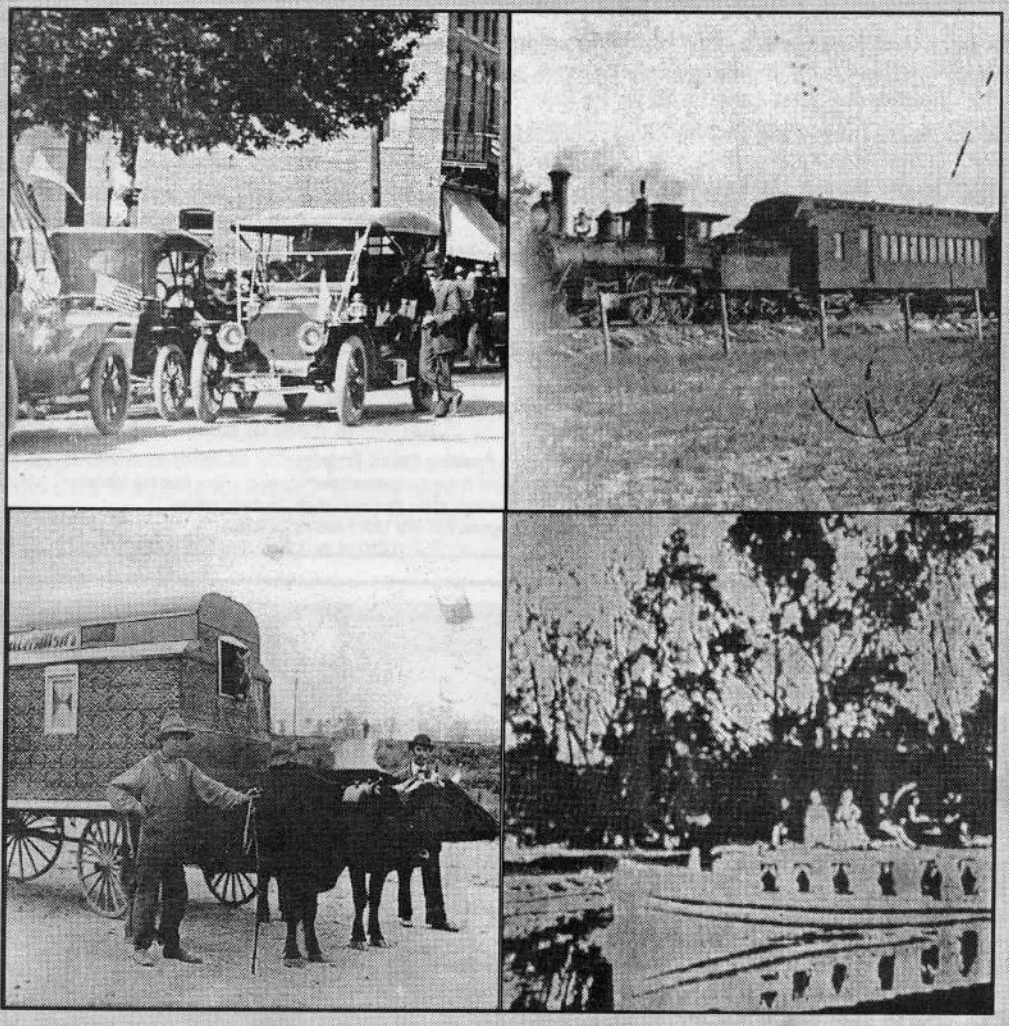
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VISIONS



OF PAULDING COUNTY

From The Historical Archives of the Paulding County Progress

$2

2000 EDITION • VOLUME 1

• Introduction

(Continued from page 3)

source begging to be tapped for posterity.

Further, it became clear that the *Paulding County Progress*, in addition to reporting today's events, is in a unique position to preserve and record history. The county's old newspapers, now safely kept on microfilm at the county library, are vital to researching past events. The papers then were simply recording timely news; they probably didn't know that they were actually becoming a "living textbook" of the times.

Therefore, why not utilize our writers and photographers to focus on the past, as well as the present, and capture what yesterday's newspeople failed to record?

Last summer's very successful five-part series on the county home history was the first project undertaken with this new philosophy. We had a tremendous response, and are still being contacted by readers who have more bits of information to share. We are further planning series on the old county hospital, and the Fort Brown area.

This latest project, *Visions of Paulding County: From the Historical Archives of the Paulding County Progress*, is another effort to help preserve our history. The *Progress* has been proud to publish many historical articles and vintage photographs about villages, ghost towns, the canals, railroads, businesses and industries, buildings, events, the old days and the reminiscences of residents. Unfortunately, once an article has been published, it's next to impossible to retrieve it unless you've clipped the story, or the library happens to have a copy in its vertical file.

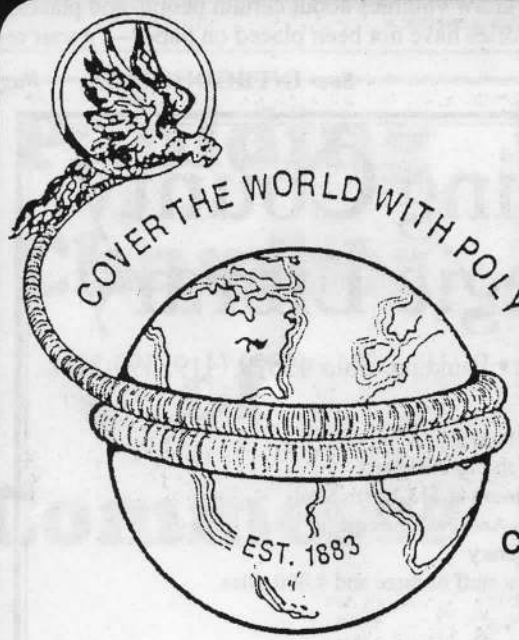
That's where the idea for this special publication — the first in a series — was born. It's designed to be a collection of our most informative and entertaining articles published over the years, all together in one place. We'll also seek out new, previously unpublished material to supplement and update these articles. "Visions of Paulding County" will become an important reference source, as well as a treasured keepsake with information available nowhere else.

So please read on, and allow yourself to be swept back in time to a familiar, but somewhat foreign landscape, when the county was just emerging from the wilderness. In your mind's eye, see the places where the people did business, worked and worshipped, hear the echo of the settler's ax, glide down the canal through the dark woods, smell the smoke from the wood stoves, swat the mosquitoes and watch where you step as you cross the muddy street. It's an exciting journey.

— By MELINDA KRICK • Progress Editor

Note: The articles contained in this issue, with the exception of "Story of the Woods," have been previously published in the Paulding County Progress *or one of its predecessors. For this project, the original articles were kept as originally written, except to correct any grammatical, typographical or factual errors.*

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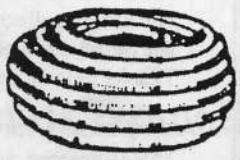
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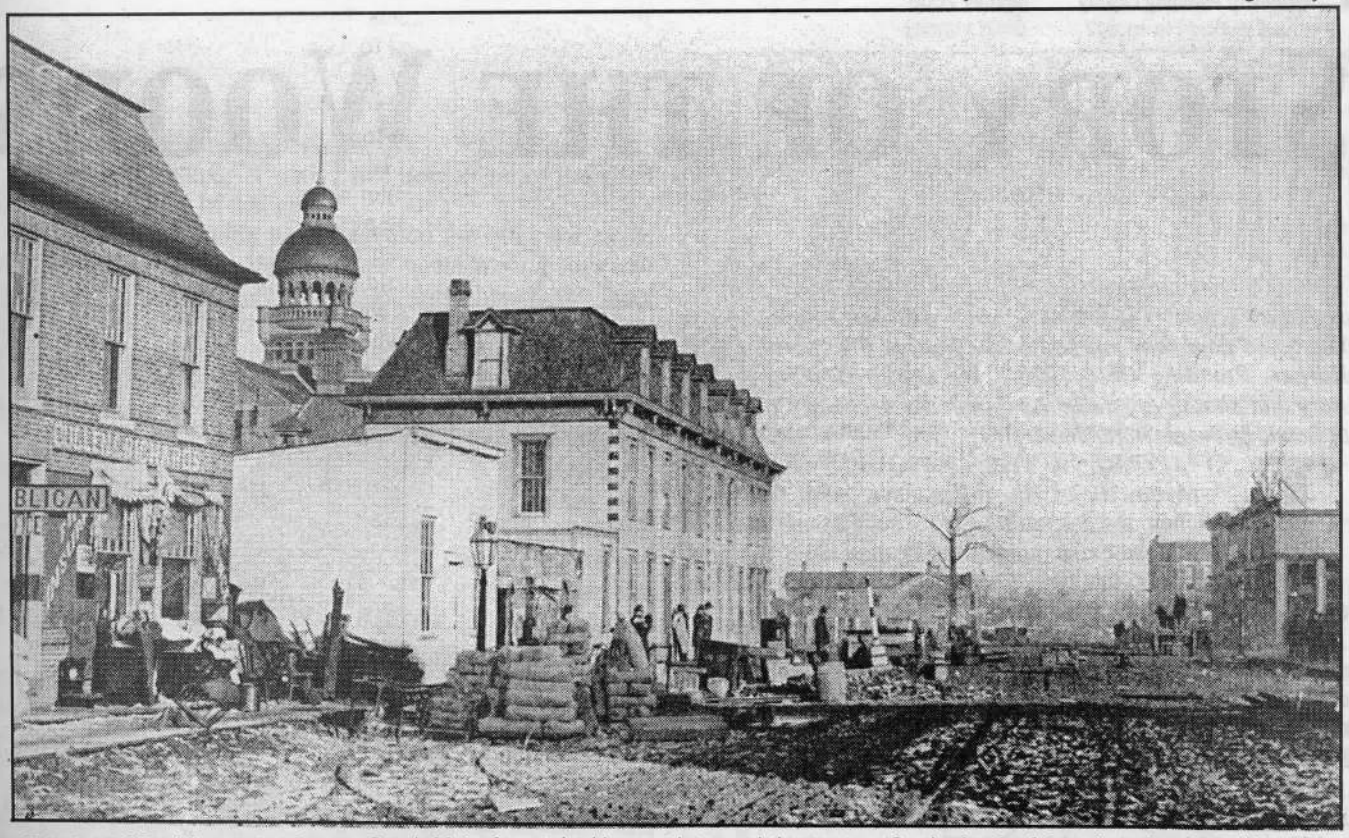
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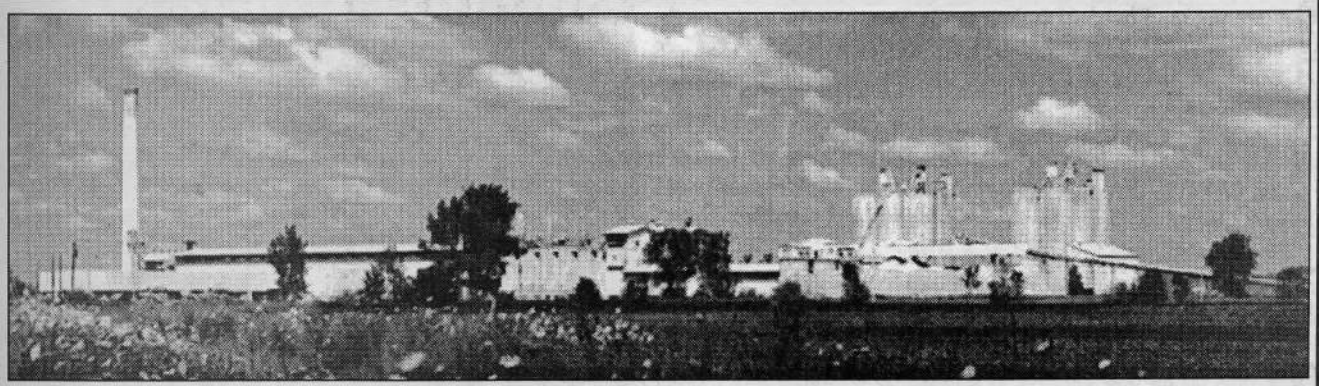
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This view of Paulding was taken on South Main Street, looking north toward the square. On the back of the photo is written "Betts Hotel located where the Standard Oil Station [now BP] across Main Street west of the Masonic Temple." H.A. Betts was proprietor of the Union Hotel in the mid 1890s. At the far left is the offices of the *Republican* newspaper. In the distance, farther north, is the Hotel French, now the site of the Certified gas station. Note the rutted mud roads, and the gas street light.



