







Auglaize County Postcard Images

by George L. Neargarder









Auglaize County Historical Society

About The Author
George Neargarder



George retired after serving for sixty years in management in various retail businesses. His interest in history along with his experience in designing and printing sales circulars and tabloids led him to write a 236-page book, *The History of Holy Rosary Church*. George was instrumental in the Auglaize County Historical Society's effort to reprint the combined *Auglaize County Atlases* and added 100 additional photos. He also helped print a number of family genealogy books.

George and his wife, Patty, celebrated sixty years of marriage in 2008. He is grateful to her for her patience with him while working on this book. George and Patty have been blessed with six children: Janet (Bob) Bassitt and Stephen (Tricia) Neargarder of Wapakoneta, Ohio; Jim (Sylvia) and George, Jr. (Robin) in the Dallas, Texas, area; Paula (Doug) Saintignon of Beavercreek, Ohio; and Dr. Sandy Neargarder of Boston, Massachusetts; nineteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

In 2008 George received the Noteworthy Award from the Ohio Kiwanis Club Governor. In 2007 he was inducted into the Ohio Senior Hall of Fame. In 2005 he received The Auglaize County Outstanding Senior Award, and the Individual Achievement Award from the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums. In 1996 George received the Builder of Bridges Award from the St. Marys Chamber of Commerce. In addition to his numerous awards, George has served as an officer in many civic organizations in the community.

About The Designer
Dan Uhlenhake



Dan Uhlenhake is a 30-year veteran of printing production and publishing. Besides pre-press production, he serves as Post Printing's Digital Support Manager for clients. He has authored client manuals on Portable Document Format (PDF) workflows, Adobe PostScript® production, and quality control procedures both for Windows and Macintosh formats. Dan also conceives and designs Post's promotional brochures and composes material for its web site.

Dan is married to Beth (Barga) Uhlenhake and they are the parents of two children, Adam, a graduate student at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, and Brooke, a junior at the University of Dayton. Besides being an avid World War II and American West history buff, Dan enjoys guitar and singing and is heavily involved in the music program at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Saint Marys as a choir and adult ensemble member and liturgical cantor.

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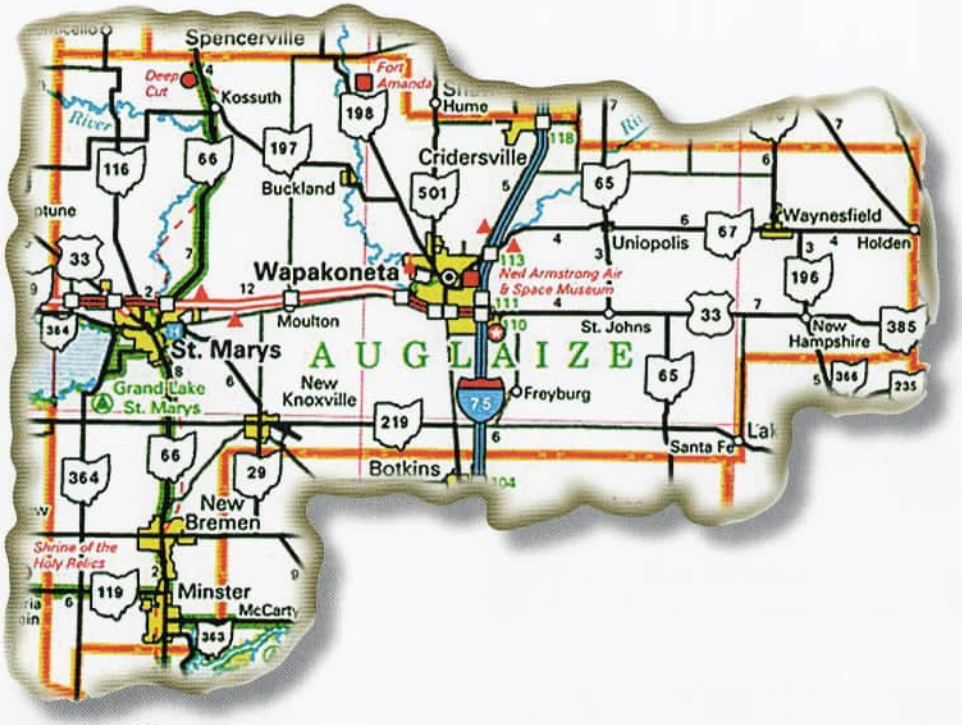
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There were no postcards available from the Auglaize County communities of Bingville, Egypt, Glynnwood, Gutman, and Layton.

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Introduction



What better way is there to reveal several chapters of the rich history of Auglaize County than through the descriptive and evocative images of postcards?

Dating from 1900 through 1958, the postcards in this book depict churches, schools, factories, parks, and street scenes. As would be expected, the archive of existing postcards does not include every aspect of every community's history. Nonetheless, these 600+ images tell us much about the people and communities of Auglaize County during this important half century.

Many of the cards bore legible postmarks, and we have included these in the text to provide a time reference for the scene depicted. All cards are identified as specifically as possible, and some include a brief history as well. Each community is color coded for easy reference.

The value of the original postcards to collectors varies from $2.00 to $100.00, depending upon condition, supply, and demand. To historians, the cards are invaluable, because of the stories they help us tell.

We hope this book will bring back many enjoyable memories. We hope, as well, that it allows all of us to learn a bit more about Auglaize County's history.

All proceeds from the book will benefit the Auglaize County Historical Society.

George Neargarder, author

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Postcard Contributors

The following people have been very helpful in contributing postcards to make *Auglaize County Postcard Images* possible.

Rachel Barber
Floyd Tom Craft
Cridersville Historical Society
Vernon Doenges
Rusty Elsass
Myron Fledderjohann
Tom & Diane Fledderjohann
Don W. & Claudette Hager
Margaret Hobler
Larry Kramer
David Kemper
Jim Kent
Gregory Leugers
Ray Lindamuth
Mary Henschen Metzger
Minster Historical Society
New Bremen Historic Assoc.
Robert Paulus II
Elaine Poppe
Dorothy Quellhorst
Janet Schuler
Glenn Snethkamp
Dr. Todd Spieles
Richard L. Stein
Delores Stienecker
Kendra (Briggs) Strand
Rolla & Evelyn Werts
New Knoxville Historical Society
Louis Comus
Lynne Ray

Thank You

A special thank you to Rachel Barber, Vern Doenges, Myron Fledderjohann, Tom & Diane Fledderjohann, J. Terry Lee, Paula Saintignon, Delores Stienecker and Richard L. Stein for sharing their time and knowledge by providing historical information for this book. Appreciation as well goes to the Shelby County Historical Society for the inspiration provided for this project.

Thank you to past and present Board Members of the Auglaize County Historical Society:

Dale Altstaetter, Genevieve Conradi, Karen Dietz, Ruth Eshleman, Katy Gilbert, Jim Heinrich, Barb Harrod, Irene Kepler, Becky MacWhinney, Jim McCullough, Julie McCullough, Laura Paulus, Elaine Poppe, Gayl Ray, Dr. Todd Spieles, David Whitney, and Ben Yale.

The Auglaize County Historical Society notes that the effort to create this postcard book was led and directed by St. Marys historian George Neargarder, who developed the chapters for the publication and chose the postcards used therein. Although various individuals, historical societies, and the board of trustees of the Auglaize County Historical Society offered their suggestions, the ultimate editorial responsibility was held by Mr. Neargarder.

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History of the United States Postcards

The United States issued pre-stamped postal cards in 1873. Only the United States Postal Service was authorized to print the cards. The first postcard in the United States to feature a building was created in 1893 to advertise the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Shortly thereafter the United States government via the United States Postal Service, allowed printers to publish a one-cent postcard (the "Penny Postcard"). A correspondent's writing was allowed only on the front side of these cards.

The year 1901 brought cards with the word "Post Card" printed on the reverse (the side without the picture). Written messages were still restricted to the front side, with the entire back dedicated to the address. This "undivided back" is what gives this postcard era its name.

The "divided back" card, with space for a message on the address side, came into use in the United States in 1907. Thus began the Golden Age of American postcards, which lasted until about 1915 when World War I blocked the import of the fine German printed cards. In fact, in 1908 alone more than 677 million postcards were mailed.

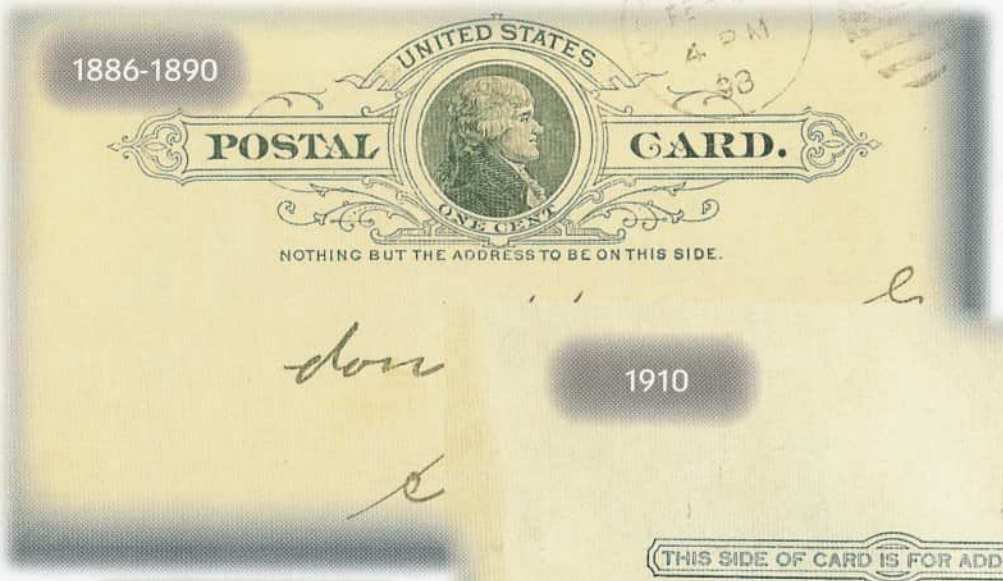
The "white border" era, named for obvious reasons, lasted from about 1916 to 1930. The "linen card" era lasted from about 1930 to 1945, when cards were primarily printed on papers with a high rag content. The last and current era, which began about 1939, is the "photo chrome" or "chrome" era. The images on these cards are generally based on color photographs and are readily identified by the glossy appearance given by the paper's coating.

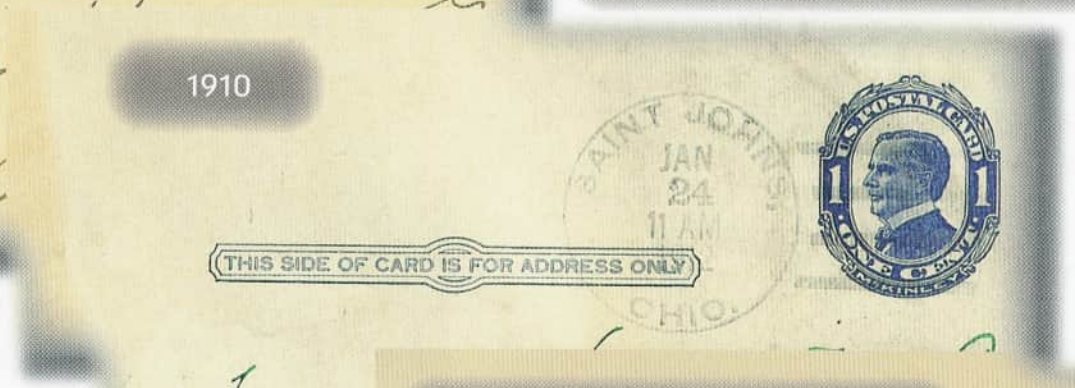
Data courtesy of Wikipedia free online encyclopedia

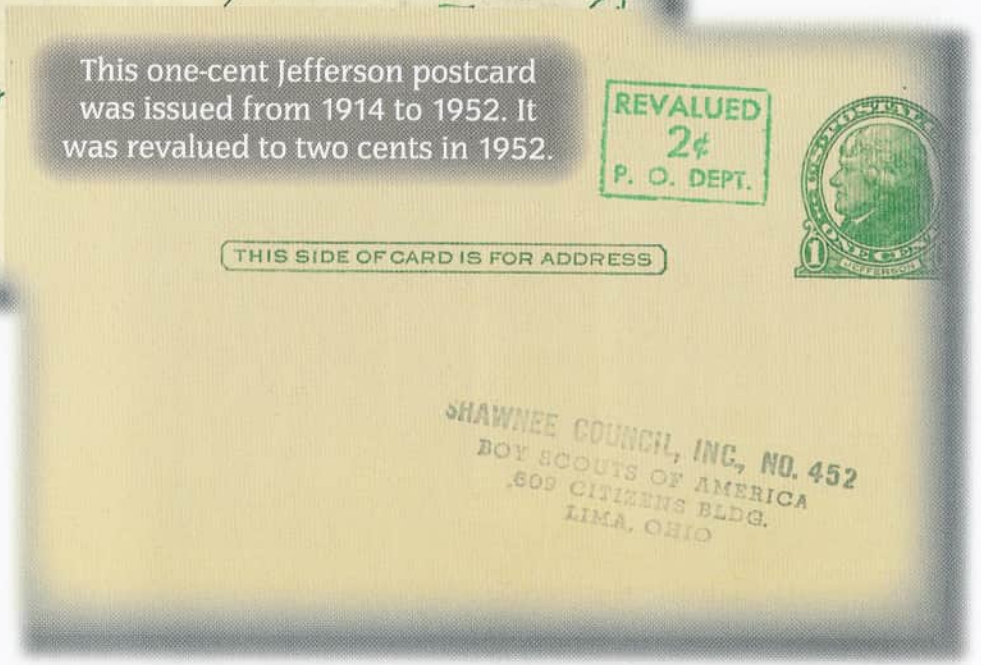
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Early United States Postcards

These three postal cards with issued dates are copies of the many cards that the United States Postal Service printed.







Postcard Mailing Rates

1900.	1¢
1917.....	2¢
1919.....	1¢
1925.....	2¢
1928.....	1¢
1952.....	2¢

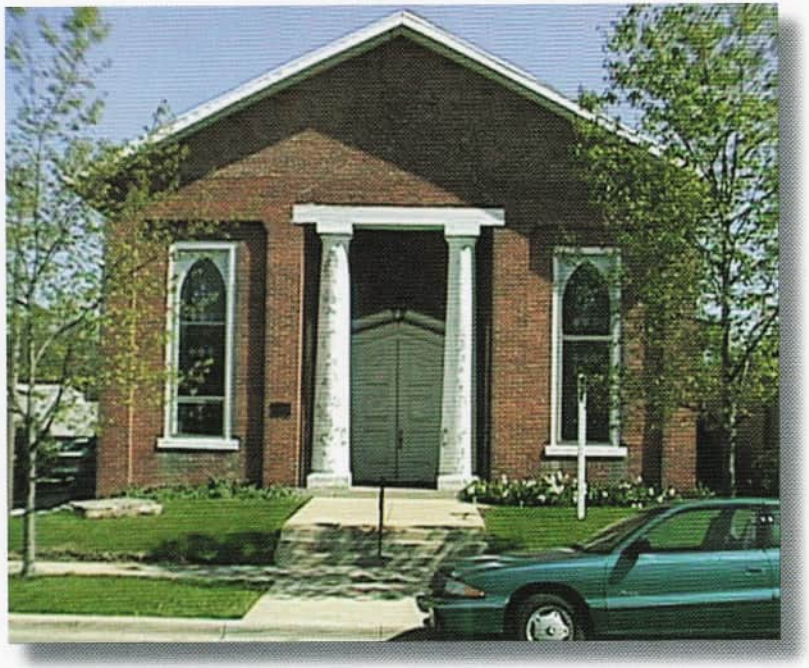
Auglaize County Historical Society Buildings

Daniel Mooney Museum

223 South Main Street
Saint Marys, Ohio

This home was built in 1876 and served as the home of Major Charles Hipp, a former Civil War officer. It was later the home of Daniel and Carrie Mooney. In 1981 the house became the first of the Auglaize County Historical Society's museums.





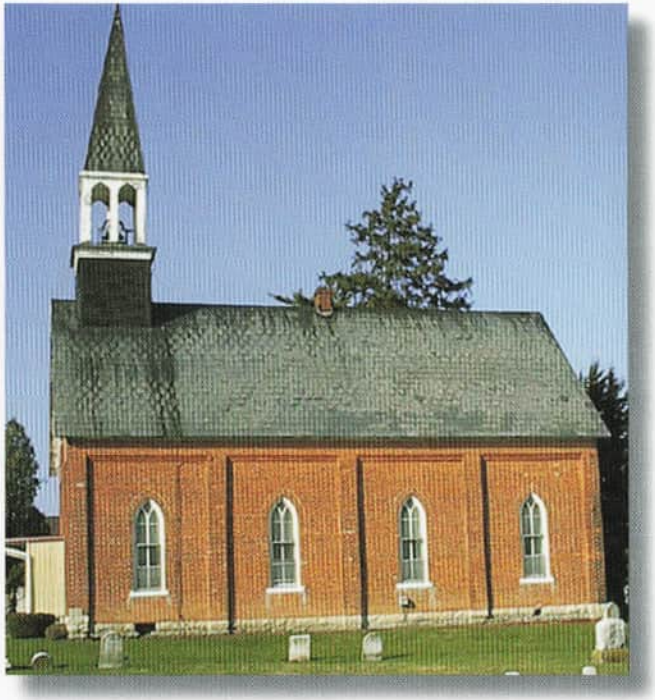
Wapakoneta Area Museum

206 West Main Street
Wapakoneta, Ohio

Constructed in 1861-62, this Greek Revival church originally housed Wapakoneta's Presbyterian congregation. It has served as a museum for the county historical society since 2000.

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Auglaize County Historical Society Buildings



Shinbone Church Museum

This church is located on State Route 219 four miles east of New Knoxville. Established in 1854, the Olive Branch congregation of the United Brethren in Christ first worshipped in a frame church. In 1896 the brick building pictured at left was constructed.

As a result of a denomination-wide merger in the mid-20th century, Olive Branch became a United Methodist congregation. Olive Branch closed as a church in 2002, at which time it was donated to the Auglaize County Historical Society.



Julius Frederick's Log Smokehouse

Frederick was one of the six survivors of the Greely Expedition to the Arctic in 1881. The log smokehouse was moved from his farm on State Route 219 southwest of St. Marys to the fairgrounds.

The Gary House

The Auglaize County Fairgrounds Wapakoneta, Ohio



This hand-hewn oak and ash log house was built near Santa Fe about 1850. It was moved to the fairgrounds in 1980.

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Community History Organizations in Auglaize County



Buckland Historical Society

is located in the Buckland Community Center (the former Buckland School) on Main Street.



Cridersville Historical Museum

is located in the former United Brethren Church at 111 West Sugar Street.



New Knoxville Heritage Center

is located at 105 East German Street.



New Bremen Historic Museum

is located in a clapboard house at 120-122 North Main Street and was built in 1837.



Minster Historical Center

is located on the second floor of the Stallo Memorial Library at 196 East Fourth Street, but is moving to a new location in 2008.



Uniopolis Historical Museum

is located in the former United Brethren Church (later, the village hall) on State Route 67.

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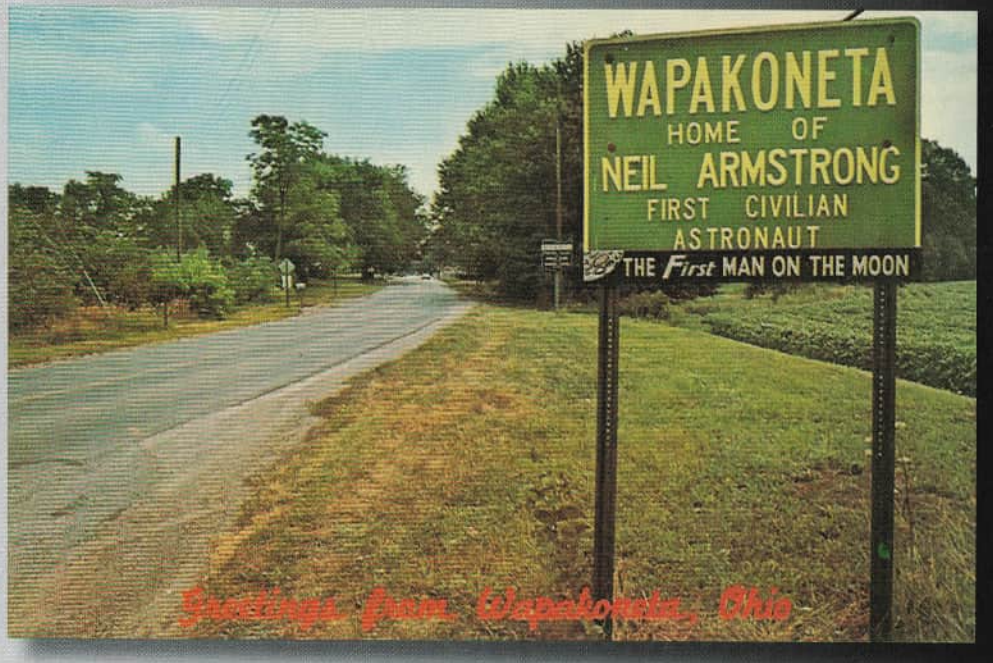




Neil Armstrong was born August 5, 1930, on his grandparents' farm near Wapakoneta. His parents were Stephen and Viola (Engel) Armstrong. Neil's father worked for the state auditor and moved his family to the many northwestern Ohio communities to which he was assigned.

In 1938 his family moved back to St. Marys where Neil attended the East School. In 1941 after finishing the fifth grade, his family moved to Upper Sandusky.

In 1944 the Armstrongs moved to Wapakoneta, where Neil attended Blume High School. He learned to fly at Port Koneta Airport just north of town. After graduation he joined the service and flew missions in Korea. With the help of the GI Bill, Neil attended Purdue University. After graduate school at the University of Southern California, he joined NASA. The rest is history.



Wapakoneta Loves Neil



West Auglaize Street





Neil Armstrong Homecoming, Auglaize Street, September 6, 1969.

Neil Armstrong Air & Space Museum



Exhibit near the entrance of the space museum





The Neil Armstrong Airport in New Knoxville, dedicated October 8, 1967

The Air & Space Museum located at I-75, exit 111, 500 South Apollo Drive.

Author's Note: ***Since the Apollo 11 landing on the moon was a world wide event, newer post cards were included in this section.***

Auglaize County

Auglaize County was created from portions of Allen and Mercer counties in 1848, with Wapakoneta selected as its county seat. The first courthouse was built in 1851 at a cost of $11,499. A new courthouse was built in 1894 at a cost of $259,481.



Postmarked July 10, 1905



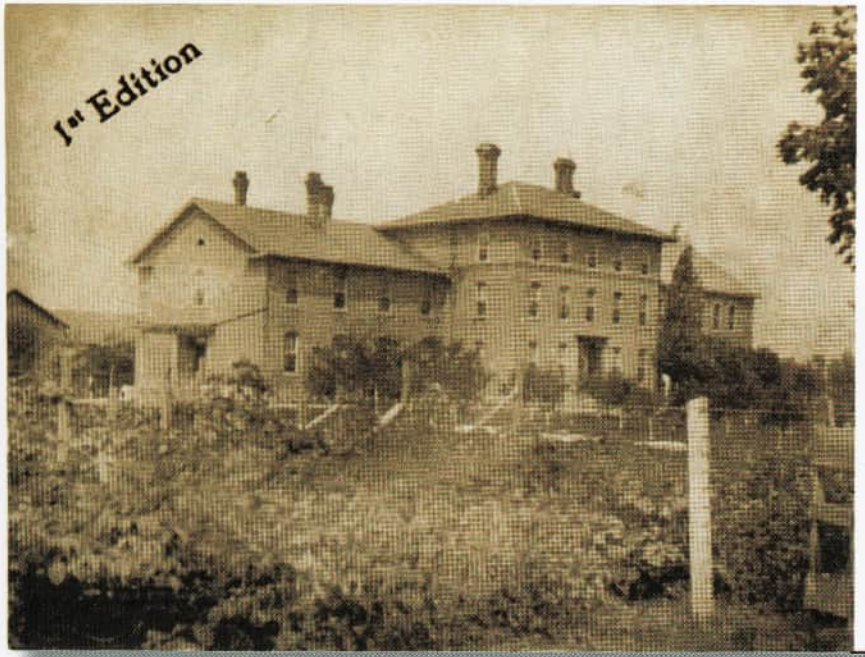
Postmarked August 10, 1909



Original courthouse

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Auglaize County Infirmary



County Infirmary
On July 30, 1867 bids of $10,026.48 were received to build the New Infirmary. Additions were added in 1891. Fire completely destroyed this building on September 25, 1907.

On October 8, 1857, the commissioners purchased 120 acres from Mr. and Mrs. William I. Ross for $2000 and 80 acres from Mr. and Mrs. John Fisher for $1800. The Fisher farm served as the first infirmary. The infirmary is known today as Auglaize Acres.



The current building opened on August 5, 1910, replacing the earlier structure, which had been destroyed by fire.



Postmarked March 3, 1913

Auglaize County

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Auglaize County Fairgrounds

The Auglaize County Agricultural Society was organized in 1852. The annual Auglaize County Fair is one of the largest and finest in the area.







AUGLAIZE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS 1911 CELEBRATION

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Postmarked 1906

Wapakoneta

Wapakoneta was the site of a council house for the Shawnee from the Treaty of Greenville (1794) until 1832, when the American Indians were forced to leave for Kansas. The town was platted for white settlement in January 1833.

The building at Willipie and Main streets was constructed in 1885 to house village offices, as well as the fire and police departments and village jail.



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Harmon Park







In 1921 William E. Harmon of New York City created the Harmon Foundation to provide grants for parks and playgrounds. Wapakoneta was one of 117 communities in 34 states to receive a playground.

Wapakoneta

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Trains

The first railroad in Wapakoneta was the Dayton & Michigan, which reached the community in 1858. It was later known as the C.H.&D, B&O, Chessie System and now CSX. By the early 20th century the Toledo & Ohio Central and Lake Erie and Western railroads also passed through the community.



T&OC Depot at 514 Blackhoof Street, postmarked October 11, 1939



C.H.&D Depot, postmarked 1914

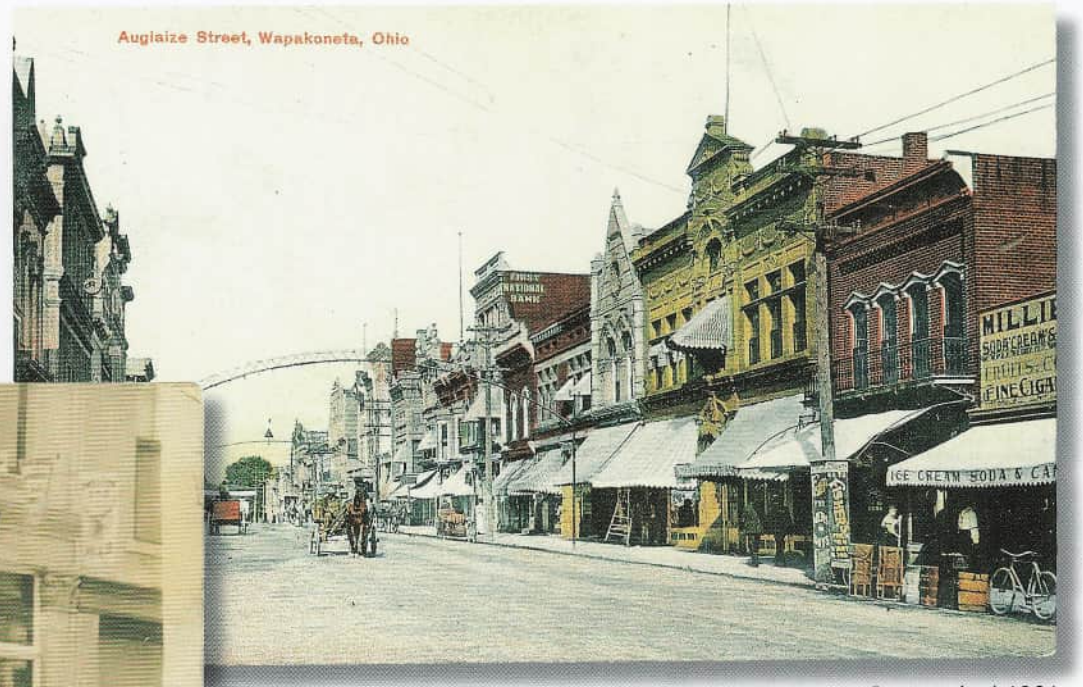


This Western Ohio Railway car barn was constructed on South Blackhoof Street in 1903.

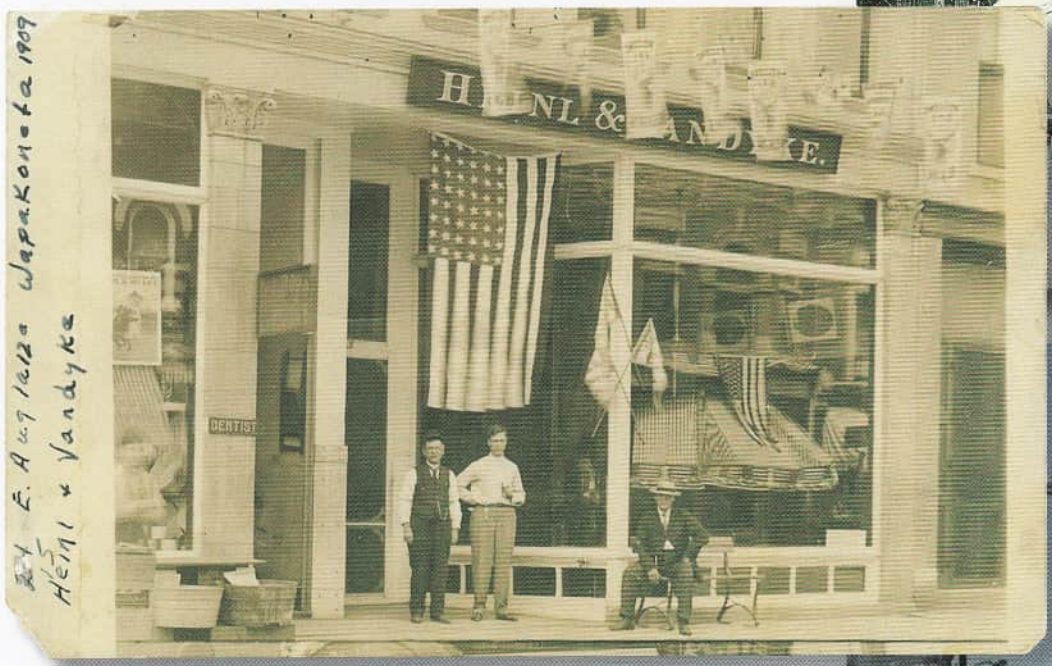
The Western Ohio Railway, also known as the interurban system, provided transportation for people and goods throughout the communities of west-central Ohio. The interurban was doomed by the popularity of automobiles and the arrival of the Great Depression, and discontinued service in 1932.

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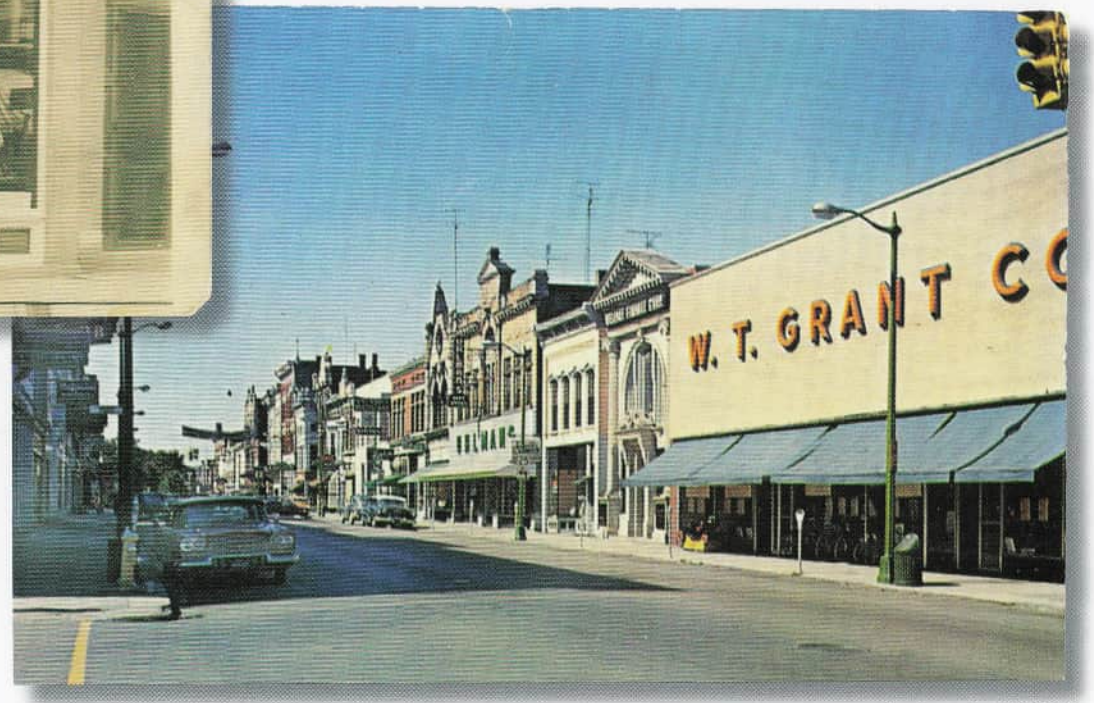
Wapakoneta
East Auglaize Street



Postmarked 1901



Heinl & Vandyke, 15 East Auglaize, postmarked August 8, 1909



Postmarked 1956

Wapakoneta

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Postmarked 1932



Postmarked 1935

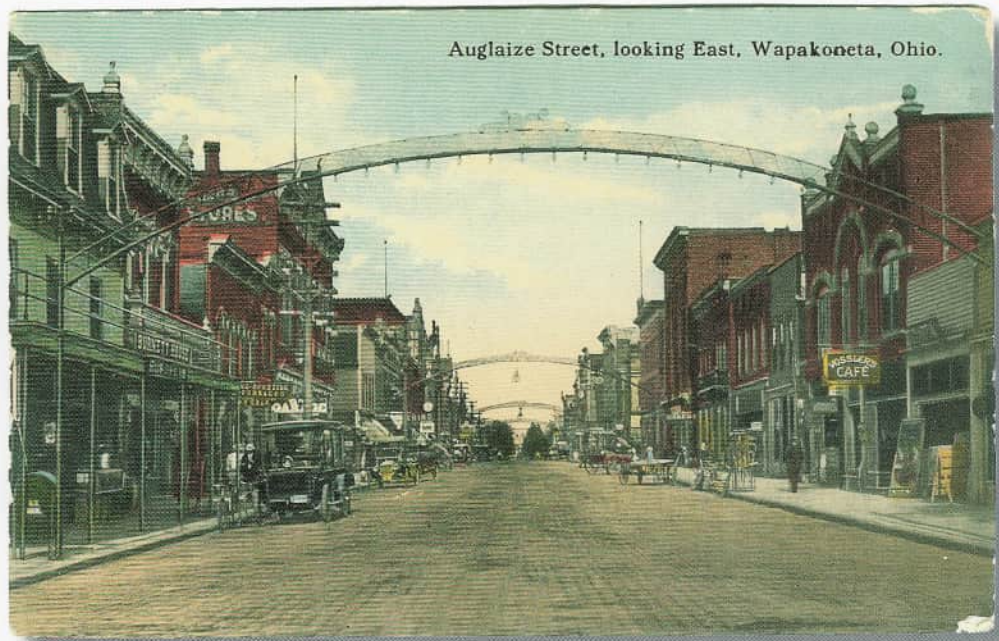
Wapakoneta

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Wapakoneta
West Auglaize Street



Philip Nagel Furniture and Undertaking Company, 113 West Auglaize Street, postmarked 1908

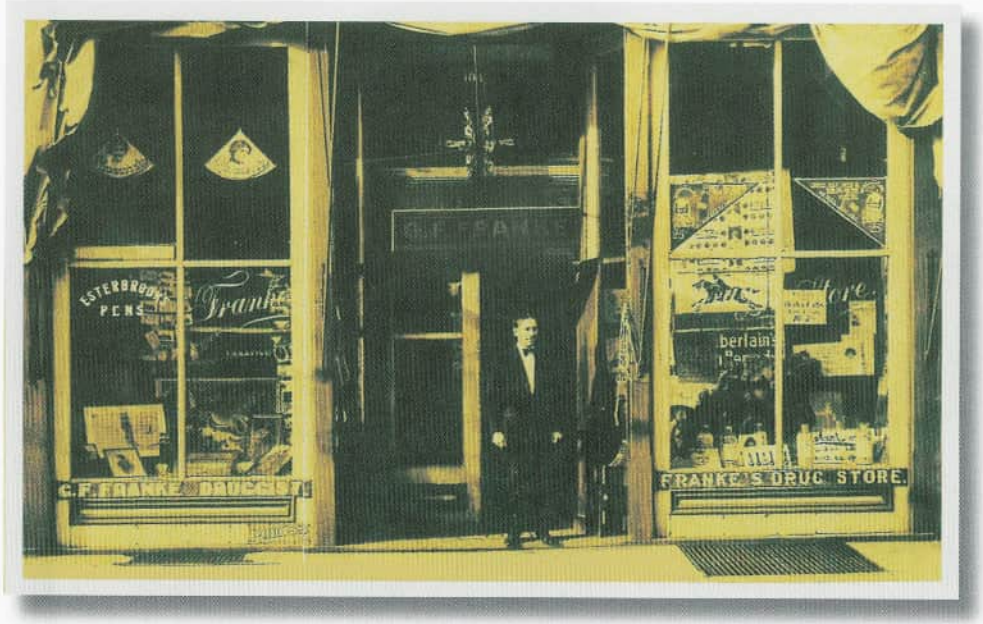


Looking east on Auglaize Street, postmarked 1910



Clark and Telljohn, 124 West Auglaize Street, during the community's centennial parade in October 1933

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C.F. Franke Drug Store, 18 West Auglaize Street



J.E. Hughes & Co., 112 West Auglaize Street, postmarked 1910



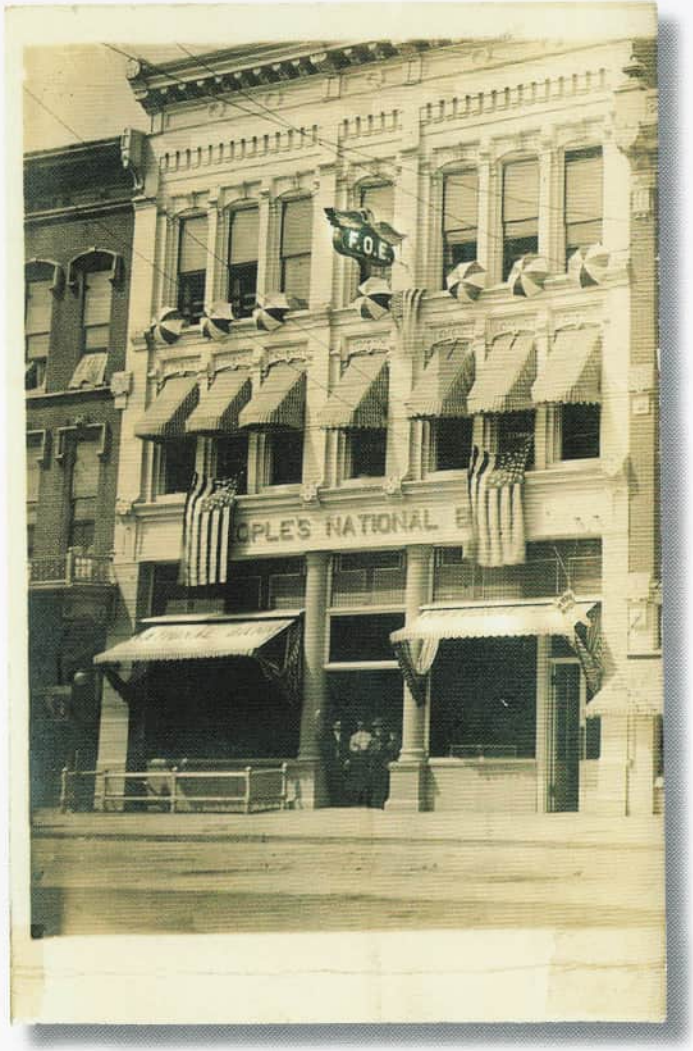
Bailey & Gnagi Groceries & Fruits, 9 West Auglaize Street, postmarked 1911



Steinberg Hotel, 101 West Auglaize Street, opened in 1898

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Wapakoneta
West Auglaize Street



People's National Bank, 10 West Auglaize Street, postmarked November 1, 1909



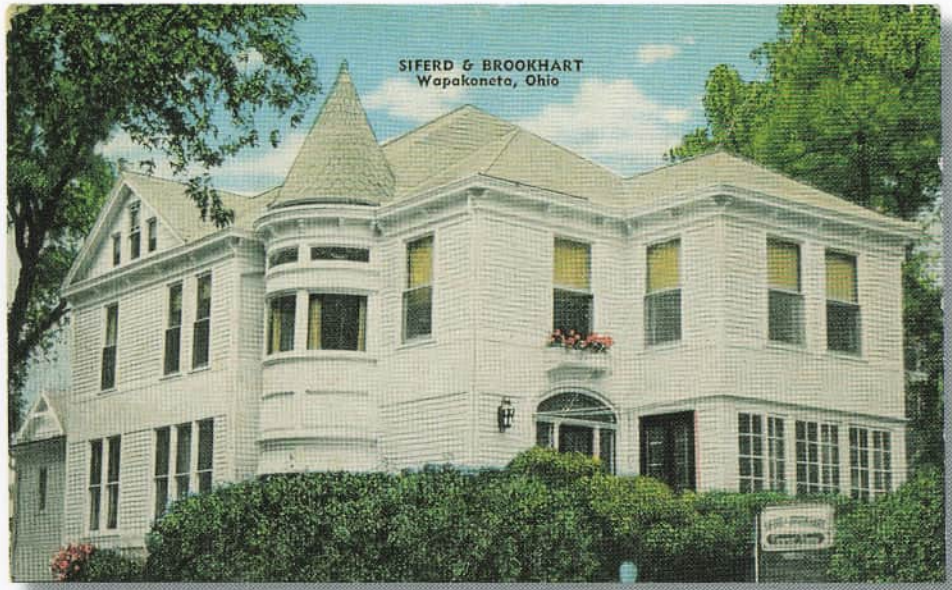
Corner Café; former professional baseball player Whitey Guese is thought to be the man on the far left, postmarked August 16, 1913



Interior of People's Bank, postmarked November 28, 1908

Wapakoneta

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Siferd & Brookhart Funeral Home, 303 West Auglaize Street



West Auglaize Street, postmarked June 21, 1911



West Auglaize Street, postmarked July 30, 1910



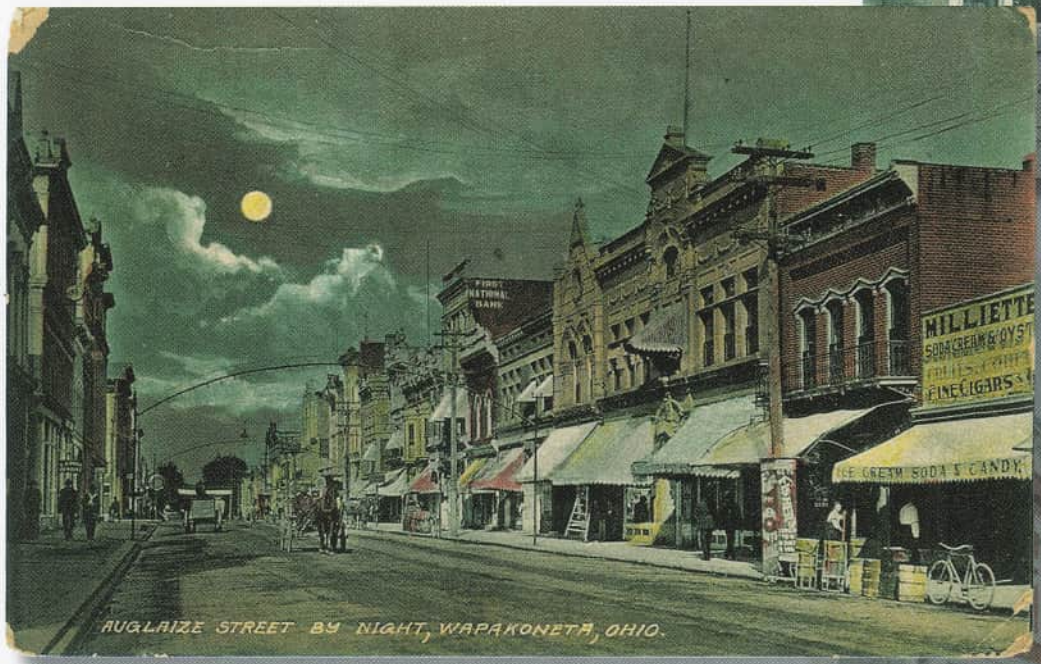
West Auglaize Street, postmarked July 20, 1930

Auglaize Street

The arched gas lights were removed in 1921.



Auglaize Street, postmarked November 9, 1908



Auglaize Street at night, postmarked September 24, 1908



Auglaize Street looking east, postmarked May 11, 1919

Wapakoneta

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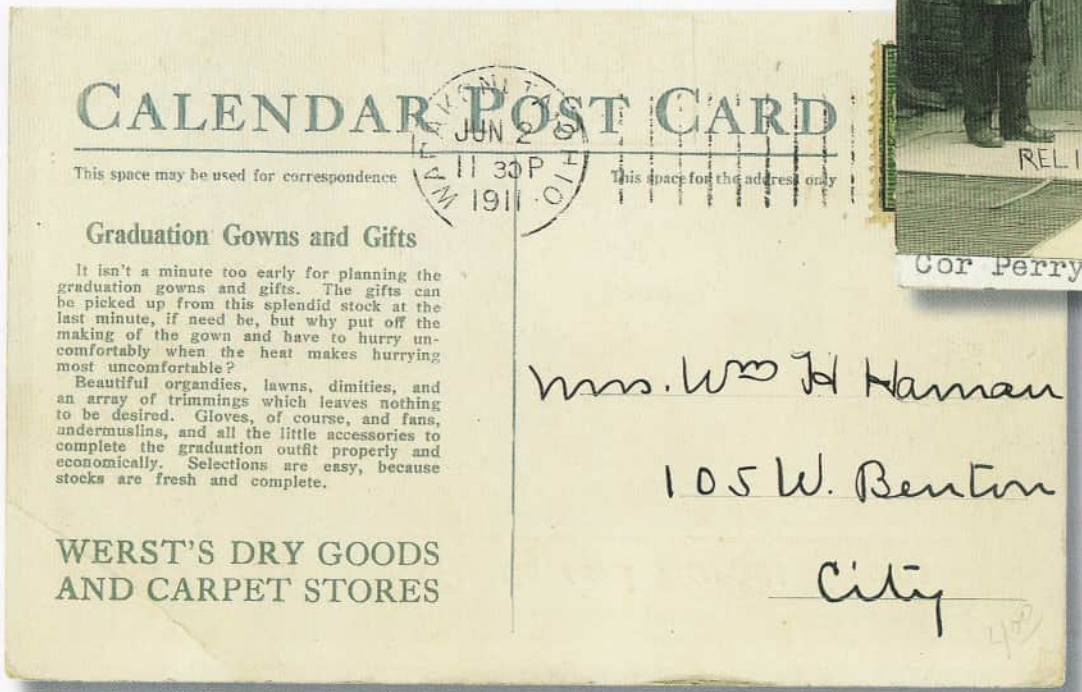
Auglaize & Perry Streets



Henry J. Werst, corner of Auglaize and Perry Streets, postmarked 1911



The boy pictured in the center is Harry Kahn, who, in later years, would become one of Wapakoneta and Auglaize County's best promoters, serving as Chamber of Commerce director and Fair Board secretary.



A calendar postcard from Henry Werst's Store, postmarked 1911

Wapakoneta

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Willipie Street



Postmarked May 13, 1912



Postmarked 1910



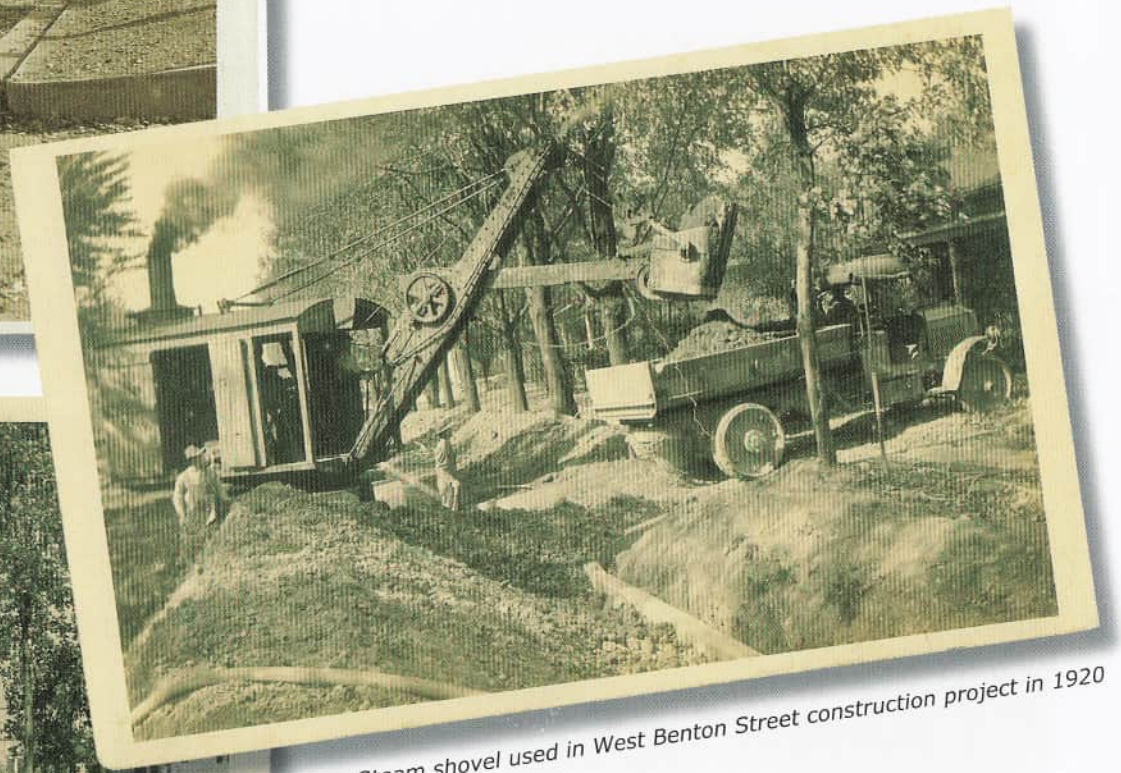
The Wapakoneta Telephone Company built on the site of this creamery at 4 Willipie Street in 1918.

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Benton Street



402 and 404 West Benton Street, postmarked 1920



Steam shovel used in West Benton Street construction project in 1920



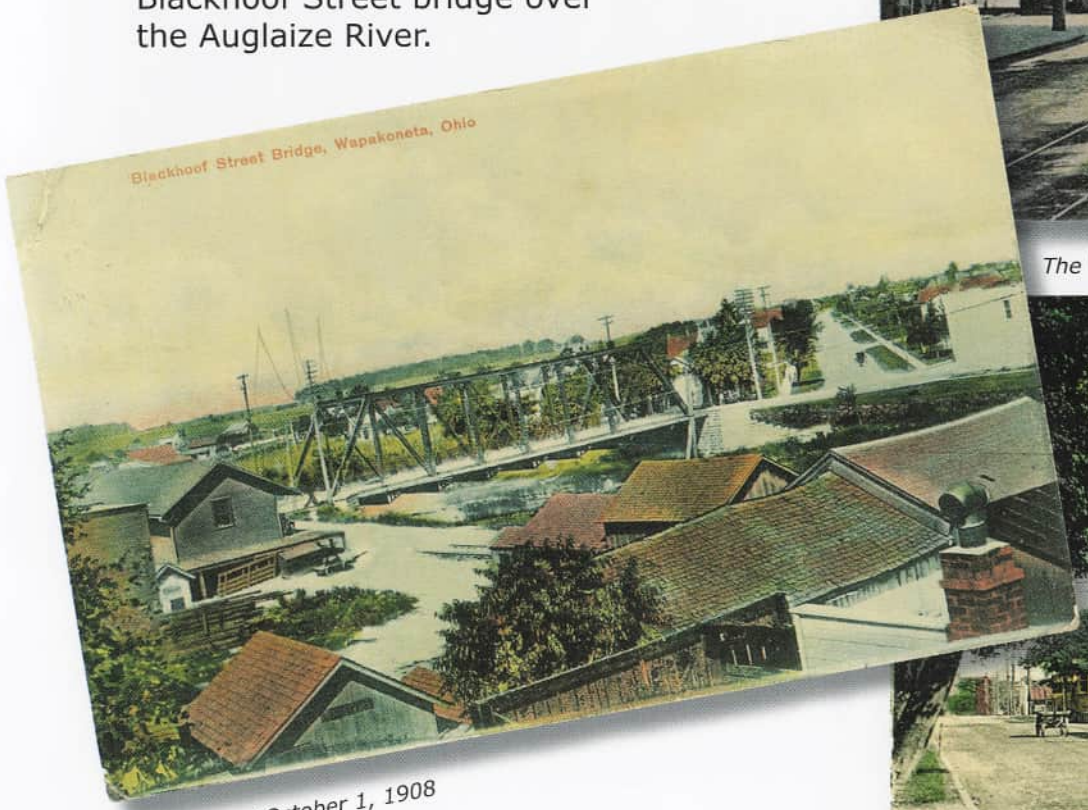
406 West Benton Street, postmarked 1920

Wapakoneta

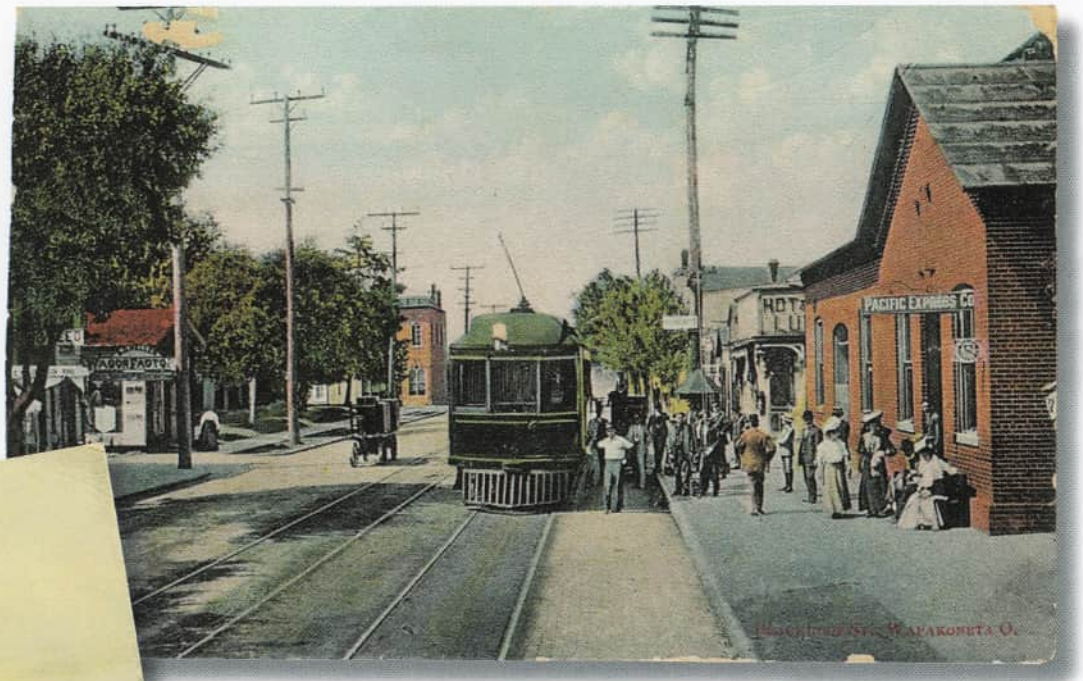
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Blackhoof Street

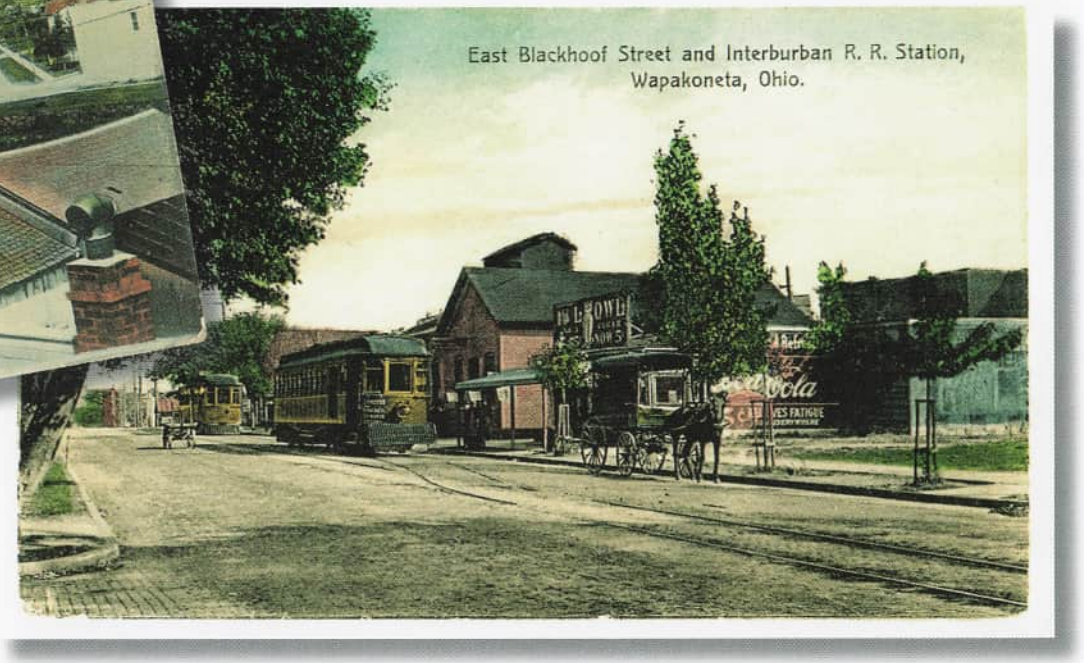
The postcard below provides a bird's-eye view of the Blackhoof Street bridge over the Auglaize River.



