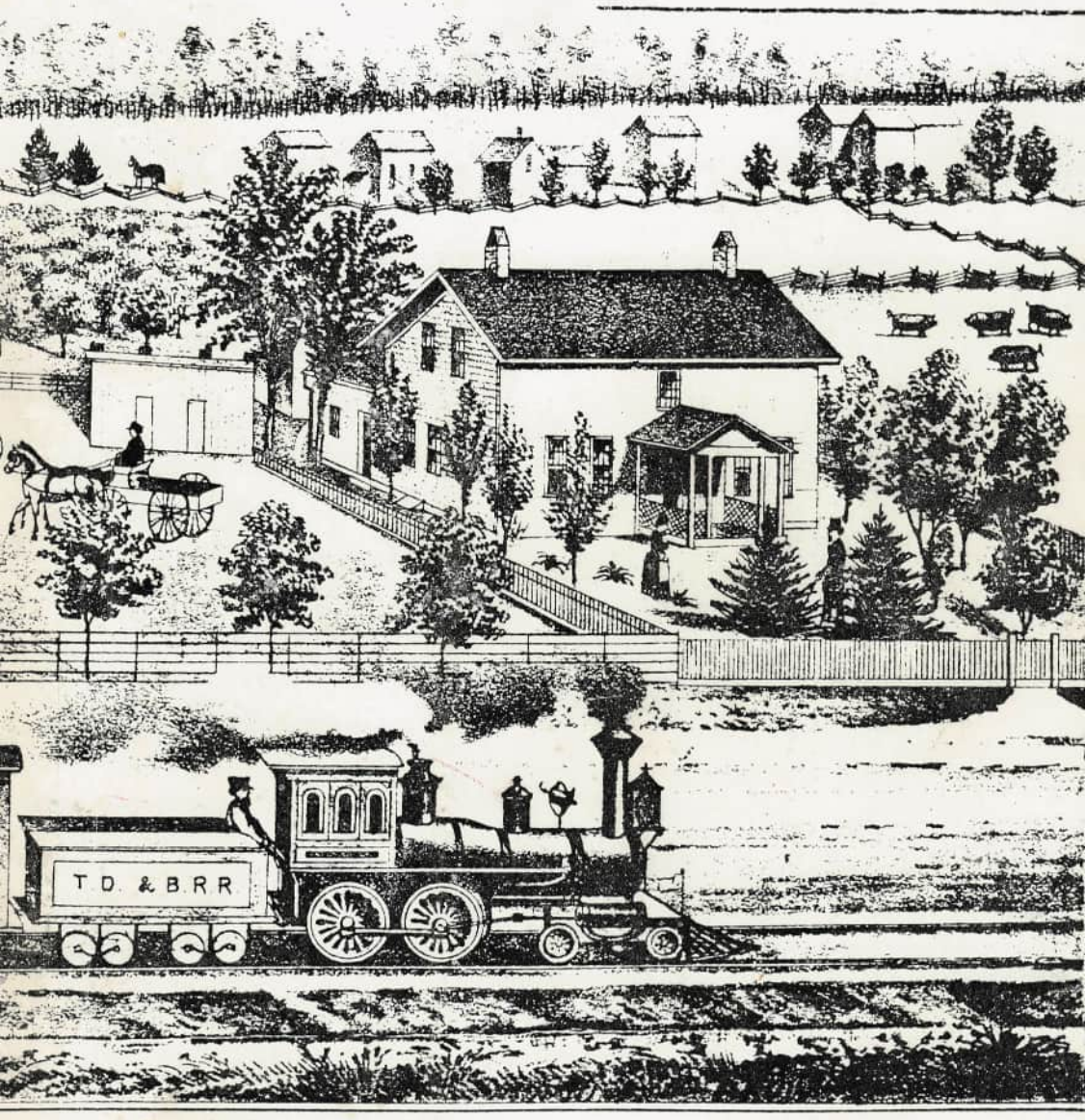
OUR HERITAGE -
A TIME TO REMEMBER



UNION TWP. MERCER CO. OHIO.

MENDON, OHIO
1834 - 1984

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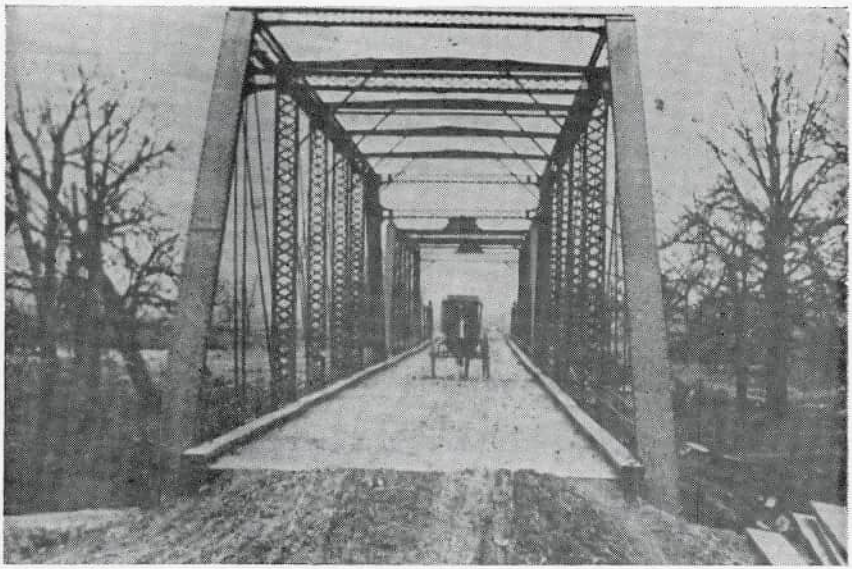

St. Marys River Bridge looking north on Main Street

MENDON

On the banks of the St. Marys,
A branch of the Maumee
Stands the town of Mendon
Far away from the sea.

We are contented and happy
With our old fashioned ways,
To be content and happy
Is the only thing that pays.

No rush to get the street car
For fifth avenue,
No standing and waiting
After the last boat is due.

Just go home from the Post Office
It's only a block or two,
The quietness makes it pleasant
There's someone waiting for you.

Unknown

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

July 29, 1983

To the Citizens of Mendon:
I am pleased to join all those gathered to celebrate the sesquicentennial anniversary of Mendon and to send my warm congratulations.
The spirit which has built and sustained your community reflects the energy which has forged America into a land of wonder. As a community held by fellowship and goodwill, Mendon has become "home" to many who love it dearly. Further, it stands as an example of the blessings of liberty and freedom to those around the world
Again, my hearty congratulations on this proud, historic occasion and my best wishes in the years to come.

Signed — Ronald Reagan

A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF MENDON

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone who diligently worked endless hours toward the success of our sesquicentennial. Without your enthusiasm, interest, and dedication, our celebration would not have become a reality. I owe you a great deal of gratitude for all your support, and feel you should take great pride in a job well done.

Many endless hours have gone into the compiling of this history book. There may be errors, but this book was written to the best authenticity available. A special thanks to all those who have spent untiring months assembling this book. To those who gave pictures, old papers, stories, and memories, we are grateful.

To my husband, Mike, and my family for their continual support and understanding, I will never be able to give enough thanks.

As you turn the pages of this book, it is hoped you will recollect many pleasant memories.

Cheryl Adams Boley — Great-Great-Great Granddaughter of Justin Hamilton — founder of Mendon
President
Mendon Sesquicentennial Committee

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COILSTOWN **GILFORD** **MENDON**

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

May 31 - June 1 - 2 - 3, 1984

— OFFICERS —

PRESIDENT ..... CHERYL BOLEY

VICE PRESIDENT ..... MARILYN RUHLEN

SECY.-TREASURER ..... DIANE SHEETS

CORRESPONDING SECY. / REPORTER ..... OLENE GRIESHOP

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INDIANS OF THIS AREA

Mercer County's terrain and vegetation was conducive to two varieties of historic Indian; the woodland or forest people, and prairie or grassland people. The woodland people were gardeners, gatherers, and hunters by the time they started roaming the area of Mercer County. At first they were occasional occupants along the streams and watering places of the larger animal they hunted. Mercer County was the hunting region for the two or three major hunts they participated in each year, but not their permanent home. As well as hunting, they gathered the edibles of the land during the various seasons i.e. nuts, berries, wild fruits, and seeds. The prairie people came into the county to hunt large animals such as deer, elk, and buffalo and probably were more regular visitors than the woodland because they depended more on hunting as a source of food than the woodland people.

Besides the different environment and ways in which they procured their food, the woodland and prairie people differed in the style and the raw material used in housing. The woodland lived in long houses covered with bark and skins if they were Iroquoian. If Algonquin they lived in wigwams or circular shaped houses covered with bark or skins. The prairie people lived in wigwams covered with grass matting or skins. In both cases the houses were multiple family rather than single family dwellings. After white contact this architectural habitat was greatly changed and many changed to single hut or cabin type.

During the time of the exodus of the late pre-hostoric people until the first or second decade of the 1700's, there was no Indian activity in Mercer County. During the second and third decade of the 18th century, Algonquin speaking woodland and prairie Indians started to use this region as a hunting area. Possibly an occasional hunting or raiding party of the Iroquois speaking woodland people passed through Mercer County during this time. The Algonquin people were of the Miami, Shawnee, Ottawa, Mohican and Potawatomies tribes. The Iroquois people were of the Seneca, Wyandot, and Mohawk tribes.

Each of these groups had migrated to the Ohio area but were used to the life pattern they would lead in this area. The Potawatomies and Ottawa had come from upper Michigan and lakeshore Wisconsin. The Miami came from the Illinois River Valley by way of Indiana and southwestern Michigan. The Shawnee from the south and probably had lived in Ohio some 300 or 400 years prior to their return as Fort Ancient people. The Wyandot, Seneca, Mohawk, and Mohican were northeastern Indians who migrated from that area because of the inter-tribal wars and white invasion of their lands.

The Indian activity in Mercer County by mid-eighteenth century had experienced a drastic change. The northern part, around the "Half-Way Cross" was considered Wyandot hunting area who allowed some Ottawa and Mohawk to use the area. Activity had increased to the point that some of these bans or fragments of the tribes were "wintering" in northern Mercer County along the St. Marys. The southern area of the county was considered Miami and Shawnee hunting area.

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After the British gained control of this area the Miami people became more active in the northern half. The Ottawa remained, but the activity of the Wyandot and other Iroquoian people lessened. Temporary encampments during the hunt or over the winter probably dotted the St. Marys River up until the Revolutionary War period.

During the period of the struggle between American and British control of this region (1776-1795) the Indian activity in this area experienced another change. Early in this era Miami and Ottawa were the most dominant people, but toward the end the Ottawa bans moved north and Shawnee activity from the south started to intrude. Early in the 1780's, Mark, a Mohican convert of the Moravians who had lived with the Shawnee was joined by a few other Mohicans and some Shawnee settled on the St. Mary's, a mile or so above present Mendon. Mark died in 1783 but his son Stephen held the ban together in this area. The village is referred to by various early recorders as Stephentown, Muhheconnuk, Gaunschiechgunk, or Mohican Town. This village is recorded in existence as late as 1792, and 1808 by early recorders. Regardless of this single settlement it is safe to say that Miami were still the dominant users of the land in and around Mercer County.

After the treaty of Greenville, Mercer County became part of the Indian Territory until April 1, 1820. During this period the northern part of the county was used for hunting purposes by Miami and Potawatomies. A trading station ran by Charles Murray was in operation at the site of Fort Adams in 1800 and shortly after that Anthony Shane opened trade with the Indians at the site of Shanesville. It is recorded that some Delaware from the Indiana area were active in Mercer County hunting and gathering. The southern part of the county still was considered Shawnee country, but no permanent villages are recorded.

Until the county was created, Mercer was not truly the home of any sizeable group of Indians. During their occupancy in the general area, the Shawnee, Miami, Wyandot, Ottawa, and Potawatomie all hunted its forests and fields. Only a small group of Mohicans and Shawnee used Mercer County as their homesite for an extended period of time.

by Randal Buchman
Department of History
Defiance College
Defiance, Ohio

Used by Permission of the Mercer County Historical Society
History of Union Township and Mendon as taken from the 1882 Edition of The History of Van Wert and Mercer Counties, and the 1907 Scranton — Mercer Co.

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UNION TOWNSHIP

This township comprises an area of thirty-six square miles, and occupies the northeast corner of the county, being bounded on the north by Van Wert County, on the east by Auglaize County, on the south by Centre Township, and on the west by Dublin Township. At the time of organization, in 1828, it comprised the present township of Centre, which was attached for business purposes. The surface is generally level, and is drained by the St. Marys River, which flows from east to west in an irregular course, and Eight-mile Creek and Twelve-mile Creek, two tributaries of the St. Marys. The soil is fertile and very productive. At the period of settlement the pioneers had to contend with the water incident to a level surface, as well as the usual heavy timber of the whole region. The axe and spade joined hands in reducing a wet and marshy timber region to a high and flourishing state of cultivation. The half-century just passed has produced great changes in all departments of life, and over a great portion of the field of nature. The same spirit of change, of destruction, supplemented by construction, has operated here, transforming the trackless marshy wilderness of fifty years ago into a township of productive farms, teeming with domestic life, and traced by highways fringed with pleasant homes, the foundation of prosperity and happiness—school-houses, the pride and hope of the race; and churches, whose spires point upward forever. It is the forward march in the line of progress, keeping step to the music of development. Let us look back upon the actors who laid deep the foundation-stones of this development—to the men who came to an unbroken forest, and planted a strong social and material growth. The year 1822 marks the era of settlement, and we pause to cast a glance at the settlers in the order of their arrival.

Early in 1822 Andrew Coil with his children—Peter, Andrew, Jeremiah, John, Amelia, and Elizabeth and her husband Thomas Parrott — found their way through the almost trackless forest from Fayette County, and settled on the bank of Twelve-mile Creek, building their cabin on the south fraction of section 22. Here they cleared some land and raised some corn and vegetables, which constituted the first crop produced within the township. The next year Mr. Coil laid out a town, which he named Coiltown, and competed with St. Marys and Shanesville for the seat of justice in 1824. St. Marys secured the prize, and Coiltown again became a cornfield. Its owner remained a permanent settler until his death, in 1835. Isaiah Duncan came to the township the same year, and settled on the east fraction of the southeast quarter of section 21, where he lived a year or two, and then moved up the river near St. Marys. He had settled on Shane's Prairie, in Dublin Township, in 1818, thus being identified with the county at the date of the land cession by the St. Marys treaty. James Green also came the same year, and lived a year or two on the west half of southwest quarter of section 16, and then left the township. Early in 1823 Michael Harner came from Dublin Township, where he had settled in 1819, and located on east half of northeast quarter of section 32, where he resided until his death, in 1870. At about the same time John Van Gundy came from Dublin Township, and settled on the east half of southeast quarter of section 32, where he resided the remainder of his life. As already noted, Thomas Parrott came here in 1822. He made his first improvement on west fraction of southeast part of section 21, where he remained until 1846, when he settled on the southwest quarter of northeast quarter of the same section, where he spent the remainder of his life. Mrs. Parrott was a woman of great skill with the sick, and proved of great service among the settlers. Her death occurred in 1865.

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Peter Coil married Hester Roebuck in 1824, and located on west half of northwest quarter of section 27, where he resided until his death, in 1841. He served one term as justice of the peace, and was a member of the first board of township trustees.

Andrew Coil Jr., located on southeast fraction of northeast quarter of section 20 in 1825, where he died in 1854. Jeremiah Coil bought and sold several pieces of land, and finally settled on northeast quarter of section 14, where he died in 1873. John Coil settled on north fraction of section 20, where he resided until his death. Amelia Coil, while yet unmarried, sustained injuries which proved fatal by the falling of a tree.

In 1823 Samuel Harrison built a cabin and cleared a patch of land on northeast quarter of section 20. In 1834 he sold out and moved to section 32, where he died in 1843.

The same year John Heath located on the west half of section 19, and the next year built a horse-mill, which served to crush corn for the whole neighborhood. In 1832 he moved to Van Wert County, where he became a heavy stock-dealer, in which business he was engaged up to the time of his death, when about eighty-seven years of age.

Justin Hamilton moved from Ontario County, N.Y., to Hardin County, Ky., in 1818. In 1820 he married Eliza Rhodes, and in 1823 changed his Kentucky farm for land in this township. The same year he moved to southwest quarter of section 28, and commenced improvements. In 1824 he raised his first crop of corn and planted some apple trees. The outlook at this time was not cheering, for the family suffered dreadfully with chills and fevers, while the cattle all died of an epidemic. In 1825 he was elected justice of the peace for Dublin Township, then comprising the whole north part of the county; and being re-elected in 1828, he became the first justice of Union Township, as he was in office at its organization. He also held the offices of county assessor and surveyor while Allen and Van Wert counties were included in Mercer. He served several terms in the Ohio Legislature, and afterwards served as associate judge of the Common Pleas Court. He resided upon the same farm originally entered up to the date of his death, which occurred in 1863, he having reached the age of sixty-six years, five months and eight days. His children were Isabel, Justus, Lucius, Charlotte (deceased while young), Justin, Lucinda, Emily, and Elmira.

Jacob Van Gundy came here in 1824, and, making his home at his brother John's devoted his time to hunting until his death, which was occasioned by an injury received while boating on the St. Marys in 1834.

The same year Achilles Irvin leased land in section 32, where he built a cabin and lived a few years, but finally moved to Indiana.

In 1827 George Wilson and Peter Coil (2d) came from Fayette County, Ohio. Coil located on northwest quarter of section 26, at the mouth of Eightmile Creek, where he lived until 1868, when he moved to Centre Township, from which he afterwards returned, and located on section 24, in 1875. Wilson located on the school land, but finally moved to section 30; and again in 1833 began improvements in section 26, where he lived until 1845, when he moved to section 36, where he remained up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1868.

In spring of 1828 Joseph Rider and Asahel Forbes, with their families, came from Hardin County, Ky. Forbes located on section 28, where he remained until his death. Rider settled on section 21, where he remained until his death in 1850, having attained the age of fifty-two years, ten months, and four days.

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William Hamilton left Ontario County, N.Y., in 1825, and walked to Buffalo. Here he took a schooner for Sandusky Bay (city), and then walked by way of Lower Sandusky (Fremont), Perrysburg, Defiance, Fort Wayne, and Shane's Crossing to this township, where he joined his brother Justin, and assisted him in moulding and burning the first brick made in the township. The next fall he returned to New York on foot by way of Amanda, Wapakoneta, Bellefontaine, Fort Ball, and Fort Seneca to the lake at Sandusky. Here he took passage by steamer for Buffalo, from where he walked to Richmond, Ontario County, N.Y. In 1827 he married Almira C. Abbey, and in 1848, with wife and child and Aaron Abbey, returned to Ohio by his former route by Defiance and up the Auglaize River, reaching this township Nov. 3, 1828. He then located on east half of southwest quarter of section 26. After paying $100 for his land, he had $15 left, with which to supply the family and purchase stock and farming implements. The remainder of his life was spent on this farm, except the period from December, 1834, to March, 1836, when he acted as salesman for Joseph Skinner at Shane's Prairie, and the period between 1836 and March, 1842, when he kept a general supply store at Mendon. He was the second clerk of the township, the first postmaster at Mendon, and served fourteen consecutive terms as justice of the peace. His children were Polly Ann Shepherd, Lois Hussey, Hugh, Sally Barber, Isabel Murlin, William, Maria (dec'd), Almira (dec'd), W. Harrison (dec'd), and Susan (dec'd).

Aaron Abbey came in 1828, but never settled permanently in this township. He finally returned to New York, where he died some years since.

Samuel C. Barber, with his wife and two children (Relief and Lucretia), and his wife's brother, Abraham D. Murlin, came from Hardin County, Ky., in November, 1828, and located on section 27, where Barber resided until his death, in 1851, at the age of forty-seven years. His wife died in 1844, and he was married twice afterwards. Murlin made his home at Barber's until 1831, when he entered land on section 35. The next year he returned to Kentucky and married Elizabeth Leaser, and in the fall returned, accompanied by his wife, mother (a widow), and his sisters Elizabeth and Caroline. He remained here until his death, in 1852, aged forty-three years, one month and fourteen days. His widow died on the old farm in 1875, aged sixty-three years. His mother and sisters also died here.

Michael Miller and his sister Elizabeth, two orphans, were brought to the township in 1829 by their brother-in-law, George Wilson, and became a part of his family until able to provide for themselves. Elizabeth afterwards returned to Fayette County, but Michael remained a permanent resident.

Abel Wright, with his wife and youngest son John M., came from Clinton County, Ohio, and located on northwest quarter of section 35, where Mr. W. died in 1848 at the advanced age of eighty years. Mrs. W. died in 1840, aged sixty-four years. Their son John married Caroline Murlin in 1834, and located on southwest quarter of section 36. His wife died in 1843, and he afterwards married Sarah Gordon.

During the year 1830 quite a number of settlers arrived, among whom were Isaac Coil, James Coil, Jacob Fultze, and George Parrott. Isaac Coil located on southwest quarter of section 30, where he spent the remainder of his life. James Coil moved to the Duncan cabin, and afterwards to the James Green lease, in section 16, where he lived several years, and then returned to Fayette County. George Parrott lived with his brother Thomas until he moved to the Fultz cabin, where he remained until 1841, when he sold to Edward Merrick and went to Iowa. Merrick sold to Thomas Upton about five years later and went to Illinois.

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In the spring of 1831 Eli Forbes left South Bristol, N.Y., with his family, consisting of his wife and two small children, and came down the Ohio River to Cincinnati, thence up the canal to Troy, where he left his family and household goods until he could come here to his brother for teams to carry them to the township. While he and his brother were returning to Troy, they were met by a messenger who informed them of the tragic death of Mrs. Forbes. She was really a victim of the absurd stories told of the dangers of frontier life, as she had been made to believe that herself and her children would almost surely be murdered by the Indians. While she was thus in dread of the future an incident occurred which completely enervated her. A young man of the family with whom she was staying returned home late at night, and, finding the doors locked, went to the window of Mrs. Forbes room, which he raised, and entering, passed through to his own room. The shock was so severe that she was wild with alarm during the whole of the next day. Being of a nervous temperament, she could not overcome her fears and excitement, and some young ladies, hearing of her alarm, had her accompany them to their home in the evening to spend the night. While walking along the street, the young man who had caused her fright and whose image was fresh upon her mind, overtook them as he walked rapidly along. Mrs. Forbes, turning about, saw him, and exclaiming, "There he comes to kill me!" rushed frantically down a street leading towards the river bank, off which she threw herself, striking her head upon a rock in her fall, and suffering instant death. After such a tragic bereavement, Mr. Forbes brought his children and goods to his brother, where he lived a few years, and then married and settled on section 28, where he lived several years, and then sold out and moved to Illinois, where he and his wife both died the same year.

Joseph Sidenbender and John Van Gundy came from Ross County, Ohio, in 1831, and built cabins, and did some clearing on section 21, where Sidenbender remained until the spring of 1832, when he sold to A. M. Barber and moved near Shanesville. Van Gundy remained several years, spending most of his time hunting, and finally went to Indiana. In 1836 his little son, about four years of age, wandered off and became lost, although the fact was not known until night. Several men spent the night searching the woods by the aid of torches, but all without success. In the morning a company of men and boys formed to institute a thorough search. At about three o'clock in the afternoon the child was found sleeping upon a bed of leaves, where he had evidently spent the previous night.

In the summer of 1832 George M. Shepherd came from Miami County, Ohio, and settled on northwest quarter of section 25, where he resided until 1845, when he moved to Indiana, and later to Illinois, where he and his wife died several years since. Mary Ann Miller, wife of Michael Miller, and James Shepherd, are the only surviving children in this county. The same season Amos M. Barber came from Hardin County, Kentucky, and brought the Sidenbender tract and entered other land in section 21, where he spent the remainder of his life. During the year Eli Cook became a resident, and built a house on the east bank of Twelve-mile Creek. He also built a store and kept supplies about two years. In 1839 he sold to Philip Meeker, and moved to Knox County. His wife died while living in Michigan, and he returned here and made his home with his son William until his death in 1868.

In 1832 Richard Palmer bought the John Heath land and moved from Miami County, Ohio. Here he entered and purchased other tracts, and continued a resident until his death which occurred in 1852. His wife had previously died. His daughter Hulda and two sons Thomas and Joseph now occupy the old homestead.

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William Cook came to the county with his father and first settled on northwest quarter of section 2 Centre Township, but sold out about two years later and came to southwest quarter of section 26 and southeast quarter of section 27, where his death occurred in 1874.

James Wright came from Kentucky in 1832. He was a native of New York. He first located on northwest quarter of section 35, where he remained till after the death of his wife, which occurred in 1845, when he sold to William Hamilton and returned to Kentucky. The same winter James Smith, a Virginian, but later from Montgomery County, Ohio, located on northwest quarter of section 25, where he died in 1852. He served as justice of the peace some three terms after 1835.

Early in 1833 John D. Hundley came from Fayette County, Ohio, and settled on the north fraction of section 20, where he remained a permanent resident. He was greatly devoted to hunting and trapping. The same season Henry and Samuel Parrott, also from Fayette County, settled in this township. Henry located on northeast quarter of section 25, where he lived until about 1839, when he moved to Iowa, where he died some years since. Samuel settled on southeast quarter of section 23, where he remained until 1846, when he traded farms with his brother Thomas, but finally sold out entirely to Dr. Miller and went to Iowa, where he has since died. Leonard Miller came the same season from the same county, and remained here as a hunter until the death of his wife, when he went to Indiana, where he has since died.

About the same time and from the same place came George Rupert and settled on southwest quarter of section 24, where he remained some time and then sold to William Hussey and moved to Auglaize County, where he died in 1877, aged about eighty-six years.

John W. Brown and his son John N., formerly of Ontario County, New York, moved here from Miami County, Iowa, in 1833, and settled on northwest quarter of section 22. Here they put up a wagon repair shop and a blacksmith shop, and engaged Aaron L. Johns as a workman. They also erected a log horse-tread-mill, which they operated about two years. In December, 1837, he moved to Mendon, where he died in 1839. John N. then moved to Mercer, and finally to Missouri in 1842, where his wife and mother both died, and he went to California.

Edward Upton came from Hardin County, Kentucky, in 1833, and located on northeast quarter of section 35 and northwest quarter of 36, where he lived until 1851, when he sold to Henry Patterson and moved to Illinois, where his wife died some years ago. His oldest son, John, still lives in this township.

About the same time James T. Heath, oldest son of John Heath, settled on northeast quarter of section 19, where he died in 1849. Alfred Bigelow, of Hardin County, Kentucky, also settled on northwest quarter of section 34 the same year, but in 1839 sold out and went to Illinois, where he has since died.

In 1843 Samuel Davis and Benjamin Nolan came from Miami County. Davis settled on northwest quarter of section 35, where he lived until 1863, when he sold to Samuel Hankins, and lived with his son up to the date of his death, occurring in 1868. His wife had died two years earlier. Nolan located on northwest quarter of section 34, and remained there until 1842 or 1843, when he sold out and went to Indiana. Late the same season Abraham Abbey came from Ontario, New York, with his wife and child, and lived on several tracts of land until 1838, when he sold to Thomas Upton and returned to New York, where he has since died. Thomas Upton had just come from Hardin

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County, Kentucky, and was yet unmarried. He taught school during the winter, and worked at clearing land in summer. He returned at once to Kentucky, where he was married, and brought his wife to this township, and permanently located on east half of southeast quarter of section 35 in 1839.

In 1834 James Watts moved to east half of section 25, where an improvement was already made. He was a cooper by occupation, and came from Montgomery County, Ohio. Remained here working at his trade in bad weather, but giving his chief attention to the improvement of his land up to his death in January, 1843.

William McMichael came at same time from same place, and settled on northeast quarter of section 26, where he lived a few years and sold out, when he moved to section 11, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Daniel Murlin moved here from Hardin County, Ky., the same year, and settled on northwest quarter of section 33, where he remained up to his death, which occurred in 1875.

In spring of 1835, John Tomlinson moved here from Madison County, Ohio, and occupied the northeast quarter of section 5, where he died in 1846. His son-in-law, John Ross, located at the same time on northwest quarter of section 5. The same year Wesley A. Parrott came here from Fayette, and was followed the same season by his father, John Parrott, who settled on northeast quarter of section 25, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Jonathan E. Dutton, from Montgomery County, came here in the fall of 1835, and settled on northwest quarter of section 34, but sold out the next year and built a tannery at Mendon, where the remainder of his life was spent. About the same time Resin P. Webb married Lucinda Hays, and settled on southeast quarter of section 31, where he died in 1874.

In the autumn of 1836 John Edge moved from Fayette County to this township, and located on southeast quarter of section 15, where he resided several years, but at length sold out and moved to southwest quarter of section 23, where he still lives.

Early the same year Jacob Panabaker came here from Miami County, and located at Mendon (then Guilford), and built a saw- and grist-mill on the St. Marys River. Although small, it was of great service to the settlers. In 1841 he traded the mill to Benjamin Griffin, Jr., for land in section 12.

Elhanan Porter, a carpenter and millwright, came about the same time, and helped Panabaker in building the mill. He then entered land in section 21, but soon left the township.

Adam Panabaker came also in 1836, and located on southwest quarter of section 29, where he died in 1861.

The same spring Asa Presho, formerly of New York, came here, and the following year located on southwest quarter of section 33, where he died in 1857.

Job Harmon moved from Miami County the same season, and settled on southwest quarter of section 7, where he lived one year, when, selling out, he went to Missouri.

Nathan Perry also came from Miami County this year, and settled on southeast quarter of section 26, where he lived until 1844, when he went to Indiana.

Eleazur S. Wright, from same place at same time, settled on northwest quarter of section 22, where he remained during his life.

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Robert Mortimore came at same time from Madison County, Ohio, and located on northwest quarter of section 5. He was a wheelwright, and devoted considerable time to making chairs, spinning-wheels, and reels for the settlers here.

In February, 1837, Christian and John Gist came to the township. John located on east half and Christian on west half of the northwest quarter of section 15, but both sold out and took leases on the school section. They both died some years since.

The same spring Jacob Peterman moved here from Coshocton County, and settled on northwest quarter of section 17. The next year, while assisting at the raising of the first bridge across the St. Marys, at Mendon, he fell dead by a stroke of apoplexy.

Samuel Ross came from Miami County, and made improvements on southeast quarter of section 22, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Christian Wertz came from Preble County, and settled on northwest quarter of section 36. He was a potter, and worked part of the time at this trade; still resides on same farm.

The same year William Murlin and Samuel Shepherd came from Hardin County, Ky. Murlin located on southeast quarter of section 34, and Shepherd on southwest quarter of section 35.

This year David P. Protsman came here from Montgomery County, and settled on northeast quarter of section 18, which he subsequently sold, but still remained in this township. He now resides on section 18.

Daniel Arnold and John Hines, formerly of Pennsylvania, came from Wayne County, Ohio, at this time. Arnold settled on southeast quarter of section 13, and Hines on northeast quarter of same section.

Late the same year Michael Deniston came in, and lived a short time with his son-in-law.

Isaac Lamunion came from Hardin County, Ky., late in 1837, and, after changing about some time, finally became a permanent resident on southwest quarter of section 25, where he still resides.

In 1838 John B. Hickernell came from Wayne County, Ohio, and settled in southeast quarter of section 10. He was a tailor, and worked chiefly at his trade.

Jacob Sheaver, of Pennsylvania, located on southwest quarter of section 15 in 1838, but at length sold out and moved to section 22, where he died some years since.

James Anderson, also of Pennsylvania, came at same time and settled on southeast quarter of section 17, but finally moved to Van Wert.

John Price of Licking County, came in this year, and located on northwest quarter of section 1, where he died a few years ago. He was a weaver, and worked largely at his trade.

Robert Platt came here and located on southeast quarter of section 16, but finally went to Illinois.

John Protsman came here from Montgomery County in 1838, and settled on southeast quarter of section 18, where he spent the remainder of his life.

In 1839 William Hussey came from Highland Co., Ohio, and settled on southeast quarter of section 24, where he died in 1865.

Everett Sinclair came here with Hussey, and bought land of B. Griffin, but after a few years went to Indiana.

John M. Toland, of Miami County, came here the same season, and settled on northeast quarter of section 36, where he remained until about 1844, when he sold out, and soon after moved to Indiana. His brother Alfred came here in winter, but died soon after, and his family returned to Miami County, Ohio.

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In 1840 Jacob Krugh came from Wayne County, Ohio, and settled on section 17, but a few years later moved to southwest quarter of same section, where he lived until 1875, when he moved to Celina.

George Fireovid moved here about the same time, and bought the west half of south quarter of the section.

In 1840 Robert H. Dunathan, a son-in-law of John Protsman, commenced an improvement on east half of northeast quarter of section 18, and continued a permanent resident until his death. He served as justice of the peace, and one term as commissioner of the county. He was a native of Franklin County, Pa., from where he moved to Dayton, and afterwards to Sidney, Ohio. From Sidney he came to this county, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Joseph Severns came here from Miami County, Ohio, and located on northwest quarter of section 12, where he became a permanent resident.

But we must pause: we have reached 1840, and find settlers scattered throughout the township. We have recalled those pioneers, noted their arrival, and stated their nativity. They came from New York, from Pennsylvania, from Virginia, but especially from Kentucky and the older counties of Ohio. They followed closely in the wake of the red man, whose tracks were yet fresh, and whose shadow was yet visible as he pursued his way towards the west after his cession of lands by the treaty of St. Marys.

His retreating form had scarcely disappeared from view when the settlers approached from the south and east. Instead of bows and arrows, they were armed with axes and spades; instead of chasing wild beasts, they cleared away the forests; and instead of fishing in the murky streams, they cultivated the soil. They were a different people, who, instead of subsisting by hunting and fishing, threw away the rifle and hook, and wooed the virgin soil, until from her abundance she lavished upon them the necessities and comforts which they craved. Even this required time, for the soil is coy and modest, and must first be wooed and won—wooed by kindness and won by industrious worth. That these qualities were possessed by the pioneers of Union Township; that they were frugal, honest, industrious, and determined, is amply attested by the achievements of their lives. They were far removed from luxuries, and necessities were only supplied by hard labor and constant exposure. Still, they were accustomed to toil, and so neither privation nor labor, nor yet both combined, could rob life of any of its charms. They were not disappointed here: they sought the privilege of carving homes out of the wilderness, and enjoyed that privilege. They sought an opportunity to provide a home for their children, and embraced that opportunity here. They did more: they builded better than they knew;—they laid the foundation of a new community, and gave expression to the laws of a new social fabric; they laid the foundation of a local society, of its enterprises, industries, and institutions, with the hopes that cluster and linger about them. Their impress is upon the township to-day, and their character may be largely read by a contemplation of the social, industrious, enterprising, and intelligent citizenship of Union Township.

"Their history is written
In their race, and like the stars
They quietly fulfil their destiny."

Civil Organization.

The north part of the county was originally comprised in Dublin Township, but, as already indicated, Union Township, with Centre attached for business purposes, was organized in 1828. Pursuant to local notice, the electors of Union Township met for the first time at the school-house in the township,

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on the 20th day of December, 1828, and proceeded to an election of the several township and school-section officers as were designated by law. On counting the ballots it appeared that the following persons were severally elected to the offices prefixed to their names: Trustees, Benjamin Roebuck, Andrew Coil, Jr., and Peter Coil. Clerk, Justin Hamilton. Treasurer, George Wilson. Trustees of School Lands, Samuel Hanson, Peter Coil, and Justin Hamilton. Treasurer of School Lands, Michael Harner. Constable, Samuel Hanson. Overseers of Poor, John Van Gundy and Thomas Parrott. Fence Viewers, Peter Coil and Justin Hamilton.

The same day the several officers elect appeared and took the necessary oath except Michael Harner, who was absent, and Justin Hamilton, who took the oath as clerk, trustee of school lands, and fence viewer before John Greaves, a justice of the peace for Dublin Township.

Statistics, 1880.

Population, 1820.

Votes cast for Secretary of State at October election, Charles Townsend (Rep.), 238; William Lang (Dem.), 147; Charles A. Lloyd (G.) 7. Total 392.

Votes cast for President and Vice-President at national election in November, James A. Garfield (Rep.), 252; Winfield S. Hancock (Dem.), 155. Total, 417.

1881.—For Governor, Charles Foster (R.), 185; John W. Bookwalter (D.), 119; A. R. Ludlow (P.), 19; John Seitz, 10. Total, 335.

Assessor's Return for 1881, showing Products and Valuation for the year 1880.—Wheat—acres sown, 2580; bushels produced, 44,581. Acres sown for harvest of 1881, 3022. Buckwheat—acres, 10.5; bushels, 121. Oats—acres, 1075; bushels, 24,605. Barley—acres, 1; bushels, 12. Corn—acres, 2939; bushels (shelled), 117,910. Meadows—acres, 987; tons hay, 1128. Clover—acres, 337; tons hay, 404; bushels seed, 272; acres plowed under for manure, 31. Flax—acres, 57, bushels seed, 386. Potatoes—acres, 70.75; bushels, 4571. Tobacco—acres, 1.25; pounds, 110. Butter—pounds, 45,414. Cheese—pounds, 30. Sorghum—acres, 21⅜; gallons molasses, 2038. Maple—pounds sugar, 404; gallons syrup, 18. Bees—hives, 16; pounds honey, 935. Eggs—dozen, 55,750. Grape wine—gallons pressed, 3. Sweet potatoes—acres, .75; bushels, 33. Orchards—acres occupied, 390; bushels apples, 21,237; bushels peaches, 1014; bushels pears, 31; bushels cherries, 62; bushels plums, 11. Wool—pounds shorn, 4786. Dogs—numbers, 133. Sheep killed by dogs—number, 51; value, $188. Sheep injured by dogs—number, 27; value, $54. Domestic animals died from diseases. Hogs—228; value, 701. Sheep—47; value, $111. Cattle—21; value, $414. Horses—30; value, $1740. Bonds exempt from taxation, $4965.

Abstract of Decennial Appraisement of Real Estate for 1880.—Number of acres, 22,918. Value of land $444,460. Average value per acre, $19.39. Value of buildings, $30,970. Aggregate value of lands and buildings, $475,430. Average value per acre, including buildings, $20.74. Value of city, town, and village lots, $3700. Value of buildings, $13,670. Aggregate value of lots and buildings, $17,380. Aggregate value of real estate, $420,531.20. Aggregate value of duplicate of 1880, $276,550. Number of acres arable land, 12,758. Number acres meadow or pasture land, 425. Number acres uncultivated or woodland, 9735.

The past year added greatly to the commercial facilities of the township by the construction of the Toledo, Delphos, and Burlington Narrow Gauge Railroad from Delphos across the township to Shanesville, thus affording an outlet to the P. F. W. & C. R R. and the canal at Delphos. Within the present year this line has been pushed northward to Toledo, and south-

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ward to Dayton, thus affording an outlet to the great east and west lines either north or south. At this moment the whistle of the train is heard by the writer as it takes its departure from Celina for Dayton for the first through trip. Such a road must add greatly to the wealth of the township by the shipping advantages it offers and serve a great convenience as a line of travel to the county seat, while it also introduces the advantages of a telegraph line.

The farms, the schools, the railroad, and the industrial and commercial enterprises here abounding, are carrying the township forward to a full development by safe and certain steps upon a solid basis. With a fertile soil and increasing advantages, the township must steadily grow in wealth.

MENDON

Description of Plat.—The town of Guilford is laid out on a part of the east and west fraction of the southeast quarter of section 21, township 4 south, range 3 east, on the south bank of the St. Marys River, in the county of Mercer, and State of Ohio. The streets cross each other at right angles, and are laid out north and south and east and west; the variation at the time of survey being 4° 20′ east. Main, Warren, Wayne, and Green Streets are each 72.5 feet in width; Mill, High, and Market Streets are each 66 feet wide. All the lots except Nos. 1 and 3 are five poles wide and ten poles long. Lot No. 1 is ten poles long, and on the east line four poles, and on the west line seven poles wide. Lot No. 3 is ten poles long, and on the east line eight poles, and on the west line nine poles wide, measuring to low-water mark. The town contains forty-three lots and a piece of public ground on Main and Market Streets, which, including the streets, is 24.5 poles long and 14 poles wide. Good and sufficient stones have been planted at the northeast corner of the public ground, at the southeast corner of lot No. 23, and at the northeast corner of lot No. 7. All of which is hereby certified to be correct, to the best of my knowledge and ability.

(Signed) ROBERT GRANT, Co. Sur.

State of Ohio, Mercer County, ss.

Before me, John N. Brown, an acting justice of the peace in and for said county, personally came Justin Hamilton and Thomas Parrot, proprietors of the town of Guliford, and severally acknowledged the within plat and above description thereof to be their voluntary act for the purposes therein expressed, and that the same is in strict conformity with their wishes and intentions.

Given under my hand this 29th day of May, 1834.

(Signed) JOHN N. BROWN, J. P.

Entered for and recorded June 2nd, 1834.

(Signed) J. W. RILEY, Recorder.

Such is the foundation of Mendon; for although recorded under the name of Guilford, that of Mendon as soon after adopted, simply as a preference by the original proprietors. Here for years its chief features were a school house, a horse-mill, and store; but these of course grew with the growth of the settlement until the log school-house gave place to a frame building, the horse-mill yielded to the water-power, and the supply-store was succeeded by different and differing places of trade. Of the old institutions the log-cabin school and the horse-power mill have passed away, while the old "tavern," and the old "water-mill," still remain as way-marks and monuments along the line of growth. That growth was never rapid, never having been subjected to the accelerating impulses of to-day during the long yesterday of tardy development. There were no special stimuli until very recently, and so, a few residences and a few additional stores were added, and the

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demands of the life and development of the town were amply satisfied. True, the old water-mill substituted steam for water-power, but the very building was outlived and had been outgrown already, and so lacked both capactiy and capability to meet and answer the increased and increasing demands of the community. For this reason trade found its way to St. Marys, Spencerville, or other milling towns, and Mendon was robbed of its natural and legitimate support, for the farmer who went to another town to mill did not find it necessary to return without family supplies in order to go to Mendon for those supplies. It is different today, it will be more radically different tomorrow. The new railroad brought trade, particularly by bringing a warehouse, where grain is bought and shipped. A new steam-mill now erecting will add that support, that business, that convenience, tomorrow, which was denied the town yesterday. A new hotel, carriage factory, and new stores, mean a continued and healthy growth. At the first faint gleam of the dawn of this better day we hear the prayer of the citizens for the advantages of incorporation, and see that prayer already answered. The boundaries of the town are enlarged above the old plat and the subsequent additions thereto.

Incorporation.

A petition signed by thirty-two voters was presented the comissioners in February, 1881, praying for the incorporation of the village, with the following description:—

To the Honorable the Commissioners of Mercer County, Ohio: The undersigned, voters of the town of Mendon, Mercer County, Ohio, ask that said town to be incorporated for general purposes, as authorized by law; they also ask the following limits be the boundaries of the said incorporation, to wit,—commencing on the south side of the St. Marys River at a point west of the original plat of Mendon at a stone corner on centre line of section 21 at a point parallel with the south line of Christ Maurer's old orchard; thence running south along said centre line to where it strikes the south line of said section, between section 21 and 28; thence east on said section line to the southeast corner of said section 21; thence north on said line between section 21 and 22 to where it strikes a line parallel with the north line of Mill Street; thence due west on said parallel line to where it strikes the west side of Green Street on the bank of St. Marys river; thence along the meanders of said river at low-water mark to the place where the river strikes Wayne Street; thence south on Wayne Street to the line south of the aforesaid orchard; thence west to the place of beginning to aforesaid stone, in T. 4 S., R. 3 E., and to be known as the incorporated village of Mendon, in Mercer County, and State of Ohio, with a population of two hundred and forty-five inhabitants, and as will more fully appear in reference to a plat of said town here with filed, your petitioners ask that the name of the proposed incorporated town be Mendon. The undersigned also submit the names of E. Mumaugh, Joseph Anderson, and F. S. Collins, as the persons authorized to act in behalf of the undersigned petitioners in prosecuting this peition.

(Signed) E. MUMAUGH, and 31 others.

Response.

AUDITORS OFFICE, Celina, Feb. 8, 1881.

Today came the Board of County Commissioners, met in this office. Members present, James B. Snyder, John Frahm, and J. F. Roemer, county commissioners, and J. V. Sidenbender, county auditor; and this being the time and place fixed by the board for the hearing of a petition filed in this office on the 6th day of December, 1880, by Joseph Anderson, E. Mumaugh,

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and F. S. Collins, for the incorporation of the village of Mendon, Ohio, and territory thereto annexed, as shown by the plat accompanying this petition, the board, upon examination, do find that the petition contains all the matters required, and the name proposed is appropriate, that the limits of the proposed corporation are accurately described and are reasonable in size, and that legal notice has been given for the length of time required by law, and that the prayer of said petitioners is right and just; it is therefore ordered that the prayer of said petitioners be granted, and that the agents for the petitioners proceed to organize said corporation according to law.

(Signed) J. B. SNYDER, President of Board,

J. V. SIDENBENDER, Auditor and Clerk of Board.

At the first election held under the incorporation, the following named officers were duly elected:—

Mayor, L. A. Barber; clerk, J. H. Moore; treasurer, William Hamilton; marshal, William Rider; councilmen—A. J. Lininger, F. S. Collins, J. W. Murlin, John Bevan and Joseph Hesser. The present village officers are as follows: Mayor, Milton O. Krugh; clerk, C. W. Rish; treasurer, P. W. Fishbaugh; marshal, L. Duffey; councilmen—V. T. Siberts, Zed. Watts, Ed. Protsman, Harry Barber and Frank Small. E. E. Hussey is postmaster.

At this writing the business and professional interests are represented as follows:—1882

Hardware.—Collins & Collins.
General Supply Stores.—Murlin & Hamilton and W. F. & R. H. Harbison.
Tinware.—Christian Hauber.
Drugs.—John Bevan.
Groceries.—B. E. Wollam and Adam Panabaker
Carriage Factory.—J. H. Rohrer.
Blacksmith Shops.—George Wooden and Wm. & David Felker.
Harness Shop.—James Clark.
Boot and Shoe Shops.—Wm. Hommel and David Ayres.
Grain Depot.—Murlin & Hamilton.
Hotels.—"Union House," A. J. Lininger, proprietor; "Mendon House," Joseph Anderson, proprietor.
Posmaster.—J. H. Manning.
Physicians.—A. J. Lininger, D. F. Parrott, G. R. Hagerman, J. B. Haines.

The village school has grown from the rude beginning incident to pioneer life until a frame building supplies the place of the rough log cabin of the past. The school now embraces two departments, while the enumeration shows 54 males and 63 females, or 117 youths of school age in the district.

The church organizations embrace one Methodist Episcopal and one Advent congregation. The former has a comfortable church building, while the latter is now erecting its first church, although the organization has existed for some time.

A steam grist-mill is now in course of erection, which will undoubtedly add materially to the interests of the town and community.

Such is a view of the town just at the moment when it rises to new industries and greater hopes, for with railroad facilities it gives promise of re-

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newed growth. Such is a view of the township and village as they present themselves to the careful but disinterested observer. The primeval forests have been cleared away, and the water drained away, until the whole territory, exclusive of the waste by streams, is under cultivation.

Later, the horse-mill yielded to a mill run by water power, which finally was succeeded by the steam grist-mill of today.

The greater part of the changes that have resulted in the upbuilding of the town and the infusing of new life into its commercial activities, date from the building of the railroad, which is now a branch of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway, through the town. The new railroad brought trade, particularly by bringing facilities for the shipping of grain and other products of the farm and field.

Mendon is the only village in the township and has its share of all kinds of business, including one bank, one hotel, a large undertaking business, two or three dry goods houses, groceries and meat markets, a grain elevator, two implement and vehicle stores, steam grist-mill and newspaper. The town also has churches to suit all kindly disposed people, a number of fraternal societies, two physicians (Dr. P. W. Fishbaugh and Dr. J. W. Ridenour), and one dentist. The Mendon Bank was organized in February, 1902.

Hussey & Barber conduct a general store; George Banter, a drug store; Frank Disher operates the steam grist-mill; Gordon Hauss & Folk are the proprietors of the grain elevator and also deal in agricultural implements, wagons and buggies, a line of business in which William Hankins is also engaged; W. M. Miller has a well-established undertaking business and also deals in furniture. The Mendon **Herald,** a weekly newspaper, independent in politics, was established in 1895. Frank Geiger is proprietor and editor. The folowing are the fraternal societies: Mendon Lodge No. 586, F. & A. M. (chartered in 1902); Lodge No. 750, I. O. O. F.—also a Rebekah lodge; Mendon Lodge No. 416, K. of P.; Mendon Tent, No. 214, K. O. T. M.; and McKendree-Murlin Post, No. 319, G. A. R., was organized with about 23 members some time in 1880. The population of the village in 1880 was 342; in 1890, 400; and in 1900, 599—showing a steady growth.

In the last year Mendon has suffered from two very destructive conflagrations. In February, 1906, the west side of Main street was visited by a fire that destroyed some of the best business structures in town. The loss was nearly total. Again, on January 12, 1907, the business portion of the town on the east side of Main street, opposite the burned district of last year, was destroyed by fire, few business houses being left on that side of the street.

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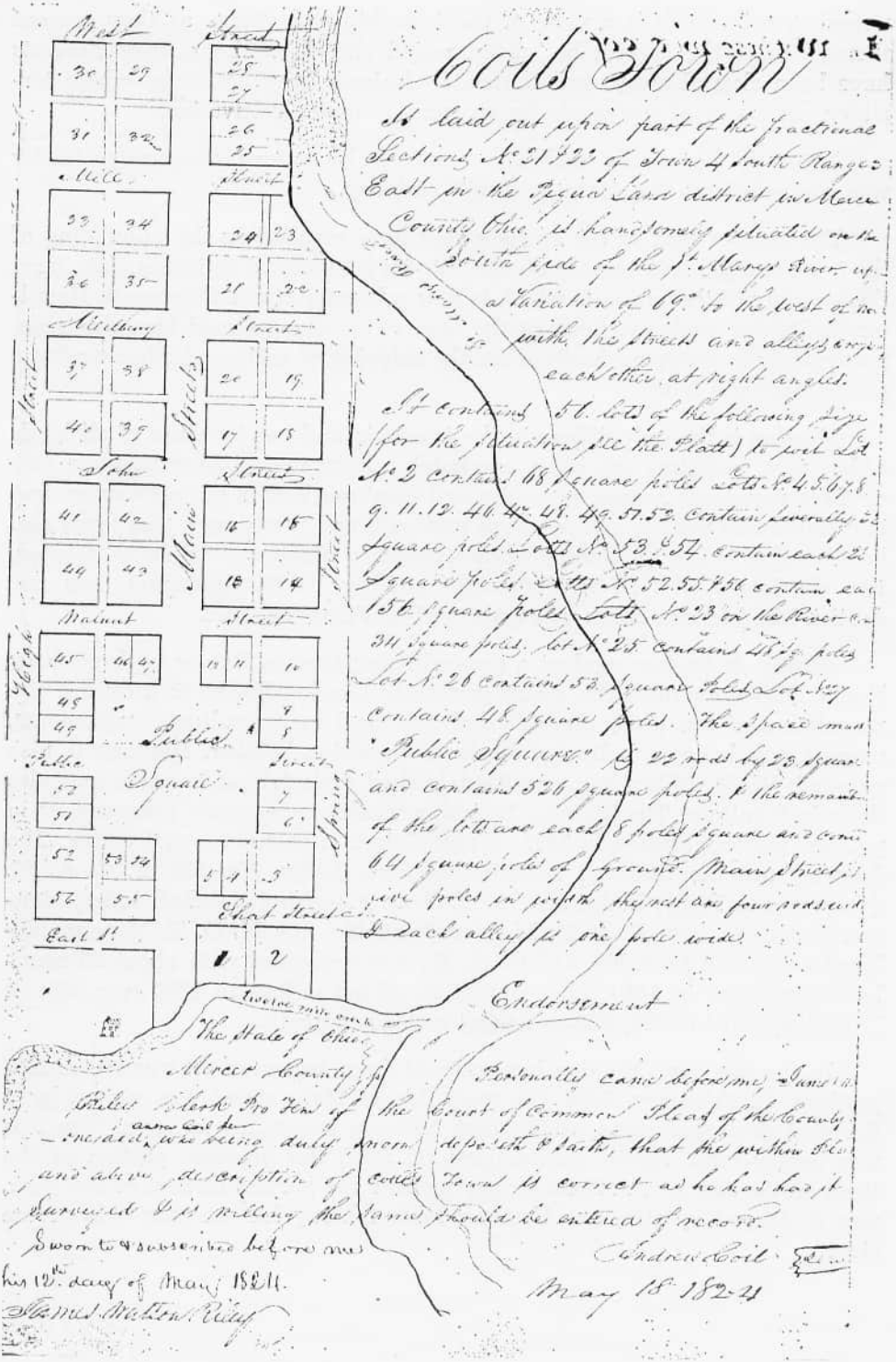

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This Indenture Made this second day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight Hundred and twenty four, Between John McCorkle & Margaret his wife of Pegua Miami County State of Ohio of the first part and William Berry and John Manning of Licking County and State aforesaid of the second part Witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the Sum of one thousand Dollars Lawful money of the United States to them in hand well and truly paid by the said party of the second part. the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, Have granted bargained sold, aliend released conveyed and confirmed and by these presents do, grant bargain sell alien release convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever all of the three several Tracts of Land Situate in Mercer County and State aforesaid and described as follows in the Patents from the United States to the said John McCorkle as follows The East half of the south West quarter of Section Ten in Township Six South Range four East Containing Eighty Acres. West half of the East half of Section ten in Township Six South Range four East Containing Eighty Acres The south West Fraction of the north East quarter of section Ten in Township Six South of Range four East containing Thirty four acres and Thirty hundredths of an Acre And all the estate right title interest claim and demand whatsoever of them the said party of the first part either in Law or Equity of in and to the said premises and every part thereof Together with all and singular the privileges and appurtenances to the same belonging, or in any wise appertaining: And the rents issues and profits thereof To have and to hold the premises hereby bargained and sold, or meant or intended so to be with the appurtenances to the only proper use benefit and behoof of the said party of the second part their heirs and assigns forever AND the said John McCorkle for himself his heirs Executors and Administrators doth promise covenant and agree to and with the said party of the second part their heirs Executors administrators and assigns That said party of the first part are the true & lawful owners of the premises hereby granted and have good right full power & lawful authority to sell and convey the same in manner aforesaid And further that he the said John McCorkle his heirs Executors and administrators will, warrant and forever Defend the

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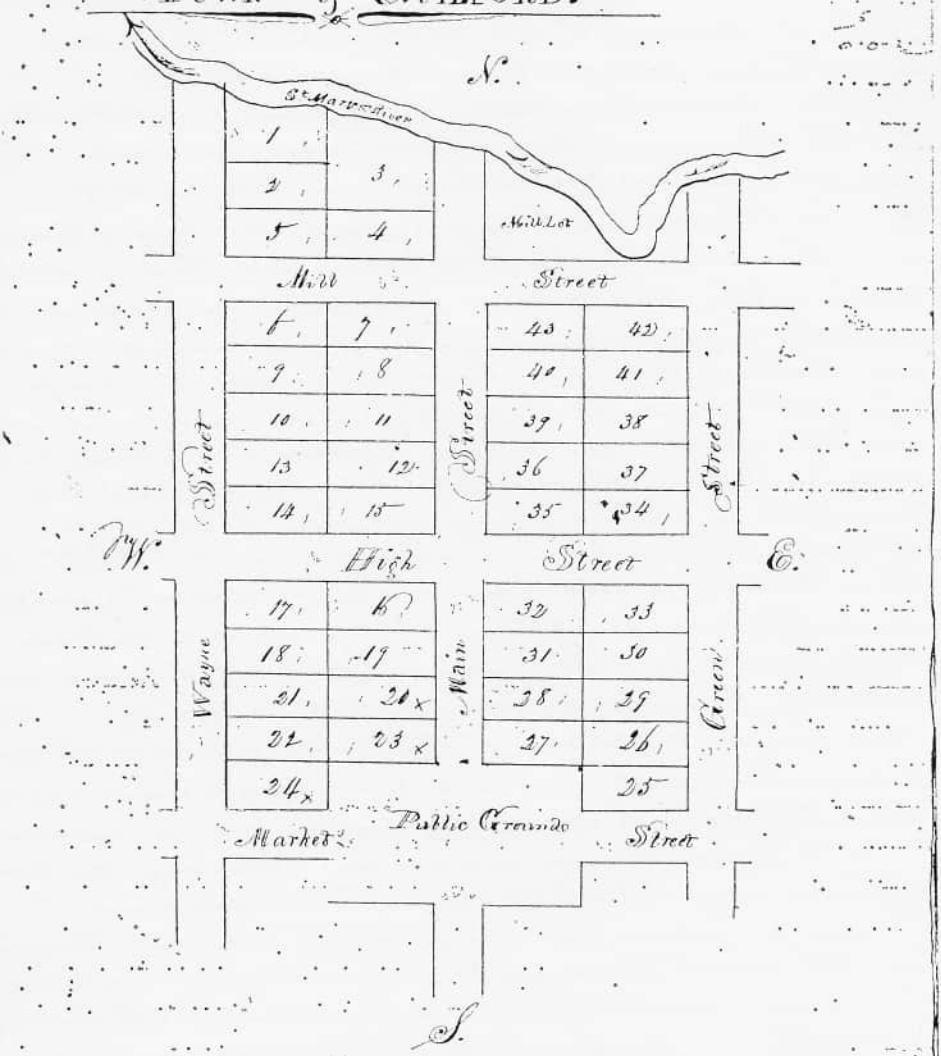
Town of Guilford.



Description

The Town of Guilford is laid out on a part of the East and West fractions of the South East quarter of Section twenty one Township 4 South of Range 5 East on the South Bank of of the St Marys River in the County of Mercer. The streets Cross each other at right angles and are laid out North and South East and West the Variation at the time of Survey

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being A dep. 20 minutes E. Main, Wayne, and Green Streets are each 72½ feet in width. Mill, High, and Market Streets are each 66 feet wide. All the lots except No. 1 & three are five poles wide and ten poles long. Lot No. 1 is ten poles long and on the East line 4 poles and on the west line 7 poles wide. Lot No. 3 is ten poles long and on the east line 8 poles on the west line 9 poles wide, measuring with Low water Mark. The Town Contains forty three lots and a piece of public Ground on Main and Market Streets which including the streets is 24 poles long and 14 poles wide. Good and sufficient stones have been planted at the north East Corner of the Public Ground at the South East Corner of lot No. 23 and at the North East Corner of lot No. 7. All which is hereby Certified to be Correct to the best of My knowledge & belief

Robert Grant County Surveyor

State of Ohio }
Mercer County } Be. Before Me John N. Brown an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County Personally Came Spartin Hamilton and Thomas Parrott Proprietors of the Town of Shelford and severally acknowledged the within Plat and above description thereof to be their voluntary act for the purposes therein expressed and that the same is in strict ~~Conformity~~ with their wishes and Intentions

Given under my hand this 29th day of May 1834

John N. Brown J.P.

Entered for Record
June 2nd 1834
D. McKinley Recorder

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1888 Atlas - Marsh Co.

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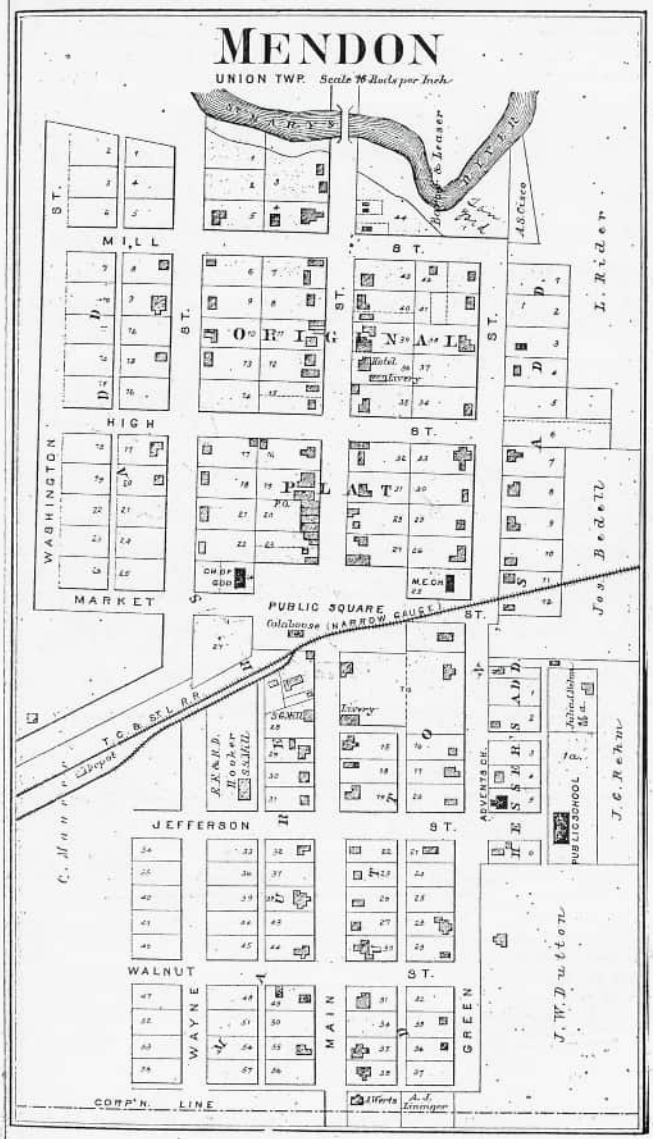

MENDON BUSINESS REFERENCES.

JOHN A. MURLIN, Dealer in Agricultural Implements.

G. W. DONART, Dealer in Dry Goods and Notions, Boots, Shoes, Clothing, Gents' Furnishing Goods, Hats and Caps, Trunks and Valises and everything that is found in a first-class store at reasonable prices. P. O. in store. East side Main st.

J. B. MAURER, Dealer in Hardware, Building Materials, Glass, Paints, Oils, Pumps and Agricultural Implements.

A. H. ROEBUCK, School Teacher.

C. D. HAMILTON, School Teacher.

D. P. PARROTT, Physician and Surgeon.

L. A. BARBER, Propr. of Mendon House, is prepared to furnish the traveling public with good accommodations at reasonable rates by the meal, day or week. Also Livery and Feed Stable. Sample Wagons for Commercial Men.

L. B. FOX, Propr. of Brick and Tile Works. Manufacturer of Drain Tile of all sizes and best grades of Pressed Brick.

B. F. HEDGES, Owner of pure-bred Norman Horses Don Pedro, No. 2330, imported in 1882, and Francis First, No. 2132, imported in 1883 by the Marion County Importing Company. Recorded in National Register of Norman Horses Vol. 3. Parties interested in draft horses please call.

I. B. ROBBINS, Propr. of Fountain Stock Farm. Will be pleased to show visitors or persons desiring to purchase, his fine herd of Pedigreed Short-horn Cattle.

J. M. WATTS, Prop. of Riverside Stock Farm and Breeder of choice strains of Pedigreed Short-horn Cattle. A few choice animals for sale.

IRA T. WOLLAM,
GEO. CUSTER, } Township Trustees.
L. T. LEMUNYAN,

R. E. WOLLAM, Prest.
G. W. DONART, Clerk,
J. B. HEPPARD, Treas.
J. A. MURLIN,
GEORGE CUSTER, } Mendon School Board.
J. B. HAINES,

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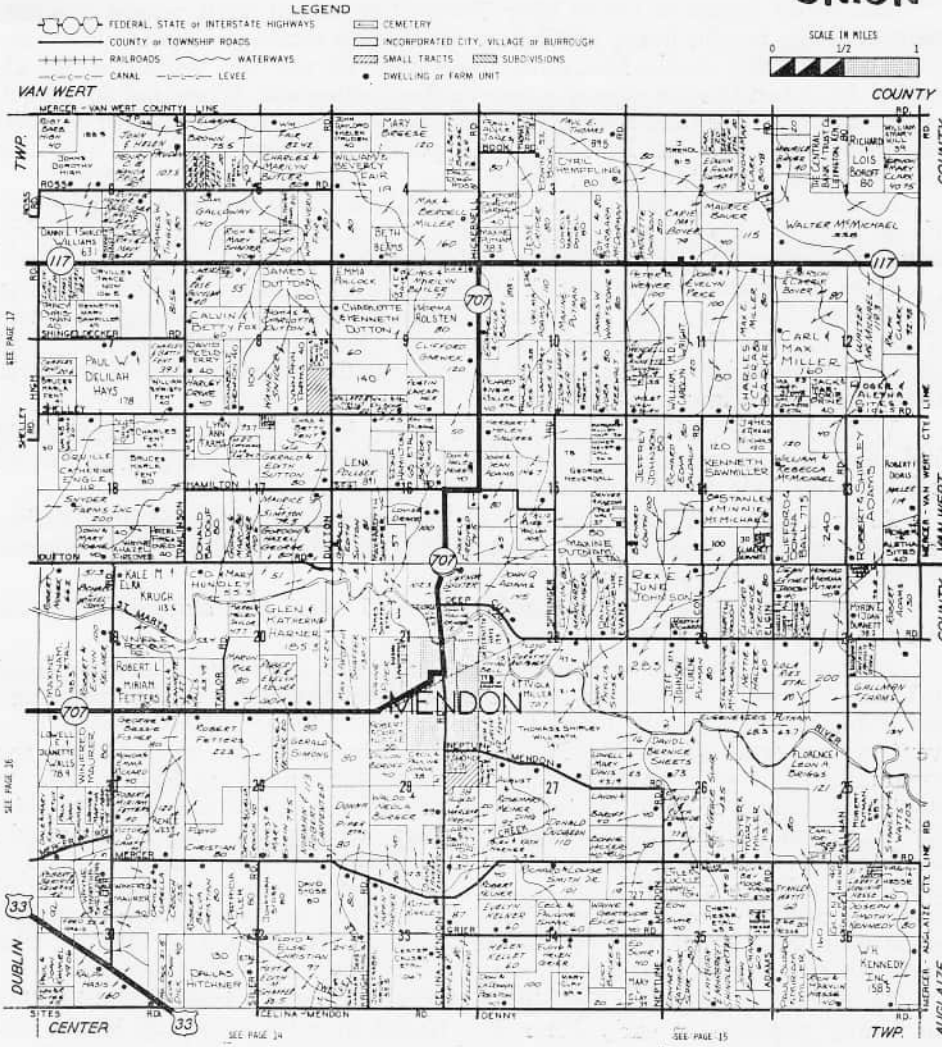
TOWNSHIP 4-S. RANGE 3-E.

