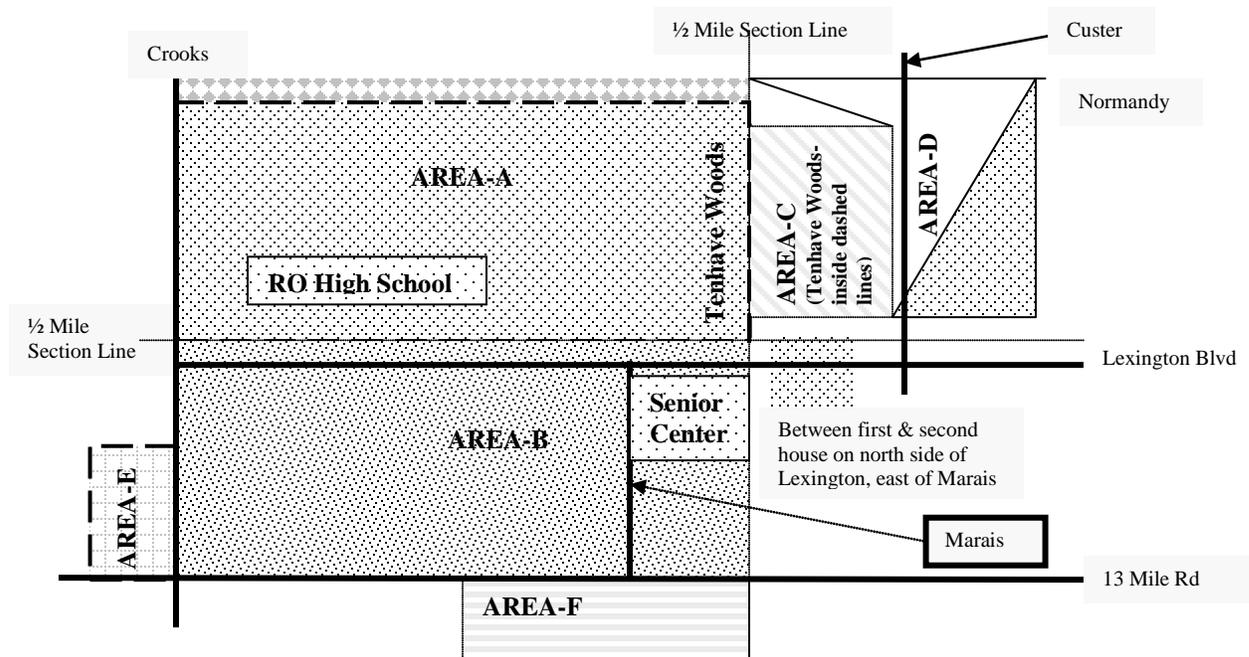


# HISTORY OF A PIECE OF LAND IN NORTHERN ROYAL OAK

by Bob Muller and Ted Vickers (2009)

When the Royal Oak area was first being settled, it was actually part of Bloomfield Twp. In 1827, it became part of Troy Township and finally Royal Oak Township in 1832. Royal Oak Township boundaries were Greenfield, 14 Mile Rd, Dequindre and 8 Mile Road and the township was divided into 36 sections. In Royal Oak Township of the 1800's, Tenhave Woods was located on the east side of N ½ of SW ¼ of Section 4 (Area A) and west side of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of section 4 (Area C) (please see map below that shows the location of these different land sections). Even though it was originally thought that this land was inhabitable, surveys that were taken a few years before 1820 found this land to be rich in trees and good farming land. Trees found in this area included, aspen, oak, sugar maple ash, elm beech and ironwood. (TEY p.9). Many of these same tree species are still abundant in Tenhave Woods today. After the surveys were taken and the price of land became \$1.25/acre (80 acre minimum purchase) (T&A p.20), the land began opening up for settlement. The first piece of property purchased in Royal Oak Township was in 1820 by John Luther and David McKintry in Section 33 of what is now in the city Ferndale. The second purchaser was Alexander Campbell in 1821 in section 9 of what is now in the City of Royal Oak (TEY p. 20). Cromwell Goodwin became the 14<sup>th</sup> purchaser of land in Royal Oak Township. (TEY p. 28) The Goodwin's settled on land at the northeast corner of Crooks and 13 Mile Road and includes land known today as Tenhave Woods. The Nature Society realizes that the Goodwin's are an important piece to the extremely valuable piece of land that is now one of our nature parks. We think it is important to trace some of their history along with other owners of that land.



“A”: N ½ of the SW ¼ of Section (82 A)

“B”: S ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 4 (80 A)

“C”: W ½ of the NW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 4 (18 A)

“D”: E ½ of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 4 (18 A)

“E”: SE ¼ of Section 5 (5A)

“F”: NW ¼ of Section 9 (15 A)

## CROMWELL GOODWIN'S ANCESTORS

Cromwell's ancestors first reached America in the 1630's. In 1632, William Goodwin (d.1673) emigrated from England to Braintree, Massachusetts. Shortly after arriving, he moved to Newtown, Massachusetts. In 1638, William moved to Hartford, Connecticut. His brother, Ozias Goodwin (1596-1683), might possibly have immigrated with William or immigrated after William's move to Hartford. Ozais's great, great, great grandson was Cromwell Goodwin.

**Ozais** was born in 1596 in Bocking, Essex Co., England and died before 1683 in Hartford, Connecticut. He and his wife, Mary, became residents of Hartford in 1639. Ozais's son, **William** (b.1629-d.1689) and William's son, **Nathaniel** (b.1673-d.1726), both remained Hartford residents. **Abraham** Goodwin, son of Nathaniel, was the first of these Goodwin's to leave Hartford. Around 1723, Abraham moved 25 miles westward to Litchfield, Connecticut. His son, **Charles**, (b.1731-d.1787), a Litchfield resident, was said to have been, a soldier in the French and Indian War. In August, 1776, Charles was an ensign in the Battle of Long Island and in the spring of 1777, he was part of the New York State Militia that defended Peekskill and other towns on the Hudson River. He was a lieutenant in the Defense of Horseneck, Connecticut, and was part of a Company that joined forces with George Washington in March, 1781 at Phillipsburg. After the war, he settled down as a farmer in New Hartford. **Joseph Goodwin** (b.1756-d.1835) was Charles' son and continued the Goodwin's presence in Litchfield. In the Revolutionary War, Joseph was a sergeant in charge of a company of New York State Militia. He marched to relief of New York in August 1776 and was discharged a month later. He was a private in Company of Light Dragoons commanded by Capt. Moses Seymour. In July, 1779, the company was dispatched to repel Tryon's invasion of some towns in Connecticut. Joseph was discharged in September 1779. He remained in Litchfield until 1792. It is not known where he went from there. Records showed in 1835 that he lived near Romeo, Michigan. Joseph and his wife, Sally, had five children. Their third child was **Cromwell Goodwin**. (GOH)

## CROMWELL GOODWIN

Cromwell was born on May 17, 1783 in Litchfield, Connecticut. In 1804, Cromwell married Irene Thompson (b. August 30, 1782). Soon after getting married, they moved from Litchfield to East Bloomfield, Ontario County, New York (230 miles northwest of Litchfield). Between 1805 and 1824, they had nine children, three of whom died in infancy. Cromwell was a soldier in the War of 1812 and was stationed at Buffalo NY. (GOH p.323) He was a private in Captain William B. Hamlin's Company and Lt. Colonel Samuel Blakeslee's Regiment. He served from December 23, 1813 to January 6, 1814. In 1824, only 20 years after moving to East Bloomfield, Cromwell (age 41) along with his wife and six children packed up again. With oxen and cart in tow, they traveled over 70 miles on land to Buffalo, New York and then travelled by water on the sailing vessel, Minerve, to Detroit, Michigan. Because of unfavorable winds, they had difficulty docking at Detroit. The captain of the vessel hired Cromwell to throw his ox team overboard and use the oxen to pull the vessel to the dock. As soon as they got off the boat, the Goodwin's immediately started with their ox team and wagon into the wilderness to their property at present day 13 Mile and Crooks. (TGA)

On May 17, 1824 (his 41<sup>st</sup> birthday), Cromwell Goodwin purchased from the United States of America, 80 acres in the west half of SW ¼ of Section 4 and in June, 1825, he purchased 80 additional acres in the

east half of SW ¼ of Section 4. The total paid for both parcels was \$200 and includes the land shown in (Areas A & B). (BAP). He was the first bricklayer to settle in Royal Oak Township. (T&A p.15)

It seems that when people moved west they often went to areas that friends or acquaintances had settled in. Soon after Cromwell arrived, he held a “bee” (a social gathering where people combine work, competition and amusement) to build a road northward to Josiah Alger’s place on the southern edge of Troy Township. Alger was an acquaintance from Ontario County, NY. (T&A p.15) Alger arrived here before Cromwell, purchasing his land from the Federal Government in October, 1823. This road would be the beginning of Crooks Road between 13 Mile and 14 Mile Roads. A point of interest here is that Alger purchased the SE ¼ of section 32 in Troy Township in October of 1823. This is 160 acres on the southwest corner of Crooks Road and 14 Mile Road. All of the land in Royal Oak’s other nature park (Cummington Park) east of Leafdale Street, is in this quarter section.

