



Olmsted 200

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

Issue 68

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Olmsted's Old Town Hall Had a Troubled History

January 19, 1883, was a big day of celebration in Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township but not as big a day as township officials had hoped for the dedication of their newly built Town Hall in Olmsted Falls. As noted last month in Issue 67, people in the Butternut Ridge area opposed construction of the Town Hall, and that dissatisfaction was among the issues that contributed to North Olmsted's separation from the township more than 25 years later. But there was much more to the story of the Town Hall than that.

Planning for the building began five years earlier when the township and the Village of Olmsted Falls petitioned the Ohio Legislature for authorization for the township and village to build the Town Hall together. In the spring of 1878, the Ohio House of Representatives passed a bill for that purpose, but the Senate failed to pass it. Olmsted officials tried again and received the legislative approval they sought the following winter.

“A new town hall is needed bad enough, and it certainly can be built as cheap as ever,” the Olmsted Falls columnist for the *Berea Advertiser* wrote on February 11, 1879.

The issue of building the Town Hall received approval from township and village residents in April 1879, but the project did not go smoothly after that.

“The trustees have announced some trouble in finding contractors to build the new Town Hall,” the *Advertiser* reported in its August 3, 1882, issue. “The lowest bid received was \$6,968 and the highest \$7,300. The cost must not exceed \$6,000. Mr. C.M. Rathbun, township clerk, informed us that the trouble arose from the fact that the architect drafted an \$8,000 Hall instead of \$6,000 as expected. Nevertheless the contracts

will be let this week for \$6,000, partly to Cleveland parties and the remainder to contractors in this vicinity. The trustees are using the utmost caution in all transaction, knowing that a part of the township are ready to 'call them to order' at the first provocation."

The building, which was made of brick and was 45 feet by 80 feet, ended up costing \$6,907.77. It had gothic architecture designed by L.P. Eldridge of Cleveland with a slate roof. As Bernice Offenberg wrote in her 1964 book, *Over the Years in Olmsted, Township 6, Range 15*, the roof "was surmounted by a very pretty belfry with a balcony on the front."

Not counting the gallery, 375 people could be seated in the main room, which had on its eastern end "a commodious stage," as Offenberg put it. The ceiling was 33 feet above the floor. The building also had an entrance hall.



For many years, graduation ceremonies for students from the old Union Schoolhouse located at the Village Green were held at the Town Hall. This photo shows the entire graduating class of 1911 – one young man and one young woman – as well as what the Town Hall's stage, including its drop curtain with a painted woodland scene, looked like.

"The drop curtain on the stage had a woodland scene painted by Clifford Rathbun and also the names of the business places in Olmsted Falls at that time when the hall was built," Offenberg wrote.

Work on the building still was under way, when the *Advertiser* ran this item in its November 2, 1882, edition:

It is time the people began discussing the coming Town Hall banquet. We must go into the committee business on a wholesale plan. The "building committee" are the trustees. Next will be a "general committee," composed of twenty five prominent citizens. This committee will have under its supervision some ninety subcommittees, each composed of five ladies and gentlemen. The four citizens remaining in the township will act as orators. Talk it up citizens. (For floor managers, see further notice.)

As noted in Issue 67 of *Olmsted 200*, citizens met on January 6, 1883, to plan the dedication ceremony for the Town Hall. Many people attended the meeting, although the absence of residents from Butternut Ridge was noted. They appointed a general committee consisting of two citizens from each sub-district for the eight schools in the township and the one school in Olmsted Falls. They chose O.W. Kendall to lead a committee to procure speakers for the ceremony.

The citizens met again two days later, January 8, and scheduled the dedication for one o'clock on January 19. The committee chose W.W. Mead to be president of the dedication day and W.T. Williams to be secretary. Committees were appointed for printing, music, supper and finance.

