



# Olmsted 200

Bicentennial Notes about Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township –  
First Farmed in 1814 and Settled in 1815

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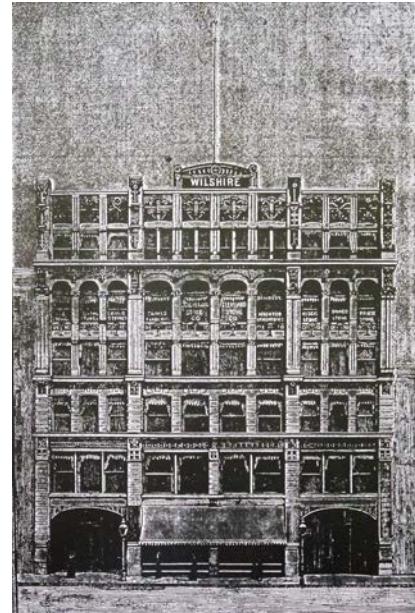
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## Labor Strife Led to Quarry Strike

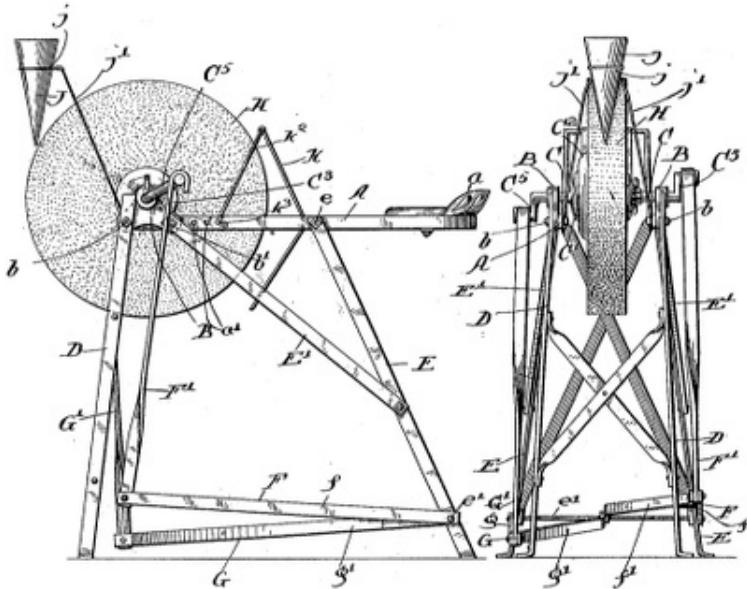
The mid-1890s was a difficult time for the American economy, but the Cleveland Stone Company nevertheless was doing well when 1896 came around. However, trouble was ahead – trouble that gained national attention for the company and the communities with quarries, especially West View in Olmsted Township.

That was the year of the Panic of 1896, which was the worsening of an economic depression exacerbated by a drop in the nation's gold reserves. In that year's presidential election, Democratic nominee William Jennings Bryan ran on a "free silver" platform, advocating that the country should drop the gold standard and go back to the coinage of silver. Republican William McKinley, the Ohioan who won the election, advocated remaining on the gold standard.

But sandstone – not gold or silver – from quarries in Berea, Olmsted Falls, West View and other communities in northeastern Ohio and Michigan was the source of fortune for the Cleveland Stone Company. The company had headquarters in the Wilshire Building in downtown Cleveland and sales offices in several other cities across the continent. It sold stones for construction of buildings, creation of sidewalks and use as grindstones for



*Cleveland Stone Company had its headquarters downtown in the Wilshire Building.*



*Cleveland Stone received Patent #555,586 for this frame on March 3, 1896, after applying for it on June 27, 1895.*

sharpening metal blades or milling grains. The company's catalogues showed many examples of grindstones on patented frames, including one frame for which the company was granted a United States patent, number 555,586, on March 3, 1896.

Another indication of how well the company was doing appeared in Volume 13 of *Stone*, an industry magazine, in June 1896. The headline of the story was: **CLEVELAND STONE CO. BUYS A RIVAL CONCERN.**

"A deal that is believed to be the biggest transaction on record in stone quarry property was recently consummated in Cleveland, O.," the story said. "Vice President L.P. Haldeman of the Ohio Stone Co. authorizes the statement that his company has sold out bodily to the Cleveland Stone Co. Both companies are Cleveland institutions. This deal gives an immense corporation that it is by all odds the largest stone company in the world."