UNION



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HONEYMOON BY OXCART OVER 120 YEARS AGO

(This is a story, reprinted from a 1948 edition of the Celina Daily Standard, told in the words of Lee Ivan Hamilton, 204 East Fayette Street, Celina, Ohio. It unfolds a tale of bravery and perseverance which deals with the adventures of his great grand parents in coming to Ohio. The experience of the Hamiltons must have been duplicated over and over again by the early pioneer stock which settled this county more than a century ago).

This is the story about a Mercer County pioneer and his wife, who were the great grandparents of the writer of this story, which was told to him by his grandfather years ago.

This story began in upper New York State, about 1810, where a settlement of white people lived, just below the Indian country. This is where my great grandfather, Justin Hamilton, lived until he was ten years old. He attended school in the log school house in the Settlement. When not in school, he spent most of his time hunting and fishing with the Indian boys who called him their white brother. He learned to speak the Indian language, to follow trails, and all about the Indian traits.

As time went by, the Indians grew hostile towards the whites, and made life so disagreeable some of them moved away. Some moved to Kentucky, among those was my great grandfather's family.

Here he finished grade school. He was interested in law and engineering. He often studied law from the books of Judge Hanssen, who was a good friend of the family. He also worked in the tobacco fields. He saved his money and later returned to New York, where he entered the University of New York. There he studied law and engineering.

While in college, he met a beautiful young lady. They were surprised to find they came from the same county in Kentucky. Friendship soon turned to love. Miss Jane Rhodes returned home and taught school.

After a year with the law firm of Emerson & Elliot, great grandfather returned to his home. He soon located Miss Rhodes and later they became engaged and started planning their future.

Great grandfather bought two long-horned oxen, and started tilling the soil and raising tobacco on his own land.

After two years, he exchanged his land with the Government for land in Union township, Mercer County, Ohio. A feud broke out in Kentucky and the young lovers were separated. This feud was of the worst kind, every man went around well-armed. Mr. Hamilton tried to bring law and order to the community, but was unsuccessful. Mr. Hamilton and Miss Rhodes had to meet under cover of darkness to make plans to be married and come to Ohio. Mr. Hamilton bought a two-wheeled ox cart to carry the things they would need on their trip; such things as clothing, bedding, cooking utensils, food, a new rifle, a brace of revolvers, an axe, gun powder and caps, and plenty of lead and moulds to make bullets. This rifle and one of the revolvers, is in the home of a great, great, great grandson of Justin Hamilton, Lee Fischer, who lives in Celina, Ohio. It is valued very highly as a relic of pioneer days.

Now after making sure the rifle and axe were safely loaded, and bidding his family goodbye, in early June, Mr. Hamilton, with a heavily loaded ox-cart, moved slowly under cover of darkness, out on the old North Trail, to meet Miss Rhodes at a settlement to the North, out of the danger zone. Miss Rhodes had packed a bag with all the things that are dear to the heart of every young woman, and had dropped it out of an upstairs window so her father and brothers would not know. She had told her mother, who had met young Hamilton and had given her approval. Bidding the mother good-bye,

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she took the stage coach running west over the Old Kentucky Trail. Miss Rhodes arrived at the Webster Tavern the next morning. Justin Hamilton arrived late the following day and they were married by Squire Butler. They spent one day at the tavern and then started for their new home.

Mrs. Hamilton came from one of Kentucky's oldest and bravest families. She was an expert with the rifle and could pick a squirrel from the tallest tree and shoot the head from a wild turkey at fifty yards.

The writer wonders how many brides of today would start on their honeymoon in a two-wheeled cart drawn by oxen. The cart had no springs, or rubber tires. They had to hold on to keep from being thrown off, as the slow-moving wheels dropped in the deep ruts and bounced over rocks. They made camp the first night in the woods. Mr. Hamilton made a shelter by placing one end of poles on a fallen tree, the other end on the ground, then cutting brush and laying it across the poles and on one end. This provided shelter from wild animals, but did not keep out a large snake that called on them. After gathering wood for the campfire, they tied the oxen (Buck and Jerry) between the fire and their shelter. Some time in the night, both oxen sprang up, and then they heard the rattle of a large snake. They could see it by the light of the campfire, and Mr. Hamilton took his rifle and shot its head off.

The next morning, they put hobbles on the oxen and let them graze while they had breakfast, then they were on their way. The going was getting very bad, but they followed the Indian trails. They traveled all day and made camp as before. They were getting in the hilly country now. While Mr. Hamilton made camp, Mrs. Hamilton took the rifle and soon returned with a wild turkey. They dressed the turkey, and soon had it roasting. This was accomplished by taking two poles with forks on one end and sharpening the other end. They drove the poles in the ground, one on each side of the fire. Then they took a pole with a limb on it to use as a crank; and placing the pole through the turkey, laid it in the forks on the stakes, then slowly started roasting it.

The next morning as usual, the oxen were put out to graze, while they cooked and ate breakfast. Then they were on their way; and soon came into an Indian Settlement.

That night they made camp under a ledge, so everything would be out in front, so they could see by the fire. As usual the oxen were tied between the camp and the fire. Mr. Hamilton could not sleep, everything was so silent. So he got up, and lying the rifle by his wife's side, he took both revolvers and set up listening for any strange sounds.

Just as the full moon rose over a distant hill, they heard the call of a wolf, then the answering call came from the South. Justin knew how the Indians used to imitate a wolf when calling their braves together and he thought it was Indians. Mrs. Hamilton didn't think it was. She was used to wolves, but dreaded them. Brave as she was, she knew what would happen if the pack wasn't broken up. They seemed to be gathering out to the west, and gradually closing in. They could only attack from the front. They were after the oxen, who were very nervous, too. Jerry started pawing dirt and throwing it over his back; and Buck added to the confusion by bellowing like a mad bull. The pack was closing in, they judged from the howls and snarls there were around twenty-five or thirty wovles.

While Mr. Hamilton was out to the east, Mrs. Hamilton raised the rifle to fire. If she could hit one of them the others would attack the wounded one and that would save their lives. With this in mind, she pulled the trigger. A howl was heard and she knew they were saved for the time being.

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They didn't get much sleep that night, as the wolves fought until almost morning. When they went out where the pack had been, they found the skeltons of three that had been eaten by their companions. The travelers returned to camp, packed and started on another tiresome journey. They traveled all day, and late in the afternoon, they came to the beautiful Ohio river, opposite to what is now Portsmouth. They camped as usual, and the next morning started preparing to make the crossing. Mr. Hamilton got two large dry logs, cut them long enough to extend to the sides of the oxen so they could not get sideways, then fastened them to the wheels of the cart. This kept the cart afloat. They stayed that night in the same camp and the next morning they were ready to undertake the most dangerous part of their travels. Mr. Hamilton fastened the powder and caps as high up on the load as possible, and placed the gun holster around his wife's neck with the two revolvers in it.

The moment had come to enter the river. With good luck, they would soon be in Ohio. One false move would mean death to all. Before entering the river, they knelt and asked God to take care of them. Then the great oxen, as they were big fellows, slowly entered the water. They seemed anxious to start. Soon they began swimming, going down stream and across the river. Everything was fine until they reached the swift current. In a moment, death stared them in the face. The current caught the logs, sending them downstream, and pulling the oxen backwards. Mr. Hamilton jumped into the water, holding onto one of the logs with his legs, and in some way, he never knew how, got the oxen's noses above water. The great oxen apparently received new life and realized their master was with them, and started fighting for their lives. They gradually began swimming again, and soon were headed down stream, going with the current. Mr. Hamilton gradually worked them to the North shore and to safety. The great oxen had won the fight, and the Hamiltons loved them. They were turned out to rest. They had landed a mile down stream from where they started, but had lost all their food. The powder and caps were dry. They soon had a fire going and the rifle cleaned and dried. They spent two days in this camp. They killed wild game for food, but never killed bear or deer. The next day they started Northwest, and met a band of Indians. Mr. Hamilton gave the Indians signs of friendship, and spoke to them in their own language, calling them "Red Brothers." This surprised the Indians. He learned from them that some rough country lay ahead.

That night they camped at the foot of a big hill. They had been warned of the Indians, but nothing happened. All they heard were owls calling to mates, and other sounds of the forest. They were up early, and on their way. In the afternoon, they came to a white settlement, composed of a dozen cabins. They spent several days with these new friends, and were given supplies of cornmeal, ham, smoked bacon, and cooked venison.

The first night from there, they camped on the bank of a river. In the morning, they sliced bacon, strung it on a stick, and held it over the hot coals to cook. After breakfast, he went to the river for water, and ran into a swarm of mosquitoes. They clung to his face, and he had to wipe them off. When he reached the river, it was so beautiful and quiet, he looked around for a few minutes. Then stooping down to get the water he had the worst scare of his life, he saw the reflection of the meanest-looking Indian he had ever seen, bending over him ready to strike. Instantly he sprang to one side, and with his hunting knife he struck out with all his strength. The blow was so great it threw him on his knees. Springing up, he found he was alone.

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Not an Indian in sight. How could he have gotten away so quickly? He called to his wife, and his own voice sounded strange to him. He returned to the river, bending down again, saw the same face reflected up at him. He didn't move, but kept watching the face. Then something about the eyes looked familiar. Then he knew what had happened. When he cut slices of bacon, his hands had become covered with grease, and he picked up burned pieces of wood and placed them on the fire, thus getting his hands black. And when he brushed the mosquitoes from his face, he had streaked his face with black grease, making him look like an Indian in war paint. When he returned to camp, his wife thought he was an Indian. Then they had their first good laugh since crossing the Ohio river.

They were soon on their way again. They traveled several days, passing white settlers who were living in log cabins at the foot of the hills. They came to the mounds, where centuries before, the Mound Builders had lived. These mounds are still there, east of Columbus, at Newark.

It was there they found their best pal, a large brown-haired dog that had a broken leg. They bathed the leg, made splints, and bandaged it. They fed him and let him go, but he refused to leave, and that night slept with the oxen. When they left in the morning, the dog followed them so they made a bed on the cart, and he went with them to their new home. He became Mrs. Hamilton's body guard when her husband was away from the house.

That night, they camped on the bank of a small stream. The next day was Sunday, and Mrs. Hamilton was reading from the Bible her mother had given her when she left home. Without warning, old Buck let out a war whoop that made the forest ring. Looking up, they saw a large bear not more than one hundred and fifty feet away, and he was watching the oxen.

Then slowly moving on, he would stop and look back at them. After some time, he returned, and they noticed he was licking his mouth. Mr. Hamilton knew he had been eating honey, so he took his axe and a pan and walked along the bank until he came to a large oak tree that was leaning over. He could see where the bear had been licking honey from a crack in the tree. With a few strokes from the axe, he soon had honey,too. He returned to camp and they had a dinner of rabbit, corn bread and honey.

They rested here all day, and on Monday morning started moving again. After several days traveling, they came to Worthington, Ohio, and stayed all night at the Montgomery Tavern.

The next day, they bought food supplies: corn meal, bacon, sugar, and tea. They traveled west until they reached the Scioto river, and made camp. This was in early August, the water was low and they had no trouble in crossing.

According to the story as my grandfather told it to me, my great grandparents followed the old Indian trail that today is State Route number 33. They met Indians in the hills southeast of Bellefontaine. They were friendly Indians, and the Chief gave Mrs. Hamilton a string of beads and told her husband, "she is a beautiful white squaw." From here, going northwest, the trail was much better. They traveled several days, but the oxen's feet were getting sore. They camped on the bank of the Auglaize river, and four days later came to Twelve Mile Creek, which was shown on the map the Government had given them, they were able to locate their land. They crossed the creek and made camp at the foot of the hill by a spring. This spring is still running.

Since they were now at home, they made a better shelter. And after a few days' rest, Mr. Hamilton was ready to start cutting logs for a log cabin.

In the meantime, the news had gotten around to the other settlers that

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they had new neighbors. Some called on them, then planned to bring others and help build the cabin.

On August 30, 1823, settlers from miles around came in their oxcarts, bringing well-filled baskets of food. Soon the woodsmen's axes could be heard. Some of those who helped were the Collins, Coil, Heath, Lampy, Murlin, Grunden, Harner, and many others. Some of the men skidded the logs in, while others started work on the cabin. Four men took their places, one at each corner, as notcher while others placed the logs in position. Still others, split clapboard shingles. They soon had a new cabin on Twelve-mile Creek. Next was a log barn for Buck and Jerry, which was soon built.

The next incident I am about to tell, happened the next fall. Great Grandfather saw hay lying on the ground and wondered how it got there. A week later there was more hay, and he became suspicious. He made a bed in the north mow and waited. Nothing happened the first night; but on the second night things really did happen! About twelve o'clock, a man went into the south mow and began throwing out hay. Then he climbed out. He piled the hay, tied it up, and after working some time, was able to get it up on his back. Then Johnny started for home. Great grandfather followed him, and when he got safely away from the building, he set the hay on fire. In a few seconds the flames shot up. Of course Johnny dropped the hay. Grandfather said you could hear John's bare feet hit the ground for a quarter of a mile. The next day, they could easily track him, as you could see the prints of all five toes in the dust in the road. They never missed any more hay.

The next summer, a baby arrived. Great grandfather found a large hollow beach tree. He cut the tree, cut off a four-foot log, split it, smoothed it on the inside, closed up both ends, and put legs on it. This was the baby's crib. One day in late summer, great grandmother had her husband carry the crib out under a tree, while she cooked an iron pot of sow belly and beans for several neighbors who were helping cut timber. She was waiting for the men to come in, when she thought she heard them. When she went to the door, she saw seven large Indians surrounding the baby's crib. She was so badly frightened, she dashed among them to get her baby. The Indians, by gestures and smiles, made her understand they liked the baby and would not harm it. They took arrowheads, flints and beads from their pockets and the Chief took a string of elks' teeth from around his neck; and they placed them on the crib as presents for the baby. The Indians value these elk teeth very highly, so that was some present. At this time, the men came to the house for dinner. When great grandfather spoke to them in their own language, they were very pleased. Then they were invited to stay for dinner and they sat on a log outside, as there wasn't room in the house. They were given corn bread, sow belly and beans, served in tin pans, tin cups, and anything she could find to use. After dinner, the Chief lit his pipe, took a few puffs, then handed it to great grandfather, who took a few puffs and returned it. Then the Indians left, going on North; but there were other Indians who came often and were always fed.

In 1825, Justin Hamilton raised his first corn crop. He taught school in the winter, in an old plank school house on his farm, for which he received ten dollars a month. He became prominent in the affairs of Mercer County and the State of Ohio.

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In 1828, the first election was held in Union Township, in the school house on his farm. He was elected Justice of the Peace, and later he served as Trustee and was appointed County Assessor and County Surveyor. He was the head surveyor when the Grand Reservoir (as it was then called) was made. He served several terms in the General Assembly, and later was appointed Associate Judge in the Common Pleas Court of Mercer County. In 1830, he built what was then considered a beautiful home. This old house is still standing southwest of Mendon, and is now owned by Quincy Carpenter.

Mr. Hamilton became wealthy and was the owner of several hundred acres of land, including the land on which the town of Mendon, Ohio, now stands. He donated the land to the town, where the public square is located, for the benefit of the public.

He also built the old water power mill on the south bank of the St. Marys river, three hundred feet from the river bridge in Mendon. He built a small mill on his farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton have a few grandchildren living in Mercer and Auglaize counties, and a number of great grandchildren, and great, great grandchildren all over the U.S.A.

In 1825, William Hamilton, a younger brother of Justin, walked from his home in New York State to Buffalo, N.Y., took a schooner for Sandusky-Bay city, and from there walked to his brother's home in Union Township by following Indian trails. He had $160.00. He bought 80 acres, located on the Eight-mile Creek for $100.00. A year later he went back to his old home and returned with his bride. The two brothers moulded and burned the first brick in Union Township.

William Hamilton also became prominent in the affairs of the County. He was known as Squire Hamilton. Charles Murlin, who lives in Celina, was at the home of Squire Hamilton the day he died. Mr. Murlin was a very young man at the time, and was teaching school at Hamilton Bethel school. One of Squire Hamilton's children died and was the first person to be buried in the Hamilton Bethel cemetery. Justin Hamilton died in 1863 at the age of 66 years, and was buried on the hill just across the creek from his old home. His wife joined him in 1887 at the age of 89 years and 9 months. I remember my Great Grandmother. She was at my Grandfather's house one day when I was there. That was the last time I ever saw her. She passed on soon after.

The old house that stands on the hill on the north bank of Twelve-mile Creek was built by these two old pioneers one hundred and eighteen years ago. The siding was hand-planed. The inside finish was all walnut, the doors solid walnut with full length door panels. This old home was owned by five generations of Hamiltons. In those days, the laughter of happy children rang through the rooms of this old house. Today it stands silent and lonely, the siding is coming loose, the doors are bad. The porch is gone, the window sash broken. The only sound you hear is the wind blowing through the broken windows, making the doors creak on their rusty hinges.

The man and woman who built it, lie at rest just a short distance on the south bank of Twelve-mile Creek, while the old spring still bubbles on. The creek has not changed in a century. It separates the resting place of the two pioneers from the old home they built so long ago. Its waters just keep rolling on, saying nothing, but keep rolling on, never to return.

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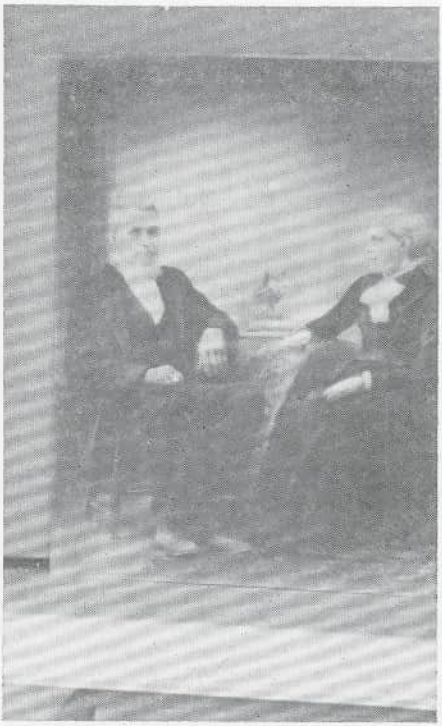

Justin and Elizabeth Jane Rhodes Hamilton.



Justin Hamilton house on Mercer road, taken in 1956.

THE DAILY STANDARD, Celina, Ohio
Tuesday Evening, July 28, 1953

COUNTIAN TELLS HISTORY OF MENDON, STARTING FROM 1834

Editor's note: The following history of Mendon was submitted to the Daily Standard by Lee I. Hamilton in connection with the county's sesquicentennial celebration. Mr. Hamilton is the great-grandson of Justin Hamilton, who with Thomas Parrott laid out the town of Mendon in 1834.

By Lee I. Hamilton

Once upon a time there were no Guilford or Union Township, or Main Street, just a great forest through which ran a river, some one called the St. Marys.

At the foot of what is now Main Street, was a ford, and there arose the teepees of the Delaware Indians. Farther west down the river was a Mingo town of friendly Indians.

So to the Indians should go the credit for making the trail, that is now Main Street, and then on westward down the river to the trading post of Anthony Shane, who was a half breed Indian.

As the pioneer community was developed, the village of Guilford was surveyed and platted. The foot path had become a clearly marked road. In winter it was almost impassible, because of the deep mud, and in summer the dust was very deep. A few rude log cabins marked the boundary of the road.

In 1835 Jonathan Dutton, my great grandfather came to the small community and bought land and moved to Guilford, where he built a tannery.

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In 1836 Jacob Panabaker came to the village and built a saw mill and grist mill, both of which he operated by horse power. The village was laid out by Justin Hamilton, also my great grandfather, and Thomas Parrott. The village contained 43 lots and the public square and a log school house were built, together with a general store. Later a wagon and buggy shop was added to the village and these together with the saw mill, grist mill and tannery were the business interests. In 1881, Guilford was incorporated and the name changed to Mendon. The petition was signed by 31 voters, including Joseph Anderson and F. S. Collins and others.

The following officers were duly elected, Mayor, Lewis A. Barber; Councilmen, A. J. Lininger, F. S. Collins, J. A. Murlin, John Bevan and Joseph Hesser; clerk, James H. Moore; Treasurer, William Hamilton; Marshall, William Rider. William Hamilton was also the first postmaster. Mr. Barber held the office of Mayor for seven years, and then resigned. (I guess the city dads refused to raise his salary).

In time the old log school house was replaced by a two story frame school building, some of the frame of which is still standing, just south of the Methodist Church. At that time there were 117 youths of school age in the district, 54 boys and 63 girls.

The old horse powered mill yielded to the water powered mill built by Justin Hamilton. The old mills and the old tavern are all gone. The mill was still there until a few years ago. To the one general store was soon added other stores.

Business interests and the men who were in charge in the early days were Hardware, Collins and Collins; General Store, Murlin and Hamilton; Grocery Store, W. F. and R. H. Harbison; Tin Shop, Chris Harbor; Drug store, John Bevan; B. F. Wollman and Adam Panabaker, groceies; J. H. Bohser, carriage shop and the blacksmith shop was owned and operated by George Wooden.

When the railroad came in, it brought a new business; an elevator was built and grain was bought and shipped. Then a new steam grist mill was built by Andy Marx, which was the pride of the town. James Clark had a harness shop; W. Hommel and David Ayers, boots and shoes; Murlin and Hamilton operated the elevator. A. J. Lininger managed the Union Hotel and Joseph Anderson the Mendon House. William Hamilton was still postmaster.

Physicians were Doctors D. F. Parrott, G. R. Hagerman and J. B. Haines.

In 1870, Dr. Parrott built and operated the tile mill south of Mendon

Now I have given the younger generation a picture of the town, known as Guilford from 1835, when the Indians raced down the old trail, and up to 1881, when the name was changed to Mendon, and was incorporated.

Now go with me down to the old river bridge. I have spent many happy days, when a small boy along the river. My best friend was the late Frank Parrott, better known in those days as Sandy, due to his red hair. We used to get eggs, potatoes, bread and butter from home and we would build a fire, roast the potatoes, get a can of river water and boil the eggs. Some of the older boys used to join us. Lawrence Hunt always furnished his share of the eats. His father had a restaurant and butcher shop, and he would bring bologna and sardines.. Those were the good old days. You could buy a large loaf of bread for five cents and enough beef steak for 15 cents to feed three people and the dog. But the catch was, you had to have the 20 cents. Common labor drew 75 cents to $1 per day, carpenters from $1.25 to $1.35 per day.

I will now tell you as nearly as I can remember the people who were living along Main Street 65 years ago.

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The first cottage on the west side of the street was the home of late Mr. and Mrs. Ed Parrott. South of this was the David Felker home. On the east side, the first house was the home of Walter Rice. I do not remember what was in the old building on the corner.

We are at the intersection of Main and Mill streets, where the tin shop of Chris Harbor was located. On the south was the Beetler home and next was the John Phillips store. The next room south housed the postoffice when Tim Murlin was postmaster. Miss Minnie Barber (Siebert) was clerk, and Tim was also township clerk.

In those days the township trustees paid 20 cents a dozen for sparrow heads. We kids spent the time catching sparrows and taking the heads to Tim. He would give us an order for the amount, then we would go to the township treasurer and get our money. I will tell you what happened one day. I sold Tim some sparrow heads. I told him I could get a lot of sparrows by getting them out of their nests. Tim said "I don't care how you get them, but be sure they are sparrows". Two weeks later I sold him a couple dozen old sparrow heads. I left to get the money, and then went back to get the mail. I was barefooted and the door was open, so nobody heard me come in. When I looked in the General store, this is what I saw. Tim was on his knees, poking those sparrow heads through a knot hole in the floor. I watched him, and remembered what Tim had said, He did not care how I got them, just so I was sure they were sparrows. Well those same sparrows went through that knot hole so many times they got bald headed. About three weeks later, Tim stopped putting sparrow heads through the knot hole, but he never said anything to any of us boys who were making easy money.

The next room south was the Charley Beaty barber shop. Looking to the east side of Main street was the grocery store of R. H. Harbison and next on the south was the Von Sheppard Millinery store. On south was the Severns farm machinery and south of that was the Barber Hotel.

There is Mr. and Mrs. Barber, so let's stop and see them. "Mr. Barber, we would like for you to tell us about your pioneer days if you will." So began Mr. Barber, "My early days were spent on father's farm. I was 16 years old when I took my job driving a threshing machine, during the summer months, and I worked in my father's mill in the winter. In 1856 I bought a grist mill of my own, and operated it until 1879, when I was elected Justice of the Peace. My father owned the first buggy in Union township. The Barbers also had a livery barn. I remember one brown horse Mowdock. He would always bring the boys home, when they did not know the way to go home. Porter Coil took care of the horses and did other work around the hotel."

The next home on the corner of High and Main was the Mose Rider home. Now we will go over to the west side of the street. John Heppeard lived south of the Beaty barber shop, and owned the store room where Edward Panabaker had a shoe store. The next room south was the Charles Hardesty Harness shop, and the Hardesty home was next door. On the corner of High and Main has been the home of several doctors. Dr. Haines, and Dr. J. M. Miller, and is the present home of the family of the late Dr. P. W. Fishbaugh. The Fishbaugh family have lived there for more than 50 year. Dr. Miller lived there when I was a barefoot kid.

I would like to tell you what happened one morning. John Rim lived at the corner of Green and Jefferson streets, and liked his milk fresh. He kept a cow and tied her in the school house yard, on a 30 foot rope. He also had a big farm horse. When the grass got short in the school yard he hitched the

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horse to a high wheeled buggy and after tying the cow to the rear started out to pasture north of town. This particular morning the cow decided the horse was going too slow, and the old bossy started around the buggy and when she got even with the horse, the end of the thirty foot rope had arrived. She was rudely jerked back and thrown in front of the horse, tripping him. He was soon on his feet, and started to run north. Old Bossy in the excitement headed south, taking with her the two hind wheels. The horse had the two front wheels, and Mr. Rim was holding onto the seat for dear life, as he went flying through the air with the greatest of ease. The group hit one of Mose Rider's maple trees, and Mr. Rim hit the sidewall with a thump, luckily unhurt. About that time the horse whose name was Bill, decided there was no place like home, and followed the cow back to town.

Jim Moore had the only dray in town, and he had a big black horse named "Nig", hitched to the heavy wagon. On the particular day, when Bossy and Bill were racing to town, Nig and the wagon were going along minding their own business in front of the old calaboose. Uncle Jim as he was known in those days, tried to get his vehicle and horse out of the way, but Nig had different ideas. Nig turned around, and nearly upset the dray, and the last we saw of Uncle Jim he was kneeling in the dray holding on for dear life. Uncle Jim was O.K. after the exciting ride, but the question in his mind was "Who in thunder turned the old cow loose."

We are now back to the corner of the Fishbaugh residence. From there we pass George Wooden's blacksmith shop and his home, and the store room south of it was owned by Joe Hamilton. The next store was the Bastian store and it was owned by Tom Upton. The white house on the east side was the home of Joseph and Lydia Bedell.

South of the Bedell home was the Corporal Smith Boot and Shoe shop and Harry Bookwalters watch and clock shop. Next on south was the grocery store owned by Mr. Greenow, and then the home of Dr. G. R. Hagerman. John Bevans home was next, and he had the only drug store on the square. in the building which is now used for a filling station.

On the second floor of the Tom Upton building the Grand Army of the Republic had their headquarters.

The following were members of the army during the war.

Andrew Ayers, Milton Dennison, George Wooden, George Raach, G. W. Mortimore. T. A. Hickernel, James Clover, John Griffin, C. A. Kelly, John R. Fryer, John Custer, David F. Parrott, Wesley W. Parrott, J. M. Archer, John Bevan, Hugh Hamilton, John Anderson Murlin, John W. Ash, Warren Barber, John Heppeard, Hugh L. Hamilton, Hiram Allen, John Boroff, Warren Barton, William Brown, H. A. W. Collins, C. B. Collins, J. F. Brooks, Charles Dyre, Samuel Duff, Lewis Dysert, C. B. Evans, A. D. Franch, John Fryer, D. C. Guy, William Hommel, J. P. Hayes, William John, William Krugh, George F. Miller, O. C. Lamon, William Lemunyon, M. V. Myers, John Musselman, John Moses, S. V. Manning, J. H. Moore, R. B. Palmer, Joseph Patterson, E. H. Presho, J. W. Ricketts, A. Rhodes, Isaac Teets, Isaac Worthington, William Wollam, Ira T. Webb and John Webb.

There was the Hussey and Barber stores, the T. A. Hunt restaurant and butcher shop, Johnny Maurer's hardware store, Charles Tomlinson grocery store and the Dick Hesser restaurant. It was at the latter place I remember a fight one Sunday evening so well.

Harry Vore was the friendly undertaker at that time. On the corner of Market and Main streets is the Church of God and west of there the Methodist Church. Across the street was the big grist mill we were all so proud of and which was so badly wrecked in about 1892 when the boiler blew up. The old

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town was in confusion that night, when parts of the boiler could be found in all directions from the site.

The first oil well had been drilled on the grist mill lot, and the drillers had been getting steam from the mill. The men who did the drilling were Godfrey Rush, Von Ousterhouse, John Coats, and Billy Ousterhouse. George Donart owned the mill at the time of the tragedy.

On south across the railroad tracks was the Cisco millinery store and on the east side of the street was the Union Hotel, operated by the Plankwells. Then came the Plankwell livery stable and near there was the old elevator operated by Henry Collins.

Back to the corner of Jefferson and Main streets we can see the saw mill, which at that time was the largest in the county. One night the mill caught fire, and the volunteer firemen tore down the street pulling the old fire truck. Volunteers formed a leather bucket brigade. John A. Murlin was in charge that night, and water was taken from a big cistern at Main and Jefferson street.

The mill which was owned by Hooker Brothers was a complete loss, and was never rebuilt.

At the corner of Jefferson and Green streets was the home of my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Dutton, and at that time it was a beautiful home. Grandfather was interested in farming and exchanging of horses, and at different times operated the Union Hotel, which was the first hotel in the town. It was at this hotel that my father and mother were married in 1878.

Dr. P. W. Fishbaugh came to Mendon many years ago and before he was married to Ida Schenck in 1894, he lived in the Barber Hotel. The Fishbaughs lived on the Main street in Mendon for 56 years.

*This article by Lee Ivan Hamilton was written as he remembered Mendon. However; while working on the History of the Mendon Methodist Charge, I found that in 1836 we were listed as the Mendon Society. According to the information at the archives at Beegley Memorial Library at Ohio Wesleyan, we have been listed as Mendon since 1836. I am still searching for the exact date that Guilford was changed to Mendon.

Claryce Ann Hickernell, Great-Great Granddaughter of William and Almira Hamilton



Main Street looking north . . . Notice trees!

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Main Street looking south. Note R.R. tracks, Union House Hotel on left. Gordon, Haus & Falk on right.

MENDON POST OFFICE

According to the old history book of Mercer and Van Wert Counties, William Hamilton, brother of Justin Hamilton, founder of Mendon, was the first postmaster. He served from 1836-1842. Other postmasters about this time in the history of Mendon were: Timothy Murlin, J. H. Manning, Elroy Hussey and Miss Minnie Barber-Siebert was a clerk.

Mendon was apointed a fourth-class post office on April 8, 1919, at the time George W. Banter was the postmaster.

On November 2, 1921, Samuel Frank Davis was appointed postmaster of Mendon and was reappointed on December 17, 1925. When Mendon became a post office of the third-class on April 21, 1927, Harry E. Coil was named postmaster, he served until March 9, 1935. The following article appeared in a local newspaper on September 21, 1933, and reads as follows: MENDON POST OFFICE ROBBED EARLY THURSDAY MORNING—ROBBERS GET $140 IN CASH AND $200 IN STAMPS—SAFE BLOWN BY EXPLOSIVE—

Safe blowers got away with $140 in cash and stamps in large denominations amounting to about $200 when they forced open the safe at the post office in Mendon early Thursday morning.

The robbers broke the lock on the front door and gained entrance to the office. Nitroglycerine was then used in blowing open the safe. The door was carried away but no other damage was done to the safe or the room. Harry E. Coil is the postmaster at Mendon.

At one time the Mendon Post Office was in the old bank building where Kindra's Kwik Stop is now located. It was later moved to the north room of Esmonde's Market. On November 11, 1965, it was moved to the west side of Main Street where it is now located.

Floyd Young became postmaster March 9, 1935, until December 3, 1939, he resigned to become a rural mail carrier. On December 3, 1939, Betty Miller

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Kennedy was appointed acting postmistress until July 15, 1940, when Dwight Miller became postmaster until July 19, 1946, when he resigned.

Elaine Severns became postmistress on July 10, 1946, and held the office until March 1, 1964, when she retired.

Tom Armstrong then became postmaster and is still presently serving the community.

Some of the postal clerks through the years have been: Irene Upton, Mae Murlin Coil, Virgil Wilson Griggs, Mayme Williams, Betty Miller Kennedy, Elaine Davis Severns, Josephine Krugh Goodwin, Mary L. Hays and Marilyn Miller Ruhlen, who is the present clerk. Marilyn is a great-great-great granddaughter of William Hamilton.

RURAL MAIL CARRIERS

Rural Carrier Service was commenced in the Mendon area on September 1, 1903. The first carrier was Zelman (Zed) Watts, who served until November 14, 1903. He was replaced by Charles M. Tomlinson who took Route #1 on November 15, 1903. The route was 25¾ miles in length and he retired from the route on September 18, 1929.

Harry Krugh came from discontinued Route #3 and served until he retired on May 31, 1935.

Pearl D. Spitler came from discontinued Route #2 and served until December 31, 1938, when he transfered to Route #3 in Rockford, Ohio.

Stanley Miller was appointed carrier on January 3, 1939, and served until December 2, 1939.

Floyd Young was appointed carrier on December 4, 1939, serving until his retirement on December 30, 1965.

Vermont McGillvary took the route on December 31, 1965 and serving until January 28, 1966.

Ril T. Miller became the rural carrier on January 29, 1966 and is the present carrier. The route is now 74 miles in length.

Betty Miller Kennedy, Dwight M. Miller and Ril T. Miller are the great-great grandchildren of William Hamilton, the first postmaster.

——Route #2——

Route #2 was formed on April 4, 1904 with Frank H. Hale as the carrier. The route was 22¼ miles long. Frank served this route until he retired on March 31, 1932.

Pearl D. Spitler, Route #1, Rockford, then took over the route serving until May 31, 1935 when Route #2 was discontinued and Mr. Spitler was reassigned to Route #1 on June 1, 1935.

——Route #3——

Route #3 was formed on May 15, 1905 with Harry Krugh as carrier. The route was 25½ miles long. He served this route until March 15, 1930 when the route was discontinued and ressigned to Route #1.

Substitute rural carriers through the years have been: Charles W. Fisher Eugene Hale, Chester Scott, Francis Dick, Harry E. Coil, Encil Davis, James Evans, Frank Davis, Stanley Miller, Joe Krugh, Wayne Kennedy, Robert Hesse, Vermont McGillvary, Donald Dudgeon, and Rita Emans Puthoff who is the present substitute.

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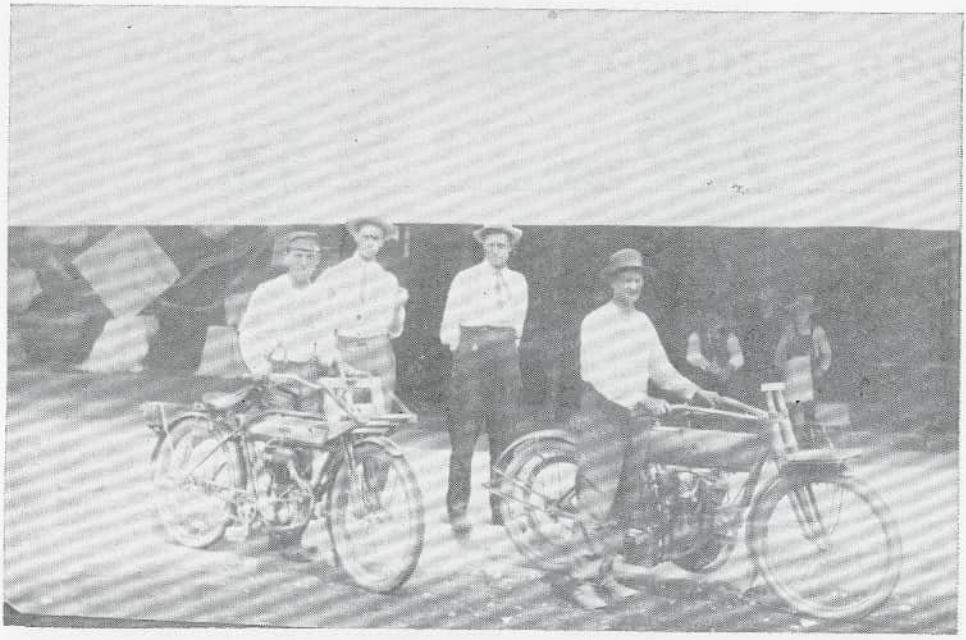

Rural mail carriers: Charley Tomlinson, Frank Davis, Ross Baxter, Harry Krugh



Ril Miller
18 yrs.

Marilyn Ruhlen
20 yrs.

Tom Armstrong
20 yrs.

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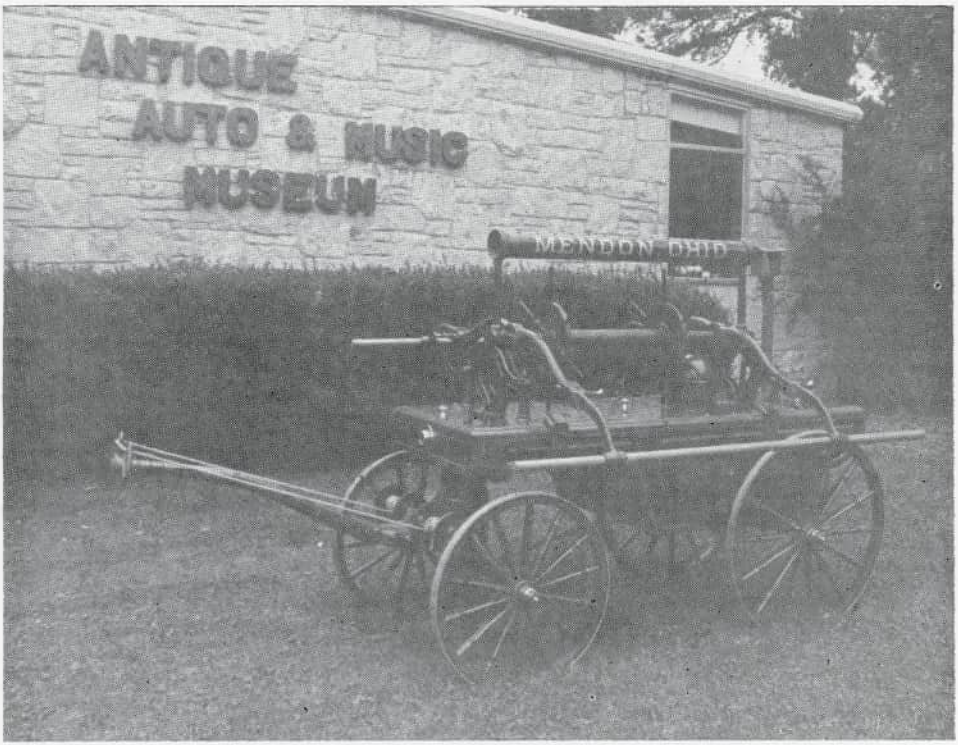

In 1886 a Fire Bell was purchased and put into use. Although no longer used, it remains in its lofty perch on top of the Town Hall. From 1900, the Town Marshall was responsible for the fire protection, which included keeping the equipment in repair. This would comprise the pumps installed in cisterns, and also fire extinguishers located in various places about the town.

In 1900, a Community Fire Co. was formed and the town purchased its first pumper. It was an 1884 Hussey engine which formally belonged to the City of Celina. This engine was originally listed at $325.00 and included 25 Ft. of discharge hose with a brass nozzle. It could pump a ½ inch or ⅝ inch stream about 100 ft. with a ten man crew. Today this engine is in the T. C. Protsman collection and is on display at his Antique Auto and Music Museum in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

The first fire marshall was appointed in 1907, and later an assistant fire marshall was appointed to assist him. As the years passed men and equipment were added as the need arose.

During the year 1928, an electric fire siren was added and a 1928 Howe Reo Speed truck was purchased. This was possible through the efforts of the Community Fire Co., by selling $25.00 membership certificates. At this time fire protection was made available to the township as well, this was also done by the purchase of a membership certificate.

In 1939, the fireman built a Chevy Tank Truck, which was the first Tanker to be used by the Fire Co.

1953 was the year that a Ford Howe Pumper was purchased. The next year another tanker was built to replace the 1939 tanker. It was a 1954 Chevy with a 1600 gallon capacity.

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A 1947, Cadillac Ambulance was purchased from Dick & Sons in 1957. This vehicle served as extra transportation, but was discontinued in 1965 due to its obsolete condition.

In January of 1959, a Fire Bar was installed to handle fire calls. Prior to this, calls were handled by the local telephone operator. This same year, the Fire Co. purchased a 1946 Howe pumper from Harrod Fire Department, which replaced the old 1928 Reo. This Reo was purchased by Alfred Emans of Mendon, Ohio.

The Fire Co. in 1960 was relocated from its home in the Town Hall to its present location on North Main St. Two years later, the Fire Co. applied to the State of Ohio to form a non-profit Corporation, and was officially incorporated under the name of Mendon Union Fire Department.

A new 1965 Ford Howe pumper replaced the 1941 pumper in 1965. The department replaced the 1954 tanker with another 1964 Chevy chassis in the year 1970.

In 1975, the 1946 Ford Howe pumper was replaced by a 1957 Ford American pumper acquired from Bath Twp. Fire Dep't. of Lima, Ohio.

A new 1979 G.M.C. chassis replaced the 64 Chevy tanker, which was completely asssembled by using a converted gas tank body.

The year 1981 brought the elimination of the Fire Bar system and individual pagers were purchased and put into use by each fireman.

The initial alarm was received by Mercer Co. Central Dispatch and relayed to the paging system.

At present, the following equipment is in service; No. 1-64 Ford Howe pumper, No. 2-79 G.M.C. 1600 gallon tanker, No. 3-57 Ford American pumper.



Standing: Eric Welker, Casey Nuttle, Rick Burris, Sec., Scott Rolsten, Jim Kittle, trustee, Jim Shaffer, Gene Hicks, Rick Emans, Rex Emans, Vice Pres.
Seated: Jerry Ellis, trustee, Dennis Clay, Ass't Chief, Bill Snider, Fire Chief, and Jim Painter, Captain.

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THE OLD C. H. & D. R.R.

In September 1878, the D. T. & I. railroad had extended its line westward from Spencerville to Mendon. In December it was extended to Shanes Crossing, and on January 1, 1879, the D. T. & I. began a daily run from Shanes Crossing to Delphos, Ohio. In 1880 it became the C. H. & D. railroad.

It was thought the railroad would be the township's salvation. Besides providing a transportation outlet, the railroad would add greatly to the wealth of the township by the shipping advantage it offered to the area farmer.

Almost overnight, the township experienced the greatest economic boom in its history. Along with the discovery of oil in Union Township, the railroad's arrival coincided with a 65 percent increase in population in Mendon in the 1880's.

The railroad ran along the north side of the sawmilll. Lumber was transported by way of the railroad. The farmers and landowners cut trees in the country then hauled them by wagon into the sawmill, owned by Leonard Lewis.

This was an old narrow gauge track and by 1900, financial trouble already threatened the railroad. Most of Mendon's development came in the wake of the oil boom and the arrival of the railroad. But by 1920, growth had slowed to a virtual standstill.

When the railroad left on April 1, 1923, the grain-shipping trade, the budding sugar beet market and all hope of securing industry went along with it. Many farmers lost their original investment and Mendon experienced slight economic growth. It was a sad day for all concerned, the railroad had been the township's economic lifeblood. But no one knew how much the C. H. & D. would be missed.

Most signs of the C. H. & D. are gone now, but 20 or 25 years ago, part of the old track could be found in the swamps of the St. Marys river. One steam engine is still buried in mud near Cranberry Prairie, and another was cut up for scrap by the late Louis Wall.

Written by Frank Hale

CONTRIBUTED ON R. R.

The following was sent in for publication: The C. H. & D. R. R. was born at Dayton, Ohio, in 1880, died of lingering consumption at the above place on April 1, 1923, aged 43 years, 2 months and 1 day.

The deceased though rather slow was always of an amiable, ambling disposition and was loved (question) by all who knew it. It was married first to the B. & O. R. R. about ten years ago. This union was of short duration and was very unhappy. Later it was united in holy matrimony to Ringling Bros. This union was worse than the first and left the bride in a pitiable condition and an easy prey to the D. T. & C. later casting her lot with a receiver. Her last days were full of doubt and blighted hopes. Finally passing peacefully away on April 1, 1923.

It leaves to morn its loss, a lot of stockholders, several engineers, one conductor, Pat Maloney, of Dayton, and Porter Coil, formerly of Mendon, now of Lima, Ohio.

Good bye little R. R. we will
miss thee,
When thy rails no more we
see,
But we hope to land a trac-
tion,
Or perhaps a state highway.

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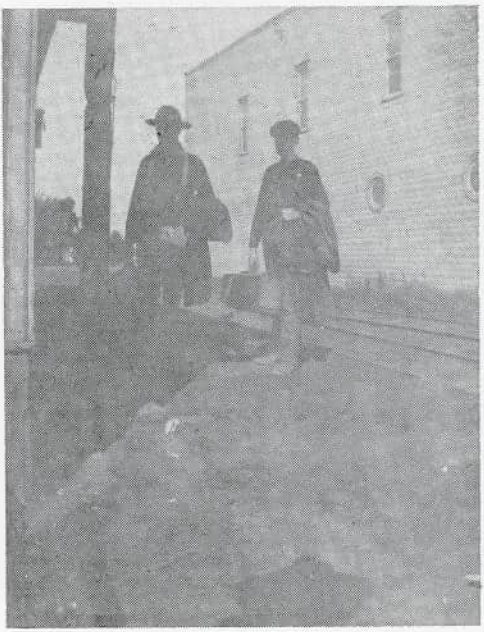
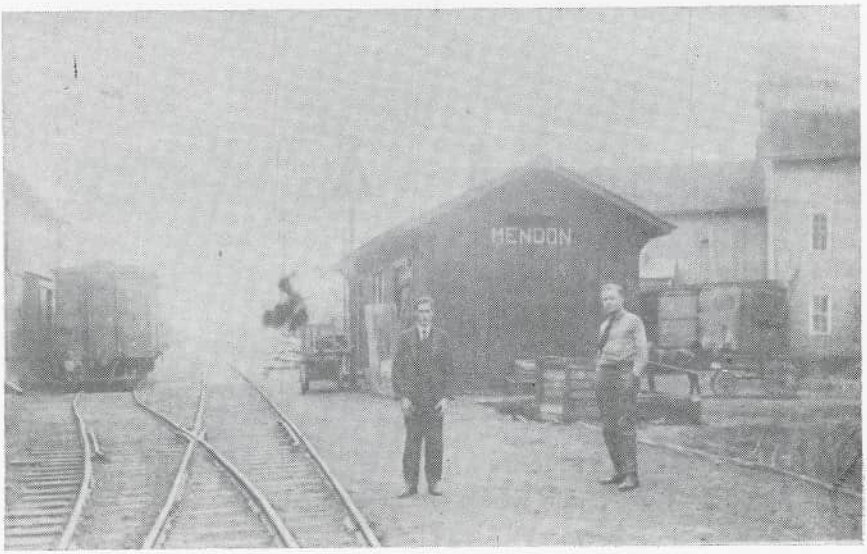


Arriving or departing at Mendon Depot
Mendon Service in background



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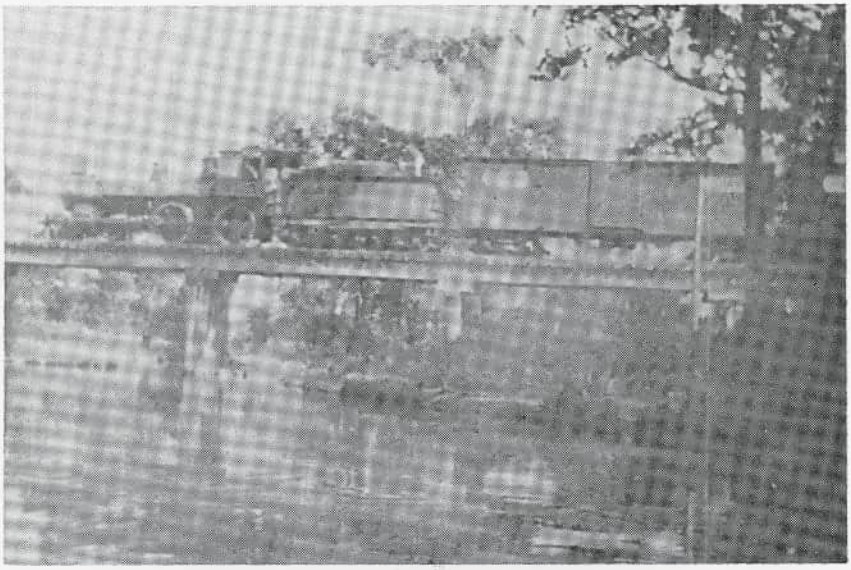
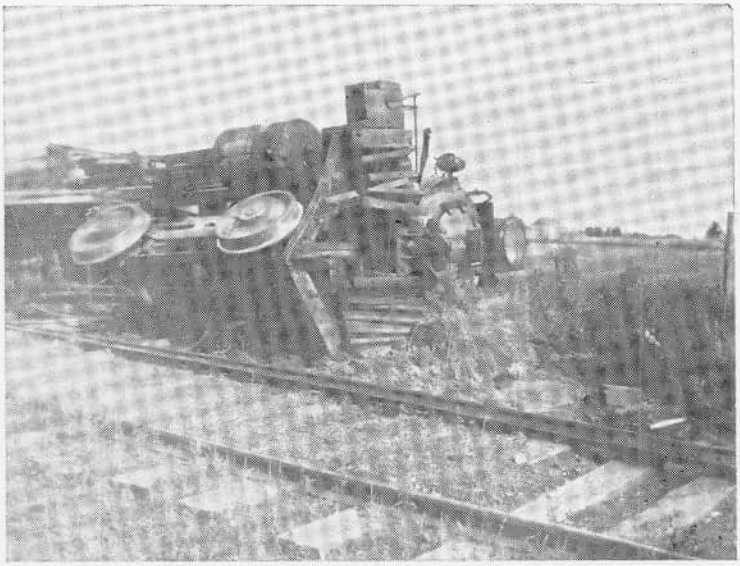


Railroad bridge east of town.



Train wreck just west of town

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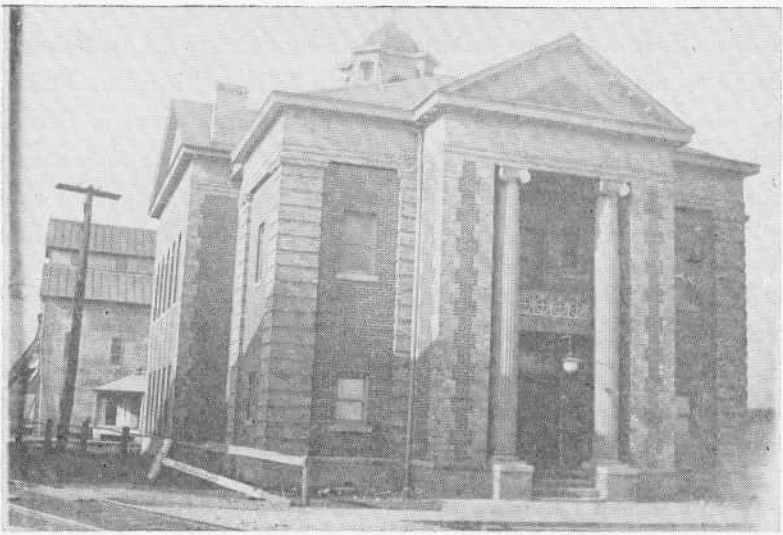
MENDON AND UNION TOWNSHIP HALL



The Township Hall, located at the intersection of Main and Market Streets, is the most out-standing building in Mendon. It is a large dignified example of Georgian Revival Architecture. The central part of the facade and sides project slightly and are topped with pediment (triangular gable on the front of the building). On the facade (building front), a pedimented portico (porch) is supported by two free standing columns. A recessed second floor door opens onto a balcony with a railing. The front entrance below is made through paneled wooden double doors on worn sandstone.

The second floor windows on the central side projections are large and round-arched with buff brick hoodmould and stone sills. Quoins (corners) are buff brick and stone. The water table is stone, ten inches wide. Decorative moulding is enclosed with dentils; frieze is buff brick. There are two fire escapes on the building. The cupola has been moved from the former central position to the west end of the roof.

This fine old building, built in 1903, construction for which was approved by the town and township is directly across the street from Memorial Park with its cannon and statue erected by local members of G.A.R. in 1908.

One year later, in 1904, it was dedicated by the community. It cost $12,000.00 and became the center of much activity.

The upper floor served as a theater, complete with stage and balcony, where commencement exercises, home talent plays, class plays, road shows and Farmers' Institutes were held. It retains the wooden theater seats and sloping floor.

"The old backdrop curtain on the stage, still in good condition, lists the advertisers from by-gone days." Businesses listed are:

The Citizens Banking Co. of Celina, Ohio
Crampton Canneries
M. G. Watts, wallpaper and medicine
R. L. Hickernell, Auctioneer
Maurer's Hardware Store
J. W. Detrick, Insurance
Miller's Barber Shop
Heffner Brothers Garage
Dick and Fisher Funeral Service and Furniture
Mendon Service Company
Brown's Market
Jerry's Service Station
Mendon Service Grain Co.
Drakes Grocery Store

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Today of those listed, only Maurer's Hardware Store remains in Mendon.

The first floor has been extensively remodeled with paneling installed in two large rooms. Village offices, Township Trustees' Meeting Room, Voting facilities, headquarters for the Emergency Medical Service, Scouts, Craft Club and the Mendon Flower and Garden Club use the various rooms on the first floor. At one time, the Fire Department and the Branch of the Mercer County Library were housed here. Also the jail was located on this floor.

The Township Hall serves the whole community in many ways. It is a fine old structure and in an effort to preserve it, the Council applied for a federal grant in 1980. This grant was for approximately $4500.00 with Council and Trustees to match the amount. The masonry was tuck-pointed, windows repaired and painted and other items of restoration accomplished.

We note with pride that in 1979, the Mendon Township Hall was entered in the National Register of Historic Buildings by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, United States Department of the Interior.

At the present time, the Union Township Trustees have just had the upstairs plastered and painted. Plans are well underway for a play to be presented here in June 1984 as a part of the sesquicentennial celebration.



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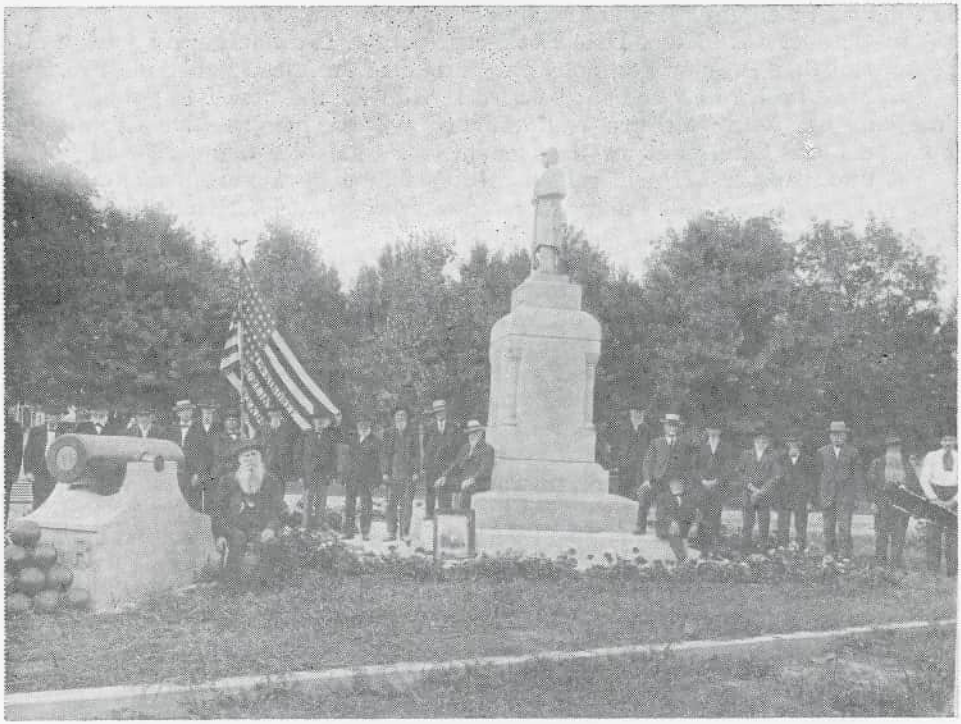
SOLDIERS' MONUMENT



McKindree Murlin Post

In 1908, township residents paid homage to the Civil War Verterans with construction of the Soldiers' Monument and cannon on the public square. The project honored McKendree Murlin, who had been killed in Nashville in 1864. J. E. Heppeard, Co. A, 46 O.V.V.I. (Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry), was the driving force behind the effort. The builder was D. L. Werts.

McKendree Murlin, who enlisted as a private in Co. D, 71st O.V.I. (Ohio Volunteer Infantry), on October 15, 1861, was promoted to Corporal before leaving the State, and made sergeant at Atlanta, Ga. He was killed in the battle of Nashville, Tennesse, on December 16, 1864 in a charge of his regiment on Overton Hill. The Seventy-first participated in the Nashville battle, with a loss of one-third of its officers and men.

According to the "Military History of Ohio" Soldiers Edition, it was said of McKendree. "Never a braver, truer man or patriotic soldier stood up to be shot at, and whether in camp or line he stood square to duty."

RESTORATION OF THE MONUMENT

In February of 1976 a new organization was formed by the business people of Mendon, by the name of "Mendon Improvement Association," the officers were as follows: President—Floyd Anspaugh, Vice President—Tom Clay, Secretary—Janet Overley, Treasurer—John Maurer. In April 1977 Phyllis Godwin was appointed Secretary.

The purpose of the Association was to improve and repair the park area which included the restoration of the Soldiers' Monument to its original condition, and also new curbs and sidewalk around it.

A membership drive was made and also by-laws were formed to abide by. This group of concerned citizens of the community put forth a lot of

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time and effort to complete the new monument base before Mercer County had their Bi-Centennial, which was held on July 4th, 1976.

In October 1976, Rep. Dale Locker presented the community with a Bi-Centennial flag. A new flag pole was purchased in late October of 1976.

In May 1977 a new cement base was made for the new flag pole and the time capsule, with "Modern Builders" (Floyd Anspaugh), over-seeing the job. The Lions Club paid for the cement, the total cost being $682.48.

A time capsule 12 inch x 12 inch of plastic type material, made by Alfred V. Emans, was sealed and dedicated on May 30, 1977, Memorial Day, and is to be opened in the year 2076.

Further restoration of the monument was accomplished through the efforts of a concerned citizens group and the restoration was done by Gerald Thompson, from Monticello, Ohio, with funds provided by the Village Council and Township Trustees. The estimated cost of the project was $4,000.00.

A sidewalk was constructed around the mounment and corner posts made to resemble the original ones, also a slanting curb was installed, matching an original slanting curb around the monument, which ran parallel to the C. H. & D. Railroad.

Shrubbery and trees were planted around the monument in the fall of 1982, funds for which were provided by the Mendon Improvement Association.

NOTE: Indian head pennies, confederate money and a soldier's medal were found in the base of the monument when the statue was removed.

ANOTHER BLOCK IN ASHES
MENDON AGAIN VISITED BY DISASTROUS FIRE



West side 1906 fire . . . Drake & Shaffer building and mill in background

Murlin Block Goes This Time (January 12, 1907)

Just across the street from the block that burned down a year ago this January, 1906 now lies another block in ashes. It is known as the Murlin block, the principal building of which was built by Tom Upton about a dozen years ago; five or six years later J. A. Murlin purchased same. It was a nice building and was the home of some of out best business places. On the north of this building was the Huffman building and on the south Ed Dutton's barber-shop and R. A. Coil's Restaurant, all of which were burned. Coming as this

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burning out does, upon the heels of the other side, it badly cripples the town. But our business men are of the indomitable sort and a new Mendon will rise out of the ruins.

The fire was discovered between 3 and 4 o'clock, Saturday morning, and before the people could be awakened out of the deep sleep of that early hour and enough get on the ground to be of much force, the fire was under too much headway to think of checking, if, indeed, it could have been done, if there had been ever such a good force on the ground at the start. The Murlin building was what is called veneered brick, or a layer of brick around a wooden frame and should a fire break out from within, the building is almost centainly doomed. The very first persons on the scene say that the fire was in the center of Hesser's store and quite a distance from the stove. There are those who think that there was fire in Armstrong's restaurant before it could have had time to spread there from the south side. There was an explosion in the last named place, which nearly all heard and saw the effects of, which no one seems able to account for. Amos Owen was in the building at the time and was hurt slightly by the falling debris. Armstrong was sleeping above his restaurant and was pretty nearly suffocated by the smoke before he got out.

There was a desperate fight made to confine the fire to that block; there was a slight wind blowing towards the east. Small buildings were torn down in the rear, but the hardest fight was to save J. W. Dutton's residence which stood near Coil's restaurant . The chemical engines did good work there in keeping down the blaze and thus reducing the heat so that the men could stay on the building and keep water on it. The building was saved, but it looked for awhile like the fire might sweep everything to the park. Dutton's and Dr. Ridenour's carried out all of their household goods. There was nearly as hard a fight on the north to have Yocum's and Winans' buildings.

Very little goods were gotten out. Some of Armstrong's stock, and Coil got out the most of his household goods. George Banter went into his room for account books and was so nearly overcome with the smoke that he had to crawl out. M.O. Krugh got so near the fire that he had his hands and one leg pretty badly blistered.

A good many think that the fire was the work of an incendiary; but when one looks for the motive for such an act that is hard to believe. Others think that some poker players or some one else had broken into the old opera house and built up a fire which in some way set the buiding on fire. Any way proof is conclusive that the origin of the fire was not from the stoves of the business rooms.

It is not worth while to talk about what might have been done to save this or that building now. It is important that we have a better organization for fighting fire and that more pople be more familiar with the working of the apparatus. We are strongly of the opinion, that had there been a good night watch in town, there would not have been any fire. A night watch costs money, but is not nearly so expensive as a big fire every now and then.

The names of those who were in the fire are as follows:

Armstrong's restaurant stock, little saved, no insurance; the building belonged to Huffman, insurance $1,000; Copeland & Murlin, hardware stock, entire loss, insurance $2,500; Crook & Schwartz, clothing, boots and shoes, entire loss, insurance, $5,000; J. W. Hesser, dry goods and groceries, entire loss, insurance, $6,000; G. W. Banter drugs, entire loss, insurance, $1,500; E. E. Dutton, building and barbershop, entire loss, insurance on both, $400; R. A. Coil, restaurant stock, and building entire loss, insurance $900; K. of P.

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building (top story) and contents, entire loss, insurance $1,500; the Pythian Sisters met in the same hall, also, the Home Guards, and G.A.R. Post met in this hall, their loss was complete, no insurance; the contents of the opera house, complete loss, no insurance; J. A. Murlin's building, insurance, $5,000.

The total loss was something like $40,000.

Most of those burned out have secured temporary places and will occupy them as soon as they can get new goods. R. A. Coil has already opened up a restaurant north Main street in the city bakery building. He is making preparations to rebuild. He wishes to thank the people for their efforts on his behalf on the morning of the fire. Crook & Schwartz will occupy the Winans building until Miller's new building is completed on the west side. Banter has the Heppeard room north Main street; Hesser gets the room now used for a barbershop by W. G. Rice, the latter will get a room elsewhere in town. We do not know arrangements Copeland & Murlin and Armstrong have made. The I.O.O.F. promptly invited the K. of Ps' and Pythian Sisters to meet in their lodge room until the latter can get a home of their own. Dutton's barbershop goes in the room formerly used as meat market.

Copeland & Murlin were in the fire a year ago and lost heavily. They rented a room across the street, intending to build on the west side of street this coming summer. Now they have met with another severe loss. We trust that they will continue in business, as the town cannot afford to lose them.

ORDINANCE #306 passed Sept. 1915 M. O. Krugh Clerk

Section 4: any person operating an automobile, motorcycle or other motor vehicle of any kind in the streets of the business and closely built up sections of said village shall toot or blast the horn at intersections, (and within 25 ft. of the intersection), and when desiring to go to the right shall wave their right hand and when desiring to go to the left shall wave their left hand.

