

the best of the many most excellent homesteads in the township. A view of the fine residence, and portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Norton, adorn another page of our work.

Five children—four sons and one daughter—have blessed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norton: Alvira, born December, 1849; William H., born April 11, 1852; John T., September 15, 1855; Clarence S., December 20, 1859; and Grant, September 20, 1869. Mr. Norton has been identified with the Republican party in his political affiliations since its organization. He has filled acceptably to the people the office of under-sheriff of Oakland County six years, town collector three years, and other positions of less note.

He is orthodox in his religious views and sentiments. He is a most systematic farmer, and, per consequence, a highly successful one, and is in his personal characteristics benevolent and affable, and is one to whom the needy never apply in vain for relief.

JOHN KINNEY.

Among the pioneers of Avon township, the memory of John Kinney will remain ever fresh and fragrant. A courteous Christian gentleman, in the broadest acceptance of the term,

"None knew him but to love him,
None named him but to praise."

He was a native of the town of Oxford, Warren county, New Jersey, being born January 5, 1811, and was the youngest in a family of seven children, all of whom are now deceased. He received a good common-school education in his native town, and in 1833 was united in marriage to Miss Eliza S. McCracken, of his native State, and daughter of the late John McCracken, of Macon county, Michigan. Shortly after their marriage, the young couple bought a farm in their native town, whereon they remained until 1837, when they came to Michigan to hew out for themselves a home amid the charming lakes of Oakland. They made the journey with their own conveyance to Buffalo, thence by lake to Detroit, from which latter point they drove again to Avon township their own team. On his arrival, Mr. Kinney purchased one hundred and eighty-six acres on section 25, upon which farm he resided the remainder of his earthly career. This homestead (a view of which, together with portraits of its master and mistress, we present to our readers on another page of our work) well attests the industry of its proprietor, as no better or more highly cultivated one can be found in the county. The worthy pair of whom we write by frugality and industry accumulated a goodly store of worldly wealth, insomuch that later in life they were independent of hard labor and anxiety touching the future "rainy days." This competency was enjoyed not only by those who had gained it, but by all who were so fortunate as to be numbered among their numerous and frequent guests. In politics Mr. Kinney was a Jacksonian Democrat, and was called upon by his fellow-townsmen to fill many positions of trust in their gift. He united in his youth with the Methodist Episcopal church, and his whole life adorned the

profession of his boyhood. He fell asleep in the full expectancy of the realization of his hopes, January 9, 1877.

Mrs. Kinney was born December 6, 1812, and received what was considered in those days a good education, and, although now in her sixty-sixth year, retains her mental vigor and bodily health in a marked degree of superiority. She is a genial and affable lady, and pleasing conversationalist.

ALBERT TERRY.

Among the estimable citizens of Oakland County none rank higher than does Albert Terry. His father's family were natives of Berkshire county, Massachusetts, from whence they emigrated to Livingston county, New York, in the early part of the nineteenth century. The subject of our sketch was the eldest of a family of fourteen children, equally divided between the two sexes. He was born in Lima, Livingston county, New York, September 10, 1817, where he received a good common-school education, and taught school for a time previous to his majority. When he arrived at that important period of a young man's life (October, 1838) he came to Michigan, with no means of moment, and spent three months in Macomb county, and then returned to New York, and in April following (1839) with his father's family came back to Michigan and purchased the northeast quarter of section 33, in the township of Avon, on which he now resides. In October, 1839, he returned to New York and brought from thence to his western home an estimable lady as his wife, Miss Delia Lathrop. To his first purchase Mr. Terry subsequently added one hundred and thirty-two acres, his farm now comprising one hundred and ninety-two acres, and is one of the best farms in the township. From a wild, unbroken tract he has brought it up to a most excellently tilled and cultivated farm.

In politics, Mr. Terry is a Democrat, and one of the most convincing proofs of his ability and integrity, and the high esteem in which he is held by his townsmen, is the fact that for fourteen years continuously, from 1862 to 1876, he has been chosen to fill the office of supervisor of his township, though the people are largely opposed to him in political sentiment, the township being Republican during the entire period.

Mrs. Terry bore to him seven children, and died in 1859.

In 1860, Mr. Terry brought to his home another companion, Miss Lucina Richardson, daughter of Isaac Richardson, formerly of Pontiac. She was born in August, 1837, in the town of Howard, Kent county, province of Ontario, Dominion of Canada.