The story said the Cleveland Stone Company had an authorized capitalization of \$2,250,000, and, prior to the purchase, was considered to be the largest producer of sandstone in the world with the Ohio Stone Company claiming to have been the second largest. As an analogy, imagine if, in the days of the "Big Three" American automobile companies – say the 1950s or 1960s – General Motors, the biggest, had taken over Ford Motor Company, the second biggest. Through its purchase, Cleveland Stone acquired three North Amherst quarries, as well as quarries in Independence and Peninsula.

"We had about 150 acres of quarry land, employing 225 or 250 men, and our plant represented a value of about \$500,000," the story quoted Haldeman as saying. "It is an out-and-out sale in fee simple and our officers will not be connected with the business."

The *Stone* story added that the industry believed Cleveland Stone planned to become even stronger by acquiring other quarry companies in northern Ohio. "If this is done it will give the concern a practical control of the blue and buff sandstone business in this country," the magazine said. "There is talk of an increase of the capital stock."

But by the time that publication came out, labor tensions were near a breaking point at Cleveland Stone's quarries. The center of the dispute was Berea's series of quarries, but it reached other quarries, including those at West View and Olmsted Falls, in varying ways.

According to an 1897 report issued by the Ohio State Board of Arbitration, quarry workers who were members of the Local Assembly Number 1387 of the Knights of Labor had been generally dissatisfied for months by mid-1896.

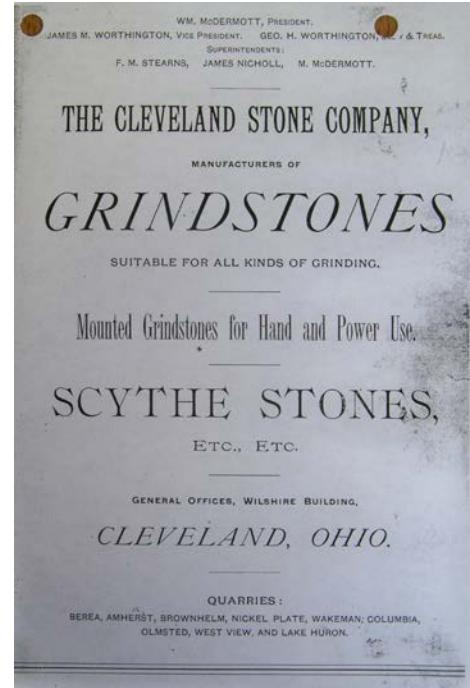
The board's report said the men "claimed the company discriminated against union men by refusing them work and giving their places to nonunion men. They were also dissatisfied with the wages paid and desired that the rates previous to a reduction in wages which had occurred two years before be restored; that the wages be paid twice a month instead of monthly and that none but union men be employed by the company."

The report said Cleveland Stone employed about 500 men, but that seemed to be just at Berea and didn't include West View, Olmsted Falls or other quarries.

"The company...on the other hand claimed that owing to the business depression it could not find work for all the old hands and therefore had laid off a number of men without knowing whether they belonged to the union or not," the board's report said. "It could not pay former rates, but would advance wages as soon as business would permit."

By May 12, 1896, the union presented the company with a proposed agreement to improve the pay and treatment of the quarry workers. Here is the union's complaint:

*GENTLEMEN: For the last ten years your employees have received reduction after reduction in their wages, the last one being during the recent panic, when a reduction of 10 cents was made. The reduction was accepted without question by the men, they knowing of the general depression in business at that time. Last year while the men engaged in all other trades and callings received back the reduction made during the year previous, the wages of the quarrymen at Berea remained the same. So far this year, the wages of two years ago have been maintained. This, we believe, is an imposition on a body of men who have peaceably accepted the reductions made in previous years of depression.*

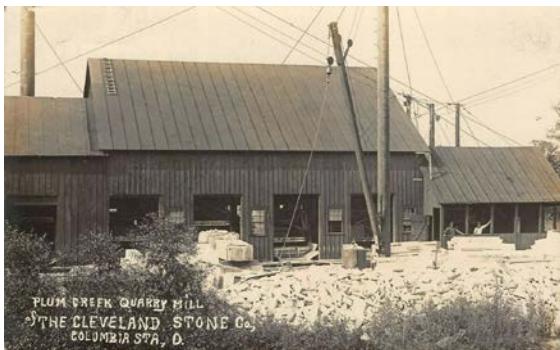


*This was the cover of a Cleveland Stone catalogue.*

*During the past year, we organized an association of our calling believing that by so doing, we, as American workmen, would thus secure to ourselves what the constitution grants us, i.e., the free right of assemblage which could not be abridged. Yet we find this spring that our officers who have been in the employ of the company for seventeen years cannot get work.*

The union proposed establishing these provisions:

1. That old employees refused work would be given back their old positions;
2. That the reduction of 10 per cent in wages, imposed two years previous, would be reversed;
3. That the company's representatives would meet with the union's representatives on April first of each year to fix wages for the rest of the year;
4. That the company would employ only union members and agree to arbitrate any grievances;
5. That wages would be paid twice a month; and
6. That wages would be paid during working hours.