"By motion the Butternut Ridge Cornet Band was invited to attend," the *Advertiser* reported, but Butternut Ridge did not send its band or hardly any of its other residents. That was a result of their disagreement over the building of the Town Hall, as explained in last month's issue. After noting the north-south split in the township, the *Advertiser* columnist wrote in the paper's January 25, 1883, edition:

We do not propose at this time to enter into a discussion of the merits of these differences. We only wish to say that it is very unfortunate that the township and village could not have united in the dedication of such a

BEAUTIFUL HALL,

inasmuch as the citizens of adjoining townships had been invited to witness the exercises. The Hall is completed; its cost will be shared by every taxpayer in the township; it is nicely located although it may be a few rods from the center of the township; it is an ornament to the village and to the township and a credit to all its citizens. These circumstances might have been accepted as accomplished facts and all united in celebrating the completion of one of the most beautiful and substantial public buildings in the state. It stands as a memorial of the wealth and progressive civilization of the country as well as of the township in which it is located, and a building in which any community may feel a just pride. The citizens of Olmsted are to be congratulated upon the acquisition of so fine a building.

The Town Hall soon became not only the center of government business for the township and the village but also a prime location for concerts, lectures, plays and other forms of entertainment. However, despite the initial praise from the *Advertiser* columnist, township trustees soon learned that their Town Hall was not built very well.

One of the first problems to be noticed was the noisiness of the weathervane. In the January 25, 1883, issue of the *Advertiser*, the Olmsted Falls columnist wrote: "It is the weather vane (if that is what they call it) on the Town Hall, that imitates a flock of wild geese when the wind blows. Oil it or shoot it off."

More serious structural problems became apparent and required a series of repairs beginning less than a year after the building's dedication. The newspaper reported on December 20, 1883, that troughs had to be installed "to be used in making the water run off the rear end of the building. After the building was erected it was found that the water run [sic] to the front instead of back as the builder intended."

Days later, the *Advertiser* reported the lower parts of the Town Hall windows had been painted or soaped to "prevent the boys who crawl under the canvass [sic] from seeing a free show." In that same column, published December 23, 1883, the reporter again complained about the Town Hall's noisy weathervane and wrote about another problem:

More the recent freeze has brought down the tone of the weather vane into a rich, mellow snore, and on Saturday we were told that when it rained the water rushed up the third-pitch roof, (slate at that,) and dissolved in a beautiful cascade over the ridge-boards. If some will soap over the belfry windows and advertise the house haunted, the hall rent can be raised considerably. It is a wonderful building.

One year later, an even more serious problem became evident: The walls of the building were bending outwards. In its December 12, 1884, edition, the *Advertiser* reported: "The township trustees are having an iron rod put through the Town Hall about midway from the ends to prevent the walls from continuing their outward course."

Nevertheless, the newspaper reported one week later that the trustees had bought "two nice chandeliers and so-called electric lamps" for the Town Hall. But in the same issue of December 19, it reported: "The leak near the chimney on the south side has been



The Town Hall stood next to the Congregational Church (to the left) from 1883 until 1939. The site now is occupied by the Moosehead restaurant.

stopped and now if they can turn the chimney the other end up, matters and things will move on without any misapplication of scripture."



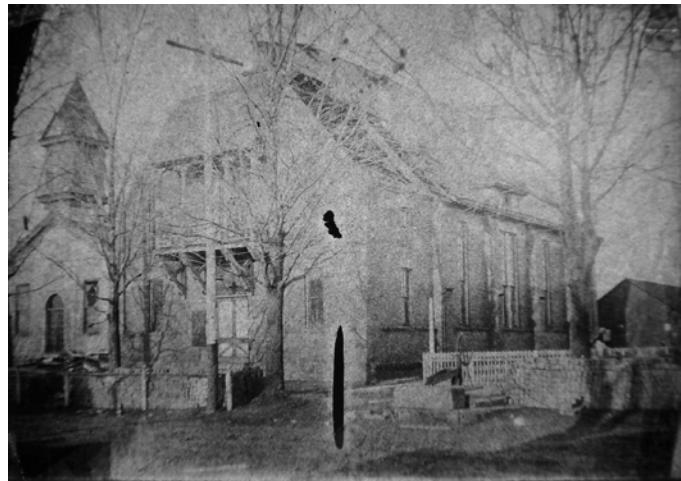
This undated photo from the late 1800s or early 1900s of actors in a play provides another view of the Town Hall's stage. Photo courtesy of Mike Gibson.

