



Olmsted 200

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

Issue 29

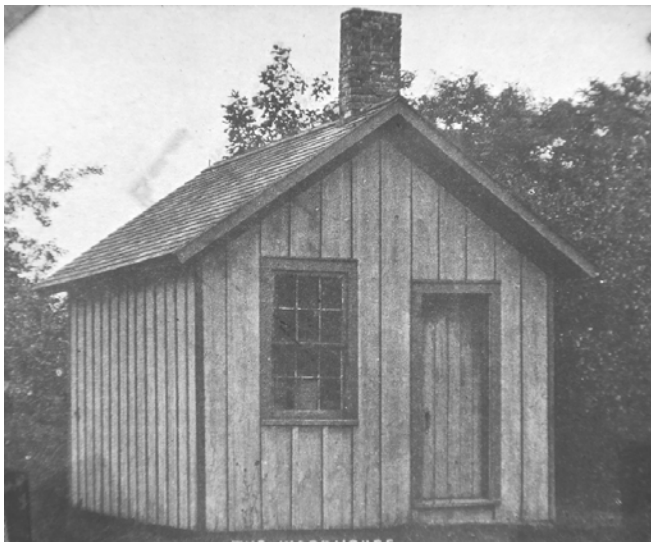
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The Tiny Jail Building Is Full of History

One of the smallest buildings at Grand Pacific Junction has a very colorful history – and it was built at a colorful time in the history of Olmsted Falls. It is likely no coincidence that the old jailhouse was built in the 1870s, a decade in which many local newspaper stories included complaints about Olmsted’s saloons and their patrons.



When the jail was built in 1878, the building was little more than half the size it is today.

Thus, the Olmsted Falls columnist seemed quite proud about this item in the June 27, 1878, edition of the Berea newspaper that then was called the *Republican and Advertiser*: “The new jail is now completed. The structure contains two cells and one hall. What adjoining township can say as much?”

About a month later, the columnist wrote this in the July 25 edition of the paper: “Olmsted Falls has a jail, and the same was christened on the Fourth. This place has furnished its share of criminals

they have been punished.”

this summer, and with one exception

Although the community was proud of the new jail, it was a modest structure. In his 1966 book on Olmsted's history, Walter Holzworth wrote that it measured 12 feet by 14 feet. He said it was a “wooden structure with iron bars across the window, a thick wooden door and a plank or bunk for the prisoner.” The ground where it stood is now part of the parking lot between Olmsted Community Church and the Moosehead restaurant.

Holzworth wrote that, when Luther Barnum served as mayor, the jail's nickname was “Barnum's Bastille.” But he also indicated that it was nothing like the fortress-prison known as the Bastille in Paris that was stormed at the beginning of the French Revolution.

“An inmate with a sharp pocket knife could have whittled himself free,” Holzworth wrote. “But it wouldn't have been worth while. Prisoners were generally released the next day and warned to get out of town or mend their ways.”

Barnum was the mayor when one unfortunate incident occurred at the jail in 1882. Here is how the newspaper, then called the *Berea Advertiser*, reported it in the March 2 issue:

A strange-acting man entered the village Monday and requested to be put in the lockup, claiming he was being chased by somebody and asked for protection. Marshal Fitch granted his request. In the evening Mayor Barnum and Dr. Rose talked with him and thought his conduct strange. Said his name was Patrick Falen; had just come from Cleveland where he had been on a drunk. Tuesday morning he seemed all right; Dr. Parker talked with him and thought he was recovering from a drunk. The Marshal told him that the Mayor would visit him in a short time and release him. Mayor Barnum went to the lockup about 9 o'clock and found him suspended from the lattace [sic] in front of his cell, with a towel around his neck. The man was lifeless, and a pipe was in his mouth. He was compelled to raise his feet from the bench he was standing upon to keep his weight off of them. He was Irish, probably 35 years old. Was dressed well and had a cheap watch with silver chain.