*This was part of a quarry in Columbia.*

One strike story, available online, from the June 18, 1896, edition of *The Valentine Democrat* of Valentine, Nebraska, carried the headline, “Quarrymen’s Strike Spreading.” It probably was a wire service story that ran in many newspapers. It said:

*The quarrymen’s strike in Ohio is spreading and there is prospect of serious trouble. 1,600 men are out in fourteen of the quarries of the Cleveland Stone Company at Berea, Westover, Columbia and Olmstead Falls and fifty more will strike at North Amherst.*

Of course, that story not only misspelled “Olmsted” but also called West View “Westover.” Other coverage, closer to home, disputed the size of the strike.

In Berea, the weekly *Advertiser* in its June 19 edition, contended that only 240 men were on strike at the Berea quarries, while the strikers contended there were 400 of them in Berea and as many as 1,600 across northern Ohio. The newspaper also wrote:

*Everything is quiet about the quarries and has been since the strike was inaugurated Thursday. The strikers have held two meetings a day in the Polish school house in the village.*

*One result of the meeting was the serving of a notice on the saloonkeepers about the village limits (the village is dry), to keep their doors closed and tightly locked on Sunday. Failure to do this, the notice said, would result in their arrest at the instigation of the officers of the union. Thus far the men have been continually sober to a man, and they declare they are going to continue so and abstain from violence, if the thing is possible.*

*A delegation of strikers, with provisions, walked to Amherst Monday morning, with the avowed intention of forming a Union among the quarrymen there and persuading them to join them in striking. But at last accounts they met with little encouragement.*

*The Cleveland Stone Company on Wednesday commenced paying off the men. The union men were paid in full up to date, while the non-union men had their customary two weeks' reserve pay retained by the company. This fact is looked upon by the strikers as a virtual discharge of them as union men. And they think if the company employs them it expects to do so as individuals and not recognize the union. So far as known now the company has fully determined its line of action. It is known, however, that the machine shops have orders to commence work as soon as some repair work reaches here from out of town.*

*The strikers so far have been quiet, and no immediate trouble is feared. Through one of the members it was learned that Lagrange will be the next point of attack. If everything works as now expected, some 300 or 400 men will leave here with the intention of establishing a union at Lagrange and closing the quarries there. It is estimated that about 200 men are employed there.*

In that same June 19, 1896, issue, the Advertiser's Olmsted Falls columnist wrote this about what happened at the local quarry:

*Again the desire for better wages has manifested itself in the quarry men of Berea, and they tried to induce our men to join in the strike, but of no avail. The leaders were not gifted sufficiently in the use of the American language to convince Foreman Barnum and his faithful loyal men that their actions were in accordance with the views of Uncle Sam even if they did carry "Old Glory" in the lead. We are yet a firm believer in the motto of that noble order, that should be thoroughly organized in every hamlet, the Jr. O.U.A.M. (Junior Order of United American Mechanics) "America for Americans."*



*Quarrymen fought lawmen at this West View quarry.*

striker was arrested, taken to Olmsted Falls, and tried before Justice Locke, and received a sentence of \$105 fine and 30 days in the workhouse.”

The situation got worse, and the most violent confrontation occurred at West View. Different accounts agreed about that but not on the details. One version in the *New York Times* on July 2 was titled, “THREE BEREAL STRIKERS SHOT,” with the subtitle: “Deputies Battle with a Mob – Sheriff Calls for Troops.” Here’s that story’s account:

*Sheriff Leek of Cleveland has asked Gov. Bushnell for four companies of State troops to quell rioting quarrymen at Berea.*

*The striking quarrymen of the Cleveland Stone Company assembled in force at Berea about 10 o’clock this morning, and started for the quarries, where a number of men who had taken their places were at work.*

*After the strikers had passed No. 3 Mill, in Berea, they turned west to the Big Four tracks, which indicated they were bound for West View. Deputy Sheriff Holliday and his specials were compelled to go around by way of Olmstead Falls. They were followed by the Sheriff and one of the officials of the company. They arrived at the West View quarries before the strikers, and were prepared for them.*

Those remarks about “use of the American language” and “America for Americans” reflect the writer’s attitude toward the largely Polish Berea quarrymen.

