

Daniels Family Observes 200 Years Ownership of South Foxboro Farms

by Clark Samuel

There are few families that can claim to have lived on the same land for 200 years but down in South Foxboro the Daniels Family is observing that anniversary this year.

Away back before this Republic was born, a French soldier, Francois Guydeau, was captured by the British during the French and Indian War. He was a Huguonot from Normandy, but he never returned to his native France.

Deed Dated 1759

Upon his release as a prisoner of war, he purchased a tract of land in what was then Wrentham, but is now South Foxboro. The date of the deed is June 6, 1759.

Francois married and began farming the beautiful rolling country that is still envied by many as desirable land for home sites. At that time French names were not popular nor were they easily pronounced, so the young farmer changed his name to Francis Daniels.

Down through the years, the land has always been farmed and lived upon by descendants of the young Frenchman who adopted the new land for his own.

Slaves Hid Here

The farm had its bad and good times. Slaves escaping through the "Underground Railroad", were hidden out in the attic of the farm house in the days before the Civil War . . . Livestock perished in a dis-

trous lightning-fired blaze that destroyed the barn . . . Extensive damage was caused by the 1938 Hurricane.

But through the vicissitudes of fortune, the old place has stood the test of time and the descendants exhibit that resolute-ness and independence that characterized the young Huguonot.

Farm For 200 Years

During the 200 years, dairying and general farming were pursued with side lines of cord wood, lumber, sand and gravel, and at one time there was a flourishing little cranberry business.

During the long hard winters of the past, there was considerable activity on the farm, such as harvesting ice for summer use and breaking out the roads after snow storms. Before the day of trucks and tractors, the farm team of horses was used—with a heavy sled drag a log—to break a way for sleighs and sleds.

Frequently a crew of men with shovels was required to cut a path for the horses before they could get through the highest drifts.

Sand For Foundry

The old Foundry which was located near the upper end of Mill Street used many tons of fine sand which was hauled there from the farm in horse drawn wagons. Sand and gravel from the farm pits have also been used in the construction of Foxboro roads.

The acreage of "Normandy" has been reduced from the original 250 acres by the sale of some 50 acres and another 50 deeded to members of the family.

The fertile tillage and the farm buildings of the main farm have lain idle for several years but on his adjoining property, Norman Daniels carries on a poultry business and his eldest son Albert, a 4-H member raises rabbits and sheep.

Descendants

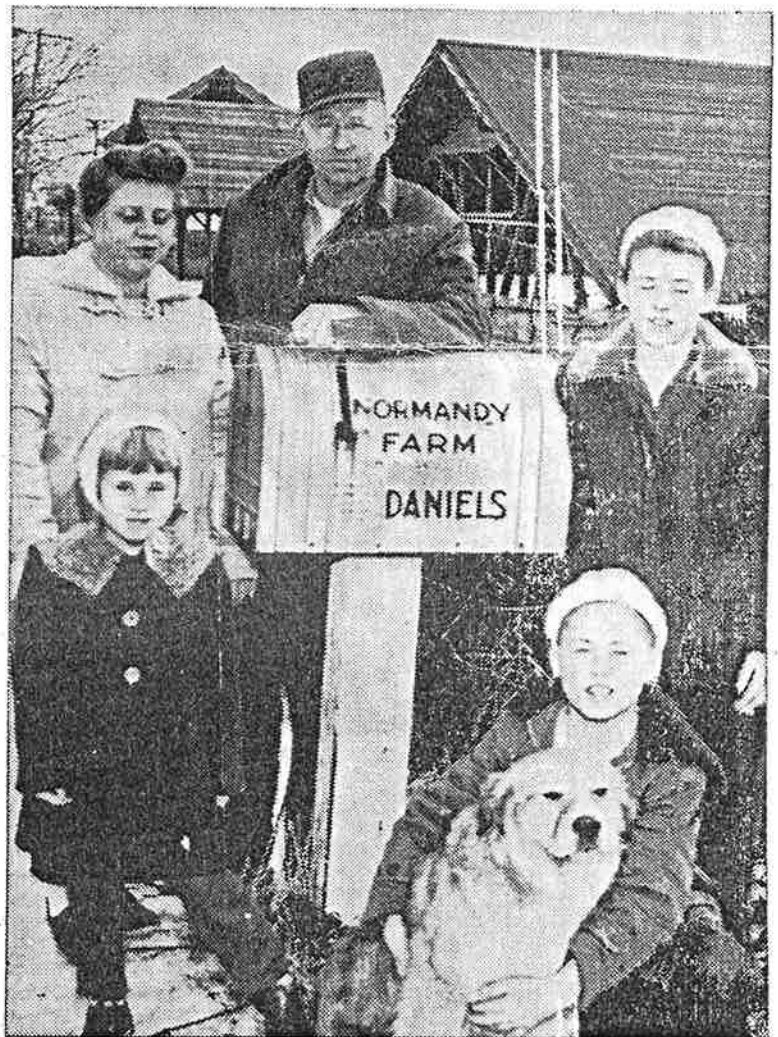
The descendants of Francois are not numerous and of these only a few bear the family name. Of the 5th generation there are the Misses Laura and Bertha Daniels of Foxboro, their sister, Mrs. John Warren (Marion W. Daniels), and a cousin Mrs. Edgar Leavitt (Susan Daniels), both of Wrentham. Mrs. Warren

has sons John and Albert and 3 grand children. Mrs. Leavitt has sons Raymond and Curtis and several grand children and great grandchildren.

Francis Daniels, namesake of the original settler, died in May of 1948 from injuries received when a horse ran away. He left three children, Mrs. Jack Grigsby (Evelyn Daniels), who has sons Alan and Mark, Norman F. Daniels who has children Albert, Robert and Janis — all of Foxboro, and in Belmont, Calif., Douglas Daniels who is the father of Elaine and Scott.

During the 200 years there have been, and still are, members of the family affiliated with Bethany Congregational Church, and since it was established, with the Union Church of South Foxboro.

... Operate 200 Yr. Old Farm ...



Direct descendant works 200-year-old farm. Family of Norman F. Daniels of Normandy Farm, South Foxboro, gather at mail box for photo. Left to right: daughter Janice, Mrs. Daniels, Mr. Daniels, sons Robert and Albert and family pet Penny.

(Reporter Photo)

... Canoe River On Rampage ...



Tons of water from torrential rains roared across East Street in East Foxboro Friday, swelling Canoe River that poured into Beaumont Pond. Pressure there swept away steel and concrete bridge on Maple Street, Mansfield. (Reporter Photo)