Both Joseph Chase, and Socrates Hopkins were not only from the same town as Cromwell (East Bloomfield NY), but according to the 1820 Federal census, they were also neighbors. When Joseph and Socrates moved west to Royal Oak Township, they once again became Cromwell’s neighbors. Joseph Chase arrived in late 1824 and settled just south of Cromwell, in the NW corner of section 9 (SE corner of Crooks and 13 Mile Rd). That area became known as Chase’s Corner. He was the first postmaster 1826 to 1838. (TandA p.15) The store at the Corners was a frame building, built in 1826 by Jarvis Phelps, carpenter for David Chase (Joseph’s son). Jarvis Phelps (b.1800-d.1846) married Esther (b.1805-d.1836), a daughter of Cromwell Goodwin, in 1829. They had two children. The store stood on the west side of the Crooks road, near the Almon Starr’s brick dwelling house. In this store, Mr. David Chase opened with a good stock of merchandise for those days and in it the post office was also kept, he being deputy postmaster under his father. This would make it very convenient for the Goodwin’s to pick up needed supplies. David continued in trade at this place until 1854, when he left for Detroit. (T&A p.20) Socrates Hopkins (b.1790-d.1842) also arrived in 1824 and lived just north of Cromwell in the NE ¼ of Section 5 (NE corner of Crooks and Normandy). Socrates was a farmer, Justice of the Peace, and a Freemason. After his death his widow, Abigail Goodwill, sold the land in Royal Oak and purchased a home in Birmingham, Michigan, in which she lived for nearly fifty years. (JH)

Cromwell bought the E ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 5 in 1830 from G. Cox and sold all but five acres (Area E) to Gervase(Jarvis) Phelps. (CR) Sometime after that, Cromwell built a house on that property (northwest corner of 13 Mile Road and Crooks).

After his sons were old enough, **Samuel and Seth** took over ownership of the farm from Cromwell. The 3<sup>rd</sup> son, **Charles**, moved to California in 1850. Daughter, **Harriet**, died in 1826 and the other two girls married and left the farm. Harriet (age 17), became the first person of European ancestry to die in Oakland County. (T&A p.15) She is buried in Section K of Royal Oak cemetery near her mother, father and two sisters.

Cromwell Goodwin died on September 16, 1862 and is buried alongside his wife, Irene, in Royal Oak Cemetery. She died on February 8, 1851. See appendix for more information on their children

## SAMUEL BLOIS GOODWIN

Samuel Blois Goodwin was born on January 9, 1812, in East Bloomfield, New York.

Cromwell sold the north portion (82 acres of the N ½ of SW ¼ of Section 4 (Area A) of the farm to his 19 year old son, Samuel, for \$200 in 1831. *(BAP)* The eastern edge of that land (about 7 ½ acres) contains part of what is known today as Tenhave Woods.

In 1833, Samuel traveled to Lyons, New York, to marry **Lucy Olive Rouse** (b. June 26, 1814). Her parents were Abraham and Lydia (Wright) Rouse, an original Pennsylvania German family. *(TGA)* They emigrated to New York and lived in Lyons, NY (about 25 miles northeast of E. Bloomfield). Around 1830, Abraham moved to and owned land in the NW ¼ of Section 11 (Campbell and 13 Mile). That land was only two miles east of Samuel's farm. *(T&A p.16)*

In 1834, Samuel Goodwin purchased 36 acres of the NW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 4 (Areas C & D) from James Johnson. Johnson purchased the land in 1831 from Thomas Flinn, who had originally purchased the land from the United States government in May of 1825. The western part of that land (approximately 15 acres) is now called Tenhave Woods. At this point, Samuel Goodwin now owns all of the property (approximately 22 ½ acres) known today as Tenhave Woods.

Many times the Nature Society would start a nature walk with the statement “welcome to the Sam Goodwin farm”. Sam cleared the land until he reached the swamp forest on the west edge of Tenhave Woods and stopped; you can't plow a swamp and he would need a wood lot anyway. We know that James Johnson built a water powered sawmill in 1832 adjacent to this woodlot and we are sure Sam cut trees and dragged them through the woods to Johnson's sawmill to be cut into lumber for his farm. We know that the land was never clear cut as the diversity of woodland plants would not be here today if he had.

Between 1834 and 1850, Samuel and Lucy had six children. Besides Volney, who would eventually take over the ownership of the Goodwin farm, there was a son who died as an infant and four girls who would eventually marry and leave (see appendix for additional information on their children) the farm.

Samuel was commissioned in 1835 (age 23) by Stevens T. Mason, acting Governor of Michigan Territory, as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the Michigan Militia. In 1837, the brigade he was in was stationed along the Maumee River during the Toledo War of 1837 until the dispute was settled. *(TGA)* Samuel won a premium for his butter at the first fair of the Michigan State Agricultural Society in 1849. *(T&A p.49).*

Samuel B. Goodwin died on December 13, 1878. Samuel is buried alongside his wife, Lucy Olive, in Royal Oak Cemetery. She died on June 22, 1881. See Appendix for information on their children.

## SETH GOODWIN

Seth Goodwin was born on June 27, 1819 in East Bloomfield, New York.

In 1835, Cromwell sells to his youngest son, Seth (only 16 years old), the south half of the farm (80 acres of the S ½ of SW ¼ of Section 4) –(Area B) and the five acres on the southeast corner of Crooks and 13 Mile Rd (Area E) that Cromwell purchased in 1830. Cromwell was quoted saying “The above

described pieces of land are here by conveyed to the above, Seth Goodwin, as well for the love that I bear to him as my son as for the above consideration, or any other consideration that there could or might be made by him or any other person.”<sup>(BAP)</sup> The line between Samuel and Seth’s farms can still be seen as a row of oak trees running just north of Lexington from Marais Street to just past the front side of the High School. [\(see appendix\)](#)

The land in SW ¼ of section 4 now seems to be a total of 162 acres (Samuel’s 82 and Seth’s 80) whereas above you will notice Cromwell bought 160 acres from the US government. When the land was surveyed, markers called monuments were placed at the corners. In the 1800’s they would have been wooden stakes. The land ends up being described to these monuments. The north boundary of Cromwell’s land should have been an east west line at the half section point which would have been one half mile north of 13 Mile Road. The northwest corner is correct but the northeast corner is north of where it should be. This is most likely where the additional two acres came from. This is why today the boundary between Royal Oak and Clawson does not run down Normandy.

In 1837, Seth purchases 15 acres on land that is south of 13 Mile Rd and east of the ½ mile N/S section line for Section 4 ([Area F](#))<sup>(CR)</sup> It was quite probable that Seth was going to use this land as part of his woodlot. This land today is part of Starr JC Park. Seth married **Polly Minerva Haight** (b.1817 in Cohocton, New York) in 1842. They had 3 children. Sarah Amy Goodwin was born August 16, 1844 & married Holden White). Cynthia Minerva Goodwin was born June 28, 1850 & married Augustus W. Slayton). Celia Goodwin was born May 8, 1853 & married Charles L. Train.

In December 1853, Samuel B. Goodwin sells Seth the E ½ of the 36 acres of SE ¼ Section 4, NW. ([Area D](#)). In August, 1857, Seth and Polly sold 80 acres of the S ½ of SW ¼ of Section 4 ([Area B](#)), five acres ([Area E](#)), and 15 acres ([Area F](#)) to William White for \$5,000. <sup>(BAP)</sup> That same year, Seth and Polly moved to Detroit. Polly passed away on January 16, 1860. In February 1860, Seth sells J. Todd the E ½ of the 36 acres of NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 4 ([Area D](#)). , Seth married **Maria Melissa Smith** (b.1839) in 1864. They had one child, Carrie Louise Goodwin (b. November 18, 1869). The 1870 and 1880 Federal Census show Seth living in Detroit’s Ward #5.

Seth died on October 31, 1900. Seth is buried alongside his first wife, Polly, in Royal Oak Cemetery. She died in 1860. See Appendix for information on their children

### **VOLNEY GOODWIN**

Volney Goodwin was born on July 26, 1843, in Royal Oak Township, Michigan.

In 1864, 21 year old Volney, Samuel B. Goodwin’s son, purchased the south 40 acres in the N ½ of SW ¼ of Section 4 ([Area A](#)) and the south 10 acres of the W ½ of the 36 acres of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 5 ([Area C](#)) of his father’s land for \$1,500. In 1873, Volney purchased the remainder of his father’s land for \$1,500. Volney remained on the farm during the Civil War because of a hernia caused by a plowing accident. Samuel Volney Goodwin married **Ann Rachel Nicholson** in 1870. Ann (b. May 10, 1849) was born in South Sandwich Twp, Essex Co. Ontario, Canada. Her parents were Robert and Ann (Pickering) Nicholson and they immigrated to the United States from England in 1830. Volney and Ann had five children from 1871 to 1894. There was 11 years between the birth of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> child. Two remained in the local area and the other three eventually moved away from of Detroit (see appendix for additional information on their children). Volney and Ann moved from the farm to Birmingham, Michigan in 1888 to provide better educational privileges for their children. The farm was

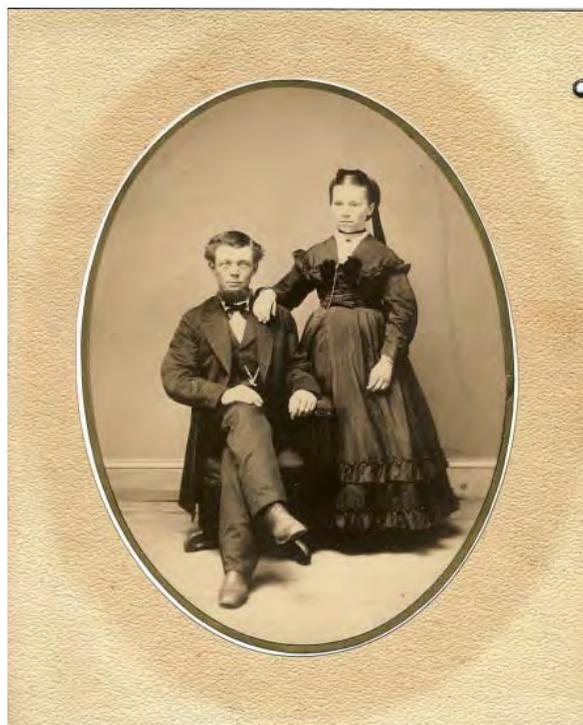
rented until 1902, the year Volney died. In Birmingham, they lived at the southeast corner of Chester and Willits St. When Wesley, their eldest child, died in 1905, Ann had the house Wesley was building (on Willits St., west of Chester), completed. Afterwards, she moved into it and stayed there for the remainder of her years. (TGA)



Volney Wedding Photo



Ann Rachel Wedding Photo



Samuel Volney & Ann Rachel Goodwin



Volney



Ann Rachel

In 1904 after Samuel Volney's death, his widow, Ann, along with minor and adult children, now living in Birmingham, sold the 100 acres (Areas A & C) to Edgar Freer. A description is given as to the state of the property in a court petition drawn up in April 1904 by Annie E. and Fredrick V. Goodwin for infants (minor children) to sell real estate. "That said premises are run down and buildings and fences have become dilapidated and out of repair and there is no money in the hands of the estate to improve the same or repair them." Thus, this ends the Goodwin's three generations (1824 to 1904) as Royal Oak family landowners. (BAP)

Volney died on December 30, 1902. Volney is buried alongside his first wife, Ann, in Royal Oak Cemetery. She died on February 18, 1917. See appendix for more information on their children.

