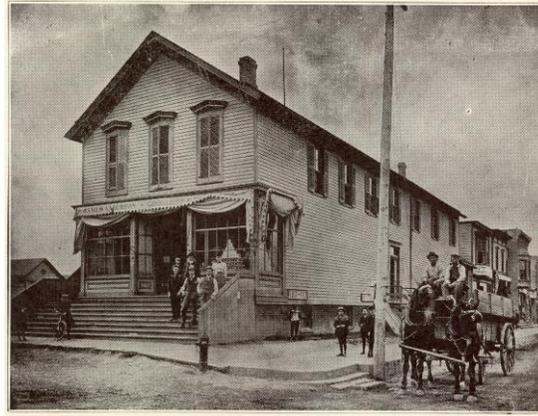


Anderson Family (Revised 4-22-08)



**Anderson General Store
Deerpath and Western, 1898**

James Anderson was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on July 11, 1831. After coming to the United States in 1851, he moved between Upper Michigan and Lake County, Illinois, throughout most of the 1850s. After marrying Mary Davis in 1857, he permanently settled in Lake Forest in 1858 where he started a general store and lumber and materials yard in 1862. The general store was located at the northeast corner of Deerpath and McKinley Road. The business moved to the northwest corner of Deerpath and Western Avenue in 1870. Between 1858 and 1874, the Andersons had seven children: William, Thomas, Anne, Mary, James, George and Joseph.

In April of 1860, at the urging of some Lake County Republicans, Abraham Lincoln consented to give a speech in Waukegan, Illinois. James Anderson was present and one of a small group of followers who continued to listen to Lincoln's speech even after a nearby fire distracted the attention of most of the other people in the audience. Mr. Lincoln turned to James and said, "Guess we might as well go to the fire, too!" They joined the others and Lincoln pitched in to help fight the fire.

With his nephew George Findlay, a Scotsman who emigrated in 1871 and successively married two of James' daughters, James Anderson founded the Anderson & Findlay Company. In 1878, the partnership contracted to ship to Lake Forest the first herd of purebred Angus cattle (a bull and four cows) from Aberdeenshire. The cattle were exhibited in the cattle show held in Chicago in December of 1878. That same year James Anderson purchased property in Allen County, Kansas. The Anderson & Findlay Company brought in more cattle over the next few years; most of the cattle were relocated to Anderson's Kansas ranch between 1894 and 1897. Anderson & Findlay furnished Angus cattle to western ranchers, including the Farwell family's XIT ranch in Texas. (The initials "XIT" stood for "ten counties in Texas" and the ranch consisted of three million acres.)

Illinois was considered part of the American West in James Anderson's day, and life for him and his family was what we would typically think as "western." According to anecdotes told by his great-grandson Ted Anderson, the Anderson men took the herd on

cattle drives from Texas and Kansas to Montana for grazing. Apparently they needed to change horses more often than the average cowboy because some of the Andersons, and George Findlay, were very large men. Back in Lake Forest, James' wife Mary established a rule against cattlemen bringing guns into her Lake Forest home. They had to hang their gun-belts up on a special hat tree at the front door!

James Anderson and George Findlay dissolved their business partnership in 1908, dispersing their Angus herd, although James retained fifty head at Allendale, Iowa. This herd became the sole property of his son Tom Anderson, who remained in the cattle business until 1922. James Anderson's general store in Lake Forest was successful until the 1920s or early 1930s. George Findlay went on to manage the XIT Ranch in Texas for the Farwell Family.

James Anderson Jr., the fifth child of James and Mary Anderson, attended Lake Forest College, graduating in 1890. After working in a Chicago engineering office, he formed the Anderson engineering and surveying company in 1891. He served as an engineer at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and was appointed City Engineer of Lake Forest in 1894. He lived in several houses in Lake Forest including one on Illinois Road near Gorton School and later in one in Deerpath Hill Estates. Among James Anderson's friends was Theodore Proxmire who first lived with him as a boarder in 1910. Dr. Proxmire later became a beloved Lake Forest physician and the father of Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin.

James Anderson Jr.'s engineering instruments, made by Gurley Company between 1860 and 1880, still work. Some are displayed in the company offices and some are on loan to the Lake County Discovery Museum. These instruments surveyed almost every stretch of land in the young Lake Forest and in developing Lake County where he was County Surveyor. The Anderson Company's early Plat Index is a Who's Who of the famous Chicago names of the turn of the 19th century.

James Anderson, Jr. had two children that survived to adulthood: his son James III, born in 1904 by his first wife Cora Maxwell Anderson, and his daughter Ethel, born in 1930 to his second wife Jessie Hill Anderson. James Anderson III graduated from Deerfield-Shields High School in 1922. After graduating from Lake Forest University and Armour Institute of Technology, he followed in his father's footsteps as City Engineer of Lake Forest and County Surveyor. Under his leadership, the James Anderson Company continued to be very active. By 1923 it was formally incorporated in the State of Illinois, and that same year modernized filing systems were begun which are used by the company to this day. During the 1930s and early 1940s, James Anderson Company was actively at work on the "Big Inch" and "Little Inch" pipelines built in preparation for the war and on the rapid expansion of Fort Sheridan and Great Lakes Naval Station before and during the war. Ethel Anderson also joined the family business after her graduation from Lake Forest College in 1952 and continued to work at the company as bookkeeper and receptionist for the next thirty-four years.

In the 1920s, the James Anderson Company formed a business association with Anderson (Stanley) and Ticknor which they maintained throughout that partnership and afterwards, with Stanley Anderson alone, until his death in 1960. Stanley Anderson, a renowned architect, was also a grandson of James Anderson I.

James Anderson III's sons Edward (Ted) and James (Jim), have been with the company since their early teens when they worked during the summers. They both graduated from Cornell University in the 1950s, after which they worked full time for the Anderson Company. Ted Anderson's son James (Jamie) has worked for the Company since 1976. His middle son, Scott, has worked there since 1977. While attending the University of Wisconsin, Jamie heard a speech by Dr. Proxmire's son, William, a long-serving Wisconsin Senator. Introducing himself to Senator Proxmire, the two reminisced about the historic connection between their two families and Lake Forest.

James Anderson Company continues its activity in the Lake Forest and Lake County area. It continues working for the Illinois Department of Transportation, the City of Lake Forest, the Village of Mettawa, the Village of Old Mill Creek, the Toll Highway Authority, and four active municipal drainage districts. The company also served as the village engineers for the Village of Vernon Hills during its recent development. In addition, James Anderson Company has branched out to form the subsidiaries of Lake County Land Survey Company, Forest Builders, and Forest Plumbing. All three of these firms are currently active on the North Shore and Lake County.