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STORY OF THE WOODS

(Editor's note: The following story was written about 1926. The typed page was marked at the bottom "Property of N.E. Harper, Paulding Ohio 1928." We acquired a copy of the story and photograph from the Center for Archival Collections at Bowling Green State University.)

TO LOVERS OF THE ANTIQUE:

Memories of the cabin days, with the plank kitchen, the Sycamore gum smoke house, the deer horns, the brass mounted long deer rifle, and powder horn. Paulding County still holds one such unmatchable scene. The story follows:

It was on a raw, wet March day that a hoary bearded large man entered the writers store and said, "show me the heaviest cow hide shoe you have, size eleven." Looking me straight in the eye said, "Don't you know me anymore? My name is Beck. Lewis Beck, the old pioneer of Bluecreek Township."

I said, "Sure, you are the man that lived neighbor to Jim Barnhill."

"Yes, and I built my cabin in 1874 and am still living in it and expect to die in it. It is going to be a tight race for she is bulging out on one side but I have some strong props on her."

I procured the shoes for him; he pulled a cold bare foot out of a thin wet shoe, stating that he never had any use for socks. But after some strong argument I induced him to put on a pair of heavy socks. The deal being made he wore the new outfit home.

During the fitting of the shoes, the conversation ran something like this:

"How old are you now, Mr. Beck?"

"I am 78."

"Did you ever shoot any deer?"

"I got my share."

"Do you still have your old deer rifle?"

"Yes, sir."

"Any deer horns hanging around your cabin?"

"Plenty of them. I am keeping them for the children. My family is raised and gone and I am alone."

I told him I was coming over some day to take pictures of him and his place. I thought strange that he made no reply and departed.

After talking it over with one of his old neighbors who resides in Paulding, on the following October we concluded to pay him a brief visit and get some snap shots. Fortunately for us on our arrival at the home we found his married daughter there sweeping up the rag carpets and adding new coats of white wash to the rooms, etc.

We received a hearty welcome and soon had a picture of Mr. Beck with deer horns and rifle in hands standing with his daughter in front of the cabin door. In the next picture he is standing with rifle in hand and the little dog at his feet. We then took a picture of Mr. Beck and Mr. Grooms standing by the plank kitchen.

We then went around the house to the old smoke house there Mr. beck removed his hat and I believe this to be one of



Courtesy of Center for Archival Collections/BGSU

Lewis Beck, a Blue Creek pioneer, in 1926 still lived in his old log cabin, built by himself in 1874 at age 27. Here he posed with his smokehouse, built from the stump of a gum tree.

the rarest antique pictures in existence.

Mr. Beck remarked, "I wish I had now some of the good hams I had stole out of that gum."

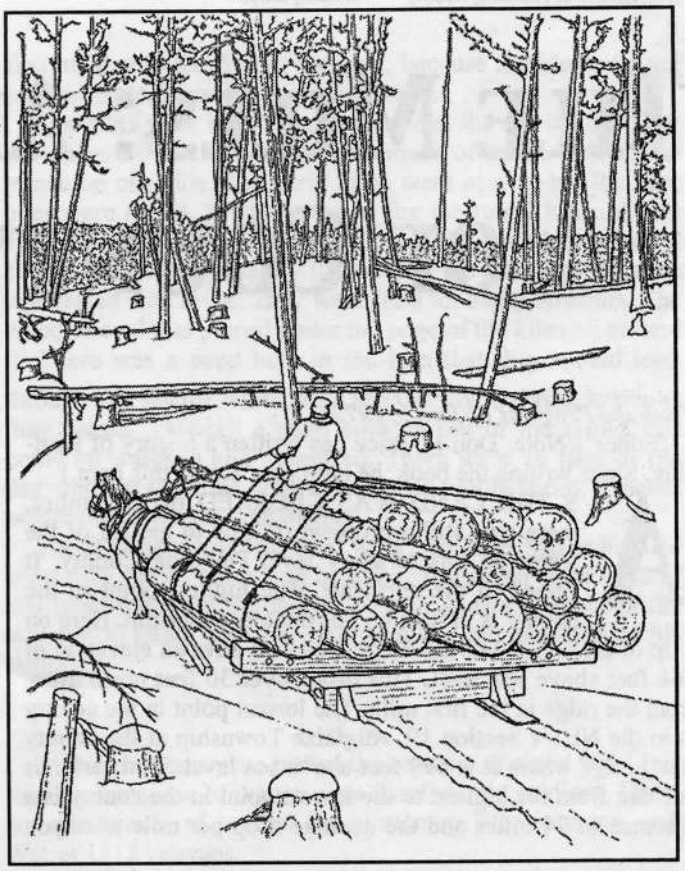
A peek into the living room revealed the old cook stove with the two long hind legs, the low down ceiling logs and plank upper floor covered with pure white wash, the cozy reading corner with lamp and easy chair. Mr. Beck can entertain you on any subject you wish to discuss from hunting wild bees and honey to a trip to the White House and meeting the President.

The old log stable is a wreck, but who cares; the logs are there, he needs no horse. The old open well is standing there full of water and uncovered. It is good enough. The tall pear trees in the front yard are loaded with fruit and when the fruit strikes the ground the juice flies. Oh, My! The country store is a mile and half where he frequently walks for his supplies and to exchange notes with neighbors.

Mr. Beck is now past eighty years of age and going strong and occasionally adds a new log prop to the east side of his cabin. We trust that this little sketch in no way reflects unkindness to this splendid old pioneer or his loyal family, friends, or relation.

The October haze is gathering in the west and the pink and purple are blending for a perfect sunset. The shadows are lengthening. The mist is hanging over the silent meadows; the goldenrod is nodding along the highway and we are speeding home.

Hand-written at the bottom of the page: *Lewis Beck died in September 1928, aged 81 years. The old cabin has fallen.*

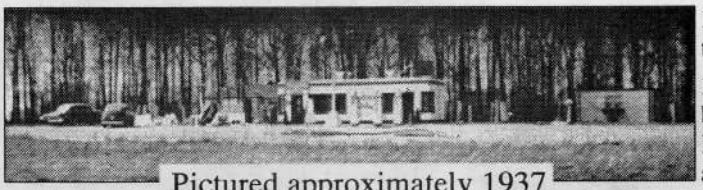


This book illustration demonstrates a part of the forest clearing process. Frozen roads made it possible to move heavy loads of logs on horse-drawn sledges.

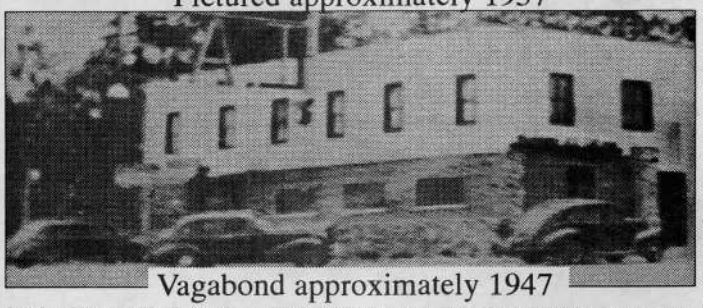
LEGEND OF VAGABOND VILLAGE

Definition of a Vagabond

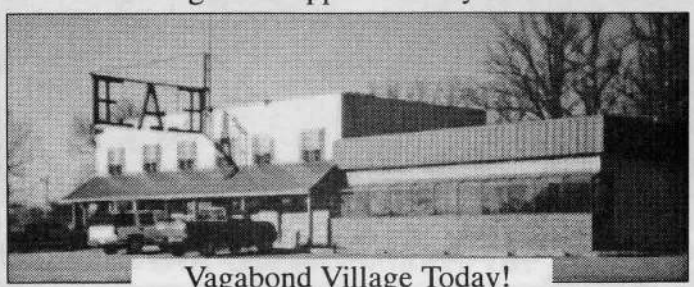
"a wandering traveler"



Pictured approximately 1937



Vagabond approximately 1947



Vagabond Village Today!

