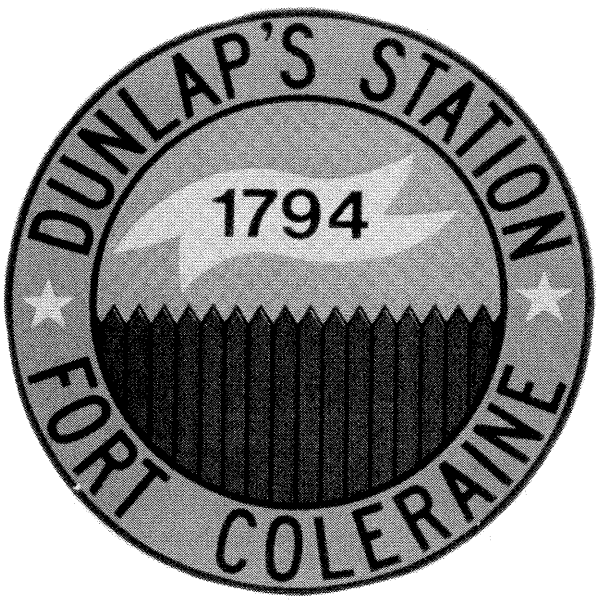
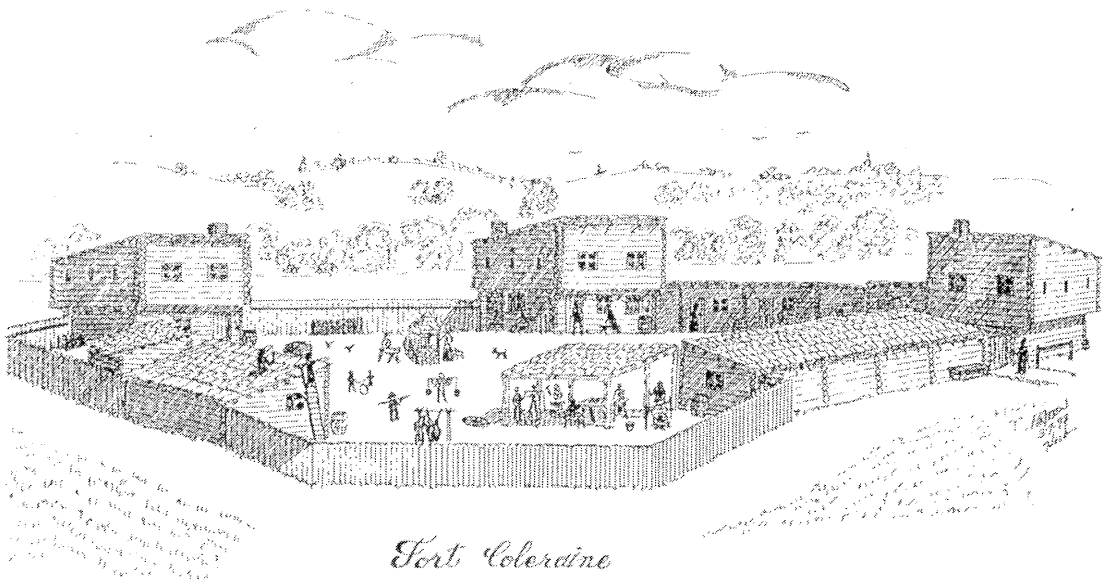
Colerain Township "Revisited"





Fort Coleraine

1794 - 1994
Bicentennial Year

Ruth J. Wells

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PREFACE

This book is the result of the many years of research begun in the 1960's when I was teaching in the Northwest School District. I had had a long interest in Colerain Township, having relatives of my husband living on Banning Road, visiting them and having a "victory garden" there during World War II. We spent many happy hours hunting and training beagles there during those years. I remember Sheits Road when you could go no farther than the creek bed, long before it was built through as it is today. I remember hiking up the right of way of Pottenger Road before it was built at all.

After my husband, Ralph, died I finished my education and earned a teaching degree, teaching first at North College Hill and coming to Northwest, then Colerain, in 1960. I was deeply interested in the township and set out to learn all I could about its past history. When teaching at Struble in 1963 one of my students brought in a newspaper clipping about the Dunlap Station story, which started a class project to learn about the township government and history. This led to the formation of the Coleraine Historical Society in 1964. The township population was bursting into new subdivisions and I was afraid that some of its heritage would be lost unless there was an effort to educate people about its past and possibilities for the future.

I spent all my spare time learning all I could, spending a week in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to get all the original records of the little "Ft. Coleraine" on the banks of the Great Miami River. I spent hours in the Hamilton County Court House reading deeds and other records, road records in the Engineer's Office. Those road records facinated me, for, on the originals I found the actual signatures of some of our earliest settlers.

Since 1964 I have written many of the stories of Colerain's people and places in "The Coleraine Pageant" so that Colerain Township's history might live on. The compiling of much of this material into "Colerain Township, Revisited" is my gift to the people of the Township for their Bicentennial.

Ruth J. Wells
1442 Cedar Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio
February, 1994

C O L E R A I N T O W N S H I P

R E V I S I T E D

Dedicated to the memory of **ROSELLA HERRMANN, past president of the Coleraine Historical Society, Charter Member and one of the Founding Members.** She contributed greatly to the first publication in 1976 - **"Our Heritage" - COLERAIN TOWNSHIP.**

Also a tribute to **GEORGE C. COON**, known as "Mr. Colerain" because of his interest in the Township; a charter member and one of the founders of the Coleraine Historical Society. Many of his pictures are used in this history.

Special thanks to **RUTH J. WELLS**, the Founder and First President of the Coleraine Historical society and Editor of the **COLERAINE PAGEANT**, quarterly publication of the Society, without whose assistance completion of this book would not have been possible.

COLERAIN TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

Government in Colerain Township is based on the Township form of government which was brought to America by the Pilgrim fathers in 1620. From the New England states, where this governmental unit is still referred to as the "town", this form of government spread west as far as the Rocky Mountains. Today, 22 states have the town or township form of local government.

The Township in Ohio predates our state government. The size and shape of the Township was determined by the Congressional Acts establishing the various land grants. As the Ohio Territory became populated it was only natural that the surveyed Townships should become the basic unit of local government. In 1803 the elected officials of a Township consisted of three trustees, a clerk, two overseers of the poor, and a sufficient number of supervisors of highways, in addition to justices of the peace; these officials registered brands and fulfilled the needs of local government generally.

Today, just as in 1803, the Township in Ohio is a political subdivision of the state. As such it has only those powers granted to it by the state legislature, and performs the functions as directed by the state. To keep pace with the demands for increased or different governmental services that have been made necessary at the local level, the state legislature has responded by giving Township government the authority to provide these services.

Three trustees and a clerk, each elected for a four year term, administer each of Ohio's Townships today. These officials make up the Board. The Board of Colerain Township meets every second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the Colerain Senior and Community Center, 4300 Springdale Road.

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A special "THANK YOU" to these volunteers who helped in the preparation of this book:

Dennis Chapman
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Ann Springer

COLERAIN TOWNSHIP

Colerain Township, the largest in the state, and one of the oldest, was created in 1794 by the Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace. In 1803 when Ohio became a state, its boundaries were defined to include the western tier of sections in Springfield Township, northwestern section of Mill Creek Township and the three easternmost sections of the northern tier of Green Township. To illustrate - Mt. Healthy west of Hamilton Pike was a part of Colerain Township at this time. This boundary remained for 25 or more years - thus we find names on its early records later disappearing to become part of Springfield Township's records.

SETTLEMENTS OR VILLAGES

Its earliest settlement was Ft. Coleraine (source of the Township name) established by John Dunlap in 1790 and commonly called Dunlap's Station. He was one of Symmes' surveyors and a native of Coleraine, Ireland. Another station was established by John Campbell about 1795 probably opposite to Miamitown on the east bank of the Great Miami River. Little is known of it. All trace of the first village of Coleraine disappeared. It was situated on the great band of the Miami several miles below the bridge to Ross.

A second **COLERAIN** was started just above the (Venice) Ross bridge. In 1819 David Stone of New Hampshire built a cotton mill at Colerain where Toad Creek enters to Great Miami (River Road just east of its intersection with Colerain Pike). In 1821 this was sold to Giles Richards and Timothy Goodman. A grist mill and saw mill were built. A Tavern and Dye House were added. A thriving town grew up here. The cotton mill later became Matson's Woolen Mill. This village had virtually vanished by 1875 and nothing remains to mark its location today.

The village of **BEVIS** was established by Jesse Bevis on the early Colerain Road about 1816. When the Turnpike was built, leaving the line of the old road, he relocated it about a quarter mile or so west of its original site. In 1835 it was given a post office with Jesse Bevis being the postmaster, replaced by James A. Bevis in 1861.

GROESBECK was founded as **WEST UNION** sometime later. It got its name from Charles West, a Methodist lay preacher, who gave land for the church, so named for him and the union of the Olive Branch and Asbury Methodist congregations. The name was changed to Groesbeck in 1857 with the advent of the postal service. There was another West Union in Ohio making a name change necessary.

GEORGETOWN (DUNLAP) was laid out in 1829 at the junction of Colerain Pike with Kemper Road (an early road connecting Springfield Pike and Colerain). The post office was established in 1837 with David Wallace as postmaster.

PLEASANT RUN, named for the stream, was located on the east line of the township, half a mile south of the Butler County line. James Huston became its postmaster in 1846, with Paul Huston taking over in 1854. An early hotel, Farmers' Rest, was located here. This was on the Hamilton Turnpike.

TAYLOR'S CREEK is a small community east of Miamitown and the Great Miami River. It is located on the Harrison Turnpike. In 1857 John A. Davis became its first postmaster. Later the post office was located in the Althaus store.

BARNESBURGH, a village straggling along the Blue Rock Turnpike, was named for the early settlers - the Barnes family - who came from Kentucky in the early 1800's. The post office was located in the tavern and store of Alois Jutzi in 1874. Nothing but its name remains today because of highway construction.

Another little village on the Blue Rock Turnpike was **CREEDVILLE** located in the area where the Blue Rock Pike and Cheviot Roads conjoin. At the point where Hanley road joins it was the toll house for Blue Rock Turnpike - the post office was in this building, also.

It is noticeable that all the villages were to be found on the turnpikes. There were three in the Township - the earliest one (Colerain) bisecting the Township from north to south. Harrison Pike skirts along the southern edge, while the other early Turnpike (Hamilton) is found on parts of the eastern line of the Township.

ROADS

The only access to the early forts or stations for a time was by water - the Little Miami, Mill Creek and the Great Miami River - but soon trails overland were started. These followed the best ways of using the natural terrain, many times using trails established by the Indians to reach their hunting grounds in Kentucky. These early trails were only wide enough for pack horses at first, but as settlement grew were widened to accomodate wagons. The Military Road for the armies followed the Mill Creek valley, but hill trails were developed for use by soldiers who were sent as flanking parties to protect the main army - the Hamilton Pike was developed in this way. The Colerain road was first laid out about 1796. Its survey states: "Comencing at Colerain, (Ft. Coleraine)" then following surveyors' description "to the Great road leading from Cincinnati to Ft. Hamilton, thence with the said great road to Cincinnati making in the whole distance seventeen miles and fifty chains" (this was present day Hamilton Avenue) and until the Turnpike was built, Colerain Road started at Hamilton where Belmont Avenue leads off today (Belmont was named Colerain Road until recent years). In 1814 John Ludlow was ordered to view the State Road lately laid out by Ezekiel Hutchinson. He reported favorably saying that about one third of the road is laid out on new land and the other two thirds where the road formerly was. This later became the Hamilton Pike.

The early applications for roads to be laid out give a lot of information about the area - having the names of the early pioneers appearing on the documents. Most of the early roads, with the exception of the Turnpikes, bear the names of early families who lived on them. For example: Struble, Banning, Day, Yeatman, Poole, Thompson, Scull, Flick, Lockwood Hill, Althaus, Gosling, Hanley, Bierman, Sheed, Hughes, Compton, Mullen, Buell and Pottinger - all are named for early families.

To have better roads, Turnpike companies were formed, stock sold to build the network of turnpikes. This started about the 1830's and continued until near the end of the century when counties began buying them and making public roads of them. With the advent of Turnpikes the tollgates appeared. They were usually located about every five miles.

The job of the "supervisor of highways" was to see that the roads were kept in repair. Each property owner was required to do a certain amount of work on the road or hire it done. Piles of flat stones were placed along the side of a road and the worker would usually have a piece of carpeting to sit on astride the rock pile and crack the rocks into small stones with a "knapping hammer" (a round iron head looking something like a doughnut mounted on the handle). A picture of the toll gate on Hamilton Pike, where Hammond North is located today, shows the pile of stones waiting to be cracked.

Everything had to be done by hand labor or with teams pulling primitive equipment. When Colerain Turnpike was built the road was rolled with a big iron roller, one of which is used today as a monument in the Richards-Gilbert Cemetery on River Road and half of another one is the watering trough on Old Colerain Pike hill.

The toll gate was a small building at the edge of the road with a bar, very much like the ones you see at a railroad crossing today. It was lifted when you paid your toll and you were permitted to pass. The toll was based on the mileage and the number of horses used to pull the wagon or carriage. Tolls were generally just a few cents at each gate.

One of the earliest roads was present day **SPRINGDALE ROAD**. In 1806 a petition was presented to the County Commissioners to open a road from "the road leading from Cincinnati to the mouth of Taylor's Creek (Harrison Pike) to the Springfield frame meeting house on the road from Cincinnati to Hamilton (Springfield Pike). (This meeting house was in what is now Springdale). Some of the signatures on the petition were: James Hardin (treasurer of Colerain Township), Elias Hedges and Abraham Crum. Other well-known names were Stout, Compton and Runyan.

Another petition in 1806 was to build a road known today as **KEMPER ROAD** - to start at "Stimson's Cabins on the Colerain Road leading to Cincinnati" (Dunlap) to cross the New Hamilton Road at Springfield meeting house" also another which seems to be **BANKLICK ROAD** as it led to the county line. (The Hamilton Road referred to above was the Winton Road).

The original petition to create **BLUE ROCK ROAD** was signed April 6, 1807 - "beginning at the road leading from Northbend to Colerain (**EAST MIAMI RIVER ROAD**) at or near the mouth of the Bluerock run, thence the best & nearest way to Ezekiel James Hutcheson's fuling mill on Mill creek; thence into the road leading from Cincinnati to Hamilton at or near Mchenry's & there to end" (this was on present Spring Grove Avenue in Cumminsville). Some Colerain Township names on this document were Abraham Barns, Isaac Sparks and Thomas Larrison. Stephen Ludlow was the surveyor.

EAGLE CREEK ROAD was established in June of 1830. Petitions for **SOUTH THOMPSON, LOCKWOOD HILL and ALTHAUS** were submitted in January of 1833. Thompson Road originally went all the way to the Great Miami where Thompson had a ferry to cross it. In 1846 John B. Groesbeck, Absolom Foster, Alexis Lemmon, John A. Davis and others asked that the portion of Thompson Road from East Miami River Road to the river be vacated as the ferry was no longer in use. **DRY RIDGE** was laid out in 1832 starting on "Colerain Road near Jesse Bevis' Tavern to Henreys Mill on the Great Miami River". **OWL CREEK ROAD** emerged in 1840. **GAINES ROAD** - in 1832 - starting from the North Bend Road (Springdale Road as it was known as the road to North Bend) to end at the Pleasant Ridge Road (now known as **WEST FORK ROAD**). In 1826 a petition was received for a road to be built from the North Bend Road to the Blue Rock Road marked Burnt School House Road. This was definately present day **CHEVIOT ROAD** - the surveyor's plat shows it beginning at the sharp bend in North Bend Road and ending where it joins Blue Rock Road today. It also shows the contination going on to Poole Road, but it was marked Hatt road on the plat.

COLERAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORY

Colerain, the largest township in Ohio, has an interesting history. Now, becoming mostly urban, it was originally rural. The earliest settlers came in along the Great Miami River and farmed the rich valley acres. The little settlements which grew up along the three principle highways catered to farmers' needs. The very early comers were mostly from the New England States, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. They were generally of English extraction. By the mid 1800's German immigrants began to pour into the country, many coming to settle in Colerain Township. They came largely to the hilly areas of the township. Many of them developed orchards. The area along Springdale Road near Blue Rock had so many large peach orchards that the neighborhood became known as **"PEACH GROVE"**. On the steep hillsides along the roads leading down to Harrison Pike were to be found vinyards. Even today one can see traces of the early terracing for the grape vines. It is said that Jacob Kleinfelter had a wine press and pressed the fruits for neighboring farmers on shares. His huge stone barn and wine cellar still exist today. This was in the **TAYLOR'S CREEK** vicinity.

The area of the second town - **COLERAINE** - where old Colerain Road meets the Miami River Road coming in from Hamilton, Ohio, was a thriving manufacturing town for some years. The Miami River supplied the power to operate mills for grinding grain, sawing wood and making cotton cloth. The Cotton Mill was later converted into a Matson's Woolen Mill. This area then was known as **CLIPTOWN** from the clips of wool.

In the areas settled by the Germans may be seen many lovely old stone houses and other stone buildings. Many are gone but some still are to be found. Gone today is the old brewery which was said to be in the Sheed Road locality. These interesting old stone buildings give a unique flavor to Colerain Township. Stone masons and carpenters were to be found in every village, as well as a blacksmith. Those occupations were essential to life in the mid nineteenth century.

EARLY DAYS

The first settlement in the township was made in 1790 by John Dunlap and a small band of settlers, whom he led up the Miami River to build a little fort which he named **FT. COLERAINE** at the great oxbow bend overlooked by Bowling Green, the big hill found by the East Miami River Road where Dunlap road joins it. The newcomers built a little village out side the fort, planted crops and had cattle. But the danger posed by Indians always lurking about made it dangerous, so they always came into the fort at night for protection. The settlement became known as **DUNLAP'S STATION** after its proprietor. Several youths were taken into captivity by the Indians and held captive until the Treaty of Greenville. They were John Crum, aged twelve and David Gibson, aged sixteen who were held captive until 1795.

An interesting account of the Indian attack on the little station was given in the biography of John Reily. "On the 10th of January, 1791, the settlers of Columbia were alarmed by an express which arrived from Cincinnati, with intelligence that an attack had been made on Dunlap's Station at Colerain, by a large body of Indians. The information had been brought to Cincinnati by some persons who had been out in the woods hunting in the neighborhood of Colerain, and were sufficiently near the fort to hear the firing when it commenced in the morning, and judging that the garrison was attacked, they immediately returned to raise the alarm.

A company of volunteers was very soon raised in Columbia, Mr. Reily among the number, armed with rifles and mounted. They formed under the command of Lieutenant Luke Foster, and marched to Cincinnati in the night where they joined Captain Alexander Truman, with thirty-eight regular soldiers from the garrison at Fort Washington, and thirty-three volunteer citizens under Lieutenant Scott Traverse, all mounted. They start;ed for the relief of the station before daylight next morning. Two nights previous it had rained and frozen, and afterward snowed so that the ground was covered six or seven inches deep. John Reily and Patrick Moore, who both rode white horses, were directed to proceed a short distance in advance of the main body, as a picket guard or spies, to give notice if the enemy should appear. Samuel Davis was one of the volunteers from Cincinnati, on that occasion.

When the party had advanced about six miles from Cincinnati, they met John S. Wallace and William Wiseman, who had left the station during the night, to inform the garrison at Fort Washington of their situation. Between ten and eleven o'clock the party arrived at the top of the hills overlooking the plain on which Dunlap's Station was situated, when it was discovered that the Indians had abandoned the siege and retired.

On arriving at the fort they learned that the garrison, although in imminent danger, had sustained but little injury. On the first fire, the Indians shot into a building called the 'mill', where the hand-mill was kept for grinding the corn of the neighboring settlers and the garrison. It stood on a line with and near the block-house, and being neither chunked nor daubed the Indians shot between the logs, by which means they killed one man and wounded another. The body of Abner Hunt, who had been taken prisoner by the Indians a few days previous, was found near the fort, shockingly mangled and stripped naked, his head scalped, his brains beaten out, and two war clubs laid across his breast. He, in company with John S. Wallace, John Sloan, and a Mr. Cunningham, had been exploring the country on the west side of the Great Miami river. On the night of the 7th of January they encamped on the river bank a short distance above Colerain. Next morning, after roasting their venison and taking breakfast, they set out to explore the Miami Bottoms near where the town of Venice, Butler county, now is. They had not proceeded from their camp more than a hundred yards when they were beset by the savages, in the rear, who fired a volley of eight or ten guns. Cunningham was killed on the spot; Hunt, being thrown from his horse, was made prisoner; Sloan, although shot through the body, kept on his horse and escaped, Hunt's loose horse following him. Wallace was on foot at the time, and took to the woods pursued by two Indians, but owing to his uncommon activity he out-ran them. During his flight he was twice shot at but without effect; his leggins loosened as he ran, and at the moment of the first shot they tripped him and he fell. The Indians supposing him struck by the bullet, raised their shout 'wah! hoo!' calculating to a certainty on getting his scalp, but Wallace hastily retied his leggins and resumed his flight. In about two miles he overtook Sloan with Hunt's horse following him, which he caught and mounted. The Indians had ceased their pursuit. Sloan complained of faintness from his wound, and by the advice of Wallace thrust a part of his shirt into the bullet hole to stop the flow of blood. Crossing the Miami they directed their course toward Cincinnati, but at length they halted and held a consultation, the result of which was a determination to go back to the station and apprise the garrison of the presence of Indians in the neighborhood, and put them on their guard.

When they arrived there, Sloan was very weak and faint, and his wound began to bleed afresh. Lieutenant Kingsbury, who commanded at the station, with true soldierly hospitality, surrendered his narrow quarters for the accomodation of the wounded man. The next day a party of five or six men, accompanied by Wallace, went out in search of the body of Cunningham, which they found tomahawked and scalped. They buried it where they found it, and returned to the station.

Before sunrise on the morning of the 10th of January, just as the women were milking the cows in the fort, the Indians made their appearance before it and fired a volley, wounding a soldier named McVicker. Every man in the fort was immediately posted to the best advantage by the commander, and the fire returned.

A parlay was then held at the request of the Indians, and Abner Hunt, whom they had taken prisoner as before mentioned, was brought forward securely bound, with his arms pinioned behind him, by an Indian, or as some say, the notorious Simon Girty, the leader of the party, holding him by the rope. Mounting him on a stump within speaking distance of the garrison, he was compelled to demand and urge the surrender of the place, which, in the hope of saving his own life, he did in the most pressing terms, promising that if it were done, life and property would be held sacred. Not a single individual in the fort, however, would agree to a surrender. Lieutenant Kingsbury took an elevated position where he could over look the pickets, and promptly rejected all their propositions, telling them that he had dispatched a messenger to Judge Symmes, who would soon be up to their relief, with the whole settlement on the Ohio. He failed, however, to impose on them. They replied that it was a lie, as they knew Judge Symmes was then in New Jersey; and informed him that they had five hundred warriors, and would soon be joined by three hundred more, and that if an immediate surrender were not made, they would all be massacred and the station burned. Lieutenant Kingsbury replied that he would not surrender if he were surrounded by five hundred devils, and immediately leaped from his position into the fort. The Indians fired at him, and a ball struck off the white plume he wore in his hat. The prisoner Hunt was cruelly tortured and killed within sight of the garrison.

The station was completely invested by the Indians, and the attack was most violent. They commenced like men certain of victory, and for some time the garrison was in great danger. The Indians fired, as usual, from behind stumps, trees, and logs, and set fire to a quantity of brush-wood that had been collected by the settlers, and then rushing in with burning brands attempted to fire the cabins and pickets. The vigilance and close firing of the besieged, however, prevented the accomplishment of this object. One Indian was killed just as he reached the buildings. In the night they threw blazing arrows from their bows, against the stockade, and upon the roofs of the buildings, with the intention of firing them, but in this they were also unsuccessful. The garrison, well knowing that their lives depended upon it, met them at every point. The attack was continued, without intermission, during the whole of the day and the succeeding night, and until nine o'clock in the morning of the 11th, when the Indians, despariing of success and perhaps apprehensive of the arrival of reinforcements from Cincinnati, raised the siege, and retreated in two parties, one to the right and the other to the left, as was afterward discovered by their tracks.

The whole strength of the garrison was eighteen soldiers and eight or ten of the settlers capable of bearing arms; the entire number in the fort, including women and children, not counting the soldiers, did not exceed thirty souls. The Indians were estimated, by those in the fort, at from three to five hundred, led by the infamous renegade, Simon Girty, as was ascertained seven years after, on the return of a white man who had been taken prisoner near the station a few days before the attack.

The little garrison, although but a handful compared with the host by which they were assailed, displayed great bravery, in some instances amounting to rashness. During the incessant fire from both sides, they frequently, for a moment, exposed their persons above the tops of the pickets, mocking the savages and daring them to come on. Women, as well as men, used every expedient in their power to provoke and irritate the enemy. They exhibited the caps of the soldiers above the pickets, as marks to be shot at. According to their own accounts, they conducted themselves with great folly as well as bravery, though their apparent confidence may have induced the Indians to raise the siege the sooner. When the garrison was in danger of falling short of bullets, the women melted down all their pewter plates and spoons to keep up the supply.

John S. Wallace, who, as was said above, had made his escape from the Indians a few days previous, was still in the fort, and at night volunteered to pass through the enemy's lines to Cincinnati to obtain aid from General Harmar, at Fort Washington. At ten o'clock he made an attempt, but the place was so closely invested that he could not make his escape. The river side of the fort suggested itself as the place for another trial, as there were apparently no Indians on the west side of the river. Fortunately the night was very dark, and about three o'clock in the morning, Mr. Wallace, and a soldier named William Wiseman, got into a canoe and silently paddled across. They drew up the canoe on the opposite shore and concealed it among the bushes that it might not be discovered by the Indians, and then silently and swiftly made their way through the woods down the river bottom for a couple of miles, where they attempted to cross through the floating ice. The water proving too deep, they pursued their course down the river a mile or more, when they affected a crossing near where the town of New Baltimore now is, and striking through the woods for Cincinnati, they met the before-mentioned party from that place and Columbia, going to their relief, and returned with them to the station. A portion of the soldiers remained there to assist in strengthening the fortifications, the party to which Mr. Reily belonged returning to Columbia that evening.

Colonel John S. Wallace, who volunteered his services to make the hazardous attempt to leave the fort, afterward resided in Cincinnati, much respected as an amiable and worthy citizen, and holding several offices of honor and trust, at the time of his death, being auditor of Hamilton County. He died at his desk in the office. Mr. Wiseman, the soldier who accompanied him, was living when last heard from, in the vicinity of Lancaster, Ohio."

John Reily lived in Columbia, starting to teach school June 21, 1790, later moving to Cincinnati, where he was elected clerk and Collector in 1802. He moved to Hamilton in 1803, and when in the same year, Butler Co. was organized, he became its first clerk, holding that position until 1840 when he declined reappointment.

Apppendix D from Mr. Reily's biography gives the following account: "In 1790, John Dunlap, who had been one of Judge Symmes' confidential surveyors, formed a settlement on the east side of the Great Miami river, at a point eight miles from where the town of Hamilton now is, and seventeen miles from Cincinnati. The river there makes a great bend to the west, inclosing in its curve a very fertile tract of land of about a thousand acres, which is bounded on the east by a range of hills almost one hundred feet high. On this bottom is one of those ancient works, supposed to have been constructed by a race of people who inhabited this county previous to the present race of Indians. The embankment, which is of earth, and in some parts is yet eight or ten feet high, incloses near one hundred acres of land. At the angle of the river below is a

hill two hundred eighty feet high, on the top of which is a mound ten feet high, commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country. (Bowling Green) On the south side of this tract of bottom land, immediately on the bank of the river where the water is deep, the settlers erected a fortification for their security. It consisted of several block-houses built of logs, and a number of cabins, with pickets in the unoccupied space between them, in the form of a square, inclosing a little more than an acre of ground. On the south side it was protected by the deep waters of the river. The cabins, for the sake of convenience, were built with the roofs sloping outward, the very reverse of what they should have been for defense. The outer eaves were so low that it was no uncommon thing for the dogs, when shut out of the fort, to spring from an adjacent stump upon the roofs of the cabins and thence into the enclosure.

The station and settlement were named after Mr. Dunlap. He also laid out a town at this place which he called Colerain, from his native place in Ireland. He failed, however, to perfect his title to the ground, and the settlers who had purchased from him lost their claims. Colerain afterward became the name of the township where the land lies. This was the first settlement in the interior back from the Ohio river.

For some time after the establishment of the station, the Indians gave these pioneer adventurers a great deal of trouble and anxiety. In 1790, David Gibson was taken prisoner by the Indians when passing, one day, along a narrow trace between the base of the hill and the river, a short distance below the station. He remained a prisoner until Wayne's treaty in 1795. During the captivity, he married a white woman, who had been taken prisoner in Pennsylvania ten years previous to his own capture. When released, by the terms of the treaty, they settled in the south part of Butler county, where they resided many years, and finally removed to Indiana. William Crum and Thomas Larrison were chased at the peril of their lives into the station, and the inhabitants hardly dared venture after their cows when they strayed off into the woods. They applied, in the winter of 1790-1791, to General Harmar, then in command at Fort Washington, for a detachment of soldiers for their protection, and he detailed for that purpose Lieutenant Kingsbury, with a party of eighteen soldiers".

NEXT SETTLEMENT

After the Treaty of Greenville removed the danger from Indians, settlers began arriving rapidly. Farms soon dotted the countryside and villages began to appear. The next settlement to emerge was the second town of **COLERAINE**, located on the River Road from Toad Creek to where the bridge to Ross was later built. It was a thriving town in the mid eighteen hundreds, but had totally vanished by the 1880's. A good account of it was published in the Venice Graphic in 1887. It was written by a reporter named Robert Mulford, of the old Times-Star, who spent his vacation in the area and wrote articles entitled "A Fortnight in Colerain": "Just one mile from here (Dunlap), at the foot of the hill crowned by this little hamlet, is the deserted village of Colerain. Once upon a time - it was less than fifty years ago - Colerain was about the busiest little manufacturing town in Hamilton County. There was a woolen mill, grist and saw mills, a still house and a stone warehouse, all on the banks of the big Miami, while a colony of dwelling houses gave the place quite a metropolitan air. Even Hamilton could not compete with it then, and Harrison had not even been heard from. But the Whitewater Valley and the C. H. & D. Railroads were built, and Colerain's boom died. Now there is nothing of the old town but a couple of old rookeries in the last stages of decay, and the woolen mill which

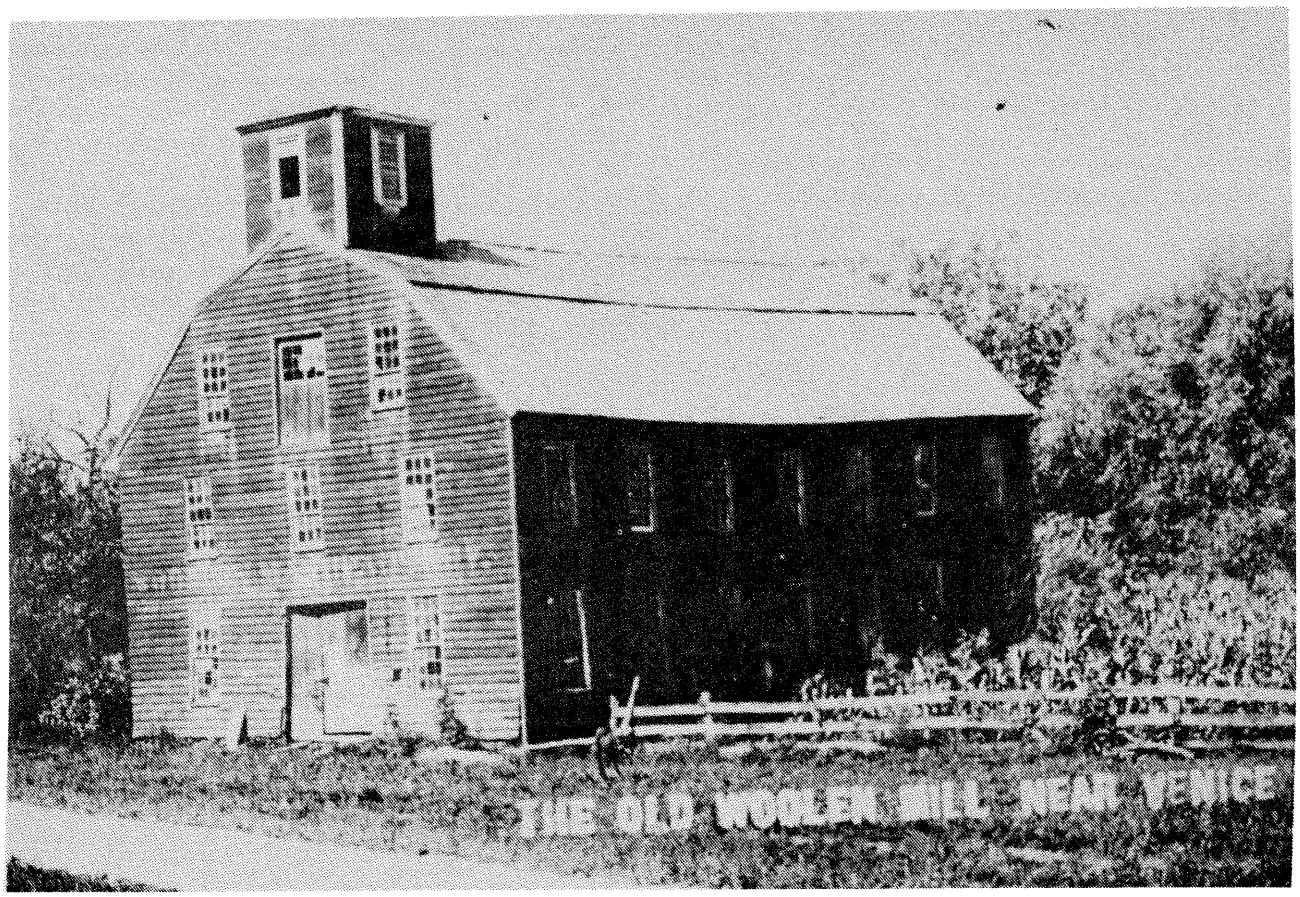
was abandoned about fifteen years ago. Father Time has quite obliterated all traces of the other buildings, and Colerain, once so full of promise, is not now dignified with a place on the map. But not a stone's throw away, across the river, is a monument to the opportunities lost in the 50's. There is not much semblence of a bridge pier in the uneven pile of stone to which I refer, but it is all that remains of six that once raised their heads above the Miami's placid bosom and waited for the bridge that was never completed and the railroad trains that never came.

There are very few of the present generation in Cincinnati who know that a railroad company once possessed the right to build its yards and depot at the elbow of the canal, at Plum Street, Cincinnati. Such a franchise now would be worth a million dollars, but it was owned by the Cincinnati Western Railroad Co., and this was the road that was to have brought wealth and prosperity to Colerain. With it perished Colerain and all its bright hopes. Everything was all ready for the building of the bridge and the evidences of the fill on the Hamilton co. shore are still clearly defined. Work was progressing all along the line when the project was dropped. The route lay over the hills east of Groesbeck and Mt. Airy over West Fork, tunneling Roll's Hill, northeast of Fairmount, and thus entering the Millcreek Valley. It was a costly route - a foolish one, viewed in the light of the feats of engineering of the day and after thousands and thousands of dollars had been sunk, the bubble broke, and with it the fortunes of many a farmer in Colerain and adjoining territory vanished. I handled $6,000 worth of the stock one day myself - certificates adorned with a cut of a locomotive and rolling stock never owned, and signed by Caleb B. Smith, President, and Charles H. Kellogg, Secretary. As I understood it the Chicago end of the road was built, but the Cincinnati stockholders whistled for their money and then did not recover it. That stock belonged to Giles Richards, one of the pioneers of Colerain, whose name is still revered as a public benefactor. To him the travelers of the Colerain pike owe whatever they get at the spring just at the bend of the road before the decline to the big Miami is reached. Ninetenths of the people and horses who have traversed the thoroughfare have toasted the cooling draughts at the perpetual flowing fountain. Every fisherman who has driven from that town with the expectation of annihilating the finny tribe in the waters near Colerain knows the spot. It is history - a landmark to the memory of the generous donor who for several years before his death enjoyed the knowledge that his gift was highly appreciated. Upon the marble slab just above the iron trough is engraved this inscription:

Stranger and traveler
Drink freely and bestow,
A kindly thought on him
Who made this fountain flow,
Yet hath no other claim
Than as the minister
Of blessings in God's name,
Drink and in peace go.

The last surviving remnant of Colerain - the Colerain Cotton Mill, later converted to Matson's Woolen Mill - was washed away and destroyed by the 1913 flood. This mill was built in 1819 by David Stone of New Hampshire, one of the earliest established in Hamilton County. In August of 1821 Stone and Josiah Bellows sold to Timothy S. Goodman and Giles Richards "The Merchant Mill", a grist mill, a "cotton factory" and a sawmill. Timothy S. Goodman, Richards partner had a store on Main St. in Cincinnati, while Richards resided in and operated the town of Colerain. His records show that from 1822 to 1835 he operated the Colerain flouring Mill, Colerain Cotton Mill, the fulling and Carding Mill, the Giles Richards Store Concern, a Dye House, a Tavern House, and a Saw Mill. Goodman's part was to supply the capital. In 1823 he advertized "3000 lbs. Coleraine Cotton yarn, No. 6 to 14 for sale".

Charles Cone built a distillery in Colerain in 1804, which was converted to a grist mill later - possibly becoming the Colerain Flouring Mill which Richards operated after 1822. In 1832 Joseph Pinney rented the Dye House from the company. Some remaining records of the Colerain Cotton Mill showed it had a capacity of a thousand spindles. There is a list of 103 people who were paid for carding. Charles Richards became assistant manager of the company. Giles Richards retired in 1835 but still owned an interest in the Cotton Mill. About 1852 William Matson bought the mill and ran it as a woolen mill. During this period the town received the nickname of "Cliptown" from the clips of wool. In 1875 the machinery was sold to an Englishman from North Carolina, but the building stood until it was swept away by the flood of 1913 and dashed to pieces against the Venice bridge. One witness watching from a hill above said the raging waters carried the old building down against the floor of the iron bridge where it sheared off the top of the building which fell backward and was swept under the bridge after the lower part of the structure and was dashed to pieces down stream.



The Colerain Company also built a two story house to house five or six families. They may have built other workman's houses also. The company also operated a "Store Concern" where the villagers could buy supplies. Colerain was thriving in the 1830's. Both sides of the East Miami River Road were lined with houses - some remnants still to be seen in 1887 as reported in a story in the Venice Graphic of that year. One house is still standing - built on the original foundation of the log house in which Giles Richards' family lived until 1832 when he built "Elland" just across the Butler County line on the same road. "Elland" is where the collection of Richards-Gilbert letters were discovered and taken to Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. This material was used by Ophia D. Smith to write "The Life and Times of Giles Richards", published in 1936 by the Ohio State Archaealogical and Historical Society. Some of the information about "Colerain" came from this work.

Giles Richards was involved in many activities - the building of the Colerain, Oxford & Brookville Turnpike, the Venice Bridge, the projected railroad (never completed in Hamilton County, but the Indiana part of the line is still used today). He was a member of the syndicate which laid out and developed the village of Dunlap, or Georgetown, situated on the Colerain Turnpike on the top of the hill above the town of Colerain. He also gave the township the watering trough on the hillside just above the river on the Colerain Turnpike. The trough is half of one of the old iron rollers used to build the Turnpike. Two large marble slabs above it carry a Longfellow poem, "Stranger and traveler, Drink freely and bestow...." inscribed on the face, while on the top of the stones is inscribed: "Erected by Giles Richards A. D. 1857."

