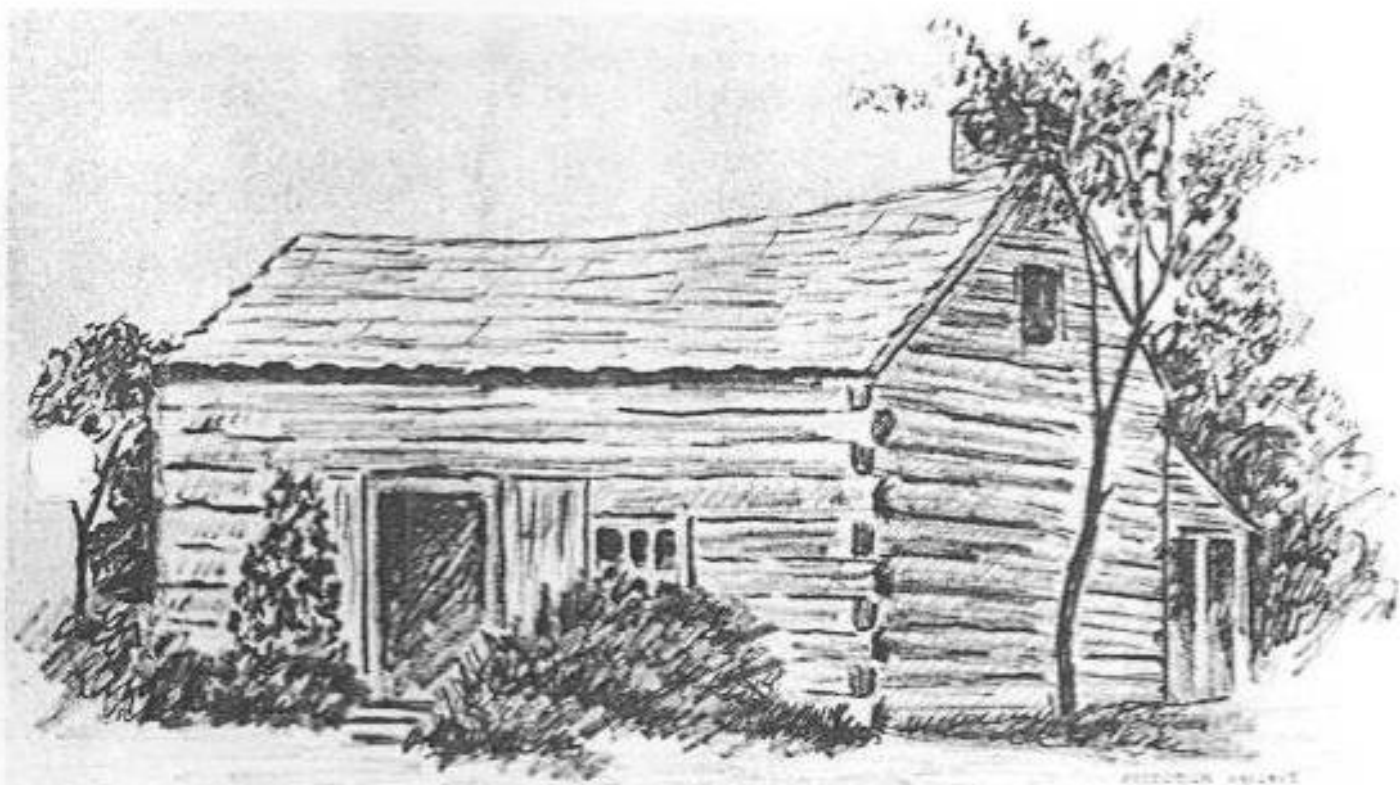


Anniversary

—BULLETIN—

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Cabin of Adira Baughman

FEATURING . . .

*Early Franklin County
Homesteads*

A TREASURY OF EARLY FRANKLIN COUNTY HOMES

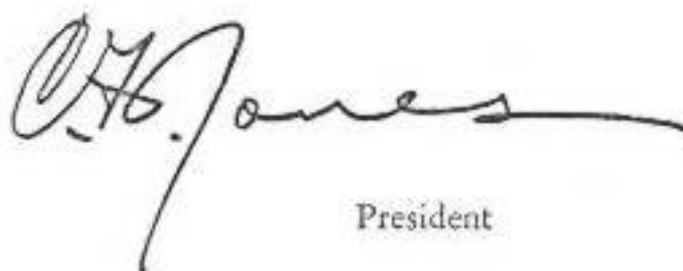
(An Introduction)

Franklin County was settled a little over one hundred and fifty years ago. The pioneers erected cabins built out of logs notched at the corners and chinked with daubing to close the crevices. After living in the cabins for a few years the more prosperous began to think about more commodious and substantial houses in which to raise their families. These fine old homes are the real historical monuments that tell much about the life of our pioneer ancestors.

Perhaps less than two hundred of these historic residences survive; but they still keep a personal and appealing record of the way the frontiersmen lived when our State was in its infancy. Here are the mellow old farmhouses and early village homes where Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, William Henry Harrison, John Quincy Adams, John Tyler, Martin Van Buren, and others visited; where men and women of courage and vision dreamed and worked to bring about the great commonwealth that is ours today.