One week later, on March 9, the *Advertiser* reported: “The day following the suicide of Patrick Falen, a certificate was presented for his remains and they were taken to the Cleveland medical college. We are informed that his two cousins from Cleveland (answering to his name) arrived at the Falls on the afternoon of the same day to take charge of the remains of their cousin. Probably having read of the affair in the morning papers, they caught the first train stopping at Falls only to find they were too late.”

The date of another notable event involving the jail is uncertain, but it occurred in the early years of the jail, when saloons were still frequent trouble spots. The story was that the mayor of Olmsted Falls had been “carousing in Fenderbosch’s saloon,” as Holzworth put it. So the town marshal, who also was the village blacksmith, arrested him and put him into the jail. After the mayor got himself released, he fired the marshal and appointed a new one. But in celebrating his victory, the mayor became too boisterous. The new marshal then arrested the mayor and threw him back into the jail.

In his book, Holzworth did not identify the mayor, but he did identify the original marshal. He wrote: “Generally the blacksmith was chosen as the marshall [sic], and Jake Flury was one of the most well known and respected Law men, who did not hesitate to do his sworn duty. In knock down fight with the Mayor of Olmsted Falls, he jailed his Honor for carousing in a village saloon.” In her 1964 book about Olmsted’s history, Bernice Offenbergl spelled the marshal/blacksmith’s last name as Fleuri. Considering that spelling was not a strong point for Holzworth, “Fleuri” probably is the correct spelling.

Holzworth wrote that Flury or Fleuri was born in Switzerland and got married there in 1854. He and his wife arrived in America in 1866 and in Olmsted Falls in 1870. They had seven children. His shop was on what then was called Hamlin Street (now Bagley Road) where St. Mary’s later built its parsonage.

One account of the 19th century mayor who was thrown into jail was written by an early 20th century mayor of Olmsted Falls, Raymond Moley. According to Holzworth, Moley “wrote a masterpiece of humorous and satiric poetry” about the incident. Unfortunately, Holzworth didn’t mention where or when that masterpiece was published, if it was published. It would be interesting to read it now. (If anyone has a copy of that poem or knows where to find it, please share that information with *Olmsted 200*.)

In November 1924, the village moved the jail to Mill Street, west of Simmerers’ hardware store and used it to store the village’s fire equipment. At one time, the building was lengthened so that it was 12 feet by 18 feet to provide enough room

for the fire equipment. Clint Williams said that, when he acquired the Grand Pacific Junction property in 1989, the former jail building was still that size and was sitting along Mill Street about where the B&O Depot now stands. He moved it to sit between the



Fire Truck No. 1 once was housed in the building that had been Olmsted’s jail.



Clint Williams had the jail moved to its current location. Photo courtesy of Clint Williams.

Warehouse (home now to A Time to Spa) and the Grand Pacific Hotel to better fill that space.

“I said, ‘The old jail kind of gets lost on the end,’” Williams said. “So I moved it up in here. I had some of the good old boys from down ‘South’ move it for me. They were quite the crew. [The boss] had a new crew every day. And he was yelling at them all day, ‘Get you head out of there. Get your hand out of there. If it falls on it, you’ll lose your arm.’ He

was yelling at them.”

When Williams moved the old jail and prepared it for use as a Grand Pacific Junction store, he added another six feet onto it to allow him to put in a restroom.

“I actually cut the back of it out,” he said. “That’s the original back. And we put handles on it. At that time, a missionary was looking for some work, so he was here with his son. We had six or eight guys, so we just picked up that whole back and moved it out.”



The jail was extended six feet to allow space for a restroom. Photo courtesy of Clint Williams.

The crew already had prepared a foundation of sandstone for the jail building to be set on. “Everything I redid here – anything that was moved or raised up – got a new sandstone foundation,” Williams said. He acquired that sandstone, which presumably came originally from quarries in Olmsted Falls, West View, Berea or Columbia Township, from “all over,” he said. For example, when he learned that someone was tearing down a house on Depot Street, he offered the owner about \$200 for the sandstone blocks and then moved them to Grand Pacific Junction.

