

# EARLY WHITEHOUSE HISTORY

written by

A. J. Bradley

To the Most Loyal and Patriotic Citizen of  
Whitehouse, Mr. A. J. Bradley, we are  
grateful. Thru his untiring efforts this history  
was made possible for posterity.

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Scanned and OCR from an original copy in my possession  
John T. Nicholson, December 2005  
[electroscope.org](http://electroscope.org)

A. J. Bradley was my Great Grandfather

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## CHAPTER 1

In my 77 years of a happy life time, mostly spent about Whitehouse and vicinity, I certainly have had and heard of some very interesting experiences, interesting to me and possibly to others.

However I hesitate to try to express myself for publication as I don't quite feel up to it, but have made up my mind to put on an extra crust, do my best on a subject that has always been very dear to my heart, "Old Whitehouse."

Some one said, "Mr. Bradley your people were old pioneers of this country." But I said "Oh no, when the Bradleys came to Ohio and Whitehouse from Vermont in 1854 they found many strong level headed people already established here."

I can't begin to tell you who, but the Slys were here four years earlier, 1850. The Fosters, Obees and Sheplers came in about 1846. The Hollikers came in the thirties, and the Kriplivers came away back in the twenties.

I only wish I could give dates and particulars for many more real pioneers of this country, how interesting it would be to know when they all came, where they came from and what they came for. Maybe if we all get interested and compile what facts we know and can pick up, turn them over to the committee, who will arrange them, then we will have something that will grow more and more interesting as the years go by.

The Wabash railroad came through about 1854 and it was from the treasurer of that road, Mr. Edward Whitehouse, that our little town got its name.

This was an important point for the Wabash, owing to the splendid supply of water and a water tank and wood yard were established at once.

Mrs. Edward Whitehouse owned a tract of land in section 35, that is north and Captain John R. Osborn owned a tract in section 2, that is south, and they together furnished the land for the original plat of Whitehouse.

Captain Osborn laid out the town, and Mrs. Whitehouse donated the ground for a village green, and for years it was our circus grounds and athletic field, with turning pole and tumbling space and baseball diamond made of sawdust from the sawmill and lime from the limekilns.

Then later it was turned into a park, and Yarnall Rakestraw plowed and harrowed and

smoothed it up and John Jones and Jehile Castle get out a variety of native trees. Then for years we had to keep it fenced with strong board fence to protect the young trees from the village cattle that ran at large from N. C. Halls on the south to Minerva Wells woods on the north One half of the people kept cows and very few pastured them but turned them out and they roamed at will. Almost every cow wore a bell and they were very sociable and got together in the morning and remained in a drove all day, and no one who ever saw the drove parade through town and heard the bells will ever forget it.

## CHAPTER 2

About 1854 to 1858 it looked as if the Bradleys from Vermont were taking charge of this part of the country and grabbing the Openings. My father, Eber Bradley had been coming' to Ohio with French Merino (fine wool) sheep for three or four years for Bingham Bros., importers of Burlington, Vt. In 1854 he and his brother Harmon brought in a car load of sheep on their own hook by rail and water from Vermont, driving them up from Toledo to a point two miles north of Whitehouse in Monclova township, where they had bought 4 80 acre tracts of Openings land extending from Oak Grove Corners one mile west.

These two brothers founded a partnership at sheep farming and operated together for three or four years, during which time four more brothers, Chas., a Methodist preacher, John and Hiram, farmer boys, and Myron, a promoter. Also a brother-in-law, Josiah Farrington and his family all followed from Vermont and Wesley and Roscius Bradley, cousins, moved up from Tiffin, O., and Cornelia Bradley dark, also a cousin, came in from Painesville, O., all with families. There, ten families of Bradleys moving in almost simultaneously. It must have looked like a Japanese invasion, but in a few years only Eber and Hiram, Wesley and Cornelia and their families of 25 were left, but they remained for life. So much for the when, why and how the Bradleys came here and enough for them.

I did not arrive in Ohio until Oct. 22, 1859, and when the fine wool sheep business failed and we moved into town in 1868. (The same year Daddy Lehmann moved in from Penn. and Henry Barker came in from Lorain county) from that time on I knew Whitehouse pretty well. Let me enumerate some of the old residents of that date.

Beginning' with our old neighbors, Bartons, Cowlings. K^nigseckers, Billings, Ginters, Weckeriys, F^nrs. narks, Kings, Dickensons, Eices, Cooks, Calkins, Murphys and Dorens, John and Henry Obee, ^ck Foster, John Kripliver, Henry Winslow, Samuel Pavi's. John Burts, Con Noble, Rev. John Foster, Frp.rl Butler, John Holt, Henry Haynes, Don FrankI'TI. Bobby Moore, Jake Erb, Joe Burnham, Geo. Cable, Daddy Childs, Pius Shepler, J. C. and Ealph Wales.

Joseph Coombs, Eseck Dyer, John and JoaB and Charles Jones, Carlos Bathrick, A. J. Huffman, Perry Russell, Henry Dart, Henry Bull, Bill Yount, Charles and Wm. Burnett, Christy Gagha, Yarnall Rakestraw, George Aumend, and sons Jim, Harry and Oley, Henry Miller, Mahlers, Mayors, and any number of Demuths, Dishers, Hellers and Crosbys, McConell Miller, Granny Karis, Minerva Wells, Adam Shearer, Christ Shultz, Otis Taft, Aunt Sally Miller, Chas. Weigle, S. W. Griffith, John Kershner, Smith Jenkins.

Sam Wagoner, Johnny Niece, Conrad Miller, Wes. Bradley, Ed. Gilson, A. J. Eldridge, John Whitaker, John Emery, Frank Heath, Gotlieb Grou, David Vogleman, Aleck Walp, Chas. Diem, John Disher, John Stoker, Grandma Ruby Shields, Gco. Sheets, Bill Roberts, John G. Schneider, John and Geo. Williams, Nick Hitzler, Peter Emore, Dan Lahr, Jehile Castle.' IIH

Steve Brogan, N. C. Hall, Dr. Leech, Duke Pray, Shapleys, Preacher Scott, George Spath, Jacob Rupp, Christ Moser, Michael Goodman, Dr. Reifsnider, J. U. Fauster, Peter Fiscus, Harmon Hockman, Sam Jewell, Daniels Furst, Fredric and Isaac Kent, J. F. C. Burnett, John Holliker, Jacob Keener, Nicholas and Christ Rupp, Nicholas Roth, Fredrick Bucher, Bone Pray, and Fred Finzel.

Well, now I must have missed some very important people, but did not mean to. We will gladly add names or facts.

CHAPTER 3

What were these Whitehouse folks mentioned in our previous installment doing in 1868? Well, coming in from the North we first come to the sawmill on the corner of Lenderson avenue and Sheplar street. A steam sawmill, built and owned by Dan Franklin, who came from Lorain county, but soon sold out to Yarnall Rakestraw, who added an iron foundry, manufacturing Rakestraw plows and land rollers. Back North on Section Line street beyond

the log yard Mr. Rakestraw built a substantial two story building to be used in the manufacture of soap. The soap factory with its furnace and kettles was not used very extensively for making soap but the building became a handy rendezvous for boys who were not allowed to play cards at home, but practiced what we called the hay mow game.

Just across the street East of the sawmill Henry Haynes lived in a little cabin and in the rear had a tannery, and on the West side of Providence street where W. K. Jones home now stands, Bobby Moore had the best shoe shop in town for boys, for uncle Bobby did like to cut out whiplashes for his boy friends.

