

*Adelphi, Colerain Twp.
Sesquicentennial Celebration*

at Adelphi, Ohio, Oct. 1, 2, 3,

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Memorializing Its Founders of 1804

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DEDICATION

This little volume would not be complete unless tribute and thanks were acknowledged for the earnest, painstaking detail work that has gone into the gathering of the data contained herein. Yours has been indeed a labor of love and all Adelphi and Colerain Township may well feel proud of the work you have done to preserve and cherish for all time the valiant work of the Founding Fathers and Mothers of Adelphi.

PREFACE

By Arthur R. Markel

ADELPHI IS ONE OF THE OLDEST TOWNS IN OUR region. Located on a high spot in the North-east corner of Ross County, with Salt Creek edging its northern border, and the famous Tar Hollow and Brimstone on the south, it has endured for one hundred and fifty years as a home of good people and a beautiful place to live. It received its name from an early settler in memory of the sacred city of the Greeks, "Delphi," renowned for the oracle of Apollo.

Here was the early home of the Indian, the deer and the bear. While Adelphi did not become one of the larger cities, it has always maintained a dignity that was never lost, and now on October 1, 2 and 3, 1954, the people of Adelphi are going to celebrate with parades, bands, speeches, a memorial church service, and general rejoicing, including a Merry-Go-Round, with peanuts, popcorn, lemonade and plenty of that good old Adelphi bologna.

Some of the names that are revered are those of Patterson, Spencer, Koch, Partee, Armstrong, Congrove, Larick, Reedy, Swinehart, Wittwer, Strous, Redfern, Karshner, and a host of others.

Adelphi had some noteworthy industrial plants, as for instance, a furniture factory, a good tannery, a number of good stores, and it was the home of that good old Adelphi bologna, made by Gus Santo, the like of which has never been found elsewhere. Adelphi prides itself for its good school, and its several churches, and a number of prominent people in our State and Nation are proud to claim Adelphi as their birthplace.

When its people passed away they were usually taken care of by John Wittwer, the famous undertaker. It is related that some folks passed away before their time just for the assurance of having John put them away in nice shape.

Outstanding as one of Adelphi's early citizens, was John Karshner, who built the old wooden bridge across Salt Creek, in service for almost a hundred years and just recently removed. He was also the builder of the famous Kingston and Adelphi Railroad which was in operation for a number of years.

Another spot dear to Adelpians was the Old Mineral Spring Ground, where the camp meetings and celebrations were held. The spring was supposed to have wonderful healing qualities, but this was never proven. West of town was the old Adelphi Fair Ground, where the women brought their favorite quilts, their cakes, and other home products, for a premium, and where Uncle Sol Riegel drove old "Honest Jim" to victory, and where the pretty lady in pink tights went up in a hot air balloon and came down in a tree.

One must also remember the Reverend Michael Dent, a wonderful minister, who helped greatly to contribute to the moral welfare of a town where violence and crime seldom occurred.

Yes, Adelphi can well be proud of her history, and now after one hundred and fifty years, her descendants rejoice and look forward to a continued happy experience.

COLERAIN TOWNSHIP

COLERAIN TOWNSHIP was set off from Green Township by an order of the County Commissioners, June 11, 1804. On that day it was ordered "That the Township of Green be divided by beginning at the southeast corner of township ten and range twenty; thence south between the twentieth and twenty-first range to the line of Jefferson township; thence east with said line to the eastern boundary of Ross County; thence with said county line, north and west, to the place of beginning, the same to be known by the name Coldrain." The place of holding elections was designated at the house of David Dawson, Sr.

The origin of the name Colerain has been given in two ways. The popular version is, that when the Commissioners met to set off the township, it was a cold, rainy day, and hence the name coldrain or colerain was suggested. The other more credible version is that the name was derived from Coleraine in the north of Ireland. It is known that the Renicks came from Coleraine, in the north of Ireland, to this county and that one of them, George Renick, was a prominent surveyor in Ross county at that early day.