As a well educated man he helped found and develop the two colleges which gave College Hill its name, the Ohio Female College and Farmers' College. He was one of the corporators of the later and served as a director from 1845 to 1866.

The Richards are a notable New England famiy. Thomas Richards arrived in 1637 at Hartford, Connecticut. Family members were prominent in government and politics in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. The great grandson of Thomas married Hulda Hopkins in 1749. Their second child, Giles, born in 1754, established the line which came here. The Massachusetts Centinel published October 6, 1789: "Married at Pepperall Mr. Giles Richards of Boston, to the amiable Miss Sally Adams, youngest daughter of the late Rev. Mr. Adams of Roxbury." Ten children were born to this couple, only six of whom lived to maturity - Sarah, Giles, Amos Adams, Charles, George Thomas and Mary Eliz;abeth. In the early 1800's Giles, Jr. (1795-1876) and his brother, Amos Adams Richards, came to Cincinnati. Giles soon moved out to Colerain with his wife, Eleanor Loyd Richards, settling in the log house not far from the bridge. One child was born in Cincinnati, the rest at Colerain or "Elland."

The Colerain Cotton Mill housed the first Dunlap post office, so named to honor the surveyor who led settlers out in 1790 to build Ft. Coleraine or Dunlap's Station. The first post master shown in the records was David Wallace, appointed 19th June 1837, Sidney A. Pinney replacing him 23rd March 1839 and then going to Charles Richards the 15th of December 1841 (at this point it may have been moved to the new town of Dunlap at the top of the hill, for the following names are all associated with that area)

Another well-known name in the area of Colerain was Alfred West Gilbert, who became Giles Richards' son-in-law. In the spring of 1839 he commenced the job of surveying the route for the Colerain, Oxford & Brookville Turnpike. It was during this period that he met Elizabeth Richards and began taking an active interest in Colerain Township affairs. Giles Richards was the president of the Turnpike Company and Mr. Gilbert was the Chief Engineer of the

On May 17, 1848 Alfred West Gilbert was married to Elizabeth Richards at "Elland," He had an office in Cincinnati and continued his work as a surveyor. He was elected City Surveyor by the City Council of Cincinnati on February 21, 1849. Within a year he was made City Civil Engineer. As such he was expected to prepare plans for Engine Houses, Market Houses, etc. A native of Ireland working for him as draughtsman and Civil Engineer prepared plans for buildings constructed of iron. One such built by Gilbert is still standing today - the Findlay Market House, a well-known city landmark and the only market house in use in the city. He helped to develop the water works system of Cincinnati and to propose a general sewer system for the city. In 1870 he was elected Chief Engineer of the Sewerage Department, a new board created by the legislature, to take charge of the construction of sewers for the city. His name will live on in Cincinnati by the naming of Gilbert Avenue and the Gilvert Avenue Viaduct. He resigned from his city position in 1873 due to ill health.

After his retirement, Alfred West Gilbert returned to quiet life at "Elland" until his death October 24, 1900. He is interred at the family cemetery at "Elland" along with most of the members of the Richards-Gilbert family.

(Again quoting from Robert Mulford in 1887):

"The view from Elland, the country home of A. W. Gilbert, is one of magnificance. It is an old fashioned house, and stands like a sentinel on the crest of one of the highest hills hereabouts. Elland was the abode of Giles Richards, and in a little hedge encircled plot of ground at the edge of the hill, he sleeps the last sleep, surrounded by his wife and ten children who have passed with him into the great beyond....The ivy covered column that is in the center of the plot is a novel monument indeed. It is simply the great iron roller that was once drawn by eight yoke of oxen, and used in the construction of the Colerain, Oxford & Brookville Turnpike, mounted on a foundation of Dayton stone, and topped by a huge iron urn". (Two shares of Turnpike stock were set aside to pay for the upkeep of the cemetery, which is in the care of a Hamilton bank).

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

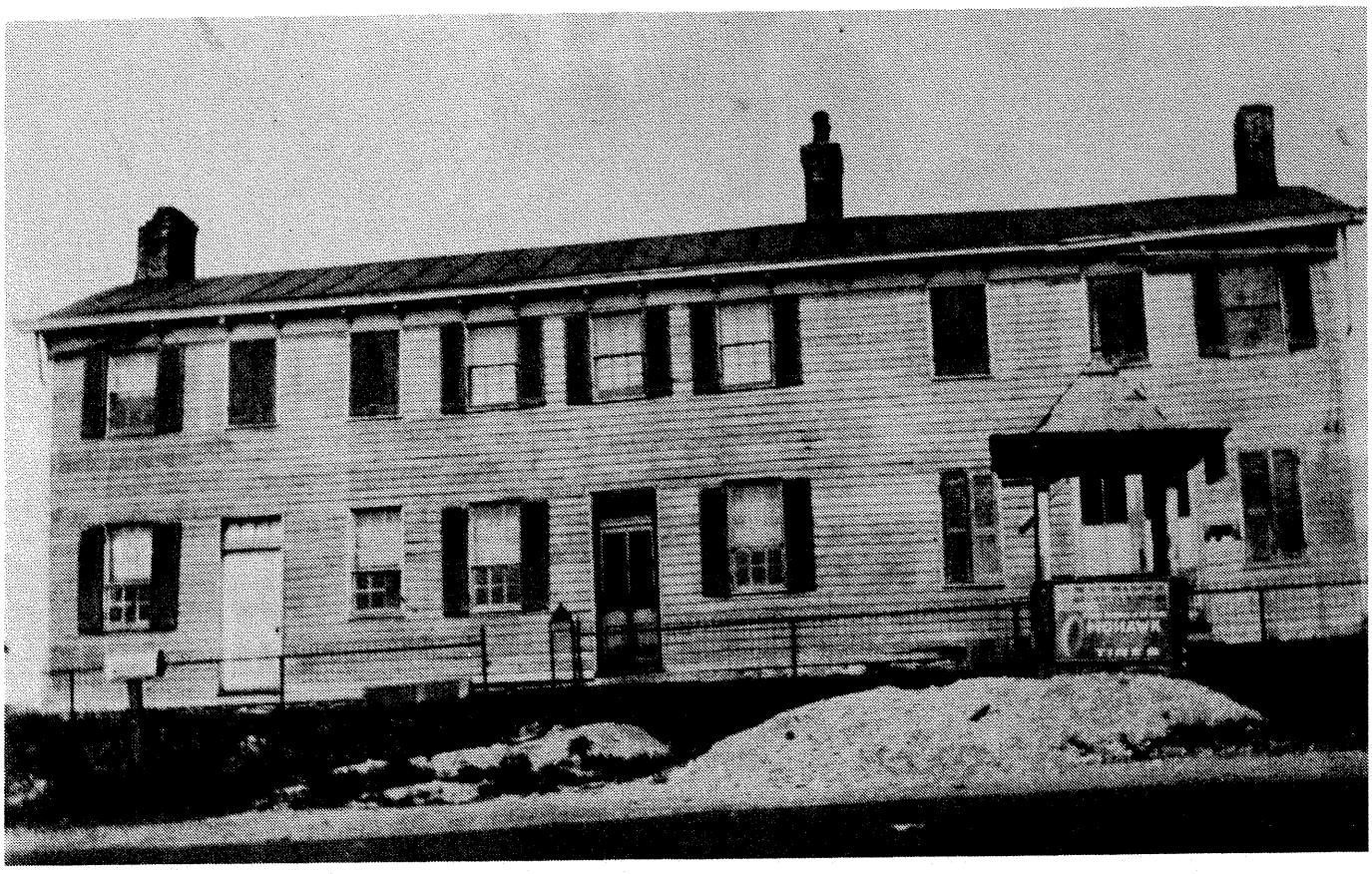
As has been said before, settlers tended to buy land along the principle highways. The two major turnpikes - Colerain and the Hamilton Turnpikes - were established in the 1830's. Colerain Pike was the most important to the township. It was by this road that most of the livestock was driven in to the Cincinnati Stockyards. All stock - cattle, hogs and even flocks of turkeys were driven in on foot. They came, not only from Colerain Township farmers, but from others to the north of it. This was a slow process and hotels or inns were needed for the drovers to stay overnight and pens essential to keep the stock enclosed while their owners rested. There were hotels in Dunlap, Bevis and Groesbeck, or West Union, as it was known earlier and a final one on the hill below Mt. Airy. The two best known were at Groesbeck - Luichingers and Weisehahns on the two north corners of Colerain and present day Galbraith Roads. The two south corners were used for the holding pens for the stock. These also became the rallying places for political parties. On the north side of each of these two hotels were big barns to house the horses and wagons used by their guests.

The one located on the Colerain Pike hill, "The Glen Airy House" was on the first bend just above West Fork Road. This description came from the Venice Graphic of September 30, 1887: "The Glen Airy House, on the Colerain Pike is delightfully situated and possesses all the requisites of a summer resort so far as beautiful scenery, excellent cullinary service is concerned. The hostess, Mrs. A. Thornshell, and her husband assisted by very efficient co-laborers are unequalled in managing a first class hotel. All farmers who have occasion to travel to and fro along this pike are sure to stop at the Glen Airy for refreshments of all kinds. Meals are served in first class style comprising both the delicacies of the season and good common country fare"

In the history of Dunlap we find that George Struble operated the first hotel. His farm was on the east side of the pike, so the hotel was probably on that side also. The original name of Dunlap was Georgetown, supposedly named for George Struble.

Jesse Bevis got his start by building a flatboat to take produce of the area down the Great Miami River, the Ohio and Mississippi to New Orleans. With the money thus earned he purchased land in 1816 and founded the village of Bevis. Here he built first a log building, later a brick tavern, known as the Bevis Tavern. This was the hotel in Bevis. After the Turnpike was built, he had to move his settlement west to it. On the west side of the pike at the corner of Dry Ridge Road he built a frame Tavern, dedicated New Year's Eve of 1855. This was also called Bevis Tavern.

Sometime in the 1840's a rambling frame hotel was put up on the east side of Colerain pike just south of the township line, always known as the Six Mile House. People today often wonder at the name, for it is more than six miles from downtown Cincinnati. When the turnpike was built it started at Brighton (the beginning of Colerain Avenue in Cincinnati) and thus the old hotel was six miles from the beginning of the turnpike. Not much is known of its early days - Thadeus T. Olmstead being its proprietor at one time and John Hatt at another. Edward Foster started his business in it, a few years later building a new one on the west side of the pike, where Blue Rock starts today. The poured concrete structure still stands today and is still known as the Six Mile House.



The old Six Mile House on Colerain Pike

Blue Rock Road didn't become a turnpike until in the 1870's. We know that there was a toll gate at Blue Rock and Hanley (Creedville) and another at the intersection of Blue Rock with Springdale in the Peach Grove area (Schwing's corner). Just before it was the very old town of Barnesburgh. The old Barnesburg Tavern was there for many years on the left side of the road going out. Just across the road was another old log building, housing a tavern and post office operated by Alois Jutzi.

On the Hamilton Turnpike in the Pleasant Run area near Kemper Road was another old hotel known as "The Farmers Rest" - judging from its name it served the same purpose as the ones on Colerain Pike. Also in Mt. Healthy were several other taverns or hotels.

These were the hotels and taverns which served the farmers and travelers.

The Schwing home at Blue Rock and Springdale (Schwing's Corner).

The toll gate at Springdale and Blue Rock on the Blue Rock Turnpike.

HISTORIES PF THE VILLAGES

GEORGETOWN or DUNLAP - This village, known even today by both names, is an early settlement on the Colerain Pike. According to Ford's History of Hamilton County, it was first laid off as Georgetown, September 2, 1829, on the west side of Section 18 at the junction of Colerain and two minor roads (presumably Kemper and Dunlap roads) and one and one-half miles south of the county line. It is also stated that it was two miles due east of the original site of Dunlap's Station. Nelson's 1894 History of Hamilton County also uses both names. It says that William and Asher Williamson formerly owned most of the site. They sold to a Mr. Parker, who, in 1849 platted a large number of lots on the Colerain Pike south of the Yeatman or Glisson subdivision laid out in 1850 by Thomas S. Yeatman, attorney for Oliver S. Glisson, U. S. navy officer, whose father, Thomas Glisson, had resided on this land.

The George Struble farm lay east of Colerain Pike and it is said that the village (Georgetown) was named for him. He built several of the earliest houses there. The first business was a blacksmith shop opened by Thomas Gray, who moved there from Bevis. The first store was kept by Asher Williamson. George Struble operated the first hotel. John Dunlap is said to have been the first postmaster in old Colerain village. The P. O. continued to bear his name and was located in the old Cotton Mill down by the Great Miami River. When it was moved it carried the name, Dunlap, to the village on the hill.

The official Colerain Township Court Records give up names of many of the early inhabitants of the area. Edward J. Johnston was the Township Clerk in 1809 and Trustee in 1811. John Williamson was the Judge of the Elections in 1812. The Poll Book of 1814 shows Benjamin Runyan as Chairman; Abraham Crum and Edward Johnston as Judges of the Election. In 1821 George Struble and Harbo(u)r Huse (Hughes) became "Overseers of Roads" and in 1822 William Williamson had the same job. That same year Jonathan Cilley was elected a "petit juror". The next year he became the township clerk, while George Struble became "District 6 Supervisor of Highways". In 1824 Paul Huston, Jr. replaced him. On April 4, 1825 the election was held at "the school house of Jesse Bevis" where Joseph Struble was elected Constable; Harbour Hughes and Noah Runyan became Overseers of the Poor. In 1826 Giles Richards and Jonathan Cilley were appointed to the Grand Jury, while Harbour Hughes served on the Petit Jury. Also in 1826 Stewart McGill wrote: "I would add to what the Trustees had to do in 1826 viz lay off Colerain Township into School districts and it was necessary to meet the Trustees of Millcreek Township, Springfield Township and one School district over the Butler County line. But we performed the work almost gratuously to aid the cause of free Schools." The list of householders in District 6 (Sections 18, 24, S½ 13, fractions 19, 25 & 30) follows:

Abner Johnson	Dorcas Cilley	Mrs. Follick	John Donnels
Thomas Joliff	Daniel Brooks	Thomas Winn	William Welch
William Belcher	George Struble	Andrew Davidson	Alexander Stephenson
Anthony L. Hedges	William follick	Mrs. Atwell	Giles Richards, Jr.
Charles Burridge	Abel Sherman	Eli Winn	William Ervin
Elias Pickens	William Joyce	Elcy Sedam	Timothy Marsh
Stewart McGill	John Teeple	.....Wilson	Grace McCleary
John Bricket	Sarah Andrews	Andrew Ervin	Thomas Bevington
William Pickens	Silas Enyart	Alexander Martin	Peter Ferrel (Terrel)

This district covered Dunlap and the Miami River areas.

In 1827 Asher, Cornelius and John T. Williamson gave bond for Asher as Constable. In 1828 John Ransey, James Struble and Joseph Cilley were elected Jurors. Wm. Evans became Trustee, while Stewart McGill was elected Clerk and Asher Williamson, Constable. October 1, 1827 Asher Williamson and Stewart McGill made bond to Harbour Hughes, Jesse Bevis and Paul Huston, Jr. "directors of the 5th School district in Colerain township". Jesse Struble became fence viewer in 1829.In 1830 the name of James Struble appears as Trustee. In the expenditures for 1836-7 Wm. Evans received $2.00 "for repairing the township scraper" and James Struble $3.00 "for makeing a coffin for James Starkey". In 1844 Thomas R. Glisson and John H. Hughes were in the list of men of military age.

One of the most dreaded catastrophies of earlier days was fire. In rural communities the only means of fighting fires was usually the "bucket brigade". Wells and cisterns were often pumped dry in fighting major fires. This was the fate of Dunlap as reported in the Venice Graphic of September 16, 1887: Entitled "A $5000 BLAZE" - "Dunlap, our neighboring village, was the scene of a disastrous fire last Friday afternoon, which resulted in a loss of over $5,800. The fire originated, it is supposed, from matches in the hands of the proprietor's little boy. The flames spread to the adjoining buildings with wonderful rapidity, and were not checked until the following buildings were reduced to ashes: Diefenbacher's house, saloon and stable - loss $2,000 and uninsured; Siegle's stable and blacksmith shop - loss $500; uninsured; Asher Pickens' house and stable - insured for $1,000 which covers his loss. The fire also crossed the street and destroyed the shop, unoccupied residence and out-buildings, owned by Warren Weston - loss $1,500, no insurance. The hay scales, formerly owned by Richards, Struble & Siegle, were also burned. Luckily for Richards he sold his interest, only a few hours before the fire to one of the other parties.

It is said that one bucket of water would have been sufficient to quench the flames when first discovered, but the only pump near at hand was locked, the owner having been selling water there - from at 25 cents per barrel.

The Siegle house was saved by hard work. The leaves on the trees in front of the house became so dry that they flared into a blaze, causing the men on the roof to commence a retreat, but George Richards removed the ladder and urged them to work away which they did, thereby saving the building. Fred. Bosserman was a fearless worker on this roof.

Ralph Struble took the lead in saving the Hornung store. With his head wrapped in wet cloths he laid flat on the cone of the roof, next to the burning building about 20 feet away, and threw water over the entire end of the store until the danger was past

Geo. Klemm's buildings were in great danger for some time. A straw pile adjoining his barn was on fire in several places, but was saved by the watchfulness of Sam Brock.

Although eleven buildings were burned, the families of Dan. Diefenbacher, Asher Pickens and Amos Pickens are the only ones made homeless. Nearly all their household goods were lost.

E. T. Cornick presented the GRAPHIC man with an odd relic of the fire. It is a common door key firmly imbedded in what seems to be part of a melted beer glass."

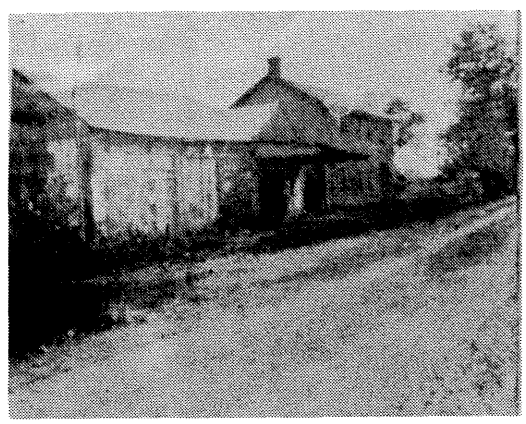
(Dunlap did not get a volunteer fire department until 1954, when Township Trustees Wm. Bud Thomas, John Herrmann and Dale Diefenbacher were instrumental in starting the department).

A "SCARY" TALE FROM DUNLAP HISTORY

(This was taken from "A Fortnight in Colerain", Vacation notes booked by a Newspaper Man, published in the Venice Graphic of September 9, 1887 - written by Robert Mulford - vacationing at the home of George Richards).

Dunlap is "real country". Off of all lines of railroad, it is four hours ride by stage from Cincinnati. The residents welcome the daily return of the 'bus, for it brings the one mail a day that is dumped at the little Post Office. The place is not called Dunlap but Georgetown - a name given it years ago when the first settler built there, a George somebody or other. The title has stuck to it, though Uncle Sam in his management of the mails knows no such place in this county. Dunlap like all other towns, has its romance.. There is a legend of **A HEADLESS MAN** who appeared nightly on prominade on the road. Early in the century a man named Stimson cleared off a section of land and cultivated it. By some provision of the law it was required that a certain corner of a claim be cleared and it was the bad fortune of Stimson to get into the end of another man's claim and he had to move. The place where the foundation of his log cabin was, is still traceable and there is a depression in the ground where the well used to be. It was in this well that the headless man was declared to have made his abode. There was a story that Stimson had killed the man who was responsible for his removal from the clearing, and thrown his body in that well. The crime has no place upon the annals of the township, but is generaly credited, and the headless man was held to be the victim of the murder. No longer does the fabled man of mystery patrol the dusty pike. Long ago did he reign the bugaboo of the hamlet, and children would not venture after night past the abandoned well for either love or money. But his day is over, and the old well is so stopped up with ground and debris that the headless man is pinned in his grave."

BEVIS, the next village south of Dunlap, was started first on the old Colerain Road by Jesse Bevis on land purchased by the $400 realized from a flatboat trip to New Orleans with his farm produce. In 1816 he established the village known as Bevis. His first hotel and tavern was of log soon replaced with a brick building. He built a grist mill near the headwaters of Blue Rock Creek and later a distillery. This first little town was about a quarter mile east of the present site. When the turnpike was built it stranded the village on the old road, so Jesse moved over to the turnpike and started over. The Bevis Tavern which he built here was a frame and was dedicated New Year's Eve of 1855. The old brick tavern stood until about 1920 before finally being torn down. It stood about where I-275 goes through now. Jesse and his sons dug a well 20 feet in diameter across the road from the tavern, which they called Franklin Well. (Pictured below)

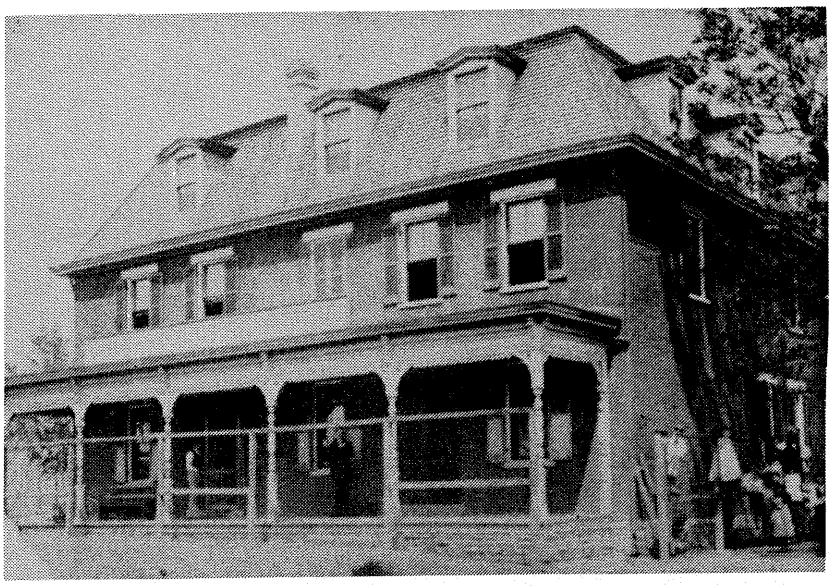


Groesbeck, or by its earlier name, **West Union**, was started by Charles West, who purchased land on Colerain road at present day Galbraith about 1820. He was from New Jersey, his wife, Rebecca Sparks, from Baltimore, Maryland, Gradually a small settlement grew there. When the turnpike was built, following the line of the old road, two hotel-taverns were built on the northeast and northwest corners of the two roads. Luichinger was on the east side and Weisehahn on the west. These two inns were the scenes of many political gatherings and rallies over the years

Accompanying Charles and Rebecca (Sparks) West was her brother, Joseph Sparks from Maryland with his family. They were also part of the community at West Union. Later on came Elmer Y. Corson from the Peach Grove area who started a blacksmith shop where the Star Bank is located today. The bank has the old mantel from that home in its meeting room. The Aston family home was also on the east side of the pike next to the old location of the Methodist Church. Pierson West, son of Charles, and A. Wert were on the west side of Colerain. A. Huber was a wagon maker near the northwest corner of Colerain and Galbraith. In later years the two taverns became Frey's on the east side and the Keller Hotel on the other side. This occurred after the town was renamed Groesbeck. Also just north of the two hotels were large barns to house the horses and wagons or carriages of the hotel guests.

There were no school busses at first and several farmers took students to the old Round Top High School in their wagons. The benches used for the students were stored in one of these barns while the farmer took his produce to the Cincinnati market, then picked up on the way back and used again to take the students home again after school.

The village of Groesbeck was always the major community in Colerain Township. It seemed to be the place where all major events took place. It was the place where the first Improvement Association was formed. This was started because needed fire protection was a concern. The first Groesbeck Fire Department was formed by the Improvement Association and, in turn, became a separate entity.

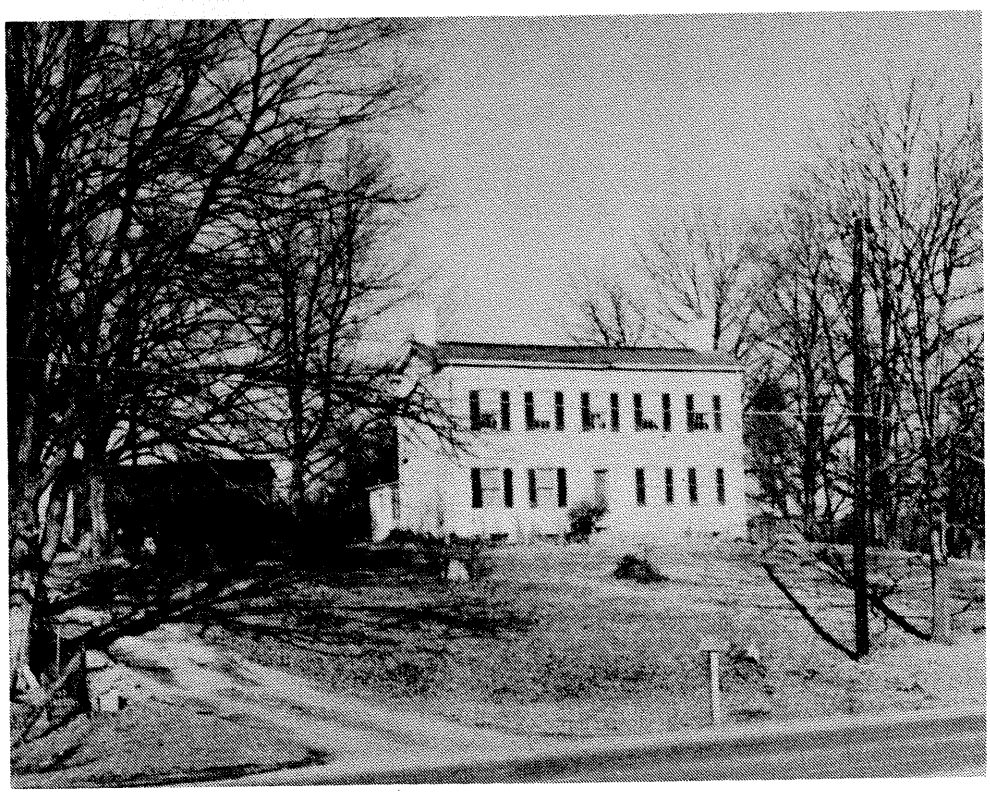


Frey's store - northeast corner of Colerain and Galbraith.

The "Cross Roads" - Galbraith and Colerain - early 1900's.

The barns belonging to the two hotels - Colerain & Galbraith.

Charles and Rebecca (Sparks) West - Founder of Groesbeck.



The West home on Colerain, where the K-Mart Center is today.

"**Pleasant Run** is situated upon the little stream whose name it bears and immediately upon the east line of the township, half a mile south of the Butler County line. One of the early Baptist churches was located in this region, which had twenty-five members in 1836. The Rev. William Thompson was pastor in 1810, and for some time after.

At this place the Rebel General John Morgan's force occupied the Colerain pike, moving eastward, during the famous raid of 1863. Two or three of his men were captured by citizens here, and one resident, who was mistaken in the dusk of the evening for a rebel, was killed by the Federal cavalry who were in the rear of Morgan." So states the Ford's History of Hamilton County - 1881.

This area called Pleasant Run is associated with some of the very early history of Colerain Township. The first road to Ft. Hamilton from Cincinnati followed the line of Pippin Road north of New Burlington. Today Pippin Road ends at the Butler County line. Originally it went on for two more miles in Butler County, coming down the "big hill" onto present day Muskopf Road, joining the River Road to Ft. Hamilton at its crossing of the Pleasant Run Stream.

This is probably the spot where Corp. Michael Hahn and two other soldiers were ambushed by Indians as they were taking a cow out to Dunlap Station. Imprudently, they had put a bell on the cow, which attracted the Indian's attention. He was the son of Michael Hahn in Dunlap Station, who was, in turn, killed the next year. Some accounts list this attack as occurring at "the big hill" near the Pleasant Run Stream. Also at the point where it intersected the road leading off to Dunlap Station.

Another incident taking place at that same spot was the ambushing of Col. Robert Elliott, a contractor carrying supplies for Wayne's army, was returning from Ft. Hamilton with a wagon team and a servant, when they were attacked at "the big hill." Elliott was killed, the servant escaping with the team, returned to Ft. Hamilton. When the savages attempted to scalp Elliott, to their surprise they pulled off a wig - one disgusted Indian calling it "a big lie." The next day the servant returning with a box for the body, was himself killed near the same spot. An armed party then set out from Ft. Washington and recovered the bodies and brought them back to the fort. The Colonel was buried in the Fourth Street Presbyterian burying grounds, later being moved to the ground on Twelfth Street, now Washington Park. In 1835, his son, Commodore J. S. Elliott, United States Navy, placed a monument there. When Twelfth Street grounds were closed, the Colonel and his monument were removed to Spring Grove Cemetery.

After the Treaty of Greenville, population increased rapidly. One of the large land holding families coming into Colerain Township were the **Hustons** Two sons of **Capt. John Huston, Paul and Samuel**, came to the Township in 1795, Paul, settling on the Colerain pike near Dunlap and Samuel, acquiring extensive tracts of land, settled in the **Pleasant Run** area. (The present Pleasant Run Elementary and Junior High Schools are located on come of the original Huston land). Samuel's son, James Stewart Huston, was a distiller and owned some fifteen hundred acres on the Hamilton Turnpike, of which he was a large shareholder. His house was built in 1819 on Pippin Road (then the main road to Hamilton) opposite the end of Houston Road. The county should correct this signing, for it was originally Huston Road, the lane from the Turnpike leading to the farm.

The Jim and Andy Huston home on Pippin Road in the Pleasant Run area.

The 1819 house was added to extensively by the last two owners of the farem - "Jim and Andy Huston", who never married. The house was demolished some years ago to make room for a large subdivision. The Houston Road now goes through the site of the old house.

Many other pioneer families, like the Hustons, came to the Pleasant Run area. The Hunters, Sargeants., Ramsays, Vangilders, Rosses and Gardiners were among the early settlers.

A petition for a road, which is now Pippin Road, was presented April 9, 1822, asking that it "commence on the Huston road at the mouth of the lane between Samuel Huston and David Vangilder" - the survey showing that it follows basically the same route it has today. Petitioners on the document include:

Jacob Williamson	William G. Cock	Benjamin Skillman
Elner Skillman (widow)	Amos Williamson	Charles Stout
David Vangilder	Robert R. Campbell	Fillip Weaver
John (X) Hatt	Samuel Huston	Charles Hill
William Gardner	Abizer Miles	John Cox
Cornelius Cox	Benija Stout	Theodore Stout
Noah Runyan	Ira Stout	Reuben S. Compton
James W. Jones	Henry Deats	Daniel Isgrig
William Evans	William Campbell	Richard Hankens
Nathan Compton	Isaac Sparks	Ezekiel Rose
Isaac Barker	Wilson Thompson	

Some of these signers lived south of the Pleasant Run area. Isaac Sparks was a Justice of the Peace, lived and had a "loom house" on Pippin Road just south of Compton Road. Nathan and Reuben Compton lived on the road bearing their name. Charles Stout lived on Pippin at the southern edge of the Pleasant Run area. His farm today is the site of the Pleasant Run Senior High School.

Other pioneers of this area were the Pottengers, Slonikers (Schlunigers), Hughes, Struble, Martin and Liechauers. In the Springfield Township area of Pleasant Run, Daniel Haines purchased his land in 1795, the land later becoming Cameron land through marriage. On this land today on the old Cameron Road, now Waycross, is the remains of the little family cemetery containing Haines and Cameron graves as well as that of Dr. John Andrew, a doctor in the American Revolution who died in 1814.

The 1854 charter members of the Pleasant Run Presbyterian Church were:

Wm. N., Easter & Sarah Hunter	Lazarus, Jane & Cornelius McNeal
B. F. & Maria Fessenden	Rebecca McNeal
Abraham, Mary Ann & Sarah Jane Huston	Martha Huston & Catherine Sargeant
Elizabeth Hunt	John & Sara K. Mesler
Mary & Stephen Crane	Catherine Maddock

The old interurban traction line laid its tracks along side of the Cincinnati Hamilton Turnpike, making travel both to Cincinnati and Hamilton much easier for the Pleasant Run residents. Milk and produce were frequently shipped by interurban.

This interesting old area - **Pleasant Run** - once largely rural is now rapidly losing its farms to subdivisions. In time it will become urban all the way to Fairfield. It is hoped that this influx of development will not destroy memories of its historic past.

MILITARY HISTORY

There is not much record of military history in Colerain Township. We know that a number of veterans of the American Revolution came into the township in the early immigrations and died there. Some of their graves are known, others have been lost. We know also that some of the early pioneers served in the War of 1812. The first official record is the list of men of military age in 1844: "The following list of names were subject to Military Duty as listed in the Colerain Township Court Records (1803-1845) as returned by J. N. Wayne, assessor, in 1844".

James Abrams (paid), George W. Adams, Wm. W. Agnew, Andrew Ammerman, Theodore Ammerman, Samuel Anderson, Lewis Applegate, William Armsted, Joseph Arthurs.

Thomas Baker, Asa Banning, Richard Barkus, Thos. J. Barkus, Foster Barnard, Richard Barnard, Daniel Barnes, Harrison Barnes, Stephen Barnes, George Barnhard, Abraham Barns, Abraham Barns, Alvy Barns, Jackson Barns, Henry Beastle, Michael Beck, Wm. Bess, William Bevington, David Bevis, James Bevis, James Bevis, Martin Bevis, John Boyer (paid), John Bradley.

Luther Cable, Aaron J. Campbell, Thos. Campbell, Abraham Carrel, John Carrel, Rodgers Carter, Wm. Christorpher, Yera Clark, Everet Clendening, Wm. Clover, Jacob Cole, William Conger, Jr., William Conger, Thos. Conway, Jonathan Corson, William Craig, John Craig, Lester S. Crain, Jacob Crowdser.

James Danford, Enoch Danford, Joshua Dautz, Benjamin Davis, Edward Dean, Jackson Dean, James Dean, John Dean, Noble Dean, James Deats, Oster Dewael, John Duglass.

James Edwards, Pleasent Ellis, Edward Eperson (paid), James Erwen, Wm. Erwen, Amos Erwen, Isaac Erwen, Isaac Erwin.

John Fess, John Fetherling, Jr., Obediah Fetherling, Stephen Fisher, James Flowers, Jesse Flowers, John Foster, Jeremiah Frazy.

Peterick Galiger, Richard Gathards, John Getherds, Thos. R. Glisson, Abijah Graham, John Gray, Wm. Green, Leonard Guisler, Henry Gulich.

Lewis Hainselman, Andrew Hamel, John Hamerl, Samuel Hamett, Wm. S. Hamett, Eli Harrod, Elijah Harrod, Aaron Hatt, James Hatt, John Hatt, Stephen Hedges. Michael Hemfner, Harvey Henrie, Jacob Hesler, Joseph Hewey, Hendrich Hill, John H. Hughes, Joseph Hughes, John Hunt.

James Ingersoll, James Ingersoll, Wm. Inloes, Michael Isgreg, Daniel Isgrig, Eli Isgrig, Henry H. Isgrig.

Geore W. Jessup, Thomas Jinnings, David Johnson, Elias Johnson, Jonathan Johnson, Robert Johnson, Enoch Jones, Wm. Jones, Benjamin Joyce, David Joyce, Hiram Joyce.

James Kelley.

George Lemburger, Alexander Lemons, James Lewis, John Lias, Mathias Linhoof, William Lipp, George Lockwood, John Longle, John Loper (paid), Michael Lore, Alonza Lovless (paid).

Andrew McCarder, Oliver McCoy, D. S. McCurdy, William McFeily, William McGuire, John Martin, William Martin, William Matson, J. H. Miller, Henry Mire, George Mires, John Mires, Michael Mires, Robert Mitchel, Thos. Moore, William Moore, George Morgan, Ephraim Mullen, Hugh Mullen, Joseph Mullen, Robert Mullen, Thos. Mullen.

Nelson Newton.

Johathan Ogden, John Olinger, T. T. Olmstead.

Gains Parker, Levi Parker, James Parmer, Alexander Picken, Joseph Pierson, Benjamin Pine, Joseph N. Pinney, Joseph Pipher, Martin Pitmus, John Polsho, Peter Pool, Alven Porter, Joseph Pouder, Leonard Pouder, John P. Pricket, David G. Pulse.

Wm. Reade, Hamilton Reagen, Robert Reagen, Samuel Richardson, Thos. Richardson, Wm. Richardson, Jacob Rinkle, John Roberts, Lewis Roberts, Samuel Roberts, Emery Runyan, Lewis Runyan, Joseph Russell.

Joseph Salman, Robert Salman, James Sanders, James H. Scott, James Scull, Joseph Seal, Samuel R. Sears, E. N. Shaw, John Sheits, Peter Shoup, Christian Sisk, George Simmons, Wm. Sine (paid), James B. Skillman, Thos. B. Skillman, Christopher Sloneger (paid), Valentine Smith, Isaac Sparks, Rhodolphus Sparks, Jacob Spinner, William Spring, J. N. Stites, Aaron Stout, Ephraim B. Stout, Oliver Stout, Truman B. Strong, George Struble, James Struble, Jesse Struble, Christopher Sulser.

Abraham Tumey, Wm. Tate, Courtland Taylor, George W. Taylor, James Taylor, John Teekle.

Joseph Urmston.

David Vanausdall, Baxter Vansickle, Sandy Vansickle.

Wm. Warte, Isreal R. Waterhouse, J. N. Wayne, Wm. Welsher, Henry Wenost, Asher West, Henry West, Pierson West, Wm. White, Isaac H. Wicoff, Daniel Wilkinson, Ira Wilkinson, Charles Willey, Isaac Willey, Joseph Willey, John Williams, Ephraim Williamson, Henry Williamson, James S. Williamson, John Williamson, Henry Wilsey, Wm W. Wilsey, James Winings, Joseph Winings, Robert Winings, Samuel Wingings, Vincon Sining, Joseph Wise,George Wong, Mathias Wong, Simpson Wycoff

(Thomas Tattershall, Lanson Wilkinson)

"I certify the foregoing to be correctly copyed from the List returned by J. N. Wayne. June 25, 1844 Joseph Struble, Township Clerk"

The original records appeared on pages 208-211. (This list did not appear in alphabetical order, but was alphabetized by Virginia Raymond Cummins and published in Hamilton County Court and Other Records). The list was rechecked by Ruth J. Wells and Dale Rielage and verified - the names of Thomas Tattershall and Lanson Wilkinson had been skipped in the alphabetized list.

This listing was apparently made necessary by the upcoming Mexican War. Apparently the custom, followed during the Civil War of paying for a substitute to fight in ones place accounts for the names marked "paid"

COLERAIN TOWNSHIP IN THE CIVIL WAR

Alfred West Gilbert, who was the surveyor of the Colerain, Oxford & Brookville Turnpike, had a part in the Township's place in the Civil War. In 1861, in conjunction with **John Groesbeck** and Edward F. Noyes, he helped raise a company of volunteers for the Civil War. **Camp Colerain** was started on the Methodist Camp Meeting Grounds, just east of Colerain on the south side of Springdale Road. Here they raised and trained a company of nearly 830.

