Deerfield

Stories

Deerfield Stories

An Anthology of Little Histories

From Deerfield Township's *Deerfield Digest*, Photo Exhibitions and Other Sources

Deerfield Township, Warren County, Ohio

Prepared by

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Deerfield Stories – An Anthology

Ohio Country (Northwest Territory) Quiz

Test your knowledge of the history of our area before Ohio became a state in 1803. Are these Statements True of False?

1. Fighting with Ohio Indians before the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 was by Virginians trying to keep the Indians out of Kentucky.

2. Deerfield Township, Warren County, Ohio was part of Virginia for 176 years.

3. England won most of the Northwest Territory (land between the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers) from the French in the Seven Years War (French and Indian War) only to lose it 20 years later in the American Revolution.

4. For 150 years before Ohio's statehood, the French – then the English – traded with the Indians. The Indian tribes were equipped with firearms and goods from North America and Europe.

5. When newly independent America took possession of the Ohio Country in 1783, there were no settlers, Indian villages or permanent residents in Deerfield Township or Warren County. No one was here.

6. The only armed conflict in Deerfield Township's history was Confederate General John Morgan's raid. Morgan traveled through the southern part of the Township during the Civil War.

7. Symmes Purchase or the Miami Purchase (the land between the Miami Rivers up to Lebanon) is the only place in America where surveyors made Ranges (rows) of townships run East and West versus the standard North – South arrangement.

8. General George Custer's army lost about 200 men in the Little Bighorn battle in 1876. But the worst defeat of the American army by Indians was Governor St. Clair's near Greenville -- two counties north of us. Six hundred thirty officers and men were killed along with uncounted civilian wagoners and 56 army wives.

9. The north-south surveyor's coordinates of your home between the Miami Rivers are based on the location of the flagpole at old Fort Washington (The fort is gone. It was near the Lytle tunnel on I71).

Find most of the answers in the following few pages. Can't wait? Check the answer sheet at the end of this section.

1

Before Statehood in 1803

In the Beginning

France had claimed the Ohio Country since LaSalle's discovery of the Ohio River in 1674. Thanks to France's support and arming of the aggressive eastern Iroquois Indians, all natives left Ohio by 1720. All that remained was Iroquois hunting grounds.

So, we will begin with a blank page. No one was home in Ohio in the early 1700s. Numerous Indian tribes moved into the void in the first half of the century. The beginnings of our geographic birth pains were in 1747. By then, English trading posts were scattered along modern Ohio's southern borders and at Picawillany near Piqua, while French traders occupied the Lake Erie shores and parts of Indiana. For the previous one hundred fifty years, the French and English traded with the Indians – weapons and goods. *(Statement No. 4 is True.)* The French attacked Picawillany in what some say is the first battle of the French and Indian War.

In 1748, the Ohio Company was formed by prominent Virginians – including George Washington -- who were granted 200,000 acres around Marietta by the English crown. This further stirred the embers of war. The first Ohio Company's plans were never completed. Flames erupted in 1754 when George Washington – then an English Army Officer – was captured near the French Fort DuQuesne (Pittsburgh). In Europe, the war was called the Seven-Year's War. It formally ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1763 which ceded the Ohio Country to England.

Ohio Company explorer Christopher Gist was probably the first European to visit Old Deerfield. After meeting with the Miami Indians at Piqua he traveled down the Miami valley to the Ohio in 1751. Four military raids between 1779 and 1786 exposed numerous leaders and land seekers from the east to the Miami valley's potential for agriculture and mills.

> Unless noted in the text or needed for clarity, modern names for places are used. For example, Portsmouth is used instead of Old Shawneetown, and Picqua is used instead of Picawillany.

> *First Person.* Christopher Gist reported small herds of bison present in our area during his exploration. He was impressed with the Miami valley's potential for cultivation. " Nothing is wanted but cultivation to make this a most delightful country. Two years later, Gist's Ohio Company experience was useful to young George Washington's expedition into backwoods Pennsylvania to warn the French to keep out.

> *Cut to the chase.* A tabulated summary of European history in our area is provided at the end of this section.

Warpaths and Settlements

Ohio's Indians were raided many times over the next 50 years – sometimes by the same settlers in three different 'uniforms'. First were the English, then the American Revolutionaries and then American Militia and Army.

After the French and Indian war, treaties with the Indians – predominantly the Iroquois -- established Ohio as Indian territory. Settlers in Ohio were mostly Moravian missionaries who established Christian Indians in northeast Ohio. But

encroachment by the settlers led to border conflicts. Virginia's English governor, Lord Dunmore and Colonel Andrew Lewis each lead small armies down the Ohio River to intimidate the Indians. At Point Pleasant, Kentucky (near Gallipolis), Lewis and the Shawnee chief Cornstalk fought to a draw. Dunmore and Lewis marched into central Ohio near Chillicothe where they secured a new peace with the Indians, and added "Dunmore's War" to Ohio history.

> Iroquois refers to a confederation of eastern Indians. In eastern Ohio in the 1740s they were the Senecas, Cayugas, Mohawks, Onodagas, Oneidas and Tuscaroras. Ohioans called the Iroquois 'Mingos'. The Iroquois word for the river and state we pronounce "Ohio" means great water.
>
> Classified as Algonquin were the Ottowas (NW Ohio), the Miamis (Eastern Ohio), the Delawares (Southeast Ohio) and the Shawnees (Central and Southwestern Ohio). Shawnees were most concentrated around Chillicothe (Shawnee for village). Driven away from their homelands and drawn to Ohio, the Indians came from all points of the compass in the 1720-1740 period.

Another War

The American Revolutionary War -- formally ended with another "Treaty of Paris" in 1783. England formally ceded nearly all land east of the Mississippi to the new American Country. *(Statement No. 3 is True.)* The portion North of the Ohio became known as the Northwest Territory. Congress specified rules for surveying and selling the new land in the Land Ordinance of 1785. In 1787, Congress adopted the Northwest Ordinance which approximately defined the boundaries of modern Ohio and set rules for governing the new territory.

The most important military action of the Revolutionary war affecting Deerfield Township was General George Rogers Clark's expedition in 1778-9. Supported by Virginia, Clark took a small army down the Ohio to Illinois where he captured Cahokia and Kaskaskia (near St. Louis). Later they captured Vincennes, Indiana and English General Henry Hamilton, the 'scalp buyer'.


The Fur Trade. Beavers were plentiful along the Little Miami River when Europeans first came here. Beaver hides were a valuable resource – used to make fancy hats for men. The beaver is North America's largest rodent. Although though they are aquatic creatures, the beaver's diet is strictly vegetarian.

In 1778 Ohio Shawnees lead by the English attacked Kentucky (then Virginia) villages prompting two retaliations. Captain Henry Bird attacked and destroyed Shawnee villages near Xenia and Chillicothe. In 1779, Colonel John Bowman led a raid with 190 mounted Kentuckians to the new Indian town of Chillicothe near Xenia. Bowman's route went through Deerfield Township. Bowman was successful in burning out the Indians

with minimum losses. But the English in the area helped the Indians retaliate against the Kentuckians. The following year, George Rogers Clark returned to the Springfield area – burning and scattering the Indians. Clark also traveled through Deerfield Township. Bowman and Clark's routes followed the west bank of the Little Miami through Deerfield Township. Raids on the Ohio Indians by the Kentuckians became an annual affair. Clark led the last raid in 1782 to the Great Miami headwaters – convincing the Indians to withdraw to the Maumee River area in northern Ohio. *(Statement No. 1 is True.)*

In 1780 General Clark's army marched through Deerfield Township to Springfield where he burned and scattered Shawnee villages in the 'Battle of Piqua'. Daniel Boone and Cincinnati co-founder, Colonel Robert Patterson were part of Clark's army. Clark became an American hero who was feared by the Indians. His small army was an important factor in claiming the Northwest Territory from the English.
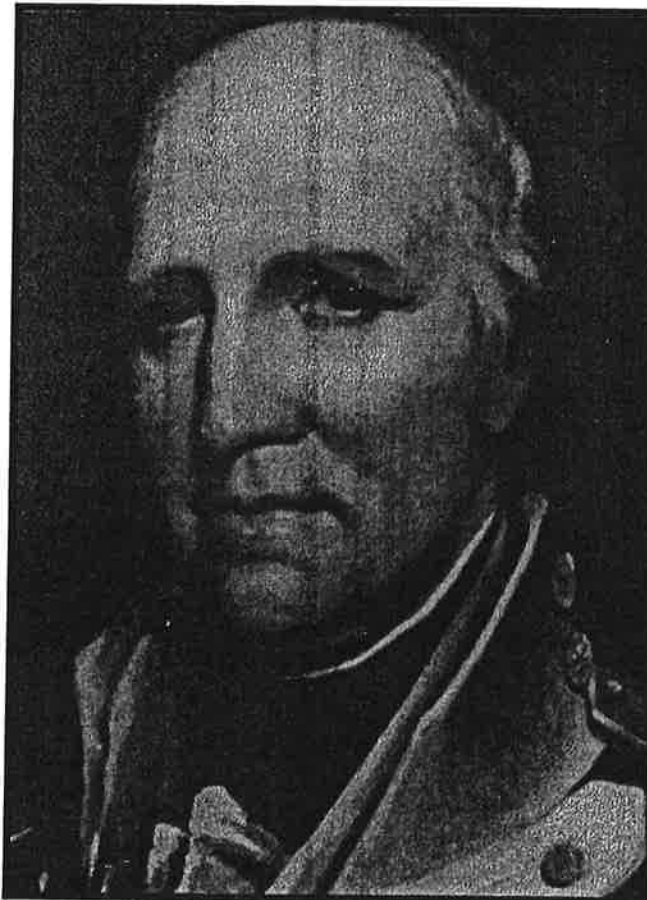
George Rogers Clark (1752-1818). Clark settled near modern Louisville, Kentucky. In Clark's day it was the Virginia frontier. Clark's leadership and boldness in the Revolutionary War is credited as a major factor in the cessation of the Northwest Territory to America by England. Clark's army campaigned all the way to St. Louis. Clark lead expeditions of Virginia (Kentucky) militiamen – including Simon Kenton and Daniel Boone -- through Deerfield Township to burn out Shawnee villages around Chillicothe. Clark is a favorite hero in Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. He was a brother to William Clark of 'Lewis and Clark' fame.

After the revolution, a treaty negotiation was arranged with the Shawnees at Fort Finney near the mouth of the Great Miami River. The Shawnee Chiefs were tough minded. "God gave us this country. We do not understand the measuring out [surveying] the lands; it is all ours." The negotiators prevailed with whisky and war threats until the Shawnee agreed on February 1, 1786 to cede and evacuate southwestern Ohio.

The Ohio Company, Symmes Purchase and Virginia Military District

In 1787, after the Revolutionary war, a new "Ohio Company" formed and influenced Congress to sell land near Marietta. The same year, a second sale was made to Congressman and Judge John Cleves Symmes for land between the Miami Rivers. Both tracts were sold with provisions for schools and a university. The following year tiny, new Marietta welcomed General Arthur St. Clair as the first governor of the Northwest Territory while Benjamin Stites put up a few buildings on Symmes' purchase. By now, the Shawnee Indians were located near Chillicothe and the Miami Indians were in northwestern Ohio. There were no Indians in Warren County or Deerfield Township except those passing through. *(Statement No. 5 is True.)*

Virginia's 1609 charter extended her borders forever westward – including all of southern Ohio. *(Statement No. 2 is True.)* When Congress established the Northwest Territory, Virginia agreed to end her borders at the Ohio River (modern West Virginia). In 1784

Nice guys. English General and Governor of Detroit, Henry Hamilton bought American Scalps from Indians for $50 each. George Rogers Clark cleverly captured Hamilton at Fort Vincennes by bluff rather than battle. Hamilton and the English troops were treated with rough frontier manners. Hamilton's Indian allies in Ft. Vincennes were not so fortunate. Clark personally helped tomahawk them to death.

Enlighened Ordinances. The 1785 Land Ordinance set aside government land for schools and future government revenue in every township. The 1787 Northwest Ordinance prohibited slavery; set rules for self-government; roughly defined Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin; guaranteed freedom of religion, trial by jury, and other civil rights and specified respect for native Indians and their lands. When this Ordinance was passed, the U.S. Constitution was under construction and the Bill of Rights to the Constitution was four years away.

Congress established the Virginia Military Reserve east of the Little Miami River as part of the agreement. Much of this 15-county land was used to pay Virginia's soldiers in General Clark's army for their valuable service during the in the Revolutionary way. A private was entitled to 100 acres. General George Washington, received 3000 acres across the Little Miami from Terrace Park.

An experienced Indian fighter, Major Benjamin Stites traveled up the Little Miami in 1787 to trade with the Indians near Xenia. Afterwards, he convinced his friend Judge Cleves Symmes of the value of the land. Congress agreed to sell Judge Symmes land between the Miami rivers. After some dispute, the Symmes purchase ended north of

Lebanon. Stites was the first to settle in 1788 on land granted by Symmes. His settlement was Columbia – near Lunken Airport. Symmes also gave Stites land near Lebanon and Old Deerfield (South Lebanon). The Columbia settlement is gone, but the name lives in Deerfield Township. Columbia road (originally from Columbia to S. Lebanon) crosses the entire township.

Colonel Robert Patterson knew the area well from fighting in four campaigns against the Indians. When the Colonel learned of Symmes land, he purchased his favorite parcel – an entire township – across from the mouth of the Licking River. Patterson and others coined the name 'Losantiville'. When General St. Clair came to inspect the new Fort Washington in 1890, he convinced them to call it Cincinnati. St. Clair must have liked Cincinnati. He moved his headquarters there the same year.

Surveying the Land

Surveyors set about dividing the land, but not everyone followed the Land Ordinance rules. Virginia rules were used for the Military District. This method – called metes and bounds – used landmarks, streams and geologic features to define jigsaw-puzzle shaped parcels like those in Hamilton and lower Salem Townships in Warren County. Symmes' surveyors used a system similar to the Land Ordinance but they used magnetic north and a different section numbering system. Congress Lands like those west of the Great Miami River used the Ordinance system. Portions of Warren County were surveyed with each of the three methods. Modern Deerfield Township used Symmes surveys. Symmes surveyors wanted their east-west base line to miss the north bends in the Ohio River. They established an east-west line twelve miles north of the flagpole at Fort Washington as their starting reference point. *(Statement No. 9 it True.)*

Early surveyors were often military men and land speculators. As they surveyed, they gained knowledge of the best land for farms and the best streams for mills. They also gained wealth and a kind of fame. Their fee was often in one-fifth parcels of the land they surveyed. Many Ohio places are named after surveyors. General Moses Cleaveland led a survey party near his namesake. Israel Ludlow was a government surveyor in the Symmes Purchase. Ludlow laid out the cities of Hamilton and Dayton. Kentuckian Nathanial Massey started Manchester as the center of the Military District Survey and mapped Chillicothe.

Major John O'Bannon explored east of the Little Miami in 1787. The same year, a white oak was marked 'O'B Cr.'at the O'Bannon Creek's mouth in Loveland. Eventually, this marks the southern boundary of Warren County and Deerfield Township. O'Bannon was later deputy surveyor for the military district.

Surveyors were navigators in a sense. They needed excellent understanding of the stars and celestial tables to determine exactly their latitude and the direction North. The work was rough. A crew's axemen would clear a path while the chainmen stretched a 66-foot chain along the surveyor's line and marked off distances. Writer and historian, Thomas Pynchon's story about Royal surveyors Mason and Dixon tells of night work under clear skies and repeated measurements and courses as they chased the 40th parallel (40° N. Latitude) westward from Philadelphia.

Surveying was dangerous business. Each party had a hunter, assistant surveyors, chainmen, pack horses and a rear guard. Fall and winter was the best time for surveying

due to the absence of leaves and brush. Indians attacked the parties. Two of Judge Symmes surveyors were killed in our area.
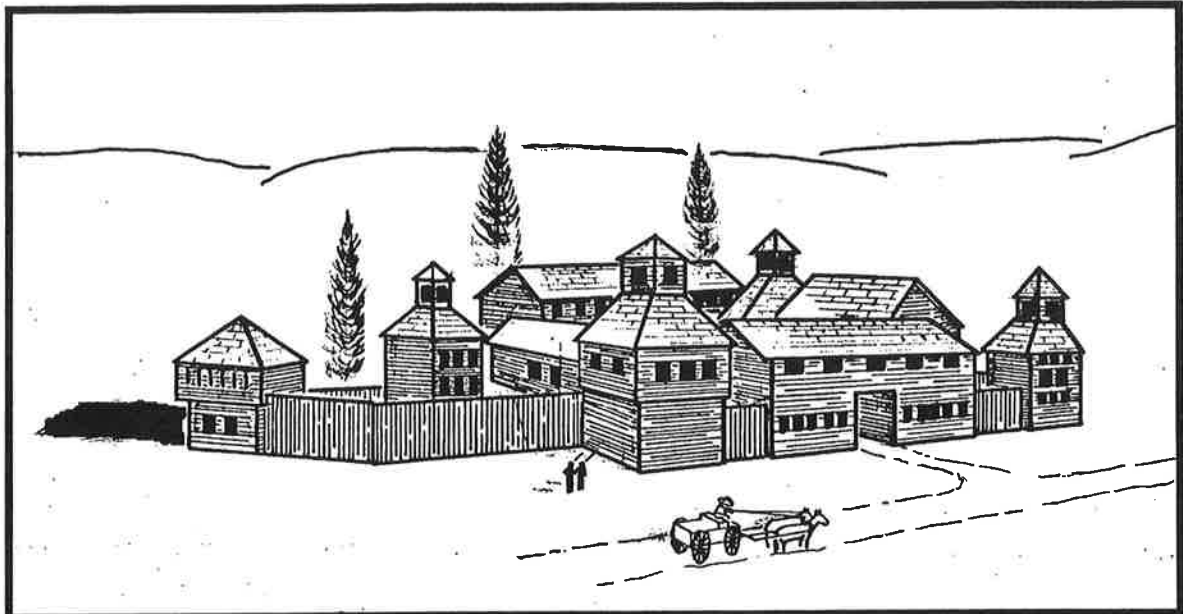
Fort Washington. Today, its location is northeast of the corner of Broadway and Third Street in downtown Cincinnati (near the Lytle tunnel). This western outpost must have been a lonely place when it was built. The next forts were at the territorial capital, Marietta, Ft. Henry (Wheeling) and Ft. Pitt (Pittsburgh).

More War with the Indians

The end of the Revolutionary with the English did not end conflict with their Indian allies. There were still no Indian settlements in Deerfield Township, but the Indians claimed the area. The Miami Indians migrated towards Ft. Wayne, Indiana after the French attack on their village near Piqua in 1747. The Shawnee Indians were located near Chillicothe, Portsmouth and Xenia (Tecumseh's birthplace). The Shawnee agreed to leave these areas in the 1786 Fort Finney treaty. Miami Indians in our area were hunting or traveling and trading on the trails along the Miami Rivers and the trail to Portsmouth.

According to historian George Knepper, Congress' attitude on removing Indian claims to the Northwest Territory was coercive in the 1784-9 period. We argued that we won this territory in the war with England and her Indians allies. The Indians claimed that they were never defeated and that they did not surrender. On several occasions we used military force to support our claims. By this time, the Miami's chief was Little Turtle and the Shawnee's Tecumseh was rising to power and a loose confederation between the two tribes formed. Tecumseh believed force was necessary to prevent further encroachments on Indian lands. The Shawnees continued attacking southwestern Ohio settlers until General Clark and Benjamin Logan drove them further north in 1786 to the Maumee River near the Miami tribes and modern Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Indians Win Twice

After Arthur St. Clair became Governor in 1788, he ordered forts in western Ohio to stop Indian resistance. St. Clair was also ordered to secure additional concessions from the Indians. The Miamis and Shawnees refused to participate in negotiations. By 1790, Ft. Harmar near Marietta was in place and General St. Clair came to inspect the new Ft. Washington. The fort was near the present location of the south end of the I71 Lytle tunnel in downtown Cincinnati. Here, General Josiah Harmar prepared for another attack in the Fort Wayne area. Like Clark's men before, Harmar's army marched through Deerfield Township. One of Harmar's

> Most Indian tribes believe that humans belong to the land or Earth – just like trees and other animals. The concept of dividing the land and owning it was foreign to Indians. Sometimes the Indians felt like they had a good joke on the Europeans when they signed treaties giving away land. They felt they gave away something they didn't own in the first place

Old Soldiers.

George Rogers Clark retired to his home near Louisville, Ky. In his last years, he was alone and in poverty. He died in 1818 – bitter over his inability to receive a pension from Virginia.

Arthur St. Clair retired to his farm near Ligoner, Pa. where he died poor and forgotten – also in 1818. St. Clair is buried in Greensburg, Pa.

Josiah Harmar was cleared of wrongdoing in a court martial after his defeat by the Indians. After he left the army, he became Adjutant General of Pennsylvania. Later he was in Philadelphia's mercantile business. Harmar died in 1813.

Blue Jacket died in 1810. Little Turtle died in Ft. Wayne in 1812.
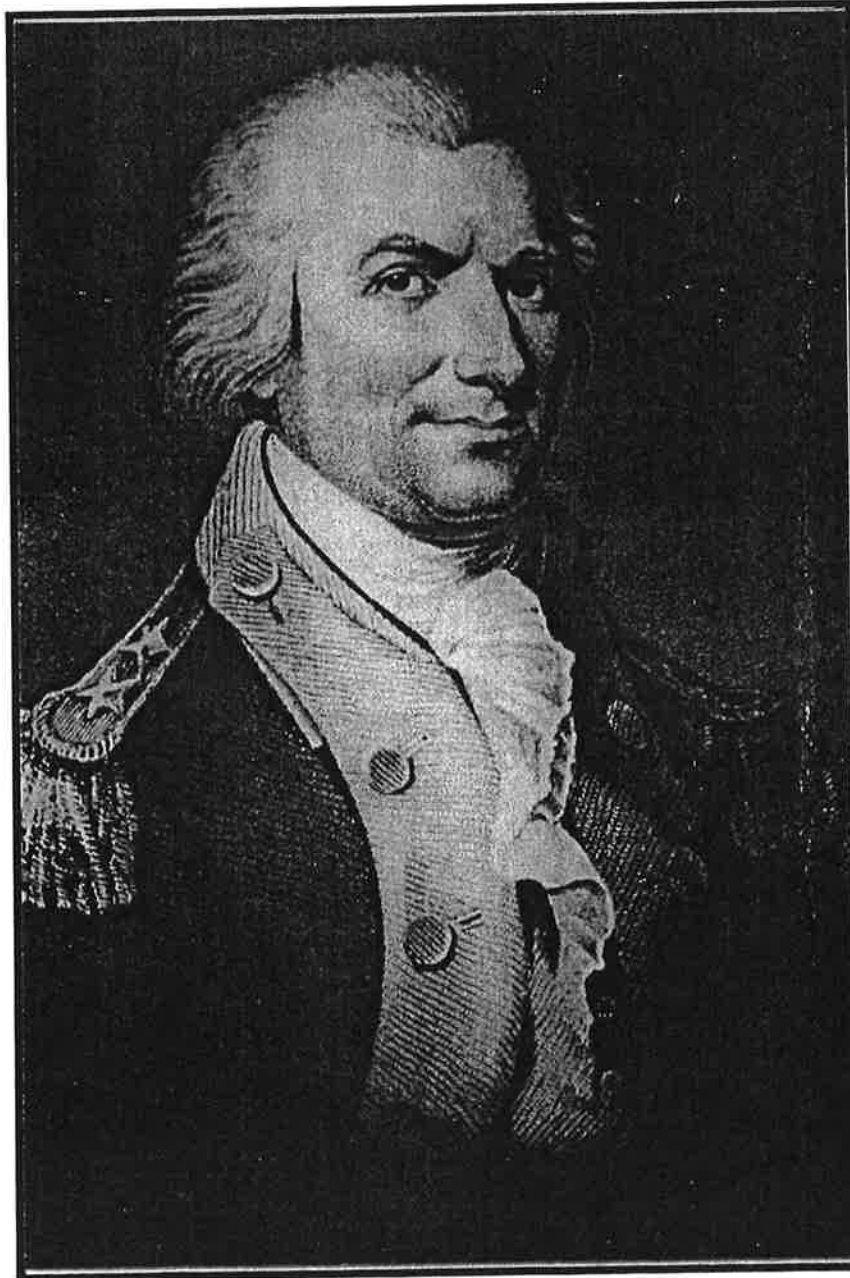
Arthur St. Clair (c. 1740 – 1818).

A Ligonier, Pennsylvania farmer, St. Clair served under George Washington in the Revolutionary War. In 1787, he became Governor of the Northwest Territory with Marietta as his capitol. In 1791, a year after Josiah Harmar's defeat, St. Clair lead a hastily formed and poorly disciplined army against the Indians. St. Clair's army made it to the Eaton area where they were attacked and scattered. Approximately 700 soldiers and civilians were killed. A court of inquiry cleared St. Clair of any wrongdoing in the defeat.

recruits was William Mason who would come back to Old Deerfield to stay. Harmar's men were mostly undisciplined backwoodsmen with a few army regulars. Two effective ambushes by Little Turtle's Miamis and Shawnees scattered the army and sent Harmar back to Cincinnati for safety. Undoubtedly, many straggled back through our township. Encouraged, the Shawnees began to rebuild under another famous leader, Blue Jacket.

Harmar's advance and retreat was the last to see troops moving through Deerfield Township. Harmar's army camped between the Warren County Justice Center and Downtown Lebanon. When the Shawnees moved away from Chillicothe to be near Ft. Wayne, the military routes shifted – following the westernmost counties up the state line.

In 1791, now-President George Washington ordered St. Clair to build a bigger army to attack the Indians. He was given the ingredients for a disaster – rebellious new recruits, Kentucky woodsmen, and various adventurers. St. Clair built Ft. Hamilton and prepared for war with his poorly trained and armed force. Moving northward, St. Clair built Fort Jefferson near Greenville. Indian scouts -- including a young Tecumseh -- reconnoitered the strength and movements of the American army. Desertions and manning forts weakened the army. In November, St. Clair's army was savagely defeated by Little Turtle and Blue Jacket north of Ft. Jefferson in Mercer County (Ft. Recovery). Half of St. Clair's army and many men, women and children in the civilian support were destroyed. St. Clair fought bravely and was wounded. Public opinion raged, but an inquiry cleared St. Clair. *(Statement No. 8 is True.)*

General Anthony Wayne and "Fallen Timbers"

President Washington was furious at St. Clair's defeat. He demanded a proper army be established until the Indians were subdued. Washington's Revolutionary War comrade, "Mad" Anthony Wayne was appointed to lead this western army. Wayne's nickname came from his daring leadership in the Revolutionary war. Wayne and St. Clair were peers who served under General Washington in the Revolutionary way. They knew each other and were frequently

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Early Counties

St. Clair established the east half of modern Ohio as Washington County in 1788. He established Hamilton County as the western half in 1790 with the Great Miami River as the southwestern county line. The Scioto River separated the two counties in the south. Marietta and Cincinnati became the county seats. By 1800, Clermont County was formed with the mouth of O'Bannon creek as its northern border (eventually Warren County's southern border). Today, Nesbit park in Loveland marks the mouth. West of the Little Miami, Deerfield Township's southern border was made from the nearest Symmes Purchase township line when Warren County was formed.

Maumee and Miami are variations of the same name the Miami Indians called themselves. The meaning is uncertain, but similar names in other Indian languages refer to rivers. Miami, Florida got its name from another Indian word. The Miamis were called the Twightwees by the colonials. This tribe was known for the practice of tattooing their bodies.

involved in personal feuds. Wayne was known as an inspiring leader, a dandy dresser and a clever politician.

Wayne drilled, trained and disciplined his new troops until he forged a strong fighting force. Previously, Harmar and St. Clair entered the combat with poorly trained and equipped men who were mostly irregular and unreliable volunteers from Kentucky. Wayne hardened his army and trained them in close combat. One story – probably true – is that Wayne ordered his blacksmith to weld the bayonets to the soldiers' rifles so they could not be removed. In October of 1793 Wayne marched north from Cincinnati with 3000 men. Wayne followed St. Clair's route and built Fort Recovery where St. Clair was defeated. He built Fort Defiance on the Maumee in Defiance County. This string of forts along the Indiana line gave Wayne a solid supply line.

> ### Early Roads Become Modern Roads
>
> There were numerous military expeditions against the Indians in the Chillicothe-Xenia area which passed through Warren County. All originated across the Ohio from the Licking River (Cincinnati and Fort Washington). These were: Bowman's 1779 mounted raid near Xenia; Clark's attacks near Piqua in 1780 and 1782; and General Harmar's attack in 1890. Bowman and Clark's expeditions followed the Little Miami through Deerfield Township near Columbia Road. General Harmar's 1790 march towards Fort Wayne, Indiana also followed the future Reading road.

The Miami Chief, Little Turtle wanted to avoid fighting Wayne – "The Chief who never sleeps". The Shawnee, Blue Jacket became leader of the Indians.

In August of 1793, Wayne's army attacked an army of more than a thousand Indians hiding behind fallen timbers from a recent tornado. Wayne's army routed the Indians with few losses. A nearby English fort refused to give shelter to their old Indian allies. (An English fort deep in American territory!) Wayne asserted American presence with a new fort at the head of the Maumee River – appropriately named Ft. Wayne (Indiana). Wayne's negotiating position was excellent. Two years later, the Indians signed the "Greenville Treaty" ceding all but northwest Ohio. The army negotiators included Wayne, William Henry Harrison, Merriwether Lewis and William Clark. The Shawnee leader, Tecumseh refused to participate.

America was ready for some success after the defeat of General Harmar and St. Clair by the Indians. After Fallen Timbers, America welcomed Wayne back to Philadelphia

> *Strange.* General Wayne was buried in Erie, Pa. Thirteen years later, his son set out to move him to a family cemetery in Radnor, Pa. Wayne's body was reported to be in good condition. The body was too much for the son to move. An accompanying doctor dissected it, removed the flesh by boiling and reburied the flesh. Only Wayne's bones went to Radnor.
>
> Thus, General Wayne was buried twice – thirteen years apart. The second time, he was buried two places.

as a hero who ended the Indian presence in Ohio and who stopped the English encroachment on American territory. Three years later, General Wayne was back in the territory overseeing the surrender of English forts when he became ill and died.

Wayne's victory at Fallen Timbers is the historical milestone that allowed pioneer history to begin in southwest Ohio. The word was out. The settlers started coming.

Little Turtle (1752 – 1812).

Chief of the Miami or Maumee Indian tribes. The Miamis located near Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Cultural 'cousins' to the Shawnees, the two tribes often cooperated in war against the settlers. Little Turtle and Shawnee Chief Blue Jacket successfully defeated attempted attacks by Josia Harmar (1790) and Arthur St. Clair (1791) before eventually being beaten by "Mad" Anthony Wayne (1794) in the Battle of Fallen Timbers in Northwest Ohio. St. Clair's defeat was the greatest victory in history for the Indians. Almost 700 in St. Clair's army died. (George Custer lost 200)

Blue Jacket
(c. 1750 – 1810).

At the Ft. Greenville Treaty Meeting after the defeat at Fallen Timbers. Some legends say that this Shawnee Chief was born Marmaduke Van Swearingen; he was captured and adopted in his teens in (now) West Virginia. Shawnee villages were the closest to old Deerfield Township when settlers arrived. Numerous villages around Xenia, Springfield and Chillicothe were attacked by the armies of George Rogers Clark, John Bowman and Josiah Harmar. Clark and Bowman were successful, but in 1790, Harmar was defeated by Blue Jacket's warriors. In 1791 Arthur St. Clair was defeated near Eaton by Little Turtle with Blue Jacket second in command.

"Mad" Anthony Wayne (1745 – 1796) Nicknamed for his temper and military maneuvers, General Wayne commanded Fort Ticonderoga in New York during the Revolutionary War. He is famous for the storming of the English fort at Stony Point in a surprise night attack. President Washington appointed Wayne Commanding General of the Legion of the United States. Wayne was ordered to attack the Indians after St. Clair's defeat in 1891. The Indians called him 'the Chief who never sleeps'. Wayne worked carefully – building forts and drilling his army into a well-disciplined corps. In August 1794, Wayne defeated the Indians in the Battle of Fallen Timbers near Toledo.

