

# The Cleaveland Hill Farm and Quarry

Abner Cleaveland  
Clark Cleaveland  
Fanny Cleaveland  
The Farm  
The Quarry  
Elmer Wight  
The Virgil Allens  
Joseph Jesensky

Interview Notes  
Deeds  
Newspaper and Magazine Articles  
Letters  
The Indian Pathfinder Association

On this Web Site see Links about Cleaveland Hill Farm and Quarry / Elmer Wight / the Virgil Allens:

Book: *The Village of Walton Hills – Tracing Our Heritage*, by Jean and Robert Kainsinger, c. 1986  
p. 59-72

Book: *Historical Sites in Our Parks: Historic Sites in Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Bedford Reservation within the Boundaries of the Village of Walton Hills*, by Jean and Bob Kainsinger, c. 2004, 2006  
p. 40-46

Album of Maps: Includes maps of Cleaveland Hill Farm and Quarry, Elmer Wight's plans for the area  
Albums:

Bedford Reservation

Egbert Road and its Settlers

Silver-Scarpete-Kral Family

Cleaveland Hill Farm and Quarry

Gypsies

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

# OUR UNIQUE VILLAGE of WALTON HILLS -- NESTLED BETWEEN TWO PARKS --

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

This is the sixth in a series of articles featuring areas of Bedford Reservation and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park that are within the boundaries of Walton Hills. Future articles will include more stories about historic sites within the parks.

## OXEN LANES

When Bedford Metropolitan Park opened in 1922, the Park Board determined that it was not necessary to build new roadway in the park. There already were horse trails and wider, tramped down oxen lanes winding through the park. These oxen lanes, used by local farmers and quarry workers in the 1800s, led west to Dunham Road, north to Button Road and east to Egbert Road.

Families who lived along Dunham and Egbert Roads used the lanes to take their produce to markets. They also used them to haul logs to Dawson's Mill and other nearby sawmills. The mills paid cash for logs, especially for chestnut, maple, oak and beech logs. The hard work of cutting down trees in and around their farms, and selling them to a mill, was worth the effort to cash poor local farmers.

In the early 1930s, Elmer B. Wight, a summer resident who owned Cleveland Hill Farm on Wight Oaks Drive, started and mapped the old oxen lanes that meander through Bedford Reservation and areas nearby. ]

## SANDSTONE QUARRIES

In the 1840s quarrying became a major industry along the banks of Tinkers Creek and its tributaries. By the 1880s the market for commercial grade Berea Sandstone seemed unlimited. It was a common sight for the locals to see teams of oxen hauling sandstone blocks along oxen trails and onward along the existing local roads. Today, a visitor to Bedford Reservation can see remnants of three old quarries and oxen lanes leading to the quarries. ]

### THE CLARK CLEVELAND QUARRY

Remains of the Cleveland Quarry are on the banks and south hillside of Tinkers Creek, a few feet north of Gorge Parkway at the Overlook Lane intersection. Descendants of the family state that several buildings in downtown Cleveland along Superior Avenue were built with sandstone blocks from the Cleveland Quarry. An oxen lane connected the Cleveland Quarry and Egbert Road. Today's bridle path on the north side of Gorge Parkway, as it winds toward Egbert Road, was the lane used by the Cleveland Quarry. ]

### LOST MEADOW QUARRY

This sandstone quarry was located on the banks of East Branch of Deerlick Creek, near today's Lost Meadows Picnic Area. One oxen lane led from the quarry to Egbert Road and another lane led to the center of Bedford via Button Road and on to West Grace Street. The park road and a bridle path leading from Gorge Parkway to the north hillside by Lost Meadows Picnic Area follow the old oxen lane.

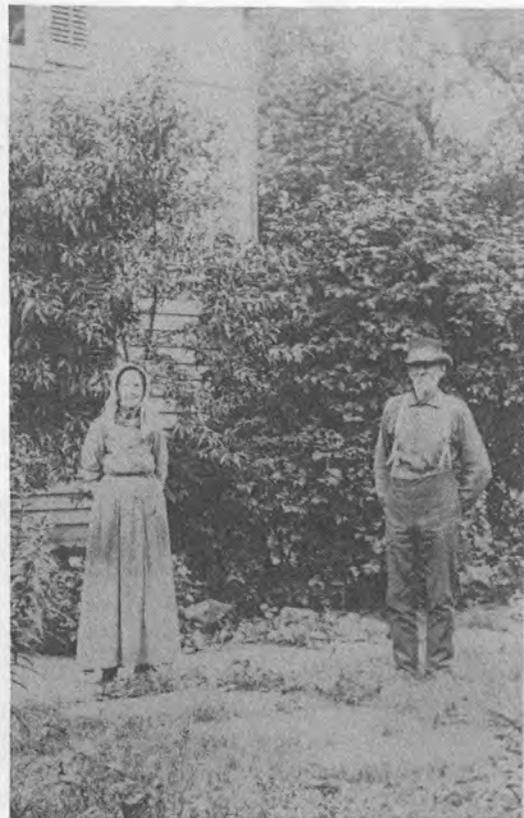
(continued, pg. 3) **TRACING OUR HERITAGE**

In the 1840's quarrying became a major industry along the banks of Tinker's Creek and its tributaries. By the 1880's the market for commercial grade sandstone seemed unlimited. The Wager Quarry and the Cleveland Quarry were the two largest operations in our area. Remnants of the Wager Quarry can be seen west of Overlook Lane in the Metropark. The quarry lane led to Dunham Road and, in more recent years, was one of the bridle paths used by Black Beauty Riding Academy. One can still see evidence of the Cleveland Quarry by standing on the stonework near the Overlook Lane/Gorge Parkway crossroads and looking down at the carved-out river bank.

Clark Cleveland operated the Cleveland Quarry and the Cleveland Hill Farm from the 1850's until the 1910's. He developed the quarry into a prosperous business. Teams of oxen hauled the cut stone eastward to Egbert Road, near the park entrance by Shawnee Golf Course. The lane is now the bridle trail between Gorge Parkway and Tinker's Creek. In 1929, sixteen years after Clark Cleveland died, the land encompassing the quarry was sold to the Metroparks.

THE CLEVELAND HILL FARMHOUSE, built c. 1854, stood on the west side of Wight Oaks Drive. Noted residents were the Clark Clevelands, Elmer Wight and the Virgil Allens. In 1977, Margaret Allen, widow of our first mayor, Virgil Allen, Jr., sold all remaining property to the Metroparks. The Metroparks razed the Greek Revival house in 1991.

(1909 photo reproduced by Nina Wolf)



CLARK AND FANNY LADISKA CLEVELAND in a 1910 photograph, are shown at the north side of their house. Clark died in 1913 at age 80 and Fanny died six months later, in 1914 at age 89. Their graves are in Bedford Cemetery. (Photo reproduced by Nina Wolf)

# OUR UNIQUE VILLAGE of WALTON HILLS -- NESTLED BETWEEN TWO PARKS --

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

This is the eighth in a series of articles featuring areas of Bedford Reservation and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park that are within the boundaries of Walton Hills. Future articles will include more stories about historic sites within the parks.

## THE CLEAVELAND HILL FARM AND QUARRY

Another historic site in Bedford Reservation begins near the end of Wight Oaks Drive and extends north to Tinkers Creek. A little over ten years ago the Metroparks razed the last standing structures on the property; the c.1854 Greek Revival house and its large, old bank barn. Mother Nature reclaimed this whole area where there was once a prosperous quarry and dairy farm, a princely house of Greek Revival design, two cottages and a cabin. Some former residents of note were Clark Cleveland, a descendent of Moses Cleaveland, Elmer B. Wight who was instrumental in documenting the Indian and pioneer history of this area and Virgil D. Allen, Jr., who was the first Mayor of the Village of Walton Hills.

Today's hiker, following a gas line that runs through this land, will see flat fields and woods on the south side of Gorge Parkway, and north of the road sandstone boulders stuck into the steep slope, carved-out bank of Tinkers Creek.

### FIRST SETTLER on the PROPERTY

Earliest records at the Cuyahoga County Archives indicate in 1827 Martin Sheldon was the owner of these 162 acres. His log cabin sat a few yards southeast of where Overlook Lane meets Gorge Parkway today. To reach his house he took a trail that started at Dunham (Egypt) Road and followed the south ridge of Tinkers Creek. Today's Gorge Parkway follows that trail. He cut a trail that led from his house to his farm, and today a gas line follows Sheldon's trail. In 1833, when Egbert Road was laid out, Sheldon and his southerly neighbor extended their drive to Egbert Road.

### ABNER CLEAVELAND

Abner Cleaveland inherited nearby parcels of land along Tinkers Creek from his uncle, Moses Cleaveland. He moved from his home state of New York when he was a young man, to see his newly-acquired land. He settled down in Bedford and began purchasing additional parcels of land in Bedford and outlying areas.

In 1846 Abner Cleaveland and his elder son James, upon seeing exposed, commercial quality sandstone on the south hillside bank of Tinkers Creek, envisioned a money-making opportunity, and bought parcels of property along the creek that are now part of Walton Hills. Abner and James Cleaveland considered their purchase a business venture, with no intent of moving from their homes in Bedford. Instead, Abner's younger son Clark, moved to the banks of Tinkers Creek, developed the quarry into a prosperous business and managed the dairy farm on acreage uphill and south of the quarry.

OUR UNIQUE VILLAGE OF WALTON HILLS  
-- NESTLED BETWEEN TWO PARKS --  
HISTORIC SITES

**JAMES CLEVELAND**

James Cleveland acquired more quarry land when, in 1859 at age <sup>35</sup> 25, he married Edmond Gleeson's 32-year old widow, Charlotte Comstock Gleeson. James promptly sold his interest in the quarry land to his father. James Cleveland and his wife Charlotte made Bedford their home, where from 1860-1862 he was Mayor.

**CLARK CLEVELAND**

Clark and his <sup>SISTER</sup> wife, Fanny Ladiska Cleveland, built their house in c.1854. The site of the house is a short distance past the north end of Wight Oaks Drive. If the house were standing today, it would be west of the road, with the front of the house facing east. Their Greek Revival style homestead was a popular architectural form throughout the Greater Cleveland area from 1820 until 1860. Near the north side of their house stood one of their out-buildings, a large impressing-looking bank barn.

It is written that Clark Cleveland made most of his money from the quarry, not from the dairy farm. Several buildings along Superior Street in downtown Cleveland were built with sandstone blocks from the Cleveland Quarry, and sandstone blocks from the Cleveland Quarry were used to build Walton School that still stands today at 7307 Walton Road.

Clark Cleveland died at age 80 in 1913, and Fanny Cleveland died six months later, at age 89. In 1929, sixteen years after Clark died, the Metroparks bought from Elmer B. Wight, their first parcel of "Cleveland" acreage, land that encompassed the quarry.

**"CLEAVELAND" or "CLEVELAND"?**

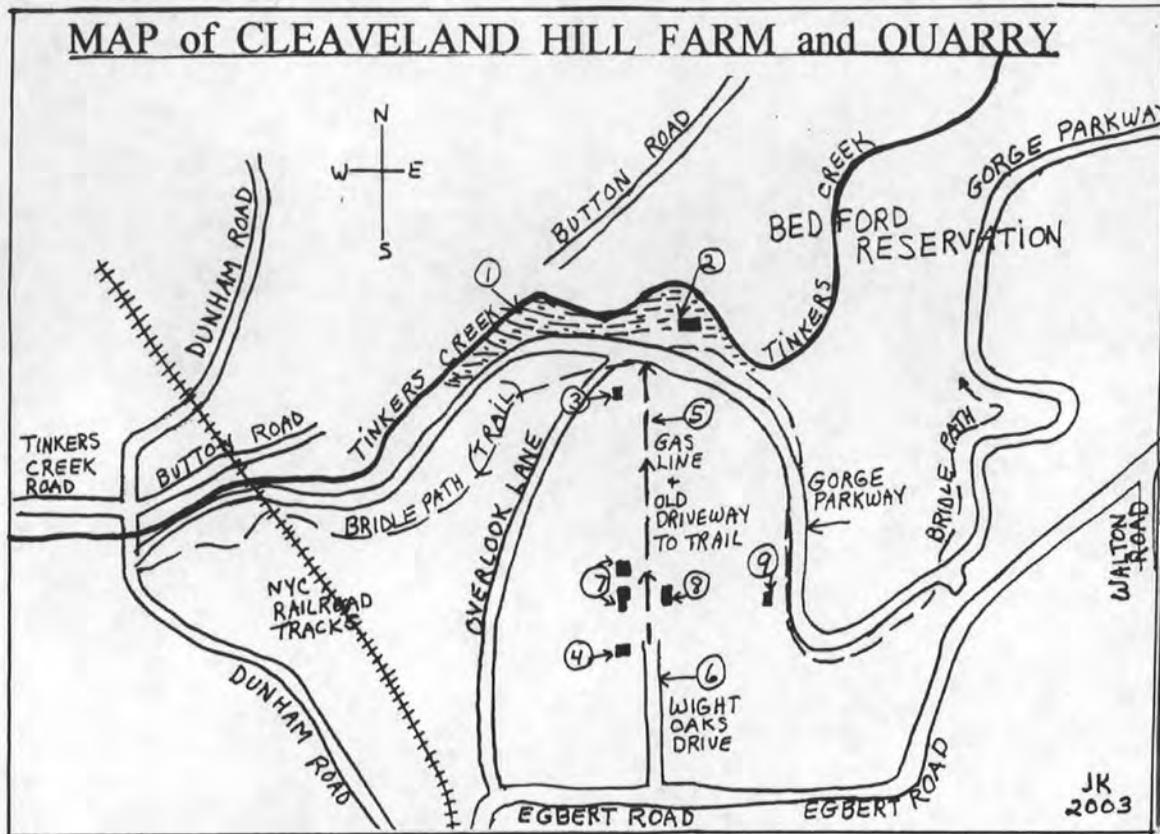
A county scribe by the name of John Tinker, is credited with revising the spelling of the name "Cleaveland." Moses Cleaveland, as well as his descendants in this area, are remembered by an incorrect spelling of their last name. Throughout his life, Abner Cleaveland signed his name as given to him, yet the carving on his marble marker at Bedford Cemetery is "Cleveland." Likewise, the names carved on tombstones of his descendants are also spelled "Cleveland." Abner's son James used the new spelling of his name, and evidently his son Clark accepted both spellings. In the 1930s the faint lettering on the front of the large bank barn could still be read "The Cleaveland Farm."

**ELMER B. WIGHT**

One Cleaveland Hill Farm owner of note was Elmer B. Wight, a wealthy man who devoted considerable time from 1914 into the 1930s to the documentation of Indian and pioneer existence, not only in the Tinkers Creek Valley, but throughout the Western Reserve and the State of Ohio.

Wight purchased the Cleaveland Hill property in 1917, a few years after Clark and Fanny Cleveland died. Wight had hoped he and his ailing wife could move from their primary residence near Lake Erie to the Egbert Road property, but his plans never materialized. Wight used the house as a weekend retreat, especially in the summer, but never made it his permanent home. During the Wight years, caretakers lived on the property, managed the farm and cared for the house.

# HISTORIC SITES



- 1) Site of the Cleveland Hill Quarry.
- 2) Gorge Overlook.
- 3) Site of first homestead built in 1827 by Martin Sheldon on his 162 acres.
- 4) Site of homestead built in 1827 by Sheldon's neighbor, Joseph Trumbell on his 154 acres.
- 5) This pathway led from the trail (today's bridle path) to the homestead and farm. Today, a gas line follows the pathway and Gorge Parkway follows the trail.
- 6) When Egbert Road was laid out, residents cut a new drive for egress to Egbert Road. The 1860 County Atlas lists it as Cleveland Hill Lane. Wight renamed it Wight Oaks Drive.
- 7) Site of the Clark Cleveland house and bank barn.
- 8) Site of cottage Elmer B. Wight built for weekend guests.
- 9) Site of Joe Jesensky's cabin. Between 1923 and 1933 Jesensky spent many weekends and vacations hiking, sketching and taking field notes in the gorge section of Tinkers Creek. Jesensky assisted Wight with topographical maps of the area.

A 1909 photo of the CLEVELAND HILL FARMHOUSE, built c. 1854, that stood on the west side of Wight Oaks Dr. Noted residents were the Clark Cleavelands, Elmer Wight and the Virgil Allens. Margaret Allen, widow of our first mayor, Virgil Allen, Jr., sold the house and last remaining parcel of their land to the Metroparks in 1977.

(Photo reproduced by Nina Wolf)



# OUR UNIQUE VILLAGE OF WALTON HILLS -- NESTLED BETWEEN TWO PARKS -- HISTORIC SITES

In 1914 Wight founded the Indian Pathfinders Association No. 1. The goal of the Pathfinders was to draw maps of Indian trails as well as Indian campsites, villages, Indian and non-Indian forts, routes of military expeditions crossing the state, and sites of battles and other historic incidents. The men spent years researching material in libraries and museums throughout the country, conducting numerous interviews, corresponding and meeting with historians, and retracing the old trails on foot.

## TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS of the TINKERS CREEK VALLEY

At his own expense Wight had aerial photographs taken of our area so he could more easily chart the old trails and use the photos to make topographical maps of the Tinkers Creek Valley. Between 1923 and 1933, Wight, with assistance from Joe Jesensky, who at the time was a graphic arts student and then a professional lithographic artist, used the photos to make a series of topographical maps of the Tinkers Creek Valley. Individual maps featured the rivers and creeks, old Indian trails, forts and campsites, oxen trails, roads, farmhouses and lines of fences, and other historic and scenic points of interest. Copies of all these maps can be viewed at the Walton Hills Historical Resource Center.

In 1929 the Cleveland Metroparks purchased the first of four parcels of the Cleaveland Hill Farm and Quarry from Elmer Wight, the land encompassing the quarry. Before selling the acreage, Wight moved the original cottage that overlooked the quarry and gorge to a spot on his farm.

## HOME of the FIRST MAYOR of WALTON HILLS

Wight's daughter, Margaret, married his good friend's son, Virgil D. Allen, Jr. In the mid 1930s Margaret and Virgil Allen, Jr. remodeled and enlarged another cottage on the Cleaveland Hill Farm for a weekend and summer home. This cottage, originally built by Wight for his weekend guests, stood across the drive facing the main house. As years went by, the Allen family spent more and more time at their retreat in the country, until in 1946, three years after Elmer Wight passed away, they moved into the main house.

Virgil D. Allen, Jr. served as first Mayor of the Village of Walton Hills, from June 1951 to January 1954. He died nine years later. Allen is remembered for leading the drive for zoning ordinances in Bedford Township, organizing efforts and working for the incorporation of the village and writing the first set of Village Zoning Ordinances. He was instrumental in persuading Ford Motor Company to build a stamping plant in the village.

## REMAINING ACREAGE SOLD to METROPARKS

Margaret Wight Allen shared her father's keen interest in the ecology of the land. The Allens sold sections of the farm to the Metroparks in 1952 and 1961. In 1977, when she was ready to move in with her daughter Betsy, Margaret Allen wanted to assure herself that Cleaveland Hill Farm would become a natural preserve. She sold the remaining acreage, main house and bank barn to the Metroparks.



GORGE OVERLOOK stands on the old Cleaveland Quarry. In 1968 Congress dedicated Tinkers Creek Gorge as a National Natural Historic Site on the National Registry of Scenic Places.

## THE CLEVELAND HILL FARM

Of historic interest is the parcel of land at the end of Wight Oaks Drive extending north to Tinker's Creek. The land is now owned by the MetroParks, but two former owners of note were Elmer B. Wight, who was instrumental in documenting the Indian and pioneer history of the area, and Virgil D. Allen, Jr., who was the first Mayor of the Village of Walton Hills. The land along the south bank of Tinker's Creek was a valuable piece of property; exposed sandstone proved to be of commercial quality and the acreage at the top of the ridge was fertile, flat, and ideally suited for farming.

