

# Recollections from:

# ALONG SHADE

# CRICK



Summer 2021 Newsletter

Chester, Ohio

Volume 34

## **Chester Shade Historical Association Board of Officers and Trustees**

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**President:** Dan Will  
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Jim Smith  
Jim Stewart  
Dan Will

### **From the Bench – July 2021**

The heat and humidity of July are here, but thankfully we won't have to endure that this year for the 2021 edition of the Meigs Heritage Festival. The CSHA decided a few months ago to move the (return) event to a cooler, more pleasant part of the year, with less conflicts with other events happening in the area. The Meigs Heritage Festival this year will be Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, on the Chester Commons. We are heavily involved with the planning of that now; the event will center around the traditional Car Show, along with some new themes including hunting and fishing. With Covid restrictions lifted and people being vaccinated, we are expecting a great turnout. So, mark your calendars and look for more details as the summer progresses.

The CSHA recently had a professional 15-minute video produced showing off the Chester Courthouse, Academy, and Commons, along with the history of this wonderful place. It was filmed and narrated by the people of "History In Your Own Backyard" and features two of our members in an interview style presentation. Currently it is being reviewed and edited, but look for it soon on YouTube under this production company name.

With sadness, we have very recently experienced the loss of two of our founding members, Wilma Parker and Betty Newell. Their early work and support, along with their husbands (both deceased), contributed greatly to the restoration of our two buildings. We are very grateful for their past involvement. Wilma and her husband Howard both were school teachers in the Eastern School District for many years and resided on the Parker Family Farm located along SR7, just a short distance north of Chester. Betty and Harold operated Newell's Sunoco gas station (now TNT Pit Stop) in Chester, also for many years, located at the edge of Chester near the Rainbow Bridge. Both couples lived and worked in and around Chester nearly their entire lives; this certainly demonstrates their love for the area, the people, and in seeing local history preserved. They definitely will be missed!

Dan Will  
CSHA President



## **HISTORY OF JOHN AND OPHELIA WEBER'S HOMES**

In 1911 John and Ophelia Weber had a two-story home on the top of Chester hill.

The second floor was bedrooms and the downstairs the kitchen, etc. The roof was wood shingles. On the large flat front lower yard there was a saw mill. This saw mill was powered by a steam engine that burnt wood scraps. Steam engines smoke and at times spew sparks. One day the saw mill was running, smoke rolling from the stack along with some sparks. Some of the sparks landed on the wood shingle house roof. The home was on fire, members of the community fought the blaze, all members of the family were safe, or so they thought. When the fire was extinguished the second floor was destroyed. The whole home was deemed a loss, the damage was too extensive to just repair. Suddenly John or Ophelia discovered their son James was missing. He had been removed from the home, but now could not be found. Friends and family searched to no avail, everyone feared he had been lost in the fire. Suddenly five year old James reappeared dragging his favorite rocking chair behind him. James had gone back into the house to save his rocking chair and taken it to the mistletoe tree where he fell asleep in the chair. Everyone was very relieved that James was well, even though the home was a loss.

7/12/21

### **Academy and Court House Hours**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

And Saturday

10:00 - 4:00

Or

By Appointment

Call Kaye Fick at 740-985-4115

Or

Dan Will at 740-985-4344

E-mail

[chestercourthouse@windstream.net](mailto:chestercourthouse@windstream.net)

Website

[www.chestercourthouse.com](http://www.chestercourthouse.com)

Court House Phone

740-985-9822

In the Mid 1860's there were house numbers on East Main Street in Chester, OH. The numbers 12, 13, 14, 15 belonged to H.F. Frisbie. He was born in Chester and was one of the most prominent riverboat men from Pittsburg, PA and Cincinnati, OH. As a young man he left the machinist trade in the city and became the best machinist that ever left the Bend. He went to Cincinnati and while there invented the Frisbie Valve which was used widely on all steamboats on the Ohio River.

