nancy M., daughter of Solomon and Lean Ann (Flanders) Klock.

Mr. Klock is still living at the age of eighty-eight years. The family, which has lived for generations at Albany, is of old Dutch stock and Grandfather Flanders was active in the War of 1812. Mr. and Mrs. Weaver were blessed by the birth of two daughters; Emma A., who now Mrs. P.J. Doyle of Chicago, and Agnes C., who is a graduate of the Class of '84, of the Literary Department of the State University of Michigan, and in 1990 to her degree in Medical Department of the same institution. She is now employed in hospital work in Boston, where she spent one year at the New England Hospital for Women and Children, and will, during 1892-93, spend a year abroad in study. The death of Mr. Weaver was deeply felt in Saginaw, although he had been for several years withdrawn from active participation in the affairs of business.

Additional Information: James A. Weaver married Miss Nancy M. Klock, daughter of Solomon Klock (John Bellinger, George G., Johanguergh (Old George and Hendrick Klock) and Lean Ann (Flanders) Klock. Solomon Klock was born September 27, 1803 and died June 06, 1894. His wife, Laura (Lean) Ann Flanders Klock was born March 03, 1813 and died May 16, 1875.

The Fortified Stone House that Johannes Klock and Family called "Home"



Fort Klock Continued

Johannes Klock was born in West Camp, Columbia, New York on October 30, 1711. He was the son of the pioneer Hendrick Klock. Johannes Klock married Anna Margretha Fox (Fuchs) who was born Jan. 3, 1713.

Johannes Klock purchased the land where he was to build his home about 1742 and contracted a builder to erect the home. Johannes picked the location for his home very carefully; he constructed it on the bank of the Mohawk River. This location was ideal for a Trading Post, being visible from the river for river travelers and fur traders. He constructed it over a living spring that today still bubbles up from the cellar floor. This spring was a source of water for the inhabitants of the home and a cool place to store food and supplies. To help keep his home warm in the cold winters, he had his home constructed with double thick walls with debris on the inside as a crude form of insulation. For safety; he had loopholes installed throughout the home for protection. His home served as a place of safety and refuge for those who lived in the area during the French and Indian War and during the Revolutionary War.

Johannes was a militiaman in the French and Indian War, as records at Albany showed that he served under his brother, then Captain Jacob Klock. Jacob Klock was a Colonel during the Revolutionary War. Johannes Klock would have been close to sixty when the war for Independence broke out so how much service he saw, I do not know, but he was a strong supporter for the cause of liberty. His home served as a barrack for several of the militia during the war.

Today, the home of Johannes Klock has been restored, a 30 plus acre complex is located on Rt. 5, about two miles east of the village of St. Johnsville, New York. Fort Klock is an excellent example of what a mid 18th Century structure, designated as a national historic landmark in 1973 by the

National Park Service, and is open to the public Memorial Day through Columbus Day --Tuesday through Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m..

We had a change in plans and Darla and I will be leaving Michigan on June 1, 2007. We will start working as the Site Interpreters on Sunday June 3. If you are in the area this summer, stop in and see us. We will be happy to give you a tour of the old Klock homestead as well as the Dutch Barn, Blacksmith Shop and the Little Red Schoolhouse. For more information, call 518-568-7779 or visit our website at:

www.fortklockrestoration.org.

Fort Klock is “ground floor” handicapped accessible. A picnic area is available and free to the public. There is a gift shop where unique items, membership forms and tourist information is available.

Congratulations;

To Kevin and Sebrina Klock of Pueblo, Colorado on the birth their son Devin. He was born April 9, 2007. I received an e-mail from Larry Klock on April 10, 2007. I profiled Larry in last month's issue of Klock Connections.

“I became a grandpa again yesterday” Larry told me. This is their second child. They have a daughter; Trysten Lynne who is 5 years old. “I guess you could say that Kevin has carried on in the same tradition as all of our forefathers--he is a "Klock maker", Larry told me in his e-mail.

Congratulations;

To John Henry Jr. on bowling his second 300 game. John is the son of John Henry and my sister, Sandra Klock Henry of Evart, Michigan.

Cemetery List Continued

Most of the information for this list comes from different Internet sites and may not be completely reliable. If you have additions or corrections, please let me know.

Town of Alexandria Barnes Settlement Cemetery Jefferson County, New York

Klock, Clare O. b. Mar. 23, 1909, d. Oct 23, 1944, WWII Vet. Additional Information: Clair (Clare) Ortlieb Klock was born in Alexandria, New York, the son of Jacob Merton Klock (Adam, Jacob Adam, Adam, Adam Johannes, Adam, Col. Jacob Klock and Hendrick Klock) and Lucy Ann Ortlieb Klock. Clare was killed in Aacjem, Germany during World War II in the Battle of the Bulge. The Klock-Smith American Legion Post # 1788, located in Lafargeville, New York was named in part in his honor.

Klock, Jacob M. b. 1874, d. Dec. 1943, married April 1905. Additional Information: Jacob Merton Klock was born August 28, 1874 and died December 28, 1943. He married Lucy Ann Ortlieb. Jacob and Lucy had four children, including Clair O. Klock (above) also see line above.

Klock, Lucy A. (Ortlieb) b. Nov. 20, 1880, d. July 28, 1977, wife of Jacob M. Klock. Additional Information, see above.

Klock, Pauline A. 1907-1917, daughter of J.M. & Lucy. Additional Information: Pauline was the daughter of Jacob Merton Klock and Lucy Ann Ortlieb. She was born March 27, 1907 and died October 23, 1917. Pauline died of Polio--Information from Yvonne Klock.

Town of Antwerp Oxbow Cemetery Old and New Jefferson County, New York

Klock, George H.. b. June 5, 1939, d. Aug. 18, 1998, married July 28, 1959. Additional Information: George Henry Klock (Basil Orson, George Henry, Bates Aaron, Luther, John J. Jr., John J., Johannes J., and Hendrick Klock) married Vina "Rose" Miller. George and Rose had eight children.

Pedroza, Martha J. (Klock) b. Dec. 2, 1941, d. Aug. 9, 1979, wife of N. Allen. Additional Information: Martha J. "Klock" Pedroza was the daughter of George Henry Klock (see line above) and Edna May Simmons. Martha married Allen Pedroza. (below). No record of any children.

Pedroza, N. Allen b. Nov. 22, 1931 d. June 19, 1965. Additional Information: N. Allen Pedroza was the spouse of Martha J. Klock (above).

Klock, Franklin E. b. Feb. 8, 1932 d. July 18, 2004 married Sept. 1956, Korea Army Vet. Additional Information: Franklin Vincent Klock was the son of George Henry Klock (see line above) and Edna May Simmons. He married Virginia Jean Eichorn. I have no record of any children.

Town of Antwerp Hillside Cemetery Jefferson County, New York

Klock, George E., 1890- 1974. Additional Information: Social Security Death Index has George E. Klock born Oct. 17, 1890, died 1974. Residence as Philadelphia, Jefferson Co., NY The Philadelphia, draft registration of George Erwin Klock gives his date of birth as Oct. 17, 1891. George was the son of James Klock (George, Jacob Adam, Adam, Adam Johannes, Adam, Jacob and Hendrick Klock) and Cora M. Crook. I have no record of any children.

**Cemetery Lists Continued Next Month in
Klock Connections**