As an example of the type of events held at the Town Hall, the Olmsted Falls columnist wrote in the January 9, 1885, edition of the *Advertiser* that a New Year's Eve concert and dance had been held there. The writer then added "but the less said about it the better." It's not clear what was meant by that remark, but apparently Olmsted residents at the time understood it as a reference to something that happened at the party.

Yet even as late as early 1885, two years after the dedication of the Town Hall, officials still had problems with the way it was built. That same January 9 issue of the paper included this account of the township trustees' meeting one day earlier:

The clerk started a fire in the Town Hall but as the chimney had not been turned right end up yet, it positively refused to do duty and all hands were driven out of doors after which the clerk and one of the trustees proceeded to the top of the building and knocked off a part of the top of the chimney and made some other changes, then by a liberal use of coal and patience a fire was started and quiet reigned.

Eventually reports of problems with the building ceased, and the Town Hall served its purpose as a home to local government and a center for social activities for more than half a century. In the early 20th century, the entertainment offerings at the Town Hall included the showing of movies once or twice a week. Also, the Town Hall was the location for graduation ceremonies for students from the Union Schoolhouse, which



A 1911 storm damaged the Town Hall's roof.

was located at the Village Green, until Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township built a new consolidated school in 1916.

In 1911, a big storm knocked part of the roof off of the building, but it was repaired soon and the Town Hall went on with its activities for almost three more decades.

However, by 1939, both Olmsted Township and Olmsted Falls wanted new and separate homes for local government business. They tore down the old Town Hall and built two replacements.

The township trustees also had another reason for moving. Even though the township and village jointly had built the Town Hall in the 1880s with the township taking the lead, the township's legal rights to the building changed in the 1930s, as Charles Bonsey recalled in a March 26, 1982, interview with local historian Bruce Banks. Bonsey, who served as mayor when the village built its replacement for the Town Hall, said, Ohio law changed so that any incorporated municipality could seize a township structure within the municipal boundaries. "It caused a lot of [bad] feeling among township people," he said.



This November 30, 2018, photo shows Olmsted Township Hall with dozens of trees decorated for the holiday season. The hall now is part of a larger complex of township buildings.

building was far from adequate even from the beginning. As Walter Holzworth wrote in his 1966 book on Olmsted history, "The building was pleasing in design but far too small for any other purpose than to accommodate *[sic]* the chairs and tables for the trustees and a few seats for spectators." Over the years, the township has constructed other buildings for the police, fire department and other offices and rented space in a nearby shopping center just to have enough room to handle all of the township's business.

The township trustees chose a spot at the northwestern corner of Cook Road and Fitch Road for the new Olmsted Township Hall. In an article in the souvenir program for Olmsted's 1939 Homecoming festival, Sam Jaeger wrote, "When completed, this building will be the center of township activity, in that it will provide a central location in which to hold Trustee meetings and elections, and will adequately house township records."

However, the small

Because the old Town Hall was right in the middle of downtown Olmsted Falls, the village chose to build its new Village Hall on the same site. The Depression-era Works Progress Administration provided assistance in constructing the new building using local sandstone. But the project stalled when WPA had trouble getting enough skilled laborers as the Great Depression neared an end.

“It was my headache to see that that building was completed,” Charles Bonsey, the mayor at the time, said in his 1982 interview with Bruce Banks. “The government hadn’t put out enough money to build. The walls were up with no roof on, and WPA pulled out.” However, after complaining to the federal government, Bonsey got the work resumed. The building was dedicated on April 13, 1942. By then, World War II had replaced the Great Depression.

Although the building was expected to cost about \$18,000, the cost in the end was about \$30,000. It included space for the village council chamber, the police department, the fire department and a jail. It also housed the community’s library until the mid-1950s.