The Battle of Fallen Timbers – August 20, 1794. Despite treaties, the English still had forts on American soil including Fort Miami near modern Toledo. Outside the fort Blue Jacket led 1300 Indian warriors. Wayne marched his army to a forested area devastated by a windstorm with fallen trees everywhere. Wayne lured the warriors into a trap and easily won in less than an hour. The Indians rushed back to their 'friends', the English at Fort Miami, but the English would not protect them or let them in. This victory cleared most of Ohio from Indian claims. This victory also established America's resolve against foreign armies. Only Chief Tecumseh would not sign the resulting Greenville peace treaty. The rush was on.

Tecumseh (1768 – 1812).

This Shawnee Chief came a generation after Blue Jacket. Tecumseh had great powers as a prophet and leader. Refusing to sign the Greenville treaty, Tecumseh successfully organized a large Indian confederation to fight the American encroachment on Indian lands. By this time, the Shawnees relocated to Prophetstown near LaFayette, Indiana on the Tippecanoe River. In 1811, while Tecumseh was away, William Henry Harrison's army destroyed the village. The victory helped Harrison become President. Tecumseh's tribes fought with the English in the war of 1812. Tecumseh died in the fighting near Detroit.

Deerfield History Begins

As General Wayne cleared the land of Indian claims, settlers from the East began to fill Symmes Purchase in old Hamilton County. Deerfield Township was part of Hamilton County until Warren County's first boundaries were defined in 1803. Also in Hamilton County's boundaries, our neighbors Hamilton and (south) Salem Townships were part of the Virginia Military Reserve until 1796.
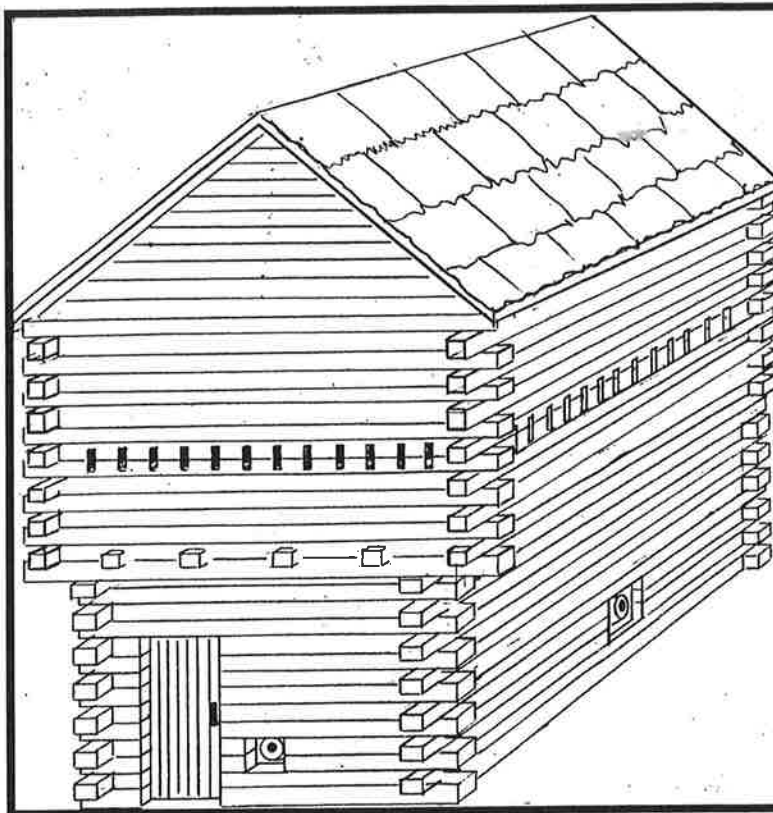
Blockhouses

Not a place for a block party. Early "Stations" or settlements had a central blockhouse surrounded by cabins and a sturdy picket fence. Note the rifle slots on the upper level. Some blockhouses – like this one – had small openings for cannons. In case of danger, everyone would get inside. Stites build a blockhouse at Columbia. The first settlers in Warren County's stations built blockhouses.

Sales of land by Judge Symmes were brisk, but no one occupied their purchases outside Columbia and Cincinnati for six years because of constant threats of attack by the Indians. Wayne's victory at Fallen Timbers made settlement possible. Settlers began building "stations" for self-protection. A station had a central blockhouse surrounded by cabins. Everything was surrounded by a strong picket fence. During the day, settlers ventured out to work the soil and at night everyone returned to the station.

On September 21, 1795 surveyor John Dunlap started for the Mad River (Dayton) area. William Beedle and others accompanied Dunlap for the purpose of establishing a 'station'. Beedle's established his station about three-quarters of a mile south of the intersection of State Routes 741 and 63. A marker stands at the Ohio Department of Transportation Facility on SR 741. The same month, William Mount's station was established east of Morrow on Stubbs Mill Road near the US Route 22 intersection where a marker now stands. These stations are widely accepted as the first *settlements* in modern Warren County.

The first settlers in Old Deerfield were poor, brave squatters who attempted to claim unimproved, forfeited land. The buyers of sections of land in Old Deerfield were required to begin improvements within two years. Those who did not comply forfeited

one-sixth (106.6 acres). Historian Josiah Morrow writes that before Wayne's treaty and Beedle's station there were Deerfield settlers.

"They were poor men, wholly destitute of means to purchase land, and were willing to brave dangers from savage foes, and to endure the privations of a lonely life in the wilderness to receive gratuitously the tract of 106 2/3 acres forfeited by each purchaser of land who did not commence improvements within two years after the date of his purchase. In a large number of the sections below the third range [Kings Mills area], there was forfeited one-sixth part, and a number of hardy adventurers had established themselves on the northeast corner of the section. Some of these adventurers were single men, living solitary and alone, in little huts and supporting themselves chiefly with their rifles. Others had their families with them at an early period."
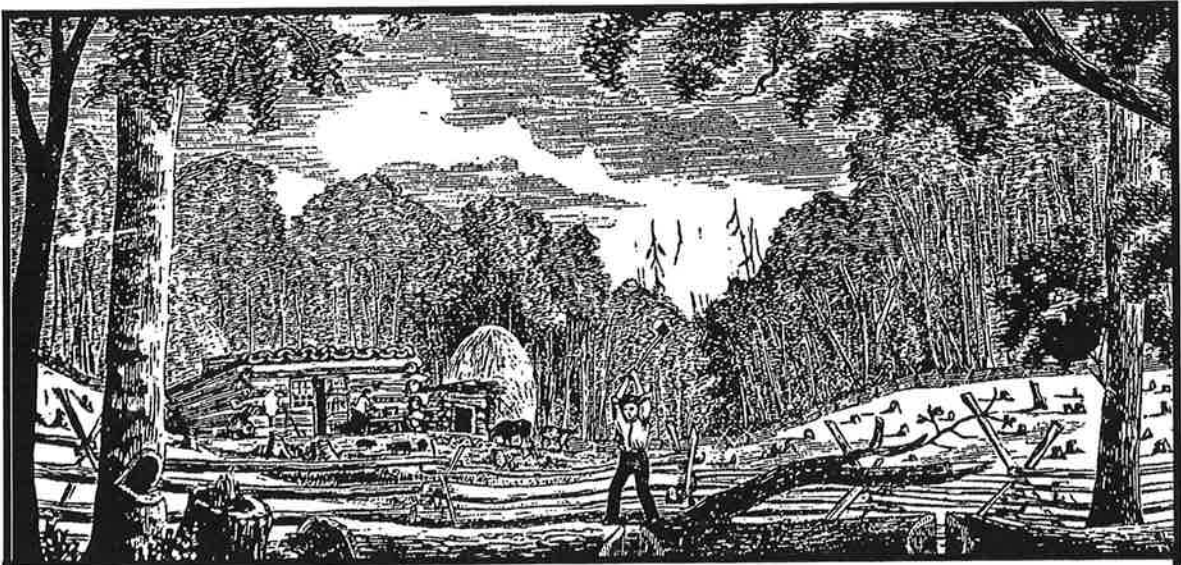
Clearing the trees. Planting around the stumps. Build a cabin. Would you walk into the wilderness and undertake such a task?

The northeast corner of the area "below the third range" in the Symmes Purchase is modern Deerfield Township. Its northeast corner is the Kings Mills area.

A Pennsylvanian, Joseph Coddinton settled on the forfeiture of northeast section 35 (Stitt road just east Tylersville Road) in 1795. Coddington's descendants use the family name Corrington. The first house was made of bark built against a log where he, wife Sarah and five children lived while making the improvements required by forfeit-claimers. Coddinton cleared some land and raised corn which he carried on his back more than 21 miles to the mill at Columbia. He later built a log cabin and raised a family of ten. This wilderness provided Coddington with deer and turkeys for food. He had to be careful about bears and wolves.

A Virginian, Peter Tetrick settled on the forfeiture of section 27 (Across Socialville-Foster Road from the county water storage tank.). Tetrick failed to secure a deed. He purchased land from Thomas Espy, married Miss Lowry and raised a large family.

Around the same time, Benjamin Morris settled the Twenty-Mile Stand area where he received a deed in 1798. Land speculator and Welchman Moses Kitchel bought and occupied the section around I71 and Kings Mills Rd. in 1796. William Wood settled on

the Little Miami north of Kings Mills in 1797. He built a mill there 1-2 years later. Undoubtedly Mr. Coddington was delighted since his walk was shortened to four miles. Also in 1798, Robert Witham settled in the area west of Innovation Way

The spring of 1796 saw the establishment of the villages of Deerfield (South Lebanon), Lebanon, Franklin and Waynesville. South Lebanon is the oldest town in the county; it was part of Deerfield Township until 1815. The town was started by Benjamin Stites and his family. Stites owned 10,000 acres in the county. Persons willing to settle the town were promised free lots. By January 25, 1796 all the free lots were taken. Some cabins were built in 1795 and occupants started moving in early 1796.

Future Governor Jeremiah Morrow and Thomas Espy came to Columbia in 1795 where Morrow – a land surveyor -- lived with Espy. With John Parkhill, they had selected land in Deerfield Township. In late, cold 1796 the three came to survey their lands. Espy settled north of Twenty-Mile Stand (now Landen). Parkhill settled east of Espy and Morrow settled east of Parkhill near the Little Miami River. Parkhill and Morrow were brothers-in-law.

Major William Mason served in Harmar's campaign. He returned to settle in Ohio in 1795. In 1815, Mason laid out the town of Mason (originally Palmyra).

Elsewhere. In the neighborhood, others were settling in too. To the west in Union Township, Butler County (Now called West Chester Township) Joseph McMaken bought land at the Rialto and Beckett road intersection. In late 1796, Joseph Cox and his family settled nearby.

In 1795, to the south, Cornelius Snyder purchased a section from Thomas Espy where Montgomery's town center is located. Snider Road seems to be named for this family. Others settling at the same time were the Roosa and Felter families. John Ferris and his family settled in Blue Ash in 1796. "Fallen Timbers" veteran Colonel Thomas Paxton settled in Loveland in 1796 near today's St. Columban's church.

In our dear sister, Hamilton Township Virginia granted land to their military for their service. The first grants were surveyed in 1793 by Nathaniel Massey. This land is located along US Route 22 (Montgomery Road) between Stubbs Mill Road and Morrow in the Valley Vineyards area. Mount's Station was also located in this area. In 1796, its first settlers were William Mounts, Thomas Forsha, Thomas Leonard, and Thomas Watson. At the same time, Theophilias Simonton settled on the Clermont County line about two miles east of old downtown Loveland.
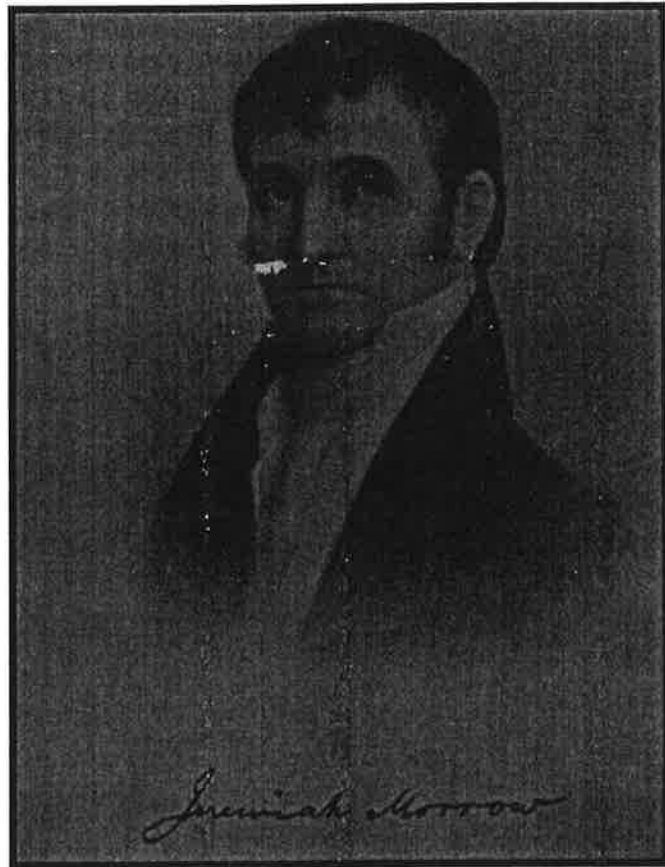
Jeremiah Morrow

Deerfield People. Jeremiah Morrow was a prominent citizen, politician and historian in the mid 1800s. He lived on Davis road about 1 mile south of Foster. Morrow's home was set on the Little Miami River valley hillside near the mill he operated at the river's edge. Jeremiah's grandson, Josiah Morrow wrote the history of Warren County published in 1880 in the Beers series. Much of this early history of the township and county is based on his work.

The Northwest Ordinance

The Treaty of Paris ending the Seven Years War (known in America as the French and Indian War) February 10, 1763.

In the Name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. So be it.

Be it known to all those whom it shall, or may, in any manner, belong,

It has pleased the Most High to diffuse the spirit of union and concord among the Princes, whose divisions had spread troubles in the four parts of the world, and to inspire them with the inclination to cause the comforts of peace to succeed to the misfortunes of a long and bloody war, which having arisen between England and France…

[Article] VII. In order to … remove for ever all subject of dispute with regard to the limits of the English and French territories on the continent of America; it is agreed, that, for the future, the confines between the dominions of his Britannick Majesty and those of his Most Christian Majesty, in that part of the world, shall be fixed irrevocably by a line drawn along the middle of the River Mississippi…

The Treaty of Paris of 1783 documented the end of the American Revolutionary War with England.

In the name of the most holy and undivided Trinity.

It having pleased the Divine Providence to dispose the hearts of the most serene and most potent Prince George the Third, by the grace of God, king of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith, duke of Brunswick and Lunebourg, arch-treasurer and prince elector of the Holy Roman Empire etc., and of the United States of America, to forget all past misunderstandings and differences …

Article 2:

And that all disputes which might arise in future on the subject of the boundaries of the said United States may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared, that the following are and shall be their boundaries, … viz.; [lengthy description of northern border to northern Minnesota and the Mississippi] … to the river Mississippi; thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the said river Mississippi until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the thirty-first degree of north latitude, South, [latitude of Florida's north border] … etc.

Done at Paris, this third day of September in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three.

D. HARTLEY (SEAL)
JOHN ADAMS (SEAL)
B. FRANKLIN (SEAL)
JOHN JAY (SEAL)

The Northwest Ordinance

Article the Fifth. There shall be formed ... not less than three nor more than five States... The eastern State shall be bounded by [direct line drawn due North from the mouth of the great Miami], the Ohio [River], [and] Pennsylvania ... Congress shall ... have authority to form ... States north of ... the southerly bend ... of lake Michigan...

> ***Did You Know...?*** Warren County is named after General Joseph Warren who died in the first major battle of the American Revolutionary War at Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775.

Timeline – Settlers in Ohio Country

Date	Frontier Settlers	English	Native Indians
1674-1720	---	---	France claimed Ohio Country. Drove Indians Out.
1747	First Ohio Land Development Co. at Marietta.	Trading Posts near Piqua	Miami Villages at Piqua. France Occupies Erie Shores.
1754	In 1751, Christ. Gist is first European in our area.	Geo. Washington captured by French at Ft. DuQuesne. War.	Iroquois assist French in fighting English and Colonists in 7-year (Europe) or French and Indian (America) War.
1763	---	Wins war and Ohio Country from French. French pull back to Mississippi R.	Pontiac tries to drive English out of Ohio.
1770	Settling in Ohio forbidden by England.	Geo. Washington explores to Marietta area.	Christian Indian villages at Schoenbrunn, Gnaddenhutten.
1774	Colony of Virginia takes over Ft. Pitt. Settlement of Kentucky.	Abandon Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh). Make Ohio part of Quebec.	About 20,000 Indians in Ohio. Chief Logan attacks Kentuckians near Portsmouth.
1774	---	Virginia's Lord Dunmore retaliates. Battle of Pt. Pleasant (Ky.).	Shawnees fight Dunmore, withdraw to Ohio.
1774	Take over Ft. Pitt and Government of Virginia.	Dunmore leaves for England.	Cornstalk killed. Alliance with England and Ft. Detroit Commander, Henry Hamilton.
1778-1779	George Rogers Clark leads tiny army of frontiersmen down Ohio R. And up Mississippi to St. Louis area.	Hamilton, the 'Scalp Buyer' rushes to Vincennes (In) to save the Fort. Clark captures it and Hamilton.	Shawnees attack Kentuckians near Pt. Pleasant. Establish new villages near Xenia.
1779	Col. John Bowman leads attack Shawnee villages called Chillicothe near Xenia. Intelligence from Daniel Boone. Marches thru Deerfield.	English Capt. Henry Bird and famous traitor, Simon Girty sieges the new Ft. Laurens near Canton.	---
1780	George Rogers Clark raises 1000 man army to retaliate. Kenton scouts. Marches through Deerfield to Springfield area. Scatters Indians.	Bird and Indians attack Kentucky Settlements.	Little Turtle leader of Miamis. Blue Jacket leader of the Shawnees. Tecumseh a young Shawnee warrier.

Date	Frontier Settlers	English	Native Indians
1781-1782	Gnaddenhutten revenge. Indians capture, torture and kill Col. Crawford near Sandusky.	1781, England loses Revolutionary war at Yorktown. End of fighting in East.	100 massacred by American settlers at Gnaddenhutten.
1782	George Rogers Clark marches through Deerfield again to Piqua area. Scatters Indians.	1783, England and America sign Treaty of Paris. Northwest Territory (Ohio Country) ceded to America.	---
1784	Virginia cedes Ohio Country to US Congress. Holds some land for soldiers (mil. Reserve). Squatters begin.	England keeps some forts in Northwest territory despite treaties including one in NW Ohio near Ft. Defiance.	1785, Indians cede Southern Ohio in McIntosh treaty. 1876, Finney treaty. Shawnees stripped of hunting grounds in S. Ohio
1786	Benj. Logan raids Shawnees in North. Land ordinance (1785) Township and Range system.	---	Indians withdraw to Maumee R. Area. (Ft. Wayne, In.). Closer to English forts.
1787	Northwest Ordinance. Establishes Territory, path to statehood. Second Ohio Company in SE Ohio (Marietta area). Symmes purchases Miami lands.	---	---
1788	St. Clair made Gov. Capitol at Marietta. Settlers come to Ohio Co.'s land. Benj. Stites settles Columbia.	---	---
1789	Ft. Washington, Hamilton County and Cincinnati established by St. Clair.	Trading Posts in every major Indian Village. Supplied Indians with arms and encouragement.	---
1790	St. Clair decides to Send Gen. Harmar from Cincinnati to attack Indians. Harmar marches through Deerfield. Harmar burns towns, but...	---	Little Turtle's men defeat one of Harmar's militia detachments and later Harmar himself. Blue Jacket a war chief.
1791	St. Clair himself builds an army. Marches towards Ft. Wayne.	---	Little Turtle and Blue Jacket defeat St. Clair near Ft. Recovery.

Date	Frontier Settlers	English	Native Indians
1792	Pres. Washington furious over St. Clair's defeat. Builds Army. Appoints Anthony Wayne as commander.	---	---
1793	Wayne builds supply line Forts Hamilton, Jefferson, Greenville and Recovery (St. Clair's defeat site.)	---	LittleTurtle fearful of Wayne. Unsuccessful attacks on supply lines. Blue Jacket takes over leadership of confederacy.
1794	Wayne builds Ft. Defiance (Defiance, Oh) near from Ft. Miami. Indians defeated at Fallen Timbers.	Engish build Ft. Miami near Defiance, OH. Encouraged Indians to resist settlers.	Indians refused refuge by their 'friends' in Ft. Miami. Wayne negotiates the treaty of Greenville. Tecumseh won't sign.
1795	Surveyors, settlers and squatters to Ohio. Deerfield (S. Lebanon) laid out and settled. First town in area.	---	---
1797-1802	Settlers unhappy with St. Clair's governorship. Move to statehood. Worthington, Tiffin, Massey, Morrow, Harrison emerge as leaders.	---	---
1802-1803	St. Clair fired by Pres. Jefferson. Ohio Statehood. Warren County and Deerfield Township established.	Unofficially supported the Indians.	More treaties forced concessions of Indian lands. Tecumseh and brother 'Prophet' opposed concessions. Moved to Tippecanoe, In.
1811	Wm. Henry Harrison, Governor of Indiana Territory destroys Indian towns after a botched attack by Indians.	Threatening English presence at the Indian villages caused Harrison to march on Tippecanoe. English Atlantic blockades.	Tecumseh and Harrison negotiated on several occasions. Tecumseh was away when his brother lost to Harrison at Tippecanoe.
1812	War with England again. J. Morrow voted for it. Worthington opposed.	English-Indian alliance against Americans.	Tecumseh led the Indian fighters. He was killed at the battle of Detroit. The story of Ohio's Indians ends.

Answers to True or False. Statements 1 through 9 are all true.

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FIELDS-ERTEL ROAD

YOU ARE HERE

GARDEN STORE

MASON-MONTGOMERY ROAD

NATORP NURSERY
AUGUST 1 1949
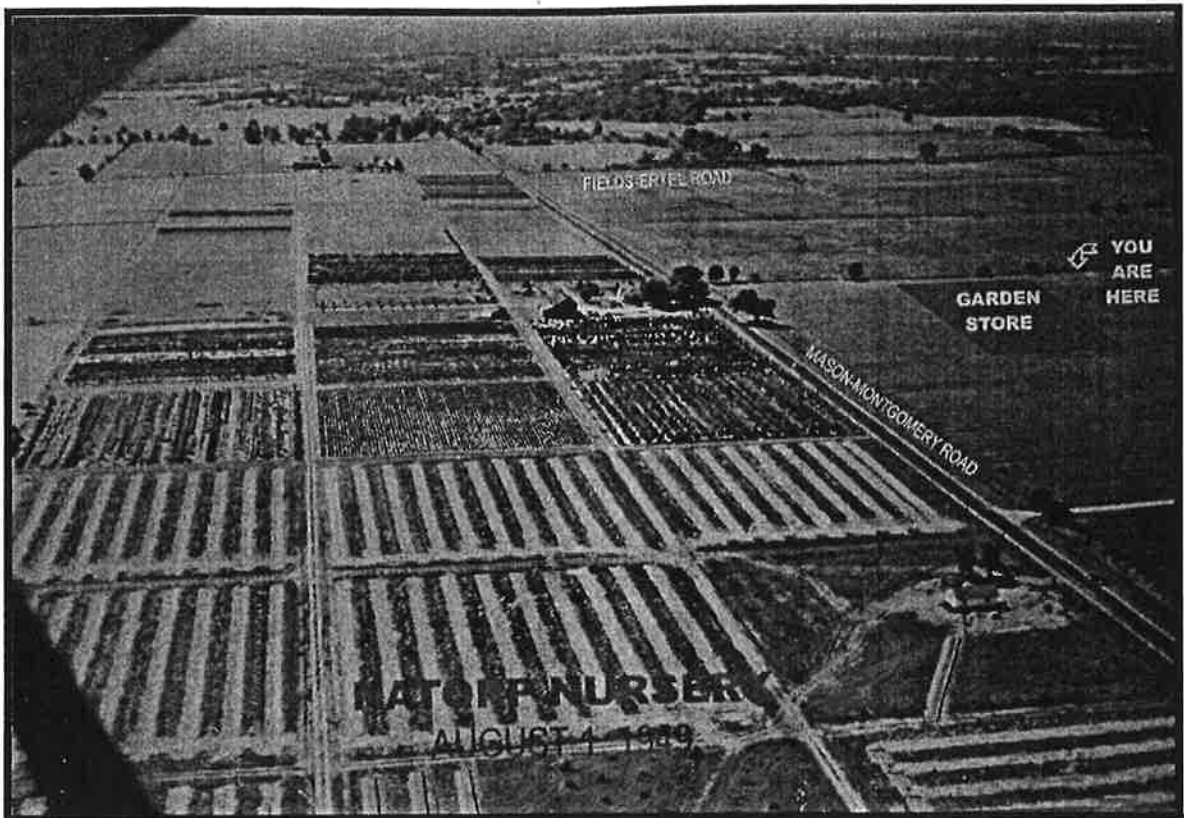
Deerfield Township: A Mere 44 Years Ago

By Larry Backus. Winter 97/98

Dottie Natorp donated this amazing photo at the first meeting of our Communication and Historical Committee on January 27.

The aerial view is of Mason-Montgomery Road looking southbound from the west toward the intersection of Fields-Ertel Road. The year is 1954. [The same photo (above) in Natorp's Garden Store says 1949.]

Mrs. Natorp shared her recollections of Deerfield Township in the late fifties in a recent interview. She recalled the major social activities as summer parties at neighboring farms such as the Wilken's and O'Connel's as well as school activities. The canteen for students sponsored by the Comet Club was held in the Mason Town Hall on the second floor and featured Ping-Pong and dancing to a record player. The "Dinner Bell" in Mason was the era's lone restaurant and shopping downtown referred to Lebanon rather than Kenwood.

Kings Mills' Founding Family Can Trace Roots to the Mayflower

By Larry Backus --Summer 1997

Joseph Warren King, born in Suffield, Connecticut, in 1814 was of lineal descent from Peter Brown, a Mayflower passenger. J.W. King married Betsey Kendall who was a lineal descendant of Gov. William Bradford, another Mayflower passenger. J.W. King brought his bride to Westerfield, Ohio, where he prospered first in a pioneer general store. They moved to Lima where Mr. King was successful in pork packing as well as general merchandising, and then to Xenia, Ohio, where Mr. King first entered the powder business. Around 1856, J.W. King's nephew, Ahimaaz King, joined his uncle in the

Photo of Ahimaaz King (back row) and some of his children. The young men in thefront are (left) Joseph Warren King (II) and Robert Eugene King.
The photo was taken on the front steps of the Ahimaaz King homestead.

powder business. J.W. and Ahimaaz King were to have a profound affect on Kings Mills and Deerfield Township, as well as the powder industry in America.

Ahimaaz King, in the late 1800s, often traveled several hundred miles with a wagon load of powder as he plied his trade of marketing powder for the company that was partially owned by his uncle. The story goes that on one of these marketing excursions to Medora, Indiana, Ahimaaz met Amanda Luck who he subsequently married. Ahimaaz and his uncle J.W. King found themselves involved in rough an tumble corporate intrigue and in 1877 left the company, which was then known as the

Miami Powder Company. They also left Xenia and moved down the Little Miami River to South Lebanon and subsequently to what is now Kings Mills, Ohio. There they started the Kings' Great Western Powder Company, whch later became the King Powder Company. The company eventually owned more than 1000 acres of land in the Kings Mills area and employed hundreds of people until the company went out of business in 1958.

Ahimaaz King built a large brick home in Kings Mills in 1885 and the adjacent town of Kings Mills was founded in 1884. By 1903 the town had a population of 700. The Ahimaaz King home stands today as a geographical entry to Kings Mills, but more importantly, as a portal to our past and a reminder of the rich history of Deerfield Township.

J.W. King's daughter married a bright and talented retired Baptist preacher named Gershom Moore Peters who joined his father-in-law's firm in 1881. G.M. Peters became President of the King Powder Company in 1885 and organized the Peters Cartridge Company in 1887 . . but that is a whole other story.

A History of Deerfield Township

By Larry Backus. 1990

Deerfield Township was formed in the late 1700s as a result of several acts of legislature.

In 1790, Hamilton county and Wahsington County, the two existing counties in the Ohio Territory, were divided into townships. According to provisions of that legislation, "townships were to be subdivided from time to time whenever the interest and convenience of the inhabitants thereof may seem to require it."

Many of Deerfield Township's earliest settlers came from New Jersey, as did John Cleves Symmes whose purchase of the lands between the two Miami Rivers in 1788 opened the doors of emigration to the territory. Many Quakers came from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the Carolinas, while some settlers arrived from the southern states, attracted to southern Ohio because it was the first state of the Union in which slavery was prohibited.

The original settlers of Deerfield Township were a hearty group according to the *1902 Centennial Atlas and History of Warren County*.

"Each party erected a strong block house, near to which their cabins were put up and the whole was enclosed by a strong log pickets. This being done, they commenced clearing their lands and preparing for planting their crops. During the day, while at work, one person was placed as a sentinel to warn them of approaching danger...They depended for subsistence on wild game, obtained at some hazard, more than the scanty supplies whey were able to procure from the settlements on the river."

By May 1, 1803, Warren County officially came into being by a act of the first legislature of the new State of Ohio. The county was carved from a portion of Hamilton County, which at the time covered all of southwestern Ohio. Warren county was named in honor of General Joseph Warren, the patriot of Bunker Hill fame who sent Paul Revere on his midnight ride in 1775.

As a direct result ot this act, Warren County organized four townships. Deerfield Township officially came into being May 10, 1803, along with the townships of Wayne, Franklin, and Hamilton.

The name "Deerfield" originated in 1796. In early days, the area contained many "deer licks", described in the 1903 Atlas as "springs tainted somewhat with saline substances, and to these many deer were wont to go." One deer lick, just south of Mason, was know as "Deer Park". It consisted of a spring and grounds with an elevated ridge. Upon the ridge the settlers placed a barrier of logs, leaving an open places through which the deer could enter in order to reach the spring. Once inside this enclosure, hunters closed off the openings, thereby capturing the deer.

The City of Mason, which is located in the center of the Township , was originally settled as Palmyra in 1815 by William Mason, a Revolutionary War verteran who purchased 640 acres of land for $1,700. Later named in honor of its founder, Mason remained a village intil 1971, when it achieved city status.

Joseph Espy, a Pennsylvanian who visited Deerfield Township in 1805, wrote words which apply to the area just as much now as they did nearly two centrues ago –

"The lands...are generally of the first-rate quality and are beautifully situated. When well cultivated, no country can appear to greater advantage...and it is quite healthy."

Many change have occurred in Deerfield Township in the space of 200 years, as the fertile countryside is now graced with attractive homes and growing retail and commercial centers. But Espy's words still describe Deerfield Township's appeal. The early settlers and the recent arrivals share an uncommonly good quality of life here. It's attracted people to Deerfield Township for 200 years, and the best is yet to come.

Fosters Crossing: A New Beginning in An Historic Setting

By Nancy Cutler. Spring 1998.

You may recall from past newsletters the Deerfield Township purchased property on the Little Miami River which contains an old general store. The original intention was to rehabilitate the property for use as a community center, office space, and river education. Our original partners in the project have elected to move on to other projects and are apparently no longer interested in the site.

Looking for expert assistance on theis project, the township trustees met John Kellis of the Miami Valley Resource Development and Conservation Department at the Winter O.T.A. Conference in Columbus, Ohio in January. John's first trip to see the potential of township park properties was a big success. Recently, township residents and employees toured the Fosters site with John and Glenn Harper of the Ohio Historical Society.

Mr. Harper provided us with excellent information on rehabbing the structure and debated the pros and cons of having the building placed on the historic registry. Mr. Kellis is assisting the township with grant-writing and grant applications. It is a exciting project. Initial reasearch indicates the bulding was in place at least by 1870 and stonework near the building may place construction of the building closer to the Civil War. Despite a ragged outward appearance, the building is structiurally sound an will be a comunity asset when the project is completed.

For what purpose would you like to see the building used? A Township Historical Society? A community Center? A Senior center? Send your comment to Deerfield Township, 3378 Townsley Dr., Deerfield Twp., OH 45140

Deerfield Stories – An Anthology

Deerfield Strikes Historical Motherload in Old 3C Land Purchase

By Larry Backus   Fall 1996

With the cooperation of Little Miami, Inc., Deerfield Township is purchasing three acres of land below the George Terwilliger Bridge on Socialville-Foster Road. The property is bordered by Old 3C Highway and Socialville-Foster Road in Foster, Ohio and is adjacent to Glenn Island Access State Park. The entire area is rich in a colorful history that has not, to our knowledge, been recorded. On a recent sunny October morning I was fortunate to be directed to Richard L. Higgins of R.L. Higgens Real Estate by Hazel Dotson, Deerfield Township Administrator. Mr. Higgins was kind enough to supply background on this purchase as well as a wealth of historical background on the surrounding area below the route 22/3 bridge at Foster, Ohio. In roughtly twenty minutes, I became aware that Mr. Higgins is a walking, talking, township historical society. He is a past president of Little Miami Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Little Miami River. One of the organization's goals is to guide, rather than hinder development adjacent to the river.