1940's - Original site cleared and small restaurant built along the Maumee River by two school teachers.

1950's - Erwin and Margaret Rush, with their two small boys bought the restaurant. Pie was 20¢ and coffee a nickel. Rush soon made many changes. In 1954 a new kitchen was added and a Pure Oil Station was built in 1956. Dave and his wife Illa took over management in 1959.

1985 - The business continued to prosper and an 85 seat dining room decorated with antiques was built.

1992 - The Vagabond was featured in Ford Times Magazine.

Many menu changes came over the years with buffets and Saturday prime rib. The famous Hobo Burger became popular, containing double beef patties, sauce and a special bun. Over ten thousand are served a year. All our steaks are locally cut and only the best quality of food supplies are used at the Vagabond.

The Dave Rush family have three children, Brent, Lyn and Heather. Their daughter Lyn Beardsley and husband Steve, have joined the business as owner-managers in the restaurant and the Pennzoil Qwik Stop.

We know our success after 50 years is due to our wonderful customers. The forty employees and management appreciate each person who comes through our front door and hope your dining experience remains a pleasant one.

Tile Mills: Another Page of County History

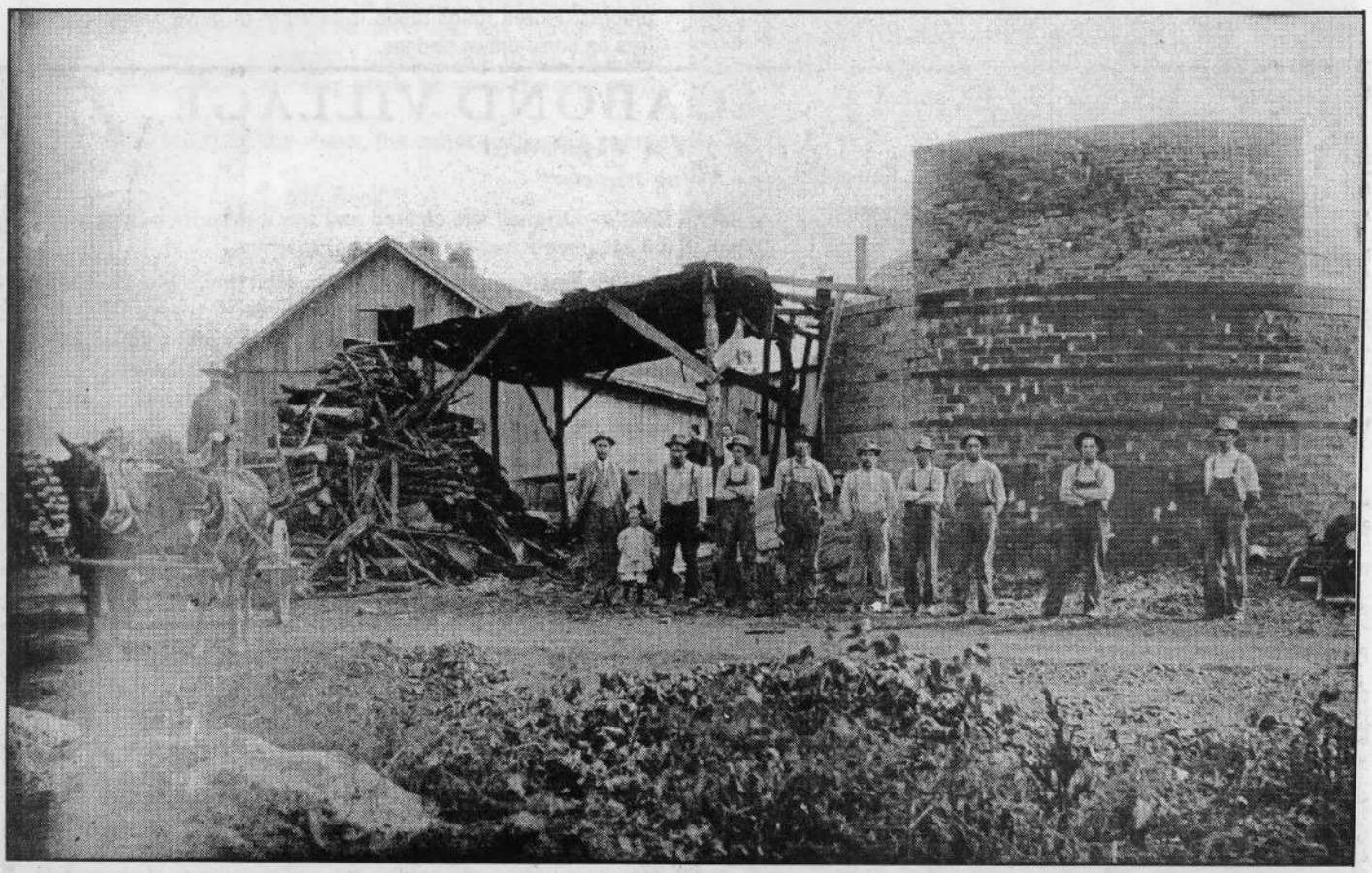
From the Progress of Jan. 5, 1977:

(Editor's Note: Don H. Price has written a history of Paulding. Since writing the book, he has come across this item.)

AS THE LAND WAS CLEARED off of timber, there was still a problem of how to get rid of the water on this swampy level Paulding County. It tipped to the northeast. The highest point in the county is in Section 30, Benton Township. Here on a tip of the U.S. 30 or the Ridge Road we have an elevation of 768 feet above sea level. This drops over 30 feet north away from the ridge in the first mile. The lowest point in the county is in the NE1/4 Section 19, Auglaize Township at the county line bridge where it is 699 feet above sea level. You can thus see that from the highest to the lowest point in the county is a distance of 24 miles and the average drop per mile after you leave the Ridge Road is a little over an average of one foot to the mile. Section 8 of Paulding Township is typical as the west end of this section is one foot higher than the east end. In Paulding, the courthouse at 717 feet is 5 feet lower than the R.E.A. [Paulding-Putnam Electric] building which is 722 feet above sea level.

The counties up in northwestern Ohio are laid off under the Connecticut survey system of square miles. Eastern Ohio is laid out under the Virginia Survey. Paulding County surveyed off the 12 townships into square miles. Then they dug ditches around or past most of them, carrying the water to the east and north with the fall.

In order to get the water to the ditches they would lay 3-inch or 4-inch tile in the fields to the outlet ditches. A lot of the early tile was dug and laid by hand. They would get the



Courtesy of Center for Archival Collections/BGSU

Tile mills sprang up around the county in the early days, manufacturing the clay field tile that was so important in draining the wet land. This photo was taken of a county tile mill; no date or location was written on the back.

fall by using water as a leveler. Later, tile was laid with a ditching machine and they would use a surveyor's level to be sure of the fall.

At one time, there were 18 tile mills in the county making tile. Today there are only two, the Baughman and the Haviland tile mills. There were also two brick yards in Paulding, the William Straw Brick Yard east of the fairground, and the Leslie Cribbs Brick Yard located at the northeast edge of Paulding, a block east of the Jackson Street bridge. The latter was the largest brick yard. It furnished most of the brick to build most of the brick buildings around the square. They were a soft brick and not hard glazed. The last office building built in 1910 used a hard glazed brick from the Zanesville Brick Yards. Many a sidewalk in the early days was built of brick laid in sand.

Big Jim Lynn built the tile mill at the east edge of Paulding. He sold the same to M.W. Klingler in 1904, who in turn sold it to his two sons, Paul and Frank. Paul bought out his brother in 1908.

The process was that they would go out east of the mill and take the top three feet of soil, haul it into the mill, mix it with a little water and put it through a press. There was a die with a core in it to take out the center of the tile as it passed through a cylinder. The tile was cut 12 inches in length and stacked in a drying room. They were kept there until they were perfectly dry, which would take a week or more. The mill ran from the first of May to the first of October, because the tile could not be allowed to freeze before being baked.

The kilns were round and crowned at the top inside. They were over 10 feet tall. They were made of brick, with an entrance on one side. The early kilns were square, but the later ones were round. It was easier to fire the round kilns. About 10,000 tile could be baked at one time. They would be stacked 10 piles high. After the dry tile were in the kilns, the entrance was sealed with brick. They were fired for about 36 hours. The wood or coal was placed under the edge of the kilns all around it. There was a peep hole in the kiln that they would look through and see the white heat. The tile would shrink in size as they baked. Through a peep hole on top of the crown this could be watched and measured. There were 10 tiers of tile that were 10 feet high. The whole stack would shrink 4 inches before they were through baking.

The making of tile was hard work; the kilns had to be filed constantly for 36 hours rain or shine. The seven employees of this plant made up the largest payroll in town. Paul ran the mill for 20 years until he used up all of the dirt back of his mill.

Within the county are buried the remains of about 900 Civil War veterans, six of whom were Confederate soldiers. There are also graves of several Revolutionary War veterans, and War of 1812 veterans.

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Hudson House lives again

From the Progress of Nov. 13, 1996:

By DORTHA SCHAEFER
Feature Writer

GLOWING with candles and real wood fires in the fireplace, lighted with Christmas decorations, and smelling of the good things of the Christmas season, the 1832 Hudson House welcomed hundreds of visitors on a recent weekend.

Located near the Auglaize River between Charloe and Melrose, the brick building lives again in response to many hours of work and loving care given to it by those who own the 164-year-old home. Tim and Georgia Kohart opened the home to friends and strangers alike. It was made even more delightful by the music of a group of dulcimer players from Defiance.