The selecting and the photographing of these homes was accomplished only after careful research. The photographer in many instances has waited for the right light, the right time of day, and in most instances the right time of the year before the pictures were taken.

It is hoped the reader will gain not only an insight into how the early pioneers lived, but also a rich and fascinating picture of architecture practiced in the midwest, and especially in Franklin County, a century and more ago.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "O. H. Jones". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the word "President".

President

THE LOCKBOURNE TAVERN



The Lockbourne Tavern—a reminder of the halcyon days of the canal.

This two-story brick house, originally and for many years a tavern, is interesting for several reasons. One of the oldest houses in Lockbourne during the halcyon days of the canal, it was the rendezvous of gamblers, schemers and counterfeiters.

The village came into existence in 1831, when it was laid out by Col. James Kilbourne as the agent of Joel Buttles, Demas Adams, and others. The tavern was built soon after 1831 and almost immediately became the center of activity in the village. The inscription on the name plate above the door is illegible but from the best interpretation that can be made the name is "Josiah Hiler" and the two dates, one "5852" and the other "1852." These dates indicate that Hiler was a Hebrew. (The Hebrew calendar was consulted.)

There are many features about this old inn that are interesting and have remained unchanged through the years. The nine windows facing the front contain 12 small panes each. The name plate containing the name and dates is of peculiar geometric design and is of white marble. The heavy cumbersome door jambs are of native sandstone and a large slab of the same material forms the step to the front door. A large heavy millstone, almost hidden by dirt and grass, lies in front of the door slab.

THE SHADEVILLE HOUSE



Stagecoaches from Columbus used to stop at the old Shaderville house. Now cars speed by unaware of its historic background.

In the village of Shaderville, on Route 23, south of Columbus, stands a substantial stagecoach inn which was the first stop for stages after leaving Columbus. Here horses were exchanged for fresh ones for the next stage stop was Circleville. The house, embowered in shrubbery and trees, has what must have been at one time, a fine side portico; this can be seen in the picture. For a number of years during the heyday of stage coach years, Jacob Reab was the genial host and proprietor of the tavern. Spacious and roomy stables made the stop there especially attractive to stage coach drivers.

It is constructed of brick and both the interior and exterior of the building are today much the same as they were 100 years ago. It is of immense proportions, probably the largest inn in the State outside of the larger cities during the period of its activity. Tavern keeping on the stagecoach roads was very profitable in those days and the Shaderville Inn had the additional advantage of being on the Ohio-Erie Canal. An immense flour, grist and saw mill was also located at Shaderville and these brought in many customers of one kind or another. The inn was built in 1850 and was first kept by Jonathan Hibbs.

THE ALFRED KELLEY MANSION



The Alfred Kelley Mansion, still standing on E. Broad St., is an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture at its height.

The Alfred Kelley Mansion, completed in 1838, is located at 288 E. Broad street. When built and for many years afterwards, it was the only house on a large lawn embracing all of the land between Fifth street and Grant avenue on the north side of Broad street.

Mr. Abbott Cummings, Assistant Professor of Art and Aesthetics at Antioch College, has recently completed extensive research work on the Kelley home. Of the home's architectural merit he states: "As the home of one of Ohio's fore-ranking statesmen and as a superb example of Greek Revival architecture at its height, this house cries aloud for permanent care and preservation. The home is the finest and more heavily endowed with historical associations of any private dwelling in the city and is likewise the only fine house of its period in Columbus to have survived to the present time."

Few men contributed more to the future of Ohio than Alfred Kelley in the period from 1830 to 1850. His major work was connected with the development of canals, then of railroads. To further the canal projects, he abandoned (when he became Canal Commissioner) a fine law practice and home in Cleveland, and undertook all of the privations and dangers required by this great

THE ALFRED KELLEY MANSION



This rare photograph of the Kelley parlor taken in 1900 shows the Ionic screen separating dining room and parlor. Furniture in the parlor, all of the late 19th century, was bought and used by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Kelley II, son and daughter-in-law of the builder.

project. He headed companies that brought the first railroads to Columbus, served in the Ohio State Senate, fathered a bill to incorporate the State Bank of Ohio and other banking companies for the purpose of improving currency and rendering the State finances secure.

When this fine home was erected, its materials were brought to Columbus by water, and its location was east of the corporation line.

The Alfred Kelley Mansion as finished in the late 1830's appears to have had several characteristics of plan which are in marked contrast to the plan of the building as it stands today. Three major periods of change and alteration can be clearly distinguished in the structure itself. Unfortunately, however, those alterations which date to the latter two phases have in some instances so thoroughly eclipsed the changes of the period preceding that our knowledge of at least a portion of the original design must be based wholly upon conjecture.

Mr. Kelley occupied the old mansion until his death on December 2, 1859, by which date both of the rear ells had been added to the original structure. The eastern most and shorter of the two appears in an early rear view of the house taken from a panoramic map of Columbus dating 1850.

THE RAREY HOMESTEAD



Only pictures now remain of the John Solomon Rarey homestead. The home of this great horse trainer was demolished a short time ago to make room for a new Groveport school building.

John Solomon Rarey, noted horse trainer, before he was twelve years old, had shown that he could coax wild colts in pasture to come up to him and let him put halters on them. This gift of horsemanship led him, in due time, to issue a book of instructions which he sold at county fairs.

