

Early Settlement and Farmland



Home of John Haines, now the Waukegan Historical Society

The Montgomery family, immigrants from Scotland, came to Little Fort (Waukegan) in the early 1840s. They were the first to settle on what is today's Bowen Park. The Montgomery's worked the property as a farm and built a simple one and a half story farmhouse in 1843.

John C. Haines, Mayor of Chicago from 1858-1860, purchased the Montgomery property in 1856 to originally use as a summer retreat. The Haines family eventually expanded the original 1843 farmhouse in the 1870s when they made Waukegan their primary residence. By 1880, the Haines family farm consisted of 250 acres that included orchards and vineyards. Livestock on the farm included 7 milk cows, 155 sheep, 18 pigs and 45 chickens.



Baltimore Oriole



Shooting Star



Sketch of early Lake County farm

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