

# History of Seminole Hills

In 1818, settlers built Pontiac's first house near the corner of what is now Saginaw and Water Streets where the old Saginaw Indian Trail crossed the Clinton River. Within two years, there were enough people to form a village that was named after the Ottawa Indian Chief Pontiac.

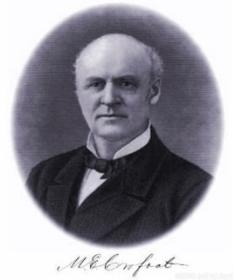
In 1821, the United States government conveyed to Stephen Mack land that would become Seminole Hills.

Joseph Peck purchased 204 acres abutting Orchard Lake Road, Voorheis Road and Huron Street and sold it to Nelson Stewart in 1859 for \$13,426.

On June 22, 1860, Nelson Stewart Quit Claimed 40 acres to Abriam P. McConnell for \$2,000. In 1862 Dr. Abriam McConnell became the Michigan Twenty-second Volunteer Infantry Regiment's surgeon. His brother, a noted Pontiac businessman and bank president, owned the McConnell house on Auburn Rd.

After Nelson Stewart failed to make payments to Joseph Peck, the land was auctioned in foreclosure to Michael E. Crofoot in 1863 for \$4,000. Mr. McConnell lost his 40 acres which were part of the foreclosure and became the property of Mr. Crofoot.

Michael E. Crofoot is perhaps the most renowned Pontiac resident of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was a businessman, attorney and Judge of the Probate Court. The Crofoot Block downtown and the Crofoot School were named after him.



Michael Crofoot sold the property to New York-born William G. Hinman in 1879 for \$9,750 and the property became known as the Hinman Farm. Mr. Hinman had worked as railroad examiner and seller of land for the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad from around 1870 until resigning and coming to Pontiac in 1882. An 1891 publication of notable Oakland citizens notes: "This farm purchased in 1879 is two hundred and forty acres in extent, and is one of the finest in the country. Mr. Hinman has, . . . since coming to Michigan, engaged in buying and selling land and his investments have paid him handsomely." In 1889, Mr. Hinman was elected Mayor of Pontiac. In 1891, Mr. Hinman became president of Pontiac National Bank.

In 1889, William Hinman sold the property to Charles and Nancy Petrie for \$8,000.

In 1891, Charles and Nancy Petrie sold the farm to their Daughter Etta and her husband Philip Robert for \$8,000

In 1915, Etta agreed to subdivide her farm into what is now Seminole Hills. She continued to live in the farmhouse until her death in 1919. Philip Robert continued to live in the farmhouse until his death in 1933. The farmhouse remained standing until it was destroyed by a fire in the 1960's.