A LITTLE PIECE OF PARADISE.....
COLLEGE HILL, OHIO

SECOND EDITION

EDITED BY BETTY ANN SMIDDY
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COLLEGE HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Acknowledgments

This is a second edition and with it has come some changes, most noticeably the layout and the addition of an index. The College Hill Historical Society has continued with the new Board and trustees: Sarah Wolf, President; Kate Weldishofer, Vice President; Don Baechle, Treasurer; Jennifer Schuermann, Secretary; Amy Finnegan, Reno Runck, Karen Forbes-Nutting, Doug Trimmel, Trustees.

Without the memories of many of our original College Hill Historical Society members, this could not have been written. Special thanks go to the late Ruth J. Wells, John O’Neil and Edward Stare; Martha Tuttle, Douglas Trimmel, the Emerson family, and Chilton Thomson. The written legacy of the late Mrs. Dorothy Henshaw and the drawings of her dear friend, Caroline Williams, are an important part of this book. I want to thank both Constance Lee Menefee and her son, Jonathan Burkhardt, for their technical assistance. Also, Gail Finke kindly made her College Hill photograph scans available.

Knowing that this book will be used for genealogy, the tangled, intermarried, and indexed College Hill family trees are found in the Appendix. Much of this information has been graciously submitted by the families represented. There are three indexes—one for the text, one for photographs and a final one for the Appendix.

The cover illustration is portion of a Strobridge Lithograph ca. 1865 of College Hill. This book’s title came from Tom Lowe, a Farmers’ College student, who described College Hill in 1853 as “A little piece of Paradise which an accidental opening of the clouds let fall upon the earth.”

COLLEGE HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CINCINNATI, OHIO
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1869 Map of College Hill
Introduction

Hundreds of years ago this area of Hamilton County was occupied by Indians but their ways came into conflict with the influx of pioneers arriving to settle these lands after the Revolutionary War. Since this area abounded with game and stands of primal woods, the Indians used this as a hunting ground. Any Indian camps would have been temporary. Years later, as the forests were cleared for the plow, Indian arrowheads and other relics were frequently uncovered.

In the Centinel of the Northwest Territory, December 18, 1793 was the following: “Good encouragement will be given to a number of settlers at Mt. Pleasant, 2 miles from Ludlow’s Station on the main road to Ft. Hamilton. (signed) John Ludlow.”

An early trail followed the ridge that is now a bit east of today’s Hamilton Avenue, where the Hammond North Condominiums now stand. It was this track that a company of soldiers followed on a northern expedition from Fort Washington in 1792. One of the soldiers was a young ensign, William Henry Harrison. The soldiers camped on the land that Farmers’ College would later occupy.

The last actual Indian camp was more than one hundred and fifty years ago on the site of the intersection of Belmont and Hamilton Avenues. These were of the Miami (Te-wighte-wa) tribe. The name refers to the cry of the crane, the symbol of their tribe. An undated newspaper article recalls the life of James La Rue who gave a final glimpse of Indian life. “When a young man Mr. La Rue saw 1,600 Wyandottes pass his door in a single file. They had sold their reservation, which was a little north of Dayton, to the Government, and tramped down the old Winton trail to the fort on the river (Ft. Washington). They walked the 60 miles in 24 hours, resting by the roadside whenever they wished. Having been paid their pitance, they marched back the same way, leaving Hamilton County forever. Their line stretched seven miles, while the same number of white men would have marched in one.”

The only other reference we have to Indians in the vicinity of College Hill is from Etsu Sugimoto1 recalling what she had learned from General Samuel Fenton Cary. She would “…sit with the General and his invalid wife listening by the hour while he told stories of early American life. Knowing that incidents of personal history especially appealed to me, he once told me that his own large estate was bought from an Indian chief in exchange for one chair, a gun and a pouch of tobacco; and that Mother’s large home (the Obed J. Wilson house) was once an Indian village of bark tents and was purchased for a half-a-dozen split seated kitchen chairs.”

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Chapter 1  Symmes & Harrison

After the Revolutionary War the land which formed the Northwest Territory had many claimants. Virginia, Connecticut and Massachusetts divided the lands amongst themselves, while other states contended they should be included, as all states fought in the war. The Indians considered the area theirs as stated in a prior treaty with England. Even the French had an opinion, since their explorers buried a lead tablet at the mouth of the Great Miami in 1749 declaring that the Ohio Valley belonged to their country.

Congress tried to resolve the claims by declaring that this area would be used to create free and independent states. The three states mentioned above having a prior claim surrendered this territory to Congress by 1786, but not before two of them retained a section to reward their Revolutionary War veterans. Virginia kept a tract in Ohio between the Scioto and Little Miami Rivers (Virginia Military District). Connecticut called its strip the Firelands as this land was given to its residents whose homes were burned during the Revolutionary War.

People started to move into the Northwest Territory right away, some (squatters) having no legal claim to the land they settled on. The Revolutionary veterans were paid in Continental certificates, which were worth little in cash, and many used these as payment for land.

Congressman Thomas Jefferson drafted the 1785 Land Ordinance dividing the areas into townships six miles square. Every township was divided into thirty-six sections, each containing six hundred and forty acres. When land was sold, it was by whole sections only. The Ordinance of 1787 guaranteed religious freedom, right to trial by jury, prohibited slavery or involuntary servitude, designated land for schools, and established a legislative system for governing this area.

The spring of 1788 greeted about 18,000 settlers in nine hundred flatboats (also called arks, broadhorns or Kentucky boats) destined for Kentucky where people had been arriving since 1774. Flatboats carried everything a pioneer had and needed. Up to 50 feet long and 16 feet wide, flatboats floated with the current, their flat bottoms passing over shallow water and submerged trees. Since they were incapable of going against the current, at their destination they were disassembled and used for building cabins. By the end of 1788, Kentucky had nearly 70,000 pioneers.

Few settlers moved into the area north of the Ohio River because of Indian resistance. The area was dubbed the Miami Slaughterhouse because of Indian raids. The Shawnee, Delaware, Wyandot and Miami Indians had been pushed into this area by the ever increasing settler population and shrinking hunting grounds. It was in Ohio that the Indians took their stand. The British and French also wanted the settlers kept out in an effort to keep their peace and trading with the Indians.

Major Benjamin Stites, a war veteran from New Jersey, left Redstone (Brownsville, Pennsylvania) in 1786, traveling down the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers with supplies for trade at Limestone (Maysville, Kentucky). Leaving Limestone he traveled four miles south to Washington, Kentucky, begun in 1784 as a station by Simon Kenton. There the settlers had just been raided by Indians that had stolen some of their finest horses and escaped by crossing the Ohio River. Stites formed a posse and tracked the Indians into southwestern Ohio. Impressed with the fertile land and game, Stites later went to the Continental Congress while it was in session in New York, and told the attendees what he had seen.

Judge John Cleves Symmes was a descendant of early English settlers. His father, Reverend Timothy Symmes, was born in 1714, and after ordination, was rotated through several parishes, finally settling at River Head, Long Island. He married Mary Cleves in 1740 and had two sons: John Cleves (1742) and Timothy (1744). Both sons moved to New Jersey where they fought in the American Revolution.

John Cleves Symmes served as colonel in one of the Sussex County, New Jersey, militia regiments. He and his regiment erected forts and batteries on Manhattan and Long Island, New York in 1776. Commanding three regiments of the New Jersey militia, he defeated a large British force. From 1776 - 1779 he was in charge of forts guarding the New Jersey frontier and fought in major battles of the Revolution. His military record was excellent and inspired trust of his leadership among the New Jersey veterans.
His civil record was equally as fine as his military one. He served on the Council of New Jersey and was an associate justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, 1777 - 1783. He was elected to the Continental Congress in 1785 and it was here that he met Benjamin Stites.

Like many other former Revolutionary War officers from the eastern states, Symmes was part of a land company; speculators who purchased military land warrants from veterans, redeemed them for large tracts of land and resold the land at a profit to settlers wanting smaller acreage. Some of the officers holding the higher ranks felt Congress owed them additional compensation for reducing some benefits they were promised, for monies lost while they were away fighting and sometimes for the cost of outfitting their own troops. Other agents were William McMillan and Elias Boudinot. There were two dozen partners in the Miami Land Company.

Symmes traveled with Stites in the fall of 1787 to see the area for himself, going as far south on the Ohio River as Louisville. Some of the features he was looking for were fertile bottom lands to grow crops, game, and water power to be used by mills.

Congress adopted more regulations for the sale of the Northwest Territory. Buyers were to survey the lands, dividing the area into townships and to lay out plats with lot #16 in each township donated to schools; lot #29 was set aside for religious purposes; lots #8, 11, and 26 were to be unused - awaiting future disposal by Congress. The government reserved the high hills and knobs and planned to survey them later for mineral deposits. If minerals were found, the property cost would be raised. Also, one township was saved for a college.

In 1787 Israel Ludlow was appointed to survey the land between the two Miami Rivers in Ohio, an area that the New Jersey Society contracted to buy.

Symmes approached Congress to purchase one million acres of military lands between the Great and Little Miami Rivers. His newly acquired status as one of nine judges of the Northwest Territory aided the passage of his proposition to Congress. On Oct. 15, 1788, Symmes was granted a charter from Congress to develop these lands whose southern boundary was the Ohio River and the northern boundary was to be determined later. The cost was $200,000 for the first 300,000 acres, with additional payments of the same sum for extra land, every six months. Stites purchased 20,000 acres at the mouth of the Little Miami from Symmes. Symmes was optimistic; he didn’t own the land yet!

Symmes advertised his lands in the eastern states. He continued to offer land in the northern area of his purchase that he expected to own. Symmes paid 16-1/2 cents per acre, offered the land for sale at 66-2/3 cents per acre, with the price increasing to one dollar an acre in November 1788. He also offered prospective settlers free timber for cabins, a supply of Indian corn and free lots in his city.

At that time giving a free in-city lot with the purchase of out-of-city land was common, as it aided in the creation of a centralized community. The in-city lots were to build a house upon and live in while the out-of-city lots were beyond the town boundaries and meant for farming, with a musket kept close. The earliest in-city homes were log cabins with a clapboard roof, mud and stick chimneys, puncheon floors and greased paper windows (ca 1790). By 1812 the new houses would have had hewn logs with shingle roofs. The puncheon floors would have been replaced by ash boards, paper windows by those of glass and chimneys of brick. Brick and stone houses would follow (ca 1830).

Stites found twenty-six persons willing to settle with him. This first settlement he called Columbia - located where today we have Lunken Airport. Columbia was founded Nov. 18, 1788, twelve years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The first group to arrive at the second settlement, Losantiville on December 28, 1788, was surveyors to determine the size of Symmes purchase. Col. Israel Ludlow and thirteen others had many difficulties that winter - the weather, Indians, and conflicting measurements. Surveyors used natural landmarks - rocks, trees, streams - which made accurate and reproducible boundaries at a later date very difficult. Ludlow platted and surveyed Losantiville, using a street plan similar to that of Philadelphia; rectangular streets forming blocks of a convenient size.

Before leaving Limestone for North Bend, Symmes is said to have sent the following letter Jan. 3, 1789, as quoted in Sketches and Statistics of Cincinnati by Charles Cist (1859):

“Brothers of the Wyandots and Shawnees! Hearken to your brother who is coming to live at the Great
Miami. He was on the Great Miami last summer, while the deer was yet red and met with one of your camps; he did no harm to anything which you had in your camps; he held back his young men from hurting you or your horses, and would not let them take your skins or meat, though your brothers were very hungry. All this he did because he was your brother, and would live in peace with the Red People. If the Red People will live in friendship with him, and his young men, who came from the great Salt Ocean to plant corn and build cabins on the land between the Great and Little Miami, then the White and Red people shall all be brothers and live together, and we will buy your furs and skins, and sell you blankets and rifles, and powder and lead and rum, and everything that our Red brothers may want in hunting and in their towns.

Brothers! A treaty is holding at Muskingum. Great men from the thirteen fires are there, to meet the chiefs and head men of all the nations of the Red People. May the Great Spirit direct all their councils for peace! But the great Men and the Wise Men of the Red and White people cannot keep peace and friendship long, unless we, who are their sons and Warriors, will also bury the hatchet and live in peace.

Brothers! I send you strings of beads, and write to you with my own hand, that you may believe what I say. I am your brother, and will be kind to you while you remain in peace.

Farewell! Signed, Jno. C. Symmes.”

Symmes brought his own group of pioneers that winter (Feb. 2, 1789) to settle North Bend at the mouth of the Great Miami River, on the most northerly bend of the Ohio River. North Bend was founded two days before George Washington was elected President. Cist in his *Early Annals and Future Prospects of Cincinnati* (1841) described the camp from a letter written from Symmes to Dayton:

“This afternoon we raised what in this country is called a camp by setting two forks of saplings in the ground, a ridge pole across and leaning boat boards which I had brought from Limestone, one end on the ground and the other against the ridge pole, enclosing one end of the camp and leaving the other open to the weather for a door where our fire was made to fend against the cold which was very bitter.”

Symmes was able to raise only $82,198 of the first $200,000 he owed. The next year he renegotiated his payments and land contract. In exchange for one million acres, Symmes would buy 246,594 acres for $82,198. (33.25 cents per acre).

Symmes expected his site of North Bend to be superior to Columbia and Losantiville. Symmes City would be the location of a fort, necessary to protect settlers from constant Indian attacks. It would also be a major trading area conveniently located at the confluence of two rivers. He described his city as “Egypt on the Miami.” Unfortunately, the hilly terrain of North Bend made the region inaccessible to the type of trade he envisioned, and both North Bend and Columbia were on the flood plain. Losantiville proved to be the superior site; the river was tamer there, it was on a bluff overlooking the river, and the area was free from yearly flooding. When the surveyors came to choose a location for Fort Washington (1789), North Bend and Columbia were flooded, so dry Losantiville received the fort, as Congress promised protection from Indians. To soothe over any hurt feelings due to the fort’s location, Symmes was given the honor by Governor of the Northwest Territory, Arthur St. Clair, to name the section of the Miami Purchase that was organized into a county. Symmes designated Hamilton in honor of the new Secretary of the Treasury. Symmes chose for himself and two nephews adjoining lots on the Ohio River. They worked hard and by the following year seven buildings were erected, including a smoke house, double log cabin and a log building with a two-story basement. Later, two stone mills were built - for grain and lumber. Mills attracted people to that area for settlement. During the spring of 1789, eighteen soldiers to be stationed at North Bend arrived without any supplies. Building cabins, erecting a hexagonal blockhouse with an overhanging second story, and hunting venison were their first priorities. A few departed to Big Bone Lick (Kentucky) to gather salt. Flax, cotton and corn were sown as soon as land was workable. Flour and meal were purchased from Losantiville until the crops could be harvested.

Gershom Gard came with his brother David in a party organized by Symmes that left New Jersey in 1790. Gard’s cousin Alexander (son of their brother Daniel) also was on this trip. On Jan. 9, 1790 Symmes wrote: I have sold one of the shares of the city to Gershom Gard. Alexander Guard (as his family spelled their surname) brought his family, as did Gershom. Gershom first settled, along with brother, David, on a farm about 5 miles east of North Bend, in the Delhi area of today. David died later that year.
Jacob Parkhurst, a relative of the Gards, wrote in an account of his life the Christmas of 1790 at North Bend. “On Christmas day Judge John Cleave Symms (sic) invited the whole Garrison of men, hunters and all, to the raising of a fort or blockhouse over on the Miami bottom. It was a log cabin with 16 corners, which he had planned as to afford a chance to fire on the enemy from the port holes in every direction. We did not finish it that day, for the days were short and it was a troublesome building to raise...it was calculated for four fire places, and for four families to live. I thought it was an invention of the old Judge to have something curious and exciting to send back to New Jersey...”

Among the Judge’s lighter tasks were marriages, his first being between Jemima Gard (daughter of Gershom Gard) and Captain Peter Keen (married on 10 Oct., 1781). Their daughter, Angeline, was the first white child born between the two Miami Rivers.

Along with Gershom Gard, Captain James Keen and family came from New Jersey. James Keen’s son, Peter, was an early pioneer in College Hill who established Keen’s Station, five miles from Ludlow’s Station along the St. Clair’s Trace (today the corner of Hamilton Avenue and West Galbraith Road). Gershom Gard had been a private in his future son-in-law’s company of the Morris, New Jersey militia during the Revolutionary War. At North Bend, Judge Symmes also presided at the wedding of another early College Hill family, Ephraim Brown to Eunice Gard (on 10 Feb., 1791).

Gershom had purchased sections 25 and 31 in Springfield Township from Symmes in 1787. After Gershom’s death in 1807 in College Hill, his son Seth, Seth’s nephew Aaron Waggoner (Jr.), assorted family and friends including Peter Keen left this area to resettle at Palmyra, Illinois, the town that they founded.

Indian attacks to the area continued, keeping settlers away, and Symmes had problems meeting his payments to the government. Troops were stationed at Fort Washington - 1,400 in 1790. Headed by General Josiah Harmer, they were expected to rout the Indians. But, since only one fifth of this group was trained soldiers, the troops were defeated. Harmer was replaced as military commander. In the fall of 1791, General St. Clair marched north with his troops, faring no better than Harmer.

It was in 1790 that Rev. Oliver M. Spencer’s family arrived among the log cabins and stockade at Columbia. Their cabin stood near Tusculum and Columbia Parkway intersection, near Crawfish Creek (Delta Avenue). Spencer recounted the early years of living at Columbia and his subsequent capture and escape from the Indians in his 1834 book.

Oliver’s father’s story was the same as many other settlers. “Before entering the continental army he possessed a small fortune, the fruits of his industry in a lucrative business; but of this a large amount was destroyed by the enemy, and more than ten thousand dollars, advanced by him in specie to pay and clothe his regiment, were repaid to him by Congress in Continental money, on which he sustained a total loss. Like many of his companions in arms, after encountering the dangers and enduring the hardships of a protracted war, Colonel Spencer found himself at its close reduced from affluence to comparative poverty... with impaired health and injured constitution he again engaged in business....After toiling many years with little success, hearing the flattering accounts then in circulation of the beauty and fertility of the Miami country, he determined to explore it (1789)...Previously to his leaving home he had disposed of his certificates for his military services at one-third of the nominal value and vested their proceeds in Miami lands...”

Another incident in the day of a pioneer is the following:1 “When grandfather (Abraham Swartsel) went back to Warren County to reap his harvest he left grandmother (Elizabeth Izor Swartsel) and the children in her new home. She was not afraid for she trusted in the Lord for protection. One morning she went to a branch some distance from their shelter to do some washing, leaving the children at the shanty. About ten o’clock the four children came carrying the baby and all so badly frightened, said, ‘Oh, so many Indians in the house.’ No one was near, so after a prayer to God for guidance and protection she took her little family and went into the shanty. When she reached her little home the Indians were gone, but they had eaten everything they found in the house; however, they did not find the victuals under the

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1 Source: Marti Buente, Indian account by Elizabeth Swartsel Oldfather from the collection of Seb Miller.
rocks so they had some food left for themselves. The Indians went about one-fourth a mile away to a little hill where there was not much growth and camped for the night; she could hear them whooping and having their war dances; she spent the night in prayer and watching, but they left in the next morning. About ten o’clock grandfather, Abraham Swartsel, came, had almost rode his horse to death; he heard the Indians were on a trail up the river from Cincinnati and had massacred several families and he found they were on a path towards his home, and he expected to find his little family massacred, but, Oh what joy, they were safe and well.”

The floods returned in 1793. Alexander Guard and his family moved to the mouth of the Big Miami River where there were some unused cabins. The family and their household goods traveled the river in a pirogue (a type of hollowed log canoe). Alexander’s wife, Hannah, and their children walked along the shoreline, herding their animals. The pirogue was steered by Alexander and Captain Joseph Hayes. As they took the canoe around into the Miami to unload, they were swept downstream by the swollen, swiftly moving river. The pirogue overturned and while everything the Guards owned, including all their money, was lost, the men made it to the shore. Mrs. Guard is reported to have said; “We have one another, our new home, our land and our farm animals.”

Alexander made what furniture they needed, including a new loom, but Hannah worried about the lost clothing. In the often mentioned style of hardy pioneers, she tried weaving with nettle fibers. Nettles grew abundantly and are tough, fibrous stemmed plants. The 12 to 16 foot long nettles were gathered, Hannah cut away the leaves, pounded the stems to soften them, soaked them for several days after which the softer plant parts fell away and only the fibers remained. She carded those fibers and spun them into a strong but coarse, yellowish brown thread that was later woven into winter clothing. In one season she made 200 yards of nettle cloth. As late as 1876 their daughter, Sarah (Guard) Bonham had a piece of this cloth left.

Guard relocated his family two more times, ever moving west. Their final home was in Dearborn County, Indiana where Alexander died in 1810. The continual push west was less a case of itchy feet than that of agricultural necessity. After farming in the same location, using the same crops, the soil became depleted of nourishment and crop yields became smaller. Moving to fresh land was all a farmer knew - crop rotation, fertilizers, contour farming were yet to be discovered.

Job Gard, son of Gershom, advertised in the Centinel of the North Western Territories newspaper in Nov. 8, 1793 issue that he had “Lost, at little above North Bend, Parchment Pocket-Book, containing a number of valuable papers of no use to any person but the owner, whoever finds, and returns it to the Subscriber should have the above reward. (Four dollars).”

Gershom had purchased 1280 acres in Springfield Township from Symmes in 1787. Sections 25 and 31 shown on Col. Israel Ludlow’s survey map (1792) of the Miami Purchase are labeled as belonging to Gard.

Symmes continued to have financial worries. Settlers started to sue him since they had purchased land in good faith and Symmes did not have clear title to settle the transaction. Some of the lands he sold were outside of the Miami Purchase. Settlers even petitioned Congress for help. Poorly kept records, natural objects being used as boundaries for surveys and changes of the purchase terms by Congress all combined to create a bureaucratic mess. On Sept. 13, 1794 President George Washington signed the U.S. Patent conveying 248,250 acres to Symmes. Fifteen acres were reserved for Fort Washington and further government use. Symmes was to pay $70,455 for 105,683 acres (66.7 cents/acre) and use military land warrants for 95,250 acres. The total was 200,933 acres. (By comparison, Hamilton County has 256,000 acres.) Congress gave a credit of 33 cents per dollar for land unsuitable for use and for minor charges. Congress also passed a relief act to allow landowners to purchase their property directly from the government. The total of Symmes Purchase was 300,000 acres, only one third of the land he thought to buy.

Indian attacks continued in 1794. Rumors of attacks were circulated to encourage settlers to move into Kentucky and pass Ohio by. Small settlements, isolated and vulnerable, spread along the Ohio and Miami Rivers. Hostile and peaceful Indians died, but both felt the cutting of forest lands destroyed something that the tribes held sacred. The May 17, 1794 edition of William Maxwell’s The Centinel of
the North-Western Territory printed the notice that a citizen’s committee in Cincinnati and Columbia proposed to pay a bounty for Indian scalps with the right ear attached.

In 1795 townships were established. North College Hill and Mt. Healthy are in Springfield Township while College Hill, to the south, is in section 30 and 36 of Millcreek Township. A section is 640 acres. Springfield Township is divided into 42 sections of which 31, 32, 25 and 26 are the heart of North College Hill at the intersection of Hamilton Avenue and Galbraith Road. Mt. Healthy is composed of sections 32, 33, 26 and 27 and is divided by Hamilton Avenue and Compton Road.

The northeast part of each section was called “the forfeit.” If the person who purchased the section did not personally or arrange for another to occupy the land and did not farm it within two years he forfeited 1/6 of his land (106 2/3 acres) to any qualified settler.

As soon as the townships were created and sectioned, pioneers and speculators started to purchase land. Gershom Gard, Ephraim Brown, Abner and Cary Johnson and the Cary brothers, William and Christopher, were a few of such pioneers.

Section 26 was a Congressional section so retained by the government should land be needed for the common good. Christopher Cary purchased the west half of #26 in 1814, later selling 100 acres of the northwest corner to his son Benijah. Sam Hill secured the northeast quarter in 1830. William Snodgrass bought the southeast quarter in 1813. Gershom Gard, purchased 1,280 acres with a Miami land warrant and $200 (sections 31 and 25). His land extended from North Bend Road to Galbraith Road, and from Daly Road to the Colerain Township line. Peter Keen received the forfeit of section 31 and bought 267 acres of that same section. This land was sold to Gard’s son-in-law Ephraim Brown. Gershom later sold to his son, Seth, the 640 acres of section 25 for $640. When Gershom died in 1807 he was buried on his farm in an area he set aside for a family cemetery. He is buried in College Hill off of North Bend Road in Gard Cemetery. Gershom married Phebe Huntington of New Jersey and had nine children. Two of Gershom’s children married into the Ephraim Brown family; Seth (married Mary Brown) and Eunice (married Captain Ephraim Brown). Peter Keen married Jemima Gard and Betsy married Aaron Waggoner, Jr., part of the small group leaving to found Palmyra, Ill. on the Wabash River. According to his obituary, Gershom died Dec. 28, 1806. Phebe followed in 1812. Ephraim Brown was an assistant surveyor on the road from Cincinnati to the mouth of the Big Miami River. In 1795, Symmes sold him the east half of section 32, 320 acres for $100 in military warrants and $160 cash. This area covers Galbraith Road to Compton Road, Hamilton Avenue to Arlington Gardens Cemetery. He later sold this parcel to Peter Laboyteaux. Captain Ephraim Brown built a brick house in 1812 on 267 acres of section 31 that he purchased from his father-in-law, Gershom Gard. Savannah Avenue was once the lane leading to this home. In the street a little circle of grass remains where once the carriage turn-around was.

Freeman G. Cary described Brown as “a man of sterling integrity.” Captain Brown was a Justice of the Peace for Colerain Township and also was a trustee there. He served in the Ohio legislature both in the House and Senate. To fight in the War of 1812, Ephraim raised and outfitted his own cavalry unit. In College Hill he operated a distillery - farmers brought Brown excess fruit to be made by his household into brandy, which had a ready market. He is buried in Gard Cemetery, College Hill. Ephraim’s brother, Israel Brown, served as Judge of the Courts of Common Pleas of Hamilton County.

Israel Ludlow established his residence on land in the Mill Creek valley. His domain included Cumminsville, part of Clifton, part of today’s Spring Grove Cemetery, and a part of Ludlow Station where Chase and Chambers Streets and the railroad yards now are. Ludlow planted a large apple orchard and entertained Johnny Appleseed whenever he was in that area. Charlotte Chambers married Israel Ludlow.

At this time, North Bend had a population total of 300-400, Cincinnati had 900 and Columbia, 1100. In 1793 a smallpox epidemic killed one third of Cincinnati residents.

Troops marched from Fort Washington to establish several forts and repelled Indian skirmishes as they moved north in Ohio, culminating at the Battle of Fallen Timbers.

This decisive battle led to the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. The treaty negotiations lasted two months. Tarhe (the Crane) of the Wyandot represented all of the Ohio tribes - he later led his braves in support of the United States in the War of 1812. The Treaty was expected to be the final settlement of
Indian troubles but problems persisted. Symmes tried to be both fair and kind to the Indians. His reputation allowed him to exert some influence on them. After the Treaty of Greenville, several Indians declared that during the war they had often raised their rifles to shoot him, but, recognizing him, had desisted.

In 1791 Lt. William Henry Harrison came to Fort Washington. He was the son of Benjamin Harrison (V) of Virginia, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and thrice governor of Virginia. William had studied medicine under Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, before entering the army. Later in his life Harrison was on the board of the Medical College of Ohio. Harrison was a religious man and, in 1792, contributed money for the building of the first church in Cincinnati - a 30’ X 40’ cabin whose congregation was lead by the Presbyterian minister, James Kemper.

While stationed there, Harrison disciplined two men for being drunk and disorderly in conduct. He did not know it at the time, but these were civilian employees and were not subject to military rules. Harrison had the men whipped and the men swore a warrant for assault against Harrison. General James Wilkinson was commander at that time and ordered Harrison to stay within the fort, thus evading the civil court. Judge Symmes and Judge McMillan loudly protested this tactic by Wilkinson. Harrison hastily left the fort as escort to Mrs. Wilkinson and her children on their return trip to Pittsburg. Harrison didn’t return to Fort Washington until 1793.

In 1794 William was aide-de-camp to General Anthony Wayne at the Battle of Fallen Timbers (so named because a tornado had toppled many trees in this forest). After this battle, Harrison was promoted as commander of Ft. Washington (1795).

Harrison met Judge Symmes’ daughter, Anna, and the Judge didn’t think he would be successful as a soldier. They reportedly had the conversation: How do you expect to support my daughter? My sword is my means of support, sir. Because of Symmes’ objections, William and Anna were married by a Justice of the Peace while Symmes was out of town (12 Nov., 1795). For several years the young couple lived in Symmes’ old log cabin at North Bend.

Symmes built a second house for himself and his third wife, Susanna Livingston. The house had 26 rooms on a 180 acre lot, cost $8,000 to build and the bricks reportedly came from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The house, “The Chimneys,” was an attempt to keep Susanna happy. As the daughter of a former governor of New Jersey, she preferred life back east to that of North Bend and finally deserted Judge Symmes. To add to Symmes problems, the house was set on fire by a disgruntled office seeker (1811). Not only the house at the foot of Mount Nebo was lost but the documents of deeds and land transactions were also destroyed, making it difficult to settle land disputes which still plagued him. Eventually he sold many of his acres and possessions to satisfy the claims. The fire left him without income except from his lands.

Under Judge Symmes the first roads were planned in the Miami Purchase. North Bend Road, which runs through College Hill today, started as a deer or buffalo trail and most certainly was an Indian pathway. It was also a major military road which ended at North Bend, Ohio and began at the Carthage location of John Caldwell’s mill, on the Mill Creek. Carthage was an early settlement founded by pioneers as they moved north of Cincinnati following the waterway.

Symmes was a widower by his previous two marriages to Ann Tuthill and Mrs. Mary Halsey. He had only two children, Anna T. and Maria (who married Peyton Short). Years later, in 1889, the community of Addyston was platted by Matthew Addy out of the Short Hill estate of heirs of John Cleves Short, grandson of Judge Symmes. John C. Short married his first cousin, Betsy Harrison, daughter of William and Anna Harrison.

Disillusioned and resentful, Symmes’ circumstances forced him to live with Anna and William. Symmes developed cancer. Symmes’ will, quoted in the Evening Post, April 10, 1884, said “… after giving his executor power to settle and divide the proceeds between his sons-in-law (he) bitterly moralized thus: I hope I need make no apology to my children and grandchildren for not having so much property to leave them as might have been expected from the earnings of a long industrious, frugal, and adventurous life, when they recollect the undue methods taken as well by the government of the U.S. as by many individual private characters, to make sacrifice of my hardly earned property at the shrine of
avarice. It has been my particular lot to be treated with the blackest ingratitude by some who now laugh at my calamity, but who would at this day have been toiling in poverty had not my enterprise to this country, my benevolence, or the property which they have plundered from me, made them rich. How dark and mysterious are the ways of heaven."

Harrison was renting a house in Cincinnati at that time and it was here Judge Symmes died on Feb. 26, 1814 at age 72, according to his tombstone. Symmes is buried in Congress Green Cemetery it North Bend, on land he originally set aside for the village square.

Charles Wilson Peale, who is known for his portraits of Washington and Jefferson, painted a portrait of Symmes that hangs at Symmes Hall of Miami University. Symmes set aside for education the tract that Miami University (founded 1809) occupies.

When Harrison was age 25, he was appointed by President Adams as the Secretary to the Northwest Territory, stationed in Cincinnati. Harrison resigned from the army to take this post. As a territorial delegate to Congress, Harrison promoted the division of the Northwest Territory into states. He authored the Harrison Land Act which reduced land speculation by allowing settlers to purchase smaller sections of land than they were previously allowed, at prices they could afford. By reducing the acreage to 320 acre parcels, the settlers were required to put 25% down and had four years to pay. That brought their cost to around $2/acre. In 1800 Harrison was appointed the first Governor of the Indiana Territory. He and his family moved to Vincennes, Indiana in 1803 and built their home “Grouseland” in a walnut grove. Grouseland was two and one half stores high, and was built with fortifications against Indian raids. There were shuttered windows, a closet under the stairs in which to hide, a powder magazine and a rooftop lookout. The well was located in the basement. For a decade Harrison served as Governor, leading the territory into statehood.

Part of Harrison’s fame came from his victory at Tippecanoe. Tecumseh, of the Shawnee, and his brother, The Prophet, claimed that previous treaties were not legal. As Indiana opened its lands for settlement, Harrison had negotiated a treaty in 1809, purchasing from the Indians western Indiana lands lying south of a line that followed the sun’s shadow at 10 AM on September 30. This Treaty of Fort Wayne is what Tecumseh challenged. Tecumseh lost his father and two brothers in fights with the new settlers and moved aggressively to stop further encroachment by pioneers. At Tippecanoe Creek in northern Indiana the power of Tecumseh was broken, and The Prophet killed, as Harrison led troops against an Indian ambush. Tecumseh, who was away from his encampment visiting another tribe when the battle occurred, went into Ontario, Canada. He was made a brigadier in the British army and fought along with several thousand Indians on behalf of the British during the War of 1812. Tecumseh was killed during the War at the Battle of the Thames.

In 1800, Ohio was covered 95% by virgin forest (25 million acres). After fifty years of farming, land clearing and settlement, 54% of the state still had virgin forest. Today, only 100 acres exist statewide.

During Harrison’s governorship of the Indiana Territory, President Thomas Jefferson wrote to him: “Our system is to live in perpetual peace with the Indians, to cultivate an affectionate attachment for them by everything just and liberal which we can do for them within the bounds of reason and by giving them effectual protection against the wrongs from our people. When they withdraw themselves to the culture of a small piece of land, they will perceive how useless to them are the extensive forests and will be willing to pare them off in exchange for necessaries for their farms and families. To promote this, we shall push our trading houses, and be glad to see the good and influential individuals among them in debt, because we observe when these debts go beyond what the individual can pay, they become willing to lop them off by a cession of lands. But should any tribe refuse the proffered hand and take up the hatchet, it will be driven across the Mississippi and the whole of its lands confiscated.”

Harrison resigned as governor to serve as Major General of the Kentucky militia (even though he didn’t live in Kentucky) during the War of 1812. He rose in rank throughout the war, finally commanding all troops in the northwest for the retaking of Detroit and forays into Canada.

This war had popular support. Music of the time had shifted from being primarily religious in subject to political issues and important events. The song “Hail Columbia,” recalling the glories of America, was a favorite during the war.
After the war, Harrison returned not to his home in Vincennes, but to the Symmes farm at North Bend. The log cabin was covered by boards, wing additions built on both sides and the house painted white. At this time, Anna and William had ten children. One, John Scott Harrison, kept the farm going while Harrison served in the Ohio House (1816-19) and Senate (1825-28).

The adjoining town of Cleves was platted by William H. Harrison in 1818. In 1829 he was appointed Minister to Columbia, South America and brought back a macaw that was the family pet for many years.

The Harrison home contained 16 rooms and the farm encompassed 3,000 acres. The house overlooked the Whitewater Canal and the Ohio River. Harrison was a strong backer for building the Miami and Whitewater canals.

Better ways to get farm goods to and from market was a problem. Wagons had difficulties on muddy, rough roads and were limited in size. Flatboats could maneuver only on large streams during high water. The key to market accessibility was the canal network. Harrison sold right of way on his land, assuring his grist mill supplies of grain to grind and a quick way to move the flour to sell. He also sold the canal builders bricks from his brickyard, timber from his land, and stones from his quarry. The canal wasn’t completed until after Harrison’s death and a tunnel on his land along the canal was named for him. The Harrison Tunnel is still standing.

Harrison helped to organize Christ Church (Episcopal) in Cincinnati along with Dr. Daniel Drake, General Arthur St. Clair and Jacob Baymiller. In 1835 Harrison was one of the founders of the Young Men’s Mercantile Library Association - better known as the Mercantile Library, which is still active and is Cincinnati’s oldest library.

Harrison’s background led to the Whig party nominating him for President in 1836 opposite Martin Van Buren, who won the election. During Van Buren’s term there was the severe financial panic of 1837. Even though Van Buren wasn’t responsible for the panic, the people blamed him. In 1840 Harrison ran again, with John Tyler from Virginia as his running mate on the Whig ticket. The Whigs thought the government should re-establish a central bank and improvements by the government should be paid by tariff fees. The Democrats expounded broader states rights, state controlled banks and revenues created by taxation.

This election started political campaigns as we know them today. The slogan “Tippecanoe and Tyler Too” was catchy and easy to remember. A Democratic newspaper called Harrison “... the farmer from North Bend.” Cabin caricature pictures were widely distributed showing raccoon skin lined interior walls which were ornamented with strings of buckeyes suspended from pegs and a barrel of hard cider on the porch. Another paper wrote; “Give him a barrel of cider and... he will sit the remainder of his days content in a log cabin.” This statement was creatively turned by the Whigs into the Log Cabin and Hard Cider slogan. Miniature Old Tipp log cabins and cider jugs became his political insignia. Parades were held at every rally and a cabin of buckeye logs built on a wagon was predominant at every parade. Harrison, at age 67, traveled extensively and stumped as the log cabin candidate. People soon started calling Ohioans buckeyes and buckeye wood canes were a popular campaign item. Dedicated followers, such as Samuel F. Cary, campaigned for Harrison throughout Ohio and Indiana.

A letter from Clarissa Gest described a rally in this campaign: “One of their Banners (has) on one side Harrison guiding the plough and a log cottage in the distance. On the reverse (are) 3 barrels of good hard cider to regale his visitors. The cause of this subject was many of the opposition say he is a farmer in this position and make it their chief objection.”

William Warder, in a March 8, 1840 letter to Erasmus Gest, described a Columbus, Ohio rally where 20,000 people joined a parade as “...Beautiful banners were waving. Log cabins, canoes, brigs, etc. were drawn along on wagons. Whenever the name of Hamilton was uttered, such shouts arose, that you could not speak. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed...”

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2 Source: Cincinnati Enquirer, Builders of ill-fated canal took the hard way, Owen Findsen, October 6, 1996.

3 Inventory of the Erasmus Gest Papers, 1834-1885), Ohio Historical Society library.

4 Inventory of the Erasmus Gest Papers, op. cit.
This was the start of grassroots campaigning even though Harrison was of the Virginia gentry. By the time of Harrison’s election as the ninth President, the buckeye was forever linked with Ohio.

Harrison’s campaign is also credited for introducing the abbreviation “O.K.” into our vocabulary. A Harrison supporter took a wagon full of his neighbors to hear Harrison speak. On the wagon was a sign, “The people is Oll Korrect.” Democratic newspapers derided this as proof of the lack of education and back woods nature of Harrison supporters. Near Springfield a tavern keeper took the farmer’s phrase and changed his tavern’s name to the OK Tavern. When asked about the new name, the tavern keeper explained it meant his tavern was “all right” or “all correct.”

Harrison was exhausted by extensive campaigning and besieged by people wanting favors and political appointments. He rode in his inauguration parade bare-headed and coatless during stormy weather. His inaugural address was two hours long. Harrison developed pneumonia and died 31 days later (April 4, 1841). His was the first funeral to be held in the White House. His local funeral was conducted at Cincinnati’s Wesley Chapel. “Tyler Too” was now the first unelected President.

Anna Harrison (died 1864) never occupied the White House although her son, Col. William H. Harrison Jr., was with his father during that time. Anna and William lost four of their sons before Harrison became president - three sons during his last three years.

William Henry Harrison is claimed by Ohio, Indiana and Virginia - the state of his birth. His home in Vincennes, Indiana has been restored and is open to the public. The Tippecanoe battleground is a state memorial. A statue of him is on Monument Square, downtown Indianapolis.

The familiar statue of him astride his horse, named Fearnought, in Piatt Park downtown Cincinnati, was modeled by Louis Rebisso. Pledges were collected to pay for the pedestal. During the dedication of the monument in the summer of 1892, Samuel F. Cary was a keynote speaker. Piatt Park was named for John James Piatt who moved to North Bend, Ohio in 1868. He and his wife were poets. John was also a journalist, and was named Consul to Cork, Ireland.

Harrison is buried at North Bend. The original tomb had a sod covered, arched roof which was later replaced, and the brickwork has been covered by cement. His tomb site was secured from his heirs by the state of Ohio in 1919.

At one time, steamboats passing the tomb blew their whistles in respect. Mrs. Ruth J. Wells remembered reading that when the Indians were moved from the Northwest Territory they were marched down to the Ohio River and loaded onto steamboats. One of the Indian chiefs died while on the march down and was buried somewhere along the road. The steamboat captain stopped the boat opposite Harrison’s tomb because these Indians had fought under Harrison and wanted to pay homage to their General. Years later (1912) a statue of Harrison’s nemesis, Tecumseh, was erected in Sayler Park, a few miles away from Harrison’s tomb.

It was in 1855 that botanist Dr. John Aston Warder purchased about 300 acres from Mrs. Anna Harrison, who was land poor. Warder designed Cincinnati’s park system, planted Spring Grove Cemetery, established President’s Grove in Eden Park, founded the American Forestry Association, and helped to establish Arbor Day. He bought these acres to enjoy during his retirement. On this property still are trees more than a century old, including the largest buckeye tree in Ohio and the largest English oak in America. This land is now being developed. Reuben Warder, one of his sons, became superintendent of Cincinnati parks. The nursery in Finneytown is named after Reuben.

John Scott Harrison, one of William and Anna’s surviving eight children, was a member of Congress, and had a law practice for a short time with Nicholas Longworth. John gave up his law career to manage his father’s farm at North Bend. He and Elizabeth had eight children. In 1858 the Harrison home, the log cabin of the 1840 campaign, burned and Anna moved in with his family at “The Point,” 600 acres at the mouth of the Big Miami River. His son, Benjamin (born 1833) was taught by private tutors at the North Bend farm.

Another derivation of O.K. is that it stood for Old Kinderhook, a nickname for Martin Van Buren. Van Buren was born in 1782 and grew up in the New York Hudson River Valley village of Kinderhook. In support of his second presidential term, the Democratic O.K. Club was formed.
John Harrison’s granddaughter, Elizabeth Irwin (Harrison) Buckner, gave an interview to the Times Star, May 16, 1940. At that time it was hoped to make this home a national shrine. Mrs. Buckner had several articles of furniture from the old homestead and the hand written will of her great-great-grandfather, Benjamin Harrison who owned the estate he called “Berkeley” on the James River in Virginia.

She remembered her grandfather as “generosity itself. In fact it was his signing of notes for friends that in his later years caused shrinkage of his holdings. There used to be fine orchards at “The Point” But none of the great yield was sold. The neighbors were at liberty to come and take what they wished.” This house was demolished in 1959.

There is a second John Cleves Symmes7 of this area that gets confused with the Judge. This John Cleves Symmes was his nephew; son of the Judge’s brother, Timothy. Timothy was a silversmith, and spent most of his life in New Jersey. Timothy had three sons by his first wife, Abigail Tuthill (sister of Symmes wife Anne) - Daniel, William, and Celadon.

Celadon was the first settler at what is known as Symmes Corner, now part of Fairfield in Butler County, Ohio. Celadon originally purchased a lot in Cincinnati for $8, built a shop and worked for a year at his trade as a silversmith. He sold the shop and lot and went to work for his Uncle Symmes at North Bend in 1790. He became the overseer of the farm and guarded the surveyors as they worked. He wasn’t paid a wage, but received a section of land in Butler County in exchange. During the time he lived at North Bend he was often in danger from the Indians and wild animals. On one occasion his dogs were fighting a wounded mountain lion. When the dogs were losing the fight, Celadon seized the forepaw of the mountain lion and stabbed it to death. Celadon’s son, Benjamin Randolph Symmes, built the first tavern/hotel in Butler County, still standing as the Savings of America Bank at the crossroads of Pleasant Avenue and Nilles Road.

The second John Cleves Symmes was the half-brother of Celadon. He was born in Sussex County, New Jersey in 1780. In 1802 he entered the United States Army as an ensign. He was promoted to Second, then to First Lieutenant, and in 1812 was commissioned a captain. He served through the War of 1812. Early in his military career he was sent to the southwest. While stationed at Fort Adams, fifty miles below Natchez, he fought a duel with another officer in 1807. He was shot in the wrist and never fully recovered its use.

In 1816 he retired from the army and went to St. Louis, where he furnished supplies for the troops in the upper Mississippi and traded with the Fox Indians. From 1819 to 1824 he lived in Newport, Kentucky. In 1824 he moved to his farm near Hamilton, Ohio. This was a section of land which his uncle, John Cleves Symmes, had given him. Judge Symmes gave each of his brother Timothy’s eight sons a portion of land. The farm was sold after Captain Symmes’ death to pay his medical expenses.

While in St. Louis, Capt. Symmes had developed “The Theory of Concentric Spheres, Polar Voids, and Open Poles.” “To all the world: I declare the earth is hollow and habitable within; containing a number of solid concentric spheres, one within the other, and that it is open at the poles twelve or sixteen degrees ....I ask one hundred brave companions, well equipped, to start from Siberia, in the fall season, with reindeer and sleighs, on the ice of the frozen sea; I engage we find a warm and rich land, stocked with thrifty vegetables and animals, if not men...”

This theory wasn’t well accepted by the scientific community. Jules Verne used this idea for his book, “Journey to the Center of the Earth” printed in 1864. Symmes gave many lectures on his hollow earth theory throughout the United States and Canada and, his health impaired, returned to his farm near Hamilton, where he died May 29, 1829. He was interred in the old burying ground with military honors (now a park). His son, Americus Symmes, had a monument erected over his grave. It is of freestone,

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6 North Bend, Ohio

7 Thanks to Mrs. Ruth J. Wells who wrote The Symmes Family in Vol. 5, #4, Oct. 1969 of the Coleraine Pageant. Portions of her text are used here as well as the notes from her 1970 presentation on the Symmes family for the Butler County Historical Society. Thanks also to Karen Forbes Nutting, and Mrs. Ruth Cummins.
surmounted by a hollow globe open at the poles.

There is a third John Cleves Symmes born in Newport, Kentucky in 1824. He was the son of the aforementioned John. He is known for his development of the Symmes (Simz) carbine, Symmes cannon, an air engine, bridge trusses and an air balloon.

An article in *The Gun Report* (May, 1970) mentions that “Major General Thomas S. Jessup knew Captain Symmes well and once commented in writing that he was one of the most gallant officers of his rank, mentioning his service in the Niagara Campaign and of Lundy’s Lane (War of 1812).”

The Harrison family has a link to College Hill. In the fall of 1845 Dr. Robert H. Bishop, former president of Miami University, along with Dr. John Witherspoon Scott, a good friend and fellow educator, joined the staff of College Hill’s Farmers’ College, founded by Freeman G. Cary. Freeman graduated from Miami University in 1832, and had been one of Dr. Bishop’s favorite students. Dr. Bishop was from Edinburgh, Scotland and had already taught twenty years as a professor at Transylvania University (Lexington, Ky.) and twenty years as president of Miami University before coming to Farmers’ College. He was considered “our beloved Father” by many of his pupils and staff wherever he taught.

Benjamin Harrison spent three years under Dr. Bishop, studying history and political economy. Bishop’s textbooks were the public documents sent from his former students that were working in Washington, D.C.

Bishop emphasized facts, asserting: “Other things being equal, that man will succeed best in any given work who has the most facts; Education is getting possession of your mind, so you can use facts as the good mechanic uses tools.” Another of his teachings was that when speaking, either in public or privately, say something that others will remember. Benjamin’s education at Farmers’ College helped him throughout his career to become a noted speaker and writer.

Harrison attended Farmers’ College during 1848, 1849 and 1850. His stay was not without boyhood fun. Cary was known for his piety and strict discipline which made him the target of pranks. Raiding his nearby fruit orchard and rolling a rock filled barrel down a flight of stairs during prayers was led by Murat Halstead, Oliver Nixon, Joseph McNutt and, youngest of all, Benjamin Harrison. Harrison would have graduated in 1851, but Dr. Scott returned to Oxford to become principal of the Oxford Female Institute, and Harrison was in love with Carolyn (Carrie), Dr. Scott’s daughter.

In the fall of 1849 money was so scarce in the Harrison household that it jeopardized continuing both sons education. There was illness in the family and the deaths of their youngest brother and their mother. This problem must have been resolved for Harrison switched colleges, graduating at Miami University in 1852. The following year he studied law in Cincinnati and was admitted to the bar in 1853. He married Caroline Scott (Oct. 1853) and moved his law practice and family to Indianapolis in 1854, starting his road to the presidency from Indiana. Caroline died while they were in the White House (Oct. 1892). He married in 1896 Mrs. Mary Scott Lord Dimmock, a widow and niece of his first wife.

During the Civil War, Harrison served as a Brigadier General. Afterwards he was the Indiana Supreme Court reporter and continued a private law practice. He served as a Senator (1881-87) and successfully ran as a Republican against Grover Cleveland in 1888 to become the 23rd president. Benjamin Harrison was the fourth Civil War general from Ohio to become president. William McKinley, Rutherford B. Hayes, and Ulysses S. Grant were the other three.

His father, John Scott Harrison, died on May 26, 1878 and was buried among the family at Congress Green. He was the son of a president and father of a president. It was noticed at his interment that a near-by grave had been opened and the body removed. At this time medical colleges frequently purchased unearthed bodies for dissection and study, although the policy was illegal. The day after the burial of John S. Harrison, a search warrant for the Ohio Medical College was obtained by John Scott Jr. and John Scott’s grandson, George. During their search they did find a body - that of John Scott senior whom they had buried the day before! The college denied any knowledge of the “resurrectionist” practices. Buying

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*Men of Old Miami, Walter Havighurst, 1974.*
the body back from the Medical College for $3.00, Benjamin Harrison returned for the temporary burial of his father at Spring Grove Cemetery while the tomb at Congress Green was repaired and strengthened. The nation was shocked, and the ensuing publicity made it a major news event of the time.

The 1888 election pitted the president, Grover Cleveland, against Benjamin Harrison as the Republican candidate. Cleveland won the popular vote but Harrison was elected by winning the electoral vote 233 to 168.

During Benjamin’s presidency the Oklahoma land rush started, the zipper was invented, the electric automobile was being tried and color photography became possible. Harrison was known for his honesty. He passed the Disability Pension Act giving pensions to most veterans. The McKinley Tariff Act levied high tariffs to protect domestic agriculture and industries. The Sherman Antitrust Act prevented large monopolies by businesses. Six new states were added: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho and Wyoming. Three of his legacies are the National Park Service, the prominence of the flag on all government buildings and schools and the start of the modern Navy. In 1890 he appointed another Ohioan, William Howard Taft, to the position of Solicitor General. He also appointed John S. Noble, one of his fellow Farmers’ College students, Secretary of State.

Harrison and his wife presided over the restoration of the White House. The First Lady petitioned Congress to have the White House enlarged but failing this, proceeded with remodeling the five bedrooms and one bath executive mansion. The White House’s first electric lights were installed during this presidency. The Harrisons were fearful of shocks and were so uncertain of electricity that an engineer was responsible to turn on the parlor and hall lights at night and turn then off in the morning (1891).

Carrie started the Presidential china collection. China painting was her hobby and she designed the china with a wide cobalt border painted with golden ears of corn. The Presidential eagle is in the plate center. His family erected up the first White House Christmas tree, a tradition that continues.

Carrie did not live through her husband’s presidential term. She died of tuberculosis in 1892 while still living in the White House. Harrison died on March 13, 1901, several years after he was defeated at the polls by Grover Cleveland. Benjamin Harrison’s three-story, sixteen room home, built in 1874, is open in Indianapolis (1230 N. Delaware Street) as a museum.

Suggested Reading:
It Happened ‘Round North Bend, Marjorie Byrnside Burress, 1970
A Devotion to the West: The Settlement of Cincinnati 1788-1810, Carol Jean Blum, Spring 1990, Queen City Heritage, Cincinnati Historical Society.
Chief Little Turtle, Indiana Historical Bureau, Indianapolis Indiana.
William Henry Harrison, Indiana Historical Bureau, Indianapolis, Indiana.
The Centinel of the North-Western Territory, Nov. 8, 1793, May 17, 1794 (microfilm, Cincinnati Historical Society).
William Henry Harrison Comes to Cincinnati, Hendrik Booraem V, Queen City Heritage, Vol. 45, Fall 1987, #3.
The Log Cabin Song (tune of Yankee Doodle)

It rather seems than humbug schemes
Can never more cajole up;
There’s such a run for Harrison
That nothing can control us!

The western world the flag’s unfurled,
No future can divide her;
And all the rest will sign the text,
“Log Cabin & Hard Cider!”

When our frontiers were drenched in tears,
Their cabin sack’d and gory;
He struck the blow, chastised the foe,
And conquered, peace with glory!

(Refrain)
Then join the throng and swell the song,
Extend the circle wider;
And lead us on for Harrison
“Log Cabin & Hard Cider!”
Chapter 2  Early College Hill

Samuel Freeman Cary wrote of the beginning days of College Hill in an address he gave to the Pioneer Association in 1879. "Our pioneers are passing away so rapidly that soon not one will remain who can speak from his own personal knowledge and experience of the homes, the habits, the customs, the amusements, the trials and incidents of pioneer life in the Valley of the Ohio. Those who will soon occupy our places will know only from what they hear how we lived. Even now, when we give an unembellished account of what occurred, the generations which are taking our place regards our truthful narratives as false, as overdrawn and extravagant pictures. Though one of the youngest of the pioneers, it has occurred to me that I might render a service by giving a brief sketch of what has passed before my own eyes, and relate incidents in which I have participated. My purpose is two fold - to recall to the failing memories of the aged, scenes through which they have passed, and exhibit to those who are crowding us from the busy stage of life how we spent the early years of our earthly probation: how we lived before the cities, villages, cultivated farms and costly palaces were established.

Our Homes

Our dwellings were built of round logs, just as they were found in the primeval forest. Occasionally a pioneer would construct a palatial residence by hewing the logs on the outside. The logs were notched near the ends with an ax, for the double purpose of holding them firmly and bringing them nearer together. The spaces were filled with split sticks and clay. When the logs were cut in the proper lengths they were dragged to the spot selected for the cabin, and the neighbors for miles around were invited to the 'house-raising.' With hand-spikes, forks and 'skid poles' the logs were raised to their position, and a man with his ax on each corner prepared the notches. In this way a cabin one story high was soon erected. The gables were formed by beveling each end of the logs, making them shorter and shorter until the ridge-pole was laid on. These logs in the gable were held in place by poles extending across the house from end to end, which served also as rafters on which to lay the 'clapboard' roof. These clapboards were rived out of a straight-grained white or black oak or ash tree, sawed into lengths of five or six feet. They were laid beside each other and the joints covered with another so as to effectually keep out the rain. Logs were laid upon these shingles to keep them in place, blocks of wood between them keeping them in position. The cross-cut saw was put in requisition to make openings for the doors and windows and fireplace. The logs, where cut off, were held in place by pinning split sticks on the ends, which served also as lintels.

The doors were made of clapboards, fastened with wrought nails upon cross-pieces, which, being bored near the end, constituted the hinges, and were hung upon pins fastened upon the lintels.

The doors were opened from without by a string passing through a gimlet-hole in the door and hanging outside. It was locked at night by pulling in the string. From this incident originated that saying when hospitality was tendered: 'You will find the latch string always out.'

The cabin fireplace was always ample, often extending more than half-way across the house. The chimney was built on the outside sometimes of stone and mortar, but more commonly with split sticks laid crossways and then dubbed with 'cat and clay,' an admixture of mud and straw. Some of us remember with pleasure the large, green back log and the ample log-heap fire which imparted both light and warmth to the family group gathered about the old hearth stone. The floors above and below were made of split plank called 'puncheons.' The cellar, which was simply a hole in the ground, was entered by removing a short puncheon between two of the sills.

The loft above was reached by a rough ladder, the sides of which were a split sapling, and the rounds were sticks, the ends passing through auger-holes in the sides, and made secure by wooden wedges. The lower room answered the purpose of kitchen, sitting-room, parlor and bed-room. If crowded with company, some were sent into the 'loft' to sleep.

The site of the cabin was chosen with reference to the accessibility to water. If there was no spring, a

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9 From the collection of Mrs. Ruth J. Wells.
well was often dug before the building site was determined. Sometimes two cabins were built near
together and connected by a rude hall-way between them. This was called a double cabin.

**Pioneer Furniture**

The furniture was simple and easily inventoried. The bedstead sometimes consisted of dogwood
forks passing through the puncheon floor to the ground. Small saplings were placed in the forks for a
bed-rail and upon these clapboards were laid for a bottom. Our pianos were a large and small spinning
wheel, the former for spinning the woolen rolls and the latter for the flax. Their music was heard through
the day and often far into the night. A woman spinning upon the large wheel stepped backward as she
drew and twisted the thread from the roll, and forward as she wound it upon the spindle, placing her in
more charming and graceful attitudes than were ever exhibited in a drawing or ballroom. It may be that
her feet were bare and her dress of ‘linsey woolsey,’ but her symmetry of form and her graceful motion
were better shown than when clothed in costly and fashionable attire.

When the spindle was well filled the reel was put in requisition, and we have witnessed with what
exultation she tied the knot when the snapping of the reel announced that the last of twelve cuts (a good
day’s work) were ready for the loom. We can appreciate the beauty of Solomon’s description of a
virtuous woman when he says: ‘he seeketh wool and flax and worketh willingly with her hands; she
layeth her hands to the spindle and her hands hold the distaff.’ In one corner of the cabin stood the loom
for weaving our cloth for shirts, pantaloons, frocks, sheet and blankets, and near the fire the dyeing-tub,
the perfumes from which were not like the Attar of Rose.

The outer walls of the cabin were often nearly covered with the skins of rabbits, raccoons, bear and
deer, stretched to dry, to be converted into articles of dress or exchanged for ‘store tea’ or calico.

A green handspike rested against the side of the chimney, with which to roll in or adjust the logs. A
similar stick passed through the chimney above the blazing fire, called a ‘lug pole,’ suspended on this was
a forked stick, having a wooden peg in the lower end, which served as a crane to hang on the pot or kettle.
The andirons were large stones. The beef or mutton roast, the pig, the opossum or turkey was suspended
by a string fastened to a wooden peg over the fireplace, and cooked before the blazing fire. The gravy, as
it oozed from the meat, was caught in an iron pan resting on the hearth. Ever and anon the attendant
turned the meat around, basting it with the dripping fat properly seasoned. In the corner nearby was the
covered skillet filled with biscuit, with the glowing embers above and beneath, or a corn pone, or ‘Johnny
cake’ upon a clapboard at an angle of forty-five degrees. Persons may boast of their cooking appliances
and fancy dishes, but give us the corn bread baked upon a board before the cabin fire and the barbecued
opossum or pig in preference to all the scientific cookery of modern times. Our best table dishes were
of pewter, and the bowls and spoons of that material were kept as bright as polished silver. ‘The old
oaken bucket that hung in the well,’ fastened to the well sweep by a wild grape-vine, and the gourd tied to
the curb, are among the pleasant recollections of our early homes. Pioneers arrived on horseback or
with wagons. Some simply walked the distance carrying all they owned. Cooking utensils were scarce
because of their weight. The most common utensil was a skillet with a lid. A skillet could be used for
many things including baking bread. The corn dough could also be baked on a long board placed near the
fire. When one side was browned, the bread would be turned over and baked the same way (Johnny-
cake). Lacking a board or skillet, bread could be baked on a metal hoe, with the handle removed, that was
greased with bear fat (hoe cake). Bread could also be baked on the edge of the hearth. The dough would
be wrapped in cabbage leaves or fresh corn husks and buried in the ashes (ash cake). Pots were made out
of clay and fired to hardiness, without a glaze. Fats from meat would leach out to cover the outside of the
pots. Later, a covered three legged pot became popular which simplified boiling water and cooking. Stews
were the mainstay as this pot was kept perpetually boiling on the fire. Whatever vegetables dug up were
added, along with various meats.

**Habits and Customs**

We were self-reliant and combustively independent. Every family did a little of everything. We
made our own cloth out of our own raw materials; manufactured our own soap, and dipped our own
biscuits. When we killed a sheep, or calf, or bullock, we sent pieces to our neighbors, and they, in turn,
performed the same kind office for us. We, in this way, had a supply of fresh meat without the aid of a
professional butcher and without money. The shoe maker and tailor, with their kits of tools, made their semi-annual rounds to make or mend our shoes and coats, the materials for which were provided beforehand by the head of the family. Our inventory of furniture would be incomplete did we omit to mention the flint-lock rifle, or musket, with powder horn, shot or bullet-pouch, all of which were placed upon wooden forks fastened to the upper joists.

In the loft was an ample supply of catnip, sage, tansy, pennyroyal, wormwood, elecampane, dog fennel and boneset, gathered in their season. These constituted the materia medica of the pioneer.

‘Apothecary medicine’ was not much in demand. Strings of dried-apples, peaches and pumpkins hung in graceful festoons from the rude rafters, while the winter’s store of hazel, hickory, walnuts and butternuts covered the upper floor. To guard against the ague, a jug of bitters composed of cherry, dogwood bark and prickly ash berries was provided. To ward off attacks of worms among the children, tansy or wormwood bitters was regularly administered.

Hospitality was hearty and unbounded. No visiting by card, no primping or simpering, none of the heartless formalities of modern artificial society. ‘Bring your knitting and stay a week,’ was the outspoken invitation. Whatever was provided for the table was placed at once before the guests; and without apologies or ‘courses,’ all were expected to help themselves. Manners, customs, and habits have changed, perhaps for the better; but the memory will cling with fondness to those of other days. It gratifies our pride to have all the adventitious aids in preparing and serving our food. It is pleasant to have a house of eight or ten rooms, each supplied with its appropriate furniture and adornments; but we very much doubt whether these things make us more happy or contribute greatly to our family and social enjoyment.

**Our Libraries and Schools**

The library of the intelligent pioneer consisted of the Bible and hymn-book, Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress, Fox’s Book of Martyrs, Baxter’s Saints’ Rest, Hervey’s Meditations, Aesop’s Fables, William Riley’s narrative, Gulliver’s Travels and Robinson Crusoe.

The school books were very few; that for beginners was a paddle with the alphabet and words of two letters pasted on one side, and baker, cider, &c., on the other. This answered the double purpose of instruction and punishment.

The school house, like the dwelling, was built of logs, with a window one pane of glass wide extending the whole length of the house. Sometimes in place of glass, paper greased with raccoon fat was the substitute. The seats were made of slabs or ‘puncheons.’

Our schools were sustained by subscription, and our teachers received from $8 to $12 per month for their services and ‘boarded round’ with their patrons. On certain festive days the custom prevailed of ‘barring out’ the teacher, the pupils not permitting him to enter the school room until he treated to cider, apples, gingerbread or candy. Our old fashioned schools were excellent and the boys and girls obtained a good, practical primary education. On account of the sparseness of the population and the work to be done at home, in which the young of both sexes had to lend a helping hand, we had usually but ‘two quarters’ of school in a year.

**Our Wardrobes**

Our clothing was mostly of domestic manufacture. Our shirts were made of linen tow. The men and boys raised the flax, broke and swingled it, and the women hetcheled, spun and wove and made up the garments. The recollection of the new tow shirt with its prickling ‘shives’ almost makes us scratch as of yore. Toweling, tablecloths and bed linen were of the same material, as well as our summer pantaloons, frocks and aprons.

The winter garments of both sexes and all ages were made of wool shorn from our own sheep, carded, spun, colored and then woven in our own looms. Sheep-washing was regarded by the boys as fine sport. The sheep were confined in a pen near a running stream of water, then taken one by one into the stream and cleansed. After being left a few days for the wool to dry, the fleeces were shorn with shears made for the purpose. This, as I remember it, was hard work.

**Our Farming Utensils**

Our farm implements were few and simple. The ax was in the most constant use, and was always
kept in good order. A maul, a few iron wedges, which were supplemented with others made of dogwood, were in constant use in making rails. A wooden mold-board plow, a harrow with wooden or iron teeth, log chains, a ‘bob-sled,’ a wagon, a cross-cut saw, a few augers of different sizes, a gimlet, a hammer, a hoe and grubbing hoe, a rake, a flax-break, a swingling-board, a couple of threshing machines, which consisted of two sticks fastened together with a piece of raw hide, called a flail, constituted the principal outfit. Two or three neighbors joined in the purchase of a winnowing mill to clean grain.

Our Domestic Animals

In addition to a small flock of sheep, every farmer had a team of horses, and, if from New England, he was supplied with at least one yoke of oxen. For piling logs in a clearing or breaking up new ground oxen were preferred to horses. A cow or two was indispensable, and droves of hogs of all ages, gathering the mast, filled the woods. Their ownership was determined by marks or slits in the ear. Geese were kept principally for their feathers. A feather bed in an open cabin was a luxury in a winter’s night. We had a great variety of dogs, and sometimes a half dozen claimed the same master, and found their kennel under the same cabin floor. To protect our sheep and cows from the wolves that prowled and howled about at night, we often were compelled to ‘corral’ them in a rail pen about the house. These stealthy and vagrant pests were afraid to venture near the light of the cabin fire. Our fowls were often captured by the minx, the opossum or raccoon. Our sheep folds were sometimes invaded by hungry dogs, and many a poor cur had to suffer the extreme penalty of the law for crimes of which he was not guilty, by an exasperated sufferer from canine cruelty. The half starved yellow dog and the ravening wolf alike played havoc with the farmers’ flocks.

Our Amusements

Those who suppose that pioneer life was one of continual hardship - ‘all work and no play’ - are very greatly mistaken. We had our amusements, which, if not as refined as those of more modern times, were as exciting and enjoyable. The pursuit of game with the faithful dog and trusty gun relieved the monotony of daily toil. The forests abounded with squirrel, wild turkey and deer. We trapped the rabbits and quails and other small game. ‘Coon and ‘possum hunting at night furnished much amusement.

Pleasure was often combined with business. House-raising, log-rolling and husking frolics were frequent and were attended by old and young. Corn-huskings in the fall were universal. The ears were torn from the stalk unhusked and deposited in a long row upon a table. We were assembled in the evening, captains were chosen, who divided the heap as near the middle as possible. They selected their men alternately, and being arranged under their respective leaders the contest began. The husks were thrown backward and the ears of corn forward. The company that finished first was the winner and had the first swig at the bottle and the chief seats at the royal feast which followed. Often times daylight revealed the fact that the unhusked corn was found both among the shucks and the corn heap.

Young people in the fall and winter evenings were often assembled at a quilting or apple-cutting party. When the quilt was finished, or the apples peeled, quartered and cored, and a sumptuous feast was disposed of, all united in a dance or in some play. The old pioneers will remember with what spirit and enthusiasm they marched with their partners and sang:

Oh, sister Phebe, how merry were we
The night we sat under the juniper tree,
   The juniper tree, the juniper tree,
      Hei oh! &c., &c.
Or -
We are marching forward to Quebec!
   The drums are loudly beating,
      America has gained the day,
      The British are retreating...

Seldom were these joyful occasions marred by an unpleasant incident, or by excesses in eating or drinking; but at an early hour in the morning each young man went home with his girl, only to repeat the enjoyment at some other cabin on the next moonlight night.
Conclusion

We could indulge in these reminiscences almost without limit; we could speak of our rude churches, our camp meetings, our unlettered pioneer preachers, their style of sermons, and many other things which crowd upon the memory, but we have exceeded the limits prescribed.

We will only add that these scenes have passed, and in a few more years those who have participated in them will have become pioneers to another country, and be there followed by a ceaseless stream of emigrants from this changing world.

May we not hope as one generation passeth away and another cometh that each succeeding one may attain a higher degree of excellence than its predecessor, and become wiser, better, happier?
Chapter 3  The Land and People

The first settler was Aaron Waggoner who built a log cabin in 1796, slightly south of today’s location of North Bend and Argus Roads. This was the forfeit of section 30. What was land worth at that time? Land near Cincinnati was being sold for a cow, or an axe worth one dollar, seventy-eight acres for 19 pounds and 10 shillings, and one property lot with a 100 foot front was exchanged for a pair of $2 moccasins.

In the same year (1796) Richard Hankins petitioned John Cleves Symmes for the forfeit of section 36, having already built a house and lived there for the required seven years. Near North Bend Road and Oakwood he built his two-story log cabin. This cabin remained there for more than 100 years, hidden under weather boarding until around 1900, when it was moved to Betts Avenue in West College Hill. This land was later the residences of the Henshaw, McCrea, Emerson and Wild families.

The forfeit was 106 2/3 acres located in the northeast corner of every section of the Miami Purchase. To purchase the forfeit, the settler must have lived on the land and build a house within two years or he would forfeit this land to any other pioneer who met the qualifications and applied for the land from Symmes.

In October of 1796, John C. Symmes sold a large tract of land to Nehemiah Tunis. Nehemiah sold a portion to his nephew Jabez, who in turn sold 491 acres of section 30 to William Cary, Sept. 8, 1813, for $7 an acre and 75 adjacent acres north of North Bend Road.

Some of the pioneers came in a wave from Vermont. The Vermont and northeast weather was unusually severe in 1816, leading to that time being referred to as “Eighteen Hundred and Froze to Death.” The first two weeks of September had the first warm weather of that year (70 degrees) which was 25 degrees higher than in May. Farmers, devastated by a year of no crops, left for warmer climates.

College Hill was known for being healthy. The valley below was filled with crowded housing and industry which was polluting the Mill Creek even back then. Because of the elevation and the frequent breezes, ‘the Hill’ was known for the longevity of its residents. By the 1850’s College Hill contained many summer homes of Cincinnati’s wealthy.

Samuel Cary describes in his Historical Sketch of College Hill and Vicinity10 the forests of College Hill as: “...trees large, of great variety, and superior quality. The variety embraced white, red, black and chestnut oak, white and yellow poplar, white and blue ash, hard and soft maple, cherry,11 black walnut, butternut, linn, beach (sic), hickory, buckeye, gum, sassafras, black and honey locust, mulberry, coffee nut, hackberry, and iron wood, with a thick undergrowth of dogwood, red bud, sumac, and pawpaw. Among the exuberant smaller vegetation were May apples, ginseng, ferns, dog fennel, pennyroyal, burdock, yellow dock, plantain, black berries, milk and iron weed, red and black haws, wild grapes, hazelnuts and wild plums.

The timber on these two sections (30 and 36), if restored to their primitive condition, would sell for more money than the land is now worth, even with its proximity to a great city. The best black walnut, ash, and oak timber were split into fence rails. Trees which could not be thus utilized were cut and piled into large heaps and burned...Your historian has aided in burning single walnut trees which were too much curled to make rails, that would now readily bring two thousand dollars (1886).”

Game was abundant and “made to succumb by the flint lock musket or rifle, were deer, wild turkeys, wolves (occasionally a bear), raccoons, opossums, squirrels, rabbits, quail and pigeons. The howling of the wolves at night was terrible. To protect sheep and other stock from becoming a prey, they were driven into a rail pen built around the cabin. The light of the fire showing through the chinking between the logs kept them at bay. With all this care and precaution these pests sometimes decimated our flocks.

The raccoons and opossums often played havoc with our poultry. At certain seasons of the year squirrels gray and black were very abundant, and made their raids upon our patches of corn, completely

11 Cherry was prized for furniture and later, black walnut was the favorite wood used.
destroying the outside rows, especially if near the woods. ‘Coon and opossum hunting at night furnished rare sport. The turkeys were very abundant, were large and fat, and were of finer flavor than when domesticated. This, no doubt, must be attributed to the mast upon which they fed. They were very wild, and seemed instinctively to know when the hunter was near, and at the slightest noise would run with the speed of a horse, or fly beyond the reach of the rifle. They were often caught in traps...

Quails were often caught in nets constructed for the purpose. Thirty or more were sometimes taken at a single haul....Flocks of unnumbered millions of pigeons, by which their numbers darkened the sky, and by their movements produced a roaring like the waves of the sea, were often seen. Day and night the air was black with them. Occasionally a flock would alight in the woods in such numbers as to break large branches from the trees. In Kentucky and Tennessee there were roosts to which they habitually resorted. In such places the trees were so broken down by them as to lead an observer to conclude that a tornado had passed by. They could be killed in such numbers as to fatten hogs upon their carcasses. In the spring of the year they passed here going northward, and in the fall they made their way to the south, occasionally pausing to feast upon the acorns and beach nuts of our forests.

I remember of felling a large hickory tree near our residence late in the evening without any suspicion that it was inhabited. Returning in the morning more than a barrel of honey was upon the ground. In falling, the tree split open in the hollow part, and the honey had been displaced. The flowers of basswood or linden and the locust furnished the bees with material for the manufacture of a winter’s supply of provisions. Almost every pioneer had his hives of bees, which were usually sections of hollow logs.

Wild grapes, pawpaws, persimmons, wild plums, mulberries and May apples were the native fruits of this region. Hickory nuts, black walnuts, butter and hazel nuts were abundant. The heavy mast of beech nuts and acorns in their season invited a large migration of squirrels, turkeys and pigeons, and enabled the pioneer farmer whose corn crop was limited to fatten his hogs. Considerable attention was given by the settlers to the growing of apples, cherries and peaches. The first orchards were very thrifty in their growth, and bore large quantities of delicious fruits. Peach trees grew almost spontaneously, and although of native growth, the fruit was larger and more luscious than any of the budded or grafted fruit of the present day. We had to share our cherries with the woodpecker and the blue jay, which were then numbered by the thousands....the supply of peaches was enormous, far beyond the demand of our limited market. My Father, during the peach season, sent, six days in the week, a large two-horse wagon loaded to the Cincinnati market. Those of superior size and quality would retail at four cents a peck, while inferior ones, like the best of the present day, could hardly sell off at any price. We took thousands of bushels to Jessup or Brown’s distillery. College Hill was known for its maple syrup, molasses and honey. ‘Peach and Honey’ was a beverage considered second only to the fabled nectar of the gods. Cincinnati, then a place of a few thousand inhabitants, was our only market, and it was easily gotten with provisions of all kinds. The prices were extremely low. Pork was one dollar per hundred pounds; turkeys, ten cents; chickens, fifty cents per dozen; eggs, two and three cents per dozen; corn, ten and twelve cents per bushel; cider from fifty to seventy-five cents per barrel; butter from five and ten cents per pound.

In wet and springy places logs were laid across to keep teams from miring. These causeways were exceedingly rough. Rough and bad as the road was between the creek and the hill and the Millcreek, it was much better than between the creek and the head of Main street. I can well remember Gen. Anthony Wayne’s Trace as it was called, being the road out through the wilderness for the passage of his army in 1792. It could be identified by the absence of large trees and the undergrowth along the line. The route from ‘Ludlow’s Station’ north was on the ridge east of Z. Strong’s residence, thence along...

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12. While raccoons were eaten, the opossum flesh was a delicacy.

13. The roads of that time were based on Indian trails and geography that permitted the easiest passage. Huston or Hill Road was the name of Hamilton Pike back then, still later to be named Hamilton Avenue. It also was named Mt. Pleasant Road as it wound its way to Hamilton, Ohio. At one time Hamilton Avenue was also called ‘dug hill and it passed to the west of where it is now located, near the site of Samuel Caldwell’s stone house.
where the Sanitarium stands. Near the residence of I. Wise, I remember of seeing a number of beach (sic) trees with the names of the soldiers cut in the bark with the date of their occupation of the spot.14

The “valley road” or “military road” was Spring Grove Avenue. Wagons laden with military supplies, artillery and the main body of soldiers went this way.

Before 1835 the Colerain Road was the main route through Venice and Oxford, Ohio and Richmond, Indiana. S. F. Cary wrote: “The older residents will remember when this great highway was corded with hogs from Venice to Cincinnati. For days and weeks the shouting of the drivers and the squealing of the swine was incessant from early morning far into the night. The mud was so deep and the traveling so difficult that a drove could not make more than from four to six miles per day. Every field was put in requisition at night and every farm house was crowded with drovers, so that the floors were covered with the muddy and tired sleepers.”15

After 1835 the Colerain and Oxford Turnpike (following Colerain Avenue) opened, diverting hog traffic away from College Hill entirely.

