

The Alexander Family

and

Alexander Road Families

and

**Alexander Road Businesses,
Past and Present**

and

Alexander Road

On this Web Site also see Links about Alexander Road and its Settlers:

Book: *The Village of Walton Hills – Tracing Our Heritage*, by Jean and Robert Kainsinger, c. 1986
p. 93-99

Album of Maps: Includes many maps of Alexander Road

Also: Additional photos and memorabilia are on exhibit at the Walton Hills Historical Resource Center,
Community Room, Walton Hills Village Hall, corner of Walton and Alexander Roads, Walton Hills Ohio

STORIES about Our ROADS

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

This is the 1st in a series of articles about Walton Hills Roads. We start with our old county roads and end with our village streets.

Today we drive on well-paved roads that, although they mirror the rolling terrain of Walton Hills, can be used with confidence throughout the year. It is difficult to imagine them as the steeper, windier, dirt paths and wood plank roadways of years ago.

Records at the County Engineer offices show several of our county roads as being among the very oldest in Cuyahoga County. It was only a few years after Moses Cleaveland and his team surveyed this part of the Western Reserve in 1796 and 1797 that settlers came to our area. The pioneers carved new ruts in old dirt trails as they hauled their belongings by oxen teams or horseback to their new homesteads. Farming families settled along these narrow dirt roadways that twisted around the hills in our part of Bedford Township.

By 1852 the following dirt county roads were planked by Cuyahoga County: Dunham Road, Egypt Road, Tinkers Creek Road, Button Road, Northfield Road and Sagamore Road.

In 1880 Phillips Road was renamed Alexander Road.

In 1907 Egypt Road became part of Dunham Road.

ROAD	SECTION	Became a DEDICATED CUYAHOGA COUNTY ROAD	YEAR
Northfield Road	Union Street to Sagamore Road		1803
Tinkers Creek Road	Canal Road to Dunham Road		1811
Dunham Road	Turney Road to Button Road		1820
Egypt Road	Tinkers Creek Road to Sagamore Road		1820
Button Road	Dunham Road to Broadway Avenue		1825
Egbert Road	Union Street to Dunham Road		1833
Walton Road	Egbert Road to Sagamore Road		1836
Phillips Road	Canal Road to Egypt Road		1839
Sagamore Road	Canal Road to Northfield Road		1843
Alexander Road	Egypt Road to Walton Road		1881
Alexander Road	Walton Road to Northfield Road		1940
Alexander Road	Northfield Road to Pettibone Road		1954

NORTHFIELD ROAD

In 1803 the State of Ohio became the 17th state to enter the Union and Northfield Road became a dedicated Cuyahoga County road. Northfield Road was one stretch of a long, old trail that led north-northwest to Broadway Avenue, along Lake Erie and north into Michigan, and led south-southeast to Uhrichsville, Wheeling, Marietta, the Ohio River and points south.

TINKERS CREEK ROAD

Tinkers Creek Road began as a short roadway that started near the Cuyahoga River and ended at the intersection of three other roads in the Community of Little Egypt. Travelers could take Dunham Road northward to Broadway Avenue, Button Road northeast to Bedford or Egypt Road southeast toward Northfield or Hudson. Each of these three roads began with a treacherous, steep and winding hill.

On the south side of Tinkers Creek Road, just inside the Bedford Township border, is where:

1. Elijah Nobles, the first pioneer in Bedford Township, built his cabin in 1813. He lived there only a short time.
2. In 1814 the first permanent residents in Bedford Township, Stephen and Julia Comstock with their son Charles, built their log cabin and settled on land they purchased from the Connecticut Land Company.
3. Tinkers Creek Tavern stands today.

STORIES about Our ROADS

Part V

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

This is Part 5 in a series of articles about Walton Hills Roads, starting with our old county roads and ending with our village streets. Today we drive on well-paved roads that, although they mirror the rolling terrain of Walton Hills, can be used with confidence throughout the year. It is difficult to imagine them as the steeper, windier, dirt paths and wood plank roadways of years ago.

ALEXANDER ROAD

Until 1881 Alexander Road was called Phillips Road. It was a minor, short, dirt County road that started at Canal Road and ended at Egypt (Dunham) Road.

When the road was extended eastward to Walton Road in 1881, it was renamed Alexander Road for Andrew Alexander who owned a grist mill called A. Alexander & Son (Wilson Feed Mill) and also owned a large farm that faced both sides of the road.

In those days, if a driver on Alexander Road continued east past Walton Road, he found himself on a driveway leading to a farmhouse. Farms owned by at least two different families blocked today's stretch of Alexander Road from Walton Road to Northfield Road.

It wasn't until 1940 that the stretch of Alexander Road between Walton and Northfield Roads became a dedicated road. However, even then, this new section of the road ended at Northfield Road and remained a narrow graveled drive.

With the building of the Walton Hills Ford Stamping Plant, in 1954 the County widened, paved and extended Alexander Road from its western line to Pettibone Road.

ALEXANDER ROAD STORIES

Following is a story told by Elsie Rada about the condition of Alexander Road in 1922. She said in those days Alexander Road was one severe uphill grade, an uncared-for, rutted roadway. In 1922 John and Elsie Rada

(both are deceased) bought the Alexander farm and farmhouse, and were moving from their Garfield Heights home. Their moving van could not make it up the hill. Finally, after several attempts, the driver turned his vehicle around and backed up the entire stretch of Alexander Road to their driveway. If that house was still standing today, it would be in front of the house at 14880 Alexander Road.

In 1928 when the County concreted Alexander Road between Canal Road and Dunham Road, local men were hired by the contractor to help pave this section of the road. Dunham and Alexander Road farmers, who lived off their land, welcomed the opportunity to earn extra money, and most of them used it to pay their property taxes.

Jim Salamon of Dunham Road recalls that even in the early 1950s many cars could not make it up Alexander Road hill between Dunham and North Meadowpark Drive. Not only was the incline fairly sharp, the dirt and gravel roadway had many ruts. The County worked on that section of road in 1939, 1941 and again in 1954, making the slope of the hill less exaggerated and finally paving that stretch of the road.

Years ago, Former Police Chief Frank Simone, who is deceased but had lived at 18555 Alexander Road, stated, "When the County concreted Alexander Road from the Valley View line to Dunham Road in the 1950s, County Commissioners assessed property owners for the road improvement. To pay the assessments, several property owners along that stretch of Alexander Road divided up their acreage and sold lots. That is why, today, some houses in that area have narrow frontage."

COUNTY ENGINEERS ALEXANDER ROAD WORK RECORDS

Name	Year	Section of the Road	Comments
Phillips Road	1839	Canal Road to Egypt Road dedicated	dirt road
Phillips Road	1855	Road work in Canal Road area	dirt road
Renamed Alexander Road	1881	Egypt Road to Walton Road dedicated	widened, graded, still steep, dirt/gravel
Alexander Road	1928	Relocation from Canal Road to near N. Meadowpark Drive	concreted eastward to Dunham
Alexander Road	1939	Roadwork from Canal Road to top of hill	some sections brick
Alexander Road	1940	Walton to Northfield Road dedicated	narrow, dirt/gravel
Alexander Road	1941	Widened from Dunham Road to Walton Road	still dirt/gravel
Alexander Road	1954	Northfield Road to east of railroad dedicated	widened, concreted
Alexander Road	1956	Widened, altered from Canal Road to Pettibone Road	entire road is concrete

THE ALEXANDER ROAD STORY

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

Until 1880 Alexander Road was called Phillips Road. It was a minor, short county dirt road that started at Canal Road and ended at Egypt (Dunham) Road. In 1881, when the road was extended to Walton Road, it was renamed Alexander Road, for the Alexander family who had a grist mill called *A. Alexander & Son* by the canal, and who also owned a large farm on both sides of the road.

In 1928, when the County concreted Alexander Road between Canal Road and Dunham Road, local men were hired by the contractor to help pave this section of the road. The farmers welcomed the opportunity to earn extra money, and most of them used it to pay their property taxes.

In those days, if a driver on Alexander Road continued east past Walton Road, he found himself on a driveway leading to a farmhouse. He had to turn south to Sagamore Road, and take Sagamore eastward. In the early 1900s farmland blocked the stretch of "Alexander Road" east of Walton Road. The 1890 County Atlas indicates today's Alexander Road was part of Jonathan Orchard's 109-acres.

It wasn't until 1940 that the stretch of Alexander Road between Walton and Northfield Roads became a dedicated road. However, even then, this new section of the road ended at Northfield Road, and was a **narrow graveled drive**. But with the building of the Ford Stamping Plant, in 1954 the County widened, paved and extended Alexander Road from its western line to Pettibone Road.

Jim Salamon of Dunham Road recalls that many cars could not get up Alexander Road hill between Dunham and North Meadowpark Drive. Not only was the incline fairly sharp, the dirt and gravel roadway had many ruts. The County worked on that section of the road in 1939, 1941 and again in 1954, making the slope of the hill less exaggerated and paving the road.

Years ago, Former Police Chief Frank Simone told of when "the County concreted Alexander Road, from the Valley View line to Dunham Road, County Commissioners assessed property owners for the road improvement. To pay the assessments, several property owners along that stretch of Alexander Road divided up their acreage and sold lots. Today, some houses in that area have narrow frontage."

RECORDS at the CUYAHOGA COUNTY ENGINEERS BUILDING: COUNTY ENGINEERS ROAD WORK

<u>Name - Section of the Road</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Phillips Road	1839	Canal to Egypt (Dunham) Road was dedicated dirt road
Phillips Road	1855	Road work in Canal Road area dirt road
Road renamed Alexander Road	1881	Egypt to Walton Road was dedicated widened, dirt/gravel severe uphill grade
Alexander Road	1928	Relocation from Canal Road to top of hill, (near North Meadowpark Drive) concreted road to Dunham
Alexander Road	1939	Roadwork from Canal Road to top of hill some sections brick
Alexander Road	1940	Walton to Northfield Road was dedicated narrow, dirt/gravel
Alexander Road	1941	Widened Dunham to Walton Road still dirt/gravel
Alexander Road	1954	Northfield Road to east of Railroad, was dedicated widened, concreted
Alexander Road	1956	Widened, altered Canal to Pettibone Road all-concrete road

STORIES about Our ROADS

Part V

(continued, p.2)

ALEXANDER ROAD

in 1945

1945 photo of Alexander Road,
looking west
toward Walton Road.

The photo was taken from
19005 Alexander Road
by Carl and Violet Podgurski
when they purchased their lot.
(They are deceased.)

*photo
p. 17 top*



ALEXANDER ROAD

in 1945

1945 photo
of Alexander Road,
looking east
toward Northfield Road.

Photo was also taken
from
19005 Alexander Road
by the Podgurskis.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS ROAD ?

In 1945 this was the stretch of Alexander Road between Walton and Northfield Roads.

Alexander Road
in 1945,
looking west,
toward Walton Rd.

Photo taken from
the address we
know today as
19005 Alex. Rd.

Carl and
Violet Podgurski
took this photo
when they
purchased their
lot at this site.



Alexander Road
in 1945,
looking east,
toward
Northfield Rd.
Photo taken
from
19005 Alex. Rd.

*Tracing Our Heritage
The Village of Walton Hill
c 1986*

ALEXANDER ROAD

Until 1880 Alexander Road was called Phillips Road. Phillips Road was a minor county dirt road dedicated in 1839. It was a relatively short roadway that started at Canal Road and ended at Egypt Road (Dunham Road).

In 1881, when this county road was extended to Walton Road, its name was officially changed to Alexander Road. The road was renamed for the Alexander family who had established a grist mill called "A. Alexander and Son" at the canal near Alexander Road, and also owned a large farm on both sides of the roadway. (The mill was owned and operated by the Alexanders from 1853 until they sold it to the Wilsons in 1899.)

Yaro Hesoun, of 7200 Dunham Road, helped pave Alexander Road from Canal Road east to Dunham Road in 1928. He operated a truck and steam shovel for the contractor who had the job of concreting that section of the roadway. Several local farmers worked on county road crews when they could afford the time. The extra money helped them pay the taxes on their acreage.

In those days the section of Alexander Road from Dunham to Walton Roads was gravel-covered and ended at Walton Road. If a driver in 1874

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continued east past Walton Road, he would find himself on a driveway leading to a farmhouse. As recently as the early 1900's farms and fields blocked the stretch of Alexander Road east of Walton Road.

It wasn't until 1940 that the stretch of Alexander Road between Walton and Northfield Roads became a dedicated county road. However, even then this new section ended at Northfield Road and was left as a narrow graveled drive. But with the building of the Ford Motor Plant, in 1954 the county engineers widened, paved, and extended Alexander Road from its western line east to Macedonia Road.

Jim Salamon (7677 Dunham Road) recalls how in the 1930's, and in more recent years as well, many cars could not get up the Alexander Road Hill grade from Dunham Road eastward to North Meadowpark Drive. Not only was the incline fairly sharp, but it was a combination of dirt and gravel with many ruts. County engineers worked on that section of the road in 1939, in 1941, and again in 1954, paving the road and filling in the low area to make the slope of the hill less exaggerated.

18

THE ALEXANDERS and THEIR LAND

In 1833 at the age of twenty, Andrew Alexander built a log cabin at Bedford Township's western boundary line between today's Alexander Road and Sagamore Road. Soon he had several acres of his land cleared and tilled for farming. He also established a grist mill in 1853 on Canal Road, just south of Alexander Road. *A. Alexander & Son* was owned and managed by the Alexanders until the Wilsons bought the mill in 1899.

In Andrew Alexander's day the road was called Phillips Road, and was a minor county dirt road that connected Canal Road with Egypt (Dunham) Road. Years later, in 1881 when the road was widened and extended to Walton Road, it was renamed Alexander Road for the Alexander family.

For a few decades in the 1800s Alexanders owned a lot of the acreage along Alexander Road from Canal Road to the Power Lines and the Metroparks' All-Purpose Path near Dunham Road. The Sagamore Creek and its deep ravine split Alexander's property. By 1858 Alexander sold his southernmost land facing Sagamore Road, but held onto the 230 acres he accumulated on both sides of Alexander Road.

As was common practice throughout the area at that time, the Alexanders bought and sold acreage over the years. Early landowners sometimes bought large tracts sight unseen. Once a farmer familiarized himself with his land he knew which sections best suited his needs. If an opportunity arose he sold areas difficult to reach or not needed. Likewise, if he had the money, he purchased additional good acreage accessible to him.

THE ALEXANDER LAND TODAY

Today, Gospel House Church, First Hungarian Reformed Church, Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Church, the group home called Walton House, Nodding Hill Development and several residences along the north and south side of Alexander Road are all on land that once belonged to the Alexanders.

THE ALEXANDER HOUSE

When the Alexanders built a stately farmhouse in c. 1854 to replace their log cabin, the house plans reflected their participation in the Underground Railroad. For a span of years their house was a safe house for runaway slaves. In a second floor bedroom located at the top of the stairs, there was a door concealed by patterned wallpaper. The door led to a hidden room which was used as a temporary haven for people in flight. If the Alexander residence were standing today, it would be in front of the present house at 14880 Alexander Road.

THE CHARLES (C.W.J.) ALEXANDERS

Heirs of Andrew Alexander owned the property until 1922. For the last 27 years a nephew, Charles, but referred to as C.W.J., leased the farm. C.W.J., his wife Anna and their son and five daughters raised sheep, maintained an orchard and operated a truck farm. They specialized in tomatoes, melons, raspberries and strawberries. During strawberry picking season they marketed 100 bushels of fruit every other day. They trucked their fruits and vegetables to the Newburgh Market by horse and wagon.

THE ALEXANDERS and THEIR LAND (continued, p.2)

Youngsters living in our rural farm area attended a Bedford Township grammar school, either Walton School or Egypt School. Very few of them had the opportunity to continue their education beyond eighth grade. The Alexanders were financially able to have their daughters transfer to the Bedford Village Schools and attend Bedford High School on Washington Street. Today that school is Central Primary School. The Township paid the tuition for the teens to attend high school, but the family had to provide the transportation. The girls boarded with a Bedford family during the school week. Frances Alexander became a teacher, first for the Bedford Township Schools, at Walton School and Egypt School, and after she had more experience, for the Bedford Village Schools. Walton School, 7307 Walton Road, is now a private residence, Egypt School, razed in the year 2000, stood in front of the home at 7215 Dunham Road.

TENANT FARMERS

Tenant farmers helped the Alexanders work the fields. One of the tenant houses, built c. 1895, stands today at 15000 Alexander Road. The Alexanders also hired seasonal help twice a year. At those times Anna and her daughters were busy preparing meals for the workers.

Four times a year a seamstress was hired to sew clothes for the Alexanders. As was customary, the seamstress lived with the family whenever she worked for them.

A view of the EAST SIDE of the
ALEXANDER HOUSE.

The main entrance to the house faced east,
not Alexander Road.

If still standing today, the house would be in
front of the home with the address
14880 Alexander Road.

For a span of years the Alexander house
was a haven for runaway slaves.
(3-1940 photo. Reprinted by Nina Wolf)

The Alexanders provided
houses for tenant families
who helped them operate
their farms.

This house, built c. 1895,
has been remodeled and
renovated. Built by the
Alexanders as a
TENANT HOUSE, it stands
at 15000 Alexander Road.
(2004 photo)

(to be continued,
The Radas and the Kitsons)



To: Dick Squire
From: Jean Kainsinger 3/2002

3/2002

RE: Info about the Concealed Room in the Alexander House

JEAN KAININGER
18955 ORCHARD HILL DR.
WALTON HILLS, OH
44146

From 1922 - 1962 the Radas lived in the Alexander House.

The data about the Alexander House was written from interviews with Elsie Rada and two of her children, Lois and Jack. The Radas were eager to have someone put their local story on paper and to have the story accurately written. They asked the *Walton Hills Owl* Editor and members of the Fifty Plus Club for the name of someone who would write their story. They phoned me and I followed through. At the time I was compiling stories from other long-time residents of the Village. I interviewed each of them separately, more than once. I then gave each of them a draft of the pages to proofread, correct, make additions, changes and deletions. Then, at Elsie and Lois' requests, I returned the edited pages to them. They all liked the finished copy and gave me the go-ahead to use the copy in the book.

Elsie's husband, John, had died several years prior to my interviews. Elsie was ill; she died in 1986 or early 1987.

Lois, who is in her 70's, now lives in a nursing home in Beachwood. At the time of the interviews, Lois lived with her mother at 14880 Alexander Road, in the house the Radas built just before they tore down the old Alexander house. Jack's son and daughter-in-law, John and Sally Rada, live in that house now.

Jack, who is 65 years old, was born in the Alexander house on 8-5-1936. He and his second wife, Ann, live at 14800 Alexander Road. This is the house Jack lived in at the time of the interviews.

Rada interviews:

6-17-1985 Elsie Rada and her younger son, Jack
6-23-1985 Elsie Rada, her daughter Lois and Jack
6-25-1985 Elsie and Lois
10-7-1985 Lois Rada
11-27-1985 Lois Rada
2-21-1986 Lois Rada
2-22-1986 Elsie Rada
3-12-1986 Elsie Rada

1852 Cuyahoga County Atlas shows J. Alexander owning 144+30+56 acres=230 acres on the south side of Alexander Road extending to Sagamore Road.

1858 Cuyahoga County Atlas shows the Alexanders owning acreage on the north and south sides of Alexander Road, but the acreage facing Sagamore Road was owned by H. Spafford.

