



About the Developersthe Ottwein Family:

This development is being built on part of the Ottwein family farm. Several generations of the family have enjoyed life here, from the main farmstead located a half mile southeast of here, since 1911; (you can easily see it from here.) Grandfather George (and his father-in-law, John Wilhelm) chose this location over more remote options, partly because he "wanted to raise his family of three girls and then, one boy, closer to town". That "one" was our dad, but another boy joined him a bit after the move. We've learned that was very forward thinking for a farm family, and a great manifestation of their loving and unusual brand of parenting, and even grandparenting.



So, more than a century has elapsed where several generations of the family lived on a working farm, but considered themselves a part of the adjacent City of Troy. Of course, many have left the farm for other vocations, with one foot still on the farm, we like to say.

And because some of that off-the-farm experience involved real estate development, we thought the following might deserve mention.

Initially, the family had not considered developing this parcel. But interest came in the form of several great commercial buyers, and while trying to be very careful about locating them on the land, we ultimately felt we had to make additional improvements and decisions about the whole, in effect becoming developers. A tipping factor involved our desire to be involved with the control of quality and direction. We have very carefully approached the design and development of this parcel, intending excellence in all ways.

Following is a summary of our developmental experience:

Merrill (Ottwein) and sister Audrey's late husband, James Deeren, were the developers, primarily in the Edwardsville-Glen Carbon area, of considerable real estate, in the 70s and 80s:

- In Edwardsville-Glen Carbon, their developments were **Lakewood, Ginger Creek, Kettle River, Sugar Creek**, and all of the various **Cottonwood** developments including the original mall, and surrounding residential neighborhoods.
- In Maryville, they developed **the Maryville Professional Center**, at 159 and 162.
- In Troy, **McDonald's, Dairy Queen** and **Regions Bank**, came in a small platting.
- In Bethalto, **Airport Plaza Shopping Center** was developed.

In all, we attempted environmental harmony and functional, attractive working and living environments. In the Cottonwood area, we had our own tree nursery and mechanical tree movers, allowing generous plantings. So, in this current development, we also intend sensitivity to environmental concerns and attractive working and living settings. All will emphasize walking trails and sidewalks, and relate closely to the adjacent park and other amenities.

We intend to add pictures and biographical sketches of the principles....as soon as we can make it happen.