The building served as the Olmsted Falls Village Hall for decades. After Olmsted Falls and West View merged in 1971, the new village, which soon became a city, had two municipal halls. The 1940 building became the North Hall. In 1983, it was named the Bonsey Building in honor of the former mayor who made sure the building’s construction was completed. After the city acquired the former school building at the corner of Bagley Road and Mapleway Drive, it sold the Bonsey Building to Clint Williams, who renovated it. The building now houses the Moosehead restaurant. (For more on the building, see Issue 35 of *Olmsted 200* from April 2016.)

The Bear Was Mightier than Olmsted’s Bulldog

The many troubles that township trustees experienced as a result of the construction of the Town Hall might have seemed unbearable at times, but one of the oddest episodes early in the history of the building involved an actual bear less than two months after the building’s dedication.

Under the headline, “A LOOSE BEAR,” the Olmsted Falls columnist for the *Berea Advertiser* had fun with the story in the paper’s March 15, 1883, edition, although people who are sensitive about the treatment of animals might be offended by what



This was how Olmsted Falls Village Hall looked early in 1962. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Petlowany.

happened and the light-hearted account of it. Nevertheless, here is the entire story, including the *Advertiser* editor's disclaimer at the end:

It was not an elephant but a living bear that the citizens had on their hands last week. It happened thuswise: A mesmerist was billed to show in that new Town Hall, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of last week. In addition to his printed matter he carried a bear as an advertisement. The animal was kept in the Hall basement during the day, and, bent on mischief, crawled through an aperture made for the heating pipes, and went under the main portion of the building, beyond the reach of any person. Then the side show opened. They coaxed, exploded torpedoes on the floor above, and covered the opening with a quarter of beef – it was useless – that bear could not be dislodged. A council of war was held. North Olmsted sent sympathy, with “Grasp his tail and throw him through any of the cracks in the structure,” while West View came to the front with – “Set the Hall on fire and smoke him out, or load our 4th of July howitzer with railroad spikes – either would kill him.” The township trustees glanced at the calendar, saw the first Monday in April but a few weeks ahead, and shuddered. The township clerk was everywhere – except where that “baar” could get his claws on him. Word went through the ranks that he must be captured alive and held for damages. At this stage of the council a resident of the township appeared with a huge bull-dog, which he claimed would never “let up” his grip on a pair of pants until he had suspenders, buttons and all. Now was their chance, and they improved it. The dog was thrust through the opening and thirty as brace hearts as ever listened to the rattle of musketry, stepped inside the hall, to gaze out of the windows at a dog dragging a dead bear at his heels. There was a growl! a yell! a shock! For one instant since it was reared, that weather vane ceased to moan “Bury me not in the deep deep sea,” and the next moment bruin and bull-dog came up through the floor register close to his anxious capturers. To say there was a stampede does the situation injustice. Bruin had had no food or water for forty-eight hours, and as he emerged through the opening, covered in blood, pricking its teeth with the dog’s stub tail, (which animal he had swallowed at one mouthful.) there was an exit from that hall such as probably will not be seen again this century. However, they had him above ground and after lassoing him, telegraphed to his owner in Cleveland, who left this town Saturday evening with the tamest cub bear imaginable.

[If any part of the above narrative seems slightly overdrawn – as it were – our readers will please exercise the christian [sic] grace of charity. This Olmsted correspondent doesn’t have a bear story to report every week, and we presume he wanted to make the most of the opportunity. – ED.]

Township Flirted with Incorporation

Before it had villages and cities, Cuyahoga County was filled with townships, as were all the counties formed out of Connecticut's Western Reserve territory in what became northeastern Ohio. Over the past two centuries, as Cuyahoga grew to become Ohio's most urban county, all those townships disappeared, except for two. One is tiny Chagrin Falls Township. The other is Olmsted Township. Together, they account for only 10.5 square miles of the county's 458 square miles with 10 of those square miles belonging to Olmsted Township.