Hogs were a major industry in 1833. Corn was the major area crop and raising pigs and distilling liquor was a profitable, convenient way of taking the corn to market. Hogs and whiskey were the most efficient way of disposing of the corn and excess fruit crops; it was easier to sell, wouldn’t spoil, simpler to transport than heavy wagons and was marketable at a profit. By 1833, Cincinnati held the title of “Porkopolis.”

What did they do with all those half million pigs (1848) that were slaughtered yearly? The dye color Prussian blue16 was made from the blood. Pork was salted and cured as bacon. Mess pork was used in the U.S. and British Navies. Prime pork was packed for ship use. Clear pork, a better cut, went to New England and lesser cuts used for bait by mackerel fisheries. Bulk pork was used immediately or was smoked and sent down river to southern smoke houses. Some meat was pickled. Intestine casings contained sausage. Lard was exported to England, France and Cuba. Lard was refined into lard oil. Stearin, a by-product of the rendering process, was made into candles and soap. Lard oil was used to adulterate sperm whale oil and in France, was mixed with olive oil to lower the price. Lard grease was used in soap. Bristles were used in brushes. What was left unused from the hog became prussiate of potash that was used in colored printing inks.

By 1835 Cincinnati city council decided to change the way butcher stalls were rented from that of a fixed rate to auctioning them off to the highest bidder. The butcher’s went on strike in 1836 before the auction was held. Rebekah Gest17 wrote to her son, Erasmus, on May 12 of that year: “...the Butchers have kept us without Beef or Lamb for the past week. They will not permit the Stalls to be sold at auction to the highest bidder, as they were last year, so they intend to fast us into measures. This evening a crier proclaimed through town that they intend to have Beef at their Stalls tomorrow morning...the Butchers have to pay one dollar per day for the use of each stall until they submit to the regulations of council... (May 13). Many of our Citizens have not purchased one ounce of meat from them this morning...and on their Stalls the meat out to be let remain until it spoiled.”

On May 27, Erasmus’s sister, Clarissa wrote “...the Butchers do not all attend and the meat is very inferior to what it was. There was a rumor that they intended leaving and buying up the cattle to take with them; if they did, our markets would be soon refilled. Many, many will not buy from them. They must certainly feel very disappointed in the effects of their strike.”

As the population grew, more roads were added. Petitions filed to create roads are a good profile of neighborhood residents. Such a petition was filed in 1849 to reopen a part of Arnold Road, now Argus

14 History of College Hill and Vicinity, Samuel Fenton Cary, 1886.
15 History of College Hill and Vicinity, op cit.
16 The term ‘Prussian blue’ is rarely used today because of the lack of general knowledge about Prussia and where it was located.
17 Inventory of the Erasmus Gest Papers, 1834-1885, Ohio Historical Society library.

An interesting old house is still standing at 2320 North Bend Road, just outside of College Hill’s current boundaries. George W. C. Hunter occupied this site in 1830, probably in the brick house still there. The timbers used for the house and barn came from the land itself and bricks were made on the site.

Mrs. Dorothy S. Wurzelbacher wrote: “George W. C. Hunter in turn sold to David Conkling in 1835. The next owners were Edmund and Margaret Hale who sold the house and over 50 acres to John R. and Sarah Hatfield in 1834 for $1,425. Hatfield is listed as Recorder of the village of Mt. Airy at the time of incorporation on Oct. 30, 1865. The house and land were forfeited for back taxes in 1867 and a deed was conveyed to Frederick Blum in 1869 by the Hamilton County Auditor.

The first owners who were not farmers were Samuel W. and Susie A. Ramp who lived in the house from 1881 to 1897. He was a self-educated man who rose high in the ranks of the Third National Bank and was also related to the Simpson family of College Hill. The Ramps were reported to have had many parties in this charming house.

In 1897, Joseph A. Brigel (great grandfather of my husband, Dr. Richard T. Wurzelbacher) obtained ownership of the house at a sheriff’s auction. He had hoped his only child, Eleanor Brigel Dolle, would want to live there but she never did. The house was rented to various people including a Mrs. Brady, who raised show horses. Family stories are also told about bootleggers operating on the premises for a short period of time during the prohibition era. Some remodeling was done during this period including the installation of indoor plumbing.

The home was first occupied by a Brigel family member when Marion Dolle Wurzelbacher (granddaughter of Joseph Brigel) and Milton Wurzelbacher returned in Mt. Airy in 1925, after a brief residence in the New York City area. Milton Wurzelbacher founded the Cincinnati Dowel and Wood Products Co. and was a major supplier of bungs to the many breweries in Cincinnati and throughout the country.

They restored this historic landmark, adding a wing to the back (a porch and laundry) and a downstairs bathroom. They also preserved the fine old barn to the rear of the grounds. Remnants of an old barn yard and several old cisterns can still be found on the property. Various other outbuildings, including an old brick smoke house which has been removed, also were on the property.

The house was listed on the Ohio Historic Inventory in 1977. It is an excellent example of a single story brick Greek Revival country house with a recessed entrance and two interior chimneys on each gable end and a symmetrical facade. A picturesque well still stands near the back door and the handsome barn remains in use.

Milton Wurzelbacher died in 1975 and Marion remained in the house until her death in 1989 at the age of 91 years. She lived in this house for over 64 years. Her grandson, Thomas Wurzelbacher, now occupies the house and enjoys this historic landmark.”

In 1937 Eleanore Dolle submitted to the City of Cincinnati, a plan to develop Breeze Hill subdivision. The family did not initiate construction until Joseph Brigel’s great-great-grandson, Richard, redesigned the street plat. The original names, Breeze Hill and Sweetbriar, were retained in the 40 acre Sweetbriar Estate Condominiums on Kipling Avenue.

One thing that Cary did not mention was the cholera epidemics that caused people to move further and further from the core Cincinnati basin. The downtown area is elevated just enough to escape yearly flooding. As the city developed, increased population and industrialization brought crowded conditions, disease and a blanket of smoke that hovered above the city. But it was the river that brought cholera to

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18 Source: Dorothy S. Wurzelbacher
Cincinnati.

Cholera was a scourge from 1832-34, 1839, and in 1847-1852. There was no cure. It spread rapidly and people could die only a few hours after experiencing symptoms. Eight hundred died in the first Cincinnati epidemic. So many orphans resulted from this disease that the Cincinnati Orphan Asylum was founded. Wesleyan Cemetery was founded in 1843 because existing cemeteries were filled by cholera dead.

Thought to be caused by impure air, vapors and fogs that formed in valleys, those who could left Cincinnati for the country - up to the cleaner air of the surrounding hills. Mt. Pleasant changed its name to Mt. Healthy by those fleeing this plague.

In downtown, fires were lit on every corner, believing the smoke would dispel the miasma. Night and day these fires burned, even in the heat of summer. People would inhale the smoke, cough and continue on their way thinking that the coughing would help prevent the disease. Over the basin a shroud of smoke hung. The water supply, pumped directly from the river - which mingled sewerage and offal - was not suspect.

Cholera reappeared in April of 1833 and a pattern emerged. The disease would start in April, stopped by the time of frost, with most deaths occurring from June to August.

Peter P. Laboyteaux in 1830 sold his farm (in today’s North College Hill) and along with his second wife, Margaret Cameron, moved to Henry Co., Indiana. Mrs. Ruth J. Wells wrote in the Pageant,19 “This was an unfortunate move for Margaret. The history of Henry County relates that Squire Batson brought the cholera there after a trip to Cincinnati in 1833. Margaret nursed him, caught the cholera, and both were dead in less than a week. Margaret’s oldest daughter, Elizabeth Ross, of Newcastle, Indiana took care of her mother, in turn catching the cholera and carrying it to Newcastle, where she and two children perished within three weeks.”

The longest and worst period of cholera was 1847-1852. At the Jackson Tavern (north east corner of Walnut & 12th Streets), all of the occupants of the inn, innkeeper Jacob Wise and his family, a total of 25 people, died in one day of the disease that entered their door that morning from an ill traveler. Cases occurred where the unwashed clothing of the deceased was sent to relatives. The person who opened the box usually died first. Even the person washing the clothes died. Clothing was prized highly and less easily obtained than now. Mrs. Ruth J. Wells remembers her mother recalling from her childhood that people walking along the street would fall over and were picked up by cart or wagon and taken to the nearest hospital. But seldom did the treating physician die even though he breathed the sick room air.

Mrs. Alice (Davey) Ante sent the following cholera treatment from Grandma Davey’s recipe book of 1826, recopied in 1893.

The Bingal Chronicle (1831?)
1 oz. Of cinnamon water
1 oz. Of ipecacuanha
35 drops of tincture of opium
1 drachm spirits of lavender
2 drachms tincture of rhubarb
To be taken at once and the complaint will be instantly relieved.

Cincinnati’s 1849 population was 116,000 of which 4,600 died of cholera in one year. The breakdown of deaths by ethic groups is interesting. German, Irish and Jewish populations reported the most deaths, due to living in crowded tenements with poor sanitation. At this time more than 100 died every day for a six week period. Rev. James Kemper and Dr. Daniel Drake’s granddaughter died in the epidemic.

The causative agent of cholera was not discovered until 1883. But Dr. John Snow of England urged

19 Source: Coleraine Township Historical Society
greater water sanitation in 1849 and demonstrated that cholera declined in London when better sanitation was followed.

This is not to minimize the effect of other epidemics that impacted our city. A 1793 smallpox epidemic killed a third of Cincinnati’s residents. The flight of the more affluent to the suburbs is not unique to Cincinnati. In Louisville and New Orleans, cholera and yearly outbreaks of yellow fever had affluent residents moving away to the far suburbs for the duration of the summer.

Cary didn’t mention about the economic turmoil the nation periodically experienced. Letters from his family to Erasmus Gest describe what happened locally during these periods, summarized in an abstract by the Ohio Historical Society: “In early May, 1837, Clarissa (Gest) reported that the banks had stopped specie payments thereby leaving the city with a paper currency instead of the streams of gold & silver with scarcely enough small coin for change. On May 8, she wrote ‘two or three ship builders have given up and several foundries last week discharged workmen to the number...of 200 or more. No money can be got to defray expenses.’” Conditions were such on October 18, that Clarissa reported that “no one scarcely will change a dollar in any way, and silver is a curiosity. Indeed ready money is scarce. In the city it commands 10%, none under.”

On January 12, 1840, Joseph Gest wrote to his son saying “all business appears suspended...The taxes are far behind in their collections, every thing looks dull and gloomy. Mechanicks (sic) and labourers are out of employ...There is no sale for property now. Little or none selling except what is sold by the Sheriff.” On February 2, Clarissa wrote it was rumored that “several families who were reputed worth $100,000...parted with furniture to get market money.”

The crisis peaked and on January 12, 1842, Joseph Gest wrote to his son “The day before yesterday, the 10th, the Miami Exporting Co. stopped redeeming their paper. Yesterday morning, the 11th, the Cincinnati Bank called Mr. Gilmore, put a note on the door that they would not redeem for 20 days...Immediately...crowds collected...broke open the bank, tore everything up, threw the paper in the streets...Some plundered and ran away. They next attacked the Miami Exporting Bank, emptied it if its contents...carrying off thousands of dollars of redeemed & other paper, some specie & etc. Afterwards (at the) Bates Exchange bank at the corner (the mob) made him pay out some time till he cleared out, tore everything out of the house. The Mob then crossed over to Longers, made him pay as long as he could, then tore every thing, counters & everything...”

The Ephraim Brown/Rankin House at 6268 Savannah Avenue

[Image of the Ephraim Brown/Rankin House at 6268 Savannah Avenue]

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20 Inventory of the Erasmus Gest Papers, 1834-1885, Ohio Historical Society library.
Chapter 4  The Coming of the Carys

Dr. Samuel Cary was born June 13, 1734 in Scotland, Connecticut. He graduated from Yale University in 1755 and was a well known Connecticut physician. In 1762 he married Deliverance Grant and in 1768 they moved to Lyme, New Hampshire. He died in 1784 leaving his infant sons, Christopher and William. The boys studied by the light of burning pine knots, as candles were too expensive. Deliverance married Captain John Strong of Thetford, Vermont and after having two children she was left a widow once again.

Her son, Christopher, with land warrants as pay for his participation in the Revolutionary War, bought land from Israel Ludlow in 1801. Leaving New Hampshire with his family, they arrived in Ohio in 1803, when his son, Robert, was 15 years old. In 1802 Deliverance moved to Cincinnati with her children; Samuel, Delia and William.

Christopher and William did not have the advantage of formal education but William became the driving force for the colleges that were later established in College Hill. Christopher lost an eye as a child and was later crippled by a falling tree. At age 16 he enlisted in the Revolutionary War and went to Canada to fight. There he was taken prisoner by the British and was kept jailed at Montreal for ten months before he escaped and walked home to New Hampshire. Described as being of “stout frame and iron constitution,” he had wanderlust and would spend months among the Indians.

When William came he worked with Christopher on his farm, several miles north of where William would buy land and settle, and found work “laying pump logs or bored logs to convey the water from a flowing spring on the side hill, afterwards called Keyshill north of the city to water the then village of Cincinnati.”

He married Jan. 8, 1809, Rebecca Fenton, who came from New York in 1805, and built Bulls Head Tavern at the head of Main Street and Hamilton Road. When S. F. Cary wrote of this location he mentioned that “...the site (of the tavern is) occupied by the large German Church, the road forked, one branch going up Sycamore Hill, the other on Hamilton Road passing westwardly to where the Brighton House lately stood. Here the road forked again, one branch passing out through Cleves, Miami Town, Harrison, etc., the other going up the Valley of the Millcreek, through Cummins ville, Carthage, Springfield, to Hamilton. At Knowlton’s Corner, a “hill road” to Hamilton was established, passing through College Hill, Mt. Pleasant, and Burlington. This was called the Huston Road; a family of Hustons having settled a large tract of land above Burlington...”

Deliverance died at the family home downtown in 1810 and was buried where the First Presbyterian Church stands (4th and Main Streets). William kept the tavern until 1814 and then sold it along with 32 acres. He, his wife and three children - Freeman Grant, William Woodward and Samuel Fenton - moved to College Hill. Freeman Grant Cary later remembered the trip up “...where Isaac Laboiteaux now lives; when on the way he (the speaker) had to dismount from the wagon stuck in the mud on what is now Parkers Hill, with two spirited horses in the team. There were no excavations or side cuts in those days, but the heights were sealed and ridges threaded, covered with trees, at first blazed to point out the trail. The lands purchased - some seven hundred acres - then were covered with a heavy growth of timber...”

They traveled the Hamilton Road.

In 1811 the Ohio River valley was rocked by the largest recorded earthquake, centered on Madrid, Missouri. The river town of Madrid was totally destroyed when the Mississippi River altered its course during the earthquake, inundating the town. The town of New Madrid was founded on the newly formed banks. In 1874, E. D. Mansfield of Camp Washington described it: “On the sixteen of December, 1811, we were roused from our sleep by the rattling and tumbling of everything in the house. In fact, the chimneys had fallen down, and we rushed out of the house upon a light snow on the ground, in order, as we supposed, to save our lives. That was one of the hardest shocks; but successive shocks occurred for

21 Early Annals-Autobiography, Freeman Grant Cary, from the library of Mrs. Ruth J. Wells
22 Early Annals-Autobiography, op. cit.
four months. My father, in order to test the motion, hung a powder horn as a pendulum in the window, and it never entirely ceased vibrating until the first of May! I mention this because it is not impossible that such an earthquake may come again, and it may then be remembered that such things have been.”

While its fertile soil attracted Cary, much of College Hill is clay. This accounts for wet basements and mature trees easily blown over during windstorms - the tree roots can’t penetrate deeply into the clay and thus the roots grow only to a shallow depth.

Cary built his log cabin in the fall of 1813, cleared the land and dug a well. His family moved to the cabin in April of the following spring. This was a temporary home, as he dug the foundation and fired the bricks himself to complete an elegant brick house in 1817.

William Cary had an extended family. In 1816 he was granted guardianship of Albert Arnold (age 15) and Cyrus Arnold (age 11), following the death of their father Jacob.23

Under the name Pleasant Hill, the village was platted about 1820 by William Cary and Jabez Tunis on sections 30 and 36. Jabez Tunis sold 491 acres in section 30 to William Cary in 1813 at $7 an acre and sold 50 acres on the east side of the section to David Gray at the same price. His son, Moses David Gray, established greenhouses by the road that bears his name. Cary later bought 75 acres more north of North Bend Road adjoining his original tract. All of College Hill in section 30 is on the Cary land.

The first settlers on Tunis’ section 36 were Albert Arnold, Roswell Hazeltine, Thomas B. Weatherby, George W. C. Hunter, Nathaniel Ryan, Jesse Jones, Edward Grogan and David Jessup, all between 1827 and 1832. Weatherby had 50 acres bought in 1832 for $589. Other land sold just as cheaply.

Settlers coming to College Hill were mainly Revolutionary War veterans and farmers from New Jersey. Cyrus Howard bought 50 acres; in 1815, New Yorker Roswell Hazeltine, who later owned the 7 Mile House inn/tavern in Cheviot, purchased 50 acres; Zebulon Strong, 32 acres and John Strong 56 acres (1819). William Cary agreed in 1819 to exchange 2 acres for six split-bottom chairs (that were never delivered) from David Thomas. Thomas’s furniture business was northwest of Windermere and Hamilton Avenues.

The first child born was in July 1814, R. F. Howard, son of Cyrus Howard, grandson of Solomon Howard and Anna Cary. Cyrus Howard made his clearing on the north side of Linden Avenue opposite the home of his son, Stephen F. Howard. In 1814, Cyrus’s brother, George and his wife Sally, moved onto the Howard property and built a cabin. George died in 1838 (age 48) and Sally in 1839 (age 34). Both of their daughters, Phoebe and Rhoda, died as infants. Adjoining the Howard land on the west was the 50 acres of Roswell Hazeltine. The Howards built their brick houses in the sturdy New England style. Three of their homes are still standing: 5686 Folchi Drive, 1340 and 1240 Groesbeck Road.

Solomon Howard paid Cary ten dollars an acre for his land and built the first frame dwelling in College Hill in 1820. Originally constructed on the site of the College Hill Presbyterian Church, it was moved across the street as 5749 Hamilton Avenue in 1834, the year that Solomon died. The one and one half story house was the home of the Deininger family. The house was moved in the 1950’s to 2025 North Bend Road, north of St. Richard of Chichester’s Church, where it stands today under siding.

In 1819 John Strong, Zebulon’s brother, bought the 56 acres between Linden Avenue and the south line of the Pierson property, all except for one acre that was on the west side, which formed part of the later Hollenshade lawn.

Besides farming, some settlers provided other services. Albert G. Arnold set up forty tanning vats in 1828 on his thirty-three acres. Aspen trees provided the necessary ingredients for tanning. He also made shoes and had a currying shop. Before that time shoemakers with their kits of tools, went to house from house to make and repair boots and shoes for the household. Tailors also made periodical visits in like manner.24 On this land the house of General Cist was later built.

Mrs. John Strong was a weaver and Isaac Sparks had a loom house in Colerain Township. Many

23 Abstract Book 1. Probate Record 1791-1826 Hamilton County Ohio, Common Pleas Nov. 25, 1816, pg 333.

pioneers had foot treadle looms and wove woolen, cotton and linen cloth. Freeman G. Cary described “...Our dress in those times was indeed rough and coarse, and manufactured by handlooms in our dwellings from tow flax and wool of our own raising. Many a day have I dressed flax to make our clothes.” Spinning was done by hand and the thread could be made of a mixture of wool and flax, or of either fiber alone.

William Cary established a saw mill (1820) on the creek that still flows behind Pearce’s Auto Center on the east side of Hamilton Avenue between Marlowe and Ambrose Avenues. It was a treadmill operated by oxen. As the team walked in a circle on a wheel with a 30 degree angle, the motion operated a perpendicular saw. This saw mill produced the lumber for the 1823 Mill Creek bridge built in Cumminsville. A grain mill was added but the power was not sufficient to saw and grind at the same time. Later this mill was replaced by a steam saw and a grist mill added, both of which burnt shortly after they were built. Cary spoke of a cherry tree near Cedar and Lantana that was six feet in diameter. He had a pair of parlor tables, bookcases, a bureau, a tall clock and a bedstead built from the wood of this tree. The nearest other mill was Goudy’s, built 1795, along the Mill Creek at the bottom on Winton Road.

“Logs and grists were converted into lumber and meal for a certain share. George C. Miller’s wagon and plough factory, Adonijah Peacock’s plough factory, Melendy’s fanning mill shop, Luman Watson’s clock factory, Riley & Reed’s picture and looking glass frame factory, and Edward Kimball’s turning factory, all in Cincinnati, were supplied with lumber from this ox mill.”

Mr. Powell started a pearl ash and black salts factory. He leased lands from Cary and built a home on the site of the College Hill Presbyterian Church. His factory was between Hamilton Avenue and the Davey mansion on Linden Drive. He collected ashes from the residents and made lye by leaching the ashes.

Maple syrup and molasses were made. Sap was collected and poured into sassafras troughs, and iron kettles were used to reduce the sap water to syrup and sugar. The kettles were suspended from poles over a fire or set in a stone archway with a fire burning underneath the arch.

Captain Brown had whiskey stills located on Rankin’s farm. Stephen Jessup also had a distillery and small grist mill. David Gray had a distillery in the valley south of Moses Gray’s house. This area abounded with orchards of peaches, pears, apples and cherries. Less than perfect fruit was taken to be made into brandy, which had a ready market. Since currency was scarce, a portion of the brandy, corn or wood was left with the miller or brewer as his payment.

Bartering was the main way of transacting business. The money of that time was the Spanish silver dollar. A blacksmith could cut a dollar coin in half or into five wedge shaped pieces, one of which the blacksmith kept as is payment. A 1/5 piece was called a ‘sharpskin.’ A dollar coin could also be cut into 1/8’s, a ‘bit.’ One bit was worth 12 cents, 2 bits represented 25 cents. No small coins were available for change in Cincinnati until Yeatman’s store brought a barrel of pennies from Philadelphia in 1795.

Early cabins were upgraded as the families prospered. Walls were whitewashed, mud and stick chimneys were replaced by those of stone. Iron lard lamps replaced those made of scraped turnips, log benches gave way to split bottomed chairs. Feather beds with woolen covers, calico curtains, skins covering a floor of wooden planks or hard packed dirt - these were signs of fashion.

In his Early Annals, Freeman G. Cary lists others he remembers: Seth Gard, men by the names of Keen, LaRue, Sparks, Walker, Coons, Wagoner, Raymond, Vansant, Finney, John Jessup and his sons, Stephen, Isaac and David, Indian Daniel Jessup, the father of John, so named because he was taken captive by Indians, John Hawkins, Peter and John Laboyteaux, Peter (the tailor) Laboyteaux, John Snodgrass, Samuel and Jedidiah Hill, John and Aaron Lane, Danforth Witherby and his sons, John, Luther, Branch and Oliver, William and James McCash, Bradbury Robinson and sons, Solomon Smith, Arad Lawrence, John Wolf, William and Jacob Badgley, Solomon Eversul who died at age 101, Ezekiel Hutchinson, James and Israel Ludlow, Andrew Mack, Isaac and Clark Bates, John Riddle, Isaac Perry, Joel and Jacob Williams, William Woodward, Samuel Merry, Thomas Hofner and his sons, John,
Samuel, Jacob and Eli, Thomas Moss, and David John. Some of these lived from Mt. Pleasant (Mt. Healthy) to Cincinnati along Hamilton Avenue.

Phebe Cary, another of William’s sisters, married John Crary in 1783, Lyme, New Hampshire. Their family moved to College Hill in 1806. Lyman Crary of College Hill was her son and Rev. B. F. Crary, D. D. president of Wisconsin University was her grandson. Mercy Cary, sister of William, married Thomas Weston of Townsend, Mass. They came to College Hill in 1828. She died in 1830 and her children married into families in Colerain Township.

Samuel Cary, William’s brother, came to Cincinnati in 1802 and was the first tailor in the city. He died of smallpox in 1804.

Christopher Cary applied for his military pension in 1824. His children were grown and he worked as a farmer and a laborer. In the pension affidavit he stated he owned no real estate, was indigent, living at the home of his son Robert, and that his property of 1 mare, 1 cow and household goods were worth $73.00.

He married three times, the first was Elsie Terrel in Lyme, New Hampshire, then Lear Brokaw of Cincinnati and lastly to Margaret McCarty in 1825. He died in 1837. He had a large family: Lucy married James McGinnis; Robert who married Elizabeth Jessup and later Anna Lewis; Benijah settled near College Hill. He married Polly Nichols of Hartford, Vermont in 1812 and moved to a farm in New Richmond, Ohio where he died. One of his sons, Joseph, was a sea captain and was engaged in the slave trade, dying on the coast of Africa; Maria married John Loring; Christopher who died young in an accident; Irwin, Maria died as an infant and Anna, who married Mr. Sprong and lived in Missouri.

Robert and Benijah both fought in the War of 1812. Robert was with General Hull and at the surrender of Detroit. He married Elizabeth Jessup in 1813 and she died of cholera in 1835. Robert purchased 60 acres of land from his father in 1824 and for fifteen years the family toiled to pay off this debt. It was a working farm. The family lived off of what they produced and sold off any excess. They had nine children: Rowena married Isaac B. Carnahan; Susan married Alexander Swift; Rhoda who died young, Alice, the poetess (1820-1871); Asa married Leah A. Woodruff and lived on a farm near College Hill; Phoebe, the poetess (1824-1871); Warren, who lived near Harrison, Ohio for a number of years; Lucy, died as an infant, and Elmina, who married her widowed brother-in-law, Alexander Swift.

Alice described: The first fourteen years of my life it seemed as if there was actually nothing in existence but work.

Phoebe described her father thus: “He was a man of superior intelligence, of sound principles, and blameless life. He was fond of reading, especially romance and poetry, but early poverty and the hard exigencies of pioneer life had left him no time for acquiring anything more than the mere rudiments of a common school education, and the consciousness of his want of culture, and an invincible diffidence, born with him, gave him a shrinking, retiring manner, and a want of confidence in his own judgment, which was inherited to a large measure by his offspring. He was a tender, loving father, who sang his children to sleep with holy hymns, and habitually went to work repeating the grand old Hebrew poets, and the sweet and precious promises of the New Testament of our Lord...In his youth he must have been handsome. He was six feet in height, and well proportioned, with curling black hair, bright brown eyes, slightly aquiline nose, and remarkably beautiful teeth.”

Those who saw him in New York, in the home of his daughters, remember him a silver-haired, sad-eyed, soft-voiced patriarch, remarkable for the gentleness of his manners, and the emotional tenderness of his temperament...It was a delight to the father to take that long journey from the Western farm to the New York house.”

It was Alice that named the farm “Clovernook” because of the fields of clover on their property. The original three room frame cottage was located approximately where the Shell Service station (7358

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26 The Poetical Works of Alice and Phoebe Cary, With a Memorial of their Lives, Mary Clemmer, 1876. From the library of Pam and Gary Shinn.

Hamilton Avenue) is today. The cottage was empty on Cary’s property after he built his seven room brick house about 1832-35. Peter Stryker purchased the frame house and moved it to Perry Street in Mt. Healthy where is still stands, although remodeled. The bricks used for Cary’s house were made and burned on the site. The workmen stayed with the family until their job was finished.

It was among these peaceful and beautiful surroundings that the Cary sisters gathered their inspiration for many of their poems, and it was in memory of the old home that Phoebe Cary wrote the poem, “Our Homestead”, the closing lines of which are:

Our homestead had an ample hearth
Where at night we loved to meet;
There my mother’s voice was always kind,
And her smile was always sweet;
And their I’ve sat on my father’s knee
And watched his thoughtful brow.
With my childish hand in his raven hair-
That hair is silver now
But that broad hearth’s light: Oh that,
broad hearth’s light!
And my father’s look and my mother’s smile.
They are in my heart tonight.

Recollections of the days of their youth are set forth in a book entitled Clovernook, written by Alice in 1851, which gives a history of part of their lives spent on College Hill.

Elizabeth Jessup Cary was described by Alice years later.” My mother was a woman of superior intellect and of good, well ordered life.” Phoebe recalled: “She was a wonder of my childhood...How she did so much work, and yet did it well; how she reared carefully, and governed wisely, so large a family of children, and yet found time to develop by thought and reading a mind of unusual strength and clearness, is still a mystery to me...An exemplary housewife, a wise and kind mother, she left no duty unfulfilled, yet she found time, often at night, after every other member of the household was asleep, by reading, to keep herself informed of all the issues of the day, political, social, and religious.”28

After the death of Elizabeth in 1835, Robert married Anna Schmidt Lewis, a frugal woman who believed the writings of Alice and Phoebe were a waste of time. Their stepmother caused such dissention that Robert built another house for him and Anna, and the children stayed in the brick Cary’s Cottage of today. Anna had not deterred Alice and Phoebe and they became well known, moving to New York City about 1852. Both are buried in Greenwood Cemetery, New York.

Eventually the house was no longer in the Cary family and was purchased by William Cooper Procter in 1903. It was given in trust to the Trader sisters, Georgia and Florence, as a home for ten sightless women. Such was the beginning of Clovernook Home for the Blind.29 Cary cottage was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

Georgia, after many operations, went blind at age eleven. Education was only available from state institutions for the blind but the Traders persuaded the Cincinnati Board of Education to admit Georgia. As a result of her admission, the Cincinnati schools began to offer classes for the blind in a regular school room situation. The sisters also convinced the schools of the need of school sponsored compulsory eye examinations. The public library opened a Braille reading room as a result of the sisters urging.

It was this background that impressed Procter to found Clovernook. The Shakers from Lebanon, Ohio donated looms and taught Clovernook residents how to weave. The largest of the Clovernook

28 The Poetical Works of Alice and Phoebe Cary, With a Memorial of their Lives, Mary Clemmer, 1876.

buildings was constructed in 1913. In 1958 Clovernook Home and School for the Blind was incorporated. The emphasis then and now has been on employment. Clovernook is known for its fine weaving and is the world’s largest Braille printing house. Cary Cottage is on the National Register of Historic Places.

A story about the Cary’s is recounted in Howe’s Historical Collections of Ohio (1888). “The Cary Homestead, ‘the old gray farm-house,’ is still standing, in a thick grove about 100 feet back from the road, on Hamilton pike, just beyond the beautiful suburb of College Hill...The (Cary) sisters were born in a humble house of logs and boards on a site about a hundred yards north of it...The most interesting single object in this region is what is known as ‘the Cary tree.’ It is the large and beautiful sycamore tree on the road between College Hill and Mount Pleasant. The history of this tree is very interesting, as given by Dr. John B. Peaslee, ex-superintendent of Cincinnati public schools.

In 1832, when Alice was twelve years old and Phoebe only eight, on returning home from school one day they found a small tree, which a farmer had grubbed up and thrown in the road. One of them picked it up and said to the other: ‘Let us plant it.’ As soon as said these happy children ran to the opposite side of the road and with sticks - for they had no other implement - they dug out the earth, and in the hole they made they placed the treelet; around it with their tiny hands, they drew the loosened mold and pressed it down with their little feet. With what interest they hastened to it on their way to and from school to see if it were growing; and how they clapped their little hands for joy when they saw the buds start and the leaves begin to grow!...They planted and cared for it in youth; they loved it in age.”

The rural nature of College Hill in these early times made agricultural self-sufficiency a necessity. It is not surprising that many area residents were active in the Cincinnati Horticultural Society, founded in 1843 for the purpose of exchanging information on cultivation of ornamental and edible fruits, vegetables, flowers, trees and shrubs.


The Carys grew grapes, cherries, peaches and strawberries. Mrs. McAvoy grew “McAvoy’s Superior Strawberry.” Col. Charles C. Harbison, of “Rose Hill” presented a paper on dogwoods. Mrs. F. G. Cary was known for her different flower varieties and fruits. The Hammitts grew both flowers and had orchards.

Bulbs, seeds, flowers, and saplings were collected by members throughout their trips to other areas of the country and through plant exchanges would see what varieties would grow best in the Ohio valley. “Nowhere in this Union can there be found a richer supply of all standard fruits than around Cincinnati,” proclaimed a 1845 paper.

Of interest are the many types of apples grown by Society members. One, the Broadwell apple, came from a seedling obtained by Jacob Broadwell in the 1790’s from the collection of one hundred different seedling apple trees raised by Israel Ludlow. Of Ludlow’s hundred, only this type grew well. Ludlow’s orchards were frequently visited by John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed) who was his good friend.

F. G. Cary wrote to the Society in June 1858 of his trip down the Ohio River to New Orleans and the change in the growing season and floral types he observed. Concerning fruits he said, “You are ready to ask, what think you of Southern fruits - Oranges, Pineapples, Bananas, etc? My verdict is against them, if they are to be brought into comparison with ours. Give me only the Peach, Pear and Apple, as cultivated with us, and you might have them all.”

The Society left an unusual legacy to Cincinnati. In 1845 a site for a neighborhood cemetery was sought. The Horticultural Society selected what they named Spring Grove and purchased the Gerrard farm (160 acres) from Josiah Lawrence for $10,500. The State legislature incorporated the Society and gave it the power to dedicate a Rural Cemetery...for the erection of tombs, cenotaphs and other monuments; to lay out the grounds in suitable lots and to plant and embellish the same with shrubbery.
After the land was purchased some Society members thought it would be better to form a distinct and separate incorporated cemetery association, which was done. The officers and directors of this new organization were elected from the Society membership. Later 434 acres were purchased ($330,000). While the cemetery remained a distinct organization it was managed and planted during its formative years by volunteer Society members.
Chapter 5  An Old Letter

Ruth S. Cummins is an Arnold descendant who has freely shared her Cary, Howard and Arnold information through the years. She sent a copy of a letter written by Thomas Arnold Ferrier to his niece, Jean Anne Ferrier Ramsay. It in he speaks of his College Hill grandparents, Alfred B. Arnold and Deborah Ann Bard.

“Our grandparents Alfred & Debbie were college graduates. Not many of these in the middle west, 115 years ago.

Grand Pap Arnold was a big fellow. Blue eyes, good features, a determined mouth and of fair complexion. (We inherited our dark complexion from the Bards). Not too sociable. Did not talk much, but quite pleasant. He liked your Dad (note: George Bard Ferrier). In some respects they were very much alike. Even though I was a kid and knew him for only a week, I remember him well. He died of a heart attack at our home in Moorestown, about 1892. My reaction to his death seems to have been in the nature of embarrassment. I hid in our chicken coop until supper time. No one missed me.

Grand Pap was a forty-niner. When he returned from gold prospecting he bought a saw mill in Columbus, Brown Co., Indiana. He was an inventor and a brilliant mathematician. He was the Brown Co. consulting engineer and furnished this service for free.

About every 6 months he would shove off for Chicago to have for himself a time. Women were not his weakness. His diversion was to select a prominent corner on Wabash Ave. within the loop and give a political talk. I am informed that he was excellent, and that within 20 minutes it would be necessary to put in a riot call to disperse the crowd. After order was restored he would buy all the cops a round of drinks at an adjacent bar....

Grandfather Arnold was never wealthy but he was in the upper income brackets. He went broke endorsing notes for his friends and poor relatives.”

Another article came from Ruth Cummins about her family: “…And here in Cincinnati on November 22, 1818 Mary Ann (Forsha) was married to John Bard, also an immigrant from New York. John was a shoemaker on Main Street. Later Mary Ann’s brother, Samuel, took over the shoemaking and John and her cousin, William, ran a grocery business. In the first ten years of marriage Mary Ann gave birth to seven children, two of whom died young. Her mother (Deborah Mead Fereshe) married again, a Methodist minister of note who had lost his wife, and they fortunately lived nearby. For in January 1830 John Bard died of tuberculosis leaving Mary Ann a thirty-year-old pregnant widow with five children: Mary Ann and her brood moved in with her mother and step-father. In May of that year her three-year-old, Mary Eliza died. And on the first day of August my great grandmother, Deborah Ann Bard, was born - six months after the death of papa and two months after that of sister.

In 1836, after six years of widowhood, Mary Ann married a cousin, John Stevens, ten years her junior. They had four more children, three of whom survived childhood. The youngest was born when Mary Ann was forty-four.

Sometime in the 1840s they must have moved to College Hill... for according to the census, in 1850 Mary Ann and John were running a boarding house there for male college students. The household consisted of themselves, daughter Deborah, son Joseph Bard, the three young Stevens children aged eleven, nine and seven; a cousin, William Airy, aged fifteen, an Irish servant, and eight male students aged sixteen to twenty-two....

Two of Mary Ann’s boarders in 1850 were Benjamin and Erwin Harrison. In a letter to the boys in July, 1848, Mrs. Harrison is quoted (in Sievers’ biography of the President): ‘I hope you will be prudent in your diet and that Benja may abstain from cucumbers...If Mrs. S. Family don’t keep them (sic) ask him to banish them from the table so that Ben may not be tempted...’ And Sister Sallie adds emphasis in a postscript: ‘Tell Ben Pa is quite hurt to think that he still continues to eat cucumbers notwithstanding his advice.’

Bearing out the Farmers’ College cultural reputation is the story of Alfred Arnold, a local lad and a student there. He courted the landlady’s daughter Deborah and for her he wrote in iambic pentameter an acrostic, the first letter of each line spelling out their two names...
Not great poetry, perhaps, but they were married 3 September 1851.
In 1850 men were going West to seek gold in California, and Alfred Arnold among them. My
grandmother (his daughter Carrie) used to tell me that he did find gold and bought back five twenty-dollar
gold pieces which she had in her toy box as a small child.
Mary Ann’s second husband, John Stevens., started in California at this same time--perhaps with
Alfred?--and never returned. He died 13 November 1850, probably in Nicaragua, which was the quickest
route to California.
In 1857 Mary Ann sold her property in College Hill and moved with her family to Columbus,
Indiana, where married daughter, Elizabeth, was living...Daughter Deborah and Alfred Arnold went too
with their three children and shared a house with Mary Ann. Before long they were again running a
boarding house.
A memento of this home was sent me by a cousin: a slip of what she called her Aunt Debby Rose. It
had accompanied them on their various moves...
In 1876 daughter Deborah died, leaving Mary Ann at loose ends once more at age seventy-eight...”

The Bard acrostic, dated September 6, 1850

Doomed as I am, in solitude to waste
Each present moment, and regret the past,
Bereft of every joy, I valued most,
Old friends torn from me, and my dearest lost;
Regard not this I wear, this anxious mien,
As dull effect of humor, or of spleen!
Ha! Still, I mourn with each returning day,
All those - in early youth snatched thus, away;
Nor think that I - through years of doubt and pain,
Not fix’d in choice and faithful - but in vain!
Belief (sic) me then, thou generous and sincere,
An eye that never yet denied to wrongs a tear;
Real claims of friendship, still thy heart well known,
Doth think that lover’s are but fancy’d woes
Alas - ere yet his destined course half done,
Behold a wanderer on a wild unknown!
Alas neglected on the world’s rude coast,
Reft of each dear companion, valued most,
Nor ask why clouds of sorrow shade his brow,
Or ready tears wait only leave to flow;
Let all that soothes a heart, from anguish free
Delight the happy - but it palls with me.

If you think the fore part of this Acrostic a fit and worthy production for your Album I have no objections
to your copying there as a token of respect for a friend whom you have often solicited to favor you with
something of the kind. But if it don’t meet with your approbation make it a burnt offering to the flames is
the request of your---

Ever Sincere Alfred
Chapter 6  Cemeteries

During rush hours, thousands of cars pass within yards of one of Cincinnati’s earliest cemeteries. Gard Cemetery holds the stones and bones of early pioneer families, soldiers, and farmers. With the latest burial in the 1860’s, it has been abandoned for more than a century, shielded from view by being located in what is now a wooded area. Periodically it has been “rediscovered” and sporadically cleared of undergrowth. In 1939 the WPA platted this cemetery, then called McCrea Cemetery, and estimated that up to 384 plots could be this parcel. However, there are no records actually listing those buried and we know of only 30 names.

No one seems to know exactly when the graveyard was established. The earliest marked grave we know of is that of Captain Gershom Gard from New Jersey who died in 1807. Richard Hankins, who built the first log cabin in College Hill, came here through his Revolutionary War land warrant. New Jersey born Captain Ephraim Brown, a son-in-law of Gard, fought another war, that of 1812. His was the first will to mention the burying ground, originally three acres. Another 1812 veteran, Thomas B. Smith, has one of the few upright stones. Isaac Sparks (1768-1834) like many settlers held two jobs, a weaver with loom house and Justice of the Peace in Colerain Township. The children of Albert Arnold, tanner and shoemaker, lie there a testament to a time when children died young.

Most of the stones are plain and of limestone, which may have been quarried locally. A few have the weeping willow/urn pattern and more elaborate script. A marble marker was uncovered under several inches of soil with a traditional open Bible. One stone, as yet not located, reportedly had the harsh inscription: *She followed the ways of the devil, and the Lord smote her down.* Iola (Flannigen) Chace, who remembered this stone from childhood said, “My girlfriend and I couldn’t imagine what she had done. We decided she must have talked back to her mother.” Fragments of headstones have been recovered and others located under inches of soil. The stones have weathered well and are legible, a few having the stone mason’s signature.

On March 14, 1898 the Village of College Hill in ordinance #763 the banned: the interment in a burying ground or cemetery within the corporate limits of the Village. It specifically mentioned the cemetery on the property owned by Adaline B. McCrea. Violation carried a fine of $50. and costs of prosecution.

GARD CEMETERY


Row 1
1. Broken stone, blank
2. Ephraim Brown/born Feb. 26, 1768/died June 23, 1835/aged 67 yrs 3 mo. & 27 days
3. (Eunice Brown-wife of Ephraim - part of stone missing)/1771/April 11, 1857, aged 86 years, 1 mo & 24 days
4. In memory of/Luther Wetherby/Born May 16th 1799/Died March 5 1851/In life beloved/In death lamented (K. Grindrod, stone cutter)
5. In Memory of/Thomas B./son of Luther &/Julian Wetherby/Born/Oct 8, 1843/died/Oct 16 1844 (K. Grindrod, stone cutter)
6. In memory of/Mahlon, son of/Luther & Julian/Wetherby/Born June 9 1823/died/August 9 1845/In life beloved/in death lamented

Row 2
1. Broken stone, blank
2. Ethan H. Brown/Born/Oct. 24 1806/departed this life/Nov 26 1842
3. Sacred/To the memory of/Judith Brown/daughter of/Israel and Elizabeth/Brown/who departed this life/July 17th 1838/in the 26th year/of her age
4. Broken stone, blank
5. Adiso Milton Brown, infant son of Mahlon Brown, died July 25, 1832, aged 9 days
6. Asa Brown, born Apr. 17, 1809, died Nov. 20, 1861
7. Lucinda Gilkey, born June 21, 1805, died July 16, 1849 (according to 1850 Mortality Tables she died June 1849)
8. Broken stone, blank

Row 3
1. John WIlley/ son of Joseph & Jane Willey/died June 28, 1841/aged 5 yrs & 6 mo./From the cradle to
the/tomb, I was hurried to my/home, my fifth year was/Scarcely gone ere I had mea/sured out my span.
2. Broken stone, blank
3. In/Memory of/Thomas B. Smith/who departed this life/July 15 1831 aged/46 years 9 months/and 15
days/And I heard a voice from heaven saying/unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead/which die in the Lord
from henceforth:/Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may/rest from their labours; and their/works do follow
them. REV XIV 13./(J & R.L. Rev (?)....burgh(?))
4. Maria/and her only child/Walter, L.W. on one side and T.C. on other

Row 4
1. Rachel Jessup/died February/5th 1816/in the 40th/year/of her age
2. Broken stone, blank
3. Judith/wife of John J. Jessup/Died June 1825/aged 75 years
4. Base only, blank
5. Broken stone, blank

Row 5
1. Broken stone, A. Potter (stone cutter)
2. W. A.
3. In/Memory of/(C)yrus Arnold/who departed this life/June 26th AD 1823/aged 17 years 6 months/and
10 days
4. William Arnold/son of/Ambrose & Martha Arnold/departed this life Nov/24, 1855 aged 1 year/& 11
days
5. Isaac Arnold/ died June 26, 1834, aged 14 months & 28 days
6. J.J.

Row 6
1. 2,12 (row marker?)
Row 7
1. S.S.
2. Rhoda Sparks/daughter of/I & Sally Sparks/died Nov. 1st 1825/aged 9 years (at base of stone are
numbers: 2 87 )
3. Richard Hankins/died Aug. 29,1823 (later concrete marker, 1749-1824)
4. ---------(stone broken)/in the 74th year of/his age (Sparks, stone cutter)
5. ---------(stone broken)/in the 71st/of her age (Sparks, stone cutter)
6. Broken stone, blank
7. In/Memory of Isaac Sparks/Born/Nov 24 1768/Died/Aug 21 1834
8. Sacred/To the memory of/Mary Wolf/Consort of/John Wolf/January (rest of stone missing)
9. E N (foot stone) (This could be Eunice (Brown) Nichols, died 1834-36, daughter. of Ephraim and
Eunice Gard Brown, first wife of Vesper Nichols).
10. Broken stone, blank
11. Sarah/wife of/Isaac Sparks/died/March 11 1839/aged/81 years
12. Broken stone, probably John Wolf, for the WPA survey indicates he was buried here
13. No name, highly decorated rectangular stone with weeping willow and urn scene with inscription at
bottom: Blessed are the pure in heart/for they shall see God
14. No name, matches stone above, inscription: Be thou faithful unto death/and I will give thee a crown
15. Broken stone, Gard scratched on top. Tho cold in dust the perished heart may be/The spark that
warmed it once can never die/Thou shalt resist the triumphs of decay/When time is o’er world have passed away
16. Broken stone, fragments. To the memory of/Gershom Gard/who/departed this life/Jan 15th 1807/in the 71st year of/his age (from photograph)
17. To (the) memory of/Phebe Gard/Consort of/Gershom Gard/Departed this life/June 12 1812/in the 81st year of/her age
18. ---- rel (stone broken)/who departed this life/January the 27 1822/age 82/years
19. Here Rests the mortal remains/of/ Mahettibel/Consort of/John S. Olmsted/born in Newport (sic) Vermont/and daughter of Arad and/Jamima Terrill/Who departed this life/Sept. 3 1838, aged 45 years/6 mos and 23 days
20. Broken stone, blank
21. Polly, wife of Samuel Aston, died Aug. 19, 1837

Located Together, but Away from Main Cemetery

1. In Memory of Willard Arnold/Son of Albert & Anna M. Arnold/Who departed this Life/Jan (June?) 18, 1850, aged 10 months & 28 days
2. In Memory of Isaac Arnold/Son of Albert & Anna M. Arnold/Who departed this Life/ June 26, 1864(?)/ aged 14 mo & 25 days
3. T.A.
4. G (C?) A

These stones, previously transcribed, are no longer found:

1. (Johnson) Maria L. consort of Wm. P. Johnson, daughter of John S. & Mehittibel Olmsted, born in Fletcher Vermont, who departed this life Aug. 31 1838, aged 22 yrs, 8 mo & 4 days
2. Sparks, Sally, died Oct. 17, 1825 in her 55th year
3. Walter (this was all that appears on this stone)
4. L.G.
Possibilities

Isaac Jessup and wife Anna Jessup
James Gilkey (Husband of Lucinda Brown, son of John Gilkey and Susannah Bacon d 1847)
Susannah (Gilkey) infant d 1822
Ephraim Brown “ “ d 1824
Elizabeth (Hankins) Brown .Wife of Israel Brown, daughter of Richard Hankins
These “probables” were suggested by Susan Bell of Oregon.

CARY CEMETERY

Cemeteries were not permitted within the boundaries of early College Hill which ended short of North Bend Road. That is why the Gard cemetery was on his property and the Cary family established a private cemetery near the intersection of Hamilton Avenue and North Bend Road, north west corner. Most of these bodies were later removed to Spring Grove Cemetery. However, when Hamilton Avenue was widened at that corner and electric car rails were being laid, bones were uncovered.

LABOYTEAUX - CARY CEMETERY

One of the most historically important sites in North College Hill is the LaBoyteaux - Cary cemetery established circa 1806. Originally it was one acre for their family set aside by Peter and Keziah
LaBoyteaux from their 320 acres. The first grave was of Peter’s daughter-in-law, Hannah Labertew (sic) who died in 1807. Peter P. LaBoyteaux, Jr. sold 83 acres of the family farm to Benijah Cary in 1816. Peter P. then moved to Henry County, Indiana with his family in 1830. The little plot became the local cemetery for all the families, most of whom were related by marriage. After 1858 when Benijah Cary died his land was sold and the last burial in this cemetery was 1860.

Hamilton and Galbraith Avenues were widened in 1927, pushing the cemetery land into a mound. North College Hill acquired the property in 1969 but couldn’t move the cemetery unless all the relatives of those buried there were notified. If a single grave was to be moved then all of the graves must be moved to an area in Spring Grove Cemetery, with North College Hill paying the costs of notifications and perpetual care. Attempts to further widen the streets were vigorously opposed with College Hill’s Mrs. Ruth J. Wells as one of the leaders. The cemetery now contains forty-four plots and covers about 3/4 of its original size. Buried there are the Revolutionary War veterans James Keniston and Henry Deats. Benijah Cary is there, with five of his children. There too is Peter Harthorn who opened the first tavern (7432 Hamilton Avenue) in the area.

The cemetery is currently 60 X 118 feet which is 3/4 of its original size. It contains 44 bodies.

LABOYTEAUX - CARY CEMETERY

Row 1, by fence between house and cemetery.
1. In /memory of/ James Keniston/a Patriot of the/ American Revolution/ and who was for five years/ an active Soldier/ He was born in Rye, N. H./ August 19th 1756/ and died/ March 20th 1837.
2. In /memory of/Mary G. McLean/ a daughter of/ John & Margaret McLean/ born Aug. 11 1815/ died July 5 1841.
3. Henry Deats/ A Revolutionary/ Soldier of `76/ Died/ Aug. 20, 1843/ In the 90th yr/ of his age.
4. Alice/ wife of/Henry Deats/ Died/ Feb. 26, 1849/ In the 70th year/ of her age.
5. Tamison/ Relict of/ Peter Harthorn/ who departed this life/ March 26th 1840, age 67.
6. Erected/ in the memory of/ Peter Harthorn/ who departed this life/ Nov. 3 1837.
7. Sacred/ to the memory of/ Sally/ wife of George Howard/ who died Aug. 12th, 1833/ aged 34 years/ 8 months and 12 days/ also two daughters/ of Geo. & Sally Howard/ Phebe/ died Aug. 11, 1826/ aged 2yrs 1mo/ Rhoda/ died July 28th 1828/ 1yr 9mo 16da.
8. Erected/ to the memory of/ George Howard/ who departed this/ life July 21st, 1838/ in the 48th year/ of his age.
9. In/ memory of Mary Nichols/ wife of/ Benajah Cary/ born in the state of Vt./ July 27th 1797/ departed this life/ Dec. 31st 1841/ ae 44 yrs/ Why do I sit in silent grief/ Since in this world there’s no relief/ I look to God who gave me breath/ And triumph in the thoughts of death/ My God is full of love & truth/ He takes the aged & the youth/ He takes them to his arms to rest/ That they by him should/ all be blest.
10. In/ memory of Venus/ daughter of Benajah & Mary Cary/ departed this life/ Sep. 12th 1841/ aged 4mo & 24da.
11. In/ memory of/ Andrew J. /son of/ Benajah & Mary Cary/ departed this life/ August 29th, 1839/ age 11mo 26da.
12. Erected/ to the memory of/ Phebe/ Relict of John/ Laboyteaux/ who departed this life/ in the 77th year/ of her age/ Feb. 21, 1845.
13. Erected/ to the memory of/ Murry/ son of John/ Laboyteaux/ who died Feb. 21, 1829/ aged 4da 2hr.
14. Mrs. Lucinda Cowan/ who died Feb. 9, 1841/ age 19yr 7mo.
15. Sacred/ to the memory of/ John Lewis/ a native of Denmark/ who was born Jan. 1, 1790/ and departed this life/ Jan. 1, 1836/ 46yr 18da. (monument is column shaped)

2nd row

1 Source: Mrs. Ruth J. Wells
1. Freeman/son of Mathias & Elizabeth/Miller/who departed this life/Feb. 10, 1838/8mo 17da.
2. Alva/son of Isaac & Amelia/Skillman/who died/Feb. 25, 1836/1yr 1mo 25da.
3. John S. /son of Isaac & Amelia/Skillman/who died/July 17,1830/10 mo 17da. This languishing head is at rest/Its thinking and asking are o’er/This quiet ?immobile breast/Is heaved by affliction no more;/This heart is no longer the seat/Of trouble and torturing pain;/It ceases to flutter and beat,/It never shall flutter again.
4. Mr. J. Stryker/d Jan. 15, 1840/66 yr  (foot stone)
3rd row
1. W.A.L. (foot stone)
2. In/memory of/Peter Laboyteau/who departed this life/Sept. 14, 1813/age 76 yrs.
3. Keziah d Feb. 1, 1814, 70 yrs. Consort of Peter Laboyteaux (stone missing)
5. Sacred/to the memory of/Alice/Wife of William S. Laboyteaux/who departed this life/March 1, 1836/in the 25th year/of her age.
7. William S. Laboyteaux (stone missing)
4th row
4. Erected/to the memory of/Sarah/wife of John P. Laboyteaux/who departed this life/Jan. 16, 1842/aged 51yr 2wks 3da.
5. Erected/to the memory of/John P. Laboyteaux/who departed this life/March 4, 1842/aged 67 yrs 10mo 13da.
6. Erected/to the memory of/John M./Son of Francis C. &/Julia M. Wright/d April 16, 1816/1yr 6mo.
8. In/memory of/Adaline M. Cary/daughter of/Benajah & Mary Cary/who departed this life/Aug. 11, 1834/aged 1yr 11mo 24da.
9. In/memory of/Amanda/daughter of/Benajah & Mary Cary/who departed this life/Sept.6, 1839/aged 9yr 9mo 27da.
10. In/memory of/Missouri/daughter of Christopher & Margaret Cary/who died/Aug. 7, 1834/5yrs 7mo.
12. In/memory of/Lucy McGinnis/who departed this life/June 10, 1840/54yrs 2mo.

Stones leaning against large tree along west fence of burial ground (6-21-1967)
1. Ann Stanley d 3-14-1862
2. Erected to the memory of Lewis Packer who departed this life July 1857 (1859?) in the 35th day (yr?) of his ?.
3. (Missing) Labertew, Murray, d Feb 21, 1829 1yr 21hrs, son of Peter J. & Phebe Labertew.
4. (Missing) Tunison, Mary, wife of Henry Tunison, d Nov. 7, 1851, 77yr 7mo 18da.
5. (Missing) Tunison, Henry, d June 15, 1840, 66yr.

Additional information²

² Source: Mrs. Ruth J. Wells
Cary, Anna Lewis. Second wife of Robert Cary and widow of John Lewis. Census states she was born in Germany.
Deats was a cooper from New Jersey, lived next door to Peter Hathorn’s hotel.
Peter Hathorn had a frame and brick hotel in Mt. Pleasant next door to Deats, a cooper from N.J.
Tamerson Harthorn will probated 6-15-1847, Will book 7, p 286; names granddaughter Miranda Howard & granddaughter Caroline Howard.
Hopper, Francis, son of William & Martha Cary Hopper. Martha Cary daughter of Benajah & Mary Cary.
Howard. Will of Cyrus Howard (Will book 2, p 218) names wife Lucy, sons Stephen F., Cyrus, Hiram M., Benjamin Franklin; two daughters Lucy Howard & Deborah Welsh, wife of James. Ione Howard named as only child of son George W. Howard, “lately deceased;” also names son of Solomon Howard and son of Roswell F. Howard.
Kenniston, James. Will book 11 p. 310 will probated 3-22-1837, wills 5 acres SW corner Sect. 32 Springfield Twp. where he resides - to daughter Margaret Robe (or Rabe) of Bridgewater, N. H. & to daughter Kittabel Kenniston of the same place. William Cary exec.
Labertew, Hannah wife of Joseph Labertew who was one of old Peter’s sons.
Labertew, Murray, son of Peter J. & Phebe (Davis) Labertew
Libidos, John P. son of old Peter. John P is either Peter or Paul. Sarah born ca 1791. Old Peter died 9-14-1813. Phebe born ca 1768 - wife of John G. (?John Gabriel)
Lewis, John. “Native of Denmark.” He was the husband of Anna Lewis, later wife of Robert Cary.
McGinnis, John, born ca 1805. Son of Lucy Cary who married James McGinnis. A daughter was the 2nd Mrs. William McCammon. Nephew of Benijah Cary.
McGinnis, Lucy, born ca 1784-84. Daughter of Christopher and Margaret Cary, who was a sister of Benijah Cary.
Miller, Freeman, Mathias Miller operated a pottery in Mt. Pleasant. Mathias Miller & Peter J. Laboyteaux were engaged together in pork packing.
Packer, Peter. Restored - will book 2-2-1836, made 5-30-1835, wife Anna exec. John P. Laboyteaux’s first wife was Elizabeth Packer.
Runyan, Jemina, daughter of Peter Laboyteaux, the pioneer. John Runyan was born Oct. 1, 1775 Somerset County, New Jersey, died April 1, 1841, age 66 1/2.
Stryker, John, son of Jacob & Hannah Laboyteaux Striker. Their daughter, Catherine, was baptized 7-12-1792 at Readington Church, NJ. Issue of Peter Striker and Sally Low: Sally born 2-4-1788, Lenah born 3-21-1792, Readington church, New Jersey.
Wright, John M. Julia Ann Laboyteaux married Frances M. Wright. She was daughter of John P. Laboyteaux.

3 Barrel maker.
JESSUP CEMETERY
or OLD UNITED BRETHREN CEMETERY

This is a compilation of two previous, undated, partial readings and a complete reading of all the stones, recorded on July 29, 1995 by Jack and Lee Fern, Sheila Balzer, Paul Ruffing, and Betty Ann Smiddy. Jessup Cemetery is located about 2642 Jessup Road, between Colerain and Vogel Roads. It is maintained by the Mt. Airy United Methodist Church, 2645 West North Bend Road, 45239, formerly the Mt. Airy United Brethren Church. All standing stones have been broken from their bases. An attempt to keep the family groups together has been made, with the stones being placed around tree stumps. Once the United Brethren Church stood next to the cemetery. Early records of the burials have been lost due to a tornado striking this church.

1. Samuel Aston Died June 9 1845/Aged ? (stone missing)
2. S. A. (foot stone)
3. In tribute of affection/to the/memory of/Margaret J. Bell. b May 15, 1826 d August 29, 1862. (standing stone)
4. Rebecca, wife of William (Bell) Died May 8, 1864, 73 yrs. 7 mo. Dear Mother thou art ?????/thy heavenly home/ ?? who Jesus love. (standing stone)
5. William Bell/ departed this life/November 29, 1843:/Aged 48 years 8 mo./And 23 days./Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. Stop here my friends and cast an eye/As you are now so once was I/As I am now so you must be/Prepare for death and follow me. The top of the stone has intact carvings of a weeping willow tree in front of a rectangular stone, a kneeling sheep followed by a narrow stone shape with a winged angel head hovering in the sky. (standing stone)
7. Samuel Bell Jr., born August 6, 1807, died ?? aged 47 years, 7 months, 29 days. How still and peaceful is the grave/In his life have tumults past/The appointed place in heavens dear/Preserves us all at last. (stone fragment with age and verse only, originally read as Daniel Bell, Jr.)
8. A. B., foot stone (missing)
9. Elizabeth (Bell)/wife of/T. T. Olmsted/born August 21, 1821/Died January 11, 1846. (standing stone)
10. Meluc/Son of/ W & R ? (stone fragment)
11. Sacred to the memory of Sarah Jane Bacon. (stone missing)
12. Martin, son of John and Rebecca Campbell, died October 5, 1812, aged ?? . (stone missing)
13. Josephus, son of John and Rebecca Campbell, died June 17, 1819. (stone missing)
14. Sacred to the memory of Mary Jane Giffin/who departed this life/ July 23, A. D. 1851/ aged 20 years 1 mos/ & 16 days. Sleep in Jesus! O, for me/May such a blissful refuge be;/Security shall my ashes be. (stone broken, only age and partial verse remain)
15. Robert Giffin/Died Jan. 26, 1876/Aged/76 Y. 7M. 5 D./The wind breathes low/on the yellow land/sounds vespers from the trees/So flowed the parting/Breath when father/Ceased to be. (standing stone)
16. Sarah, Wife of, Robert Giffin, Died. Feb. 3, 1872, Aged, 71 Y. 7 Mo. 10 D. Blessed are the dead who/die in the Lord./Mother is not dead/but sleepeth. (standing stone)
17. J. G. (infant stone) (note: could be James Giffin, s/o Robert & Sarah Giffin)
18. M. J. G. (foot stone, missing) (note: could be Mary Jane Giffin, d/o Robert & Sarah Giffin)
19. Jeremiah Giffin, died October 7, 1866, aged 31 years 1 month and 10 days (missing stone)
20. Mary E., wife of James Giffin, died October 3, 1878, aged 41 years 4 months and 26 days. Dearest mother thou has left/Here thy loss we deeply feel/But tis God that hath bereft us/He can all our sorrows heal. (stone fragment with only part of verse)
21. Hier ruht Friedrich Hoffing Dr. M. Geborn 1800; Gestorben March 11, 1855 (stone broken, only date of death remains)
22. William S./Son of S. & M. A. Jackson/Born Jan 11 1843/Died March 1 1854. For changing scenes on earth/He found a home in heaven. (standing stone)
23. Sacred to the memory of Daniel Jessup/Born in Cumberland Co., New Jersey/September 7, 1780/Died October 12, 1866/Aged 86 yrs. 1 mos. 5 days. (stone obelisk broken)
24. Purnella, daughter of Daniel and Nancy Jessup, died June 5, 1811, aged 18 years 5 months and 6 days. (date possibly 1841, stone missing)
25. Douglas E., son of James and Nancy A. Long, born Sept. 17, 1805, died March 6, 1866 (birth date possibly 1855, stone missing)
26. ???died 1819 in the 36?(85?) year of her age. (stone fragment)
27. May 11 185?/Aged/19 yrs. 10 mo. 5 d. This lovely bud of joy/Called home by ? of doom/Just come to show for/In paradise doth bloom (stone fragment)
28. M. S. (foot stone)

Ephraim Brown Stout standing between the tombstones of Gershom and Phebe Gard
Arnold  In 1828 Albert G. Arnold established a tannery on the low ground north of the residence of General Cist. In addition to 30-40 vats for tanning, he also had a currying shop and a shop for making shoes. Before then, an itinerant shoemaker sufficed. Buried in Gard Cemetery are several of his children. In 1827 Albert bought 40 acres of College Hill land and married Anna Marie Howard, daughter of Solomon Howard. In 1829, he purchased 40 more acres. In 1873 the family moved to Jeffersonville, Indiana where Albert died in 1879.

Robert Badgley (Jr.) was an early settler of Cumminsville. He built a log cabin in 1795 (torn down in 1911) at the foot of Otte Avenue. William and Jacob Badgley also lived there according to Freeman G. Cary. Robert Sr.4(born ca 1740-1783) was the son of James and Hannah (Kelsey) Badgley, and Robert married Rachel Vreeland. After his death, Rachel moved to Ohio with her children: Noah, one of the founders of Cincinnati, drowned in the Licking River without being married; Hannah (b 1767 married Joseph Scudder); Robert (born 6-6-1763, married Rachel Roll, daughter of John Roll); Rachel (born 1771, married 1) Benjamin Otler, married 2) James Watkins. Another son of James and Hannah Badgley, Anthony, married Anne Woodruff and several of his children came to Hamilton County, Ohio. Their daughter, Jane, married Barnabas Hoel/Hole. In Northside was the Badgley Burying Ground which became filled due to deaths during cholera epidemics. The bodies were moved to Wesleyan Cemetery.

William Bell - see Olmsted

Robert Hamilton Bishop was born July 26, 1777 in Linlithgowshire, Whitburn, Scotland, one of sixteen children of William Bishop and Agnes Weir and by his second wife, Margaret Hamilton. He married Ann Ireland, August 25, 1802 and they came to New York in October of that year. In 1803 they arrived to Kentucky and settled in Lexington in 1804. Dr. Bishop taught at Transylvania University; Logic, Moral Philosophy, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy and History until leaving for Oxford, Ohio in November 1824. He came to Pleasant Hill in 1845. Dr. Bishop’s brother, Ebenezer came to America in 1813 and settled in Illinois. Several of their siblings also arrived later. Dr. Bishop and Ann had eight children: William Wallace, born 28 Dec. 1805; Mary Ann, born 26 Feb 1808, married William W. Robertson; George Brown, born 30 March 1810; Ebenezer Brown, born 18 June 1812, married Laura W. Churchill; Robert Hamilton, Jr., born 15 Aug. 1814, married 1) Eliza A. Lyons m 2) Kate C. Thompson; Catherine Wallace, born 3 Jan. 1817; John Mason, born 2 April 1819, married Lucy L. North; and Jane Ridgely, born 15 March 1821, married David Williams.

Ephraim G. Brown (1768-1835) In 1793 Ephraim Brown was an assistant surveyor from New Jersey on the road from Cincinnati to the mouth of the Big Miami River. In 1795, Symmes sold him “… in consideration of $100 in certificates of debts due from the United States and $160 in specie, the east half of section 32, 320 acres.” Today this covers the area from Galbraith Road to Compton Road, Hamilton Avenue to Arlington Gardens Cemetery. He later sold this parcel to Peter Laboiteaux. Capt. Brown built a brick house in 1812 on 267 acres (section 31) purchased from his father-in-law, Gershom Gard. He married Gard’s daughter Eunice (1771-1857) at North Bend, Ohio the ceremony being conducted by Judge John Cleves Symmes. Until 1982-83 Savannah Avenue was shaded by the trees that Ephraim planted. The house remains today, a tribute to good building and owner care.

Brown was a farmer and had a still that used peaches, cider, corn and rye to make whiskey and

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4 Evening Post, Badgley History, Newark, New Jersey, Wheeler Thurston, July 25 to Nov. 11, 1906.

Capt. Brown was a Justice of the Peace, served in the state legislature for eleven years and was a trustee of Colerain Township. He raised and outfitted his own cavalry unit to fight in the War of 1812. One of their daughters, Eunice, married Vesper Nichols and is possibly buried in Gard cemetery. Julianna Brown married Luther Witherby, Lucinda Brown married James Gilkey.

Israel Brown (1778-1852) was a member of the Ohio Legislature and a Judge of Hamilton County’s Court of Common Pleas. He was the brother of Ephraim Brown and came to Cincinnati in the spring of 1797. Israel married Jan. 3, 1802, Elizabeth Hankins, daughter of Richard Hankins. In 1803 Israel purchased land in Hamilton County. He and his family are buried in Wesleyan Cemetery. One of his daughters, Elizabeth, married Thomas Humes. Another, Harriet, married her cousin Mahlon Brown, son of Ephraim Brown. His son, Israel Brown, Jr. married Martha A. Harrison (1822-1882), granddaughter to William Henry Harrison. Several of their children married into the Bevis family. A daughter of Mahlon and Harriet Brown, Eunice, married John Cox Eversull who was the son of Solomon Eversull Sr./Eversol and Mary Cox. The Eversull’s were early College Hill pioneers. Solomon died when he was 101 years old. Their cabin stood on the west side of Hamilton Avenue between Springlawn and Rockford Place. The cabin was moved about 1914 to an unknown location.

Charles C. Cist, son of a Russian immigrant, was a country storekeeper in Harmony, Pennsylvania when he married Jane White in 1817. They traveled by flatboat to Cincinnati with their four children in 1827. The family moved to College Hill in August 1853. Cist became widely known as an author, newspaper publisher and editor. He took several census’ of Cincinnati and his Cincinnati in... statistical based anthologies still provide us with information about that time. He published the Western General Advertiser as well as Cincinnati Miscellany.

Cist was active in promoting cottonseed, a worthless by-product of the South’s cotton trade. He urged that cottonseed be processed and the forthcoming oil bleached, to better resemble olive oil. Cotton meal and oil had a bright future that some growers in the South failed to see. In part, Cist’s urgings and writings and the river boat trade made Cincinnati one of the leading centers for manufacturing crude cottonseed oil. Procter & Gamble introduced Ivory Soap in 1878, which used cottonseed oil. Years later, Crisco, would be another leading product made from cottonseed oil. Cist died Sept. 5, 1869. Mrs. Jane Cist died Feb. 5, 1869. Cist’s father, Charles Cist (1738-1805), served in the Revolutionary War and was the commissioner to sign the Continental currency.

Charles’ and Jane’s son, Lewis J. Cist (died 1885), became a notable poet. Another son, Henry Martin Cist, was born in 1839 and graduated from Farmers’ College. He studied law in the office of George Hoadly, later Ohio’s governor. He left his law practice to join the Civil War, returning to College Hill after it was over to resume his practice and was twice elected mayor. While he entered the war as a private, he left it as brevet brigadier general. He traveled extensively during his retirement and died in Rome, Italy in 1902. His daughter Edith (1873-1934) married Charles Louis LaBoiteaux, son of Isaac N. LaBoiteaux, and lived in the LaBoiteaux home on Hamilton Avenue. Next to it was a white frame house that was the home of Frank Cist.

Henry’s daughter, Bertha A. Cist, was the last of the Cist family in Cincinnati. She died in 1966. She was also the great-granddaughter of Thomas Morris, one of the first U. S. Senators from Ohio.

The Cist house is at 5752 Belmont Avenue. Many years later it was one of the College Hill homes of the Flannigan family. The Cist’s owned most of the property on the east side of Hamilton Avenue from Northside to College Hill.

Elias Compton was born 1787 in New Jersey and settled in Mt. Healthy in 1817, coming in a wagon train from Rosemont, New Jersey and down the Ohio River by flatboat. Elias was a cousin of Jacob R. Compton. He was a shoemaker and a farmer. Elias built a stone house which stood in Mt. Healthy until at least 1925. It was there he married his second wife, Abasheba Hill (died 1831). Seeking better farmland he moved out to Springdale, on the banks of the Mill Creek, and built a brick house from clay fired on the
site. He died 12 August 1864.

**Jacob Richard Compton** was born in New Jersey in 1760. In 1796 he emigrated to Ohio from Kentucky in a caravan of 200 people, including the Stout, Hankins, Runyon, Minor, Zutphen and Drake families. Ermina (or Oraminia) Hyde Compton, his wife, was born in 1760 and died in 1840.

“Oraminah was the tenth child of John and Ann Elizabeth Runyon Hyde. In the Hyde family there were ten daughters and two sons...Reuben Compton, Benijah Stout and J. Smith married sisters of Minor (Hyde). Jacob and Minor left Hunterdon Co., N.J. 1794 coming down through the Shenandoah Valley, stopping at a Cherokee Indian Village to repair wagons and to obtain a supply of food. There, they were exposed to scarlet fever which was raging in the village and were forced to make camp in Mason Co., (Maysville) Ky. where five of the Compton children died and were buried. Compton’s children remained in Ohio except son, Nathan, who married Jane Hawkins (sic., should be Hankins), daughter of Richard Hawkins (sic) and moved on west. Jacob Compton and Richard Hawkins (sic) both served in the Revolutionary War from Hunterdon Co. (N.J.)...Jacob Compton served in Revolutionary War under his uncle, Col. Stout and Capt. Quick’s Co.”

Jacob was a cooper and a farmer. He died in 1821 and was buried in the Old Compton Cemetery, Mt. Healthy. Abraham, who was born in 1796 in Kentucky, came with his parents to Hamilton County. Abraham married Abigail Philips and they had thirteen children. He was a farmer and carpenter. Reuben S. Compton who married Bathsheba Laboyteaux was also Jacob’s son. The houses of Jacob and Reuben are still standing in Mt. Healthy. In 1821 Reuben purchased 183 acres, the homestead farm, for $800. His neighbors were also relatives as his land was bounded by Isaac Sparks, James Hoel, and Nathan Compton, among others.

The Comptons were active in their community. From the Colerain Township Records (1803-1845) Mrs. Ruth J. Wells wrote: “All of the election results are here. The electors were to choose three trustees, a treasurer, clerk, appraisers of property, fence viewers, supervisors of highways, overseers of the poor, constables and, periodically, grand and petit jurors. Overseers of the poor took care of pauper residents of the township. They also had the task of locating people who moved into the township and appeared likely to become charges on the township. A writ was then served by the constable on these persons directing them to leave the township. There was no township meeting hall and electors were directed to assemble at the home of a resident, usually in April of each year. From 1805 to 1820 the elections were held at the home of Revolutionary War veteran James Hardin, early treasurer of Colerain township. Jacob R. Compton was first elected in 1803 as appraiser of property. He served as overseer of the poor in 1809, supervisor of highways in 1811, oversee again in 1816. Nathan Compton was elected constable in 1807. In 1814 he served as a supervisor, in 1824 as fence viewer, in 1827 as petit juror, overseer in 1828. Abraham Compton appears in 1819 as supervisor, again in 1823, grand juror in 1824, supervisor in 1826. Reuben S. Compton shows up in 1830 as supervisor.

He was elected as trustee of School and Ministerial Lands in 1836 and also as juror. He was chosen as one of the township trustees in 1837, 1838, 1840 and 1841. Many of the Hankins, Runyans, Stouts and Laboyteaux who were allied with the Comptons show up in these township records...”

Compton Road was already so named by 1812 and could date from before 1796 when the Compton family settled just outside of Mt. Healthy, for a road was needed to reach the area’s first mill located in Carthage. The original path of the road started by a creek ford near Pippin Road, ran up through today’s Skyline Acres, passed Arlington Gardens Cemetery and then went north to the present location of Compton Road.

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6 Comptonology, Vol. 3, #1, Feb. 1944

7 could be a Shawnee village near Portsmouth, Ohio.

8 Early Pioneers-The Compton Family, Ruth J. Wells
Andrew Cox⁹ was born in Hampshire County, Virginia in 1761, and enlisted September 1776, in Col. Enoch’s regiment. They marched to Ft. Jackson, 50 miles above Pittsburg on the Monongahela River to fight Indians. Cox was a scout and in 1777-1778 traveled the country between forts on the Cheat and Monongahela Rivers as a ranger and Indian spy. He moved to Kentucky 1790, and came to Hamilton County in 1799. He first settled on a farm in Clifton, where he lived many years. His wife’s name was Rebecca, but her last name is unknown. He died when he was 91 and was buried in Wesleyan Cemetery. The wife (Mary Elizabeth Cox) of the centenarian, Solomon Eversol, was a daughter and lived to age 97. Edward DeSerisy, of College Hill and Armand DeSerisy are grandsons. Armand was the first mayor of Cumminssville (1865-69) and Deputy U.S. Internal Revenue Collector. Andrew’s daughter, Margaret, married Edward DeSerisy.

Tunis Cox/Cock was the son of Major William G. Cox/Cock, a War of 1812 veteran and a stone mason. When Tunis was nine (1787) his parents came from New Jersey to settle at North Bend, Ohio, later moving to New Burlington. Tunis was the proprietor of the Eleven Mile House also named Farmers’ Rest on Hamilton Avenue near New Burlington. Tunis married Nancy Sparks.

William Cox came to Colerain Township from New Jersey in 1809 and had become a major in the War of 1812. By trade he was a stone mason. His children were Martha and Tunis, who owned much of College Hill before the Carlys.

