

The Mouse Nest House (located on the 1866 Town of Enfield Map)

After reading an article in "Cross Road Comments by Lois O'Connor – 1957". I decided to track down the Mouse Nest House of Enfield. The description lead me first to "The Honey Pot", a tiny section of the "Upper Enfield road on Buck Creek", area in the vicinity of the "700 block" of Enfield Falls Road just north of Upper Treman Park, Buck Creek – Enfield Creek.

This house was Octagonal in shape. Near it, at one time, stood a log cabin whose owner tacked small pieces of colored tin on the outside to keep the witches away. If the butter didn't come just right he would throw a hot horseshoe in the churn to scare off "The little ones," making mischief with the churning.

Lois thought she was lost and stopped to inquire of Harry VanKeuren at 782 Enfield Falls Road, if he knew where the "Mouse Nest House" was. He said the house was just around the curve.

Lois stated it was difficult to recognize the outlines of the original octagonal structure in the present (1957) formation of the house. It was occupied by Mrs. Helen Blaker and family, 758 Enfield Falls Road. Lyall Blaker was home and told Lois what he could about the house, although he had no idea who the builder had been.

The house was originally just one eight-sided room. It was built on beams that were arranged like the spokes of a wheel and under the floor was a deep hole planned to hold

a pedestal on which the house would be set so that it could be rotated to let in the sun as the owner wanted. He never did get the pedestal in and eventually the underpart was filled in with stone. Seven rooms have been added to the first one making the exterior a bit unusual architecturally.

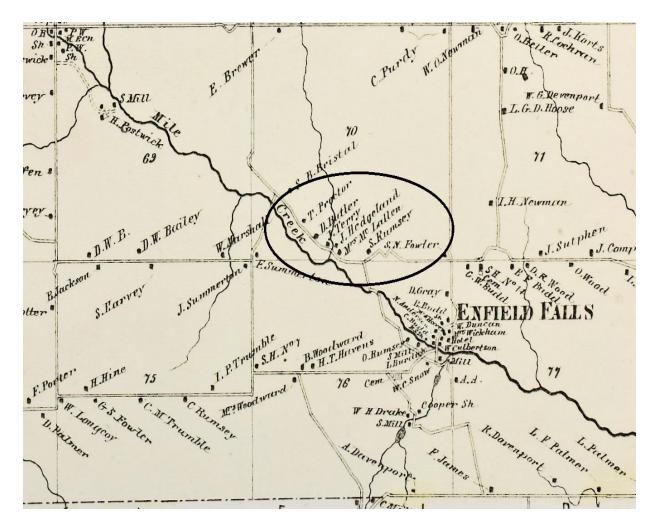
Louis also spoke with Mrs. Pearl Hess Little, who had lived next door for about 14 years and she didn't know anything about the history of the house.

Fred Rumsey of Trumbulls Corners told Lois that the octagonal house was built by a man called "Mouse" Terry. The place was there long before his time (Mr. Rumsey celebrated his 81st birthday this week) and I often heard his father tell about the house.

After digging through "paper work" I believe that "Mouse" Terry was James Terry. I also believe that the house is no longer standing! Would love to hear any information regarding this house.

We invite readers to share their memories send e-mail to historian@townofenfield.org.

http://townofenfield.org/throw-back-thursday-enfield-history/



1866 Map of Enfield New York, Tompkins County NY.