

# Stratford's History

*respectfully submitted by Carole Dadino, Stratford Historian (CaroleD444@gmail.com)*

## Farming in Stratford, Part 3

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The photo above (no date) shows the farmlands in Stratford. On the left, the Stafford's Laurel Mills Farms, including the cattle pastures. On the right, the Rixon's Dairy Knoll Farms, including the cattle pastures. Vassar Ave. stopped at the train tracks. It was later continued past the buildings above the "AT", (currently under new construction), where it met with Longwood Drive at Warwick Rd.

Many early residents of Stratford had their own vegetable gardens, especially those who purchased double lots. A 1919 fire department map identifies "coops", indicating that many area residents also raised chickens. Into the sixties, at dawn, "Cock-a-doodle-do" could be heard throughout Stratford.



A 1910 photo shows a small farm between Central and Kirkwood Aves. and Union Ave. and Laurel Rd.

During WWII, "Victory Gardens" were very popular in Stratford. Vegetable, fruit and herb gardens were planted at private residences and public areas. As part of the War Effort, larger Farms sold a portion of their produce to the government.



A 1949 aerial view of Stratford, shows a farm located between Yale and Vassar Aves. Central Ave. is seen to the right of the white house.



In this 1953 photo, Warwick Rd. faces Laurel Rd. and Laurel Springs. Several of the houses in the distance, are still standing on what was once a section of the Kaighn Farm. Stratford Estates II and III currently sit on either side of the road.



As Stratford's farmlands were snatched up by investors, Frances Flury purchased most of the land in this photo. Vassar Ave, is at the bottom and Warwick Rd. is to the right. Two large parcels were sold to the Simmons/Pennypacker and Jackel families.

The Simmons/Pennypacker family purchased the land currently occupied by the Stratford Swim Club, Lyons Recreation LLC, John Paul II's School, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, from Frances Flury. They operated a Horse Farm on the property. Mr. H. Raymond Pennypacker's house was on Warwick Rd. His sister, Katherine Simmons' family, owned the house on Vassar Ave., most recently known as the McCart Fuel Oil house. It has been remodeled by Joel Lyons.

According to Jeanne Jackel Ridgway, her parents, Harry and Ferne Jackel, purchased vacant property from Frances Flury. It extended from Warwick Road to the R.R. Tracks. Harry later, sold land to JMS Construction Co., developers of Woods and Leaves. Harry and Ferne built their house at 33 Warwick and donated the land the Presbyterian Church occupies.

Harry Jackel Jr.'s land adjoined his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jackel Sr.'s, farm. It was adjacent to W. Atlantic Ave. Mrs. Louise Jackel took vegetables and flowers, from the farm, into Philadelphia, where they were sold. The only house on W. Atlantic Ave., in Stratford, was their farmhouse. It is currently occupied by the Hoffman/Trautz family. The farm was part of the sale to JMS Construction Co.

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