

# Life in the Community of Little Egypt

This Album was written as a leader's guide for field trips  
to the Little Egypt area of Walton Hills

Today, much of the Little Egypt is park land, either in  
**Cuyahoga Valley National Park or Bedford Reservation, one of the Cleveland Metroparks**

Jean Kainsinger wrote the text, drew the maps and compiled the information for "Life in the Community of Little Egypt" in 2015.  
Much of the text is based on material copyrighted in 1986, 2004 and 2006.

Joseph Jesensky drew the following sketches between the years 1923 and 1933: the location of Ma Parker's Tavern-page 8,  
2 drawings of World's End-pages 12 and 13, Chris Foss and the cabin-page 43,  
view of the NYC Trestle from Button Road-page 50, and the Willing Barn-page 59.

Local photographer Nina Wolf took the following photos and/or reproduced them between the years 2004-2006 and 2012:  
World's End-page 9, photos of the 2012 Village Field Trip to Egypt Mound-Edmond Gleeson's gravesite-page 16, Astorhurst  
Villa-page 17, Grist Mill Grinding Stone-page 18, Egypt School and the new house-page 33, William Black house-page 32,  
Sagamore Hills Beer Garden-page 42, 4 photos of the NYC rail line and the Trestle-pages 47-49 and 51,  
the 3 NYC houses-pages 54-56, 58. Nina Wolf drew the sketch of the Willing Barn on page 59, in 1984.

Judi Schroeder took the following photos: Edmond Gleeson's grave-page 15, Park Place-page 25,  
Astorhurst photos on pages 26-30, Razing the NYC line-pages 51-52, and NYC Camphouse on p. 58.

The photos of Black Beauty Riding Academy are the courtesy of Hank Dziczkowski.

## Table of Contents

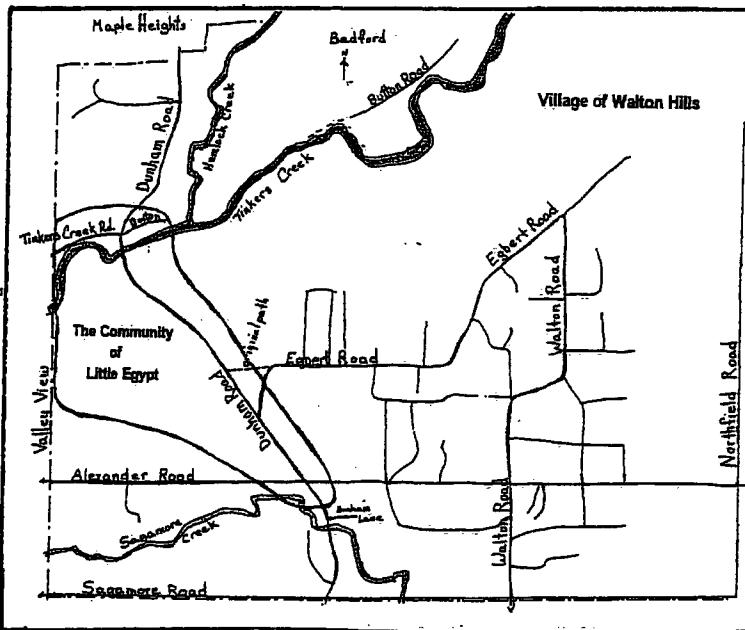
- Page 1 ..... Where was Little Egypt? / Why the Name, "Little Egypt"? / Tinkers Creek
- Page 2-3 ..... Indian Point
- Page 4-5 ..... Roads in Little Egypt / Traveling through Little Egypt
- Page 6 ..... Early Settlers-Bedford Township's First Settler / Bedford Township's First Permanent Settlers
- Page 7 ..... Map - Community of Little Egypt
- Page 8 ..... Site of Ma Parker's Tavern
- Page 9-13 ..... "World's End"
- Page 14-16 .... Egypt Mound / Edmond Gleeson's Grave
- Page 17 ..... Moses and Polly Gleeson / Moses Gleeson House
- Page 18 ..... Moses Gleeson Grist Mill Grinding Stone / Mills in Little Egypt
- Page 19-20 .... Clara Gleeson Carey and Dominick Carey / Dominick Carey's Maple Wood Stock Farm
- Page 21-22 .... Comstock-Gleeson-Carey-Fradette Family – 7 Generations of Living in Walton Hills
- Page 23 ..... Map - Community of Little Egypt
- Page 24 ..... Astor Day Care Center
- Page 25 ..... Astor Country-Club Restaurant / From the Astor to the Astorhurst  
Astorhurst Party Place and Picnic Grove / Astorhurst Country Club – the Golf Course  
Astorhurst Park Place – the Ice Cream Stand.
- Page 26-30 .... Astorhurst Story
- Page 31 ..... People of Little Egypt
- Page 32 ..... William Black Farmhouse
- Page 33 ..... Egypt School
- Page 34-35 .... Mars Wager Quarry
- Page 36-37..... Cottages along Egypt Road
- Page 38-41 .... Dziczkowski Family / Black Beauty Riding Academy
- Page 42 ..... Sagamore Hills Beer Garden
- Page 43 ..... Boy Scout Cabin / Chris Foss- the Old Hermit / Hermit Hollow Picnic Pavilion
- Page 44-46 ..... Tinkers Creek Tavern
- Pages 47-59 .... New York Central Freight Line

# Life in the Community of Little Egypt

## Where was Little Egypt?

The Community of Little Egypt, in existence from the early 1800s into the 1900s, was in the southwest corner of Bedford Township, at the junctions of Tinkers Creek Road, Dunham Road, Egypt Road and Button Road.

Little Egypt ceased to exist when this area officially became part of Walton Hills in 1951.



## Why the Name, "Little Egypt"?

Little Egypt, as well as Egypt Road, got their names from Egypt Mound, the raised hump of earth behind the site of "World's End," along Egypt Road.

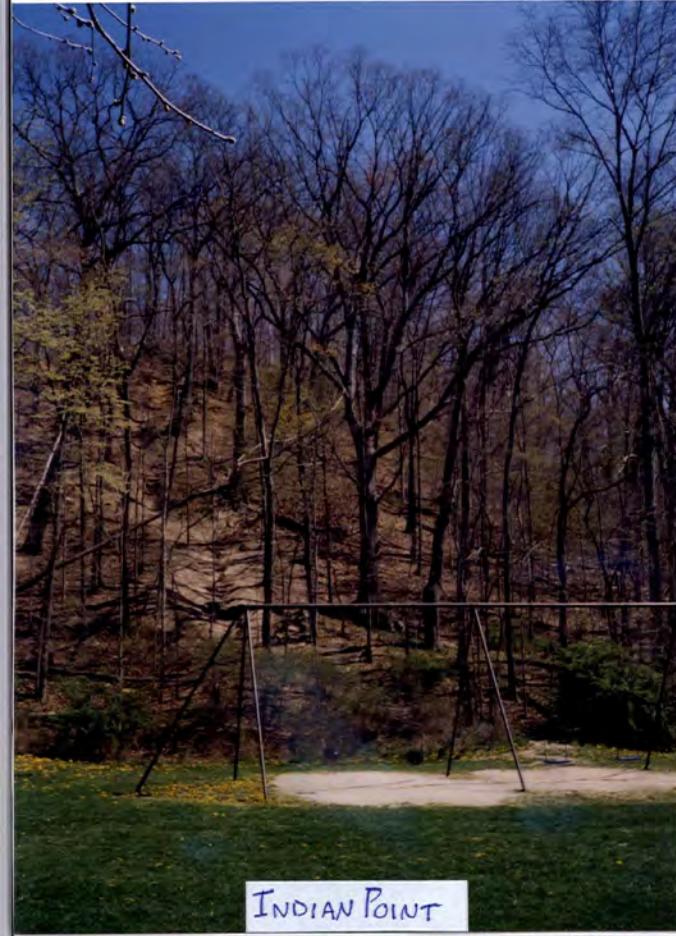
## Tinkers Creek

Tinkers Creek, the largest tributary of the Cuyahoga River, was the life line of Little Egypt. The many springs along this hilly section of Tinkers Creek provided fresh water to the animals, Indians and Settlers. Saltlicks and deposits of salt can be found under rocks in the creek, especially at the junction of Deerick Creek and Tinkers Creek.

The salt in Tinkers Creek attracted the animals. The Indians and Settlers came here because it was a good hunting ground where they could also collect their needed supply of salt. Old-time residents remember the good fishing in Tinkers Creek. Bass, Bluegill, Croppie, and Catfish from the creek provided the main course for many family dinners. Local mothers often made soup from turtles caught in the creek.

# Indian Point - An Indian Fort and Camp

in Hemlock Creek Pavilion Area - Bedford Reservation



INDIAN POINT



INDIAN POINT



INDIAN POINT



INDIAN POINT

## Indian Point

**Indian Point is an old Algonquin Indian fort and camp site located on the hilltop on the north side of Hemlock Creek Picnic Area in Bedford Reservation.**

Indian Point is a high, flat-topped ridge that rises sharply between Hemlock Creek and Tinkers Creek.

From their location the band of Indians who camped here from Spring through Autumn had a good view of the Tinkers Creek Valley, could defend themselves and send smoke signals to other bands of Indians.

Fresh water springs on nearby hillsides provided good drinking water. The lowlands had rich soil for growing corn. The area yielded many nuts, berries, wild vegetables and herbs.

Fish were abundant in the creeks.

Salt licks attracted many wild animals and game birds, making hunting an easier chore.

Settlers who moved into the area in the early 1800s saw evidence of a Fort at Indian Point. Moses Gleeson, who owned several acres of land in the area, including Indian Point, reported seeing a double row of earth trenches along with the rotted remains of log stockade posts.

Within the post trenches he saw piles of burnt stones from Indian fire pits and other kinds of camp midden such as charred bones and camp refuse.

In the late 1880s, a great-grandson of Moses Gleeson, Edmond "Cub" Carey, posted a sign on a nearby tree. The sign made notice of this site having been a fort.

When Cuyahoga Valley Historian Joe Jesensky scouted Indian Point in the early 1920s, he could detect no trace of the old fort posts.

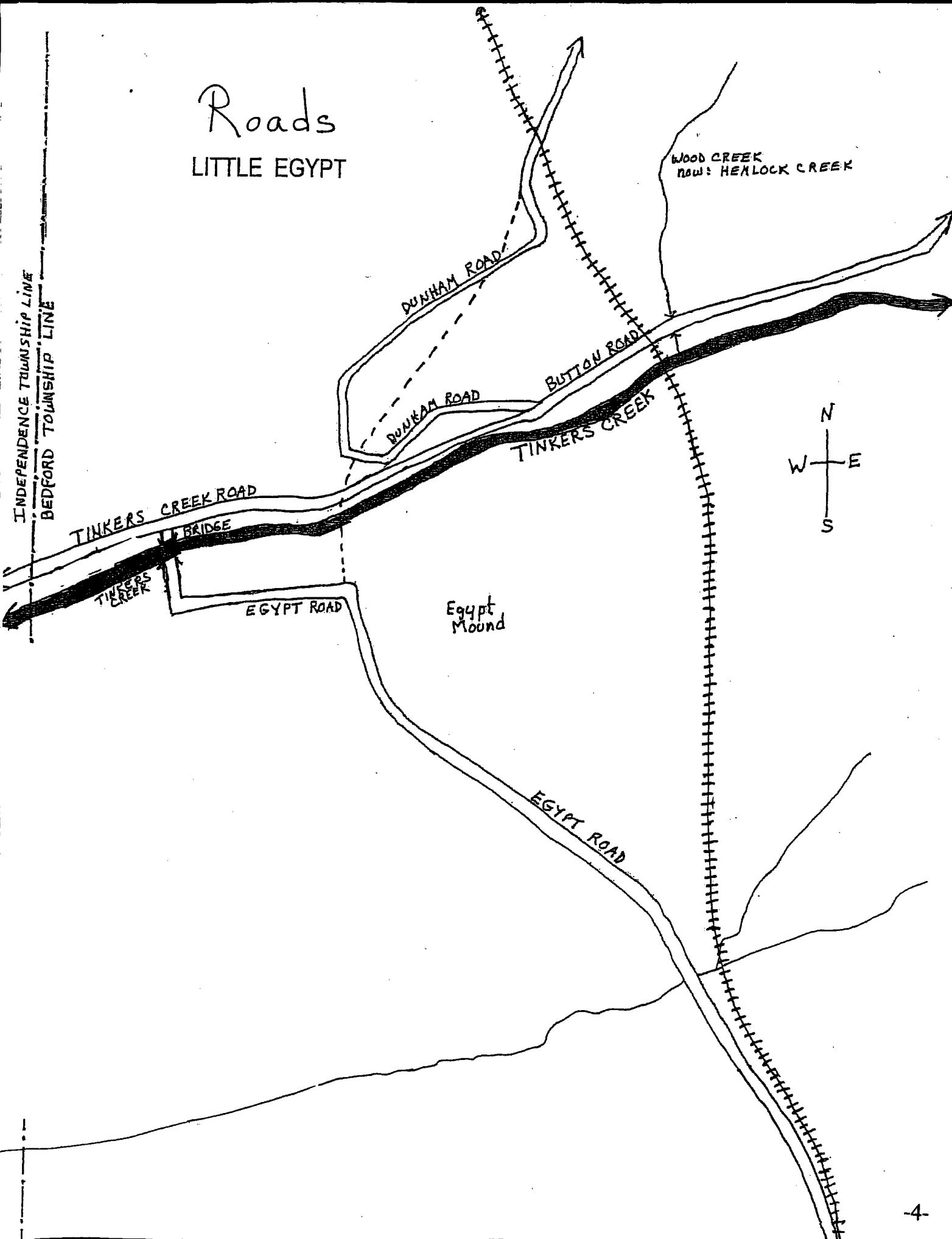
But, he did see evidence of a double row of ditches across the narrowest part of the hilltop land.

In 1929 Jesensky discovered a flint drill of Indian origin in an old corn field nearby.

Two years later, Jesensky and Mr. Donkin, a Cleveland archaeologist from the State Archaeological Society submitted a documented paper after visiting the site and interviewing local people who shared information and artifacts with them.

In more recent years, Dr. David Brose, who was the Archaeologist for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, studied the site and compiled a report on this probable Indian fort.

# Roads LITTLE EGYPT



## Little Egypt Roads

**Dunham and Egypt Roads**, dedicated as County Roads in 1820, had been part of the Mahoning Trail and then the Cleveland - Pittsburgh Stagecoach Road.

The Little Egypt section of Egypt and Dunham Roads traversed steep hills. In Little Egypt, both roads were treacherous and often impassable.

Until 1907, Egypt and Dunham Roads were two separate roads, and did not connect with one another. Dunham Road twisted sharply at the bottom of the hill where it met Button Road. Egypt Road made a sharp turn west, then north, and ended at Tinkers Creek Road.

In the early 1900s, the New York Central Railroad started construction on a freight line that cut through Little Egypt. Its trestle bridge over the Tinkers Creek Valley was planned to cross Dunham Road at the top of the hill. The slope between the elevations at the NW end and SE end of bridge was too steep for a train to safely pass through. In 1907, Cuyahoga County engineers removed several feet of land from the top of the Dunham Road hill and realigned Egypt and Dunham Roads to form one road.

**Iron-Trussed Bridge** At the north end of Egypt Road, an iron-trussed bridge with wood planks crossed Tinkers Creek. The bridge was located near the site of the Gleeson Grist Mill, near the western border of Bedford Township.