The earliest records at the Cuyahoga County Archives show Martin Sheldon owned the aforementioned 162 acres in 1827. By 1837 Sheldon was not only paying taxes on his land, but also on the mill he built on the bank of Tinker's Creek, and on a log cabin located on the south ridge, a short distance from the community of Little Egypt. The site of the Sheldon cabin is a few yards southeast of where Overlook Lane meets Gorge Parkway today.

Records also show that in 1827 a neighbor, Joseph Trumbell, owned 154 acres which abutted the south end of Sheldon's land and extended to Egbert Road. Trumbell built a log cabin for his family at the rear of his property, close to the Sheldon property line. The Trumbells probably created the path (now the East Ohio Gas line) that led not only to Sheldon's cabin, but to another lane which followed the south ridge of Tinker's Creek. That lane led westward to Little Egypt, and, in the other direction, to the town of Bedford.

Within a few years the Sheldons and the Trumbells extended their path southward to Egbert Road. This dirt roadway became an access road drawn on county atlases as early as 1860, called Cleveland Hill Lane. In more recent years it was renamed Wight Oaks Lane, and in August of 1985 Council accepted Wight Oaks Drive for dedication.

## THE CLEVELAND QUARRY

In the 1840's quarrying became a major industry along the banks of Tinker's Creek and its tributaries. By the 1880's the market for commercial grade sandstone seemed unlimited.

Abner Cleveland and his son, James, saw sandstone quarrying along Tinkers Creek as a money-making opportunity. In 1846 they purchased a

piece of property on the banks of Tinker's Creek where exposed sandstone was in evidence. Edmond Gleeson, son of Moses Gleeson, bought adjacent land along the banks in 1851. But, Gleeson died only three years later, at age 44. In 1859 Edmond Gleeson's thirty-two year old widow, Charlotte Comstock Gleeson, married James C. Cleveland, who was then ~~twenty~~<sup>31</sup> ~~nine~~<sup>31</sup>. Soon afterwards James sold his interest in the quarry land to his father, Abner Cleveland. Abner's ~~second~~<sup>3rd</sup> oldest son, Clark, who was still in his twenties at the time, ran the quarry.

Clark Cleveland developed the quarry into a prosperous business; and then after his father's (Abner Cleveland) death in 1884, continued as owner. Elmer B. Wight told his daughter and granddaughters that several buildings in downtown Cleveland along Superior Street were built with sandstone blocks from the Cleveland Quarry, and that Clark Cleveland made most of his money from the quarry — not from the farm. In 1929, sixteen years after Clark Cleveland died, the land encompassing the quarry was sold to the MetroParks.

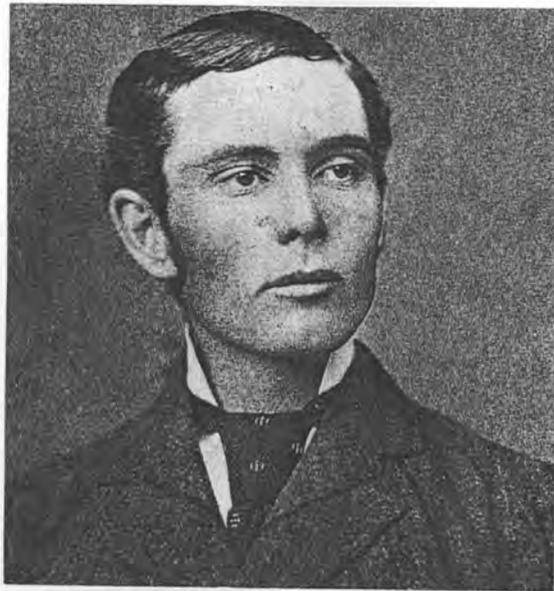
During the quarrying years teams of oxen hauled the cut stone to Egbert Road from its remote location along the banks of the creek. Today, the lane created by the wagons and oxen is the bridle trail between Gorge Parkway and Tinker's Creek.

One can still see evidence of the old stone quarry, by standing on the stonework near the Overlook Lane/Gorge Parkway crossroads and looking down at the carved-out river bank.

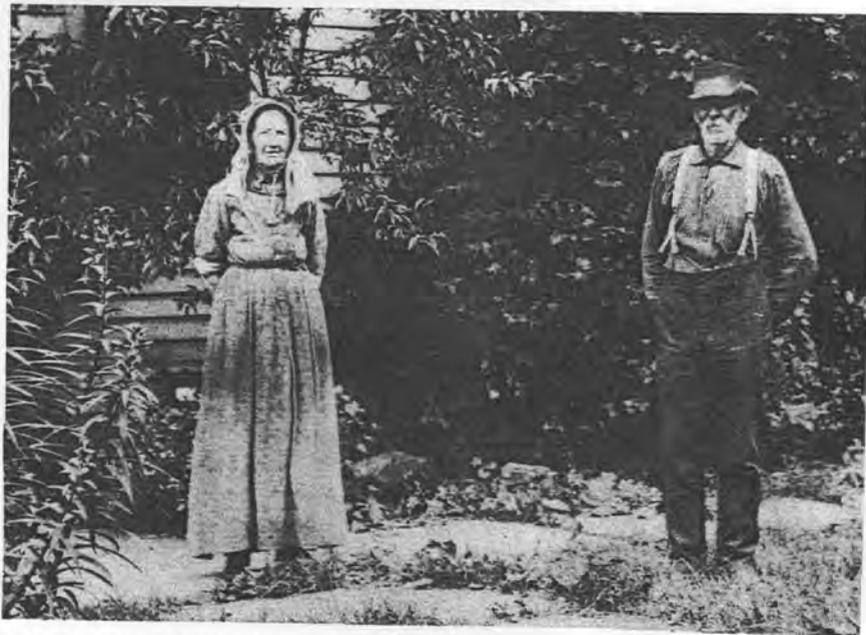
## THE FARM AND HOMESTEAD

Abner Cleveland began purchasing farmland on the ridge south of the quarry in 1846. However, it was his son, Clark, and Clark's ~~wife~~<sup>SISTER</sup>, Fanny Ladiska, who lived on the farm and managed both the farm and the quarry. Clark inherited the property after his father's death (Abner died at age 86, in 1884). Both Clark and Fanny lived out their long lives on the farm; Clark died at age 80 in 1913, and Fanny died six months later, at age 89.

Whereas the Sheldon log cabin was situated on the ridge close to Tinker's Creek, Clark and Fanny Cleveland built a new house for themselves in c. 1854 near the south end of the property, close to their neighbors of the time, the Sheets. The Greek Revival style homestead, which can still be seen today at 16535 Egbert Road, was a popular architectural form throughout the Greater Cleveland area from 1820 until 1860.



BORN IN 1832, CLARK A. CLEVELAND operated the Cleveland Quarry and the Cleveland Hill Farm from the 1850's until the 1910's. After his father, Abner Cleveland, died in 1884 Clark owned the estate.



CLARK AND FANNY LADISKA CLEVELAND in a 1910 photograph are shown at the north side of their house. Clark died in 1913 at age 80, and Fanny died six months later, in 1914 at age 89. Both graves are in Bedford Cemetery.



THE CLEVELAND HILL FARMHOUSE, built c. 1854, stands on Wight Oaks Drive, at 16535 Egbert Road. The Clark Clevelands and the Virgil Allens lived there and in the years between it was the summer cottage of Elmer B. Wight. Above: The house in 1909. The open porch on the south side is visible. Pictured is Fanny Ladiska Cleveland. Below: The house in 1950. The wing at the south side was added around 1920.



The two-story frame house had a slate roof (until 1986) and pegged wood plank flooring. On the first floor of the original house was a kitchen, parlor, and two bedrooms. Sandstone blocks from the family quarry line the basement walls, and flagstone walkways lead to the house.

In later years a wing was added to the original structure. The one floor addition at the south end of the house was at first divided into a kitchen and a living room for live-in hired help. A narrow staircase led up to their sleeping quarters on the second floor of the original section of the house.

The house has been modernized a few times over the years. The two first floor back bedrooms were replaced by a kitchen, a bathroom replaced the old kitchen at the front corner, and the wing was made into one big living room. More recently, in 1946 when the last private owners not only remodeled but restored the house, they uncovered a fireplace made of stones from the old family quarry, and found the original swinging hook on which cooking pots were hung.

Despite several modifications the original character of the house has been preserved.

### ELMER B. WIGHT

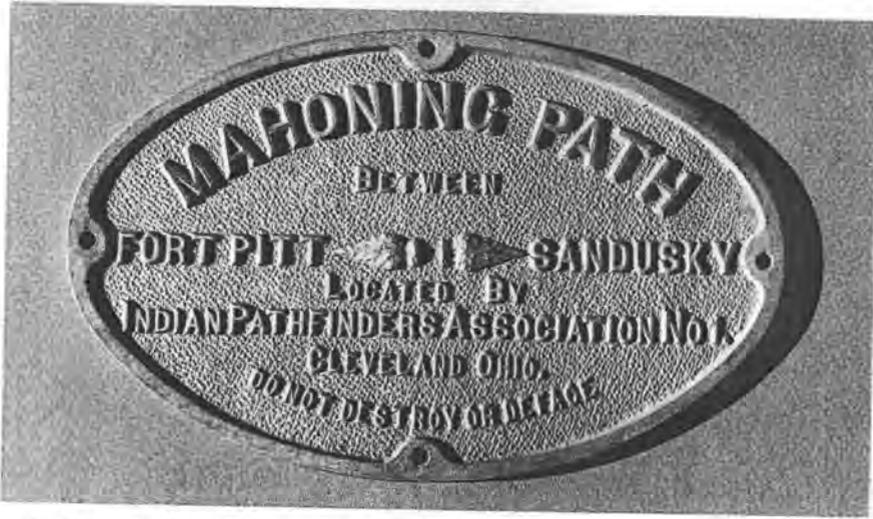
One Cleveland Hill Farm owner of note was Elmer B. Wight, a man who devoted considerable time from 1914 into the 1930's to the documentation of Indian and pioneer existence, not only in the Tinker's Creek Valley, but throughout the Western Reserve and the State of Ohio.

In 1914 Elmer Wight founded the Indian Pathfinders Association No. 1. The goal of the Pathfinders was to draw maps of Indian trails as well as Indian campsites, villages, Indian and non-Indian forts, routes of military expeditions crossing the state, and sites of battles and other historic incidents. To accomplish their objectives, the men spent years researching material in libraries and museums throughout the country, conducting numerous interviews, corresponding and meeting with historians, and retracing the old trails on foot.

Although the Pathfinder membership numbered thirty-eight in 1916, it was the charter members who amassed a library of historical notes about the Indians: Elmer Wight, landscaping and civil engineer; Virgil D. Allen, Sr., engineer; Russell K. Pelton, Manager of the Benjamin Rose Estate; Fed M. Barton, publisher; De Lo E. Mook, attorney and Boy Scout Commissioner, and Charles Orr, Ex-Director of Cleveland Public Schools. The secretary of the Pathfinders group was Wight's friend, Virgil D. Allen, Sr., whose son later married Wight's daughter and who still later became



ELMER AND ALICE (PRITCHARD) WIGHT bought the Cleveland Hill Farm in 1917, using the main house as their summer cottage and weekend retreat. Alice died three years later in 1920, at age 42. (Date of photograph unknown)



ALUMINUM PLAQUES MARKING THE MAHONING TRAIL were nailed to a number of trees in our area in the 1920's, by Elmer Wight and other members of the Indian Pathfinders Association No. 1.

the first Mayor of Walton Hills. Elmer Wight is credited with drawing the maps and Virgil Allen, Sr. with the bulk of the correspondence. Virgil Allen, Sr. also gave numerous speeches to groups throughout the state on Ohio's Old Indian Trails.

To mark the trails the men nailed cast aluminum plaques — which they designed and purchased themselves — on strategically located trees. All the plaques in our area have been removed from the trees by memento-hunters, but one tablet Wight kept for himself is now in the possession of one of his granddaughters.

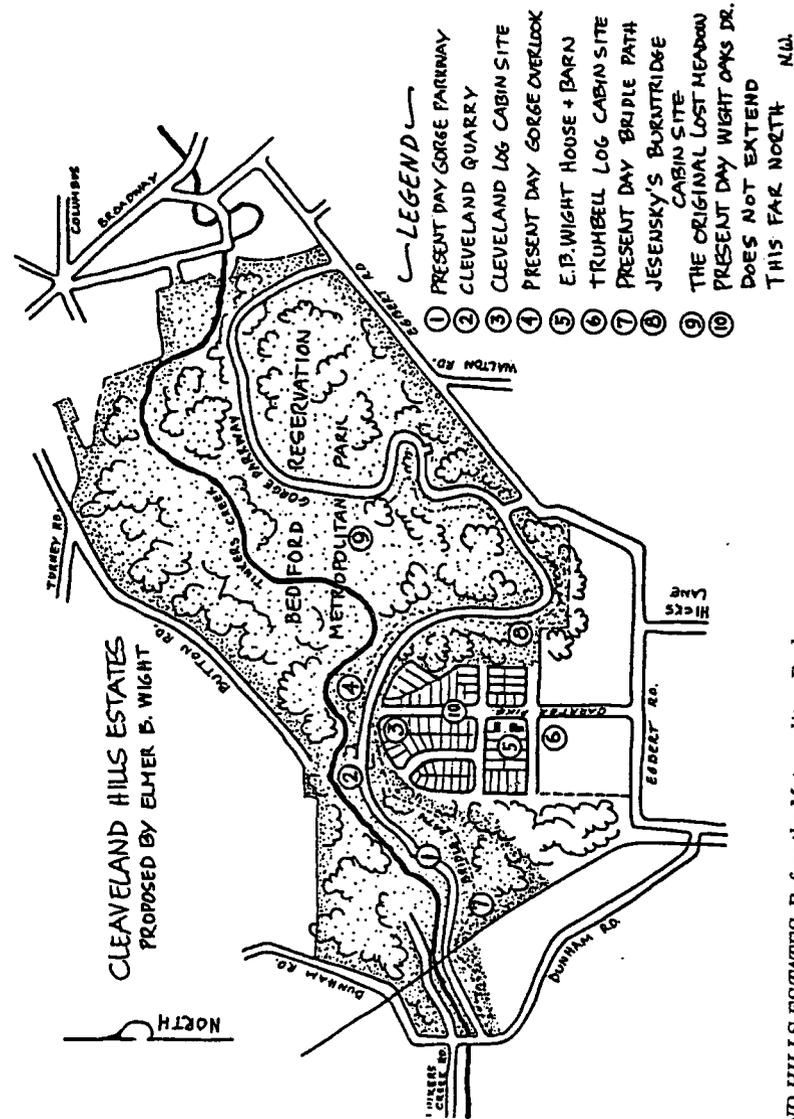
Elmer Wight mapped the oxen trails that dated back to the township's pioneer days. At his own expense he had aerial photographs taken of the area so he could more easily chart the old trails. Wight then used the photos to make topographical maps of the Tinker's Creek Valley.

Born in 1869 of a well-to-do Cleveland family, Elmer Wight moved to a farm in Ashtabula County when he was twelve. It was there that the young Wight not only developed skills in dairy farming, but formed an appreciation for local history — an interest that intensified as he grew older.

Wight, a civil engineer who specialized in landscape engineering, was highly regarded by others in his profession. Johanne Irish, one of Wight's two granddaughters, recalls Wight as a very popular man who had a lot of charisma. He learned his trade by apprenticing himself to a civil engineer, as was customary in those days. He designed and engineered the landscaping for the University Circle area, including the unique bridges along Martin Luther King Boulevard. Another Wight project was Lake Shore Boulevard, from Gordon Park to East 185th Street. According to granddaughter Betsy Baker, Wight wanted to create a beautiful road all along the lake front. He also designed Lake View Cemetery on Euclid Avenue near University Circle, and the unique street patterns for housing developments along Merriman Road, in Akron.

In 1917, shortly after Clark and Fanny Cleveland died, Wight bought the Cleveland Hill Farm. He, his wife, Alice (Pritchard), and their daughter, Margaret, used the original section of the house as their summer cottage. Their primary residence was at the corner of Windward Drive and Lake Shore Boulevard, near Villa Angela Academy.

Wight had hoped to move the family to the Egbert Road property, but his plans never materialized; Alice, who was ailing, died at age 42 in 1920. When he married Lina Lane a few years later, they used the cottage



**CLEVELAND HILLS ESTATES.** Before the Metropolitan Park Board bought the northern chunk of his land in 1929, Elmer B. Wight designed a plat layout for the development of his property. In a legend he marked noteworthy spots that made this land significant

for inclusion in Bedford Metropolitan Park. Perhaps Wight's intention was to spur the Park Board into action. This drawing is a composite of two of Wight's maps.

extensively on weekends and summers, but never made it their permanent home.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed were hired by Wight to tend to the farm, the dairy cattle, and the homestead. When some of the cattle became infected with tuberculosis and the whole herd had to be destroyed because of the disease, Wight decided not to start anew.

The Denhams were the caretakers of the property for many years after the Reeds. The genial couple lived in the south wing of the house. Mr. Denham managed the farm and Mrs. Denham cared for the house. She also took pride in maintaining the formal garden that dated back to the late 1800's. Today, family members and friends recall the beauty of that distinguished garden situated along the south slope of the house. Although he favored the formal garden, Wight removed all shrubbery from around the foundation of the house. He also banked the earth against the house so rain water would wash away from the foundation and not seep into the basement.

In addition to the main house, two cottages and a cabin were on the property; today, only the homestead and a cottage remain. A cottage across the lane from the main house was constructed for Wight's weekend and summer guests, but the cottage was leveled after a large oak tree crashed through the roof during an electrical storm.

The second cottage was located at the north end of the old lane, by today's Gorge Parkway. The cottage overlooked the quarry and the gorge, and was chiefly used by hired help. When the Metropolitan Park Board purchased the back acreage from Wight, he moved the cottage to its present location at today's north end of the lane. The relocated cottage still stands today.

In the 1920's Wight's young protege, Joseph Jesensky, erected a cabin for himself at the far east end of the property. Years later the abandoned cabin was razed by the MetroParks.

Wight died in 1943 and is buried in Lake View Cemetery.

### THE VIRGIL D. ALLENS

Elmer Wight's only child, Margaret, married his good friend's son, Virgil D. Allen, Jr., after they graduated from college; Margaret from Lake Erie College and Virgil, Jr. from Western Reserve University. The young couple, both born in 1898, built a house for themselves on Wight's Lake Shore Boulevard land. A few years later, in 1926, the Allens moved to

*VIRGIL D. ALLEN, JR., the young man in this early 1920's photograph, in future years was to marry Elmer B. Wight's daughter, lead the drive for township zoning ordinances, organize efforts and work for incorporation of the village, write all zoning ordinances for the new village, serve as First Mayor of Walton Hills from June, 1951 to January, 1954, and persuade the Ford Motor Company to build its stamping plant here.*



*VIRGIL, JR. AND MARGARET (WIGHT) ALLEN moved into the old Cleveland Hill Farm Homestead on Wight Oaks Drive in 1946. (Date of photograph unknown)*

Utica, New York, when Virgil was offered a promising banking opportunity. The Depression interfered with Allen's career plans, however, and in 1933 Virgil, Margaret, and their three children, John, Betsy, and Johanne, returned to their Lake Shore home. Allen became a successful investment counselor in Cleveland while attending evening classes, working toward a degree in law.

The Allens, in the mid 1930's, remodeled and enlarged a cottage on the Cleveland Hill Farm for their weekend and summer vacation home. This cottage, originally built by Wight for his weekend guests, stood across the drive facing the main house. As the years went by the Allen family spent more and more time at the cottage, until, in 1946, three years after Elmer Wight had passed away, they moved into the Cleveland Hill Homestead. About the same time their old cottage was hit and demolished by one of the high old oak trees lining Wight Oaks Drive.

Allen enjoyed the solitude of the Cleveland Hill Farm which contrasted sharply with his busy work schedule as banker, lawyer, and first Mayor of Walton Hills. In 1963 Allen suffered a stroke and died a few days later. (See THE FIRST MAYOR OF WALTON HILLS.)