John Crary¹⁰ was born in Connecticut and joined the Army as volunteer in Vermont. He came to Hamilton County in 1809, and bought a small farm on Winton Road which now forms part of Spring Grove Cemetery. He died on his farm at age 91 years. He was buried in an unmarked grave in the Finney burying ground, Winton Road. Silas Crary, later an resident of the Old Man’s Home, 86 years, was the only surviving son. Rev. B. F. Crary, D.D., editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate, San Francisco was a grandson and Adam Gray, well known insurance agent in Cincinnati is a great-grandson. John Crary’s son, Lyman Crary Sr. married Hannah Mills, and they had 7 children, one of which was Abigail Crary born 2 July 1823. She married July 2, 1848 Moses Nutt Grey (1819-7 Dec. 1915). Moses lived in College Hill and Gray Road is named after him.

Solomon Eversull purchased 40 acres from Andrew and Rebecca Cox in 1832 for $50. He lived across from the toll gate on Hamilton Avenue in a frame house for many years. His farm stood where Kirby Road school now stands. His wife, Mary Elizabeth Cox, died (1878) from burns received when her clothes caught fire from an open fireplace. His obituary was in the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette, Nov. 9, 1883. “Solomon Eversull dies at an age of one hundred and one years and eighteen days. Solomon Eversull, the only centenarian in Hamilton County, died at his home on the Hamilton pike ... he simply died of old age. He was born in the State of Virginia...on the 15th day of November, 1783. In 1801 his parents immigrated to Ohio, and his father (Christian Eversull), being taken sick, died at Parkersburg, W. Va. Young Eversull and his mother (Eva Gephardt) came on to Newmarket, Ohio, where they lived for four years, and then came to Columbia, where he learned the trade of boat-building. He was one of the builders of the Papagon, the first steamboat which ran the waters of the Ohio River. He leaves three children: John Eversull, of Mount Airy, who is seventy three years of age; Mrs. Warmer Eversull of Mount Washington; and Miss Rebecca Eversull, who has kindly cared for her aged father for many years... Newmarket is in Highland Co., near Hillsboro.”

His son, John Cox Eversull, married Eunice Brown, daughter of Mahlon and Harriet Brown. Harry Starr III says: “John was a farmer, a civil engineer and surveyor of Hamilton County for 50 years, and

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⁹ Year Book of Ohio Society SAR 1895, containing General Samuel F. Cary's Record of Revolutionary Soldiers, Rare book room, Cincinnati Public library

¹⁰ Yearbook of the Ohio Society, SAR, 1895, op. cit.
Mayor of Mt. Airy.” Their son, John C. Eversull, Jr. died of nephritis as did Eunice, and both mother and son had their funerals on the same day. One of their daughters, Anna B. Eversull, married John A. Caldwell who was judge of Hamilton County’s Court of Common Pleas.

**Roswell Fenton** was born in Mansfield, Connecticut, in 1750. He participated in Bunker Hill, returned to Connecticut July 12, 1775, and joined Capt. Shipman’s Company, 7th Regiment Continental Infantry. Discharged 12-16-1775 due to ill health, he married Deborah Freeman, a descendant of the early Colonial, Governor Freeman. After the war Fenton went to Stillwater, New York, then to Broad Albin, Fenton County, New York. They moved to Cincinnati 1806 and planned to buy a plantation in Kentucky. While on a prospecting tour in Ky. he was robbed and murdered near the foot of 12 Mile Island. The grave was never found. Deborah died in 1845, at 93 years. They had a dozen children. Rebecca Fenton was one of their children and was the mother of Freeman Grant and Samuel Fenton Cary. Rebecca died at Samuel Cary’s residence at age 98. She was the last survivor of the 12 children. Grandchildren: Reuben E. Fenton - Governor and U.S. Senator of New York; Solomon Howard - president of Ohio University; Roswell F. Howard, Esq., Xenia; Roswell H. Fenton - treasurer of Hamilton County, Ohio.

Who was Galbraith? **Frederick W. Galbraith** was a W.W. I hero. When the war started Galbraith did not need to serve because of his age but he volunteered to go anyway. Leaving his chewing tobacco business behind, he joined the 147 Infantry Regiment from Cincinnati and was decorated for his heroism. Returning to Cincinnati, he died in an automobile accident in 1912. His ashes are in a memorial at Eden Park and the Galbraith American Legion.

**Gershom Gard** came west from New Jersey with his brother Daniel and his cousin Alexander Guard, settling first in North Bend, Ohio. In 1795 with a Miami land warrant and $200, Gershom purchased adjoining sections 31 and 25. This land totaled 1,280 acres and encompassed what today is North Bend Road to Galbraith Road, and Daly Road to the Colerain Township line. He settled in Springfield Township upon North Bend Road, about one mile west of Hamilton Avenue. Gershom Gard was a veteran of the American Revolution and served as a private in Captain Keen’s Company. Peter Keen got the forfeit of section 31. Gershom later sold to his son, Seth, the land in section 25, approximately 640 acres for $640. When Gershom died in 1897, he was buried on his farm in an area he set aside for a family cemetery. Later this land was owned by Isaac Betts. Gershom married Phebe Huntington, also of New Jersey. According to Gard’s gravestone, he died Jan. 15, 1807 but his obituary which appeared in the *Western Spy* newspaper, on Jan. 19, 1809 has: “Departed this life on the 28th of December, Mr. GERSHUM GARD, aged 70. He was born in 1734. His wife Phebe died in 1812, in her 81st year, and is buried next to him.”

Seth, one of Gershom’s children, served in the War of 1812 under Capt. John Wallace’s Hamilton County Mounted Militia. He and his wife went to Wabash County, Illinois, shortly after the death of Gershom. In 1814 he founded Old Palmyra, Illinois along with Peter Keen, Gervase Hazelton, Levi Compton, John and Aaron Waggoner. Seth became a New Light minister, representative of the county in the state legislature, and a county court judge. Aaron Waggoner was a stone mason. The settlement was on the banks of the Wabash River where Gard, Keene and Hazelton operated a ferry. Without a suitable meeting place, Hazelton was paid $8 year to let the county commissioners meet in his house.

The site of Palymra was unhealthy, the swampy ground bred mosquitoes, and typhoid fever was common. Shortly after 1819 the town was abandoned. “Not only did the Indians give these early settlers trouble, there were numerous dens of Rattle Snakes in the area that killed horses and cattle. Here were also much game, Wild Turkeys, wolf, bears, panthers and deer. All perished by the plowshare, as the forests were cleared and the land cultivated.”

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11 Yearbook of the Ohio SAR, 1895, op. cit.
12 Paul J. Holsen from The Descendants of Joran Kyn of Sweden, Gregory B. Keen, 1913.
West Galbraith Road was named Giffin Road in 1839 for the farm of James Giffin, which was located where the Clovernook Country Club is today. Giffin died about 1809 from head injuries received from a falling log while building his barn. He is possibly buried in the LaBoyteaux - Cary cemetery. One of his many children, Robert, is buried with his wife in the Jessup Cemetery (2640 Jessup Road). Off Giffin Road was Sundale Avenue, the location of the local toll gate.

James Gilkey was born 18 Oct., 1796, died 1821 and on 19 April, 1821 married Lucinda Brown (1805-1848/1849 from mortality schedule). A native of Maine, James was the son of John Gilkey (1764-1812) and Susanna Bacon (1773-1840, married 1788). John Gilkey’s father, James, came from Scotland. During the Revolutionary War, John was one of a chosen committee to provide for the families of the non-Commissioned officers and private soldiers. He entered the Continental Army, Sept. 29, 1777 until 1780. He was a member of the local committee of correspondence, inspection and safety in 1776 to see there were no traitors in town. He served again as a member 1781-1785. He was also a member of the committee appointed April 25, 1780 to examine articles contained in the proposed state Constitution of Maine and Massachusetts, when separation was proposed.

James and Lucinda’s children were: Susannah Gilkey born/died 1822; Ephraim Brown Gilkey (1823-1824), Mary Ketiridge Gilkey (1824-1913) who married Sheba Bell; George Washington Gilkey (1727-1895) who married in 1851 Sarah Jane Ogilvie; James Francis Gilkey (born 1829) who married Susan O’Loughlin; Harvey Edwin Gilkey (1832-1906) who married Eliza Jane Abbett; Oliver Brown Gilkey (born 1834); Lucinda Elvira Gilkey (born 1836- who married Max Record; Eunice Brown Gilkey (born 1838). See Olmsted.

David Gray purchased the land that followed the hill sides which Gray Road winds along today. In 1839 the road was slightly altered to come out to the Hamilton Avenue and Groesbeck Road intersection. His son, Moses Gray, founded horticulture on Gray Road. Moses’ son, Adam Gray (1849-1919), was a well known insurance agent. Adam’s sister, Abby Gray, was involved for years in the Art Academy and the Women’s Art Club. Walter Gray was the first to grow flowers under glass in Cincinnati. He lived at 1511 Groesbeck Road.

William Hammitt was a native of Burlington County, New Jersey, born 23 Nov. 1758. He enlisted in the Army at Mt. Holly and fought in the battles of White Plains, Long Island and Princeton, New Jersey. Regarding the latter battle: “. . . he has often said that when our troops were on the eve of retreating, General Washington rode along the line, calling upon his men to advance and defeat was turned into victory.” He came west in 1790, settling at North Bend, Ohio where he kept the ferry across the Ohio River and the old “ferry boat is a cherished relic in the possession of his descendants.” In 1815 he moved to Taylor’s Creek, Colerain Township and there died 26 Dec. 1841. He was buried in the family cemetery near his old residence. Samuel and John W. Hammitt of College Hill were his grandsons. The Hammitt’s were known for their fruit orchards and flowers.

Richard Hankins was born in North Carolina about 1749 and served in the Revolutionary War under General Francis Marion. He came north after the war and settled on the forfeit of section 36. After he lived on the land the seven years required to make it his own, in 1797 he built a two story hewn log house near North Bend Road and Oakwood. The heirs of Richard Hankins deeded a piece of that same forfeiture to (Judge) Isaac Sparks and his wife, Sarah, nee Hankins. Hankins’ two story log house was luxurious by the standards of 1825.

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13 Gilkey information from Sue Bell
14 Yearbook of Ohio SAR, 1895, op. cit.
Richard Hankins died Aug. 29 1823 and is buried in the same row of Gard Cemetery as Isaac Sparks and Rhoda Sparks (his granddaughter by Isaac and Sally Sparks). Richard Hankins’ will, written in 1808, lists his wife as Rachal and his children; Rachal, William, Sarah, Elizabeth, Jane. His name is incorrectly spelled/read as Hawkins in some early records.

The Harbeson homestead, once located at 6372 Hamilton Avenue, was once part of the Witherby property. In an undated newspaper article, George T. Harbeson, who sold the property said; “It was between 1805 and 1810 that the blacksmith, Weatherby, erected the first section of the house ...He built it of brick made upon the spot. He had two blacksmith shops upon the place, and we have found in the ground scrap iron, horseshoes, nails, keys, locks and bolts, and wagon tires made by Weatherby.

In 1820 the Gano family bought the little house. In about 1828 Matthew Harbeson came here from Philadelphia and bought the house. In 1832 his mother, Sarah Lawler Harbeson, who was my great-grandmother, arrived from Philadelphia and purchased the building from her son.”

Harbeson owned a family Bible which belonged to Rebecca Fenton Cary, sister of New York’s Governor Fenton. Harbeson’s great-grandfather was Freeman Cary.

George T. Harbeson had a nursery business in College Hill and a book business in New York. He sold the property which was made into a subdivision by Myers Y. Cooper and Harbeson moved to Florida.

James Hathorn15 was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and was commissioned from there in 1775 to serve in the Revolutionary War. After two tours of duty, he moved to Virginia, then North Carolina, back to Virginia and finally to College Hill in 1827. He applied for his Revolutionary War pension in 1832. Dr. John Gano, John Strong, William Carey (sic), Esq. John Tuttle and Philip Young all attested to his character. His next door neighbor was Samuel Fenton Cary, who knew Hathorn from 1827-1835. The aging Mr. Hathorn may have instilled into Samuel an interest in American history. History of the Revolutionary War was passed at that time from person to person and he must have been a popular figure, entertaining neighbors with tales of his life. He died in his two-story log cabin March 23, 1835 at age 88. He was buried under a cherry tree on his property, This property was acquired years later by John M. Wilson, Esq. Hathorn’s remains were moved, probably before the property was sold out of the family, and reburied in 1855 to the Lane Seminary Cemetery and were again moved to Spring Grove Cemetery in 1878 where he rests next to his wife, Elizabeth, and son-in-law Isaac B. Perrine. Hathorn was twice married and had 14 children.

James Hathorn was a farmer, land trader and a businessman. He bought, sold, and sometimes lost, land parcels in the various states he resided.

When he settled in College Hill he purchased 2.75 acres from the property once owned by David Thomas (Hamilton Avenue and Windermere Way). David Thomas, whose chair manufacturing business failed, sold his land to Asa Newton, who in turn sold the land to Hathorn. Isaac Perrine, when the property came into his hands, used it as a boarding house, for in the 1840 census, 31 people were living there. Two houses away, Alison Grant also seems to be running a boarding house as he had 22 people in residence. When this house was bought by John Wilson and later came to Obed J. Wilson, this log cabin was the core of the familiar white house sitting on the hill that was torn down in the 1970’s. The property is part of Twin Towers Retirement Community.

Solomon Howard16 lived in Hebron, Connecticut when he joined the Revolutionary War, serving 9 months under Col. Eby at New London. There he built forts until he was ordered to Rhode Island to join

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15 Source: Jack Hulquist
16 Yearbook of the Ohio SAR, 1895, op. cit.
General Spenser’s Campaign in 1777. He served an additional nine months under Col. Lamb at West Point. In 1781 he enlisted at Lyme, New Hampshire to serve nine months on the Canadian frontier under Col. Wait. In 1782 he re-enlisted at Hebron, Conn. to serve under Col. Grovesnor, going to West Point, New York. He married at Lyme, New Hampshire in 1783 to Anna Cary. He died Oct. 4, 1834. Anna died in 1854. His one story frame house once stood at 5749 Hamilton Avenue and was relocated across the street. Later still this house was moved to North Bend Road where it has been shingled over and is still in use.

As the Howard family became established in College Hill, they built a replica of their New England house at 1340 Groesbeck Road.

**John C. Humes** was born in Cincinnati, October 6, 1839, of Scotch-Irish lineage. He was the son of Thomas Humes (1810-1880) and Eliza Brown (1809-1879), daughter of Judge Israel Brown. The family moved to Rush County, Indiana about 1844 or 1845 to farmland owned by Israel Brown and Israel later willed it to Elizabeth and her children. Thomas Humes’ father, John, was an early Ohio settler who made spinning wheels and Windsor chairs. Thomas Humes’ father, John, married as his second wife Maria (Polly) Voorhees, whose father Abraham, founded Voorheestown. According to the Ohio Historical Marker 10-31, 1994; “In 1794 Abraham Voorhees, a Revolutionary War veteran, brought his family from New Jersey to the Northwest Territory to settle on a 640-acre section of land, part of the Miami Purchase, for which he paid John Cleves Symmes ‘33 dollars 30/90th’ in United States Treasury Certificates. By 1798 the town was platted and lots were being sold. Official registration of the plat was completed in 1804, the town’s name being changed to Reading at the suggestion of Henry Redinbo, who had moved his family to the area from Reading, Pennsylvania in 1795.”

One of Thomas’s sister, Bridget, married Mahlon LaRue. The Humes family moved to Rush County, Indiana about 1844 or 1845 to farmland owned by Israel Brown and later willed by him to Elizabeth and her children.

**Jessup:** John Jessup came to Springfield Township in 1794, traveling from Pittsburgh to Cincinnati by flat boat. The farm on which the family first settled had been selected by John’s older brother, Stephen, who walked from Pennsylvania. Stephen Jessup built a small grist mill and distillery in this area. John J. Jessup married Judith Hall. Their daughter Rachel married Cary Johnson. Their son Stephen married Mercy Stout Van Zandt. Stephen and Mercy were the parents of Elizabeth Jessup who married Robert Cary and Mercy Van Zandt, step-daughter of Stephen Jessup, married Thomas Branch Witherby. Stephen and Mercy operated a farm and distillery and owned land at Brookville, Indiana.

Judith Jessup is buried in Gard Cemetery near her daughter Rachael and probably John and Isaac are there also. There is a lot marker with the initials J.J. Isaac, John and their cousin, William Dare, all served in the Revolutionary War.

Isaac Jessup settled west of where his brother, John, had his farm. Isaac purchased 160 acres for $320 in 1804. Isaac’s son, Daniel, came first and it was on this trip that he was captured by the Indians. ‘Indian Daniel’ was abducted and spent several years among the Indians. He reputedly could speak Pottawattamie as well as he spoke English and was appointed Inspector of Indians on Ohio reservations. He married Nancy Stewart and lived until he was 91. He served in the War of 1812 with Capt. Ephraim Brown’s 2nd Ohio Militia and was wounded and taken prisoner in the battle of Detroit. Daniel had an orchard and tree nursery and later moved to Randolph County, Indiana. Amanda Jessup and her husband, David Gray, Jr., also moved with them to Indiana after the deaths of their sons. Jessup Road is named after him and his tombstone, in the Jessup Cemetery, is toppled and worn away. His wife and children are buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

Isaac’s neighbors were Michael Isgrigg, Peter Munz, William Bell, Mahlon Brown, Elisha Wood and Edward Grogan, all considered the founders of Mt. Airy. The movement of so many families from their Eastern roots was fueled by the prospect of cheaper, fertile lands which would be taxed less heavily. Also, the crop yield would decrease over time in any one place as the land was leached of minerals, as land management was unknown. Isaac’s land ran from Jessup Road to Vogel Road to Kipling Road.
The land of Stephen Jessup is now the rear of Teakwood Acres, McEvoy Park and the south end of Hollywood Avenue, including Plantation Acres, Haskin Lake and Greenfield Village subdivisions. He was a farmer and continued the family tradition of weaving, having been left tools by his father. At his death he left a silver spoon to his daughter Sarah. This spoon was reported to have been brought from England and was engraved with the family crest and lineage, but it has been lost. Stephen married Mary Dare, who was the granddaughter of William Dare. Dare owned the Blue Anchor Inn in Philadelphia where William Penn boarded.

The Jessups were known for their orchards and truck farming. Isaac, a son of Indian Dan was a cooper. Most of the family migrated to Indiana.

The Johnsons were of Scotch ancestry and came west from New Jersey. Cary Johnson, a young carpenter, was the first of his family to come to Hamilton County arriving by horseback in 1804. His father, Abner, had been a wagoner in George Washington’s Army and was deeded land for service during the Revolutionary War. Abner transferred his land warrants to Col. Ludlow, asking him to locate his property at the best possible place eight to ten miles from Cincinnati. Ludlow chose the west side of section 32. Mr. Johnson sent his son Cary to view the tract, clear an area, build a barn and a cabin (which stood in North College Hill until 1880). The homestead was called “Johnson’s Grove.” Abner and the rest of the family arrived in 1813 and in 1821 a brick house was built. Cary married Rachel Jessup in 1805. Rachel’s father, John Jessup, also came from New Jersey. Her brother, Stephen, selected the family’s site and the family came out later. Stephen was the maternal grandfather to Pheobe and Alice Cary, Rachel was their aunt. The brick Johnson home still stands as the administration building of Arlington Gardens Cemetery. Cary and Rachel Johnson are buried in New Burlington Cemetery.

Peter Keen/Keene was born about 1761, son of Jacob and Hannah (Holme) Keen. Peter was a Captain in the Revolutionary War and his future father-in-law, Gershom Gard, was a private under him in his company. After the war, Peter left Trenton, New Jersey and came to Hamilton County, there marrying Gershom’s daughter, Jemima. He, his wife and eight children left Hamilton County in 1815 to settle in Palmyra, Illinois. They traveled by keel boat and were met at their destination by other settlers already there to fend off Shawnee Indian attacks, which were a frequent occurrence during that time. Peter made a trip to that area in 1814 to visit his brother-in-law Seth and see what prospects were there for his family.

Capt. James Keene came with his brother Peter to College Hill. James’s daughters were Elizabeth, who married Lt. Thomas Ramsey, 19 Dec. 1797 and Jane, who was married to Samuel Nasey, 16 April 1795 by Aaron Caldwell, J. P. at North Bend, Ohio. Aaron Caldwell also married Hannah Gard to Justice Gibbs and Seth Gard to Mary Tarritt. A judge, Aaron died in 1803 at North Bend. As township residents moved west as new lands were available, Aaron performed many of their marriages.

Another brother, Jacob Keene (1774-1831, settled in Harrison, Ohio and married Sarah Yard (1778-1840). The family is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Harrison, Ohio.

Olive Kelly enlisted in the Revolutionary War in Rothway, New Jersey in Jan. 1776. He fought in the artillery during the battles of Trenton, Springfield, Brandywine, Monmouth, N. J. and Germantown, Pennsylvania. Kelly settled in West Cumminsiville. He died 30 Sept. 1827 and was buried in the Roll burying ground, Cumminsiville. He was born 1756 in New Jersey. Mrs. David Peters of College Hill was his descendant.

The James Kemper family came to Cincinnati in 1791 when Kemper agreed to minister for one year an area Presbyterian congregation. The congregation was obligated to supply pack horses and guides to

17 Source: Paul J. Holsen

18 Yearbook of the Ohio SAR, 1895, op. cit.
move his household and ten children from Danville, Kentucky. The way north followed the wilderness
trace to Maysville, Kentucky. From there they took a flatboat down the Ohio, arriving at Fort Washington
several days after General St. Clair’s army was defeated by Indians. Kemper urged the settlers to remain
in this area for he believed that conflicts with the Indians could be resolved.

His first congregation met in a clearing at 4th and Main Streets. The following year a church was
built with the floor constructed of boat planks and logs for seating. Men brought their rifles along to
services. The original church is long gone but the congregation founded two centuries years ago still
exists as the Covenant First Presbyterian Church at 8th and Elm Streets. By the door is a bronze plaque to
the memory of Israel Ludlow, who first sheltered the Kempers and was instrumental in bringing them
here.

In 1793 Kemper moved far away from the shelter of Fort Washington and built a two story
blockhouse in Walnut Hills, which took its name from his 150 acre farm. In 1804 he built what was called
the Kemper mansion - a four room, two story log cabin. At this time, the family consisted of fifteen
children plus himself and his wife. The house stood in the middle of a forest - today the corner of
McMillan Street and Kemper Lane. Years later, Lane Seminary opened (1830) on sixty acres of Kemper,s
land which had been donated by his son.

The cabin was moved from Kemper Lane to the Cincinnati Zoo in 1913 where it was a popular
attraction. The cabin was moved once again and is now a part of the Sharon Woods Village. It is the
oldest cabin within the Miami Purchase. The block house was later torn down and the logs used to build
Kemper's barn.

Another early family were the Laboyteauxs, who came from New Jersey in 1801 to settle in this area.
Peter P. Laboyteaux, Sr. purchased from Ephraim Brown land in Springfield Township that extended
from West Galbraith Road to Compton Road. John G. Laboyteaux and Samuel Hill laid out Mt. Pleasant
(Mt. Healthy) in 1817. The area was forested with ...the growth of white oak timbers being particularly
fine. It is speculated that John G. and Peter P. Sr. were brothers. John also purchased 435 acres from
Hugh Gaston at the northwest corner of Hamilton and Compton Avenues.

Peter had three sons: Peter (Jr.), Joseph, and John P. The Laboyteaux were merchants that helped
to establish Mt. Pleasant as a country town. Peter J. tried to start to a silk industry in Mt. Pleasant in
addition to being a tailor. He operated the first grocery store and was a partner with Matthais Miller in
packing pork. John P. was a cooper and ran both a hotel and tavern. William and Joseph Laboyteaux were
coopers. Peter, Sr. donated the land that the Cary-Laboyteaux Cemetery occupies.

Peter Laboyteaux Jr. was born in 1783 in New Jersey. His family came to Hamilton County in 1804.
About that time he married Elizabeth Packer, who lived until 1813 and bore Samuel, Elizabeth, Catherine,
Peter and Keziah. His second wife was Margaret Cameron, who after having six children, died. The
following year he married Miss Bedson and had three more sons. Peter died in 1848.

Samuel Laboyteaux, son of Peter, Jr., was born in 1805. He worked the family farm and later became a
cooper. Samuel married in 1827 Maria Louisa Wright, the daughter of another early pioneer. They had
Frederick Wright, Peter, Thomas, Ann Maria, Lucretia, Florien, Monroe, John Murray, Eliza Jane,
Lucinda Ellen and Joseph W. Laboyteaux.

John G. Laboyteaux sold 80 acres to Martin Skillman. In 1833 Skillman’s grandson Isaac built the
house that is now the Paul R. Young Funeral home, Mt. Healthy. The house was purchased in 1836 by
Ebenezer Stevens, shoe merchant, and through marriage the house came back into the LaBoyteaux
family.

19 Source: Mrs. Ruth J. Wells
Aaron Lane was born in New Jersey in 1763 and came with his family in 1798 to Hamilton County. They made the first permanent settlement in Springfield Township, taming the forest to grow grain. There he married his second wife, Elizabeth Carnahan, daughter of the pioneer James Carnahan and Jane Piatt, who also settled in Springfield Township. Aaron died in 1845.

James Lowe LaRue was a friend of Samuel F. Cary. For 40 years he was the Tax Assessor of Springfield Township and his home was where the first election of the township occurred, with a hat serving as a ballot box. He was born in his parent’s cabin on Winton Road, September 14, 1811. His father, John La Rue, lived originally in Hunterdon County, New Jersey and moved when ten years old with his parents to Ohio in 1790. John served in the War of 1812 and when he returned, married Catherine Lowe. Their son James fished the Mill Creek, shot ducks on the present site of Wyoming, confronted a black bear when he was a teenager and looked forward to his yearly treat from his father - a visit to Cincinnati, population 5,000.

James described his education in an article about his death (1898). “I received my education” said he, “out of an old English arithmetic and The Columbian Orator, and while I learned only to cipher in pounds, shillings and pence, I never had any use for them. In those days the lot of the schoolmaster was not as happy as now. He boarded around with the neighbors, and received $4 in cash per month. Shoe stores were unheard of. Once a year a shoemaker called to make one pair of shoes for each member of the family. If these wore out before his return we did without or wore moccasins.”

Thaddeus Tyrrell (T. T.) Olmsted’s father, John S. Olmsted, was a soldier in the War of 1812, enlisting in Vermont. His father, Ebenezer, served in the Revolutionary War. Thaddeus moved to Cincinnati about 1836 and served as a Captain in the Ohio Nationals. Part of the entire family migrated to Ohio and are found in the records of the Union Village Shakers of Lebanon, Ohio. Thaddeus T. owned the Six Mile House which originally stood opposite of where the tavern is today (corner of Colerain Avenue and Blue Rock Road). He also operated a general store. His father-in-law, William Bell, settled in the area just west of the border of Colerain and Green townships in 1825. William and Samuel Bell’s parents were probably John III (1756-1806) and Susanna Bell of Middle Paxton, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. John and Susanna’s children were Jane (married ? Aston), Samuel, Susanna and the William mentioned. William Bell had: Elizabeth and Lucinda Bell - both marrying T. T. Olmsted; Margaret Bell, William Kendall Bell and possibly another son and daughter. Sheba Bell was the son of Samuel Bell and Isabella Watts. William and Samuel Bell and some of their family are buried in the Jessup Cemetery. The Bells were related to the Kendall family of Cheviot.

Sheba and his siblings were orphaned at an early age and were taken in and raised by the Ephraim Brown family. Years later, Sheba Bell married April 28, 1842 Mary Ketridge Gilkey, daughter of James Gilkey and Lucinda Brown.

An article in the Hutchinson Leader, Sept. 1988, Hutchinson, Minn. gives a description of Sheba and Mary Bell “...who had come up the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to Lake Pepin, making their way into ‘Indian country’ in LeSueur County... (Mary Bell), who was known as a healer particularly adept with herb remedies, never hesitated to doctor the Indians and was highly regarded by them. The Bell children and the children of Indians living and hunting in the area played together and the Bells were given Indian names.

One sunny day, as Grandma Mary Bell sat in the shade of her shanty preparing green beans for

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20 Gilkey, Bell information from Sue Bell
21 Source: Dr. Thomas Olmsted
22 Source: Gilkey and Bell information from Sue Bell.
23 Sent by Bernard Beach, Hutchinson Leader, Quilt pieces woven in woman’s memory, Margaret Knutson, Sept. 1988.
dinner, a shadow fell across her for a fleeting second. She looked up to see two quarters of venison hanging alongside the shed. An Indian friend she had treated had shot a deer and was dividing it with her, leaving without a sound and without waiting for explanation or thanks.

Later, just before the onset of the 1882 Dakota Conflict Outbreak, her friend came again. This time he told her that his people would not hurt her family, but there were others who would, and that the Bells should leave immediately.” The family quickly did as they were told, coming to Hutchinson (Minnesota). Mary died in 1913 in Lamont, Iowa.

The “Six Mile House” was built in the 1830’s on Bell’s land that he bought from Daniel Jessup and served those driving their herds and flocks to the large markets in Cincinnati, as well as farmers. It was a two story, wood sided building with exposed log rafters in its 10 rooms. The inn had a succession of managers some of whom leased the inn for five year intervals. The owners of the property contain many familiar names seen in the history of that area: Rinkle, Aston, Craig, Schibi, Renstler, Bernard Kroger and John Edison. It was torn down before 1920 and the current poured concrete Six Mile House was built across the street in 1908. This building was demolished in 2000.

Thaddeus T. died 3-11-1853 of tuberculosis when he was 35. He left a will which specified the clothing he was to wear when buried, left his son his Masonic regalia, sword and pistol, left items from his store to various family members and provided for his unborn child. His grave is marked by a Masonic emblem. He and his family, along with his father, (died 1873 of pneumonia) had moved to Switzerland County, Indiana.

Mrs. Ruth J. Wells has a Bell Bible printed in 1855. In it is listed:
Jane Aston was born Nov. 24, 1833
William Kendall Bell was born March 23, 1828
Laura Ann Bell was born March 31, 1864
Seymour Barton Bell was born July 1, 1856
William Kendall Bell died April 7, 1875 aged 47 yrs. & 15 days
Jane Bell died Feb. 1, 1888 aged 54 yrs., 2 mo. & 7 da.

**John Parker**²⁴ served in the Revolutionary War under Col. Quick and later under Col. Vroom. At Staten Island he bore dispatches for General Washington for eighteen months. He fought at Elizabethtown where he wounded in the leg and emigrated to Springfield Township in 1897. He was born 1761 in Somerset, New Jersey and died 29 June 1844.

**Samuel Pierce**²⁵ came from Middleton, Connecticut, and enlisted in the Revolutionary War in 1777. He came to Mill Creek Township in 1814; died 12 June 1828 in his cabin east of the Cincinnati and Hamilton turnpike near the residence of Solomon Eversole. He was interred in the Roll Cemetery on the west fork of the Mill Creek, Cumminsville. He was born Sept. 1759. His wife died in 1842.

While the Pouders were not in College Hill, their name is encountered through several marriages. John Poudar and his wife, Elizabeth Kniselley Poudar came to Coleraine Township from Baltimore in 1817 by wagon. They first owned the land which it now 5th and Race Streets. They traded this land for 640 acres in Colerain Township. Their farm was between Groesbeck and Barnesburg. John was a carpenter and built the first frame house outside of Cumminsville, that, years later when their son Samuel John and his wife Hannah (Giffin) owned the house, the barn was a station on the Underground Railroad.²⁶ Hannah Giffin was the daughter of James and Margaret (Carson) Giffin, a cousin of the Indian scout, ‘Kit’ Carson. Harriet Poudar, daughter of Samuel John and Hannah (Giffin) Poudar, married Charles West, Jr.

²⁴ Yearbook of the Ohio SAR, 1895, op. cit.
²⁵ Yearbook of Ohio Society SAR, 1895, op. cit.
²⁶ John Poudar, Mrs. Nellie Whedon & Miss Thelma M. Murphy, 1947, also, Mrs. Ruth Wright.
of Groesbeck. He was the son of Rev. Charles West “...a Methodist minister who built the West Union Church at Groesbeck in 1850 with his own funds and was the pastor until his death.” Rev. West was married to Rebecca Sparks. Harriet’s sister, Mary Jane, married as a second husband, Alonzo Smith, first cousin of President James A Garfield.

Henry Rogers was born in Morris County, New Jersey in 1752. He entered the service in 1775 under Lord Stirling. He served one year. He was a weaver by trade and came to Hamilton County early in the 1800’s. He died in 1840 and was buried in Roll graveyard, Cumminsville and later his body was moved to Wesleyan Cemetery. His wife was Phoebe Bennet, who died during the War of 1812. Their children were: Elizabeth Rogers (married Thomas McFeely), Sarah Rogers (married Michael Burge), Hannah Rogers, (1791-1875) who married 14 Feb. 1816, Zebulon Strong, Phoebe Rogers (married Jonathan Holden), Jemima Rogers (married Richard McFeely), Amos Rogers died infant, Samuel Rogers died infant, Nancy Rogers (married Cyrus Brown), Henry Rogers Jr. (married Rachel Maria Hill), Maria Rogers (married Levi Pinney).

Nathaniel Ryan came to Ohio about 1819 from New Hampshire and settled on section 36. His father was Ebenezer Ryan. Nathaniel had a son, William Cary Ryan who married 11 March 1863, Anna Rebecca Pierson. She was the daughter of Alfred Pierson and granddaughter of William Pierson. Not related to the Daniel B. Pierson family of College Hill.

Samuel Seward was born in New Jersey. He married Elsie Gentry and had ten children. He came to “... Hamilton county previous to 1800. For many days they were obliged to remain in the blockhouse at Carthage, so numerous and savage were the Indians at that time. After their fears had somewhat subsided he and his family located on a tract of land situated on Winton Road.” He was a farmer. One of his daughters, Eliza, married Reuben Van Zant.

Jacob Skillman arrived in Springfield Township in 1806. He came to Ohio from Pennsylvania and when he arrived in Mt. Healthy, he cleared the land that belonged to his grandson, Henry. Jacob had five sons, Isaac, Benjamin, Jacob Jr., Thomas and Abraham. Henry was the son of Abraham and Abigail Skillman and married Augusta Foster in 1857. Their children were Albert, George, Harry, Frank and Emma. Isaac owned a grocery store in College Hill near Hillcrest and Hamilton Avenues.

Thomas B. Smith, was a Revolutionary War veteran, of whom little is known. His wife’s name was Abigail and after his death she married Thomas Hoffner. Thomas’ daughters were Rachael Smith who married Zadock Lewis and Ann G. Smith who married Isaac C. Flager.

The Snodgrass family lived north of College Hill. William Snodgrass (1771-1836) and Elizabeth (1779-1844) are buried in the Finneytown Cemetery. Their children were: Abigail (married Isaac Jessup); Joseph Irwin (married 1st Emily Ann Spring, married 2nd Margaret Hathorn); Harriet (married Joseph Hall Virgin); James; John Thompson (married Catherine Hoffner); William Lamdon. The family joined the Christian Church at North Bend and Winton Roads. William was the guardian for the children of Samuel Seward. William was a deacon in his church, a Justice of the Peace, and performed marriages. William owned the land next to Christopher Cary.

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27 Yearbook of Ohio Society SAR, 1895, op. cit.

28 Yearbook of Ohio Society SAR, 1895, op. cit.
Isaac Sparks was born November 24, 1768, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, the son of William and Rachel Sparks. At his death (1788) William mentioned in his will his wife, Rachel, son Isaac to whom he left 100 acres, one young bay mare, saddle, gun, 2 cows and a bed and bedding. The Sparks 346 acre property in Pennsylvania was named “Choice.” The naming of property was originally a Maryland custom. William was a captain in the Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania Militia in 1778 during the American Revolution. William and Rachel’s children as listed in his will were: Isaac, William Jr., James, John, Rachel, Margaret, Elizabeth and Ann. Widow Rachel may have married neighbor Edward Hall, for at age 14 Rachel’s daughter requested the court to appoint Edward Hall as her guardian.

Isaac married Sally Hankins, May 6, 1790. After Sally’s death on Dec. 17, 1825, Isaac married Elizabeth ??. Both Richard Hankins and Isaac Sparks (1787) purchased forfeitures in Symme’s Miami Purchase. Family records state that Isaac “...swam the Ohio River at one time in order to escape from Indians.”

The children of Isaac and Sally Sparks were: William (1791-1876) married Mary Ann Hornaday and moved to Rush County, Indiana. His first wife was Sarah or Catherine Howell 1810-1815 and his third wife was Mary ‘Polly’ Templeton who moved to Rock Port, Missouri after his death. His children were William J., Charlotte, Sarah, Anna, Eliza, Oliver, Susan, Martha Sparks, and Elizabeth (1793-1825 married James McCash). Elizabeth and James had Harriet, Elizabeth (married Jediah Stout Hill), David, Sarah Ann, Israel, Isaac Sparks McCash (married Martha Ann VanZandt), Mary ‘Polly’ (1795-1870 married Obediah Seward of Mt. Healthy). Mary and Obediah had Joseph I., Samuel, Sarah, Eley, Francis, Ruth, William and Louann P. Seward and moved to Rush County, Indiana; Rachel 1798-1841 married Daniel Long. Rachel died of tuberculosis and Daniel married Abigail Preston. Daniel was killed by an explosion of a boiler of a portable engine at the Indianapolis Fairgrounds Oct. 1, 1869. Nancy ‘Anna’ 1800-1841 married Tunis Cox/Cock, son of William G. Cox. Tunis married second, Sarah Sauter. Tunis and Nancy had William, Thomson, Mary Ann, Sally, Greshem, Andrew Jackson, Elizabeth, Isaac, Martha Jane, George Washington, Catherine and John D Cox. Isaac Jr. married Sarah Leggett and after her death married Rebecca ??.. Sarah is buried in Gard Cemetery and possibly Isaac Jr. also. Isaac Jr. had by Rebecca Alford, Elizabeth, Ermsley, Sarah, William, Andrew, Edward, Rhoda, Thomson (1808-1833), who married Lucy Jane Head. Thomson died of cholera Nov. 14, 1833. Their only child was Francis M. Sally Cox married Simeon Leggett, a blacksmith. Rhoda, who died in 1825, is buried in the Gard Cemetery. Isaac Sparks died 21 Aug. 1834 and is also buried in Gard Cemetery. Sally Hankins Sparks died Dec. 17, 1825.

Isaac Sparks served as a Justice of the Peace for Colerain Township in 1818 - 1820 and possibly was also a weaver, for an early map indicates a loom on his property. One of Isaac’s earliest cases as a Justice of the Peace was matter in which Alexander Campbell brought suit against Robert William to pay a debt of six dollars, three shillings. Alexander Campbell, along with his father Thomas, founded the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church). Sparks was a convert to this church and was custodian of the ‘Ministerial funds’ for the Christian Church of Colerain Township, 1822-1829.

Isaac’s brother, William, settled in Colerain Township and married widow Catherine Barnes on 12-26-1820 in a civil ceremony conducted by Isaac. Catherine’s first husband was Abraham Barnes. On the 1859 map, Catherine Sparks owns 15 acres of land next to Daniel Barnes.

Barnabas Strong was born in Connecticut in 1759. He enlisted in February 1776 in Lieutenant Colonel Bedel’s New Hampshire Regiment and marched to Ticonderoga, New York, then to Canada and was stationed on the south side of the St. Lawrence. On the 19th of May the detachment was taken prisoner by several hundred Indians. Strong was given to a squaw whose husband had been killed. He was afterwards released and joined his regiment at St. John. In 1777 he returned to his old home in Connecticut and in March enlisted for three years in the regiment commanded by Col. Starr. He fought at the battle of Ridgefield, April 27, 1777. He joined the main army and spent the winter at Valley Forge and was at the battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, June 28, 1778.

29 Yearbook of the Ohio Society SAR, 1895, op. cit.
At one time, from the privation and suffering of the troops, a portion of them, Strong included, became insubordinate and drew their bayonets; General Putman had difficulty getting control over his men and one was shot by the sentinel. Strong, with another, escaped to Long Island, fearing to return home. On the issuing of a proclamation of pardon to those who returned to duty, he rejoined his regiment.

He bought a piece of land in Colerain Township and lived and died there May 26, 1821. He was buried in Strong Farm Cemetery near the Great Miami River at the mouth of Riesisell Run in Colerain Township. L. R. Strong of Taylors Creek was a grandson.

Benjamin Urmson was born in Dec. 20, 1800 in Penn. His parents were David and Mary (Enyard) Urmston from New Jersey. They came with their family down the Ohio River on a raft in 1800, going first to Springfield Township and then to Butler County. Benjamin moved to a farm in Springfield Township in 1838, moving to Mt. Healthy (now North College Hill) in 1853, settling on the Cary homestead. He married Rebecca Kennedy in 1828. Her father was Samuel and Jane (Richardson) Kennedy of the family that ran Kennedy's Ferry across the Ohio River. The Urmson family consisted of Edmund Kennedy 1829-1832, Robert (born 1830 married Sarah Bevis), Mary Jane (1834-1858), Benjamin, and Edmund Kennedy (married Margaret Butterfield). The senior Benjamin Urmson owned land in College Hill.

Henry Van Zandt was born about 1772, New Jersey, and died in March of 1810. Henry’s father was Isaac and Margaret Van Zandt who came to Hamilton County with Henry. Henry married Marcy (Massey) Stout. Her parents were Benijah and Elizabeth Hyde Stout. Henry and Marcy married December 27, 1795 in Somerset County, New Jersey. The Van Zandt family came to Ohio about 1802 and settled in Hamilton County in 1805. Marcy outlived Henry and married Stephen Jessup as her second husband. She is buried with the Van Zandt family in Spring Grove Cemetery. Marcy was born Dec. 1777 in New Jersey and died Feb. 8, 1868. Reuben Van Zandt was one of their children. Henry’s farm was on the north side of the Daly and Galbraith Road intersection on what was the old Trotner farm.

Reuben Van Zandt was the son of Henry Van Zandt and Mercy Stout. Reuben was born on March 14, 1799 in New Jersey and died August 2, 1874. He married Eliza Seward, daughter of Samuel and Elsie Seward, April 18, 1822 in Hamilton County. Eliza was born April 3, 1804 and died Feb. 22, 1895. Reuben and Eliza had 12 children; 9 girls, 3 boys. The 1847 and 1869 maps show Reuben Van Zandt’s land at the southern corner of the intersection of East Galbraith and Winton Roads. While in the 1850 census, Reuben Van Zandt is listed as a farmer, he also wove coverlets. Reuben and Eliza are buried in Spring Grove Cemetery. As found in most pioneer families, the Van Zandts married into the families located nearby; Stout, Seward, Witherby, Jessup, Runyan, McCash, and were related through marriage to more.

Across the street from the Cary-Laboiteaux cemetery was the farm of Dr. Isaac Mayer Wise from Austria. Fleeing Bohemia in the 1840’s with his wife Theresa (Bloch) and daughter, they arrived New York 1846. Originally the name was spelled Weis but Isaac changed it upon coming to America because of misspelling. He met his wife while he was a tutor in her parent’s household.

Wise first was a rabbi in Albany, New York and it was there that he started his crusade of religious reform. He wanted to unite all sections of the Jewish faith and modernize the “Old World” traditions to the progressive “New World” lifestyle he found in America. He believed that education was the tool for this change.

When he arrived in Cincinnati in 1854, about 4,000 if Cincinnati’s 155,000 population were Jewish. One of his first business ventures was with his brother-in-law, Edward Block. They formed Block & Company in 1855 and bought Hebrew type for the first Jewish printing press in the West.30

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The Wise family lived on Longworth Street in 1860. From the census of that time he had seven children, a wife, two relatives living with him, two German servants and three boarders. Wise had $4,000 in personal property. His children were Emily (married Benjamin May); Laura, died young; Leo, who went into a partnership with his father in the publishing of the American Israelite; Julius, who was a doctor and gained recognition for his treatment of yellow fever in Memphis, Tenn. 1878-1879; Ida (married Henry Bernheim); Isador; Helen (married James Molony); Iphigene ‘Effie’ Miriam (married Adolph S. Ochs of New York, publisher of the New York Times); Harry. Theresa died in 1874 and he married on April 25, 1876 Miss Selma Bondi, daughter of Rabbi Jonah Bondi of New York. They had: Elsie Corinne; Jonah Bondi, who was a rabbi in Portland, Oregon; his twin sister Regina (married Albert J. May) and Isaac M. Jr, a lawyer.

He purchased land in Springfield Township in 1861, land which had once been owned by Gershom Gard. His 42 acre farm was a special joy to him, for in the country he left followers of the Jewish religion were not allowed to own land. Undoubtedly his excellent health and vigorous old age were in a large measure due to the life on the farm and his daily drives to and from the city, a distance of 9 miles. Wise and his horse, jogging along, while the doctor sat smoking deep in thought, were familiar figures on the old pike.31 It was along this daily ride that he noticed the property that was to be later purchased for the Hebrew Union College.

His “Floral” was a rambling white brick farmhouse with green shutters that had been built by Rev. Robert Hall, a Presbyterian minister, in about 1838. Floral was on the southeast corner of Galbraith Road and Hamilton Avenue. It was a working farm with cows and horses, a few head of cattle, corn, hay field, fruit orchards, nut trees, grape vines, raspberry patch, vegetable gardens, smokehouse and cider press32.

Known for his hospitality, every Sunday dinner had twenty to thirty guests. He spent his last summer at Floral in 1899, when he posed for sculptor Sir Moses Ezekiel. Ezekiel, living in Rome, was a former Cincinnatian and had been commissioned by the Plum Street Temple to make a life-sized bronze bust of Wise, who was turning 80. The bust can be seen today at the Hebrew Union College. He had quarters to live near the College from May until October, then he would return to his farm.

A monument to Reformed Judaism is the Moorish styled Plum Street Temple. A lot was purchased in May of 1863 with a pledge of $40,000 for the lot and the start of building. However, the Civil War delayed construction until 1865. When it was dedicated on August 24, 1866, the total cost had been $263,525. The architect was James Keyes Wilson. Wise requested this specific style of architecture to harken back to the Golden Age of Spain, where Judaism flourished for four centuries. The Temple is on the National Historic Registry and was restored in 1995. Other than the roof, electrical system and items that needed to be upgraded to meet today’s standards, the interior is original, including the floors and pews. One of the treasures the Temple houses is the 1866 Koehnken & Company organ, the only one left made by this company. The Temple can be viewed by the public upon appointment. The congregation has a second Isaac Wise Temple in Amberly Village.

In 1863 Rabbi Wise declined the nomination of State Senator by the Ohio Democratic Convention.

A man who dressed simply and enjoyed life, he was a violinist and choir director. A self made man, he said; “My grandfather was a distinguished physician and I know next to nothing about medicine. My maternal grandfather was a prosperous broker and I was never out of debt. How is that? The point is that a man should be proud of his own accomplishments.”33 While he was in Bohemia, shortly before immigrating, he had wavered between medicine, law or the rabbinate.

Wise moved into this area, which was considered College Hill at that time, because of Farmers’ College and the Ohio Female College, which his children attended. Wise wrote to his friends “...we can promise to our friends who send their sons and daughter to College Hill, not only to see them several

31 Isaac Mayer Wise, Max. B. May, 1916.
33 Sinai to Cincinnati, by Dena Wilansky, 1937.
times every week, and assist the professors in watching over their moral, religious conduct, but also to
give them weekly several lessons, free of charge, in the religion and literature of Israel, and offer a good
chance to those who desire to study biblical or rabbinical literature. Thus these institutes might offer at
present all the advantages of colleges of our own, until we shall be enabled to establish a seat of learning
under our own control.34

His sons graduated for Farmers’ College, becoming a lawyer and a doctor. His later children were
taught in a school-house on the property.

He established his first college on West 6th Street in 1875 which grew into becoming the Hebrew
Union College. Wise founded the American Israelite newspaper which is still published. It is the oldest
Jewish American newspaper continuously published in America. He also published Die Deborah in
German.

For 46 years he was the editor of the American Israelite. He wrote eleven novels in English and
sixteen in German. In 1870 he opened in prayer the U. S. Senate. For eighteen years he was a director and
trustee of the University of Cincinnati. He led the B’nai Yeshurun congregation for 46 years, and married
4,000 couples. As a president and a professor he led the Hebrew Union College until his death in 1900.

His body lay in state at the Plum Street Temple and his bier was passed by thousands of mourners.
At his request, he had a plain pine coffin lined with muslin. He even specified that he was to have a token
floral arrangement in violets and smilax. In Cincinnati, school was canceled and the wholesale and retail
stores closed in his honor. He was buried in the United Jewish Cemetery in Walnut Hills.

Some may remember the newspaper columnist Imogene (Iphigene) (Molony) Bettman, who was one
of his grandchildren. She was married to Judge Gilbert Bettman, who was twice the Ohio attorney
general, a vice-mayor of Cincinnati and a Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court when he died in 1942. Their
son is Judge Gilbert Bettman, Jr. of the Court of Common Pleas. Imogene married Gilbert Bettman under
the chestnut trees at Floral.

After his death, Floral was purchased for Adolph Ochs for his wife and the Molony family lived
there. Imogene Bettman recalled; “An arrowhead plowed up created visions of lurking Indians.
Revolutionary soldiers buried in the little cemetery at the corner brought that closer. My mother35 told
stories of Union soldiers encamped across the road and of fearful preparations against Morgan’s Raiders.
The cattle were to be driven into the woods and silver hung down the well. Morgan missed by two miles.

Two incidents shook the farm’s feeling of peace and isolation. We had thought that Vance, the hired
man, was unduly timid when he refused to go off the place. But one summer twilight when my mother
and I went for a stroll in the back pasture we saw a gathering in the field beyond. There, in full-sheeted
regalia, was assembled the Ku Klux Klan, waiting for dark to light its fiery cross. As we stared over the
fence one sheet detached itself and told us to move on. It was our pasture, but we moved.

The second shock came toward the end of the Prohibition era. My mother lived alone in the big
house now, and North College Hill’s sheriff kept a special eye on her. ‘Don’t be afraid, Mrs. Molony,’ he
said one day, ‘you just call old Pete and he’ll be right over.’

Next night Peter Dumele went to investigate a light in a supposed drugstore across the road. As he
opened the door bootleggers shot him dead.36

The Molony family was followed by that of Wise’s granddaughter, Alice Bernheim Weil and her
husband Norton Weil. Norton was a horticulturalist and brought the farm back to life. By 1968 the last of
the Wise family had left. The Rouse Company purchased the land, the farm torn down, and the buildings
at Hamilton and Goodman Avenues took their place.

One of his pleasures was sitting under his trees. Today, there is a small park in his memory on
Goodman Avenue containing a bench between his favorite trees. The wall was constructed of bricks

35 Helen Wise
saved from the demolition of Floral.

John M. Wright came to Cincinnati in 1798 from Dublin, Ireland, settling in Mt. Healthy. A veteran of the War of 1812, he was a teacher. His eldest son, F. C. Wright was a cooper and farmer and married in 1838 Julia Laboyteaux.

Engraving of first log cabin in College Hill
Chapter 8  Samuel Wilson

Samuel Wilson and his wife Sally Nesmith were descendants of the Pilgrims who settled in 1719 in Londonderry, New Hampshire. After thirteen years of farming, operating a sawmill and working flax in the winter, the family decided to move from the poor soil and long winters of New Hampshire to that of Cincinnati at the urging of their father’s brother, David. He told them of the fertile land and mild climate and offered his assistance once they arrived. David built the first brick house in Cincinnati and owned the first carriage. Sally N. Wilson wrote in her diary: “...I think we had about $1,100 with which to start west and this had dwindled to $800 before we were again settled in Ohio. The friends and relatives left behind looked upon our removal as suicidal. The impression of old and young was that Ohio was beyond civilization.”

They moved to Cincinnati in 1828. It took 50 days to make the trip, traveling by 2 two-horse wagons to Troy, New York, going by canal to Buffalo, New York. Then a steamer took them to Dunkirk. At Jamestown they had a flatboat built, 40 feet long for $40. It held all of their goods as well as a crop of hops belonging to their uncle, John Wilson. At Pittsburgh the flatboat was sold and they boarded the steamer Talisman for Cincinnati. From the diary, “We had deck passage, cooking for ourselves and sleeping on the floor...” They first settled in Columbia. The boys cut wood, Samuel building them a house and farming, Sally sewing for “... Old Platt Evans, the leading merchant tailor in Cincinnati which then contained about 25,000 souls.” Margaret made comforters for the family and for sale. After a few years they decided to move. “Glad we were to leave Columbia where society was low and a grog shop at our very door.”

They purchased a farm in 1831 for $1800 from the estate of the Rhodes family of Sycamore Township, two miles from Reading, Ohio.

“The farm contained 166 acres of which 65 had been cleared yet the berry-bushes and willows had resubjugated much of the clearing. The fences were in a state of extreme dilapidation not a gate or bar-post on the farm - no meadows - no orchard except a few abused peach trees. There was a double log cabin one part 11 years old and the other 8 - a log stable and a cooper shop. Farming utensils had to be provided new. We had two horses, a yoke of oxen, wagon and ox-cart, three cows, some twenty sheep and a few swine. Theophilus and self could plow and Jesse was forward and sharp at some kinds of work but as yet only nine years old. We had a hired man for five months at eight and a half dollars a month, and besides hired some rails made. We had a share of the corn crop of 1830 - the corn being in rail pens in the husks. The husks were useful furnishing food for the stock till the grass started. The name Yankee was then a terror and father could not get trusted for a hundred weight of hay from our neighbors. We made mats and mattress material from the husks and sold a good many dollars worth of them that spring in Cincinnati. That summer the creek swept off our fences five times wasting the corn and making us a world of extra labor. In June, I think it was, that when going to a mill on horseback with Theophilus one morning, a stage coach ran over the horse I was riding, crushing one of her legs so badly that she had to be killed on the spot. A few days after one of the oxen, which had been bitten by a mad-dog, died! Thus we were left with one horse but no team to haul in the hay we were just then cutting...That spring we lived plain. Our potatoes had failed the year before. Corn baked, boiled or fried made up much of the food...Our roofs were so bad that I remember once at least crawling under the bed to keep dry...We had fifteen acres of oats and we reapened them all cutting close to the ground for the straw...”

They decided to move to College Hill to be close to Farmers’ College, where several of their children attended and taught in. The Wilsons bought land from Freeman Cary for $1,200 that already had a three room cabin on it.

In 1849 the Wilsons built a new house that incorporated the original cabin. This house is still standing at 1502 Aster Place. It was once topped with a widow’s walk that was destroyed by the 1870 tornado. Repair work on the house years ago revealed that the beams and uprights are made of black

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1 Source: John O’Neil
walnut that still has traces of the bark left. It remained in the Wilson family until 1926, when it was purchased by the O’Neil family that still occupies the house today. The last Wilson to live there was ‘Miss Harriet’ who taught and was the principal of the Pig Eye College Hill school. She started teaching in 1841 at the Findley Street school which was outside the city limits of Cincinnati at that time. She taught in College Hill from 1860-1871. Harriet was the author of a letter to Professor Siebert on the activities of the Underground Railroad.

The Wilsons were Presbyterians and left Reading because of opposition to their strong anti-slavery beliefs. Their children were abolitionists and one son, Jesse, died in the Civil War. The Wilsons were prominent educators, several teaching locally at Farmers’ College and the Ohio Female College. Joseph A. Wilson taught ancient languages and literature, Rev. J. H. Wilson taught ancient languages and agricultural chemistry, John M. Wilson taught practical agriculture and Mrs. Mary Jane Pyle taught botany and geography.

David Wilson cast the first abolitionist ballot in Ohio. Their friends included the Beechers and the Stowes as well as others in the abolition movement. Harriet Wilson’s letter reveals just how involved was their family and College Hill in the abolitionist movement. She was a teacher in her brother David’s downtown school, commuting via omnibus to College Hill on the weekends. Prior to her trips home, Harriet was given the number of slaves on route to College Hill so that the ‘stations’ were ready for their arrival.

Mary Jane Pyle was a humanitarian as well as a teacher. She was known for her kindness. In her memorial program Jan. 3, 1888 she was eulogized by Mrs. Arthur H. Pounsford of College Hill who related this incident: One case there was of a poor but respectable colored family who before the war had escaped from slavery with shattered health; one young girl soon dying with quick consumption. Mrs. Pyle carried clothes and dressed her for the grave. When the plain coffin was to be carried there were not men to assist the driver, so she lent a hand, and under a burning August sun walked some distance with the heavy burden.

The house originally stood on four acres, with the home facing Hamilton Avenue. This was long before there was a side street that was first named Tacoma, and later renamed Aster Place. The barn that sheltered sleeping slaves is gone and the land subdivided. The two-story Greek Revival style house is now covered with green siding and the dirt floored basement is gone but the cabin timbers can still be seen as well as the hand hewn lintels and door frames.

Members of the Wilson family referred to in the Siebert letter (Chapter 14) are: Theophilus - lived in Indiana and was a state senate representative for Jay County, David Morrison - attended Farmers’ College, Lane Seminary and was ordained at College Hill by the Presbytery of Cincinnati in 1847. (On that same afternoon he was married to Emeline Biddle Tomlinson of Mt. Healthy. They served abroad as missionaries for many years); Jesse Parsons - died during the Civil War; Mary Jane - married Rev. George W. Pyle. Mrs. Pyle was a teacher for most of her life and was a teacher for 20 years at the Ohio Female College; Harriet Nesmith - lived ninety-five years; Joseph Gardner - attended Farmers’ College and later was a teacher there, relocated to Oregon to practice law and became a State Prosecuting Attorney, Clerk of the Supreme Court, served as Circuit Judge, Judge of the Oregon Supreme Court and a U. S. Congressman from Oregon.

Harriet Wilson’s description of these times might not have been written but for the efforts of Professor Wilbur H. Siebert of Ohio State University. He aroused the interest of his history students regarding the Underground Railroad and that some of them were descendants of abolitionists. Siebert collected names and addresses, sent questionnaires about Underground experiences to parents and grandparents. He started his research in 1891 by grouping replies by counties and, using his vacations, traveled through Ohio counties, one east-and-west tier after another, collecting data and talking to old residents, discovering abolitionist centers and escape routes.

The Wilson House is an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture. The house’s main wing exhibits a symmetrical three bay front facade that is distinguished by a large Doric portico. Its slightly recessed entrance is enhanced by a four pane transom and three pane sidelights. All four corners of the main wing are delineated by wide Doric pilasters while a deep frieze panel accentuates the simple
entrance. Basement beams are hand hewn and retain some of the original bark.

Attached to the rear of the main house is a simple two story wing built ca 1827-1831. It is possible that this wing may be part of the original farmhouse. When Samuel Wilson purchased the four acre tract in February, 1849, the deed description included “a house in which another lives.”

Sally Nesmith Wilson’s journal contains the following entry: “April 21, 1849 J. P. (her brother, Jesse Parsons Wilson) hauls the first load of lumber for new house at College Hill. June 29 new house raised. August 20 our family moves into new house.”

The house retains its original slate roof, chestnut flooring of random width pegged boards, and two pass-through cupboards. The house stayed in the Wilson family until 1926 when it was purchased by the O’Neil family. When they purchased the house, they were requested to give a home to and keep for the rest of her life Christine Gramm, who was a servant that the Wilsons considered a part of the family. Christine died in 1932 and is buried in the Wilson plot in Spring Grove Cemetery. Jack O’Neil, the last owner, passed away in Oct. 2005. His house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2000 through the research and kindness of Mary Ann Olding.
Danforth Witherby was a Methodist minister who rode a circuit from Oxford, Ohio south into Hamilton County. On his travels down old Colerain Pike he saw the beauty and fertile soil of the College Hill area. In 1799 he bought fifty acres north and an additional fifty acres south of Colerain Pike (Belmont Avenue). By 1801 he had constructed a one and a half story log cabin with trees he cleared from his own land, which extended to Kirby Road. His family, sons Oliver, Luther, and Thomas Branch, joined him in 1802. The cabin “had a low ceilings room, a bare seven feet high, is approximately sixteen feet square. It had three doors, east, west, and north, and four windows. In the middle of the south wall is the brick chimney...Great beams, eight inches square, were used...Here you see the neat dovetailing an the whittled pegs that served instead of spikes or bolts. The black walnut floor is still well preserved.”

Since he had to carry water uphill from his well, he decided to move closer to his water. This well was so reliable that it always remained clean and never failed during droughts. The College Hill area is atop a large aquifer which accounts for its original multitude of lakes.

He moved his cabin 1,000 feet, rotating it to face west. In 1839 he built a two-story brick north addition, with an inside stairway leading to the upper floor. The cabin was then covered by cement. A small kitchen and thirty foot dining room were added to accommodate the men that needed to be fed during threshing season. At this time the cabin belonged to his son Thomas Branch.

“There were broad fireplaces in the east parlor and the room above...The fire in the cabin room ... was never allowed to go out from the first frost until the end of the winter season, the great green backlog dragged by horses from the woods in the rear of the property…”

Not relying on preaching alone, Danforth was a cooper during the winter months; making staves, lard kegs and pork barrels, and in 1839 a kiln to fire brick was added on his property. In the other seasons he was a farmer.

He and Aaron Burdsall preached on alternating Sundays in the school house. In Mt. Pleasant (Mt. Healthy) a plain brick church was built that was shared by all denominations until the various faiths became large enough, and wealthy enough, to build their own individual churches.

A contract dated February 1, 1835, shows his output. “One thousand kegs to be 1-inch cut head and 16-inch worked staves, and to be made out of Good Seasoned white oak staves and heads, and in the best workmanship manner at forty cents a keg.”

Danforth left College Hill for Oxford and Miami University. He, several of his children, and his second wife Lydia Yillet, are buried at Oxford.

Luther and two of his sons are buried in Gard Cemetery. Luther married Juliana Brown, daughter of Ephraim Brown and Eunice Gard, and they had nine children.

Oliver became a lawyer, going west for the 1849 gold rush. In San Diego, California he started a law practice and became a respected judge and was the president of the Consolidated Bank of San Diego.

By 1830 Thomas Branch (‘Branch’) Witherby “… was married, having brought home to the small cabin Mercy Van Zandt, first cousin of Alice and Phoebe Cary. With a growing family, more room was needed.” Branch inherited the property after his father died. Branch was a successful farmer and operated a brick plant, donating the bricks used to build Farmers’ College. A relative, John Price, contributed all the paint and labor needed to complete the College.

Ella Ferry wrote: “When Branch Witherby and his wife retired from the farm, it was leased to a dairyman and barns stabling sixty-five head of cattle were built about one hundred and fifty feet southwest of the house. These barns were destroyed by lightening and the splendid dining room built for use at threshing season was torn down by the lessee, who found it cheaper to do that than to put on a needed new roof.” Ella referred to the incident in more detail in one of her letters: “Momma used to so

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2 The Daily, Old College Hill Well Still Serving Thirsty, S. Winslow Bell, Sept. 5, 1927.
3 The Witherby Place, Ella Ferry from the collection of Ruth J. Wells.
enjoy it when the Rammeslberg girls dropped in for a chat with her and so often referred to Kathleen’s excitement during the burning of our great barns caused by lightning in a vicious storm. You know the place was rented to a dairyman and the barns held 65 head of cattle - they were solidly built and the fire blazed for two weeks, consuming enough sawed logs for our big fireplaces to have lasted for six years and the 150 cane-seated chairs Papa bought from the Presbyterian Church when it was remodeled and new chairs were purchased for Sabbath School. We had so much company in the summertime, that Papa thought it a good idea to have plenty of chairs available...”

Branch’s son, Freeman Cary Witherby, graduated from Farmers’ College in 1857 and joined the father’s business.

“Mr. Bagley remembers how his grandfather, Branch Witherby, used to tell of humoring the Indians to keep them on good terms. When they came around he would give them a drink of “firewater” and then entertain them. One of the sports was to stick a large red copper cent on the fence post and shoot at it with bow and arrow. He remembers his mother’s telling him that she was never completely at ease, little girl that she was, until they had left the neighborhood. Going through the woods to the log-cabin school, was sometimes very fearful, she told him. His mother also remembered hearing the wolves barking in the distance on clear nights.”

Branch and Mercy’s second child was Rosalinda who married William A. Bagley, a widower with three daughters. They lived in the house that was later owned by Captain A. D. E. Tweed.

Freeman Cary Witherby inherited the house in 1890 when his father died. Freeman was born in 1839 and had hoped to become a physician but changed his mind and stayed to help his father with the property, operating the brick plant and the thriving wooden stave business. Freeman joined the Navy during the Civil War and was part of the crew of the river packet, the Indianola. Down river from Cincinnati, the Indianola exploded on the way to aid General Grant. While he escaped serious injury, he contracted typhoid fever. Ella said; “Freeman remained at the farm with his parents until he had a serious injury at a celebration on the Hollenshade estate (you probably know it as the Larmon place on Hamilton Ave.) on the occasion of U. S. Grant’s election for his second term in the White House. A cannon used in the celebration exploded and he spent months at the Good Samaritan Hospital, then at Sixth and Broadway in town, following his recovery, he did not return to the farm but was made an official of the Cincinnati Gas Company with offices at 4th and Plum Streets. This injury to his eyes was not the cause of his eventual blindness, but dread glaucoma in 1894.”

Freeman loved Mollie Price who had to make a difficult decision between her two suitors. She married Philip Lishawa. Freeman remained single and when Mollie became a widow, they married in 1883. Her father, John H. Price, owned the length of Larch Street. She was born where the Robert Simpson house once stood. Price built several houses on that street, one of which for Adam Gray. The Gray’s house was torn down to build the brick Baumann home.

When he stopped working due to his blindness, he would be seen walking his thirty acre property with his dog, Christina. He and the collie were a familiar sight going down Hamilton Avenue to the doctor or barber shop. Not using a leash, Chris would walk with her shoulder against Freeman’s knee. At his death (1917), the property was inherited by his step-daughter, Mrs. Ella Ferry, whose letters to the Runcks reveal much of the Witherby family history.

Ella couldn’t keep the property “... there was the war and then the acreage was taken into the county and the city and I was unable to pay the high assessments or even to rent the place without modern gas and water convenience, and I was forced to sell.” She states in another letter: “Then Mama died in 1916 and Papa a year later; the farm property was not only taken into the County but into the City as well - taxes more than doubled as previously, there was only Township tax. I did not know what to do with the house

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4 The Witherby Place, Ella Ferry from the collection of Ruth J. Wells.
5 Ella Ferry letter to the Runck family, Jan. 17, 1957, from the collection of Ruth J. Wells
as after the water mains, gas mains, &c were put into Belmont Ave., I could not afford to pipe water or gas into it and it was not only unsaleable but became unrentable without these utilities. The street on our Belmont fronts was raised eight feet and sidewalks of cement put on north side and the assessments were frightfully high..."

The house was sold to a well known building contractor, Reno Runck, in 1920 and for many years remained in his family. “Mr. Runck tells us that when he acquired the property a few years ago, the solid, hewn-out beams that were the gutters were still doing valiant service; but they were also supporting an upstart growth of young saplings...The gutters are (now) being used as feeding troughs for the chickens.”

A street was opened near the Runck/Witherby house and the families wanted the street to be named Witherby. This suggestion was rejected because of a Witherby Avenue in West College Hill. When informed of this Ella responded: “You speak of the colored settlement having its Witherby Avenue. That was the beginning of our grief with the property. Charles Steele, a politician...made a proposal to Papa and to Mr. Emerson, an honorable gentleman, whose property like ours abutted on North Bend Road opposite what he (Steele) had acquired, which they firmly repudiated as unworthy and he told them then that he would ‘fix ’em’ for defying him. AND HE DID by starting that settlement with huts built of railroad ties and old tin and scraps...This ruined that neighborhood and when I was forced to sell, the land - very beautiful- that Papa had held at $1,000 an acre and hoped would remain or become more valuable, I accepted for it $400 per acre from a German gardener... Other factors integrated and I was indeed the sufferer and lost heavily...”

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6 For a complete history of West College Hill see: To Better the Conditions: The Annexation Attempts of West College Hill, Queen City Heritage, Susan Redman-Rengstorff, Spring 1985, pg. 3-14.
Freeman Grant Cary described what his early boyhood was like, “...three to four months of fall and winter were spent in school, studying the curriculum then adopted, reading, writing, and arithmetic...to which was added at length Geography and Grammar. Memorizing was then one of the highest attainments. Whole pages of Geography were memorized word for word, the principles embraced were entirely an after thought. The perfection of the attainment was the memory of words.

Winters being thus employed, the rest of the year was for work. And it was work, Ernest work. A plot of several acres of new ground had to be cleared, trees cut and logged, brush burned, the ground plowed, planted and tended, orchards set, trees budded and grafted, and this not one year or once in a while, but every year; new house built or the old one improved, barns, stables, corn cribs & etc. to be constructed. In the Fall, wood cut and hauled to the door, corn gathered, wheat threshed, not with the modern thresher, but with the flail, subsequently familiarly called the poverty club. Our grain, wheat, oats, and other seeds sown broadcast, all done by hand. Grain harvested with sickle and cradle, grass mowed with the scythe and raked with hand rake. Labors performed at this period required more time, and much more physical exertion than now. Indeed the labor then required it would be impossible to obtain it at the present time. And the continual round of such labors occupied our time, the time of all boys, full 8 or 9 months of the year, and we had no leisure even in rainy days. There was corn to shell, wheat to thresh, or something sure to be laid out for such days. Work, work, from early dawn to sunset was the watchword.

The last year I spent on my Father’s farm was a memorable one to me. I was then sixteen (1826)... my Father and Mother with my youngest brother, Samuel F. made a journey to New England to visit relatives and once more to look upon the scenes of their youth. I took almost the whole charge and direction of the place, a cousin and his wife providing for the table and boarding the hands. I led in the hayfield in mowing and in the harvest in cradling the grain, or hooking up with the sickle the fallen grain. The hay and grain being gathered in I took my axe and cut wood for the winter. That year being a fruit year, I marketed the peaches. Apples were not worth marketing. They were so abundant, and the peaches when marketed that summer, would not pay a hired man. I spent my first night in market that summer, alone in my wagon. It was novel work and resulted quite satisfactorily. I took home quite a sum for me, and felt as independent as a millionaire. When my Father returned I had the promise of going to College, which was a motive quite sufficient to stimulate the ambitions of youth that I was to work industriously.

When he returned in some four months, I had the wood cut and piled in the yard, the wheat threshed and put away in granary, and this last was done with flail in the hottest weather in August, and all things were cared for in such way that when my parents came home they were ready to yield to my wishes, and I had gathered sufficient money to pay my tuition, board, etc...”

The early settlers of College Hill were young couples without children, so establishing a school was not immediately necessary. Freeman G. Cary, at age four, was the first child needing a school when his family moved to College Hill. Freeman attended school in a log cabin on North Bend Road ‘in the Jessup neighborhood’ - probably between Winton and Daly Roads. The windows were of paper greased with raccoon fat and the desks and seats were of wooden slabs that had been smoothed with an axe. Using goose quill pens and ink made from oak gall, letters were blotted with sand. Wooden water pails with gourd dippers were part of daily life. Writing exercises by Freeman at age 10 are in the Rare Book room of the Public Library. They date from 1820 and are the maxims: Ruin Awaits the Idle; Youth is Full of Hope; Scandal is hateful; Try to Serve everyone and Wish happiness to Everyone.

Freeman’s brother, Samuel, was educated in his father’s barn by Mr. Comerford. “This rude school house ... gave place to a better one about 20’ square made of brick and located on my father’s farm which furnished not only a school house but a place of religious meetings, for which it was used for many years, till a church edifice was built. “

About 1821 a brick school was built on Hamilton Avenue near what is now South Dixon Circle. The first generation of children living in this general area and the poetesses, Alice and Phebe Cary, were
taught here alongside of their cousins.

The first school within the boundaries of College Hill was built of brick and located in the vicinity of 5875, 5907 Belmont Avenue. This property was originally owned by the Badgleys. The school is marked on the 1847 map. According to Douglas Trimmel, “The Oaks” has as its nucleus the small, four room brick house constructed for the teacher of this school.

The first school in Cumminsville was in 1832 in a log cabin built near Badgely Road (Kirby Road). Known as the Badgely Schoolhouse, the Rev. David Root of College Hill was its teacher. He was also pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati. Later students were educated in the Union General school. Farmers’ College graduate Merriam Sherman Turrill was principal and he taught there until 1885. Emma DeSerisy and Carrie S. Hammitt were teachers. The first class (1854) had as students John F. and A. F. Thomson, Janet Thomson (later De Sirsy), Anna and Sophia Ludlow.

Freeman Cary wrote; “Memory furnishes vivid pictures of our early School Masters as they were called, and the appellation was no misnomer. For Masters they were. The rod cut from an adjoining beech some 6 ft. in length was the scepter wielded to enforce obedience and maintain order. And it was often applied with force even upon the back of the young man of 20, and long did it find a place on the desk or in the corner of the schoolroom of those days. Our Masters were generally Irish, and their tempers were quick and impulsive, and the rod was often resorted to and applied in the heat of passion…”

These early teachers were paid by subscription per pupil, receiving $8 to $12 per month and were ‘boarded round’ by their parents.

A girls’ high school was started in College Hill by Laura Hayes in 1843. This building stood on Hamilton Avenue, across from Groesbeck Road. Little is known about it except that the next school mistress was Mrs. Sarah B. Brooks, and was later operated in 1849 by Dr. John Scott, who left the faculty of Farmers’ College to direct the Young Ladies School. He moved the school to Oxford, where he originally started his teaching career at Miami University. The Hamilton Avenue building became part of the Polytechnic Hall (1855-56) of Farmers’ College. Mrs. Brooks was a faculty member of the Ohio Female College and taught literature, language and science. Mrs. Brooks bought a lot for $677 and built the house at 1511 Groesbeck Road, whose back yard touched the Ohio Female College property. She later ran a successful girl’s school from this house, which at that time was a Linden Avenue address.

The next school was a common or public one north of Hamilton and Groesbeck Roads. This frame building was outgrown and replaced with the 13th District or ‘pig eye’ school, nicknamed for the single round louvered gable window. Miss Harriet N. Wilson was the first woman teacher and also the principal from 1860-1871. Mrs. Mary Jane Pyle, her sister, was made assistant teacher when the building was expanded to a second classroom. Mrs. Pyle later joined the faculty of Belmont College as teacher of botany, geology and geography. It was at the ‘pig eye’ that Walter Aiken, later Director of Music for the Cincinnati Public Schools, began his career in 1867 as an organist. Teacher salaries at that time were $10 - $12/month with board.

Miss Wilson was much beloved. A newspaper clipping from Feb. 18, 1898 recounts a reunion her former pupils held for her. They sat at the same desks, sang the same songs and carried dinner buckets and baskets like they had 25 years previously as children. The hand bell used to ring in the day was again rung in her honor. A woman of small stature, she could easily discipline her students.

The ‘pig eye’ school was purchased in 1877 by the College Hill Presbyterian Church. Later still, this building was moved next door behind Deininger’s blacksmith shop and was remodeled to serve as his house. It was torn down in 1889 and the materials salvaged were incorporated into the Presbyterian Church chapel and Sunday school. The first parish house sat on the site of this school.

As early as 1867, 1.4 acres of property extending from Cedar to Maple (Llanfair) Avenue was designated for a new school. On the 1869 map, the College Hill Colored School is also indicated on east Cedar Avenue. Nothing is to be found about this school but it was merged with the College Hill Public School between 1887 and 1893.

A new brick school was opened in September 1878 on the familiar Cedar Avenue site and was again nicknamed the ‘pig eye’ school for another round window had been incorporated in the building. When
the school opened, Mr. Thomas G. McCalmont was principal, with Miss Alice Ellis and Miss Alma Oyler as assistants. Two later principals who headed the school were D. L. Runyan and Andrew J. Willey. Later teachers included Mary Bryant, Mabelle Brown, Carrie E. Moores, Marie M. Blanchard, Herbert P. Aiken and Washington Smith.