One week later, in the June 26 edition, the paper reported that the company had put non-union men to work at its quarry in Columbia Township. It also reported this about the Columbia quarry: “Strikers are not needed as the orders for stone are very small. About 300 of the Berea strikers marched into the quarry a few days ago and the front column got as far as the office when they were ordered to halt by M.E. Baker, the shipping clerk, and they retreated back to Berea.”

In that same issue, the *Advertiser*’s West View columnist wrote about an ugly turn in the strike: “As John Hyman, of Olmsted Falls, was returning to his home from work in the Rocky River quarry last Monday, he was attacked by one of the strikers, but Robt. Spears came to his assistance and drove the striker off with a much bruised face. The

*As the strikers approached the Sheriff stood by the side of a fence and warned them back. A number of them scaled the fence and got into a hand-to-hand fight with the deputies. One striker pulled a revolver, which he held concealed in a handkerchief. He fired at Special Ed Carren. This was a signal.*

*In the space of a few moments more than fifty shots were exchanged. Three of the strikers were seen to fall. Two of them were dragged into the woods by their companions. The name of the man who lies at the quarries wounded is John M. Cholski. He has a family in Berea. Immediately after the fight the strikers fled. They went to Berea in bunches.*

But historian Walter Holzworth provided a different account in his 1970 book, *Men of Grit and Greatness*. He said 200 strikers had gone into the local quarries and their associated machine shops to force the non-striking workers to cease production, which was enough to get Cleveland Stone President George Worthington to come out from Cleveland to “show his authority and present the company’s demands.”

After confrontations between strikers and law enforcement officers, Berea’s mayor appointed men to patrol at night to protect lives and property, and the county sheriff assigned about 115 deputies to impose order in both Berea and West View. The mayor called for state help, which led to Company D of the Ohio National Guard being stationed at the Berea Armory.

Holzworth wrote that the West View confrontation occurred after strikers left their headquarters at St. Adalbert’s Church in Berea and marched to West View to try to get the quarrymen there to join them. The sheriff and six deputies met them there and ordered them to return to Berea. In the subsequent battle, striker Vincent Marcinski suffered severe wounds from a gunshot and beating with a club. His lawyer later had three deputies arrested and forced them to appear in criminal court in Cleveland. But Holzworth said “the delicate feminine touch” decided the battle at West View:

*The strikers finally obeyed the sheriff’s orders at gun point to leave Westview and for the moment the sheriff and his men seemed victorious, when suddenly an army of angry Polish women sailed into the lawmen with clubs, brooms, rakes, hoes, pitch forks and bare hands and teeth. The lawmen had come prepared to battle men and were victorious, but wrestling with a host of furious females was something different.*

#### THREE BEREA STRIKERS SHOT.

##### Deputies Battle with a Mob—Sheriff Calls for Troops.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, July 1.—Sheriff Leek of Cleveland has asked Gov. Bushnell for four companies of State troops to quell rioting quarrymen at Berea.

The striking quarrymen of the Cleveland Stone Company assembled in force at Berea about 10 o’clock this morning, and started for the quarries, where a number of men who had taken their places were at work.

As the strikers had passed No. 3 Mill, in Berea, they turned west to the Big Four tracks, which indicated that they were bound for West View. Deputy Sheriff Hollister, who has been in Berea, compelled them to turn around by way of Olmstead Falls.

They were followed by the Sheriff and one of the officials of the company. They arrived at the West View quarries before the strikers, who were prepared for them.

As the strikers approached, the Sheriff stood by the side of a fence and warned them back. A number of them scaled the fence and got into a hand-to-hand fight with the deputies. One striker pulled a revolver, which he held concealed in a handkerchief. He fired at Special Ed Carren. This was a signal.

Within a few moments more than fifty shots were exchanged. Three of the strikers were seen to fall. Two of them were dragged into the woods by their companions. The name of the man who lies at the quarries wounded is John M. Cholski. He has a family in Berea. Immediately after the fight the strikers fled. They went to Berea in bunches.

*This was the story that ran in the New York Times.*

*They too retreated from the scene of their defeat. The women patched up John Nicholson, another of the strikers wounded by the sheriff's men, and loaded him on a wagon and hauled him to Berea. The strikers women's auxiliary added to the excitement at Berea, when they defied the law and invaded the quarries.*

The West View column in the July 10 edition of the *Advertiser* had surprisingly little to say about the situation: "Our little burgh has taken on a military aspect; the Rocky River quarry is being guarded by about 30 men from Company K."



