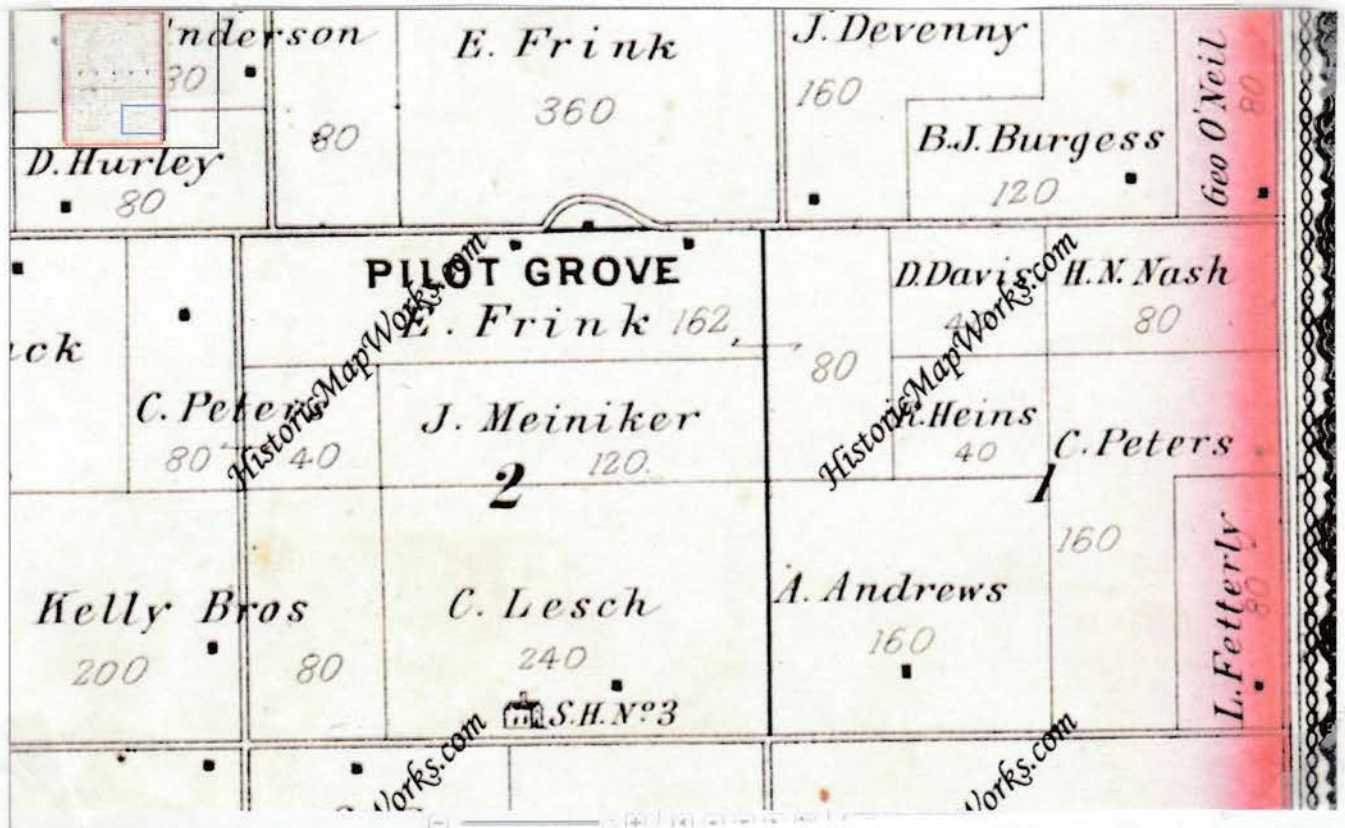


PILOT HILL AREA

PILOT TOWNSHIP KANKAKEE COUNTY, IL



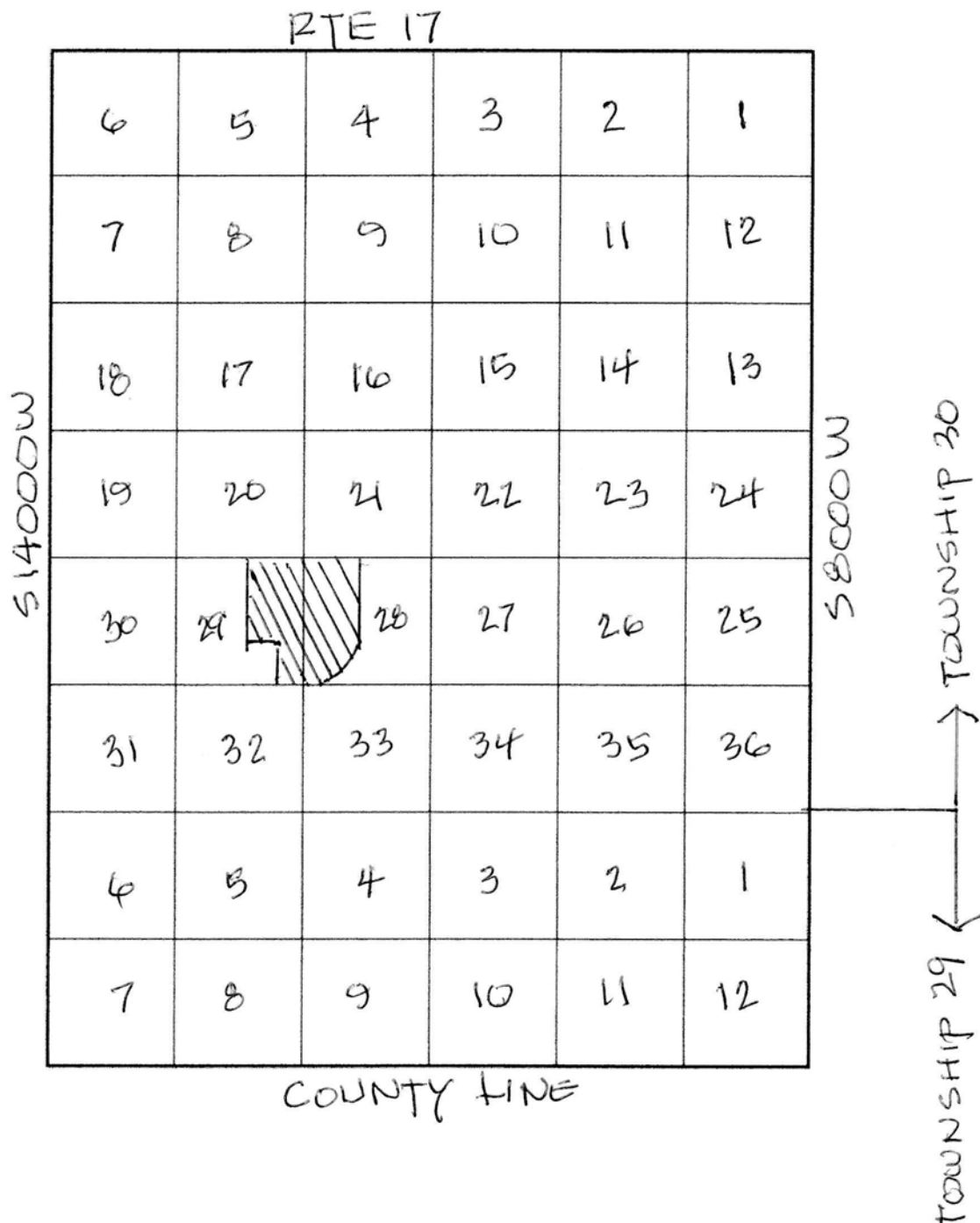
LOCATION

Sections 1 & 2 (Township 29) is in the southern part of Pilot Township, Kankakee County, IL. Its northern border is 4000 S, 5000 S on the south, 8000 W on the east, and 10000 W to the west.

Township 29N, Range 10E, and 3rd Meridian

I titled this supplement as "Pilot Hill Area" which is actually Sections 1 and 2 of Township 29. It gets confusing when there are two Sections 1 and 2 in Pilot Township.

Most townships have 36 sections. However, Pilot Township has 48 sections. The northern 36 sections are in Township 30. The other 16 sections to the south are in Township 29. Maybe this drawing will help.



I N D E X

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The Frink Home.

----- One of the Landmarks in Pilot Township.

A landmark in Pilot Township for more than 100 years has been the Pilot Grove Farm and its Historic Stone House about four miles Southeast of Herscher. The farm embraces 523 acres, and owes its name to the natural grove of hardwood trees, which in early times was a land mark that helped travelers on the open prairie to keep their bearings. The historic stone house was built in the late 1850s by Morey French Frink. The limestone was hauled by horse and wagon from the quarries. It is located on a hill-one of the highest points in the county- and commands an excellent view of the countryside. The cupola was one of the famous parts of the home, with its windows on all sides, enabling the family to survey the expanse of prairie, and the road leading toward Kankakee. This was made even more interesting for members of the family, through the use of a large brass telescope, which the family owned. It was frequently used to survey the expanse of prairie, to locate livestock and perhaps a traveler in trouble.