The Nature Society believes that they have discovered something special. By 1828 a significant part of Royal Oak Township had been purchased. By 1857 only six of these families still owned land here. By 1872 only four of these families did and by 1890 only the Goodwin's family still owned their land. Of the historical Royal Oak families, most are people that did notable things in our community. They were in politics, started business or helped develop the city as it grew. Aside from the road building "bee", we can't find any major contribution from the Goodwin's. Yet, what we feel is important about the Goodwin's is they stayed on the land purchased from the United States for three generations, longer than any other pioneer family. We believe they need to take their place in the history of Royal Oak as one of our important pioneer families.



The Goodwin's farmhouse photo was taken around 1888. We believe from left to right, Ann Nicholson, Ann R., Levi sitting down in chair, John Wesley standing behind Levi and Volney on his horse.



Above two photos are of the Goodwin's farmhouse sometime after they had moved off of the farm.

## OWNERSHIP AFTER THE GOODWINS

In 1905, Edgar Freer sold the 100 acres to Emma Robbins and in 1908 she sold it to Joseph Folta, a city of Detroit catholic priest. The land that Seth Goodwin sold to Edgar White after two generations in his family was sold to Helen Balicki in 1909. Helen then sold this land to Joseph Folta in 1912. Now Joseph Folta owns all the land Cromwell purchased from the government (Areas A & B), the 18 acres Samuel B. Goodwin purchased from James Johnson (Area C), the five acres in the southeast corner of section 5 (Area E), and the 15 acres in the northwest corner of section 9 (Area F). As an interesting historical note, Folta in 1919 took out a mortgage from John Dodge, who was one of the Dodge brothers that founded the Dodge Motor Company. *(BAP)*. Folta paid it off to his widow, Matilda Dodge, later of Meadow Brook Manor fame. Folta sold all of this land to Robert Adix in December in 1916. In 1917, Robert Adix sold interests in the property to three other members of his family as well as small interests in the land to 13 other people. Folta took Robert Adix and the others to court in 1920, as he had not received payment for the land. The court ruled in Folta's favor and had the land returned to him. In 1920, the Charter Oak Articles of Association was filed by Joseph Folta and others for the purpose of holding, buying, selling, improving, mortgaging, lending, renting and dealing in real estate. Charter Oaks plated Arlington Heights Subdivision in 1923. *(see appendix)* In 1924, Folta transferred ownership of the lands he owned to the Charter Oak Corporation except for the five acres on the southeast corner of Section 5 (Area E)*(BAP)*. It seems that Joseph Folta retained the five acres in section 5 for his own use. Royal Oak Twigs and Acorns has a reprint of a 1924 Tribune article by Clara Erb Kidder on Royal Oak history. In the article she states that Cromwell built his home in section 5 on a site now occupied by father Folta. *(T&A p 53)*. Sometime between the 1924 and 1940, Charter Oak lost their land to the state for taxes as we have records of this land being transferred from the State Tax Office Board to the City of Royal Oak in 1941, with a few remaining lots coming back to the city by 1947 *(State Tax Office Papers)*. This was done for a lack of bidders at public auction and that the City needing it for public purposes and not for land sale.

The developing auto industry was drawing people from across the country to fill their factories. Joseph Folta and Charter Oak saw the need and opportunity. All of SW ¼ of Section 4 (Areas A, B & C) could have been 50 foot lots with houses and streets. It didn't happen. The Great Depression stopped the growth and Charter Oak land was lost to the State of Michigan. During World War II, the land was transferred from the State to the City of Royal Oak. With the end of the war and the baby boom, the City needed another high school and more parks. This chain of events limited the number of buildings placed upon this land and gave us a gift we have all failed to see before.

If you stand on Crooks Road just north of the High School, you can easily visualize Samuel's farm. Nowhere else in the city is it possible to still imagine seeing a farm from the 1800's. Take a walk in Tenhave Woods, an original settler's woodlot, and see what the land looked like when those settlers arrived. If you know what to look for, this is a window that you can look into the past through.

## Research Process:

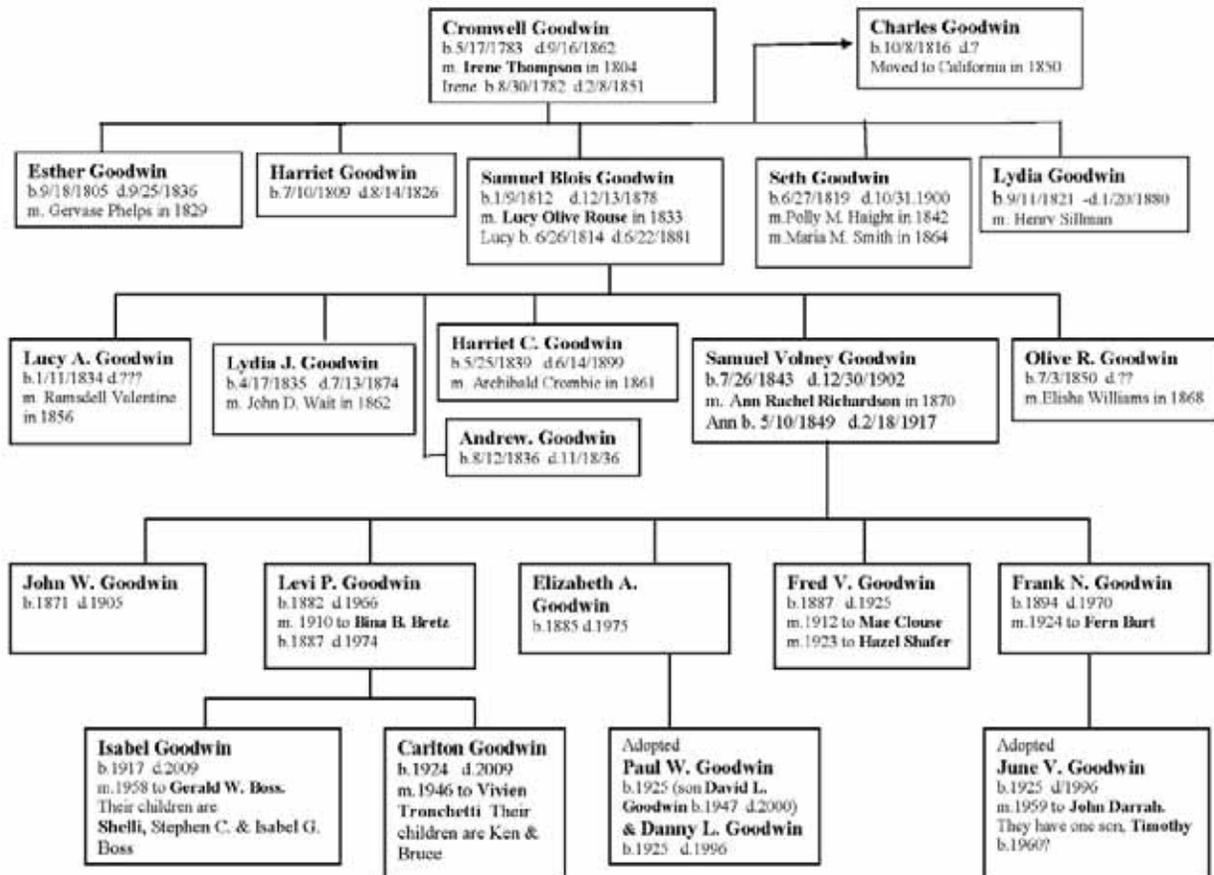
The Nature Society began around 2007 trying to discover the history of the land encompassing Tenhave Woods. The first information we received Royal Oak Township survey maps. The oldest survey map (1856) we got our hands on was from Mary Kleiss, a Nature Society member. This map lists the properties owner as Sam Goodwin, with the land to the south owned by Goodwin (no first initial). Land acreage was not listed. When looking at an 1872 land survey map that we got from the Atlas of Oakland County, Michigan p.141, we found that the High School campus and Tenhave Woods was a 98 acre farm owned by S. Goodwin. Then we were given a copy of an 1890 land survey map by Muriel Versagi of the Royal Oak Historical Museum. That map showed the land that Sam had owned is now shown as being owned by Volney Goodwin. Bob Weber, a long time Royal Oak resident, gave us a copy of a 1916 land survey map and to our surprise, it showed the Goodwin's no longer owned the land. At this point, we were starting to get an idea about the land ownership around Tenhave Woods. We checked out the Royal Oak Cemetery and came across several grave stones for the Goodwin Family. So now we began to learn who some of the other Goodwin's were and when they were alive. In 2008, a resident who lives across the street from the Tenhave Lexington entrance gave us a stack of papers on the land's history. The papers were given to him when he purchased the home. We borrowed them and found that they included all of the court records pertaining to this land, purchases, sales, inheritance, mortgages, divorces etc. from the Fred Burton Abstract Company of Oakland County. From the Oakland County Deeds Department, we found information about the Goodwin purchase of the land in the northwest corner of Crooks/13 Mile Rd intersection and the 15 acres purchased south of 13 Mile Rd. These papers and information from the County Deeds Department gave us the information necessary to complete the ownership history of this land. The photos that you see in this article are from Timothy Darrah (Frank Goodwin's grandson), Carlton Goodwin (Levi Goodwin's son) and Shelli Clark (a granddaughter of Levi). "The Goodwin Antecedents" which gave us some insight about the Goodwin's, was also given to us by Carlton. In addition, Twigs and Acorn plus Royal Oak Michigan in the Early Years gave us some additional information that we have used in this article. The Goodwin's of Hartford was found on a University of Michigan website page and gave us additional facts about the Godwin's. With all of this information that we were able to dig up, we have been able to get a pretty good picture of the landowners of this property and who they were. Hopefully, there is more information out there that is available and that will give us a better picture of this land, first settled in the 1820's. If you know of anyone who may have more information, we would appreciate it very much if they could please contact us.