The essence of those bygone days was most apparent in the walls, windows, cupboards, and general atmosphere of the home. Isaac Carey, the builder along with John Hudson, were among the very first settlers in Paulding County. A brick mason by trade, Isaac was known to walk to Toledo and Fort Wayne for work. According to *The Hudson Family History*, he built the old stone jail in Fort Wayne.

The house was made from bricks made at the north edge of the property and with lumber from trees in the area. In 1976 when the country was celebrating its Bicentennial, the Hudson House came in for its share of attention. It is believed to be the oldest residence in the county. The Curtis Trading Post of Antwerp was built in 1825 and takes credit for being the oldest standing building. It is now being used as a residence.

Georgia Kohart, who has spent many hours and used much TLC on the house, says, "I wanted to share the house – I wanted it to live again." Tim Kohart, whose ancestors built the Hudson House and lived there for many generations, likes to recall those days.

Isaac Carey was a son-in-law to Shadrach Hudson, Paulding County's first white settler. A brick mason by trade, Isaac built the house for his brother-in-law, John Hudson. Carey



Staff Photo/Paulding County Progress

The Hudson House, which stands near the Auglaize River at Charloe, was built in 1832. The large black stars which are evident on the outside of the house are building washers which were installed sometime between 1840 and 1850 after the house received some damage from an earthquake.

sold the home to Hudson when he left for Arizona, where his wife and children perished. John's wife was Shadrach's daughter. After the Careys lived there for a time, John Ayers and family dwelled in the sturdily-built home. Clark Meade and his family, relatives of the former owners, were the next ones to inhabit the house.

"Clark Meade had a daughter, Eva Hutchinson, who was the next owner. She was my great aunt," remembered Tim. "When she was gone, the house became the property of my mother, Gladys Kohart, as well as other nieces and nephews."

Tim's father, Frank Kohart, is now the main owner, with some aunts still owning shares. History of the house is a hobby of Tim's, who quotes from a book containing many items of interest.

One story has to do with Johnny Appleseed, the well-known pioneer character of this area. "According to the history," says Tim, "the famous fellow in the late 1830s stopped here overnight. He didn't want to sleep inside the house saying 'there are too many children in here.'

"He ate with the family and stayed long enough to plant an apple orchard to the north of the house, one that lasted many years. David Carey, his host, made a pair of shoes for him. He was grateful for the shoes, but said he would give them to some needy person!

"The earthquake which occurred sometime between 1840 and 1850, not too long after the house was built, did some damage. After that to make it solid again, the owner installed what they called building washers, large black stars on the outside, which were held together through the house by heavy steel cables."

There has been some settling of the house; doors don't fit as well as they might, but this can happen with any house. Inside, walls were plastered right onto the bricks of the outside. Four fireplaces give their warmth and cheery glow to four of the rooms, one being in a huge upstairs bedroom.

Asked if there have been rumors of ghostly goings-on in the house, Tim replied, "I have never heard of any such things although Georgia says sometimes she gets a strange feeling, the hairs on her neck may raise. An aunt who often stays here alone has never complained of unnatural things happening."

Tim knows of no upsetting events happening in this house. Legend has it that two babies were born to residents and died. Each is buried in the back yard, but it appears they rest in peace.

Pictures throughout the home are of the many relatives who have dwelt here since the house was first built in 1832. It is history that the men who built the first house also built two others that are no longer standing.

It is very possible the Hudson House is even more beautiful today after its inside facelift than it was in its earlier days, all due to the efforts of the Koharts and Tim's sister, Linda, and husband, Gary Hodges. The Hodges' daughter, Julie, married Cletus Janik this past summer in a ceremony made even more meaningful as it was held in the ancestral home, the Hudson House.

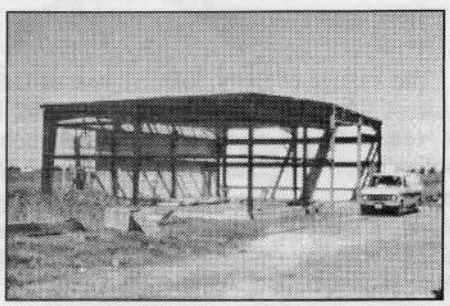
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Jail tales from the days when every community had a hoosegow

In the 'clink' ... the former Latty Jail

From the Progress of Sept. 24, 1997:

By NANCY WHITAKER
Feature Writer

PAULDING COUNTY IS RICH in history. If walls could talk ... oh what our ears would hear! It was surprising to learn that the old Latty jail in Latty is still intact although no one can remember when it was used last. The former jail house is located at the rear of the current town hall. Mayor Tom Sinn unlocked the hall and the jail, to reveal what jails were like in the 1800s. The Latty Jail still has the original bars across the windows, two holding cells, cots which fold up and hook to the walls, iron bars at each end and some type of a metal storage container at one end. (Perhaps for toileting purposes?)

The two cells are actually four feet wide and eight feet long. They are also seven feet high. The floor, ceiling and sides are made of boiler plate or steel. The metal partitions between the cells are also steel plated with solid bars in the rear. The doors to the cells are iron-made bars. Actually, it seems hard to believe that anyone ever managed to escape from this jail.

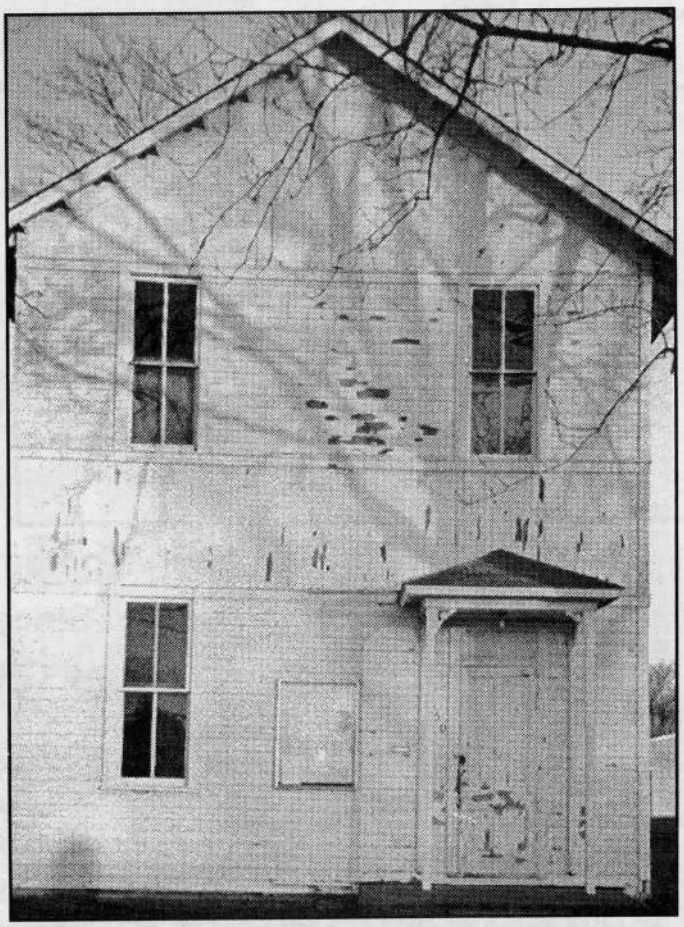
Women were supposed to conduct themselves in a becoming manner. A lady was put in jail for using profane language. She didn't have enough money to pay her fine, so she went to jail.

The Village of Latty, located west of U.S. 127 and the south side of Ohio 613, was laid out in 1882 by A. S. Latty and Wrexham Lewis. Both of these gentlemen owned the land on which Latty was platted. The village of Latty was incorporated in 1883 and became a lively little town with hotels, grocery stores, a stave factory, a couple of taverns, a school and two churches. Latty was also located on the Mackinac and Nickel Plate Railroad. In the year 1890, Latty had a population of 594 people. In the 1990 census, the population was approximately 205.

The first village officials of Latty were George Cook, mayor; Charles Ogen, clerk; Simeon E. Ropp, treasurer; and Charles Paulus, the first marshal.

A lot of the villages at this time had their own jails and their own judges, better known as The Mayor. Mayor's Court in Latty dated back to 1884, but Tom Sinn says that he has been Mayor of Latty for 12 years and does not remember when the last Mayor's Court was held.

Well, Latty, like most of the towns of this time period, had its own jail. And, yes, it was used. What crimes did people commit in the late 1800s? What was the punishment, and how much was the fine? Wherever there was a railroad crossing



Nancy Whitaker/Paulding County Progress
The present-day Latty town hall with the former jail in the back.

and a tavern, you can bet there were good times! There were no vehicles at this time, so there were no DUIs. But, public intoxication was a crime! Listed under the criminal dockets, people who were arrested for being drunk were fined one dollar and costs. Also, they were thrown in jail and had to pay a total of 60 cents for three meals. The fee for intoxication did go up to $5.

Another "no-no" was keeping a saloon open past certain hours. One poor man had to post $50 bail and then was fined $5. These may seem like cheap fines, but that was a lot of money in those days! Then, of course, there was making spirits. You could say they were medicinal but not if you made over a gallon.

In 1885, a person stole a pair of rubber boots. He was caught and had to spend 30 days in "the clink." His total fines and costs were $5.55. Another incident was the stealing of two pair of pants, a coat, a vest, and some underwear. A citizen filed the complaint, but when the marshal did a search of the party in question, he couldn't find anything.

In the late 1800s, fighting was common. Not just the men fought and argued, so did the women. You could wind up in jail for pointing a toy pistol at someone. Women were supposed to conduct themselves in a becoming manner. A lady was put in jail for using profane language. She didn't have enough money to pay her fine, so she went to jail. But, a man could beat his wife and only get a $1 fine. And there was another case when a wife beat her husband. Another incident reported was a girl laughing and acting up in church. She had to go to jail for 30 days!