Many of the earliest settlers in this area came from the British Isles by way of Virginia. Some of them were Zedekiah and Thomas Dawson, 1796; Thomas Hinton, Daniel Roberts, Isaac Dawson, 1800; William Throckmorton, 1801; Abraham Jones, 1802; Jesse Spencer, 1802; Daniel Goodman, 1809; Abraham Cryder, 1815 and many others whose names and dates are not certain.

Many came from Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania Dutch): Conrad Betzer, 1796; Isaac Larich, 1804; Peter Dumm, 1805; Jacob Bunn, 1805; Henry Strauser, 1806; Martin and Benjamin Dreisbach, 1809; Jacob Fontious, 1811; Joseph Buchwalter, 1812; Samuel Merriman, 1818, and many others.

Ross-Hocking: Tar Hollow

By James O. Archer

IN JANUARY, 1934, an attempt was made to secure the establishment of a Civilian Conservation Camp on 1280 acres of School Land comprising sections 35 and 36 in the southeastern part of Colerain Township. Being unsuccessful in this venture, M. L. Strawser, H. J. Leasure and James O. Archer decided to try to have the area included in the sub-marginal land project of the Federal Government that was developing rapidly at the time.

A sketch of the area along with data setting forth the type and characteristics of the land and lands adjoining with information as to the number of people living in the area and the possibility of reforestation of several hundred acres of the land, was prepared. This information was sent to the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, in April, 1934. Some six weeks later, in May 1934, a reply was received from the Regional Office of the Federal Forest Service, Milwaukee, Wisconsin advising us to contact Mr. J. C. Fowler, Head of Public Lands in Ohio, State Auditor's Office, and Mr. Forest Secrest, Head of the Ohio Division of Forestry. These men were contacted and each promised to give the project their support.

April 1, 1935, an office was established on the second floor of the Union Block, Chillicothe, for the purpose of setting up a sub-marginal land project for the area. April 16, 1935, Mr. Archer was transferred to the Office staff for the purpose of taking the men over the area, arranging meetings in the area to acquaint people with the work and the purpose of the project, and to check titles of land in Vinton, Hocking and Ross counties, the project area. Originally the project was set up as Ross-Hocking Submarginal Land Project, and options were being taken in June, 1945 for the purchase of land in the area.

Plans were laid for reforestation the land, building a lake, a number of shelter houses with picnic areas, Group Camp, Ranger Station and residences for the foresters assigned to the area.

By September, 1935, sufficient land had been purchased so the work of construction was started on a project that became the

largest of its kind east of the Mississippi River. In all, over 16,000 acres of land now comprise the project. The entire project cost a little more than one million dollars to purchase the land, remove dead and decaying timber, building Pine Lake with 13 acres of water, four shelter houses, seven picnic areas, group camp, saw mill, seventeen miles of highway and several other dwellings and supply buildings.

The group Camp comprises a large mess hall with large kitchen, wash rooms, supply rooms and refrigeration room attached. Four groups of cabins for sleeping quarters, cook's quarters, bath house, infirmary or hospital, deer park, amphitheater, bathing beach on west end of the lake and its own water system. All of the materials for the construction were gathered from the area except for nails, bolts, electric wiring and a few articles of hardware. The rustic shades over the lights in the large mess hall were made from copper distills found in the area. The group camp is rented by the state to various groups and is occupied from early in May to late September. Since most of the recreational area is located in what was known as Tar Hollow, the decision was made and the name changed to Tar Hollow State Forest in 1944. A large portion of the recreational portion of the area including the lake is Colerain Township and the Sections 35 and 36 around which the project was built.

BUSINESS HISTORY OF ADELPHI AND COLERAIN TWP.

By Mrs. Donna Karshner

THE LITTLE VILLAGE OF ADELPHI nestled in the hills of northeast Colerain Township, is a prime example of a community which was a thriving pioneer settlement. Shortly before the dawn of the nineteenth century, the white settlers ventured into the area that is now Colerain township. Prior to this the area had been a favorite Indian retreat. Many Indian mounds and an abundance of flint arrow heads give some indication of the activities in the vicinity before the white man's visit. It was not long after the first white men settled in Adelphi that the town was soon bustling with activity. It was the focal spot of the surrounding territory with many shops, stores and industry to serve the population. Many of the promoters of the community have long since been gone and the village has lost its once flourishing business places because of the modern methods of communication and transportation.