August 18, 1910

Be it ordained by the Council of the village of Mendon, Ohio

SECTION 1 . . . That in pursuance, to law and by the powers invested in the council of said village the boundaries of the business and closely builtup portions of Mendon, O. for the operating of automobiles, motorcycles or other motor vehicles, at a rate of speed not to exceed eight miles an hour in, on and over the streets of the village of Mendon, Ohio, are bound and defined as follows:

The rate of speed shall not exceed eight miles per hour on Main street between Mill street and Jefferson St., and on Market St. between Wayne street and Main St. All other streets in said village, the speed limit of automobiles, motorcycles or other motor vehicles shall not exceed fifteen (15) miles per hour.

M. O. Krugh, Pres. of Council

J. C. Custer, Village Clerk

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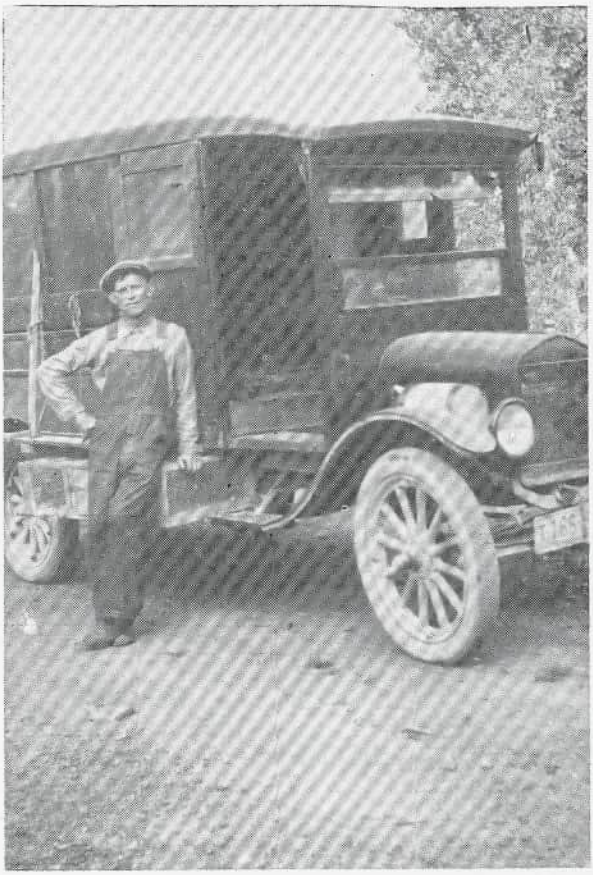

Sherm Hickernell and huckster wagon



Sherm & Merle Hickernell Helen & Esther Krugh

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S. C. Lemunyon, Marshall of Mendon arrested a resident of Mendon who willfully and unlawfully drove a horse on and over the public streets of the Village of Mendon, Ohio, at a rate of speed faster than eight miles per hour as founded in Ordinence No. 136 of said Village of Mendon, Ohio, and this deponent does verily believe and saith that the said resident is guilty of the faults afore stated and further deponent saith not.

June 26, 1914 — C. H. Disher, Mayor

Paid fine of $1.60

1899

Be it ordained by the council of Village of Mendon, Ohio, that the following bills be allowed and the clerk be authorized to issue his warrant on the Treasurer for the following amounts:

To W. F. Hardesty for rig hire, horse feed and dinner	$ 2.00
To J. H. Moore, for services as Mayor	25.00
To Alex Drake, for labor on pump and oiling same—1 yr.	2.90
To R. S. Kinkley, ringing curfew bell and putting rope on same	4.40
To G. L. Wooden, for 3 spears and hook	1.25
To J. Bevan, for acid for fire extinguishers	1.77
To F. Geiger, printing	16.75
To M. O. Krugh, services for clerk	35.00
To J. Forl, for 1¼ cords of wood	1.56
To Copeland and Price MDSE	2.40
To P. Davis for lumber	.25
To A. C. Hussey, repairing and painting council chambers	5.00
To W. W. Parrott — services as Deputy Marshal	3.15
To M. Rider, iron and labor on Calaboose	3.50
To T. E. Upton — Mdse.	1.75
To W. G. Rice — Meals	1.00
To J. Graybill, services as Deputy	1.50
To R. S. Kinkley, ringing curfew bell and lighting council chamber	1.70
To W. H. Rice, services as Deputy Marshal	20.82
To C. R. Blackburn, ringing curfew bell	4.00

Bills for town of Mendon Corp. to W. W. Parrott

Mar. 4, 1899 to cleaning street crossings	3 hrs.	.45
Mar. 11, 1899 to duty at night	4 hrs.	.50
Mar. 11, 1899 to ½ day cleaning street crossings		.50
Mar. 11, 1899 to duty at night	4 hrs.	.50
Mar. 18, 1899 to duty at night	4 hrs.	.50
Mar. 23, 1899 to cleaning street crossings	2 hrs.	.30
Mar. 23, 1899 to breakfast at Huffman's for tramp		.10
Mar. 25, 1899 to cleaning street crossings	2 hrs.	.25
Mar. 25, 1899 to Oil		.05
		$ 3.15

Mendon Corp. to T. E. Upton

Oct. 8, 1898 to 50 lbs. flour	to Webb	$ 1.00
Oct. 8, 1898 to 5 heads of cabbage	to Webb	.50
Feb. 4, 1898 to large lamp chimney		.25
		$ 1.75

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THE HISTORY OF MENDON-UNION LOCAL SCHOOL FROM HISTORY OF VAN WERT AND MERCER COUNTIES 1882 AND REVISION BY ONA BOWLAND - 1953.

Education

It is the old story of a rude beginning, a continuous development, and a golden promise. The first building was a log house, built by the volunteer labor of the settlers in 1827 on the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of section 28, being the land of Justin Hamilton. In the winter of 1827 and 1828 a subscription school was taught in this building by J. Hamilton, for which he received $10 per month and boarded himself. Even then he had to accept trade of any and every kind as an equivalent for his wages. In 1829 and 1830 a second term was taught by Henry Hoagland for the same wages, but he boarded among the householders. In the spring of 1831 another log cabin school was built by volunteer aid on the land of Peter Coil, on the west bank of Twelve-mile Creek, on section 27. A first term was taught here by Miss Matilda Freeman, at the rate of $1 per week and boarding free. Another term was taught here in the winter of 1832 and 1833 by William Hamilton at $10 per month. The regular attendance during this term was over 40. This building was used to some extent until a log house was built in Mendon close to the town park and another near Bethel.

The next school building was erected on the land of John Van Gundy, on Twelve-mile Creek, making the third school-house in the township. Such was the foundation of the school system of the township, being the result of volunteer labor and contribution by the early settlers.

The enumeration for 1880 shows the following numbers of youths of school age in the limits of the several sub-districts:—

District No. 1, males, 30; females, 34; total, 64. District No. 2 (Mendon), males, 54; females, 63; total, 117. District No. 3, males, 28; females, 31; total, 59. District No. 4, males, 40; females, 32; total, 72. District No. 5, males 33; females, 23; total, 56. District No. 6, males, 49; females, 31; total, 80. District No. 7, males, 30; females, 24; total, 54. District No. 8, males 25; females, 21; total, 46. District No. 9, males, 33; females, 24; total, 57. District No. 10, males, 32; females, 30; total, 62. District No. 11, males, 31; females, 31; total, 62.

Total for all the districts, 729.

Report of the Board of Education for the School Year ending August 31, 1880.

Receipts.

Balance on hand September 1, 1879	$2515.77
State tax	1030.50
Irreducible school fund	349.09
Township Tax for school and school house purposes	2014.03
Total receipts	$5909.39

Expenditures.

Amount paid teachers in common schools	$2356.43
" paid for building sites and buildings	611.90
" paid for fuel and other contingent expenses	166.10
Total expenditures	$2134.43
Balance on hand September 1, 1880	$2774.96.

School-houses, Teachers, etc.—Number of school-houses in township, 11. Number of school-rooms, exclusive of rooms used exclusively for recitations, 12. Total value of school property, including grounds, houses, furniture, apparatus, etc., $8300. Number of teachers necessary to supply the school, 12. Number of different teachers employed, gentlemen, 12; ladies, 12. Average

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wages per month, males, $34; females, $17. Average number of weeks school was in session, 24.

Enrollment.—Number of different pupils enrolled during the year, boys, 406; girls, 414. Total, 820. Average monthly enrollment, boys, 355; girls, 347. Total, 694.

As already indicated, the township is now divided into eleven sub-districts, each of which is supplied with a comfortable building. The teachers are usually young men and women, who generally take pride in the advancement of education. Still they find it difficult to organize and advance beyond time-worn methods and exploded theories. This difficulty is not, however, confined to this locality, but only obtains too generally, attributable, we apprehend, to the inefficiency of school-boards, the incompetency of teachers, and the indifference of parents. The reorganizers and innovators, who will place the schools in advance rather than abreast or behind the age, will be hailed by posterity as public benefactors, for even today all eyes look wistfully and hopefully to the schools for the full development of the highest manhood and purest womanhood. The people may well afford to foster education facilities with tender care, while teachers, laboring under a high and grave responsibility, may well afford to realize that responsibility, harmonize their efforts with that realization, and working mind to mind and hand to hand for the common good, lift the whole school-system to a level of living thought.

THE DISTRICT SCHOOLS WERE AS FOLLOWS

Number 1—or the Hasis. The second building after being moved from original location is the home of Orville and Luelle Crouch. (burned on February 22, 1963). Several rooms have been added. The third one was bought with the land by Ketchum Brothers of Rockford, Ohio. It still stands on the farm. (this is now owned by Robert Christian purchased from Ralph Ketchum). District was formed in 1837 from the Fred Hasis farm. Located on Mercer Road—East of Palmer Road.

Number 2—or the Stump. No available date for the first school house but it was closed and sold to Mr. Yokum. It was used for stock for many years. The house of Mr. Yokum burned. He remodeled the old building and it is now the home of Harl and Mable Bolton (Mable passed away January 1960 and Harl passed away in August 1966) (this is now owned by Gene Walls, purchased in 1959). Located on 707 west of Mendon. The second building was built in 1904 on the Stump and McGillvary farms (which is now owned by George Fisher). Walter Pierstoff bought it and moved it to Tama, Ohio. The district was set apart in 1883.

Number 3—or the Bethel. The first school house was on the North side of the road on the farm of William Hamilton, who came to Union Township in the late 1820's. No other record of the first building but in 1848 a new building was errected a short distance east of the present Bethel Church. When abandoned it was bought by Rawleigh Hamilton and donated to the Nazarene Church for a place of worship. The land was set apart for the school in 1848. (this is now owned by Lee Suhr). Located on Mercer Road east of Mendon-Neptune Road.

Number 4—or the Hussey. The first building was on the land of William Hussey. It was bought by the Grange for a meeting place. It was built on the corner and a second school house was built on an adjoining plot east. The Grange Hall was bought by Jesse Brown and remodeled for his home. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor. On Elgin Road occupied by the Jerry Steiner family. The other stands on original ground at the corner of Deep-Cut and Elgin Roads and is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Daniels. (this no longer stands). This district was formed in 1849.

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Number 5—or the Fryer. Was on the farm of Issac Fryer. This district was organized in 1877 and the school was built on a hill east of the Mendon Cemetery, north side of the road (now owned by John Adams). Ronald Hamilton bought the building, moved it, and it is now a barn on his farm about one mile west from the original location, on Hamilton Road.

Number 6—or the Protsman. The ground for this school was organized in 1851, from the farm of J. F. and J. A. Zook. Jim Dutton bought the building and remodeled it into a barn. The land returned to what is now the Protsman farm. (now owned by Waldo Synder family).

Number 7—or the Union. Built in Section 12 on land donated by Claudius Griffin, in 1860, it was not the first in that community, but the first on record. In 1879 this district was divided forming North Union in section 1 and South Union number 11, in section 14. Claudius Griffin again donated land for number 11. The number 7, or North Union, was sold to Ira Wilkins. He lived there for a short time and it is now owned by Ray Truesdale and is still on the original plot. (now owned by the McMichael Brothers from Spencerville, Ohio). Located on Elgin Road north of 117.



Red Schoolhouse located at corner of Mercer and Celina-Mendon Rd., south of town.

Number 8—or the Red School. Was located 1½ miles South of Mendon on the creek, on the land of John Van Gundy. The building and ground was sold to Ralph Heese. Mr. Houser bought the land from Mr. Hesse and built a house. This school was set apart in 1937. (now nowed by Jim Houser). Located at corner of Mercer Road and Celina-Mendon Road.

Number 9— or the Blue Corner. Located on the Jesse Webb farm later owned by Jacob Alexander Tingley. This building was located on the Southwest corner of the farm. This building was in section 6, located at the corner of Tomlinson Road and 117. (now owned by Jim Tingley). This is now a chicken house on Tom Dutton farm, on Dutton Road north of Mendon.

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Number 10— or the Groce. This was built on the W. C. Norris farm in 1880. For many years there was an enrollment of over 40 pupils. This building was sold to Tom Dutton and is his house on Dutton Road and the land is owned by May Snyder Mayes. Located at corner of 117 and 707 north of Mendon. Now owned by Kiefer.

Number 11—or the South Union. This was one of the first schools to be closed and the pupils brought to the Mendon School. The building, a brick, was torn down and the land was given back to Abe Coil farm. It was a division of the first Union district and was organized in 1879. Land now owned by Jerry Clay, Elgin Road.

Number 12— or the Pike. This was the last district to be formed. Part from the Groce, Blue Corner and Prostman Districts. It was built in 1891. It was the first to be abandoned. It was erected on the Benjamin Rhoads farm, once the home of Frank, Rueben and Susie Clay. (now owned by Kenneth Dutton. Pike still stands 1 mile north of Anderson Bethel Church on the farm of J. R. Dutton, Dutton Road. Susie taught one year at Number 1 school.

Until this time the districts worked independently of each other. There were no uniform books or course of study. The standard subjects taught were reading, spelling, arithmetic, writing, history and geography. Grammar, physiology and orthegraphy were added in the early 1880's. Some schools taught algebra, higher arithmetic and physical geography. Physiology was considered by some as an indecent subject.

Not only a crowded curriculum but also crowded classrooms. In 1880 there were 729 pupils in the eleven schools. The largest was Mendon with 117. Numbers 3 and 9 had 59 each. Number 6 had an enrollment of 80 with one teacher, Miss Shindeldecker. Ages ranged from six to twenty-two. Reading classes up to the fifth reader recited four times daily. No graded school but promotion was on ability in any subject, mostly based on ability to read and spell.

The wages for Winter Terms in the 1890's was an average of $40.00 a month. Wages for the Summer Terms was $20.00. Some of the ladies would walk from their home to school, morning and evening, some four or five miles in summer. In winter the men walked three or four miles. Teachers did their own janitor work or hired a boy for 2 cents to 5 cents per day to sweep and carry wood for the next day.

There were three directors in each district until high school was started. Then there was one for each school.

The second school building in Mendon was a two story frame buiding located opposite the Methodist Church on Market Street. For many years this was owned by Willis Hays and was used as a storage building for farm machinery. Later it was owned by Stanley Watts. It has recently been torn down and moved out of town. The lumber was used to build a turkey house on the farm of Stanley and Lenore Watts on Mercer Road. This was also the location of the first normal school (similar to our early high schools.) A new doctor office was built at this location in 1956 by a group of interested citizens. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walker Lumpkins.

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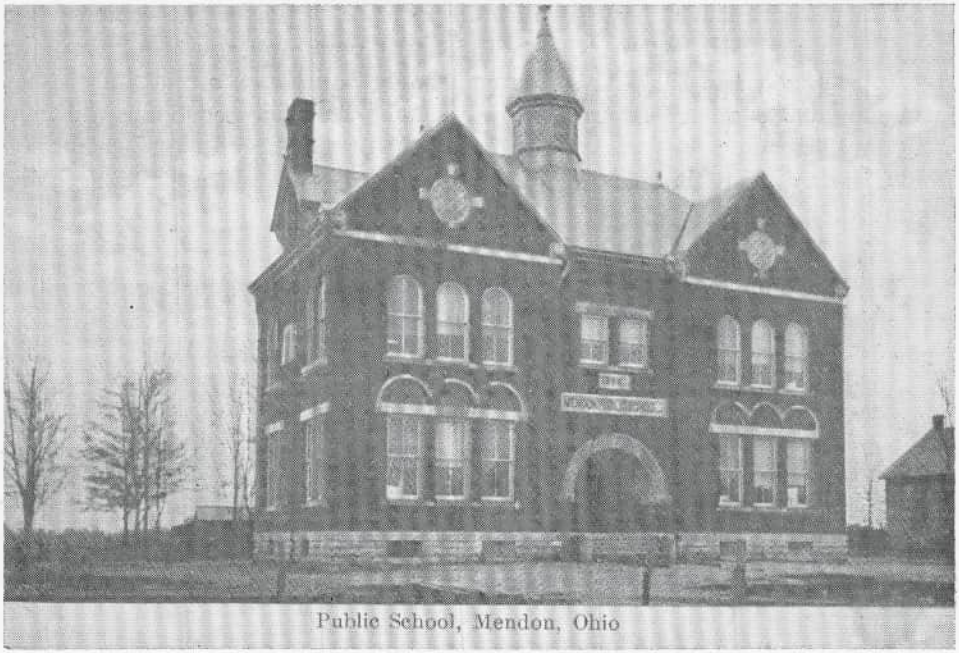
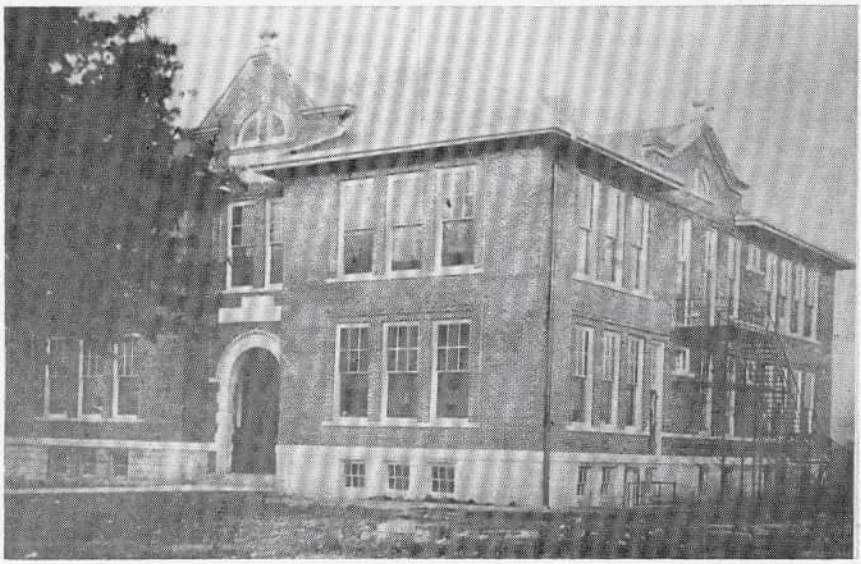


Public School, Mendon, Ohio

Public School, 1888 — four rooms

The third was a two story, four room brick building, that stood in front of the trees where the present building now stands. This building was built in 1888. It became too small so a frame school house was built for the first grade. This frame building was south of the other building and was close to the Hays line. (part of this school house is now the Orville McGillvary home).



Public School, 1910

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The present school house was built in 1910. It has eight roooms, two stories and a full basement. When the enrollment outgrew the room, the Annex was added in 1937. This houses a basketball court, auditorium, stage, farm shop and is otherwise modernized. A cafeteria-home economics unit was built in 1951 and a bus garage in 1952. One of the best lighted recreation fields, in any town this size, has been in use for two years and still being improved.

In the summer of 1892 Mr. McDaniel of Celina taught a subscription school for any who cared to attend. About this time the idea for a High School came into being. The state passed the Boxwell law giving townships the right to organize and operate High Schools. Union Township was the first in the state to start such a school. Other towns had high schools but the students from the country had to pay tuition. It was organized under the efforts of W. E. Kershner. He overcame many obstacles and arguments, but in September of 1893 the first term of 8 months began. An examination was held in an unoccupied room of the school building which was later used as the high school room.

The number is not known that took this examination, but 41 were enrolled the first year. This was a three year course. The ages were between 15 and 21. Many dropped out at the end of the first year. At the beginning of 1898 term the enrollment was 60.

Only one teacher had been employed up to this time. The curriculum had the basic subjects: 1st—grammar, physiology, geography, history. The additional subjects taught in the first three years were: 2 years algebra, 2 years Latin, 2 years geometry, 2 years English, ½ year physical geography, ½ year civics, ½ year botany, ½ year English Literature, ½ years physics. The present curriculum meets with all state standards.

Most people were cooperative but there were some strong objections for various reasons. Some of the reasons were—it would ruin our country schools by taking out the older pupils; the older ones could not be spared from the farm for eight months; the subjects taught were unnecessary; and many others. However the final vote was favorable and Mendon High School started in 1893. Mr. Kershner was hired to teach a three year course. Mr. Kershner taught for five years and then taught a short time at Prairie Depot. He left teaching and organized the teachers' retirement system, acknowledge the best of its kind.

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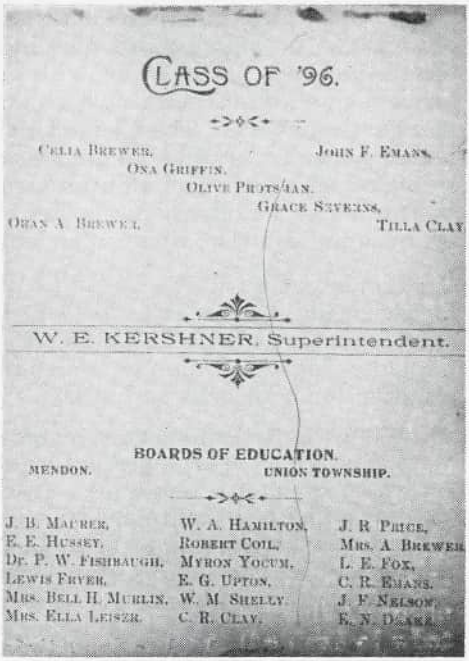

First Graduating Class — 1896

The Class of 1896 was the first to graduate from the new school. From the years 1896-1901, students attended three years of high school. During the 1901-02 year, Mendon became a first class, four-year high school; consequently there was no commencement in 1902; the Class of 1903 was the first four-year class. Since the first graduation there has been 1,612 graduates including the 22 of 1983.

In 1909 the community voted a bond levy to build a larger school building. Members of the Board of Education were J. W. Hesse, Pres., A. W. Copeland, P. W. Fishbaugh, B. T. Price, and Clerk, J. B. Maurer. The twelve directors were school no. 1 Joe Lampy; 2. Ed Krugh; 3. J.H. Hamilton; 4. Chester Cole; 5. C. E. Rhodes; 6. George Wilson; 7. F. M. Sill; 8. T. R. Nichols; 9. Dick Thomas; 10. T. C. Ross; 11. W. W. Anderson; 12. E. H. Drake. The old school was torn down and the new building erected a few feet behind. Completed in 1910, this building was a two-story, eight classroom school, with a full basement. Today this building is the Mendon-Union Elementary School, K-6.

In 1937 an annex was added to the 1910 building. This addition included a basketball court, auditorium, stage, farm shop, and restrooms. When completed, the gym was one of the largest in the state and the Mercer County Tournament was held here. Board of Education members were O. K. Drake,

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Pres., Edgar Hamilton, B. R. Brown, J. W. Kennedy, and Clerk, A. B. Clover. In 1951 a home economics room and cafeteria were added to the annex.

Overcrowded conditions and a need for better facilties to meet state requirements, prompted more building. In 1956 a new high school was completed—a one-story building with nine classrooms, All-purpose room, cafeteria kitchen, office suite, two clinics, restrooms, also a library, and a commercial department. The Class of 1957 was the first to graduate from the new high school. Today this building is used for both junior high and senior high students. The Board of Education members: Russell Hesse, Pres., Ed Suhr, V. Pres., Merle Roller, Charles Fent, James Tingley, Dave Esmonde, Sr., and Clerk, John Maurer, Superintendent, Mr. Philip Williams.

Kindergarten classes began in 1965, special education classes and neourological handicapped classes in 1969. In 1976 Mendon voted affiliation with the Joint Vocational School, Van Wert. Although one of the smallest schools in the state, Mendon-Union Schools offer 56 units and a large extra-curricular program for both boys and girls.

In 1979 a Permanent Improvement Levy provided the much needed funds for major remodeling and repairs for the school. In the summer of 1980 all parking lots and driveways were paved with asphalt. New windows and doors were installed in the 1910 elementary building. The bus garage was extended to enclose the larger bus. The wood shop was doubled in size, with a new enclosed south entrance to the gym hallway. Other areas were repaired and redecorated.

In September, 1983, a long time goal of the school and community was completed with an enclosed hallway connecting both buildings. This included an additional classroom, teacher work area, and a much needed locker, shower room facility.

The enrollment of the 1983-84 school year was 343, kindergarten through 12th grade. The staff consists of the Superintendent, 20 certified personnel and 14 support personnel. The present Board of Education members are, Larry Hesse, President (18 years), Michael Boley, Vice President (4 years), Emerson Boyer (10 years), Stanley Dicke (4 years), Eddie Frey (Jan. 1984), Phyllis Griggs, Treasurer (29 years), Tyronne Thomas, Superintendent (8 years).

Superintendents of Mendon Schools from 1892 to present are as follows: W. E. Kershner, C. E. Thomas, J. L. Cliffton, R. E. Offenhaur, M. O. Krugh, Fred Koenig, Carl Vesper, V. B. Young, A. W. Fishbaugh, O. W. Gratz, Arthur Elam, Philip Williams, Roy Terrell, Jay Stauffer, Gary Mills, Larry Goodes, and Tyrone Thomas.

We must not forget to pay our respects to the one all people consider the dean of Union Teachers, M. O. Krugh (passed away December 12, 1950). He began his teaching career in 1897 at the Blue Corner school. He taught five years in the rural schools and then was asked to come to the Mendon school. He was a teacher, principal, high school superintendent and also Mercer County Superintendent, until his retirement after 40 years in close connection with home and county schools.

All of the great and efficient cannot be mentioned. At this time there are many who have taught 20 years or more. Their dedication and faithfulness will be remembered for years to come.

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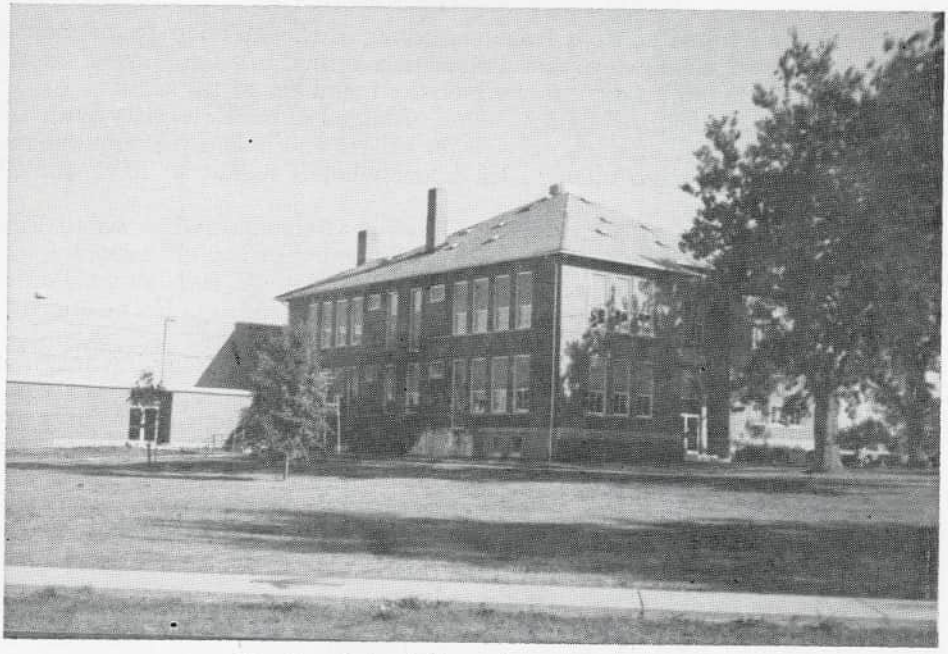
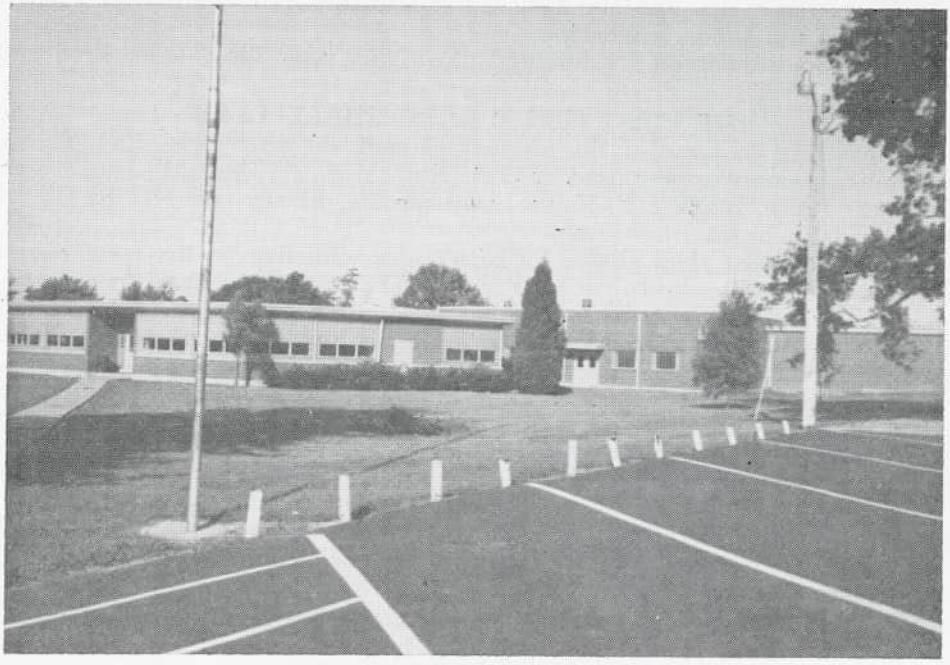


Mendon-Union Elementary School, 1983



Mendon Union High School, 1983

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FRED AND MAREE ROEBUCK

Today the picture of Fred Roebuck hangs in the Mendon Union School and each year at Commencement time, seniors in the graduating class are very aware of his importance to some of the members of the class.

Fred, born in 1903 in Mendon, Ohio attended Ohio University with the help of his mother, Maude, who sewed for others and baked pies for the restaurant in order to earn money. He knew what it meant to have enough money to attend school.

He married Maree Roebuck. They lived in Cincinnati, Ohio where Fred served as a commercial teacher and as the principal of a night school.

After a successful career as an educator he retired and he and Maree returned to Mendon. They became a part of the community. He belonged to the Masonic Lodge and Maree to the Eastern Stars.

He talked often of his interest in young people. While living in Cincinnati he helped two people attend college.

He attended a Board of Education meeting to tell them of his intention to establish a scholarship trust for high school graduates. He made one stipulation—it must be kept secret until after his death.

Scholarships in the form of tuition and other fees are to be paid to a college or university which the selectees of the scholarships have chosen.

Definite guidelines and procedures were established, to be followed by the school.

It was provided that two scholarships of $600 each should be disbursed when the interest permits. If the interest exceeds $1800 after considerations then three scholarships of $1000, $500, and $300 shall be awarded. If the interest income exceeds $2400 after considerations then four scholarships of $1100, $600, $400, and $300 are to be given.

The scholarships must be awarded to students from the School District of Mendon and Union Townships.

Mendon is honored for having known this generous couple, Fred and Maree Roebuck.

THE FIRST GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

According to some of the original players, the first girls' High School Basketball team was organized in 1925. Ruth Michaels Dantz, Wilma Ziegler Heffner, Jessie Krugh Hill, Nelva Lawrence McGillvary and Maxine Clover Putman were in that first group.

The first year they played by boys' rules with five on the team. Later modified boys' rules and then girls' rules were used.

Following the first year of basketball, other girls became interested. They were Amy Maurer, Verna Watts, Jessie Snyder, Jean Murlin, Nelva Snyder, Helen Dick and Helen Thomas.

Since in those days Mendon High School had quite limited facilties, the girls' teams dressed in the Clover home on Main Street. They played in the hall which is above Drakes' Car and Service Store. Their playing clothes were rather bulky, lengthy, dark bloomers with a blouse top. What Pioneers they were!

Girls had opportunities to participate in spring track activities. Ruth Michaels was an outstanding athlete, winning four medals for High Point Girl for Mercer County for years 1925-'28.

HISTORY OF HAMILTON BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH

First Protestant Church in Mercer County, Ohio

Compiled by

Celia Brewer (Mrs. Walt) Barber

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Mercer County Methodism had its beginning about the year of 1829. Robert Finley, a superannuated Methodist minister, came to Staint Marys, which was than a part of Mercer County, and established a mission, which was called Saint Marys Mission. Maumee District, Ohio Conference. He was assisted by William Raper and James P. Wright. These men were missionaries to the Wyandotte Indians. They held a camp meeting and there were a number of conversions. The work of the mission was extended to the Eight and Twelve-Mile Creeks, and to Shanes Prairie and Willshire. (From History Book.)

In 1831 and 1832 it was called Saint Marys Fort Defiance Mission, Jesse Pryor, missionary, and James B. Finley, presiding elder, formed a class in a log school house near the mouth of Twelve-Mile Creek, near what is now Mendon, consisting of Israel Forbes and wife, Samuel Hanson and his wife, Joseph Rider and wife, and George Parrott. This is believed to be the first class formed in what is now Mercer County. Historians relate that during the same year a class was formed in the vicinity of what is now Bethel Church, consisting of twenty-four members, namely: Abel, Nancy James, Sarah, Wealthy and Lawrence Wright: George, Nancy, Samuel and Jemima Parrott: George, Elmer and Margaret Shepherd; James and Charity Watts; Jonathan B. and Elizabeth Dutton; James, Sarah and Christena Smith; and George and Sarah Smith. Abel Wright was the leader and James Wright was the exhorter.

Two descendants of Jonathan and Elizabeth Dutton live in and near Mendon. Jim lives in Mendon, and Tom, north of town. They are great grandsons. Stanley Watts, a great grandson, lives on the site of the home of James and Charity Watts (1953). Jim and Tom Dutton are now deceased.

The class held their meetings in the home of Abel and Nancy Wright, about eight rods south of where the present Bethel Church stands. During the years of the 1830's Benjamin Roebuck ran a tavern just west of where the

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Saint Marys-Fort Wayne road crosses the Twelve-Mill Creek, which was a stopping place for the preachers and missionaries on their way west to visit the Indians. There they often held camp meetings, and there were a number of conversions, which was the reason for the classes formed on the Eight and Twelve-Mile Creeks, and for the first church on the Eight Mile.

In 1839 and 1840 Martin Welsh and Liberty Prentice were missionaries and Elmore Yocum the presiding elder. The work was then called Saint Marys Mission, Mount Vernon District, Michigan Conference.

In December 16th, 1839 land was purchased to build the log church in section 35—Union Township of Mercer County, Ohio. Land purchased from Abel and Polly Wright for the sum of $5.00. Trustees were: William Murlin, James Wright, George Shepherd, Timothy Hankins and Samuel Shepherd. This log church was built where the present Bethel Church now stands, and it is recorded as being the first Protestant church in Mercer County. It was twenty by forty feet, built of logs, and the seats were boards, split from nearby trees, without planing, in which were inserted wooden legs. The lights were candles furnished by the members.

Timothy Hankins, author of Mercer County Protestant Churches, and articles in the History of Van Wert and Mercer Counties, from which most of this was taken, was the only man mentioned as working on the church.

A comment by one William Hamilton who lived near the church sounds very modern: "Although the people of this day claim to be far advanced over an earlier day, and may be in some respects, they have greatly degenerated in others. In earlier days at such meetings, when the services began, all was silent as the house of death, so far as the hearers were concerned. There was not a whisper from old or young. All gave the strictest attention till the close of the meeting. There was no thought about bonnets, dresses, hunting shirts or wamasses. Disturbances of any sort in meetings were then unknown. The meetings of this day are but a show or confusion, all trying to make the most noise, to make him or herself most conspicuous, and little attention is paid to the preaching. Well, "Such may be an advance upward, but it looks like sliding down hill to me, an old fogie."

During the year 1853 camp meetings were held about one half mile west of the church, resulting in many conversions. These meetings were greatly disturbed by ruffians who attempted to break them up by hooting and yelling and even by burning the tents.

During the years 1867 to 1868 the first frame church was built and dedicated on the site of the old log church, which is also the site of the present structure.

Cornelius Weaner was the minister for the Celina circuit, this is the only time Mendon and Bethel were not on the same circuit.

Orlando Murlin was a local minister and lived in the community at this time and was the father of Lemuel H. Murlin, president of Boston University.

With the erection of this building the name missionary was dropped, and the term "pastor" was adopted for those who served the church. A "missionary" served churches which received help from the missionary fund. When they were able to support themselves they became pastors.

The second deed for adding to the church land was purchased October 9th, 1884 and recorded October 7th, 1886. This land cost them the sum of $23.00 from Thomas and Mehetable Upton. Trustees were: Jason Murlin, Philip Hankins, Nelson Werts, James Malick and Samuel Hankins.

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In 1901 Charles B. Cramer came to the charge, and in the following two years the present church was built on the site of the other two churches. It was dedicated February 4, 1903 by Reverend Cramer and J. M. Miller, presiding elder.

The services in honor of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Bethel M. E. Church were well attended although the weather was inclement. There was a large attendance at Sunday School, followed by still larger at preaching services.

After the usual opening services in charge of the pastor, Rev. C. O. Good, the Yewey Sisters rendered a vocal duet with guitar accompaniment.

The pastor in brief remarks concerning the occasion, then presented Rev. J. B. Gottschall, speaker of the day, and a former pastor who served the people for ten years. He took as his text, "When a thousand years are past" part of the fourth verse of the Ninetieth Psalm. In his sermon there were reminiscences and he carried all to sublime heights of worship and adoration of our Lord and Master, and interspersed, were humor and pathos. All the time he kept before us the moral and spiritual power of the church in the community for the hundred years past. He stressed the dangers of the times through which our nation is passing and showed that nothing but getting back to God will save us. He closed with an appeal for any who had neglected to do so to surrender their lives and to all for a deeper consecration.

The sermon was worthy of the occasion, was the general verdict of the congregation.

The Bethel ladies served dinner in the school house near by and that elaborate menu would have excited the envy of the pioneers could they have seen and tasted it.

At 2:00 o'clock there was another session, with the pastor in charge. After devotions, Bobbie and Doyle Clay sang a song and a duet was given by Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh Hamilton. A talk was given by Rev. J. B. Gottschall, who spoke on conditions of the past, especially of the time when he came to the charge twenty-six years ago.

Rev. Joseph Shepherd, of Rockford, gave a stirring address on "how some churches lost their fire and how to get it back".

Charles H. Murlin, of Celina, gave many interesting reminiscences, the most striking of which was that of showing how many relatives of the pioneer members were in the audience or lived in the neighborhood. Many other short talks and testimonies were given. The reading of a brief history of Bethel by Walter A. Barber was listened to attentively.

Through the ministry of the church many of our young people have received the desire to further their education in good spiritual colleges, and have been called into active service as pastors. They are: Ernest Hamilton, Wilda Lemunyon, Hazel Yewey, William Hesse and Ted Yewey. These ladies have become ministers' wives: Muna Hamilton (Mrs. Paul) Fisher, Fern Yewey (Mrs. Francis) Clay, Marian Barber (Mrs. Edgar) Nelson, and Donna Jean Roberts (Mrs. Fred) Layman.

In 1950 to the present church were added a full basement, new furnace, new entrance, and other improvements, which made it the modern and beautiful little country church it now is.

In 1953 rededication services were held, with Rev. Don Lucas the minister.

Through the years the church has been well maintained. Rev. Charles Martindell Jr. has been our minister since June 1980.

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HISTORY OF THE WESLEY CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

In the year 1833 there were four families in the new settlement, namely, John Tomlinson, John Ross, John Heath and John Bevington. In the autumn of 1834 Grandfather Tomlinson secured the services of a Missionary who preached every four weeks. Later he organized a class of seven. John and Rebecca Tomlinson, John and Polly Ross, Jesse and Betsy Tomlinson, and Nancy Thomas. Jesse Tomlinson was leader. For one year services were held in Grandfather Tomlinson's cabin. He then built another house twenty feet West of the first house and preaching was held in it for another year or more. After this, one day he said to his six sons, we will build a Church They went to the Tomlinson cemetery and cleared the brush off the lot, cut and hauled the logs, and soon had a Church built. The house was 22 feet square with a large fireplace, one door and two small windows.

This was the first Church in all this vast wilderness. People came thirty miles to Quarterly Meetings held at this place. In 1837 Benjamin Chidlow organized Sunday School with Jesse Tomlinson as Superintendent. At this time three persons were buried in the cemetery, namely William Ross, Benjamin Ross and Nancy Thomas. By this time also many people had settled near the hallowed spot; attracted by the Church and Sunday School. In 1838 a great Revival took place and many were saved in this new Church. I give the names as I remember them at this date: John and Rebecca Tomlinson, John Tomlinson, Jr.; Nancy Athe; Leonard Varner; Matilda Varner; F. Jackson and wife; Robert Mortimore and wife; Francis Eliot and wife; Jesse Clark and wife; Jesse Tomlinson and wife; (?) Harmon and wife; Jacob Johnson and wife; Betsy Jackson, Robert Ross, Tobias Moore; William Carder and wife. The names of the young men and women who attended Church were: Rachel Boroff; Peter Boroff; Joseph Heath, Mellie and Jane Heath; James and Tobias Moore; Cynthia Eliot, Nancy Athe, Jacob Hansler, Richard, John and James Tomlinson, Betsy Jackson, Shadrac Mortimer and William Atkinson. Four girls and one young man from Jennings Prairie often came. Eunice, Amy, and George Griffin, Priscilla and Betsy Arnold also often came. About one dozen young men from Shanes Prairie called "The Prairie Wolves", often attended. Jesse and Betsy Tomlinson are buried where the old Church stood.

James Smith, a Sunday School Superintendent, died in Sunday School at this place after the second Church was built. David Tomlinson moved the old Church on his father's farm and lived in it. The first Quarterly Meeting was held in the second Tomlinson cabin. Simeon Alderman, a pioneer preacher lived in this cabin. In, or up to 1836, this Society numbered but seven, and in 1839 it numbered twenty-eight. The Kingsley Society is a result of the Tomlinson Society.

During the years between 1839 and 1848 Wesley Chapel was served by the same Ministers as served Mendon and so it is to be expected that they were on the same Charge.

In 1848-49 Willshire, Tomlinson, Mercer, and Shanesville were assigned to the Van Wert Circuit. Tomlinson remained on this Circuit through 1869.

The following Preachers served Wesley while on the Ohio City Circuit: Rev. James F. Olive, Rev. James C. Clemons, Rev. Joseph H. Cater, and Rev. H. J. Keister.

A complete list of the Ministers can be found in the "History of The Hamilton-Bethel, Wesley Chapel and Mendon Churches and the Mendon Charge."

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Wesley Chapel has been known as: Tomlinson, Betheny Chapel, and Wesley Chapel.

Wesley Chapel and Mendon have been together 105 years.

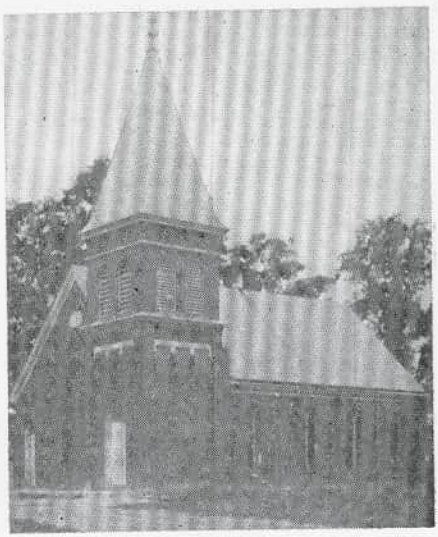
Bethel and Mendon have been together for 135 years.

In 1855 the Church had been outgrown by the congregation, and land was purchased for a new Church. It was purchased from John Geiger and Ann Eliza by the Trustees of the Church, Jesse Tomlinson, Joseph F. Tomlinson, Henry Archer, Enos Baikdoll, and Thomas Anderson, for the total sum of $6.00. The land is in Section Six, and on it was built a white frame Church where the present Church now stands. Ministers in 1854-55 were—James N. Frisbie and N. B. C. Love, and in 1855-56 when the Church might have been dedicated it was John Graham.

In 1887-88 the congregation had again outgrown the white frame building and so the first brick Church, called Bethany Chapel, was built. In 1891 the name was changed to Wesley.

The following write-up was taken from an 1889 Van Wert paper which was found in James Heath's Mother's Bible:

"Bethany Chapel, Mendon Charge, Central Ohio Conference, was dedicated on November 17th, by Dr. Leroy A. Belt. This was one of the appointments on Dr. Belt's first Circuit to which he was sent in 1861 as Junior Preacher under Rev. James F. Mounts, Preacher in charge of Van Wert Circuit. This is the third Church built since the organization of the Society. The first was a log, the second was a frame, and the third a brick structure. The last was a beautiful edifice, Gothic in style, slate roof, modern style windows, a beautiful bell tower in which swings a finely toned bell. Opposite the Church is a Township Graveyard where sleep many of the dead of what has been long known as the Tomlinson Society. This is the best Church structure found in the rural parts of Mercer County, and it is not only an honor to the community but to the denomination owning it. Mr William Heath, not yet a member of the Church, paid $1,000.00. The Church cost between $3,500.00 and $4,000.00, and the Trustees have in hand enough to pay all indebtedness and make all needed improvements. Rev. Philip LeMasters is Pastor, and upon the new Church he has expended much of his care and attention as have his faithful Board of Trustees."



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During the period of 1895-96 until 1902-03 Wesley was on the Ohio City Circuit. All of the Ministers except Rev. James F. Olive and Rev. Joseph H. Cater served Mendon at one time or another, so the Obituaries of these two men will be found at the end of this History.

Again the Society was growing and a larger building was needed. In 1912 a second brick building was erected on the same place as the first brick building. Rev. Gottschall was Pastor during this time of building this Church and continued on the service until 1917, being Pastor a total of 10 years.

During the pastorate of Rev. C. O. Good the Church celebrated a century of service to God and the community by having a week of evangelistic services. The Rev. Seth Painter of Monroeville, Indiana, was secured as Evangelist, with Cleo Roth, song leader, leading into the Sunday service which was an all day meeting with dinner in the basement at the noon hour, ending with an afternoon service. On June 17, 1934, Wesley Chapel Church held its Centennial, and the Anniversary Sermon was given by Dr. Clarence S. Grauser, District Superintendent.

During the time Rev. W. A. Piper was the Pastor, 1938-42, the Homecoming Service was established during the fall. This was greatly enjoyed by former members. This was dropped during the war. In 1948 Don Lucas became our Pastor and remained six years. In 1953 the Church was completely redecorated, and on June 7, 1953, a rededication service was held with the Rev. Paul Fisher as guest speaker, and Roger Heath singing a solo, "Bless This House."

A student Pastor was accepted and was with us for four years. Rev. Hollis served us well. In 1967 we accepted Rev. Paul Mazur as our Pastor, and on November 19, 1967, the last meeting was held in Wesley Chapel with the Pastor and District Superintendent, Dr. Paul Chiles, present. The people who were there voted 10 to 4 to close the Church. The reason for closing were the small attendance and need of a new furnace.

The Trustees of the Church, Charles Prichard, James Tingley, Kenneth Heppeard, Keith Profit, and Kenneth VanGundy had the authority to sell the articles inside the Church. They had a meeting and decided to advertise the contents in the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, The Daily Standard, and the Van Wert Times Bulletin, asking for sealed bids. These bids were to be in the hands of the Trustees by 12:00 noon on March 30th. The Trustees met on April 5, 1968, to decide whose bids were accepted. Letters were mailed to these persons asking them to pick up their items on Saturday, April 13, 1968.

One bid of $400.00 on the Church building and ground was sent to the District Superintendent for the Conference Trustees to decide on. At this writing the building remains empty.



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Mercer County was organized April 1st. 1820, with four townships of which Union was one, and with St. Marys as the County seat. In 1828 and 1829 the St. Marys Mission was formed. In 1836 and 1837 it was called the St. Marys Mission, Maumee District Michigan Conference. It was at this time that the Mendon Society was organized. John Janes was the Presiding Elder with Isaac Bennett and Joseph Santly as the Missionaries with the following 18 members: Jacob and Mary Panabaker, Amos and Ominda Barber, Mr. and Mrs. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Elnathan Porter, Barney Forbes and daughter. (Mrs. Forbes having died as a result from a fall caused by her overwhelming fear of death at the hands of the Indians). Jonathan and Elizabeth Dutton (great grandparents of James and Tom Dutton), Joseph and Permelia Rider, Elizabeth Coil Parrott, Adam Panabaker, Louisa Rider (the 2nd wife of Jonathan Dutton) and Lucinda Baker (later to become Protsman). (She was the grandmother of Harley Protsman and the late Gail Protsman.) Jacob Panabaker was the leader and Adam Panabaker was the local preacher. It is assumed that they met in homes at first and later probably in the school house.

In 1838 and 1839 there were 14 Societies which were as follows: St. Marys, Mercer, Shanesville, Harpers, Willshire, Van Wert, Sugar Ridge, Tomlinson, Pring's, Goefford's, Duck Creek, Mendon, Eight Mile (Bethel) and Roebuck's; and Ministers today complain about the amount of work they have to do.

In 1839 and 1840 land was purchased and the Bethel log Church was built. It was the first recorded Protestant church in Mercer County.

We remained on the St. Marys Circuit until 1853. Then on the Celina Circuit until 1865 and 1866. In 1866 and 1867 we were on Shanesville Circuit. In 1867 and 1868 we were on Shanes Crossing Circuit, and were listed as New Mendon. In 1868 and 1869 we were first called Mendon Circuit.

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In 1854 the Christian Advocate published the list of things not in order in the matter of church department.

To stand before the church before service.

To engage in any kind of conversation, even religious, between the time of your going in and the commencement of service. The interval should be spent in composing the thoughts for the solemnities of the approaching service.

To salute persons coming in, by bowing, smiling, etc.

It is profanation.

To look around to catch the eye of a friend, and smiling at any remark from the pulpit.

To allow your children to be stuffing themselves all the time with apples, sweet cakes, candy or anything else.

To be reaching for garments or adjusting the dress while the blessing is pronounced.

Sleeping in church.

To commence laughing, talking and saluting one another as soon as the people are dismissed.

To stand at the door, gazing at the ladies as they leave the church, to see who conducts them, and many other things as little concerns others.

The Mendon Society persevered and grew, then in 1870 it was decided to purchase property and build a church. On February 25, 1870 lot No. 25 was purchase from William and Laura Rider for the sum of $75.00.

Jesse Carr was the Minister from 1869 to 1871 and it is presumed that the white frame church was built during his tenure.

October 24, 1881 the first Parsonage was purchased for the sum of $900.00 from Henry Leiser. This is on Green Street where the late Mr. and Mrs. Jim Painter lived for a number of years.

In the late 1880's a great revival was held in Mendon and many were added to the Church. The church was soon outgrown by the membership and plans were made under the leadership of Rev. F. S. Robinson to build a new church. In March 1897 he began to secure subscriptions and obtained the promises of $3,200.00 on paper from the people. He had Special Meetings during the winter with 150 conversions. When completed the church will cost $5,000.00. The white frame church was sold to Moses Rider. He moved it back of where Griggs' Garage now stands and used it for a blacksmith shop. Rev. Robinson had overtaxed his strength, and about 2 weeks after the corner stone was laid, he became seriously ill and passed away June 9. Saturday, June 12th., it was one of the largest funerals ever held in Mendon, with 18 of his brothers in the Ministry, including the Presiding Elder attending. He is buried in an unmarked grave in the Mendon Cemetery.

In 1897 the church was completed and dedicated December 19. The church was free of debt and all claims paid.

One of our oldest members, Mrs. Willis Hays was 12 or 13 years old at the time and was present at the laying of the Cornerstone and for the Dedication services. She remembers that the Church was packed, and many dignitaries were present.

1901 to 1905 Rev. Charles B. Cramer was our Minister. He designed and drew up the plans for a large 2 story house which was to be our 2nd Parsonage on Market Street just west of the old Funeral Home. The lot for the 2nd. Parsonage was purchased May 9th, 1903 from Thomas and Ella Nelson for the sum of $150.00. 1936 and 1937 marked 100 years for the Mendon Church. We think there was a celebration but do not have a record of it. Rev. Herbert F. Miller was our Minister at the time.

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During the tenure of Rev. W. A. Piper 1938-1942 the annex was built and the furnace installed.

Rev. Joseph Hollis came to us as student pastor in 1963 to 1967 and during the years he was with us many goals were met. On November 19, 1967 Wesley Chapel had its last services. ⅓ of the membership transferred to Mendon.

Rev. Terry Pontius served our charge from 1973 to 1978. Extensive remodeling was done during this time, and the lot directly North of the Church was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Emlyn Lampy.

From 1978 until 1980, Rev. Carter was the minister.

In June of 1980, Rev. Charles Martindell came to the church. During this time cement walks were replaced in front of the church, the church pews were improved through new seat cushions, and new carpet was installed in the sanctuary and parsonage. Also a new Education/Fellowship Wing is being added onto the church. In the addition are 8 classrooms, a pastor's study, rest rooms, a kitchen, and a large fellowship hall. To save on the cost of the project and to offer a way for everyone who supported this new direction the Christian ministry at Mendon, almost all of the labor used in constructing the addition came from church members and talented persons from the community. One of the goals of the congregation was to complete the addition without going in debt and paying the high interest rates which are so much a part of our time (up to 20% on an annual rate). This became possible through an annonymous gift that the congregation became aware of in early 1982 which had been in the care of the Lima District Office for use at the Mendon United Methodist Church if it was ever decided to build an educational facility. This fund was invested by the District while they held it for the Mendon church. By the time of the receipt of this gift it had risen to a value of $38,000. At a congregational meeting in October of 1982, it was decided to use the money that was being given to the church by a vote of 47-6. Also at this meeting a Building Committee was nominated by the church to design the addition and secure cost estimates.

After this committee finished their work on the preliminary plans, the congregation met on March 27, 1983 to vote on the preliminary plans and cost estimates. The next meeting of the congregation was to review the final working drawings. The vote was an unanimous approval.

The Building Work Leadership committee was nominated and approved They were: Ned Baltzell—Chairman, Rex Johnson, Wayne Fireoved, Don Miller, Bill Smith. Also nominated and approved were the volunteer organizers. Betty Boyer and Mary Hoghe. Materials purchaser was Floyd Anspaugh. During the next year, Ned Baltzell spent many long hours guiding the congregation and volunteers in the actual construction. No one would disagree that without Mr. Baltzell this extension to our ministry would never have become more than just a dream.

Other than the gift which was in the care of the district, the congregation also received a grant from the conference for $5,000; and a gift from the Lima District Trustees of $1,000. The people of the church remained faithful to this direction by contributing finances and time to the construction. Various people from the community also helped with the building of our church. Among these was Mr. Mike Boley who donated his expertise in the wiring of the church for electricity.

A significant date along the way was the ground breaking worship service which took place on June 12, 1983. An attendance of 139 worshippers

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gathered to seek the strength of God and His guidance as we turned the soil and thus began our project. Six days following the ground breaking, the construction started. At present, the Education/Fellowship Addition stands under roof with the brick siding and windows in place. With faith and hope, the congregation looks forward to the months ahead during which we will not only see, but will also work to make our dream become a reality.

Through the years we have received many beautiful memorial gifts and donations which are too numerous to mention.



ANDERSON BETHEL CHURCH



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On May 9, 1980 the corner stone was removed from the Anderson Bethel Church, and the contents give a brief history of the church, a portion is given below:

ANDERSON BETHEL CHURCH was built in 1856. It was organized between the years of 1838 and 1856. It was the first Church of God built in Mercer County.

The church was organized by John Winebrenner, from Pennsylvania. Early pastors of Anderson Bethel Church were Thomas Hickernell, J. A. Dobson, Bolton, Small, Baysor, Warner, Oliver, Mowlen, C. N. Belman, Stiner, Poling, Neil McNutt, Aukerman, Koogle, Barthebaugh, Winbiger, Voss, Ritchie, L. T. Lemunyon, Gaskell.

Early Settlers and Charter Members of Anderson Bethel Church and date they settled here. John Raudabaugh and wife, 1942; Christian and John Gist, 1837; David P. Protsman and wife, 1837; Mrs. John Hundley, 1833; Michael Denniston and wife, 1837; John B. Hickernell and wife, 1838; Thomas Hickernell and wife, 1838; James Anderson and wife, 1838; John Protsman and wife, 1838; Jacob Krugh and wife, 1840; George Fireoved and wife, 1840; Robert H. Dunathan and wife, 1840; Joseph Severns and wife, 1840; Ira Cisco and wife, 1855; John Fryer and wife, 1842; John Small, 1853; Henry Clay and wife, 1840; J. H. Coil and wife, 1832; John Q. Fryer and wife, 1842; Chattie and Susie Anderson, 1838; Eliza Shelley, 1838; William Grand and wife, 1840; John May and wife, 1840; Cladius Griffin and wife, 1840; Jacob Lichty, 1840; Andrew Harbor and wife, 1840; Enoch Patterson and wife, 1840; Abraham Spicer and wife, 1857; Samuel Spicer, 1842; Frances Spicer, 1857; Amos Barber and wife, 1843.

The church burned Monday night October 17, 1938. The following article appeared in a local newspaper:

ANDERSON BETHEL CHURCH BURNED DOWN — Two or three o'clock Tuesday morning Fidelus Smalls saw a light and on looking out saw that the Anderson Bethel Church was on fire. They rang the dinner bell and awakened those living near by. By the time central was notified and the Howe reached there the fire had enveloped the entire building and nothing was gotten out. As there had been no fire there recently, the origin of the fire is a mystery. There was no insurance.

The building was erected in 1856 and was the oldest church in these parts.

That Society had been making fine gains spiritually and otherwise and it is very sorrowful to suffer such a clamity as that.

The pastor, Rev. Gaylord D. Wilkins and others went to Findlay to lay the matter before authorities there to see what steps to take in the matter.

In the meantime many other churches would open their doors to them for their services.

We feel sure contributions will be welcomed.

A meeting was held on Oct. 18, 1938 at Harry and Jennie Stevens, to make plans to rebuild.

The cornerstone of Anderson Bethel Church was laid Jan. 19, 1939.

At the time of the burning and rebuilding of the Church the Pastor was—Gaylord D. Wilkins. The building committee was—O. K. Drake, Emlyn Lampy, Simon Clay, Homer Bowles and Wilmer Clay.

The following people were present when the cornerstone was removed on Friday evening May 9, 1980.

Gerald and Edith Sutton, Orville M. and Catherine Engel, Janet S. Muhlenkamp, Evelyn Protsman, Helen Squires, Margaret VanGundy, Willard and Hollies Dilbone, Waldo and Neola Burger, Kenneth and Alice (Hundley)

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Kline, John and Mary Lou Clay, Paul H. Clay, Charley and Betty Fent, Larry Fennig, Pastor Bob Copas, Fred Aukerman.

Pastor Bob Copas, Chairman of the Property Management Commission offered prayer and benediction. There were a few tears and a lot of reminiscing.

THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH ON THE CORNER
ANDERSON BETHEL

The little white church on the corner
Has been "home for many years,
But now it will stand vacant
With a hint of unshed tears.

There's memories of another church
Which was in the same place,
If eyes are just slightly closed,
There's a vision of each face.

God has called so many home,
Some others have moved away,
There are such a very few
Left in the congregation today.

There were Chris and Lizzy Lampy
And their generation three,
The Clays' five sons and a daughter,
The family of Simon and Bea.

The Bowles, Homer and Maggie
Urban, Viney and Elma Clay,
The Sullinger boys, Robert and Charles,
They were children of Leon and Faye.

The Dwight Drakes and little ones,
And, as you may recall,
His parents, Ossie and Irene,
He was short, she was tall.

The Elza Springers, son and a daughter
The Fents, Sadie and Billie,
Five children of Jacob and Lena Hundley,
The Eldest one was Willie.

Lucille Protsman, who now is Suhr,
And her parents, Eva and Gail,
And, Ruth Krugh, wife of Earl,
Their sons, Glenn and Dale.

The Dilbone boys and one girl,
The children of Marie and Ray,
Some small Elsea children
Who came with their Aunt May.

The Charles Sutton youngsters,
From the haunted house on the hill,
The Stevens, Jenny the wife of Harry,
And children Joe, Florence and Bill.

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Now Jenny, the dear soul,
Thought all children should know
The name of every blooming flower,
And every weed that did grow.

Gertrude and Chauncey Krugh,
And sometimes there was Lynn,
Also the Gerald Sutton Family,
They were Charlie and Iva's kin.

Nolans, Synders, Faurots and Ragers,
And some offspring of Marion Clay,
The Protsmans, Harold and Gladene,
Susie, the secretary every Sunday.

Perry Boroffs and some Leonards,
The Burgers, Neola and Waldo,
And there's a few children
When they decide to go.

Van Gunday, Mrs. Rolsten, Mrs. Dutton,
Who now has been missed?
There are so many, many more,
Enough to make a very long list.

Grandchildren of these parents
Found a place of worship here,
There's also some newcomers
Who've attended in each recent year.

Ministers too have come and gone,
Some were young, some were old,
They moved on at the allotted time
When God's message had been told.

Yesterday's church is long past
But there'll be memories of today,
Of this little church on the corner,
As each goes a separate way.

There is sadness in each heart
Of you, so faithful and true,
You worried and tried, but your best
Was all that you could do.

As the church door is gently closed
By hands with loving care,
May we thank God for the many blessings
That we've been allowed to share.

Written by Alice (Hundley) Kline for the last church service at the Anderson Bethel Church of God on Palm Sunday, March 30th, 1980.

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ROSS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



In 1884, just 100 years ago, the building of Ross Church of the Brethren was completed. Many of the early members moved to the area from Covington, Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

According to Mary Crouch, a former member, now deceased, "For eight years they had not had a church building and so they decided to have a permanent house of worship. It was decided to build a centrally located place among the members. At first it was planned to build on the Theodore Ross farm. It was already staked out, but some thought it would be a more central point up the road, one mile farther east on the George Coffman farm, on the northest corner of what is now the Gallman and Deepcut Road. Mr. Coffman readily agreed to donate the land and he and his wife leased the ground to the officials of the German Baptist Church for as long as it was used for church purposes. The church building was completed August 22, 1884. (Previously members had met in barns and schools).

The work was donated by various people. Alfred Rish and sons were carpenters. Aaron Detrick and his father hauled lumber from "Cottonwood", now known as Elgin. The frame timber was all donated by Theodore Ross. John Coil, according to history, shaved all the shingles for the church. He was a grandfather to the late Rev. A. L. Coil.

The name of the church was changed to Ross Church of the Brethren in honor of Theodore Ross (Alice Cole's father) who was well respected. He had been injured in the Civil War, was a kind and faithful member of the church. He presented the seats to the church and carpet for the pulpit that lasted many years.

The early members were very devout and led what they called the simple life. The men wore long beards, long tailed coats (no collar on the coat, just a band) broad brimmed hats and stiff detachable collars on their shirts with no neck ties. The ladies, too, wore very plain clothing, all dresses were

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similar, long sleeves, fitted bodice and full skirt reaching the ankles, they also wore bonnets and the prayer veil and no make-up was tolerated. They were to be meek and subject to their husbands.

Since wearing jewelry was considered to be vain and decorative, it was not permitted. A necklace or even a wedding ring should not be worn.

On Sundays, a family might invite company home from church. It was wrong to play ball or go fishing. Everyone was to be very pious and read the Bible.

Mary said, "Many times when I was young the men and boys came to church in clean overalls and the women wore print dresses. The men always sat on the west side of the church and the ladies on the east." The seats in use now are the ones that Theodore Ross presented. Prior to these, the first ones were home made by the members.

At first, they sang without a piano or organ. Members would just lead out from where they were sitting in a pew. A few had tuning forks. They had an old pump organ first, then a piano and an organ.

"Rev. Abe Detrick was the first resident minister. Great Grandfather Shellabarger was elected to the ministry on November 7, 1891. He was grandfather to Ray Shellabarger and Pearl Detrick. On October 8, 1897 by own grandfather Calvin Goubeau was ordained. There were many others who preached from time to time. Other resident ministers were Martin Hahn, Thomas Roedecker and Sam Cook.

The Rev. A. L. Coil served 33 years, followed by Walter Binkley who was minister for 23 years, Tom McDonald was minister from July 1980 to January 1983. He and his wife, Mia, moved to Pennsylvania, Rev. Glenn Masser is now serving the church.

Dorothy Boyer, who with her sister attended the Ross Brethren Church as a girl is still a member. She remembers that in the 1930's the men still sat on the west side and the ladies on the east. All that has changed. She states they now have 69 members.

When Pat John, Mary Crouch's daughter asked her mother if the people of the church ever got discouraged, her mother answered "Yes. But we were always able to carry on. There were many times of struggle but God is to be praised for the continuation of this people at this place and we are challenged with the words from the Bible which says: "Occupy till I come".

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church is now located one half mile east of 707 on Shelley Road and one fourth mile west of Elgin Road in Section 14, Union Township.

The church was organized in November, 1871. Meetings were held in a building which stood on a part of the present school parking lot. Later, meetings were held at Gross School The group, six in number, was known as the Mendon Church. Delegates from Harrison Church and Van Wert Church assisted in the organization of the new church. Elder J. H. Manning was Moderator and Aaron Balyeat, Deacon, was Clerk.

In 1879, by voice of the Church, with consent of Association, the name was changed to present name of Pleasant Grove.

In 1880 land on which the present Church stands was donated by Mrs. Elizabeth Coil and construction of the Church began. The original structure was erected at a cost of $1200.00 (much of the material and labor was donated) and was officially dedicated in 1881.

