

William Steele Family



Joseph and Gladys Steele

William Steele settled in Lake Forest with his four sons in 1838, only five years after a treaty was signed with Native Americans to open up the land for settlement. Originally from Scotland (via Canada, where his wife and daughter died), the family came to Chicago to work on the Illinois and Michigan Canal. William's son, Matthew, married Ellen Atteridge of Lake Forest in 1851. Primarily farmers, the Steele sons and their families owned farms on the east and west sides of Waukegan, near Middlefork Drive. Their property contained one of the earliest schoolhouses in the area.

Matthew was one of many who ventured to California in 1849 for the Gold Rush. Upon his return, he and a brother began a saw mill at Port Clinton (Highland Park). Mathew's son, William, continued the farming tradition. William's son, Roy, moved the family to town so that his children, including present-day resident Joseph Steele, could attend the Lake Forest schools. The family, appropriately, moved to Atteridge Road.

Nomination prepared by Joseph Steele