Then J. C. Wales, mayor and justice of the peace, had his office where Dr. Babcock is now located. Crossing Maumee street on same side was Butler & Holt's blacksmith shop and next was J. C. Wales wagon shop. From there to the alley was a swamp and plenty of water for rafting or boating for the boys and puddling for the ducks and g'eese, in fact covering the greater part of the Childs lot that Jess Jones now occupies.

Christ Schultz had a hotel, grocery and saloon business where Schmids Furniture Store now stands. Across the street east and between Toledo avenue and the Wabash R. R. there stood a large hotel built by J. C. Wales, but it burned in about 1869 or '70.

East of the hotel was the pump house and the eight sided brick water tank house of the Wabash R. R. Pages could be written about the "Old Pump House." John Whitaker was station master and owner of the old blind horse that pulled the sweep, that turned the wheels, that made the power, that pumped the water for the engines of the Wabash.

George Walp was Whitaker's first driver, and the late O. W. Bradley drove a long time. It was an immense improvement over the old pump when Levi Demuth and Aleck Walp first pumped by hand and kept busy night and day.

The Wabash depot was across the railroad tracks and an old freight car answered for a freight house.

A. J. Eldridge lived where Henry Sipher now lives and where Farrington's store had been. Eldridge had built a large store across the street where the Pythian Castle now stands, but fronting north to the railroad and with a large warehouse east where the M. E. church now stands. Eldredge later built a small residence south of the store and beyond that on the alley was a small cottage where John

Disher, Eldredge's clerk and son in law lived. Oscar Dyer was second clerk there.

On the corner where the drug store now stands, Grandma Ruby Shields had her residence with a hall above, where dances, shows and public meetings took place. Around the corner west was David Vogleman's shoe shop and on the corner where

our bank now stands John Stoker had a general store and Edgar Dyer, just starting in as clerk, began a contact that lasted many years.

Turning east from that corner to that now occupied by the Johnson Service Station, stood George Spath's large white house with many windows. Mr. Spath was the first undertaker to locate in Whitehouse and many will remember "Barb", the old chestnut sorrel mare, and the open spring wagon, that did duty for a hearse for many years and until the late Henry Schmid's time.

A little farther east was Mrs. Jacob Rupp's store, "clothing, boots, shoes and notions." On the north side of the street opposite was Christ Moser's boot and shoe shop. Three shoemakers in our little town:

Moser, a German, Vogleman, a Switzer and Bobby Moore, Scotch or Irish. Why so many? Well they not only did the cobbling of the town but made the great share of our boots and shoes from hides.

Farther east on the south side of Waterville street was our post office and feed and flour store, with J. U. Fauster and wife acting post masters for M. W. Goodman, whose residence was on north side of the street and where it still stands, and is still the good old home of Clara and Lewis—69 years that we know of. Shall we stand with our faithful friends in spirit and sing a verse or two of our old school song "Hold The Fort."

Mr. Goodman had a blacksmith shop on the next corner where he worked with Daddy Childs and Met Jones and liked that better than being post master. Then across the big ditch Peter Fiscus had a wagon shop and a short distance southeast towards Duke Pray's lime kiln stood a brand new two story school house with a belfry and a bell that could be heard for three miles in the country.

#### CHAPTER 4

In the three previous installments of Old Whitehouse we mentioned mostly facts and people that were here in 1868 when we moved into town, from Monclova township, where the Bradleys had settled 14 years previously.

Now we have picked up a few facts as to what had happened about here in the years prior to our moving to town.

Mr. John W. Rupp of Toledo (Rupp and Bowman, druggists) who is now about 85 years of age was raised a Whitehouse boy, spent many years of his young manhood as a druggist in Waterville and all his later years in Toledo, wrote us a splendid letter in 1932 when he was unable to attend our Whitehouse Annual Homecoming personally.

"Friend Albert: Some time ago I read your Whitehouse Memories in the Chub DeWoIfe column of the Blade and was very much interested and will recall a few more memories which you may have forgotten, overlooked or maybe did not know of.

"I wonder how many will remember Miss Howard's Summer School, Tom Crosby's Glove factory, Rakestraw's Lime Kilns, Rev. Frink's meetings, Honus Meyer's saloon with deer antlers on peak of roof, Rakestraw's plow works, or when Captain Osborne was clerk in A. J. Eldredge's store, later succeeded by John E. Disher and J. C. Wale's Sunday school. Aleck Walp was the first postmaster I think, or was J. A. Farrington?

"Joab Jones started the first drug store in Whitehouse. The old Wabash water tank, how us boys prized the job of driving the old horse around the arena, and how Whittaker used to rout the boys out of the Wabash depot.

"Brogan's stone quarry and Fiscus wagon shop.

"A great shipping point for huckleberries— hundreds of bushels daily. And the old Sly swimming hole. Oh! What a mecca, clear running water all summer. A golden sandy bottom, banks flanked with willows, there is not now, there never was, and there never will be another such swimming hole.

"When we had to attend Burnett's school one mile east of town before we had a school building of our own.

"These memories and the ones you sent to Chub DeWoIfé will make very interesting reading at our Whitehouse Homecoming. I'll leave it to you. Yours truly, John W. Rupp."

Answer to question: Jimmy McCabe was the first post master and the first justice of the peace. His office was in the first frame house built in Whitehouse.

<(<.Uncle Jack Foster said that when they drove V. ^in here in 1846 from Springfield, Ohio, with one

\A ^U'101'®® an(^ ^lgm' '^S'on loaded with household goods \^fyt•a•nd the family, he was then a ten year old boy.

They came up through Perrysburg, Maumee and Monclova and coming to Swan Creek, at Cables Ford, they saw an old man sitting on a stump. They asked him if it was safe to cross and he answered "Yes if your wagon box is fastened so it won't float off." They tied it fast with ropes and sure enough the water came clear up in the wagon box, but they crossed safely. Thanks, they later learned to Uncle John Cripliver.

They proceeded up the creek to the place they had bought. There was no house or buildings, but a short distance up the creek they found a log cabin someone had built on the creek bank and deserted. No windows or doors had been cut out, but they soon remedied that and moved in and lived there until they had built a house of their own.

Later Elias (little) Weaver lived in that cabin many years and his brother Urias (big) Weaver built a cabin a little further up the creek.

Jack Foster's father, Robert (uncle Bobby) was a quaint old character. His brother Rev. John Foster, a Methodist preacher, was very popular in this community.

George Walp, now about 86 years of age, says his father came here from Penn. early in the history of Whitehouse. He married Fred Finzel's sister Margaret. Finzels came here from Germany in the early days.

The Walps first lived on the Fred Bucher farm east of town while he built the third frame house in town on the site of Dan Keener's present residence, and where Walp acted as the second post master of Whitehouse.

The first frame house in town was built by James Cravens on land later sold to Captain John R, Osborn, and the second frame house was Aunt Sally Miller's, north of the R. R. water tank on Toledo avenue and now stands next south of the M. P. church.

Aleck Walp opened the first stone quarry in 1860 with John Williams as foreman, which later became the Pray & Hall quarry.

George Walp also says that the first telegraph operator for the Wabash was Fred Hitchcock, with his office in Eldredg e's store as no depot had been built.