When thirty years of age, Rarey went to England and gave an exhibition before Queen Victoria and the royal family at Windsor Castle. Fame and fortune came to him almost overnight. The Queen and Prince Consort headed a class of more than a thousand men and women who paid ten guineas each for instructions. Rarey then went to France, Sweden, Germany, Russia, Norway, Egypt, Turkey, and Arabia, everywhere achieving the same uninterrupted success. He returned to the United States in 1860, bringing with him the English thoroughbred stallion Cruiser, a notoriously vicious horse that had never submitted to rule except by Rarey. When he landed in New York he was received as a world figure and was acclaimed as such in his tour of the country which followed.

In 1862 his health began to fail and he returned to Groveport, building for his mother a spacious mansion, incorporating in it the modest farm house in which he had been born. It soon became one of the most noted homes in Franklin County.

ISAAC MINER HOMESTEAD



Isaac Miner, builder of this home, at one time entertained Henry Clay.

This fine old homestead was built by Isaac Miner in 1823 under the supervision of Dr. Lincoln Goodale who lived in the vicinity at the time. It is located on an elevation not far from Greenlawn Avenue and Jackson Pike.

The bricks used in the construction of this house were made in Chillicothe and hauled to the site in wagons. The house originally contained a second-story portico showing strongly the southern influence in the construction. This has been removed. The grounds were covered with trees and immediately southeast of the house was a fine sugar grove.

In his boyhood days Edwin M. Stanton was a frequent visitor and he and John Miner attended Kenyon college together. Isaac Miner was an ardent Whig and on one occasion entertained Henry Clay at this home. In the home, Isaac Miner raised a large family, and for many years, until the children were grown, the place was a center of activity and pleasure.

The famous "Miner Spring" or "White Sulphur Spring," where many picnics were held, was a feature of the farm.

THE ARCHIBALD SMITH HOMESTEAD



The Archibald Smith homestead reflects an architectural pattern that was popular in the 1840's.

This century old homestead is located at 6320 Kitzmiller Road, about one mile east of New Albany in Plain Township. It was built by Archibald Smith, architect-carpenter, in 1848 out of lumber secured from timber from his own farm and sawed in his own sawmill.

The home, a two-story frame, stands in a picturesque spot on the right bank of Blacklick Creek. It is a building that reflects much of our pioneer culture and is constructed on a pattern much used in the 1840's. Four large fireplaces must have been sufficient to keep the house warm. There is a large center hallway from which a circular stairs leads to the second story. Mr. Smith must have designed and built this stairway. A diary which he kept for many years contains this interesting comment about the building of the home:

"In the year 1848 built our house. I sawed all the lumber myself. Had it laid up two or three years. Had the stone and brick on the ground also. I laid out all the work of the frame myself. Had it inclosed before winter set in. (A very good job.) January 1849 we moved in our house. I worked on the inside of the house all winter. I made most of the doors and all the cupboards and closets."

ELIJAH CHENOWETH HOMESTEAD



Thomas and Elijah Chenoweth, builders of the Pleasant Township homestead, were Revolutionary War soldiers; they were members of Colonel Crawford's expedition against the Sandusky Indians.

The first settlers in what is now Pleasant township, Franklin County, were two brothers, Thomas and Elijah Chenoweth, natives of Maryland who, first removed to Pike county, Ohio. In the fall of 1799 they bought 200 acres each from Lucas Sullivant, on Big Darby Creek and erected rude cabins.

The Chenoweth homestead stands on a plain overlooking Big Darby Creek and the Georgesville Pike about one mile out of Harrisburg. A substantial log cabin erected by Elijah Chenoweth in 1806, is incorporated in the present house which in itself is almost one hundred years old. The two brothers, Thomas and Elijah Chenoweth, were Revolutionary war soldiers and were in Colonel Crawford's expedition against the Sandusky Indians in June, 1782. They became separated from the army in the confusion of the second day's battle, and in their effort to reach the Ohio river passed over the land which afterwards became their farms. Both are buried in the family cemetery near the old homestead.

Not long after the Chenoweth brothers settled on Big Darby, a new settlement was begun farther up the creek at the mouth of Little Darby. This in time became Georgesville. Among these pioneer settlers were Thomas Roberts, Samuel Dyer, James Gardiner, John Turner, John Bigger, Samuel Kerr and others. In 1805 Mr. Dyer erected his mill which was long known as "Dyer's Mill."

THE ABNER PINNEY HOMESTEAD



The fine mantels and fireplaces which complimented the interior of this house have disappeared.

This story and a half brick house stands at 5439 N. High street, near stop 18. Abner Pinney, a Revolutionary soldier and a pioneer settler of Sharon Township, was granted a large tract of land where the house now stands. In 1842 Chester Pinney, a son, was the sole owner of the farm and it was at this time that the present brick structure came into being. The brick were kiln dried on the farm. The fine mantels and fireplaces which adorned the interior of the house have entirely disappeared.

In 1863 Peter Ambos came into possession of the house and farm. The property remained in his hands until 1876 when he sold it to Samuel S. Pinney, probably the first dancing teacher in Franklin County. In 1891 Mr. Pinney sold his holdings to John J. Stoddart, father of the present owner, Attorney John C. Stoddart.