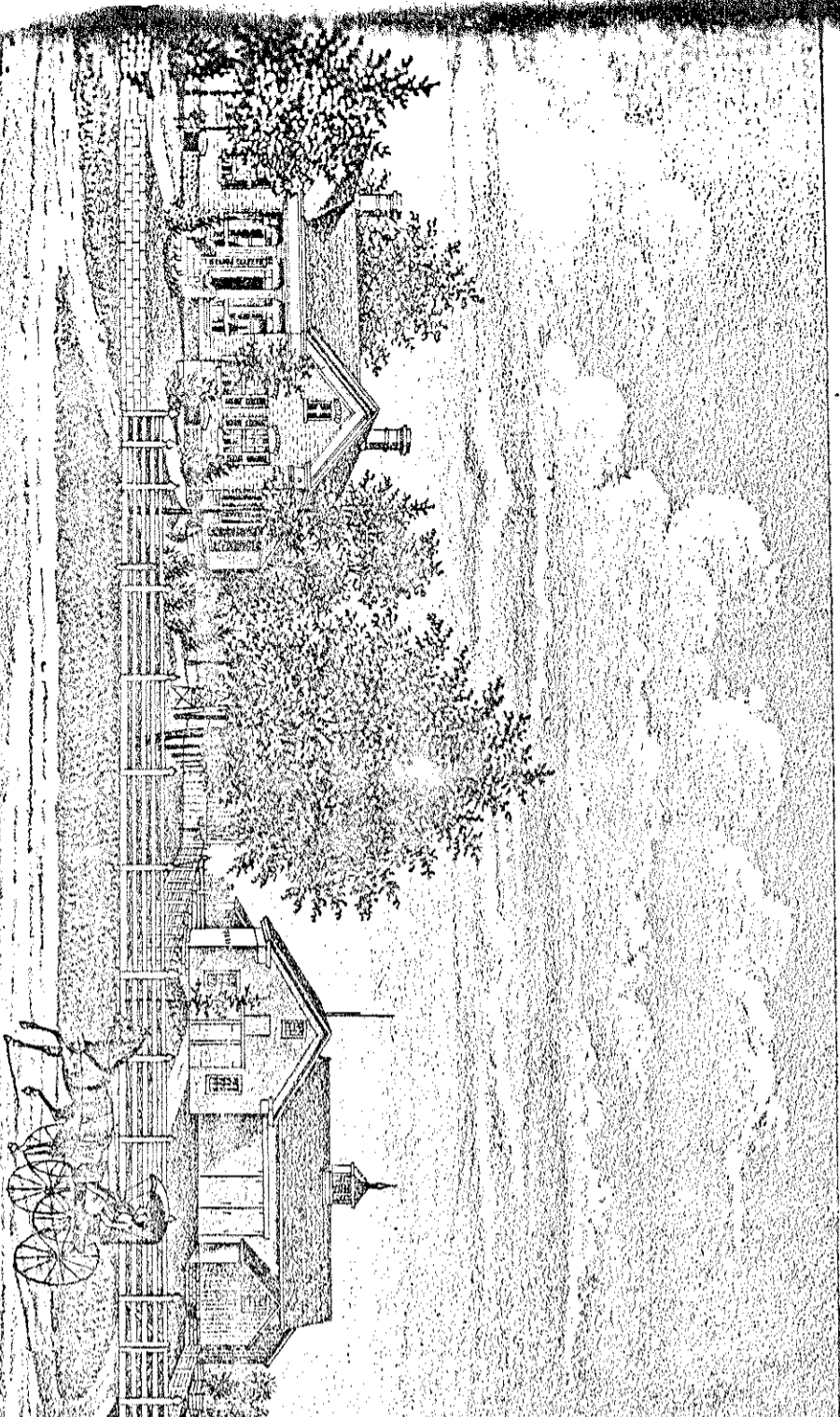
By steady and persevering industry, correct habits, and straightforward uprightness, Mr. Terry has gained a competency, which he is now enjoying in his old age, cheered and pleased by the richly-merited regard of his neighbors and fellow-citizens. We present to our readers a view of the old homestead of Mr. Terry, and also the portraits of himself and his worthy helpmeet, on another page of our work.



ALBERT TERRY.



MRS. ALBERT TERRY.



'Terry House' and longtime resident share colorful history

By Craig Bryson
 Georgianna Kersting remembers the first time she and husband Ferdinand Carl drove past the scenic red brick house and adjoining barns on Auburn Road in the mid-1920s.

At the time, she recalled, her husband told her that was just the kind of house he would like to live in someday. On October 1, 1927, Kersting and her husband moved into the home.

Kersting, now 90 and a resident of Lake Orion, returned to the historic "Terry House," named for the man who built it in 1852, Monday evening to share some of her memories of and knowledge about the stately home.

The home sits on the south side of Auburn Road, several hundred yards west of Livernois Road. It was added to the Register of Historic Homes in 1986. It was constructed by Albert Terry, a

prominent farmer who served for 14 years as the Avon Township supervisor.

Kersting, who lived in the home until 1987, noted many changes have occurred since she and her husband moved from their one-room Highland Park apartment to the home that fall day in 1927.