Notes

8-2004

14530 Alexander Rd	Church	First Hungarian Reformed Church	786-7272
Nodding Hill Housing Development		330-239-0444	
14600 Alex. Rd	Church	Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Church	439-3316
14660 Alex. Rd	(KITSON House)	Rectory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish Natl. Church Reverend and Mrs. Zygmunt and Halina Tujaka	
14700 Alex. Rd.	new: Group home	Walton House: 10-bed group house	
14770 Alex. Rd	new house	Duane and Lynn Lorens	439-4587
14800 Alex. Rd.	Rada built house	John Jr. and Ann Rada Elsie's son John Jr.'s second wife	232-4162
14880 Alex. Rd.	Rada built house	John (John Jr.'s son) and Sally Rada	232-3991
The ALEXANDER HOUSE WOULD SIT IN FRONT of HOUSE at 14880 Alex. Rd.			
15000 Alex. Rd.	Alex. Tenant house	Mary Ruckart	439-5943
14707 Alex. Rd.	Church	Gospel House ^{church}	439-4239

In the 1800's the Alexanders owned land from the Bedford Township west line (by Johnson's farm) to the Metrojark's All Purpose Path just west of Dunham Road both N/S of Alexander Road plus more acreage outside today's Walton Hills

Cuyahoga county, has been for many years a prominent figure in Bedford township. He was elected to the office he now holds in the fall of 1891, and took his seat January 1, 1892. The year of 1893 was one of marked activity for the board, \$85,000 being expended upon macadam roads and \$170,000 in building Brooklyn Bridge, \$225,000 for the Central Armory, besides sums for other public improvements.

see Alex.
family
tree

Mr. Alexander was born fifty-one years ago in Bedford township, Cuyahoga county, Ohio, a son of Andrew Alexander who emigrated to the county in 1833; the father was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, in 1813, a son of James Alexander, a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, of Scotch-Irish descent. James Alexander was one of the first settlers of Columbiana county, Ohio, and was a soldier in the war of 1812. He was a blacksmith by trade, and owned one of the best sawmills in the county; he was a man of excellent business qualifications and was very prosperous. Andrew Alexander was reared and educated in his native county, and there married Hannah Hope, who was born in Lawrence county, Pennsylvania, and died in 1882. In 1855 he built "Alexander's Mills" (flouring) in Independence township, this county, and now has operated them for thirty-five years, for years under the firm name of A. Alexander & Son.

Our subject was a mere lad when he went into his father's flouring mill, where he received a thorough training in all the details of the business; for thirty years he was his father's trusted partner, conducting the business with marked ability. He owns a fine farm two and one-half miles South from Cleveland, all of which is under cultivation; the improvements are most substantial and the entire place

has an air of thrift and property. In 1876 he was elected superintendent of the Clewell Stone Company, and built and operated their large flagging mill at Independence station.

Mr. Alexander was married in 1874 to Nettie Logue, now deceased. Mrs. Alexander was a sister to Judge Logue of Cleveland. The second marriage occurred at Allegheny, Pennsylvania, when he was united to Rachel Gibson, daughter of Charles Gibson. Two children have been born to them, Grace Elizabeth and Charles Andrew. Mr. Alexander is a Republican and is one of the most ardent workers in his party. He and his wife are consistent members of the United Presbyterian Church and are held in high regard by all who know them.

THE ALEXANDER FAMILY

94A

East side view of the Alex. house
built c. 1854. For a span of years
the house was a haven for runaway
slaves. If still standing the house
would be in front of the one at 14880
Alex. Rd (1940's photo)
* This side of house does not
face Alex Rd.

ALEXANDER HOUSE
ON ALEXANDER ROAD



Wilt
on this

94A

A



ALONG ALEXANDER ROAD

Name: Andrew Alexander farmhouse

Address: 14880 Alexander Road

Date Built: c. 1854

Comments: Andrew Alexander built this farmhouse to replace the family log cabin.
This is a view of the main entrance of the house, which faced East, not Alexander Road.
If standing today, the house would be in front of today's house at 14880 Alexander Road.
Through the years, Alexander family members bought and sold acreage that faced both sides of Alexander Road and also on the north side of Sagamore Road.
Alexanders also established Alexander and Son Grist Mill in 1853 (now it is Wilson Mills.)
2012 - Property of Rada family members

Still Standing: No



ALONG ALEXANDER ROAD

Name: An Alexander Tenant farmhouse
Address: 15000 Alexander Road
Date Built: c. 1895
Comments: 1998 – Property of M. Ruckart
Still Standing: Yes

94 B



ALONG ALEXANDER ROAD

Name: Alber and Linda Kitson farmhouse
Address: 14660 Alexander Road
Date Built: Early 1930s
Comments: In 1922 the Kitsons, a young, newly married couple, bought 63 acres of the Alexander farm. They had been living close by, with Linda's parents, on Dunham Road. Both were experienced farmers.
2012 – Property of Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church
Still Standing: Yes



The Alexanders
on their
Wedding Day
1880
Anna Jacobs
m.
Charles W. J.
Alexander



Anna and C.W.J. Alexander
in about 1900



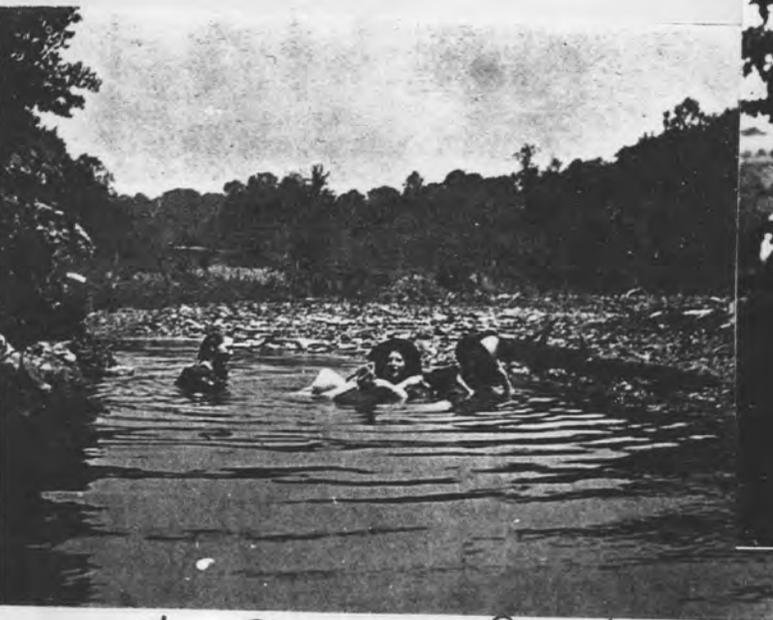
Anna Alexander in 1945
b. Anna Jacobs 6-21-1862
d. 5-16-1951



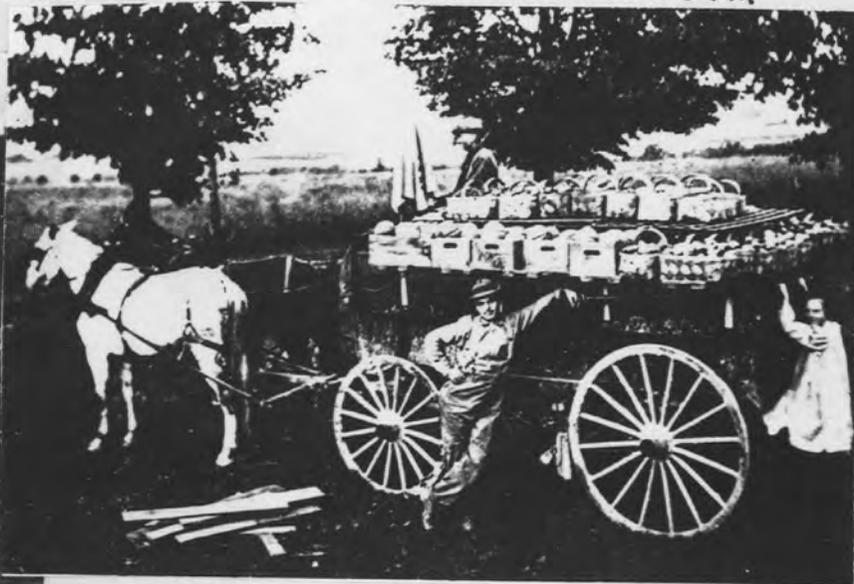
The Alexanders

L to R
Mary, Ethel, Fanny, Ruby,
Francis and boy friends

The Alexander Farm



The Sagamore Creek
Swimming Hole
south side of Alexander Road
west of Dunham
near Metropark path/parking area



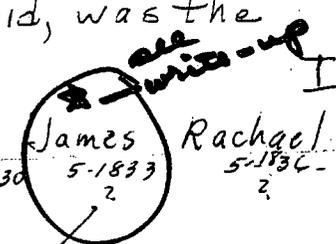
A load of turnips and melons
set to travel to Newburgh
Market about 1908

Sheep on the Alexander
Farm



★ Andrew Alexander, "the Mill Builder," (B. 1813) was one of eleven children born to James and Mary Alexander, (~~1813~~) His younger brother, ★ David, was the father of "C.W.J." Alexander.

I Robert ★ Andrew Anne Allen David Joseph Harvey Thomas Betsey James Rachel
 8-30-1810- 12-9-1813- 3-4-1816 8-6-1818- 9-17-1820 6-8-1823 9-15-1825 12-1827 6-25-1830 5-1833 5-1836-
 7-25-44 1895 ? ? 1860 4-17-1840 ? ? ? ? ?



II Charles Walter James Alexander Cora Alexander Robert Alexander II
 "C.W.J." 11-7-1856- 1-7-44 WDS m. David Brown Alexander B. 1858
 CAPS ✓ m. Anna Isadora Jacobs 11-23-1880 6-21-1862- 5-16-1951

III Hugh W. Ralph Earl Frances Howard Ethel Ruby Ruth Mary
 B. 11-8-1881 12-9-1883- 4-4-1886- 6-28-1888 4-17-1890 11-20-1893 3-23-1896- 9-1-1898-
 Died in Infancy 5-28-12 Single m. Harry Bynum Died in infancy 1-2-61 12-18-57 9-1-68 1-3-72
 m. Fred Oldham Single m. Eprl Bromley m. Wilbur Jones

IV Ralph Earl Lida Margaret Bynum Mary Helen Mary Anne Jane Bruce Charles James Andrew
 Died in Infancy 4-4-1888- m. Hagley Schultz m. Neil Bouchard 10-26-21 2-22-25 8-18-27 5-9-28 3-28-30 6-21-23 11-22-28
 m. Eugene Munco m. Marjorie May Marilyn

V Ronald Dennis Robert William Gail Bouchard Jon Bouchard Dennis Marc
 4-17-34 8-3-44 10-8-43 10-9-43 10-11-46 5-13-48 1-23-5 2-17-53
 m. Peggy m. Nancy m. Karen m. Alfred Richards m. Donna O'Brien m. Susan Legal m. Rita McMahon
 Jon Robert m. Holly Frederick m. Marjorie May Marilyn

VI Kelly Cindy Michael Christopher William Debra Bruce Clyde Alyson Sandra Rob
 m. L. Endley m. Lu Ann m. Sheila m. Fred m. OTT m. Sandy
 Barry Joseph Scott Terry Sandy Matthew

①

Andrew Alexander was born Dec. 9, 1813, died May 4, 1895. The family plot is in Northfield Cemetery. The second-born of eleven children entered life in what was then Petersburg, Pa. (Enon Valley). It was located 50 miles west of Pittsburgh, almost on the state line. In an

Alexander family Bible, he and others are listed as born in Pa. But in census records, Andrew Alexander stated he was born in Ohio.

My husband's cousin, Mary H. Bouchard, pursued old records in a genealogy search, to ascertain the correct state of Andrew's birth. After on-the-spot research and much correspondence, she suspected

a boundary dispute between the two states, which was settled with Petersburg officially in Ohio. But the Alexander's family Bible was never changed.

Andrew Alexander came to Cuyahoga County in 1833, at age 20, with other family members. Early residence is unknown; in later years, it was a cabin "in the gully" on Alexander property, on the north side of Sagamore Creek. Until the mid-1970's, the foundation of "Uncle Andy's" cabin was still in evidence, at the edge of Bedford Township. In his lifetime, Andrew acquired a large amount of farmland, both in Bedford and Independence townships. He was considered well-off; but a man of simple taste, shunning ostentation in choosing to live in a large but simple farmhouse = built in 1854. He lived there the rest of his days. Today, only the tenant house still stands, on the former Alexander property.

The present "Sagamore Creek Picnic Area" was known as "Alexander Grove". It was either adjacent to, or, part of, his property. This scenic grove was a gathering place where locals had picnics. One can imagine the horses and wagons, the ladies in white dresses setting out tablecloths and loaded picnic baskets, the men in suspenders playing horseshoes. And the patient farm horses nodding at the hitching post, while children played and splashed in the Creek.

The size of many of those trees, today, would confirm the family stories of the Grove. It was a good location. Daytime temperatures remain cool in old "Alexander Grove", under those towering trees, with Sagamore Creek winding beside.

Not far away must be the site of the crude temporary sawmill, that Andrew and brother Robert used for the lumber in the Alexander Mill. Searches along Sagamore Creek have not been successful, in locating the sawmill site.

② Robert Alexander was born, on Oct. 30, 1810, died ==. The year of construction of Alexander Mill has been narrowed down to 1855.

Soon after the Mill was complete, a small dwelling was built on the hill opposite the Mill. This was always "the miller's house"; Andrew was not always the miller - he was a property owner and businessman - So he often hired a miller, and never lived in the "miller's house", himself. It is a private residence easily visible when the trees are leafless.

The
Alexander
Family

written by
Lynn Jones,
wife of
Andrew
Alexander
-- Andy is a
descendant

③ Birdie Smith found land records that Andrew Alexander did own the Mill property.

p. 2.

The Alexander Family

written by Lynn Jones

Andrew did not own the piece of land that the Mill stood on. He leased it from the State of Ohio. It was common for a mill to be built beside the canal, where the water flow was controlled, rather than on a river site with its seasonal changes in water level.

There was a settlement called "Alexander", or, "Alexander Station", around the Mill/Canal area, when Ethel Alexander Oldham visited the Mill as a little girl. Her birthdate was April 17, 1890. Her earliest recollection, about 1896, was a small saloon/general store, on the Canal Road side of the Mill. It was about the size of a single car garage. An early photograph, property of the Cuyahoga Valley Recreation Area, shows a collection of buildings, on the towpath side of the Mill, of which, one building was the store/saloon, supposedly. It is possible Ethel's memory of the store/saloon was confused, or perhaps it began in one location, and was moved to the group of buildings, later. Ethel remembered other things and events with great accuracy, so we could rely on this supposition to some degree.

Andrew and Hannah Hope Alexander (birthdate c. 1806, died Feb. 26, 1882) had four children that we can verify: John Clarke Alexander (called "Clarke"), b. Dec. 15, 1841, died Mar. 10, 1922, Rachel Almira Alexander (called "Mira"), birthdate c. 1844, died Feb. 27, 1909. There was another son, James Wright Alexander, who died at age 33. Mary E., born ~~1846~~, died 1847. Another infant was born in Aug. 1849, lived less than one month.

The Alexander Mill business was owned by Andrew until his death May 4, 1895, and then, by his son, Clarke. That fall, my husband, (Andrew Jones') grandparents, moved to Ohio after losing their homestead in Nebraska. Uncle Andy had agreed, before his death, to rent a 160-acre farm with farmhouse and tenant house to them. It was on Alexander Road, at the edge of Bedford Township. C.W.J. and Anna Alexander paid \$300 a year rent to Clarke. The rent never changed, and continued until C.W.J. and Anna retired from farming in 1922, and bought a house on Woodrow Ave. in Bedford. Inside bathroom, city water, and sidewalks made their golden years more civilized.

The reason Andrew Alexander was so kind to C. W. J. was, C.W.J. and brother, W. D.B. were orphaned at 7 and 5. So the family did what they could to help. The two brothers took different routes in their lives. C.W.J. became a prosperous farmer and township trustee in Bedford Township; W.D.B. was less active because of a crippling childhood injury. ~~founded what was to become a thriving manufacturing business.~~

Charles Walter James Alexander was a Bedford Township Trustee (Plaque dated 1920 - he was 1 of 4 Trustees)

④

Soon after his father's death, Clarke sold the mill business to the miller of that period, a Mr. Foster. Clarke then took his good business sense to Newburgh, where he became wealthy, even surpassing his father. The name "Alexander" remained with the mill during Foster's ownership, then during part of the Wilson family ownership. I would guess the name was changed at the time the sign need re-painting!

Clarke Alexander married at least twice: (1) Nettie Logue; (2) Ellen --- (daughter of a minister); (3) Rachel Gibson, a cousin,

5 who bore him two children, Charles, and Grace. Mother Rachel died Sept. 12, 1912. One must observe at this point in time, that Clarke Alexander named his son "Charles", the same as C.W.J. (Charles) Alexander; again and again, one finds the same first names repeating in families, sometimes in the same generation!

Ethel Alexander Oldham, great-niece of Andrew, also recalls visiting the Mill as a little girl, amazed at the dusty appearance of the miller, who wasn't scolded for looking so messy. She was also allowed to climb to the top floor, I think because she was dependable. It is also possible she did this while C.W.J. (her father) and the miller were busy. Watching the grinding wheels at work was fascinating for her. The life on the canal did not interest her nearly as much. Also, mother Anna Alexander did not want her daughters near the canal, as some of the canawlers used strong language not fit for young ladies to hear. At harvest time, crews came to the Alexander farm, worked, slept, and ate at the farmhouse, but were cautious with the swearing if they wanted to be hired again the next year.

In the last decade of his life, something rather unusual happened to Andrew Alexander. He had one eye surgically removed "to save the sight of the other eye". Basis for this event is a news item in the local newspaper.

Much research has been done to find more facts about the Alexander Mill. But there were amazingly few offspring for such a large family. And those who lived in the right era were not in this area. Many stories have been passed along, about cousins visiting the C.W. J. Alexander farm, spending the summer. The kids worked hard, but came back year after year, because they had such fun. Sagamore Creek was dammed up to form a "swimmin' hole"; taffy pulls, jumping on the hayloft, playing tricks on each other filled up the summer days. Among the cousins who visited were James Gibson Alexander's children: Fanny, Mabel, Maud, and Lloyd; Harold and Brownlie Alexander, sons of W.D.B. Alexander; and Bill Mills, son of Scotty and Margaret Mills. There was no need to visit the Alexander Mill, or the canal.

Most oral history about "Uncle Andy" Alexander has originated from neighbors and friends of C.W.J. Alexander. Richard Squire of the Bedford Historical Society has been most helpful.

p. 3

The Alexander
Family

written by
Lynn Jones

ALONG ALEXANDER ROAD

THE ALEXANDER FARM

In 1833 at the age of twenty, Andrew Alexander built a log cabin at the western township line between Alexander Road and Sagamore Road. Soon he had several acres of his land cleared and tilled for farming.

As was common practice throughout the area at that time, the Alexanders bought and sold acreage over the years. Early landowners sometimes bought large tracts sight unseen. Once a farmer familiarized himself with his land he knew which sections best suited his needs. When an opportunity arose he sold areas difficult to reach or not needed. Likewise, if he had the money, he purchased additional good acreage accessible to him. The Sagamore Creek and its deep ravine split Alexander's property. By 1858 Alexander had sold his southernmost land facing Sagamore Road, but held onto the 230 acres of farmland he had accumulated on both sides of Alexander Road. Today, The Gospel House Center at 14707 Alexander Road is on part of the thirty acres along the north side of the road.

Andrew Alexander established a grist mill in 1853, on Canal Road just south of Alexander Road. "A. Alexander & Son" was owned and managed by the Alexanders until the Wilsons bought the mill in 1899.

When the Alexanders built a stately farmhouse in c. 1854 to replace their log cabin, the house plans reflected their participation in the underground railroad. For a span of years their house was a safe house for runaway slaves. In a second floor bedroom located at the top of the stairs, there was a door concealed by patterned wallpaper. The door led to a hidden room which was used as a temporary haven for people in flight. If the Alexander residence were standing today, it would be in front of the present house at 14880 Alexander Road.