Captain Frisbee had decided to retire so he sold all his interests in Cincinnati and moved back to Chester to build a grand home on Main Street. He selected an "1800 original kit house", sent the plans to Cincinnati and waited for the delivery of the kit to return by riverboat to Pomeroy.

As parts of the home arrived, they were hauled to Chester and the home was constructed (1870). The original home consisted of 14 rooms, was two stories tall and contained several fireplaces. The kitchen, dining room and large foyer were on the ground floor.

The downstairs rooms were trimmed in eight-inch-wide oak. Cleo Weber Smith recalls the large bathroom on the second floor—no toilet—but a large cast iron tub with claw feet. She recalls that large bathtub fondly.

A double wide staircase leading to the bedrooms on the second floor was added at some point. Four additional bedrooms, two on each side were added shortly after the Civil War. The bedrooms had fireplaces for heat.

Captain Frisbie also added onto the back of the home, on the site of the old jail that had been destroyed by fire. Cleo also recalls a water well located in front of the house that was three feet across the top.

He spent his remaining years there until his death. His widow, one sister, and two brothers still lived in Chester. His funeral was held at the M.E. Church by Reverend West. He was interred in the Chester Cemetery.

In the year 1910, John and Ophelia (Sarah) Weber's home burnt, they decided to acquire the former home of Captain Frisbee. It was a big move for Alta, Thomas and James to such a grand (14 room) big house near the school on the hill (the Chester Academy).

This house made a wonderful place for students of the Chester Academy to board and have their meals. They all called Mr. Weber "Uncle John". They all loved the meals cooked by Cleo's grandmother.

Chester Academy was also called A Teacher Institute and students came from all around. The boarding fees depended on services needed by the student such as horse boarding or laundry. Most of the rooms were full of young people all the time until 1929 when the school closed. Two of the boarders remembered by Cleo are Asa Cook and Constance Trussell.

When the Academy closed there was no longer a need for the Weber's to board. It was the end of an era.

In 1939 The Chester High School was overfilled by students so the Academy was reopened to accommodate the extra students. Again in 1940-41 the Academy made room for extra students

as Cleo's sixth grade classes were held in the Academy. There was no water in the building. It had to be carried by the bucket, from the Deep Well in front of John Weber's house, for drinking water.

Since the school was overfilled in 1942 Mrs. Smith held one class in the Weber's front living room across the road from the high school.

In the year 1949-50 the Frisbie/John Weber home was removed and the home of Lawrence Smith was built.

Older folks still remember the old Big House that was once in Chester. House number 13 was on the front door.

The Academy is in use today, but the Frisbee home is gone. Some of the oak trim was saved. Opha Offutt, son in law of Thomas and Jessie Weber made decorative cabinets out of some of the oak. The cabinets are in use today.

—Story by Cleo Smith and Opal Grueser—

Mike Roberts

Akron, OH 44333

### **Advertising Collections**

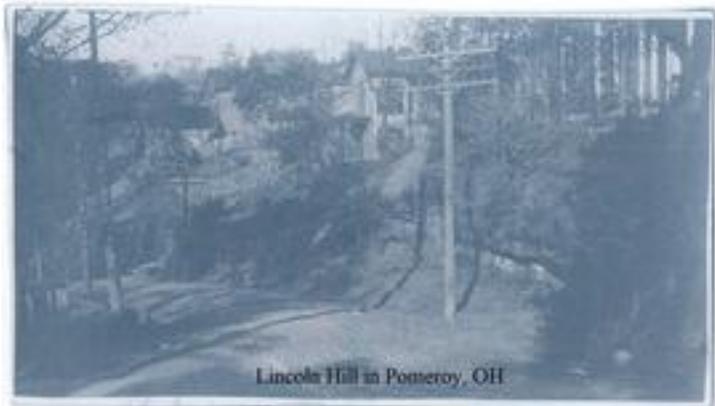
Today we are bombarded with advertising: about 20 minutes of each hour of television, pop-ups on our computers, ads on many electronic devices, and the barrage of unwanted, unwelcome telemarketer calls everyday. There has been advertising for millennia. The first was by word of mouth. Since then early advertisers worked their way into the newspapers and printed handouts. Soon sellers were using colorful trade cards and posters. Some branded their store tokens. Some gave away plates and chinaware emblazoned with the company name. Some gave knives or shoehorns and so forth. Then came radio followed by television and now electronics.