Margaret Wight Allen was described by people who knew her as a soft-spoken but assertive woman, who shared her father's keen interest in the ecology of the land. Hoping that the Cleveland homestead would eventually become a natural preserve, Margaret Allen sold her property to the MetroParks, and in 1977 moved to Kirtland where she lived out her remaining years with her older daughter, Betsy.

### THE MOSES CLEAVELAND CONNECTION

Claiming to be distantly related by marriage to Moses Cleaveland, Elmer B. Wight purchased the Cleveland Hill Farm as well as two other nearby parcels of land in Valley View that he felt were linked to the Cleavelands. Betsy Baker of Kirtland and Johanne Irish of Bratenahl, granddaughters of Elmer Wight, recall Wight impressing upon them the historical significance of their Cleveland Hill Farm and Valley View acreage.

General Moses Cleaveland was a Connecticut lawyer who, as one of the forty-nine investors, acted as general agent for the Connecticut Land Company. He led the team who surveyed the Western Reserve in 1796 and 1797. He himself, however, only spent the first of the two years with his men. Although he never returned to the Ohio territory, it is known that Cleaveland owned parcels of land in the Western Reserve totaling over six thousand acres.

Moses Cleaveland was born in Canterbury, Connecticut in 1754, and, unmarried, died there at the age of 52, in 1806, ten years after leading the surveying party in the Western Reserve.

According to Wight, Abner Cleaveland inherited Moses Cleaveland's acreage along the mouth of Tinker's Creek. Abner Cleaveland, born in 1797, moved from his home state of New York when he was a young man, to see his land in this part of Ohio. Elmer Wight purchased a tract of land located south of Tinker's Creek, on the east side of Canal Road. That property, which he traced to Abner Cleaveland, is still owned by Wight heirs.

Elmer Wight is quoted as saying his step-grandfather was James C. Cleaveland, one of the original owners of the Cleveland Quarry. James sold his interest in the quarry land to his father, Abner Cleaveland. Although Abner owned the quarry during his lifetime, and in addition, purchased adjacent farmland, it was his second eldest son, Clark, (James' brother) who developed the Cleveland Quarry into a successful business and also managed the Cleveland Hill Farm. (James C. Cleaveland served as Mayor of Bedford from 1860-1862.)

A third historically significant parcel of land Elmer Wight owned for a number of years is located along the ridge north of Alexander Road and west of Hub Industrial Park. It is unclear why he sold the property; perhaps Wight sold it when further research proved the land had never been owned by Cleavelands. The Sagamore Path, a branch of the Mahoning Trail which connected Fort Pitt with Fort Detroit, went through the property and archaeologists marked the area as a site where Indians lived as long ago as 500 BC. This land is now part of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

## JOSEPH D. JESENSKY

Between 1923 and 1933 a young Cleveland artist spent most of his weekends and vacations hiking, sketching, and taking field notes in the gorge section of Tinker's Creek and the nearby hills and valleys. Joseph D. Jesensky was trained in the graphic arts, but his weekend experiences nurtured his lifelong interest in nature and prompted him to develop the skills of a naturalist, archaeologist, writer, photographer, and map maker.

Probably no one in those days knew Bedford Reservation better than Jesensky. In appreciation of his assistance park guards made him a "Special Deputy," allowing Joe to roam or stay in the park whenever he wished.

Having a friendly and outgoing personality, Joe became acquainted with area farmers. Besides giving the young man fresh milk and water for his weekend stays, local residents also related to him the history of the area. It was that type of information plus his own acute observations that Jesensky relied on to record his extensive field notes.

In 1926 Elmer B. Wight, owner and summer resident of Cleveland Hill Farm, encouraged the twenty year old Jesensky to build himself a shelter on the edge of his (Wight's) property. The next seven years Joe spent weekend nights in his cabin near Southwest Branch of Deerlick Creek. The shanty was small but cozy; and well-decorated by Jesensky and his visiting friends — poets, artists, musicians, and nature lovers.

*BURNTRIDGE CABIN was built by Joe Jesensky in 1926 for his weekend stays in Bedford MetroPark. Jesensky sketched Burntridge Cabin in 1931.*



Undoubtedly, Wight was impressed with the young man and was eager to share with Jesensky his research findings about the history of the area. Wight used aerial photographs he had taken of the area to prepare individual topographical maps. Wight, with Jesensky's able assistance, then made a series of maps showing the topology of the area between 1923 and 1933. Their series of maps marked the farmhouses, lines of fences, old oxen and old Indian trails, roads, and historic and scenic points of interest.

When Jesensky married in 1933, Wight invited the newlyweds to live in a suite of rooms in his Lake Shore home. During the year when Joe and Josephine Jesensky lived with the Wights, the two men spent many evenings working on the "topol" maps and other Tinker's Creek Valley pet projects.

Jesensky worked as a lithographic artist for a private firm and then later for the Metropolitan Park Board. He became a landscape architect for the Ohio Division of Forestry and then caretaker of Akron's Sand Run Parkway. Beginning with the World War II years until he retired in the 1970's, Jesensky was a graphic artist, first with Goodyear Aircraft and then with Goodyear Tire and Rubber.

Jesensky's book, *Pages from a Tinker's Creek Valley Sketch Book, 1923-1933*, details the Walton Hills area. It is a historical document of the southwest section of Bedford Township during those years.

Wishing to share with others his papers on the Tinker's Creek Gorge and its environs, Jesensky recently donated his field notes, the series of topographical maps, original sketches, photographs, and copies of his book to the Bedford Historical Museum.



*A LIFELONG CONCERN of Joe Jesensky's has been the preservation of the history and ecology of the Cuyahoga Valley. (1985 photograph)*

9-2008  
Walton Hills Owl

# POTPOURRI

(Continued, page 2)

## NEWS from the W. H. HISTORICAL RESOURCE CENTER

JOE JESENSKY, the man who jump-started the Walton Hills Historical Resource Center by donating his treasure trove of writing and drawings, passed away in June, at age 102.

JESENSKY made generous contributions to our local resource center. He gave us a lot of his original work and copies of all his writings and sketches that pertain to Walton Hills, Bedford Reservation and this area of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. In July of 2002 JESENSKY paid a visit to the village Resource Center. He shared his stories with those in attendance.

He was an acclaimed Historian of the Cuyahoga Valley region, respected volunteer of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the Cleveland and Akron Metroparks, noted author and graphic artist. Although JESENSKY spent his last couple of weeks in a nursing home, he was still mentally alert and on a mission to inform his fellow researchers and National Park personnel about facts he might have forgotten to share with them at earlier times.

Beginning in 1923 when he was a scholarship student at the Cleveland Institute of Art, and continuing until 1933, JESENSKY spent weekends hiking and sketching in our section around Tinkers Creek. He took informative field notes and detailed interview notes from his talks with local residents and park patrolmen.

ELMER WIGHT, a wealthy summer resident who lived on Wight Oaks Lane, befriended JESENSKY and invited JOE to build himself a cabin on the property for his weekend stays in this area. JOE accepted WIGHT'S offer. In the mid 1920s, when Wight had aerial photos taken of the Tinkers Creek Valley, he persuaded the young man to draw a series of topographical maps from information on the photos. On his maps JESENSKY marked historic and scenic points of interest: the rivers, streams, Indian trails, camps and forts, oxen lanes, roads, mills, burial spots, houses, barns and fence lines. JOE'S passion for documenting local history and informing others about the rich local history was his life-long pursuit.

JESENSKY'S work on file in our historical center include: *Pages from a Tinkers Creek Valley Sketchbook, Misc. Archeological and Indian Notes, Ancient Earth Forts of the Cuyahoga Valley, Ohio Tract 5, the Topographical Maps of the Tinkers Creek Valley Area including maps and legends of the Deerlick Creek and Great Gorge area, an album titled Joe Jesensky: His Written Work, Sketches and Descriptive Letters of Our Area, (personal letters with informative historic details about this area and more than 50 sketches,) the final draft of his book Joe's Place: Conversations on the Cuyahoga Valley, and the list continues.*

MYRTLE (BIRDIE) SMITH of Jefferson Drive was a dear friend and fellow CVNP volunteer of JOE'S. Our condolences to BIRDIE, and other locals who knew him personally, JEAN and BOB KAINSINGER and RUTH MONEY.

## CHAPTER 7

# THE CLEVELAND HILL FARM and QUARRY

Another historic site in Bedford Reservation begins near the end of Wight Oaks Drive and extends north to Tinkers Creek. A little over ten years ago the Metroparks razed the last standing structures on the property; the c.1854 Greek Revival house and its large, old bank barn. Mother Nature reclaimed this whole area where there was once a prosperous quarry and dairy farm, a princely house of Greek Revival design, two cottages and a cabin. Some former residents of note were Clark Cleaveland, a descendant of Moses Cleaveland, Elmer B. Wight who was instrumental in documenting the Indian and pioneer history of this area and Virgil D. Allen, Jr., who was the first Mayor of the Village of Walton Hills.

Today's hiker, following a gas line that runs through this land, will see flat fields and woods on the south side of Gorge Parkway, and to the north of Gorge Parkway, sandstone boulders stuck into the steep-sloped, carved-out bank of Tinkers Creek.

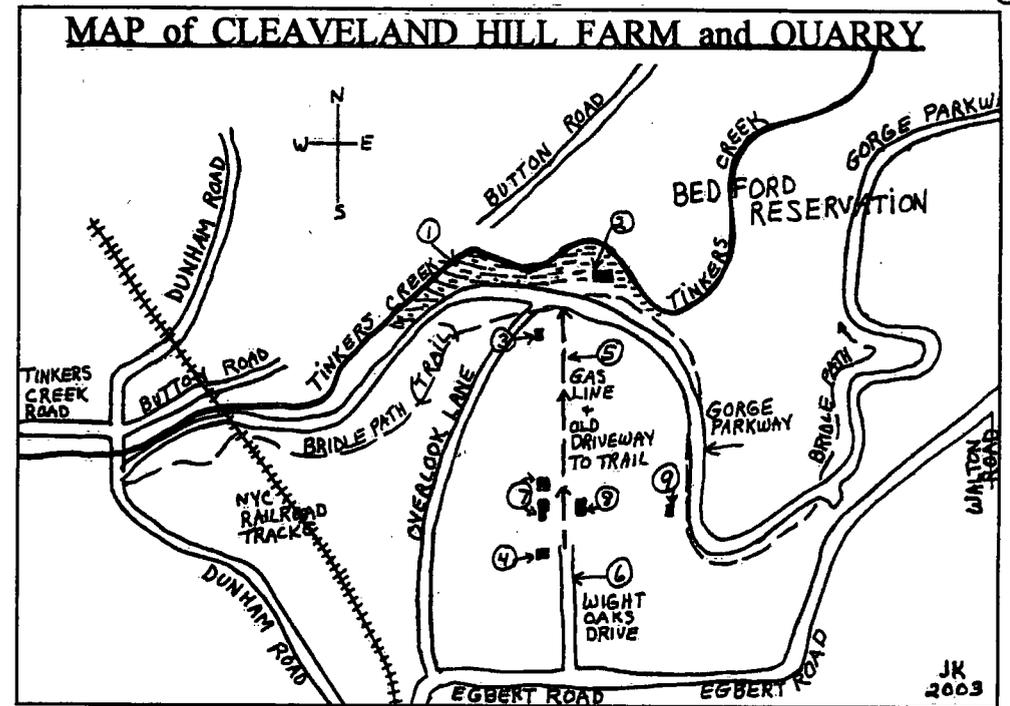
## FIRST SETTLERS on the PROPERTY

Earliest records at the Cuyahoga County Archives indicate in 1827 Martin Sheldon was the owner of these 162 acres. His log cabin sat a few yards southeast of where Overlook Lane meets Gorge Parkway today.

To reach their house the Sheldons took a trail that started at Dunham (Egypt) Road and followed the south ridge of Tinkers Creek. Today's Gorge Parkway follows that trail. Sheldon cut a path to connect his house and the trail by Tinkers Creek. Today a gas line follows Sheldon's trail. In 1833, when Egbert Road was laid out, Sheldon extended his drive to Egbert Road.

## ABNER CLEVELAND

Abner Cleaveland inherited nearby parcels of land along Tinkers Creek from his uncle, Moses Cleaveland. He moved from his home state of New York when he was a young man, to see his newly-acquired land. He settled down in



- 1) Site of the Cleaveland Hill Quarry.
- 2) Gorge Overlook.
- 3) Site of first homestead built in 1827 by Martin Sheldon on his 162 acres.
- 4) Site of homestead built in 1827 by Sheldon's neighbor, Joseph Trumbell, on his 154 acres.
- 5) This pathway led from the trail (today's bridle path) to the homestead and farm. Today, a gas line follows the pathway and Gorge Parkway follows the trail.
- 6) When Egbert Road was laid out, residents cut a new drive for egress to Egbert Road. The 1860 County Atlas lists it as Cleveland Hill Lane. Elmer Wight renamed it Wight Oaks Drive.
- 7) Site of the Clark Cleaveland house and bank barn.
- 8) Site of cottage Elmer B. Wight built for weekend guests.
- 9) Site of Joe Jesensky's cabin. Between 1923 and 1933 Jesensky spent many weekends and vacations hiking, sketching and taking field notes in the Tinkers Creek area. Jesensky assisted Wight with topographical maps of the area.

Bedford and began purchasing additional parcels of land in Bedford and outlying areas. (3)

In 1846 Abner Cleaveland and his elder son James, upon seeing exposed, commercial quality sandstone on the south hillside bank of Tinkers Creek, envisioned a money-making opportunity, and bought parcels of property along the creek that are now part of Walton Hills. Abner and James Cleaveland considered their purchase a business venture, with no intent of moving from their homes in Bedford. Instead, Abner's younger son Clark moved to the banks of Tinkers Creek, developed the quarry into a prosperous business and managed the dairy farm on acreage uphill and south of the quarry.

### JAMES CLEVELAND

James Cleaveland acquired more quarry land when, in 1859 at age <sup>35</sup>~~29~~, he married Edmond Gleeson's 32-year old widow, Charlotte Comstock Gleeson. James promptly sold his interest in the quarry land to his father. James Cleaveland and his wife Charlotte made Bedford their home, where from 1860-1862 he was Mayor.

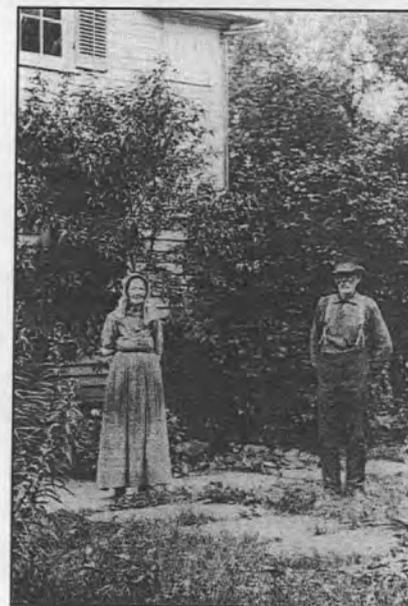
### CLARK CLEVELAND

Clark and Fanny Ladiska Cleaveland, built their house in c.1854. The site of the house is a short distance past the north end of Wight Oaks Drive. If the house were standing today, it would be west of the road, with the front of the house facing east. Their Greek Revival style home was a popular architectural form throughout the Greater Cleveland area from 1820 until 1860. Near the north side of their house stood one of their out-buildings, a large impressive-looking bank barn.

It is written that Clark Cleaveland made most of his money from the quarry, not from the dairy farm. Several buildings along Superior Street in downtown Cleveland were built with sandstone blocks from the Cleveland Quarry, and sandstone blocks from the Cleveland Quarry were used to build Walton School that still stands today at 7307 Walton Road.

Clark Cleaveland died at age 80 in 1913, and Fanny Cleaveland died six months later, at age 89. The gravestones of the Cleavelands can be seen in Bedford Cemetery.

(4)  
1909 photo of the CLEVELAND HILL FARMHOUSE, built c. 1854, on the west side of Wight Oaks Drive. Noted residents: Clark Cleaveland, Elmer Wight and the Virgil Allens. Margaret Allen, widow of our first mayor, sold the house and the last remaining parcel of their Walton Hills land to the Metroparks in 1977. (Photo reproduced by Nina Wolf)



FANNY and CLARK CLEVELAND in a 1910 photo. (Photo reproduced by Nina Wolf)

In 1929, sixteen years after Clark died, the Metroparks bought from Elmer B. Wight, their first parcel of "Cleveland" acreage, land that encompassed the quarry.

## "CLEAVELAND" or "CLEVELAND"

A county scribe by the name of John Tinker, is credited with revising the spelling of the name "Cleaveland." Moses Cleaveland and his descendants in this area are remembered by an incorrect spelling of their last name. Throughout his life, Abner Cleaveland signed his name as given to him, yet the carving on his marble marker at Bedford Cemetery is "Cleveland." Likewise, the names carved on tombstones of his descendants are also spelled "Cleveland." Abner's son James used the new spelling of his name, and his son Clark accepted both spellings. In the 1930s the faint lettering on the front of the large bank barn could still be read "The Cleaveland Farm."

## ELMER B. WIGHT

One Cleaveland Hill Farm owner of note was Elmer B. Wight, a wealthy man who devoted considerable time from 1914 into the 1930s to the documentation of Indian and pioneer existence, not only in the Tinkers Creek Valley, but throughout the Western Reserve and the State of Ohio.

CAST ALUMINUM PLAQUES marking the Mahoning Trail were nailed to strategically located trees in the 1920s by Elmer Wight and members of his Pathfinders Association No. 1. All plaques in our area were removed from the trees by memento-hunters.

(1986 photo by Nina Wolf)



Wight purchased the Cleaveland Hill property in 1917, a few years after Clark and Fanny Cleaveland died. Wight had hoped he and his ailing wife could move from their primary residence near Lake Erie to the Egbert Road property, but his plans never materialized. Wight used the house as a weekend retreat, especially in the summer, but never made it his permanent residence. During the Wight years, caretakers lived on the property, managed the farm and cared for the house.

In 1914 Wight founded the Indian Pathfinders Association No. 1. The goal of the Pathfinders was to draw maps of Indian trails as well as Indian campsites, villages, Indian and non-Indian forts, routes of military expeditions crossing the state, and sites of battles and other historic incidents. The men spent years researching material in libraries and museums throughout the country, conducting numerous interviews, corresponding and meeting with historians, and retracing the old trails on foot.

## TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS of TINKERS CREEK VALLEY

At his own expense Wight had aerial photographs taken of the area so he could more easily track old Indian and oxen trails. He wanted to use the photos to make topographical maps of the Tinkers Creek Valley.

In the early 1920s Elmer B. Wight befriended a young graphic artist who had been spending his weekends and vacations in Bedford Reservation. While hiking in the park, Joseph Jesensky drew sketches of scenic and historic spots and wrote field notes of his observations. The friendly young man became acquainted with local residents who lived near the park. The old timers related to Jesensky the local history of the area. It was that type of information, plus his acute observations, that Jesensky relied on to record his extensive field notes. Probably no one in those days knew Bedford Reservation better than Jesensky. Wight was impressed with the young man and asked Jesensky to help him by making individual topographical maps from his aerial photographs.

Between 1923 and 1933 Joe Jesensky and Elmer Wight used the photos to make a series of topographical maps of the Tinkers Creek Valley. Individual maps featured the rivers and creeks, old Indian trails, forts and campsites, oxen trails, roads, farmhouses and lines of fences, and other historic and scenic points of interest.

Copies of all these maps can be viewed at the Walton Hills Historical Resource Center.

In 1929 Elmer Wight sold to the Cleveland Metroparks the part of his land that included the quarry. This was the first of four parcels of the Cleaveland Hill Farm and Quarry that would eventually be park land. Before selling the acreage, Wight moved the original cottage that overlooked the quarry and gorge to a spot on his farm.