The 39th Ohio Infantry was started in Camp Colerain. By July seven companies had been mustered into service here. In August they marched to Camp Denison, where the remainder were inducted. It was the first Ohio regiment to join General Fremont's forces in Missouri. It saw service in many of the battles of the **Civil War. Ford's History of Hamilton County** list among the officers: Colonel John Groesbeck, Leiutenant Colonel Alfred W. Gilbert, Major Edward Noyes and in Company A, Corporal Charles Richards. It is not certain how many of the men were from Colerain Township. Apparently Giles Richards also saw service as will be seen in the next episode.

CIVIL WAR EPISODE IN COLERAIN TOWNSHIP

Published originally in "The Venice Graphic" of September 9, 1887

It was on the glorious Fourth of July, in 1860, that the fountain was dedicated. (Richard's watering trough on Old Colerain Road). Several years later Morgan's Raiders approached within half a dozen miles of this spot, and it fell to the lot of Giles Richards' son George - at whose farm I spent my vacation - to turn them from their purpose. George Richards was a mere youth then - not much over sixteen. His cousin Giles, a member of the Sixth O. V. I., was at home on sick leaave at that time. The country round about was much excited just then over the story that Morgan's band of marauders was nearing town. In the Richards stable was a spirited little animal that had been caught on the field of battle near where the Confederate Gen. Zollicoffer was killed. Will Gano captured him and sent him North after christening him after the dead rebel. These young fellows took it into their heads one day that they would go upon a scouting expedition and see if they could find some trace of the wily Morgan. So they hitched "Zollicoffer" to a buggy and started out. Away up the pike they drove past Colerain, through Venice and some distance beyond that place. On they were going when they discovered three men in gray in a barnyard. They carried muskets, and in a moment their weapons were cocked.

"Halt!" cried one of them.

The boys halted.

"Where are you going?" demanded one of the Johnny Rebs.

"Oh, we are out driving to see if we can find any of Morgan's raiders," responded George Richards, with all the candor of youth.

"Keep right on," ordered the fellow, grimly, "you'll find 'em!"

The three Rebs fell in behind and the boys drove on. Giles knew they were in a scrape but George didn't realize the danger. Sure enough, they had not ridden very far before they ran into a body of at least a hundred of the Johnnies.

"Nice horse that," remarked a big rawboned Kentuckian, as he thumped little "Zollicoffer" in the ribs. "Git out here and help unhitch."

George got out and the Kentuckian rode away on Zollicoffer's back. Even then he did not appreciate that they were in a bad scrape, but he hunted up the officer in command and said: "Captain, we're in a pretty tough fix. We're pretty far from home to be without any horse. Haven't you got an old cripple you don't want that you can let us have?"

The audacity of the request startled the Reb, and for a moment he stared at his questioner closely. He saw nothing but innocence there, and with a queer sort of smile he said to one of his men:

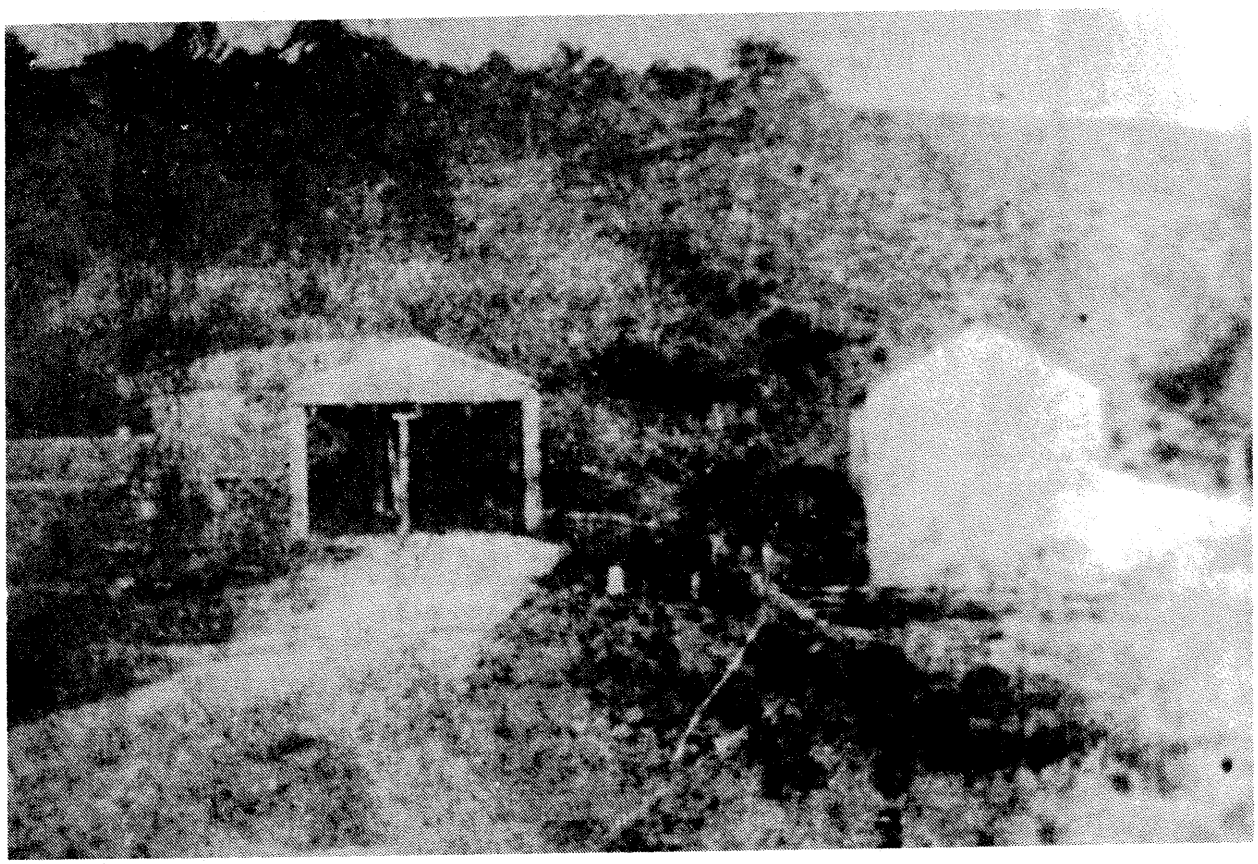
"Get this boy a horse!"

Then turning to George he told him: "Now you turn right around and go back for if you meet the rest of the army they'll take this away from you. By the way any home guards up your way?"

"Yes, indeed!" responded young Richards, "two companies at Venice."

It was a fib, for there wasn't a home guard in the town but the lie served its purpose. Morgan's raiders gave Venice a wide berth. They turned down toward New Baltimore, burnt the bridge there that night and then passed back to the Colerain pike, crossing at Franklin Wells a couple of miles south of this place. As for young Richards, it was a cripple the Rebs gave him. It took three hours prodding with a hickory hoop-pole to get home again. On the way they met several drunken Johnnies, and George, filled with the enthusiasm of youth, wanted to take a few prisoners, but his cousin told him to "say nothing and saw wood." He didn't want his head blown off. They finally ran across one raider who had succumbed to water or something else. He was asleep on the road with two hams by his side The boys "sneaked" the hams, and later on they were devoured with eclat at a Union Sanitary Commission picnic at Colerain. Every farmer they met they told of the coming of the raiders. A few laughed at them and declared the had heard the yarn often enough. The majority, however gathered their horses together and drove them into the weeds that grew as high as a house in the Miami bottom.
Venice owes George Richards a debt of gratitude to this day.

(This story, part of a series, was written by Robert Mulford, a Times-Star reporter while on vacation at George Richards' farm in 1887).



The old Venice covered bridge which Giles & George Richards crossed with their horse and buggy in their pursuit of Morgan's Raiders. (This is the same bridge that was burned in 1893 (See "Was It Arson?")

WORLD WAR II in COLERAIN TOWNSHIP

A board with the names of those serving in the armed forces was erected by the Township Trustees - it stood in front of Colerain Elementary School - it was taken down at some time, but fortunately a program was preserved from which this list of names was taken.

CITIZENS OF COLERAIN TWP. IN THE ARMED FORCES
WHOSE NAMES APPEAR ON THE BOARD

Erected by the Board of Trustees
Ralph Diefenbacher Pres.
Henry Westermann
Albert Wamsgans
Wm. A. Thomas, Clerk

Leroy Johnson
Milford Allen
Charles Jentz
Raymond Walters
Walter Albrecht
Cedil Pierson
Roy Martin
Lewis Buck
Vernon Bernhardt
Ralph Meir
Jack Beischel
Richard Huber
Herman Ott
Clem Jelen
Andrew Harath
John F. Moore
Earl W. Burger
Edward Weigel
Bruce Haskins
William Kist
Alvin Biersdorfer
Harold Seigert
Carl Snyder
Chris Seibert
Marcellus Braun
Clayton Schnecker
Carl Schneider
Edward Binne
Joseph Getz
Stanley Heis
Robert Hereth
Alvin Wissel
Harry W. Stallo
George Funk

Donald Aston
Robert Bailey
James Leonard
Edgar Pitzer
James Versen
Wm. Muehlenhard
Arnold Abbott
Richard Binne
Kenneth Murphy
Earl Lierer
Carl Todt
Norman Purdy
Clarence Staat
Robert Thacker
Alvin R. Day
Wm. B. Buchert
Eugene Taylor
Benedict Jelen
Wilbur Butler
Charles Bailey
Kermit Sparks
Donald Reckman
Frank Drake
Calvin Sheley
Ralph Weiss
Stanley Kramer
Urban Braun
Eugene Foley
Jerome Krass
Victor Kern
Edward Wert
Ed. J. Wolterman
Howard Fenker
Donald W. Pipher

Charles Schiering
Melvin Aston
William Craig, Jr.
Arthur Bailey
Jack McKinney
Robert Brock
Lawrence Schreiner
Alfred Minges
John Braeuning
William Stall
Stanton Mosier
Harold Seim
Grant Hussel
Louis S. Colgate
Carl J. Ante
Jahn Taphorn
John Kaster
Melvin Beerman
Edward Bittman
Earl Scheiner
Wesley Robinson
Virgil Distler
Louis Scheiner
George Young
Stanley Stepaniak
Joe Graff
Walter Foster
Cyril F. Schmidt
Edward Stepaniak
Claire Shay
Fred Bross
Ray Egbert
John O'Shea
Herbert Fahey

Leo Johnson
Harold Brock
Leroy Sheley
Rex Mason
Edward Colegate
Joe Roth
Martin Milton
Vernon Bogan
William Schiering
Herman Niemaus
Ellwood Bernhardt
Joe Trader
James A. Bieht
Robert Van Coneu
Harold Freytag
William R. Layer
Erwin Arend
Robert Steiner
David Thieman
Robert Weisman
Orville Cole
Wilfred Burddsall
Donald Struble
Clarence Pottenger
Eugene Burdsall
Martin Brausch
Raymond Goldsmith
Milton Wuest
Donald Scholl
Chas. R. Herbert
Raymond Heiss
Arthur C. Kramer
Robert J. Herbert
Sylvester Baringhaus

Gilbert Kopp	Edward Getz	Melvin Distler	Melvin Eder
William Sloneker	Ralph Berlier	Fred Finke	Wilbur Schon
Edward Brausch	Alvin Egbert	Henry Hebbelman	Bernard Esterkamp Jr.
Everett Pierson	Robert Garbon	Kermit Frey	Richard Hammer
Arthur Trieschman	Homer Hornung	George Grote	Roland Hunter
Robert Engel	Bernard Hermes	Robert Gauggle	Hobert Fath
Woodrow Pies	Anthony Hermes	Howard Frey	Victor P. Schmidt
Vernon W. Stehlin	Alfred Steimer	Lester Hereth	Clerus Stenzinger
Harold Seigert	Alvin Westrich	Gilbert Stehlin	Jack Hyde
Ernest Grote	Arthur Haffey	Paul Young	Jack Fieler
Harold Herrmann	Edward Grote	Wilbert Harmon	Martin Frankenstein
Edward Grote	Ernest Thieman	Edward Grote	Albert Huston
Elsworth Trader	James Honnert	Henry Schmidt	Craig Schulte
Robert Wuest	Louis Tenneman	------ Wang	Lawrence Westrich
Rodger Laib	Wm. Hafertepe	Frank Paul	Joseph Paul
Robert Steiner	Henry Sorn	Alfred Fales	Herman Johnson
Robert Westrich	Robert Blader	Robert Nesbitt	Dr. George Kolb M. D.
Vernon Thornburgh	Earl Scheiner	Wm. Bernhardt	Sherman Habley
Vincent Keller	John Ramp	Jake Fieler	Albert Fahey
Herbert Harris	William Foster	Palmer Jonas	Robert Blackham
Howard Frey	Robert Schwartz	John Sauer	Robert Magenlander
Charles Egbert	George Hader Jr.	Calvin Robinson	Robert J. Kaser
Howard A. Kaser	Eugene P. Kaser	Robert Mosier	John Whitman
Ralph Oehler	Carl F. King	David C. Frazier	Herbert B. Hayes
Otis Butterfield	John Neander	Andrew Roush	Edward McCoy
William Burkhardt	Edward Lockwood	Charles Eger	Raymond O. Heis
Charles Fales	(Robert and Norman Muelenhard were ommitted)		

WOMEN IN THE SERVICE

Mary Craig Marian Coon Margaret W. Funk

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Note: If you know of any man or woman in this township now serving in the Armed Forces whose name does not appear on the above list, kindly notify the Clerk, Wm. A. Thomas, R. R. 11, box 150, Mt. Healthy, Ohio.

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DEDICATION OF HONOR ROLL
at
COLERAIN SCHOOL

Sunday, October 24, 1943
2:30 P.M. Rain or Shine

PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS

James Garfiedl Stewart
Mayor of Cinti.
George E. Kearns
County Recorder
Captain W. S. Jones
Coordinator CD

(The foregoing list of names was copied from an old program of this event)

DESTRUCTION OF THE ROSS COVERED BRIDGE

The Venice Graphic of September 29, 1893 told of the fire which destroyed the old covered bridge (which was replaced by the one torn down several years ago). It states the the origin of the fire was shrouded in mystery.

"The large wooden bridge which spanned the river near town is in ruins - a mass of charred timbers and twisted rods.

About eleven o'clock last Saturday night the cry of "fire" startled many residents from their slumbers to be witnesses of its destruction.

Quite a number hastened to the scene, but nothing could be done toward saving the bridge. The rapidity with which it was devoured by the flames was wonderful. Within thirty minutes from the time the alarm was given both sections had fallen into the river. Mr. Sam Brock, who lives at the west end of the bridge, is firmly impressed with the idea that it was the work of an incendiary - probably some roving tramp. Mr. Brock was employed by the commissioners of Hamilton county to take care of the bridge and keep it lighted at night. He states that the litter which accumulated in the bridge from hay and straw-hauling was cleaned out on the day preceding the fire, hence there was but little chance for an accidental blaze from a cigar stub. About 9 o'clock he traced a trot-line immediately beneath the bridge, and before going to bed walked to the end of the bridge, as was his usual custom, and looked through, finding everything all right.

Some time after ten o'clock L. F. Maynard and O. T. Davis came through the bridge in a wagon. The lamps were then all right and they noticed nothing unusual. Just after leaving the bridge they met Geo. Howard who was walking from Venice to his home west of Dunlap. He was the last man, so far as known, who passed through the bridge and states that he saw nothing wrong. He had not yet passed over the second ridge between the river and his home until he was startled by a light flashing on the fence in front of him, and turned back to find the bridge in flames.

W. C. Brown, Lovell Thomas, Berry Matson and Charley Weist left town a few minutes after Howard and were two or three hundred yards from the bridge when flames shot up from the center of the structure. They ran with all speed but dared not enter the bridge in the face of the roaring flames, which in a minute or two, shot out at the end and into the air seemingly a hundred feet high.

The Brock residence was saved without much trouble, also the old toll-house opposite.

Bert Fitzgerald who lives on an elevation at the east end of the bridge was probably the first one who saw the fire, and claims that he stood in the door and watched it for five minutes before any outcry was made by others, but the startling effect of the sight may have made the time seem longer to him than it really was.

The fire started very near the center of the structure and on the upper side. Mr. Fitzgerald states that it belched forth at both ends almost at the same time. The entire bridge was wrapped in flames and stripped of roof and siding before the arches fell. About 11:30 the western arch and accompanying framework went down with a crash and roar that was heard for miles around and five minutes later the other span followed in like manner. The splashing water put out much of the fire, leaving a mass of charred and blackened timbers.

There are various theories regarding the origin of the fire. It is suggested that one of the lamps may have exploded, but this is not the case, for the fire is known to have started about midway of the bridge and the lamps were hung well toward either end. It does not seem possible for the accidental ignition of a match on the floor or the dropping of a cigar stub to produce such a conflagration in such a few minutes. The most plausible theory seems to be that some miscreant who had been awaiting a cessation of travel to commit the deed, selected his time when Howard's footsteps had died away in the distance and no others could be heard approaching.

The county engineer came out Tuesday morning and viewed the situation. His report, which will be presented to the commissioners as soon as it can be prepared, will probably recommend the immediate construction of a single-span, iron truss bridge. The eastern abutment will be rebuilt entire, and the western one, in all probability, from the ground up, as it was considerably injured by the intense heat. The removal of the center pier will greatly improve the waterway beneath the bridge.

The bridge just destroyed was the third one that that has been built at that place since the settlement of the valley. The first was built in 1832 and was destroyed by a freshet in 18__. This was replaced by one of such inferior design that it soon became impassable and was thrown down. The one just destroyed was built by Sam Quigley in 1853-4 and was a fine piece of workmanship. It cost $12,000 and with a reasonable amount of repairing it would have been good for many more years.

All bridges were built by a stock company and toll was charged for crossing until something like thirty years ago when the bridge was purchased by Hamilton county and made free.

It is probable that a ferry will be established as soon as the river is swollen by rains. The river is fordable at present for medium loads and light vehicles. The eastern approach to the ford is reached by turning in at the Matson residence and the western is just below the old mill site.

A SENSATIONAL STORY

Sunday evening two young gentlemen who claimed to be from Hamilton stopped in town while enroute home from New Baltimore and related the following to Andy Vogt, who happened to engage them in conversation.

They started to New Baltimore Saturday eve, taking the east side of the river, expecting to cross the bridge and finish their journey on this side. As they reached the top of the rise at the Matson residence they noticed the fire in the bridge, and hurrying their horse along, were in time to meet two men who came out and hurried away along the pike. They stated that the flames were then running along the floor as though following a trail of coal oil. Whether there is something in the story, or whether it is a fake, pure and simple, we are unable to say. If the young men actually staid at New Baltimore as stated it would be an easy matter to find out who they are and learn more as to what they saw."

(COMMENTS IN THE FIRST COLUMN OF THE PAPER)

The pyrotechnic display furnished by the burning bridge Saturday night completely eclipsed Pain's most popular productions, both in grandeur and en-pensiveness.

According to the Cincinnati Post, the county commissioners are so greatly impressed with the idea that the bridge fire was of incendiary origin that they are considering the matter of offering a reward for the detection of the criminal. Appearances rather indicate that it is a fruitful field for a good detective.

EARLY SCHOOLS OF COLERAIN TOWNSHIP

When the Northwest Territory was established by the Ordinance of 1785, public education was also provided in the reserving of Section 16 or one thirty-sixth of every township for the support of schools within the township. The better known Ordinance of 1787 added support for colleges. All this took place before any settlement was made. At first these lands were reserved from sale or settlement. Thus when Ohio became a state in 1803, its Legislature received an endowment of 704,000 acres of land for school support. At first this land was leased and the money used for support of schools. But between 1820 and 1835 several legislative committees had to be set up to specially investigate the mismanagement of school lands. As a result it was decided to sell the lands and invest the money. As fast as the lands were sold the State pledged itself to pay 6% interest on the money. In reality the State had borrowed and spent the funds. The annual interest exists only on the books of the State and constitutes only a moral obligation on the part of the people to tax themselves a certain amount annually for school purposes.

In 1821 the first law was passed authorizing the levying of a tax for school support. This law also provided for the division of townships into school districts, election of school committees who could build school houses and levy a school tax not greater than one half the state and county tax. This legislation was only permissive however. In 1825 a law levying a tax of one-half mill on the dollar for school purposes was passed. This was in addition to township and district taxes. This rate was changed from time to time. It is interesting to note that Nathan Guilford of Hamilton County was one of three legislators to whom credit was given for enactment of this important law of 1825. In 1838 a State Common School Fund was established. This was abolished in 1853, when the whole system of general taxes for school support was revised.

On June 2, 1827 Stewart McGill, Clerk of Colerain Township, lists nine districts and householders therein. **District #1** was in the southeast corner of the township. This is now the Groesbeck area, extending east to west from Pippin to Cheviot Roads and northwest nearly to Compton Road. Prominent families at that time were Aston, Bell, Pine, Sparks, and Hatt. **District #2** was next north, reaching just north of the intersection of Springdale and Colerain and westward from the township line to Brehm Road. This district took in Compton Road and included parts of Cheviot and Springdale. Names appearing on the records are Stout, Adams, Compton, and Poole. **District #3** covered the Pleasant Run area. Its Northern limit was the Butler County line, from Hamilton Pike on the east to Hughes Road on the west. **District #4** was the **Barnesburg** area. This extended from Brehm Road to Daleview. The **Bevis School, #5,** located on Colerain Pike just south of Day Road, extended north to Bank & Colerain including most of Dry Ridge Day and Hughes Roads. **"Cliptown", or #6,** located on Colerain Pike hill included the Dunlap area to the Great Miami River and parts of Butler County. Johnson, Hedges, Cilley, McGill, Pickins and Struble names appear here. **Peach Grove #7,** Included the Taylor's Creek area, Mullen, Althaus, Forfeit Run, Springdale and Thompson Roads. **District #9,** covered Dry Ridge , Day, Gosling, Owl Creek, and Scull Roads. The area east of Pippin Road from

Springdale to Struble Roads attended **District #12** of Springfield Township. **District #10** was set up later and was the **Dunlap school** on Stone Mill Road. **District #11** was set up in 1836. It included Harrison Pike, Eagle Creek, East Miami River Road, and the end of Thompson Road. This school,**Mt. Vernon,**was commonly called the "Big Woods" school. **District #12** was formed in 1838 and taken out of old **#9.** This area later, including Harrison Pike to the Great Miami River and part of East Miami River Road.

In the fall of 1924 the Colerain Township Centralized School opened its doors, replacing the many small one and two room buildings scattered throughout the township. The eight high school graduates of this first year were Helen Craig, Mildred Shaw, Robert Foster, Richard Joyce, Howard Hoock, Alfred Hutfles, George Ruoff and Lorraine Kraus.

The Hamilton Evening Journal of April 26, 1924 carried an account of the histories of the schools forming the consolidation written by Mrs. Ollie Pottenger. The following histories were taken from this account.

The orginal COLERAIN HIGH SCHOOL stood on Colerain Pike at Round Top Road just north of the present "Colerain Bowl". In 1924 it had been a high school for 18 years. In that time there had been only three teachers - T. N. Taylor, C.A. Struble and H.E. Taylor. About 80 pupils graduated from it. There were 60 pupils enrolled there in 1924. The first **BARNESBURG SCHOOL** was a one-room log structure which served for over 80 years. J. J. Livingston and Samual Hamit were the early teachers. Pupils from ages 4 to 24 came to sit on its backless benches, some coming 6 miles to school. Mr. Agin, Abram Gowdy and Royal Struble were also teachers here. In the late 1800's a two-story building of two rooms was built. The old log structure was remodeled into a house. Later it was sold to Mr. Oehler (Barnesburg Tavern or Store) who used it as a wareroom. J. Willey, John Hammit, Estelle Struble and Perry Brestel were among the teachers in this building. Stanley Van Pelt, who attended school there, became a physician. **PEACH GROVE was District #7** located at the intersection of Mullen and Springdale Roads. Teachers there have included Milton Pottenger, C. A. Struble, Wesley Wullenweber, Genevieve Lemmon and Ada Weigel. Pupils have included members of the Wagner, Buchert, Ruoff, Kress, and Jutzi families. **"CLIPTOWN",** originally a little brick structure, was located in the point of land where the River Road joins Colerain Pike near the Venice Bridge. About the period of the Civil War a frame Building was erected a little farther up Colerain Pike. Classes were discontinued there about 1922 and the pupils taken to the **Dunlap School (Stone Mill Road)** by bus. The old brick building had been sold many years before to Mr. James Wood of Louisville, Kentucky. He lived there and built a candy shop next to it. Mr & Mrs. Wood manufactured the Everton taffy. Some of the teachers at "CLIPTOWN" were Belinda and Jane Atherton, Samual Bevington, Ida Joyce, Tom Taylor, C.W. and Nan Brock H. H. Rinckel, Jessie Doty and Frank Howard. "CLIPTOWN" students who became teachers were Estella Struble Hammit, Fannie Struble Taylor, Clarence Struble, Tom Taylor, Edith Craig Muskoff, Nan Brock Huston, George Brock, Mat, Wilson, Lawrence, Ross and Ella Duvall - Sam Tooley and Henriette Schiering Struble. (Not mentioned in this article is Murat Halstead, later a very well known newspaper editor and writer. One interesting item in the Colerain Historical Society's collection is the old **"CLIPTOWN"** School Roll Book, 1857 - 1872. This was given to the Society by Mr. Frank Howard, former teacher of the School). **GROESBECK SCHOOL** was a one room building located

on the south side of Galbraith Road just west of Colerain Pike. It was moved off the lot in 1878 to make way for a two room building. Miss Eva Lloyd and the late Owen Kinney of Mt. Healthy were among the first teachers. This became a special district for about 20 years. Edgar Bevis, father of Dr. Howard L. Bevis, who served Ohio State University at Columbus as President from 1940 to 1956 was the school director at Groesbeck. Teachers who taught in this building were Tom Barnes, Albert Hoock and Mrs. Clara Ruoff. **District #10 was the DUNLAP SCHOOL,** located on Stone Mill near Kemper. This was the third building, the first being a log structure on the Burns place about a half mile away. This old log school was on Mahoning Creek. There were no windows in the front of the building (so the pupils wouldn't be distracted from their lessons) and the six windows in the side walls were so high that only the teacher could see out when standing. Pupils ranged in age from 4 to 20 years. When Mahoning Creek flooded, as it did every spring, the bigger boys carried the small children on their backs across the creek to their parents awaiting them on horseback. John Mitchell, AbrahamPine, Martha Moffat and Ella Burns taught in the old log school. A second building was built about 1865 on the site of the present one. Jacob Salter, Arnold Stoten, Mr. Bosserman and Leslie Struble taught here. About 1885 the two-room school was built, the old one moved and remodeled into a home. **OLD ROUNDTOP,** so called because of a round topped tower, was located on the sharp bend in Round Top Road just west of Colerain Pike. School was held on this site for at least 150 years. The last building, about 125 years old, was torn down a few years ago. (Few may have realized that the little white frame building on the Zoellner farm was once the district school. When I saw it several years ago, it still had the old blackboards, corner cupboards, a shelf for lunch pails with coat hooks under it. I was told that it orginally had a platform for the teachers desk and a pot bellied stove. Children carried drinking water from the same dipper). When **ROUND TOP HIGH SCHOOL** was built about 1905, the little school was closed and used only for trustees' meetings. When the new building became overcrowded the little old district school was reopened for a few years. It closed its doors for the last time in 1924 with 17 pupils. **TAYLORS"S CREEK SCHOOL** was **#9.** it was located on Harrison Pike, closed in 1922 and combined with **PEACH GROVE SCHOOL.** Favorite community gatherings at this old school were pie socials. **BEVIS SCHOOL** was the old **#5** of Colerain Township. It was located on Colerain Pike just south of Day Road. The two story building still used as a residence was built in the late 1800's. Earlier, another one-room school had stood farther back from the pike. Two teachers in this early school were James Keeling and George Huston. Monthly literary meetings were held evenings in this building. Tom Taylor and A. C. Hoock were educated here. Thomas Barnes, A. C. Hoock, Virgie Betcher and Milicent Schiering were Bevis pupils who became teachers. Lowell Arthur, Norman Bevis and George Jacoby became ministers. **MT. VERNON OR "BIG WOODS",** so called because of the wooded area surrounding it, was located on South Thompson Road about a half mile from East Miami River Road. This building has been gone for a long time. From its yard could be seen the lights of seven cities, lands of three states and steamboats on the Ohio River. Kopp and Minges names are found there. The end of the school year was always marked by a big feast and picnic with plenty of ice-cream and cake.

BLUE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT was **#8.** It included the lower end of Blue Rock Pike, Thompson, Flick, Lockwood Hill and the East Miami River Roads.

The age of the "old stone" building is unknown. T. J. Bruin was the last to teach there and the first teacher in the frame one-room school built in the late 1800's (still standing today and used as a residence). Bruin taught for 12 years in this building, driving to and from his home in Dunlap. This school, later combined with Barnesburg, stood 1½ miles from New Baltimore. Although this school did not have many social functions, one big event was held in the new building to raise funds for the library.

Ella Wullenweber and Leslie Flick were Blue Rock students who attended the Round Top High School.

Wesley Wullenweber became a teacher as did Viola and James Radcliffe. Evan Bramlage became a cashier in a large Chicago bank. Ed McCradie went to Cleveland with the Ohio Electric Rail Road. Nick Crawford served in the Hamilton Post Office. Lewis and Ben Raish became grocers in Baltimore. Hary E. Taylor and Edith Craig are former teachers.

The opening of the Colerain Township School in 1924 also led to the deveopment of the tremendous transportation system and fleet of busses operating today in Northwest. The forerunner of this fast transportation network were two trucks owned by local farmers. Benches were placed in them and students picked up and taken to Old Round TOP SCHOOL. After the students had arrived, the trucks went on to Frey's barn (Groesbeck Hotel) which formerly stood on the northeast corner of Colerain and Galbraith Roads. Here they picked loads and hauled them to Cincinnati, returning to Frey's in the afternoon to pick up the benches, then on to ROUND TOP to pick up the students and return them to their homes.

So ends the saga of early schools in the district. It is a far cry from the little one-room schools to our present large buildings. The addition of the old PLEASANT RUN district in 1950 and MONFORD HEIGHTS in 1960 made the NORTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT (formerly the COLERAIN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT) into the largest local school district in the state of Ohio. The buildings and dates of their openings give some clues as to the rapidity of its growth. The Colerain Township Centralized School opened in the fall of 1924. The first Colerain Senior High school (now Colerain Jr. High) opened in 1931. Struble Elementary (named for Clarence Struble) was opened in 1959. The Harry E. Taylor Elementary building was opened in 1960. In 1962 the White Oak Junior High School was added. This was followed by Pleasant Run elementary School in 1963. In 1964 the the Colerain Senior High School was opened (and the old high school building on Poole Road became the Colerain Junior High School). The Ann Weigle elementary building was added in 1965. Huston Elementary (named for Ophelia Houston, deceased teacher at Struble) opened in 1966. Pleasant Run Jr. High School was added in 1969 and Bevis Elementary school in 1970. Northwest Senior High School located at Pippin and Stout Roads was opened in 1972. Welch Elementary School was opened in the Pleasant Run Farms area.

TWO SCHOOLMASTERS

Two schools in the Northwest District, Clarence A. Struble and Harry E. Taylor schools, keep alive the memory of those two teachers. Both men attend and later taught in the old one and two-room schools of Colerain Township. Both, also, were part of the transition to the Colerain Consolidated School. They taught all subjects in the old Colerain Round Top High School. Under their leadership the roots of the present athletic programs were started. Colerain's Soccer Team was outstanding in competition. Both boys and girls basketball and softball were initiated. All of this plus teaching and the administration of the school were part of the daily lives of these men.

Clarence A. Struble was born on March 31, 1881, the grandson of George Struble, early pioneer of Colerain Township. He received his education at the old Dunlap School on Stone Mill Road. In 1900 he began his teaching career in the one-room Willey Schol in Crosby Township. In 1904 he came as teaching principal to the two-room Peach Grove School on Springdale Road in Colerain Township. He came to Colerain Round Top High School in 1916 and served as principal. He graduated from University of Cincinnati Teachers College in 1926. He was a Phi Delta Kappa.

When the Colerain Consolidated School opened in 1924, he came as its Superintendent, until his retirement in 1946.

Harry E. Taylor, son of Thomas Taylor, was born March 12, 1887, in Colerain Township. He was also educated at the Dunlap School. He went to Ohio Northern at Ada, Ohio, Miami University at Oxford, Ohio and later graduated from the University of Cincinnati.

He started teaching in 1904, aged 16, at the old Blue Rock school, having pupils older than he was. He later taught at the Dunlap School and, in 1919, came to Colerain Round Top High School. In 1924 he went to the Consolidated School where in 1946, he became Superintendent after the retirement of Mr. Struble. He died suddenly December 29, 1948. Mr. Struble came out of retirement to finish the school year.

Both Mr. Taylor and Mr. Struble had as their teacher at Dunlap School Mr. Taylor's older brother, Tom Taylor. Tom Taylor was the Supervisor of the small Colerain Township Schools. He became principal of Round Top High School when it opened about 1905. It was later closed for five years and reopened again. Tom Taylor lived in the old red brick house which used to stand on the northeast corner of Colerain at Springdale. Very few people today know that there two Taylor brothers in the schools at one time .

In earlier years there were close ties between school, church, and community. Many of those who were leaders in the organization of the churches were also to be found among the leaders in the schools. It is interesting to note that the quality of leadership passes down through the generations. Harry E. Taylor had a grand-daughter that became a teacher in the district. At least one descendent of St. Paul's orginal board became

a teacher and others connected with a school or civic groups.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS PRIOR TO CENTRALIZATION IN 1924

SCHOOLS	LOCATION
GROESBECK.....	Galbraith, West of Colerain, East of the present Post Office.
BARNESBURG.....	Blue Rock Road, end of Flick Road, 3/4 mile from East Miami River Road. Tom L. Feeny, who later taught at Miami University, taught here. Harry E. Taylor, teacher at Round Top and Colerain High School Principal and Superintendent 1946 to 1948 also taught here.
MOUNT VERNON.....	(Big Woods) Thompson Road, between Flick and East Miami River Roads,
PEACH GROVE.....	Springdale and Mullen Roads.
DRY RIDGE.....	Dry Ridge and Scull Roads (closed before 1922)
BEVIS.....	Colerain Road, near Day Road.
ROUND TOP.....	Colerain at Round Top, Elementary, closed before 1922)..
ROUND TOP.....	High School, called Colerain, on Colerain at Round Top. It was a 3 year high school. Any person wanting a fourth year had to go to Mt. Healthy. A three year diploma was given. Mr. Struble and Mr. Taylor taught here and became heads of the Centralized School.
TAYLOR'S CREEK.....	Harrison Pike, near St. Bernard Church.
DUNLAP.....	Kemper and Stome Mill Roads. Harry Taylor taught here after Blue Rock, before teaching at Round Top.
CLIPTOWN.....	On Colerain Road near East Miami River Road, opposite old spring and watering trough.

This information was received from Miss Ann Weigel, on April 9,1961.

When centralization was voted, the one-room schools were closed. These pupils were taken by bus to the two-room schools until the New school was ready. Blue Rock went to Barnesburg; Mt. Vernon went to Peach Grove: Cliptown went to Dunlap; Taylor Creek and Bevis had been closed earlier. One District, Pleasant Run, had voted not join the consolidation. They became part of the District in 1949, by order of the Hamilton County Board of Education.

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF
COLERAIN CENTRALIZED SCHOOLS (1924 -1960)
and
NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOLS (1960 - 1976)

WRITTEN BY ROSELLA CRAIG HERRMANN

Will you join me in a trip through my memory? You are finishing the third grade, almost nine years old. You won't be going to your beloved one room school, Blue Rock, next year. You'll be going to Barnesburg, a two room school.

You heard your parents talking about what would happen. A Big school for twelve grades would be built for all pupils now in the one and two room schools. Round Top High School only had three years. If you wanted a four year diploma, you had to go to Mt. Healthy your forth year.

High school students electioneered for the Bond Issue. It passed. In September of 1922, we were all in two room schools. This lasted for two years.

THEN CAME THE BIG DAY!

All 371 pupils and nine teachers were in the centeralized school.

I remember my Uncle Riley Craig saying there would never be enough children to make use of all the ground purchased. (He was a very poor prophet - he should see us today).

Fathers with teams and scrapers, and one tractor, gave their time and effort to grade the front yard. It was a big thrill when one could say "My father is working on the school yard today".

The first graduating class consisted of 9 people, in May 1925. Some of those people have grandchildren in Colerain today. The first years growth was very slow. This was a farming area. Groesbeck and Dunlap were small Villages with only a few stores.

The P.T.A. had much activity. They had dances, suppers, etc. The school was the center of activity for the area. The auditorium was packed for plays and concerts. One time the Mt.Healthy Band came over and presented a concert. We did not have a Band.

The P.T.A. opened a lunchroom in March 1930. Two women were hired. Mothers came on the buses when children came to school. They stayed all day and worked in the lunchroom, so their children could have a hot lunch. (Imagine getting a lunch for 13 to 15 cents). This was the start of the Volunteer Mothers system that we still have today. Of course, the mothers are not permitted by law to ride the buses today. Now they come to help with the serving period, and receive their lunch for this service. Since May 1941, the operation of the lunchrooms is now the responsibility of the Board of Education.

In 1927, sewing classes for high school girls were started.

In 1929, the P.T.A. paid half of the salary for a Music Teacher. The P.T.A. provided the only phone for a long time, and one month's electricity each year. For a long time, all janitors supplies were provided by the P.T.A.

For many years, instead of a Prom, the under-classmen gave a luncheon for the seniors in the Basement Hall.

When I was a senior, we talked to the under-classmen to improve their behavior. I just can't remember what they were doing, but we made

it clear that they weren't acting as Colerain Students should. I was in the last class that graduated from the original building. In the fall of 1931, what is now Colerain Junior High, was opened as a six year Junior and Senior High.

The first class to go through twelve grades at Colerain, had two persons, at least, who have taken part in Public Affairs. They are Ed. Moeller, Board of Education member for 20 years, (he is the third generation of his family on the Board), and Norman Muelenhard, President of the Colerain Township Trustees.

We have had many teachers serve the District faithfully for many years.

In 1932, inside toilets were installed in the Elementary Building. Before that only outside facilities were available. In this period of time, the Board of Education began supplying text books. It took several years until this was completed.

The original high school teachers, coming from Round Top were Mr. Taylor and Mr. Struble as Principal.

Mr. Struble retired in 1946 as Superintendent.

Mr. Taylor was named to succed Mr. Struble. Mr. Taylor passed away suddenly in December, 1948. Mr. Struble came out of retirement to finish the school year.

Mr. Eberly Hammack became Superintendent in the summer of 1949, and served until the fall of 1960.

The Pleasant Run District had not chosen to come into the original consolidation. It was a one-room school, who sent their High School students to Mt. Healthy. After having three or four teachers in one year at the one room Pleasant Run, the Hamilton County Board of Education persuaded them to join Colerain. This was in 1949, making an enrollment of 880. It was in the early 1950's before we reached 1,000 enrollment.

In 1951, the children were introduced to Children's Theatre. I believe they were going to the symphony before this. In 1952, we were commended for passing four Bond Issues in six years, totaling $900,000. Four classrooms were made from the original building auditorium-gym (second floor), and a new Auditorium (present one at Colerain Elementary), an enlargement of the gym and classrooms were added by the Bond Issues. Enlarged Manual Training facilities were also among the new facilities.