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(continued from page 3)

But the era of giveaways continues with pens, pencils, calendars, etc. Advertising trade cards are no more. Ubiquitous matchbooks have nearly disappeared. Few, if any, gas stations issue free ice scrapers. One colorful advertising giveaway was common in the 1920's—1950's but was ended by technology. The ballpoint pen became the pen of choice in the 1950's. No more ink pens to fill up. No smeared writings. Thus ended the ink blotter.

Today Meigs County advertising ink blotters from those days are seldom discovered. People rarely saved them when they were no longer needed. By contrast, Trade Cards were often saved because they were colorful and interesting. I am one of the limited number who collect them and have gathered up the few I have found. Those illustrated here are from my collection.



Lincoln Hill in Pomeroy, OH



Circus Parade

HOBART TIRE CO.  
Race & Second Streets  
MIDDLEPORT, OHIO  
Phone: 303-X

**KELLY SPRINGFIELD BALLOON TIRES**

**Morton's Salt**

*Ideal for kitchen use  
Convenient - economical*

**Ewing's Cash Grocery**  
Phones 133-L, 259R  
Pomeroy

**"BALL-BAND" RUBBER SHOES**

TRADE MARK

Whatever you need in Rubber or Waxed Footwear you can get in "BALL-BAND" the kind that gives Nine Days Wear.

**Frank Gaul,**  
Chester, Ohio.

**STOP LOOK and LISTEN**

*Ohio River is positively the best salt for farm use . . . It is evaporated from natural brine pumped from deep wells . . . Ohio River Salt has no equal for meat curing, stock feeding, pickling and water softening.*

**OHIO RIVER SALT**

**SALT SALES CORP'N** POMEROY, OHIO

**CARTER'S FOUNTAIN PEN INKS**

**BEST INK FOR FOUNTAIN PENS**

**A. CALDERWOOD**  
BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER  
Middletown, Ohio

*Look for the red line round the top*

**Goodrich RUBBER FOOTWEAR**

For Sale by  
**HARTLEY & BENNETT**  
POMEROY, OHIO

**KIPRESS**

**SOLES THAT ACTUALLY WEAR LONGER THAN STEEL**

**RU-BER-OID**  
Roofing and Shingles

**Pomeroy Cement & Lumber Co.**  
Pomeroy - Ohio

Taken from the Athens Messenger, Sunday, August 1, 1971

Written by Beulah Jones, Meigs Bureau Chief

### **The Road from Failure to Success is In Meigs**

**POMEROY** – Anyone interested in going from failure to success with a side trip to Texas and still remain in Meigs County? It is not only possible but can be done without leaving the car.

There is no guarantee of getting rich but the scenery is good. There is usually some mystery of how certain locations got their name but in Meigs County there is a community known as Success, one as Texas, and in the early days of the county, a place called Fayler (pronounced by old timers as Failure).

This area can be reached by going to Chester and traveling on Route 248 which goes through the community of Keno and to the crossroads near Long Bottom where Our Lady of Loretto Church stands. The road leading past the church will take you to Success, and the point where the church stands was once the Fayler Post Office, hence the play on words of making a journey from failure to success. The community of Texas isn't too far from the area so it is possible to reach Success from Fayler and go past Texas, all in the same day.

The original site of Fayler has long since disappeared but the Success community remains. A well-kept Church of Christ built in the 1800's and one of the new, large water storage tanks belonging to the Tappers Plains-Chester water district point up the very old and the very new in Success.