*The still water in a pit at the former West View quarry shows no sign of the 1896 battle that occurred there.*

into, and the strike ended and the military was withdrawn."

Four persons, including a board member, put the agreement into writing and decided it should not be published, so it wasn't included in the board's report. However, the board said the strike cost quarrymen \$19,500 in wages and the company \$40,000 in losses, while the state had to pay almost \$10,400 for the service of the military.

Despite the settlement, tensions remained. For example, *The New York Times* ran a story about a case of arson in the wee hours of August 4 that destroyed the Berea residence of a quarry contractor who was employing non-union men. The house of another such contractor next door also was saturated with oil but not lighted.

However, under the headline, "The Great Quarry Strike Is Over," the *Advertiser*, reported in its August 14, 1896, issue:

*Since the settlement of the strike of the Cleveland Stone Company's quarrymen, the pumps have been kept busy night and day to remove the water from the quarries, so that the men could be given work. Because the quarrymen were not set to work at once, there was some dissatisfaction among those who are disposed to make trouble. But this has all passed*

The union applied to the State Board of Arbitration on July 3 for help. The board sent representatives to Berea on July 14 to investigate. That led to a meeting between a committee of strikers and company officials at Cleveland Stone's Berea office on July 25. In its 1897 report on the strike, the board wrote that the meeting "was remarkable for the spirit of fairness and good feeling manifested by all parties. As a result of the conference an amicable agreement was entered

*away and the best feeling prevails between the company and the men. All will probably get work now and business will be resumed in the village.*

Although that seemed like a happily-ever-after ending, the quarrymen did not remain happy. One indication of that was that, on April 12, 1897, the union's secretary, Paul Yanke, sent a letter to the State Board of Arbitration in which he said: "The Cleveland Stone Company is violating the agreement made with its employees last summer. A committee called on the company but could get no satisfaction. Therefore the members of our organization desire the Board of Arbitration to investigate the matter."

Joseph Bishop, board secretary, went to Berea on April 14 but was unable to find Yanke. After returning to Columbus, Bishop sent Yanke a letter with instructions on how to file a formal complaint along with papers a majority of quarrymen would have to sign. But Bishop never received a reply, so the board took no action. Perhaps Yanke was unable to collect enough signatures from quarrymen concerned about losing their jobs. Cleveland Stone Company declined to accept the union as a bargaining agent.

Holzworth wrote the strikers returned to the quarries with a promise that the workers who had been fired would be rehired as soon as business could be restored, and the pay rate would return to the 1893 level of 17 cents an hour. But one of those rehired workers said, in a 1935 interview in the *Berea News*, that the company soon told him his work was unsatisfactory and fired him again. That likely happened to others as well.

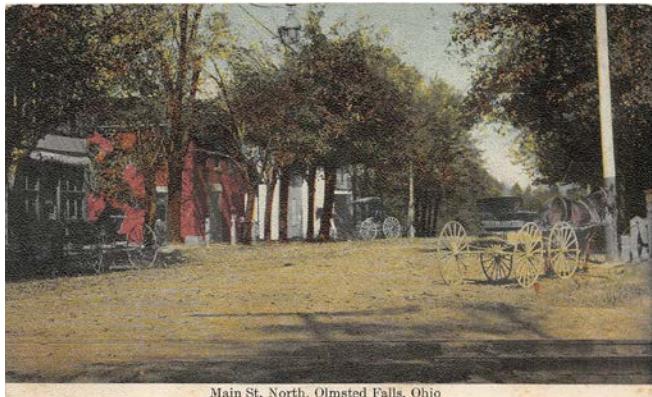
In the May 20, 1898, edition of the *Advertiser*, the Olmsted Falls columnist wrote of another setback for quarry workers:

*It is said the Cleveland Stone Co. is intending to put down their men at West View, to three days per week. With \$2 per sack for flour and \$1 per bushel for potatoes we cannot see how laboring men with large families are to exist. It is a terrible state of affairs that a few millionaires in Chicago are bringing almost to starvation a multitude of working people all over America, for Chicago holds the wheat market of the world as completely as if it was the whole world, instead of Chicago.*

While life was tough for quarry workers in the 1890s, it got no better for them, at least in Olmsted Falls and West View, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. *Olmsted 200* will have more on that in the next issue.

