

DANIEL DRISCOLL BUILDS AND SETTLES NEAR W & E CANAL

Many of the men who dug and built the structures on the Wabash & Erie Canal came from Ireland seeking employment and a better way of life. Daniel Driscoll was one of them.

Daniel Driscoll (1788-1873) and his wife, Mary, came to the United States in 1834 from County Cork, Ireland along with his brothers, John and James, and his sister, Ellen, who married James Elward. Daniel's oldest daughter, Mary, was born in County Cork and married N. O'Bryan. His second daughter, Ellen, was born in Maryland and married Daniel Buckely.

Traveling with his family across land by covered wagon, Daniel established his home, a lean-to log cabin, on the farm in 1834 and applied for a land grant. This was at the time that work was being let to contractors on the canal at Lagro (May 1834). The U. S. Government was granting land in favor of the canal and granted Daniel a farm consisting of 80 acres in Lagro Township, Wabash County, Indiana. This grant was signed by President Andrew Jackson on October 8, 1835. (See Canal Lands p. 13 of Newsletter)

Daniel lived on the farm and worked on the canal, which was completed in this area and water let into it to Wabash, Indiana in 1837. When his canal work was finished he stayed on the land located three miles east of Urbana and one-quarter mile south of the Frushour School and became a farmer. He built a wooden frame house that contained timber from the original log cabin.

After the death of his first wife, Mary, he married Ellen O'Brien, who was also from Ireland. The marriage took place in Lagro, Indiana. They had eight children: Margaret married Dave Kilty; Catherine married Tim Murphy; Timothy married Molly Dolan; Francis and Johanna, who both died at the age of 19; Elizabeth of whom no other record can be found; Sarah married Frank

DANIEL DRISCOLL'S FARM PASSED DOWN
(Information found in St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Lagro record book and from Anne Driscoll of Urbana, Indiana)

Daniel and Mary Driscoll

- Mary born in Ireland
- Ellen born in Maryland
- and Ellen O'Brien Driscoll
- Margaret
- Catherine
- Timothy
- Frances E. baptised 8-4-1846
- Johanna baptised 2-??-1849
- Elizabeth
- Sarah Anne baptised 5-23-1852
- John baptised 6-11-1854

John and Margaret Spohr Driscoll

- Charles born 8-17-1878
- Hugh born 5-5-1880
- William born 6-18-1882
- Ellen born 1-23-1884
- Mary born 1-20-1886
- John Clay born 12-18-1887
- Catherine baptised 12-12-1895

Hugh and Nora Ryan Driscoll

- John Lawrence born 7-26-1902
- Michael born 5-22-1904
- Paul born 1-11-1906
- Mary Pauline born 11-2-1907
- Marguerite born 12-29-1909
- Frances L. born 3-8-1912
- Nora Gertrude born 11-15-1915
- Eugene Thomas born 7-16-1918

Eugene and Anne Tworek Driscoll (still own farm)

- Mollie Ann born 10-25-1953
- Eugenia Rose born 5-16-1956
- Matthew Paul born 12-11-1957
- Frank Edward born 8-30-1960

Matthew and Angela Driscoll (live on farm)

- Bridget Michelle born 10-7-1989
- Kaitlin Marie born 9-12-1991
- Shannah Noele born 1-5-1994
- Ryan Thomas born 12-14-1998

Ramsey and John married Margaret Spohr.

John Driscoll (1854-1932) came into possession of the farm. He built the current house in front of the wooden frame house. He and his wife, Margaret Spohr, had six children: Ellen married Pete Noonan, Mary remained single, Hugh married Nora Ryan, Will married Teresa Coughlin, Clay married Mary Coughlin, Kathryn married William Sandoz.