The residents there now have running water, a product unheard of in the early days. So, in one sense of the word, success has come to Success! The area providing the unusual situation is located in Olive Township, once a part of Athens County.

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This particular part of the region is sparsely settled due to the hills that make farming difficult. The fertile farming land is down by the river.

But new homes are being constructed and here and there one sees a trailer home, a modern touch in pioneer country. People today seem to be looking for home sites away from cities and villages and with water available this trend will no doubt continue.

Most of the farms have been in families for generations and tombstones in the cemeteries bear the familiar names of Andrews, Marcinko, Coleman, Curtis, Devlin, and many others. The Francis Andrews farm is across the road from the former site of Fayler.

Schools in the area were organized as early as 1814 and eventually there were 12 schools in the township with a Normal School at Long Bottom.

The early industries were confined to agriculture and timber. There were many saw mills, tanneries, cooper shops, spring poles and hoop holes. The name Fayler might have been a family name but history doesn't say.

Looking through old records in the courthouse is time consuming but Louis Heines, who is employed in the recorder's office and very much interested in history, finally found the record that the Fayler Post Office did exist at one time, sometime in the 1800's. Frank C. Andrews was the last post master.

Not far from the Fayler site was Olive Center which evidently boasted a school lot, town house which is indicated on the township records. In Olive township itself in the first election there were 11 voters and in 1819 and 1820, a presidential election, there were 18 votes cast.

Continued on page 7

Continued from Page 6—**Failure to Success**

There were three religious denominations in the area including the Methodists, the Christian Church, a United Brethren Church and Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church.

Heavy timber still covers much of the area but highways are improved and the advent of water systems indicate just how much progress has been made in 100 years. Faylor or Failure doesn't exist as a place today but Success and Texas communities are still around. Perhaps the sound of words has a great deal to do with what happens to an area.

### **Water Towers of success on Success Road**

Which used to be the town of Success



Proof of success are the two water towers now located on the Success Road. One is "Hot" and one is "Cold".

## **Tidbits from Athens Messenger Oct. 1930**

### SHADE IS CROOKED IN FUNNY COURSE

The stream almost crosses itself in odd meanderings before emptying into Ohio.

Pomeroy, Oct. 3—A perusal of a map of Meigs county shows that the county has probably the crookedest stream in the world in the meanderings of Shade River from Chester to a point below Long Bottom, where it empties into the Ohio. By air line it is about six miles from Chester to where the stream empties into the Ohio River, but by the water course it must be at least three times that distance. The tracing of the stream on the map looks like a kitten had been playing with thread and dropped it there in all sorts of loops and twists.

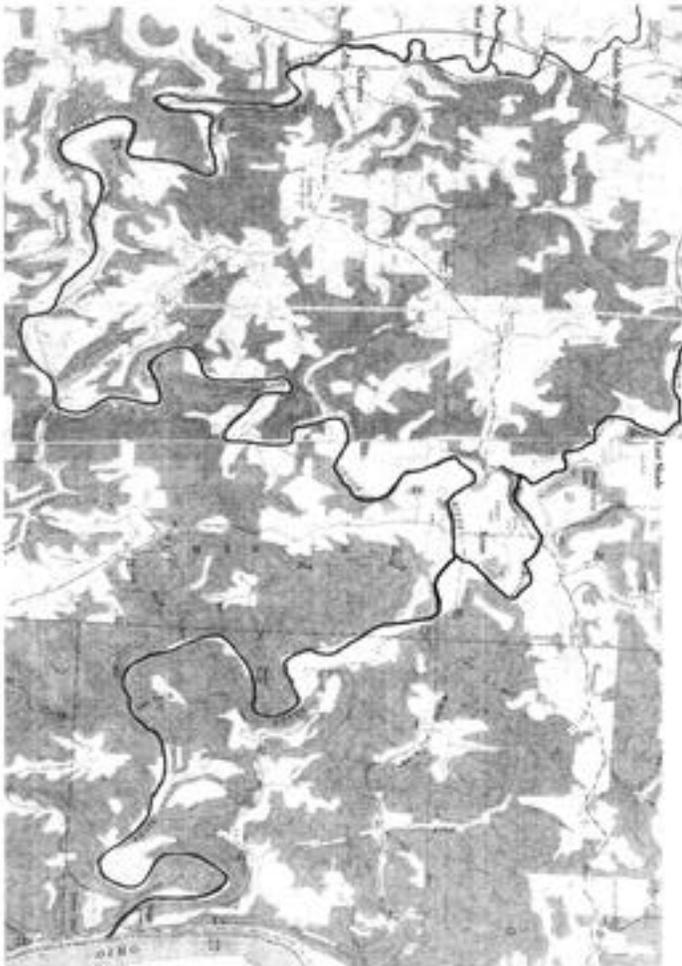
It does not actually cross itself, but comes as nearly as possible to doing that very thing. At the very end is a loop which makes it seem that the stream hesitated to join the big stream and dodged off and out another circle of a mile or more before mingling with the Ohio.