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# APPENDIX

## Goodwin Family Tree



## THE GOODWIN CHILDREN

### **The children of Cromwell Goodwin & Irene (Thompson) Goodwin:**

- **Esther** (b. September 18, 1805-d. September 25, 1836) Esther is buried in Royal Oak Cemetery. Married **Gervase (Jarvis) Dwight Phelps** (b.1800-d.1846) in 1829. **Jarvis** built the Chase Corner's store in the year 1826. Children were **Harriet Louisa Phelps** (b.1829 & married Edmund Hamilton), **Walter Amos Phelps** (b.1831 & married Charity A. Hamilton); & **Orville Seth Phelps** (b.1834 & married Mary Butterfield) September 18, 1805 & died September 25, 1836
- **Sheldon** (b.1807-d.1808)
- **Harriet** (b. July 10, 1809-d.August 14, 1826) She was the first European settler to die in RO Twp and is buried in Royal Oak Cemetery.
- **Samuel Blois-** see p.4 of the section before the appendix
- **Levi** (b.1814-d.1815)
- **Charles** (b. October 8, 1816) moved to California in 1850. He became an extensive farmer & stock-raiser at Lakeport, Lake County, CA. Married **Rebecca J. Yates** on March 24, 1880. Children: adopted Cora Lee Arnold (b.1870 & married Solomon C. Stone)
- **Seth** see p.4 of the section before the appendix
- **Lydia** (b.1821-d.1880) Lydia is buried in Royal Oak Cemetery. Married **Henry Sillman & Briggs** (no first name) . Children by Sillman: Charles Sillman. Children by Briggs: Harriet Briggs
- **Mary** (b.1824-d.1824)

### **The children of Samuel Blois Goodwin & Lucy Olive (Rouse) Goodwin:**

- **Lucy Ann** (b. January 11, 1834) Married **Ramsdell Valentine** in 1856. After 1865, Ramsdell was a farmer in Fentonville, MI. Children: Eva Jane Valentine (b. 1857 & married William A. Wadley) and Charles Goodwin Valentine (b.1859 & married Keren H. Hilbert)
- **Lydia Jane** (b. April 17, 1835-d.July 13, 1874). Married **John D. Wait**. Children were: Mary Jane Wait (b.1863), William Wait (b.1864), John Wait (b.1866), James Llewellyn Wait (b.1868-d.1868), Orrin L. Wait (born 1869), Effie Wait (b.1872) & Charles Wait (b.1874)
- **Andrew Van Tile** (b. August 12, 1836-d. November 18, 1836) Andrew is buried in Royal Oak Cemetery
- **Harriet Celestia** (b. May 25, 1839- d. June 14, 1899). Harriet is buried in RO Cemetery along with her husband. She was still living on the farm in 1860 per the Federal census. She married **Archibald Crumbie** in 1861. Archibald was listed as living in Bloomfield Twp & was a farm laborer according to the 1870 census. Per the 1880 Federal census, the family was living in Romulus & his occupation being a carpenter. Children were: Elmer Ellsworth Crumbie (b.1864-d.1886), Effie Ellen Crumbie (b. 1866 & married Ernest L. Martin), Ida Udella Crumbie (b.1868) & David Burt Crumbie (b.1873).
- **Samuel Volney** see p.5 of the section before the appendix.
- **Olive Rosetta** (b. July 3, 1850) Married **Elisha Williams Ames** (b.1844) in 1868. The following information has been taken from the US Census. In 1870, Elisha listed as 25 years old & a farmer. Olive was listed as "Jane", a 20 year old housekeeper. They resided in Newbury Twp in Wabaunsee County Kansas. In 1880, Elisha (farmer), Olive (housekeeper), Cecila age 8; Walter age 5 & Lillie age 2. Still reside in Newbury Twp. In 1900 census, Elisha (farmer), Olive (wife), Cecila Louise (b.1872-d.1962) & she was a teacher, Lillie (b.1878) & Howard (b.1886). They lived in KAW twp in Wabaunsee County, Kansas. 1900 census, Elisha (listed as a farmer), Olive, Cecila Louise, Lillie & Howard. They still lived in KAW twp, KS. (Wabaunsee County)

1910 US Census: Elisha (farmer), Olive & Howard Still living in KAW twp, Kansas.  
(Wabaunsee County)

1920 US Census: Elisha nor Olive are no longer listed on US Census. He would have been 75 & she 70.

### **The children of Samuel Volney Goodwin & Ann Rachel (Nicholson) Goodwin:**

- **John Wesley** (b. July 18, 1871-d. April 2, 1905). In 1900, he was still living with his mother & father in Birmingham. At the October 1886 funeral of his cousin, Elmer Crumbie, John contracted diphtheria from his cousin who died of a very virulent type of diphtheria. John recovered, but was never very strong. After school, he was a clerk, painter & worked several years at Roy Blakeslee Hardware Store. He was active with the Methodist Church. He was to be married in 1905, but contracted pneumonia & died on April 2. John is buried in Royal Oak Cemetery. He is buried in Royal Oak Cemetery.

Below are photos of John Westley.



- **Levi Pickering** (b. December 23, 1882-d. June 11, 1966) He attended Birmingham schools & graduated from high school in 1901. He worked for American Harron Co. of Detroit & the T.W. Root Publishing Co. In 1904, he took the examinations for Admission of Trail in the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church & in September of that year, was assigned to be Associate Pastor of Gratiot Avenue-Leesville Churches, Detroit. In September 1905, he was ordained Deacon at Ishfeming & entered Albion College. He graduated from there in 1910. In 1910 Federal census, a Levi B. Goodwin resided in Calhoun County, Ward 3 in Albion Michigan as a lodger & minister. In 1920 census, Levi P. Goodwin [38] resided in Montgomery County, Ward 3 in Red Oaks Iowa. On August 30, 1910, he married Bina Belle Bretz of Albion & then began his ministry in Iowa. He served at several churches in Iowa until he retired in 1949. From there, he moved to Grand Rapids, MI. They had two children, Isabel (b.1917) & Carlton (b.1924). Levi was buried in Lake Odessa, Michigan.

Below photo on the left shows Levi with his wife, Bina and the one on the right shows Levi with one of his grandsons.



- **Ann Elizabeth** born May 1, 1885 on the farm of her parents. She attended Birmingham schools until the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. She took years of training in the business department of Albion College. According to the 1910 Federal census, she was still living with her mother in Birmingham. From 1914 to June 1916, she attended the Chicago Evangelistic Institute, graduating as a Deaconess. She became acquainted there with Gertrude Whitney, of Tennessee. Ann & Gertrude accepted positions at Buffalo, NY with the National Travelers Aid Society. During WWI, served as Camp Hostesses under the War Camp Community Service at Camp Lee, VA from August 1917 to November 1918. They returned to Buffalo as field agents for the Children's Aid Society of the State of NY, working in a large Polish section of the city. She was recorded in 1920 census [age 35] as a lodger, living in Buffalo, NY (Erie County) & a social worker. In Buffalo in 1920, she lived with Gertrude Whitney [age 44]. In July 1921, they went to Nashville, TN to work for the Woman's Protective Bureau of the City of Nashville. While there, they took on two children, Paul Whitney Goodwin (b. 1925) adopted in 1925 & later, Danny Lee Goodwin (b. 1925) and adopted in 1926. Gertrude Whitney died in 1943. We think Ann died in 1975. Below three photos on the left are of Elizabeth & the one on the right is Elizabeth & her two adopted sons.



- **Fredrick Volney** (b. August 12, 1888-d. June 8, 1925) In 1910 [age 23] census, he was living w/ his mother. He attended Birmingham High School through 10<sup>th</sup> grade, when he began working for the Birmingham Lumber Co. Later, he worked for the Miner Grocery & Spencer Grocery. He married Mae Clouse in 1912 & lived for a time at his mother's house. Later, they moved to Purdy Street (2 blocks west of Woodward & south of Brown St in Birmingham) & Oakland Ave. (an extension of Willits, east of Woodward). For a time, he worked for the A & P Grocery in Pontiac, MI & then Oakland Motor Co. After Pontiac, they moved to Royal Oak & he worked in a grocery store there. Then, they returned to Pontiac. In 1920, Mae left Fred & obtained a divorce. Fred went to Plymouth, MI & worked in a grocery store. Later, he was employed by the Northville Lumber Co. In 1923, he married Hazel Shafer, whom he had met in Plymouth. They lived with her parents in Northville. On November 5, 1924, she, her mother & a cousin were killed in automobile accident when struck by a C&O railroad fast train in Northville. Fred died soon after (June 8, 1925). Fred & Hazel were buried in Lakeside Cemetery in Holly, MI. They had no children. He is buried at Lakeside Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. Four photos shown on next page are of Fred.