The Church business meetings were held regularly every month, on Saturday afternoon. W. H. Gallant, M. A. Petersein, E. G. Upton, J. R. Price and J. F. Smith were among those who served as Moderators. Those who served

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as clerks were: J. R. Price, M. A. Petersein, J. R. Miller and Milton Deniston.

For a few years Plesant Grove and Mercer Baptist Churches shared the same minister. Later Pleasant Grove and Spencerville Baptist Churches shared the same ministers.

In 1922 and 1923 extensive remodeling was done, including the addition of a full basement and the building was rededicated May 27, 1923.

In 1978 more remodeling was done, including new rest rooms, addition of a nursery and remodeling of the kitchen. The cost was approximately $12,000.00.

Special services honoring the 100th Anniversary of Pleasant Grove were held on October 31, 1971, with Rev. James Dillion of Ohio Baptist Convention as guest speaker. Short talks by former pastors related events which transpired during their ministries. Many former members and friends were present, recalling events of the past. O. W. Coffman (father of Mrs. Alfred Emans) was honored for being the oldest member present with 61 years of continuous membership.

The afternoon was closed by song service led by Dan Miller, followed by refreshments served in the church social room.

On September 8, 1920, R. Shepley was ordained at Pleasant Grove with the help of Rev. Styles and Rev. F. Dudley from Lima Churches.

A business meeting was held July 27, 1918, to see about wood for the coming winter. Each family represented in the church must either give a day and a half work, or a cord of wood, or three dollars in money.

Pastors serving Pleasant Grove have been Rev. C. H. Wood, Rev. Fara Laman, Rev. Wesley Pummel, Rev. Francis Snare, Rev. Walter Wilson, Rev. Walter Sponsel, Rev. Glenn Saunders, Rev. Harold Miller and the present pastor, Rev. S. A. Sedziol.



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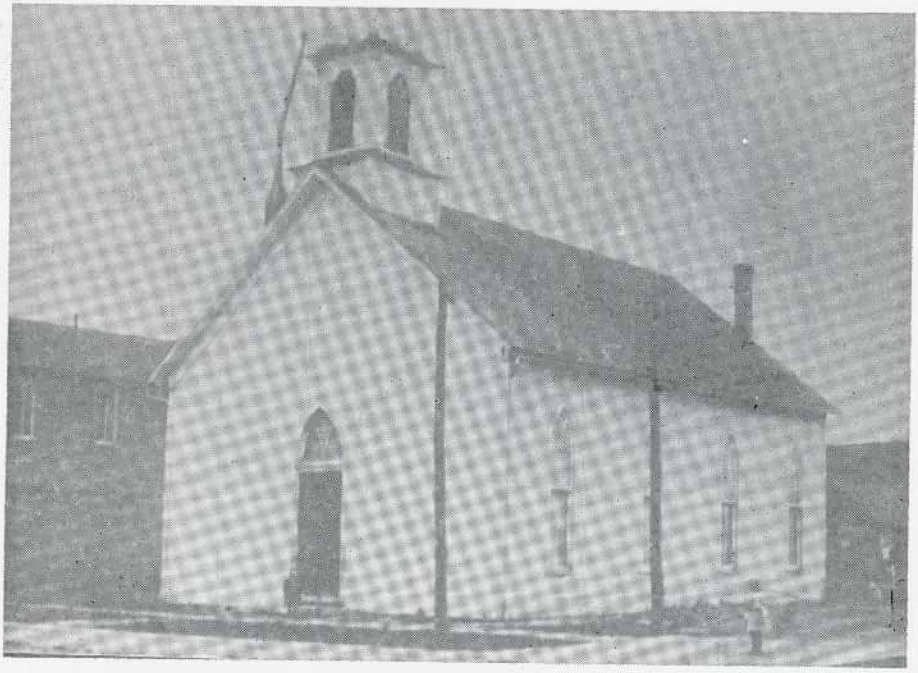
HISTORY OF MENDON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD



In 1877 Rev. Tobias Koogle of the St. Marys Circuit of the Churches of God, which consisted of Neptune, Anderson Bethel and Union Bethel, was invited to preach in the Methodist Church at Mendon. During this revival there were fifty some conversions and Rev. Aukerman, who was next sent to the circuit, began the organization of a Church of God in Mendon. There were twenty-three charter members: Mr. and Mrs. John Rehm, Mr. and Mrs. John Coil, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Wollam, Mr. and Mrs. William Bahemore, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Cisco, Sister Lew Rider, Mrs. and Mrs. Lewis Barber, Mr. and Mrs. Val Moses, Edward Clay, Mrs. Wilson and two daughters, and John Clark.

The early church held their meetings in the Methodist Church, alternating the time so as not to conflict. Sunday School was held on Sunday afternoons at 2:00.

As the congregation grew, plans were made to erect a building of their own. A committee of John Coil, Lewis Barber, and Edward Clay purchased a building site from Christy Clay for $100.00. The new church was built through the donation of time and timber by members at a cost of about $1500.00.

Acording to old tradition, the men's amen corner was on the West front side and the women's corner was located on the front East side. There was a porch, a wide platform, across the front. This was a popular meeting place for the young people before and after services. The building was dedicated in 1887 by Rev. Newcomer of Iowa.

The following ministers then served the circuit: McNutt, Small, Bloyd, Burchard, Poling, Slough, Gatchell, Bartlebaugh, Yoder, Harlan, Tracy, DeHays, and Raach.

Many outstanding revivals were held during the next several years. Many new people were added to the church and the need for a larger Bethel was seen.

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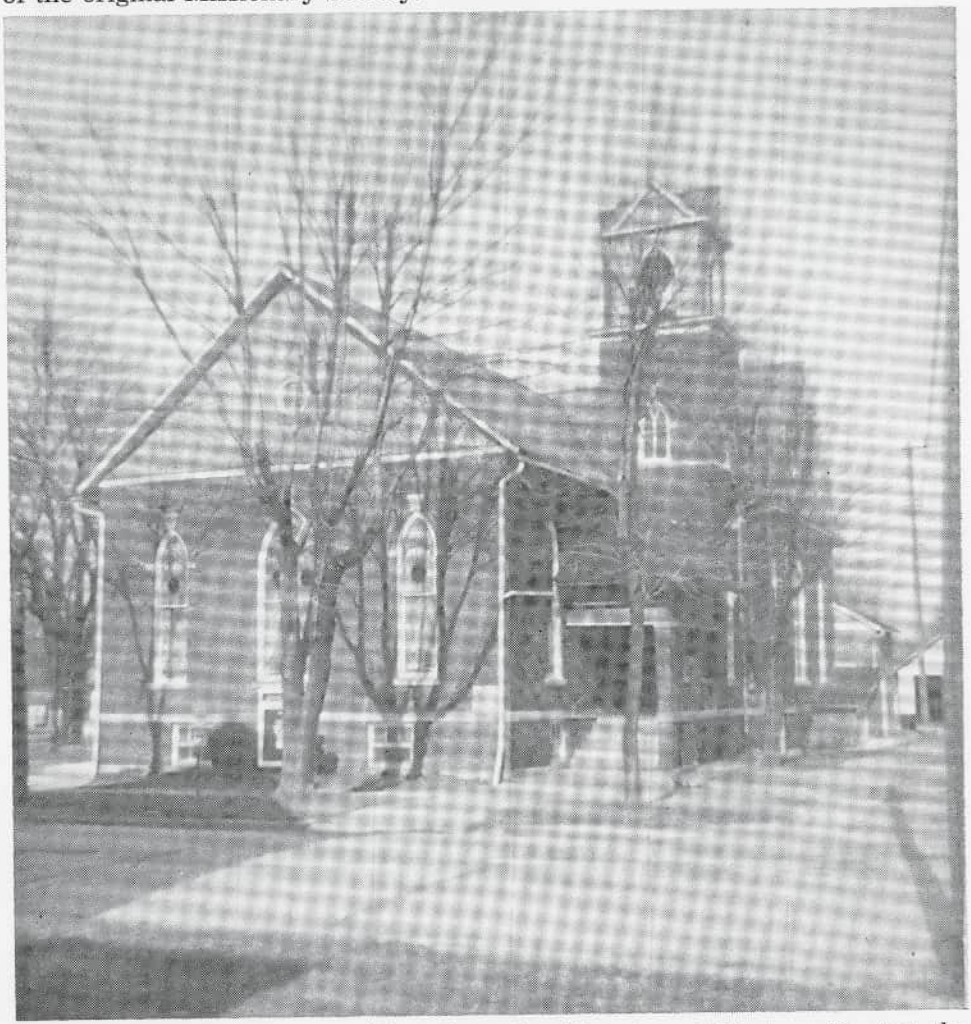
During the ministry of Rev. Raach the plans were completed and the new building was begun. The old church was moved, a basement and Sunday School room added, the entire building was brick veneered, a slate roof added, and stain glass windows installed. The Bethel was completed just after Rev. S. F. Bauders came in 1911. It was dedicated in October, 1911 by the Rev. C. I. Brown, president of Findlay College. The Ladies Aid Society organized in 1882 and it must be said that they have always made a great sacrifice of time and money toward our church. The first Missionary Society materialized in 1919. Mrs. Vergil Griggs is the only living charter member of the original Missionary Society.



The next pastors were Rev. Snavely, Slough and Harlan. During the ministry of Rev. Harlan the church debt was cancelled, the basement repaired, and the house next to the church purchased for a parsonage.

Revs. Frank and Ruth Turner came in 1922. Other pastors who followed were Reverends Strawn, Tippie, Harlan, Hudson, Rahmann, and Guyer.

It was during the ministry of the Revs. Gaylord and Beulah Wilkins that the kitchen and dining rooms were moved and provisions made for a

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little chapel for Junior Church services. An organ for the chapel was given by the parents of Rev. Wilkins.

July 20, 1947 the Mendon First Church of God celebrated its sixieth anniversay. Rev. William Wagner was pastor. It was a special day, with a basket dinner at noon. Rev. Harry Rahmann and Dr. Tennyson Guyer were special speakers. During the services a new electric organ was dedicated.

Pastor A. Gail Dunn was the next minister. The new parsonage was built, the church basement and nursery were redecorated, and the Sunday School room floor and pews were refinished. On Feb. 6, 1959, the church was completely destroyed by fire. Plans for a new church were laid immediately and on Aug. 2, 1959 ground breaking services were held. The cornerstone was laid Oct. 25, 1959. The following year dedication services were held. Reverends Dunn, Baulders, Harmon, Ruth Turner and Dr. R. M. Hudson participated in the morning program. A basket dinner and program was enjoyed by an overflow crowd. Afteroon participants included Rev. Frank Turner, Dunn, Strawn, Snavely, and Dr. Tennyson Guyer. Keys to the new church were presented to the planning committees and trustees including: Floyd Young, Emlyn Lampy, Harold Hays, Evelyn Kelner, Max Shaffer and Jim Dutton.

The cost of the new church was about $105,000. Mortgage burning services were held May 27, 1962.

In 1967, Rev. A. Gail Dunn was transferred to a new position at the First Church of God in Harrisburg, Pa. after serving the Mendon church for 12 years.

December 8, 1968 Rev. and Mrs. Glenn Masser and sons, Bob and Phil, began their ministry which extended for about 16 years. Rev. Masser is now pastoring the Ross Brethern Church.

During the period of 1967 to 1983, many people were led to Jesus Christ as Savior, and our Lord was indeed glorified through baptisms, child dedications, weddings and many wonderful services. Our hearts were also saddened many times by members and friends of our church and community who were snatched from our circle of friendship and love through death.

On Oct. 30, 1977, we celebrated our Centennial during our Rally Day emphasis. Mrs. Vergil Griggs introduced our very special guest and speaker, The Honorable Tennyson Guyer, 4th District, Ohio, Congress of the United States, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. "Tenny" was also a former pastor of the Mendon church.

One of the outstanding projects during the above period was a new roof renovation project which cost approximately $55,000.00. Through committees and individual efforts this total amount was raised in one year's time. A mortgage burning service was held following Rally Day, Oct. 6, 1980.

The Mendon First Church of God is of the followship of the Churches of God in North America. Findlay College is supported by this denomination.

On April 1, 1984 Rev. Conrad L. Chambers, and his wife Nancy, were called to serve the pastorate of our church.

Rev. Chambers graduated in May, 1984, from Winebrenner Theological Seminary in Findlay, Ohio, where he received his Master of Divinity Degree.

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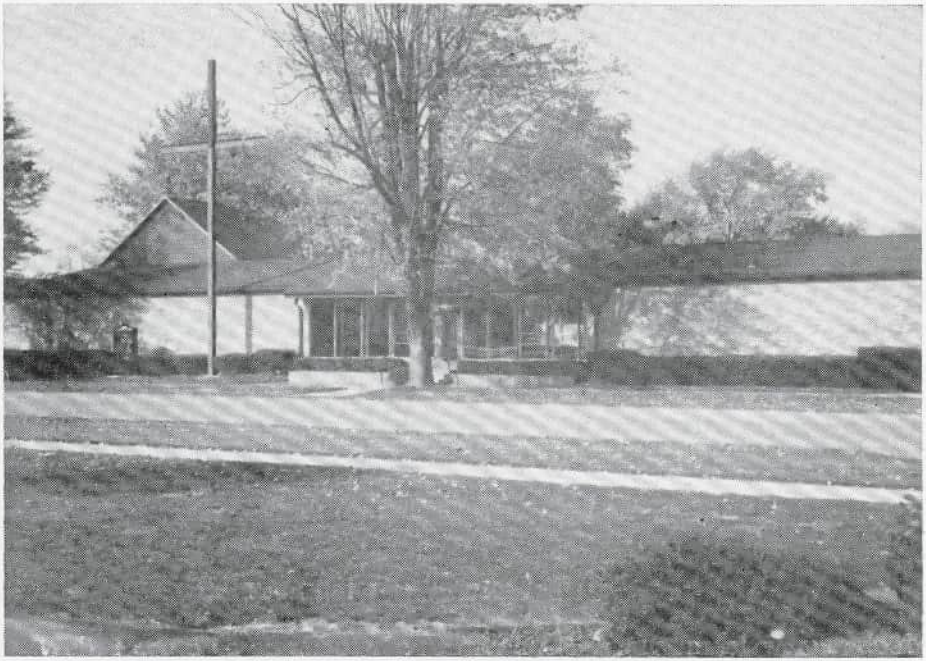



First Church of God Ladies Aid Society. Standing: Cecil Hamilton, Lavon Huey, Mildred Kruger. Seated: Bessie Lutz Snavely, Thelma Boroff, Vergil Griggs.

GRANDMA

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A HISTORY OF CHARITY UNION FRIENDS



Nearly a century ago there was an evangelist who was affiliated with The Society of Friends (also known as Quakers). He came to Charity Hall in Section 31 of Salem Township in Auglaize County, Ohio to hold a revival meeting which had many far-reaching effects in every sense of the word.

As a result of this revival meeting, a number of concerned people decided to establish Charity Union Meeting of Friends. The present meeting house was constructed in 1888 by Mr. Rutledge of Liberty Township, Mercer County, Ohio.

This building was placed on a tract of land just a half mile west of Charity Hall on the west side of the Mercer-Auglaize County Line in the southeastern corner of Union Township, Mercer County. The land was a donation from the farm of Hiram Wollam.

The story is told of how Hiram Wollam would go back to his woods on the north side of his farm for his daily private prayer and devotions. All would be quiet for awhile and before long all the immediate neighbors would hear Hiram Wollman praying very much alond. One may wonder if this had much value and we will have to conclude that it did because there are three Wollam sons who later answered the call to the ministry of the Lord.

In the early days of Charity Union, there were several families that took a very active part in all phases of the meetings. Some of these that come to our memory are the following: Bailey, Hesse, Wells, Wharton, Wollam, and Young.

Charity Union became affiliated with Friends Chapel Monthly Meeting, also a part of Van Wert Quarterly Meeting, and with Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends.

There were as many as four meetings served by one pastor who lived in the parsonage of Hopewell Township some four miles south of Rockford.

In 1948 the meeting house was completely painted and the interior was redecorated and renewed. On this occasion, we observed the 60th Anniversary

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of Charity Union. At this service of rededication, it was our privilege to have Mike Wollam of Ashtabula, Ohio present as one of the last of the charter members.

Here is a partial list of the pastors who have served over the years: Albert Ferstenberger, Elmer Hale, Fred Bouse, Harry M. Kreider, William Wright, Robert Goodwin, Dewey Howell, Carmon Cox, Ralph and Ruth Eastburn, Albert Bohnert, Elmer Brown, Clayton Hiatt, Seth and Ethel Jackson, Robert Shockney, Morris Barber, Waldo and Dorcas Seawell, Keith Jones and Evon Becker.

As one reads some of the minutes and looks at the list of pastors, you cannot help but notice how Charity Union was a place where Friends did meet for worship and fellowship.

We are glad to be a part of our immediate neighborhood and of the larger community of Mendon and Union Township, Mercer County, Ohio. We sincerely hope that we have met our responsibility to our community in a reasonable manner.

UNION TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES

Data for this article is from P. W. A. Atlas, Cemetery, Census and Court House records, and other related materials.

BETHEL

This cemetery, located in Section 26, Union Township, Mercer County, on the Mendon-Neptune Road, three miles from Mendon, then ¼ mile east on Mercer Road, lies on the banks of the eight-mile creek and opposite the Hamilton-Bethel Church. This land was a U. S. Grant to William Hamilton and was acquired by the trustees from the Hamilton heirs in 1872 and 1877. The first burial was Maria Hamilton, d/o William and Almira C. Abbey Hamilton on June 23, 1835 at the age of 4 months and 15 days. This William was the brother of Justin well-known early pioneer. This cemetery is very well kept and currently is used for burials. The Care-taker is Ernie Rasawehr, Mendon, Ohio.

COIL

This family burial plot was owned by Andrew Coil and used as a private cemetery. Andrew was the originator of Coiltown which was laid out in 1824 but soon was non-existent. His daughter Elizabeth married Thomas Parrott, who played a major role in the origin of Mendon. The cemetery is located in Section 21, just outside of Mendon on Route 707 to the Max Shaffer farm, then due north to a plot situated in the field, a short distance from the St. Marys river. This private burial plot has suffered the ravages of time, with many stones broken, buried or missing. It is assumed that Andrew was buried here, but to date no stone has been found. Approximately nine stones are visible there with only a lonely pine tree to mark their location.

FRYER

This plot located on Route 707, north of Mendon directly across from the Mendon Cemetery is in Section 16. The land was probably owned by the Fryer family in conjunction with the Fryer School which was located just east of the cemetery at the crest of the hill on Hamilton Road. This is no longer used for burials, but is well taken care of by Ernie Rasawehr, care-taker.

GOODWIN RHODES

This burial plot is located in Section 2, one half mile south of the County Line Road in the southeast corner of the farm once owned by John Goodwin, Sr. The heirs of Richard Boroff were the recent owners until 1980, when it was sold to James Rider Krendl. Two Goodwins and two members of the

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Rhodes family are buried there, along with several unmarked graves, Samanth E. Goodwin (1860-1878) is the oldest. This burial ground is no longer used.

HAMILTON

On a slight rise along Twelve Mile Creek, this burial area is located in Section 28 on the north side of Mercer Road ¼ mile west of the Celina-Mendon Road. It was originated by Justin Hamilton in 1853, and sold to the trustees in 1912 and made public. Some of Justin and Eliza Rhodes Hamilton's family are buried there as follows Eliza Lucinda, w/o Austin Barber, Almira w/o John Roether, Emily w/o Andrew Snavely, Lucius Hamilton and wife Mary E. Miller, Justin D. Hamilton and wife Eliza J. and several children of these familes, along with other descendents of the Hamilton family. The last burial there was Etta M. Ballinger d/o J. A. Roether in 1933. The plot is found in the southeast corner of the Carpenter farm and consists of .5 of an acre. It is well kept. Care-taker Ernie Rasawehr.

HAYS

This family cemetery was set aside by Alfred Hays in 1841, and was located in Section 15 on the Hays farm, but has since been relocated in the Mendon Cemetery. Several members of the Hays family were buried there.

HUSSEY

This burial plot is found in Section 25 on the Deep-cut Road to the Elgin Road, then south from the intersection in a field a short distance from the old brick house. This land was a U. S. Grant to William Hussey in 1843 and set aside for burial purposes in that year. This is the burial place of Thomas Parrott, who along with Justin Hamilton, laid out the town of Mendon. His wife Elizabeth Coil Parrott is buried there also. This being a family plot, it is only cleaned up periodically. There are approximately forty-five burials in this plot.

KRUGH

This burial area is located in Section 17, on the northeast corner of the farm owned by Gould Weaver, one mile north of Mendon, then one and one-half mile west. The land was donated by Jacob Krugh and turned over to the trustees in 1872. The land at one time was owned by Barnabus Coon and contained .25 of an acre. Only cleaned up periodically, the lowly woodchucks have made it their permanent residence.

MENDON

The cemetery, taken from the northeast corner of the Fireoved farm, adjoins the Adams farm. It is in Section 16 on Route 707 one mile north of Mendon. Land from the State of Ohio to George Frank in 1871, and to David Fireoved to Mendon village in 1889 for public use. The earliest stone found there is Infant Lampy in 1858. Several of these early stones were from the Coil Plot and were children of Henry and Nancy Coil Lampy. A more detained report of this cemetery is found elsewhere in this publication.

MURLIN (MERLIN)

This burial ground is listed as the latter spelling in the P. W. A. Atlas the plot was located in Section 32, across the Twelve Mile Creek, north of Hamilton Cemetery on the Mercer Road. In a very inaccessable location, this plot was started by Daniel Murlin in 1834. He owned the farm now occupied by Glen Harner. Walter Murlin remembers a large Murlin stone surrounded with an iron fence, which dissappeared during the depression days. Others remember seeing two small childrens stones marked with a rail fence. One rumor circulating is that they were Indian graves, and although these stones were seen in the late thirties to early forties, today

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they are non-existant. Another rumor tells the story that these children had a contageous disease, and were buried there for health reasons. Daniel and wife Laura L. Davis Murlin are buried in the Hamilton-Bethel Cemetery, and it might be assumed that someone moved them accounting for the disappearance of the Murlin stone. No doubt, the small stones might be found someday, just below the surface where as yet, the land surrounding them remains intact. The real truth about this burial ground may never be known.

PALMER

This cemetery is located in Section 19, on the Palmer Road north of Route 707. A more descriptive history of this cemetery will also be found elsewhere in this publication.

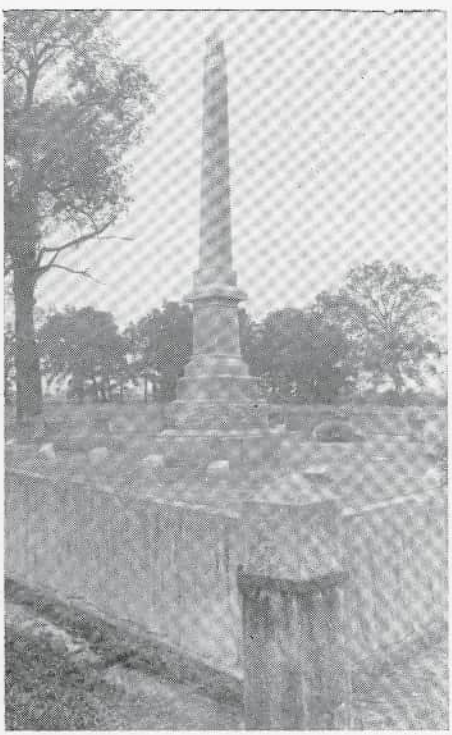
SHERER

This plot can be found in Section 22, north on Route 707 from Mendon then east three-eighth of a mile on the Deep-cut Road, on the north bank of the St. Marys river. The land which was formerly owned by Jacob Sherer, is a very well kept cemetery. The caretaker is Ernie Rasawehr. It is an old cemetery no longer used for burial.

TOMLINSON

This attractive cemetery is located at the corner of Tomlinson Road and the Mercer-Van Wert County line road, across from the Wesley Church. The land was a grant to Harrison Boroff and was purchased by the trustees in 1885 as per the P. A. W. Atlas found in the Mercer County Recorder's office. An article by Lois Bassett states that the land was donated by John Ross and that the first three burials were from his family in 1837. It consists of five acres and is very well kept, and has several beautiful shade trees. This cemetery is still very active and is cared for by Martin L. Trisel.

THE PALMER CEMETERY





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The Palmer Cemetery on Palmer Road in Union Township, near Mendon, was constructed by the sons of Richard and Hannah Palmer in 1884-85.

Richard was born in 1779 in Buck's County, Pennsylvania. His father, Robert was said to be a wealthy Quaker landowner. Richard's grandfather, also named Robert, came to America with the followers of William Penn.

At an early age, Richard joined his brother Benjamin in Baltimore to learn the blacksmithing trade. He then contracted with the government to teach blacksmithing to the Indians. He left Baltimore and traveling by pack-horses he covered 480 miles.

He arrived at the Fort (in Ft. Wayne) where he remained for five years, completing his contract in 1809. He then moved to Miami County, Ohio, where he married Hannah Webb. In 1832, they moved their family to Union Township. Richard and Hannah were probably the largest landowners in the area, owning 960 acres in Union and Dublin Townships.

One of the sons of Richard and Hannah was Thomas who went to California during the gold rush and remained there for about twenty years. The family in Ohio had lost close contact with him so Joseph, Tom's twin brother, decided to go to California, find him and persuade him to return to Ohio. His sister Hulda wanted so much to see him. According to family history, Tom remarked on his return that it took him six months by wagon train to get to California and six days by train to get back to Ohio.

When Hulda died in 1884, the twin brothers decided to establish a cemetery for their family. To pay for its construction, they traded an 80 acre farm to the builder, J. D. Halter and Co. of Lima Ohio. They got the idea for the cemetery from something they saw in California.

An impressive stone archway to a cemetery fenced in by a stone enclosure is guarded by two stone lions. Within the fenced area is a large stone monument. The graves of Richard and Hannah are located in front and near the mounment with Joseph, Thomas and Hulda to the south. None of these three, the latter mentioned, ever married. North and in the same row are the graves of Benjamin, Richard's son and John Palmer another son who married Hannah Hitchner. Nearby are the graves of Parmelia Palmer McKaig and John McKaig. In all, Richard and Hannah Webb had six children.

Direct lineal descendants of John and Hannah Hitchner Palmer living in Union and Dublin Towship, Merle Hays, Joanna Hays Miller, Winifred Skinner Maurer and Maxine Clover Putman, all take an active interest in the cemetery. Frankie Lee Hays, 99 years old, mother of Merle and Joanna is still living.

For years the Kelner family maintained and supervised the cemetery. Robert Kelner is descended from Parmelia Palmer McKaig and lives on Palmer Road. He keeps a watchful eye on the cemetery.

The descendants explain that vandals and the ravages of the enviroment are responsible for some deterioration. They also suggest that although no more space is available within the wall, the cemetery could be utilized today by burying outside the wall. Grave sites have been marked off on the west side.

MENDON CEMETERY

According to the old record book of the Mendon Cemetery, Norval (Louie) Howell had been in charge of the Mendon Cemetery for twenty years. He and his wife Opal tended to the mowing, cleaning and general management For some time, the Cemetery has been under the direction and supervision of the Mendon Town Council.

Although there are some early entries concerning the payments for lots as early as 1895, the first account of a Board of Trustees meeting was on

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January 9, 1905. According to the minutes of the meeting, the Trustees of the Cemetery "met and organized". Members of this Board were W. T. Hankins, Chairman, A. H. Barber, Treasurer, and W. M. Miller, Secretary.

On November 6 of the same year, the Trustees again convened. They discussed and decided to buy markers for all lots laid out on the old "platt". Also, they ordered six inch tile to be placed along the road in front of the Cemetery. The bank was to be graded and a hitch rack (for horses) erected. Gravel for hitching was to be placed along the rack.

A. H. Barber was one of the owners of the Hussey and Barber store. He was the grandfather of John C. Barber and Claryce Ann Hickernell who resides in Mendon. W. M. Miller was an undertaker and owner of the building presently occupied by Drake and Shaffer. He also owned the farm now in possession of Orville Now.

Early in 1906, the name James W. Dutton, grandfather of Jim and Tom, appears as one of the Trustees. It was decided to build a fence around three sides of the Cemetery. Part of the Cemetery was rented to Perry Bogart for pasture for the season for twenty-two dollars and fifty cents.

Although there is no indication of lot size (for one or two persons) the records show entries for five and ten dollars for the purchase of lots in 1911. Today they are available to Mendon residents for $120.00 for two graves, and $160.00 for non-residents.

It must be realized that early in this history, all of the work including digging the graves was done by hand, mowing was accomplished with a push mower.

W. M. Hays submitted a bid to do the mowing for $6.50 for each mowing. He would also dig graves: children to twelve years, $3.00, adults,$4.00, steel and cement vaults, $5.00. W. M. Hays was the father of Jo Miller and Bud Hays.

It was during the year of 1916 that David Fireoved (grandfather of Wayne who with his wife, Hazel, lives in the farm house that his grandfather built) purchased 9½ acres of the Cemetery grounds for $666.00.

In 1913, an agreement was entered into with A. C. Sheets of Van Wert, Ohio. He was to build a mausoleum and to sell crypts within it. At its completion, it was to be turned over to the Trustees along with an endownment fund for its upkeep. It is noted that in 1915, the sum of $522.00 was paid to the Trustees for this purpose. The receipt was signed by G. H. Golden and J. B. Maurer. The former was the proprietor of a grocery store. J. B. Maurer was the grandfather of John Maurer who presently owns and operates Maurer's Hardware. S. A. Heppeard was the Secretary at that time. A credit for $2.00, rental for a crypt, was listed to the J. H. Manning heirs. In the early 1940's the mausoleum was torn down due to general deterioration.

Also in 1913, the Trustees ordered that $279.75 be paid to the E. T. Barnum Iron Works for the fence. O. F. Geiger, former publisher of the "Mendon Herald" was to receive $22.00 for printing. A. B. Clover was to be paid $6.00 for auto hire. Very early he had a Hupmobile and at another time a Cole. He was the father of Maxine Putman and the grandfather of Howdy Garwick. The Trustees were going to look at other cemeteries to see about "grading, laying out and fencing".

The Gordon Hauss and Folk Co. had submitted a bill for $26.88 for wire fence. This business was formerly located just south of and adjacent to the Town Hall.

In 1914, a contract was granted to Schuyler Lemunyon to erect the iron fence along the public highway, State Route 117 (now State Route 707) at $2.00 per day. He was paid $18.00 for the job. At the same rate he was paid

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$4.00 for painting the fence. A bid from Perry Bogart to mow the Cemetery was needed and accepted. The first mowing was to be at $10.00 and each succeeding mowing at $8.00. O. W. Spicer cared for the Cemtery in 1915 for $84.00 for the year.

In 1917, the Trustees (J. B. Maurer, Secretary) decided to build a cement block building, 12 foot x 20 foot, to be placed west of the mausoleum and that trees, either maple or elm, should be planted in early spring. J. C. Custer was a member of the Board of Trustees in 1917. W. M. Hays was employed to care for the Cemetery.

In June of that same year, Vern Clay who operated the meat market was elected a Trustee and became Treasurer. Perry Roebuck (father of Opal Lewis and grandfather of Kathleen Fox) was paid $1.50 and A. W. Copeland $5.00 for planting trees.

Joe Drake Jr. bid on the mowing in 1919 to be done for $7.50 each time. In March 1931, six bids ranging from $5.00 to $6.85 were considered. The bid of Harry Emans (father of Alfred and Stanley Emans) for $5.00 per mowing was accepted.

A motion was made and approved that money collected from the County Treasurer for the Cemetery be obtained from the Village Treasurer. In 1919, the balance in the treasury was $301.82.

In 1920, J. W. Dotson was being paid at the rate of $8.50 per mowing. Clarence Dotson was paid $7.00 in July and September. Apparently Clarence continued as caretaker through 1927. Then there was a period when various people were involved. At one time Waldo Thomas dug the graves and someone else did the mowing. Some time later Dale Hays was caretaker, followed by Louie Howell and today Tim Richard is serving in that capacity. When Louie first accepted the responsibility, he was being paid $54.00 per month, with responsibilities far beyond monthly mowing. Today's rate is $200.00 per month.

A walk through the Cemetery leads to the monument of men who served their country in the Civil War, World War I and World War II and of many people who once lived in this community. The family names bring nostalgic memories of those buried there.

OLDEST RESIDENTS

Mrs. Frankie Lee Hays, one of Mendons oldest living residents, was born on December 12, 1884, the youngest daughter of Levi and Elisha (Lida) Palmer Fireoved, on a farm near Mendon. She will be 100 years old this December.

Frankie graduated from Mendon High School in 1904, and has missed very few alumni meetings since then. Also in 1904 she married Willis Milton Hays, and to this union were born: Jessie, Joanna, Lenore, Merle and Zane. Joanna Miller and Merle live in Mendon. The others are deceased. There are six grandchildren: Jack E. Miller, Joann Watts Dudgeon, Helen Watts Stein, Marilyn Miller Ruhlen, Willis Watts and Peggy Lee Hays. There are fifteen great-grandchildren and seventeen great-great-grandchildren.

Frankie has always lived a busy fruitful life as a farm wife and mother and later as factory worker at Goodyear during World War II. She was active in the United Methodist Church where she is a member and was present when the corner stone was laid.

Chester A. Arthur was president of the United States when she was born and she can remember 19 presidents since then. There are so many interesting things she can tell about the last 100 years.

Frankie now resides at Shane Hill Nursing Home at Rockford and enjoys visits from her family and friends.

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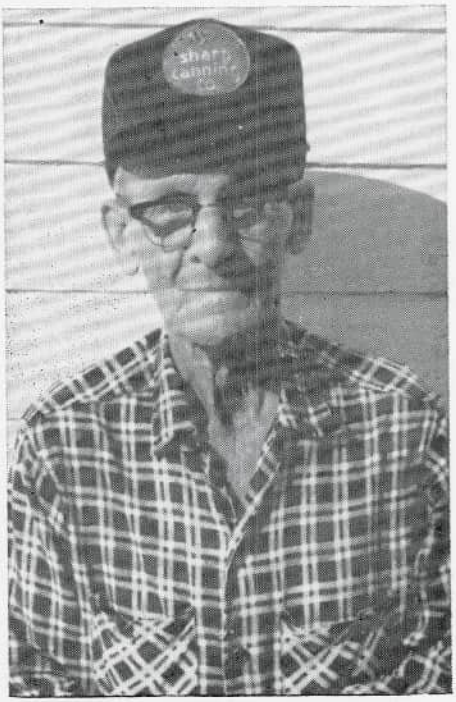
Frankie Fireoved Hays, 99



Harry Emans, 98



Earl Wilkins, 93

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Roy Clay, 93



Merle Hickernell, 92



***The picture of the house on the front cover of this book is the oldest house in Mendon. It was the Christian Maurer residence and is now owned by Ronald W. and Sally Miller.

The cover picture was taken from the 1882 edition of The History of Van Wert and Mercer Counties.

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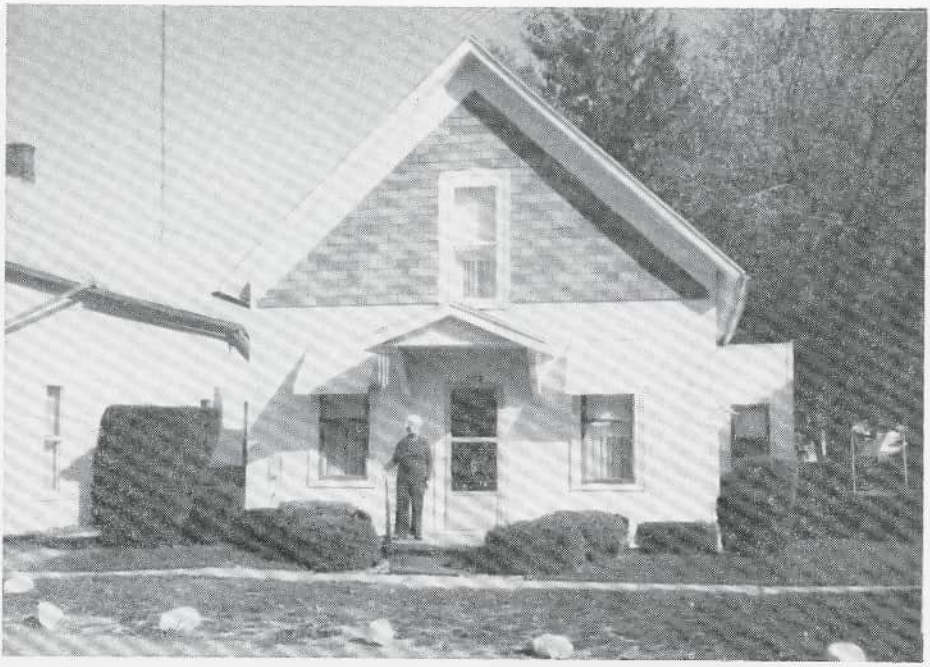

Second oldest house in town. Home of Bessie Snavely on North Green.

MY GRANDMA



Home of Forest and Dorothy Dilbone on West Mill.
(formerly post office)

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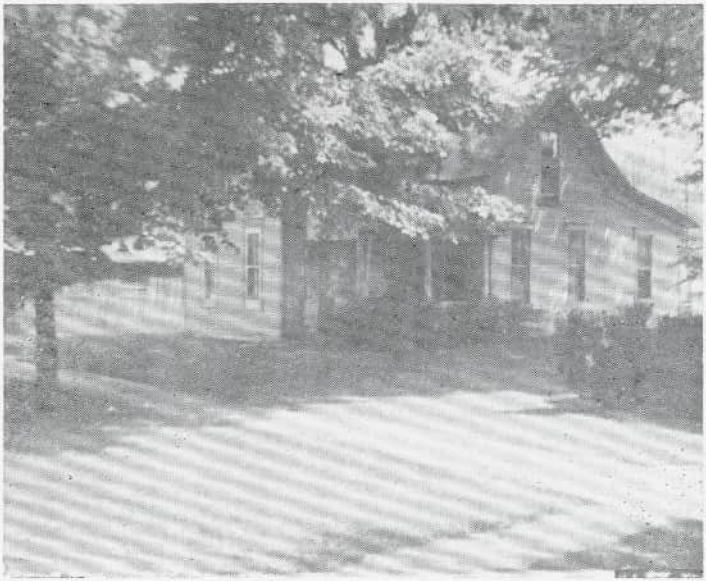

Painter home on North Green — Also 1st Methodist Parsonage



Mendon Community Band

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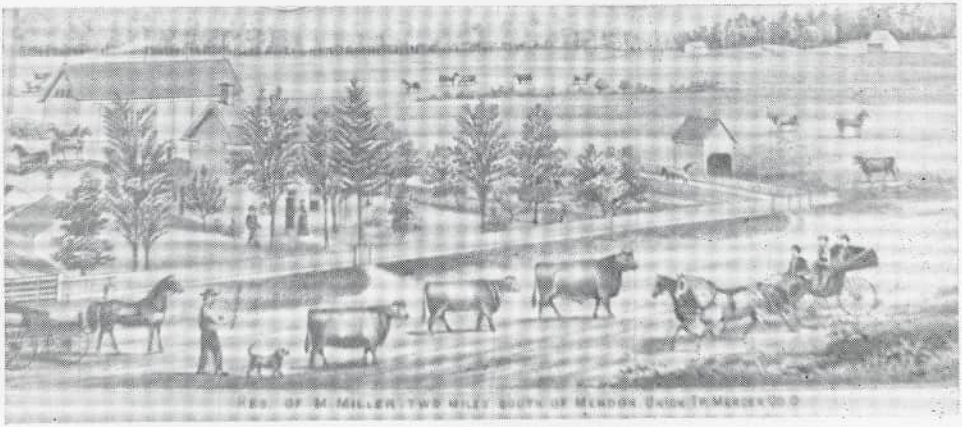
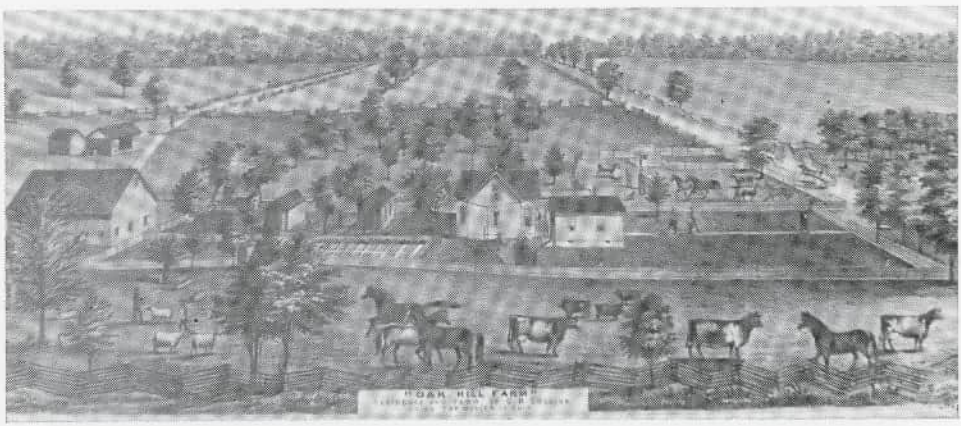


Located south of town, last house on left on Celina-Mendon Road



Located on Mercer Rd., west of Celina-Mendon Rd. First house on left past iron bridge. Now owned by Stose.

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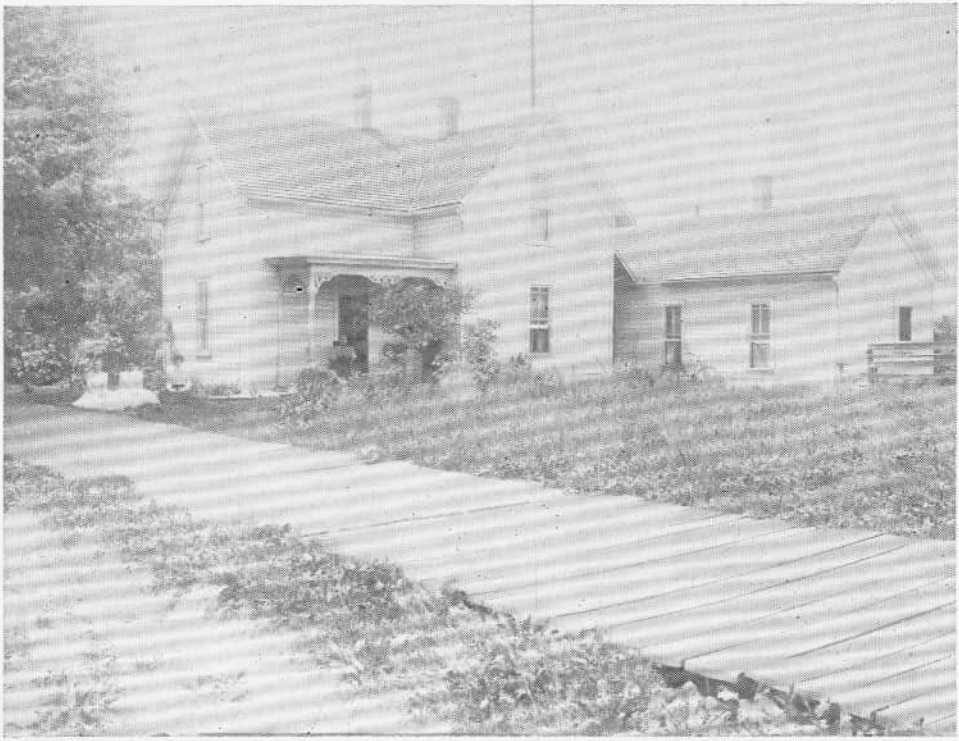

Home of Louie and Opal Howell on South Main



**A. B. Clover farm at corner of 117 & 707 north of Mendon.
Home of Scott and Debbie Garwick.**

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1913 flood taken at Railroad Bridge east of town



Home of Jim and Marty Heck on West Walnut.
Lumber Yard in background.

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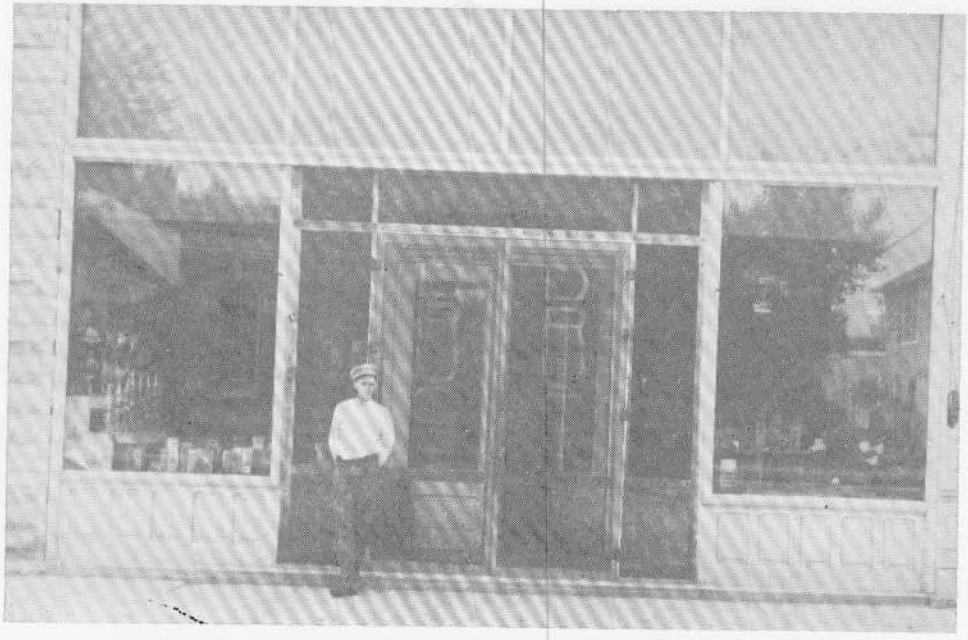
Bridge over Twelve Mile Creek, looking north, at corner of Mercer and Celina-Mendon Rd.



Drug Store located where north side of Drake & Shaffer now stands

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Fourth of July or Centennial Parade



Home of Bob and Virginia Sacher, corner of Wayne & Market

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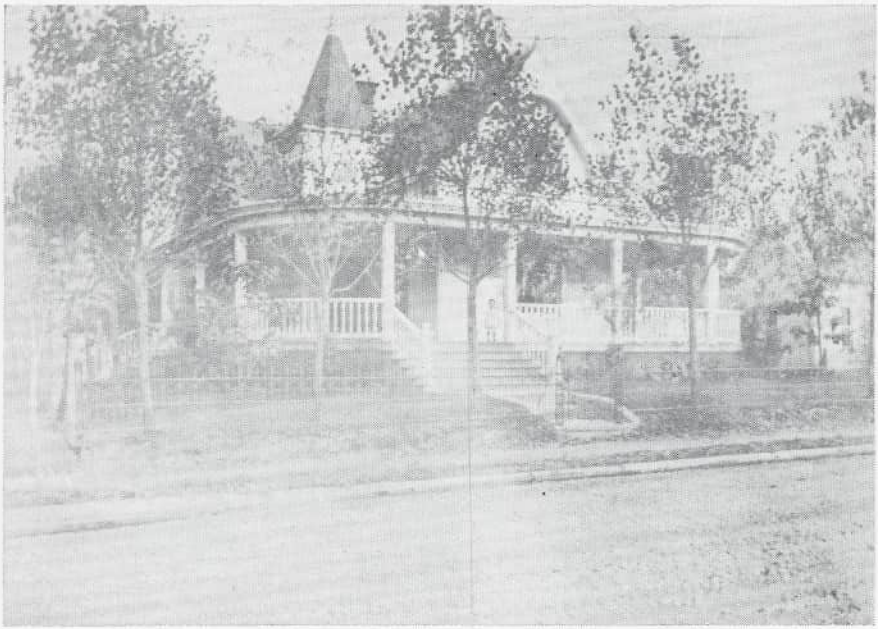
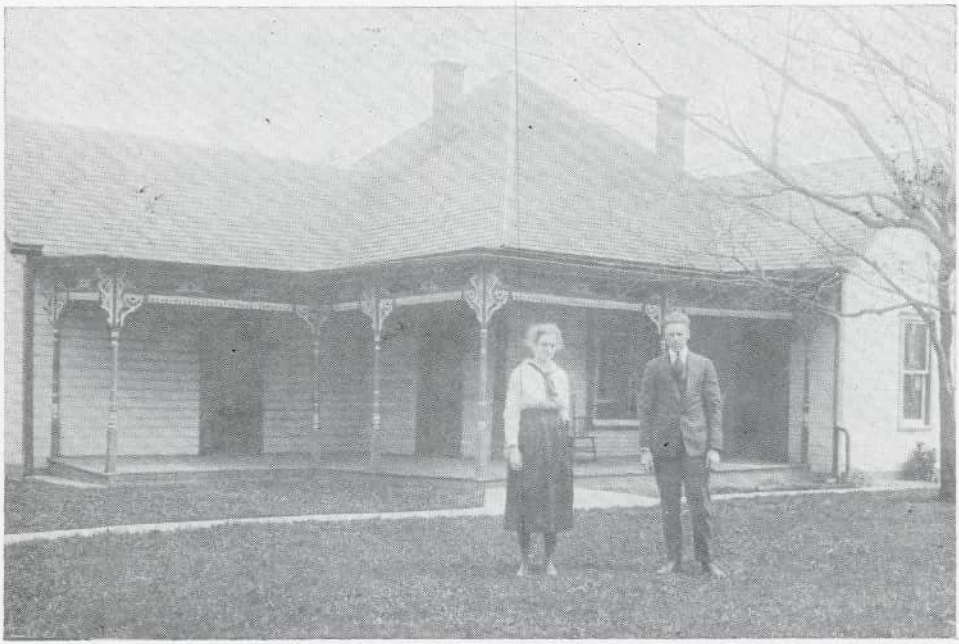


Home of Gene and Marilyn Ruhlen on South Main



Home of Ralph Miller on West Walnut, formerly Church of God Parsonage on North Wayne.

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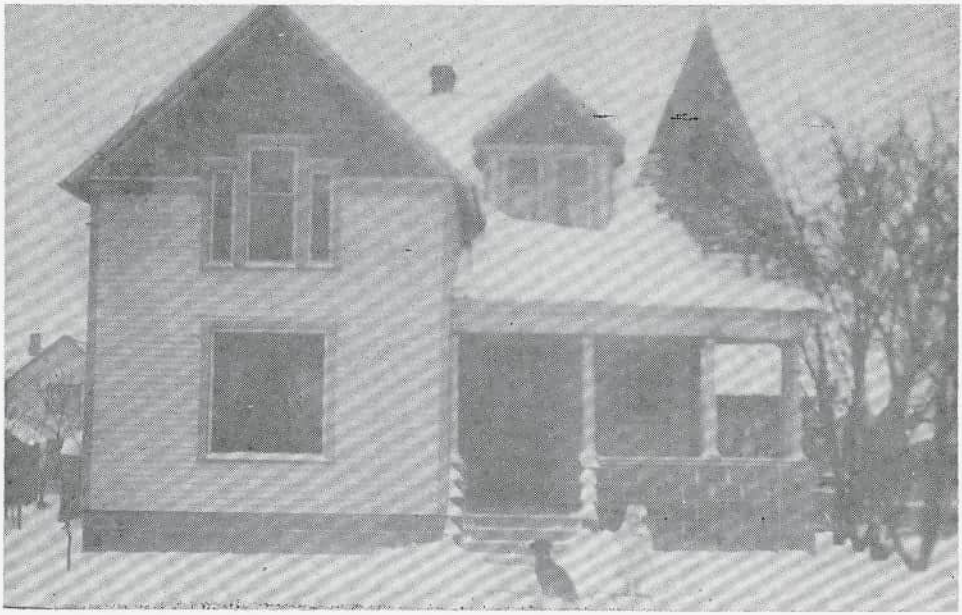

Home of Fred and Wilma Painter on South Main



Maypole Dance. Notice Union Hotel and Mendon Service in background

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Home of Joe and Velma Clay on South Main. Pictured, Clara M. Barber



Home of Jim and Eileen Severns on West High

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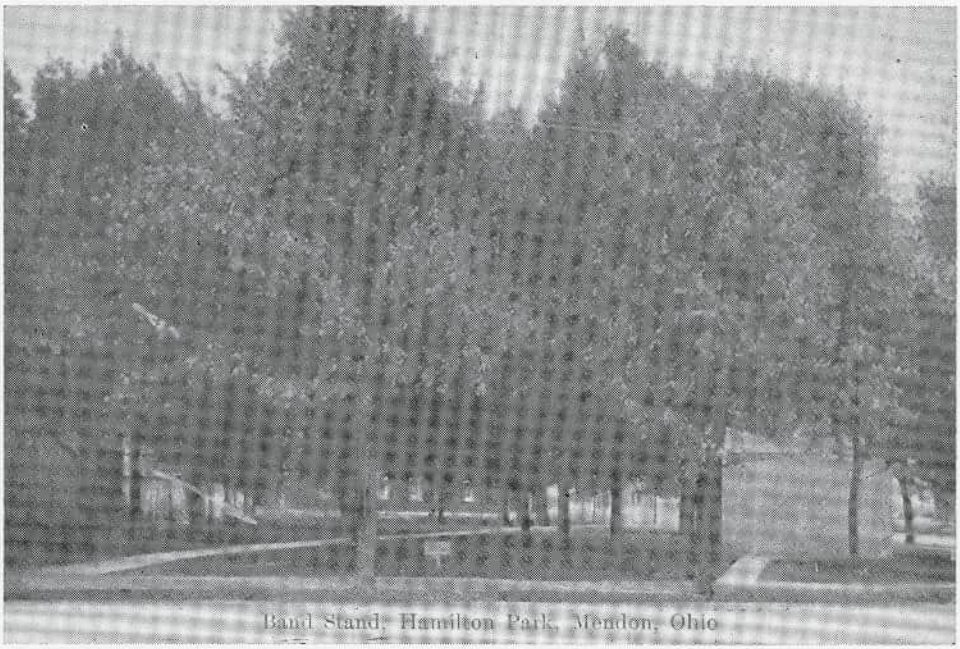
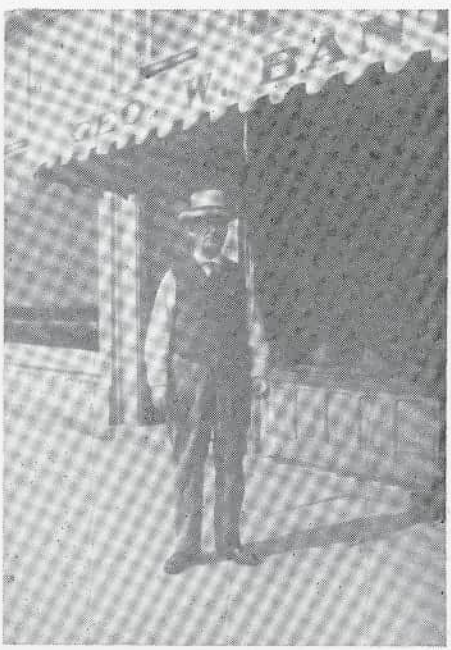


Band Stand, Hamilton Park, Meadon, Ohio



Geo. W. Banter Drugstore located where Hansel Recreation is.

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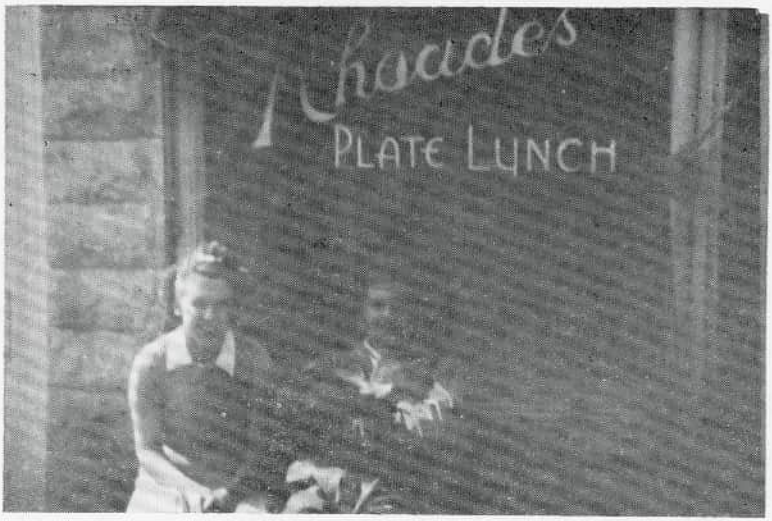

Rhoades Restaurant located where north side of Drake & Shaffer now stands.

ONE OF THE LESSER KNOWN FACTS ABOUT BUFFALO BILL CODY

Written by - Dorothy Lutz Purdy

"Tell 'em mother," I'd implore, "about how Buffalo Bill, **the real Buffalo Bill,** stayed at your house when you were young, about how he sat next to you at the dinner table and what he said — and everything."

I'd take an I-told-you-so stance, relishing the awed fascination of my young friends, as my mother confirmed that—yes, what I had said was true. Then she'd relate all that she could recall about Bill Cody's visit to the tiny town of Mendon, Ohio, which as nearly as she could remember was in the spring of 1912.

There was no hotel in town and often Grandpa would invite those coming as guest speakers and entertainers to stay in their home.

Entire families of the townsfolk would come hurrying up from the side streets, and those who came from the surrounding farms stepped from their buggies and their model "T" Fords with spine-tingling anticipation. It was "lyceum night" and Buffalo Bill was the outside world, with all of its excitement, coming to Mendon.

Regardless of what the word "lyceum" meant to Webster, it meant a chief mode of entertainment to Mendon and to hundreds of small towns like it. The "Lyceum Course" was made up of magicians, ministers, a Chinese traveling man, authors, and in the lean months, home talent plays and programs. Bill Cody was unparalleled fare as far as Mendon was concerned.

It wasn't the young, somewhat arrogant Indian fighter who sat at dinner with my mother telling her that "just a little smile" from her would be all the sugar he would need for his coffee. She recalls a tall, slender, very personable but mild mannered, older man with long, white hair and a trimmed goatee.

His money, youth and energy had largely been spent. Traveling from town to town during that period, he seemed to welcome the small town hospitality and the quarters and dimes collected at their town halls.

No one was disappointed. He spoke with great enthusiasm. His rapt audience (some of whom had never left Mercer County) heard marvelous tales of his Civil War scouting, the Indians he had fought, the five thousand

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buffalo he had shot, and of all the important people who had seen his Wild West Show.

It's true, William Cody had traveled all over the United States and Europe. He had met Kings and Queens and all sorts of important people.

Personally I feel that one of his more meaningful experiences occurred just a few years before he died. He had dinner with my mother, Lucy Maurer Lutz.

MENDON SERVICE COMPANY

Another business that developed with the coming of the railroad, was the Mendon Equity, an elevator owned and operated by a group of farmers, located on South Main Street, next to the Town Hall.

Gordon, Hauss & Folk, who also had a store in St. Marys, Ohio, bought the Mendon Equity. They added their buggy and wagon business to the elevator and grinding business and became a general store-type business.

In 1924, Gordon, Hauss & Folk, sold to Jim and Myrtle Dutton, who changed the name to The Mendon Service Company.

Their services included custom grinding, farm implement and appliance sales, plumbing and farm feeds. Later a 30,000 egg incubator was added on the second floor and chicks were hatched and sold.

Most of the employees were from Mendon, including Merritt (Meck) Archer, Blaine Drake, Harley Seibert, Tommy Thomas, Carl Emans, Bill Hansel, Wilbur Leasor, Harold Hays, Lloyd Simpson, Dave Boroff, Earl Wilkins, George Meihls, Leroy Hooks, Alfred Emans, Cliff Lindeman, Wes Miller, Simon Clay and others.

The Mendon Service Company remained in operation until 1962 when Mr. & Mrs. Dutton both retired. When they retired everything was sold at public auction but the building.

Dick Godwin and his son Mike of Mendon were responsible for the demolition of the building.

This property was purchased for the drainage disposal system of the Third National Bank.

Mr. Dutton passed away in 1973 and Mrs. Dutton in 1983.



Mendon Service Co., formerly Gordon, Hauss & Folk

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MENDON SERVICE GRAIN COMPANY

When the TD & I railroad came to Mendon in September of 1878, becoming the CH & D railroad in 1880, it brought new business.

A new elevator and steam grist mill was built by Andy Marx, and grain was bought and shipped. The first oil well drilled in Mendon in 1892, was on the grist mill lot and the drillers were using steam from the grist mill for their drilling, when an accident caused the boiler to blow up. George Donart was the owner of the mill at this time.

At the turn of the century, J. F. Disher bought the mill in Mendon and operated it with Clyde Woods as manager and Pern Rhodes as fireman. Later Pern became manager and Marlin Fox fired the steam boiler.

The flour that was made here was sold under the name of Flavo and American Beauty Rose.

When the train was taken out in 1923 the grain business was an entirely different picture, having to truck the grain to Elgin or any other place where they would load it for them.

In 1933, J. R. Dutton bought the mill at public auction to settle the Disher estate, and the mill then became the Mendon Service Grain Company.

After purchasing the mill, Mr. Dutton purchased a railroad siding at the Little Elevator in Rockford and used their equipment to load cars of grain to be shipped. Wilbur Leasor managed the mill and Charles Fishbaugh was the main truck driver for the hauling of grain.

The sale of coal was also part of the business and when loads of grain were hauled to Rockford, coal would be brought back on the return trip.

Mr. Leasor continued to operate the mill until 1941. Mr. Dutton continued to buy grain for use with the hammer mill at the Mendon Service Company for several years.

Francis and Walter Muck and others were responsible for the demolition of the mill in 1971.



Mary Ellen Dutton, Jack E. Miller, and Ruth Ann Dutton



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EVANS BAKERY

As near as I can find out, the Evans Bros. Bakery and Grocery was started by my father, Virgil Evans and his brother around 1894. Then in 1906, according to records, the store in the picture was owned and operated by my father.

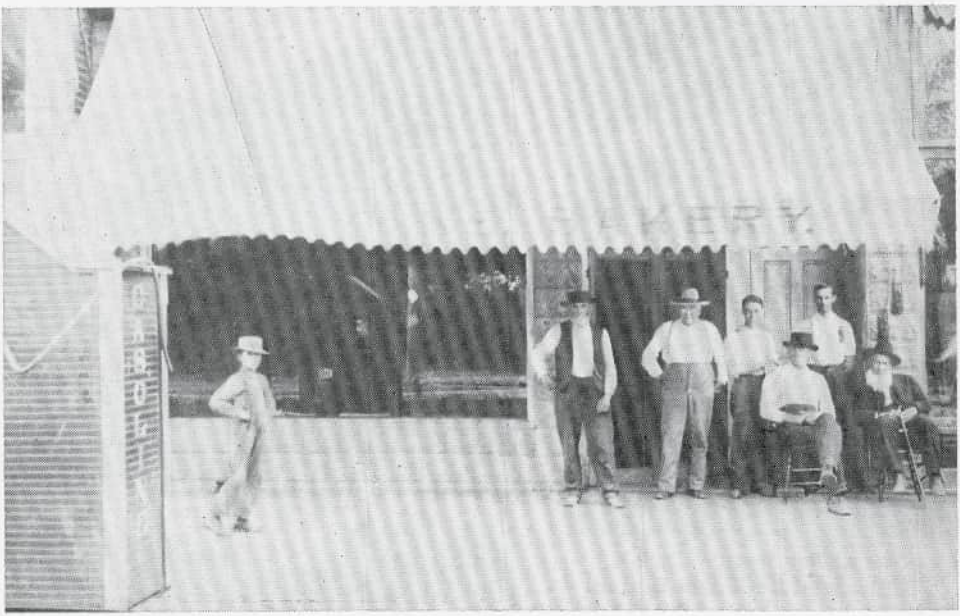
I was too young to remember many things, but the one thing I do remember was going to the store one night and watching my father make candy for the Christmas season. I was placed on a stool and had to stay out of the way. He made peanut brittle and taffy. It was the pulling of the taffy that I remember. It was pulled in large quantities by throwing it over a huge taffy hook, pulled until it glistened then put on a marble slab to harden then cracked in pieces.

Sometime around 1912, my father became very ill. At this time he hired a baker, it was someone from out of town and I do not remember his name. In 1914, just before my father's death he sold the Grocery Store to Homer Krugh.

My mother owned the building and some years later, the rooms above housed one of the telephone companies. My mother and I also moved upstairs and answered the switchboard at night. The thing that I remember about that was the unusual windows. They were built like a half circle and screened, hanging out over the street. I never could figure out how they were strong enough for us to sit in but we did, and it was a popular place on Saturday nights. Mendon was a Saturday night town with many people and much activity on the streets below.

Well, I could go on about the memories—the monument was a popular meeting place for boy meet girl or girl meet boy. Saturday nights the hitching racks were full of horse and buggies. The Town Hall and the Home Talent Shows always played to a full house.

Dorothy Evans Galloway



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At one time an old dirt road connected Dutton and Deep Cut Roads. This realistic sketch by Howdy Garwick clearly shows the construction of the old culvert which had dual purposes, draining the ditch (now on Louise Drake's farm) and supporting the road which ran parallel with the north side of the river. The construction is of limestone which forms a true romanesque arch and is about thirty foot long with a twenty foot width which held the road. Documentation of the road being in existence in the late 1830's was found. (Information from article by Louanna Pennington in the Daily Standard, March 3, 1982). Max Shaffer now owns the farm where the culvert is located.