Postmarked October 1, 1908



The Western Ohio Railway station, 12 South Blackhoof Street, established in 1901



The building with the café sign was known as Zint's Cabin. It was constructed in 1904 and razed in 1946.

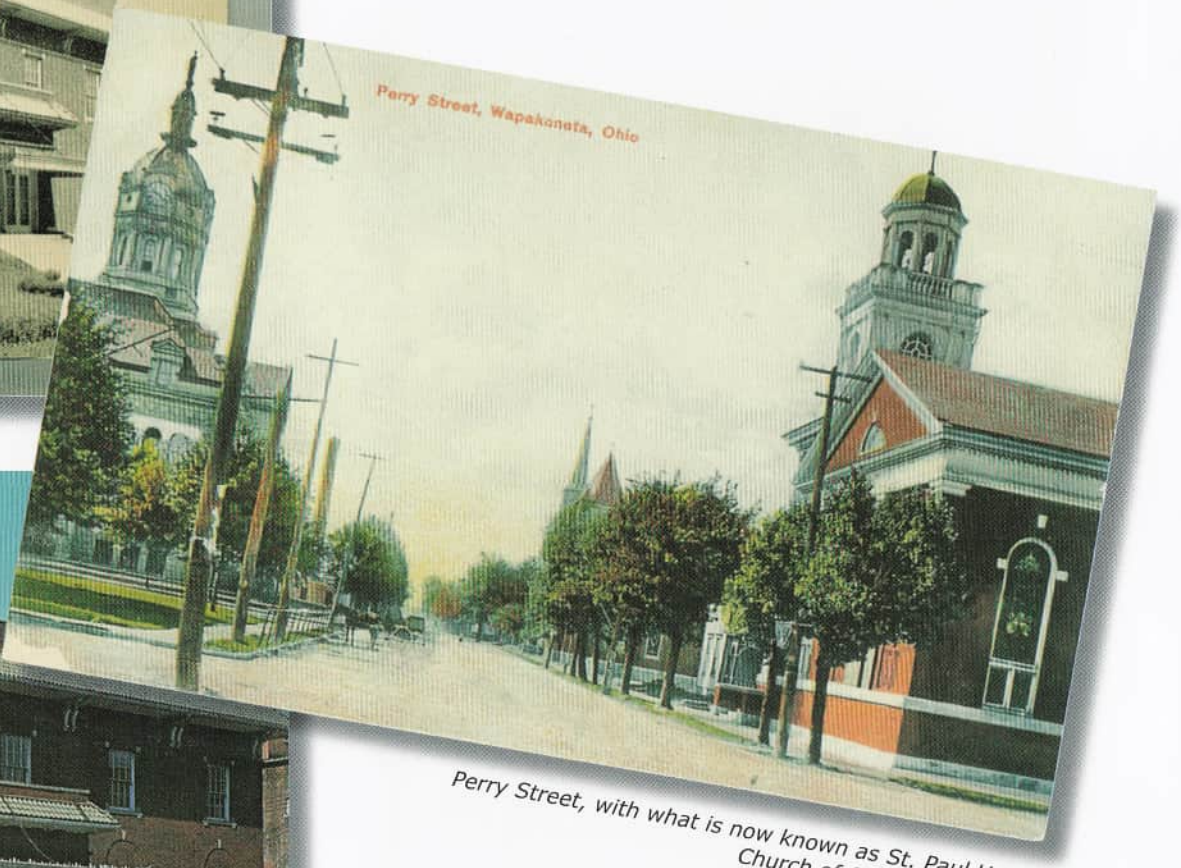
Wapakoneta

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Perry Street



Elks Lodge, Perry and Main Streets, postmarked June 15,1927



Perry Street, with what is now known as St. Paul United Church of Christ on the right



Wapakoneta

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More Wapakoneta Post Cards





Joining the parade near the courthouse

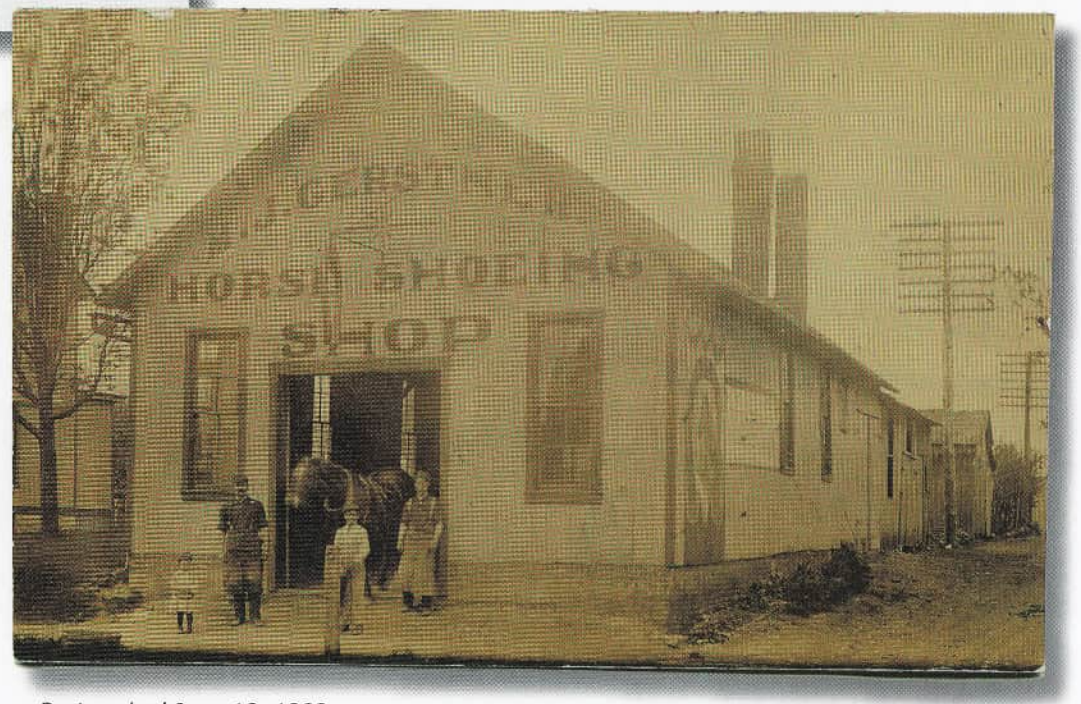


Mystery card...where is this location in Wapakoneta? *Postmarked November 17, 1908*

Wapakoneta Post Cards



Miller's Laundry & Dry Cleaners at 1002 Bellefontaine Avenue was established in 1946 by Robert D. Miller.



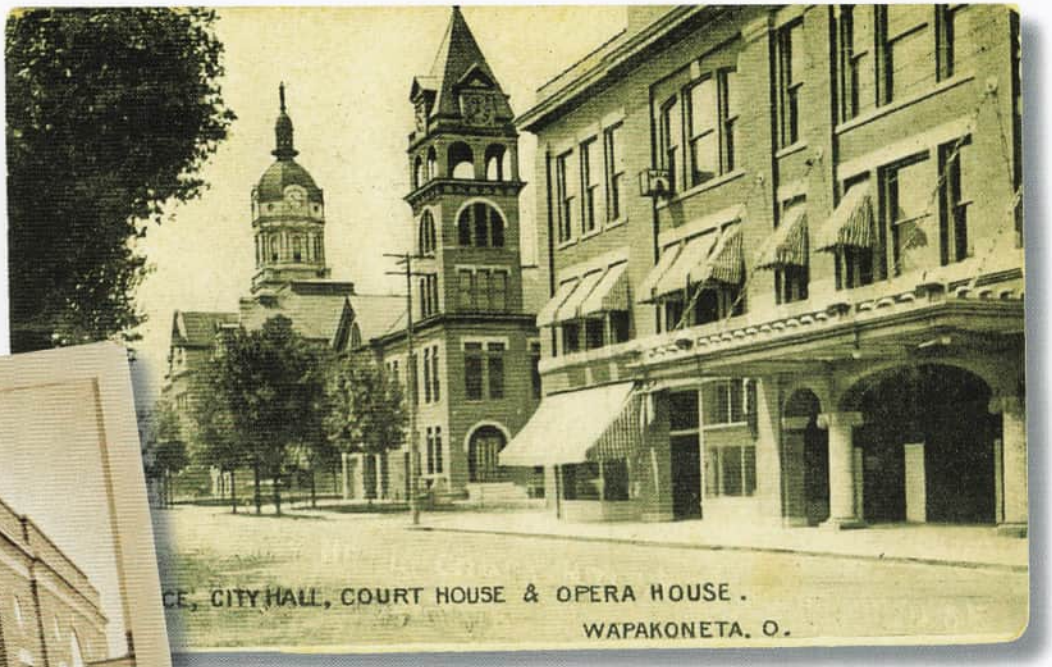
Mathias Gerstner's Horse Shoeing Shop on South Water Street was established in 1896 and closed in 1916.

Postmarked June 10, 1909

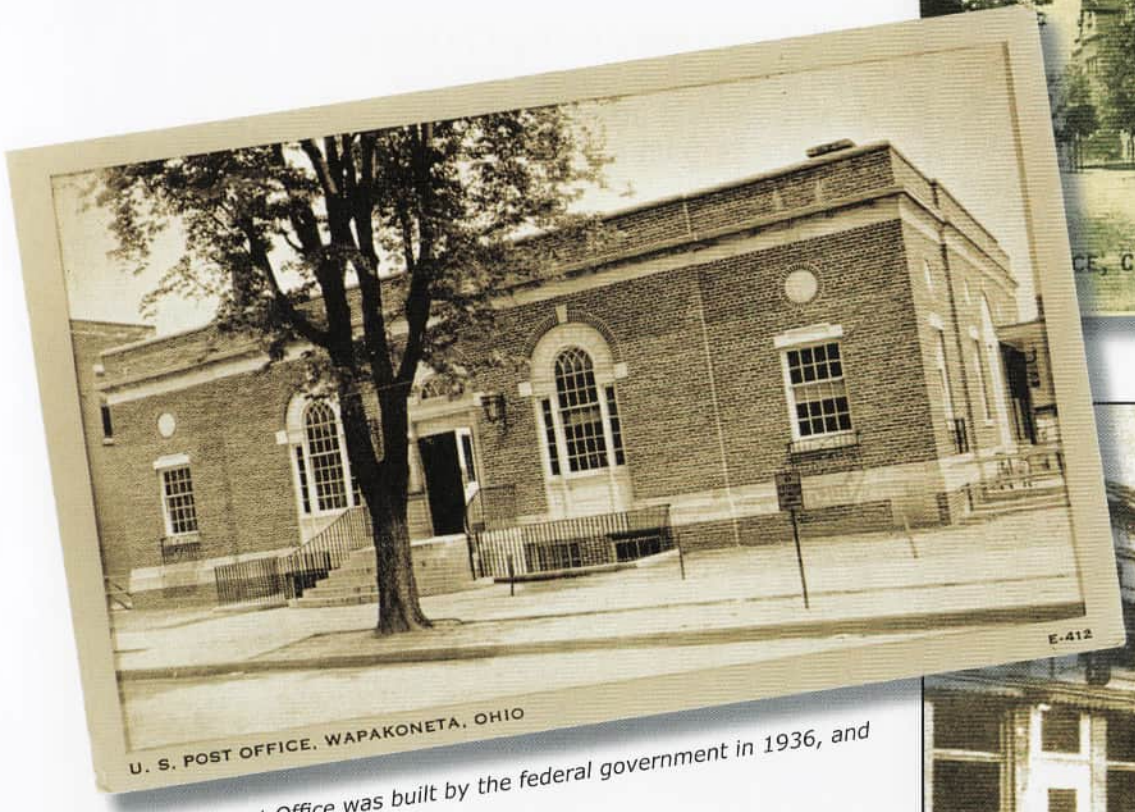
Wapakoneta

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Wapakoneta Post Office
Willipie Street



The Post Office was once located in the southwest corner of the Brown Theatre building (in the storefront distinguished by the awning).



The new Post Office was built by the federal government in 1936, and is still used today.



The Democrat Printing Company, 8 Willipie Street in 1910. The building on the right, the Henry House, is the site of the current post office.

www.andyniekamp.com

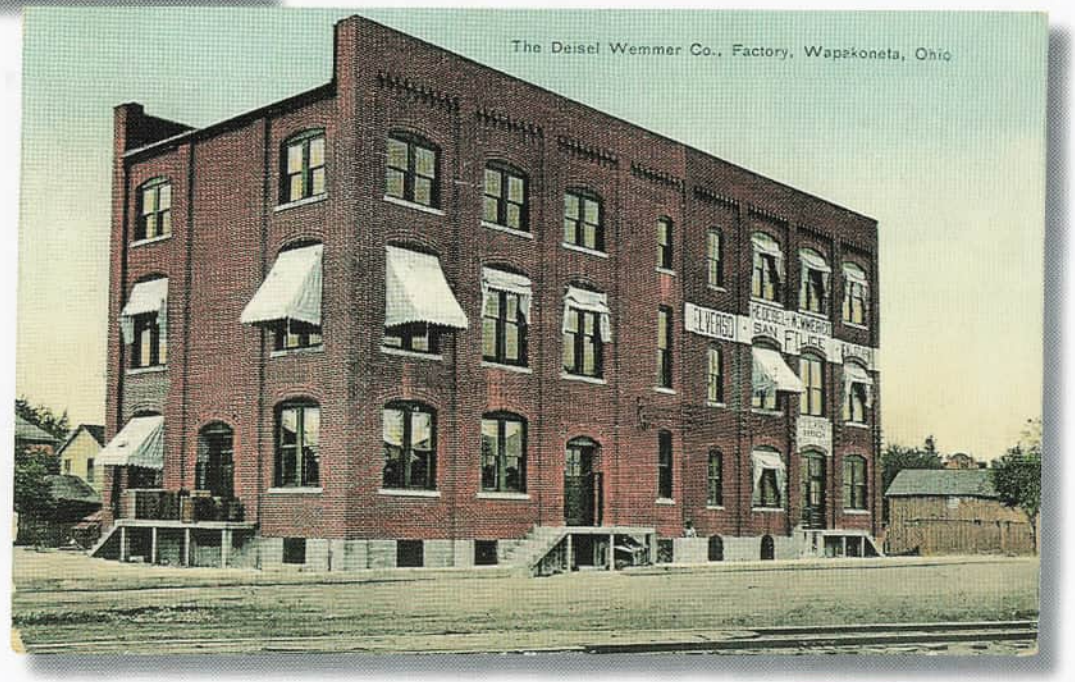


Home Milling Company

Established in 1891, this mill was located at 116 East Auglaize Street, adjacent to the railroad in Wapakoneta. By 1905 the company had reached a daily output of one-hundred barrels of flour, sold under the name of Old Homestead Flour. The business also stocked animal feed and field seed. The building was demolished in 1921.

Deisel-Wemmer Cigar Company

A branch of Deisel-Wemmer Cigar Company was established at the corner of Park and Mechanic streets in September 1907. In less than a decade the company employed 300 people in the manufacture of 50,000 cigars daily. The factory closed in the late 1930s, but the building stood until destroyed by fire in 1987.

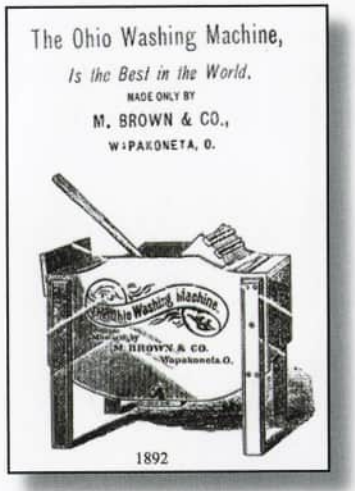


Wapakoneta

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The M. Brown Company

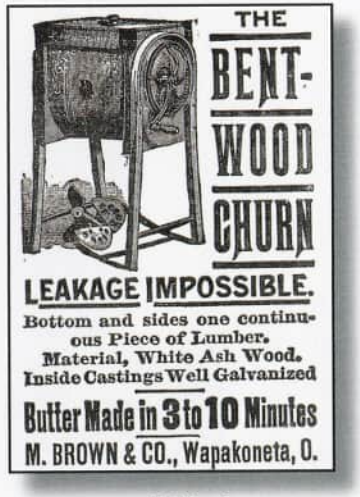
Michael Brown grew up on a farm just north of Wapakoneta. He moved to town in 1871, at which time he co-founded a small company to manufacture grain measures. By 1873 his original partner had been bought out and a new firm—M. Brown & Company— established with Joseph Brown and Francis J. McFarland. In 1877 Brown gained a patent on what he called the Bent Wood Churn. The patent honored Brown's new method for forming the churn box from three pieces of wood, with the two ends and center section bent into a U. The patent also reflected a new packing that prevented leaks as well as the metal braces that maintained the churn's shape. The churns were manufactured in 3- to 12-gallon sizes. By 1898 the company had sold 350,000 churns worldwide, and the business interest also included a lumber company. The businesses were located opposite one another in the 400 block of Park Street.



Sold in 1892 for $4.00



The M. Brown Lumber Company after the 1911 fire



1904 ad

In 1906 with both of his original partners long dead, Michael Brown oversaw the company's reorganization as M. Brown Company, himself serving as its president. The lumber yard suffered a devastating fire in 1911, but was rebuilt. (It later became the site of the Sheets Furniture Company.) Michael Brown died in 1917.

The Standard Churn Company was also located in Wapakoneta, founded in 1886. At its peak the company sold 40,000 churns annually. (After Brown's patent expired, the Standard Churn Company began producing a similarly designed churn that it marketed under the name Anti-Bentwood.) It actually survived through 1954 (having diversified production to include, for example, ice cream freezers), when the plant was destroyed by a fire and never rebuilt.

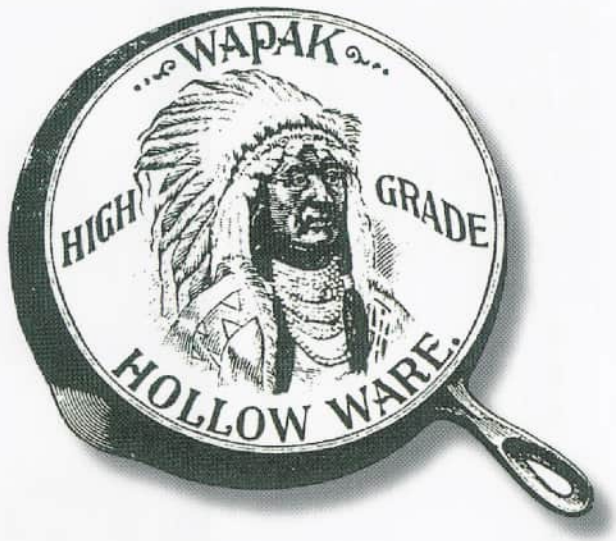
www.andyniekamp.com

The Wapak Hollow Ware Company



Founded on July 9, 1903, the company was located at the corner of Willipie Street and Krein Avenue. The Hollow Ware Company manufactured a complete line of skillets, kettles, griddles, pots, gem pans, and waffle irons, as well as sad irons, tailor's irons, and pressing irons. If that weren't enough, catch basins, manhole covers, and stove and furnace accessories were also produced here.

The company went bankrupt in 1928.



Wapakoneta

www.andyniekamp.com

The Snyder Manufacturing Company

Located on Park Street, this furniture company was the successor to Swink Brothers and Company (William and J.L.), which had been established in 1870. First known as Swink, Snyder, and Company, it was known as the Snyder Manufacturing Company by 1910 or before.

The Wapakoneta Machine Company

In 1891 Rudolph Schimmel and Carl D. Fischer, Sr., merged their respective machine shops to form the Wapakoneta Machine Company. Located at 206 North Street, the company is one of the world's largest manufacturers of machine knives, which range in size from one ounce to one ton. The building pictured in this postcard was replaced after it was destroyed by fire.



Postmarked 1909

Wapakoneta

www.andyniekamp.com

Wapakoneta Wheel Company



Wapakoneta Wheel Company

Established in 1872, the Wapakoneta Wheel Company was located at 112 Lima Street. In 1891 its owners secured the Bimel Wagon Works (wheel factory) in St. Marys, and moved operations there. The company was known for producing wheels with a wrought iron band, protecting the wood hub and preventing the spokes from loosening.

New Wapakoneta Wheel Company



When the original Wapakoneta Wheel Company moved its operation to St. Marys, the New Wapakoneta Wheel Company was established in the same building.



New Wapakoneta Wheel Company, postmarked April 24, 1913

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The Auglaize River & The 1913 Flood

In March 1913 heavy rains caused rivers and creeks to overflow, causing the greatest flood that Ohio has ever known.







Wapakoneta

www.andyniekamp.com





West Auglaize Street, postmarked March 25,1913





The peaceful Auglaize River, years after the flood

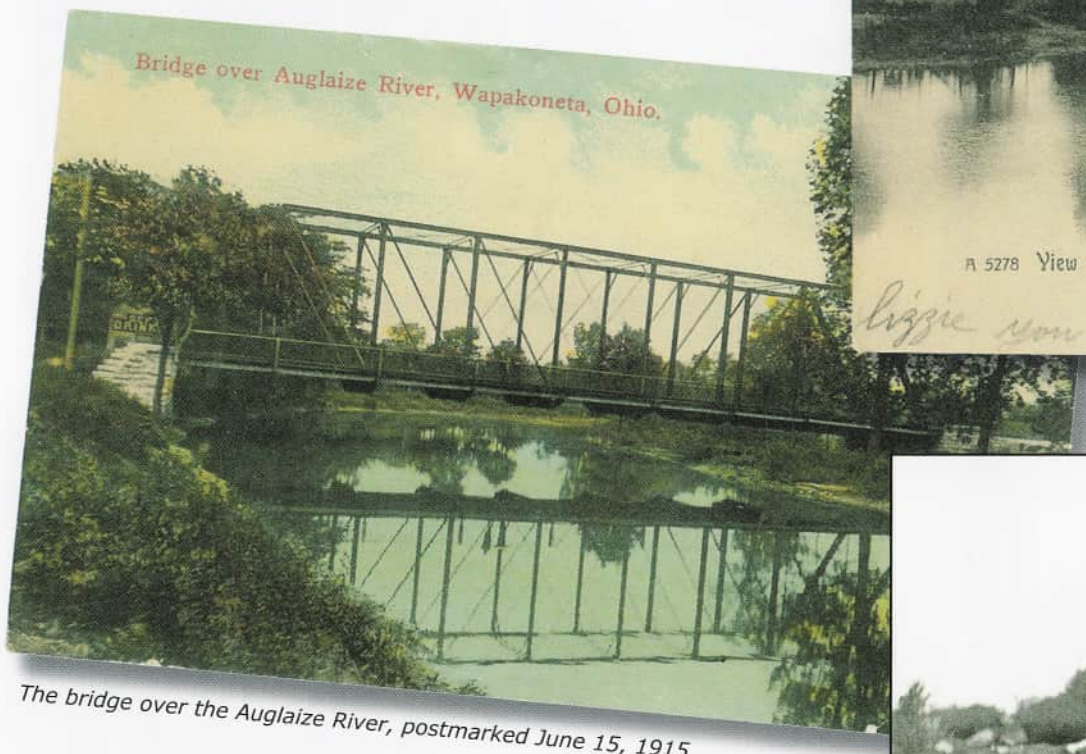
Wapakoneta

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Auglaize River and Bridges



Postmarked November 8, 1906



The bridge over the Auglaize River, postmarked June 15, 1915



The Wapakoneta Standpipe (water tower) can be seen in the background.

Wapakoneta

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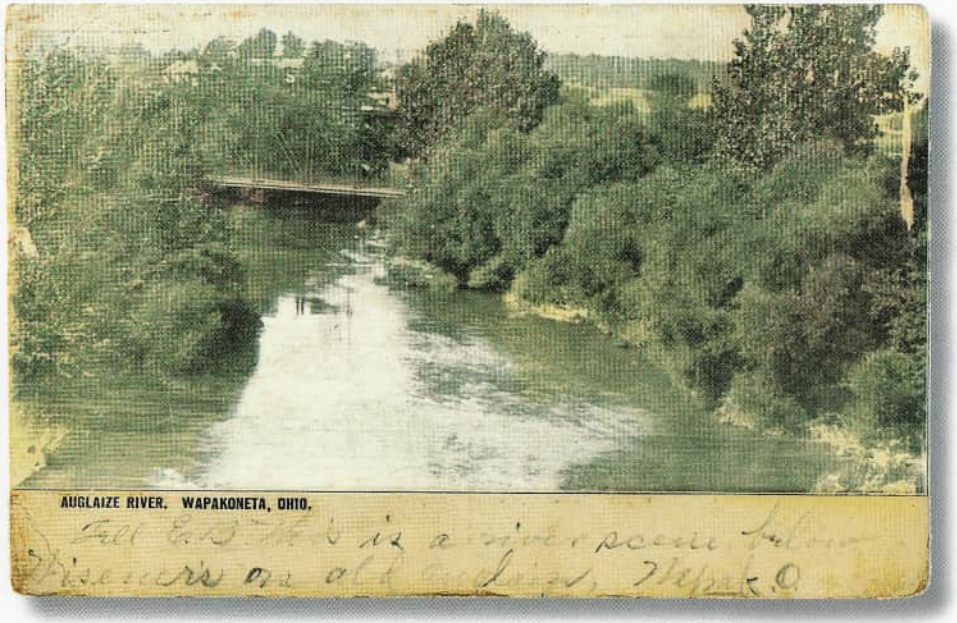
Auglaize River dam at Hamilton Road, built in 1908



Blackhoof Street Bridge, postmarked December 26, 1908



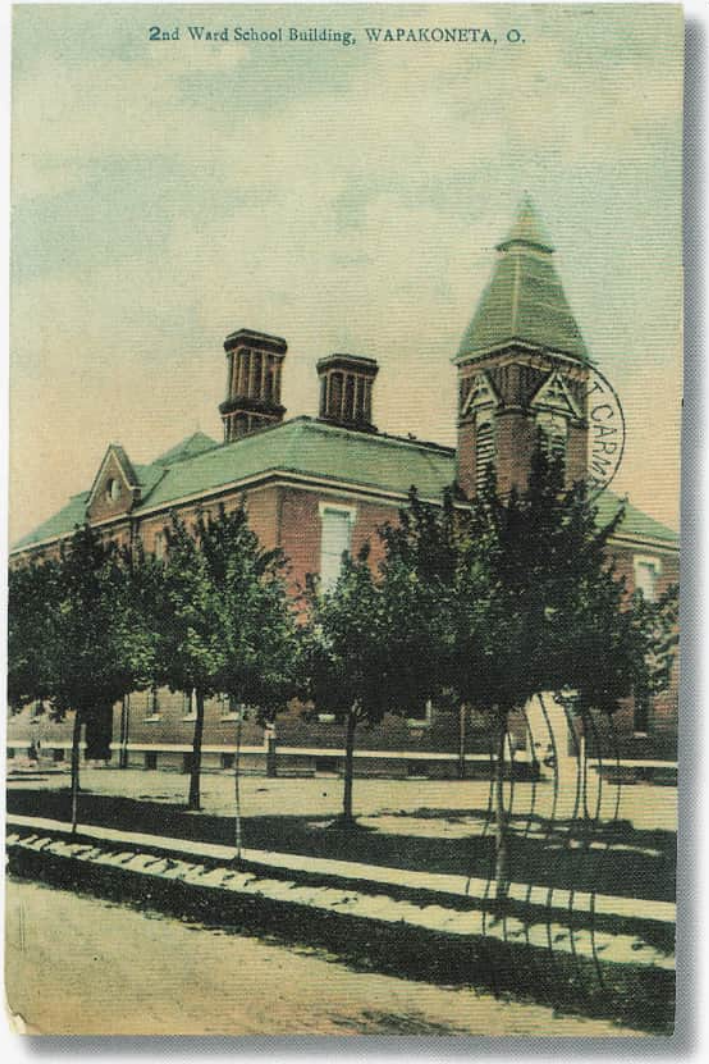
Hamilton Road Bridge, postmarked June 8, 1911



A scene from the Auglaize River, postmarked November 25, 1907

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Wapakoneta Schools



Second Ward School, 311 East Mechanic Street. Built in 1889; razed in 1946.



St. Joseph School, 111 West Pearl Street. Built in 1899



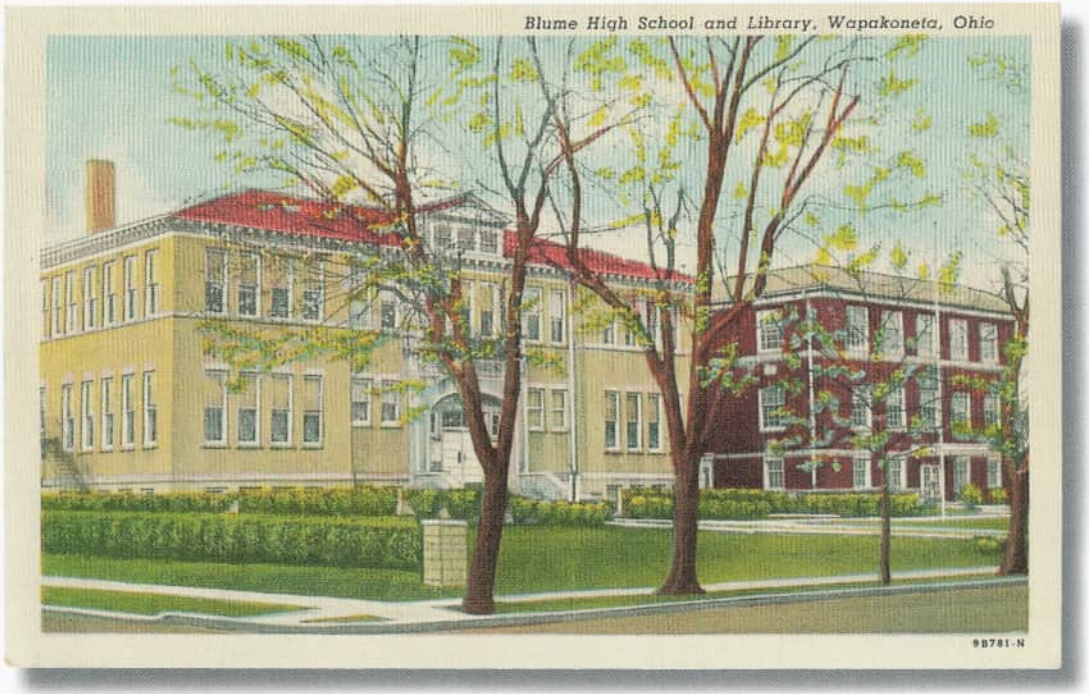
Third Ward School, 207 West Main Street. Built in 1875; razed in 1952. It was also known as Union School and, until the end of its life, as Williamson School, in honor of former superintendent (and author of the 1905 History of Auglaize County*) C.W. Williamson.*

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Blume High School



Postmarked June 13, 1908



Blume High School and Library, circa 1925

Wapakoneta's first high school was constructed on South Blackhoof Street in 1908 and named after L.N. Blume, who donated the site.

The 1923 red brick addition, a gymnasium and library, were built thanks to a $50,000 bequest in Blume's will.

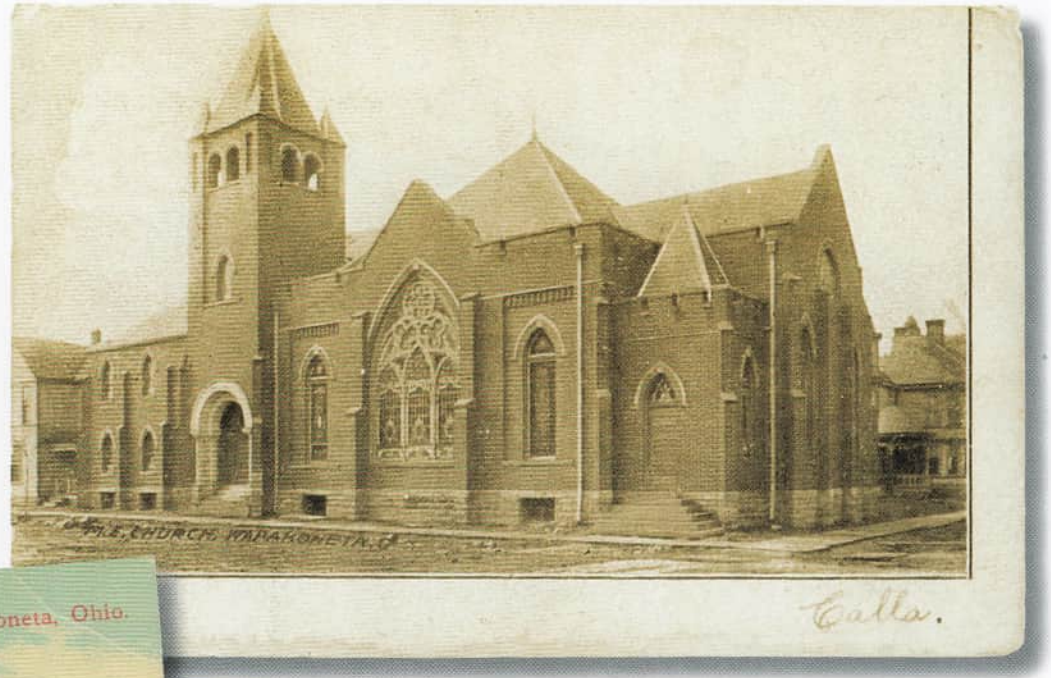
In January 1959 a new high school was constructed. The 1908 building began to be used as a middle school.

Today the building houses the Blume Alumni Apartments.

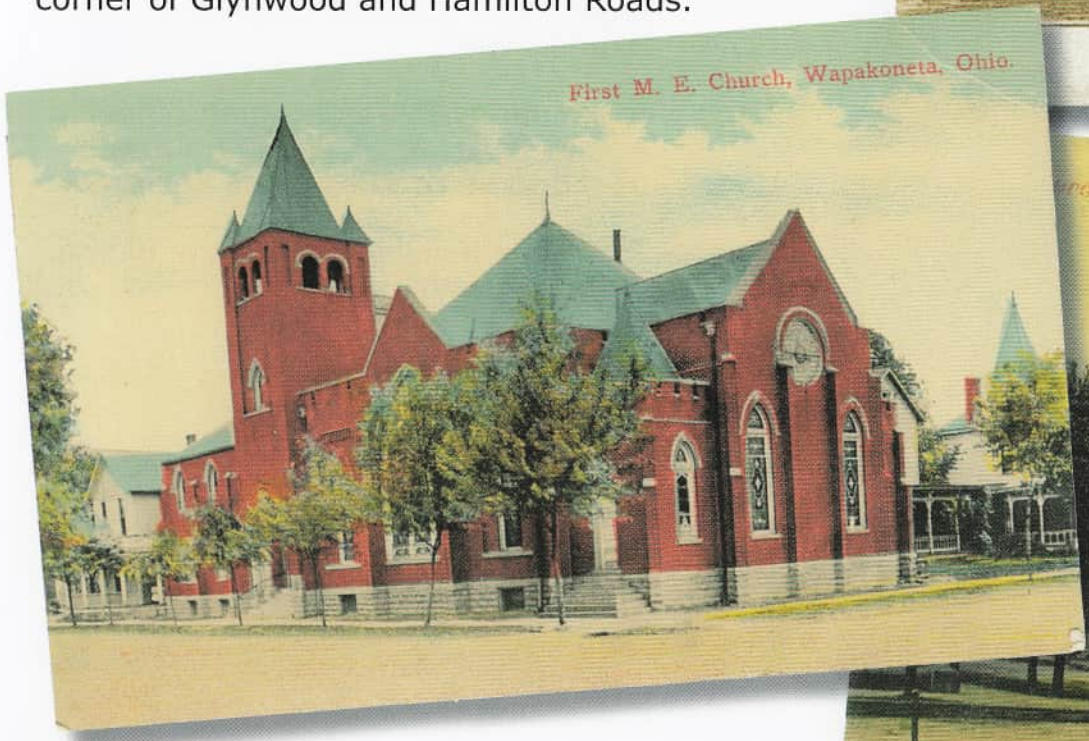
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United Methodist Church

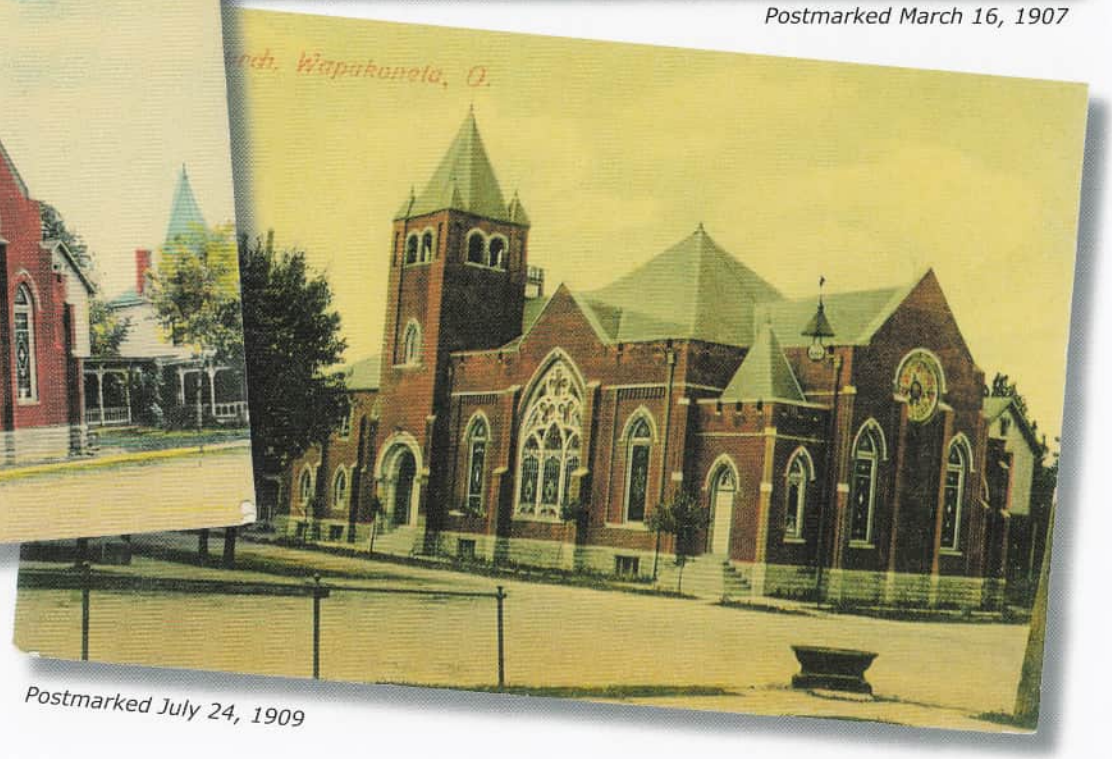
The Methodists form Wapakoneta's oldest religious congregation, having been founded in 1833, the same year as the community's establishment. The church pictured here, located on the current site of the Auglaize County Public District Library, is the congregation's third, having been constructed in 1905-06. The First United Methodist Church is now located at the corner of Glynwood and Hamilton Roads.



Postmarked March 16, 1907



Postmarked 1917

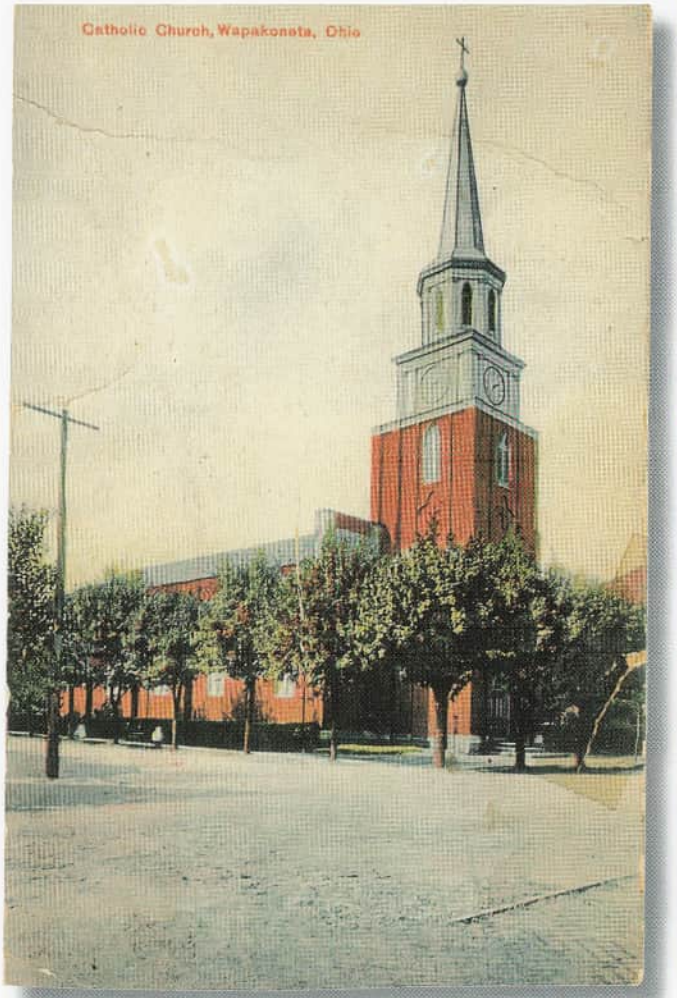


Postmarked July 24, 1909

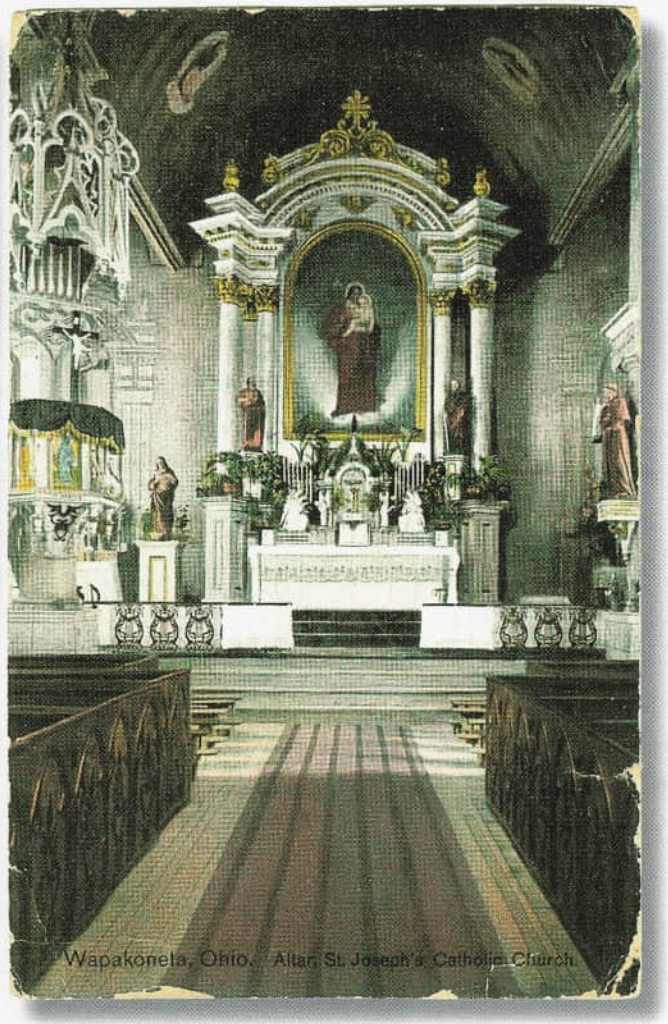
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St. Joseph Catholic Church

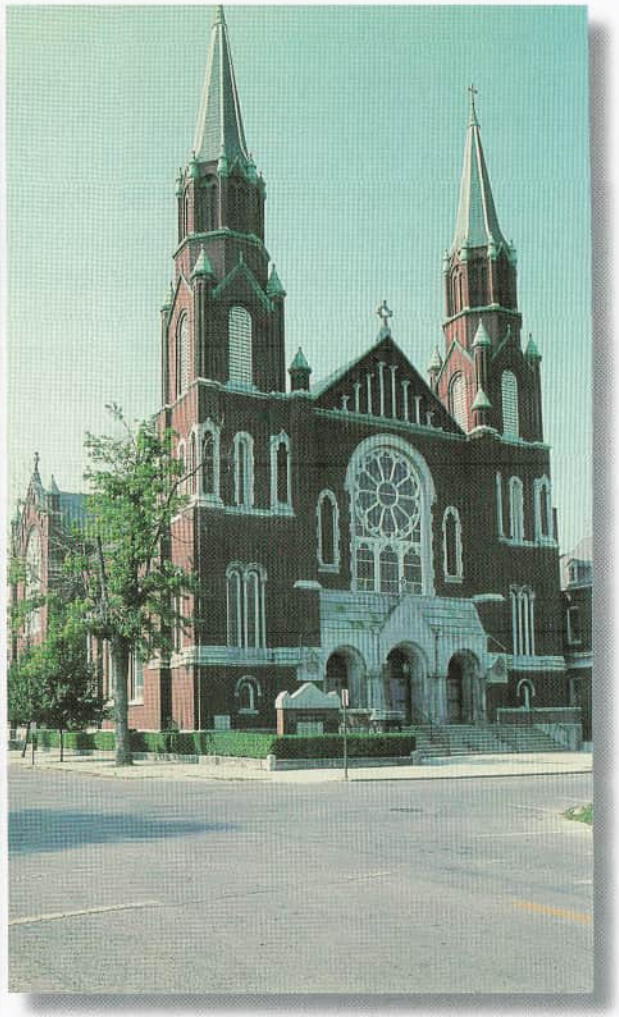
St. Joseph Catholic Church was founded in 1839. The congregation constructed a single-tower church on the corner of Pearl and Perry streets in 1858. This building served for more than half a century, when it was replaced by the current structure.



The 1858 St. Joseph Catholic Church, razed in 1910



The interior of the 1858 church



The current St. Joseph Catholic Church was dedicated on October 6, 1911.

Wapakoneta

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First English Lutheran and St. Paul Churches

The early history of St. Paul United Church of Christ and First English Lutheran Church is entwined in the 1850 founding of the Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische St. Paulus Kirche zu Wapaukonetta (German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul Congregation of Wapaukonetta). According to First English Lutheran historian Charles Pepple, Sr., this was one of several "union" congregations, loose associations of German immigrants from Lutheran and Reformed traditions who bonded together for worship.

In 1857 a small number of members decided to leave St. Paul and establish the first English-speaking Lutheran congregation in the area.

The current St. Paul church was dedicated in 1871. The Evangelical and Reformed Churches joined in 1934; in 1957 a merger with the Congregational Christian Churches created the United Church of Christ.

The current (1892) Lutheran Church is the congregation's second building, having replaced an 1859 structure.



Postmarked December 31, 1906



Postmarked March 16, 1907

Wapakoneta

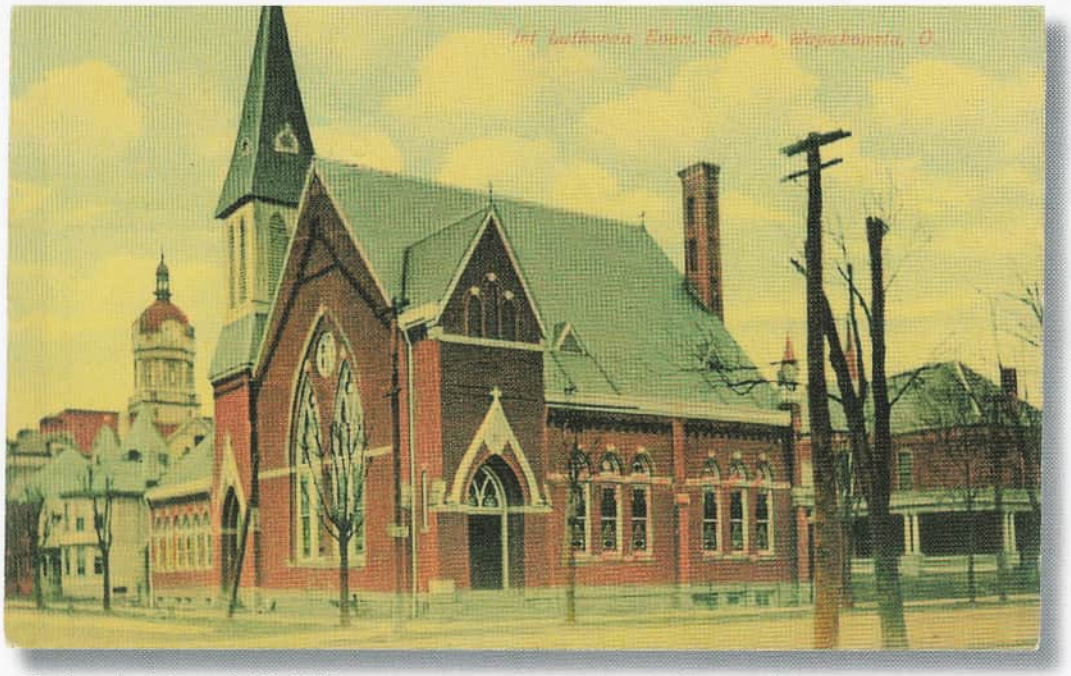
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Presbyterian Church

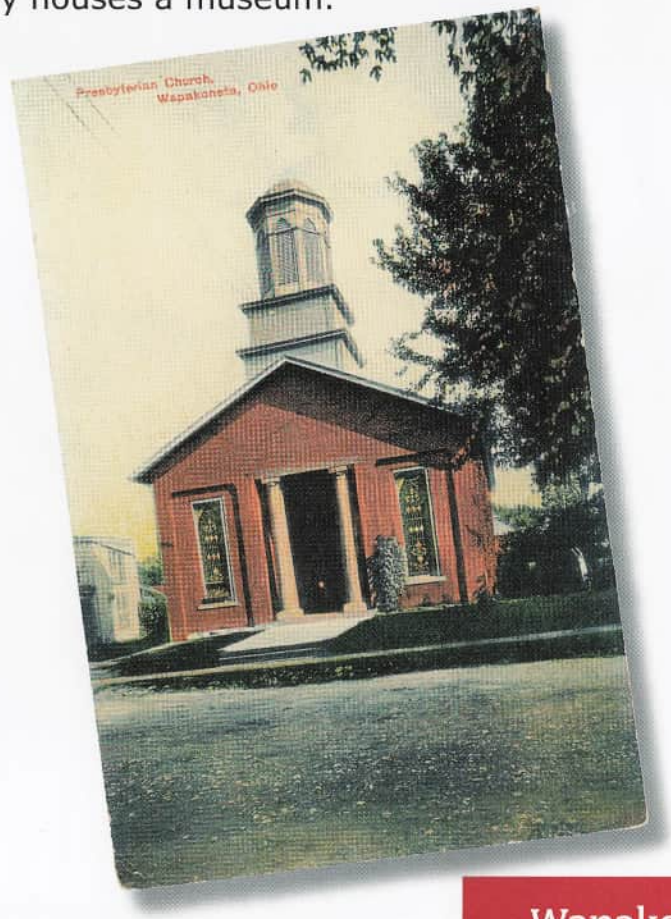
The First Presbyterian Church was built on West Main Street in 1861-62. After a financial scandal in 1929 caused the congregation's dissolution, the building was purchased by the Wapakoneta Woman's Club. The property was sold to the Auglaize County Historical Society in 1997, and today houses a museum.



Postmarked December 26, 1908



Postmarked August 18, 1913

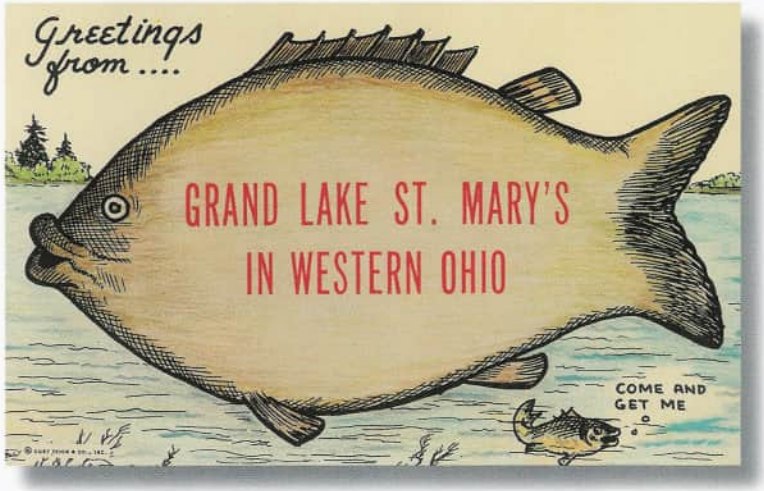


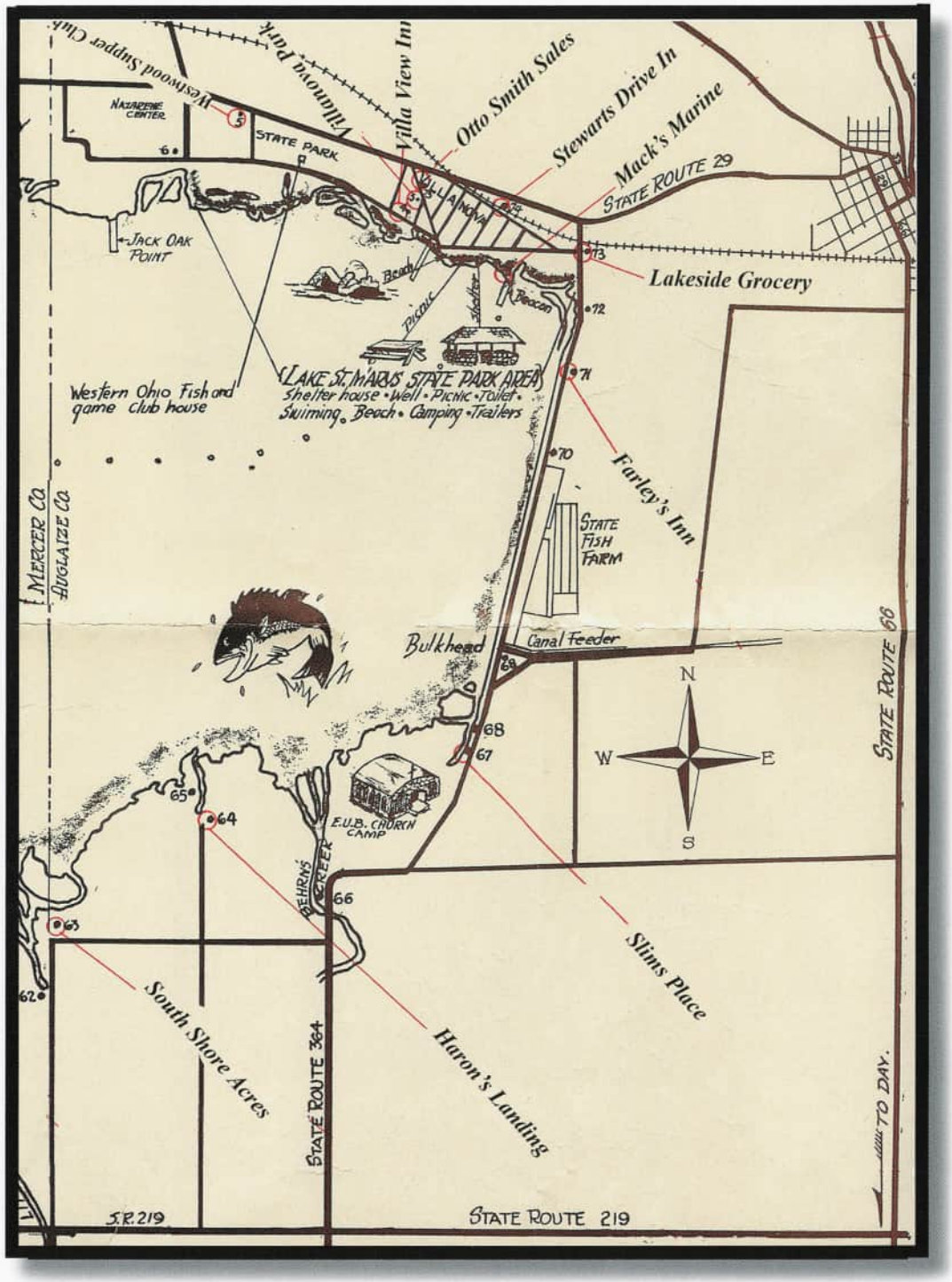
Wapakoneta

www.andyniekamp.com

Lake St. Marys

Grand Lake St. Marys was created as a reservoir to supply water for the Miami-Erie Canal. Construction began in 1836 and was completed eight years later, at a cost of $600,000. The 17,500-acre reservoir was the largest man-made lake in the world until the advent of modern earth-moving machinery.





