

Gottlieb HOFFMASTER

Gottlieb Hoffmaster (*né* Hofmeister) was born in the town of Fellbach (population approximately 700), Kingdom of Württemberg, Germany. When he was eight years old in 1817, the family immigrated to the United States, landed at Philadelphia, Pa., and initially settled in Lancaster Co., Pa. In 1823 Gottlieb's family settled in Poland Twp., Ohio, in

-Courtesy of Tom Seelig

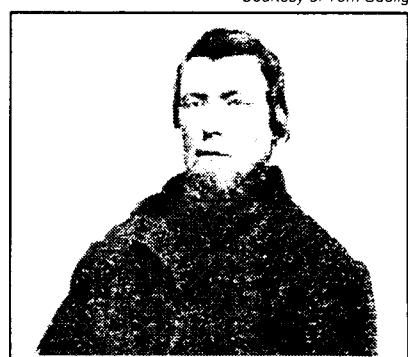
-Courtesy of Tom Seelig



Susannah Eichholtz*

what is now known as Mahoning County [formerly Columbiana County]. Gottlieb was a weaver by trade and later became a shoemaker. (His occupation was listed as shoemaker in the 1850 census of Mahoning County.)

Some time before 1833 while living in Poland Twp., Ohio, Gottlieb married Susannah Eichholtz/Eholtz. Little else is now known about Susannah. Gottlieb and Susannah's children were born in what is now known as Mahoning Co., Ohio.

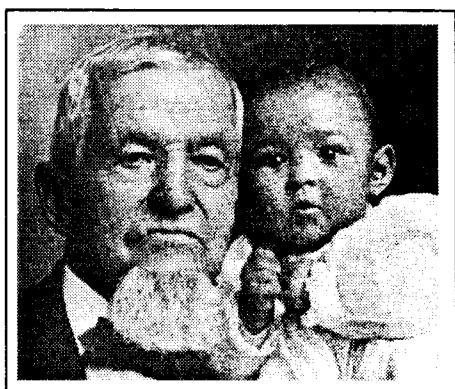


Gottlieb Hoffmaster*

In the fall of 1854, Gottlieb migrated to Hopkins Twp., Allegan Co., Mich., and purchased 80 acres (the east half of the same quarter John purchased in 1854) next to the 160 acres his brother John owned. (The Village of Hopkins

now stands on the lands they purchased.) Gottlieb lived in John's log cabin while he built his own.

Gottlieb remained on the old home farm until the death of his wife when he was more than 70 years old. After the death of [Susannah], Gottlieb lived west of Hopkins with Mrs. John Nicolai (his daughter, Susanna). He remained in the household of his daughter for 20 years until his death. He had sold his farm to his sons, John and Philip, and they platted five acres of the land known as Gottlieb Hoffmaster's Addition to the Village of Hopkins. He was buried in the cemetery at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hopkins Twp., Mich. (The name inscribed on his tombstone is *Gottlib*.)



Gottlieb Hoffmaster, 84,
and his great-grandson,
Peter Nicolai, c. 1889*

—Excerpted from *Hoffmaster, Nicolai and Mast Families of Michigan* by Tom and Donna Seelig, pp. 10-12

NAME	BORN	DIED	CHILDREN	Page
Gottlieb Hoffmaster	3 Apr 1809	21 Mar 1903*	Emmaline Hoffmaster	26
m. Susannah Eichholtz/Eholtz	3 Jun 1810 Ohio	17 Jun 1878*	Johannes "Philip" "	26
(Married 30 May 1833 Mahoning Co., formerly Columbiana Co., Ohio)			Peter "	27
			Johannes "	28
			Jonathon a/k/a John "	28
			Susanna C. "	29
			Sarah "	30
			Isaac Patterson "	30

*Hopkins, Allegan Co., Mich.

Emmaline Hoffmaster 30 Dec 1833* c. 1833

Johannes "Philip" Hoffmaster 9 May 1835* 6 Oct 1909
m. Amanda Baker 8 Mar 1851** 27 Mar 1879/
(Married 4 Mar 1877 Allegan Co., Mich.)

Bessie A. Hoffmaster 30

b. Maplewood Cemetery

[Amanda's parents: Harvey N. Baker & Catherine Schufelt]

I [Minetta], then a small child, recall him as "Uncle Philip," who was old and blind when he lived with us for a time in Monroe, Mich.

—Excerpted from *The Family of John and Susanna Nicolai, 1834-1974*, by Minetta Nicolai

Peter Hoffmaster	28 Oct 1837*	31 Dec 1901†	<i>Twins</i>	Orelius "Rill" J. Hoffmaster	30
m. (1) Levina Armelia Blodgett	3 Mar 1837 N.Y.	24 Jul 1864†		Obelius "Will" M. "	30
(Married 14 Feb 1861 Battle Creek, Calhoun Co., Mich.)				Ellen A. "	32
(2) Helen M. Magown	8 Jul 1841/	30 Oct 1905			
(Married 14 Aug 1865)					

Peter Hoffmaster was born Oct. 28, 1837, and died at Battle Creek Dec. 31, 1901. He was one of the builders of business and civic leaders of Battle Creek, and to the generation that knew him and his work, a review of his career is hardly necessary. None of the citizens of the last century deserve a higher place in the history of Battle Creek, and to the present generation his life and services have an intrinsic value and interest.

In business the chief monument to his enterprise is the establishment at 17-19-21 Main Street West, known throughout this vicinity as P. Hoffmaster Sons Co. Limited. With considerable mercantile experience but small capital, Mr. Hoffmaster came to Battle Creek in 1872 and with Charles Austin as a partner established the first exclusive dry-goods store in the town. A place of beginning and the stock was not remarkable in quantity or variety. But the personalities behind it gave the business the impetus of a growing concern and in a short time, their trade was of a reliable and profitable character. Half of the store room at 21 Main Street provided the first quarters for expansion, and it is noteworthy that this was the first double store in Battle Creek. Both the partners had sons whom they desired to take into partnership, Mr. Hoffmaster's buying the other's share in the business at that location. He then started his sons as clerks and made their promotion depend on the capability of their performances.

Up to the time of his death, Mr. Hoffmaster was the creating and energizing spirit of this enterprise, and the business policy which he inaugurated has always been maintained through the changing conditions of modern trade. A foremost merchant, he was also identified with other affairs in his city. He was a director of the Merchants Savings Bank, was a trustee of Kalamazoo College, and was vice president of the Wequetonsing Resort Association at Traverse Bay, where he had a beautiful summer home in which during his latter years he spent two or three months each year.

Peter Hoffmaster was born in Poland Twp., Mahoning Co., Ohio, a son of Gottlieb and Susannah (Eicholtz/Eholtz) Hoffmaster. The family, which came from Germany early in the last century, was established in Lancaster Co., Pa., in 1817, by George Frederick Hoffmaster, the grandfather; Gottlieb, the father, was born at Fellbach, Wurtemberg, April 3, 1809, and was eight years old at the time of the emigration. In 1823 the family removed to Mahoning Co. [formerly Columbiana Co.], where he grew to maturity. In 1832 [Gottlieb] married Susannah Eicholtz/Eholtz, and they continued to reside in Mahoning Co. for 22 years. In 1854 they came to Allegan Co., Mich., settling at Hopkins. Here the wife passed away on June 17, 1878. Gottlieb Hoffmaster attained a great age. At his death, which occurred in Allegan County, Michigan, he was 94 years old.

The time is 2:30 in the afternoon. Prof. H. W. Miller speaks his youth on the home farm and received a fair common school education. A fondness for reading was one of his early traits. He taught school for a year at his home, then worked at home until he was of practical age, when he determined to begin a career in business. At Wayland in Allegan County, he worked in a hotel, and the two years there gave him much valuable experience. In a dry goods house of Kalamazoo, and nine years as an employee gave him afterward in independence.

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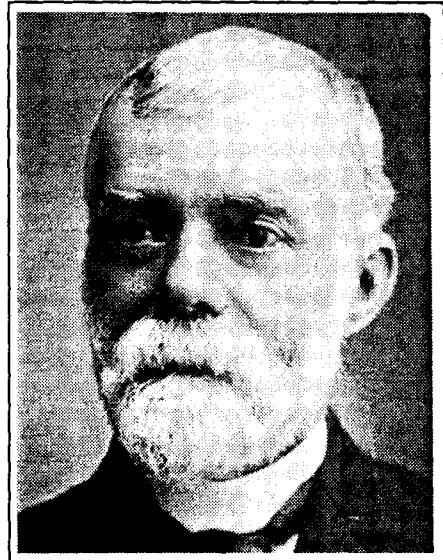
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The third in a family of seven, Peter Hoffmaster spent his youth on the home farm and received a fair common school education. A fondness for reading was one of the sources from which he received not only practical benefit in business but also the breadth of view which enabled him to look upon the world with the vision of its greatness and sympathetic judgment of its defects. Having worked at home until he was of age, he then determined to begin a career in business. At Wayland in Allegan County, he obtained employment in a hotel, and the two years there gave him much valuable experience. In 1859 he became clerk in a dry-goods house of Kalamazoo, and nine years as an employee gave him the proficiency which he displayed afterward in independent management. With the senior partner of the store in which he had been employed, he then established a new store at Kalamazoo and did a successful business until his removal to Battle Creek in 1872.

For many years, Mr. Hoffmaster was a member of the Baptist Church, served as trustee and deacon and gave liberally for its support. His personal morality was as marked as his piety. He never used tobacco or liquor in any form, and temperate habits were an integral part of his character. His interest in young men led him to many acts of helpfulness. At Kalamazoo he was one of the enthusiastic supporters of the Young Men's Christian Association, of which he was a charter member, and he also aided in the organization of the association at Battle Creek.