## HOME of the FIRST MAYOR of WALTON HILLS

Elmer Wight's daughter, Margaret, married his good friend's son, Virgil D. Allen, Jr. In the mid 1930s Margaret and Virgil Allen, Jr. remodeled and enlarged another cottage on the Cleaveland Hill Farm for a weekend and summer home. This cottage, originally built by Wight for his weekend guests, stood across the drive facing the main house. As years went by, the Allen family spent more and more time at their retreat in the country, until in 1946, three years after Elmer Wight passed away, they moved into the main house.

Virgil D. Allen, Jr. served as first Mayor of the Village of Walton Hills, from June 1951 to January 1954. He died nine years later. Allen is remembered for leading the drive for zoning ordinances in Bedford Township, organizing efforts and working for the incorporation of the village and writing the first set of Village Zoning Ordinances. He was instrumental in persuading Ford Motor Company to build a stamping plant in the village.

## REMAINING ACREAGE SOLD to METROPARKS

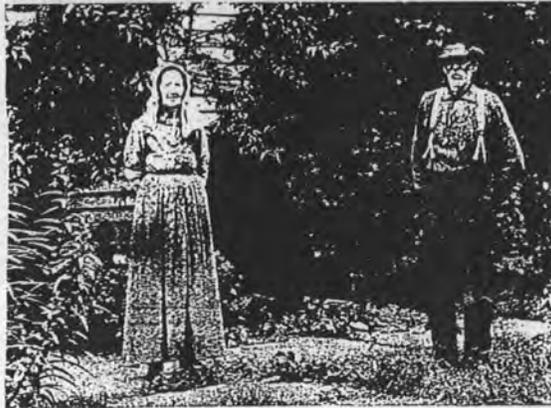
Margaret Wight Allen shared her father's keen interest in the ecology of the land. The Allens sold sections of the farm to the Metroparks in 1952 and 1961. In 1977, when she was ready to move in with her daughter Betsy, Margaret Allen wanted to assure herself that Cleaveland Hill Farm would become a natural preserve. She sold the remaining acreage, main house and bank barn to the Metroparks.



BORN IN 1832, CLARK A. CLEVELAND operated the Cleveland Quarry and the Cleveland Hill Farm from the 1850's until the 190's. After his father, Abner Cleveland, died in 1884 Clark owned the estate.



ELMER AND ALICE (PRITCHARD) WIGHT bought the Cleveland Hill Farm in 1917, using the main house as their summer cottage and weekend retreat. Alice died three years later in 1920, at age 42. (Date of photograph unknown)

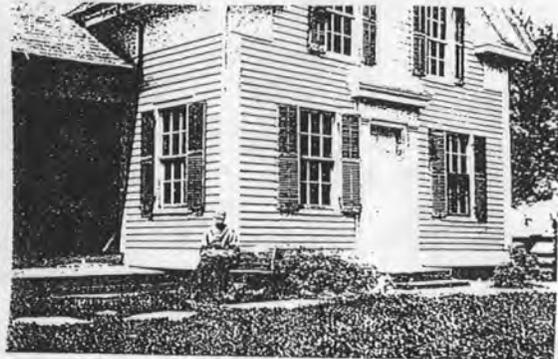


CLARK AND FANNY LADISKA CLEVELAND in a 1910 photograph are shown at the north side of their house. Clark died in 1913 at age 80, and Fanny died six months later, in 1914 at age 89. Both graves are in Bedford Cemetery.

VIRGIL D. ALLEN JR., the young man in this early 1920's photograph, in future years was to marry Elmer B. Wight's daughter, lead the drive for township zoning ordinances, organize efforts and work for incorporation of the village, write all zoning ordinances for the new village, serve as First Mayor of Walton Hills from June, 1951 to January, 1954, and persuade the Ford Motor Company to build its stamping plant here.



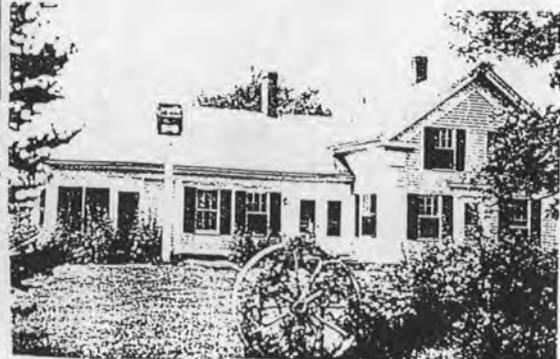
ALUMINUM PLAQUES MARKING THE MAHONING TRAIL were nailed to a number of trees in our area in the 1920's, by Elmer Wight and other members of the Indian Pathfinders Association No. 1.

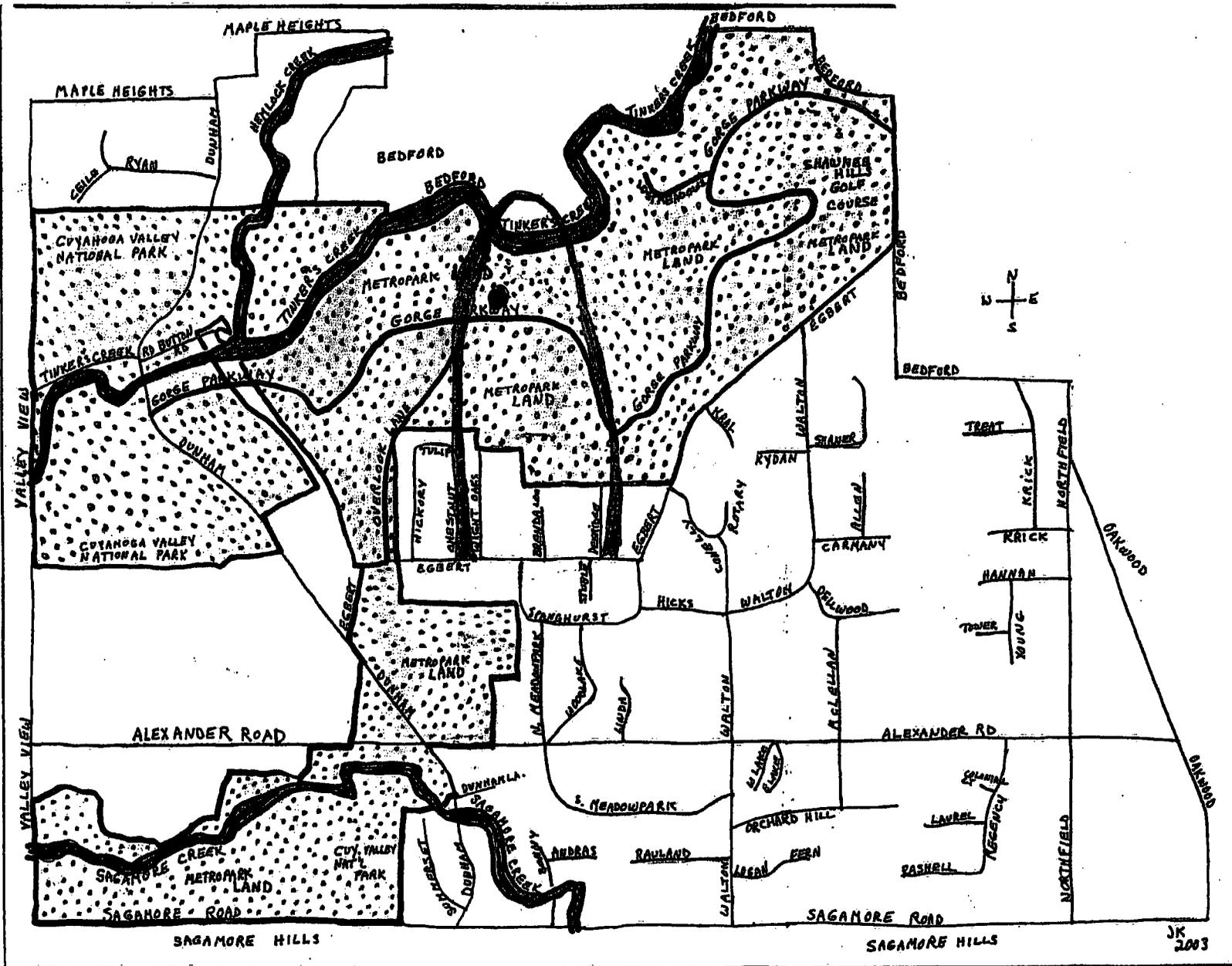


THE CLEVELAND HILL FARMHOUSE, built c. 1854, stands on Wight Oaks Drive, at 16535 Egbert Road. The Clark Clevelands and the Virgil Allens lived there and in the years between it was the summer cottage of Elmer B. Wight. Above: The house in 1909. The open porch on the south side is visible. Pictured is Fanny Ladiska Cleveland. Below: The house in 1950. The wing at the south side was added around 1920.

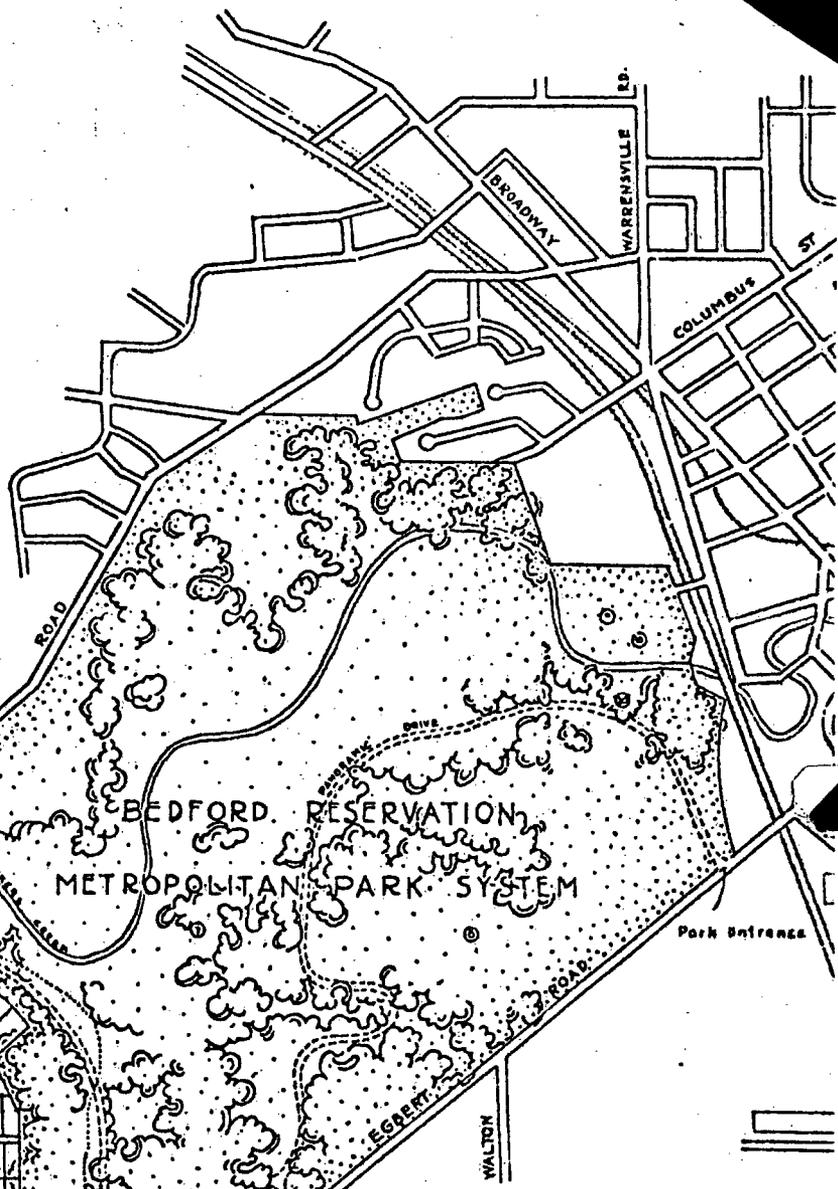
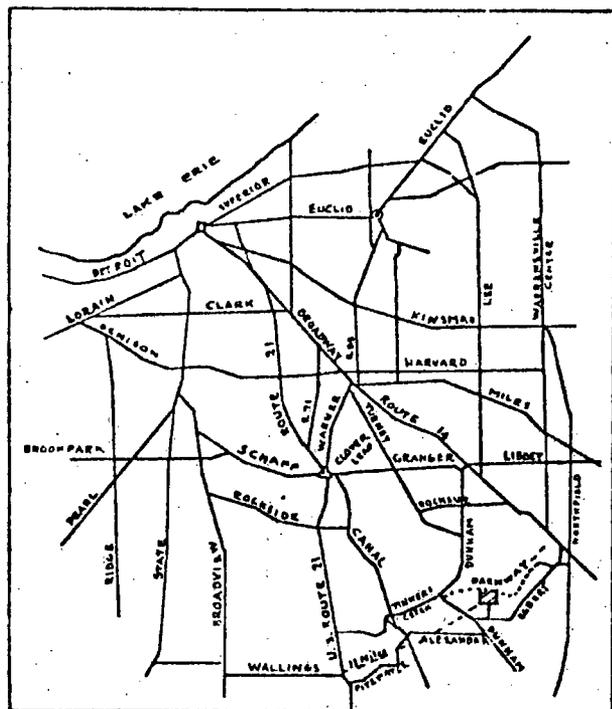


VIRGIL JR. AND MARGARET (WIGHT) ALLEN moved into the old Cleveland Hill Farm Homestead on Wight Oaks Drive in 1946. (Date of photograph unknown)





Adapted from page 10, *Historic Sites in our Parks*, Jean and Bob Kainsinger, c. 2004, 2006



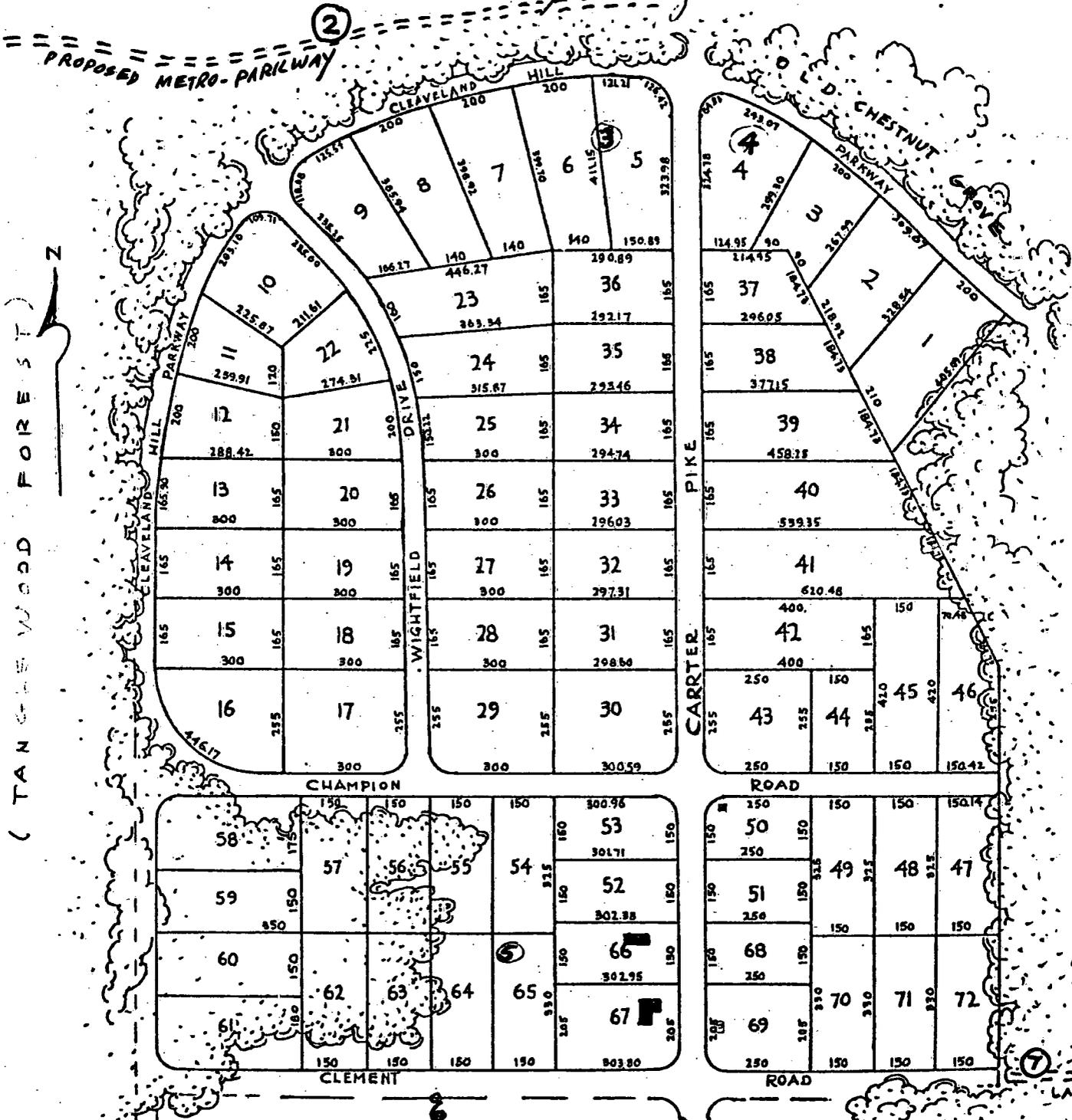
Legende

- ① Ancient Fortifications
- ② Cleveland Quarry
- ③ Cleveland log cabin site \*
- ④ Glenn's View
- ⑤ Terminal Tower View
- \* ⑥ Sheets log Cabin Site TRUMBELL
- ⑦ Lost meadow
- ⑧ Future golf course
- ⑨ Base ball park
- ⑩ Picnic grounds
- ⑪ Indian mound

GENERAL LOCATION OF PROPOSED  
CLEVELAND HILLS ESTATES  
ELMER B. WIGHT

JOS. D. JESENKY  
Cuyahoga Valley Historical Research  
700 La Fayette Dr. - Akron, OH 44302

From Mother Park Headquarters by Mr. C. Co.