The eastern acres of Pilot Grove Farm contain rather large gravel pits, and the products of these pits has helped through the years, to keep the roads of the township in good condition. Grain from the farm was hauled to Chebanse, a distance of nine miles. After the Illinois Central Railroad built its Bloomington branch, the haul was reduced to one and one-half miles.

Outside of the cupola, the historic stone house on Pilot Grove Hill appears today as it did when built.

The first house in the township was a log cabin, built by Joel B. Hawkins in Pilot Grove in the year 1847. The territory comprising Pilot Township was within the boundaries of Limestone Township from 1833 until April 27, 1854, when it was set off to the Township of Salina, and on March 11th, 1857, was taken from Salina and became the Township of Pilot, deriving its name from Pilot Grove.



From the Kankakee Gazette dated 11/30/1879

Twenty-five or twenty six years ago, deer were abundant in Kankakee County and old settlers often entertained the competitive new comers with recitals of the sport to be had "in those days". John Prudy relates a remarkable incident that occurred in the fall of "53" when his father was at work for Baldwin Hawkins, of Pilot Township (now deceased), father of Cornelius Hawkins. Hawkins had the only piece of winter wheat in that section and one night, after the grain had grown to be about four inches high, the inmates of the house were called to witness a most remarkable sight.

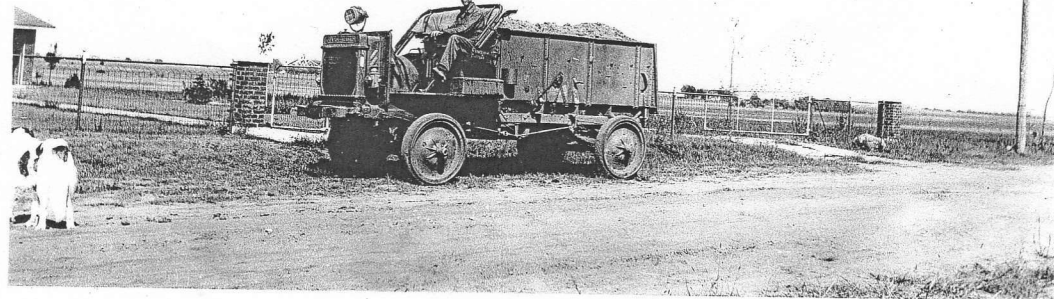
Crowed together over the 160 acre piece of wheat were thousands of deer, browsing upon the succulent blades of grain. They had come from every direction, undoubtedly from an extended tract of country. They were not molested as they could do no harm to the grain, and night after night they returned until every spear of wheat had been eat and the ground was tramped as hard as a floor. One morning Hawkins got up and took a shot at them and killed a fine buck. Instantly the whole herd was in lightning motion and the tramp of the flying feet was like a distant roar of thunder.

The next all the sand hill cranes came in and on the ground occupied by the deer, thousands of these singular bipeds were going through all sorts of maneuvers. Some were feeding and others were dancing: and the antics of the latter were enough, our informant says "to make a dog laugh". Disposed around the enter flock at intervals were sentinels of groups of four, keeping sharp lookout for intruders.

Sounds like someone really embellished this one!!!!



The Gravel Pits at Pilot Grove Farm still bear evidence of the large amount of road building material that was used to improve the roads of the township.



Hauling Pilot Hill Gravel on township roads with a four wheel drive army truck in the early 1920s.

Pilot Grove Farm. By Mae B. Frink.
February 21, 1948.

Pilot Grove Farm embraces land in Sections 1, 2, & 35, - 523 acres. It owes its name to the natural grove of hardwood trees, which in early times, was a landmark that helped travelers on the open prairie to keep their bearings and to arrive home safe. This grove was often the scene of community picnics, especially on Independence Day and other holidays.

The family records and deeds show, that Morey French Frink a native of Madison County, New York, came to Illinois by way of Coldwater, Michigan, in company with his friend Rutledge Enos, about 1853, and both purchased farm lands. Much of the Frink Farm was bought from one Joel Hawkins, who had obtained the Government Patents through war veterans, who had received it as their "Soldiers Bounty". These patents bear the signature of Franklin Pierce, then President of the United States. There is also evidence that some 'swamp land' was purchased through the office at Danville, Illinois.