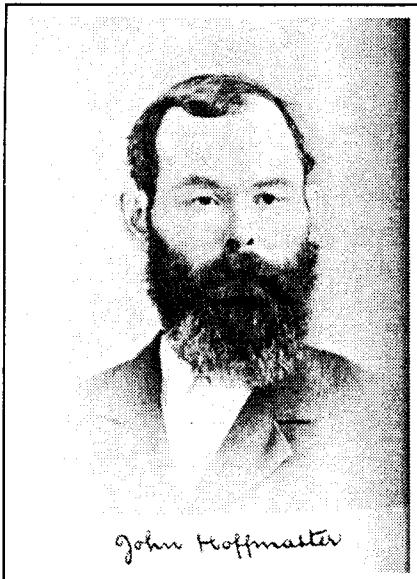


Peter Hoffmaster

Mr. Hoffmaster was married, Feb. 14, 1861, to Miss Lavina Blodgett. . . . On Aug. 14, 1865, Mr. Hoffmaster married Miss Helen McGown. She was born in Battle Creek and was a daughter of Edward and Elsie (Duel) McGown.

—Excerpted from *History of Calhoun County, Mich., Vol. II*, 1913

Johannes Hoffmaster	18 Jun 1839*	Springfield Twp., Mahoning Co. (formerly Columbian Co.), Ohio	
Jonathan a/k/a John Hoffmaster m. (1) Julia A. Baker	28 Apr 1843* 13 Mar 1843**	24 Nov 1920** 16 Mar 1882/ <i>(Married 6 Feb 1871 Plainwell, Allegan Co., Mich.) b. Maplewood Cem.</i>	Bessie Hoffmaster Claud Burns Grace "Floy" "
			32 32 32
[Julia's parents: Harvey N. Baker & Catherine Schufelt]			
(2) Sarah Anna Hare ¹ <i>(Married 20 Feb 1883 Grand Rapids, Kent Co., Mich.)</i>	8 Mar 1844	17 Feb 1920**	Ray G. "
			33



John Hoffmaster

John Hoffmaster [signature: Hoffmaster], "born in Mahoning Co., Ohio, aged 21 years, and by occupation a farmer," enlisted Aug. 20, 1864, in Kalamazoo and signed his "Volunteer Enlistment" papers in Hopkins, Mich., on Aug. 27, 1864, to serve one year in Company C, 13th Mich. Infantry, and paid a "bounty" of \$33-1/3. Pvt. Hoffmaster's physical description varied from "brown eyes, black hair" to "black eyes, brown hair," depending on who was describing him at the time. He stood 5'10-1/2" tall. He was discharged June 8, 1865, and mustered out July 25, 1865. His Declaration for an Original Invalid Pension states on Dec 27, 1888, that while he was stationed at Lookout Mountain, Tenn., in the fall of 1864, "he contracted diarrhea which became chronic which has resulted [in] piles. Also contracted disease of lungs and bronchitis about May 1, 1865, near Richmond, Va., from marching in a severe rainstorm and from lying on the wet ground. All [illegible] his clothes became perfectly saturated with water; [he] took a severe cold, which resulted in severe cough and disease of lungs and bronchitis [signature: Hoffmaster]."

—Extracted from copies of original Civil War documents / pmc

The name of Hoffmaster is inseparably associated with the history of Hopkins, its development and upbuilding . . . having laid out four different additions to the city and done much to improve them. A native of Mahoning Co., Ohio, he was born near Youngstown on April 28, 1843, and in 1854 accompanied his parents on their removal from the Buckeye State to Allegan County. . . .

John Hoffmaster was 11 years of age when he came to Allegan County. He assisted in the arduous task of clearing and developing the new farm and also at an early age worked out for wages, which went to the support of the family. Attaining his majority, he and his brother Philip purchased 80 acres of land which was owned by his uncle John . . .

John Hoffmaster of this review was identified with business interests in Allegan County until 1864, when he put aside all personal considerations and enlisted for service in the Civil War, becoming a recruit of Company C, 13th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. He joined the regiment at Lookout Mountain and later went with Sherman on the Atlanta campaign and on to Savannah and to the sea.. Subsequently, he participated in the Carolina campaign and continued on the march to Washington. He was in active service with his company from the time of his enlistment until the close of the war and participated in the battle at Bentonville, N.C., and was in the grand review in the capital city—the most celebrated military pageant ever seen on the western hemisphere.



Sarah A. Hoffmaster

¹John Hoffmaster attested on March 19, 1915, to the Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Pensions, that "My present wife's [Sarah Anna Hare] former husband was Seymour Countryman married Sept. 7, 1865, divorced Sept. 4, 1867, at Montello, Marquette Co., Wis."

Returning to his home, Mr. Hoffmaster joined his brother Philip in a partnership, which was continued for about 30 years, or until 1894, and throughout this period they were engaged in general agricultural pursuits and brought their land under a high state of cultivation. In 1869 the Lake Shore Railroad was built and in 1874 they sold 11 acres from the southwest corner of their 80-acre tract to S. A. Buck, who platted the original town site. In 1876 the brothers platted the John Hoffmaster Addition, comprising about 8 acres from the south end of the 80-acre tract, including the site of the old home. Since that time John Hoffmaster has platted two more additions, the second in 1897 of 7 acres, and a third in 1905, comprising 9 acres, this making four additions in all to the town platted by Mr. Hoffmaster of this review and covering about 29 acres. He has erected a handsome residence on the site of the old home of his uncle John and has built other dwellings for rent. His son now operates the home farm.

In 1871 Mr. Hoffmaster was united in marriage to Miss Julia A. Baker, a daughter of Harvey Baker, one of the pioneer residents of Hopkins . . . Mrs. Hoffmaster was born in Hopkins Township in 1843. This marriage has been blessed with a son and daughter: Claud B., who now operates his father's farm, and Floy G., who became the wife of John McKinnon and died three months later, at the age of 30 years. Mrs. Hoffmaster passed away in 1882 after a happy married life of 11 years. A year later Mr. Hoffmaster was married to Miss Sarah A. Hare, of Allegan, where she was engaged in nursing. Their only child died in infancy.

In his political views, Mr. Hoffmaster is a stalwart Republican. . . . Both he and his wife are members of the Congregational Church, and he is identified with Briggs Post No. 80, G.A.R. and the National Protective Legion. He has tried to encourage enterprises for the good of the town and has served as supervisor here. . . .

—Extracted from *A Twentieth Century History of Allegan County, Michigan*, 1907

Susanna C. Hoffmaster m. John Nicolai (Married 3 Jul 1864)	30 Oct 1845*	31 Mar 1922**	
	26 Sep 1834/	2 Jan 1918**/	Franklin B. Nicolai 33
	Germany	cerebral apoplexy	Anna Mathilda " 33
			Edward Carl " 33
			William "Bill" Frederick " 33
			John Herman " 34
			Albert Hosea " 35
			Martha Amanda " 35
			Lydia Judith/Ida Lydia " 35
			Rose "Susie" Susanna " 35
			Peter " 35

[From St. Paul Lutheran Church's baptismal records I found that of these Nicolai children, Edward Carl was baptized *Karl Edward*, William Frederick *Wilhelm Friedrich* and John Herman *Johannes Hermann*. /pmc]

BACK ROW: Wilhelm "Bill" Friedrich Nicolai, Martha Amanda Nicolai, Johannes "John" Hermann Nicolai, Karl Edward Nicolai, Lydia Judith Nicolai, Franklin "Frank" B. Nicolai, Albert Hosea Nicolai and Anna Mathilda Nicolai FRONT ROW: John Nicolai, Rose "Susie" Susanna Nicolai, Peter Nicolai and Susanna C. (Hoffmaster) Nicolai, c. 1893•



-Courtesy of Tom Seelig

SUSANNA HOFFMASTER

[John and Susanna Nicolai] settled in Monterey Township, [Allegan Co.,] Mich., about 5 miles from Hopkins Township. [Their] 10 children [were] all born in Monterey Township.

Will and Rill were in ill health at the time and went into semi-retirement, but shortly after selling the store they started the city's first taxi service, headquartered on McCamly Street near the Michigan Central Railroad Co. tracks.

Even after so many years in business together, Rill and Will remained close, and when Will became bedridden in 1929, Rill would stop by his home each evening to visit.

One evening when Rill was not feeling well himself, he called a doctor, who told him to go home and go to bed. He did as ordered and died that night.

Louise's husband, Goddie Phillipps, had the responsibility to tell Will of Rill's death. When Phillipps got to Will's bedside, the twin spoke first.

"Rill died last night," he said.

"How did you know?" Phillipps asked.

"I knew because he didn't come to see me last night," Will replied.

Will refused to eat thereafter and complained that he had nothing to live for. Three months later, Will died.

—“Panorama,” *Enquirer and News*, Battle Creek, Mich., Sunday, Sept. 18, 1977

Ellen A. Hoffmaster	20 Jul 1864	9 Aug 1864	*Kalamazoo, Mich.	
Bessie Hoffmaster	20 Jan 1872	3 Feb 1872 b. Maplewood Cemetery; cholera		
Claud Burns Hoffmaster m. Cora Miller <i>(Married 20 Sep 1899 Monterey, Allegan Co., Mich.)</i>	6 Apr 1873 19 Oct 1874/ <i>Van Buren Co., Mich.</i>	9 Sep 1953 18 Jan 1968/ <i>Allegan, Allegan Co., Mich.</i>	Helen "Gertrude" Hoffmaster John Preston Marjory Katherine Floy G. Mona C. Robert William Roger Sherman	35 37 37 37 37 37 37
[Cora's parents: William H. Miller & Helen M. Henderson]				

C. B. Hoffmaster, potato shipper, walked into one of the stores one cold day last week, with a market basket on his arm, and asked for a “peck o' potatoes.” Struck us kind of funny, and that is why we are telling about it. Claud will have to put a bigger load into his cellar another season.

