

Sequence of Land Ownership

By

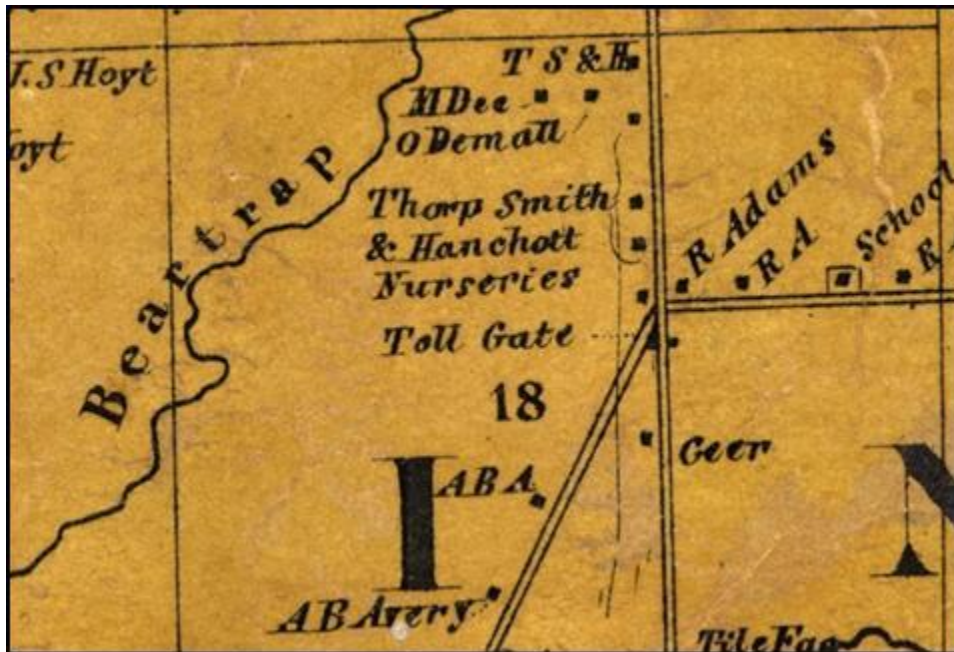
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The Nursery Property

A parcel of land in the northwestern portion of Military Lot #18 has figured prominently in the history of the area that is known today as Mattydale. The 1860 map shown below shows the northerly portion of Lot 18 in the town of Salina.



Alanson Thorp, William Brown Smith, and John. C. Hanchett ran a large nursery bounded by Bear Trap Creek on the west; the north line of Military Lot #18 on the north; the Cicero plank road on the east; and on the south by a line extended from Molloy Road, passing through the Toll Gate house. The black square after the label “T S & H” at the intersection of the north line of Military Lot #18 and the Cicero plank road is the structure that probably became the Roselawn home of Benjamin Baum after he purchased it in 1866.

The road entering from the east in the center of the map was known as Richardson Road. While that name can still be found in the land records, today it is better known as East Molloy Road. Today it extends across the intersection and runs down to Bear Trap Creek and it is known as West Molloy Road. This was the southern boundary of the nursery property.

On the following page the area is shown in an aerial photo from October 1951. The photo has been labeled to designate the various places of interest.