Those who have driven in that locality say there is a sharp ridge following the meanderings of that loop which is hardly wide enough for teams to pass. One can throw a stone from the top of that ridge into Shade River and face the other way, a mile above, (Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7 Shade is Crooked)

The Shade flows into the Ohio through a deep gorge where it was proposed to build a dam, shortly before the World War Broke, for the purpose of generating enough electricity to supply the entire Ohio Valley. The scheme which was generally regarded as visionary, fell through when the war clouds broke. No one denied that it would be a splendid place to erect a dam to create a great lake, but the cost of acquiring the property, it is believed, would have been prohibitive.

**Note: This article was transcribed by Diana Hart and was stored in a genealogical collection by Mrs. Eleanor Knight.**



## *Chester Courthouse / Museum Memorabilia*

*By*

*Linda Blosser*

In 2003 Don Aldrich got a copyright on a story he had written about Nellie Barr and the Chester Courthouse's Best Kept Secret (until now). The Legend of Nellie Barr.

The Chester Courthouse had two judges. Judge Ellis and Judge Davis. The people thought they were unfair, and harsh in their rulings. Everyone wanted new judges.

Nellie Barr was a young towns person who needed to earn a living. She started making lunches to sell to the judges and jurors, because no restaurants existed in the area.

Nellie decided to take things in her own hands, and she started putting arsenic in Judge Davis's desert every day. She did this over a year and he finally died, and his death was ruled natural causes.

Nellie lived with what she had done until she was on her death bed. Then she told a nurse with her dying breath.

Afterward many stories were told about a person being in the courthouse window when the doors were locked. Or about items being moved around, especially chairs!

(Was It Nellie Barr?)

Copies of The Legend of Nellie Barr are available for sale at the museum for \$2.50. You can read the story and be a judge if the story is true or fiction.

This is a look at the whole Shade River System from Chester, Ohio to the Ohio River. The dark crooked line is the Shade River and its other branches. West Shade, Middle Shade and East Shade.

Meigs County Historical Treasure Hunt Sponsored by:

**Racine Home National Bank and Chester Shade Historical Association**

To go along with our Chester Shade Heritage Festival on October 2, 2021 we are having a Meigs County Historical Treasure Hunt. Following is a list of historical locations around the county. Visit each location and take a picture of yourself with the object which you are looking for to verify your presence. You may use a phone or camera. Bring your proof on October 2, 2021 to the Meigs Heritage Festival in Chester, Ohio.

Cash prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25 will be awarded to the top three places in two age divisions: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 15 years, and 16 years and older. We hope you learn something at each site, and happy hunting.