—*The Hopkins Booster*, Feb. 22, 1923

C. B. Hoffmaster was editor of the last *Congregational Herald* and did a good job. His daughters furnished the cover, which we might say was a beautiful piece of work.

—*The Hopkins Booster*, April 5, 1923

C. B. Hoffmaster is driving a new Studebaker car.

—“Boosterettes,” *The Hopkins Booster*, May 3, 1923

C. B. Hoffmaster & W. H. Watkins were in Chicago several days last week on business.

—“Boosterettes,” *The Hopkins Booster*, Jan. 10, 1924

Hopkins Station, Allegan Co., Mich.		
Grace "Floy" Hoffmaster	7 Mar 1875/	19 Apr 1905*
m. John D. McKinnon	c. 1866	X _____
<i>(Married 17 Jan 1905 Allegan Co., Mich.)</i>		

-Courtesy of Patsy (McKinnon) Hills

[John's parents: Margaret M. Forrest and Roderick McKinnon]



MCKINNON BROTHERS

The firm of McKinnon Brothers, composed of John D. and Will J. McKinnon, has for 10 years handled practically all of the stock shipped from Hopkins, in which connection they are well-known business men, controlling a trade that brings to them a good annual income. Both are natives of Barry County, Mich., and came to Allegan County in 1878.

John McKinnon and "Floy" Hoffmaster

Reared under the parental roof and educated in the public schools, [the brothers] joined forces in a business partnership, which for 10 years has made them the leading stock dealers of this part of the county. For a decade they have handled and shipped stock at Hopkins, buying and selling horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. They buy stock which they place upon their farm and when in fit condition make shipments. They ship from one to five carloads of hogs each week and often a carload of cattle. Their business has given farmers a regular market, so that at any time they can sell. During a year the firm pays out about \$75,000 for stock. They make Hopkins their central point of shipment and in addition to their operations here they also own and conduct a farm of 180 acres. Their attention, however, is principally given to the purchase and sale of stock. Their land is a part of the old Hoffmaster farm. It adjoins the corporation limits and a part of it has been platted, whereon each of the brothers has erected a home. They are also agents for the International Harvester Company, which connection has been maintained for four years.

Both brothers have been married. John wedded Floy G. Hoffmaster, who died three months later. William wedded Mary Hull, and they have four children—Kenneth, Ethel, Forrest and Keith.

—Extracted from *A Twentieth Century History of Allegan County, Michigan*, 1907

**erisypales*

Ray G. Hoffmaster	8 Jan 1884	24 Sep 1884 b. <i>Maplewood Cemetery; chest infection</i>		
Franklin B. Nicolai	2 Apr 1865*	15 Apr 1932 b. <i>St. Paul Lutheran Cem., Hopkins Twp.; sarcoma</i>		
Anna Mathilda Nicolai m. Fred Richard Maskey/Mäske (Married 28 Nov 1888 Allegan)	27 Apr 1867* 7 Feb 1861/ <i>Allegan, Mich.</i>	17 Apr 1945 7 Apr 1942	Fred Gustav Maskey/Mäske Susan Anna " Albert Wilhelm " Lucille L. " Viola H. " Bernice L. "	38 38 38 38 38 38
Edward Carl Nicolai m. (1) Auguste Knuth (Married 25 Apr 1895 St. Paul Lutheran, Hopkins Twp., Mich.)	28 Aug 1869* 18 Feb 1875/ <i>Germany</i>	30 Jun 1945 24 May 1928/ <i>chronic paren-</i> <i>chymatous nephritis</i>	Ida "Edith" Louise Nicolai Ruth Elizabeth " Velma Emma " Frieda Wilhelmina " Evelyn Burnice Albertha " Marion Viola " Edwin "Eddie" Carl " Minnie Caroline "	38 38 38 38 38 38 38 39
(2) Laura (Knobloch) Morris	3 Oct 1876	27 Oct 1963	[Laura's parents: Charles Knobloch & Louisa M. Tiefenthal]	
William "Bill" Frederick Nicolai m. (1) Emma Josephine Lohmolder (Married 17 Oct 1894)	23 Dec 1871* 27 Apr 1876	11 Oct 1949 11 May 1896	Hulda Martha Christina Nicolai Ileta Metha " Cleo Anna Helena " Theodore "Ted" William " Robert "Barney" John "	39 39 39 39 39
(2) Elizabeth "Lizzie" Ann Schwarz	30 Nov 1877/	5 Jun 1960		
	<i>Monterey, Hessen, Germany</i>			
	<i>Allegan Co., Mich.</i>			

WILLIAM "BILL" FREDERICK NICOLAI

William F. Nicolai, whose intense and well-directed activity has led to the upbuilding of one of the leading business concerns of Hopkins, has extended the scope of his labors and is now dealing in flour, feed, grain and hay, and operating the elevator at this point. He is one of the native sons of the county, having been born in Monterey Township on Dec. 23, 1871.

William F. Nicolai spent the days of his boyhood and youth upon the old homestead, and, after acquiring his education, engaged upon his business career as a clerk, spending seven or eight years in the employ of W. H. Dendel in his store in Hopkins.

He then started his present business four years ago, opening simply a warehouse with machinery. That was destroyed by fire on Feb. 2, 1905, causing a loss of nearly \$1,000, but, with characteristic energy, Mr. Nicolai at once began rebuilding and erected a cement structure 30 x 60 feet and two stories in height, with new and improved feed machinery and elevator with a 28-hp gas engine. He has about \$4,000 invested in this plant.

He handles grain quite extensively, shipping 30,000 bushels of wheat in 1905. He also makes that much grain, which is made into feed for the local trade. He does an annual business of \$40,000, and his trade is constantly growing. He has been very successful since starting out on his own account, and, although he suffered through the fire, he has steadily advanced in his business life and is now in control of a profitable enterprise.

-Courtesy of Tom Seelig

Mr. Nicolai was married in 1895 to Emma Lohnolder (*sic*), who died a year and a half later in 1897. In 1899 Mr. Nicolai was married to Lissie (*sic*) Schwartz, who was born in Germany, and they have three children, Hulda, Leta and Cleo.

In his political views, Mr. Nicolai is a stalwart Democrat but without aspiration for office. Fraternally, he is connected with the National Protective Legion. He has made a creditable record during his connection with the business interests of Hopkins, displaying enterprise and keen discernment, whereby he is able to overcome difficulties and obstacles and make steady progress on the high road to success.



Hannah Mast and
Rev. John Nicolai

—Extracted from "Hopkins Happenings,"
by Rosemary (McKinnon) Hitt, The Wayland Globe, Sept. 30, 1975

John Herman Nicolai	31 Oct 1873*	15 Mar 1941	Milton Alfred Nicolai	39
m. (1) Hannah Christina Mast	5 Jul 1873	25 Mar 1920/	Esther Susannah Beata "	39
(Married 22 Feb 1898 Astoria, Clatsop Co., Oreg.)		pulmonary	Minetta Ernestina Bertha "	39
		tuberculosis	Linda Caroline "	40
			Doris Martha "	40
			Palma Sophia "	40
			Agness Anne "	40
(2) Anna Augusta (Filter) Kreuger	19 Aug 1880/	21 May 1959		
(Married 10 Dec 1922)		Germany		

JOHN HERMAN NICOLAI

John Herman Nicolai was born in Monterey Twp., Allegan Co., Mich. [He] grew up on the Nicolai farm in Monterey Township near Hopkins Village [and] attended church at the German Lutheran Church (now St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church) in Hopkins [Township]. When John was 18 [in 1891], the pastorate of the church was entrusted to Candidate Carl Binhammer.

[After ordination] Rev. Carl Binhammer was pastor of the church until Oct. 8, 1895. During [this period] he had a profound impact upon John. (On May 3, 1892, Rev. Binhammer married Emma Sophia Mast, the daughter of Gottlob Mast of Ann Arbor, Mich. Through Rev. Binhammer and his wife Emma, John [Nicolai] met Emma's sister, Hannah Christina Mast.) It was Rev. Binhammer's influence that led John to enter the Saginaw Theological Seminary at Saginaw, Mich.

John entered the seminary with his boyhood friend, Otto Eckert from Allegan, Mich. (Otto and John were two of the three graduates of the seminary's first graduating class in 1897.) After graduation John went to Astoria, Oreg., to do missionary work. While there he sent for Hannah Mast [and married]. (It is believed that Hannah's sister, Clara Mast, encouraged Hannah to make the trip to Astoria to marry John.)

After 18 months of missionary work in Astoria, John accepted a call to the Lutheran Church at Harvel, Ill. Daughter, Esther, was born [there]. In October 1900 John moved to Monroe, Mich., where he accepted a call to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Monroe Township. While in Monroe, four daughters were born. From June 1909 until May 1914, John was pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Riga, Mich. Daughter, Agness, was born [there]. As a parent John was a stern disciplinarian but fair in judgment.

John then became pastor of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Adrian, Mich. He remained [there] for 27 years until the time of his death, the result of a heart attack. [After his wife, Hannah, died in 1920,] in 1922 John married the widow, Anna Augusta (Filter) Krueger.

John was a highly principled man. He fought for those things which he believed to be right. His ideas were considered to be ahead of his time. During his tenure as pastor of St. Stephen's in Adrian, the church phased out the German language. By 1926 the minutes of church meetings were recorded in English. On March 27, 1927, the congregation dedicated a new church building at Center and Toledo Streets with both English and German sermons conducted in the same service. In 1936 Pastor Nicolai unsuccessfully asked the pastoral conference if it would be permissible for St. Stephen's to grant the right to vote to women. By 1941 services were conducted every Sunday in English and only once a month in German.