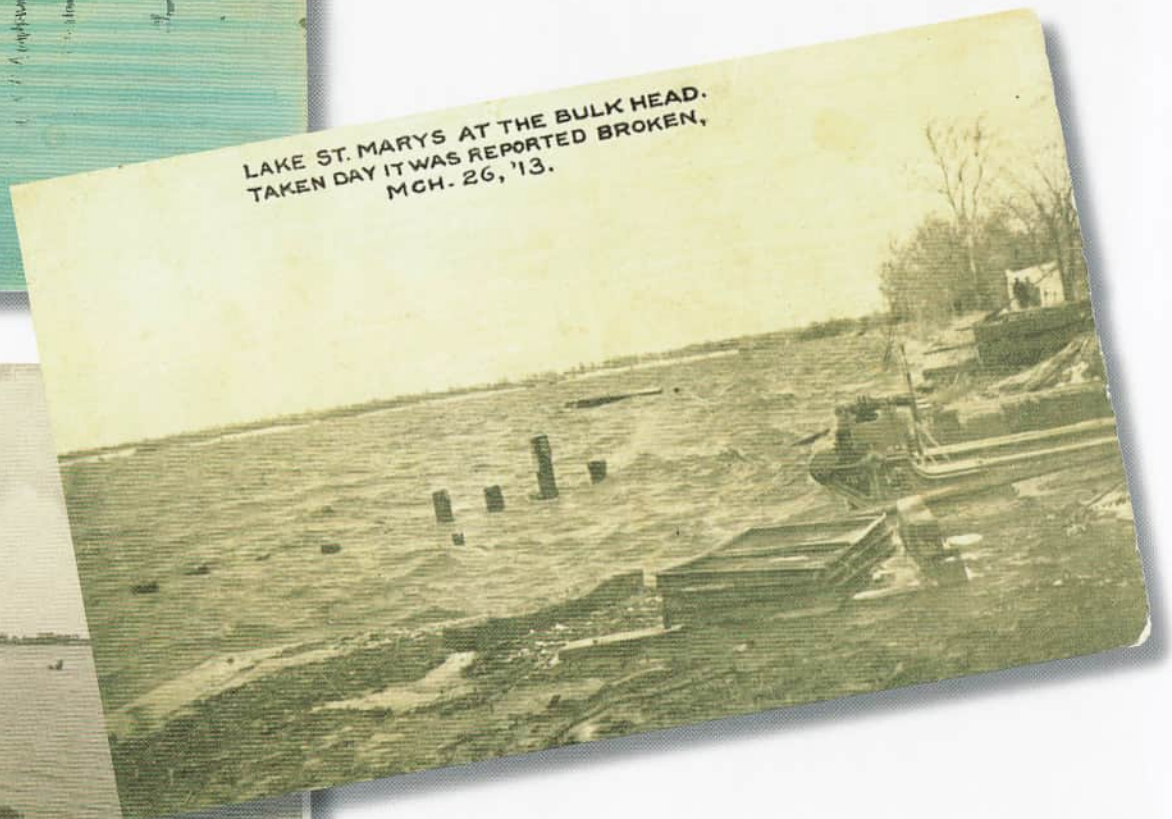
Map of the Auglaize County portion of the lake drawn by J.R. Nighbor (c.1945).

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Lake St. Marys

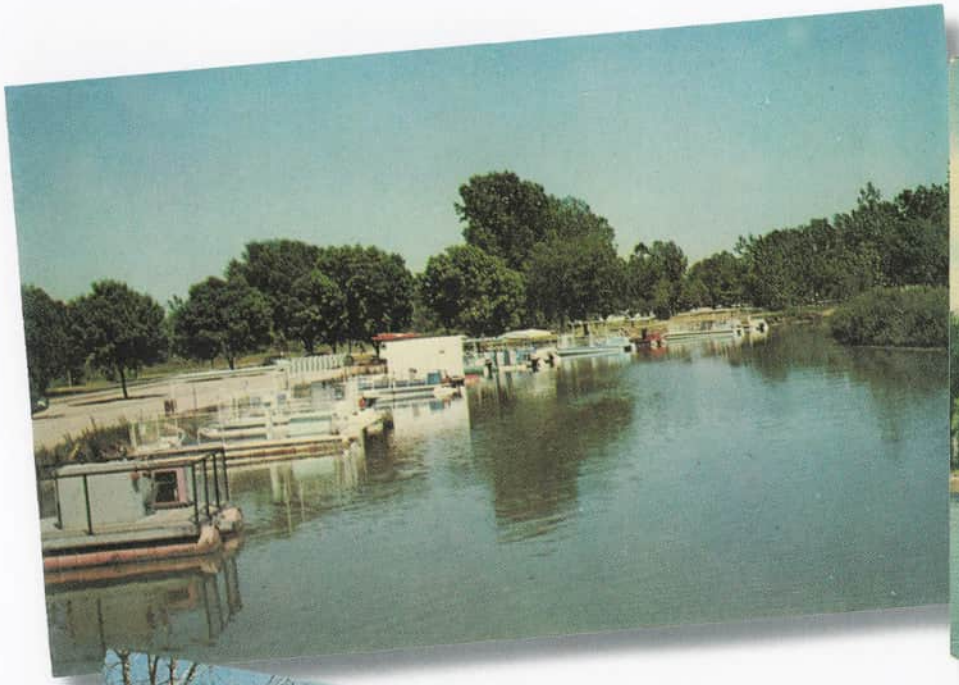


Postmarked June 5, 1908





Lake St. Marys





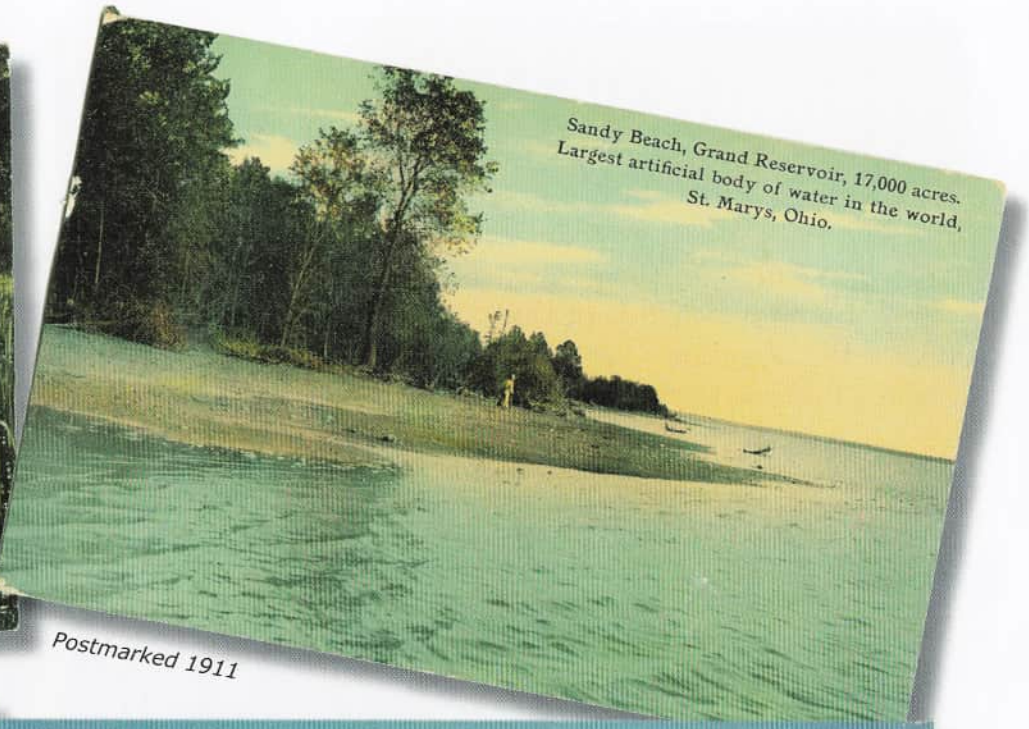




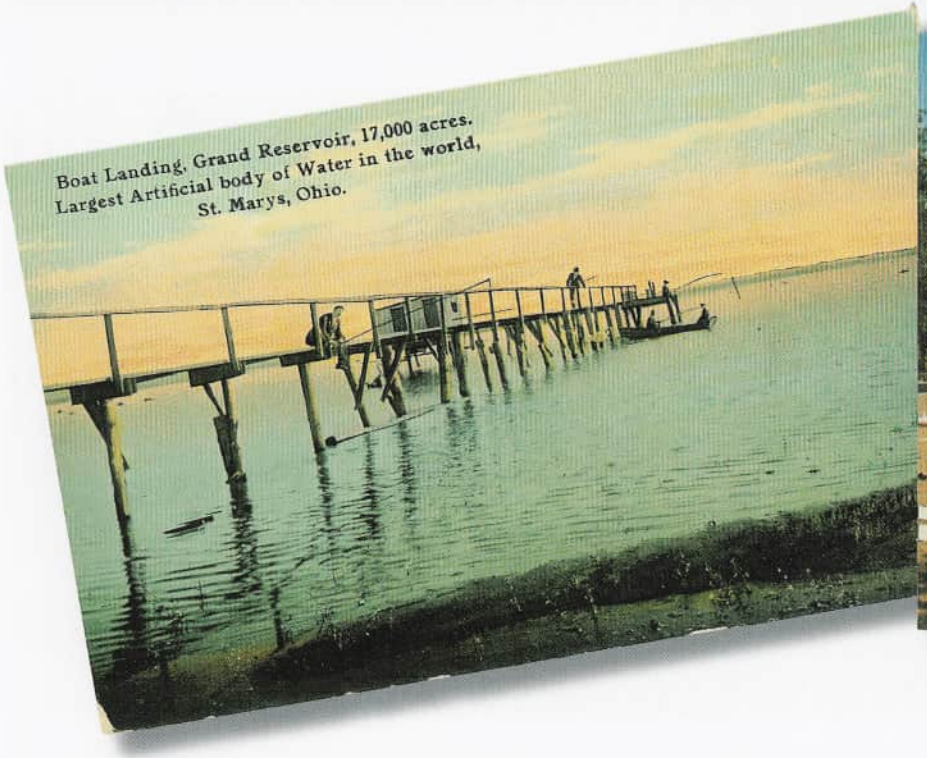
Lake St. Marys

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Postmarked 1911



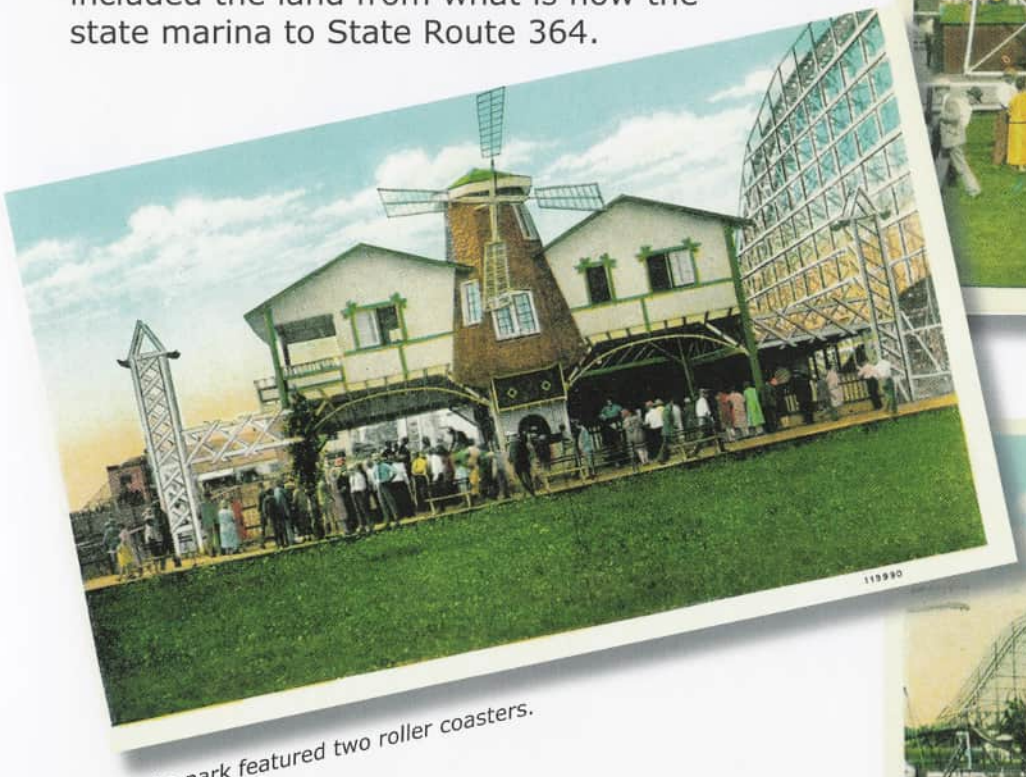


Lake St. Marys

www.andyniekamp.com

Gordon State Park

Gordon State Park was located on the northeast corner of the lake, and included the land from what is now the state marina to State Route 364.



The park featured two roller coasters.



The Chairplane, ferris wheel and merry-go-round were among the featured rides at the park.



The park opened on July 4, 1924, but was plagued by disaster, including two fires, a tornado, and the Great Depression. Gordon State Park closed in 1933.

Lake St. Marys

www.andyniekamp.com

Gordon State Park

Known variously as the Pier, the Palace, or the Dance Pavilion, the dance hall at Gordon State Park was one of Ohio's largest at 50 x 300 feet. The dance hall was built in 1924, but was destroyed by fire on December 8, 1931.







Lake St. Marys

www.andyniekamp.com

Oil Wells At The Lake

"You can taste this stuff in everything you eat and drink."



The fish hatchery is located here today.



Postmarked July 5, 1907



Lake Area

The first off-shore oil drilling in the world was on Lake St. Marys in 1891.





Postmarked July 12, 1907



Postmarked November 29, 1906

Lake St. Marys

www.andyniekamp.com

East Bank
(State Route 364)

Some 1700 men were employed constructing the east and west banks of the lake. Paid 30 cents a day, employee perks also included a jigger of whiskey and a shanty in which to live. The work day ran from sunrise to sunset.







www.andyniekamp.com

East Bank
(State Route 364)





Louis Haeseker Bait Shop





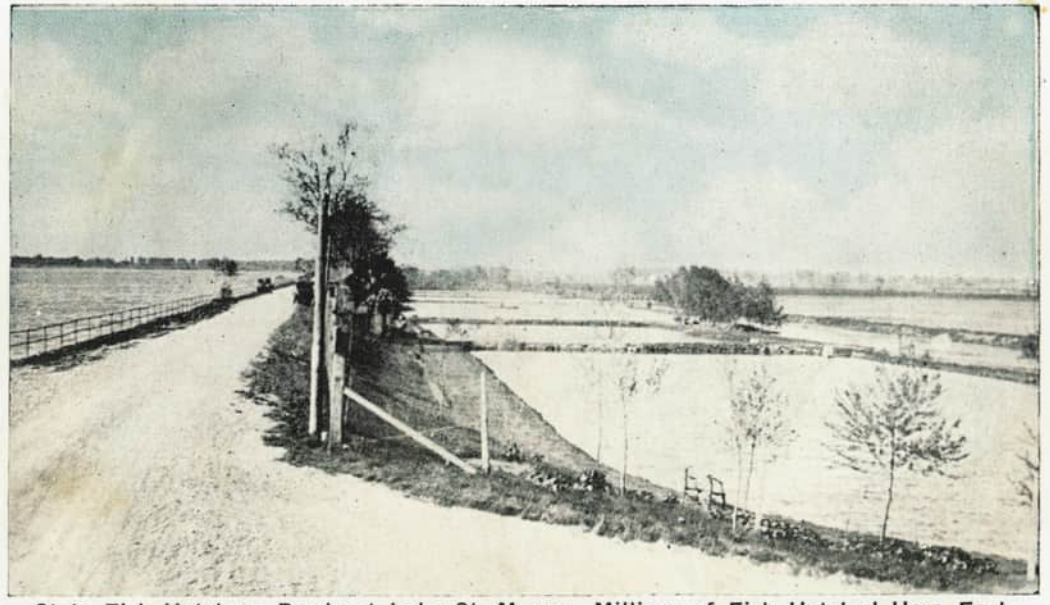
1938

Lake St. Marys

www.andyniekamp.com

State Fish Hatchery

In 1913 Fred Magill founded a fish hatchery in conjunction with the Ohio Fish & Game Association. When state officials became convinced of the facility's potential, they acquired additional land for an expanded operation. October 1936 marked the official dedication of the St. Marys Fish Hatchery.



State Fish Hatchery Ponds at Lake St. Marys. Millions of Fish Hatched Here Each Year. St. Marys, Ohio

Postmarked August 27, 1924



Postmarked June 9, 1943

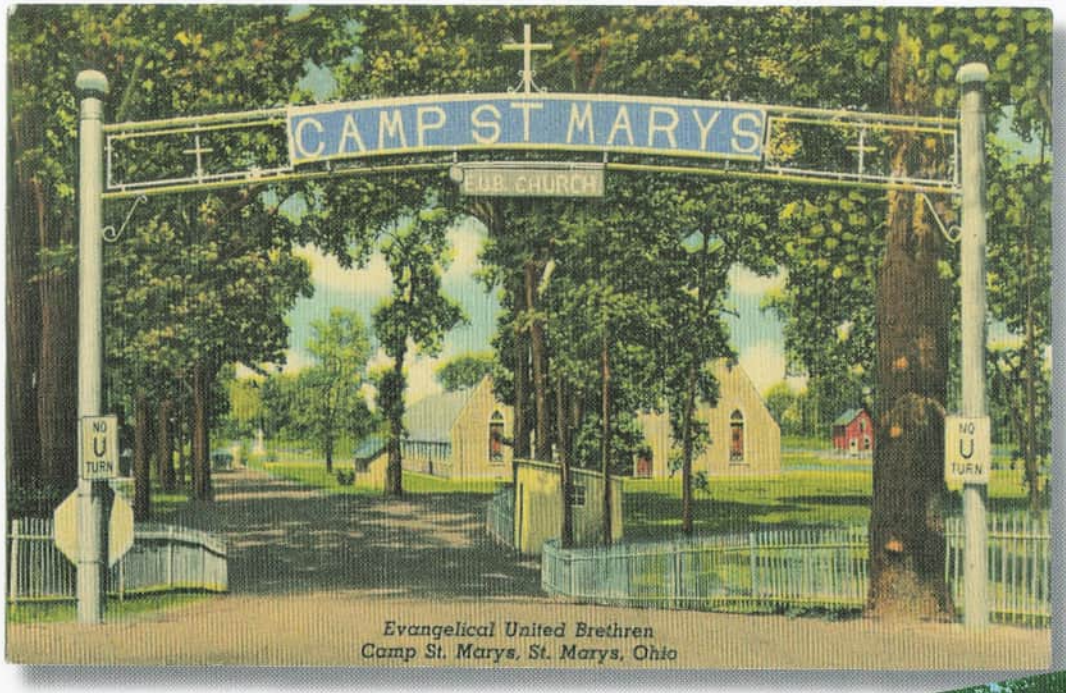


Postmarked September 9, 1938

Lake St. Marys

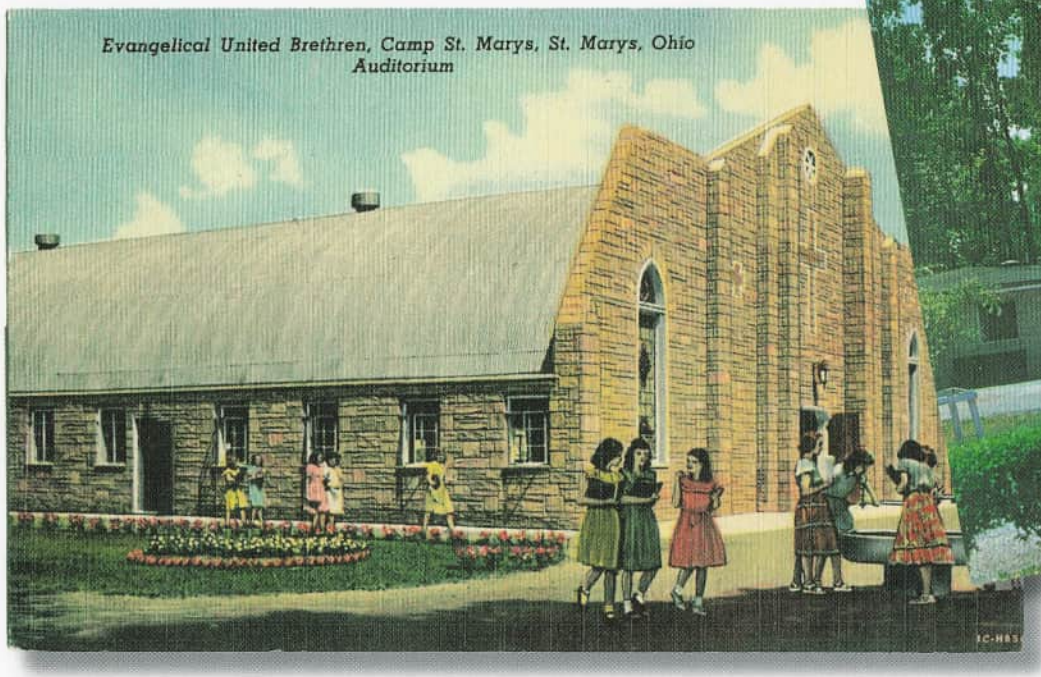
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Camp St. Marys



Evangelical United Brethren
Camp St. Marys, St. Marys, Ohio

The Evangelical United Brethren Church established the 83-acre Camp St. Marys in 1946. With the merger of the EUB and Methodist denominations, the site was developed into Otterbein St. Marys Retirement Living Community.


Evangelical United Brethren, Camp St. Marys, St. Marys, Ohio
Auditorium



Circa 1950

Lake St. Marys

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Camp St. Marys







June 3, 1959

Camp St. Marys Motel - Open To The Public

Forty-two modern fireproof rooms, lounge, luncheonette. A beautiful building on a beautiful island setting. Camp St. Marys auditorium seats 2,000 with eight classrooms. Dormitories and cottages for 850. Dining hall seats 600. Modern snack bar. Athletic field. Fishing, swimming, boating. Available for groups, religious, philanthropic organizations. Owned, operated by Ohio Sandusky Conference Evangelical United Brethren Church. Write Dr. V.H. Allman, Camp St. Marys. Phone 5470.

- Promotional text on Camp St. Marys Postcards

Lake St. Marys

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The Bulkhead



The bulkhead releases water from the lake into the feeder. From there the water flows to the canal and north to Lake Erie.





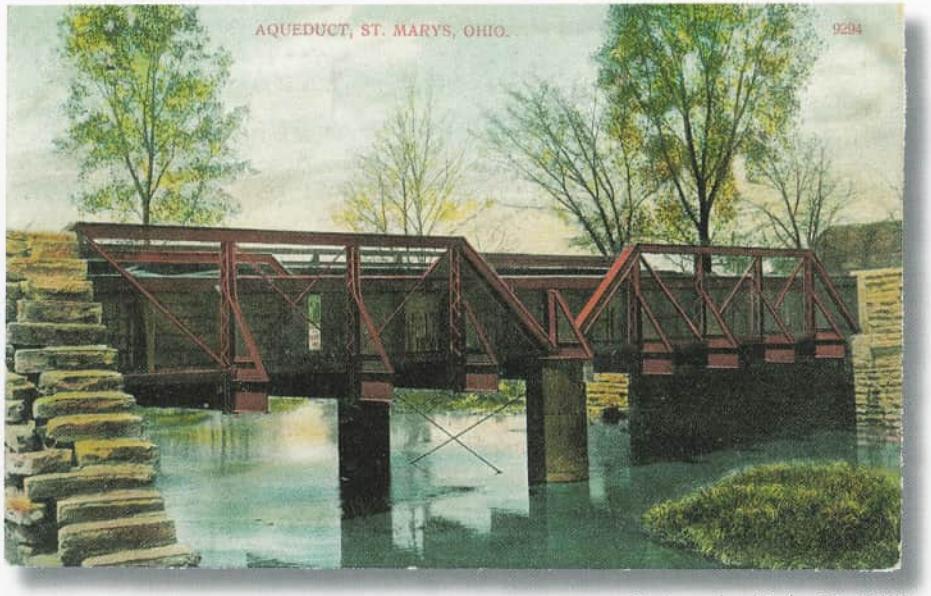
The boats would enter the lake when reaching the lock at the Bulkhead shown above. They were then pushed across the lake to Celina.

1909

www.andyniekamp.com

The Aqueduct

The canal crosses the St. Marys river at the Aqueduct. The level of the canal is controlled here by sending excess water into the river.



Postmarked July 27, 1908

The Tumbles

North of High Street by the canal

The Tumbles control the water level in the canal race. When the City of St. Marys Power Plant was in operation, the water from the race passed through the plant to cool the turbines, and then flowed into the canal.



December 28, 1940



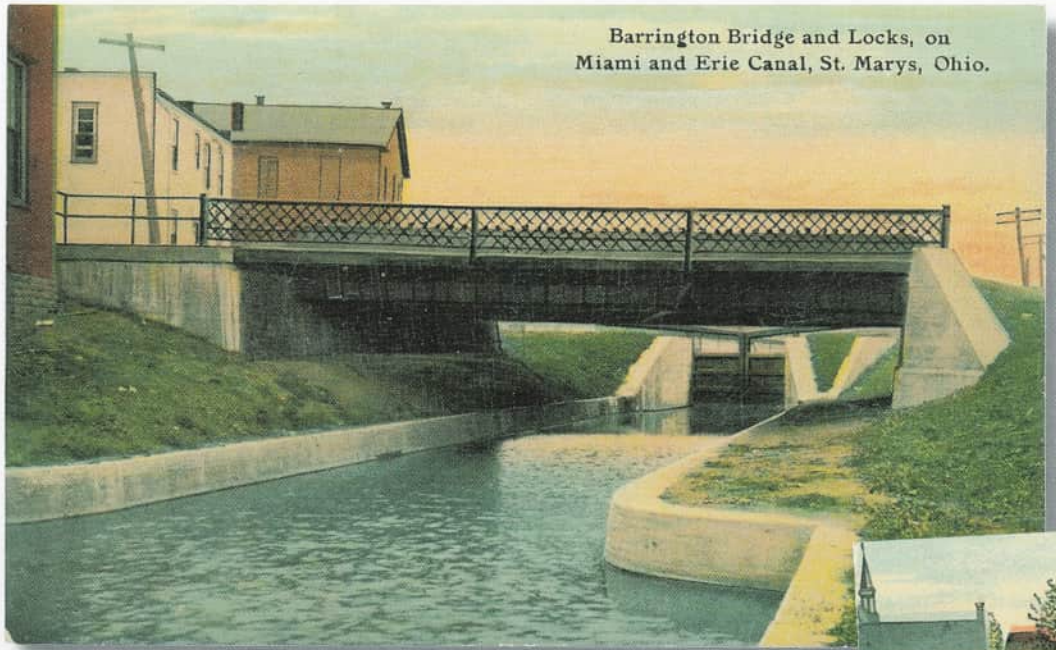
August 17, 1909

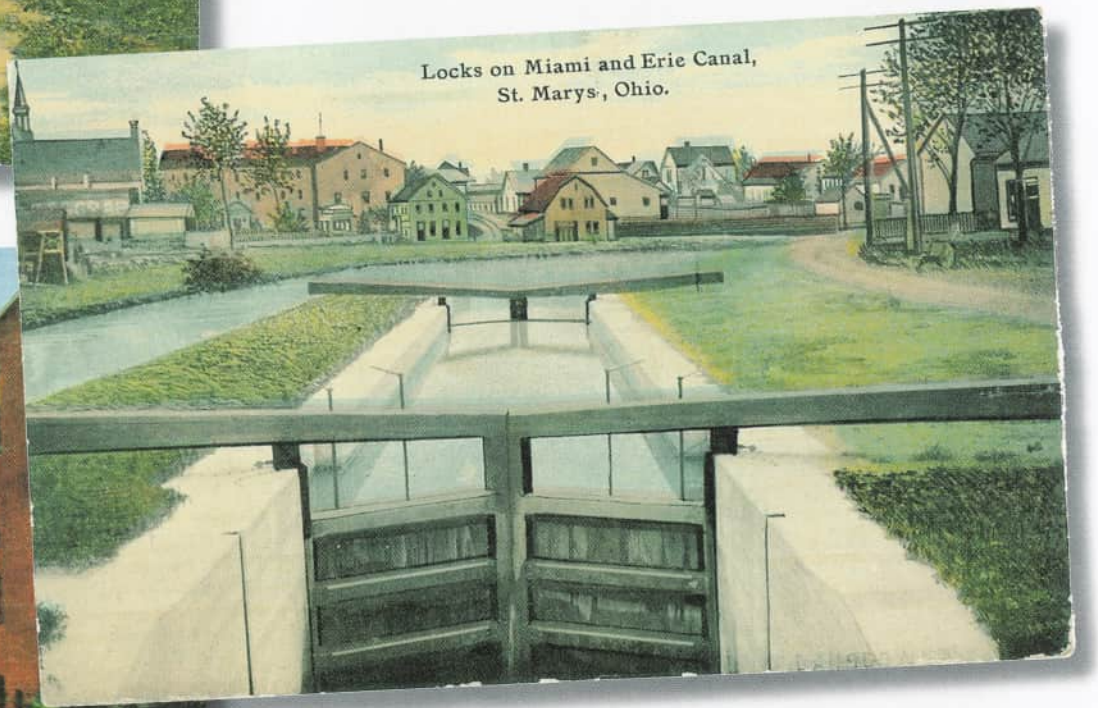
Lake St. Marys

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Lock 12

This lock was located at the bridge on Chestnut Street. Construction of the municipal parking lot in 1969 buried the lock.



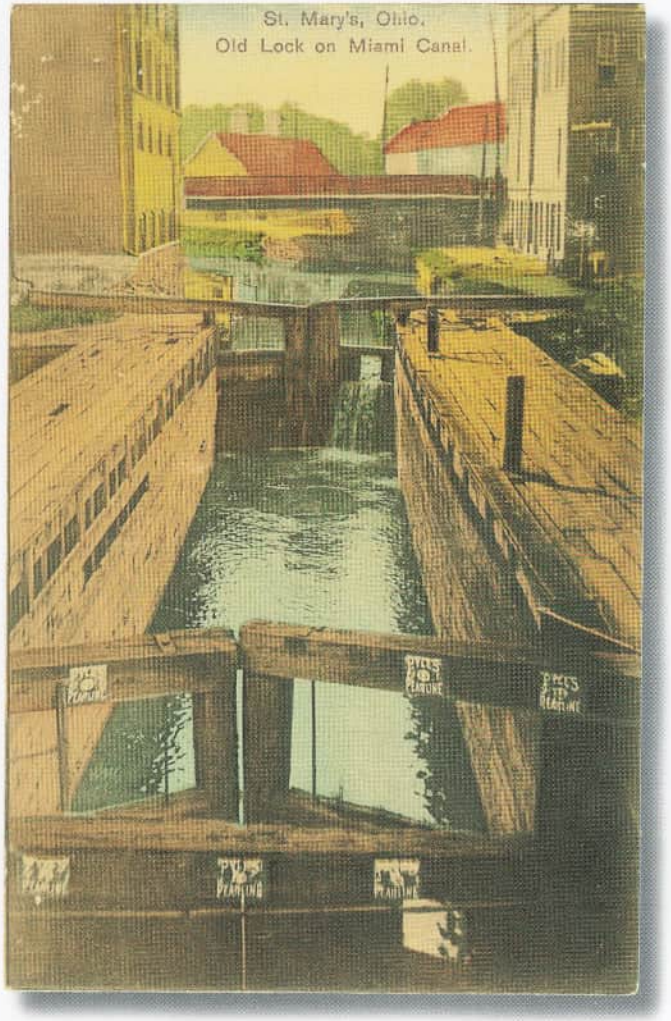




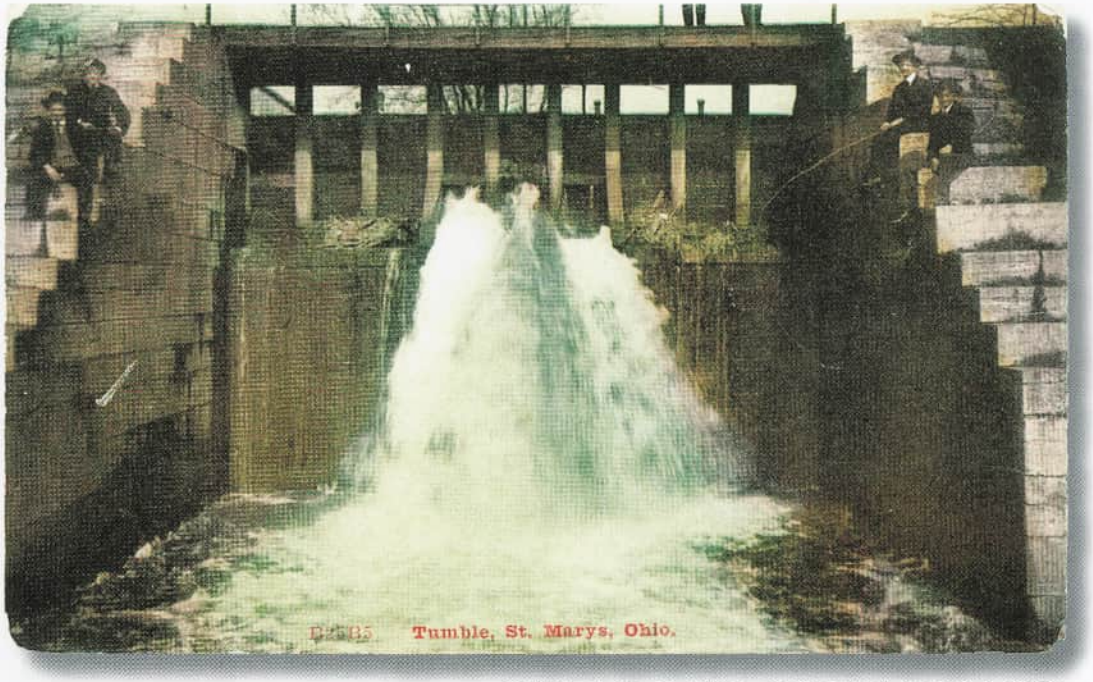
View from Barrington Bridge looking west.

www.andyniekamp.com

Lock 13



Constructed of wood, Lock 13 was located between Spring and High streets.



Fishing at the Tumbles, postmarked August 3, 1908



Canal boat on the Miami-Erie Canal , 1908

Lake St. Marys

www.andyniekamp.com

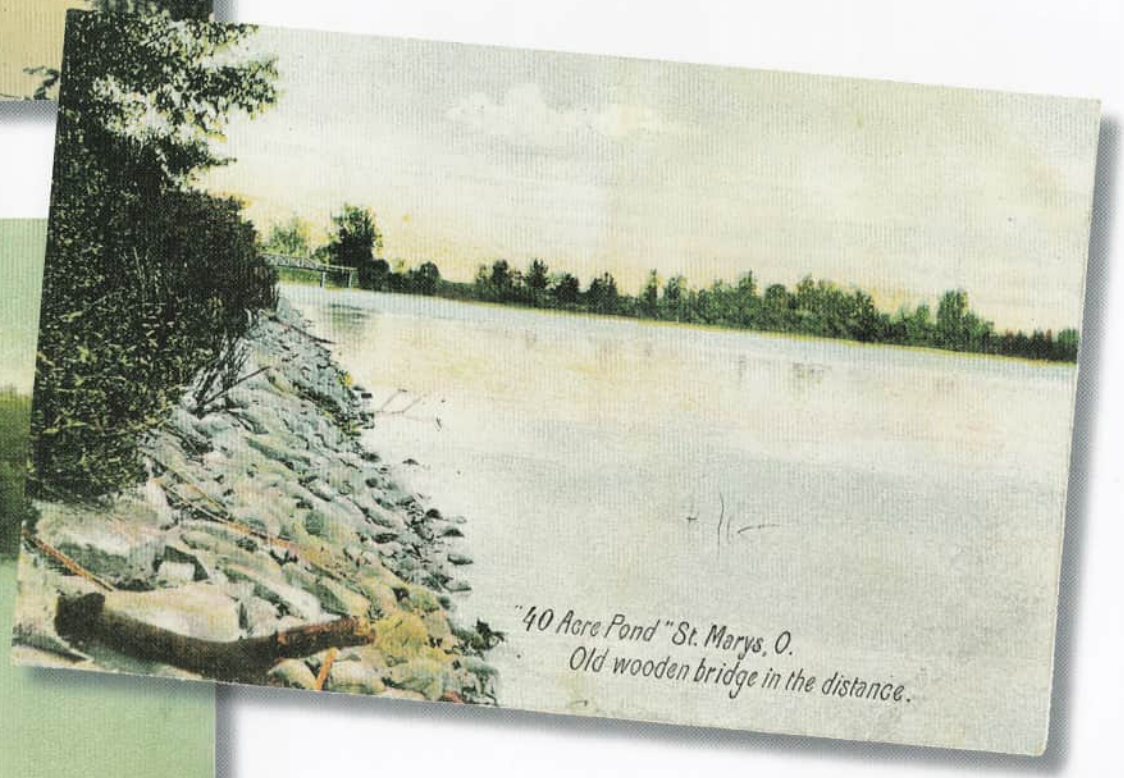
Forty-Acre Pond

Forty-Acre Pond was constructed as a holding basin for boats waiting to pass through the locks. After boat traffic ceased on the canal, the site became popular for swimming, fishing and ice skating.



1910



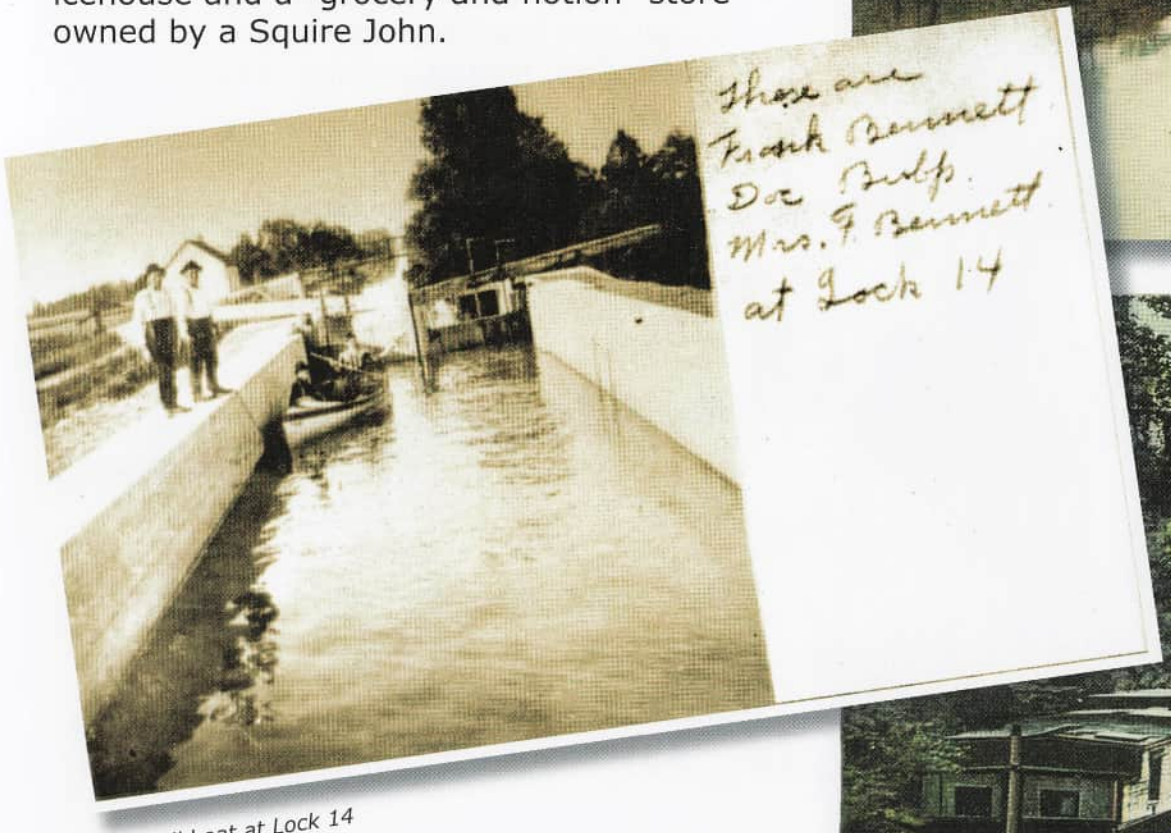


Lake St. Marys

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Lock 14

Lock 14 is located in Noble Township, on Lock 14 Road (adjacent to State Route 66). At one time Lock 14 was the site of a church, gatekeeper's house, sawmill, icehouse and a "grocery and notion" store owned by a Squire John.



A small boat at Lock 14



Canal scene



Two boats on the Miami-Erie canal

www.andyniekamp.com



Kossuth at the canal bridge

Kossuth

Located at the intersection of State Route 66 and State Route 197, Kossuth is the only village in Salem Township.

Kossuth was platted in 1858 by Samuel Petit. In 1880 it boasted a hotel, two general stores, millinery store, carriage shop, wagon shop, post office, church and a school. In later years Kossuth was known for its seven saloons. Today the village is home to Sandkuhl Clay Works, which has been in business for more than a century.



Kossuth, postmarked May 20, 1895

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Deep Cut

Deep Cut is located on State Route 66 north near the Allen County line. The greatest excavation on the Miami-Erie Canal was made here so the canal could continue to flow north. A huge ditch – 6,600 feet long and 5 to 52 feet deep – was cut in the tough blue-clay ridge. Today the site is known as the Deep Cut Historical Park, and features two trails along the canal.

During the canal era a hamlet sprang up here, which included a school, post office, warehouse and John Dunathan's store. Dunathan sold dry goods, groceries, notions, boots and shoes, clothing and hardware.



Stampless cover from Deep Cut in 1850



Canal at Deep Cut looking north, postmarked September, 1912

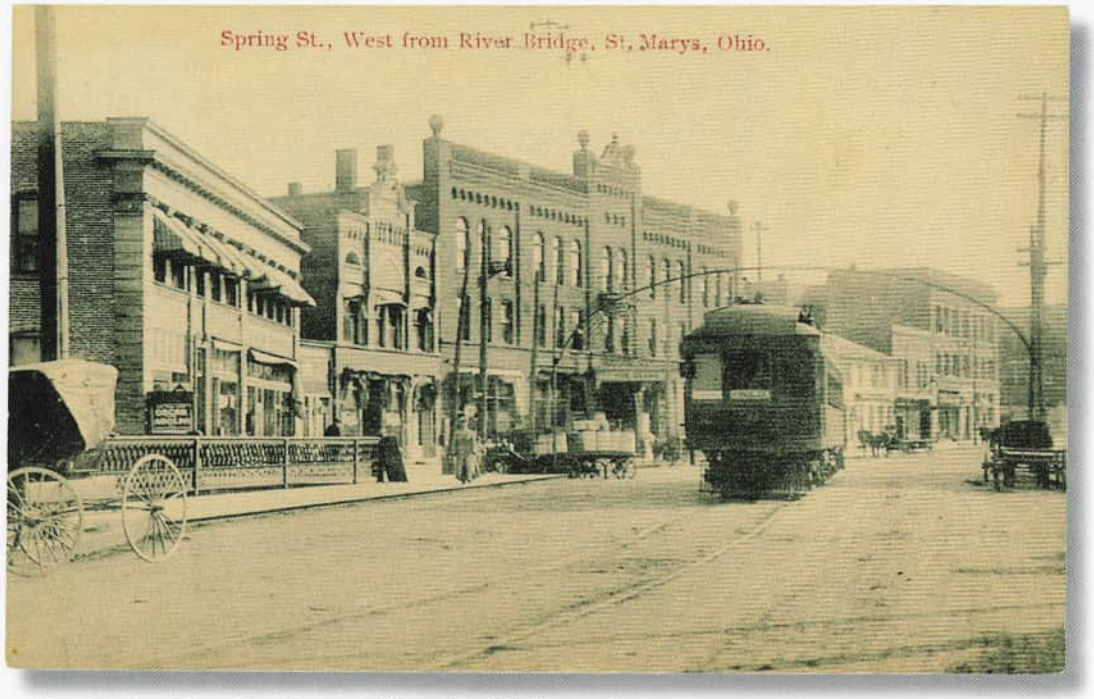


Bridge at Deep Cut

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East Spring Street looking east from the St. Marys River, September 3, 1907



West Spring Street looking west from the St. Marys River

St. Marys

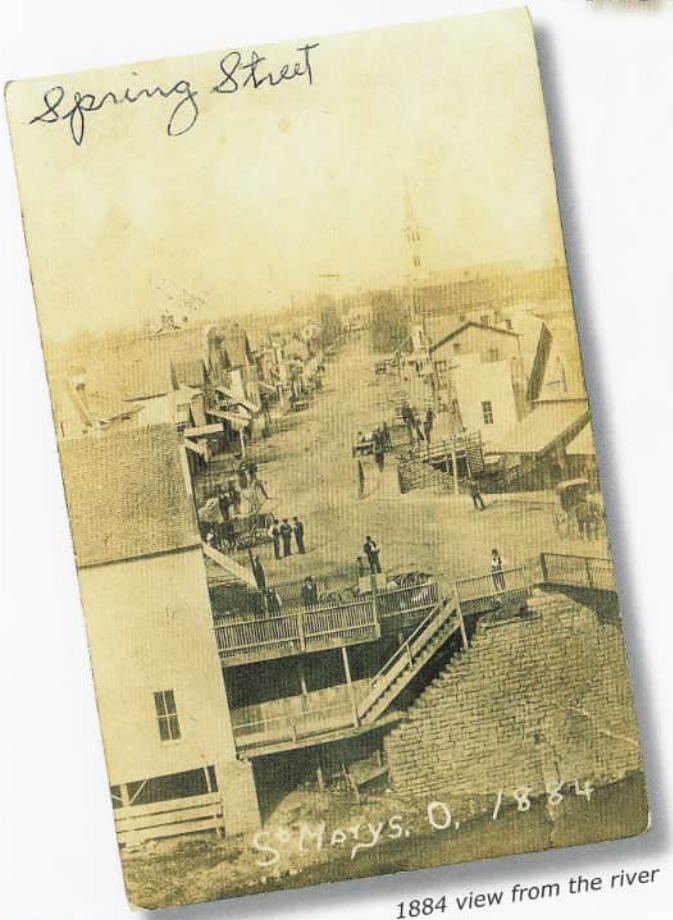
St. Marys, originally called Kettletown, began to be known as Girty's Town after James Girty established a trading post here. General Anthony Wayne established Fort St. Marys here in 1794, while General William Henry Harrison founded Fort Barbee during the War of 1812. Six of the seven Indian Treaties of St. Marys were signed here in 1818. Charles Murray, William Houston and John McCorkle platted and recorded the village of St. Marys on August 26, 1823. St. Marys served as the seat of Mercer County from 1824 to 1840. In 1848 St. Marys became part of the newly-formed Auglaize County.

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East Spring Street

East of the St. Marys River

The land between the river and the canal was commonly called "The Island."



1884 view from the river



The four buildings on the right are located on the site of the St. Marys Municipal Building.



Interior of confectionery on the Island, postmarked 1913

St. Marys

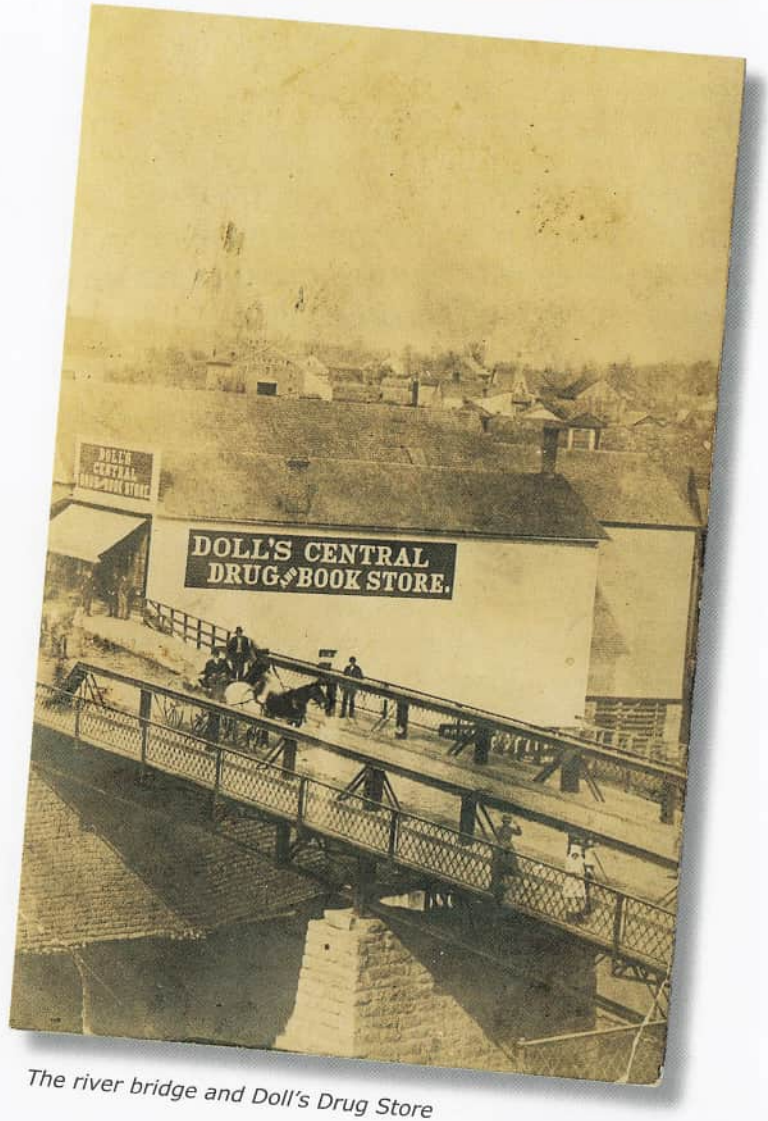
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East Spring Street from the canal bridge



The Glass Block Building was ravaged by fire in 2004, and was subsequently demolished.



The river bridge and Doll's Drug Store

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The St. Marys Post Office

The St. Marys Post Office, 101 East Spring Street, was built by public subscription and dedicated in 1925. It was the first community-owned post office building in the United States. Today the structure houses the St. Marys Municipal Building.



When the 1925 post office was erected, the two office rooms in the front were leased. Later the St. Marys Community Library moved into the basement to help retire the debt on the building.



In 1957 the post office moved to its new building at 120 North Chestnut Street, into a building that was dedicated in March 1958. It was the second post office in the nation to be built under a new federal lease program.