Due to population growth an adjacent four room high school was built in 1903. It was constructed with indoor plumbing - a real improvement! When College Hill was annexed to Cincinnati in 1911, the high school was converted to an elementary school and the older students attended Hughes High in Clifton. Mr. William Harold ‘Dusty’ Altamer was the principal starting in 1906 and continued until 1937. When Mr. Altamer joined the staff, his salary was $1,000/yr. and that of his assistants, $750/yr. The superintendent over both College Hill schools made $1,500/yr. New houses at that time in the community rented for $28/mo. Those attending College Hill School in later years will remember Mr. Hillary W. Poe (1937-1969) as principal.

Long time College Hill residents will recall, circa 1914: Kindergarten, half day, Miss Bridgeman; 1st grade, half day, Maybelle Brown; 2nd grade, Miss Alice Wild; 3rd grade, Miss Mary Bryant - who began her teaching career in 1882 and which spanned over four decades; 3rd grade, Miss Loos; 4th grade, (colony buildings) Miss Margarette Gatch, Mrs. Marty Weatherby; 5th grade, Miss Strasser; 6th grade, Miss Stewart; 7th grade, Miss Besse Waldman, Miss Colvin; 8th grade, Miss Hattie Brasier.

In 1925 the old school from 1878 was demolished. The former high school was converted to industrial arts, domestic science, and lunch rooms. This building is standing today.

The current College Hill Elementary (Fundamental) School was dedicated May 21, 1927. When opened, the school housed the College Hill branch of the public library. On its stage, a young Doris Day later performed. The building was dedicated by Dr. Randall Condon, Superintendent of Schools. Mrs. Arno Beck spoke on behalf of the PTA. Mr. Walter Aiken, Director of Music, reminisced about the old school. Mr. William Shroeder, President of the Board of Education, presented the building while Charles Eisen accepted it for the community. One of the keynote speakers was Dr. J. Withrow. Today, four Cincinnati public schools are named for gentlemen present at this dedication - Aiken, Shroeder, Withrow and Condon.

Several paintings were hung in the front hall when the school opened. One, donated by Dr. Philip Van Ness Myers, is still hanging above the Rookwood tile drinking fountain, a gift of the 8th grade Civics Club 1924-27. Photographs of principals Altamer and Poe are also in the front hall.

After College Hill merged with Cincinnati, students were sent to Hughes High school to finish their education. Thomas Hughes had been born near the Welsh boarder. After he arrived in the country, he unhappily married. Nothing is known about his wife and he had no children. He lived on the hilly north side to today’s Liberty Street near Sycamore. He lived alone on thirty acres of land, having a cabin where he earning a living as a cobbler. He died in 1824 and directed his friends William Woodward, William Greene, Nathan Guilford, Elisha Hotchkiss and Jacob Williams to use the proceeds from the sale of his property to establish a school or schools for the education of poor children. The original Hughes High school was near Fifth and Mound streets. The current school in Clifton Heights was built years later at a cost of $100,000.

**Cary Academy**

Freeman Cary went beyond his College Hill education to attend Miami University in 1826. He wrote; “Old Miami, then directed by R. N. Bishop as President, or the Old Doctor, as he was familiarly called, was the place I had determined to go. Once there he decided to try to compress the normal 18 months of first year of college into six. He...secured the services of a resident Graduate, John Thompson, a son of the Rev. John Thompson, of Springfield, who to ensure his better support took charge of the common school in my home neighborhood, and by boarding at my Father’s gave me a good opportunity to recite private lessons...I would here state that my securing John Thompson to teach our common school and furnishing the opportunity to study the classics, led several of my home schoolmates to enter upon a liberal course, among whom were Solomon and Roswell Howard, Brother Samuel, and Oliver Witherby, all of whom completed a College course and became eminent as teachers or jurists. S. Howard was for many years President of Athens College, and Doctor of Divinity, and Roswell is a jurist of eminence in
Green County and Gen. S. F. Cary is widely known as a Lawyer and Lecturer. Miami University at this time was well manned. Its professors were men well qualified for their various posts. Dr. Robert Bishop, President, a man of ripe scholarship, who had been a number of years at the head of Transylvania University of Kentucky; Dr. Wm. McGuffey, then a young man of excellent scholarship in Latin and Greek was Professor of Languages; John W. Scott, a most excellent man and scholar, Professor of Chemistry and the Natural Sciences; John Anon, a graduate of West Point, Professor of Mathematics...Such then were my advantages in acquiring an education, where I graduated in the fall of 1831 in a class of seventeen, the largest up to that time that had been sent out from this University. I have spent five years, graduating at the age of twenty-one.”

Dr. Bishop was born in Scotland, 1777, and educated at Edinburgh University. He came to America to teach Ecclesiastical History at a New York City College, which failed. He became an itinerant minister in Ohio and Kentucky. Offered a professorship at Kentucky’s Transylvania University, Henry Clay became one of his close friends. Dr. Bishop became the President of Miami in 1824 at the salary of $1,000 a year and free occupancy of a mansion. Bishop was known as an outstanding teacher but when he started a Sunday school for African Americans, he encountered much criticism. His views on slavery and states rights ran counter to some of those on his faculty members. The conflict had religious roots in addition to personal beliefs. The Presbyterians were more liberal while the Calvinists were strict and very disciplined. William Holmes McGuffey was a Calvinist and believer in states rights. Bishop resigned from Miami in 1841 and McGuffey and Bishop never reconciled. After 16 years at Miami, Bishop cut all his ties to Miami in 1844 and resigned his teaching positions in history and political science. When the opportunity arose to join the faculty of Farmers’ College in 1844, Bishop and his close friend, Rev. John W. Scott, were ready.

Cary had planned to teach for a year, then returning to college at Yale. He had been promised a teaching position in Cynthiana, Kentucky but when he arrived there, he found that another person had been hired. Returning to College Hill, Cary taught in the public school for a year, bringing new ideas such as blackboards into his school. His teaching innovations so pleased the school directors that they increased his salary to $20/month.

In 1832, conceived in the age of idealism, he decided to open his own high school in his home. He had a frame house (5651 Hamilton Avenue), a 16 year old wife and little means but optimism and education. The house had originally been built by John Strong in 1819 and for years after the Academy had moved, housed a succession of doctors. Where the house stands today is not the original location, it has been moved several lots north. The first day of Cary’s Academy four boys, aged 12 - 15, attended. Only two of their names are known today, Lewis and Israel Gerrard. Naming it Cary’s Academy for Boys, within the first month he had 10 pupils. By the end of the first term, he had all of the students he could handle for they were also housed and fed at the Academy. Cary’s house at 5651 Hamilton Avenue was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1999 through the efforts of Mr. Paul Schoenharl, whose son, Scott, owns the property.

During a six weeks vacation, Cary built a brick two story building, The Academy on the triangular lot at the junction of Colerain (Belmont) and Hamilton Avenues. This building also quickly filled to capacity with students. Some that attended at this time were: E. C. Roll, Reuben E. Fenton, the Gerrard boys - sons of Jeptha D. Gerrard, Dr. Smith, Judge Torrence, George Miller and John P. Keyes.

Continuing to build to accommodate his success, a chapel, more classrooms and a frame dormitory were added. By 1838 he had forty students. Eventually the classroom building was fourteen rooms. Named Pleasant Hill Academy, the students called it the “Pork House.” The Academy soon had 120 as an average enrollment and construction continued. One of the wooden dormitories was later moved down to 5646-5648 Belmont Avenue and was the home of Mr. Graham, later known as the Graham Hotel. Over 1200 young men were educated at the school during the first twelve years (1833-1845). Cary’s staff was composed of Mr. Lock, engineering and science; Mr. Maloney, Latin, Greek; and John Silsby, mathematics.

In 1845 Dr. Scott encouraged Cary’s enlargement of the sciences classes and approved of the increased construction. Rev. Dr. Robert Hamilton Bishop, the first president of Miami, also decided to aid
his former pupil, both coming to join Cary’s staff.

Cary was unwilling to continue building to meet the Academy’s demand. By now he had 8
dormitories and had invested $10,000 of his own money. Meeting with patrons, staff and friends, Cary
decided to purchase 4 acres of land across Belmont Avenue. Funds to purchase the land and erect a new
building were raised by selling shares of stock at $30 each. Subscribers were to earn interest on the stock, payable in tuition.

In August 1845 a meeting was held at Pleasant Hill Academy to choose a 15 member board and
become incorporated. The 4 acres were purchased for $700 on Sept. 25, 1845. Later land purchases
brought this parcel to 7.45 acres. Farmers’ College of Hamilton County was chartered by the State of
Ohio Legislature on Feb. 23, 1846. The new building cost $11,898.45, even with the bricks and paint
donated, and $600.79 was spent for furnishings. The building was an outstanding example of Greek
Revival architecture. A central tower was removed in 1859 and the bell was hung from an open belfry on
top of the south wing.

A. B. Huston wrote; “As the Academy soon lost its identity in the College, so ‘Pleasant Hill’ yielded
to the name of ‘College Hill,’ which became the post-office address.”

The cornerstone was laid April 13, 1846. Serving on the first Board of Directors were: Edgar
Gregory, Joseph Longworth, Edward Hunt, John Matson, Algernon Foster, Jacob Dennis, Giles Richards,
Charles Cheny, Thomas B. Witherby, John W. Caldwell, Paul C. Huston, John McMakin, Timothy Kirby,
James Huston, and S. F. Cary.

The name Farmers’ College was chosen because those purchasing the shares of stock were mainly
farmers. However, Cary later said the name was “…an ill omen for in no sense was it a school especially
for Farmer’s sons to learn how to farm as many thought.” The college did provide a liberal education with
an emphasis on the sciences, especially horticulture. It also had a 6 ¼ inch reflecting telescope, second
only in size to the one used at Harvard University.

The preparatory course lasted three years. Tuition for the first year was $12 per session, gradually
rising to $15 per session in the third year. The college portion was also three years, costing $16 per
session. Rooms rented for $2 to $3 per session, however, some boarded with families. For those who
boarded, a five month term cost $55-$65. Some of the students “batched” and was able to live off as little
as 50 cents a week, supplemented with grapes, watermelons, chickens, etc. that were gotten during night
time raids. Others, like the future Bishop, John Walden, worked for his tuition from age 13 to 18 as a
carpenter and clerk.

The first graduation ceremony was held Sept. 23, 1847 for five students who had started across the
street at Pleasant Hill Academy. J. J. Dennis, Lewis M. Gunkel, Victor M. King, Riley F. Stratton and E.
S. Young being the graduates. It wasn’t until 1855 that Farmers’ College was authorized by the State to
confer A. B. (now B. A.) and A. M. (now M. A.) degrees. Of the first small class, four became lawyers
and one, Victor King, a minister.

The first college catalogue was published for the 1847-48 school term. In it, Cary stated how the
discipline of the school would be maintained. “The government will be mild, but firm - essentially
parental in its character. Private advice, warning, and expostulation will ever precede public censure and
reproof. It will be taken for granted that every youth and young man is honest - that he has entered the
institution to improve, and the last thing questioned will be integrity.”

The Board saw that the college could not continue unless more revenue was raised. Cary had so far
persuaded the professors to accept not more than $500/yr., a low salary for their abilities, paid from
tuition fees. In 1850, 160 pupils were enrolled, but more were needed. In a report to the Board on the
precocious financial balance of the college, Cary mentions “As for myself, I may state that while I have
$10,000.00 invested in the enterprise, I have been content with the pittance left, if any, after paying all
other expenses, and if none, by industry, strict economy, and the fruits of a few acres of ground, to eke
out a bare support.”

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1 Historical Sketch of Farmers’ College, A. B. Huston, the Students’ Association of Farmers’ College
Due to the 1850 census, a snapshot of the school, Cary family and students can be drawn. Freeman Carey is listed, age 40, and his wife, Melvina Carey (age 31). His family contained Rebecca, Estelle, Ann, William and Samuel Carey. Also were living with the family were William Cogswell, William Vandiver, George Ormsby - a teacher from New Hampshire, William Chandler - teamster (Louisiana), Harriet Davis (Maryland), Ann Lockland and James Bell - laborer- both from Ireland and John Beagardens from Germany. Living at Carey’s Academy were S. Chamberlin, W. C. Gray, W. B. Lakin, W. Mant, J. S. Morris, W. L. Terry, W. S. Benton, T. L. Bowen, J. P. Conklin, P. Emert, J. M. Gregory, P. S. Conklin, J. P. Hare, W. Holsdeth, B. C. Hardin, W. Hendrich, W. R. McGill, J. S. Lane, J. Mackee, J. A. Mackee, F. C. Puckett, W. M. Richardson, L W. Ross, A. Shira, E. Barcelow, C. P. Bonsall (?Birdsall), J. F. Bisbee, A. Coleman, F. S. Con, E. Conklin. The ages ranged from 9 - 24.


Cary’s vision and dedication to the college were great but so were his sacrifices. The plan for offering a liberal education with a certain minimum of required classes and the rest as electives was introduced. Although this is the customary way of education today, at that time it was innovative.

The future 23rd President, Benjamin Harrison, attended during 1848, 1849 and 1850. He would have graduated the following year but Dr. Scott returned to Oxford to become principal of the Oxford Female Institute, and Harrison was in love with Dr. Scott’s daughter, Carrie.

No graduating class was held in 1850 which was attributed to the depressing effects of the fear of cholera and small-pox in the preceding year. 8

In September of “... that year, the Board received an unusual request from Dr. Bishop. The object of this note is merely to ascertain from you; - whether I may have 12 or 14 feet in some corner of the College lot allotted to me, to be used as a resting place to my body and the body of her who has been my companion and nurse for nearly 50 years, when our spirits shall be called to the Eternal World.”9

One of their sons, Dr. Robert H. Bishop, who later became president of Miami University, taught for a time at Farmers’ College as Professor of Ancient Languages. The Bishops had eight children, 5 sons and 3 daughters. All of the sons graduated from Miami University and two entered the clergy.

Dr. Bishop died April 29, 1855 at age 78, five days after he pointed out the spot where he wished to be buried, located in the southwest corner of the grounds. By his instruction he was placed in a plain coffin which was enclosed in another square box and placed in the eight foot mound. No memorial was erected, at his request. Tradition is that his mound was layered in alternating soil and ashes, in what was labeled thee ‘Scottish manner.’ Two weeks later his wife, Ann Ireland Bishop, died, and was buried by his side. In 1959 the bodies were moved to Miami University. The box enclosing the coffin of Dr. Bishop was lined with zinc. Both of their remains were in good condition. The Bishop’s house was at 6256 Hamilton Avenue.

The Board assumed control of the school and property in 1852, repaying Cary $10,000 for the grounds, buildings etc. Reorganization followed, stock subscriptions were marketed and the college was on a firmer financial footing. Cary was appointed president at a salary of $1,000/yr. The professors received a salary of $500-700/yr. The faculty now consisted of: Rev. Robert H. Bishop (history, economy), J. S. Henderson (mathematics, natural philosophy, astronomy), D. Maloney, R. Bosworth (chemistry and its application to agriculture and the arts), J. S. Whitwell (ancient languages), and George

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8 Historical Sketch of Farmers’ College, op cit.
S. Ormsby (preparatory course). In 1851, C. Sheferstein taught modern languages. A period of prosperity for the college had begun.

Building started on more brick dormitories to accommodate the growing number of pupils. Called ‘Excelsior’ and ‘Brick Row’ by the college, the buildings were dubbed ‘Rat Row’ by the pupils. Nearly 87 acres of land were acquired for a “...small model, experimental farm and gardens” near the college. Cary resigned as president of the faculty in favor of accepting the presidency of the new farm department, for $1,500/yr. Unusual specimen trees, fruit trees, shrubs, grottos and lakes were on the model farm. Cereal grains were planted and different budding/grafting techniques were explored. The grounds were landscaped by Maximilian G. Kern. Property was both purchased from and donated by William Cary and totaled 87 acres. The agricultural department called itself “The First Complete Institution of the Kind on the Continent of America.”

Farmers’ College had an outstanding faculty and curriculum. Subjects taught in 1855 were history and political economy, preparatory courses, math, natural history, astronomy, chemistry, geology, agricultural chemistry, botany, vegetable physiology, scientific and practical agriculture and horticulture. George S. Ormsby taught mathematics and built a two story brick house at 1804 Larch Avenue to be near the college. The Cincinnatus, a journal edited by F. G. Cary concerning agriculture and horticulture, was printed at the college during this time. It was a widely read publication and functioned as a record of the proceedings of the Cincinnati Horticultural Society, which founded Spring Grove Cemetery. Two literary societies, Burritt and the Philomathean were enjoyed at the college. The 300 students were hardworking and the college flourished. In addition to their degree, each graduate was presented with a pocket Bible.

Succeeding F. G. Cary was Isaac Jackson Allen, who later resigned citing inadequate salary. Allen was a doctor and lawyer and was the U.S. Consul General to Hong Kong and China under President Lincoln. When Allen left he entered his own law practice. He served one term as the Judge of Richland County, Ohio. From 1858-1861 he was also the superintendent for Cincinnati public schools. Allen was born in 1814 in Morristown, New Jersey and came with his family to Ohio that same year. Allen married Susan Brown on 11 August 1841, not related to the Browns in College Hill. They lived in Avondale.

Polytechnic Hall, a 19 room brick laboratory building for the farm department, was built in 1855-1856 opposite the intersection of Groesbeck and Hamilton Avenues.

Surprisingly, Cary resigned from Farmers’ College in 1858. While the reason for his resignation was not recorded, it could be surmised that he was disappointed in the decline of the pupil population, continuing revenue problems and he could not see future improvement. However, when he left, the college and farm was a successful operation. He retired to a farm in Butler County, concentrating on his orchards and died in 1888.

A pivotal year was 1858 when it was determined that the college was operating at a $2,900 yearly loss. To increase the number of students attending, women were admitted in the 1858-59 year and a Normal Department was established to train teachers. The faculty was trimmed, and an agent was hired to collect payments owed and sell stock. The subscription system was at the root of the financial problems. The first monies collected were used to buy model farm land and erect buildings. Rapid expansion, however, did not expeditiously bring in pledge repayments, and a large percentage of monies were never collected. Money that was collected paid the most immediate needs, salaries and ongoing expenses, but nothing was available for savings or investment. Another blow came when Charles McMicken, a close friend of F. G. Cary and one of the executors of McMicken’s will, promised to donate $10,000 for a professorship and to change his will, leaving the bulk of his fortune to Farmers’ College. He died before the will change was made, thus becoming the great benefactor of a rival institution, the University of Cincinnati. Farmers’ College sued the estate to finally collect the money for the professorship.

10 McMicken was born in 1782 on a farm in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He was largely self taught and was a civil engineer when he rode into Cincinnati in 1803. He was attracted to business on the river and made his fortune transporting cotton and speculating in property. Never married, he divided his time among three residences; Cincinnati in spring, east coast in summer and winter in New Orleans. In 1840 he bought a home between Clifton and McMicken Avenues. He died of pneumonia while aboard a boat returning him to Cincinnati from New Orleans.

At his death in 1858 he left property worth nearly one million dollars in addition to stocks, bonds, and money. His will also freed any slaves he owned. He had a mulatto son, John McMicken, who was a teacher and principal in one of Cincinnati’s African American schools.
An effort was made to relocate the Cincinnati Observatory to Farmers’ College. Four acres were offered and a group pledged to raise $7,000 but the Astronomical Society declined the offer.

In 1860 the 87.6 acres of farm lands were subdivided into 21 lots. Of these, 50 acres were offered for sale to reduce the expenses of the college and to help defray its debts.

In 1862 the enrollment had declined to 92 but by 1866 the enrollment had slid to 32. This was not caused by mismanagement, but reflected the Civil War, which emptied all colleges as males flocked to enlist. Some of the students were from southern states, the majority was from around Cincinnati and the Midwest - and all left for war. Money was tight, the country was in a depression and in 1865 the curriculum was suspended. Financial aid from the government was approved by an Act of Congress on July 6, 1862 but no money was forthcoming.

For several years, Farmers’ College had been active as a station on the Underground Railroad, reflecting the views of its faculty and some students. By 1866 the college was actively selling off land, creating College Hill’s first subdivision, and the original model farm concept was abandoned. The streets of Cedar and Maple (Llanfair) were platted and dedicated in June of 1866. In this year College Hill became incorporated as a village.

The land sale of 92 acres produced enough money to dispatch Farmers’ College’s debts and to set up an endowment to help finance the college. By now the college had shrunk to the original building constructed by Cary and the immediately adjacent land.

The old Cary Academy building at Belmont and Hamilton Avenue was sold in 1868 and demolished. Much of the brick and some of the beams were used in building the first Grace Episcopal Church on that site. This church cost $16,000 to build.

By 1867-68 two professors were added to the faculty, J. C. Broadfuehrer and Mr. Hoffman, who retired and was replaced by C. H. Gerard.

The lowest point was 1872 when the institution faced liquidation, brought by two law suits against the college. Cary favored liquidation which must have been a difficult choice for him. However, a new Board decided to try a revival, adopting a fully co-educational plan with a co-educational faculty. This plan worked, as Ohio Female College across the street had closed, and slowly the numbers of students started to rise. The graduation class of three in 1877 was the first since 1865. Classes in French, literature, drawing, elocution and music were added. By 1878, a total of 83 were in attendance.

In the Rare Book room of the Public Library downtown is a newspaper written in Dec. 1872. Samuel Fenton Cary and Newbold L. Pierson are listed as “editors & proprietors” of The Rising Star. This student newspaper, published under the banner of ‘Luck is a Fool, Pluck is a Hero’, lists a school roll of honor: Eva O’Hara, Nettie Wilder, Nellie Wilder, Carrie Wilder, Emma Deininger, Patty Kennedy, Rosa Wheelock, Willie Hull, Daisy Blanchard, Jenny Hull, Florence Donnelly, Bertie Simpson, Ella Southgate, Nettie Harris, Mary Eversull. Also listed was the schedule for the College Hill Omnibus, leaving College Hill at 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. To return, it left the Gibson House (a hotel in downtown Cincinnati) at 9:12 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

Professor Philip Van Ness Myers, as president in 1879 with a yearly salary of $1,500 and free housing for his family, was a leader with vision who stayed with the college for eleven years and through several name changes.

A change of name from Farmers’ College was considered, since agriculture was no longer part of the studies, and Bishop College was suggested - but not considered. In 1881 Garfield College was offered but not acted upon. A committee studied name changes, proposing The Southern Ohio College. It was not until 1884 that the name was adopted as Belmont College. Unfortunately, the name change did not bring the hoped for renewal. It was that time when the fronting street name was changed from Colerain Avenue to Belmont Avenue.

The first graduating class of 1884 as Belmont College was: Carrie C. Wilder, Flora Z. Howard, Daisy Blanchard - all of College Hill, and Herbert S. Vorhees. The college graduated many women teachers, several of whom taught in the College Hill schools.

A move to combine Belmont College with the University of Cincinnati, the latter to move to College Hill, was considered but the proposed consolidation never occurred. President Myers suggested (1887)
that college courses be gradually dropped and the institution become an academy (high school). The Board agreed in 1889 that the institution should be changed to a military academy starting in September 1890. The last Belmont College graduate was Charles L. McCrea. The academy opened under the name of The Ohio Military Institute, and a new building (Belmont Hall) was built next to Cary Hall, the original Farmers’ College building of 1847. Belmont Hall was used for administration and cadet dormitories. A gym was built at the rear of the property in 1892.

President Myers resigned in 1890 to accept a position at the University of Cincinnati, where he was a professor from 1891-1900. Myers completed the transition from Belmont College to the O. M. I., which was actually founded by Rev. John H. McKenzie. The Institute taught Christian young men a liberal education in addition to military instruction. The cadets had to pay $150.00 for a complete set of uniforms that contained a...trench coat, a blouse with belt and buckle insignia, two pairs of wool trousers, six gray shirts, two pairs of white duck trousers, a dress cap, an overseas cap, a sweater or jackets and a black tie. If the students stayed over at school during the Christmas vacation, they had to pay an additional fee of $4.00 day. The graduation expense was $10.00. Annual tuition was $950 for cadets which included, room, board and laundry.

It was attended by the best families in and around Cincinnati. For 45 years it flourished under Col. Albert M. Henshaw. The enrollment increased, peaking at 180 students. By the 1940’s the O. M. I. had a 10 acre campus with Cary Hall, Belmont Hall, Bishop Hall, Perry Gym and a parade ground. It served to prepare young men for West Point and Annapolis in addition to regular college. The O.M.I. is affectionately remembered for its Sunday dress parades, sports played in the Town Hall field and its cannon which was fired every sunrise and sunset.

During the early 1930’s the board of trustees of Belmont College were Orville Simpson, president; Frank H. Simpson, vice-president; Frank. K. Bowman; Harold Simpson; Stanley K. Henshaw; Dr. W. S. Keller; Peter G. Thomson, Jr.; Albert M. Henshaw. The faculty members and their subjects during the same time were: Albert Melville Henshaw, superintendent; Clarence B. Wood, commandant, mathematics and civics; C. A. Wile, assistant to the commandant, commercial business; S. P. Chase Roberts, headmaster, English; Philip S. Andrus, French and Latin; Theodore H. Wingett, science; Frank Thornton, English and history; Manuel Rodriguez, Spanish; F. P. Derrick, second form; Christopher Wilson, lower school; Frank Florea, lower school; R. E. Davis, quartermaster, music; Mrs. Frances Gass, secretary to the superintendent; Dr. R. F. Swing, school physician; Mrs. Frances Blair and Mrs. Lillian Radabaugh, matrons of the lower school; Mrs. Marie Davis, dietician, Joseph Phillips, superintendent of grounds and buildings.

While the term ‘military academy’ later became associated with students that had discipline problems, this was never true at the O.M.I. The Institute’s catalog firmly stated that a student who had been asked to leave another school need not apply.

Many items from Farmers’ College were carefully preserved by the O. M. I., among them the wooden telescope, and paintings of the Carys by Robert Duncanson. No one now knows what became of the objects and paintings. In the 1950’s the cost of operating an aging school and ever increasing tuition costs caused the school to close. The 47.2 acre property was sold to the Board of Education and the O.M.I. closed on June 10, 1958. Aiken High School opened in Sept. 1962 next to the site.

This is a listing from College Hill and vicinity of Farmers’ College graduates with their later occupations and date of matrication: J. J. Dennis, lawyer (1847); A. B. Huston, lawyer (1848); D. C. Kirby, lawyer (1849); S. Caldwell, lawyer (1851); Murat Halstead, journalist, publisher of the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune (1851); B. C. Hardin, farmer (1851); R. W. Hendricks, lawyer (1851); M. S.

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11 According to the O.M.I. 1930-31, 1932 book for prospective students, the trustees were under the Belmont College name.

12 Historical Sketch of Farmers’ College, op cit.

79 Thaddeus Lowe was an early explorer in the use of hot air balloons. In April 1861 he accidently landed in S. Carolina on his way from Cincinnati to the Atlantic Ocean. Murat Halstead was one of his financial backers. Halstead wrote the Salmon P. Chase, then US Treasury Secretary, about using balloons in war and
Turrill, principal 26th District school (1851); B. F. Brown, lawyer (1852); J. W. Ebersole, lawyer (1852); John S. Noble, Secretary of the Interior for President Benjamin Harrison; E. F. Strait, lawyer (1852); J. M. Walden, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, agent of the Methodist Book Concern, often referred to as the ‘Business Bishop’ (1853); W. E. Whitridge, storekeeper (1852); H. M. Cist, lawyer (1858); Sidney A. Fitch, farmer (1858), Leman Roberts, teacher (1858); Hiram S. Powers, teacher (1859), E. N. Wild, lawyer (1860), A. C. Hughes, lawyer (1860); D. H. Johnson, clergyman (1861); Solomon Coombs, M. D. (1861); E. P. Marshall, insurance (1863); J. B. Kincaid, lawyer (1863); Daniel Maloney, bookkeeper (1863); Theodore W. Pyle, insurance (1864); B. Pascal Hammitt, teacher (1865); Jeannie Kennedy, clerk (1878); Ida B. Wilder (1878); Wm. H. Wilder, M. D. (1878), Mary Jane Harris (1878); Louis E. Aiken, teacher (1879); Carrie D. Blanchard, teacher (1879), Julia K. Harris, teacher (1879), Mamie Kennedy, teacher (1879); William P. Gulick; Mabele Brown, teacher (1881); Frank Dudley Emerson (1881); Jennie Griffin, teacher (1881); Abbie A. Gray (1881); J. A. Green, editor (1882); Orville Simpson, manufacture (1882); Alice Aiken, teacher (1883); Anna V. Brown (1883); Nellie Wilder (1883); Hammond Avery 1867-1868; Alice C. Hayden 1868-69; A. B. Huston 1843-1848; Daniel A. Maloney 1855; N. L. Pierson 1869-70; J. L. Pierson 1870-71; Susan Aiken Pounsford 1882-86; C. S. Rankin 1845-47.

Belmont College: Carrie C. Wilder (1884); Flora Z. Howard (1884); Daisy Blanchard (1884); Elsie May Harris (1885); Dr. Wm. H. Wilder (1885); Dr. A. J. Compton (1885); Susie M. Aiken (1886); Ellen H. Poole (1886); Jessie Roberts (1886); Charles L. McCrea (1886); Rbt. D. Betts (1888); Wm. P. Everts (1886); Lulu M. Banchard (1888); Wm. Brockaw (1888); Georgia B. Bowman (1888); Emma W. Wilder (1888); Marq G. Moore (1888); Harriet Poole (1888); Nettie West (1888); William Brockaw (1888); Charles L. McCrea (1890).


Presidents of the college were: Freeman G. Cary 1847-1853; Isaac S. Allen 1853-1856; Rev. Charles N. Mattoon 1856-1860; Jacob Tuckerman 1860-1866; Rev. C. D. Curtis 1866-1870; J. S. Lowe 1873-1877; Philip Van Ness Myers 1879-1890; Rev. J. H. McKenzie 1890-1894; Col. Dudley Emerson 1894-1897; Rev. John Hugh Ely 1897.

Some parts of the Last Will of Robert H. Bishop14

“...In the second place I give my body to the charge of the Directors of Farmers College, to be put in a plain coffin, and then enclosed in a strong square box and deposited in an artificial mound in a designated spot in the College yard; to consist of successive layers of earth and sand, not to be less than eight feet solid measure; - no artificial monument ever to be erected on it, unless it should be a few evergreen trees or shrubbery.

It is believed that my services in Farmers College have not been without value either to the College or the community at large; and that neither President Cary nor myself have received from tuition fees an adequate compensation for the time and labor and actual expenditure in behalf of the Institution: and we have thus far cherished the hope that when the Institution shall become public property and become permanently endowed, some adequate compensation for these services may be realised. It is believed that so far as I am concerned this adjustment may be made now as well as at any future period.

Mrs. Bishop, while she has kept me alive for these fifteen years by comfortable and good nursing, she has also had her hand and her heart open to administer to the comfort of many American youth for the last forty years. Her own family has frequently been deprived of what has been supposed to be even necessaries, that some friendless student might be helped in some pressing difficulty. She has also from principle opposed the giving of entertainments to those who did not need them, that the really needy might be fed and clothed."

...Witnessed by Samuel F. Cary and John M. Caldwell.

Other Schools

One of the main problems that African Americans had to continually face was finding opportunities for formal education. Cincinnati was no different than other cities of the 1820’s - 1860’s, largely because of the southern sympathizers.

During the 1848-49 legislature a set of “Black Laws” was adopted by Ohio. They covered three main points: 1) settlement of black/mulatto persons in Ohio was prohibited unless they could show a certificate of freedom and have two free persons certify to their character and maintenance, should they become a public charge. Without these documents, it was illegal to hire any black/mulatto; 2) they were excluded from the common schools; 3) no black/mulatto could be sworn or allowed to testify in any court in any case where a white person was concerned. These laws were modified somewhat to give blacks some legal standing in the courts and education for their children. African-Americans were permitted to levy a tax against black owned property to raise money for their schools.

The laws permitted integration of the schools but the predominant interest in Cincinnati was only in establishing separate facilities with an African American board of trustees to oversee these parallel schools. This proved to be unworkable and the control of the African American schools was transferred to the managers of the regular Board of Education in 1853. The African Americans refused to support this motion and in 1856 they were again permitted to elect their own trustees. The Colored Public Schools had 1,006 students in 1868 but the student number declined as the African American population increased, reflecting that those relocating to Cincinnati did not enroll their children in the public schools.

As early as 1869, 1.4 acres of property extending from Cedar to Maple (Llanfair) Avenue was designated for a new school. On the 1869 map, the College Hill Colored School was indicated on east Cedar Avenue. The school was held in the African American church at Piqua and Cedar Avenues. Both were headed by Rev. W. H. Rogers. No information has been found about this school except that it merged with the College Hill Public School in about 1888.

Benjamin W. Arnett, D. D.15, representative from Greene County Ohio, helped attain an important victory for African American education in 1887. Arnett (1838-1906) was the first African American man in the country to represent a predominantly white constituency. He had the added distinction of being the first African American foreman of an otherwise all white jury. He was a former minister of Cincinnati’s Allen Temple and later became a Bishop, living near Wilberforce University.

The Arnett Act barred Ohio schools from refusing to accept African American students, but it did not abolish “all black” schools. In Cincinnati the school board endorsed separate African American schools, but on a voluntary basis. When school commenced on Sept. 12, 1887 only 20 African American children attempted to enter classes under the desegregation law. By 1888, 300 black children attended Cincinnati schools, climbing to an enrollment of 800 in the 1889-1890 school year.

College Hill was part of a pivotal test of the Arnett Act.16 In Jan. 1888 the Ohio Supreme Court ruled on “The Board of Education of College Hill vs. The State of Ohio Ex. Rel. Wilson Hunter.” The College Hill school system had told the African Americans attempting to enter their schools that the classes were already at capacity with white children. The court ruled that the school could not have a regulation “that does not apply to all children irrespective of race or color.”

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Ohio Female College

In 1848 the Rev. John Covert founded the Ohio Female College (O.F.C.) on the modern site of Phoenix International. The cornerstone of the main building was laid Sept. 21, 1848 and during that year it was incorporated with full collegiate privileges and powers to provide a liberal education for women. In the United States, it was fifth in order of incorporation. In the fall of 1849 it opened its doors with former Supreme Court Justice, John McLean, as President. McLean later became an Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court. He cast the sole dissenting vote in the 1857 Dred Scott case, arguing that slavery was wrong. In 1851 the Ohio State Legislature granted O.F.C. a charter, enabling it to confer degrees. Its Mistress of the Arts diploma was soon much sought.

In the 1850 census it was listed as Covert’s Academy. Rev. Covert, his wife and children were from New York. Enumerated in his household are Lucinda, his wife, Destiny, and Hiram as their children. Also are Elizabeth Curtis, age 11, student, born NY; Margaret Parker of New York; Catherine O’Brien, Edward Caroll (laborer), John Flanigan (laborer) all from Ireland; George Ayres (laborer) and his family from England, Jane and Susan; and John Sheldon, carpenter. Living in a separate household were the students: Caroline J. Davis, Jane Davis, Elizabeth Thomas, Mary B. Allen, Mary A. Bennell, Rachel Brown, Ann M. Roclin, Harriet E. Banks, Emily Butler, Margaret Bishop, Eliza J. Brown, America P. Cameron, Philena J. ??, Ann M. Crawford, Emma Cover, Ann G. Lewis, Mary Everill (Eversill)??, Ann E. Everill, Susan A. Flickenger, Catherine Flickenger, Amelia H. Glancy, Eliza M. Glancy, Mary Scott, Elizabeth Hughes, Charity P. Hunter, Ann C. Houston, Harriet J. Hoffman, Sarah L. Hamilton, Agnes Lingo, Sarah Muchmore, Deborah Muchmore, Harriet Noble, Martha Noble, Martha Orange, Cornelia E. Roney, Mary Sates, Elvina A. Smith, Mary Z. Turpin, Sarah E. Turpin, Amelia Trusedale, Mary V. Banks, Caroline Lange, Mary E. Robb.17

The first faculty consisted of Rev. John Covert, Mrs. L. S. Covert, Alphonse Wood, Monsieur Rive, Madame Caroline Rive, Mrs. Sarah B. Brooks, Miss Catherine Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Mary Jane Pyle, Miss Cornelia Curtis, Miss Elizabeth Allen, and Miss Harriet Staub.

The original campus had three buildings and fifteen acres of woods and gardens. The curriculum was equivalent to that found in the best of male colleges. In addition to “the arts” there were a well stocked library, chemistry lab and a refracting telescope for the study of astronomy. At that time, the post office address was Cary’s Academy.

The location was touted as being “… central, accessible, elevated, and healthy, surrounded by pleasant groves and picturesque scenery, and sufficiently far from the city to be free from its temptations and dissipating tendencies, yet near enough to enjoy its privileges.”

It was supervised by a board of trustees of which Hon. John McLean was President and Samuel F. Cary was the secretary. The college President was Rev. Covert.

A second dormitory was built and furnished for $20,000 in 1852. Also, “a new and beautiful Omnibus has been purchased by the President for the exclusive use of the Institution and pupils residing in the city or vicinity can be taken home and return under the care of teachers.” A music building (1853) provided additional classrooms and accommodating 150 pupils. The admission was $12 for the two year Preparatory course and $14 for the four year Collegiate program. In their “Third Annual Catalogue” (1852) it was proposed; “The day is dawning in which Female Colleges must begin to be ranked with Male Colleges…Is it not the right of women to be educated?” A catalog from 1854 lists students from well known families, such as Ella Cary who later married Edward Sayre, and several Cist daughters. There was one sorority, ‘The Golden Chain Society, and the school publication was called The Dew Drop.

By 1856 the property was 23 acres besides an “…extensive conservatory well filled with thousands of exotics, a jetting fountain and an artificial lake. There were eight buildings: main edifice, the ‘Odeon’ containing 12 rooms, the ‘Seminary’ containing, beside the Chapel, six lecture rooms and …five neat cottage dwellings for the professors and self-boarders, containing forty-five rooms.”

The main building burned in 1858. Rev. Covert sold the property to Alphanso Wood and Eli Taylor

17 Hamilton County, Ohio, Court and Other Records, Vol. III, Virginia Raymond Cummins, 1969
who started rebuilding on the same site. When they ran out of money, Samuel Cary became partial owner, replacing Mr. Wood.

The new main college building cost $60,000. The college catalogue describes it as a main building and two wings, four stories high. “Its massive walls are constructed of nearly one million bricks! Within these walls are included ninety seven apartments, seventy seven closets and ten spacious halls. Also, over all arises an observatory, containing a telescope equatorially mounted, ninety-one feet above the ground. The view from the observatory embraces a horizon nearly fifty miles in diameter, varied and beautiful in the highest degree.”

An example of a Sunday menu; Breakfast: beef, potatoes, coffee cake, light or brown bread, butter, syrup, coffee, tea, milk. Dinner: oysters, celery, potatoes, cabbage, light or brown bread, crackers, butter, dessert. Supper: fruit, light or brown bread, butter, syrup, cake, tea, milk.

Charles Cist in Cincinnati in 1859 describes it as “... a model of architectural taste. But its chief excellence consists in a perfect system of ventilation, connected with a plan of warming by steam, so complete as to secure a uniform temperature throughout the entire building, and a change of air in every room once in 30 minutes.” The 15 foot brick ventilating tower, thought to be designed by the architect Samuel Hannaford while he was a student across the street at Farmers’ College, drew in air which was then passed via a brick duct under the buildings. The air was heated by steam pipes in this duct. The warmed air was discharged through flues in every room. Cupolas along the roof were vents allowing the discharge of “used” air. Thus a complete change of air was permitted every half hour. Pure air and exercise were emphasized as necessary to maintain good health.

By 1862 it was considered to be a “...first class female seminary with a special object of educating competent teachers for the increasing millions of the west so to govern the nation.” Subjects included chemistry, civil architecture, philosophy, geography, astronomy, natural science, English literature, the “art of teaching and the science of government,” physical education, anatomy, physiology, and hygiene. Moral and religious instruction with required Sunday church attendance completed the curriculum.

The college was a privately owned enterprise by S. F. Cary, Franklin Y. Vail and Joseph Brown until 1865 when they sold their interests and the institution was “vested in the president and Board of Trustees.” This was done to ensure the continuance of O.F.C. in the event of the death of an owner and to generate funds by endowments and public subscriptions. While the Board held the charter, a proprietor administered the financial affairs. Subscriptions to Farmers’ College could also be applied to tuition at O.F.C.

The main building was completely destroyed by fire April 23, 1868, however, school was continued until the close of the school year in June. The homeless were housed by residents of College Hill.

Again a brick main building with a wing on either side was constructed. This one was in the “French” style with freestone ornament and Mansard slate roof. The central building housed the reception room, library, and administrative offices. The north wing had a chapel that could accommodate 300 and seven lecture rooms. The south wing was the dining room and dormitories. Each dormitory room was large enough for two occupants and had one or two windows. The ventilation system was again used. Rooms were lit by gas and heated by steam, the boiler and gas works were housed in separate buildings. “Each story is furnished with a hose connected with the water supply, to be used in case of fire. No fires are required within the building, the kitchen being at some distance apart, and connected with the dining-room by a covered way.” The school could accommodate 200 students. Rev. N. C. Burt, D. D. was elected as president of the institution.

Funding for this rebuilding was provided by James C. C. Holenshade, a contractor of supplies and manufacturer of carriages and pontoon bridges during the Civil War. Holenshade was the proprietor of OFC.

There were flower and fruit orchards, the vegetable garden furnished the dining room and the two acre lake fed from a natural spring provided opportunities for rowing and ice skating. A stable was available for horses.

The tower on the main building was called “Alumnae Tower.” Each graduate furnished one of the stone quoins. The tower was topped by an observatory and the central roof was fenced to allow for
walking.

“Sickness in the Institution arises, most frequently, from the reception by the scholars of boxes from home, supplied with confectionery and other dainties. Parents are earnestly advised against the practice of sending these (1869).”

Unfortunately, the college could not afford to stay open and was sold to the Cincinnati Sanitarium, Dec. 17, 1873. That year the nearby Farmers’ College became co-educational and some of the students transferred there.

Members of the last graduating class of June 5, 1873 included: Alice K. J. Hollenshade, Linda Musselman, Isabella Hammitt, Jessie D. Strong, Martha Jones, Sallie W. Huntington, Abbie S. and Alice W. Willard.

The final faculty were: Alfred E. Sloane, president, Leptha N. Clark, Rev. W. W. Colmery, Eliza H. Austin, Dora F. Crossette, Mary J. Bannister, M. Jennie Davidson, Ferinand Schuler, Louis Schwebel, Helen M. G. Fletcher, Emily Cutler, Bertha C. Metz, and A. Curtis.

J. C. Holenshade sold the property to the Presbyterian Church, only keeping $50,000 of its value for himself and donating back the rest. The trustees of O.F.C. from College Hill at that time were; Rev. W. W. Colmery, Rev. C. E. Babb, S. F. Cary, Charles E. Cist, A. D. E. Tweed and W. C. Huntington.

The Cincinnati Sanitarium

Cincinnati Sanitarium was founded in 1873 by three physicians, Drs. S. R. Beckwith, W. H. Hunt and Wm. L. Peck, who recognized a need for a private care psychiatric facility in the Cincinnati area. They joined with four businessmen (Mr. Val. P. Collins, Mr. John F. Elliott, Mr. Henry Prestiss, Mr. John L. Whetstone) to establish a hospital. It was the oldest private psychiatric hospital west of the Alleghenies and the largest in the state of Ohio, continuously operated for 115 years.

Purchasing the 40 acre property and the buildings of the defunct Ohio Female College in Dec. 1873, the buildings were remodeled and re-equipped for the treatment of mental illness, alcohol and opium addictions. “The consumption of opium, in some of its various forms, is becoming more prevalent every year, and is now a deadly curse in all sections of the country (1879).”18

In 1879, 81 patients were in residence. The major categories of their illnesses were: 37 of mania, 14 of melancholia, and 12 of nervous disturbances from opium or alcohol. There were almost twice as many men admitted as women. Statistics were compiled yearly as to occupations of patients. For example, in 1879, of the 413 who had been treated there since the start of the institution, 7% were clerks, 8% farmers, 24% housewives, and 18% merchants. The recovery rate was 34.4% and 87% were released in less than one year. Most stayed 30 to 90 days.

Numerous buildings were added to accommodate more patients. In addition to the main hospital, there were four two-story cottages, an amusement hall with a billiard hall in the basement (1883), a flower conservatory and several physical plant buildings. An ice house for cooling was built near to the lake and in 1890 a 100 foot water tower was built that was connected to all the buildings. There even was a station of the Cincinnati Northwestern railroad.

The hospital continued to expand, adding four acres of adjoining property on the west and fronting Hamilton Avenue. On this additional ground, Elliott Hall (1892), a stone and brick annex with steam heat and enclosed verandas were built.

The lake was described as “a living spring, never exhausted of the purest water, is also an unfailing source of pleasure as well as health to Sanitarium inmates. The Cincinnati Sanitarium “Spring Water” being as good as any in the world for physiological purposes and delicious as a beverage-if it were analyzed and a suitable pavilion built over and around the spring, there is no good reason why it should not be advertised as a “Fountain of Youth,” if not an antidote for whisky and all other habitual poisoning for which relief is sought. If drank exclusively, in sufficient quantity, and for a sufficient length of time, a “cure” of the whisky habit might be confidently guaranteed.”19

18 Source: Emerson North brochures, Cincinnati Historical Society Library.

19 Op cit.
On April 6, 1893 workmen soldering a gutter at the base of the mansard story accidentally started a fire that spread to the dead air space between the ceiling and roof. The fire quickly engulfed the building. No one was injured but the main hospital building was gutted. As soon as possible, reconstruction started and the new building incorporated many improvements.

The Sanitarium offered the current psychiatric treatments and avoided ‘all quackish or meretricious pretensions or practices’. By 1905 recoveries were up to 48% with an average census of over 90 patients. Always progressive, a telephone was installed in 1894. The following year there was an earthquake, necessitating many repairs. In 1911 a greenhouse was built for a patient population of 100. Consistent growth led to an addition onto the main hospital in 1913 and a nearby large residence adjacent to the property was purchased. Called the Rest Cottage it was limited to ‘nervous and nutritional disorders.’ The Otte family from Northside owned the Sanitarium about this time. A major change in the landscape occurred in 1927 when the lake was drained following a drowning. Known for its treatments, it was said that several Hollywood stars came there.

In 1956 the hospital was renamed for the late Dr. Emerson Arthur North, a pioneer in clinical psychiatry and Dean of the University of Cincinnati psychiatry department. Emerson North Hospital specialized in serving the needs of adults, adolescents, and children in providing treatment for psychiatric, behavioral, emotional and chemical dependency problems. Emerson North merged with the Franciscan Health Care System, the old building torn down and a new one dedicated June 26, 1988. Changes in the way that health care was delivered and funded led to the selling of this building by the Franciscan Hospital System to Phoenix International. It is now part of Children’s Hospital.

North College Hill

The first North College Hill school was located in Gard’s section at the southeast corner of Hamilton Avenue and Galbraith Road. Gershom Gard sold all of section 25 to his son Seth for $1/acre. Seth in turn sold 50 acres to Israel Brown in 1803. When the land was sold to Brown he leased this area to the school district and sold them this property parcel in 1844. This remained the site for several later school buildings. Clovernook School was the last school on this property. It was in use until 1922 when the public school, 1731 Goodman Avenue, was built. It is in the classical revival style of architecture and located in the Sunshine subdivision - it now belongs to the Northside Baptist School.

Peter Keen owned the forfeit of Section 31, the only forfeit in today’s North College Hill. In 1806 he leased this land to Moses McLaughlin who made improvements and planted an apple orchard. This land was sold later to Oliver Spenser who built a large home dubbed Spenser’s Folly. Rev. D. Burnet purchased this mansion, using it for the Hygeta Female Athenium, a girl’s college, 1839-1856. It was closed due to competition from College Hill’s Ohio Female College. The house was located across the street from the Wise farm, between Goodman and De Armand Avenues. The school set back from Hamilton Avenue on a low hill.

Subscription Certificate
Chapter 11  Mt. Healthy

An area of medium sized family farms, Mt. Healthy became a thriving country town. Between there and College Hill existed was nothing except farmland. Rabbi Wise and Clovernook were considered to be in the College Hill area. It wasn’t until 1905 that North College Hill per se started to be built. Families that started out in College Hill spread into Mt. Healthy and Colerain Townships as their families grew and needed more farm land. The intermarriage between the various settlers made for close family and community bonds.

One of the most unusual commercial endeavors was in Mt. Healthy. We think of silk as an enterprise of the Orient. This was not true by the 17th century. King James I of England tried to establish a silk industry in 1603. Mulberry trees had already been introduced into England 400 years earlier. James I had a problem - thousands of Huguenots were fleeing France and the Low Countries to England due to religious persecution. These refugees were settling mainly on the southern English coast. Many of the immigrants were weavers and spinners so King James I thought that if he could establish silkworm cultures, a silk industry would follow. He now had skilled people needing work with prior experience with silkworms and silk, once a major export product of France.

Unfortunately, not all mulberry trees are equal to a silkworm; the white mulberry of Italy and France are favored over the black mulberry of England. The black mulberry was winter hardy in England’s climate, but the other specie were not. King James encouraged all of his subjects to plant mulberry trees, but the silk industry didn’t flourish.

James I had another idea - he sent silkworm shipments in 1607 to Jamestown, hoping the worms would grow in the colonies and generate income for the Crown. Silkworm shipments in 1609 and 1622 were lost at sea, inspiring Shakespeare to write The Tempest. Jamestown burnt along with the crop in 1608 but some shipments did arrive and survive.

By 1619 there were penalties for not planting mulberry trees in Jamestown, although the red mulberry was native to America. These indigenous trees were large enough to yield six pounds of silk per year from cocoons. The slave trade started in the colony about 1619 and the slaves were used for mulberry and tobacco crops. But slowly the silk industry was overshadowed by tobacco, rice and indigo cultivation due to the high cost of slaves. Silk was labor intensive while tobacco was a cash crop that was easily grown and needed little care.

James I wanted silk to be grown rather than tobacco. In 1616 he said that tobacco use was “... a custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black, stinking fume thereof nearest resembling the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless.”

In 1623 James I set up silk mills. Sir Robert Murray planted a minimum of 10,000 mulberry trees and perfected growing the trees from seed. While mulberries were imported with hopes that they would flourish in Virginia, James I’s enthusiasm waned, and there were insufficient instructions sent regarding how to grow the caterpillars and recover the silk from the cocoon. The difficulties in settling in a new country were underestimated - there just wasn’t enough time to devote to this crop. But Huguenots coming into this country also had their silk knowledge. North Carolina and Georgia were settled, in part, by Huguenots, in 1680. Settlers received free land in the Carolinas; part of the agreement was that mulberry trees were to be planted about the settlements. Unfortunately, only a few pounds of usable silk was produced from this venture; besides being labor intensive, silk worms didn’t like the climate.

Governor James Oglethorpe of the Savannah (Georgia) colony promoted silk production in the 1730’s by ruling that none could serve in the colony’s Assembly unless they each had a minimum of 100 white mulberry trees and produced 15 pounds of silk per acre. The silkworm, cocoon and mulberry leaf are still part of Savannah’s city seal.

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AntiqueWeek, Silk Production in America was Anything but smooth, Lewis Coe, Jan. 15, 1990.
Each plantation was required by law to have one female slave trained in silk culture for every four male slaves owned. By 1735 the southern colonies started to send their regular silk shipments to England. In 1742 half of the silkworms succumbed to disease. American silk production peaked in 1767 when almost one ton of silk was shipped to the Crown. The American Revolution stopped all silk production. In Virginia silk yielded to tobacco crops, South Carolina produced rice and indigo rather than silk. Georgia, who had cultured silk the longest and most successfully, switched to rice as their major crop.

It takes a lot to feed a caterpillar - 12,000 worms need 20 sacks of mulberry leaves each day. It takes 485 pounds of leaves to yield 2.2 pounds of silk. To spin a cocoon takes 2-3 days.

The 1800’s saw a return to raising silkworms - as a gentleman’s hobby. The craze for tulips had passed as had raising asters, sweet peas, cactus and chrysanthemums.

Maine, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Massachusetts revived the silk industry, and based it on the white mulberry. The Mansfield Silk Company of Massachusetts built the first American silk mill in 1810. The fascination with producing silk lasted only a few decades and by 1840 it was history. First Lady Louisa Adams, wife of John Q. Adams, wound the silk from cocoons she had raised in the evenings at the White House, while her husband enjoyed astronomy as a hobby. Mulberry trees that originally cost $5.00 each had difficulty selling for a nickel. Abandoned mulberry orchards started to develop a blight which spread up and down the coast.

America wasn’t the only place having silk industry problems. An epidemic had killed the French silkworms. Louis Pasteur went to Paris to determine the cause of the silkworm plague, which was identified as a virus.

A 1948 letter to Mr. Donald Hebeler from Mrs. F. Spencer Roach21 relates the story of Mt. Healthy’s silk venture. Charles Cheny was born in 1803 in Manchester, Connecticut, one of eight children of a farmer. Little is known about his early years but in 1831 he established a ‘fancy dry-goods store’ in Providence, Rhode Island. There he married in 1829 Waitsell Dexter.

“He maintained this store until 1834 when monetary difficulties overtook him, brought about by the unsettled commercial and financial condition of the country resulting from Andrew Jackson’s war against Nicholas Biddle and the United States Bank. Charles was forced to liquidate his business and resolved to go back to the land. His younger brothers Ralph and Ward, who had clerked for him for a time in the Providence shop, had been experimenting in raising mulberry trees and feeding silk worms, and prevailed upon him to engage in the venture gaining in popularity along the eastern seaboard.”

In the late spring of 1835, Charles, accompanied by Ralph and a younger brother, Seth, set out on a tour of the American west. Charles and Ralph, for the purpose of locating a more clement climate for mulberry culture, and Seth, a young artist, joined for the pleasure of the trip. En route they stopped in Cincinnati which impressed Charles so much that he returned later in the fall to find a home for his family. Charles and Seth inspected properties in and around Cincinnati, rambling through the countryside on foot so as ‘to prepare them for the plow.’

Charles found a suitable place in Mt. Healthy. He purchased from the Laboiteaux family eighty-seven acres which already had a farm house and other buildings, in the vicinity of today’s Hamilton Avenue and St. Clair Street. Peter J. Laboiteaux was a tailor and merchant at this time and may have been in partnership with the Chenys. Before leaving Manchester, Cheny had mulberry trees shipped to their new farm at the cost of $20 per hundred trees.

“Charles and his family and Seth had no sooner established themselves at Mt. Healthy than tragedy struck. The two little daughters died within a month of each other” from whooping cough. Despite this, Charles and Seth planted 3,000 white mulberry trees and started raising silkworms in the house. Seth found time to sketch and model with local clay. The silk worms arrived from China. After feeding mulberry leaves to the worms, 32 days later the raw silk from cocoons was ready to be harvested. Each step of the process needed careful attention for the health of the worms affected the quality of the silk. Silk gathered from the cocoons was processed and could be sent to Manchester or used locally to be

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21 Letter in in the Public Library of Hamilton County, Mt. Healthy branch.
woven into cloth.

Meanwhile, Charles’ brother, Ward, and their brother-in-law, Edward Arnold, settled in Burlington, New Jersey on the Delaware River, about ten miles from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They purchased two adjoining farms and erected a cocoonery and planted their land with Chinese mulberry trees, sending some to Charles’ company, the Mulberry Grove Silk Company. Seth and another brother, John, joined Ward in New Jersey.

“Having established the source of raw materials, the Chenys now were interested in the production end of the picture. Accordingly in January 1838, they incorporated under the name of Mt. Nebo Silk Mills in Manchester, Conn. with Ralph as president. By the end of 1839 the mill was employing 20 hands...But along with other companies engaged in manufacturing silk, their greatest problem was to get adequate supplies of raw material. Even with three plantations operating, the Chenys could not keep the mill going constantly, so Ward traveled to Georgia late in 1838 to make arrangements for starting an additional plantation in Augusta. The milder climate indicated the possibility of a greater number of crops of silkworms because of the longer growing season and the greater output of mulberry leaves so induced. In the meantime Seth and Frank, the youngest of the eight brothers, and a mechanical genius, had gone to Europe to study and report on silk culture in France and Italy...

While these young men were expending all their energies towards establishing an American Silk Industry, the country as a whole was locked in the toils of the depression of 1837. But not until October 1839 “…that the depression had much affect upon silk growers.” By the summer of 1840, when the uproarious campaign was at fever-pitch, the enthusiasm for raising mulberry had waned such that trees were abandoned and speculators lost their shirts for lack of buyers. Contracts made the previous fall for spring delivery in time for planting could not be fulfilled - few still wanted to buy, and the prices of trees, cocoons, eggs fell so rapidly the bottom dropped out of the market.

The Chenys were caught in the avalanche, for while they were legitimate tree raisers and producers of silk, the profit derived from selling their surplus cuttings had helped to buy raw silk for the mill. With this supply cut off, their activities had to be curtailed and they were unable to meet their own obligations. The Manchester mill closed temporarily, and the Georgia venture collapsed. Ward managed to hold onto the Burlington land until late 1841.

At Mt. Healthy Charles managed to hang on to his land, but suffered the loss of his wife Waitsell in April 1841, just two days after President Harrison’s sudden death, as well as the death of their third daughter born in 1840.

In spite of the bad luck they had endured, the younger brothers returned to Manchester, resolved to devote their skills to the manufacturing and of the industry. By the summer of 1843 the mill was once more operating, and the following year, 1844, Ward ventured into the dyeing end, building a separate dye house in 1845.”

By 1847 they felt themselves sufficiently well established to suggest the Charles, living alone with his surviving son Frank Woodbridge (Cheny) in Mt. Healthy, return and enter into the mill with them. Charles had not yet re-married, and appears to have struggled along with his farm, occupied quietly in aiding escaped slaves on their way to freedom. His house was a station on the Underground Railroad, and “…young Frank had vivid recollections of riding beside his father, escaped Negroes hidden behind them in the wagon, on apparently innocent trips to the next station.”

A nationwide mulberry blight killed many trees in 1844. Charles sold his farm to William S. Sampson and returned to Manchester in 1847. The Manchester mill had grown to employing about 5,000 workers and the looms and other buildings covered 36 acres. The workers were housed on the site which

22 Letter from Mrs. F. Spencer, op. cit.

23 This was the time of the William Henry Harrison presidential campaign.

24 Letter from Mrs. F. Spencer, op. cit.
encompassed a total of 1,300 acres. It was a self contained city run by the family. The Cheny Brothers mill in Manchester is still in business.

The farm location was two brick houses that once stood on the east side of the mulberry grove. The mulberry grove was a local landmark until after W. W. I.

Other communities tried to establish a silkworm industry. One of the closer areas was Waynesville. There, the *Tree of Heaven* (Asian ailanthus) was imported for silkworm fodder rather than mulberry trees. This attempt to nurture silkworms also failed but the non-native tree can be found throughout the Cincinnati area.

Grace and George Hoffmann, Jan. 1909 on Groesbeck Rd.
Courtesy of Nelson M. Hoffmann
Chapter 12  Early Worship

“The first preaching I can remember on College Hill was in my father’s barn. The preacher was the Rev. T. Thomas, a Welshman, known as an Independent or Congregationalist. He afterward became the pastor of the Welch Congregational Church at Paddy’s Run in Butler Co., where he died in 1831. Thomas E. Thomas, D.D., a distinguished Presbyterian clergyman, the late President of Lane Seminary, was his eldest son. After the building of the brick school house the Methodists had started meetings once in two weeks. There were two preachers on the Miami Circuit, and they came here alternately. This being a comparatively insignificant field, their meetings were on week days, and the attendance was very small. In 1816 Danforth Witherby, a local Methodist minister, purchased a part of the Spencer farm, built and occupied a cabin on the west side of the road nearly opposite the Gano residence. He was by trade a cooper, and erected a large shop, and with his sons made lard kegs and pork barrels.

Being a licensed preacher, but not under the control of conference, as a matter of duty and pleasure he preached often on the Sabbath at the school house. A few years later, Aaron Burdsall rented the Spencer residence, and resided there a number of years. He, too, was a local preacher, and between them we had preaching almost every Sabbath. They were very unlike in their mode of sermonizing. Mr. Witherby selected his subject, divided into two heads, and was methodical, deliberate and often very eloquent, and for a man of his education was a superior preacher. Burdsall was a good, sincere man, but very scattered and made a great deal of noise. He was a better exhorter than sermonizer. T. B. Witherby, our esteemed neighbor, who has resided here since 1816, is a son of the Rev. Danforth Witherby, who in 1831 removed to Oxford where he died at a very old age.

The first church edifice in which people of the hill were interested was at Mt. Pleasant. The house was built to accommodate all denominations who chose to occupy it. The principal contributors to its erection were Presbyterians and Universalists, and the house was occupied by them on alternate Sabbaths for several years. William Cary, David Gaston, John LaRue and Samuel Tomlinson were its temporal and spiritual pillars.

When Cary’s Academy was built the services were divided between the church at Mt. Pleasant and the chapel of the academy. About the year 1850 (note: 1853), a church was organized of College Hill. From that time the church at Mt. Pleasant began to decline. The Gaston and the LaRue families passed away, and that field was abandoned by the Presbyterians as hopeless. The Church on the hill continued for some years to occupy the chapel of the academy, and then the chapel of Farmers’ College, until the completion of the present church edifice (1855). When this was built the number of members was small, and but few were financially able to contribute. The church cost about $12,000, one half of which was given by William and S. F. Cary. Other liberal contributors were F. G. Cary, D. B. Thomas, John Covert and Samuel Wilson.

The house of worship at Mt. Pleasant fell into decay and by order of the Presbytery the wreck was sold and the proceeds turned over to the College Hill Church. Through the voluntary and valuable services of John W. Caldwell, Esq. the fund thus obtained enabled the church to purchase the school house and convert it into a chapel.

The Methodists procured a lot at the corner of Belmont and Laurel Avenues, but were never strong enough financially or otherwise to build a house of worship and the disposed of the lot and abandoned the field.

In early times camp meetings were numerous in July and August, and were attended by very large

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26 A 50 X 50 foot log cabin situated on the property of The Oaks.
27 lead by Rev. Robert H. Bishop
28 Historical Sketch of College Hill, op. cit.
numbers, many remaining in their tents for a whole week. These woods meetings originated with the Presbyterians, and were adopted and continued by the Methodists. The excitement, excesses and extravagances at a Presbyterian camp meeting at Cane Ridge in Kentucky, where the New Light sect originated, and the wonderful revivals in Tennessee, resulting in the organization of the “Cumberland Presbyterian church,” brought camp meetings into disfavor with the Presbyterians. The last Presbyterian camp meeting in the county was held near Cheviot fifty years ago. Methodist camp meetings have been held annually in the Cincinnati Circuit for sixty or more years. The only one ever held on the Hill was Howard’s woods.

Our pioneer preachers were usually uneducated men and having felt they had a call to preach they relied for thoughts and words upon Him who called them.

They often spoke with great eloquence and power. The revival hymns which the whole congregation united in singing, filling the surrounding forests with weird melody impressed all thoughtful people with the deep sincerity of the leaders in the work. Remaining in camp for a whole week, engaged in singing, praying, listening to the practical sermons and fervent exhortations, it would be strange if excesses did not sometimes result. The principal reasons for holding these protracted woods meetings no longer exist, but we have no adverse criticisms to make upon their continuance. “The New Lights” were numerous on and near Winton Road east of College Hill and Mt. Pleasant. They had a house of worship near the junction of the North Bend and Winton Roads. Their church edifice, like the sect, has fallen into decay. The McCashes, the Bruins, the Snodgrass, the Sprauges, the Finneys, the Hills, the Dodsons and Jessups, good men and thrifty farmers belonging to that sect, have gone where denominational creeds are unknown and their descendants who still live are widely scattered. It was with this sect that the exercise known as the “jerks” originated.

The Presbyterian church was organized in 1853 by thirty-three members of the Mt. Pleasant society. Rev. R. H. Bishop, D. D., of Farmers’ College, was one of the main forces in developing this church. After meeting for several years in the chapel of Farmers’ College, a church building was erected about 1855, on the same site that it occupies today. Its bricks were fired on a kiln that stood where John Davey’s lake once was. It was built to hold 800 because it was assumed that attendance would be great from both colleges. Samuel and Freeman Cary put up half of the money for this church, which cost $12,000. Other contributors were William Cary, D. B. Thomas, John Covert and Samuel Wilson. In 1865 the church bell was rung so hand to celebrate the fall of Richmond that it cracked. It was recast and hung, only until 1888 when a tornado destroyed its tower and much of the church after the congregation had left. The Rev. J. H. Walker was pastor and Dr. George M. Maxwell delivered the sermon.”

The congregation struggled for funds to rebuild. William Cary held the mortgage on the church and the membership didn’t buy new hats and fewer new clothes in order to be able to pay off this note. Leaders in building the new edifice were Lowe Emerson, Peter G. Thomson, T. S. Goodman, John R. Davey, G. H. De Golyer, A. H. Pounsford along with the ‘Ladies Aid Society’. The cost to rebuild was $37,000. Funds were raised and the new church was dedicated in 1891, with the recovered bell rehung. Stained glass windows are dedicated to William and Rebekah Cary and to Mary (Wilson) Pyle.

Peter G. Thomson donated a sculpture and new organ in 1914 in memory of his wife, Laura.

Andrew Deininger sold his corner blacksmith shop to Peter G. Thomson on July 19, 1922. Mr. Thomson, sold the property to the First Presbyterian Church of College Hill on Aug. 4, 1922 for one

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29 One of the largest tent meetings was held in April 1829 in Cincinnati for a religious debate between Alexander Campbell and Richard Owen. After eight days of debates, Campbell’s fame rose and Owen’s followers faded away. Campbell believed that ...the owner of slaves was not a sinner. More Memorable Americans, 1750-1950, Robert B. Downs et al., 1985.

30 Title Abstract of the College Hill Presbyterian Church. Symmes to Nehemiah Tunis, Oct. 1796; N. Tunis to Jabez Tunis, May 4, 1812; J. Tunis to Wm. Cary Sept. 8, 1813; Wm. Cary to John Strong, 52 acres, Jan. 30, 1819; filed Dec. 11, 1822; 5.81 acres to Roswell Hazeltine Nov. 26, 1824; Wm. Cary to Solomon Howard, 10 acres, Nov. 19, 1828 but not filed until Sept. 11 1834; Howards heirs to D. Thomas, 10 acres, Aug. 1, 1846. Thanks to Edward Stare for this information.

31 Also the botanist Alphonso Wood, D. B. Thomas, John W. Caldwell, Alanson and Josiah Grant, the Huntingtons and Strongs.
In 1926 the stone parish manse was built north of the church, which served until after W.W. II, when another brick parish house was built on Groesbeck Road. The church remained the same until the early 1950's when the sanctuary was enlarged and remodeled into the Gothic inspired facade that we know today.


D. B. Pierson and a few other families connected with the Protestant Episcopal Church, ...having become permanent residents of the hill, with commendable zeal, determined to have a church of their own. The present neat little chapel, the parsonage adjacent, a church organization and a regular rector are the result.

The church was founded Feb. 25, 1866. Prominent members were the Caldwell, Knight, Cist, Harbeson, DeSerisy, Tweed, Avery and Doisy families. Early services of the church were held at Farmers’ College for $20 a month rent, until the first church could be built. This brick church used timbers from the demolished Cary’s Academy which was empty, and was torn down to clear the site for the new building. Gifts of money from various Episcopalians throughout Cincinnati 32 assisted in the church’s swift construction. Completed in 1867 at a cost of $16,300, the church was used until 1916.

By 1890 the church needed extensive and extensive repair. Donations and pew fees were the man source of church revenues. The ‘envelope’ system of pledging was introduced in 1914 but it wasn’t until 1928 that pew fees were completely phased out. Despite repairs and the addition of electric lights, the church was condemned in 1916 by the City of Cincinnati.

The first rector was Rev. R. T. Kerfoot. A prominent later rector was Rev. John H. Ely who also was the first rector of St. Philips Episcopal church in Northside. Additionally, Ely served a congregation in Hartwell at the same time.

In 1917 a new parish house was built from plans by Samuel Hannaford & Sons. The firm drew plans for both a church and parish house but because of W.W. I, building costs soared, so only the parish house was erected.

The old church was torn down in 1918 and weekly service was held at Town Hall until the parish house was completed in 1919. The current Gothic style church was built in 1927-28 of white Indiana Bedford stone. It was dedicated by Bishop Henry W. Hobson. The rectory, which sat west of the church on Belmont Avenue, was moved in 1957 to a site north of Aiken High school. The move down Belmont Avenue was documented by the late Rev. LeRoy Hall who gave many slides of this unusual sight to the College Hill Historical Society. Rev. LeRoy D. Hall was Grace’s minister from 1953 - 1966. Where the parish house stood, an educational wing was added. Rev. Hall was a founder of College Hill Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation which planned future development for College Hill, such as the College Hill Plaza, as well as rehabilitation of blighted properties.

A church is more than a series of buildings and Grace Episcopal’s niche has always been service to the community. The church women helped to fund Children’s Hospital (started in 1884 as the Hospital of the Protestant Episcopal Church).

32 William Procter, Henry Probasco, and Robert Mitchell to name a few.
An interesting house occupied where the rectory of Grace Episcopal church stood. Owned by Capt. A. D. E. Tweed and later by Ellen Newton, daughter of College Hill mayor, John M. Newton, the wooden house had what appeared to be a second floor. Actually it was a false front.

The Springfield Presbyterian Church was founded in Springdale in 1823. In the first congregation are familiar pioneer names: Levi Sayre; John, Nancy, James Thomson; Jas. Sayre; Effy Pierson; Catherine and John LaRue; Isaac and Elizabeth LaRue; Robert Allison; J. Van Zant; Margaret Van Zant; Betsy Hazelton.

Ellen H. Newton House, by Caroline Williams
2-23-1941
Isaac Betts: The centerpiece of the Betts-Longworth Historic District, formed in 1982, is the Betts house - now restored and open to the public as the Betts House Research Center. The two-story Federal style house was built by the Revolutionary War veteran William Betts and his wife Phebe Stevens Betts. They moved in 1790 from Rahway, New Jersey to Brownsville, Pennsylvania and then by flatboat to Cincinnati in 1800 bringing their seven children and elderly parents. Settling first in Lebanon on land purchased from John Cleves Symmes, the deed proved faulty and their money was refunded, enabling Betts to return to Cincinnati in 1802. Betts here established a brick factory.

The oldest brick building on its original site in Cincinnati, the Betts homestead was built in 1804 at 416 Clark Street on land William Betts obtained as repayment of a debt owed to him by Joel Williams, a tavern keeper. Betts purchased 111 acres from Williams for $1,665. Joel Williams, who had come with Israel Ludlow from New Jersey to survey and plat what later became Cincinnati, obtained large tracts of land from the first land lottery.

The West End area was flat and grassy, thus the nickname of “little Texas.” Outside of the boundaries of Cincinnati, it was an early neighborhood to be developed beyond the central business district. Some of the adjoining land was owned by Nicholas Longworth.

Betts was a brick maker, using the easily obtainable local clay; he also operated part of his land as a farm since brick making was a seasonal business. The dirt lane that was once called Western Row, later Central Avenue, ended in Betts’ peach orchard.

He constructed a sturdy house. One wall was cracked and a kitchen was destroyed beyond repair by the New Madrid earthquake of 1811 but the rest of the house escaped damage. Over the years it was added to at least six times, doubling its original size.

William Betts died in 1815, leaving his wife and twelve children. He specified in his will that his children were to be maintained for and educated by the sale of produce from the farm and the dividends from his stock holdings in the Miami Exporting Company until the youngest child reached age 21. The farm was then to be sold and the proceeds divided equally among the surviving sons, along with the stock. The daughters were to receive cash from the settlement of the land sale, along with other bank stock. His wife received the house and furnishings.

A local tax census identified Phebe Betts as the head of the household of 16 people. This may have included some of her at home children (the older children having married and left home), her husband’s elderly parents and farm/brickyard workers. At least three sons, Smith, Oliver, and Isaac, continued to operate the brickyard. In 1819 Cincinnati had 25 brick yards and employed 200 men during brick making season. They collectively made more than 8 million bricks annually.

In 1833 the youngest Betts child turned legal age and the formal subdivision and auction of the Betts farm was made in April. Eleven acres were set aside for private development by the Betts family which included the Betts-Longworth area. The newly platted Clark Street was named for William Betts’ mother, Elizabeth Clark Betts, who died in 1832.

Compared to the nearby land subdivided earlier by Longworth, these lots were larger, encouraging stylish buildings by the more prosperous managers and business owners. Various family and friends had already built near Betts. One neighbor (422 Clark Street) was James Gamble, partner in Procter & Gamble. He lived there until his death in 1891.

South of the Betts subdivision were narrow lots, no more than thirty feet wide, whose houses were set close to the street. These inexpensive properties were purchased by working class immigrants who wanted to be near where they were employed. By 1855 the West End was completely built, having a population of 30,000 residents per square mile. The more affluent started to migrate up the hills surrounding the basin area.

About 1848 Isaac Betts and his wife, Mary Toy, built a three story townhouse east of the Betts

1 Source: Mrs. Martha (Benedict) Tuttle
From 1851-1861 the old Betts house was occupied by Isaac’s oldest daughter, Abigail Reeves Betts and her new husband, Dr. Alexander Johnston. In 1861 the house became the home of another newly wed daughter, Adaline Betts, and her husband, Charles T. McCrea. McCrea owned a meat packing company. They remodeled the house and lived there until 1878 when they moved to College Hill. They bought the house at the corner of Oakwood and Belmont Avenue from the Knight family. Adaline’s parents had earlier moved to College Hill, purchasing in 1868 land on North Bend Road.

A description of the Belmont Avenue McCrae house can be found in the 29 July 1948 copy of the real estate section of the Cincinnati Enquirer. College Hill, 5930 Belmont Ave. “Here you inherit ancient spruce, hard maple and oak trees which tower even (over) the tower of this house. You inherit high ceilings, large rooms, substantial construction within the massive brick walls...situated on a lot 250’ X 350’, intensively developed with lawns, terraces, vegetable gardens, orchards, chicken house and stable. House contains center hall and 5 rooms on 1st floor, including maid’s room and modernized kitchen. 2d floor contains 5 bedrooms and 2 modern tile baths...$28,000.” The property was purchased and demolished to be the site of apartment buildings.

The great-great-granddaughter of Isaac Betts, Martha Benedict Tuttle, has led the renovation and establishment of the Betts House Research Center for over 10 years. The Betts-Longworth District is on the National Register of Historic Places and the house is open to the public.

Isaac Betts died in 1891. In his will he lists his children as Addison Betts, Abigail R. Johnston, Nina B. Pugh and Adaline B. McCrea. At that time the North Bend Road property contained 42 acres. His children received property lots and Adaline’s included...an old grave yard thereon containing three .04/100 acres.

The house at 5946 Belmont Avenue was built in the early 1890’s by Theodore and Adaline Betts McCrea. The house was adjacent to the original McCrea mansion which stood where the Belmont Apartments are currently located. The house is a good example of Victorian architecture of the period with a wrap-around porch, high pitched roofs, and elegant detailing adorning the third floor exterior. The carriage house of the original McCrea home still stands at 5946 Belmont.

Freeman Grant Cary was born in Cincinnati April 7, 1810 “...In this place (referring to College Hill) Freeman G. Cary, with his two brothers, William Woodward and Samuel Fenton, received his early education. He afterwards attended college at Miami University, and graduated with honor in the class of 1831. He devoted more than thirty years of his life to teaching. He established Cary’s Academy and originated Farmers’ College, into which the academy was merged; also originated for females what afterwards became the Ohio Female College...