In Andrew Alexander's day the road was called Phillips Road — a minor county dirt road connecting Canal Road with Dunham Road. Years later, in 1881 when the road was widened and extended to Walton Road, it was renamed Alexander Road for the Alexander family.

Heirs of Andrew Alexander owned the property until 1922, but from 1895 until 1922 a nephew, referred to as C.W.J., leased the farm. C.W.J., his wife, Anna, their son, and five daughters, raised sheep, maintained an orchard, and operated a truck farm. They specialized in tomatos, melons, raspberries, and strawberries. During strawberry picking season they

*Tracing Our Heritage:
The Village of Walton Hills
c. 1986*



EAST SIDE VIEW OF THE ALEXANDER HOUSE built c. 1854. For a span of years the house was a haven for runaway slaves. If still standing the house would be in front of the one at 14880 Alexander Road. (1940's photograph)



THE KITSON HOUSE at 14660 Alexander Road was built in the early 1930's. (Enlarged and remodeled in this 1986 photograph)

marketed 100 bushels of the fruit every other day. They trucked their fruits and vegetables to the Newburgh Market by horse and wagon.

Tenant farmers helped the C.W.J. Alexanders work the fields. One of the tenant houses built c. 1895 stands today at 15000 Alexander Road. The Alexanders also hired seasonal help twice a year. At those times Anna and her daughters were busy preparing all the meals for the workers.

Four times a year a seamstress was hired to sew clothes for the Alexanders. As was customary, she lived with the family whenever she worked for them. Likewise, when the Alexander daughters went to the high school in Bedford, they boarded with a Bedford family during the school week.

THE RADAS AND THE KITSONS

In 1922 John and Elsie Rada and Willis and Linda (Alber) Kitson bought the Alexander farm. Both Rada (a bank officer) and Linda Kitson (a young bride at the time) worked at the Harvard/Broadway Avenue Cleveland Trust Branch. They both expressed an interest in the Alexander farm that was for sale. The Radas, who lived in Garfield Heights, were looking for a summer house in the country where they could do a little weekend farming. The Kitsons, who wanted to own their own farm, were familiar with the property because they lived close by at 7250 Dunham Road. Although young, Willis Kitson already had considerable experience as a farmer. He had grown up on his father's truck farm on Tinker's Creek Road, and in addition, was tending a Shaker Heights farm at the time.

The Radas and the Kitsons worked out a deal that satisfied both parties. The Kitsons purchased 30 acres of farmland on the north side of Alexander Road and 33 acres that bordered the west township line along the south side of the road, whereas the Radas bought the adjacent 66 acres, the house, and the two barns. Later, the Radas helped the Kitsons roll one of the barns over to the Kitson's land.

At first the Radas lived in the house only on weekends and during summers, but after they installed a coal furnace for central heating, remodeled a first floor bedroom into a bathroom, and put water lines into the kitchen and bathroom, the family made the house their residence. Elsie Rada recalls her moving day... In those days Alexander Road, from Canal Road to their property, was a severe uphill grade. The moving van could not make it up the hill until the driver turned his vehicle around and backed up the entire hill. The Radas lived in the old homestead until

1962 when they built a new house (14880 Alexander Road) behind the old one.

Before they dismantled the old farmhouse, the Radas donated to the Western Reserve Historical Society any items the organization felt would be valuable additions to its exhibits. As a result, the Alexander hand-blown glass windows and their frames, the thick oak plank flooring, the second floor railing, and the corn husk mattress bed can all be seen on display in homes at Hale Farm and Village.

John and Elsie Rada's three children still live in the village today. Lois lives in the aforementioned Rada house with her mother, John and his wife, Mary, live in the house they built on family land at 14800 Alexander Road, and Don and his wife, Evelyn, live at 7041 Walton Road.

After buying the Alexander acreage in 1922, Willis and Linda Kitson established their farm and for the first few years continued to live in the Alber homestead on Dunham Road. By 1933 they had moved into their newly-built house at 14660 Alexander Road. The Kitson farmhouse, as it stands today, is enlarged and remodeled.

Willis and Linda Kitson worked their acreage into a productive farm, starting with strawberries. As the years went by the Kitsons were noted for their tasty corn, strawberries, and a variety of other vegetables. Area residents, as well as people who lived a distance away, drove to Kitson's to buy produce. Also, on autumn weekends Willis parked his well-stocked truck at the southwest corner of Dunham and Alexander Roads and sold fruits and vegetables to passing motorists.

During the World War II years when meat was scarce and rationed, farmers were encouraged by the government to raise pigs to help with the pork supply. The Kitsons, as well as other township farmers, set aside a chunk of their acreage for pig farming. Twice a day Linda made trips in her dump truck to Shaker Heights restaurants and garbage deposits, to collect feed for her pigs. She and Willis dumped the garbage over their fields. Often included with the garbage were broken dishes and other debris. Today's homeowners along certain sections of Alexander and Dunham Roads may find broken pieces of pottery in their yards after a spring thaw...possible mementos from a World War II pig farm.

THE RADAS AND THE KITSONS

(Conclusion of the Alexander Road Story)

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

In 1922 John and Elsie Rada and Willis and Linda (Alber) Kitson bought the Alexander farm. Both Rada, a bank officer, and Linda Kitson, a young bride at the time, worked at the Harvard - Broadway Avenue Cleveland Trust Branch. They both expressed an interest in the Alexander farm that was for sale. The Radas, who lived in Garfield Heights, were looking for a summer house in the country where they could do a little weekend farming. The Kitsons wanted to own their own farm. They were familiar with the property because they lived close by in the farmhouse owned by Linda's parents, at 7250 Dunham Road. In fact, Linda Alber was born and raised in the Dunham Road farmhouse. Although he was young, Willis Kitson already had considerable experience as a farmer. He had grown up on his father's truck farm on Tinkers Creek Road, and in addition, was tending a Shaker Heights farm at the time.

The Radas and the Kitsons worked out a deal that satisfied both parties. The Kitsons purchased 30 acres of farmland on the north side of Alexander Road and 33 acres that bordered the west township line along the south side of the road. The Radas bought the adjacent 66 acres, including the Alexander house and the two barns. Later, the Radas helped the Kitsons roll one of the barns over to Kitson land.

THE RADAS MOVE into the ALEXANDER HOUSE

At first the Radas lived in the house only on weekends and during summers, but after they installed a coal furnace for central heating, remodeled a first floor bedroom into a bathroom, and put water lines into the kitchen and bathroom, the family made the house their residence. Elsie Rada recalled her moving day... In those days Alexander Road, from Canal Road to their property, was a severe uphill grade. The moving van could not make it up the hill until the driver turned his vehicle around and backed up the entire hill.

The Radas lived in the Alexander homestead until 1962 when they built a new house at 14880 Alexander Road, and razed the old one.

HALE FARM and VILLAGE DISPLAY ALEXANDER HOUSE ITEMS

Before they dismantled the old farmhouse, John and Elsie Rada donated to the Western Reserve Historical Society any items the organization felt would be valuable additions to its exhibits. As a result, the Alexander hand-blown glass windows and their frames, the thick oak plank flooring, the second floor railing, and a corn husk mattress bed were all taken to be displayed in homes at Hale Farm and Village.

Rada family members still live on the Alexander acreage. Jack and his wife, Ann Rada, live in the house Jack built at 14800 Alexander Road. Their son John, and his wife Sally, live in the house the grandparents built at 14880 Alexander Road.

THE RADAS AND THE KITSONS

(continued p. 2)

THE KITSONS

After buying the Alexander acreage in 1922, Willis and Linda Kitson established their farm and for the first few years continued to live with the Albers. By 1933 they moved into their newly-built house at 14660 Alexander Road. The Kitson farmhouse, as it stands today, is enlarged and remodeled and serves as the Rectory for the Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Church.

Willis and Linda Kitson worked their acreage into a productive farm, starting with strawberries. As the years went by the Kitsons were noted for their tasty corn, strawberries, and a variety of other vegetables. Area residents, as well as people who lived a distance away, drove to Kitson's to buy produce. Also, on autumn weekends Willis parked his well-stocked truck at the southwest corner of Dunham and Alexander Roads and sold fruits and vegetables to passing motorists.

A WORLD WAR II PIG FARM

During the World War II years meat for civilians was scarce and rationed. Great efforts were taken by our government to provide adequate meat for our armed forces. Local farmers were encouraged to raise pigs to increase the pork supply. To help provide food for farmers raising pigs, local governments set up collection areas where farmers could pick up food scraps. Restaurants and residents were encouraged to take their garbage to these centers.

The Kitsons, as well as other farmers in the Alexander / Dunham Roads area, raised pigs for profit and to aid the war efforts. Linda Kitson drove their dump truck twice a day to Shaker Heights restaurants and garbage deposits, to collect enough feed for the pigs she and Willis raised. Upon her return, Linda and Willis dumped the garbage over their fields. Often included with the garbage were broken dishes and other debris. Today's residents along that section of the road may find broken pieces of pottery in their yard, especially after a spring thaw; mementos from a World War II pig farm.

PUNGENT ODORS – POIGNANT PROTESTS

Winds carried the odor from the pigs to nearby homeowners, and the smells must have been pungent. In the 1940s a number of urban couples were buying lots, building houses, and moving into our area of the township. They put up with the smell of the pig farms during World War II, but after the war ended, they voiced their disapproval of pig farming in this area. When Walton Hills became an incorporated village in 1951, pig farms came to a halt.

THE KITSON HOUSE at 14660 Alexander Road was built in the early 1930s by Willis and Linda Kitson.

This 1986 photo shows the house in more modern times, enlarged and remodeled.

The house is now the Rectory for the Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Church.

(Photo by Nina Wolf)



CHIEF FRANK SIMONE

Frank Simone (14665 Alexander Road) was the second Walton Hills police officer. He was Part-Time Deputy Marshall for a few years prior to patrolling full-time for the village.

A few months after the death of Chief Sterling Walton, Simone was appointed Police Chief. He served in this capacity for sixteen years, from 1960 until retiring in November of 1975. As did the community, the Police Department grew during Simone's reign as Police Chief. When he retired there were six full-time policemen plus three part-timers.

Simone enjoyed his years as patrolman and chief. "It was an opportunity for me to help new residents get settled, help promote goodwill among villagers, and help give the village a positive image," declared Simone. Frank was interested in the welfare of the village youth and helped organize activities for the youngsters. He also participated in the negotiation of local strike issues, helping both factions iron out their differences.

Frank Simone's wife, Ann, Sterling Walton's wife, Betty, and Tom Young's wife, Marge, assisted their husbands and the community as volunteer police dispatchers. During the early village years when the offices in the village hall were closed evenings, nights, and weekends, phone lines were hooked up between their homes and the village offices. Ann Simone, Betty Walton, and Marge Young took turns handling all police calls, at no charge to the village.

The Simones, who built a house in 1945 on four acres of land they bought along Alexander Road a couple years earlier, farmed the fields in their free time. They sold excess crops in front of their house, but their harvests surpassed what they could eat and sell. When the Simones heard that the Vincentian Sisters of Charity at the Bedford convent could use surplus food, they gladly shared their harvests with the sisters.

Later, when the women in the convent offered to help work the fields, the Simones gave the sisters the back acreage. From 1961 until 1973, passersby could see the ten or twelve nuns, dressed in black habits, working in the fields almost daily, from May until the harvest was over. They grew a variety of vegetables for their own use and also for the poor and needy of Cuyahoga County. Simone provided the land, the tools, the seed and fertilizers, and tilled the fields for the sisters. The project came to an end in the mid 1970's when too few sisters and postulantes lived at the Bedford convent to continue with the farming operation.

During those twelve years others joined in on the Vincentian Sisters project. Art and Linn Komorowski, who owned the acreage next to Simone's, allowed the sisters to extend their farming onto their land; and nearby nurseries and other people donated seeds, plants, and fertilizers.

THE KOTH FARM

The Frank Koth farm at 14001 Alexander Road sat far back on the north side of the road. Having no frontage on Alexander Road, an easement was

required for a driveway west of 14039 Alexander Road. According to Clarence Rizer who lived at 14229 Alexander Road, the Koths bought the back acreage because they thought Alexander Road was going to be rerouted to pass in front of their property. The Koths, too, had a truck farm, and may be remembered for their specialty crop — garlic. Their house, built c. 1933, has since been razed and CEI lines run through the old farm.

LOTS ARE SOLD ALONG ALEXANDER ROAD

In the early 1940's Joseph Burns' grandson, John Means, arranged to sell his acreage along the west side of Northfield Road, where a narrow gravel drive cut through his land. This pathway was an extension of Alexander Road, which in those days was only paved as far east as Walton Road.

The land was platted into deep, multi-acre residential lots that faced Alexander Road and stretched from east of today's Morningside Drive to Northfield Road. The lots included part of the old orchard, some farmland, the sugar bush, and an old ABC trolley easement which was never used. The giant sugar maple trees filling the Means' backwoods were felled for their lumber when that portion of the land was sold.

One of the first families to buy a four-acre lot from the Means was Carl and Violet Podgurski in 1945. World War II had just ended and building supplies were limited. Podgurski couldn't get the needed materials for a house at first, so he put up temporary quarters that now serve as the garage and then gradually built his house at 19005 Alexander Road. Podgurski and his neighbor, Mike Romanik, petitioned CEI for electric lines along their stretch of the road.

That same year (1945) Michael and Effie Romanik bought a two-acre lot from the Means. Soon after they moved into their house at 19000 Alexander Road, the Romaniks spent their spare time starting up a mink farm. Raising these little creatures turned out to be a risky business that proved both time-consuming and expensive. Within a few years they decided to give up the endeavor.

THE CHAPEK PICNIC GROVE

Many older residents tell about the Chapek Picnic Grove owned by Edwin and Cecilia Chapek, and more recently by their relative, Dr. Clarence Porbe. Church groups and other large organizations used the grounds for summer and fall outdoor events. There were fields for play, paths in the hilly backwoods for scenic walks, and a pavilion with a bandstand and a dance floor.

The grove had been James Black's farm. Like the Koth farm, the Black acreage sat far back from Alexander Road and its long driveway was on an easement. The Black house, built c. 1874 and remodeled in c. 1890, was hidden from the road until recent years when CEI bought the back acreage and the house was moved closer to the road (15035 Alexander Road).

BUILT IN c. 1874 and enlarged in c. 1890, the James Black house stands at 15035 Alexander Road. (1986 photograph)



THE RICKS

Rick family members have owned land along Alexander Road since 1900. In 1902 Joseph and Mary Rick owned sixteen acres at the southeast corner of Dunham and Alexander Roads and forty-two acres on the north side of the road along today's North Meadowpark Drive. Their farmhouse stood on their northern acreage, at 16835 Alexander Road.

In the 1930's their son, Andrew, and his wife, Helen, moved into the Rick homestead to help with the farm chores. Besides working full-time elsewhere, Andrew was a truck farmer, selling his produce at the old Central Market in downtown Cleveland. A few years later when their daughter, Geraldine, married James Salamon, Salamon built the Ricks a house on their sixteen acres on the south side of Alexander Road. In exchange, Salamon received from the Ricks eight acres at the southeast corner of Dunham and Alexander Roads. In 1941 the Ricks moved into their new house at 16700 Alexander Road and sold the old homestead and its acreage to Timothy Pope. Salamon, a carpenter by trade, then proceeded to build his house at 7677 Dunham Road.

Geraldine is now deceased, but Salamon and his second wife, Mary, still live in the Dunham Road house. Geraldine's sister, Florence Drabik, and her husband, George, also live in the village at 7470 Woodlake Drive.

Throughout his years in the village, Salamon has generously volunteered his time for many civic and charitable undertakings. During the summer of 1952 he worked more than 400 hours on the Town Hall Improvement Project. When play equipment was needed for the newly organized Walton Hills Nursery School, it was Salamon who made, free of charge, the boat, merry-go-round, small benches, tables, cabinets, wooden toys, and other equipment. Many of those toys and furniture are still used today by nursery school youngsters. Salamon first started working with the Cub Scouts in 1957, two years later becoming Assistant Boy Scout Master and Committee Member of the Greater Cleveland Council of Boy Scouts. Over the years Salamon has actively led numerous scouting activities for the youth of this community.

THE RIZERS

When Mathias and Barbara Rizer first came to the township in the 1880's they were about to retire. They bought a small farm off Northfield Road for this purpose. The property sat far back on the west side of the road. The

lane that led to the farm is now part of Krick Road.

Their son, James, and his wife, Sylvia, bought an existing farm along the east side of Northfield Road, building their house on the north side of today's CEI lines. In 1918 James and Sylvia sold the farm and for a few years lived on Tinker's Creek Road, in Valley View.

In about 1925 the Rizers moved back into the township, after James bought 56 acres on the north side of Alexander Road, from the west township border to today's Gospel House Center. The family moved into the farmhouse John White built in c. 1865 at 14229 Alexander Road. The foundation stones of the house and the flagstone walkways came from the nearby Cleveland Quarry, according to Clarence Rizer.

A weekend farmer himself, James Rizer rented some of his fields to local farmers. However, he did sell several lots in order to get electricity along his stretch of Alexander Road. Rizer paid CEI to install the line along the road, and then was reimbursed later as additional houses hooked up to the line. One couple who bought four acres from the Rizers in 1943 was Frank Simone (Walton Hills Police Chief, 1960-1975) and his wife, Ann. They built their house at 14665 Alexander Road.

Until 1985 the three sons of James and Sylvia all lived on Rizer land. Clarence and his wife, Marie, moved into the family homestead (14229 Alexander Road) in 1936 and lived there until 1985. Orwin and his wife,



THE JOHN WHITE HOUSE, built c. 1865 and enlarged in c. 1890, stands at 14229 Alexander Road. (1986 photograph)

Irene, live at 14495 Alexander Road, and Ryland and his wife, Bernice, live at 14039 Alexander Road.

AN ALEXANDER ROAD HOUSE TELLS ITS STORY

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

Near the Valley View line, on the north side of Alexander Road, stands a large, quaint old house. Mature evergreen trees hide the house from people driving by.

THE JOHN WHITE HOUSE

John White built the farmhouse at 14229 Alexander Road in c. 1865, and then in about 1890 family members added on to the original home. The flagstone walkways and the stones that made up the foundation for the house came from the nearby Cleveland Quarry located on the north side of Gorge Parkway, by Overlook Drive. The name "Libby White" is etched onto one of those slabs of sandstone. John White's original 54-acres, plus an additional 2 acres, extended from the Bedford Township line to today's Gospel House.

THE RIZER FAMILY

The Rizers were the next owners of the property. James and Sylvia Rizer, bought the White house and its 56 acres in about 1925. Previously the Rizers owned a farm along the east side of Northfield Road by today's CEI lines, near where James' parents, Mathias and Barbara Rizer, lived. The long lane that led from Northfield Road to Mathias' farm is now Krick Road.

The Rizers soon abandoned the original well and tore down the outhouse. They dug a new well by hand, and built a bathroom with a pump toilet connected to a cistern. They installed another pump which enabled them to get water from the cistern to the kitchen sink.

James Rizer was a weekend farmer. He and a friend who rented some of his extra fields collected Indian arrowheads from the property. The two men had a heaping peck basket filled with arrowheads. Among their finds were a spear head "as long as a man's hand and 3" wide," Indian tools and tomahawks.

Until the Chestnut blight killed many of the trees in the 1920s, the Alexander Road area was laden with chestnut trees. James Rizer and his eldest son Clarence cut down many of those dying trees, transported them by wagon and sold the logs to Dawson Sawmill in Bedford.

After they married, the three sons of James and Sylvia Rizer all lived on family land. Clarence and Marie Rizer moved into the aforementioned family homestead in 1936. The Orwin and Irene Rizer house is at 14495 Alexander Road. Until 1985, Ryland and Bernice Rizer lived in the house they built at 14039 Alexander Road.