Here is just a sample of the fascinating information that Mr. Higgins shared with me in a brief intital interview. We hope this will wet your appetite for more historical background about Deerfield Township in future issues:

Foster, Ohio on the Old 3C Road was a booming metropolis in the early to late 1800's and housed the major post office for this are at Goses General Store which is still standing (barely) on the original site.

3C stands for Cincinnati, Columbus & Cleveland and old 3C was the major route, through Foster, Ohio, to these cities in the last century and up to the 1930's.

A grain Mill once stood adjacent to the old dam which was used by Barney Kroger to grind grain. He used the resulting flour to make bread which he sold from his horse drawn wagon to the surrounding neighborhoods. Barney, you may recall, had an impact on the area with his grocery stores.

The area called Glenn Island Access State Park used to be called Hoppe's Island and was similar to Old Coney with dancing and a swimming pool created at the dam by a large concrete box. One of the Hoppe brothers was accidentally ground up in the mill and another expired when a tree fell on him. Glenn Irwin subsequently married into the family that purchased the property, hence the name Glenn Island.

Fosters was part of the Underground Raiolorad during th Civil War. Traces of this history remain in the "Ice" caves in the surrounding hills. It was also the only area in Ohio and North of Lexington, Kentucky where you can still find "dry" constructed retainer walls of stone using no mortar. The walls and "Ice Caves" were build by fleeing former slaves as they worked their way north.

At one time Fosters boasted five churches and five bars. One of the bars was Michael's place. Herb Michael, the owner/bartender was visited one Sunday morning by three nefarious patrons who ordered beer and were served 3.2 brew (3.2% alcohol). At one time, there was a law prescribing the maximum allowable alcohol content that could be served on Sunday. The patrons were so incensed at this weak offering of beer that they promplly pulled Mr. Michael over the bar and strangled him resulting in a fatal heart attack.

Deerfield Land Squatters –First in Warren County?

Were Warren County's first farmers squatters in modern Deerfield Township? It is well documented that the first settlements (communities) in Warren County were Bedle's station halfway between Lebanon and Monroe and Mount's Station near Morrow's Valley Vineyards. A 'Station' was a fort-like compound for protection from Indian attacks. Settlers lived inside the station when not clearing and working the fields.

While these stations rose in September 1795, singular, brave souls claimed portions of defaulted land in modern Deerfield Township. These "Squatters" were legally entitled to one-sixth of the defaulted land if they improved it. Deerfield Township was a natural place for the first squatters. There were many defaults in modern Deerfield Township; it was close to the relative safety of the 'stations' in modern Hamilton County; and the township was bisected by the only trail to Cincinnati. The trail -- originally known as the Miami Trail from the Indian path -- became known as General Harmar's trace during his disastrous campaign on the Indians to the north. Today, the same route through Warren County is approximated by U.S. Route 42 (Reading Road).

The Deerfield squatters were Joseph Coddington (later Corrington) and Peter Tetrick. Like the settlers at Bedle and Mount's stations, they located close to the trail. Exact dates are unknown, but it's fair to say that these two squatters were first along with the stations. September is a natural time for all. The squatters and the stations needed the winter to clear enough land to start crops in the spring. A month earlier, General Anthony Wayne's negotiators successfully concluded treaties with the Indians. The news spread that Warren County was open. Even though there were no Indian villages in Warren County, Wayne's treaty cleared Indian claims for all southwest Ohio – including us. But some Indian risk remained.

Coddington claimed land along Tylersville road between Reading and Mason-Montgomery Road. Tetrick claimed land South of Socialville-Foster Road and West of I-71 across from the County's water storage tank. Unsuccessful in his claim, Tetrick eventually moved to Twenty-Mile Stand where he farmed and raised a family.

It took a man three weeks to clear one acre. The underbrush had to be cleared and burned. Medium trees were cut down; those not needed for shelter or fuel were dragged away for burning. Larger trees were 'girded' (stripped of their bark) so they would
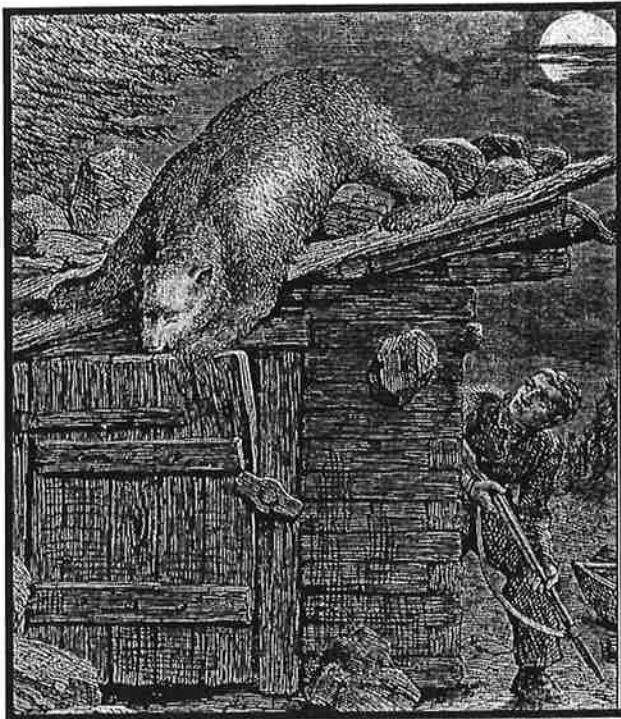
Bears once roamed Deerfield Township. They have a keen sense of smell. This early settler looks a little nervous as he prepares to defend his food supply.

die and let sunlight through to the crops. These skeletons would stand for ten years or more before burning. It was noisy and smoky work that risked attracting resentful, stray Indians.

Coddington started with a shelter made of bark against a log until he could build a log cabin. Aside from clearing work, he kept his weapons handy in case he had to defend himself against Indians, wolves or bears. Eventually he built a cabin and raised a family of ten. He killed wild turkeys and deer from his cabin door for food. It seems that Coddington did not own horses at first. He walked 21 miles to Columbia (Lunken Airport area) with bags of corn on his back for milling. I speculate that he had oxen which were steadier at the plow among roots and rocks -- and they weren't as stealable by Indians. Coddington had to drag those big trees away some way.

The next time you cross I-71 on Socialville-Foster or the rail tracks at the Tylersville-Reading intersection, close your eyes (unless you're driving!). Imagine old Tetrick and Coddington with their rifles, axes, shacks and fires -- cold and callused -- carving a home and farm from the brush and trees. Remember these first citizens of Deerfield Township and Warren County.

Deerfield's Original Land Surveys

True or False:

1. Modern Deerfield Township was part of the State of Virginia for 176 years.

2. The native Indians found treaties and surveyors defining land ownership odd. The Indians believed they belonged to the land, not vice-versa.

3. Deerfield Township and lands between the Miami Rivers have a unique system for surveying land not used anywhere else in America. Warren County's land divisions are unique.

4. The names of early surveyors and land agents are household words these days.

If you said all four are true, give yourself and "A". Virginia's charter in 1609 extended her boundaries between the 37th and 42nd parallel all the way to the Mississippi River. This includes Kentucky, and most of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. This explains why famous Virginians such as George Rodgers Clark and Simon Kenton along with the Virginia Militia frequently fought Indians in Southwestern Ohio.

Some Indian leaders felt they had the better bargain when they ceded land for guns and goods since the land in question was not theirs to begin with. Most Indians believed that land was not theirs to own. They were part of the land like the game and crops they harvested. However, Indians were threatened by the idea of dividing up the land for private ownership. Early surveying crews had to be armed and alert for trouble.

Virginia surveyors like George Washington used a traditional method of land division called metes and bounds. This method used topographic features like creeks and landmarks – like large trees -- to define boundaries. Some tracts of land looked like space aliens or the product of paper shredders. Unfortunately landmarks and creeks move or die. This system was a lawyer's paradise of land boundary disputes.

In 1780, the fledgling Federal Government claimed "western" lands in the Northwest Ordinance. In 1785, they set out to fix the problems with surveys with the Land Ordinance. This significant development defined a rectangular system of land surveying to be used throughout the country. Today, lands west of the Great Miami River and Ohio/Mississippi Rivers are divided with the predictable regularity of this system all the way to the Pacific.

This system defines the basic building block as a 6-mile-square town (later township). A vertical (true North-South) row of townships was called a Range. Towns were numbered south to north. Townships were divided into thirty-six 1-mile-square parcels called sections and a uniform method of numbering sections was defined. Using this system, any parcel can be quickly specified by identifying the survey, range, town number,

section and parcel. States could form, County boundaries could change, but the surveys remained the same.

Eventually, Virginia ceded most of her large portion of this new territory to the federal government. Virginia "reserved" Ohio lands between the Little Miami and Scioto Rivers for her revolutionary militiamen. This portion of Ohio, including Warren County's western townships was surveyed by the old, jigsaw-puzzle Virginia system.

Unfortunately, Judge John Cleves Symmes was laying out the land between the Miami Rivers about the same time. Symme's surveyors used a rectangular system too, but they used magnetic north, a system of horizontal (east-west) ranges, and a different section numbering system. Symme's surveys were imperfect. Assistant surveyors ran lines north, marking every mile. Owners and subsequent surveyors had the job of closing the boxes of the grid. As a result, townships and sections between the Miamis are not square, they do not have precisely the same area and their lines are about five degrees off.

All this makes Warren county unique in all of America. The eastern portion has the old Virginia system. The center has Symme's odd system. Warren's corner west of the Great Miami has the Federal system. The next time you see a Warren county map, study the section lines. The differences are evident.

Yes, early surveyors and developers left their names behind. General Dayton administered Symme's military reserve. Early surveyors included names like Mason, Morrow, Corwin, Stites, Gano, Massey and O'Bannion. General Ludlow was responsible for surveying activity in this area. Our neighbor, Symmes Township is named for Judge Symmes.
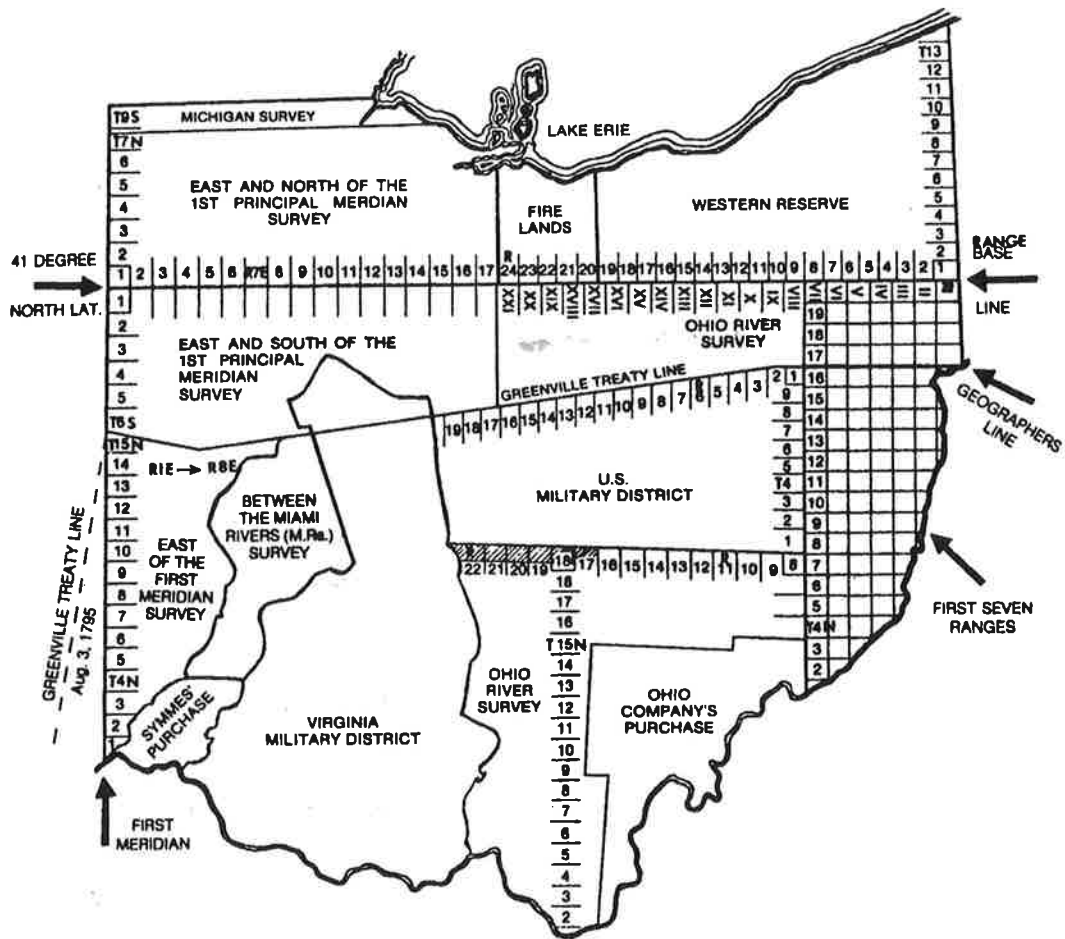
Ohio's Major Land Surveys. From *Ohio Lands*, State of Ohio. This great history of land development and surveys in Ohio is provided free by the State Auditor.

Deerfield's Squirrels

Test your deductive skills with these questions about the Old Deerfield area around the time we became a state. The following came from Dallas Bogan's *The Pioneer Writings of Josiah Morrow* with Mr. Bogan's permission. True or false:

1. Bear trees were easy to find. Bears often charged the man who shot them. Others had to finish the kill during a few heart-stopping moments.

2. Large game was hard to find. The Indians north of this area killed most of them for skins to trade with the settlers. Both the settlers and Indians who relied on hunting often went through long periods of scarce food.

3. Wolves and Panthers (Mountain Lions) were a constant threat to sheep. A large bounty was paid for each one killed.

4. Squirrels were a great nuisance. They often gathered in great herds for migration. The law required every man to kill at least 100 per year.

Do you think you got them all? Am I pulling a little joke on you? Answers.

1. Bears left large claw marks on the base of the tree as they repeatedly climbed. Locating a large bear slumbering in the tree was easy enough. If the first shooter did not kill the bear, he must be a good runner or have good friends. A very angry bear charged him after he used his only shot. Answer: True.

2. Large game was scarce after large-scale settlement started. The deer from which we got our name had been hunted out for skins and food. John McDonald, a surveying party hunter remembered a 'starving time'. The 28-man party had been without food in the snow for 3 days when they killed two turkeys. They boiled them and ate the heads, feet, entrails and all. Another hunter reported going three days with only a wildcat to eat, "... the toughest meal I ever ate." Raccoons and turkeys were a more plentiful source of food. Answer: True.

3. Wolves and panthers preyed on sheep in this area. Warren County Commissioners paid $20.00 (a large sum in those days) in a single meeting for wolf scalps. We were at the very southern range of the wolves and they were soon driven out. Panther bounties were rare, but there were recorded cases. Answer: True.

4. Squirrel herds? C'mon! In 1808, the Ohio legislature passed an act requiring every male of military age to turn in 100 squirrel scalps per year. Those failing to do so were fined three cents per squirrel. Morrow reports,

> "At certain seasons the woods swarmed with squirrels. At irregular periods these animals would collect in large troops and migrate, crossing rivers and mountains and committing great devastation in the fields of the settlers. One writer says the southern squirrels would gather into armies and cross the Ohio, their broad and erect tails being useful for sails for the squadrons. In the fields they would pull up the young corn to get the grain at the root and injure the growing wheat and rye."

Many drowned crossing rivers. Settlers organized massive hunts. The March 1828 *Western Star* reported that one hunt in nearby Washington Township killed 4475 squirrels -- averaging nearly 100 per hunter per day. Observers at the time believed the squirrels were trying to find a new food supply after settlers destroyed their habitat. Answer: True!

Today, it's hard to imagine starving hunters, wolves and lions, risky bear hunting and rampaging squirrel herds, but that's the way it was.

Lawyer and historian, Josiah Morrow (1838-1928) was born in Twenty-Mile Stand. He and his grandfather, Governor Jeremiah Morrow are buried in Union Cemetery in nearby Symmes Township.

Deerfield's First Famous Citizen
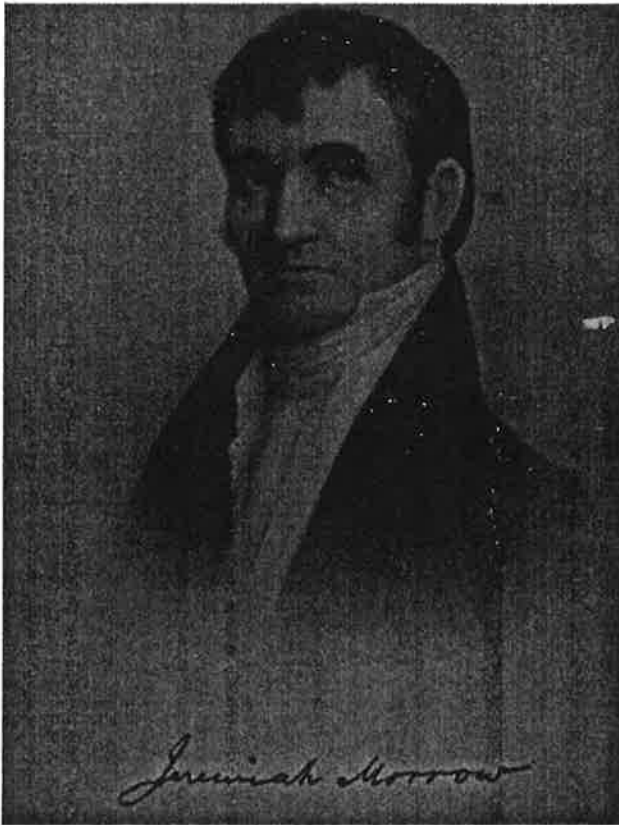
Deerfield Residents, wouldn't it be special if our State Governor and U.S. Congressman lived in our township and you knew him personally. It was once that way. In the early 1800's, one of Deerfield's (and Ohio's) most distinguished citizens was Jeremiah Morrow.

Morrow was one of the early settlers in Warren County. He came from Pennsylvania to Columbia (now Lunken airport) where he worked as a surveyor and teacher. In 1798, Morrow purchased the eastern half of section 15 in Deerfield Township. Today, Morrow's land is occupied by the eastern third of Landen, Montgomery Hills, most of Loveland Park, Landen-Deerfield Park, Landen's Kroger store and all of Davis road along the Little Miami River.

Like many early settlers, the Morrows first built a log cabin, then a permanent home on Davis road. Today his address would be 8700 Davis Rd. Unknowingly, Morrow built his home on unstable earth. It eventually collapsed long after his death. Besides his lifetime of public service, Morrow was known for the gristmill he built on the Little Miami River near his home. In 2000, only a few foundation stones and part of the millrace remain. Morrow's mill, Greely's mill in Foster and Stubbs Mill near Kings Mills were all in Deerfield Township. These mills were an important part of the economic engine of Warren County.

You would think teaching, surveying, farming and milling would be enough for Morrow, but he spent most of his adult life in public service. While we were still part of the Northwest Territory, he was a territorial legislator and a member of the state Constitutional Convention. After Ohio's statehood in 1803, Morrow became a member of the state Senate. That same year, he was elected by an overwhelming margin to be Ohio's first U.S. Congressman. Politically, he was a Jeffersonian and later a Whig – ancestors of the modern Democratic Party. Morrow served five terms in Congress as Ohio's only representative. After that, he served one term as a U.S Senator before he was elected to two terms as Ohio's governor. Only one person in Deerfield Township voted against him in the first election. In total, Morrow gave over forty years of public service.

Morrow was widely respected by his peers in each position he held. Morrow attended all sessions of his legislative duties – a difficult task in those days. He became known for his authorship, leadership and knowledge of public land laws. He was not known as an orator; instead, his reputation was based on his integrity and leadership. At home in Deerfield Township, Morrow was known for his simple ways. He dressed plainly and worked the farm and mill with his own hands. He became an elder in the United Presbyterian Church. In his old age, he walked four miles to church in the summer heat rather than miss a Sabbath. Governor Morrow and his wife Mary had eleven children. Morrow lived out his life here. He died in 1852 at age 83. He is buried nearby in Union Cemetery. Some people say he should be called the "Father of Ohio". I agree.

Deerfield Citizens, take an extra measure of pride when you think about your township's home-grown hero and model for character and citizenship, Jeremiah Morrow.

Ghosts of Foster's Past

Foster. Ghosts crossing. Maybe we should have a sign where Davis Road and Old 3-C intersect. As Halloween approaches skeletons from the past emerge from the brush. You see them at the stop sign on Davis. Look down the embankment and the stonework and concrete structures of times past come into view. It's Greely or Hoppe's mill.
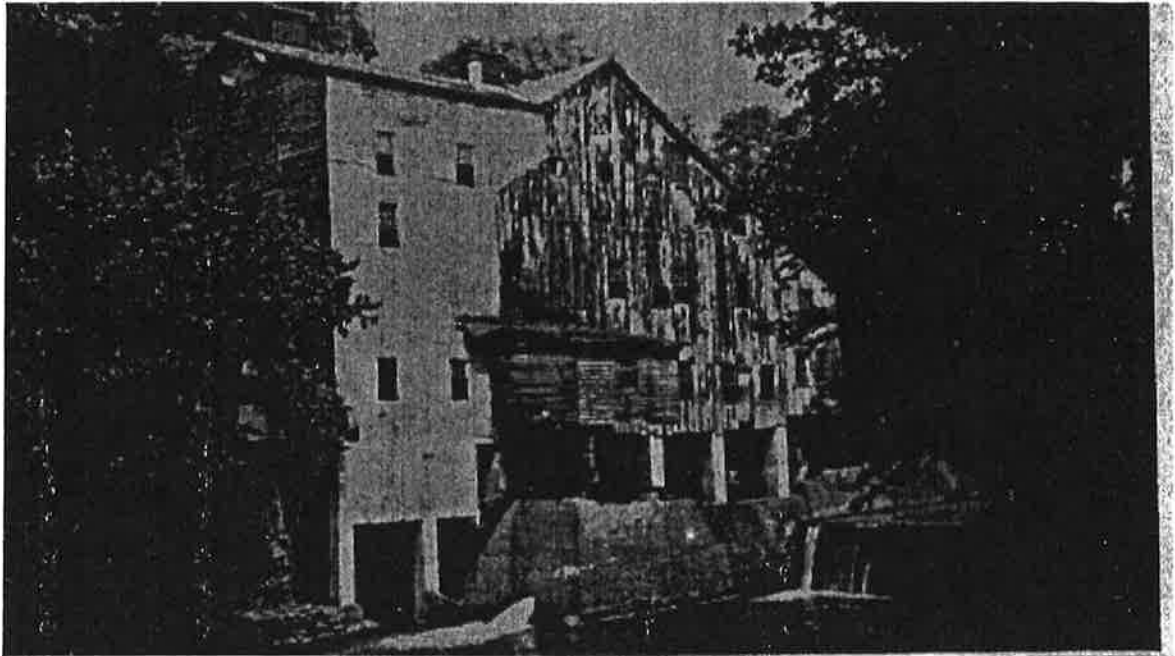
Hoppe's Mill. Built in 1861 by S.B. Greely. Closed in 1944.

From 1861 until 1944 a gristmill and sawmill cozied up to the edge of old 3-C highway.

This wooden 3-story giant was a beehive of commerce as farmers came daily with their corn, wheat, and logs and left with their flour, cornmeal, boards – and cash!

Greely's mill replaced the first mill built in 1806 by Brazilla Clark which burned in 1844. The Greely family sold the mill to Augustus Hoppe family in 1886. Their premium product was "Pride of Miami" flour. Son Edward operated the mill until 1944 when he was killed as his clothing caught and pulled him into the mill's machinery.

> Where's the race? A mill race is a diversion channel. Millers built dams to form pools. Then they diverted water around the dam through the race to power the mill. The head race brought water to the mill. The tail race took it away.

When Hoppe died, the property went to a nephew, Glenn Irwin who developed a recreational enterprise called "Glenn Island".

The Ghost of Hoppe's Mill -- 1998

The following sketch of Greely's Mills and Home is from an 1875 drawing. Note the absence of a waterwheel or a smokestack on the sawmill or gristmill.
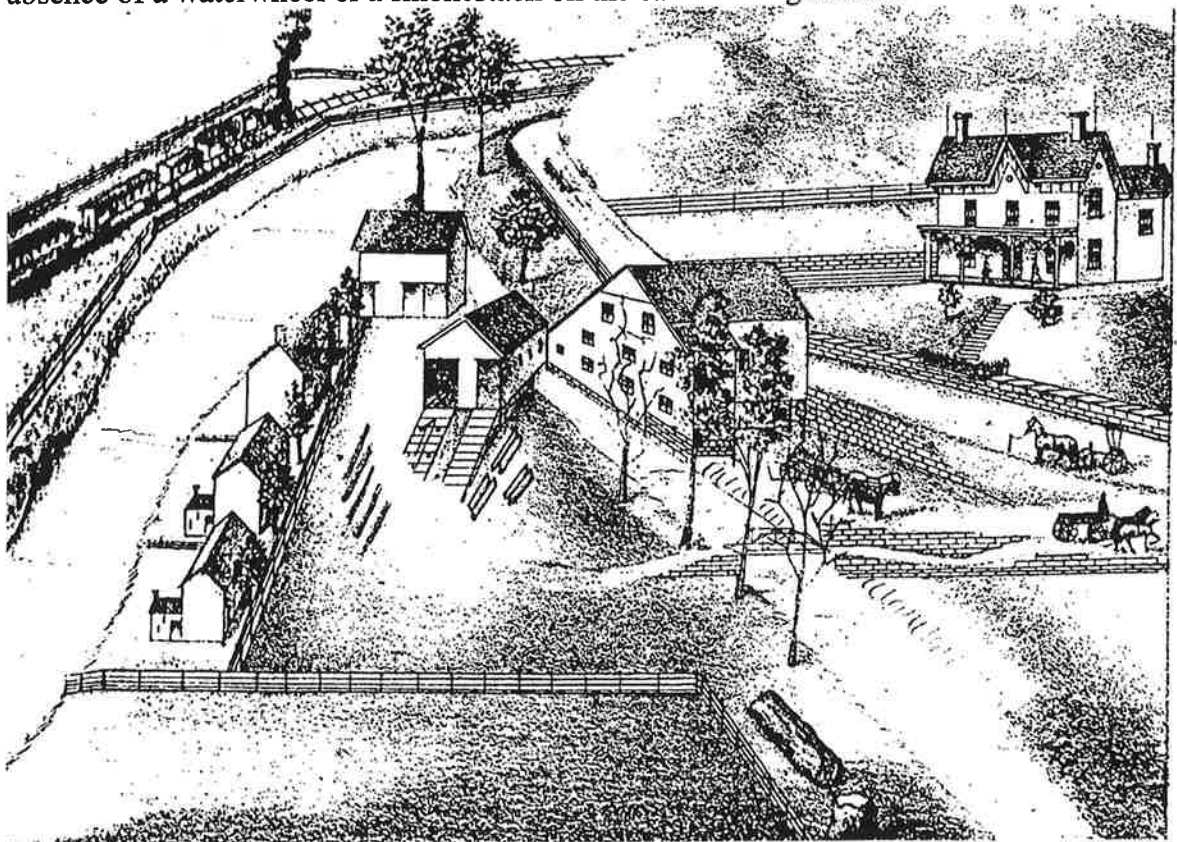
Greely's Sawmill, Gristmill and Home from 1875 Warren County Atlas.

Millers liked to keep up with technology. In the early 1800's they used the large 30-foot wheels you see in all those romantic pictures from the past. The first mill in this location built in 1806 probably had a large 'undershot' water wheel suitable for a gently falling rivers like the Little Miami. By the mid 1800's mills used water turbines. These were windmill-like devices through which the water flowed turning metal shafts and gears. By the end of the century, steam power was popular and the millers could move away from the oft-flooded riverside locations. Finally electric motors took the place of steam. The old millstones gave way to burr mills then roller mills. It appears from this old sketch and photos of the exit flume that this mill used turbines.
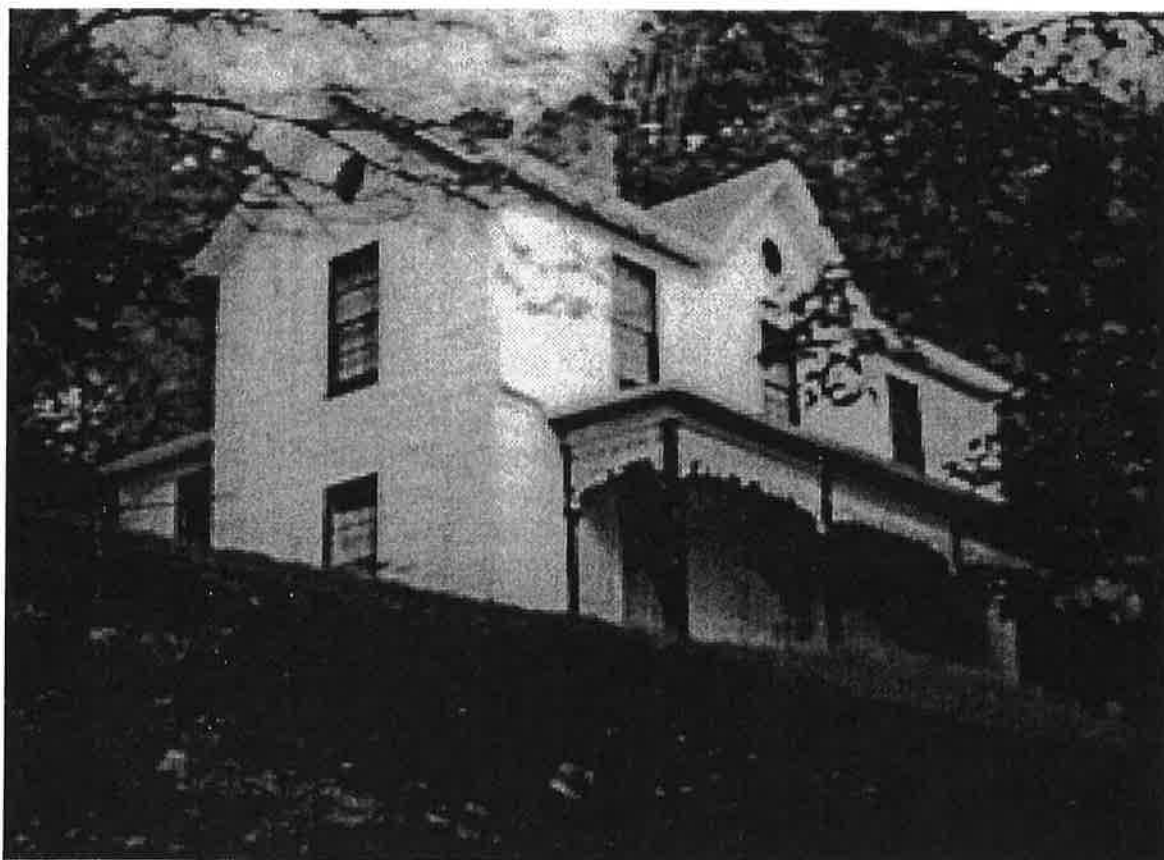
Not a ghost. Greely's house in 1998 at 8095 Old 3-C Highway. Now known as Maag House after a later owner.