The first section boss was Charles Diem; the ,,'^rst M. D, was Dr. Reifsnyder; the first blacksmith,^» 'l' M. W, Goodman; the first wagon maker, Peter J'Fiscus and the first storekeeper, Josiah Farrington. CHAPTER 5

Harvey Kimber owned a great tract of land to the west of Whitehouse, and maintained the "Old Half Way House" where in my boyhood days the Wheelers, John and his son Mitch, who came from Lorain Co. lived.

Way back in the old days the Kimbers cared for the traveling public by having a monster stick chimney built on the east end of their log house. Connected with this chimney was a very large fireplace, and large doors opened off each side of the guest room. When the doors were opened wide, they drove a little old gray mare attached to a good sized log into the big room, and with hand spikes they rolled the log over against the fire which provided the main part of the fuel two or three days. The lodgers carried their own blankets and slept on the floor with their feet to the big fire.

As a boy I never saw the little gray mare, but considered it a great treat to see the big bare room, the whale of a fireplace and the old stick chimney. They were still there.

Harvey Kimber went away with the gold seekers in 1849 and never came back.His family carried on however. Aunt Hetty married Duke Pray and his three daughters were later Sarah Canfield, Abbie Heath and Caroline Waterbury.

There was another open house one mile east ,,on the bank of Blue creek, where travelers were al,N A/A ways welcome. There Granddad Arch Pray and ^ <'vGrandma Harriet Pray had settled before the .Indians were all gone in 1837. They were always noted for their hospitality.

One evening a traveler hailed to know if they could keep him over night. The answer was, "Yes, drive right in." After a bountiful supper and the family were retiring, Uncle Arch confided to the stranger that they were expecting an event that night.

The following morning the stranger asked his host how it had turned out and Uncle Arch told him he had a fine new son.

The stranger seemed much pleased and said, "if you will allow me the privilege of naming him I will give him 160 acres of land."

"Well all right," said Uncle Arch, "go ahead and give him a name."

Whereupon the man named him Napoleon Bonaparte and he was always called "Bone Pray". The stranger deeded him 160 acres of land over near Rudolph, Wood Co. and years later when "Bone Pray" went west and settled in the Black Hills he sold the 160 acres to Jack Walbolt, for a nominal price, little thinking that in going to the far Dakotahs seeking for a fortune in gold he was leaving great stores of easy wealth in crude oil underneath his 160 acre gift.

W. K. Jones says his father and mother John and Charity Ann, and their two girls, Nancy Jane and Mandy Ann, came to Watcrville to Charles Burnett's (a brother in law who had married Mrs. Jones' sister Mariah.) from New Jersey, where the Burnetts also hailed from, sometime in the fortys. The ague was so bad they went back as far as Brockton, N. Y. and their first son Merritt was born there.'

But when Mrs. Jones' mother, Granny Karis, ^V»Avho was a widow with pension from 1812, sold her t"little home in Jersey and divided up the proceeds between her son William and daughters Charity Ann and Mariah, then the John Jones family came back and located at Whitehouse. This was about 1847 or 48.

Away back in the 40's and 50's generally in case of a death of a man in the community John Jones ^ent, washed and shaved him, ready for Uncle Geo. Rpath the undertaker. And most of the babies born here at that time were cared for by Aunt Charity Ann. And in course of time Uncle John and Aunt Charity had eleven huskies of their own.

Granny Karis also came to Whitehouse to live and brought her pension along, and the government gave her a land grant for soldier's widow, way out west. Esn. J. F. C. Burnett. a justice of the peace and also an ex Jerseyite bought grandma Karis' land grant unsiffht and unseen.

He sent hia eldest son Wm. (Budd) out west to look it up but Budd got cold feet and came back without finding the land. Esquire Burnett then sent a younger son Elbridge (Ellie) out and he located it, which was considered att he time quite a feat.

Mrs. John Fauz who was Mary Berger, before marriage, says: her father Charles Berger and familv came from Wurtemberg, Germany in 1850, stopping two years in Cleveland. They then came on here and entered 80 acres of land adjoining that of their old friends. John M. and Albert Mayor, who had proceeded them a few years from the old country.

In 1853 Michael Ruhm and the Sorg Bros.. Michael and Leonhard followed, and settled in the same neighborhood. More old neighbors getting together

## CHAPTER 6

It is mighty interesting' to know that Conrad Billing and John Koenigseker relatives with their families came to America and to Whitehouse from Schaffhausen, Switzerland, on the Rhine, in 1853. 'Tkey settled on Swan Creek side by side and prospered. Billing on the present Dan Studer farm and Koenigseker on the one owned and octupied by Ralph Tilton.



Raising good sturdy families, their descendants are with us yet and growing stronger every year.

Our old friend Barney Shepler of Bradner, Ohio, says: "My father, John Shepler came from

•Pennsylvania in 1837 and settled on the south bank of the Maumee river two miles west of Fort Meigs

•and in 1842 moved and settled in what is now Tawanton township, bought a farm there and remained a farmer until his death which occurred July 20, 1885 at the age of 92 years, eight months and 12 days.

"My uncle Abraham. Shepler came here from Pennsylvania in 1846, and was the father of Mrs. John Barton, Mary Cable, Rosan Cable, Rachel Crippliver, Abe Shepler, Jr. and Joseph Shepler, "Abe" Shepler, Sr. lived many years on the farm now owned by A. C. Noble. \ William Allman, father of Daniel Allman came in from Pennsylvania in 1860 and a few years later sold his farm to Esquire Barrett, father of Benjamin L. Barrett, who came from Lorain county and dealt in sheep a few years and then gave his attention to farming."

G..There is a building that was very dear to early residents of Whitehouse. It was first located a, little east of opposite the Old Craven or Osborn house on Waterville street. "The First or Unionchurch."

It was built by public subscription in the hard days of the Civil War in 1864. The M. E.'s, M. P.'s, and E. V.'s, all worshipped there (the E. V.'s then held their church and Sunday school services all in the German language). Lutheran, Free Methodist or traveling street preachers all were welcome in the "old Union church." It was well built with log sills and old fashioned barn frame and although it has been made over several times and moved, it now stands staunch as a rock near our new school house on the site of our old sawmill, as a Community House or Boy Scout cabin.

We still have the names of those old settlers who subscribed the \$606.60 that was used in its construction and that list is very interesting.

Also there are very interesting memories that come to us in connection with the old church and the happenings there.

Back in the seventies and soon after the war of 1870 between Germany and France, there was a moving picture show given there; scenes of the warring armies in their colorful uniforms the pomp and splendor made deep impressions on our youthful mind. Very different moving pictures from those we have today for I remember the pictures were on canvas and the canvas moved with the pictures, but it was wonderfully realistic and grand.

The first dramatic entertainment we ever witnessed was down in the old church, by our local talent. "Ten Nights in a Bar Room" with Al and Fannie Landin as Joe Morgan, the drunkard and wife. Neely Buraett as Simon Slade, the saloon keeper, and George Shatzel as his son Frank. Jake Shatzel was the bad associate Green.E. W. Rakestraw was Judge — and Ellie Burnett his son. George Burnett and Alice Rakestraw as Sample Switzel and Mable Cartright the comedians, were a great hit. It was our first show and we have never seen a better one since.

Nancy Jane (Jones) Jenkins came to Whitehouse from New Jersey with her parents in 1847. She grew up here and married Smith Jenkins, who enlisted in the Civil war in 1861 leaving Nancy Jane with little Sarah and Gene to care and provide for...

