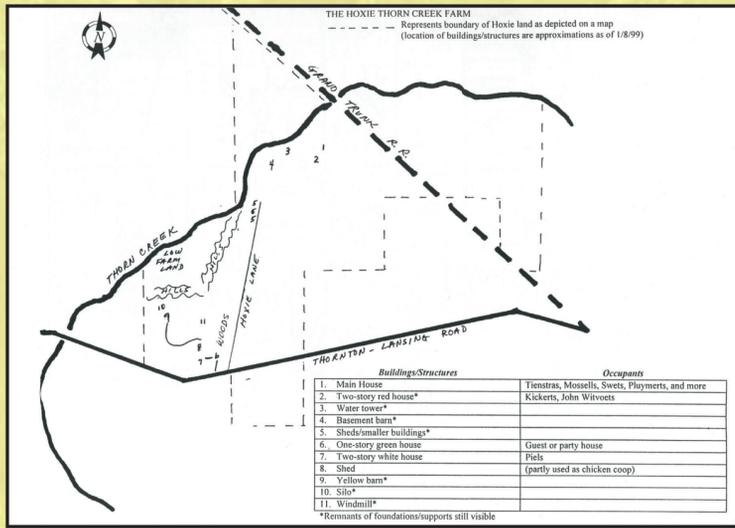
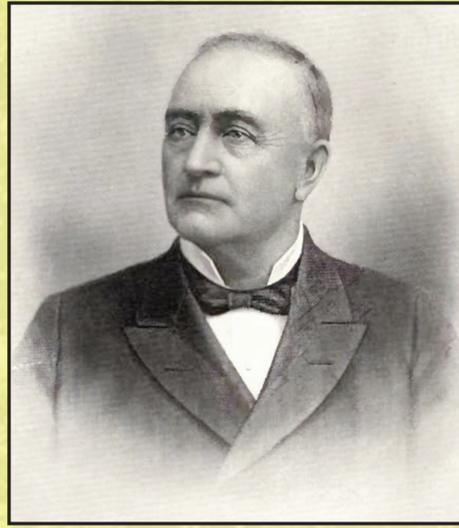


The Hoxie Farm



Hoxie Farm Map



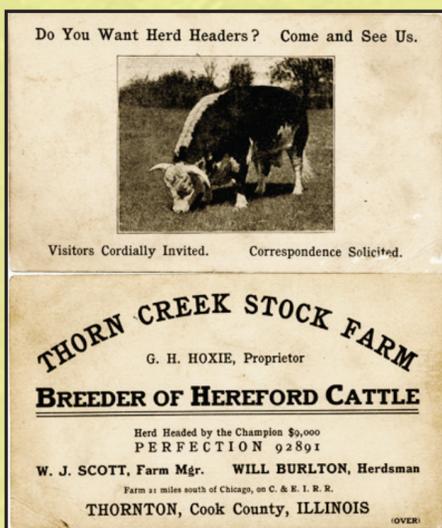
John R. Hoxie

John R. Hoxie acquired the property in the 1880s. Hoxie was an entrepreneur and cattleman working with the Michigan Southern Railroad which held controlling interest in the Chicago Stockyards. With plans for the 1893 World's Fair, Hoxie was certain the Stockyards would relocate and he purchased 750 acres of land at this location. He ultimately built his country home and farm here, raising prize-winning cattle.



Hoxie House

This house was the summer home of John Hoxie, located northwest of what is now Wampum Lake, approximately 50 to 75 yards from the shoreline. Hoxie did a lot of entertaining for his friends from Chicago. Guests would take the train to the Thornton depot, where they were met with a "tallyho," a big wagon pulled by horses to take them to the big house. When the roads were too difficult, they were brought to a bridge in Thornton where they had a steamboat waiting for them. From there the boat took them to the Hoxie Farm bridge, which connected to a road. Many dances were held at the big house. The house burned down in the 1920s. With all this property, cattle, horses and several houses to take care of, the Hoxie farm employed many workers, managers and foremen.



Thorn Creek Stock Farm Ad



Richard Kickert, Manager of the Hoxie Farm 1907-1914

When Hoxie died in 1896 his son Gilbert continued raising cattle, then ultimately rented out the land to various farmers.

Farms: Known renters were the Witvoets, Kickerts, Piels, Mossels, Plummets, Stienstras and Oppenhuizens. They planted onion sets, sugar beets, cabbage and so forth. The Piels had a large orchard and grew hay. Many Native American artifacts were found when plowing. The children had great fun fishing and swimming in the creek, sledding and picking berries.

WAMPUM LAKE

The Forest Preserve district purchased the land in the 1940s and cultivation ceased. Thanks to the construction of I-80, Wampum Lake was created in the 1950s when soil was removed to fill portions of the tollway route. The Lake is approximately 14 feet deep and offers 4,800 feet of shoreline for fishing and four large groves for picnicking.