If you don't mind brush and rubble, you can make a closer look just 300 feet into the bush off the southwest corner of the Rahe park drive.
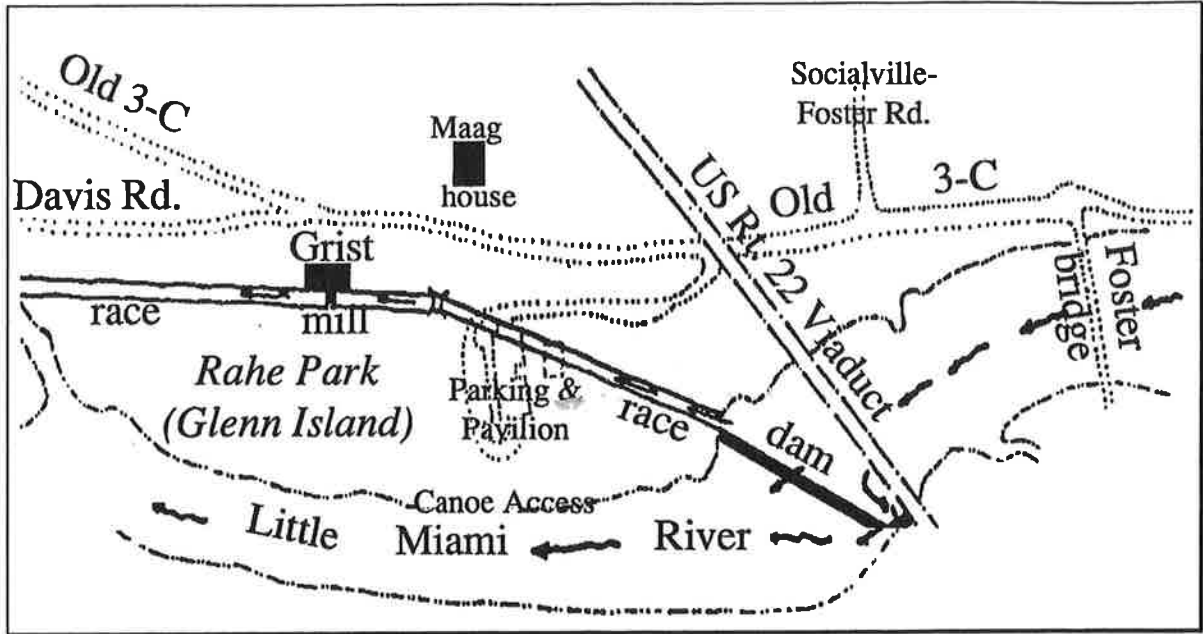
Where's the island? It's ghost appears in the spring when the water rises. Along Davis road, backwater pools in the mill's tailrace all the way back to the mill. Imagine a short channel from the mill across Rahe Park (the head race) and you have it – Hoppe's island. The dam shown in this sketch was removed in 1990

After the leaves ar gone, slow down for a look on old 3-C or Davis. Or try a walk in the woods at Rahe park. Try to imagine the noise of the running water and machinery. Smell the horses and picture the farmers trading and catching up on the news. Try to visualize the towering gristmill next to Old 3-C. Picture the open-air covered sawmill on the foundations on the island side of the race.

Just for a moment, bring the ghost of Hoppe's mill back to life.

Carl Rahe. Once called Greely's mill, then Hoppe's Island, then Glenn Island, the location is now named Rahe Park. Rahe (pronounced "Ray") was a conservationist active with Little Miami Incorporated.

Who's wright? Experts in constructing mills were called millwrights. Today, the term often refers to mechanical workers.

Edward Hoppe's daughter, Bernice Hallam remembers the floods. "We always had to be ready to to go to a higher floor when the water came up. Then the townspeople came in and helped us clean up [the mill] after the floods."

A Potpourri of Old Names

Did you ever wonder about the origin of the names of places and roads in and around our township? Most of them are borrowed – some several times over.

Soldiers and Sailers

Warren County is named after General Joseph Warren of the U.S. Revolutionary Army who died in the battle of Bunker hill.

Borrowed thrice: Montgomery road (US Rt. 22 & 3). First named the Cincinnati, Hopkinsville, Roachester & Clarksville macadamized turnpike. This road was chartered in 1804 to run from Cincinnati to Chillocothe. It was operating by 1834. In Deerfield township, travellers could stop at Twenty Mile Stand for food, rest and horses before the toll bridge at Foster's Crossing. Now it's Mongomery road after the town to the south. Montgomery, Ohio is named after the home town of early settlers from Montgomery, NY -- named after General Richard Montgomery of the U.S. Continental army. General Montgomery was killed trying to capture Quebec.

Mason. Major William Mason laid out the town in 1815 and called it Palmyra. Later it was re-named after Major Mason because another place in Ohio was Palmyra already.

Columbia -- from Christopher Columbus' name.. The earliest maps of this are show a road or trail from Columbia to Deerfield (South Lebanon) along the Little Miami. The very old village of Columbia was once located near the mouth of the Little Miami River in the area of the Lunken Airport terminal. Many early settler's are buried in the pioneer cemetery there. Replaced by newer roads, only segments of Columbia road now remain in Deerfield township. At the county line with Hamilton County, it changes names to Lebanon road

Snider Road. This was once known as Mason-Socialville-Mason. It was built in several segments from 1828 to 1882. It's name appears to come from the Hamilton county farm of Revolutionar War veteran Cornelius Snyder – one of the first settlers in the Montgomery area. Snider's farm – a full section – lay on both sides of Montgomery road south of Bethesda Hospital for a mile. Snider road in Hamilton county ran to it before the expressways and Bethesda.

From Preachers or the Bible

Lebanon. Named in 1802 by it's founders after the many magnificent cedars in the area mindful of the Biblical cedars of Lebanon.

Bethany road leads to the village over the Butler county line named for the Biblical Place of Lazarus' tomb. The old Voice Of America transmitting station on Tylersville road was called Bethany station even though it was closer to Tylersville. Maybe that's

because Tylersville (after President John Tyler) no longer existed; in the 1800's it was about a mile west of Maud in Butler county.

Socialville. First called Mormontown around 1840 after after a growing congregration of Mormans. In those days, the Mormons were regarded as a radical non-Christian group. When a Methodist church was also established there, its sponsor, Henry Hageman suggested that the mixed community call itself Socialville – maybe things were sociable after that.

Prominent Places, Citizens and Politicians

Kings. William Woods misses a measure of immortality. He built the first mill on the Little Miami in Warren county in 1799. Ownership changed several times until the mill was replaced by the Kings Powder mills in 1877 and the company was founded by Joseph Warrren King and his nephew, Ahimaaz King. The King family lent their name to many Deerfield Township landmarks. Sorry, Mr. Woods; it's Kings Mills, Kings Mills Road, Kings Island, Kings Automall, Kings School District, Kingswood golf course, and many more.

Morrow. After Jerimiah Morrow who was a U.S Congressman from statehood in 1803 until 1819. Morrow was Ohio' ninth governor -- followed by terms as state senator and congressman. Morrow operated a mill near Foster. Our neighbors in Salem Twp. borrowed his hame for their town.

Thank William Penn for Reading Road (U.S. Rt. 42) – once called Sergeant road -- was also chartered in 1804 to run from Cincinnati to the Lebanon area. It is named for Reading, Ohio which was named by early settlers from Reading, Pa. -- after William Penn's home in England. Maybe that's why we pronouce it 'red -ing'. It's English, not American.

Cox-Smith Road. R. M. Cox (b. 1822) was a Township Trustee, Hardware Merchant, and Landowner. In 1856, 75 and 91 the Cox family had large landholdings along Cox-Smith Road in the area north of the Mason Kroger' s. Cox' home and store are featured in the 1875 atlas. Across the border in Union township, the J. D. Smith family owned a large farm along the same road.

Foster or Fosters. James H. Foster settled in 1841 where the Cincinnati-Chillicothe road crossed the Little Miami river via toll bridge He operated a mercantile store and a hotel. Foster tried calling the settlement "22 mile stand", but the Railroad Station on the Hamilton Township side of the river called itself "Foster's" and the latter stuck.

Farmers

Fields Ertel. Daniel Ertel came from Pennsylvania in 1792 and established a 600 acre farm in the south west part of the township. By 1848 this road was established connecting the Butler county line near Ertel's farm and the Little Miami River. Across the river in southern Hamilton township lay the Fields farm.

Irwin-Simpson road. If you live in Chestnut Landing, Sailboat Pointe, Woodfield, or the Trails, you're probably on the old Simpson farm at Twenty Mile Stand. Simpson creek feeds Landen lake. To the west, the new Procter and Gample Complex is on the corner of the once-large farm of the Irwin family. Along Irwin-Simpson road, both family names were prominent Deerfield township landowners in the 1800s.. J. Alex Simpson's farm buildings in Twenty-Mile Stand received special notice in the 1856 county atlas.

Davis Road. If you live on Esther St. or in Country View estates, you're on the old farm of W. Zebulon Davis. Davis road first appears on the 1875 map. It's straight stretch from Columbia road east to the river bounds the 155 acre farm. Similarly, Brewer and Stitt roads once passed farms with the same names. Van Camp road - later re-named to Rich Road -- passed through the Van Camp farm on the Hamilton county line by 1891 and connected with Davis. The source of the name Rich is not evident on the old Warren county atlases. Perhaps one of our readers knows how Rich was named.

Landen. This large suburban area was named after the Landen family's farm north of Montgomery road in the 'Pines' and Landen-Deerfield park area. The Pines residential area is named for the pine trees that used to line the roadway to the Landen farmhouse.

Odds and Ends.

Deerfield is named after the salty springs or 'deer licks' north of Mason where game came for needed dietary salt. Animals would lick the earth for its salt – thus the term. Deer licks were popular spots for hunters.

Twenty-Mile Stand was a post-town with a tavern located 20 miles from downtown Cincinnati on the Chillocothe State road (Montgomery Rd.) There were 'stands' every four miles. Twelve mile stand is marked at Mongtomery and Cooper in downtown Montgomery.

Western Row. Does anyone know the source of this name? It was once called Union - Western Row. It ran from "Union" located at the present-day Columbia and Western Row intersection westward. I think "western row" is an old surveyor's term. Early downtown Cincinnati's westernmost boundary was also called Western Row.

Deerfield's Underground Railroad

Runaway Eliza and her baby crossing the Ohio to freedom on floating slabs of ice. From an early edition of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Cincinnati just celebrated the start of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center – scheduled to open in 2004. Cincinnati is appropriate for many reasons. It held a central role in hiding and helping runaways escape. The pre-eminent leader, Levi Coffin lived in Walnut Hills. Coffin, his neighbor Harriett Beecher Stowe and many others hid and helped escapees who made it across the Ohio. Harriett eventually wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin* based on her experiences. But Cincinnati was the ticket booth on the Underground Railroad. The routes lay in the communities enroute to freedom – including ours. Try your knowledge of the situation of runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad. True of False, runaways:

1. Were safe once they reached Ohio because the Northwest ordinance of 1787 prohibited slavery in Ohio and other States of the Northwest Territory.

2. Crossed into Ohio, Indiana and Illinois as a *first step towards escaping to Canada* where slavery had been illegal since 1833.

3. Were worth $18,000 in today's money. The fine for helping a runaway was the same – plus jail time.

4. Found important help and refuge throughout Warren County. Three of the four routes from Cincinnati went through Deerfield Township.

Answers:

1. False. By federal law, runaways were still the property of their masters although slavery was illegal in the Northwest Territory.

2. True. There was some safety in these new States because of the many anti-slavery sympathizers. But the goal for runaways was Canada. There they could eventually achieve full citizenship. England emancipated all slaves in the Empire in 1833 and set up a 5-year transition program.

3. True. Slaves were very expensive – equivalent to six acres of farmland. The Fugitive Slave act of 1850 made matters worse by permitting ruthless slave-hunting in the free States and by imposing stiff fines and jail sentences of six months on persons who helped escapees.

4. True. Four major routes radiated from Cincinnati. Three went through Deerfield Township and Warren County. Two routes approximated Route 42 (Reading Rd.) going through Mason, Lebanon and Xenia with a hiding place in nearby Pisgah. According to historian Wilbur Siebert, these were the busiest routes in Ohio. The third went through Foster to Wilmington – approximating Route 22 (Montgomery Rd.).

There are some good stories to be learned from our local libraries about the Underground Railroad in our area. It was not just a Cincinnati phenomenon. For example, John Van Sandt picked up nine runaways in Walnut Hills and started his run to

Lebanon. Slave catchers caught him just before Lebanon, but one slave escaped. Van Sandt was sued for the value of the lost 'property'. Van Sandt died during the trial, but the federal court awarded the plaintiff $1200 from Van Sandt's estate ($22,000 in today's money). Van Sandt's attorney, Salmon P. Chase – a future Supreme Court Justice – took on such cases free.

Another example is our Quaker neighbors in Foster, the Fosters and the Butterworths. After loading slaves in Walnut hills, the first stop was Butterworth Station near Foster. The route would take them roughly along Montgomery Road. There is one story of the Butterworths having twenty-six runaways in the small back room of their home along the Little Miami near Foster. In her novel, Stowe treats the Quakers kindly. Warren County had numerous Quaker communities including Foster, Lebanon, Springboro, Waynesville and Harveysburg. The Quakers were anti-slavery activists willing to take the necessary risks to help escapees.

Our area has reason to be proud of our contribution to this chapter of American history. History vindicates the lawbreaking men and women of conscience that disobeyed federal law and helped the runaways. Take a measure of pride when you think of the nearly 300,000 persons the Underground Railroad helped to freedom. A lot of the action happened in your back yard.

The Candidate

It seems that each day we hear about political neophytes that want to be President: Forbes, Trump, Beatty. It makes me think of another time when a rags-to-riches outsider – a newspaper publisher -- ran for the highest office. Many were fed up with the Ulysses Grant administration's corruption and waste. Grant himself was a popular hero -- unstained by those who worked for him. In May of 1872, Liberal Republicans met in Cincinnati and nominated the Candidate to run in Grant's place. The Democrats jumped on this in their convention and *also* nominated the Candidate. The regular Republican convention overwhelmingly nominated Grant. The Candidate had only 3 month's experience in Congress twenty-five years earlier.

This unplanned change of parties by the Candidate made for a good old horse race. The Candidate had been a strong supporter of Lincoln and the North. But his editorials and platform favored full restoration of the South, rights for women, temperance, elimination of Washington patronage, local government, protective tariffs, land conservation and Veterans benefits. To top it off, the Candidate bailed Confederate President Jeff Davis out of jail – ensuring that Davis would never be tried. Even though the Candidate's character was the kind of stuff that 19th century heroes were made of, the stinking mudballs flew during the campaign.

I wonder if our Maker needed the Candidate elsewhere. His wife died during the campaign and he died suddenly less than a month after losing the election. Warren county overwhelming voted for Grant and the *Western Star* gloated local sentiments. It was not a waste. Many of the Candidate's reforms were later adopted.

On September 21st, 1872 the Candidate whistle-stopped through this area speaking in Morrow and Loveland. Along the Little Miami Railroad, supporters and the curious gathered as the mid-morning train passed Stubbs Mill and Foster (Kings Mills started five years later). In Deerfield's Foster, brothers Elias and Seth Greely probably paused in their work at their saw and grist mills to watch the commotion. The brothers were New-Englanders, Farmers, Baptists and Entrepreneurs – the traditional backbone of Grant's Republican party. Elias' granddaughter, Harriett Jevidan thinks they were Republicans. I wonder how the brothers felt about the Democratic candidate -- their third cousin, Horace who spelled his name Greeley.

From Greely-Greeley Family Genealogy by George Hiram Greeley. Boston, 1905

#1 Andrew Greele (1617-1697)
m. Mary Moyse (- 12/24/1703)
|
son
|
#5 Joseph Greele (2/5/1652-3/7/1745)
m. Martha Corliss
Haverhill, MA
|
sons
|

|--|

#32 Benjamin Greele
(2/28/1699-2/22/1785)
(1) Ruth Whittier
(2) (2) Hannah Poor
Haverhill, MA
|
#143 Ezekiel Greeley
(10/21/1725-1/21/1793)
Esther Lovell
|
#623 Zaccheus Greeley
(11/27/1753-1846)
m. Esther Senter
Hudson, NY
|
#1851 Zaccheus Greeley
(3/23/1782-12/18/1867)
Mary Woodburn
Wayne, NY
|
Horace Greeley (2/11/1811-
11/29/1972)
Mary Cheny (- 10/20/1872)
Amherst, NH, Pleasantville, NY

#38 Moses Greele (3/31/1711 -)
(1) Mohilable Page, (2) Mrs. Church
Haverhill, MA
|
#172 Seth Greeley, Sr (9/11/1737-11/18/1825)
(1) Mary Wight (2) Jane McCasland
Farmington, ME and Maineville, OH
|
#721 Seth Greeley, Jr. (1/15/1786 -)
m. Mrs. Boardman
Maineville, OH
|
brothers

Seth Boardman Greeley moved
to Foster in 1857 where be ran a
feed mill.

Elias.
H.Greeley
moved to
Foster in
1866.

Horace Greeley, Publisher and unsuccessful Presidential Candidate against U.S. Grant (1872) and the Greeley brothers above (Seth and Elias from Foster) were third cousins, once removed.

Horace founded the New Yorker magazine and the New York Tribune newspaper. He was an outspoken anti-slavery leader.

Kings Jewels found in Deerfield

The 10-mile stretch of I-71 between the Automall Sign and the Fujitech tower should be special to you. You're in Knights Country – the Kings Local School System. You're also in the heart of Deerfield and Union Townships. Kings was born because the old one-room-school system failed in the 1930s and small rural districts could not survive in the 1960s. Here's Kings story from the beginning.

The first Federal Freebie. In 1785, Congress determined the method of laying out grids of western lands for subsequent sales and grants. The 6 mile square "Township" was selected as the basic unit which is subdivided into 36 sections. Section 16 was designated for school purposes. Deerfield and Union Townships are not perfect models because of the river.

Kings' South Lebanon is second to build a school in Warren county in 1800 – three years before statehood. On the day set, the neighbors assembled to build the school with free labor. The inside was about the size of a modern classroom. The floors and walls were made of rough-hewn logs. A large fireplace was built at one end and the three remaining walls were fitted with slabbed shelves to use as writing surfaces. Bench seats were made of half-logs. The students sat on these benches and faced the walls while the teacher worked from the center of the room. Translucent windows of greased paper let in light, but allowed no view outside. Outdoor privies provided creature needs. Student books were the New Testament, Webster's Spelling Book, and an arithmetic book. Students went to school four months each year. Schooling was over for most students when they could read, write, and 'cipher' well enough to succeed in life – often 3rd of 4th grade.

Deerfield's oldest schools were probably Union, Student's Hall, and Twenty Mile Stand. These old buildings did not last long. Over the years, lumber replaced logs; bricks replaced lumber; glass replaced wax-paper; desks replaced benches, and coal replaced wood. By 1880, each of these schools was in its fourth schoolhouse. The Mason School System started in 1827. Student's Hall and Twenty-Mile were near busy commercial highways and Unity was near the township's first church – Unity Methodist built in 1834. It seems a fair guess that these schools were first built in the 1830s.

Where are they?. Student's Hall still stands near the Houston Restaurant on SR 741. Twenty Mile Stand School is still standing at the corner of Kingsley and Columbia Road. Slow down and enjoy a look at these pieces of history. They were last built in 1873 and '79 respectively. When you're patiently waiting to turn left from northbound Columbia onto Western Row road, you're at the site of the old Union School. It was destroyed by the 1974 tornadoes.

A Peek at the Past. Miriam Bowyer went to Union School and Kings High School. "I drove a horse and buggy. …. After the horse had stood all day in a barn there at Kings, when you started home at night, the horse was pretty anxious to go. We used to kind of race – to start out you went pretty fast because you couldn't hardly hold him back. A friend of ours, Byron Witt, he dared me to run a race … to Twenty Mile Stand. "… We locked buggy wheels. We didn't want dad to know what happened so we took all of our birthday money and paid [for the damaged wheel]."

Deerfield Township Rural District. By 1878, the Deerfield Township had grown to 7 rural schools. Schools and salaries were supported by public funds. The school

year was nine months for eight grades. A Superintendent was hired by the Trustees to make school work in the district more uniform. Not included was a Foster School District which was partially in Hamilton Township and three Mason System Schools. Neighboring Union Township's three schools were located at Mill and Columbia (Farmer's Hall. Still standing.), the State Police Station ("Rich School"), and on Mary Ellen St. in the village.

First "Kings" Schools. In 1884, the town of Kings Mills was formed and named after the founders of the powder works. In 1889 an elementary school was established on King avenue. The nearby Mound School became a dwelling and was eventually demolished some time after 1966. The King family took a great interest in local education. They made sure that the district extended across the river into Hamilton Township to include families of the Peters Cartridge Factory. King contributions built the gym on Church street in Kings Mills and the G. W. King Memorial Stadium.

In 1906, South Lebanon Elementary school was built on Broadway in the city. Eighth grade graduates had the options on going on to High School at Lebanon or Kings. This school grew with its community over the years adding a cafeteria (circa 1952), an office and classrooms (1957) and a gym 1960.

"My Granddaddy had to walk 3 miles in the snow to a one-room school to light the fire for the others..." He probably did. The Township schools were situated such that the furthest distance to any one of them was about three miles. Older students often made extra money as janitors, starting fires each day and doing similar chores. On the other hand, your granddaddy had one teacher for four or eight years, three students per grade and older students who helped the younger ones. The older students sometimes drove the family buggy to school with their younger siblings and neighbors aboard.

Kings High School was built in 1890. The first class of four graduated in 1895. Three years of study were required to graduate until 1906. In the beginning, the school had three rooms: grades 1-4, grades 5-8, and High School. Later a domestic science building (circa 1911) and a gym (circa 1929) were added. The Kings Mills facility was enlarged by 14 rooms and an office in 1954; it was enlarged again by 16 rooms and office in 1960.

The Kings Mills School enjoyed an excellent reputation. In 1919 it was quoted that "the schools of the village have attained so high a reputation for thoroughness of instruction and advanced studies, that daily the electric cars bring young people from the neighboring villages who desire to take advantage of the high school course at Kings Mills." Presently, the library and labs for art, computers, and science for Kings Mills Elementary School are in the original High School building.

Deerfield Township District Ends. When the Kings Mills Elementary school opened, the Deerfield Township Rural District began to shrink. It went from 7 schools in 1888 to three by 1936. Attendance dropped and tuition costs increased as many children went to Kings or Mason schools. In 1936, the County Superintendent of Schools ordered that the three township schools be transferred to city districts. Lick school (Socialville) and Western Row school (now Mason's Western Row Elementary) went to Mason and Union School became part of Kings Schools. The new district continued to be knows as Kings Mills Local. The Foster Special School district continued to operate until the early 1940s. The last Foster school still stands on Old 3-C highway with dates 1870 and 1912.

It has since housed a Catholic Church, private businesses and – presently – a ballet school.

South Lebanon District Ends. In 1964, the County Superintendent ordered the consolidation of Kings Local and South Lebanon Local into one district. There was very little opposition to this change since the South Lebanon Graduates had been coming to Kings High School on a tuition basis for more than forty years. The combined district re-named itself the Deerfield-Union Local School System after rejecting a name containing Kings. In 1982, the district received a new charter and re-named itself Kings Local School District.

Boom Town(ship). Consolidation with South Lebanon coincides roughly with the beginning of the population growth in Southwestern Warren County that continues to this date. In 1967, J.F. Burns Elementary School and a new High School (presently the G. W. King Junior High School) were built. The Kings Mill School became a middle school which added a gym and cafeteria in 1977. In 1987 a new High School was built, and the G.W. King school became the Jr. High. More growth required a High School expansion and the addition of Columbia Elementary School for all grades 5 and 6 in 1997. The South Lebanon, Kings Mills, and J.F. Burns facilities were all made into Kindergarten through 3rd grade elementary schools.

Kings of the Future. The district has its crowding problems solved and its operating plans and budgets are sound. Current priorities are to replace the older facilities when voter approval is secured. Kings will replace the South Lebanon Elementary school -- where education started in our district 200 years ago -- and the Kings Mills elementary school -- where secondary education started in our district 110 years ago. Good management, safe schools, modern facilities, excellent academic results and an outstanding sports and music program gives us some bragging rights. Our six schools are the King's jewels making Kings district one of Deerfield Township's greatest values.

Goodbye to a Deerfield Landmark

Wilshire farm is featured in this issue to say goodbye to an old neighbor and hello again to an already familiar one. The farm now belongs to Duke-Weeks Realty, a prime force in the economic development of Deerfield Township since 1970. Duke will develop an office and warehouse center called Governor's Pointe West.

Home on Wilshire Farm. The front portion of the house was built in the 1860s. Note the separate kitchen and cistern. Old homes had detached kitchens for summer comfort. The bell stands ready to summons the field hands for food.

Test your knowledge – True or False. Deerfield Township:

- Was all of Warren and the western half of Clinton county before 1803.
- Is within a mile of Monroe, South Lebanon, Loveland, and Sharonville.
- Has 20,000 residents compared to 17,500 for Mason and 14,500 for Lebanon.
- Borders Hamilton County along Fields-Ertel road.
- Has Polo Games since the 1970s. Playing Polo left-handed is forbidden here.

If you answered 'true' to all the above, you're right. The last one that may surprise you. A Polo field on Wilshire Farms on the southwest corner of the Mason-Montgomery and Irwin-Simpson road intersections has hosted many games since it was built by Herb Wilkens in 1972.

Polo is played between teams of four horse-mounted players who try to use long-handled mallets to drive a three inch ball into goals on a 300-yard field. 'It takes nine football fields to make a Polo field,' Herb Wilkens, Sr. says. The game is played in six seven-minute 'chukkers'. A typical score might be 8 to 6. Playing left-handed is forbidden everywhere for safety reasons.

Wilshire Farms was established by Herb's parents, Frank and Mary (Balbach) in 1923: their families came from Germany in the late 1800s. Frank was well-known for threshing work with his steam engine. Later, he served twelve years as Deerfield Township trustee. Although Frank and two earlier generations were from Norwood, Herb Wilkens tells of an old Deerfield connection, "It's said that my great-grandfather paid more taxes in Cincinnati than anyone else. He had a stagecoach stop in Twenty-Mile Stand."
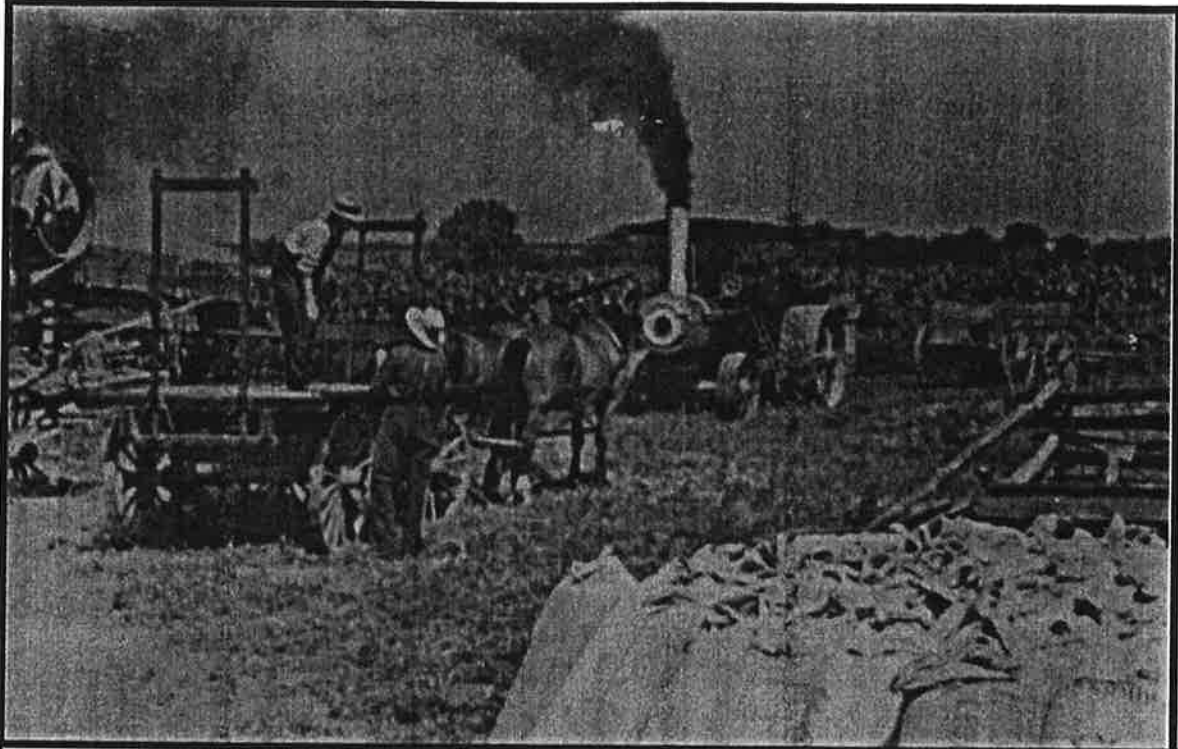
Threshing Machine and Steam Engine. Wheat, oats, or rye was brought to the thresher which separated the grain from the stalks. A tractor-like steam engine (smoking) drove the thresher with a long foot-wide leather belt. Farmers bagged the grain and used the stalks as animal bedding. (Photo: Warren County Historical Society)

"I was born in this house in 1926," Herb Wilkens tells, 'I still have the brass bed. I was the water boy for the threshing. We'd get up about 5 a.m. and warm up the steam engine. The farmers would start coming with horse-drawn wagons of sheaves for the thresher. I remember huge piles of straw.' Herb took over farming when his father developed heart trouble around 1945. We'd milk the cows and gather the eggs before breakfast, then we'd go to the fields to work. I raised about 600 head of hogs each year. We'd truck them to the stockyards in Cincinnati." "We never had any flying pigs," Mr. Wilkens laughed.

"There were only a half dozen families on [all of] Irwin Simpson road. I remember playing marbles in the road. If someone came along in a car, they just drove around us. We got electricity in the early '30s. I helped wire the place. I was just a little fellow and I could get into the tight places. We got phones later. I remember our first number, 74M

out of Mason. If we needed a doctor we'd call and he'd come around – Dr. Batsche – the Judge's father. Mason Montgomery was a gravel road."

"I don't remember much excitement when I was young. A bunch of Gypsies camped next door one night. Dad stayed up all night with a shotgun. My first four years of school were in the little red Lick School. It was a one-room school with a big stove in the middle. We had eight grades. Dad and mom used to board schoolteachers here." Lick school – now a residence -- still stands approximately one quarter mile west of Wilshire farms. "I graduated from Mason High School in 1944 with about 26 in our graduating class. We had a big basketball rivalry with Kings High School. We did pretty good."

Herb tells how he got hooked on Polo. "There were some Veterinarians that were working some cattle here and they were members of the Cincinnati Polo Club. They invited me down for a practice. They gave me this nice little mare and I just got hooked on the game. It makes your wheels go around real quick. I played for 25 years. I had an eye socket blown out once in an accident. You have to be a good rider to play." It's interesting that race-track thoroughbreds are used for Polo. "They have to run for seven minutes at a time. They have twice the lung capacity of quarter horses," Mr. Wilkens said. The sport is not gone with the closing of the Deerfield field. There are two other fields existing in Warren county and Mr. Wilkens plans to build another one in Hamilton Township.

Herb Wilkens saw the transformation to modern Deerfield township. 'I think Kings Island has had a big impact on the Township and the County. I was on the zoning board at the time. I don't think anyone knew what the impact was going to be.' Mr. Wilkens had similar comments about the building of I-71.

We'll miss the Wilshire Farm and the era of progress it helped bring to Deerfield Township thanks to enterprising farmers like the Wilkens. We welcome the new era of progress that Duke-Weeks brings to us. In recognition of this transition in progress, the annual Deerfield Day celebration was be held on the Wilkens Polo fields on September 19th, 1999.

