

Citizens – Thomas Hawks

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C1880 – The Thomas Hawks Family

Thomas Hawks, Sr. was born in Devonshire, England on 10 Mar 1824. As a boy he worked around farmers in the area until he decided to try his fortune in the New World. In 1847 he landed in Quebec, went to New Hope, Ontario, and finally to Janesville, WI, where he remained about six months. He then went into the employ of Charles Mears with whom he remained for about nine years.

Thomas married Angeline Harder at Duck Lake in 1856. She was born in Woodstock, IL on 28 Apr 1837. During their marriage, they had eight children: Mary (1857-), William (1859-1919), Thomas, Jr. (1862-1932), Frank (1864-1926), Robert (1867-1868), Emma (1869-1938), Angeline (1873-1876), and Sylvia (1878-1966).

In 1858 Hawks purchased land in Section 11, of White River township, on the advice of Mr. Mears. It was a wilderness when he moved on it with his family into a log cabin he had built.

By 1879, Thomas Hawks owned 120 acres; 59 acres were improved, 5 acres to orchards with 500 bearing trees consisting of apples, peaches, plums, pears, etc. He also sowed 20 acres of wheat.

Thomas built a fine farmhouse (18x24 with a wing 16x24), 2 barns (32x36 and 32x40).

Soon it became one of the finest farms in the township. He ended up owning 280 acres. The land was located on the northeast corner of Fruitvale and Old Highway 99.

In April 1887, it was announced that Thomas Hawks, Sr., had sold his farm, stock, implements, etc., for the sum of \$5,000 to Austin & Warnick.

Thomas Hawks, Sr. died on 25 Jun 1889 at the age of 67. Following his death, his family moved into rooms over Herron & Turner's meat market in town for a time.

Angeline was living with her son Thomas, Jr. and his family on Sheridan where she died on 22 Sept 1922. Both Angeline and Thomas are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery as are several of their children.