Mr. Cary’s strong point was in government, and he was also a successful teacher. During his presidency he associated with him men of ability in the various departments of his institution...Mr. Cary’s character was marked by a combination of striking traits, having been possessed of a strong constitution, temperate habits, and good health, which gave him physical ability to accomplish successfully whatever he attempted.

He made his own place in society, and was known to be persistent and energetic in all he undertook...He was thoroughly conversant with all the branches of natural science, especially those pertaining to agriculture and horticulture, of which he acquired both a practical and theoretical knowledge...He established and edited an agricultural periodical, the Cincinnatus, which for five years had a wide circulation, and only ceased by reason of the Rebellion. He was one of the distinguished early leaders and supporters of the Cincinnati Horticultural Society, being several times its honored president. Mr. Cary was not only an adept in the natural sciences but was also a good classical and mathematical scholar, his education and ability eminently fitting him for marked prominence. He was selected as one of two to represent the great state of Ohio under Buchanan’s administration, in a congress of the states for the promotion of agriculture, with Marshall P. Wilder at

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2 Centennial History of Butler County, Ohio, Bert S. Bartlow, 1905.
its head. ...He was an elder in the Presbyterian church for over forty-five years...” He died August 26, 1888.

Samuel Fenton Cary3 “...General Samuel F. Cary...received his early education in the neighborhood school and at seventeen entered Miami University, where he was graduated in 1835. He was made Doctor of Laws by his Alma Mater. He graduated from the Cincinnati Law School in 1837 and formed a law partnership with the Honorable William E. Caldwell, afterward Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Samuel F. Cary was elected to the Supreme Court bench by the legislature of this state, when only a few weeks over the legal age, but owing to his large public practice he declined the honor.

His political career dates from the time he left college. At the age of twenty-two he stumped Ohio and Indiana for General William Henry Harrison, the Whig candidate for President. He was chief of staff for three governors of Ohio, was paymaster general of the Ohio troops during the Mexican War, appointed by Governor Bartley and re-appointed by Governor Bebb; he then received his title of General. He became a Republican at the onset of the Civil War and was a delegate to the National Republican Convention when Lincoln was nominated for his second term. During the Civil War he devoted his time and talents to the work of raising recruits for the Union Army, and Governor Morton of Indiana said he did more to stir up patriotism of the North and raised more troops through his fiery eloquence than any ten men in the country.

General Cary was assistant Provost Marshall of Cincinnati at the time an attack was expected from General Kirby Smith’s brigade. At the close of the war he was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for the Cincinnati district, but afterwards resigned. He was elected as an independent candidate for Congress in the Second Congressional District of Ohio in 1867 and was the only Republican member of the House that voted against the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson. In 1876 General Cary was the Greenback candidate for Vice-President of the United States...4

Early in life General Cary consecrated himself to the advancement of the temperance cause5...In 1870 he went to England and for ten months lectured on temperance and the Rights of Labor. He edited several magazines devoted to the temperance cause and for years wrote articles for the daily press on the money question and other economic subjects. He was the author of the Cary Memorials, an extensive genealogy of the Cary family. He was a life member of the Ohio Society Sons of the Revolution.

He was one of the founders of and for fifty years a member of the College Hill Presbyterian church. He was twice married. His first wife was M. Louise Allen. His second wife, Lida Stillwell, survived him three years and left two children, S. F. Cary, Jr. of the Cincinnati Enquirer staff and Miss Jessie Cary.

General Cary died at his home on College Hill, September 29, 1900. His last public address was at the unveiling of the Harrison monument in this city in 1835. Alice and Phoebe Cary, the authors, were his cousins...He was an orator with few equals and no superior. The absolute honesty and irreproachable private character of General Cary was acknowledged by his most bitter political opponents, and that he did not achieve greater political honors was due to his firm adherence to...
principles rather than party and his strong advocacy of unpopular reforms.

On our first coming to Ohio, in 1846, the praises of a young Whig orator, then thirty-two years old, Gen. Samuel F. Cary, were in many mouths... In 1876 he was nominated by the Greenback party for Vice-President. He has been interested in the temperance and labor reform movements, and there are few men living who have made so many speeches. Hon. Job E. Stevenson, in his paper on Political Reminiscences of Cincinnati, truly describes him as ‘a man of national reputation as a temperance and political orator, endowed with wonderful gifts of eloquence, highly developed by long and varied practice in elocution, of the presence, and a voice of great power and compass.’ To this we may say, one may live a long life and not hear a public speaker so well adapted to please a multitude. In his case the enjoyment is heightened by seeing how strongly he enjoys it himself. In a speech which we heard him deliver at the dedication of the Pioneer Monument, at Columbia, July 4, 1889, we saw that at the age of seventy-five his power was not abated. We, however, missed the massive shock of black hair that in the days of yore he was wont to shake too and fro, as he strode up and down the platform, pouring forth, with tremendous volume of voice, torrents of indignation upon some great public wrong, real or imaginary, with a power that reminded one of some huge lion on a rampage, now and then relieving the tragic of his speech by sly bits of humor.”

John Crawford: When John T. Crawford died in October 1881, he left his estate “for the sole uses of an asylum and home for aged and worthy colored men, preference to be given to those who have suffered from the injustice of American slavery.” Crawford was captured and held in Richmond Virginia’s notorious Libby Prison during the Civil War. He escaped and it took several years for him to walk back to College Hill. He was helped throughout his journey by slaves and African-American laborers who guided, hid and fed him and his gratitude was expressed in his will. Crawford expressed bitterness towards the government for forgetting those blacks that fought and died in the Civil War and for ignoring their plight after the war. His house was used as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Refugees were hidden under the floor via a trapdoor.

In addition to being a farmer and a moulding plasterer, he was also a real estate speculator. Crawford owned not only 18 acres in College Hill but also property on West 6th Street, George Street, Freeman Street, and lots in the Mill Creek bottom lands. To close his estate of indebtedness and litigation costs over the contested will, most of the property was sold. The family received about $20,000 from sale of the other properties but the court left intact Crawford’s wish concerning his College Hill farm.

In the beginning, the home was led by court appointed African American trustees. Later, some of the most prominent African American men sat on this board, such as Dr. Francis Johnson, William Page, Bill Copeland, Wendell P. Dabney, an editor, and Horace Sudduth, a businessman.

The Crawford Home was established in 1888 to house 12 men. There was an admission fee of $150. The Crawford Colored Old Men’s Home catalogue of 1889 contained the following paragraphs:

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6 Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio, Vol. 1, Henry Howe, 1888, pg. 838, 839

7 Libby prison was a four story building, containing eight large rooms. It had been a warehouse for William Libby & Son, Ship Chandlers. The prison operated from April 1861 to April 1865 and held mainly captured officers. In the four years it was open, approximately 125,000 men were held there. There was inadequate food, ventilation, heat, clothing and blankets. The men slept on the floor, and there was a single privy per floor.

8 Source: Mrs. Ruth J. Wells

9 Cincinnati’s Colored Citizens, Wendell P. Dabney, 1926

10 Rare Book Room of the Hamilton County Public Library.
“Any colored male citizen of the State of Ohio, 60 years old and over, may be received as an inmate of the Home on the recommendation of the Committee on Admission and by the payment of the sum of one hundred dollars.

All such inmates shall be entitled to support and care during the remainder of their natural lives, including food, clothing, and necessary attention when sick and at death shall receive decent burial.”

Older residents of College Hill remember the men working in the vegetable garden they had cultivated. The home became the Lincoln Avenue & Crawford’s Home for the Aged in Walnut Hills in the early 1960’s and the College Hill facility was sold to the Cincinnati Public Schools. The Northern Hills branch library was built on some of the grounds in 1966, as were Pleasant Hill School and the Crawford Recreation Field.

Deininger’s blacksmith shop stood on land that is now part of the College Hill Presbyterian church. Lorenz Deininger purchased 2/3 of an acre of land from S. F. Cary on April 4, 1867 for $625.00. He sold this property to his son Andrew T. Deininger in 1886 for $720.00. Lorenz operated a saloon and was a carpenter. He married Catherine Kiegner and they had: Lawrence, Andrew, Ed and Annie. Andrew was a blacksmith, ferrier, and wagon maker. Anne was the postmistress for Station K, College Hill for many years. Joseph is listed (1859) in the Ohio State Gazetteer as dealing in stoves, tin and sheet iron ware in College Hill. Lorenz’s brother, Henry, settled in Mt. Healthy and was a carpenter. He married Rachel Anna Case, another Mt. Healthy family. The Deiningers originally came from Wittenburg, Germany.

Robert Scott Duncanson (1821-1872) Born in upstate New York, Robert S. Duncanson, the son of a mulatto mother and a Scotch-Canadian father, became a leading Cincinnati portrait and landscape painter. He was self taught and demonstrated his talent at an early age. He spent his childhood in Canada because of their integrated school system, but he joined his mother in Mt. Healthy in 1841, living at 7358 Hamilton Avenue. Robert married a mulatto named Phoebe and had at least one child, Reuben. Duncanson developed ties with his neighbor from across the street, Mt. Healthy’s Gilbert Laboyteaux. Years later Laboyteaux took care of Duncanson’s son while his father was away in Europe.

Robert began his work in Cincinnati in 1843. One of his first portraits was that of William Cary, and later he painted one of Freeman Cary. The full length William Cary portrait once hung in the Ohio Military Institute, College Hill. He also painted life-size portraits of Nicholas Longworth and Miles Greenwood that once hung in the Ohio Mechanics' Institute. In 1850 Nicholas Longworth commissioned Duncanson to paint murals in the hallway of his home “Belmont,” now the Taft Museum.

His best known painting Blue Hole, Flood Waters, Little Miami River hangs in the Cincinnati Art Museum. In Cincinnati his work was well respected. He had local patrons: Francis Carr Wright, Nicholas Longworth and the Anti-Slavery League who underwrote his studies in Scotland and several of his European tours. His associates here were other artists of international reputation - Farny, Uhl, Mosler and Jerome.

He achieved his greatest fame in Great Britain, Europe and Canada where his race posed no barriers to “good” society. One of his pictures, The Western Hunter’s Encampment, was given a commendation by Queen Victoria in 1851.

Returning to Cincinnati in 1853 he was a daguerreotype artist’s assistant to James P. Ball. Ball was an African American photographer whose interest in that technique stemmed from the 1840 introduction of daguerreotype to America. James and his brother-in-law, Alexander Thomas, opened in the 1850’s a gallery that was very successful.

Duncanson purchased land in Detroit and opened a studio there. His fame continued to grow and his portraits were very popular.

His acclaimed painting of the The Land of the Lotus Eater’s inspired by Tennyson’s poem was purchased by Queen Victoria and the painting now hangs in Windsor Castle. Duncanson traveled
extensively, both in America and abroad, painting his landscapes on site. During his later years, a medium sized canvas commanded a price of $500.

Shortly before his death in Detroit he traveled once again to Europe. In Italy he painted *Vesuvius and Pompeii* showing some of the recently excavated ruins. The painting is now in the collection of the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

**William Slocum Groesbeck** was the namesake for Groesbeck Road. Groesbeck owned 88.6 acres along the curves of Gray Road and Clinton Kirby owned 91.6 acres across the road, what was once called *Frog Hollow* and where the landfill is located today. Groesbeck was a lawyer and served office in the City of Cincinnati, Ohio Senate and in Congress (1857-59). He married Elizabeth Burnet, daughter of Judge Jacob Burnet for whom Burnet Woods was named. A Democrat, Groesbeck was the key vote that acquitted President Andrew Johnson during his impeachment case. Groesbeck set up an endowment for a series of concerts to be given in Cincinnati parks. Groesbeck lived at “Elmhurst” in East Walnut Hills. In 1857 he owned part of the Moses Gray farm lands.

**A. B. Luse, M. D.** was born in Butler County, Ohio, in 1809. He went to Mt. Healthy in 1830 but practiced in Hamilton during the cholera epidemic of 1833-1835. He was a physician for an active participant in the Underground Railroad.

**Stephen Joseph McGroarty** was born in Mt. Charles, Donegal county, Ireland. He immigrated to the United States three years later when his father, Cornelius, founded the settlement of Fayetteville in Brown County, Ohio. Stephen became a Cincinnati lawyer and at the beginning of the war was elected captain of a company in the 10th Ohio Volunteers, the Irish regiment from Cincinnati. During a campaign in western Virginia, he was shot through the right lung. Upon his recovery he was made lieutenant-colonel of the 61st Ohio Volunteers. McGroarty was wounded many times during the Civil War, perhaps as many as twenty-three times, according to one source. He was wounded so severely in the battle of Peachtree Creek in July 1864 that his left arm had to be amputated. Later he was appointed colonel of the 82nd Ohio and at the end of the war was named brevet brigadier general.

General McGroarty was one of the most respected men in Cincinnati because of his outstanding war service. It was then the custom to elect wounded war heroes to public office so they would have employment and income. Thus, in the August 1866 Hamilton County Republican caucus, General McGroarty sought the Republican nomination for county auditor, but was defeated by yet another wounded war hero, General August Willich. He then contested for the Democratic nomination for prosecuting attorney of Hamilton County and gained the nomination, but was defeated in the October election. Finally, in the fall elections of 1869, he was elected recorder of Hamilton County, Ohio, on the Democratic ticket, but he died two months (1870) before he was to take office at age thirty-nine. In later years his friends secured the job of postmistress of the College Hill station for his widow, Mary McGroarty, who held that position for many years. Their home was at 5685 Belmont Ave.

**Edward Sayre** drove the College Hill omnibus. He married Ella Cary and her father, General Samuel F. Cary, sold them the house at 5624 Belmont Avenue in 1873. The property was originally sold by William Cary to Josiah Grant for $3,000 (1852) and was known as the College Hill Hotel. The house started as two rooms built about 1855. Josiah Grant was an early omnibus owner and operator. The original omnibus station, living quarters and stables is still next to the Pasadena Avenue post office, remodeled as a residence. It made sense for the omnibus owner to be able to offer lodgings for his passengers, many of whom were visitors to the various colleges on the hill.

The wedding of the Sayres is described in detail in a letter written by College Hill resident, Ella Ferry. A complete surprise to the small company chosen as guests and unannounced until the strains

11 From an undated article of unknown source.
of the wedding march burst forth before the summons to the banquet table. She relates that she and others who had been present at the wedding were invited to celebrate the anniversary of that date for more than forty-five years. The exact same menu of the original occasion was served, a real Thanksgiving spread. Members of the Sayre family lived in this home until 1941, when it was sold to Dr. Keene.

This interesting old house has scratched on a wavy glass pane of glass in a second floor window, “April 26, 1857 John Price.”

Dr. John W. Scott was born Jan. 22, 1800 in Pennsylvania. He was Professor of Physics & Chemistry at Miami University, 1828-1845. Scott left Miami because of his anti-slavery stance. He taught at Farmers’ College until 1849 when he left to become president of the Oxford Female Institute, located in College Hill. He relocated the school to Oxford where he died in 1892. Dr. Scott’s home in Mt. Healthy was built in 1840 and had several tunnels and rooms as a station on the Underground Railroad. The brick building still stands at 7601-7603 Hamilton Avenue. Scott’s daughter, Carrie, married president to be, Benjamin Harrison, in the parlor of this house according to lore. Dr. Scott married Mary P. Neal and they had fifty years together before Mary died in 1876. The following year their unmarried son died as a result of the Civil War.

Captain A. D. E. Tweed was a director of the City Insurance Company, Fire & Marine, located at #8 Front Street. He came to College Hill in 1855 along with other businessmen seeking large suburban homes. He purchased two lots from the Farmers’ College, about five acres for $434.16. He later bought a strip of land from Charles Cist adjoining his property to straighten out Belmont Avenue. He built a large, nine room frame mansion on a hill that overlooked the Colerain valley. His house was described\(^\text{12}\) as having ...one of the finest sites on the hill. It is said to be exceeded in altitude by but one location in Hamilton Co...Capt. Tweed has 20 acres of land, and a spacious dwelling, erected in 1865. Tweed was an early trustee of the village of College Hill. The property was purchased by Arthur H. Poundsford in 1883 and sold in 1968. The house was bought and demolished in 1969 and is now the site of the new building for the First United Church of Christ. Tweed was also an architect in the firm of Tweed & Sibley.

The Upson\(^\text{13}\) house at 5640 Belmont Avenue was constructed in the 1830-40 era. The builder is unknown. The two and one-half story Federal vernacular house was purchased in 1869 from Mary and Henry Hickman by Ashbel Augustine and Maria Upson. A. A. Upson was a partner with George D. Winchell in an iron ware business located on the north-west corner of Walnut and Pearl Streets., downtown Cincinnati. Mr. Upson was a trustee on the council of municipal officers for College Hill, 1870-71.

The house stayed in the Upson family until 1923 when it was purchased by George Weller. He remodeled it, making a two family home. About that time, a large one story curved porch running the width of the house was torn down and the current entry way added.

John Van Zandt: The Dutch name of VanZandt has been spelled many ways - Vansant, Vanzandt, Van Zant, Van Sandt; almost as many ways as the states they originally came from - New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Locally, the Thomas Vanzants lived in Cheviot; John VanSanndt in Sharonville/Glendale; Reuben, Isaac and Henry Van Zandt in Mt. Healthy and Finneytown.

These various Van Zandt lineages were probably related as cousins. Having many children, they

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\(^{12}\) The Suburb’s of Cincinnati, Sidney D. Maxwell, 1870.

\(^{13}\) Source: LaVerne Alexander, July 29, 1982.
married into the families of other prominent names found in the records of Colerain, Springfield, and Green townships.

John A. Van Zandt (1791-1847) was a farmer, having a plantation in Fleming County, Kentucky. He was the son of Aaron and Margaret Vansant (as spelled in Aaron’s will) of Fleming County. One night after a dream, John freed his slaves and moved to Ohio. He married Nancy Runyon in 1824, was ordained as a Methodist minister and was one of the first Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Sharon (now Sharonville), organized in 1837 by Rev. Levi White. John also was one of the main ‘conductors’ in the Underground Railroad.

John and his family lived at “Mt. Pierpoint,” by Oak and Skillman Roads near Glendale. It was named for Rev. John Pierpoint, an abolitionist from Massachusetts. John built his two-story house that sat on a hill from bricks that had been made in Philadelphia and used to construct the first Presbyterian church in his community. The church had been razed to build a new one.

Van Zandt firmly believed that all men were created equal and that there was no such being as a slave. He followed his convictions and was shunned by many for them. According to tradition, his house was where Eliza Harris, the Eliza of Uncle Tom’s Cabin, was sheltered on her trip to Canada. Van Zandt served as the model for John Van Trompe in the same book. The house was dubbed the “Eliza House” for many years. A sympathetic neighbor, Dr. Ross, attended to the slaves’ medical needs. Often Van Zandt or his son drove the fugitives by night to Lebanon or Wilmington, Ohio.

On April 23, 1842 Van Zandt took a covered wagon of produce into Cincinnati to sell. On his way back, he stopped in Walnut Hills at the home of a friend, Mr. Moore, who lived by Lane Seminary. John stayed there late into the night. While hitching the horses to the wagon, he saw a group of eight former slaves hiding in the shadows of the trees. They were on their way to Canada so he concealed them in his wagon letting one of this small band, a lad named Andrew, drive the team.

As he drove through Van Zandt’s own community, some pro-slavery neighbors heard the wagon pass in the wee morning hours. Knowing there was a reward for recaptured slaves, Messrs. Hargrave and Hefferman dressed and pursued them by horseback, overtaking the wagon south of Lebanon. Andrew was able to escape but the rest, along with Van Zandt, were captured. They were returned to their Kentucky owner, Wharton Jones, and Van Zandt was arrested under provisions of the Federal 1793 Fugitive Slave Law, imprisoned and fined $1,200 which was the value of the escaped Andrew, a $1,000 fine for harboring slaves and the cost of recapturing.14

Salmon Portland Chase, along with Thomas Morris and William H. Seward, defended Van Zandt against these charges and two lawsuits. This was a case that showed the abilities of Chase, who defended his client to the Supreme Court - aiding his career and reputation, even though Van Zandt lost. Chase’s argument was that “...the very moment a slave passes beyond the jurisdiction of the State in which he is held as such, he ceases to be a slave.” This meant, he argued, that slavery was confined to the laws of an individual state while freedom was national. Chase15 later became an Ohio Governor, Senator from Ohio, the War Secretary of the Treasury under President Lincoln, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Chase defended so many fugitives that the African Americans of Cincinnati presented him a silver pitcher for “...zealous and disinterested advocacy of the rights and privileges of all classes of your fellow citizens, irrespective of clime, color or condition.” Kentucky residents saw it differently, naming him ‘Attorney General for Negroes.’16

Friends contributed to help pay Van Zandt’s fines and court bills, although the lawyers worked

14 The Fugitive Slave Law can be summarized as any runaway in any state could be apprehended and returned back to the state from which he fled.

15 Chase’s opinion of women was not as expansive. He believed that women should be seen and not heard nor should express personal or political opinions. Mary Todd Lincoln, A Biography, Jean H. Baker, 1987.

16 Cincinnati’s Colored Citizens, Wendell P. Dabney, 1926.
pro bono. He had to sell his farm and lands to pay his bills and fines. He was excommunicated by his church from their membership. Both Van Zandt and Jones died in 1847, never having seen the end to the case. Van Zandt was buried at the foot of the hill near the barn which had hidden so many. He was later exhumed and reburied in Wesleyan Cemetery where his wife and a daughter are also buried.

On his tombstone erected in 1891, the centennial of his birth, his friends had carved: “In him Christianity had a living witness. He saw God as his Father and received every man as a brother. The cause of the poor, the Widow, the orphan and the oppressed was his cause. He fed, clothed, sheltered and guarded them. He was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. He was a tender father, a devoted husband and a friend to all. He is what is here described because he was a Christian philanthropist who practiced what he believed and he thus lived practicing his faith.”

Mt. Pierpoint was later purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Matthews who used it to house employees for their estate across the road. In an article appearing in the *Cincinnati Times-Star*, May 31, 1930, a “...huge tunnel in the basement of the house which is now cemented over” is mentioned. The Matthews also called the farm *Opekasit* an Indian name meaning “looking toward the dawn.” Since then, the house is on the grounds of Landmark Baptist church.

For many years Galbraith Road east of Hamilton Avenue was called Van Zandt Road. In earlier times the street ended at Winton Road where Henry, and later his son Reuben, Van Zandt had a farm. At this intersection today is a strip mall.

Henry Van Zandt was born in 1772 in New Jersey and died in 1810. He fought as a general under George Washington. Henry’s wife, Marcy, and his father, Isaac, came to Hamilton County with Henry about 1805. Marcy outlived Henry and married Stephen Jessup as her second husband. She is buried with the Van Zandt family in Spring Grove Cemetery. The Van Zandt home was on the north side of the Daly and Galbraith Road intersection on what was the old Trotner farm. The relationship between Henry and John is not known, possibly brothers.
Chapter 14  The Abolition Movement

Ohio and other states carved from the 1787 Northwest Territory were the refuge of fleeing slaves for many years before the Civil War. Thomas Jefferson, who was a slave owner himself, wrote in the ordinances of the Northwest territory that owning slaves was forbidden in those lands. Congress then passed the ordinances. The term abolitionist was later used to describe those who supported the abolishment of slavery. But even in slave free states it was against the law to aid those fleeing their owners.

Lane Theological Seminary was opened in Walnut Hills in 1829. It was Presbyterian in faith and no tuition was charged. The abolitionist, Theodore Weld, lectured there in 1833. As a result of Weld’s visit, the students split into two factions; abolitionists vs. those favoring the colonizing of African Americans by sending them to Liberia, Africa. The colonizing movement was supported by those that held slavery as being morally wrong yet they were concerned by the number of free African Americans in the society around them.

Liberia was founded in 1821 by the American Colonization Society with the intention that freed slaves would be relocated to the country of their origin. This plan was supported by the then President James Monroe, for whom Liberia’s capital, Monrovia, was named. In Cincinnati, Charles McMicken purchased 10,000 acres (1830) in Liberia. McMicken envisioned his land to be solely for African Americans from Cincinnati on which a school would be built. Why a school so far away? This was McMicken’s answer18 “...those who are not willing to go to Liberia to acquire knowledge of the duties of freedom, are not worthy of it.”

According to Wendell P. Dabney,19 “Peter H. Clark was then selected to go as explorer to this ‘Ohio in Africa.’ But when he reached New Orleans he refused to embark in the dirty lumber schooner that had been chartered to carry him and one hundred and nineteen other persons. The others started.

Before getting out of the Gulf of Mexico the unfortunate emigrants were attacked by smallpox. The captain finally put into Charleston, S. C., for medical help. Here all the well ones were put in jail for coming into the state in contravention of law. After lingering there three months they were freed and set out again on their journey. In less than six months ninety per cent of them were dead.”

McMicken in 1848 again contributed money towards the colonization effort. According to Dabney20 “…Mr. McMicken inserted a clause in his will prohibiting colored youth from sharing in the benefits of any education facilities he might provide for the youth of the Queen City.” McMicken was the founder of the University of Cincinnati.

For eighteen nights these ‘Lane Debates’ ran with the majority of students favoring emancipation of the slaves. A black student at Lane Seminary, James Bradley, told of his years of slavery in Arkansas.

Cincinnati newspapers covered the ‘Lane Debates’ with disparaging editorials and the population at large was against abolition, trying to force those teaching in the African American schools to leave the city. There was a real possibility that the Seminary would be burned, as well as the houses of the professors.

Following their consciences, the students of Lane established an African American school, teaching 225 people twice a week. This action was not sanctioned by the faculty and the seminary was almost internally destroyed over the divided opinion of the slave question. The students participating in this work were expelled, the abolition society disbanded and some of the students and

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18 The Cincinnati Herald, Sept. 20, 1975

19 Cincinnati’s Colored Citizens, Wendell P. Dabney, pg. 101, 1926. This incident is also in: History of Schools in Cincinnati, Isaac Martin, Chapter XXVI, pages 181-183.

20 Op cit.
faculty moved their studies and work to Oberlin College where a more liberal philosophy was held. Other students continued to teach local African Americans by moving their school to the Hall of Free Discussion in Cumminsville, outside of the Cincinnati city limits.

The Hall of Free Discussion was built in 1832 by Israel Ludlow’s son, James. It was a place where many of the ministers, students and those interested in politics met to listen and discuss issues of their time. Among the speakers were Joshua L. Wilson, Lyman Beecher and various Carys.

Dr. Lyman Beecher, President of Lane Seminary in 1832, and his family lived in Walnut Hills. Dr. Beecher was educated at Yale and was the father of a family that would have a remarkable impact on the abolition movement. Dr. Beecher, having a reputation as a reformer and revivalist, fully supported the abolition movement. The trustees of Lane Seminary had waited until Dr. Beecher and another one of his supporting professors, Dr. Calvin Ellis Stowe, were out of town before censoring the students and voting to suppress the discussion of slavery because the controversy was splitting apart the seminary.

The house built for Lyman Beecher still stands on Gilbert Avenue. Harriet lived there until her marriage to Dr. Calvin E. Stowe, a professor of biblical literature, when she was 25. She remained a frequent visitor to her father’s house until she and her husband moved to Maine in 1850. Nearby her father’s house was the home of Levi Coffin.

Dr. Beecher was married three times, having thirteen children, two of whom died young. Seven of his sons became Congregational ministers and his four daughters were among some of the most famous writers of their time. It was his daughter, Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) who wrote the famous Uncle Tom’s Cabin. Her brother, Henry Ward Beecher, spearheaded the women’s suffrage movement as well as freeing slaves. Her sister, Catherine, wrote books about home-life and headed Cincinnati’s Western Female Seminary.

Wendall Dabney’s Cincinnati’s Colored Citizens includes an anecdote about the Beecher family: “In Cleveland there lives a charming old colored lady, Mrs. Anna Bodie, nearly ninety years of age, who as a girl played and studied with Harriet Beecher Stowe. Her mother was the Beecher’s cook...Many a slave did the Beechers hide in her mother’s apartment. On one occasion Mr. Beecher, while cutting wood in the yard on a cold, frosty morning, took off his coat and gave it to a poor, almost naked slave, who had just run away from the South.”

The Stowe’s had seven children. Her income as a writer helped to support her large family in conjunction with her husband’s modest salary. The Stowes concealed and moved along fugitives for 18 years from their Walnut Hills home. Uncle Tom’s Cabin was written when she was age 40 after they had moved to Maine. She had only a brief opportunity to see slavery in Kentucky but had heard many stories. She heard of Eliza’s river crossing at the home of her friends, the Rankins in Ripley, Ohio. Her book was serialized in 1851-1852 in a abolitionist newspaper and appeared in book form in 1852, selling a million copies before the Civil War. When President Lincoln met her in 1863, he reportedly said: “So you’re the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war!” While she continued to write a book a year until her death in 1896, only Uncle Tom’s Cabinet was heralded as the most influential novel ever published.

Levi Coffin (1798-1877), a Quaker, a farmer and an educator began aiding escaping slaves as a teenager. The seeds of the anti-slavery movement were sown in the Quaker assemblies. Levi settled in Indiana, opened a grocery store, manufactured linseed oil and cured pork. Coffin and his family moved to Cincinnati in 1847 as our city became a major center in the abolitionist movement. Still very active in the Underground Railroad, also named the Freedom Train or Gospel Train, he aided in the escape of Eliza Harris who served as the model for Eliza in Uncle Tom’s Cabin, just as he and Catherine, his wife, were portrayed as the characters Simeon and Rachael Haliday. Originally Coffin purchased a store at 6th and Elm Streets. The attic connected to adjacent buildings, as did tunnels in the cellar. His next house was a 30 room house at the corner of Broadway and Franklin. Coffin contributed $50,000 of his own money to the cause and raised $100,000 from donors. Called the “President of the underground,” he aided escaping slaves for more than 30 years, dying in 1877. The legend of his exploits stands tall and most were true.
The tide of those escaping continued to increase. Going into asylum, destitute without provisions and only with the clothes they were wearing, Coffin would see that they were fed, clothed, and shod. In good weather they sometimes traveled on foot with a guide or with verbal directions, or maps with crosses marking the safe houses, or stations, and hands pointing to locations to be avoided. The distances between these stations were five to twenty-five miles. The stations were arrayed not in a straight line but in a zig-zag pattern in an effort the elude pursuit21. Quilts hanging outside over the back porch railing or hung in a window concealed directions and messages by their designs. Some trips were made in covered wagons apparently loaded with sacks of grain or produce. Coffin would rent wagons from a particular livery stable. The drivers were often African American men who were trustworthy and who had no property, so that if caught, they had nothing to lose. Wagon trips were usually made at night going only a score of miles, the conductors needing to be home by daylight so their absences wouldn’t be noticed. Sympathetic women formed the Anti-Slavery Sewing Society to clothe the fugitives.

John Hatfield, an African American who was a Deacon in the Zion Baptist Church, was a local conductor. Levi Coffin in his book about the Underground Railroad, told of an incident about Hatfield. “I suggested that someone should go immediately to a certain German livery stable in the city and hire two coaches and that several colored men should go out in buggies and take the women and children from their hiding places, then, that the coaches and buggies should form a procession as if going to a funeral. In the western part of Cumminsville was the Methodist Episcopal burying ground23 where a certain lot of ground had been set apart for the use of the colored people. They should pass this and continue on the Colerain Pike until they reached a right-hand road leading to College Hill. At the latter place they would find a few colored families living in the outskirts of the village and they could take refuge among them. Jonathan Cable (ed. note: a Presbyterian minister) on the west side of the village, was a prominent abolitionist, and I knew that he would give prompt assistance to the fugitives.

While the carriages and buggies were being procured, John Hatfield’s wife and daughter and other colored women of the neighborhood busied themselves in preparing provisions to be sent to the fugitives.

All the arrangements were carried out, and the party reached College Hill in safety and were kindly received and cared for. But, sad to relate, it was a funeral procession not only in appearance but in reality, for when they arrived at College Hill and the mother unwrapped her sick child, she found to her surprise and grief that its stillness, which she supposed to be that of sleep, was that of death. All necessary preparations were made by the kind people of the village, and the child was decently and quietly interred the next day in the burying ground on the Hill.24

Cable kept the fugitives as secluded as possible until a way was provided for safety forwarding them on their way to Canada.”

Stations were kept by free African Americans, Quakers, Covenanters, Free Masons, Wesleyan Methodists and other abolitionists. The stations and connecting routes formed a far flung and intricate network from the Ohio River to Lake Erie. Where did the fugitives go? The nearest depot was the Stubb farm in West Elkton. Milford, Lebanon, Batavia, Xenia, Hamilton,, Sharonville, Colerain township, Cumminsville, Walnut Hills, Cheviot, Mt. Healthy, Glendale, and Mt. Auburn all provided shelter to

21 The Beginnings of the Underground Railroad in Ohio, Wilbur Siebert, 1898.


23 Wesleyan Cemetery

24 This would have been either the Cary or Gard cemetery.
those that ultimately went to Canada, from where they could not be returned. Some settled in northern states if
they could obtain freedom papers. Sympathetic canal boat captains and railroad conductors did their part too in being part of the underground.

Another former slave was Mrs. Amy Clark who came to Cincinnati by steamboat in 1832. She
worked in College Hill and married Joseph Barber who concealed and transported fugitives in his
wagon that he drove northeast to Lebanon. Amy and her husband migrated in 1837 to Windsor,
Canada.25

David Morrison Wilson, and his brother Joseph Gardner, also were active in moving the
runaways. They worked with William Beard who picked up ex-slaves at Lane Seminary and took
them to Billingsville, Indiana. Joseph, according to Wilbur H. Siebert,26 “...procured female apparel
from Quaker families, whose sons were in his classes and cooperated in obtaining the disguises for
his wayfarers. Some of his students ventured to ship fugitives in barrels and sacks.”

All sorts of hiding places were constructed. Houses had secret chambers, sometimes behind
chimneys or in cellars. Tunnels were dug making escape possible if hidden rooms were detected.
Under floors, in empty brick kilns, hillside caves and even false backed fireplaces were used. In
College Hill the fugitives were hidden under the belfry at Farmers’ College as well as the root cellar
of the college president’s house. The Cary homes, the Crawford home, the Wilson house, a smoke
house at “The Oaks,” a tunnel under a home at Belmont and Glenview, a false basement in the frame
house at the corner of Belmont and Cedar, a secret chamber at the house at Meryton and Glenview are
just a few places in College Hill. The Zebulon Strong house on Hamilton Avenue and the Cary house
that once stood opposite it, are at the head of a pair of twin ravines that sheltered fugitives during the
day. Children playing would drop bags of food into the brush. At night, the fugitives would hide
under the straw of Strong’s wagon and he would drive them to the next station at Colerain and
Springdale Roads27.

Mrs. Katherine (Forbes) Schevene Neuzel recounted in 1988 in a letter: “My grandparents took
part in the underground railroad. One of the slaves worked for them until they passed away. She had a
little house on Piqua near Cedar. I always got sick on street cars so my Mother would take me down
to be babysat by her when she went out. My grandparents owned the home that was torn down for
Hodapps. This was the William Cary homestead.”

The abolitionist movement was a group of individuals, often at odds with the society around
them, who followed their conscience and did what they believed correct, without having state or
federal dollars involved. The power of a committed person is great. In the words of the British
statesman Edmund Burke, “Nobody makes a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he
could only do a little.”

Cincinnati was the site for an early abolition riot on August 2, 1836. It is an example of how
differing opinions split Cincinnati’s population. Clarissa Gest wrote to her brother, Erasmus, about it:
“Our city is disgraced and a long time ere she will be recovered from the stain. Lately a meeting of
the citizens was called to effect measures relative to the abolitionists. A committee was appointed to
wait upon Mr. Birney. They did so, but Mr. Birney refused their terms and said he would risk his life
before he would give up...On Saturday evening (July 30) confused clamoring and rude songs with
occasional shouts was heard...A considerable number collected and tore out the abolition printing
press; and after destroying every part they could, they left it in the street & went to Mr. Donaldson’s,
a violent abolitionist...To his house they went and asked for him...Some ladies came to the door and
declared he was not a home...He escaped as they came to the house...They then went to Birney’s, it is

25 The Underground Railroad, Wilbur Siebert, 1898.

26 The Beginning of the Underground Railroad in Ohio, op. cit.

27 Inventory of the Erasmus Gest Papers, 1834-1885, Ohio Historical Society library.
said they had tar and feathers along...He was not at home...he had taken stage for Hillsborough 2 hours before. They then came back to the press and some wished to make a bonfire & burn it, but Joseph Graham mounted some rubbish & proposed throwing it in the river. Previous to this...they attacked that dreadful house on Church Ally where whites & blacks had been living together, and, driving out the folks, tore all the insides out, broke the furniture to pieces and all the windows...Part of the mob took the press to the river & drowned it, and the rest marched past us to Elm and demolished five or six houses in the swamp...

Black history month28 or Negro history week as it was called, was started in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson who was disturbed by the lack of the African American presence in social science, history and culture. Although he was an avid researcher and a prolific writer of African American history, Dr. Woodson was aware that the publication of books alone would not accomplish the task. Therefore, he initiated Negro History Week as one of several ways to instill a sense of pride and accomplishment within blacks and to inform the general public.

William Cary House on Hamilton Ave., 1901
Courtesy of Karen Forbes-Nutting

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28 General references: Salmon P. Chase, Frederick J. Blue, 1987
1. Wesleyan Cemetery-this was the first “integrated” cemetery, having one section for African American burials.
2. Site of the “Hall of Free Discussion” where Lane Seminary students taught classes for African Americans. The Hall was so named by James Ludlow who built it for the purpose of free discussion of controversial subjects. William Cary was one of the leading speakers as was Lyman Beecher and Josiah L. Wilson.
3. Twin Towers - the ravine ending at the stone wall of Twin Towers was used in hiding escaping slaves during the day and moving them through College Hill during the night. A tunnel under the original retaining wall led to the F. G. Cary home, the site of which is on Hamilton Avenue north of Twin Towers. The tunnel and retaining wall collapsed shortly after Twin Towers was built, causing a new retaining wall to be constructed.
4. Skillman’s grocery store - in the ravine that ran behind the store, area children would leave food while they were playing. This fed those who passed through the ravine by darkness. Neighbor Zebulon Strong also transported fugitives in his wagon to the next station at Springdale and Colerain Avenues. Next to the store is the house of Zebulon Strong, which is still standing as a white painted brick home.
5. Site of Freeman Grant Cary Home - son of William Cary. Both were abolitionists and hid those that were escaping.
6. Hamilton Avenue - ‘dug hill’ was the main thoroughfare that many traveled on their way north.
7. Farmers’ College - some of the Quaker youths, along with the faculty, hid slaves in the bell tower. Dr. Bishop, president of Farmers’ College, was an ardent abolitionist.
8. Corner Belmont & Cedar Avenues - this frame two story house was a station with a concealed half floor for hiding space.
9. “The Oaks” is the mansion at the corner of Belmont and Glenview Avenues which had a hiding place in the outside smoke house. In back of the working fireplace was a false door which led to a small space that was just large enough to stand upright in.
10. 5831 Glenview Avenue was connected by an underground tunnel to The Oaks.
11. Wilson/O’Neil house, 1502 Aster Place - the Wilsons were very involved with the abolitionist movement. Samuel Wilson’s daughter, Harriet, wrote her memories of the time.
12. Site of William Cary’s house which was a hiding place.
13. Site of the “colored” school shown on the 1869 College Hill map.
14. Jesse Locker, 1210 Cedar Avenue, site of the home of the noted politician.
15. These tidy small cottages along east Cedar Avenue were built as housing for the servants of the wealthy College Hill homes.
16. William Banks House, 1310 Cedar Avenue, was built in the 1880’s and was bought by the Houston, one of the early black families of College Hill. John Houston sold it to William and Elizabeth Banks in 1917 when they moved to this area because of the high quality of the schools. William Banks commuted by bicycle down Gray Road to the B. & O. Roundhouse in St. Bernard where he worked.
17. Christian Church site, west of 1310 Cedar Avenue, where the Rev. Laban S. Locker was pastor.
18. Steele Subdivision - now known as West College Hill, this Springfield township community was developed in 1891 by Mr. Charles M. Steele, a land speculator and once mayor of Hartwell. Steele developed this land solely for African American occupancy. The first buyer was Charles & Melvina Middleton. Mr. Middleton worked as a farm hand in College Hill and Mt. Healthy.
19. Mulberry Grove Silk Growing & Manufacturing Company - Charles Cheny aided slaves and his son wrote his memories of riding in the wagon with those escaping while his father drove the team.
20. Dr. Alexander Luse, 3206 Compton Road, gave medical care as well as food, clothing and shelter to many.
21. Site of the Louis Aiken house, 7200 Hamilton Avenue, was another concealing place where slave
artifacts were found.
22. Benjamin Hunt home, 1575 St. Clair Avenue was another station.
23. Another site for hiding was the Hastings home, western end of McMakin Avenue.
24. Dr. Scott, 7601 Hamilton Avenue - Dr. Scott was a professor at College Hill’s Farmers’ College. His daughter, Caroline, married Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd president of the U.S. Scott built this brick house, still standing and being rented, where traces of basement tunnels and rooms were once visible. A historical plaque on the side of this building identifies it as a station.
25. Mt. Pleasant Cemetery - Jesse Locker is buried here along with many African Americans from College Hill, North College Hill and Mt. Healthy.
26. Winton Place - this house at 4752 Gray Road has been said to have a niche hidden behind a fireplace wall.
27. Six Acres- 5350 Hamilton Ave, College Hill, now a bed and breakfast was once a home belonging to Zebulon Strong. It had hidden rooms and an escape tunnel.

Hall of Free Discussion, Northside by Caroline Williams
5-9-1942
Harriet Wilson’s Letter

The typed original of this letter is in the Ohio Historical Society’s library along with the other papers acquired by Mr. Wilbur H. Seibert regarding experiences with the Underground Railroad. Note that in 1892, Harriet still refers to College Hill participants by their last initial only. H. N. Wilson was assumed by Mr. Seibert to be a man, and thus he wrongly credited the sex of one of his sources in his book.

College Hill 4/14/1892
Mr. W. H. Seibert,
Dear Sir: -

Your letter received several weeks since should have been answered at an earlier date, had not a press of other duties prevented me from doing so. The subject of your inquiry is one in which our family in the antebellum days were deeply interested and some of them took an active part in the work, but their life work is ended and they have received their reward. Were they here to tell what they saw and participated in during all these years, it would be far more satisfactory and interesting that ought I can write as I was in the city school, coming home only at the close of each week. My brother, Rev. D. M. Wilson, was a student several years during the ’40’s at what was then Cary’s Academy, the first educational institution established on College Hill. He was of the stuff of which martyrs are made casting his first vote, in the township where he lived, as a ‘hated abolitionist’ with only one other brave enough to cast a similar ballot and that other was Mr. Van Sant, whose famous trial in the Cincinnati Courts for ‘harboring and secreting runaway slaves’ was one of the sensations of the time and for which he was imprisoned and heavily fined, which sent him forth a comparatively poor man from his once pleasant home near the present site of Glendale. During my brother’s student life on College Hill and his three years course at Lane Seminary,29 Walnut Hills, also a prominent station of the Underground R.R., he had many opportunities for giving aid and succor to the fleeing fugitives. Were his journal of those days now available it would give much interesting and important information in regard to the ways and means then used to carry on the work. Though laboring as a missionary in Syria for fourteen years, his longest and hardest work was done in Tennessee, where he helped to have equal civil and religious privileges granted to all citizens irrespective of color of previous condition, but he died a few years since without seeing his great desire accomplished. His only son is now a professor in Maryville College, where higher educational privileges are granted to all. My sister, Mrs. M. J. Pyle, was for many years a teacher in the Ohio Female College, and if were living could give you vivid pictures of the workings of the Underground R.R., for but a few who traveled by it to College Hill, but who were encouraged by her words of cheer and aided by her helping hand, but she died in 1887, being almost the last one who actively participated in those stirring scenes. A younger brother, J. G. Wilson, after his graduation at Marietta College, spent several years as a professor at Farmers’ College, and were he living could tell of many exciting episodes, from the singular devices and disguises used to get the fugitives secretly housed while here, and safely away - no easy task as many of the students of those days were from the southern states and members of slave holding families, while others were from the rural districts where pro-slavery and democratic principles made them more bitter in their prejudices than those born and bred south of Mason and Dixon’s line, and always accustomed (to) the peculiar institution.

The position of College Hill only six miles from the city on a high eminence making it a point of

29 From Uncle Tom’s Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe, Introduction: Professor Stowe’s house was more than once a refuge for frightened fugitives on whom the very terrors of death had fallen, and the inmates slept with arms in the house and a large bell ready to call the young men of the adjoining Institution, in case the mob should come up to search the house. Nor was this a vain or improbable suggestion, for the mob in their fury had more than once threatened to go up and set fire to Lane Seminary, where a large body of the students were known to be abolitionists. Only the fact that the Institution was two miles from the city, with a rough and muddy road up a long hill, proved its salvation. Cincinnati mud, far known for its depth and tenacity, had sometimes its advantages.
observation from the surrounding country, the only direct road leading to it being a narrow, dusty turnpike up the steep hill: the only conveyance being an omnibus, which, with all other vehicles, could be seen for a long distance. The two educational institutions located on the hill drew students from far and near, while nearly all the families residing on the hill were connected in some way with the two colleges, all helping to make it a very suitable place for anything requiring secrecy and prompt action but in some way never fully explained or understood, fugitives had begun coming, through whom or by whose influence was never known having come, they were cared for and sent on their way rejoicing, others followed and thus the work continued to grow and increase until it became quite a heavy financial burden on the few who so long carried on the work. Though the fugitives were not really led by a cloud by day or a pillar of fire at night, yet a protecting power, certainly led them by strange and devious ways to the long wished for haven. They seemed gifted with a kind of magnetic power, which, with their grips and pass words, drew those of different localities together, making them choose the least traveled ways and the deep shadowed ravines and valleys lying on each side of our beautiful hill, soon seemed to be the popular route chosen by the wayfarers.

A few colored families, living in small cabins in the sequestered places, were stopping places until the benevolent people of the Hill could be secretly notified, ‘that more people had come, and that help was needed.’ Stealthily creeping along to the well known house of Mr. G., a tap on the window would arouse him. After a whispered conversation they would proceed to Mr. C’s. and Mr. W’s. And the sturdy gray haired men who knew no such words as fear and were equal to every emergency would leave their beds and go out into the darkness and have all of the new comers provided with temporary quarters before the morning dawn. Many times did the tired but kind hearted women, though weary with the toils and cares of the previous day, leave their couches to help arrange safe hiding places, prepare food for the hungry and clothes for the almost naked, for in that plight were many who came through the briers and bushes which necessarily bordered the Underground R. R. There are names of true hearted, unselfish men and women on the unwritten records of that road, but their reward is sure from him that said ‘Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these &c.’ Some of these kind hearted women did it without the hearty co-operation of their husbands. Two such bearing names well known have long since gone to their reward.

The runaways of those days were generally of the brighter and better sort of slaves, possessing tact and energy which made them dare to risk everything to gain their freedom. Some who lived in the free states had been freed by their masters and then sent North, and had made homes and friends among the whites, yet often either the husband or wife would lack the necessary papers from their former master. The hated Fugitive Slave Law’ was a new terror to them. We had one such case on College Hill, that of quite an intelligent colored man, with a kind hearted wife. He was for some years janitor at the College and his uniform politeness, fidelity, and industry, commanded the esteem, not only of the students, but of the residents of the Hill. They were well posted in the workings of the road, which brought so many of the race from the land of bondage and were very ready and willing to lend a helping hand to all such and frequently there would be several concealed in his humble house, which was indeed a veritable ‘cave of Adullum’ to them, they did everything so wisely and so well that no ‘outsiders’ suspected them of being engaged in such a work. Originally from South Carolina, the wife had been given her freedom, but without her ‘Free Paper.’ After the enactment of the fugitive slave law, which sent alarm and consternation into hundreds of such families, they lived in a constant state of fear and dread of what might come to them. The kind old master was dead and the spendthrift sons needed money and would not be conscientious as to how it was obtained, so they felt they were no longer safe to remain where the grasping and unscrupulous heirs could seize her, so to the regret of all on the Hill they reluctantly went to Canada, where after a few years both succumbed to the

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William Cary, founder of College Hill, was an intense abolitionist. His house on Hamilton Avenue near North Bend Road was a station for the Underground Railroad.
severity of the climate and died of consumption. In the published ‘Reminiscences of Levi Coffin,’ pp. 304 to 309, he speaks of ‘John Fairfield the Virginian,’ who did efficient work as conductor of numerous trains over the Underground R. R. He was on the Hill several times, making this a sort of function but was very careful not to be seen or known by any outsiders, so, of course, his calls were very brief. To despoil the slave horlers (sic) seemed to be his impelling motive, but it was said that he never lost a single passenger of the many that he brought from all parts of the South, but engineered all the trains ‘safe across the line into Canada.’ My sister, Mrs. Pyle, saw the large (28) company mentioned in these pages when they were hurriedly gathered, scared and trembling, into the janitor’s house, waiting for wagons to come to take them across the Ohio boundary into the safer Quaker settlements in Indiana. Some daring students from those peaceful homes had with others, made all the necessary arrangements and with youthful ardor and courage were on the alert to ‘see them off,’ yet careful not to be seen or known by any of their fellow students. The dangers to be avoided added yet to their interest and excitement. Cautiously and singly the inmates had been gathered and with darkened windows and watched doors, there was no signs of what was transpiring within. The venerable Doctor Bishop, the Scotch Divine and scholar, so long president of Miami University, but in his last years connected with Farmers’ College, was in the crowded room, his towering, patriarchal figure reminding one of the prophet Elijah, in his own peculiar impressive manner he read an appropriate psalm and then kneeling in the midst of that motley group, in a most fervent prayer, he implored the protection and the blessing of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who led the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage through the waters of the Red Sea and the dangers of the wilderness, into the Promised Land, that He would likewise give the helpless ones then assembled, keep them safe from the dangers and the detention by the way and bring them to the land where they would be free. Smothered expressions of ‘Bres de Lord’ ‘Dats so’ were heard on all sides and with the excitable peculiarities of their race several sprang to their feet exclaiming, ‘Dat prayer will keep us safe. De Lord bless Him’ ‘We will get through all right.’

On another occasion when a similar company was gathered together, Mrs. Pyle saw John Fairfield for the first time. He came into the room and held up a small lancet of a peculiar make and asked if any one present had ever seen it before. A woman sprang to her feet claiming ‘That was my husband’s, where is he?’ The man had found his way to Canada and meeting John Fairfield and knowing of his work of ‘running the slaves’ gave him the lancet, asking him to show it to every party of refugees being sure that his wife in time would make her way north and would thus learn where he was. Many such incidents could be given...It is a mystery never fully solved, how slaves from so many different localities could surmount so many perils and difficulties, through swamps, and forests, especially through thickly settled districts. The Polar Star was their guide during the night and natural instinct when traveling during the day, yet they would meet at certain named points and be taken on together. Some self reliant, cool-headed students trained in ‘plain living and right doing’ by Quaker parents were in College and were faithful and efficient helpers in the ‘secret service’ which was carried on without the help of ‘Telephone or Telegraph.’ A word, ‘look,’ or gesture was often the only signal that ‘Prompt help was needed’ and it required much executive ability and tact, as well as self-denial and labor to carry the ‘human freight’ on through so many impending dangers.

All sorts of expedients were resorted to - men were sometimes dressed as women or women as men. Some were carried in barrels, others were hidden in bags of hay or grain, etc. The dangers most feared when leaving here were the toll gates and covered bridges over the Great Miami River at Hamilton as the ‘Southern Sentiment’ was very strong there and all through Butler County. Many of the toll-keepers were known to be pro-slavery men who might not be adverse to receiving a moneymed reward for helping masters get back their own property as all slaves were then considered, but never was one fugitive of the many who passed by our Hill retaken. When they once reached the non-combatant settlements of the Indiana Friends they were comparatively safe. It is somewhat remarkable that during those years of disturbance and excitement, none of the houses on College Hill were ever searched by the ‘Minions of the law’ though frequently there were well grounded fears that such would be the case. One hot Sunday evening word came to College Hill that ‘officers properly
armed and equipped were coming to search for a number of runaways supposed to be in hiding here.’ They were scattered among several families and the unknown news was soon known to all. There were hurried consultations and planning. The wife of the College President opened a trapdoor leading from her kitchen into a secret receptacle made for storing winter fruit, etc., and found that her guests could be safely stowed away there, and concealed by the carpeted floor. The women being ‘entertained’ by our family were terribly frightened declaring ‘that they would die rather than be taken and carried back.’ Though quite large in size they were ready and willing to crawl through a small aperture into a dark cellar where they would be safe. Some were stowed away under the hay, and it was said that a ‘valuable buy’ was secreted in a dark place in the belfry of the College where all possible precautions had been taken and all felt that an ordinary search would not reveal them, they settled down to patiently await the result, but it was a great relief to hear that the expected searching party had turned back to the city. They came to the toll-gate, a mile below College Hill and told the toll man their business and asked for information as to suspected parties, etc. He was a clever man but a Democrat, and in sympathy with the South, yet was ignorant of his close proximity to the hated route. He told them that he really believed that there was no place on the Hill where a runaway could be concealed. The men believed the assertion and turned back and thus were we relieved of the indignity and danger of an ‘official search.’ Yet at that time there were some thousands of dollars worth of ‘human chattels’ on and around the Hill. Children belonging to the protecting families were early taught to be reticent, and to be ‘know nothings’ regarding such matters, never by word or look to hint of such arrival of ‘guests’ and even those sometimes brought along with fugitives seemed to be burdened with an unnatural sense of responsible silence seldom whimpering or crying aloud. The large rewards offered for valuable runaway slaves seldom caused them to be arrested and returned to slavery. Only very unprincipled, brutish men would stoop to such work. All others seemed to feel that such ‘gain’ would indeed be ‘blood money.’

A young and bright mulatto, so trusted by his master to be hired out on a river steamer earning large wages for him, learned that owing to financial embarrassment of his owner, there was a possibility of him being sold, ran off while the boat was at the wharf and found his way to College Hill, reaching the house where we lived in the wee small hours of the night. A young man who knew of his coming went to the city in the morning and saw large handbills giving a minute description and offering $500 reward for information that would lead to his capture. They did not get the desired information, and he was happy not to get money in that way. To show the peculiar difficulties attending the coming and going of the colored people from College Hill, frequently those in hiding were slaves of those having sons in College. An old colored woman while working in our kitchen saw the nephew of her Kentucky master at our table in the dining room, but he did not see her. She was a good cook and hired out at a country hotel, so prepared everything as usual Saturday night even to dressing the chickens for breakfast, then tied up a few things and joined a company making their way to freedom. Being unable to keep up with them she lay down and rolled down to the river where skiffs were waiting. She reached the Ohio side in a sadly dilapidated condition. When she came to us she was wearing a dress given by the mother-in-law of one of Ohio’s most noted Democratic politicians. All had to be very careful to efface every mark by which the donators could be identified were the slaves retaken.

Frequently when at home on Saturday and asking for some articles of clothing, I would receive the reply. ‘Gone to Canada.’ The ruling principle which seemed to actuate the majority of the fugitives causing them to run away was the fear of being sold south. Some of them seemed to regard their Massa and Missis with affection and they seemed to hate to leave them, but the fear of what might be impelled them to get away.

One of the residents of our hill was made an anti-slavery man by seeing a strong black man roughly dragged from the cars at Cumminsville by a U. S. Marshall and carried back to slavery. One of the last fugitives who came to College Hill, was a smart active young fellow who had made his way to one of the small stations on the Hamilton and Dayton R. R. Opening the car door he confronted his master with an officer. Springing back he tightly held the closed door until the train
was under full headway, then jumped and ran for liberty. The pursuers dared not follow him, and endeavors to have the train stopped, but the train men refused and they were carried on to the next station several miles distant. Meanwhile the fugitive was making his unknown way over the Hill.

Coming to some men at work cutting wood, he threw himself upon their mercy and told his story. They directed him the best way to College Hill, telling him that he would find kind people there who would help him.

Sometime after the pursuing party came to the same men, asking if they had seen a black fellow, &c. The men professed to have not seen anyone answering the description and skillfully evaded all their questions. Finally the master said ‘We may as well go home, Jim is too smart for us to catch him’ so they reluctantly retraced their way, minus the $100 worth of flesh and blood which they hoped to take with them. He was forwarded on, but the work had become too well known and the peculiarly difficult circumstances attending it on College Hill, it was deemed wiser to have it carried on by other less exposed routes so in the years immediately preceding the civil war, there were comparatively none coming to the Hill yet those interested in the cause of human rights did their part financially to help on the work and when the great conflict came, when our country was made to suffer so fearfully for the sins of the parents and the framers of the government our hill did not escape the terrible ‘baptism of blood’ which marked our bravest and best as martyrs laying down their lives in southern battlefields. My noble brother was one of the first to lay down his life, the victim to that spirit which would gladly have perpetuated the fearful curse of slavery for ages to come.

An incident which came under my personal notice was that of a bright colored girl, belonging formerly to a member of Congress from Missouri and who had spent several seasons in Washington with her master and mistress. The former was quite intemperate and finally became fearfully so, when unable to go out the slave was made to get him liquor and wait upon him. This her mistress forbade her doing, so between the two she had a fearful time. Her mistress told her husband that the girl would not wait on him, that she would have her sold when they reached home. The girl heard the threat so while the boat lay at Cincinnati wharf, she stole secretly away, starting up the street not knowing where she was going. She met a kind looking woman, and told her what she had done. She took her to a nice colored family, for a few days until the search would be over and finally secured her a good place a few miles from the city. She had been there several years when I knew her and was industrious, faithful and quite happy, until a lady from near the girl’s old home in Missouri came out there with some company from the city, and recognized her as the slave of her neighbor, who had mourned her loss and had made diligent search for her but all in vain. The lady assured her that she would not let them know of her present home, but the poor girl was so fearful and anxious that she was miserable and unhappy all the time, fearing lest some one for an expected reward would stealthily kidnap her and carry her back into slavery. She dared not step out of the door after dark or be left alone in the house at any time. The continual strain and anxiety was too much for her, and her health failed, so to save her life means was provided by her friends and she was sent to Canada to swell the colored population in the Queen’s dominion.

H. N. Wilson

College Hill April 14, 1892
Chapter 15  Six Acres, A Hidden History Discovered

For many years this house that sits back from easy view, was owned by the Schaeffer family. When they left, the property sat abandoned. By the time Kristin Kitchens, the current owner, took notice the building’s interior has been stripped of woodwork, including a collapsed main staircase, and it was slated for demolition. Kristin would see this house every Sunday as she drove to church. Her curiosity led her to one Sunday go up the long driveway and look around. Even in this sad condition she could envision the house renovated, so she purchased the house in April 2001. The restoration was complete in 2004 as a bed and breakfast. The property is six acres in size and was originally built and owned by Zebulon Strong between 1850 and 1860. It was deeded to his son, Elon, in 1875 at Zebulon’s death. Kristin uncovered this information herself to document the house. The College Hill Historical Society had nothing about this site in its files. She has visited the house years before when it was the home of a high school friend and never forgot the story of its history that she was told.

While it was being restored a room was found under the patio. Keran Seagraves Smith, who once played in the house that was in her family, remembers a tunnel that was later behind the coal pile. Kristin found a small, bare room under the eaves of the third floor that looks to never have been touched since it was built. In the floor, to the left of the window a deeply inscribed circle has been made in the dark wooden floor. Kristin has been told that this was a healing circle that dated to the time that this house was used in the Underground Railway. She has left the room untouched as a memorial to those that passed through her house on their way to freedom.

And what is an old house without a ghost? A tall, thin fair-skinned African American woman dressed in a long shirt with an apron has been seen in the dining room and bedroom. She is simply seen with no other manifestations.

The house has 6,500 sq. feet, five bedrooms and five bathrooms, nineteen rooms total, all beautifully furnished. It has been rented for wedding receptions, seminars and cooking classes, in addition to staying there as a guest. Each of the five bedrooms has the name of a grandmother of one of the staff members. Its elegance yet with a comfortable feel, has been named “The Best of Cincinnati” by Cincinnati CityBeat magazine.

A true preservationist, Kristin wants to purchase the one acre property next door that had belonged to Charles Aiken. She plans to call it the “7th Acre.”

If you would like to stay there or see the property for yourself, please contact: Kristin Kitchens, 541-0873.

Old Photo of Six Acres
Chapter 16   Morgan’s Raiders

Even though Kentucky remained in the Union during the Civil War, some of the war’s most famous personages holding with the Southern cause arose there. John Hunt Morgan, although portrayed as suddenly charging across the Ohio River to an unfamiliar state, actually had ties to Cincinnati and could have known this general area quite well.

The Hunt family came to Lexington, Kentucky in July 1795. For three generations the family had been merchants in New Jersey. John Wesley Hunt, John H. Morgan’s grandfather, was the first millionaire west of the Alleghenies, making a fortune in the manufacture of cordage. In 1795, John Wesley’s cousin, Abijah Hunt, was a Cincinnati merchant. The goods were bought in Pennsylvania and other eastern towns, transported by covered wagon to Pittsburgh and then floated on flatboat down the Ohio River. Farmers relied on store merchants to sell or trade them for supplies and to extend credit when times were lean.

From the early years of Cincinnati, Abijah and his brothers Jesse and Jeremiah Hunt provisioned some supplies for Ft. Washington. Through Abijah’s partnership with John Wesley in Lexington, cattle and nails were brought up to Cincinnati from Kentucky for sale, and Cincinnati sent liquor and bacon south. In 1799, Abijah wrote that he couldn’t obtain enough liquor as “...the Consumption is Monstrous in the Army.” In 1795, John sold 98 gallons of sherry, a barrel of brandy, and 433 lbs. of bacon to Cincinnati. John Wesley’s daughter, Henrietta Hunt, married Col. Calvin C. Morgan who was the son of a wealthy merchant of Huntsville, Alabama.

John H. Morgan31 attended Transylvania University (Lexington, Ky.) but did not graduate. Instead he, his brother Calvin and his uncle, Alexander, enlisted in the Mexican War. John and Calvin returned from the war and entered in to the civilian life. John became a manufacturer of cotton products. When war was declared, Morgan and his many relations joined the Confederacy cause.

Morgan was a natural leader and had a famous sense of humor. His men were devoted to him and he was as loyal to them. Many sons of Kentucky’s most prominent men rode with him. The best of the Calvary transferred to his unit, as did his brothers. The regiment was named the Second Kentucky Cavalry, C. S. A. with Morgan as Colonel. Almost as famous was his mount, Black Bess, reputed to be one of the finest horses in Kentucky. The horse saved his life many times but he had to abandon her to save his own life later on.

Morgan’s assignment was to disrupt, raid and destroy Union supply trains traveling south to equip troops fighting in Tennessee. He destroyed bridges, depots, railroad beds and obstructed tunnels along the way. With the seized supplies he equipped his men and other C.S.A. units. Plundered bolts of cloth, a rare commodity during the war, were seized from raids into Indiana and Ohio. These were exchanged for lodging, food and supplies for his troops from the farms they stayed at. If his hosts were not congenial, he would leave Confederate money for his stay. His troops were young men in their teenage years and early twenties to whom this was a glorious adventure, led by a dashing gentleman. Their causalities were few. Morgan was known for his quick strikes, the source of his nickname “Thunderbolt of the Confederacy.”

He captured more then 25,000 men and let them go free if they promised not to fight against the Confederacy. If one of those pardoned were recaptured by Morgan later, he was executed.

The lack of timely communication helped his unit to assume mythical proportions. Their size, while actually 4,000 men at the most, was reported to be up to 40,000 troops. Calvary skirmishes were attributed to his Raiders, even when they were hundreds of miles away. Taking advantage of the situation, Morgan did his best to plant rumors about different destinations. When he rode into Indiana in June 1863, he was rumored to be riding to Indianapolis to empty that state’s treasury.

During the following month, July 13-14, Morgan was rumored to be ready to attack Cincinnati.

31 General sources for Morgan’s Raiders: The Longest Raid of the Civil War, Lester V. Horwitz, 1999
The city was armed with soldiers waiting as this had been anticipated. Some people buried, hid or lowered down a well their silver, money, jewelry and other valuables. Later some forgot where things were hidden. Men readied their rifles in anticipation. Martial law had been proclaimed in Cincinnati on July 12, and in Columbus Governor Tod called out the militia.

Morgan appeared in Harrison, Ohio on July 13, while another rumor had Union troops preparing for him to enter Hamilton, Ohio. He passed through New Haven, New Baltimore, Montgomery, Maineville, Goshen, Sharonville, and Glendale, spending the night within sight of Camp Dennison. He burned a supply train near Lockland and emptied the stable of fine horses owned by Thomas Spooner, an Internal Revenue collector. The Raiders passed through Batavia and Williamsburg before leaving the area. Morgan was closely pursued by General Edward H. Hobson. As Morgan passed through Ohio, trees were felled by the pursuing troops so that Morgan couldn’t return the way he came. Morgan was captured on July 26 in Columbiana County. He and his remaining troops were taken to Columbus by a special train. A welcoming party assembled at the Columbus depot. Governor Tod was waiting to shake Morgan’s hand. At the time of his capture, Morgan was 37 years old. Four months after his capture, he and six of his officers - including one who was a nephew of President Zachery Taylor, suspiciously escaped by digging a tunnel and made their way back into Kentucky. Morgan was killed after he was captured during a skirmish on Sept. 4, 1864 at Greenville, Tennessee.

His famous raid into Ohio captured an estimated 2,500 horses and covered 29 Ohio counties. His troops averaged 21 hours a day in the saddle and could cover 90 miles in 35 hours.

The late Warren Steiner wrote some of his memories of Monfort Heights. He related this from his conversation with Mrs. Anna (Biddle) Wikely: “Mrs. Wikely said that she was about ten years old when Morgan’s Raiders...came to this area. West Fork Road was one of the main roads from the west into Cincinnati at that time. It was felt that he might attack the city from this direction. About two hundred men, mostly older men and boys of about teen age gathered here from as far away as Warren and Montgomery counties to the north. They were commonly called the ‘squirrel hunters’ and they came here at the request of the military authorities in Cincinnati. They stayed here about five days, and most of them slept in the church building and on the ground around the church. It was in the summer of 1863 and the weather was warm. She said the ladies of the church prepared food for these men and brought it daily to them while they were here. She said that most of the younger men of military age were in the Union Army in the east.

She also told me of an incident that happened to some friends of the family who lived on a country road in northern Colerain Township. Some of Morgan’s Raiders passed through that area. It seems that this family had, as one of its members, a young girl about six or eight years old. The raiders were always hunting fresh horses to replace their worn out mounts, and when they approached this farm the father of the girl, a farmer with two fine horses, was pressed to know how to hide them. In desperation, he finally decided to put the horses in the parlor of the farmhouse and draw down the shades. He told his daughter to stay with them, hold their heads down, and keep talking to them in a low voice to keep them from making a noise when they heard the other horses outside.

The raiders came, searched the barn and near-by pasture. They watered their horses and filled their canteens at a well in the yard, and after a little while moved on. The two fine horses were saved and the girl always said that it was the most frightening experience of her life.

Another story, in connection with Morgan’s Raiders, was told to me by Mrs. Eliza Bacon, a member of an early Green Township family, who lived on North Bend Road, just east of Cheviot Road...She said that she and her father, who was a farmer, were returning home from taking some vegetables down to the city market. They always came out West Fork Road from Colerain Pike, which was the main road into the city from the northwest. She said that on this particular morning, they arrived at West Fork and Colerain and found a Union soldier stationed there. He told them not to continue out West Fork Road because the latest information was that Morgan’s Raiders were coming into the city from that direction. He told them that they would no doubt lose their horse and wagon if they ran into them. She said that they then proceeded to go out Colerain Pike to Mt. Airy and then got home by that route.”
Rose Budd (Lingo) Cummins, a resident of Mt. Airy, was born on Fox Road. The woods around their cabin were cleared in anticipation of Morgan’s troops. Their chestnut wood log cabin was moved to Vogel Road in fearful anticipation of Morgan’s coming.

The community of Glendale was rumored to have many tunnels beneath the streets due to the Underground Railroad. It was in these tunnels that the town’s supply of horses were said to have been hidden.

Ruth J. Wells has an article that originally ran in the Venice Graphic of September 9, 1887 by Times-Star reporter Robert Mulford: “It was on the glorious Fourth of July, in 1860, that the fountain was dedicated. (Richard’s watering trough on Old Colerain Road). Several years later Morgan’s raiders approached within half a dozen miles of this spot, and it fell to the lot of Giles Richards’ son George - at whose farm I spent my vacation - to turn them from their purpose. George Richards was a mere youth then - not much over sixteen. His cousin Giles, a member of the Sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was at home on sick leave at that time. The country road about was much excited just then over the story that Morgan’s band of marauders was nearing town. In the field of battle near where the Confederate Gen. Zollicoffer was killed, Will Gano captured a horse and sent him North after christening him after the dead rebel. These young fellows took it into their heads one day that they would go upon a scouting expedition and see if they could find some trace of the wily Morgan. So they hitched ‘Zollicoffer’ to a buggy and started out. Away up the pike they drove past Colerain, through Venice and some distance beyond that place. On they were going when they discovered three men in gray in the barnyard. They carried muskets, and in a moment their weapons were cocked.

‘Halt’ cried one of them
The boys halted.
‘Where are you going?’ demanded one of the Johnny rebs.
‘Oh, we are driving to see if we can find any of Morgan’s raiders,’ responded George Richards, with all the candor of youth.
‘Keep right on,’ ordered the fellow grimly, ‘you’ll find ‘em!’
The three Rebs fell in behind and the boys drove on. Giles knew they were in a scrape but George didn’t realize the danger. Sure enough, they had not ridden very far before they ran into a body of at least a hundred of the Johnnies.

‘Nice horse that!’ remarked a big rawboned Kentuckian, as he thumped little ‘Zollicoffer’ in the ribs. ‘Git out here and help unhitch’.
George got out and the Kentuckian rode away on Zollicoffer’s back. Even then he did not appreciate that they were in a bad scrape, but he hunted up the officer in command and said: ‘Captain, we’re in a pretty tough fix. We’re pretty far from home to be without any horse. Haven’t you got an old cripple you don’t want that you can let us have?’
The audacity of the request startled the Reb, and for a moment he stared at his questioner closely. He saw nothing but innocence there, and with a queer sort of smile he said to one of his men: ‘Get this boy a horse!’
Then turning to George he hold him: ‘Now you turn right around and go back for if you meet the rest of the army they’ll take this away from you. By the way any home guards up your way?’
‘Yes, indeed!’ responded young Richards, ‘two companies at Venice.’

It was a fib, for there wasn’t a home guard in the town but the lie served its purpose. Morgan’s raiders gave Venice a wide berth. They turned down toward New Baltimore, burnt the bridge there that night and then passed back to the Colerain Pike, crossing at Franklin Wells a couple miles south of his place. As for young Richards, it was a cripple the Rebs gave him. It took three hours prodding with a hickory hoop-pole to get him home again. On the way they met several drunken Johnnies, and George, filled with the enthusiasm of youth, wanted to take a few prisoners, but his cousin told him to ‘say nothing and saw wood.’ He didn’t want his head blown off. They finally ran across one raider
who had succumbed to water or something else. He was asleep on the road with two hams by his side. The boys ‘sneaked’ the hams, and later on they were devoured with éclat at the Union Sanitary Commission picnic at Colerain. Every farmer they met declared they had heard the yarn often enough. The majority, however, gathered their horses together and drove them into the weeds that grew as high as a house in the Miami bottom.

Venice owes George Richards a debt of gratitude to this day.”

Another Morgan story from The Daily, \[32\] “Morgan crossed the Ohio below Louisville and headed north, then west, direct for Cincinnati...On toward Mt. Healthy he came, and Branch Witherby and his sons joined the ranks of the other ‘minute men’ hurrying in the direction of his possible path. But he had passed, cutting across to Glendale and then on up the river.

One amusing incident that occurred that late summer day in ’63 is well remembered. A storekeeper of Mt. Airy named Memmel had a fine white horse and Morgan’s men heard of it. Memmel had the start on them, leaped on the animal and rode it into a barn down the road. He went outside, shut the big door and folded his arms. When Morgan’s men came along and asked him if he had seen a white horse being ridden along the way, he replied: ‘Well, I didn’t see any. Fact is, I’ve just woke up a bit ago,’ and they passed on.”

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\[32\] The Daily, Old College Hill Well Still Serving Thirsty, September 5, 1927
Chapter 17  College Hill as a Village


The colleges of the community played a part in being the setting for an unusual con man. Louis Adolphus lived and worked in College Hill, posing as an educator of young men. With false letters of introduction, purporting him to have been a tutor from Lord Russell’s family, he came to Cincinnati in 1861. Setting up a school for boys in College Hill, his wife and daughter also played the role. According to a newspaper article:33 “Their home at College Hill became one of considerable luxury, with a fine table and stylish carriage and horses.

He presented $8,000 of false bills of foreign exchange drawn on London which weren’t payable. He persuaded the financiers here to extend him the funds. In one instance he borrowed $2,000 from a widow of College Hill upon property covered with chattel mortgages. His servants and numerous neighbors became his victims and he made many purchases without payment. Fifty persons in all suffered from his actions.

His last and heaviest transaction involved a forgery of the name of Henry Black & Bros. on notes amounting to $4,000, a few as high as $600 - all of which he disposed of late in 1863. When these forgeries were discovered, early in 1864, the doctor prepared to escape with his family. But up to the last moment merchants of Cincinnati credited him with furs, silverware and other valuable, which he took with him, by night express to New York, and thence by steamer to Liverpool.”

College Hill, once forest, then farm land, now a home of educational institutions, was a growing community. As more people came to College Hill to work and study, news of its beauty, and available land, created a steady influx of new residents. Described as “…cool nights, pure air, and splendid landscape”34 it enjoyed the reputation for many years as the highest elevation in Hamilton County. It wasn’t until the next century that Mt. Airy was found to be marginally higher. The more affluent Cincinnatians now had summer homes on the hills when pollution filled, heavy air blanketed the crowded industrial basin. Large homes, bordered by sweeping lawns, graveled streets and tree lined sidewalks, became the place to live.

One of the most popular amusements was the Farmers’ Lyceum which met monthly going from house to house. It was a day long affair with speakers and attendees coming from around the country. There was also a yearly Harvest Home festival which rotated from College Hill to other communities.

Transportation became the key to opening up the suburbs. Until to early 1850’s, Alason ‘Lansing’ Grant’s omnibus was the main way to make the 5 mile trip to downtown Cincinnati. He ran two lines, one went directly to downtown, for 35 cents, the other went to Cumminsville where passengers transferred to a train to go to downtown. The line extended into Mt. Pleasant (Mt. Healthy) as well. Later Asa Robbins owned this line and made two round trips a day, except on


34 Chic, 1900, R. N. Wild
Sunday, when the omnibus didn’t run. Once a month, the omnibus ran at night to Cincinnati to attend entertainment.

In cold weather, lap robes, ceramic hot water bottles or straw wrapped hot bricks were used to keep the passengers warm. Slow, expensive in its day, limited in passenger capacity and uncomfortable being jostled over gravel or rutted, mud roads, the coming of the trains was much anticipated. In 1851 the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad was built, linking a faster way to the outlying communities but it would be several decades before College Hill was linked directly to this line. In the 1860’s tracks were laid from Cincinnati to Cumminsville along Spring Grove Avenue for horse or mule drawn cars. But in the Meantime, Edward W. Sayre operated his four horse omnibus on its once daily trip to Cumminsville where passengers could catch a mule-car into town. Edward Sayre ran the omnibus from 1861 until October of 1876. Sayre also carried the mail. When Sayre died in 1926, he certainly had seen a revolution in transportation!

