

Eastsider  
13650 11 Mile Road,  
Warren, MI, 48089-1422  
Phone: 810-756-8800  
Second Front Page: Preserve Name of Kelly Road  
1 May 1996

Kelly family asks public to preserve name of Kelly Road  
By Lana Mini: C & G Staff Writer



Eastpointe, MI – Laura Kelly is hoping her words can convince city residents to avoid signing a proposal to change the name of Kelly Road to Eastpointe Boulevard.

*(Pictured, L to R: father, John Kelly Jr., daughter, Marguerite (Kelly) Stack holding her son Jack Stack, mother, Mary A. (Young) Kelly & a family member.*

The reason: Kelly Road represents metro-Detroit history. She happily tells the tales to prove it.

Laura Kelly is the great granddaughter of John Kelly Jr., the man whom Kelly Road was named after. In his honor, and out of respect for local history, Laura Kelly wants to keep the name of Kelly Road unchanged.

“These street names came from the early settlers of this area,” Laura Kelly said. “the names should be preserved and respected.”

Laura Kelly’s father, Kenneth Kelly, the grandson of John Kelly Jr., died 18 months ago; before the name change idea ever came about.

“My father would be very upset about this,” Kelly said.

Eastpointer resident George Lawroski is on a mission to change Kelly Road to Eastpointe Boulevard, and enact term limits for city council, the mayor and judges. He began collecting signatures last week.

Kelly, of Roseville, said she doesn’t mind either way about Lawroski’s term limit idea, but she does worry about the street name. She said before residents make a decision about whether to sign a street name change petitions, she wanted the history of Kelly Road known.

John Kelly Jr. was born on February 12, 1857 in Hamtramck. He was the son of Irish immigrant farmers who purchased 66 acres of land on Pumpkin Hook for \$6,250. When his parents died, John Kelly Jr., took over the farm that sat directly across from where Denby High School in Detroit stands now.

John Kelly Jr. was also a justice of the peace. People from all over the area walked or rode horse-drawn carriages to the Kelly farm to conduct business.

The problem was the farmhouse was located on a dirt road, as homes were back then, and people often got lost in search of it.

So, one morning, John Kelly took a piece of wood and nailing it to an oak tree at the intersection of Pumpkin Hook Road and Tailor painted KELLY'S ROAD on it.

He posted the sign on the street and people found his home much easier.

Years later, Kelly's Road was officially named Kelly Road.

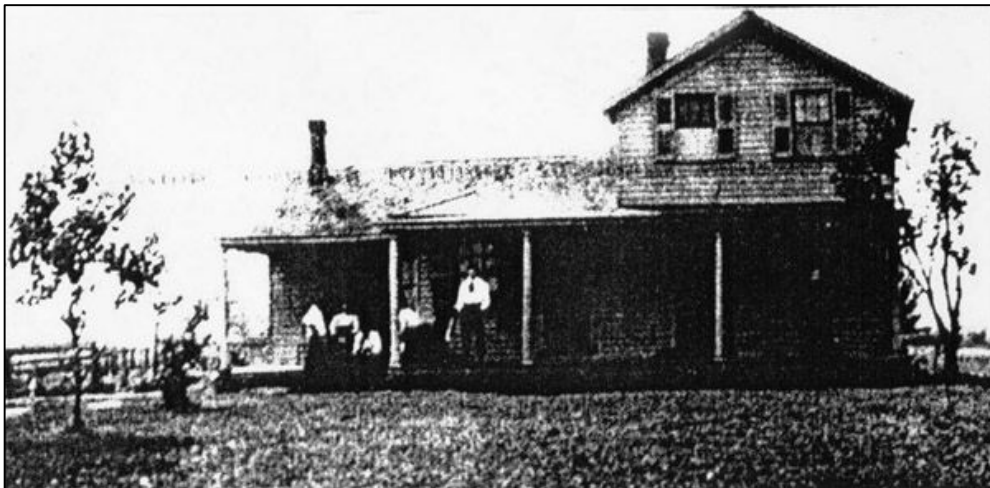
When John Kelly Jr. died, he was buried in the Assumption Grotto Cemetery where other settlers like Schoenherr, Hayes and Young were buried. Although Kelly's grave was later re-located to another cemetery, Laura Kelly said seeing those other names, like Schoenherr who also had a major road named after him, meant something important. *(John Kelly Jr. is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, 17100 Van Dyke Avenue, Detroit MI 48201- (313) 365-5650).*

*(Assumption Grotto Cemetery, Gratiot Ave bet 6 Mile & Maple Ridge, Detroit, MI. aka Assumption Cemetery). (John Kelly Sr. Kelly & his wife, Catherine Collins & Thomas Anthony Kelly are buried at Assumption Grotto Cemetery, Detroit, MI).*

“These are the people who founded our cities, this is our heritage.”