The Boosters built the new Athletic field. The Football Players laid the sod (donated) as part of their summer training, after volunteers had graded the grounds and erected the lights. Just two nights before the opening football game of 1953, (present Colerain Jr. High) the fathers finished erecting and painting the bleachers.

Dr. Von Haydon of Miami University, made a study of our growth needs in the mid '50's for the Citizens Council. We sat aghast when he reported that we would need a new school each year for ten years. History has proven him right. Sometimes we've been a little behind schedule, and suffered over crowding.

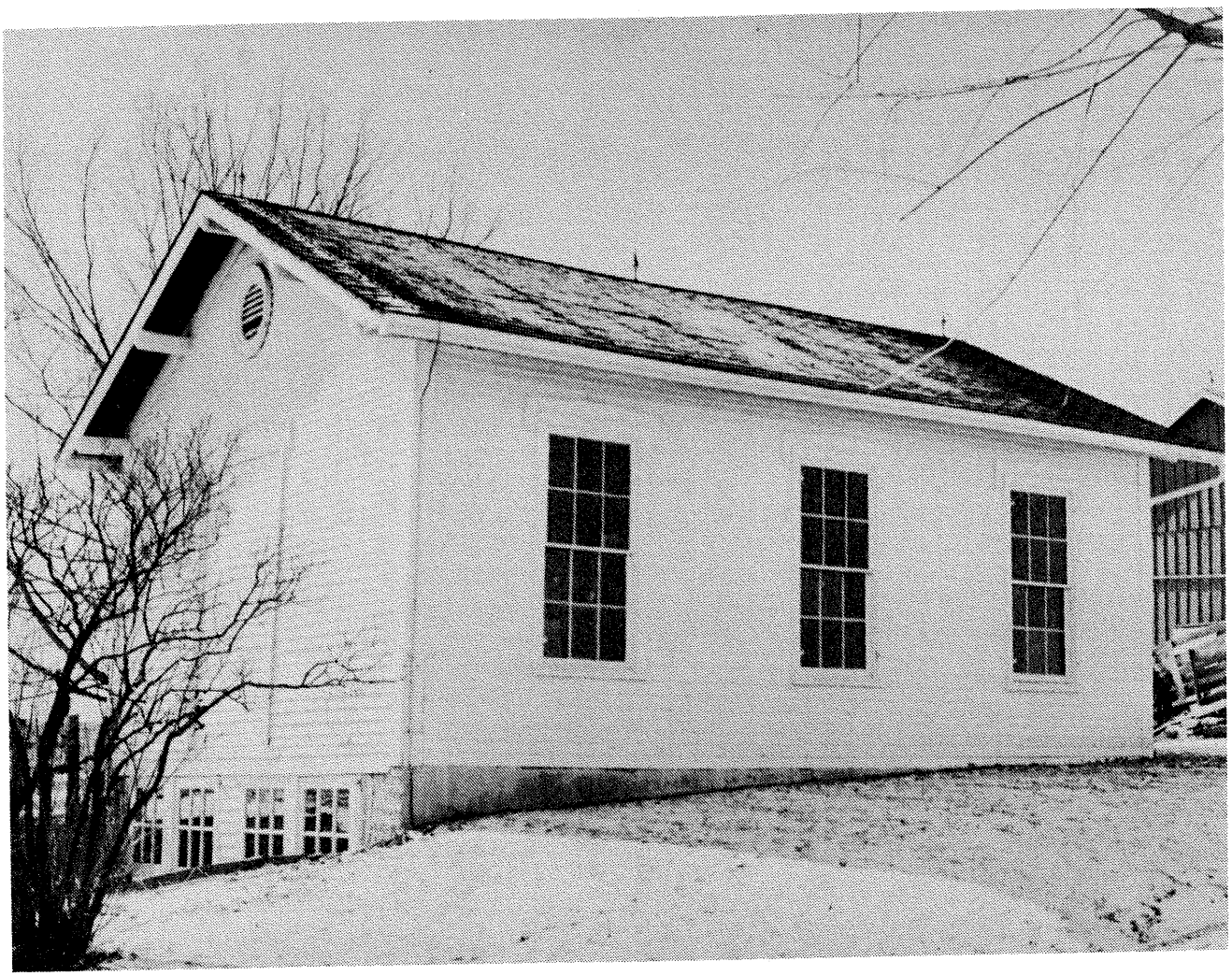
Early in 1960, the Monfort Heights District was consolidated with Colerain District, to form the Northwest Local School District.

In the fall of 1960, Mr. Edmond Hammond became Superintendent. He retired in the summer of 1976.

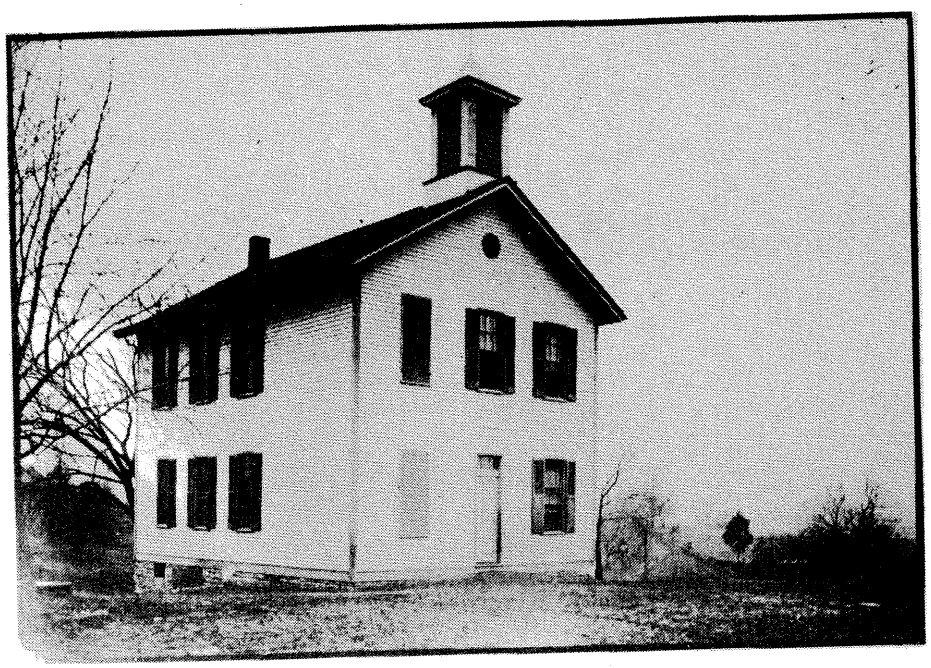
In 1965, the Weigel Elementary School was dedicated. The school is named for Miss Ann Weigel, a teacher who devoted all of her teaching

years to the children of the district. She was my husband's and my fourth grade teacher at the old Barnsburg School, and then taught our son Harvey in the fourth grade at Colerain Elementary school in 1947. In her years of teaching she reached many second generation children.

In the spring of 1976, a Bond Issue was passed to build a much needed Elementary School in the Pleasant Run Farms area. The property on which the school is to be built has belonged to the district for some times. At present the growth is very great there, and we suffer greatly from overcrowding. This is the Welch Elementary School.

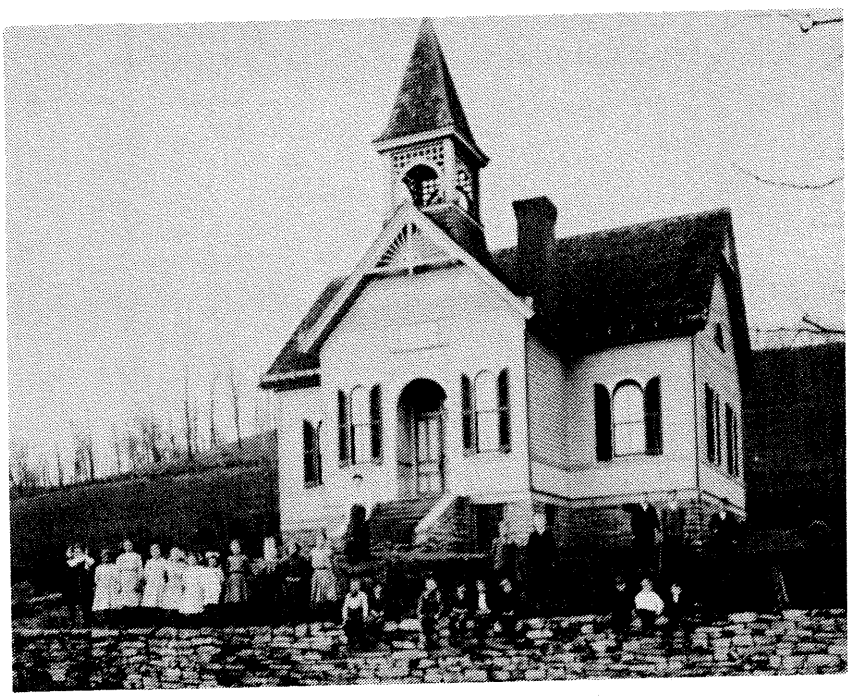


Old Round Top School at the "elbow" of Round Top Road.



Old Barnesburg School on Blue Rock Road in Barnesburg.

Old Groesbeck School on Galbraith Road.



Blue Rock School on Blue Rock Road.

EARLY CHURCHES IN THE COLERAIN TOWNSHIP AREA

After Wayne's victory and the Treaty of Greenville in 1795 settlements spread rapidly throughout the Township, followed closely by churches. The earliest churches were first established by the Baptists, then Presbyterians, followed by the Methodists.

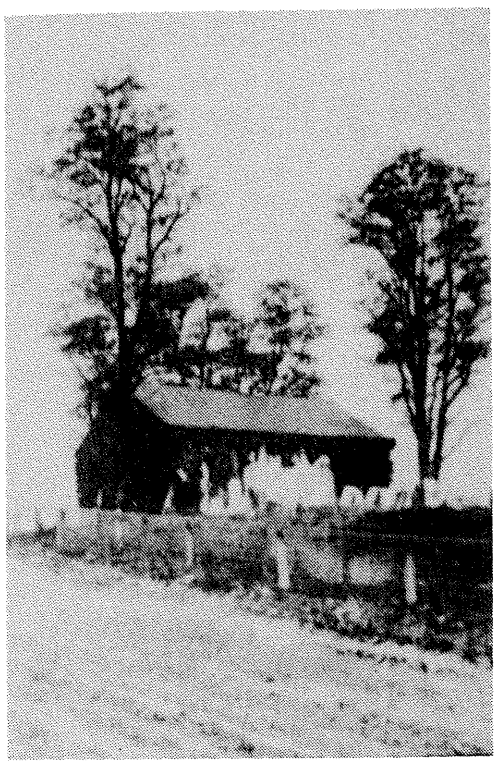
On March 14, 1810 Solomon Slayback deeded on acre to the **"Regular Baptist Church of Pleasnat Run"**. The deed was signed by Solomon and his wife, Sarah, witnessed by Wm. and Abel Slayback, recorded by Zebulon Foster on April 2nd of that year. This church was built in the northwest corner of Section 25 in Springfiedl Township at the Butler County line. A few stones remain in the little church cemetery on present day Mill Road at the end of John Gray Road. Records copied from the stones show burials from 1827 to 1855. Names of families buried there include Edwards, Farmer, Fitchett, Floyd, Hall, Mack, Newell, Shipley, Trim and Walden.

Also in 1810 another Baptist Church was started on Compton Road - **The West Branch of Millcreek Valley Baptist** - west of Mt. Healty on lands of Samuel Johnson. It was constituted on October 18, 1810 by a council composed of William Jones, Ross Crosby and Henry Morton of the Columbia church; Richard Ayers, Cyrus Crane and Thomas Higgins of Carpenter's Run; Isaac Sellers of Pleasant Run and Richard J. Compton of Muddy Creek. The site of this first church was in Arlington Memorial Gardens Cemetery, but no trace of either it or its cemetery has ever been found. Sometime in the 1820's this church moved to Springdale Road east of Pippin on lands purchased from Jacob Williamson, a member of the church. A brick church was built, but was destroyed by a tornade in 1833. A second brick church building was erected in the same year. The church is gone but the cemetery remains in the care of Colerain Township. In 1965 114 stones were copied by Polly Stout and Ruth Wells, the earliest being that of Harbour Hughes, who died in 1827. Early names found there are Compton, Cox, Hughes, Joyce, Martin, Miles, Monfort, Norris, Skillman, Stout, Struble and Williamson. Many of the early settlers were Baptists.

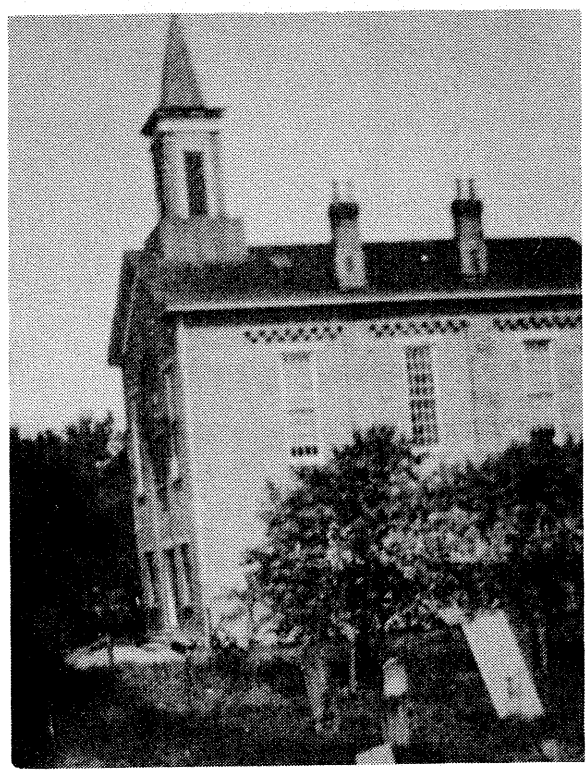
The First Presbyterian Church of Colerain Township was located on Kemper Road west of Pippin and next to the water tower. On April 4, 1814 Wm. Hunter sold the tract to the Presbyterian Church in Colerain Township "For the sole use and purpose of a burying ground". The Trustees were James Charters, John Ramsey, Jr. and William Gardner. It is shown on the 1869 map of Colerain Township as the **"Peoples Church"**. The Presbyterians didn't want to build another church in a graveyard, so in 1854 Christian and Ann Schluniger sold part of an acre at the corner of Hamilton at John Gray Road to Paul H. Hunter, Benjamin F, Fessenden, John H. Messler and other trustees of the **Pleasant Run Presbyterian Church.** The old cemetery on Kemper Road is still there now known as the Huston Cemetery because of the number of that family buried there. The earliest stone is dated 1805. Besides the Huston names are found those of Gray, McCrea, Pottenger, Ramsey, Sedam, Smith and Warman. This cemetery is also in the care of Colerain Township.

The earliest record of a Methodist Church is found on Blue Rock Road near Sheits. In 1823 Daniel and Rhoda Dean sold the tract of ground to the Trustees of the Methodist Society, who were John Fox, Cornelius Seveen, Stephen Stephenson, Benjamin Houghton, Curtis Dean, David Brown, John Dean, Henry Lore and Michael Isgrigg. This was known as the **Franklin Methodist Church** and cemetery. Also on Blue Rock Road near the end of Galbraith road was established the **Olive Branch Methodist Church.** It was deeded in 1823 by Henry and Hester Loar to Trustees Joseph Hart, Thomas Heath, Joseph Sparks, Henry Loar and Thomas Hubbard. A little log church was built on the hill on the opposite side of Blue Rock from the cemetery. This church became the forerunner of the Present **Groesbeck United Methodist Church.**

Old Groesbeck Methodist Church - site now of Mayflower Savings & Loan.



West Branch Milcreek Baptist on Springdale Road near Pippin.



Old St. Paul Evangelical - old blue Rock near Springdale.

In the 1830's the Campbellite movement caused a breakup of the Olive Branch church, part of the group splitting off to form a Christian Church. The remainder of the Methodists continued meeting in homes and, later, in the Rount Top School house, at the sharp turn in Round Top Road near Colerain. Some members of the **Asbury Chapel Methodist Church** on West Fork Road in Green Township joined with them. Samuel J. Pouder and Charles West were leaders in this group. Charles West gave land on the east side of Colerain Road opposite his home for the new Methodist Church. Here, in 1849, the **West Union Chapel** was built. The first building was of brick later replaced by a somewhat larger frame building. The old date stone from the brick building was preserved and placed in the sanctuary wall of the present church, **The Groesbeck United Methodist Church.** The first two buildings stood on the site now occupied by the Mayflower Savings and Loan. The West Union Chapel was so named because of Charles West, leader and donor of the land and for the union of two congregations - Olive Branch and Asbury Chapel Methodists. The name was also given to the community until a post office was established, when it became necessary to change the name of the village as there was another WEST UNION in Ohio. The name "Groesbeck" was chosen for one of the two brothers well known in the Civil War.

The White Oak Christian Church was organized in 1848 with William Pool, Wm. Conger, Garret Vanausdal and Thomas Tattersal as Elders; Daniel Barnes, Dawson Hubbard and Dan Bacon were the Deacons. Family names of Wilkinson, Stone, Sparks, Hatt, Heath, Gulick, Stout, Weatherby and many others are found in the early membership. This was the only Christian Church in Colerain Township.

The Mt. Healthy Christian Church was organized in 1839 with twenty members, David S. Burnet as pastor. Reuben S. Comton was the clerk. Many prominent early settlers of both Colerain and Springfield Townships were among its members.

The influx of Germans into Colerain Township in the mid 1800's brought in the Lutheran Churches. In 1840 the **"German Protestant Evangelical Church"** was built on old Blue Rock Road south of Springdale in the old Barnesburg area. (This site is now occupied by **St. Paul United Church of Christ**). Not much is known about this early church. A split in this congregation led to the establishment of **Trinity Lutheran**, first on Gained Road near Springdaale where its cemetery exists today. The present church is located on Springdale near Gaines.

The United Brethrens were numerous in Colerain Township. An early one was the **Bevis United Brethren** resulted from services held by Rev. Elias W. Hoffner. Among early members were Jesse, Martin and James Bevis, John Hunt, Joseph Mullen and John Looper. Rev. Hoffner preached in the old brick Bevis Hotel in the old village of Bevis left stranded on the old Colerain Road by the building of the turnpike a quarter mile west of the hotel. The first brick church was built in 1842 on land donated by Jesse Bevis. It was replaced by another brick building on the same site in 1893, dedicated by Bishop Castle. It adjoins on the north the Bevis Cedar Grove Cemetery, although it apparently did have a small burial ground of its own at the church. That building is today a Masonic Hall, the church having moved out beyond Day Road on Old Coleraion Road and being known as the **Prince of Peace Church.** Early preachers here were Revs. Hadder, Scanahorn, Kemp, Emerick, Bonebrake and Yingling.

At **Dunlap** the **English United Brethren Church** was organized in 1847 by Rev. Scamahan. The first members were L. Burns, Margaret Joyce, Mary Ogg and William Pickens. They worshiped in the Joyce schoolhouse until 1860 when Giles Richards gave a building site and the church was erected, dedicated by the Rev. Christopher Flinchpaugh.

The **Bethel United Brethren Church** was esteblished by Rev. Thomas Thompson meeting at William Shipman's wagon shop. In addition to Shipman early members were Parmenus, Ithamar and Swain Corson, John Dean and Benjamin Davis, who gave

the land for the church and cemetery. It was built in 1855 at the corner of Gaines and Springdale Roads. The church building is long gone and forgotten, but the cemetery remains in the care of the Colerain Township Trustees.

A **German United Brethren Church** was built many years ago on Dry Ridge near Scull road. Not much is known about it except that it was started by the Raisch family. In the early 1900's the building was cut in two parts and moved with wagons and teams and reassembled next to the home of Jesse Bevis.

Another **German United Brethren** was organized at Dunlap by the Rev. Mittendorf and held services in the **English U. B. Church** there until 1872 when a church was built. Trustees at that time were George Leuckhsuer, Jacob Bernhardt and George Horning.

Also brought in by the Germans were the Roman Catholic Churches. The very first Catholic Parish outside the city of Cincinnati, serving both Green and Colerain Townships, was organized in 1840 at the home of Sylvester Oehler. **St. Jacobs,** now **St. James**, built its first log church on Cheviot Road in 1844. This became the mother church for all parishes established within a ten mile radius - St. Patrick's in Northside and Assumption in Mt. Healthy being early ones.

St. John the Baptist on Dry Ridge Road was the second parish to be organized in 1860. Rev. Gebhard Egger was pastor from 1866 to 1873, at that time followed by the Rev. Franz Karl Julius Voet. As early as 1846 this Catholic group had erected a log school house. This is a thriving country parish today.

In 1867 **St. Bernard's of Taylors Creek** was established on Harrison Pike at the end of Springdale Road. The three acre site was given by George Wingirtir. All three of these parishes have cemeteries adjacent to the churches. They are active parishes today.

St. Paul Evangelical Church, now **St. Paul United Church of Christ**, should be mentioned. The brick church was built in 1874 in front of the little frame building established there in 1840. Early officers of the church were Charles Kress, D. Rinckel, George Kern, Adam Hussell, Jacob Westerman and John Fuchs. Early pastors were: Revs. Malcahn, Abele, Hering, Foelker, Mueller and Hummel.

This is the story of the various religious movements established in Colerain Township. It may shed some light on the history of the area.

MAP KEY TO THE LOCATIONS OF THE CHURCHES:

1. "Regular Baptist Church of Pleasant Run"
2. First site of the Millcreek Valley Baptist
3. Second West Branch of Millcreek Valley Baptist
4. Presbyterian Church of Colerain Township "People's Church"
5. Pleasant Run Presbyterian Church
6. Franklin Methodist Church
7. Olive Branch Church
8. West Union Chapel Methodist
9. First White Oak Christian Church
10. Second White Oak Christian Church
11. German Protestant Evangelical Church, later St. Paul U.C.C.
12. Trinity Lutheran on Gaines Road
13. Bevis United Brethren
14. English United Brethren at Dunlap
15. Bethel United Brethren
16. Dry Ridge United Brethren
17. German United Brethren at Dunlap
18. St. Jacobs or St. James
19. St. John the Baptist
20. St. Bernard's of Taylor's Creek

COLERAIN

Scale 171 Rods to an Inch.

Colerain Township Business Directory.

J. A. Bevis...Proprietor of Mineral Spring Hotel 16 mile N W. Cincinnati, on Colerain Pike.
C. F. Thomis...Proprietor of Kate Mill, on Miami River.
Wm. Maines...Proprietor of Colerain Woolen Mills.
Henry Gulick...Proprietor of Franklin Nursery and Cultivator of Fruit, Evergreen Trees, and Wine Grapes, near Colerain Pike, 12 Miles N. W. Cincinnati.
Lawrence Jacoby...Dealer in Italian Bees, P. O. Dunlap Ohio.
H. B. Hughs...Proprietor of S. Saw and Sorghum Mills, also Carpenter and House Joiner, Dunlap P. O.
J. J. Wessenaft...Manufacturer of all kinds of Tin, Copper, and Sheet Iron Ware.
A. R. Buce...Physician and Surgeon.
M. Luichinger...Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes and Ready made Clothing, at Grossebeck.
E. Y. Corson...Horse Shoeing and all kinds of Blacksmith work done to order. Also, Makes and Repairs Wagons. Grossebeck.
A. Huber...Wagon Maker. Residence Grossebeck.
W. M. Seeley...Proprietor of Bevis House, 11 miles N. W. of Cin.
Martin Barns, Jr... Proprietor of Barnes' Nursery, 1 Mile West of Grossebeck. All kinds of Fruit Trees & Grape Vines, all of which they warrant to be as recommended.
J. F. Mackmus...Agent for Ætna and Enterprise Fire Insurance Co's. Res. and Office 1 mile West of Grossebeck.
A. T. Barns...Blacksmithing of all kinds done to order.
O. Winegarten...Proprietor of 12 Mile House, on Harrison Pike.
G. Kress...Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Queensware, Tinware, Boots and Shoes. Also keeps Saloon.
G. M. Jaeger...Carpenter, House Joiner and Cask Maker. P. O. Address, Mt. Airy.
Jackson Dean...Manufacturer of Kegs, Firkins, both Tight and Slack, Taylor's Creek P. O.
F. Althaus...Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Hats, Caps, Boots and Shoes, &c., Taylor's Creek Post Office.
Wm. Uecker...Proprietor of Hotel and Saloon, Taylor's Creek Post Office.
B. Schuck...Proprietor of Mineral Spring Hotel, on Harrison Pike.
J. K. Porter...Notary Public, Taylor's Creek P. O
U. M. Bauer...Proprietor of Brewery, Taylor's Creek, P. O.
Oliver Lockwood...Cultivator of Pear and Cherry Trees, Taylor's Creek P. O.
J. Westerman...Dealer in Dry Goods and Groceries. Also, keeps Saloon, Mt. Airy P. O.
W. M. Seal...Stone Mason, Taylor's Creek P. O.
P. Sigreist...Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, and Notions. Also, keeps Saloon, Bevis' Post Office.

TITUS' ATLAS OF HAMILTON Co OHIO

A TOWNSHIP MAP OF THE STATE OF OHIO

Published by G. O. TITUS

1869

BUTLER COUNTY

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

COLERAIN TOWNSHIP

MIAMI CROSBY RIVER

WHITE WATER TP

PLEASANT RUN P.O.

DUNLAP P.O.

BEVIS P.O.

R.I.T.I

R.II.T.II

R.I.T.I

THE COLERAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

THE PRESENT CHURCHES OF COLERAIN TOWNSHIP

THE BEVIS BAPTIST CHURCH. The Church, fundamental, missionary and independent, was organized June 22, 1962. The Church had started as a mission three years before formal organization. The Rev. Edward J. Neiderlehner was called as the first Pastor. A new building was completed in 1977. A Sunday School building was built two years later. The present Pastor is the Rev. J. Neiderlehner. The Church is located at 10575 Hughes Road.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT GROESBECK. The Church was founded at Ross Ohio in 1967. The first Minister was Kenneth Ray. The Church was moved to Chesswood Drive in 1988, after purchasing a building from the Friendship Baptist Church when their building had been completed. In 1992 the Rev. John Starks accepted the position of Minister. The Church is located at 8209 Chesswood Drive.

THE HIGHVIEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH. The Church was founded on April third 1960. It was originally on Coogan Drive. The church was moved to Adams Road in 1968. The present Minister is the Rev. Alex Eddy. The Church is located at 2651 Adams Road.

THE NIAGARA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH. The Church was started as a mission early in 1963, and was moved to the present address in 1966. The first Pastor was the Rev. Roger Roundtree. The congregation now has about 500 members. The second and present Pastor is the Rev. B. H. Earls. The Church is located 3473 Niagara Street.

ST. ANN CHURCH - GROESBECK. In June 1953 the Most Reverend Karl J. Alter appointed Father James Lunn to organize a new Catholic Parish in the Groesbeck area. Soon the location was changed from Colerain Avenue, to a new location on Galbraith Road. Now they have 1550 families. The school has 383 Students in kindergarten through 8th. grade. The present Pastor is Father William Kennedy. The Church and school are located at 2900 Galbraith Road.

THE JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. The Church was founded in 1970 by the Rev. Jim Dunaway, who became the first Minister. The Congregation has now grown to about 500 members. A new Sanctuary was dedicated in May of 1992. The present Minister is the Rev. Sam Stover. The Church is located at 1927 W. Kemper Road.

THE FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF GROESBECK. The Church was organized in June 1949, with 12 charter members. Originally in the Brighton area, and then to Elm Street, then to Cheviot Road in 1988. There are two charter members still active in the Church affairs. They are: Arlena Richardson and Louise Bice. The congregation now numbers about 1300 members. The Rev. Preston Richardson has been Pastor since 1970 until the present. The Church is located at 8580 Cheviot Road.

THE BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH. The first services were held in Taylor Elementary School, and was the first Wisconsin Synod in the area, There were thirteen in attendance. This was November 1970. Daniel Koelpin was ordained and installed as pastor in July 1971.

In September the congregation was formally organized. The Church was dedicated in 1974. The present Pastor Thomas Westra was ordained and installed as Pastor in the same year. The Church and school are located at 11981 Pippin Road.

THE WHITE OAK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. The Church was organized in February 1965. Early organization work was done by David Watters, Pastor for a short while, and William Gross in 1964. The Church was then on Jessup Road, and later on Cheviot Road. The Congregation now has about 400 members. The first building was built in 1970, and the second in 1981. In 1965 the present Pastor, the Rev. Robert Denny accepted the position as Pastor. The Church is located at 8735 Cheviot Road.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES NORTH HILL CONGREGATION, was founded by the presiding Overseer Herb Kolb in 1968. The congregation was later split into two congregations: Brentwood, and College Hill East-West. The present Overseer is Harry Daniels. The Church is located at 3171 Struble Road.

THE CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, LC-MS. The first Worship service was held in 1955. The founding members were members of Concordia and Grace Lutheran Churches, who lived in Colerain Township. Land was purchased (20 acres) and between 1957 and 1962 the church and other buildings were built. Much of the labor was donated by members of the congregation. In 1968 the present Pastor the Rev. Lyle Rasch accepted the position as pastor. Under his leadership the congregation has grown to 702 members. The Church is located at 3301 Compton Road.

THE SOUTHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH. The Church was organized in 1940 by James Roberts. A new building was planned and completed in 1990. At the present time the congregation numbers about 200 members. The present Pastor is the Rev. Samuel Hall. The Church is located at 2485 Springdale Road.

CHRIST PRINCE OF PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Informal meetings were held as early as 1790 and included such well known names as Bevis and Dunlap. In 1808 formal meetings were held. The Bevis Tavern hosted services in 1820. 1882 saw a new church (Now Masonic Lodge building). In 1962 a new church was completed. The present Minister is the Rev. Stephen Price. The Church is located at 10507 Old Colerain Road.

THE CHURCH OF GOD. The church was founded in the early 1960's, and is part of the International Church of God with headquarters in Cleveland, Tennessee. Their goal is to serve the community. They have a "Food Pantry" which distributes food to the less fortunate. The Congregation has about 70 members. The present Pastor is the Rev. Ray Anderson, who has been Pastor for ten years. The Church is located at 2680 Roosevelt Avenue.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH (CATHOLIC) Archbishop John Purcell assigned Father Englebert Sthole to organize the Catholics of Dry Ridge into a new Parish. The cornerstone was placed in September 1860.. An older log school house was moved to the site. The present Church was completed in 1915. Father George F. Kuntz was appointed Pastor in 1947.

The present Pastor is the Rev. Father Charles Bowes. The Church is located at 5361 Dry Ridge Road.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH. It began as a Mission Church in 1954. with the help of The Trinity Lutheran Church. In 1988 the A.L.C. merged with A.E.L.C. to form the E.L.C.A. The church has a growing congregation and is currently planning a new building to be built on Blue Rock Road at Lexington. The Pastor is Cathleen Thompson. At present the church is located at 6831 Colerain Road.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GROESBECK-SBC. The Church was started in 1960 with the help of the New Bethel Baptist Church of Norwood. The Rev. Richard Denling was the first Pastor. About 15 years ago a new church was planned and built on Poole Road. The congregation has 203 members. The present Pastor is the Rev. Steve Hill, who accepted the position recently. The Church is located at 3551 Poole Road.

THE TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH. Sometime prior to 1850 services were held in a log home on Gaines Road. In 1852 the members of the church built a stone church. The Church did not officially join the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod until 1871. A new church was dedicated in June 1923. The cornerstone for the new Church was laid in 1953 Some of the present activities include: Vacation Bible school, the Woman's Guild, and tape Ministry for shut-ins. The Church places emphases on its youth program. The Pastor is the Rev. Randy Fischer. The Church is located at 5921 Springdale Road.

THE GOSPEL ASSEMBLY CHURCH. The Church was started in November 1942, by the Rev. William Sowders of Louisville Kentucky. The Church was moved here after completion of a new building in December of 1979. The congregation now has about 125 members. The Pastor is the Rev. R. K. Nichols, who accepted the position in May 1993. The Church is located at 12055 Pippin Road.

PLEASANT RUN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH. The Church was founded in 1963, with the much assistance from the Rev. Milton Schwab, their first Pastor, who then retired and later returned when he was needed. The first meetings were held in the Pleasant Run Elementary school. Two earlier Pastors were Robert Hinckly and Paul Harbach. The congregation has about 150 members. The present Pastor is the Rev. Doug Wright. The Church is located at 10461 Pippin Road.

THE GROESBECK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Services started in 1832. the first Minister was Samuel Powder. The first Church was the Olive Branch M.E. Church. After 1845 meetings were held in members homes, and later at Round Top School. 1882 saw a new church building. C. L. Gowdy served as the first full time Pastor. After World War II Groesbeck grew so fast that more space was needed and the present Sanctuary was completed in 1963. The present Pastor, Jack F. Chalk, was assigned as senior Pastor in 1987. The Church is located at 8871 Colerain Avenue.

SAINT JAMES CHURCH. The Church dates back to about 1840. The Rev. John M. Henni said the first Mass. The first church was a log cabin

built in 1842. Early records indicate that St. James was formally organized as a parish in 1843. A small stone church was erected in 1849. The first school was completed in 1874. The present school was started in 1912. A new church was dedicated in 1980. The present parish now has 3,000 families (9,000 people). The present Pastor is the Rev. Raymond E. Larger. The church and school are located at 3565 Hubble Road.

WHITE OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH. Walter Scott founded the church in the early 1830's. By 1848 the congregation numbered 153 and a church was built. 1876 records show 260 members. Friday night prayer meetings were held except when rain made roads impassable. A new church was built in 1887 and burned to the ground in 1924. 50 people inside escaped unharmed. A new church was dedicated in 1927. The Rev. David Roberson served as associate Pastor (1978-81) then as senior Pastor until the present. The church is located at 3675 Blue Rock Road.

THE NORTHVIEW WESLEYAN CHURCH. The church was started as the Vine Street Wesleyan Methodist Church about 1900. Dwindling attendance necessitated a change and a new church was built on Adams Road. The name was changed to Northview Wesleyan Church. The present Pastor is Rev. Michael Dickerson, since August 1992. The Church is located at 2407 Adams Road.

PLEASANT RUN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Informal meetings were held in 1852 before the church was organized. The first Church was built in 1854 on an acre of land donated by Christian Sloneker. Sunday school classes did not start until the late 1800's because roads were so poor. The present Church was completed in 1957. The evangelist Committee is working to welcome new members. Dave Ehrnschwender, superintendent of schools, has a youth group which encourages young people to join the Church. The present church was completed in December 1957. The present Pastor is Dr. Daniel M. Watson. The Church is located at 11565 Pippin Road.

THE ST. ILIJA MACEDONIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH. The Church was started in 1978. They are in the process of building a new Chapel, which will soon be completed. The Rev Dushka Georgiv S.A.I. did not say when the new building will be finished. The Church is located at 8646 Wuest Road.

THE SPRINGDALE CHAPEL MENNONITE. The chapel was completed in 1968 and dedicated in July of the same year. The goal of the congregation is to Evangelize and nurture through Christ centered relationships and prayers. The first Pastor was Charles Kalous. The outreach program is very active. Paul Kalous said the Elders are Don Kasten and Don Patton. The Church is located at 3001 Springdale Road.

THE TRINITY NORTHBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH. The church was started in 1961 with the help of the Central Baptist Church. Meetings were held in the Greener School. The church was completed in 1963. The Rev. Clarence Edwards was the first Pastor. Trinity Church participates in a T. V. Ministry 3 times a week on cable television. There is an emphasis on youth and senior citizens. There are about 100 members in the congregation. The present Pastor is the Rev. Edward Kittle. The Church is located at 9800 Loralinda Drive.

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. A small congregation led by Missionary Thompson joined to erect the first building. Over the years there was a decline in attendance and the Church was reorganized, and a new building was dedicated in 1874. Originally the Church had a large German congregation, but as times changed, the German services were no longer needed and were discontinued in the early 1930's. A complete remodeling and enlargement was completed in 1961. The name was changed to the present" St. Paul United Church of Christ." The present Pastor is the Rev. Thom Parrott-Sheffer. The Church is located at 5312 Old Blue Rock Road.

THE PLEASANT RUN CHURCH OF CHRIST. The Church was founded in September of 1984 by a group of worshipers from another church. Early Ministers were: George Stewart, Gilbert Schreiber, and John Underwood. The church first met in Pleasant Run Elementary School. The congregation bought and renovated a building at 3489 W. Kemper Road. In 1990. The church was purchased from Calvary Community Church in 1991. The first and present Minister is David Phillips. The Church is located at 2720 West Kemper Road.

ST. BERNARD TAYLOR CREEK. The Church was founded in 1867 and in November a Church building was built. The Rev. George Veith was appointed the first Pastor. The first school, with 26 students, began lessons in 1868. The present school building (recently enlarged) was opened in 1915. The Church was dedicated in 1936. The present Pastor is the Rev. Father Robert J. Mick, who has been there ten years. The Church and school are at 7130 Springdale Road (at Harrison).

THE BEVIS WESLEYAN CHURCH. This is an older Church but most records are not known to exist. It was originally known as the German United Brethern Church, on Dry Ridge Road, and was built by the Raisch family. In 1917 the building was cut in half to facilitate moving it to Colerain Avenue, to land donated by the Bevis Family. (The Raisch family moved the halves with horses.) The Church was known as the Pilgrim Holiness Church. Later land was purchased next door and a new Church was dedicated in 1977. A Sunday school annex was built in 1986. Currently the Rev. Michael Dickerson is Co-Pastoring with the Northview Wesleyan Church. The Church is located at 10207 Colerain Avenue.

EARLY DOCTORS IN COLERAIN TOWNSHIP

There is not a lot of information about early doctors to be found. The earliest one was found on the business directory of the 1869 map of Colerain Township - Dr. Alexander B. Luse. Fortunately he is known to the Mt. Healthy Historical Society, although he lived in Colerain Township and undoubtedly practiced there as well as in Mt. Healthy. They have an early picture of him standing at the corner of Compton and Hamilton checking a notice board mounted on the side of the building, where people who needed his services could write a message for him. There was also a bench on the corner, where, it was said, he would pull a tooth if needed. He lived on Compton Road nearly opposite Zoellner. His old home is still there, and his great granddaughter, Polly Stout, told how her grandmother had told her children how slaves would be hidden until they could be sent on to Canada. She told, also, how Dr. Luse tended to the soldiers, who would not get down off their horses, but were ill - part of Hobson's force chasing Morgan's Raiders. He got his original training as all early doctors did by working with old Dr. McGill, who is buried in the Compton Cemetery. Dr. Luse died in 1891.

In the 1887 directory of Colerain Township Rev. John P. Waterhouse is listed as a physician. He probably lived in the old Samuel Hardin house opposite Northgate Mall on Springdale, now owned by a realtor. This home later became the property of Waterhouse through a marriage to a Hardin. Nothing is known about his practice of medicine, but he was sure to have practiced in Colerain Township.

Dr. Joseph C. Sparks, the son of Joseph Sparks, who came from Maryland with the Rev. Charles West, who founded West Union, later Groesbeck. He graduated from the Medical College of Ohio, located in Cincinnati, in 1853 and most surely practiced in the Groesbeck and Colerain Township area all of his life. He died in 1905.

Dr. R. H. Moore lived in the Groesbeck area. He graduated from the Medical College of Ohio (the forerunner of the University of Cincinnati Medical College) in 1862. He is known to have practiced in the Groesbeck area. He died in Mt. Healthy February 17, 1918.