The 1850 census listed Dr. Mathias Williams in College Hill as a physician. F. G. Cary’s home became the home and office of many physicians: Dr. A. G. McChesney (1869), Dr. Johnson (1886) and years later, Dr. Kilgour, a homeopathic doctor from Canada.

About 1855 the emigration to the hill included many familiar names: Charles Cist, George C. and Norris S. Knight, Rev. Clement Babb, J. C. C. Holenshade, A. D. E. Tweed, G. Y. Roots. Home development started on Glenview Avenue in 1855. The first homes built were for George Henshaw, M. L. Knight and A. Henshaw.

It wasn’t until July 21, 1866 that College Hill was incorporated as a village. Edward DeSerisy was Mayor (1866-67); E. N. Wilde, clerk; Samuel F. Cary, Eber P. Strong, Joel Strong and Amos Worthington as Trustees. Armand DeSerisy was postmaster. Later mayors were Norris S. Knight, 1868; Henry M. Cist, 1869; Cyrus S. Bates, 1870-71; L. T. Worthington, 1880-81. When Cyrus Bates was mayor, W. S. Rogers was recorder, E. B. Stout, Marshall; I. N. Skillman, treasurer; long term council, D. B. Pierson, W. C. Huntington, E. DeSerisy; short term, Eber Strong, A. A. Upson, R. Simpson. For the sake of completeness these were the Mayors of College Hill: Edward DeSerisy 1857-1867; Norris S. Knight 1868; Henry M. Cist 1869; Cyrus W. Bates 1870-1879; L. T. Worthington 1880-1881; J. C. C. Holenshade 1882; E. Henshaw 1883-84; Joseph Barker 1885; John Bruce 1886-1911.

Once it became a village, streets were laid out and macadamized, eight foot wide sidewalks were added, and land set aside for a new school. The town hall was in rented quarters but a new one was built 1880 on the southeast corner of Larch and Belmont Avenues. The name was changed from Pleasant Hill to College Hill when a post office was established there.

In 1869 the population was 800 and Henry M. Cist was mayor; Edward DeSerisy, postmaster; J. Rieck, J. and M. Denman and Rogers & Company, were general stores (ed. Note: An advertisement of Asa Roger’s stated: Dealers in dry goods, groceries, notions and everything usually kept in a country store, excepting whisky and tobacco. Good meals prepared when notified before hand); D. O’Neill, grocery and saloon; C. Wulfe, butcher shop; A. McGrew, blacksmith shop; J. W. Brown, wagon shop; J. B. Myers, sawmill; J. & W. Towlman, sawmill. William Flamm opened his grocery in 1870 at the corner of Llanfair and Belmont Ave. Years later it was Bolam’s grocery and finally was converted into apartments.

The roads were described in 1870 as: “The principal streets are the old Hamilton road, now called Hamilton avenue, and Colerain avenue, which leaves the Hamilton road at the site of old Cary’s Academy. The former is sixty feet wide, well macadamized, and has graveled sidewalks, ten feet in width, finished as far north as Linden avenue...Running across from Hamilton to Colerain avenue, immediately opposite Farmers’ College is Locust avenue...On the north side of this is the

35 The seventeen room Huntington house, 5801 Glenview Avenue was a stage stop for travelers en route to Hamilton, Ohio.

36 His granddaughter is Mrs. Jane Early, the wife of Dr. Daniel Earley, who lives in College Hill.
The residences of College Hill during this time were some of the loveliest in Cincinnati. From a College Hill profile of 1870 came the following descriptions: “J. C. C. Holenshade lived in the house that was the former residence of Freeman G. Cary. It was purchased in 1861 by Mr. Holenshade, who at once began improvements...a wide stone pavement, skirted by shade trees, extends along the entire front on Hamilton avenue, while from his residence the lawn, with its green carpet, rolls away to the east and south in graceful undulations. South of the dwelling, near the avenue, is an artificial lake. The house is a large two-story brick building, with a basement of cut free-stone, which, being principally above ground, gives the edifice substantially three stories. The entire front is embraced by a porch supported by Corinthian pillars. From the observatory one looks upon the village spread out at his feet...” This house originally cost $70,000 to build. It was sold years later to Mrs. James Larmon. Eventually the house was torn down in the 1930’s and the houses on Larmon Court built. Where the Hollenshade lawn was planted was the site of the 1819 cabin of John Strong.

“South-east of Mr. Holenshade’s, on the opposite side of Hamilton avenue, is the residence of D. B. Pierson, erected three years ago, “...and surrounded by beautiful grounds. Mr. Pierson has about ten acres of land and a fine lawn, through which a well kept drive winds to his house.” Pierson’s first home burnt and this is the second of his houses on this property, 142 Hillcrest Avenue. Its entry once faced Hamilton Avenue but after much of its broad lawn was subdivided into lots, a new entrance built facing Hillcrest Avenue. At one time, the Ohio River could be seen from this doorway.

“North of Mr. Pierson’s are the residences of the Rev. Robert Crosette, Mrs. Sarah Wilson and G. F. Sadd, all of them comfortable homes, on lots of from four to five acres, with beautiful surroundings. (ed. note: these homes faced Hamilton avenue as Aster Place was not in existence at this time.) Immediately north of the Female College, on Hamilton avenue, is the residence of Mr. Hayden, pleasantly situated on a lot of about two acres. Opposite this, on the west side of the avenue, is the dwelling of Dr. A.G. McChesney...North of the public school building, on the east side of the avenue, are the residences of Lawrence Deininger, Amos Worthington and John W. Hammitt...on the west side of the avenue, near the northern boundary of the village, is the old residence of William Cary, by whose widow it is yet occupied.”

The Wilson house, once called the ‘Ministers Home,’ still stands at 1502 Aster. When it was built, a large tree stood at each of its four corners. They were incorporated into the structure. Repair work years later revealed these trees with the bark still on them. The Wilsons came to Cincinnati from New Hampshire by flatboat. Samuel Wilson was a Presbyterian minister. Among the items brought was an organ, a Seth Thomas clock with wooden works, and wood working tools some dating from 1719. Indians carried their goods to the College Hill property. The Wilsons were as influential as the Carys, and helped shape the way College Hill residents were regarded. Miss Harriet was the teacher and principal of the “pig eye” school. Hardy and spry, when she was 96 she was seen on the roof of her house, cleaning out the gutters.

“On the north-west corner of Hamilton and Laurel avenues John R. Davey has about seven acres of the Farmers’ College tract, upon which, in 1868, he erected a fine residence. It is a handsome structure, of the Italian style, uniting elegance and convenience in all its appointments. From the tower a magnificent prospect is obtained. Mr. Davey has a beautiful site for his dwelling, having procured that part of the farm upon which a large amount of money and labor was expended in creating a botanical garden in connection with the college.” Named “Oakwood,” the house was

37 The Suburbs of Cincinnati, Sidney D. Maxwell, 1870.

38 The Suburbs of Cincinnati, Sidney D. Maxwell, 1870.

39 5651 Hamilton Avenue. This was the original Cary’s Pleasant Hill Academy. Over the years it served as home to many village physicians: Drs. Brooks, Heighway, McChesney, Vane, Johnston, and Kilgour.
designed by Samuel Hannaford. The house stood on Linden Drive where the street curved to avoid a huge oak tree that once stood there. The house was torn down in December 1969 and an apartment building built on the site. The original grounds extended over to Larch Avenue where Davey’s lake would have been in the backyards of the north side of Larch Avenue. In front of 1622 Larch the cypress trees that stand so tall were once on the edge of the lake. The current house was built around the existing trees. Oakwood in its later years served as a residence for the unmarried teachers of the College Hill school. At one time Oakwood had a 250 foot long grape arbor and a greenhouse. Built on part of the botanical gardens and experimental farm of Farmers’ College, at one time there was more than a mile of gravel paths that wound around Oakwood and the grounds. John R. Davey was a publisher belonging to the firm of Wilson, Hinkle and Company.

“Among the notable places of College Hill is the well-known one of the Hon. Samuel F. Cary. Occupying a good position upon the hill, which begins to descend southwardly near this point, he enjoys a fine landscape to the southeast...He has about twenty seven acres of land.” Demolished in the 1920’s, this house became the site for the Glenwood Apartments, which were torn down and is now part of the land of the Twin Towers Retirement Community.

“Immediately upon the south is the property of the Davis heirs, now occupied by O. J. Wilson. The grounds, consisting of five acres, are covered with shrubbery and shade trees.”

Behind the Wilson house was the stone home of the lawyer Samuel Caldwell. Constructed of stones that were hauled up from the ravine beneath the ridge that the house sat upon, its isolation off of Hamilton Avenue made it a place that was seldom seen. Originally dubbed “Caldwell’s Folly” it later was known as the “Dower House” or “Bleak House” when it was owned by the Prather family. The last owner was Edward Greeno. The house was demolished a few years ago and its land became part of the Twin Towers Retirement Community.

“On Colerain (Belmont) avenue are some pleasant homes. That of the late Chas. Cist, on the east, is a neat dwelling, surrounded by well-shade, ample grounds.

On this avenue, too, is the former residence of the late General S. J. McGroarty, a snug cottage, with a veranda in front, well covered with vines and flowers.

On the north side of Laurel avenue, near Colerain, Mrs. Wild and Professor J. H. Wilson have pleasant homes.

Here, too, Robert Simpson is now finishing a two story frame residence, with a tower and ample verandas. It had an external elevator for lifting barrels of apples, etc. into the attic for storage. This house was known for its fine marble and glass windows that were imported from France wrapped in white flannel. Robert Simpson came to Cincinnati in 1863 as General Agent for the Mutual Benefit Insurance Company.” A larch tree from the original botanical garden stood in front of the house, giving the street its name. Because of the cholera epidemics in the city, his wife insisted on moving to College Hill. This 1870 house was probably designed by Samuel Hannaford.

“On Cedar avenue, where it makes the angle, E. P. Strong, in 1869, erected a neat two-story frame cottage.

Captain A. D. E. Tweed, on Colerain avenue, has one of the finest sites on the hill. From the observatory of his dwelling a panorama of rare beauty and extent is unfolded. The Kentucky hills are in open view for miles; the lower part of Cincinnati can easily be seen; while the fine suburbs of the city complete a picture which certainly has no superior in Cincinnati’s surroundings. Captain Tweed has twenty acres of land, and a spacious dwelling, erected in 1865.

Among the handsome new places of the hill is that recently sold by George C. Knight to Mrs. Sarah J. Kennedy, on the corner of Colerain and Knight avenues, situated upon a beautiful elevation,
from which are enjoyed extensive views.\textsuperscript{42}

Immediately east, fronting Cedar avenue, is the residence of James Skillman erected in 1867, occupying a very eligible position, on five acres of land that decline gracefully to the south.

On the south-west corner of Colerain avenue and Badgley road is the neat cottage of Captain Kates...On the west side of the latter road is the comfortable home of George Henshaw,\textsuperscript{43} while immediately adjoining it on the south is a new dwelling erected by Mr. Knight, who has also re-erected at the head of this road, on Colerain avenue, a tasteful residence...Farther south, on a site of rare beauty is the residence of Wm. C. Huntington. Mr. Huntington looks down in the direction of the Ohio river, upon a landscape of unusual beauty, enjoying, upon the one hand, the prospect of his own farm of sixty acres, and, upon the other, the handsomely-rolling lands of Mrs. Jane J. Kennedy, the estate of E. C. Morris, and Charles E. Cist, that lie off to the south and east.

The home of the Rev. E. L. Davies, on the corner of Locust and Colerain avenues is a pleasant one...Daniel Flamm, on the east side of Colerain avenue, between Maple and Cedar avenues, has a neat frame residence and five acres of eligible land.

At the intersecting of Colerain and Hamilton avenues, N. Skillman, last year erected a large frame storeroom, to the north and rear of which he has also a neat two-story dwelling.

On Linden avenue there are...Mrs. Dr. Litzenberg, Mrs. S. B. Brooks (now occupied by O. F. Gordon), Prof. Jacob Tuckerman (occupied by Mrs. Locke), Josiah Wilder, Frank Howard (the present by C. S. Bates), and Mrs. Williams. On the south-east corner of this and Hamilton avenue is the residence of Mrs. Judge Miller.

...The post office, on Locust avenue (now 1624 Pasadena), presided over by Edward DeSerisy; the tasteful home of W. E. Watson, on the same avenue; and the pleasant dwelling of Mrs. Wheelock. On the east side of Colerain avenue are the residences occupied by Mrs. Snowden and A. A. Upson. Near the junction of this and Hamilton avenue is the dwelling of Rev. W. H. Rogers.”

The post office building, 1624 Pasadena Avenue built circa 1837, was used as the post office until 1892. The building was originally named the Pleasant Hill office and was run by Alason Grant. Between 1845-1849 the post office was moved to Zebulon Strong’s general store on Hamilton Avenue. After 1849 there were frequent changes in postmasters: Isaiah Grant (1850), James S. Cook (1852), and Edward DeSerisy, Jr. (1853).

In 1860 this building had a second floor added so the post master could live there and it made it easier to drop mail sacks on top of Mr. Sayre’s omnibus. In 1976 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The first postmistress was Mrs. Mary McGroarty, appointed in 1876. In December 1878 the post office was both discontinued and then reopened, with Mrs. McGroarty being reappointed in 1878. She was in charge, except for a short time in 1886 when Mrs. Sarah Molony held the position, until 1892 when the post office station was discontinued and made a part of the Cincinnati postal service.

A postman fondly remembered of the more recent times was William ‘Bill’ Scharbach. When he was a carrier the College Hill post office was in a building on Hamilton Avenue built by Willis H. Forbes, Sr., Karen Forbes-Nutting’s grandfather. The building was built for Charles Deters, father of the plumbing contractor, Charley Deters. The building at 5837 Hamilton Avenue had been a bakery in later years as well as ‘Little Mike’s Lounge.’ It was torn down for the College Hill Plaza. Karen Forbes-Nutting mentioned that when the building was first constructed, a ‘secret room’ was in the back where postal inspectors could come in and observe the unsuspecting workers.

Bill Scharbach started as a substitute carrier on February 10, 1913 and was appointed as a regular carrier on October 1, 1918, on his birthday. For 36 years he walked the same route. He retired

\textsuperscript{42} The Oaks

\textsuperscript{43} The George Henshaw house that sits third from the corner of Belmont on the west side of Glenview Ave. He hired an architect to build this house from the barn that was part of their property.
in 1954 at age 70. A reception was held for him at the (then) Cincinnati Sanitarium chapel, and all his customers were invited. Bill figured that he walked 75,000 miles over his career. He lived until 1978, when he was 94 years old.

Virginia Geyler wrote that: “you could set your clock by his deliveries, 8:30 AM and 1 PM on Aster Place. I only remember him being off once for sickness.” His route was the south part of College Hill - Davey, Aster, Larch, etc. all the way down Hamilton Avenue to Springlawn. He then would take a street car back up to the College Hill station. His daughter mentioned that he wouldn’t wear the same pair of shoes two consecutive days.

An interesting bit of postal history from Mt. Airy also connects with College Hill. Mahlon Brown, buried in Gard Cemetery, founded Brown’s Grove. There he was the postmaster from 1842-1847. In 1852 Brown’s Grove was renamed Mt. Airy. John C. Ebersole, who owned property in College Hill, was postmaster from 1865-1868 and 1869-1875.

“On the North Bend road, near the north-eastern corporate limits, E. P. Strong has a place of twelve acres...J. C. Morrison, on Knight avenue has a nice two story frame cottage and an eligible lot of six acres...Still father west, but on Colerain avenue, William Donnelly is preparing to build...though the venerable Zebulon Strong is outside the corporate limits, his place of thirty acres is contiguous on the south. The old farm house is simple and plain, but nature offers what palatial splendor can not supply, distant landscapes of the rarest beauty.”

Along Groesbeck Road was the 1865 house of J. Tuckerman and across the street that of Daniel Thomas. A carpenter, Thomas had his store on Belmont Avenue. A student at Cary’s Academy by the last name of Mullett was allowed by Thomas to use some of his tools. Years later Mullet became the United States Supervising Architect in Washington, D. C. He sent for Thomas and gave him the job of inspector of the government buildings in the nation’s capital. The Phillips/Chatfield house was built in 1821 and sold by Daniel Thomas to William Phillips in 1854. When Williams died it became the property of his daughter, Ann, who owned the house until her death in 1892. It was a landmark for its central chimney. The Chatfields were the final owners until it was sold for $1 to the College Hill Presbyterian Church who demolished it for the educational wing.

Several times, railroads to the hill were proposed but after studies and drawings, nothing was built. The gossip of the day was that the investors were more interested in land speculation than in railroad construction.

In 1873 the College Hill Railroad Company was incorporated with principal officers of John Davey and Robert Simpson. Davey was president from 1876-1884 and Robert Simpson served as vice-president. Then in 1884, they exchanged positions within the company. It was anticipated that the railroad would not make a profit, and their involvement and investment was from a sense of civic obligation. Construction started in 1875, using a narrow gauge 36” rail. It was planned that it would connect the Cumminsville station near the southern border of Spring Grove Cemetery with the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, travel up the long hill with bridges to span the ravines. The line went behind O.F.C./Cincinnati Sanitarium and terminated on Hamilton Avenue, opposite Llanfair. This brick terminal building was later incorporated into the Porshe/Audi dealership that sat on Hamilton Avenue and was demolished to be part of the College Hill Presbyterian Church’s parking lot.

The first trip made on this line was March 11, 1876. Because of the steep grade, the small engine with two passenger cars had problems ascending the hill and a stronger engine was ordered. Three additional cars could be added for baggage. Regular service started March 13, 1876. The cost of construction was $5,000 a mile. It was operated by a three man crew, an engineer, fireman and conductor. Surprisingly, the train had air brakes. Four trains operated each day, the passengers being discharged on a street near their home or at the wooden platform built in the community’s center.

The line was expanded in 1877 to end at Mt. Healthy. The terminal point was on Compton Road, about one mile west of the Johnson farm, on whose grounds Arlington Gardens Cemetery now sits. When the line extension was completed Oct. 13, 1877, a big picnic was held in Johnson’s Grove. Five hundred people attended, including Ohio’s Governor Bishop. The fare was 35 cents one way, 60 cents
round trip.\textsuperscript{44}

In 1883 a new railroad was incorporated, the Cincinnati Northwestern Railway, which included the College Hill Railroad. Simpson and Davey were still leaders in this new venture, and plans were made to extend the line to Liberty, Indiana. The narrow gauge size was abandoned and a third rail added to increase the width of the tracks.

To haul ever-increasing loads and to be able to connect to other railways, a wider, standard gauge was already in use. Cars needed to be interchangeable for efficiency and to eliminate some passenger transfers.

The CNR remained a passenger service and was never extended to Indiana. The demise of the railroad was the coming of the electric streetcar in 1892. The first electric streetcar came to College Hill in 1895, being a major force in bringing people to the hill. The streetcar was not as fast, but fare was only a nickel. Some of the same right-of-ways were used, and the tracks converted for the streetcar lines.

Because of the traction lines bisecting the roads, the streets were in such poor condition that people refused to pay a toll fee. One of the worst stretches was Hamilton Avenue from College Hill to Mt. Healthy, according to a 1902 article in the \textit{Cincinnati Post}. Toll gates were becoming a thing of the past wherever streetcars were used.

Carrying passengers via the railroad was discontinued in 1899 as revenues fell. Robert Simpson died in 1899 and his family divested itself of the almost worthless railroad stock in 1901. The railroad was purchased to become part of the Southern Ohio Traction Company. Wages paid in 1901 varied from 19 cents/hr. for those motormen with less than three years experience, to 21 cents/hr. for those with six or more years of service. The Southern Ohio Traction Company was merged in 1926 into the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Electric Streetcar line. In 1930 it became a part of the Cincinnati & Lake Erie Line. By 1938 all of these interurban were disappearing as the more familiar street cars filled the roads.

By looking through the property title of the late Willis H. Forbes, the land contained in College Hill’s first subdivision arising from the sale of Farmers’ College lands, can be traced. In 1798, - the thirtieth section containing 640 acres was sold from John Cleves Symmes to Nehemiah Tunis for $1280. Then it was sold from Nehemiah to his son, Jabez C. Tunis, in 1812 for $800 in the New Jersey court. Jabez and his wife, Phebe, sold it to William Cary for $3440.48, Sept. 8, 1813. The description of the land mention’s ‘Gray’s fifty-two acres’ so Gray must have purchased his land earlier. Cary’s parcel contained about 491.5 acres. The land was left in William Cary’s 1862 will to Rebecca, his wife, and S. F. Cary, their son. The property next appears in the will of F. G. Cary’s son, William Cary, 1894. The land was purchased in public sale in 1894 by Charles Phares for $1376.67. The property is now two lots, 100 feet fronting Cary Ave. by 193 feet deep. By 1901 the lots are in court through the will of Elizabeth Sayre, with Caroline Caldwell executor. Liens against the property are held by the Second National Bank, Village of College Hill for street and paving assessments, and Eugene Lewis claims delinquent taxes. The land was foreclosed and appraised prior to sale for $2400 but there were no bidders. In 1903 Willis H. Forbes buys the land for $800.

The Forbes family were carpenters and builders. Thomas A. Forbes built the neat house at 5807 Glenview Avenue in the mid-1880’s. It has been modernized over time but keeps its Victorian charm. The rear of the property adjoins the old College Hill railroad. The decorated fascia board adds a unique look to the gutters and is enhanced by the contrasting paint scheme. The vertical board treatment on the front elevation, the two large chimneys on the side, plus the small dormers all add to the charm of this old home. A carpenter, Mr. Forbes also built the house at 5805 Glenview.

In 1869 the Hopkins subdivision was platted, three lots on the northeast corner of Hamilton Avenue and North Bend Road. That year the Knight subdivision was for sale - North Bend Road

\textsuperscript{44} The College Hill Narrow Gauge, John H. White, originally published in the Bulletin of the Cincinnati Historical Society, October, 1960.
south to Colerain Road and from Hamilton Avenue west to Witherby Road. “In 1886 the W.C. Huntington subdivision from Huntington Ave. southward 400 feet, and from Highland Avenue westward to Ridgelawn Avenue. Henry Deininger was corporation clerk and F. Hertenstein, notary public at this time.

In 1890 the Dr. J. Ferris subdivision, north and south of Cedar Avenue eastward to St. Elmo Avenue was opened. F. T. Strong was clerk, and Jos. Bruce notary public, this year. In 1891 the S. F. Cary subdivision opened from Cedar Avenue 373 feet southward and from Hamilton Avenue 324 feet west of Saranac Avenue. Names “...connected with this transfer were: Lilly G. Frazier, Elia W. Boyer, John Davey, S. F. and Jessie F. Cary, S. F. Cary, Jr. and John Bromwell."

In 1892 (came) the second Dr. J. Ferris subdivision; 1894 the recording of the first S. F. Cary subdivision, the old Cary homestead, from Hamilton Avenue westward across Cary Avenue, and from North Bend Road south to upper Marlowe. The original Cary subdivision had come in 1855, embracing seven acres...

Other more recent subdivisions were: E. N. Wild subdivision in 1903, between upper Marlowe and Linden, west of Hamilton Avenue, attested by F. R. Strong, village clerk; 1907 the Newbold L. Pierson subdivision, Llanfair Avenue south to Laurel, and Hamilton Avenue east across Davey Avenue to 200 feet...the same year the Wild and Ferris subdivision, and the Charles M. Steele from 100 feet north of Garfield Avenue southward to 100 feet past Salvia Avenue, and from Simpson 600 feet westward; the Knopf subdivision on 1909 from Linden Avenue 600 feet northward, and from Lantana Avenue 202 feet eastward, in the transfer of which the names Caroline Knopf, Julia Plump, H. W. Plump, Otto L. Knopf, Alma N. Knopf, Walter R. Knopf, William Knopf, Hellen McKinney, and Charles G. McKinney, Jr., appear.”

In 1910 came the Charles F. Farwell subdivision, which contained the Hammitt homestead and extended from Cedar Avenue south past S. F. Cary’s second subdivision, and from Hamilton Avenue east to Ferris Place; the College Place subdivision, running north off North Bend Road, then Aspen Avenue was the called Inez Place, Strathmoor Avenue - Iola Avenue, and Heitzler Avenue - Irene Avenue, named after the three Flannigan daughters.

The water tower was built after 1889 when College Hill was able to purchase water from Cincinnati. The main in Northside was tapped, a pumping station built across from Windermere and the reservoir - the tower - was built. At the top it stood 176 feet high. Surrounding the top was a balcony from which the view was exceptional.

College Hill residents bought and held land in nearby communities. In 1870 a few of the major landowners in Northside were: L. Laboyteaux 34,200 acres; Solomon Eversull 9,550 acres; John S. Crawford 4,300 acres.

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45 The Suburbs of Cincinnati, op. cit.


47 Wild was a professor of mathematics at Farmers’ College and a board member of the Equitable Life Insurance Company.
Chapter 18  Rammelsberg & Mitchell¹
Furniture Built to Last for a Lifetime

For many years the house at the corner of Belmont and Glenview Avenues was owned by Alice E. Rammelsberg (1872-1957), who never married. She was the daughter of Charles Rammelsberg (1847-1895), and Rhoda T. Thomson (1848-1903). Rhoda was Peter G. Thomson’s sister. Alice, her mother and sisters, Rhoda (1874-1927) and Kathleen R. (1879-1963), lived in this Swiss Chalet style house built in 1891. Kathleen Rammelsberg married Army Lt. Col. Clarence LaMotte and moved to California. After his death in 1948 she came to live with Alice, who lived in the house until her death and was affectionately nicknamed “Reddums.” In 1964, the house was sold to Howard Mailley by auction to settle the estate. The house was designed by James Gamble Rogers who also designed Laurel Court and much of modern Yale and Brown Universities.

Charles was one of the sons of the fine furniture manufacturer, Frederick Rammelsberg. Charles Rammelsberg lived in College Hill with his family until they moved to New York, leaving Alice behind. This Rammelsberg wasn’t in the furniture business - ‘Charles Rammelsberg & Co. Agents, 40 Broadway, New York’ booked freight and passengers on ships. His brother-in-law, Charlie Schultz (husband of Catherine Rammelsberg), owned five ships. He was also the American Consul to the Kingdom of Prussia. Their home in Port of Stattin was furnished with furniture made by Frederick or in the factory of Mitchell & Rammelsberg.

Cincinnati was a major center for the furniture trade due to its location. In 1881, the Cincinnati Board of Trade and Transportation secretary, J. F. Blackburn said: “Cincinnati is situated with the cherry and walnut regions of the South on one side, and the populous consuming region of the North and Northwest on the other side. Cherry and other native woods are coming into favor, and the imported wood, mahogany, is also rapidly coming into use...The tendency of competition has been to cut off the ragged edges of the manufacture from Cincinnati, and leave her manufacturers masters of the field in the production of the finer, more tasteful and costly articles, as well as the better grades of a medium style of furniture.” The virgin forests of the Midwest provided the golden oak that was so popular in Victorian homes. The demand for oak furniture was great in England because of a disease that killed off the English oak trees. Another factor for the Cincinnati based furniture businesses was the Ohio River, for transportation and the power to run factories. Cincinnati had at one time 150 such furniture factories.

Frederick Rammelsberg (1814-1863) was born in Hanover, Germany. The family came to America in 1830 and both of his parents died in 1833 of cholera. His name first appeared in Cincinnati in 1836 and he entered into a furniture making partnership with Seneca Jones in 1838. While this partnership lasted until 1845, it is the firm of Mitchell & Rammelsberg begun in 1846 that still is remembered by furniture collectors today. Both men contributed $10,000 for their joint venture.

A fire in 1848 that destroyed their factory brought them to the verge of ruin since the loss was total and they weren’t insured. But they were able to borrow enough money to rebuild. By 1850, Mitchell & Rammelsberg reported in the U.S. census that their venture had a value of $145,000. This included 400,000 feet of oak, rosewood, ash, maple, poplar, pine, cherry and walnut worth $8,5000; 100,000 feet of veneers worth $4,000 and 14,000 feet of mahogany appraised at $2,500.

What made this furniture company so successful? Rammelsberg was the first local furniture manufacturer to use machinery on a large scale, turning out interchangeable parts. By using the steam driven machinery for the heavy work, huge quantities of furniture could be turned out. The hand work was used in the final finishing stages. Furniture, chairs, mirrors, cabinet ware and cornices were turned out en masse for not only the retail trade, but for furnishing of steamboats as well. To sell this much furniture, the company moved aggressively into retailing.

¹Thanks to Mrs. George Rammelsberg, Mrs. Greta Klingman (granddaughter of Catherine Rammelsberg Schultz), and Mr. Chilton Thomson who provided family information.
The wholesale warehouses and factory\(^2\) were on both sides of Second and John Streets. Most of the furniture manufacturers were clustered around Second Street where they were close to lumberyards, railroads and river transportation. Mitchell & Rammelsberg had the largest furniture factory in the world. All the footage of showrooms and the factories amounted to five acres. By splitting the locations of various stages in the manufacturing process, the danger from a fire was minimized. There were 80 wood working, steam driven machines. In the 1870’s, 750 men were employed. The lumber yard alone covered two acres.

According the Charles Cist (1851): Mitchell & Rammelsberg are about to introduce a bedstead of novel construction, for which they have the exclusive manufacturing right in this market. The improvement made is by connecting the rail to the post by a dovetail, thus dispensing entirely with screws, and enabling the bedstead to be put up and taken down in less than five minutes; which of course, affords great facilities to the removal of this article from house to house, or room to room, and of readily taking them out in case of fire.

Kenny’s Illustrated Cincinnati, 1875, states: “The retail salesrooms are well worth visiting. The traveler will probably not see in any city in Europe or America such a rare collection of fine articles on the furniture line as may be seen on the second floor of the establishment on Forth Street. The firm imports costly works of art, which are distributed through their rooms. They manufacture furniture for ‘the million,’ from the commonest table and chair to the finest suites for parlor, drawing room, library, bedroom, or dining room that can be furnished. Robert Mitchell, President; A. H. Mitchell, Secretary and Treasurer.”

The retail showrooms were in the six story Mitchell Company building on West Fourth Street, designed in 1873 by James Keys Wilson in the popular Renaissance Revival style. Wilson was also the architect for the Plum Street Temple and the entrance gate for Spring Grove Cemetery. The Mitchell Company building is still standing as the central portion of the late McAlpin’s store on Fourth street. This section is marked by the stone carving of a woman’s head surmounting an arch. When the building was constructed, its next door neighbor was John Shillito’s dry goods store. When Mitchell first came into Cincinnati, he helped to dig the foundation for the Second Presbyterian Church, which was the site of his new furniture showroom.

The Fourth Street store had the latest innovations. An elevator carried shoppers from floor to floor and merchandise was displayed in sample room settings. A complete line of accessories was available so a customer could choose new curtains, mattresses and even fireplace mantels at the same time. Their largest consumers were other businesses, including hotels and banks.

In 1870 an industry census lists annual sales as $700,000. The 600 employees (550 men, 10 women, 40 children) made furniture from three million feet of lumber.

Rammelsberg died in 1863, at age 49, a wealthy man. Frederick had a brother, Ernest, who also manufactured chairs and another brother, William, who owned a farm. They also had a sister, Francis Jucksch. Frederick and Sarah Maria (nee Lape) had eight children: Catherine (married Charles Schultz), Charles married Rhoda Thomson), Sarah Maria (married Robert Johnson), Emma (married Harry Reinmund), Oscar (married Kate Wheat), Henry who never married, Laura Elizabeth never lived to adulthood, and Clara Louise (married Albert D. Shockley). Catherine and Charles Schultz had three boys while they lived in Cincinnati and one son later while they were living in Germany.

Although Mitchell bought out the Rammelsberg shares, he kept the partnership name until 1881. The focus of the firm changed then to emphasize store interiors, architectural elements and office furniture. Mitchell died in 1899 and the business, then known as the Robert Mitchell Furniture Company, declined. The Mitchell’s Augusta and John street radio construction plant burned in a spectacular 1938 fire. The firm went out of business in 1940.

One of the finest collections of Mitchell & Rammelsberg furniture is the Abram Gaar house in

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\(^{2}\) This building, built ca 1849, was lately the Old Spaghetti Factory, 417 Pete Rose Way and was torn down for the new Paul Brown stadium.
Richmond, Indiana. The original receipt for the household furnishings purchased in 1877 was found and can be matched to the furniture on display. Gaar was one of the founders of Gaar-Scott & Company, producing steam engines and thrashing machines. The house stayed in the family and was restored in the 1970’s. The parlor furniture was part of 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. At the Exposition, Mitchel and Rammelsberg were the only furniture company that exhibited furniture in the Eastlake style. The house has been restored to its original elegance. It is on the National Register of Historic Places and is open for tours.

Robert’s brother, William Mitchell, opened a furniture showroom in St. Louis. This site did not manufacture and was an outlet for the Cincinnati factory. In 1863 a Memphis, Tennessee store was opened under the name of Mitchell, Hoffman & Company and carried 63 furniture product lines that covered 483 different patterns. A New Orleans store was opened in 1866 named Mitchell, Craig & Company. The furniture industry is known for its spectacular fires. The history of the Cincinnati Fire Department (1895) mentions: “One of the Mitchell buildings was leased by the Phoenix Manufacturing Company, who sub-leased part of the premises to the Folding Hat Rack Company, the Sargent Manufacturing Company and B. Klinker & Co. All the firms were engaged in the manufacture of special lines of furniture and the contents of the building were particularly inflammable. The building...had been gutted by fire twice before, the first time in 1853 and again ten years later. The fire was caused by the ignition of benzene from a watchman’s lantern. The watchman in making his rounds discovered a leak from a barrel on one of the floors, and setting down his lantern a few feet from the barrel, started to make a closer examination. As he did the benzene ignited and enveloped him in flame. Fortunately he escaped serious injury...the loss was about $23,201.00.”

While Robert Mitchell does not have any ties to College Hill, except as a manufacturer whose product still is in many area homes, his story is an interesting one. Mitchell was a pioneer of doing business on an enormous scale. Mitchell came from Enniskillen, Ireland along with his family. They settled in the western wilderness of Franklin, Indiana in 1824. Mitchell arrived in Cincinnati in 1829 at the age of 18 with no money, a strong personal character and an indomitable will. Both he and Rammelsberg boarded at Mrs. B. Allen and were apprenticed to different cabinetmakers. Before that time, Mitchell had various employments: farm hand, country school teacher and odd jobs handyman. He earned $1/week from the cabinetmaker and Mitchell opened his own store in 1836. His first partner was with Cincinnati Mayor Robert Moore. Moore also was born in Ireland and was a chair maker by trade.

The three Mitchell brothers, Robert, William and John, were partners. John was a bedstead and wholesale chair manufacturer, sometimes in partnership with Robert. He stayed in the wholesale chair business from 1851 to 1877, when he retired. Rammelsberg bought up Moore’s shares to become Mitchell’s partner in 1846-47.

Robert Mitchell was joined in his business by his two sons, Albert H. and Richard H. Robert Mitchell married Harriet Hannaford and had eight children. Mitchell Avenue is named for Robert Mitchell who built a mile long street that opened into new homes being built in Mitchell’s Rose Hill Park subdivision. Like many wealthy men, Mitchell invested in real estate. He planned this subdivision with winding streets and large front lawns. Some of the homes built belonged to Mitchell, Andrew Erkenbrecher and Samuel Pogue.

Mitchell’s “French Chateau” style mansion was built by the architect Samuel Hannaford in 1893. The workers and some of the materials were said to have come from Germany. The house was given to the Catholic Archdiocese in the 1920’s and served as St. Thomas School. In 1970 the property became the Montessori “New School.”
Samuel Hannaford as a Young Man

College Hill Buildings by Hannaford & Sons

Twin Towers, 5343 Hamilton Avenue
College Hill Town Hall, 1896, 1805 Larch Avenue
Grace Episcopal Church Educational Building
E. K. Bruce, 5800 Glenview
Armand DeSerisy residence, 1891, 4593 Hamilton Avenue
Charles Eisen, Hamilton Ave. and Hillcrest, demolished
Daniel B. Pierson residence, 1867, demolished
John R. Davey, Oakwood, 1869 demolished
F. H. Simpson residence, 1891, Corner Larch Avenue and Belmont Avenue, demolished
Air Ventilation Tower, Ohio Female College, demolished
Emerson & Fisher Carriage Co. factory, 1889, 3rd Street near Race
Chapter 19  They Built a City
The David Hummel Building Company

What does the Hollywood Theater have in common with Twin Towers, or Cincinnati’s City Hall? All were built by Hummel Industries, a company spanning nearly a century and a half of construction in Cincinnati.

Like many leaving their native Germany, David Hummel arrived in America in 1841 with optimism and a trade. At that time Cincinnati was on the crest of a building and expansion boom. St. Peter in Chains was being built, as were St. Philomena Church and the Mt. Adams Observatory. Skilled stone masons were in high demand. Rock from local quarries was used for foundations, basements, and trim.

By the early 1850’s David Hummel and Rupert Ritter opened their own stone yard on Plum Street, but after a few years the partnership was dissolved. In 1859 Hummel purchased property on Elder and Logan Streets, a location that was his for the next five decades.

Before the Civil War, as many as fourteen stone and marble companies were located near the Miami Canal. Location was important since the cost of stone could be increased 75% by transportation. The difficulties of transporting stone, the labor needed to cut, shape and set the stone made it an expensive building material. The wealthy may have been able to afford a stone house, but stone was included in more modest homes in the form of window and door sills, foundations, decorative trim, fence walls, flagging and steps.

Much of the rock used came from local Ohio quarries which supplied both limestone and sandstone. Hummel offered four types of Ohio stone: Berea limestone, Buena Vista sandstone, Dayton and Cincinnati limestones. Local limestone often contained an impurity of iron ore which, when cut and exposed to the weather, oxidized and streaked. Its use was confined to foundations, flagging and retaining walls.

Sandstone was a popular material because it was less expensive. Buena Vista was the sandstone most frequently chosen. But Berea sandstone increased its local popularity by improving its transportation to markets beyond the quarry’s immediate area. This sandstone was moved by oxen from the quarry and shipped by train from Cuyahoga county.

After the stone arrived to the Logan Street yard, the blocks were hand cut and shaped - a labor intensive process. A frame saw was used to cut the stone blocks, following a groove cut first by a chisel. After cutting the stone, it was shaped and dressed with chisels and hammers or smoothed by abrasives. The stone was then delivered by wagon to the building site where it was set by a mason.

A look in Hummel’s ledger from 1859 shows that a stone setter earned $2-$2.50/day, sawers were paid by the length of stone cut, stone cutters earned $1.25-$2.25 per day, brick layers made $1.10-$2 and general laborers received $1.25 a day. Those who chiseled letters received 3 cents per letter. Christian Moerlein was billed $22.65 for a grave stone, cutting 180 letters, hauling and setting the stone.

While residential orders were a constant source of income, one of the largest customers was the City of Cincinnati. In 1856 Cincinnati approved an ordinance for street repairs. Prior to that time streets were largely unpaved with only major intersections having a paving of local limestone. Sidewalks were wood. Between 1857-1859, thousands of feet of limestone were purchased from Hummel for flagging, curbing and paving. The limestone for streets came from Dayton - local limestone wore out too fast. The sidewalks were replaced by ones of brick, also purchased from Hummel.

Despite Hummel’s growing success, the Civil War curtailed the building industry. Some builders did not survive this period but Hummel did and saw the building industry rebound at War’s end. The decades following the War until the end of the century were ones of a flurry of building activity. Hummel expanded his work force for stone and brick with stone trim was the popular style.

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During the 1870’s the steam powered stone saw was introduced, making it easier to cut large ashlar slabs. Private homes were often built of broken stone (rubble), but public buildings frequently were made of large ashlar slabs. These slabs could be left rough, textured or rubbed smooth. Usually buildings had a stone veneer with broken stone or brick to back the ashlars, which weren’t larger than a foot high and 4-8 inches thick. Brick was less expensive and interior plaster was applied directly onto the brick (in dry climates) but if it were backed with stone, the interior surfaces needed to be lathed before plastering.

Cincinnati abounds with examples of rough rock walls trimmed with dressed stone. One only needs to think of “Scarlet Oaks” in Clifton as an example of this style. Many of the houses along Dayton Street have stone on the facades only, the sides and back are of brick. Curved doorways, window jambs, and cornices demonstrate the stone carvers work, which was precise, skilled, slow and expensive and often only three or four feet could be carved in a day.

Samuel Hannaford frequently specified Hummel for his buildings, along with the origin and type of stone to be used in his constructions. Eden Park contains Elsinore Tower and the water tower as Hannaford/Hummel edifices. Hummel also cut and set the stone for the reservoir, pumping station and double deck bridge.

During the 1880’s one of Cincinnati’s growth industries were breweries and Hummel was busy building and expanding many of these large stone and brick structures. Hauck, Gerke, Windisch, Moerlein, and Weidemann were all Hummel clients.

The greatest achievement of the Hummel/Hannaford relationship was City Hall - the marriage of an architect’s vision and a stone carver’s dream. Hannaford both was the architect and building supervisor of the project, for a 4% fee of the $1.4 million dollar building. Estimates for construction were bid and Hummel proposed $513,000 for excavation, foundation, brick, stone and granite work. Hummel set the foundation in May 1888. By August of that year the cornerstone laying ceremony was held. Before cementing the cornerstone in place a ‘time capsule’ was inserted. This copper box was retrieved and opened, the contents were examined, and more memorabilia added after the cornerstone was removed in 1988, when City Hall celebrated its century mark.

Rocks from many quarries are represented in City Hall: red Iron Mountain granite for the foundation, reddish brown Wisconsin stone, buff Ohio limestone, Vermont and Missouri granite, Indiana limestone, marble from Italy and Tennessee. The ashlars were squared and dressed at the site while interior-exterior stone was carved at the stone yard. After five years, the building was dedicated May 13, 1892. City Hall was a much admired building and Hummel Company received favorable publicity which was followed by an increase in building contracts. Hummel expanded its equipment and work force as a result.

David Hummel died in 1894, leaving the business in the capable hands of his three sons: George, Frank and William. Each had been trained as an apprentice to a stone mason, blacksmith or carpenter and each worked at the stone yard and had supervised construction.

The company continued to thrive. Demand for stone was high and quarries had a difficult time keeping up with the orders. Costs for stone rose and long delays were encountered from the quarries. In an attempt to find a dependable, nearby and less expensive quarry, Hummel expanded into quarrying their own stone in Hummel, Kentucky from 1895-1925. Located in Rockcastle County, it was the source of a fine grained sandstone, much in demand for both interior and exterior work. By the end of W. W. I, sandstone’s popularity declined in favor of Indiana limestone. Limestone could be purchased and transported from Indiana cheaper than operating their own quarries and the Kentucky quarries were gradually closed and the land sold off.

As time passed, so did the techniques and tools of the stone mason. Air hammers were now used to carve the Bell Telephone Company’s ornate frieze, the urns on the C. G. & E. Building on Fourth Street, and figures on the former Times-Star building.

The use of stone peaked in the late 1920’s and slowly declined due to increased labor and material costs. However, it was in the 1930’s that Hummel became involved in one of their most challenging projects-Union Terminal. No two stones were quite the same due to the concave curve of the facade so each stone had to be cut individually from a pattern.
The transition to brick buildings evolved during the Depression and continues today. One of Hummel’s keys to contained existence has been flexibility/versatility. Today, they are one of Cincinnati’s largest brick contractors.

Brick color depends on the clay composition. The metallic (iron oxide) content in the clay is responsible for bricks that vary from light yellow, orange, red, and bright red through to a bluish or purplish color. Cream or light colors results from iron and lime being in the clay. Magnesium creates brown bricks, while iron and magnesium yields yellow bricks. Color can also be altered by changing the temperature at which are fired.

Brick surface texture also can be varied. Before bricks are fired, their surface can be changed by textured rollers, pattern wheels or by the addition of cinders, sand or other materials to adhere to the brick surface. Bricks can have baked-on glazes and enamels to produce a surface similar to that of ceramic tiles. Bricks also are made in various sizes and shapes and can be laid in many patterns.

While a complete list of Hummel buildings can not be compiled, in College Hill the following were built by them: Aiken High School (1966), Aiken Vocational Education Facility (1977), Grace Episcopal Church, parish house (1957), Hammond North Condominiums (1963), Hillrise Apts. (1968), Hollywood Theater (1924), Twin Towers (1915, 1938, addition 1961), Llanfair Retirement Community (1961), St. Clare Church, P.N.C. (Central Trust/Brighton) Bank (1923).

Other Companies

Information on bricks would not be complete without mention of the ‘Norwood Brick’ by the Cincinnati Pressed Brick Company. Started in 1891, this company produced bricks used in local construction. The yellowish Norwood clay produced bricks ranging from dark red to light pink. They also used blue Indiana clay-refuse from coal mining-to produce buff brick. A pink buff was made from central Ohio fire clay. CPBC had 75 acres of land in Norwood and using their estimate of 650,000 bricks/acre, digging clay down one foot, they had enough clay for a century.

Closer to College Hill was the Mt. Healthy Brick Company, started in 1887 by Frank Roettele. Their first products were drainage tiles but the company expanded to produce 8,000 bricks/hour. Examples of Mt. Healthy and Norwood bricks are easy to find and identity for they are boldly stamped with the company name.

College Hill also had local brick manufacture for a time-across the street from Groesbeck and Hamilton Avenue. In early days bricks were formed and fired on the site from the clay produced by foundation/basement excavations. Danforth Witherby also manufactured bricks. His son donated all the brick to build Farmers’ College.

On either side of Hamilton Avenue at Ashtree are the remains of the Howard stone quarry. This rock was used extensively in building foundations, steps and sidewalks in College Hill.

William R. Goodall and son lived on Cedar Avenue. He owned ‘Monuments & Dealers in Marble & Granite’ at 236 West Court Street.

Because of Spring Grove Cemetery and the canal for transportation, Northside had several well known monument companies. Today the Fisk Brothers Monument Company still operates on Spring Grove Avenue. The Fisk family descends from a line of stone cutters and sculptors for many generations. Fisk Brothers were known for their large funerary sculptures and they had commissions from throughout America. At one time their plant covered four acres.

The other Northside company was Douglas Granite. Their monuments were placed on some of Cincinnati’s oldest and wealthiest graves. George A. Douglas established his company in 1870.

While his Phoenix Stone Yard was in Northside, descendants of Louis C. Buente lived in College Hill. According to the Souvenir History of Cumminsville, 1911 “fully 90 percent of the stone work of all the buildings in Cumminsville has been done by him (L. C. Buente).”

His great-great-granddaughter, Marti Buente⁴, has written about her family.

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⁴ 108 Years of the Buente Stone Contracting Business, Martha Buente, 24 July, 1999
Detailed documentation of the Buente stone yard no longer exists. Papers and documents perished in the 1937 flood when waters reached the second floor of the stone yard building located at the corner of Spring Grove Avenue and the Mill Creek. Several stories remain, shifting down through five generations of Buentes. These stories have helped to unravel and inspire the research used to piece together this sketchy history.

Christian Ludwig Buente, known in America as Louis Christian, was born 30 May, 1830 to Christoph Buente and Louise Erfmeyer. He grew up in the town of Haverstadt, Germany which is located south of Minden along the edge of the Wiewengebirge (mountains). Questions about the family surname came about after searching the marriage and christening records of St. Martini’s church in Minden. The information found leads to the probability of Louis’ father, Christoph Fenneman, adopting the Buente surname in 1815 after marrying the widow Marie Koch Buente. This was a common practice when marrying into family property. After his first wife’s death Christoph Buente nee Fenneman married Louise Erfmeyer in 1819. Records show that the Buente family house and property date back as far as 1782 to Tobias Buente. In this part of Germany property was handed down to the first born son. Haverstadt #70 was taken over by Friedrich, Louis Buente’s eldest brother, leaving the younger brothers to find their own path in life.

Gary Gainer, great-great grandson of William Buente, shared a story told in their family about William and his younger brother Louis attending the University of Leipzig, both studying engineering. It is thought that the brothers emigrated to the States sometime around the late 1840’s. Proof of the year of arrival has not yet been found. William Buente settled in Pittsburgh and founded the Buente Stone Contractor and Building business. It is unknown why Louis decided to start a new life in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1858 Louis C. Buente established his stone yard business at 550 Main Street with his residence on Milton Street. It is assumed that most of the Buente business during the next five years came from the area once known as ‘Prospect Hill’ south of Mt. Auburn, Mt. Auburn itself and from downtown.

Louis married Sybilla Springer in November of 1858. Seven children were born to the couple: C. (only the initial C. appears on the grave); Louise; Louis; Matilda, Gustave, Herman and Lillie with only Louise, Louis and Herman surviving into adulthood.

In an article written in the Times Star in 1865 appeared the name of Louis C. Buente, located in the First District and having paid taxes on money over $20,000. This article was a list of Cincinnatians paying taxes after the Civil War.

The Buente stone yard is shown in the 1868 City Directory as having been relocated to the corner of Plum and Madison. A partnership was formed with Henry Phillips sometime around the year 1865 or possibly earlier. The Buente and Phillips Stone Yard grew larger as they acquired the stone yard property of John Mueller on the corner of Fourteenth and Plum in 1870. Louis Buente then purchased Phillip’s half of the property in 1874. The deed states that the stone saw mill with out-houses, the steam crane for hoisting stone, all the machinery, and stone in the building are exempt from the sale and shall remain partnership property under the firm of Buente and Phillips. The Buente Stone Yard continued on at this address until 1876 when the location changes to that of 51 Spring Grove Avenue.

Grandson, Nelson Hoffman, has in his possession a card showing Louis Buente’s membership into the Friendly Society of Journeyman’s Stone Cutters of the City of Cincinnati which seems to have been a union. A booklet called the Bill of Prices and Mode of Measurement of the Association of Master Stone-Cutters of Cincinnati, 1864, shows prices for Free Stone and Dayton Stone. The book lists Free Stone window sills 8 inches wide by 5 inches thick as being .40 per foot and Dayton Stone prices of door sills and steps as being 1.00 per foot.

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5 Times Star, List of Cincinnati’s Income Taxpayers for 1865 Shows City as Prosperous, 1865.

6 Located in the Cincinnati Historical Society library.
Great-granddaughter, Mary Buente McMahan, remembers hearing the story of Louis Buente ‘losing his shirt’ in some kind of dealings with the builder and speculator, Truman B. Handy. Supposedly, Louis was never paid for the stone work done on the elaborate front entrance of the Handy Opera House in 1866. Pike’s Opera House burnt to the ground earlier that year. The fire, being one of Cincinnati’s largest conflagrations, could be seen 42 miles away in Lebanon. The public tried to talk Pike into rebuilding. Handy decided to take on the task. Newspaper articles tell of Samuel Pike secretly rebuilding what the public thought to be another Opera House at the same time as Handy. Pike’s new building surprised all. It was built to look like the old Opera House but the inside was intended for use as a Merchant’s Exchange. By then the public had withdrawn its support for ‘Handy’s Folly’ thinking that there would be no need for two Opera Houses. The Handy building was not completed due to lack of sponsorship and funds. In 1868 the Handy Opera House was purchased by the Cincinnati Public Library at a foreclosure sale for $83,000. The building served as the main library for 85 years. It will probably never be known what actually happened with any of the business deals between Buente and Handy. Handy was also a speculator ‘locking up almost all the ribs and lard in the country in 1880 and then again tying up all the wheat in Chicago in 1881.’ Handy’s obituary states that he was brilliant enough to be 2 to 3 times over a millionaire and 2 to 3 times over an ex-millionaire, being the latter when he died. Handy seems to have been continually running out of funds. Did he ever pay his sub-contractors? Due to this experience the Buente’s only took on smaller jobs staying away from all large, possibly fatal, business deals.

Another family story tells of Louis Buente supplying the cut stone for the Eden Park ‘Masonry Bridge’ built in 1873. The materials used for building the bridge are described by the architect James McLaughlin. In his specifications it states that ‘All the stone work...to be dressed smooth with the chisel but not rubbed. The stones to be of the largest size and the work to be of the massive and substantial character...’ A street car double decker structure made of ornamental iron was later added to the top deck of the bridge in 1877. A drawing of the ‘Design for the Bridge in Eden Park’ dated 1877 was found in the files of Louis Buente III in 1970 which gives substance to this story. Truman B. Handy was listed as serving as Park Commissioner for several years and being one of three park commissioners in the year 1870.

Sybilla, wife of Louis, died after giving birth in 1873. Etched in stone on the Buente family monument in the Vine Street Cemetery are Sybilla’s words to her husband - ‘Dear Husband, Take care of my little children, do as I would and they will respect you.’ With three children being under the age of ten, Louis Buente married Theresa Mueller, a young woman having recently arrived in the United States from Germany. Louis and Theresa had four children - John, Edward, Nellie and Matilda. The cemetery records list John Buente as deceased due to an accident at the age of three years, nine months.

When Louis Buente died in 1884, his son Louis II, then twenty years of age, took charge of the Spring Grove Avenue business. No documentation of the handing over of the business is to be found. Louis married Catherine Ann Nofer on 25 September 1890. They had four children, two sons - William and Louis, and two daughters - Sybil and Myrtle.

Louis moved the stone yard, family residence, his step-mother, half-brother and half-sisters to Cumminsville in 1893, the year that Louis III was born. The stone yard deed states that he bought land between Spring Grove and Colerain Avenues, with the property bordering the Mill Creek. The business name was then changed to that of the Phoenix Buente Stone Yard. The reason for this name change is not known. One idea is that the Phoenix rising from the ashes might have symbolized that the stone yard was once again on the road to financial stability. Several photos of the floods of 1933 and 1937 show the stone yard underwater. The name Phoenix is displayed on the building during the flood of 1932 but has disappeared by the 1937 flood. The Cincinnati City Directory listed the stone yard as that of Louis C. Buente and Son in 1927.

7 Specification and Description of Work and Material Required for the Entrance Archway to Eden Park, James McLaughlin, Cincinnati Historical Society library.
Herman Buente, brother of Louis also shared in the stone work until his death in 1922. Herman married Anna Nofer, sister of Louis’ wife, Catherine. A son, Robert, was born in 1899. Rob joined his father working for several years in the stone business.

Stories are told of Louis III, as a child, wanting to be with his father at the stone yard but having his mother find one chore after another to keep him busy at home. His older brother Will showed no interest in stone work. Louis began working at the stone yard around 1910 while also studying accounting. He is listed as bookkeeper of the stone yard in the 1915 city directory.

Both Buente brothers served in the Army during World War I. A letter written on stone yard stationary the 25th of September 1918 from father to son reads: ‘We are getting along slow at church, will have to set the vent stack coping now in a few days, have all the stone set on the tower except the coping. I expect to get all done next week except the cleaning. We have had a good deal of rain and cold weather, that is the reason things are moving slow. There is nothing else doing, we are not getting any small orders at all.’ There was no mention of the name of the church that they were working on but it is assumed that the church was located in Cumminsville.

The Buentes provided stone for many of the buildings in Northside and College Hill. A family story tells of Louis II checking his son’s work. The last job he ever supervised was the beautiful stone arch over the entry way to the home at 1570 Hollywood Avenue in 1927. Louis III, in his father’s eyes, had mastered the art of stone.

Louis C. Buente II passed away in 1932. His obituary in the Community Leader lists Mr. Buente as the proprietor of a contracting business and art stone carving company.

Louis III took charge of the business after his father’s death but was absent from the business in 1944-45 while working as supervisor of the 2nd US Army-Air Force storage depot on Lincoln Avenue. He returned to the family business after the war to follow in the footsteps of his ancestors. The stone yard moved for the last time in 1946 to Bailey Avenue in Bridgetown. The Spring Grove Avenue property was eventually bought by the City of Cincinnati for the Mill Creek Expressway, as it was then called, now crossing above the old stone yard.

Louis and Martha Louise Bare were married in February 1920. They had a son, Louis, and one daughter, Mary Catherine. It seems as if Louis IV interests were not that of stone cutting although he had artistic and mathematical ability. Louis pursued his own calling in the field of medicine; becoming a cardiovascular/thoracic surgeon and practicing his art of healing in the Cincinnati area hospitals. Dr. Louis Buente married Jeanne Swartsel in 1947, moving to College Hill in 1955. They raised four children: William Louis, Gregory, Jeanne, and Martha. The Buente residence is still maintained at 1499 Hollywood Avenue. Mary Catherine Buente, daughter of Louis and Martha, taught first grade at College Hill School for thirty years starting in the year 1949. She married Randolph McMahan, April 1985. Mary has been extremely helpful in supplying family stories and photographs which have added life to this research project.

Because of Louis III’s building knowledge, he was asked to serve as director/appraiser/president of the Provident Savings and Loan Company in Cumminsville. He was also a member and commander of the Daniel Bartley Jr. Legion, and Cumminsville Veterans of W. W. II.

Louis Buente and Al Pielage merged businesses in the early 50’s. They continued on as partners until Al’s death in 1963. Mr. Steilhoff, also the owner of a small stone yard, helped out when needed.

The work load grew after the war. The Buente and Pielage stone yard employed up to 6 men at this time. It is noteworthy to mention the Lewis family and their association with the business. Bill Lewis began working with Louis II around 1900 or earlier and continued until the end of his life. Bill’s son, Arthur, was a constant employee of the stone yard until the closing of the business. Gordon Lewis also helped out during the busy years.

Most of the work listed in the Order Book dated 1962 to 1966 deals with orders for window sills, door sills, fireplaces, mantles, and stone trim for houses. Stone was furnished for buildings and homes in College Hill, Colerain, Delhi, Mt. Airy, Mt. Healthy, Northside, Western Hills, White Oak and Springfield Township. The last entry in the job book dated 9 November 1966 is for the St. William’s Church in Price Hill.
In 1962 Louis was asked by the builder Herman Huseman to supervise the setting and placement of the shrine and large stature which can be viewed in the side yard of St. Monica’s Church in Clifton.

Louis Buente III carried on the business of his grandfather and great-grandfather although adopting the modern equipment of the day but with the same quality and standards of his ancestors until retiring in 1966. Louis died 18 April 1969 ending 108 years of the Buente Stone business. The stone yard property was sold in February 1969.”

Phoenix Stoneyard of U. C. Buente during 1937 flood
Courtesy of Marti Buenti
Chapter 20  Town Hall

On July 24, 1875, The Council of the Village of College Hill purchased from Samuel Freeman and Lida S. Cary, for $6,000, about 5 acres of land in the central part of the village on which to build Town Hall where “... young people can assemble for amusement, without as now, trespassing.” Samuel Hannaford was contracted in 1884 as architect. He designed a brick and stone Gothic Revival and eclectic Renaissance structure with an asymmetrical facade and a four storied open arched tower. The building’s north and south facade has large arched windows which permit maximum illumination to the inside auditorium. Attached to the tower is an open porch on ground level, while a small portico with Romanesque lintel distinguishes the main entrance. Gibbons and Smith were retained as builders and Town Hall was completed in 1886. The cost was between $15,000 and $18,000.

Officially dedicated on Jan. 20, 1887, its 17 rooms were opened for inspection. The trussed ceiling in the auditorium, stage and stage scenery, frescoed walls and elaborate chandeliers made Town Hall the focal point of the community.

For twenty-four years, Town Hall was the seat of government functions of the village. It was the hub of cultural, social, and athletic activities. The ground level was occupied by the fire department, village police and local jail. For outdoor gatherings, a wooden shelter house was built in 1910-1911 in the park.

The village agreed to annexation by the City of Cincinnati in 1911 and the building ceased its function for governmental and municipal purposes. The future of the park and Town Hall for use by College Hill residents was assured through a provision in the deed of transfer.

For years after annexation Town Hall and the park were still used for community activities - tennis courts were built, ball fields were filled with spectators for the ‘Big Five’ team, and later a swimming pool was added, built by community volunteers. Lavish 4th of July fireworks and parade were annual events. The College Hill Boosters, a dedicated club of some of the businessmen and residents of the area, were responsible for financing and promoting many of the activities enjoyed by the community.

Town Hall continued to house the College Hill Building & Loan, and later the public library (1914-1918), which was open three days a week. St. Clare’s parish held their first services in the auditorium. Many other organizations held regular meetings there, including the Y.M.C.A. In 1941, the ground floor still contained the caretaker’s apartment, and the floor was still of dirt. By 1943 the area around Town Hall was known as Court House Park, or College Hill Park and Athletic Field. The building was used by the Property Maintenance Division of the Department of Public Works. The Free & Accepted Masons, Lodge 641, became the building’s longest and primary tenant, using it for their lodge meetings for fifty-seven years, until 1974.

Town Hall stood vacant and boarded up for several years. The fate of the building was uncertain and prospective demolition by the City was feared. The College Hill Forum, founded in 1967, became concerned over the building’s condition and saw the potential for renovation and renewed use by the community. A committee of the Forum investigated rehabilitation, funding, and rental possibilities, and convinced the City that the building still had a useful life. It took a year to secure tenants and to obtain

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8 Ohio Historic Inventory, Miami Purchase Association, prepared by Fred Mitchell, Nov. 1978.
10 Annexation Agreement, April 27, 1911, Cincinnati City Hall.
11 The College Hill Boosters Club sought a slogan for the community. After reading hundreds of entries ‘Where the World Looks Bright’ was chosen.
money from the Community Development Act to proceed with rehabilitation. The building was substandard in plumbing and wiring and did not meet current building codes. Structural defects needed correction. There was extensive plaster damage from a leaking roof and vandalism.

The Forum took possession of Town Hall on Sept. 19, 1977, with Mayor Jim Luken signing the lease agreement. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in March 1978.

Since then, the building has housed Tri-County Players, community offices, ping-pong teams, church services, dances, a senior center and Meals on Wheels programs and many community functions. It is no longer leased by the Forum.

The swimming pool at Town Hall was built by local citizens in 1921. The following sketch, signed Rosenberg, Cincinnati Post, 1921, memorializes those hard working volunteers. The original is owned by Mrs. William S. Hammelrath. Her father was George W. Smith, a plumbing and heating contractor.
Chapter 21   Samuel Hannaford

Town Hall was designed by Samuel Hannaford, one of the leading architects of the mid to late 1800’s in Cincinnati. Many of the buildings that were admired and gave Cincinnati a reputation of architectural beauty at the turn of the century were designed by Samuel Hannaford, and later, Hannaford & Sons. While some of these solid masses of brick, stone and mortar have been torn down over the years, a surprising number still stand, attesting to their durability and the original number built. Today, many of his buildings are on the National Register. Some of the best known landmarks in our city, such as Music Hall and City Hall, were of his design. A few of his buildings, after being ignored for years, are now being renovated and returned to their original splendor. His reputation as a man who carefully and promptly carried out his commissions, and as a capable architect earned the trust and fame that his firm had until its close around 1960.

But what of the man? Beyond his buildings, only the sketchy details of his life are known. He was born on April 10, 1835, in the parish of Widdecombe in the Moor, Devonshire, England. His family owned Southcombe Farm for over three hundred years and held their land freehold since Norman times.13 His parents, Roger and Mary (Northcott) Hannaford, immigrated to America in 1844, probably due to the economic decline of Devon as a result of industrialization in England. He was nine when he arrived in this country, traveling on the sailing packet Mrs. Siddons of the Collins Line from Liverpool to New York. An account of this trip, written at a later date by Samuel, relates that the “... bowsprit was ornamented with a life size figure of the actress with the right arm outstretched and pointing onward. On the preceding voyage the arm had been broken off in a storm. We were five weeks and three days on the ocean...” After staying at New York for two weeks, they traveled to Philadelphia. From there they went on to Baltimore in a small coasting vessel that went down Delaware Bay. They then traveled by railroad to Cumberland, Maryland, arriving in time for breakfast. He remembered this breakfast years later “…we had ham and eggs and also country sausages in abundance. We were awfully hungry and hollow and I was pretty nearly filled, when I noticed the waiters began to serve piping hot delicious looking, nicely browned pancakes - as I thought. We immediately requisitioned our share and we were served - but one mouthful satisfied us and we gagged, but managed to maintain the proprieties of the table. It was our first experience with Buckwheat cakes and the taste to us was strange and vile.”14

In Maryland they took a stagecoach across the Cumberland mountains going to Wheeling, West Virginia. From Wheeling they traveled to Cincinnati on the steamboat Revenue. According to his memoirs the entire trip took seven months, and the family with their eight children arrived in November 1844. Traveling with them was John Payne, his wife and two children. He earned their passage by attending to Mr. Hannaford’s children as a tutor. Landing in Cincinnati, they ...lodged in a house situated on the S. E. corner of Walnut and 9th Streets. At that time there were not many houses beyond that. I think that Smith and Nixon kept a grocery store on that corner. The proprietor of the boarding house or hotel was named ‘Hook.’ They next lived in a house on Catherine Street before purchasing a 38 acre farm in Cheviot, Green Township, in June 1845. The family remained on this farm until 1857.

Shortly after arriving in Cheviot, the family tutor left and, since he had helped with the farming as well, the Hannaford children had to assist with the farm. The children attended the Cheviot public school for a short period and were withdrawn when another tutor was hired. The eldest son, John, was apprenticed to a druggist and later served as the tutor for his siblings.

In 1853, Samuel was enrolled at Farmers’ College, College Hill. There is some disagreement as to whether or not he graduated from there, but he stayed for only a short time. He left his mark as one of

13 Preliminary Documentation of the Career of Samuel Hannaford (1835-1911), Michael F. Crowe, thesis, used with permission.
14 Personal reminiscences of Samuel Hannaford, unpublished, courtesy of Mrs. Virginia Cummins. Mrs. Sue Hannaford Scheld and Mrs. Andrea Wellendorf have been a great resource in my quest of Samuel Hannaford information.
several editors of the student’s secretly published The Thunderbolt, a one issue school paper dated April 1854. Which course of study be took, farming or general curriculum, is not known. Hannaford began studying with the architect William Hamilton in 1854 and remained with him until 1857, when he left to start his own business.

On January 8, 1857, Samuel married Phoebe Statham, daughter of one of Cheviot’s pioneers, David Eldridge Statham. They lived with her parents until 1865, when the house designed by Samuel for his growing family of three children was completed on the N. E. corner of Derby and Winton Road in Winton Place. This house still stands, although much altered from the description of a rambling, two story gray frame building with green shutters and gabled roof on an acre and a half of land. The house had 10 rooms, cherry woodwork, a wood mantel by the locally famous wood carver, William Fry, and a crystal chandelier with 370 pendants in the parlor. This house was Samuel’s home until his death on January 7, 1911.

Hannaford married several times after the death of Phoebe in 1871 of typhoid. In June 1873 he married Anna Belle Hand, daughter of Sylvester Hand, who originally platted the community of Winton Place. They had five children before she died in 1883. A year later, he married Ada Louise Moore and had three children. Mrs. Ada Hannaford outlived Samuel and died in 1941.

Professionally, he formed several partnerships in the early years until his sons, Harvey Eldridge and Charles Edward, joined him as Hannaford & Sons in 1887. Of his partnerships with Edward Anderson, and later Edwin R. Procter, little is known. Along with Anderson he designed the Cincinnati Workhouse. His work was in demand throughout Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia and Tennessee. Over 300 buildings have been attributed to him as architect. Public buildings, churches, schools, police/fire stations and residences in styles as diverse as Queen Anne, Renaissance Revival and Richardson Romanesque have been identified. After his death Hannaford & Sons continued to be a prominent architectural firm, designing among scores of others, Cincinnati General Hospital, Deaconess Hospital, Ohio Mechanical Institute, the Annex to the State Capital building in Columbus and the original buildings for Ohio State University.

Samuel Hannaford had strong civic commitments. He served as the first, and only, mayor of Winton Place before it was annexed in 1903 into the City of Cincinnati. He was a member of the school board for many years, president and treasurer of the Winton Place Building Association, a founder of the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, editor of The Western Architect and Builder, officer and teacher in the Ohio Mechanic’s Institute, and member and trustee in the Winton Place Methodist Episcopal Church, which he designed. He believed in vocational education and took a keen interest in housing and the education of the poor. He helped to develop the first building codes for Cincinnati. He worked for years n the problem of smoke abatement from smoke stacks and urged its control. One of his favorite projects was championing the building of the Mill Creek Valley sewer.

In a tribute written about him after his death, it was stated: “If the building of gentle, sympathetic, just, strong and steadfast character be the aim of human life, then Samuel Hannaford was the most successful man that we have known.” He is buried in an unmarked grave, per his wishes, in Spring Grove Cemetery.

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16 Times Star, Obituary notice, Mrs. Ada Louise Hannaford,, Friday, June 13, 1941.

17 The Western Architect and Builder, Vol. 28, No. 2, Jan. 12, 1911.
Chapter 22  College Hill at the Turn of the Century

One of the most interesting of all articles about College Hill was written by E. N. Wild and published in Chic, March 17, 1900. Here are a few excerpts.

“College Hill was a village when Cincinnati was but a town, nearly a hundred years ago. Its first houses were log cabins - the families composing it mostly gaining their subsistence from the soil...Its location was seven miles north from Cincinnati, and is claimed to be the highest point in Hamilton County. It has long been noted for the beauty of its scenery and surroundings, the grandeur of the views from its points of vantage, and its pure, health-giving, almost mountain air. Its site was originally heavily wooded with valuable timber of all kinds, such as oak, poplar, walnut, maple ash, hickory, etc. This forest gradually fell before the ax of the sturdy pioneer, a few of the trees still remaining scattered about the village, and highly prized by their owners. The only large wooded tract remaining lies west of old ‘Farmers’ College’ and south of the handsome residences of Mr. John C. Daller and Geo. H. DeGolyer...

That College Hill preserved for so many years almost a mountain seclusion was owing to its inaccessibility, and that it has not even yet advanced beyond the legal definition of a village, to the fact that the old omnibus was not a prime favorite as means of rapid transit up three miles of tedious hill, while the ‘comuter’ could have railroad facilities in the valley. And when at last the steam and electric cars superseded the omnibus, the nearer suburbs, such as Mt. Auburn, Avondale and Walnut Hills, had received the first overflow from the city. It is only four years since our turn really came through the construction of the ‘College Hill and Main Street’ electric line. Since that time all vacant houses, then about forty in number, have been filled, and several new ones built. No ‘boom’ has struck the town, but the years here have been a steady increase and growth. We are looking for the boom. The village has good macadamized streets and cement walks, lined with miles of shade trees. It has a good graded public school, the Ohio Military Institute, a Presbyterian and an Episcopal Church, a town hall, a perfect system of water-works, lately built, and a free mail delivery. It is made up of pleasant homes and agreeable people - not many of the very rich and few of the very poor.

Another thing that the ‘hill’ has always been noted for is its stanch temperance sentiment. Either moral persuasions or force of law has always brought them (bars) to a speedy demise. It is only fair to say that the inception of this sentiment was largely due to the efforts and influence of General S. F. Cary, the distinguished temperance lecturer, whose father was one of the earliest settlers of the hill, which has always been the home of the General. He lately received the congratulations of his friends and neighbors upon the occasion of his eighty-sixth anniversary...

OLD LANDMARKS

As authority for statements under this heading, I am indebted to General Cary’s interesting sketch of early College Hill. The first log cabin and the first frame house have already been referred to. In 1820 William Cary built an ox power sawmill in the ravine east of Hamilton Avenue, on what is now ‘Wild & Ferris’ subdivision;’ an old well, still there, marks its location. A grist mill was subsequently attached. After many years of operation this mill was replaced by a large steam sawmill, which was destroyed by fire and not rebuilt.

John Strong, in 1819, built his cabin on what is now the handsome lawn of Mrs. James Larmon, lately the Holenshade property (ed. note: later owned by F. G. Cary). The old well, without which no cabin was complete, can still be found near her front line. The frame house subsequently built by Strong is still standing, and almost from time immemorial has been occupied by the village physician. Five, viz., Drs. Brooks, Heighway, McChesney, Vance and Johnson, have occupied it before its present owner, Dr. P. T. Kilgour.

David Thomas, in 1820, built a log shop for a chair and furniture factory on the lot now occupied by the residence of Mrs. John M. Wilson. A Mr. Powell, in 1819, built a cabin where the Presbyterian Church stands, and started a factory on the valley between the turnpike and Mr. Davey’s residence, occupied by Mr. Utz for the manufacture of black salts and pearl ash. Mr. Albert G. Arnold, in 1828, established a tannery on the low ground immediately north of General Cist’s residence.
This house was removed to the west side of the pike by D. B. Thomas, and used by him for a carpenter shop for years, and was afterwards converted back into a dwelling, now belonging to the estate of Samuel Hammitt...

North Bend Road was the first regularly laid out road in the country. It was a territorial highway between Carthage and Cleves. A ‘hill road’ from Knowlton’s Corner, in Cumminsville, going through College Hill, Mt. Healthy and further on, was early established, called the ‘Huston Road,’ from the well known family of that name. In 1834-6 it was converted into the ‘Hamilton Turnpike.’

INCORPORATION

College Hill was incorporated June 9, 1866, including at that time the eastern half of Section 36 and the western half of section 30, T. 3, F. R. 2, Millcreek Township, with the exception of the southeast corner of the tract, which was left out because of the sturdy opposition of Captain Zebulon Strong. In 1896 the south parts of Sections 25 and 31, taking part of the Harbeson, Gray and Betts property, were added, and later the corner above referred to, and a strip 30 feet wide on both sides of Hamilton Turnpike, south to the corporation line of Cincinnati The first officers of the corporation were: Mayor, Edward De Serisy; trustees, Captain A. D.E. Tweed, S. F. Cary, Amos Worthington, E. T. Strong and Joel Strong; Recorder, E. N. Wild.

No very aggressive work was done by the Council until the succeeding year, when George C. Knight was elected Mayor, E. N. Wild, Recorder, J. C. C. Holenshade, Norris S. Knight, D. B. Pierson, Robert Simpson and A. D. E. Tweed, Trustees. Then the agitation began, as any one acquainted with these Trustees (all of them and the Mayor now deceased), might know it would.

Mud roads gave way to graded, macadamized streets and injunction suits; old, rickety board walks were replaced by good gravel walks, which, in their turn, have since given way to cement. The cows were forbidden the free run of the streets where before they had, in truly rural style, roamed at liberty; new names were given to old streets, and new streets were laid out. The citizens, incited by such goings on, began to brush up their own front yards and clean the weeds out of their walks. Old front fences were taken down and shade trees planted, giving a park-like appearance to the whole village. College Hill became a new place. The present efficient officers are: Mayor, John E. Bruce, Councilmen, Peter G. Thomson, J. L. Pierson, H. G. Pounsford, William Goodall, D. W. Smith and John Wilson; Treasurer, George E. Henshaw; clerk, F. R. Strong.

SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS, AND THE OHIO FEMALE COLLEGE

In 1843, a girls’ school was opened by Miss Laura B. Hayes, in the house of Rev. A. Benton, which stood near the site of John R. Davey’s residence, now occupied by Mr. Utz. She was succeeded by Rev. John W. Scott, a former professor in Miami University. He was the father of President Harrison’s first wife. It was on College Hill that the future President became acquainted with his future wife and mistress of the White House. After Dr. Scott, Mrs. S. B. Brooks, beginning about 1856, for a number of years conducted a successful school for girls in the house on Linden Avenue, now owned by Mr. Walter Gray...

(Another Chic article about College Hill adds: The latest educational enterprise of the hill is Willard Hall, a school devoted to girls, which was opened this week under the most favorable auspices and with an attendance for forty pupils. At the head of the institute is Miss Birdsell, late of Agents, and for ten years employed at a leading institute of Waterbury, Ct. No doubt her labors in this new field will be rewarded with success, as the people on the hill place the greatest confidence in her ability.)