Kelly said her 52 first-cousins, some of whom live in Eastpointe, and descendants of John Kelly Jr., agree.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>



John Kelly Jr. farmhouse was located across where Denby High School in Detroit stands now.

**Letter from Laura Kelly to the Editor: dated 13 March 1996 –**

Dear Editor,

John Kelly Jr. was born Feb. 12, 1857 in Hamtramck, MI, son of immigrant farmers; one of eleven children. His father purchased 66 acres of farm land on Pumpkinhook Rd for \$6,250 from Fred Juif of Grosse Pointe Township. His son, John Jr. took over the farm and also served as Justice of the Peace. People seeking his services often got lost on the many dirt roads. John solved the problem by painting KELLY ROAD on a piece of wood and nailing it to an oak tree at the intersection of Pumkinhook and Tailor (Tailor Rd. is currently Houston-Whittier). When the city incorporated the area the road was officially named Kelly Rd.

A glance at plat map, circa 1875, and headstones in area cemeteries reveals names of earlier settlers lent their names to streets and avenues, i.e. Schoenherr, Gitre, Young, Cadieux, Morang, and of course Kelly!

As the 80+ descendants of “The Captain” John Kelly Jr., we think preserving the history of the community should take precedents over one person’s gains. Please consider history before casting a vote for change.

Very Truly Yours,  
The Kelly Family

**John Kelly Jr.**, b. 12 February 1857, MI – d. 1924, MI (s/o John & Catherine (Collins) Kelly)

**Mary A. Kelly**, b. 1865 – d. 1937 (Mary A. (Young) Kelly, w/o John A. Kelly Jr.)

**George Nichols Kelly**, b. 27 February 1897, MI – d. 28 August 1947, MI  
(s/o John & Mary A. (Young) Kelly Jr.)

**Genevieve “Jennie” (Michels) Kelly**, b. 6 January 1901, MI – d. 25 March 1988, MI  
(SS Death Index: Name: **GENEVIEVE M KELLY** - Birth: 6 Jan 1901 – Death: 25 Mar 1988– Age: 87–  
Last Residence: [Macomb, Macomb, MI](#) 48044 - Last Benefit: (not specified) – SSN: 373-36-5873 Issued  
By: Michigan).

**Donald E. Kelly**, b. 9 January 1924, MI – d. 16 October 1998, MI  
(s/o George & Genevieve (Michels) Kelly)  
(SS Death Index: Name: **DONALD KELLY** - Birth: 9 Jan 1924 – Death: 16 Oct 1998 – Age: 74 – Last  
Residence: [Warren, Macomb, MI](#) 48093 - Last Benefit: (not specified) – SSN: 362-28-2711 Issued By:  
Michigan).

**Nicholas Michels**, b. 1871 – d. 1942 (h/o Henriette “Hattie” Weins)

**Henriette “Hattie” (Weins) Michels**, b. 1877 – d. 1937 (w/o Nicholas Michels)

US Census 1860 – Wayne County, Hamtramck, MI – Post Office, Detroit, MI

Dwl: 567 Family: 567 Line: 10

**Kelly, John** 44 M Farmer Scotland (*John Kelly Sr.*)

**Kelly, Catherine** 44 F Housewife Scotland (*Catherine Collins*)

Kelly, Margaret 19 House help Scotland

Kelly, Catherine 17 House help Scotland

Kelly, Ellen 15 F House help Scotland

Kelly, Mary 11 F Scotland

Kelly, Sarah 9 F Canada

Kelly, Elisa 7 F MI

Kelly, Alice 5 F MI

**Kelly, John** 3 M MI (*John Kelly Jr.*)

Kelly, Isabelle 2 F MI

Kelly, Thomas 3/12 M MI

US Census 1870 - Wayne County, Grosse Pointe, MI

Dwl: 77 Family: 76

**Kelly, John** 53 M W Farmer (Value of real estate, 2300) (Value of personal estate, 740) Ireland  
(Parents of Foreign Birth) (*John Kelly Sr.*)