Peters and King – New History of Kings Mills
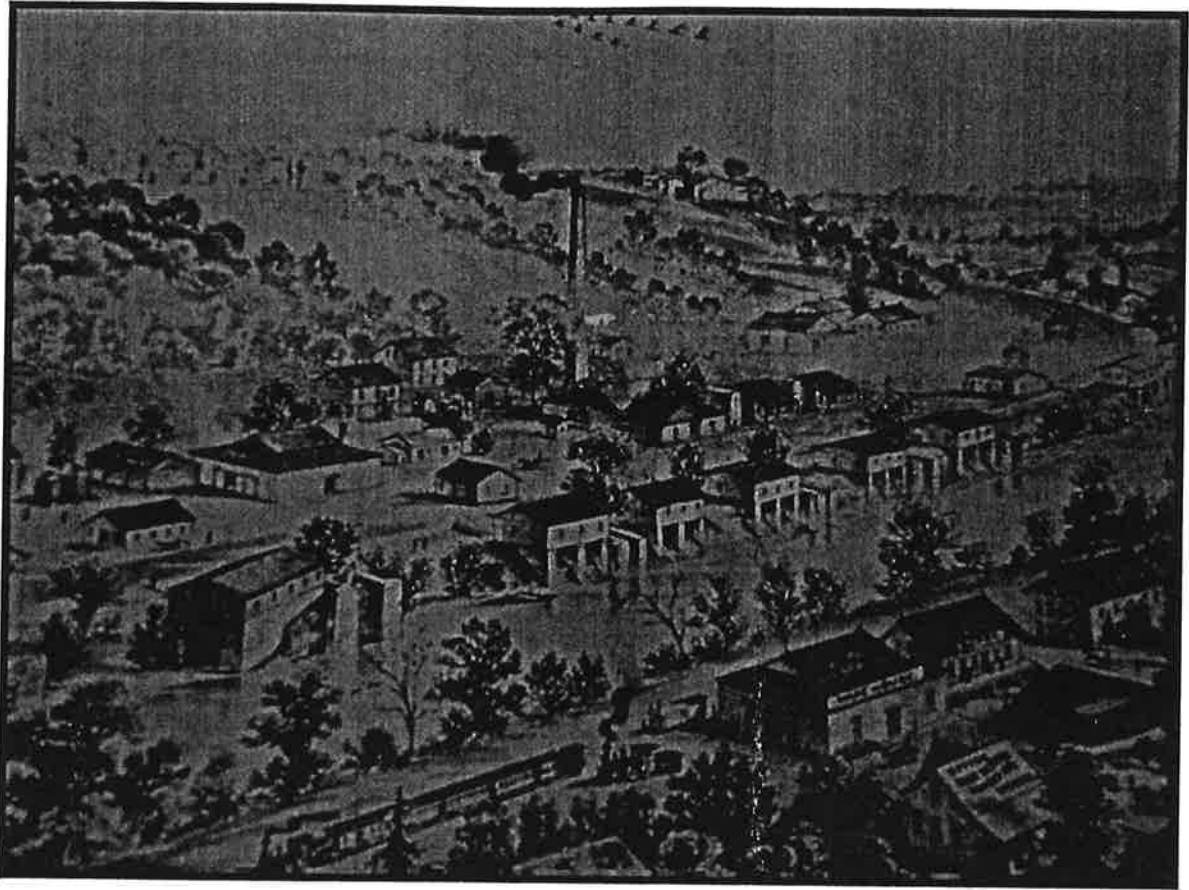
King's Black Powder Mills along the Little Miami River in Deerfield Township. Circa 1890.

Deerfield Township thanks our Kentucky neighbor Tom Schiffer for publishing *Peters and King*, a new history of the Kings Mills gunpowder and cartridge factories. Tom's long-standing interest in black powder shooting resulted in this special history. Before the invention of dynamite and smokeless gunpowder, black powder was used for small arms ammunition, cannons, and blasting. Today, it is used mainly in fireworks, quarry blasting and in primitive weapons sports. Kings manufactured black powder – and later smokeless powder and semi smokeless powder -- along the river in Deerfield Township's Kings Mills. The ruins of the old works are still evident.

A cartridge is a piece of gun ammunition with primer, powder and bullet contained in a brass, or brass and paper casing (often mis-called 'bullets'). The Peters Cartridge factory is located in Hamilton Township across the river from the old powder works (often mis-named the "Powder Factory").

If you drive a car, touch a thermostat, use electricity made from coal or oil, or participate in the shooting sports, thanks are due to Peters & King. In Schiffer's book you will meet Joseph Warren King, Ahimaaz King, G. M. Peters, Milt and Wanda Lindsley, Harry Pope, Annie Oakley, Lammot DuPont and more – preachers, entrepreneurs, powder makers, exhibition shooters and plain workers.
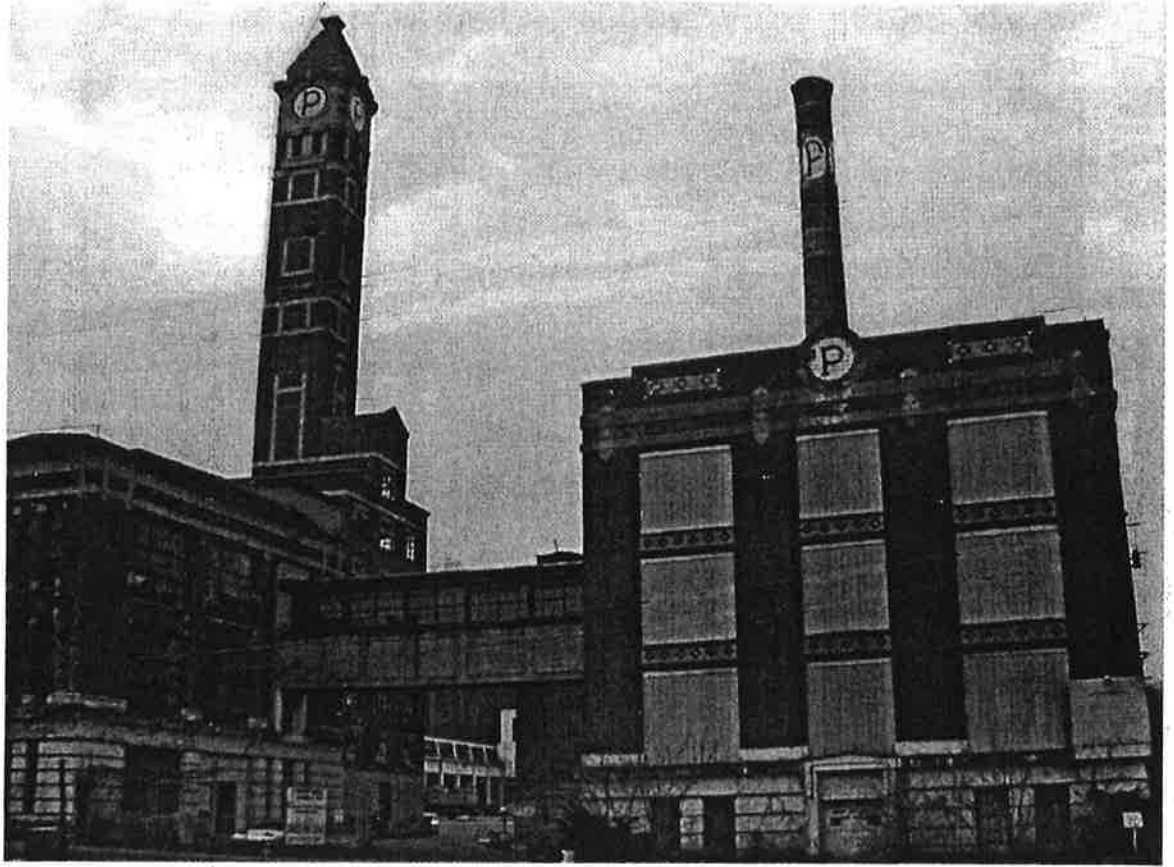
This is not Kings Powder factory. This is Peters Cartridge factory in Hamilton Township.

Schiffer tells of the King family involvement in the Miami Powder Company near Xenia before starting King's Great Western Powder Company and The Peters Cartridge Company at Kings Mills. The strong personalities and inventive genius of Ahimaaz King and G. M. Peters put them on the map. Intrigues from DuPont and others attempted to put them out of business.

Making gunpowder is dirty and hazardous. Workers called themselves "powder monkeys" because they were covered with black charcoal dust at the end of their workday. A spark or fire can cause explosions. A rail car collision caused the great explosion and fire of July 15, 1890 -- completely destroying the Peters Cartridge Company and killing twelve people. Schiffer provides details of the subsequent investigations and lawsuits. There are accounts of other explosions as well.

King and Peters promoted sports shooting. They played a role in starting the Grand American Handicap – second only to the Boston Marathon in participants. They also participated in and influenced other shooting sports such as bullseye pistol, smallbore rifle, trap, skeet, and schuetzen. The shooting range for Peters and Kings employees was once where the Kings High School football field is now located. Schiffer tells about exhibition shooters who worked for Peters over the years – with anecdotes about a part of Americana that no longer exists. For nine years, Peters was affiliated with a Cincinnati sporting goods company. Today, Peters and Kings artifacts are popular collector's items. Schiffer provides information on collecting and values.

During World War II, Remington arms and Peters operated the Kings Mills Ordnance Plant where the Army Reserve Center on Striker Road is now located. Two thousand local people manufactured two million .30 Caliber Carbine cartridges per day.

Schiffer tells what it was like to work in the cartridge factory -- working conditions, wages, products, buildings and machinery. In addition, there are stories about life as a resident of Kings Mills – a unique and livable company town. The end of this era in Deerfield Township's commerce comes when the plants are sold and shut down. Employees are given offers to purchase their homes.

Peters and King has 256 pages, a hard back, a color dust jacket, 230 black and white historic photos and 160 color photos. It is available at local bookstores, or it can be ordered for $44.95 plus $4.50 for postage and handling from Tom Schiffer, 10416 Gunpowder Road, Florence, Kentucky 41042.

Cottell Park and Snyder House

Elias Boudinot acquired all of Section 32 (one mile square) in Deerfield Township from Judge John Cleves Symmes in the 1790s. Alijah Hunt of Mississippi bought the section from Boudinot in 1825. Hunt sold the northwest 100 acres to James Finney the elder of Hamilton County, Ohio in 1827. In 1839, James Finney the younger, his wife and three daughters lived on this property when he purchased the land from his father's estate. Today's best guess is that Finney first built the northeast portions of the foundation, house and roof around this time.

The younger James Finney probably started living on the farm in the 1830s with his wife and two daughters. There were no roads in those days. In 1838 a new road was built two miles west of the farm from Sharonville to Mason. The road followed the military trails of General George Rogers Clark and Joshia Harmar from half a century earlier – known today as US Route 42 or Reading road. A year later the (now) Montgomery road was built four miles east of the farm. By 1856 the (now-called) Fields-Ertel, Snider and Irwin-Simpson roads were in place.

Some of Finney's neighbors when he arrived were William Mason, Jerimiah Morrow, Brazilla Clark, the miller in Foster, the Corringtons and Tetricks – first settlers, the Bowyers and Irwins. Mason was knows as Palmyra with a population of 62. Deerfield Township's population was 1810. Another town, Gainesboro (Near Kings Mills. Now extinct.) had 37.

We don't know how well the network of local roads was known by an unwelcome visitor. On July 14, 1863, Confederate General John Hunt Morgan led his famous cavalry raiders along the county line from Sharonville to Loveland. Morgan's men scattered in six miles in both directions to steal fresh horses and supplies – including southern Warren County. Along his path, people hid their valuables in cisterns and themselves in root cellars. We don't know if Finney's youngest daughter, Sarah was still living at home, but everywhere, citizens worried about their young women. It was an anxious time in Deerfield Township as the Confederates raced through our area.

The farm passed on to George G. Finney who was operating it in 1870 under the watchful eye of his elderly father, James. Tragedy struck the house in 1905 when George suddenly died in his home. His obituary says that he was one of the most influential and respected farmers in the southern part of the county. The farm passed to his daughter Alvena Finney Bennett and her husband, John E. Bennett. Alvena died in Pisgah in 1966. Most of the Finney family are buried in Deerfield's Rose Hill Cemetery. For at least 104 years (from 1827 to 1931) this 100-acre corner was in the Finney family.

During the depression, the Durmans, Spanglers, Strums and Calverts owned the land. From 1942-49 Kitty Calvert Smith was owner.

In 1949, the farm was bought by John and Rosemary M. Carr. The Carrs operated a dairy farm with a large milking barn having about 20 milking stalls. They raised a breed of dairy cattle with long, sharp horns. One of the Carrs was gored and injured during their time on the farm.

Uible Home Circa 1957. (Photos: Cottell Family)

In 1951, Richard and Verna Uible ("Yew-bul") bought the farm from the Carrs. Richard was a Cincinnati lawyer who drove from the farmhouse to his work downtown every day. In November, 2000 Mr. Uible recalls, "I took Snider Road to Montgomery Pike to Victory Parkway. It took 35 minutes. We operated the farm, rotating crops – corn, wheat, soybeans and pasture. We raised Red Duroc hogs and Black Angus Cattle. We had a Jersey milk cow which was sort of a pet. I remember laughing when I got to the Court House in Cincinnati to start work. I'm sure I was the only one who had milked a cow that morning. We built the pond and stocked it with bass and blue gill. You could catch 4 or 5 bass in the first 15 minutes, then nothing. It was like the word got around [among the fish]. We had a large family of 8 kids when I moved back to Cincinnati. They went to Mason schools. My oldest got a blue ribbon in 4-H in 1954."

"The house is old – I'm thinking the 1800s,' Mr. Uible says, "We had to replace some of the beams under the floor. It was barn construction using big barn timbers. The floors were pine boards and the bedrooms had no closets." Mr Uible and a later resident Mrs. Carol Snyder describe 'mortise and tenon' construction using wooden pins to hold beams together. This building method was common in barns when nails and metal fasteners were scarce and expensive.

Mr. Uible recalled his neighbors, the O'Conors who founded Formica, The Wilkins family of Wilshire Farm, Walter Beck, Cal Ryder across the road and Ryder's handyman, Paul Zotsby who lived in the old school. Mr. Uible says that the school bell was a high quality one which was relocated for a time to Ryder's place. [Wouldn't it be great to find it?]

"People ask me if I want to go back," Mr. Uible says. "I know everything has changed. I prefer to remember it as it was." Mr. Uible (age 87) and his wife now live in Tuscaloosa, Alabama (November 2000).

In 1957, the Uibles sold the farm to Mary and John "Jack" Cottell. "They decided that they'd had enough. They decided to sell it because it was just too much for them," Mary Cottell recalls. The Cottells learned of the property from their good friends and new neighbors, Dan and Katie O'Conor. Mr. Uible moved to Cincinnati, but he kept in touch with his friends in Deerfield Township. He remembered Walter Beck who bought the O'Conor place and Wilken's polo field – both happening after he moved.
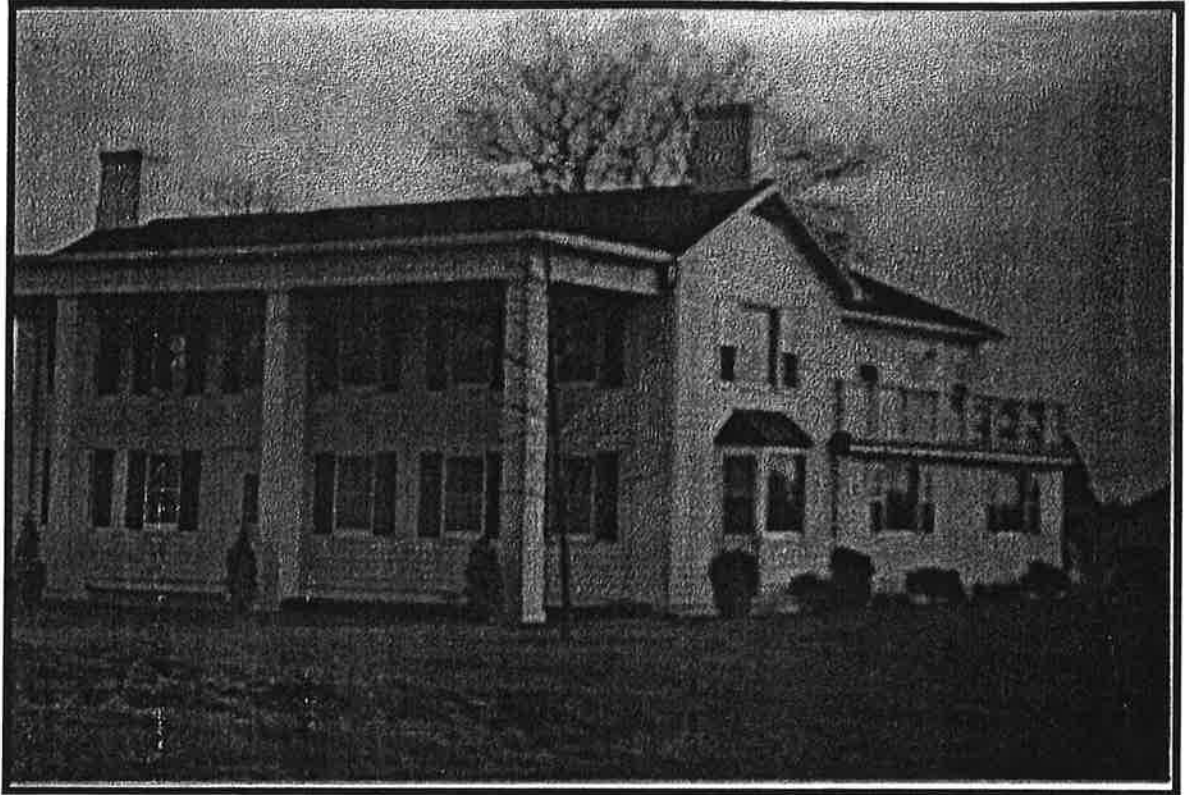
Cottell Home in 1959

"Mr. Conner was president of Formica already living in Deerfield Township. They knew we wanted to find a farm," Mary tells. "One day Mrs O'Conor called and said, 'Oh, we've got one. We need you out here; this is what you should have.'" "I wasn't sold on the property because it was so dilapidated," Mary continues, "but my husband said, 'This is it,' so we bought the 70 acres. We sold 20 acres to Mr. O'Conor. He needed it for his cattle. When I first went into the house, it was practically unlivable except for one room – a lovely pine paneled family room built on by the Uibles. At least we could live in one room together as a family."

Mr. Uible remembered Dan O'Conor's sad accident. "He was thrown from his horse and paralyzed from the neck down. He spent the rest of his life strapped to a table. He would keep up with his business – often calling me on the telephone"

Mrs. Cottell adds, "The O'Conors moved to New Jersey in the late 1960s where the horse hunting accident occurred. Dan became paralyzed. This was right before he was to become president of American Cyanamide Corp. – who purchased Formica." Mr. O'Conor eventually died in New Jersey.

Mary was a schoolteacher from Minnesota's iron belt. She was born Mary Sartori, the daughter of an Italian immigrant in Buhl, Minnesota on March 4, 1913.

Mary's father taught his children formal Italian in their home but he insisted that they use only English otherwise. "As a girl, I admired southern living," Mary tells us, "I always wanted one of those southern style homes with the columns in front. When I moved to Cincinnati, I loved it here. I was in the south."

Jack Cottell learned more about his English ancestry from a visiting Englishman, Colonel Cottell. Some of the Cottell children have visited the ancient Cottell castle in Cornwall, England.

Jack and Mary Cottell at *Bonterre*

John "Jack" Baptiste Cottell was born in Wallaceburg, Ontario on September 17, 1913 on the dairy farm where he grew up. Jack was half French-Canadian. Mary Cottell tells us, "At age 11 he helped electricians string the new wires on his father's farm -- becoming intrigued for life with the whys and wherefores behind the electrical current the wires carried. At age 15 he formed his first company with his brother William, "The Ontario Traders" -- specializing in imported novelties. Jack was the salesman, Will the stay-at-the-farm assembler and order-taker. He [Jack] traveled around Canada promoting and selling electric lamps in towns where there was no electricity. The lamps sold like hot cakes. Electricity did come in the spring and everybody -- including Jack -- was happy."

Jack recalled [to Mary and his children] at that time, "I was amazed." This business continued until Jack was 21. "I didn't make much money. Remember the depression was on then. But I did have a lot of fun and saw a lot of the country." He immigrated to the United States in 1935 landing a job in Detroit distributing phone books

for the Donnelly organization. "The job paid $3.50 a day. It lasted 3 days. I wore out my shoes and my feet got sore. But it was 'eating money'." Other jobs followed first with an auto wheel manufacturer Kelsey-Hayes co, and then with Firestone Tire and Rubber. "I was doing all right but I always had a yen to be in business for myself. Firestone promoted me to inside salesman but I got a big chance in April 1936 and I jumped." Jack eventually landed a job as a salesman for the Detroit company, Bulldog Electric Products. Jack settled in Cincinnati. He became a U.S. citizen on April 26, 1943. Then -- as a sideline -- he invested in a company that repaired electric motors, the Continental Electric Equipment Company. Later, Jack ended up owning Continental Electric Equipment.

Around 1945, one of Jack's assistants at Bulldog hired Mary to be Jack's secretary while Jack was out of the country on business. Mary jokes about faking shorthand and using a Dictaphone to get by.

"In 1962, he bought a company in Blue Ash that was older than General Electric," Mary tells, "It was called B. A. Wesche Electric. He changed the name to Welco Industries. It became a large and very successful plant because he knew where to get the good men. He had loyal workers. He was tough, but he was so fair. We had picnics [for Welco employees] out at the farm. Games. Prizes. It was something that you don't hear of any more. We had loyalty. And work ethic was wonderful. We had a barn dance in the barn when we had a company picnic. We had a caller. There was a lot of music there." Later Jack left as the CEO of Continental.

Mary recalled Jack hiring a black man, Isaac for several jobs at Welco and at their farm. Daughter Mary Ellen tells that Isaac was the descendant of a horse soldier (Western Military Cavalry). Daughter Mary Ellen tells, "Isaac did teach us kids how to ride on our first horse, Smoky and he gave us his family's saddle to use. This saddle was an old-style western military saddle that he said was used during the civil war by one of his family members – father or grandfather. I do not know for sure." Years later when Isaac died, Mary Ellen returned the old saddle to his family.

Mary recalls, "Isaac was raising his nephew and living on the farm." Mary approached the principal of the Mason School District. "I have to have this help, and this boy needs to go to school," she asked the principal. "I would like to know if he can be part of the Mason School District? I was refused." "There was no way they wanted a black boy in that school," Mary said lowering her eyes.

When Mary and Jack bought the farm in 1957, each started to fill out their dreams for a home. They named the farm *Bonterre* – French for good Earth. "Jack always wanted a large home in the country to raise his family and to entertain his family and friends. To live in a place he could make a park," Mary tells. "This place was his source of relaxation." "He wanted 22 acres of lawn," Mary tells us, "He did the mowing after he came back [from work]; he didn't even take off his tie. He loved to be on that tractor."

Welco thrived and the Cottell place hummed several ways. Jack, the electrical engineer and inventor, began remodeling and building Mary's colonial-style home out of the old Uible farmhouse. Jack was the first in the area to run electrical power underground so the wires would not be annoying to the eye. To this day the transformer he invented is still humming in one of the outbuildings. "CG&E cooperated fully with Jack in making it an all-electric home. We had electric heat and six bathrooms when the house was finished in 1968. It was clean," Mary remembers.

The Cottells lived in the panel-lined family room, cooked, and ate where they could as they expanded the house. They added over a third to its width, the large eat-in kitchen with an indoor grill, the colonial column front, the formal foyer and staircase, numerous picture windows throughout the home and the bay window. Jack designed and built the brick patio from a pattern he saw on a terrace at an old monastery in Italy. They started an orchard including three pecan trees which they raised from seeds from a friend's home in Oklahoma City. These magnificent trees still stand and are bearing pecans today. They also added the caretaker's quarters behind the house with the three-car garage and the wood workshop. Jack enlarged and re-stocked the lake. Jack loved the game of golf. He added a putting green near the house. Jack and guests drove balls over the lake to the green then practice putting.

In 1968, Jack converted daughter Nancy's old chicken coop into a rustic, makeshift practice studio for son Bill's well-known band. Later, one of the Band members would join the famous Cincinnati Band, Pure Prairie League. "The neighbors loved that – to hear all this loud rock and roll," Mary laughed sarcastically.

"I'm supporting Mason," Jack told Mary when he decided to use local businesses and suppliers to build their dream. Deerfield was open farmland in those days. The closest commercial areas were in Mason and Loveland. The nearest grocery was Barr's Grocery in Mason. The only business on Mason Montgomery and Fields-Ertel Road was Natorp's Plant Nursery. Even Landen and Montgomery Hills were farms.

"Dan O'Conor was our friend," Mary tells, "His father started Formica. He wanted to try out one the glues that they were experimenting with at Formica. He asked if we wanted a Formica bathroom. We said yes and he brought out his men and installed Formica on the walls and the floor in Nancy's bathroom. It has lasted all those years until today." When remodeling started, the house had one bathroom. When the Cottells finished it had six – one for each bedroom and two downstairs.

"We joined St. Susanna's – a small mission Church in Mason," Mary remembers. "My husband and Mr. O'Conor did a lot of the fundraising and promoting for the new church. It was a poor little town [Mason]. We were happy to do it."

While Jack was active making Welco successful, the Cottell home hummed with many social events: hosting business guests, community events and parties for friends and family. The Cottells were active supporters of St. Susanna's Church in Mason and Moeller High School Marching Band. Both were active in fundraising – including an annual ox-roast at their home to benefit the marching band. "Jerry Faust was the coach," Mary remembers, "He would be out there a lot."

Both Jack and Mary traveled extensively for business and pleasure. It was not unusual to have a helicopter land on the Cottell lawn – shuttling Jack or his business associates to the airport. Mary tells of a delightful reunion visit to her family in Italy. She remembers dancing with James Mitchner, President Gerald Ford, and Amos of Amos 'n Andy fame. "It was like a Cinderella dream to me to be around these wonderful things that were happening," Mary remembered. "I think the happiest times were when we could have the family reunions at the farm. We were all very close."

The Cottell children, Mary Ellen, Nancy and Bill, learned to ride and care for horses from Isaac, the part-time African-American. They would ride from the Cottell home to Kings Mills on gravel roads. Jack and Mary tried raising registered shorthorn cattle for a brief period, but it was "a little too much," Mary says. "We went into horses,

dogs, peacocks and , swans. (The peacock) roosted in the big sycamore trees at night – making an awful noise." Mary tells that Jack gave one of the swans to their country club in Kenwood, but someone killed it with a golf ball. Jack saved another one with a fish hook and line in its throat. After that the swan became a feathered talisman. It would always come to Jack and check on him.

"He (Jack) started Junior Achievement in Cincinnati a long time ago," Mary remembers. "He was active in the Boy Scouts of America, the Young Presidents Organization, the Chief Executives Forum and the Republican Party. He never said 'no' to participate in a [service] activity. He always found time."

Mary and Jack Cottell sold their place in 1987 to Thomas Kutchner. Thomas and his wife remodeled the house into office space and operated an engineering firm until 1991. "Jack had his first bypass surgery," Mary recalls, "and the place was just too much to care for. It was time to go."

Sadly, Jack Cottell died from heart disease in December 1994. Today, Mary lives about two miles from their old place in West Chester Township, Butler County.

From 1991 to 1999, Dr. Mark and Mrs. Carol Snyder owned the property as their residence. The Snyders renovated the inside of the house by modernizing plumbing and electricity, creating the breakfast niche by the picture windows in the kitchen, bringing in county water, re-landscaping, re-roofing, adding tennis courts and soccer fields, and revitalizing the pond. One wonders how many golf balls they found in the lake. The Snyder's architect guessed that parts of the house could be 140 years old based on the old style construction. "Cottell's old transformer is still there," Carol tell us, "it's impossible to get parts for it. Thanks to Fred Johnson, the caretaker. He can fix anything."

"We're relatively new to the area," Mrs. Snyder tells, "When I was growing up in Anderson Township, anything North of Fields-Ertel road was in Dayton! Our kids went to area private schools, so we used the place to host youth groups, soccer, Sunday School, and fund-raising charities. We had two barn parties, but we became afraid to have more [because of the structural condition of the barn]."

In 1999, Deerfield Township bought the property for a Township park and recreational facility. The Snyders now live in Afton Falls. A new sandlot volleyball court has already been build. The township burned the old barn and chicken coop (or "pig sty," Carol Snyder laughs – remembering its run-down condition). New soccer and baseball fields will be ready for use by 2001. The Cottell/Snyder house is a popular spot for wedding receptions and similar occasions. Once a month, it doubles as the Township's History Center.

If only this old house could talk. It has seen the Industrial Revolution, the invention of railroads, electricity, automobiles and airplanes. It has seen the Civil War, the Great Depression, racial discrimination, the moon landing and Internet. Perhaps it will see one of Jack Cottell's dreams – an all-electric automobile. It has seen Deerfield Township change from a distant farming community to a humming commercial and residential center. It has seen Deerfield Township grow to be the largest community in Warren County. Now, like a kind grandparent, this old house will smile at the joy of our citizens as they play and relax at its park grounds, playing fields, lake and courts.

Hopefully, Jack Cottell – golf club in hand and feathered talisman by his side – will smile too.
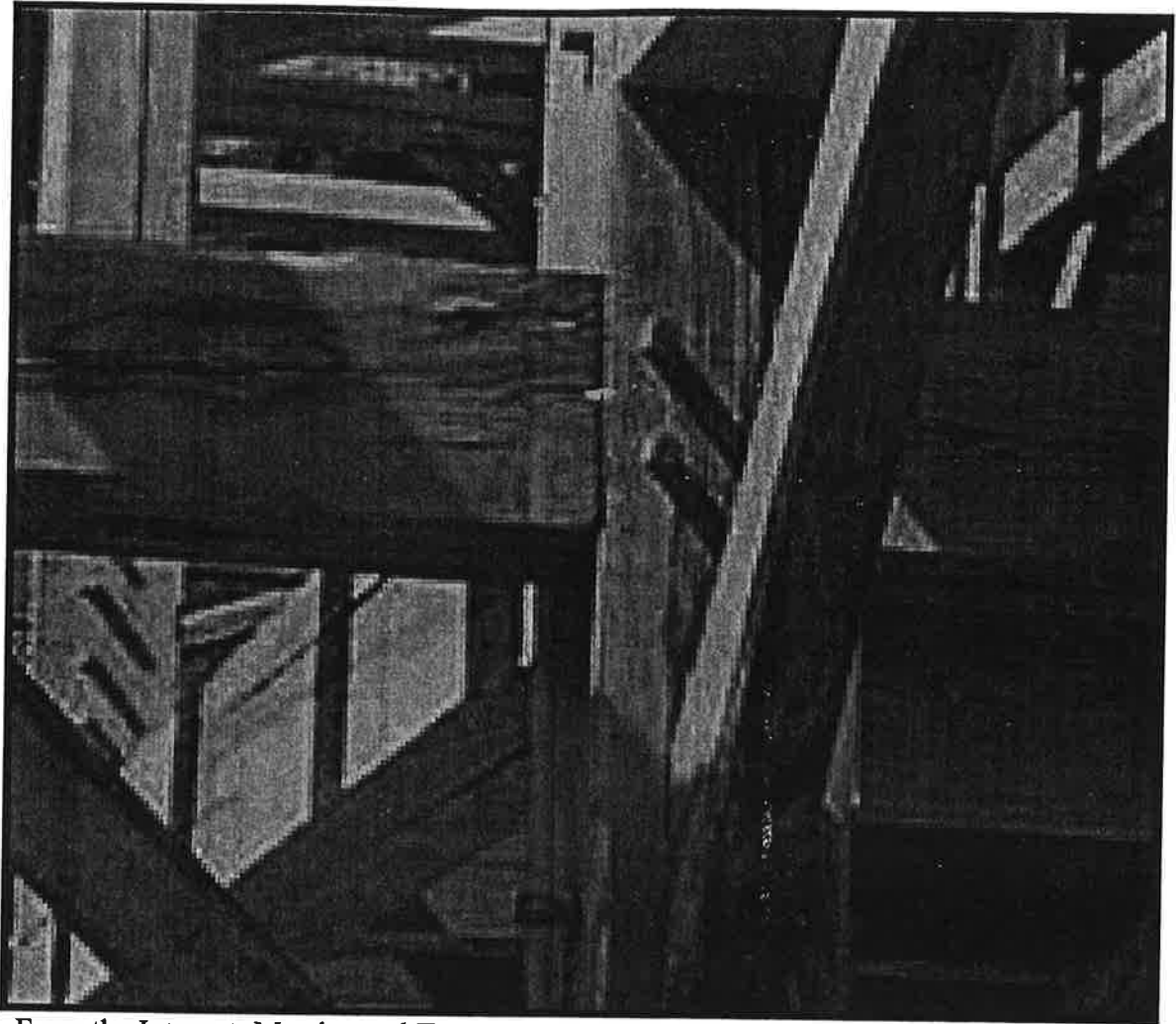
From the Internet: Mortise and Tenon construction. These beams are joined with wood pegs.

Mysterious Crop Circles in Deerfield Township?