And well she did it as this one incident helps to prove. To help care for herself and children she bought lot No. 20 of Yarnall Rakestraw (where Floyd Ryerson now lives). Nancy Jane cleared it off and grandma Pray gave her a little cabin which she moved to town and onto the lot and where she had a home of her own. She made a fine garden but had no fence, so she made a kind of a fence with stumps she had grubbed out and could pick up, but it would hardly keep out the town cattle, especially one unruly one owned by Chas. Diem. That cow bothered the life out of her.

She complained to Mr. Diem but he was very busy as section boss on the Wabash and said he couldn't spend his time watching his cow.

"Well," said Nancy Jane, "I've warned you and if you don't keep her out of my garden, I will!"

One day coming home from work she saw Diem's cow greedily eating the fine green corn that she needed so badly for her little ones.

It was war times, away she went through the brush and swamp where Dr. Talbot's place now is, to her father's log house where Dick Powell's house now stands and grabbing her father's shot gun from over the door. Unheeding her mother's commands, back home she raced and sighting across the stump fence, she let the old cow have the charge of bird shot, and that old cow bawling and lashing her tail, went gattoping home and as far as we ever heard never came back.

The incident caused quite a commotion in town but that was all it amounted to for Nancy Jane held the fort, and Smith Jenkins found her and the children there when he came home from the war after three full years at the front.

## CHAPTER 7

Mrs. Cora Billing of San Diego, California now ' visiting her daughter, Mrs. Belle Oberlitner at Litchfield, Ohio, declares our writeups are all to the good and adds some items that are very important and interesting.

In our enumeration of residents of 1868 we left out entirely Uncle Jacob Fosler, who worked for the Wabash for so many years on the section as watchman and having charge of the woodyard here when it was the largest on the line,

A 0 ^ ^nc\* wna^ a family of sons; Christ, Andy, j^y Leonard, Jake, Lew, George and Dan. All were railJreaders and started on the Wabash from Whitehouse.

And also Uncle George Black who lived on the Castle place and who saved Miss Cora's life when she was sinking in the old mire hole west of Jim Aumend's corner on what is now the Cairl place. V ^/^<w1 David Musselman who came to town about the P J^ same time the Lehmans did, 18(?8, and they were .ffbrothers in law.

"' Well, now those were good old friends and we thank Mrs. Billing very much for mentioning them.

Mrs. Cora Hall Billing says in regard to the early history of her parents, Newel C. and Isabel Halt, "when my father and his brother J. E. Hall, first came to Lucas county they were just young men, in the early 30's, I think.

They arrived in Maumee by boat, (from Portage county, Ohio) and walked to Waterville over very poor roads, where they established a tailor shop, making clothes for all the dandies thereabouts. My father and mother were married in 1843.

Both had lived in the vicinity of Whitehouse before that date. Both taught school before and after their marriage (they bought the farm south of town in 1844 of Esek H. Dyer). At the time they were building the canal father was foreman of a gang of men, and my mother, then 19 years old and the mother of a little baby, was afraid to stay alone on the farm with no neighbors nearer than Prays on the Minerva Wells place, so father took her with him and she did the cooking for the men. Sometime later father was appointed R. R. mail clerk, on a run from Toledo to Danville, Ill., and at that time my folks moved to Toledo where they lived till 1862, when they went back to Whitehouse.

Father and mother met at Norwalk, Huron county, where father graduated from the Seminary and where mother's people were living at that time.

Father's people came to Ohio from Massachusetts in a covered wagon drawn by oxen and mother came from New York.

John Wheeler, grandfather to "our Bob", came up from Rochester, Lorain county in 1866.

He bought 5 or 6 hundred acres of land, part of the old Harvey Kimber holdings, and including the "Old Half Way House," and extending from the Old Sorg or Converse place on the Archibold Whitehouse road, north to Swan Creek.

He brought hundreds of sheep and some splendid fine horses to stock the farm and many will remember the great sheep barn he built in the woods north of what is now No. 64, 80 feet wide and 100 feet long. He also had a Cheese factory in operation. It was sure some ranch.

John M. Mayor, the first, lived in Wurtemberg, Germany, his wife passed away, leaving a little son John M., the 2nd. Remarrying, John M., the first, concluded to leave the fatherland for America, and accompanied by his second wife and son they sailed for Baltimore, Md. in 1840.

They were 81 days in crossing and owing to severe storms were unable to make Baltimore but were forced to land at Boston.

After staying at Boston two weeks they came on to Maumee, Ohio. Two children, Rhineholt and Albert, were born at Maumee, and while working on the Erie canal his boss learning he wanted to be a farmer, recommended the 12 mile reserve which the government was selling at \$1.25 per acre.

In 1842 he purchased 160 acres on the west line of Waterville township and eventually J. M. the 2nd got the north and Albert the south 80.

The north 80 is still in the Mayer family as J. M. Mayer the 3rd owns and occupies it and J. M. Mayer the 4th lives just across the way on land acquired later.

Mrs. W. J. Carothers, of Bellflower, California writes:

"My father Fred Finzel, landed in New York City in June, 1836 from Germany, then to Maumee, Ohio, the following' September.

He helped to dig the Wabash canal, and took up a homestead in 1843 and lived on it for 60 years.

My mother was born in Switzerland, came to America in 1833 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Conrade Bollinger and Mr. and Mrs. Barnhardt Long, Mrs. Long being my mother's sister, whereby having a romance which I will give to liven up your Whitehouse history.

My father, Fred Finzel, visited the Longs in 1844 while they lived on the place that later became Rev. John Foster's home.

My father learned during his visit that Mrs. Long had a marriageable sister out near Wooster, Wayne county, Ohio. As the DeMuths were going over that way, he got a chance to ride with them to visit the Bollingers.

He visited with them two weeks, married their daughter, Eva Bollinger and brought his bride home with him and they lived a happy life until my mother died on April 26, 1895.

Father lived to be 90 and was known for his love for flowers.

## CHAPTER 8

Edward Sly with his wife Martha and two children left England and came to America where he had brothers living. Landing at New Orleans his second son Lewis was born there in 1849.

He traveled over Texas on horseback looking for a suitable location. Not finding what he wanted, he turned north with his family. They stopped at St. Louis, Mo. for awhile, then visited a brother in Canada, and finally came to Whitehouse in 1850, near where his brother John was already located.

The Slys first lived in Abe Shepler's log cabin and until their new house was built, their third son Sam was born there. Mr. Sly bought the 160 acres of land for the Sly homestead of a Mr. Odgen, and settled on one of the most picturesque spots on old Swan Creek.

^ He built a large two story log house that in its time sheltered a stalwart family and many, many friends within its hospitable walls.

C. H. Noble so long a resident of Whitehouse, in 1849, when a boy of 12 lived in Monclova township. When his father died, leaving his mother with a family of three children and little Conrad, the youngest.

His mother, Widow Noble, soon married Rev. John Foster, who also was a widower with three children, one a mere babe Louise.

Then some relatives who were leaving for California v^ith the gold feevr, were allowed to take Conrad with them.

They never reached the gold fields however for through sickness and death they became stranded in Illinois, and Conrad working his way back on the canal got a job driving mules. How long he followed that occupation we do not know, but we do know he became a very proficient horseman.

He lived at Gilead (now Grand Rapids) some years, drove the hack and carried the mail from Gilead to Weston, and married a Miss Sterling, who died before the Civil War, leaving him with three children. He enlisted in the Civil War and while in the service met a young widow, Mrs. Lucy Shivell at Eminence, Ky. who had three small boys, Pitt, Jay and Jeff. They married, came back to Whitehouse and bought and moved onto the Abe Shepler place where his son Alonzo C. now lives north of town.