In the early 1940s Clarence Rizer sold several lots in order to get electricity along the western stretch of Alexander Road. Rizer paid CEI to install the line along the road, and then was reimbursed later as additional houses hooked up to the line. One couple who bought four acres from the Rizers in 1943 was Frank Simone (Walton Hills Police Chief, 1960-1975) and his wife Ann. They built their house at 14665 Alexander Road.

CURRENT OWNERS

Current owners of the John White house are Michael and Veronica Krainz and their six children.

As did the Rizers, the Krainz family has remodeled and made renovations to the 140-year old house.

THE JOHN WHITE HOUSE, built c. 1865 and enlarged in c. 1890, stands at 14229 Alexander Road. (1986 photo by Nina Wolf)



(continued) THE WEST END OF WALTON HILLS DURING THE 1940'S

Sagamore Hills Beer Garden, now a private home (7100 Dunham Road) was primarily a summer attraction. Young men and women from nearby urban areas flocked to the Beer Garden on warm nights for an evening of fun. There was moonlight dancing on the large inside dance floor. Patrons were served at tables on the porch and also under the grape arbor in the back. The family who owned and managed the establishment lived in the back rooms of the house.

Black Beauty Riding Academy

This was a favored area for horseback riders during those years. The popular Black Beauty Riding Academy was first on the west side, then on the east side of the road at approximately 7125 Dunham Road. The livery usually had from twenty to twenty-five horses that were mostly standard bred, along with some pintos and a few thoroughbreds. Black Beauty used about sixteen miles of Metropark bridle paths, including the oxen lanes created by the Wager Quarry. Black Beauty ~~was in business until~~ ^{suffered} the main horse barn burned down in 1942 and thirteen of the horses perished in the fire. _{when}

World War II Pig Farms

During the World War II years meat for civilians was scarce and rationed. Great efforts were taken by our government to provide adequate meat to our armed forces. Local farmers were encouraged to raise pigs, thus helping with the pork supply.

Along the western section of Alexander Road and Dunham Road from the Astorhurst south, full-time farmers and part-time farm families raised pigs as well as cows, chickens, ducks, etc., for their own family, for profit, and in part to aid the war efforts. Some farmers had smokehouses where they cured and smoked their own sausages, ham and bacon.

To help provide food for farmers raising pigs, local governments set up collection areas where farmers could pick up food scraps. Restaurants and residents were encouraged to take their garbage to these centers. A few of our farmers collected garbage from nearby centers and dumped the slop over fields they set aside for pig farming. The Kitsons, who owned a large farm on the south side of Alexander Road, took their dump truck and made two trips a day to Shaker Heights restaurants and garbage deposits, to collect enough feed for the pigs they raised.

Winds carried the odor from the pig farms to nearby homeowners, and the smells must have been pungent. In the 1940's a number of urban couples were buying lots, building houses, and moving into our area of the township. They put up with the smell of pig farming during World War II, but after the war ended, they were voicing their disapproval of pig farming in the area. These people favored stronger ordinances, which meant incorporation into a village.



EAST SIDE VIEW OF THE ALEXANDER HOUSE built c. 1854. For a span of years this house, no longer standing, at about 14880 Alexander Road was a haven for runaway slaves. (1940's photograph) (Both of these photographs reprinted by Nina Wolf)

STARTING IN 1911 New York Central freight trains crossed Tinker's Creek Valley on this trestle-supported steel bridge. The NYC stopped using the tracks in the 1960's and tore down the trestle in 1973.

CAN ANY OTHER RESIDENT TOP THIS?

by Bob Kainsinger

Two long-time residents of what later became Walton Hills are Yaro Hesoun and Ryland Rizer.

In 1913 at the age of 5, Yaro Hesoun moved into the township. His parents rented the 200-acre Wager farm stretching along the east side of Egypt Road. Two years later Yaro's dad was able to purchase sixteen acres across the street and built a house for his wife and seven children. The Hesouns were truck farmers. They grew fruits and vegetables and raised chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys. Family members worked together to farm and market their crop.

Yaro recalls how he helped pave Alexander Road from Canal Road east to Dunham Road in 1928. He operated a truck and steam shovel for the contractor who had the job of concreting that section of the road. Several local farmers worked on county road crews when they could afford the time. The extra money helped them pay the taxes on their acreage.

Yaro and his wife Eleanor bought land in front of his parents' house. In 1946 they built their house at 7200 Dunham Road where they raised their four children; Edward, Jerry (deceased), Louise O'Toole and Norman.



Yaro Hesoun
(left)

Ryland Rizer
(right)



73 years ago in 1918 Ryland Rizer was born in a farmhouse on Northfield Road, where CEI lines now stand. He attended first grade at Central School and then moved to neighboring areas for the next few years. In 1927 Ry moved back into the township when his parents bought the farmhouse and 56 acres on the north side of Alexander Road, stretching from the west township border to today's Gospel House Center.

Ry and his wife Bernice built their house at 14039 Alexander Road where they raised their four children; Nancy (Anslow), Dennis, Gail (deceased) and Patricia.

In 1955 Ry, along with Chet Ramos (7207 Dunham Road) and Les Rondina, worked many long days building a baseball diamond complete with backstop on Walton Hills Estates property thus creating a home field for the local boys' Little League games.

Ry and Bunny have seen lots of changes in the Village. They think back to the days when Alexander Road was a sleepy, country, gravel-covered roadway; especially when they wait for traffic to clear so they can exit their driveway!

THE JOHN WHITE HOUSE
ON ALEXANDER ROAD

ALONG ALEXANDER ROAD



ALONG ALEXANDER ROAD

Name: John White farmhouse

Address: 14229 Alexander Road

Date Built: c. 1865

Comments: The foundation stones of the house and the flagstone walkways came from the nearby Cleaveland Quarry.
2012 - Property of Michael and Veronica Krainz

Still Standing: Yes



ALONG ALEXANDER ROAD

Name: James Black farmhouse

Address: 15035 Alexander Road

Date Built: c. 1874

Comments: The house sat far back from Alexander Road. Its long driveway was on an easement.
In recent years CEI bought the back acreage and the house was moved close to Alexander Road.
1994 - Property of Sean and Lisa Kelly

Still Standing: Yes

AN ALEXANDER ROAD HOUSE TELLS ITS STORY

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

Another quaint old Victorian house on the north side of Alexander Road is the James Black house, at 15035 Alexander Road.

JAMES BLACK built the house in c. 1874. The James Black 58-acre parcel sat far back from Alexander Road as we know it today, and extended to what is now the Astorhurst Golf Course. Back when the house was built it was close to the road. As improvements were made to Alexander Road and the road was straightened, a 1200 foot long easement-driveway was cut to the Black homestead, as well as to the neighboring Koth farmhouse.

Black family members owned large parcels of land in the Alexander / Dunham / Egbert Roads area during the second half of the 1800s. As years passed, many of the fields sat idle and eventually scrub brush and trees hid the house from the passer by.

THE CHAPEKS

The Chapeks were the next owners of the Black house; Cecelia Chapek, then bachelor step-brothers Edwin Chapek and Dr. Clarence Porbe. Their 72 acres included frontage on Alexander Road. Weekends and off times, Edwin Chapek enjoyed working a few of his acres while he left the rest of the land become wooded.

Many longtime residents remember the Chapek picnic grove called Arbor Park. Church groups and other large organizations rented the grounds for summer and fall outdoor events. There were fields for play, paths in the hilly backwoods for scenic walks, and a pavilion with a bandstand and dance floor.

When CEI bought the back acreage for its Juniper Station, the house was moved close to Alexander Road, where it stands today.

CURRENT OWNERS

Since 1994 when they bought the property from Dr. Porbe, the James Black House is home to Sean and Lisa Kelly and their two children. While keeping the character of the 130-year old house, the Kellys needed to make the house structurally sound. Their major renovation projects involved extensive work to the walls, ceilings and roof supports.

The Kellys are proud to say they and members of their families did all the renovations and improvements themselves, without the help of outside contractors. The Kellys kept and refinished all the original woodwork in the house.

BUILT IN C. 1874 and
ENLARGED in c. 1890,
the James Black house stands
at 15035 Alexander Road.
(1986 photo by Nina Wolf)



THE CHAPEK MURDER

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

This sad story took place in 1972. Two bachelor step-brothers lived in the James Black house at 15035 Alexander Road; Edwin Chapek and Dr. Clarence Porbe. The men were rumored to have had old coins and fruit jars stuffed with cash hidden in the basement of their antique-filled house.

Late one afternoon in May of 1972, 49-year old Edwin Chapek was helping plow his neighbor's (Joseph Kluber) field when a tractor tire went flat. Kluber took the tire for repair and Chapek headed back toward his house.

ROBBERS EXPECTED NOONE to be HOME

Chapek was approached by Allen Hilts, the driver of a U-Haul van who had driven up his 1200-foot long driveway to his house. The man inquired about renting Chapek's Arbor Park for a family reunion. Within minutes three other men wearing ski masks exited the van. The men grabbed Chapek, tied him up, tossed him into the U-Haul, drove to the house and lugged him to the basement where they tied him to a post.

Hilts sat in the U-Haul vehicle serving as lookout and getaway driver. A short time later Kluber was coming up the driveway in his green van to return the repaired tire. Hilts honked to alert his colleagues. One of the masked gunmen robbed Kluber at gunpoint, threatened him, and deposited him on the kitchen floor. Hilts drove the U-Haul a safe distance down the road.

CHAPEK IS MURDERED

Meanwhile, Chapek managed to free himself and run outside. That was when the botched robbery became a tragedy. Margroff, the gunman, spotted Chapek trying to run from the house. Chapek never had a chance. Margroff shot Chapek with a 9 mm semiautomatic hand gun first in his left thigh, and then a short time later in the neck and head. Durant, Margroff and Pietrangelo sped off in Kluber's van on their way to meet Hilts.

After the masked intruders left the house, Kluber ran home and called police. The police found Chapek's body by an evergreen tree, Kluber's stolen truck on Northfield Road and the U-Haul on Dunham Road.

THREE SUSPECTS IDENTIFIED

Police and the Sheriff Department soon identified three of the four suspects; Nick Pietrangelo, Hobart Margroff, and Donald Durant. The FBI described Donald Durant as an organized crime figure. He used many aliases and disguises and had undergone extensive plastic surgery.

THE GET-AWAY DRIVER TALKS

One by one, three of the four suspects were caught. Three years after the crime, police officials and the FBI identified Allen Hilts. Hilts was serving a sentence of 15 years to life for another murder. He agreed to tell the FBI about the Chapek killing in return for a chance at probation. The story Hilts related to the FBI correlated with Joseph Kluber's testimony and police evidence.

In 1983 the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury had enough evidence to indict Durant, Margroff and Pietrangelo for first degree murder. Pietrangelo pleaded guilty to a reduced charge and was placed on probation. Margroff was sentenced to prison.

DURANT, the FOURTH SUSPECT, IS CAPTURED

Although he was indicted, it took ten more years for the FBI and police officials to locate Durant. Durant had managed to move around the country, staying one step ahead of the law.

In May of 1992 and again in July of 1993, the Chapek Murder Case was featured on the television show "America's Most Wanted." About that same time, Durant was spotted in the northeast Ohio area. Finally, 21 years after the murder, in December of 1993, the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department learned that Durant had been arrested in a Tucson trailer park. Extradition papers were filed and Durant was returned to Cleveland for trial.

Dr. Clarence Porbe, who was not home that day in May 1972, continued to live in the house after his step-brother died. "It changed my whole life," he told reporters. "He was the best friend I had."

5-25-72

Flat tire leads to park man's killing

By BARBARA WEISS

If the tractor tire had not gone flat, 51-year-old Edwin Chapek of Walton Hills might not have been slain.

If it hadn't gone flat he would have kept plowing at his neighbor's place while three masked burglars were looting his home. They might have left with their loot before he returned from his

But the tire went flat, and while it was being repaired Chapek went to this home at 15035 Alexander Rd. late yesterday. He was found shot to death under an evergreen tree in his yard at about 5 p.m.

WALTON HILLS police today were combing Chapek's ransacked house for clues. They also were examining an abandoned, stolen rented truck they think the killers used as well, as the truck of the neighbor for whom Chapek was plowing. The killers commandeered it, too, after robbing the owner.

Edwin Chapek, member of an early-settler family of Alexander Rd., was a bachelor and a popular figure in the area. He used part of his 60-acre place as a private picnic grounds, called Arbor Park, and rented it to organizations.

Always helpful to neighbors, he was over at Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kluber's property, 14533 Alexander, about a half-mile from his place, plowing for them when the tire went flat.

KLUBER SAID he would take the tire to Bedford to be fixed. He did this and returned in his truck to Chapek's place to tell him he could finish plowing.

Chapek's dirt driveway leads almost 1200 feet back off Alexander to reach the house. As Kluber approached, he saw a window in the house was broken. He got out to look for Chapek.

A gunman wearing a ski mask forced him into the kitchen.

"He put the gun on me and made lie on the floor," Kluber said. Then he took \$30 or \$40 from my wallet."

KLUBER SAID two other men wearing stocking masks were ransacking the place. He believes while this was going on, Chapek was tied up in the basement and struggling to free himself.

The three left while Kluber was still on the floor. They jumped into his truck, in which they may be placed some household objects.

"I heard the motor start," he said. "Then I heard some shots."

It is believed just as they started the engine Chapek got out of the basement through a sublevel door at the front of the house and ran for the truck.

HE MAY HAVE been trying to stop the invaders, or he may have thought Kluber was in the truck. He was shot in the head, the back and the thigh. The truck roared away.

"I waited about five minutes and then ran for my house," Kluber said. "If a jet had been going by I would have beat it."

The Klubers called police. It was the Klubers' son, Jerry, 27, who found Chapek's body lying in a pool of blood after noticing his boots under the evergreen.

Kluber lived with a half brother, Dr.

Clarence Porbe, who was not at home. Police found Kluber's truck on Northfield Rd. They found the stolen rental truck on Dunham Rd.

Police said Dr. Porbe, an M.D., so far has not noticed anything missing from the torn-up house. The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation sent men to seek fingerprints and other clues in the home and trucks.



WHERE BODY WAS FOUND—Walton Hills Patrolman Edward Bahensky points to the evergreen under which Edwin Chapek was found slain (Press photo by Herman Seid)

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION...

Is it Hollywood or is it Walton Hills? That's the question that many asked who walked by the lights and cameras on a cold and rainy morning in October. The location was the Wading Pool area of the Cleveland Metroparks Reservation. The scene was that of reality.

A police officer stumbles upon a young male sitting on a picnic table who has with him a stolen motorcycle with a large painting strapped onto the back of it. If this seems suspicious to you, then you know it seemed suspicious to officer Licker, a five year veteran with the Walton Hills Police Department. Licker approached the male and greeted him politely by starting off with some small talk about the weather. After some conversation, Licker asked this male for some identification and began to question him further about the painting and the motorcycle. That's when Licker advised the young man that he knew the motorcycle was stolen and that he was going to have to take him in. With that, Licker started to pull out his handcuffs when he hears a click behind him. Licker looks back and sees a female standing directly beside him with a gun pointed directly at him with the hammer in the firing position.



"Cut," yelled the producer who stated that was a take. The action described above was that of a movie being filmed through out Ohio. The Officer is a real cop who was asked to be part of the filming of this short film by Director, Paul Ettorre of Lake Effect Films, Inc. Ettorre has been active in film making for several years. He

is a graduate of the University of Toledo and has high hopes for his film "Down the road." The film is part of a three part feature length anthology. It will consist of three 30 minute stories all inspired by the life around the Great Lakes. Ettorre is working with Jim Polaczynski on this feature film which will be shown

around the country at several film festivals including the greater Cleveland area. Polaczynski directed the first film titled "Chester and Irene" which is a short story about an elderly couple who helps out a friend who has Alzheimer's disease.

Despite the rain and bitter coldness, the cast and crew did an outstanding job in their production. From the setting of the lights and the angles of the cameras to the make-up girls and the road crew the entire operation was nothing but professional. As for officer Licker, he is back on the road serving and protecting the community in which he resides. Who knows, we may see his name in lights or on that big silver screen. So hang onto that citation he wrote you, who knows, his signature may be worth its weight in gold "Down the Road"



(Photo Top Left: Officer Licker on location in the Metroparks)

(Photo Bottom Right: Paul Ettorre, Officer Licker and Jim Polaczynski)

1-1994

FUGITIVE ARRESTED AFTER 21 LONG YEARS

A closing to a 21 year old murder story which left a Walton Hills resident dead after a botched up robbery has finally come to an end. Edwin Chapek, 49, was brutally shot and killed outside of his Walton Hills home on May 24, 1972 by four Collinwood area hoods.

The fugitive and final member of the so called Collinwood Gang, Donald A. Durant was arrested in a trailer park in Tuscon, Arizona on December 16, 1993 after a lengthy investigation conducted by the Walton Hills Police Department, the Cuyahoga County Sheriffs Department and the F.B.I. The three agencies teamed up in Washington D.C. on the television series "AMERICA'S MOST WANTED". The show which aired in January and again in July of 1993 helped with the investigation and apprehension of the fugitive who has been running for 21 years.

In late may of 1972 a U-haul van was rented to assist the gang in the burglary of Chapeks home. The van was rented out to Durant.

Durant along with his three companions, Allen Hilts Hobart Margroff and Nicholas Pietrangelo drove to Chapeks 72 acre estate once known as Arbor Park. Once there Hilts who was driving the van found Chapek and asked him if it was possible to rent the grounds out for a family reunion. As the two approached the van, the other three hiding in the van jumped out and over powered Chapek. They took him to the basement where he was tied up to a pole. The four then ransacked the house and robbed Chapek of an undetermined amount of cash.



During the robbery, a neighbor who was unaware of the situation he was about to encounter, stopped in to visit Chapek. The neighbor was also over powered and then tied up on the kitchen floor. During this time, Chapek managed to escape through a basement window. Unknown to Chapek that his neighbor was tied up inside of the house, Chapek who saw his neighbors van in the driveway started running up to it in a desperate attempt to seek help. Inside of the van was Hobart Margroff who shot Chapek once through the door knocking Chapek on the ground. Margroff then exited the van and shot Chapek two more times.

After 11 years, in 1983, enough evidence was received and murder charges were filed against the four robbers. Hilts who was serving a sentence for another murder was recently paroled from prison. Hilts turned states evidence against the other three involved. Pietrangelo was released on probation and apparently gave up his life of crime. Durant who was the

organizer of this crime will finally be brought to justice after 21 years. Durant did not stop his life of crime and has been charged with other crimes in other states. At this time Durant is in custody and is awaiting extradition back to Cuyahoga County. The Walton Hills Police Department would like to thank the F.B.I. and the Sheriffs Department for their continuous effort in bringing this fugitive to justice. A special thanks also goes out to John Walsh and his crew from the AMERICA'S MOST WANTED television series which assisted in Durants apprehension.

PHOTO: Top Right- Ptlm. Gary Rhines of the Walton Hills Police Department and John Walsh of the "AMERICA'S MOST WANTED" television series after the show aired in January of 1993.

PHOTO: Bottom Left - Fugitive Donald A. Durant in a 1981 Photograph.

Notes

Chapek
Porbe
Koth

Cecilie Chapek house built c. 1890 newer archives say the house was built c. 1874
15035 Alexander Road

Cecilie's second husband was Clarence Porbe.

Mrs. Chapek lived there with sons, Edwin and Clarence Porbe.

Clarence and Edwin were step-brothers

Clarence Porbe is a doctor

Clarence lived in the house after Edwin was murdered

CEI bought the back acreage from the Porbes for their Juniper Station

Edwin was murdered in 1960's.. Much publicity, years later, in the 1990's the Walton Hills police caught the murderer

Now the house is moved closer to Alexander Road. Years ago, Alexander Road in that area paralleled today's road, but was north of today's road. That is why the Porbe house and the Koth house were so far back, unseen from today's Alexander Road.