(TANGEE WOOD FOREST)

- 2- CLEVELAND STONE QUARRY SITE
- 3- CLEVELAND LOG CABIN SITE - 1850
- 4- GORGE OVERLOOK PT.
- 5- TERMINAL TOWER VIEW PT.
- 6- SHEETS LOG CABIN SITE
- 7- BURTRIDGE CABIN SITE

Proposed -  
**CLEVELAND HILL ESTATES**

Elmer B. Wight

## HISTORIC HOUSE TO BE RAZED

Walton Hills Owl: October 1991 by Robert Kainsinger

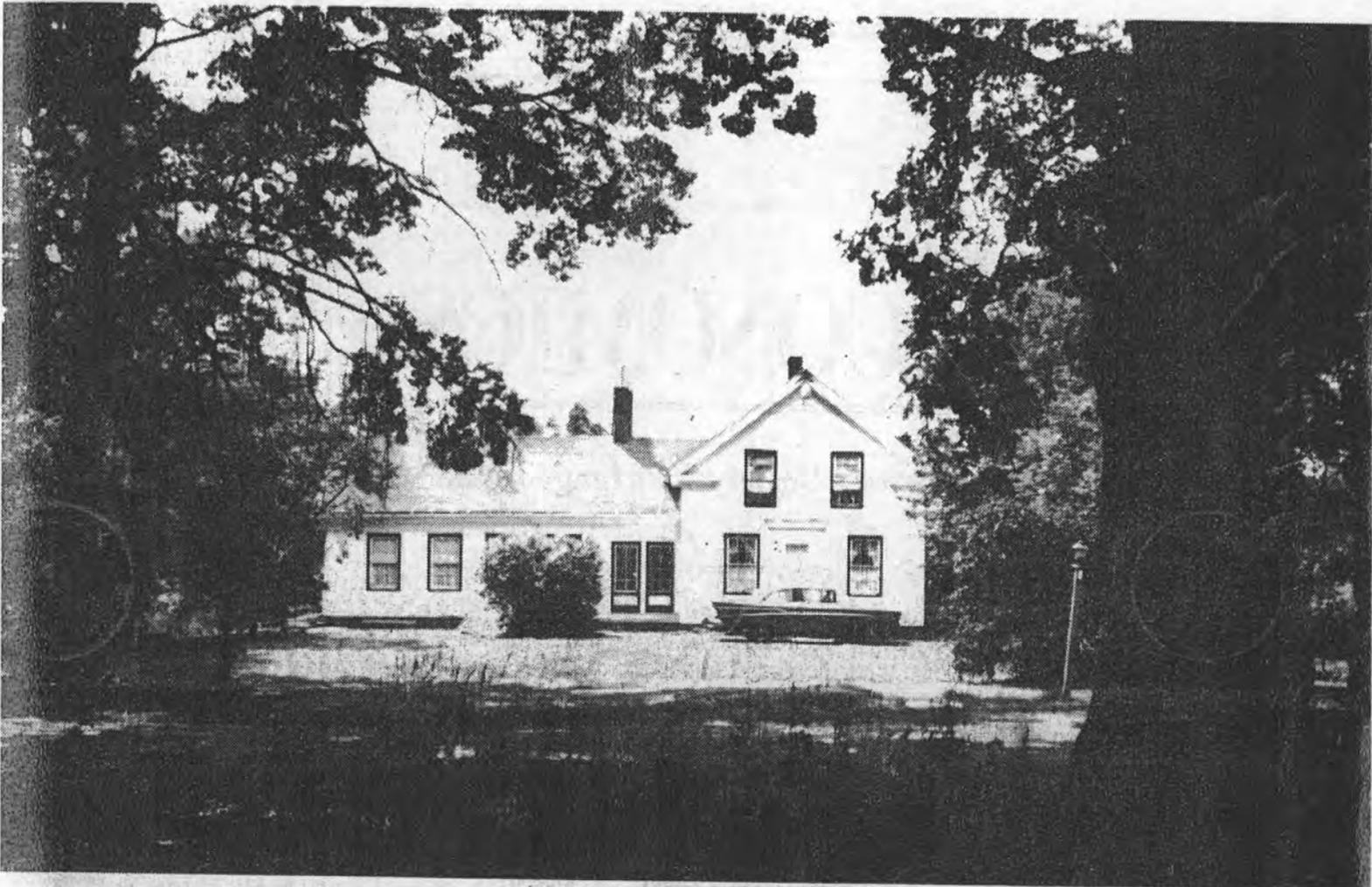
The historic Cleveland House built in 1854, at the end of Wight Oaks Drive, is one of several structures slated for razing within the next few weeks by the Metroparks.

The Metroparks Board has weighed the possibility of using the house for a nature center or museum. But the isolation of the house, the need for widening Wight Oaks Drive for legal access, and laws requiring modification of the house prove to be obstacles which the Metroparks cannot justify using tax monies.

The Board will reconsider its plans if an organization moves the house and undertakes its restoration and yearly maintenance.

Preservation and yearly upkeep would be expensive and time-consuming for any organization. The Bedford Historical Society cannot and will not undertake this project, nor can Hale Farm and Village. Unless a group of residents care to organize and manage a project of this magnitude, plans for razing will go on as scheduled. Interest parties please contact Councilors Bob Kainsinger or Doris Pankratz, or the Village Hall.

For more information: *The Village of Walton Hills: Tracing Our Heritage*, pages 59-73, and page 83



SUN PHOTOS BY KEVIN REEVE

d Allen farm on Wight Oaks Drive, off Egbert Road, is an example of farms of the past that have been left to go wild again. The farm house and a are all that remain of the buildings on the farm which is now part of the Cleveland Metroparks.

Bedford SunBanner  
8-8-1991

9-1991 Report on the Cleaveland House  
Metroparks razed house in 1992

Report on Willett residence (Cleaveland Hills farm)  
at the end of Wight Oaks Rd. (16536 Egbert, Walton Hills)  
Listed in "Tracing Our Heritage" book by the Kainsingers

Sept. 22, 1991 (beginning on page 59)

Approximately four weeks ago, Debbie Willett approached Bedford Historical Society about the Cleaveland Hills farm. She and her Metroparks ranger husband live there as rent-paying tenants of Metroparks. As Metroparks wishes to get out of the landlord business, and for other reasons, the buildings on the Cleaveland Hills farm property are scheduled for razing in the near future, along with almost a dozen other buildings on Metroparks properties.

The original part of the house was built in 1854; an adjacent barn with slate roof (which is in need of \$1,000 in repair) was erected in 1929 to replace an earlier barn, which burned down.

Early residents, the Wight family donated <sup>50%</sup> much of the Bedford Metropark acreage. Of even greater interest is the road (actually narrow gravel driveway) leading to it. This intersects a section of the original Bedford township- before it was named Bedford!- and <sup>was</sup> laid out by Lorenzo Carter in 1797. Traces of it remain in Metropark and in a modern highway in Maple Heights.

Metroparks has weighed the possibility of a nature center or a museum as a goal for the buildings. But the isolation of the property, the laws requiring modification of the structures for public use, the need for parking, toilets, and widening of Wight Oaks Road for legal access: these proved to be obstacles which Metroparks cannot justify using tax monies to overcome.

Carl Cassavecchia, Park Naturalist, referred me to Steve Coles of Metroparks headquarters (531-6300). Steve Coles said Metroparks had received bids for demolition of all buildings scheduled to be razed. Contracts for these services will be signed within a short time. However, if any organization or municipality comes up with a proposal whereby Metroparks would no longer be responsible for the Cleaveland Hills farm buildings, but still own the property they stand on, demolition can be delayed or even cancelled. This should be a concrete proposal and not just a "save the buildings" plea. Proposal should be to Mr. Vern Hartenberg, 4101 Fulton Parkway, Cleveland OH 44144, to his personal attention, and as soon as possible. He is director of Metroparks, and responsible to the Metroparks trustees (who decided to raze the many buildings described previously).

Preservation is difficult, and the time factor adds to this. About the only way our Historical Society could accomplish this project is in partnership with the village of Walton Hills, Audubon Society, or other bodies. Restoration and repair are future responsibilities, along with water supply, septic tank system, immediate repairs needed to preserve, fire and liability insurance. Again the time factor enters. Joint proposal would include resident caretaker not connected with Metroparks. The house is interesting inside and out. Renovation by the tenant may not be in keeping with the 1854 era.

Possibly the buildings cannot be saved. I suggested to Steve Coles access only by hiking path, with small shelter and pit toilet, would be a good destination on foot, along with a sign erected by Metropark and our Society, commemorating the Cleaveland Hills/ Wight farm and the Lorenzo Carter road. Not satisfactory, but a solution.

Lynn Jones, member Bedford Historical Soc. Board of Trustees

HOUSE  
RAZED  
in  
1992

# Wilderness reclaims pioneer farm



Ed Kuilder, Cleveland Metroparks natural resource manager, tends the old Allen farm's fields, keeping some areas cut low while allowing others to grow wild.

By **FRANK COOK**  
Staff Writer

Looking at the old Allen farm located off Wight Oaks Drive in the Cleveland Metroparks in Walton Hills, it is difficult to tell that it was once a thriving business, with a quarry operation and acreage for farming.

It's all overgrown now with trees, bushes and shrubs. To the untrained eye, it would appear the fields have been allowed to go wild with little or no management.

But that is far from true.

Just ask Ed Kuilder, Cleveland Metroparks natural resource manager, and Peggy Jarrett, naturalist.

They recently conducted a tour of the old Allen farm to show how farming practices changed the landscape forever, and how the Metroparks is maintaining the land now.

Kuilder keeps a careful eye on what is growing on the 10-acre farm, described as "a relic of rural Ohio."

This summer's lack of rain has been a concern for him.

"We had a nice spring; that helped," he said. "But I'm surprised some of the plants have held out this long. The soil is not that good to begin with."

Fruit and nut trees now grow wild and provide a wide variety of foods for the animals that live around the farm, he said.

They include blueberries, raspberries, an old apple orchard, chestnut, walnut, dogwoods, hawthornes, crabapples and much, much more.

Every couple of years, Kuilder cuts back some of the trees and bushes. This allows plants such as onions, milkweed and goldenrod to flourish that would otherwise be shut off from sunlight to grow.

Along with the usual animals of the Cleveland Metroparks, such as deer, raccoons and skunks, Kuilder said the vegetation and a large, old white oak have attracted a pair of turkey vultures that now call the Allen farm home.

Of course, the history of the farm has shaped the way the farm is

today.

Jarrett cites "Tracing Our Heritage" by Jean and Robert Kainsinger, a history of Walton Hills Village, for much of the available information about the farm.

Two former owners of the farm of note were Elmer B. Wight, who was instrumental in documenting the Indian and pioneer history of the area, and Virgil D. Allen Jr., who was the first mayor of the village.

The farm was surveyed in the early 1800s. By the 1840s quarrying became a major industry along the banks of Tinker's Creek and its tributaries. By the 1880s the market for commercial grade sandstone seemed unlimited.

Abner Cleveland and his sons, James and Clark, purchased property along the creek and started a quarrying operation.

In 1929, 16 years after Clark Cleveland died, the land around the quarry was sold to the Cleveland Metroparks.

In 1917, Elmer Wight bought the farm and used it as a summer home for many years. Caretakers tended the farm during those years. In 1977, the farm was sold to the Cleveland Metroparks.

"During the quarrying years, teams of oxen hauled the cut stone to Egbert Road from its remote location along the banks of the creek. Today, the lane created by the wagons and oxen is the bridle trail between Gorge Parkway and Tinker's Creek," according to the Kainsinger's book.

The two-story Greek Revival style homestead on the farm was built by Clark and Fanny Cleveland in 1854. The frame house had a slate roof until 1986 and pegged wood plank flooring. Sandstone blocks from the family quarry line the basement walls.

In later years a wing was added to the original structure. The house is due to be torn down in a couple of months, part of an overall plan by the Cleveland Metroparks to get out of the leasing business of homes

within its boundaries.

"We're a park district and we have limited resources," said M. Jane Christyson, marketing and district services director. "Keeping these houses isn't serving the taxpayers well."

But when the house is gone, the fields and tree stands will remain and continue to be a home to the wildlife and the wild plants, under the attentive care of Metroparks employees such as Kuilder.



# BEDFORD MAP

## Cemetery Tour - Monday May 23, 2011

Section 13: Veterans stop 1  
Ellen Byers: WW-11 woman Marine  
Lived on Orchard Hill, Summerset Drives  
in Walton Hills and in Bedford

Babyland Section stop 2  
by Sections 10 and 12 and Northfield Rd Bridge

Section 2: Cleveland Family stop 3 and 4  
Marilla Cleveland 7-0-104-3 (1841) reinterment  
Sally Cleveland 7-0-42 (1852) reinterment  
Abner Cleveland 7-0-104-1  
Albert Cleveland 7-0-104-6  
Amanda Cleveland 7-0-104-2  
Charlotte Cleveland 8-0-42-3  
Clark Cleveland 7-0-103-6  
Fanny Cleveland 7-0-103-6  
James Cleveland 7-0-42-1  
Mary Cleveland 7-0-104-5  
Nellie Cleveland 7-0-104-7

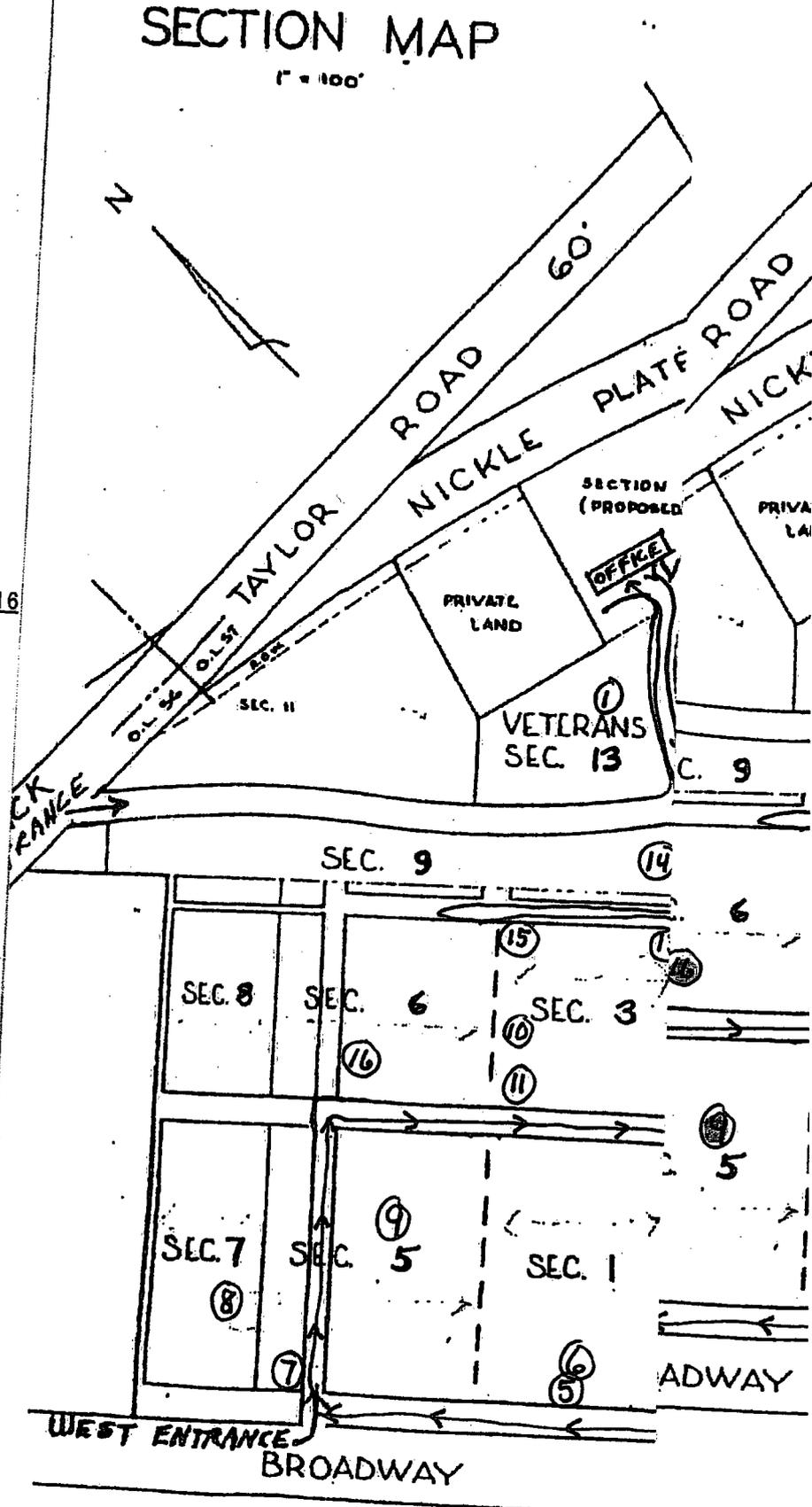
Section 1 and 2: Bedford Gypsies/Gypsy Queens stop 5 and 6  
Mary Loretta Mitchell section 1  
Annie Mitchell  
Rose Mitchell  
Solemia Mitchell section 2 block 0 lot 142 grave 7  
George Mitchell  
Green Mitchell  
Alex Mitchell

Section 5 stop 7  
James Venditti-Bedford photographer

Section 7: Cowan stop 8  
Mary Cowan died in 1998, age 91  
taught at Case-Western Univ.  
Nationally known Forensic Scientist  
lived on Ennis in Bedford, never married

Section 5: Gleeson Family stop 9  
Moses Gleeson block 0 lot 60  
Anna Gleeson  
Celia Gleeson  
Emma Gleeson  
Mary Gleeson  
Moses Gleeson  
Moses Gleeson  
Philura Gleeson  
Polly Gleeson  
S. B. Gleeson  
William Gleeson  
William Gleeson

Section 6: Gleeson Family  
Celia Gleeson  
Paul Gleeson



# CEMETERY

Cemetery Tour - Monday May 23, 2011

Section 3

stop 10

Milo Barnum- Civil War veteran  
Helped form Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)  
block0 lot78 grave1

Section 3: Egbert:Family

stop 11

Son Egbert 0-57-6 (1838) reinterment  
Son Egbert 0-57-7 (1839) reinterment  
Marie Egbert 0-59-4 (1844) reinterment  
Mary Egbert 0-59-5 (1844) reinterment  
Ransome Egbert 0-57-4 (1852) reinterment  
Sarah Egbert 0-57-5 (1852) reinterment  
Adrian Egbert 0-84-3  
Elsie Egbert 0-58-7  
Hannah Egbert 0-57-3  
Henry Egbert 0-84-4  
James Egbert 0-57-1  
James Egbert 0-58-6  
Jane Egbert 0-57-2  
Jessimine Egbert 0-58-3  
John Egbert 0-58-1  
Linna Egbert 0-58-4  
Lorinda Egbert 0-58-2  
Mary Egbert 0-84-6  
William Egbert 0-84-1

Section 2

stop 12

Richard Sedlon-famous Bedford artist  
block0 lot17 grave9

Section 3: Schneider

stop 13

0-16-4 Owner of *Best Foundry*  
His mansion with huge lake, boat house  
stood at site of Vincentian Hall Party Center  
Land fronted Broadway Ave., Northfield Rd., Union Street.  
Land included Vincentian Sisters property,  
St. Mary's Church and School, and Light of Hearts Villa.  
His property was sold to Bernard Schatzinger.  
Schatzinger, called "St. Bernard" by the nuns, soon afterward donated  
the estate to the Catholic Church, probably with specific designations  
its usage.

Section 9

stop 14

Mary Godwin-Titanic survivor  
block0 lot187 grave2

Section 3: Mighton Family

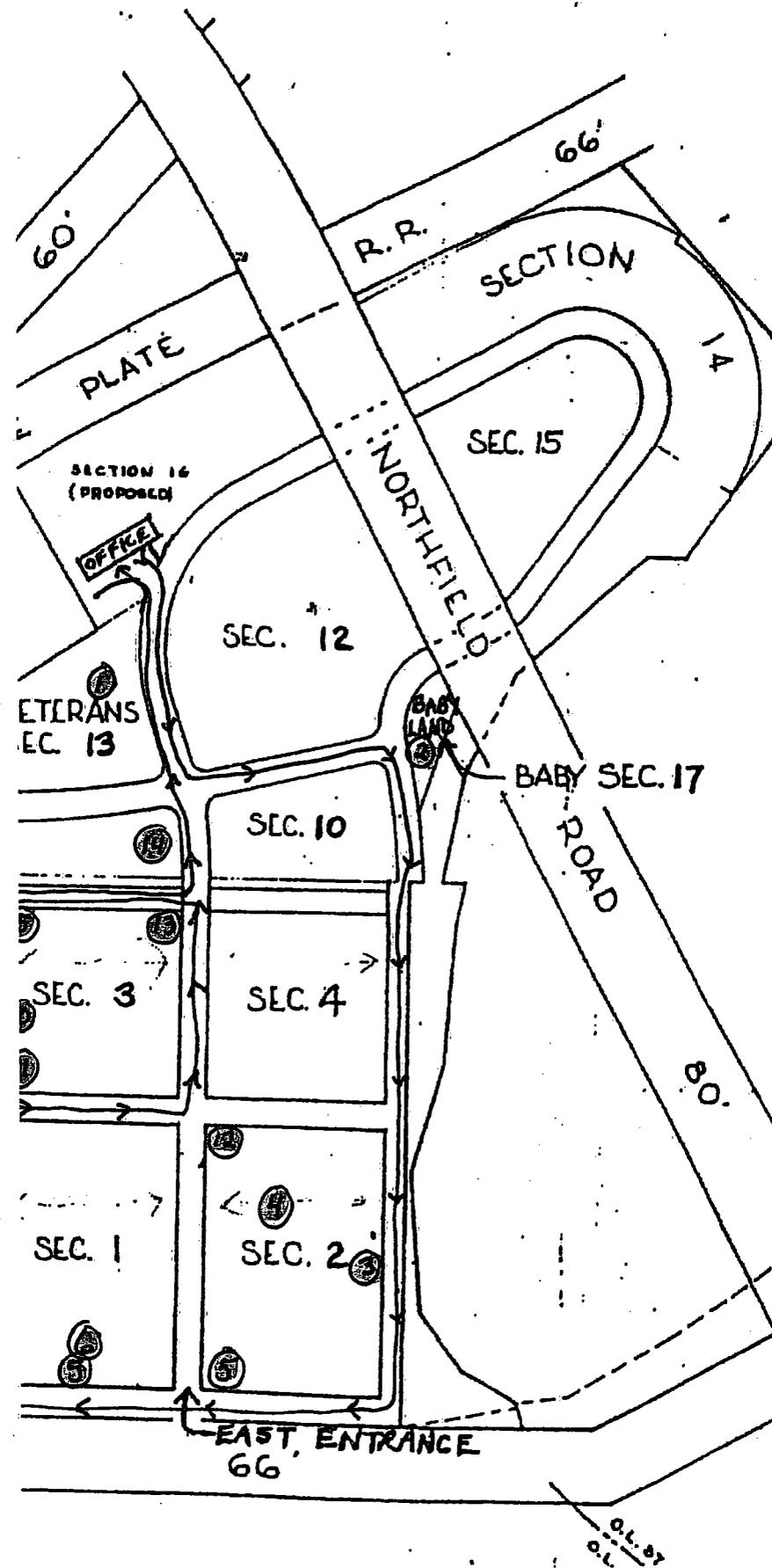
stop 15

Doggie Dinner/K-Rations WW-11

Section 6

stop 16

Julius Tibb- an escaped Slave who settled  
in Bedford, lived on Center Road  
block0 lot65 grave4



## *Abner Cleaveland of Bedford*

On the 29th day of July, 1836, articles of agreement were signed by two residents of the town of Bedford, which resulted in the transfer of a piece of property from one owner to the next, for the consideration of payment of \$170. The valued document survives to this day, and reads in part:

"Articles of agreement made and entered into this 29th day of July 1836 by & between Abner Cleaveland and James Patterson both of the Town of Bedford Cuyahoga County & State of Ohio. Witnesseth that the said Cleaveland hath this day sold to the Patterson a certain tract or parcel of Land situated in Lot 46 in Bedford beginning at an oak plug 2 chains five links from the center of the highway running North 18 degrees 08 minutes West..." etc., with the complete description of the boundaries thereto, and to the place of beginning.