The first marriage performed in the new settlement of Worthington took place February 10, 1804, less than a year after the settlement was made. The persons united in marriage were Abner Pinney to Miss Polly Morrison, and Levi Pinney to Miss Charlotte Beach. The ceremony was performed by Thomas Stephens, Esquire, of Franklinton, in the log school house on the public square, Worthington. Abner and Levi Pinney were among the first settlers to arrive from Connecticut, where they were born, at the new settlement.

THE HUFFMAN HOMESTEAD

Franklin Township



The Builder of this house, John Huffman, was a soldier in Lord Dunmore's army in 1774.

John Huffman, the builder of this 8-room, two-story brick house, was a soldier in Lord Dunmore's army and was one of the 240 men who, under Colonel William Crawford, marched to the forks of the Scioto in October 1774 to attack a band of Indians who were seeking to escape.

At the close of the war, Huffman returned to his home in Washington County, Pennsylvania, but in 1800 he returned to the Scioto and purchased 300 acres of land. Four years later he returned with his family and built a cabin near the site of the present Huffman home. In 1805 he erected a distillery near his cabin and shipped the product by flatboat down the Scioto to Portsmouth. He also engaged in farming and prospered in both businesses. In 1825 he built the present substantial structure which still maintains practically all of its original characteristics both interior and exterior. Its formal dignity, however, is relieved somewhat by the change in the road. What was formerly the front of the house is now the rear, a change which resulted from a complete relocation of the highway. This 125-year-old homestead, including a large part of the original farm, is still in the Huffman family, direct descendants of the original pioneer. It is located on Jackson pike, three miles south of Columbus in Franklin Township.

FEMALE SEMINARY BUILDING—WORTHINGTON



A Fine Example of Southern Colonial Three-story Portico

In 1835 Reverend Jacob Young, a presiding elder in the Methodist Episcopal Church, was assigned to the Franklin County district. He felt that a great need existed for a female seminary in the area, but had not found a community that felt as he did.

When he finally visited Worthington he found the people there keenly interested in his project. There he also found Miss Sarepa Marsh, supervisor of a private school, who was well prepared to take charge of a seminary.

Although the seminary building was commenced in 1839, it was not finished until two years later. A charter was soon obtained for the school, the first female seminary of the Methodist Church in the west. It was continued as a seminary for many years, but largely because of the co-educational program at Ohio Wesleyan University, less than fifteen miles distant, the school was discontinued.

This three-story brick building is the monarch of all those now existing in Worthington. The situation was well chosen for the purpose for which it was to be used. It must ever arrest the attention and challenge the admiration of the student of Ohio architecture. Time has dealt gently with it. Like a veteran of many campaigns, it shows a few honorable scars, and while hoary with age, it is yet no ruin, but a comfortable habitation.

FEDERAL OFFICERS' QUARTERS



Federal officers at Camp Chase had their quarters here during the Civil War.

This building is neither quaint nor picturesque but is decidedly American in construction, answering as it did a much needed purpose at a critical time in our history. It is a building that was occupied by Federal officers at Camp Chase during the Civil War. It is now located at 871 W. Broad street where it stands—disfigured with overwhelming business signs—used as a warehouse by a groceryman, Mr. A. S. Weiland. It is one of the few historical relics of that period yet remaining in Franklin County. This building, as well as all others at Camp Chase, was under the general supervision of Nathan S. Vincent of Blendon Township.

Camp Chase was a training camp for Union soldiers during the Civil war. It was located some four miles west of the Statehouse south of the Cumberland road. Upon the lands formerly embraced within the enclosure of the camp, once spacious parade grounds, now stand dwellings of peaceful citizens. To the south of the camp, and adjacent to Sullivant Avenue, is the Rebel graveyard containing the remains of some thousands of Confederate soldiers who died in the prison in the camp. This is all that is left to mark the site of a once famous rendezvous of Federal soldiers.

EDEN LAWN



Residence of Joseph B. Powell, Truro Township, A Century Past

An unusual feature about this homestead is that two rooms, the parlor and spare bedroom above, are finished in apple wood. This was Mr. Powell's own idea.

The pioneer, George Powell and family, settled in Truro township together with his brother, Archibald and family, in the year 1815. They erected a cabin and the two families occupied it for about a year, when Archibald built a cabin on the site of the present homestead. Joseph B. Powell was a son of Archibald Powell.

The homestead, a two-story brick mansion of ten rooms, was erected largely by untrained artisans under the direct supervision of Mr. Powell. The house, in spite of rough treatment, is still in a good state of preservation, a tribute to the rugged construction of those days. Mr. Powell gave the name of "Eden Lawn" to his farm and homestead.

Joseph B. Powell, son of Archibald and Elizabeth Powell, was born March 27, 1822, and passed his life on the home farm, with the exception of two years and three months spent in the gold mines of California, during the years 1850, 1851, 1852. He returned home with a quantity of gold from the mines, but found a more profitable and pleasant business on his farm which he proceeded to improve until it became a showplace of the county. The structure is one of the best specimens of Nineteenth Century architecture in the county.

THE FREDERICK SPRAGUE HOMESTEAD



Frederick Sprague, builder of this home, took part in the Battle of Stony Point under General Anthony Wayne.

The old Sprague homestead is located on what was formerly Sprague road, Truro Township, but the road is now a continuation of Livingston Avenue near its intersection with Brice Road.