Mary Agatha HOFFMASTER

NAME	BORN	DIED	CHILDREN	Page
Mary Agatha Hoffmaster ¹	30 Apr 1812*	22 Apr 1901**	Mary A. Noggle	52
m. John Noggle	18 Dec 1798/	7 Nov 1856/	Abraham "	52
	Adams Co., Pa.	Monterey, Mich.; b. Poplar Hill Cem.	Sophia "	52
			Susanna "Susan" A. "	52
			John "	52
			George Frederick "	52
			Sarah B. "	53
			Christianna "Annie" "	53
			Elizabeth "	53
			Absolom "	53
			Nellie "	53
			Theodore J. "	53
			W. Henry "	53
			Frank L. "	54

*Fellbach, Germany

**Hopkins, Allegan Co., Mich.; b. Poplar Hill Cemetery,
Monterey Twp., Allegan Co., Mich.; chronic bronchitis

Mary A. Noggle	c. 1832‡	X _____		
Abraham Noggle m. Magdalena "Maggie" _____	24 Dec 1834‡ Jun 1837‡	20 Jan 1923** 25 Mar 1926/** "senile debility"	Mary I. Noggle Ella L. " Charles "Charlie" Theodore "	54 54 54
Sophia Noggle m. Henry Sebright	1 Jan 1837‡ 9 Jun 1832	3 Aug 1906** 12 Sep 1915**	John H. Sebright Cora A. "	55 55
(Married 26 Jan 1857 Allegan, Allegan Co., Mich., Daniel Bush, Min.)				
Susanna "Susan" A. Noggle m. Durkee Calkins Ingerson	14 Dec 1838* 25 Jun 1830/	20 Jan 1921† 2 Jul 1903†	Harry Raymond Ingerson Ira Burdette " Sarah "Agnes" " Seymour Lee " Mary Edna "	55 55 55 55 55
(Married 27 Nov 1857 Monterey Twp., Monkton Ridge, Addison Co., Vt. Allegan Co., Mich., by E. D. Granger, J.P.)				
[Durkee's parents: Ira Ingerson & Sarah Bidwell]				

Durkee taught school in Wayland, Mich., in 1853. He was a justice of the peace and Civil War veteran.

—Karon (Hoffmaster) Dunifin

John Noggle	_____	X _____		
George Frederick Noggle m. Harriet "Hattie" Buck	14 Dec 1842‡ c. 1850 Mich.	17 Oct 1928 X _____	Edith "Ethel" Noggle	55
(Married 3 Mar 1867 Hopkins, Allegan Co., Mich., by D. C. Ingerson, J.P.)				

HOPKINS, Sept. 8—Here are two survivors of the famous 128 who made the capture of Jeff Davis during the Civil War, hale and hearty. They are John W[illiam] Linsley,² left, of this place and George Nogges (sic), right, of Tustin. Both were members of Company L, 4th Mich Cavalry. There has been considerable discussion as to who was the last survivor, but so far this statement cannot be made.

—From an undated local newspaper

¹Was Mary the second wife of John Noggle?

²John W. [Linsley], or Billy as he was called, lost his arms and was blinded in one eye and deaf in one ear [from an accident while] loading a cannon at a 4th of July celebration in 1876. This happened just east of and across the highway from . . . Maplewood [Cemetery].

—History of Hopkins Township,
Compiled in 1952 by Lena B. Martin, p. 8

TWO SURVIVING CAPTORS OF JEFF DAVIS OF CIVIL WAR



Sarah B. Noggle	c. 1844‡	X_____	4 children
m. Albert Renick	c. 1843	X_____	
(Married 1 Oct 1865 Allegan, Allegan Co., Mich.)			

Christianna "Annie" Noggle	c. 1846‡	X_____	
m. James W. Granger	c. 1847	X_____	
(Married 16 Dec 1866 Trowbridge Twp., Allegan Co., Mich., by John B. Allen, J.P.)			

Elizabeth Noggle	10 Oct 1848	14 Feb 1920	
m. John Albert Sherborne	_____	X_____	

Absolom Noggle	10 Aug 1850	May 1934††	
m. Margaret "Ella" Armstrong	2 Apr 1853	X_____	
(Married 30 Oct 1875)			

Roy L. Noggle	55
Faye "	55
Rex Armstrong "	55
Max "	55

Absolom Noggle built a small pulpit and handcarved a cross and the words Rock of Ages on it for the Hopkins Community Reformed Church, which can still be found there today.

—pmc

OBITUARY

Absolom Noggle, 83, former resident of Allegan, died Monday at the home of his son, Rex Noggle of Ann Arbor. Surviving are the son, one granddaughter and one grandson. Funeral at 2 P.M. Wednesday at Gorden's Funeral Residence in Allegan. Burial in Oakwood Cemetery [Allegan] under Masonic auspices.

—From an undated newspaper

Handwritten comments from reverse of photo at right: Roy [was] killed in an airplane accident in California after World War I. He was an airplane photographer in Hawaii. Absolom was Grandmother Hoffmaster's half-brother [and] Grandpa's nephew.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Absolom Noggle, Estella (Payne) Noggle, Roy Noggle, Ella (Armstrong) Noggle and Roy's son (Halford?), sitting on Absolom's knee.



Nellie Noggle	_____	c. 1918	
m. David Kennedy	_____	X_____	

Theodore J. Noggle	9 Jan 1855‡	23 Dec 1925	
m. Lois E. Burgess	c. 1865 Canada	c. 1925/ uterine cancer	
[Lois's parents: Henry Burgess & Ruth Moote]			

Mary Ruth Noggle	
Dorothy "	b. 22 Jul 1906

W. Henry Noggle	19 Jan 1860	X_____	
m. Hattie Deffendorf	27 Aug 1863	c. 1934	
(Married 6 Apr 1893)			

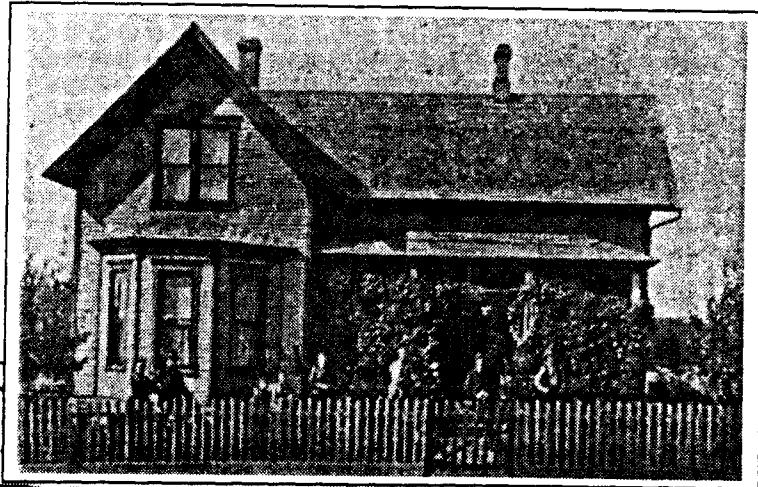
Esta May Noggle	55
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OBITUARY

Mrs. Hattie Noggle, aged 71, the wife of W. H. Noggle, passed away Friday afternoon at her home on Cascade Road. Besides her husband she is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Esta Rice, one grandson and four sisters. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 Monday morning at the residence and at the Community Church at Hopkins at 2:30 Monday afternoon. Interment in Maplewood Cemetery at Hopkins.

—From an undated local newspaper

The Family and Residence of
W. Henry Noggle, Hopkins Station,
Allegan Co., Mich., c. 1897*



The Noggle & Gordon
general store, Hopkins
Station, Mich., c. 1900*

Frank L. Noggle
m. Lulu R. Gates
(Married 24 May 1888)

25 Apr 1862 X
8 Mar 1870 Mich. c. 1963

Millie M. Noggle

56

[‡]Ohio *New Springfield, Mahoning Co., Ohio **b. Poplar Hill Cem., Monterey Twp., Allegan Co., Mich.
[†]b. Maplewood Cem., Hopkins Twp., Allegan Co., Mich. ††b. Oakwood Cem., Allegan, Allegan Co., Mich.

Mary I. Noggle

c. 1860 9 Jul 1860**

Ella L. Noggle

11 Oct 1864* 7 Sep 1900 Funeral from Congregational Church, Hopkins Station**

m. William "Harry" Henry Buskirk 6 Jun 1865 4 Mar 1943 City General Hospital, Grand Rapids, Kent Co., Mich.
(Married 30 Apr 1896 Grand Rapids, Kent Co., Mich.)

Charles "Charlie" Theodore Noggle

17 Mar 1867 5 May 1952**

m. Susie E. Hudson

c. 1873/ 11 May 1894/ [Susie's parents: James G. Hudson & Frances V. ____]

(Married 11 Mar 1893 Allegan Co., Mich.) Sterling, N.Y. Allegan, Allegan Co., Mich.; "consumption of bowels"

Invitations are out announcing the marriage of Miss Susie E. Hudson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Pickett of this village [and James G. Hudson] to Mr. Charles Theodore Noggle of Hopkins at the residence of the bride's parents Wed. evening next.

—The Saturday Globe, Wayland, Mich., March 4, 1893

Jakobi a/k/a Jacob HOFFMASTER

Jacob Hoffmaster, twin to John Hoffmaster, born in Lancaster Co., Pa., died in Monterey Twp., Allegan Co., Mich., and buried in St. Paul Lutheran Church Cemetery, is listed in the 1850 Census for Poland Township, Mahoning Co., Ohio, as the head of household 1053 and his occupation laborer. Also listed are Mariah Wise (*sic*), Jacob's wife, and Elizabeth and Rebecca, Jacob's two daughters. In the household with them were James White [Weiß, German for "white"], 70, and possibly Mariah's father; Barbara White, 58; and George White, 36, a weaver by trade. (It is likely the census taker mistook the name Wise for Weiss, German for white.)