The stone dwelling house was erected in the late 50's. The limestone having been hauled by horse and wagon from the quarries, so it is now at least ninety years old. The cupola which adorned the roof of the house, and had windows on all sides, enabled the family to survey the expanse of prairie and the road leading to 'Kankakee City' when visitors were expected. This was made more interesting by the use of a large brass telescope, which the family owned, The heirs still own this telescope. It was with regret that the present owners were compelled to have this cupola removed, when extensive repairs to the roof were necessary in 1942.

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Morey Frink brought his bride to this home in September 1860. She was Miss. Ellen Goodrich, a native of Michigan, and a teacher in the Kankakee schools. Their son Fred Goodrich Frink was born April 16th, 1862. Mrs. Enoss immediately carried him up the narrow stairs to the cupola, since she believed, a child must be carried up before it is carried down, in order to become an aspiring and ambitious adult.

Morey Frink died one year later (1863) and his widow and son remained on the farm for twelve years. Various practical farmers were engaged to take care of the land and the stock. One of these managers was Charles B. Goodrich, Mrs. Frink's younger brother, who lived at Pilot Grove from 1873 to 1877. During this time, Mrs. Frink and her son made an extended visit to California.

After their return, they lived in Englewood and Kankakee, that Fred G. might pursue his education and prepare for entrance to the University of Michigan. After graduation he attended to the farm business and operated it at first through a foreman. Later tenant farmers leased the land on the well known fifty-fifty basis.

The eastern acres contain rather large gravel pits, and the products of these pits has helped through the years to keep the roads of Pilot and adjoining townships, and at times to build new roads, notably in 1936-37.

In the very early days all grain was hauled to Chebanse for sale and shipment, but after the Illinois Central built its Bloomington branch,, S. B. Dickey, who owned a farm near the railroad, built and operated a grain elevator, and thus reduced the grain haul from nine miles to one and a half miles.

5

Nearly all the old buildings at Pilot Grove have been replaced by new ones, although a portion of the old stone barn is still standing. Fred G. Frink died in September 1929, and the estate passed to his widow Mrs. B. Frink and their three children. As all three were well established in their chosen careers, Mrs. Frink assumed the business management of the farm, keeping the accounts and planning the distribution and sale of crops with the tenant. The heirs are interested in soil improvement and conservation, and desire to keep Pilot Grove productive and up-to-date.

In 1891 the tenants had no telephone, nor rural free delivery, no tractors or automobiles. All the farm work was done by horse power, and kerosene lamps and lanterns lighted the buildings.

To get supplies of all kind, the four miles to the Village of Herscher were covered by horse and wagon, and in cases of severe illness, a messenger was dispatched on horse-back to bring a doctor.

All the conveniences of living are now present, including electric lights installed in 1946. The scarcity of materials during World War Two, delayed the last named, and prevented some building and repairs, but soon we hope for better facilities for this work. Tile has been laid on about 120 acres. Due to the Agricultural Experiment Station in Urbana, and the County Farm Bureau, the information needed by farmers has been wide spread and resulted in better use of the lands and better crops when the weather is favorable.

Mae B. Frink. (Mrs. Fred Goodrich Frink)

This interesting narrative concerning Pilot Grove and the Frinks, was composed by Mae B. Frink of Palo Alto, California, in February 1948, by request.

It was desirous of obtaining as much information as might be available concerning this historical and interesting grove of trees, located at some elevation, in the Southwest part of Kankakee County, for the Kankakee Historical Society. An enlarged picture of the stone dwelling house, before the cupola was removed, was presented to the Kankakee Historical Society at that time. R.G.W.

6

Lawrence Fetterly

Lawrence Fetterly made his way to Pilot Township in 1853 and worked for Morey Frink for two years. They were among the first four settlers, and they had to take their crops to Kankakee over primitive roads.

In 1855, Mr. Fetterly settled on 80 acres of unbroken prairie land near Pilot Grove and made it a farm (Section 1 in Township 29). On the attached Land Purchase, note that the section is E2SEPRE which means that the 80 acres was the east half of the southeast section and was Pre-empted (sold prior to the land being sold to the public).

According to an 1893 biography, wolves were so plentiful in those days that his son Jay could shoot them from the door of their house. Indians in the area visited the Fetterly house to sharpen their knives on the grindstone, sometimes frightening his son.