Chapeks had a picnic grove. Church groups used the grounds.

First it was a farm, then a picnic grove with pavilions. At least one pavilion had a dance floor. Orchestras would play there.

1967 Edwin and Clarence Porbe owned the house

1959-1960 Photo of Senchur House

Address in 1953: 31 Alexander Road, Walton Hills Address today: 18817 Alexander Road, Walton Hills

In 1953

Jacob and Eleanor Senchur purchased this Alexander Road property, when it was partially finished. Jacob Senchur, a construction contractor for Bedford Excavating and Grading, finished the house and built the attached garage.

In October of 1958, the Senchur family purchased the old NYC Railroad Camphouse at 15801 Egbert Road, the house that the NYC had bought to house its Line Workers and Camphouse Foreman.

The Senchurs purchased the Egbert Road house and acreage from the current owners, Norman and Elizabeth Pearce.

In December of 1960

James and Nancy DeMarchi purchased this house at 18817 Alexander Road.

In October of 2006

Diane Saunders and Joe Canzoni purchased this house at 18817 Alexander Road.





In 1956 Don Flora took this aerial photograph of Jacob and Eleanor Senchur's house at 18817 Alexander Road.



ALONG ALEXANDER ROAD

Name: Jacob and Eleanor Senchur house

Address: 18817 Alexander Road

(Until 1960 the address was 149 Alexander Road)

Date Built: 1952

Comments: The Senchurs bought the house as is, unfinished, from the builder.

This was the first of two Senchur houses in Walton Hills.

2012 – Property of Joe and Diane Canzoni

In 1958 the Senchurs sold this house and bought the old New York Central Camphouse at 15801 Egbert Road.

The Senchurs also purchased abutting land, until they owned a total of 5 1/3 acres.

Today, 4 houses sit on that acreage, all owned by Senchur family members.

Still Standing: Yes

Phone: BE dford 2-0253

GRADALL

An orange-toned illustration of a Gradall excavator, shown from a side profile, positioned behind the main company name. The excavator has a large bucket and a prominent hydraulic arm.

BEDFORD EXCAVATING & GRADING

RIPPING—LOADING
SHOVELDOZER

TRENCHING—SLOPING
TRUCKS

J. V. SENCHUR

149 Alexander Road
BEDFORD, OHIO



2012 photo

ALONG EAST LAKE DRIVE

Name: Edward and Ann Bahensky house
Address: 7657 East Lake Drive
Date Built: 1948
Comments: Ed Bahensky built the house.
He was a Walton Hills Police Officer.
2012 - Property of Dolores Nose
Still Standing: Yes



1955 photo

Jacob V. (Jake) and Eleanor (nee Grudowski) Senchur

In 1952 the Senchurs moved into their first Walton Hills home at 149 Alexander Road. Their phone number: BE 2-0253
Years later, when there was a housing boom in the village, their house address was changed to 18817 Alexander Road.

The Senchurs bought the house as is, unfinished, from the builder. Jake owned Bedford Excavating and Grading. An excavator and grader himself, he and his crew operated out of his Alexander address.

Jake and Eleanor Senchur had 3 daughters, Joann, Judith and Janet. All three girls attended St. Mary Catholic School in Bedford and then, Bedford High School.

In 1958 the Jake and Eleanor Senchur family sold their Alexander Road house, and in October of that year the Senchur family moved into their 2nd Walton Hills home, at 15801 Egbert Road. The Senchurs also purchased abutting land until they owned a total of 5 1/3 acres. Today 4 houses sit on the 5 1/3 acres, all owned by Senchur family members.

The history of the house at 15801 Ebert Road:

It was built c. 1880. In about 1900, the New York Central Railroad purchased the house and acreage to be used as a Camphouse when the NYC was going to build a new freight line from Marcy, in Cleveland, to Hudson Ohio. The Boarding House Foreman and his family were to live in a portion of the house, and he and his wife were to care for the section crew who would also bunk in another portion of the house.

The NYC soon hired laborers to construct this section of track. The NYC brought Hungarian men who were experienced gandy dancers to Bedford Township to lay the tracks for their new rail line. When the rail line was completed, the New York Central no longer needed the Camphouse and put the house and acreage up for sale. The house sat vacant for a few years. Norm and Elizabeth Pearce purchased the house and acreage in 1940 from the New York Central Railroad.

In 1958 Jake and Eleanor Senchur bought the house and land from the Pearce family. Since 1999, Scott Schroeder, grandson of Jack and Eleanor Senchur, owns the house.

2011 data: The 3 Senchur Daughters and their Families

1. **Joann Senchur Shiesl** and her husband **Jon Shiesl** live in Anchorage Alaska. They have two children, Bob and Beth.

(1) **Bob Shiesl**, and his wife **Katie** live in Montana; Bob and Katie have 2 boys.

(2) **Beth Shiesl McAllen**, and her husband **Jim** live in Anchorage Alaska. They have a daughter and son.

2. **Judith (Judi) Senchur Schroeder** and her husband **Bruce Schroeder** live in Walton Hills.

Bruce and Judi started building their house on a section of the Senchur family land at 15777 Egbert Road in 1964, and moved into their home in 1965.

Bruce and Judi Schroeder have 4 sons: Scott, Bruce and Brian who are twins, and Steven.

(1) **Scott Schroeder** lives at 15801 Egbert Road. He purchased his home from his grandmother, Eleanor Senchur, in 1999. Scott is an engineer for Independence Excavating.

(2) **Bruce Schroeder** and his wife **Lisa** live at 15765 Egbert Road. They built their house on Senchur family land in 2000. Bruce works for Indy Equipment. Bruce and Lisa Schroeder have a daughter and a son, **Nicole** and **Nicholas**.

(3) **Brian Schroeder** and his wife **Mary** live at 15635 Egbert Road. They built their house on Senchur family land in 2000. Brian works for the Walton Hills Service Department. Brian and Mary Schroeder have a son, **Nathan**.

(4) **Steven Schroeder** and his wife **Tammy (DiBlasi)** live at 7985 Walton Road. They purchased their home from Tammy's father, John DiBlasi, in 1999. Steven is a plasterer by trade. Steven and Tammy Schroeder have a son **Kyle** and a daughter **Haly**.

3. **Janet Senchur Krolik** lives in Twinsburg Ohio. Her husband **Jerry Krolik** is deceased. Janet and Jerry have 2 daughters, **Jacqueline** and **Jan**.

(1) **Jacqueline** and **Matt Stutin** live in Twinsburg; and have a daughter named **Madison**.

(2) **Jan Krolik** lives in Columbus Ohio.

Rizer Family

Interviews with Rizer family members and Ryland Rizer interview 8-20-1991

When Mathias Rizer and his wife Barbara moved to their small farm along Northfield Road in the 1880;s, Mathias had already retired from farming. The farm and farmhouse sat far back on the west side of the road in what is part of Krick Road Industrial Park.

Mathias and Barbara Rizer came from the Broadway 55th area. They bought a farm with a house on it; the house faced Northfield Road. The lane was sort of where Krick Road is now.

Mathias and the boys ran the farm: 2 boys - John and James 4 girls - Anna, Mary, Rose, Frances

It probably was this farm:

County Atlas: 1860 owned by Owen H. Kelty

1880 owned by B. Kuberna

1902 owned by F. J. and F. M. Laskowski

house and 5 barns, private drive off Northfield Rd. leading to the house and barns
the front acreage was farm fields

Mathias and Barbara Rizer's son, James, married Sylvia Hajduk Svoboda.

(Sylvia had attended Egypt School and James attended Walton School)

James and Sylvia Rizer bought a farm and built a house where Cox Plumbing is now on Northfield Rd.

James was a part-time farmer, he was in the street paving business.

In 1918 or 1919 James and Sylvia Rizer sold their farm and moved to Tinkers Creek Road in Valley View.

In about 1925 James and Sylvia Rizer bought 56 acres on the north side of Alexander Road from the west township border to the Alexander Farm (which is now the Gospel House Center.)

They bought the house from John White.

County Atlas shows this property owned by John White in 1902

They moved into the farmhouse that was originally built in c. 1865

and added onto in c. 1890 (14229 Alexander Road)

The flagstone sidewalks and the foundation stones in that house came from the Clark Cleveland quarry. Clark Cleveland ran the quarry then.

James Rizer collected arrowheads. He let Nick Bush plow and farm some back acres. Nic Bush picked up a peck basket of Indian tools. Nick kept them. There was a spear head as long as a man's hand and 3" wide; 2 kinds of arrowheads and tools and tomahawks

James and Sylvia Rizer rented some of their fields to local farmers.

They had 3 sons:

Clarence who married Marie

Orwin who married Irene (14495 Alexander Road)

Rylan who married Bernice (Bunny) (14039 Alexander Road)

Orwin Rizer's and Ryland Rizer's lots are part of their father's 56 acres.

Clarence and Marie moved into the parents' house in 1936 - at 14229 Alexander Road. Clarence and Marie: there was a pump outside for water. Bathroom had a pump toilet with a cistern. They pumped water into the kitchen from a cistern, too.

Notes

----- Rizer interviews continued

Clarence Rizer's other grandmother was Mary Hajduk Svoboda. Mary Hajduk's first husband died. She remarried John Svoboda. Clarence's mother was 3 years old when Mary Hajduk remarried.

John Svoboda bought the Astorhurst property. She bought it as an investment. The Svobodas sold the Astorhurst property and bought land on Riverview Road.

County Atlas: 1905 the Astorhurst land was owned by Theresa Svoboda

John Svoboda knew the Careys. John was the Carey's coachman.

James Rizer built the Rees' second barn after the Rees 1st barn burned down. (Northfield Road, north of Sagamore Road) Clarence helped his dad.

Clarence remembers -- the original Rees house sat way back in the woods. Then Rees had a new house and barn built that was closer to Northfield Road. Clarence and his dad used wood from the old house to build the barn. They found black walnut planking and used it on the barn.

Clarence remembers lots of Bohemians lived in the area or had summer homes here: Janda, Hesoun, Dolejs, Rezak, Chvatal.

Clarence remembers Charlie Alexander. Charlie's daughter taught music in the Bedford Schools.

When Clarence and Marie moved to Alexander Road Linda and Willis Kitson were farming the Alexander farm. During World War II Willis and Linda raised pigs.

Willis Kitson's father was a truck farmer. His farm was on Tinkers Creek Road. Willis went to work in Shaker Hts. as a farmer and caretaker. Then when they bought the farm from the Alexanders their first venture was raising strawberries. Then The Kitson's extended their farming.

Linda Kitson's grandparents were the Albers. They owned the farm where the Kolis' are on Dunham Road.

There was no electricity along their stretch of Alexander Road. James Rizer paid for the CEI line, then he sold off lots: CEI reimbursed him for each house that hooked up to the CEI line.

(Ex Police Chief Frank Simone and his wife Ann bought 4 acres from the Rizers in 1943. (14665 Alexander Rd.)

In the 1920's chestnut trees were very common in their area of Alexander Road. There were many of them. When the chestnut trees died with the Chestnut blight, Clarence and his dad cut down many of the trees along Alexander and Tinkers Creek Roads and took the logs to Dawson Saw Mill.

Ryland (Ry) Rizer was born 9-23-1918 His wife is Bernice (Bunny)

Their children: Nancy (Anslow), Dennis (he and his family moved to Argentina), Gail (deceased), Patricia

Ryland was born in the family house on Northfield Road near the present CEI lines.

Then he lived in the Tinkers Creek house.

Walton Hills Lake baseball field: Ryland helped the build the baseball field and back stop with Chet Ramos (Dunham Road) and Les Rondina (deceased)

Ry and Bunny Rizer have seen lots of changes in the area -- from country to city living. They remember Alexander Road a sleepy country gravel road. Now its hard to get out of the driveway onto the road.

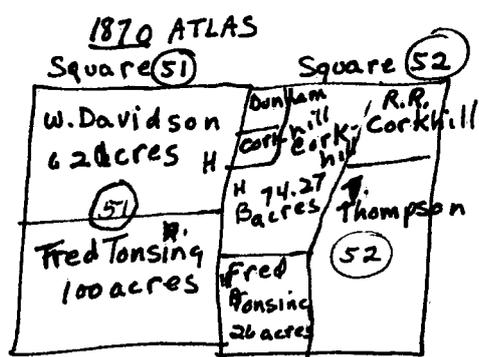
Archives -
Rhodes House
2905 Franklin Ave
216-443-7250

ROADS and EARLY SETTLERS who lived on them
Cuyahoga County Archives Center:

Houses - Tax Records Cards -- Auditors Map Books show line of succession, show who had title

Alexander Road -- Houses - Archives Tax Records Cards

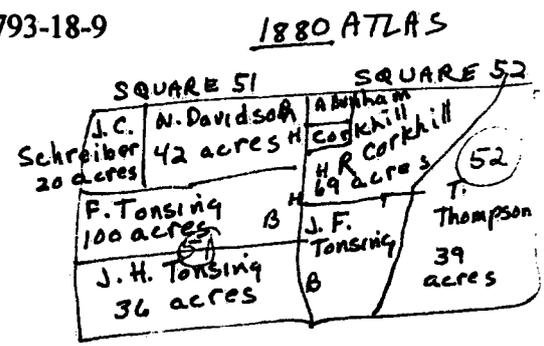
- Square 83 Silas Belden 1830
- Square 91 James Alexander 1835
- Square 92 James Clark 1835
- Square 81 Thomas Cook 1830
- Square 81 Ruth Cook 1835
- Square John Willey 1830
- Square 87 Nathan Starr 1830
- Square 81 Thomas Cook paid taxes 1830
- Square 91 1835 - James Alexander paid taxes on house, farm: gone in 1858
- Square 91 1835-James Clark paid taxes: gone in 1852



1874 and c.1890 HOUSE: (newer records say 1874) Cecilie Chapek house 793-17-1

Records show Cora Alexander owning property here in 1832
 Records show Andrew Alexander owning property here in 1833
 1854 - original house -1895 John and Elsie Rada 14880 Alexander Road 793-23-009
 in 1950 a chunk of this property was sold to Sophia Tokar

- 1856 and 1890 Clarence Rizer house remodeled in 1940 793-18-9
 - 1943 Orwin Rizer 793-18-2
 - 1946 Sylvia Rizer 793-18-8
 - Tommer, Richard and Margueritte 1944 793-18-10
 - 1933 Frank Koth 793-18-14
 - John Kofer 1948 793-19-3
 - Charles Hribal 1949 793-21-4
 - Joseph Peters 1940 793-21-9
 - 1945 Linda Kitson 793-22-1
 - John Magareil 1944 793-18-1
 - Florence Clayton 1945 793-22-2
 - Robert Uher 1945 793-28-3
 - 2-1944 Andrew Rick 10-1971
 - James Salamon 1941 794-16-1
- SE corner of Dunham Road



- Frank Barr 1946 794-9-4
- Myron Nowacki 1948 793-18-4 second house west of Orwin C. Rizer
- H. J. Larkman 1948 793-18-5 (nw of Myron Nowacki)
- Amerigo and Ann Simone 1945 793-19-4
- Carl Funk 1941 794-15-3 east of Dunham Road

Archives
Rhodes House
2905 Franklin Ave
216-443-7250

ROADS and EARLY SETTLERS who lived on them

Cuyahoga County Archives Center:

Houses - Tax Records Cards -- Auditors Map Books show line of succession, show who had title

Alexander Road continued

Ludwig S. Conelly Conelly Realty Co. 1947 SE corner of Alexander/Walton Roads

Anna Williams - George and Willie Urban 1945

Michael and Effie Romanik 1947 794-26-4 19000 Alexander

Carl and Violet Podgurski 1946 19005 Alexander 794-26-5

Frank and Josefa Pest 1947 4th lot east of Morningside 794-26-6

Boyd and Geraldine Needs on south side of Alex. 1948 794-26-10

Loren and D. Frame 1949 794-22-7 west of McLellan

Notes

(12)

Dunham Rd
Janda
Eglit
Shull
Dolejs

JANDA property SW corner of Alexander and Dunham Roads

Jandas bought the farm at SW corner of Alexander/Dunham road in 1904 (Cuy. County Archive records)

The Janda house was built in 1860 or earlier because it was listed in the 1860 Cuy. County plat book

The Janda house was very small. Had a barn. (Chvatal interview)

→ In 1860 James Egbert owned that property. The Egberts had a sawmill there. See map

Helen Eglit interview 8-19-1985 Helen remembered D. and Mary Janda

Mary Janda married Clarence Shull. They lived in the old Janda house for years, then they built the house on Alexander.

Mary grew a lot of flowers. She raised a lot of rabbits and white mice

Mary and Clarence Shull are both dead. They lived at 15153 Alexander.

They are distantly related to Bob Chvatal (Chvatal interview)

Bob remembers how, in the 1920's Mary had a beautiful flower garden. She also farmed vegetables for her own use.

Janda's son, Bob, inherited the land, too. Bob never lived he-he lived in Cleveland.

Metropark bought Janda's house and property. They tore the house and barn down. The house had stood empty, vacant for 20 years. (Chvatal interview cont.)

Bob Janda was not interested in the house or the barn. The house stood there with the original curtains and just rotted.

Mary Shull's house is on Alexander Road, on the east side of Porbes; a yellow & white house. A young couple bought it after Mary died. (Chvatal interview)

1920 plat book: property SE corner, south of Rick property at Alexander and Dunham was owned by D. and M. Janda

1920 plat book: property SW corner of Alex. and Dunham was owned by J. Janda

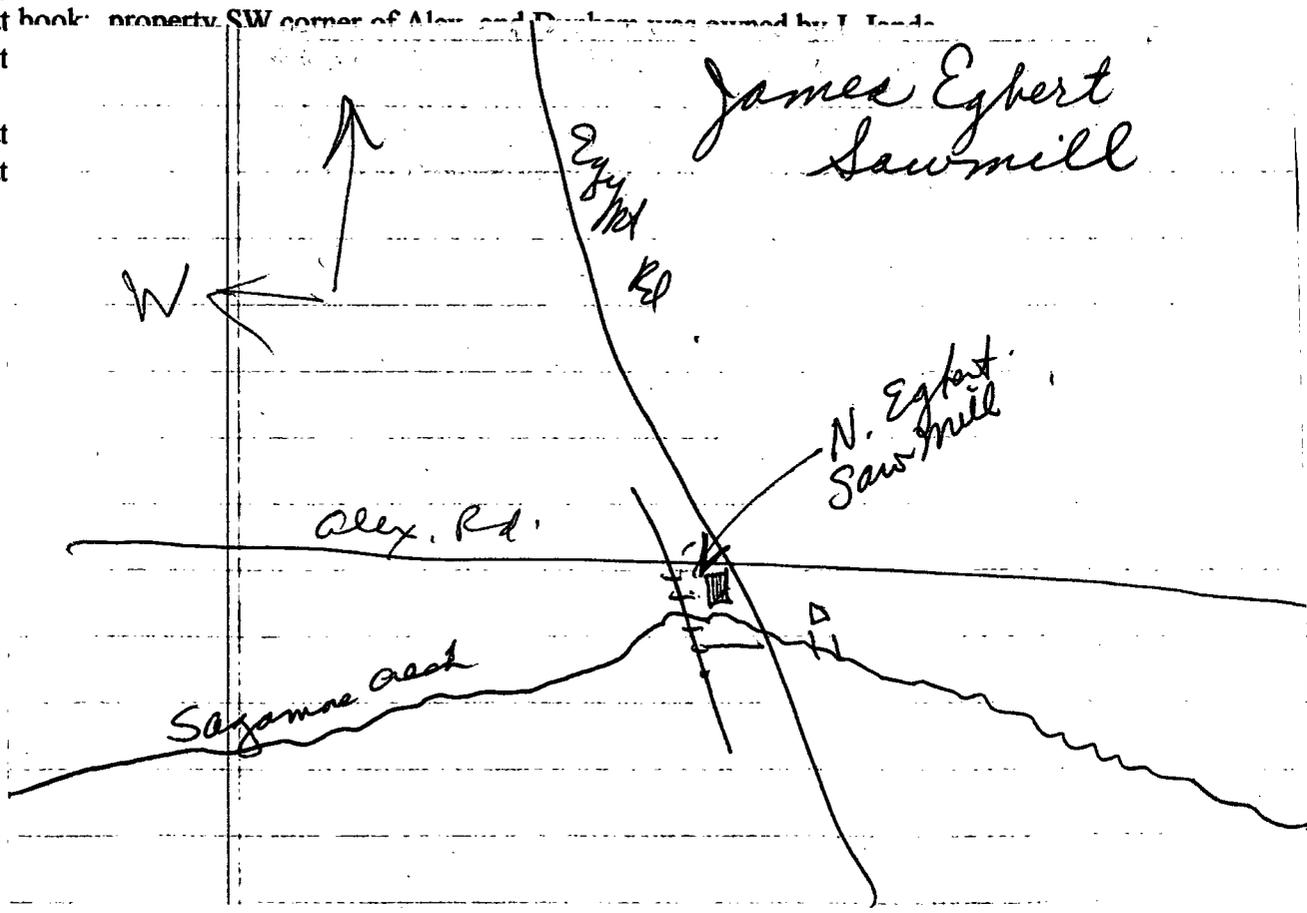
Somerset

Dolejs

1920 plat

1920 plat

acres



Notes

(4)

Alexander Rd

Black

Frances Black Wright: Caryl's father was a civil engineer **Alexander Road**

9-30-1987 Caryl Vermillion phoned me with this info:

James owned -- Black Beauty

James Black lived on Alexander road

James A. and Mary Ann Tate or Tapes Black had 5 children, all born in their home

William and Margaret Black 1830 -- Bedford Methodist Church

she died in 1850's; buried in Bedford Cemetary

James L. Wright was Caryl's paternal grandfather

Wright was superintendent of the Bedford Schools

Ruth Iarussi interview 12-1998

*Iarussi
Summerset Drive
off Dunham Rd.*

Guy and Ruth Iarussi bought the Clark Farm January 1960.
The Iarussis bought 24 acres, the old farm house, barn and cottage.
The driveway was off Dunham Road.
The address was 7880 Dunham Road.
The Iarussis did not move in right away. They moved in on 4-1960

Ruth Iarussi thought the view from the property was so beautiful, especially when the sun set.