The heirs of Joshua Sprague, Revolutionary soldier, were granted 960 acres of land in the Refugee Tract, Franklin County, to compensate for his losses caused by confiscation by the British of his property in Nova Scotia. Joshua Sprague was but one of the many Americans living in Nova Scotia who remained loyal and suffered imprisonment, confiscation of property and other hardships at the hands of the soldiers of King George III.

One hundred years ago or more there were three Sprague brothers living in Truro Township, all extensive land owners. This large, substantial two-story brick house was built by Frederick Sprague about 1820 on a farm of 218 acres. Sprague participated in the battle of Stony Point under General Anthony Wayne.

The Sprague family made outstanding contributions to the life of the community in Truro Township. This homestead is well-preserved but at present is undergoing extensive interior repairs. The exterior will not, however, be altered appreciably.

FORT JACKSON



A section of earthwork adds interest to this homestead.

Recent improvement of the old fort Jackson homestead located at 3845 Westerville road by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Forster, has served to recall the past of this historic building. It was built by pioneer settler Zenus Jackson in 1856, and is unique in the fact that it stands in the center of a prehistoric earthwork. It is probably the only edifice so located in the United States.

The visitor approaches the massive two-story, 10-room brick structure through a worn, gravel driveway. The drive is flanked on the right by a segment of the earthwork, which is covered with towering trees. He gets a glimpse of massive chimneys at either end of the main building and of a convenient side porch with substantial supporting columns. He grasps a little better the expansiveness in which the early owners lived when he stands in the main hallway and peers up the wide stairwell to the ceiling of the second story. One looks in wonder as he enters one of the spacious bedrooms, which measures 16x18 feet and has a 12-foot ceiling. The entire woodwork of the house is of either cherry or walnut, sawed from timber cut on the farm. A spacious mansion in early days was evidence of wealth and position to a greater extent than any other material display. This was evident in the mind of Zenus Jackson when he built his imposing farm home.

THE CHRISTOPHER SHOEMAKER HOMESTEAD



The builder of this homestead, Christopher Shoemaker, devoted his entire life to the development of Columbus and Franklin County.

Located at 1192 Cleveland Avenue is the old Shoemaker homestead now occupied by a granddaughter, Mrs. Frank Gardner. (Cleveland Avenue was then Harbor Road.)

The house stands back from the street and will not be noticed unless special effort is made to locate it. The framework of sturdy oak and the siding of Ewe trees obtained from the swamp land near Johnstown, Licking County, is well preserved as are the large sapling rafters. Twelve rooms and two large halls comprised the original house which was completed in 1849. What is now Lockwin street, on the south side of the house, was the drive to the carriage and ice house to the rear of the homestead.

About 1843 Mr. Shoemaker, Theodore Leonard, and Windsor Atcheson formed a partnership in the brick business which continued for sixteen years. At the expiration of that period the firm dissolved and the partners each took an equal share of 175 acres of land which was the beginning of the accumulation for each of them of a large tract of land. The partners engaged in farming, orcharding, stock raising and in the brick business.

THE GEORGE W. SCHROCK HOMESTEAD



The Schrock home was a center of social activity, especially at sugar making time.

This unique homestead is located on Schrock Road, Blendon Township, just west of the 3 C highway one mile south of Westerville. The Schrocks were Virginia people. George Washington Schrock, the builder of the homestead, was born in Romney, Va., Dec. 12, 1804, and came to Blendon Township about 1840 and built the home during the first two years of his residence here.

The Schrock home was the center of many social activities, especially at sugar making time when students from Otterbein College would come out and assist in making sugar maple taffy and other sweets. Mr. Schrock had a sugar grove of over 1100 trees and his sugar house was one of the finest in the country.

The farm, consisting of 137 acres, was formerly owned by John Snow of Worthington, but was mostly cleared by Mr. Schrock who spent his entire life on the farm after removing to Ohio. The house, a spacious story and a half, is well constructed of native timber and has undergone but little change since it was built.

THE DAVID NELSON HOMESTEAD



The Nelson home is a typical example of fine domestic architecture.

In the vestibule of Memorial Hall, E. Broad street, is a marble tablet bearing this inscription: "The advance guard of the civilization of the North-West." Upon this tablet, in letters of gold, is the name of David Nelson and the date, 1798.

David Nelson with his family, moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio, first settling near Chillicothe, but later moving to the west bank of Alum Creek where he located a half section of land in the Refugee Tract. The country was pretty much a wilderness when David Nelson arrived here. Wolves, panthers and bears prowled about at night, but he built a log cabin and went to work. There was much timber on the land and Mr. Nelson had to clear it away with oxen and cultivate the rich brown loam with crude implements of the day. In 1819 the original log cabin was replaced by the present homestead, still standing on Nelson Road. It is a dignified, well preserved mansion and said to be a fine replica of the old home at Cedar Springs in Pennsylvania.

David Nelson was one of the founders and officers of the old First Presbyterian Church and a devoted friend of the Reverend James Hoge who was pastor of this church for fifty years. For nearly thirty years David Nelson lived a life of peace and prosperity in the Nelson homestead after the trying days of his youth spent in the service of his country in the American Revolution. He died in revered old age.

THE SPANGLER HOMESTEAD



This homestead, built by David Spangler in 1815, is the oldest structure of any kind in Franklin County south of Columbus.