Yes, the jails were busy, but in most cases, the defendant went to court the next day. The little jail cells were not a place folks liked to be. One common thing young men enjoyed was jumping on a train. But, if they got caught, they had to pay a fine of $1. You could do a lot of different annoyances, from shooting off firecrackers to trespassing, and receive the dollar fine. One time a man stole a pig. By the time the pig was discovered to be missing, it seems that the poor pig was the main entree on the supper table. The pig's owner couldn't prove the pig had been his. So, he was out a pig.

What a time the late 1800s must have been! Since that time, jails have improved, and now we see a lot more violent crimes. The Latty Jail, no doubt, saw a lot of action in those days. But, it must have been built to last, for it is still standing. Most of the villages did indeed have their own jails, but if a big crime were committed, the offender was sent to the county jail.

If you lived in this time period, you had better watch your P's and Q's. The little Latty jail is a unique piece of history, still standing as it had been yesterday. Adding to the scene was the eerie creaking of the cell doors. One of my main questions was, "Wonder what they had to eat?" Was it bread and water?

Congratulations to the Village of Latty for preserving this piece of history. But, I'm glad I'm not in the clink.

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Private collection

The first house built in the county was by Shadrach Hudson in Auglaize Township, northeast of Junction, in 1822. The two-story log home was still standing in 1900. Shadrach Hudson and several other early pioneers are buried in the Potter-Klein Cemetery.

History worth repeating

By BRENDA VARNER RAU
Feature Writer

As another century ends we are not only beginning a new one, but are reaching a milestone … a new millennium!

We feel Paulding County's progress over the decades has reached a few milestones and is worthy of recognition.

Our history is worth repeating so we will be reprinting some articles that appeared in the newspaper down through the years. We feel it is a unique way to keep our heritage alive into the new millennium and beyond.

As we reminisce, a fragrance bittersweet may linger in the air with stories like the rustic charm of camel back bridges replaced with modern bridges that span new horizons.

And perhaps sitting in front of the TV surrounded by sound and all the comforts of home we'll realize that the old town theaters were more than movie houses.

You'll read about the old village shops that will face the new era with charming antiquity, thanks to a grant. And about old churches that still spiral heavenward as cornerstones are laid for new ones.

Let's not forget about the old schools that many of our community are from. A few still stand looking desolate, but they hold fond memories of the children who were so eager to learn that they walked a mile to be crowded into a one room school house.

This is dedicated to the pillars of our community … our senior citizens who have sacrificed and persevered to make our heritage one we can all be proud of.

And also to the Baby Boomers who have joined the "cause" of preservation and, last but not least, to our people who will inherit our history enabling them to build a better tomorrow and to continue our progress.

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Really Worth Reading

Since I Came to Paulding

An ad from a Paulding County newspaper, date unknown:

I have lived in Paulding for quite a long time. I came here, as a boy, from Allen County. And believe me things have changed some since I arrived. I'd like to tell you of some of those changes. Most of the business rooms in Paulding have been built since I came here. The old rooms were destroyed by fire. The Court House, High School, West Side School, Grand Opera House, Barnes Hotel, Town Hall, Armory, Library, Sugar Factory, Christian, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Catholic and Methodist churches have all been erected since my arrival in Paulding. Every pike in Paulding County has been built in my time. The County Jail was put up before I came. There were woods everywhere and there was not one automobile.

"Mont" DeWitt bought the first automobile ever owned in Paulding. It was a little one-seated "Olds" and it attracted more attention than a flying machine does today. When I came here, as a boy, this town had no telephones or electric lights and, of course radios and aeroplanes were unknown.

When I was married I could hide behind my wife's skirts. I can't do it now.

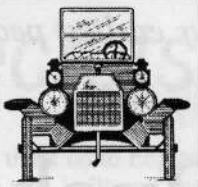
I remember when a man could get a hair cut and shave for a quarter. Eggs were ten cents a dozen, butter ten cents a pound and milk five cents a quart. Sid Barnes gave away liver and treated the kids to all the bologna they could eat. The hired girl received ten bucks a month and did all the washing. Women did not paint and powder, smoke, vote, play poker and rum, and they did not shimmie or roll their sox. Men wore whiskers and boots, chewed tobacco, spit on the sidewalk and cussed. John Brewer sold beer at a nickel a throw with a free lunch for good measure. Waiters never got tips and hat-check boys were not known. Kerosene lamps and lantern slides in the parlors were the class. No one was ever operated on for appendicitis, bought monkey glands, or had a two-fifty blood pressure. Everyone lived to a good old age and walked many miles to swap lies with friends.

Today everybody rides in a automobile or flies. Everyone plays golf, poker or bridge, shoots crap, plays the piano with his feet, tunes in P.D.Q. on the radio, smokes Turkish cigarettes and imported cigars, eats grape-fruit, drinks gasoline and prune juice, blames the high cost of living on the politicians, never goes to bed the same day he gets up, and things he is having a wonderful time.

I too, think this is a wonderful age. I like it. And if you think life is worth living and want to get full value out of it, come to the CRAIN HARDWARE AND IMPLEMENT STORE, and meet our gang.

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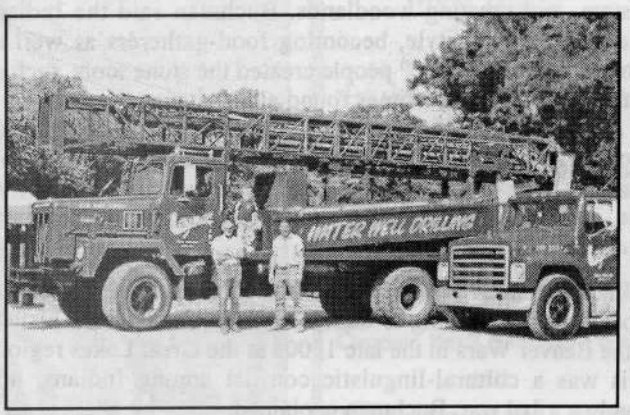
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Our earliest peoples were the Hurons, Wyandots, Ottawas, Miamis, Mingo, Delawares ...

Buchman traces county Indians

From the Progress of Aug. 4, 1993:

By MELINDA KRICK
Correspondent

MORE THAN 100 people went on a "time trip" — from 10,000 B.C. to the 1830s — to learn more about the Indians of Paulding County at a special event last week.

Randy Buchman, an associate professor of history at Defiance College, was guest speaker at the annual Old Settlers' Day at John Paulding Historical Society Museum Friday.

Buchman, who has an interest in Ohio pre-history and the Indians of Ohio, traced the different peoples who were in this area from post-ice age times through the days of the early white settlers. The Indians primarily used Paulding County's Black Swamp for hunting, and didn't have permanent settlements here until after the Revolutionary War, according to Buchman.

He pointed out that the Indians weren't conscious of the borders that we recognize for counties and states. The region has historical significance for our nation because of the number of river valleys: the Maumee, Auglaize, St. Joe, St. Marys and Tiffin.

The first people in the area were here about 10,000-12,000 years ago, when this was a frozen grassland and the last glacier was slowly retreating nearby. The people were known as "early hunters" and relied on animals to provide all they needed for survival.

The glaciers receded north, changing the climate and ecosystem, and creating woodlands. Buchman said the Indians changed their lifestyle, becoming food-gatherers as well as hinters. These "archaic" people created the stone tools, such as hatchets, that are sometimes found along rivers.

About 200-300 A.D., the "early woodland" people started growing food, too, in addition to hunting and gathering. This constant source of food gave them more time for other activities, such as making pottery and different tools, according to Buchman.

Later, deerskin and beaver pelts became valuable to certain tribes that were willing to trade – or take – the skins. This led to the Beaver Wars in the late 1500s in the Great Lakes region. This was a cultural-linguistic conflict among Indians, not simply a tribal war, Buchman explained.

Iroquois of Lake Ontario region would send war parties to attack the Sioux peoples of the Lake Superior region, and vice versa, often traveling through northern Ohio. As a result of this danger, the Indians living here fled from about 1600-1620.

The British and French helped end the war, and a 1701 treaty restored the peace and brought Indians back to Ohio, said Buchman. The Hurons returned, now calling themselves Wyandots, meaning "wanderers." Also moving in were the Ottawas, Miamis, Mingo, Delawares and Shawnee.

In the early 1700s, when the French were in control, the Miamis would camp in Paulding County to hunt in the summer and winter. The groups also contained some Kickapoo and Mascouten Indians.

By the mid-1700s, the Miamis had moved north of the Maumee, and the first Ottawas came here from the Detroit area via the Maumee, which was a major artery for the fur trade. Also, the Delawares visited ever two or three winters to hunt around the Auglaize, said Buchman.

About 1760-1776, the British had defeated the French for control of the frontier, and the French-allied Miamis moved to western Indiana. The Ottawas became more entrenched along the Maumee, and now the Shawnee periodically came near the county's eastern borders.

The Revolutionary War era saw another exodus from the area as the British traveled up the Maumee and Auglaize on their way to Kentucky to attack American interests.

From about 1796-1819, the county saw Indian activity again with the return of the Ottawas, Delawares, Shawnee and Miamis. The Delawares started the first village on the Auglaize south of the Paulding-Defiance County Line, according to Buchman. The village contained about 15-20 multi-family wigwams. Another Delaware village of eight to 10 wigwams soon appeared on the east back of the Auglaize, near the county line.

Around this time, the government wanted to sell land to white settlers, which the Indians of course opposed. The Indians of this area were major proponents of attacking whites moving north of the Ohio River, Buchman said. The tribes banded together, centered in Fort Wayne.

Efforts to quell the Indians initially failed. They moved east, centering around Defiance to be closer to the British at Detroit. Then after the Indians' defeat at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, the Delawares moved their village south near Oakwood, and became knows as Oquanoxa's village.

Through the early 1800s, the Delawares and Miamis left the area for the last time, setting in Indiana. The Ottawas remained in Ohio until about 1832.

The Indians "were the caretakers of Paulding County before the settlers came here," Buchman said. "They didn't destroy and contaminate the rivers, they didn't kill all the animals ... We owe it to them to be good caretakers, too."