Many times over the years, County Engineers worked on this stretch of the Dunham and Egypt Roads, removing rock and soil from the top and sides of the roads, and straightening the roads. In 1907 Dunham and Egypt Roads were relocated, merged, and took on the name Dunham Road.

**Tinkers Creek Road**, its western end at the Cuyahoga River and its eastern end at Dunham Road, became a dedicated County Road in 1811. The short stretch of the road at its east end, was in Bedford Township.

**Button Road**, a County Road dedicated in 1825, began at Dunham Road and ended on Broadway Avenue, in Bedford.

Not only was Button Road on a steep hill, the side of the hill kept eroding because of springs along the hillside and brittle shale rock. Each year the County had to repair the middle section of the road. The year 1915 was the last time the County worked on Button Road, and in 1923 the County gave up, declaring Button Road was no longer passable.

Today, Button Road is two short roads, with no mid-section.

## Traveling through Little Egypt

Travelers often needed assistance getting up and down Little Egypt roads. When horses could not pull buggies, mules and oxen could. Local residents who had mules or oxen and ox carts earned cash by transporting travelers and their goods up and down the hills. Travelers often stopped at Little Egypt to rest their horses, eat a meal, and when this stretch of their route was too dangerous, they ended up staying overnight in little Egypt until the roads were passable.

## Early Settlers

### **Bedford Township's First Settler - Elijah Nobles**

The Hudsons of Hudson Ohio gave **Elijah Nobles** a lot in Bedford Township, on Tinkers Creek Road, for free – on condition he made certain improvements to the land. Nobles traveled from Connecticut to his parcel of land, arriving in 1813.

His neighbors, who lived three miles away in Independence Township, came, and in a single day, built him a cabin.

Nobles saw before him a desolate lowland blocked by hostile treacherous hills on all three sides. He became weary of loneliness, and abandoned his cabin the next Spring.

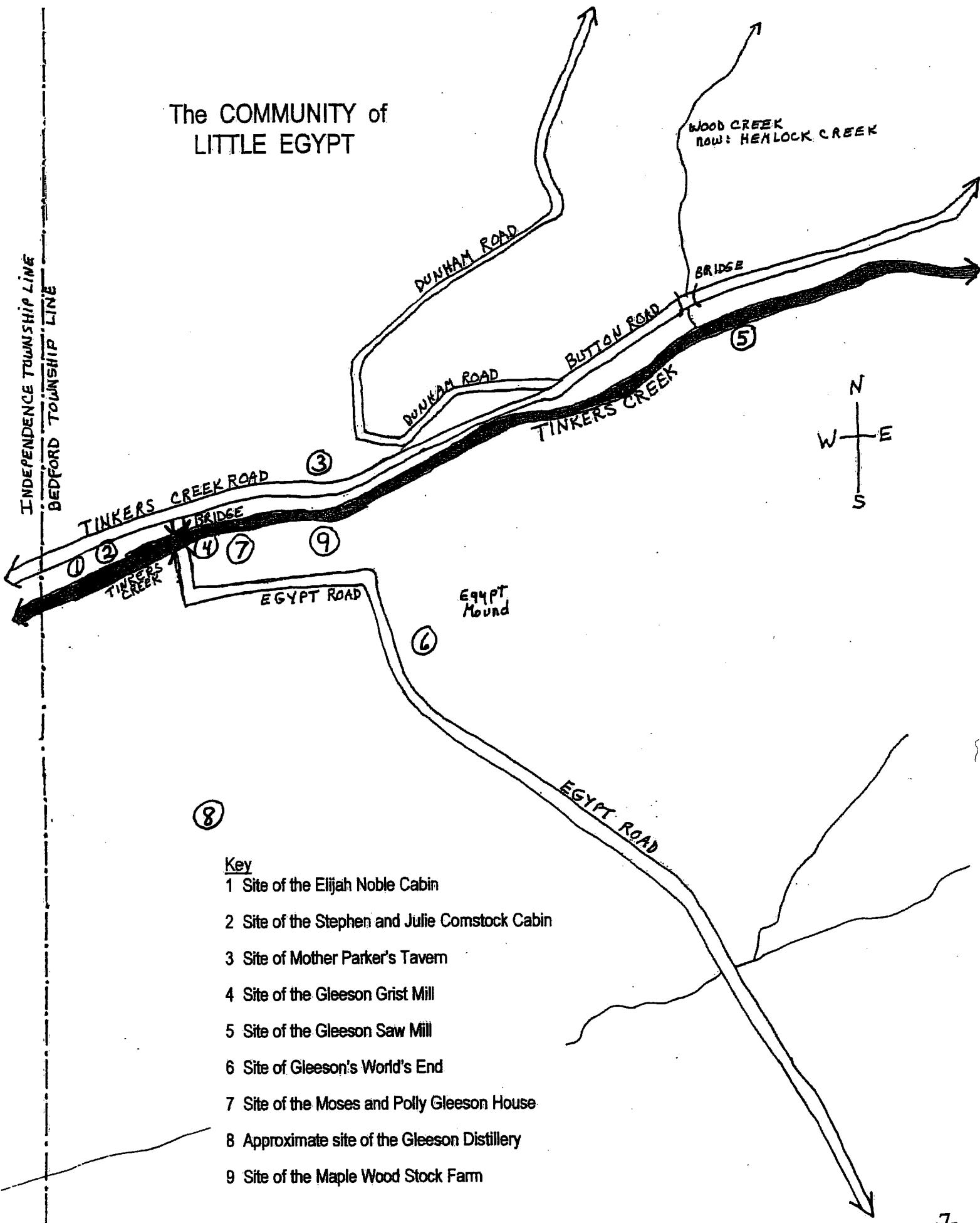
### **Bedford Township's First Permanent Settlers –**

#### **The Stephen Comstock Family**

The first permanent settlers arrived in Bedford Township in 1814. **Stephen** and **Julie Comstock** and son Charles, came here from Connecticut, to farm and live off their land.

In April 1815, daughter Sarah was born. Sarah was the first child of settlers to be born in Bedford Township. She was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 8 Comstock children.

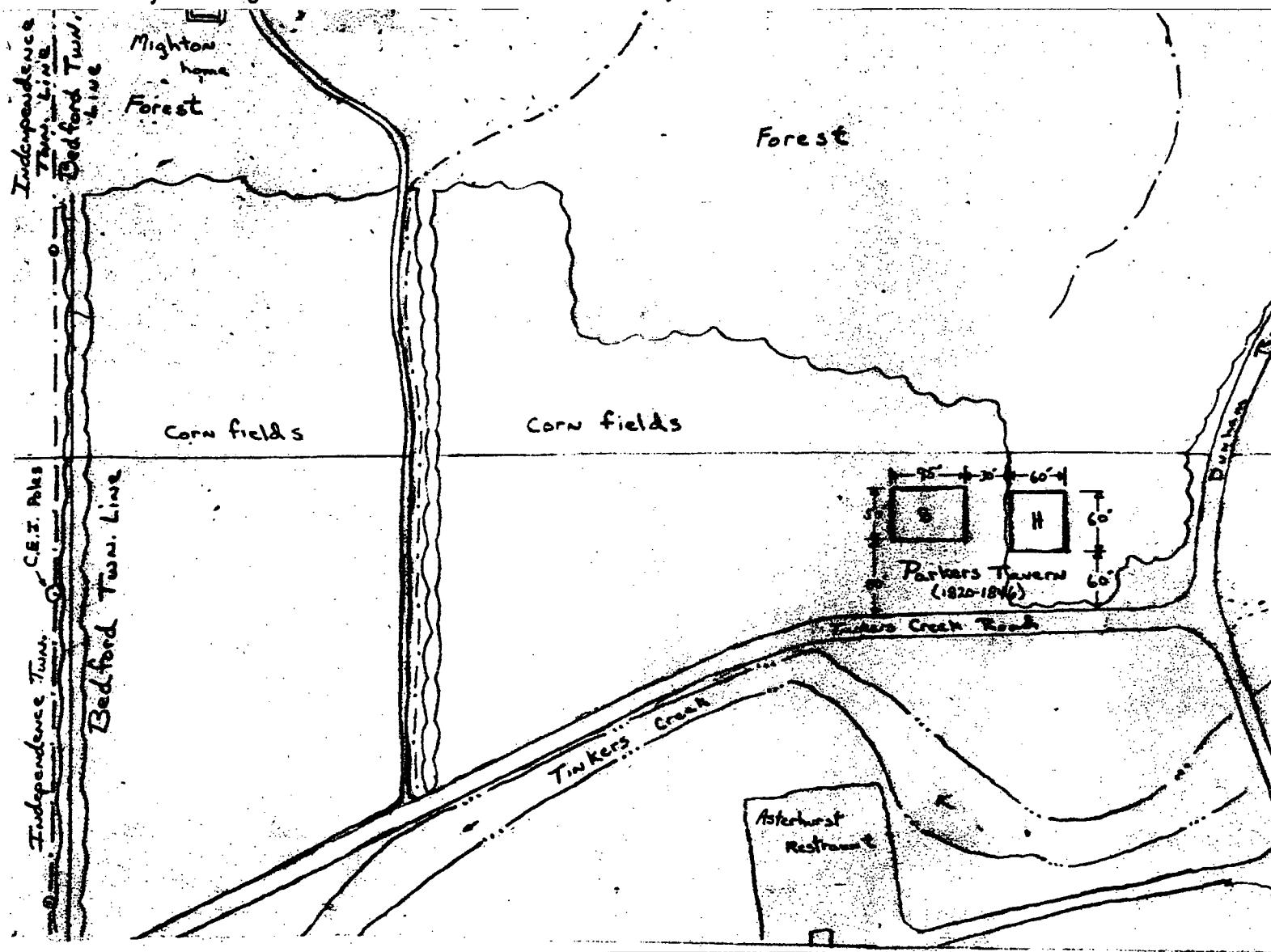
## The COMMUNITY of LITTLE EGYPT



## The Site of Ma Parker's Tavern

Sketch by Joseph Jesensky

**Ma Parker's Tavern** The other part of Noble's lot was taken by Cardeo and Mary Ann Parker. The Parkers built a house big enough for a tavern and inn. They called their establishment Mother Parker's Tavern. Ma Parker's Tavern, as it was more often called, operated from 1820-1846. It was known as a friendly, homey establishment. The front of the house had a tavern and small dining room used when the Parkers had women customers. The upstairs had sleeping space for traveling men, and the Parkers probably offered their bedroom to women and families who stayed overnight. When Cardeo Parker died in 1827, Mary Ann Parker continued to run the business.



The Legend of the Lost Dauphin is a story told about Ma Parker's Tavern. In the early 1820s, two young men entered the tavern. Ma Parker served them dinner and they stayed overnight. They left the next morning without paying the bill. Several months later, Mary Ann Parker received a letter postmarked from a country in Europe. In the envelope was a sum of money. The writer requested Ma Parker keep the issue a secret.

Louis Philippe and his wife, dressed in men's clothes were the visitors. Louis Philippe was the Lost Dauphin, the King of France's oldest son. He and his wife were staying in the United States for his safety. It is known that the two of them had been in the Ohio cities of Gallipolis and Coshocton. They probably escaped their entourage for a get-away, but didn't take enough money with them. Louis Philippe returned to France to reign as King of France from 1830 – 1848. The French word "Dauphin" is their term for a Crown Prince who would take over the throne upon the current King's death.

## World's End

World's End was the name of an old tavern Moses Gleeson built a few years before 1827. It was a stagecoach stop along the Cleveland-Pittsburgh Stagecoach Road.

World's End was an elegant establishment at the time. The unusual architecture, that of two large houses joined together, provided living space for the family and accommodations for overnight guests. One section of the building housed the resident family, and the other half had rooms for overnight guests upstairs, with a kitchen, dining room and tavern on the first floor.

World's End sat on top of the hill, on the eastern side of Egypt Road. It overlooked the Tinkers Creek Valley. Indeed, from that vista a person could have felt he was on top of the world.

World's End was a land mark in the area until fire destroyed the structure in either 1936 or 1937. The Howard Careys, Gleeson descendants who lived in the home at the time, rebuilt a home for themselves at 6975 Dunham Road.

Gleeson also built a twin structure, the Locktender's House, at the corner of Hillside and Canal Roads. The Locktender's House was open for business when the Canal opened in 1827.

The Locktender's House is now the Exploration Center, a visitor center for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.





Name: "World's End" The Moses Gleeson Stagecoach Tavern/Inn and farmhouse  
Address: Egypt Road (which is now named Dunham Road)  
The portion of Dunham Road south of Tinkers Creek Road was named Egypt Road until 1907, when County Engineers relocated and merged Egypt and Dunham Roads to form one road.  
Date Built: c. 1825-1827  
World's End was a stagecoach stop along the Cleveland-Pittsburgh Route.  
The house stood on the East side hilltop of Dunham Road,  
across the street from today's Astorhurst Golf Course Driving Range  
The double house had living space for the family on one side  
and on the other side, a tavern and dining room downstairs, and accommodations for guests upstairs.  
Still Standing: No A fire destroyed the house in 1936-1937.  
Moses Gleeson designed and built 2 identical structures for his business ventures:  
This one that is no longer standing, and another along the Canal at the intersection  
of Canal Road and Hillside Road.  
That structure has been restored by the Cuyahoga Valley National Park for its Canal Visitor Center.  
Date of Photo: Unknown

## World's End



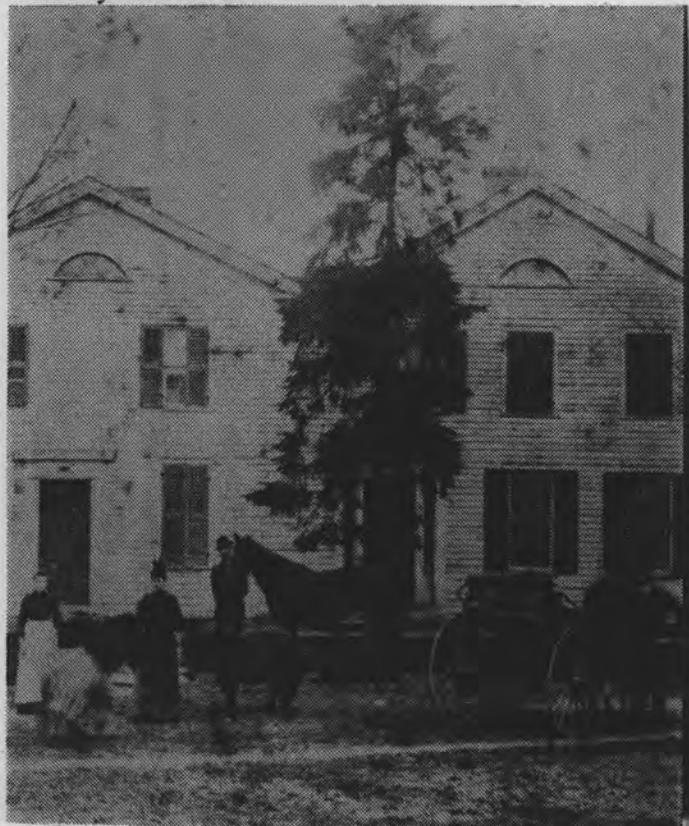
NEW WALL HALL DISPLAY  
at the HISTORICAL CENTER

November 2001 Walton Hills Owl



JOSEPH JESENSKY'S 1976 DRAWING of WORLD'S END, based on his early field sketch drawn in 1931. Jesensky wrote: "The Old Carey Homestead Once a Stage House along the Cleveland-Pittsburgh Stage Route. The family burials are shown on the summit of a high mound to the right - said to be an Indian Burial Mound called Egypt Mound - after which Old Egypt Road was named. The unusual architecture - that of two houses joined together - was patterned after a similar house - the Canal Lock Tender's house near Independence, O. The old house accidentally burned down in 1936 or 1937. The old watering trough fed by a large spring."