Dr. Merrel B. Van Pelt was born in in 1858 and was living in Groesbeck when he graduated from the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery in 1889. He must surely have practiced there for some time, but in 1916 he was living and practicing in College Hill at the corner of Hamilton and Marlowe.

The 1901 Directory of Hamilton County shows James Potter, physician, living in Bevis. Nothing more is known of him.

DR. A. B. LUSE, Compton and Hamilton, looking over the bulletin board

COLERAIN TOWNSHIP POSTAL SERVICE

The earliest post office of record was **BEVIS TAVERN** with Jesse Bevis as postmaster in 1835. The next postmaster was James A. Bevis in 1861, with George A. Wyckoff taking over in 1874. The name was then changed to **BEVIS POST OFFICE** in 1889 when George W. Matthews took office.

Next came **DUNLAP** in 1837 with David Wallace, followed by Sidney A. Pinney in 1839. Charles Richards took over in 1841; Asher Williamson in 1846; Jesse Struble in 1849 and John Sheits, Jr. in 1850. Jesse Struble got it back in 1851, Lawrence Burns in 1856 and John Sheits again in 1858. Jacob Bohnen had it in 1861 until Peter Grabel took over in 1868. Jacob Happ took charge in 1870, with George E. Klemm in 1874. He held it until 1882, when William A. Seigle was named, going to Caroline A. Seigle in 1889. In 1895 Henry Gruschmann took it until 1901 when Albert Dieffenbauch had it. In 1904 it was discontinued to Pleasant Run. This office seemed to have more postmasters than any other.

PLEASANT RUN was established in 1845 with James Huston as postmaster. Paul S. Huston followed in 1854 and James Johnson in 1860. Mrs. Sarah Johnson was appointed in 1876; John Dalton in 1883; Mrs. Augusta Schutte in 1889; John Dalton again in 1893; Mrs. Augusta Schutte in 1897 and Caroline A. Schutte in 1904. It was discontinued to Mt. Healthy in 1907.

GROESBECK got its post office (and its new name) in 1857, with Martin Luichinger as postmaster; David Stedle in 1861; John Haywood in 1868 and Jacob Happ in 1869 - Joseph C. Sparks taking over in the same year. Mrs. Barbara Luichinger was appointed in 1872; Mrs. Wilhelmina Behner in 1881 - Charlotte Loheide taking over in 1882. Henry Wiesehahn in 1883 and 1889. John Frey had it in 1888, 1893 and 1897 - the last postmaster, the office being discontinued to Cincinnati in 1903.

BARNESBURGH got a post office in 1874 with Alois Jutzi as post master, again in 1880. Jacob Westermann had it for a short while in 1880. Simon Oehler took over in 1888, with Theodore Oehler succeeding in 1895. It was discontinued to Mt. Healthy in 1905.

CREEDVILLE POST OFFICE was in the Toll House at Blue Rock and Hanley Roads. It was established in 1880 with Fridolon Gutzwiller in charge, followed by Frederick Schmelzel in 1891. Adam Wissel had it in 1895, Frederick Everly in 1899 and Philipp Butz taking over in the same year. It was discontinued to Cincinnati in 1905.

SATER POST OFFICE must have been on the East Miami River Road in the vicinity of Scull Road. It was first established in 1874 with Joseph Scull as the postmaster. George Todt took it over in 1880 and John Seits in 1882. In 1905 it was discontinued to Harrison.

TAYLOR'S CREEK was located on Harrison Pike near Althaus Road. John A. Davis was its first postmaster in 1857. Fred Althaus took over in 1865 and his son, Fred, in 1878. Henry Althaus was the last postmaster in 1892, as it was discontinued to Cincinnati in 1905.

We can only guess at the locations of many of these post offices for they were moved as the postmasters were changed. The one at Taylor's Creek was probably in the Althaus store for many years. Jutzi had it in his tavern and store when he was postmaster. It was probably moved to Westermann's Tavern when he had it. And it was located in the Barnesburgh Tavern and store when the Oehlers were postmasters. Creedville was located at the Toll Gate which also had a small tavern and store. It probably remained there as long as there was a Creedville Post Office. So ends the postal history.

TRANSPORTATION IN COLERAIN TOWNSHIP

In the days before the advent of mass transportation, traveling was a difficult and arduous task. The earliest roads were mere trails following blaze marks on the trees. The only possible means of travel was by horseback. As more people pushed into the outlying districts, roads were "prayed for" by applications to the county commissioners. These early applications give a lot of information about the area and the people living in a certain place. Road supervisors were elected each year. Piles of rocks were stacked beside the roads to keep them in repair. A "knapping hammer" was used to crack these rocks. A householder paid his road tax by cracking a certain number of yards of stone or hired someone to do it for him.

About the 1830's turnpikes were chartered by the state. Private companies built these roads and charged toll for traveling on them. Tollgates were usually placed every five miles and a small charge was made for each person and animal going through. Most of the animals going to market were driven on foot along the turnpikes. Even flocks of turkeys were driven in to market.

With the emergence of the turnpikes came the beginnings of mass transportation. The Colerain Turnpike, which started at Brighton Corner, ran out through Colerain Township, crossed the Great Miami, went through Venice (now Ross), through Oxford and on to Brookville. It was known as the Colerain, Oxford and Brookville Turnpike. Its surveyor and engineer was Alfred West Gilbert (for whom Gilbert Avenue in Cincinnati is named). The Bevis family was enterprising and operated two "stagecoach" lines - one into Cincinnati and the other north to Brookviulle. The Cincinnati terminal was "The Bevis House", a hotel located on the southeast corner of Court and Walnut Streets. It was a thriving business for some years.

The Hamilton Turnpike was built about the same time - leading from Cincinnati to Hamilton. Souvenir History of Cumminsville, published in 1914, gives the most comprehensive history of stages and omnibuses on the turnpike. From it we learn: "Before the days of railroads and street railways the only means of carrying passengers to town was by way of the canal and most generally by means of stages and omnibuses. The first conveyance of the later character was the omnibus driven from Cumminsville to the Galt House in Cincinnati by Andrew Hamel...prior to 1849. Hamel's stone stables stood at Cooper Street and Spring Grove Avenue, and his vehicles were of the covered type in which the passengers sat inside, not on the top. In later days he had a rival in Samuel Miller...vying strongly with each other as to which could make the best time. The fare was ten cents one way. Both met at McMakin's Exchange Hotel, the terminus of their routes. At a later period three lines of omnibuses ran through Cumminsville to Cincinnati. All were originally owned and operated by Lansing Grant. One line ran from Mt. Pleasant (Mt. Healthy) to Cincinnati, one from College Hill.., all of them going to the Walnut Street House. These were afterward sold by Grant, the Hamilton outfit being purchased by David Carnahan, the Mt. Pleasant buses by Isaac Curry, and the College Hill conveyance by Asa Robbins. The fare was one way from Hamilton $1; from Mt. Pleasant, 50 cents; from College Hill, 35 cents; from Cumminsville to the city, 15 cents...The omnibuses "respected the Sabbath", not running on that day, and once a month went to the city at night to accommodate those who wished to attend the theater. Those run from Mt. Pleasant were driven by Edward H. Sayre - now living in College Hill - from 1861 to March 10, 1876, when Robert Simpson's railroad to College Hill and Mt. Pleasant was opened, there being no further use for omnibuses. These primitive outfits consisted of one two-horse and one four-horse omnibus, the vehicles being warmed by a three-inch iron tube filled with hot water and imbedded in straw. The larger bus could accommodate fifty passengers".

COLERAIN TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES

There are about thirty old church and family cemeteries whose care depands on Colerain Township. They have been well cared for and now have wooden signs placed at them naming each. They are important in preserving early Colerain Township history.

DUNLAP STATION CEMETERY, located on East Miami River Road near the Southwestern Ohio Waterworks pumping station, is probably the oldest in the area. It is assumed that the earliest burials took place beginning about 1791 of settlers living in the little fort who either died there or were killed by Indians. There are no stones to prove this, but it is located so close to where the fort is known to have been that it seems safe to believe this. The earliest stones are dated 1801. The Coleraine Historical Society holds a Memorial Service there each year to honor those soldiers and pioneers who lie there.

Another very early one is the **HUSTON CEMETERY**, which was deeded in 1810 to the Presbyterian Church of Colerain Township. So many of the early Hustons are buried here that it became known as their cemetery. A little church building known as the Peoples' Church stood there for many years. It is located on Kemper road just west of Pippin and next to the water tower.

On Blue Rock Road near Galbraith is another very early one. It is called the **OLIVE BRANCH METHODIST** being on lands given by Henry Loar, a Revolutionary soldier. The church was across the road, a log building on Redman's hill. Here rest many of the early pioneers of this area. It was established about 1830.

On a hillside on Compton Road near Pippin is the **COMPTON CEMETERY.** It, too, is very early, the oldest stone being 1807. Here lies Jacob R. Compton, the Revolutionary veteran who brought the family from New Jersey to Colerain Township. He died in his home on Compton Road in 1821. Allied families are here with him.

On Galbraith Road near Wuest is the old **WHITE OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH CEMETERY.** The old church building is gone, only the cemetery remaining. It was founded in 1848 and many of its early members lie here. There may have been some graves moved when Galbraith Road was widened.

Land was given to the White Oak Christian Church for its present location on Blue Rock by Martin Barnes. Next to the church building is the resting ground of the **BARNES FAMILY.** They were numerous in the area having Barnesburgh named for this pioneer family who came in 1808.

Far out on Blue Rock Road near Sheits was a little cemetery known as the **FRANKLIN METHODIST.** It was quite early - not much being known about it - it has been destroyed, but the remaining stones have been moved to the Dunlap Station Cemetery.

The **WEST BRANCH OF MILL CREEK VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH** was established very early on Compton Road in the area where Arlington Memorial Gardens is today. There had been a cemetery there but all trace of it was lost. In the 1820's the church was moved to Springdale Road east of Pippin. The church building is gone but a sizeable cemetery remains. Earliest interred here was Harbour Hughes.

A tiny plot of land on Harrison Pike near the end of the East Miami River Road is another family graveyard - the **FOSTER CEMETERY** - here rest pioneers of that locality. A crude homemade stone marked only with the initials **I. P.** marks the resting place of Isaac Polk, Revolutionary soldier and early school teacher.

At Springdale and Gaines is the old **BETHEL CEMETERY** , started by the United Bretherans. The early Davis and Corson families are found here. Not far away on Gaines Road is the old **TRINITY LUTHERAN CEMETERY.** The present church is on Springdale Road.

Other family burial grounds are the **HAMMITT**, on the east side of Althaus Road south of Thompson Road. On a private road leading to a farm off Thompson Road is a very tiny **DEAN** family plot. It may no longer exist.

One other church cemetery, **ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL**, is next to the church on the east side of Old Blue Rock Road near Sheed. Many of the stones here are in German as also are the old church records.

On the west side of Hamilton Pike north of Kemper Road is the little family cemetery of the **SCHLUNIGER** family, cared for by Colerain Township. Another such is the **WILLSEY CEMETERY**, located at the corner of Eagle Creek and Welsh Roads. The **VAN SICKLE** ground is on East Miami River Road about a mile and a half south of the New Baltimore bridge. The tiny **CLOUD CEMETERY** is on a farm on the east side of Lick Road.

The Roman Catholic Churches all have their own cemeteries: **ST. JOHN'S** on Dry Ridge Road; **ST. BERNARD'S** at Harrison and Springdale; **ST. JAMES** on Cheviot Road in White Oak.

There are only two public cemeteries in Colerain Township - the old Bevis-Cedar Grove on Colerain Pike in Bevis and the Crown Hill Cemetery on Pippin Road near Kemper.

BEVIS-CEDAR GROVE was first opened in 1870. Its first Board of Trustees were George Gosling, David Bevis and Isaac Erven. Adjacent to it is the little Methodist cemetery on land given by Jesse Bevis - the church is now used as a Masonic Hall. Here are found many of Colerain Township's pioneer families. Here, also, is found the **HARDIN CEMETERY**, moved here from the farm on Springdale Road in 1937. James Hardin was a Revolutionary War veteran and early treasurer of Colerain Township - some of the earliest elections were held at his house.

The newer one - **CROWN HILL CEMETERY** - is found at 11869 Pippin Road in Pleasant Run. It was established by John J. Sinclair in 1966. On display here is a replica of the Liberty Bell.

GROESBECK FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

WILLIAM W. FOSTER

The time is 1931. The place is Groesbeck in rural Colerain Township. Times are rough. Citizens are concerned as the country is in a depression. A group of citizens gather at Ed Honnert's garage on Colerain near Galbraith Road. They call themselves the Groesbeck Improvement Association. A big concern is fire protection. The North College Hill fire Department will be unable to answer calls in Colerain Township.

The Improvement Association elects the following officers: Ed Honnert, President; Carl Huber, Vice-President; Mrs. Frank Gellhaus, Rec. Secretary; Robert Ahrens, Cor. Secretary; George K. Foster, Treasurer. Ed Honnert appointed George K. Foster Chairman of the Fire Committee. The first G. I. A. Carnival was held in the summer of 1933, in reality a Celebration Dedicating Van Zant Road, which is now Calbraith Road. In 1933 they purchased a used 1930 Model A. Ford Pumper. John Schulte was appointed Fire Chief. The first fire occurred on December 25, 1933 - a barn fire on the Rocker property, now Burgundy Court on Rocker Drive.

In 1934 the G.I.A. called a meeting at which it was decided to let the Fire Department re-organize and elect their own officers. It was held at Fieler's Garage, where the fire engine was housed. The first meeting of the Groesbeck Fire Department was held on March 6, 1934 when the following officers were elected: Fred Finke, Sr., Chief; John Herrmann, Asst. Chief; Ivan Johnson, Marshall; Elbert (Bud) Aston, Captain. The first fire alarm was a bell donated by the North College Hill Department. This bell is now at the Galbraith Road Station as a part of the Memorial to Firefighters Killed in the Line of Duty.

In October 1934, a Dance was given at Bevis Gardens, where a ton of coal was raffled off as a door prize to make extra money. Also in 1934 the township agreed by contract to pay $35.00 for each Fire Department run.

In 1937 the new Community Hall and Fire Station was built and in 1939 the Ladies Auxiliary was organized and a Bell Telephone System was installed in the firemen's homes. In 1940 the new Ford Howe Pumper was delivered.

Corky Snyder joined the Department in 1948 and served 40 years. He became Volunteer Chief from 1958 to 1961. He returned to that post in 1967. He then later became first paid Chief. Also, in 1948, a new Federal Pumper built by Howe with a Piston Pump was ordered and was delivered and dedicated on April 24, 1949 at the Fire Station.

In 1954 the Township Trustees - Wm. Bud Thomas, John Herrmann and Dale Diefenbacher - decided to organize a Fire Department in the Dunlap area. In 1955 2-Way Radios were installed in the fire Pumpers. In 1957 a jeep was bought and the first grass fire fighting rig was built. Also they decided to start a Life Squad. New men were trained and a 1958 Cadillac Ambulance was purchased.

A new Fire House was built on Galbraith Road by the Improvement Association to have more room for Apparatus. (This building is now owned by the K. of C.) In September of 1959 the first meeting was held here. In 1960 Plectrons in Home Radios to call Firemen was purchased. In 1962 new Howe 1000 GPM Custom Pumper was ordered. Al Zollner was Chief at this time.

On October 19, 1964 the worst fire in the history of Groesbeck occurred in the Western Cabinet Company at Colerain and Johnrose. The call came in at 6:05 PM and the men returned to the Station at 2:15 AM. Thirty men responded, only twenty-eight returned. Fire started in a paint booth because of a defective exhaust system. Pumpers worked eight hours and nine hose lines were hooked up to two hydrants. Captain Lee Hammitt and Fireman Bruce Price lost their lives. Roy Johnson was Chief.

In 1965 the Groesbeck Fire Protective Association, Inc. was chartered by the State of Ohio. Robert Foster was its First President. Voters passed a one mill Fire Levy. Also the first four paid Firemen were hired: Charlie Frankl, Lt.; Bill Clark, Dick Baker and Clyde Kohne.

In 1967 the Groesbeck Fire Department divorced itself from the Improvement Association. They moved into the New Fire Station at 3360 West Galvraith Road. A new 1967 Howe Custom Pumper was delivered.

On November 1, 1969, Robert Foster, the last Charter Member, retired. He had served 35 years.

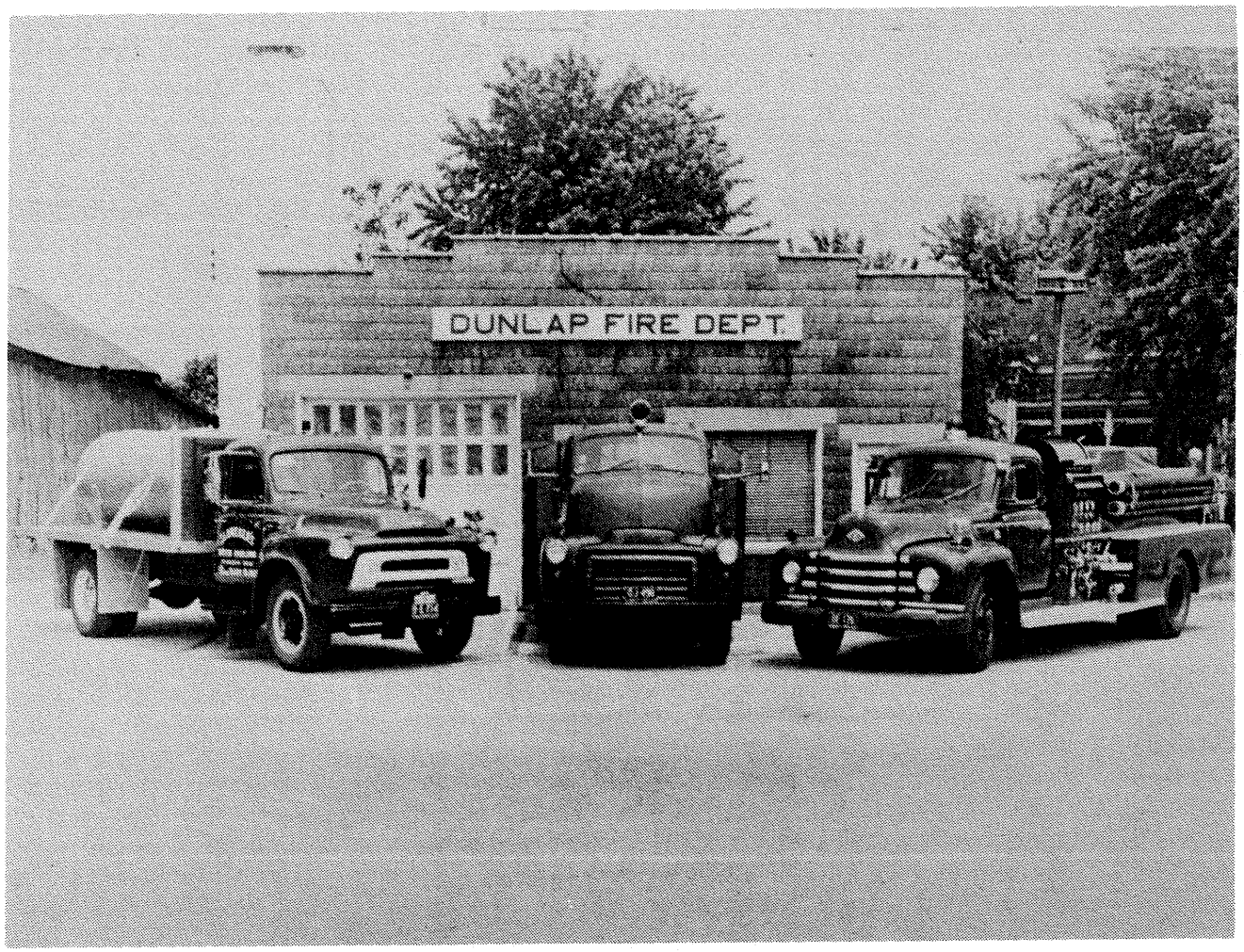
In 1970, Corky Snyder, Chief of Groesbeck and Bud Williams, Chief of Dunlap, started talks about a Township Fire Department. In 1975 the two departments merged to form the Colerain Township Fire Department. Today this Department is one of the best in the State of Ohio. They have four Stations staffed by Career and part-time firefighters, plus Paramedic Service. Bruce Smith is Chief Today.

FIRE CHIEFS

John Schulte - 1933
Fred Finke, Sr. - 1934 to 1953
Al Foreman - 1953 to 1956
Al Zoellner - 1957
Cloyce Snyder - 1958 to 1961
Al Zoellner - 1962
Roy Johnson - 1963 to 1965
Ivan Johnson - 1966
Cloyce Snyder - 1967 to 1988
Bruce Smith - 1988 to present

CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE GROESBECK FIRE DEPARTMENT

Frank Drake
John Herrmann
Ed Bokelman
John O'Shea
Joe Kramer
Ivan Johnson
Frank O'Neal
Louis Kramer
Christ Ruehl
Carl Thole
Fred Finke, Sr.
Harold Harris
Ralph Lockwood
Gobert Gauggle
Elbert Aston
John Frey
Henry Fieler
Robert Foster
Carlton Huber
Ed Lockwood
August Wagner



The Dunlap Fire Department in 1955.

Groesbeck Fire Department in 1940 in front of the old Fire House on Colerain.

THE DUNLAP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 1954 Colerain Township Trustees began making plans to form a fire department for the northern half of the township. Prior to this the northern area of the township was covered by the Groesbeck Department assisted by neighboring departments - Fairfield, Ross and New Baltimore. On October 18th, 1954 the first officers were appointed. The Trustees appointed the officers for the first year, thereafter to be elected. **Dick Bowman** was chosen Chief, **Gene Taylor**, Assistant Chief, **Ray Walters** as Marshall anda **George Matt** as Captain. Availability of fire Equipment was discussed - Trustees saying that bids would have to be advertised for several weeks and, after bids were let, would take about 90 days for the truck to be equipped. A committee was appointed to mail cards to the residence owners in the territory for the purpose of locating water supplies such as cisterns, wells, creeks, lakes, etc.

George Matt's old garage sign was repainted to read **Dunlap Fire Department.** A committee was chosen to draw up a constitution and by-laws. The department was established with the township purchasing and owning the equipment and the membership owning the station. With this in mind it was necessary to hold fund raising events to buy the "extra" items needed to maintain a fire department.

Approximately 90-100 people attended the first two meetings where it was decided how to raise money for the department. The first fund raiser was a raffling off of a roaster netting about $450.00. Future fund raising events would include the carnival and a turkey raffle which were each held once a year. A Ladies Auxillary was formed to help raise money for the department. They worked tirelessly to provide extra equipment and furnishings for the firehouse. They went to fire scenes, in many cases, to provide water and refreshments for the working firemen.

The site chosen for the Dunlap Fire Department was the corner of Kemper and Colerain. In February 1955 the department membership was set at 40 and 10 substitute firemen. In March a tower to mount a siren and hang hose was planned. A block tower was erected at a cost of $250.00. Also the Township purchased a John Bean pumper. The first two fire calls were received on July 17th. They were received at the station. There were four phones located in neighboring residences, a fifth one located in the fire house. When an operator received a call for the department all five phones would ring - "we guarantee an answer because there will be someone at one of these residences at all times". When it was clear as to the location of the fire, the siren would be activated by the one receiving the call merely by pressing a button next to the phone. When a minimum of two firemen were available, a pumper would leave for the scene of the fire. Any additional firemen who came to the firehouse, looked at the call board and responded to the fire in their personal vehicles.

The call board was located in the alarm room. Next to it was a filing bin which held cards with the addresses of all residents in the area. Every piece of property in the area was registered with the department. On the registration cards was information such as: the main power switch to the house, water supplies, and other information that might help or hinder the department while fighting a fire. On this card was also a map of the shortest route to the property. The cards were filed by property numbers. Smaller bins were also located by the call board and were placed alphabetically by property owners names. This system was used to check and double-check so mistakes were not made in response.

Upon arrival of the new pumper, driver's were assigned and crews were made up for each driver. Dates were set up for each driver to take his crew on practice runs. These crews were set up regarding day or night availability.

In January of 1956 it was announced that the trustees had located and purchased a 1953 GMC cab-over engine cab and chassis. From then until completion the members of the department hand-built the compartments, tank and apparatus onto the truck making it the first Dunlap water tanker. This was a 1200 gallon capacity tank.

In 1956 members of the department took the Ohio State Department of Education training program completing it in October. At this time, the Dunlap Fire Department received its Class "A" rating. This was first for a rural fire department in Hamilton County as, at the time, there were only 10 Class A fire departments in the state of Ohio. This was quite an accomplishment for the short period of time that the fire department had been in existence.

Each unpaid volunteer was supplied with a metal fire helmet, a rubber rain coat, and a pair of rubber boots for personal protection in fighting fires. In 1957 a two-way radio was acquired to make response to a call in the shortest time possible. In the following years personal Plectron notification devices were provided to all active members. This notification system was changed to calls to Hamilton County dispatcher and replaced the previously described phone system.

In 1962 the original one bay station was enlarged, additional space was built for a meeting room, kitchen and indoor plumbing. In 1963 a Peter Pirsch pumper on an International chassis was ordered and two more equipment bays were added to the east end of the firehouse.

In 1968 it was decided that Life Squad services should be provided by the Department. Training was provided for interested personnel. Prior to this time, all Life Squad services were provided by the Young Funeral Homes in Ross and Mt. Healthy and by the Groesbeck Fire Department. In 1969 a Plymouth station wagon was received, which served as a Life Squad unit. It was replaced in 1970 with a Braun unit on an International Harvester chassis.

In the early 70's two additional drive-through bays were added to the north side of the station. A new Ford FTI pumper was purchased. The original bay was converted into a meeting room. The 1962 addition was converted into offices.

The Department and the services continued to grow as the Township expanded in population. In 1974, meetings were held with the Groesbeck Fire Department and in January 1975 a merger between the two volunteer fire departments was made forming the current Colerain Township Fire Department.

Photographs, historical memorabilia and all existing meeting minutes for the Dunlap Fire Departmetn are currently in the care of Darrell Brown, District Chief, Colerain Township

Information for this article was written and furnished by

Darrell E. Brown, District Chief

GROWTH OF COLERAIN TOWNSHIPS - THE SUBDIVISIONS

The Township didn't show any dramatic changes until well into the 1900's. Most of the first development came with the acceptance of single streets by the County Commissioners and their care by the Township. As farms were broken up and subdivided into building lots, it seems that some of the early streets may have followed the old lanes leading into the farm houses. Then, as population started to boom, developers moved in and built numbers of homes in their developments.

The first street accepted was in 1936 - Brownsway Lane, a short street leading north off Galbraith Road east of Pippin. Next came Lina Place, west off Colerain, just south of Galbraith - this in 1941. Earl Avenue, in 1942, a short street west off Colerain north of Blue Rock. In 1943 Sheldon Drive and Prechtel Road were added - Sheldon just south of Galbraith east of Colerain, while Prechtel is much farther north, off Dry Ridge.

The population figures for Colerain Township show when the tremendous surge of growth took place: 1910, 3,834; 1920, 2,891; 1930, 3,664; 1940, 4,627; 1950, 7,483; **1960, 28,632; 1970, 50, 971;** 1980, 56,583; 1990, 56,781. The large increases came about in the 60's and 70's. In 1910 a largely rural community and by 1990 largely urban, although a few areas remain rural. A lot of the early growth occurred along both sides of Galbraith east of Colerain and northward along Pippin Road. In the 1950's streets east of Pippin between Banning and Galbraith - Golf Dr. and Clovercrest - were developed. In 1951 the Mt. Healthy Heights development was started - the area between Pippin and Hamilton Pike north of Struble. In 1952 the Hawthorne Hills subdivision was started along Riehle Road, south of Hanley and west of Cheviot. Also in that year the Georgianna Subdivision developed north of Galbraith Road and west of Colerain. In 1953 Frey Brothers were developing off Round Top Road and also the Zoellner Road area was developing. In 1954 Robers was building along Jonrose and the extension of McGill Lane was added. In 1955 Wardwood Acres was started noth of Compton a little east of Colerain. That same year the Memory Lane area was built, as well as the Byrnes Subdivision - Byrneside Place - east of Colerain north of Kipling. Ledermeiers were developing along Harry Lee Lane - west of Colerain and south of Galbraith. In 1956 Hengeholds and Pippindale were developing east of Pippin just south of Galbraith. 1957 saw John Taber building in the Bauerwood area west off Colerain just south of the Farbach-Werner Park. Also Hunsicker was developing Woodthrush, south off Poole near Livingston. In 1958 Glenwood was being started along Shadycrest - a short street east of Colerain second south of Galbraith. In 1958 the Lake Gloria development was begun west of Pippin and north of Struble. The following year - 1959 - the very large Northbrook area was beginning. (This was the acreage west of Pippin between Springdale and Adams). Belhauer was building along Harry Lee Lane. 1960 saw the advent of Skyline Acres and Galaxy Acres, both east of Pippin, Skyline being south of Compton and Galaxy north of it. This year also saw the beginning of Compton Estates, between Compton and Adams. Skyridge Dr. was opened in 1962 - an area south off Dry Ridge Road. In 1963 the area south of Banning between Colerain and Cheviot was being developed. Also several streets were started east off old Colerain north of Bank Road. 1964 saw the origin of Pleasant Run Acres - north of Struble in the Pippin and Stout Road area. Colerain Heights was begun in 1965 in the region of Poole and Round Top Roads. About the same time Wellington Park appeared in the vicinity of Pippin and Struble. 1966 saw the initiation of Hawthorne Hills along Memory Lane. It was also the beginning of Bunker Hill - off Struble Road east of Pippin. 1967 saw the atart of Model City - north of I 275 in the Crest Road area. Also Spring Hill north of Springdale and east of Colerain.

1969 saw the opening of Oakhollow Estates - north of Galbraith on both sides of Cheviot Road, extending to Chesswood on the east. In 1970 Kingsbridge was begun north of Kemper Road and east of Pippin. 1971 saw the initiation of Camberly Acres east of Colerain and north of Springdale. Lookout Acres was developing along Zoellner Road. At the same period Sherwood Estates appeared off Wuest Road north of I 275. In 1972 Mayflower Estates was being developed on both sides of Houston Road. Oakview Estates was coming in north off Hanley Road. That same year Northgate Mall was built and opened. Off Pottenger Road saw the start of Boutiere Subdivision. 1975 saw the beginnings of the Northgate Commons Village, across Colerain from Northgate Mall. Breezyacres was developed between Struble and Hughes. Woodtrail Farms came into being south of Springdale near the Senior Center. Clippard Park Subdivision came in just south of I 275 in the area of the park. In the period from 1976 to 1979 many subdivisions were developed. Blue Meadow was started off Livingston Road. Burch Hills south of John Gray Road (Butler County Line); Dunlap Woods on Yeatman Road; Birch Hills in the Crest Road area; Fawnknoll Acres, north of Hubble Road; Pebblecreek Estates, south off Dry Ridge and Westpoint Hghts. east of Pippin. The period of 1980 through 1985 saw much more building. Rosewood was developed off Bauerwood; Spirit Ridge Acres, south of Dry Ridge; Sovereign Estates, east off Colerain, just north of the Cross County Highway and Allison Heights north of Hanley Road. From 1986 to 1989 Spirit Knoll Acres and Spirit Oaks Subdivision were started north off Dry Ridge Road; Squirrels Creek, south of Hanley Road; Peachtree, west off Sheed Road; Denier Estates, north off Poole Road; Crimson Meadows, north of Struble; Deerhollow subdivision, north off Dry Ridge; Sylvan Hill, off Prechtel Road and Miami Trails in the Dunlap Road area. The early 1990's ushered in Lakehills, west off Sheed Road; Beck Ridge, south of Gaines Road; Homestead Acres in the Bevis area; Flora Run between Blue Rock and Cheviot at the southern edge of the township; Krist Ridge Estates developing off Gosling Road and Newberry Acres, north off Springdale near Poole. Most recently accepted in 1993 were the Berkshire and Northridge developments east of the Sovereign Estates area.

This has been the subdivision and population explosion in Colerain Township. The accompanying map will show when the areas developed.

River
MIAMI
EAST
MIAMI VALLEY MAINT. GARAGE
KEPLER
RIPPLE
EAGLE CREEK RD
THOMPSON
FLICK RD
BLUE ROCK RD.
RIVER
ALTHAUS RD
FORFEIT RUN RD.
LOCKWOOD HILL RD.
BLUE
MULLEN
SPRINGDALE RD
THOMPSON
WEIK RD.
DRY RIDGE RD
ROCK
SHEITS
SCULL RD.
DAY
DUNLAP
RIVER
EAST MIAMI
SCHWEITZERHOFF RD.
DALEVIEW RD
BLUE ROCK HILL RD.
OWL CREEK RD
GOSLING RD
YEATMAN RD
COLERAIN
SHEED RD
BARNSBURG
BARNSBURG RD.
BRAHM RD.
NEWBERRY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
DRY RIDGE RD
DAY RD
KEMPER RD
WEST
DUNLAP
BANK RD
STONE
RICHARDSON
MILL CREEK PRESERVE
FOREST
HUBBLE RD
WEISS RD
HANLEY RD
LIVINGSTON RD
OLD BLUE ROCK RD.
DONALD H. ROLF CIRCLE
COLERAIN
WUEST RD.
POOL RD
ROCK RD
WEST
THE VIOT RD
FARBACH-WERNER NATURE PRESERVE
STRUBLE
HUGHES RD
SPRINGDALE
I 275
I 75
I 71
27
WHITE OAK RD
BANNING RD
GALBRAITH RD
COLERAIN
GROESBECK
COMPTON RD
POTTING RD.
BUFF CREEK RD
CREST
WEST
126
PIPPIN RD
ADAMS
MILES
PIPPIN LN.
CIVIC CENTER RD.
HOUSTON RD
KEMPER
AVE.
HAMILTON
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1967

RECREATION in COLERAIN TOWNSHIP

There are many small parks and some quite large ones in Colerain Township. Some of them are the Township Parks and others belong to and are operated by Hamilton County. The oldest is COLERAIN PARK, located on Springdale Road next to the Colerain Elementary School. Its facilities include a large shelter, playground equipment, games area, all sanitary facilities and a football field leased to Northwest Schools. It was also connected with the original township Center and Garages. The Center still houses the Road Division. It was oroginally acquired in the 1930's. The smaller parks include **NEHAM** on John Gray Road; **PALM**, next to the Fire House on Springdale Road; **DRAVO** on the East Miami River Road, purchased from the Dravo Gravel Company, and used mostly for ball fields; and a larger one, **CLIPPARD PARK**, land originally used by the Clippards as an airfield. It is bounded on one side by I-275 and is entered through Dewhill Drive. This was purchase for a minimal sum from Clippards.

The Hamilton County Parks include the **NEWBERRY WILDLIFE PRESERVE** - located off Sheits Road and extending to I-275. It has 89 acres, acquired from the Newberry family in 1975. It may be visited by appointment with a naturalist. Another is the **RICHARDSON FOREST PRESERVE** between Kemper Road, Lick Road and the Butler County line. This was given by Ann Richardson in 1978 and has 162 acres. It is dedicated to the study and preservation of trees. The **TRIPLE CREEK PARK** has 136 acres located on Pippin Road, with Buell Road bisecting it. It also is bounded on the south by I-275. It has an interesting history, being part of the old Hamilton County Experimental Farm, well remembered by old-timers. It has a pond for fishing, ball fields and a physical fitness trail. It was opened in 1981, part being purchased from the developer of Murphy Homes. The oldest of the county parks - **FARBACH-WERNER** - 23 acres in the center of the township has an interesting history. It was donated in 1972 by Alfred Werner, who had married Mrs. Farbach. No additional buildings were to be added was a stipulation in the agreement. It was originally the home of David Williamson, whose house is now the headquarters, the old barn - Ellenwood - being used for many activities and programs. Many interesting activities are conducted partly by volunteers - making maple syrup in the spring and other pioneer occupations. A Williamson descendant has given original furniture for the house.

One other small, but interesting township park, located between the Senior Center and the Administration building is the **HERITAGE MEMORIAL PARK.** A gazebo housing the Bicnetennial Plaque is there; memorials to soldiers of all wars, firefighters and police; a brick walk with the names of friends and pioneers engraved on them; two finials from the old bridge over the Great Miami River on old Colerain Road and a reconditioned well are among the things to be found there.

The **COLERAIN TOWNSHIP SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER** at 4300 Springdale Road was opened in 1982. Its meeting room serves for the twice monthly Trustees meetings as well as many other activities. It is open Monday through Friday for Senior activities. Three senior groups meet there. It offers classes in painting, crafts, woodworking, stained glass, sewing and quilting. dancing and exercise groups. There are also card groups as well as field trips. The seniors do a lot of volunteer work, including delivering "meals on wheels".

The **WILLIAM & HARRIET CLIPPARD YMCA** building will be opened in January of 1994. It was started in 1984, holding programs, classes, day camps, etc. in churches, schools, banks and other facilities until money could be raised to buy property and build. The property at the corner of Poole and Cheviot Roads was acquired; outdoor swimming pools and tennis courts were built in 1989. In just ten short years the dream has become a reality.

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH - NINETEENTH into the TWENTIETH CENTURY

An early source of information is the Business Directory on the 1869 map of Colerain Township. In some cases the location isn't listed. Some of these were: J.J. Wozencraft manufactured all kinds of tin, copper and sheet iron ware; G. Kresz had a general store and saloon; C. F. Thomin had Kate Mill on the Miami River. A. B. Luse was a physician and surgeon.

In **Bevis** J. A. Bevis was the proprietor of the Mineral Springs Hotel; P. Sigreist had groceries, notions and a saloon; Henry Gulick had the Franklin Nursery; W. M. Seeley had the Bevis House.

At **Colerain**, Wm. Matson operated the Colerain Woolen Mills.

In **Dunlap** Lawrence Jacoby was a dealer in Italian bes; H. H. Hughes had Saw and Sorghum Mills.

Groesbeck - M. Luichinger had a general store; E. Y. Corson shoed horses and did blacksmithing; A. Huber manufactured wagons; Martin Barnes, Jr. had a nursery nearby.

At **Taylor's Creek** Jackson Dean made kegs and firkins; G. M. Bauer had a brewery; J. M. Seal was a stone mason; F. Althaus was a dealer in Groceries and Dry Goods; Oliver Lockwood had a fruit orchard; Wm Hester, hotel and saloon.

In **Barnesburgh** A. T. Barns was a blacksmith.

The first Hamilton County Directory published in 1887 gives a good picture of the industries existing at that time. Some very unusual ones were in existence. Wooden shoes and iron cornices; threshing machines were manufactured; a bellows maker and charcoal burners were to be found in Colerain Township.

Dunlap had the wooden shoe factory, a carriage builder, cigar maker, a printer, teamster, blacksmiths and carpenters, as well as hotal, general store and saloon; Hornung was the butcher and grocer; there was also a nursery.

Groesbeck had the galvenized iron cornice maker, a tinner, Stephen Hauser's cooperage, three carpenters, a stone mason, several bakers, a blacksmith, an expressman, a maker of boots and shoes, a wagon builder and huckster. Martin Barnes Nursery was already in existence. John Frey had a general store. Henry Wiesehahn operated a grocery, saloon and Post Office. There was a stock dealer and two physicians listed.