And again they found three children, Sallie, Lou and Lonny.

Josiah Farrington with his wife Araadna and two children, Addie and Bose, came to Whitehouse from Vermont in the early fifties.

He opened the first store in Whitehouse in the house now the residence of Henry Sipher where he also acted as Justice of the Peace.

He lost his first wife in 1860, and enlisted in the Civil War in September, 1861 in Co. I, 14th regiment.

Some time during the war he married Miss Fannie Burnett, daughter of Esq. J. F. C. Burnett, but misfortune still followed him as he lost his second wife in 1866.

Two years later he had married another daughter of Esq. Burnett, Miss Louise, and in 1868 or 9 fitted up a covered wagon and with his wife and four children departed for the west.

Farrington's eldest daughter Addie, now a widow living in Portland, Oregon, writes us. April 15, 1937.

Dear Cousin A.

Your letter appreciated very much and then this morning received the Whitehouse Standard with No. 4 installment of Whitehouse History. Very good, and I wish I was capable of adding to it. George Walp knows more about the girl, whose dress was cut loose from the old Wabash water tank tumbling rod, then I can remember and I doubt whether it would be interesting to any one, for she wasn't hurt much. BUT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

Yes Grandma Farrington and I were left with your parents when father (J. Farrington) went to the war. Have forgotten how long we were there, but remember a calico dress (print) as it is called now days, your mother, Aunt Cynthia, made for me, and meeting my father when he was back on a furlough after the war, and father fitted up the covered wagon and leaving Whitehouse, ending at Norborne, Carroll County, Mo. where father settled and died many years later. John Sly of Whitehouse lived colse by and so did Yarnall Rakestraw';? Brother (Jason), would like to be remembered to any friends. Yours, UCousin Addie lyThe committee have concluded that Josiah Farrington came to Whitehouse in the early fifties and & just before the Bradleys arrived.

Frank M. Heath came to Whitehouse from Colton, Ohio, to teach and straighten up the Whitehouse school, then held in the little school house opposite Pappy Kent's residence on the north west corner of Esq. Burnett's farm.

In 1867 the new two story frame was completed and F. M. Heath served as Supt. of Schools until 1873.

He was appointed post master by President Grant, and served twelve years during which time he bought out Staden's Drug Store and was a druggist the rest of his life. He graduated as an M. D. in the eighties and practiced medicine successfully as long as he lived. He never lost his interest in Whitehouse schools.

./We think Mr. Heath had the first telephone in ca Whitehouse from home to drug store with tin cups J^ for transmitters and receivers.

„Mrs. Cora G. Smith, a school teacher of old j, Whitehouse, Waterville and Neapolis, now living j" at the Eastern Star Sanitarium at Macon, 111. writes: "My parents moved to Whitehouse soon after the close of the Civil Wat. I think the war closed in April, 1865. My father then sold his property in Rochester, Lorain county and moved to Whitehouse, where several others from Lorain County went. I think Henry Barker was my father's bunk mate in the war. Father built the sawmill and later built the house where Henry Beis now lives. We lived there at the tinm of the great "Frink Revival.

"Later father sold the sawmill to L. Eakestraw and traded the home for the Calkins farm, where we lived 2 1/2 years prior to his death.

"I taught my first school (2 months) in Nobl6 district, when I was 15 years old. I have much to thank Frank Heath for."

## CHAPTER 9

John Eber, Sr., came to America from Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1840, coming to Maumee.

He worked for a Mr. Young for a while at Maumee, then buying a small place in Monclova Township, near where the Swan Creek brick church now stands. A few years later he sold his small place and bought 160 acres in the Oak Grove District.

He built a substantial log house which is still standing and in which his family carried on. After he and his wife's passing, and the daughters Carrie and Rose, marrying out, John and George still lived on the old place in the old house for 78 years.

They had many friends from Maumee and Toledo out at the old ranch and whether they came for a week or a month, it was all the same with the Eber boys, they always had a warm fire and plenty to eat.

They were real old time hunters and led many a big chase for deer, fox, coon and wild turkeys.

John died a few years ago at the age of almost 89, but Carrie, in Nebraska, and Rose and George with us here, are still living, busy, cheerful, and gracious as ever, altho together they carry the weight of 254 years.

J. Wilson Heller says of the DeMuths, Hellers and Dishers:

The first DeMuths came to Georgia, U. S. A., from Saxony, where they had imigrated from Moravia.

After that they migrated to Pennsylvania, where they met the Hellers, who had migrated from Germany in the year 1706.

The DeMuths arrived in Penn. about 1740. Part of the family moved to Lancaster Co., Penn., and then to Westmoreland Co., Penn., where they again met the Hollers and came to Tuscarawas County, Ohio.

W. G. DeMuth, with his wife, Elizabeth (Kint) DeMuth, came to Whitehouse in 1846, and with them came their whole family, sons: William, Ranatus, and Levi. William married Katheran Disher and her brother married Elisa DeMuth. W. G. DeMuth's sons in law were Emanuel Heller, Christian Disher, Ranatus Lucas and Daniel Whitmore.

The DeMuths settled just west of the DeMuth schoolhouse, where Walter Meyers now lives. Chris Disher where Frank Flory now lives, and Emanuel Heller in Providence Township, 41<sup>1</sup> miles southwest of Whitehouse.

Looking over the files of the War Dept., Washington, you will find many names of DeMuth and Heller in the Revolutionary, War of 1812, Mexican, Civil, Spanish and World War.

Just as all of the first settlers, they built loghuts and had a very hard row to hoe. My father, (O. P.) helped to build the Wabash R. R. and worked on the section afterwards.

There were three of Emanuel Heller's sons in the Civil War. Also a cousin of theirs, Ray Luca s, who was killed the same day that Christy Disher was wounded.

Ray Heller was scalded to death when the Sultana blew up at Memphis, Tenn.

As to religion they had many kinds, some too much and others not enough.

P. S. Of Emanuel Heller's family there is one son, W. S. (Scott) and 34 grandchildren still alive. That is 34 first cousins alive. We have what is known as the Heller cousins reunion that meets on W. S. Heller's birthday, the 10th of September, .each year.

Ray DeMuth must have been the last one of W. G. DeMuth's sons to come from Tuscarawas County as the following note from Mrs. Mary Bidwell, his daughter, tells of his experience getting here.

"Ray DeMuth came here in 1846. He walked from Tusearawas county, about 150 miles. When he arrived at the river bridge at Maumee, he only had 3c left and he was hungry but had to save his 3c to get over the toll bridge. He still had ten miles to g'o to his father's so he decided to wait till he got there to eat.

He bought 80 acres on Section 10, where the Bidwells now live..

Rev. John Foster was a very early settler here, but the exact date and circumstances we are unable to learn.

He had been married twice, his wives passing away, leaving him 3 children, Libby and Watson, from his first wife, and Louise, by his second.

He next married the Widow Noble of Monclova, who also had 3 children, Sarah, Lou and Conrad.

They had one son George, by his 3rd marriage;

a fine big fellow, big enough to enlist in the Civil War at the age of 13.

Rev. Foster was a Methodist preacher and served at many weddings and funerals in this neighborhood.

His brother, Robert (Uncle Bobby) Foster, was born in City of York, England, in 1804, and John (Jack) his son, was born at same place in 1834.