It contained one-half acre of land, with 170 dollars to be paid as follows: "Seventy dollars in hand the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged and one hundred dollars on the fifteenth day of September next." Apparently Patterson was unable to meet that entire obligation, for a brief memo on the reverse side of the agreement, signed by "A. Cleaveland," notes that fifty dollars was received on the within contract Sept. 15, 1836.

The document was written in ink in a delicate, legible script. It was signed by Abner Cleaveland and James (his mark) Patterson. His mark was a crude "X." The scribe spelled Cleaveland's name with the first "a" three times in the written agreement and twice without it, or just plain Cleaveland. This probably indicates the problem and annoyance that Abner Cleaveland contended with throughout his life, in having his name spelled incorrectly.

The price of 170 dollars for just one-half acre may seem high for those pioneer days of 1836, but the property was in Township Lot 46, a prime site near the center of the village. Mr. Cleaveland made sure that, in spite of selling the property, he would still reap the fruits of his springtime planting. A condition was added to the agreement,

stipulating that "the privilege of harvesting the same when ripe."

Later that year, on September 4, 1836, Abner Cleaveland purchased two acres and 31 rods of land in the village of Bedford, west of Willis Street near the Public Square, from Hezekiah and Clarissa Dunham. Here again the scribe, who was John Tinker, simplified the spelling of the name, making it "Cleveland." The warranty deed was signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of Tinker and D. B. Dunham, with the signatures of Hezekiah Dunham and Clarissa Dunham.



Ladosky and Clark Cleaveland (Abner Cleaveland's son) and their dog relaxing beside the old farmhouse off Egbert Road, about 1900.

## LIFE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Ten years later Abner Cleaveland bought a parcel of farmland out in the Township, a couple of miles west of the village. On September 24, 1846, an agreement was signed in which David B. Dunham agreed to sell to Abner and James C. Cleaveland 130 acres of land in Township Lot No. 63, for 1300 dollars. Though Abner continued to cling to the original spelling of his name (Cleaveland) his son James adopted the conventional form (Cleveland).

A fine farm home and barn were built on the property at some time in the late nineteenth century. The house survived in a good state of preservation until early this year (1992). The Cleaveland's former farm and house have been within the boundaries of Bedford Reservation of the Metroparks system for many years, and now those who decide such things have targeted the historic Cleaveland home for demolition, not being in the future plans of the Park. The site is situated in an isolated area at the end of a lane, about a half mile north of Egbert

Road, with part of it adjacent to the former Egbert farm.

And now, many years after the acreage last felt the turning of the soil by the steel tip of a plow, much of the old farmland is heavily wooded, as the forest takes back its own.

In 1869 Abner Cleaveland, then 72 years of age, bought lots number 103 and 104 in Section 2 in Bedford Township Cemetery, for the total price of twelve dollars. Here would be the resting place for generations of the Cleaveland family. One year later his wife Amanda was buried there and Abner followed in 1884. He was born May 20, 1797, in New York state and died in Bedford April 11, 1884.

It is ironic that, though he continued to write his name "Cleaveland" until his last days on earth, there on the impressive marble marker in the cemetery, for all to see for all time, the name "Cleveland" is carved in large, bold letters.



Mrs. Clark Cleaveland at the old family homestead, 1909.

*Amy Dasky & the Cat*  
*Sat May 29-09*

*Note written on the back of the above photo, 1909.*

# Typos plagued Abner Cleaveland

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## Around the Town

By the Village Observer

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and" is carved in large, bold letters.

## STIRS INTEREST IN OHIO INDIAN TRAILS HISTORY

### Virgil D. Allen Returns From Making Series of Talks at Massillon

Virgil D. Allen is back from Massillon where he has been speaking before school children and others in an effort to create additional interest in Ohio's old Indian trails.

Allen is head of the Allen-Osborn Co., engineers and architects, Rose Building. He formerly was head of the Building Inspection Department of the city.

#### Knows Indian Trails

He's one of the best posted men on Indian trails in Ohio. He has been interested in the old trails for years and has been over many of them. He's planning to trail many again this season.

Massillon is going to celebrate its 100th anniversary next fall. One of the features of the program will be the erection of a great boulder marking an important point on the old Greenville treaty line. The treaty was made at Ft. McIntosh in 1785 and fixed the boundary line between the United States and the western Indian nations.

#### Down Cuyahoga River

The line came down the Cuyahoga River to Portage Path, which extended thru what is now Akron to the Tuscarawas River. It followed the Tuscarawas to the Great Crossings at what is now Bolivar, O. The trail then went a little south of west across Ohio to the Big Miami River, thence to a point where St. Clair was defeated at Ft. Recovery and on south to the mouth of the Kentucky River.

Allen is making a map showing all the important old trails and sites of old forts.

ROSE BUILDING  
BROWNING BUILDING  
BUILDING A.  
" B.  
" C.  
EAST NINTH STREET

Benjamin Rose Estate

R. K. PELTON, AGENT  
1006 ROSE BUILDING

TELEPHONES:  
MAIN 2373  
CENTRAL 6376

CLEVELAND

June 19th, 1914.

P. P. Cherry,  
Akron, O.

Dear Sir:-

The following named gentlemen having all read your Portage Path and being much interested, instructed and stimulated thereby, have formed the

Indian Path Finders  
Association No. 1.  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Viz: Virgil D. Allen, Com'r of Buildings Cleveland.  
Fred M. Barton, Publisher "  
Chas. Orr, Ex-Director Public Schools "  
Elmer S. Wight, Civil Engineer "  
and Russell K. Pelton, the writer.

We have already found the location at Tinkers Creek, Cuyahoga County, of the settlement of the Moravian or Christian Indians in 1786 and are preparing an accurate as possible map of all the Indian trails or paths of northeastern Ohio. We are having splendid success. We hope to erect tablets at points thereon in Cuyahoga County, and to interest the public in such matters. We think that five men who are active, congenial and mutually interested, are enough for any County association.

My friend Mr. W. S. Kent of Kent, Ohio, is much interested and will no doubt form an association at Kent of five men for Portage County; and as you well know the "Standing Stone" in the Cuyahoga river at Kent was the crossing place of an ancient Indian Trail coming up from the Mahoning River country. Association No. 2 will be formed by five gentlemen in Youngstown, and I write to ask if you will kindly be enough interested to form No. 3 in Akron? I feel sure that my friend Mr. Cash and three others whom you can suggest will join you.

In reading the history of Indian Paths in Ohio by Arthur Hurlbert I find in a foot note his indebtedness for information furnished by John Hovey of Akron. As this was written about twelve years ago Mr. Hovey may have passed over the Great Divide.

Can I hear from you if you are interested and greatly oblige so I can give you additional information. We will all feel very grateful if you can help us.

Yours truly,

Russell K. Pelton

*834 Colburn St Akron out S. main to Horton*

A F F I D A V I T.

*compiled by Robert A. Burns*

THE STATE OF OHIO )  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY. ) ss.

Elmer B. Wight of the City of Cleveland, in said county, being duly sworn, says:

That about thirty-five years ago, Mr. John Geisendorfer, who at that time was an old man accompanied me to his farm which was a part of Tract 3, Lots 18, 24 and 30 of Independence Township, and by word of mouth imparted to me the tradition as herein set forth and which relates to the large Sycamore Tree near the River Road and directly west of the confluence of the Cuyahoga River and Tinkers Creek:

"PILGRIM'S SYCAMORE

In 1786 this tree sheltered Moravian Missionaries, while in council, after disembarking from canoes on nearby Cuyahoga river. Pilgerruh Village occupied site of an Ottawa Indian town on plateau above Canal and Dunham Roads".

and further saith not.

*Elmer B. Wight*

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of March, 1930.

*Roland A. Baskitt*  
Notary Public.

ROBERT PURNS JR  
14114 KENNERDOWN AV  
CLEVELAND OHIO 44137

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED  
WITHOUT PERMISSION OF  
THE HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
10820 East Boulevard • Cleveland, Ohio 44108



2/28/32

This is a reproduction of an old drawing picturing the first meeting of David Zaiser, Moravian missionary, with the Indians just south of Cleveland in 1786, when Pilgeruh was established.

ROBERT BURNS JR  
14114 KENNERDORN AV  
CLEVELAND OH 44137

CONSTITUTION OF  
THE INDIAN PATHFINDERS' ASSOCIATION  
OF  
CLEVELAND, OHIO.

Preamble.

Before the coming of the White Man, the forests of Ohio were traversed by paths, or trails, many of which were used as main lines of travel for centuries, some unquestionably originating in the days of the mound builders.

All the important Indian villages were located on, or close to these paths, and likewise all the events connected with the passing of the Indian and the coming of the White Man were controlled by the paths.

Practically every military expedition of the Indian and 1812 wars followed these paths.

Most of the early forts were built at points which commanded one or more of them. Therefore, a knowledge of these paths is of first importance to the student of early Ohio history.

No map of Ohio exists, which shows with any degree of accuracy the location of these paths, Indian villages, routes of military expeditions and fort sites.

Objects.

The Indian Pathfinders' Association of Cleveland is organized for the purpose of locating, monumenting and recording these paths and the historic incidents connected with them.

Organization.

The organization shall consist of a President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors, elected annually, who shall be authorized to transact the business of the organization during the intervals between meetings.

*Cleveland & Jackson*  
*Aug. 5, 1916*

# Clevelanders Mark Old Indian Trails

**A** GROUP of Cleveland men has organized the Indian Pathfinders' Association, because its object is to find Indian paths or Indian trails.

Some of the oldest and most important of these trails are right here in Ohio. These are the trails the Indian Pathfinders are most directly interested in. On opportune occasions they don hiking paraphernalia and, armed with the power of observation, delve into the early history of this continent by means of actual field work. Oftentimes they have been mistaken for tramps and set upon by dogs. As frequently have they come upon new sources of information.

While wondering about near Earlville, Ohio, inquiries were made of a farmer who subsequently proved to be a collector of interesting Indian relics he had picked up on the trail which ran through his farm. The farmer was approached while driving cows by Pathfinder R. K. Pelton. They got to reminiscing, whereupon it turned out that they were on the very spot where Mr. Pelton, when a farmer boy, had met the farmer driving cows just forty years before.

Mr. Pelton wears an arrowhead fob of Tennessee jasper, found at Brecksville. It proves, incidentally, that Indians from Tennessee passed through. Mr. Pelton didn't find the arrowhead himself. He has been trying to find arrowheads for forty years, but has been unsuccessful. Some of the members, according to the trail-hunters, have a sixth sense by means of which they locate objects underfoot.

Thus while Mr. V. D. Allen, a member of the association, picked up valuable specimens from about a tree to which one of the pathfinders' identifying tablets was being fastened at Northfield, Mr. Pelton couldn't locate an arrowhead.

First, the present members of the Pathfinders' Association delved individually into the extraordinary love of early American and Ohio history, merely as a personal hobby. Then, as they came across brother travelers on the highways of Indian history and history of Indian highways, they banded together for the enlargement of their facilities for research.

The charter members of the association were Mr. Elmer D. Wight, president of the association and a Cleveland surveyor; Mr. Virgil D. Allen, secretary, an engineer; Mr. R. K. Pelton, manager of the Rose estate; Mr. F. M. Barton, book publisher, and Attorney De Lo E. Mook, the boy scout commissioner.



MR. ELMER B. WIGHT AN ENTHUSIASTIC INDIAN PATHFINDER



MR. F. M. BARTON, A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE INDIAN PATHFINDERS' ASSOCIATION

These men derive pleasure and educational benefit from their hobby. It is a fact that the civilization of this continent has developed along the old Indian paths. A study of these paths is a history of not only of what has come since then, but of much that has gone before. It is such a field of knowledge that is open to the pathfinders, and which they acquire.

It has been found that a Delaware Indian village existed on the site of Willow Station, southeast of Cleveland. Mr. F. M. Barton discovered much here by poking about with a stick. First he unearthed some ashes, which led to buried pottery and also to a skeleton with an Indian pipe having the insignia of the turtle, proving the old village to have been occupied by the Delaware tribe.

On the Tuttle farm in the same vicinity a big stone was run into while plowing. Investigations are being made in the hope of finding an Indian sepulchre.

Another object of the association is the tracing of the origination of the names of streams in Ohio. Many of these are Indian names, or were Indian names. Some of them have been changed by successive Indian and Caucasian settlers. It has been found that there were at one time three Miami rivers in Ohio and that the Cuyahoga (by heroic restraint not called the "muddy" Cuyahoga) has been called White River and the De Saguin.

Eventually, it is the plan of the association to personally mark the old trails with suitable plates. The engineering contingent is continually engaged on charts, which will eventually form the most complete map of its kind ever published.

The members have already traced some of the trails and have marked them. They use large aluminum plates for the marking, these plates being screwed to trees and having on them wording that tells their purpose. In the woods and on the farms in northern Ohio persons occasionally come upon these plates.

The members are tracing the trails from Pittsburgh to Cleveland and westward, and from Akron and other points northward to Cleveland.

All this just as the result of a hobby, undeniably most interesting; and besides, says Secretary Allen, "the walking's good for us fellows."

Received August 5<sup>th</sup> 1861

8-5-1861 Sheets  ~~bought~~  property for \$1000  <sup>from</sup>  Abner Cleveland

Recorded August 12<sup>th</sup> 1861

July 6<sup>th</sup> 1861 recorder

Mary Sheets

Clement Sheets & Wife to Abner Cleveland

Clement Sheets wife to Abner Cleveland R 525

To all people to whom these presents shall come greeting. Know ye that Clement Sheets and Mary Sheets wife of said Clement Sheets of Bedford township for the consideration of one thousand dollars received to our full satisfaction of Abner Cleveland do give, grant, bargain sell and confirm unto him the said Abner Cleveland the following described tract or lot of land situated in the town of Bedford in the county of Cuyahoga and state of Ohio and is known as being forty and one half acres of land off the north side of lot No 73 seventy three the south line to run parallel with the north line of said lot No (73) said one half acre now laid out as a road through the said 40 1/2 acres, also another piece or parcel of land 100 ft wide running north and south through the center of said lot No 73 from the south line of said forty 1/2 acres to the south line of said lot No (73) being one and fifty one hundredths acres of land 100/100 acres be the same more or less. To have and to hold the above granted and bargained premises with the appurtenances thereto belonging unto him the said Abner Cleveland and his heirs and assigns forever to him and their own proper use and behoof, and I the said Clement Sheets do for myself & heirs and executors and administrators covenant with the said Abner Cleveland and his heirs and assigns that at once and until the sealing of these presents I am well seized of the premises as a good and indefeasible estate in fee simple and have good right to bargain and sell the same in manner and form as above written and that the same be free from all encumbrances whatsoever. And furthermore I the said Clement Sheets do by these presents bind myself and my heirs forever to warrant and defend the above granted and bargained premises to him the said Abner Cleveland and his heirs and assigns against all lawful claims and demands whatsoever. And I the said Mary Sheets do hereby remise release and

Cuyahoga Co Com. Pleas Court, EDMUND B. HASERODT, Clerk

forever quit-unto the said Almer Cleveland his heirs and assigns all my right and title of Dower in the above described premises. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals the 30<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight-hundred and sixty one.

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of  
J. C. Cleveland  
Jane L. Sheets.

Clement Sheets *[Signature]*  
Mary + Sheets *[Signature]*  
Witness her mark  
J. C. Cleveland

The state of Ohio  
Cuyahoga County

Bedford July 30<sup>th</sup> 1861. Before me a Justice of the Peace within and for said County personally appeared the said Clement Sheets and Mary Sheets and Acknowledged that they did sign and seal the foregoing instruments and that the same is their free act and deed. J. C. Cleveland,  
I further certify that I did examine the said Mary Sheets separate and apart from her husband and did then and there make known to her the contents of the foregoing instrument and upon that examination she declared that she did voluntarily sign seal and acknowledge and that she is still satisfied therewith.

J. C. Cleveland  
Justice of the Peace.

Received Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 1861  
Recorded Aug 12<sup>th</sup> 1861  
Mary A. Hill Secy Recorder

William Herreff vs Stephen Waller

To all people to whom these presents shall come greeting. Know ye that we William Herreff and Mary Herreff wife of said William of Bedford township Cuyahoga county Ohio for the consideration of five hundred and twenty five dollars have sold and conveyed unto the said Stephen Waller

Margaret Wight (Elmer Wight's Daughter) b. 1898 Lake Erie College  
Virgil Allen, Jr (Virgil Allen, Sr.'s son) b. 1898 Western Reserve College

They married after college

Children: James, Betsy Baker, Johanna Irish

Virgil Allen, Jr.

persuaded Ford to locate its stamping plant here  
was our 1st Mayor: 2 terms, June 1951 - January 1954  
served as the Village law solicitor  
wrote 1st ordinances for the village -all for \$1.00 a year

Virgil Allen, Jr. died in 1963 at age 65, complications of diabetes

Margaret Wight, in failing health, in 1977 moved to Kirtland to live with daughter Betsy

Most of the land was sold to Metroparks for Bedford Reservation:

In 1929 Elmer Wight sold 1st of 4 parcels to the parks

In 1952 and 1961 his daughter and son-in-law sold parcels 2 and 3 to the parks

In 1977 his daughter sold the last parcel with the house, bank barn

The house, cottage, bank barn are all gone, and mother nature is restoring it to its natural state

In 1917 Elmer B. Wight bought the Cleaveland Hill property

( His research indicated he was a descendent of Moses Cleveland )

Farm house was his weekends and summer cottage from 1917 - 1940s

He had caretakers live there. House, 2 cottages, cabin, large bank barn

Elmer B. Wight

Landscaping and Civil Engineer: office in the Rose Bldg.