Pleasant Run manufactured threshing machines, had a grist mill, a blacksmith, several groceries, a printer, as well as a nursery and gardener, both operated by members of the Barnes family.

Taylor's Creek had the bellows maker (needed to operate a blacksmith shop), a painter, three butchers, a blacksmith, two stone masons, a carpenter and the Althaus Brothers Grocery.

Barnesburgh had three blacksmiths, two coopers, several carpenters, a wagon maker, a shoe maker and an auctioneer. Fridilon Gutzwiller operated the grocery. Alonzo Smith was the Tollgate Keeper.

Bevis had three chair manufacturers, a cigar maker, Christ Weigel was the charcoal burner; George W. Bosserman was a fruit grower; there was a saloon and Rev. John P. Waterhouse was listed as a physician. Colerain Township's Constable, Joseph Day lived there.

The only industry in **Creedville** seemed to be the general store operated by Emil Gutzwiller in the Tollgate..

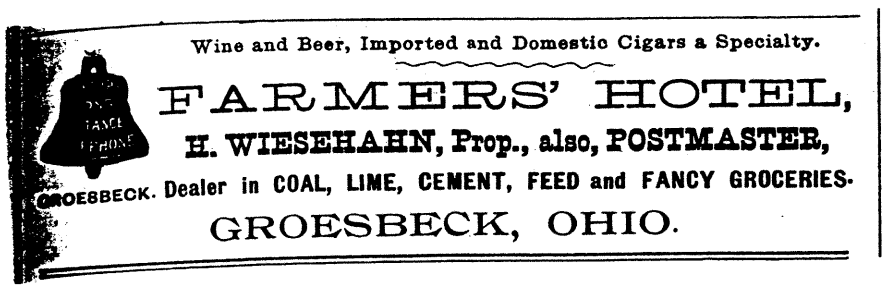
Sater, out on the East Miami River Road boasted a sawmill owned by James M. Radcliff.

Other sources of information may come from deeds, early newspapers or from diaries kept by early pioneers. From a deed it was learned that Danial Barnes and Joseph Pouder started a steam sawmill on land owned by Barnes. This was shown on the 1847 map, but the lease apparently wasn't renewed as it had disappeared by 1869. The town of Colerain at the foot of the Colerain Pike hill had, in its early days, a cotton mill, which later became a woolen mill; a carding mill; a dye house and saw mill, as well as a mill for grinding grain. Three generation of the Hughes family operated a saw mill in the Bank Lick area. There were also accounts of sorghum mills somewhere in that same locality. Along the Miami River were also many gravel pits and stone crushing operations. There also appears to have been some early building contractors. There is evidence that in 1904 the Groeseck, Barnesburg and Creedville Telephone Association was in existence. About 1850 a railroad was partially built through Colerain Township - it failed in 1855 and was never fully completed. In the early 1840's the Colerain, Oxford and Brookville Turnpike was being built. All of the heavy work was done by oxen. Large iron rollers were used. There were, also, stage coach lines started with the completion of the turnpike. There is some evidence that there were distilleries.

Giles Richards, of Colerain, operated a button factory, making buttons and saddlery ornaments for the army during the War of 1812. He also contributed money for the country's defense. James Henderson Scott lived and ran a sawmill on the East Miami River Road at the mouth of Dunlap Creek.

Jacob Kleinfelter had a wine press and pressed his neighbors' fruit and grapes on shares. His wine cellar is still in existence, but not operating. It is very probable that others, of whom we have no record, also operated wineries. This occupation was brought in by the German element settling in Colerain Township. L. Eger had a distillery down on Eagle Creek.

The 1901 Directory shows that the threshing machine business was still in existence in Pleasant Run. H. Wiesehahn's ad in it shows that he dealt in coal, lime, cement, feed and fancy groceries as well as operating FARMER'S HOTEL. His ad also shows that he had a "long distance telephone" available in his establishment. He also had the Post Office. Henry Schnittger was a cabinetmaker in Groesbeck. In Dunlap, Jacob Benzing was a blacksmith. George Hornung, Jr. kept a general store. Abram A. Hughes was a blacksmith. Anna Pottenger was a dressmaker. George Ulmer, Sr. was a shoemaker. Jacob Weyler was a painter. In Bevis George A. Wyckoff was a wagonmaker and Spencer M. Wyckoff was a blacksmith. In Creedville, Philip Butz kept the tollgate and was also the Postmaster. Aaron Huffman had the threshing machines in Pleasant Run. The 1901 Directory still shows a lot of familiar names from prior years.



The next available Directory was the 1905. In **Barnesburg** are three stone masons: Frank Battizti, Wm. Garrison and Frank Kiefler; Fred Ott was a wagon maker and John Gaiser, jr. was the blacksmith. **Bevis** had Geo. W. Matthews as the tollgate keeper on the Colerain Turnpike. It had a blacksmith - Clarence L. Craig, a painter - Jesse W. Bevis, a carpenter - Anthony Telger and a carriage painter - I. S. Wyckoff. Thos. M. Taylor was the Justice of the Peace. **Creedville** - Philip Butz was the postmaster and tollgate keeper on the Blue Rock Turnpike. There were five carpenters: Erhard and Julius Brielmaier, Henry Glassmeier, Albert Gutzwiller and Wm. Lehmkuhl. Adam Hample was a carriage trimmer and Daniel Milligan, the blacksmith. Rose and Elizabeth Stehle were dressmakers. **Dunlap** had a blacksmith - Abram A. Hughes and two carpenters - Andrew and Percy Thompson. **Groesbeck** had two carpenters: Archie and Thos. Aston; two blacksmiths: Sylvester Corson and John Gaiser, jr.; Geo. Ritsch was a wagonmaker, Geo. Rust, a tinner and John Strachle, the stone mason. E. Y. Corson, the former blacksmith, is now the Treasurer of Colerain Township. **Pleasant Run** introduces a new occupation - Elbert Huston is an electrician. Geo. Kreidenweis is a molder and Aaron Huffman is a thresher. John Hondrickson and Raymond Losa are horseshoers.

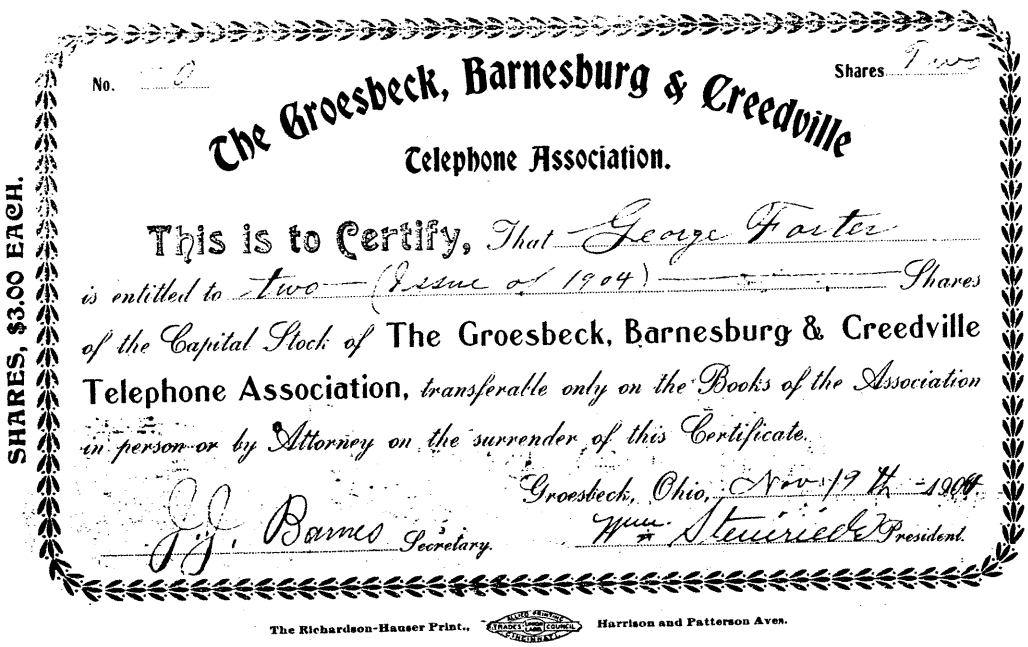
The 1909 Directory shows some changes - **Barnesburg** no longer has a post office. Its mailing address is Rural Route No. 4, Mt. Healthy. John Craig is a tinner; Geo. W. Gaiser is the blacksmith; M. B. VanPelt is a Physician and Stanley H. VanPelt is a medical student. Herbert Walsh is a Plumber. Chas. Kopp, Miami, teaches at the Barnesburg School as does Cornelia Weigel of Bevis. Mary Pouder is also a teacher. Rev. Louis Schweikert is the paster of the Barnesburg Evangelical Protestant Church. **Bevis** mail now comes out of Mt. Healthy, also. F. A. Behymer runs the Colerain Hotel. Clarence Craig is the blacksmith, John Hautz, the wagonmaker and I. S. Wyckoff is the carriage painter. Rev. E J. Arthur is the pastor of the U. B. Church. Geo. W. Matthews, a J. P. and Thos M. Taylor, notary public and teacher. **Creedville** now gets its mail through Station L, Cincinnati. Archie Aston, Geo. M. Gaiser and John Wittman are carpenters. Henry Bearmann was a tinner. Adam Hampel is a carriage trimmer. Wm. Golde raises poultry. Eva and John Schibi are tailors as also were Alma and Oscar Wissel. Chas. Stehle was a florist. Peter Schibi was also a carpenter. Geo and John Schmidt were masseurs. Rose Stehle is a dressmaker. **Dunlap** gets its mail from Mt. Healthy. H. H. Hughes is the blacksmith; Chas. and Louis Hornung are butchers. Carl and Mary Burns are teachers as was also Harry Taylor. Rev. Herman Wagner was pastor of the German U. B. Church. **Groesbeck** also gets mail through Mt. Healthy. Thos. Aston, Edward Honnert and David Stoelting were carpenters. Ernest Busch was an engineer. Martin, E. L., and J.J. Barnes had a nursery. John Gaiser was the blacksmith. Geo. Ritsch was a wagonmaker and Albert Wert, a tinner. Geneva Moore was a music teacher. John Frey had the Groesbeck Hotel and Store. Henry Wiesehahn had the Farmers' Hotel and Store. **Pleasant Run** receives mail through both Mt. Healthy and Hamilton. Aaron Huffman is still in the threshing business; Geo. Klemm is the blacksmith. Paul A. J. Huston is a notary public. Thos. Bruin is a teacher in the Pleasant Run School and Kate Voelcker is a dressmaker.

The 1911 Direstory brings a few changes. In **Barnesburg** we add the names of Leo Reis and Edward Tumey as carpenters Geo. Lehnbeuter is a stonemason. R. J. Oehler sold general merchandise. (Later the Oehlers operated the Barnesburg Inn there). All others remained the same. In **Creedville** add the name of Valentine Karcher as stonemason. Catholic Order of Forsters meets at John A. Rodler's.

Rev. J. H. Schoenfeld is pastor at St. Jacob's R. C. Church. In **Dunlap** there are only a few names to add: Nellie Dean, of Crosby, teaches at the Dunlap School Geo. and Chas. Schiering have a general store. Clarence Struble is listed as a teacher. (Clarence Strubel and Harry Taylor later played a prominent part in Colerain Township Schools). Many more changes have occurred in **Groesbeck.** Wm. Banning is listed as a nurseryman. Ada Blesi, of Mt. Airy, teaches in the Groesbeck Special School District. The O of A Colerain Council No 96 meets at J O U A M Hall. Norma Eichhorn is a milliner and Wilma Eichhorn teaches music. Laura F. Ellis has butter and eggs. Laura Gans, of College Hill, teaches at the Groesbeck School. Chas. and Edward Herrmann are machine hands. Frank Keller has the Keller Hotel (formerly owned by Henry Weisehahn). Carlton Huber is a nurseryman. J O U M Colerain Council No 26 meets at the Junior Order of United American Mechanics' Hall. John Nye is an electrician. Christopher Sautter is a butcher. Phil W Tozzer is listed as a traveling salesman. (Ed Honnert is still listed as a carpenter, although it is known that he became a prominent Building Contractor, building many of the churches and schools in the area). No changes were noted in **Pleasant Run.** In **Taylor's Creek** Rev. Chas. J. Knipper is listed as the pastor of St. Bernard Roman Catholic Church. Henry J. Schaumloeffel is a tinner. This was the last record available leading into modern industry in Colerain Township.

There were probably many businesses in the township of which we have no knowledge. There were three airports in Colerain Township. The Mt. Healthy Airport was started in 1927 by Powel Crosly, Ed Honnert, Clyde Yerkes and Al Hocsheid and others. It has been replaced by Northgate Mall. The Clippards had their own private airport on the east side of Colerain, where Clippard Park is today. The Lakewood Airport was on the west side of Pippin just north of Compton Road. Powel Crosly had a farm at Colerain and Springdale opposite the Northgate Mall. It is said that he had some kind of testing building there. One of the older present-day industries is the Schneider Home Equipment Co. on Pippin Road. They make windows, doors, screens and other equipment for buildings. They date back to the late 1930's. Procter & Gamble established their Miami Valley Laboratories on East Miami River road at the foot of old Colerain Pike hill in 1952. The Clippard Instrument Laboratory manufactures miniature valves and cylinders used in bio-medical, agricultural and textile manufacturing. It was established in 1941 and moved to its Colerain Township location at 7390 Colerain Avenue in 1951. The Southwestern Ohio Water Co. was incorporated in 1949. Their pumping station is located at 11599 East Miami River Road. The Zillig Excavating & Paving Co. started on Loretta Drive in 1948, moving to Blue Rock Road in 1960. The Grippo Foods, Inc. 6750 Colerain started producing potato chips there in 1959.The Western Home Center has an interesting history - started in 1939 in South Cumminsville as the Western Cabinet and Millwork Co. making kitchen cabinets for Sears; as a lumber company in 1949 at the corner of Earl and Colerain, where Kroger is now. In early 1950's the cabinet manufacturing facility was moved to Jonrose Avenue. In 1958 a prefab plant was built next to the cabinet plant, where trusses and wall panels were made. In 1963 offices and storage sheds were built at 7600 Colerain Avenue, now the location of the corporate offices and showrooms Renovation of the corporate office was done in 1991. Ray Evers started his welding and steel contracting business in 1957. Listed today as Evers Enterprises Inc., Evers Equipment Co. Inc. and Ray Evers Welding Co. Inc. at 4849 Blue Rock Road, Peach Grove. His office is located in the 150 year old farm house on the property. Richards Industries Metalworking Group 9070 Pippin Road at Compton It is a division of the Richards Industries, established in 1947. Techni-Fab Metal Products was aquired in 1982; Murrer Tool and Die, in 1983; Opitz Netak Products (Stamping assets only) in 1986; American Metal Finishing (polishing, finishing and buffing) in 1989; Aerospace Precision Metalworking in 1990 and Auto Sun Products, Inc. in 1991. They are involved in all types of metal working.

There was a telephone company in the early 1900's in Colerain Township of which the only record is the stock certificate pictured below. The Groesbeck, Barnesburg & Creedville Telephone Association was in existence in 1904 as attested by this certificate issued to George Foster. The Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company has no record of it and suggested it might have merged with another small company before Cincinnati Bell aquired it. The certificate is now owned by George Foster's grandson - Wm. W. Foster.



No. 2 Shares Two

SHARES, $3.00 EACH.

The Groesbeck, Barnesburg & Creedville

Telephone Association.

This is to Certify, That George Foster is entitled to Two (Issue of 1904) Shares of the Capital Stock of The Groesbeck, Barnesburg & Creedville Telephone Association, transferable only on the Books of the Association in person or by Attorney on the surrender of this Certificate.

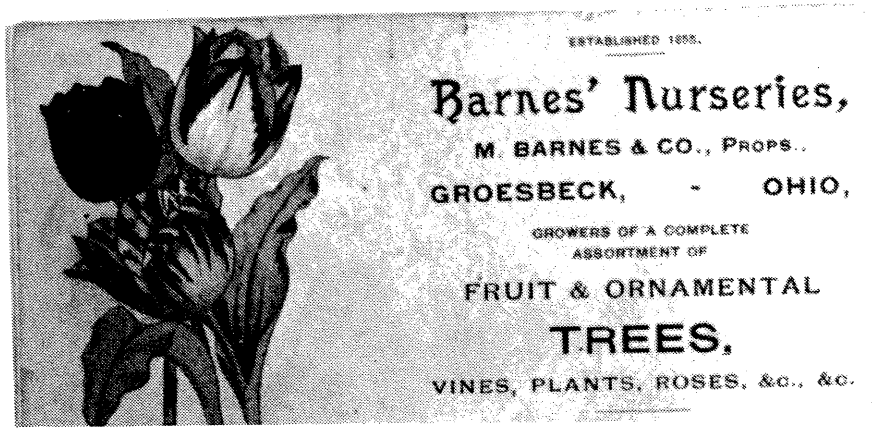
Groesbeck, Ohio, Nov 17 th 1904

E. J. Barnes Secretary. Wm. Steinriede President.

The Richardson-Hauser Print., Harrison and Patterson Aves.

Northgate Mall first opened its doors in September 1972. It occupies the site of the old Mt. Healthy Airport and was considered at that time as "one of the largest and most modern shopping centers in the country" which was expected to "change the shopping habits in the area." It underwent some renovation in 1988. A major expansion was begun in the fall of 1992 including (1) addition of a Lazarus department store, new food court and some 30 new stores, (2) renovated interior - new floors, lighting, planters and benches; (3) renovation of existing stores; (4) a three-story parking garage.

It has four department stores - Lazarus, McAlpin's, J.C. Penney and Sears. In addition there are about 135 shops, restaurants and services. The new food court seats 470. The parking lot and garage has room for more that 5,200 cars. Cincinnati Ewing Industries was the original developer of Northgate. The grand re-opening was held in October of 1993.



ESTABLISHED 1855.

Barnes' Nurseries,

M. BARNES & CO., PROPS.,

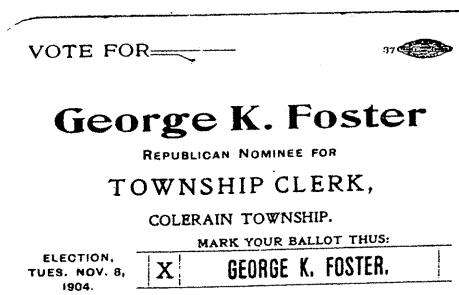
GROESBECK, - OHIO,

GROWERS OF A COMPLETE ASSORTMENT OF

FRUIT & ORNAMENTAL

TREES,

VINES, PLANTS, ROSES, &c., &c.



VOTE FOR

George K. Foster

REPUBLICAN NOMINEE FOR

TOWNSHIP CLERK,

COLERAIN TOWNSHIP.

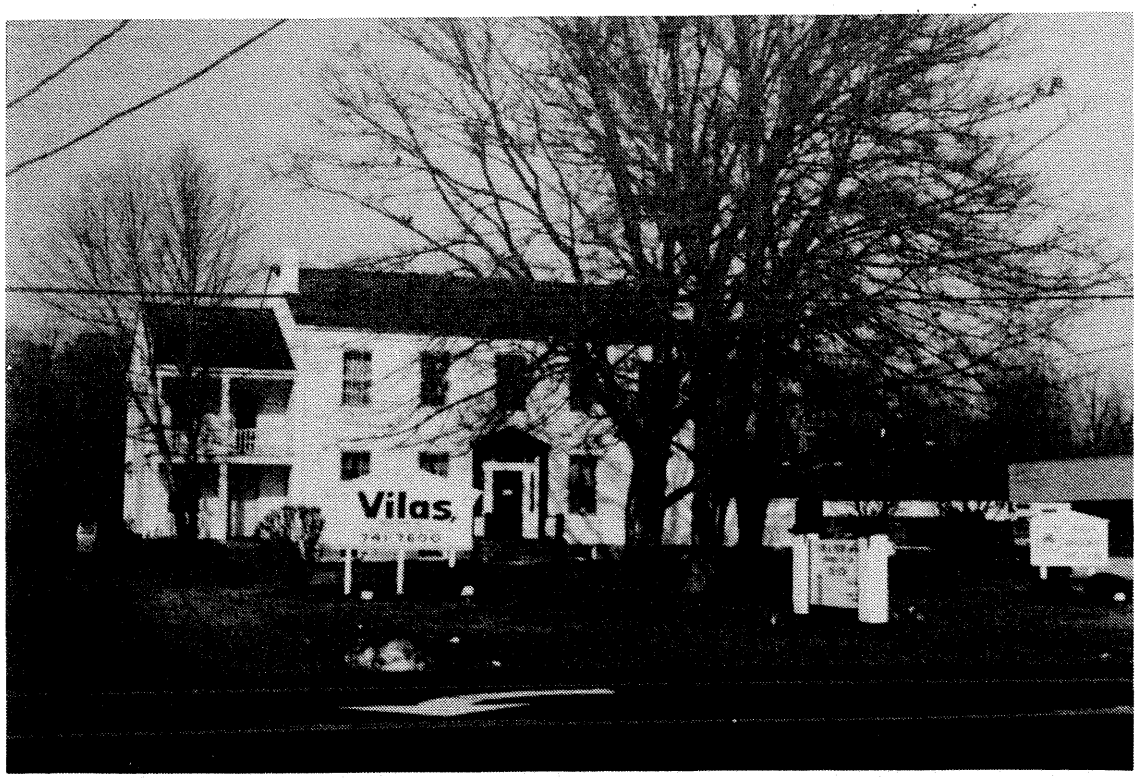
MARK YOUR BALLOT THUS:

ELECTION, TUES. NOV. 8, 1904.

X GEORGE K. FOSTER.

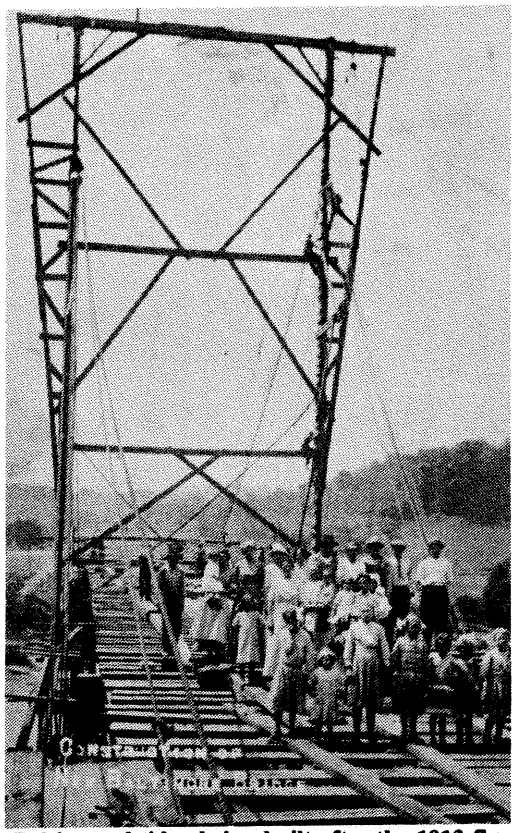
Colerain Township has the only vineyard and winery in Hamilton County due to a man's plans and hard work. A hundred and fifty years ago vineyards and wineries existed in the Taylor's Creek area. If you look carefully the terracing can be identified today. The Vinoklet Winery & Vineyard at 11069 Colerain is the result of a man's dream. Kreso Mikulic came here from Croatia in 1968. He brought with him a rich tradition of wine making. In 1980 he started clearing the hillsides of his Colerain Township farm and planting his grape vines. He makes his own wines - La Dolce Vita, Dreamer, Sunset Blush and Tears of Joy are among his offerings. This is a unique addition to the industries of Colerain Township.

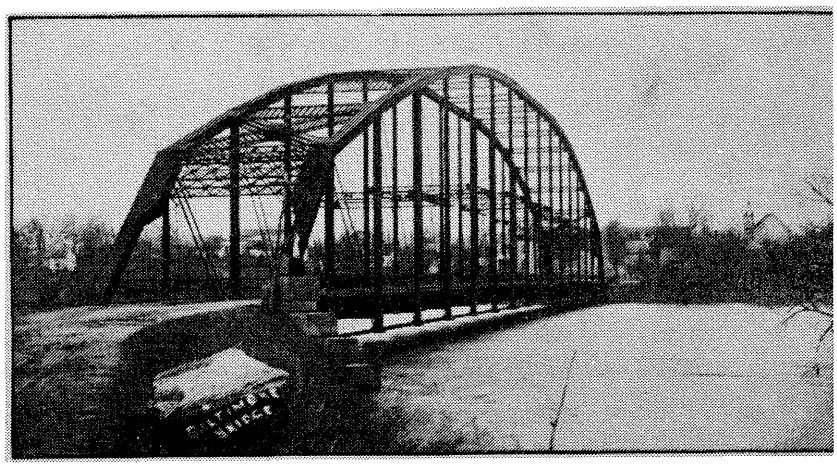
Another unusual business is that of Rumpke Consolidated, Inc. It owns the largest landfill in Ohio. Tom and his cousin Bill Rumpke are the owners. The landfill has grown to such a height that it is locally referred to as "Mt. Rumpke." It provides methane gas to the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Co. Its history starts in the 1930's with William Rumpke, Sr. operating a hog farm on that site and accepting garbage from his neighbors to feed the hogs. In 1956 he created Rumpke Brothers, Inc. with his brother Barney to collect and landfill trash. In 1966 their sons, Tom and Bill, formed the Container Service to get into industrial and commercial collection. They recycle glass, plastic, paper, aluminum and metal cans, tires and many others. It is amazing to know how many things we use today are manufactured from recycled materials.



An interesting example of history being preserved in the busiest of places. The old Samuel Hardin home on Springdale Road opposite Northgate Mall built about 1841. The house has been restored and the entire interior carefully preserved - thanks to a thoughtful owner.

Some victims of the 1913 flood - the New Baltimore bridge being built after the flood had destroyed the old one. Wood's Ferry served the residents while it was being built. Also the "Hole in the Wall Saloon" on Blue Rock Road was another casualty.

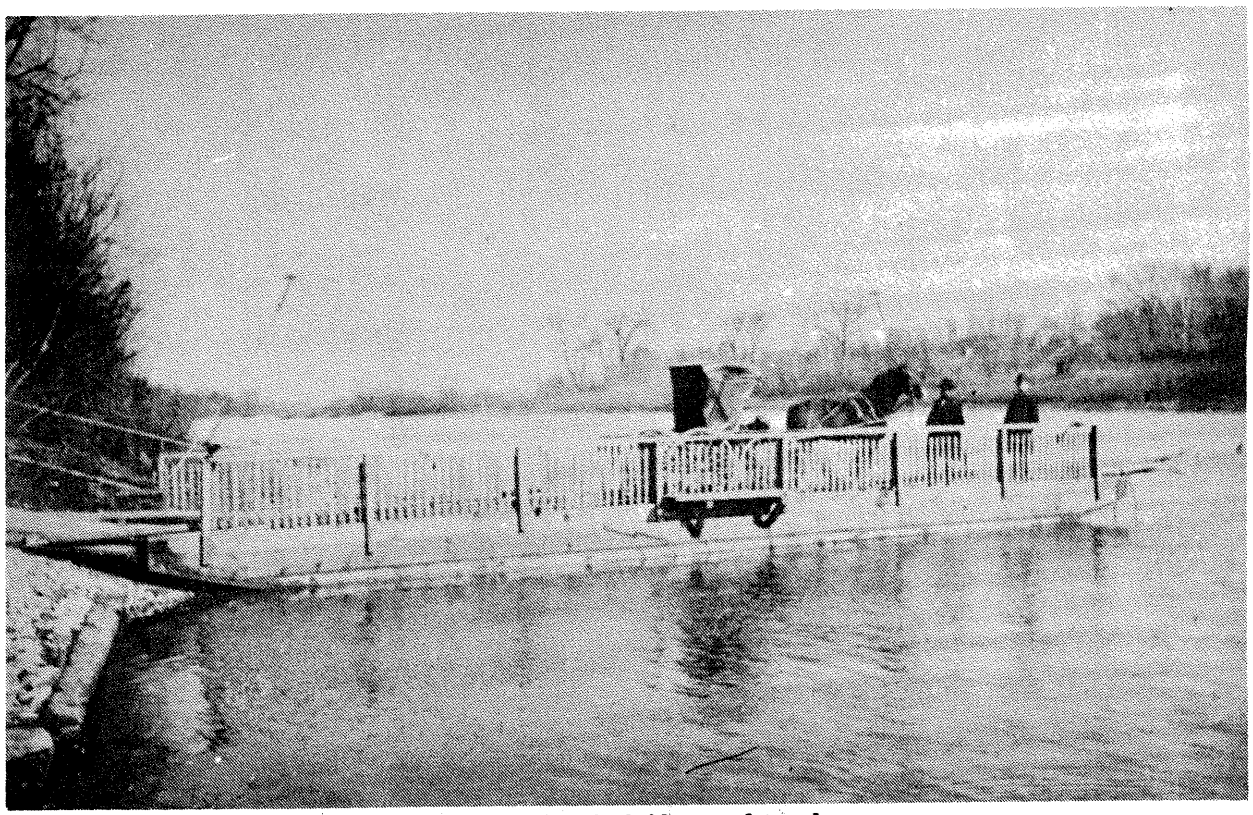




New Baltimore bridge being built after the 1913 flood.

Wood's Ferry replacing the New Baltimore Bridge. Frank Engel with white and black team. John Flick with horse and buggy. Henry McCreadie with bib overalls roping ferry across.

The "Hole in the Wall Saloon", Blue Rock, east side, between Flick and Lockwood Hill Roads in 1911 when Samuel Snyder, former township trustee, purchased it. (Sam Snyder middle of the top row). The saloon was destroyed by the 1913 flood.



The ferry used in 1893 after the bridge was burned.

"FIRST" FAMILIES OF COLERAINE

The first settlement in what is now Colerain Township was made sometime prior to April 30, 1790. In a letter to Jonathan Dayton on that date, John Cleves Symmes reported: "We have established three new stations some distance up in the country, one is twelve miles up the Big Miami (Coleraine or Dunlap's Station), the second is five miles up Mill creek (Ludlow's Station) and the third is nine miles back in the country from Columbia (Covalt's Station on the Little Miami River)."

Very little is known about these "first" families. Stephen Decator Cone in Indian Attack on Fort Dunlap says: "There were on the north side of the fort, Horn, McDonald, Barrott and Barkit (Bergit), with their families, and on the south side, White, with his family and Mcdonald, whose family was not at the station; all of whom were busy at their clearings during the day, but sought the shelter of the fort in the evenings."

Ford's History of Hamilton County (1881) does not list any of the settlers, but refers to John Dunlap as one of Symmes' confidential surveyors, who was inclined to land speculation. He set stakes down in the bend of the Great Miami, surveyed off a town site and offered lots for sale. He made some sales, cabins were erected, a fortified station built and other improvements made. However, he had no valid title and his settlers lost both their land and the money they had paid to Mr. Dunlap. Ford lists the first township officers in 1794 as John Dunlap, clerk; Samuel Campbell, constable; John Shaw, overseer of the poor; Isaac Gibson, Samuel Cresswell and John Davis, viewers of enclosurers and appraisers of damages.

Nelson's History of Hamilton County (1894) gives this list of inhabitants of Coleraine or Dunlap's Station: Thomas Larison; Martin Burkhardt; Michael and Nicholas Lutz; John, David and William Crum; David and Isaac Gibson; John Young; Samuel Carswell; James Barratt and Michael Hahn.

West to Ohio, by Alta Heiser, has information on another member of the Dunlap Station pioneers - Mrs. Margaret Ewing was living with Gen. Wm. Henry Harrison's wife during the War of 1812. She had been Margaret McDonald, in the Station during the Indian attack - her task being to mold bullets. She told thrilling stories to the Harrison children.

Lt. Kingsbury's report to Gen. Harmar after the attack states that they had been surrounded by 200 Indians, who killed the cattle, burned all buildings outside the fort and destroyed the crops. One soldier, McVicar, was wounded during the attack. The siege lasted twenty-five hours, during which time Abner Hunt, captive of the Indians, was cruelly tortured to death.

Others known to have been in the Station were James Barrett, James Brady, Sylvester White, Henry Whitinger, Angus McDonald, Thomas Larrison, Whilliam Crum and John Thompson.

What hardships these brave pioneers endured to begin the settlement of Colerain Township. We owe thanks to all those who followed them to make the Township the place it is today.

PIONEER PROFILES

THE RICHARDS-GILBERT FAMILY

The **Richards** family was one of the most important of the pioneer families in Colerain Township. The little town of **Coleraine** was established in the early 1800's on the Great Miami River on both sides of the East Miami River Road at the foot of old Colerain Pike hill. Various mills and businesses were in existence there before 1820. In 1819 David Stone built a cotton mill there which he sold to Timothy S. Goodman and Giles Richards in 1821 along with a grist mill and a sawmill. Richards was in charge of operations, while Goodman furnished the capital. From 1822 to 1835 Giles Richards operated the Colerain Flouring Mill, the Colerain Cotton Mill, the Fulling and Carding Mill, Dye House, Saw Mill and The Giles Richards Store Concern. He built dwelling houses for his workers, the houses being described as two-story, each large enough to house five or six families. From what has been learned about Coleraine, which is non-existent, the town was operated in the same manner as some mining towns were - dependent upon Giles Richards.

Richards acted as agent for the various activities of the company, but the store and sawmill were his own enterprises. Articles of Association for the Colerain Cotton Mill were signed in 1822, for the purpose of manufacturing cotton yarn, machinery, erection of buildings, etc. T. S. Goodman, Amos Adams Richards and Giles Richards being Trustees. Giles retired in 1835, but continued to own an interest in the cotton mill until 1852.

Giles Richards was very public spirited and was connected with many activities in the Township. He was the driving force in getting the Colerain, Oxford & Brookville Turnpike built and was its president. He was also president of the Venice Bridge Company and held stock in the Cincinnati Western Railroad. He was also responsible for the unique watering trough on old Colerain Pike hill as a gift to the people of the Township.

The founder of this family, Thomas Richards arrived in Hartford, Connecticut and founded one of the important families in New England. In 1754 his great grandson, Abijah Richards' second son, Giles, was born. He married Sally Adams in 1789; and founded Richards and Co., manfacturing cotton and woolen cards. Three of their sons were Giles, Amos Adams and Charles. Giles and Amos Adams came to Cincinnati in 1816, being joined by Charles a few years later. They manufactured carding machinery.

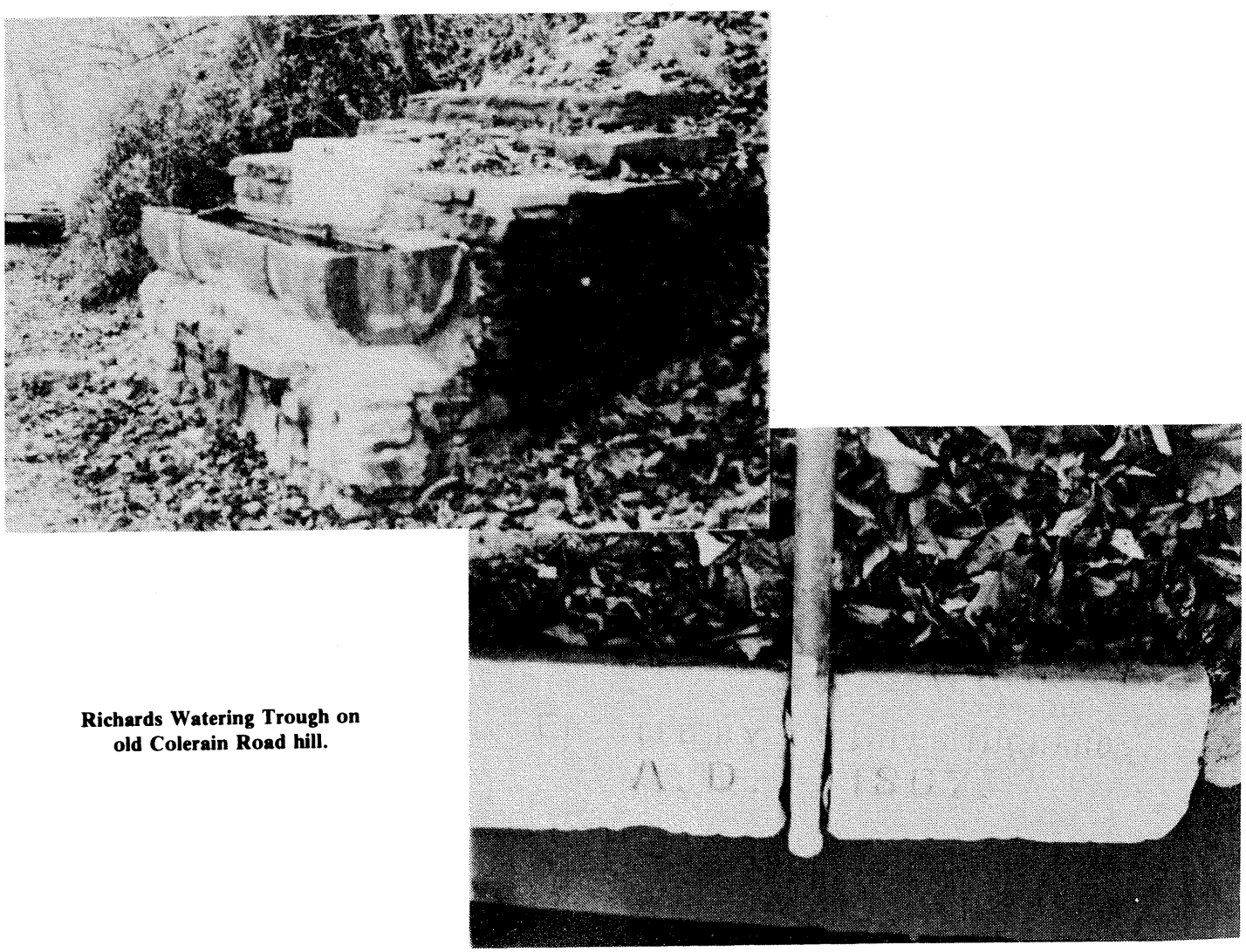
In 1820 Giles married Eleanor Lloyd. Three of their children were born in the log house in Coleraine. In 1828 he bought the "Stone Mill" farm from the estate of Joel Williams. Here they lived in another log cabin until 1832 when "Elland" was built.

Alfred West Gilbert was born in Philadelphia in 1816, son of Joseph and Sarah Gilbert, who were Quakers. They came to Cincinnati in 1826, where for a time Joseph worked for Nicholas Longworth caring for the grounds of what is now the Taft Museum. Later they lived on a small truck farm near Covington. Alfred became interested in surveying and was sent to the Cincinnati College. In 1838 he was a rodman in the survey of the Licking River. The following year he was put in charge of building the Colerain, Oxford & Brookville Turnpike. He lived in Colerain Township amd became active in Township meetings. In the fall of 1840 he was appointed Chairman of Resolutions at a meeting held in Bevis Tavern. It was at that time he met the daughter of Giles Richards, who later became his wife. They were married at "Elland" May 17, 1848.

The City Council of Cincinnati in 1849 appointed Gilbert as City Surveyor, later as Civil Engineer. His job required preparation of plans for Engine Houses, Market Houses, etc. He became interested in constructing buildings entirely of iron. He planned and built the Findlay Market House, a Cincinnati landmark still used today. He established a waterworks system, as well as a general system of sewerage for the city.