But Olmsted Township could have disappeared from the map long ago. Many efforts were made over the decades to annex the township to Olmsted Falls or other neighboring municipalities or to incorporate it as its own municipality. It could have taken the name Olmsted Village or even Olmsted Heights, although the entire township is very flat and lacking high spots, except in the northeastern corner around Lewis Road.

Of course, much of the township did become part of incorporated villages and later cities. Olmsted Falls was the first to incorporate in 1856. Since then, it expanded several times by annexing township land. In 1908-1909, the incorporation of North Olmsted took 10 square miles of the township (as covered in Issue 67 of *Olmsted 200* last month). West View incorporated in 1927 (as covered in Issue 17 from October 2014). In 1971, Olmsted Falls and West View merged and offered to take the township in with them. Berea also has taken pieces of the township (and has tried to take much more).

A small portion of the original township around Ruple Road, Cedar Point Road and Spafford Road was annexed to Brook Park. That followed years in which Olmsted Township students attended schools in what became Brook Park because it was too difficult and expensive for the Olmsted school system to transport the small number of students from the hills in that area to school in Olmsted. Brook Park incorporated as a village in 1914, and people in the section of Olmsted Township where students attended the Brook Park schools subsequently decided to become part of that village.

The first attempt to incorporate Olmsted Township as a village occurred in 1938:

Notice is hereby given that on the 19th day of July, 1938, at the Township Voting Booth, corner Nobottom and Columbia Roads, in the Township of Olmsted, County of Cuyahoga, an election will be held to determine whether the following described territory shall be incorporated into a village to be known as the "Village of Olmsted," to wit....

That was part of a legal notice that appeared in the Plain Dealer on July 9, 1938. The rest of the notice described the boundaries of the proposed new village, which essentially would have taken in all of the township land that hadn't already been taken by neighboring villages. It's not clear what the impetus was for the incorporation attempt, but it failed.

Olmsted Twp. Will Be Site of Workhouse

NOV 30 1945

Cleveland Plans \$4,000,000
Institution to Replace
Warrensville Units.

A modern \$4,000,000 workhouse
News that Cleveland wanted
township land to build a
workhouse alarmed Olmsted.

was supposed to be favored. Also a tract between Bagley and Sprague Roads was said to be under consideration."

Cleveland officials were said to be interested in building a new workhouse where they could try out new theories for rehabilitating inmates rather than just incarcerating them. They wanted to have more room than was available at their Cooley Farms Workhouse in Warrensville Township. They wanted space for the inmates to grow a wide range of crops and have recreational opportunities. The idea was to help people avoid becoming repeat offenders. An important part of the plan was to treat alcoholics.

Cleveland had built its workhouse on land purchased in Warrensville Township from 1904 to 1912, but it had become overcrowded by 1925. A new women's building constructed in 1927 helped for a while, but less than two decades later, Cleveland looked covetously toward Olmsted Township land, which then was still sparsely populated.

While that might have made sense to Cleveland officials, Olmsted residents didn't like it at all. They quickly began formulating plans to "prevent one of the long arms of the Cleveland octopus from reaching into Olmsted Township," as the *Berea Enterprise* put it on December 7, 1945.

An initial protest meeting attracted 50 Olmsted residents to the school on December 3. More than 300 showed up for the next meeting at the school on December

However, a development several years later almost drove the township to incorporation or annexation to Olmsted Falls. Late in November 1945, township residents, as well as many in Olmsted Falls, became alarmed at reports that the City of Cleveland planned to buy about 700 acres of farmland in Olmsted Township to build a \$4 million workhouse, where men and women who had broken the law would be put to work. It was to replace the city's existing workhouse in what then was Warrensville Township.

Cleveland officials didn't want to say which farmland in Olmsted Township they were considering, but it was reported to be located between Berea and Olmsted Falls with potential access to a railroad. Walter Holzworth wrote in his 1966 book of Olmsted history that "a 700 acre tract between Barrett and Lewis Roads



This was Cleveland's Cooley Farms Workhouse in Warrensville Township in 1940.