This brick homestead, built by David Spangler in 1815, is probably the oldest establishment of any kind in Franklin County south of Columbus.

Mr. Spangler, with his family, emigrated about 1800 from Rockingham County, Virginia, to this site and built his log cabin near where the homestead now stands. He had a large family and the Spangler home was the scene of many social gatherings of the community and continued so for many years, reaching to the period of the residence of a grandson, W. T. Spangler, as late as the 1890's.

This sturdy pioneer worked with a restless energy in clearing the land and raising crops. After fifteen years of frugal living he was able to build the present homestead—an imposing structure for its time and locale. For many years Mr. Spangler's farm had an important place in the community.

Mr. Spangler's neighbors were among the most hard-working farmers in the county. Among those who might be named were Joseph Fisher whose substantial homestead stood on the east bank of the Scioto River. Others were William Merion, Moses Merrill, William Stewart, Andrew Dill, Percival Adams, Thomas Morris, Samuel Riley, Jacob Plum and others, many of whom built imposing homes.

CENTRAL COLLEGE BUILDING



Restoration of this Central College building would be a worthy project for some historic-minded organization.

The first educational enterprise in this romantic Franklin County village was a school taught by the Rev. Ebenezer Washburn, the pioneer of higher education in Blendon Township.

About 1835 Squire Timothy Lee took measures towards the realization of what had long been a cherished idea—the establishment of a permanent seat of higher learning. With this idea in mind, he made liberal proposals to the new school branch of the Presbyterian Church.

The Presbytery of Franklin county accepted his generously offered gift of money, lands, and buildings. He gave a tract of land of one hundred acres, and erected, at his own expense, a number of buildings. One, a large brick three-story dormitory, forty by sixty feet, is still standing and bears date on a stone name plate above the main entrance of the building of "1842."

The college was organized and obtained a charter that year. The village of Amalthea, now Central College, was laid out by the college board of trustees on the lands donated by Squire Timothy Lee, in 1849. The building could, with little expense, be restored and made to reflect some of the dignity it exhibited over a century ago.

THE WILLIAM WHIMS HOMESTEAD



William Whims burnt the brick for this homestead in his own kilns.

The Whims homestead is located on Shannon Road north of the Canal Winchester highway in Madison Township. It is not far from Black Lick Creek and the old Whims Farm is one of the finest in the county.

Mr. Whims burnt the brick in his own kilns just south of the house. The lumber, as is the case in many of the substantial old homesteads in the county, is largely of black walnut. There is a square stone name plate in the wall above the front door just at the point where the two stories meet. On it is chiseled, in very excellent letters and figures, the name of the owner and builder "WILLIAM WHIMS" and the year it was built "1849." The homestead was 101 years old in 1950.

A daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Whims married Tillman Palsgrove and inherited the house and farm. They occupied it until their death when their son, George Palsgrove, inherited it. Mr. Palsgrove, with his wife and family, still reside there. Thus only three families have occupied the house and farm and they are direct descendents of the original builder and owner. The family's record of occupancy of the same house, on the same farmstead for over one hundred years, makes it outstanding among those in Madison Township.

THE UNIQUE BRECKENRIDGE FARM COTTAGE



A recessed porch with flanking pavilions all pulled together by a low-pitched hip roof make this a unique farm house.

The old Isaac Breckenridge farm cottage, built in the 1840's, is located at No. 4552 Jackson Pike, some two miles south of the Columbus Workhouse.

The frame cottage was built by Isaac Breckenridge between 1830 and 1840 on a farm which, measured by the usual agricultural standards, is composed of rough and uneven land. Still some of the small fields are quite fertile. The simple composition of a central recessed porch with flanking pavilions, all pulled together by a low-pitched hip roof, makes it a very unique farm house and the only one of its kind in the county. There is only one other in the State as far as can be learned. This stands near Windsor, Ohio, and is almost an exact duplicate of the Breckenridge house.

The original owner of the land was Capt. Strothers Jones who was allotted 1,000 acres of land in the Virginia Military district for his Revolutionary services. The present owner is Clarence D. Borrer, whose forebears on either side were pioneer settlers of Franklin County.

WESTCREST, A GEM OF THE FIRST WATER



In 1842 David Taylor built this homestead on the west bank of Big Walnut Creek in Truro Township.

David Taylor, in 1842-43, built this fine homestead on the west bank or crest of Big Walnut Creek, in Truro Township, Franklin county.

The pioneer, Robert Taylor, settled with his family in Truro Township in March 1808. His was the fourth house erected in the township. David Taylor, his son, married for his first wife, Nancy T. Nelson, who died in 1832, and for his second wife he married Margaret Livingston, oldest daughter of Judge Edward Chinn Livingston, a pioneer settler of Franklin County. Judge Livingston's father, Colonel James Livingston, of Revolutionary war fame, had received 1,280 acres of land in the Refugee tract in remuneration for property confiscated by the British Crown, which he had owned in Nova Scotia.

The whole house seems to be the perfection of adjustment. The beautifully arranged windows with their substantial lintels, and the setting on a lawn shaded with the right amount of green growth upon it, make a very satisfying place in which to live.

THE PIONEER TAVERN OF EZRA GRISWOLD



The Griswold Tavern, erected in 1811, is one of Worthington's most historic homesteads.

