

“Denman Farm”

John Denman, Jr. arrived at age 20 in 1720 and built the first homestead near Denman Road and Lincoln Avenue west of the river.

His 100 acre farm included the area now bounded by Denman and Lincoln, Burnside and Lexington. Streets now in the area, like Christopher, Williams, Marsh, Retford, Stoughton and Dorchester Avenues have ties to the Denman history.

The farm achieved the distinction of being one of the few properties in the state to remain in the same family for 228 years without ever having a mortgage.

Part of the property was covered with timber which was used for shipbuilding. Family tradition says some of the timber went into refitting the U.S. Frigate Constitution, during the War of 1812.

The Denman farm was sold in 1948 and the old Denman Family homestead on Lincoln Avenue at Denman Road, the third to be built there, lasted until 1951.

Kathleen Denman Hansel, a local descendent of the founder, arranged for the park and marker on the historical site which was dedicated by the Cranford Historical Society. Most of the farm's property was divided up for housing development over the years.

Source:

1. Archives of the Cranford Historical Society.
2. *Cranford Chronicle*, Special Edition, 1983