Born into wealth b. 1869 d 1943 at age 74

1914: Wight founded and was President of the Indian Pathfinders Association

Virgil Allen, Sr.

Engineer: President of the Allen-Osbom Co. office in the Rose Bldg.

Allen was the Secretary of the Indian Pathfinders Association

The 2 men became friends, each had a passion for local history and hiking

Indian Pathfinders Association

To locate, mark, record, create a Historic Map of Indian Trails in Western Reserve and Ohio

To locate, mark record Indian villages, routes of military expeditions, sites of forts, sites of battles

Pathfinder Marks put on trees along the Mahoning Trail

What Wight did for this area:

Aerial photos

Sold 1st of 4 parcels to the Metroparks - the quarry land, in 1929

Urged his daughters to sell land to the park  
(Margaret married to Virgil Allen, Jr.)

Joe Jesensky b. 1906 d. 2008

1923 -1933 spent weekends in Bedford Reservation - cabin

Drew up topographical maps of this area - used the aerial photos

**In 1833: Abner and Amanda Cleaveland came to Bedford from the State of New York in c. 1833**

**Abner was 36 years old, and Amanda was 31 years old.**

With them were their 4 children: Fanny-age 11, James-age 8, Charles-age 2, Clark-age 1

Their 5th and 6th children were born in Bedford: Albert born in 1834 and Marilla born in 1839

Abner bought 1/2 acres and built his house on LOT 46 on Monroe Street

(Monroe was then called Cross Street)

**3 years later,**

**Abner Cleaveland sold his 1/2 acre w/house in LOT 46 on Monroe Street in Bedford**

to James Patterson - July 29, 1836

**Abner Cleaveland bought 2+ acres in Bedford, west of Willis Street, near Public Square**

from Hezekiah and Clarissa Durham - September 4, 1836

**In 1846 Abner and James Cleaveland began buying "quarry land" acreage as a business venture**

He bought 2 farms -

a 162 acre farm with a log cabin and a mill on the bank of Tinker's Creek  
from Martin Sheldon

and

a 154 acre farm with a log cabin from Joseph Trumbell

**In 1851 Edmond Gleeson bought adjacent "quarry land" He died 3 years later, at age 44**

**In 1859 Gleeson's widow, Charlotte Comstock Gleeson married James Cleveland (ages 32 and 35)**

**James sold his "quarry land" to his father, Abner Cleaveland**

*Charlotte  
37*

*34  
James  
Cleveland*

**( Abner Cleveland owned more than 400 acres)**

**Clark Cleaveland, still in his 20s, ran the quarry and the farm**

**Cleaveland Quarry 1846 - early 1880s**

**Cleaveland Hill Farm 1846 - early 1900s**

**Greek Revival House c. 1854 and large bank barn**

**Clark died in 1913 at age 80**

**Fannie died in 1914 at age 89**

Edmond Gleeson (son of Moses and Polly Gleeson)

Born 1810

Married Charlotte Comstock 4-8-1848

Died 10-26-1854 at age 44 Buried on Egypt Mound

Charlotte Comstock Gleeson Cleveland (daughter of Stephen and Charlotte Comstock)

Born 4-4-1822

Married Edmond Gleeson 4-8-1848 (Charlotte was widowed on 10-26-1854)

Married James Cleveland 10-16-1859

Died 12-12-1901 Buried at Bedford Cemetery

James Cleveland (son of Abner and Amanda Cleaveland)

Born 10-16-1825

Married Sally Blanchard 8-7-1825 (James Cleveland was widowed on 9-1852)

Married Charlotte Comstock Gleeson 10-16-1859

Died 4-25-1901

Clara Gleeson Carey (daughter of Charlotte Comstock Gleeson and Edmond Gleeson)

Born 6-25-1851

Married Dominick Carey 2-28-1881 (Clara Carey was widowed on 1-14-1892)

Died 1938

Edmond M. "Cub" Carey (son of Clara Gleeson Carey and Dominick Carey) *My records indicate he was born Edmond M. Carey*

Born 9-7-1888

Married Lydia Zimmerman 1923 (Cub Carey was widowed in 1938) They had no children

Died 6-21-1987 Buried at Maple Shade Cemetery in Independence H42, Grave 3 *as Edwin Carey*

*Somehow, through the years, Edmond became Edwin  
...Probably because family and friends always  
called him by his nickname, Cub Carey.*

Abner Cleaveland

"Abner Cleaveland was a nephew of Moses Cleaveland. When Moses died, Abner got a big tract of land in "Walton Hills" and he also inherited the Soldat property off Hub Parkway, Alexander Road."

Abner was a veteran of the War of 1812. Abner had relatives living in Watertown, NY

Johanne Irish stated, as she heard over and over when a young girl, Abner was a nephew of Moses Cleaveland. Abner Cleaveland built the 1st house on the property the Allens inherited.

*Clark*

Buried in Bedford Cemetery: section 2 lot 103 several tombstones

Abner Cleaveland born 5-20-1797 died 4-11-1884 at age 87  
married Amanda Ward who was born 3-9-1802 and died 5-3-1870

Abner inherited the quarry, and bought the farm from Sheets  
children: James born 10-16-1825 died 4-25-1901 at age 76

James inherited the quarry from his dad  
he took out marriage license 10-5-1859 to marry Charlotte Comstock Gleeson,  
after Charlotte's first husband, Edmund died

James was mayor of Bedford 1860-1862

Clark born 12-28-1832 died 11-9-1913 at age 80  
Albert W. born 1834 died 1922 his wife, Mary, born 1839 died 1908  
Marilla born 1839 died at age 2

Fanny Ladiska Cleaveland born 6-6-1824 died 5-2-1914

Nellie Ann Cleveland born 1877 died 1940  
Charlotte Cleveland 12-12-1901  
Sally 9-23-1852 died at age 27

6

The Cleaveland Quarry

Tom Young: Sandstone from that quarry used in Wight's house and Walton School  
Betsy Baker: Elmer Wight told her the old quarry sandstone was used for several buildings on Superior Street.  
The Cleavelands made their money from the quarry, not the farm.  
In the 1840's quarrying became a major industry in Independence.  
In the 1880's the market for sandstone seemed limitless.

**PATHFINDERS 1914 -**

**Elmer B. Wight, a Cleveland surveyor**

**He was a Charter Member and President of the Indian Pathfinders' Association**

**Betsy Baker interview:**

**5 men founded the Indian Pathfinders Assoc. No. 1. Her 2 grandfathers, Elmer B. Wight and Virgil D. Allen, Sr. and 3 other men.**

**Betsy lent me one of the cast aluminum plaques so I could photograph it for the book.**

**Plaque: It was gray, made of cast aluminum, oval shaped "Mahoning Path / Between Fort Pitt \* Sandusky / Located by / Indian Pathfinders Association No. 1 / Cleveland, Ohio / Do not Destroy or Deface"**

**In 1916 Pathfinder roster listed 38 members**

**Each month the members fulfilled their obligation to the group by reading a book or manuscript dealing with the subject, writing an abstract of the book or manuscript and filing a copy of their paper in the Pathfinder Society Library.**

**In 1986 the library was at the private residence of Elmer Wight's granddaughter, Betsy Baker**

**In a talk given by Virgil Allen, Sr. he said,**

**"This association, which I am representing her<sup>l</sup> today, was organized for the purpose of locating, marking and recording the paths of the Western Reserve and other parts of the state. We also hope to produce a historic map of Ohio, which will show all the important paths accurately, the location of Indian Villages, routes of military expeditions crossing the state, sites of forts, battles and other historic incidents, also the Indian names of streams and notable localities."**

**Although their membership numbered 38 in 1916, most of the men who amassed a library of historical notes about the existence of Indians in the Western Reserve were the charter members: Elmer Wight, landscaper and civil engineer, Virgil D. Allen, Sr, engineer, Russell Pelton, manager of the Benjamin Rose Estate, Fred Barton, book publisher, Dr. Lo E. Mook, attorney and Boy Scout Commissioner and Charles Orr, Ex Director of Cleveland Public Schools.**

**"Field Notes Old Ox Lanes, 1928 - Joseph Jesensky - Elmer B. Wight, engineer and present owner of the old Cleaveland Hill Farm. Mr. Wight compiled a map of pioneer days ox lanes that went through the Bedford Metropark and the Egbert Road area." The ox lanes were used by farmers to haul out sandstone that was quarried in this area and to haul cut logs to lumber yards.**

**"E. B. Wight alone did the oxen lane map."**

**"E. B. Wight, at his own expense, had aerial photos made of the Tinker's Creek Valley in the 1920's.**

**Betsy Baker interview:**

**E. B. Wight had the aerial photos of the Tinker's Creek Valley he took in the mid 1920's in his office. In the photos one could see the oxen lanes and the trails.**

**Former Mayor Tom Young remembers seeing books Wight wrote about this area.**

**Wight was very interested in history.**

**At his own expense he marked trees that were on the Mahoning Trail with cast aluminum plaques. His group, the Pathfinders, were interested in Indians and other past history of the area. He mapped early ox trails.**

*that the  
Cleavelands  
inherited -  
then sold*

Elmer Wight inherited a lot of the Cleaveland properties, and bought back some. His granddaughters, Betsy Baker and Johanne Irish say: James Cleaveland had a daughter who married a man named Green and had a daughter. They say Elmer Wight married one of the Cleaveland girls and James Cleaveland made Wight an heir. ?? Wight's first wife was Alice Pritchard. They also say Elmer Wight was their step-grandfather. They are not clear on this connection.

Elmer B. Wight was a civil landscape engineer. He did a lot of work for the City of Cleveland. He was a Charter Member and President of the Indian Pathfinders' Association

Elmer B. Wight was born in 1869.

Mr. Gleeson was a friend of Elmer Wight.

E. B. Wight owned the Soldat property. *(off Alexander Road / Hunt Parkway Mound Drive in Valley View)*

**Betsy Baker interviews:**

Elmer Wight did not go to college. He apprenticed to become a civil engineer.

Wight formed a partnership with a descendent of Seth Peace. Then they split.

Elmer Wight's original office was in the Rose Bldg, the NBC Building on the NW corner of Superior and East 9th, opposite St. John's Cathedral.

Wight was a civil landscape engineer who carried through the design of University Circle. He was highly regarded as a civil landscape engineer. He took the landscaping plan and did the surveying for University Circle Area. He did the engineering.

Elmer Wight laid out Lake Shore Blvd. He wanted a beautiful lake road all along the lake from Gordon park to E. 185.

Wight was the Village Engineer for Bratenahl.

Wight's last job was the bomber plant in Euclid.

**Johanne Irish interviews:**

Wight told Johanne that he designed the bridges in the University Circle Area and he designed Martin Luther King Blvd. through the University Circle area.

Wight told Johanne that when he was young he worked for Seth Pease who was a surveyor.

Wight designed Lake View Cemetery on Murray Hill.

**Joe Jesensky interview:**

Wight also designed the unique street patterns along Merriman Road in Akron. He was the village engineer for Bratenahl.

Wight's home was on Lake Shore Blvd. near Villa Angela, corner of Windward Drive and Lake Shore Drive.

Wight was subject to epileptic fits. Elmer Wight was active in the Cleveland City Club. In 1943, at the lunch hour, he died outside the City Club. He was hit by a trolley car. He probably had an epileptic fit, according to Betsy. He was born in 1870, died in 1943. (In 1920 he was 50.) He is buried in Lakeview Cemetery. Betsy was 15 or 16 at the time.

Wight married Alice Pritchard. They had 2 children. Helen Alice born 1901, died 1902

and Margaret Wight who married his friend's (Virgil Allen, Sr.) son, Virgil Allen, Jr. (our first mayor) Alice Pritchard Wight died when she was 42 of a heart problem. Elmer was 50 when she died.

Alice was born in 1878, died in 1920.

Wight's 2nd wife was Lina Lane Wight.

Bob Whittacre:

Lina Lane was Elmer Wight's second wife. She was a commercial artist. (*stripper/dance girl*)

When Elmer Wight died in 1943 his second wife got the property. (*Lina Lane*)

Elmer's daughter, Margaret Allen, paid her off in cash and Lina Wight relinquished the properties.

County Records state: 3-1946 Lina Lane Wight gave the property to her stepdaughter, Margaret Wight Allen for \$10.

The Cleveland Property was sold to the Metroparks in parts on 3-1952, 2-1961 and the final section which included the main house and bank barn, was sold by Margaret Allen to the Metroparks in 11-1977.

Betsy Baker: Elmer Wight came from a wealthy family. One side developed the cut nail, the other side owned ships. When Wight was 12 years old, his family bought a farm in Hartsgrove, Ashtabula County. Elmer raised the animals for his mother.

Wight lived in the Walton Hills "cottage" (the main house) in the summer. His residence was on Lake Shore Blvd. near Village Angela Academy. Elmer Wight told Betsy that the Lake Shore house was not intended to be their permanent residence, but Elmer's wife was sickly, then died, and he stayed there.

Betsy Baker 8-20-1985

Wight like to hike. Both Betsy and Johanne separately hiked with him on the property and beyond. He organized hikes through the park for and with several groups of friends. He liked to take the grandchildren along.

Wight was a very popular man, very likable, he had charisma, according to Betsy.

Johanne Irish interview: 7-10-1985

Elmer Wight had 2 daughters, one died young.

Cub Carey interviewed by Joe Jesensky 9-1979 Cub Carey said, "Elmer B. Wight, local summer resident, in this area and owner of the old Cleaveland Hill Farm off Egbert Road and the Careys are related. Wight also owns the other Cleveland tract just across the creek (south side of Tinker's Creek) from Cub Carey's house on Canal Road. The Canal Road land is still owned by the Allen estate."

Cub Carey interview 9-1979. Carey mentioned how the Careys and the Cleveland were related by marriage. James C. Cleaveland is a brother of Clark Cleaveland.

Records show Edmond Gleeson died in 1854. Charlotte Comstock Gleeson, his widow, married James C. Cleaveland in 1859. James C. Cleaveland was Mayor of Bedford 1860-1862.

Ned Hubbell, Bedford author, wrote: Seth Pease was an astronomer and surveyor in Moses Cleaveland's party. In 1797 the surveying party returned without Moses Cleaveland. He never returned <sup>her</sup>. Moses Cleaveland was an attorney. In 1796 Cleaveland was 40, he was named General Agent for the Connecticut Land Co. As part of his compensation, Moses Cleaveland acquired 6000 or 7000 acres of the newly surveyed land.

### The Cleaveland Hill Farm

Johanne Irish interview: Cleaveland Hill Farm was a hay farm; before that it was a dairy farm.

Tuberculosis was prevalent in the area and the whole herd had to be killed off because of some disease. The family decided to end dairy farming, not to start anew.

Elmer Wight hired Mr. and Mrs. Reed to manage the dairy farm and farm the Wight acreage. After the dairy herd was killed, Wight sold part of the farm to the Metroparks. The Reeds left, and Wight hired the Denhams as caretakers of the property.

Joe Jesensky: "Old Cleaveland Hill Farm: A narrow lane turns off Egbert Road and leads north - bordered by dense dogwoods and hawthorn bushes. At its end a neat white house of New England Style sets in a broad lawn bordered by a formal flower garden. Large oak trees cast their shade across the lane and yard. The house was originally owned by some relatives of Moses Cleaveland. C. B. Cleaveland: Fanny L. Cleaveland and Clark Brown Cleaveland in 1832."

Betsy and Johanne both said the barn had big letters painted on it reading "Cleaveland Farm."

Bob Whittacre interview of 9-1979

Abundance of chestnut trees in the area.

Caretakers of the property were the Denhams. They did not pay rent. They lived in the left (south) wing of the house. The kitchen then was in that part of the house. Denham farmed - raised hay. His wife took care of the house. They were pleasant people. The Denhams were childless.

The Wights only used the house in the summer.

Joe Jesensky, as a young kid, got a friend to help Mr. Denham, who was old, rake in the hay. When the Denhams got too old to work they left and moved to Zanesville.

From the top of the barn you could see the Terminal Tower.

The Denhams were living in Wight's house when the Virgil Allens, Jr. moved back to Cleveland from New York.

The cottage at the end of the lane (there is no lane anymore, and the house is no longer standing; in the 1960's the Allens rented the cottage to families) had been moved. Originally it was by the quarry and overlooked the quarry and gorge. When the Metroparks bought that chunk of land, the Wights moved the cottage to the end of the lane.)

The House: 16535 Egbert Road (It sat at the west end of Wight Oaks Drive.

Elmer B. Wight estimated the house was originally built in 1854. The architecture was Greek Revival, a style popular from 1820-1860.

Joe Jesensky: In the 1930's there was a formal garden to the south, on a slope.

Jesensky: Mr. and Mrs. Butler, good friends of the Wights, occupied one of the summer cottages near the house.

Tom Young: The Wight house was rented out to Jack Fetzer for a while, then Virgil Allen, Jr. and his family moved in.

The Allens uncovered a stone fireplace made of stones from the Cleveland quarry. The Allens remodeled the house.

The Cleveland Property was sold to the Metroparks in parts on 3-1952, 2-1961 and the final section which included the main house and bank barn, was sold by Margaret Allen to the Metroparks in 11-1977.

Virgil Allen, Jr.

Tom Young interview: (5.20-1963)

Virgil Allen, Jr. died at age 63. He had complications due to diabetes, his leg had to be amputated, etc.

*stroke, died a couple days later*

Virgil Allen, Jr. went to Case for 2 years, studying engineering. Then He went to Western Reserve for the next 2 years and got his degree.

*depression years*

*(1926)*

Virgil Allen, Jr. was a banker. He got a job with a bank in Utica, NY. Betsy was 3 weeks old when the family moved to Utica. Margaret Allen was not happy in Utica. She went to Rochester, NY to live. Allen decided to return to Cleveland with the family. *> depression years*

Then he got a job with Merrill Lynch in Cleveland. Then he was an investment counselor. Then he worked for Henry Corning.

When the family came back to Cleveland they lived next door to the Wight house. Elmer Wight had given his daughter Margaret land next to his house on which she and Virgil Jr. could build a house.

When he and his family came back to Cleveland he went to Cleveland Marshall Law School. He was admitted to the Bar in 1848. He was the attorney for the Irelands and other prominent families in Bratenahl.

Virgil was very intelligent. He was not diplomatic: he was brusque. He was an attorney's attorney. He was meticulous.

Margaret Wight Allen grew up at 18024 Windward Road, off Lake Shore Drive.

Margaret Allen was a graduate of Lake Erie College. She played the piano well. She was very quiet, soft spoken, but a powerful woman who was set in her ways. In a quiet way she controlled the household.

Like Wight, the Allens were interested in preserving the land and keeping the whole area preserved.

Betsy Baker:

*in 1945* After Elmer Wight died the Allen family moved into the "cottage" on Wight Oaks Lane. Virgil Allen, Jr. said he'd try it for one summer, and he and the whole family liked living there.

Betsy Baker interview:

Betsy was 7 when the family moved back to Cleveland from New York.

Virgil Allen, Jr. built a cottage for his family on the east side of Wight Oaks Lane. The Allen family stayed there on weekends. It was a 2-room cottage with NO plumbing. Virgil Allen, Jr. built an outhouse. They carried water in pails from the well by the main house.

On the Wight Oaks Lane property when the Allens owned it:

- 1) the main house, 2) the bank barn, banked so could get up to the second floor where there was a hay loft
- 3) a machinery barn, a milk house, a 12' X 16' cottage

Virgil Allen married Margaret Allen

Their children: Betsy Baker

*born 1926 / died of cancer in early 1990's*

Johanne Irish

John Wight Allen (*he was a Navy Lieutenant in 1951*)

*Both girls went to Lake Erie College, like their mom*

-----  
The Allens sold their land and house to the Metropark.

Tom Young and Some Allen family members said: The Park System promised Margaret Allen her house would be converted into a museum, with a park roadway leading to it. She wanted her house restored. It probably was a century house. The house is wood clapboard. Has a big stone fireplace. The hearth has a hanging pot for cooking.