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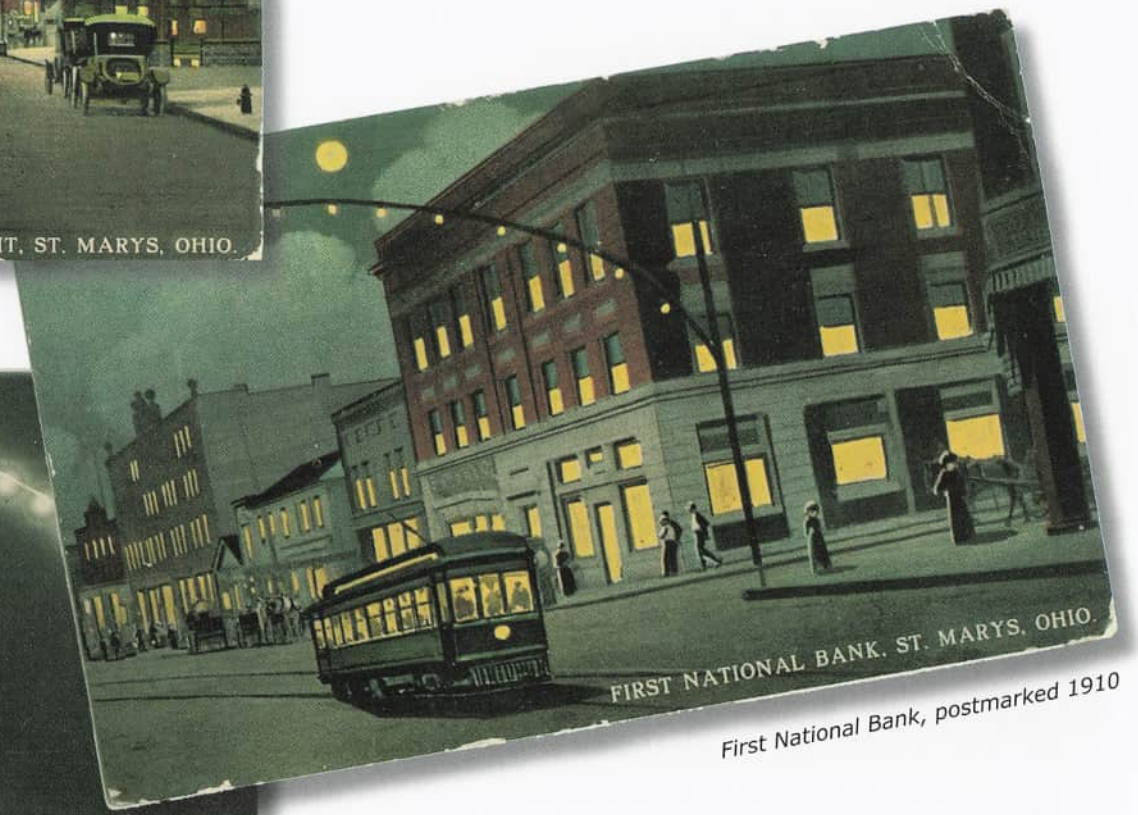
Night Views of West Spring Street



Looking west from the river, postmarked 1913



Arched lights on West Spring Street, postmarked 1910



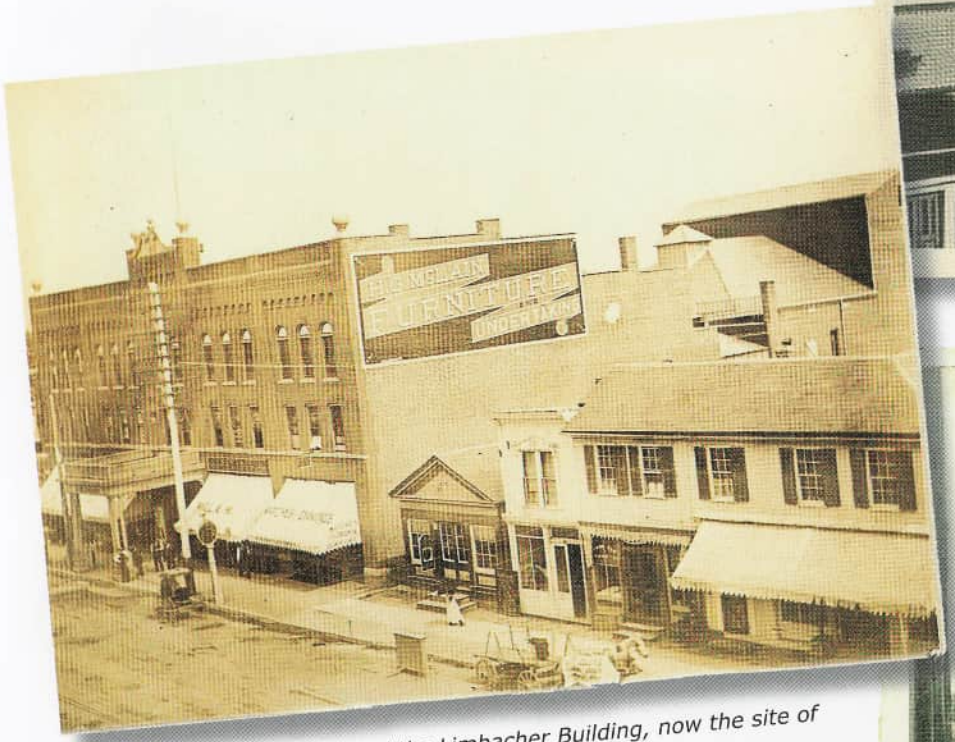
First National Bank, postmarked 1910

St. Marys

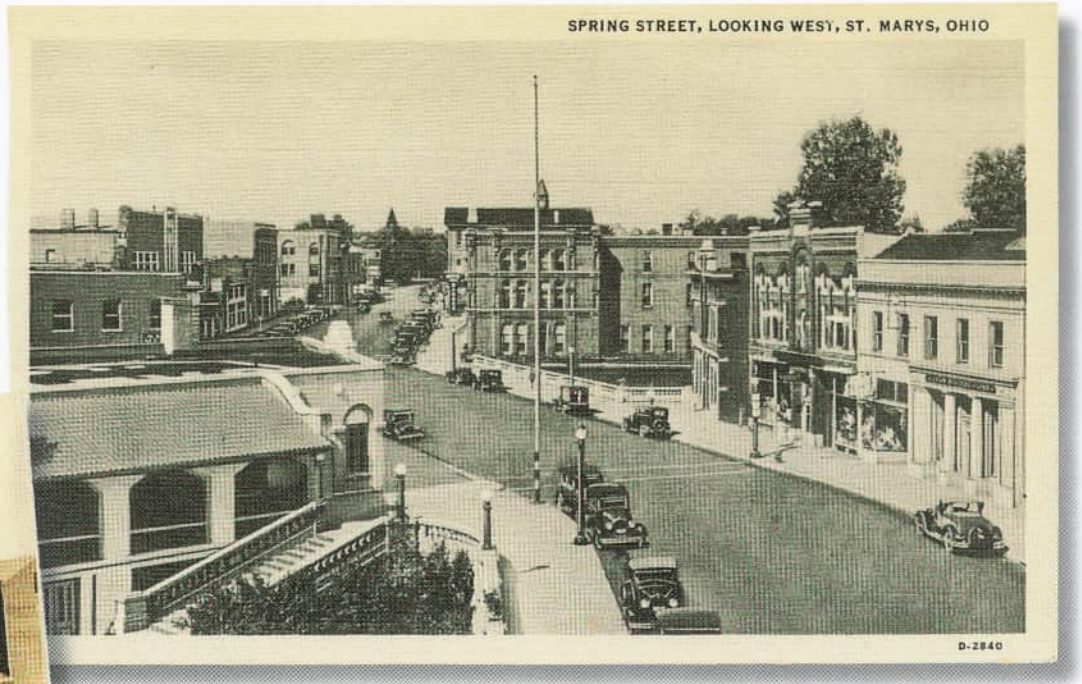
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West Spring Street

West of the St. Marys River



The Grand Opera House and the Limbacher Building, now the site of Chase Bank



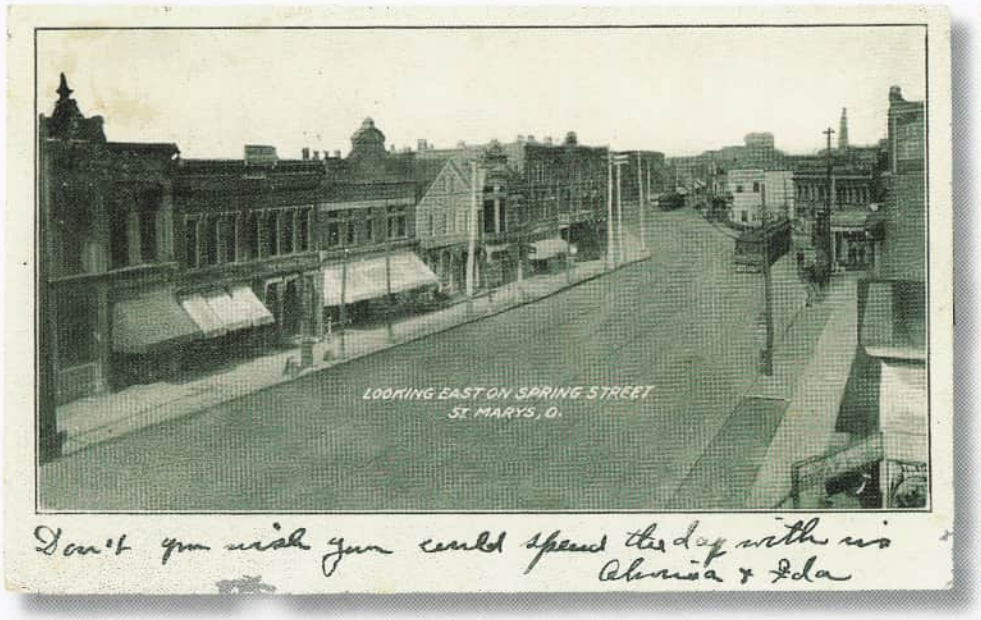
Looking west on Spring Street from the St. Marys City Building



West Spring from Front Street

St. Marys

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The north side of West Spring Street from Front Street



The First National Bank, which John Dillinger robbed in 1933



St. Marys' first electric car is pictured in front of the Barr & Lepper store, 139 West Spring Street



Interior of the First National Bank, 143 West Spring Street

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West Spring Street



Palm Hotel, 101-105 West Spring Street, postmarked November 24, 1908



Fountain Hotel, 116-120 West Spring Street



The Fountain Hotel changed its name to the Hotel Fort Barbee in 1923

St. Marys

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Street Fair on West Spring Street, postmarked March 6, 1907



The Redman Club met on the third floor of 201 West Spring Street



City Fire Department, 202 West Spring Street



North Wayne Street from West Spring Street

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More St. Marys Businesses



Wagner's Garage, 111 South Front Street



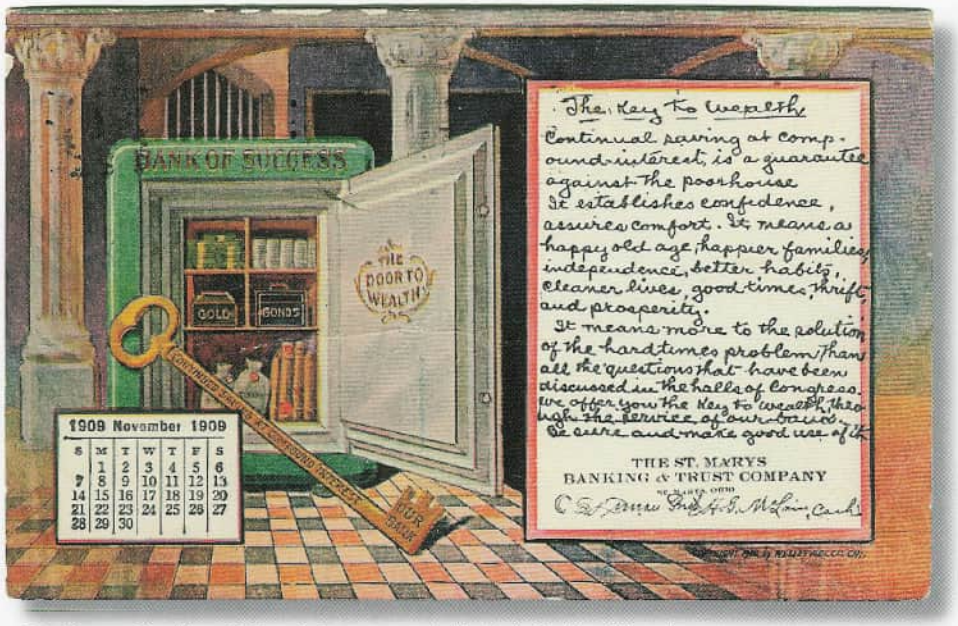


Top of postcard: East Spring Street
Bottom of postcard: West Spring Street

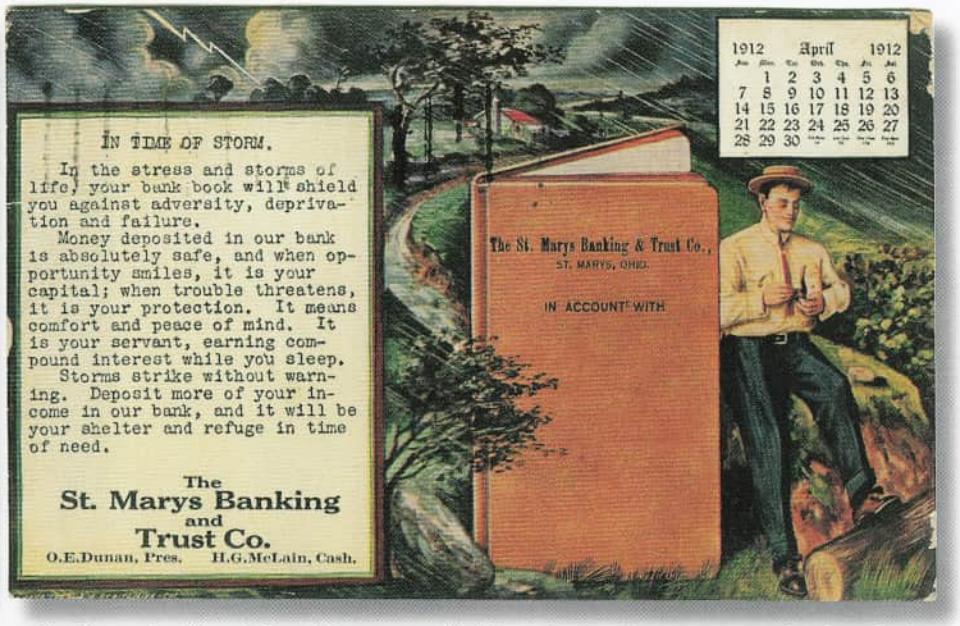


Dull's Service Station, 601 Jackson Street

www.andyniekamp.com



St. Marys Banking & Trust Company, 114 East Spring Street, postmarked November 30, 1909



St. Marys Banking & Trust Company, 114 East Spring Street, postmarked April 1912



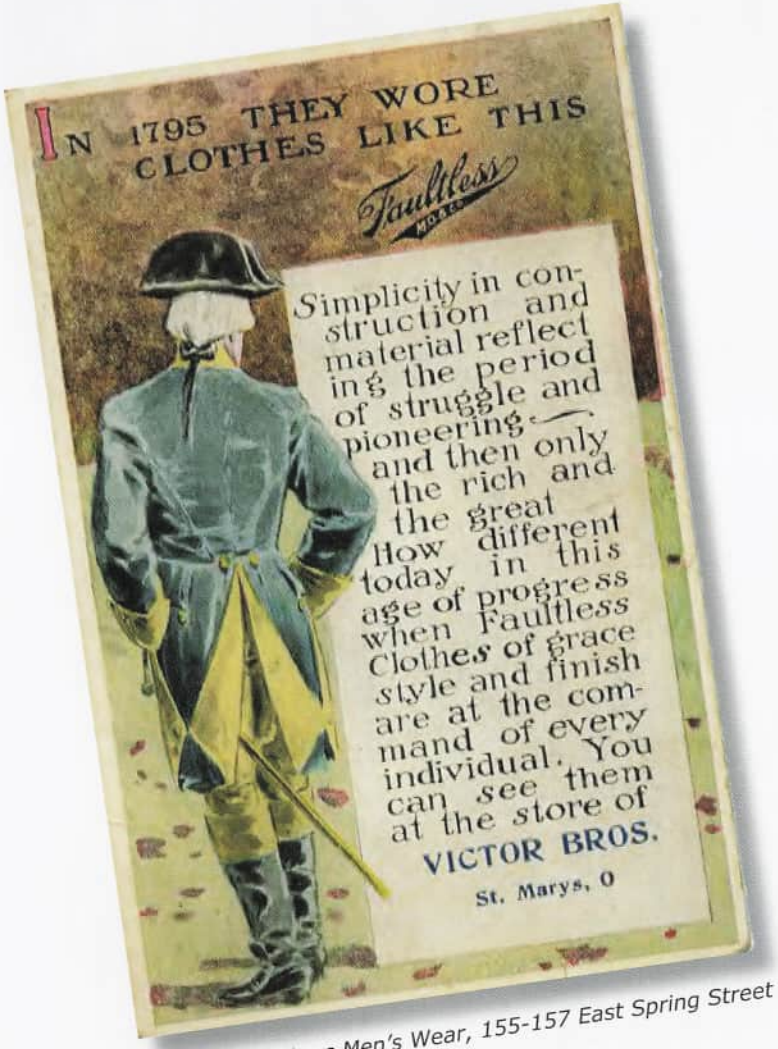
John Lawrence Greenhouse, 618 West High Street, postmarked March 6,1913



St. Marys Nursing Home, 518 Jackson Street, postmarked 1946

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Views of St. Marys Streets



Victor Brothers Men's Wear, 155-157 East Spring Street



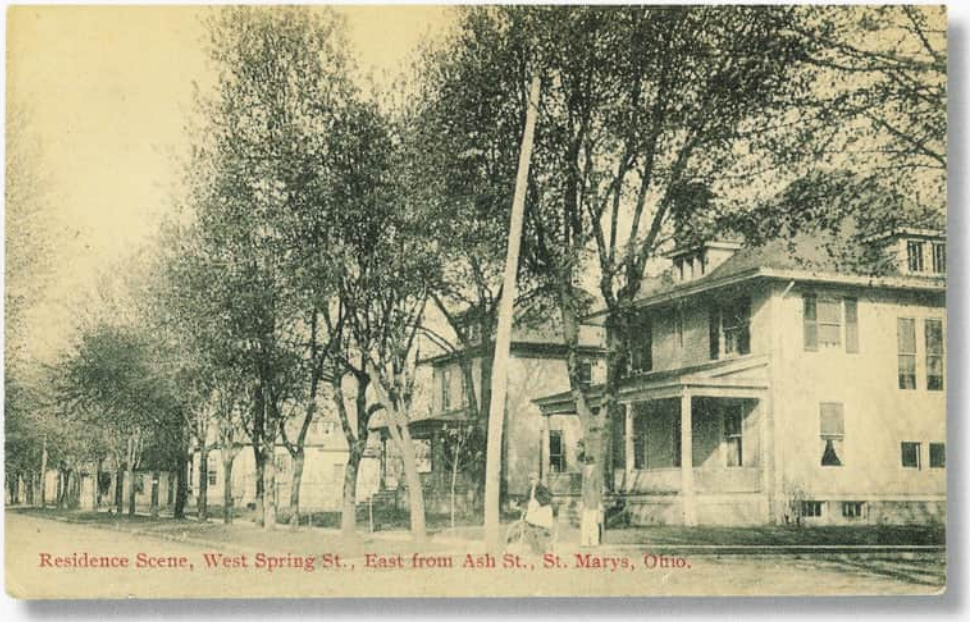
North Perry Street, postmarked August 17,1916



West South Street, postmarked September 5, 1908

St. Marys

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West Spring Street looking east from Ash Street, postmarked 1915



West Spring Street looking east from Wayne Street (Note: card says "looking south," which is incorrect)



Looking east at West Spring Street from Wayne Street, postmarked 1909



Spring Street looking west from Wayne Street

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The Hipp House



In 1876 Charles and Mary Hipp built this home at 223 South Main Street in St. Marys. Today the building is known as the Mooney Museum, in honor of later owner Daniel Mooney, whose widow, Carrie Steinemann Mooney Bettelini, donated the property to the Auglaize County Historical Society.

Major Hipp served in the Mexican War in 1847. He enlisted in the Union army at the time of the Civil War in 1861 and was discharged in 1865.

He served as the postmaster in St. Marys for 21 years, 7 months and 19 days. He was also mayor of St. Marys from 1886-1888 and county probate judge in 1887.

Charles died in 1908 and Mary in 1910. Both were buried in Elm Grove Cemetery.



Charles and Mary Hipp's home, 223 North Main Street, postmarked April 11,1903

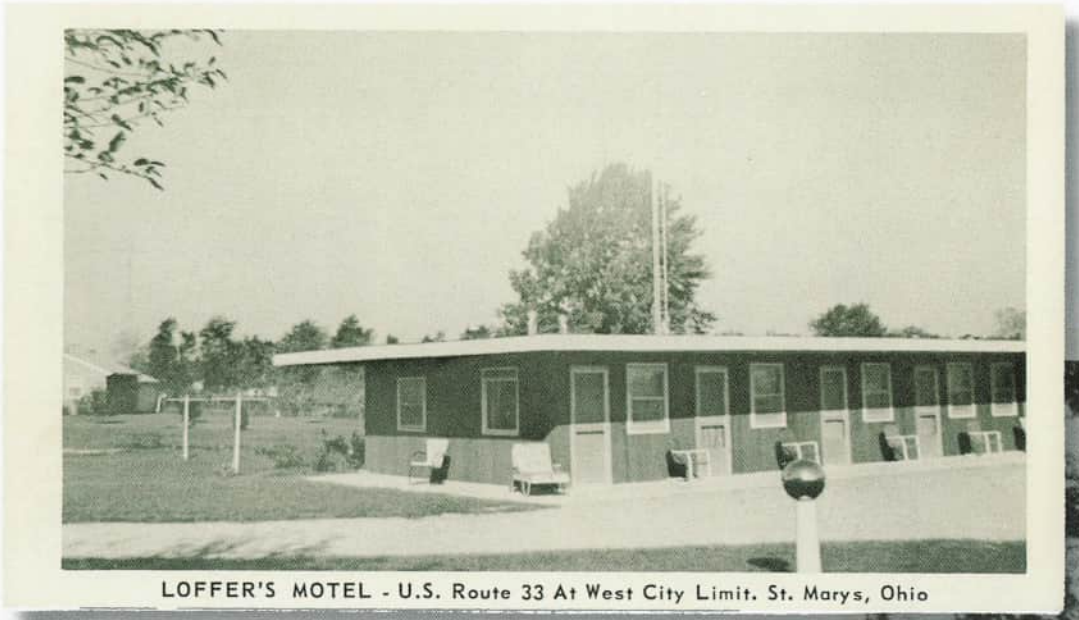


Postcard signed by Charles and Mary Hipp, postmarked April 11, 1903

St. Marys

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St. Marys Motels



Lowell Loffer Motel, 848 Indiana Avenue, postmarked July 26,1963



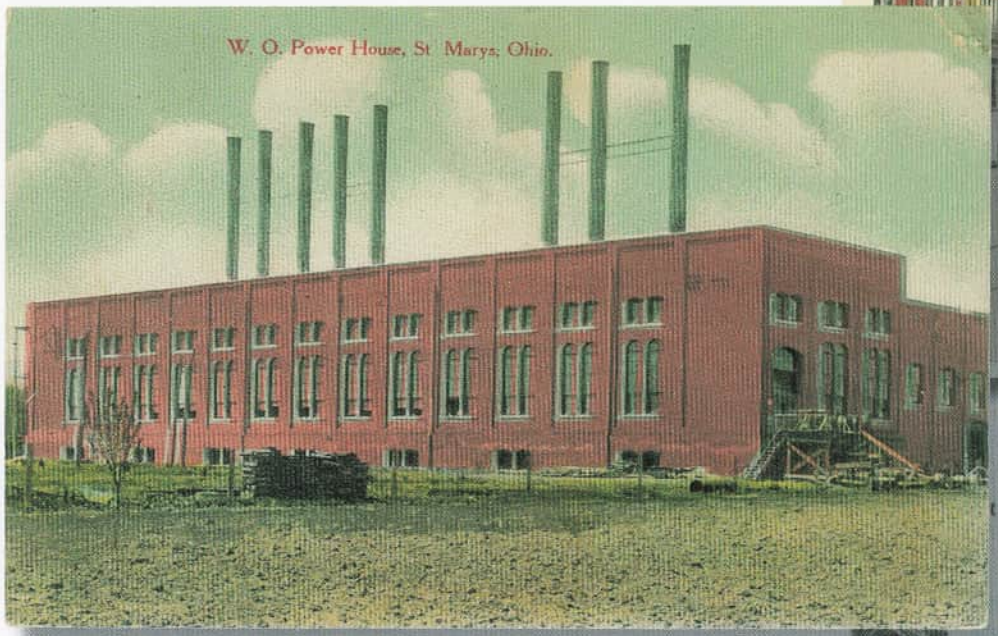
Ed Adams and Joe Simons built the Motel 33 at 1226 East Spring Street in the late 1950s. It closed after the construction of the US 29/33 bypass, and is today used as an apartment building.



Sarah and Web Wright built the S&W Motel at 1321 Celina Road. After it was purchased in 1958 by Chester and Joanne Dammeyer, they expanded it from a 13-room facility to 51 rooms, 8 suites and 22 apartments. It is now known as America's Best Value Inn.

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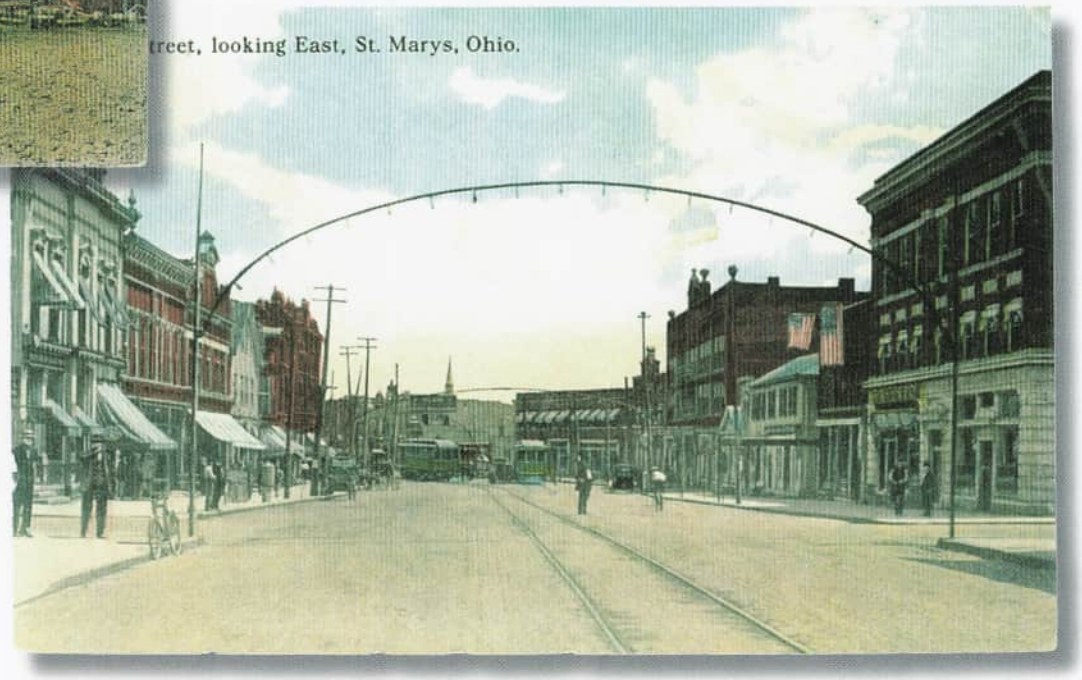
The Western Ohio Railway



This Western Ohio power plant generated electricity for the Western Ohio Railway Company Traction Line. It was located behind the interurban car barn at 625 South Wayne Street. The plant generated power for the entire system from 1900 to 1932 and provided power to many nearby communities as well. The plant was torn down in 1958.



Interurban station on West Spring Street



West Spring Street from Front Street, postmarked 1915

St. Marys

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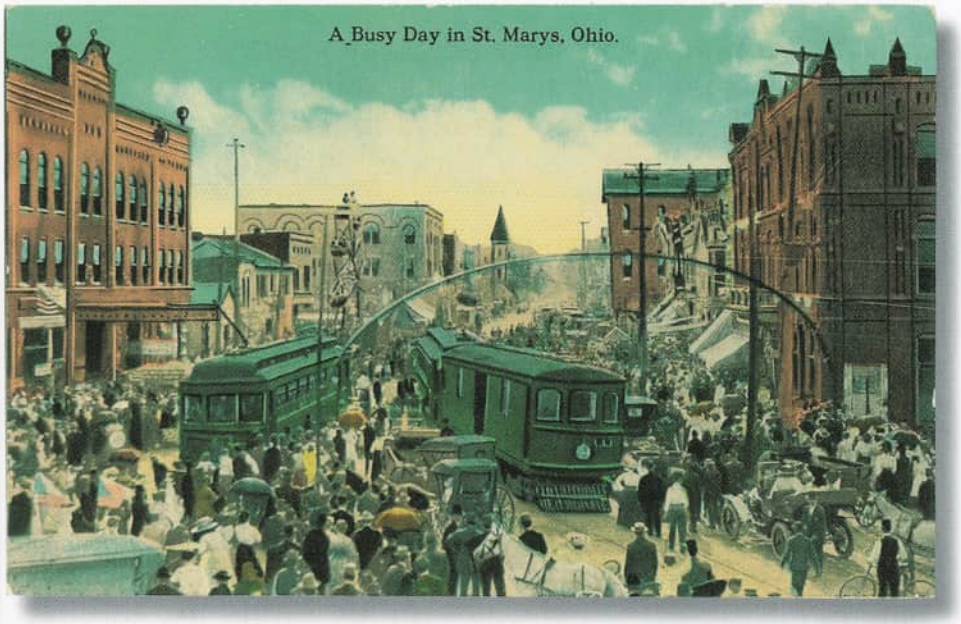
West Spring Street, postmarked July 1, 1918



Traction Center



Postmarked 1908



A busy day on Spring Street

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The Memorial Park Area

In 1919 a group of St. Marys citizens formed the Community Welfare Association to purchase and develop the land known as the Island. This was the property between the Miami-Erie Canal and the St. Marys River and the railroad tracks north to Spring Street. Raising $75,000, the group created what we now know as Memorial Park, dedicated to the memory of those killed during World War I.

The Community Welfare Association was instrumental in building a post office on Spring Street, having a new armory built on South Street and a play park constructed on Chestnut Street.



Memorial Park in 1913. The river overflowed into the canal.



Memorial Park after all the buildings were removed

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Memorial Park Fountain



The Memorial Park Fountain with Spring Street in the background



The fountain was a gift to the city from the four Althausen sisters—Mrs. Ernest M. Veenfliet, Mrs. Finley Stout, Mrs. C.W. Timmermeister and Mrs. Willie Kishler—in memory of their parents, Albert and Louise Herzing Althausen.



The fountain with the caretaker's home in the background

St. Marys

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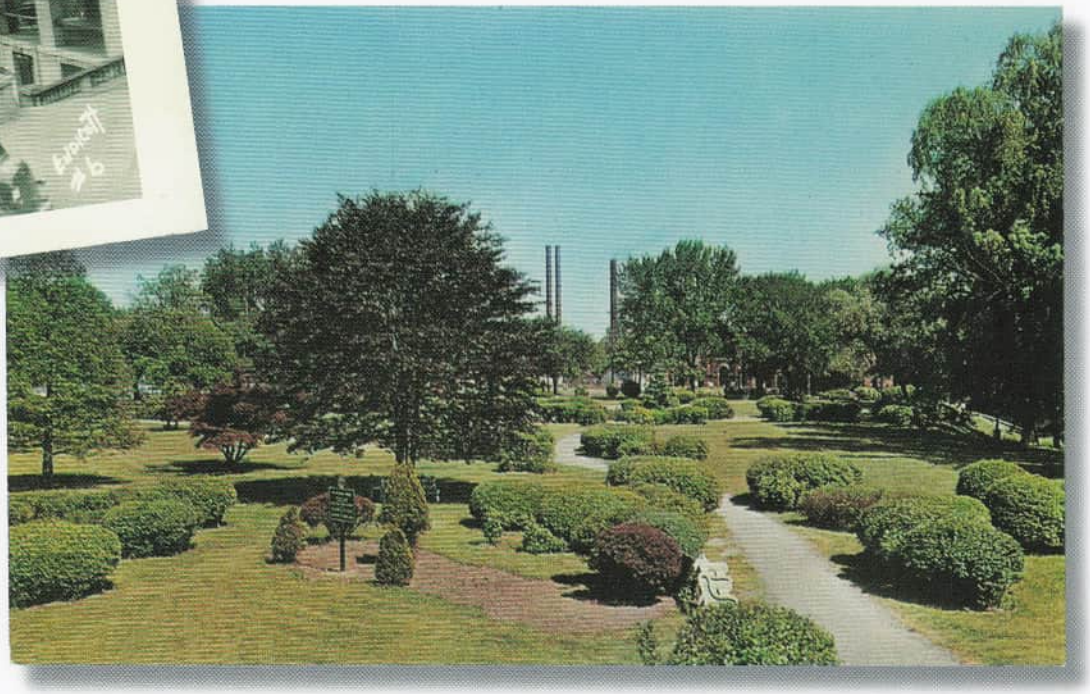
Views of Memorial Park



Memorial Park from the Spring Street bridge



During World War II a billboard listed St. Marys area soldiers in the armed forces. The billboard was dedicated on November 11, 1943.



Memorial Park from the city office building

St. Marys

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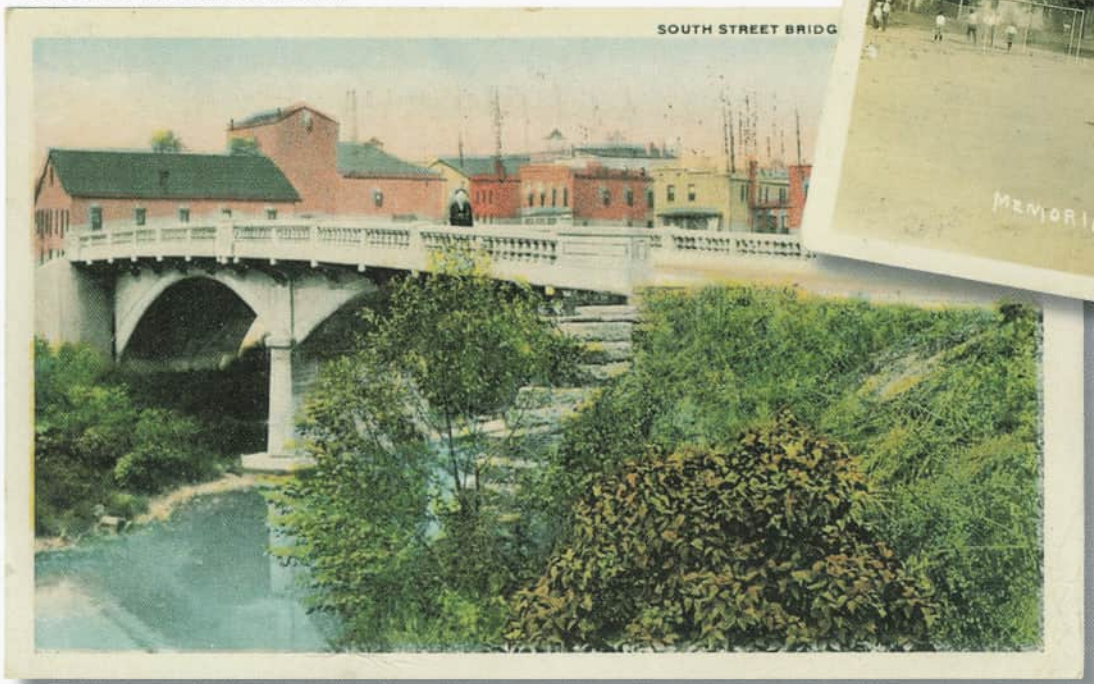
Memorial Park and the Armory



Memorial Park and the Armory



Memorial Park Play Park on Chestnut Street



South Street bridge with Spring Street buildings in the background

St. Marys

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Harvest Jubilee in 1910

The big celebration attracted people from all the surrounding counties.

The high-wire artists were the husband and wife team of Gustav and Alma Brandt. They dressed in an elephant skin costume and performed throughout the state.



Best yoke of oxen



The tight wire was attached from the Fountain Hotel to the Grand Opera House.



Note the arched electric lights that illuminated the street at night.

St. Marys

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Harvest Jubilee Winner



These little boosters wanted to graduate in 1923.



Horse & Goat float



Fountain Bakery float

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St. Marys Centennial August 19-26, 1923

With more than 100 floats, the Civil Parade had 15,000 people packed along the entire length of Spring Street.

The Light of St. Marys pageant was held in Memorial Park. The event had to be repeated three times to accommodate the 25,000 people that attended.

For years this was the biggest event of its kind ever held in northwestern Ohio.



The Glass Block float



Scottish and Irish Immigrants

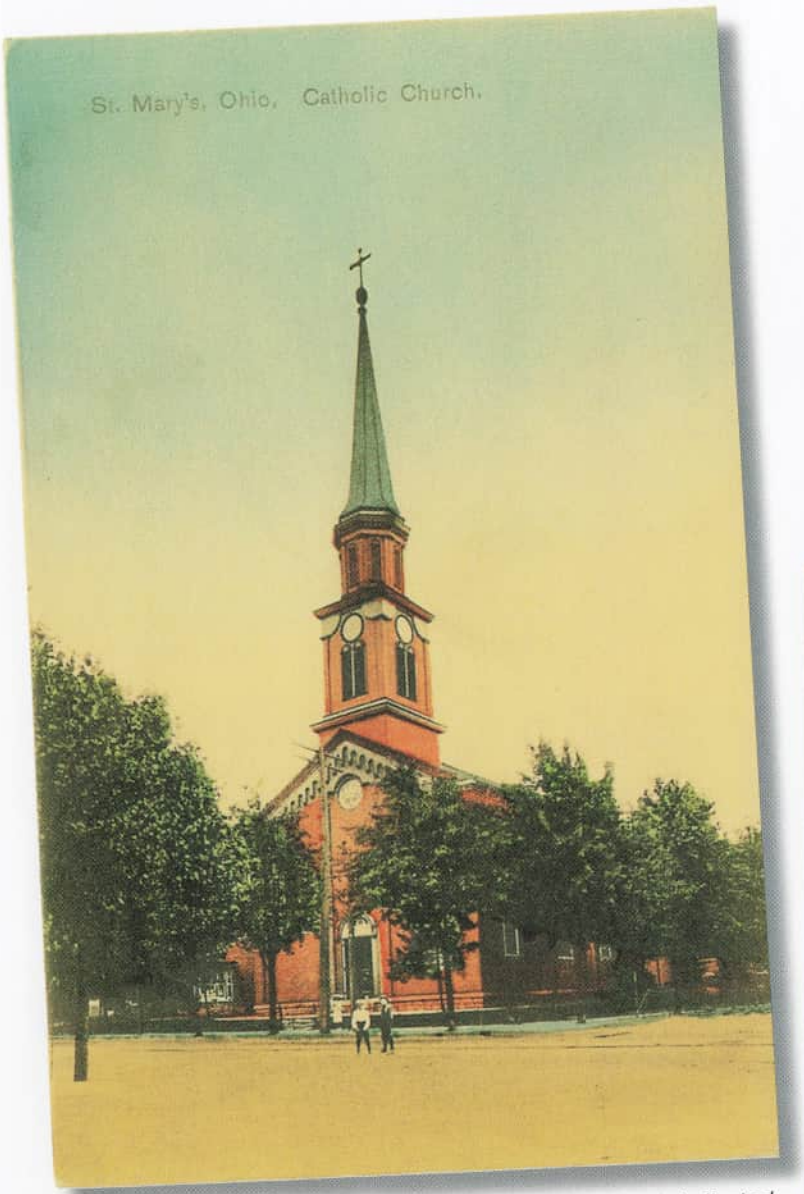


Company K Medical Detachment, 148th Infantry

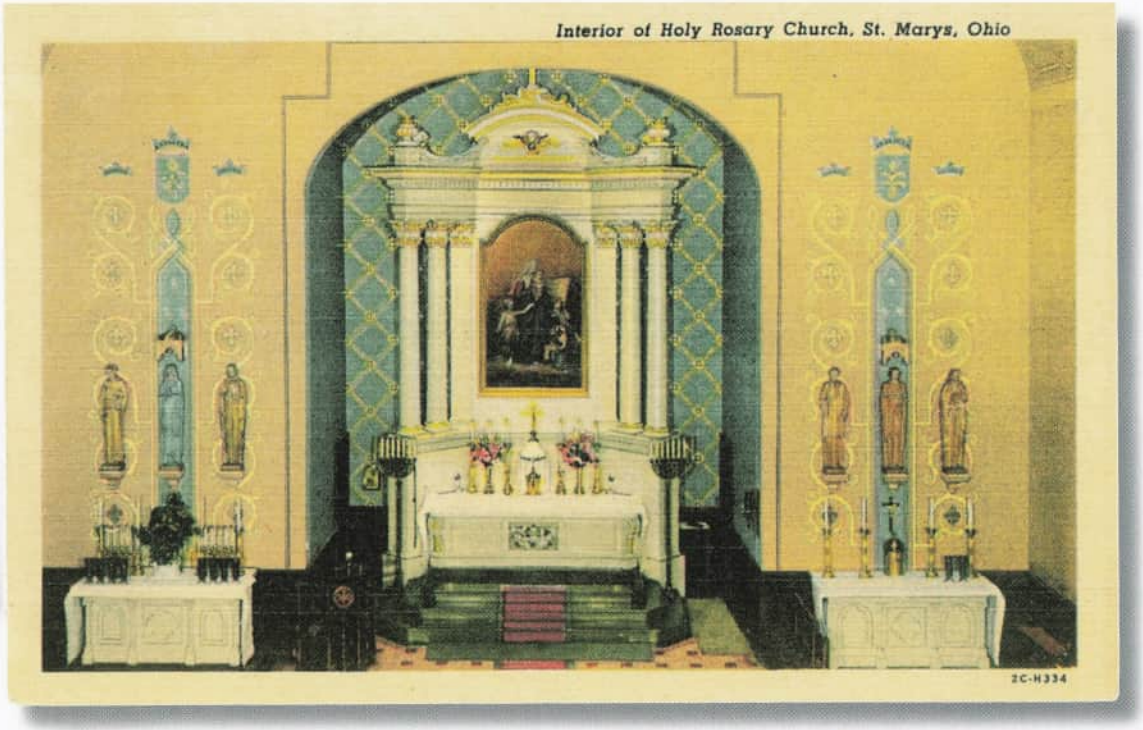
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Holy Rosary Catholic Church

In 1867 the first Catholic church was erected at 301 North Walnut Street, which was later replaced by a brick building on East Spring Street in 1879. On June 24, 1979, a new church was dedicated at 501 East Spring Street.



This church was located at 501 East Spring Street and dedicated on November 17, 1879. The steeple was reworked in 1919 and the church was razed in 1979.



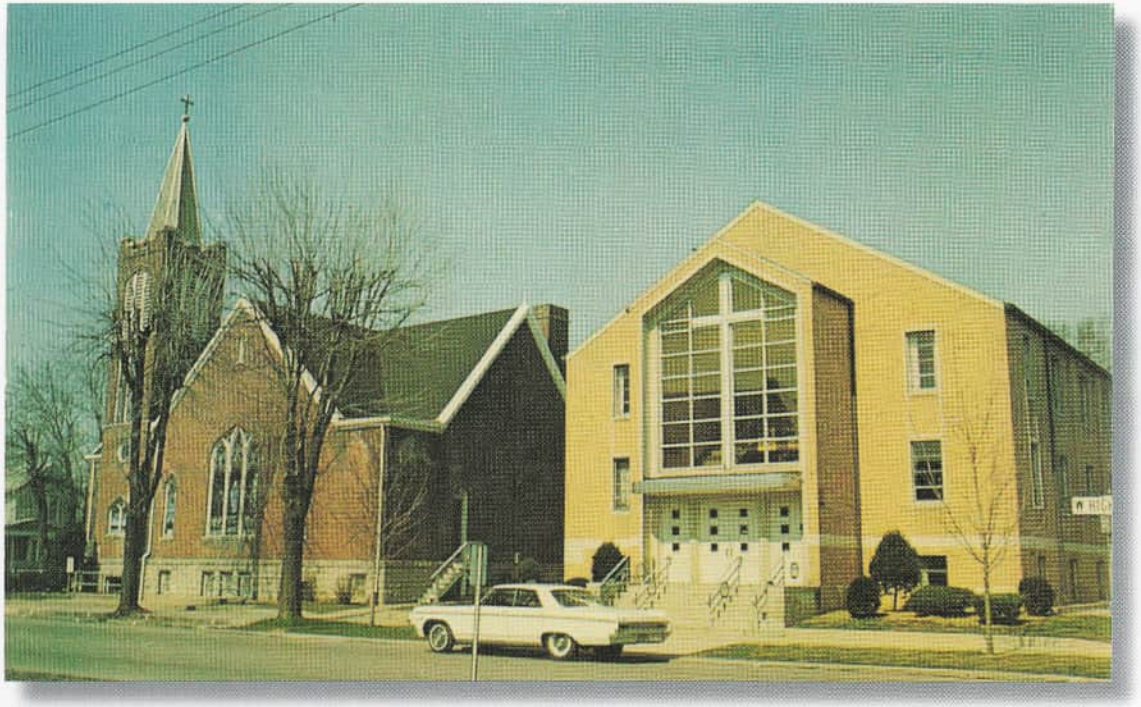
The interior of Holy Rosary Church after remodeling in 1949.

St. Marys

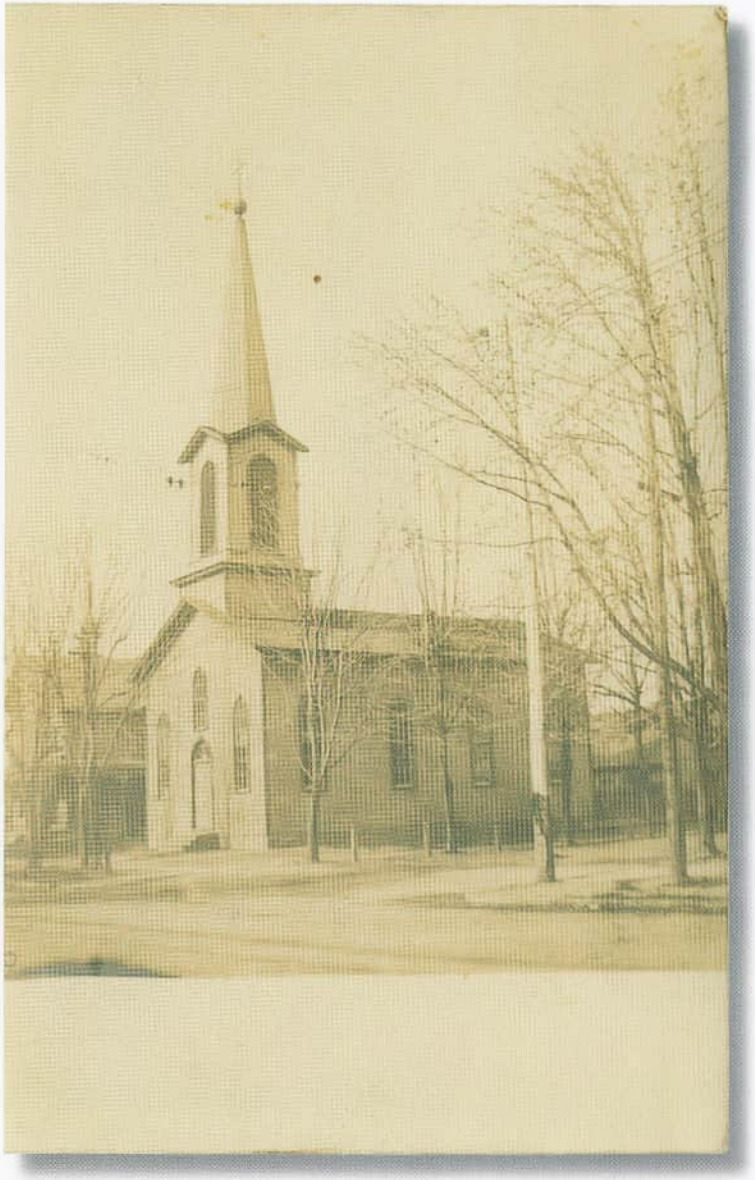
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Zion Lutheran Church

The German Evangelical Protestant Church of St. Marys was established June 10, 1849. In 1864 the congregation split, creating two separate churches, known today as Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and St. Paul United Church of Christ. The congregation met in the former Baptist church until a new building was erected at High and Wayne Streets in 1874. The growing congregation replaced this building in 1908. The current facility was constructed in 1974.



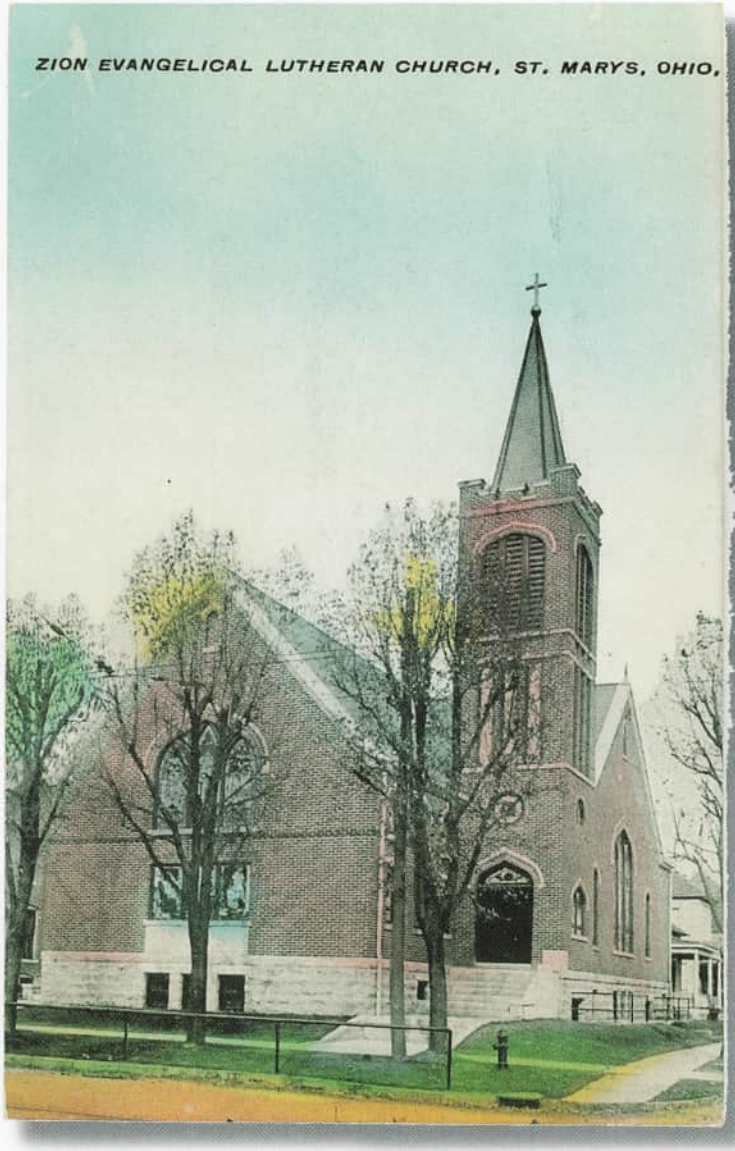
This church was dedicated in 1908. The Education Building was built in 1956.



In 1874 this wood structure was built on the northeast corner of High and Wayne Streets and measured 50' by 30'.

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Gospel Mission Church



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, postmarked April 30, 1909



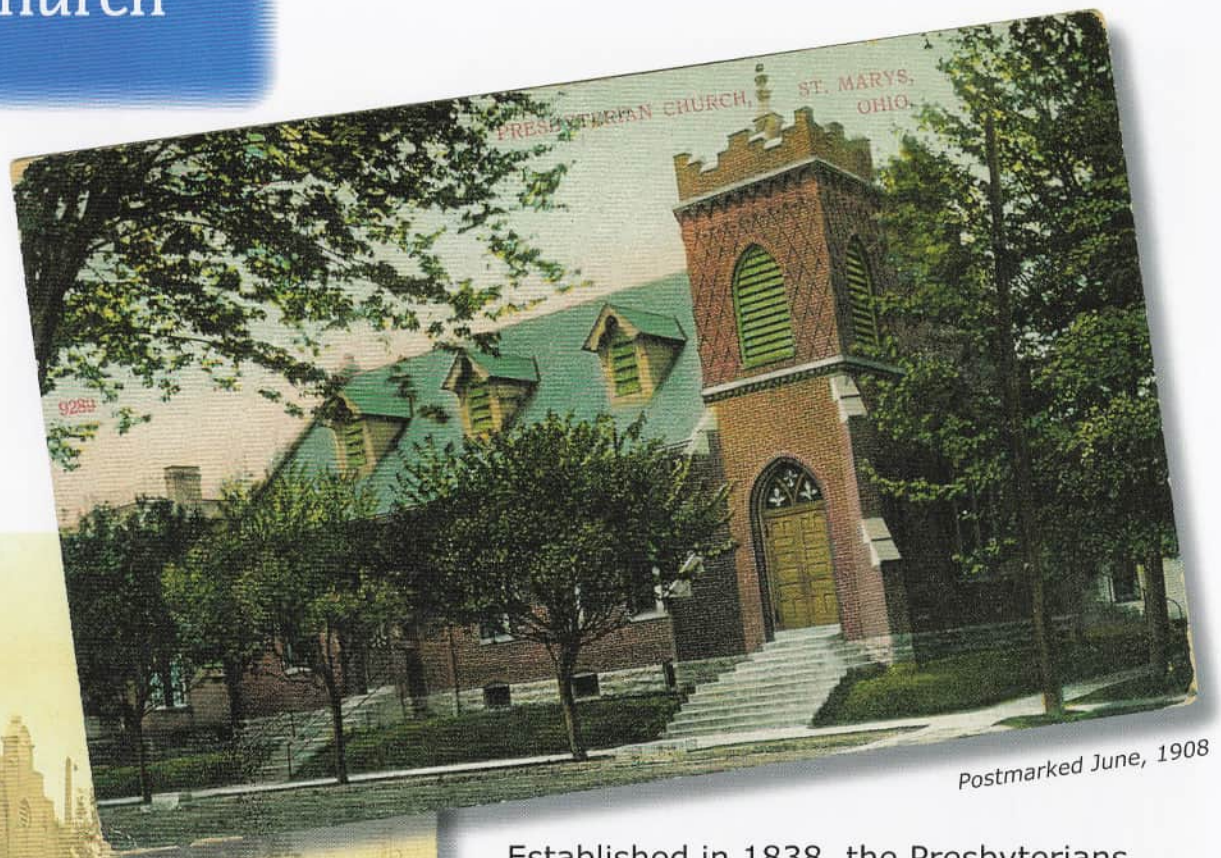
Postmarked 1910

This building was located in Memorial Park adjacent to the Miami-Erie Canal. In 1904 the congregation was known as the Apostolic Holiness Mission, but changed its name to the Friends Church in 1909. The church moved to a new building at the corner of High and Pine streets in 1911.

St. Marys

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First Presbyterian Church



Postmarked June, 1908



Established in 1838, the Presbyterians met in a log house for seven years until their first frame church was constructed. Destroyed by fire in 1886, the building was then replaced, but destroyed again by fire in 1898. In 1902 a new church was built, which served the congregation for almost a century. This building was sold to Calvary Christian Fellowship. A new Presbyterian church was dedicated at 1025 East Greenville Road in 2001.

St. Marys

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First Baptist Church



Postmarked May 9, 1909

The First Baptist Church was organized on June 18, 1836. It was located on the northwest corner of Spring and Wayne streets. In 1887 the congregation sold the property to the St. Marys School Board, which then built West School at the location. The church moved across the street, salvaging what they could of the old building for its replacement.



St. Marys

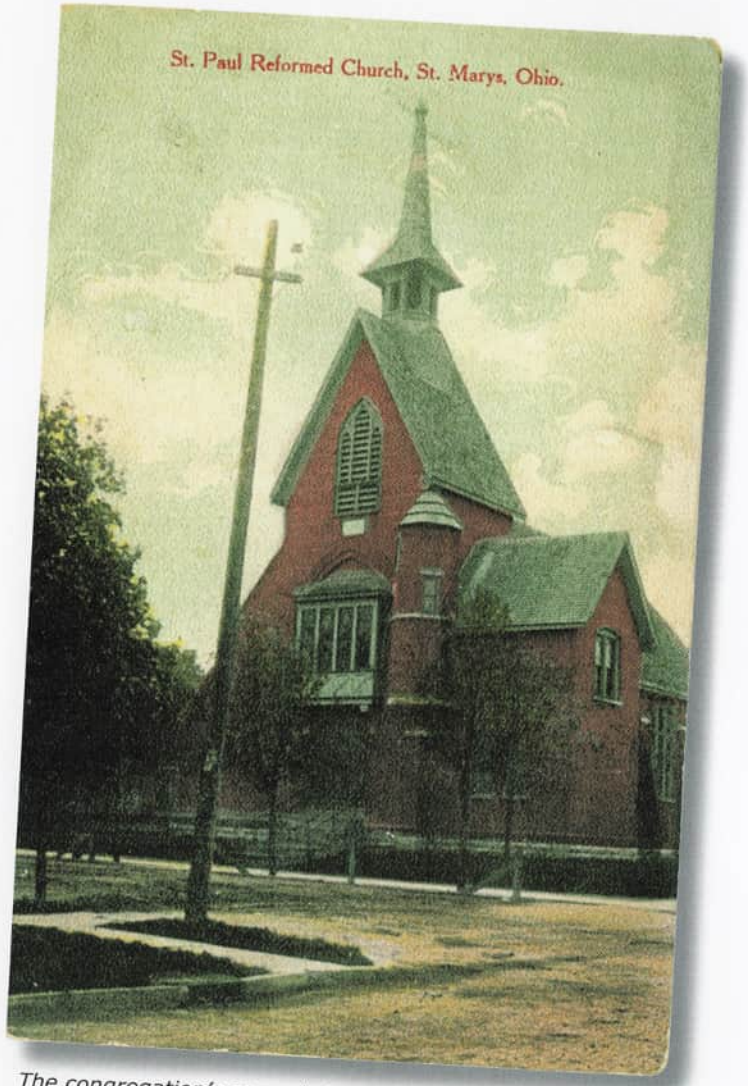
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St. Paul's United Church of Christ

The German Evangelical Protestant Church of St. Marys was established June 10, 1849. In 1864, doctrinal differences caused a split in the congregation, whose members then formed Zion Evangelical Lutheran and St. Paul's Reformed Churches. In 1957, with the merger of Congregational Christian Churches, the church became St. Paul's United Church of Christ.



Present church dedicated on August 22, 1915 at 201 North Perry Street, postmarked July 22, 1913

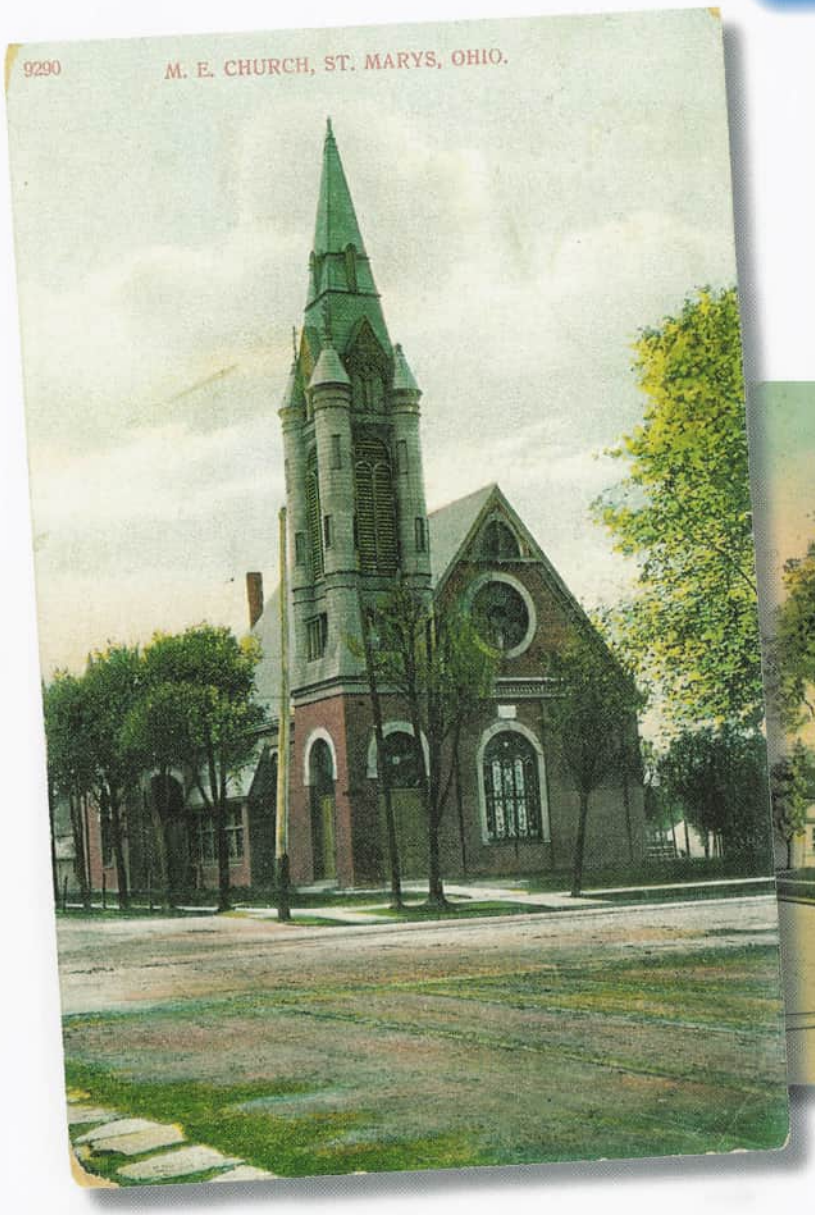


The congregation's second church from 1888 to 1915 at 431 West High Street

St. Marys

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Wayne Street United Methodist Church



The first Methodist services were held in St. Marys in 1824. A log school house on South Perry Street was the congregation's first home, which served until a frame church was constructed on Wayne and South streets in 1838.
This building was replaced by a brick structure on the same site in 1867. In April 1912 a new church was built, again on the same site. A new church was built in 2008 on the corner of West Spring and Wayne streets.