THE COLLEGE HILL RAILROAD

The question of ‘rapid transit’ for College Hill was always a live but very difficult one. The hill was long and steep. The omnibus was slow and uncomfortable, but was the only available conveyance. At first it was patronized all the way into the city. Then it became the custom for the omnibus to run in connection with the C. H. & D. Railroad, at Cumminsville, especially for the “commuters.” Messrs. George C. and Norris Knight, father and son, who owned the Emerson, Thomson and McCrea places, in about 1867 formed an organization and made a preliminary survey for a railroad up the large ravine which heads on the property of H. G. Pounsford, running back of E. N. Wild’s residence. But they were a little premature, and the scheme was never consummated.
In 1873 Mr. Robert Simpson, who was the very successful State agent of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company and John R. Davey, who was equally successful as the publisher of the wealthy book house of ‘Wilson & Hinkle’ now the ‘American Book Company,’ took up the matter in earnest, organized a company, and, after several preliminary surveys, chose the route now occupied by the road. Subscriptions to the amount of $22,000 were obtained for the citizens, and a narrow gauge road built from the C. H. & D. Railroad, above Cumminssville, to College Hill, and later to Mt. Healthy. The road was hailed with enthusiasm by the citizens, and for years, being in the meantime widened to a standard gauge, it carried many passengers, considerable freight, and a burdensome mortgage. It was sold and bought in by Messrs. Simpson and Davey. Mr. Davey becoming ‘tired’ sold his interest to his partner in exchange for certain properties of which Mr. Simpson had grown weary. The road continued to run with varying success until the passenger traffic was destroyed by the advent of the electric road, and passenger trains have been abandoned. Its owners, the sons of Robert Simpson, deceased, are making commendable efforts to extend the road through the rich agricultural Miami valley by way of Venice, which is without railroad facilities, to Connersville, Ind. All would be pleased to see them succeed, if for nothing else than that the owners may once more make profitable the road that did so much for College Hill.

**ELECTRIC ROADS**

An electric line between the city and College Hill was agitated soon after the advent of this means of locomotion. Mr. C. T. McCrea was most active in the first effort. But the Consolidated was not then quite ready to take hold of it, not having decided that it would be profitable. Later, in 1893, they made a proposition, through Mr. Lowe Emerson, to build the road on conditions that the right of way should be obtained from the terminus of the Clifton line, near Ludlow Avenue, to the Hill, and a subscription fund of $25,000 be raised. A number of the citizens determined to make the effort, and formed themselves into a working committee for the purpose. The committee consisted of Messrs. Lowe Emerson, Peter G. Thomson, Adam Gray, E. N. Wild, S. W. Ramp and N. L. Pierson. Messrs. Thomson and Wild volunteered to do the soliciting. After several months of steady work on the part of all of the committee, the rights of way and a subscription list of nearly $30,000 were obtained. This sum, however, was not all paid in, largely owing to the fact that various delays and hitches occurred, so that the road was not built until 1895. It began running on Thanksgiving Day of that year. The road makes a circuit in the village, so that as many as possible may be accommodated.

Since that time the Hamilton electric line has entered the village from the north, and a union depot has been established at the northwest corner of Hamilton Avenue and North Bend Road, so that the ‘College Hill and Main Street’ line does a large business. Many passengers from Cincinnati to Hamilton, Middletown, and Dayton take the electric line in preference to the steam road.18

**WATER-WORKS**

How to make water run up hill from the Cincinnati mains is the latest project undertaken by the Council. Suffice it to say it has been accomplished by means of a pumping station at the south end of the village, and a reservoir set on top of an Eiffel Tower, 132 feet from the ground, located on the west side of Belmont Avenue, between Laurel and Maple Avenues. The height to the top of the reservoir is 176 feet. At 132 feet a balcony surrounds the reservoir, reached by a winding stairway. From this aerial perch, which is the highest point that can be reached in Hamilton County, except by a balloon or an airship, the whole township spreads out like a map, and it would only require a good telescope to view the whole county.

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOL**

The College Hill Public School ranks among the progressive schools of the county. Its course of study is practically the same as that of the Cincinnati schools. The corps of teachers consists of A. J. Willey, principal, Misses Carrie E. Moores, Marie Blanchard, Mary Bryant, and Mabelle Brown, assistants. Miss Brown, in addition to her duties as teacher of the first-year grade, has charge of the music.

18 Cincinnati Weekly Times Star, 6-12-1893, Fare-single cash fare 5 cents. Commutation tickets in package of 20, each ticket good for 1 adult fare, to be sold for $1.00; children under 10 years of age to be carried each for 3 cents or 2 for either 5 cents cash or one commutation ticket. College Hill Electric Railway Co., Lowe Emerson, pres., N. L. Pierson
It has been the policy of the present management to make the school conform to the needs of the times, and while avoiding ‘fads,’ to introduce new methods as fast as they proved worthy. In this connection it may be stated that for several years the language work of the lower grades has been based upon the study of nature and history. The school is ideally situated for the ‘nature study’ work. Vertical writing was tried with such success seven years ago that it has been taught continuously ever since.

Last year was inaugurated the pupils’ ‘self-government’ plan. Under this plan the pupils have their own courts and officers. Such things as profanity and rowdyism on the playground, cheating in the school room, and other abuses, are punished without the necessity of running to the teacher with a ‘tale’; and besides, they are taught responsibility, and as the name implies, ‘self-government.’ The equipment of the school is first class in all particulars. It is well supplied with apparatus and supplementary reading. The building is large and commodious, well heated and ventilated, and in all respects adapted to the needs of a modern school. The grounds are large, containing nearly four acres, and covered with many large trees of the original forest. Besides the natural forest trees, others have been set out, until there are about fifteen different kinds of trees in the yard.

The Board of Education is small in numbers, but large in ability. It consists of Theo. W. Pyle, President; N. L. Pierson, clerk, and E. W. Coy, treasurer. To their able and careful management is largely due the present high standing of one of College Hill’s most prized institutions.

WILD AND FERRIS SUBDIVISION

...With all its advantages, there has never been much systematic effort to place them (Wild & Ferris) before others. Very little advertising of lots for sale has been done. Messrs. E. N. Wild and Dr. Jacob Ferris have recently purchased thirteen acres of ground on Hamilton Avenue, the principal street in the village, in convenient proximity to churches, school, etc., and on the line of the ‘College Hill and Main Street’ electric road. This tract they have subdivided, and now offer lots for sale on easy terms. They only require a cash payment of $25.00 on a lot, the balance to be paid in monthly installments.

They are also prepared to build houses for purchasers on a cash payment of one-fifth of the cost, balance in monthly installments.

This tract is in the line of improvement, and no one can go amiss in taking advantage of their liberal offers. The lots all lie well, and drainage is perfect, naturally and by sewer. There is here presented an opportunity of obtaining a pleasant home and letting its rent pay for it.

Mr. Wild, at College Hill, or at the office of the Cincinnati Equitable Life Insurance Company, No. 38 E. Third Street, or Dr. J. Ferris, at Mt. Healthy, will be pleased to furnish any further information desired.

... In conclusion, I wish to refer with disfavor to the movement on foot to destroy the individuality of our village, with others in Hamilton County, by their being absorbed in the municipality of Cincinnati, without the consent of the villages. It may be technically constitutional, but it is morally and politically piratical. We prefer good, clean, effective and beneficial self government to being the outlying ward of a large city, and our preference ought in justice to be respected; but as the statute is framed every vote in the village might be against annexation and have no effect whatever on the result.”

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Daniel Smith, of Given & Smith, did all the work on the pumping station, and had general supervision. He also has the supervision of the building of the line between Aurora and this city. Mr. Smith is also a member of the home Council.

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The water tank is one of three erected in the State that were made by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company, and is superior to the old style of tanks, being round at the bottom. The tank is so strong that it can not be injured by the forming and melting of ice, like those with a flat bottom, which are always in danger of bursting. It is made of the very best iron, and the Superintendent of the company, Mr. F. C. Ames, has had complete charge of the erection.

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The location and the construction of the College Hill water-works system has been under the supervision of Col. E. F. Layman, the civil engineer, who for many years has been the leading expert in
this line in this city. Mr. Layman has been at the head of all of the leading water-works systems in the
surrounding country, and is now in charge of the building of the Aurora and Cincinnati Electric road.

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H. LaBoiteaux has always on hand fresh and staple groceries, fruits, and garden truck in season,
while a branch of the Public Library has been established at his store where books will be loaned on good
recommendations.

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IT’S MERITORIOUSLY POPULAR

It was quite enterprising for Ferd Linden to locate such a splendid hotel as he has near Hamilton
Pike, in College Hill. It is true that he selected one of the most commanding points in that beautiful
country and it was a decided novelty in its way. All other attempts in this line had been dismal failures.
Mr. Linden erected, however, a model, modern hotel, flush with comfortable accommodations, and has
conducted it in a manner that has made his name famous in Cincinnati as a boniface. The Linden is
associated with those who like good eating and all that it means in this line. The hundreds who enjoy a
ride on the beautiful route of the street railway company to College Hill, and then a well-cooked and
well-served repast at the Linden Hotel, have been warm in their praise of the undertaking, and have been
so liberal in advertising in that Mr. Linden has enjoyed a rare success. There is no doubt about its future
The place is conducted in the very finest style and it is a credit to any locality, as the very best class of
people patronize it. Nothing but the best, including Hauck’s beer, is served in his dining room and on its
porches.

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Among the societies on the hill the College Hill Field Club is deserving of special mention for its
enterprise. Under the auspices of the club there will be held at College Hill to-day a bicycle tournament,
which will be attended by many expert riders, and the program offers many interesting features, which no
doubt will contribute to make the festival a most enjoyable one to the spectators and participants. The
College Hill Field Club has extensive grounds, which include tennis courts, bicycle track, bowling alley,
and club rooms.

THE CINCINNATI SANITARIUM

A noted institution on College Hill is the Cincinnati Sanitarium, which has few equals, and no
superior in the country. From its incipiency the institution has been on a constant rapid increase, so that
recently an annex in the shape of a beautiful building had to be supplied to supply the demands. At the
Sanitarium all mental and nervous diseases are treated by skillful physicians on the modern humane plan,
and with the most astonishing results. The grounds are beautifully cultivated in flower beds and
shrubbery, and the patients are furnished with abundance of fresh air, and every convenience to make
their stay at the establishment agreeable. Dr. O. Everettts is superintendent; Dr. B. A. Williams, assistant
physician, and J. C. Sheets, steward.”

At this time Dr. Charles Howard, a descendant of Solomon Howard, had a medical office in a frame
house on Hamilton Avenue just south of Ambrose. His home was at the corner of Hillcrest and Hamilton.
Life as a Cincinnati Suburb

At the time of annexation several streets in College Hill were renamed; a few streets disappeared entirely, a few had name changes over time. This is the complete list:

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<td>Poplar</td>
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<td>Ridgeland Ave./Overlook Pl.</td>
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Powel Crosley, Sr. was born in Warren County, Ohio, December 25, 1849. A sharp and curious child, he reached the pinnacle of the education available in Springboro. The Crosley name can be traced to England in the thirteenth century. The first Crosley in Ohio was Moses (1764-1843), a Revolutionary War veteran from Maryland, who settled in Warren County. His wife was Rachel Powel. Their son, William (born 1785), had a farm on the Warren/Montgomery County border. He was a successful manufacturer of gunpowder. One of his descendants, Bertha, married Indiana resident Edmund Burle Ball of the fruit jar fortune.

Powel, Sr.19 “...was eleven when the Civil War broke out, and, being a good reader, would oblige the neighboring farmers by reading newspaper accounts of the war to them. His two older brothers, William J. and Luken S. Crosley, served in the war. William was captured at the Battle of Fisher’s Creek and was in Libby Prison.”

Finances denied the senior Powel a college education so he started his own systematic self education while teaching in local Warren County schools. He taught for about four years and left to go to St. Louis to accept a job as a bookkeeper in a department store chain. He flourished in his new career but in 1874 he left to attend law school at Michigan State University. After graduation in 1876 he settled in Cincinnati, working as a lawyer and land speculator. He was in charge of Pike’s Opera House for many years, obtaining a perpetual lease from the Pike estate. This lease was taken over when the opera house burnt, was torn down and on this site the Sinton Hotel was built. Crosley, Sr. was one of the developers of Norwood and a street there is named after him. He also had an interest in radio, owning stock in Marconi’s company.

Powel Crosley, Jr. was born in Walnut Hills, September 18, 1886. The family moved to College Hill where Powel, Jr., when he was seven, attended the O.M.I. and was captivated by racing cars. In 1898, at age 12, Crosley, Jr. built a four-wheeled wagon that ran on an electric motor.

A profile of the Crosley, Sr. household can be glimpsed in the 1910 Census. Powel Sr. was a lawyer and owned the house without a mortgage. In addition to his wife Charlotte, there were Powel Jr. who was a sales manager in the automotive industry, and his siblings Edith (1897-1989) and Louis were attending school. There were no servants. Edith later married Albert B. C. Chatfield. She worked as one of her brother’s first secretaries. The Chatfield name is part of Cincinnati’s past. It is associated with both paper and the manufacture of coal tar and asphalt products. For a time during their marriage Edythe and Albert lived in the Davey mansion.

Louis Crosley married Lucy Johnson, a relative of the Henshaw’s, and their daughter, Charlotte, married Bud Runck. Their son, Reno Runck, has lived in and restored the Upson and Witherby houses. The Crosley’s other child, Ellen, married William McClure.

Powel Crosley, Jr. married Gwendolyn Aiken, daughter of Walter Aiken and Lucy Avery. He lived on Davey Avenue in the house next to the Cummings family. This was the house built by Newbold Pierson that he later sold after going bankrupt. Here is where Crosley Jr.’s first children were born, Powel Crosley III and Page. Gwendolyn played the piano and organ and was an accomplished musician.

Powel’s enthusiasm for auto racing was quenched by an automobile accident but he wasn’t turned away from cars. He started to build his first car in 1908, the Marathon Six, in Connersville, Indiana but he couldn’t raise the capital to go into production. In 1916 he started his second try at car production. The venture failed. He marketed a gasoline additive called Gasatronic. He borrowed $500 from his father and purchased the American Automobile Accessory Company. Their products included a tire liner manufactured from old tires, a car starter and an attachment to the radiator cap hood ornament of the Ford Model T’s that would hold a small flag. His timing was good for patriotism surged during W.W. I and his flag holders made him his first million.

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19 Cincinnati’s Powel Crosley, Jr., Joseph M. Rice, 1976, privately published.
It was on Davey Avenue that Powel Jr.’s son, in 1921, came to him and asked for a radio receiving set. At nine, he had read and heard about this invention and really wanted one! An average weekly salary at that time was $12, while the cost of a radio was about $130. Crosley thought the price was too much and decided to build one himself for his son. He bought *The ABC’s of Radio* for a quarter and started tinkering with $35 worth of tubes, coils and assorted parts. The first station he received was Pittsburgh. He purchased a $200 radio for himself.

He hired engineers to work with him, resulting in the “Harko” which retailed for $9. This inexpensive crystal radio was an instant success. He started manufacturing radio components in his automobile accessory factory and renamed the plant The Crosley Radio Corporation in 1922. He was producing 500 sets a day, earning the moniker “The Henry Ford of Radio.” Years later Crosley was said to joke that he had 50 jobs in 50 years.

A key to these radios was the use of a new Cincinnati product, Formica®. Paper was treated with resin to produce a thin board that was a substitute for mica, used as a heat resistant circuit board in radios. The 1928 Gembox radio cost $19.95. In 1934, The Fiver, a five tube radio came out. The cabinet to house radios was also inventive. One unit looked like a corner table, another like a freestanding bookshelf.

In 1921 Crosley decided to start a radio station so people could have something to listen to. He built a radio studio in his second floor bedroom. For an antenna, he ran a wire to the tower of Town Hall which was across the street. His first broadcast was in 1922, the Song of India, using a 20 watt transmitter.

He founded WLW-AM in 1922, broadcasting from his home with 50 watts of power.

The “Nation’s Station” featured live orchestra music. The 500,000 watt tower was built in Mason twelve years after the station was founded and was so powerful that it affected the electric lights. Farmers could hear the station emanating from their wire fencing and drain pipes. The power needed to run the transmitters was so great that it could have lit a community of 100,000 people. Initially, Crosley could not find a transmitter tower large enough, so he purchased two of the biggest he could find and turned one upside down during installation.

The station was inaugurated at 9:30 P.M., May 2, 1934, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a gold key on his White House desk and spoke into the microphone saying; “I have just pressed the key to formally open station WLW. It has been a pleasure to do this...” Unfortunately, the only people to hear these words were in the White House room as the transmitter was still warming up and the key was a prop.

Running at 500,000 watts, WLW drowned out all other broadcasting stations. It was heard throughout the states, Australia and Europe. At night, the station increased its power to 750,000 watts. They kept those levels of power until 1939 when Congress limited radio stations to 50,000 watts.

The radio played an important part in helping the nation through the Depression. It was the main source of news and entertainment for rich and poor alike. Familiar stars from the past became a part of everyone’s home: Rosemary and Betty Clooney, Bob Hope, Doris Day, Rod Serling, Roy Rogers, Lena Horne, Duke Ellington and Red Skelton are only a few. One of the most popular programs was Moon River, a nightly poetry and organ music program. Hearing the broadcast in Georgia, songwriter Johnny Mercer later remembered the program as he wrote lyrics to an untitled melody by Henry Mancini - which became the popular song, Moon River. WLW was also responsible for adding a new melodramatic genre calling them “soap operas.”

In Mason, Crosley purchased a 385 acre dairy and poultry farm named “Everybody’s Farm”. He had a radio program developed around life on this farm and built a studio there for live broadcasts. He also experimented with FM wavelengths, beamed from Mason to Cincinnati (1946).

The Roamio was the first radio built and installed in a car, by Crosley, of course. He experimented with television, broadcasting the first TV picture in 1939. In the early 1940’s he sent news by an early fax machine, the Reado. He developed a 35mm camera that was never manufactured. He produced the *Icyball* gas refrigerator, water coolers, irons, clocks, fans, waffle irons, percolators, record players, lighters, canoes and ice crushers.

The strangest device he manufactured was the Xervac head machine which used bursts of suction to stimulate blood circulation and Crosley claimed it would retard baldness. When introduced in 1936, he
felt certain that this would be a hit with the public. He was forced by the government to cease production over a conflict about its health claims, but Crosley used his throughout his life.

An avid sportsman, he had an animal preserve in Indiana. He also liked canoe trips. In Playmates of the Tow Path,20 Powel recounted a canal trip: ‘Ah, those happy canal days!’ he exclaimed as he recalled his canal experiences. ‘Years ago four of us boys made a memorable canoe trip. We put our two canoes in the canal above the locks at Lockland and paddled and pulled them up to Dayton, then journeyed on the Mad River and shot down the Big Miami River in our canoes on a freshet and completed our month’s vacation at Venice - the total expenses for each of us being $1.85!

My brother Lewis and I and our chief engineer, Charles Kilgour, and his brother composed our party of adventuring playmates. We found that it was easier to pull the canoe up the canal with ropes than to paddle against the stream. I shall never forget how a great burst of steam came out of a huge pipe in the canal and sent a wave of water into Kilgour’s canoe that nearly swamped it. One of our treasures was an acetylene lamp that fell into the canal. We searched the canal bed for it and finally I clutched it between my feet and brought it thud to the surface while my friends lifted me out of the water and onto a bridge. We had to be acrobats to climb with our canoe out of some of the steep walled canal lock approaches. I shall never forget the night we camped out on the canal bank and slept on the towpath, under a bridge - for there was no other place for us to go, as railroad, trolleys and highways lined both sides of the canal!’

Crosley built an eight story plant at 1329 Arlington Street in Camp Washington in 1922. The radio station moved to this building. With the new factory output increased to 2,000 radios21 a day. His offices were on the top floor and he had an ‘open door’ policy towards other inventors and tinkerers. One man brought him an idea which became the Shelvador refrigerator, the first refrigerator with shelves inside the door. A story is told about that encounter. Crosley wanted the inventor to accept a quarter a unit as royalties. The inventor wanted $10,000. as a lump sum for an investment he was planning to make. He got his large check but if he would have accepted the royalty at the unit price, he would have been a millionaire!

Soon the radio station outgrew its space so Crosley converted an empty Elks Lodge building at Ninth and Elm Streets to a radio broadcasting studio, and later to a television studio, and named this building on a corner, Crosley Square (1942). The six story building had at its center two, two-story ballrooms that were perfect for studio spaces. There was even a bowling alley in the sub-basement. After 1948, the Square became the center for what has been named the Golden Age of Television. Developing new, live, daily broadcasts rather than relying on syndicated programming created a following for entertainers Ruth Lyons and the 50-50 Club, Bob Braun, and the Midwestern Hayride. And of course, live Cincinnati Reds ball games. Channel 5 was not called WLW-T by Cincinnatians as much as it was simply referred to as Crosley. Many broadcasts were made in color, years before color TV was the norm.

Always a leader in new technology, the 1929 Crosley Moonbeam was an experimental airplane piloted by Edward Niemeyer. Crosley built the Crosley Airport in Sharonville where the Ford Motor Company plant now stands.

He enjoyed baseball in College Hill while growing up. He would occasionally be the announcer for the Opening Day game, which was broadcast from the grandstand’s roof. The first Opening Day on the radio was April 15, 1924. In 1929 regular Reds games started to be broadcast on WSAI, a station Crosley acquired.

Reds owner Sidney Weil put the team up for sale in 1933. The Depression had hurt ticket sales and the team was the worst in the National League. It had been mentioned that the team would be purchased by interests outside of Cincinnati and moved away from the city and that more salary money was needed to attract better players. Crosley purchased the Reds in 1934 (1934-1961) with his radio fortune. Back

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20 Playmates of the Tow Path, Charles Ludwig, 1929.

21 To see Crosley early radios, visit the Gray History of the Wireless Museum, Crosley Telecommunications Center (Ch. 48 & WGUC-FM building) 1223 Central Parkway. WCET has produced the video Powel Crosley, Jr. and the 20th Century
then he spent $175,000 in preferred stock and later he bought 51% of the common stock. He changed the name from Redland Field to Crosley Field, adding a radio and refrigerator replica atop the scoreboard. The Field could hold slightly less than 30,000 fans. In 1934 WLW hired Walter ‘Red’ Barber as announcer. On May 24, 1935, Roosevelt from his White House office once again pushed the button, this time to light the first major league night game. The president touched a telegraph key and the signal was relayed by Western Union to Crosley Field. That game was carried by the national radio network, Mutual Broadcasting System. Unfortunately, the game was rained out and was played the next day.

In 1956 the Field was landlocked and parking was very tight. Crosley approached the city to supply more parking, which it did in several lots that opened in 1959.

When Crosley died suddenly March 28, 1961 of a heart attack, his daughter, Page (Crosley) Kess became the next owner. Prior to his death, Crosley had sold off all of his other interests. During his twenty seven years of ownership twice the Reds played in the World Series. Kess’s interest was sold to Bill DeWitt, the Reds General Manager. DeWitt sold the club in 1966 to Francis Dale, the publisher of the Cincinnati Enquirer. Negotiations that had started when Crosley was the owner about building a new stadium continued under DeWitt and Dale. Riverfront Stadium was opened June 30, 1970. Peanut Jim Sheldon, a familiar sight at Crosley Field, dressed in a top hat and tails, continued to sell his bags of warm peanuts to the crowds at the Stadium until his death. Parts of old Crosley Field were saved and reinstalled at the Blue Ash Sports Center.

Mrs. Page Kess became head of the charitable Crosley Foundation until her death in 1994. The Fund was a benefactor to many causes including the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Nature Center, WCET, and the Museum Center.

Gwendolyn Aiken, his wife of 29 years, died unexpectedly in Sarasota, Florida, at age 48 (Feb. 26, 1939). Crosley married three more times, the last being Eva Brokaw in 1955.

He built the country’s first small car in 1939. It had two cylinders and got 50 miles to the gallon, weighed 1,800 pounds and held 4 gallons of gas. They sold for around $300. A light sheet metal engine was produced in Cincinnati while the cars were built in Marion, Indiana. This engine was referred to as a COBRA (copper brazed) engine. It developed leak problems because the natural chlorine in the water ruined the welds. For a time Crosley’s developed a poor reputation because of the problem. The car company needed a continual influx of cash from Crosley every few months to keep production running.

Production ceased during the war years. His car didn’t boom until after the war, with best sales occurring in 1948. The Crosley was offered in a variety of body styles: sedan, wagon, convertible, pick-up. His cars now had a four cylinder engine and he offered four wheel disc brakes. In 1949 he switched to a cast iron engine but the reputation of his automobile had been sullied by the problems of the earlier engine. Production costs increased. Production ceased in 1952 after 72,000 were built. By 1957 Crosley had lost over a million dollars on his car production from correcting engine claims. Americans just weren’t interested in small cars at that time, gasoline was inexpensive (20 cents a gallon) and an oil embargo wasn’t in anyone’s nightmares. When Crosley died in 1961, the Volkswagen Beetle was scurrying across the highways. Today the Crosley Automobile Club represents more the 3,000 restored and happily running Crosleys. William Angert, Sr. displayed his Crosley cars in the annual College Hill Days car show.

Crosley moved from College Hill in the late 1920’s, building “Pinecroft” on seventy-three acres off of Kipling Road. He had been purchasing land there for several years while living on Davey Avenue. Built in a Tudor style, his mansion contained a 1929 Skinner organ that Gwendolyn would play. The organ was later moved to the Cincinnati Museum Center. Kipling was a country road back then and subdivisions now stand where the deer grazed. The Franciscan Sisters of the Poor purchased 43 acres of his estate and built Providence Hospital, opened in 1971. It is now owned by Mercy Hospital Mount Airy.

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22 Crosley Field, Greg Rhodes & John Erardi, 1995

23 AntiqueWeek, 1-12-1991
and has been opened for tours in conjunction with special events. The 13,300 sq. foot English Tudor mansion is being restored and plans to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Across the street, 2341 Kipling is the house that Powel Crosley Jr. built for his son, Powel Crosley III. At the time of Powel Crosley Jr.’s death in 1961, the residence on a seven acre site was inherited by his daughter, Martha Page Crosley Kess. The following year it was owned by her son, Lewis Crosley and was his home until 1968. Like Pinecroft this house is a modified Norman Tudor style.

The description of life at the Crosley estate was written by Greta H. Kappes, daughter of Walter A. Harry, superintendent of the estate for seventeen years.24 “There was a courtyard on the Crosley estate that was bordered by a five-car garage and three greenhouses with their adjoining work shed. There was a small building across the courtyard from the main garage that also housed cars—usually two small Crosley cars...

My Dad grew gardenias, orchids, and an assortment of other plants and flowers in the greenhouses. For summer show, he skillfully planted formal gardens on the grounds. Most of the large trees visible on the estate today were planted by my father or members of his crew. The hundreds of daffodils which are so prominent in the spring were also planted during his tenure...

There were other employees who also lived on the estate. The chauffeur was not only a good driver, but also an excellent mechanic, for it was his task to keep all the cars cleaned and in good running order so that they would be ready upon call. When a call came, a car was driven around to the front door ready for Mr. Crosley to step into. The little Crosley car was prominent on the estate; Mr. Crosley was usually the person who drove one, and he did so frequently.

In the foyer of the home was a large pipe organ, the pipes were located in the attic...On the lower level of the mansion was a Baldwin concert grand piano. It was situated in the room adjoining the rathskeller. The walls of most of the rooms on the first floor were wood paneling.

In the house there was an upstairs maid, a cook, and a downstairs maid... Each had one day a week off, her own living quarters, and worked a multitude of hours. On their day off, the chauffeur would drive them to the bus stop. He would also pick them up if a call came before his day ended.

The swimming pool on the estate was lined with pale blue ceramic tile. It was located just off the rear entrance to the foyer of the house. The mansion was fashioned from a traditional English Tudor home. The stones on the outside were shipped from England to give the building its authentic appearance. The ‘guard houses’ at the entrance to the estate off Kipling Road were built to emphasize the copy of a typical lord’s estate in England, but they were never meant to be functional.

Many prominent Cincinnatians were guests at Mr. Crosley’s elegant parties. But most notable in my mind were the annual opening day celebrations he would hold in which the entire Cincinnati Reds team was invited to the mansion.

The acreage of the Crosley Estate did extend down to Banning Road. A tenant farmer and his family occupied a farm house near Banning. It was very rare for Mr. Crosley to drive down through that portion of the property.”

During W.W. II Crosley accepted the contract to build the Voice of America radio station in Mason. VOA sent news and music around the world in the time of the Cold War. A site one mile square and covered with 300 foot high radio towers, it started transmission in 1944 and ceased in 1994. The six transmitters put out 250,000 watts of power apiece. The government chose the site due to its high elevation. The towers are no longer standing, taken down in 1997, and a ten area is now the Voice of America Park. The small switching station building still remains and has become a museum.

The Crosley Corporation did top secret work in developing a vacuum tube fuse for the Navy.25 It was so secret that the laboratory was across the street from the main Crosley plant and Powel Crosley Jr. himself didn’t have access. Radio equipment for use in the field was also manufactured. That the

24 Previously printed in the Heritage News.

company assembled ‘radar-sensitive proximity fuses, was revealed in a recent article\textsuperscript{26}. The fuses were disguised en route to Lunken Airport by being packed in milk crates loaded in a milk truck.

The Crosley Corporation was resurrected in North Carolina by a small, private label company. Once again Crosley radios are available, along with Shelvadors, cars, freezers, ranges, dishwashers, and microwaves. The Crosley name was bought from AVCO, which had purchased the Crosley product name and line in 1946. Crosley products are still sold by small, independent distributors rather than to large store chains. An extensive line of reproduction radios are available, from the 1930’s mirrored, round Bluebird to the 1946 Truetone.

A bit of Crosley history is at Sarasota Bay, Florida. Overlooking the Bay, Powel and his first wife, Gwendolyn, built “Seagate,” a 21 room winter house. The estate and Mediterranean Revival style mansion was built by Crosley in 1929, costing $350,000. It was used by the family until 1939 when Mrs. Crosley died there. A preservation effort is being made to restore the mansion and save the surrounding ecologically sensitive wetland.

\textsuperscript{26} Cincinnati Enquirer, This is Crosley Square...Signing Off, June 6, 1999.
College Hill Progress Club

For many years College Hill had the distinction of being considered a community of well educated and enlightened people. Its citizens provided men and women of vision and leadership in many fields. New theories of education were advanced at both Farmers’ College and the Ohio Female College. A women’s club, The College Hill Progress Club, was organized in 1887. Its membership consisted of most of the well known ladies of the Hill. In 1898-99 the theme was ‘Historic Spots in Our Own Country. Its active members at this time were: Miss Agnes Anderson, Mrs. Matie L. Bowman, Mrs. Anna H. Brown, Mrs. Carolyn D. Burns, Mrs. Rhoda L. Cairns, Mrs. Nettie Carroll, Mrs. Gena H. Coy, Miss Alice B. Coy, Mrs. Jennie O. DeGolyer, Mrs. Carrie K. Dunbar, Mrs. Georgie B. Dunbar, Mrs. Mary E. Eastman, Mrs. Mary S. Elly, Mrs. Elizabeth Emerson, Miss Laura Emerson, Mrs. Laura V. Gano, Mrs. Nannie B. Goodrich, Mrs. Mary T. Gray, Mrs. Melissa D. Green, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Hart, Mrs. Emma M. Henshaw, Miss Lida Henshaw, Mrs. Julia B. Hepburn, Miss Grace Hickman, Mrs. Nellie H. Holden, Miss Persis P. Howe, Miss Katherine Hunt, Miss Annie Kilgour, Mrs. Helen W. Molony, Miss Carry E. Moores, Mrs. Ida C. Myers, Miss Katherine E. Pierson, Miss Alice Poage, Mrs. Jennie K. Nickerson, Mrs. Mary T. Pottenger, Mrs. Mary C. Pounsford, Mrs. Rhoda T. Rammelsberg, Mrs. Julia J. Rankin, Miss Margaret T. Roberts, Mrs. Anna M. N. Shipley, Mrs. Cora A. Simpson, Mrs. Laura G. Thomson, Mrs. Bessie L. Walker, Miss Henrietta Walker, Miss Emma Wilder, Mrs. Sarah B. Wilson, Miss Florence Wilson, Miss Harriet N. Wilson, Miss Henrietta B. Utz. Associate members were: Mrs. Margaret S. Anderson, Miss Florence Avery, Miss Julia A. Bissell, Mrs. Alice B. Bruce, Miss Jesse Cary, Miss Alice Ellis, Mrs. Margaret Pierson, Mrs. Anna B. Reid, Mrs. Hattie M. Sheets, Mrs. Sara R. Simpson, Mrs. Rebecca D. Stuart. Honorary members were: Mrs. Electa Thornton, Mrs. Emma Wilder, Mrs. Laura Taylor.

The October program was titled OUR COUNTRY, ‘One Land, One Tongue, One Flag, One God.’ The club sang ‘America’ to open the program; then followed a paper, ‘Past and Present,’ read by Miss F. Wilson, a talk ‘Our Flag’ by Miss Wilder was followed by singing the Star Spangled Banner. An intermission - then Mrs. Shipley read ‘Squire Bull and His Son Jonathan.’ Mrs. Nickerson read a paper, ‘Our Constitution and What it Means.’ This was followed by music: National Airs. The program closed with Conversation - ‘Vacation Gleanings’ led by Mrs. Rankin.

This was the general format of all the programs which were held bi-weekly. Other themes during this year were: Plymouth, Glimpses of Virginia, Our Public Servants (a special topic), Rhode Island Salem, Some of Uncle Sam’s Wonders, New Orleans, Our Wards (special topic: Indians), The Banks of the Hudson, Westward Ho!, Here and There in Florida. At the close of this year’s program is published this IN MEMORIAM: Mrs. Mary Pyle, Mrs. Mary D. Carmen, Mrs. Martha F. Carey, Miss Cara L. Olds, Mrs. Annie B. Kilgour, Mrs. Martha M. Aiken, and Mrs. Dellie S. Emerson.

The succeeding years the club’s theme was; ‘America in Literature.’ For the next few years the programs were miscellaneous in nature. During 1913-1914 the club discussed ‘Modern Drama.’ In 1909-1910 it had reviewed ‘Latin America.’ These College Hill ladies discussed every topic of general interest that came before Americans of their day. The membership of this club and its activities indicate the high standing of education in College Hill.

Written by Mrs. Ruth J. Wells.
College Hill Lodge #641² Free and Accepted Masons

The lodge was chartered October 17, 1917. Stephen J. Hauser of McMakin Lodge #120 was the first Worshipful Master. Others elected for that first year were Charles Eisen, A. M. Sadler, Frank K. Bowman, Paul Ward, F. P. Hull and A. J. Larmon. Many of these men were followed by their sons and relatives: Stephen J. Hauser by Stephen W. Hauser (1944), Alvin L. Sadler by Lewis L. Sadler (1942), Frank K. Bowman, Sr., by James C. Bowman (1924) and Frank K. Bowman, Jr. (1945).

Petitioners in that first year were Frederick B. Edmands, F. Lester Gary, Frank P. Hull, Charles R. McKinley, Elijah H. Matthews, Charles A. Ross, Paul S. Ward, Edward W. Wilson, Charles Wuest, Jr.

Those petitioning for degrees in 1917 were William F. Dunaway, Clarence M. Buck, John J. Dupps, Jr., Rollo I. Grau, Oliver J. Niederhofer, Elmer J. Niemes, Fred. S. Seebohm, George H. Stebbins, Ernest A. Tettenborn, Alexander Thomson, Joseph Woodwell.

The Lodge started at Town Hall and stayed there for over 50 years. In 1947 the Lodge renovated Town Hall, including the College Hill Eastern Star Chapter, even though they leased it from the City of Cincinnati.


It has been nearly a century since the first residents moved into this impressive building whose golden towers can be seen even from Kentucky. Although this is the second location, this is the first Methodist Home in Ohio, incorporated Aug. 4, 1899 under the name of The Methodist Home for the Aged. Its founder was Dr. Henry C. Weakley, a Cincinnati Methodist minister who also was instrumental in founding the Elizabeth Gamble Deaconess Association and the Christ Hospital. It was while Dr. Weakley was serving Christ Hospital as their business manager that he became aware of the problems of the elderly and the lack of housing and care available to those alone or infirm. Dr. Weakley believed that the “moral worth of a civilization, a nation, a church, or a family may be expressed by the care it gives its aged.”

The first Methodist Home site was an old 58 room hotel for sale at Yellow Springs, Ohio. The hotel had a splendid 14 acre setting and was once a resort for those visiting the springs located on the property. The Home was established and organized by representatives of the various Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Churches in Ohio. Dr. Weakley was the first general manager. In 1902 a fire destroyed the frame building, injuring no one but destroying all personal possessions. The residents of Yellow Springs provided temporary homes until another location could be located for the members. A former college dormitory at Granville, Ohio was used until a new structure was built.

Fortunately, Mr. and Mrs. Obed J. Wilson of Clifton heard of the Home’s plight and offered a gift of their 20 acre summer home on the brow of College Hill. Mr. Wilson was a partner in the publishing firm of Wilson & Hinkle4 which later became the Methodist Book Company, publishers of the McGuffey Reader series. Both of the Wilsons were children of Methodist ministers. They weren’t related to the other Wilson family in College Hill. The Wilsons gave an additional $70,000 for the erection of the north wing, containing the chapel. Later they donated the organ, their own private art collection and paid for construction of the art gallery. The flag staff next to the Wilson chapel was donated by Mrs. Amanda Landrum Wilson5, wife of Obed and sister to Lieut. George W. Landrum, to whom the pole is dedicated. Lt. Landrum fell during the battle of Chickamauga in 1863 while carrying messages for the Union.

Ground was broken for construction, June 2, 1903. Labor problems, increased costs and lack of money delayed building. The distinctive vitrified yellow brick was purchased from Hummel Stone and the limestone foundation blocks were probably cut from the Wilson quarry, just a few blocks south on Hamilton Avenue and from the site itself. The North Wing and Central sections were completed in 1908 and opened for occupancy. Forty residents came from Granville to Northside by train. They traveled up Hamilton Avenue by streetcars and carriages, some bringing their own feather beds along.

At this time the facade was only the main building, the right wing and one (right) tower. Still, it had a 191 foot frontage (completed it would be 305 feet).

The Romanesque tower is 150 feet high. Of much comment was the large retaining wall which stretched across the ravine. One day the retaining wall collapsed. The ravine was alleged to be an Underground Railroad escape route with a tunnel that terminated in the nearby Cary house. The weight of the wall caused the tunnel to collapse.

The Wilson Memorial Chapel was dedicated June 9, 1909. The service was conducted by Bishop Moore, a graduate of Farmers’ College. The chapel is described in a newspaper article of the time as “...occupying two floors, is beautiful in the extreme, with its softly tinted walls, its broad, graceful gallery opening onto the second floor, its encircling pews capable of seating 360, and its richly colored art windows.”

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4 Walnut and Baker Streets.

5 For more information on the Wilson family, read, Queen City Lady, The 1861 Journal of Amanda Wilson, William Thomas Venner, 1996.
The new building was designed in a T-shape of the most fire proof materials available; there are no wooden floors or stairways, the roof when built was of red tile and iron, the outer walls of buff brick that has been vitrified. Even the interior partition walls were of hollow tile. Designed to house 300 people when the entire building was completed, “...the watchwords of the Building Committee were Simplicity, Symmetry, Capacity, Security, Durability, Adaptability and Comfort.” The plans called for the latest in convenience: elevators, steam heat, steam laundry and electricity. The projected building costs were $200,000. After all the funds were secured, architect and supervising architect, Samuel Hannaford provided the structure plans gratis as his personal contribution. This may have been the last building he personally participated in.

Twin Towers has a comprehensive archive on the building’s history. The following is a letter from Samuel Hannaford showing his involvement in the building:

April 8 1905
Winton Place O.

My dear Mr. Wilson,

In reply to your inquiry regarding the progress of the Home for the Aged. I can state that for the last three weeks the work has been on the market. We have received bids by departments, and as an entirety, or lump bids. We have also had bidders from abroad, that is from reliable contractors from other parts of the State, as this was deemed advisable by the Building Com. And we consider that we have thoroughly sounded the building market with the following result. The lowest estimate, based upon a combination of the lowest department bids, amounted to the sum of $131,548. for both buildings.

The lowest lump bid, all the work going to one bidder, is that of “Hazen & Co.” for the sum of $131,273. or $275. below the combination estimate.

This is remarkably close bidding considering the magnitude of the work, and may be regarded as a clean competition without any collusion or attempted fraud.

I may state that the above figures do not include all the items, as for instance the facing brick is being furnished by the Trustees. The same being mostly on the ground. Then again Mr. Weakley has received several thousand common brick as donations-these to be used by the Contractor and paid for by him at current market rates.

Neither does it include the “roofing tile” which is donated by the “National Roofing Tile Co.” of Lima, Ohio. (I think that is the name of the Co.)

In regard to the plumbing-it has been determined to have this done by The Gibson Co. on the basis of 10/100 profit.

The heating also is outside of the contract.

As you are aware the letting of the contracts was postponed last summer in hopes of more favorable prices but this has proved a disappointment (sic). There has been no decline in prices-indeed an advance-but very slight. Our building demand, that is Cincinnati, has held its flood height in a remarkable manner; indeed the building permits of February and March 1905 far exceed in number & value those of last year. It is one of a half dozen cities in the country in which this is the case.

In regard to the North wing. The cost will exceed slightly the sum of $60,000. I have not the amt. of this separate estimate with me. I regret this but it is impossible to exactly gauge the building market in these days. If you desire the exact statement of the expenditures to date and the figures of the lowest bid on the North wing I can furnish them early next week.

In conclusion I would state that it is intended to award the contracts immediately, to that end I have an engagement with Hazen on the ground on Monday 10th inst. to look over the site. That there may be a thorough understanding of the condition of the buildings and the work to be done.

I have been on the site several times within a month. My latest visit being on Thursday 6 inst. Everything is in good condition and has passed through the winter without damage from frost or weather. As you may be aware I had the walls well covered with tarred paper last fall. The retaining wall is also in good condition. There is a slight amount of grading to be done. We hope to begin the same immediately. The main driveway I propose to macadam as soon as the grade of same is fully made. This driveway will be about 600 feet long & 20 feet wide. We also propose to build a parapet wall about 3’0” high the entire
length of retaining wall and the same to be furnished with a so called “Scotch Coping” or similar to the finish of the wall across “Poplar Avenue” (note: now Windermere Way) from the Home grounds. Unfortunately our stratified limestone fails when placed on edge which is strikingly evidenced by the wall mentioned. I am going to investigate the cost of making concrete blocks for the “Scotch Coping.” I am of the opinion that they will cost less than the same out of our hill stone or out of the “Flat Rock” stone of Indiana, which is also stratified limestone but closer in texture than our hillstone. The concrete blocks will not be stratified and therefore will not split and disintegrate as the copings on the wall referred to.

I think that we have a sufficiency of building limestone that we have quarried out of the cellars of the buildings and in the grading to build the retaining wall and they of most excellent quality, better than any we have bought.

Excuse the length of my letter. I hope to see you soon.

Yours truly,

Samuel Hannaford

Operating costs were more than anticipated. A prayer and a nickel a year for five years was asked from all Ohio Methodists. The untimely death of Dr. Weakly left a gap but in 1921 the void was filled by Dr. C. Lloyd Strecker who began to build a sound financial structure for the Home. He oversaw the construction of the south wing in 1937, completing the original facade plan in 1939. He also built a home on the grounds for the manager and his family on Windermere Drive. The Wilson homestead was remodeled in 1948 after being vacant for many years due to instructions in the Wilson will that the house should be demolished and used as the site of a new building for the parsonage and manager. After contacting the heirs, it was agreed to use the building as a nurse’s home. It was at this time that the Mt. Vernon style porch was added. Sadly, this house was torn down in later years.6

Twin Towers continued to flourish and other additions were added to accommodate more residents. With great sensitivity toward the original facade, the building has been updated without compromising Hannaford’s design. At the century mark, it is much loved by the residents of both Twin Towers and College Hill.

Twin Towers Senior Living Community continues to grow on its main campus, and a new facility, Twin Lakes, has been added in Montgomery.

Original drawing proposal for Twin Towers’ Façade, 1903

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6 Thanks to Rev. John Dunham, Mrs. Jane Allen, Dr. Joseph Graham of Twin Towers and Jack O’Neil for furnishing information.
Mr. and Mrs. Obed Wilson and their nieces, Miss Cora Stone and Miss Florence Wilson, took a trip around the world in 1883. They spent five months in Japan, spending winter in the snowy, northern Echigo Province where they were welcomed into the Inagaki family. Their daughter, Etsu, was raised in a samurai family, a life of discipline, obedience and culture. Etsu was born in 1874, six years after the ‘Restoration,’ a war which overthrew the feudal style of government. The war devastated many of the noble families, and while her family emerged with reduced circumstances, it remained proud and clung to the ideals and customs of the past. Through a marriage arranged by her brother to his former business partner while she was still a child, Etsu was betrothed to Matsuo Sugimoto who owned a Japanese ware store on Race Street.

To prepare for her life outside of Japan, she was sent to Tokyo to attend the Methodist Girl’s School. It was there that she learned English and became a Christian. The Wilson’s chaperoned her when she arrived in Cincinnati in the spring of 1898. Etsu stayed in the Wilson’s Clifton home and was married there. Her maid of honor was Florence Wilson and Matsuo’s was his business partner at that time, Kataro Shirayamadani. Mr. Shirayamadani is well known as one of the greatest artists for Rookwood pottery.

Etsu became close friends with Florence and, after visiting the John M. Wilson home, it was decided that the Japanese family would relocate to College Hill. Etsu considered Florence’s mother her ‘other mother.’ John Wilson was Obed’s deceased brother. His low white house sat on Windermere Way and was torn down in 1979. General Cary lived next door and entertained her many afternoons with his stories about American and local history. She joined the Grace Episcopal Church and the College Hill Progress Club.

A letter written by Ella Ferry describes the Sugimoto’s arriving in College Hill: “The first night they arrived at the Wilson home next to the Glenwood (Apartments), Florence Wilson called me to ask if she could bring them to the euchre party I was having that night. Etsu had never before been in the presence of men, but she was the star of the evening, of course. Mr. Ferry hurried to make it a Japanese affair and Japanese lanterns hung on the branches of all the trees and strings of them were hung from the porch down the lane and over to the railroad crossing and we had Japanese prizes - all done swiftly in a few hours but it was a lovely party. The gentlemen were most gracious to the little doll-like Etsu and before the close of the evening she was playing euchre for she was very, very clever...The Wilsons had visited in her palatial home in Japan and loved her dearly and it didn’t take her long to master English and Florence was able to introduce her into society and she was able to make considerable money with her talks on the Orient...

The Hill at that time had no division of social groups, but the young and less young mingled amicably and all society events included both. The euchre party above had 60 members and met every Saturday night at the homes arranged alphabetically for winter entertainment. These were not simple, informal affairs but full dress and a banquet served by regular caterer at midnight. For my first party, Papa had the archway built between parlors and we were able to accommodate nicely the entire group. I have preserved the list of the charming members of this club and so few survivors today - I can only mention Harry Pounsford, Matie Bowman, Tody Perkins at Methodist Home, Carl Rankin, Emma Wilder, Agnes Anderson; the large families of the Henshaws, the Thomsons, the Stewarts, the Simpsons, the Wilds and Wilders, the Averys, the Aikens all departed long ago...”

Both of the Sugimoto daughters, Hanno (Flower Born in a Strange Land) and Chiyo, were born at the College Hill Wilson home and later attended elementary school on the hill. Matsuo died unexpectedly in 1907 and Etsu returned to Japan with her daughters. Florence later visited them in Japan. For several years, Etsu would return to America for a time and return to Japan. Having started their lives in a more permissive culture, her daughters did not easily conform to Japanese life. She, her daughters and Miss Wilson lived in New York City while Etsu was a professor of Japanese at Columbia University (1920-1927). Florence returned with the family to Japan in 1927, and remained there until her death in 1932.
Her ashes are buried next to those of Etsu, who died in 1959, in the Aoyama Cemetery. Florence’s headstone is carved ‘The Living Embodiment of True Friendship.’ Both were cultural ambassadors of the world.

College Hill still harbors a legacy from the Sugimotos. The Oaks has a lovely male gingko tree presented to the Thomsons from Matsuo. Laurel Court has another gingko and Mrs. Jane Allen has a female gingko in her backyard on Belmont Avenue. A fourth tree was planted at the edge of the Wilson property, which later became a part of Twin Towers. It was killed by lightning and much to the sorrow of the residents, had to be removed. All these trees were planted at the same time. The Japanese admire the long lived, graceful gingko and its fan shaped leaves are frequently portrayed in their art.

Etsu wrote a charming book of her life in Cincinnati, A Daughter of the Samurai. Her other books are A Daughter of the Narikin (1932), A Daughter of the Nohfu (1935) and Grandmother O Kyo (1940).

Obed J. Wilson House  by Caroline Williams, 9-2-1951
Chapter 27  Furniture and Philanthropy: The Henshaw Family

Of the many prominent College Hill families, few stand out as that of George Henshaw, Jr. He left not only a successful business but a wealth of information about what it was like to come from England and start a business in Illinois and Ohio. In 1911 he wrote a manuscript about his family and the late Mrs. Dorothy Henshaw shared a copy with us.

George Henshaw Sr. was born in London in 1805, the son and grandson of soap manufacturers. George Sr.’s father died when he was five, and his mother when he was but seventeen. When he was fifteen, his mother apprenticed George to a cabinet-maker. He served there seven years. His master provided him food, lodging and trade training, while his mother contributed clothing, pocket money and the apprenticeship fee.

Before his apprenticeship ended, he married Ann Oldenburg and as soon as his seven years were over, he started business for himself.

“We all left London, England, early in November 1843. Our family consisted of father, mother and eight children...William a baby in arms who died during the long voyage. The name of the ship was Constellation, she was a full rigged ship of three hundred and sixty tons, having three masts and square sails. She was just an ordinary merchant ship and had brought a cargo of sugar to London from the West Indies, she had no accommodation for passengers, so father took his own workmen and put up cabins for our use, making things quite comfortable for us...

We had quite a long voyage, fully three months, we had many storms, the waves running very high, also calms when we hardly moved for days. We lay in sight of one of the Bahama Islands quite a long time, the natives bringing out to us oysters, fish, bananas, oranges, pineapples and several kinds of vegetables, they were eagerly bought by us and the few other passengers. We were especially glad to buy them as we had only salt meats and fish since leaving England and only such vegetables as could be kept, like potatoes, cabbage, etc. Canned things were not known in those days neither vegetables, fruits or meats. We baked bread and had ship biscuits. Condensed milk was not known, had it been we might have saved the life of our little baby brother, William, who was buried at sea. Father had to make the coffin himself, there being no one else to do so. The loss of the baby was a heavy blow to mother, who was greatly distressed to see her baby boy committed to the sea.

The fresh provisions were a most welcome change to us, as was also being able to obtain fresh water, the water we laid in at the time we sailed had become almost undrinkable, it smelt and looked like dirty pond water. During the voyage our sister, Sarah, while playing on the deck fell down one of the hatchways, she was unconscious for quite a long time. We were all very anxious until she recovered consciousness, as there was no doctor on the ship, we did not know what to do. We could only wait and hope, she was deaf for a number of years afterwards but finally recovered.

We finally landed sometime in the latter part of January or early in February, at New Orleans. Our final destination was Albion, Ill., a small town in Edwards County. It was settled by English people under the supervision of a gentleman by the name of Flowers, who bought a large tract of land which he intended to sell or lease to the people he brought over from England, but the whole enterprise fell through, land being so low in price, the men soon had means to buy from the Government at the ruling government prices, which was one dollar and quarter per acre. No one but a working farmer would exist at the prices paid for produce or livestock, nor could any one hire laborers and raise crops from the land and pay for the labor. The man had to own the land that worked it, and dispose of his wool and hides at the country stores for groceries and cotton goods. That was about the only farm product that could be disposed of, it having more value in a small compass than most other productions of the farm.

I give a sample of prices obtained when there was anyone who would buy: corn ten cents per bushel, wheat, not raised in the county, principally on account of a weevil which destroyed all the small grain, chickens, one dollar and fifty cents per dozen, egg, four cents a dozen, beef, two cents per pound, mutton, four cents per pound, pork, one dollar and fifty cents per hundred pounds. You could buy a whole deer from one dollar to two dollars. I have seen two large wild turkeys sell for twenty-five cents.
The men that were brought over from England by Mr. Flowers soon became independent of him and purchased land for themselves, leaving the land he had expected to sell them on his hands. Mr. Flowers and his wife died in poverty, while the men he brought over nearly all became quite well off by the time we reached the settlement.

Although our destination was Albion, Ill., father remained in New Orleans several days investigating what the opportunities were in his line of business. He found there were several establishments making very good furniture, the most important one and employing the largest number of workmen was a Negro.

We all went to see the market place where the slaves were sold. We found it in the basement of the old St. Charles’ Hotel. There were perhaps five hundred of them, male and female, in every shade of color, between the black African and others so white it took an expert to determine whether there was any colored blood in them or not, where there was the slightest vestige of it made them by law the same footing as one entirely black and all Negro. This state of things no doubt influenced father most adversely to remaining in New Orleans. It was different to what it is today, there were as many black as white people, the whites were mostly French or French descent to which were added quite a lot of Spaniards, there were perhaps less Americans than French. The houses in the old town were built in the old French style of architecture with iron bars across all the lower windows and doors, and courtyards in the center, with galleries all around looking into the courtyards. Many of the better houses had extensive gardens attached, even on the business streets, it was quite a foreign looking city...

As soon as father decided not to remain he engaged passage on the first steamboat bound for the Ohio River, taking passage for Mt. Vernon, Indiana, which was as near to Albion, Ill., as any other town on the River. Evansville, Ind. was about the same distance but it was understood the roads were not so good. The name of the steamboat was the Queen of the South, one of the best boats on the river. She had a load of sugar molasses and coffee, which was destined for the various towns and cities along the river, Cincinnati being the most important. While on the boat a Negro stow-away broke into some of our boxes and took out shoes, which he had on when he was taken prisoner. He was a runaway slave. They wanted to flog him but mother interceded and persuaded the officers of the boat not to do so. The incident in connection with this poor slave quite reconciled father and mother to having declined to remain in New Orleans.

We reached Mt. Vernon in five days, it was but a village of about two hundred people. We made immediate arrangements for the journey to Albion. The distance was sixty miles, all of the way mud roads. It took two wagons to carry the family and the most necessary part of our luggage, the balance coming afterwards. One of the wagons was drawn by a pair of oxen, the other by horses. The wagons sunk into the mud up to the axles at very frequent intervals and had to be pried out. We made very slow progress, taking between five and six days to make the distance. We had to seek the hospitality of farmers for meals and sleeping accommodations. The charges were very reasonable, would be considered ridiculously so at this time. As an example, the first night out we put up at one of the best farm houses in the country, we were seven children, father and mother, they had to cook supper for us which consisted of yellow corn bread which gave the appearance of pound cake and all of us children thought we were in for a grand feast, never having eaten or heard of corn bread, but we were dreadfully disappointed. The first mouthful was enough for us, we could not swallow it and watched for a chance to slip it out of our mouths (we afterwards became quite fond of it). They also gave us fried salt pork, what is known as side meat, with pickles only salted with vinegar, this also we could not manage to eat so we had to go to bed very hungry, having eaten nothing. Our hosts discovered we could we could not eat the food they gave us, although it was their regular food and in fact all they ever wanted, and determined we should have something different for breakfast, so long before breakfast we heard a great noise among the chickens, and for breakfast we had fried chickens and mighty nice they were. They sent to a neighbors for wheat flour, making fine hot biscuits which with plenty of eggs and coffee we finished one of the best breakfasts we had ever sat down to and we remembered it long afterwards. All they charged us for the whole lay out, supper, beds and breakfast for nine of us and the two drivers was ten dollars. Father thought the charge was too small and after much persuasion got them to accept fifteen dollars. The news of our greenness or
generosity traveled ahead of us and we found the later places we stopped at father did not complain of the charges being too small.

We finally arrived at Albion. Our drivers took us to a Tavern, so called, kept by quite an old lady named Woods. She had come with her family from England many years before, I think with the Mr. Flowers formerly mentioned. She had a family of several grown boys, who made their living hauling to and from the rivers, while the old lady saw to running the Tavern. We stayed there until we were able to secure a house to live in. We finally rented one of the best houses in the town, a brick house of quite a number of rooms, quite large enough for the needs of all the family. We were lucky as most of the houses were built of logs, a few were frame. There was a much better Tavern or Hotel kept by Mrs. Bowman, this was the place we should have gone to as it was much superior in every way to the one kept by Mrs. Woods.

Sister Sarah was some years after married to Henry Bowman, a son of the proprietress. We found quite a number of English people of good education and refinement, who took quite an interest in us and gave us advice as to the situation we were in, being new comers and having no experience as farmers. Father found he had made a mistake and had settled at the wrong place, there was nothing to do in the line of his regular business.

...The natives were very poor farmers, raising a little corn and a few hogs and sheep, kept mostly for the wool, which they carded, spun into yearn and then wove it into cloth. They dyed it with the stain from butternut hulls, and some dyed it blue with indigo. It made a very strong and lasting cloth and was about all they could get for the family clothes. The women made their dresses from the same material, as they seldom could afford to buy anything else, cotton prints cost from twenty to forty cents per yard, it was more beyond their means than fine silks or satin would be today.

There was another family named Thompson, also a doctor and a well educated man, with a family of children, who became quite intimate with us...also, an old Englishman named Tribe. He had a carding mill, the motive power was a steer, but it was frequently the milk cow of the family that was substituted. They farmed as well as run the mill...

Game at the time we first went to Albion was very plentiful. There were plenty of deer. I have seen them in herds of a dozen at one time. I have known them to run through the town in day time with the dogs following after them. There were also plenty of Wild Turkeys and pheasants, and quail in large numbers. Wild Pigeons in the fall when the acorns were ripe were in such numbers as to be incredible of belief. I have hundreds of times seen them pass over the town extending in width from North to South as far as the eye could see, and take a couple of hours to pass, over hundreds of millions must have passed in that time. They flew at great speed. They have been shot right at Albion with undigested rice in their crops, and the nearest rice being in South Carolina several hundred miles. At the time of this writing wild pigeons have become extinct, only a few days ago there was five hundred dollars offered for a nest of them (1911). They have, like the Buffalo, entirely disappeared.

Father soon found out a farmer’s life was not for him and he soon began to look out for some other place to locate. After investigating and obtaining all the information he could get, he decided upon Cincinnati as the most eligible place he could locate in. So to avoid the tedious wagon trip to the Ohio River he waited for high water in the Wabash River, and packing all up again we left for Grayville, Ill. situated on the Wabash River, only about ten miles from Albion and could be reached in less than one day. After waiting a little more than a day we got passage on quite a fine boat and reached Cincinnati, I think in three or four days...but our misfortune father became acquainted with a number of English people who were very dissatisfied with America, having made failures of everything they attempted to do, and wanted to return to their own country but had not the means to do so. It was the time the country was in a very bad condition, it had not yet recovered from the general bankruptcy of the year 1837, when the U. S. Bank of Pennsylvania failed and caused the greatest financial distress this country ever experienced. Trade of every description was as bad as it could be, there was but little money in circulation and that was all paper money. What were called wild cat banks were springing up all over the country and were passed at all kinds of discounts from 5 to 25%, the only ones that were at par were a few of the State Banks, such
as Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana and some of the Eastern State Banks - the rest, of which there were hundreds, were of the wild cat kind. These were located in all kinds of out of way places, the harder to get at the more valuable the locations were. Many were found in what was then termed the back woods, miles from any town, with only mud roads to reach them. There were no railroads anywhere this side of the Allegheny Mountains, at that time stage lines over mud roads were all the means of communication to be had, so the redemption of the notes of the wild cat banks was expensive as well as dangerous. To present notes at some of these banks was as much as the collector’s life was worth as the banks never expected to redeem them, as when they put them in circulation that was supposed to be the end of them. Many of them were never redeemed at all, they passed from hand to hand until worn out or the bank closed up. The result of this state of business by trading one with the other, little or no money passing between them. For instance, you wanted to build a house, being in the furniture business, you would go to the lumber dealer, bricklayer, carpenter or any other of the trades necessary in building it, agreeing to pay for it in furniture. The party you made the deal with would give orders upon you in such sums as he could trade to his workmen or to others who might be in need of furniture. The orders were for goods and were the same as checks on a bank against any gross sum that had been agreed upon. When all the orders combined equaled the full amount of the original deal that part of the house would have been provided for, and the same with all the other branches necessary in the construction of the house. The same way the employer would go to the clothing store, giving orders to your employees for clothing, and the clothing merchant would give orders to his workman upon you for furniture or trade them off to other merchants for other things wanted. Thus there were exchanges innumerable made, sometimes several exchanges having to be made before the desired article could be obtained. This was going back to the original system of barter but in the absence of money it brought back primitive customs. It was a cumbersome way of doing business but seemed to answer the purpose, at any rate it was the only way business could be transacted. It lasted many years, gradually giving way to the cash system as money became more abundant.

As I mentioned, there were a great many English here at the time of our arrival in 1844 and they were all mostly dissatisfied, and soon had father converted to their way of thinking and changed his views entirely. He had made arrangements to purchase a large tract of ground on Central Avenue, at that time called Western Row. This land was then an orchard and it was offered at a very low price, even for the depressed times. The price was by the acre. It had not been laid out for streets. Father also rented a store on Sycamore St. intending to open a store and start manufacturing...but father having taken the advice of his friends not to remain in America, at once canceled the arrangements he had made and proceeded at once on his way to New York, taking all of the family with him...Mr. John Spring tried his best to persuade him to remain in Cincinnati, but his arguments were futile against the combined persuasions of all his other countrymen to leave while he had the means to do so. They were no doubt sincere in their convictions that the country would never recover from the conditions from which it was suffering, things had been bad ever since 1837 and showed little signs of improvement up to this time. Values were at the lowest ebb, as a sample, flour was but two dollars and a half per barrel and the other produce in proportion. Transportation was so high that goods could not find a market except at prohibitive cost, in fact there was no way to reach a market except by river or canal, and these markets were so glutted at times that dealers were afraid to risk shipping to them. All travel was by stage, there were but few macadamized roads, most of them but primitive mud, which in wet weather made them impossible.

A new era was, however, just beginning that in a few years made great changes in the whole face of the country. Railroads were the magic that caused the change, they soon had lines laid out to reach everywhere. A great many of them were premature and failed before being finished but it brought a new era to the nation and it soon developed those cities that were in the natural route of communication and they began to grow rapidly...

We left all these chances that would have come to us and proceeded on our return back to London. We left Cincinnati by steamboat for Pittsburg, taking several days to reach that city, and we immediately took passage by canal for Philadelphia, going by way of Holidaysburg. There the passengers were taken over the mountains by an incline road to the canal on the other side, where the passage was resumed.
The freight boats were made in several sections, easily taken apart. These sections were taken separately from the water by running an iron basket under them and drawing them out of the water. They were then let down on the other side into the continuation of the canal, refastened together and continued the voyage. This was a very economical invention, as when the boats arrived they were again taken apart and drawn from the water as before and hauled by horses without being unloaded right into the merchant’s warehouses in the city.

We continued our route to Philadelphia but were stopped by the authorities at Columbia, which is a few miles from Philadelphia, where there was a great riot in progress, the mob setting fire to Nunneries and other Catholic Institutions. The military were called out and martial law enforced. I was too young to know what the trouble was about, but it must have been quite a bitter one as many buildings were burnt and a number of lives sacrificed...

(They next traveled to New York). I don’t think father had any idea of remaining in New York... So with as little delay as possible father engaged passage for London on the clipper ship Victoria, a very large and handsome vessel and a quick sailor, as she made the passage in fourteen days, one of the quickest on record...

As soon as we landed at London father immediately went about reestablishing his business... He called to see his old customers, but was not received with much enthusiasm... After making every effort to get upon his former footing and finding it impossible to do so, and his capital rapidly growing smaller, he knew the end could not be long delayed... We had only been in London about six months... as soon as father had gotten rid of the business and settled everything the next thing was to return to America. We engaged passage on the good ship Espendola, of one thousand tons register, for New Orleans. The Captain’s name was Barstow, and the first officer was the captain’s nephew, his name being the same. We made the voyage in about six weeks, half the time of the former voyage. It was a modern vessel and quite fast and as large as the largest of those days. We had a very nice voyage. We did no remain any longer in New Orleans than time enough to get passage up the river to Mt. Vernon. We had quite an exciting event on our trip up the river, we got into a race with another boat and were side by side for hours. The point was who could reach the mouth of the Arkansas River first, where there were usually a lot of pine knots piled up for sale. The passengers at first objected to the boats racing but they got excited and helped the crew pass wood to the fireman. The ladies were as anxious to win as the men and did all they could to assist, in fact some of them assisted in passing wood. We won by getting first to the place where the pine knots were for sale. The Captain bought all the knots that were on the bank, amid the cheers of all the passengers. Getting the knots settled the race. They being nearly all rosin they made steam so fast the engines had all they could do to work it off as fast as it was made. The other boat had no chance afterwards as we easily left it behind. It was a very exciting episode while it lasted which was more than a day.

We again intended settling in Albion... I have never been able to account for it, as he had tried it already and found it impossible to make a living in the town, as the few people living there were very primitive in their wants, most of them had brought a little furniture with them when first coming to the place and had never found it necessary to add to it. Furniture was a luxury not attainable by them. I don’t remember that we ever sold a piece to anyone living in the town, what little we did sell was sold to people living outside of Albion.

We made coffins for the dead ones, sometimes they paid us in money but usually we had to take pork, poultry, corn, or something they raised on their farms for our pay. The lumber to make what little furniture and the coffins we made we had to buy at Graysville on the Wabash River and haul it ten miles. I remember father once forgot to take the money on one of the trips to Graysville, and mother not knowing how he would manage without it started on foot in hopes of catching up with the wagon and walked the whole distance to the mill before catching up with it. Mother was entirely played out before she reached Graysville for the roads were as bad as mud roads could be, in the worst places they took saplings and laid them side by side in the mud holes forming what is called a corduroy road, it made a very rough road but kept the wagons from sinking into the mud. We had a lot of this kind of road between
Mt. Vernon and Albion.

When we arrived in Albion this second time father was able to rent a stone house on the main street for a temporary home. We moved right into this as soon as we arrived, and bought provisions and started keeping house at once. This was quote as comfortable as going to one of the taverns and was much cheaper. We brought some furniture with us and were able to buy some more that was indispensable...As soon as father could rent a more suitable place we moved into it. We were able to get a fairly good house with a store room in front, entirely separate from it, and this we used for a workshop, after making work benches and putting up a turning lathe father and brother Ed went to work. We laid in a stock of lumber from Graysville, consisting of poplar, and cherry. Walnut was not much used except for coffins and we bought a little for that purpose.

The first piece of furniture they made was a corner cupboard or china cabinet for one of the well to do farmers. They also made a variety of other pieces, such as bureaus, bedsteads, tables, etc. Father did the turning of bed posts, while I being then about thirteen years of age worked the large wheel that gave motion to the lathe. Father had a treadle put on which could be used instead of the large wheel and one person could then do the turning as the treadle was worked by the foot. I was put to turning the smaller things such as table and chair legs. It was hard work for a boy as young as I was but I had to do it, and I think I liked working as well as most boys. I was about fourteen years old at that time. It did not take long to supply all the demand there was in the whole country and then there was no more to do except an occasional coffin to make. We used to get ten dollars for a coffin. They brought a corn stalk cut to the length and a notch cut in it for the width, and when we saw a man on horseback come along with a corn stalk we knew we were going to have a job. We always insisted on having cash for a coffin but we did not always get it and often had to take anything we could get.

Father soon came to the conclusion we could make no living in Albion...Father had for some time determined to leave mother and the family in Albion and go to Cincinnati, taking brother Edward with him and go to work at his trade. This course was to be a help financially as well as an experience in the ways of the country...True to this resolve they left Albion for Graysville and took passage for the Ohio River on a boat built especially for low water, this little boat could run on only a few inches of water. They used to say of it that when it stuck on a bar, the crew used to jump into the water and carry it into deeper water, it would be all right until it got fast again when carrying it over the obstructing bar was again repeated...This boat was the smallest freight and passenger steamboat I ever saw. It only ran to the mouth of the Wabash River and from there another boat had to be taken on the Ohio to Cincinnati, where they arrived in about four days after leaving Albion. Father and Edward went to a boarding house on Third Street near Walnut Street. They both got employment at once, father with Andrew McAlpin, who had the best furniture store west of the Allegheny Mountains. There are many handsome mahogany pieces of dining room and parlor furniture made by McAlpin still owned by the old families and highly prized by them. Edward got work at making bird cages with Wm. Chidsey, who did quite a trade with the country merchants. He also had a store where he retailed them. Mr. Chidsey did the wire work and Edward made the wood parts. Father’s job consisted of making Elizabethan chairs and rockers, and he made them six at a time and took about a week to make them. He got eighteen dollars for the six. Edward worked by the week, I don’t know how much his wages were.

Father bruised the palm of his hand which developed into a severe Tumor which caused such severe pain as to nearly drive him crazy. The doctor advised him to go home where he could have proper attention, and he came home unexpectedly and took us all by surprise. It took I think about three months before his hand was sufficiently recovered to be able to use it.

It was while he was laid up at home that he determined to take the family back to Cincinnati...Father sold everything except a few pieces of furniture had from England and we all left for Cincinnati by the way of Graysville on the steamboat **Talma**, arriving at our destination early in April 1847. Brother Edward had already secured a house for us on Eighth Street between Elm and Plum, which we at once occupied. Edward had been boarding with Mr. Chidsey but left there as soon as we got things straightened out at the house on Eighth street. Father kept on working for Andrew McAlpin and Edward
still worked for Mr. Chidsey until father rented a store on Sycamore St. a few doors above Third on the east side. We occupied this store for some months. Next door north was a museum owned by Mr. Franks, as was also the building we occupied. Part of the entertainment was called the Infernal Regions, a representation of hell, and was known all over the country. Hardly any one came to the city that did not visit it. The figures and scenery were the work of Hiram Powers, the great American Sculptor when a young man, and before he became celebrated as a great genius. He was the creator of the well known statue of the Greek Slave, which has a world wide reputation. There are copies of it in most of the galleries in Europe. The infernal regions were no doubt very realistic and as near a replica of hell as preached by the average divine of those days.

The family at this time was living in Newport, which at that time was a very small place. We rented the house from a Mr. Cole, who while we were there opened one of the first pleasure resorts for the benefit of the residents of Cincinnati. It was three miles up the Licking River and was popular for many years. One of the Shinkles of Covington afterwards started a line of boats to Coles Gardens, as it was called, and on Sundays the boats were crowded. It was on the order of our present Coney Island...

Father and Edward were quite successful with the store on Sycamore Street and began to make friends and customers. I went to work at turning for a party by the name of Holmes, who made shoe pegs, brushes and drawer knobs. I worked piece work, that is, the more work I was able to turn out the more my pay was. I always preferred to work in that way, as I was a hard worker and was always making some new contrivances to facilitate my work. At first I worked turning brush handles. I could not make more than four dollars per week when I took the job, but I gradually improved until in a few weeks I was earning six dollars per week (note: age 14)...The next place was with a Mr. Ritchie, who had a turning shop on Fifth Street between Sycamore and Broadway. There they took in all kinds of job work. He paid more than six dollars per week. There I turned table legs and bed posts, which I found much easier than in Albion as the lathes were run by steam power...I can’t remember how long I worked for Mr. Ritchie but when I left he paid me seven dollars and fifty cents per week. When I left there I went to work at a furniture factory owned by John K. Coolidge.

Our furniture store on Sycamore Street prospered very well. We had one for some time on Walnut Street between Pearl and Third Sts. and at this place we manufactured quite a number of articles. We had a good run on a very pretty lounge that father had made in London. We could sell them just as fast as they could be made. I think this couch was the foundation of our getting along so well as we did. Edward and father made them all alone at the start but we soon had several workmen and the place became crowded. It was at this juncture that the store on Sycamore Street was taken and Edward took charge of it. We manufactured on Walnut Street and sold on Sycamore Street the most of what we made. After I had my day’s work done at the factory where I was employed I used to turn for our own store. Father bought a lathe like I learned to work on in Albion, that was worked by foot and on this I could do all the turning that was wanted for our own shop. I worked usually until eleven or twelve at night. Edward always stopped with me and we went home together.

The store on Sycamore was doing a good business and we were looking forward to soon having a factory with steam power, but at this time we suffered one of the most severe misfortunes of our business career. The Commercial newspaper began erecting a new building at the S. E. Corner of Sycamore and Third Sts. The north end of their building reached to the south end of the building we occupied. There was no law at that time limiting the depth of an excavation for the foundation of a building. This building for the Commercial newspaper was the first building in Cincinnati ever erected with a double basement, and because there was no law to govern the depth of the excavation the contractor took any precaution to secure the safety of the adjoining buildings. The consequence of this negligence was that one night the building we occupied went suddenly into the excavation, the building and all it’s contents fell. We were notified of this occurrence in the middle of the night and we went at once to the site and found the destruction of the building and stock complete. Our furniture was reduced to matchwood and was perfectly worthless and we were reduced to a state of bankruptcy. We, however, did not shrink in meeting the emergency. We told no one the severity of our misfortune but kept a stiff upper lip and immediately
took steps to retrieve our fortunes. We rented No. 85 Sycamore St. opposite the National Theatre. It was a
much better house than we had. We manufactured in the top floors and kept the two lower floors for sale
rooms. We removed all the goods from the Walnut St. store into the new house. We bought fresh goods
such as we did not make ourselves. Our credit was still good as we had always paid as we agreed to do.
There was but one party from whom we had purchased before the misfortune came to us raised any
objection to giving us credit...All the others had sympathy for us and extended to us all the credit we
needed, in fact they pressed us to buy more than we wished to. The new store was rented from Taft and
Mallon, I don’t know whether it was owned by them or whether they merely acted as agents for the
owner. Our President is the son of the above. We kept this store at No. 85 Sycamore for several years, our
business increasing year after year until our quarters became too cramped for our extended business.

We commenced a suit against the Cincinnati Commercial paper and also the contractors for the
building, for damages in destroying our stock of goods. We suffered great worry and expense. Sometimes
we got a verdict and then the other side would appeal on one ground or another and they would be
granted new trial. Perhaps we would lose on some technicality and it would all have to be gone over
again. It cost us in the end more than the original loss and I think fifteen or twenty years of litigation. The
builder, John Noble, died leaving no estate, and the Commercial paper having plenty of means to
continue the suits, we dropped the whole matter. It would have been much better had we suffered the loss
without trying to recover any damages. Our experience in this I think has prevented us from going into
other lawsuits when we had justice on our side, but preferred to settle as best we could rather than run the
risk of the law’s delay.

It was about the year 1851 father had an opportunity of renting a factory with machinery on the
Canal between 14th and 15th streets from an Irishman named Fitzgerald. Our quarters had become so
 cramped that the business suffered and kept us from prospering as we should have done. As soon as we
acquired possession of the factory we immediately went to work to adapt it to our use. Factories in those
days were no more than bare brick walls and floors, they had none of the facilities as they have today.
There was little or no provision made for heating further than a stove here and there, and in cold weather
the workmen suffered, especially the men working on the machines and the turners. The feet suffered the
most, it was usual to wear shoes made from buffalo skins with the hair inside, but even then the feet could
not be kept warm. Men would not work now under such conditions. I myself worked in the basement
without any heat, and most of the time with open doors to bring in the lumber often covered with snow
and ice. The harder you worked the warmer you kept and I used to work hard and you may be sure most
of the men for the same reason did the same. I, at once left the position I had at that time, having left John
K. Coolidge about a year before and had taken a job with H. B. Mudge. I had left the former place
because we disagreed on the price of turning bedstead posts, he made the price at thirty-five cents the set.
I was able to make over three dollars a day at that price which he thought was too much for a boy less
than twenty years of age. He would not pay the price any longer so I went to the Mudge concern. John K.
Coolidge, after I left, could not get the work done at the price he had agreed to pay me and he tried to get
me to return to him but I was making more than twenty dollars per week at Mudge’s so I refused to
return. I was one of the fastest workmen known at that time and I could do double the work of other men.
I was no doubt a great help to father as also was brother Edward, we both took a great interest in the
business and did everything possible to help it along. We often remained at the factory until 12 o’clock at
night to pack goods for shipment after we had worked all day. Edward at the books and I in the factory
we soon had trade all over the country and made considerable money.