So, in 1960, when they subdivided and sold lots made up of the bulk of their property, They called the new street Summerset Drive.

Iarussis had the land surveyed into 23 lots. General Conelly sold the lots.

Clark was a math teacher at Shaker High School.
Clark raised chickens.

Guy Iarussi died in 1998. Ruth lives in Greenwood Village 330-468-1528

Robert Koth

his farm was at 14001 Alexander.
He lived a long life, he was found frozen to death

He farmed way back from today's Alexander Road. Years ago, Alexander Road in that area paralld today's road, but was north of today's road. That is why the Porbe house and the Koth house were so far back, unseen from today's Alexander Road.

The Koth driveway was west of Rylan Rizer's drive at 14039 Alexander.

The Koths raised garlic. They sold it to Alesci's in Maple Hts. store. They raised vegetables and sold them to locals and to urban Cleveland area

check

Joe and Maureen Check 15190 Alexander Road 439-6856 Interview JK

Joe's grandmother is Marjorie Check of 16725 Alexander Road

Joe Check grew up in Walton Hills. He moved here in 1950's

On his ridge, to the SW of the property it looks like there is an Indian Mound. Looks similar to the Soldat property mound

Andrew and Linda Wright 17611 Alexander Road 439-3371

Neiding property: north side of Alexander Road between Walton and Woodlake Drive.

Neidings sold their 9 acres to John and Mary ^{JAKAB} ~~Jacob~~.

Linda Wright was the granddaughter of the Jacobs. ^{JAKAB} She inherited the property.

^{KAB} John Jacob was a butcher. He had a grocery /butcher shop. He was interested in politics. He had political gatherings in his back acreage: pavilion, with park setting and ball field, etc. Governor O'Neill came here for one of the gatherings. He came in a helicopter. (As told by John Sedensky)

*Wright
Jakab
Ohio Gov. O'Neill
REMING*

*JOHN + MARY JAKAB
granddaughters:
1. LINDA JOHNSON died 9/04
Linda + James Johnson
2. KAREN + Tom Reming*

Notes

Salamon
Rick
Drabik

James and Mary Salamon interview 7/1985
7677 Dunham Road 232-4610
Jim's first wife, Geraldine Rick, died. He then married Mary.

Florence and George Drabik (Florence Rick Drabik is Geraldine Rick Salamon's Sister) interview 7/1985
7470 Woodlake 232-3664

in 1902: Joseph Rick owned 15.68 acres on the SE corner of Alexander and Dunham.
and

in 1902: Joseph and Mary Rick owned 42 acres on the N of Alexander, mostly to the west of (North Meadowpark, extending just east of Woodlake)

According to Florence Drabik, the Rick property extended north to today's CEI lines the farm was bought by Joseph and Mary Rick. Andrew was their son. Andrew inherited the acreage. Andrew sold the north of Alexander house and acreage to Pope after Florence married George Drabik. Andrew married Helen. They had 5 children. Florence, Geraldine who married James Salamon, Rosemary, Mildred and Andrew.

Florence grew up in the house (north of Alexander) which Pope bought. Andrew was a farmer. He sold fruit and vgs. at the Old Central Market. Florence married George Drabik. They moved into Bedford for about 12 years, then bought their lot on Woodlake and built a house for themselves.

When Andrew and Helen Rick sold the farm to Pope, they had Jim Salamon build them a new house on their land on the south side of Alexander. By then Andrew was retired, he did not farm anymore. Florence remembers as a child: no electricity, a coal, pot-bellied stove in the living room and a kitchen stove. Florence remembers doing a lot of canning on the kitchen stove.

1941: 16700 Alexander Road: house owned by Andrew Rick, Joseph and Mary Rick's son. Andrew's wife was Helen.

Jim Salamon married Geraldine Rick, Andrew Rick's daughter. Jim built a new house for his in-laws at 16700 Alexander Road, in exchange for 8 acres of land at the SE corner of Alexander and Dunham Road. Then Jim Salamon built his own house for Geraldine and himself, at 7677 Dunham Road. Jim was a carpenter by trade.

Jim became an active adult leader of the Cub Scouts in 1957 and the Boy Scouts in 1959 as an Assistant Scout Master and Committee Member of the Greater Cleveland Council of Boy Scouts.

When the Village incorporated in 191, the village started with no money. Jim Salamon put in over 400 hours rebuilding the converted store into a Village Hall.

The Women's Club gave Jim Salamon a white dress shirt and a red tie in thanks for the work he did on the town hall.

Jim Salamon made the boat, a merry-go-round, the small benches, tables, cabinets, and other wooden toys and equipment and donated them to the Walton Hills Nursery School. Jim Salamon took the Scout groups and nursery school children on hay rides.

Notes

Rick
Pope
Graves
Koburna
Kitson
Koth
Salamon

Archives: Joseph Rick owned 15.68 acres on the SE corner of Alexander and Dunham Roads
Julius and M Rick owned a house and 42 acres on the north side of Alexander Road:
NW corner of Alexander and North Meadowpark Roads
and east of N. Meadowpark, --just east of Woodlake and Alexander

Then Tim Pope bought the house and acreage on the north side of Alexander.

Pope sold some of his acreage to Conelly for development. Pope kept the house and 8 or so acres. Then while he was still living he sold the house and some land to Fred Neilson, Sr.

Fred Neilson, Jr. has a house on that land.

Julius Rick and his wife bought an existing farm and 42 acres in 1915.

His son, Joseph Rick farmed part-time and had a full-time job, also. He raised corn, hay, wheat.

In the late 1930's Tom Young and Jim Salamon and John Sedensky used to thrash hay for farmers.

Jim Salamon remembers:

Alexander Road from Dunham to Walton Road, as a dirt and gravel road. The hill from Dunham to today's North Meadowpark was real steep. He recalls Alexander Road from Canal to Dunham as always being concrete.

Memories as a kid: work, work, and more work

• Ted Graves bought the Koburna farm house

Andrew Rick used to peddle his vegetables and fruits on the SW corner of Alexander and Dunham Road.

Bob Koth also used to peddle his vegetables and fruits on the same corner.

Willis Kitson peddled his vegetables and fruits on the NW corner of Alexander and Dunham Roads.

In 1930 or 1931 Florence Drabik's, father and mother, Andrew and Helen Rick, moved to Walton Hills from the Buckeye area of Cleveland. Andrew and Helen had 5 children. Florence was born in Cleveland.

Effie and Mike Romanik

(interview JK)

Effie and Gerald Goodnight (Mike died. Effie's second husband is Gerald Goodnight)
19000 Alexander 439-1318

In 1945 Effie and Mike Romanik bought 2 acres from John and Gertrude Means. The Means farm had been on Northfield Road and extended through what is now "Barclay Estates and east end of Orchard Hill Dr."

Their property was 100 wide and 800 deep.

The land had been planned to be for the ABC streetcar station and turn around. Part of her property was the old "right of way" for the electric railway. The trolley car tracks were on Northfield Road, which was A RED BRICK ROAD at that time.

Children would roller skate on the red bricks.

When they bought their Alexander lot there was no electricity along the street. Shortly after, electric lines were brought down the street.

They built their garage and kitchen, moved into the house, and proceeded to finish the house after they were living in it.

Michael and Effie Romanik built their house and went into the mink business. The first mink they bought was a white mink for \$500. They then bought brown females for about \$100. each.

Each mink had to have its little house and runway.

Their diet was very restricted so they would have fine pelts. The food-diet was very time-consuming. Fresh meat had to be ground up.

They were bred once a year.

Raising mink took much care.

They had to be killed by carbon dioxide so their pelts would not be damaged.

The pelt was removed, dried, and scraped.

They marketed the mink at furriers in Barberton and Cleveland.

They gave up the business. It got to be too time consuming and expensive to operate.

Notes

Romanik
mills
Soloman

Steve and Mary Romanik 19749 Alexander Rd. 232-5487

(interview JK)

Reik
Drabek

When a boy, Steve Romanik lived in 3 houses in what is now Walton Hills.

1) on Egbert Road. His house was behind today's Ranger Station by Shawnee Hills Golf Course. They house no longer stands. His parents rented the house and farm.

2) The James Egbert house on Egbert Road. Steve remembers the big front porch. Steve remembers the one gravestone on the property, that of "Hannah Egbert 1843 3 or 4 years old"

Rusnak
Scarpets

3) Opposite Golden Glens, west of Bridal Veil Falls. On the goat farm. Joe Jesensky knew Steve Romanik's father, and in Jesensky's writings, he made many mentions of the GOAT FARM. The goat farm

Hack
Hill
Kozak
Wight

His family rented each of these houses. His father worked elsewhere, and the farm was for the family use. Steve used to fish in Tinkers Creek.

In 1953, Alexander Road was paved when Steve and Mary Romanik built his house on Alexander Rd.

Mary lived in Bedford before she married Steve.

The Romaniks remember buying eggs from Tom Young.

Steve was bused to Bedford Schools. Ben Walton was his bus driver.

MAC MILLS was SCOTTY MILLS son. Mac's widow, Marion Mills, lives at 7400 North Meadowpark.

JIM SOLOMAN's father-in-law is RICK. His wife's first name was Geraldine. Geraldine's sister is FLORENCE DRABEK who lives on Woodlake.

Rusnaks lived north of the Scarpets on Egbert Road.

Steve remembers the house on 17500 Egbert:

Hack's House: John Urban, then Betty Reik, then McKronsky, then Hack, then Hill (Debbie Deak Hill got the house when she divorced David Hill; now owned by Debbie Deak (second husband's name) Kozak 17500 Egbert.

Steve remembers the Ernie Kovac house, the Carr house, the ^{Pearce} family, the Barnie Reed house.

BARNEY REED lived in the WIGHT house when Steve Romanik was a boy

Notes

PODGURSKI
BOLAZS
ROMANOWSKI

Barbara Podgurski interview 1-1985

Carl and Violet Podgurski 19005 Alexander Rd. 1946; 794-26-5

they had 2 daughters: Elizabeth (married to James Huber) and Barbara (Barbara lived in her parents home until she died in the 1990's--she was very obese)

When the Podgurskis moved to Alexander Road lot, a paved Alexander Road stopped at Walton. The section between Walton Road and Northfield Road was gravel.

Carl and Violet Podgurski bought 4 acres from Mr. John Means.

Carl was a bricklayer. He raised chickens for the family's use: chickens and eggs, and he sold eggs

Barbara remembers the Victory Gardens her family had on their property.

The Means farm faced Northfield Road, where the Brown Derby/UAW Union Hall is now.

The Means farm had an apple orchard and a sugar bush.

The houses on both sides of Alexander Road, from Morningside Drive east to Northfield Road sit on land once owned by the Burns family.

In the early 1940's Joseph Burn's grandson, John Means and his wife, Gertrude, made plans to sell their acreage along the west side of Northfield Road.

A narrow gravel roadway (Alexander Road) cut through their land, it being an extension of the paved part of Alexander Road. The east end of paved Alex. Road ended at Walton Road in those days.

The land was plotted into 4 and 5 acre residential lots that faced Alexander. The lots included part of the old orchard, part was farmland, and the western section was the sugar bush. As late as the mid 1950's giant sugar maple trees.

1945 -- after World War II building supplies were limited and hard to get. The Podgurskis built a cottage, which is now their barn, and moved into the cottage. Then he built the house.

Their closest neighbors were the Mandatos who lived on Walton Road, a bit north of the Alexander/Walton intersection. (The Mandato house is torn down, it was the north section of the Village Hall property.)

and the Atheys, who lived on Walton Road across from the Mandatos

the Bolazs family; he was a farmer and school bus driver

The Behensky family. He was a policeman, they lived by East Lake/West Lake

Mr. Bolazs⁵²: he was the school bus driver. He drove an old rickety school bus. He picked up all "Walton Hills" kindergarten to high school students; Moody High, Glendale, St. Mary's, and even ladies who wanted to go shopping in Bedford.

Barbara remembers Mr. Bolazs: Sometimes some of the older students had to get out of the school bus and walk up Snake Hill so the bus could make it up Snake Hill (Dunham Road hill towards Maple Heights)

Barbara got picked up first, then students on Walton, Egbert, Dunham, up Dunham Hill to Moody, St. Mary's, Ellenwood, Glendale School.

Since the closest regular bus stop was Forbes/Northfield, he was the village taxi.

1945: no electricity for the first 6 months. Carl Podgurski and Mike Romanik petitioned for CEI to give electricity to people in their area.

Barbara Podgurski remembers the Quonset hut at the SE corner of Alexander and Walton Roads.

Notes

Podgurski interviews continued

At one time Elizabeth Podgurski was president of the Walton Hills Rangers. Cyrus Eaton let Elizabeth Podgurski, Betty Bolazs and Lenore Brown ride their horses on his property, as long as they personally would ask and check in with him. He wanted the girls to go to him personally, not to only check in with the caretaker. The girls would first see the caretaker, and then the caretaker would tell them to go to the main house to see Mr. Eaton.

Each year The Walton Hills Rangers had a Benefit Horse Show at the Holy Family Cancer Home on State Road.

Next to the Podgurskis is the Romanowski house.

Stanley and Stella Romanowski bought the house from Frank and Josephine Pest. Elizabeth Romanowski lives in the house now. She moved here in 1950.

The Pests bought the lot, and built their house, and sold it soon after. Elizabeth was out of high school before her parents moved to Alexander Road.

Constable Pearce was a township policeman who drove around in a police car.

The Kitsons and the Rizers were the big farmers along Alexander Road.

Notes

GAS STATIONS
DUFFY
RADA
WOLINSKI

Gas Stations Walton Road/Alexander Road

interviews: Jack Rada, Rick Wolinski, Ron and Arlene Duffy

Ronald Duffy Interview:

County Atlas: 7-3-56 Tremarco Corp bought the property s/w corner Alexander/Walton Rds.

County Atlas: 4-22-1974 Village of Walton Hills bought this property.

Duffys bought the Gulf gas station in 1963 and owned it until 1966. Ron and Arlene Duffy live at 7197 Conelly Drive.

Duffy: "Someone before that owned it who lived on North Meadowpark, and they owned it for 2 years."

Duffys sold it to someone who had it for a year. Then Gulf took it back and it was operated by a manager, not an owner and then the place sat, empty.

Then the Village bought the property; the village uses the gas pumps for its vehicles, and uses the storage space.

Duffy recalls when he owned the Gulf Station, Sun Oil Company built across the street from him, and he recalls how Jack Rada was the 1st Sun owner.

Gulf is phased out of Ohio now. The station was always Gulf.

Richard Wolinski interview:

Jack Rada and Rick Wolinski were the only W. H. residents who owned the Sunoco station.

County Atlas: 1-8-1964 Sun Oil purchased the property and put up a gas station.

Jack Rada bought it in 1965 and sold it in 1967. Jack and Mary Rada live at 14800 Alexander Road in the house he built for himself and his wife. **new info: divorced, rewed

County Records: Sun Oil 1-8-1964

3 owners prior to Wolinski, but it was always a Sunoco Owner 1-Jack Rada Owner 2-Woof Owner 3-??

Owner 4-1971 Richard A Wolinsky: Sunoco Dealer (Wolinski owned the business and leased the property from Sun Oil Co. from 1971-1985

In 1986 Wolinsky bought the property from Sun Oil Co. and switched to Marathon; Called Walton Hills Auto Service

Dick and Adell Wolinski in 1981 built a house at 17820 Rauland Drive. Adelle is an RN, was Head Nurse at Marymount in Maternity and is now head nurse for Dr. Iskoff.

***** When digging for sewers in the 1980's, between 20' and 25' deet deep they found a red brick road (The old Northfield Road) and a gasoline tank where the sidewalk is now. Evidently that intersection area must be filled land, to make the the intersection flat.

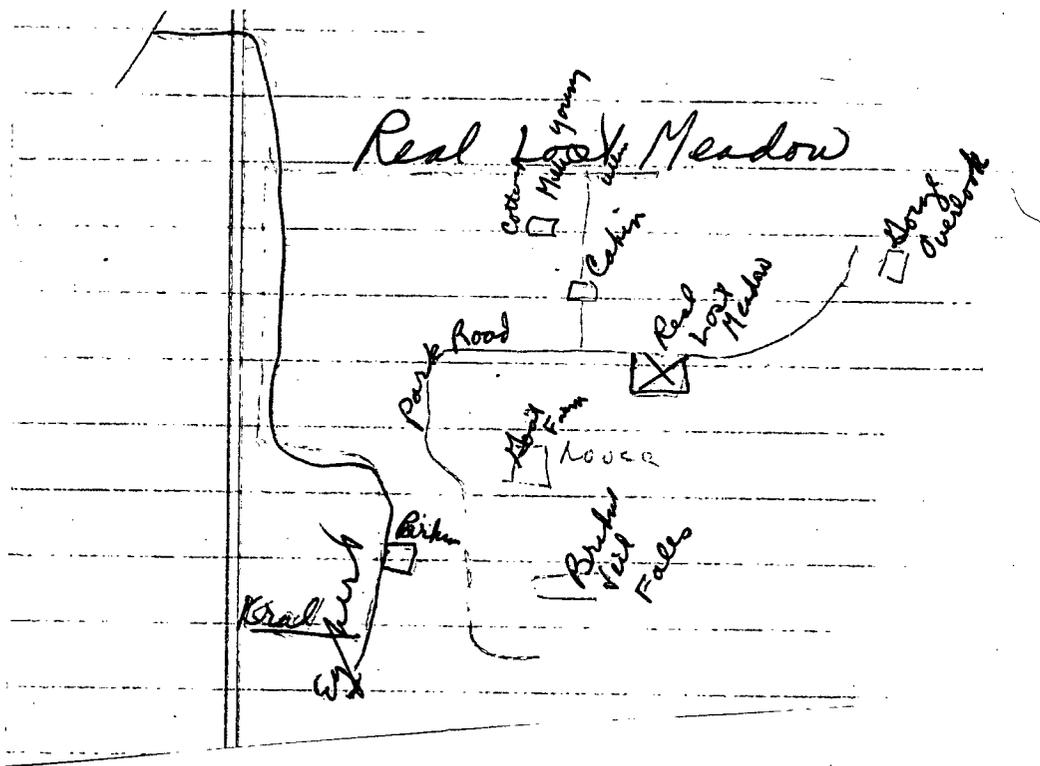
Steve moved to Bedford and lived there. He married Mary and they were attracted to the open spaces of Walton Hills. They thought this was the ideal location to live.