**Kelly, Catherine** 54 F W Keeping House Ireland (*Catherine Collins*)

Kelly, Margerette 29 F W At Home Scotland

Kelly, Rose 23 F W At Home Scotland

Kelly, Mary 21 F W At Home Scotland

Kelly, Sarah 19 F W At Home Canada

Kelly, Elizabeth 17 F W At Home Michigan

Kelly, Alice 15 F W At School Michigan

**Kelly, John** 13 M W At School Michigan (*John Kelly Jr.*)

(*Grandson, Kenneth Nicholas Kelly s/o Genevieve "Jennie" Michels & George Nichols Kelly. Kenneth Kelly md Gloria Gill, d/o Preston Stewart Gill & Addie Anderson.*) (\*See Chapter 2 & Preston Stewart Gill Family Sheet at <http://www.ajlambert.com>). (*John Kelly Jr. born February 12, 1857 in Hamtramck, MI.*)

Kelly, Isabell 12 F W At School Michigan

Kelly, Thomas 10 M W At School Michigan

Census Place: 1880 Grosse Point, Wayne County, Michigan

Source: FHL Film 1254609 National Archives Film T9-0609 Page 133C

Line: 23 Dwl: 282 Family: 282

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
<b>John A. KELLEY</b>	Self	M	M	W	63	IRELAND
Occ:	Farmer	Fa: IRELAND	Mo: IRELAND			
<b>Catherine KELLEY</b>	Wife	F	M	W	64	IRELAND
Occ:	Keeping House	Fa: IRELAND	Mo: IRELAND			
<b>John KELLEY</b>	Son	M	S	W	23	MI
Occ:	Farm Laborer	Fa: IRELAND	Mo: IRELAND			
<i>(John Kelly Jr. md Mary A. Young)</i>						
Isabella KELLEY	Dau	F	S	W	20	MI
Occ:	No Occupation	Fa: IRELAND	Mo: IRELAND			
Thomas KELLEY	Son	M	S	W	19	MI
Occ:	Farm Laborer	Fa: IRELAND	Mo: IRELAND			

US Census 1900 - Gratiot Township, Wayne Co., MI

Line: 21 Dwl: 225 Family: 229

**Kelly, John** Head 44 M W February 1857 (8 yrs. md) Farmer MI Ireland Ireland

**Kelly, Mary** Wife 35 F W March 1865 (8 yrs. md) (6 children born, 5 children living) MI MI MI

Kelly, Alexander Son 6 M W July 1893 Single At School MI MI MI (*John Alexander Kelly*)

Kelly, Margaret Dau 5 F W August 1894 Single MI MI MI

**Kelly, George** Son 3 M W February 1897 Single MI MI MI (*George Nichols Kelly md Genevieve Michels*)

Kelly, Mary Isabel Dau 2 F W August 1898 Single MI MI MI

Kelly, Edwin Son 10/12 M W October 1899 Single MI MI MI (*Edwin T. Kelly, never married*)

Merland, John Servant 37 M W September 1862 Single Day Laborer France France France

US Census 1910 – Gratiot Township, Wayne Co., MI

Line: 59 Dwl: 281 Family: 285

**Kelly, John A.** Head 52 M W (17 yrs. md) Farmer General Farm MI Scot English Scot English

**Kelly, Mary A.** Wife 45 F W (17 yrs. md) (8 children born, 8 children living) MI MI German

Kelly, John A. Son 16 M W Single MI MI MI (*John Alexander Kelly*)

Kelly, Margaret Dau 15 F W Single MI MI MI

**Kelly, George N.** Son 13 M W Single MI MI MI (*George Nichols Kelly md Genevieve Michels*)

Kelly, Mary Isabel Dau 11 F W Single MI MI MI

Kelly, Edwin T. Son 10 M W Single MI MI MI (*Edwin T. Kelly, never married*)

Kelly, Cecelia G. Dau 8 F W Single MI MI MI

Kelly, Marion E. Dau 6 F W Single MI MI MI

Kelly, Rose A. Dau F W 3 Single MI MI MI

US Census 1910 – Gratiot Township, Wayne Co., MI

Line: 1 Dwl: 291 Family: 287

**Michels, Nicolas** Head 38 M W M1 (14 yrs. md) Farmer MI Germany Germany  
**Michels, Henriette C.** Wife 32 F W M1 (14 yrs. md) (6 children born, 6 children living)  
German German German  
Michels, Eugene Son 13 M W Single MI MI German  
Michels, Cordelia Dau 11 F W Single MI MI German  
**Michels, Genevive** Dau 9 F W Single MI MI German (*Genevieve Michels md George Kelly*)  
Michels, Violet Dau 6 F W Single MI MI German  
Michels, Loretta Dau 4 F W Single MI MI German  
Michels, Mildred Dau 1 F W Single MI MI German  
*Illegible* Servant 51 M W Single Farm Laborer Belgium Belgium Belgium

US Census 1920 – Oakely Road south of Gratiot, Dist. 13, (21 WD), Detroit City, Wayne Co., MI