Based on an early field sketch. Jesensky 1931-76"



OLD PHOTO of the STAGECOACH HOUSE called WORLD'S END. It sat on the east side of Egypt Road, on the hilltop south of today's house at 6975 Dunham Road. World's End provided living space for the family and accommodations for overnight guests.



The Old Watering Trough  
feed by a large Spring

JOSEN SKY 1931-76

Based on an early  
field sketch

### The old Carey Homestead

Once a stage house along the Cleveland-Pittsburgh Stage Route  
The family burials are shown on the summit of a high mound  
to the right - said to be an Indian Burial Mound - called Egypt Mound -  
after which old Egypt Road was named. The unusual architecture - that of two houses  
joined together - was patterned after a similar home - the canal Lock Tender's house near Independence, O.  
The old house accidentally burned down in 1936 or 1937.

## Egypt Mound - Edmond Gleeson's Grave

### Egypt Mound

Egypt Mound has been studied a number of times by geologists, archaeologists and others who were authorized by the state or national government to determine its origin. The reports conflict with one another, but the mound has been declared non-Indian. Joseph Jesensky, who was a Cuyahoga Valley Researcher, believed the mound to be of glacial origin, a Glacial Kame. Glacial kames are heaps of rocks and gravel deposited by the glaciers, more than 14 thousand years ago. It is possible that local Indians used the top of this glacial kame for one of their burial mounds.

The mound is level at the top and roughly triangular in shape, like the bottom of an iron. The two longer sides are about 30 meters long, and the shorter end is about ten meters long. It is about eight meters higher than its surrounding land. Jesensky had a theory of how the mound became triangular shaped, which is peculiar to the shape of other mounds. He thinks that between 1904 and 1909, when New York Central crews were seeking landfill to elevate the track level behind the mound, they dug up the back part of the mound. The large rocks scattered around the base of the mound could be rocks that were too large to use for fill. Today, trees and underbrush conceal the mound's existence from the passerby.

### Edmond Gleeson's Grave

The top of Egypt Mound was used as a cemetery by the Gleeson family. The grave and gravestone of Moses Gleeson's son, Edmond, are there. Edmond died at age 44, in 1854.

A fence that had surrounded the burial plot is now gone, and the slabs of sandstone which supported the fence are barely visible.

The fact that the top of mound is a Gleeson burial site, hindered the investigations into the origin of the Egypt Mound.

1986 photo  
of the  
"hidden grave site"



Edmond Gleeson

Burial Markers

on

Egypt Mound

Egypt Mound is on  
Dunham Road,  
across from the  
Astorhurst Golf Course  
Driving Range

12-2008 Photos

Pictured are:  
Judi Schroeder and  
Nathan Schroeder



Egypt Mound  
May 16, 2012 / 036



## 2012 Walton Hills Historical Resource Center – Village Field Trip to Egypt Mound

-16-



Making our way up  
to Egypt Mound  
May 16, 2012 / 022



Egypt Mound  
May 16, 2012 / 035



Egypt Mound  
May 16, 2012 / 033

**MOSES GLEESON  
had this HOUSE  
BUILT for HIS FAMILY  
in c. 1840**

**This 1934 photo  
shows the  
GLEESON HOUSE  
with an addition  
for a restaurant  
that was added by  
Philip and Martha Astor**



**Moses and Polly Gleeson**

In 1818 Moses Gleeson began buying up parcels of land in Little Egypt, along Tinkers Creek Road and Dunham Road.

Gleeson is the man who built "World's End," the Stage Coach House that was on Dunham Road, across the road from the Astorhurst Golf Driving Range. "World's End" was along the Cleveland-Pittsburgh Stage Coach Route. Gleeson also built a duplicate building, the Lockkeeper's House, along the Canal, on Canal Road by Hillside Road. That building is now the Canal Exploration Center for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Moses Gleeson is also the person who built the stone house at the corner of Tinkers Creek Road and Canal Road. That house is also part of the CVNP.

In c. 1840 Moses and Polly Gleeson, who had ten children, had this large 2-story brick house built for him and his family. Before the family moved into this house, they lived at the North East corner of Tinkers Creek Road and Canal Road. (Of course, before 1827 when there was no canal, it was the road that paralleled the Cuyahoga River.)

The Gleeson Grist Mill stood very close to their house.

Name: The Moses and Polly Gleeson house – The Astor house – The Astorhurst Restaurant  
(The Astorhurst Restaurant was built around the original Gleeson house)  
Address: Tinkers Creek Road, Southwest corner of the intersection of Dunham Road and Tinkers Creek Road  
Date Built: c. 1840

In 1918 Philip and Martha Astor bought the property from Mary Alice Carey, who was a descendant of Moses and Polly Gleeson.

The Astors remodeled the Gleeson homestead and opened a child-care center for wealthy Clevelanders who took voyages to Europe for a few months at a time, and wanted a child-care facility for their youngsters. Then the Astors opened a restaurant, when they realized people were willing to spend more of their money on dining in restaurants than on child-care.

Date of Photo: 1934  
2005 - Property owned by TCP Investments / 2013 Property owned by the Cleveland Metroparks

Still Standing: No. In April of 2013 the Cleveland Metroparks purchased the Astorhurst property. Starting on the week of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, workers razed both the Gleeson house (built c. 1840) and the Astorhurst Restaurant (built in 1958-1959) as well as other nearby buildings.

## The MOSES GLEESON GRIST MILL GRINDING STONE

1986 Photo



### Mills in Little Egypt

When Elijah Nobles gave up his land and left the area, the Hudsons of Hudson Ohio split his lot in two parts.

In 1815, on one of the sections, **Adams and Starr** opened the first factory in Bedford Township, a **Saw and Grist Mill** on Tinkers Creek Road, by Tinkers Creek.

The business was not successful.

By 1820, the second owners of the mill, **Culverson & Boland**, rebuilt the structure to only accommodate grains for milling. They put their business up for sale.

**Moses Gleeson** bought the mill, and the **Gleeson Grist Mill** thrived.

A stone foundation supported the mill's wooden super-structure.

A mill race, or sluice, that could still be seen until 2013, channeled water from Tinkers Creek to the mill, providing a constant supply of water to the grist mill.

Gleeson also established a **Saw Mill** in Little Egypt. It was run by a steam engine.  
The **Saw Mill** was located in today's Hermits Hollow Picnic area of Bedford Reservation.



### **DOMINICK CAREY'S Original Blueprint of his MAPLE WOOD STOCK FARM**

The business operated from the late 1880s – 1918.

In recent years, the Astorhurst Restaurant (razed in 2013) and the Golf Course sat on that land.

The blueprint is on display in the Walton Hills Community Building.

In 2001, Lois Fradette donated the blueprint to the Village of Walton Hills.

In the late 1880s Dominick Carey, husband of Clara Gleeson - grand-daughter of Moses and Polly Gleeson - designed Maple Wood Stock Farm to satisfy his passion for raising and trading race horses. He built his horse training track facility on part of the Gleeson family land holdings.

The horse facility operated from the late 1880s until 1918. Carey hired managers to take over the daily operation of the facility.

When Dominick and Clara's son, Howard, finished high school, he managed the Maple Wood Stock Farm business. Howard trained trotters and pacers, racing them at Grantwood and Cranwood Race Tracks in Southeast Cleveland.

Howard Carey ran the training track until 1918, when the family sold the 21 acres that housed the facility to Philip and Mary Astor.

#### **DOMINICK CAREY**

Dominick Carey, with his wife's help, was in the bridge construction business. With Dominick's construction talents and Clara's money, they developed a construction company that employed from 700 to 1200 men at one time, making a fortune and a name for themselves.

Newspaper articles credit Carey with the construction of the New York City Subway, the Sandusky Bay Causeway and he helped build the New Groton Aqueduct in New York. Tragically in 1892, only eleven years after they were married, Dominick Carey drowned during a storm while overseeing flood damage to the Main Street Bridge over the Ohio River, in Wheeling West Virginia. He was 48 years old. The Main Street Bridge, which Carey designed and his company built, was considered the greatest stone arch in the United States at the time. His achievements are recorded in lengthy obituaries in a number of newspapers.

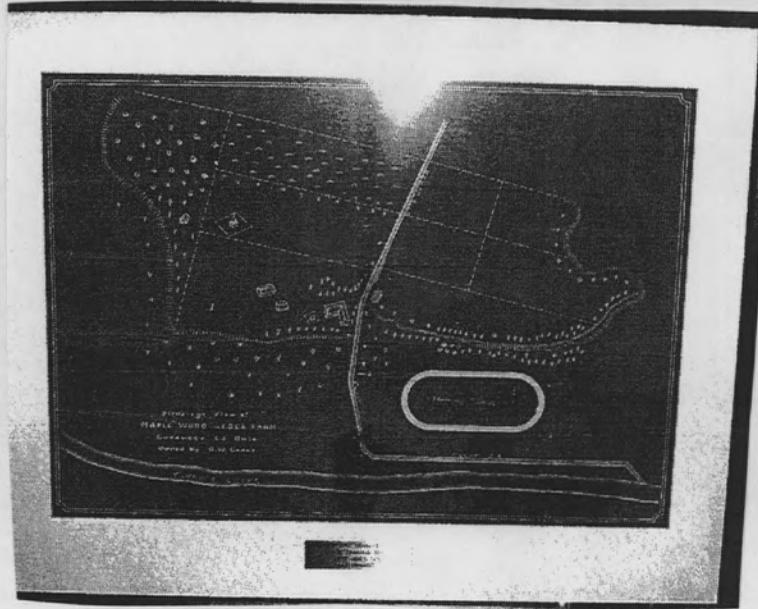
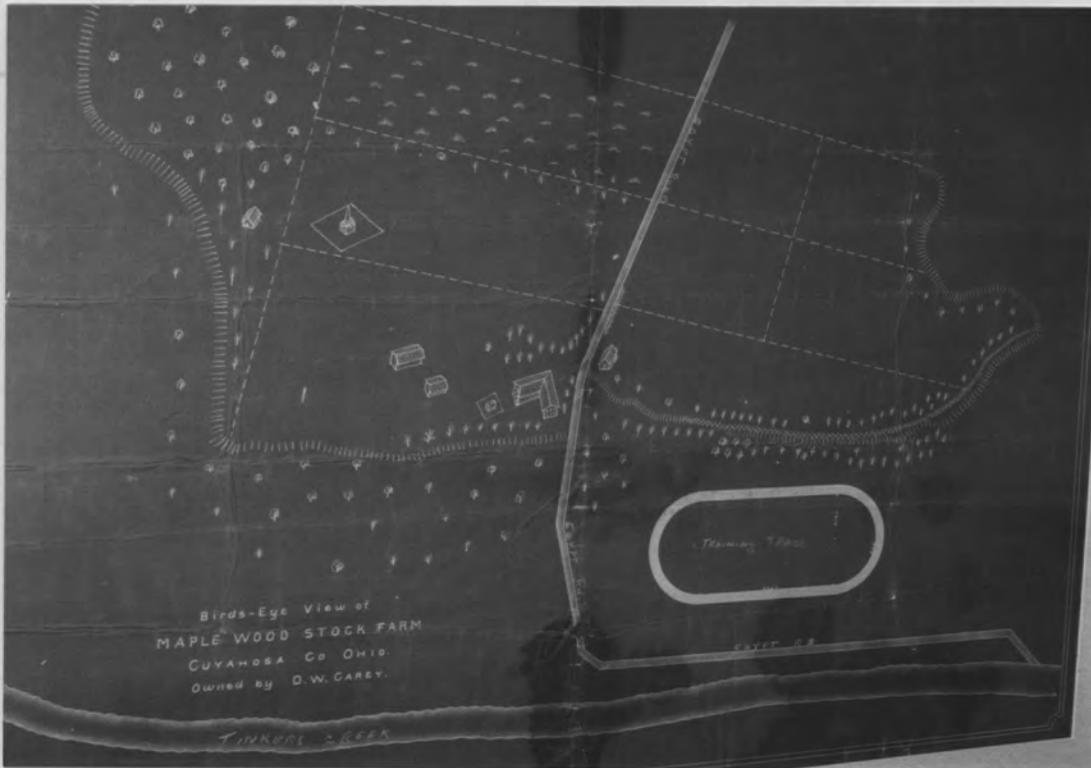
#### **CLARA GLEESON CAREY**

Clara was Edmond and Charlotte Gleeson's daughter, and Moses and Polly Gleeson's grand-daughter. Newspaper articles described Clara as "a refined, cultured and educated lady who had a shrewd business mind."

Clara owned and managed the Stage Coach Inn called "World's End." "World's End" was perched on the east hillside of Egypt Road, across from today's Astorhurst Golf Course Driving Range. It was a stop along the Cleveland-Pittsburgh Stage Coach Route. Clara Gleeson met her match when Dominick Carey stayed at the Inn while he was working on a job for the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad.

In 1881 they married and chose to make "World's End" their residence.

**Birds-Eye View of  
MAPLE WOOD STOCK FARM  
CUYAHOGA CO. OHIO  
Owned by D. W. Carey**



# Family Tree Spans 7 Generations of Living in Walton Hills

## The Comstock – Gleeson – Carey – Fradette Family

5-2015

This family has continuously lived in our village for seven generations, from 1814 through the present day.

### **The 1<sup>st</sup> Generation**

#### **Stephen and Julie Comstock**

Stephen and Julie Comstock, with their young son Charles, were the first permanent settlers in all of Bedford Township. In 1814 the Comstocks built their cabin along Tinkers Creek Road, just inside Bedford Township at its western border.

Stephen and Julie Comstock had 8 children. Their first daughter, Sarah, was born here in 1815. Sarah was the first child born to settlers in Bedford Township. Another Comstock daughter was named Charlotte, and it was Charlotte Comstock who continued the Walton Hills family tree.

### **The 1<sup>st</sup> Generation**

#### **Moses and Polly Gleeson**

Within the same time frame, Moses and Polly Gleeson lived at the corner of Tinkers Creek Road and Canal Road, in Independence Township.

In 1818, Moses Gleeson started buying parcels of land in this area of Bedford Township. As its principal landowner, Gleeson developed the Community of Little Egypt.

Gleeson and his family operated a gristmill, sawmill and a large duplex-style residence/inn called "World's End" that sat high on the eastern hillside of Egypt Road, along the Cleveland-Pittsburgh Stagecoach Route.

Gleeson also owned and developed many acres of farmland.

In c. 1840 Moses and Polly Gleeson moved into their large, stately 2-story brick home in what we call the Astorhurst area of Little Egypt.

Moses and Polly Gleeson had 10 children, one of whom was Edmond Gleeson. (Moses Gleeson died 1867)

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### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation**

#### **Edmond Gleeson born 1810 died 10-1854 at age 44**

Edmond Gleeson, son of Moses and Polly Gleeson, was a studious person of frail health. He became a lawyer. He purchased acreage that contained commercial grade sandstone along both the north and south sides of Tinker's Creek, and the east side of Dunham Road. Edmond Gleeson did not quarry his land; he bought it primarily as a buffer zone between the Gleeson farmlands and the noisy Cleaveland Quarry operation.

In 1848, at age 38, Edmond Gleeson married Charlotte Comstock. Edmond and Charlotte Gleeson had one child, a daughter named Clara Gleeson. Just 6 years after they were married, Edmond died, at age 44. Edmond's grave is on a hilltop called Egypt Mound, off today's Dunham Road, to the rear of "World's End."

### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation**

#### **Charlotte Comstock Gleeson Cleveland born 4-1822 died 12-1901 at age 79**

Charlotte Comstock, daughter of Stephen and Charlotte Comstock, married Edmond Gleeson in 4-1848, when she was 26 years old.

Edmond and Charlotte Gleeson had a daughter, Clara Gleeson, born 6-1851. Six years after Charlotte and Edmond were married, Charlotte was a widow.

When she was 32 years old, Charlotte Comstock Gleeson married James Cleveland, in 10-1859. (James b. 10-1825) Charlotte and James Cleveland lived in Bedford. Soon after they were married, James Cleveland sold Edmond Gleeson's "quarry" acreage to his father and brother, Abner Cleaveland and Clark Cleaveland, adding that land to their quarry. Charlotte died at age 79. She is buried in Bedford Cemetery.

# Family Tree Spans 7 Generations of Living in Walton Hills

## The Comstock – Gleeson – Carey – Fradette Family

5-2015

### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation

Clara Gleeson Carey born 6-1851 died 1938 at age 87

Clara Gleeson, daughter of Edmond and Charlotte Gleeson, married Dominick Carey in 2-1881, when she was 29 years old. Clara and Dominick Carey had 3 sons:

LeGrande Carey was born in 1882 – died at young age

Howard Carey was born in 1886. Howard lived his whole life in Walton Hills

Edmond "Cub" Carey was born in 9-1888. For many years, until he died in 6-1987, at age 99, "Cub" Carey lived in the historic Gleeson house at the corner of Tinkers Creek and Canal Road.

In 1860, at age 16, Dominick Carey (b. 3-1844) left his home in Canada for New York, and started his career working on bridge construction. It is recorded that he worked on the N.Y. City Subway and Sandusky Bay Causeway. He was working locally on a job when he met Clara Gleeson. At the time Clara owned and managed "World's End" and a general store by the Canal on Canal Road.

Clara Gleeson married Dominick Carey in 2-1881, when she was 29 years old. They moved into "World's End." They formed a construction company, employing 700-1200 men at times. Dominick Carey designed the Main Street Bridge over the Ohio River in Wheeling West Virginia. It was concern over that bridge that led to Dominick's death. In 1892, at age 48, Carey drowned during a storm when he was overseeing flood damage to his bridge. Clara was 40 years old at the time.

One of Dominick Carey's interests was breeding race horses. To that end he designed Maple Wood Stock Farm, which was located on today's lower Astorhurst land. Carey horses raced at Cranwood and Grantwood Race Tracks, and perhaps other nearby tracks as well. The business operated from the 1880s until 1918, when the property was sold to Philip and Mary Astor.

### The 4<sup>th</sup> Generation

Howard Carey born 1886 died 1976

Howard Carey married Gertrude Bonner.

Howard and Gertrude Carey had 4 children, James "Bud" Carey (married Marie), Dorothea Carey (married Gordon Kitson), Catherine Carey (married William Call) and Marguerite Carey. (Gordon Kitson was Willis Kitson's brother – Willis Kitson married Linda Alber)

Howard Carey farmed the fields and managed the Maple Wood Stock Farm business.

They lived in "World's End" until it burned down in 1936 or 1937.

Then Howard Carey built a new house for his family at 6975 Dunham Road.

### The 5<sup>th</sup> Generation

Marguerite Carey (had rheumatic fever, not well, told not to have children)

Marguerite Carey married Jim Fradette. Jim and Marguerite Carey had one child, Howard Fradette, born in 1932.

Marguerite Carey died when her son was just 3 months old. At that time her husband, Jim Fradette, left the household.

With help from aunts and uncles, Howard Fradette was raised by his grandparents, Howard and Gertrude Carey in the house at 6975 Dunham Road.

### The 6<sup>th</sup> Generation

Howard Fradette born 8-1932 died 7-1996

Howard Fradette married Lois Arnold. Howard and Lois Fradette had 3 sons, Tim Fradette, Gary Fradette and Jim Fradette. Howard and Lois Fradette and their sons lived in the house built by Howard Carey at 6975 Dunham Road. Now an elderly widow, Lois Fradette spends her days with her son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Judith Fradette, in Cuyahoga Falls, but she still calls the Dunham Road her home.

### The 7<sup>th</sup> Generation

Tim Fradette born 1957, Gary Fradette born 1962 - died when he was in his 40s, and Jim Fradette born 1964

Tim Fradette, Gary Fradette and Jim Fradette were raised in the house at 6975 Dunham Road.

Jim Fradette lives in the family home today. And so the legacy family remains in our village.

-1996 interview with Lois Fradette-  
( Spieths on Tinkers Creek Road, etc. are descendants of "Cub" Carey, Howard Carey and LeGrande Carey. LeGrande Carey, Jr. owns Brush Farms on Brush Rd and Brecksville Rd in Richfield

Allen Spieth 7243 Canal Rd

William Spieth 13604 Tinkers Creek Rd

William Spieth, Jr. 13622 Tinkers Creek Rd )

Edmond Gleeson Son of Moses and Polly Gleeson

Born 1810

Married Charlotte Comstock 4-8-1848 at age 38

Edmond and Charlotte had a daughter, Clara Gleeson, born 6-25-1851

They were married 6 years

Died 10-26-1854 at age 44 Buried in Egypt Mound, off Dunham Road in Walton Hills

Charlotte Comstock Gleeson Cleveland Daughter of Stephen and Charlotte Comstock

Born 4-4-1822

Married Edmond Gleeson 4-8-1848 at age 26 (Charlotte was 12 years younger than Edmond)

Widowed by Edmond 10-26-1854 at age 32

Married James Cleveland 10-16-1859 at age 37

Died 12-12-1901 at age 79

Died less than 8 months after James died / Buried in Bedford Cemetery

James Cleveland Son of Abner and Amanda Cleaveland

Born 10-16-1825

Married Sally Blanchard 8-7-1825 1st wife, Sally, died on 9-1852

Married Charlotte 10-16-1859

James Cleveland was Mayor of Bedford from 1860-1862

Died 4-25-1901 Buried in Bedford Cemetery

EXTRA PAGE  
about the  
Gleeson family

Clara Gleeson Carey Daughter of Charlotte Comstock Gleeson and Edmond Gleeson

Born 6-25-1851

Married Dominick Carey 2-28-1881 at age 29

Widowed by Dominick 1-14-1892 at age 40

Died 1938 at age 87

Clara and Dominick Carey had 3 sons:

LeGrande Carey - born 1882 / Howard Carey - born 1886 / Edmond "Cub" Carey - born 9-7-1888

Edmond M. "Cub" Carey (Son of Clara Gleeson Carey and Dominick Carey)

Born 9-7-1888

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

Cub Carey died 6-21-1987 - at age 99

He is buried at Maple Shade Cemetery in Independence H42-Grave 3

\* He was buried as Edwin Carey. Somehow, through the years, Edmond became Edwin.

...probably because family and friends always called him by his nickname, "Cub."

My records indicate he was born Edmond M. Carey.

For many years, until he died, Cub Carey lived in the  
stone house at the corner of Tinkers Creek Road & Canal Road

**MOSES GLEESON  
BUILT THIS HOUSE  
in c. 1840**

**This house and 21 acres  
became the  
ASTOR DAY CARE CENTER  
in 1918**

**1934 photo**



### **The Astor Day Care Center**

In 1918 Philip and Martha Astor purchased the Gleeson house and 21 acres of land from the Carey family. The Astors renovated the old Gleeson house and opened a child care center in their home. Well-to-do Cleveland and Shaker Heights families left their children with the Astors when they vacationed. Because parents often picked up their children around the supper hour and stayed to eat, the Astors added a country-club type of restaurant to their house.

Note: The small-group dining room, on the north side of building, was the restaurant the Astors added to the building.

**3-2002 photo**

The north side of the structure.  
Part of the original Gleeson house can  
be seen, although it has new siding.



**3-2002 photo View from the west side  
of the structure – the back of the building**



## The Astor Country-Club Restaurant

The new business prospered, and before long the Astors closed their child care center and concentrated exclusively on the dining operation.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment banning the sale of alcoholic beverages could have put a damper on the restaurant business, but there was a distillery on the property. From interviews with long-time residents in 1985, this writer learned that at least two of them, when they were young lads, were hired by the Astors to park cars on the nights when there were "Smoker Parties" at the place.

In 1933, when the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment was repealed and prohibition ended, the Astors obtained a liquor license for their business. That liquor license is issued to Philip Astor, and dated 1933.

Like many other people during the Great Depression, the Astors lost their property, but then they bought it back in 1939.

### From the ASTOR to the ASTORHURST

## ASTORHURST PARTY PLACE (the RESTAURANT) and the PICNIC GROVE

In 1958 local residents Joseph and Eleanor Dranek, along with a group of investors, purchased the Astor property. The Draneks enlarged and changed the layout of the house to include a large restaurant, two smaller party rooms and a lounge bar. The Astorhurst Party Place acreage included a picnic grove with a sheltered pavilion and cooking facilities for large groups of people.

From 1974 until 2013, the Astorhurst Restaurant and property was owned and operated by Constantine (Gus) and Toni Prinios. In recent years the second generation of the Prinios family converted the restaurant into a party center.

In 2013, the Cleveland Metroparks bought the property and razed the Gleeson House/Restaurant building and a few other near-by buildings.

## ASTORHURST COUNTRY CLUB – The GOLF COURSE

In the mid 1960s a group of investors bought the adjacent Carey land for a Golf Course. They sold out in 1974. The Astorhurst Country Club, as the Golf Course is now called, is an 18-hole, daily fee, public golf course. The Cleveland Metroparks did not buy the Golf Course acreage in 2013.

## ASTORHURST PARK PLACE – The ICE CREAM STAND

General Store In the 1940s, close to Dunham Road by the Tinkers Creek Bridge, a small general store opened for business. Frank and Sue Mund's customers were mainly horseback riders and visitors to Bedford Reservation. They sold hot dogs and other quick-to-make sandwiches. They also sold fuel from a gas pump that stood in front of their store. The Mund's living quarters were at the back of the store.

Since 1985, on the same site, is an ice cream and sandwich stand called Astorhurst Park Place.

August 2013 Photo



# The Astorhurst Restaurant Story

Top Business Card -for the Restaurant-

Reverse side reads -

"Closed Mondays

Luncheons served from 11:00 A.M. Daily

Dinners Served

Tuesday thru Thursday 5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Friday and Saturday 5:00 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.

Sunday 12:00 - 7:00"

Bottom Business Card

for the Ice Cream and Sandwich Stand

232-6590

232-6591

## Astorhurst Restaurant

6980 DUNHAM ROAD / WALTON HILLS, OHIO 44146

Let us arrange for your  
DINNER PARTIES, SOCIAL EVENTS,  
WEDDINGS, CLAMBAKES, ETC.  
PRIVATE DINING ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR ALL OCCASIONS

232-5425

## Astorhurst Park Place

6980 Dunham Rd. at Tinkers Creek  
Walton Hills

GOOD FOOD  
FROZEN CUSTARD

GUS PRINIOS  
Prop.

Photos: August 29, 2013



## The Astorhurst Story

Before Photos. Taken August 29, 2013 by Judi Schroeder

Bedford Reservation has gained another attractive picnic area within its boundaries.

In April of 2013, the Cleveland Metroparks purchased the Astorhurst property, land last owned by the Prinios family. Starting on the week of September 30<sup>th</sup>, workers razed the Astorhurst Restaurant (built 1958-1959), the Gleeson house (built c. 1840) that stood amidst the restaurant complex, and nearby buildings. Only memories remain.

Please note: The Astorhurst Golf Course, officially named the Astorhurst Country Club, a different parcel of land, not owned by the Prinios family, remains a golf course, and is not part of the Metroparks purchase.



## The Astorhurst Story

August 29, 2013 photos



## The Astorhurst Story

August 29, 2013 Photo



October 2, 2013 Photo



## The Astorhurst Story

October 2, 2013 Photo



October 10, 2013 Photo



## People of Little Egypt

Until he died in 1867, Moses Gleeson was the principal landowner in the Community of Little Egypt. Gradually, other people bought land along Little Egypt roads.

Some of the farm families lived off their land, some were truck farmers who earned money by peddling their vegetables, fruit, chickens, ducks, geese and smoked meats in urban Cleveland, and at least one farm family operated a cheese factory.

Little Egypt land owners found creative ways to raise enough cash to pay their property tax bills. Some farmers cut down chestnut, walnut and maple trees that were abundant in this area, and sold the logs to nearby lumber yards. Some of the men took jobs with Cuyahoga County – working on road construction in this area. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, some men had full-time jobs in nearby urban areas, and with the help of their wife and children, farmed their land and took care of the farm animals in their spare time.

Name: William Black Farmhouse  
Address: 7250 Dunham Road  
Date Built: c. 1854

William Black built this house on the 100 acres he purchased in 1837.

Linda Alber was born in the William Black house. Her family farmed the land and are remembered by some old-timers for their plum orchard and raspberry and strawberry patches.

Linda Alber married Willis Kitson. Soon after they were married, the young couple bought 63 acres of farmland on the north and south sides of Alexander Road from the Alexander family, for a farm of their own.

Joseph and Anna Kolis purchased 27 acres of the farmland and the house in 1941. Anna and the children pitched in to care for their wide variety of animals, vegetables, hay and field corn, so Joseph could continue to work full-time at Cleveland Pneumatic Tool. After rebuilding an old smokehouse found on the property, the family cured and smoked their own sausages, ham and bacon. On the outside of the smokehouse was an oven which family members regularly used to make bread.

2012 – Property of Esther Kolis

Date of Photo: 1983

Still Standing: Yes



**The People of Little Egypt** Until he died in 1867, Moses Gleeson was the principal landowner in the Community of Little Egypt. Gradually, other people bought land along Egypt Road. Some of the farm families lived off their land, some were truck farmers who earned money by peddling their vegetables, fruit, chickens, ducks, geese and smoked meats in urban Cleveland, and at least one farm family operated a cheese factory. To pay tax bills and raise some cash, some farmers cut down chestnut, walnut and maple trees, and sold the logs at nearby lumber yards.

## Egypt School

As part of the Bedford Township School System, **Egypt School** served children living in Bedford Township School District #6.

The first location of Egypt School was in Tinkers Creek Valley, which was prone to flooding and mosquitoes.

In 1880, the Bedford Township School Board bought a house on higher ground at 7215 Dunham Road and converted it into a schoolhouse. At Egypt Grammar School, there was one teacher who taught students whose ages ranged from 6 to 20, and were in grades 1 to 8. Enrollment at Egypt School varied year to year, from 12 to 36 students.

Egypt School was closed in 1920, due to lack of students.

At that time, remaining Egypt students became part of District #7, and attended Walton School at 7307 Walton Road.

### **Egypt School is Sold**

Egypt School and its acre lot were sold to Joseph and Josephine Dolejs. They were the highest bidders at a real estate auction held at the door of the schoolhouse in 1920.

When the Dolejses bought the one-room schoolhouse, they designed it into a home. They also dug around the old hand-cut foundation stones, laid new sandstone blocks around them, and dug a basement at the same time. Their grand-daughter is Patricia Featherstun, who lives in the village today with her husband, Richard Featherstun.

In 1985 Scott Dean purchased and moved into the old Egypt Schoolhouse. Although he appreciated the century-old house, costs didn't warrant its restoration. Fifteen years later, he and his wife, Karleen Dean, razed the old schoolhouse after they built a new home for themselves on the same lot, but farther back from the road.