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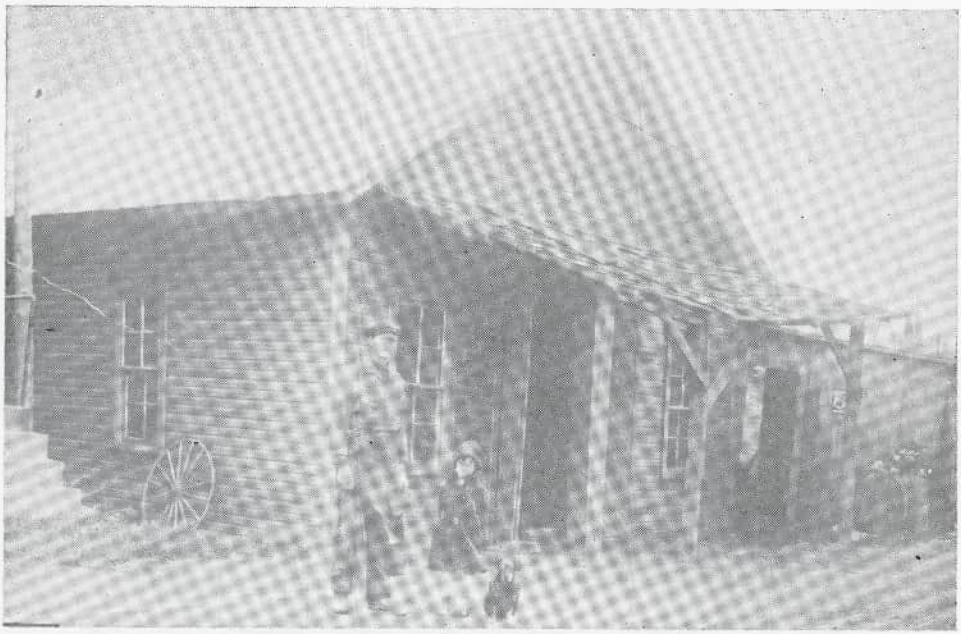

Geo. Wooden Blacksmith Shop located in alley behind The Church of God

ALEXANDER DRAKE

A Village Blacksmith

Alexander Drake was born February 25, 1869, the fifth child of Joseph B. and Phoebe Allen Drake. He was born on a farm northwest of Mendon, on Tomlinson Road.

He worked in the woods clearing timber in what was known as the Brush 80, west of Mendon. He hewed railroad ties, ship timbers, and barn and house timbers.

Alex served his apprentice training in the blacksmith trade under Bill Felker.

Soon he built his own shop where he carried on his trade until his death. The shop was located on the east end of the lot now owned by Casey and Karen Nuttle.

Alex was united in marriage to Alice J. Protsman on January 17, 1895. To this union was born four children, Marie (Drake) Long, Ezra Leo Drake, Janice Belle (Drake) Oaks, and Joseph B. Drake.

Alex was in business over fifty years, serving Mendon and surrounding communities.

In the spring of 1946, he became ill and was forced to retire. On December 13, 1946, he passed away.

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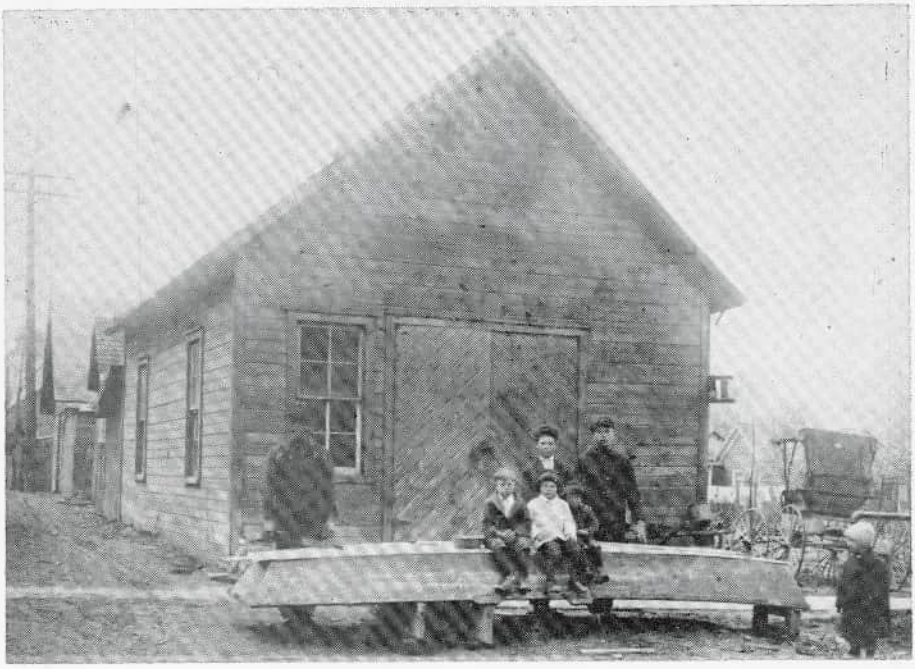

MENDON HERALD

Mr. O. Frank Geiger came to Mendon, O. in 1895, he owned and operated the Mendon Herald. The Mendon Herald was a weekly newspaper, independent in politics, and was established in 1895, with Frank as proprietor and editor.

Frank was very active in church work and was a Sunday School Superintendent of Mendon Methodist Church for 32 years. He worked hard and always had specials planned for each Sunday.

He was always doing something for the church and when he died, there wasn't enough money for a marker, so a group of his many friends contributed a memorial collection. The marker was put up and dedicated in 1947. Gene Hale gave quite an impressive Eulogy of Mr. Geiger.

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Geiger Memorial Dedication Services

At

Tomlinson Cemetery

On

Sunday, June 8, 1947

At 2:00 P. M.

Band Music ..... Mendon School Band

Opening Song—America ..... Audience

Scripture—5th Psalm ..... Rev. Wagner

Prayer ..... Rev. Fara Laman

Song ..... Singspiration

Address ..... Rev. C. O. Good

Unveiling Monument—
..... by E. E. Bevington and Rev. H. Baumgardner

Remarks by pastors of community.

Song ..... Singspiration

Benediction.

Band Music ..... Mendon School Band

Public is cordially invited.

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A Complete List of the Givers

Mr. Tolan
S. W. Houser
R. B. Smith
Sadie Fent
E. B. Hale
Rev. Peter Weaver
Parker Snyder
Lowell Miller
B. C. Brown
Glenn Rauch
Ralph Drake
H. E. Krugh
Walter Thomas
Ida B. Taylor
Perry Bogart
Carl Leasor
George Kinder
A. F. Lemunyon
Pleasant Grove Church
Mr. and Mrs. Elza Jackson
Clyde Anderson
Myrtle Bollinger
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davis
Ray High
Lloyd Ellis
Rev. A. L. Coil
Clyde Craft
Floyd Vorhees
Sam Rhodes
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Detrick
Mr. Gilbert H. Wilson
Mrs. Florence Metzger
G. C. Lampy
Mrs. H. N. McMichael
L. L. Ross and family
T. C. Ross
Martha Hughes
H. A. Miller
John Griggs
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Lewis
Mrs. Alta Hays
L. A. Nichols
Mrs. Sadie Small
Mrs. Janice (Barber) Reddin
Mr. Alvin Lee
Tom Rauch
Gomer Breese
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Miller
Mendon Methodist Church
Callie Rager
Mrs. Gail Wollam
Mrs. Dora C. Presho
L. C. Presho
J. E. Presho
Heffner Service Station
J. W. Leasor
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Barber
Rev. and Mrs. H. Angerer
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. Homer Drake
Mrs. Maree McClure
Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Hickernell
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Sites
Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Emans
Mrs. Pearl Hamilton
Ross Brethren Church
Hamilton Bethel Church
Badger's Store
Maurer's Hardware
B. & F. Garage
Lutz Electric Store
R. & O. Restaurant
Elaine Severns (Post Office)
Community Market
McGillvary Barber Shop
Mendon Masonic Lodge
F. H. Hale
Eastern Stars
Mrs. Ruth Krugh
Mrs. Etta Krugh
Local W. C. T. U.
Geo. W. & Ruth Kinkley
Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Hughes
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Krugh
R. H., Suzie and Frank Clay
T. M. Miller
The J. B. Maurer Family
Mendon Service Company
and J. R. Dutton
Mrs. J. S. Crow
Carl W. Weist
Mr. and Mrs. Hays Hickernell
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Carter
Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Donhaiser
Rev. and Mrs. C. O. Good
R. C. Kinkley
E. N. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vesper
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wolfe
Mrs. Anna Medaugh
Mrs. Florence (Stevens) Klohn
Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Bury
John C. Crow
Anderson Bethel Church
Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Spicer
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hays
Mrs. Emma Murlin
Mrs. Betty (Maurer) Mann
Mr. and Mrs. Harley Seibert
Fred Hickernell

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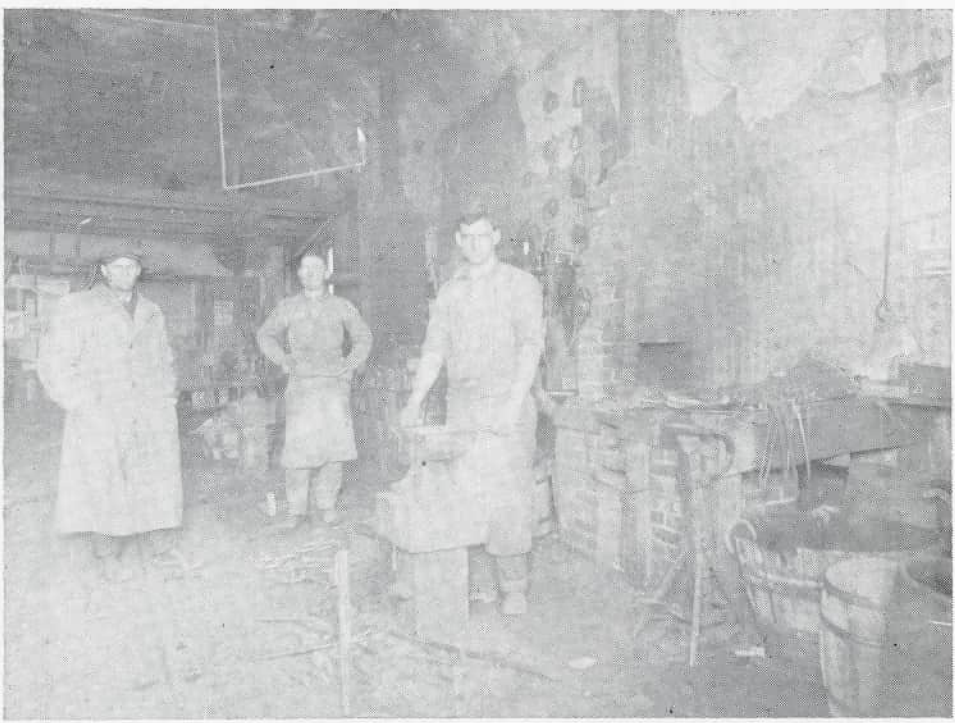
THIRTY YEARS OF AGE

The following article is re-printed from the Mendon Herald of Thursday, June 4, 1925:

With our last issue, The Herald closed its 30th year of existence nearly 29 of which have been under the present management. Mendon has been a wonderful little town for a newspaper. Not many towns its size would have kept a newspaper going all this time. For a newspaper is different from most other kinds of business, whether the business is good or not it takes about the same amount of money to issue the paper. In order to keep the paper going, many firms have had to run advertisements each and every week. Many subscribers have not missed an issue since the paper started. Such loyalty to the home paper is rare and has our hearty thanks and appreciation. But what about the future? Mendon is still intact. It has had some hard knocks but it is still the same, neat, pleasant little town in which to live and work. There is scarcely any comparison between Mendon of today and that of nearly twenty-nine years ago, with its board side walks and its fire trap business rooms in many places. When it comes to business, do not believe that we are stating it too strongly when we say that there were more people in Mendon last Saturday evening than there were back at that time on half a dozen Saturday evenings. Mendon should be a better town for a newspaper now than ever before. We are making calculations to that effect and we ask your cooperation. Again we thank you.

THE PETE THOMAS BLACKSMITH SHOP



Paul J. Thomas (at anvil), George Thomas, Homer Reynolds.

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In the fall of 1915 P. J. Thomas (Pete) came to Mendon to start a blacksmith shop.

Pete received his room and board at the old Town Hotel in Mendon which was run by Lib Parrott and her mother, until January 17, 1916. He then moved with his wife, Edna, and two small daughters, Helen and Evelyn, to Mendon.

Pete had his first blacksmith shop where Tom Clay's former home was on North Main, now owned by Pete Prichard. He employed two helpers and they started work at 6:00 a.m. and worked until dark.

A few years later Pete purchased the old Town Hotel across the street. This is where the Clay's A. & T. Sohio Station is now located.

Most of the partitions in the hotel were removed on the first floor and Pete used the front part for his anvil and forge, and on the south end he had a drill press. The back room was used for shoeing horses and repairing buggy wheels. The upstairs had ten rooms with a large room in the center for parties.

Blacksmiths were very busy men in those days as there were few cars, and work horses were used for farming. Men in that time prided themselves in having a large number of fine horses which in turn needed to be shod. They would arrive early with their teams and while waiting their turn would enjoy visiting and discussing world problems.

The blacksmith also treated hoof problems, using pine tar and other remedies. Some of the horses were so nervous and mean they would have to tie one of the hind legs with a strong rope then pull the leg back to keep them from kicking while they were being shod. The blacksmith also had to be a strong man with nerves of steel to tackle some of the large horses.

In 1932 the blacksmith shop, with no insurance, was completely destroyed by fire. Very little of the equipment was saved. Pete immediately started another shop beside his home, where Lewis Fox's home now stands. During the building of his shop and through the generosity of Alex Drake, another blacksmith, Pete did some repair work. In 1940 Pete started working in St. Marys at the Goodyear Factory, two years later he went to the Lima Tank Depot, during World War II. He and his wife, Edna, started an Antique Shop during this time, in their home, which they both enjoyed very much. Pete died of a heart attack in 1956.



Ed Protsman's next to P. J. Thomas Blacksmith.

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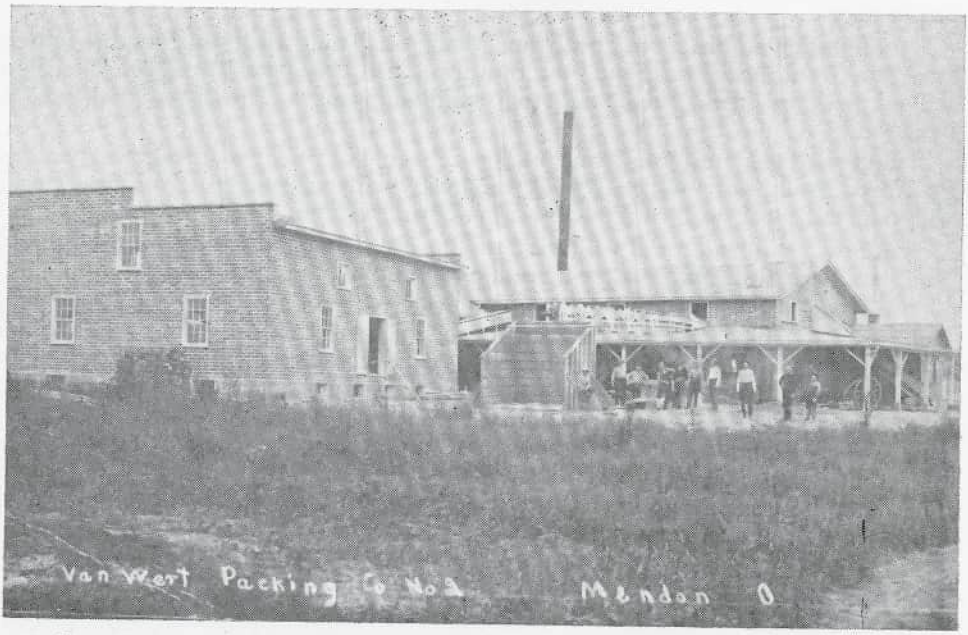
VAN WERT PACKING CO.



Soon after the incorporation of Mendon and the coming of the railroad, new business was brought in by the building of a canning plant at the east end of High Street in the J. W. Dutton addition. This plant was built by the Van Wert Packing Company and is now owned by Jack Miller, who operates a ditching machine repair shop.

After being operated by the Van Wert Company for some time, it was leased for a year to a group of men and women, who came here from the State of New York, to experiment with new canning methods and new containers of tin and glass.

While here, this group of people stayed at the "Union House Hotel" located on South Main Street, now owned by Mildred Kruger.

The Van Wert Packing Company #2 was sold in 1916 to J. B. Hamilton and in January 1917 became the Hamilton Packing Company.

Sam Houser, Ollie Houser and Alph W. Copeland bought this plant in 1924 and later the same year sold to W. L. Ammerman, with Alph W. Copeland staying on as manager, Edward Fox as fireman and later as plant manager when Mr. Copeland left.

In January of 1927 Ammerman sold to the Crampton and Son Canning Company. Tomatoes and green beans were the main crop contracted and later peas and pickles were added to the acreage. The peas and pickles were not processed here but were weighed and graded and sent to other locations for canning.

The plant continued to expand and a large warehouse was built in 1939, by Ray and Bob Mauger (now owned by Bud Hays).

In 1941, Floyd Trenary came to work as plant manager, Paul Fox as assistant manager, with Walter Murlin as field man, when Edward Fox, who had managed the Mendon plant for a number of years, and Glenn Krogman, who had worked on various jobs, under Mr. Fox, went to Montpelier, Indiana to operate a plant.

In 1945 Crampton and Son Company sold to Stokely Van Camp, Inc., and

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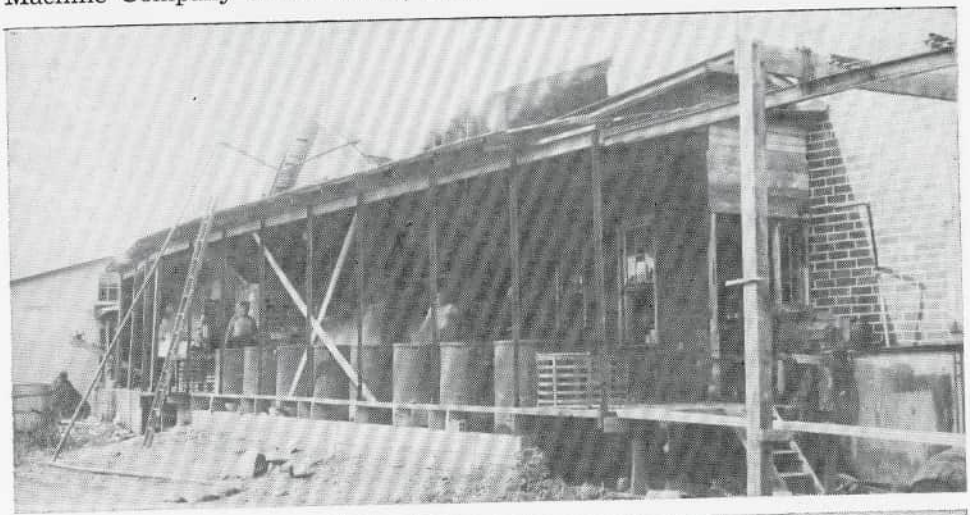
in 1946 became Stokely Foods, Inc.

All during these years the plant could not have operated with such success without the many men and women from Mendon and the surrounding community who came to work during the canning season to earn money for school clothes for the family and to help with winter expenses.

In 1953 the plant was forced to close the peeling and canning process because they were no longer allowed to empty the waste into the St. Marys river as they had done before.

They continued to store, label and ship from this location until the Celina plant no longer needed storage space.

After this building was no longer occupied by the canning factory, other small businesses were housed there. Where Bud Hays now owns, was a small business called Reynolds Fasteners. This was later acquired by the Wade Machine Company of Hicksville, Ohio.





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CUSTOM CANNING STARTED BY CHANCE

By SAM and ELSIE HOUSER



By request of The Standard, we will endeavor to give a brief history of the founding and operation of the Houser Fruit Farm and Cannery. For many years my great desire had been to grow fruit. In 1903, we began setting out our orchard and continued to enlarge the same for several years. We grew apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries and other small fruits.

As the years passed and the orchard came into bearing, there were many times when an over-abundant crop throughout the country depressed the demand and our product being of a perishable nature, some loss was inevitable.

The thought occurred to me, why not install a small cannery just to take care of this surplus? For several years I had operated a closing machine at the tomato factory here in Mendon and had developed a keen interest in the business.

As a result, we purchased a complete canning factory in Defiance County and moved the equipment here. For two years we worked patiently to install the machinery and equipment. We started operation in August 1921 when we ran our first 449 cans.

One day a kindly old neighbor, Mrs. Patterson, asked us to can a few beans. We complied, and a new industry was born: Custom canning.

We found our crop surplus not sufficient, so we had been canning commercially, selling to wholesalers and jobbers. But those few beans had started an avalanche for which we were not prepared.

Our system of operation required a complete readjustment. To handle peas, beans, beets, carrots, soups, and even chicken and meats, required different preparation and processing as well as proper identification and warehousing (each customers must be segregated).

I hurriedly worked out a card index system. This card followed each customer's goods from receipt to delivery. By actual count, in one day 80 cars and trucks were in line at one time bringing products. We were taxed to the limit and more.

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As the business grew, we had to install a larger cider press, a steam evaporator, and apple butter equipment. We made apple jelly (for use in apple butter) by the barrel.

The business continued to grow while mother and I continued to grow old. Bob and Beulah (our son-in-law and daughter) came from Philadelphia with their sons and helped us for several years. When they decided to go to California, we decided younger hands must take over.

We owe much of the success of this business to our faithful employees and our good old customers, so many of whom have passed to their rewards.

In May, 1945, we sold out to Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Rauch who continue to carry on and, in their behalf, we wish your continued support. We have now spent 21 winters in Florida—six months there, six months in Mendon.

MENDON CANNING FACTORY

GLENN and MARGARET RAUCH and "LEM"



Glenn and Margaret Rauch

Lemuel Sterling (1877-1963), a very memorable individualist to young and old alike, who can easily say as well as I; came to my parents' home when I was a child, also through the years growing up and then, when Glenn and I were married, came to our house. He was very widely known within 25 miles radius around Mendon; going from house to house splitting wood for the housewife in exchange for his favorite piece of pie or whatever his appetite was calling for at that particular moment. He was only recorded 3 times during his lifetime with the U. S. Census Bureau. He did however register for the army for World War II. He went through the rationing board to purchase "push hand" lawnmower (only kind known at this time); during the war years so he could earn his way as a wage earner, mowing yards. Everday he became a day older like everyone else and one day found himself facing old age. The townspeople went to bat for him; the

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government required 12 people who would vouch for him to have personally known him for 50 years in order for him to receive the old age pension.

In May, 1945, when Glenn and I purchased the Houser Fruit Farm and cannery from Samuel and Elsie Houser, it was then Lemuel became a permanent fixture in Mendon. He was very proud of his bicycle sitting up so straight and peddling away for dear life, silk colored handkerchief in coat pocket and square white buttons on his cap.

The annual remarkable feat of his was to ride his bicycle down U. S. Highway 127 to the Van Wert Fair and bring back blown up balloons of various colors, to his little friends in Mendon.

Glenn and I provided sleeping quarters of "his liking" until his death. Many of his acquaintances and friends took him to the doctor repeatedly but to everyone's surprise after he died found his "Birds-eye-Maple" Bureau drawers chuck full of medication never been opened. During his very last days, he was hospitalized and friends stayed by his bedside in 8 hour shifts. The hospital staff couldn't believe their eyes nor ears of the compassion shown to this man. He was laid to rest at the Rauch family burial site in Tomlinson Cemetery. The townspeople and friends provided a tombstone and invariably after all these years, when you stop by you find bouquets of flowers placed there — sometimes two or three of them. He was an avid reader of the Bible daily, especially the New Testament. Often quoting passages to suit the occasion upon which he was engaged and preaching aloud to himself or whosoever might hear.

While Franklin Delano Roosevelt was President, Lemuel let his beard grow. Long whiskers was unknown during these years in these parts. Often times children would call him Santa Claus and on known occasions, some small fry said to their parents on the way home, "they had seen Jesus at the canning factory."

Samuel and Elsie had established the custom canning factory 25 years prior and was one of the few "custom work" canneries in this area. We continued to operate the factory for eleven more years. The "Victory" gardens during the War kept the "charter" work force employed six months each busy summer season, often 10 hours a day, 6 days a week, but never on Sunday. Most of these charter workers were in their late seventies and when the factory closed they were satisfied to quit also; and accept the social security which had come into being.

Some of the things canned there were: Sweetcorn, pumpkin, green beans, peas, red beets, tomatoes and tomato juice and grape juice and grape jam, all kind of fruit and last in the season was sauerkraut.

The largest customer we had was the Auglaize County Home of Wapakoneta who would bring their produce over by the wagon load. One of the greatest joys was when the townspeople and nearby farmers would bring in the last of their gardens and volunteer their help to can them for the Home of the Homeless in Cincinnati, Ohio, under the auspices of the Methodist Conference and courts of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The cannery put up around 10,000 cases during a season. One year they used six tons of sugar. In later years operations fell off, Rauch attributed this to home freezers. He says, however that some people were finding that fruits and vegetables keep better in cans than freezers and were beginning to return to cans. Gene Protsman served as Rauch's helper in the early 50's. When he was in the ninth grade of school he stayed with Rauch's during the summer months.

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During the other six months that Glenn was not canning, he engaged in the building of new homes over the ensuing years adding up to twenty in this area.

Glenn also served on the Mendon Board of Public Affairs, Mayor for several years plus a township trustee. But during these previous years, Rauch's first, second, and third addition to the Village had come about; developing Jon Street, Sunset Drive and Glenn Street which made an outlet to Main Street. Also provisions for Lewis Street out to Highway 707.

In the early 1960's, he purchased a familiar landmark—the late Dr. P. W. Fishbaugh's house—remodeling it into 3 apartments at the corner of Main and High Streets.

TELEPHONE



Elsie Skiles

During the Great Depression, Associated Utilities was reorganized into the General Telephone Corp. Its Ohio subsidiary—Ohio Associated—in 1952 was renamed General Telephone Company of Ohio to more closely identify its relationship to the parent company. General Telephone Corp. in 1968 became General Telephone & Electronics Corp., and in 1982, GTE Corp.

Through the years, telephone users in the Mendon exchange communicated by way of what was termed a "magneto" telephone system.

Early telephones, constructed of wood, used big dry-cell batteries. Those phones were large in comparison with today's instruments. They hung on the wall, having a large mouthpiece protuding from the front. A bell-shaped receiver rested on a "hook" on the left side of the box. Two bells were fastened to the top and a crank extended from the right side.

A caller would spin the crank which activated a magneto inside the phone that generated electricity to signal the operator at "Central."

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At Central, the operator, wearing a headset, sat in front of a switchboard. The caller's ring would cause a latch to fall at the spot on the switchboard where the caller's line terminated.

The operator plugged a cord into the caller's receptacle, answering, "Number, please?" The caller recited the number of the party, and the operator would plug another cord into the called party's line. She would press a key to ring the phone, wait momentarily to make certain the connection was completed, then flip a key to remove herself from the circuit.

Calling long distance was much slower in those days. The operator had to call an operator at the toll center nearest the town of the called party. A call to the West Coast, for instance, may have involved up to seven operators along the way, taking several minutes to make the connection.

In the early 1950's, a nationwide network was established that enabled an operator in Celina, Mendon's toll center, to dial directly to the out-of-town number. That network set the stage for direct distance dialing by the customer.

Meanwhile, the magnet-style system operated in Mendon until October, 1955 when General Telephone inaugurated dial service. Telephone numbers grew from three digits to five numerals.

In December 1962 Mendon's phone number's added two more digits, becoming the "795" exchange. The seven-digit numbering system was necessary for nationwide direct distance dialing. On Sept. 20, 1964, Mendon joined Celina and other area exchanges in the direct distance dialing service.

Through the years telephone instruments have evolved from the bulky wall phones to small, modern, stylish devices. The telephone industry, too, is changing. In recent years, federally ordered deregulation has made it possible for customers to buy their own instruments.

Telephone service will also change here in the near future. General of Ohio has plans to introduce digital electronic switching, an ultra-modern system that processes calls faster and more reliably.

The new system will also provide automatic number identification for one- and two-party users when they dial their own long-distance calls. They no longer will need to give their number to an operator. These changes are scheduled to take place in mid-1984.

Some of the telephone operators who worked in the Mendon offices from 1915 through 1955 were: Cory Roebuck, Maude Roebuck, Mary Roebuck Miller, Virgil Wilson Griggs, Lucille Krugh Fisher, Clarice Horn, Kay Kinkley Heffner, Lavene Plummer, Mae Evans, Dorthy Evans Galloway, Helen Nolan, Nelva McGillvary, Vivian Shellabarger Hodge, Frances Shellabarger Stoner, Janice Severns, Elsie Skiles Laffin and Mrs. Henne.

Location of the telephone offices were upstairs above Hansels Recreation, upstairs above Maurers Hardware, on North Main in the house where Craig Thomas now lives and on South Main in the house where Mildred Kruger now lives. (formerly Em Murlins home).

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ARCHER'S PIPE AND SUPPLIES



Mendon Sawmill located along R.R. track in triangle where Archer Pipe and water tower are now. Photo taken in 1891 by Alley Brown.

Archer's Pipe and Supplies was located in the three cornered lot where the water tower stands.

Before it was Archer's Pipe and Supplies, cement blocks were made there by the Wolfe brothers.

Leonard Lewis owned this land for several years and operated a sawmill here on the east end of the lot. Around 1900 to 1913 the west end of the lot was a stockyard run by Reuben Kinkley. Farmers brought their livestock there to be sold and loaded on the train, the tracks ran through this lot. Also around this time Wavel Yocum had too drilling outfits, and there were two boilers, two steam engines and Bowe wheels and lumber was kept there to build the derricks.

For a short time there was a lumber yard in this lot run by Jesse Cornelius from Spencerville, O. After that a cabinet shop run by Wayne Fishbaugh and Lehr Ashcraft.

Leonard Lewis sold the lot to Carl Stallter and he built a horse barn and kept ponies and riding horses there, around 1938 or 40.

Carl Stallter sold the lot to Vaughn Archer around 1950. Vaughn and his brother, Jeff, had a pipe yard business for several years. Vaughn built a work shop in the back of the building with high doors so a truck could be driven into the shop. He used the truck to haul pipe which they purchased from farmers with abandoned oil wells. The pipes were pulled from the wells and

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sold to people in construction work. Old pipe can be used for: Basketball goal posts, drain in driveways, ditch ends, posts in basements, grain bins, clothes line posts, etc.

After the wells were all gone the Archer brothers did repair work for farmers.

Vaughn retired from the business in 1974. Jeff operated the business until he sold it at an Auction Sale on October 15, 1983. Vaughn died in 1982.

The property is now owned by Don and Betty Miller, who are planting fruit trees and making an orchard.

GRIGGS GARAGE

In 1916, Reuben Kinkley built the garage where Griggs Garage is now located. He sold the building to Charley Disher and John Griggs, at this time it was called the Union Garage.

In 1919, John Griggs bought the business and the building, he changed the name to Griggs Garage around 1930. His wife Vergil was the bookkeeper. Later John Griggs with son Eugene and later sons John D. and Don operated the Griggs Garage.

Mr. Griggs, had the distinction of having the first Chevrolet Agency in Mercer County. He sold the first Chevrolet automobile in Mercer County. They later sold Ford, Dodge and Plymouth, and then only used cars. They were recognized for good quality used cars.

The Griggs Garage has been operated in the same location on north Main Street in Mendon, Ohio for 67 years and has been run by two generations of the Griggs family. John Griggs died in 1970. Vergil is still living in Mendon. This building is now owned by Galen McMichael.



John Griggs, Ross Nickols, and Virgil Wilson Griggs.

GLENN SHEETS REPAIR SHOP

Glenn Sheets has been a mechanic since he was fourteen years old. In 1925, he bought his first steam engine, which he used for thrashing and for his sawmill, which he moved from farm to farm to build barns.

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In 1938 he went to work for the railroad and worked there for thirty-four years. In 1949 Glenn moved his shop to Walnut Street. Here he repaired automobiles, tractors and other machines. When a farmer had a tractor broken down in the field, Glenn went to the field and repaired it right away.

He worked on this type of equipment until his retirement.

PAINTER'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

In 1928, Mr. and Mrs. James Painter and family moved to Mendon, Ohio. They purchase the First Methodist Church parsonage in 1931. The parsonage was built in 1868.

Mr. Painter started a blacksmith shop in 1932 at this location on north Green Street. He ran this shop until his death in June of 1969. He had been a blacksmith since he was 17 years old. He also had a small shoe repair shop for about 15 years.

Mrs. Painter remained in this house until her death in March of 1978.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Painter were the parents of four children: Paul, Fred, Betty and Harold Dean.

The blacksmith shop is gone but the house still stands at the same location.



Jim Painter trimming hooves out in front of the Blacksmith Shop. Joe Hamilton mules.

KROGMAN'S GARAGE



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Jerry Nichols first owned the buildings now occupied by "Cut and Chat" barber shop and Roebuck Insurance. There had been a fire there, which burned the building north of where Roebuck Insurance is now located. Jerry bought the building around 1929 and remodeled the building and had an automobile repair shop and a gas station there for several years. During the war years, Jerry closed his shop and reopened again in 1946. Bud Hays rented the barber shop.

In the summer of 1947 he sold out the business to Glenn Krogman which included the barber shop and the garage. Glenn operated a garage and a welding shop, sold Pure Oil products until 1951 and changed to Gulf Oil until March of 1965.

In the early 1970's, he sold the buildings to Dave Esmonde, Sr. They now house "Cut and Chat" and Roebuck's Insurance and are now owned by Lee Roebuck.

ANSPAUGH BUILDING—Lot 32

The Anspaugh Building is located 19 feet on the south end of Lot 32, the third building on the east side of Main and High Streets in the main section of the village of Mendon, Ohio.

Before Lot 32 was broken-up in 1856 David Parrott was the first recorded owner, he sold it to James W. Dutton.

In 1894 J. J. Bedell and Jennie S. were the owners of Lot 32, at this time the lot was broken-up and six feet on the east side was taken for an alley.

In 1898 J. S. and J. J. Bedell sold part of Lot 32, 19 feet of the south end to Charles W. Weast.

The owners thereafter were:

1902—W. P. and Mary E. Clay to William Huffman
1912—William and Harriet M. Huffman to Arthur W. Coil
1916—Arthur and Eva N. Coil to E. E. Dutton
1926—E. E. Dutton to Jocie Pierce
1932—T. K. and Jocie Pierce to C. F. Fox
1942—C. F. Fox to W. G. Donart
1942—W. G. Donart to C. F. Fox
1945—Doris and W. G. Donart to Z. M. Watts
1945—Z. M. Watts and Edythe A. to Wylie W. Watts

From 1947 to 1959 Bill and Cecil Hamilton rented the building from Wylie Watts. Bill and Cecil were in the grocery business.

1967 Wylie W. and Marjorie M. Watts to Fred and Vivian Bell, who had an auction business

1975 Fred and Vivian Bell to Floyd and Dorothy Anspaugh

1976 Floyd and Dorothy Anspaugh to Burton Dano and Bobbie Vannette —TV business

After Floyd remodeled the building Burton TV Sales & Service came into the building, with Larry Seibert having a CB Sales and Service, also.

Later Dennis (Sam) Uncapher had a recreation room with pinball machines, etc.

After Dennis left David Richard started a pool room there, he moved across the street to his present location, in 1981.

The building is now empty.

RALPH LEWIS INSURANCE

Ralph O. Lewis who is now retired and lives with his wife, Opal, in Mendon, had a variety in his occupations.

He first taught school from September 1, 1919 to April 30, 1920 at Frog Pond School, Center Township.

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He next worked for General Electric, Ft. Wayne, Ind. from January 1, 1921 to January of 1922. After working in the Oklahoma oil fields for the next fifteen years, he returned to Mendon for five years of farming. He was next employed at Goodyear in St. Marys, Ohio where he continued for twenty-four years.

In 1949, he purchased a small insurance business from Joanna Miller (wife of Dwight Miller).

Alpha Miller first owned this business; when he died, Dwight Miller, his son, then sold insurance until his death in 1948. Ralph Lewis, then had the business until 1978 when he sold it to Robert Miesse.

The companies he represented were Union Central Life Insurance, Hartford Fire Insurance, Buckeye Union Insurance and Queen Fire Insurance.



Ralph and Opal — married 61 years

HAMILTON GROCERY

The Hamilton Grocery originated at 723 East Main St. in Van Wert, Ohio in November of 1939. It was owned and operated by William and Cecile Hamilton. In 1947, it was relocated when the Hamilton's purchased the William Bumgardner grocery store, on the east side of Main Street in Mendon. They converted it into a general store, adding a line of drugs, dry goods, notions, and etc. to the grocery business.

In 1959, the John Barber grocery was purchased by the Hamiltons, and they moved to the west side of the street. They continued business at this location until 1967, when the building was sold. This ended a span of twenty years in the grocery business for the Hamilton's.

The John Barber building was formally occupied by the following business men, in this order; Zed Watts, Ray Badger, Clifford Beach, Charles Brown, Lee Roebuck, and John Barber, it was then occupied by Hesse Interior Specialties who is still in operation at this location. Mr. Hamilton passed away on April 29, 1979, and Cecile resides at West Walnut Street in Mendon, Ohio.

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WAYNE SNYDER TV

In 1950, Wayne Snyder received his schooling in Chicago, about Television repair. He and his brother J. D. moved a part of an old house, beside their present home and remodeled it for a repair shop.

Wayne and J. D. sold Spartan Television and parts and service in 1951. Their nephew, Charles Hennon, worked in the business for one and a half years. J. D. helped with the sales and did the book work, while Wayne went out to the homes and fixed the TVs.

Wayne also installed antennas and was really missed, by the community, when he quit.

In 1953 they sold Fada and Capehart TV's. They changed again in 1955-56 to Zenith and RCA and also started selling color sets.

Wayne and J. D. lived on Shelley Road on their farm until Sept. 1967, when Wayne married Mary Trisel of Mendon and moved into town. He still worked many hours in his business until he had a heart attack in 1980 and was forced to retire. J. D. died in 1975 and Wayne died in February of 1982.

ELLIS INSURANCE AGENCY

Ellis Ins. Agency was owned and operated by Floyd and Sylvia Ellis in the building next to the park. The Agency consisted of Columbus Mutual, Motorist Mutual, Wayne and Grange.

The building had formerly been used as a filling station by several operators. In 1956 the building was remodeled into a larger office with an apartment in the rear. The Ellis' remained in the building for several years.

Lloyd died in 1976 and the business was sold to Lee Roebuck and moved to another location.



Ellis Ins in background
Mike McMichael on car

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MODERN BUILDERS

From 1960 to 1977 Floyd Anspaugh and Modern Builders were in the Building Construction business in Mendon. He was encouraged to start his own business by Glenn Rauch. When he first started he did remodeling and then started building new homes.

In November of 1964 Floyd and Dorothy Anspaugh purchased Rauch Second and Third Addition lots and some adjoining land not developed yet by Glenn and Margaret Rauch.

Much of this land was formerly the orchard of the Houser and later the Rauch Custom Cannery.

In December 1967 Floyd and Dorothy Anspaugh purchased 3.49 acres from Dillion Boroff, which lies south of the Rauch land.

July of 1968 Floyd developed Anspaugh First Addition and May 2, 1973 Anspaugh Second Addition on the land purchased from Glenn Rauch and Dillion Boroff.

Mendon's population grew from these new housing additions. Later Anspaugh's partners were Victor Muhlenkamp and Doyt Winemiller.

BROWN'S QUICK CLEAN LAUNDROMAT

In February, 1963 John U. and Miriam Brown opened a Laundromat in what is now a part of Dave Rickard's Pool room. Floyd Anspaugh was owner of the building. Included in the Laundromat, besides washers and dryers was a quick dry cleaner and a large size washer used for rugs and larger articles.

Due to illness the Browns sold the Laundromat to Tom and Barbara Armstrong in September of 1971.

The Armstrongs operated the laundry and dry cleaning business until September of 1976. When they closed the laundry, Floyd Anspaugh expanded his business and included this room with his building.

OLD BANK BUILDING

The building now occupied by Kindra's Kwik Stop was at one time The First National Bank.

Sam Houser later owned the building. This was the Post Office for several years. Dwight M. Miller purchased the building from Sam Houser.

The First National Bank of Celina, Ohio rented the building from Joanna Miller until 1976 when they moved into their present new building on Market Street.

The building then remained empty, except for garage sales, etc., until 1981, when it was purchased by Craig and Kindra McMichael for a short stop restaurant. The building was extensively remodeled, but the vault is still there. At one time when the bank was there, burglars tried to get the vault open, but were unsuccessful. They left a note saying "you've got a darn good safe there".

DR. D. F. PARROTT

Dr. Parrott came to Union Township in 1830 from Fayette County, Ohio, where he was born February 8, 1822.

The Doctor worked on the farm until he reached the age of 22, when he began the study of medicine, which he pursued as his opportunities would permit until his 28th year, then he commenced the practice of his profession in Piqua. He remained at Piqua only about four months, however, when he came to Mendon, and finally went to Willshire, where he practiced about six months.

He married Margaret E. McKinney, of Clermont County, on December 21, 1853, and in 1856 returned to Mendon, where he has since practiced medicine except during the period of army service, having served as private

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in Company K. 118 O.V.I., from October 8, 1862 to June 15, 1865. While in the army he was detached for hospital duty as a dispenser. At Mossy Creek, Tenn., he was placed in charge of the ambulance corps during the engagement.

He had but one child, a boy, named Charles Sumner. Dr. D. F. Parrott was actively engaged in superintending the erection of an extensive tile factory, which he operated about a half-mile south of Mendon, Ohio.

DR. W. C. COLE

Dr. Cole was born June 3, 1815, in Jefferson County, New York, and while yet young was taken with his parents to Seneca County, where he spent his youth in the town of Tyre. He afterward went to Ontario, Canada, and studied medicine, finally graduating from the medical University of New York in 1837. He at once commenced the practice of his profession at Waterloo, but in 1840 came to Ohio, locating at Tiffin, practiced until 1848, when he went to Detroit, Michigan, where he remained until 1854.

At this time he went to Memphis, Tenn., where he made his home, while practicing throughout the Southwestern States. When the Civil War troubles broke out in 1860 he was in Texas, but returned to Memphis that year, where he remained until 1863, when he suffered the loss of all his property, amounting to nearly $150,000.00 by fire.

Up to this time he had taken no part in the war, but after his misfortune he came to Ohio in 1863, and went on duty in the General Hospital at Camp Dennison. He was afterwards transferred to hospital duty at Nashville, Tenn., but in 1864 was compelled to resign on account of physical disabilities. In the fall of 1867 he came to Mendon, where he spent one season in the treatment of special diseases.

In 1870 he purchased his present country home in Union Township, but leased it during several years, while he was practicing at Shanesville and Van Wert. He then moved to the old farm in the spring of 1881, and repaired and improved it to make it as pleasant a home as any in the community. His farm is located on the Shelley Road, one-half mile west of the Tomlinson Road which is now owned by Paul Hays, and formerly owned by Charles Muhlenkamp. Here he practiced in the treatment of patients for special diseases, as he is prepared to board and lodge those from a distance who may desire his treatment of the eyes, fever sores, varicose ulcers, and such other maladies as are not generally specially treated by physicians. He has had a wide experience of such cases, commencing with 1840, when he performed a successful operation upon cross eyes, about the same time it was first successfully performed in Europe.

He was married April 8, 1838, in Cayuga County, New York, to Miss Sarah DeCamp, who died leaving three sons and one daughter. In 1857 he married Mrs. Parmalli, who died, leaving one child. In 1870 he was married to Miss Pampel, of Shanesville, he had two daughters from this marriage.

HAUNTED HOUSE

It should be noted here that old Doc. Coles place was supposed to be haunted. It seems that the Doctor had been wanting a skeleton. There was a murder or hanging in Mercer County and no one claimed the body, so the Doctor went to Celina, picked up the body and brought it home. He built a wooden box, placed the body inside and put the box in the river. He was hoping the fish would eat the flesh off the bones and he would have his skeleton. But his idea didn't work or the fish weren't hungry, so he brought the body back home and cooked it in a butchering kettle, put the bones back together and finally had his skeleton.

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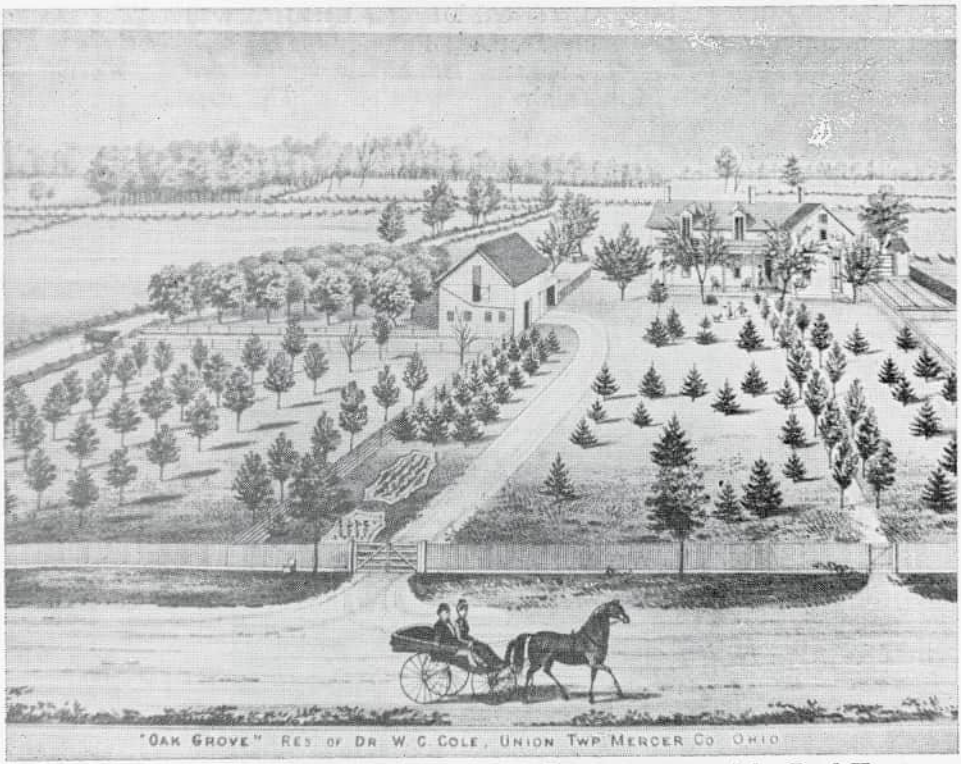

Located on Shelley Rd. west of Tomlinson. Land now owned by Paul Hays.

DR. A. J. LININGER

Dr. A. J. Lininger was born in Mansfield, Ohio, August 7, 1842,, and at the age of ten years was brought to this county, when his parents settled in Center Township. On November 26, 1861, he entered the army as a private in Company A, in which he served until December 6, 1864. In 1868 he graduated from the Medical College of Cleveland, since this time he has practiced his profession at Mendon, except for about six months spent in Van Wert. He married Maria J. Morrow, of Hopewell Township, in January 1869. Their family consists of four children, William Franklin, Bella Iona, Charlie Elden, and Harry Clayton. In the spring of 1881, the Doctor purchased the new hotel building at Mendon, which he has furnished and opened to the public, thus adding another feature to the growing interests of the town. The "Union House" will supply one want of the town, the proprietor fully understands the demands of his business.

The following article was written by Mildred J. Lininger of Celina, O., granddaughter of the late Dr. A. J. Lininger, these are facts related to her by her father the late Charles E. Lininger, who was the son of Dr. A. J. Lininger.

The Doctor was the first Councilman elected after Mendon was incorporated. He was one of the first physicians in Mendon. He owned and operated the first hotel "Union House" as it was called. It was located on south Main Street where Mildred Kruger now lives.

Dr. Lininger was fond of fine horses. He once ran in a race from Mendon to St. Marys and won $100.00.

The Doctor practiced medicine at his residence at the corner of Main

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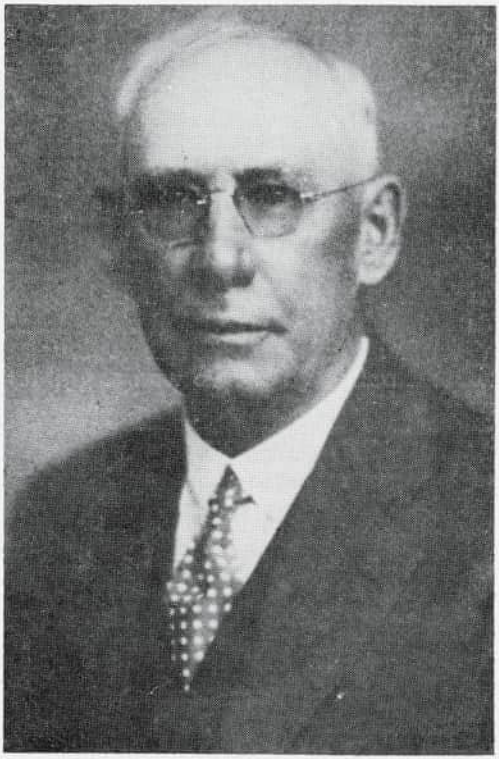
and Walnut Streets where Alfred and Marilyn Emans now live. The Doctor would also pull teeth for people. Instead of money for his "fees" he often was obliged to take produce or chickens. He never would turn a sick person down; and many times in the night he would go to help the sick, not getting enough rest for himself.

He later moved to Celina, O., and lived at the corner of Main and Fulton Street where St. Paul's Methodist Church is now located. He bought the Monumental Works that was located on Main Street where the Winkeljohn Printing Shop is located. His health failed and he died at 49 years of age.

PRESTON WILEY FISHBAUGH, M.D.



Dr. P. W. Fishbaugh

Preston Wiley Fishbaugh, M.D. was born on a farm in Washington Township, near Erastus, Mercer County, Ohio, February 22, 1864, and was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Morton) Fishbaugh.

The Fishbaugh family was established in Fairfield County, Ohio, by the grandfather of Dr. Fishbaugh, Mordecai Fishbaugh, who was a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and was a blacksmith by trade.

Samuel Fishbaugh, father of Dr. Fishbaugh, was born in Fairfield County, in 1829, and located in Mercer County in 1863 purchasing 160 acres of land.

Preston W. Fishbaugh attended the normal school at Portland, Indiana, for two years and then spent a year at Ohio Northern University in Ada. The next five years he spent in the educational field in Mercer County, in the meantime reading medicine, and in 1890 he entered the college of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, from which he was graduated in the class of 1893. In the spring of that year he came to Mendon and here he

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continued in the practice of his profession, building up a large and satisfactory practice by his skill and faithful attention to his patients.

Before he was married to Ida Schenck on August 25, 1894, he lived at the Barber Hotel. Ida May was the daughter of Rev. Daniel and Mary (Chillcote) Schenck, of Decatur, Indiana, and was born in 1869. They had four children: Paul Schenck, Anthony Wayne, Mary Belle and Grace Lenora.

Dr. Fishbaugh kept in close touch with the advance of professional thought and was a member of the Mercer County Medical Society and the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association. He and Mrs. Fishbaugh lived on Main Street in Mendon, O., for 56 years. Mrs. Fishbaugh was active in the Mendon Methodist Church. Dr. Fishbaugh died in 1950 and she passed away in 1960.

They are both buried in the Mendon Cemetery.

Dr. Fishbaugh's home has been extensively remodeled, but still stands at the corner of Main and High. It consists of three apartments and is owned by Betty Brown.

The doctors office was moved to north Washington Street and is now part of the home of the Ernest England family.

Other Mendon physicians were: John W. Ridenour, G. R. Hagerman, J. B. Haines, M. M. Miller and Jesse Miller.

DR. A. J. RAWERS

Arlington Joseph Rawers was born at Chicksaw, Ohio, February 15, 1898. He was the son of Dr. and Mrs. Henry (Anna Desch) Rawers.

He graduated from New Bremen High School then served in the army during World War I.

He attended Ohio Northern and Ohio State University Colleges of Medicine and graduated in 1923.

He practiced medicine in Chicksaw before coming to Mendon in 1934.

May 8, 1934 he married Jean Murlin of Mendon. He practiced in their home (where Louie Howell lives) and later across the street in Emma Murlins home, (where Mildred Kruger lives).

They have one daughter Shirley, married to Stan Larimer and they have two children, Tom and Dru Anne.

In the spring of 1940 when they moved to Celina, Dr. Rawers became the Mercer Co. Health Officer until his health failed. His death occurred Jan. 1973.

DR. GUNTER A. LAMM

Dr. Lamm was born October 12, 1919, in Germany, the son of Mrs. Luisa Hidde Lamm and the late Heinrich Lamm.

He was married to Charlotte Heyse and they had two sons, Michael and Peter. Dr. Lamm was a First Lieutenant in the German Infantry Medical Corps during World War II, was a surgeon in Libera from 1950 to 1952. He was at St. Francis Hospital in New York City from 1953 to 1954, and then was resident physician at St. Francis Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1955 and 1956. He came to Mendon in February of 1956 and moved his family here in May of 1956.

Dr. Lamm was president of the Mercer County Medical Society, belonged to the Mendon Lions Club and the Celina Eagles Lodge.

Dr. and Mrs. Lamm built a brick home north of Mendon in a wooded grove, where Mrs. Charlotte Lamm still resides. Dr. Lamm died March 9, 1961.

DR. ARNALDO ROLDAN

Dr. Arnaldo Roldan and his wife, Lulu, of Puerto Rico, came to Mendon in June 1969.

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He was a general practitioner, along with obstetrics and light surgery. He was affiliated with the Industrial Group Medical Offices in Marion.

Dr. Roldan received his Bachelor of Arts in 1949, and his medical degree in 1955 from the Inter-American University in Puerto Rico. He then served his internship in St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, N. Y., and after serving two years in the U. S. Navy, opened a practice in Puerto Rico. He subsequently qualified before the National Board of Medical Examiners, which allowed him to practice anywhere in the United States.

In 1961 he received a Masters of Public Health from the University of Pittsburgh and then joined the State of Ohio's Industrial Management Bureau. He practiced in Puerto Rico from 1963 to 1968 then joined the Marion Medical Group.

Dr. Roldan was 36 years old when he came to Mendon and his wife Lula served as his receptionist. He left Mendon in January of 1971 and went to Huntsville, Ohio, where he is still practicing medicine.

MAURER'S HARDWARE

For ninety-nine years Maurer's Hardware has been a family owned and operated business in Mercer County, Mendon, Ohio. In this span of time, three generations of Maurer's—John (J.B.), Fred W., and now John F.—have contributed successfully to business and community.

Over 100 years ago, 1870, John (J.B.) Maurer of Tuscarawas County, near Bolivar, Ohio, journeyed by train and horse and buggy to Mendon, some 200 miles distance, to help farm for his Uncle Christian Maurer.

In 1881 J. B. married Caroline Haglock of Bolivar, and brought his new wife to a rented farm just south of Mendon. However, after several years of crop failures, J. B. sought other means to provide a living for his wife and new baby. On borrowed money he started a hardware business on Main Street in Mendon.

The first hardware, a frame building located on the west side of Main Street, was stocked with such items as farm tools, tubs, dynamite, stable blankets, and horse shoes. Prices, as recorded from an old ledger, were: wheelbarrow, $2.75; step ladder, 65 cents; gallon of white paint, $1.30; and one wood stove, $16.00.

As soon as J. B.'s sons, Monroe and Fred, were old enough to help, they were assigned jobs. Following a school day, both boys were expected to work until closing time, which was 9 o'clock p.m., six days a week. One of Fred's earlier tasks was to blacken and polish stoves to sell to customers.

In 1906 a raging, uncontrollable fire destroyed almost one block of businesses on the west side of Main Street; Maurer's Hardware was destroyed. In fighting the fire, the Maurer boys, along with many others, were able to save some of the more expensive items. But as the fire continued to spread, they were told not to go into the store again. Realizing the hopelessness and danger, J. B. himself locked the door. Stock was lost, but lives were saved. The next day a tent was erected in a vacant lot one block north and used for selling merchandise.

Plans for rebuilding were begun immediately, and in 1907 a new concrete building was erected on the same location as the old store. However, with the expense of building and stocking a new store, the family could not send son Fred to college; instead Fred became a paid clerk in his father's store. Eventually the store became a father and son partnership and supported two families. For years the business operated from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. six days a week. In addition the store was, and still is, a meeting place for farmers and town men to exchange stories.

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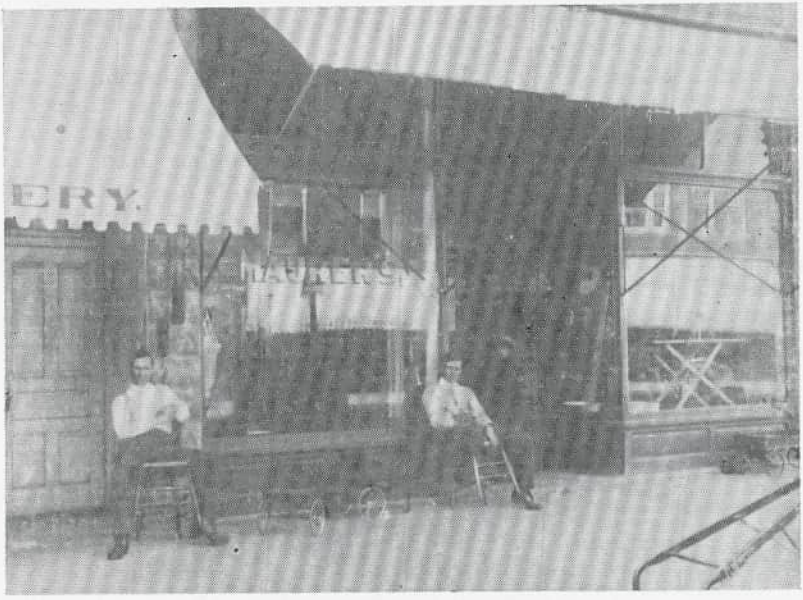
When J. B. died in 1946 at the age of 89, he had been in the hardware business for sixty-one years. Son Fred W. then became sole owner of the store; he was often assisted by his brother Monroe. A slack period of business occurred during this time; due to the war, many necessary items were impossible to buy or stock.

During his high school days, John F. Maurer, Fred's son, helped stock shelves and clerk in his father's store, just as Fred had done some years earlier. However, John F. was reluctant to become associated with the hardware business. Not until 1949, after a two-year period in the army and an A. B. degree in science from Bowling Green State University, did John join his father in business. He became the third generation in the family business, (Monroe never married). The father and son ownership continued until Fred's death in December, 1964. Fred was seventy-seven years old and had devoted fifty-eight years to the hardware business.

Today the continued precedent of great-grandfather, grandfather, and father rests with John's son, J. Gregory Maurer, who is a teacher in the New Bremen, Ohio, School system, and his son, Barton Gregory.



Maurer's Hardware, circa 1912

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Maurer's Hardware, Mendon

Owners: J. B. Maurer and Fred W. Maurer, Circa 1920

MENDON BANK

The bank building was erected in 1901. It was organized in Feb. 1902, by the Voke brothers, L. F. and Edward, as a private bank with capitol stock of $10,0000. Officers of the institution were; L. F. Voke of Columbus, Ohio. President; Edward Voke of Mendon, Ohio, Head Cashier, Maggie Norris (Geiger) of Mendon, Ohio, Assistant Cashier. Bank accounts of deposits amounted to $85,000.

The bank served this farming community until November 29, 1930, when business was suspended. According to an article in the "Mercer County Standard" for Thursday, December 4, 1930. W. L. Ammerman, vice president and cashier of the First National Bank of Mendon, Ohio, was charged by government investigators with embezzlement. It was alleged that the falsification of bank records and misapplication of funds amounted to $60,-000.00. There were many notes with fictitious signatures upon them. The directors lost their homes and their farms in order to help cover the loss in the bank.

At the time a bank examiner took control of the bank, Mr. Ammerman turned over his home and other properties, to the amount of $13,000.00, along with a small amount of cash. These were the only assets found to repay depositors. He served only a few years in the Federal penitentiary for his crime. A year or two later he was hired to work in a bank in Lima, Ohio. You can imagine how people in Mendon felt about this man. There was no way you could repair the damage and hardship he had caused in this community.

Mendon was without a bank for more than 25 years. The people had to drive several miles in all directions to take care of their banking needs.

In September of 1956, Mendon had a new bank, in the old building, the first in 26 years. It was a branch of the First National Bank of Celina, later to become the First National Bank of Mercer County.

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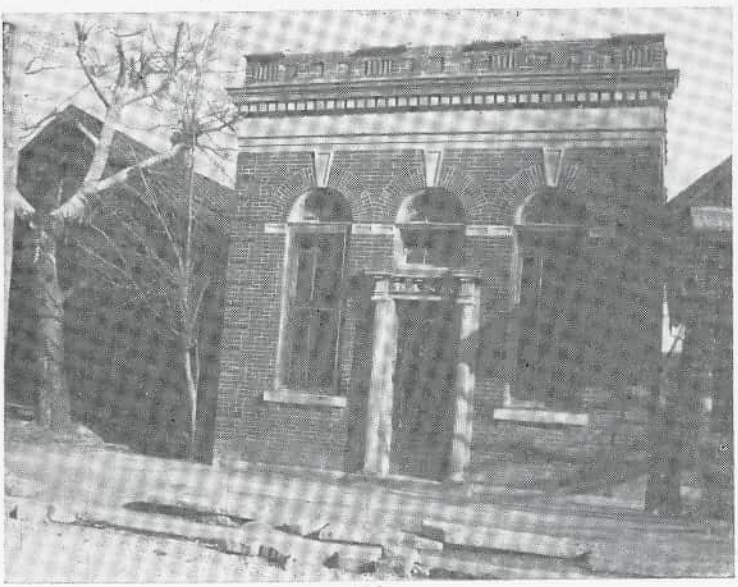
The bank was robbed on January 27, 1958, a candy salesman, John Butcher, of Lima Ohio, turned bank bandit with a gun in his hand held up three people at gun point and staged a daylight robbery. According to newspaper reports he escaped with $1267.00. He wore a stocking mask.

Bruce Barber, formerly of Mendon, was Sheriff at that time. Glenn Krogman, who operated a service station, close to the bank, saw the robber who he thought had a peculiar appearance and he had noticed him enter the bank. He jotted down the license number of the car parked in front of the bank. Betty Boyer who worked at the bank, George Wilson, Manager and a salesman who entered the bank were herded into the bank vault. George was unable to open the safe and after about 50 minutes from the time the robber entered the bank he left. He was captured within three hours in Lima, Ohio. Jim Dutton of the Mendon Service Company entered the bank and on hearing screams for help set the victims free. Betty Boyer had been forced by the bandit to lie on the floor while a gun was pointed at the captives.

The Mendon Branch of The First National Bank was again robbed on Thursday, January 25, 1973. This robber was identified as Charles (Chuck) Hartman. He was wearing a green hooded sweat shirt and heavy work boots. He was reported to be carrying a 22 calibre, eight inch, gun. He fled in a blue Maverick or Pinto with Michigan plates. The FBI and the Ohio State Highway Patrol were notified of the robbery by the sheriff's department.

The bank remained in the old bank building until a new building was built in 1976, on Market Street. The new bank is located on the lot once owned by Jim and Myrtle Dutton. The house has been moved to a new location and is occupied by Robert and Doris Nuttle, just outside the corporation.

Open house for the new bank was held on July 1, 1976 with approximately 650 persons touring the new facility and being served hot dogs, apple pie, coffee and soft drinks. Dale Steinlage reported that Roy Davis of Mendon was the winner of the interest on one million dollars for one day, a sum amounting to about $125.00. Both Steinlage and Mendon Branch Manager George Wilson reported they were "well pleased" with the open house and the reception the new facility received from the public. Since this time the bank name has been changed to the 3rd National Bank.



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GEORGE WILSON—MENDON'S BANKER

Although he does not reside in Mendon, George Wilson does definitely belong to Mendon.

He began his banking career in 1955 and before that he was a clerk and assistant manager for the A and P store for ten years.

As one studies his background and observes him today, it is apparent that he is a unique and energetic individual—a friendly person with vision.

He served in World War II as a sergeant, and while in England he met his wife, Iris Cook. They came to Ohio to live and built their home east of Rockford on Shelley Road. They have four children and nine grandchildren.

As manager of the Mendon Branch of the Third National Bank of Dayton (formerly the First National Bank of Mercer County), he makes himself available at the bank for counseling the many people who go to him with questions about finances and related interests and concerns.

He has taken a leadership role in attempting to bring small industries to Mendon. He served as secretary of Mendon Union Industrial Development, Inc.

About a generation ago Stokely Van Camp Canning (formerly Cramptons) closed. The Development group encouraged Reynolds Fasteners to establish a factory, in Mendon. This was then acquired by the Wade Machine Company of Hicksville, which later went into bankruptcy.

On property now in possession of Dick Godwin, the Mari-Stan, manufacturer of baby clothes was located. It is now in operation in Spencerville.

After banking hours, George sheds his business clothes and dons his tree farming togs including a safety helmet or a jaunty hat with tilted brim which resembles the hat of the "Aussie". He saws and delivers wood to customers for stove and fireplace use.

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He always wanted to be a farmer and today he is a tree farmer. He has 176 acres of woodland along th St. Marys River, north of Mercer, Ohio, on U. S. 127, also ten acres north of Mendon, Ohio. He has planted thousands of trees, walnut, popular, red maple, sweet gum, ash and Norway Spruce. He works many hours—round the clock, pruning, clearing and caring for his trees. He acknowledges he may never realize the harvest of many of his trees but states, "We have to think of future generations, as well as ourselves."

Several years ago George purchased the ground, where Fort Adams was located, from Frankie Hays. Mrs. Hays had inherited this ground from her ancestors, the Palmer family.

BARBER SHOPS

Ronald Hamilton opened a barber shop in a room where Drake and Shaffer's north room is now. He later bought the small building north of Max Hesse's. Later "Shorty" Doyle ran the shop until Orville McGillvary took it over.