- Frank Nicholson** (b. December 22, 1894-d. March 16, 1970)  
 He graduated from Birmingham High School in 1915. For a time, he worked for the Miner Grocery & the C.F. Smith Grocery. In May of 1917, he was called for Army service. For a few days in October, 1918, he was on the front lines before being withdrawn. On November 8<sup>th</sup>, his unit attacked a hill. Had heavy losses but finally captured it & held it. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, Armistice was achieved. His unit remained in Europe for a while & returned home in June, 1919. He returned to Birmingham, MI & worked for the C.F. Smith Grocery. He later, took over the grocery. He roomed in Royal Oak for three years while he worked in Ferndale. He transferred to an A & P grocery store in Pontiac, MI & later transferred to Birmingham, MI. In 1922, he took over the A&P store in Mason, MI. In Mason, he met & married, Fern Burt in 1924. They adopted June Vivien Goodwin (b.1925) in 1926. Frank moved in 1930 to the A&P store in Comstock Park, Grand Rapids, MI. In 1932, he moved to Sparta. His wife was Fern Burt & she was born in Kent City, MI. Frank & Fern moved to Grand Rapids in 1965.  
 Below photo on the left is Frank & the one is Frank in uniform during WWI, and on the right is Frank, Fern & June, their daughter, June Vivien.



Below photo was more than likely taken at the Goodwin's Birmingham home around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. From left to right: Ella Adams (Westly's fiancé), John Westly, Volney, Elizabeth, Bina Betz, Ann R. & Levi



Below photo from left to right: Elizabeth, Frank & Ann R. Since Frank looks like he is around 15 years of age or so, this picture was taken a few years before WW1.



**GOODWIN'S BURIED AT RO CEMETERY**

**The Royal Oak Cemeteries**

D.G. Penney, 1993

12 Mile Rd.

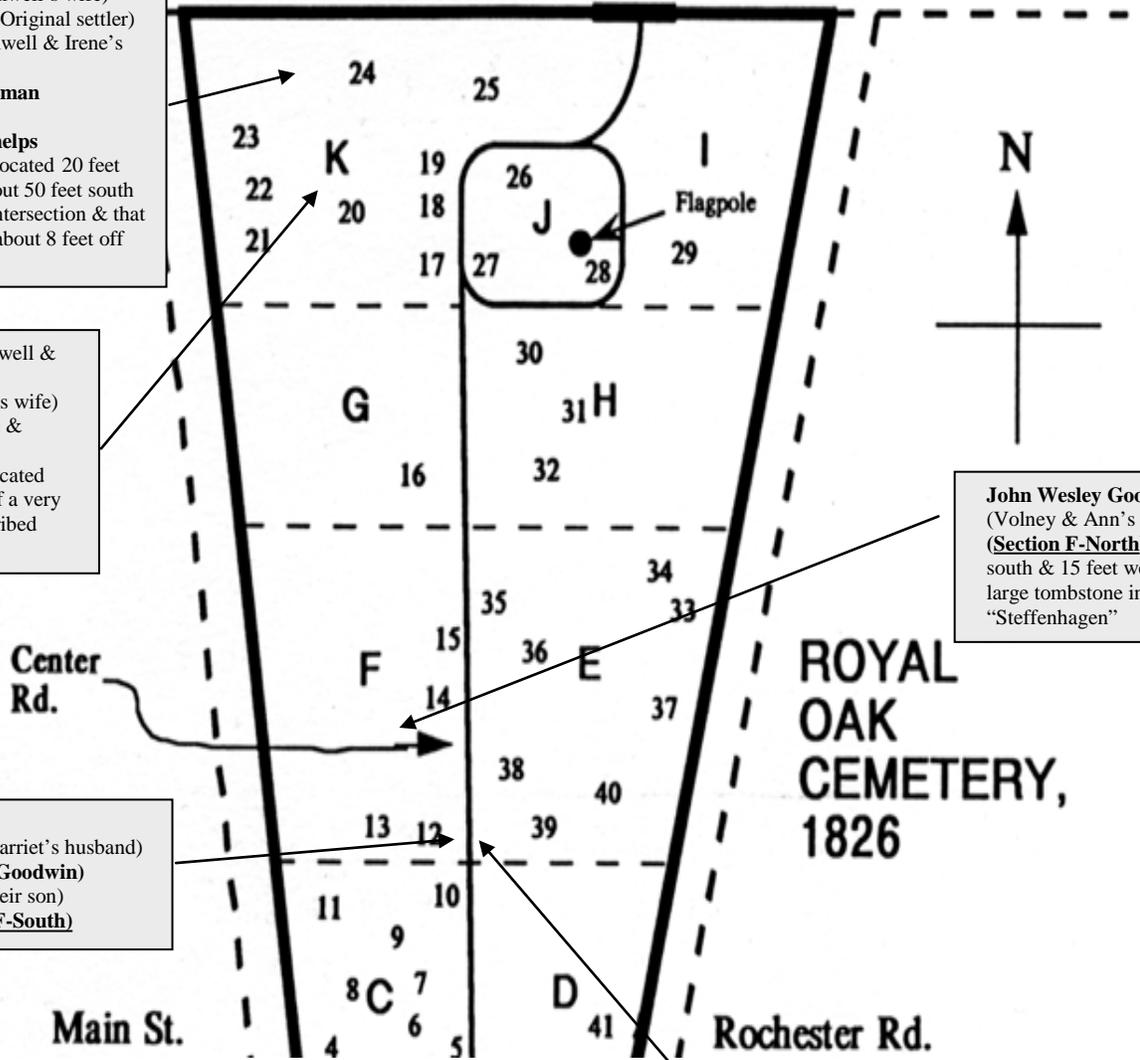
**Irene Goodwin** (Cromwell's wife)  
**Cromwell Goodwin** (Original settler)  
 The below 3 are Cromwell & Irene's daughters  
**Lydia (Goodwin) Sillman**  
**Harriet Goodwin**  
**Esther (Goodwin) Phelps**  
**(Section K-North)** Located 20 feet SE of a tree that is about 50 feet south of the Main/12 Mile intersection & that splits into 2 trunks at about 8 feet off the ground

**Seth Goodwin** (Cromwell & Irene's son)  
**Polly Goodwin** (Seth's wife)  
**Sarah A. White** (Seth & Polly's daughter)  
**(Section K-South)** Located about 12 feet WNW of a very tall grave marker inscribed "Geddis"

**Crumbie**  
 Archie (Harriet's husband)  
**Harriet (Goodwin)**  
 Elmer (their son)  
**(Section F-South)**

**John Wesley Goodwin**  
 (Volney & Ann's son)  
**(Section F-North)** 5 feet south & 15 feet west of large tombstone inscribed "Steffenhagen"

**Samuel Blois Goodwin** (Cromwell & Irene's son)  
**Lucy Olive Goodwin** (wife of Samuel B.)  
**Andrew Van Tile Goodwin** (Samuel B & Lucy's infant son)  
**Volney Goodwin** (Samuel B. & Lucy's son)  
**Ann Rachel Goodwin** (Volney's wife)  
 Ann Nicholson (mother of Ann Rachel)  
**(Section E)**



**GOODWIN GRAVESTONES AT ROYAL OAK CEMETERY**



**Cromwell Goodwin**



**Irene Goodwin (Cromwell's wife)**



**Esther Goodwin Phelps (Cromwell & Irene's daughter) and her husband**



**Harriet Goodwin (Cromwell & Irene's daughter)**



Samuel B. Goodwin (Cromwell's son)



Lucy Olive Goodwin-(Samuel B's wife)