(L) This photo shows the additions of the enclosed porch and upstairs windows.

1986 Photo by Nina Wolf



(R) Egypt School was razed in the year 2000.  
It stood in front of the new house at 7215 Dunham Rd.  
2002 Photo



## The Mars Wager Quarry

Commercial-grade Berea Sandstone was discovered on the slopes of the Tinkers Creek River, and east of World's End. In the late 1880s, Mars Wager, who had already owned sandstone quarries in the southwest sections of Greater Cleveland, bought parcels of land here, for a quarry operation.

Wager purchased over 200 acres of back-acreage land along the east side of Dunham Road for its marketable Berea sandstone. This local Wager Quarry was in operation in the late 1880s until 1904.

An oxen lane led from the quarry to Dunham Road. Blocks of sandstone were carted to Dunham Road, down Dunham Road Hill to Tinkers Creek Road, and west on Tinkers Creek Road to the Canal, where the sandstone blocks were put on flat boats and shipped to Cleveland.

Sandstone was quarried at the site until the New York Central Railroad stopped the quarry operation. Sometime around 1904, when NYC workers began working on the track in Little Egypt, the railroad stopped quarry workers from trespassing through their right-of-way to get to Dunham Road. The railroad track paralleled the east side of Dunham Road, cutting off the quarry from its access to Dunham Road.

The Wagers eventually sold this back acreage to the Cleveland Metroparks.  
Today, a visitor can see remnants of the quarry by following a path on the west side of Overlook Lane.

**Wager Quarry 1994 Photo**



Wager Quarry

1994 Photo

1994 Photos

Wager Quarry



## Cottages along Egypt Road

After the Great Depression, from about 1935 through 1949, fewer people lived in Little Egypt. Farmers and their wives were getting on in age, and their children moved into urban areas where they could find jobs and city conveniences. "For Sale" signs fronted idle fields.

However, during those same years, it was popular for middle-class urban families to have get-away cottages in the countryside – in a place like Little Egypt. Families who lived and worked in the city, came out here on weekends and vacations. The typical week-end family gardened, planted a field of corn or hay, and had one or more horses.

There were clusters of small, rustic summer cottages on both sides of Dunham Road and Dunham Lane. Some of the cottages were individually owned. Some cottages were rented from the Rezac/Chvatal family. Mae Chvatal, whose parents, Joseph and Dorothy Rezac, had a truck farm along the NW corner of Dunham and Alexander Roads, bought additional land along both sides of Dunham Road, cut Dunham Lane, and began building cottages. Mae had no trouble finding renters for her cottages.

Some "summer cottages" still stand today, although it takes a close look to identify them. They have been enlarged and renovated. Four of them are pictured on this and the following page.

In 1935 Joseph and Anna Kaderabek converted the summer cottage they owned at 7350 Dunham Road into a permanent residence.

Walton Hills has been home to five generations of the Kaderabek-Klukan-Spitznagel-Taggart family.



Bethany Majeski's house  
at 7257 Dunham Road  
was once a summer cottage.

## Cottages along Egypt Road

This house  
at 7715 Dunham Lane  
was originally a summer cottage.



Jeanette (Sagula) Schaeffer's house  
at 7775 Dunham Road  
was once a summer cottage.

# The Dziczkowski Family and Memories of "Black Beauty Riding Academy"

(p. 1 of 2)

The Hank Dziczkowski Family of 7135 Dunham Road celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> year as residents of Walton Hills in February of this year. While Henry (Hank) and Joyce Dziczkowski lived off Miles Avenue in Cleveland, Hank got the idea of building a house for his family on their 4-acre lot on Dunham Road, using hand-hewn utility poles (telephone and electric poles, as most of us call them.) He started to read the histories of American settlers and learned their techniques for building log cabins. Then he fashioned a tool like those used by the early settlers for splitting logs.

For 2 years, from 1960 to 1962, the Dziczkowskis looked for poles. "Every time we saw a crew replacing a pole we'd stop and ask them for the old one," stated Joyce Dziczkowski, when she was interviewed for a feature article that appeared in *The Cleveland Press* in April of 1969. Hank spent those two years converting the round poles into square beams.

After stock piling about 125 squared beams of various dimensions and stacking siding pieces that he cut to size, he received a building permit from the building inspector of the time. Hank began construction of his Walton Hills house in April of 1962. With help from relatives and friends, it only took the Dziczkowskis 10 months to build their house. In *The Cleveland Press* article Joyce is quoted as saying, "In spite of all the hard work, it is a good feeling to look around and know that we did all this ourselves." On a snowy day in February of 1963, Hank and Joyce Dziczkowski moved into their new home with their four daughters, Carol, Lori, Sue and Denise. Mark, their fifth and last child was born the following September.

Their distinctive log-cabin style home has outside walls that are 10 to 12 inches thick. Reinforced 30-foot beams crossing the ceilings provide support and eliminate the need for interior bearing walls. Shingles for the home's exterior were made by splitting the stumps of the poles into pieces. The stone fireplace wall in the living room was built of rocks that the children carried from the creek behind the house. The back of the wall, made of reclaimed brick, creates a foyer.



# The Dziczkowski Family and Memories of "Black Beauty Riding Academy"

(p. 2 of 2)

And yes, the fireplace mantle was fashioned from a utility pole. Large windows let in lots of light, making the house bright and comfortable. The kitchen, living room and dining rooms are large and open, appearing as one great room - a style that is fashionable today.

Residents living north of Alexander Road may remember their mailman, Hank. Dziczkowski transferred from the Brecksville Post Office in 1970 to work at the Bedford facility. He delivered mail to his fellow Walton Hills residents for the next 14 years. He retired in August of 1984.

## Hank's Parents and Black Beauty Riding Academy, Located on Dunham Road

Going back in time to the 1920s ...

Hank's parents, Henry, Sr. and Eleanor Dziczkowski and their 7 children lived in Cleveland. Henry Sr. owned the Dziczkowski Funeral Home at Harvard and East 71<sup>st</sup> Street. Henry, Sr. knew he needed to live close to his business, but he wanted to find a get-away weekend place for his family, one that was close to the city but in a country atmosphere where his children could ride horses.

Henry, Sr. purchased 4 acres of land on the east side of Dunham Road from the Hesoun family in about 1926. Then in about 1935, he bought 35 acres of land from the Mars Wager estate. This new acreage, at the back of Henry's property, had been part of the abandoned Wager Quarry.

Henry, Sr. then purchased 6 horses and the naming rights to "Black Beauty" from Mr. Clark. Mr. Clark, who was getting on in years, was looking for a buyer for his livery and horse rental business called "Black Beauty Riding Academy." Mr. Clark's "Black Beauty" had also been located on Dunham Road, but it was located on the west side of the road and south of Alexander Road.

Within a couple years Henry, Sr., Eleanor and their children opened their new Black Beauty Riding Academy to the public. Their horseback facility was about a mile north of Mr. Clark's, approximately at 7125 Dunham Road, across the street from today's Astorhurst Driving Range.

Through the years, Black Beauty had between 20 and 25 horses waiting for riders, some were standard bred, some pintos, and there were a few thoroughbreds. A 25-stall barn housed the horses. Black Beauty used about 16 miles of Bedford Reservation bridle paths, including the oxen lanes created by the Wager Quarry. People from Cleveland and nearby suburbs came to Black Beauty to learn to horseback ride, or rent a horse and go horseback riding through the park. Some people boarded their horses at Black Beauty. On Black Beauty grounds there was a pavilion with kitchen facilities, dance floor, and fireplace available for organized hay rides, church groups and youth groups. Black Beauty's business suffered when the main horse barn burned down in 1942 and 13 of the horses perished in the fire.

In the 1950s the family sold Black Beauty. Except for the 4 acres that are owned by Hank and Joyce Dziczkowski, Black Beauty acreage is now part of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

BLACK BEAUTY RIDING ACADEMY





## HOUSE MADE of Hand-Hewn Telephone and Electric Poles

Name: Hank and Joyce Dziczkowski House

Address: 7135 Dunham Road

Date Built: April 1962 - February 1963

For 2 years the Dziczkowskis searched for and stockpiled 125 utility poles.

During that time Hank converted the round poles into square beams.

Hank began construction of his house in April of 1962.

With help from relatives and friends, the Dziczkowskis built their house in 10 months.

Reinforced 30-foot beams crossing the ceilings provide support and eliminate the need for interior bearing walls.

Shingles for the home's exterior were made by splitting stumps of the poles into pieces.

Date of Photo: 2013

2012: Property of Hank and Joyce Dziczkowski

Still Standing: Yes

# ALONG DUNHAM ROAD

## The SAGAMORE HILLS BEER GARDEN

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

The Sagamore Hills Beer Garden at 7100 Dunham Road was a local gathering place in the mid 1930s and 1940s. It was located on the hillside next to the Astorhurst. The beer garden was primarily a summer attraction and was closed during the winter months.

Joseph Silk and his wife Anna managed the family run business from their living quarters in the back of the house. A special feature of the establishment was moonlight dancing on the large inside dance floor. Patrons were served at tables on the enclosed front porch and also under the grape arbor in the back.

The Silks developed their back acreage, which sloped down to the valley, into picnic grounds. They rented the grove to church groups and other local organizations. Facilities in the grove included pop, beer and food stands, outside picnic tables and a big pavilion that sometimes served as a dance hall.

Many years ago the beer garden was remodeled into a residence, and is now home to the DAN and JENNIFER VALENTINE family. The property is owned by the National Parks. It is possible that in the year 2010 the Park System may choose to end its lease with the family. If so, the land would revert to parkland acreage.



MOONLIGHT DANCING,  
the country atmosphere and beer  
-- not necessarily in that order --  
drew customers to The Sagamore Hills Beer Garden  
at 7100 Dunham Road.  
(1986 photograph by Nina Wolf)

## The Boy Scout Cabin Chris Foss – the Old Hermit Hermit Hollow Picnic Pavilion

### Boy Scout Cabin

Before the Cleveland Metroparks established Bedford Reservation in 1922, the Bedford Boy Scouts built a Cabin near Dunham Road, by Tinkers Creek, in the present Hermit Hollow Picnic Area. From the cabin, a narrow path paralleling the south side of Tinkers Creek, went downhill to Dunham Road. The Boy Scouts used the cabin on weekends and in the summer. In the 1920s, when the Scouts no longer used the cabin, they let an old man whom locals called a Hermit, to stay there as caretaker.

### Chris Foss – the Hermit

The Bedford Reservation staff allowed the hermit, Chris Foss, to stay in the cabin. Foss died in the cabin in 1929, at the age of 82. Soon afterwards, the cabin was razed.

### Hermit Hollow Picnic Pavilion

The pavilion and the picnic area are named for the recluse who made the shanty his home for several years. The cabin is no longer standing, but the site of the cabin is behind the pavilion's bathroom facilities.



"After the Hunt – at Tink's Tavern"

Mid 1950s Photo by John Kocsis



**Charlie's / Tink's Tavern / Tinkers Creek Tavern** In 1926, Charles Benada bought a building (built c. 1902) on Tinkers Creek Road and opened Charlie's Tavern. The cabin had been an old blacksmith shop, and was on the site of an earlier cabin owned by Elijah Nobles. From 1926 to the early 2000s, the tavern was a place where horseback riders and other local people could congregate, drink and chat. After a series of owners, Mike Cahill, a waterfront restorer of historic sites, purchased the property in 2006. Cahill restored and renovated the tavern into an upscale establishment. Since 2011 Kathy Price is the owner of the restaurant and its acreage.

### Caption for the mid 1950s photo "After the Hunt – at Tink's Tavern"

L to R:

**STEVE DUBER** (born 1915 in Bedford died 1975 in Bedford)

Steve Duber lived on Old Egbert Road in Bedford

Worked at American Steel Drum, He owned and trained Race Horses

Contact Persons: Son: Steve Duber (Alice) 17070 Andras Drive, Walton Hills 440.439.5216

All Phase, 181 Northfield Road, Bedford 440.439.4200

**JOE SIRNA** (born 4-20-1896 in Sicily died 4-28-1979 in Bedford)

Joe Sima came to Bedford when he bought the bar in 1953 He owned and managed Sima's Café

Contact Persons: Son and Daughter-in-Law: Leo and Beverly Sima, (current owner/manager of Sima's)

18171 Kydan Lane, Walton Hills, 440.232.6010 Sima's Café, 795 Broadway Avenue, Bedford 440.232.9825

**JACK WILLING** (died in about 1990)

Jack Willing lived in "Little Egypt" his entire life, first at the NE corner of Alexander and Dunham Road, then at 14800 Button Road (Hemlock Creek Parkway, Bedford Reservation)

He sold his property to the Metroparks, but lived there until his death.

Afterwards, the park razed his house and barn. The site is their Maintenance Center.

**MERLIN BEMENT** (died some years after 1975, in Florida)

Merlin Bement came from work, at the Walton Hills Village Hall, to join his friends after their hunt.

Note his shirt and tie. He was the Walton Hills Village Clerk from January 1952 - May 1969

Merlin Bement lived at 7242 Walton Road in Walton Hills, from 1938-1969

**SAM SIRNA** (born 7-13-1919 in Sicily died 6-11-1973 in Bedford)

Sam Sima came to Bedford when his father bought an existing tavern in 1953

Contact Persons: Younger Brother and Sister-in-Law: Leo and Beverly Sima, (current owner/manager of Sima's)

18171 Kydan Lane, Walton Hills, 440.232.6010

Sima's Café, 795 Broadway Avenue, Bedford 440.232.9825

**The Photographer: JOHN KOCSIS** (John died 11-30-1980 His wife, Dorothy, died 2-1988)

John and Dorothy Kocsis built their house at 17225 Spanghurst Drive in Walton Hills, after they were discharged from military service at the end of World War II.

John was an avid amateur photographer. As a volunteer, he took photos at many village activities. He was an active member of the Walton Hills Boy Scouts, Men's Club and Lake Club.



Tinkers  
Creek  
Tavern

8-2007  
Photos



The 1902 structure was the home of  
Tink's tavern from 1963 to 2006.



Developer Mike Cahill made massive  
renovations to the property in 2006.

## The New York Central Freight Line

The New York Central Railway System designed this new freight line on its right-of-way that cut diagonally through Little Egypt.

The NYC acquired the right-of-way when it purchased the L. E. & P Railway in 1900.

This freight line started at Marcy in Cleveland and ended in Hudson, where it connected with other NYC lines.

The Freight Line, used coal powered steam locomotives.

**The Freight Line was in operation from 1911 until the 1960s.**

**Work on the line began in 1904, and was completed in 1911.**

In the Little Egypt Section, NYC crews had to elevate long stretches of the land before tracks were laid.

They imported 250,000 tons of popcorn slag brought in from Youngstown and Pittsburgh steel mills so work crews could build up the ground level for tracks on the SE side of Tinkers Creek.

Several concrete culverts were built to span streams.

Small bridges were built to cross Egbert/Dunham Road and Alexander/Sagamore Road intersections.

In Little Egypt, the NYC built a Railroad Spur, Water Tower and Pump House for their freight line.

**The NYC Trestle Bridge** Two major NYC projects in the Tinkers Creek Valley were changing the elevation of the land for a Trestle Bridge, and building a Trestle Bridge that stretched 400 yards, and was 80 feet above the natural grade.

NYC engineers came here frequently to check their math and drawings.

The NYC built bridge abutments on both hillsides and in the valley, too.

For added support, they buried a wooden framework under each concrete abutment.

The Trestle Bridge was built between 1909 and 1911.