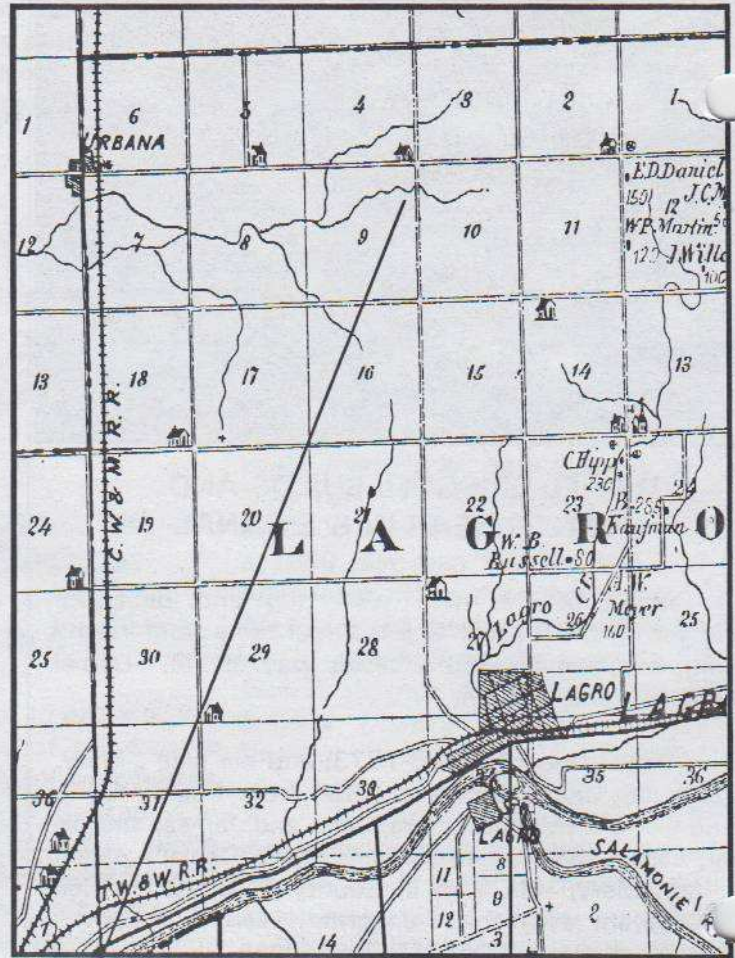
Clay Driscoll (1887-1961) became owner of the farm in 1934. He and his wife, Mary Coughlin, had seven children: Eileen married Lawrence Scheiber; Cletus; Mark married Lorene Miller; Leona married Gerald Campbell and lives in Marion, IN; Robert married Gene Eiler and lives in Urbana, IN; Lloyd married Norma Foltz and lives in Huntington, IN and Rita married Richard James Alexander.

Eugene T. Driscoll (1918-), son of Hugh Driscoll and great grandson of Daniel Driscoll, purchased the farm in September 1986 from his uncle Clay. Eugene and his wife, Anne Tworek, had four children: Mollie Ann married Frank Marsh and lives in Mountain Home, ID; Eugenia married Robert Cicero and lives in Florence, KY; Matthew married Angela Wilson and lives in Urbana, IN on the farm; and Frank married Beth Treska and lives in Urbana, IN.

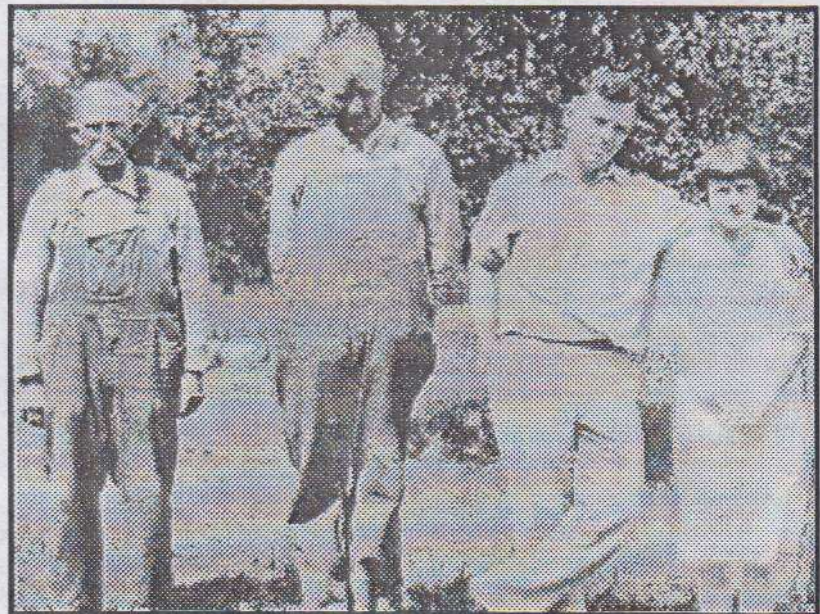
The present house, built in 1884 on the farm, has since been remodeled and now contains 7 rooms. Living there today with their parents Matthew and Angela are the gr.-gr.-great grandchildren of Daniel Driscoll: Bridget, Kaitlin, Shannah and Ryan Driscoll.