Line: 4 Dwl: 39 Family: 41

**Michels, Nicolas** Head 48 M W Operator Farm MI Germany Germany  
**Michels, Henriette** Wife 42 F W MI Germany Germany  
Michels, Eugene Son 22 M W Single MI MI MI  
Michels, Cordilia Dau 20 F W Single MI MI MI  
Michels, Violet Dau 16 F W Single MI MI MI  
Michels, Loretta Dau 14 F W Single MI MI MI  
Michels, Mildred Dau 11 F W Single MI MI MI  
Michels, Elmer Son 9 M W Single MI MI MI  
Michels, Marvin Son 7 M W Single MI MI MI  
Michels, Eveline Dau 6 F W Single MI MI MI  
Michels, Beatrice Dau 4 2/12 F W Single MI MI MI  
Michels, Oliver Son 2 6/12 M W Single MI MI MI  
Michels, Howard Son 1 3/12 M W Single MI MI MI

US Census 1920 – Gratiot South side, Dist. 13, (Ward 21), Detroit City, Wayne Co., MI

Line: 23 Dwl: 41 Family: 43

**Kelly, George** Head 22 MW Married Laborer Factory MI MI MI  
**Kelly, Geneviva** Wife 19 F W Married MI MI MI  
(*Genevieve Michels, d/o Nicholas & Henriette “Hattie” Michels*)

US Census 1920 – Gratiot Township, Wayne Co., MI – Kelly Road - Enumeration Dist. #683

3711 Dwl: 18 Family: 20 Line: 6 Ancestry.com image #3

**Kelly, John** Head M W Owns Free 62 Married Farmer At Home MI Scotland Scotland  
(*Parents mother tongue is English*) (*John Kelly Jr., s/o John Kelly Sr. & Catherine Collins*)  
**Kelly, Mary** Wife F W 54 Married MI MI Germany  
(*Mother’s mother tongue is German*). (*Mary A. Young*)  
Kelly, Alexander Son M W 26 Single Carpenter Building Contractor MI MI MI  
Kelly, Alvin Son M W 20 Single Farm Worker Home Farm MI MI MI  
Kelly, Marion Dau F W 16 Single MI MI MI  
Kelly, Rose Dau F W 12 Single MI MI MI

US Census 1930 – Wayne Co., Detroit City, MI – Hoyt Ave. - Enumeration Dist. #835

14160 Dwl: 463 Line: 29

**Kelly, Mary A.** Head F W Owns (Value of home: \$7, 330) 65 Widow MI MI Germany  
(*Mary A Young, w/o John Kelly Jr.*)  
Kelly, Edwin Son M W 30 Single Lathe Operator at the Auto Factory MI MI MI  
Kelly, Marion Dau F W 27 Single Lavatory Worker at a Drug Factory MI MI MI  
Kelly, Rose Dau F W 22 Single Lavatory Worker at a Drug Factory MI MI MI  
\*See Story: KEEPING TRADITION DOWN THE ROAD

MOUNT OLIVET CEMETERY, located 17100 Van Dyke Ave., Detroit, MI 48234-3975

**George Nichols Kelly** – b. 1897 – d. 1947

**Genevieve “Jennie” (Michels) Kelly** – b. 1901 – d. 1988

**Donald E. Kelly** – b. 1924 – d. 1998, MI – s/o George Nichols Kelly & Genevieve “Jennie” Michels.  
**John Kelly Jr.** – b. 12 February 1857, Hamtramck, MI – d. 1924, MI -  
s/o John Kelly Sr. & Catherine Collins  
**Mary A. (Young) Kelly** - b. 1865 – d. 1937 – w/o John Kelly Jr.  
**Edwin T. Kelly** – b. 1900 – d. 1971 – s/o John Kelly Jr. & Mary A. Young. He never married.  
**Anna Kerscht** – b. 1868 – d. 1930  
**Nicholas Michels** - b. 1871 – d. 1942  
**Henriette “Hattie” Michels** - b. 1877 – d. 1937 – w/o Nicholas Michels

**ASSUMPTION GROTTO CEMETERY**, Gratiot Ave bet 6 Mile & Maple Ridge, Detroit, MI. (aka Assumption Cemetery).

**John A. Kelly Sr.** – b. 22 February 1814 – d. 31 January 1899 – *May his soul rest in peace.*  
**Catherine (Collins) Kelly** – b. 22 June 1815 – d. 25 January 1891 – *May her soul rest in peace.*  
**Thomas Anthony Kelly** – b. 12 January 1936 – d. 19 September 2002 – *Sgt. U.S. Marine Corps,*  
s/o George Nichols Kelly & Genevieve “Jennie” Michels.