Postmarked November 18, 1912

St. Marys

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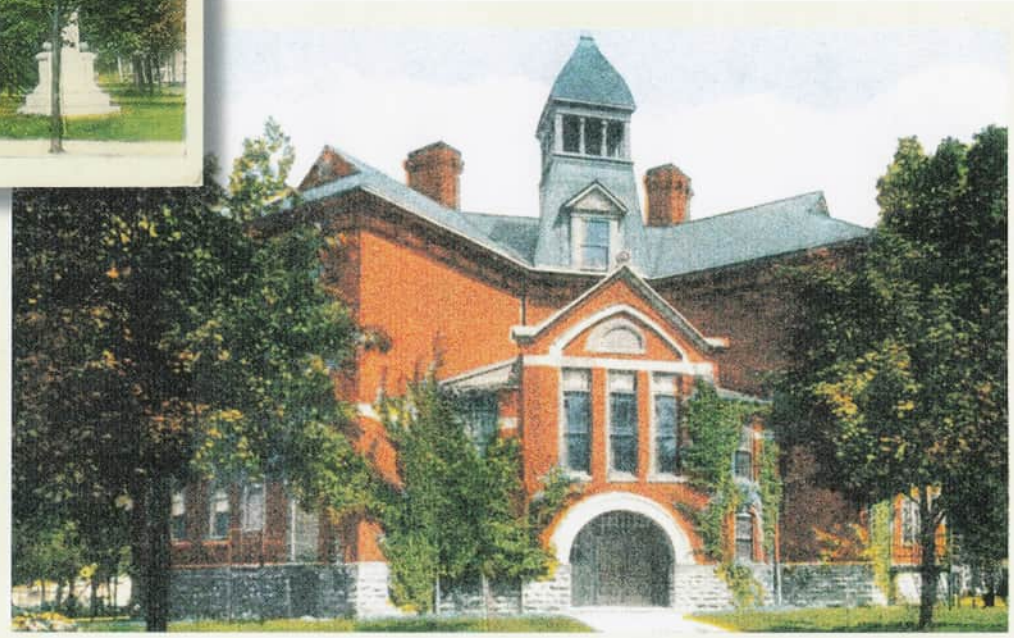
Early St. Marys School Buildings

No postcards were available for five other early school buildings.



Postmarked July 21, 1919

The ten-room West School was constructed at 320 West Spring Street in 1888. It provided a grade school on the first floor and high school on the upper level. When Memorial High School was built in 1924, West became a grade school. It was replaced by a new West School in 1959. The original building was then demolished for the Methodist Church parking lot.



Postmarked 1908

East Grade School was constructed at 440 East Spring Street in 1888. It was demolished in 1959 for a new building of the same name. The Fraternal Order of Eagles built a lodge here in 2004. Neil Armstrong attended this school from second to fifth grade. After completing fifth grade in 1940, his family moved to Upper Sandusky.

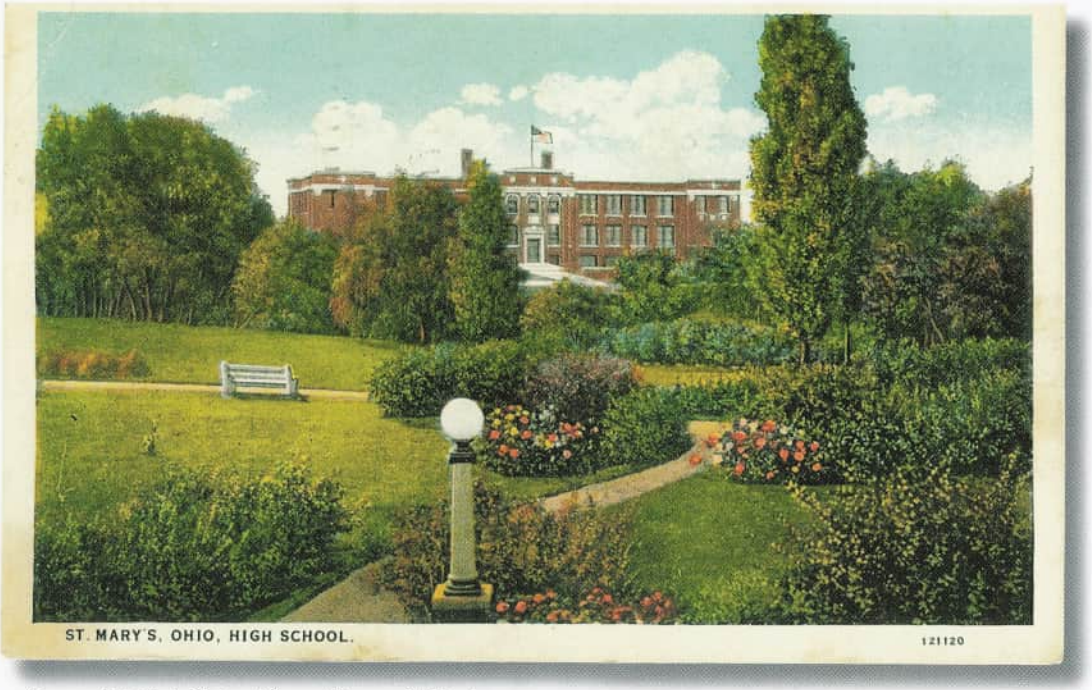
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Memorial High School

Memorial High School opened in 1924 at 101 West South Street. The site for the school was purchased by Lemon Neely, who then donated it to the board of education. Neely named the building "memorial" in honor of his late mother, Carrie Mae Neely.



Note an entrance arch to the Memorial High School football field on the right of the school.



Memorial High School from Memorial Park

St. Marys

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St. Marys Woolen Mills

The St. Marys Woolen Mills were founded in 1846 by William Ross and located at 115 East High Street. In 1866 Ross sold the business to Albert Althausen, Philip V. Herzing, David Armstrong, Sr., and William Piper. The mill was destroyed by fire on June 29, 1895. Managed by the Herzing family, the mill was rebuilt and became the world's largest producer of blankets, whose quality was legendary. The company made blankets for the United States Army during both world wars.

The Herzings operated the blanket factory until 1957, when the market for wool blankets sharply declined. The mill was then sold to Fieldcrest Mills, which moved production out of St. Marys in 1960. Leshner Corporation then purchased the buildings, establishing the St. Marys Cotton Mill, which operated until 1998, when the facility was donated to the City of St. Marys. It was demolished in 2007.



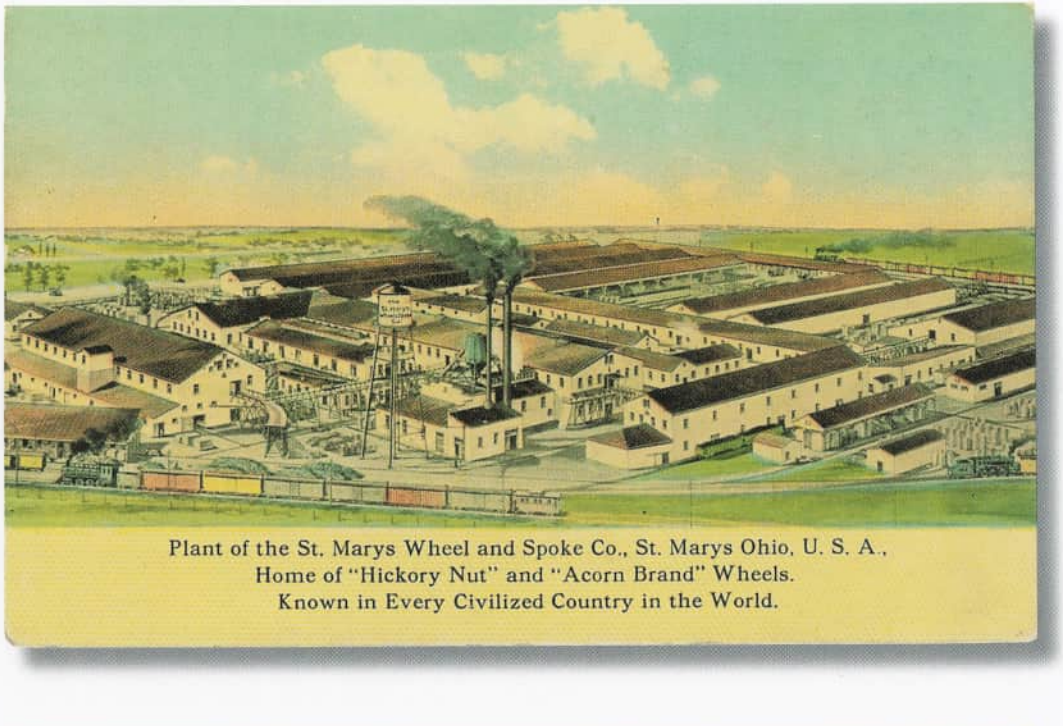


1908

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St. Marys Wheel & Spoke Company

Crane & MacMahon, Inc.





St. Marys Wheel & Spoke was established in the building that had previously housed the Bimel Wagon Wheel Factory, on South Street in the area of McBroom School. In the 1900s a factory was constructed east of Cleveland, Hendricks and Columbia streets. The company became the largest wheel and carriage woodstock plant in the world.

During World War I the company was one of the largest wheel manufacturers for the United States government. It was also known as the largest manufacturer of circus wagon wheels. In 1928 the company began producing bedroom and dining room furniture.

In World War II the company again reverted to military production, manufacturing bunk beds and cots, mess tables, tent stakes, and wood potato mashers. The company closed in 1953, with the building destroyed by fire in 2000.

St. Marys

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St. Marys Foundry Co.

409 East South Street

The St. Marys Machine Company, Buehler Foundry and Boos Machine Company buildings are all part of the St. Marys Foundry today.





Chris Buehler Foundry, sold to St. Marys Foundry in 1917



St. Marys Machine Company, sold to Boos Machine in 1915, postmarked 1907

St. Marys

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St. Marys Chain Factory

Corner of Scott and Oil Streets

Established in 1887, the chain factory site is now home of BRW Tool, Inc.



Although the Chain Factory suffered a devastating fire, work began at once to rebuild.



In addition to chain, the factory produced huge ship anchors for the United States Navy during World War I. Production ceased in the 1920s.



Watchman at the T&OC Railroad Crossing on Oil Street near the Chain Factory

St. Marys

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GOODYEAR

These postcards of the Goodyear Plant, 1115 South Wayne Street, date from the period before State Route 66 was relocated to Main Street.

Goodyear St. Marys was the world's largest molded and extruded rubber products plant, producing more than 2,200 items for the automotive, military, agricultural, railroad, mining and appliance industries.

In 1990 Goodyear celebrated its 50th year of operations in St. Marys. Goodyear began operating in St. Marys in 1940. The current facility occupies 109 acres, with more than 800,000 square feet of floor space. It has been a mainstay of employment for St. Marys and area residents.

In 2007 the Goodyear plant was sold to the Carlyle Group. It is now known as Veyance Technologies.



Looking north on State Route 66



Looking south on State Route 66

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More St. Marys Industry

Also known as the Paper Mill, the Auglaize County Box Board Company was located at 301 South Pine Street. The mill made paper from straw until 1912, when old newspaper began to be used. The factory closed on May 16, 1970, causing almost 120 persons to lose their jobs. A 1976 fire destroyed all the buildings.



St. Marys Water Plant and Powerhouse, located at 317 North Chestnut Street



Postmarked 1909



Manufacturing Easy Washing Machines and Modern Churns from 1905, the Easy Washing Machine Company was located at the corner of Routes 703 and 364.

St. Marys

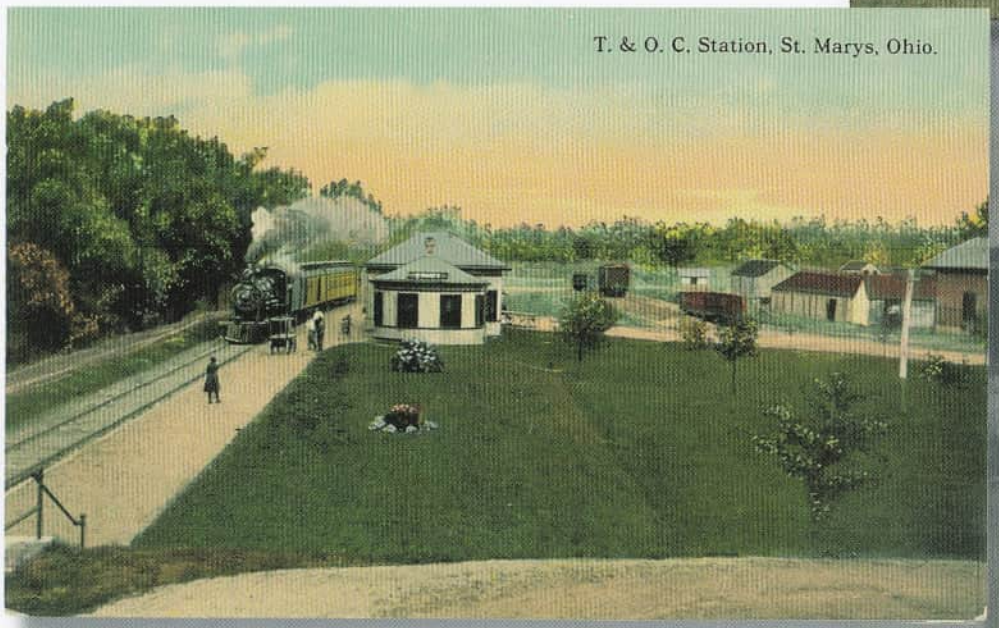
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T&OC Railroad

The Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad (T&OC) reached St. Marys from the east in 1898. The track ran through the center of Oil Street, ending at the station and freight house on High Street, between the river and the canal. The railroad became the New York Central during World War I. All traces of its existence are gone today.



Mill Park at High Street between the canal and river



T&OC station located east of the river and north of High Street



T&OC train crossing and guard on Oil Street

St. Marys

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The 1913 Flood



Looking toward Spring Street from High Street



South Street looking east from Front Street



The T&OC Depot on High Street, between the river and the canal

In March 1913 heavy rains and frozen ground caused canals and rivers to overflow, causing the greatest flood Ohio has ever known.

St. Marys

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More Flood Scenes



Flooded home, postmarked April 3, 1913



Railroad tracks, postmarked April 1, 1913



Horse and wagon, postmarked October 1, 1913

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T&OC Railroad Yard across from the old Woolen Mill



St. Marys City Power Plant



C.W. Schmehl's Saw Mill. The Armory is located here today.



Water mains were exposed as the soil washed away. This is the current site of the South Street parking lot.

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Moulton

The Village of Moulton was recorded on July 27, 1876. The village is located on the former Plank Road, now known as County Road 33A. The Western Ohio Electric Railway (also known as the Interurban) and T&OC Railroad stopped in Moulton.



Railroad depot



Trinity Lutheran Church, postmarked January 9, 1916

Trinity Lutheran Church was established in March 1868, by a small group of German Lutheran settlers. A dozen of them signed an agreement to support a pastor for one year. The church was rebuilt after the 1920 tornado, and was made completely accessible to the disabled in 2004.

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The Moulton Tornado

A devastating tornado struck Moulton on March 28 (Palm Sunday), 1920, at 7:45 p.m. Three persons lost their lives, while numerous others were seriously injured.



Destruction to the church and elevator





Trinity Lutheran Church

Moulton

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Lock Two

The community gained its name from its location on the second lock north of the summit of the Miami-Erie Canal. Lock Two (also known as New Paris) was established in 1859 but was never officially platted.



Henry Heinfield Saloon was located on the southwest corner of Canal and Lock Two Roads. The Star Brewing Company beer wagons are from Minster. Standing in front of the building from left to right are unknown man, Harvey Heinfeld, Frank Doenges and Henry Heinfeld.



Lock Two, 1913

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The Lock Two Store



Lock Two Store, postmarked March 24, 1910

John Garmhausen's original 1852 store was partially destroyed when a keg of gunpowder exploded during a March 1892 fire. He rebuilt later that year, expanding his operations into a two-story brick structure. Groceries and hardware were located downstairs, with clothing, dry goods and furniture located on the second floor. Garmhausen operated two huckster wagons from the store until 1910. The business closed in the 1950s, after several changes in ownership.



John Garmhausen home



John Garmhausen home and store

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Lock Two Mill

Bernard Koop established the Lock Two Mill in 1848. The water-powered operation ground flour from wheat, buckwheat, rye and corn, which was then sold retail. In the 1930s the company provided flour to large cookie and cracker manufacturers. The mill also maintained a feed grinding and mixing operation. The business closed in 1981.



Flour Mill and Elevator, 1913

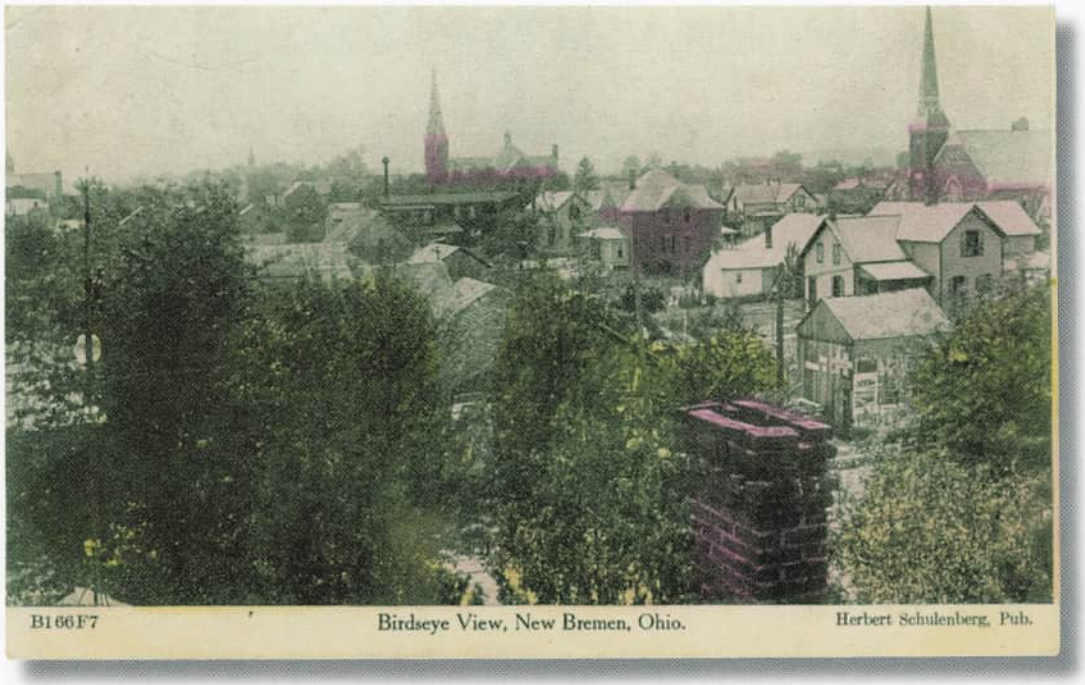


Lock Two Mill Store, 1913



Theodore Doenges was the driver of Lock Two Mill's first truck.

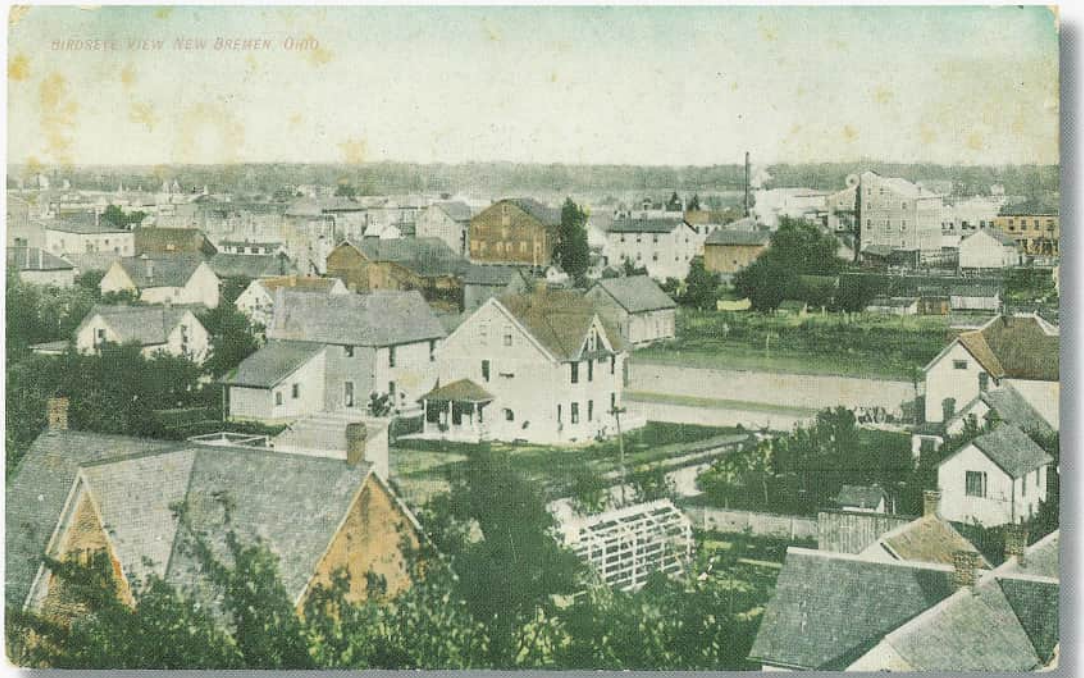
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Bird's-eye view of New Bremen, postmarked May 30, 1908

New Bremen

The town plat of Bremen was recorded on June 11, 1833, at St. Marys, the seat of Mercer County. With the establishment of a government post office in 1835, the village leaders found that another town in Ohio was named Bremen so they changed the name to New Bremen. The village was incorporated on March 23, 1837.



Bird's-eye view of New Bremen, postmarked July 26, 1910



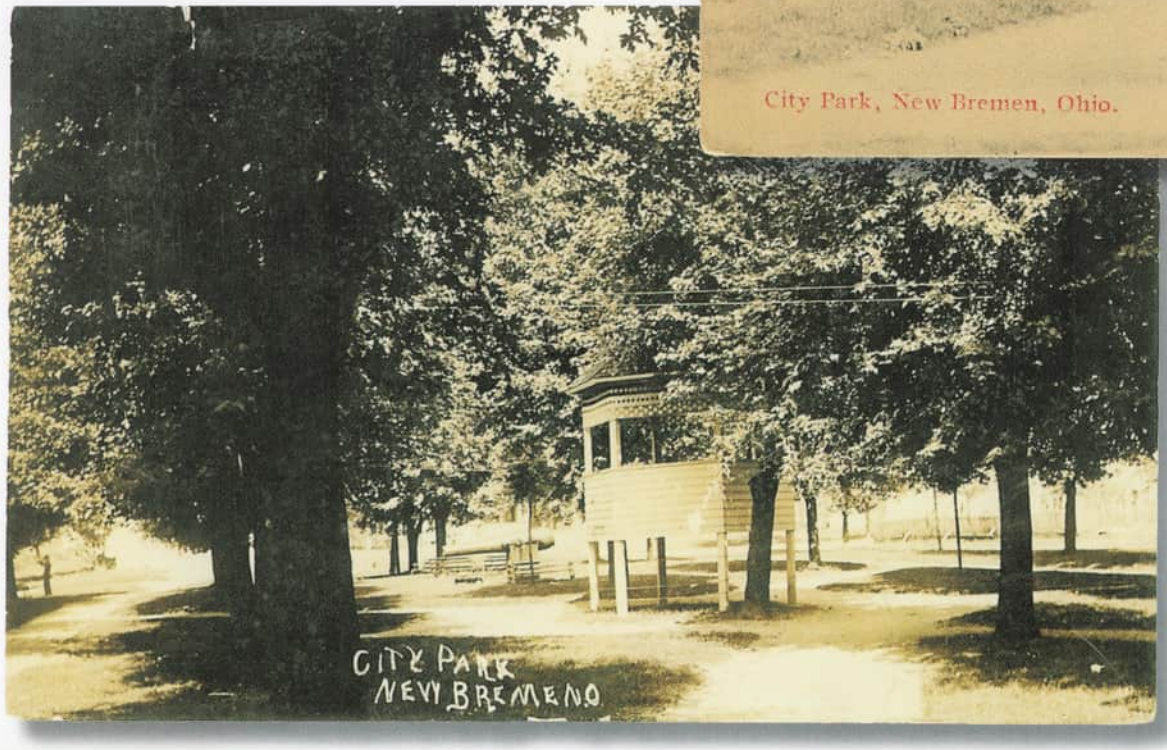
The first official seal of Bremen

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New Bremen Village Park



The cannon in the park was sold for junk in 1958.
Postmarked July 26, 1915



Postmarked September 12, 1910

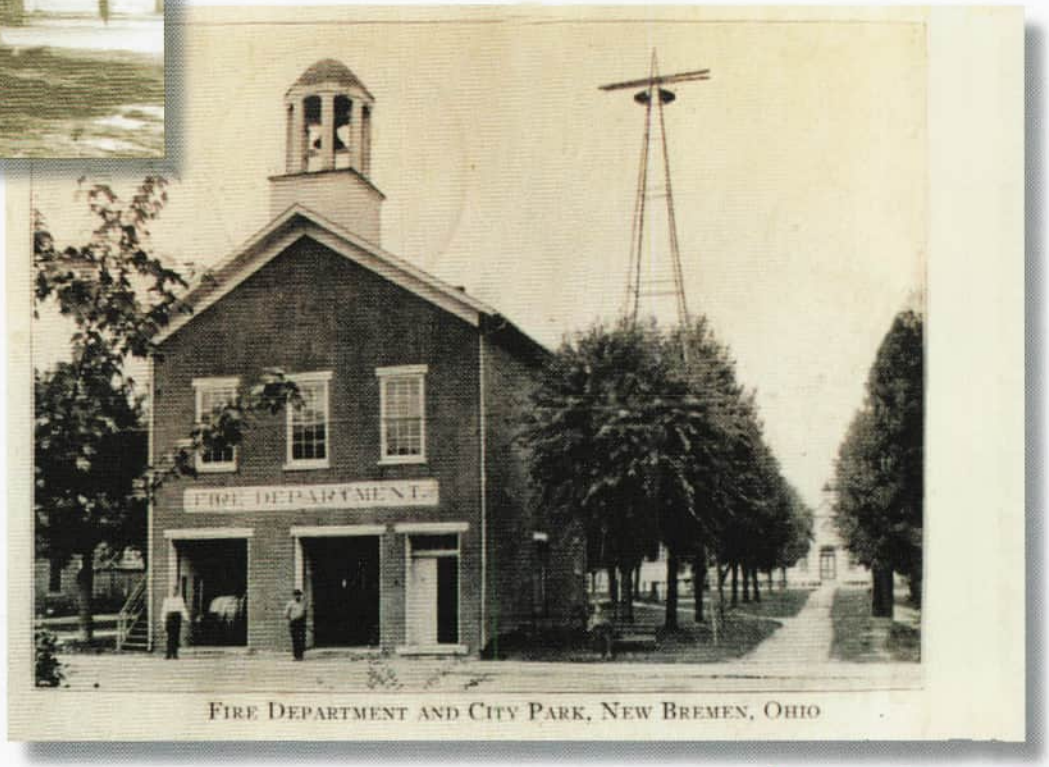
New Bremen

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New Bremen Fire Department

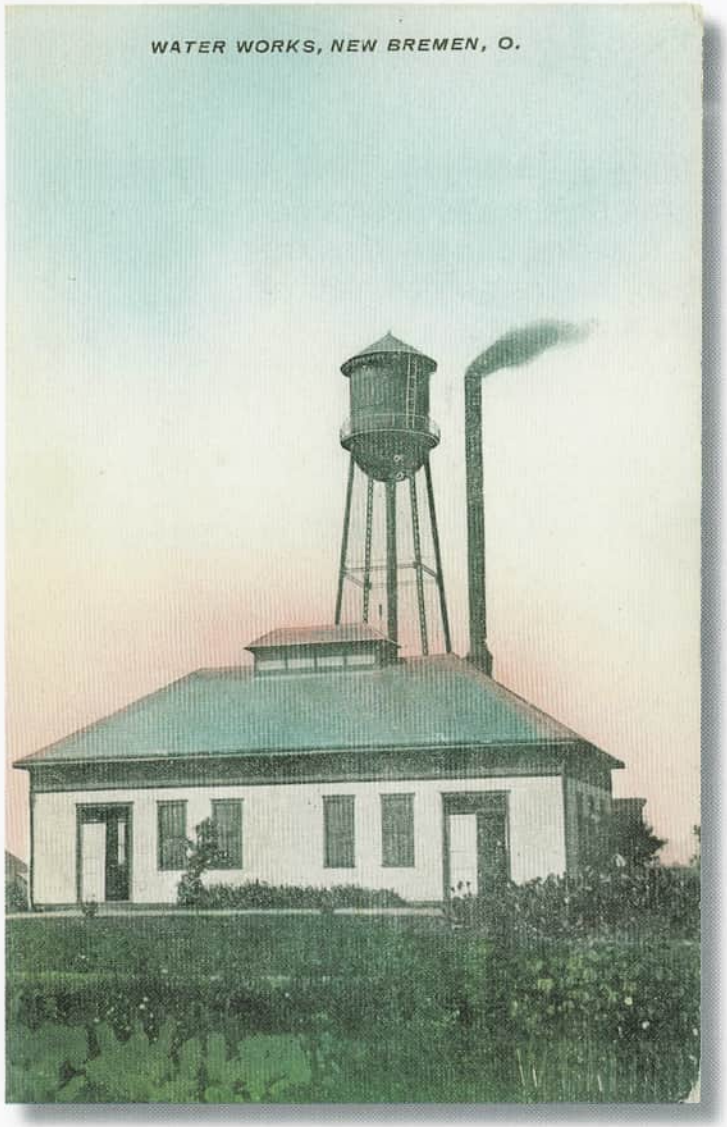


The building at 24 South Washington Street was dedicated in 1897. It served the town as the fire station, mayor's office, council chambers and jail.



The New Bremen Northern Fire Company was organized in 1857 and housed in this fire station located in the old village park. Today the post office is located on this site.

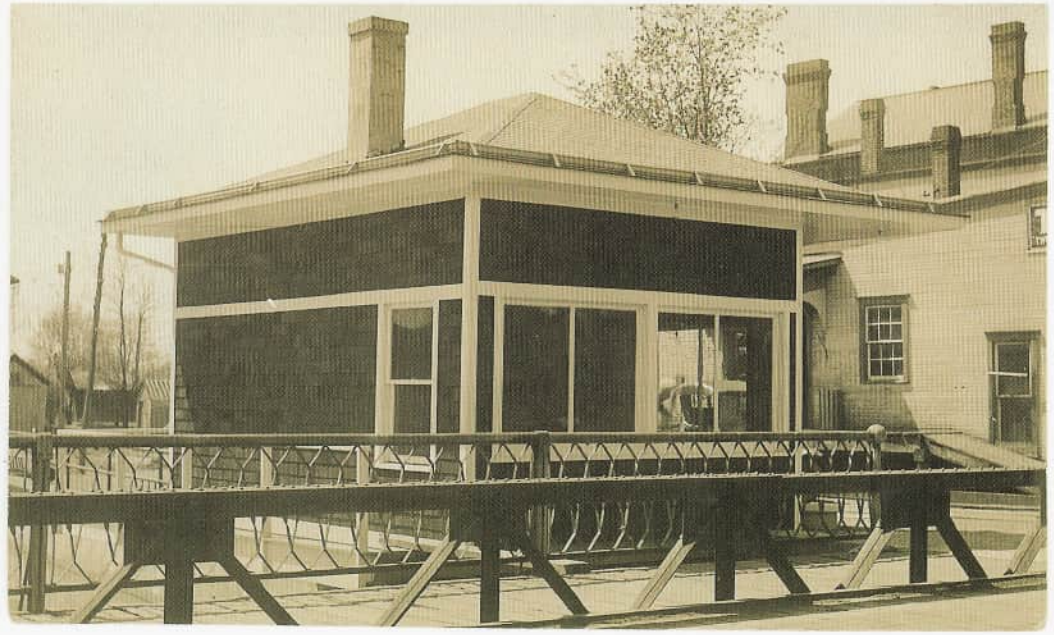
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Water Works, postmarked August 5, 1910



L.E. & W. Depot, postmarked August 29, 1910

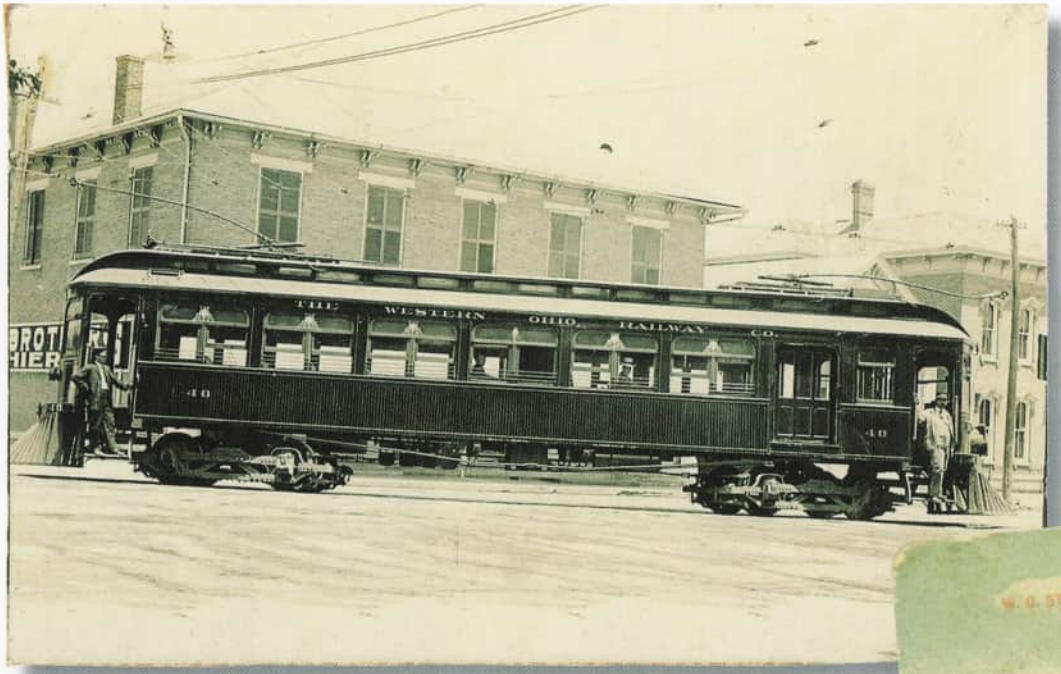


Postmarked December 10, 1920

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Western Ohio Railway

In 1931 the Western Ohio abandoned its equipment and the tracks were removed in New Bremen.



Interurban car at corner of Main and Monroe Streets



Western Ohio Railway station on Monroe Street in front of Hotel Laut, postmarked 1907.



Interurban accident where two people were killed, postmarked August 9, 1909

New Bremen

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New Bremen Decoration Day Celebration



1912



Left to right: Red Tellman, H. Mueller, Herman Hermsmeyer (Mexican War), Henry Schaefer, B. Tschudy, William Waterman, F. Roettger, Ben Schulenberg, H. Dickman, Anton Friedericks (Minster), Fred Behm, William Schulenberg.



Decoration Day Parade, postmarked June 5, 1911

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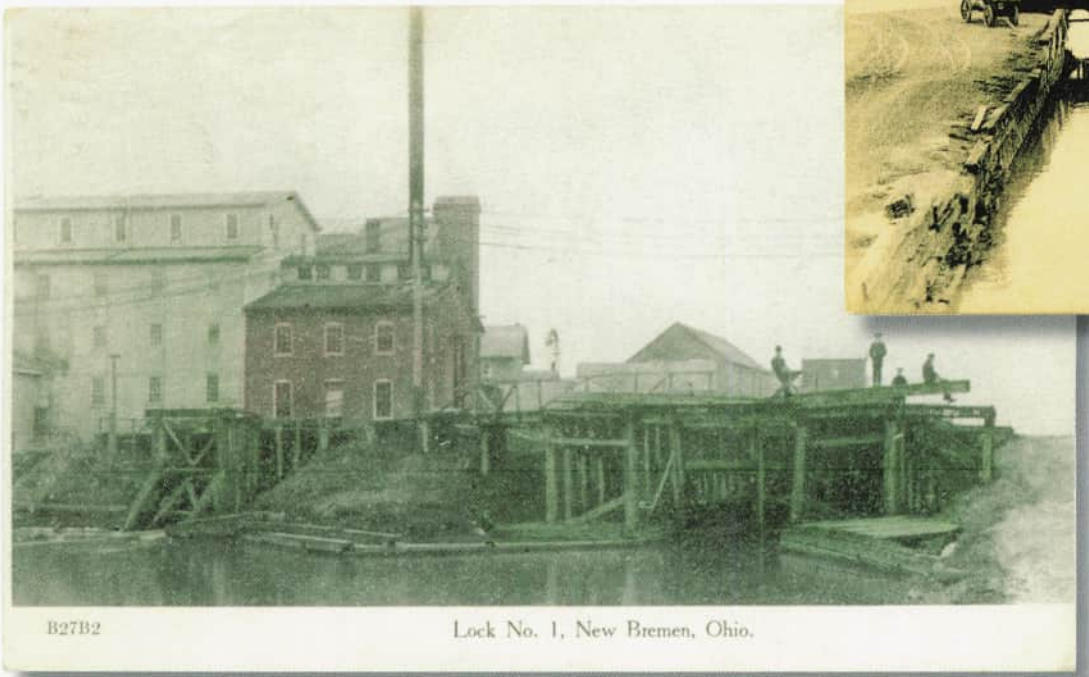
Miami-Erie Canal Lock and Bridge



Lock One and the locktender's house, postmarked January 11, 1918



Miami-Erie Canal bridge, postmarked January 6, 1921

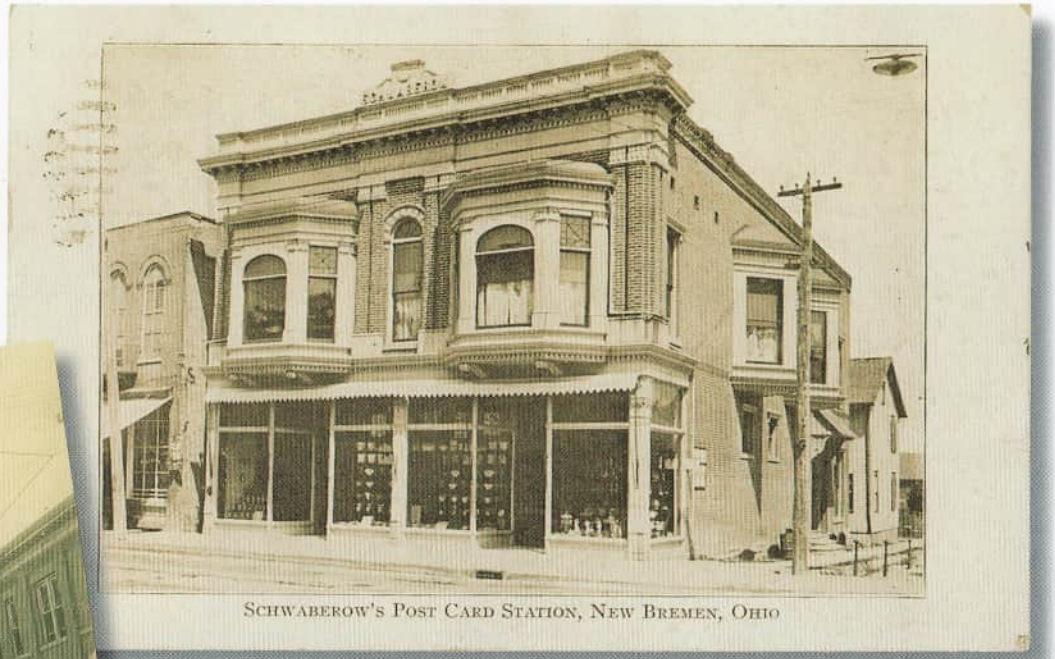


Constructed of wood, Lock One was located at New Bremen. Postmarked July 6, 1910

New Bremen

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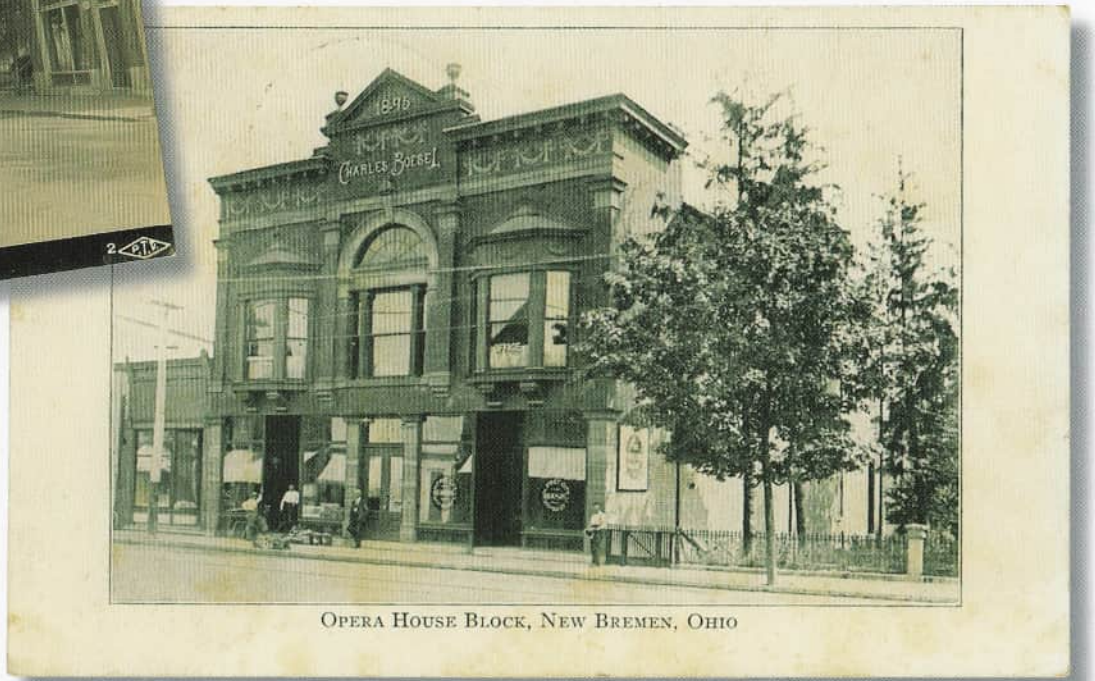
Views of Monroe Street



102 West Monroe Street, postmarked September 11, 1912



West Monroe and new street lights, postmarked September 8, 1931



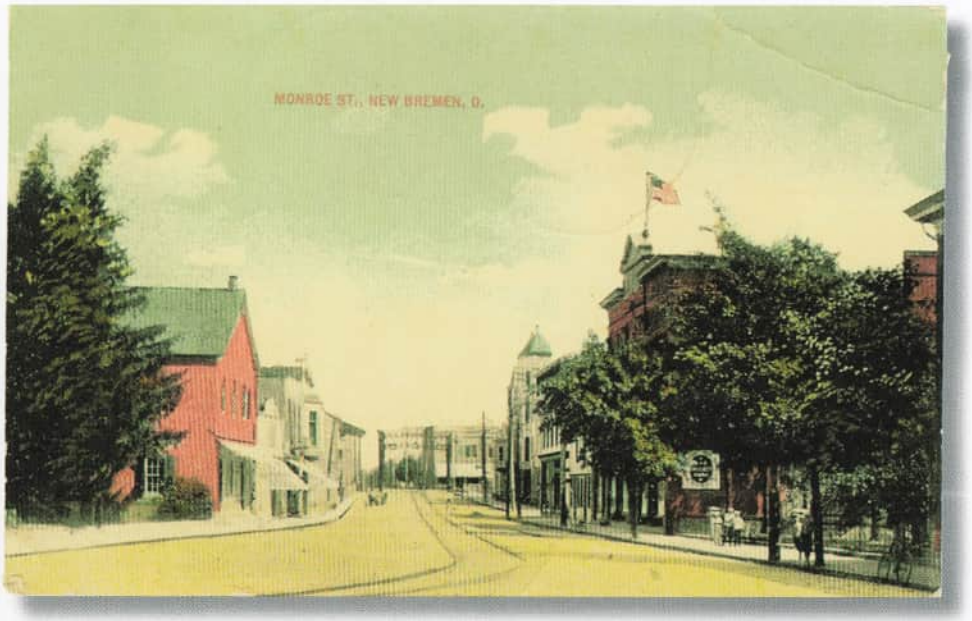
Boesel Building, postmarked July 29, 1910

New Bremen

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Postmarked May 22, 1907



Postmarked July 30, 1912



Postmarked April 12, 1910



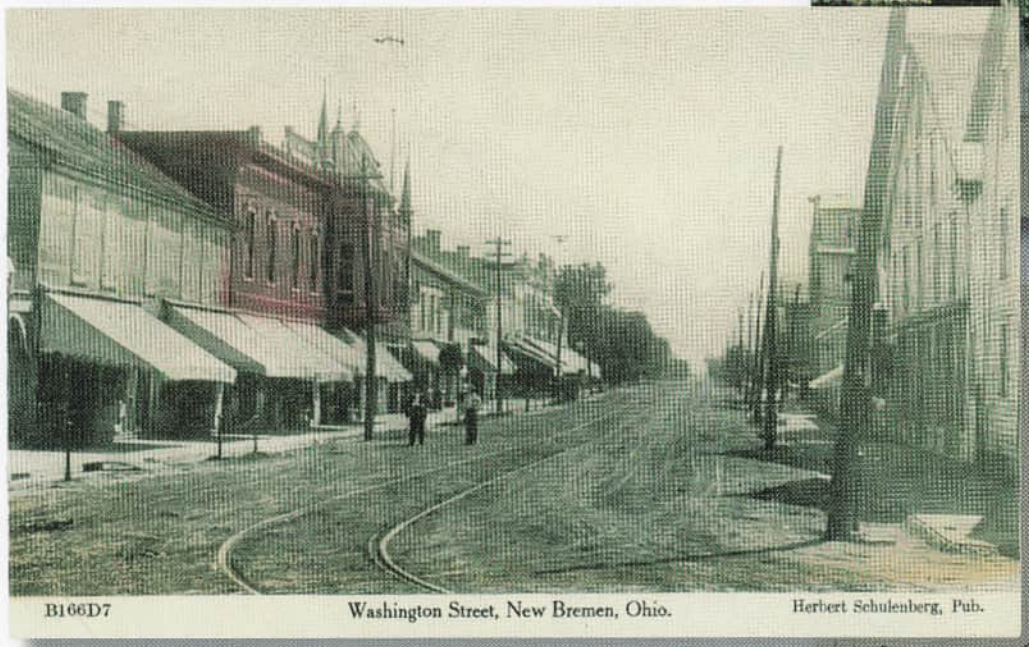
Postmarked 1921

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Views of Washington Street



Postmarked March 18, 1913



Postmarked September 16, 1909



New Bremen

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Henry Dierker Building, postmarked 1923



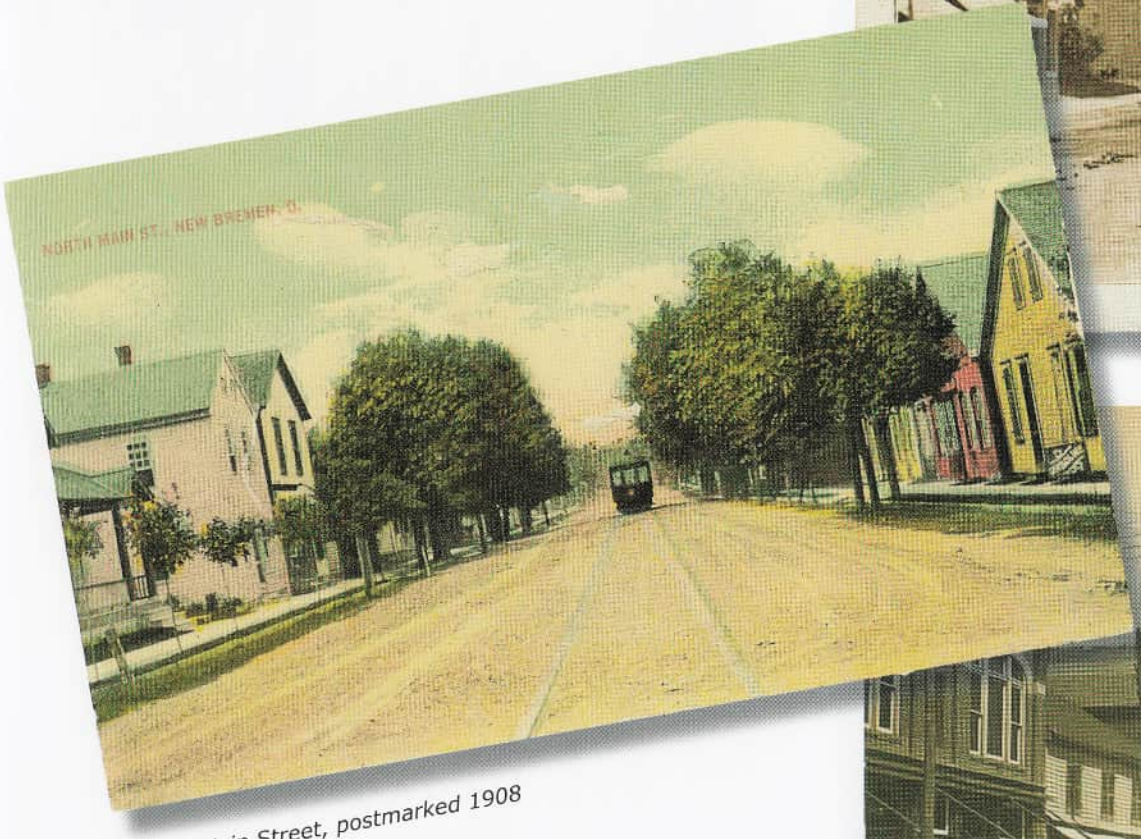
Postmarked October 17, 1911



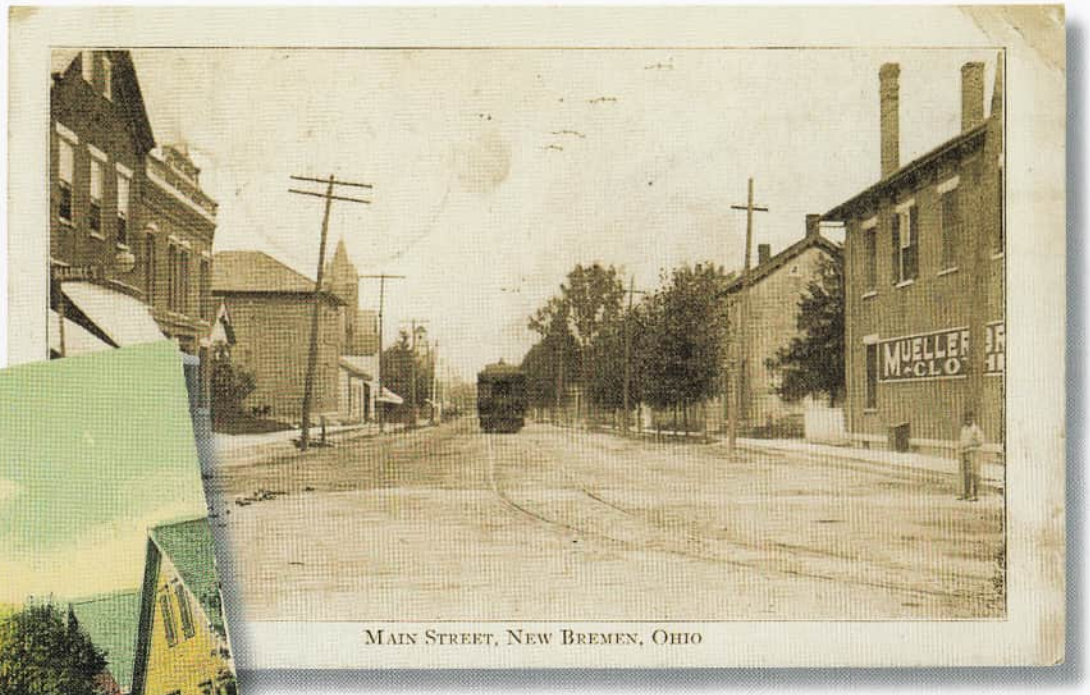
Postmarked March 24, 1913

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Main Street Views



North Main Street, postmarked 1908



Postmarked August 25, 1911



Main Street

New Bremen

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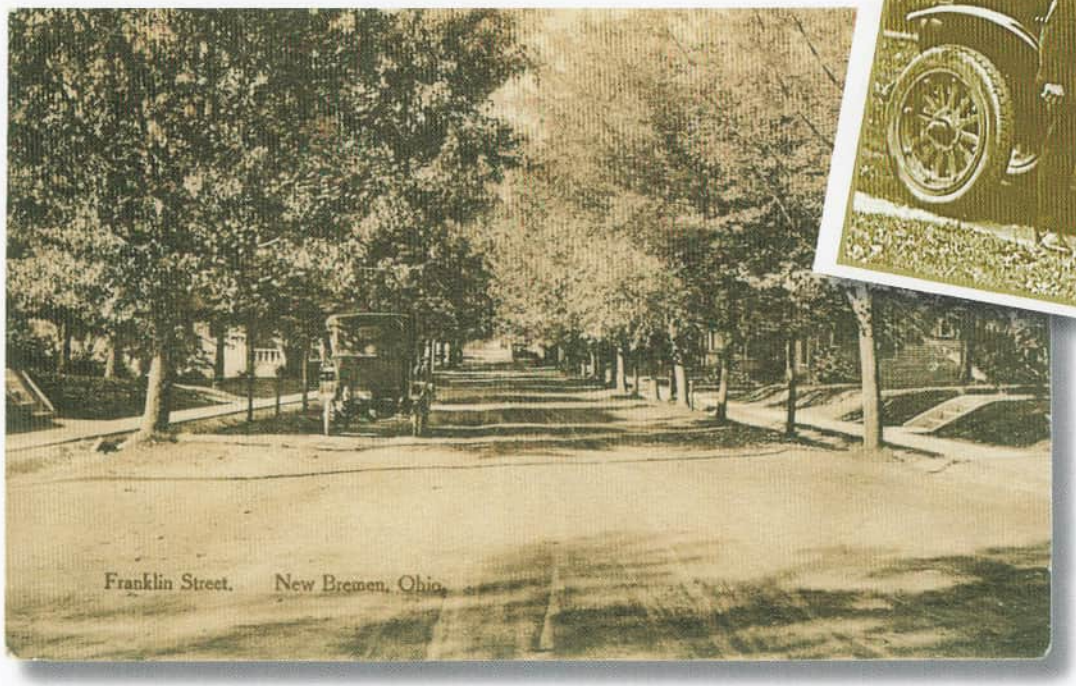
New Bremen



North Franklin Street, postmarked September 23, 1912



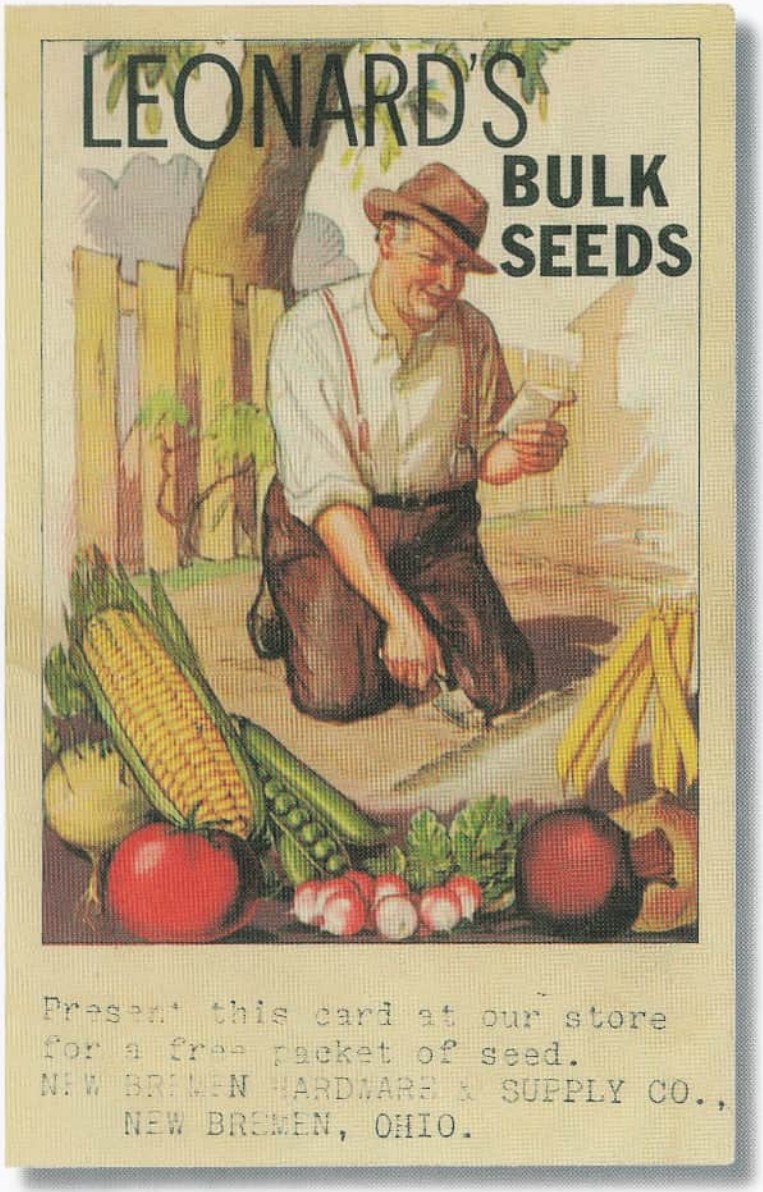
Royal Tangeman, Watkins Dealer, c. 1922-23



Franklin Street, Postmarked 1918

New Bremen

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111 West Monroe Street



Woodmen of the World Parade on June 21, 1908



Main Street, postmarked November 11, 1908

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New Bremen



Amsterdam Bridge, September 1, 1908





1913 flood in New Bremen

This miniature race car was made at the Eddie Wehrman Machine Shop in New Bremen. This was the first miniature car and received lots of recognition from *Popular Science, Popular Mechanics* and other publications. It was displayed at many race tracks, including the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

New Bremen

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New Bremen Industry



New Bremen Broom Shop



The O.O. Poorman Company, later the Streine Tool and Manufacturing Company, then Stamco, Inc., on South Herman Street

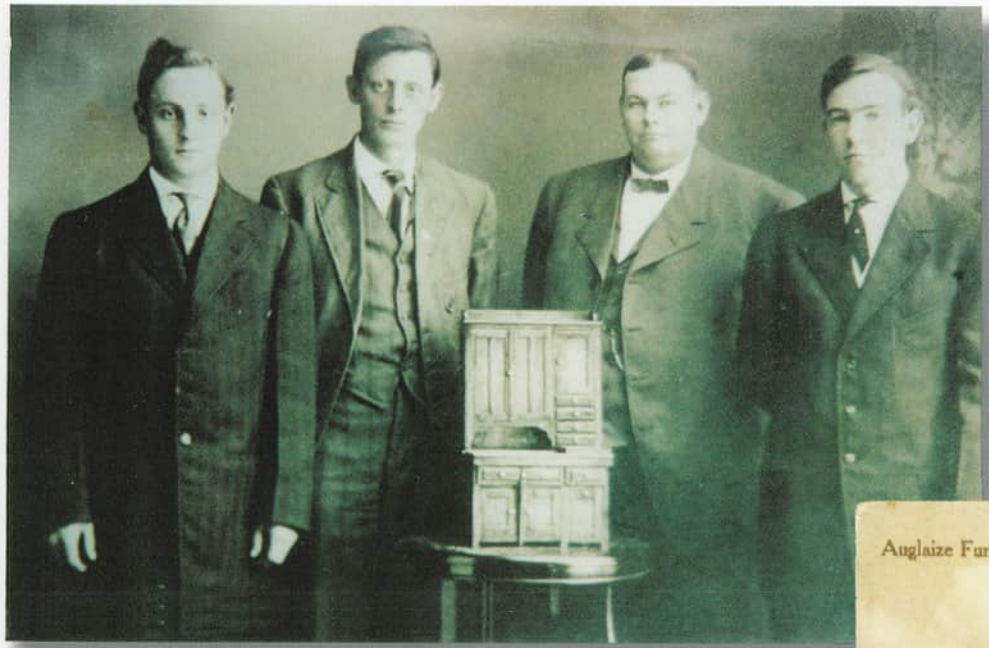


Employees of the New Bremen Broom Shop in 1909. The building on South Herman Street was destroyed by fire on November 26, 1947, and sold on April 27, 1948.