Jake Hoffmaster came to Michigan and settled on what came to be known as the Emanuel Hoffmaster farm in Monterey Township. He came by boat to Detroit and by stage and team to Kalamazoo and Hopkins.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>DIED</u>	<u>CHILDREN</u>	<u>Page</u>
Jacob Hoffmaster	3 Dec 1817	5 Feb 1865	Elizabeth Hoffmaster	57
m. Mariah <u>Wrissler?</u> Wise	5 Feb 1817/	30 Sep 1887*	Rebecca "	57
	<i>Lancaster Co., Pa.</i>		Jacob M. "	57
			Emanuel "	57
			Laura "	58
			Samuel "	58
			Fannie "	58

*Monterey, Allegan Co., Mich.; stroke of the brain

Elizabeth Hoffmaster	c. 1846	19 Oct 1864*b. St. Paul Lutheran Cem., Hopkins Twp., Mich.		
Rebecca Hoffmaster	Feb 1851	14 Nov 1861*b. St. Paul Lutheran Cem., Hopkins Twp., Mich.		
Jacob M. Hoffmaster	_____	19 Dec 1856 (<i>Infancy?</i>)		
Emanuel Hoffmaster	9 Sep 1852**	30 Aug 1935***	Leon Elwood Hoffmaster	59
m. Nellie B. Defendorf	20 Jul 1858 <i>Mich.</i> c. 1950/		Clare N. "	59
(Married 3 Apr 1881 Pine Plains Twp., Allegan Co., Mich.)		Lawton, Van Buren Co., Mich.	Twins Carroll Vorn "	60
[Nellie's parents: Nelson Defendorf (1825-1898) and Mary _____]			Gladies Mara "	60

FORMER HOPKINSITE MARKS 88TH YEAR (1946)

A family party was held Sunday by Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Weaver, of Lawton, honoring the 88th birthday of the latter's mother, Mrs. Nellie B. Hoffmaster. Guests included Mrs. Hoffmaster's twin sons, Carroll and wife of Hanover, and Clare of Kalamazoo; a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Iva Hoffmaster of Hopkins, and three grandsons, Lyle Hoffmaster and wife of Allegan, Elwood Hoffmaster and wife of Hopkins, and Clare R. Weaver of Lawton, formerly of the Army Air Corps and now a student at Western Michigan College, Kalamazoo. Another grandson, Nelson C. Hoffmaster, a pharmacist mate s/c, is stationed at Great Lakes but could not be present at the gathering.

Mrs. Nellie Hoffmaster was born in Grand Rapids July 20, 1858, and until her 19th birthday lived in Rochester, N.Y. Returning to Michigan, she resided in Allegan County until 11 years ago, following the death of her husband, when she came to Lawton to make her home with her daughter, Mrs. Raymond (Gladies) Weaver and husband. Before her marriage, Mrs. Hoffmaster taught school. She is an active woman for her age; her hearing and eyesight are good and she walks regularly to church and frequently makes trips downtown on various errands.

—Taken from Laura (Wamhoff) Hoffmaster's scrapbooks



Emanuel & Nellie (Defendorf) Hoffmaster

Courtesy of Karen (Hoffmaster) Dunlin

Another sad incident to a Hopkins citizen must be recorded. Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Hoffmaster were visiting their son, Carroll and family of Hanover, its being Mr. Hoffmaster's habit in the twilight hour to go for a walk. The path he had taken this time led across the railroad. Because of his age, his sight and hearing were both impaired, and he failed to notice the approaching train which killed him instantly. Had he lived 10 days longer, he would have been 83. His birthplace was New Springfield, Ohio. When one year old, his parents moved to the farm one mile west of Hopkins where he lived continuously until about 18 years ago, when he and Mrs. Hoffmaster moved into the village. He was married April 27, 1881, to Nellie Defendorf of Mill Grove. Four children, Leon who lives on the home farm, Carroll V. of Hanover and Clare N. of Athens (twins), and Mrs. Raymond Weaver of Lawton, were born of this union, and all have grown to useful manhood and womanhood. There are four grandchildren. Mr. & Mrs. Hoffmaster's golden wedding anniversary was celebrated in the Community Church four years ago. Mrs. Katherine Kanelly, who is from April to September older than Emanuel Hoffmaster, is the daughter of Joseph Hoffmaster, Emanuel was the son of Jacob, and Wesley is a son of John Hoffmaster. (Jacob and John were twins.) Their father, George, came from Germany, and there are many descendants of this branch of the family near Hopkins.

—Taken from Laura (Wamhoff) Hoffmaster's scrapbooks



-Courtesy of Karon (Hotmaster) Dunifir

STANDING, L. TO R., Leon Hoffmaster, Emanuel Hoffmaster, Clare Hoffmaster, Nellie (Defendorf) Hoffmaster, Iva (Weaver) Hoffmaster, Carroll Hoffmaster, Isabel (Squire) Hoffmaster, Lyle Hoffmaster, Gladies (Hoffmaster) Weaver. SITTING, L. TO R., Elwood Hoffmaster, Nelson Hoffmaster, Clare Weaver.

Laura Hoffmaster m. George D. Gaskill	6 Feb 1856	_____	Gracie May Gaskell William Henry " Lee Walton "	60 60 60
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Samuel Hoffmaster c. 1856 9 Nov 1861^{*b}, St. Paul Lutheran Cem., Hopkins Twp., Mich.

Fannie Hoffmaster c. 1864

*Monterey Twp., Allegan Co., Mich.; "Fever" epidemic.

***Hanover, Mich.: b. Poplar Hill Cem., Allegan Co., Mich.*

***New Springfield, Mahoning Co., Ohio

Leon Elwood Hoffmaster m. Iva Weaver	6 Feb 1884* 14 Apr 1890‡	13 May 1942*** 16 Dec 1962/	Elwood Raymond Hoffmaster Lyle E.	60 60
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[Iva's parents: Edmond Weaver and Mary C. Laughlin]

-Courtesy of Karon (Hoffmaster) Dunifin



Iva (Weaver) & Leon Hoffmaster

Bradenton, Fla.; b. Maplewood Cem., Hopkins Twp., Allegan Co., Mich.; stomach cancer

BARN DAMAGE NEAR \$5,000 LIGHTNING SCORES DIRECT HIT ON ILIFF BARN TUESDAY NIGHT

The barn on a farm owned by Mrs. Ada Iliff, Hopkins, was completely destroyed when a fire late Tuesday night, which was started when a bolt of lightning scored a direct hit, went undiscovered until it was out of control. With the exception of one heifer calf, all the stock saved from the burning structure. Damage to the building and crops which were stored in it was estimated at more than \$5,000.

The bolt struck at approximately 11:30 and was not discovered by members of the Leon Hoffmaster family until it had reached a point where control was impossible. Residents said the barn, one of the largest in the vicinity, was equipped with lightning arrestors. The building is located on what is known as the Calkins farm.

Hopkins Fire Department was called to the scene, but the fire had long been out of control when the trucks arrived. The Department maintained a stream of water on nearby buildings to protect them. In the excitement of the fire, neighbors who had led the stock out of the blazing building let them go and the terrorized animals ran away.

—The Hopkins Booster (date unknown)

Courtesy of Karon (Hoffmaster) Dunifin



KICKED BY A HORSE

Leon Hoffmaster, a farmer living one mile west of Hopkins, was kicked by a horse on Friday of last week. No bones were broken, but the misfortune will incapacitate him for sometime. He has been having more than his share of ill luck this season.

—The Hopkins Booster (date unknown)

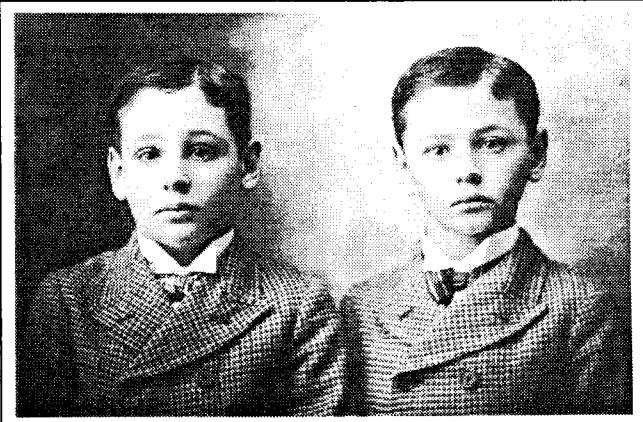
OBITUARY

HOPKINS—Leon Elwood Hoffmaster, 58, died Wednesday night at Allegan Health Center after a short illness. A native of Monterey Township, Mr. Hoffmaster had lived most of his life in Hopkins. Surviving are the widow, Iva; two sons, Elwood Raymond and Lyle E.; his mother, Mrs. Nellie (Defendorf) Hoffmaster of Lawton; two brothers, Clare of Kalamazoo and Carroll of Hanover; and a sister, Mrs. Gladies Weaver of Lawton. Funeral services will be held at 2 P.M. Saturday at the Klinesteker Funeral Home in Hopkins. Burial will be in Maplewood Cemetery.

—Taken from Laura (Wamhoff) Hoffmaster's scrapbooks

Clare N. Hoffmaster 5 Dec 1889* c. 1964 Allegan;
(Never married.) b. w/parents Poplar
Hill Cem.

The twins: Clare, left, & Carroll Hoffmaster, right



Courtesy of Karon (Hoffmaster) Dunifin

Clare Hoffmaster of Centerville was with his parents on Christmas.

—“Boosterettes,” The Hopkins Booster, Dec. 28, 1922

John S. HOFFMASTER

John Hoffmaster was born in Lancaster Co., Pa. He and his wife, Racheal, born in Springfield Twp., Mahoning Co., Ohio, made their first home in Ohio on the Pennsylvania state line, living part of the time in Pennsylvania. John was a shoemaker by trade but later took up farming with his brothers. The first four children were born in the Ohio home.

In the spring of 1854, the family moved to Hopkins Township, Allegan Co., Mich., going by train to Kalamazoo and then by stage and ox team to Hopkins. They stayed a few weeks with John's twin brother, Jacob, who had come to Michigan the year before.