Children, a strange thing once happened each year as autumn leaves started falling. Mysterious paths, mazes and clearings appeared in a cornfield in Twenty-Mile Stand. A large dragon appeared on the farmer's shed. A witch and her house, pirate ship with Captain Hook, a giant spider and haunted castle grew overnight on the farm lawn. Cinderella and her pumpkin carriage appeared. An entire family of scarecrows arrived. There was a miniature horse. Pumpkins appeared everywhere.
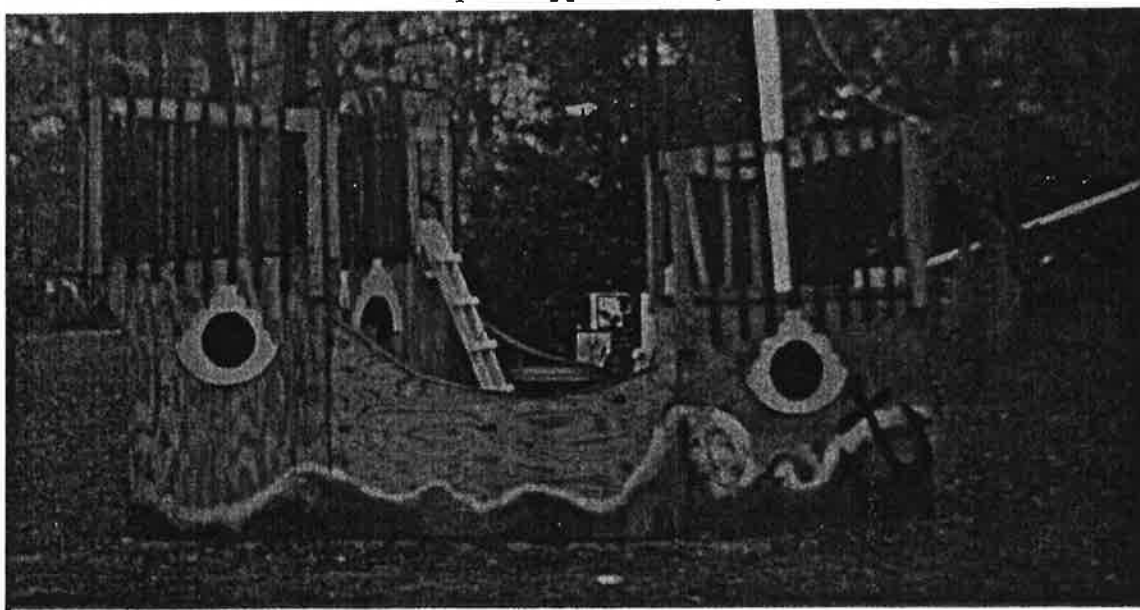
Captain Hook's Pirate Ship

The Witch on Her House

Children came to explore the castle. They steered the pirate ship and drove Cinderella's carriage. They rode the farmer's wagon through the dark, crooked cornfield paths. Every turn had an amazing surprise. In small clearings, children saw Dracula, the Headless Horseman, an eerie graveyard, witches stirring their pot, elves, the Indian princess Pocahontas and much more. Sometimes people would get lost in the confusing cornfield maze.

Children were allowed into the pumpkin patch to bring back the biggest pumpkin they could carry. Grown-ups bought the farmer's harvest of corn, flowers, fruit and pumpkins. One customer complained to the farmer about his corn. "Peter, your ears are small."

Peter Vanderputten tugged his ear and grinned. "I don't think so," he said with a slight accent, "they're the same as yours."

Peter and his wife "Gerry" (born Mary Honekamp) operated the Twenty-Mile Farm for nearly thirty years. They grew pumpkins for Halloween and many families came. "Gerry is very creative and child-oriented," Peter said. "She told me, 'These kids need something to play on. Let's make something. Let's make a castle.'" Gerry's sister, Toni (born Antoinette Honekamp) and husband John Taylor added their creativity and talents. First a castle appeared. Each year more strange things came.

Peter and Gerry's story tells like a fairy tale. They met in Sierra Leone, Africa where Gerry was a Peace Corps volunteer biology teacher and Peter was a High School principal from Haarlem, Holland. They became good friends. After two years, Gerry returned to America. Later, Peter was forced to return home to Holland by a tribal war, but he really wanted to come to America to work with Indians.

Peter made many visits to the American Embassy for permission to come to America. Very few were allowed. "Look, I'm getting sick and tired of this," the woman at the embassy said. "Don't you have a girl friend in the United States?" Peter indicated 'yes' thinking of Gerry. "Then why don't you marry her?"

"So I wrote Gerry and she said, 'Fine, but I'm teaching. I have two weeks off in December. If you can arrange it, I'll come to Holland and marry you.' So I arranged it. We got married. She went back to America. I finished my contract [job] in Holland and came here [20-mile farm]." In addition to working with Gerry and their children on the farm, Peter worked as a translator and as a social studies teacher at Princeton High School for 26 years. Peter was a child in Haarlem during the German occupation of Holland. He remembers a close call with death. The Germans searched their home while they hid three Jews.

Almost two generations of Deerfield Township children remember the magical Twenty-Mile Farm and the mysteries that occurred around Halloween. Sadly the farm gave way to progress. Peter and Gerry sold. All the buildings are gone and the mysterious appearances have stopped.

Deerfield Township appreciates the many years of wide-eyed joy and amazement that Peter, Gerry, Toni and John brought to our community. Thank you, Twenty-Mile Farm.
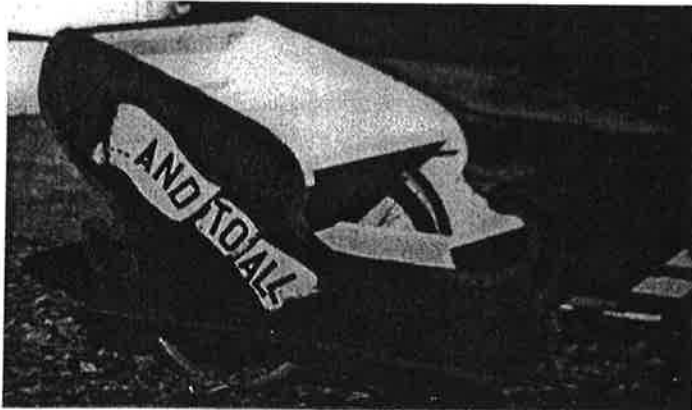
. . . And we'll miss seeing you in the Heritage Day parade driving your pony and riding your sleigh.

This Old House
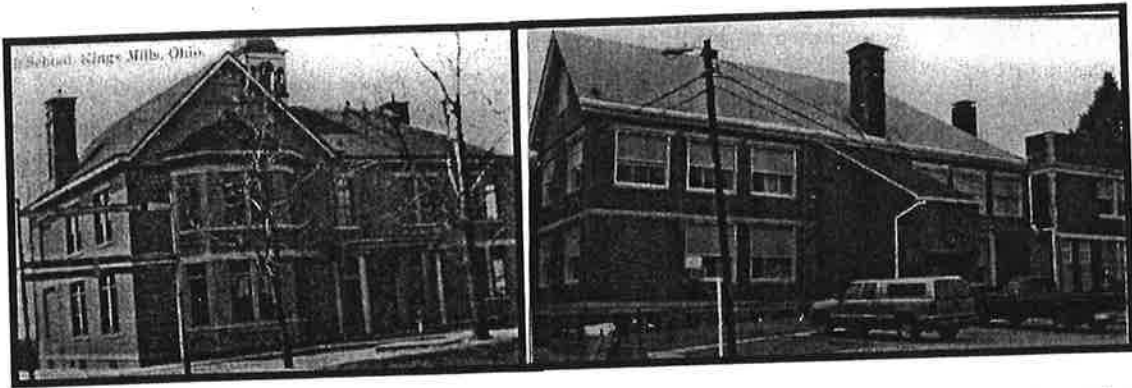
Left: 1890 Kings Mills High School. Most of this building still stands – enclosed by additions. Note the fancy brickwork chimney in both photos.

Right: 2001 Old Kings Mills Elementary School. Improvements have been made over the years to the roof and three sides.

For 111 years, the School in Kings Mills has been one of the most prominent landmarks on Dog Street (now Kings Mills Road). This old schoolhouse in Kings Mills knows five generations of Deerfield Township children. In this issue, we celebrate the history of the Kings Mills School as the oldest portion of the school is being closed.

The Kings Mills school was built for the growing 'company town' of workers at the gun and blasting powder mill that stretched along the Little Miami River. By 1903, Kings Mills had a population of 700 making it the largest village in the area. The 1900 census reported Mason with 629 and Maineville with 288. Kings Mills replaced the older settlements of Gainesboro and Stubbs Mill once located at the river's edge.

The original school building began operation as a high school in 1890. The first high school class had four students who graduated in 1895. The Class of '95 was

Some people remember this building on King Avenue as the old Post Office. It housed the Kings Mill School until the brick building was finished in 1890. Classes were on the second floor.

Raymond Cline, John Wilson, Jr., Sallie McClelland, and Elva Snider. Most people did not graduate from high school in those times. Some years did not have graduates. The last high school graduation in the much-expanded facility was in 1967 with a class of 95 graduates. Education was an important priority to the King family. In 1889, before building the brick schoolhouse, a school started with fifteen students. It was located on the second floor of the building that became Kings Mills' post office for many years.

In the 1890 building the second level front room was the high school with all four grades in the same room. Parents and visitors to the school in the 1990s remember this as the rooms behind the library. The room in back of the high school held grades 6, 7 and 8 while two downstairs rooms were used for grades 1 through 5. Each room had one teacher and long wooden benches in front each class to recite. Two rooms in the basement were used for exercise ('PE') and Manual Skills (shop).

Toilets were outdoor privies with long rows of holes. Drinking water was from a well in front of the school where everyone shared a battered metal cup.

By 1911, the school enlarged by adding rooms to the rear. Notice that the chimney in the 2001 photo is no longer at the rear of the building. In 1916, a domestic science building was added (and later removed). The morning classes prepared lunch for the school. In 1929, the school's bay windows were removed and a new building was added to the front – hiding the original building from view on Kings Mills road. Former School Board member Steve McDowell remembers being a freshman in the new addition. This addition was used in the 1990s as a library, computer lab, and music room. The original building and additions are the portion of the facility that is now closed.
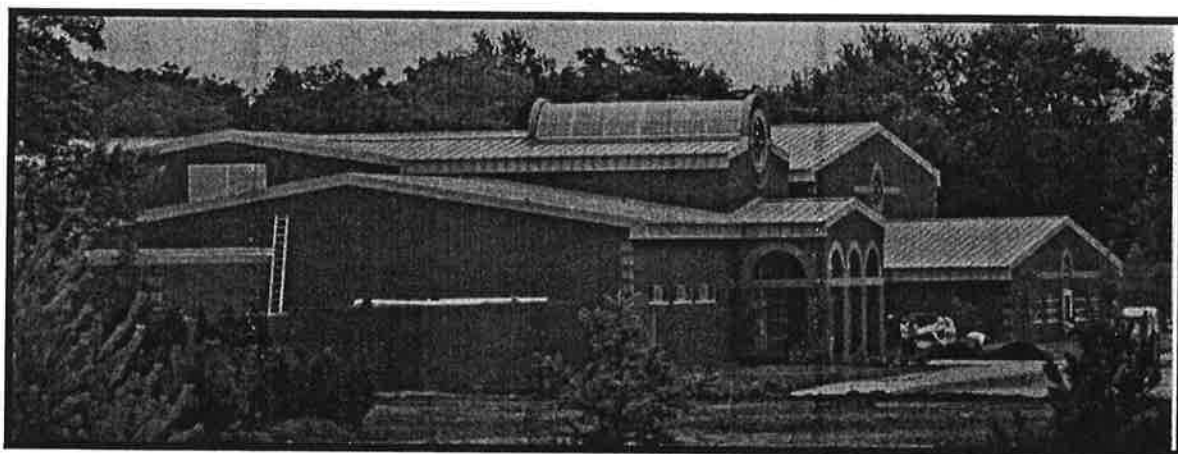
New Kings Mills Elementary School – Opened Fall 2001.

Growth continued. In 1928 a gym was built by the Kings Powder and Peters Cartridge Factories. The gym was deeded to the school in 1941. This gym is still in good condition; for many years it was the best in the area. It hosted many athletic events. The old gym and additions made in 1954, 1960 and 1977 will continue in use by the Kings Local School District. In the fall of 2001, the Superintendent and Treasurer's office will move to the second floor of the newer west wing of the building. Some classrooms will be used for evening Adult Education classes and Joint Vocational School extensions. Kings Mills Elementary Students will start school in the fall of 2001 in a new facility across the street from the old school.

From the original fifteen students and the brick schoolhouse on Dog Street grew the Kings Local School District. Over the years, three Deerfield Township schools were incorporated (20-mile, Union and Mound), the Foster School joined the district and the South Lebanon School was consolidated. Today, Kings Local district has 3,600 students.

There are no definite plans for the old building. Although unsatisfactory for education purposes, it is structurally sound and weatherproof, and it is dear to the

community. It will be closed and preserved until a need for the building or property it occupies arises. Dave Query, Kings Local Superintendent says, "It has served the district in so many different ways – at times housing grades Kindergarten through 12, pre-school, the library, computer lab, music and nurse. In a symbolic way the old building represents the heart of the district."

Pictures

Selected Pictures from Deerfield Township's History Collection.

See them full-size. Some are in color. Deerfield's Snyder House.
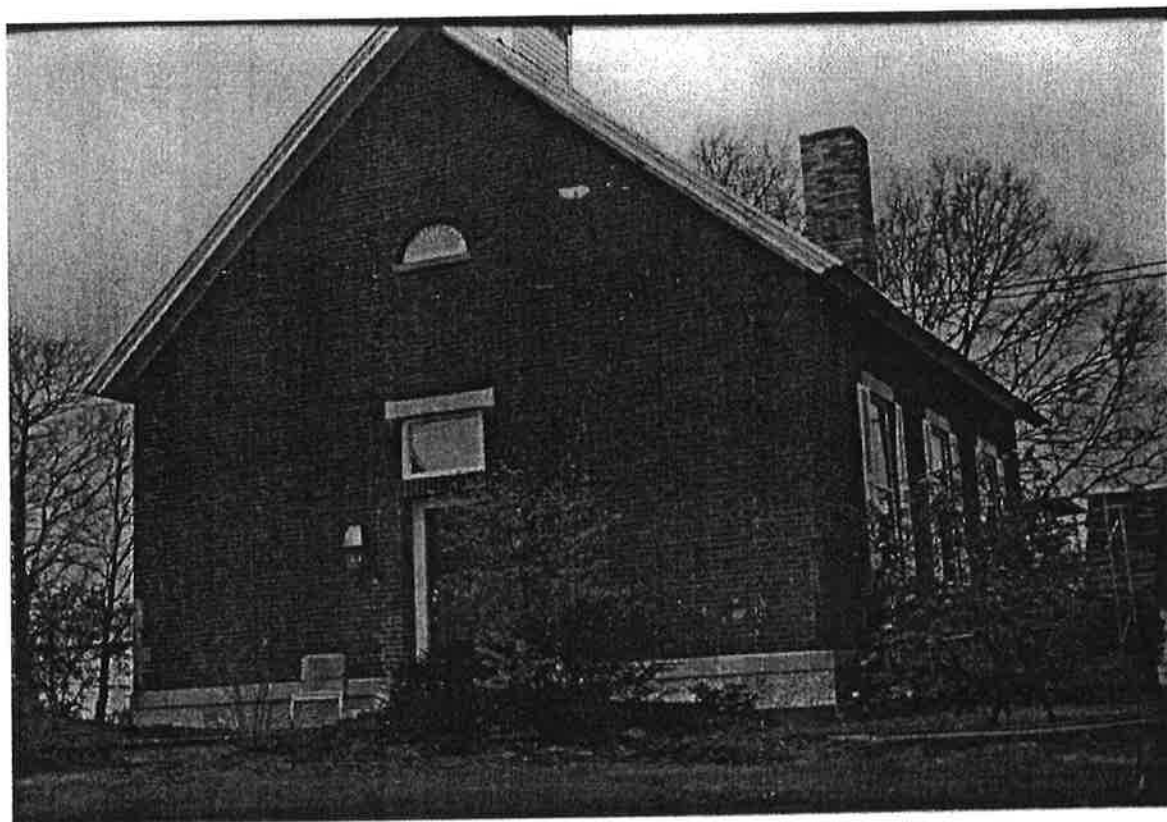
Student's Hall

Located just west of US Route 42 on State Route 741 north of Mason, one of the first Deerfield Township Schools was established on this site in 1830. This building was constructed in 1873. Of seven township schools active in 1875, three buildings still stand: Student's Hall, Twenty-Mile Stand School, and School No. 3 on Irwin-Simpson road across from the Township History Center. Student's Hall is a private residence in 2000.
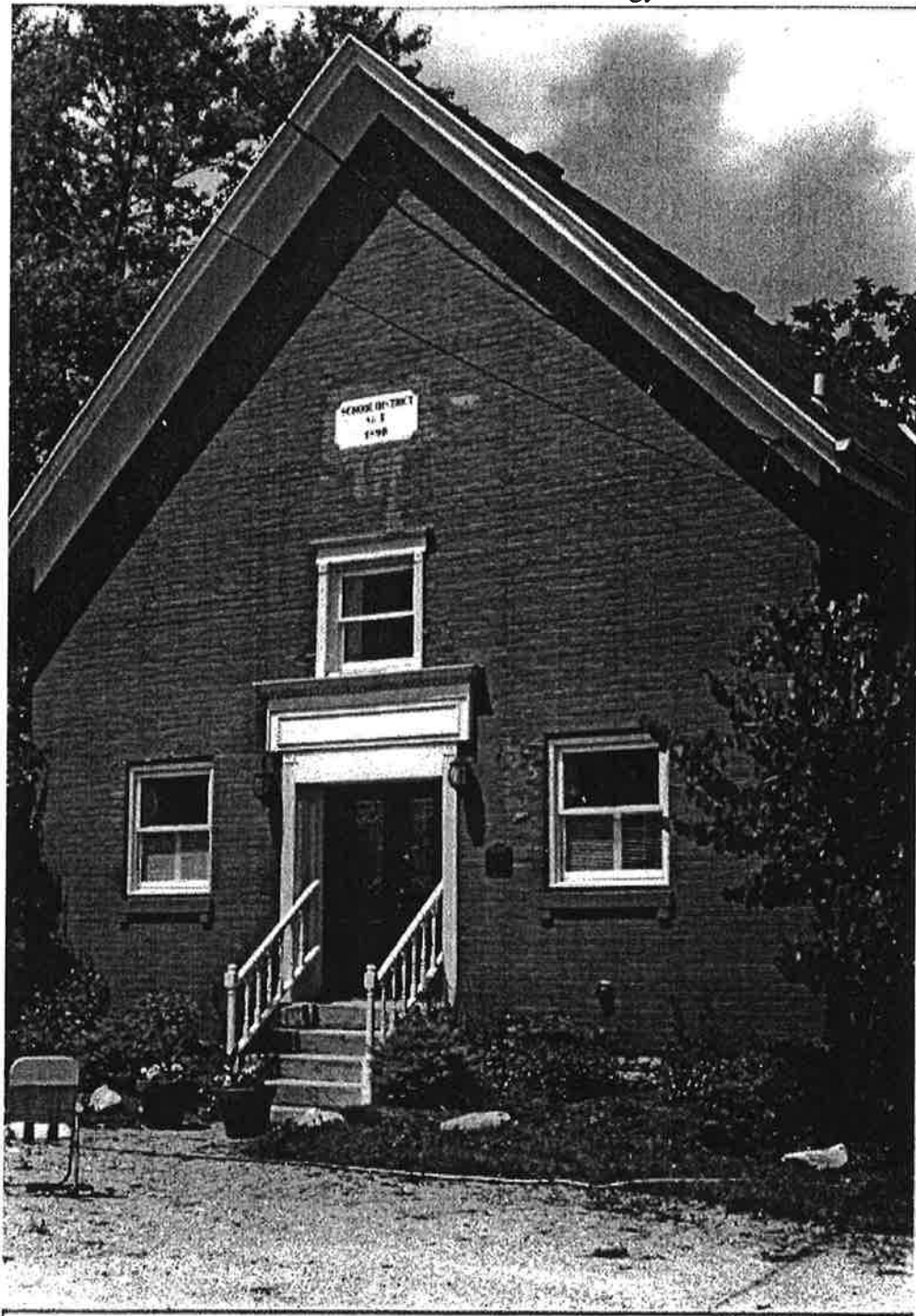
Lick School or Deerfield Township School No. 5

Located on Irwin-Simpson Road near Snider road. This building was built in 1890. In 2000, it is a private residence. In the 1800s the Township maintained seven schools: Student's Hall (#1), Mound in Kings Mills (#2), Union at Western Row and Columbia (#3), Twenty-Mile Stand (#4), No. 5 above, No. 6 where Mason District's Western Row Elementary is located and No. 7 in the northeast corner of the township.
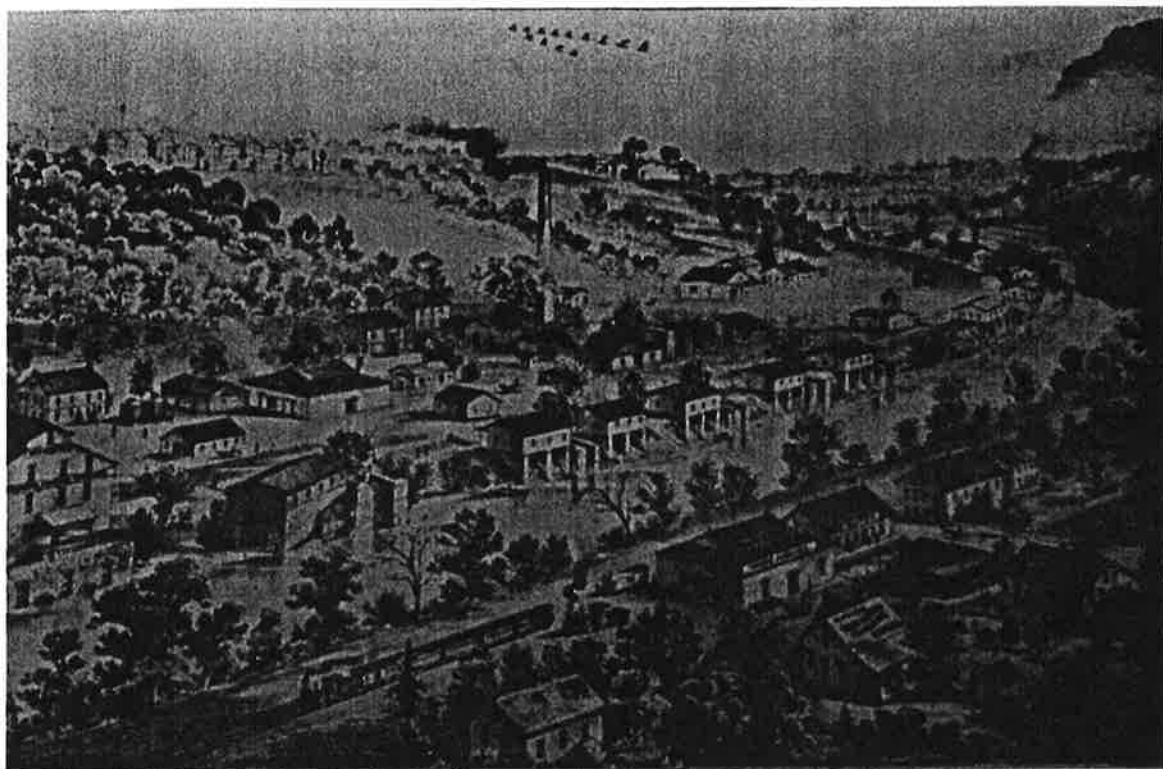
Kings Mills – A Company Town

King's explosive powder mills stretched for a mile along the Little Miami. With 700 residents in 1903, the town was the largest in the area. Mason had 629.

Ahimaaz King and Children

The young men in the front row are Warren King and Robert Eugene King. Ahimaaz and his uncle, Joseph Warren King started the industrial revolution in Deerfield Township in the 1880s by founding the Powder (gunpowder and blasting powder) factory on the Little Miami River near Isaac Stubbs' sawmill and the fledgling town of Gainesboro. The company town that grew near the industry became Kings Mills while Gainesboro faded away.

King Mansion and Carriagehouse

Built before 1888 by Ahimaaz King, the first Operating Manager of the Great Western Powder Company (later King Powder Company). Located at the North end of King Avenue in Kings Mills, the mansion and carriagehouse is still in use in 2000 as a private residence.

Original Kings High School

Ahimaaz King believed in good education. He built this school in Kings Mills around 1888. He bought the nearby Mound School from Deerfield Township and gained permission to establish a special district. He included portions of Hamilton Township where Powder and Cartridge factory employees lived. From this school, the Kings District grew. Its facade is now gone; the rest of this building is the rear part of the older section of Kings Education Center.

The High School classes shared the front on the second floor. Other rooms housed grades 1 to 8. Five students first graduated in 1895. Toilets were privies with long rows of holes. Students drank from the common cup in the foreground. Since 1911, expansion leaves only a few of the original walls and the chimney visible (2001).

Built by the King family for the 'company town' of Kings Mills, the modern Kings District grew from here. Eventually the district incorporated Foster and South Lebanon schools and eastern Deerfield Township schools.

King Avenue in Kings Mills

This photo appears to be from the 1890s. The King Mansion is complete – faintly visible
1n the background. Many of the original homes in Kings Mills still stand. See if you can
recognize them from the inset photo taken in 2000 from the same viewpoint. The King
Mansion is hidden by trees at the far end of the street.

Left: A later photo with dirt streets, but houses. Watch those dark spots in the road.
Right: King Avenue in 2001.

Kings Mills Floods. Explosions, Floods and Low Water in the Summer. Making Black Powder was a tough business.

Kings Powder Company, Peters Cartridge Factory and the 1913 flood.

Left of the building in the foreground is what is left of the truss bridge which washed away. Peters' workers from Kings Mills had to use boats until the bridge was rebuilt.

This view is from halfway down the 'S-curve' leading from Kings Mills to the Grandin Road bridge. Judging by the train station on the far side of the river, water was about waist deep on the bike trail at Grandin road.
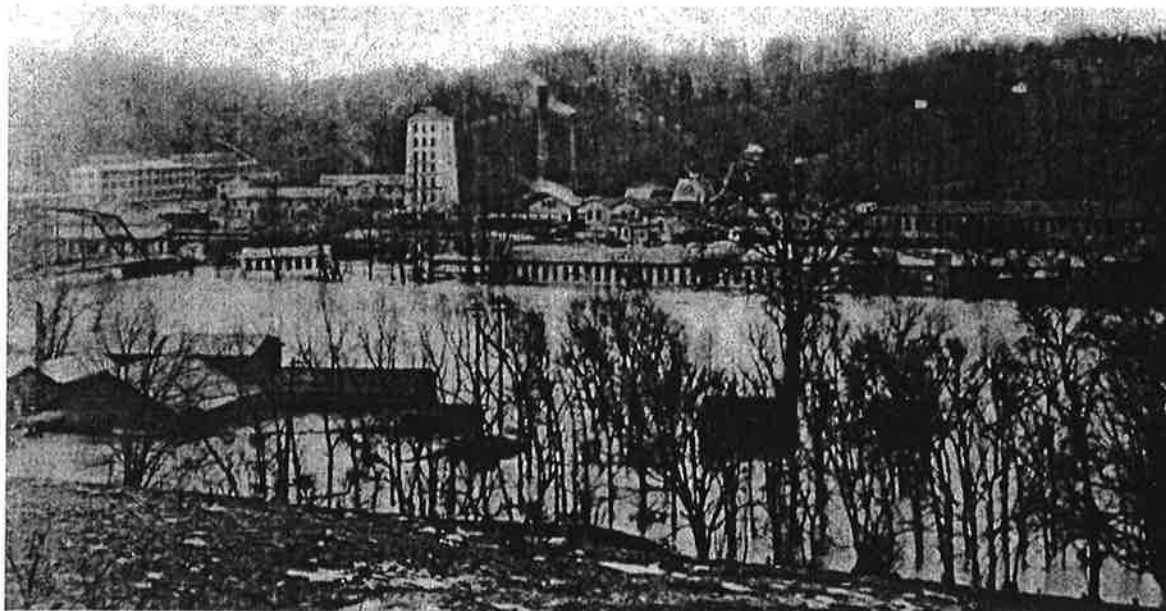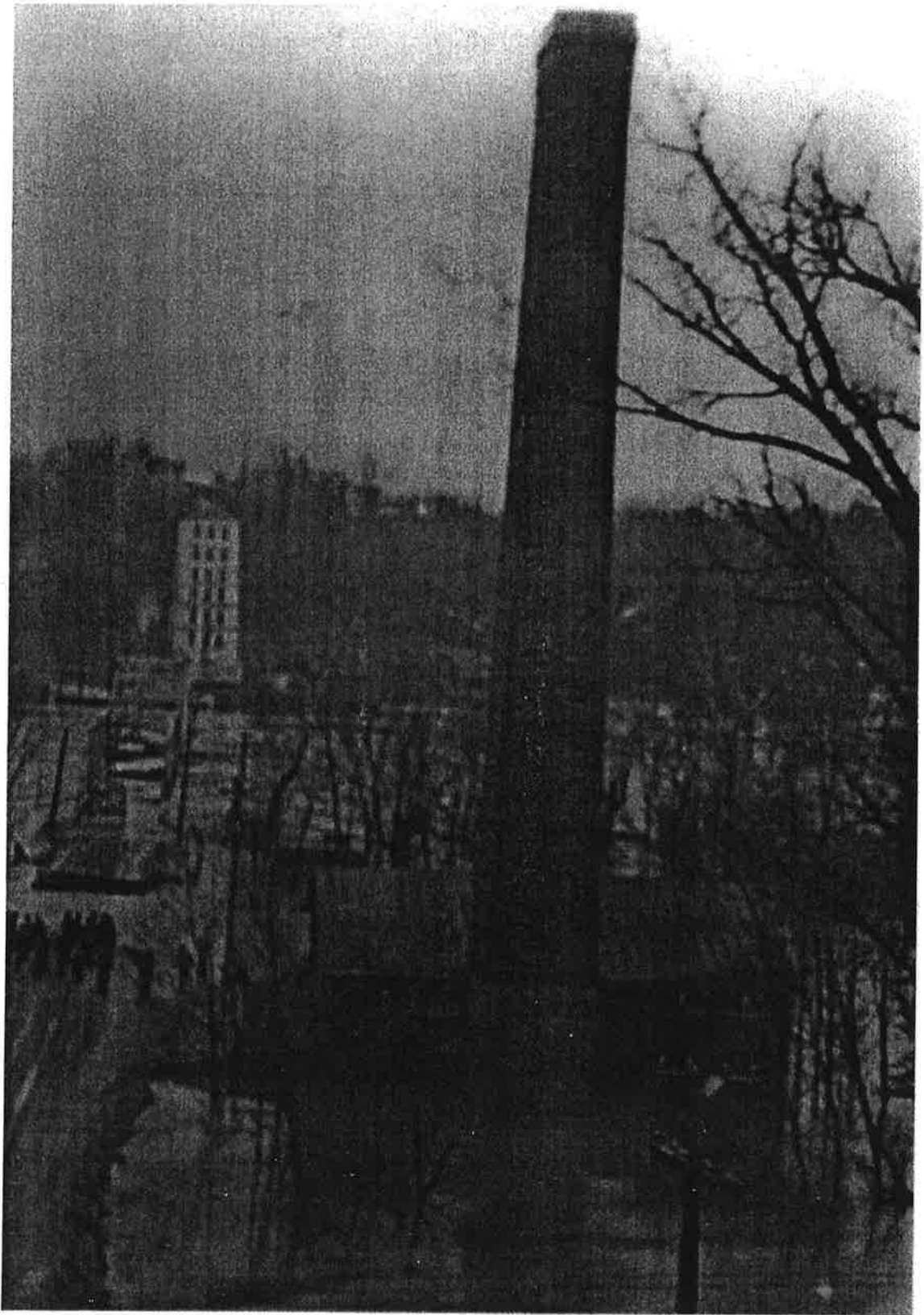
Another Flood washes out the bridge over the millrace. This picture shows the large smokestack build for the electric powerhouse.

The Explosion in Kings Mills

Note that the debris is still smoking. Technically, the explosion occurred in Hamilton Township. But Kings Mills was a town that spanned the river and lived in both townships. William Franey, the train brakeman was killed in the explosion. Others who died were Mrs. James Deacon, Henry Reynolds, Sam Stephens, Mrs Jim Moss and child, Mrs. Fred Keller and child, Ralph Williams, baby Elstine, Nick Snider and an unknown man.

The Western Star Reports on the Explosion in Kings Mills

July 1890. "Burning timbers were hurled in every direction for hundreds of feet... Explosions followed each other in rapid succession and the cries of men, women and children mingled with the crashing of timber... The blast fired the shell factory and soon it was being devoured... A little further up the hill was the cartridge factory where 15 girls were working. They were given a moment's notice and escaped from the building in time..."

