

Shelby County Centennial Farms, 1975

March 5th Edition

Claggett Farm



The Claggett Centennial Farm is located north of Bethel, near the Knox County line. John Douglas Claggett, the original owner, was born in 1835. He was the son of another John D. (1798-1873) and Margaret S. Claggett (1800-1878.)

John Douglas married Harriet Stone in 1865 at the close of the Civil War. Both the Claggetts and Stones were natives of Kentucky. The newly married Claggetts lived in Lewis County near Steffenville for a time, until in 1870 he bought 240 acres in Shelby County. They moved there to make their home.

They were the parents of three children: John W. Claggett, Katherine (Kate) Claggett, both of whom were born in Lewis County; and the youngest, Charles T. Claggett, born on the Shelby County Farm in 1871.

The next year tragedy struck. John Douglas, the father, died. His widow Harriet moved back to Steffenville with her three small children, and the farm was rented until 1874. That was the year Harriet married her late husband's brother, Harrison (Harry.)

They became the parents of three daughters: Margaret S., Minnie, and Beulah. They continued to live on the farm until Harry's death in 1912. Harriet with her two single daughters moved to Shelbyville and the farm was again rented. She died in 1931.

Katherine (Miss Kate) Claggett was one of the pioneer school teachers of Shelby and Knox counties and was well respected throughout the area.

John W. Claggett went to the western states and lived there during his early working years, later

moving back and living with his sister.

Charles T. Claggett married Lena Janney in 1903. They had one son, Carol Claggett, the present owner of the farm, and one daughter, Josephine, now Mrs. Josie Hardy of the Shelbina vicinity.

Lena Claggett died in 1940 and Charles T. Claggett was killed in a runaway team accident in 1943. John W. Claggett died in 1857. Margaret became Mrs. Claude Nelson, Beulah became Mrs. Arthur Bourne, and Miss Minnie remained single, and died in 1971.

Harry Claggett was one of the foremost breeders of Polled Hereford cattle, being among the first to introduce the strain in Shelby County. The Claggett family continues to raise this breed of cattle.

Carol T. Claggett was married to Gladys Harrison in 1931. They have one daughter, Carolyn Claggett. She married William Eddie Botkin and they, with their two children, Eric and Jayna, live on the farm. The original house is still the family home. It has been modernized, but has not changed much in appearance. It now has electric heat, a far cry from the wood stoves of John D. and Harriet's day. Five generations of Claggetts have owned or lived on this farm, proudly carrying the traditions of the Shelby County farmer.

Carol Claggett recalls his father telling him about a Negro named Bill Hawkins, who worked for both John D. and Harry. He was especially adept in clearing brush and plowing new ground in stumps, and the farm had lots of timber on it when purchased by John D.

Bill Hawkins later bought a farm near Edina and became a prosperous farmer there.