Daniel Driscoll's farm has been home to six generations of Driscolls. It is unique in that it still has a family living on it with the Driscoll last name.

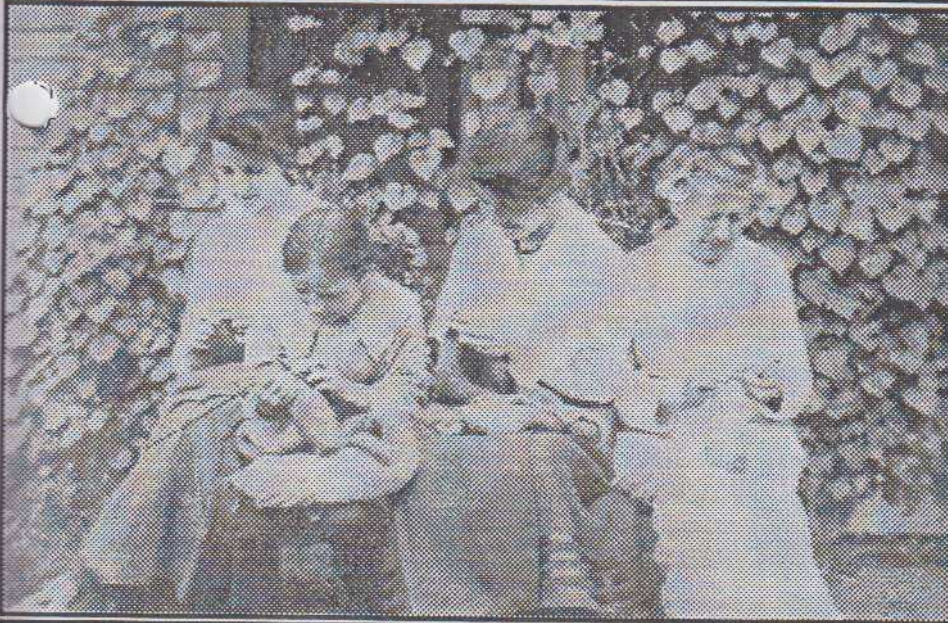
Superscript numerals on pictures = generations



Driscoll Farm Wabash & Erie Canal Lagro
The Driscoll farm is located 3½ miles northwest of Lagro on the Lagro Servia Road 300 E between 400 and 500 N.



Left: Nora Ryan Driscoll and children⁴ are seen feeding a flock of chickens on the Hugh³ Driscoll farm.
Above: Three generations of Driscolls are pictured from left to right: John², Hugh³, Mike⁴ Driscoll and his wife Mary. Photos courtesy Anne Driscoll



Top: Margaret, wife of John² Driscoll, teaches her daughters Ellen³, Katie³ and Mary³ Driscoll the art of knitting while sitting by the farm house.

Middle: Left to right: Michael⁴ Driscoll and John Clay³ Driscoll used horses when cultivating the corn. Note the fowl in the corn field.

Bottom: Windmills such as the one in the background helped settle the country by providing a water supply. Pictured standing from left to right: Michael⁴, John Lawrence⁴, Frances⁴ and Hugh³ Driscoll. Mary⁴ and Marguerite⁴ Driscoll are in the buggy.

Photos courtesy Anne Driscoll



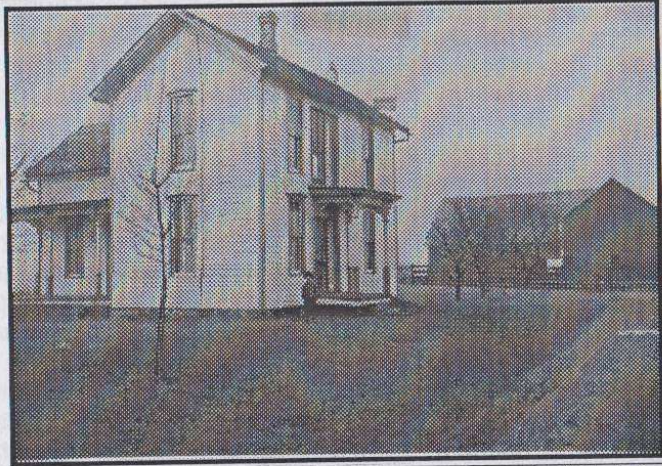
Daniel Driscoll is listed in the *History of Wabash County, Indiana*. Chicago, IL: John Morris Printer. 1884, p. 354 with the men whose families composed the society, which formed St. Patricks Church in Lagro. Many of them were Irish canal workers.