Clark Cemetery holds many secrets

From the Progress of Oct. 30, 1996:

By DORTHA SCHAEFER
Feature Writer

IN THE MID 1800s, Paulding County was still a part of the Black Swamp; mosquitoes, frogs and crawdads lived in great abundance and few people had as yet come into the area.

Those who did come in were hardy pioneer souls and men from Canada who worked to take down our magnificent white oak trees. Most of the men seem to have been French, but some may have hailed from Germany.

George Price of Paulding owns one of the houses from those by-gone days and has remodeled it to be as modern as anyone could want. Once there were two houses in the forest. George's ancestors brought the two into farm acres on Route 111, and made one house. In later years, while the remodeling was going on, coins fell out while workmen were taking down old horsehair plaster from the walls.

The coins are larger than quarters and bear such dates as 1771 (a German coin), 1837, 1843, and 1847. It is presumed that some of those workers must have stayed for a time in one of the cabins, leaving money behind. Most are French coins.

The oak trees were of enormous size, were felled and cleaned and sent down the creek and from there on to England to be made into ship timbers. A saw mill was built and used during those early days of the county on a farm north of Antwerp on the Marie DeLarme Creek.

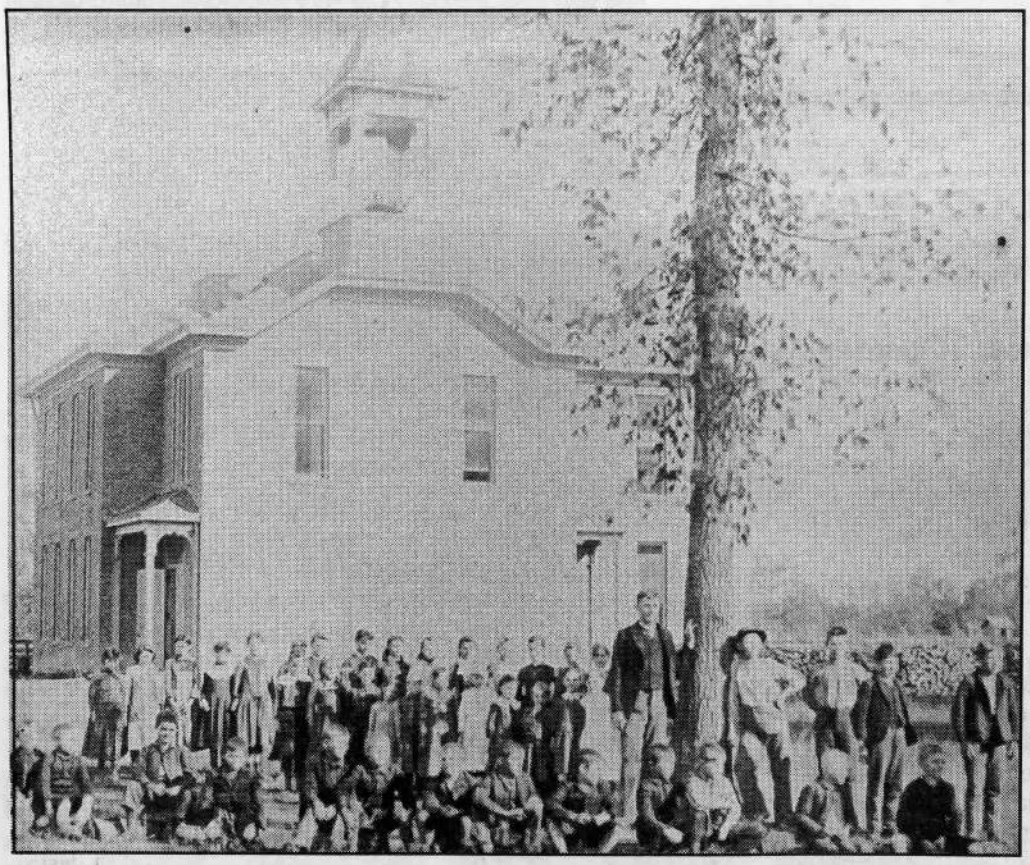
Just off SR 49, also north of Antwerp, is an ancient cemetery which is known as the Clark Cemetery. At the time of the cutting of the oaks there was a camp at that site where the Canadian workers lived. A few of the giant white oaks are still there.

A common burial area surrounded by falling-down fence marks the spot where many of the foreign workers were interred. It happened during an epidemic in the camp of ague and other fevers spread by the ample mosquito population.

Tombstones are showing their age but many names can still be read of those buried in the quiet spot just off the busy highway, names such as Donat, Hart, Banks, Munger, Hoover, and Schooley.

The most thought-provoking spot in the ancient burial ground is the common grave of those long-ago workers who left their own country to come to a forbidding foreign land to work for only pennies a day. To die so far from families and homes was a sad fate.

Material for this article was provided by George Price.



Courtesy of Center for Archival Collections/BGSU

BROUGHTON SCHOOL – This school class picture was taken at Broughton about 1884. The two-story brick schoolhouse was constructed in 1884 and used for 64 years. It closed in 1948. At first, it housed an elementary school for grades 1-8 and a two-year high school. After 1920, it was used only for grades 1-8.

The Great Black Swamp covered about 1,500 square miles.

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Paulding County Pedigree

From the Progress of April 15, 1998:

By CAROLINE ZIMMERMAN

One of the pioneer industries of Paulding Co. was the manufacture of black salts.

Ashes were gathered into barrels in which holes had been drilled near the bottom. Water was poured into the ashes making a strong lye. This lye was boiled down until black crystals or "black salts" were formed.

Such an "ashery" was started on small scale on the creek bank at the east edge of Payne. In the early days of its history, it consisted of only a furnace and a large boiler and vat in a small shed, and a few ash hoppers. At this time only black salts were made.

Originally operated by David Malott, it was sold to Michael Englehart, brother to the owner of the Paulding ashery. Improved machinery was installed for making potash from the lye.

The lye was boiled down to a thick syrup when it was dipped into cooking pans. At this stage it had a red flame-like appearance. When cold, it was very hard and heavy and packed into barrels for shipment and was so heavy three men were required to load it on a wagon.

The potash was then sold for as high as $28 a barrel. Potash being a vegetable alkali in an impure state, procured from the ashes of plants (tree vegetation).

It was lucrative for the local children to sell the ashes accumulated in the ash barrel or box at homes in the area, because everyone burned wood.

Also, the "Ash Man" would make rounds to buy ashes from 3 cents to 8 cents per basket. Ashers were gathered from near and far, from saw mills, from burned log heaps, from factories, stores and even some homes.

And "ashery" was a long, low and ramshackle building, which disappeared with the timber industry.

In a dozen short years, the heavily forested acres of Benton and Harrison Townships had been laid bare like a "plucked chicken," leaving the blackened stumps like "pinfeathers of a barred rock rooster."

The major sources of income for the early settlers were products produced from Paulding County timber. The manufacture of black salts was one product of days gone by.

The following poem was taken from the centennial souvenir booklet "The Progress of Paulding County 1839-1939"

PAYNE

First they called it Flatrock city,
But this did not remain
For it was changed to Malottville
And then they called it Payne.
Her lands were rich and seeds would grow
And soon the farmers came,
And now the stock years of the town
Have reached the point of fame.
It ever was a thriving town,
A fitting place to be;
That is the reason Payne has grown
Says county history.

Do you have a PAULDING CO. PEDIGREE or even a tiny root? If so, please send your queries to PAULDING CO. PEDIGREE, c/o Caroline Zimmerman, 7292 Road 176, Antwerp, Ohio 45813-9503.

The first export cargo of the county was said to have been 25 raccoon skins, eight deer pelts, 10 pounds of dried ginseng and a pair of venison hams, loaded into a canoe by a squatter at some point in the northern part of Emerald Township, and shipped down the Maumee to Defiance. The cargo was valued at about $25 or $30, according to the 1892 *Historical Atlas of Paulding County, Ohio.*



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Norm's News - Remember When

From the Progress of June 10, 1998:
By NORM RULMAN



Can you remember when groceries were delivered to your home and milk was delivered daily? ... When you hardly ever locked your doors unless you were going out of town for a few weeks? Back then you told your good neighbor where you put the key in case of an emergency, or you notified your marshal or policeman.

And those were the days that everybody called you by your name at the gas station or any of the other stores. You would also be able to tell the clerk to put your purchases on your tab.

When you needed the doctor, he would call at your home. House calls today? ... Guess not! When buying a car or spending money on something, you shook hands on the deal.

When you could go to the butcher shop they would cut your meat for you, and you would also get a few bones for your dog. In those days, we had several grocery stores. We also had bakeries with an aroma of fresh-baked bread, which made your mouth water.

Back in 1938, the old hospital was built near the Paulding County Home on old Ohio 111. The middle school was also built that year.

Remember when —

... the Paulding stores stayed open Friday and Saturday nights. ... Saturday nights, the courthouse square was filled with farmers and townspeople. ... every Thursday evening during the summer months, there would be band concerts in the bandstand on the southwest corner of the courthouse lawn.

... everyone had one phone – the one at the candy store or corner drug store. ... cigarettes were sold loosely, for a penny a piece. ... If your salary was 25 cents per hour, you were doing good.

... you could buy a new car for under $500.