Locations to look for:

1. Grave Marker of William H. Barringer at Mount Olive Cemetery, Long Bottom, OH.
2. Grave Marker of Joseph VanMatre at Middleport Hill Cemetery, Middleport, OH
3. Grave Marker of Charles Schorn at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Pomeroy, OH
4. The Elm Tree Plaque as you enter Racine at the corner of Cross Str. and Elm Street
5. Grave Marker of Henry Roush at Plants Cemetery, located at Racine Locks & Dam
6. Grave Marker of Seth Jones at Letart Cemetery, in Letart Falls, OH
7. Grave Marker of Brewster Higley at the Family (Higley) Cemetery outside of Rutland, OH at Rose of Sharon Holiness Church Leading Creek Road
8. Grave Marker of Jacob Cowdery at Keno Cemetery, County Road 28 off Route 248
9. World War 1 Cannon beside Middleport Post Office
10. Flatwoods Cemetery: Civil War and Revolutionary War Soldiers with same last name
11. Fighting McCook's Stone Monument at Portland, OH along Route 124
12. "The Last Stand" of the Battle of Buffington Island, just north of Portland School
13. "The Second Crossing" of Morgan's Raiders north of Reedsville on Route 124
14. Picture in front of the Chester Court House in Chester, OH

**Rules of Contest**

1. Must be present to win
2. Ties will be settled by random drawing
3. Registration to be submitted between 10:30am and 11:30am October 2, 2021 at the registration booth at Chester Commons
4. Winner to be announced at Noon.
5. You must appear in each photo. Please read the instructions carefully.

For more information you may call the Court House at 740-985-9822. You can also go to the Chester Shade Historical Association Website.

In 1995-96 Members of the Daughters of American Revolution and a small group of local people came together to save the county's earliest history, Meigs County's first Courthouse.

The Chester Shade Historical Association trustees and volunteers have worked very hard to preserve the Chester Courthouse, built in 1823 and the Academy built in 1840. Both buildings are in use and open to the public. We have worked 20 years to save what was preserved and make these beautiful buildings useable. Continued help is needed to maintain the buildings and keep them open to the public. You can help by becoming members of CSHA and through donations.

## *Chester Shade Historical Association*

**Adult Membership \$15/year**

**Lifetime Membership \$150**

### **Donations**

**Please send your check to:**

**Chester Shade Historical Association**

**P.O. Box 44**

**Chester, Ohio 45720**

**Or go to our Website: [Chestercourthouse.com](http://Chestercourthouse.com)  
and use our Online Store to pay or make a  
donation.**

2021 CSHA Membership

Membership dues start on January 1 of each year and expire on December 31 of each year.

\$15.00 Individual Adult, \$150 Lifetime Membership

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(If email has changed, we are asking you to verify your email address)

Student Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Persons: Individual \_\_\_\_\_, Amount to Pay \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_

(If you would like please mark one of the following and a member of the CSHA will contact you)

I would like to volunteer at the Courthouse/Academy

I have a family history or other items to donate to CSHA

I have stories to tell

Thank you, we appreciate your support!!!!!!!!!!

**Yes, I would like to volunteer!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

I can volunteer: One day a week \_\_\_\_\_

One day a month \_\_\_\_\_

Occasionally \_\_\_\_\_

As needed \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred day: Monday \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

We are open on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am till 4 pm. Please call first. 740-985-9822

We are open 6 hours a day M, W, F, S from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm regular hours



Chester Shade Historical Association  
46454 ST RT 248 P.O. Box 44  
Chester, OH 45720  
Web: [www.chestercourthouse.com](http://www.chestercourthouse.com)  
Email: [chestercourthouse@windstream.net](mailto:chestercourthouse@windstream.net)  
Phone: 1-740-985-9822  
[facebook.com/chestercourthouse](https://www.facebook.com/chestercourthouse)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## *Your Dues Count*

*The money that you pay for dues goes to promote our organization. It helps us pay our utility bills, upkeep expenses, making it possible to keep the buildings open to the public, as well as historical programs for youth and adults. Please check out our membership page and sign up today. Memberships begin in January and end on December 31 of each year.*