## **Newspaper Preserved Glimpse of Olmsted Life 150 Years Ago**

As was noted in *Olmsted 200* a few issues back, it was 150 years ago that news about Olmsted Falls, West View and Olmsted Township began being reported on a regular basis in a Berea newspaper, initially called the *Grindstone City Advertiser*. Although a small number of Olmsted items appeared in the paper in 1869, it was 1870 when Olmsted news became a regular feature. That April – 150 years ago this month – was the first full month of weekly Olmsted columns. Thus, they are the first regular



*Although not from 1870, this colorized postcard preserved the older look of Olmsted Falls.*

weather and muddy in rainy times. Stores had hitching posts for horses. And just as in the old westerns, some residents got into trouble after drinking too much in local saloons.

In 1870, the Olmsted columnist was L.B. Adams, who operated a store that sold tin ware and stoves. He also happened to be mayor of Olmsted Falls at the time. As such, he probably was as much in touch with the community's comings and goings as anyone, so the items in his columns are like little snapshots of Olmsted life 150 years ago.

For example, in his April 1, 1870, column, Adams wrote: "THE Literary Association of Olmsted Falls desire to return sincere and heart felt thanks, to the Sons of Temperance, of Berea, for their kindness, generous hospitality, and liberal patronage, during the progress of their entertainment of the present week." The Sons of Temperance was a fraternal organization that began in New York City in 1842 and spread throughout the United States and Canada and eventually to Britain and Australia.

Another example of a cultural activity in Olmsted came in Adams's April 8 column: "A GRAND dramatic exhibition by the Dover Center Literary Club, at the Universalist Church, on Butternut Ridge, consisting of music, dialogues, tableaux and two laughable farces – Irish assurance and Yankee modesty, 'More Blunders than One,' will be presented on Wednesday evening, April 13<sup>th</sup>, for the benefit of Gardner Stearns, who lost an arm in the late war, and was lately injured by a fractious horse." Later in the month, in the April 29 paper, Adams gave this update: "MR. Gardner Stearns, lately hurt by the vicious horse, is rapidly improving."

In addition, that April 29 column noted one other cultural activity: "MRS. E. Palmer is about commencing a course of lectures on physiology, physiognomy [sic] and phrenology. Go and hear her; these are subjects studied too little." Physiognomy referred to the features of persons' faces, and phrenology was the study of the shape of persons' skulls as a means of determining their characters and abilities. Such study was very popular from the late 1700s well into the 1900s before being discredited by scientific research.

contemporary accounts of what life was like in the community.

Back then, Olmsted Falls looked more like some of the Old West towns depicted in movies than the neat, modern Cleveland suburb of today. Few photographs are available from that far back, but late 1800s photos still showed the community's old look decades later, as least before automobiles and other modern amenities appeared. Its unpaved streets were dirty in fair

The April 8 column also noted that one Olmsted resident, C.P. Dryden, had sold his farm to Dr. A.P. Knowlton of Royalton Township (now North Royalton). “We are glad to receive a practicing physician into our village, whose reputation in his profession stands as high as Dr. Knowlton’s,” Adams wrote.



*This house occupied in recent years by North Shore Services at 7993 Lewis Road is the one built in 1835 by C.P. Dryden and sold in 1870 to Dr. A.P. Knowlton.*

Dr. Augustus P. Knowlton’s father, Dr. William Knowlton, was believed to be Olmsted Township’s first resident physician after he moved there with his wife, Charlotte, from the state of New York in 1838, according the Walter Holzworth’s 1966 history of Olmsted. William died in 1856 and Charlotte in 1865. Augustus and his brother, also William, both were physicians who served in the medical corps of the Union Army during the Civil War.

In 1869, Augustus, then a widower, married Hannah Dryden, daughter of Capt. C.P. Dryden and his wife, Harriet. It was the Dryden’s home on what was Seminary Road (now Lewis Road) that Dr. Knowlton and his wife bought. In 1876, Knowlton relocated his physician’s office to Berea but continued to reside in Olmsted for several more years. He died in 1889. Knowlton’s son, Louis, born in 1876, also became a physician who practiced in Berea. In 1921, he became one of the founders of what became Southwest General Hospital.

However, Knowlton apparently wasn’t the only physician in Olmsted in 1870. In his April 29 column, Adams noted another practicing physician, “Dr. Bruce,” was about to open a drug store on Columbia Street opposite of Thomas Pollard’s store. That would have put it right in downtown Olmsted Falls on what now is called Columbia Road.

In addition, the April 8 column provided this information about the gristmill along Rocky River that Ed Damp would take over several years later and operate for decades: “AMONG the late improvements of our village, we are very glad to notice that Col. H.N. Whitbeck has made a thorough overhauling, and general fixing up of his flouring mill, introducing a new corncracker, an Empire corn sheller, new bolts, etc. He intends to make his mill second to none in the country.”

