

OUR ANCESTRAL ALTHAUS FARM

The original farm of our ancestors is located along the Tulpehocken Creek, across from Gring's Mill Park, office, barn and mill. The Scott Althouse mansion (currently owned by an insurance company) stands on a cliff above the creek. The cliff was originally purchased by Scott, taken from the Fisher farm which lies adjacent to and south of the Althouse land. The Althouse homestead, house and barn, is located about 200 yards upstream from the cliff and mansion.

Scott Althouse, who was unable to get an electric line across fields to his property, built a dam and generating plant which can still be seen on the property. Scott bought the mill, house, barn, and land across the creek from his estate, in order to have complete privacy. The park land was ultimately purchased from the insurance company which had purchased it from the estate following the death of Scott Althouse. The Union Canal passed between the creek and the mansion.

Mr. Althouse had finally purchased the original Althouse farm and land immediately upstream from his mansion in order to provide a direct access drive from the Bernville Road. The purchase was indirectly from his cousin Adam. Adam was the grandson of an Adam Althouse. The elder Adam was a brother to my great grandfather, Dan.

My great grandfather had seven sons. Among them were my grandfather Perres, and his brother William. I heard them tell how their father lost out on the acquisition of the old farm when their grandfather wanted to dispose of it. He lost it to his brother Adam. This establishes proof that the above is part of the ancestral home and farm.

Refer to my letter to Mr. Pawling relative to successive ownerships.

Harry N. Althouse

Excerpts to follow were taken from another source which shows how extensive the original farm was, between the Schuylkill River and the Tulpehocken Creek. The land surely included more than one barn and house. My belief that the house across from the park is the original is further supported by memory of Grandfather Perres and Uncle Will talking about their grandfather who lived along the Tulpehocken.

I wish to emphasize a point which takes us way back in history. My grandfather and his brothers talked about their grandfather who in turn was the grandson of the immigrant.

Realizing that there is an ever widening gap between the current young generation and the first ancestors in America, I hold a unique position almost midway in the gap at my age. Being the last one of my generation, I merely attempt to shed light on the past 240 years.

I had a recent interview with a Miss Mabel Fisher, referred to earlier in this discourse, whom I have known quite well for fifty years. She was born and raised on the Fisher farm adjacent to and south of the Althouse farm. She is near the age of eighty. She told me how her father talked of playing with and swimming with the Althouse boys on the next farm. "These boys were Cyrus, Monroe, and Nathan, sons of Adam". The Adam to whom she referred was a brother to my great grandfather, Dan.



EXCERPTS FROM AN UNDETERMINED SOURCE

3. Children of Adam Althouse, (John 2, George 1)

4. Monroe Althouse - Born August 14, 1861; died July 18, 1920; married Mary Tobias, daughter of Henry Tobias. Monroe Althouse owned and lived on a part of the old Bern Township homestead for many years. This farm is now a part of the Reading Airport.

4. Cyrus D. Althouse - Born September 21, 1866 on the old homestead. He conducted the old home farm for a number of years and owns it at present (1938). With his brother, Monroe, he owned and operated a stone crusher at Port Clinton for several years. Married Sarah Fritz, born October 19, 1867.

The above Cyrus was a son of Adam, brother to great grandfather Dan. Cyrus in turn had a son, Adam. The younger Adam refused to sell land to his cousin, Scott. Thus once again, we have proof that the house 300 ft. upstream from the Scott mansion appears to be the original homestead.'

The above Monroe is not the Monroe Althouse, leader of the Ringgold Band. As a boy I recall my elders saying that "Monroe holds the original deed to the homestead". I, at that time assumed they meant the well-known band leader. It may by chance have been turned over to his brother, Cyrus and on to Cyrus' son, Adam, Thus it could have been passed on to Adam's cousin, Scott. I had an interview with Mr. Oyler, the Vice President and Secretary of the Security of America Life Insurance Company. He showed considerable interest in my search and reviewed their title search and title. No old deeds were turned over to them. Their purchase from Scott Althouse contained 175 acres.

[Althouse, Harry N.; Althaus – Althouse; A genealogical booklet; 1977]