11. They had three fears. One was that Cleveland's purchase of 700 acres of township farmland would take that land off of the tax rolls, costing revenue for the already financially pressed school system. Another was that the value of other properties near the workhouse would decline. The third was that inmates might escape and endanger Olmsted residents.

If Cleveland acquired the land, the township could do nothing to prevent the establishment of the workhouse because, in those days, townships did not have authority to impose zoning regulations. That power was granted only to cities and villages. Thus, people of the township figured they had only two options to keep the workhouse out. One was to incorporate the township as a village. The other was to let Olmsted Falls annex the township. Earlier in the 20th century, township residents had rejected two proposals for annexation to Olmsted Falls, but fear of the workhouse drove many to look upon that possibility more favorably. However, neither option would be easy.

“The City of Cleveland may have its workhouse moved to Olmsted Township before the township’s residents can do anything about it, it was learned Tuesday evening when more than 300 of them attended a meeting at Olmsted Falls School,” the *Berea Enterprise* reported in its December 14, 1945, edition.

To incorporate, township residents would have to petition the Cuyahoga County commissioners, who typically met only once every three months back then, for a special election. Then they would have to take time to advertise the election. If voters approved incorporation, it would take more time for the new village to develop zoning regulations.

At the December 11 meeting, Olmsted Falls Solicitor A.M. Billings, the village’s attorney, told people it would take five to seven months for either incorporation or annexation. If Cleveland acquired the land it wanted within that time, it would be too late to prevent the city from using it for a workhouse.

Despite their desire to keep the workhouse out, some residents worried about the costs of changing the township’s status. One concern was that village government would have to pick up the cost of maintaining roads that the county paid for as long as they were in a township rather than a village. That could lead to higher taxes.

Another concern about annexation was that it would definitely lead to higher taxes in different way. At the time, township residents paid property taxes of \$2.06 per \$100 of valuation. The village’s rate was \$2.90 per \$100 of valuation. That included 45 cents for retiring a bonded debt of \$32,000. By contrast, Olmsted Township had \$23,000 in its coffers and no bonded debt. One account figured the tax rate in the expanded Olmsted Falls would go up to \$3.15 per \$100 of valuation. The reason for that was not explained in newspaper reports at the time, but perhaps that included the cost of maintenance of roads the county no longer would maintain.

At the December 11 meeting, residents set up a 12-member committee to study the relative merits of the two options. They also decided to mail postcards with

questionnaires to residents to ask whether they would prefer incorporation or annexation.

But before the committee could complete its work, the township trustees in January 1948 received two petitions, each with the signatures of 35 landowners, calling for incorporation. One called for the proposed new municipality to be called Olmsted Village, while the other called for it to be called Olmsted Heights. The trustees chose the Olmsted Village option and set a special election for January 29.



The Berea Enterprise reported January 18, 1946, that Olmsted Township residents soon would vote on incorporation.

elections if they joined the village.

In the special election, 143 township residents voted for incorporation, while 214 voted against it. The *Enterprise* considered that a “light vote” for a community with 2,250 residents. Immediately after the election, annexation supporters began circulating petitions. They had to get signatures of a majority of resident landowners by March 1, when the county commissioners were scheduled to hold their next meeting. Despite the misgivings of some Olmsted Falls residents, the village council passed a resolution to welcome township residents if annexation were approved.

E.F. Davis, the Columbia Road resident leading the petition drive, expressed confidence annexation would be successful. “Every poll we have taken indicates that most of the voters favor annexation to Olmsted Falls,” he told the *Enterprise*. The committee’s postcard poll showed 174 voters for annexation, 147 for incorporation and 44 for remaining a township.

However, new obstacles emerged. One was a report many people heard on radio station WJW late in January that Cleveland officials had decided to enlarge the workhouse in Warrensville Township rather than build a new one in Olmsted Township. Other media had trouble corroborating that report, but it seemed to be enough to dampen some Olmsted residents’ interest in annexation. Another obstacle was the formation of a group called the Anti-Tax Committee of Olmsted Township that circulated anti-annexation petitions. But those weren’t the only obstacles for annexation supporters.