**Children of George Nichols Kelly & Genevieve “Jennie” Michels:**

**Eileen Kelly**

**Kenneth Nicholas Kelly** - b. 27 January 1922, Detroit, MI – d. 29 March 1995, MI - md **Gloria A. Gill.**

**Donald E. Kelly** – b. 9 January 1924, MI – d. 16 October 1998, MI

**John (called Robert & Bob) Kelly**

**William G. Kelly** – b. 18 March 1927, MI- d. 9 August 2004, MI on a Thursday – md **Esther Jean Scherlies** – d. 1975

*William G. Kelly was cremated. Funeral was held at: Will & Schwarzkoff Funeral Home, Mt. Clemens, MI*

**Lois Kelly** – *Lois (Max) Kelly Rodgers*

**Patrica Kelly** - *Pat (Kelly) Rent*

**James Kelly** -

**John “Jack” Kelly** -

**Thomas “Tom” Anthony Kelly** - b. 12 January 1936, MI – d. 19 September 2002, MI – *Sgt. U.S. Marine Corps. Thomas Anthony Kelly was cremated and his ashes placed on top of John Kelly Sr’s grave at the Assumption Grotto Cemetery, Detroit, MI.*

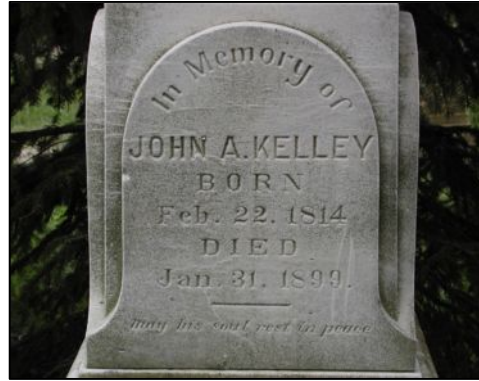
**WILLIAM G. KELLY** - Obituary: Detroit Free Press, Detroit, MI: August 10, 2004

Age 77, August 9, 2004. Husband of the late Esther. Father of Kathy (Tom) Lock, Tim Kelly, Nancy Kelly, Lori (Rod) Friedsberg, Denise (Mark) Folk, and James Kelly. Grandfather of 13. Great-Grandfather of 14. Brother of James Kelly, John Kelly, Lois (Max) Rodgers, and Pat Rent. Funeral Thursday 12 p.m. at the Will & Schwarzkoff Funeral Home, 233 NB Gratiot Ave., Mt. Clemens. Visitation 3-9 Wednesday.

**RESURRECTION CEMETERY** -located at 18201 Clinton River Road in Clinton Township. 18201 Clinton River Road, Clinton Township, Macomb County, Michigan 48038

**Kenneth Nicholas Kelly** - b. 27 January 1922, Detroit, MI – d. 29 March 1995, MI md **Gloria Gill**, b. 19 February 1927, Detroit, MI md 6 August 1947, Detroit, MI s/o **George Nicholas Kelly & Genevieve “Jennie” Michels. Gloria A. Gill, d/o Stewart Preston Gill & Addie Anderson.**

(SS Death Index: Name: **KENNETH N KELLY** - Birth: 27 Jan 1922 – Death: 29 Mar 1995– Age: 73 – Last Residence: [Saint Clair Shores, Macomb, MI](#) 48082 - Last Benefit: (not specified) – SSN: 371-12-0407 Issued By: Michigan).



ASSUMPTION GROTTO CEMETERY, Gratiot Ave bet 6 Mile & Maple Ridge, Detroit, MI. (aka Assumption Cemetery).

**John A. Kelly Sr.** – b. 22 February 1814 – d. 31 January 1899 – *May his soul rest in peace.*

**Catherine (Collins) Kelly** – b. 22 June 1815 – d. 25 January 1891 – *May her soul rest in peace.*

**Thomas Anthony Kelly** – b. 12 January 1936 – d. 19 September 2002 – Sgt. U.S. Marine Corps – s/o George Nichols Kelly & Genevieve “Jennie” Michels.



Thomas Anthony Kelly – b. 12 January 1936 – d. 19 September 2002 – *Sgt. U.S. Marine Corps. He was the s/o George Nichols Kelly & Genevieve “Jennie” Michels.*

(SS Death Index: Name: **THOMAS A KELLY** - Birth: 12 Jan 1936 – Death: 19 Sep 2002 – Age: 66– Last Residence: [Roseville, Macomb, MI](#) 48066 - Last Benefit: (not specified) – SSN: 375-34-6168 Issued By: Michigan).

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