They came to America in 1840 and lived at Springfield, O., till 1846, when they moved to Whitehouse, an account of which has been published earlier in this series.

Jack enlisted in Co. C, 128th Reg., March, 1864.

## CHAPTER 10

John Holliker, Sr. came to Waterville township in 1833. He married Eva Cripliver, one of a family of the earliest settlers hereabouts. He bought several farms in this vicinity, mostly from the government office at Bueyrus and State Canal Grant lands. Some of it is still in the hands of his descendants and relatives.

John Holliker, Jr. said that the Criplivers came here in the twenties. Phillip Cripliver's son John married Rachel Shepier and settled on a farm on Swan Creek, in 1837, 100 years ago. Mrs. Cripliver's father, Abe Shepier, also came to these parts in 1833.

The Baumbergers came over from Switzerland in 1853 on the same boat that carried the Billing and Kocnigseker families. They lived for a time in Abe Shepler's log cabin on Swan Creek.

Old Mr. Baumbarger made baskets and sold them about the neighborhood. George Sheets soon followed from the old country and later married Mary Baumbarger, their sons and daughters are old people now.

Michael Goodman was born at Haurbach, Germany in 1830. When 17 years old he was subject to military service, through the influence and help of an uncle at Bueyrus, O., he was smuggled out of Germany to France, to New York, to Cincinnati, to Bueyrus in 1847, where he learned the blacksmith trade.

Later he married Caroline Allion of Gallon, and moved to Fulton county, then to Dupont, Putnam county, and from Dupont he walked to Whitehouse through the woods.

He first bought the place now owned by Ed. Holliker and had an open air blacksmith shop under the old burr Oak trees east of the site of our first school house.



Then he opened a shop on the old J. U. Fauster place (later the P. O.) and lived in the old Osborn log cabin. He next built house and shop on the site where Clara and Lewis still live.

Besides the blacksmith business Mr. Goodman ran a hardware store here for many years.

Dr. John Nort came from Hesse Dasmstadt, Germany, to Swanton in 1846, where he practiced medicine until 1868 when he moved to Whitehouse, purchasing the old Land Mark where Henry Sipher now lives, from A. J. Eldredge for his residence and office.

He not only practiced medicine here but took quite an interest in civic affairs, serving on the village council along with George Cable, Isaac Kent and John Holliker. He returned to Swanton only when too old and ill to keep up his practice.

The writer remembers the old Dr. very well ^and no wonder as he extracted our first double tooth with Turnkeys. Whitehouse doctors had not adopted forceps at that time.

We are very grateful to his grandseon, Mr. Will T. Saxton for a bit of his grandfather's history. Mr. Saxton long a prominent merchant of Delta, but who first worked and clerked for L. W. Haskins, general merchant at Waterville from 1868 to 1880.

The first two winters after the canal froze up they had no work for him at the store so he came to Whitehouse and staying with his grandfather went to school to Libbie Mack, a splendid teacher of those old days. His old school mates are always delighted to see him and talk over old times.

Van Rensalear Crosby came to Providence township from Chatalqua county, N. Y. in 1821. He located a few miles north of the town of Providence, on the Maumee river, where there were three general stores and three hotels at that time, and did a big business in transferring freight that came to Maumee by lake and river and was then loaded onto big wagons drawn by oxen and bound for Indiana towns.

Van Reusalear Crosby eventually had a family of 14 children, but at the time of his locating in Providence township one particular son Alonzo, who was then a lad of eight years, was destined to become one of our most renowned citizens, in his chosen occupation being first a hunter, second a farmer.

He married Mrs. Rachel Tipton in 1846 and settled on a farm three or four miles southwest of Whitehouse, where his grandson Newman Crosby now lives.

He was acknowledged to be the greatest deer hunter in this part of the country. Mr. Crosby hunted on horseback on a gray horse, himself dressfid in white, with a cowbell fastened around his horse's neck, and made a practice of killing several deer. then gathering them up in an ox cart and selling them to the travelers at Providence to take back east.

This is an incident that the old hunter used to tell. One time he was sent to Maumee to pay the taxes. In changing his clothes he forget to transfer the bullets from his clothing, but taking his rifle he struck out for Maumee. On his way he spied a big buck deer and shot but only wounded him. The buck charered him and he took refuge behind a small tree. To his consternation he found he had

no bullets. and what should he do? The buck was quiet, so he cut a stick, loaded it into his gun and shot the buck in the eye and killed him.

He raised a good sized family. Three of his children are still with us: Mrs. Ozora Yawberg at Whitehouse; John on a farm nearby and Sylvester at Grand Rapids.

Alonzo Crosby was born in Chataqua county, N. Y. in 1813 and lived on his farm and had his picture taken for the Toledo Blade in 1913—full 100 years of a very active life.

## CHAPTER 11

John Stoker came to America and Maumee from Wurtemberg, Germany in 1849. Jake Mollenkopf came with him and stayed in Maumee and became prominent there as a business man.

John Stoker stayed about Maumee for awhile and became acquainted with a Miles Hayes and his family and renewed that acquaintance later on to a good purpose. He then came on to Whitehouse and worked for John G. Schneider on the farm. and went to school in the early fifties.

Later he went to Ai near Swan ton and worked with Miles Hayes who had moved there from Maumee and married his daughter Eliza Jane. The young people tried farming for themselves. Their first daughter Luella was born on that farm.

But old Whitehouse was beckoning to him, and coming back he set up a little grocery store in Aunt Ruby Shield's building where our drug store now stands. His second daughter Iva was born there.

Stoker built, a large store building on our bank corner and a fine residence on the adjoining lot west. For years he ran a large general store where Edgar Dyer started in with him in his career as ' clerk and business man. Josiah Farrington ran a meat market in connection with the store. Their third daughter Eliza was born on that corner.

Stoker sold store and residence to J. Murbach, and went diagonally across the square and built the Stoker House, a hotel and store combined. He was a popular landlord and Ed. Dyer clerked in the store as did also Frank Heath.

After many years he traded his hotel for the Gillette farm in Providence township and the family settled on a little farm he owned, now the Duncan place. His fourth daughter Blanche was born on that corner. He then moved to Toledo and went . into partnership with Edgar Dyer in the grocery & business on Monroe street near Superior. Many ^ years of his happy old age was spent in Miami at ^the occupation he loved best, feeding people and horses.

Mrs. Stoker lived' on, with her daughters around her, until she reached the ripe old age of 92.

They were regular, loyal attendants of our Whitehouse Home Coming and that is why Eliza

came up and gave me the most of these facts for ' old Whitehouse.

The Boyers began to come to America from France in 1648. In that year Alexander Boyer, a Huguenot, was Deputy Commissioner of the Colony. A man of great importance.

The Boyers scattered all over the United States but settled mostly in Pennsylvania.

Elias Boyer, son of Jacob and Catherine, was born in 1819 in Union county, Pa. He married Mary Wittenmeyer, and they had several children, our Oscar being born in 1860, in Snyder county, Pa.

Elias Boyer entered the Civil war in Co. C 172 Reg. Pa. and with his family came to Ohio and this section directly after the war.

Matthew Cowing Sr. was born in Pcqrhurg, Yorkshire. England. Sept. 12, 1796 and died here Oct. 21, 1878, age 82.

The Cowlings must have been very early settlers here as their family traditions tell of Indians walking in to their cabins on Swan Creek bank, and helping themselves to any eatables they could get their hands on.

