

The History of the Sage Farm (Now 23 Sandy Brook Road, Colebrook)

Enos Sage was born May 27, 1757, in Middletown, Conn. When he was 10 years old he moved with his father from Middletown to Sandisfield Mass. He enlisted in the Revolutionary War three times, all in Massachusetts regiments. Enos married in 1780 and had 8 children.

Over the years, beginning in 1794, Enos bought one square mile of land in Colebrook, Connecticut. In 1797, with the help of his sons, he built a house, barn and outbuildings east of the North School (now called the Rock School). He and his sons cleared many acres of land, and laying up the stonewalls that still define the farm.

Enos' wife died in 1802, after which he married Eunice Smith Clark in 1803. They had 7 children, the first child and son was Hiram, born in 1804.

Hiram married Lucy Judd in 1835, and shortly thereafter, he bought his father's homestead. Lucy and Hiram had 12 children, born between the years 1838 and 1858.

Hiram died December 11, 1885. His sons Charles and Frank kept the farm going until Frank left for New York State in 1888, after which Charles kept it going by himself for two more years when he also left for New York State. In January 1897, 100 years after the farm was begun, the two brothers sold the buildings and the remaining 200 acres to Isadore Jasmin, who was attracted to the farm because of its apple orchard, which had the proper species needed to make cider, hard cider and brandy. Jasmin had come from the Normandy region of France, famous for its Calvados, a type of apple brandy, which he knew how to make.

Isadore had four children, the farm when he died going to his daughter Lea and her husband, William Gray. William Gray also had four children. The farm descended to his son Walter, whose son Jon and daughter-in-law presently own the farm.

Thus the two hundred plus year old farm has actually belonged to only two families throughout all those years.

William (Bill) Gray, brother to Walter, remembers his grandfather tell of the two Sage brothers, Frank and Charles visiting Colebrook and pointing out one of the large beams in the cow barn that their grandfather said had given him a particularly difficult time when it was brought in from the forest. Enos had a reputation of being an especially good building framer, as local records report that he was asked to frame several buildings being built by his sons and grandsons, the store of Hiram's brother Alpha (now across the road from 661 Colebrook Road) being an example.

Compiled by Robert Grigg, Municipal Historian, Town of Colebrook Connecticut.