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Auglaize Furniture Company

The Auglaize Furniture Company was founded in 1914. It replaced the Klanke Furniture Company that was totally destroyed by fire in 1913. The company operated successfully until the Depression.



Klanke Furniture Company; (left to right) Lawrence Roettger, Herbert Klute, Ed Lanfersieck and Oscar Hirschfeld



The Auglaize Furniture Company on the corner of Plum and Herman Streets. Later it was the site of New Bremen Rubber Plant and Stamco.



Postmarked June 30, 1911

New Bremen

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The White Mountain Creamery

In 1882 Louis Huenke began to sell milk. Two years later, he opened a creamery, the first in northwestern Ohio. This was the beginning of the White Mountain Creamery. It was incorporated in 1908. White Mountain Creamery merged with Beatrice Food in 1928. The company changed ownership several times and closed its doors in March 2000.



Parade vehicle in front of the Lanfersieck Store, September, 1910



White Mountain Creamery float



White Mountain Creamery truck

New Bremen

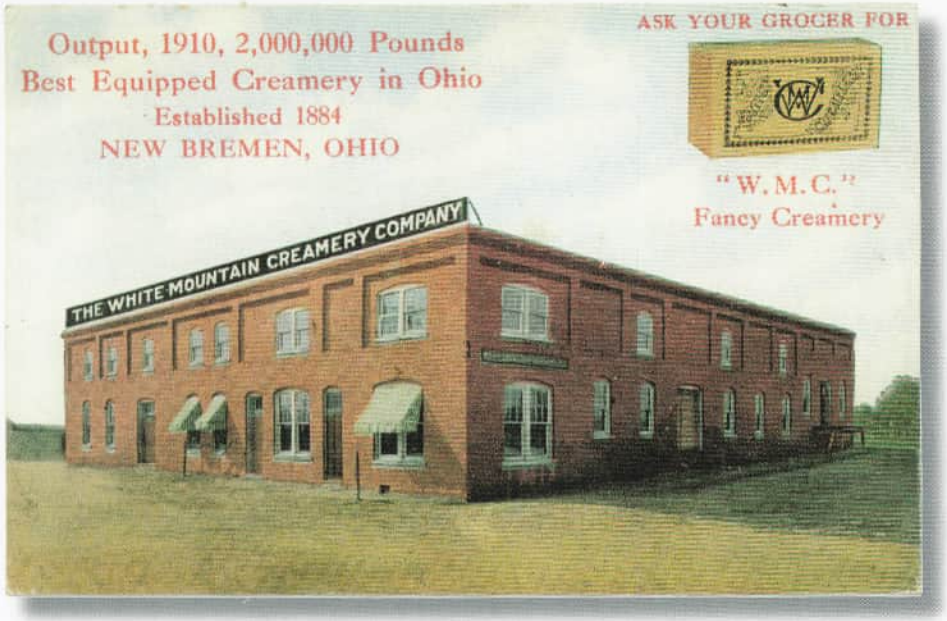
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White Mountain Creamery, postmarked February 13, 1911



White Mountain Creamery interior, postmarked 1910



White Mountain Creamery, postmarked 1910



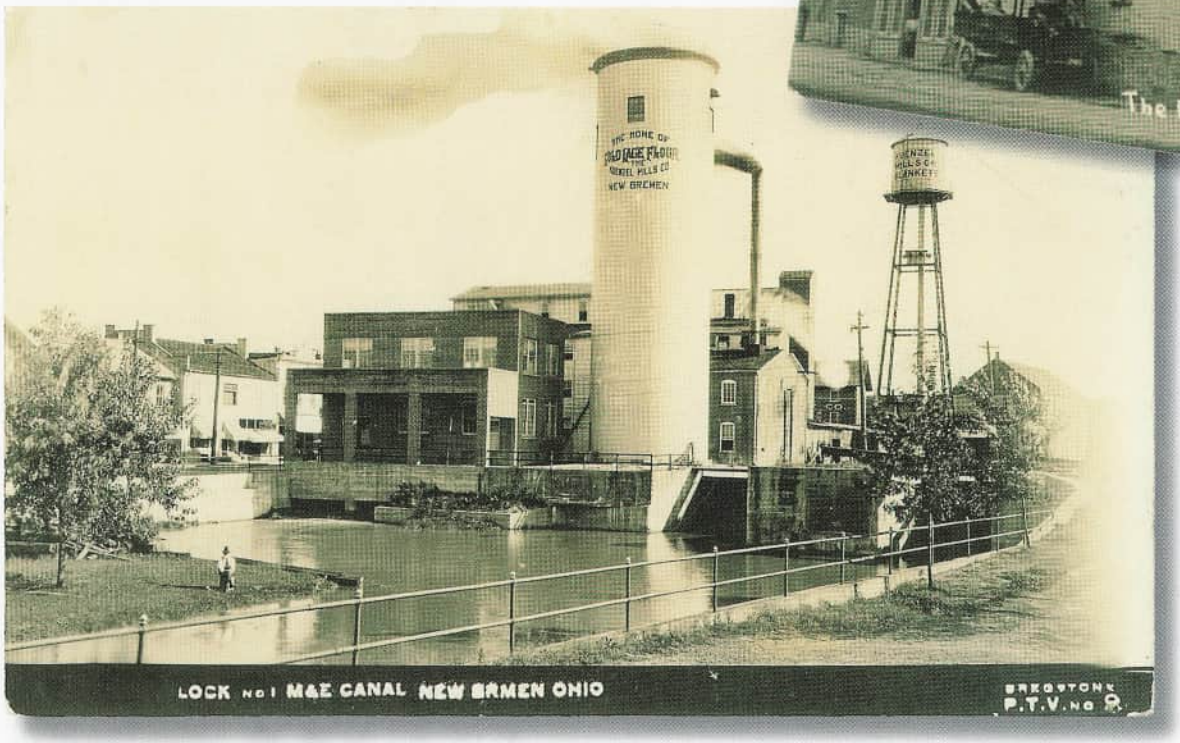
Beatrice Food Company, postmarked 1941

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Kuenzel Mills



Bakhaus and Kuenzel Flour Mill. In 1914 the name was changed to the Kuenzel Mills Company.



Kuenzel Mills Company, 1925. The building was razed in May 1968. Today the New Bremen Public Library and municipal parking lot are located here.

New Bremen

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Kuenzel Mills



Bakhaus and Kuenzel Company Wool Blankets



New Bremen Woolen Mills employees

New Bremen

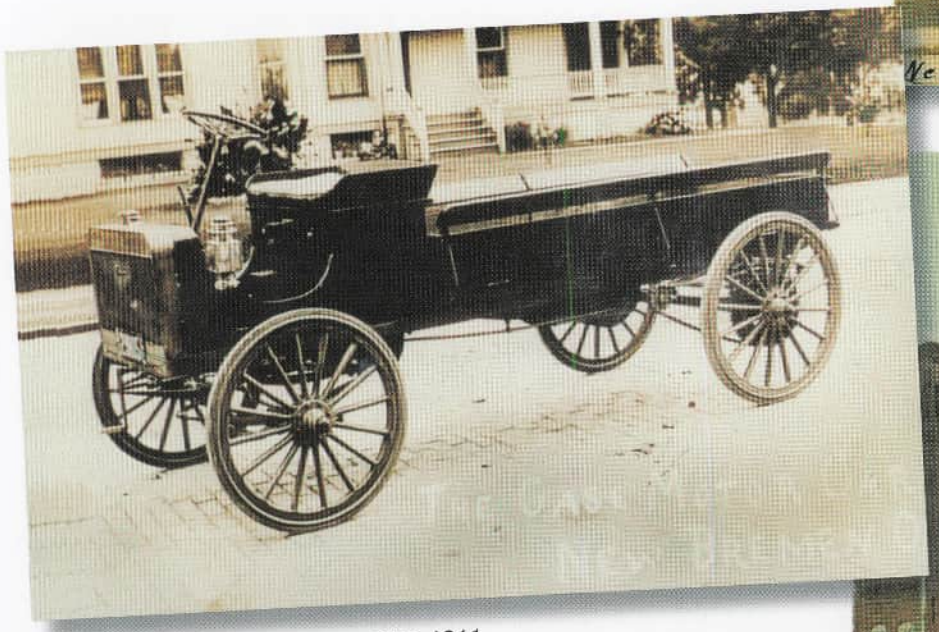
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Case Motor Company

The Case Motor Company was established about 1909 in the Plow Factory building. The company went out of business about 1918. Today this is the location of Auglaize School.



New Bremen Plow Works, c. 1907



1911 model Case motor car, circa 1911



Auglaize Motor Car Company, 1914

New Bremen

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J.A. Long and Company



August 10, 1910

On February 24, 1899, J.A. Long purchased this building located on Plum Street, next to the canal. Commodities bought and sold were poultry, eggs, cheese, bones, hides, beeswax, hickory nuts, maple syrup, rubber, old rags, paper, iron, brass, copper and zinc.



This three story brick structure was erected after a January 1914 fire in the building above. The company that originally owned the brick building went bankrupt in 1931. Today Crown Equipment Corporation owns the structure.

New Bremen

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New Bremen Swimming Pool

The New Bremen Swimming Pool was dedicated on May 30, 1940. It was one of the first community pools in the area. It was used by the people of New Bremen and neighboring towns.

A new community pool was opened on July 3, 1998.



The total cost of the pool in 1940 was $41,000. The federal government contributed $28,700, while New Bremen's share was $12,300.



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New Bremen Churches



Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, postmarked 1948



St. Peter's Church, postmarked 1910



Postmarked 1909

New Bremen

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Christ Church

A Catholic church was built in 1872 on a lot on South Walnut Street. In 1907 it was sold to the Christ Church congregation for $2000. Christ Church then added the tower and vestibule. The congregation is known today as the Faith Alliance Church.



Christ Church, c. 1908



Christ Church Parsonage on South Walnut Street



Christ Church, dedicated January 1947

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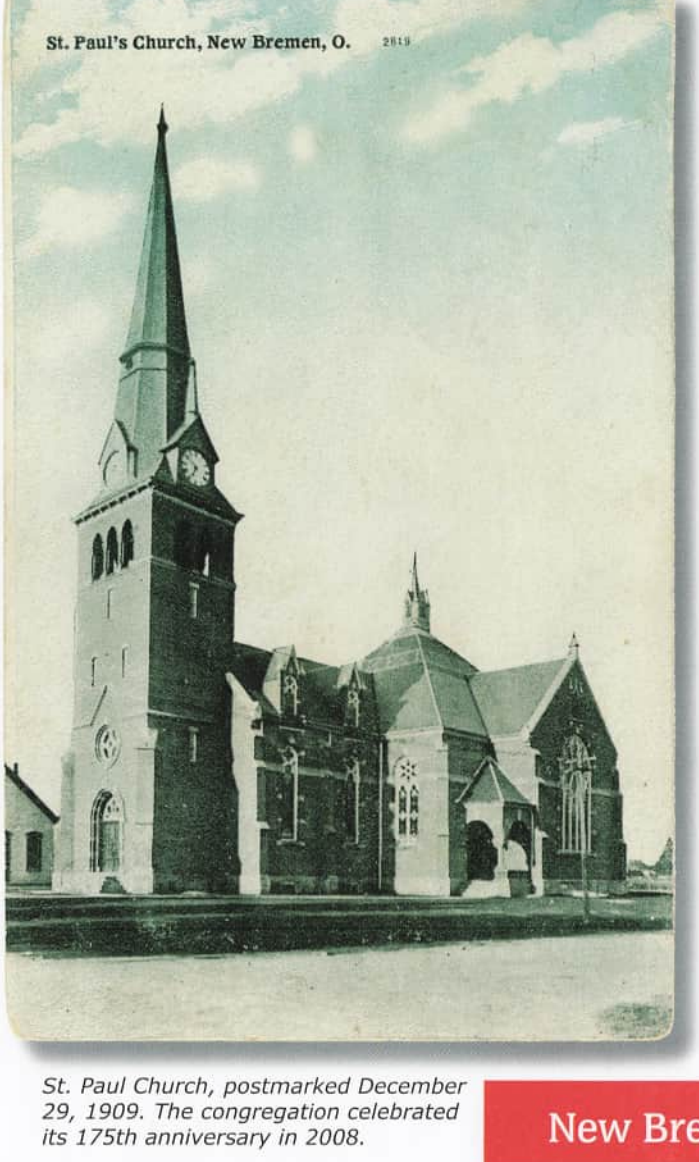
St. Paul Church



Interior of St. Paul Church, postmarked October 1, 1921



St. Paul Church Parsonage, postmarked June 13, 1910

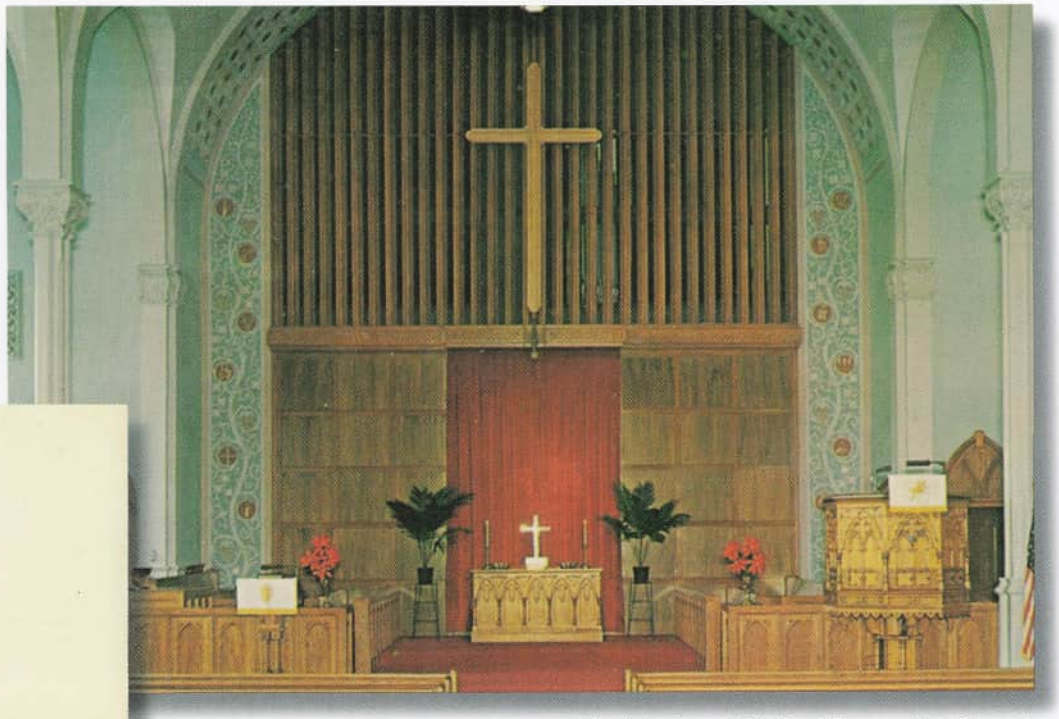


St. Paul Church, postmarked December 29, 1909. The congregation celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2008.

New Bremen

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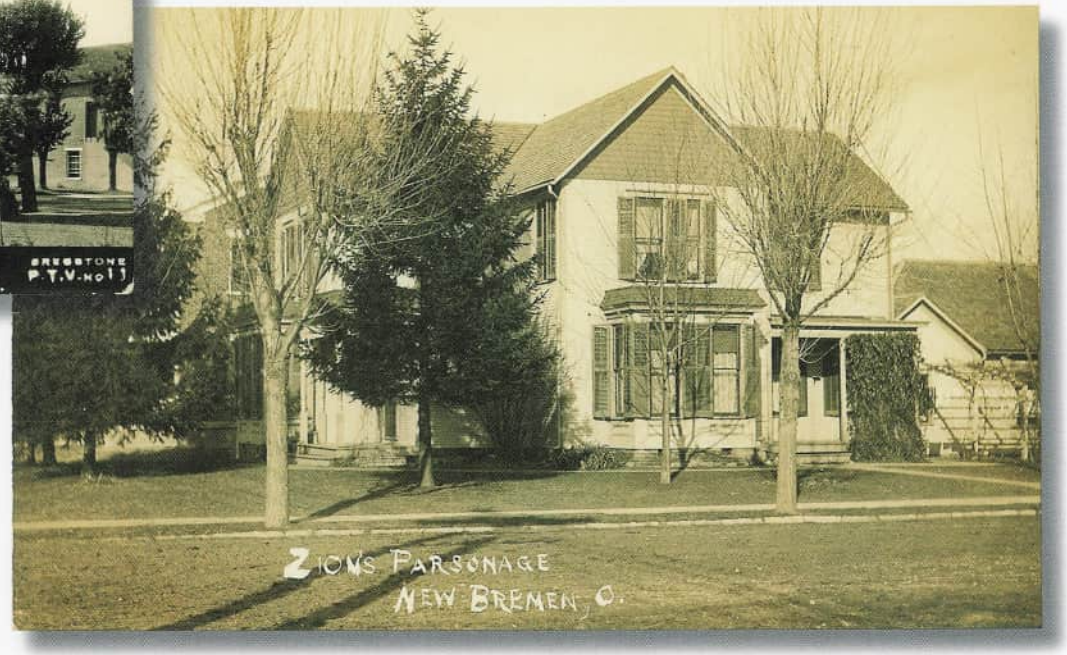
New Bremen Churches



The interior of St. Paul Evangelical Church



Zion Reform Church, postmarked September 10, 1931



Zion Parsonage

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Central School

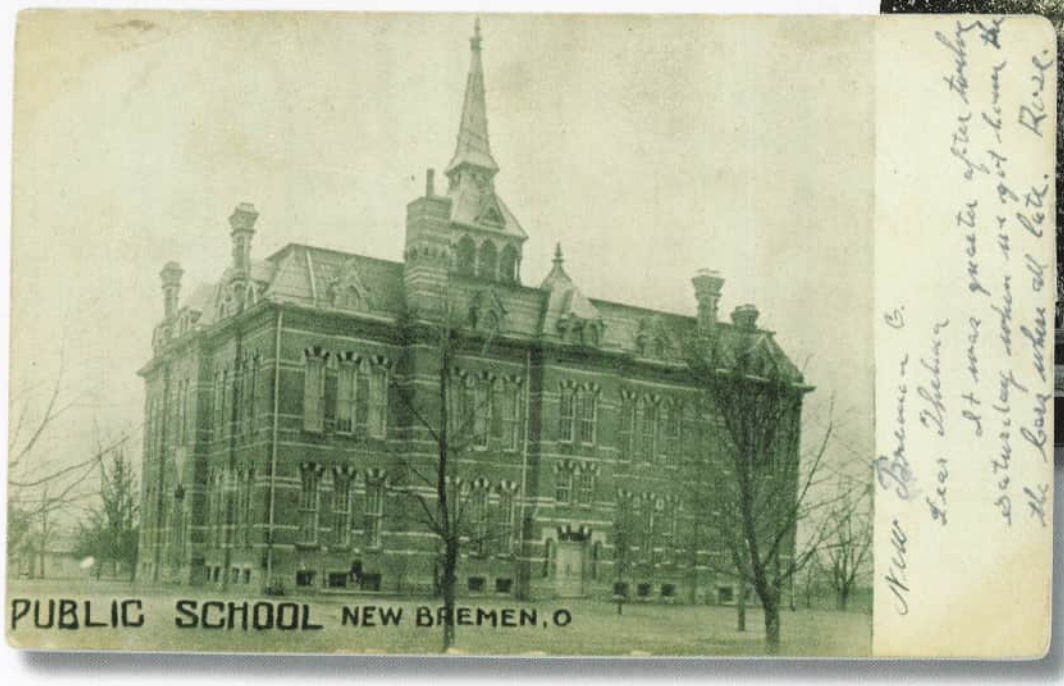
This fine example of Gothic Revival architecture was built in 1878 at a cost of $17,460.47. The school was sold at public auction June 15, 1957, to Stamco for $15,000. It was torn down for a parking lot.



Postmarked August 2, 1918



Postmarked February 20, 1929



Postmarked August 12, 1907

New Bremen

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Uniopolis

John Hoffman platted Uniopolis in September 1837. The village is the only settlement located entirely in Union Township.



Main Street



Ohio Street

"With the coming of the Ohio Southern Railroad, many new enterprises were organized, and the village, with its population of about 400, is one of the most flourishing in the county (1898)."

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Uniopolis



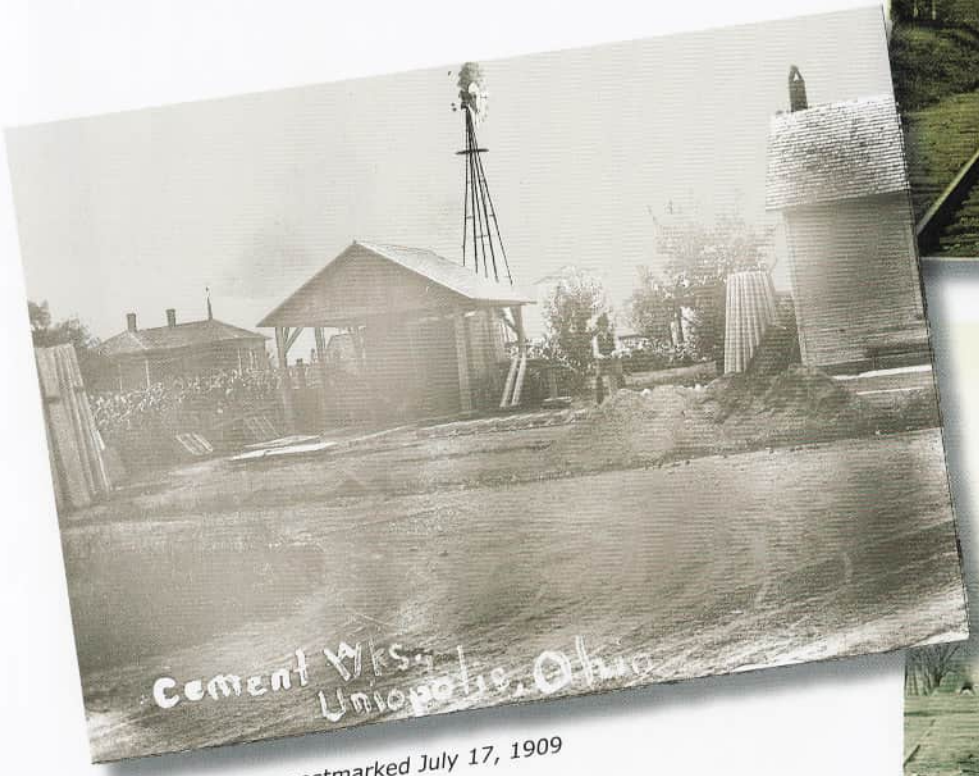
The Auglaize County Farm Bureau Co-op, Uniopolis Branch, was in this building. The building was razed in 1981.



Christian Church

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Uniopolis



Cement Works, postmarked July 17, 1909



Detroit, Toledo & Ironton (DT&I) Railroad Depot



Uniopolis Depot and Elevator

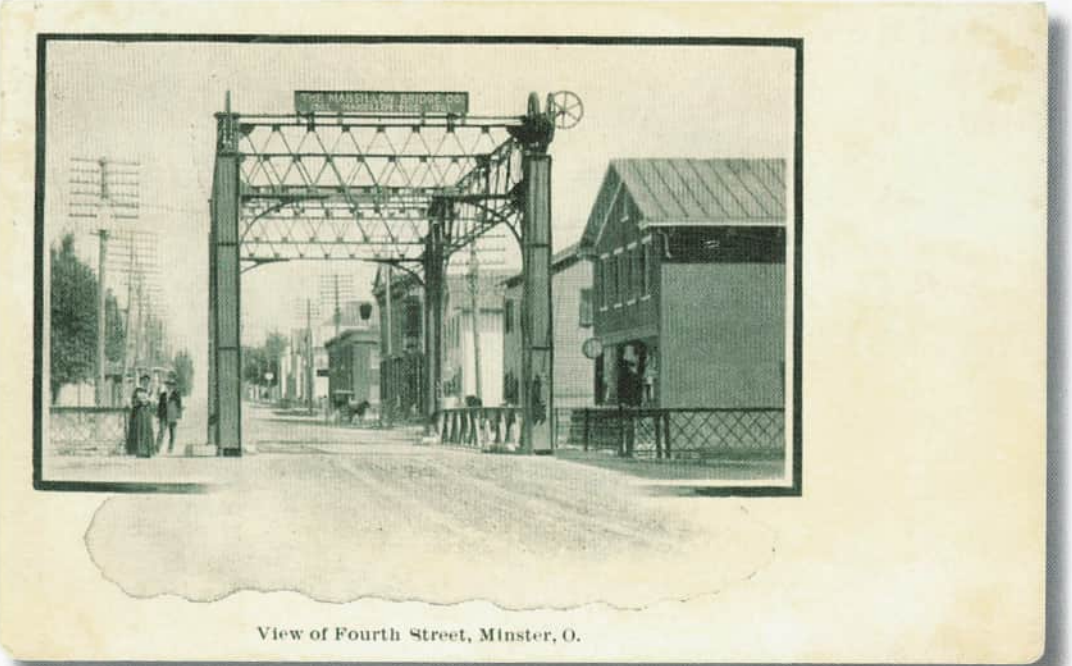
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Bird's-eye view of Minster, September 8, 1914

Minster

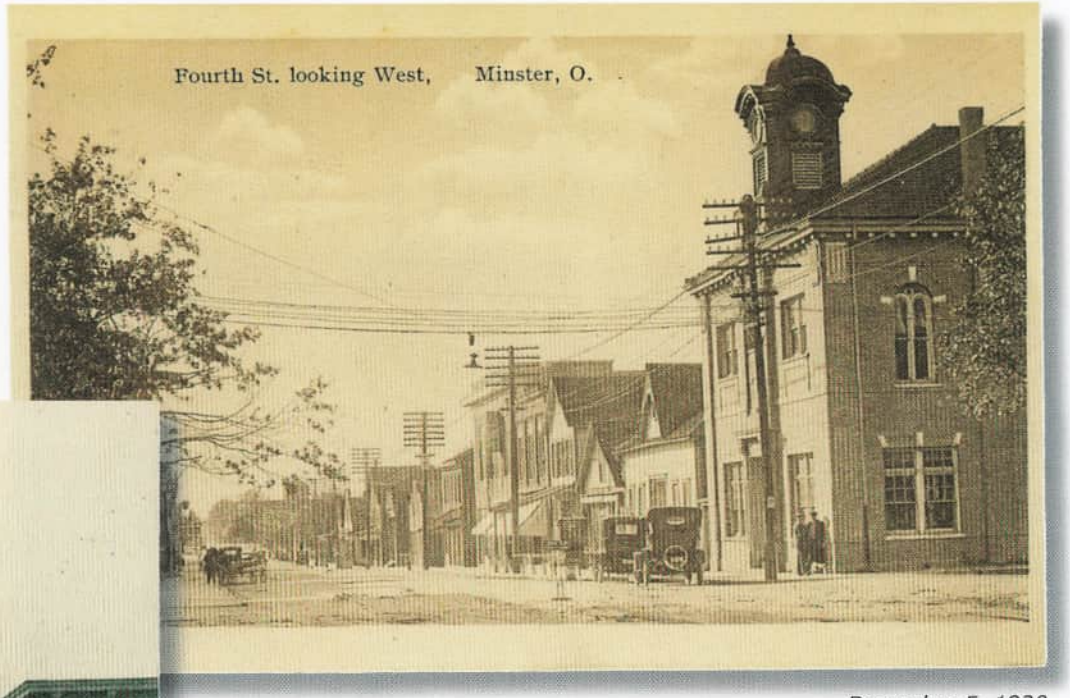
Founded in 1832 as Stallostown for its founder, Franz Joseph Stallo, the village changed its name to Minster in 1836 and was incorporated in 1839. In the beginning German settlers came on foot or by horse and buggy. After 1843 they came on boats via the Miami-Erie Canal. The settlers brought with them their farming skills and their Catholic faith.



Miami-Erie Canal bridge

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Views Of Fourth Street



December 5, 1920



August 11, 1903



September 10, 1915

Minster

www.andyniekamp.com

Views Of Fourth Street



April 13, 1910



1958



Frank Schmuecker Clothing Company, West Fourth Street, 1910

Minster

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The Hotel

The hotel on the southwest corner of Fourth and Main Streets was erected in 1840.

Over the years, it was known as Central Hotel, New City Hotel, Hotel Antler and Hotel Sommers. It was razed in October 1980.





Postmarked August 9, 1917



Minster

www.andyniekamp.com



Eagle's Home, September 10, 1915



July 9, 1914



Western Ohio Railway bridge over the Miami-Erie Canal between Minster and Fort Loramie. The bridge was removed in 1933.



August 14, 1906

www.andyniekamp.com

Western Ohio Railway

The Western Ohio Railway extended its line from New Bremen to Minster on June 1, 1902. Fare to New Bremen was ten cents and forty cents to St. Marys. The line was discontinued in 1932.



Minster Local interurban



Western Ohio Railway Station, April 7, 1911

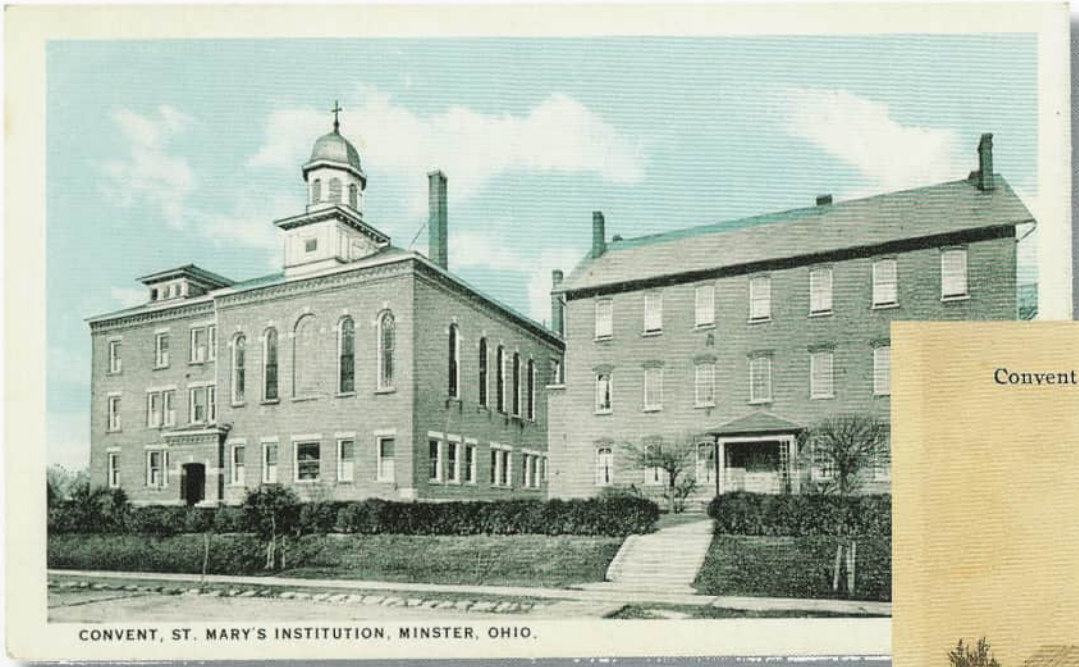


View of the Traction Station, January 19, 1917

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Our Lady of the Visitation Convent

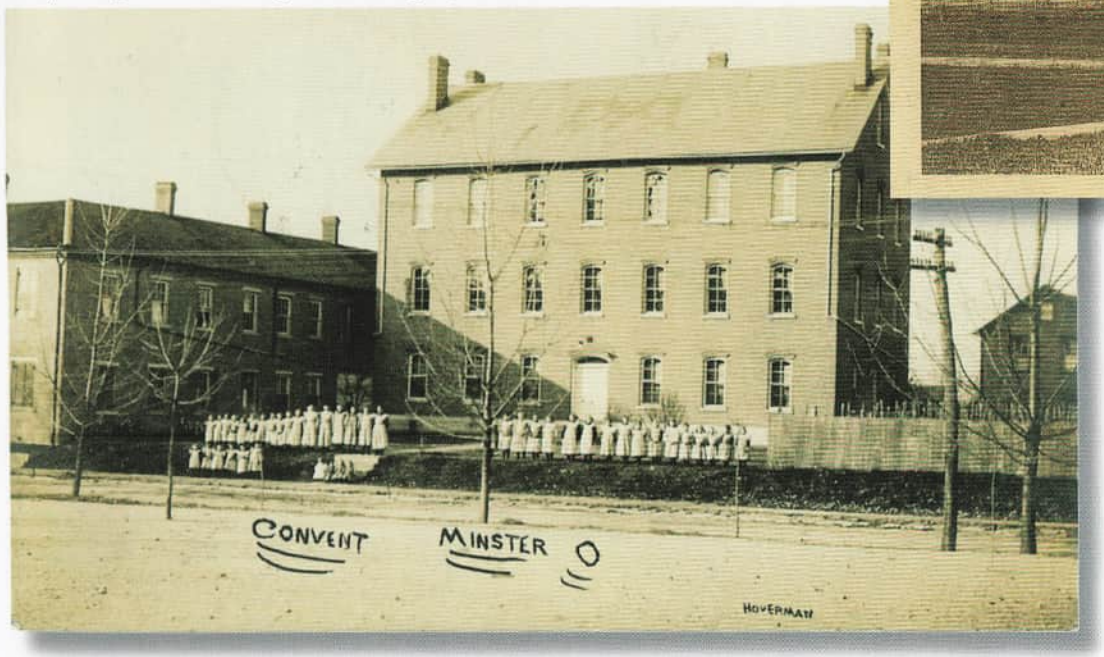
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood



The Convent on the left was razed in 1972. St. Mary Institute, right, an orphanage and boarding school for girls, was razed in 1963.



Postmarked September 14, 1917



Our Lady of the Visitation Convent, postmarked January 18, 1909

Above is the west view of the Convent with Chapel building that was erected in 1911. It replaced the old structure on Fifth and Hanover Streets.

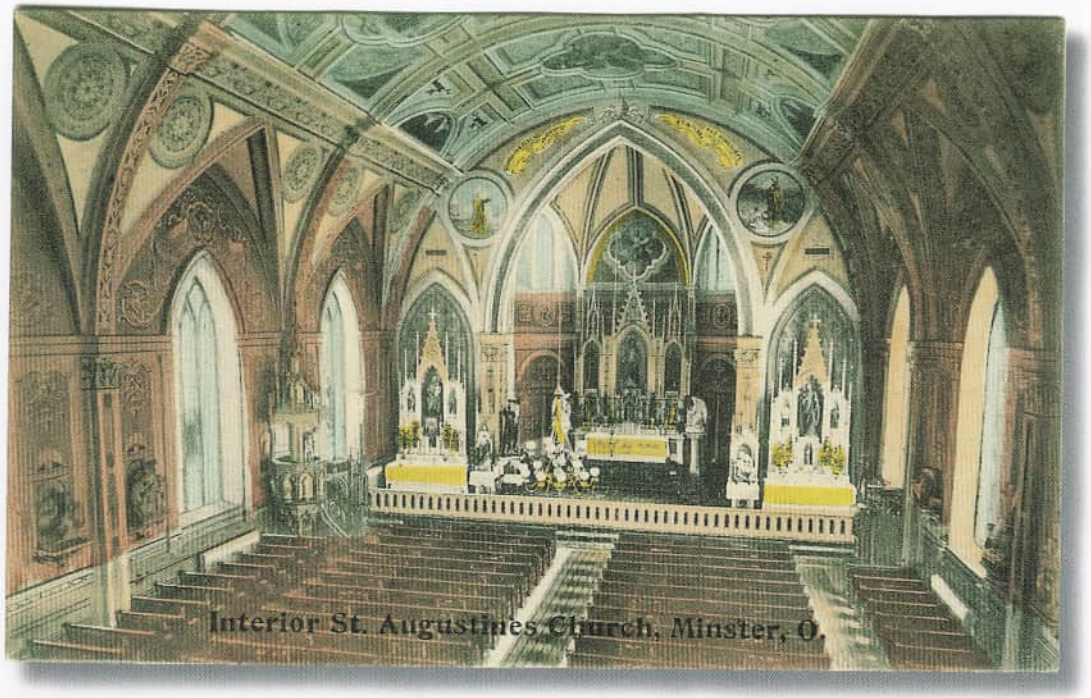
Minster

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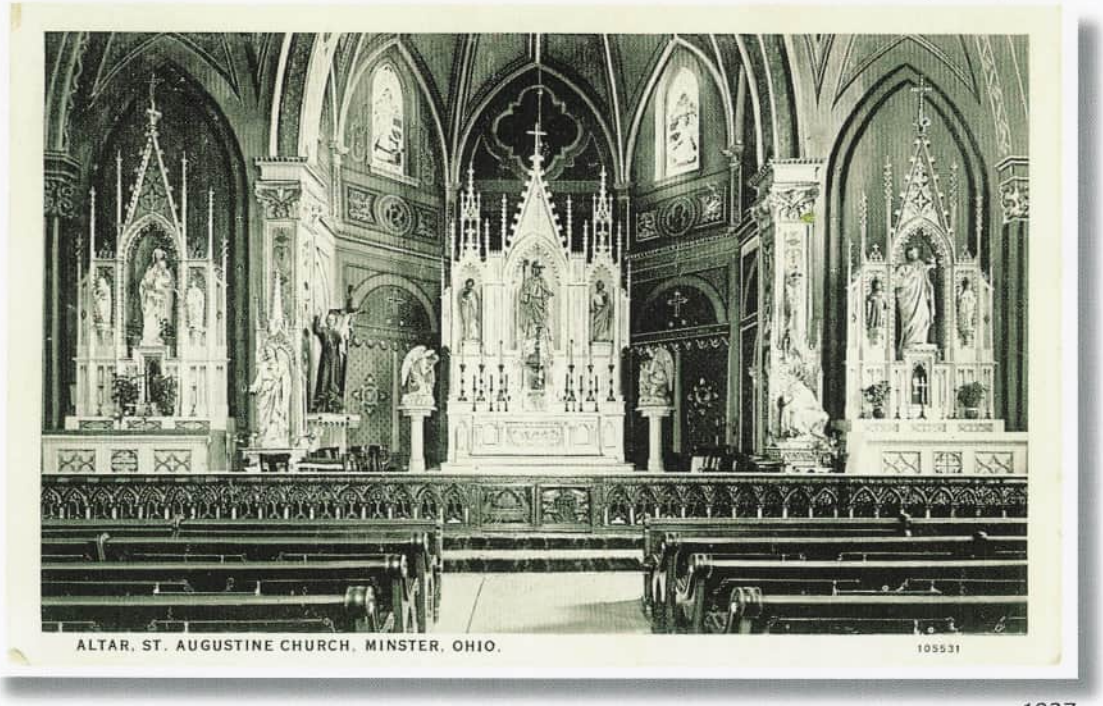
St. Augustine Catholic Church



St. Augustine Church is the Mother Church of seven area parish churches and their sixteen offspring.



Postmarked August 30, 1910

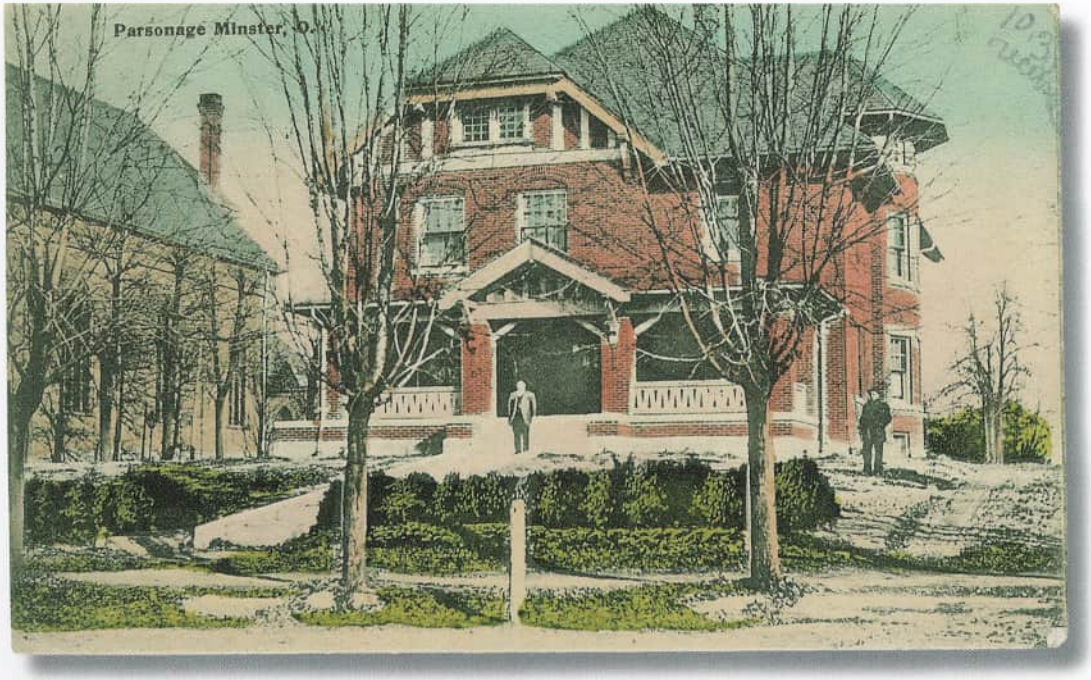


1927

Minster

www.andyniekamp.com

St. Augustine Catholic Church



Church Parsonage built in 1906, postmarked January 25, 1910



Early view of St. Augustine Church on Hanover Street



St. Augustine Catholic Church was built in 1848. It was enlarged in 1874 when the twin spires measuring 190 feet were added.

Minster

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Early Minster Schools



The school building below at 89 North Lincoln Street was rebuilt in 1906 after the previous one on this site was partially destroyed by fire. Today St. Augustine Church owns the building and uses it as its Parish Center.



THE MINSTER SCHOOLS, Minster, Ohio

This high school building was erected in 1931. A new high school building was erected in 1965 on Seventh Street. The 1931 high school is now the elementary school.

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Minster Industry



Superior Box Factory, July 2, 1917



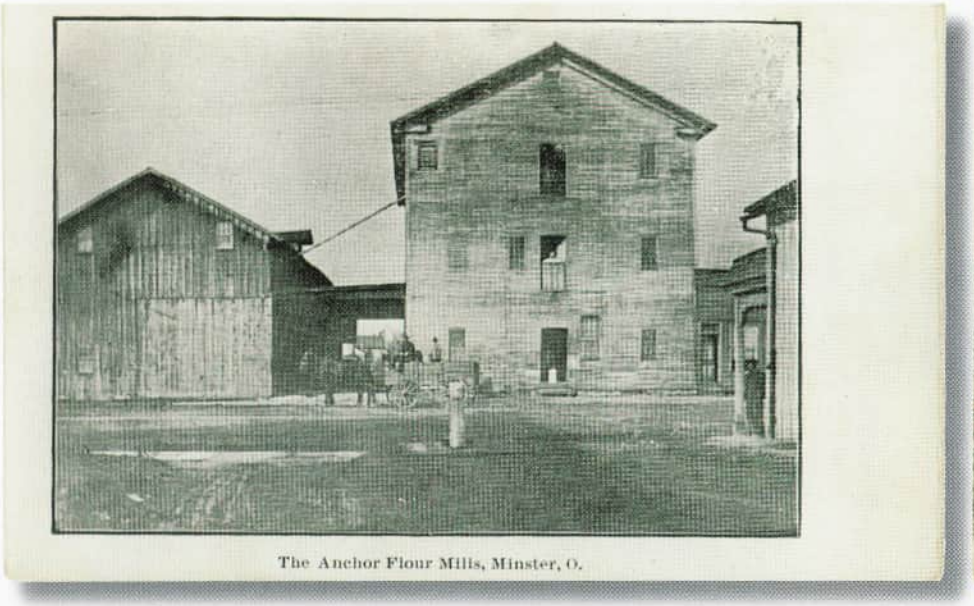


H. G. Ritter's Cigar Box Factory, Minster, O.

H.B. Ritter's Cigar Box Factory

In July 1917 the Deisel-Wemmer Cigar Company opened a branch factory in the Superior Box Factory building. By 1923 its monthly output was 315,000 cigars. The Minster plant closed in 1925.

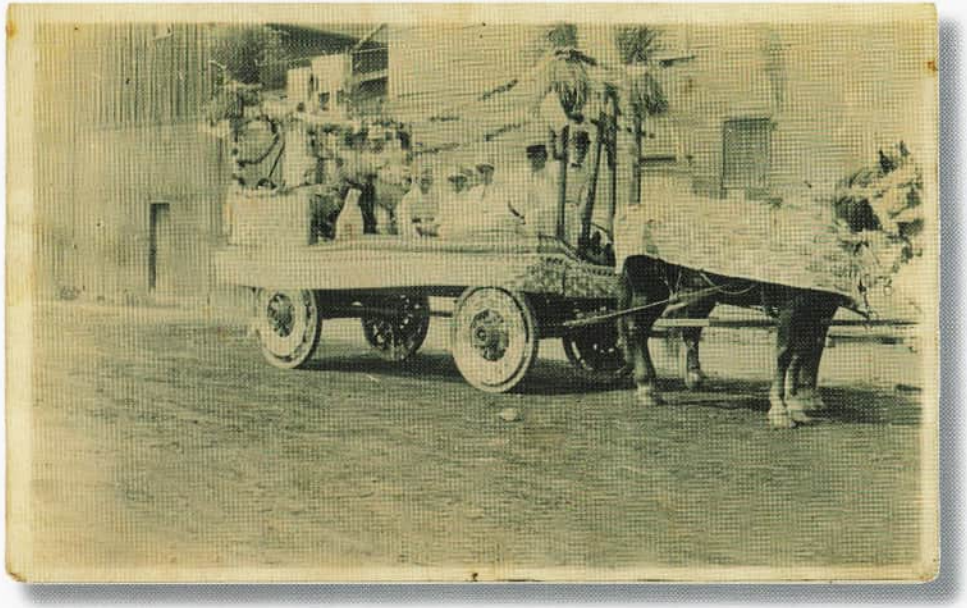
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The Anchor Milling Company was destroyed by fire in 1912



Minster Milling Company, 260 East Fourth Street



Minster Milling Company float



Rudolph Oldiges Wagon Shop and Bertke Garage at 265 West Fourth Street, 1915

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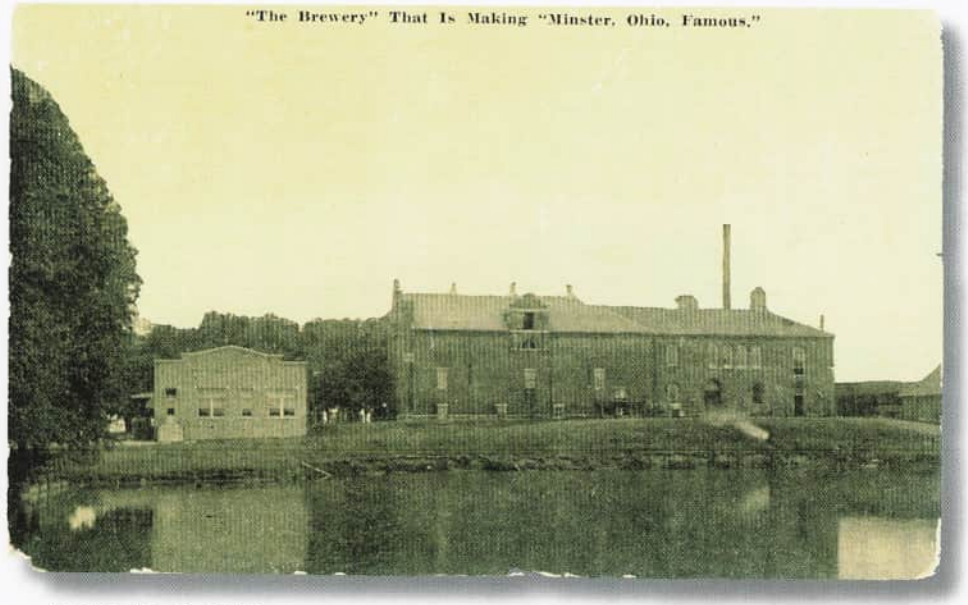


Auglaize Cooperage and Lumber Company

The company had its own sawmill and lumber business and manufactured barrels and egg crates. The owners depended upon the timber resources in the area for their existence. Lacking material, as all the great trees had been cut down, the business dissolved in 1923.

The Star Brewery

The Star Brewery was built by Franz Lange and Sons in 1869. In 1883 the Steinemann Brothers purchased the brewery and operated it until 1890. They sold it to five men who invested money to expand the building and upgrade equipment. With the arrival of prohibition (1919), the company converted to soft drinks. The law was repealed in 1933 and the brewery resumed operations, selling Wooden Shoe beer, the company trade name throughout the United States. In 1946 the brewery was sold to Ulrich Vogt of Chicago for one million dollars. He introduced some substitute ingredients to boost production. The beer became unstable, customers were unsatisfied and sales dropped. Business decreased and the company was placed in receivership in 1953. In 1954, the building and equipment were sold at auction.



September 8, 1903

Minster

www.andyniekamp.com

Minster Machine Company

In May 1896 Anton Herkenhoff and Joseph Dues opened the Machine Works, but by November Dues had sold his share of the partnership and Herkenhoff renamed the business the Minster Machine Company.
Its first products were used in oil drilling in the area. In 1916 Minster entered the machine tool industry. By 1926 the company built its first mechanical power press offering a complete line of power presses in a variety of sizes and capacities. By 1970 it became the world's first totally automated stamping center. Today Minster Machine has solidified its reputation as a world leader in the material-forming industry with the constant evolution of products and services that remain on the cutting edge of technology.



1913



1916

The Cummings Machine Company

The Cummings Machine Company incorporated in 1915 and produced concrete mixers. In 1921 it changed its name to The Industrial Equipment Company, producing mining locomotives and foundry equipment. In 1967 the company became IE Industries, producing medical equipment. It expanded again in 1974, building a hydrostatic trencher line for the construction and rental markets. These products were given the brand name Midmark. The company name was changed to Midmark in 1978 as the business continued to grow. In 1982 corporate offices and manufacturing moved to a new location in Versailles, Ohio.

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Bird's-eye views of New Knoxville. Photo taken from the Tile Mill Chimney in 1908.

New Knoxville

On June 30, 1836, 27-year-old James Knox Lytle platted a town with 120 lots, although no name was given the new community. After nearly a decade, the name "Knoxville" was agreed upon. Knox was the maiden name of James Lytle's mother.

In 1858 village residents submitted a petition to the United States Postal Service, but were informed that a Knoxville, Ohio, already existed. It was then that they added the prefix "New."



This photograph was taken from the clock tower of the German Reformed Church (now, the UCC).

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New Knoxville Town Hall

Located on Main Street, the Town Hall was built to house the fire department and village offices.



Postmarked August 2, 1922



The second floor of Town Hall was used for community meetings. Postmarked March 15, 1920



Postmarked September 28, 1913

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New Knoxville



North Main Street, postmarked July 10, 1920



107 West South Street



Bremen Street, postmarked July 3, 1914

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Business In New Knoxville



Duhme and Kuhlman stores, Main Street



Ben Cook's Department Store was erected in 1903. In 1936 Adolph and Lydia Henschen purchased the building for Adolph's Restaurant. The business was sold in 1975. The New Knoxville Telephone Company was established on the second floor of this building and remained there for 75 years.



The corner building is the Kuhlman store followed by the Duhme store and then the Post Office.

www.andyniekamp.com

Business In New Knoxville

STOLEN.

NEW KNOXVILLE, OHIO, April 13, 1896.