“Determining the exact number of adult free holders is proving the biggest problem,” the *Enterprise* reported in its March 1, 1946, issue. “There is no extant list and nothing short of an actual census would furnish one. In spite of this, sufficient signatures are said to be assured.”

Although the petitions forced the trustees to put the issue of incorporation on the ballot, most residents who had returned postcards – and about half the postcards had been returned by then – favored annexation. However, the *Enterprise* reported that some Olmsted Falls residents indicated opposition to annexation because the township had twice as many residents as the village, so they could dominate

The Cuyahoga County commissioners expressed doubts about whether the petitions submitted by Davis's group were in the proper form, but they decided to let the annexation process proceed with a 60-day waiting period followed by a public hearing on May 20, 1946. At that hearing, the commissioners considered both sets of petitions but couldn't determine the will of Olmsted Township residents. They decided to examine the validity of the petitions' signatures and put off a decision until June 27. They then decided to invite all township voters to send them postcards by July 18, indicating whether they approved or disapproved of annexation.

At a July 26 meeting, the commissioners again postponed a decision because they wanted to contact 104 township residents who had signed both sets of petitions for and against annexation to Olmsted Falls. However, at an August 26, 1946, county commission meeting, Davis asked to withdraw the pro-annexation petitions on the basis of having insufficient signatures. He said his group soon would present commissioners with a new set of petitions. But that didn't happen, and the attempts to either incorporate Olmsted Township or annex all of it to Olmsted Falls ended at that time. One year later, in August 1947, the county commissioners approved the annexation of two small sections of township land to Olmsted Falls.

But that was far from the end of efforts to change Olmsted Township's boundaries. *Olmsted 200* will have more on other attempts to annex parts of the township to neighboring communities in Issue 69 next month.

Still to Come

The next issue of *Olmsted 200* will include a story about further attempts to annex Olmsted Township land to neighboring communities, a look inside the newly renovated Olmsted Falls High School and a story about winter fun in Olmsted half a century ago. The story promised here last month about Olmsted's Peltz family was bumped from this issue because of new information that came in late in December. It will appear soon in an upcoming issue.

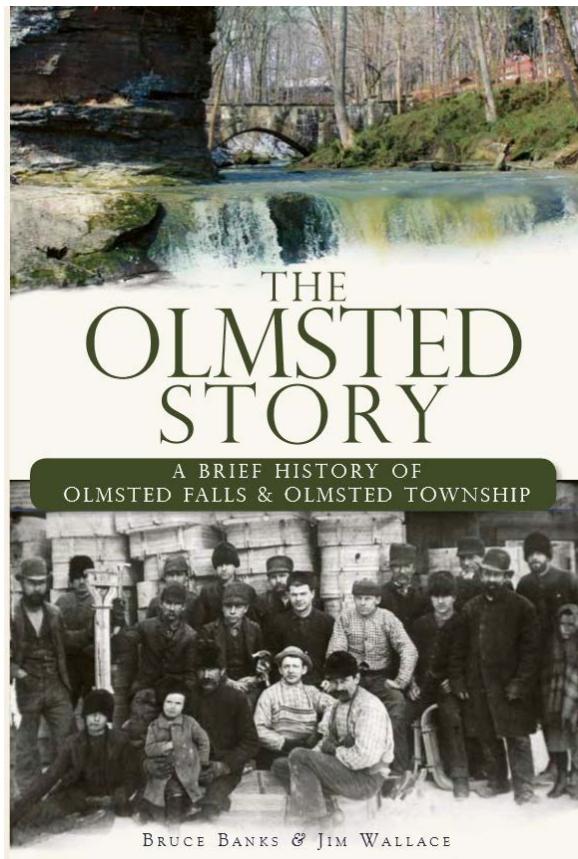
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Your questions and comments about *Olmsted 200* are welcome. Perhaps there is something about Olmsted's history that you would like to have pulled out of *Olmsted 200*'s extensive archives. Or perhaps you have information or photos about the community's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

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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