At the time, the Northfield/Alexander Roads area was all cornfields

Mike Romanik, Steve's oldest brother, bought a lot on the south side of Alexander and built upon it.

John Romanik, Steve's next older brother, bought a lot and built on it
Then Steve.

In April, 1951 Stephen and Mary Romanik bought 4 acres from John and Gertrude Means. (The Means large house and large farm faced Alexander Road.)



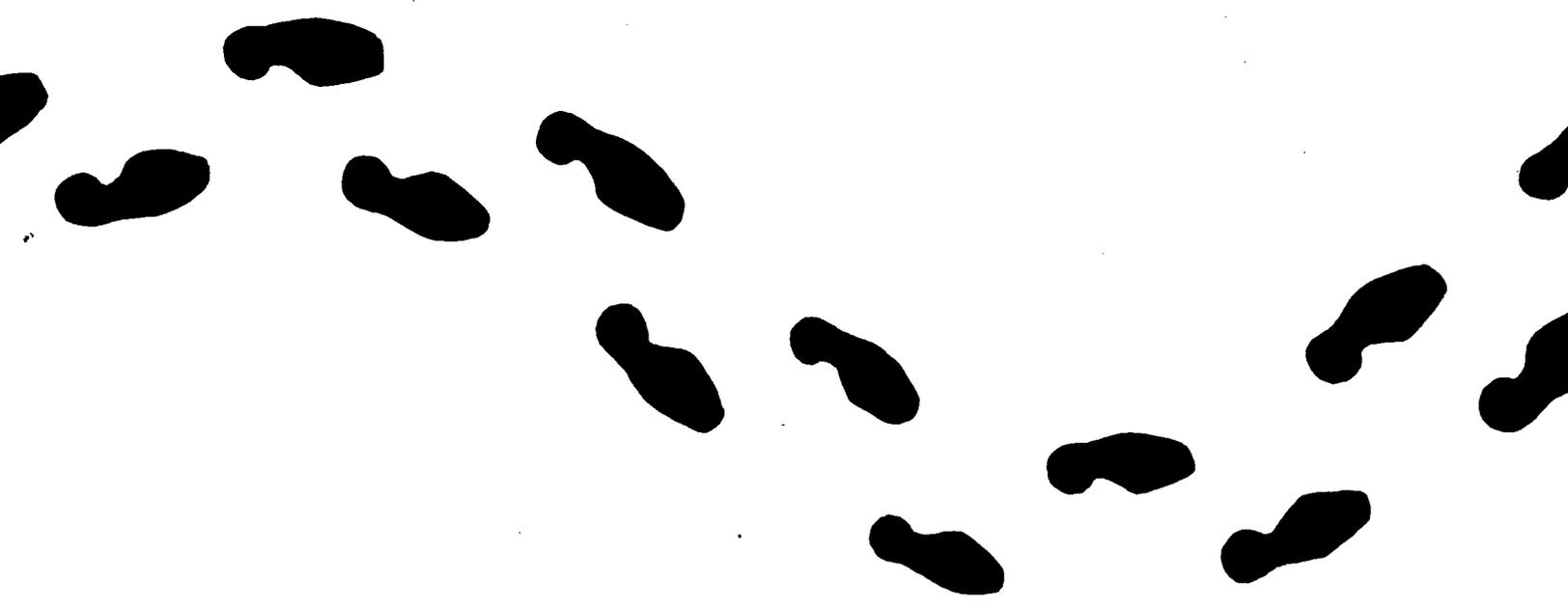
off Alexander Road

Bill Melcher

**Barclay
Estates**

656-1414

Walton Hills
1979



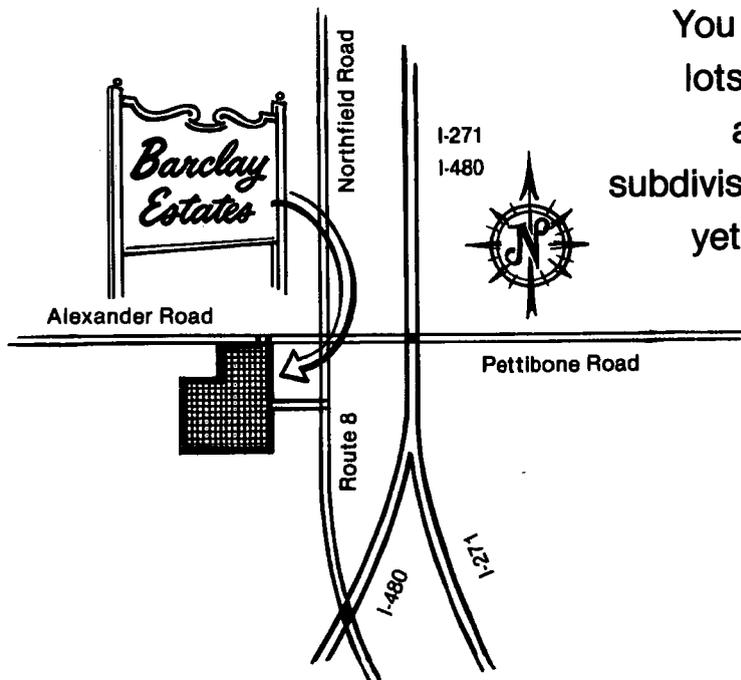
Barclay Estates

1979

Luxury Home Lots in Walton Hills

■ New Barclay Estates subdivision in beautiful Walton Hills. Just 50 lots available to individuals or builders. Start home construction immediately or purchase lot for investment.

- **Outstanding schools**
- **Close to shopping, churches**
- **Low taxes**
- **30 mins. southeast of downtown**
- **Exciting scenic beauty**
- **Tall hardwood trees**
- **Some with ravines and streams**
- **Cul-de-sac privacy**
- **Most lots about 1 acre**
- **Lot improvements fully paid**
- **East Ohio Gas**
- **Underground electric & phone**
- **Cleveland water system**
- **Paved streets**
- **Central sanitary system**



You must personally inspect the lots available to understand the appreciation potential in this subdivision. Wilderness atmosphere yet close to industry and major traffic arteries.

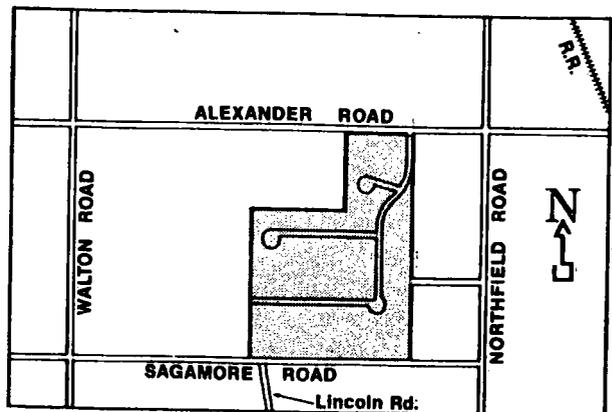
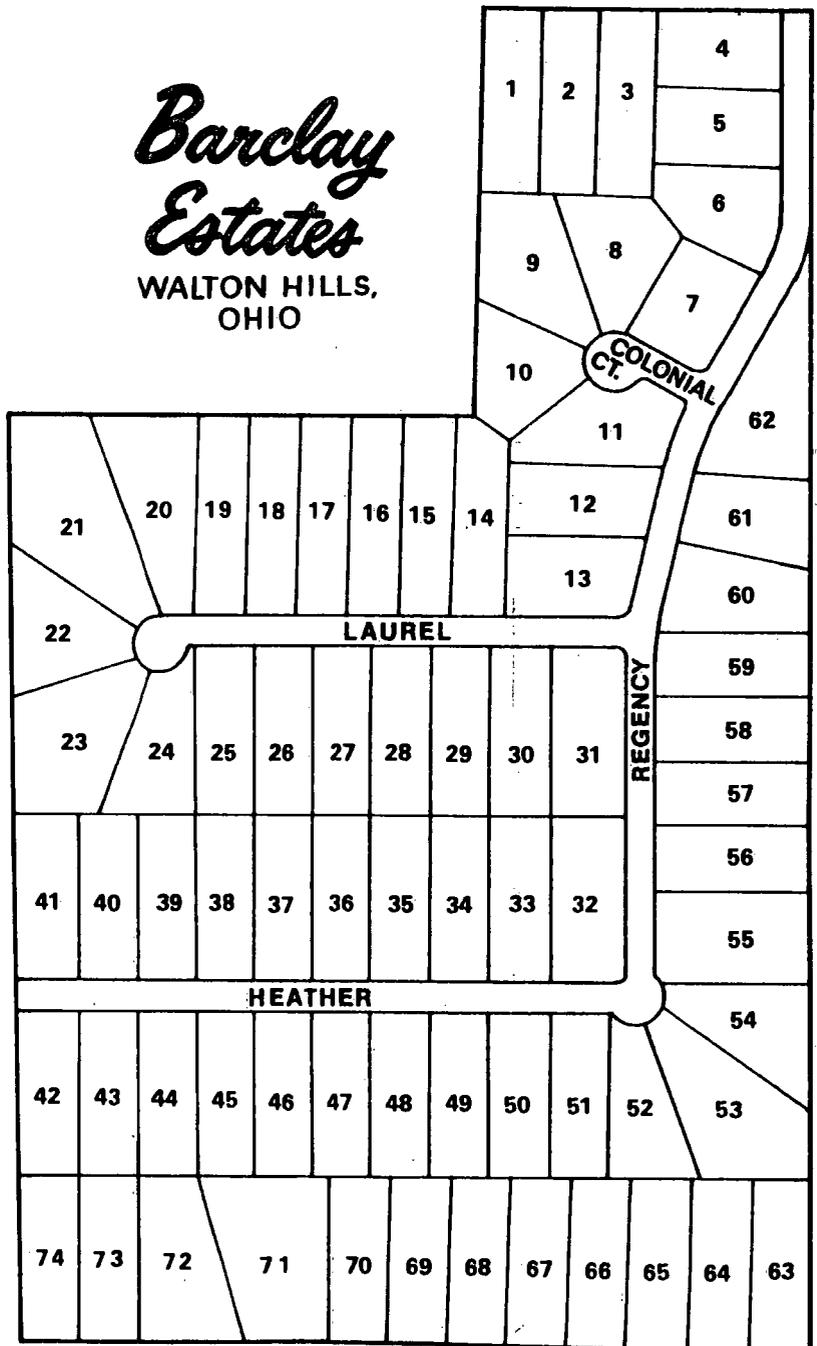
BARCLAY ESTATES OFFERS

- Wooded Homesites
- All Sites 9/10 of an Acre or Larger
- Central Water System
- Central Sanitary Sewer System
- Paved Streets
- Underground Utilities
- Natural Gas
- All Improvements Fully Paid

FOR
INFORMATION
CALL OR WRITE

H. B. Davis
997 Wenso Road
Bedford, Ohio 44146
439-2224
 or
Central Land Corporation
One Erievue Plaza
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
771-3510

*Barclay
Estates*
 WALTON HILLS,
OHIO



GRAND
OPENING
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 16 1979

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or

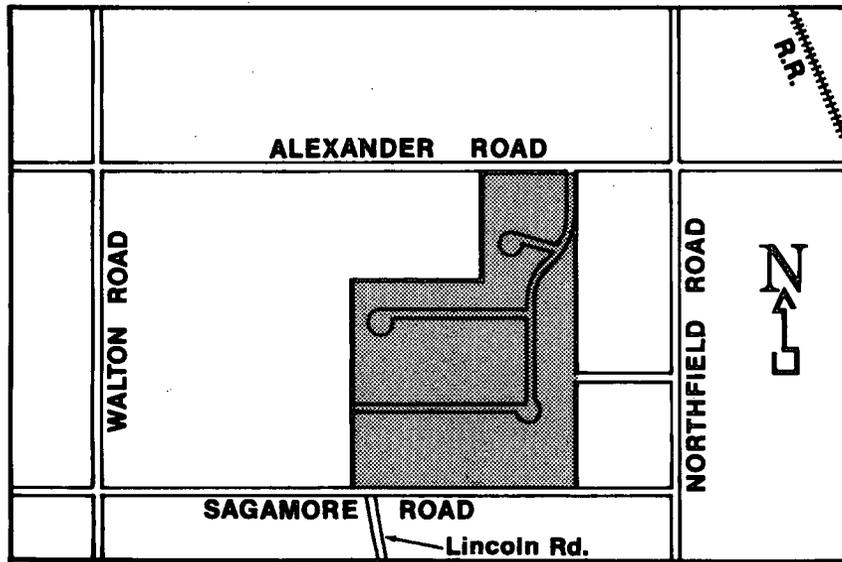
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1979



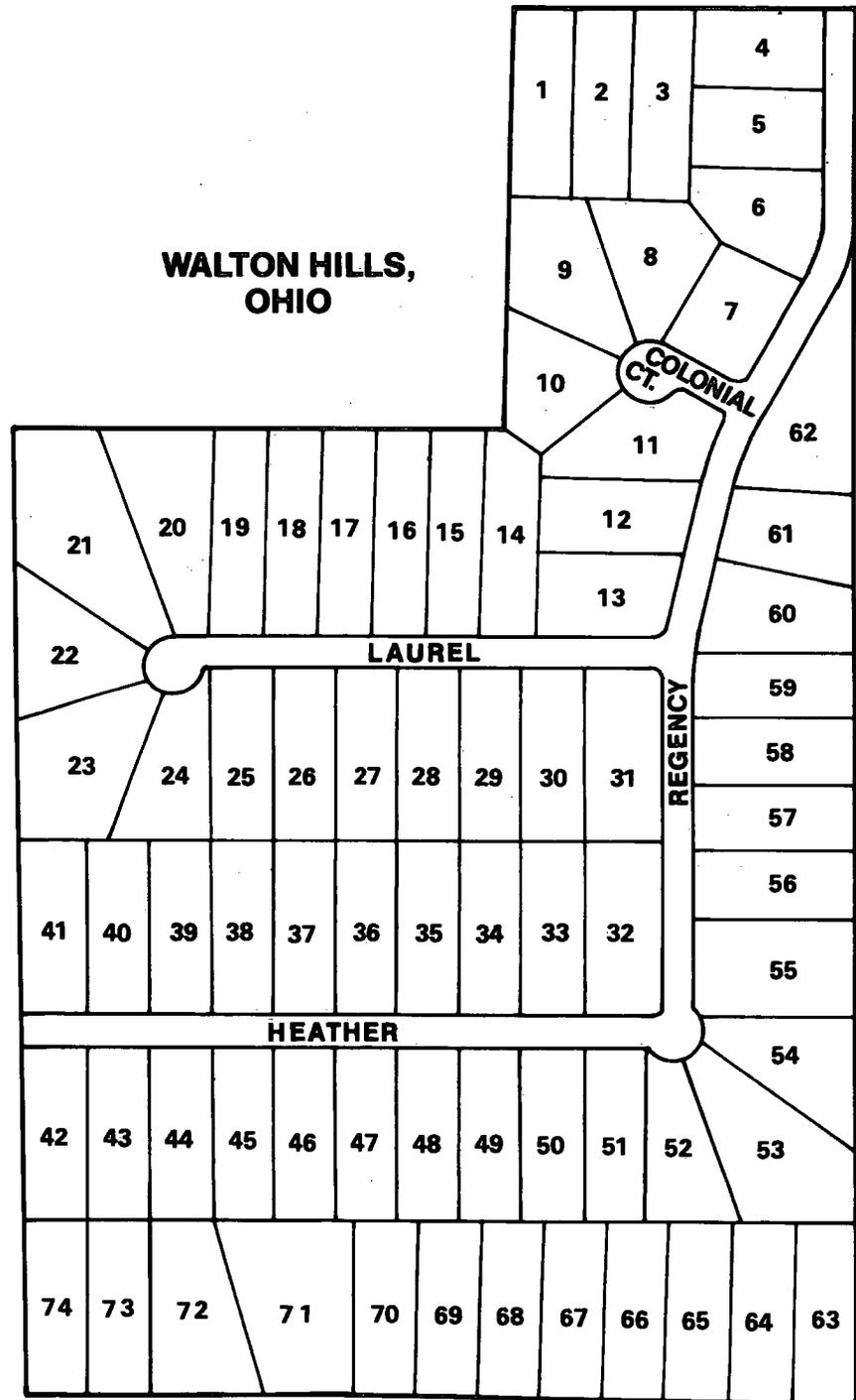
BARCLAY ESTATES OFFERS

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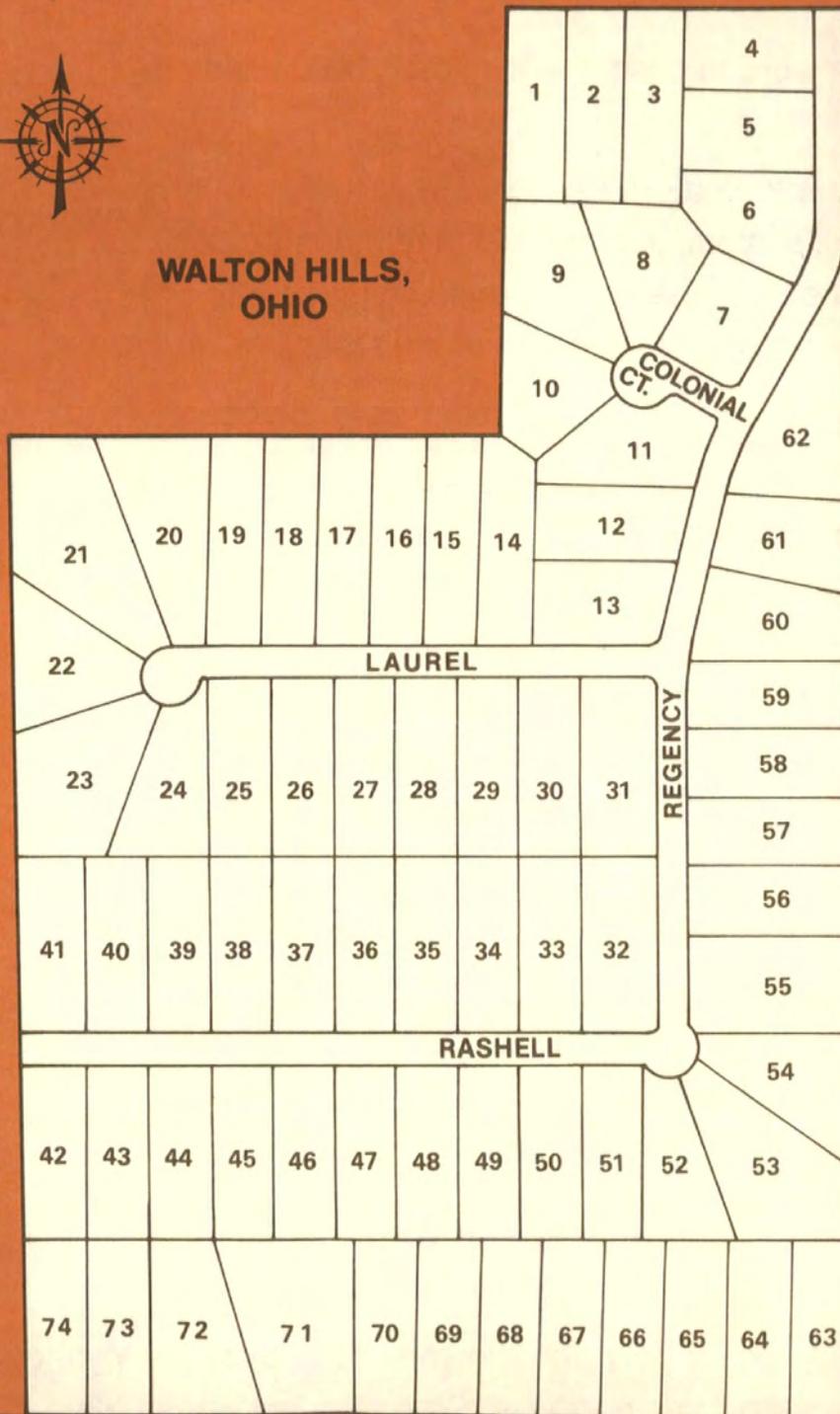
1979

WALTON HILLS,
OHIO





WALTON HILLS,
OHIO



Sagamore Rd.