Few taverns erected by the pioneers of Franklin County stand today. One of the rare survivors from the early days is the Griswold tavern in Worthington. The brick structure was erected in 1811.

The original builder and owner was Ezra Griswold who had arrived on the present site of Worthington with his family, from Simbury, Connecticut, on October 26, 1803. They were thus the first of the Scioto Company to reach their destination. The journey was made in a wagon drawn by oxen over almost impassable roads. Mr. Griswold erected a cabin and opened the first public house of entertainment soon after his arrival.

Mr. Griswold operated the tavern the remainder of his life, and at his death, October 2, 1822, his son, George H. Griswold, carried on the work. The *Western Intelligencer*, the first newspaper in Franklin County, now *The Ohio State Journal*, was started in a room in this tavern in 1811.

Shortly after the beginning of the War of 1812 a false alarm reached the frontier that the Indians were on the warpath and had attacked a settler's cabin not far from Worthington. The alarm became general and soon settlers from farther north were pouring into Worthington. The Griswold Tavern was soon filled to overflowing. In a few days the excitement subsided, when it was ascertained that it was a false alarm, and the settlers returned to their homes.

TOLL HOUSE SOUTH OF WESTERVILLE



This toll house is one of three still standing in Franklin County.

The Clinton and Blendon Plank Road Company was organized in 1853 and during that time and the following year the road was constructed from Lockwin road and extended to the Delaware County line, the whole length being a little over eight miles.

There were two toll gates on the road. One is located on Westerville Road and the other was at the present site of Mifflinville. The latter has been demolished.

This plank road was of enormous benefit to the community which it served but it did not remunerate the stockholders very much. The officers of the company when organized were G. W. Schrock, J. W. Jamison, W. L. Phelps, D. L. Holton, and Zenus Jackson who served as trustees. G. W. Schrock was also president; J. C. Vance, secretary; and H. M. Phelps, Treasurer.

The Clinton and Blendon plank road company, which was organized in accordance with an act of the legislature passed in 1853, had built this toll house and the one which stood at Mifflinville in 1854, the year in which the road was completed. The road extended from a point near the present Linden High School building, north to the Delaware county line, half a mile north of Westerville. The road, which was a little over eight miles in length, cost about sixteen thousand, five hundred dollars.

The toll house is one of three still standing in Franklin County.

THE NEEDLES HOMESTEAD

Madison Township



The Needles Homestead—a better knowledge of our past.

Among the earliest and most prominent of the pioneer settlers of Madison Township were the Needles. Five brothers, John, George, Philemon, Andrew, and Cabbage, all natives of the state of Delaware, eventually settled in Madison township. The period of emigration was from 1802 to 1812.

Three of the brothers, John, Andrew, and Philemon, purchased the whole of section nine during the War of 1812 and during the period of that conflict received high prices for their produce. All were good farmers, applying practical methods, such as deep plowing, destruction of weeds, maintenance of livestock, rotation of crops, and application of manure. As a result their farms were among the best in the township. This fine old homestead is located in a community that is rapidly undergoing changes in types of home construction. It is a home that will give us a better knowledge of our past than a dozen textbooks.

THE DR. THOMAS WOODROW HOMESTEAD



The Dr. Thomas Woodrow homestead was designed as a residence for a country gentleman.

This homestead on the 3-C's highway near Briggsdale in which Dr. Thomas Woodrow, Woodrow Wilson's grandfather, lived while serving Presbyterian churches in Franklin county.

The mansion was erected a century ago and it is still as perfect in construction as it was the day it was finished. There has been no material change in the building, either exterior or interior; its sturdiness show it to be a genuine old-timer. The quiet atmosphere of age which surround it, mark the building as one of the most picturesque in the county. It is said that the plans of the house were designed in accordance with the wishes of the bride, Dr. Woodrow's second wife, who was no less a personage than a Miss Renick of Ross County.

The building was designed as a residence for a country gentleman, although Dr. Woodrow was a Presbyterian minister as well as an agriculturist. It could well be that Woodrow Wilson visited his grandfather in this mansion while a student in college. When President Wilson visited England he made a trip to Carlisle where his grandfather had preached and in a short talk indicated that he had visited his illustrious grandparent.

GIDEON HART HOMESTEAD

Blendon Township



A Revolutionary War relics room was a feature of this home.

One of the well-preserved homesteads of the county is the Gideon Hart house at No. 7328 Hempsted road, Blendon Township. It was built by Mr. Hart who came to Ohio from Connecticut about 1820. He was a township official as early as 1828.

The house gains dignity from the grove-like surroundings and is redolent of fields and flocks. This homestead was in the midst of a fine farm which included many activities, one of which was the large sugar grove with the ever present sugar house which was but recently torn down. An unusual feature of the home was a Revolutionary war relics room, which contained many mementoes of that period. A muzzle loading gun and a sword that were formerly in the room are now in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Phelps on the Westerville Road. The location of the other relics is unknown. An immense fireplace, still in use, is another feature of the home. Most of the lumber used in the construction of the house was from timber cut on the farm. The homestead is now owned and occupied by E. G. Fickell, attorney at 44 E. Broad street.

THE MICHAEL SULLIVANT HOMESTEAD



This homestead, demolished last year, was built by Michael Sullivant in 1835. It was one of the oldest on the Hilltop.

