

# *Cedar Hill Stock Farm*

## *Cambridge City, Indiana*

The Cedar Hill Stock farm land was originally established in 1811 by John Shortridge. In 1816, he deeded the land to his son George, who was the 1827 founder of Georgetown, later named German Town. The barn was built c.1849 by its new landowner Austin Claypool. Austin and his wife Hannah (daughter of William Petty, a successful pork trader) had together eight children. Austin was a firm believer in educating not only his sons but his daughters as well. Virginia, Austin's eldest daughter, became a successful ranch woman specializing in purebred livestock breeding. She felt that farming was a vocation peculiarly adapted to women. Virginia is quoted as saying, "If a woman can make bread and direct someone else how to make bread, she can do the infinitely simpler thing - make hay". By 1874, historical records show Josiah Reiser as the farm owner. In 1879, the farm was sold to the Boyd family. Many generations of Boyds owned and operated the farm. To this day, the property remains in the Boyd Family Trust.



The full glory of the farm was from 1922-1938. At this time Abiram M. Boyd turned the farm into Cedar Hill Stock Farm. Its sole purpose was to breed top quality harness racing horses for sulky racing (pictured to the right). Horses were bred for their superior trotting skills. Mr. Boyd acquired three great stallions that gave him superior stock. Cedar Hill Stock Farm became world famous, and was equipped to board 100 mares. When the colts were foaled, they were kept till they were old enough to be shipped away and receive training. By 1938, all farm mares and stallions were sold off and the Stock farm was no more. The Original farmhouse was removed in 1969. From 1976-1996 a living trailer was placed on the farm; 2002-2013 a modular house stood on the property. In 2020, the barn was damaged and slated to be dismantled.



### *Barn Facts:*

- Built c. 1849
- Remodeled in 1870
- Original barn size 60x80x14
- Farmhouse remodeled in 1903
- Painted bright red in 1914
- Addition c.1920 size 36x90x14
- Broodmare barn with 60 stalls
- Barn stood for 171 years
- Black and white photos - Dayton Daily News May 4, 1924



*American Barn and Wood*

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