The biggest item in the April 8 column was about the election earlier in the week for offices in both the Village of Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township. Adams noted that the election “passed off on Monday, with no special excitement, considering the great ‘split up’ and diversity of tickets. The prohibitionists made a good beginning by polling between thirty and forty votes, including Township and Corporation.” It’s not clear what



*Although Ed Damp was best known as the operator of this mill along Rocky River for decades, it was still in the hands of Col. H.N. Whitbeck in 1870.*

or woman suffrage conventions; but the past two weeks of spring weather has given a new impetus to life and business. Stone quarries are opening and gardeners are planning work. Property is changing hands some, and the mover's wagon is frequently seen with its medley load. Our old citizen, J.H. Strong, has moved to Berea. Mr. Hickey goes on to his farm, a mile out of the village. Geo. Miner, lately of Cleveland, has returned to Olmsted with his family, and our medical friend, Dr. A.P. Knowlton, has arrived in town we understand.... N.P. Loomis is now occupied with his good assortment of mercantile goods, the new room on the first floor of the Odd Fellows' Hall, which is one of the finest store-rooms in the country. Some change their residence, and some change their names. 'Such is life.'"

Life became much more exciting the following week, when Adams's April 29 column included these items:

- "THE first thing on record this week is a runaway. The team of C. Geer, of Westview, hitched to a buggy, which was left unhitched in front of Whitbeck's flouring mill, became frightened, and ran. In their course they brushed by two cows, and at one jump passed over a pair of trucks and into a high box spring wagon, tearing the latter in fragments, then ran down a steep bank, where a hedge stopped them. All the damages done them, were a few scratches, and to the buggy, a broken pole."
- "WE learn to-day, that dogs have been breaking into a sheepfold in south-east part of the town, doing considerable damage...."

The C. Geer in that first item was Calvin Geer, son of James Geer, who made his family the first settlers in Olmsted Township when they moved in from Columbia Township in 1815.

Other items that frequently appeared in the Olmsted column were announcements of births, marriages and deaths, such as this one on April 29: "DIED, of Scarlett fever, on

the great "split up" was, but it probably was some political disagreement that occurred before Adams started covering local news. His column included lists of all the village and township officers who were elected, including himself for another two years as mayor.

Another big item occurred in in the April 22 column. It started out as a lament that Olmsted news wasn't more exciting: "WE Olmstedians are still moving on, through the 'up and downs' of every day life, with nothing extraordinary or marvelous to record. No earthquake shocks or volcanic eruptions,

Tuesday night, Willie, the only child of Harman Miller, a German citizen, aged one year and two months. Only a short time since, they buried an older child of the same disease.”

To paraphrase, L.B. Adams, such was life in Olmsted 150 years ago this month.

## **Fate of Film Is Still Sought**

A mystery raised in last month’s issue of *Olmsted 200* has yet to be solved. Reader Ross Bassett raised the question of what happened to an old film from perhaps a century ago that included views of Olmsted Falls and Berea. He recalled that Mayor William Mahoney showed it in the early 1980s at an Olmsted school.

So far, no one has come forward with information about that film, but another reader, Sally King, offered a little related information about Mahoney’s interest in both films and history.

“My late husband, Jeff King, and Dr. Mahoney were both members of a Civil War Historical Club,” she wrote. “I don’t know where the group was located, but it was local. At the meetings Bill Mahoney used to talk about the film he produced. He told the members that he bought old footage of Civil War battles, etc. taken from movies that were made in Hollywood.”

That Civil War compilation film, of course, was not the film showing Olmsted Falls and Berea, but it indicates Mahoney was very familiar with showing old movies.

Bassett said he recalled that Mahoney made references to something about acetate film and being lucky the Olmsted-Berea film was still in showable condition “unlike many of the old Hollywood movies.” If it was on cellulose acetate film, also known as safety film, that would be good because that was the type of film introduced early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to replace nitrate film, which was unstable and highly flammable. If it was on cellulose acetate film, chances are better it might still exist, but whether it does is unknown.