1979

Sagamore Rd.

Walton Hills

1979

■ Friendly is the word to describe this small, 3000-resident community.

Nestled in the scenic Bedford Reservation of the metropolitan park system, Walton Hills is minutes from shopping, churches and major interstates. In just a half hour, commuters to Cleveland can be at their jobs.

The village enjoys one of the lowest tax rates in the county.

Walton Hills offers social, civic and recreational activities for all tastes. Nearby is the Coliseum, the home of the Cleveland Cavaliers and host to a variety of entertainment events from the circus to big-name entertainers.

Central Land Corporation

■ Central Land Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cuyahoga Savings, has been providing northeast Ohio families with quality building sites for nearly a decade. Their expert staff searches out prime properties for development and ultimate sale to individuals and builders. A wide variety of lots in a range of prices and locations are always available. Call us for details.

THE CONELLY BUSINESS CENTER

(continued, page 2)

The CONELLY BUSINESS CENTER

In his role as real estate broker, General Conelly felt there was a need for a store at the intersection of Alexander and Walton Roads. Years earlier there had been a small general store at the NE corner of the crossroads, but the store had closed.

QUONSET HUT

In 1946 Conelly purchased two acres of land at the SE corner of Alexander and Walton Roads for a business center. Soon afterwards he saw a surplus World War II Quonset hut displayed at the Cleveland Home and Flower Show. He bought a Quonset hut and had the prefabricated corrugated steel shelter moved to his lot.

Part of the building he used for his realty office, the other section he arranged into a small grocery store. James Petras, a friend of Conelly's, opened his Community Grocery store in the Quonset hut in April of 1953, carrying a complete stock of staple groceries, dairy products and deli foods. Walton Hills again had a grocery store in the heart of the village.

2-UNIT to 6-UNIT COMMERCIAL BUILDING

In 1954 Conelly built a brick 2-unit commercial building in back of the Quonset hut for the grocery store and realty office. When he tore down the Quonset hut, there was ample parking space at the front and side of the new building. Four years later, in 1958, he built a 4-unit air conditioned addition, with space for a doctor's office, dentist's office, beauty parlor and barber shop.

The MESTNIKS

The Mestniks were involved with the Conelly business center in various capacities from 1956 until 1981. Steve and Alberta Mestnik owned and operated the grocery store business from 1956 to 1967, renaming it the "Walton Hills Delicatessen." Next they opened a tavern they called "The Villager" – a business they owned and operated for 10 years.



Top Photo: Conelly's 2-Unit Commercial Building,
at the SE corner of Walton and Alexander Roads, built in 1954.
Sign above the delicatessen reads, "First unit of 10-store
Walton Hills Shopping Center. See the Conelly Realty for space."

Bottom Photo: The 4-Unit addition, built in 1958.



THE CONELLY BUSINESS CENTER

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

Brigadier General Ludwig Shaner Conelly was a career soldier, a local realtor and a former mayor of our village.

CONELLY the SOLDIER

His military career started with the Cleveland Grays in 1903, which was about the same time he established his Real Estate business. During World War I he commanded a battalion that fought several battles in France. From Captain, he was promoted to Major in 1918. He was promoted to Brigadier General in 1928 while he served in the Ohio National Guard. He held that rank through World War II. During World War II he was the Commanding Officer on the Fiji Islands in the Southwest Pacific. He reluctantly accepted his forced retirement from the service because of age, in 1945.

Once he became Brigadier General, Conelly wanted people to address him as General Conelly, and only very close friends and family members were excepted from addressing him that way. He could easily be spotted around the village wearing his World War I military helmet. Old timers say their only memory of Conelly without his helmet was during Bedford's Memorial Day Parades when, marching in full uniform, he wore his military dress hat. Conelly's World War I helmet is on display at the Walton Hills Historical Resource Center. Grandson Brady Conelly donated the helmet, photos and a copy of his grandfather's book, *Major Conelly's Front Line Fighters: France and Belgium*, c. 1919. One of his daughters, Jean Conelly Carter, donated additional Conelly family photos. All these items can be seen in the Community Building display cases.

CONELLY the POLITICIAN

Conelly was the third mayor of Walton Hills, serving a 2-year term that started in January 1956. The Conelly family lived most of their years in Bedford, at the northeast corner of Warrensville Center Road and Wandle Avenue. In 1950 Conelly built a house for himself and his ailing wife, Sadie, on the crest of a hill at 7182 Conelly Blvd. He lived in Walton Hills for thirteen years, until he died in 1963 at age 80.

CONELLY the REALTOR-DEVELOPER

At the junction of Conelly Blvd. and Rotary Drive is a large boulder with an inscribed bronze plaque: "Dedicated to Brig. Gen. Ludwig S. Conelly..., whose vision, intensity of purpose... inspired him to transform some 500 acres of waste abandoned farmland into a model community of fine homes... Presented in observance of Gen. Conelly's 66th birthday, Aug. 29, 1949, by Walton Hills Club. G.T. Graves, President."

As a realtor, he developed 15 subdivisions in Walton Hills during a span of years starting in the late 1930s and continuing into the early 1960s. Over 400 houses were built on Conelly lots. Conelly named 17 of our village streets; two of them after himself. His central office was in Bedford, with branches in Garfield Heights, Maple Heights and lastly Walton Hills.

General L. S. Conelly

Date of photo unknown. Photo reproduced by Nina Wolf



THE CONELLY BUSINESS CENTER

(continued, page 3)

The MESTNIKS (continued)

The Mestniks then purchased the commercial building from the Conelly estate, owning it from 1966 until 1981. Steve and Alberta Mestnik lived on Spanghurst Drive from 1952 until, as a widow needing care, Alberta moved to Bainbridge.

In the late 1950s the Mestniks were instrumental in procuring a United States Mail collection box at the Walton/Alexander crossroads. The mailbox was set up in front of their grocery store, and remained there for a number of years. Today two permanent U. S. Mail collection boxes are on Village property, along the Village Hall parking lot exit drive.

The VILLAGE DENTAL OFFICE

Dr. Richard Charsanko, a dentist whose original office was at East 112th and Miles Avenue, opened a second practice in the Walton Hills complex in 1958. He eventually closed his Cleveland office to keep his Walton Hills office open full-time. Dick and Rita Charsanko built a house for themselves next door to the dental office, on Alexander Road. That is where they raised their children, Susan and Dave, and where Rita and her son Dave live today. Charsanko, now deceased, was a Councilman in Walton Hills for 11 years, from July 1986 through December 1997, and a charter member of the Walton Hills Citizens League.

The VILLAGE BARBER SHOP

Gus Vosgerichian had his barber shop at East 114th and Miles Avenue until he relocated his shop to the Walton Hills Business center in July of 1959. He practiced his trade at this location until 1975. Not only did Gus relocate his business, at the same time he and his wife Mary built a house nearby on Alexander Road, where they raised their children, Todd and Sue. Gus is deceased, but Mary resides there today.

NEW OWNER - MAJOR CHANGES to CONELLY BUSINESS CENTER

In 1998 Ken Olesinski of Orchard Hill Drive bought the Conelly Business Center from a Korean physician.

Olesinski made major improvements to the outer and inner structure of the building. Work projects on the commercial building continue. He had a new gable roof with dormers installed, and all but one suite have been

renovated. The old donut shop that faces Walton Road is getting a face lift at the present time.

Do you recall the authentic Amish buggy that stood near the road? Olesinski tells us he sold the buggy to a Walton Road resident in 2007. Native sandstone slabs now cover the ground in the featured corner. Olesinski bought the sandstone from owners of a construction site and trucked the pieces to Walton Hills. He laid them out once, and because of a truck driver's accident, he will soon repair the area with new sandstone slabs. When that is done, Olesinski plans to set up a "3 Little Pigs" house complete with a big bad wolf.

BOB'S VILLAGER RESTAURANT

Bob Olesinski, Ken's brother, has owned "Bob's Villager Restaurant" for the past 6 years. Bob considers his establishment "a restaurant that also serves beer and alcohol," not "a bar that sells food." The restaurant sells home-made pizza, serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, and has daily specials. The facility has been updated, walls feature photos and memorabilia of local historical interest, and is expanded. The restaurant's kitchen now occupies the old dental office. Olesinski expresses appreciation to his loyal work staff.

WALTON HILLS DELI

Ken Jaffal has owned the "Walton Hills Deli" since 2001. If a person has not entered the deli in the past 6 years, he is in for an appealing surprise. Jaffal remodeled and updated his entire establishment, including new ceiling, walls, flooring, electric fixtures, shelving, coolers and signs. Jaffal caters to his many customers who come in to pick up their lunches, on their way to work each morning. He has a variety of fresh ready-made sandwiches and deli food on hand for them. He takes pride in maintaining a clean establishment.

HAIR STUDIO and DAY SPA

As of September 2006, Roseanne Bonaiuto's "Bella Mia Hair Studio and Day Spa" business occupies 2 units in the Conelly Business Center, facing Walton Road. This establishment is also newly renovated. For 17 previous years, Bonaiuto's beauty salon, "Expressive Cuts" was in Maple Heights. Six employees make up the "Bella Mia" staff, including 2 massage therapists. We are proud to have them as one of our *Owl* advertisers.



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THE CONELLY BUSINESS CENTER

Conelly felt there was a need for a store at the intersection of Alexander and Walton Roads. Years previously there had been a store at the north-east corner of the crossroads.

In 1946 Conelly purchased two acres at the southeast corner of Alexander and Walton Roads on which he intended to build a business center. Soon afterwards he saw a Quonset hut displayed at the Cleveland Home and Flower Show. Conelly bought a Quonset hut and had the prefabricated corrugated steel shelter moved to his lot. Part of the building he used for his realty office; the other section he arranged into a small grocery store.

James Petras, a friend of Conelly's, opened his Community Grocery store in the Quonset hut in April of 1953, carrying a complete stock of staple groceries, dairy products, and deli foods. Walton Hills again had a grocery store in the heart of the village.

Conelly, in 1954, built a two-unit commercial building in back of the Quonset hut for a new grocery store and his realty office. The facility allowed for added space in the grocery business, and when he tore down the old structure, there was ample parking space at the front and side of the new building. Four years later, in 1958, he built a four-unit air conditioned addition, with space for a doctor's office, dentist's office, beauty parlor, and barber shop.

The Mestniks were involved with the Conelly business center in various capacities from 1956 until 1981. Steve and Alberta Mestnik owned and operated the grocery store business from 1956 to 1967, renaming it the "Walton Hills Delicatessen." Next they opened a tavern they called "The Villager" — a business they owned and operated for the next ten years. The Mestniks then purchased the commercial building from the Conelly estate, owning it from 1966 until 1981.

In the late 1950's the Mestniks were instrumental in procuring a United States Mail collection box at the Walton/Alexander crossroads. This took some doing, according to Alberta Mestnik. The mailbox was set up in front of their grocery store, remaining there for a number of years. Today two permanent collection boxes are on Village property, along the Village Hall parking lot exit drive.

Steve (now deceased) and Alberta Mestnik moved to the village and into their home at 7300 Spanghurst Drive in 1952.



CONELLY'S TWO-UNIT COMMERCIAL BUILDING, pictured above, at the southeast corner of Walton and Alexander Roads was constructed in 1954. The sign above the delicatessen reads: "First unit of 10 store Walton Hills Shopping Center. See the Conelly Realty for space." Below: The 4-unit addition was built in 1958.



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Our village dentist, Dr. Richard Charsanko, whose original office was at East 112th and Miles Avenue, opened a second practice in the Walton Hills complex in 1958. As the years went by he closed his Miles Avenue office. Shortly after opening the Walton Hills office, Richard and Rita Charsanko moved into the home they built at 18060 Alexander Road. In July, 1986 Charsanko was appointed Councilman to fill the unexpired term of Harry Mackey, Jr.

Gus Vosgerichian had his barber shop at East 114th and Miles Avenue. He relocated the shop in the Walton Hills business center in July of 1959, and practiced his trade at that location until 1975. Gus and his wife, Mary built a house and moved to the village when Gus opened his local barbershop. The Vosgerichians live at 18477 Alexander Road.

OTHER BUSINESSES AT THE WALTON AND ALEXANDER CROSSROADS

The village service building at the southwest corner of Walton and Alexander Roads had been a Gulf Service Station for several years before the village purchased it in 1974. Ronald Duffy owned and operated the station from 1963 until 1966. Ron and his wife, Arlene, were both attracted to the village, and since 1965 have lived in the house they purchased at 7197 Conelly Drive.

The service station at the northwest corner of the crossroads was originally a Sunoco gas station first owned by Jack Rada, from 1965 to 1967. Rada grew up on the old Alexander farm, and he and his wife, Mary, live in the house they built on family land at 14800 Alexander Road.

In 1971 Richard Wolinski took over the Sunoco station business, which he operated until he took ownership of the property in 1986. At that time he changed over to handle Marathon gasoline. Wolinski and his wife, Adele, moved into their new house at 17820 Rauland Drive in 1981.

*Tracing Our Heritage:
The Village of Walton Hills
c. 1986*

by Ralph Bell Junior
Nov. 18, 2009

copy of Jean Kleinwagner
11/20/2009

THE CONELLY REALTY COMPANY

WALTON HILLS, OHIO

The Conelly Realty Company began developing Walton Hills Estates in the 1940s. In 1949, when I was home for the summer from college, the owner of the company, General L. S. Conelly, asked if I would be interested in working in their Walton Hills field office, located at the corner of Walton and Alexander Roads. To provide transportation, since I did not have a car, he offered the use of his World War II jeep, which he kept in his garage. It was a short walk from my home at 51 Wandle Avenue to his home at 20 Wandle Avenue and adjoining office at 10 Wandle Avenue, in Bedford, Ohio.

The main roads in Walton Hills had been established years ago, including Egbert Road, Walton Road, and Alexander Road. The Conelly Realty Company had built Morningside Drive, Carmony Drive, Delwood Drive, Jefferson Drive, McCellan Drive, Orchard Hill Drive, and others. (Morningside Drive was so named because it was the farthest east in the development, and the first to see the morning sun.)

The field office was at the southeast corner of Walton and Alexander Roads, the two roads with the most traffic. The office resembled an army Quonset hut, with a front and back room. The front room was used as a sales office. The back room contained sales displays, office storage, and maintenance equipment. Mr. Harold White, a full-time employee, worked in the Walton Hills office, and had responsibility for managing the office. My job was to work in the office when Mr. White was out with customers, at meetings, or on other company business.

My duties were to answer the telephone, greet customers, supply customers with sales information and other materials, and answer questions about the development. When I was not needed in the office, I had a variety of other responsibilities, such as yard work around the office, painting, and general maintenance. I also updated the sign in front of the building, listing lots for sale. Occasionally I would also prepare ads for newspapers.

Soon after I starting working for the company, General Conelly stated that he would like to have a large sign built near the office, with a map of the development, showing roads, streets, and lot numbers. Ray Heller, another employee of the company, was given the overall responsibility for the project, and I was asked to help. Together we bought lumber and other materials, selected a site so that the sign could be seen from both of the main roads (Walton and Alexander Roads), and built the framework and the facing for the sign. It measured about eight feet by sixteen feet.

We converted dimensions from the surveyor's site-plan drawings to fit the sign. We then painted the front of the sign with white primer and gloss, and drew a map of the development onto the sign. To produce lines, we rubbed chalk along lengths of string, and holding both ends of the string, we snapped the string onto the map. This produced a fine line of chalk, showing the outlines of roads, streets, and lots. A sign painter was hired for the final work, using the chalk marks as guides. The black paint that he used for the outlines, lettering, and numbering contrasted well with the white background.

THE CONELLY REALTY COMPANY
WALTON HILLS, OHIO

Another project that we worked on was building mailbox posts and bases. The goal was to provide one for each resident. The post and base were made of concrete, in one piece, with steel rods for support. A wooden form was used, with a "W" on the top, for "Walton." The steel rods were placed in the form first, and then concrete was poured into the form. After drying and curing, we removed the post and base, drove to the site, dug a hole, and installed it. Concrete lasts a long time. Some of the posts and bases are probably still being used.

I also helped General Conelly mark centerlines for new streets. The first was one that he wanted to build perpendicular to Egbert road. He selected the location, parked the car, and we proceeded to walk north through a field until we reached the end of the development, bordering on the Bedford Reservation. As we walked we installed markers that were later used by surveyors. This street became Deeridge Drive.

Another street that General Conelly decided to build was to run west from Walton Road, south of Alexander Road. The property at one time had been part of a farm owned by the Kelly family. He wanted the street to begin just south of the family home, go west through the former meadow of the farm, and then north, to connect with Alexander Road. He also wanted a bend in the street, to the left, just west of Walton Road, and then a bend to the right, before continuing west. Near the end of the development we turned north, marking another bend, and continued to Alexander Road. This street became South Meadow Park Drive.

I worked in Walton Hills during most of the summer of 1949, and the entire summer in 1950. The development eventually became Walton Hills Village. A shopping center is now on the site where the field office and the large sign once stood. The Village Hall is directly across the road, on the northeast corner of Walton and Alexander Roads.

The Villager Restaurant 1966



1966



Steve & Alberta Mestrik

THANK YOU, ADVERTISERS !

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

This is the fourth of a series of articles featuring our longtime advertisers. The Owl staff appreciates their on-going support. This month we feature Walton Hills Marathon Auto Service. The service station at the corner of Alexander and Walton Roads has been a continuous advertiser since April of 1961.



Walton Hills Marathon Auto Service is a family business owned and operated by Rick A. Wolinski and co-managed by his son, Rick G. Wolinski.

Rick, Sr. leased the business from Sun Oil Company from 1971 until 1986, when he purchased the business and property from Sunoco. Since then the oil and gasoline products sold at the station have been supplied by Marathon Oil Company.

Walton Hills Auto Service has been the only true service station in the Walton Hills neighborhood for 25 years, with service being their most important product.

Their staff includes one other full-time employee known to customers as "Uncle Mike." Mike opens the station each morning. Two part-time employees, Rudy and Scott, work afternoons and evenings. A third generation Wolinski, Rick's grandson Ricky, fills in on weekends at the pumps.

Rick, Sr. and Adele Wolinski have been Walton Hills residents since 1981, when they built their house on Rauland Drive.

The Owl staff thanks Walton Hills Auto Service for its continuous patronage.

Please Patronize
our Advertisers