“Thomas Fitzgibbon, John Fitzgibbon, John Hogan, Michael Hogan, James O’Harran, Robert English, Michael English, Edward Saney, Thomas Grace, Thomas Torkey, John Clifford, **Daniel Driscoll**, John Holland, Jeremiah Casey, John Welsh, John Shanahan, Michael Shanahan, John Dalton, Dennis O’Brien, Timothy Kinneark, Patrick Kinneark, John Eagan, Michael Coughlan, John Coughlan, Patrick Costello, Michael Nolan, John Nolan, Barnabas Finan, Bryan Finan, Martin Wright, Jeremiah Murnan, Patrick Murnan, John Reardon, Timothy Murphy, Terence Devine, Dennis Kohan, James Elward, Morris Reagan, James O’Brien, James Driscoll, John Driscoll. Almost all of the above are dead.”

In the same history we find under the Catholic Cemetery of Lagro burials of its members over sixty years of age: “Ellen, wife of Daniel Driscoll, died September 14, 1879; sixty-five years.”

See companion article that includes information about the Driscoll family and how the Irish helped settle Indiana in Indiana Canals Vol.12 No.4 Fall 2001.





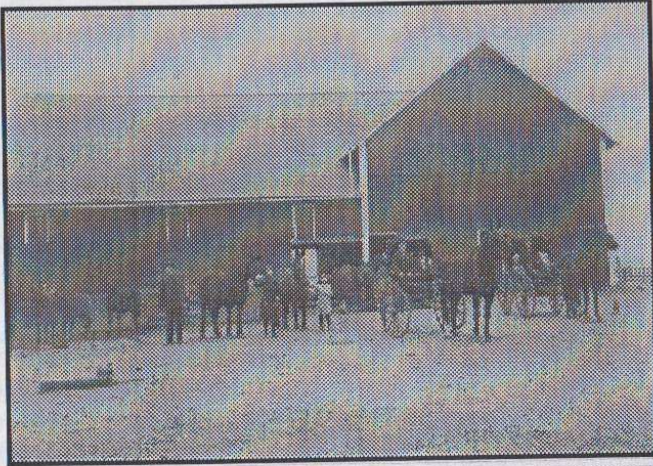
Above: Daniel Driscoll, one of the construction workers on the Wabash & Erie Canal, purchased 80 acres of land in 1834 in the Lagro, Indiana area.. The canal was completed through Lagro to Wabash, Indiana in 1836-37 Daniel remained in Lagro, built a lean-to log cabin, and began clearing the land for farming. He then built this farm house and barn, which have remained in the Driscoll family for over 150 years. It has been designated a Hoosier Homestead Farm. Six generations of Driscolls have lived on the farm (superscript numbers indicate generations):

- Daniel Driscoll
- John² & Margaret Driscoll
- Clay³ & Mary Driscoll
- Eugene⁴ & Anne Driscoll (current owner)
- Matthew⁵ & Angela Driscoll (current resident)
- Ryan Driscoll⁶ (current resident, gr-gr-great grandson of Daniel Driscoll)

Top right: Standing before the barn built in the mid-1800s are from left to right John², Mary³ and Ellen³ Driscoll, in the buggy on the left Hugh³ and Mike³ Driscoll, and in the buggy on the right Clay³ Driscoll.

Bottom right: This photo taken in June 2001 shows three generations of Driscolls. Standing left to right are Tim⁵, Anne and Eugene⁴ Driscoll. Seated is Ryan⁶ Driscoll. The original farmhouse has had new siding and windows added to it.

Photos courtesy Anne Driscoll



Watch for an upcoming **CSI Newsletter** article about the Driscoll family and some of its genealogy. More family pictures will also be included.