On Wednesday night, April 8th, burglars broke into my store and postoffice in New Knoxville, O., and carried away the following articles:

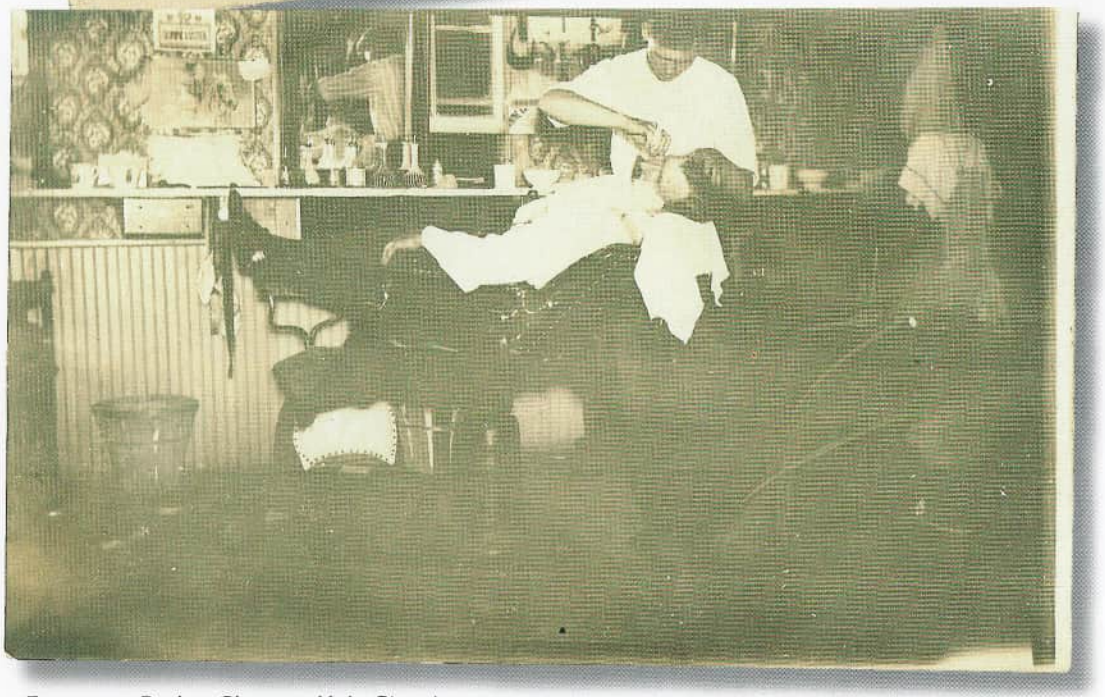
One and two cent postage stamps to the value of $131.47.
One paid Money Order, issued at Pearl City, Ill.
Gold filled watches as follows:
One No. 58202, 18 size, 10 K. Comet and 11 J. Keystone.
One No. 58209, 18 size, 10 K. Comet and 15 J. Keystone.
One No. 58940, 18 size, 10 K. Royal, 20 yr. War. and 15 J. Waltham.
One No. 95292, 16 size, 14 K. Bell and 17 J. Due. Hampton.
One No. 54685, 10 K. Comet and Trent. silver watch.
One A2 Nickle watch.
One Silver Pearl watch..

And a lot of Jewelry, Electric Cutlery, (Rogers) including a lot of our very best razors.

A reward of $50 will be given for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the burglars.

W. H. FLEDDERJOHANN, JR.,
New Knoxville, Ohio.

Store and Post Office robbery, 1896



Eversman Barber Shop on Main Street



Postmarked August 4, 1909

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Business In New Knoxville



Eversman Service Station on Bremen Street was the first service station to deliver gasoline to farmers. The station was the former Headapohl Saloon.



In 1915 Elmer and Noah Katterheinrich established the motor sales operation that bore their name at 202 South Main Street. The business has been a Chevrolet dealership since 1927.



City Service Oil Company, the former Eversman Service Station on Bremen Street

www.andyniekamp.com

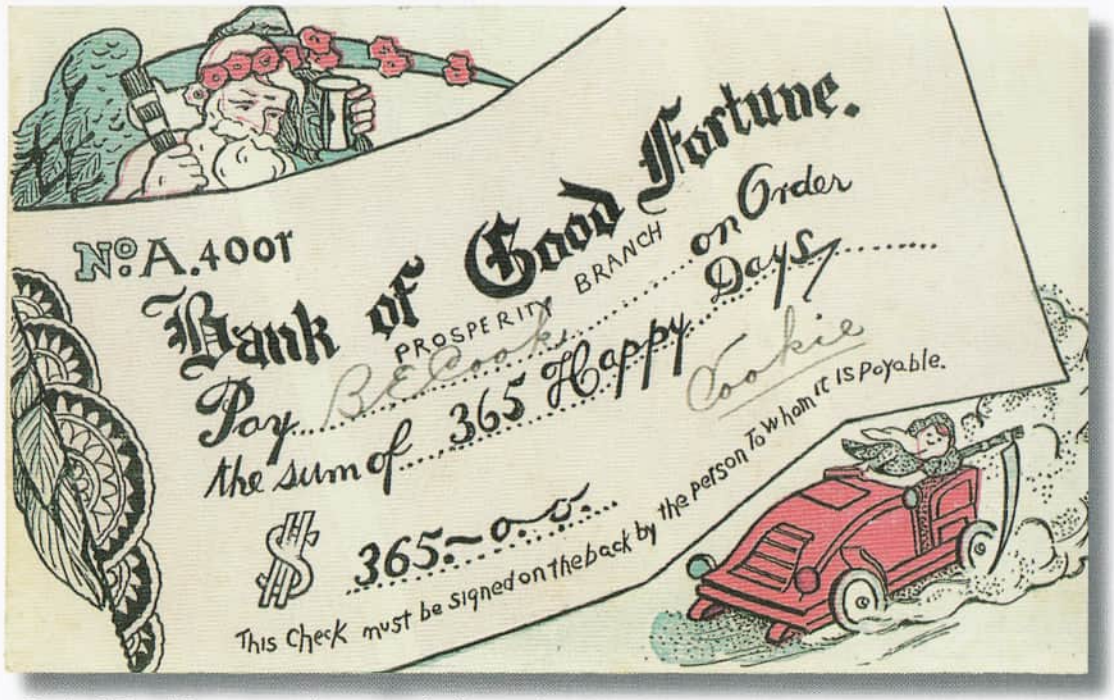
New Knoxville



1922

Members of the Ladies Aid Society of the New Knoxville Evangelical and Reformed Church are shown making apple butter for an orphanage in 1923.

L to R: Calle Eversman, Mrs. Herman Holtkamp, Mrs. Henry Oelrich, Mrs. Mary Kuck, Mrs. John Engel, Mrs. Ben Cook, Mrs. F. Schneider, Mrs. Christine Eschmeyer, Mrs. Henry Lutterbeck, Mrs. Sophy Peters, Mrs. Hartung Kuhlman (sitting), Mrs. William Hoelscher, Mrs. Elizabeth Maher, Mrs. A. Meckstroth and Mrs. John Henkener (kneeling).



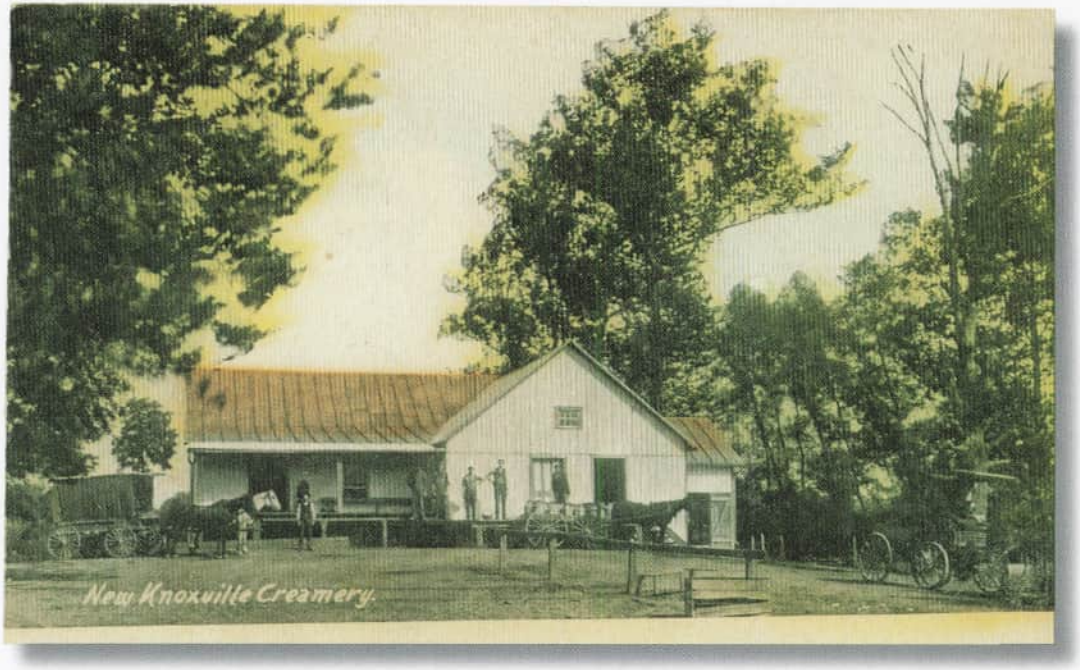
Bank of Good Fortune card, postmarked December 29, 1906

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New Knoxville Industry



This photograph of the Detjen Grain Company on Main Street was taken during New Knoxville's 1936 Centennial.



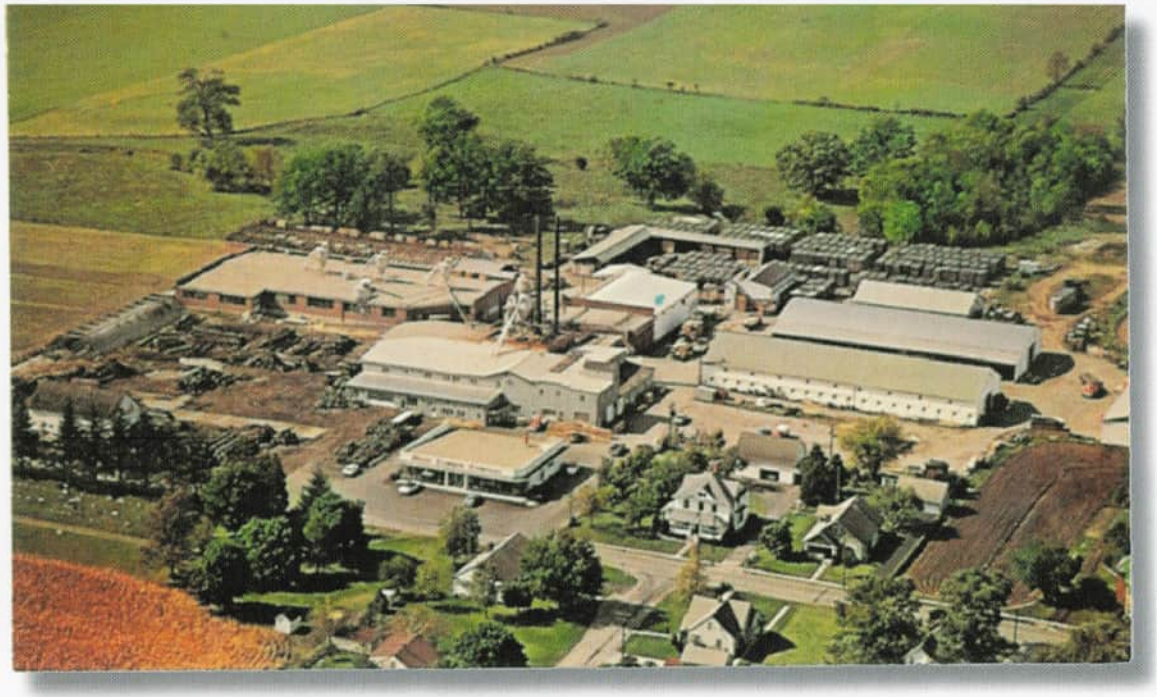
The New Knoxville Creamery was located at 204 North Mill Street, now the location of the American Legion.

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HOGE

The New Knoxville Hoop Factory, located at the site of Brookside Laboratories, began manufacturing barrel hoops in 1899. Herman H. Hoge purchased the business and building in 1904, moved it to the south edge of town and established the Hoge Lumber Company. Since that time it has manufactured wood products for use throughout the world.



Business In New Knoxville



H.H. Fledderjohann's water-powered sawmill at Lock 6 on the Miami-Erie Canal. Fledderjohann emigrated from Germany in 1835 at the age of 19. He established this sawmill in 1850 and operated it 45 years.



Left to right: The Headapohl Saloon, livery stable, Eversman Meat Market, and Eversman Barbershop were located on Main Street, c. 1910.



Bielefeld Blacksmith

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New Knoxville Folks







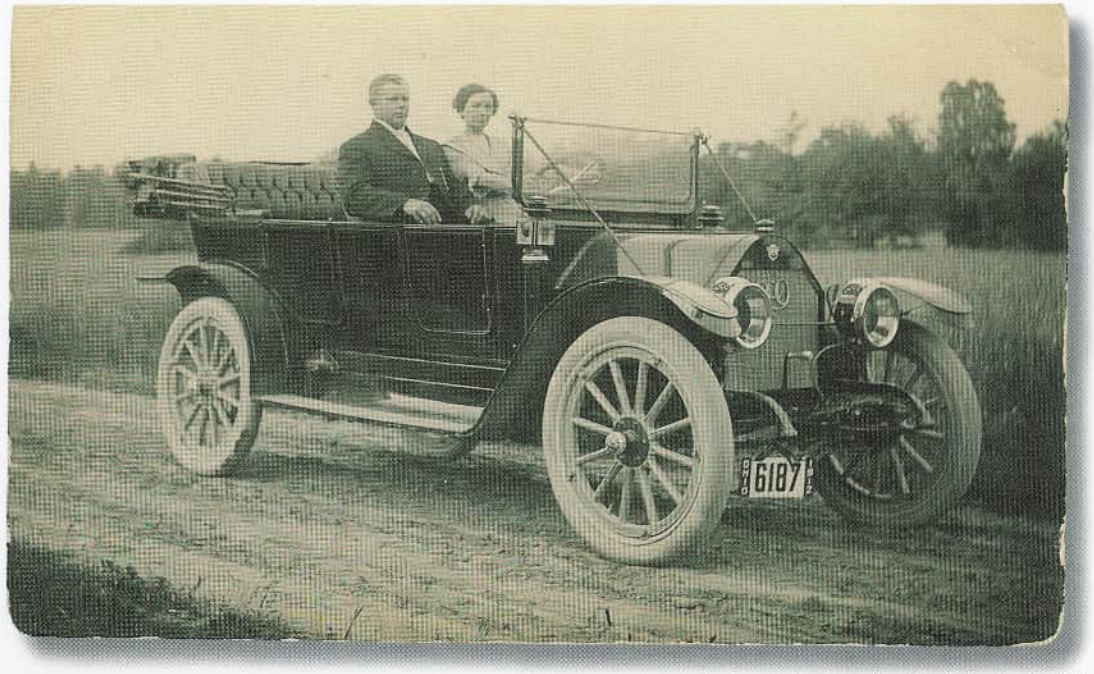
Happy New Knoxville fellows (circa 1920) include from left to right: Hy Lammers, Martin Kuck, Lewis Kipp, Silas Fledderjohnn, Ben Elshoff, Otto Lammers, Herman Kuck, Otto Kuck, Ben Lammers and Fred Schrolucke

New Knoxville Folks



Fred Schrolucke and Henry Fledderjohn

On the back of the motorcycle is a case of Wooden Shoe Beer.



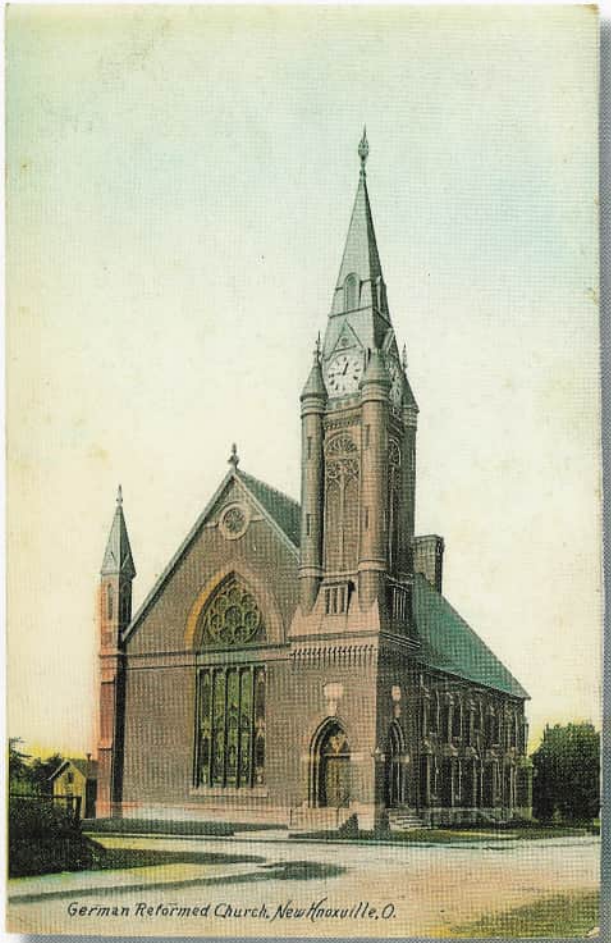
Louis and Amanda Meckstroh, 1912



Postmarked November 4, 1910

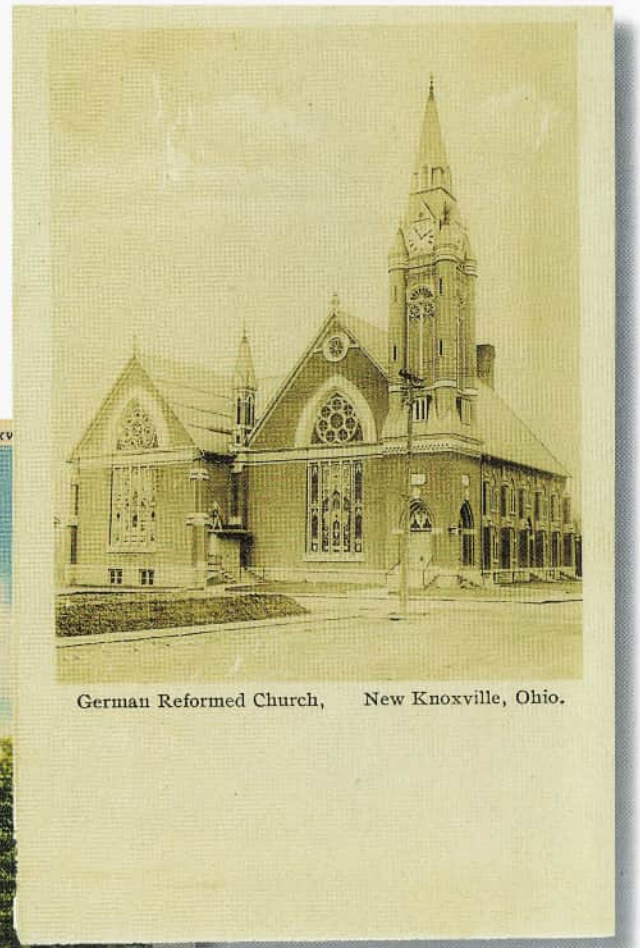
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New Knoxville Churches



German Reformed Church, built in 1893, dedicated in 1894

German Reformed Church with the Friedl (west) addition, dedicated in 1913





First Evangelical and Reformed Church with the Kunst (east) addition, dedicated in 1923

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New Knoxville Churches



1893 German Reformed Church



The pipe organ and choir loft of the First German Reformed Church



The parsonage for the Reformed Church, built in 1888. Postmarked January 5, 1914

New Knoxville

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New Knoxville Churches



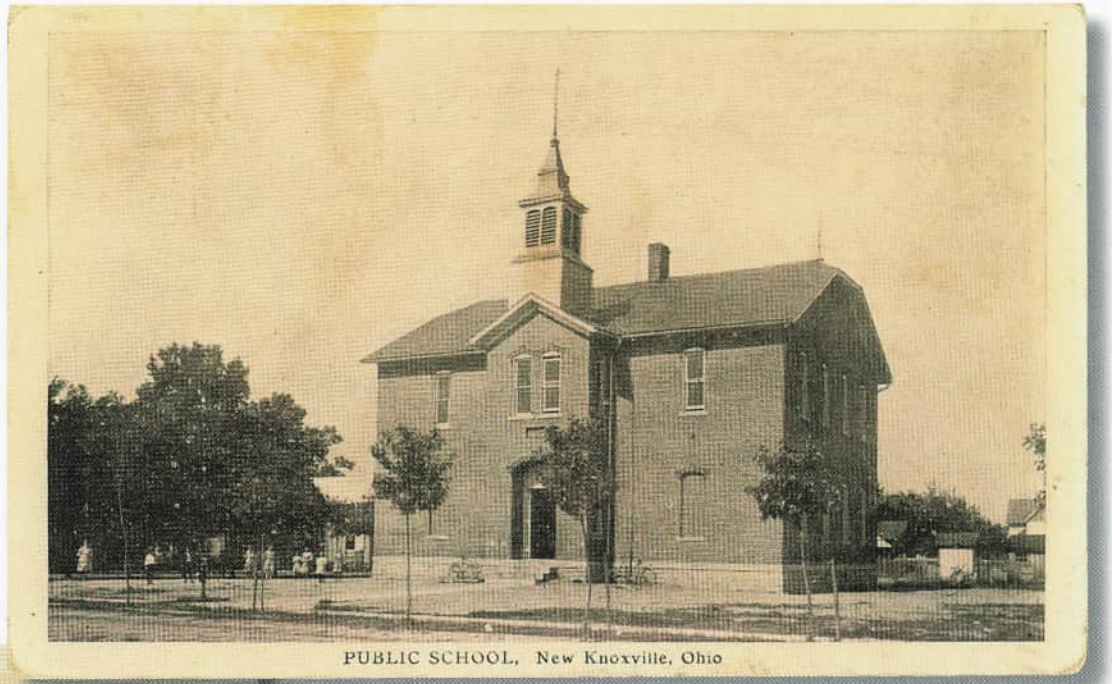
The Methodist Episcopal Parsonage was built at 321 East Spring Street in 1899. Postmarked December 11, 1907



The Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1916. Postmarked December 11, 1907

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New Knoxville Schools



Postmarked September 10, 1910

In 1885 this four-room brick building replaced a frame, one-room school. The structure allowed New Knoxville to provide a two and three-year high school.



The new high school was constructed in 1920, with an auditorium and study hall addition in 1926.

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1924-25

New Knoxville Girls Basketball Team 1924-25 Auglaize County Champs

First Row: Beatrice Hinze, Gertrude Stienecker
Second Row: Adelia Katterhenry, Olga Hoge, Evangeline Sunderman, Meta Kuck, Olga Beickman
Third Row: Alvina Fledderjohnn, Teacher and Coach



New Knoxville greeting

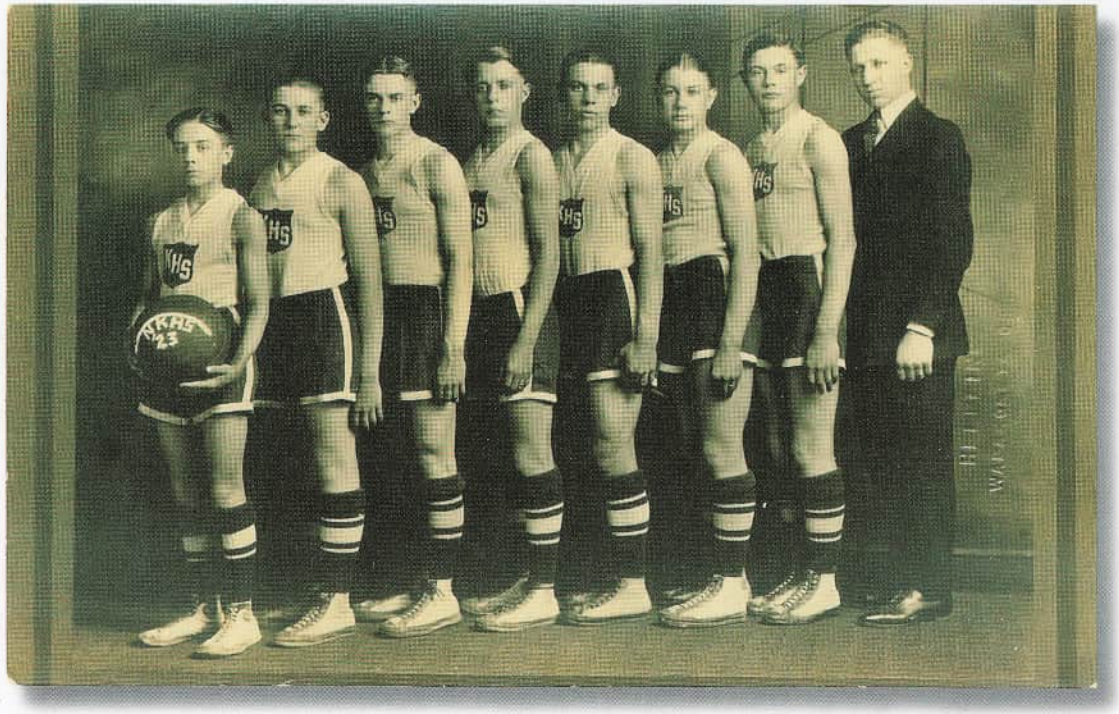
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New Knoxville Community White Sox



L to R: Harry (Boss) Kuck, Ben (Ducky) Felderisck, Ed Holtkamp, Harvey Shuster, Reinhard Kuhlman, Jack Luedeke, Bob Holtkamp, Dorsey Holtkamp, Emil (Bitz) Hoelscher, Ferd Haberkamp, Elmer Katterheinrich, Oliver Hoerath and Abbey Kattman, manager.

1922-23 Lima Tournament team from New Knoxville High School



L to R: Alfred Kattman, Robert Kuck, Orval Evans, Robert Koepke, Alfred Oelrich, Orley Henkener, Noah Aufderhauer and Paul W. Wenger, coach.

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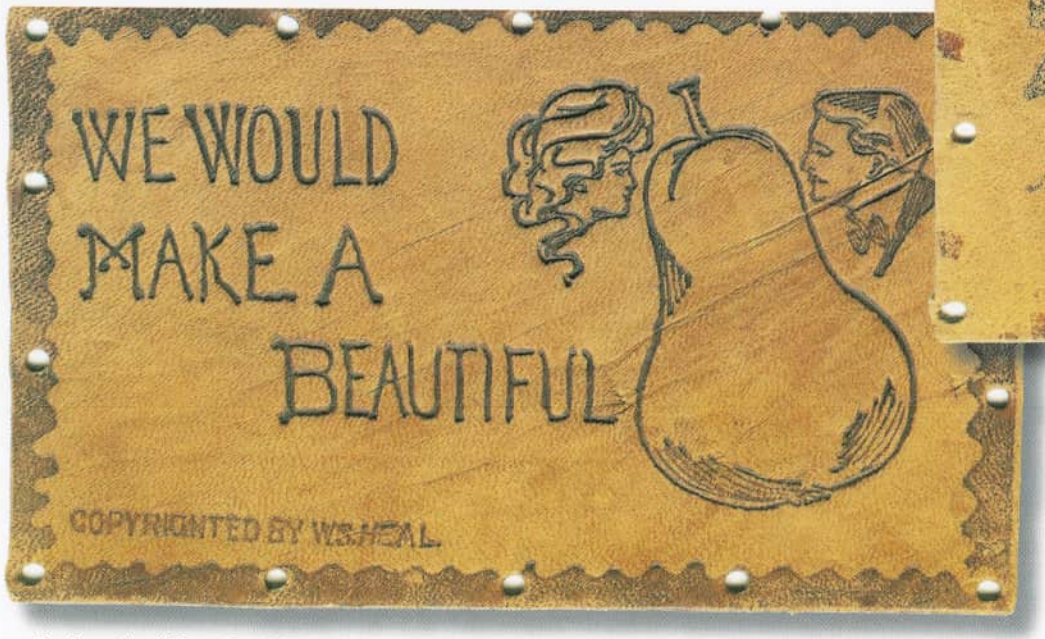
Leather Post Cards From New Knoxville



Postmarked February 15, 1907



Postmarked April 24, 1907

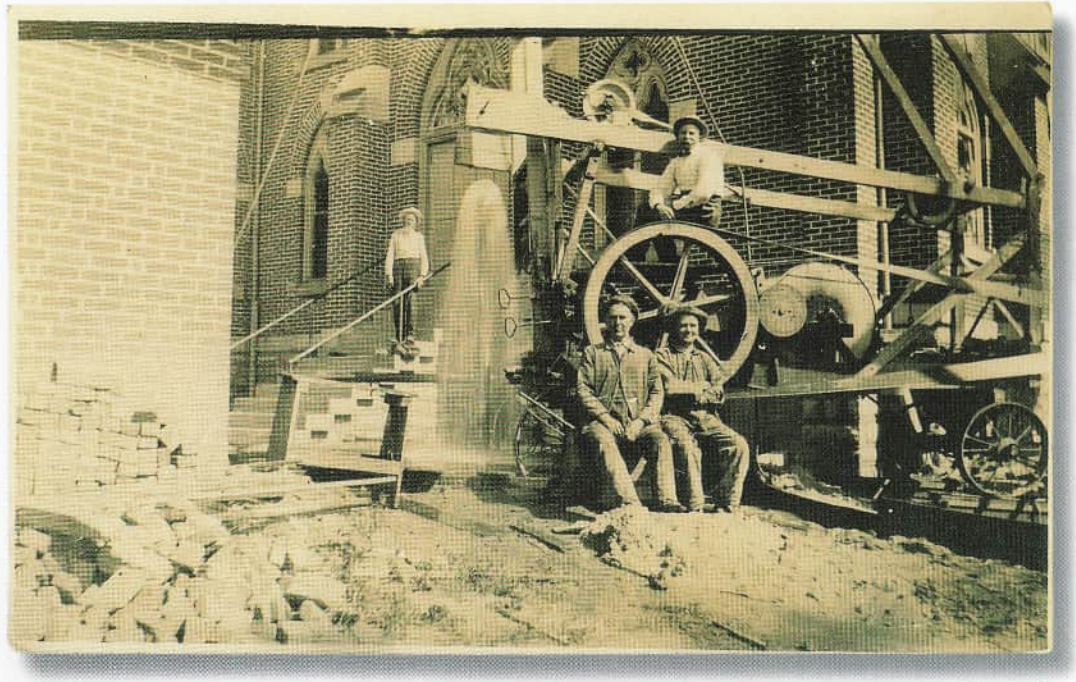


Postmarked May 6, 1907

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Artesian Wells

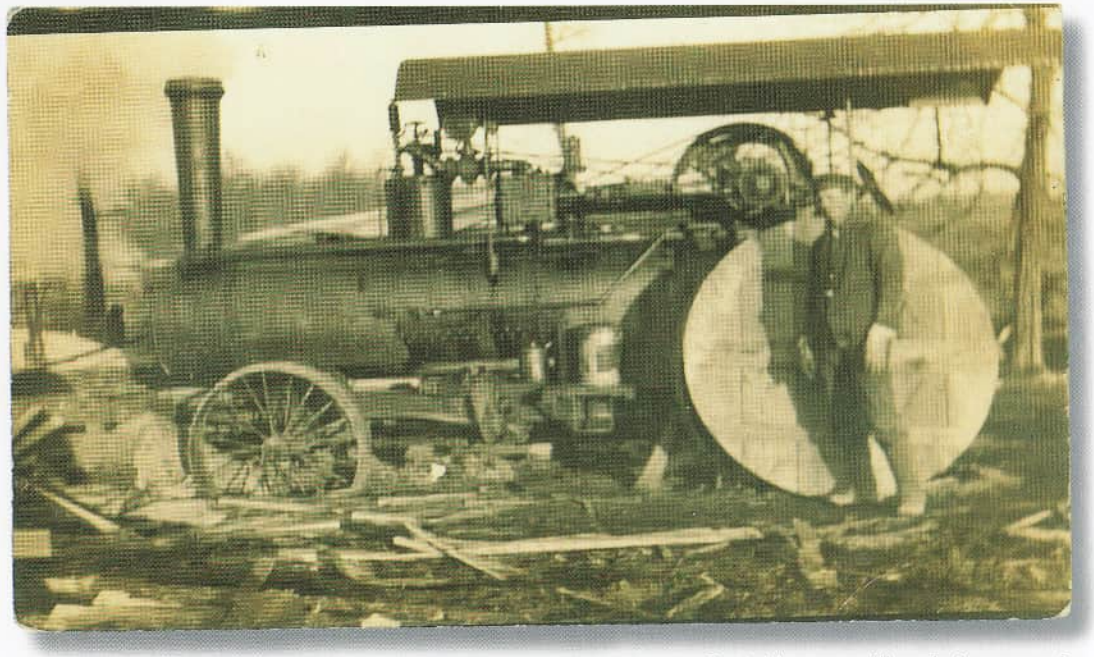
Many artesian wells were drilled in the New Knoxville area. Some of the wells produced enough pressure to force water to the second floor of homes.



Artesian well drilling on the United Church of Christ lot

Portable Saw Mill

Operators of this portable saw mill and steam engine took their equipment from farm to farm. They could mill enough lumber from trees to build a house and barn. Scraps were used for firewood.



Portable saw mill and steam engine

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Timber Operations



Postmarked April 30, 1908



The Wood Pile



Log Wagons

New Knoxville

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Farms in the New Knoxville Area



The Harmeyer Farm was destroyed by a tornado on March 28, 1920.



Noll Farm, postmarked August 9, 1912



Early area farmhouse

New Knoxville

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Circa 1909

Buckland

The town was platted by Josiah Clawson and John Gochenour in 1872. Buckland was originally named Whitefeather in honor of a Shawnee chief. With the coming of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad in 1891, the name was changed to Buckland in honor of Revolutionary War General Ralph P. Buckland.

The 1898 *Atlas of Auglaize County* reports that "The town has several enterprises of moment, and was important for some years as the headquarters of the employees of the oil companies operating in what is now known as Buckland Field." By 1917, the village had its own municipal electric lighting plant.



Bird's-eye view of Buckland, 1911

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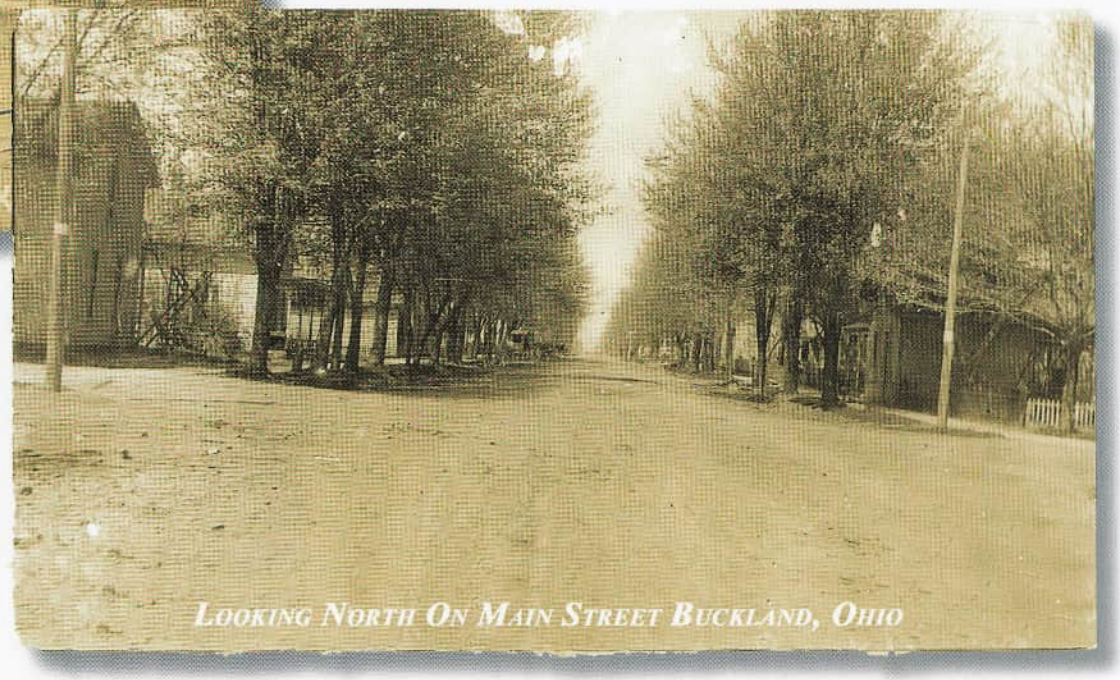
Main Street in Buckland



South Main Street, postmarked March 25, 1910



North Main Street, postmarked April 15, 1910

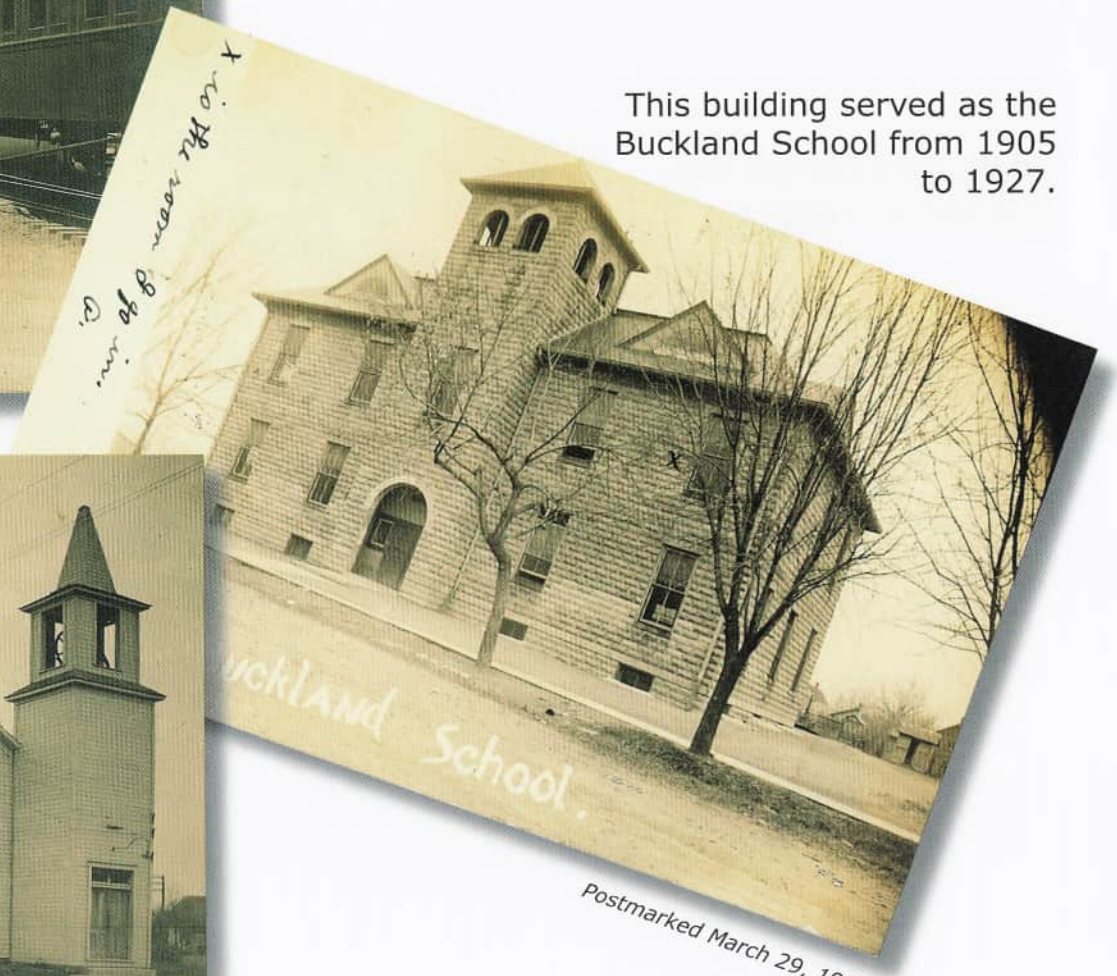


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Buckland



Railroad Depot, postmarked July 20, 1908



This building served as the Buckland School from 1905 to 1927.

Postmarked March 29, 1910



Methodist Episcopal Church, postmarked August 31, 1910

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Buckland



Early postmark on Buckland letter

Postmarked 1911 or 1917



Bridge over the Auglaize River, postmarked April 12, 1907



Concrete bridge over the Auglaize River near Fort Amanda, on what is now State Route 198

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Decoration Day 1909

St. Johns

The village was founded and named by Daniel Bitler and John Rogers in April 1835. The site was previously known as Blackhoof Town, after Catahecassa, the leader of the Shawnee at Wapakoneta.



Returning from the cemetery in 1909

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St. Johns

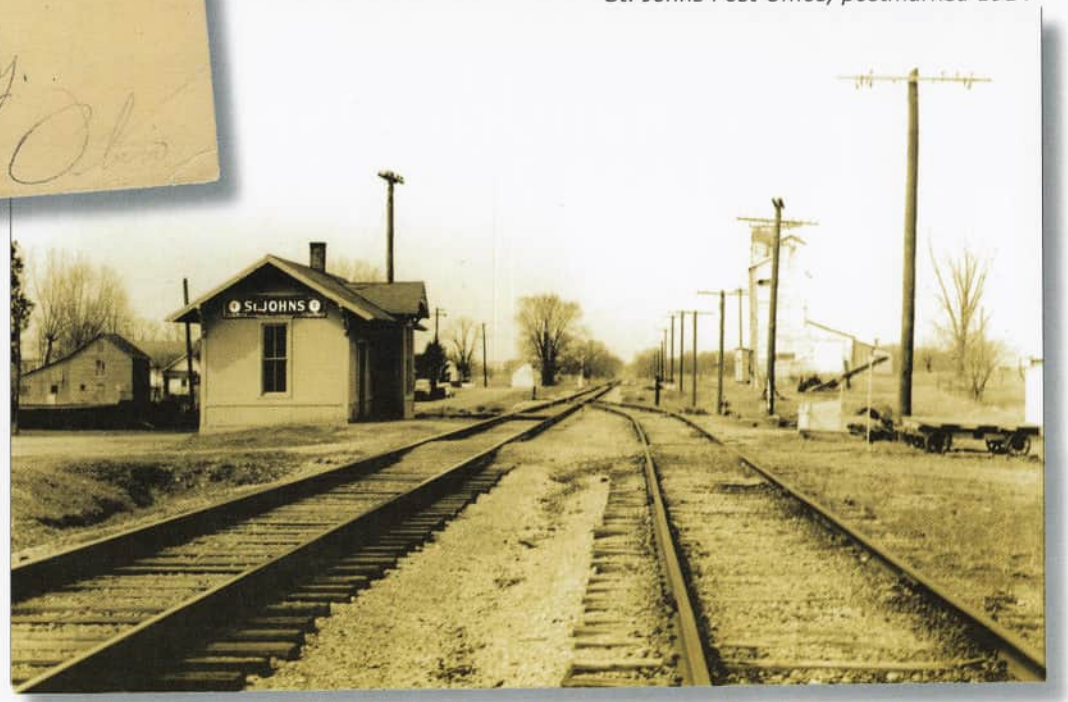


St. Johns postmark with cork cancellation February 8, 1901.

This cork cancellation on the above stamp was created by using a cork with a design cut into the flat surface. This was only used in small communities in the USA in the 19th century.



St. Johns Post Office, postmarked 1914



Ohio & Southern Railway Depot at St. Johns

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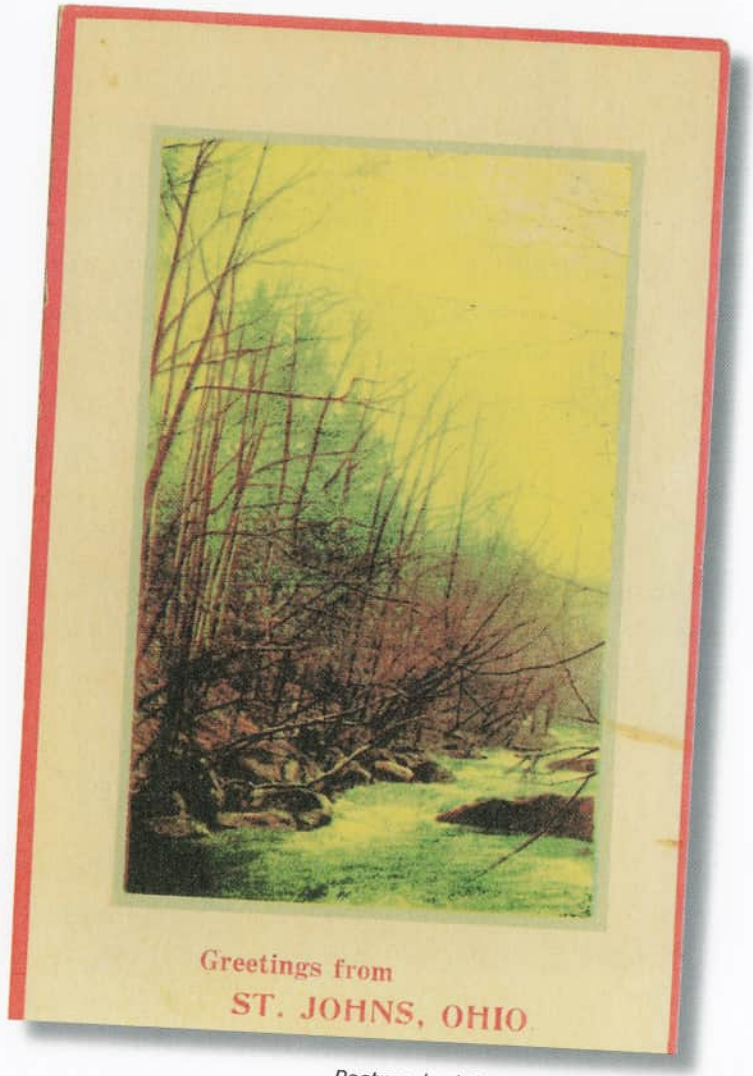
St. Johns



St. Johns Oddfellows Lodge No. 660, constructed in 1902

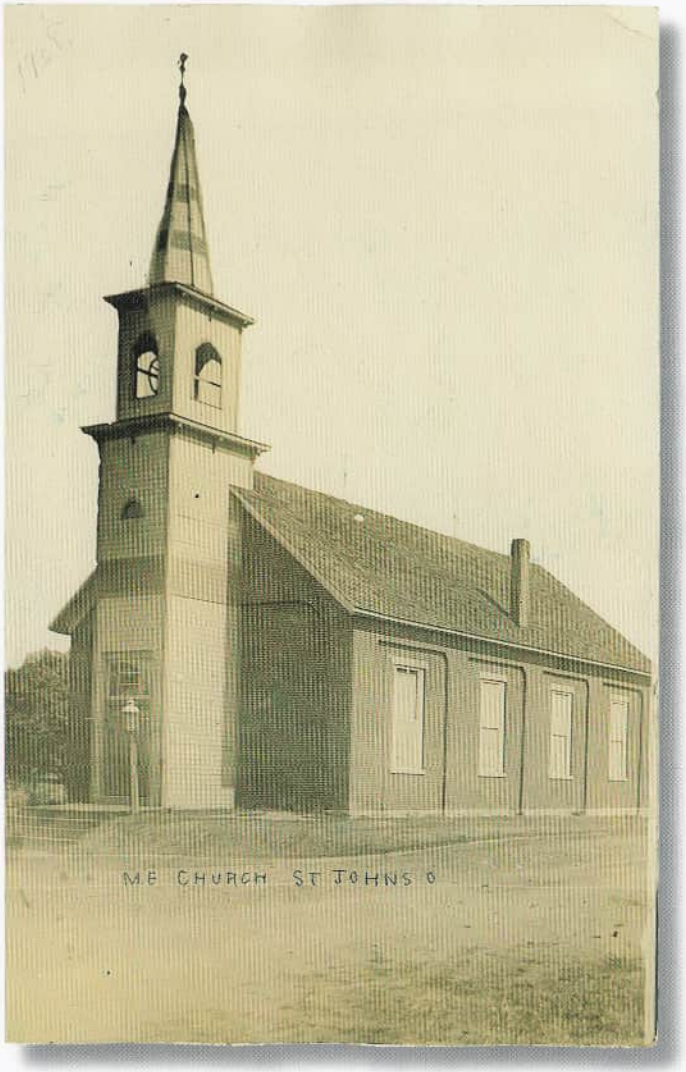


J.T. Blank Store

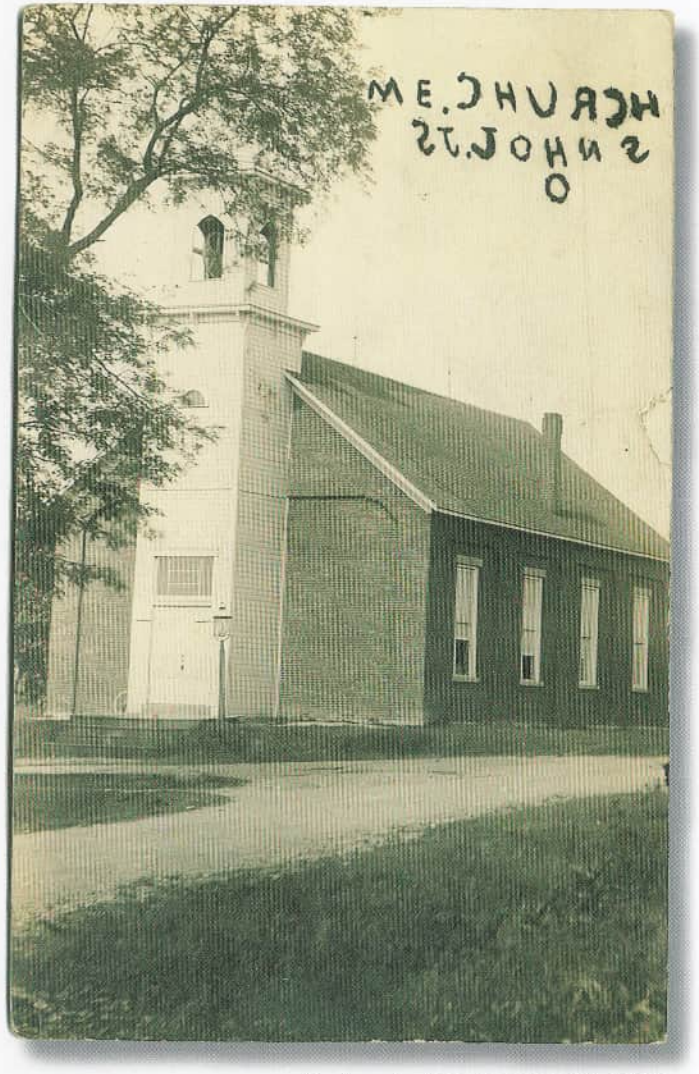


Postmarked September 6, 1923

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The Methodist Episcopal Church is the oldest congregation in St. Johns, having been founded in 1833, before the community's official establishment.



Postmarked September 22, 1915

St. Johns



June 30, 1923





St. John School, postmarked August 27, 1912

The man standing on the right with the apron is John (Duke) Beer. The little girl at his side is Mary Weidner Shultz and the lady sitting on the bench is Rosanna Bush.

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Home in St. Johns



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Cridersville

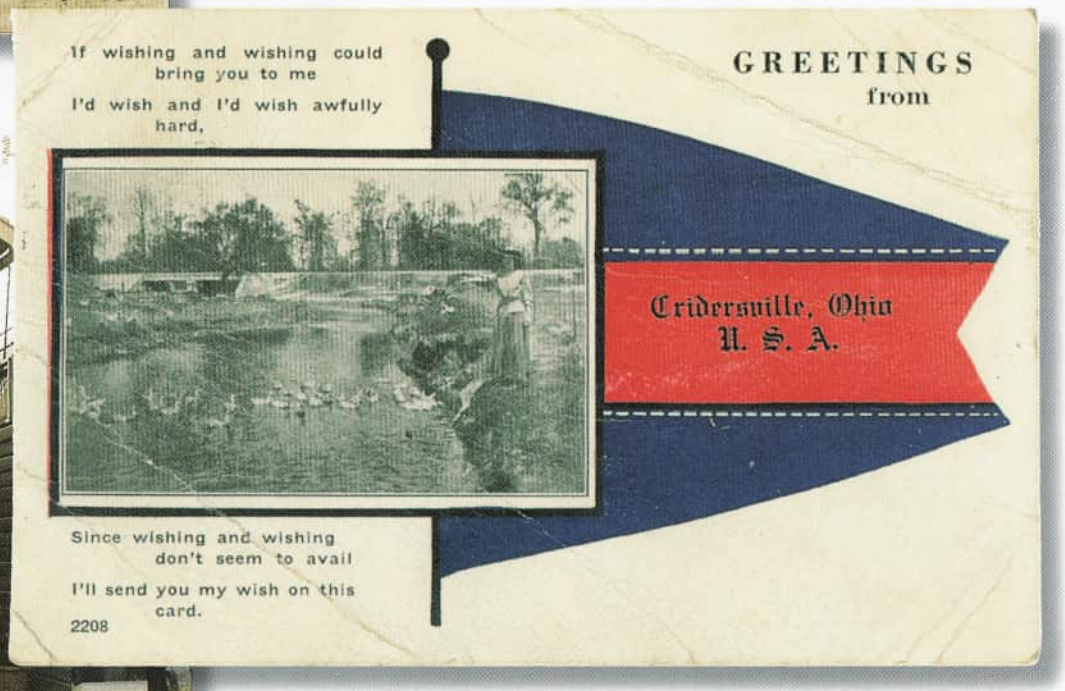
The village of Cridersville was established on April 17, 1856, when Ephraim Crider and his oldest son Isaac filed a plat of a new town called Cridersville. The town was incorporated in 1870.



Old 1890 Town Hall, Fire Department, Jail and Music Hall



Post Office



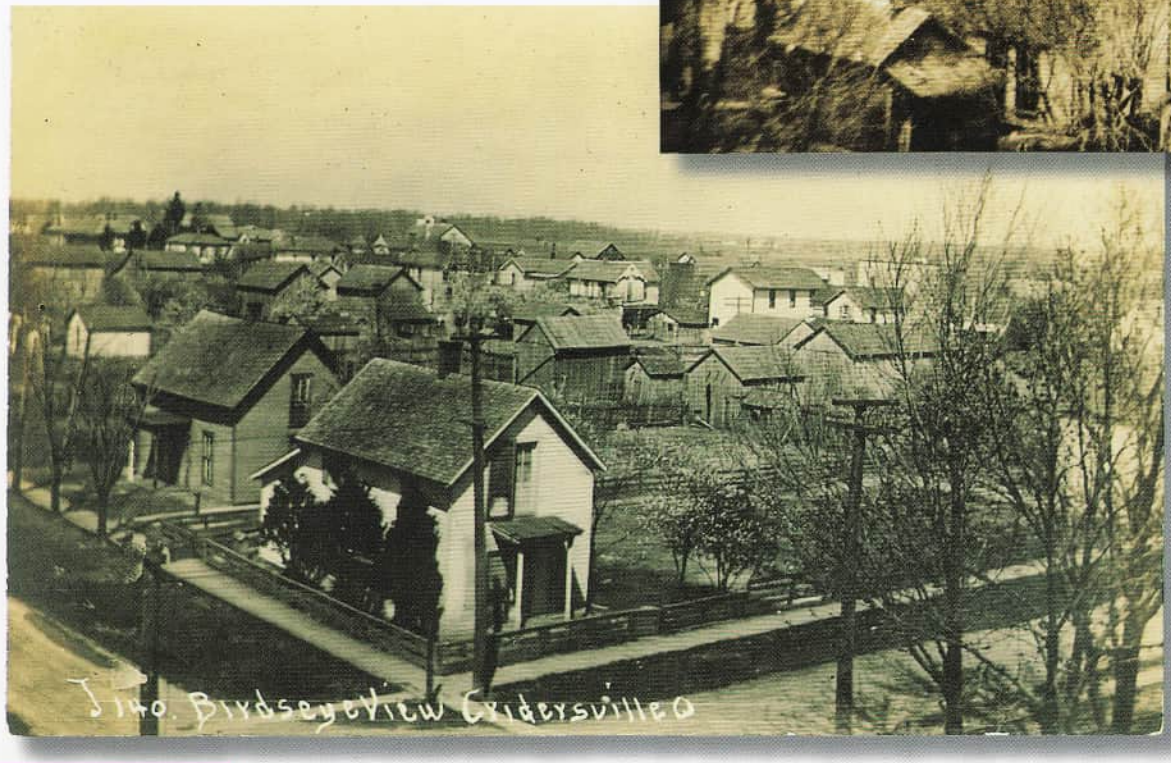
Postmarked January 15, 1918

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Aerial View of Cridersville



Postmarked 1910



Bird's-eye view of the residential area

This aerial view of Cridersville was taken from the roof of the old school on South Waverly Street.

The Baptist church on Main Street is in the foreground. It housed a Methodist congregation in 1910.

The steeple of the old United Brethren church is visible in the upper left. Today this building houses the Cridersville Historical Society Museum. An oil derrick is visible just to the right of the steeple, just one of several hundred in the area at the time.