Joseph Noward, Sr., was born in Lebanon county, Pa. in 1823. He moved to Mansfield, O. in 1833, and in 1851 he and Henry Shearer came to Waterville township from Mansfield on horseback, looking for land.

Henry Shearer bought the Duhammel farm, and Noward bought a farm on the Noward Road from Allee Walp, which is still owned in the family. He married Margaret Meister in 1850.

Joseph Noward was a weaver and followed his trade long after coming to this part of the country. His descendants have some wonderful woolen blankets that testify to his skill as a weaver.

James Dickenson came to the Oak Grove district with his parents right after the war. They bought land and settled on what is now the Ramm Road.

Jim married Emma Rice, daughter of Ace Rice, who moved in about the same time and in company with Emory Cook, built a blacksmith and wagon shop on the Monclova Road near the Whitehouse Spencer Road.

Jack Foster said: "When Hank Winslow and I went to mill at Maumee, long before the old Plank Road was built, we would each take a team, wagon and a good sized grist, start early and get to Cal Hubbels, Monclova, by noon and feed, then put both grists on one wagon and double up the teams and pull through to Maumee towards evening.

"Many teams were there and we would do well if we got our grists by the middle of the next forenoon. Then we would hustle for home and it would be midnight when we got there. Many went to Maumee to mill from as far away as Archbold, taking several days for the trip."

## CHAPTER 12

I was very glad to get a wonderful letter from an old Whitehouse friend, Mrs. Emma (Fauster) Hartman of Toledo. Mrs. Hartman's many old friends of Whitehouse will be delighted with a copy of the most of her letter.

"Thank you so much for sending me copies of the Whitehouse Standard which contained early Whitehouse history. On reading it, there were many people I had nearly forgotten, but were all brought back to mind, and "lived over." They are very interesting. I shall give them to my brothers John and Charley, also to my sisters Mary and Carrie to read. They will enjoy reading them as much as I have.

As to my parents, my father left Switzerland in 1854. He had an uncle and his family here, who prompted him to come to America. He was just 19 years old.

After he landed in New York he came on to Maumee, and was then employed in the harness makers' trade. The uncle returned soon after he arrived. Father came on a sailing boat and was six weeks on the way.

My Grandmother who was also Swiss, married in Wurtemberg, Germany. After my Grandfather's death she and my mother then left for America, also in 1854, and came to Maumee, where my mother had an aunt.

My father and mother did not know each other in Europe, but met in Maumee and were married there later. I was a little child when they came to Whitehouse in 1863. My father followed the harness makers' trade until he was made Post Master.

He had a flour and feed store in connection with the Post Office. Several years later he was a mail clerk on the Wabash R. R. from Toledo to LaFayette, Ind. At that time the Wabash was the best railroad in the country.

After he left the mail service he was employed in John Murbach's Store,—also Pratt and Company and last with Canfield's store. My brothers and sisters were all born in Whitehouse. I was born in Maumee.

I have many happy memories of my younger days in Whitehouse."

Very Sincerely

Emma E. Hartman

Konrad Ginter and his brother came over to America from Switzerland to Maumee in 1847. mee.

He at once bought land on Swan Creek, near Whitehouse and built himself a log cabin. Soon he ^got a yoke. of oxen but the roads were so bad that for some time he carried his produce to Maumee to market and to the mill, over an old Indian trail as there were some Indians here at that time.

The next year, 1848, Martin Weckerly came from Sublingen, Canton Shauffhausen, Switzerland and settled next to Ginter on the North and West, and five years later the Billing and Koenigseker families bought next to him on the East. Little Switzerland

Jacob Ailion, a citizen of France, left there duringthe "Reign of Terror" following the French Revolution.

He went to Germany to Auersbach near Karlsruhe, Baden where his son Michel was born in 1822.

They came to America in 1832 to Pennsylvania, ^then to Richland County, Ohio with ox teams in '1843, and later came to Lucas County and Michel settled for a long life and a large family at Waterville, Ohio.

The eleven surviving children: Frank, Ben, Caroline, Mattie, Christ, William, John, Charles, Eliza, Clara and Margaret at present carry a load of 789 years, and do it well.

Christ and Dave Disher came here in about 1840 from Wyandotte County, where their parents had settled from Pa.

Christ first lived in a log house, which stood on the South west corner of the Ella Ryan farm, which was then owned by Esq. E. K. Dyer who had purchas,ed it in 1839.

Pardon a missed item from the N. C. Hall history, regarding this house. The school teachers, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Hall, soon after being married in 1843 bought this farm and lived in this log house many years. Then it was sold to Jake Flowers, who moved it to town log by log and rebuilt it, and it is now the home of Orintha Lehman and son Will.

Christ Disher soon bought a farm for himself, probably from the Schnables of N. Y. who owned more than anyone around here, where Frank Flory now lives. All woods and work. His brother Dave bought next west of the Demuth Block on the Waterville Road where his own son Luther, and his grandson Frank, have always lived.

Who remembers Veronika and Fannie Valkard? Well, no wonder you don't for they married in Switzerland before coming here.

Veronika married Melcher Weckerley and they came to America and Whitehouse, (where the Elder Falkards lived), in the early days and lived on and owned what is now called the Fred Studer farm. They were the parents of our George Weckeriy.

Mrs. Weckerly's sister Fannie stayed on in Switzerland and married a Mr. Schmid. They had at least one son for in 1863 when he was 19 years old he came over here and stopping with his uncle and aunt, the Weckerlys, he worked at the carpenter trade which he had thoroughly learned in the old country. That was Henry Schmid.

He visited Indiana and Kentucky looking over the country and came back to WHtchouse anrl nf+er working with Mr. George Sna^h. our '.mderf aker. for a while, finally bought him out and wa^ our undertaker for over 50 years.

Many years after locating' here he went hack to Switzerland and induced his olr! mother to come over to the new country and to Whitehouse to live. The sisters hadn't seen each other for over 50 years.

What a meeting.

## CHAPTER 13

Mrs. Ina (Coombs) Converse of 1221 Waverley Ave., Toledo, O.. writes a splendid tribute to the residents of Whitehouse back in the days of the Civil War.

"Your History brings back to memory people and things almost forgotten, but I do remember, Whitehouse to me was like one large family. They seemed to be my own aunts and uncles and grandparents.

My father, Joseph S. Coombs, was born at Albany, New York in 1822. came to Ohio in 1847 or 1848 and settled at the little town of Gilead (later Grand Rapids). There he met my mother, Miss Cydney Adams, the little town's dress maker and milliner, who was born in the Blue Ridge mountains in Pennsylvania. They were married in 1849. My father operated a canal boat owned by him and George Laskey until 1859, when father sold out to Laskey and in the fall of 1861 moved his family to the Harvey Kimber farm near Whitehouse.

In November 1862 father enlisted in the Civil War and we moved to Whitehouse. After the war father went back to his old job as Steward on the Lakes and from 1882 to 1901 he was night watchman for The Toledo Blade."

Thomas Doren was born November 15, 1798 but the place of his birth is not known to the writer. He sure was one of the very early settlers here and had seven sons and six daughters.

He bought 80 acres of land of Harvey Kimber (the Neeper place) in 1844, but did not get his deed for it until 1849, when Paris H. Pray executed a deed to him by power of attorney as Harvey Kimber had been lost with the Gold Seekers.

John G. Schneider came to America frnrn Wurtenberg, Germany. He bought land from the Government here in 1842. Mrs. Mahler was his sister.