July 15, 1890. Workmen frantically fought the fire with hoses and buckets to protect the warehouse. According to the Western Star: "...two houses contained 25,000 kegs of powder. Should the approaching flames reach them the explosion of the two car loads with their 1250 kegs would be nothing in comparison." The firefighters succeeded. Imagine the disaster if the warehouses had exploded.
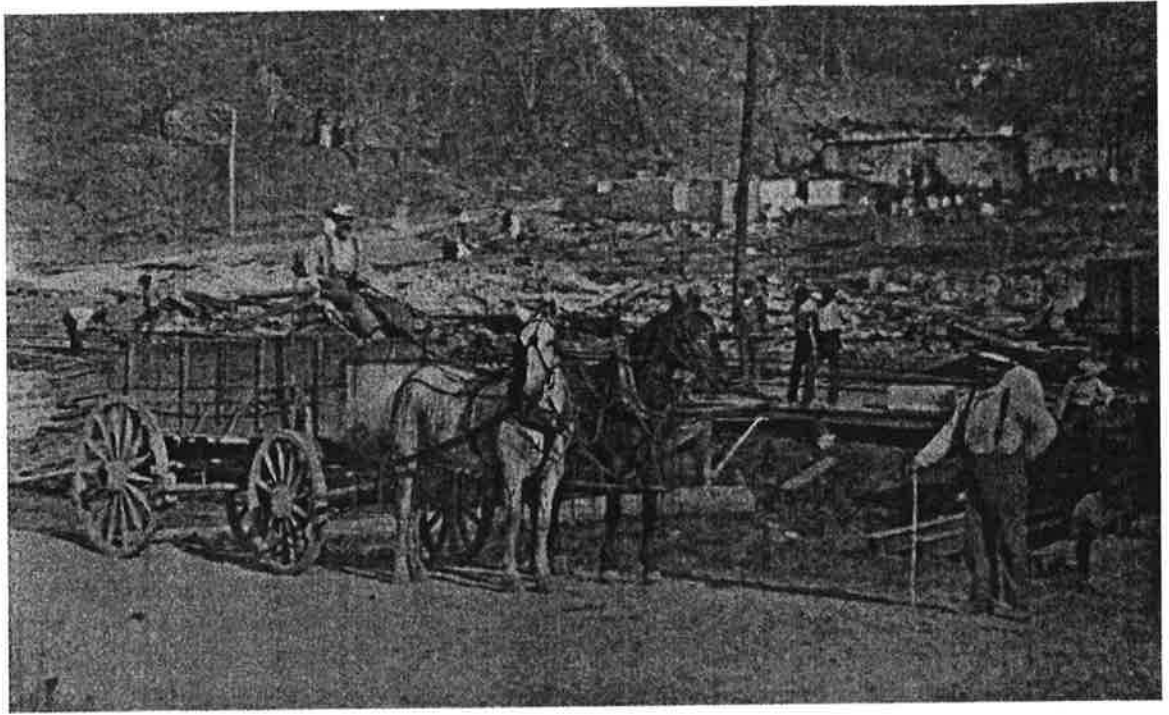
Cleaning Up after The Explosion

Kings Mills. July 23, 1890. These men are cleaning up the debris after the explosion that killed twelve people in Kings Mills. Two uncontrolled, coasting rail cars containing 1250 kegs of explosive powder collided with parked cars destroying most of the nearby buildings.

The Manse in Kings Mills

The Manse (a variation of mansion) faced College street between Church and Miami streets on what is now the Kings Mills Elementary school baseball and soccer fields. These row houses (we'd call them condos today) were built by A. King to house his workers. He rented housing at very reasonable rates with options to buy.

Photo: Warren County Historical Society
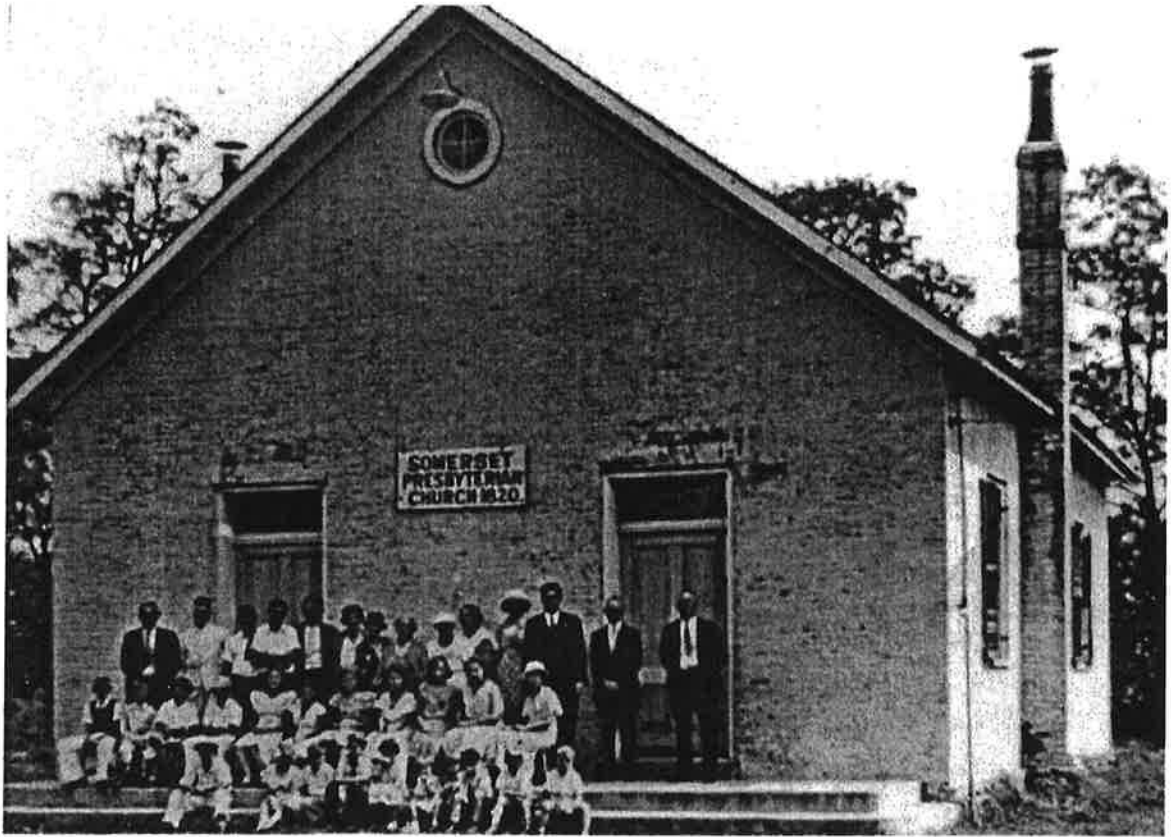
Somerset Presbyterian Church
August 27, 1933

Once at Fields-Ertel and Montgomery Roads where Meijers gas station is now located. Earliest records are the ordination and installation of Minister Gaines by Rev. James Kemper in 1821. Kemper was a well-known leader in the early Presbyterian Church in the Cincinnati area. This church was built around 1828. In 1991, Somerset church was moved to the Heritage Village Museum in Sharon Woods Park
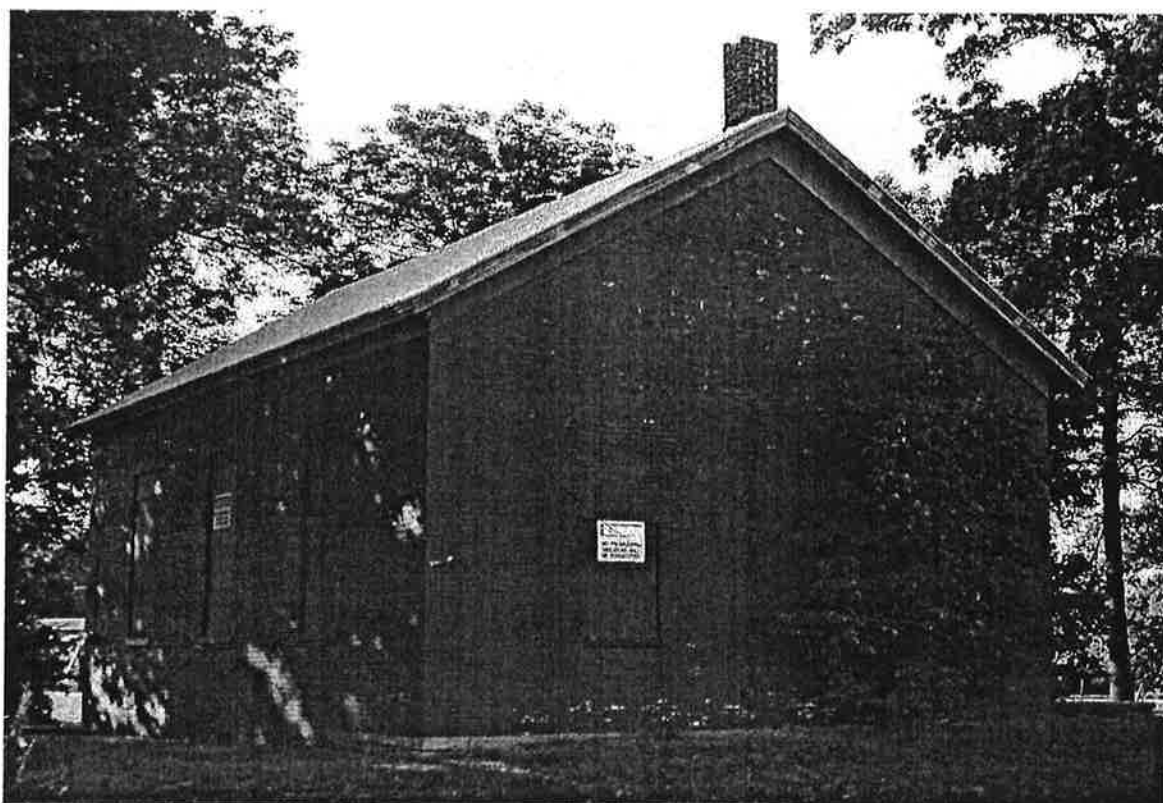
The Union Methodist Church

This humble brick building on the Northeast corner of the intersection of Columbia and Western Row is the old Union Methodist Church. The congregration formed in 1830. They build a brick church here in 1834. This church was built on the site of the older one in 1862 for $1092. The first trustees were Frederick Cline, Brazilla Clark, Michael Bowman, Levi Bowyer, Stephen Bowyer, Elisha Clark, John Hanly and John Clap.

Union was the name of the village at the intersection. One of the Deerfield Township schools – The Union School – was located across the street. The old school was destroyed in the 1974 tornados.

The old Union School location is behind the Sonoco Station. Nothing remains.

Landen Farm – Twenty Mile Stand

The Pines section of Landen replaced the Landen family's farm. The Landen name became associated with Towne Properties housing developments around 1973. The majestic pine trees which later lined this drive gave the Pines their name. This view is looking westward from Montgomery Road at the Landen UDF. In 2000 you can still enjoy the Pines (Inset). They form a beautiful promenade from Landen Drive near Pond Ridge Street to the Landen UDF.

Photo: Warren County Historical Society
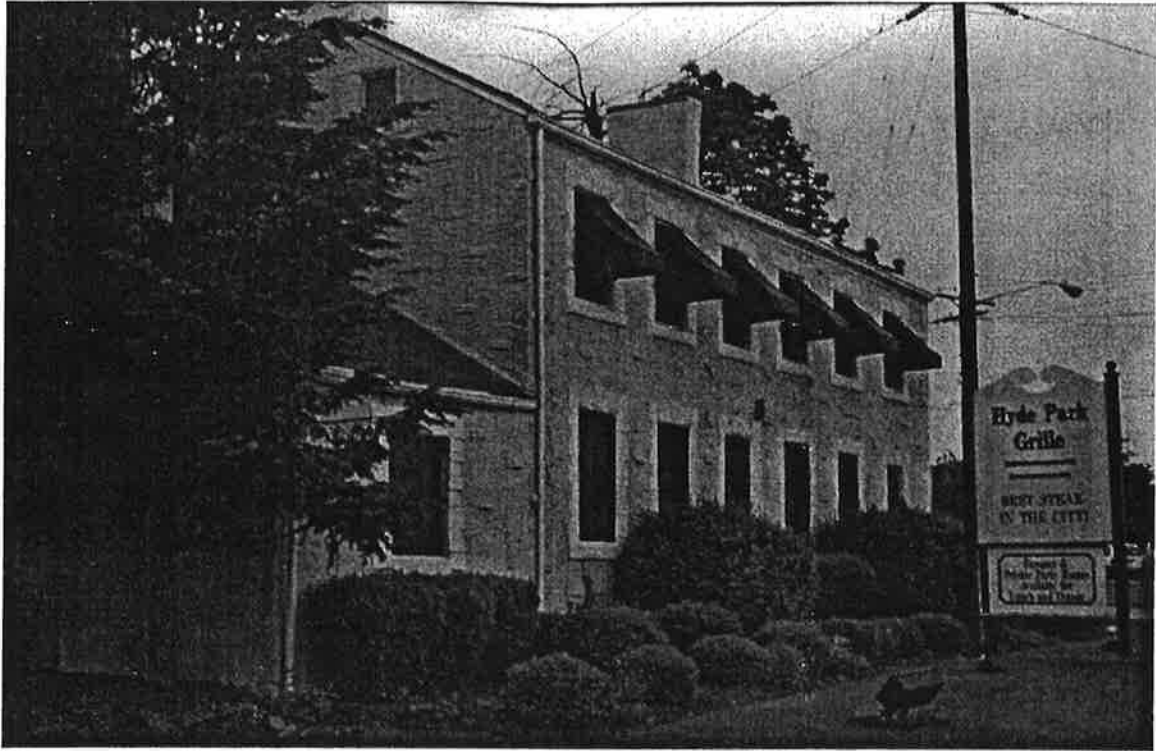
The Old Tavern in Twenty-Mile Stand

This often-remodeled building is one of the oldest in the township – possibly from 1820. Many still call it the 20-mile House from previous years. It is located at the intersection of two of the oldest roads in the area, Columbia (Columbia to South Lebanon c. 1796) and Montgomery (Cincinnati to Chillicothe c. 1804). Originally it was part of the 'stand' where travelers stopped for horse team changes, food and lodging. There were stands about every four miles. Twelve mile stand is now downtown Montgomery.
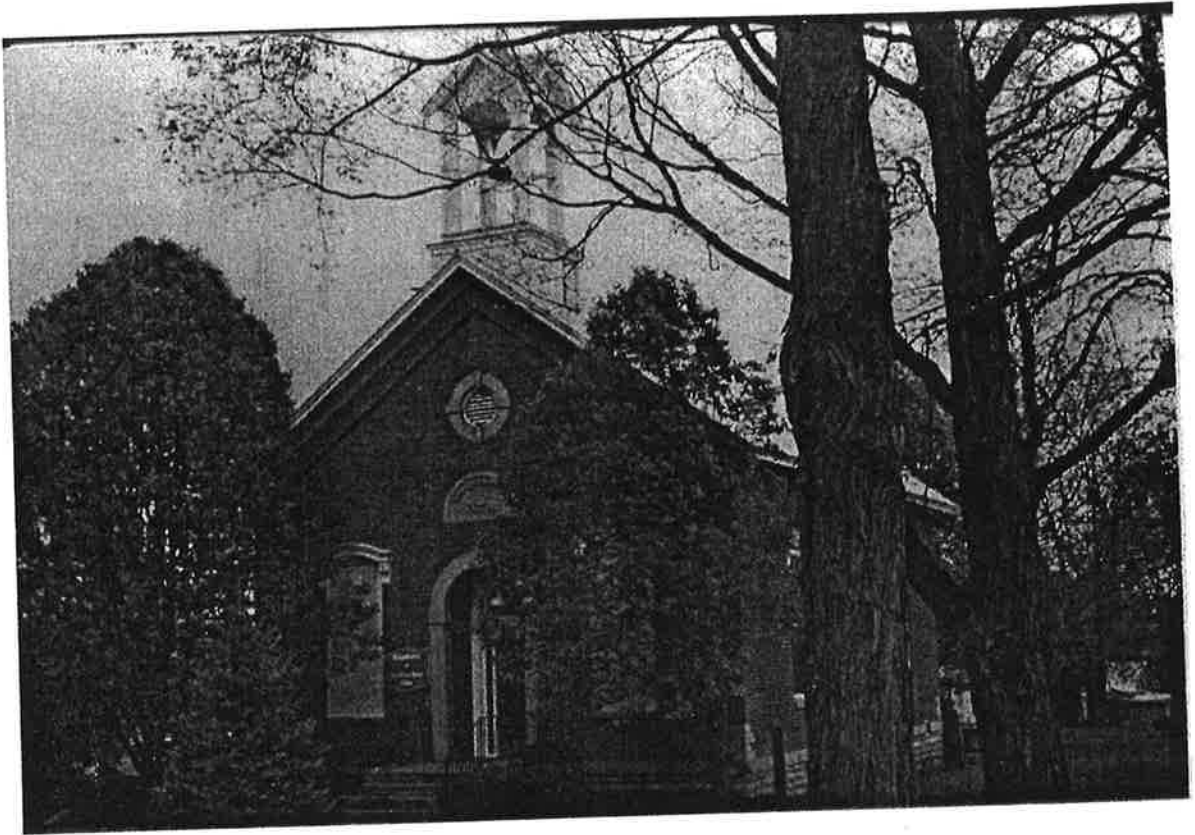
Twenty-Mile Stand School

A Deerfield Township school was established at this location in the 1830s. This one was built in 1879. It is located on Columbia road just south of the US 22 intersection. Many older residents speak fondly of Mr. Morsene M. Bradford – a dedicated, long-term teacher at this school. The Bradford Center at Kings High School is named in his honor. In 2000, the building is used for a private business.
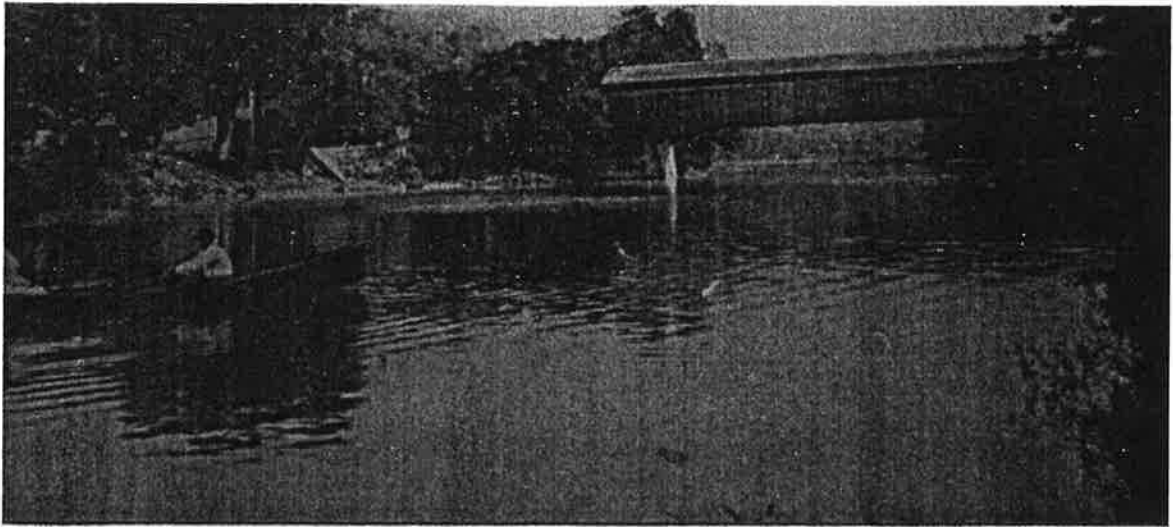
Covered Bridge – Old 3-C Highway in Foster

There has been a bridge here since 1836. For 100 years, this road – originally the "Cincinnati, Montgomery, Hopkinsville, Roachester, & Clarksville Macadamized Turnpike" was the main road to Chillicothe. Floods washed this bridge away in 1913. This bridge was replaced by a steel truss bridge. In 1990 the modern concrete Terwilliger bridge was built. The dam in the foreground formed the pool for power to the Greely or Hoppe Mill in Foster.

Photos: Warren County Historical Society
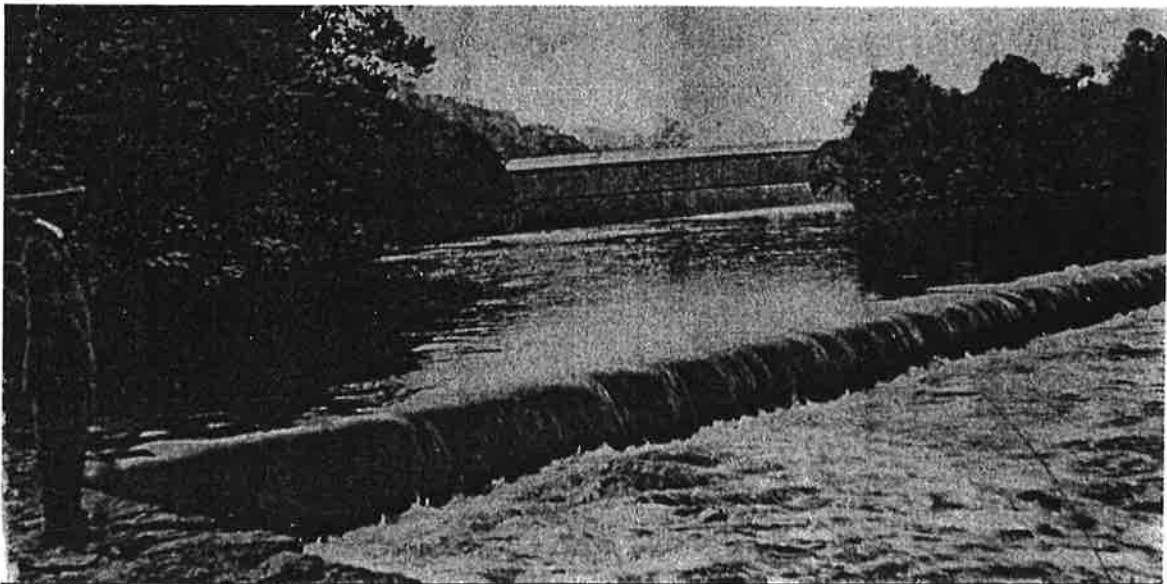
Dam for the Mill in Foster with Covered Bridge in Background.
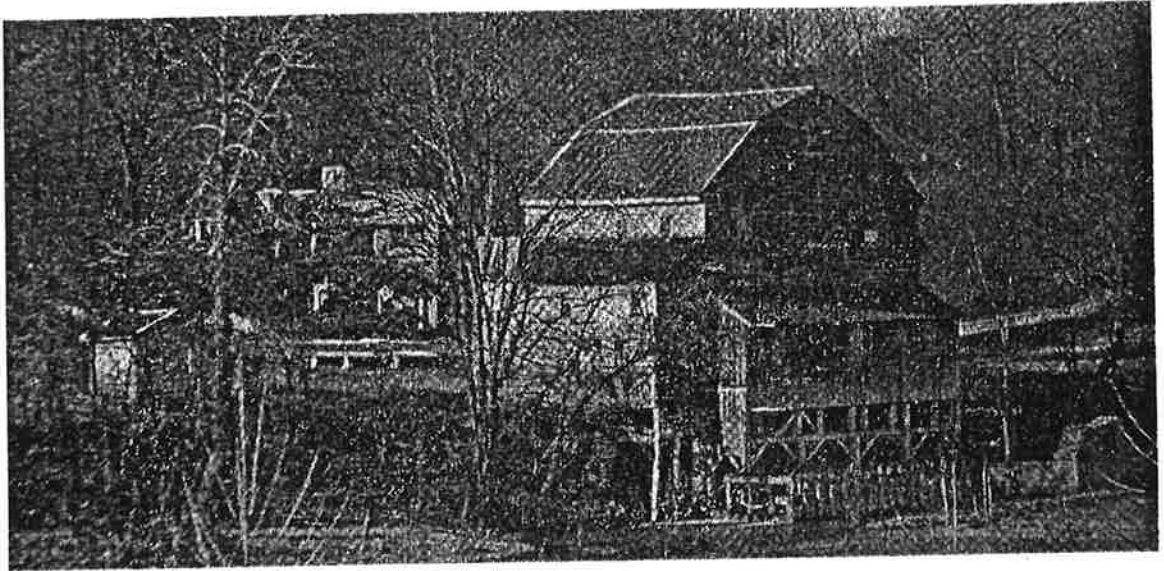
Governor Morrow's Mill.
1890 Photo by Wm. S. Foster from Little Miami Railroad. This mill was completed in 1815 and demolished in 1904.

This mill was located on Davis road about a mile south of Foster. The photo is actually the back of the mill. Davis ran between the mill and the Governor's home in the background.

Governor Jeremiah Morrow was one of the first settlers in Warren County in 1795. He purchased the east half of section 15 (Along the Little Miami from Landen-Deerfield Park to Loveland Park). He built this mill, farmed and spent most of his life in public service. A State and National leader, he became Ohio's governor in 1822. Only one person in Deerfield Township voted against him.

Governor Morrow's Mill

Only a few foundation stones and the mill race can still be found. This photo was taken from the island formed by the mill race looking westward. The houses behind the mill are around 8700 Davis road. The Governor's house on Davis road (previous page) collapsed from age and poor foundations.

Photo: Warren County Historical Society
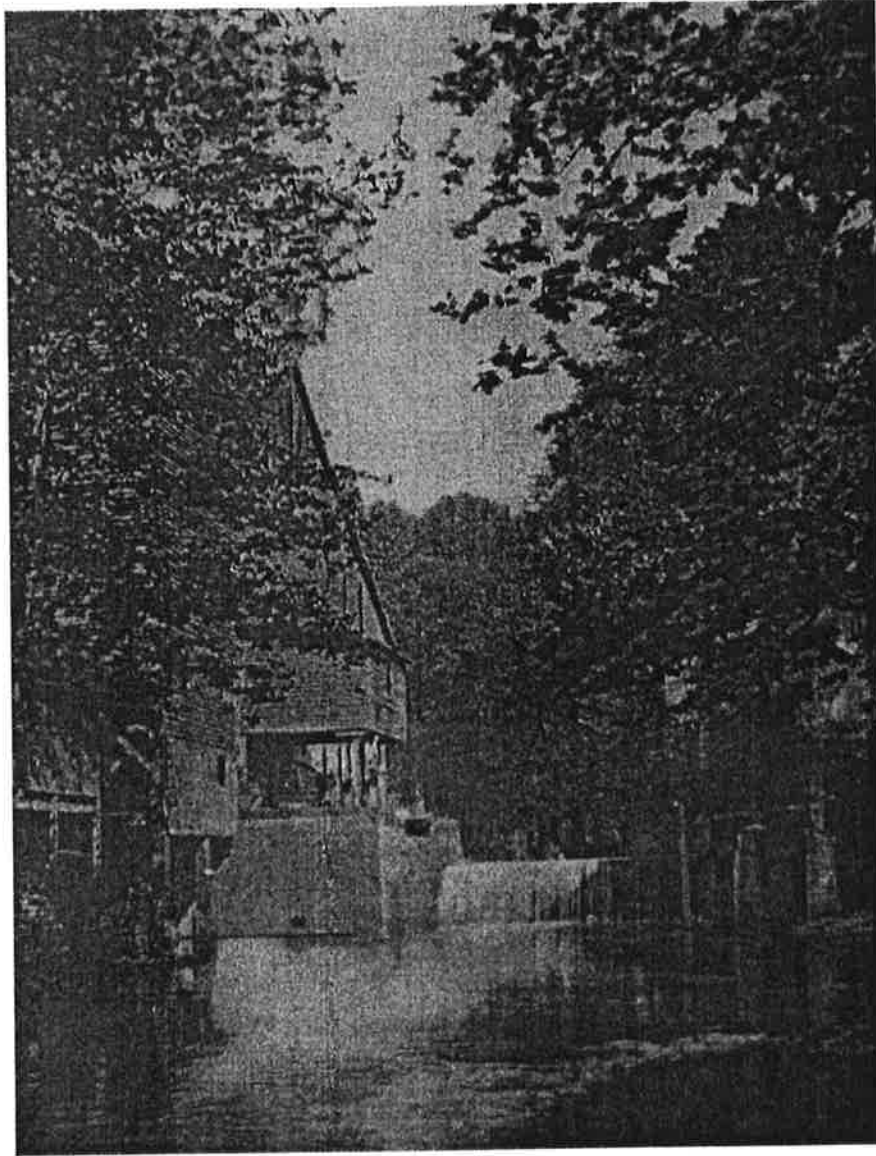
Greely or Hoppe's Mill in Foster

Located where Davis Road and Old 3-C intersect in Foster. The old foundation and millrace can still be seen from Davis road. A gristmill has been in this location since Brazilla Clark built the first one in 1806; it burned in 1844. Gristmills grind grain into flour and meal. Seth B. Greely built this one in 1861 and sold it to Augustus Hoppe in 1886. Hoppe produced "Pride of Miami" flour. Operations ended in 1944 when Hoppe's son, Edward was dragged into the machinery and killed.

When Edward Hoppe was killed at the mill, it passed to his nephew, Glenn Irwin. Irwin never re-opened the mill. Instead, he built a swimming pool in the millrace and converted the island that formed the race into a recreational facility. Many long-time residents still remember dancing and parties at "Glenn Island". In 2000, Glenn Island is a state park canoe access, Rahe Park.

Photo: Warren County Historical Society

Meeting at the Mill -- Foster

Going to the mill was a pleasant break from hard farm work. These men catch up with the news, gossip, make business deals and play games. They take the flour and cornmeal they need and the miller ships the rest to market – taking a share for himself. Nearby the miller operated a sawmill making boards for homes and barns. Convenient mills were so important to pre-industrial farm life that officials often regulated locations and prices.
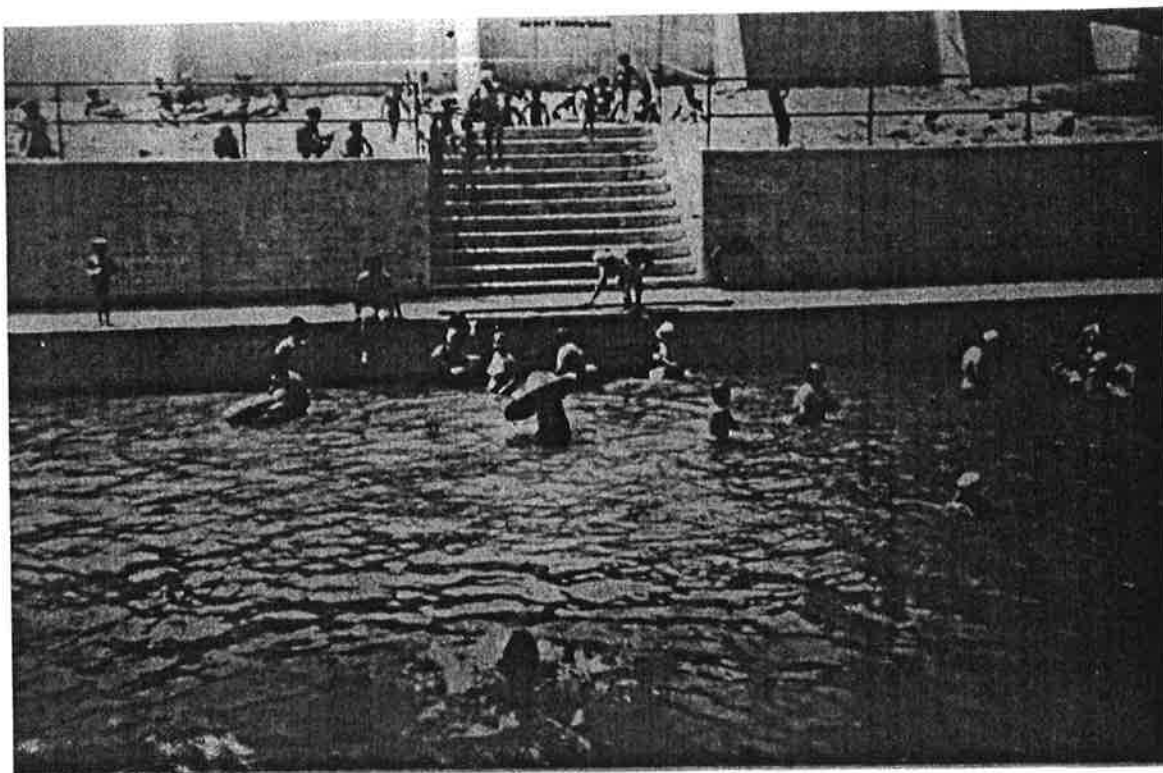
Swimming at Glenn Island – Foster

This pool was near the beginning of the mill race at the north end of Glenn Island (Rahe Park). A local resident remembers going there in the 1930s and early 1940s. "We were literally swimming the mill race. The water wasn't chlorinated or clear. It was the same water as in the Little Miami River." The pool was a popular spot in the summers before air conditioning, the Beach, Kings Island Water Park and community Recreational Centers.