The bridge towered 150 feet above Tinkers Creek, and had a span of almost one-fourth of a mile.

They built a Catwalk under the bridge, and a series of suspended wood planks and platforms along the side of the trestle bridge, too.



1914 Photo

The New York Central  
Freight Line  
that went through  
Little Egypt

Building the  
Trestle Bridge



View of the New York Central Railroad Trestle from the Button Road Hillside



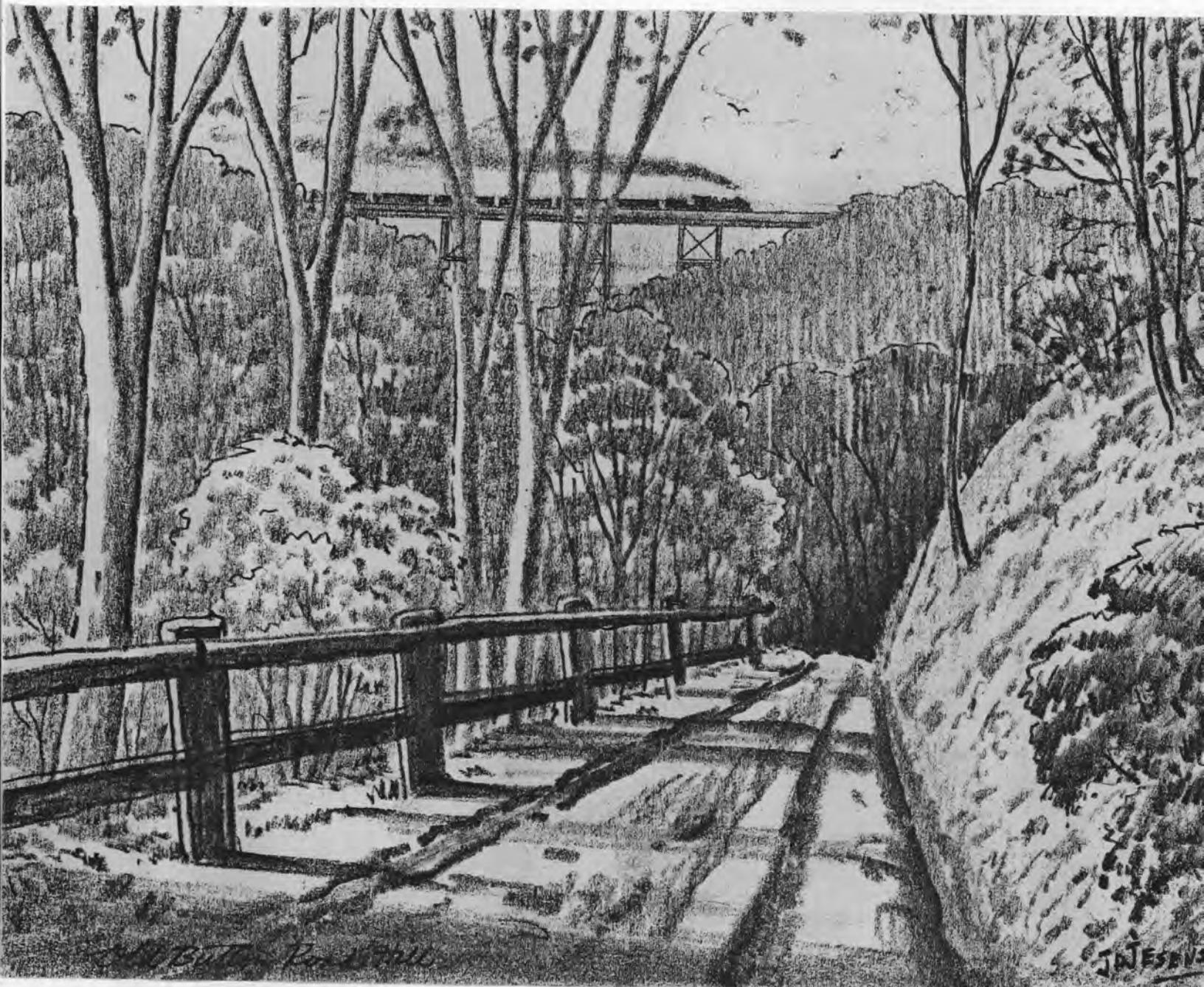
New Railroad bridge. 1914 photo



Tinker Creek bridge. 1914 photo



# View of the New York Central Railroad Trestle from Button Road



In 1973-1974 the New York Central Razed the Trestle Bridge



**Looking South**  
The South Trestle Abutment  
after the Trestle Bridge  
was Razed

(as seen from the  
Hemlock Creek Picnic Area)  
Photo by Judi Schroeder March 1994



**Looking North**  
View from the Elevated Path  
before the Popcorn Slag  
was removed

(Looking down the embankment)  
Photo by Judi Schroeder March 1994



## Restoring the NYC Track Line to its Original Topography

In 1994 and 1995 the elevated stretch of land that supported the NYC train tracks was restored to its original topography.

Independence Excavating, Inc. excavated and removed the granulated slag that was buried under the elevated stretch of land.

The embankment contained approximately 250,000 tons of granulated slag.

The company then sold the popcorn slag for use in ODOT's Interstate I-271 Express Lanes Project in the area east of Cleveland.

The slag removal operation began April, 1994 and was completed by September of 1995.



photos by  
Judi Schroeder  
1994 - 1995

## Three New York Central Railroad Houses

In 1902 and 1903, just before the NYC began construction of their Freight Line that cut through Little Egypt, the company purchased 3 houses in Little Egypt.

One would be the residence of the NYC Section Foreman and his family.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> house would be a camphouse for the laborers.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> house was purchased because it stood underneath the path of the planned trestle bridge.

Two of the houses are privately owned residences today. The third house was torn down by the Metroparks.

### The Section Foreman House

The New York Central bought the house at 7345 Dunham Road for living quarters for its local Section Foreman and his family. The house was built c. 1874. The railroad company made the inside as attractive as possible for its section foreman. The remodeled living room featured a large bay window as well as a set of solid oak French doors that separated two front rooms from the entrance hall.

Train tracks ran along the rear of the lot. The NYC insisted that at all times the Section Foreman have a clear view of the tracks from inside the house – no sheds, barns, underbrush or garden were allowed to obstruct his view of the tracks.

Paying the NYC \$7.00 a month rent, Section Foreman Edward Long and his family occupied the house from 1919 until 1939. At that time the NYC gave the Longs the option of purchasing the house or moving. When they chose to relocate, the railroad sold the house.

Since 1991, the owners of this house are Robert and Patricia Bednarski.



Year of photo  
Prior to 1935

## The New York Central Section Foreman House



1985 photo



2002 photo

## The New York Central Camphouse

Name: New York Central Camphouse  
Address: 15801 Egbert Road  
Date Built: Unknown – Years before 1900

The New York Central purchased this farmhouse at 15801 Egbert Road in about 1902. It was situated on the east side of the railroad tracks.

Most of the NYC laborers who prepared the site and laid the track were brought here from Hungary.

This Camphouse housed the workers. The first floor was one large room with picnic style tables and the second floor was a large dormitory.

A portion of the Camphouse was living quarters for the boarding house foreman and his wife.

Pete Vranek, who was in charge of the men, spoke both Hungarian and English. He could relay instructions from the Section Foreman to the work crews.

His wife, Kathryn Vranek, provided meals for the men, handled the laundry and kept the house clean. By the time this section of the rail line was completed and the construction gang were "let go," the Vraneks saved enough money to move to Cleveland and open a grocery store in their new neighborhood.

Date of Photo: 1958

2012 - Property of Scott Schroeder

Still Standing: Yes



## The New York Central Camphouse



1958 photo by Jacob and Eleanor Senchur



1992 Photo by Judi Schroeder

## The Third NYC Railroad House and Barn

This railroad house and barn were located on the north side of Button Road, near where Hemlock Creek empties into Tinkers Creek. The house and barn sat in the path of the NYC right-of-way, and also in the path of the soon-to-be-built railroad trestle. The NYC solved the problem by purchasing the property and moving the house several yards to the east.

Instead of using the house for railroad personnel, the company leased it to a local family, Rudolph and Lena Willing. A few years after construction of the rail line was completed, the NYC put the house up for sale. The Willings bought the property and renovated the house. Their son Jack, and his wife Kathleen, lived in the house until they passed away, at which time the property became part of Bedford Reservation. The Cleveland Metroparks razed the house and barn, and since the late 1980s, this is the site of the Bedford Reservation Management and Maintenance Center buildings.

The Willing House on Button Road  
Willing family members are pictured  
on their front port in days  
of yore.  
Date of photo unknown.  
Photo reproduced by Nina Wolf



The Willing Barn 1989 Photo by Judi Schroeder

House and Barn Razed in 1989 by the Cleveland Metroparks

## The NYC Railroad Barn on Button Road

This is a 1984 Ink Drawing by local artist

**Nina Wolf**, of Dunham Road.

Nina's drawing of the Willing Barn  
is on the cover of the book,  
*Tracing Our Heritage, the Village of  
Walton Hills*.

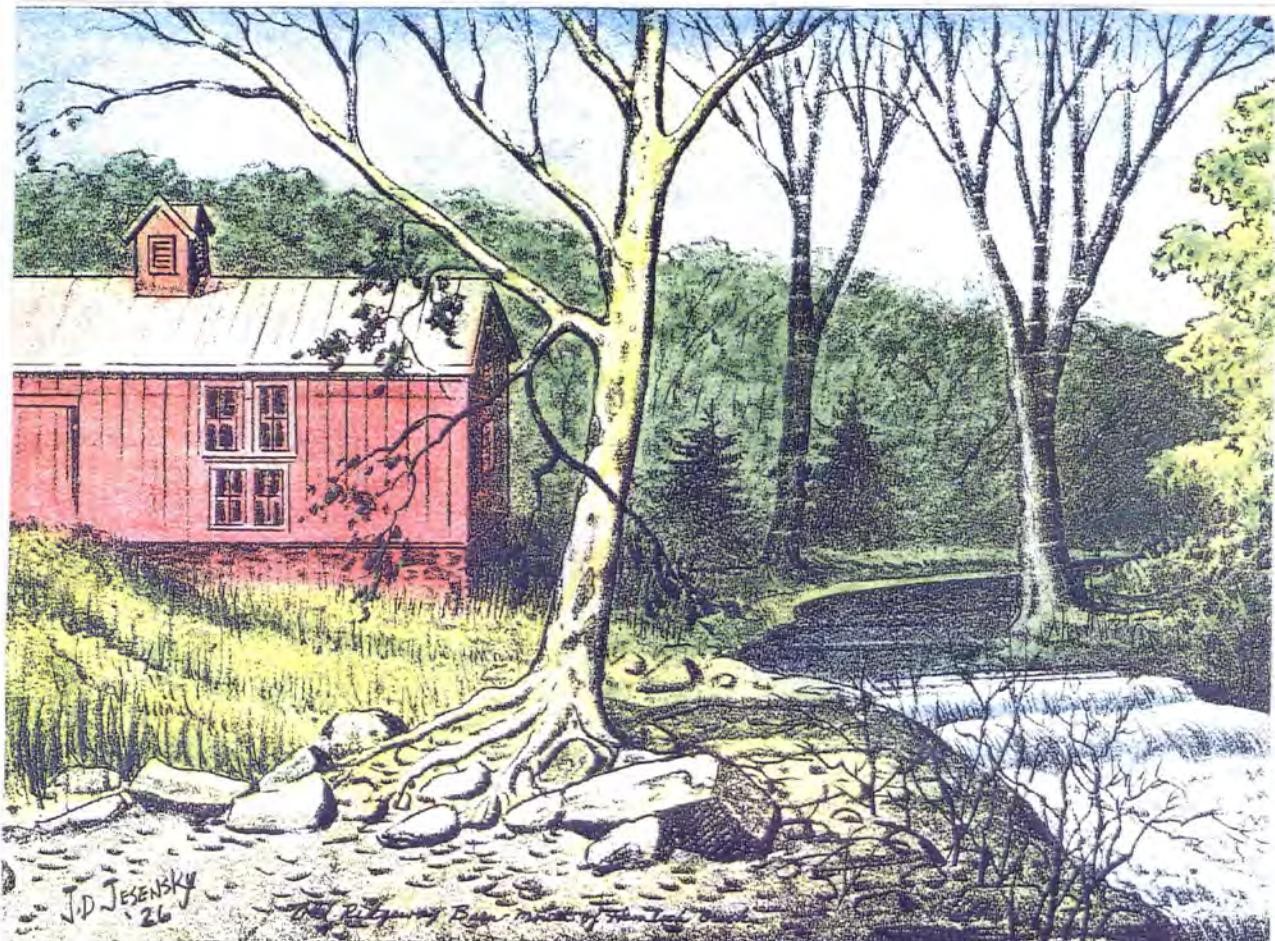
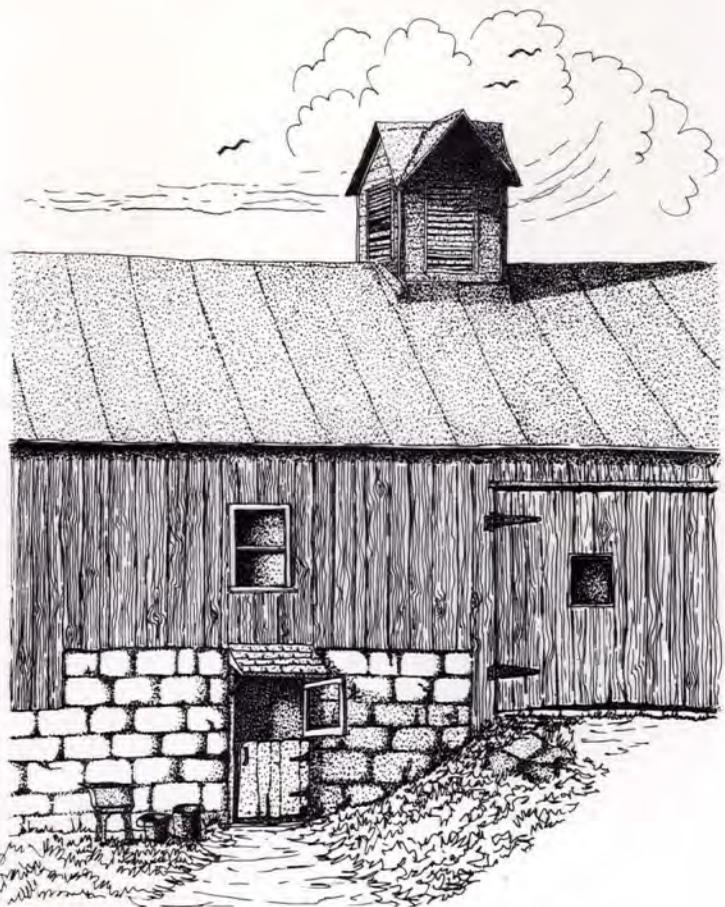
For many years this barn, built c. 1870,  
faced Button Road near the mouth  
of Hemlock Creek.

In 1989 this barn was razed by the  
Cleveland Metroparks.

This site is now Bedford Reservation's  
Management and Maintenance Center.

Below:

Sketch of the Willing Barn, 1923,  
by Joseph Jesensky



# Life in the Community of Little Egypt

Compiled by Jean Kainsinger, 2015 Page 1

## Where was Little Egypt?

The Community of Little Egypt, in existence from the early 1800s into the 1900s, was in the southwest corner of Bedford Township, at the junctions of Tinkers Creek Road, Dunham Road, Egypt Road and Button Road. Little Egypt ceased to exist when this area officially became part of Walton Hills in 1951.