John bought 160 heavily timbered acres: the E 1/2, SE 1/4, Section 19 and the W 1/2, SW 1/4, Section 20 of Hopkins Township.

John built a log house at once, and the family moved into their new home around May 10, 1854. (This log house was built on the site known as the William Nicolai home or the John Hoffmaster home in the Village of Hopkins.) The last three children were born in this home.

The family's nearest neighbors were their uncle Jacob Hoffmaster and Amos Krug, a farmer who lived about a mile west through the woods. There were no roads at that time—only a wagon trail through the woods.

In the fall of 1854, John's brother, Gottlieb Hoffmaster, came to Michigan and bought the E 80 acres of John's farm—or properly speaking: "forest land"—and built a house about one-third of a mile east of John's.

Soon, other neighbors moved into the area: Hack Pierce on the 80 acres west of John's and Ransom Durkee's on the place known as the Henry Schaeffer farm. At that time, there was no road east or west on the section line—only a trail through the woods, and there was no bridge over Bear Creek.

The Hoffmaster children received their first schooling in Michigan at District School No. 4 located on the NW corner of Section 20. (At one time, the school was about 80 percent Hoffmasters.)

In the spring of 1865, John Hoffmaster sold his home and farm to his nephew, John Hoffmaster, the son of Gottlieb Hoffmaster, and bought Edgar Allen's 120-acre farm in Section 35, Hopkins Twp. His closest neighbors were his uncle Durkee [Calkins] Ingerson [who married Susanna "Susan" A. Noggle], Frank Hickock, the Brewers and Bilderbecks.

NAME	BORN	DIED	CHILDREN	Page
John S. Hoffmaster	3 Dec 1817*	3 Nov 1895	Reuben Hoffmaster	64
m. Racheal H. Noggle/Nagel <i>(Married 10 Apr 1845)</i>	10 Sep 1824**	26 May 1908	Lovina "	64
[Racheal's parents: Johannes Nagel & Sarah Mauen]				
*Lancaster County, Pa.				
**Springfield Twp., Mahoning Co., Ohio				
Reuben Hoffmaster	8 Jan 1846	19 Feb 1865	Jackson, Jackson Co., Mich.; buried St. Paul's Cem.	

Reuben Hoffmaster, age 19, a farmer born in Mahoning, Ohio, according to the Volunteer Enlistment document he signed ("Hofmaster"), enlisted at Jackson, Jackson County, Mich., unassigned, in the 13th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Company H, on Feb. 7, 1865, for one year. He was mustered in on Feb. 8, 1865. Pvt. Hoffmaster died Feb. 19, 1865, of "pneumonia typhoidez" in the Post Hospital, Jackson, Mich., after having served in the Civil War for 11 days! Reuben had a "fair" complexion, blue eyes, black hair and stood 5'6" tall. The inventory of his personal belongings shows that his father, John ("Hofmaster"), took possession of 1 hat, 1 cap, 1 great coat, 1 uniform coat, 1 blouse, 1 pr. trowsers (*sic*), 2 pr. cotton drawers, 2 flannel shirts, 1 pr. boots, 2 pr. socks and 1 blanket on Feb. 22, 1865.

—Excerpted from copies of original Civil War documents

Lovina Hoffmaster	4 Dec 1849 Ohio	20 Dec 1875	Alta Alida Hoke	66
m. Leander Abraham Hoke <i>(Married 7 Oct 1868 Allegan Co., Mich.) Richland Co., Ohio Otsego, Mich.</i>	29 Sep 1847/	27 Mar 1928/	Schuyler "	66
[Leander's parents: Nathaniel Hoke c. 1815 & Maria Dosch 1813-1872]				

Albert James Hoffmaster m. (1) Adelia A. Mason <i>(Married 10 Dec 1876 Wayland, Allegan Co., Mich.)</i>	30 Jan 1852 <i>Ohio</i> 22 Nov 1915 27 Jun 1854 <i>Ohio</i> 15 Aug 1885 <i>(Married 13 Jun 1891 Allegan Co., Mich.)</i>	Lee Hoffmaster Wyatt " Vida " Burr "	66 67 67 67
(2) Evelyn "Abbie" E. Ashley <i>(Married 13 Jun 1891 Allegan Co., Mich.)</i>	c. 1871 <i>Allegan</i> 31 Aug 1916	Lefa " Elfa M. " Albert "	68 68 68
[Abbie's parents: Orville Ashley & ____]			
Martha Elizabeth Hoffmaster m. Alexander "Alex" Hurd Rowe <i>(Married 17 Mar 1876 Allegan Co., Mich.)</i>	7 Nov 1853 <i>Pa.</i> 2 Mar 1934* 2 May 1851/ 23 Mar 1941/ <i>Watson Twp., Allegan Co., Mich.</i> <i>Allegan Co., Mich.</i>	Bertha Rowe Leona B. " Ralph " Clark W. " Maud Sophia "	68 68 68 68 68
[Alex's parents: William W. G. Rowe & Alice Barbero]			
Sophia Amelia Hoffmaster m. William J. Grotemut <i>(Married 12 Mar 1889)</i>	15 Apr 1856 8 May 1913 28 Aug 1859/ 21 May 1939 <i>Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Co., Mich.</i>	Wilhelmina H. Grotemut	69

Eighty-four years ago, two handmade baby dresses received first prize at Allegan's county fair. This year, they emerged from an attic storage place, where they had been carefully tucked away for nearly a century, to capture another first place ribbon.

One dress was made by Miss Sophia Hoffmaster of Hopkins in 1884. The work on the dress is exceptionally fine and the lace is hand-knit. It was entered in the Allegan County Fair the same year, where it won a blue ribbon Immediately after, Miss Hoffmaster gave the dress to her sister, Mrs. Alexander [Martha Elizabeth Hoffmaster] Rowe of Hopkins, to whom five children were born, so it came to good use; though it was, of course, only worn on the finer occasions. One of the children, Mrs. Randall [Maud Sophia *née* Rowe] Barrett of Allegan, now has the dress and offered it to the 1967 Allegan County Fair for showing.

—Extracted from an undated 1967 *Allegan County News & Gazette*



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Roxie, Arlien,
Mason and Carl Hoffmaster

Isaiah Hoffmaster	8 Jul 1858 20 Nov 1873/ <i>Hopkins, Allegan Co., Mich.</i> **	
Wesley John Hoffmaster m. Rella E. Ross <i>(Married 2 Jul 1884)</i>	23 Aug 1860 8 Nov 1943**** 22 Jan 1863 12 Feb 1934	Roxie Hoffmaster Carl Ross " Arlien " Mason W. " Tressa Frieda "
[Rella's parents: William Ross & Matilda ____]		69 69 72 72 73



Wesley and Rella (Ross)
Hoffmaster*

were made by Gorden [Funeral Home]. Surviving are the husband, Wesley J. Hoffmaster; two sons, Carl

OBITUARY

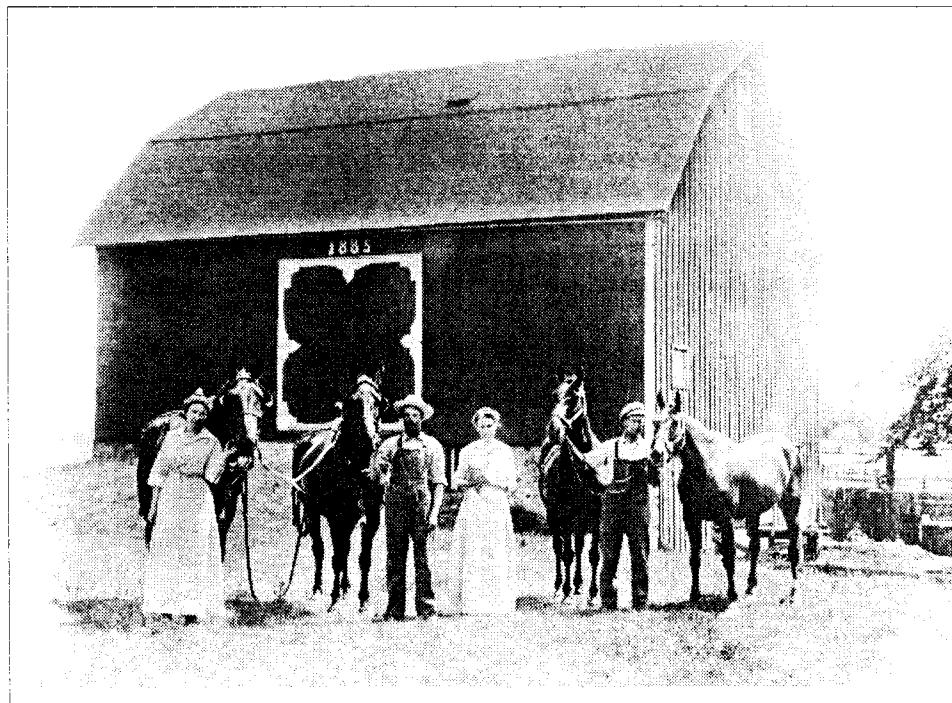
Wesley John Hoffmaster was born in a log cabin on the site of the Gorden Funeral Home, Hopkins, Allegan Co., Mich. He lived most of his life on a farm three miles southeast of [Hopkins], retiring to his residence in the Village where he subsequently died. Wesley John was a charter member of the Hopkins Community Reformed Church, a member of the local Order of Masons and a member and master of the Hopkins Grange.