Photo: Warren County Historical Society

Good bye, Glenn Island

The north end of the mill race was filled when Rahe park was built. The fragmented remnants of the mill dam and the swimming pool were considered unsightly and a hazard to recreational canoeing. They were removed in 1990. Amateur archeologists can still find remnants of the old mill, race, and island buildings by venturing southwest into the brush a few feet from the parking lot at Rahe Park.
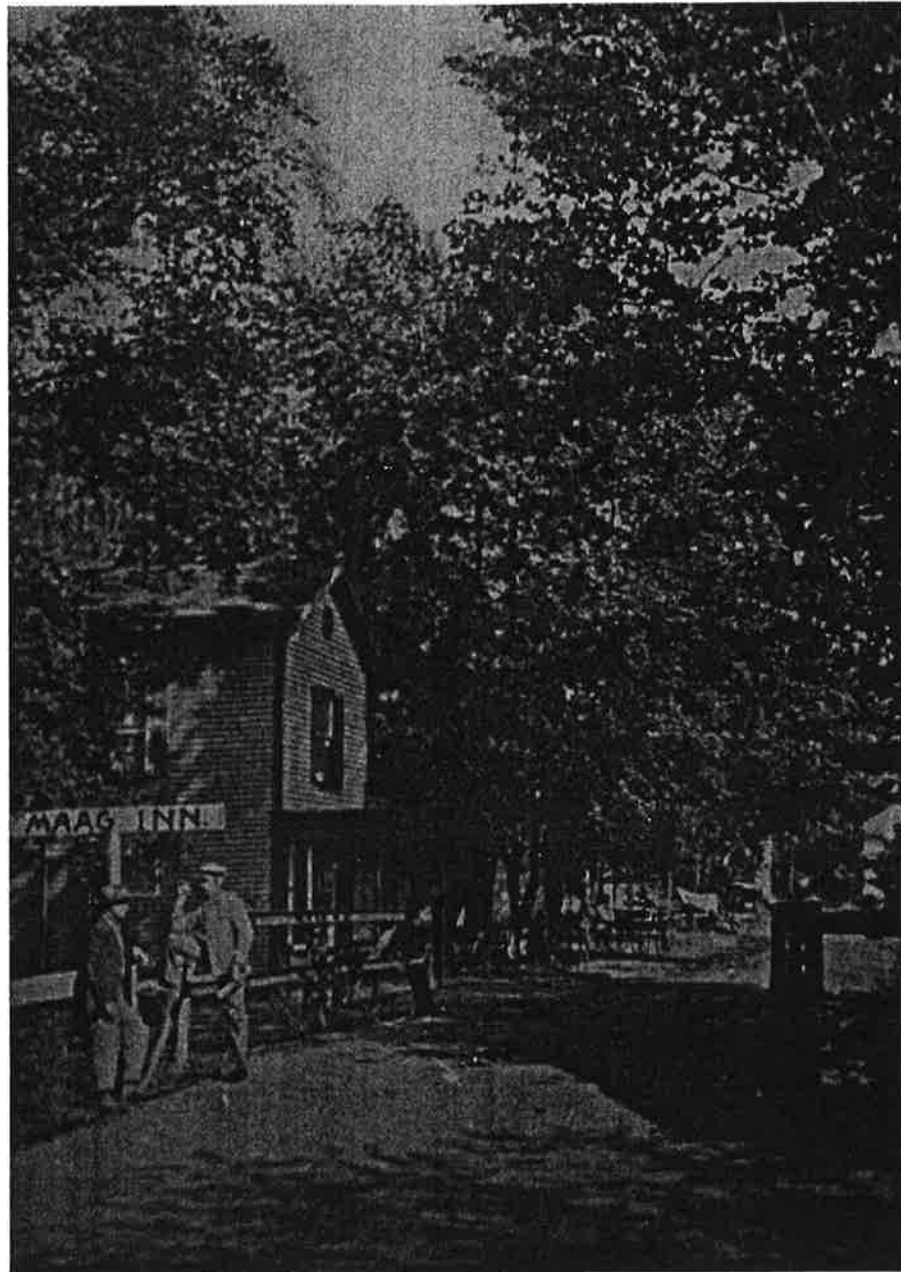
The Maag Inn – Foster

This photo appears to be around 1900. The little bridge is over Simpson Creek and the road is Old 3-C. This creek runs alongside Socialville-Foster road into the Little Miami at Foster. The photographer is standing at the intersection of Socialville Foster and Old 3-C. By the 1930s a large awning wrapped around the corner of the building. It was the ice cream shop shown on the next page. This building burned in 1976.

Photo: Warren County Historical Society
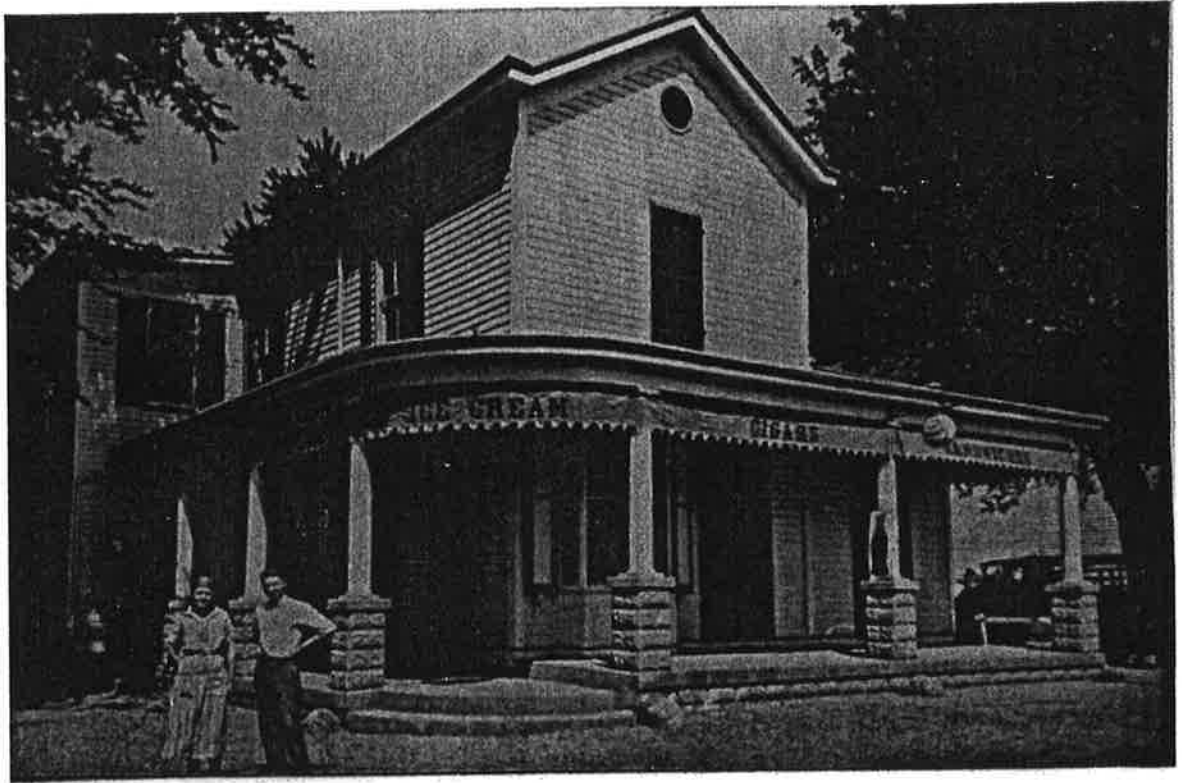
Foster on 3-C Highway

Business thrived on the main highway from Cincinnati to Columbus and Cleveland. This ice cream shop was at the corner of Socialville-Foster road and Old 3-C highway. In 1936, kids from the Foster School would walk across the bridge for an ice cream treat. When the bridge washed out, they walked across a temporary suspension footbridge. In 1880, this building was the Maag Inn and Saloon. (See the previous page.)

Photo: Warren County Historical Society

The General Store – Foster
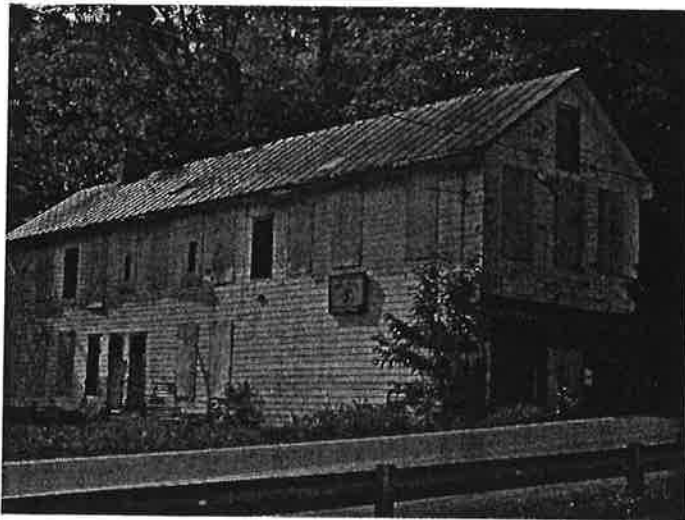
Legend is that this old building saw many different uses. In the 20th century it was a grocery and general store. Of all the commercial buildings in old Foster and Glenn Island, this is the only one still standing in 2000. It is now owned by Deerfield Township who hopes to restore it. For many years this was known as H. L. Hoppe's General Store. The building attached to the right (now gone) was the Foster Post Office.

In 2002, the old building (left) still stands. Deerfield Township owns it. It waits for a new future.

(Top Photo: Warren County Historical Society).
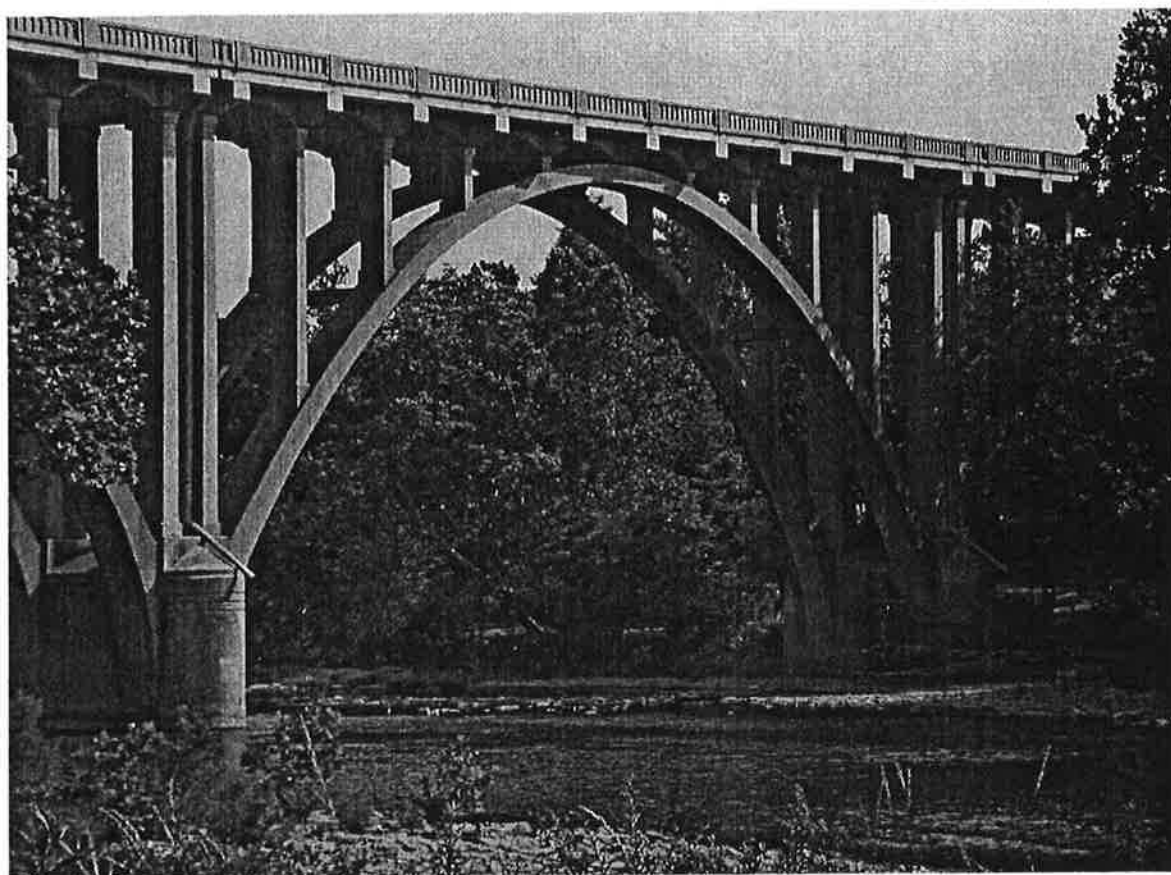
The Foster Viaduct
(U.S. 22 & 3 or Montgomery Road Bridge over the Little Miami River)

One of Warren County's most spectacular landmarks. This bridge on Montgomery road was built in the depression years of 1936-8. Dallas Bogan, county historian reports that the bridge cost a half million dollars; has six spans 155 to 175 feet long; and has pier foundations 27 feet below water level. The roadway is 75 feet above the Little Miami River. A sawmill was set up on Striker road to make the construction framework from local trees.
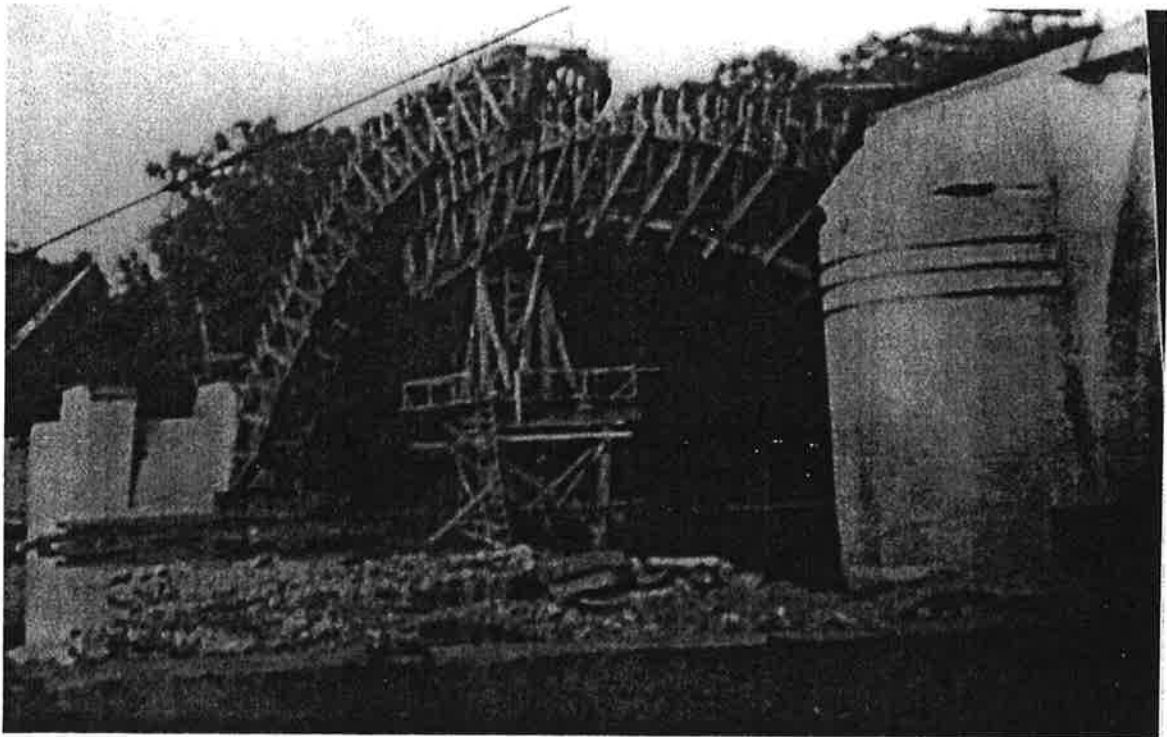
Jacking Up the Forms for the Arches in the Viaduct

The Viaduct Makes Foster a Ghost Town. In 1868, the Western Star reported that Foster had 47 buildings grouped on both sides of the river including three dry goods and grocery stores, two shoe stores, a tailor, a boardinghouse, a grain depot, a sawmill and gristmill, a cooper shop, a blacksmith shop, a tollgate house, a rail depot and five beer saloons. The future was good until the Viaduct replaced the main road through Foster. In 2000, only 4 of the old buildings remain.
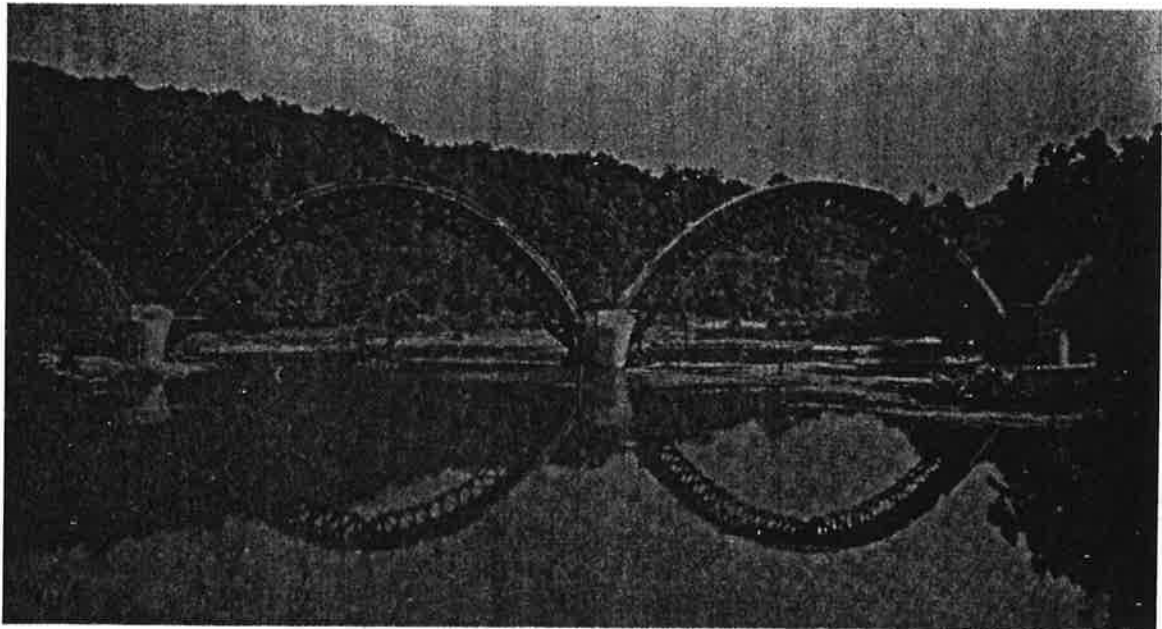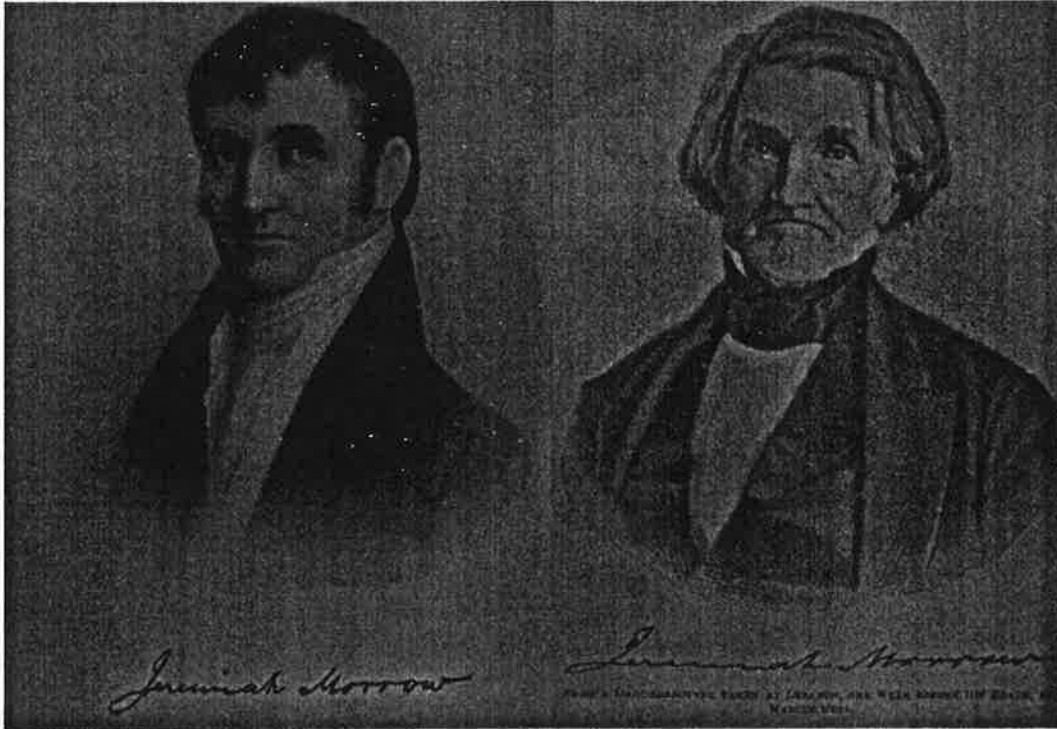
Jeremiah Morrow (1769 -1852)
Portraits as a young man and a few days before his death.

One of Deerfield Township's earliest residents, Morrow served five terms in the U.S. Congress, one term as U.S. Senator and two terms as Ohio's governor. Morrow built a mill on the Little Miami about a mile south of the Route 22 viaduct. His farm included all of Davis road along the Little Miami, Landen Square Shopping Center, Eastern Landen, Montgomery Hills, Loveland Park and Landen-Deerfield Park. Morrow was widely respected as an expert legislator in public land laws with a remarkable attendance record. His guidance was key to Ohio statehood. A hardworking, simple and devout man, Morrow lived out his days here. He is buried in Union Cemetery.
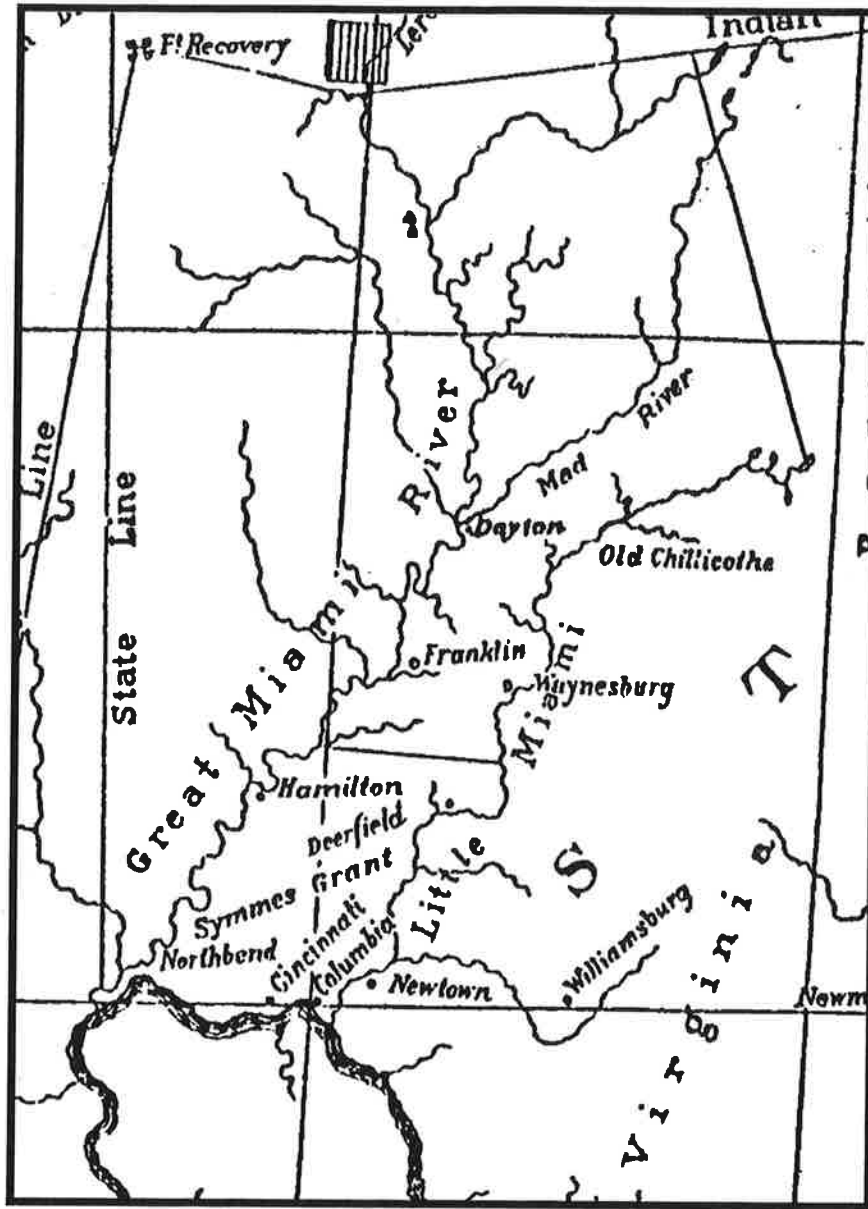
Where is Columbia?

Columbia was the first settlement in southwest Ohio. Lunken airport now occupies the land where the village once stood.

The Pioneer Cemetery across from the terminal has markers of many early pioneers. There was safety in numbers at Columbia. Few ventured far until after Anthony Wayne's victory at Fallen Timbers. A few miles west of Columbia was the military's Fort Washington (now downtown Cincinnati).

Sketch from *Indian Towns, Villages, Camps and Trails in the Virginia Military District and South-Western Ohio.* Earthworks, Inc.
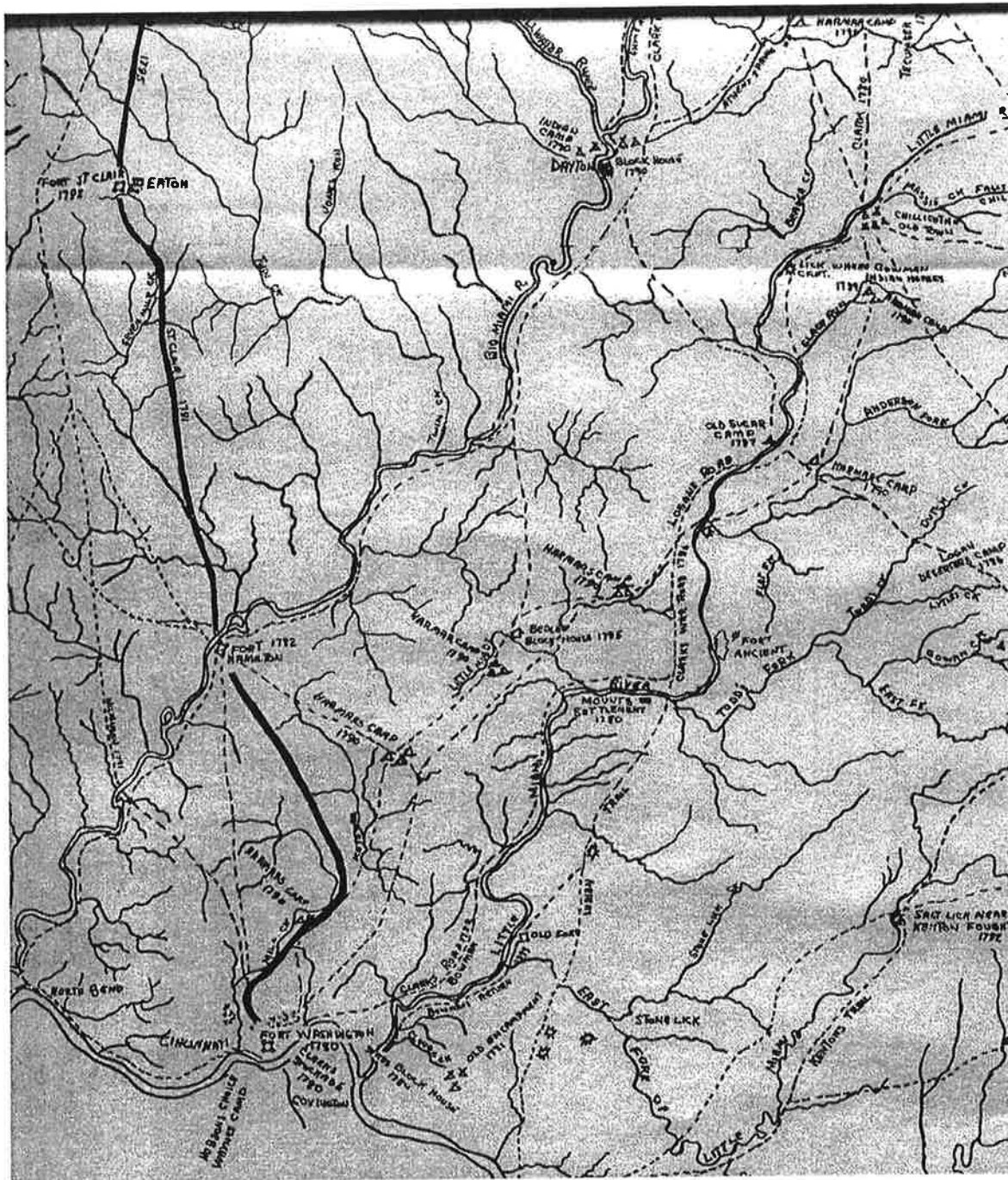
No Indian Villages

Neither Deerfield or any of our area had permanent Indian settlements when explorers and military expeditions visited in the 1700s. The Shawnee Indians had several villages around modern Springfield, Piqua and Chillicothe. Both the Shawnee and Miami Indians regarded our area as their hunting grounds.

Sketch from *Indian Towns, Villages, Camps and Trails in the Virginia Military District and South-Western Ohio.* Earthworks, Inc.
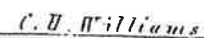
Traces or Trails

Animal trails became Indian trails, then military 'traces', then dirt roads, then highways. Reading road was an old trail. In the Deerfield area, it was known as Harmar's trace. General Josiah Harmar and his army camped in Deerfield Township near the Houston Restaurant during his disastrous campaign against Little Turtle's Miamis in 1790. In 1815, one of Harmar's men, William Mason platted a town along the old route (now Reading Road) which had become the main road from Cincinnati to Xenia.

Famous Visitors During Campaigns Against Indians

The Indian Trails through Deerfield Township were used in the early campaigns in the Springfield area. Colonel John Bowman led a raid in 1779. In 1780 and 1782 raids were lead by General George Rogers Clark. Clark's men included Daniel Boone and Cincinnati co-founder Robert Patterson. Bowman and Clark's armies followed the Little Miami passing near Foster and Kings Mills' modern locations

Thanks, George

Deerfield's history could have been different had it not been for General George Rogers Clark. During the American Revolution, Clark's small army fought westward to the Mississippi near St. Louis. Clark captured the English Fort Vincinnes. When peace was made with England, Clark's campaign was key to the concession to America of the 'Northwest Territory'.

MAP OF DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP

C.U. Williams

PLAN
OF
CINCINNATI,
Including
All the late Additions & Subdivisions
Engraved for
DRAKE'S, STATISTICAL
VIEW.
1815.

REFERENCES

1 Steam Mill
2 Brewery
3 Ferries
4 Brewery
5 Pot-ash Factory
6 Presbyterian Church
7 Court house
8 Jail
9 Methodist Church
10 Lancaster Seminary
11 Sugar Refinery
12 Bank of Cincinnati
13 D. Miami Exporting C.
14 D. Farmers & Mechanics
15 Friends Meeting House
16 Remains of Ancient works
17 Presb. Burying Ground
18 Site of old Fort Washington
19 Glass House
20 Steam Saw-mill
21 Baptist Church

Road to Dayton

Road to Hamilton

Section Line

Road to Lebanon

Road to Lawrenceburg

Section Line

Top of the Second Bank or Level

Section Line

St. Clair Street

Court Street

Wayne Street

New Market Street

Main Street

Sixth Street

Fifth Street

Fourth Street

Third Street

Market St.

Second Street

Front Street

Water Street

BROADWAY

East Front Street

Commons

Canal

O H I O   R I V E R

LICKING

J.M. Scenery sc.