

## The James Swanton Family



**West Laurel farm**

James R. Swanton was born in County Cork, Ireland, and came to Lake Forest in 1837 with his parents when he was nine years old. James was the eldest son of Robert and Mary Ann Cole Swanton. Robert Swanton died in 1839 and his widow married Thomas Atteridge. The family established a homestead on the southwest corner of Green Bay Road and Laurel Avenue. James married Elizabeth Catherine Miller in 1864, and together they had fourteen children. The family lived in a farmhouse with an orchard at 171 Laurel Ave. Eventually, James would sell some of his family land holdings to the Lake Forest Association for the formation of the town. James' brother, Richard, also sold off land to the town and residents, including acreage on Green Bay Road in 1897 to Howard Van Doren Shaw, who would later build his home, Ragdale.

A son of James, Francis E. Swanton, b. 1882, assisted in the planting of Market Square in 1917. Francis and his wife, Dora, resided on the corner of Westminster and Oakwood where they owned a landscaping business and sold grass seed. Francis' son, Roy was a club manager at the Onwentsia Club. Roy's son Frank (Pony) owned and operated Robertson's Men's Store from 1979 until its closing in 1993. Pony and his wife Kathleen (Gridley) have one son, Padraic, who was born in 1982. Padraic is the sixth generation.

Nomination prepared by Frank (Pony) and Gridley Swanton