Orville McGillvary went to barber school in Toledo, Ohio before opening a shop in 1937, on the west side of Main Street. Joe Santa was the shoe shine boy in the shop at that time. Saturday night was the big night in the barber shop.

During WW II, Orville left barbering to work in the factory for approximately two years, 1942 and 43. By the time he returned the shop was occupied by Lucille Suhr's Beauty Shop, so he and Claude Brown, an apprentice, set up shop on the east side of Main Street, in the north side of Esmonde's Market.

In 1951 he bought the barber shop on the west side of Main Street, from Celina Auto Company, where he worked until he retired in 1972. Orville died on July 24, 1978.

The building which housed the barber shop is now owned by Alfred and Marilyn Emans. In November of 1834 it was owned by a Parrott and later by a Johns. In 1866 from Felker to Wooden, other names down through the years are Hankins, Dutton, Murlin, The First National Bank, then in 1928 Ronald Hamilton for a barber shop.

In 1948 the lot was sold to C. T. Protsman for a shoe repair shop.

In 1950, Walter and Violet Frady had a Sandwich Shop called the Sportsman Inn for a short time.

In 1973, Alfred and Marilyn Emans purchased the building. They later rented it to John Stachler, a barber from Celina, Ohio, for a very short time. At the present time the building is vacant.

Bud's Barber Shop was built by Jimmy Custer after the fire of 1907. It is only a front and back wall stuck in between the buildings on either side which now are occupied by Lee Roebuck Insurance on the south and Esmonde's Market on the north.

The first barbers in this building were Joe Donart and Jimmy Custer, later Wavel Yocum worked with them.

The shop was called "The Star Barber Shop" for many years until Bud Hays purchased it in 1941 from Dwight M. Miller. Some of the "Star" barbers were Glenn Roebuck, Harold McMichael, Harold Snyder, Ronald Hamilton and Dwight Miller. Bud owned and operated the shop from 1941-1979.

At one time there were three barber chairs in use and in later years two chairs. Haircuts were 25¢ and shaves 15¢, showers were 25¢ and this included water, soap and towels. The basketball players always showered at the shop after practice and games. Also, during the tomato-picking season the migrant-workers showered here on Saturday nights.

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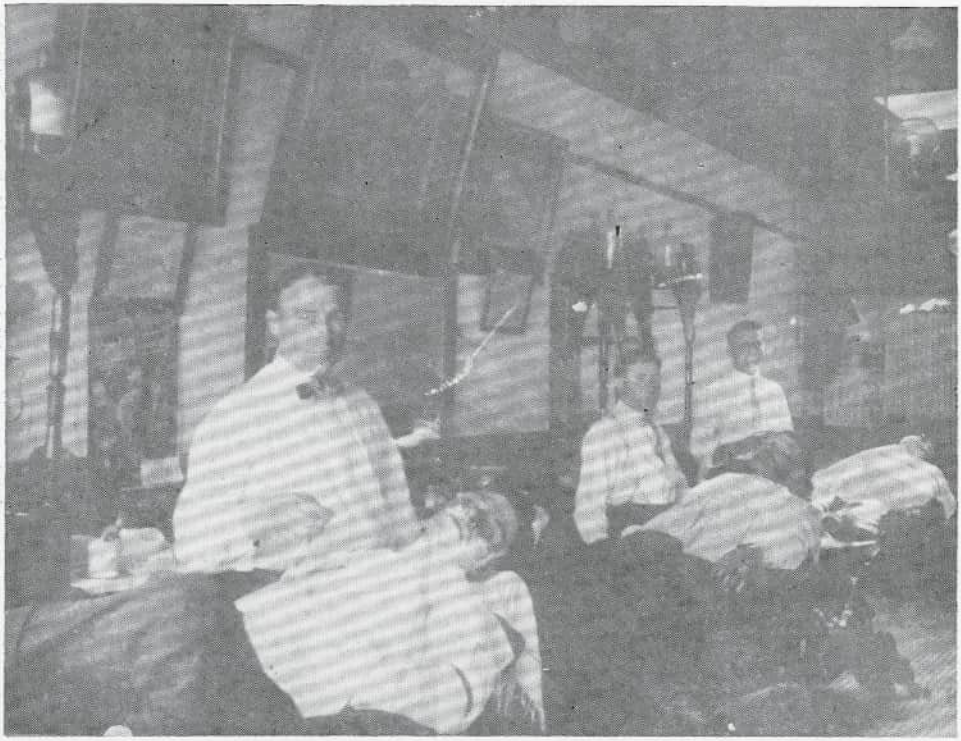
Lots of late night and week-end poker games were played in the back room. There were always Halloween tricks played by the local residents, on the friendly barbers, such as cow piles and live birds in the shop. Also the red-white and blue striped barber pole, that stood out in front of the shop along the street, beside the town pump, always disappeared at Halloween and sometimes when it wasn't Halloween. The Ruhlens now own the barber pole.

You could always get a good cold drink out of the community cup at the town pump, or throw a little water on someone.

Barbers, after 1979, were Randy Brehm and John Stachler. Randy Christian is now operating the barber shop three days a week. He took over in April of 1981. He calls his shop Randy's Cut & Chat.



Barbers are: Joe Donart, Jimmie Custer, Wavel Yocum, Leon (Banty) Severns



Dwight M. Miller

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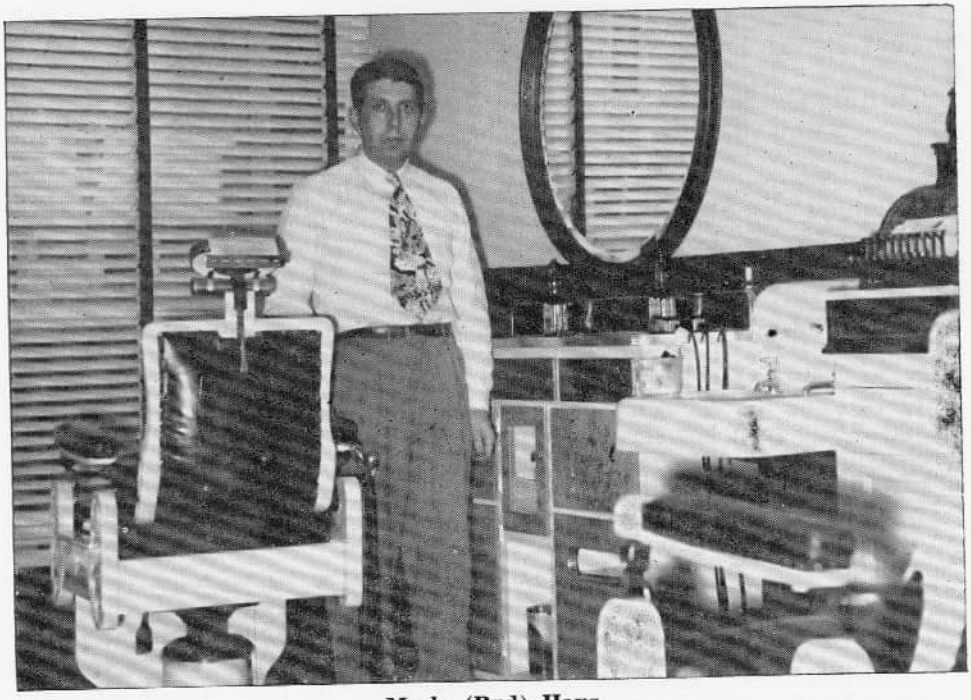
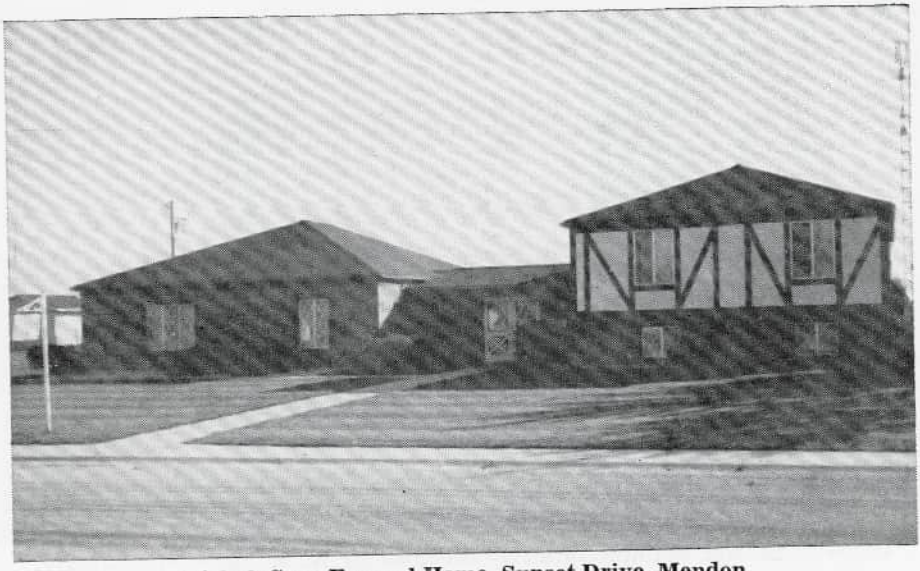


Merle (Bud) Hays

W. H. DICK & SONS FUNERAL HOME

by CHARLES (CY) DICK
W. HUBERT DICK
Founded 1913
Mendon and Celina



Dick & Sons Funeral Home, Sunset Drive, Mendon

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Dick and Lutz Funeral Home was established in Mendon, Ohio in 1913 when Walter H. Dick and Fred Lutz purchased the William Miller firm in that city.

A furniture store on Main Street in Mendon housed the original 'funeral parlor' and was operated in conjunction with the funeral service. Later the family residence on Market Street in Mendon served as the location for the business. Some years later, in order to devote full time to the funeral business, the furniture store was closed. Associated with Mr. Dick in the business over the years were Fred Fisher and Carl Stallter. Walter H. Dick and his two sons, Charles A. (Cy), and W. Hubert, operated the two facilities in Celina and Mendon for many years. Walter H. Dick died in 1974 and W. Hubert in 1982. Currently the businesses are being operated by Charles A. Dick.

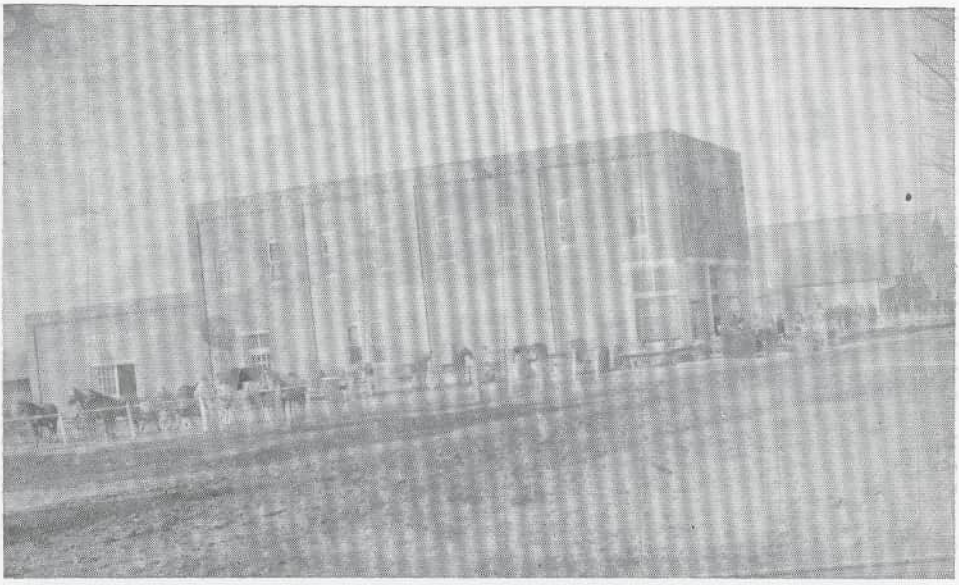
In 1937 a residence and funeral home was established on West Market Street in Celina, Ohio. In 1968 an all new facility was built on the Celina site. In 1973 a new funeral home and residence was opened on Sunset Drive in Mendon. The firm has served the communities of Mendon and Celina and surrounding territories continuously for over seventy years both in ambulance and funeral service.

Many traditions, concerning funeral service, remain the same but many have changed. For example, as little as thirty-five years ago, the visitation took place in the family residence and services were either conducted there or in the church. Now almost all services are at the funeral home or in a church. Originally a team of matched horses pulled the wagon-hearse to the final resting place, the driver resplendent in a dark suit and derby.

Scheduled ambulance service, in conjunction with funeral directing, continues to be maintained as a full-time, twenty-four hour service to the communities. W. H. Dick & Sons, a family owned and operated business, is proud of its heritage and tradition and of its service to the families of the area.

HISTORY OF DRAKE AND SHAFFER, INC.

101 & 103 North Main Street Mendon, Ohio 45862



Drake & Shaffer Building formerly occupied by W. M. Miller, Undertaker. Notice town hitching lot.

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In 1920 Henry Drake established a grocery business after he returned from serving in World War I. It was a grocery store and meat market. Henry remembered a man, Major Upton, coming in the store, looking at sidemeat and then leaving. The man returned the next day, looked at the sidemeat again and finally decided to ". . . chance ten cents worth." At this time a can of pork and beans sold for five cents, a loaf of bread sold for six cents to a dime and a spool of thread sold for five cents.

Before the New Deal, the town trustees made sure people had food. One day a trustee brought a man into the grocery and instructed Henry to sell him two dollars worth of groceries and bill the trustees. Then the trustee turned to the man and cautioned him that he didn't want to see him again for quite a while. Henry said that an average day's sales brought in $18. In 1924 the business was expanded to include dry goods and ready-to-wear. Ready-to-wear included dresses, shirts, shoes, etc. In 1933 the business expanded to include Hudson-Terraplane automobiles.

In 1935 Henry and Louise Drake bought a farm which contained 100 acres for $4000. This would make the land sell for $40 an acre. In 1937 they purchased 80 acres for $6000 which was about $75 an acre.

The family business was once again expanded in 1937 to include farm implement sales and service. Allis Chalmers and New Idea farm implements were sold. Often people would trade horses for a tractor. The grocery, meats, dry goods and ready-to-wear were discontinued in 1941. The merchandise in the ready-to-wear was traded for a large store building, 101 N. Main Street.

In 1941 Henry and Louise Drake obtained the Pontiac franchise for sales and service of New Pontiacs. In 1941 the cost price of a new Pontiac was $780, in 1973 it was worth $3400 and in 1983 it would cost $13,500. This is quite an icrease through the years.

In 1942 through 1946 during World War II few new cars were manufactured. There was a shortage of dairy products so Henry and Louise turned to dairy farming. They owned some 100 holstein cattle. These cows produced one ton of milk daily. There was such a need for dairy products at that time that there was a subsidy paid to all dairy farmers. A subsidy is a grant of money by a government to private enterprise to encourage services or production otherwise unprofitable.

Max Shaffer joined the business on December 23, 1945, shortly after he returned from over seas duty in World War II, making the partnership of Drake and Shaffer. In 1950 Max & Ardyth purchased 172 acres of land, in 1974, 81 acres and in 1981, 80 acres. Ardyth owns one acre of land in Jefferson Township near Grand Lake St. Marys which was purchased for $1.25 on August 4, 1847 by her great, great grandfather, George J. Kumph from the State of Ohio. The rest of the farm sold to the Western Ohio Education Foundation where the Wright State University Branch is located.

The automobile business was made a family corporation in 1978. Jim and Henni Shaffer became a part of this corporation and Jim became actively involved in the business. The business now consists of Automobile Sales and Service, Automobile Financing and Grain Farming.

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Mendon's 'Millionaire'

CROSS-EYED ELMER'S DEBUT SKEDED

Elmer the cross-eyed cat from Mendon is finally going to make her TV debut.

After winning out over 568 other felines in a nation-wide talent search last summer, Elmer filmed a half-hour show for "The Millionaire," and it's going to be shown nationally Wednesday night at 9 o'clock.

Elmer is owned by Larry Hamilton, 25, his father and their friend Lloyd Prichard. Larry, because of his younger age, got to go to Hollywood with Elmer last summer.

He shared a private room with the cross-eyed star at the Knickerbocker Hotel in Los Angeles during their 11-day stay there. The entire filming of the show took Elmer only three days.

During her stint of acting she got to hob-nob with such nationally known stars as Cleo, the lovable basset hound on "The People's Choice."



Larry Hamilton (Ronald) Sale Barn, S Main St.

It was due to the temperaments of the two stars that they had to chat from a distance.

Elmer's claim to fame is the peculiar way her eyes both look at her nose. Doctors call it convergent strabisma, but it's just that she's cross-eyed.

Her name, which tends to mislead people into thinking she's a male, came about due to a lack of accurate observation on her owners' part when she was a kitten. She has had three litters.

"We began to suspect she wasn't a 'he' after she had the first litter," owner, Larry Hamilton said of the misnomer when asked.

Elmer's third litter, (none of her kittens have been cross-eyed), almost got into the act on "The Millionaire."

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She was in a family way when she made the trip to Hollywood. She acted like a true trouper, though, and didn't ask for a stand-in throughout the shooting.

The truth was, even if she had she would have had trouble getting one. Her barn-yard-type calico coloring could only have been matched on another cat by a good make-up job.

Elmer was praised for the way she handled herself, though, and did all the acting herself.

While out in Hollywood she got her paw prints immortalized in a cement block at the Burbank Animal Shelter where stars like Lassie and Rin Tin Tin have left their marks.

On the show Wednesday, appearing on Channels 7, 10 and 13 in this area, Elmer will co-star with Marvin Miller, Del Moore, Jean Willes and Loie Bridge.

The plot of the show centers around Elmer, naturally. It's titled "My Aunt's Cat, Ralph."



Ronald Hamilton
& Elmer the cross-eyed cat.

COMMUNITY SALE BARN

The "Sale Barn" building on South Main Street was built of hand hewn timber, sometime before the turn of the century, for use as a livery stable. Until 1918, high school students from Union Township stored their horses and buggies there while attending school. After that time, it was used for a poultry house and stockyard.

In 1931, Emery (Coonie) Hamilton, Iva Purdy and Dick Hickernell started a commission auction called the "Mendon Livestock Exchange." Dick Hickernell was the auctioneer, and his wife, Edith, was one of the bookkeepers. Ronald Hamilton bought it later, and with his son Larry, ran the auction until 1970. His wife Edna, did the office work, with daughter Deanne helping

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at one time. Bill Cisco started his auctioneer work there and continued as long as the sales were held. Several farmers came each Wednesday to work in the yard during the sale. Every street in Mendon was lined with cars and trailers on sale day.

Fifty years ago, nearly all farmers had livestock of some kind and hauled their calves, hogs and sheep to the auction in small trailers. Mendon was a very busy place on Wednesday. Buyers and sellers came from a twenty-mile radius. For several years, ladies from the churches alternated operating a lunch stand in the front corner of the building. The office became a good meeting place for farmers all week. Lloyd Prichard was the self-appointed janitor, who swept out and fed "Elmer" the cross-eyed cat.

In 1958 the "Millionaire" TV show advertised for a cross-eyed calico cat for their TV show. Elmer's picture was entered and he won a trip to Hollywood. Larry Hamilton flew out with the cat and a show was taped. "Elmer" performed well and the show was aired on national TV several times. Prichard was paid $100.00 and Elmer got a fake $1,000,000.00 check.

Nothing is unique about Elmer's background. Her mother was purchased from a livestock barn in Mendon for 25 cents. A few years later Elmer was born and a few years after that Elmer's kitten was born. The only unusual thing about Elmer is that her mother catches mice for her. Because of her cross-eyed condition she cannot see well enough to hunt.

Larry Hamilton still operates a stockyard in the same building as his father before him.

BEAUTY SHOPS IN MENDON

The first known beauty shop in Mendon was owned and operated by Wauneta Kinkley Neal. She had her shop in her home on North Main St. The home is now owned by Bill Snider. Also about this same time Maxine Clover Putman gave permanents and cut hair and Mary Harbison Hamilton operated a beauty shop on South Main Street.

After Ronald Hamilton quit barbering, Lucille Shur had a beauty shop in the same location. Shortly after that Orville McGillvary purchased the building. Lucille only had her shop for a few years. In the late 1940's permanents cost $4.00 to $10.00 and a shampoo and set cost 65 cents. This building is now owned by Alfred Emans.

From 1955 to 1961, Barbara Walls operated her shop on the southeast corner of Walnut and Main Street.

The apartments of Richard Etgen on Green Street was the location of the next beauty shop from February 1961 to September 1968. It was operated by Carol Zizelman.

In the spring of 1963, until the fall of the same year, Phyllis Etgen was in business at Walnut and Main. She then moved to West Walnut for another six years and later to Jon Street where she operated until 1971.

In January of 1964, Joan Counterman started a beaty shop in the basement of her home located on Shelley Road.

In 1976 she built a new shop just east of the former one and still cuts hair occasionally.

Janet Overly went into the business in 1966 on North Main Street in a house between Griggs Garage and A & T Sohio. When fire destroyed the building, she moved to 117 B on North Main Street, continuing operation until 1982 under the name of the Golden Comb.

On May 1, 1982 the business was sold to Karen McMichael and is known as Karen's Style Station. Present employee's of the shop are Carol Zizelman, Sheryl Ellis and Leigh Ann Zizelman.

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ESMONDE'S MARKET

Dave Esmonde Sr. and his wife and four children, moved to Mendon to take over Brown's Market. Dave had purchased the store from Bennett Brown on November 19, 1945 to try his luck as a business man. Two more children were born in Mendon.

In 1920's Baxter and Robbins had a grocery there, around 1923 Bennett Brown and Warren Barber had the grocery then Brown bought the grocery.

Dave's Market existed under his ownership until 1962, during this time the market underwent several changes including a locker-service which was added in 1947 along with a walk-in cooler and self-service shopping was made available to his customers.

In 1935 Bennett Brown had a Men's clothing store in the north room of Esmonde's Market, in 1952 Ann Esmonde ran a restaurant there. She operated the restaurant for around four years. Later the Post Office was there, for about six years.

Shoppers to Esmonde's Market may remember a few interesting facts. When the grocery was first opened Dave bottled his own milk, purchased from local farmers, ground his own coffee, did his own butchering and processing, rendered lard, sold vinegar from a barrel, brown sugar from a barrel and Dave always had bulk candy and cookies available.

He had no regular store hours especially on weekends when he opened early and closed on Saturday around midnight. Dave Sr. employed seven or eight clerks and helpers at one time. Many of his customers were charge customers and he had a large ledger with account books.

He sold bulk dates, walnuts from 100 lb. bags, made his own liverwurst, braunschweiger and cracklings, bagged his own potatoes and beans.

Eldon and Mary Ann Fisher took over the store next, they had it for around four years.

In 1966 Neil and Ginny Esmonde purchased the store and operated it until 1975.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Duff ran the grocery from 1976 to 1979, then Jon and Linda Esmonde had the store for about a year. Gary Emans ran it next for about a year.

Dave Jr. is now running the market and has for nearly three years. The building has always been owned by Dave Sr.

The Market has a special meaning for each member of the Esmonde family. The town of Mendon has been good to the market and the Esmonde family and they are hoping they can continue to serve the community through the years.

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Notice brick street

TEBOE'S BICYCLE AND LAWNMOWER REPAIR SHOP

Millard Teboe came to live in Mendon, Ohio in 1942, after serving almost two years in the U. S. Navy. He went to work at Mersman Tables Factory, Celina, Ohio shortly after that and worked there until his retirement in April of 1976.

Millard started a repair shop in his garage and repairs bicycles and lawnmowers and sells parts. He secured his Vendors license on April 5, 1947.

A & T SOHIO SERVICE

The A & T Sohio Service is located on North Main Street in Mendon, Ohio, Union Township and is owned and operated by Tom and Jerry Clay. It was built and opened for business by M. L. (Meck) Archer and Walter (Tommy) Thomas in October 1949, on the site of the old Barber Hotel and Ed Protsman shoe store.

Archer and Thomas retired in December of 1968 and sold the station to Tom and Jerry Clay. Tom and Jerry opened for business in January of 1969 and have operated the station for the past fifteen and one-half years. They have one full-time mechanic and some part time help.

The station does general repair along with transmission work, lubes, tires, gasoline, etc.

Tom and Jerry are the sons of Darrel and Alberta (Rider) Clay, and the grandsons of Roy Clay, who at present is one of the oldest residents living in Mendon, Ohio.

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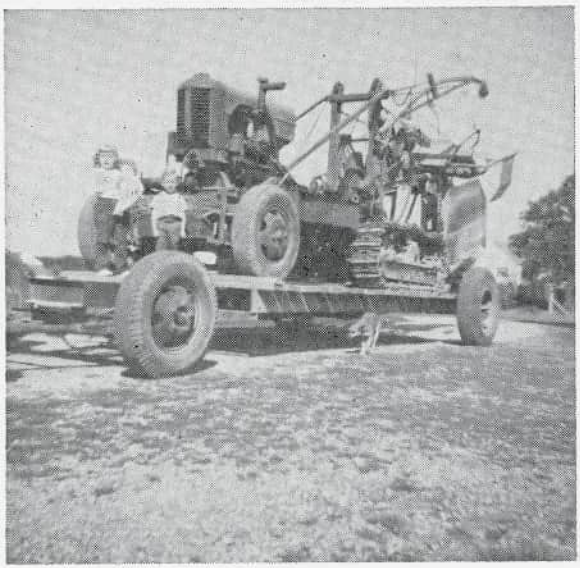
W. FIREOVED & SON DRAINAGE CONTRACTOR

In 1949, Wayne Fireoved purchased a Buckeye Trencher and started doing farm drainage contracting for farmers around the Mendon area, in addition to his farming.

His father, Tom Fireoved help him in the business for nearly twenty years. Others who helped were Mart Johnson, for four years and Larry Weaver for six years. After his son, Dennis, graduated from high school, he helped with the business. Sometimes the farmers themselves helped, to save on the cost of labor.

Through the years he has improved his methods of ditching either by purchasing a better machine or by improving on equipment he already had. He uses either clay or plastic tubing whichever the farmer prefers.

After 35 years he is still operating his business with the help of his son, Dennis.



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WALDO THOMAS, LAWN MOWER REPAIR

Collector of Gas Engines

Waldo Thomas started working with tractors, automobiles and gas engines, when he was about 18 years old. His father had a threshing machine, the boilers of which he fired for four or five years. Later he moved to Mendon, where he fired the steam boilers for Crampton's Tomato Company. He then obtained a fireman's license in order to continue working there, in 1939. In 1941, he secured the Stationary Engineer's License, which he still has renewed every year.

He worked at Producers Creamery, Celina, Ohio, followed by service for the stone quarry at Middlepoint (fired boiler for hot mix), then to Tank Depot as a mechanic for four or five years, to Lima Locomotive and finally to Goodyear at St. Marys, Ohio, as a mechanic

From 1953-73 he conducted his own business, drilling water wells.

Waldo became interested in old style "hit and miss" gas engines which were used to pump water for stock, grind sausage, and buzz wood. Before electricity was available, such engines produced the power.

His collection contains about 25 engines from ¾ to 6 horse power. He enters engines in steam and gas engine shows all over the country.

Some of the engines Waldo has in his collection are: Fuler-Johnson, McCormick Deering, Economy, John Deere, United, Galloway, Ideal, Fairbanks Morse, Satley, International, Jaeger.

Some of the places at which some of his engines were shown are: 1977—Celina Fair, 1978 to 1983—Paul Clay's Old Fashioned Days at Rockford, Ohio, 1980—Convoy Days, 1980 to 1982—Farm Focus, 1982—Mercer Co. Museum, 1983—Van Wert Co. Fair.

For the last twenty, years, he has repaired pumps and lawn mowers, and installed new pumps, in and around the Mendon area.

Waldo is still interested in collecting old and unusual gas engines.

The sound of a motor smoothly running
Is music to his ears,
For he has worked and cared for them
Down through so many years.



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MENDON FARM STORE

Ed Drake built the Farm Store building for a garage. He sold Studebaker Automobiles and farm implements. Later Paul Evans and John Gallman sold Overland cars there. In the same building Heffner Brothers had a garage and did general repair work.

John Willrath and Dale Krugh purchased the M and W Implement Store from Lowell Welker. Thus the partnership was formed and The Mendon Farm Store came into existence in December of 1958.

They became Dealers of Allis Chalmers Farm Equipment and Parts also Lawn and Garden. In the beginning they were associated with New Idea Farm Equipment but the line was dropped about 14 years ago. They are Dealers of various Shortline Equipment.

During the process of forming the partnership the wives became active as bookkeepers in the business, Mary Helen Willrath and Mary Krugh.

Dale and John are still active in the store and they have two employees, Leroy Black and Emerson Boyer.

The selling of parts and repair of farm and lawn equipment are the activities of the store.

In 1972 the store was remodeled for more convenience. Their going out of business sale was held April 23, 1984.

Many friendships have been formed over the years with their customers.

MILLER'S SPECIAL DITCHING EQUIPMENT

Jack Miller started his Farm Drainage and Special Equipment business in 1959 on South Green Street, Mendon, Ohio.

At that time the Special Equipment was a side line for his Farm Drainage Business. By 1971 plastic tile had been accepted by the farmers and Miller's Special Equipment was known throughout the ditching industry.

In 1972, the Equipment business moved to East High Street in the old Stokely Canning Factory, manufacturing and handling equipment for plastic and clay tile. By 1978 they had equipment in four foreign countries and twenty-one states. Plastic tile had become a way of life for the ditcher.

In 1973 the Farm Drainage was dropped from the business and Junior Diegel and Jack Miller became partners and devoted full time to the Equipment Business.

In 1976 they assembled their first Hydrostatic Drive Train for Trenchers. In 1977 they began production of a three point hitch auger back-filler. Both have proven successful and an accepted tool for Farm Drainage industry.

Since the adoption of the Laser to a ditching machine more modern technology entered the field. The older wheel type trenchers can be updated to use the technology being an advantage to farmers and contractors.

In the early 1980's there has been a steady movement of ditching machinery, mostly from Canada to Mendon, from Mendon to Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and some back to Canada. On Phase Machines is the name, Miller's Special Equipment, Mendon, Ohio, carrying the name of Mendon to places where it was never known before.

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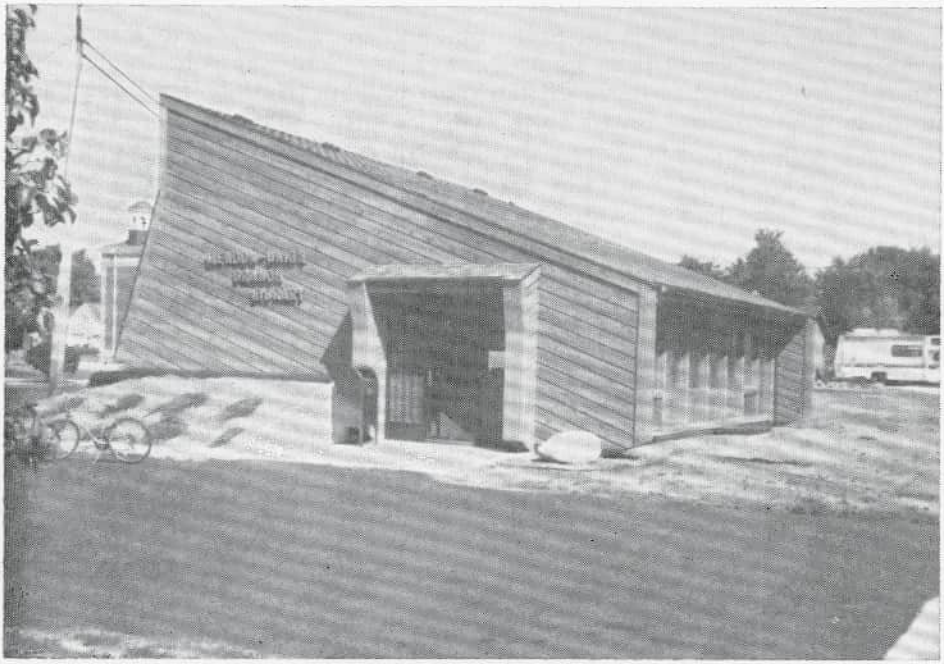
MENDON-UNION BRANCH LIBRARY



On July 20, 1960 a committee of three ladies from the Mendon Civic Club—Opal Lewis, June Johnson and Ardyth Shaffer—met with the Celina Library Board to discuss ways and means to established a branch library in Mendon. On August 26, 1960 a motion was passed by the Celina Library Board to establish a branch library in Mendon and authorize the expenditure of $2500 for books for this purpose.

October 21, 1960 the Celina Library Board again discussed the Mendon Branch Library. It was decided to confine expenditures the first year to the purchase of books and that the Friends of the Mendon Library would furnish and maintain the room in the Mendon Town Hall which originally had been the Mendon-Union Jail. The Friends would pay for any help not donated and the utilities would be furnished by the Mendon Council and Union Township Trustees. When Mendon's library became a branch library it was the first branch in the county and both Celina and Mendon became a part of a newly formed Mercer County Library. At this October 21, 1960 meeting it was pointed out that Judge Paul P. Dull was then a board member would be disqualified as a member since he would be responsible for appointing part of the library board now that it was no longer a city library but a county library. At this time it was decided to suggest that Ardyth Shaffer of Mendon take his position on the board which she did the following month. She has remained on this board for 23 years and is in her fourth, seven-year term.

November 7, 1961 a motion passed that the Mercer County Library would pay the Mendon Librarian, Kathleen Fox, wages of $14 per week for a 15 hour week for a total of $728 per year. On July 10, 1964 an extra hours pay was granted to the Mendon Librarian, Evelyn Kelner, making her wages $22.50 per week. Mrs. Kelner continued as librarian for 18 years.

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Revenue Sharing was pledged by the Mercer County Commissioners (informally) in 1976 to run hopefully for 4 years in the amount of $20,000 annually as follows: 1977-1978-1979-1980. Half of this amount was to go for a new branch libarary in Mendon and half for a new branch library in St. Henry. In 1979 the Mercer County Librarian, Austin Schneider, obtained a Federal Grant in the amount of more than $48,000. This was a solar energy grant. With the revenue sharing, the federal solar grant and liberal donations from the Mendon-Union community it was financially possible to make the new library building a reality. It also took the dedicated efforts of the Mendon-Union Friends Board of Directors. This board consisted of the following members:

Tyrone Thomas, co-chairman; Tom Armstrong, co-chairman; Elaine Maurer, secretary; Ruth Prichard, treasurer; Floyd Anspaugh; Kathleen Fox; Evelyn Kelner; Charlotte Lamm; Rev. Glenn Masser; Maxine Putman; Ardyth Shaffer, ex-officio.

The following information appeared on the library dedication folder: "The Mendon Union Branch Library serves the needs of the residents of the Mendon area. The new facility was dedicated on November 9, 1980. The old library had been providing service for about 15 years from several rooms located in the Mendon-Union Town Hall. The building is heated by an experimental system of solar passive energy. Many of the services available at the main library are also available from the branch, such as Golden Buckeye sign-up, record player, cassette player, Super 8mm projector and films, books, magazines, interlibrary loan, etc."

In 1983 a grant was awarded to each library in the Mercer County System through the efforts of the librarian, Austin Schneider, which made a computer system available to each library for the education and use of the library patrons. Many other worthy services have been added through the years.

The library is now open six days a week. The librarian at the branch is Kay Krogman and assistant librarians are Tina Hicks and Mary Ann Dudgeon.

ROEBUCK INSURANCE

In 1960, Lee went into the Insurance business and has been operating the Roebuck Insurance Agency for the past twenty-four years. Roebuck Insurance Agency is located at 110 North Main Street in Mendon, Ohio.

In January of 1978 Lee took on as a partner, Ronald Kruch, C.P.C.V. Ronnie is a lifetime resident of Mendon, Ohio, and had worked at the Celina Insurance Group as a Senior underwriter for over seven years.

The Agency represents, Union Central Life Insurance, Wayne Mutual Insurance Company, Miami Mutual Insurance Company, Darke County Insurance Company and Western Surety Company.

F. Lee Roebuck moved from Marion, Ohio, January 1, 1956 and purchased Brown's Superette Grocery. The grocery was located at 119 North Main Street, Mendon, Ohio. They changed the name of the grocery store to Roebuck's Superette. Lee operated the store for four years and then sold the store to John Barber in December of 1956.

In the 70's Craig Noble and John Moul of St. Marys opened a branch law office with Roebuck Insurance.

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GARWICK'S THE PET PEOPLE



The Pet business known as "Garwick's The Pet People" was originally started in 1960 by Dorothy and Clifford Garwick. The business at that time was called Garwick's Boarding Kennel because the boarding of pets was the only service offered. Six pets could be kept and the fee was $1.00 per day. With continued growth and expansions completed in 1967, 1969, 1977, 1981 and 1983 nearly 100 pets can be kept securely on the premises, and the fee is now only $4.00 per day.

Grooming service was added in the spring of 1961. This service was added as a convenience to a Mendon resident, the late Floyd Young. He and his wife Doris had grown tired of traveling to Lima to have their poodle groomed. The business now fancies up dogs and cats throughtout a 40 mile radius.

A few pet supplies (collars, feed, etc.) were sold in the early days of the business, but this line of products has expanded to include puppies, kittens, birds and many pet care products.

Originally just a few registered Beagles were raised and sold. Now 12 different breeds are raised along with four breeds of kittens. There is always an inventory of 30 to 40 puppies and kittens to choose from.

A small line of birds was added in 1979, including finches, parakeets and canaries. Soon, more exotic, large birds were added to the collection, making a more complete inventory. Danny, the shop parrot startles many people when he squawks, "Help, Help! Let me out!" Once a carpenter came down off the roof to see what the problem was.

Obedience training and a pet cemetery were added in 1979. At this time, the term "boarding kennel" was not enough and the business took its present name, Garwick's The Pet People.

Dorothy Garwick, owner of the firm and her son Scott were the original "work crew". They were joined by daughter, Sherry as soon as she was old enough. Part time help from outside the family became necessary in 1974. Deb Garwick joined the business full time in 1976. She fills the position of Assistant Manager and Obedience Trainer. Sherry returned to the business after completing college, and serves as Advertising Coordinator and Receptionest. Jenny Gable, Rockford is Kennel Manager and there are several others that help on a part time basis.

What once was a small business serving the Mendon area, now continues to grow and benefits people as far North as Defiance and as far South as Dayton.

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SHEETS BULLDOZING AND STUMP REMOVAL

In the early 1960's, Dave Sheets Sr bought an International T-20 Bulldozer so his son Dave could learn to operate heavy equipment. Dave cleaned out the fencerows on their own farm.

In 1965 Dave bought his first bulldozer, a D-4 Caterpillar. He did some work with it for other farmers and soon found that his bulldozer was not big enough. In 1971 he bought a D-6 Caterpillar which he still uses.

Dave learned the basic mechanics from his uncle, Glenn Sheets, who helped him repair his equipment. He is employed by Tractor's Inc., Celina, Ohio, overhauling bulldozers.

In 1972 Dave bought a stump grinder. It leaves only a pile of shavings where a bulldozer would leave a big hole.

In 1976 Dave Sr. bought a D-6 Caterpillar Bulldozer and now he, along with his son, clear the fencerows and woods.

Dave now resides on the Neptune-Mendon Road with his wife Diane and son Dave. Along with his bulldozing business he is engaged in farming.

HANSEL'S RECREATION

The Recreation Center was purchased by Claude and Leona Hansel from Charlie and Velma Teeters in January 1961 This business has been operated by them as a family business with W. J. Hansel, the late Tony Webb and Henry Krick, Sr., helping during the early years of operation. Their son, Tim, worked for them during his high school years.

Several major remodeling projects were completed during their 22 years of operation; once in 1963, again in 1972 and 1973, with new equipment and a new line of sandwiches added in 1975 and 1979. In 1980 a new floor and ceiling was installed, changing the business from a pool and card room with a lunch counter to strictly pool room and lunch counter. The changing of times and our society necessitated this last change.

The Hansels' are very appreciative of all of their customers, young and old alike, and hope to serve the community for many more years.

JIM'S HARLEY DAVIDSON SALES

The Motorcycle business under the name of Jim's Harley Davidson Sales had its beginning in September of 1961 on Walnut Street in Mendon, Ohio.

The owner, James Godwin, was serving with the United States Army stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina when the application for the Harley Davidson dealership was signed. After receiving his discharge the next three months were spent getting the building ready. Jim had worked with motorcycles for several years.

The first two years of business were spent in a two car garage on Walnut Street In 1963 the business was moved to a new location on Lewis Street. As the business grew it was again necessary to move to a larger facility and to the present location on State Route 707 west of Mendon.

The motorcycle business has been very interesting and rewarding over the years. Both Jim and his wife, Phyllis, have been active in the business since its beginning.

SNIDER TV SERVICE

In 1961, Russell Snider purchased the Mayfair Motel, Mercer, Ohio.

With so many television sets to be repaired at the motel, Russell decided to learn the business himself. He took a correspondence course from R.C.A. and learned to repair all types. He also worked at Goodyear at this time.

In 1965 he opened his repair shop at the motel. In 1975, after Wayne Snyder quit selling televisions, Russell took over the Zenith line. At the present time along with the Zenith TV he is selling Panasonic radios and microwaves.

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In 1976 he purchased the former Jack Bedell residence just outside the city limits on Celina Mendon Road He built a shop on the east end of his home in 1977. In 1980 he retired from Goodyear to devote full time to his TV and Microwave business.

BENNIE YOUNG CONSTRUCTION

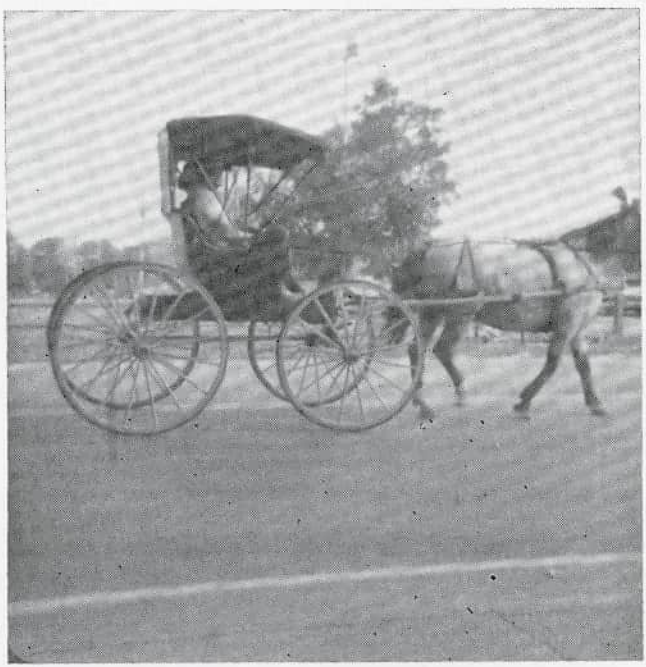
In 1963 Bennie began his construction business on a forty acre farm one mile north of Mendon on the Hamilton Road. He has a backhoe, a bulldozer and a grader and does general construction work.

Bennie's hobby is horses, he has a pair of Clydesdales, a pair of Belgiums and also five riding horses and a buggy mare. He has a 1906 buggy, a covered wagon, a bobsled, a sleigh, and a shuttle wagon. The shuttle wagon is used to transport people from their cars in a parking lot to a large celebration.

Bennie and his family belong to the United Wagon Train. Beginning the month of May he and his family spend most of their weekends with the wagon train. They travel about fifteen miles each day and then camp out at night.

He also belongs to the CB 54 Group, an organization which helps with parades or large crowds.

Bennie and Doris also like to square dance.



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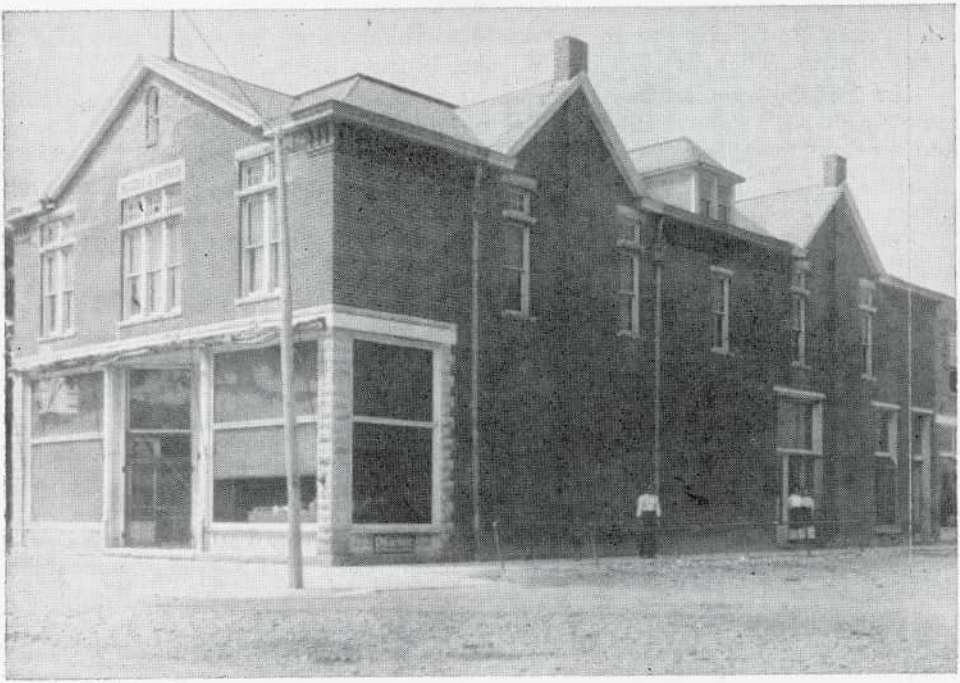
EMANS UNION 76 STATION LOT #16



A. H. Barber & Co. General Store. Left to right are A H Barber, Bess Ayres, Irene Upton, (Clerk) In the Rear, Bill Rice's Barber Shop

At the present site of Emans Union 76 Station, owned by Alfred V. and Marilyn J Emans being located on the west side of Main Street on the north end, at the corner of Main and West High Street.

The first deed being recorded November 11, 1834 by Thomas and Elizabeth Parrott to Aaron L. Johns. The following names are recorded as lot owners (and some, also, on the north side of lot 16) B. Griffin, L. Culver, M. Miller, J. Custer, B. F. Felker, G. Wooden, C. Klein, J. Weis, S. Hawkins, E Dutton, E. E. Hussey, A. H. Barber, M. Eikenberry, C. Layman, J. Murlin, R. Rinehart, W. Anderson, M. Nowak, W. Poast, H. Shipman, J. Kerr, S. Campbell, W. Boyd, O. F. Geiger, E. Armstrong, R. Hamilton, Heffner Bros., C T. Protsman, W. Frady, O. McGillvary, R. Miller, Pure Oil Co., Standard Oil Co., A. Emans.

The first structure built by E. E. Hussey and A. H. Barber, a large two story brick and stone building with a full basement, being a department store, selling everything of interest. The second floor was leased to the Masonic Lodge in 1902. At one time some of the school children held classes in a back, first floor room, while the second school house was being built.

The Mendon Post Office was also in this building for a time, being in the back on the street (north) side, with Elroy Hussey as Postmaster.

There was also a dentist on the ground floor, and O. F. Geiger had his printing shop in the back after the fire, publishing the Mendon Herald. Later he started another printing shop in a small house, south of this building, after the building burned, in 1924. Some of Geiger's type setting boys in this building were Reed Shelley (deceased), Prentiss Tomlinson, now living in St. Marys, Ohio, Charles (Cy) Dick, living in Celina, Ohio.

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In 1906 fire burning out the west side of the main business street, this building was the only one that was saved.

Hussey and Barber then later sold to Eikenbarry, being still used for a general store. Then in 1924 the building burned to the ground.

In 1931 Heffner Brothers, Vernon (Cy) and Oscar (Brownie) bought the lot at a sheriff's sale. Filling in the basement, they constructed a building, and also put in a grease rack and did general repair, and sold Sohio gasoline.

In 1946 and 47 they leased to Dale High and John Clay, called H. & C. Sohio.

Then Heffners switched from Standard to Gulf gasoline. Later built a building on back of the lot, having a used car sales.

In 1951 Heffners sold to Pure Oil Company, then Bob and Vivian Clay leased it until 1961, as Bob's Pure Oil.

At that time Pure Oil sold to Ray and Frances Miller, in 1964 Frances deeded it to Ray and Jessie Miller.

In 1968 Alfred V. and Marilyn J. Emans, with son Rick doing business as Emans Pure Oil. Later in 1970 Pure Oil changed to Union 76 Products, then known and still is Emans Union 76 Station, and also bought the building etc. in 1971.

In part of 1969 to late 1970, Rick did a turn in the Viet Nam War, with son Rex in part time help at the station. Then in late 1971 Alfred was disabled in an automobile accident.

After 1972 mechanical work ceased and at present time doing gas service only. The distributors for Emans gas were Carl A. Wright, Inc., Celina, Ohio, Raymond (Slim) and Barry Grothouse. Then in March of 1980 and the present time Edwin Bolton and Sons (Jerry, Dick and Bob) and still D.B.A. Carl A. Wright, Inc., Celina, Ohio.



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KOZY KORNER LOT 32

The recording of Lot 32 being on the east side of the business Main Street, at the corner of High and Main, was on May 23, 1856, David F. and M. E. Parrott to James W. Dutton, others were James Cotter, Oran Clark, James Gibson, John Chivington, John Rehm, Cyrus Collins, John Patterson, Enos Smith, J. W. Dutton, Daniel Davis, Joesh Bedell and Charles Weast.

On September 22, 1900, W. P. and Mary E. Clay to J. J. Bedell. They deeded 22 feet off the north west side, a corner lot to Elizabeth Winans, September 27, 1900. At this time a two story building was on this lot. I. E. "Granny" and Elizabeth Winans ran a saloon there for several years. Later a hardware was in this building operated by Ed Willie.

On February 15, 1910, Winans sold to S. B. Sidenbender, after Sidenbender's death it was sold to Nellie A. Hurless on June 19, 1920. Then from Hurless to W. D. Dunifon on March 25, 1922. L. A. Price bought it on September 26, 1922, and put a filling station there, and leased it to The Paragon Refining Company on April 30, 1923. Luster "Bussie" Diegel managed and ran this station for a few years.

L. A. Price sold it to Lloyd Bader on March 15, 1939, with Bader having a junk car lot on the corner, he also rented the second building, south of this, having his used car parts store.

Then on July 15, 1946 selling to Z. M. Watts, he in turn sold to Eugene Griggs on August 1, 1946. Gene sold to Alfred V. Emans on October 24, 1947. Alfred built a small cement block building which was only used for storage. In April 1954 Alfred sold to Lowell A. Welker who owned and operated a Farm Machinery Store in the next building to the south.

Lowell Welker sold this corner lot to Max E. and Melanie A. (Esmonde) Hesse, on August 17, 1961 and Max built a larger building and put the first soft ice cream mix machine in town, running this a short time, and selling on February 4, 1964 to "Bernie" Collins, who owned a restaurant, the only one in town at this period of time.

On October 30, 1971 Joe F. and Doris Severns bought this establishment, and at the present time is still the only restaurant in the village.

REX WELDING SHOP

This lot being first recorded in March 1880 to J. W. and Sarah O. Dutton to J. H. Moore, other deed names are Lemunyon, A. H. Barber, S. E. Hickernell, J. W. Barber, F. Garwick, B. Frahm, O. Frahm, L. Frahm to the present owners Rex V. and Janet R. (Fleming) Emans, buying it in 1977.

In 1978 a steel structure building was erected on the back of the lot and at the present time known as Rex Welding Company, and owned by Rex V. Emans.

The different kinds of welding performed in this shop include Aluminum, Stainless Steel, Cast, Magnesium, and Steel. Having one of the finest portable welding units in this area and being able to do most repairing on the spot, in the field, etc.

Other work consists of Industrial fabrication, ditching machine, bulldozer and farm repair, plus Rex's shop is capable of all types of mechanical work including tune ups, brake, exhaust, minor and major engine repair and hydraulics for heavy equipment.

MENDON RECREATION

Mendon Recreation is located on the west side of Main Street between Karen's Style Station and the Post Office. The lot was first recorded on April 15, 1878 to W. C. Snyder and W. Johnson.

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On August 15, 1888 it was sold to John A. Murlin who owned it for 12 years and was then sold at the turn of the century to W. H. Murlin. It was purchased by J. A. & I. H. Murlin in 1904.

At the death of John Murlin on February 26, 1928 it was left to Walter H. Murlin.

On April 16, 1943 Mary C. Allen purchased the property and operated a restaurant, she then sold to Ellsworth Branan, her brother. Branan owned it until May 25, 1955 when he sold to Elmer T. Smith who had a variety and drug store. "Smitty" then sold it to Floyd Anspaugh & Kenneth Stein on February 27, 1962. They owned it jointly until September 14, 1965 when Kenny bought out Floyd. On June 7, 1969 Floyd purchased the property until March 31, 1977 when he sold it to Winemiller & Anspaugh, Inc. Winemiller and Anspaugh operated a plumbing and appliance store, and dissolved partnership in 1981. The property was then purchased by David E. Rickard on November 4, 1981 for the Mendon Recreation and D. and J. Hauling.

David originally started business in January of 1980 across the street between the Mendon Farm Store and the Mendon Fire Department. Then in August of 1980 he moved down the street to John Willrath's house between Roebuck Insurance and Millard Teboe's home. He stayed there until he moved to his present location. He is also the owner of the building that houses the Mendon Post Office which is attached to this building on the South side.

Mendon Recreation is a favorite hang out for snacks, cards, video games, T.V. and just relaxation.

SHUT-INS CORNER

A TRIBUTE TO ALMA SKILES

Alma Skiles was a lifelong resident of the Mendon community. She and her husband Dick, attended many country auctions because of her interest in antiques and old books. However, we realize her real interest was people. She corresponded with many shut-in and lonesome people through the years and did much to cheer them up. Alma also loved cats, birds, poetry and coal-oil lamps.

Alma was 73 years old when she died and in her last column which she dictated to her daughter, she noted that she had been hospitalized for a week and a half but that "my friends have not forgotten me and I have not forgotten them. If you don't hear from me again, Elsie will tell you when I run out of ink. I am still hoping to make it."

—taken from The Daily Standard, November 28, 1983

Following is her final column, written by her daughter, taken from The Daily Standard, November 30, 1983.

SHUT-INS CORNER

(Editor's Note: Alma Skiles, who wrote our weekly "Shut-Ins Corner" column for the past 33½ years, died Thursday, Nov. 24, at Joint Township Hospital, St. Marys. Before she passed away, she had requested her daughter, Elsie Laffin, to write the final column. Following is Mrs. Laffin's concluding column.)

Several days ago my mother said, "I guess I won't be able to write any more columns, will you write the last one?" I'm sure you know it won't be easy.

Thirty-three years ago last March this column was started. Mom first started with it in the Celina Standard and St. Marys Leader. Later she wrote for the Chronicle of Coldwater. After her column was removed from the Evening Leader she started writing for the Minster paper so some of the St Marys readers could continue the column.

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She first started sending the articles to the paper in long hand. After I started typing in high school I typed the articles for a year. Then when I was leaving to get married she decided she had better type her own. For some years she typed with one finger on an old typewriter. She finally graduated to one finger on both hands and a new electric typewriter.

A lot of people have said to her over these last couple months, "you have really given a lot of people enjoyment and help through your column." Her remark to them was always, "they gave me more than I ever could have given them."

One year I took her to Harrisburg, Pa., to meet "Ruthie" a black lady she had met through the column. It was a very happy occasion. Mom had written to the Governor of Pennsylvania and had gotten some help for "Ruthie." To have this lady hug her and tell her thanks was a high point in her life. That is only one incident over her many years of writing.

Of course those of you who have followed her column over the years know her pride and joy has always been her only granddaughter Brenda. Brenda, who is now a R.N. was able to be with her grandmother through her sickness and death, and we were thankful for that. Her youngest grandson Brian, who is at Bluffton College was able to see her once a week and was with her all day the day of her passing. Keith, who is in the Army, was able to call and write. She has given many fine memories to her grandchildren and to the rest of her family. We were not ready to give her up, but we didn't have any choice.

I was able to spend all the time with her in the hospital and I can say never once did she complain or worry about herself. One of her neighbors had just gotten "store bought teeth," and she had me call from the hospital to see how he had gotten along with them.

She was astounded at all the cards and letters she received during her illness. I would like to thank all those people who remembered her in any way. There were many who went the second mile to make her time pass faster. To those we say "God Bless." As we all have done before, some said "I'll be down," and never came. To those we say, you missed your blessing.

This will be the final Shut-In's Column. She said she wished she had someone to carry it on, but then they wouldn't do the same as her anyway. Hopefully, many of you out there will take more interest in the shut-ins and older people and continue on with her ministry.

The following was her way of life:

Give Me The Flowers Now

I would rather have one little rose from the garden of a friend,
Than to have the choicest flowers when my stay on earth must end.
I would rather have a pleasant word in kindness said to me,
Than flattery when my heart is stilled and life has ceased to be.
I would rather have a loving smile from a friend I know is true,
Than tears shed around my casket when this world I have bid adieu.
Bring me all the flowers today whether white or pink or red,
I would rather have one little blossom now than a truckload when I am dead.

A tribute to my Mother, Alma Skiles.

Sincerely yours, Elsie Laffin, P.O. Box 223, Ney, Ohio 43549

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1776 BICENTENNIAL 1976

In 1976 the Village of Mendon celebrated our Nations 200th birthday along with the whole United States. A group of citizens organized early in January and decided on the July 4th weekend for our celebration. Officers elected were Tom Armstrong, Jim Heck, Marilyn Ruhlen and Janet Overley.

It was a three day event in conjunction with our annual Lions Club Day. On Saturday, July 3rd a parade was held. There were 80 some units entered. We had bands, floats, clowns, old cars, drill teams, horses, everything it takes to make a grand parade. The town was decorated in red, white and blue and everyone was in a patriotic mood. There were approximately 3000 people in town with visitors from 7 states and 3 countries.

On Sunday, July 4th we had a quiet old fashioned time. There were games and contests, a community carry-in basket supper and church service held in a large tent. Most everyone was dressed in costume and the men had grown beards and whiskers for this special weekend. At 2:00 P. M. the church bells were rung all across the nation.

Monday, July 5 was the last day, and the Lions Club held their annual celebration and picnic, There was food, games, rides, music and dancing. A crowd of about 3000 people was in town on this day also. It all ended with a beautiful fireworks display at dark,.

Everyone agreed it was a huge success and the greatest thing to ever happen in Mendon.

Now we all look forward to Mendon's sesquicentennial celebration in 1984.



1976 Mayor Clayton V. Adams and wife Mary Shavely Adams.

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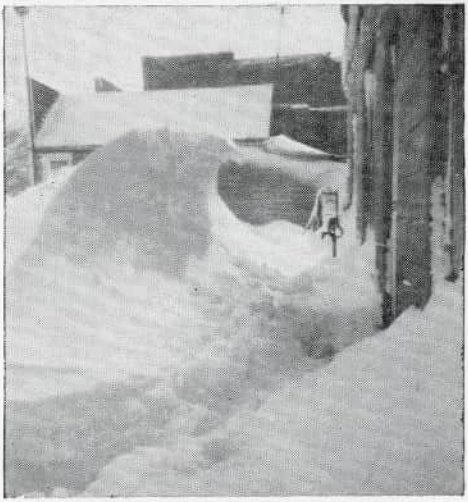
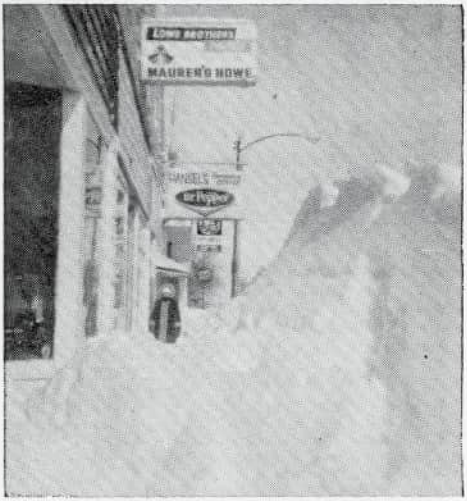


Blizzard of 1978



Blizzard of 1978 — J. B.



Joe Chaney — town handyman

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Council Members — Bill Snider, Wayne Gamble, Waldo Thomas, Tenny Strawn, and Ed Tobin, Mayor. Seated: Janice Clay, Cindy Etgen, Nancy Krugh, town clerk.



Township Trustees—Lester Miller, Dale Krugh, Kenny Dutton. Clerk: Betty Boyer.

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MENDON LODGE #586 F. AND A.M.



Masonic Lodge Building.
Also houses Esmondes Market. Smaller one is now a garage. Note: Barbershop is not yet in between. Also notice town pump, dirt streets and telephone poles.

A meeting was held at the home of John S. Newman on Wednesday evening, April 16, 1902, for the purpose of instituting a lodge of Free & Accepted Mason in Mendon, Ohio. The following master masons attended this meeting.

L. Y. Patrick—Blacksmith, W. F. McNamire—Village Mayor, J. S. Newman—Oil Gauger, J. H. Hobbs, L. E. Fox, C. H. Murlin—Farmer, L. C. Anderson—Hardware Merchant, Otis Hedges—Laborer, M. A. Yocum—Farmer, Philip Hawkins, F. H. Hale—Telegraph operator and railroad agent.

A motion was made and passed that Brother L. C. Anderson be directed to apply for a dispensation and that the lodge be named Mendon Lodge.

On June 21, 1902, Mendon Lodge was issued dispensation by M. W. Grand Master, Ike M. Robinson and appointed Brother L. Y. Patrick, first W. Master, Brother W. F. McNamire, Senior Warden and Brother J. S. Newman, Junior Warden.

The first meeting was held June 21, 1902, in the Hussey and Barber Hall, which stood on the southwest corner of the intersection of Main and High Streets.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio granted a charter bearing the date of October 23, 1902.

Earl Wilkins joined the Lodge around 1914.

The Lodge meetings were held in the Hussey and Barber Hall until a fire destroyed the building in 1924.

In 1927 the lodge purchased the Knights of Pythias building on the east side of Main Street, where they still hold their meetings. The Masons own the upstairs and Dave Esmonde owns the downstairs of this building.

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THE MENDON BLUE RIBBON 4-H CLUB

4-H is an organization for youth between 9 (or in the third grade) and 19, from all racial, cultural, economic and social backgrounds.

The first 4-H club was started on January 15, 1902 by A. B. Graham, who was Superintendent of schools in Clark County, Springfield, Ohio.

Eighty-two boys and girls met during the year to learn about growing corn, planting garden, testing soil, tying knots and identifing weeds and insects.

4-H has ventured into many other projects that youth can take, since its beginning, it now has over two hundred projects.

The Mendon Blue Ribbon 4-H Club was started in 1938, nearly 36 years after the first 4-H Club was started, it has been around for forty-five years.

The first advisor was Glen Daffler followed by Roger Sites. Some of the other advisors were: Dillon Boroff, Gene Counterman, Roy McDorman, and Joyce Coffee. The present advisors are Bill and Mary Kill and Don Shellabarger. The Club today consists of 27 members.

Some of the club activities throughout the year are:

Cleaning side ditches in Union Township
Having a ring toss stand for pop at the 4th of July celebration
Having demonstrations at the club meetings
Have speakers to come and talk to the kids
Donate money to the Mendon E.M.S.

MENDON CHAPTER NO. 259 ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

The order of the Eastern Star is a fraternal organization founded on the belief in God as a Supreme Being, and dedicated to the charity and aid to all mankind.

Mendon Chapter #259 was instituted on February 6, 1907, and received her charter on October 14, 1907.

There were 37 men and women as charter members. Past Grand Matron Gabrilla Dickman of Celina helped with the organization. Celina chapter #91 exemplified the work with Dr. J. E. Hattery as Instituting Officer. Mary E. Hobbs served as Worthy Matron and J. B. Maurer as Worthy Patron. In 1910 Mary was appointed Deputy Grand Matron of District #9.

The original by-laws stated that the initiation fee was $3.00 with annual dues $1.00.

A fire in 1924 destroyed all Chapter records.

In 1957 for our 50th anniversary, Worthy Matron was Leah Miller and Worthy Patron was Howard Miller and Ruth Prichard was Deputy Grand Matron District #9.

In 1960, we honored our first 50 year member, Sister Mae Coil. Since then, we have honored 13 more.

In September of 1982 we held the 75th Diamond Jubilee celebration with many distinguished guests from the district and Ohio Grand Chapter attending. Worthy Matron: Marcia Miller, Worthy Patron: Charles Adams.

W.C.T.U.
WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

The W.C.T.U. is a group of Christian women who organized to help keep alcoholic beverages from being sold in the community in which they live. Their motto is "For God and Home and Every Land." The W.C.T.U. was started in Hillsboro, Ohio, after a group of women had sung and prayed in saloons causing eleven to close.

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Frances Willard helped with the organization and was national president. A statue of Miss Willard is in Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C.—the only woman to be so honored.

The Mendon W.C.T.U. was organized in June of 1940. There were twenty charter members. The officers were: President—Fern Brown, Vice-president—Vergil Griggs, Secretary—Anna Tueth, Treasurer—Jo Miller

In 1948 there were 96 members, in 1953 there were 65 members, and in 1975 there were 22 members.

Vergil Griggs, the only living Charter Member, was State Director of Child Welfare for several years.

The Mendon W.C.T.U. meets every third Thursday of each month in homes of the members. The women take part in the Federation Meeting once a year and several attend the Annual State Convention. For many years the dues were a prayer and a penny a day. Due to the economy dues are now $5.00 a year plus a freewill offering at each meeting.

The Programs for the meetings are prepared from kits obtained from the National Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois. Headquarters publishes literature pertaining to drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, as well as a monthly magazine, the Union Signal.

In February of each year a tea is held in honor of Frances Willard. In May there is a White Ribbon Recruit meeting. Mothers of young children are invited to take them to this special meeting where, after an inspiring program, they are asked to promise to teach their children to abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages.