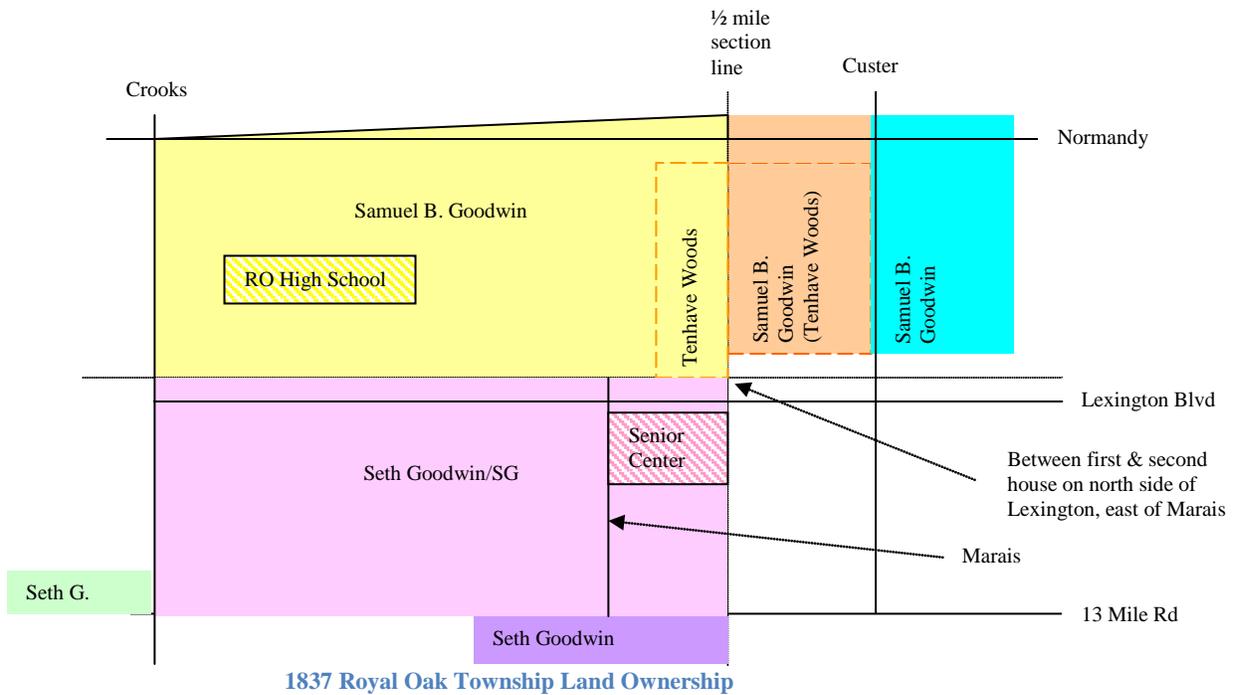
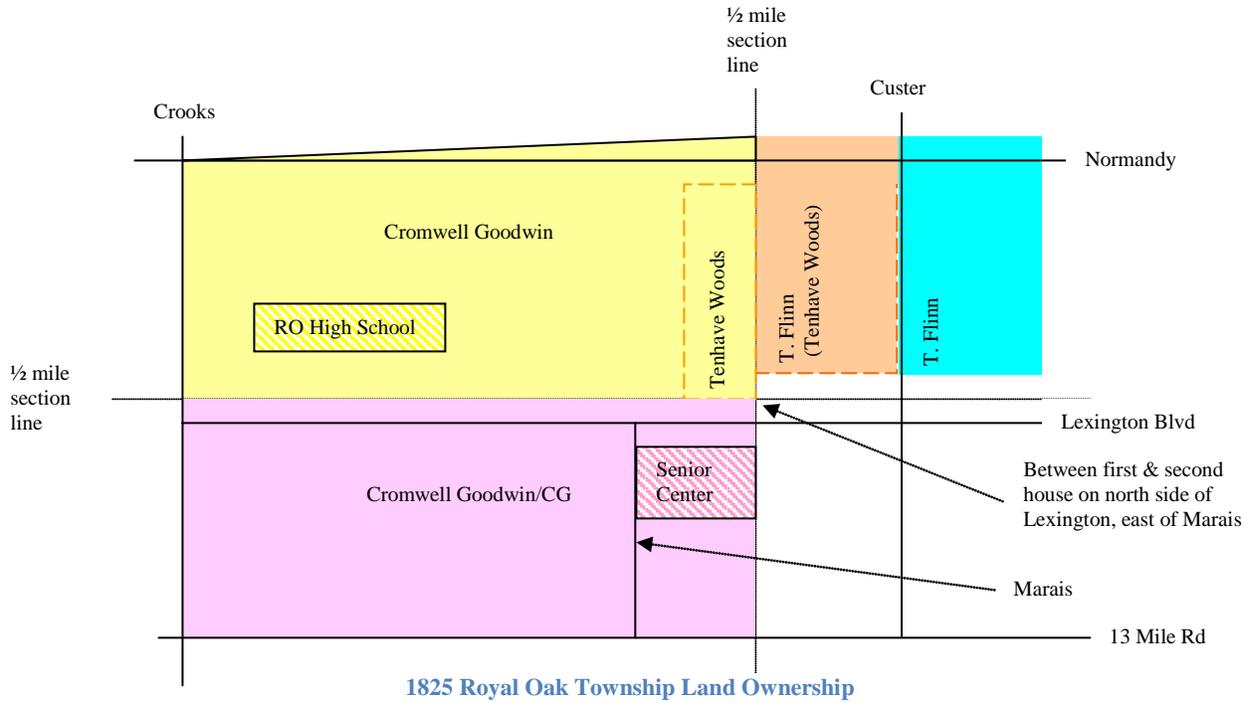


Top-Samuel Volney Goodwin (Samuel Blois & Lucy's son); Middle- Ann R. Goodwin (Volney's wife); Bottom-Ann Nicholson (Ann's mother)



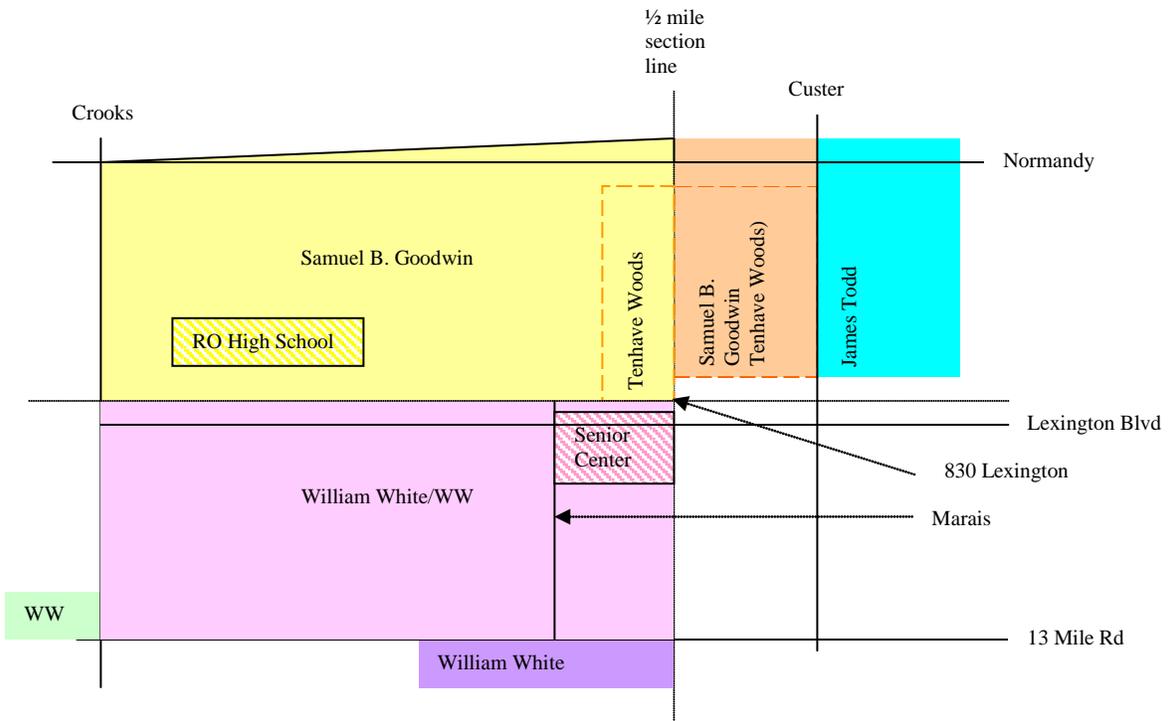
**Archie Crumbie-(Harriet's husband)  
Harriet Crumbie-(Archie's wife & Samuel Blois  
& Lucy Olive's daughter)**

# LAND OWNERSHIP

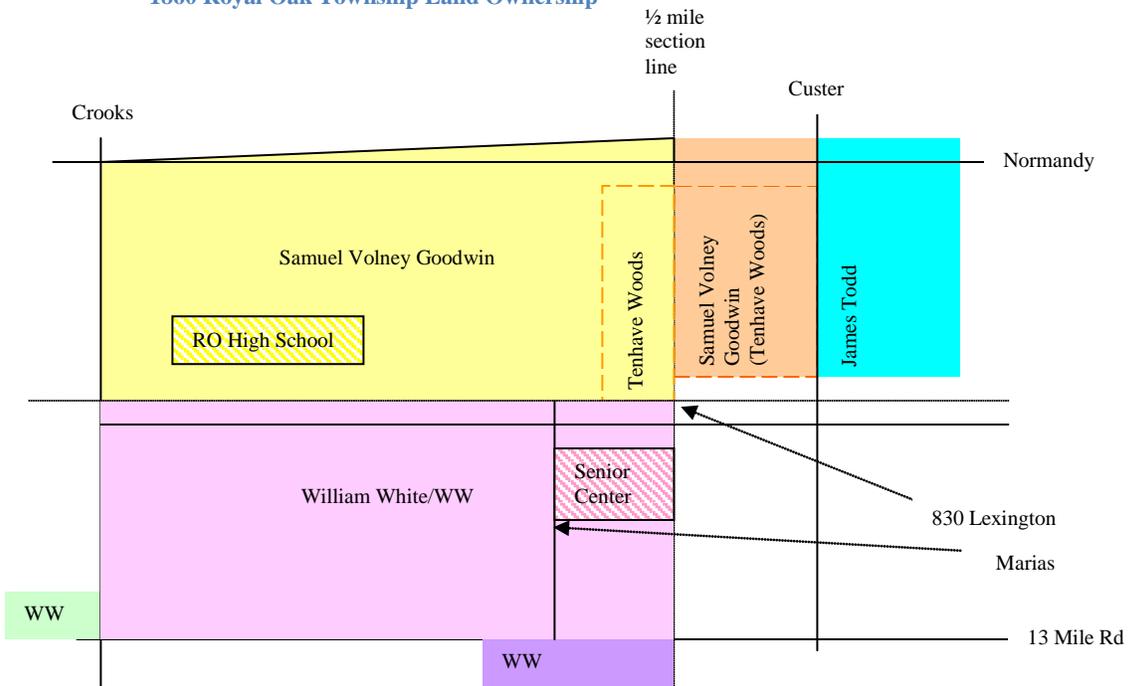


- Section 4 SE 1/4 W 1/2 of NW 1/4 18 A
- Section 9 NW 1/4 15 A
- Section 4 SW 1/4 S 1/2 80 A