## Why the name, Little Egypt?

Little Egypt, as well as Egypt Road, got their names from Egypt Mound, the raised hump of earth behind the site of "World's End," along Egypt Road.

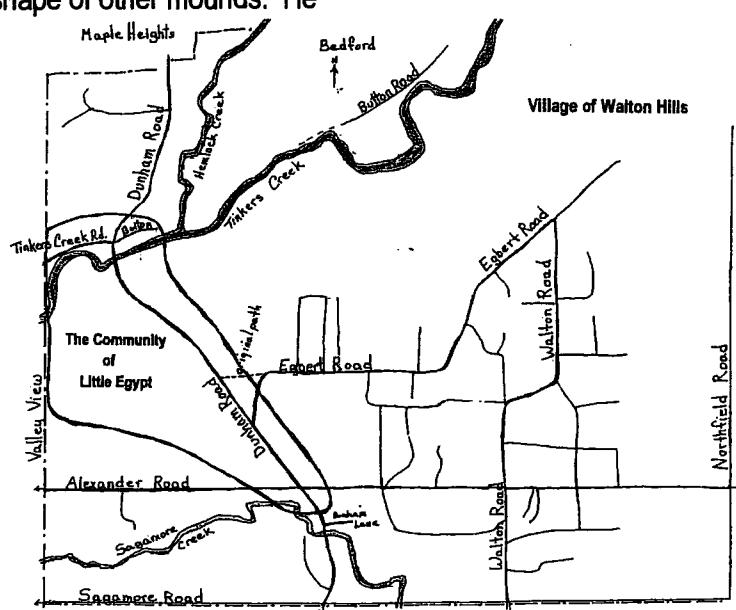
Egypt Mound has been studied a number of times by geologists, archaeologists and others who were authorized by the state or national government to determine its origin. The reports conflict with one another, but the mound has been declared non-Indian. Joseph Jesensky, who was a Cuyahoga Valley Researcher, believed the mound to be of glacial origin, a Glacial Kame. Glacial kames are heaps of rocks and gravel deposited by the glaciers, more than 14 thousand years ago. It is possible that local Indians used the top of this glacial kame for one of their burial mounds.

The mound is level at the top and roughly triangular in shape, like the bottom of an iron. The two longer sides are about 30 meters long, and the shorter end is about ten meters long. It is about eight meters higher than its surrounding land. Jesensky had a theory of how the mound became triangular shaped, which is peculiar to the shape of other mounds. He

thinks that between 1904 and 1909, when New York Central crews were seeking landfill to elevate the track level behind the mound, they dug up the back part of the mound. The large rocks scattered around the base of the mound could be rocks that were too large to use for fill. Today, trees and underbrush conceal the mound's existence from the passerby.

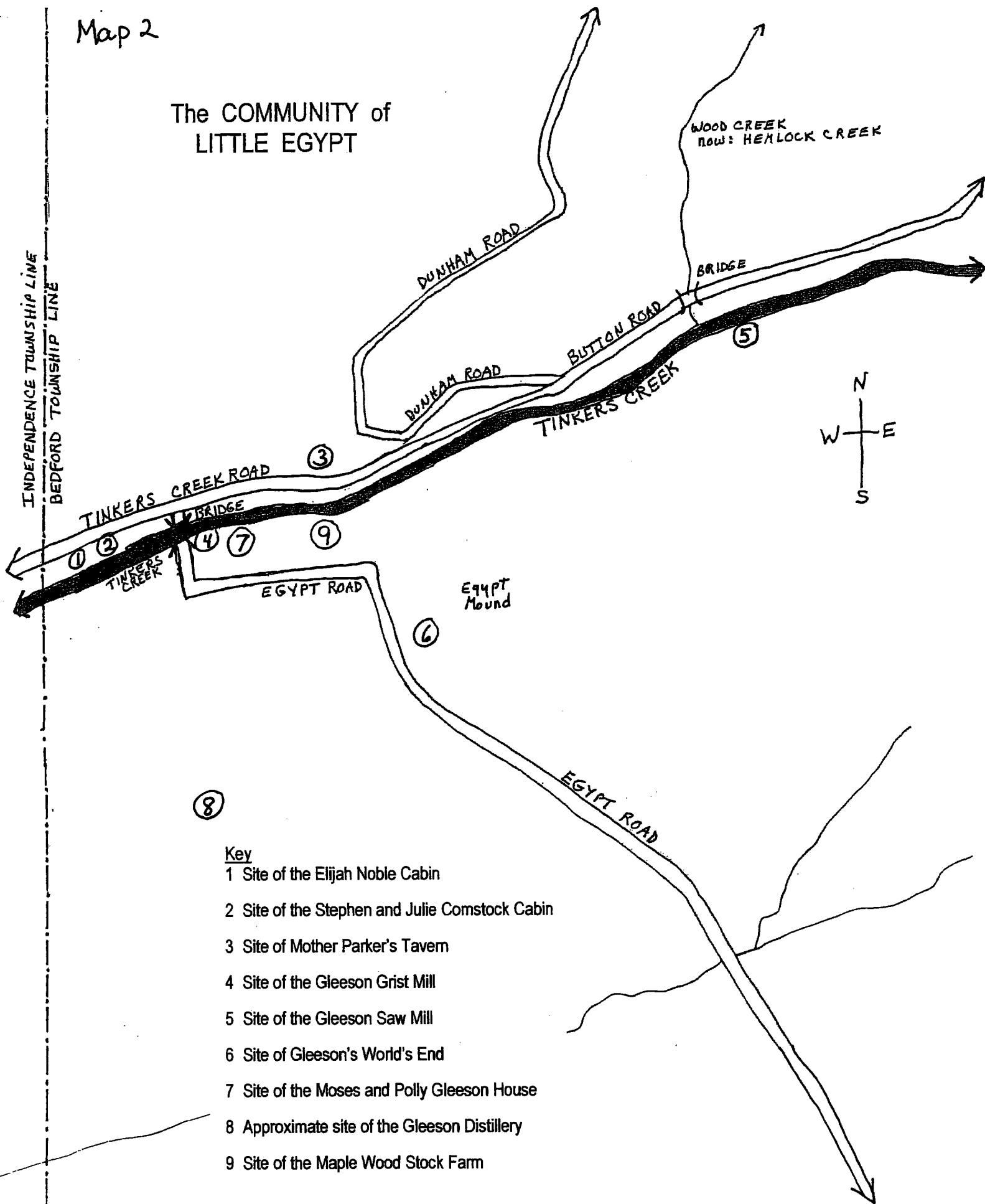
The top of Egypt Mound was used as a cemetery by the Gleeson family. The grave and gravestone of Moses Gleeson's son, Edmond, are there. Edmond died at age 44, in 1854. A fence that had surrounded the burial plot is now gone, and the slabs of sandstone which supported the fence are barely visible. The fact that the top of mound is a Gleeson burial site, hindered the investigations into the origin of the Egypt Mound.

Tinkers Creek, the largest tributary of the Cuyahoga River, was the life line of Little Egypt. The many springs along this hilly section of Tinkers Creek provided fresh water to the animals, Indians and Settlers. Saltlicks and deposits of salt can be found under rocks in the creek, especially at the junction of Deerlick Creek and Tinkers Creek. The salt in Tinkers Creek attracted the animals. The Indians and Settlers came here because it was a good hunting ground where they could also collect their needed supply of salt. Old-time residents remember the good fishing in Tinkers Creek. Bass, Bluegill, Croppie, at Catfish from the creek provided the main course for many family dinners. Local mothers often made soup from turtles caught in the creek.



Map 2

The COMMUNITY of  
LITTLE EGYPT



# Life in the Community of Little Egypt

Page 3

## Little Egypt Roads See Map 2

**Dunham and Egypt Roads**, dedicated as County Roads in 1820, had been part of the Mahoning Trail and then the Cleveland - Pittsburgh Stagecoach Road. The Little Egypt section of Egypt and Dunham Roads traversed steep hills. In Little Egypt, both roads were treacherous and often impassable. Until 1907, Egypt and Dunham Roads were two separate roads, and did not connect with one another. As you can see from the map, Dunham Road twisted sharply at the bottom of the hill where it met Button Road. Egypt Road made a sharp turn west, then north, and ended at Tinkers Creek Road.

**Iron-Trussed Bridge** At the north end of Egypt Road, an iron-trussed bridge with wood planks crossed Tinkers Creek. The bridge was located near the site of the Gleeson Grist Mill, near the western border of Bedford Township.

Many times over the years, County Engineers worked on this stretch of the Dunham and Egypt Roads, removing rock and soil from the top and sides of the roads, and straightening the roads. In 1907 Dunham and Egypt Roads were relocated, merged, and took on the name Dunham Road.

**Tinkers Creek Road**, its western end at the Cuyahoga River and its eastern end at Dunham Road, became a dedicated County Road in 1811. The short stretch of the road at its east end, was in Bedford Township.

**Button Road**, a County Road dedicated in 1825, began at Dunham Road and ended on Broadway Avenue, in Bedford. Not only was Button Road on a steep hill, the side of the hill kept eroding because of springs along the hillside and brittle shale rock. Each year the County had to repair the middle section of the road. The year 1915 was the last time the County worked on Button Road, and in 1923 the County gave up, declaring Button Road was no longer passable. Today, Button Road is two short roads, with no mid-section.

## Traveling through Little Egypt

Travelers often needed assistance getting up and down Little Egypt roads. When horses could not pull buggies, mules and oxen could. Local residents who had mules or oxen and ox carts earned cash by transporting travelers and their goods up and down the hills. Travelers

often stopped at Little Egypt to rest their horses, eat a meal, and when this stretch of their route was too dangerous, they ended up staying overnight in little Egypt until the roads were passable.

## Early Settlers

The Hudsons of Hudson Ohio gave **Elijah Nobles** a lot in Bedford Township, on Tinkers Creek Road, for free – on condition he made certain improvements to the land. Nobles traveled from Connecticut to his parcel of land, arriving in 1813. His neighbors, who lived three miles away in Independence Township, came, and in a single day, built him a cabin. Nobles saw before him a desolate lowland blocked by hostile treacherous hills on all three sides. He became weary of loneliness, and abandoned his cabin the next Spring.

See Map 2-1

The first permanent settlers arrived in Bedford Township in 1814. **Stephen and Julie Comstock** and son Charles, came here from Connecticut, to farm and live off their land. In April 1815, daughter Sarah was born. Sarah was the first child of settlers to be born in Bedford Township. She was the second of eight Comstock children. See Map 2-2

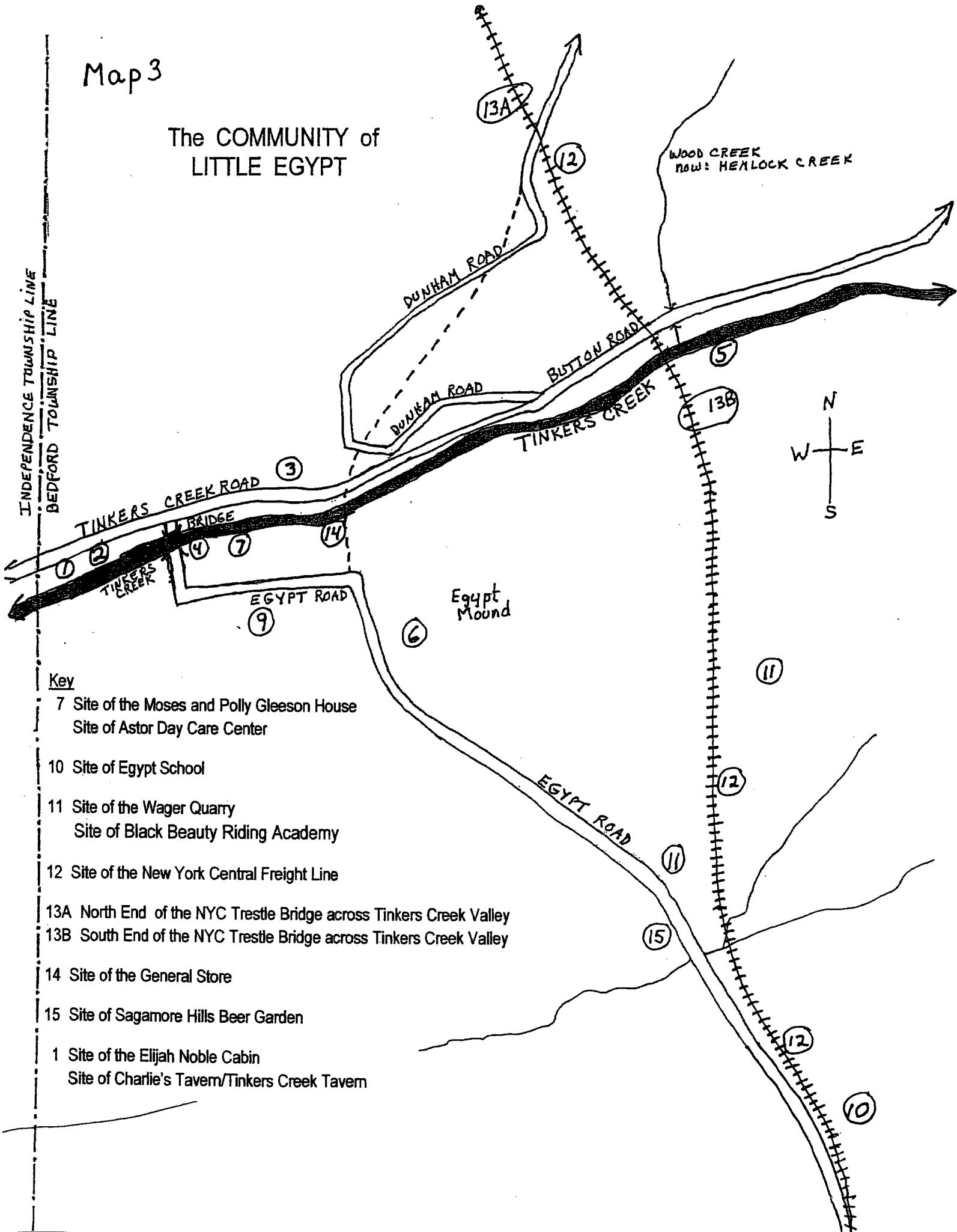
**Commercial Activity in the Community of Little Egypt started in 1814-1815.** The next people who came to Little Egypt saw business opportunities in the unclaimed valley between steep hills, and capitalized on them.

**Mills** Elijah Nobles' lot was split in two parts. On one section, in 1815, **Adams and Starr** opened the first factory in Bedford Township, a **Saw and Grist Mill** on Tinkers Creek. By 1820, the second owners of the mill, Culverson & Boland, rebuilt the structure to only accommodate grains, and sold the business to **Moses Gleeson**. The **Gleeson Grist Mill** thrived. A stone foundation supported the mill's wooden super-structure. A mill race, or sluice, channeled water from Tinkers Creek to the mill, providing a constant supply of water to the grist mill. See Map 2-4

Gleeson also established a **Saw Mill** in Little Egypt, located in today's Hermits Hollow Picnic area of Bedford Reservation. It was run by a steam engine. See Map 2-5

# Map 3

## The COMMUNITY of LITTLE EGYPT



# Life in the Community of Little Egypt

Page 5

**Ma Parker's Tavern** The other part of Noble's lot was taken by Cardeo and Mary Ann Parker. The Parkers built a house big enough for a tavern and inn. They called their establishment **Mother Parker's Tavern**. Ma Parker's Tavern, as it was more often called, operated from 1820-1846. It was known as a friendly, homey establishment. The front of the house had a tavern and small dining room used when the Parkers had women customers. The upstairs had sleeping space for traveling men, and the Parkers probably offered their bedroom to women and families who stayed overnight. When Cardeo Parker died in 1827, his widow continued to run the business. See Map 2-3

The Legend of the Lost Dauphin is a story told about Ma Parker's Tavern. In the early 1820s, two young men entered the tavern. Ma Parker served them dinner and they stayed overnight. They left the next morning without paying the bill. Several months later, Mary Ann Parker received a letter postmarked from a country in Europe. In the envelope was a sum of money. The writer requested Ma Parker keep the issue a secret.