Official records indicate that this homestead, which has been replaced by a new U. S. Post Office and official building, was built by Michael Sullivant, son of Lucas Sullivant, Franklinton founder, in 1835. This homestead is known to be the oldest house in the Hilltop vicinity before it was demolished.

Lucas Sullivant, received a patent for 1000 acres of land in the Virginia Military District from President John Adams on May 14, 1800. In a partition suit of his estate at the April term of the Common Pleas Court of Franklin County in 1827, Michael Sullivant, was allotted a tract of land on the Hilltop which included the present site of the house. On January 17, 1835, Michael Sullivant and his wife, Sarah, executed a construction mortgage on this tract of land. This was probably for the building of the house and for farm buildings which surrounded it.



Shown here are the remains of "Four Mile Locks" at Fisher Bend south of Columbus. It is another project for restoration.

When the Ohio Canal survey was completed in 1825 it bypassed Columbus eleven miles to the south. It was not long, however, before the canal commissioners decided to construct a "feeder" connecting the Scioto River at Main Street with the main canal at Lockbourne.

Work upon the feeder, also known as the Columbus side cut, was commenced April 30, 1827, with marked ceremony. In the afternoon of that day the citizens of Franklin County assembled on the State House lawn. A procession was formed consisting of the citizens, several military companies, State, County, and City officers. Marshalled by Colonels Abram McDowell and John McElvain the dignitaries marched to the river at Main street. A short address was delivered by Judge Joseph R. Swan. General McLene, then Secretary of State, and Nathaniel McLean, warden of the penitentiary, removed the first shovelfuls of earth, which was wheeled from the ground by Ralph Osborn, Auditor of State, and Henry Brown, State Treasurer.

The first mile from the river was excavated by penitentiary convicts, who worked under guard, and many of them received remittments of their sentences for their faithful labor. One of the most difficult jobs along the course of the canal was the construction of the "Four Mile Locks" at Fisher bend south of Columbus.

THE O'HARRA HOMESTEAD



The double chimney is an outstanding feature of the O'Harra homestead.

A most unusual treatment of the gable is seen in the O'Harra house which stands south of Columbus on Williams road in Marion township.

The walls of brick were well laid up and when the rake of the gable was reached instead of finishing with the usual slant the mechanic constructed a step which adds to the attractiveness of the entire structure. In joining the double chimneys by a heightened wall, which included part of the 3rd story or attic window, the builder has achieved his masterpiece in end wall construction without detracting from any other part of the house. The double chimney completes a finish at the ridge which makes this one of the most outstanding houses in the county. Conditions for taking a front view picture of this homestead were difficult, but since the double chimney and rare end wall design seemed to be the architectural luxury desired by the builder the picture answers very well. This homestead in many ways is very similar to the Isaac Royal House, Medford, Mass., built in 1732. It is quite noted in the east as a showplace. The O'Harra family were quite early settlers at Franklinton and many of their descendants still reside in the county.

FIRST POST OFFICE IN FRANKLINTON



This structure, first known as the "Cloud House" contained the first post office of Franklinton.

Abraham Deardurf, his wife Katherine and son David came from Pennsylvania over a mountain trail on horseback to Franklinton in the year 1798.

David Deardurf built a house in the year 1807 and this house still stands, in a partially remodeled state, at the corner of Gift and Culbertson streets. The street number is 72 S. Gift street.

David's house was known as the "Cloud House." It is built of huge logs, now covered with weather-boarding. In the front room of the house was the *first post office of Franklinton*. Of special interest is the fact that many members of the Deardurf family were buried in the old Franklinton Cemetery.

Martin's History of Franklin County contains the following reference to the first post office:

"For seven or eight years after the first settlement of Franklinton, there was no post office nearer than Chillicothe. . . . Colonel Andrew McElvain of Logan County, Illinois, for many years a prominent citizen of Franklin County, was, when but a boy, the first mail carrier between Chillicothe and Franklinton."

THE ADAM BAUGHMAN CABIN

Plain Township

The Adam Baughman log cabin was one of the first erected in Plain Township. A miniature reproduction of the cabin has been made by Dr. C. C. Ross of 39 Auburn Avenue, a charter member of The Franklin County Historical Society. It has been exhibited at the Columbus Public Library and at the Centennial Ohio State Fair.

According to the *Old Northwest Genealogical Quarterly*, the cabin was built in 1803. Adam Baughman and his wife Priscilla (Huffman) came from Washington County, Pennsylvania, that year.

The Baughmans started their journey from Pennsylvania accompanied by Henry Huffman and his wife. The four traveled horseback over mountains, across rivers and through forests to the Ohio, crossing the river by ferryboat. Then they followed rough roads and Indian pathways, guided by plats of land and streams.

Finally they stopped and located near a hill, supposing it to be on the lands owned by Mrs. Baughman's father, John Huffman. But they soon discovered, to their great disappointment, that they were too far south. They moved then to a point farther north and built their log cabin two miles east of New Albany.

In 1829 the Baughman cabin was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hand. Hand was a boot and shoemaker for the people of Plain Township.

Editor's Note: The cover sketch of the Baughman cabin was drawn by Frederick Havener, local artist. It was made from a photograph that appears in a 1904 issue of the Old Northwest Genealogical Quarterly.

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