## **Still to Come**

The next issue of *Olmsted 200* will include a story about what happened to the Olmsted Falls and West View quarries in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

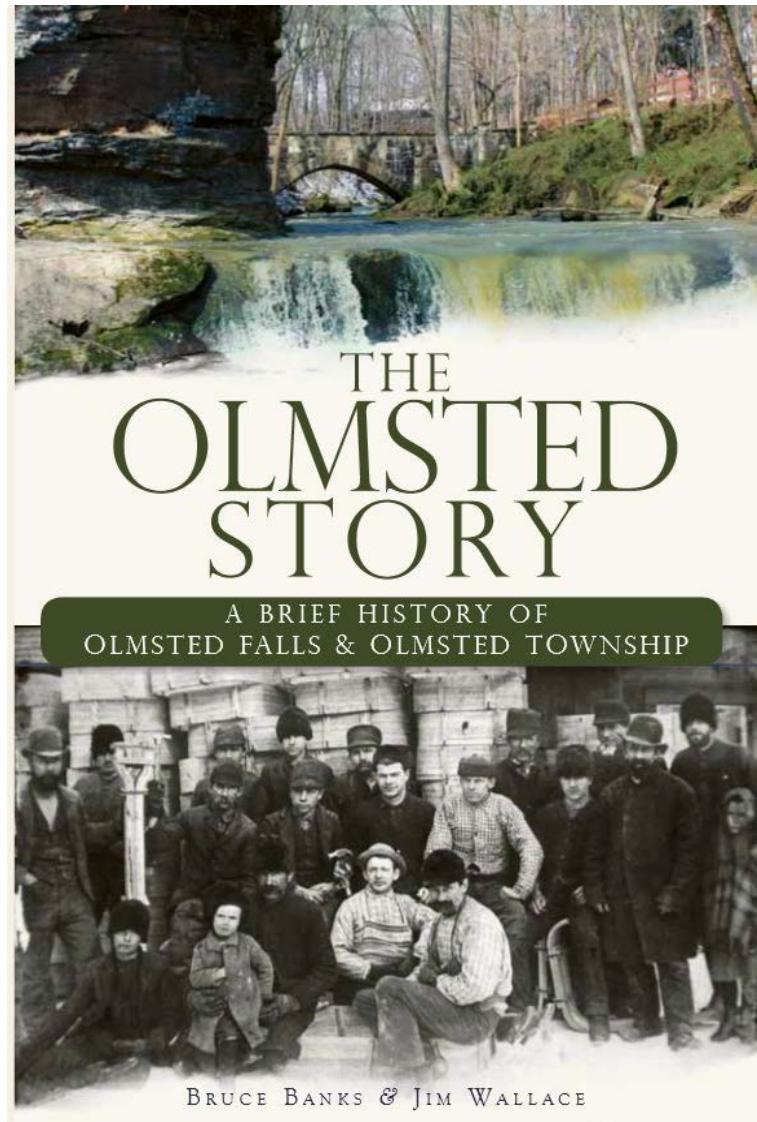
If you know of other people who would like to receive *Olmsted 200* by email, please feel free to forward it to them. They can get on the distribution list by sending a request to: [wallacestar@hotmail.com](mailto:wallacestar@hotmail.com). *Olmsted 200* has readers in several states beyond Ohio, including California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Michigan, Wisconsin, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maine, as well as overseas in the Netherlands, Germany and Japan.

Your questions and comments about *Olmsted 200* are welcome. Perhaps there is something about Olmsted's history that you would like to have pulled out of *Olmsted 200*'s extensive archives. Or perhaps you have information or photos about the community's history that you would like to share.

If you have missed any of the past issues of *Olmsted 200* or want to share them with someone else, all of them can be found on Olmsted Township's website. Go to <http://olmstedtownship.org/newsletters/>. A list of *Olmsted 200* issues is on the right side. Click on the number of the issue you want to read. All of the issues of *Olmsted 200* also are available on the website of the City of Olmsted Falls. Find them at: [http://www.olmstedfalls.org/olmsted\\_falls\\_history/index.php](http://www.olmstedfalls.org/olmsted_falls_history/index.php). A link to *Olmsted 200* can be found on the left side of the page.

Except where otherwise noted, all articles in *Olmsted 200* are written by Jim Wallace. Thanks go to Mary Louise King for help in proofreading and editing many issues. Written contributions and photos, as well as comments and questions about items in this newsletter, will be considered for publication. Send any correspondence by email to: [wallacestar@hotmail.com](mailto:wallacestar@hotmail.com).

*Olmsted 200* is written, researched and edited by Jim Wallace, who is solely responsible for its content. He is co-author (with Bruce Banks) of *The Olmsted Story: A Brief History of Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township*, published in 2010 by The History Press of Charleston, S.C. *The Olmsted Story* is available at the Village Bean in Olmsted Falls and the Berea Historical Society's Mahler Museum & History Center and through online booksellers.



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