OBITUARY

Rella E. Hoffmaster, 71 years of age, passed away suddenly in the home of her sister, Mrs. John King of Hopkins, Monday night. Funeral services are to be held this (Thursday) morning at 10:30 from the Community Church in Hopkins with burial in Maplewood Cemetery at Ohio Corners. Arrangements



Ruth (Baird) Hoffmaster, Carl Hoffmaster, Adah (Hodge) & Mont Baird, possibly c. 1915•



Ruth & Carl Hoffmaster, Adah (holding cat) & Mont Baird, possibly c. 1915•

That is what I've been leading up to with these six pages [of my letter]—your statement about Harold's father's driving stagecoach at Yellowstone! Carl Hoffmaster has always been an interesting figure to me. I understand he was out here and worked for the Haven Seed Co. when I was born in 1912. Did you know he drove teams down on the peatlands where the company leased land near Newport Bay? They had to put wooden "shoes" on the horses' feet so they wouldn't sink into the soft peat.

—Letter from Sherley (Hoffmaster) Warner dated 1982



My Growing Up Included a Country School . . .

by Venila (Fisher) Hoffmaster

I'll never forget going to a one-room school (Hooker) where eight grades were taught. We walked to school, and it was more than a mile on country roads.

The furnace sat in one corner and the water cooler in another. Part of the time, a couple of us students had to go to the nearest house and carry a pail of water for the rest of the pupils. There was a pump on the grounds, but it didn't work all the time. There were about 30 kids in the eight grades.

Discipline was to stay in during recess, part of the noon hour or after school. Depending on what we had done, sometimes we'd have to write "I won't whisper anymore" 100 times before we could go home!

We played games outdoors when the weather was nice. When it was rainy or snowing, we stayed inside and entertained ourselves with quiet games.

My first teacher was Mrs. Beatrice Stout, and the next year she married and my new teacher was Mrs. Ubell. Second or third grade was Miss Ring. Then we moved near Alto and attended Morse Lake and had a nice teacher, Mrs. Fairchild. I also had Esther Thaler and Ilah Warner. One year Olive Finkbeiner taught us and then she married and became Mrs. Halloran. Then, for eighth grade, we were living in Lowell, so I attended a city school. My teachers were Mrs. Berneice Smith, Mrs. Reynolds, Miss Dorothy Roth and Mr. R. W. Finch, 1933-34.

I always liked school.

What Was the Grocery Store Like When You Were 10 Years Old?

by Venila (Fisher) Hoffmaster

I'll never forget our grocery stores. They were small compared to the big supermarkets of today and didn't have the selections either—just two or three brands of each item.

We didn't have any shopping carts because the store wasn't big.

When we ordered coffee, we told the man how to grind it and it went into the coffee sack.

My mom didn't get all the groceries and other stuff because she never drove a car. But Dad would have to go to the feed mill after feed for the cows. Before we had a car, he would go with a team of horses and the wagon. I liked to go with him because he would stop at Finkbeiner's little store, and I would get some candy. My favorite was butterscotch suckers, and Dad would pick up a few groceries. We sometimes went on a Saturday night, and there were a lot of people on the streets. We did a lot of visiting on the sidewalk or street corners.

We could buy a loaf of bread for 13¢, but my mom made and baked our bread. People took baskets of eggs to the store and traded them for groceries during the Depression.

My folks traded mostly at the A&P store in Wayland. We had a big garden so we didn't buy any vegetables. Mom had a flock of chickens, and we had our own beef and pork so we had our own meat. This was before refrigerators, so Mom canned the meat and always made a lot of ham and salt pork. They were put in crocks with lard poured over them. When we butchered a hog, we made all the fat into lard. We could tell when Mom made lard: she melted the fat and there was a peculiar odor to it.

What Did You Most Enjoy Doing With Your Family as You Were Growing Up?

by Venila (Fisher) Hoffmaster

I'll never forget when our family would go to the Ionia Free Fair when we lived in Lowell, Mich. I guess I was 13 and just fascinated with everything there. I liked the animal and 4-H exhibits, the horse races and the shows they put on in front of the grandstand. We usually took our dinner and sat on a blanket when we ate it.

I didn't know what a vacation was since we never took off from farming. Our chores were to carry in wood for two stoves. We also fed the chickens and got the eggs every day! When I was a little kid and the woodshed sat behind the house, I guess I got curious about my mom's hens setting on eggs. (The hens get so that they don't lay eggs but just get "broody," and that's when little chicks get started.) I had looked at the eggs and saw that they had little holes in them, so I threw them on the floor. My mother told me that these eggs were in the process of being hatched . . . It must have made a big impression on me because I can remember this story just as if it happened yesterday!

In the summer we had a big garden to work in, and my brothers (Charles and Ellwood) would work until Mom said it was time to go to the house. Dad also had a large pickle patch that we worked in. When the cucumbers were ready, we had to help pick them.

I drove horses on the hay wagon, and my mom drove them on the hayforks that took the hay up into the haymow. Another job I had was watching the cows where there were no fences. It was important to keep them in a grassy field and out of the cornfield!

We had popcorn real often and usually apples to eat in the evening.

I had a lot of fun growing up as I look back at those times.

What Was an Important Change You Have Seen in Your Lifetime?

by Venila (Fisher) Hoffmaster

Probably the single, most dramatic change I have witnessed has been in the area of electricity. It changed how things were done and that has been really important.

I can remember when Mom cooked on a wood-burning range in winter and a kerosene stove in summer. The range heated the kitchen and two bedrooms, while a wood- or coal-burning stove, located in the living room, heated the rest of the house and a small bedroom.

We cleaned with a carpet sweeper, broom, dust mop and dust cloth. The kitchen was cleaned with a mop, water and cleaner.

We had no electric lights until I was in high school. We used the kind of lamp that had a flame on the top end covered by a glass chimney and a wick in the kerosene. Lanterns were the lights outdoors.

There were no electric appliances such as can openers, razors, curling irons, washers, dryers or toasters.

We had some music when my husband Harold's folks and grandparents got their Edison phonograph that played wax cylinders. It needed to be cranked. We bought a new phonograph that played 78 rpm records, but it, too, needed to be hand-cranked. Finally, electricity came through, and we had radio and then television.

I can remember when my folks had to milk cows by hand, while others had Delco systems (a series of batteries charged by a gas-powered motor that generated electric current).

The wind made the windmill pump water, and the water was piped into the house and other buildings. Water was heated either on the stove in a boiler for wash water or in a reservoir for water that was part of the range. Taking a Saturday night bath was accomplished in a washtub in front of the kitchen stove.

What Did You Most Enjoy Doing With Your Family as You Were Growing Up?

by Venila (Fisher) Hoffmaster

I'll never forget when our family would go to the Ionia Free Fair when we lived in Lowell, Mich. I guess I was 13 and just fascinated with everything there. I liked the animal and 4-H exhibits, the horse races and the shows they put on in front of the grandstand. We usually took our dinner and sat on a blanket when we ate it.

I didn't know what a vacation was since we never took off from farming. Our chores were to carry in wood for two stoves. We also fed the chickens and got the eggs every day! When I was a little kid and the woodshed sat behind the house, I guess I got curious about my mom's hens setting on eggs. (The hens get so that they don't lay eggs but just get "broody," and that's when little chicks get started.) I had looked at the eggs and saw that they had little holes in them, so I threw them on the floor. My mother told me that these eggs were in the process of being hatched . . . It must have made a big impression on me because I can remember this story just as if it happened yesterday!

In the summer we had a big garden to work in, and my brothers (Charles and Ellwood) would work until Mom said it was time to go to the house. Dad also had a large pickle patch that we worked in. When the cucumbers were ready, we had to help pick them.

I drove horses on the hay wagon, and my mom drove them on the hayforks that took the hay up into the haymow. Another job I had was watching the cows where there were no fences. It was important to keep them in a grassy field and out of the cornfield!

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DAYS OF RAIN NEVER END, YOUNG POLIO VICTIM SURE

On Nov. 1, 1947, Harold Hoffmaster, 26, was rushed to Butterworth, where it was found that he had infantile paralysis.

Then he fell trying out a pair of crutches and broke his hip. His doctor discovered that a cyst on the hip bone had caused the fracture from a fall that otherwise would not have been serious.

Harold and his father work a 120-acre dairy farm and gather an average of 300 gallons of sap each spring from 800 maple trees.

His wife, Venila, visits him every day. He has two sons, Robert J. 4, and Gary Owen 2.

*—Taken from articles in scrapbooks kept by
Laura (Wamhoff) Hoffmaster*

SIX GENERATIONS CLAIM CENTENNIAL FARM HOME

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hoffmaster and sons, Robert and Gary, have received certification of their Hopkins farm as a centennial farm.

A centennial farm is one which has been in continuous possession of the same family for 100 years or more, must contain a minimum of 10 acres [and] gross sales of \$250. Only land and outbuildings is (*sic*) in qualifications.

Certificates to owners are provided by the Michigan History Division of the Dept. of State. A permanent marker which the Hoffmasters have not received as yet is provided by the Detroit Edison and Consumers Power companies.

The original farm, which consisted of 80 acres, was purchased by the Hoffmasters' great-grandfather, Robert H. Baird, in January 1881 from Wealthy Nichols. He worked the farm, and through the years the land was passed from generation to generation [which] added more land and improvements. The farm, now operated by Harold Hoffmaster and his two sons, has 350 acres and an additional 100 acres [are] worked on shares.