“We raised the next building up next to the jail [the Warehouse],” Williams said. “We raised it up, and it has a new sandstone foundation. Where the Irish store [the Granary, home of Thistle & Shamrock Creations] is, there was nothing done on the foundation on it basically. Then we had the new depot [the B&O Depot moved in 2008 from the defunct Trolleyville USA in Olmsted Township]. That has a sandstone foundation, too. The old depot still has a sandstone foundation.”



*Like most Grand Pacific Junction buildings, the jail received a new foundation made of sandstone.
Photo courtesy of Clint Williams.*

Although several of the Grand Pacific Junction buildings were in very poor condition when Williams acquired them, he said that was not the case with the old jail.

“It was good, solid condition,” he said. “It was solid.” But he said nothing was in the building when it came into his possession, so he assumed it had not been used in the most recent years prior to that.

In the early years after the development of Grand Pacific Junction, the building that Williams dubbed the Olde Jail

House, contained a shop called What’s the Scoop, which sold ice cream and chocolates. In recent years, the building has been the home of Jorgensen’s Apiary, which sells honey and related products.

Today, the jail building, or the Olde Jail House as it is now called, sits at 25546 Mill Street, just west of the Grand Pacific Hotel and just east of A Time to Spa. It is occupied by Jorgensen’s Apiary, a shop that sells honey and honey-related products.



An Old House Gets Refreshed

What might be Olmsted Township’s oldest house – and one of the largest – keeps changing. Ever since Bill and Marty Richner bought the house on the corner of Columbia and Nobottom roads in 2009, they have been renovating it.



Bill and Marty Richner's house originally had an address on what now is called Columbia Road, but this – the southern side – is now considered the front, giving it a Nobottom Road address.

that the floor plan was a little better, and we think that we have improved the various rooms considerably.”

Among their alternations are arched doorways between many rooms. They also have changed the outside appearance. One big change was to put a new door on the eastern side of the house, next to the circular driveway, as part of their effort to establish a more usable floor plan.



Bill Richner walks away from the house's eastern side, which now has easy access to the circular driveway.

Two years ago, in Issue 4 from September 2013, *Olmsted 200* reported on the changes the Richners had made in their first four years of ownership. They have made much progress since then.

“Because it was in dire straits on the inside, we have put in new floors, new walls, new ceilings [and] new fixtures,” Bill Richner said. “It was in dire straits of needing that type of repair. As a result of that, we have opened up some walls so



The Richners put a new door on the eastern side that is similar to the front door on the southern side.

“What they had was a double door on the back of the house that didn’t walk through,” Richner said, indicating that it was hard to get from that door to the main part of the house. “And we wanted to put it to the side of the house, so when you drove your car in, you were able to get out and get directly in the house without any other nonsense – which we did.”

The door the Richners put on the side of the house was selected to match as closely as possible the door on the front of the house, facing Nobottom Road. “We went out of our way to match the two with the windows on top and side to make them look identical or as close as possible,” Richner said.

Most of the work on the inside of the house is completed, he said, but they still need to renovate the kitchen. “That’s my wife’s room, and she’s going to put [in] all new fixtures and all new very, very, expensive things for it,” Richner said. “It’ll be expanded on the

one side by probably 200 feet.”



On the left, Bill Richner explains changes in the house. On the right, he shows a visitor in the kitchen his plans to expand that room, the last to get major work.



Asked if he thought any previous resident of the house would recognize it as it is now, he responded, “Yes and no. Yes, in that the same rooms are the same size and the same area. They’ve just been repurposed. But their rooms had been repurposed – all of them – also. That’s the story of the house: to be redone.”



On the left are framed pieces of Dutch wallpaper the Richners found in the process of renovating their house. On the right is one of the house’s chandeliers.



This room is the original section of the house from 1820.