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Early Cridersville Merchants



Meffley Store, postmarked September 1910



H.W. Burke Ice Cream & Soda Shop



Haine's Lunch Room and Ice Cream Parlor, 118 West Main Street

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Selection of Cards of Wm. Shaffer Store Furniture - Stoves - Carpets on Main Street



Wm. Shaffer Store, postmarked June 7, 1909



Wm. Shaffer Store, postmarked 1914



Wm. Shaffer Store

Cridersville

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Wm. Shaffer Store, Main Street, postmarked 1913



Back of the above card, postmarked March 28, 1913



Postmarked 1908

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The Cridersville Fire May 2, 1918



Main Street, postmarked 1908



All buildings pictured were destroyed in the fire, with 32 structures lost in total. Postmarked October 1913

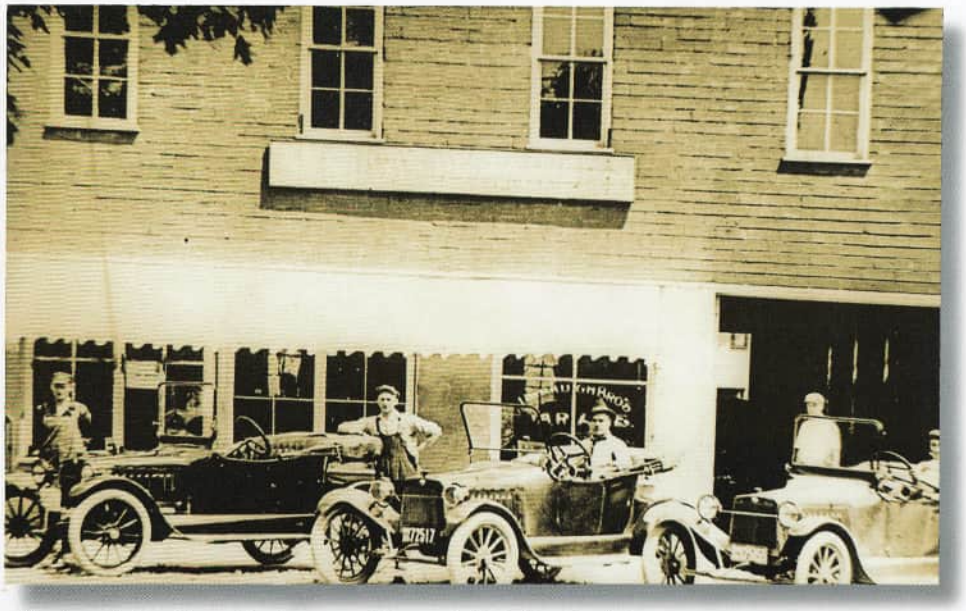


Cridersville

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Home Bank and Speese Hardware, 1910



Umbaugh Brothers Carriage and Saxon's Auto Dealership



Livery Stable on Main Street



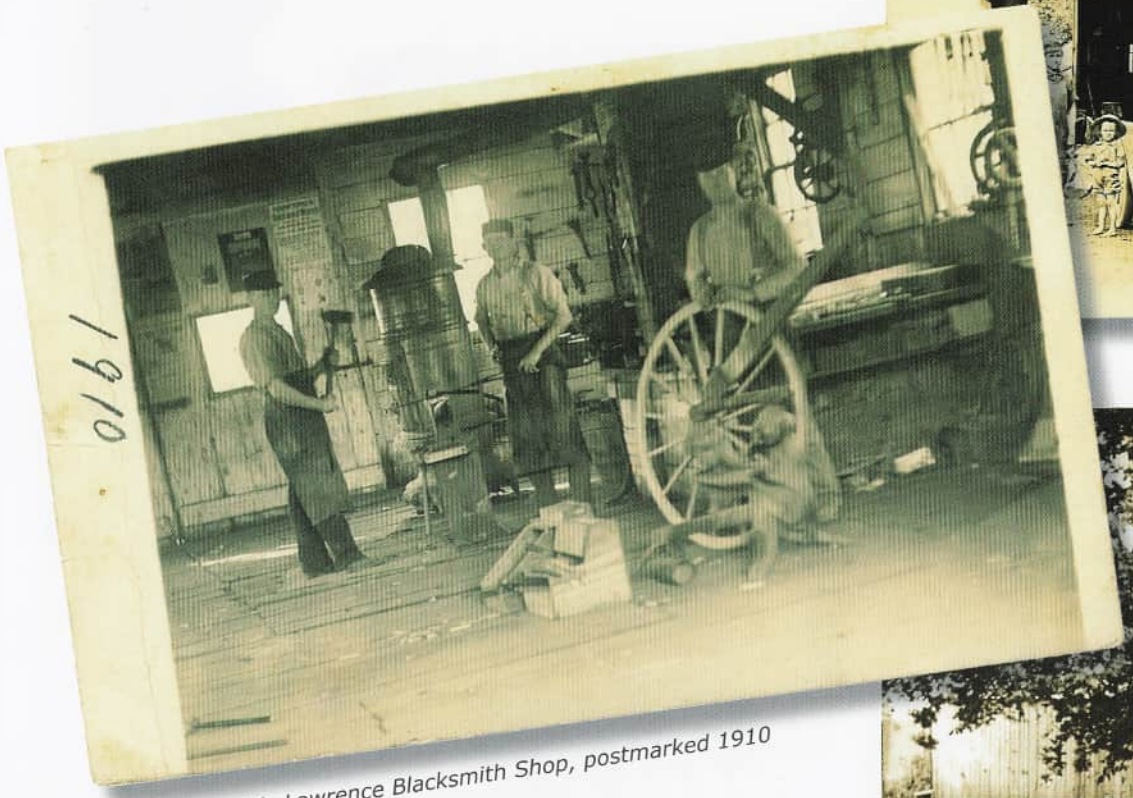
Dr. Charles Strausburg stands with his car in front of his office.

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Cridersville Blacksmith Shops



Umbaugh Blacksmith Shop with Bert Umbaugh and son Don on the left



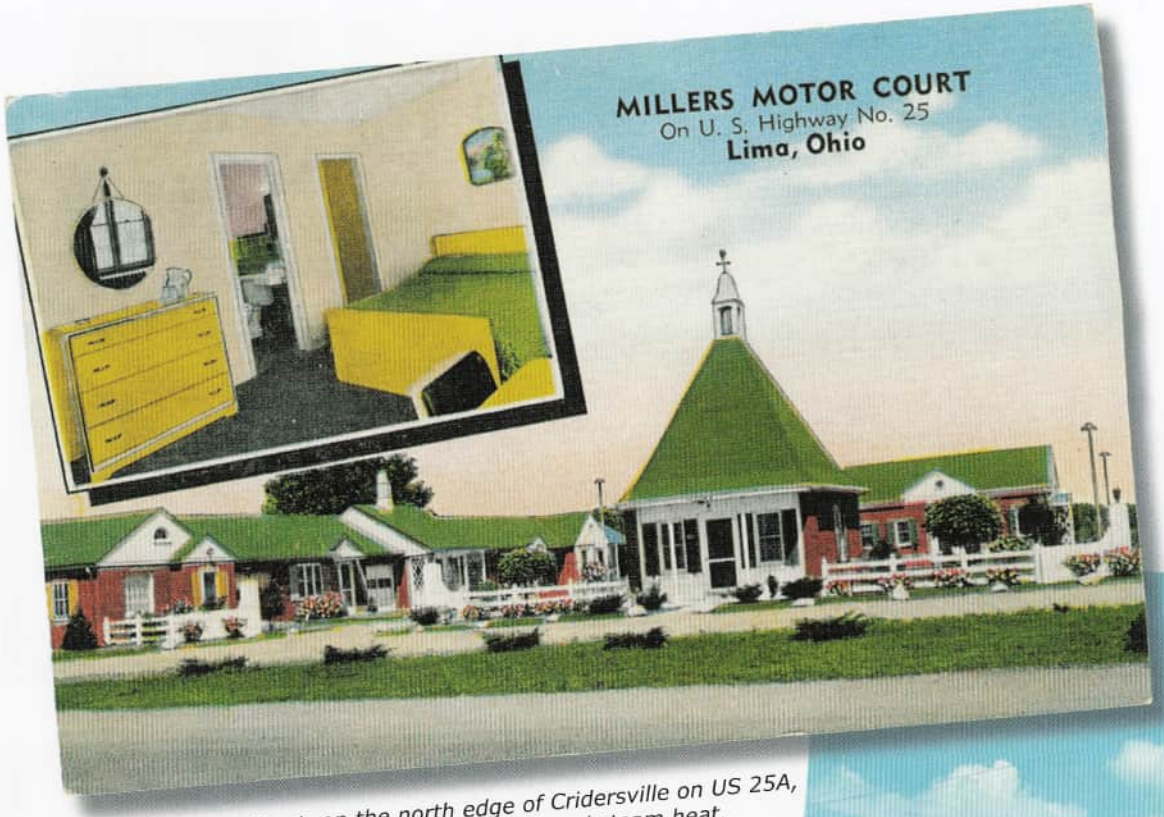
John and E.A. Lawrence Blacksmith Shop, postmarked 1910



Harshman Brothers Blacksmith Shop, with Bert Umbaugh (second on the right), postmarked 1910

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Motels in the Cridersville Area



Miller's Motor Court, on the north edge of Cridersville on US 25A, featured cottages, sleeping rooms, suites and steam heat.



Kleman's Motel, south of Cridersville on route 25A

Cridersville

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Cridersville Folks



Grandma feeding her kittens



Big Four Reunion -
Since 1896 a combined reunion of the Bowsher, Delong, Mowery, and Reichelderfer families has been held annually in July. All trace their relatives to Berks County, Pennsylvania. Their ancestors emigrated from the Rhine area of Germany between 1712 and 1755.



Grandma Annette Crider and Grandma Burke



The Cridersville Brass Band entertained at reunions, church socials and dances. Circa 1910



Quilting in Cridersville



Homemade motorized sled



Myrtle Briscoe and her father, John Miller, postmarked February 11, 1909

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Cridersville High School





Cridersville High School, postmarked 1922



Cridersville High School, South Waverly Street, postmarked December 16, 1914

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Methodist Episcopal Church, postmarked September 15, 1908

The United Brethren Church now houses the Cridersville Historical Society Museum. Since the photograph in this postcard below (postmarked April 7, 1909), the building was enlarged with the addition of a meeting room, bell tower and front vestibule.



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Early Industry in Cridersville



Reichelderfer Elevator, postmarked September 10, 1900



Horse and wagon at elevator, postmarked November 5, 1912

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Early Industry in Cridersville



Beerline Tile Company, postmarked December 17, 1908



Charles W. Beerline Welding

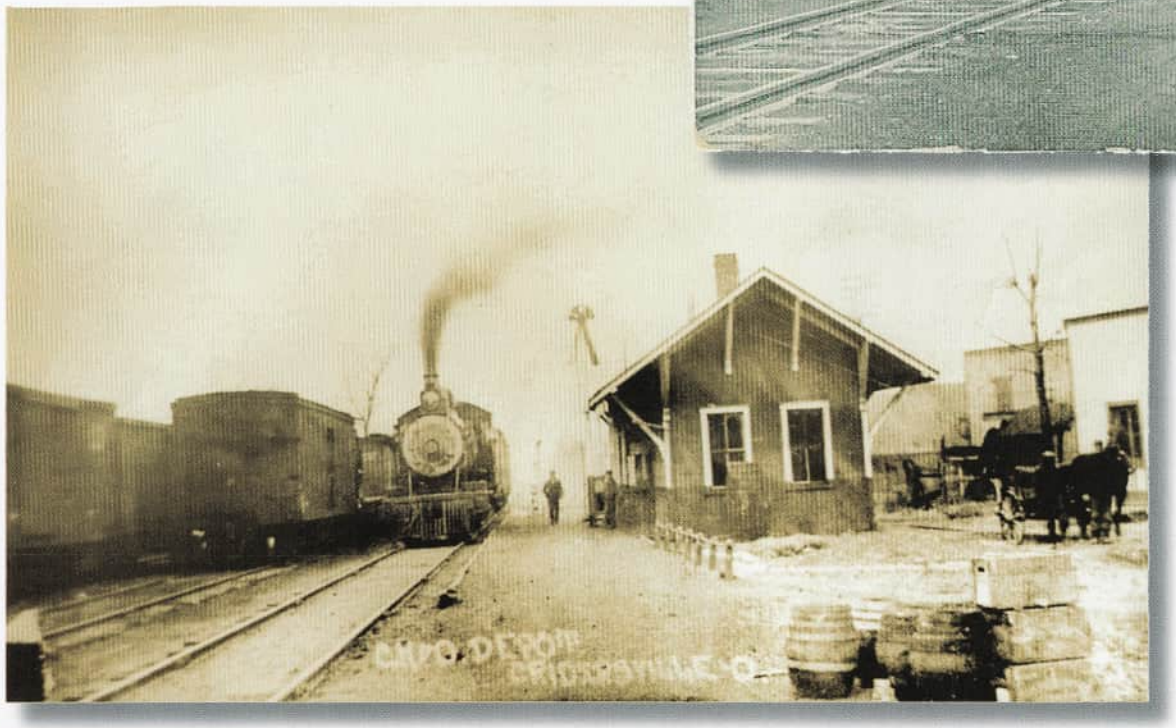


Tile Company tower

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The Dayton & Michigan Railroad, the first north-south railroad in western Ohio, and the Western Ohio Railway System both had stations in Cridersville.



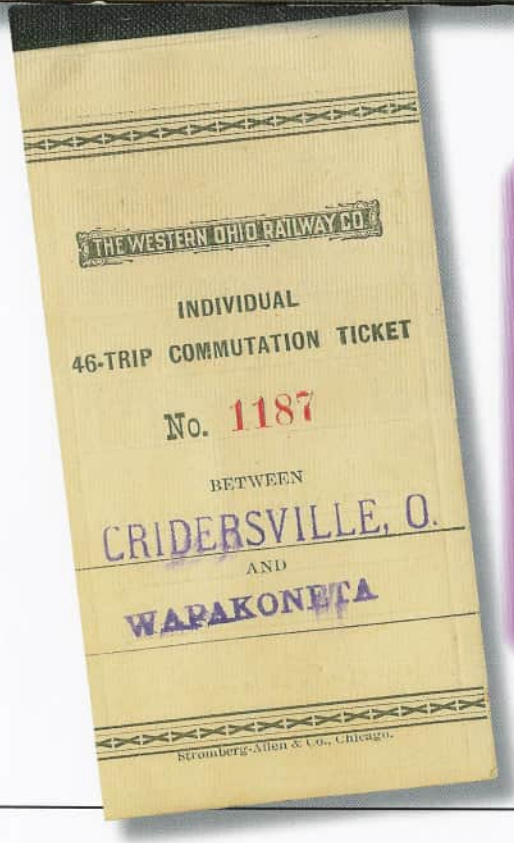


The Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad (C.H.&D.) depicted on the above postcard was the successor to the Dayton & Michigan Railroad.

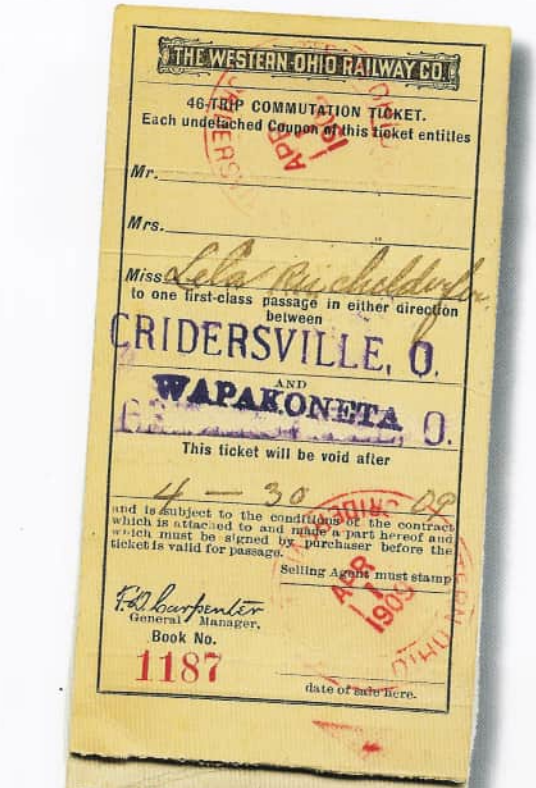
Cridersville

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Copies of interurban tickets between Cridersville and Wapakoneta on the Western Ohio Railway, April 30, 1909





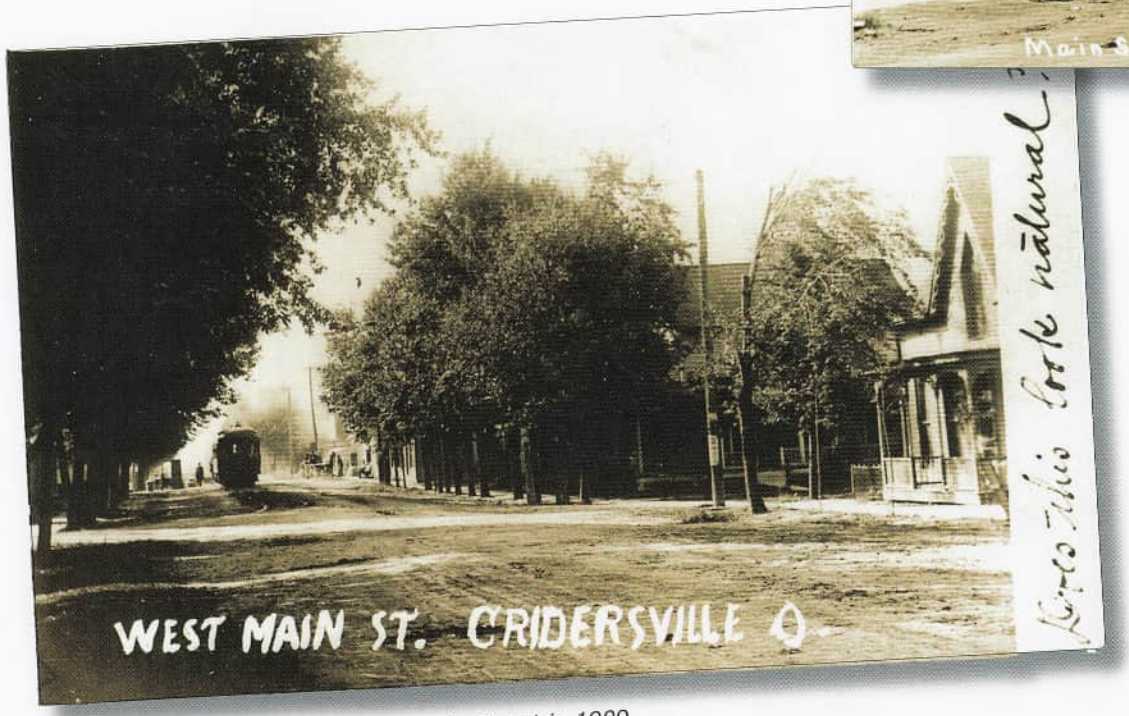
Cridersville

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Western Ohio Railway in Cridersville



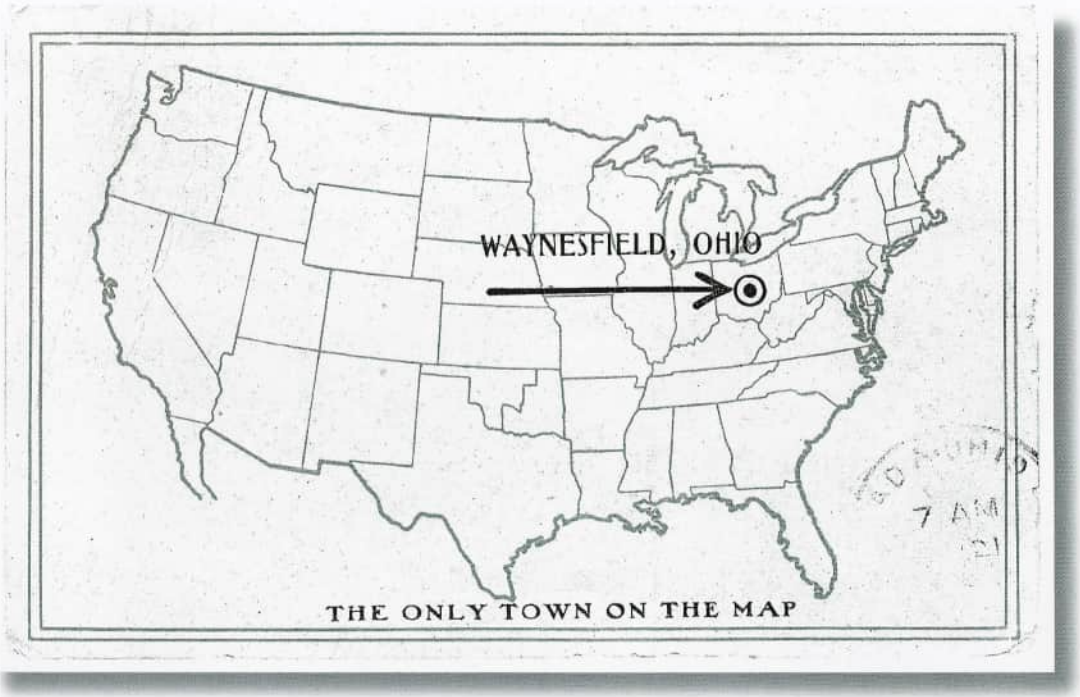
Interurban on Main Street



The Interurban at the station on Main Street in 1909

The Western Ohio Railway linked communities throughout west-central Ohio. By 1905 the route had extended from Dayton to Toledo. The 5-hour, 31-minute trip of 162 miles cost $3.00.

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Postmarked 1911

Waynesfield

This eastern Auglaize County town was platted by E.G. Atkinson in 1848. He was chosen postmaster in 1857.

In 1917 the *Atlas of Auglaize County* reported that Waynesfield "has one mile of brick paving covering its two principal streets. Besides many fine stores and beautiful business houses, two banks are located here."

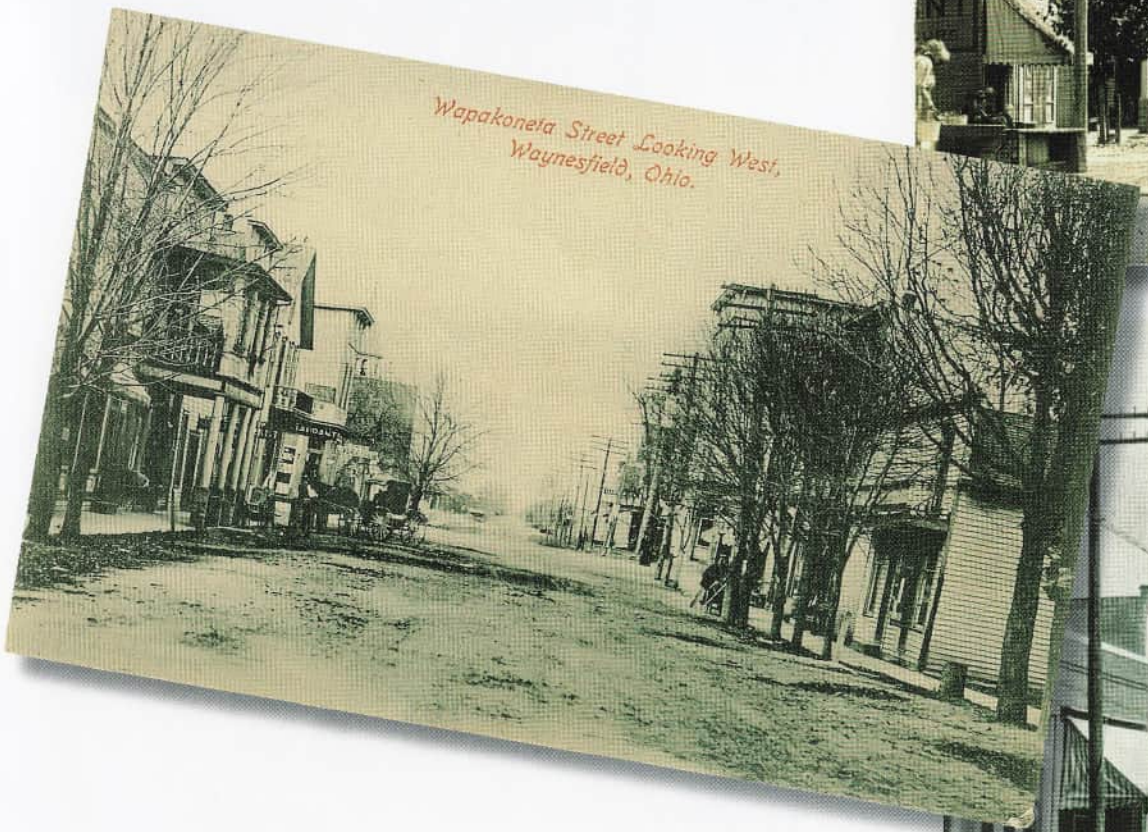


Postmarked February 21, 1914

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East Wapakoneta Street



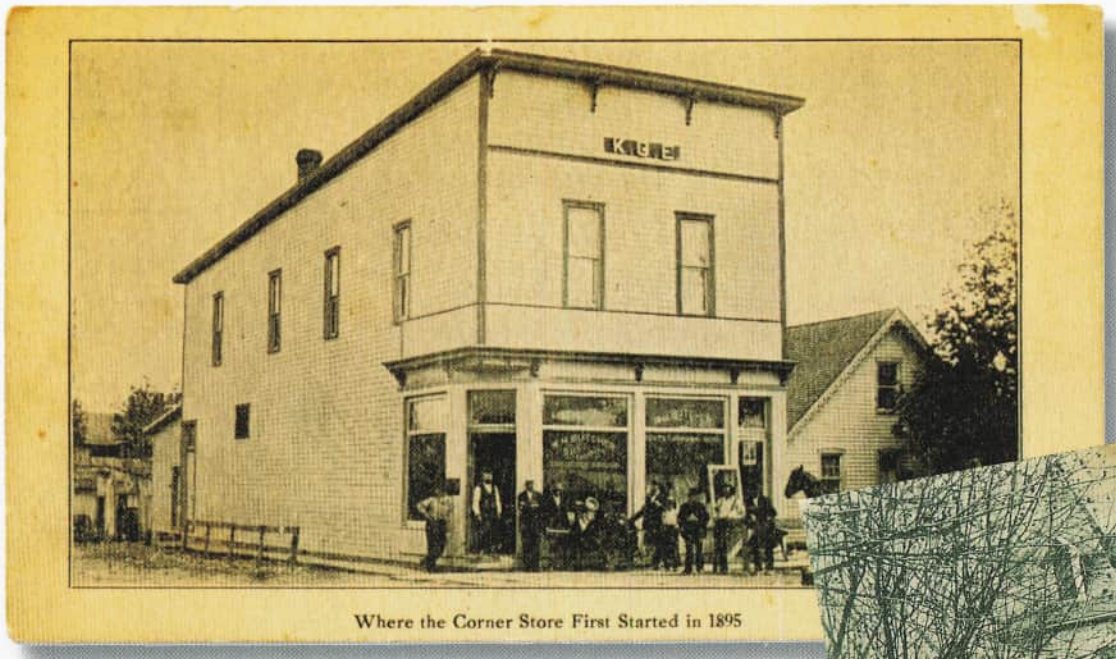




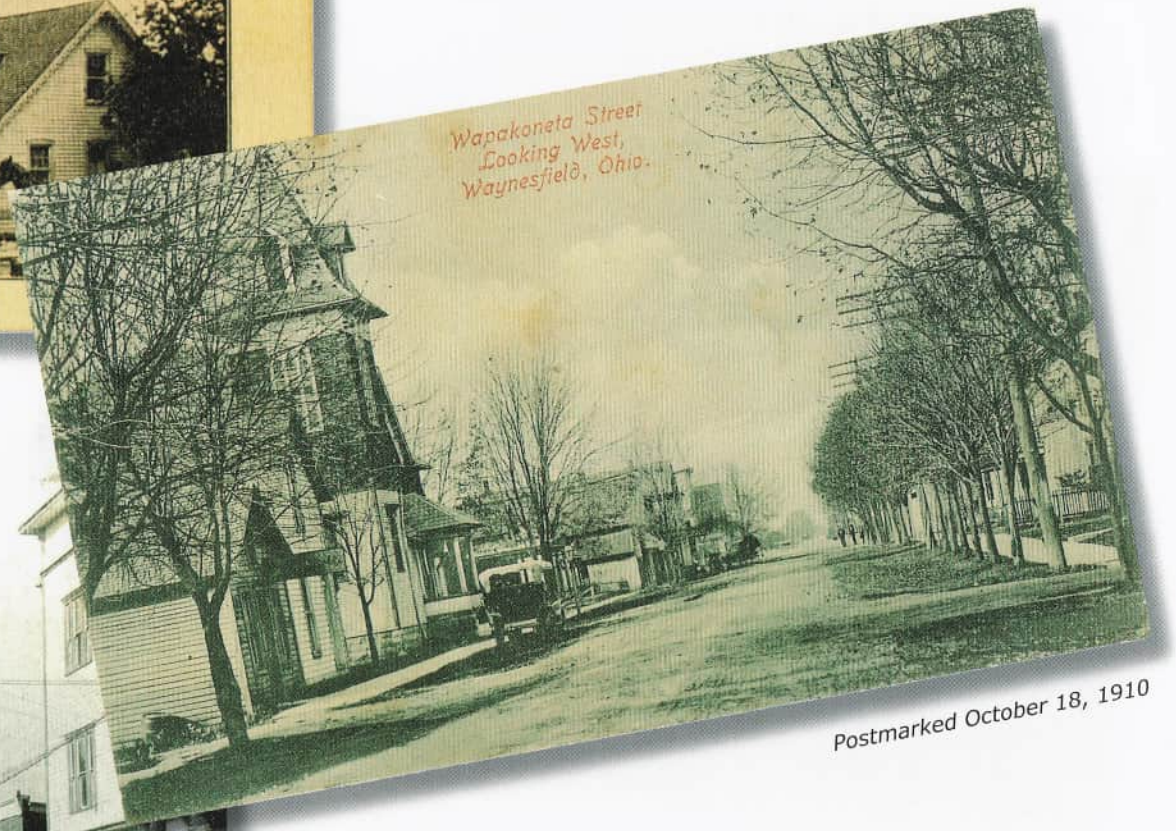
Waynesfield

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West Wapakoneta Street



W.H. Butcher and F.C. Steinmetz Corner Store, August 16, 1923



Postmarked October 18, 1910

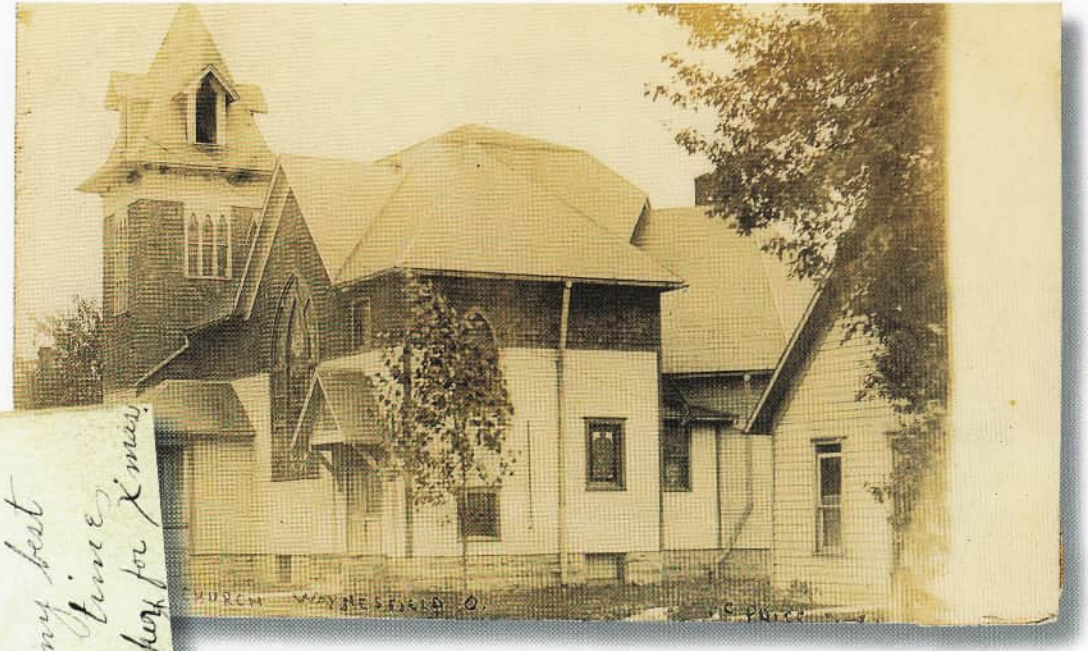


Waynesfield

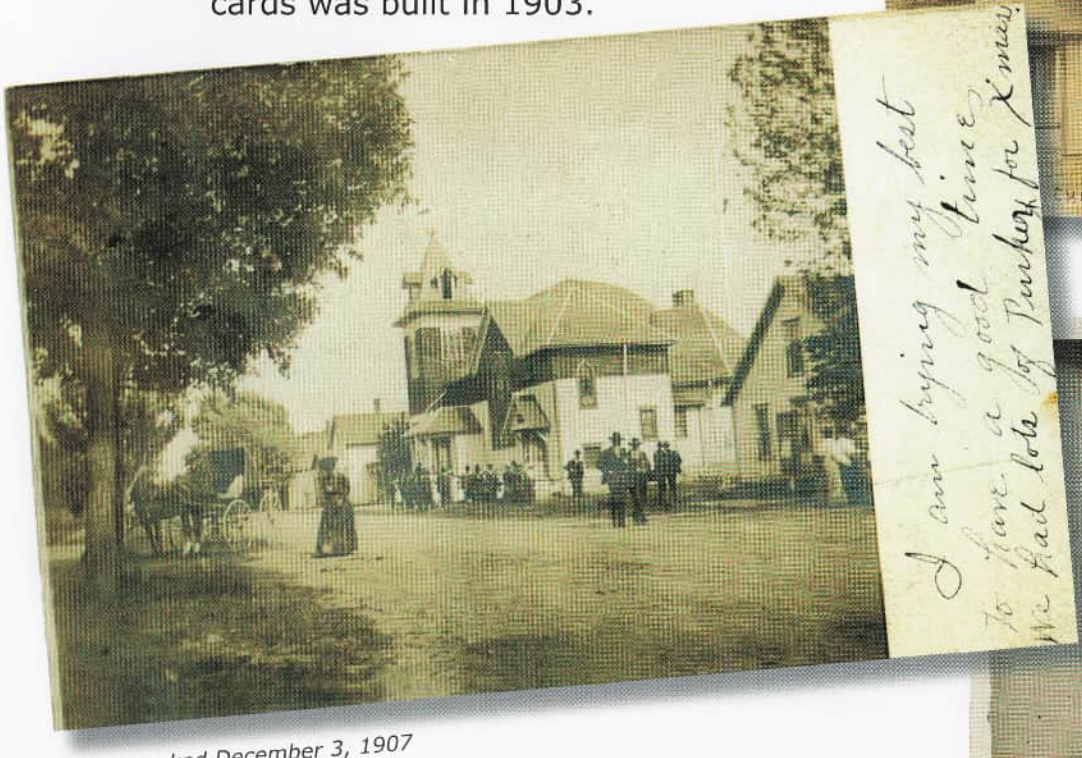
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Waynesfield Churches

Waynesfield's Methodist Church was founded in 1860. The structure depicted on these cards was built in 1903.



United Methodist Church, postmarked August 23, 1912



Postmarked December 3, 1907

The Waynesfield Baptist Church was founded in 1866. This building was dedicated on February 22, 1900, but was replaced in 1973.



Postmarked March 12, 1909

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Waynesfield School



South side view of school on West Perry Street, postmarked May 24, 1913



View of the front of the school, postmarked December 4, 1911

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Views of Westminster Street





May 19, 1925



Waynesfield

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Waynesfield



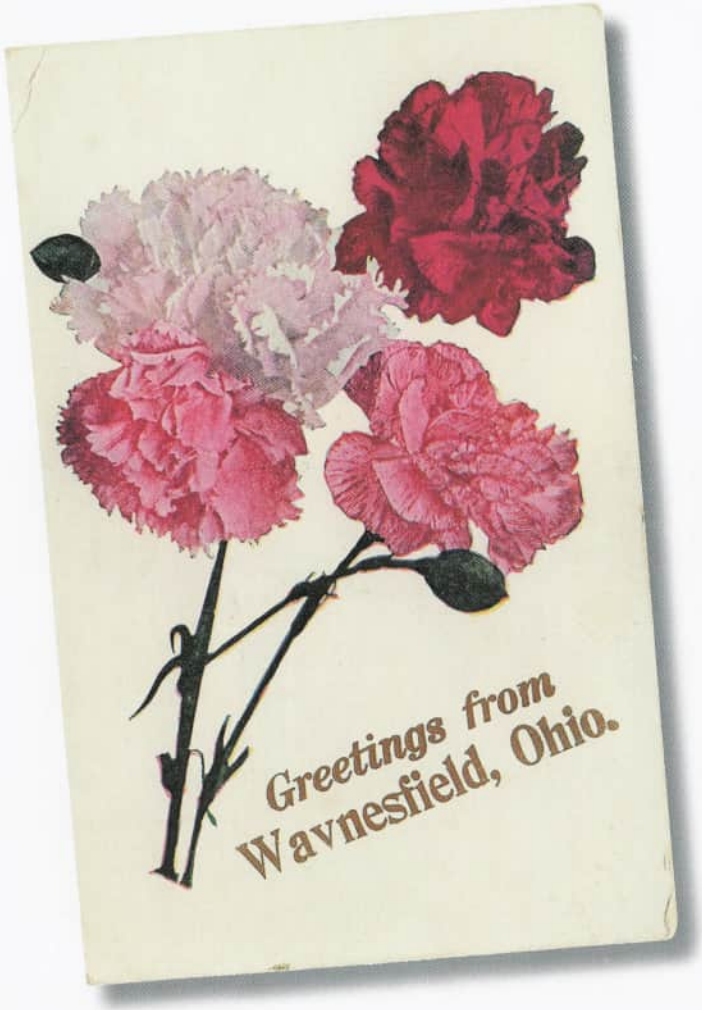
Elmer Blank and Harry Seaman Store, postmarked 1917



Depot on Wapakoneta Street, early 1920s.

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Waynesfield





Postmarked June 21, 1910



Waynesfield Grain Company, postmarked August 25, 1936

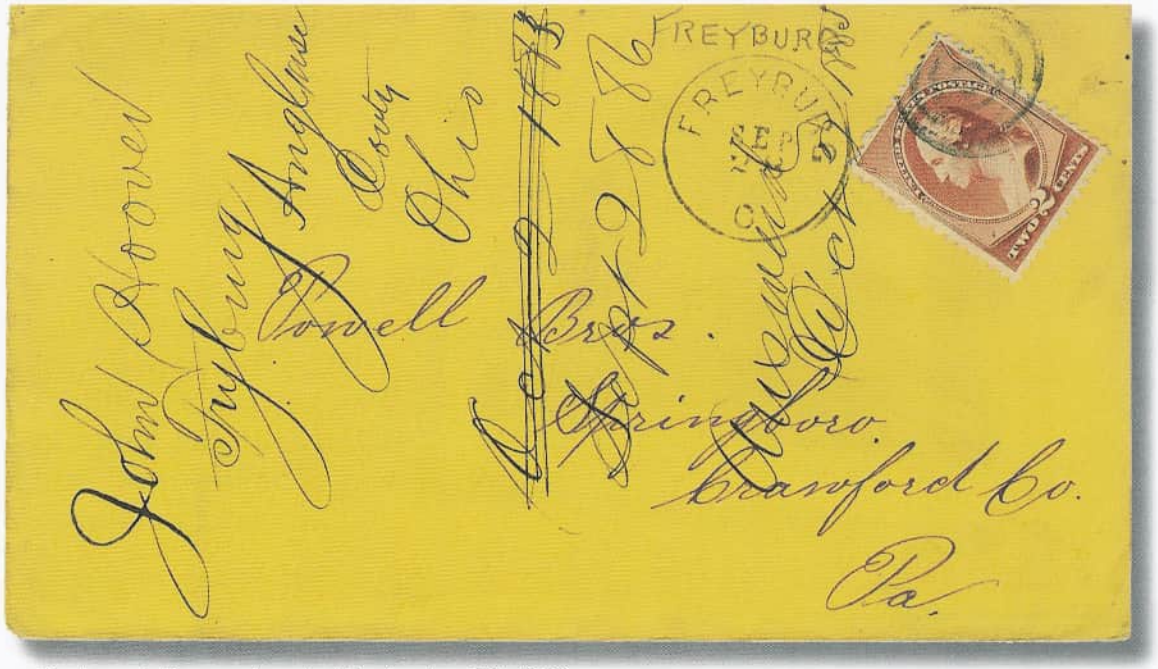
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Middle building is Freyburg school, while St. John Catholic Church is on the right.

Freyburg

Beal Spurrier organized the village in 1837. It was the only settlement in Pusheta Township with a post office.



Freyburg letter, postmarked September 28, 1886

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Freyburg



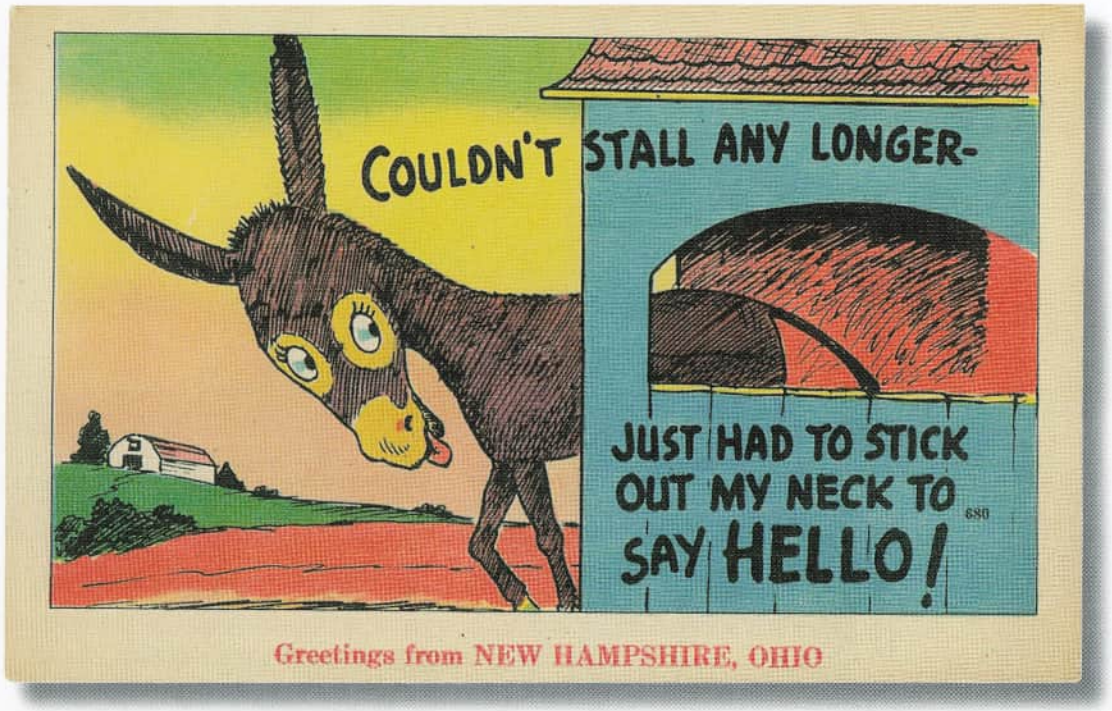
The 10 cent stamp on this letter was issued between 1870 and 1882.



Early Freyburg letter

St. John Catholic Church was built in 1850. The parish's most famous pastor was Lawrence Tebbe, who served from 1938 until his death in 1972. Fr. Tebbe was a painter and sculptor; his work still adorns the church.

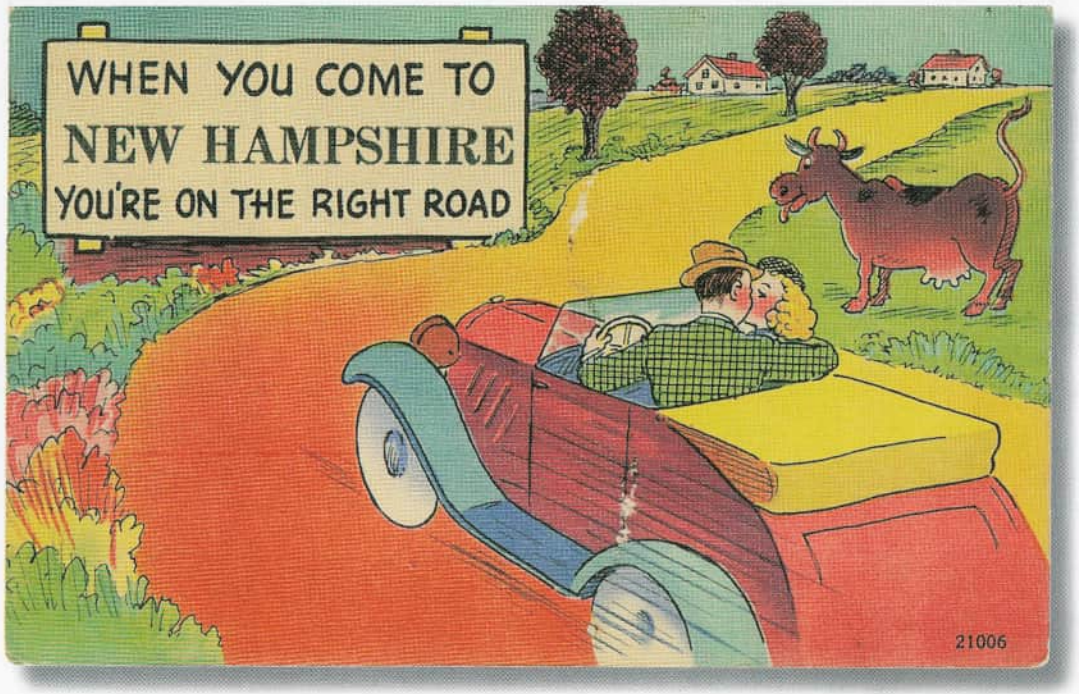
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New Hampshire

This town is located within the Virginia Military District, land given to that state's veterans of the Revolutionary War in compensation for their services. The village was platted by John Kindle in 1836, and named by his wife.

The 1898 *Atlas of Auglaize County* states that "New Hampshire has year after year improved in many respects, and is a trading center of considerable importance, being surrounded, as it is, by farmers who cultivate the soil on an extensive scale."



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New Hampshire



Harvesting onions at the D.H. Kerwin Farm

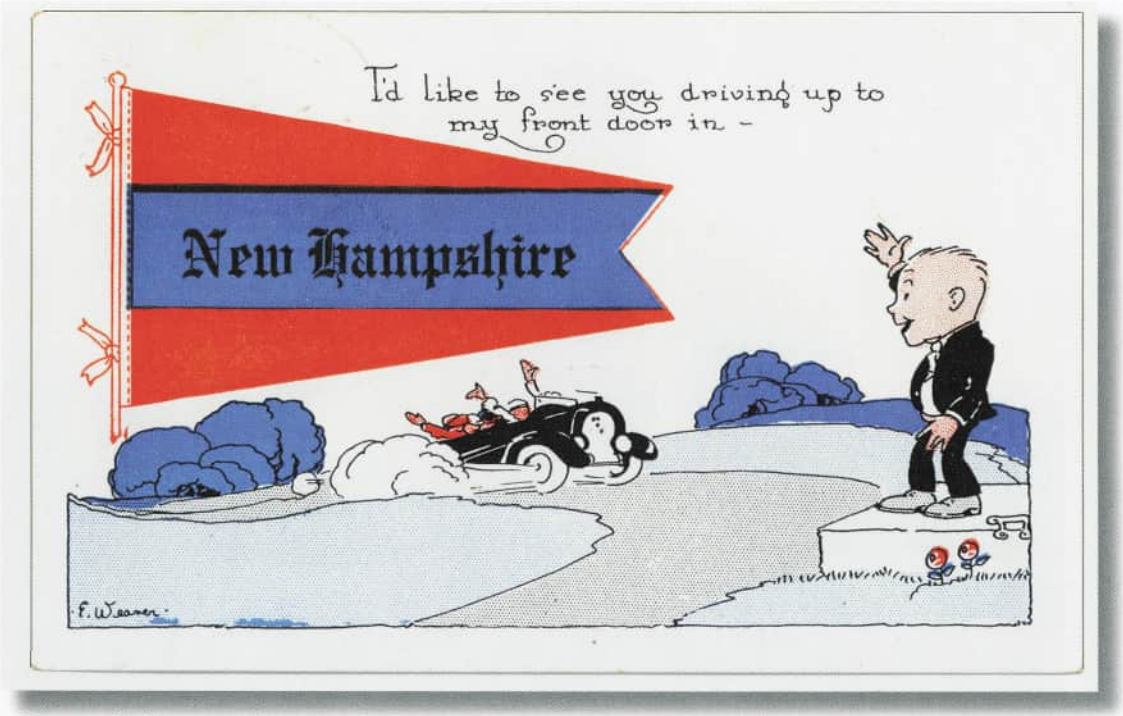


New Hampshire High School, postmarked May 17,1900



Golden Rule Class with Mary McCarthy teacher, postmarked August 23, 1916

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Postmarked January 25, 1925



Christian Church, postmarked 1914



Baptist Church, postmarked March 11, 1909

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The Manchester Barn

One of the largest barns in the state of Ohio, this rare round structure was built in 1908 by John H. Manchester. The barn is 102 feet in diameter and 85 feet high. Most of the timber was taken from the land while green, so as it dried it would curve with the structure. Four generations of the Manchester family have lived on this Goshen Township farm, located along State Route 385.

The silo inside the barn was used to accommodate enough hay to feed the cows. The hay was thrown down a special opening to the cows below.



Manchester Barn, postmarked August 27, 1909



The first man near the wheel is J.H. Manchester, circa 1915

Manchester Farm Oats Train

The photograph on this card was taken in Lakeview, Ohio

New Hampshire

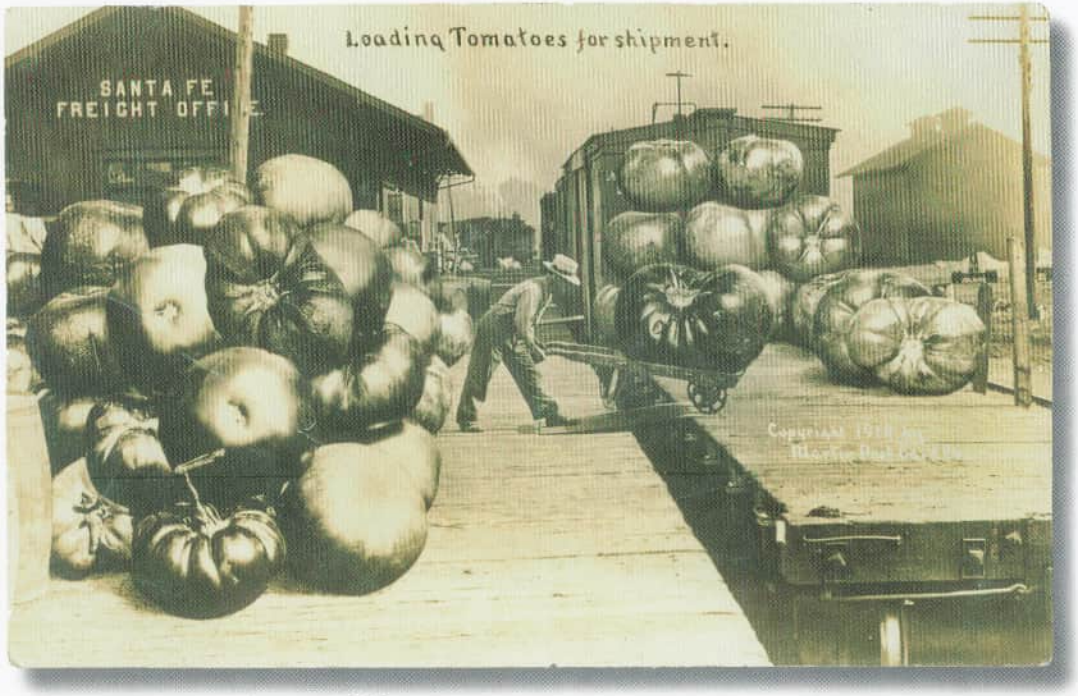
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Postmarked 1910

Santa Fe

Santa Fe was laid out by Reuben Conner. The village was established as a trading center for the immediate area. In 1917 Santa Fe boasted several stores, a hotel, blacksmith shop, two churches and a school. The arrival of the Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad was the impetus for the establishment of the elevator in the village.



Postmarked November 11, 1910

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Santa Fe



Postmarked August 1915



United Brethren Church, postmarked March 19,1909



United Brethren Church, postmarked December 26, 1912

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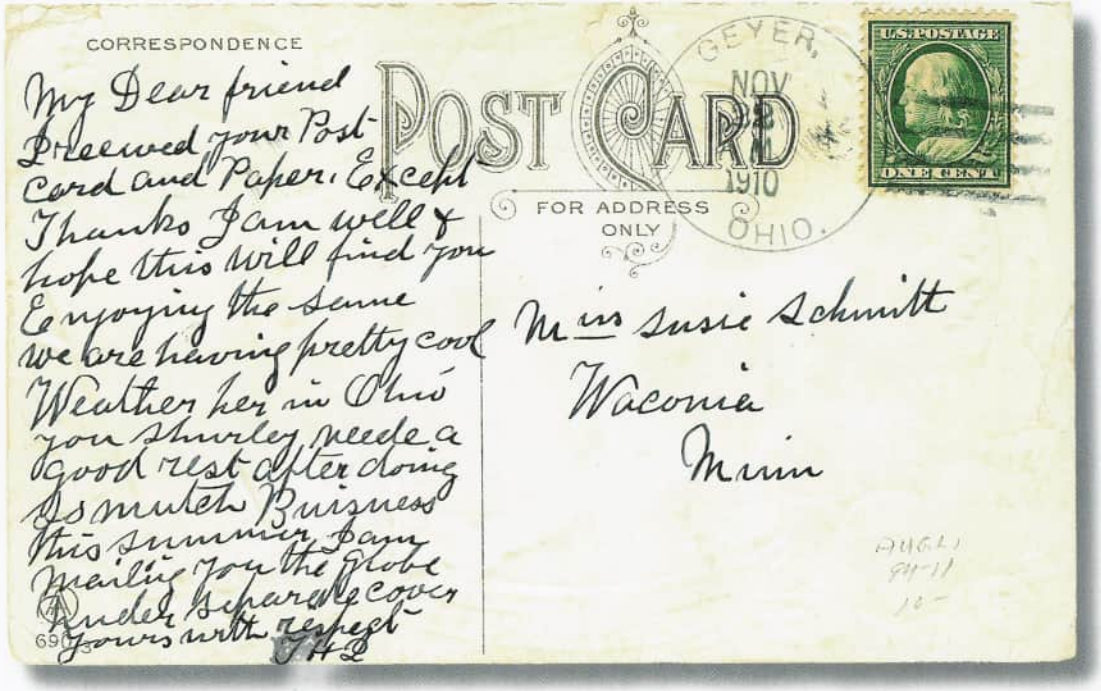
Geyer

George Geyer settled in what would become southeastern Auglaize County in 1840. Following the railroad's arrival on September 20, 1893, he platted a town, optimistically naming it Geyer City. It was later incorporated as Geyer.



Good Wishes card

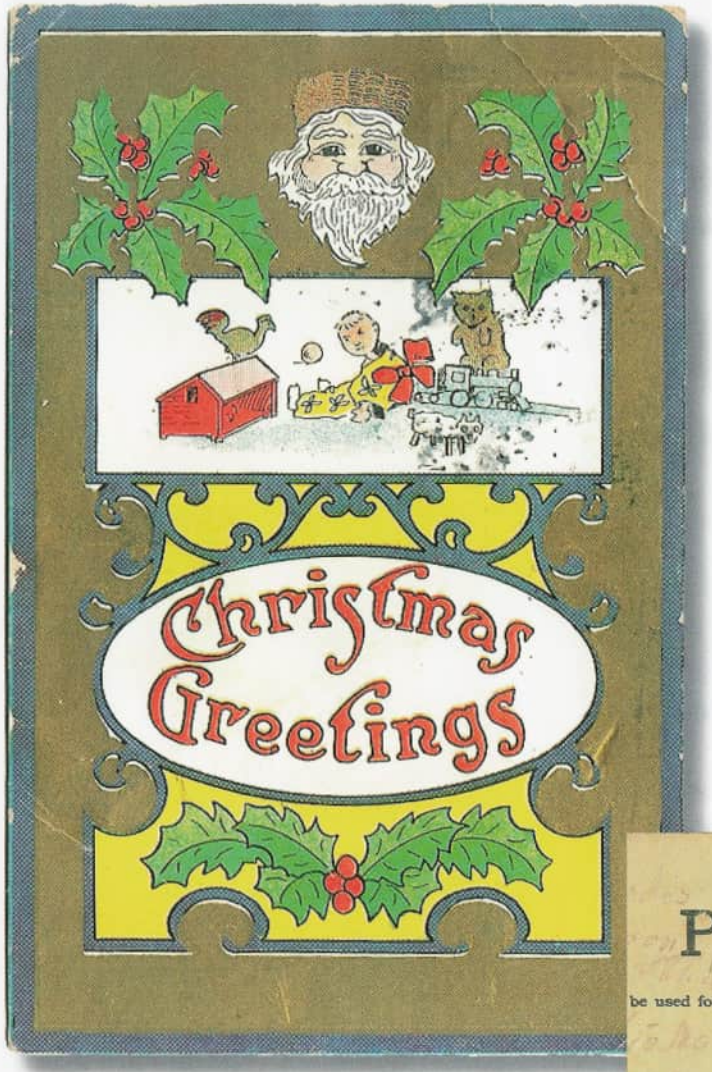
According to the 1898 *Atlas of Auglaize County*, "Geyer is an enterprising little place of about 300 inhabitants and has several manufacturing industries."



Back of card, postmarked November 22, 1910

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Geyer and Holden



Christmas Card, postmarked March 4, 1910



Greetings from Holden

Holden is located in Wayne Township, in the northeast corner of Auglaize County. This crossroads community sits at the border with Hardin County.



Geyer Christmas post card, postmarked with date

Geyer

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