Sequence of Land Ownership and When the Property Was Acquired

Richard Adams — 1836

Nursery — Thorpe, Smith & Hanchett — 1854

John Kirsch — 1900

Kirschwood Development — 1927

Roxboro School — ~1952

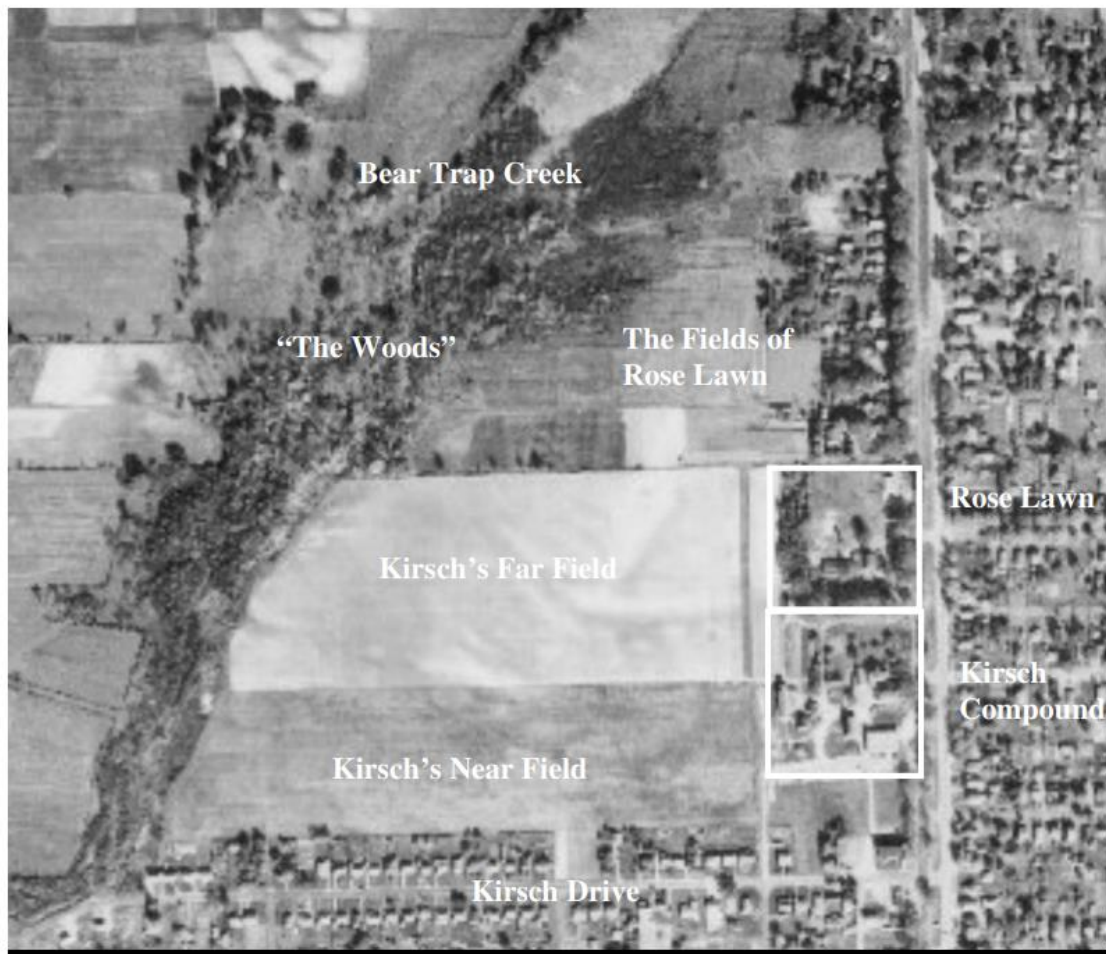


Figure 3. This aerial photograph of the northwest section of Mattydale was taken in October 1951.⁸ Running along the bottom of the photo is Kirsch Drive. A close examination of the lots on Kirsch Drive shows that there were very few trees at that time. The linear structure, running north and south, along the right margin of the photo, is Route 11 (Brewerton Road). All along the western edge of this road were huge Elm trees, running all the way south, down to the intersection of Brewerton Road and E. Molloy Road. Over the 50s and 60s they became victims of the Dutch Elm disease that eventually killed off all of the tall and stately elm trees in Onondaga County.

Source: [Growing Up on the Fields of Rose Lawn](#)

The Same Area in July 1966



Figure 4. This aerial photo of the northwest section of Mattydale was taken in July 1966.¹⁶ A close look at Kirsch Drive shows evidence of a reversal of the tree situation in Mattydale. Kirsch Drive appears well populated with trees but the tall stately Elm trees that once lined the west side of Brewerton Road are all gone - victims of Dutch Elm disease. The Kirsch fields are now home to the Roxboro Middle and Elementary schools and the Salina Free Library, located at the corner of Belmont and Bernard Streets. Any evidence of the ball fields that had occupied the western end of the Kirsch fields, from 1952 until about 1959, is gone. St. Margaret's School now dominates the 100 block of Kirsch Drive on the northern side of the street. The Kirsch Compound on Brewerton Road is still intact. Bear Trap Creek now has a companion, in the form of Interstate 81 just to its west. Dominating the northern end of the Rose Lawn Fields is K-Mart Plaza. Between the schools and K-Mart Plaza is the last remaining portions of the Fields of Rose Lawn. All signs of prior cultivation are gone, the fields are overgrown with weeds. Much to the author's surprise this 1966 aerial photo clearly shows the trail that is the subject of this narrative. In its truncated version, as seen here, the trail extends from the NE corner of the Middle School parking lot to the back door of the short lived K-Mart Grocery store.

Source: [Growing Up on the Fields of Rose Lawn](#)