Virgil Allen, Jr.

Florence Wagner's newspaper column 5-11-1951

Virgil Allen, Jr. is a part-time farmer, interested in farming since 1919. The Allens live on the 68 acres. Allen's ancestors are Scotch English. They have been farmers since they came to America in the 1600's.

Before the Allens permanently moved to Wight Oaks Drive, they spent summer days there in the cottage, weekends and some summer days.

In the 1940's a big oak hit the cottage and demolished it.

However, Johanne Irish checked and says there was NO agreement between Margaret Wight Allen and the Metroparks that the house and farm would become a museum.

The Cleveland Property was sold to the Metroparks in parts on 3-1952, 2-1961 and the final section which included the main house and bank barn, was sold by Margaret Allen to the Metroparks in 11-1977.

Tom Young interview:

Virgil Allen, Jr. went to Detroit and approached Ford Motor Co. He knew Ford was going to pick a sight for a stamping plant. He persuaded Ford with a lot of promises.

Allen helped Means, Burns and Tom Young to sell their farm land to Ford.

Tom Young interview:

Virgil Allen arranged for Tom Young to buy acreage off Egbert Road, on Wight Oaks Drive, to the south of Allen's property.

Virgil Allen worked with the Carr family to sell land to Tom Young so he had acreage fronting on Egbert.

Tom Young interview:

Virgil Allen, Jr. got city water for Walton Hills. It took some doing.

Tom Young: Virgil Allen was asked to be on the Zoning Board for Bedford Township.

When he was Mayor of Walton Hills, he accepted \$1.00 a year.

Allen had the vision to see a plan for a future village with zoning restrictions and strict ordinances.

Virgil Allen, Jr. (1951 through 1953 Mayor / Legal Counsel / Village Law Director / Ran the Mayor's Court )

Allen wrote the 1st set of Village Ordinances All for \$1.00 a year  
born 1898 died 1963 at age 65 complications from diabetes

Western Reserve College: banker / depression years

married Margaret Wight

got a job with bank in Utica New York

returned to Cleveland: moved next door to Wight on Lake Shore Drive

summer weekends: cottage on Wight Oaks Lane

moved into main house after Elmer Wight in 1946

night school at Cleveland Marshall Law School

1948 got law degree / passed Bar

member: Cleveland Chamber of Commerce

Margaret Wight Allen born 1898 in 1977 failing health: moved to Kirtland for a few years w/Betsy

Ted Graves (2nd Mayor 1954 through 1955) (7312 <sup>Walton Rd</sup> Alexander)

General Manager & Chief Engineer Farvel: he designed mechanical hydraulic equipment:

the company made and installed lubrication systems for steamships, cranes, etc.

1946 - 1952 Graves: President: Walton Hills Estates Club

He filed with the State of Ohio for W. H. to become incorporated

Virgil Allen, Jr. learned Ford was looking for a site for a stamping plant

(through business trips, Cleve. Chamber of Commerce)

Allen and Ted Graves wanted the Ford Plant in Walton Hills.

Tom Young and Burns were eager to sell their land. Tom had 116 acres on Northfield Road.

It was by a Railroad line.

The land had a shale base.

It was by I-271, which was on the books but not yet constructed.

There were obstacles to overcome: sewers / water / roads

Alexander Rd. ended at Walton / farmland that was up for sale sat on "Alexander Rd."

Alexander Rd. had to be extended from Walton to Broadway in Oakwood Village.

Needed city water: City of Cleveland extended water from Solon Road to Forbes

W. H. paid for the water line from Forbes south to Ford

Needed sewers: Cuyahoga County built sewage treatment plant on Treat Rd. off Krick Rd.

and put in a sewer line from Sagamore Road north to Krick Road

In 1953 Ford Motor Company announced it would build a Stamping Plant in Walton Hills.

The Plant opened in 1954.

*note: on next page  
sheldon / Cleaveland*

Lot 63

- 1827 owned by Martin Sheldon
- 1835 160 acres owned by Martin Sheldon 1837 : A Mill was on the property Tax Duplicates
- 1845 same
- 9-24-1846 David Dunham sold 130 acres to Abner and James Cleaveland for \$1300.
- 1852 160 acres owned by Martin Sheldon
- 6-19-1952 Julius Sheldon sold Abner Cleaveland the south section of lot 63 for \$620.67
- 1860 Hezekiah Sheldon owned 141 + 157 acres (A House, too) There is no right of way shown.
- 1870 H. C. Hawkins owned 5 acres, H. S. Sheldon owned 12 acres, both at the north end  
Abner Cleaveland owned the south 141 acres (1880 A Barn, too)
- 1880 same
- 1890 Fanny Cleaveland and Clark B. Cleaveland owned the property
- 9-22-1915 Hosea Paul bought all 4 parcels. He also got Cleaveland's right of way to Egbert Road  
He bought the north section of Lot 73 from Fanny Cleaveland. and the South part of Lot 63 also. The north strip of Lot 63 was owned by Frank Gleeson, then bought or inherited by Clara Gleeson Carey in 1896
- 1915 - 1929 Clara Carey owned 21 acres; in 1929 she sold the land to the Metroparks
- 3-1946 Lina Lane Wight gave the property to her stepdaughter, Margaret Wight Allen for \$10. (1/2 went to her husband, Virgil D. Allen, Jr. as Husband and Wife estate.
- 5-1963 Virgil died, the property went to his widow, Margaret Wight Allen
- 2-20-1961 sold by M. Allen to Cleveland Metroparks

Lot 73

- 1827 Joseph Trumbell
  - 1830 and again 1835 Joseph Trumbell
  - 1852 E. G. Williams owned the north 74 acres  
Clement Sheets owned the south 80 acres
  - 1858 Clement Sheets owned the south 80 acres
  - 1860 Clement Sheets owned 154 acres (A House and Barn, too)
  - 1860 Plat Book show Clement and Mary Sheets owned the south section, close to Egbert Road
  - 7-30-1861 Cleaveland bought the property from the Sheets for \$1000. Parcel No: 793-26-1
  - 1865 Cleaveland owned the property (A House, Bank Barn, Milk Shed, Shed, Shed, Summer Cabin)
  - 1880 Abner Cleaveland owned the north 40.5 acres (House and Barn, too)  
He had a right of way southward to Egbert Road  
John Rees owned the south 120.75 acres
  - 4-1884 George W. Carr owned the south 120.75 acres
  - 9-22-1915 Hosea Paul bought the north section of Lot 73 from Fanny Cleaveland. and the South part of Lot 63 also. The north strip of Lot 63 was owned by Frank Gleeson, then bought or inherited by Clara Gleeson Carey in 1896
  - 3-1952 part of Lot 73 owned by the Allens sold to Metroparks
  - 11-1977 the Allen land is sold by Margaret Allen to Metroparks
- The Carr family owned their 120 acres until the 1960's when they sold off parcels, and kept frontage on Egbert for 2 houses, then 1 house.

**Descendants of Issac Cleaveland**

- 1 Issac Cleaveland 1755 - 1838 b: 22 Jan 1755 in Rutland, Jefferson, New York, USA d: 14 May 1838 in Rutland, Jefferson, New York, USA
- .. +Martha Matthews 1760 - 1845 b: 04 Jun 1760 in Farmington, Ct, USA d: 03 Jul 1845 in Rutland, Jefferson, New York, USA src1: OneWorldTree, src2: One World Tree (sm), src3: One World Tree (sm) Relationship: Married Father: Abner Matthews Mother: Sarah Warner
- ..... 2 Issac Cleaveland 1780 - 1805 b: 23 Sep 1780 in Watertown, Jefferson, New York, USA d: 21 Jul 1805 in Sullivan, Ashland, Ohio USA
- ..... +Jurusha Rockwell 1790 - 1812 b: 08 Jun 1790 d: 07 Oct 1812 Relationship: Married
- ..... 2 Harvey Cleaveland 1782 - 1862 b: 20 Aug 1782 in Velarentont, Sullivan, New Hampshire, USA src: One World Tree (sm) d: 24 Dec 1862 age at mrg: 25 est.
- ..... +Relief Cross 1791 - 1885 b: 05 Oct 1791 in Bennington, Bennington, Vermont, USA src1: OneWorldTree, src2: One World Tree (sm) d: 20 May 1885 in E Hounsfeld, Jefferson, New York, USA src1: OneWorldTree, src2: One World Tree (sm) age at mrg: 16 est. Relationship: Married Father: Abel Cross Mother: Desire Palmer
- ..... 3 Selona Cleaveland 1809 - 1809 b: 12 Feb 1809 in Rutland, Jefferson, New York, USA src: One World Tree (sm) d: 17 Mar 1809 in Rutland, Jefferson, New York, USA src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... 3 Vaccha Decastro Cleaveland 1810 - b: 17 Jan 1810 in Rutland, Jefferson, New York, USA src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... 3 Christiana Cleaveland 1811 - 1860 b: 14 Dec 1811 in Rutland, Jefferson, New York, USA src: One World Tree (sm) d: 27 Feb 1860 in Rutland, Jefferson, New York, USA src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... 3 Jane Selona Cleaveland 1814 - 1899 b: 01 Jan 1814 in Rutland, Jefferson, New York, USA src: One World Tree (sm) d: 27 Mar 1899 in Black River, Jefferson, New York, USA src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... 3 Betsy Cleaveland 1816 - b: 03 Jul 1816 in Rutland, Jefferson, New York, USA src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... 3 Isaac Harvey Cleaveland 1819 - b: 11 Jan 1819 in Rutland, Jefferson, New York, USA src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... 3 Flora Phila Cleaveland 1821 - 1882 b: 10 Mar 1821 in Rutland, Jefferson, New York, USA src: One World Tree (sm) d: 22 Dec 1882 in Boyleston, Oswego, New York, USA src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... 3 Philander Blodgett Cleaveland 1823 - b: 29 Aug 1823 in Rutland, Jefferson, New York, USA src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... 2 Sarah Cleaveland 1784 - 1854 b: 09 Sep 1784 d: 16 Jun 1854 in Watertown, Jefferson, New York, USA
- ..... +Benjamin Woodruff 1778 - 1860 b: 12 May 1778 in Winchester, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA src1: OneWorldTree, src2: One World Tree (sm) d: 15 Dec 1860 in Watertown, Jefferson, New York, USA src1: OneWorldTree, src2: One World Tree (sm) Relationship: Married Father: Jonah Woodruff Mother: Mary Olmstead
- ..... 2 Manre Cleaveland 1786 - 1826 b: 30 May 1786 d: May 1826 in Windham, Vermont, USA src: OneWorldTree
- ..... +Phineas Wiswell 1780 - 1834 b: 27 Nov 1780 in Townshend, Windham, Vermont, USA src: OneWorldTree d: 1834 in, Windham, Vermont, USA src: OneWorldTree Relationship: Married Father: Samuel Wiswall Mother: Sarah Dyer
- ..... 2 Irene Cleaveland 1788 - 1859 b: 09 Sep 1788 d: 21 Jul 1859
- ..... +Caleb Sperry Relationship: Married
- ..... 2 Decastro Cleaveland 1791 - 1791 b: 03 Jul 1791 d: 18 Nov 1791
- ..... 2 Nancy Cleaveland 1794 - 1875 b: 19 Aug 1794 d: 17 Feb 1875
- ..... +Anson Moore 1792 - 1854 b: 03 Oct 1792 src: OneWorldTree d: 20 Jun 1854 src: OneWorldTree Relationship: Married
- ..... 2 Abner Cleaveland 1797 - 1884 b: 20 May 1797 in Claremont, New Hampshire, USA d: 11 Apr 1884 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... +Amanda Ward 1802 - 1870 b: 09 Mar 1802 in Dover, New York, USA d: 03 May 1870 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA Relationship: Married Father: Ebenezer Ward Mother: Abigail Sheldon
- ..... 3 Marilla Cleaveland 1839 - 1841 b: 05 Sep 1839 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA src: One World Tree (sm) d: 23 Sep 1841 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... 3 Charles Cleaveland 1831 - b: 1831 in Watertoewn, New York src1: One World Tree (sm), src2: 1850 United States Federal Census
- ..... +Mary b: in England Relationship: Married
- ..... 4 Julia Cleaveland 1855 - b: 1855 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA
- ..... 4 Clark Cleaveland 1857 - b: 1857 in Marshall, Michigan
- ..... 3 Ladorika Fanny Cleaveland 1824 - 1914 b: 06 Jun 1824 in Rutland, New York src: One World Tree (sm) d: 02 May 1914 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USE src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... + Relationship: Married
- ..... 3 Clark B. Cleaveland 1832 - 1913 b: 28 Dec 1832 in Rutland, New York src: One World Tree (sm) d: 09 Nov 1913 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... + Relationship: Married
- ..... 3 James Chambers Cleaveland 1825 - 1901 b: 16 Oct 1825 in NY, USA src1: One World Tree (sm), src2: One World Tree (sm) d: 25 Apr 1901 src1: One World Tree (sm), src2: One World Tree (sm) age at mrg: 21
- ..... +Sally Blanchard 1825 - 1846 b: 04 Aug 1825 in Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA src1: One World Tree (sm), src2: One World Tree (sm) d: 22 Nov 1846 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA age at mrg: 21 Relationship: Married Father: David Blanchard Mother: Susannah Baldwin
- ..... 4 Frank H. Cleaveland 1849 - b: 1849
- ..... \*2nd Wife of James Chambers Cleaveland:
- ..... +Charlotte Comstock 1822 - 1901 b: 1822 in Ohio src: 1860 United States Federal Census d: 12 Dec 1901 Relationship: Married
- ..... 4 Sara A. Cleaveland 1859 - b: 1859
- ..... 3 Albert William Cleaveland 1834 - 1922 b: 1834 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA d: 1922 in Ravenna, Portage, Ohio, USA
- ..... +Mary Frazee 1839 - b: Feb 1839 Relationship: Married Father: Jonathan Frazee Mother: Laura A
- ..... \*2nd Wife of Albert William Cleaveland:
- ..... +Nellie Ann Pratt 1877 - 1940 b: 11 Dec 1877 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA d: 25 Jul 1940 in Massillon, Ohio, USA age at mrg: 19 Relationship: Married Father: John A. Pratt Mother: Elizabeth Windross
- ..... 2 Rhonda Cleaveland 1801 - b: 25 Apr 1801
- ..... 2 Orlin Cleaveland 1805 - 1805 b: 11 Mar 1805 in Claremont, Cheshire, New Hampshire, USA d: 08 May 1805 in Claremont, Cheshire, New Hampshire, USA

*Married!?*

SHELDON

- 1 Ebenezer Ward 1777 - 1853 b: 20 Dec 1777 in Dover, Dutchess, New York, USA src: OneWorldTree d: 18 Jul 1853 src: OneWorldTree
- +Abigail Sheldon 1778 - 1873 b: 09 Mar 1778 src1: OneWorldTree, src2: One World Tree (sm) d: Aug 1873 src1: OneWorldTree, src2: One World Tree (sm) Relationship: Married Father: Caleb Sheldon Mother: Abigail Waldo
- 2 Amanda Ward 1802 - 1870 b: 09 Mar 1802 in Dover, New York, USA d: 03 May 1870 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA
- +Abner Cleaveland 1797 - 1884 b: 20 May 1797 in Claremont, New Hampshire, USA d: 11 Apr 1884 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA src: One World Tree (sm) Relationship: Married Father: Issac Cleaveland Mother: Marma Matthews
- ..... 3 Marilla Cleaveland 1839 - 1841 b: 05 Sep 1839 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA src: One World Tree (sm) d: 23 Sep 1841 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... 3 Charles Cleaveland 1831 - b: 1831 in Watertoewn, New York src1: One World Tree (sm), src2: 1850 United States Federal Census
- ..... +Mary b: in ,England Relationship: Married
- ..... 4 Julia Cleaveland 1855 - b: 1855 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA
- 4 Clark Cleaveland 1857 - b: 1857 in Marshall, Michagan
- 3 Ladorika Fanny Cleaveland 1824 - 1914 b: 06 Jun 1824 in Rutland, New York src: One World Tree (sm) d: 02 May 1914 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USE src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... + Relationship: Married
- 3 Clark B. Cleaveland 1832 - 1913 b: 28 Dec 1832 in Rutland, New York src: One World Tree (sm) d: 09 Nov 1913 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA src: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... + Relationship: Married
- 3 James Chambers Cleaveland 1825 - 1901 b: 16 Oct 1825 in NY, USA src1: One World Tree (sm), src2: One World Tree (sm) d: 25 Apr 1901 src1: One World Tree (sm), src2: One World Tree (sm) age at mrg: 21
- ..... +Sally Blanchard 1825 - 1846 b: 04 Aug 1825 in Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA src1: One World Tree (sm), src2: One World Tree (sm) d: 22 Nov 1846 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA age at mrg: 21 Relationship: Married Father: David Blanchard Mother: Susannah Baldwin
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- ..... +Mary Frazee 1839 - b: Feb 1839 Relationship: Married Father: Jonathan Frazee Mother: Laura A
- ..... \*2nd Wife of Albert William Cleaveland:
- +Nellie Ann Pratt 1877 - 1940 b: 11 Dec 1877 in Bedford, Cuyahoga, Ohio, USA d: 25 Jul 1940 in Massillon, Ohio, USA age at mrg: 19 Relationship: Married Father: John A. Pratt Mother: Elizabeth Windross
- ..... 2 Lordiska Ward 1803 - b: 30 Nov 1803
- ..... 2 Waldo Ward 1805 - 1895 b: 04 Oct 1805 src1: OneWorldTree, src2: One World Tree (sm) d: 23 Apr 1895 src1: OneWorldTree, src2: One World Tree (sm)
- ..... +Hanah 1819 - b: 1819 in Vermont, USA Relationship: Married
- ..... 3 Byron Ward 1835 - b: 1835 in New York, USA
- ..... 3 Helen Ward 1837 - b: 1837 in New York, USA
- ..... 3 Sarah Ward 1843 - b: 1843 in New York, USA
- ..... 3 Caroline Ward 1845 - b: 1845 in New York, USA
- ..... 3 Josephine Ward 1851 - b: 1851 in New York, USA
- ..... 3 Emogene Ward 1851 - b: 1851 in New York, USA
- ..... \*2nd Wife of Waldo Ward:
- ..... +Sophia Downer 1820 - b: 1820 in Massachusetts, USA Relationship: Married
- ..... 3 Bell Ward
- ..... \*3rd Wife of Waldo Ward:
- ..... +Ann McKenzie Relationship: Married
- ..... 2 Ebenezer Ward 1807 - b: 14 Mar 1807 in New York, USA
- ..... +Julia A. b: in New York, USA Relationship: Married
- ..... 3 Edmund B. Ward 1834 - b: 1834 in New York, USA
- ..... 3 John B. Ward 1836 - b: 1836 in Ohio, USA
- ..... 3 Mary F. Ward 1845 - b: 1845 in Ohio, USA
- ..... 3 Charles E. Ward 1850 - b: 1850 in Ohio, USA
- ..... 2 Henry Ward 1808 - b: 05 Dec 1808 in New York, USA
- ..... 2 Mary Ward 1810 - b: 23 Feb 1810 in New York, USA
- ..... 2 Charles Ward 1811 - b: 21 Nov 1811 in New York, USA
- ..... 2 Fanny Ward 1914 - b: 28 Feb 1914

Helen Pratt  
5324 Cato Street  
Maple Hts OH 216-587-0388

John Pratt lived on Wight Oaks Road  
his daughter married Albert Cleaveland  
Albert was a son of Abner Cleaveland

Children of Abner Cleaveland and Amanda Ward

- Marilla b. 1839
- Charles b. 1831
- Ladorika Fanny born 1824
- Clark born 1832
- James born 1825
- Albert born 1834 died at age 88
- 1st wife Mollie Mary Frazee
- 2nd wife Nellie Pratt Ward
- Nellie's first husband's last name was Ward. He died and she remarried Albert Cleaveland

Contact person:  
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