Many current and former Olmsted residents still think of the building as the TeGrotenhuis house for the family that occupied it for decades during the 20th century after acquiring it in 1935. But by the time that family bought the property, part of the house was well more than a century old. It started as a small house built in 1820 by John Adams, Sr., and his wife, Maria. That section, which is adjacent to the big chimney at the front

of the house, is now a living room that has been incorporated into a much larger house that was expanded at different times over the past two centuries, including a three-story tower built in the 1860s.



On the left is the Richners' library. On the above right is one of many paintings that hang in the Richners' house.

The house previously had an address of 7315 Columbia Road, but now its address is 25390 Nobottom Road.

Ohioans Come from a Good Place

Many readers respond each month to the stories they read in *Olmsted 200*. Often, they share their memories of the places or people mentioned in those stories. Others share information not already mentioned in those stories or even information that has never been included in any written history of Olmsted.

Since the previous issue of *Olmsted 200* came out one month ago, another type of response came from one reader, M.L., who now lives outside of Ohio.

“Thank you for all the stories you tell about men and women from Ohio,” she wrote. “David McCullough, in his book, *The Wright Brothers* about aviation pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright, wrote, ‘As often said, neither ever chose to be anything other than himself, a quality that rated high in Ohio.’ He also described Ohio as being ‘spoken of proudly as a fine place to live, work, and raise a family, as indeed was all of Ohio.’”

“Pick out a good father and mother, and begin life in Ohio.” – Wilbur Wright

Further, she said, McCullough wrote that Wilbur Wright said if he were to give a young man advice on how to get ahead in life, he would say, “Pick out a good father and mother, and begin life in Ohio.”

In addition, M.L. wrote, “The stories you tell in your monthly publication sure are testimonies that Ohio is the place to live. It is rich in history and rich in the present

because of the men and women who live there. Thank you for sharing the stories of the greatness of the people of Ohio. May the present citizens of Olmsted Falls continue to have the courage to follow their dreams.”

Call It Grand “Spooky” Junction

Grand Pacific Junction is full of history. This Saturday, October 3, it will be full of mystery. Shawn Jeffrey, proprietor of Shamrock & Rose Creations, the Celtic goods store, has scheduled a Night of Magic & Mystery that evening.

YES JOIN US NO

Saturday ~ October 3rd, 2015 ~ 6:00p-9:00p

Tickets \$20 p/p... Includes Tour / Treats & Brews

A NIGHT OF MAGIC AND MYSTERY

Candle Lighted Walking Tour w/ Anthony Salem

Explore
Witch's Hill / The Covered Bridge / Historic Grand Pacific Junction & The Train Depot

**PLUS ~ Tarot Card Readings / Pet Physic / Medium
Paranormal Spirit Readings ~ Angels ~ Energy ~ Ghosts
EVPS & Cameras Welcome**

 **Shamrock & Rose Creations, Inc.**
25576 Mill Street ~ Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
Telephone: 440 / 714.9000 www.shamrock-rose.com

The next day, Sunday, the annual Falls Day in the Park will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at East River Park. The afternoon will include crafters and other vendors, activities for children, jugglers, face painting, a rain barrel workshop, refreshments and music from the Olmsted Falls High School Marching Band. Also part of the activities will be the presentation of the Citizen of the Year Award.

Map Your Way to Olmsted's Past

Last month's edition of *Olmsted 200* included story that partly was about a new version of an old map that now is being sold. It is a reproduction of a map of the Village of Olmsted Falls, the Village of West View and Olmsted Township from 1954. The original was a souvenir at the 1954 Homecoming. A story, including a photo, about the original version ran in Issue 23 of *Olmsted 200* from last April.

The Olmsted Falls Alumni Association is selling the new version for \$10.00 to benefit its scholarship fund. Some readers asked about how to obtain copies. The answer is to contact the association at 440-427-6030 or Fran Yesenko at 440-235-3077. Each map is 24 inches tall and 18 inches wide and comes in a mailing tube. It provides an interesting view of what Olmsted was like more than 60 years ago.