In 1861 he entered the army and became a Colonel. He was wounded in 1862 and was discharged. When he was able to travel, his wife came to take him back home. In 1863 he resumed his duties as Civil Engineer for Cincinnati. His accomplishments were many and the city honored him by naming Gilbert Avenue for him. In 1873 ill health forced him to resign and he retired to Elland where he occupied himself supervising the farm. He lived until 1900 when he died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. E. J. Carpenter. He was laid to rest with the other members of his family in the little family cemetery at Elland. An iron column in the center of the little burying ground, one of the iron rollers used to build the Colerain, Oxford & Brookville Tuenpike, is a fitting memorial to him. Several shares of the turnpike stock were placed in a bank in Hamilton to provide funds for the care of the cemetery.

Colerain Township has reason to be proud of the accomplishments of this pioneer family and should, accordingly, honor them.



Richards Watering Trough on old Colerain Road hill.

EARLY SETTLERS FROM CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY

In a letter written by **OLIVER W. GOGIN** to his sister, Mary, we learn something of several of these families: "In the record of our family I find that our parents, Thomas and Sarah **GOGIN**, emigrated from Cape May, N. J., in the year 1805. Coming down the Ohio River, they, by the request of Major Stites first landed at Columbia, at that time a rival for the great city that was expected to show up on the banks of the Ohio. Afterwards, meeting with their old friends, Matthias Denman and Israel Ludlow, they came to Cincinnati, a village of one thousand people. The prospect not being encouraging at that place, father removed to Milford, on the Little Miami River, and there built the first hewed log house in that settlement, using for nails in the building half-inch three-cornered wooden pins.

According to the records in the old family Bible - now almost one hundred years old - in that log house you were born, on the 16th day of December A. D. 1806, being the first white child born in the settlement. In that same year the Methodists built their first church in Cincinnati - the old stone church, now Wesley Chapel, and in the early days our parents met there to worship." This was written December 16, 1891 in honor of her eighty-fifth birthday.

On the 11th of December, 1823, **Mary Gogin** married Benjamin Runyan, a carpenter, son of Esq. John Runyan, a pioneer of Colerain Township. Eight children were born to them: John, Furman H., Solomon B., Thomas J., Martha, Sarah, Mary and Oliver N. When Mary Gogin died in 1901, three were surviving - Sarah Laboyteaux, Mary Jones and Oliver N. Runyan.

In 1840 Benjamin and Mary Runyan, Enoch and Mary Ann Gogin, became members of the Christian Church at Mt. Pleasant. Benjamin Runyan died in 1842 leaving Mary Gogin Runyan a widow. In 1855 she married Parmenus Corson of Colerain Township. He was a leading member of the U. B. Church which she joined. When Parmenus Corson died in 1873 she returned to her old home in Mt. Healthy, which Benjamin Runyan had built in 1829, and lived with her daughter Sarah Laboyteaux.

The Corson family were also pioneers from Cape May. Parmenus Corson was born there in 1793. His first wife was Abigail Stevenson and their children Swain Corson, 1827 and Parmenus Corson, Jr., born in 1837. Abigail died in 1855 and is buried in the old U. B. Cemetery at Springdale and Gaines.

Swain Corson became a U. B. minister, serving at New Haven, Ohio, from 1860-1862. He married Amanda Davis about 1850. Their children were Sylvester, born 1851, marrying Alice Cleighton; Sarah, 1853, who married Jacob Schwing; Emma, 1862, married William Jamison. Less is known about Parmenus Corson, Jr., born 1837, married Harriet ----, and had Charles Corson, born 1859 and Mary, born 1860.

The Davis family were also were early settlers in Colerain Township. John A. Davis, born 1807, married Rachael --- and had William, born 1831; Sarah, born 1834; Mariah, born 1837, Eliza, born 1842, John, born 1845 and Mary, 1849

Benjamin Davis, 1808, married Mary Corson and had Almeda, 1836, Harriet, 1838, Parmenus, 1841, Serepta and Samantha, 1845 and John in 1848. Parmenus married Catherine ___ and Serepta Davis married William Johnson.

Samuel Davis, 1810, married Elizabeth Duvall and had John, 1838, William, 1844, Samuel P. Davis in 1851, who married Catherine Willsey, and Amanda Jane Davis, 1853, married John H. Willsey; also Sylvester, 1855, and Esther A. Davis in 1857.

These families lived mostly in the Peach Grove area of Colerain Township.

THE HATT FAMILY

Another pioneer is **John Hatt.** Members of this family were united by marriage with other early settlers: When the school districts were set up in 1827 John and Joseph V. Hatt were listed in District No. 1, in the southeast corner of the Township. This included the **West Union** or **Groesbeck** area.

John Van Doran Hatt was born in 1761, possibly in New Jersey, for he married **Mary Stout** in Hopewell, New Jersey in 1789. It is believed that they came with the group of Comptons, Stouts, Runyans and others who arrived in Colerain Township in 1796. Mary (Stout) Hatt was the daughter of Benijah and Elizabeth (Hyde) Stout. John Hatt's name appears on some of the early records of Colerain Township, signing a petition for alteration in Blue Rock Road in 1839.

Children of John and Mary Hatt were Lewis, Benijah, Joseph, Altia, Orrimina, Sarah Ann, Charles and Nancy. Lewis, born 1789, married Elizabeth Jones in 1809. A Lewis Hatt appears on the first membership roll of the White Oak Christian Church. The same records show a Catherine Hatt dying in 1849 - her tomb stone in the old Olive Branch grave yard shows her age as 45, wife of Lewis Hatt. Is she possibly a second wife or wife of a son Lewis? In Weslyan Cemetery is a Lewis Hatt, who died in 1862 aged 73 years - most probably John's son. In the same lot is Sarah Ann, aged 20, died 1852, probably his daughter. The father, **John V. D. Hatt,** died in 1833.

Elizabeth (Jones) and **Lewis Hatt** had Kenneth, John J., William, Elizabeth, Mary Lewis, Nancy, Sarah Ann and James Hatt... **John J. Hatt**, born 1812 in Barnes burg and died there in 1863. He married Hannah Stout, daughter of Joseph of Dayton, Ohio, where they were married in 1833. They had six children: Joseph S. (1834-1837), Amanda (18837), Joseph (1839-1840), George W. (1843), Martin V. (1846) and Alice (1848).

Benijah Stout Hatt (1791-1833) in 1813 married **Ann Monfort**, daughter Peter H. and Sarah Monfort and came to Colerain Township. After his death Ann married John Ammerman in 1837. John was appointed guardian of Asa Banning's children. Peter H. Monfort appears in the heads of households in School District 2 in 1827, so apparently the Monfot family came west at the same time as Benijah S. Hatt.

Benijah's son, **Aaron Stout Hatt**, born 1815, married Mary Greeley in 1834. Their eight children were: Isadora (1840) married Herman Corzatt; Eugene (1848) wed Hannah Corzatt in 1871; Charles Emlach (1853) married Caroline Pelle. Four of the children died with cholera. The account of Aaron's death is a strange one - he went to New Orleans to do some carpenter work. In 1853 he started back. His tools were found on the boat, but his body was never recovered.

1 **POUDER FAMILY**

One family prominent for many years in Colerain Township were the Pouders. This family originated in Maryland. The first to come to Hamilton County was **Samuel John Pouder**, born 1804 in Maryland, came with the family in 1817, first coming to Columbus, Ohio by wagons. After a time they moved into Cincinnati, then to a farm in Colerain Township. In 1829 he married Hannah Giffin, daughter of James and Margaret Giffin, who lived on a farm on Galbraith, then called Giffin Road. Samuel and his family lived on his father's Colerain Township farm until his death in 1870. Hannah died in 1879 and both are in Spring Grove Cemetery. His farm is said to have been a part of the Underground Railroad, helping slaves escape. Their children were Elizabeth (1830-1859), who married William Bolivar Collier. Elizabeth was a member of the White Oak Christian Church and is buried in the old Olive Branch Cemetery on Blue Rock Road. Next came John (1831-1864), who died in the Civil War; George (1835-1920) married Harriet Giffin; Harriet (1841-1931) married Charles West, Jr.. The youngest, Mary Jane (1845-1924) was the wife of William B. Collier, her sister's widower. After his death she married Alonzo Smith.

George and Harriet (Giffin) Pouder lived on the old John Pouder farm until about 1870 when it was divided among the heirs. His share was 27½ acres, after which he moved into Barnesburg. They had seven children. John (1874) worked in the Cincinnati Post Office. Harriet Ann, George William and Hannah Etta (1891-1912) all died in California, unmarried. Harvey Wilson Pouder (1887) married Corinna Mennefee, born 1890 in New Haven. Their only child, Ruth (Pouder) Wright (1916) lives in California and furnished much of the information on the family.

Harriet and Charles West, Jr., had two children. Hannah who was married first to Wm. R. Casper (1857-1917) and second to Jackson T. Rhyno, who died in 1943. She had no children. The second daughter, Cora (1877- ?) married Philip Tozzer in 1900. They had two children: Charles West Tozzer (1902-1927) married Bertha Rodler of Groesbeck and Philip Milton Tozzer born 1906, married Mildred Shaw, of Ross, Ohio in 1931. They have two children who live in this area.

Mary Jane Pouder (1845-1924) married William Bolivar Collier in 1861. He was the first mayor of Ellicott City, Maryland. They had four children, one of whom is a member of the Coleraine Historical Society. After his death in 1896 she returned to Colerain Township and lived on her grandfather's farm which she had received as her share of his estate. In 1903 she married Alonzo Smith born 1825 in Otsego Co., New York and died in Colerain Township in 1907. He was a first cousin to President James A. Garfield.

Margaret Pouder (1806-1864) married William Hubbard in 1827. They moved to Hannibal, Missouri in 1842. William was the son of Thomas Hubbard, Sr., born 1780 in North Carolina, coming to Ohio in 1807 and to Colerain Township in 1818. Thomas, who died in 1852, and his wife Elizabeth ___ (1790-1868) were the parents of 21 children. The first two, William and Charles, moved to Hannibal.

It is believed that the origin of this family is from the French Huguenots. During the persecution some lines went to England and Ireland, others to Belgium and Germany. Those who came to Maryland were of the German branch. They brought with them a German bible, printed in 1598 and Jacob Leonard Pouder signed his will in German in 1776. His wife was Margaret Boone (beleived to be related to Daniel Boone).

John Pouder, son of Jacob and Margaret (Boone) Pouder, was born in Maryland in 1765 and died in Ohio in 1837. In 1802 he married Elizabeth Kniselley, born in Maryland. In 1817 they came to Columbus, Ohio, coming to Cincinnati the next year. They traded Cincinnati property for a section of land located on Blue Rock Road in Colerain Township. John was a carpenter and is said to have built the first frame house in the area. The first meeting of the Methodist Church was believed to have been held on the porch of this house. (Could this have been the Olive Branch, of which no records exist, but was definitely in that area?) He died in 1837 and Elizabeth in 1834. There is no record of their graves, but it seems probable that they may have been interred in the old Olive Branch Cemetery.

This interesting family was for many years a part of the history of the Barnesburg area. There are many connections by marriage with other old Colerain Township and area families. Like many other pioneer families their descendants have moved westward. Fortunately many of these offspring like to remember their roots in Colerain Township and, to do so, have become members of the Coleraine Historical Society. Thanks to Ruth Wright, who is one of them.

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WILLSEY FAMILY

Another Early Colerain Township Family

First members of this family came from Holland and were among Dutch, French and Walloons who came to establish "New Amsterdam" (the New York city of today). The Henry Willsey who came to Colerain Township in 1819 was of the fifth generation of this family who cane to America in the 1620's. He was born October 7, 1776 in Dutchess County, New York. His wife, Margaret Demsey, was born December 27, 1779. They came with eight children and son John, with wife Diania Humphrey. A farm of 53 acres was purchased on Eagle Creek Road, later John and son, Henry, bought 60 acres adjoining. This Willsey family and their descendants have lived on this same adreage for over 150 years.

After Henry Willsey died in 1836 and was buried in the family cemetery his oldest son, John Henry Willsey, remained on the farm. Of the other three sons, , Mark returned to New York, Peter settled in Illinois, and Isaac went to Iowa.

The old pioneer, Henry Willsey and wife Margaret, had John Henry, Catherine, Lovina, Mark, Eliza, Peter, Phoebe, Isaac, Abraham (who died before they left New York), and Margaret. The children of John Henry and Diania Willsey were Amey, William, Henry, Hiram, Mary Jane, Margaret, John, Olevia, Peter. Minerva. Ann, and Samuel.

John's son, William, born November 5, 1820, married Sarah Slingsby, born November 22, 1822. Their children were Minerva, Emeline, John, Catherine, Olevia, Thomas, Diana, Amey, Samuel, William, and Sarah. Son, Henry, born November 19, 1822, married Hannah Jane (Coy) Ogle, a young widow, born September of 1825. Their children were John, Cornelia, Ann, Diana, Elizabeth, Lida, and William. Many of them rest today in the little family cemetery on Eagle Creek Road. This information was furnished by Mary Jane Willsey Sefton, the great-great-great grandaughter of Henry and Margaret Willsey.

BARNESBURGH AND THE BARNES FAMILY

Many of the village and road names in Colerain Township come from the names of early settlers in the area. Barnesburgh is one such example. The Barnes family were early pioneers in Section 13 in the southern part of the township. They had land not far from Blue Rock Road which was one of the very early roads leading to the Great Miami River. One account states that Abraham and Catherine Barnes came from Kentucky about 1808 with their children. An early Common Pleas Court record of November 17, 1817 says that Abraham Barnes was deceased; Daniel Isgrigg, Administrator; Michael Isgrigg and John Barnes gave security. The same court on April 5, 1819 appointed Catherine Barnes guardian of Daniel, 18, Stephen, 15, Michael, 12, Martin, 10, Cartmer, 8, Anna, 7, Jackson, 5, and Harrison, 2, children of Abraham Barnes, deceased. When the school districts were established in 1827, Daniel and John Barnes were heads of households in District #4 in Barnesburgh. On October 15, 1845 Daniel Barnes entered into partnership with Joseph Pouder to build a Steam Saw Mill on Daniel Barnes' land on the north line of Section 13. The lease was for ten years with an option to renew. The Saw Mill site is shown on the 1847 map of Colerain Township, but was no longer there on the 1869 map.

Another source of information are the records of the White Oak Christian Church which was established in 1848 with Daniel Barnes as one of the trustees and also a deacon. His mother, Catherine, widow of Abraham, may have remarried, as there is a marriage record of Catherine Barns and William Sparkson?? (Sparks) on December 26, 1820 performed by I. Sparks, Justice of the Peace. A Catherine Sparks is on the early list of members. She also shows on the 1869 map owning 15 acres next to Daniel Barnes land in the southern part of Section 14. Other Barnes names on the 1848 membership list are: Michael, Alvey, Eleanor, Sarah, Julia Ann, Ivena, Hetty Ann, Eliza, Asnath, Arey, John, Sarah, Catherine, Jr., Charlotte, Sarah, Lewis, Mary Ann, Nancy Jane, Solomon and Eliza. In September of 1848 Samuel J. Pouder gave a half acre of land for a church and cemetery on what is now Galbraith Road. The church prospered and membership grew until 1887, when, needing more room, Martin and Stephen Barnes gave the land including the Barnes family cemetery on Blue Rock Road where the church is located today

The census records for Colerain Township also give some help. In 1840 Michael, Stephen, David, Martin and John appear. The 1850 census gives a little more information: Martin Barnes, 41, born Ohio; Harrison, 59?? (23?) born Ohio; and Mikel? (Michael) 39, born Ohio. The 1860 gives Hiram, 29, cooper; Solomon, 29, farmer; Andrew, 23, cooper; Alfred, 23, cooper; Martin, 31, cooper; Martin, 51??, farmer - all born in Ohio; Michael, 53, born Kentucky, farmer; also a Barcus, with wife Julia Ann (widow of Barnes) and four Barnes children. The 1880 census gives still more information. Stephen Barnes, 76, fruit grower, born Kentucky, both parents born in Virginia; Michael, 36, laborer, born Ohio, father in Kentucky; Mary A., 48, born Ohio; Ascenith, 62, widow, born Illinois; Nathan (Elnathan) 48, born Ohio, father in Kentucky; Martin, Jr., 51, farmer & nurseryman, born Ohio, father, Kentucky; Alexander, 42, nurseryman, born Ohio, father Kentucky; Alfred, 42, born Ohio; and Abraham, 61, cooper, born Ohio, father in Kentucky.

The old church cemetery on Galbraith Road has some of the Barnes family there. Elizabeth A., wife of A. T., died 24 Nov. 186(9?) age 33; May, dau. of Martha A., d. 19 Feb 1858, 8 mo. 20 d.; George, son of Alv. T. & Eliza, b. &

d. 1850; Eliza, wife of Alv. T., b. 11 Mar 1830, d. 17 Feb 1859; Susan, wife of Martin, d. 6 Mar 1857, aged 44; Daniel (eldest son of Abraham & Catherine) d. 14 Jan 1864 in the 64th year of his age; Caroline, dau. of Daniel and Sarah, d. 23 Dec 1864, aged 21; G. Avery, son of Daniel and Sarah, d. 28 May 1867, aged 22; Harrison, son of A. B. and Mary, 13 Feb 1876, aged 7 mo. 18 days.

In the Barnes family cemetery, next to the present day White Oak Christian Church are: Stephen, b. 9 Mar 1804, d. 23 Jun 1884 and Henrietta Pine, wife of Stephen, b. 12 Aug 1807, d. 24 Dec 1890 (same stone); Elizabeth N., d. 30 Jun 1878, age 35; Allen, d. 28 Nov 1874, aged 34; Mary, b. 18 May 1826, d. 23 Jan 1848, dau. of S. & H. Barnes; Napoleon, b. 2 Apr 1812, d. 9 Nov 1842, son of S. & H. Barnes; Martin, Sr., b. 9 Nov 1808, d. 28 Jan 1892; Hulda (1858-1924); Ella (1875-1938); El Nathan (1832-1895); Martha Ann (1833-1905); and Harrison, d. 4 Mar 1878, aged 61 y., 3m., 12 days.

Civil War records hold more information. Hetty Ann Barnes, early member of the White Oak Christian Church, married Edward Lazarus Pine, the church clerk, on Dec. 6, 1855. They had two daughters, Sarah Jane Pine, b. 31 Jan 1857 and Ellanora, b. in 1859. In 1863 Edward L. Pine enlisted in the 50th Ohio Volunteers and became a 1st Lieut. He was wounded in the Battle of Nashville and died in the hospital there 7 Feb 1865. Hetty Ann died Dec. 12, 1869 and little Ellanora died in 1871 (buried in the old church cemetery on Galbraith Road). Sarah Jane (Jenny) was the only surviving decendant of Hetty Ann and Edward L. Pine. She married Edward Coulter Foster on September 10, 1875. They had two sons: George Keith Foster, who was born Oct. 19, 1876 and Edward Thomas Foster, born Oct 4, 1879. George K. had only one child, a son, Robert. Edward also had only one child, Jean Foster. Robert had two children: William W. Foster (Trustee in the Coleraine Historical Society) and Barbara Sue Foster. Sarah Jane Foster died in March of 1941 and is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

The first directory of Hamilton County published in 1887 lists Thos. J. Barnes, teacher, in Bevis; Alex Barnes, florist, Martin Barnes, nurseryman, and Mrs, Stephen Barnes, widow living in Groesbeck; Albert, nursery, Elmer and Millard, gardeners, lived in Pleasant Run; residents of the township not in villages or towns follow with post office addresses: Mrs. Alex Barnes, widow, Henrietta Barnes, Martin Barnes, Jr., nursery, and Mrs. Solomon Barnes, widow, Groesbeck Post Office; Acenith, widow, Charlotte, Emma, George, carpenter, Hugh, farm hand, Martha A., Martin, Sr., farmer, Mary Ann, widow, and Nathan Barnes, carpenter, were in the Barnesburgh P.O.; Ann Barnes, widow, in Taylors Creek; Aaron, laborer, George, laborer, and Michael Barnes, farmer, Creedville.

An interesting obituary was published in the Cincinnati Enquirer on May 20, 1959. Mrs. Emma (Aston) Barnes was buried on what would have been her 101st birthday. "Mrs. Barnes was born on the farm of her father, John Bell Aston, which was located at Van Zandt (Galbraith) Rd. and Colerain Pike near Groesbeck. A son said she could remember a time when Morgan's Raiders took six of her father's horses for use in their Civil War campaigns. The horses were returned after the war she had told him. One of her ancestors founded the community of Barnesburgh near White Oak, and a brother Edward Spencer Aston was a noted Cincinnati attorney and a classmate of William Howard Taft. Her husband, the late Joseph Barnes, died in 1903".

This is a far from complete genealogy of this interesting family, which has decendants living in the Cincinnati area today. It is interesting to note what influence a family has on the history and development of an area such as Colerain Township.

1 **THE CLOUD FAMILY**

The Bank Lick area of Colerain Township holds the story of an interesting family and their home known as "Cloudland" -destroyed by fire in 1935. The only remaining trace of them being the little family cemetery where the members of the family are buried. The farm was a large one, part of the land extending into Butler County.

The Cloud family originated in Virginia. Mason Jones Cloud came to Boone County, Kentucky about 1778, bringing with him eleven children, three sons and eight daughters. Shortly after arriving in Boone County, he started back to Virginia with two others. They were set upon and massacred by Indians somewhere on the Licking River.

Baylis, born in 1774 in Virginia, was married to Elizabeth Tebbs, daughter of on old Boone County pioneer, in 1803. They were the parents of Jared, who settled in Colerain Township. Jared was only three years old when the family moved to Dearborn County, Indiana in 1811. At this time it was wild frontier country. The family raised tobacco, which could be packed up and sold in Cincinnati. This was their only source of money to buy any luxuries. Wool and flax were spun and woven, deerskin supplied other items of clothing and the farm gave them food.

Jared struck out for himself when he was sixteen and came to Cincinnati, where he worked for Anthony Harkness, an engine-builder. The last seven years with Harkness he was foreman of the shop, which was the largest of its kind in the west. They built locomotives, engines for steamboats, sugar mills, sawmills, etc. In 1840 Jared married Rachel Ann Gardener and moved to the Bank Lick farm in 1843, where he spent most of his time in farming.

The Venice Graphic of April 5, 1907 gives an interesting picture of Cloudland entitled "A Brilliant Occasion": "You have all heard of Cloudland with its stately residence and the "pond" where the boys love to fish, while the barn yard scene is often mistaken for the city stock yards.

At this ideal farm house occurred a most brilliant occasion, when Miss Cloud entertained the brides of 1906 and the brides-to-be of 1907. You will understand the following are only a select few of her friends, as she made explanation that her table would only seat these few: Mrs. Sargeant Hunter, Mrs. Julius Jacoby, Mrs. Dale Erven, Mrs. Paul Burns and Mrs. Ira Pottenger were the brides, while the brides-to-be were Misses Josei Dietz, Mary Burns, Lida Struble and Edith M. Starlin. Miss Cloud was assisted by Miss Laura Pottenger. The table was a dream, docorated with wild flowers and dainty Easter boxes for souvenirs. After all had returned to the parlor, a line of buggies and carriages appeared in sight and Miss Edith Starlin was told that they had come to give her a shower, as her wedding day is not far off. The gifts were beautiful, and Miss Edith, in her pleasant way, thanked the thirty-five ladies for their thoughtfulness of her. Master Rover assisted in receiving the company with his usual dignity. Aunt Bess served a tempting lunch to all, and after Miss Edith was showered with "old shoes" all departed ....."

The obituary of John W. Cloud published in the Venice Graphic on December 21, 1894 gives a little more insight into life at Cloudland. His death was the second tragedy in the Jared Cloud family as he was thrown from his wagon and run over by it, killing him. The first was that of Jared Henry Cloud, the son who had just returned from one hundred day service in the Civil War in 1864 and was kicked in the head by a horse in the barnyard at Cloudland. John W. Cloud was born on the Bank Lick farm and spent his entire life on that farm, which he managed during his lifetime.... Remaining at that time were four sisters and one brother: Miss Lizzie Cloud who occupied Cloudland; Mrs. Annie Weston, of Olive Branch, Clermont Co.; Mrs. Emma Klemm, of Dunlap; Mrs. Ella Lehne, of Hamilton and William J. Cloud living at the homestead. The funeral was held at the home on December 7th and he was laid to rest in the family cemetery at Cloudland. The owner of Cloudland, Charlotte Elizabeth Cloud (Miss Lizzie) died on January 12, 1930 of a cerebral hemorrhage just three days after her eighty-third birthday. Her funeral was held at Cloudland and she also lies in the little family cemetery at Cloudland.

Family Cemetery at Cloudland

Jared Cloud - father, born March 17, 1808; died Feb. 16, 1884
Rachel Ann (Gardener) Cloud - wife, born Oct 21, 1818; died July 20. 1858
Jared Henry Cloud - son, born March 25, 1842; died Oct 2, 1864
Member 138 Ohio Infantry - Civil War
Baylis H. Cloud - son, born Nov 29, 1844; died Aug 27, 1845
John Walker Cloud - son, born Feb 28, 1855; died Dec 5, 1894
Wm. J. Cloud - son, born April 9, 1852; died March 14, 1918
Charlotte Elizabeth Cloud - dau. born Jan 9, 1847; died Jan 12, 1930

These handsome granite markers are the only memory of this prominent Colerain Township family. No other trace of Cloudland remains.

The **ASTON FAMILY** — Helen Aston Bockelman, Mabel Aston Tumey, Archie Aston, Lillian Aston, Mary Evan, Thomas Owen Aston, Lottie (Underwood) Aston. This family lived on the east side of Colerain Pike in Groesbeck.

THE LABOYTEAUX FAMILY

The 1810 tax list of Hamilton County shows only two Laboyteaux, Peter and John, both in Colerain Township. Early deed records indicate that one was Peter Laboyteaux, Sr., who bought a half section from Ephraim Brown in 1804. John G. Labouteaux bought 20 acres of this land from Peter. We can only speculate about the relationship between these two men at the present time. The same John G. bought 110 acres from John Burnet of New Jersey. (This acreage later became the McGill farm at the end of present day McGill Lane). Peter Laboyteaux, Sr.'s land lay on the west side of Hamilton pike stretching from present day Galbraith Road to Compton.

The 1820 census lists more members of this pioneer family. Garit Laboyteaux is in Springfield Township. Colerain Township has John G., Paul, John P., John J., Peter P., and Peter J. The old pioneer, Peter Sr. had died in 1813. Peter P. and John P. were his sons. The others were undoubtedly related in some fashion, but exact proof hasn't been found.

In 1830 John, Joseph, Peter, Peter J., Phebe, Samuel, Stephen and William are in Springfield Township.John J. is listed in Colerain Township. (Prior to this time - from aproximately 1803 to 1827 - the western tier of sections had been placed, in 1803, by the state in Colerain Township. Apparently they had not moved, but when the state changed the line back again, they were in a different township

Peter Laboyteaux, Sr. bought the east half of Section 32, Springfield Township, containing 320 acres on December 5, 1804. County histories say that he came here in 1801. He was born at Raritan Landing, New Jersey in 1737, son of Paul and grandson of Gabriel Laboyteaux. He married Keziah Sebring in 1756. He died in 1813 and Keziah in 1814. They are buried in the Laboyteaux family cemetery at Hamilton and Galbraith in North College Hill. His will lists his children as Peter, Joseph, John, Dorety, Jemima and Katherine. There has been some confusion about the family genealogy due to an error made in Indiana by a descendant. The published article states: "John Peter Laboyteaux, born 1783 in New Jersey, married four times, Elizabeth Packer, Margaret Cameron, Sarah Lowe and the fourth known only as Miss Bledssoe. His 14 children of whom we have record were: Mary (born 1796), Katherine (1798), William (1800), Keziah (1802), Samuel (1805, Peter (1808), Lena (1812), Sally (1814), Julia (1817), Gilbert (1820), Furman (1823), Lafayette (1825), Jackson (1828) and Almyra (1832)." John P. Laboyteaux could not have had four wives as this old memorandum proves. This was in the possession of a Mt. Healthy descendant: "Ages of the Laboyteaux Family - Great grandfather Peter Laboyteaux born 1737, died 1813 ag 76; Great grandmother Keziah Laboyteaux died 1814 aage 70; Grandfater John P. Laboyteaux, Born M 4th 1775; Grandmother Sallie Low Laboyteaux Jany 16, 1791; children born - Mary - July 7th 1796; Catherine - Jany 28th 1798; William - March 28 1800; Kesziah - December 2 1802; Sallie - Sept. 25 1805; Peter - Feby 14 1808. The above children an first wife ½ brothers and sisters to my mother Julia A. Wright -- now comes my own aunts and uncles: Lena - May 16th 1812; Sallie - Sept. 14 1814; Julia - Jany 21 1817; Gilbert - Mch 17 1820; Furman - May 28 - 1823; Lafayette - Nov 12 1825; Jackson - sem? 23 1828; Almira - April 4 1832.

Uncle Gilbert says no race suicide in this Family

The above copied from an old memorandum by G. L. Laboyteaux Jay 14th 1906

Peter Laboyteaux, Sr. did have a son born in 1783 - Peter P. Laboyteaux, Jr. He, not John P., came to Ohio with his father. In further proof of the error in dates, the tomb stone of John P. Laboyteaux reads: d. March 4, 1842 aet. 67 yrs. 10 mo. 13 d. "A Native of New Jersey". Beside it we find "Sarah Laboyteaux d. Jan. 16, 1842 aet. 51 yrs. 2 wks. 3d., wife of John P. Laboyteaux.

Peter P. Laboyteaux sold his portion of his father's estate (after setting aside the cemetery land) to Benijah Cary. He then bought Benijah's farm on the east side of Hamilton pike. His first wife, Julia Elizabeth Packer, died in 1813 and may be in the family cemetery with no stone. Several years later he married Margaret Cameron, a daughter of Daniel Cameron, early pioneer of Springfield Township. In 1830 Peter sold his farm and moved to Henry County, Indiana. This was an unfortunate move for Margaret. The history of Henry County relates that Squire Batson brought the cholera there after a trip to Cincinnati in 1833. Margaret nursed him, caught the cholera, and both were dead in less that a week. In 1834 Peter married Ann Batson. They had four children. Peter died in 1847 and was buried in the Batson Cemetery.

This proves definately that Elizabeth Packer, Margaret Cameron, and the "Miss Bledsoe" could not have been the wives of John P. Laboyteaux.. His son, William (1800), is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery. Unfortunately the old memorandum did not give the name of John's first wife - Spring Grove records on William give his parents as John and ---Laboyteaux. The marriage record wasn't found in New Jersey's records as was his marriage to Lena Lowe in 1811.

Samuel's obituary lists him as the son of Peter, not John. He was born July 10, 1805 as found on his tombstone. John's child Sallie, who was confused with him, was born September 23, 1805. It is unfortunate that these errors were accepted for so many years, as members of the Laboyteaux family themselves have accepted this error and, in consequence, are confused on their own genealogy.

THE CILLEY FAMILY

The grandfather of Joseph Cilley moved from the Isle of Scholles to Nottingham, New Hampshire in 1728. Capt. Joseph Cilley and his family moved there also, having been one of the owners of the original grant given for settlement at Nottingham. His son Joseph was born in 1735. He became the father of Jonathan, who is buried in Dunlap Station Cemetery. Joseph was one of the leading citizens of the town. The farm family was of modest means. Joseph could not afford a formal education, but studied law on his own and was finally admitted to the bar. His rise to fame came in December of 1774, when he participated in a raid on Fort William and Mary, at which time they carried off a large supply of ammunition and food as well as some cannon. This was the first act in the struggle for independence, which came two years later, in 1776. Joseph Cilley was a member of the Provincial Congress and was employed on Coast Guard duty. When he heard of the outbreak in Lexington, he led a brigade of volunteers (100 men), recruited in the Nottingham area. He participated in the Battle of Lexington and stayed in the army for the full duration of the Revolution. He was promoted to Major, Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel, and then Major General after the Revolution. He served three years under General Washington and took his son, Jonathan, who was fourteen years of age, with him. He was noted for his leadership in the battles of Bemis Heights and the first and second battles at Stillwater. He was noted for his bravery at the Battle of Stony Point. His company was captured by the British at the Battle of Long Island. Cilley himself escaped.

At the Battle of Ticonderoga, one of the low points in the Revolution, his son Jonathan, was captured by the British, under the command of General Burgoyne. The General, upon learning the boy's identity, allowed him to return to his father. Before releasing him, he outfitted him with clothes that the British had captured from the Americans. Colonel Cilley was present at the surrender of General Burgoyne and retired to Nottingham at the end of the war. He left his retirement briefly to quell Indian uprisings in his neighborhood.

Major General Cilley had ten children. His third child was Jonathan Cilley, born March 8, 1762. Jonathan Cilley remained very active after the war. He and his father were both charter members of the Society of Cincinnati, formed by General Washington, and composed of men who had served with him three years or more during the Revolution. In 1805, Thomas Jefferson, then President, assigned Jon. Cilley to the command of the Newport Barracks across the Ohio from Cincinnati. He left with his family and came down the river from Wheeling on a flat boat to Cincinnati. One of his grand-daughters wrote in her letters that she had heard her mother say that Jonathan's carriage was the first one to come up the public landing. He served one year at the Newport Barracks and then decided to leave his residence in Cincinnati. He planned to sell his attractive plot of ground there and move out to the new settlement at Ft. Dunlap. His farm adjoined the site of Dunlap Station Cemetery. He continued his life as a farmer and country gentleman and was found dead in his field in 1807, apparently from a violent fit of coughing. He is buried in the nearby cemetery at Dunlap Station. (From a speech given by a descendant, Harry H. Garrison, for the Memorial Service at Dunlap Station Cemetery in 1967)

JAMES HARDIN

James Hardin, one of the earliest pioneers of Colerain Township, was born in 1757 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, son of James Hardin, a native of England. He served in Capt. John Pearson's Regiment, Continental Line.

In 1799 he brought his family down the Ohio River on a flat boat to Cincinnati. In 1800 he bought land in Colerain Township on Springdale Road and built a house of hewn logs. That house was used to hold the presidential election of Thomas Jefferson in Colerain Township. So few settlers lived in the Township at that time that they had to send the constable out to bring them in to vote to make the election legal. James Hardin died in his log home in 1837 and was buried in the family burying ground on his farm.

He had a son, Samual D. Hardin, born in 1798 and died in 1851, who built the beautiful home still standing on Springdale Road across from Northgate Mall. He had a son, Harry Cilley Hardin, born 1800 and dying in 1875. Samuel's wife was Mary Cilley, born in 1800 and died in 1875. The graves in the Hardin farm burial ground were moved to Bevis-Cedar Grove in 1937. Their records of the removals show an interesting relationship of families.

James Hardin's wife was Eleanor Davis, (1764-1852); Mary Cilley Hardin (1800-1875), wife of Samuel; Bradbury Cilley Hardin (1831-1854); Rebecca Hardin Poole (1784-1875) daughter of James Hardin and wife of William Poole; William Poole (1789-1868); Ellen Poole Stout, 1st wife of Ephraim Brown Stout; Elnora Hardin Smith (1795- ?); Joseph A. Waterhouse (no dates).

THE SKILLMAN FAMILY

The ancestor of this family, Thomas Skillman, came to this country as a military musician with the Duke of York's Expedition against New Amsterdam in 1664. He remained here after the Dutch surrender, when New Amsterdam became New York. He married Sara Petit. They had only one son, born in 1671, also named Thomas, and through these two Thomases all Skillmans in the American branches are said to be descended. The second Thomas married Annetje Aten in 1693. Of the eleven children born to them, Jan, Isaac, Jacob, and Benjamin had descendants in this area.

Jan Skillman, born in 1696 in New York, emigrated to New Jersey, where he married Anna Hull. Their son, Jacob, born in 1736, was one of the early pioneers in the Miami valley, having gone first to Pennsylvania. Jacob and his family settled just south of Glendale in 1806. Jacob and Massa or Mercy Skillman had four sons: Isaac, Benjamin, Jacob and Abraham. The father, Jacob, served in the Revolutionary War.

Benjamin, born in 1776, came with the family, but moved to a farm in Colerain Township. He married Nancy Bevis and had one son and three daughters: Margaret, Thomas, Sarah and Massa or Mercy. Thomas was five years old when his parents came to Colerain Township. He married Mary Robinson. Their children were: Elizabeth, Mary, Benjamin, Jonathan, Lewis and Sarah Ann. Jonathan, born in 1837, married Hannah, eldest daughter of Elon and Elizabeth (Skillman) Strong, and had a large family. Margaret, born in 1800, married John Williamson, of an early pioneer family in Colerain Township.

Jacob, born in 1778, married Sarah Barber and also located in Colerain Township. They had Jacob, Margaret and James Barber Skillman. Isaac Newton, born in 1838, served in Comp. A, 75th Reg. O.V. Inf. from 1861 until 1865. He fought in the Battles of Bull Run, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and many others. He was taken prisoner twice - at Getttysburg and at Gainsville, FL. He was imprisoned at Andersonville, escaped and spent three weeks wandering in the woods and swamps of Florida and Georgia before finding the Union lines at Jacksonville, FL in December of 1864. He married Hatty D. Adams of Mt. Healthy on June 6, 1867. They lived in Mt. Healthy and had: John A. Skillman, born June 25, 1868, married Cora Lane in 1893 and were the parents of Maurice Skillman of Phoenix, Arizona. Roger N., George L. and Warren Ellsworth Skillman were the other children.

James Barber Skillman, born January 28, 1807, married Sarah Smiley. Of their three sons, Jacob, Andrew and Ferdinand - Jacob, born in 1848, remained in Mt. Healthy and drove the horse-drawn bus to Cincinnati. He married Caroline Reeves and lived at the southeast corner of Compton and Harrison Avenues in Mt. Healthy, in a white frame still standing. They had only one son, Frank (1874-1932) who never married. He was killed by an interurban car on Hamilton pike. His father, Jacob, died in 1898; his mother, Caroline, in 1912; both are buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

The fourth son of Jacob and Massa, Abraham, born in 1782, married Abigail Tucker and settled first at Tucker's Station. A marker showing the site of this station is placed beside the Glendale-Milford Road (Rte. 126) formerly called Skillman road. This is on the old Skillman farm now the Woodlawn Industrial Park. The old Skillman farm cemetery, now weed grown and almost unnoticed, is surrounded by industry. The monument to Abraham and Abigail Tucker Skillman is probably still there. This was the farm of old Jacob, the Revolutionary soldier, and it is believed that he lies here also, although his stone has never been found. Several of Abraham and Abigail's daughters married into the Pendery family and lived in the Glendale area.

Jan's brother, Isaac, born in 1706, also founded a line appearing in Hamilton County. His wife's name is unknown. Their eldest son, Thomas, born 1727, married Catherine Van Dyke. Isaac, son of Thomas and Catherine, born April 21, 1761, married 1st Cornelia Quick, who had Thomas Q. and James Q. Skillman. Isaac married 2nd Joanna Nevius and had Martin N., Isaac N. and John N. Skillman. Of these children two sons, Thomas Q. and Isaac Nevius Skillman came to Hamilton County.

Thomas Q. Skillman, born 1796, married Gitty Ann Beekman Skillman, a second cousin in 1816 and came here about 1820. He had a large farm at Kemper and Winton roads, just north of Greenhills. They had a large family, several of whom remained in this area. Lavinia, born in 1827, married Dominicus Van Dyke Skillman, a fourth cousin. He was the son of Thomas B. and Jane Van Dyke Skillman, who had a farm on Springdale Road in Colerain Township. Emory, born in 1831, married Sarah Elizabeth Cameron of a pioneer family in Springfield Township. Mrs. Karl Topie was a descendant of this line.