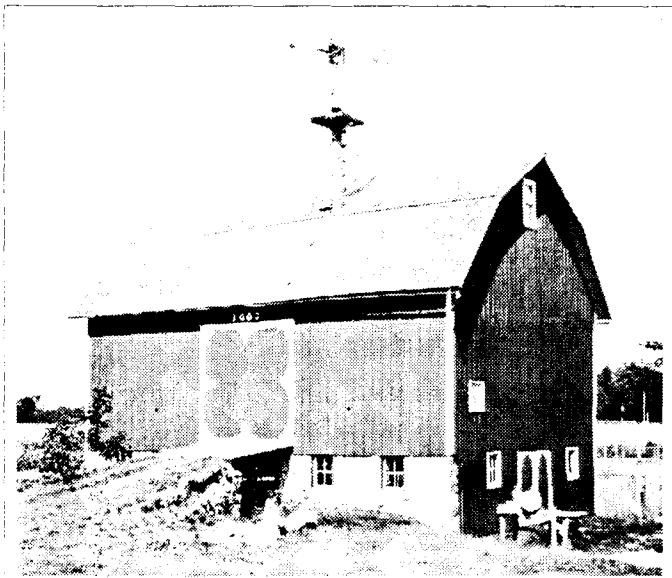
Mrs. Hoffmaster, the family historian, gathered interesting bits of history about the farm. She tells the background like this:

"Robert H. Baird came to Michigan at the age of seven with his parents, John A. and Mary [Atwater] Baird, in 1856. Robert had been born in 1849 in Twinsburg, Summit Co., Ohio, where his folks settled as a pioneer family from Massachusetts in 1841. The Baird family name was prominently known in early Allegan County and is interwoven in the history of Hopkins. They settled on a farm two miles north of Hopkinsburg in 1856. They lived in a log cabin near many other families who came from Ohio to Michigan at this time. (The four corners north of Hopkinsburg was called Ohio Corners because of this fact.)

"In 1871 Robert H. Baird married [Lizzie Fossey] and bought the centennial 80-acre farm in 1881. The large farm house had been built in 1875 as well other small farm buildings. In 1885, a large cattle barn was built. This barn had a windmill on top and was used to grind feed. Many years later the windmill was taken down and a new one put up between the house and barn for pumping water. Each spring the maple trees in the large woods were tapped. The Bairds made enough maple syrup and maple sugar for their



Venila (Fisher) and Harold Hoffmaster, June 20, 1941.



Hoffmaster Farm, c. 1903.



Carl, Harold, Faye & Ruth (Baird)
Hoffmaster, July 16, 1930•

gave power for lights, and the windmill pumped the water. Still later, they had the conveniences of electricity, a bathroom and a water heater added.

"Harold, the present owner of the farm, helped with chores, and one of his jobs as a growing boy was to keep the wood box filled. Harold and Faye attended a one-room school at Ohio Corners,

household use and were able to sell some. A son, Mont, was born in 1872 and soon joined his father in farming with a team of horses. He also enjoyed driving a horse and buggy to make visits to their neighbors and relatives.

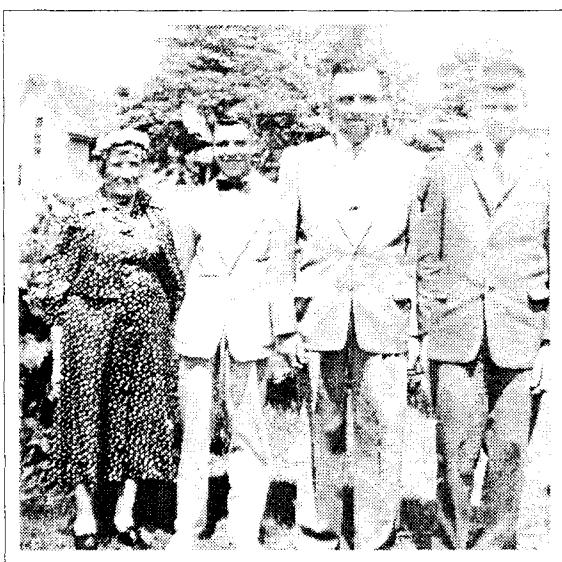
"Mont Baird married Adah Hodge in 1892 and they had a daughter, Ruth. Wood was cut to warm the home, which took a lot of time besides the farming and making of the syrup. In Mont's lifetime, horse-drawn vehicles were replaced with a car, a truck and a tractor.

"Ruth Baird married Carl Hoffmaster in 1915, and they farmed with her parents. They increased the cow herd at this time and started their registered Holstein herd by buying two calves. The farm still specializes in this herd. In time they built a milk house where they cooled the milk cans in water. Later, a milk cooler was added and a milker run with a gasoline engine to milk the cows.

"The house was remodeled soon after their children, Faye and Harold, were born. Running water and a Delco plant gave power for lights, and the windmill pumped the water. Still later, they had the conveniences of electricity, a bathroom and a water heater added.

"Harold, the present owner of the farm, helped with chores, and one of his jobs as a growing boy was to keep the wood box filled. Harold and Faye attended a one-room school at Ohio Corners, and they have many fond memories of their school days. All eight grades were taught there, water was brought in from the pump outside, and there was a recitation bench where each class came to recite their lessons as the teacher called them forward.

"After Harold was married to Venila Fisher in 1941, he became a partner in a father-son partnership, and the herd of milk cows was once again increased. Harold's father [Carl] had bought 40 acres of woods and a little tillable land and added this to the 80 acres in 1933. They built a large saphouse and made more maple syrup, which was sold on a local scale and throughout the United States."



Grandma, Gary, Harold & Robert
Hoffmaster at Grandma Baird's,
June 1958•

Robert and Gary Hoffmaster, sons of Harold and Venila, formed a partnership with their father and are the fifth generation to till these acres.

The dairy herd has been increased to 160 head of milk cows and approximately 80 young replacement cattle. The men raise their own crops for feed for the stock. They have erected four huge silos where they store the haylage, high-moisture corn and corn silage used as feed. Modern equipment premixes feed for the cattle as they are milked in milking parlors; coolers and milking systems replaced the older methods.

The men have cleared the land of the woods, which also took the sugar bush, and drained other land so it could be tilled. Two more barns have been built to house the cattle and five tractors, and other farm implements are used to work the extra land.



Our barn fire and Wayland fire engine, 1962•



Venila (Fisher), Harold, Gary
and Robert Hoffmaster at "Ohio
Corners" (Maplewood) Cemetery
across from their house,
May 30, 1953•

Joseph Friedrich HOFFMASTER

Joseph Hoffmaster came to Michigan in 1855. He moved by team and settled in a house on the George Ley farm, buying the farm which was the 1/2 Sec. N 1/2 Sec. 19, Hopkins Township, at \$4 an acre. Joseph built his home on the west end of the land. In the family there were 12 children.

Part of the farm was given to Henry and Joseph, Jr. After the death of their mother, Emmeline, the farm was sold to Michael Kaneally, who married Katherine Hoffmaster.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>DIED</u>	<u>CHILDREN</u>	<u>Page</u>
Joseph Friedrich Hoffmaster	20 Jan 1804*	6 Oct 1872†	Henry Hoffmaster	5
m. Emmeline Lamb <i>(Married 28 Dec 1830)</i>	16 Mar 1811/	10 Aug 1880/† <i>Lancaster, Hopkins, Lancaster Co., Pa. Allegan Co., Mich.</i>	George F. " Joseph Friedrich " , Jr. John " Elizabeth " Mary A. " Emme(a)line " Jacob " Susanna "Susan" C. " Uriah " Katherine "	5 5 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

*Fellbach, Württemberg, Germany †b. Maplewood Cem., Hopkins Twp., Mich.

Henry Hoffmaster	11 Oct 1831 Pa.	28 Sep 1899*
m. Lydia Ann Rice	15 Aug 1833 N.Y.	22 Nov 1923

Rice Frederick Henry Hoffmaster	6
Joseph E. L.	6
Edgar J. L.	7
Emma L.	7
Harriet "Hattie" P.	7
George A. S.	8
Charles A. B.	8
Edith C.	8
Harvey Grant	8



Courtesy of Edith Loew Schraeder

George F. Hoffmaster	7 Oct 1832 Pa.	c. 1901
m. _____	_____	_____

Henry G. Hoffmaster	
Frank W. "	
Myrta B. "	

Joseph Friedrich Hoffmaster, Jr.	7 May 1834***	18 May 1870†
m. Loverne Miller	c. 1844	25 Jan 1911
<i>(Married 24 Dec 1865 Hopkins, Allegan Co., Mich., by D. C. Ingerson, J.P.)</i>		

Maud V. Hoffmaster	8
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On July 25, 1862, Joseph [signature: Hofmaster] executes his Volunteer Enlistment in Allegan for a period of three years. He states he was born in Columbia, Pa., and 28 years old. In Company L, 4th Regiment, Michigan Cavalry's Company Descriptive Book, Joseph stood 5'5" tall, has a sandy complexion, grey eyes, brown hair and is a clerk. He was promoted to corporal from wagoner April 15, 1863. He was wounded in battle ("wound in left arm, also one in right hand nearly severing the gripe (*sic*) of his sabre and cutting some of his fingers nearly off") June 27, 1863, at Shelbyville, Tenn., left in the hospital at Murfreesboro, Tenn., and promoted to sergeant. Late in 1864 Joseph is a "QMSgt." He is mustered out in Nashville, Tenn., on July 1, 1865, and paid a bounty of \$25.75. On June 21, 1902, in a General Affidavit, Avah Briggs and Samuel H. Wilcox attest that "Joseph Hoffmaster was killed by the accidental discharge of a gun in Village of Monterey, May 1870."



-Courtesy of Edith Loew Schraeder

Ninah Hall and Norman Loew at the time of their wedding in Dec 1901.

next time I ride with him and drive, I'll spatter him with mud until he can't see. Well, I will have to close for tonight and until next time for my headaches [are] (deliciously) hard.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain your old chum and Sister.

Love, Ninah Hall



-Courtesy of Edith Loew Schraeder

BACK ROW: Gladys (Hall) Walz, Adah (Hall) Miller, Addah (Hall) Preston, Arthur Preston, Floyd Miller, Norman Loew. *MIDDLE ROW:* Ninah (Hall) Loew, Murle (?) Preston, Hattie (Hoffmaster) Hall, Sylvester Hall, Floyd Loew. *FRONT & LAPS:* Lucille "Lucy" (Loew) Parrish, Edith (Loew) Schraeder, Harriet (Loew) Kamps, Lloyd Loew, Gertrude (Loew) Shuck, c. 1914.