- Section 4 SW 1/4 N 1/2 82 A
- Section 4 SE 1/4 E 1/2 of NW 1/4 18 A
- Section 5 SE 1/4 5A



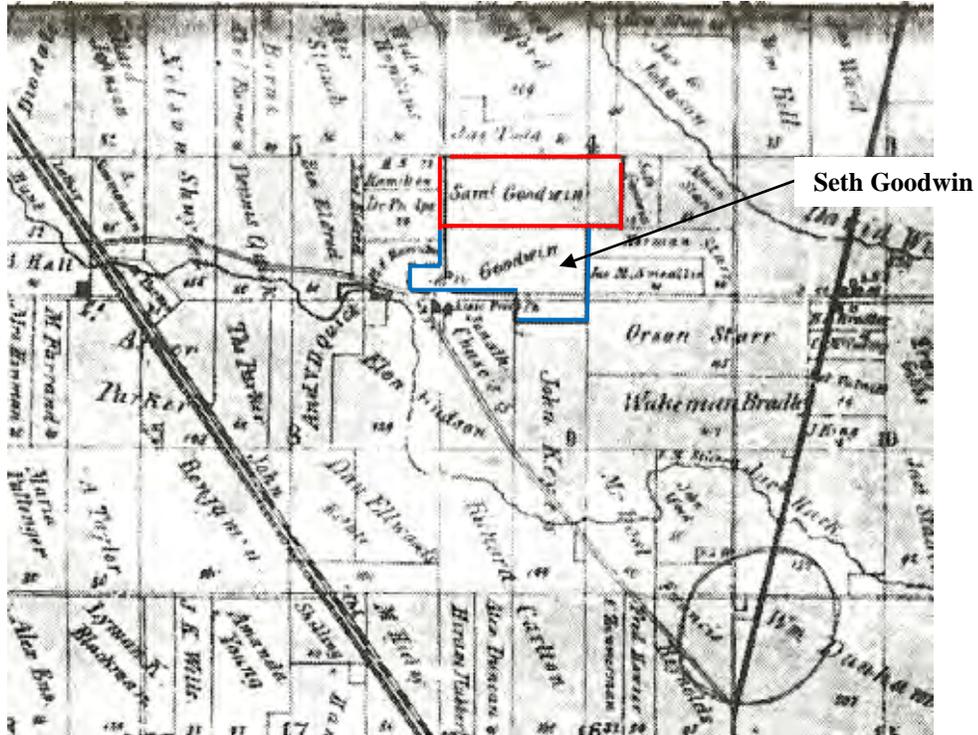
**1860 Royal Oak Township Land Ownership**



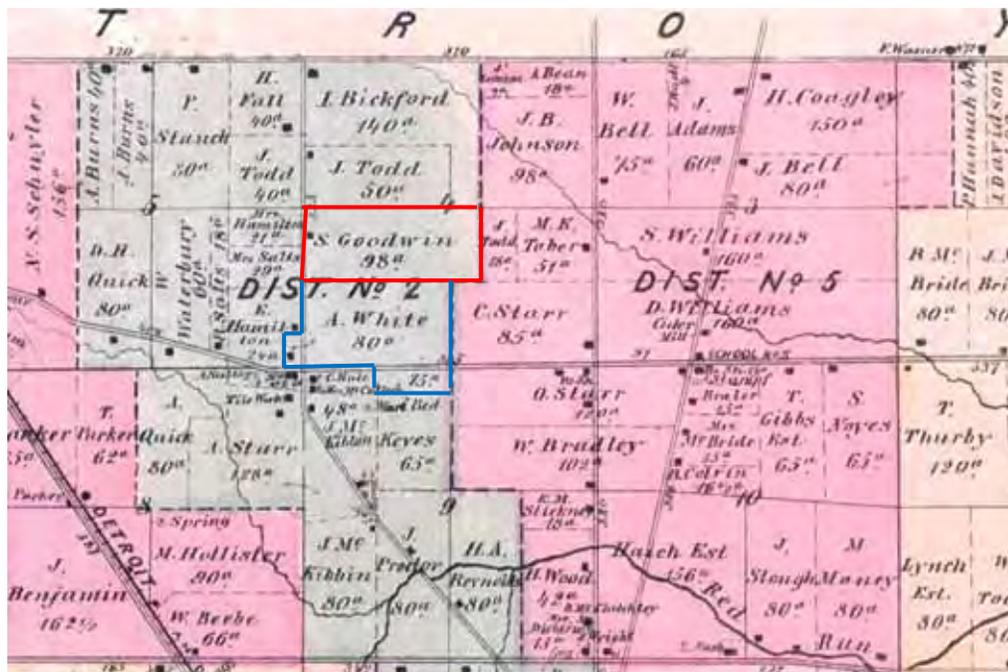
**1875 Royal Oak Township Land Ownership**

Section 4 SW ¼ N ½ 82 A
Section 4 SW ¼ S ½ 80 A
Section 4 SE ¼ W ½ of NW ¼ 18 A

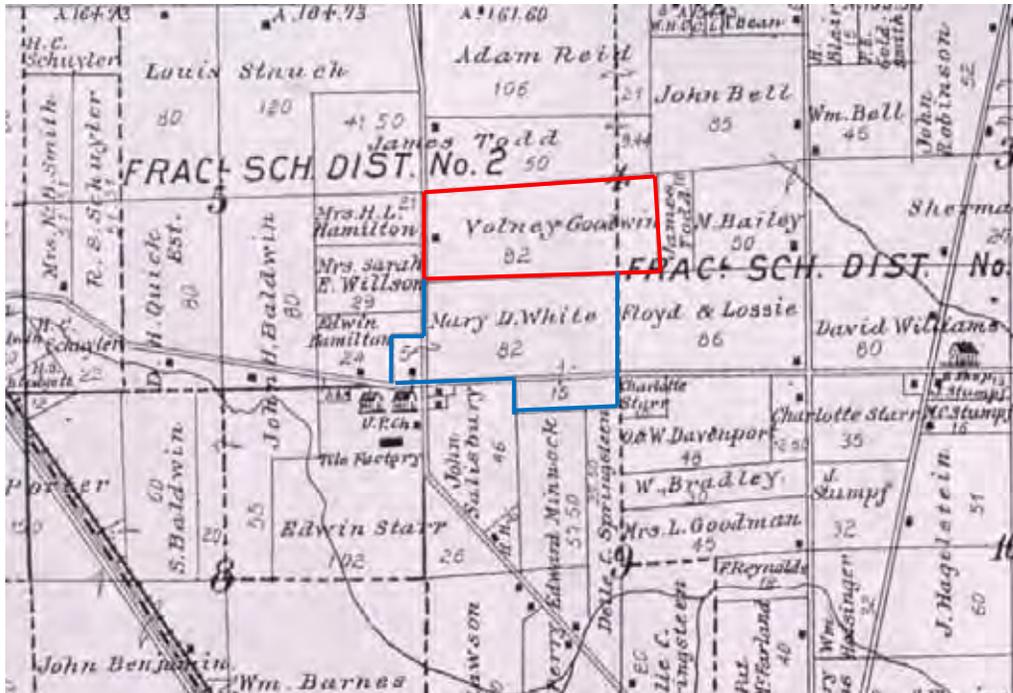
Section 4 SE ¼ E ½ of NW ¼ 18 A
Section 5 SE ¼ 5A
Section 9 NW ¼ 15 A