The business places at the present time are as follows: THE ADELPHI BANKING COMPANY — C. B. BODE GARAGE — PAUL GOODE'S GARAGE — J. R. MAHONEY MOTEL AND

SERVICE STATION — D. K. STRAWSER DRUG STORE — ROSSITER BROTHER'S STORE — RED AND WHITE FOOD MARKET — HOSLERS GENERAL STORE — E. R. THOMPSON NEW AND USED FURNITURE — RALPH LESHNER AND SON IMPLEMENT CO. AND GRINDING MILL — J. P. KARSHNER'S COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT — MAYNARD TOMLINSON'S BARBER SHOP — HARRY BITZER BARBER SHOP located on the north end of town. Mr. Bitzer's father, Henry Bitzer operated a barber shop in Adelphi and his daughter was one of the first woman barbers in the village. — DON PATTERSON is the town's only attorney.

Interior decorators and carpenters — Dean and Lincoln Jinks.

Here is an incomplete listing of the business places in Adelphi from about 1880 until after the turn of the century:

Meat Market and Butchering — Abe Neff.

General Merchants — Milard Partee, Spencer & Rose, Robert Patterson, Elmer Kitchen, John Hosler, Augustus Dumm, Scot Koch, Isaac Redfern.

Hotels or Inns — Partee, Binkley, and Roush's Inn.

Restaurants — Byron Spaun, Roxie Drum.

Wines and Liquors — St. Clair Binkley, David Rose, John Hettinger.

Dress making and Millinery — Mrs. Emma Rodocher.

Attorneys — F. N. R. Redfern, Robert Swinehart, O. D. Sweinhart and Philemon S. Karshner.

Harness and saddle makers — John Levan, Nelson Markei.

Carriage painters and repairs — Bitzer Brothers.

Dentist — Dr. Earl Swinehart, Dr. Hayes Bowsher.

Physicians — Dr. John Lewis, Dr. William Floyd, Dr. Ritter and Dr. Potter were a few of the early physicians. Dr. Robert Barton and Dr. Eugene Hemmeger, who died July 22, 1949, were both prominent men and very good physicians.

Bakery — H. A. Barnhart and his mother operated a bakery. In several years Mr. Barnhart bought out a local monument company and continued with it until 1893. He moved to Chillicothe and set up the business under the name of the Barnhart Granite Co. at its present location in Chillicothe, at 250 East Main street.

Druggist — Salem Wolfe purchased the building on the corner of Main and Concord (now owned and operated by his grandson D. K. Strawser) around 1870 from Mr. Binkley, who had used the building for a hotel. On July 13, 1899 the building was ravaged by fire. Just as soon as the ruins were cleared away, Mr. Wolfe began rebuilding and was able to move into the new store on February 7th, 1900.

FURNITURE AND UNDERTAKING ESTABLISHMENTS

By Mrs. Donna Karshner

IT IS INTERESTING to note how different varieties of native wood came to be associated with particular uses. Cherry, walnut, and hard maple were thought of as furniture wood. Chairs were often a mixture of ash, maple, poplar and hickory. Wagon frames and ladders were almost invariably made of elm. Spinning wheels were usually made from maple and white oak. Adelphi had many good carpenters, but David Faust has been named as one of the first. (1806.) Charles Combs was an excellent carpenter and was employed for awhile by John Wittwer and Sons. In 1865, John Wittwer settled in Adelphi and purchased a business that had been operated by James Crain. Mr. Wittwer entered the undertaking and furniture business and with the help of his sons Edward and John, carried on until 1900. Nathan Fiantt was engaged in this business and was without a doubt one of the most artistic and best woodworkers in this part of the township.

The cabinet shop manufactured coffins made-to-order. The employees would work through the night in order to have a coffin ready on time. One of the largest coffins ever made was for a woman that lived on Walnut Creek, who weighed 500 pounds. The box was taken by a one-horse express (wagon) that could hardly make its delivery due to the excessive weight and great size of the coffin.