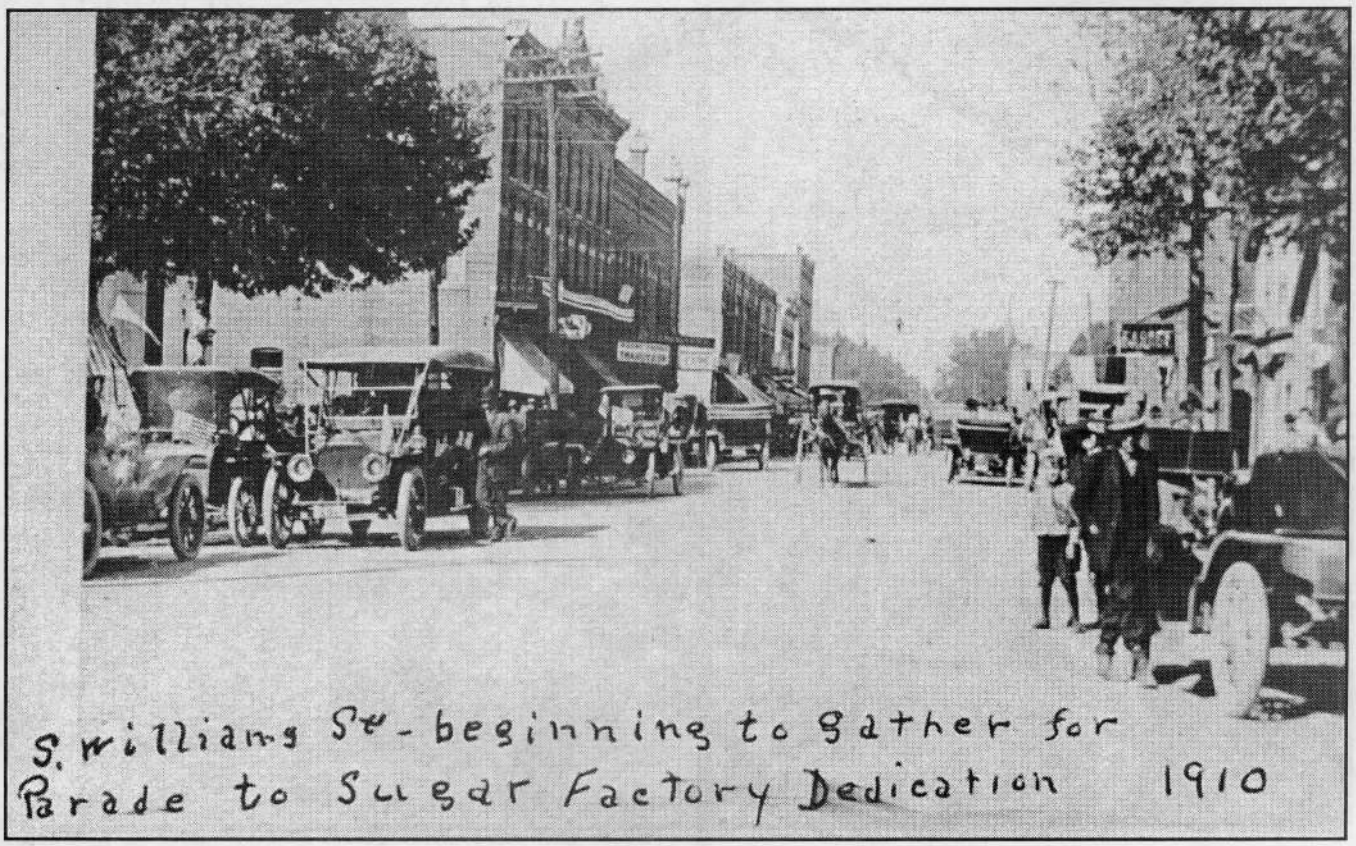
... there were only one or two cars parked in an entire block.

... Harmon Field was our playground, with tennis courts, ball park, and a wading pool. There were also swings and a sandbox for the young ones.

... we had a fire bell on top of the old fire station, and it was used to call the firemen to the fire. They would rush to the station and use the phone on the inner wall to get the message from the telephone operators for the fire location.

... you could buy a post card for one cent and send a letter for two cents.

... there were small towns where you greeted the mayor in the restaurant with "Hi, Doc!" So here we are, going down memory lane . ...



Private collection

A grand celebration was held Saturday, Oct. 1, 1910, to formally dedicate the German American Sugar Company. This photo was taken on South Williams Street, near the jail, looking north.

Junction – The Canals Giveth and The Canals Taketh

The junction of two canals once promised to be a great city, but its fate was sealed as the waterways were abandoned

From the Progress of May 19, 1976:

By LOUIE LEVY

FOR A 10-YEAR PERIOD from 1844-54, Junction was where it was at. When the Miami-Erie and Wabash canals were operating at full tilt, it appeared the settlement at the junction of the two canals was destined for greatness.

However, in 1854 much of the Wabash Canal was abandoned and half of Junction's life blood had dried up. It was all downhill after that date. When the Miami-Erie Canal was abandoned in the late 1890s at Junction, the final nail was pounded in the coffin.

But what about those boom years?

John Mason Sr. and Nathan Shirley laid out the canal town in Auglaize Township in 1842. The Wabash Canal reached Junction the following year.

People wanting to get in on the ground floor of something sure to be big wasted no time moving to Junction. One such man was Captain Dana Columbia, a civil engineer. He sold his property on Columbia Street in Fort Wayne without hesitation when he heard about Junction.

Columbia reasoned the new Ohio town would become bigger and better than Fort Wayne. He felt his chances at gaining wealth as a civil engineer in Junction were excellent.



ONE OF JUNCTION'S EARLY industries was W.H. Dotterer's hoop shop, where barrel hoops were made. Workmen in this 1890 photograph are, from left – Harry Riley, John Brown, Leroy Forney, W.H. Dotterer, William Brown, Albert Hauser, George McGregor and Gus Brown.

Junction's population grew until it peaked at 300. It aspired to become the county seat.

Businesses appealing to canal travelers and workers sprung up like mushrooms in the canal town. Two or three hotels and three or four large, well-filled dry goods stores and groceries located there.

Three large grain warehouses were constructed along the canals. A canal collector's office and residence and at least six saloons made Junction quite an attraction.

The wharves were constantly lined with freighters loading and unloading cargo during the canal's heyday.

A distillery and brewery were built later and the number of grocery stores jumped to five. The going price for a gallon of whiskey was 65 cents.

Industry didn't locate immediately in Junction. But, before the canals had dried up there was a hoop shop, a sawmill, a flour mill that later burned down, and two blacksmith shops. Junction's last blacksmith was Harding "Shorty" Anderson who died in October 1967.

The saloons hadn't been open too many years before the refining influence of the church arrived. The Christian Church was the first to organize in Junction in 1849. The Methodists built a structure in 1857 that is still used for services. It is the oldest church in the county.

United Brethren, German Reformed, and Catholics followed later. The new St. Mary's Catholic Church, built in 1912, cost about $16,000.

A post office was established in Junction in 1842, and in 1854 the first public school in Auglaize Township was built there. The one-story 28x30 foot structure was later purchased by the United Brethren congregation for a church.

A two-story brick school was built in 1876 for $2,500, and in the early 1900s a one-story frame building was built for Junction students. It was used until 1951 when the school was transferred to the old Auglaize-Brown Local School.

Three doctors have served Junction's past: Doctors Hager, Dix and Milholland. The latter died in 1939.

Everett Budd noted Junction's deterioration in 1888 when he said, "In common parlance, the place has been going down hill for several years, and farmers in that vicinity remark that 'its site will make a good corn field when its rubbish is moved away.'"

Today the condition of this once bustling canal center has deteriorated to a most disgraceful state. None of the early buildings were preserved; however, two stone aqueducts along the Miami-Erie Canal are still standing – a tribute to the workmanship of the builders, not Paulding Countians interested in preserving some remnant of this golden era.

What farmers once said would "make a good corn field" has been put to "better use" by some of the present owners. Rats, junk cars, and miscellaneous trash now occupy the space where hotels, stores, saloons and other remembrances of a past day once proudly stood.

Our nation's bicentennial year would be a fine, albeit long overdue, time to restore and clean up Junction.

To purchase extra copies

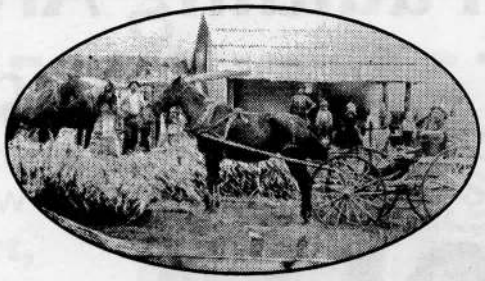
Visions of Paulding County: From the Historical Archives of the Paulding County Progress, Volume 1 is published by the *Paulding County Progress* newspaper. A copy of this publication is included free in the Jan. 26, 2000 edition of the *Progress* for the enjoyment of our readers. We have a limited supply of additional copies, which may be purchased for $2 each at the Progress office, 113 S. Main St., Paulding. Copies can be obtained by mail for $4 ($2 plus $2 shipping and handling) by writing to: Paulding County Progress, P.O. Box 180, Paulding OH 45879.

About the cover

The first *Visions of Paulding County* cover features visions of past modes of transportation. Clockwise from top left: Automobiles lined up for a parade in Paulding, October 1910; A steam train near Grover Hill, taken by Homer Shively about 1900. The clock was so regular, residents could set their clocks by it (courtesy Center for Archival Collections/BGSU); A canal boat, believed taken near Antwerp on the Wabash and Erie Canal (courtesy Paulding County Carnegie Library); A team of oxen pulling a medicine show wagon at Melrose around 1890 (courtesy Center for Archival Collections/BGSU).

Fort Brown was one of a chain of posts built along the Auglaize River by Gen. William Henry Harrison's army in his campaigns against the British and Indians during the War of 1812.

ANNOUNCING...