Some of the things that Mendon Union does for others include:

Pray for and sends cards to the sick in the Community.
Makes towel bibs, lap robes, and cancer pads for Nursing Homes.
Takes fruit and gifts to Nursing Homes.
Provide literature on alcohol, drugs and tobacco to schools.
Gives gifts to the needy at times.

For years boxes of lap robes, baked goods, candies, stationery, stamps, after shave lotion, and magazines were sent to Veterans Hospital at Chillicothe, Ohio

For several years the Mendon Union had a booth at the County Fair and passed out literature on drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

At election time the W.C.T.U. encourages people to vote and also offers to take people to the polls if they need transportation. During a recent election they worked with ministers and others checking the registers to see who was not registered to vote and to encourage them to register. Absentee ballots were taken to the shut-ins and to those who wouldn't be present on election day. In this way the W.C.T.U. helps to keep Mendon "dry".

The present officers and members are: Margaret Van Gundy—President, Mae Thomas—Treas., Dorothy Boyer—Sec., Vergil Griggs, Edith Sutton, Phyllis Griggs, Olive Carter, Alwilda Hughes, Evelyn Kelner, Ruth Krugh, Mary Masser, Elaine Maurer, Dorothy McGillvary, and Jane Shindollar.

THE GRAND LAKE MOTORCYCLE CLUB

The Grand Lake Motorcycle Club was first organized in 1940. Meetings were held at the Hopewell Grange Hall, Celina, Ohio, with about 45 members.

In 1945 they became sanctioned with the American Motorcycle Association so they could promote the sport of motorcycle racing.

On August 28, 1957 they became incorporated with the State of Ohio. The purposes for which said corporation was formed are: To increase interest in the sport of motorcycling and to conduct events for the promotion of

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better sportsmanship. And to do any and all acts allowed by the laws of the State of Ohio which in the opinion of the officers of the organization will be proper for this organization to promote.

The original club was disbanded in 1958. In 1962 some of the members in the original club re-organized the Motocycle Club. The meetings were held at Jim Godwins Harley Shop. Many organized events were planned.

On June 24, 1964, twenty acres of wooded land was purchased from Jesse and Mae Daniels on Deepcut Road. In 1965 a club house was built. They now have a 4/10 mile smooth dirt track that has been lighted for night racing.

Each year from April through October racing can be seen almost every other weekend. Starting in the winter of 1982 the track was opened up to the A.T.C., and Odyssey racing.

At the present time there are around 30 members. The officers for 1984 are:

President—LeRoy Katterheinrich, Vice President—Jim Heck, Treasurer —Eileen Severns, Secretary—Marty Heck. 1 Year Trustee—Gidget Burnett, 2 Year Trustee—Carl Severns, 3 Year Trustee—Phyllis Godwin, Special Long Running Trustee—Jim Godwin.

MENDON FLOWER AND GARDEN CLUB



Back row: Edna Hamilton, Gail Miller, Helen Squires, Hazel Fireoved, Evelyn Kelner. Front: Helen Taylor, Opal Lewis, Vergil Griggs, Mae Thomas, Joanna Miller, and Wanda Frysinger.

The Mendon Flower and Garden Club, affiliated with the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs, was organized in 1941 with Ona Bowland as the first President. The Town and Township Hall has always been their meeting place, the second Tuesday of the month. The club has three charter members still active in the club.

In 1950 the club planted shrubs around the Town and Township Hall. The grounds of both Mendon Churches were planted with trees and bulbs. A tree and bulbs were planted at the school and water tower grounds. A

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tree was also planted at the Mercer County Home. A series of illustrated gardening books were purchased and presented to the Mendon Library.

In 1976 the over-grown 1950 planting of shrubs around the Town Hall replaced with red, white, and blue flowers for the Bicentennial celebration. A float was entered in the parade, displaying a quilt made by the club to be raffled off during the celebration. The Flower and Garden Club painted the banner to go up across Main Street advertising the Bicentennial celebration, they also helped with the decoration of the store windows. They set up plant and craft sales tables for the event. Another money-making project was the Christmas workshops held from 1973 to 1976.

In 1977 the club reached another goal by planting more permanent evergreens and a variety of shrubs around the Town Hall, for which they received a first award from the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs.

In 1978 an article was written about the club for the new History of Mercer County, a history book was purchased and donated to the Mendon Library by the Garden Club. Also in 1978 the club donated money for the shrubbery around the new library, the club also donated money for the Mercer County "Jaws" and to the Emergency Squad of Mendon.

1978-1984—The Mendon Flower and Garden Club continues to maintain the shrubbery around the Town Hall and plants the flower bed at the Mendon-Union School grounds. They also decorate the tables for "Senior Citizens" day dinner at the school in the month of May every year.

In April and December, every year, the club decorates one room at the Mercer County Museum for their Open House. Also a Bazaar and Bake Sale is held every year to make money for the Towns beautification.

In 1981 the three living charter members were honored with a party and a certificate for service and loyalty to the club for 40 years. The charter members are: Vergil Griggs, Opal Lewis and Edna Hamilton, other members of the club are: Mary Crouch, Hazel Fireoved Treasurer, Wanda Frysinger, President, Nettina Haller, Evelyn Kelner, Joanna Miller, Vice President, Gayle Miller, Jane Shindollar, Helen Squires, Helen Taylor, Reporter and Mae Thomas, Secretary.

The club has also assisted in the sale of Daffodils on "Daffodil Days for Cancer" since 1980. It also has done what it can to help make the Sesquicentennial celebration a success.

MENDON WOMEN CIVIC CLUB

What is now known as the Mendon Civic Club used to be "Mothers Night Out." The origin of the club started several years ago by a group of young married women of the Methodist Church. This was primarily started for the purpose of fellowship and social get together, or as name implies "Mothers Night Out." There weren't many organizations in town when the club started.

It was in April 1949 that the group met at the home of Lois Adams, elected officers, changed the name to "Queen Esther's Circle" and started on their new adventure. Little did this group dream they would accomplish so much. As in any organization they had their ups and downs as well as criticism, good and bad.

Working for the good of the church was their main goal. New people who had moved into the community were soon contacted to attend church. Many from all walks of life, including homemakers, school teachers, nurses, clerks and office workers were members.

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Auction sales, bake sales, parlor sales, white elephant sales, and Stanley parties were ways of making money for different projects. Main project was to purchase an organ for the church. The group raised eight hundred dollars for this, the church board decided to help out with this purchase, so they graciously supplied the rest of the money.

In 1953 the name was changed to Mendon Civic Club. This way anyone regardless of race, creed, or church affiliation could become a member, one stipulation of being a member was that you were to be present at three meetings throughout the year or you would automatically be excluded. This rule no longer exists.

Meetings were held in individual homes monthly except for summer months. They are now held in the Banks Social Room.

In the past years the following donations have been made:

Tables for Mendon-Union school
Help pay for school sidewalks
Donated to F.F.A. organization
Purchased swings for park
Refuse cans for town
Sponsors to get bank in town
Help to Get Dr. Lamm established in Mendon
Contributed money to Church of God, after church burned
Gave to a club member when their home was destroyed by fire

At the present time there are seventeen members and two inactive members of the club.

There is a special lady that still lives in town that was instrumental in starting the club. She no longer is a member but is still active in her church. Opal Lewis is the special lady. We owe her much thanks for all the help she has given the community.

In more recent years we have done the following projects to raise money:

Had bake sales, garage sales, sold pecans, had 50-50 raffle, sold pizza, pop, pies and rolls after basketball games, compiled and sold cook books and collect $1.00 dues each month.

We have prepared and served the Alumni suppers for the past two years. This is an enjoyable and worthwhile project.

July 4th we have a stand at the school grounds. Each year we sponsor a girl to attend Girl's State.

Our contributions to several families in the community to help defray medical expenses, is another example of our generosity.

For several years we have done the United Fund Drive.

We have given money to the firemen to help purchase candy for Christmas treats.

Each year the Lions Club pays for a meal that is prepared and served by the school cooks for Senior Citizens. We provide carry-out containers.

In lieu of Christmas exchange each member gives three dollars, then we purchase items needed for Kindergarten room. Also we purchase a Christmas tree and ornaments, and an adjustable basketball hoop for school.

The Civic Club was instrumental in getting a Library started in Mendon.

Most recently we have contributed money to Mendon-Union Recreation Association for purchase of weight machine.

For several years, along with Lions Club, we have contributed money for a scholarship to be given to a Senior to further their education. This year we were able to give $400.00.

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Our latest project is stationery. In 1984 Mendon will be celebrating their Sesquicentennial year. Stationery printed with drawings of old and new school, train, old depot and barbership will be sold.

It is not known who the first officers of the club were, but the present officers are as follows:

President—Olene Grieshop
Vice President—Joan Dudgeon
Secretary—Virginia Vorhees
Treasurer—Mary Ann Dudgeon

ORDER OF THE RAINBOW FOR GIRLS MENDON ASSEMBLY #75

Institution of the Mendon Assembly, Order of the Rainbow for Girls, was held on May 28, 1949, under the supervision of "Dad" George N. Clark, Supreme Inspector of Ohio and Pennsylvania; Norma Dean Longnecker, Grand Worthy Advisor of Ohio from Dayton; and members of the St. Marys Assembly.

Initiation was conducted by the St. Marys Assembly.

A potluck supper was served by the Mendon Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, which sponsored the assembly.

Installation of the officers followed the dinner and started at 7:30 p.m.; it was open to the public. Officers of the newly organized assembly were:

Worthy Advisor—Marilyn Miller
Associate Advisor—Dorothea Pugh
Charity—Norma Jean Uncapher
Hope—Phyllis Archer
Faith—Betty Frysinger
Recorder—Sally Hickernell
Treasurer—Dianne Nichols
Chaplain—Marcia Taylor
Drill Leader—Louise Breese
Love—Mary Jane Nichols
Religion—Doris Washburn
Nature—Joy Lynn Morris
Immortality—Carol Clay
Fidelity—Alice Krugh
Patriotism—Bette Jean Nolan
Service—Donna Morgan
Confidential Observer—Shirley Now
Outer Observer—Martha Van Eman
Soloist—Gloria Jean George
Musician—Jane Overholt
American Flag—Barbara Lewis
Rainbow Flag—Sally Miller
Choir Director—Marilyn Lewis
Mother Advisor—Jean Wentz
Choir Members—Jackie Kelner, Ruth Pruden, Kathryn Profit, and Deloris Price
Advisory Board—Elmer Uncapher, Chairman, Jean Wentz, Ruth Prichard, Gladys Miller, William Monroe, Austin Uncapher, Paul Ross, Maxine Rain.

The Order of the Rainbow for Girls is an organization based on the teachings of the Bible. Any girl from 12 to 19 years old is eligible to join. The organization is sponsored by the Masonic Lodge and the Order of the Eastern Star. In order to join, each girl must petition the Assembly and be

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initiated by the girls already in the organization. Initiation fee was $3.00 and annual dues were $2.00. Meetings were held on the second and fourth Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Masonic Temple.

The term of office was for four months; each year three sets of officers were installed which gave more girls a chance to serve as Worthy Advisor. Installation of officers was held each term; inspection was held each year to make sure their work was being done properly.

The girls earned merit points by perfect attendance, traveling to other assemblies, and by money-making projects. Merit badges and white Bibles were awarded for certain numbers of merit points. Each term the girls attended the church of the Worthy Advisor.

A girl attained majority on reaching the age of twenty or on marriage. A ceremony was performed and the member received a "majority card" which she could use to attend Rainbow meetings for the rest of her life. A ceremony was also held and a certificate presented when a member graduated from high school.

Service projects included: Christmas caroling to shut-ins; cleaning town park; entertaining Eastern Stars, parents, and families; Founder's picnic honoring the founder, Mark Sexson; mascots for Grand Assembly; donation to a community church for vandalism damage.

Parties and social events: hayride, weiner roast, pizza party, Christmas party, slumber party, fun night at Y.W.C.A., scrapbook party, halloween dances.

Money-Making projects include: car wash, ice cream social, bake sale, candy bars, slave day, bazaar, sales of jewelry, fudge, candy, novelties.

The Rainbow girls furnished the paint and paneling to redecorate the Masonic Temple. They redecorated the meeting room in 1965, and in 1970 they redecorated the social room.

A number of Rainbow girls and Board members were honored by receiving the Grand Cross of Color. This honor was conferred upon outstanding members and sponsors.

The last meeting was held on December 31, 1981, with Darlene Uncapher as Worthy Advisor and Gwen Uncapher as Mother Advisor.

NOTE: Since the records were surrendered when the Assembly closed, we have no way of including the names of all who held office in the assembly. This history was compiled from memory and unofficial records by a number of people who participated in the assembly when it was active.

M. U. R. A.
MENDON-UNION RECREATION ASSOCIATION

The Mendon-Union Recreation Association was originally founded in 1950. The need for a new ball diamond and lighting were the needs that brought about this organization. The ball diamond was contructed on the current site of Mendon-Union High School and a section of the current school parking lot. Costs of this project amounted to several thousands of dollars and so the necessary funds were borrowed from a Mercer County banking institution.

In order to repay the note, 15 acres of land was leased from Orville Crouch and tomatoes and other field crops were raised to meet loan payments. It is noted in past records that Orville McGillvary, Bob Christian and Paul Stein "worked the ground" for crops to be planted. The financial projection for this project was 15 tons of tomatoes per acre at $25 per ton or $5,625 less $2,000 expenses. The results of this undertaking in dollars and cents is not recorded, but in talking with past members, "it was a lot of work,

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but was also a lot of fun". Members planted, cultivated, picked, and transported the crop to the local Mendon Cannery. It is noted that the loan was repaid in mid 1950's.

When the Mendon-Union High School was constructed, the original ball diamond was moved to the east end of school property and continues in use today. The lighting system was also moved to the same site and remained in use until 1980 or 1981.

No mention is made about raising crops for funds after the 1950's, but the MURA secretary's report makes frequent mention of the annual MURA Smorgasbord, an event well attended and supported by everyone.

Other types of income for the organization included: Mercer County Fair gate, concessions, auction sales, and donations.

The first President for the MURA was the late Superintendent Arthur Elam, first Treasurer was the late Hubert Dick and Floyd Young was among the first Secreteries. Coach Norville Brown was the first Summer Program Director for the community softball program.

By 1960, interest and participation in the Mendon Recreation Association appeared to dwindle. In 1961, a meeting was held at the home of Warren Shindollar to revitalize the group and it became called the MURA. At this time, the MURA constructed the large cement slabs at the rear of the present school. They are used for basketball, tennis, and other playground activities. At this same time, a summer softball program for the young girls in our area was begun.

By 1981, it was felt there was a need for an athletic booster club and during the fall of 1981, the MURA expanded to include the athletic department booster club. The first Board of Directors: Gary Trisel, President; Cal Fox, Vice President; Ron Krugh, Secy-Treas; Ty Thomas, Superintendent; Casey Nuttle, Athletic Director; Directors: Charlie Miller, Larry Now, Larry Krick, Paul Edwads, Audrey Snyder, Pauline Miller, Eric Welker. Purpose of the group was "to promote with assistance of Mendon-Union Athletic Department and other interested parties, a summer recreation program and to promote and assist the welfare and interest of M-U athletes and M-U Athletic Department.

Booster memberships are sold every year to any interested parties and include ticket discounts, use of gym facilities, voting privileges, etc. Other fund raising projects include 50/50 drawings, July 4th softball tourneys, scotch doubles bowling tourneys, softener salt sales, Mercer Co. Fair gate, chicken bar-b-que, and concessions during softball season.

MURA members continue to support the summer recreation program, maintaining ball diamonds (including a new diamond just northwest of M-U High School), assisting M-U Athletic Department in purchasing uniforms, equipment, and referee fees. The largest and most recent undertaking was the purchase of a Universal Weight Machine in March 1983 for use by our athletes.

The M.U.R.A. is open to all interested persons in the community.

BOY SCOUTS

The first Boy Scout Troop in Mendon was Troop 112 of the Shawnee Council in the Tecumseh District. The Troop was organized in 1956 with Lamar Roebuck serving as its Scoutmaster. The Scouts were sponsored by the Mendon Lions Club.

The Institutional Representative was Floyd Young. Members of the Lions Club were: John Clay, President; Merritt Archer; Merle Hays; James Nichols; John Crow; John Maurer and Don Griggs.

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The Scoutmaster in 1958 was Max Hesse, Jack Miller, and Clayton Butler, a teacher.

Some of the first Boy Scouts in Troop 112 were: Lance Boyer, David Shindollar, Neil Esmonde, Larry Donovan, Jerry Krogman, Gary Miller, Dana Griggs, Gary Hamilton, Bill Hamilton, Jerry Snyder, Richard Crider, Larry Krogman and Jerry Brown.

The Committee was: Lee Roebuck, Warren Shindollar, Hubert Dick and Wayne Fireoved.

This Troop was discontinued and later 231 was organized. During 1968 to 1971 the boys from Mendon went to Neptune Troop 119.

In July 1970, Troop 119, sponsored by the Neptune Church of God and composed of boys from the Neptune-Mendon area, undertook the task of reconstructing a pioneer log cabin. It was taken from the Jerry Carpenter farm on Morrow Road, near Tama, Ohio, and was reconstructed on a site one mile south of Mendon, on the William Fent farm.

The old cabin, believed to have been built in 1881, was taken apart and the logs moved to Mendon for reconstruction by volunteer help, mostly by Cub, Webelo, and Boy Scout fathers from the two communities.

Louis Hanley, Celina, was in the process of tearing down the old cabin for Mrs. Jerry Carpenter, which had been sided over, when he discovered that the house was made of hand-hewed logs filled with clay mortor, and contacted scout leaders whom he knew were seeking such a cabin.

Many people donated time, money, supplies and equipment to clear the land and build the cabin.

Sand and mortar were used to fill the cracks between the logs to make a more permanent filler than the original clay. The cabin measures 18x24 feet and the bulk of its reconstruction was with the original materials. It is to be used for a clubhouse for the scouts.

The present day Boy Scouts are under the leadership of Bernie Lauth with Larry Krogman as assistant. There are 14 members at the present.



Boy Scout cabin torn apart piece by piece and marked and moved to new site for Scouts. Taken from Jerry Carpenter farm on Tama Road North of Celina, Ohio.

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GIRL SCOUTS

The Scouts were organized in the fall of 1956 by the Mendon Womens Civic Club with the help of Mrs. Angus (Lucille) Purdy. Mrs. Phil (Nina) Williams was the representative to the Lima Girl Scout District. Three troops were started, Brownies, Intermediates, and Jr. High. Mrs. Jay (Jean) Miller and Mrs. Purdy were two of the first leaders. Members of the troops were:

Brownies—Beverly Christian, Kendra Harner, Karen Miller, Kandy Fox, Lina Griggs, Patricia Purdy, Janie Welker, Kathy Schroyer, Mary Ellen Smith.

Jr. High—Cheryl Adams, Sue Davis, Sharon Hamilton, Saundra Harner, Jean Purdy, Alice Sutton, Linda Williams.

Some Scout activities were:

Flag ceremony at Farmers Institute, Marched in Memorial Day Parade.

Jr. Hi girls started lending library for elementary students. Celina Public Library furnished books and with permission from school Superintendant the girls served as librarians for grades one through six.

Merle and Nettina Haller helped with driving, etc. Opal Lewis taught ceramics in her basement.

Learned First Aid, Worked on several badges, Cookie sales, Sold Poppies for veterans, Gone to Ice Capades, Crafts, Horseback riding, Swimming parties, Skating parties, Hayrides and cookouts, Bike Safety, Toured McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Hospital and Fire Department.

Service projects: Caroling, made sachets and favors and sang at nursing homes, pick up litter on Ohio cleanup day. Also gave money to Juliet Low Friendship fund.

Brownie leaders Barbara Hamilton, Karen McMichael and Becky Barber. Juniors: Kathleen Fox.

MENDON LIONS CLUB HISTORY



Twenty-five years ago, April 12, 1957, the Mendon Lions Club became a living reality. Twenty-three members made up the starting club. There was a need for an organization to coordinate the efforts of individuals and groups in and around Mendon, to get jobs done. The Mendon Lions Club has done

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that. Through countless projects they have raised thousands of dollars and have reinvested it in the community with great results. You ask what categories those important projects include? Let me itemize a few:

Halloween parade prizes, Sending boys to BOYS STATE, Sports and Band recognition, Pilot Dog Program, E.M.S. Squad, Mercer County Council of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Sponsor of local Boy Scout Chapter, Christmas baskets to the needy, Easter egg hunt, for the kids, Donation to Eye Research, Lions International Foundation Relations, Library Branch.

Help pay for the annual dinner for Sr. Citizens, and the list goes on. Would you like to guess the actual amount in dollars we "Lions" have invested in the above mentioned and other projects since 1967? That figure totals $21,751.63.

The club enjoys the support and cooperation of the whole community, and we hope to warrant even greater support in the coming years.

The above "Historic Reflections" was written by **James Tingley** for the Club's 25th Anniversary in 1982.

The fiscal year of 1983-1984, starts the Mendon Lion Club's 26th year of existence. Chartered in 1957, the club currently has 33 members. In fact, there are several of its founding fathers still active in the organization. Active charter members are Merritt Archer, Donald Dudgeon, Merle B. Hays, John F. Maurer, Roger Sites and Jim Tingley. Other members are John F. Adams, Dan Adams, Hugh Archer, Tom Armstrong, Stanley Dicke, Rodney Dudgeon, Lewis Fox, Brad Hesse, Galen Hesse, Rick Hesse, Robert High, Kenneth John, Ron Krugh, Ralph Lewis, Rev. Charles Martindell, Gary Nosek, Edwin Prichard, F. Lee Roebuck, Jerry Rolsten, Scott Rolsten, Jim Shaffer, Cecil Shank, Steve Snyder, Tyron Thomas, Irvin Butler, Dale Moorman, and William Snider.

The officers for '83-'84 are President, Tyrone Thomas; First Vice President, Jerry Rolsten; Second Vice President, Rev. Charles Martindell; Third Vice President, Gary Nosek; Secretary/Treasurer, Ron Krugh; Lion Tamer, Scott Rolsten; Tail Twister, Donald Dudgeon; Song Leader, Roger Sites; two year Trustee, Brad Hesse; two year Trustee, Galen Hesse; one year Trustee, Dan Adams; one year Trustee, John F. Maurer.

The organization remains active in the community, meeting twice a month at the Mendon School cafeteria, with the women of the United Methodist Church serving the meal. Its primary fund raiser has been, and still is sponsorship of the communities 4th of July celebration, made possible by donated time and labor of many in the community. The money raised from this and other projects permits the organization to continue serving community needs and further the objectives of this international organization.

At one time the Mendon Lions Club sponsored a basketball tournament with four local teams participating.

The games were played at the high school auditorium on March 13. The Mendon Lions Club took on the Mendon Fire Department and the Mendon Faculty played the Booster Club.

The consulation and championship games were played in the evening. Admission was $1.00 for adults and 50 cents for students. All proceeds went for community projects.

On July 4, 1983 the Lions Club held a Glaucoma Screening at the Mendon Union School, their co-sponsor was The Ohio affiliated of the National Society to Prevent Blindness. The screening was conducted as part of the annual Lions Fourth of July celebration.

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The Lions Club held their first annual variety show on Saturday, October 8, 1983, at 8:00 p.m. in the Mendon-Union School Gym.

The show was Mendon's version of a Country-Western Revue, which included singing, dancing, comedy and drama. During the intermission the club sold candy and awarded prizes, which had been donated by area merchants and other organizations. The show was directed by Cheryl Boley, Marilyn Ruhlen, Brenda Hicks, Mary Lou Clay. General chairman was Jerry Rolsten.

Proceeds from the show will be used to help provide for a scholarship fund and other community projects of the local Lions. Reserved seats were $3.00, general admission $2.00.

CUB SCOUTS AND WEBLOS

Mendon Cub Scout Pack #231 was formed in November of 1972. It was first chartered in 1973

The sponsoring organization was and continues to be the Mendon Lions Club.

Cub Scout Pack #231 participates in the following annual events:

Winter Fun Days, Cub Scout Window Display during Scouting Week, Pine Wood Derby, Blue-Gold Banquet, Caroling and baking cookies for shut-ins, Roll Call and Uniform Inspection prior to Charter renewal, Memorial Day Parade in Mendon, Cub Day Camp, Participation in Mendon July 4th Celebration, Booth at Mercer Co. Fair and Grand Parade.

One special highlight of the 1981 Lake Festival Parade was when Pack #231 was awarded the Miss Ohio Trophy for their float.

Pack meetings consist of Award ceremonies and family activities such as Roller skating, bowling, swimming, pizza parties, carry in meals and weiner roasts.

Paper Drives are held on the last Saturday of every other month.

The Leaders, Committee members, and Parents avocation to bettering the boys of our community is what keeps Pack #231 ALIVE!

"A Boy is the only thing God can use to make a Man"—Cal Farley

THE CHEVY UNLIMITED CLUB

The club was started in the summer of 1976. The Paul Koesters and some friends, Jim Shaffer, Scott Hesse, Jim Sutter, and Eugene Grube decided to start a chevy club to help keep up the restoration of old Chevys. To plan where to get members, they took names from other car club newsletters of people close around the area, and invited them to a meeting at Paul Koester's home. Having other meetings and starting a regular club were discussed at the first get together.

After several meetings, officers were elected and the club became incorporated with the State of Ohio as a non-profit organization. The home address has been Mendon since 1976.

Usually the club has a car show swap meet every year. Some of the money is donated to the fire department and emergency squad, as well as to needy families in the area. The club also participates in many parades in the area.

This club is a family oriented organization, having cook-out meetings all summer long, and usually there is a Christmas meeting for the families.

The main purpose of the club is the restoration of old cars and trucks of any kind, and to meet new people and make friends.

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The Chevy Unlimited Club

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

When the Emergency Medical Service, E.M.S. was first organized on April 26, 1978 with a total membership of four persons responding to squad runs in the fire truck, the Celina Ambulance transported patients to the hospital.

The E.M.S. received its first squad vehicle December 31, 1979, there were eight squad members to cover 24 hour service seven days a week on a volunteer basis. The squad has increased its membership and presently has 15-20 members.

The squad vehicle was originally housed in the fire station. In April of 1979 the ambulance was moved to a newly renovated squad room and garage, in the Town Hall, which was once the old fire station.

Training for basic E.M.S. consists of 90 hours of classroom and clinical hours. All squad members must complete the basis course and receive a State Certificate to qualify for squad run with the ambulance. Some squad personnel have also completed additional training and qualify as advance E.M.T.A.'s (Emergency Medical Technicians—Advanced) and are able to start I.V's (intravenous).

The Mendon E.M.S. is funded by donations and receives $11.00 from the county for each squad run. The squad vehicle and basic equipment are furnished by the county.

In addition to serving the Mendon area with ambulance service, the squad also furnishes personnel for special events in the community and provides weekly blood pressure check-ups on Saturday's at the squad station.

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Standing: Dennis Clay, Lois Miller, Cheryl Boley, Bonita Welker, Brenda Hicks, Caral Snider, Ty Baltzell. Kneeling: Barry Clay, Ken John, Bud Miller, Bill Snider, and Eric Welker.

THE MENDON CRAFT CLUB

In 1978 several women in the community decided to organize a craft club. It was called "The Mendon Craft Club". The club started out with nine members and soon grew to twenty-two.

During the first year several people came to the meetings and demonstrated their crafts, exchanging patterns and sometimes recipes.

The first craft bazzar was held in November of 1979. The money was donated to the newly formed Emergency Squad. Since then, bake sales and bazaars each year with the club donating the money to different organizations. Some of the organizations are:

Teddy Bear Fund, The Fire Department, M.U.R.A, Boy Scouts, School Year Book, Penny Pitch at W.O.W.O., J.A.W.S., Town Hall, Girl Scouts, Others.

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The Craft Club has held bazaars at Lima, Van Wert Y.W.C.A. and Mendon, Ohio.

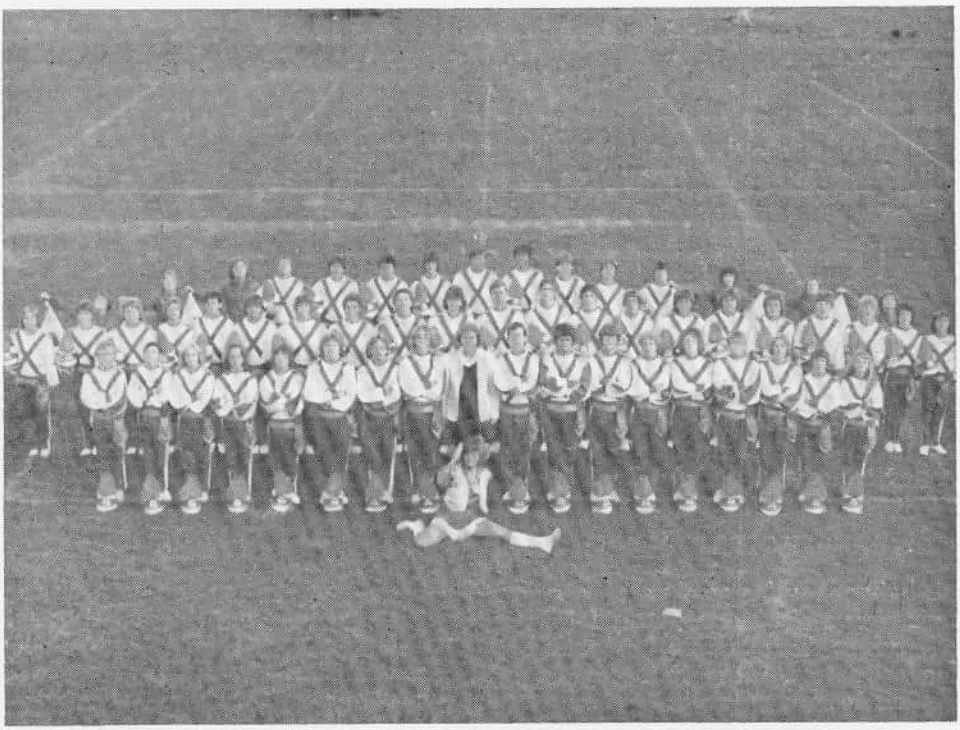
In December of 1982 the club baked cookies and took to the shut-ins and the sick. They also took flowers to the various nursing homes in the area where some of Mendon's former community members now reside.

Members have taken several trips to craft shows and stores in Columbus, Dayton, Lima, Ohio and Decatur, Bluffton and Ft. Wayne, Ind. At Christmas time the club usually has a "meal out" and sometimes exchange hand-made gifts.

In 1980 the club purchased material for a king size quilt. The members embroidered and quilted it. The quilt was sold to the highest bidder in sealed bids.

At the present time the club is working on a candlewick quilt which will be auctioned off at the sesquicentennial celebration. Each member is quilting a block. They are also making quilted pillows, stuffed geese and chicken doorstops from calico.

The craft club has made a sesquicentennial cookbook containing club members favorite recipes. The books are now on sale from any member.



MENDON-UNION BAND BOOSTERS

During the school year of 1945 and '46, the P.T.A. made a suggestion to the school board to have the music teacher organize a band. That year many students showed interest and on May 30, 1946, the Mendon-Union Band led the Memorial Day Parade. All parents and the community were so thrilled and proud they decided they would have to organize a Band Boosters Club. On June 5, 1946, the first meeting was held at the school and the following

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officers were elected: President—Evelyn Kelner; Vice-President—Irene Hesse; Secretary—Edna Hamilton; Treasurer—Josephine Goodwin.

The Band Boosters most important project was raising money for new uniforms, so it was decided they would have a food stand at the Mercer County Fair. The members took their own pots, pans, coffee pots, tables, coal-oil stoves, ice boxes, etc.

The first year they were not very well organized so they had to work almost every day until everyone was exhausted. The members also furnished all the food except the meat, buns, pop, and milk. With the help of most of the community, who were very proud of the young band, at the end of the week there was a profit of $1173.89. A meeting was called and a committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of purchasing band uniforms. Band members were measured in October and by the following spring in 1947, they were the proud owners of the most beautiful uniforms in the state. The cost of the uniforms was $1292.70 for the thirty-one members of the band.

The Band Boosters continued having monthly bake sales, rummage sales, farm sale dinners, many banquets were served with over two hundred people, ice cream socials were held every two weeks during the summer in the town park, during a band concert. Food was sold during basketball season and also during football games at St. Marys, when the band was playing. The band would receive $25. for playing plus $20 to $25 was made from the sale of food. Turkey raffles and carnivals were held for several years as a money making project.

On Halloween the band dressed in Halloween costumes and had a parade with the mothers having a lunch stand. This was the first big Halloween celebration in Mendon, which has been continued by the Fire Department to this day.

In 1947, the Band Boosters purchased the first band instruments: Sousaphone $369; Bass Horn—$35; and Bass Drum—$15. All other instruments were owned by the members. Lawrence Evans was band director at this time. He resigned in 1949 and Paul Morrow was the new director.

In 1949, the Band Boosters were gradually improving the food stand at the fair, by making new tables and benches, putting in gas hot plates, furnished by Joe Hogan, St. Marys, free of charge for many years. The use of Ray Truesdale's large ice box was a blessing over the years, and was very much appreciated by the band boosters.

The First uniforms for the majorettes and flag-bearers were bought in 1950, costing $416.58. At this time they were having two band rehearsals a week, for this the director was paid $15.00. The Band Boosters paid the summer directors salary for many years.

In 1950, the first Band Banquet, in honor of the members, was served by the Anderson Church of God for 85 cents a plate and the Seniors received their letters if they had been in the band for three years.

The band was asked to play many places over the years, one of the two most enjoyable were at the State Fair and the two weekends at Chautuqua. On one of the State Fair trips Merle Haller treated all of the members to a steak dinner.

The food stand at the Mercer County Fair continued to grow and interest was still high, the food stand had become noted for it's good food, which still continues after all these years. Prices for food in 1959 were: Soup—15 cents, Sandwiches—15 cents and 25 cents, Pie and Cake—15 cents and Coffee 5 cents.

Many instruments have been purchased over the years and an estimate

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of $12,000 was made in 1959. Many more instruments have been purchased since that time. These instruments were rented for $5.00 a year to the members until 1975 when it was decided to charge $10 for them. There were approximately fifty instruments rented at that time. Todays rental fee is only $15.00 per year.

New uniforms were purchased in 1962 again in 1968 and 1981.

In 1969, a black top floor was added to the food stand, which was a big improvement.

Many outstanding officers have served over the years who have had the backing of wonderful loyal Band Boosters, who along with Band, School, community and Churches, have put Mendon on the map. They were also fortunate to have the best Band Directors who loved the band and were also admired by all. Directors have always said that Mendon community was most cooperative and generous.

Some of the past presidents were: Evelyn Kelner, Miriam Nichols, Katherine Becker, Jessie Clay, Don Miller, Dale Hundley, Bud Uncapher, Jerry Rolsten, Ken John and Karl Duff. Some of the Past Directors were: Lawrence Evans, Elenora Socin, Paul Morrow, Donald Durst, Wilma Ralston, Vance George, Gene Chatfield, Walter Mokros, Michael Hurlow, James Parker, Larry Fullenkamp, Jim Lillibridge, Nancy Westfall, Steve Rankey, Sara Studebaker and Dirk Martin.

Present officers: President—Jeanne Now, Vice President—Cheryl Boley, Secretary—Karen Kittle, Treasurer—Pauline Miller

Present band director—Leanne Snyder. Present band members 56.

With the enthusiasm of the Mendon-Union School and the surrounding community, the Mendon Band Boosters will continue to be a great success for many years to come.



Honor Roll built by Frank Hale . . . notice brick sidewalk.

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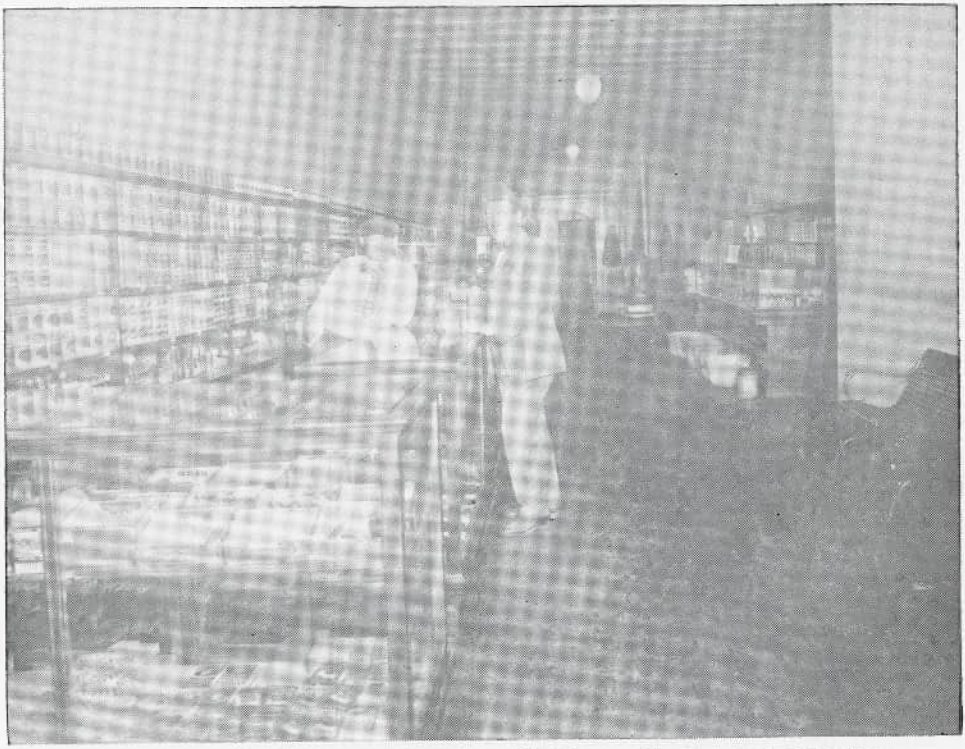
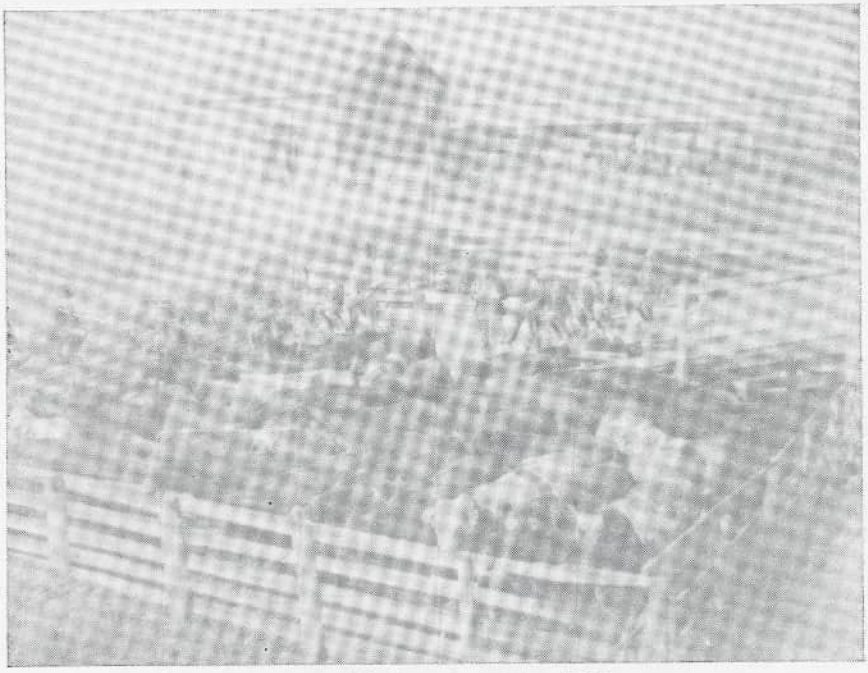


A. H. Barber & Co.—general mdse.—J. Warren Barber and salesman



Mendon Stockyards, early 1900's.

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GENEOLOGY

FOUNDERS:

Justin Hamilton
Born: 11, Sept., 1796 Blandford, Massachuttes
Died: 19, Feb., 1863 Union Twp. Mercer Co., Ohio
Married: 14, May, 1820 In Ky.

To:

Eliza Jane Rhodes
Born: 28, Feb. 1798 In Conn.
Died: 1, Nov. 1887 Union Twp. Mercer Co.

Justin was the son of Hugh and Isabella Knox Hamilton, and Eliza Jane was the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Crandall Rhodes.

Thomas Parrott who married Elizabeth Coil on 12, December 1820 in Fayette County, Ohio, came to Mercer County with her family, the Andrew Coils, in 1822.

William Hamilton
Born: 20, Jan., 1804 Blandford, Mass.
Died: 9, Sept., 1879 Union Twp. Mercer Co., Ohio
Married 27, May, 1827

To:

Almira C. Abbey
Born: 16, Jan., 1804 Coeymans, New York
Died: 5, May, 1892 Union Twp. Mercer Co., Ohio

William was the son of Hugh and Isabella Knox Hamilton, Almira was the daughter of Joseph and Suzannah Grippin Abbey.

William was the Justice of the Peace for 42 years and they used his records to write the 1882 Sutton History Book of Mendon and Union Township.

The early research on the Hamilton Geneology was done by Janice Barber Reddin who is a licensed Geneologist and a 1920 graduate of Mendon High School.

Individual families have contributed the latter data and the entire geneology has been edited and compiled by Claryce Ann Hickernell.

ISABELL HAMILTON

Isabell Hamilton born April 19, 1821, died May 17, 1882 was the eldest child of Justin and Eliza Jane Rhodes Hamilton. She first married John Noble and they had two children: John C. Noble and J. H. Noble. On Aug. 15, 1850, Isabell maried Lewis Brewer Sr. They were the parents of six known children: Pheraby Brewer married Isham Driskill, their three children were: Sinia Driskill married F. A. Doyle (no children), Lewis Driskill and Isham Driskill. Lewis Brewer Jr. married Delilah R. McDonald, their five children were: Clarence LeRoy married Pearl M. Moorhead first (no children), Carrie Williams, second, had a son Clarence Brewer Jr., Alexander Brewer married Lena Ada Hauss and had two children: Lewis Brewer and Helen Brewer Arthur Ray Brewer married Margaret Mode Eddy and had a son, John Arthur Brewer married Betty Lee Arbogast and had Becky Lee and Margaret Ann, Bessie Lenore Brewer married Walter Lyons and had Barbara Elizabeth Lyons married a James and had Scott and Susan, Lewis Stanley Brewer, died in infancy. Etta Brewer died an infant. Isabell Brewer married Tobe McDonald, first (no children), married James Mallory, second, and had James Mallory. Eliza Brewer married John F. Marbaugh and they had: Dora Marbaugh, Clyde Marbaugh, Grace Marbaugh married Lawrence A. Toler and they had Bessie Mae Toler, Dora Isabel Toler and Elsie Grace Toler, Lola Mae

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Marbaugh. Justin Brewer married Mary Elizabeth Barrington (Bessie M.) and they had three children: Maud Brewer married Charles Moore and had Charles Brewer Moore, Mabel Brewer married Jack Campbell (no children), Lois Brewer married a Shepard. Justin Brewers second wife was Anna R. DeLay and they had: Ruth D. Brewer, Justin Brewer Jr. and James Brewer.

JUSTUS HAMILTON

(Second child of Justin and Eliza Jane Rhodes Hamilton)

Justus Hamilton married Mary Jane Panabaker and they lived on the farm now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gail Baer in Center Twp., on Celina-Mendon Road. There children were: Almira Hamilton who died at the age of 23, Isabelle married George Wells of Auglaize Co., Hugh Leonard Hamilton married Lydia Patterson, second marriage to Martha Brown. William Adam Hamilton married Almeda Rittenhouse and lived in Michigan. Mary Jane (Jennie) married Perry M. Harris, Harriet Lucinda (Hattie) married Adolf Gilberg, Charles Justus Hamilton married Laura Anderson, Silas Moses Hamilton married Frona Belle Dutton, second marriage to Mary Elizabeth Davis.

GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Hugh L. Hamilton and Lydia Patterson were: Henry Ulysses, Honalulu married William Hankins, Olela Jane Hamilton never married, Hugh Leonard Hamilton died at age 7, Loah Justus Hamilton married Kate Waters, second marriage to Martha Runkle, Zuzella Hamilton married Archibold Hiles, Winona Belle, never married, and Raleigh Hugh Hamilton married Ida Faurot.

Mary Jane Hamilton and Perry M. Harris had one son Kent Harris.

Children of Hattie Hamilton and Adolf Gilberg were: Bertha Edna Gilberg married Findley Sherlick and there were no children, Justus Gilberg married Flora Newcomb, second marriage to Nancy Fenning. Bronsart Gilberg married Esther Diener, second marriage to Addie Johnson, Fred Gilberg married Mildred Hassan, second wife was Ida Winkeljohn.

Children of Charles Justus and Laura Hamilton were: First child died at birth, Ray died at 8 month, Oral Hamilton married John Severns, Ethel Hamilton married Oscar Carter, Georgie Hamilton married Perry Miller, and youngest child Ford Hamilton.

Silas Moses Hamilton and Frona Belle had one son, Lee Ivan Hamilton who married Ada Hall.

The children of Silas Moses Hamilton and Mary Elizabeth Davis were: Garrett Trevor Hamilton married Maude Leila Clark, Verra Ada Hamilton married Thomas Issac Stoner, Anna Jane Hamilton married Earl Wagner, Frederick Franklin Hamilton married Hilda Gay Koehlinger, Gottschall Emmett Hamilton married Dorothy May Terry.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Loah Justus and Kate Hamilton were: Hermes Hamilton married Francis Bogue, Muna Bertha Hamilton married Paul Fisher, Ernest W. Hamilton married Helen Brown, Kenneth L. Hamilton married Lenore Prichard, and Leonard F. Hamilton died in infancy.

Loah Justus Hamilton and Martha Runkle Hamilton had two daughters. Esther Lavina Hamilton married Frank Fenner, L. Jeannette Hamilton never married.

The children of Zuzella Hamilton and Archibold Hiles were: Retha Hiles married Ralph Conner, Lela Belle Hiles married ? Cox.

Raleigh Hugh Hamilton and Ida Faurot had one son.

Justus Gilberg and Flora Newcomb had one son Harry Gilberg, never married.

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Justus Gilberg and Nancy Fenning had a daughter Justine who married LeRoy Gertz.

The children of Bronsart and Esther Diener were: Robert now living in Johnstown, Pa., Wayne at Lansing, Michigan, and Jack at Souix City, Iowa.

Fred Gilberg and Mildred Hassan had one daughter who died at birth.

The children of Oral Hamilton and John Severns were: Beryl, Vaughn, and Leo.

Georgie Hamilton and Perry Miller had one son Orville Miller who worked for the C. H. & D. Railroad at Mendon.

The children of Lee Ivan Hamilton and Ada Hall were: Juanita Hamilton married Harold Frances Brooks, no children, and Mildred Hamilton married Joseph Fischer.

The children of Garrett T. Hamilton and Maude Leila Clark Hamilton were: Margurite who died at birth, Robert Lee Hamilton married Lois Marie Stell, later divorced, Elizabeth May Hamilton, single.

The children of Verra Ada Hamilton and Thomas Stoner were: Thomas Lee Stoner married Ruth Anita Kain, Mable Jean Stoner married Norman Leslie Dunlap, and Joan Alverna Stoner married Vernon Winfield Byer.

Anna Jane Hamilton and Earl Wagner had one son Marvin Eugene Hamilton who was married to Ellie ? and there were no children.

Frederick Franklin Hamilton and Hilda Koehlinger had one son Richard Lee Hamilton.

The children of Gottschall Hamilton and Dorothy Terry were: Gary Dean and Karen Sue Hamilton.

GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Hermes Hamilton and Francis Bogue had two sons Kevin and Norman Hamilton.

Muna Hamilton and Paul Fisher had three children. Mary Glenna Fisher maried Robert Kauffman, Evelyn Pearl Fisher married A. J. Althouse, David Paul Fisher married Peggy Gugler.

Ernest W. Hamilton and Helen Brown had two daughters: Virginia Hamilton who married Richard Pugsley, dec., second marriage Stanley Tobias, Phyllis Hamilton married Ellis Larsen.

Kenneth L. and Lenore Prichard Hamilton had one daughter Helen Louise who married Leonard Thomas Simpson.

Esther Lavina Hamilton and Frank Fenner had three daughters.

Children of Justine Gilberg and LeRoy Gertz were: Douglas Gertz married Karen ?, Paula Gertz, and Debra Gertz.

Mildren Hamilton and Joseph Fischer had one son Lee Hamilton Fischer.

Robert Lee and Lois Stell Hamilton had two children. Cheryl Ann Stell and Karyl Lynn Stell.

Thomas Lee Stoner and Ruth Anita Kain had two sons Terry Lee Stoner who married Sandra Kay Richardson, and Larry Wayne Stoner who married Sharon Sue Dehnert, second marriage to Rebecca Boys Meyer.

Children of Mable Jean Stoner and Norman Leslie Dunlap were: Norman David Dunlap married Mary Lillian Holtzapple, Danny Lee Dunlap married Mary Jo Herkenhoff, and Scott Thomas Dunlap married Alyson Hill.

The children of Joan Stoner and Vernon Byer were: Michele Ann, adopted, twins were Teresa Joe and Tamera Sue Stoner.

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LUCIUS HAMILTON

From 1882 Sutton Book, third child was born in this township April 2, 1825, and has lived here all his life. He was married Feb. 9, 1860, to Mary E. Miller, who was formerly of Miami County, O. Their family consists of eight children. They are named, Henry O., Marcus A., Ida M., Almira L., Ellen R., Flora B., Mary A., and Cora E. Lucius Hamilton was the third child of Justin and Eliza Jane Rhodes Hamilton. No other information available on this family.

CHARLOTTE HAMILTON

was the forth child of Justin and Eliza Jane Rhodes who died at the age of 2 years. Born Aug. 16, 1829.

JUSTIN "DESS" HAMILTON

(Fifth child of Justin and Eliza Jane Rhodes Hamilton)

Justin D. Hamilton — Eliza Jane Snavely
Born: Oct. 21, 1834 — Married — Born: July 22, 1837
Died: Nov. 22, 1898 — July 22, 1856 — Died: Dec. 7, 1911

After being widowed, Eliza Jane Snavely Hamilton married John S. Webb, May 12, 1904.

The children of Justin and Eliza Snavely Hamilton were:

Name	Born	Died
Frank Hamilton	Aug. 21, 1857	No Date
Lucius N. Hamilton	Feb. 9, 1859	Dec. 12, 1918
Addabelle Hamilton	Sept. 14, 1861	Sept. 1863
George B. Hamilton	Dec. 20, 1863	No Date
Charles Hamilton	Oct. 13, 1865	No Date
Rose Hamilton	Sept. 14, 1868	No Date
Edith Hamilton	Aug. 6, 1870	No Date
Maud Hamilton	Oct. 1, 1872	May 20, 1874
Elwood Hamilton	May 26, 1877	Dec. 16, 1946

Frank Hamilton was a doctor, married, but little is known about his family.

Lucius N. Hamilton married Molly E. Parrott, daughter of Wesley Watson and Cynthia A Parrott, their children were: Griffin, George, Florence who married Oscar Simon and lived in St. Paul, Minn., Rhoda Hamilton who married a Harvey and was a graduate of Mendon High School in 1908, lived in Williston, North Dakota. Desie Hamilton, Isable Hamilton who married Laurence Heitman and lived in New Bremen, O.

George B. Hamilton married Nell ? and they had Ruth, who in 1955 lived in Washington D. C., also had Emmet and Hazel Hamilton.

Edith Hamilton married Henry Collins and their son Cyrus Collins married Flossie Jackson, their daughter Mavis Collins married Nathan Dysken. Mavis and Nathan Dysken's son Maurice Dysken married Signe Louise Gjem Midelfort. There children are: Sarah Elizabeth Midelfort Dysken and Nicholas Peter Midelfort Dysken.

Elwood Hamilton married Ida Pearl Roebuck and they had four children. Alfred D. Hamilton who married Mary Moss and had one son Donald Hamilton. Donald married first Judith Kersey and their children were John D. and Christine Hamilton. Donald later married Judith A. Shanklin and their children were: Donald Hamilton, Kent Hamilton and Jennifer Hamilton.

Carl D. Hamilton, second son of Elwood, married Ruth E. Brown and they have one son David L. Hamilton who married Judith A. Schroeder. Their two children are Dianna K. and Darrell D. Hamilton.

Elwood's third son, John D. Hamilton married first to Naomi Fisher and later Doris Craig. No children from either marriage.

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Dorothy Jane Hamilton, forth child of Elwood, married first to Ralph Tate and had one daughter Joen Lee Tate. Joen married Gerald Gibson and their children are: Gayle Gibson who married David Bertke, and Jeffery Gibson who married Sheryl Soltice. Dorthy Jane Hamilton Tate later married Kenneth Carpenter.

Eliza Lucinda Hamilton — M. 1855 — Austin Barber

b. June 4, 1835 — b. Jan 8, 1833

d. Feb. 7, 1890 — d. Dec. 18, 1898

p. Justin and Eliza Jane Rhodes — p. Samuel and Hannah Barber



Austin and Eliza Lucinda Hamilton Barber

Sixth Child—ELIZA LUCINDA HAMILTON

Eliza Lucinda Hamilton married Austin Barber and their children were: Ella Barber who died at age 15; Hannah Barber married Charles W. Shimp; Irena Barber who died at age 3; Dora Barber married John H. Wright; Abram Harley Barber married Alice L. Wright; Arthur Barber married Orpha Schamp; Ira Baber married Millie Hawkins, second wife was Eva McGee Tomlinson; Walter Austin Barber married Minnie E. Miller.

The Barber homestead is located on Barber-Maier Road in Salem Township in Auglaize County. Austin and Lucinda first lived here; then Walter and Minnie Barber; the latest residents are Luella and the late Norman Trempert.

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GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Hannah Barber and Charles W. Shimp were: Jesse Shimp married Jessie (maiden name unknown); Frank D. Shimp married Minnie Benzing; Harvey Shimp married E. Pearl Haney; Arthur Shimp married Edith Ladd, second wife Nellie Sanders; Stella Shimp married L. R. Lamm. (Art and Stella were twins).

Children of Dora Barber and John H. Wright were: Harmon Wright married Nellie B. McConnell; Maurice Wright died at age 14; Lucille Wright married William L. Seibert; Lois N. Wright married Carl Jefferis; Inez Wright.

Children of Abram Harley Barber and Alice L. Wright were: Ernest Barber married Sarah Ann Wharton.

The children of Rev. Arthur Barber and Orpha Schamp were: Todt Barber died in infancy; Don Barber drowned at age 13; Ray Barber died at age 26.

Children of Ira Barber and Millie A. Hawkins were: Leah Barber married Joseph R. Murlin. Second wife Eva McGeen Tomlinson.

Children of Walter Austin Barber and Minnie E. Miller were: Willis Miller Barber died at age 24; Luella Barber married Norman Trempert; Walter Oran Barber maried Magdalene Skinner; Lois Marian Barber married Rev. Edgar Nelson.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Jesse Shimp and Jessie were: Frances Shimp married Ralph Straub.

Children of Frank D. Shimp and Minnie Benzing were: One son died in infancy; Merle Shimp married Catherine Brodbeck. After her death Merle married Isalena Davis Hesse.

Children of Harvey Shimp and E. Pearl Haney were: Stella Mae Shimp married Earl J. Wolfe; Bernice Shimp married Hallie E. Cone; Annie Shimp died in infancy; Zola Gale Shimp married Eugene C. Simmons; Wanda Alberta Shimp married George F. Carpenter; Charles T. Shimp married Marie Snyder, second wife Violet Sollars (died), third wife Sarah Obenhaur; Rita Lois Shimp married Rev. Claude G. Groters; Edna Phyllis Shimp married Gerney B. Simpson; Nathan Brooks Shimp married Marjorie Lucille Beougher; Celia Grace Shimp married R. Ray Beougher; Marilyn Helen Shimp married Howard Craft.

Children of Arthur Shimp and Edith Ladd were: Aileen Shimp (?) Rex.

Children of Stella Shimp and L. R. Lamm were: Charles Bunyon Lamm married Bette Vernick; William Arthur Lamm married Carol.

Children of Harmon Wright and Nellie B. McConnell were: Frances Elizabeth Wright married Clayton Hoch.

Children of Lucille Wright and William L. Seibert were: Phyllis Seibert married W. Harold Fell; Hugh W. Seibert married Nancy Jo Hixon; Jay C. Seibert married Vicki Frey.

Children of Lois N. Wright and Carl Jefferis were: Carolyn Louise Jefferis married Glenn D. Woosley; Joe Alan Jefferis married Farrall Haymen; Donna Glee Jefferis married Michael Foley.

Children of Ernest Barber and Sarah Ann Wharton were: J. Vernon Barber married Dorothy M. Yewey; Mary Ellen Barber married G. R. Adams; Harry Ernest Barber married Henrietta C. Fast.

Children of Luella Barber and Norman Trempert were: Ralph Trempert married Marjorie Lee Adams; Wanda Fae Trempert.

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Children of Walter Oran Barber and Magdalene Skinner were: Willis Murlin Barber married Barbara Hamilton; Robert Arthur Barber married LaDonna Cigger; Janet Elaine Barber Hall.

GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILREN

The children of Merle Shimp and Catherine Brodbeck were: Emily Jean Shimp married Harold W. McCune.

The children of Stella Mae Shimp and Earl J. Wolfe were: Carol Janice Wolfe married Robert Culver (died), second husband Marvin Lenker.

The children of Bernice Ellen Shimp and Hallie E. Cone were: Jack Cone married Mary Ann Dynes; Joan Lee Cone married Ralph Benedict; Hal Eugene Cone Jr. married Nancy Natko; (second wife Sue Osborn Booth); Lynn Ellen Cone married Clarence Rankin.

The children of Zola Gale Shimp and Eugene C. Simmons were: Nancy Ellen Simmons married James F. Lott; Charles Eugene Simmons married Marjorie Claar; Howard Owen Simmons married Linda Jaynes; Janet Ann Simmons died in infancy.

The children of Wanda Alberta Shimp and George F. Carpenter were: Jerry Brice Carpenter married Janet Kay Millberg; Tom Quentin Carpenter married Carol Jean Knapke; Dick Michael Carpenter married Carole Y. Lawrence; Rebecca Jo Carpenter married Ray Lewis Adams.

The children of Charles Theron Shimp and Marie Snyder were: twins, Larry Charles Shimp married—not known; Phyllis Ann Shimp married Everett Lauth, second husband Paul Trisel.

The children of Rita Lois Shimp and Rev. Claude G. Groters were: Claude G. Groters married Mae Mary Maestas; Juanita Jean Groters married Samuel George Deeter.

Children of Edna Phyllis Shimp and Gerney B. Simpson were: Nathan Harvey Simpson died soon after birth.

Children of Nathan Brooks Shimp and Marjorie Beougher were: Marvin Brooks Shimp married Christina Ann Fahy, second wife not known; Kevin Scott Shimp married Jayne Carpenter.

Children of Celia Grace Shimp and R. Ray Beougher were: William Ray Beougher married Susan Kay Hagaman; Ronald Richard Beougher married Erma Stauffer; Barbara Sue Beougher married Lynn E. Avery.

Children of Marilyn Helen Shimp and Howard Craft were: Trelia Joyce Craft; Myron Laverne Craft married Sharon E. McMurray; Sarah Joanne Craft; Howard Marion Craft; Joel Harvey Craft; Reuben Wendell Craft.

Children of Charles Bunyon Lamm and Bette Vernick were: Debbie Lamm married Tom ?

Children of Frances Elizabeth Wright and Clayton Hoch were: Barbara K. Hoch married Carl J. Kill; Linda S. Hoch married Gary C. Copus; Cheryl E. Hoch married Dewey M. Wright.

Children of Phyllis Seibert and W. Harold Fell were: Carl Fell; Lynn Fell; Dorine Fell married Daniel Vogel.

Children of Hugh W. Seibert and Nancy Jo Hixon were: Richard Seibert married Patricia Ann Dixon; LuAnn Seibert married Bruce Stoner; Farrell Jo Seibert; James W. Seibert.

Children of Jay C. Seibert and Vicki Frey were: Lowell Seibert; Kathy Seibert; Gregg Seibert.

Children of Carolyn Louise Jefferis and Glenn D. Woosley were: Jeffrey Woosley married Patricia (?); Lynette K. Woosley; Scott D. Woosley.

Children of Joe Alan Jefferis and Farrall Haymen were: Sondra L. Jefferis married Randy Blair; Allen L. Jefferis.

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Children of Donna Glee Jefferis and Michael Foley were: Jill K. Foley; Kristin M. Foley; Erin L. Foley.

The children of J. Vernon Barber and Dorothy Yewey were: Shirley Jean Barber married Steven A. Bell; Marilyn Jane Barber married James H. Dwenger; Joanne Sue Barber married Daniel Lampert.

The children of Mary Ellen Barber and G. R. Adams were: Ruth Ann Adams married Jim D. Merriman; Robert Wayne Adams married Karen Weaver; Dennis Ray Adams married Constanza Rodriquiz.

The children of Harry Barber and Henrietta C. Fast were: Lucinda Rene Barber married Kim A. Strable; Lynette Sue Barber married John A. Lininger; Luanne Louise Barber married Daniel L. Beckstedt; Lisa Volline Barber.

The children of Ralph Trempert and Marjorie L. Adams were: Deborah A. Trempert married Jack Sturgill; Rebecca S. Trempert married Douglas Vanette; Michael Trempert.

The children of Willis Murlin Barber and Barbara Hamilton were: Kay Ellen Barber married Richard Laux; Marcia Barber married Randy Brehm; Michael Barber married Becky Miller; Mark Barber.

The children of Robert Arthur Barber and La Donna Crigger were Timothy R. Barber married Rhonda Carlson; Tonya K. Barber.



Andrew Snavely, Emily Hamilton Snavely

EMILY HAMILTON

(Seventh child of Justin and Eliza Jane Rhodes Hamilton)

Emily Hamilton married **Andrew Snavely**

Born: April 8, 1838 — Born: Aug. 16, 1832

Died: May 28, 1908 — Died: Oct. 16, 189?

Emily Hamilton married Andrew Snavely and their homestead was located

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on Rice Road, Center Twp., Mercer Co., Ohio. The land is now owned by Beulah Heppard. Mr. Snavely came to Mercer County and purchased this land after serving in the Civil War. The children of Emily and Andrew were: Charlotta Snavely married Charles Nolan, LeRoy Snavely married Katherine Mira Hasis, Isaac N. Snavely married Eva Kiser, also Isam, Willshire LaVonia, were twins and Vernon, Clara, Jesse Matilda, Andrew and Emily. The last seven children died young and are buried in the Hamilton Cemetery on Twelve Mile Creek.

GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Charlotta and Charles Nolan were: James Arthur Garfield Nolan married Edith Wurster, Isabelle Nolan married Frank Garwick, Emma Nolan married Bert Rider, LeRoy Nolan never married, Aaron Edgar Nolan married Bertha Leota Wilson, Della Nolan married Thomas Sheets, Susie Nolan married Jake Wurster and Myrtle Marie married John Beougher.

Children of LeRoy and Kathryn Snavely were: Ruth Snavely married Henry W. Miller and Frederick Snavely who married Ruth Stout.

Children of Issac N. Snavely and Eva Kiser were: Steven Dewayne Snavely, Glenn Carter Snavely married Bessie Lutz, Dale Lloyd Snavely married Lenora Burd, Virgie Mae who died at age 2½ and Mable Genieva who died at age 10.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Garfield and Edith Nolan were: Guy Wurster Nolan married Beatrice Howell, Willard Lavern Nolan married Edith Swygart and after her death Elsie Abbott, Ralph Francis Nolan married Ruth Richardson, Robert Lee Nolan married Helen Thomas, Annabelle Nolan married Paul Garwood and after his death married Bryce Kennedy.

Children of Isabelle Nolan and Frank Garwick were Clara Garwick married first to Rex Steman and second to Howard Tippie, Mary Garwick married James Tippie, second marriage to Laurence Grilliot, Ernest Garwick married Louetta Kendall, Willard Garwick married first to Evelyn Rasawehr and second marriage to Marian Walker and Emma Garwick died young. Jesse Rider, Vernon Rider married Martha Mihm and LeRoy Nolan Rider

Children of Emma and Bert Rider, were: Charles Rider, Gaylord Rider, never married.

Children of Aaron Edgar and Bertha Nolan were: Armetha Nolan married Walter Reed Hawk, Delbert married Lois Fox, Hollis Arvilla Nolan married first to Wilmer Clay and second to Willard Dilbone, Catherine L. Nolan married Orville Merrit Engle, Alberta June Nolan married Paul Schott.

The children of Della and Thomas Sheets was Mae Sheets who married Frank Miller.

The children of Susie and Jake Wurster were: Wayne, Paul, Glenn and Beulah. Lived in California and further information unknown.

The children of Myrtle and John Beougher were: Mary Beougher married Floyd Grier, Ruth Beougher married Willard Wurster, Charles Beougher married Molly Davis, Dean Beougher never married.

The children of Ruth Snavely and Henry Miller were: Kenneth Lee Miller married Ollie Anderson, Helen Miller married Lavern Meyer.

The children of Glenn Snavely and Bessie Lutz were: Mary Helen Snavely married Clayton V. Adams, Glenn Jr. married Lois Hiles, Winifred Snavely married James Darras, Virginia Snavely married Frances Muhlenkamp, Phyllis Snavely married first Charles Moeller and second marriage to Sam Blythe.

The children of Dale and Lenore Snavely were: Nora Lee Snavely married Ronald Smith and Bonnie Jean Snavely married James Hume.

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GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Guy and Beatrice Nolan were: Shirley Ann married James F. Weinman, Janis Lee married Marvin R. Stumps, and Sharon K. single.