Louis Philippe and his wife, dressed in men's clothes were the visitors. Louis Philippe was the Lost Dauphin, the King of France's oldest son. He and his wife were staying in the United States for his safety. It is known that the two of them had been in the Ohio cities of Gallipolis and Coshocton. They probably escaped their entourage for a get-away, but didn't take enough money with them. Louis Philippe returned to France to reign as King of France from 1830 – 1848. The French word "Dauphin" is their term for a Crown Prince who would take over the throne upon the current King's death.

**The Gleesons** Moses and Polly Gleeson left the State of New York to build a new home for themselves at the north-western end of Tinkers Creek Road, in Independence Township. In 1818, Moses Gleeson began buying parcels of land in Little Egypt. Gleeson soon became the principal owner of properties in Little Egypt.

**World's End** World's End was the name of an old tavern Moses Gleeson built, a stagecoach stop along the Cleveland-Pittsburgh Stagecoach Road. See Map 2-6. World's End sat on top of the hill, on the eastern side of Egypt Road. It overlooked the Tinkers Creek Valley. Indeed, from that vista a person could have felt he was on top of the world. World's End was an elegant establishment at the time, consisting of two large houses joined together. One section housed the resident family, and the other half accommodated overnight guests upstairs, with a kitchen, dining room and tavern on the first

floor. World's End was a land mark in the area until fire destroyed the structure in either 1936 or 1937.

Gleeson also built a twin structure, the Locktender's House, at the corner of Hillside and Canal Roads. The Locktender's House was open for business when the Canal opened in 1827. The Locktender's House is now the Exploration Center, a visitor center for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

**Gleeson Farmland** By 1818 Moses Gleeson began purchasing nearby parcels of land in Bedford Township, by the junctions of Tinkers Creek, Dunham and Egypt Roads. Gleeson farms stretched throughout this entire area, along the east and west sides of Egypt Road, and north and south of Tinkers Creek. Gleeson acreage is now part of Bedford Reservation and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

**The Gleeson House** In 1840 Moses Gleeson built a large, stately 2-story brick residence for his family, close to his gristmill. See Map 2-7. Moses and Polly Gleeson, who had 7 sons and 3 daughters, moved from their house at the northwest end of Tinkers Road, into their new home in Bedford Township. As a reference for the location of the 2-story brick house -- recall the site of the Astorhurst Country Restaurant. In 1958 the Astorhurst Restaurant was built around the 2-story Gleeson house. Both the Gleeson house and the restaurant were razed in October 2013 by the Cleveland Metroparks.

**The Gleeson Family Distillery** was at the bottom of the hillside, on today's Astorhurst Golf Course. The spring for the distillery was at the top of the hill, off today's Astorhurst Driving Range parking lot. A wooden trough led clear spring water to the distillery. See Map 2-8

**Maple Wood Stock Farm** As years went by, Clara Gleeson, a grand-daughter of Moses Gleeson, inherited all the Gleeson properties along Tinkers Creek Road, Dunham and Egypt Road, including the brick house and World's End. Clara took over the management of her businesses, including a general store by the canal. Clara married Dominick Carey in 1881. They made World's End their residence. With Clara's money and business acumen and Carey's engineering and construction talents, they developed a construction company that employed from 700 to 1200 men at one time. They made a fortune and a name for themselves. Dominick Carey was a noted tunnel and bridge builder. The New York City Subway, the Sandusky Bay Causeway and Bridge, and the Main Street Bridge over the Ohio River in Wheeling West Virginia were some of his projects.

# Life in the Community of Little Egypt

Page 6

**Maple Wood Stock Farm** (continued) Dominick Carey built a horse training facility on the bottom land near Tinkers Creek and Dunham Road, on what is today, part of the Astorhurst Golf Course and the former Astorhurst Restaurant. See Map 2-9 Carey designed Maple Wood Stock Farm to satisfy his passion for raising, training and trading race horses. Maple Wood Stock Farm was in operation from the late 1880s until 1918. Carey hired managers to take over the daily operation of the facility, and then later, his eldest son, Howard, managed Maple Wood Stock Farm. Howard Carey trained trotters and pacers, racing them at Grantwood and Cranwood Race Tracks in southeast Cleveland.

Sadly, in 1892, at age 48, Dominick Carey drowned during a storm when he was overseeing flood damage to his Main Street Bridge. Maple Wood Stock Farm remained in business until the Careys sold 21 acres of this land, including the old Gleeson house, to Philip and Mary Astor in 1918.

**Astor Day Care Center** In 1918 Philip and Mary Astor renovated the old Gleeson house and opened a child care center in their home. See Map 3-7 Well-to-do Cleveland and Shaker Heights families left their children with the Astors when they went on lengthy vacations. Because parents often picked up their children around the supper hour and stayed to eat, the Astors decided to add a small-group dining room on the north side of their house. The new business prospered, and before long the Astors closed their child care center and concentrated exclusively on the dining operation. In 1933, when the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment was repealed and prohibition ended, the Astors were among the first Ohioans to obtain a liquor license for their business.

When Little Egypt became part of the Village of Walton Hills, the Astors sold their property to a group of investors who built the Astorhurst Country Restaurant around the Gleeson house, and developed the Astorhurst Golf Course.

**The People of Little Egypt** Until he died in 1867, Moses Gleeson was the principal landowner in the Community of Little Egypt. Gradually, other people bought land along Egypt Road. Some of the farm families lived off their land, some were truck farmers who earned money by peddling their vegetables, fruit, chickens, ducks, geese and smoked meats in urban Cleveland, and at least one farm family operated a cheese factory. To pay tax bills and raise some cash, some farmers cut down chestnut, walnut and maple trees, and sold the logs at nearby lumber yards.

Some of the new land owners had jobs in nearby urban areas, and chose to raise their family in the country atmosphere of Little Egypt.

## **Egypt School** See Map 3-10

As part of the Bedford Township School System, Egypt School served children living in District 6. The first location of Egypt School was in Tinkers Creek Valley, which was prone to flooding and mosquitoes. In 1880, the Bedford Township School Board bought a house on higher ground at 7215 Egypt Road and converted it to a schoolhouse. At Egypt Grammar School, there was one teacher who taught students whose ages ranged from 6 to 20, and were in grades 1 to 8. Enrollment at Egypt School varied year to year, from 12 to 36 students. Egypt school was closed in 1920, due to lack of students. At that time, remaining Egypt students became part of District 7, and attended Walton School at 7307 Walton Road.

**Cottages along Egypt Road** In the early 1900s until the late 1940s there were clusters of small, rustic summer cottages on both sides of Egypt Road, and on Dunham Lane. The typical "cottage family" lived in the city, and came to their cottage on weekends and vacation periods, to experience country living. They gardened, planted fields of corn or hay, and had one or more horses. The Rezac/Chvatal family built several cottages in this area and rented them out. Some of these cottages have been converted into year-round houses, and are still standing today.

## **More Recent Commercial Activity in Little Egypt**

**Wager Quarry** Commercial-grade Berea Sandstone was discovered on the slopes of the Tinkers Creek River, and east of World's End. In the late 1880s, Mars Wager, who owned sandstone quarries in the southwest sections of Greater Cleveland, bought parcels of land here, for a quarry operation. See Map 3-11 Blocks of sandstone were carted to Egypt Road, down Egypt Road hill to Tinkers Creek Road, and west on Tinkers Creek Road to the canal, where they were put on boats and shipped to Cleveland.

The New York Central Railway stopped the operation of the Wager Quarry. Sometime around 1904, when NYC workers began working on the track in Little Egypt, the railroad stopped quarry workers from trespassing through their right-of-way to get to Egypt Road.

# Life in the Community of Little Egypt

Page 7

## The New York Central Freight Line See Map 3-12

The New York Central Railway System designed this new freight line on a right-of-way that cut diagonally through Little Egypt. The line started at Marcy in Cleveland and ended in Hudson, where it connected with other NYC lines. The NYC acquired the right-of-way when it purchased the L. E. & P Railway in 1900.

Work on this section of the line began in 1904, starting an economic boom in Little Egypt. The NYC purchased three houses in Little Egypt, one for its Superintendent of Construction, one for its Section Foreman and work crews, and a third house because it sat under the site of a bridge they would build. The NYC brought in work crews, many of whom came from Hungary and could only communicate with the Section Foreman and his wife, both of whom were hired because they spoke English and Hungarian.

**The NYC Trestle Bridge** Two major NYC projects in the Tinkers Creek Valley were changing the elevation of the land for a Trestle Bridge, and building a Trestle Bridge that stretched 400 yards, and was 80 feet above the natural grade. NYC engineers came here frequently to check their math and drawings. The NYC imported 250,000 tons of popcorn slag brought in from Youngstown and Pittsburgh steel mills so crews could build up the ground level for tracks on the SE side of Tinkers Creek. The NYC built bridge abutments on both hillsides and in the valley, too. For added support, they buried a wooden framework under each concrete abutment.

The Trestle Bridge was built between 1909 and 1911. The bridge towered 150 feet about Tinkers Creek, and had a span of almost one-fourth of a mile. They built a Catwalk under the bridge, and a series of suspended wood planks and platforms along the side of the bridge, too.

See Map 3-13A and 3-13B

In the Little Egypt Section, NYC crews elevated long stretches of the land before tracks were laid. Several concrete culverts were built to span streams. Small bridges were built to cross Egbert/Dunham Road and Alexander/Sagamore Road intersections, and a Railroad Spur, Water Tower and Pump House were erected.

This NYC Freight Line, using coal powered steam locomotives, ran from 1911 until the 1960s.

**Black Beauty Riding Academy** In 1935, Henry and Eleanor Dziczkowski purchased about 40 acres of land, on Egypt Road, from the Wager family. The Dziczkowskis lived in Cleveland and "camped" here on weekends. The family liked horses, and wanted a diversion from living in the city and operating their funeral parlor. They opened Black Beauty Riding Academy at 7125 Egypt Road, using about 16 miles of Bedford Reservation bridle paths and oxen lanes created by the Wager Quarry. Their livery usually had from 20 to 25 horses. See Map 3-11 Black Beauty had a dance hall pavilion, and was open for hay rides, and church and youth groups. Black Beauty Riding Academy was in business for about 20 years.

**General Store** A small general store, by the Tinkers Creek Bridge on Egypt Road, opened for business in the 1940s. Frank and Sue Mund's customers were mainly horseback riders and visitors to Bedford Reservation. See Map 3-14 They sold hot dogs and other quick-to-make sandwiches. They sold fuel from a gas pump that stood in front of their store. The Mund's living quarters were at the back of the store. Since 1985, an ice cream stand called Park Place, is on the same site.

**Sagamore Hills Beer Garden** In the mid 1930s through the 1940s, Sagamore Hills Beer Garden at 7100 Egypt Road was a summer gathering place owned by the Silk family. It was located on the hillside, to the south of today's Astorhurst Golf Driving Range. See Map 3-15 Joseph and Anna Silk managed the family run business from their living quarters at the back of the house. Their beer garden featured moonlight dancing on a dance floor in the enclosed front porch. Patrons were also served in the grape arbor on the back acreage that slopes down to the valley.

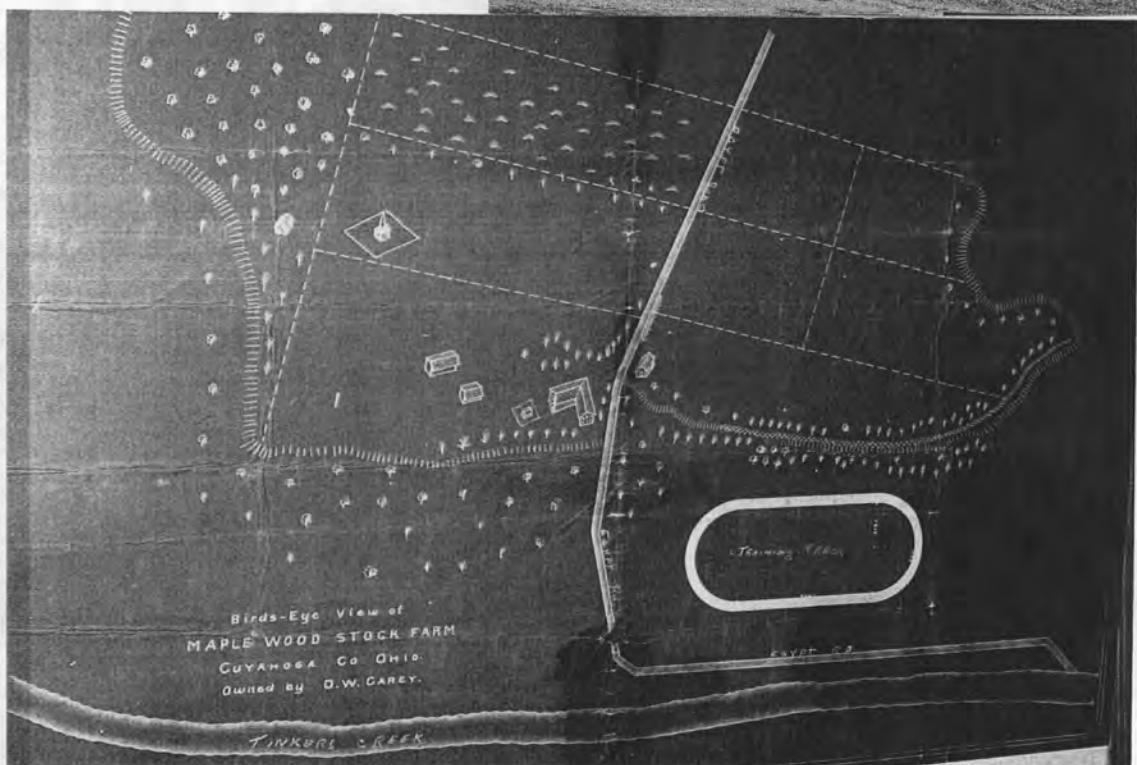
**Charlie's/Tink's Tavern/Tinkers Creek Tavern** In 1926, Charles Benada bought an old cabin on Tinkers Creek Road and opened Charlie's Tavern. The cabin had been an old blacksmith shop, and was on the site of an earlier cabin owned by Elijah Nobles. From 1926 to the early 2000s, the tavern was a place where horseback riders and other local people could congregate, drink and chat. After a series of owners, Mike Cahill, a waterfront restorer of historic sites, purchased the property in 2006. Cahill restored and renovated the tavern into the upscale establishment that it is today. See Map 3-16



New York Central Freight trains crossed Tinkers Creek Valley on this trestle-supported bridge. The freight line operated from 1911- into the 1960s

World's End, a Stagecoach Stop on Egypt Road.  
In operation by the mid 1820s,  
fire destroyed the building in 1936/1937

Gleeson House, built in 1840  
and  
Astorhurst Restaurant, opened in 1969.  
The buildings were razed in October 2013  
August 2013 photo



Maple Wood Stock Farm  
in operation from  
the late 1880s - 1918