She remembers they first saw the home when driving along the then unpaved Auburn Road enroute from Detroit to Pontiac to visit her father. Not long afterward, they found out it was for sale and, after talking to the banker in Rochester, arranged a loan and purchased the home for \$7,200. She points out that at first they did not buy the adjoining 120 acre farm, though they purchased it later.

"We saw this house when we drove to Pontiac to see my father. We drove across (Auburn Road) on Christmas Eve and we looked in and saw the Christmas tree all lit up and my husband said, 'I'd like to live in a house like that some day,'" Georgianna recalled.

When they moved in, she remembered, there was no indoor plumbing, no furnace and only a hand pump in the kitchen for water—and she was four months pregnant. Her husband, who had recently gone to work for the Michigan Bell Telephone Company following nearly a decade of service in the Army which included serving as a commissioned officer under General Pershing during World War I, was able to take three months off of work to update the house.

Georgianna, a 25-year-old science teacher in the Detroit school system when they moved in, left her own job shortly thereafter on a maternity leave. She took two years away from teaching before returning to her beloved profession.

During his time off, Ferdinand, 36 at the time, was able to install plumbing in the house, put in a furnace and complete many other updates to the home.

It was not until the early 1930s, she said, that she and her husband lived in the depths of the Depression,

that the Kerstings purchased the adjoining 120 acre farm. The previous owner of the farm, Georgianna noted, had become delinquent on the property taxes and the land came up at auction.

Until Georgianna and her husband sold the farmland in 1955, she said, they rented it to a local man who farmed it.

"Until 1955, the rent on the farm paid our taxes," Georgianna said.

Sitting in the home's living room Monday with current owners Albert and Millie Farkany, it was clear that Georgianna still has fond feelings for the home. The Farkany's, who have painstakingly decorated the home in traditional decor, are overjoyed at the opportunity to learn first hand the home's history.

Both the Farkany's and Kersting noted they particularly appreciate features such as the nearly 11-foot ceilings, the solid white pine floors, the numerous windows and the three inviting porches.

Perhaps the most impressive room in the home is the one now used as the master bedroom. Along the south and east walls of the room are huge plate glass windows offering an incredible view of the home's yard—a yard in which the Kerstings planted an abundance of rare and beautiful trees.

Georgianna pointed out that her husband had the huge windows installed when it became apparent that substantial renovation work was needed on those walls.

From those windows, which originally offered a view from the "sitting room", can be seen a rare blend of unusual trees, including magnolias, black walnut, Korean dogwoods and others.

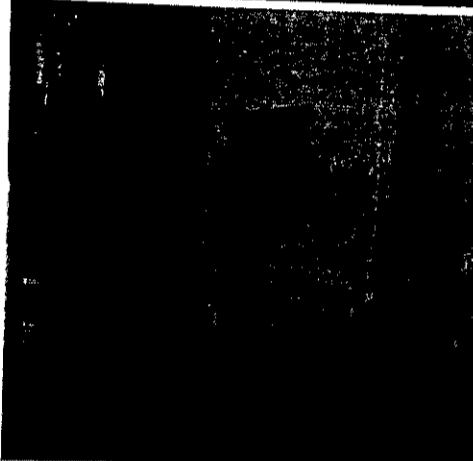
"My husband planted every tree on the site. We planted unusual trees because I was a science teacher and that's what I taught," she said, remembering that she used to bring classes from her Detroit school out to her home to study the grounds at the home to study the trees.

In the home's airy dining room, Georgianna remembers having large dinner parties at which she would seat 20 people at her table. She also pointed out the two solid black walnut buffets which are built into the room's walls. The two were custom built for the home and constructed from lumber milled from trees grown on the property, she explained.

The dining room, which runs the width of the house, opens on to inviting porches on both sides, one open and one screened. Millie Farkany pointed out that she and her husband eat dinner on the eastern porch every opportunity they get.



The front facade of the 'Terry House' (top) as seen from Auburn Road. The porch on the east side of the house (middle) offers a place to relax and view the variety of rare trees in the yard. Georgianna Kersting (bottom), here standing next to the living room fire place, lived in the home from 1927 until 1987.



The Rochester Clarion
 An independent newspaper
 USPS 467900
 Second Class postage paid at Rochester Michigan 48307
 Founded August 19, 1898 by C.S. Seed
 Consolidated with the Rochester Era October 14, 1949

Donald R. Seed Publisher
 Stephen C. Seed - Gen. Manager
 Craig B. Bryson - Editor

For Advertising information call Richard Bianchette, Advertising Manager at 651-9021

The Rochester Clarion is a member of the National Editorial Association, the Michigan Press Association, and the University Press Club. The Clarion is published every Thursday in Rochester, Michigan at 313 Main Street, P.O. Box 9, (313)651-4321