Children of Willard and Edith Nolan were: Richard Byron married Jeannine Vandemark, Willard Lowell married Florence Robey, Sue Elaine married Richard Sperry.

Ralph and Ruth Nolan had one child Jerry F. Nolan who married Lani Tripp.

Children of Robert and Helen Nolan were: Bette Jean who married Carl Gibson, after his death married Fred Meir. Bobby Eugene Nolan married Linda Lou Carpenter and were later divorced.

Children of Annabelle and Paul Garwood were: Karen Sue Garwood married Jerry Gilbert, Claudia Jean Garwood married Glenn Haller and later divorced, and Richard Douglas Garwood married Tina Sawmiller.

Clara and Rex Steman had a son Robert Duain Steman and one daughter Patty Lou whose father was Howard Tippie.

Children of Mary and Laurence Grilliot were: Arthur Thomas, William Laurence and Beverly Grilliot.

Children of Ernest and Louetta Garwick were: Richard Garwick married Janice VanTilburg, Daniel Garwick married Johanna Legerstee, and Keith Garwick married Janet Raymond.

Willard and Evelyn Garwick had one daughter Marjory Ann, and Willard and Marian Garwick had two daughters, Maureen Joan and Cheryll Anne.

Charles Rider, Gaylord Rider and Jesse Rider, were married, lived in the Akron, Ohio area all had families.

Vernon and Martha Rider had one son Ronald Rider.

Children of Armetha and Walter Hawk were: Beverly Kay Hawk married James Blount, Larry Reed Hawk married Diane Marie Figley.

Children of Delbert and Lois Fox Nolan were: Marlene Nolan married Glenn Hales, and Delbert Nolan Jr. married first to Karen Kostens and divorced and married Brenda VanSlouten.

Children of Hollis Nolan Clay and Wilmer Clay were: Carole Jean married Vermont D. McGillvary, Richard Raymond Clay, dec., married Janice Hansel, and Audrey Catherine Clay married Stephen Snyder.

Children of Catherine Nolan and Orville Engle were: Michael Merritt Engle married Helen Jane Coe, Danny Engle married Jenis Moxler, Patrick Engle married Carol Sue Moore, divorced, married Judy Ann Miller, and Kristina Engle married Jack Roetgerman.

Children of Alberta June Nolan and Paul Schott were: Jennifer Schott married Michael Fisher, Pamela Sue married Craig Marshall, Peggy married Myrle Wuebkler, and Randy Paul Schott, single.

Mae Sheets and Frank Miller had one son Donald Miller who married Eva Thomas.

Children of Ruth Beougher and Willard Wurster were: Charlene Wurster married Doyle Ballinger and Beverly Wurster married John Hawk.

Children of Charles Beougher and Molly Davis were: Connie Sue married Dr. Jerry Sell, Linda Elaine Beougher married Jeffrey Rutledge, Sandy Beougher married Jerrey Routp, Gary Dean Beougher married Sue ?, and Douglas Beougher, dec.

Children of Kenneth Lee Miller and Ollie Anderson were: Gregory Miller married Judy Brinkman, Milton Miller married Kathleen Foster, and Gwenyth Miller married Keith Ley.

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Children of Mary Helen Snavely and Clayton Adams were: Dianna Sue Adams, dec., married Rolland Hegemier, second marriage David Jilek, Cheryl Ann Adams married Michael S. Boley, and Dennis Adams married Kandis Fox, second marriage Debra Loughridge.

Children of Glenn Snavely Jr. and Lois Hiles were: Craig Allen Snavely married Darlene Smelser, and Mark Isaac Snavely, dec.

Winifred Snavely and James Darras had one daughter Vicky Jo Darras who married Mark Haggerty.

Children of Virginia Ruth Snavely and Frances Muhlenkamp were: Christine Muhlenkamp, single, Michael Muhlenkamp married Cynthia Rigby, Beth Ellen Muhlenkamp married Donald Wendell, Jeffrey Girard Muhlenkamp, single, Anthony Muhlenkamp, and Pamela Muhlenkamp.

Children of Phyllis Snavely and Charles Moeller were: Teresa Lynn Moeller married Craig Doty and Marcia Leigh Moeller married John Elliot.

Phyllis Snavely and Sam Blythe had one son Brent Blythe.

Children of Nora Lee Snavely and Ronald Smith were: Dale Eugene Smith married Donna Lynn Stewart, and Beth Ann Smith.

Children of Bonnie Jean Snavely and James Hume were: Jodi Lynn Hume and Jennifer Lea Hume.

ALMIRA HAMILTON

Almira Hamilton, eighth child of Justin and Eliza Rhodes Hamilton, born Aug. 28, 1841 married John Roether born April 17, 1835, died 1885.

Their children were: Alice married W. A. Bedell, Orrilla married William Parrot, Etta married George Ballinger, William married Cora Krugh, and Floyd.

GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Alice Roether and W. A. Bedell were: Della, Ada, Norma, Buell, Emory (Jack) married Cecil Lewis first, Louise Price second, Cevella married Victor Snyder.

Children of Orrilla Roether and William Parrot were: Lawrence and Lee.

Children of Etta Roether and George Ballinger were: Glenn Ballinger married Catherine L. Curry, Velma married Joe Clay.

Children of William and Cora Krugh Roether were: Edna married Roland Kruger, Lee Roether married Maxine Michaels.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Cevella Bedell and Victor Snyder are: Fred Snyder, and also a daughter.

Children of Glen and Catherine Curry Ballinger are: William George, dec., Teddy Lee married Katherine Ellen Garman, Doris Ann married John Marcs, Doyle Eugene married Charlene Wurster, Linda Lou married Larry Sapp.

Children of Velma Ballinger and Joe Clay are: Robert Ballinger married Glenda, Betty Clay, dec., married Richard Godwin, Marietta married Louis Zizleman, Jr., Jeannie married Duane Hamrick, Harriet, Joan married Dick Bonifas first, Gabe Hoskins second, Audrey.

Children of Edna Roether and Roland Kruger, Sr. are: Marilyn married to James Vogel, Roland Kruger, Jr., dec. married Jeanette Fetters.

Children of Lee and Maxine Michaels Roether are: William married Delores Rhyne, David married Marianne ?.

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GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Teddy and Katherine Ballinger are: Diana, Susan married Robert Huddleston, Michael married Margaret Fink.

Children of Doris Ballinger and John Marcs are: Jon Alan and Jill Ann.

Children of Doyle and Charlene Ballinger are: Kimberley Sue married Gary Beckstedt, Kelly Lou married Rod Stover.

Children of Linda Ballinger and Larry Sapp are: Lynnette Ann married Joe Westgerdes, Lori Lynn Sapp.

Child of Robert and Glenda Ballinger is Jeffrey Allen.

Child of Betty Clay and Richard Godwin is Michael Godwin.

Children of Marietta Clay and Louis Zizelman, Jr.: Ricky, dec., Debby, Kevin, Greg, and Leigh Ann.

Children of Jeannie Clay and Duane Hamrick are: Bruce, Charlene, Keith and Karen.

Child of Audrey Clay is Shelly Clay.

Children of William and Delores Roether are: Dana, Darrell, Diana, Denise.

Children of Marilyn Kruger and James Vogel are David, Marcia and Danny.

Other names unavailable at time of printing.

PARROTTS IN UNION TOWNSHIP, MERCER COUNTY, OHIO

John Parrott, according to William Hamilton's records, was the father of the men who came from Fayette County, Ohio to Union Township, Mercer County, Ohio. However, he didn't move there himself until the fall of 1835, settling on the N E ¼ of Section 25. That land he left to his son, Wesley A., when he died.

John's wife was Elizabeth Hall. According to the 1850 census for Ohio, John was then 77 years old, and born in Virginia. They were buried in the Hussey Family Cemetery on the Milton Hussey farm. That cemetery had been abandoned for years and the data on the stones were almost impossible to read. On re-checking and knowing John's age in 1850 it appears that he died in 1852 at the age of 79, and Elizabeth died in 1859 at the age of 80 years.

John and Elizabeth's known children were:

i. Thomas Parrott who married Elizabeth Coil on 12 December 1820 in in Fayette County and they went to Mercer County with her family in 1822. Their death dates may not be correct, but it looked as though Thomas died 24 December 1880 aged 82 years and six months, and Elizabeth died 1 May 1865 aged 67 years and 11 months. Their known children were: Andrew, John H., Elizabeth, Joseph, Wesley, Lavina, Howard, Amelia, and Sophronia.

ii. George Parrott became a resident of the Township in 1830 along with some more Coils from Fayette County. He stayed with his brother, Thomas, until the Fultse cabin was vacated. That land in Section 25 he improved and remained there until 1841 when he sold out and moved to Iowa where he was still living in 1876.

The church records of Union Township show that his wife was Nancy. George's and her children, according to William Hamilton were:

a. Dr. David F. Parrott. He was yet in Union Township in 1867 when he ran a bill at Hamilton's store. Elizabeth Parrott may have been his daughter for he settled a similar bill for her.

b. George G. Parrott was evidently single when he accompanied his parents to Mercer County. He married Rachel Hussey, daughter of William and Jane Hussey, who owned what has been known as the Gallman farm in

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recent years. Rachel's parents are buried in the Hussey Cemetery, but George G. and Rachael were buried at Bethel. George G.'s stone says 26 October 1828-16 August 1886; Rachel's Wife of G. G. died 3 May 1865 aged 26 years and 26 days.

iii. A likely daughter of John (Old Man) was Lavinia Parrott who married George R. Rupert and had daughter Margaret, born in Mercer County 6 December 1834 who married John Snavely 9 April 1853.

Lavinia's stone in the Hussey Cemetery said that she died 25 January 1897 aged 85 years. According to George R.'s marker he died 11 November 1877 aged 103 years, and there was a war marker on his grave. It is evident that something is wrong with those dates as William Hamilton said that George R. went to Union Township in 1833 when Henry and Samuel Parrott did and that he owned a part of Section 24 which he sold and moved to Auglaize County. He also said that Rupert was still there in 1876 at the age of 85 years. I'd believe the latter

iv. Henry Parrott entered land in Mercer County in the spring of 1833. He improved the N W fraction in the N E quarter of Section 25, but sold to William Hussey in 1839 and moved to Iowa that year.

v. Samuel Parrott built a cabin and cleared the W ½ of the S E ¼ of Section 23. In 1846 he traded it to his brother, Thomas, for land in Section 21. He stayed there a few years then moved to Iowa where he died before the year 1876.

According to church records his wife's name was Jemima. His son, Aaron, aged 19 years in 1850, had married Susanna Barber, daughter of Amos M. Barber, on 3 June 1850.

vi. Wesley A. Parrott went to Union Township in the spring of 1835. He rented a field from his brother George and raised corn that year. That fall his father, John Parrott, moved from Fayette County and built a cabin on Section 25. At his death Wesley A. inherited it and was living there in 1876, but was then grey with age.

Two infants of W. A. & B. were buried in the Hussey Cemetery in the 1840's.

The Thomas Parrott family history is incomplete and unavailable at this time, therefor we are using his brother Gearge's family.

The children of George Gottchal and Rachael Hussey Parrott: Denton C., Marietta Laura.

Second marriage—The children of George Gotchall and Susan Gilliand: Milton Allen, David A. and Margaret L.

The children of Denton C. and Elizabeth Kennedy Parrott: Mrs. James (Naomi) Thomas, Mrs. Dorothea Primmer, Mrs. E. Singleton, Omer Jack.

Omer Jack Parrott married Orpha Iona Mae Werts.

Children of Omer and Orpha Werts Parrott: Mary Orilla Eliza Parrott married James Thain Raymond, Thelma Olive Blanche Parrott married John Homer Hale.

No knowledge of children of Mary Parrott and James Raymond.

Children of Thelma Parrott and John Hale: John Michael Hale married Dora, James Lee Hale, Laura Janice Parrott married Robert Eugene Heisser.

Child of John Michael and Dora Hale: Sherri Hale.

Children of Laura Janice Parrott and Robert Heisser: Mary Beth Heisser married James Joseph Kearney, Carol Anne Heisser married James Paul Wise.

Children of Mary Beth Heisser and James Joseph Kearney: Susan Michelle, Anne Marie, James Robert, Patrick Edward.

Children of Carol Anne Heisser and James Paul Wise: Laura Theresa, Beth Anne, James Paul II.

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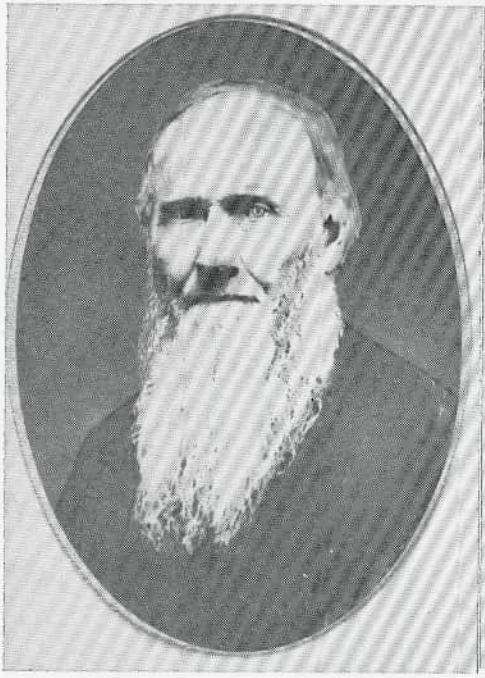
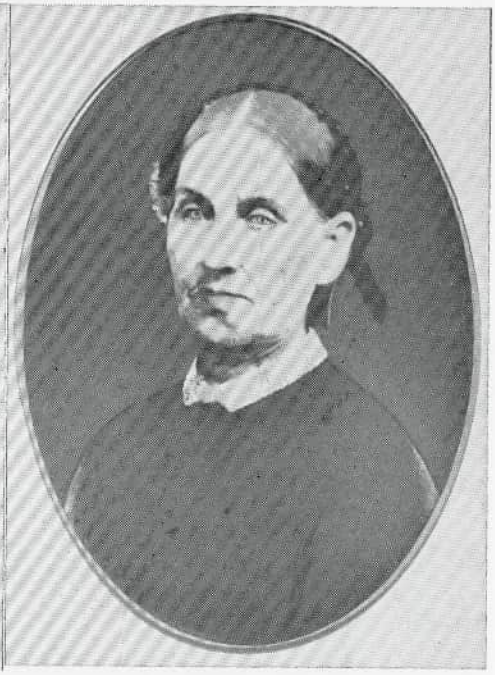


William Hamilton



Almira C. Abbey Hamilton

HOME OF WILLIAM HAMILTON

Home of William Hamilton (1804-1879) in Section 36, Union Township to the west of Eight Mile Creek and the Hamilton-Bethel Church. It was sold by the heirs of William Hamilton (1857-1927), a grandson (son of Hugh), in recent years. Soon thereafter it was wrecked and replaced by another.

Almira Charlotte (Abbey) Hamilton (1804-1892), widow of William, is the lady sitting on the porch in the picture. The adults standing to the right of the gate are five of her six living chidren:

Polly Ann (Mrs. James) Shepherd (1828-1914)
Lois (Mrs. Cyrus) Hussey (1830-1909)
Hugh Hamilton (1832-1900)
Sallie (Mrs. Warren) Barber (1840-1924)
William Hamilton (1850-1896)

The others in the picture cannot now be identified.

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Home of William Hamilton located corner of Mercer & Neptune-Mendon Road. now owned by David and Ruth Esmonde.

POLLY ANN HAMILTON

Polly Ann Hamilton
born 9th of March 1828
Richmond, New York
died 20th of May 1914
in Mercer Co.

married 18th of April 1852
in Mercer Co.

James Shepherd
born 10th of Jan. 1819 at
Cumberland, Maryland
died 16th Oct., 1908
in Mercer Co.

Polly Ann Hamilton first child of William and Almira C. Hamilton married James Shepherd. They lived where Lee and Grace Suhr live, East of Bethel Cemetery. Thieir nine children are: 1st Almira who married a McDonald and had Nora, Ora, and Homer. They lived in Paulding County, Ohio and later moved west. 2nd Mary Frances who married Simon W. Kiser and had Edna who married Dwitt Ellis, there were no children. Loretta who had a son by her first marriage he was killed in WW II. First husband deceased, second marriage to George Hieser. They had a daughter who died during a tonsillectomy. Loretta died in 1982 in Florida. Una (deceased) married to ? Brunke. They had several children and lived in Bellefontaine. And Edgar who died as a child. Livonia Shepherd was a millner in California, she never married Lorinda (Lora) and Dorinda (Dora) were twins. Lora married William (Billie) B. Werts and had one son Homer Werts. Lora died at age 27. Dora married James Q. Taylor a veterinarian. They had three daughters, Lucille who married Olen Krugh, Mary Ione Taylor who married Charles Daniel Murph and lives in Dayton, and Lorna Bell Taylor married first to a Nichols and second Kenneth Thompson now deceased. Lorna has disappeared her whereabouts is unknown. 6th child of Polly Ann and James

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was Isabelle Shepherd married Edgar Krutz lived in California and was a milliner. And William Lester Shepherd died at age 21.

The children of Lucile and Olen Krugh are John Taylor Krugh married Dortha Coles now deceased, second marriage to Margaret. Anna Lora Krugh married Herbert Seeger now deceased. Harold Olen Krugh married Leola Cashwell now deceased. Edith Mae Krugh married Robert Webster Gillespie and Wilbur Lowell Krugh married Billie Jean Brubaker.

Children of John and Dortha Krugh are:

John Richard Krugh married Ruth Tennebonne they live in Tucson, Ariz.

Alice Lucile married Walter Wayne Gamble later divorced, she lives in Elgin.

Sydney Ann Krugh married Bruce Mayer they live in Lewisville, Texas, Anna Krugh and Herbert Seeger had one son Robert Lyle he married Kay Staudt and they live in Mercer Co.

Children of Edith Mae Krugh and Robert Gillespie: Donald Robert Gillespie married Susan Kegler they live in Columbus. Paul William Gillespie married Judith Kindig they live in West Chester. Kay Irene Gillespie married Timothy Arnold they live n Celina.

Children of Wilbur and Billie Jean Krugh: one son James born Premature.

They then adopted Terry Joe and Jill Ann.

LOIS HAMILTON

Second child of William and Almira C. Abbey Hamilton

Lois Hamilton	married 8 Jan. 1849	Cyrus Hussey
born 27 Aug. 1830		born 1 Nov. 1825
died 1909		died 1 May 1890

Both from Union Township, Mercer County.

Lois Hamilton married Cyrus Hussey and they lived where Rick and Peggy Hesse live in Salem Township, Auglaize County, Ohio, on the Russell Hesse farm on Hesse Road. This has been Mendon School District since 1937.

Their children were Maurice who died young. Clara Hussey married Moses Rider; their daughter Cora Rider married Emmet Crook. There were no children.

Julia Hussey married Samuel Henry Jones and they had Claude Jones who graduated from Mendon High School in the class of 1897, and Flora Jones who married Clyde Wright. It is thought they moved west in the oil rush.

Wilfred Hussey married Elizabeth Davis, and they had eleven children.

1—Lawrence Cryus died as a result of World War I and was not married.

2—Rowena Catherine never married.

3—Lois Agatha married Roy Chiles. They had Merrill Chiles who married Margaret Schultz. They live in St. Marys and have three children; they had Therman Chiles who married Marjorie Egbert who lives in Sidney and has two children.

4—Hazel Alfreda Hussey married Lafe Dicke. They were the parents of 8 children: Elizabeth Louise Dicke (now deceased) married Vernon Schnarre; lived in St. Marys. They had 2 children, Stephen and Sharon. Jean Athleen Dicke married John Franklin Adams and they have 2 daughters, Janice and Joyce. They live in Mendon. Wilfred Lowell—not married and lives in St. Marys. Wilda Mae married James Allison. They live in Wellston, Ohio and have 3 children, Bruce, Patsy and Neil. Richard Lee Dicke married Anna Smallwood—they live in St. Marys and have 3 children, Tim, Lisa and Kenneth. Robert Louise Dicke was married and later divorced. Lives in Piqua and has three children, Teresa, Brenda and Robert. Larry Dicke married

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Betty Cotterman. Lives in St. Marys and has 2 step children. Carl Dicke dec.

5—Ruth Matilda Hussey married Robert Kirsch. There were no children. Lives in Detroit, Michigan.

6—Guy Wildred Hussey married Genevieve Meyers. They live in St. Marys and have four children: Eileen Marie married Merlin Steinecker. They have two children. Ralph Burdette Hussey married Delores Sanders and they have 5 children. Marilyn Ruth married Bernard Schroer and they have 3 children. Harold Lee Hussey married Mildred McKinney, and they have 3 children. All of Guy's family lives in St. Marys.

7—Ruby Fae Hussey married Arthur Suwoldt. They have three children and live in Detroit, Michigan. Edward Eugene Ruwoldt—not married. James Arthur married Bonnie Rosieure, live in Atlanta, Georgia and have 2 children. Robert Wilfred married Margaret Wynn, lives in Detroit and have 3 children.

8—Lenora married Harold William Cook. Live in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. They have 5 children. Jeanne married Russell Hepplefinger lives in Columbus, Ohio and have 3 children. Frederick Henderson (Fritz) married Shirley ? and has 3 children. Mary Elizabeth married Clarence Till and they have 5 children. Linda Lou married Kenneth McMillen and has 2 children. Philip Harold is married and has 1 child. The last 4 families live in Upper Sandusky.

9—Alice Marie lives in Columbus and is not married.

10—Greta LaFern married Harry Fannon. They have 1 adopted son, Stephen who married Melinda Ross. They live in Wapakoneta and have 4 children.

11—Esther Hussey, the youngest child married Virgil Sullivan. They live in St. Marys. Have 2 children, James lives in Bowling Green and married Jean Shuffleton. They have 2 children. Jane married Norman Dunwoodie. They live in Columbus. She has 3 stepchildren.

HUGH HAMILTON

Hugh Hamilton	Married:	Angeline Dobson
Born: May 16, 1832	January 3, 1858	Born: April 13, 1836
Died: June 6, 1900		Died: March 9, 1911

Hugh Hamilton, the 3rd child of William Hamilton Sr. and Almira C. Abbey Hamilton, married Angeline Dobson and they lived in a log cabin behind Joseph Harrison and Elizabeth Bevan Hamilton, one-half mile east of Eight Mile Creek and Hamilton Bethel Church. On the North side of Mercer Road. They have three children. William Addison married Julia Nottingham, Etta Hamilton married Thomas Upton, and Joseph Harrison Hamilton married Elizabeth Bevan.

William A. and Julia Hamilton were the parents of five daughters. Irene never married and died at the age of 23. Gail married Harry Wollam and they had two daughters. Mary Kathern married Gilbert Misplon and had 4 children, Richard Charles, James Robert, Julia Ann and Mark Alan. Mary and Gilbert live in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

Ruth Louise married Joseph F. Magier and they had four children. Jeanne Ann married John Lehning II. Joseph William married Denise Bellini. Robert Edward, single, and Michael James who died at 13 mo. Ruth's second marriage was to Albert J. Casanova and they live in Akron.

Louise Hamilton married John Nichols and they had no children. She is now in a nursing home out west.

Etta Hamilton married James A. Bair and they had two daughters. Jo Louise died at 4 mo. and Betty Lou who married Ervin Thomas. Betty and Ervin live in Chaffee Mo., and their children are, Debra Gayle, Lisa Louise and Scott.

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Mary Letha Hamilton died at the age of 11.

Mary Etta, the second child of Hugh and Angeline Hamilton, married Thomas Upton and they had four children. Hugh Upton who went to San Francisco and joined the Navy. His where abouts are unknown since 1925. Irene Upton married Franklin Miles Wright and they had two sons. John Wright married Stata McKay and live in Columbus, Ohio. Roscoe Upton Wright, married and lives in Dallas area and had four children.

Maude S. Upton married William J. Swartz of Celina, had one daughter. Juadina Swartz who married and had one son. Last known living in Florida.

William Roscoe Upton married Mary Jane Worley and had no children.

Joseph Harrison Hamilton, third child of Hugh and Angeline Hamilton, married Elizabeth Bevan, second marriage to Maude Burnett. Children of first marriage were: John Bevan Hamilton married Ethel L. Lemunyon and had five children. Myrtle Gaynold Hamilton married Chester E. Stafford and they live in Brooklyn, Michigan. They have three sons. Robert Blaine Stafford married Joyce Ann Neer, Richard James married Carol Ann Brown and Carl Edward Stafford married Shirley Ann McCleland.

John Rosco Hamilton married Nellie Mae Hunsaker and they had eight children. John James Hamilton married Sharon Simpson, Daniel Eugene married Debra Ann Hisey, later divorced, Gary Lee married Jennifer Jo Golden, William Harrison Hamilton married Barbara Jean Christian, Kenneth Lynn, single, Suzanne Mae married Jeffery K. Sharpe, Donald Wayne married Anne Marie Dirksen and Esther Lou, single.

Wilfred Lee Hamilton, third child of John B. and Ethel Lemunyon Hamilton, married Virginia Rose Poe and live in Osseo, Michigan. There children are: Vickie Lee married Michael Boroff, James Blaine Hamilton and Tina Louise Hamilton.

Harry Lynn Hamilton married Theresa Dorothy Straub and live in Nevada, Mo. There children are: Kathy Lynn married Larry Pettibon, David Lee who is serving in the U. S. Navy, Terri Jo Hamilton married Harold Hunt, second marriage John Willers, and Toni Marie Hamilton.

Hazel Lucinda Hamilton married Billy Eugene Lichtenstiger and live in Ossian, Indiana. They have one child Cindy Jo.

Ewart Rudyard Hamilton died young and is buried in the Bethel Cemetery.

Hugh Hamilton married Vella ?, since retirement lives in Pampas, Texas and have three children. Mary Lou who died in infancy, Donna Hamilton married Merle Smith and have four children, live in Kimball, Nebraska, and Ronald Hamilton who lives in California, married and has two daughters.

Maria Hamilton, fourth child of William and Almira Hamilton, died in infancy.

William Harrison Hamilton, fifth child died at age of 6 years.

Almira Hamilton, sixth child, died at age 2½.

Susan Hamilton, ninth child, died at age 16.

SALLY HAMILTON

Sally Hamilton, born June 30, 1840, died Sept. 11, 1924, married March 11, 1857 to Warren Barber born Oct. 22, 1835, died Nov. 9, 1914, was the seventh child of William and Almira C. Abbey Hamilton.

Ther children were: Martha L. Barber married James Henry Wright, Abram Harrison Barber married Clara S. Murlin, Susan Barber married Giles Peter Murlin, Lula Mae Barber married Horatio Hooper, Sophronia Barber (never married), Walter Barber married Celia Brewer.

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GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Martha and James H. Wright: Arthur Harrison Wright married Myrtle Cashman first and Allie Cathern Hubbard second, Zuie Winifred married Melvin M. Clymer, Maud married Jacob Oster first, George Warren Murch second, and William Smith third.

Children of Harry and Clara Murlin Barber: Mae Barber married Alfred Nichols, Merle Barber married Sherman E. Hickernell, Robert Harrison Barber married Bertha Banter, John Warren Barber, (Roundy, never married), Dono Barber died in infancy.

Child of Susan Barber and Giles P. Murlin: Josephine Murlin married Alpha T. Miller.

Children of Lula Barber and Horatio Hooper: Ralph Hooper married Grace Young, Ruth Hooper married Edward VanTilburg.

Children of Walter and Celia Barber: Vaughn Barber married Gertrude Brown, Kenneth Barber married Elizabeth Metz first and Lola Johnson second, Sophronia Janice Barber married George B. Reddin, D.D.S., Keith Barber married Marion Bluim, Mary Barber (never married), Bruce Barber married Rema Purdy.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Zuie Winifred Wright and Melvin M. Clymer: Nellie M. Clymer married Elmer Adrian Baker, Melvina Mattie Clymer married William F. Kern, Edward Wright Clymer married Charlene Nickerson first and Lois Sutton second.

Children of Mae Barber and Alfred Nichols: Merle Lenore Nichols married David Richard Rider, Elinore Jane Nichols married Edward Irvin first and Kenneth Berger second.

Children of Merle Barber and Sherman Hickernell: Herman Neale Hickernell married Jessie Sallee, Claryce Ann Hickernell (single).

Children of Robert H. and Bertha Banter Barber: John Cloyce Barber married Opal VanTilburg, Doris Aileme Barber (single), Lyle Kermit Barber married Ruthann Parmenter, Aldyth Louise Barber married John S. Meyer, Robert Dane Barber, M.D., married Lois Woodward.

Children of Josephine Murlin and A. T. Miller: Dwight M. Miller married Joanna Hays, Clayton L. married Gladys Lawrence, Laura Betty Miller married Wayne Kennedy, Alfred and Dorothy Jo both died in infancy, Ril T. Miller married Viola M. Long.

Children of Ruth Hooper and Ed VanTilburg: Dale W. VanTilburg married Opal Boise, Vernon VanTilburg married Grace Hamilton, Max VanTilburg married Anne Rowe Garvin, Meridith VanTilburg married Gloria Brewer, Lois Ruth VanTilburg married Paul James Bown, Sally Lou VanTilburg married Franklin D. Botkins.

Children of Ralph and Grace Hooper: Marjorie Hooper, Robert Hooper.

Child of Vaughn and Gertrude Barber: Mary Janice Barber married Robert E. Hursey.

Children of Janice Barber and George B. Reddin D.D.S.: George B. Reddin Jr. married Mrs. Sarah Sherrard Fawlins first and Carol S. Berkley second, James Reddin married Lois Ann Sieloff first and Gabriele Morath second.

Children of Robert Bruce and Rema Barber: Barbara Lee Barber married John Purdy, Karen Sue Barber married Don Fredenburg, Cynthia married Walter H. Harris.

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GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Child of Nellie M. Clymer and Elmer Adrian Baker: Ronald Adrian Baker married Francis Kay Holt.

Children of William E. Jr. and Imogene Kern: Sonya Gwyn Kern, Curtis C. Kern, Sheila Gail Kern.

Children of Robert N. and Dorothy Zimbleman Kern: Randy Dale Kern, Robert Dean Kern, Ronald D. Kern.

Children of Edward Wright Clymer: Dixie Lou Clymer, Kenneth Edward Clymer married Carol Wiedmar, Stanley Allen Clymer married Karen Spiker.

Children of Merle Nichols and David Richard Rider: David Richard Rider, Jr. married Gertrude Bowen, Patricia Jane Rider married Billy Roger Townsend, Robert Gene Rider married Kathy Lindemuth (divorced), married Rebecca Reigel, Gary Lee Rider married Ginett Young, Pamela Sue Rider married Anthony James Miller.

Child of Elinore J. Nichols and Edward Irvin: Merlene Kay Irvin married Robert Edward Daggs.

Children of John and Opal Barber: Virginia Lou Barber married Robert Hoenie, Marilyn Louise Barber married Richard Hoenie, John Robert Barber married Marjorie Ries, Richard Marvin Barber married Jane Charlene Butler, Don Charles Barber married Judy Millisor.

Children of Lyle K. and Ruthann Barber: Lana Barber married Rev. David Gerber, Kay Barber married Jeffrey Hradak.

Children of Aldyth L. and John Meyer: Judith Ann Meyer married Michael Clancy, Cynthia Sue Meyer married Richard Schlichting, Jeffrey Lee (single).

Children of Robert Dane and Lois Barber: Grant Barber married Lois Fox, Sue Barber (adopted) married Paul Abshear (div.).

Children of Dwight M. and Joanna H. Miller: Jack Smmett Miller married Barbara Blackburn, Marilyn Lee Miller married C. Eugene Ruhlen.

Children of Clayton and Gladys Miller: Dale Leon married Mary Hirst, Betty June Miller married Patrick Winans, Richard E. Miller (died a young man), Sally Ann Miller married William N. Brown, Paul Eugene Miller married Gloria Figley.

Children of L. Betty Miller and Wayne Kennedy: Judith Lucille Kennedy married Paul O. Gray, Margaret Evelyn Kennedy married Paul E. Buchanan first and Walter C. Horton second, Lucille Louise Kennedy married Larry Roger Donovan, Keith Barton Kennedy married Dianna Robinson (div).

Children of Ril T. and Viola Miller: Rosa Lee Miller married George Earl VanGundy, Linda Jean Miller married Eddie Lee Frey, Deborah Sue Miller (died at 17 years), Ronald Jay Miller married Becky Jo Baker, Randy Ray Miller married Shirley Marie Thomas, Rebecca Jo Miller married Michael Vaughn Barber, Lori Lynn Miller (single).

Children of Dale and Opal Van Tilburg: Ronald VanTilburg married Juanita Christian (div.), Larry Van Tilburg married Sharon Buchanan first and Nancy Truss second, Janice Van Tilburg married Richard Garwick, Bruce VanTilburg married Linda Campbell, Keith VanTilburg married Carolyn Sue Stoner (dec).

Children of Vernon and Grace VanTilburg: Sue Ellen VanTilburg married Jerry Hicks, Patricia VanTilburg married Dennis Higgins, Douglas VanTilburg (single), Michael VanTilburg married Cynthia Taylor, Beth Ann VanTilburg married Bill St. Clair.

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Children of Lois VanTilburg and Paul James Brown: Sharon Brown married Tom Vogel first and Randy Smith second, Kevin Brown married Karen Russell, Teresa Brown married Tom Rodriquez, Rebecca Brown married Greg Ciesinski, Sandra Brown married Ed Freewalt.

Children of Sally VanTilburg and Frank Botkins: Linda Sue Botkins married Larry Holycross, Debra Botkins married Jay Clutter, Scott Botkins married Christine Vogel.

Children of Mary Janice Barber and Robert Hursey: David V., Celia Sue, Geri.

Child of George B. Jr. and Sarah Sherrard Rawlins (adopted) Betty Jean married Jeffrey High.

Child of George B. Jr. and Carol Reddin: George B. Reddin III.

Child of James and Lois Reddin: Heidi Linda Reddin.

Children of Barbara Lee Barber and John Purdy: Jon and Jan.

Children of Karen Sue Barber and Don Fredenburg: Jennifer, Jeffrey, Amey, Sarah.

Children of Cynthia Barber and Walter D. Harris: Francis Elizabeth, Emily, Celia, Michael Bruce Christian Harris.

ISABEL HAMILTON

Isabel Hamilton, eighth child of William and Almira C. Abbey Hamilton, born Jan. 6, 1846 on Eight Mile Creek and died July 10, 1910. On Sept. 25, 1866, she married John A. Murlin, born Oct. 24, 1843, in Ky., died Feb. 16, 1928. He was engaged for nine years in mercantile pursuits, doing business seven years at Deepcut in partnership with J. H. Dunathan. He later engaged in business in Mendon. In Dec. 1861, he entered the military service as a privatte in Co. E, 46th O. V. I. and bore a captain's commission at the time of his discharge in July, 1865. Their home place was known as the Langsdon property on South Main, now Benny Young apartments.

Their children were: Enola Murlin married Alpheus W. Copeland, Salome Murlin died at 18, Arthur Murlin died young, Laura Murlin married John Wesley Langsdon, John Raymond Murlin married Jacqueline Seaman, Walter Hamilton Murlin married Cora Phillips who died, later married Mrs. Emma Winger.

GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Enola and Alf Copeland were: Arland M. Copeland married Chloe Severns, Ruth Copeland married Homer L. Donhaiser.

Children of Laura and John Wesley Langsdon were: Jessie Irene Langsdon married John Lee Small, Walter Ralph Langsdon married Glenna Lloyd, Isabel Langsdon married James A. Nelson, no children, Mark Wesley Langsdon married Alice Luley, Lois Enola Langsdon married William G. Dennis, no children.

Children of John Raymond and Jacqueline Murlin were: John A. Murlin married Katherine Guthrie, William R. Murlin married Jean Ewell, Frances Isabel Murlin married Willam D. Halsey Jr., no chldren.

Children of Walter H. and Emma Murlin were: Walter Emerson Murlin married Ruth E. Dixon, Jean Augusta Murlin married Arlington Joseph Rawers, M.D.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Arland and Chloe Copeland were: Donald Eugene, Alpheus L., and Norman A. Copeland.

Children of Ruth Copeland and Homer L. Donhaiser were: John Neal, Phyllis J., James R., and Billy Joe Donhaiser.

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Children of Jessie Langsdon and John Lee Small were: Vera Small married Floyd Eugene Shannon, dec., Joanna Small married Harmon Howe, John W. Small married Kay ?.

Child of Walter Ralph and Glenna Langsdon was: Norma Jean Langsdon.

Children of Mark Wesley and Alice Langsdon were: Josephine Clara and Mark Wesley Langsdon.

Children of John A. and Katherine Murlin were: Anne and Martha Murlin.

Children of William R. and Jean Ewell Murlin were: William and Marjorie Murlin.

Children of Walter Emerson and Ruth Dixon Murlin are: Nancy June Murlin married Hosel first and Floyd Tribble second, Lana Jane Murlin married Michael Dennis Lehman, Debbie Janelle Murlin married Philip Alden Piper.

Child of Jean Murlin and Dr. J. A. Rawers is: Shirley Kay Rawers married to Wendell Stancill Larimer.

GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Nancy June Murlin Hosel Tribble are: Cheryl Renee Hosel married Tracy Hoskins, Debra Jane Hosel, Christina Marie Hosel.

Children of Lana Jane Murlin and Michael Dennis Lehman are: Timothy Cyle and Ellen Melissa Lehman.

Children of Debbie Janelle Murlin and Phillip Alden Piper are: Jason Phillip, Jennifer Nicole, and Jll Kristine Piper.

Children of Shirley Rawers and Wendell Stancill Larimer are: Dru Anne and Thomas Jonathon Larimer.

WILLIAM HAMILTON JR.

William Hamilton Jr., born Feb. 28, 1850, died Aug. 18, 1896, married Mary C. Miller born Sept. 21, 1852, died Aug. 18, 1913, was the 10th child of William Sr. and Almira Hamilton. Ther home place was on the Mendon-Neptune Road. Where Ed and Lucille Suhr now live.

Their children were Ollie and Effie, Effie married Ernest Rice 3rd April 1872, Arthur, Ida married Ralph Height, Glenn married Emma Good, Emery married Cecil Davis, Edgar married Flossie Fern Baker.

GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Effie Hamilton and Ernest Rice: Homer Hamilton Rice married Anna Belle Stoner, Glenn Rice married Mary Bogart, Gladys Rice married Cletus Grothjan.

Children of Ida Hamilton and Ralph Height: Rowena Height married John C. Bradley.

Children of Glenn and Emma Good Hamilton: Pauline, William A., Harry G. (all died young), Ray married Vera Warren, Dale married Mildred Andrew, Farol married Stanley Springer, Forest B., died young, Edgar married Rosalie Snyder.

Children of Emery and Cecil Davis Hamilton: William married Cecil Boroff, Ronald married Edna McMichael, Buell married Esther Kable, Robert married Mary Harbison, Mary Jane, died at 20 years.

Children of Edgar and Flossie Fern Baker Hamilton: Willard Scott married Opal Smith, Lyle Frederick married Lucille Houts, Ruth Ida married John Houts.

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GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Homer H. and Anna Belle Stoner Rice: Raymond Rice married Dorothy Brookhart, Gertrude Rice married Stanley Brookhart, Marjorie Rice married George Kreachbaum, Homer Hamilton Rice Jr. married Patricia J. Emans.

Child of Glenn and Mary Bogart Rice: Ila Mae Rice.

Children of Gladys Rice and Cletus Grothjan: Rosalind married Frank Pizza, Joan married Raymond Bosch, Barbara married John Brennen, Jerome married Shirley Brassel.

Children of Rowena Hight and John C. Bradley: John C. Bradley II married Martha Bowers, William Bradley married Elfreda Doepke, Kenneth Bradley (stepson of Rowena) married Clara Mae.

Child of Ray and Vera Warren Hamilton: Judy (adopted).

Child of Dale and Mildred Andrew Hamilton: Barbara married James E. King.

Children of Farol Hamilton and Stanley Springer: Pauline married Paul Stein, Richard married Mary Hilleary, Donnie married Dorothy Grossnickle, Glenda married Larry J. Colby.

Children of Edgar and Rosalie Snyder Hamilton: Jill, Jeffrey, Gregory, Beth, Phillip.

Children of William and Cecil Boroff Hamilton: Barbara married Bill Barber, Sharon married Lewis W. Hilleary.

Children of Ronald and Edna McMichael Hamilton: Larry married Betty Long, Deanne married Norman VanTilburg.

Children of Buell and Esther Kable Hamilton: Marilyn married Dan Dean Snyder (divorced), married Theodore Hausmann, Richard married Peggy Funkhouser.

Children of Robert and Mary Harbison Hamilton: Fred, Margaret Ann, Mary Jane.

Children of Willard Scott and Opal Smith Hamilton: Grifford married Mary Hagen, Dexter married Patricia Lowe, Karen married Larry Fultz.

Children of Lyle F. and Lucille Houts Hamilton: Gary married Patricia Watts, Janis Hamilton.

GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Children of Raymond and Dorothy Brookhart Rice: David married Sandra Harruff, Mary Jane married Russell Doseck, and William Rice.

Children of Gertrude Rice and Stanley Brookhart: Nancy married James Westgate, Philip, Joyce married Ronald Clinger.

Children of Marjorie Rice and George Kreachbaum: Ruth Ann married Phillip Winkler, and Kay Ellen.

Children of Homer Hamilton Jr. and Patricia J. Emans Rice: Pamela Kay married Michael Frank (div.), Dennis Eugene married Ann Marie Florence, Kimberly Ann married Smith (div)., later married Terry Bollenbacher, Tama Lu married Rick Smith, Connie Sue married Robert James Teeters.

Children of Rosalind Grothjan and Frank Pizza: Christopher, Lisa, Eric, Jeffrey, Laura, Sheila.

Children of Joan Grothjan and Raymond Bosche: Cynthia married Donald Schuster, Debra married Terry Paul, Kimberly married John Zymsnski, and Julie Bosche.

Children of Barbara Grothjan and John Brennen: Keven, Michael, John, Thomas.

Children of Jerome and Shirley Brassel Grothjan: Anna Marie, Barbara Jane.

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Children of John II and Martha Bowers Bradley: John C. III, Clark, Connie married John Briggeman, Scot married Mary Bradley, and Ross.

Children of William and Elferda Doepke Bradley: William Jr., Laura, Wesley.

Children of Kenneth and Clara Mae Bradley: Patty, Jane, (both adopted).

Child of Barbara Hamilton and James E. King: Michelle married Tony Zumiga.

Children of Pauline Springer and Paul Stein: Roger Paul married Norma Jean DeMott, Peggy Sue (dec.), Timothy Wayne married Penny Stambaugh (div.), later married Drinda (Hoskins) Carey, David Brian married Annette Petry, Kevin Lee married Lisa Kay Mathew, Chris Edward married Tammy Sue Stoker, Susan Gale married Daniel Dixon.

Child of Richard and Mary Hilleary Springer: Onna Marie married Don Kremer.

Child of Donnie and Dorothy Grossnickle Springer: Debra.

Children of Glenda Springer and Larry J. Colby: Keith Allen, Kirk Randall married Laura, Kim Scott married Dawn.

Children of Barbara Hamilton and Bill Barber: Kay married Richard Laux, Marcia married Randy Brehm, Mike married Rebecca Jo Miller, Mark.

Child of Sharon Hamilton and Lewis Hilleary: Shannon Nicole.

Children of Larry and Betty Long Hamilton: Michael, Beth Ann.

Children of Deanne Hamilton and Norman VanTilburg: Vicki, Rodney.

Children of Marilyn Hamilton and Dan Dean Snyder: Danny Dean married Renee Stroud, Debra married Robert Peterson, son of Marilyn Hamilton and Theodore Hausmann: David Michael.

Children of Richard and Peggy Funkhouser Hamilton: Vanette, Ginger, Kent Wayne.

Children of Grifford and Mary Hagen Hamilton: Carla, Julie, Dana, Brett.

Children of Dexter and Patricia Lowe Hamilton: Debbie and Donna, Donna married Kevin Walls, Kelly, Scott, and Kristi.

Children of Karen Hamilton and Larry Fultz: Sheryl married Kevin McCartey, Eric.

Children of Gary and Patricia Watts Hamilton: Taunya, and Trina.

LOOKING BACK THRU THE YEARS

In 1930 Earl Wilkins lived on a farm on Coil Road. He milked 5 cows and was paid 55 cents a hundred for the milk, and charged 25 cents for the hauling. Ernest Hirn hauled the milk to Columbus Grove.

In 1923 Ona Bowland was the leader of a girls 4H club. Some members were: Ramona Bowland, Edna McMichael (Hamilton), Lowella Spicer (Crouch), and Dorothy Skinner (McGillvary).

The town jail was located in the Town Hall and used quite often. There were two cells and it was heated with a wood stove.

Kittie Davis operated a millinery shop in the house south of Roebuck Ins. She custom-made both hats and dresses.

Irvin Shinaberry operated a filling station next to the town park. He also sold all kinds of penny candy and gum and was called shinybubble.

At one time, there were 2 telephone companies in town. Both were located on the west side of Main St. above Maurers and Hansels and were operated by Lavene Plummer and the C. L. Roebuck family.

Hankins and Drakes general store was located on the lot between where A & T Sohio and the car wash are now located.

The Barber House Hotel was located on th lot where A & T Sohio now stands.

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A wild and wooley saloon called "The Bowery" was located out across the river on Deepcut Road across from the John Q. Adams farm. There was a cable or swinging bridge from town across the river to the saloon.

In the south room of Maurers Hardware, "Beany" Hays had a restaurant and "Buck" Roebuck a pool room. Dominoes and checkers were played in the restaurant.

Luster (Bussie) Diegel operated a Paragon gas station where the Kozy Korner stands. Wavel Yocum had a barber shop in the same building. Haircuts cost 15 cents and shaves were 5 cents.

In the building south of Mendon Farm Store, J. L. (Red) Tueth operated a hardware store in the late 20's. In the 40's Bill Baumgardner ran a grocery store in this location.

George Banter owned a drugstore where Hansel Recreation is.

In 1926-27, Gene Griggs and Bruce Barber were cheerleaders for MUHS.

Remember the great Mendon Aces.

The high school students played basketball above Drake & Shaffer. The room was heated by two stoves and there wern't many seats for the spectators. The players all showered across the street at the Star Barber Shop.

A movie theatre was located where the fire department is. Elaine Davis (Severns) was the piano player for movies. There was a ten cents store next door, run by Markleys.

In 1929-30 Mendon won the Mercer Co. basketball tournament.

Wayne Snyder operated a restaurant in the building where the post office is.

Charles and Edna Fishbaugh took care of elderly people for several years in their home.

Frank Hale was Justice of the Peace and Eugene Hale had a drugstore on the east side of Main St.

Floyd Baltzell and Gene Frysinger operated the B&F garage.

Mendon had a Seventh Day Adventist Church at one time.

In 1938 the Mercer Co. tournament was held in Mendon.

50 years ago, in 1934, the caps and gowns for graduation disappeared and did not show up until after commencement.

Charley Protsman ran a cobbler shop and sold Wear-Well shoes on the west side of Main St.

Main St. went from dirt and mud to red brick with curbings.

There were a few years when "The Purple Heart Gang" was blamed for everything and known for miles around.

John U. Brown drove a milk truck for Producers in Celina.

Townspeople bought their milk and eggs from Willis Hays (now Ril Millers farm) instead of the grocery store.

Around 1936 in the lot where A. & T. is located, Ted Worrell had a garage with a wrecking yard out back, they had living quarters upstairs.

The Fire Department consisted of one hand pump and there were coconut barrels underground for water to put out the fire. There was one located in front of Bill Snider's house and one by Mildred Kruger's house.

In 1915, wheat sold for 15 and 20 cents a bushel.

Corn was always shucked by hand, honey and bees wax were used to heal the hands.

Reuben Kinkley had an ice house west of where Bill Snider lives. They cut the ice in blocks and hauled by horse and wagon to town. The ice blocks were stacked with sawdust thrown in between. The ice would then be de-

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livered to the customers as needed. The ice was taken from the old gravel pit (Clays) now owned by Max Shaffer.

In the room north of Roebuck Insurance, there was a restaurant, operated by John Tomlinson.

In the south room of Maurer's Hardware there was once a poolroom owned by Pete Thomas. Homer Krugh had a grocery store in this room, and also Virgil Evans, ran a bakery.

In Drake and Shaffer's south room, William Miller the undertaker, had a furniture store. Later Walter Dick and Fred Fisher sold furniture, then Dick and Stallter owned it.

Janice Risher of Celina, Ohio, writes the following: "I remember . . . My grandfather Levi Guy belonged to the G.A.R. at Mendon.—and as a child he would take me over for any celebrating — as he lived at Mercer — and I surely remember the monument erected there. My mother was Sadye Guy and was married to my Dad who was well known in Mendon too—as he worked with Walter Dick in the funeral work, he was known as Bill Risher to many people there. My mother was an organist and she and her sister Maude played and sang for many things at Mendon. When I was still in high school I worked in the office for Dr. Paul Fishbaugh".

The Nolan Cigar Store located in Drake and Shaffer's north room was entered and robbers helped themselves to the $5.00 change in the cash register and two boxes of cigars. Tony Webb who was employed at the cigar store discovered the loss when he opened the store about 7:00 o'clock. The front door was pried open with a crowbar and when the intruder left, he closed the door behind him. No clues were left to trace the imposter.

There was a millinery shop owned and operated by Laura Langsdon, located on the west side of Main Street in the area of the Post Office and Rickard's Poolroom.

Charles (Cy) Dick and Reed Shelley would hurry from school, on Thursdays, to fold papers for Geiger, Editor of the Mendon Herald. They received 15 cents an hour and later, with an increase in pay for their good work, made 25 cents an hour.

North of the Bennett Brown grocery was a clothing store, for a few years, managed by Paul (Sheene) Cook. He formed a club where you paid 50 cents a week on a suit. Many bought their first suit this way.

Many kids used to roller skate in the upstairs of Dutton's Implement Store.

Ada Watts organized an orchestra of young children and they played at all big events in the county. Merle Hickernell was the director. They started in the 5th and 6th grade and played on through high school. Mr. Miller of Spencerville, Ohio later was the director.

The old huckster wagon would come to your house and you exchanged eggs, chickens, butter, etc. for sugar, flour and other necessities.

The Ladies Community Circle had a lunch stand at the county fair, for a few years, and with the profits purchased the playground equipment for the town park.

Henry Allen's 5 cent ham sandwiches and Maud Roebuck's delicious pies sold at Allen's Restaurant.

Gail and Ada Watts had a restaurant in the south room of Maurer's Hardware.

Jack Bedell had the 5 cent wheel of chance, on candy bars, in Watt's restaurant.

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Charley Protsman had a used furniture and repair shop where the Kozy Korner is now located.

Gail and Ada Watts bought the drug store, located where Hansel's Recreation is from George Banter.

A lot of children got stung by the bees owned by Ed Protsman, when walking to school.

Phyllis Fox Griggs and Evelyn Thomas Kelner sold home made ice cream, cake and drinks at the centennial in 1934. They had a tent in the middle of Main Street in front of the Post Office.

Joe Bissel, drove a horse and buggy from farm to farm and sheared sheep for farmers.

The thrill of hearing Leonard Lewis coming down the road with his big threshing machine was exciting.

Ted Worrell hauled workers to Goodyear in an old blue school bus everyday for years.

The west road, SR 707, was impassable for cars, at one time.

Lorenzo Brown had a boiler shop in the building which is now a double garage on Gayle Miller's lot.

A barn raisin' called for a barn dance where all the folks swung their partners as one person called the square dance.

Husking bees were held as social events. One highlight was finding red ears of corn for special privileges. (Each red ear entitled its finder to kiss the girl of his choice). Skating was another winter pasttime with "Shinny," played with crooked sticks, a favorite game.

Plowing was done with horses and walking plows. Corn was planted with a hand planter. When ripe it was cut by hand with long corn cutter. It was stacked in "shocks" to dry. Later the ears were husked out by hand. Some of the small grains were broadcast by hand when planted. The farmer had a "cradle" which was used to cut wheat by hand.

Children, spending the summer months with grandparents would have fun sliding down the strawstack, gathering wild strawberries and elderberries, picking apples and cherries in season, gatherng eggs, feeding chickens and learning to milk the cows.

Treshing day was great fun for children. They could watch the blower on the threshing machine pile up the strawstack, and the grain roll out into the wagons. Of course children were in on the Big dinner which was always provided for the threshers. (Some days it was necessary to keep the flies away by "swishing" shakers made from cut strps of paper flour sacks tacked to a stick, over the table).

Sometimes butchering day fell so that children could be around. They could watch the big black kettles boiling and lard being rendered. Also see meat cut up, sausage ground and stuffed and carried to the smoke house to be cured.

Grandmother always made her own bread and churned her own butter (in early days in a barrel churn with a long handled dasher pushed up and down by hand). She made marvelous jelly and preserves from fruits and berries.

Delbert (Del) Rhoades, was the blind piano tuner, who always wore a derby hat, and lived with Mrs. John Maurer on Wayne Street. He received his schooling at The State School for the Blind, Columbus, Ohio. After tuning a piano he would play a song on the piano to see how it would sound. He composed a song "The Sinking of the Titanic". Del was an uncle to Alma Skiles and a great uncle to John Maurer of Mercer, Ohio.

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The sidewalks were wide boardwalks.

Lutz Electric on the west side of Main Street was operated by Harold and Ellen Lutz. They also sold auto license plates.

Alley Brown occupied the corner of Market and Green Street, and was always cooking possum and coon outside.

The school buses stopped at the bridge and the students had to walk across, because the bridge was unsafe.

Mendon had a drawing every Saturday night, giving away cash prizes, donated by the business men.

Bessie Snavely and Mrytle Ballinger had a lemon-aide stand during the celebration of Mendon's centennial in 1934.

The Farmers Institute was a yearly 2 day event held in February. The whole community looked forward to it and enjoyed the food, displays, speakers, prizes and the play on closing night.

John U. Brown, Merle Townsend, Vic Baker and several others had a Saturday night band.

The Bartone's Medicine Show came to town every few years. They camped next to the Town Hall and performed every night for a week. The Town Hall was always full for their shows.

Every Wednesday night movies were shown in the Town Hall. Roy Rogers, Hopalong Cassidy, The Lone Ranger and Tarzan were all favorites.

Until recent years the Mendon Union Alumni dinners were always served banquet style in the gym.

Employees of A. H. Barber & Co. corner store were Bess Ayres, Mary Thomas, Merle Barber Hickernell, Robert H. Barber and Warren "Roundy" Barber. They sold everything but horse collars and liquer.

Ray High tore down the saw mill and it is now a barn on the farm of Orville and Luella Crouch on Mercer Road.

Myron Yocum had a photography shop where Roy Clay lives. Gertrude Patterson Ollie Brown were also photographers.

Farmers milked their cows by hand, "separated" the milk and obtained cream which they sold at the cream station.

Lottie Tomlinson, Lavene Plummer and Mary Drake all managed cream stations at various times.

The Drake and Miller store was again burglarized Thursday evening between 6 o'clock and 8:30. The thief had gained entrance through an upstairs window and looted the cash register. Bloodhounds from Bryan were secured to assist in the capture of the thief.

In 1929—every motor vehicle must be equipped with a suitable and adequate bell or other device for signalling, while being operated upon the public roads and highways. The penalty for violating this requirement is a fine of $25.

In 1929—It is the duty of the operator of a motor vehicle to slow down and stop when signalled to do so by a person riding a horse or driving a horse drawn vehicle, and to remain stationary until the animal has passed.

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Mendon's first school buses were owned by Emery Brown who lived where Jim & Marty Heck live. Brownie and Cy Heffner each owned a bus also.

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Nelson, parents of Ruth Heath, had a dairy farm on St. Rt. 707 where Ron and Sally Miller now live.

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Since our book went to press the following residents, pictured in this book, have passed away.

Ralph Lewis - January 1984

Babe Hays - March 1984

Earl Wilkins - March 1984

Merle B. Hickernell - March 1984

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DONATION MEMBERSHIP LIST

W. H. Dick & Sons Funeral Home
Drake & Shaffer Inc.
Hansel Recreation
Mendon Union Recreation Association
Mendon Lions Club
Roebuck Ins. Agency
Noble Montague & Moul Attys.
Maurer's Hardware
Emans "76"
Kozy Korner
Dave Rickard
Randy Christian
Mendon Lodge F. & A. M. No. 586
Mendon-Union Friends of the Library
Mendon First Church of God
Mendon Flower & Garden Club
Mendon United Methodist Church
Hamilton Stock Yard
Mrs. Jane Dick—Avon Gp. Sales Ldr.
Lonnie F. Herron D. C.—Coldwater
Michael & Cheryl Boley
Julie Boley
Tonya Jilek
Roy, Linda & Tracy Davis
Ron & Linda Miller
Mendon Craft Club
Gene & Joan Counterman
Janice Barber Reddin
Larry Joe Hesse—Dekalb Seed
Mendon Blue Ribbon 4-H Club
Spencerville Implements
Sam Blythe—Pioneer Seed
Fryer Pharmacy
Pohlman's Hardware
Shindollar-Mack-Teegarden Ins.
Dr. Wright
The Journal-News
Foster Flowers, Spencerville
Thomas E. Bayliff Funeral Home
Kills Flowers & Gifts
Jones Jewelry Store
Pantry Pride
Wilson Enterprises, Inc.
Stanley Shellabarger—Sohio
Citizens Commercial Bank
Neely's Drugs
Neptune Elevator, Inc.
Dave Sheets Bulldozing
Kitchens, Inc.—Van Wert
Bob Nolan—Leader Seed Corn
Robert & Evelyn Keler
Fauna Denney - Van Wert
Jerry & Sheryl Ellis & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar W. Hays - Sturgis, Mi.
Eugene & Wanda Frysinger
Dave & Diane Sheets
David Lee Sheets
W. Fireoved & Son, Drainage
Harley & Edna Seibert
Garwick's—The Pet People
Brodbeck's
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Sutton
Gomer Richard Breese
Vivian Frank—Stanley Products
Delbert & Beverly Piper
Travis Piper
Kevin Grieshop—Logo Artist
Mrs. Helen Archer
Don & Betty Miller
Ron & Sally Miller & Ryan
Gary & Sylvia Miller, Lindsay & Brent
Dale Krugh & Family
Warren Shindollar & Family
Maxine & Robert Putman
In Memory of Mary Crouch—by Mendon Flower & Garden Club
Dale & Heidi Moorman
Virginia Hays
Dan & Pam Rasawuhr
David Rasawuhr
Brett Rasawuhr
Jennifer Rasawuhr
Mrs. Edna Hamilton
Chevys Unlimited Club
Tom & Barbara Armstrong
Mr. &Mrs. J. Vernon Barber
Mrs. Jean Murlin Rawers
Stan & Shirley Larimer
Dru Ann Larimer
Tom Larimer
Esmonde's Market
Orchard Tree Family Restaurant —St. Marys
David & Ruth Esmonde
Kyle & Linda Esmonde
Klaudia Esmonde
Khris Esmonde
Harry S. Emans
Alfred V. Emans
Marilyn J. Emans
Rex V. Emans
Janet R. Emans
Jill R. Emans

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Rick G. Emans
Barbara J. Emans
Rob G. Emans
Dan C. Puthoff
Rita J. Puthoff
Deanna M. Puthoff
Angela M. Puthoff
Valeria R. Puthoff
Amber E. Puthoff
Jeff & Martha Archer
Randy Severns
Jeff Severns
Joe & Doris Severns
Dan & Terri Crouch
Brent Unger
Myron & Gidget Burnett
Mike Moorman
Doug Shellabarger
Verl & Gladys Friedly
Tom & Olene Grieship
Celina Coffee Shop
Merle "Bud" Hays
Mrs. Alice Rider Fry
Mrs. Alberta Rider Clay
Mrs. Grace Rider Haggard
Clayton & Mary Adams
Bessie P. Snavely
Schumm Pharmacy
The Rockford Press
Martha's Nutritional Center
Tolan's Memorials
Bob Clay Ins.
Country Time Sub-Division
All American
Homes—Gene Counterman
Plaza Bowling Lanes, Inc.
White Horse Restaurant
Mendon E. M. S.
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.
Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Protsman
Robert & Virginia Sacher
Claryce Ann Hickernell
Ernest & Betty Mihm—Rockford
Ken & Donna Harner
Kenneth & Alice Hundley Kline
Lowell & Martha Krick
Patricia Krick
Angela Krick
Elizabeth Krick
Bob & Shirley Adams
Jody Adams
Troy Adams
Brenda Blue
Kim Sigler
Merle Hickernell
Ken & Pat John
Century 21
Carl Wright of Celina, Inc.
Motor Inn Truck Plaza
Ed Bolton & Sons of Van Wert, O.
Bair Pharmacy
The Cut & Style Shop—Willshire
Willshire V & S Variety & Grocery
Mersmans—Sommers Tables
Plant Barn
Stein & Lehman Funeral Home
Martens Greenhouse
The Daily Standard
Jerry Rolsten—Northrup King
Third National Bank & Trust Co.
Jim McDorman—Philatelic
Envelope Artist
Mrs. Joanna Miller
Mrs. Frankie Hays
Eugene & Marilyn Ruhlen
Terri L. Ruhlen
Michael & Cathy Ruhlen
Christopher Michael Ruhlen
Tara Nicole Ruhlen
Kelly Jo Ruhlen
Robert & Lisa Moeller
Jennifer Leigh Moeller
Benjamin Joseph Moeller
Mr. and Mrs. Creighton Zeigler
Eugene & Phyllis Griggs
Ganell & Irma Diegel
Bud & Vivian Frank
Mendon Farm Store
Mercer Landmark
A & T Sohio
Jim's Harley Davidson
Rex Welding
Mendon Civic Club
Nettina Haller
Miriam Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Grier
Grier Power Digging
Pogues
Grace Rolsten
Celina Pizza Hut
Celina Dairy Queen
Welch's Restaurant
Kentucky Fried Chicken—Celina
Celina Wine Store
Casa Rodriquez
Tom's Carry Out—Celina
Club Cafe
Hardees—Celina
Wendy's—Celina
Mendon Chapter #259 O.E.S.

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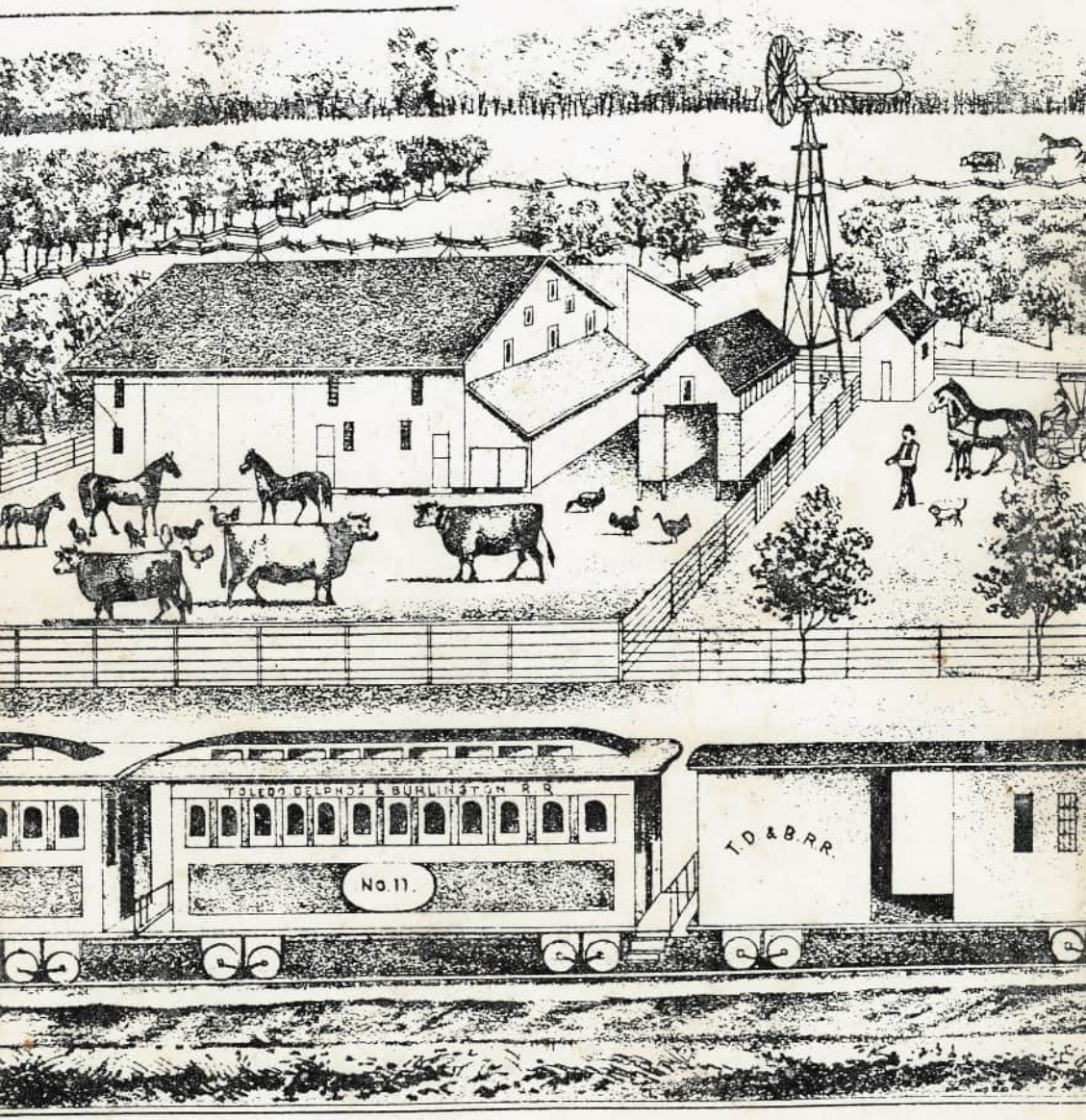

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