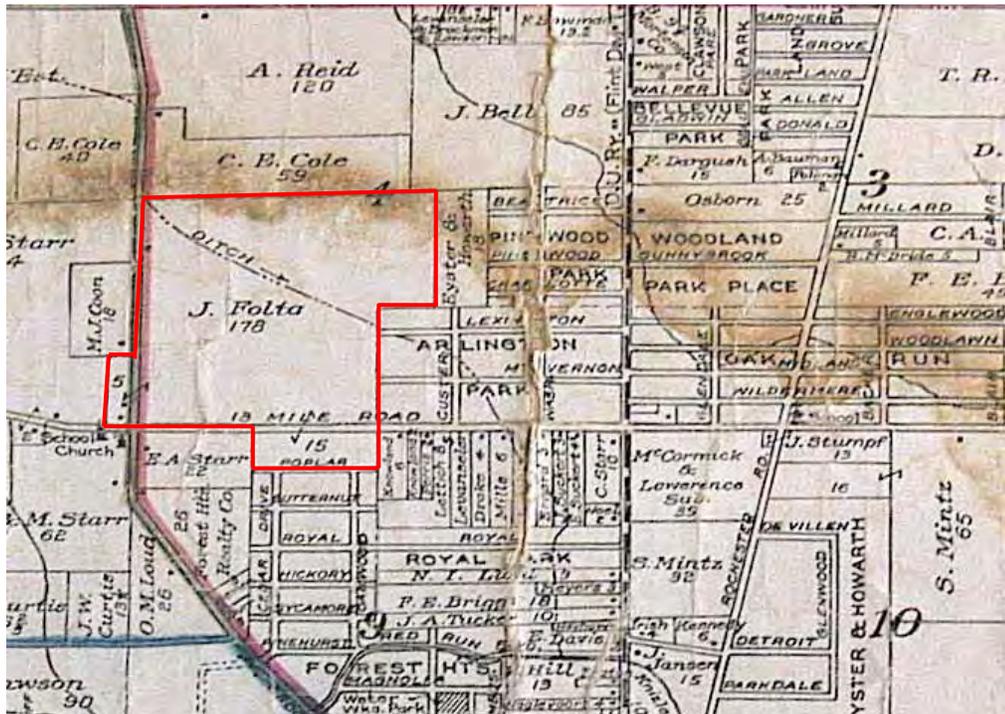
1856 Royal Oak Township Survey Map



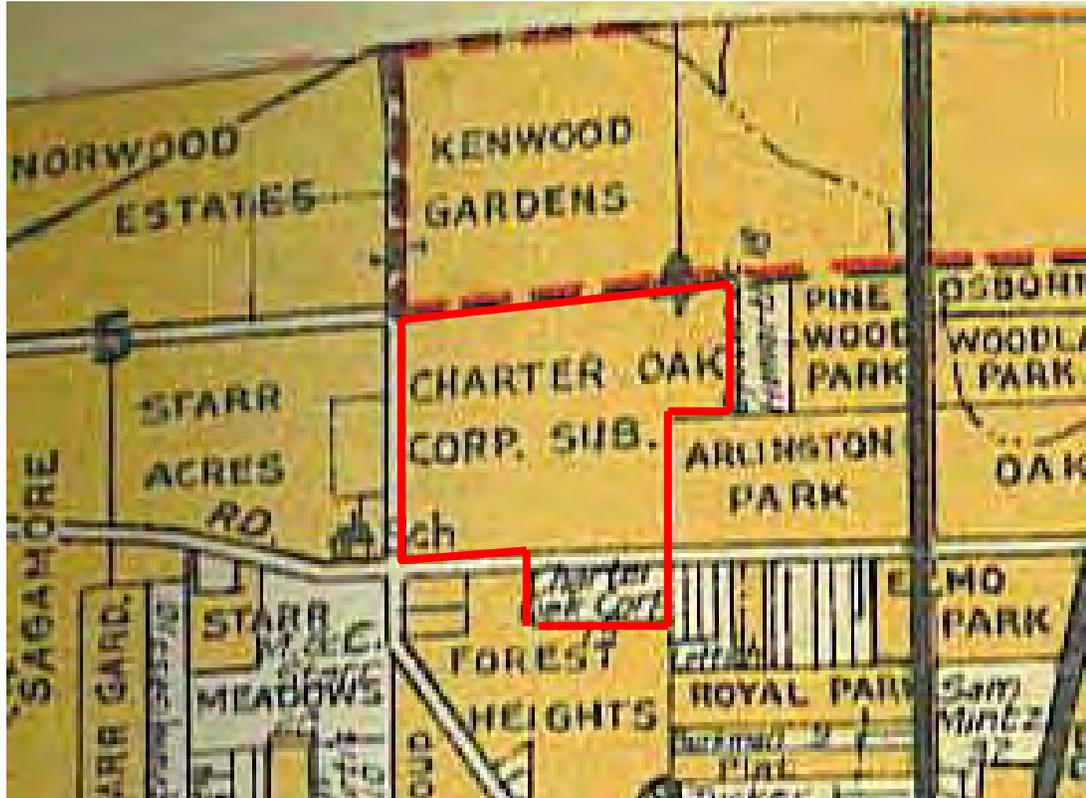
1872 Royal Oak Township Survey Map



1890 Royal Oak Township Survey Map



1916 Royal Oak Township Survey Map



1921 Royal Oak Township McAlpine Survey Map

**OAKLAND COUNTY DEED INFORMATION**

FRED BURTON ABSTRACT COMPANY OF OAKLAND COUNTY

1.

UNITED STATES  
to  
CROMWELL GOODWIN.

Location.  
Liber Government Entries, page 242.  
Dated May 17, 1824.

Land in Oakland County, Michigan, described as the west half of southwest quarter of section 4, town 1 north, range 11 east, containing 80 acres.

2.

UNITED STATES  
to  
CROMWELL GOODWIN.

Patent.  
Liber 274, page 252, Deeds.  
Dated April 1, 1825.  
Recorded October 23, 1916.

Conveys land in Oakland County, Michigan, described as the west half of southwest quarter of section 4, in town 1 north, range 11 east, Michigan, containing 80 acres.

Signs John Q. Adams, President.

Attached thereto is the certificate of Recorder of General Land office, dated June 2, 1916, with seal.

3.

UNITED STATES  
to  
CROMWELL GOODWIN.

Location.  
Liber Government Entries, page 242.  
Dated June 7, 1825.

Land in Oakland County, Michigan, described as the east half of the southwest quarter of section 4, town 1 north, range 11 east, containing 80 acres.

4.

UNITED STATES  
to  
CROMWELL GOODWIN.

Patent.  
Liber 274, page 253, Deeds.  
Dated January 6, 1826.  
Recorded October 23, 1916.

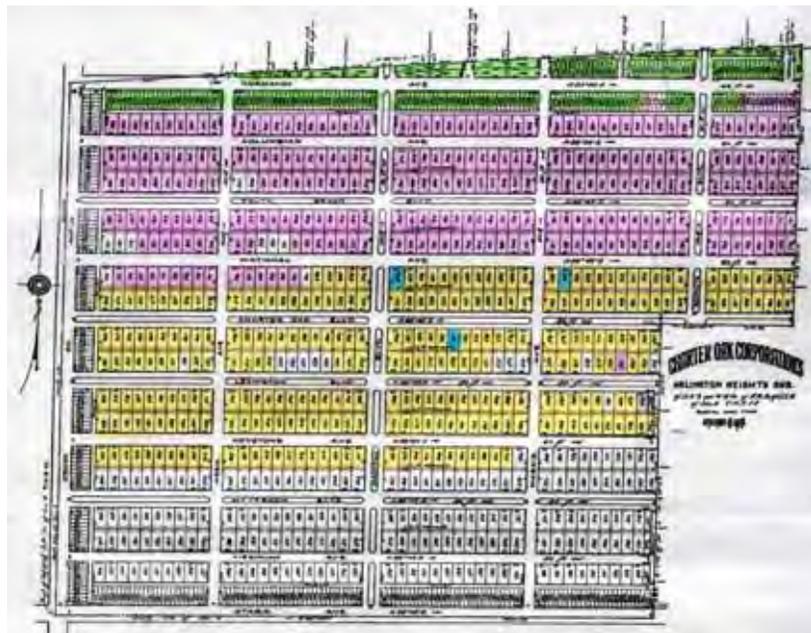
Conveys land in Oakland County, Michigan, described as the east half of southwest quarter of section 4, in town 1 north, range 11 east, Michigan, containing 80 acres.

Signs John Q. Adams, President.

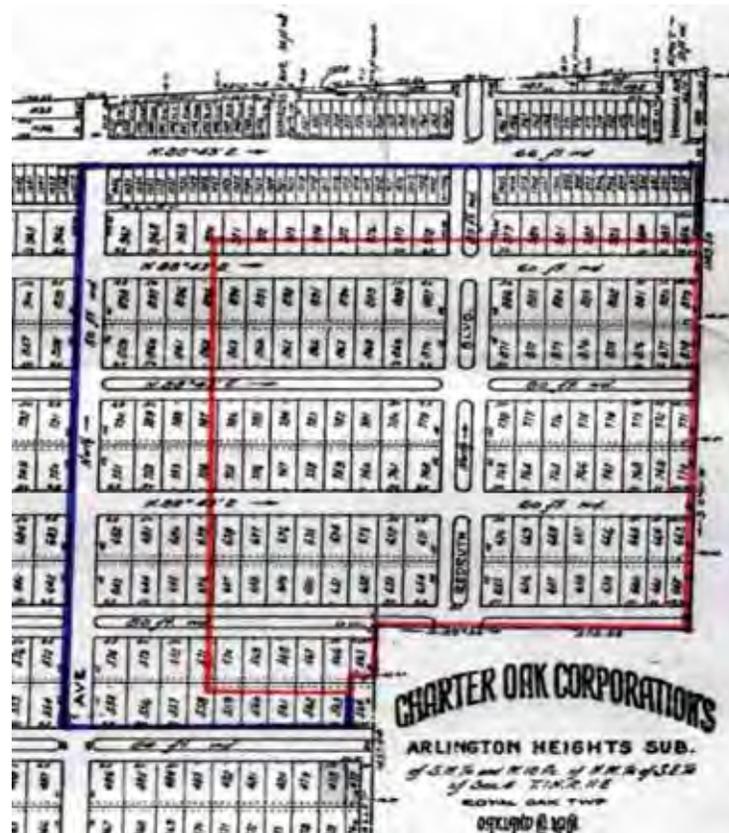
Attached thereto is the certificate of Recorder of General Land Office, dated June 2, 1916, with seal.

Oakland County Deed Information on the Land Cromwell Goodwin purchased from the Federal Government

The below maps show what the area between 13 Mile Rd & Normandy, east of Crooks would have looked like if the Arlington Heights Subdivision was built as planned



Charter Oaks Corporation- Proposed Arlington Heights Subdivision



Area Enclosed in Red is Tenhave Woods

**AERIAL OVERHEAD VIEW OF WHERE THE GOODWIN FARM ONCE WAS**



Aerial View of What Was the Goodwin Farm

## Looking For Answers:

1949 Aerial View of where the Goodwin Farm was once located



Notice that a good section of the west part of Tenhave Woods (enclosed in red) is not heavily forested in 1949. Any knowledge on what happened?

It looks like there are several buildings/house off of a side road east of Crooks. Do you have any insight on what they were? We also think that the Goodwin farm may have been somewhere along that road.

If you know of any other land/historical information or photos of this area, please contact us. There is still a lot that we do not know about this section of land. If you have any more information about the Goodwin's who lived on this land, please contact us. E-mail us at [naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us](mailto:naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us).