In 1902, Mr. Newton Vaughn entered the furniture and undertaking business. This business through his management prospered until his death in 1932. Jacob Bowsher, who resided in Colerain township, was one of the early cabinet makers. He built coffins, cider mills, cider presses, fanning mills, furniture and many machines of wooden construction which were ingenious in those days.

ADELPHI'S TANNERY

One of the first Tanneries was set up by Jacob Larich around 1805. It was located just south of Adelphi in "Brimstone Hollow." Otis Larich operated a tannery in Adelphi at the corner of Market and Concord on the site presently owned by Mrs. Elmer Kitchen. In her yard evidence of the sunken tan vats still remains.

DISTILLERY

THE AMOUNT OF WHISKEY consumed by early settlers was appalling to the temperate mind. It served to enliven the social gatherings and no "husking bee", barn- or house- "raising" was complete without it.

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1954:

- 12:30 Opening Exercises in village square
Afternoon visiting and a matinee for the children on the amusement rides
7:00 Queen Parade and judging
8:00 WLW TALENT DIVISION presents Mary Jane Johnson and The Pine Mountain Boys on the village square
9:00 Dance

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1954:

- 12:30 Tractor Pull in the first field west of town
4:00 Parade
8:00 Musical Entertainment by the Blue Notes
9:00 Dance

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1954:

- 9:30 Sunday School
10:30 Church Services
12:00 Community Basket Dinner
2:00 Church program
4:00 Parade
7:30 Church services

AN INTERESTING HISTORICAL EXHIBIT will be on display; souvenirs will be sold with "Adelphi Bologna" being a featured item for sale; History Booklets have been printed and may be obtained from the Committee; the young and old can entertain themselves on the Gooding Amusement rides and other concessions; and you can visit and eat with many of your old friends for hours in between activities.

Sesquicentennial Committees

Don C. Patterson and Wayne F. Cryder, co-chairmen
General Chairmen:
James Archer, History
Harold Strous, Church Activities
Roy Schooley, Finance and Advertising
Helen Hubbell, Food Concessions

Mr. Rose gave employment to many people in the village. Among his employees was Augustus Santo, who came here from Chillicothe. He was an excellent meatcutter, and later set up business for himself. He is the originator of the famous "Adelphi Bologna." This bologna was of the highest quality and was in great demand by the neighboring cities around Adelphi. After Augustus Santo died, the manufacture of bologna was carried on by Robert Haynes. The business fell into the hands of many proprietors. John Spencer, Ray Spangler, L. E. Harper and Thomas Hickman, who was the last to operate such a business in the village.

THE ADELPHI BORDER NEWS

THE ADELPHI BORDER NEWS was established January 1, 1879, by Daniel F. Shriner, who came from Chillicothe for that purpose. On the first of February, Mr. Shriner took Irvin Haynes as a partner, and later in the year both were bought out by Webster Thomas & Son. On August 8, 1883, the paper was bought by Hugh F. Egan. The Adelphi Border News had a wide circulation and was a paper of which the community was very proud. In 1928, the newspaper office and printing shop were moved to Laurelville and the name was changed to Border News. After a period of time the business again changed hands and the paper that once started as the Adelphi Border News published its last edition around 1944, under the ownership of Henry Clay, who then moved the equipment to Columbus.

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

By James O. Archer

Source of Information: From Adelphi Border News of June 15, 1900. Hugh F. Egan, Editor.

AS A FRATERNAL ORDER TOWN Adelphi cannot be beaten by any place of its size in the State for more real live fraternal organizations.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

On July 21, 1848, Adelphi Lodge No. 114 was instituted by M.W.G.M. Edson B. Olds. The following were the charter members: William Floyd, John W. Floyd, John Lewis, Thomas W. Siddons, K. H. Dunkle, Robert Patterson and John Dillon. The first officers were: Dr. John Lewis, N.G.; Dr. William Floyd, V.G.; Robert Patterson, Recording and permanent Secretary; John Dillon, Treasurer. This organization prospered for many years and in