John George Meister, born in Merrihausen, Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland, October 4, 1792, married Margaret Keller in 1811 and came to America in 1834. Parents of Christ and Daniel Meister, born 1829 and 1831 respectively. We think they bought their farms on Blue Creek of A. J. Eldredge in 1844.

George Aumend came to Lucas County from Crawford County in 1847. His people came to Crawford County from Pennsylvania and from Holland.

Adam and Jacob Keener came to America from Germany in 1836, coming to Pennsylvania, and came to Lucas County and Whitehouse in 1867.

Fred Bucher came from Berne, Switzerland in 1851.

Nicholas, Christ and Jacob Rupp came from Switzerland at an early date.

It is said that Nicholas Rupp's great grandfather drove hack for Napoleon Bonaparte's brother.

William Obee came from England. His first wife was a Foster.

Martin and Sarah Winslow came here from Buffalo, New York at a very early date. They were here when Bobby Foster came in 1846.

Yarnall Rakestraw bought land from his father's (Joseph R.) estate in 1846.

Fredrick (Pappy) Kent was sure one of our old settlers, coming from near Patterson, New Jersey on the Susquehanna River where his relatives, the Burnetts, Joneses and Granny Karis also came from.

Peter Manor was the first white resident in Providence Township, in 1816.

We are submitting our thirteenth installment on Old Whitehouse History in this issue. Mostly my own recollections in 1868, but back of that date I am very thankful to the Old Friends who have helped me out in going back to the Civil War to 50's, 40's, 30's, 20's, even back to old Peter Manor who lived here all alone in 1816.

As imperfect as it is, we have made some headway and again I thank you every one, for I have enjoyed it very much. And now I think proper to conclude with a few words from an old Whitehouse boy that takes us still farther back. Dear Mr. Bradley:

Your historical articles on the old days interests me and is somewhat in line with research work I attempted a few years ago relative to "Old Roads in Lucas County."

It may be of interest to you to know that the early history of the "dark and bloody ground" of Kentucky is directly connected with that of Whitehouse.

Indian forays into Kentucky against the tiny settlements established and protected by hardy eastern pioneers under the leadership of Daniel Boone and his associates were promoted and paid for by British military authorities with their British allys.

The nearest point of contact for the Wyandotte and other tribes of central and southern Ohio was at Fort Maiden at what is now Detroit.

No major Indian campaign was ever carried on during the winter, but when spring came it was the signal for the Kentucky pioneers to be ever on the alert. The stealthy ambush and the whooping attack of the Indians from across the Ohio River was in season and the trails of the Indian marauders led north—always north—with their booty of white scalps.

North to the fertile flood plains of the Little Miami (Mee ah mee, since contracted to Maumee) of the Lakes and the British paymasters of Detroit. North—ran the Indian trails from Kentucky to the lakes and at least one of them crossed the Meeahmee at Otsego ford and then on north, following the higher ground of the small creeks and other streams and at what is now your village of Whitehouse forming the first faint traces of what has come to be the Weckerly road.

Anonymous.

#### CHAPTER 14

Now that I have finished my part of "Old Whitehouse History" and told of some of the happenings before 1868, or before we moved to town from our farm in Monclova Township, somebody should go on with it.

It would be just fine and easy, for this history is not a made up story, but statements of facts about the early settlers, and covers about 40 years, I am sure it would be interesting and easier to pick up now than to wait 20 or 30 years later.

I couldn't do it as I was away from Whitehouse the greater part of the next 40 years, and besides I would want to run personal experiences too much.

For instance:

When I was five or six years old I be.owi to work and my brother Will who was eight or nin^ had worked all through Civil War times. W^hen we were old enough to go to school we were old and big enough to help work.

When about the close of the war and men were very scarce, we depended on old men for mowing hay with a scythe and upon women and children to rake and turn and dry it, and then pitch it onto wagons to haul to the barn. Old man Cripliver or old man Murphy or old man Dickenson would mow for us and Maggie and Eliza Billing would rake, turn and cure and also pitch it up to a man on a wagon for the barn. My brother Will and I would rake after the wagon and get every wisp of the hay.

Yes, those dear girls helped my mother all through the war, and whenever it was necessary out in the fields they went laughing and happy.

John Obee worked for us too on the sheep farm before he went to the war. We were very glad to see him come back alive, and Maggie Billing was glad too as she soon married him and lived in the next house to us until John bought a little farm on Swan Creek and built a little house and stable with oak boards up and down.

My father and he canvassed the country and bought a team. and wagon down in Monclova and a few tools and John Obee started his very successful career as a farmer and they prospered and raised a fine large family of ten, I believe, and all school teachers but one, several preachers and missionaries, a family to be proud of.

Or I might say that about that time we hired two neighbor boys to dig a patch of potatoes, Jake and John Weckerly. My brother Will and I were to help pick up. Maybe I got lazy for when I was bending over picking up, John shied a nice little round potato and struck me on the back part of my pants. And say, I thought I was shot and ran screaming home (nearby) to tell mother I was shot and killed, but I did not die that time.

And to prove that I got over it, six or seven years later George Couch and I would go down from town to the Junction of the Obee and the Eber roads where Martin Weckerly's folks lived in a log house, every Saturday and drive the horse to grind the apples for the Weckerly boys' first cider mill.

The cylinder grinder was a cut off an oak pole with spikes driven in to smash the apples and an iron rod for an axle.

But we were big boys when Bill Jones, the blacksmith's helper, and I used to go down to Weckerly's big cider and saw mill and work till midnight, just for the fun of being with Jake and John and Will Weckerly and Frank Doren and having all the rambo cider we could drink.

And those German boys starting with a cider mill added a saw mill, a planing mill, vinegar works and made apple jelly by the barrel and whatnot.

And their successors have moved the lumber business to Whitehouse and Grand Rapids, and are still carrying on like a house a fire.



Or maybe just a little later I would want to tell you of the pickle the directors of the Long school district got into through the actions of some of their big boys and girls and lost their school teacher.

Oliver P. Heller was President of the board, and good men teachers were hard to find. But Charley Castle told O. P. that his uncle of Clyde, Ohio had just graduated from Ada Normal, that he was a brother of Charley's mother and his two single sisters, Clara and Emma, had been teaching hereabouts for several years, and Charley believed his uncle would take the school.

"Well," O. P. said, "send for him to come up and we will talk to him."

The young man came and he was a young man only 16, but he wanted to teach school and intended to.

Mr. Heller threw up his hands and said, "Oh no, we must have a man to handle these fellows. You are too young; you won't do."

But the boy stood his ground and was determined and would not give in, and he finally made the arrangement to take the school for three months and if he didn't make a success of it he would quit— and no harm done, but if he did succeed he wanted his money.

Well, he won, and he got the Monclova schools and taught there two years and all the time he lived at Whitehouse, it was the busiest time we young people ever had. He had something going all the time, shows, societies, Good Templars, stage plays— "The Gunmakers of Moscow" and "Ingomar the Barbarian," to packed houses down in the old Union church, and Monclova going it too at the same time.

It's hard to tell what would have happened to us if he hadn't went away to Valparaiso, Ind. to finish up his schooling.

Then he was a lawyer and soon went west and adopted Nebraska as his home state. Attorney, Prosecuting Attorney, Legislature, Congress, House and Senate, and still there and the greatest of them all, George W. Norris.

We couldn't possibly have done him any harm here for he has gone to the top, and who can estimate what he did for Whitehouse?