Still to Come

The next issue of *Olmsted 200* will include the next story in the series about Grand Pacific Junction buildings and a story about how Olmsted residents paid for one of the community's most important buildings, which is almost a century old.

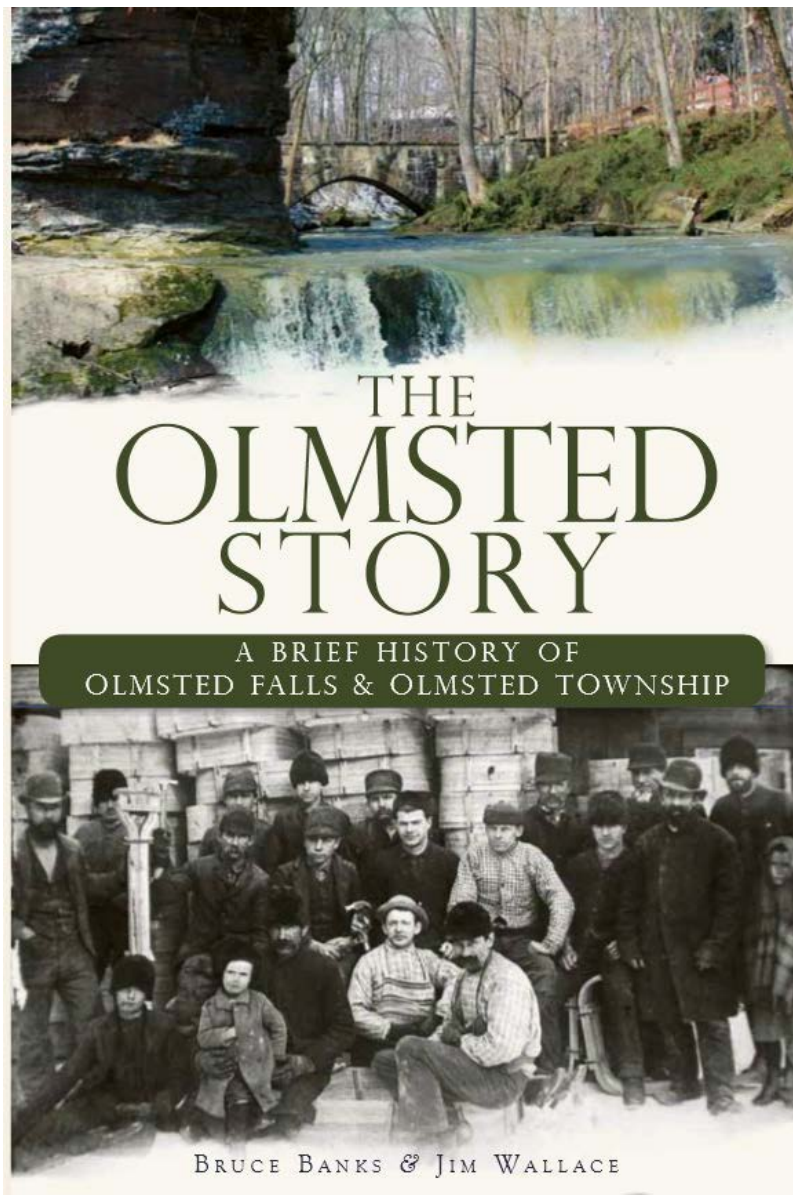
If you know of other people who would like to receive *Olmsted 200* by email, please feel free to forward it to them. They can get on the distribution list by sending a request to: wallacestar@hotmail.com. *Olmsted 200* has readers in several states beyond Ohio, including California, Colorado, Texas, Louisiana, North Carolina, West Virginia, Florida, Massachusetts and Maine, as well as overseas in Mongolia 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://www.egovlink.com/olmsted/docs/menu/home.asp> and click on "Olmsted 200."

Except where otherwise noted, all articles in *Olmsted 200* are written by Jim Wallace. 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 Clementine's Victorian Restaurant at Grand Pacific Junction, the Berea Historical Society's Mahler Museum & History Center and through online booksellers.



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