Isaac Nevius Skillman, born 1803, married Amelia Stryker. Their daughters, Elizabeth and Hannah, were born in New Jersey before 1820, when the family came to the Cincinnati area. Isaac had a store in College Hill. His daughter, Elizabeth, married Elon Strong of College Hill. Mary, born in 1841, after Isaac Nevius died, married Leonard B. Harris.

The fourth line of Hamilton County Skillmans comes through Benjamin, born in 1710. Like his brother, he removed to New Jersey. In 1731 he married Margaret Coe. They had a son Thomas, born 1739, who married in 1762 his cousin Sally. They had a son Thomas, born 1768, who married Eleanor Blue in 1790. In 1812 set out for New Burlington, north of Mt. Healthy, but Thomas died just before they were to leave. Their daughter, Sarah, married Dodd Lindly and lived at Bevis.

Thomas B. Skillman also owned a farm on Springdale Road in Colerain Township. At his death on March 15, 1896, he was the oldest man in Hamilton County. His daughter, Katharyn, born in 1842, married William V. Sater of Bevis, Ohio in 1867. Daughter Annice, born in 1847, married Frank A. Witherbee of New Burlington in 1869.

The Skillmans were a numerous family and many may be found in the local directory. Some Skillman graves are to be found on the old Skillman farm, near Woodlawn. Many are buried in the old West Branch of Mill Creek Valley Baptist cemetery on Sprindale Road. Some are in the old Springdale Presbyterian. Many are in Spring Grove. A few are in the old Laboiteaux burial ground in North College Hill and some are in Wesleyan. They all had a place in Hamilton County history.

THE WEST FAMILY

The West family, who settled in what is now Groesbeck, came from New Jersey as did many pioneers who settled in Colerain Township. Charles West, whe pioneer, came from Hunterdon County, New Jersey in 1820. He was born in Kingwood Township October 7, 1795. He married Rebecca Sparks in 1815. Sons Manning Force, Stockton and Pierson were born in New Jersey. The West family was accompanied by the family of Joseph Sparks, brother of Rebecca. Charles West located on the west side of Colerain pike and Joseph Sparks on the east side of the Blue Rock Road. Both were members of the early Olive Branch Methodist Church and later helped to found the West Union Chapel on the east side of Colerain. The little settlement, now Groesbeck, was named for this early Methodist church.

A history of Hunterdon County gives some background of the family: the first Methodist Church built there was started by the Rev. Manning Force with these probationers - William West, father of Thomas, Thomas and Rachel West, eleven year old Mary, daughter of Thomas. She married Wilson Bray, son of Gen. Daniel Bray, who was assigned by Washington to seize and guard all the river boats. This act made possible the crossing of the Delaware and Washington's defeat of the Hessians at Trenton.

Pioneer life is not kind to young children, as countless lonely little farm graves will testify. The first two children of Charles and Rebecca born in Hamilton County, Allison and Charles Pittman West, died in infancy. The sixth child, Augustus Eddy West, born in 1824, became a well-known physician, practicing in Miamitown and Harrison, where he died in 1884. Their seventh child, Sylvester Hill, also died in infancy. The next child, Miranda, born in 1829, married Samuel B. Wilson in 1846. They moved to Liberty, Indiana, where she died in 1917. Charles West, Jr., the last child of Charles and Rebecca, was born in 1834. He married Augusta Hammond in 1854 in Pennsylvania. They had two daughters. Augusta Hammond West died in Ross, Ohio at the home of her father-in-law, where Rebecca Sparks West took care of the motherless girls. Charles, Jr. in 1862 married Harriet, daughter of Samuel and Hannah J. Pouder, and moved to Groesbeck, where Hannah Jennie was born in 1863. They emigrated to Bushnell, Illinois, where he taught school. (He had studied at Farmers' College in College Hill). Here Cora May West was born in 1877. The family returned in 1882 and settled on a small farm on Blue Rock Turnpike. Cora May was married to Philip W. Tozzer in 1900 at that home. Her father died in 1921. Manning Force West, born 1816 in New Jersey, married Amanda Stout, daughter of Reuben and Phebe (McGill) Stout in 1838 and moved to Bushnell. Stockton West, born 1819 in New Jersey, married Mary Gosling, of a pioneer Colerain Township family and moved to Dayton.

Charles West, the pioneer, moved to Ross, Ohio, in the 1850's. Always a staunch Methodist, he supported and helped to build the brick church standing today. Their home was next to the church and Rebecca died there in 1863. He moved back to Groesbeck and built a cottage, which he later sold to Dr. Sparks. He married Mary Gibson in 1864, bought a farm near Oxford. Their only child, Joseph Fletcher West, was born in 1868, but never married and died in early manhood.

The pioneer, Charles, who founded Groesbeck, died at Oxford, Ohio August 16, 1878, having faithfully served the cause of Methodism all of his life.

THE STOUT FAMILY

The Stout family in America had a very unusual beginning, The pioneer of this family was Richard Stout, born about 1584 in Notinghamshire, England. He served some years on a British warship, getting a discharge at New Amsterdam, now New York.

About this same time a sailing ship from Amsterdam on its way to the new world was driven ashore on what is now Monmouth County, New Jersey. The passengers and crew succeeded in getting to shore, but were shortly after attacked and killed by Indians. A short time later Penelope Van Princes, left for dead and whose husband had been killed, found strength enough to creep into a hollow tree where she existed, barely alive, for seven days. An Indian, led to the tree by his dog, found her and carried her to his wigwam. He treated her fearful wounds and healed her, later taking her to New Amsterdam where he sold her to the Dutch. There she became acquainted with Richard Stout and married him.

They immediately crossed the bay and settled on the New Jersey shore where Penelope had been so severely hurt and where her first husband had been killed. There were at this time in 1648 only five other white families in the settlement.

Richard and Penelope became prosperous and had ten children - seven sons and three daughters. The youngest son, David, born in 1669, married Rebecca Ashton. Their eldest son, James, married Catherine Simpson in 1712. He moved to Amwell, New Jersey. Of his six sons, Joseph, who was born in 1717, married Mary Hixon and had nine children. Their second son, Benijah, married Elizabeth Hyde and became the pioneer of Hamilton County, Ohio.

This family of Stouts were among the first settlers of Hopewell, New Jersey, and helped found the Hopewell Baptist Church. The remarkable mother of this family lived to be 110 years old and at the time of her death had 502 descendants.

The Stout family of Hamilton County, like many other of its pioneers, emigrated from New Jersey. Jesse Stout was the first to come and was living at Southbend (Delhi) in 1799, but had gone to Franklin County, Ohio, by 1821. Not much is known about him, but he seems to have had several sons to whom some of his land in Section 9 of Colerain Township was deeded.

The pioneer who came to stay was Benijah Stout, born in New Jersey and married to Elizabeth Hyde in 1760. It seems certain that he was related in some way to Jesse, but how close a relationship is not known. Benijah was of the fourth generation from Richard and Penelope Stout. His children were all born in New Jersey - Reuben, Elizabeth, Mary Massey, Nancy, Aaron, Ira, Charles and Catherine. Benijah bought land in 1801. He was the Overseer of the Poor in 1811. He died in the spring of 1823, but his place of burial is not known. Although Benijah's children were born in New Jersey, most of them seem to have come here with him when the family emigrated. His will, probated June 16, 1823, mentions his daughters' married names (Merril, Hat(t), Jessup, Randolph and Davis). Most of these may be found in Hamilton County Records. The lines of two of his sons may be found in Hamilton County today. There may be other descendants from his other children, but no information on them could be found.

Reuben, eldest son of Benijah and Elizabeth (Hyde) Stout, born in 1766 in New Jersey, purchased the southwest quarter of Section 9 (the area on Poole Road opposite the end of Cheviot Road). He served the township as fence viewer in 1810, 1819-20. 1823, and was the Overseer of the Poor in 1820, Supervisor of the Highways in 1819 and 1821 and was a township trustee in 1814-15. He

married Abia, daughter of Peter Laboyteaux, also of Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Their children were Elisha Stout, John Hyde Stout, Elijah Stout and Oraminah (McGill).

Elisha, eldest son of Reuben, who was born in 1789, married Phoebe Brown, daughter of Esquire Ephraim Brown, another prominent pioneer in the early days of Colerain Township, February 26, 1810. They were the parents of Clarissa, Aaron G., Sarah A., Sydney L., Ephraim Brown Stout, Elisha, John Hyde, Joseph A., Reuben B. and Eliza B. Stout. Reuben, Abia, Elisha and Phoebe are all buried in the Compton Cemetery on Compton Road near Pippin.

John Hyde Stout, another son of Reuben, was a long-time resident of Colerain Township. He married Amanda Pine, daughter of Benjamin, another early pioneer. They lived for a long time on the old Pine farm at Banning and Colerain, which he later sold to his brother-in-law, Amzi McGill. They then moved to Kansas City, Mo.

Ephraim Brown Stout, born 1822 in Colerain Township, married first Ellen Poole, whose children were Alice C. (Hearn), Catherine C., Holley Raper Stout,, who married Kate Purcell, and Ellen. After Ellen Poole's death Ephraim married Martha Dom on March 25, 1856. She was the daughter of Phillip Dom of Mt. Healthy. Their children were Clifford Kane Stout, Mattie Cora, Sheridan Kane, Frank Carr and Grace Gard Stout.

Frank Carr Stout married Lucia E. Landmeier. They were the parents of Virginia Hope (Miller), Martha Louise (Strassel), Frank William Stout (whose wife was Polly Paris) and Eunice Brown (Peters), all of whom lived in Mt. Healthy.

Charles Stout, youngest son of Benijah and Elizabeth, founded the line of Stouts still to be found in Section 5 of Colerain Township. Stout road from Pippin to Pottenger is named for them. Charles Stout, born 1783, married Mary Duvall, born 1790, on September 14, 1809. They had twelve children who were allied by marriage to many of the pioneer families of the area. The eldest, Ann Elizabeth, born 1810, married Joseph Struble in 1832. Jane, born 1813, married Aaron Stout in 1831. Elinor, born 1814, was married to Martin Bevis, eldest son of Jesse, in 1833. Axsher, born 1816, in 1836 became the wife of David Bevis, fourth child of Jesse. (They were the grandparents of Dr. Howard L. Bevis). Oliver, born 1822, was the husband of Ann Gulick, from another Colerain Township pioneer family. Andrew Jackson Stout, born in 1828, married Mary Blackburn in in 1858. William, born 1830, married Jane Blackburn. Charlotte C., born in 1832, married a Hill.

Andrew and Mary had three boys who died in childhood. They had a daughter, Ida, and a son John Milton Stout, who married Maggie Barnetta Huston. They had a daughter, who died in childhood, and three sons: Elmer Huston, Frank Abram and Chester Minor Stout. Chester was killed in a threshing machine accident. He was married to Elsie Grabel and had Jackson Lyle Stout. Elmer Huston Stout married Mamie Grabel and remained on the old farm. Their two daughters were Elizabeth Jane (Beatty) and Virginia Marie (Day). She and her husband still live on a part of the old farm. One interesting aspect of the old Charles Stout farm is that he purchased his first 100 acres from Jonathan Dayton as early as 1805. This pioneer farm remained in the hands of the Stout descendants until recent years, when part of it was purchased by the Northwest Board of Education for the Northwest High School, which now stands on the site of Charles Stout's original home.

THE BEVIS FAMILY

Dr. Howard L. Bevis. who died at Columbus, Ohio April 24, 1968, was a descendant of this pioneer family who were among the early settlers of the Northwest Territory. He was a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, receiving a Bachelor's degree and a law degree there. He taught law at UC and was the secretary of the Charter Amendment Committee which organized the Charter Party in Cincinnati. He was appointed state director of finance in 1931 and in 1933 became an associate justice of the Ohio Supreme Court to fill out an unexpired term. He received a doctor of science of law degree from Harvard and joined the Harvard faculty in 1935 as a professor of government and law in the graduate school of business administration. He became the seventh president of Ohio State University in 1940. He was president of the state's largest university for sixteen years until his retirement in 1956. He was married in 1914 to Alma D. Murray, a classmate of his student days at the University of Cincinnati. They had one son, Murray Bevis. Dr. Bevis was a member of the Coleraine Historical Society up to the time of his death, expressing his interest in the area which his ancestors helped to settle.

Issacher Bevis, the pioneer ancestor, was in the Revolutionary War in Capt. Taylor's Company of the 7th Battalion of the Cumberland County, Pennsylvania Militia. He was the only child of Thomas Bevis born 1710 in England, and Ann Draper Bevis. Isaacher was born in Burlington County, New Jersey in 1740 and there married Ann Kirkpatrick about 1776. They moved to Huntington County, Pennsylvania, where their children were born: Charlotte, 1778; Elizabeth, 1779; Jesse, 1783; and Andrew, 1785. The family came to Ohio in 1792 and helped to resettle Dunlap's Station abandoned the previous year after St. Clair's disastrous defeat. Elizabeth died January 14, 1801 and was buried in the Dunlap Station Cemetery. Her stone records the earliest known burial. Issacher followed her in 1805 and Ann was buried beside them in 1835.

Jesse Bevis, in 1808, married Sarah Martin, daughter of Samuel W. Martin, another early pioneer. They lived in a cabin near the site of his father's home on the Great Miami. Jesse built a large flat boat on the river bank in 1812 and, taking his own and his neighbor's produce to sell in New Orleans, set off down the river. There he sold his boat load of goods and the boat, bought a horse and made his way back over the old Indian trail known as the Natchez Trace. This dangerous journey was undertaken by venturesome pioneers because there weren't enough buyers for their surplus produce. Jesse Bevis returned home with $400, with which he purchased a tract of land in Colerain Township and in 1816 established the settlement known as Bevis. As the hamlet grew larger he built a grist mill near the head of Blue Rock Creek and later a distillery which had an output of 20 gallons a day. He made another flat boat journey to New Orleans in 1825, taking his older sons with him. (The family genealogy lists his brother Andrew as dying in Vicksburg in 1825. Andrew must have lived in Colerain Township for his children all married people known to be residents. Perhaps Andrew was on this trip and died on the way down the river). This trip was very profitable and less dangerous as they were able to return by steamboat. He was able to increase his land holdings in Colerain Township and to improve his buildings. He had replaced the old log cabin in 1818 with a large frame building, with a porch running the full length of the south side of the building. Jesse Bevis was appointed postmaster, the post office expanded

into a general store, later into a prosperous tavern. Some years later this frame was replaced with a substantial brick. In 1836 the old distillery burned and was replaced by a much larger one. The first steam engine in the area replaced the horse power machinery of the old distillery. About the middle of the century the distillery was converted into a sawmill. The old brick tavern and community meeting place had to be abandoned with the building of the Colerain Turnpike, which moved the route some distance west of the old one, which had joined the Hamilton Road by what is now known as Belmont Avenue in College Hill. The old route had been Banning Road as far as Pippin, then somewhere between it and the present Colerain Road until it joined the present road somewhere in the vicinity of Struble Road. The building of the turnpike left the Bevis settlement stranded and it naturally moved to the scene of greater travel. A large frame tavern was built on the turnpike and dedicated New Year's Eve of 1855. Jesse and his sons dug a huge well, some 20 feet in diameter across the pike from the tavern. This was called Franklin Well. One of his sons started a bus line from Cincinnati to the tavern. Another son, Martin Bevis, built a hotel known as the Bevis House at the terminus of the bus line, Court and Walnut Streets in Cincinnati.

The twelve children of Jesse and Sarah (Martin) Bevis were: Martin and Eleanor (Stout) Bevis; James A. and Margaret (Ramsey) Bevis; Elizabeth Bevis and Joshua Davis; David and Axsher (Stout) Bevis; Mary Bevis who married John Ramsey and second, James Dick; Charlotte, whose two husbands were James Beard and Samuel Withrow; Anna (twin of Charlotte) was the wife of Thomas Moorhead; Jesse and Nancy (Williamson) Bevis; Sarah was the wife of Harp Huston; Catherine married Stockton West; Samuel and Elizabeth (McHenry) Bevis and John K. and Katy (Hughes) Bevis.

The grandchildren of Jesse Bevis were united by marriage to many other of the early pioneer families. Names of Gosling, Maynard, Struble, Huston, Wetherby, Bosserman, Peck, Jessup, Williamson, West, Hughes, Moorhead, Stout, and many other families familiar to students of local history. Many of these went to other parts of the country to become leaders in other communities. Issacher, son of Martin and great-great grandson of Issacher, the pioneer, was a prominent business man in St. Louis. Philamon Bevis, great grandson of Jesse, was one of the leaders in national YMCA work. Reverend Norman Bevis was the pastor of the U.B. Church at New Haven. Clifford and Joseph Bevis were in buisiness in Harrison, Ohio. Clifford was also a member of the State Legislature. Physicians in the family were Dr. Ralph Peck, of California; Dr. J. A. Davis, of Covington, KY., Dr. Campbell, in Newtown, Ohio; and Dr. James Petter, of Baltimore.

Dr. Howard L. Bevis' record is well known. Great gramdsons of Jesse in Cincinnati were St. Clair Bevis and Robert Bevis, who was head of the old Milling Machine. Emory A. Bevis lives in Dunlap, Colerain Township. The Bevis family has had a long and interesting connection with Hamilton County's history.

Alma Bevis, widow of Howard L. Bevis and member of the Coleraine Historical Society, sent some interesting information on the are:

"Regarding the Bevis house at Bevis - it was the home of David Bevis, my husband's grandfather. Perhaps it was built by his father, Jesse Bevis, owner of Bevis Tavern of early days. It was the first house in that area to have central heating. The heating system was installed by David Bevis' son-in-law, Peck, a member of the heating firm of Peck, Williamson, and Co.

There used to be a large, very substantial barn on the property that dated back many years. (Note - The barn is still there and has many Bevis initials carved on the old beams. The house, also, is still there. It is owned by Klei Lawnmower Sales & Service, 10345 Old Colerain Road. Dr. Howard Bevis once stopped and talked to Mr. Klei, later wrote him giving him the history of the house. The Klei family are very proud of their home and its history).

The Bevis house was on the west side of the Colerain Pike at the top of a rise. I remember it as the house on the highest point at Bevis, a little north of a road that leads east from Colerain Pike at the point where the Tavern was. (The original Bevis Tavern site was on present day Bevis Lane, the old Colerain Road having been located about a quarter mile east of the present one at that point).

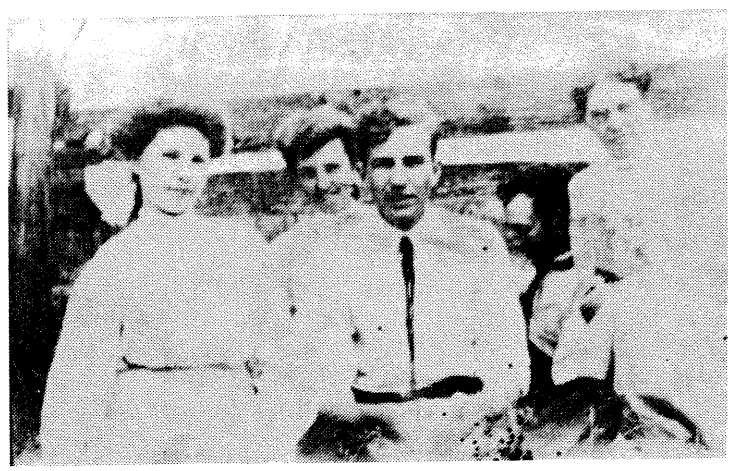
The Tavern was operated at the time of the Andrew Jackson campaign for on one wall of the main room was scrawled a campaign slogan.

At Bevis there was a well, known as Franklin Well, which furnished water to residents of the area. As I recall, the well was on the present Colerain Pike, east side. It was very large and covered with a frame shed.

David Bevis was the father of twelve children. They and their families were accustomed to gather at the David Bevis home on Sunday after church. My husband was a frequent visitor.

David Bevis' brother, Jesse, operated the Bevis Hotel at Court and Walnut Streets, Cincinnati. I think he also operated the Tavern at Bevis. David Bevis built the U. B. Church at Bevis because most of the residents of the area subscribed to that faith.

Although Issacher and his son Jesse Bevis bought up their neighbors corn liquor and floated it on a flat boat down to New Orleans where they sold it and bought a horse and made their way up the Natchez Trace, the Bevis family later became staunch drys".



EDGAR BEVIS FAMILY (early 1900's) L.R. Helen (Anthony), Alice Bevis, Howard, Edgar, Cara (Corson) Bevis.
Howard was on the Ohio Supreme Court; President of Ohio State University 16 years.

THE HUSTON FAMILY

A few years ago there stood on Pippin Road (opposite Houston Road) an old home familiarly known as "Jim and Andy Huston's". The Cincinnati Times-Star carried an article by Jack Metz on the old home, which was to be razed for the 400 home Buffler-Parr subdivision. So many of the children of Samuel and Paul Huston built their homes on the large tract of land along the Pippin and Hamilton Roads that the road to Hamilton was known as the Huston Road.

This family's history is typical of many pioneer families. Originating in Scotland they were followers of John Knox in Presbyterianism. In the centuries of religious persecution, many of the Hustons fled to Ulster in northern Ireland. A century of trials and suffering in Ireland forced a great tide of Ulster Scots to leave for America beginning in 1718. Several hundred Hustons were among them. Again finding a degree of religious persecution on the seaboard, they pushed on out into the dangerous frontier country of Pennsylvania. With them came the establishment of early Presbyterian churches.

The Hustons who came to Hamilton County were sons of Capt. John Huston of Pennsylvania Militia, who fought under General Washington at the battle of Brandywine. He may have been the John Huston, born in Ireland in 1737 who died in Lancaster Co., PA in 1794, whose wife was Mary Watson. The widow of John Huston came here with two of her sons, Samuel and Paul. Mary Huston married John Ramsey, Sr. and died in 1829 aged 89 years. She was buried in the old Presbyterian graveyard, commonly called the Huston Cemetery on Kemper road west of Pippin.

Paul Huston, born 1767 in PA, married Jean Charters, born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1771, came with his family. Paul's son, William, born 1792, married Martha Peterson, born in Springfield Township in 1796. William worked on his father's farm until he reached manhood, then went into distilling. He went to Dayton about a year before he died in 1848. His children were Paul S., Harp., Rhinor Stots, Samuel and Ann Elizabeth.

There is a worn obelisk in Greenwood Cemetery in Hamilton, Ohio, bearing these inscriptions - William Huston, died 1848 aged 76 years; Martha, his wife, died 1870, aged 71 years; on the side - Jane Huston, died 1816, aged 16 years and John C. Huston, died 1817, aged 11 years;on the third side - William Huston Babcock died 1881 aged 2 years; Elizabeth Babcock died 1912 aged 76; on the front - Paul S. Huston, born 1823, died 1901. The cemetery records indicate that William and two other Hustons were moved from the Huston Farm Cemetery in October of 1870 by Paul Huston.

Samuel, a brother of Paul Huston, born in 1779 and died in 1851, married Elizabeth Harvey, who died in 1834. Their children were Mary, Agnes, Samuel, Ester, Paul, Harvey, William Hunter, David, Martha Jane, and James Stewart Huston. Samuel married second, Jane Long, a widow with three children.

James Stewart Huston, youngest son of Samuel, married his step-sister, Nancy Long. Their children were Elizabeth Ann, who married Philadelphus N. Wright of Mt. Healthy, John, who married Josie Deats of St. Louis, David, who married Emma Slade, Mary Jane (Jennie) who married George Golden Smith, (Children: Charles, Eugenie, and Florence Edith Smith of Mt. Healthy), James (1851-1920), and Andrew (1854-1923). The last two were the "Jim and Andy" mentioned in the first paragraph. They never married and farmed the homestead, adding on to the old house for their mother, Nancy Long Huston. An interesting picture of the old house exists, showing Nancy, Jim and Andy, Henry Weaver (who helped on the farm) and Jerome Lane (who helped Nancy with the house). This had to have been taken some time before 1905 as Nancy died then aged 88 years.

Paul C. Huston (son of Paul), born in 1797 and died in 1876, married Esther Phillips, born 1802 and died in 1888. After their marriage in 1822, Paul C. took his bride mounted in front of him on his horse and rode through the densely wooded area to the site of their new home on Colerain Pike. (This is the other Huston home, built in 1834, razed by the Prince of Peace Church several years ago). Paul Griswold Huston wrote a book about this house entitled "Around An Old Homestead". Paul and Esther had seven sons and three daughters: George, Andrew, Simeon Atchley, William and Alexander Botkin Huston (1829-1915). The latter attended Framers' College in College Hill having as classmates President Benjamin Harrison, Murat Halstead and Bishop Waldon. He studied law, was admitted to the bar becoming a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He served on the bench during the Courthouse Riots of 1884. He married Alice Griswold. Their children were Alice Welles Huston and Paul Griswold Huston. All of this family are buried in the Bevis-Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Jennet, daughter of old Paul, married Thomas Burns and had one daughter, Mary Jane Burns (Davis). James, son of Paul, born in 1811, married first Martha Cone and had Paul Andrew Jackson Huston (1834-1912), George, Mary Jane (1836-1841) and Charles Cone Huston, who died at Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 9, 1863 aged 27. He was in Co. B, 69th OVA. Mary Morris was James Huston's second wife and had James Morris Huston, John, Thomas S. and Elizabeth.

Paul Andrew Jackson Huston married Mary Bevis in 1859, having Charles (1860-1926), George (married Ida Edwards) and Hattie.

The other son of Capt. John Huston, David, went to Greene County, Ohio, one of the earliest settlers, who married Mary Barnett. He served as a Judge for twenty-seven years. His son, Abraham Huston, born in 1804, came to Butler County, where he married Elizabeth Hall in 1829. They had Mary Ann (Vinnedge), Sarah Jane, William H., David B., and Luther P. Huston. Elizabeth Hall Huston died in 1845. In 1859, Abraham Huston was married to Mrs. Jane Smith by Rev. Reynolds at the residence of M. B. Sargeant, all of Pleasant Run. Their children were Maggie Barnetta, Abraham H., Edwin M., and Cora I. Huston. (David B. Huston - of the first marriage - married Clara Stout in 1864). Abraham Huston died in 1891 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Hamilton. Jane Bell (Smith) Huston died in 1916 and is buried beside him. Inscribed on the side of their monument: Robert B. Huston (1864-1900) Capt. Troop D 1st S V Cav "Rough Riders" Major and Adg. Paymaster Capt Co. 1 47th U. S. V. I. Died in Manilla, P. I.

Maggie Barnetta, daughter of Abraham and Jane married John Milton Stout and were the parents of Elmer Stout of Stout Road. They are buried on the Abraham Huston lot in Greenwood. Stones there: Sarah Jane Huston 1832-1911), Susan E. Huston (1837-1918), Stanley W. Sater (1868-1943), Cora H. Sater (1867-1943) Nettie H. Stout (1862-1941), John M. Stout (1858-1935), J. Chester Stout (1897-1924) and Jennie M. dau. of J.M. and Nettie (1889-1918).

There are many other Hustons recorded in Hamilton County, but not proved to belong to these lines.

THE JOHN WILLIAMSON FAMILY

The Williamsons represent another pioneer family interwoven into the early history of Colerain Township. Like many of the other pioneers their roots were in New Jersey. They were of Dutch ancestry and can be traced back to the 1500's.

John Williamson, sixth generation of the family, married Lucretia Tice. He served in the American Revolution under Generals Greene and Washington. After his death in 1800, six of his children decided to come to Ohio, the others remaining in New Jersey with the mother. Those emigrating to Hamilton County were John, William, Jacob, Anna, Mary and Garret.

John Williamson (1769-1849) married Hannah Jane Smith (1771-1850). He located near Colerain Pike in Section 10 and built a log home. Most of his ten children were born in New Jersey. Jacob (1793) and Cornelius (1795) served in the War of 1812. John (1796), Lucretia (1797), Simeon (1801), Amos (1803), Catherine (1806), David (1808) and Ann (1810) were probably born in New Jersey. Henry, born 1814 was likely born in the log cabin near Colerain Pike. In 1812 John Williamson appears in Colerain Township records as one of the judges of the election.

William Williamson, brother of John, married Hannah Hoagland. Their children were Amos, John, Asher, Sarah (who married a Pinney), Andrew (whose wife was Sarah Featherland) and Levi. William and Asher Williamson owned most of the site of present day Dunlap. Asher was elected Constable in 1827 and William was Overseer of the Poor in 1828. Neither are found in the township records after 1830.

Jacob Williamson, another brother of John, married Sarah Hoagland and had Amos (1796-1870) who married first Catherine Skillman and second Clarissa Kilbourne; Jonathan, John C. ("Colonel"), Rowena, who never married; Sarah, who married Jonah Johns; Dorcas Ann, who married James Johns; Mary, Rebecca and Lucretia, who married John Pegg. Jacob Williamson lived back from Pippin Road just north of Springdale. He sold the land to the West Branch of Millcreek Valley Baptist Church, of which he and his family were members.

John Williamson (1796-1870) married Margaret Skillman (1801-1876). They were the parents of Nancy, wife of Jesse Bevis, David, Benjamin, Simeon, John, Thomas, Hannah and Joseph.

Lucretia (1797-1849), daughter of John, married Samuel Martin (1797-1870). Simeon (1801) married Eliza Robinson and is buried at Seven Mile in Butler County. Catherine (1806-1892) married Willet Pottinger of an old Butler County pioneer family. He bought the farm on Stout Road opposite Charles Stout's land. This farm was later owned by John M. Stout, then by Elmer Stout. Catherine Williamson Pottinger evidently removed to Seven Mile after her husband's death in 1873, for her brother, Jacob, died there in December of the same year.

David Williamson (1808-1878) married Elizabeth Huston, daughter of Paul and Jane Charters Huston. Their children were Hannah Jean, Paul H., Mary E. and Albert. David Williamson was an edge tool maker and was an early pioneer of Colerain Township. He built a home at Poole and Colerain (Ellenwood) now the Farbach-Werner Park.

Their eldest son, Paul H. Williamson, had a very exciting life. Educated at Farmers' College, he taught for a year, then went to Iowa in 1857 and farmed until fall. Then he and three friends went by wagon through Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. He taught school the following winter. In 1858 he started overland to California meeting a wagon train at Leavenworth. They traveled by way of Sante Fe and across New Mexico. The party was attacked by Indians on the

Colorado River. Eight of the party were killed and the party was forced to return seven hundred miles to Albuqueraus. Here Paul left the train, went to El Paso, Mexico and, after two weeks, joined a Mexican wagon train to San Antonio, Texas, where he taught school. In 1859 he journied by horseback to Columbia, Arkansas, where he taught until the outbreak of the Civil War. He then returned to Cincinnati where he passed the remainder of his life. He served as deputy clerk of the Probate Court and later as County Auditor of Hamilton County. He married Miss Ada Janes of a pioneer Clermont County family in 1870.

Mary E. Williamson married Albert Berger of Northside and had three sons: John David Berger, Albert Leopold Berger and Paul W. Berger.

In 1867 Albert Williamson, youngest son of David Williamson, married Sarah D. Harris at her father's country home on Cary Road (Kipling). This home was replaced by Powel Crosley and is now the property of Providence Hospital. The couple lived at the Harris home for several years. George Harris Williamson was born there. Then they moved to the David Williamson farm at Colerain and Poole Roads, where Victor was born and died after sixteen months. After this they moved to Chestnut Street in Cincinnati where Albert Warren Williamson was born. In 1874 they moved to Chase Avenue, Northside, where Alice and Horace Greely Williamson were born. This remained the Williamson home.

Horace Greely Williamson became well known as a poet and humorist. One volume of poems is "Old Hollyhocks", another, extremely interesting, is entitled "Things Worth While". Many of these poems have been written about people and places in Colerain Township. "The Fiddler's Old Violin" tells about the dedication of Bevis Tavern at Colerain and Dry Ridge Roads. Horace Greely Williamson was killed when his car skidded into a loading platform on Fourth Street in Cincinnati.

THE SPARKS FAMILY

Another early name in Colerain Township is **Sparks**. Not as much is known about them as some of the other families. More than one of them played a part in the township's development. They intermarried with many other of the early settlers. They also played a part in the political life of the community.

Isaac Sparks was an early Justice of the Peace. The survey of Pippin Road showed that "Squire Sparks" had a "loom house" near the right of way just south of Compton Road. He brought his family here in the late 1700's. He was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania in 1768. In 1790 he married Sarah ("Sally") Hankins, daughter Richard Hankins, the Revolutionary War soldier from North Carolina. Their children were William (1791), Elizabeth (1793), Mary (Polly) (1795), Rachel (1798), Nancy "Anna" (1800), John D. (1802), Isaac, Jr. (1805), Thomson (1808), Sally (1810) and Rhoda (1816). Rhoda died in 1825 and was buried in the Gard Cemetery in College Hill. When Isaac, Sr. died in 1834 he was also interred there. His wife, Sally Hankins died in 1825. William, Polly and Rachel married and moved over into Indiana. Nancy married Tunis Cock (Cox), son of Wm. G. Cock, a stone mason from New Jersey. Tunis was born there in 1778. He was nine years old when the family came to Ohio - so early that they spent the first two years here in the fort at North Bend. Tunis' father, Major Wm. Cock, was a veteran of the War of 1812. The family settled near New Burlington. Tunis was the proprietor of the Eleven Mile House, "Farmers' Rest", located on Hamilton Pike in the Pleasant Run area.

Isaac Sparks was the son of **William Sparks**, Captain in the West Moreland County Pennsylvania Militia in the Revolutionary War. He died in 1788 and Isaac came to Hamilton County. He is in Hamilton County as a "volunteer settler" in 1796, getting the forfeit of Section 2 in Colerain Township. This was next to the Compton lands.

It seems evident that several brothers of Isaac probably came west also. **John H. Sparks** and **William Sparks** who appear in the Barnesburg area are likely to have been his brothers, since we know that old William in Pennsylvania had those sons. William is probably the one who married Catherine, widow of Abraham Barnes in 1820. John H., Isaac and Isaac, Jr. are listed as heads of households in District 1 in 1827.

The other line of **Sparks** appear in the Groesbeck area. **Rebecca Sparks** from Baltimore, Maryland married Rec. Charles West. When they came to Colerain Township about 1820, her brother, **Joseph Sparks** and his family came with them. They were members of the early Olive Branch Methodist Church, which later led to the foundation of the Groesbeck Methodist. **Dr. Joseph C. Sparks**, son of Joseph, graduated from the Medical College of Ohio (Cincinnati) in 1853 and probably practiced all of his life in Colerain Township.

The early roots of the Sparks family are supposed to be in Maryland, but what link there is between these two lines is not known. It is known that John Sparks built the beautiful house on Blue Rock Road in 1831. This was sketched by Caroline Williams, who said it became the home of Michael Barnes.

THE COMPTON FAMILY

Another pioneer from New Jersey was **Jacob R. Compton.** He was born in 1760 in Hopewell. In 1780 he married Orriminah Hyde. Eleven of their thirteen children were born in New Jersey. They were: Sarah (1781-1858). Richard (1782-1858), John Hyde (1783-1894), Nathan (1785-1857), Jacob (1786-1794), Elizabeth (1788-1794), Rachel (1790-1866), Eunice (1792-1794), Anna (1794-1857), Abraham (1796-1882), Eliza (1798-1853), Orriminah (1800-1836) and Reuben S. (1804-1861).

In 1796 Jacob bought the entire Section 3 in Colerain Township. Here he brought his family and settled on the south side of what became Compton Road. The first house was probably a log cabin for the brick house was not built until about 1820. Here also about 1809 the little family cemetery was started on the north side of Compton Road at Pippin. Just east of it his son Reuben S. built a lovely home, still standing.

The story begins in 1794 when the family set out with other groups of pioneers and started for Ohio. They traveled west in wagons through the Shenandoah Valley. They stopped at a Cherokee Indian Village (probably near present day Portsmouth, Ohio) to repair their wagons and get a supply of food. Scarlet Fever was raging in the Indian Village and the children were exposed. This forced them to camp in Mason County, Kentucky, where five of the Compton children died and were buried. There had been two hundred in this caravan when it left New Jersey. In this group were also the Runyans and Hankins. Jacob Compton and Richard Hankins both served in the Revolutionary War.

Jacob R. Compton died in 1821 and was laid to rest in the family burying ground. His wife, Orriminah followed him in 1833. **Reuben S. Compton** (1804-1861) and his wife **Bathsheba Laboyteaux** (1807-1892) and their children;: Freeman (1829), Hannah (1833)., Howard, 183;2) and Uriah (1839) are here. Jacob's daughter, **Rachel Compton Hoel** (1790-1866), **Sarah Compton Hankins** (1781-1858) and her husband, William Hankins (1776-1853) and their son Jacob Compton Hankins (1827) and daughter, Polly (1809) the oldest marker in the cemetery. **Orriminah Compton Seward** (1800-1836) wife of James Seward; other names found there are Stout, Struble, McGill (Doctor William dying in 1833), Monfort and Weston. In 1875 Keziah McGill willed $200 to be invested and the interest used "to be applied yearly to repairing and keeping up the graveyard on the Farm of the late Reuben S. Compton, deceased, situated in section 3, Colerain township, where my husband and children and other relatives are buried".

In 1821 Reuben S. Compton bought a portion of his father's farm on the north side of Compton Road and built the lovely white frame residence still standing. This purchase also included the cemetery. By 1869 the farm had been divided, the residence belonging to A. L. Compton, small parcels owned by Mrs. R. C. Compton, Cornelia Compton, Oliver Compton, A. J. Compton, C. Kenney and Emaline Chadwick.

Another son of Jacob's, **Abraham Compton**, had purchased land on the east side of Hamilton Pike (at present day Waycross Road). His name appears on Colerain Township records as an elected officer in the years before 1830. He was undoubtedly living on this place at that time for it was then a part of Colerain Township. He married Abigail Phillips and raised a family of ten children. He was prominent in Butler County and was a member of the Cincinnati Pioneer Association. He and his family are buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Hamilton, Ohio.

Wells compiles the past

Historian giving township a gift

By Jennie Key
Staff Reporter

Ruth Wells

Ruth Wells is working on a birthday present for Ohio's largest township.

The 85-year-old historian is compiling and organizing a new book outlining the rich history of Colerain Township in honor of its bicentennial this year.

"This is a major work," Wells said. "People don't realize how much history there is here. The story needs to be told."

Wells is setting out to tell it. And who better? She is the founder and first president of the Coleraine Historical Society and edits the Coleraine Pageant, the group's newsletter. There's not a cemetery in the township she hasn't checked out, always looking for more information about the area's founding families.

The new book, "Colerain Township Revisited" will include some information from a cookbook history published by the historical society years ago. Wells is updating the information through 1993 and is organizing the information in what she hopes will be a clearer fashion.

She has donned her detective hat, prowling the library and pouring through records from local historical societies, telephone companies, and local townships and the county.

The township's phenomenal

Please see History, A6

HISTORY

Continued from A1

growth, the history of some suburbs within the township and the growth of churches in Colerain Township will be part of the story of how the area has burgeoned into the largest township in the state.

Wells said the book should go to a printer late this month and books will be available later this year. Proceeds will go back to the Colerain Township Bicentennial Commission. The cost of the book has not been determined.

Coleraine Historical Society president Ann Springer said helping with the book has broadened her knowledge of her community.

"It has been fascinating," she said. "I think this book will make good reading next winter. Just curl up next to a fire and enjoy."

She said local residents are fortunate to have a history buff digging out the township's past.

"The township owes a debt to Ruth Wells it may never fully realize," she said.