Visions of Paulding County

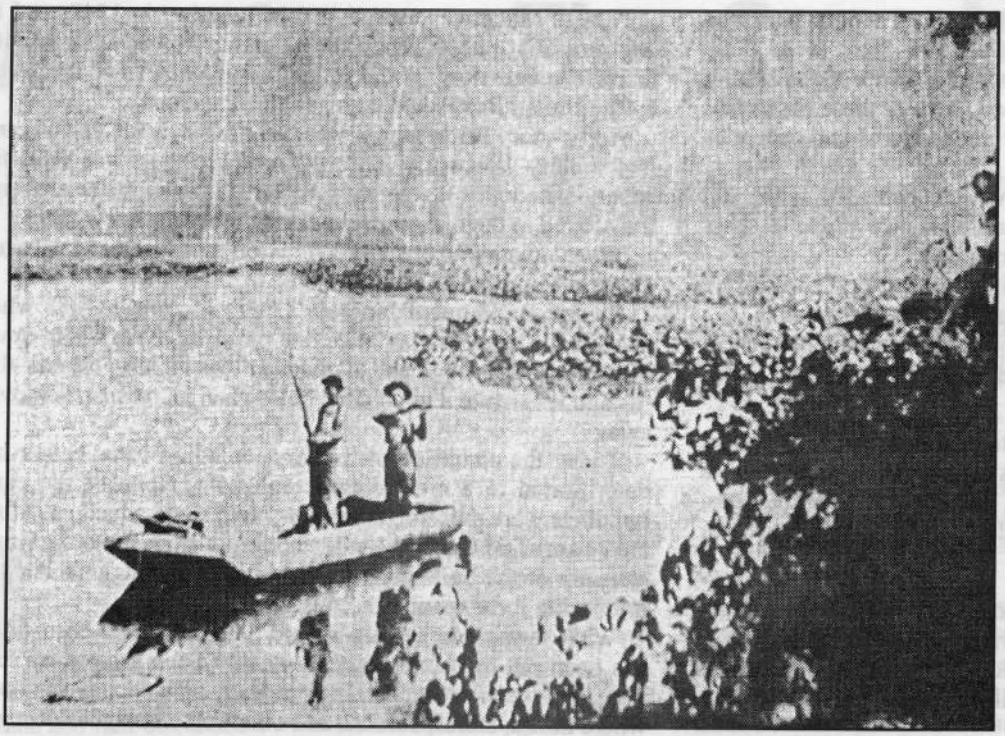
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Courtesy of Paulding County Carnegie Library

This photo is purported to be of Six Mile Reservoir. These young men were fishing in the upper end of the reservoir, just before the infamous dynamiting during the "Reservoir War" of 1887. The reservoir, located east of Antwerp, was built as part of the Wabash-Erie Canal.

Want to learn more about our local history? Then visit the John Paulding Historical Museum in Paulding, the Otto E. Ehrhart Museum in Antwerp, or the Paulding County Carnegie Library. Check out our *Paulding County Area Guide* for organizations relating to genealogy, history and preservation. Also, there is a county heritage tourism committee – call the Paulding Chamber of Commerce at (419) 399-5215 for more information.

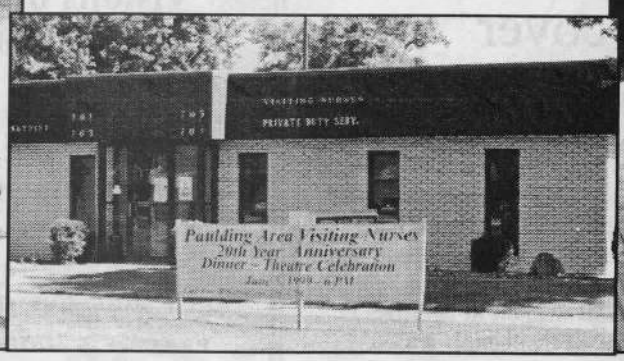
The first county fair was held in 1860 at Junction. The event was deemed a partial failure. The first annual fair was held in 1872 at the present fairground site.

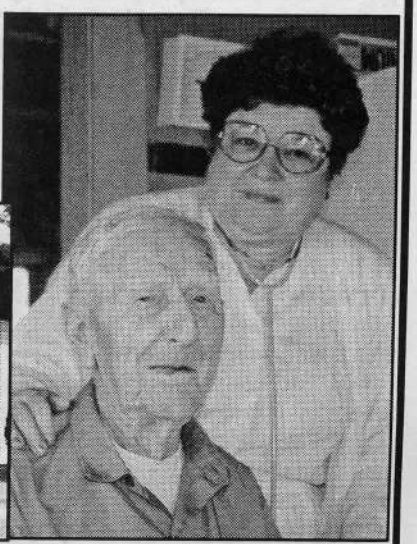
In 1889, wooded land was selling for around $15-$25 per acre; improved (cleared) land was going for $30-$40 per acre.

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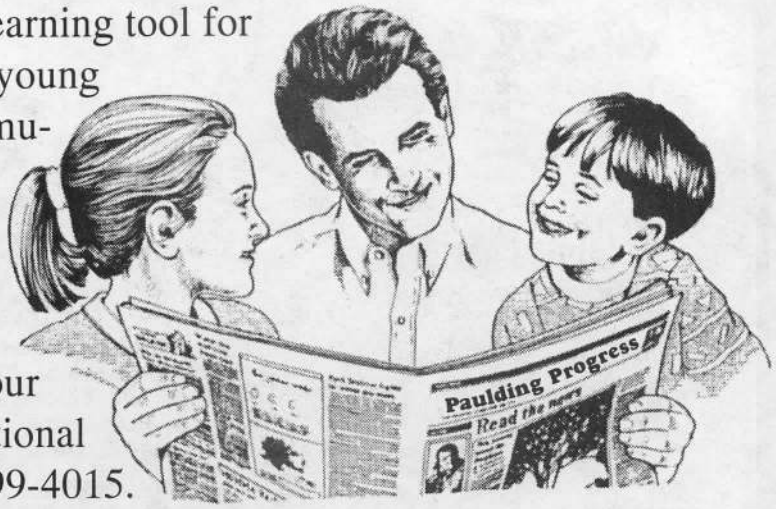


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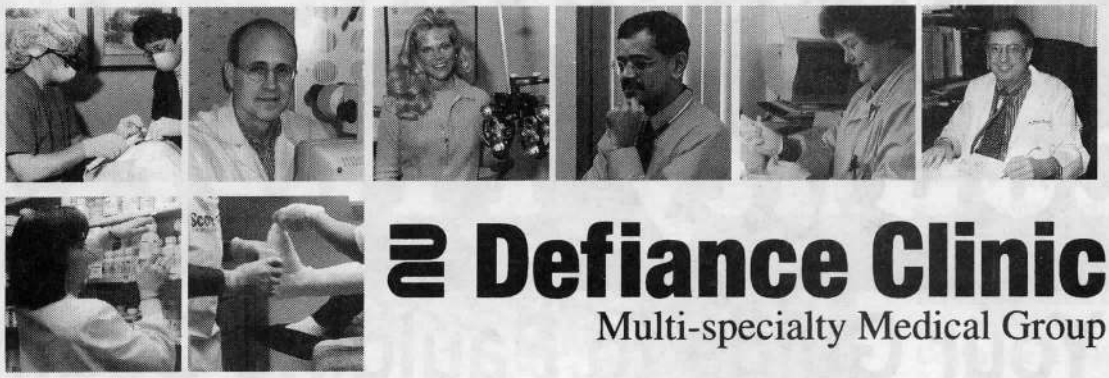


Name_____

Address_____

City_____ Zip_____

Phone (_____)_____



Defiance Clinic

Multi-specialty Medical Group

URGENTCARE at Defiance Clinic

Extended physician hours:
M-F, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sat., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun., 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
783-3261

Defiance **Clinic Pharmacy**

For all your pharmacy needs
M-F, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat., 9 a.m. - noon
783-3376

Defiance Clinic *center*

Ophthalmology, Optometry, & Optical Shoppe
783-3335

WorkMed

Occupational Medicine Division of Defiance Clinic
784-1414

X-ray & ACR-accredited Mammography - 783-3239

Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine - 783-3309

Audiology & Hearing Aids - 783-3241

COLA-certified Laboratory

Satellite Offices

Napoleon Clinic
1426 N. Scott St., Napoleon
599-5600

Continental Clinic
102 W. Ash St., Continental
596-3133

Physician Directory & Direct Dial Numbers

Family Practice - 783-3261
- William S. Busteed, MD
- Harry A. Doyle, MD
- Larry R. Fout, MD
- James L. Preston, MD
- William H. Richter, MD
- Rita A. Rohrs, MD
- Gary A. Grego, MD (559-5600, Napoleon Clinic)
- Joseph P. Kraska, MD (596-3133, Continental Clinic)
- Thomas A. Losey, MD (599-5600, Napoleon Clinic)

Internal Medicine - 783-3211
- Paul E. Brose, MD
- Allen L. Gaspar, MD
- J.D. Reeves, MD
- Michael Shenkman, MD
- Robert R. Southworth, MD

Pediatrics - 783-3226
- Robert J. Foldvary, MD
- Marc E. Spuller, MD

Cardiology - 783-3251
- Rajmohan S. Karnik, MD

Dermatology - 783-3264
- Diane M. Bernardi, MD
- Melinda J.A. Woofter, MD

General Surgery - 783-3241
- Carlos R. Diaz, MD
- Jeffrey A. Pruitt, MD
- John W. Shaw, MD

Neurology - 783-3241
- Prasad N. Policherla, MD

Obstetrics & Gynecology - 783-3273
- Rafael V. Alberti, MD
- Steve T. Cheung, MD
- Daniel J. Dilworth, MD
- Plinio E. Velandia, MD

Oncology
- Salvatore Veltri, MD

Ophthalmology - 783-3335
- John J. Racciato, MD

Optometry - 783-3335
- Amy J. Brunswick, OD

Orthopedic Surgery - 783-3251
- George J. Morgan, MD

Otolaryngology - 783-3241 (Ear, Nose, & Throat)
- Richard G. Smith, MD

Podiatry - 783-3241
- William M. Finerty, Jr., DPM

Radiology - 783-3239
- David L. Kaufman, MD

Visiting Consultants
- Allergy
- Nephrology
- Pediatric Cardiology
- Pulmonology
- Vascular Surgery

Dr. Pruitt, Dr. Racciato, & Dr. Smith have regular hours at Paulding County Hospital, 399-4080

784-1414 or 1-800-925-4642

1400 E. Second St. (State Route 18), Defiance

In case of emergency after hours, call 783-6955