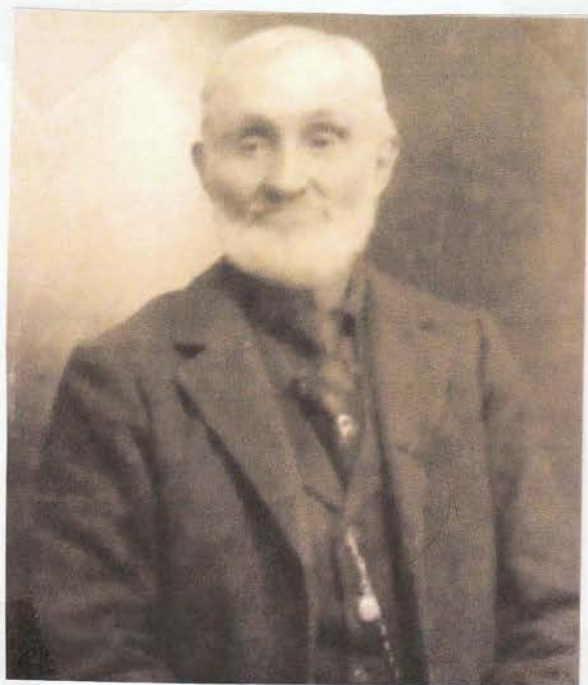
Lawrence Fetterly (1816–1905)

Spouse: Sarah Emily Picket (1818-1874)
Married: 1839
Children: Mary Jane (1841-1941)
 Liva Maria (1842-1925)
 Jay A. (1853-1920)
 Ida May (1861-1956)
Buried: Evergreen Cemetery – Chebanse, IL

Picture 1 – Lawrence Fetterly in 1900

Picture 2 – Lawrence Fetterly and Liva Maria

Picture 3 - Lawrence Fetterly headstone at Evergreen Cemetery



Lawrence Fetterly

in the Illinois, U.S., Public Land Purchase Records, 1813-1909

Detail

Source

Name: Lawrence Fetterly
Section: E2SEPRE
Price per Acre: 2.50
Total Price: 200.00
Date: 5 Dec 1856
Volume: 066
Page: 095
Type: FD
Sect: 01
Township: 29N
Range: 10E
Meridian: 3
Acres: 80.00
Corr-Tag: 0
ID: 062687
Reside: 000

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PILOT GROVE SCHOOL

1943

LOCATED IN SECT 2
TOWNSHIP 29 ALONG
WHAT NOW IS W7000 S



BACK ROW: EDITH MORRIS, JACK MORRIS, PAUL KROLL
MIDDLE: DONALD BAKER, ANNA MAE BAKER, ELAINE GERSCH
FRONT: DIANE MARTIN, CARL MORRIS, ELEANOR KROLL, ETHA MORRIS
DONNA MORRIS

TIDBITS

- Did you know that the highest point in Kankakee Co. is 757 ft. above sea level. The location of this point is in Pilot Township, Section 1, Township 29 and is just south of Pilot Hill on land owned by Russ & Marilyn Rosenboom. Don't you think that there should be a name for this point? Can't call it Pilot Hill. But what about Rosenboom Hill? Mt. Pilot? Mt. Rosenboom? Or just let it go at that?
- From page 19 of Parish History 1919, "Also herds of wild goats would be seen moving towards Pilot Grove."
- There are 100 acres of peat on the property. Supposedly the area burned for a couple of years creating the peat. No one knows when that happened.
- Back in the day, they used 2" clay drain tile for draining the fields
- Back in the mid 1970's, Jim Fleming one day gave 200 airplane rides using the field to the north as a landing strip.
- The Owners of Pilot Hill are few – Hawkins, Frink, Jones, and Rosenboom.
- There was an artesian well to the east of the house.
- Supposedly one day Jim Scanlon was walking from Pilot Grove School to his house when he came upon a car stopped in the road. It was cold, so Jim jumped into the car only to find a dead body. Apparently, it was the Postmaster from Kempton who stopped along the road and committed suicide. I imagine Jim must have hot footed it home.
- There used to be 4th of July celebrations at the grove.
- The first house in the township was a log cabin built by Joel B. Hawkins in Pilot Grove in 1847. The foundation for this cabin still exists behind the existing house.

Can you imagine living out there in 1847. You sure wouldn't have any neighbors. No roads. No nothing. Yikes.

Possibly he may have know Lemuel Milk who started his empire in Enos Grove (to become Milks Grove Township) not too far south of Pilot Hill.