I had forgotten to mention that while we lived in Newport the soldiers returned from the Mexican
War. They were in a terrible condition, ragged and dirty, quite different from the men I saw come by the
Miami Canal from Michigan and land at Camp Washington. They went into camp on their return in open
ground at the back of our house in Newport. They had suffered from want of food and had not yet
recovered. Mother used to get up early in the morning and make biscuits and coffee for them. For
mother’s kindness to them they were very grateful and they were there several weeks before being
mustered out of service. Public opinion was much divided on the merits and honesty of this war. It was at
best a war to acquire territory by a strong country from a weak one. There is no doubt but what the United
States made a much quicker and better use of the land than Mexico could have done. We lived in Newport
two years and then father having bought the stock of furniture on Madison Street, Covington of Mr.
Ackerman, we moved there, living over the store rooms. It did fairly well, about keeping the family.
Mother attended the selling assisted by a young man whose name I have forgotten. We kept this store for
I think about three years, until father bought out the factory from Mr. Fitzgerald, before spoken of.

As soon as we began manufacturing we began to get wholesale trade. We made the best of work and
our business rapidly increased and in a few years this factory also became too small, and we had to add
one story to it and made other improvements. We put in the latest machinery, more than doubling the
output of goods. We had trade as far south as Texas and also in most of the states bordering on the
Mississippi River, up the White and Arkansas Rivers, in fact we reached everywhere. Our business was
flourishing and we were ready to branch out once more.

We bought a large lot on Second Street below Smith Street, belonging to a man named Sam Walker.
I think the piece of ground was one hundred by two hundred and fifty feet, for which we were to pay
fifteen thousand dollars. We paid, I think, two thousand five hundred dollars down and gave notes for the
balance. We were the last to buy a part of the tract which was a full block, and when the earlier purchases
were measured it left our lot less than we had bought. We declined to accept it and demanded our money
and notes back. It took about two years before we succeeded in a getting a settlement, it also cost us
lawyer’s fees. We had also bought all the joist for the building which we had to dispose of at a loss.

While we were waiting to find another suitable building lot we found the Mechanical Bakery corner
of Elm and Canal was for sale, it had been a financial failure as a bakery. David Gibson had advanced
flour to the company and it was sold by auction to the highest bidder to pay him. He bought it for I think
fourteen thousand dollars. He sold to us including all the machinery for twelve thousand, it was no doubt
a great bargain had we not brought a law suit along with the building. The ground was a leasehold with
the privilege of purchase at a valuation. This is the property we now occupy. It was well adapted for
factory purposes. We sold all the machinery used by the bakery except the engine and shafting, which
were the very best of the kind. It took several months to make the necessary changes to adapt the building
to our purposes. When it was ready we had one of the most substantial and complete factories in the city
or I think in the United States. Our business expanded rapidly. It was in 1858 we bought this property and
it was not until 1860 that any adverse conditions occurred.

As soon as the election returns in October showed the election of Lincoln, trouble began which
culminated in the firing on Fort Sumter. The whole country north and south went mad, states seceded one
after another until practically all the south was in rebellion. Business was a thing of the past in the North
and in the South it was confined to getting ready for the coming conflict which we in the North did not
realize to be possible. However, when the President called for the first quota of troops, people became
frightened as to what would be the end of it all. There is little doubt if the politicians of the South would
have allowed the people to vote there would have been a large majority opposed to secession, but as is
always the case a few aggressive ones carried everything before them, and before the common people
were aware they were committed to secessions and rebellion. Our business, as is always the case with the
furniture trade, collapsed at once as it is always the first to feel a reverse in trade and the last to recover
from it. We were obliged to suspend operations and did not resume again for over six months. The grass
actually grew on the streets. We had gone for several weeks and sold nothing and it was just as hard to
collect what was owing to us. The Legislature passed a law preventing the collection of debts by law for
twelve months. We lost all that was owing to us in the South, except one man in Mississippi by the name
of Lichtenstein who as soon as the war was over and he could come North paid us in full and offered even
the interest which we would not accept. This was, I think, the only case where a southern debt was paid to
us. Considering the exhausted condition of the whole southern country as well as the people we could not
have expected anything else. I think the most of them would have paid their debts if they could have done
so and provided their wives and children with clothes and food. For sometime after the war started we
were in great distress ourselves. We have gone home on pay day with less than any of the workmen. The
worst trouble we had was to pay off the men we owed money, when times were good they would draw but a portion of their weekly wages, leaving the rest of it to accumulate and draw interest, and when the times because of the war became so bad we could not no matter how hard we tried raise enough to pay them. I remember father, Edward and I after we had divided what we had between the men, we would only have a couple of dollars between the three of us. I remember just after I was married and we were keeping house on Dayton Street things had about reached their worst, and although we had a large stock of goods and material on hand worth thousands of dollars and practically free of debt except the small amounts we were indebted to the workmen, my wife’s father dropped in to lunch, we had already dined and had no bread left, I was going to the store and should have brought money back with me but at that particular time neither I or my wife had enough to buy a loaf of bread. I did not know what to do, we had only just moved into the neighborhood and were not acquainted with any of the grocers. I could not tell my wife’s father the condition we were in so I went to the grocer expecting to have to explain matters to him, but I was both pleased and surprised to have him speak my name and state he had heard I had moved into the next street and solicited our trade. I picked up the bread and told him I would stop in pay for it when I passed next day. He was as pleased to see me take it as I was to get the bread. This showed us the weakness of owing money to employees.

We determined never to allow the possibility of such a state of affairs again and to this day it never has. For nearly fifty years we have never owed any man in our employ a cent on the evening of our regular pay day. It was fully six months after the war began before we could find any way to utilize our factory. We had been able to dispose of some of our stock which had made us quite independent and comfortable.

About this time Miles Greenwood took a contract from the U.S. Government to supply them with a large number of Black Walnut gun stocks. By good fortune just after the trouble began and when things were almost at the worst, Mr. John Green, of whom we had bought large quantities of lumber ever since we had been manufacturing, brought down two canal boat loads of 2” black walnut such as the gun stocks were made from. We contracted with the Greenwood people to sell them the lumber which we had bought for fifteen dollars the thousand feet at thirty-five dollars and cut them into gun stocks for six cents each, all the lumber that would not make a gun stock to be ours. This deal looked and was a very profitable one as it enabled us to begin work in the factory, and gave us quite a large lot of ready money we badly needed. A few weeks after this a party came from the gun works at Springfield, Mass. and offered us seventy-five dollars the thousand feet for all the 2” walnut we could furnish. At first sight it looked as if we had made a great mistake in selling at the first offer but I think it was lucky we did, as it obliged us to start the factory to cut out the gun stocks, and when once we had the factory running we received orders for hard tack boxes. We had to take them very low at first, but as the demand increased we were enabled to advance the prices until finally we were able to make a fair profit in making them. The furniture trade became better and as the stock in certain lines became low we gradually put the men back to their regular work and discontinued making the army biscuit boxes. When business began to improve it went ahead very fast until in a short time we could not make our goods fast enough. Prices advanced very rapidly with the increased demand our customers advanced our prices themselves. It became so good at last we could not supply our customers. Father would not sell goods to others while our regular customers had unfilled orders with us. I remember an instance, we were shipping a lot of Dressers, they were on the sidewalk ready for the boat, when a dealer from the south wanted to buy them. Father told him they were all engaged, he asked what we were getting for them and was told twenty-five dollars each, he immediately offered us ten dollars advance but father would not take it as they were promised to others. The customer said we were fools, and I rather thought so myself, but father was that kind of a man. This example goes to prove that prices are made by demand and supply.

I have forgotten to mention that our store at #85 Sycamore Street having become too cramped for our increased business, we moved about 1856 to #26 Sycamore St. This building was very much larger, being twenty-five feet front and two hundred feet deep. It was very convenient to the river for shipping as there was as yet no railroads of much value running south. We often had this house packed to its fullest
capacity with the goods we manufactured after there had been low water. As soon as the river would rise, being so close to the shipping, we could get our goods down to the boats before others that were at a greater distance. We found this a great advantage, as we got possession of more southern territory, our business increased in proportion until at the close of the war we found our factory much too small for the business we would command. We had expected to have built an addition to the factory on the vacant part of the ground but would not do so until we had bought the ground upon which the factory stood. When we applied to the owner of the ground, he made the preposterous claim that the buildings that were on the ground at the time it was sold should be appraised with the ground, although, here was no improvement on the property when it was leased to the Mechanical Bakery Co. who were the original lessees. Of course, we objected to such an interpretation of the lease and commenced a suit for the immediate compliance with its provisions. Of course, like most suits at law when it is commenced there is no telling when or how it will be settled. This one was a long time before we could get it to trial. We were in a hurry, the other party was not. We waited until our patience was exhausted. As our trade was demanding more goods than we could manufacture we purchased a lot on the Canal east of Elm Street and immediately put up a six story factory for the purpose of making a larger quantity of chairs which part of our business had greatly increased. This is the property now owned by the L. A. Strobil & Co. and which we sold to them after the first financial and business depression. The whole country suffered after the conclusion of the war, owing to the depreciation of the paper money and the inflated value of all articles manufactured or grown. Suddenly everything both personal property and real estate began falling in price and many landlords reduced rent to tenants. The bottom seemed to have dropped out of everything. When prosperity was so great we had taken two stores on Walnut Street below Fourth Street on a lease of six years at a rate of six thousand dollars a year. We were to take out the dividing walls, making the two into one, put in plumbing, painting inside and out and putting in a new front costing several thousand dollars. This proved to be the worst investment we ever made, we had hardly moved into the new premises when things began to get bad....We always carried in stock a large quantity of lumber but it was, we thought, better to sell the property than reduce our stock of lumber as properly seasoned lumber was what had made our reputation for good work. We always carried from seventy-five to one hundred thousand dollars worth of lumber...

Soon after this father retired from the business...We concluded to dispose of the chair factory, discontinue the manufacturing of furniture and confine the business to chairs alone. We succeeded in disposing of the chair factory to L. A. Strobel...Father died on Feb. 20th, 1881. Mother died Oct. 16th, 1883. Had she not been so worn down and exhausted with waiting night and day on father I am sure she would have lived a number of years longer...She died at my house on E. McMillan St. No. 1429...

...In May 18787 the north end of the factory was entirely destroyed by fire...in the south end there was practically no damage to the building...Father declined to assist in rebuilding the factory...We had been renting a building next door for a number of years as a store house, it had formerly been an ice house, it was owned by James Beatty...We built it the full size of the combined lots, making a five story building and a good light basement. The frontage on Elm Street and Canal is one hundred and twenty-five feet. It made a very handsome factory and greatly increased our capacity for manufacturing. We were able to do a much larger business that we had done since Edward and I had controlled the business, and trade having improved we were able to make a lot of money. We made some years as much as twenty thousand dollars. Our business was greatly helped by an Association formed by most of the chair makers in the middle west, profits were very small and competition great. And lumber began to advance which it has

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7 History of the Cincinnati Fire Department, 1895. At 12:24 o clock in the early morning of May 8, an alarm from box 69 announced the fire in the G. Henshaw & Sonss furniture factory, a four story brick structure at the corner Elm and Canal streets. It was a fierce and hot fire, the buildings across the canal being scorched by the intensity of the heat. The factory was completely destroyed, the loss amounting to $71,379.35 on which there was $54,102.99 insurance. During the fire a sudden wind and rain storm came up and whirled the flames in fantastic shapes, while the glistening drops of rain reflected the light through the sky a million fold. The storm lasted but a short time, but produced a grand spectacle for the time. While it drenched the spectators, the rain had little effect on the burning building, in which the fire contained until there was nothing left to burn.
continued to do up to the present time. We had at this time one of the largest and best chair factories in
the country and could turn out chairs on as short notice as any other concern in the United States.8 About
this time we were able to secure a contract from B. J. Montgomery of New Orleans for twelve thousand
chairs, as we were the only bidders that would bind themselves to deliver them in two months, at which
time there was to be had a political convention. It would be a great undertaking even for the immense
factories that are operating today. We had to fill this contract besides taking care of our regular trade.
These chairs were to be made of ash, which made it more difficult as ash was not being used at that time
in making chairs. We had some trouble to secure enough dry ash suitable for the purpose, but we were in
spite of drawbacks able to make delivery. Up to this time this order was the largest ever filled in this
country and was the talk of the trade everywhere.9

There was little change in business conditions up to 1893 when the most severe panic struck the
country ever experienced by the generation. It went all over the country from east to west; it was as bad
on the Pacific coast as in the east and continued until half the people were bankrupted. Had we not had
several good years previously it would have gone very hard with us...In 1889 we had partially
discontinued manufacturing and had changed the factory to fit it for retailing...During the years of the
panic many factories found it impossible to prevent failure and were forced into liquidation. At any rate
we averted anything of that kind...Fortunately our trade began to revive in 1898...

Our dear brother, Edward, died July 17th, 1902 at the house of his daughter Alice in West Croydon
near London, England...on November 30th, 1902 our brother, Henry, died quite unexpectedly...Brother
Henry had been with us during all of our business career, having been in the position of foreman over the
chair makers and machinery department. He was an expert machine worker, and he invented and
improved many of our machines and in many ways contributed to our success...Our sister, Anne, Mrs. G.
W. Harris, died at Holly Hill, Florida Sept. 29th, 1907, leaving at this date, March 1st, 1908, but three of
our family of eight. They are George, Sarah, and William.”

George Henshaw March 2nd, 1911

George Henshaw was very civic minded. In 190110 he was a member of the Cincinnati Board of
Police Commissioners. A brief biography about him says: “...He was appointed to the Police Board by
Governor McKinley, and gave such satisfaction as a public official that he is convinced that he was
reappointed a short time ago by Governor Bushnell. Mr. Henshaw is kind-hearted, and stands by an
officer when he is convinced that the latter has done his duty. He is fair-minded to a degree, however, and
insists that all members of the local force treat people courteously at all times. Mr. Henshaw takes an
active interest in matters pertaining to the department, and is responsible for many valuable innovations in
the service...Some of the new stations and patrol houses of Cincinnati were built under the personal
supervision of Mr. Henshaw.”

George Henshaw, Sr. and his wife Ann (Oldenberg) bought the property at 5831 Glenview Avenue
in 1866 for $3,500 from Norris Knight. Their son, Edward Henshaw, had a builder make him a lovely
house from a former barn on their property. It was large enough for his family of 10 children. Since he
was a furniture manufacturer, only one cupboard was built and chests and wardrobes provided the much
needed storage.11 A story about the property is that it was part of the Underground Railroad, connected by
a tunnel to The Oaks. This house was sold in 1920 to Ethel Stuart Snell and the property was separated
from the empty adjoining lot. The house is named “Glenwood.”

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8 Industries of Cincinnati, 1888. ...walnut and cherry used 1,250,000 feet. Has New York branch, sales in Mexico, Cuba and
throughout the Midwest

9 Leading Manufacturers and Merchants, City of Cincinnati, G. Henshaw & Sons is mentioned...as one of the foremost establishments
of its kind in the U. S. Their capacity was 12,000 dozen chairs a year.

10 Police and Municipal Guide, Cincinnati, 1901

11 Community Resources for Enriching the 5th Grade Social Studies Program in the College Hill Schools, Marion Dinkelaker, thesis,
1952.
The land on which the house at 5835 Glenview Avenue stands was originally part of the 5831 Glenview Avenue property. The house was built in 1921.

Richard Henshaw, brother to Edward Henshaw who married Ellen Johnson, designed for them their house on Belmont Avenue.

Dorothy Henshaw gave an oral interview in 1992 to this Society. She related that during the Depression, the Mitchell Furniture Company proposed a Mitchell-Henshaw merger as both companies were having problems with their sale volumes. The Henshaws declined because the Mitchell company was deeply in debt and the Henshaws believed in carrying no debt load.

The G. Henshaw & Sons Furniture Company stayed in business until the 1940’s. Edward Henshaw, George’s nephew, was Mayor of College Hill. Edward married Ellen Johnson whose sister, Mary, married Rev. John Stanton Ely and her other sister, Lucy, married Lewis Crosley. Edward married Mary Knight, who came from England with her family on the sailing ship, American Eagle. Mary’s sister, Elizabeth, married Robert E. LeBlond, who was a printer. LeBlond began to manufacture tools and in 1890 began to produce drill presses and later, lathes. This was the beginning of LeBlond Tools, known throughout the world for the quality of its tools and machinery. The Knights first lived on Elm St. near the Hollenshades. Another Knight daughter, Carrie, married William Dunbar. Their only child, William, married Georgia Bowman. Mary Knight’s brother, William, married Agnes MacLean. Their son, Richard, married Ann Aiken.

Edward and Mary Knight Henshaw were the parents of Edward Henshaw who married Ellen Johnson. They had one child, Lewis Henshaw, who married Dorothy Cummings. The Henshaw family had a tradition of naming the first son Edward and the second son George. Edward established and was the early president of the College Hill Building Association which first met in Flamm’s grocery. After Town Hall was built, the Association moved there. Edgar Cummings, Dorothy’s father, served as president also. Edward, Edgar and a few other College Hill residents also founded the Clovernook Country Club.

Dorothy Cummings Henshaw had a remarkable memory. The Cummings family attended College Hill Presbyterian Church along with Thomson, Pounsford, McCrea, Myers, Aiken, Greeno, Bagley, Wild, Cary and Wilder families. William Altamer was not only the principle of the College Hill school but also the head of the Sunday School. Rev. Charles Austen and Rev. Dale LeCount were ministers there.

When Dorothy married, she started attending her husband’s church, Grace Episcopal. Rev. Clickner was minister then, followed by Rev. Arthur Lichenberger, Rev. Brent Woodruff, Rev. David Thornberry and Rev. LeRoy Hall, from New Kensington, Pennsylvania. Other families attending Grace Church were the Bowman, Simpson, LaBoiteaux, Dunbar, Shoenwald, Chace and Emerson.

Dorothy will always be remembered for her graciousness and knowledge of antiques. Her parents were Edgar Cummings and Florence Phares. Florence’s father, John, lived in Finneytown and was a close friend of Henry Bowman. The land at the corner of North Bend and Winton Road has been in the Cummings family since 1820. That corner had a high hill that was leveled when the gas station was built. Edgar Cummings was the president of the Northside Bank, and owned Pierson’s Lumber Company for a time.

Dorothy was born on North Bend Road in a house her father built and is no longer standing. She was delivered by the homeopathic physician, Dr. Kilgore, who delivered most of the babies born on the Hill. About 1908 her father built a house at the corner of Larch and Davey Avenues. The Bauhmann’s lived next door on the Larch side of the corner and Newbold Pierson built a house next to them on the Davey Avenue side. The Bauhmann house had a large lot extending from Larch Street over to Llanfair. The Bauhmann’s had a family of five children, plenty to keep Dorothy in playmates. They were Richard, Ethel, Marguerite, and the twins Laura Belle and Emma Lea. West of the Bauhmann’s was the Burns-Ormsby property and next to them, the Simpsons. Paul Briol, his wife and daughter, lived at first in the Simpson house. This block was purchased by the Presbyterian Church and torn down in 1962 for the Llanfair Retirement complex.

Dorothy and Lewis’s first house was on Belmont Avenue but they returned to the Larch Street home
after the death of her parents. Dorothy’s friends included James Bowman, who lived out west and had a fruit orchard before moving to Larch Street, Mary and Frank Bowman who built a brick house on Belmont Avenue opposite Larch Street, the Flannigan’s who lived on Belmont Avenue next to Lucy and Louis Crosley, the Benedict’s who lived in a large white house on the south side of Belmont next to the Witherby house, and the McCrea’s who had a mansion on the north side of Belmont Avenue. Adaline Betts who married Charles McCrea had been a student at the Ohio Female College.

Dorothy remembered shopping at Pies Grocery, a wooden building still standing on Hamilton Avenue opposite Larch Street. Her family also shopped at Flamm’s grocery, later Fred Bolam’s, at Llanfair and Belmont Avenues. They purchased meat at John Ambon’s butcher shop, on Hamilton and Belmont Avenues opposite Grace Episcopal Church. As a girl, Dorothy’s close friends included Caroline Williams and her sister, Katherine, who married Dwight Maddux. She also played with Gene Ward who lived on Cedar Avenue across from the College Hill school. Gene later married William Taylor from England.

Dorothy was an accomplished painter, poet and writer, leaving us with two books of her College Hill memories. She lived a long life and this poem she wrote contains her essence:

Let these be the Beads of my Rosary;
The Peace of my Home, where I Love to be;
Happiness in my Dear One’s eyes,
Light and Distance in Seas and Skies;
And genuineness in Freely Giving;
Tenderness for all things Living;
The Love of an Understanding Heart;
Serenity at Life’s depart.

Lewis Henshaw’s uncle was Col. Albert Melville Henshaw who was commandant of the Ohio Military Institute for many years. A 1897 graduate of the O. M. I., he returned to the Military Institute as a history and civics instructor in 1905 after traveling, working and attending the University of Cincinnati. The O. M. I. had an average of 85 students. Albert married Nancy Ely, the daughter of Rev. John Hugh Ely of the Grace Episcopal Church. Rev. Ely became rector in 1878. Ely’s children were Mary, John Hamilton and Nancy. Rev. Ely’s sister ran a girl’s school in Clifton. Nancy Ely Henshaw was a graduate of Radcliffe, wrote poetry and was well known for her kennel of Scottie dogs. After the death of her husband, she built a double house on Blue Spruce and lived next to her sister-in-law, Alice Barrows Henshaw, widow of Stanley Henshaw who was an attorney for the Union Central Life Insurance Company.

The Henshaw House on Glenview Avenue
In the early 1900’s street cars operated by the Cincinnati Street Railway had a motorman in front of the car and a conductor in the rear. The motorman operated the car by turning a lever-handle. In bad weather sand from a sand box was sprinkled on tracks to keep the car from skidding. The conductor was on an open back platform to receive fares and issue free transfers. He would come back inside when the car was moving or the weather inclement.

The motormen wore black suits, blue shirts, a money changer and stiff black visor hats.

Northbound on Hamilton Avenue from Rockford Avenue, the early tracks were on the west side. Southbound tracks were on the east side of the hill. Sometimes the power would go off in the overhead trolley wires or trolleys would jump off the wires. If there was low power, the northbound car would have to wait until the southbound car was down the hill to get enough power. Later the street was repaved and the tracks were in the middle.

The Clifton Ludlow came from downtown through Clifton and Knowlton’s Corner to Springlawn Avenue, and then it would turn around and go back. They were always far enough behind the College Hill bus that the signal at Springlawn would not alert the College Hill bus to wait for transferring passengers. Especially at night the wait was twenty to thirty minutes minimum or more for the next College Hill bus. The grocery and candy store were highly used in cold weather.

College Hill high school students of the 1950’s went to Hughes High by street car, and paid their own transportation of a quarter a week. If you wanted to go to downtown from Hughes on the Clifton Ludlow, you could get a free transfer and come back from town on the College Hill bus.

Knowlton’s Corner was a main transfer point and the stores there did a thriving business.

Early street cars came north on Hamilton Avenue to North Bend Road, west on North Bend Road to the car barn on North Bend Road and Hamilton Avenue, where the bus would layover, then continue on North Bend Road to Belmont Avenue and south on Belmont Avenue to Hamilton Avenue. Later the car barn was removed and the layover was at Betty’s Sweet Shop in the morning (on Hamilton Avenue below Llanfair), and in front of the O.M.I. on Belmont Avenue in the afternoon.

Trolley buses replaced street cars. The trolleys had rubber inflated tires and could pull over to the curb. The old tracks were tared over. This covering would wear off in spots and become a hazard in bad weather. In the days of the street cars the sanding of the tracks was an asset to automobile transportation. The streets were not sanded or plowed by the City in those days. Chains were a must on automobiles during that time.

During W.W. II and thereafter the Ohio Bus Lines were widely used by people of College Hill. They were privately owned and operated out of Hamilton, Ohio on a franchise. The buses came down Hamilton Avenue through Mt. Healthy and North College Hill. They were express as far as pickups from Hamilton Avenue and Belmont Avenue south bound to downtown but would let customers off at any corner. Northbound from downtown they could pick up at any corner but not let passengers off until Belmont and Hamilton Avenues.

Belmont and Hamilton Avenues to downtown took twenty minutes and cost a quarter a trip. (They loaded at Fifth and Walnut at the Greyhound Bus Station.). Their drivers were regulars and would look down the streets and wait for their usual customers. In later years they were purchased by the Cincinnati Street Railway and the service was lost.

Mr. Chilton Thomson added a bit to the transit history. His brother, Alexander Thomson, Jr., told him that when Hamilton Avenue was bad from winter weather, the repair cars of the Cincinnati Street Railway Company would drag automobiles up Hamilton Avenue hill from the end of the Ludlow Avenue

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12 By Virginia M. Geyler (1988)
car line, for twenty-five cents. He also wrote¹³: “The ‘white frame house’ on Hamilton Avenue below Belmont was, indeed, the toll house. My father, Alexander, and Uncle Logan both mentioned it more than once, commenting on how their earliest car, a White steamer, doughed and sometimes stalled when they reached that point. Of course, there were no toll charges then - in the ‘naughty noughts.’”

First Trolley Car in College Hill, on Belmont Avenue in front of the Knight house
Courtesy of Chilton Thomson

¹³ Mr. Chilton Thomson, private correspondence, 1 May 1994.
Ahrens is a well known name associated with fire engine construction. While the founder, Christopher Ahrens, lived in Corryville, members of his family lived at the house on the corner of Cary and Elkton Avenues and on Meis and Harbison Avenues. Christopher Ahrens’ children were John V. Ahrens, Mrs. Charles Fox, Mrs. George W. Krapp, Mrs. Florence Meyer and Miss Christine Ahrens. Ahrens’ granddaughter, Betty Meyer, was a lifelong teacher at Clifton Elementary School.

Aiken Three busts are in the foyer of Music Hall, usually unrecognized and unread. One is of Reuben R. Springer, a dry goods merchant and philanthropist who donated the funds to start construction of Music Hall, one is of the New York Philharmonic orchestra conductor Theodore Thomas who conducted the first May Festival, and one is of Charles Aiken who was once the Superintendent of Music in the Cincinnati Public Schools.

Born in 1818 in New Hampshire, Charles Aiken traveled in Kentucky and Pennsylvania as a bard after his graduation from Dartmouth College in 1838. He came to Cincinnati for the first time in 1839 but moved to St. Louis where he was a choral director and music teacher. Professor Aiken returned to Cincinnati in 1842 to be the successor of William Colburn, the first music teacher in the public schools.

Aiken’s first assignment in the schools was teaching music, only a part time job. To augment his salary he also taught Greek and Latin to seminary students. After several months, his music position with the public schools became full time. His choral musical work had procured much acclaim and respect and he was appointed Superintendent of Music (1867-1879). He also became partly responsible for the May Festival. He raised $3,000 from the public school students to complete the construction of Music Hall. He wrote music books and musical scores throughout his life. He died in 1882 and was buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

Charles was married to Martha Stanley Merrill (1832-1895). They had six children: Walter Harris who married Lucy Bakewell Avery; Louis Ellsworth married Nancy Irwin; Alice Cordelia who married Charles H. Avery; Carrie Dewing who married Thomas Bagley; Susan Merrill, wife of Henry Pounsford, and Herbert Pinkerton who married Laura Emerson (1947). Lucy and Charles Avery were brother and sister.

Walter Harris Aiken (1858-1935) held the position as Director of Music some years later. He started his career in 1867 as organist in the first pig eye school in College Hill and was active in teaching music until his death in 1952. He married Lucy Avery (1862-1936), daughter of Dr. Charles Avery, and they had three children; Gwendolyn Bakewell Aiken (married Powel Crosley, Jr.), Walter Avery Aiken(1891-1952, married Opal Winter) and Victor Audubon Aiken (1897-1962, married Norma Quitter). Walter built a home on the corner of Hamilton Avenue and Aster Place that is still there today.

Louis E. Aiken (1861-1949, married Nancy Irwin), graduated from Farmers’ College in 1879, taught music at Hughes High School and supervised the music for College Hill Presbyterian Church. His home in Mt. Healthy was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Sadly, this house on Hamilton Avenue was demolished to make way for the recent Cross County Highway expansion.

Herbert P. Aiken was a graduate of Farmers’ College, and a violinist who also taught in the public school system. He left teaching and joined the Dodd, Werner & Co., and later the R. F. Johnston Paint Company as treasurer. Herbert married Laura Emerson and they owned “Old Acres,” a farm near Fernald in New Baltimore.

Aiken High School opened September 4, 1962 and was named in honor of Charles, Walter and Louis.

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14 From information supplied by Jack O’Neil
Paul Briol\textsuperscript{15} was born in Spencer, Massachusetts in 1889. In 1909 he moved to Cincinnati along with his family. His parents, from Alsace-Lorraine, his sister and Paul lived in the Glenwood Apartments. Paul worked as a photographer and journalist with the \textit{Cincinnati Enquirer} until he opened his own studio in 1932. While attending Grace Episcopal Church he met and later married Mary Elizabeth Emerson in 1920, daughter of Mary Adelphia Simpson and Dudley Emerson, who was the head of the Ohio Military Institute at that time. Mary Emerson’s sister, Ruth, married Howard Hannaford, and they were missionaries in Japan. She had two brothers, one of which, Earl Emerson, was the head of ARMCO Steel Corporation.

Mary Emerson was born in 1884, went to Miss Ely’s Preparatory School, and was a graduate of Wellesley College. She taught mathematics before her marriage at her former school, Miss Ely’s, in Clifton. Miss Ely was the sister of Rev. John Hugh Ely, minister of Grace Episcopal Church. Mary’s health was fragile and for several months she lived at a tuberculosis sanitarium in Minnesota. A free spirit, Paul was living in a tent behind the O. M. I. when he met Mary.

The Briol’s lived at 1812 Larch Street, next to her family and grandmother in the Simpson house at the corner of Larch and Belmont Avenues. Paul and Mary had one child, Joan (Jan) Biol born in 1923. During the Depression, Mary operated a nursery from the front room of their house. Biol worked as a professional photographer until a car accident in 1950 which forced him into semi-retirement. The Briols moved to Katonah, New York in 1962 to be near their daughter. Paul died in 1969, Mary in 1968. Both are buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

Briol’s photographic reputation was founded by his use of the 8X10 camera and his darkroom skills. He photographed all that was interesting in Cincinnati and dramatic clouds were his trademark. He was most famous for his photographs of the Tyler-Davidson Fountain, downtown spires and Ohio River scenes.

His Honor, \textbf{John Eldridge Bruce}\textsuperscript{16}, graduated at Western Reserve College, Hudson, Ohio 1876, and came to Cincinnati in 1878. “He became a resident of College Hill in 1885, and was a member of Council before being elected Mayor, which position he has held for the past eight years. He was one of the Associated Press agents from 1879 to 1883, and from 1880 to 1888 conducted a College News Department in the \textit{Commercial Gazette}. He was admitted to the practice of law in 1879, and he was first assistant U. S. Attorney for Southwestern Ohio from 1886 to 1889, at which latter date he formed partnership with Hon. H. Bromwell, the present member of Congress from the second Ohio District, with whom he is still associated. He was first assistant U. S. Attorney again from 1891 to 1898 under the second Cleveland Administration. He is a prominent member of the Masonic Order, being past master of N. C. Harmony Lodge No. 2. He is a member of the Episcopal church... Mr. Bruce was married Dec. 12th, 1883, to Miss Alice A. Knowlton, whose father, Cyrus Knowlton, was formerly principal of Hughes High School. They have two children...who were Edward Knowlton Bruce - married Katherine Pierson, and Carolyn Alice Bruce who married Hubert Frohman, architect of the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C. After Carolyn’s death, Frohman married Mary Ann Evans, daughter of Walter and Naomi Evans. At the time of this marriage Mr. Evans was the president of McAlpin’s department store. The Bruce’s lived on Groesbeck Road, next to the Chatfield home.”

Mr. Bruce was also the vice-president of the Western and Southern Life Insurance Company and another College Hill resident, Frank Caldwell, was the president. He served on many boards - a few being, director of J. A. Fay & Egan Company, vice president of Cincinnati Tool Company, secretary and treasurer of the Withrow Manufacturing Company, president of the Bartholomew-Ely School Company. Bruce had a keen interest in providing children playgrounds and amateur baseball and he was a member of the Board

\textsuperscript{15} Queen City Heritage, Vol. 47, Number 3, Fall 1989

\textsuperscript{16} Chic, March 17, 1900
of Park Commissioners for many years. His interest in baseball led him to be the director of the St. Louis American Baseball Company and secretary and treasurer of the National Commission which oversees baseball. Bruce was the last mayor of College Hill, serving continuously from 1892. He was born in Cleveland, Oct. 1, 1856, a son of Eli and Caroline Eldridge Bruce. He established a law practice with his son who also was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives.

For many years, Bruce was in a law partnership with Congressman Jacob H. Bromwell.

Colonel Thomas C. Campbell was a lawyer that lived between College Hill and Winton Place. The 1884 map of Mill Creek Township shows a road coming up from Winton Place that has been incorporated in the Spring Grove Cemetery property. Originally, Gray Road had the same configuration as now but Linden Avenue extended from Spring Grove Avenue, through the other side of Gray Road hill, intersecting Gray Road south of the curves. William S. Groesbeck owned property here. Linden Avenue extended to Hamilton Avenue, the same as Groesbeck Road today. Linden Avenue was the access to many homes and the College Hill Rail Road ran up that valley, parallel to Linden. The intersection of Linden and Gray is still marked by an iron gate, closing off access onto Spring Grove Cemetery property. Lawyer Campbell lived off of this old Linden Avenues.

Col. Campbell represented William Berner, whose manslaughter conviction in 1884 sparked the riots and burning of the Hamilton County Courthouse. Berner received 20 years in jail instead of the popular sentence, hanging. Amid rumors of jury tampering a mob gathered and broke into the Court House, hoping to seize Berner and hang him. The troops were called into action, the Court House burned, 100 people killed and 300 wounded. Campbell was not a popular person for saving Berner’s life. Campbell was burned in effigy and his house was guarded by a regiment of militia on March 30, 1884, who stayed until the riots subsided. On April 1 the Evening Post printed; “At Tom Campbell’s house a continuous fusillade was kept up all day yesterday by the guards shooting at marks, probably to intimate that rioters would meet a warm reception.”

In the aftermath of the riots, a grand jury was convened to prosecute the former Berner jury and Campbell was charged with bribery and subordination. The selection process for jurors was changed and the political machine that Campbell was a part of was defeated in the November 1884 election, and was replaced with the new order - ‘Boss’ Cox.

Campbell’s house was burned, along with his law library, under suspicious circumstances. He moved to New York.

Mrs. Ruth J. Wells once asked Major Seebohm (born 1880), a noted College Hill resident who was a former Cincinnati policeman, and at that time in his 90’s, what his earliest recollection was. The Major said it was of a neighbor calling to his mother to hitch up the horse and buggy and go to the top of the hill to watch the mob burn the lawyer’s house. This could have been seen from Hillcrest Avenue which overlooked the Linden valley area. The Major also remembered that the carriage house wasn’t burned at that time and years later it was used by bootleggers during the Prohibition. He was there with the police when the gang was arrested.

It was on the strength of the Major’s recollections that Ruth Wells and Jack O’Neil decided in the early 1970’s to look for the Campbell house site, since Spring Grove Cemetery had acquired the property and they knew anything left of the house site would probably be destroyed. They went to the general area and though no charred wood remained, they located two areas that contained the remains of the house, some broken crockery and glass and a stone coping of a well.

Chatfield is a name long associated with paper. Chatfield, and later Chatfield & Woods, was a pioneer in the paper trade west of the Alleghenies. It became the largest paper dealer and manufacturer in the Ohio Valley. Chatfield & Woods was founded in 1832. Their papers spanned from stationary to manila envelopes, lithographer paper, newspaper, books, paper bags, flour bags etc.

For many years William Woods was the president and A. H. Chatfield was vice-president. The Chatfield Manufacturing Company was formed and expanded into paper used in construction - roofing,
felting, roof coatings, plaster board, nails, roofing surfacing and roof caps. The company was located in Carthage. A. H. Chatfield was president, Harry F. Woods, vice president. William H. Chatfield's son, William H. Chatfield, Jr. was educated in the College Hill public school and the O. M. I. He formed the W. H. Chatfield & Morgan Company, stocks and bonds. Edythe Crosley married Albert Chatfield and lived in the old Chatfield home that once stood on Groesbeck Road. They had two children, Susan Chatfield who married William Hargrave and Lida Chatfield who married William Montgomery. See Crosley.

Later owners of the Ephraim Brown house were Robert Stewart Cochnower who married Edith Rankin. The house was surrounded by a pear orchard at that time. Robert was an M. D. but didn’t practice, preferring to be a superintendent at the post office. He supplemented his salary by selling life insurance. Edith’s father owned the Cincinnati Iron Works. The works were established in 1835 on Pearl Street. They manufactured iron building fronts that resembled stone, iron railing, grates, marbleized iron mantels, jails, doors etc. Robert’s father was John Cochnower, the first president of the Union Central Life Insurance Company, Cincinnati’s largest insurance business. It was founded in 1867 and in 1913 moved to its own 34-story skyscraper at Fourth and Vine. At that time it was the tallest skyscraper outside of New York City. It sold policies to everyone, from movie stars like Bette Davis to factory workers. According to his late granddaughter, Mary Edith (Cochnower) Vucinich, John was a wealthy man but died during a business panic, owing debts which consumed much of his estate. Mary Edith had a sister, Constance, who taught at Hughes High school.

There were two Rankin houses at the end of Savannah. Carl Rankin lived in one with his wife, Nell. They later built a house on the north side of Hillcrest Avenue. They had two children, Thomas Rankin and Leslie Rankin who married Edward Meyer. After Nell’s death, Carl married Helen Wild.

Edward Greeno married Juliette Rankin. Greeno was a mattress manufacturer and was responsible for gifts of land and money to the Twin Towers Retirement Community. They lived in the stone Caldwell/Prather house on the end of Windermere Way. Their children were John, who married Louise Squibb, Lucy and Alexander ‘Sandy’ who lived in the house until his death. The house was torn down and the land is now part of Twin Tower’s grounds.

Myers Y. Cooper was a successful Cincinnati businessman who served as Ohio governor in 1929-31. He was real estate speculator and house builder, founded the Hyde Park Lumber Company in 1902, and invested in banking and coal mining. He was also a College Hill developer although he didn’t live in this community.

Elijah Washburn Coy was born at Thorndyke, Maine in 1832, a son of a Baptist minister. At an early age Elijah learned to be a cobbler and with his earnings he went to Brown University, graduating in 1858.

After teaching, experience as a principal, university president and as a lawyer, Coy came to Cincinnati in 1873 to become the principal of Hughes High school. He also was the author of several books, of which his Coy’s Latin Lessons became a widely used beginner Latin text.

The home of Coy and his wife Gena (Harrington) was 5819 Glenview Avenue. It was built in the early 1870’s.

The house was purchased in 1925 by William Crowley, a professor at the University of Cincinnati. Mrs. Crowley raised goats for their milk. The windows on the front porch extended to the porch floor and served as the doors for the goats, which lived on the first floor. Eventually the Crowley’s were declared incompetent by the courts. The house was sold in 1950 to the Kuhn family, who worked for many years to reverse the animal damage to “Goat Manor.” The house sold in 1985 and the present owners have completed restoration to this lovely Victorian home.
John C. Daller, president of The Clemens Oskamp Company, wholesale and retail dealers in diamonds, watches and jewelry, has been identified since 1860 with the house of which he is now the head. Starting as a boy entirely upon his own resources, he has climbed to the top of the ladder, and the record of his life cannot fail to be an encouragement to ambitious young men who are willing to labor and practice economy and self-denial early in their life in order to possess a competency in later years. Mr. Daller was born in Germany, September 26, 1846, and is a son of Clemens and Francisca Daller. The father came to America with his family about 1849, when the subject of this review was in his infancy and located on wild land in Colerain township, Hamilton county, Ohio. He was obliged to clear away the underbrush and heavy growth of trees, but labored industriously and developed this place into one of the productive farms of the county. The village of Creedville is now located on the spot upon which Mr. Daller settled more than sixty years ago. Mr. Daller Sr. died in 1867, at the age of forty-seven years, and the mother was called away in 1885, at the age of fifty-eight. Both are buried in the cemetery at Creedville.

In a primitive log schoolhouse near his country home John C. Daller received his introduction to the rudiments of book learning. His education was very limited, as he left school in his tenth year to provide for his maintenance. He began his contact with the business world by apprenticing himself to the watchmaker’s trade, spending four years at Ripley, Ohio. He then came to Cincinnati and secured a position with the firm with which he has ever since been connected. He worked at the bench continuously for ten years and was the promoted to the position of traveling salesman, a branch of the business which he liked so well that he has never entirely given it up, notwithstanding his responsibilities as president of the company, and he is now the oldest salesman traveling out of Cincinnati. Mr. Oskamp died in 1887 and Mr. Daller, Jr. was the son Alfred and Mr. Daller of this review purchased the mother’s interest but after five or six years Alfred Oskamp retired from business and his mother succeeded him as a partner of Mr. Daller. The business was so conducted until her death, in 1899, when Mr. Daller acquired the entire interest. Three years later he organized the corporation now known as The Clemens Oskamp Company, of which he is president, the other officers of the company being: A. O. Daller, vice president; John C. Daller, Jr., secretary; and Charles D. Baker, treasurer.

On the 22d of May, 1872, Mr. Daller was married at Cincinnati to Miss Amelia Oskamp, the eldest daughter of Clemens Oskamp, and they became the parents of six children, namely: Clemens, who is with the John Douglas Plumbing and Supply Company at Cincinnati; Geneva O., who married William Rickelman, a leather merchant; Gertrude O., who married Dr. George C. Kolb and died in 1903, leaving a young son; John C., Jr., who is secretary and manager of The Clemens Oskamp Company; Adele O., the wife of William F. Ray, secretary of the Crystal Distilling Company; and Adrian O., who is also associated with his father.

Mr. Daller and his wife make their home in a beautiful residence which he erected in 1893 at No. 5651 Belmont avenue, College Hill. Dr. Kolb and his son, a lad of six or seven years, are also members of the family. Essentially a man of business, Mr. Daller of this review has found greater pleasure in developing the important enterprises with which he has been so long connected than in any other pursuit and his energies are, therefore, given to his business. He is a life member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and is today one of the most highly respected citizens of Cincinnati and also one of the most successful jewelers this city has known.”

The Daller house became a dormitory for the O. M. I. and was torn down to build Aiken High

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17 Cincinnati-The Queen City, Cuvier Press Club, 1914.

18 Located in the area where Blue Rock Road crosses Cheviot Road.

19 by the O.M.I.

20 Dr. Kolb had offices in College Hill and Peach Grove.
John R. Davey built the home that was later known as “Oakwood.” The grounds were once part of the experimental farm of Farmers’ College. The dark red brick Italianate style house was built in 1868, and was designed by Samuel Hannaford. Davey was the president of Wilson, Hinkle & Company, and built his new bride, Martha Gibson, this mansion. They had four children. John died in 1907 and is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

The house was described in Kenny’s book, Illustrated Guide to Cincinnati (1875) as:...on the left, at the corner of Laurel Avenue, the fine residence and exquisitely cultivated grounds of John R. Davey, of the firm of Wilson, Hinkle and Company, the great school-book publishers. These grounds are possibly the most beautiful in the country. The grapery is two hundred and fifty feet in length. The greenhouse is filled with rare exotics, including four varieties of banana trees. On the left of the house is a beautiful lake filled with water fowl. More than a mile of gravel walks, with rich flower-beds on the borders, wind through the grounds.

At one time a lake existed in front of Oakwood which extended to today’s Larch Avenue and the gardens in back of the house grew to Llanfair Avenue. About three dozen houses now stand on what was Davey’s seven acres.

The American Book Company was founded by Wintrop B. Smith. Obed J. Wilson (of Clifton and College Hill) was the principal of the 12th district school, a position he resigned from in 1853 due to failing sight. He approached Mr. Smith for a job and did so well that when Smith retired, the firm was renamed as Sargent, Wilson & Hinkle. Sargent retired in 1868 and the firm was then called Wilson, Hinkle & Company. Nearly a decade (1877) later, the firm’s name was changed to Van Antwerp, Bragg & Company. In 1890 the name was again changed - it became the American Book Company. They published McGuffey’s Eclectic Education Series and printed all the text books used in the Cincinnati public school system, as well as many other schools across the country.

Dr. Philip Van Ness Myers was the last owner of the property and it became the residence of several of the unmarried teachers in the College Hill schools (about 1907). Two of the boarders were Miss Gatch and Miss Brown. The house was demolished in 1968. Over the years the land was subdivided and Larch Avenue and adjoining streets were built from this plat. Linden Avenue, where the home stood, is slightly curved because a huge oak tree was paved around when the street was laid. The tree was a landmark and stood until 1985 when it was removed due to a lightening strike. The house was torn down in 1969 to make room for an apartment building.

A descendant, Alice Davey Ante, wrote for us her memories: “Approximately 1908, my Father (Charles Gibson McKinney, grandson of John R. Davey through his daughter, Alice.) inherited the lovely cherry dining-room set from Oakwood. It was used in my family until 1952 when I married and the set came to me...where it is still in use. Dad remembered that the table could be extended to seat 24 at a formal dinner. If that table could talk, it would certainly have plenty to say about the family gatherings, the birthday celebrations, the bridge parties, the home-work sessions, the holiday observances and the scars it still bears from our vigorous ping-pong games. The marble-topped dresser has beautiful hand carved doors below and three beveled mirrors above. The two host chairs and the side chairs have the same carving on the backs. According to Dad, in great grand Dad’s time, silver and cut glass vases stood on either end of the dresser and were filled daily with long-stemmed red roses from the greenhouse. Between these stood a

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21 William Holmes McGuffey (1800-1873) was a Presbyterian minister and professor of ancient languages at Miami University. He was approached in 1833 by the Cincinnati publishing firm of Truman & Smith to write a series of readers for grade school students that, in addition to learning to read and spell, would also promote good manners, a sense of duty and faith. These readers covered a broad range of subjects from zoology, botany, and moral philosophy to history. McGuffey lived at Oxford for the three years it took him to write the four book Eclectic Readers series, for which he was paid one thousand dollars. His brother, Alexander Hamilton McGuffey, a lawyer, wrote an additional reader. Used in schools for decades, the books sold over 122 million copies and are still available today. The McGuffey home located on the Oxford, Ohio, Miami University campus and is used as a museum.
silver water pitcher and matching goblets on a silver tray. Unfortunately, the pitcher and goblets have disappeared, but I use the tray every day.”

Howard Dock was the son of William Dock and Amelia Schwartz, immigrants from Alsace-Lorraine, France. William worked with another Alsacean friend, Michael Werk, the owner of Werk’s Soap Company. Werk was both the first Cincinnati soap manufacturer to gain national brand prominence (Tag soap) and the first candle manufacturer in the city. In 1884 he founded the William Dock & Co. Soap manufacturers. The company eventually merged with Werk soap. William Dock built a home in Clifton in 1913 for his wife, three sons and a daughter. Howard headed Werk’s from 1932-1949. The company was sold in 1951, but not the formula for Tag soap. By 1953 the company went out of business. The “old brown soap” passed into history. Tag soap was used for all types of cleaning; it washed floors and dishes, hair and acne, chased away chiggers and prevented poison ivy rash. The bars contained a metal tag that could be redeemed for various prizes. Howard Dock married Edna Stevens and had two children; Lois and Robert. The Docks built the house at 6081 Bellaire.

Charles Eisen lived in a large house at the corner of Hillcrest and Hamilton Avenues which was razed to build the Hillcrest Apartments. He started working for the John Church Company, which published music, as an office boy. He learned his way up the company and became accomplished at lithography, printing, engraving and writing music. He started to play the violin and was so proficient that he played in the symphony and at the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair.

Answering an ad in the Times-Star that was seeking a partner in the chocolate business: He changed the policy of selling candy in bulk to that of packaging it in white and gold - ‘so ardent young swains could bestow on lady loves.’ All this while he was doing things for College Hill that a civic association now has to do, folks say, getting city fathers to improve streets and sewers, forcing the streetcar company to lengthen routes to College Hill, creating a bowling alley and a theater.22

While playing his violin during an English operetta, he had the inspiration for the name and slogan of his candy company; When Words Fail---Send Dolly Vardens. The name of the operetta was Dolly Varden.

Dr. Jacob Ferris lived in a large frame house at the south-west corner of Cedar and Hamilton Avenues surrounded by cherry, pear, and chestnut trees. The house had a large circular driveway. Dr. Ferris and E. N. Wild owned 13 acres on Hamilton Avenue and around 1900 subdivided it into lots, requiring a cash payment of $25.00 per lot and the balance in monthly payments.

In 1903 the first Mrs. Ferris and the Doctor divorced and Mrs. Ferris built a five room cottage at 1615 Cedar. That same year, Mrs. Ferris left College Hill and George and Katherine Forbes moved from the old Cary home located where the Hodapp Funeral Home is situated, to 1615 Cedar.

In 1907 Katherine Forbes was born there and years later married Edward Schevene. Mrs. Schevene Neuzel lived in this home until December 1979 when the City of Cincinnati purchased the house and slated it for demolition to make way for an expansion of the nearby business district. The cottage was bought before demolition and moved to Linden Ave.

Dr. Ferris’s son, Charlie and his wife Pearl, lived across the street. Charles was also a doctor. Later this would be the office of Dr. Armstrong.

Mr. Vitt lived next store and operated a hauling business with mules. That property was later purchased by Mr. Deters, who built a building for his son, who was a plumber. At the edge of the building, which fronted Hamilton Avenue, Deters had constructed a detached building for the post office. These buildings were built by Willis Forbes & Son. Mr. Deters, in addition to the building for his son, built a three room cottage for his two daughters. He turned the barn into an eight room house for himself.

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22 Cincinnati Times-Star, Wonderful Place to Live, College Hill, Robert Heidler, March 17, 1951
Mrs. Schove Neuzel used to go Dr. Baumeister the dentist, in the RuthEllen building. The dentist would carry her across Hamilton Avenue and buy her a candy bar before sending her home.

**Daniel Flamm** (1820-1888) and his brother, Joseph (1828-1904), were born in Wittenburg, Germany. Daniel built the wooden house at the corner of Cedar and Belmont and a cottage on Cedar near Lathrop which his son occupied. Daniel owned the property between Cedar and Llanfair on which his son built a grocery store. Flamm’s later became Bolam’s grocery. The store was later slightly remodeled to be used as apartments.

**Erasmus Gest** (1820-1908) was born in Cincinnati to the pioneer Quaker family of Joseph and Rebekah Gest. Joseph, who was also a merchant, started a second career as the City of Cincinnati surveyor on a part time basis in 1825. By 1840, this was his full time employment. Erasmus followed his father’s occupation and by 1836 he was working on the Whitewater Canal.

When Joseph’s sight started to fail and he could not find a suitable assistant engineer, Erasmus started to work for his father (1841) and was hired as the chief surveyor for the city. In 1847 he returned to the work he preferred as an engineer for the Little Miami Company and left the city. He also was the president of several railroads. Gest traveled to Paris and Great Britain to study how steel was made abroad.

After he returned, he served in the Civil War and afterwards returned to Cincinnati in 1864. He worked for several railroads and in 1869 he developed the Cincinnati Street Railway Company and the Covington White Line Car Street Railway, which he owned and operated. Later these lines were sold to the Cincinnati Consolidated Street Railway Company.

In 1878 Gest estimated the cost of construction of the College Hill Narrow Gauge Railway, which was planned to run along the berm bank of the Miami and Erie Canal.

Erasmus Gest’s papers, diaries, scrapbooks and letters are in the library of the Ohio Historical Society.

**Stephen Hauser** was the president of the Hauser, Brenner & Fath Company. He was born in 1838 in White Oak. He worked in a brewery at 14, learning to be a cooper. After working for several employers, he was able to buy out one and continued business under his own name. His firm used white oak and cypress to make beer and whiskey barrels, steam and fermenting tubs, casks and various types of cooperage for the beer and whiskey trade. Once they manufactured the largest beer keg in the world for the Buckeye Brewing Company. The Hauers lived in College Hill.

The **Haven** family owned a foundry. They lived at the bend of Cedar Avenue across from William Simpson’s house. The Haven’s had four children: William who married Mary McCrea, Frances who married a Galbraith, George, and Rebecca, who married William Edgeman. Mr. Edgeman purchased the Davey mansion from Dr. Philip Van Ness Myers.

**Paul Huston** came to the Colerain area in 1822, his father first settling the land near by in 1795, “...not long after Mad Anthony Wayne had gone through these parts after the Indians having come from Pennsylvania to the Western frontier with just one hundred and fifty dollars in silver, which he had saved from the wreck of the Continental currency; and his father had been a soldier in the Revolution, and gave his life at the battle of Brandywine...The homestead was a gift to his son, for the old gentleman had managed to leave a large farm to each of the seven children that survived him.”23

**Doris Kappelhoff (Doris Day)** lived in College Hill on Elkton as a child. The family then moved to 23 Around an Old Homestead, Paul G. Huston, 1906
Warsaw Avenue in Price Hill around 1940.

**Timothy Kirby** was born in Middletown, Connecticut in 1797. His father “…ran a schooner in the West India trade.” He walked across the Catskill mountains to Pittsburg and came by raft to Cincinnati when he was 17. He taught school, passed the bar in 1825 and attended Cincinnati College in 1828. He then became a land agent representing the Bank of the United States. In this capacity he purchased tracts of land when the original owner defaulted on the loan. He was a student of geology and once drilled a hole 600 feet deep planning for an artesian well. Instead he accidentally struck natural gas - and capped the well as he didn’t know what to do with the gas. According to the 1911 **Souvenir History of Cumminsville** “…for a short time a column of gas giving a flame forty feet high illuminated the fields round about. He built a fine brick house in 1843 on a knoll overlooking the community he helped to found, Cumminsville.” The property ended in a large pond which today would be at Chase Street and Pitts Avenue. His land was adjacent to Waggoner’s Run. He helped to build St. Philip’s Episcopal Church and the first Kirby Road school was built upon land he donated.

**Edwin Knopf** was a member of the College Hill Council (1901-1907) while College Hill was a village. His father, Julius Knopf came from Baden, Germany and served in the Civil War. Julius died in 1890, leaving his wife, Caroline, and his minor children; Otto, Alma, Walter, William, and Helen. The Knopf family lived for many years in College Hill. When Edwin was elected to Council, a party was given in his honor by Peter G. Thomson at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. The following were guests: Eugene Lewis (auditor), Jacob Bromwell (Congressman), Geo. E. Henshaw, Joshua L. & N. L. Pierson, John E. Bruce (Mayor), H. G. Pounsford, T. W. Pyle, John Wilson, W. R. Goodall, A. J. Willey, William Strasser, W. C. Hayden, J. Ed Deininger (Marshall), Dr. Charles Ferris, F. R. Strong, Frank Bowman, D. E. Pottenger, A. T. Deininger.

Charles Louis **Laboiteaux** was the final Laboiteaux in College Hill. He was the son of Isaac Newton LaBoiteaux/Laboyteaux. Charles founded the LaBoiteaux Company, and the Republic Paper Board Company, box manufacturing and paper specialties companies. He owned a large tract of land on the east side of Hamilton Avenue inherited through his wife, Edith **Cist**. The Cist’s originally owned that side of Hamilton Avenue down the hillside into Northside. The property had an octagonal house and a large white frame house, the latter still standing, where Frank Cist, Edith’s brother, and his wife lived. Charles was a member of the Park Board and donated, along with Mary H. LaBoiteaux, and Constance and Thomas E. Drake, LaBoiteaux Woods. The city purchased additional land to comprise the 53 acre preserve. The entrance was built through the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The landmark octagonal house was torn down and Hammond North was built on the site. Charles’s father was Isaac Newton LaBoiteaux who worked for Duhme & Company, jewelers.

While the octagonal house was built in 1855 by an attorney. It had eight gables, each one with its own balcony. Each gable was supported by a pillar resting on the porch, which extended 232 feet around the house. The central room was 28 feet square. There were 60 doors in the house. The view must have been spectacular, sitting on the top of a ridge.

While the house was unusual, it was not unique. In 1849 Ordon Squire Fowler wrote **A Home for All** where he promoted the octagonal shaped house as being the most aesthetically pleasing and economical for encompassing the largest interior footage. What he didn’t consider was the amount of unusable awkwardly shaped rooms created when a rectangular floor plan was inserted into a multi-sided perimeter. Many communities had one of these oddly shaped houses, but usually only one. An example of an octagonal house, restored and open to the public in Hamilton, Ohio, is the Lane-Hooven house. Built of brick in…

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24 Cincinnati Selections: an Omnibus, B. Klein.
1863, it is located at 319 N. Third Street.

Gilbert LaBoiteaux lived in Mt. Healthy and was a farmer, poet and writer. As a young man (age 10) in 1830 was a mail carrier. "When I presented my petition to be a mail carrier to William Burke, who was then a postmaster at Cincinnati, he read off the names with a voice that frightened me. Mr. Burke was a preacher as well as a postmaster...After carefully reading the petition, Mr. Burke took me to the office of Salmon P. Chase, then a young attorney, located on Third street, just east of Main, where I was sworn in...

I had no trouble in getting off my horse, but to get on again was a different matter. Postmaster Burke, however, was generally on hand to give me a boost. Mt. Healthy...started with a weekly mail. I will never forget my first ride. As there was but one saddle in the village I had to ride bareback. My compensation, or rather my father’s, for carrying the mail was $40 a year. I got a fi’ penny-bit for each trip, which is now equivalent to 6 1/4 cents. It was the lowest rate on letter postage. It would pay the postage on a letter just so many miles and no further. The next rate was 11 cents. The next rate was 18 3/4 cents, and 25 cents would carry a letter to any point in the United States where there was a post-office. In those days the receiver of the letter footed the bill. The receipts of the office didn’t pay the $40 for carrying the mail, so my father always had a little coming to him at the end of the year.

If I could command all the strenuous words in the English language I would fail to adequately describe the road between Mt. Healthy and Cincinnati, especially in early winter and spring. There was only one short stretch of the road, between Mt. Pleasant and ‘Hell town,’ now called Northside, that I had any respect for and that commenced just where the College Hill water-works stands, running along the ridge now covered by private dwellings. It was along that ridge that Gen. St. Clair, September 17, 1791, passed with his army of 2,000 men to exterminate the Indians and got badly licked.”

Gilbert lived a long life at the family home at 7345 Hamilton Avenue. One his poems that he wrote for the Springfield Township Pioneer Association describes how he felt about farmers:

When the battle rages, when cannons crash and bellow,  
The man behind the gun is a very useful fellow;  
His valor, we admire, as he rushes on the foe,  
But he gets his brawn and courage from  
the man behind the hoe.  

The soldier and the statesman we glorify in verse,  
And their great achievements, always ready to rehearse,  
We chisel them in marble, we crown them with a wreath,  
We place them on a pedestal with name in bold relief;  
We love this hero worship, but I would like to know  
Why we never honor the man behind the hoe.

Leonard ‘Len’ Lanius founded American jiu-jitsu based on the idea that a smaller man can overcome a larger man using scientific principles. He also held a world lightweight wrestling championship. He married Minnie Duebel.

Jesse D. Locker: The Rev. Laban S. and Elizabeth Morgan Locker were living on Perry Street in Mt. Healthy when Jesse was born in the home of his grandmother, Winnie Cowan. Rev. Locker had the distinction of being the first African American in Ohio to be ordained as a minister in the Christian Church. The church paid very little. When the Reverend died in 1900 he left a legacy of a lapsed insurance policy and pocket change for his family. Rev. Locker’s church, the Christian Church of College

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25 Times Star, March 16, 1910, Carried the Mail Eighty Years Ago.

26 One Square Mile, Mt. Healthy Historical Society.
Hill, once stood at the corner of Cedar and Piqua. After his death his wife and children moved to College Hill, where Jesse attended College Hill High School. Jesse worked for many College Hill families, doing his chores before and after school. Graduating as the valedictorian of his senior class, he was part of the last students matriculating from College Hill High School. Following classes attended Hughes High School for by then College Hill had been annexed to Cincinnati.

He worked for a year before he could afford to enter Howard University in Washington, D.C., graduating from its law school. It was in college that he met and married Anna French.

After his graduation they returned in Cincinnati, living in their 1210 Cedar Avenue home from 1918-1952. He started his law practice in 1919. While his practice was being established during the day, he worked as a janitor by night.

For 36 years he was a lawyer and became a leader in the Republican Party. In 1941 he was overwhelming elected to Cincinnati City Council, only the third African American man to do so. Winning five more elections he served as City Councilman 1942-1953. But when he was asked, he said that his proudest accomplishment was founding, along with George A. Martin, who was blind, the Negro Sightless Society of Ohio in 1945.

The Lockers had 4 daughters: Mary E., Vivian H., Bunny Cleo, and Junanita Alice. Mrs. Locker was active in many organizations, including the Republican Party. She loved flowers, building a water garden and green house for her hobby. Her Oriental Gardens were visited by residents and school children alike.

Well respected, when he was appointed as U.S. Ambassador to Liberia he remarked; First time I ever heard of Liberia was as a boy when a white missionary from Liberia, C.C. White, spoke at the College Hill Christian Church, of which my father, Laben S. Locker, was pastor. He told about the wonderful missionary work of the Negro missionary, Jacob Kennelly, who gave his life trying to save some drowning boys in Liberia. I never forgot about that, but I never dreamed of becoming ambassador there.

President Eisenhower appointed him Ambassador in 1953.

Locker resigned his city council position to accept the Ambassadorship. His service was cut short by his sudden death from a cerebral hemorrhage in 1955. His funeral was the largest ever seen in Cincinnati. His body lay in state at City Hall, the only person to be so honored. It was estimated that over ten thousand people viewed him during the four hours he lay in state. Representatives from Washington D.C. and the Liberian government attended his funeral.

Locker is buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Mt. Healthy. His Cedar Avenue home was demolished in 1987. Nothing in College Hill honors his memory by bearing the name of the man who said: “The greatest thing I hope will be said of me when I die is that I was a friend to the common man.”

**Philip Van Ness Myers** studied both law and teaching. He came to be the president of Farmers’ College in 1879, leaving his native state of New York. He held that position for a dozen years and was instrumental in the change from Farmers’ College to Belmont College. He resigned his position to head the history department at the University of Cincinnati. As an author he wrote a popular book on President Wilson, whom he greatly admired. Mrs. Myers also taught at Belmont College. They built a house across from the Davey mansion and since Mrs. Myers didn’t cook, the house was built without a kitchen. They took their meals across the street at “Oakwood” which they also owned. At that time Oakwood was a boarding house for College Hill’s unmarried women teachers. Myers also built the Glenwood Apartments that until recently stood on Hamilton Avenue.

Myers had an African American butler, Henry House, who later worked for the Henshaw family. Mr. House had at one time worked for a hotel in downtown Cincinnati. At the end of the day he would collect the scraps leftover from the day’s meals. He took the food to his house in College Hill to feed his hogs. By feeding and selling the hogs, he was able to put his five children through college.

The Neuzel family owned a brass foundry. Katherine Schevene (later Neuzel) wrote of her memories of her neighbors: “At Christmas time they had a wagon come out with brass articles for presents. We had a tall pair of candlestick holders on our mantle and Father had a comb, brush and mirror set and (Mother)
had an inkwell on her desk. They had some orange groves in Mexico... They (the orange grove) were finally confiscated by the government of Mexico in their revolution.” They also lost the strip of property that connects Marlowe and Cedar. It was their apple orchard.

**Dr. John B. Peaslee** (1842-1912) was the superintendent of the Cincinnati Public Schools (1874-1886). An innovator in the classroom, he introduced lined paper and lined slates for neat and accurate class work. Writing many textbooks, he believed in rote recitation, introduced a new method of teaching elementary math, required teachers to attend forestry lectures, changed the manner in which history and physics were taught, and encouraged commemoration of birthdays of celebrated authors, artists, and statesmen with special class work and readings. He was the founder of Arbor Day, first celebrated in Cincinnati on April 27, 1882 by planting Author’s Grove in Eden Park. Eden Park was chosen because the hillsides were bare from Longworth’s failed vineyard attempt. Other Eden Park Groves that consequently were started were Battle Grove, Pioneer Grove, and President’s Grove.

Peaslee married Louisa Wright April 25, 1878, a great-grand-daughter of Major General John Sites Gano, one of the original settlers of Cincinnati, and grand-daughter of Major Daniel Gano. When they married, the teachers of the Cincinnati Public Schools gave them a Weber piano and a French clock. Louisa died in 1894 and the couple had no children. The Wright family lived in Mt. Healthy.

Some of Peaslee’s family relocated to Cincinnati from New Hampshire and Massachusetts. They too were teachers. A cousin, Edward S. Peaslee, was a principal at Kirby Road school for 35 years. C. E. Peaslee also taught at Kirby Radd school for 49 years. He started teaching there in 1876 and was principal until 1911, when the current Kirby Road school was built. He then continued as a teacher until 1923. Dr. Leon Peaslee, John B.’s nephew, was a principal of Walnut Hills and Woodward High schools. Marshall B. Peaslee (John B.’s brother) was a teacher at Hughes High school, as was his daughter, Patricia D. Peaslee.

The 1884 College Hill map shows a C. R. Peaslee owning 11.2 acres adjoining the 48.8 acres of Sarah Harbeson. Betty Wittekind mentioned in a letter that one of Harbeson’s daughters married a Peaslee.

**Daniel Buell Pierson** The Pierson name has been synonymous with the lumber and building industry for many years. Daniel B. Pierson, the founder of the business, was born in LeRoy, New York (1815-1885) and worked for a lumber business owned by Mr. Newbold and Mr. LeRoy. Pierson was sent by them to northern Michigan to inspect timber land. His trip was extended, and Pierson came down the Ohio River on a log raft in 1850, landing in Cincinnati. Before leaving on this journey he married Lydia Hubbard Lathrop, also from LeRoy.

The name Lathrop originated with John Lowthroppe of Lowthrope, England. In 1585, John Lathropp was baptized in Eaton, Yorkshire. He received his B.A. and A.M. degrees from Queens College in 1605 and 1609. Rev. John Lathropp was the pioneer, coming to America.

The lumberyard was first located at 381 Plum Street, becoming a landmark at ‘the Elbow of the Canal.’ With access to the canal, oak and hardwoods came down the Ohio River from the Alleghanies, and the pine and poplar wood down the canal from the north.

Amid a building boom following the Civil War, Daniel opened a lumber company at 12th & Central, eventually buying the business from Messrs. Newbold & LeRoy. His sons, Joshua and Newbold, joined their father in the firm under the name of Pierson Lumber Company (1874). At that time Pierson built a home on West Seventh Street. He purchased a farm near the intersection of Cedar and Argus Roads, later buying a house in College Hill about 1856.

Daniel and Lydia were members of and active within the Episcopal Church. They helped to build old St. John’s Church at 7th and Plum Streets. In College Hill they were one of the primary founders of Grace Episcopal Church.

The Northside location for the lumberyard was picked because of the railroad access. Streetcars started taking workers further away from home for their jobs and the suburbs started to build subdivisions
to accommodate the housing demand outside of the city’s core. The lumberyard soon outgrew its location and land was purchased on the east side of Cherry Street from the Knowlton estate. Shortly afterwards a fire swept through the lumberyard, destroying the offices and much of the stock. They rebuilt along the corner of Cherry and Cooper Streets.

In College Hill, Daniel and Lydia lived on 10 acres that fronted Hamilton Avenue. The original house on this site burned in the 1860’s and Pierson built the house that is presently standing with a long circular drive. After passing out of the Pierson family the house was in disrepair and became a boarding house. It was purchased by E. H. Lunken who gutted the interior and restored the property. The entrance of the house was moved to face Lathrop Road (Hillcrest Road), which wasn’t in existence at the time the house was originally built. It was then that the imposing pedimented full height Roman portico was added and a gazebo built to the rear of the property. In 1924, Mr. Orville Simpson purchased the home, and architect John Scudder Adkins did a complete remodeling. The house is located at 1422 Hillcrest Road.

Daniel and his family are buried in Spring Grove Cemetery. Daniel’s parents, Philo and Lucretia Buell Pierson, also moved to College Hill. Philo, who was a carpenter and a joiner, died (1865) and his wife later married Capt. Timothy Hatch. Lucretia Buell married Philo Pierson in Leroy, New York in 1811. In addition to their son Daniel, they had Catherine, William Porter, Clymene, Emily Eliza and Caroline. A family letter said: Her children-6, his children-11, their children-7.


Joshua attended school at Williston Seminary, East Hampton, Massachusetts where he was a good student and had respect from both the faculty and his fellow students. He joined his father in the lumber business about 1870. He also was the vice-president of the Northside Bank. At this time the lumberyards were located in Northside at Cooper and Cherry Streets. Pierson Lumber was later bought from the children of Joshua by Edward K. Bruce (Pierson’s son-in-law), Edgar Cummings (Dorothy Henshaw’s father), and Walter T. Askew, who owned The Oaks. Mr. Askew and Mr. Thornhill owned the business at the start of the Depression. Mr. Askew passed away suddenly and his widow, being unfamiliar with the business, sold their interest. Mr. Cummings was the first president following the sale, followed by Jack Thornhill.

Joshua Pierson built three houses, one for each of his daughters, on the street he named Lathrop. Joshua died when 63 (11/24/1915). Not only was he a well known coal and lumber merchant but he was also President of the Northside Bank, a vestryman of the Episcopal Church, Trustee of the O. M. I. and a Mason.

James and Ethel Bowman had a large family; Margaret Pierson Bowman, Stuart Pierson Bowman who married Martha Ann Brennan, Henry Kemp Bowman married Catherine Bell Ginter, Eleanor Churchill Bowman who married John Gibson McKinney. The brothers, Stuart and Henry Bowman, laid the cornerstone of the present Grace Episcopal Church on land donated by their grandfather, Daniel.

James C. Bowman’s parents were Henry Swinfinn Bowman and Sarah Henshaw. Sarah’s parents were Ann Oldenberg of the Dutchy of Oldenberg, Germany and George Henshaw, a furniture
manufacturer from England.

When first married, James and Ethyl Bowman built a home in Hamilton, Ohio. Due to ill health, James moved his family to a 10 acre apple ranch in Hood River, Oregon. The Hood River Valley is still the area of premier fruit-growers due to volcanic soil, glacial water, warm days and crisp nights. Nine years later his doctor advised him to relocate back to Cincinnati. They moved to College Hill, settling at 5809 Lathrop. James took over the coal portion of Pierson Coal Co. which was started by Ethyl’s grandfather, D. L. Pierson. Their 3 children married and stayed in College Hill.

Newbold LeRoy Pierson attended school at Farmers’ College and a private school in London, Ontario, Canada. Although he never owned the business, he worked for the lumber company. He was also a secretary to the mayor of Cincinnati. Newbold was the developer of lower Cedar Avenue which had been a farm purchased by his father. The street name “Leffingwell” is a surname of the Lathrop relations. One of his children was Daniel Buell Pierson (born 1885). Newbold shared offices with Edgar Cummings, another building contractor. After 1918, Mr. Cummings left the construction trade, while Newbold had a business downturn and went bankrupt. Newbold had built a large home next to that of the Cumming’s on Larch Avenue and sold it to the Crosley family. Newbold built a small house for his family on Hillcrest Road. Shortly afterwards, he was killed by a street car.

Pierson built a log cabin land office at Hamilton and Ambrose Aves. After his subdivision was built the house was then moved to 1418 Cedar Avenue (Dr. Jacob Ferris’ second subdivision), sided, and used as a house. The house has since been aluminum sided but still can be recognized from the X-shaped cross beams protruding at each end of the roof. The house was first owned by Anna and William Hobson, the sold to George and Anna Dasch (1924-1947).

The late Richard Dasch, Jr., grandson of George Dasch, shared some of his family history. George Dasch was originally from Covington, Kentucky. He was a butcher and took his meat in a horse-drawn wagon along a Spring Grove Avenue, Winton Place, Northside, Goosestown (east Cumminsville) and College Hill route. He purchased a whole side of beef from Meyers and did all of his meat preparation from the back of the wagon. He established the Daily Meat Market, a butcher shop/grocery store in Northside at (today’s Spring Grove Avenue and Dooley By-Pass) in 1907 when the Board of Health no longer allowed meat to be sold from a wagon. During the Depression he lost his business and went to work at Peebles Meats in Northside.

Louis Beierle, Richard Dasch Jr.’s cousin, was a delivery boy for the store. People would call in or leave a checked off list of the cuts of meat they wanted. He also delivered groceries, fruit and vegetables. The store had a succession of delivery vehicles, a REO Speed wagon, a Model-T Ford and a Richenbacker Touring Car. He would go to Kentucky to purchase barrels of cottontail rabbits that had been shot by hunters and then cleaned and sold the meat. Mr. Beierle lived in the left side of the building that was originally the House of Free Discussion in Northside. He worked for Mr. Dupps of College Hill as his chauffeur. He drove Mr. Dupps from packing house to packing house throughout New England. Mr. Dupps was vice-president of College Hill Butcher’s Supply.


The Pierson Lumber and Coal Co. split into two parts, the coal company being run by James Bowman and his son, Henry. As the demand for coal declined, they went into the tool rental and sales business.

Pierson’s had also purchased the Edgewood Lumber Co. across the street from them and that was sold to the Bowmans. During W.W. II the Pierson Lumber Company supplied lumber for crates for the Army Air Force at Wright Patterson Field in Dayton.

In 1950 Jack H. Thornell was president; Lewis J. Henshaw, vice-president and secretary and Clarence R. Rusk, treasurer. Under Mr. Thornell27, who had a degree in architecture and was a graduate

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of the O. M. I., Pierson’s Panel Homes was created. These easy to assemble home kits were very popular. This concept also eliminated one of the problems of the lumber business - lumber companies would supply the lumber to a contractor but wouldn’t get paid until the house was sold. The results would be cash-flow problems and Pierson’s would find themselves with houses in their inventory if the buildings didn’t sell. The company was sold to Ace Doran Trucking and Rigging in the 1950’s.

Mr. Thornell’s hobby was home radio. He made his own components and was a friend of Powel Crosley, Jr. Thornell’s radios are now part of the radio collection at the Cincinnati Museum Center.

Pounsford was once a name synonymous with stationary in Cincinnati. The patriarch of the family here was William, who advertised book binding as early as 1812. His son, Arthur, purchased in 1883 the property of A. D. E. Tweed, that sat on a prominent Belmont Avenue hill. Arthur was a founder of the Applegate and Pounsford Co.

The Pounsford Stationary Company was first located at Second and Main Streets, in downtown Cincinnati, an address that was at the center of the wholesale trade. The business stayed in the family until 1948 when it was purchased by the Chicago firm of Horder’s Inc.

Arthur was a nephew of Dr. Daniel Drake, and spent much of his youth at the doctor’s home. During his ownership the company became known for general publishing, printing and wholesale stationary. He planted thousands of trees in College Hill, which lent the streets a park like atmosphere. He was active in the building both of Town Hall and the Presbyterian church. He also was instrumental in having street car service extended to College Hill. Arthur’s great-grandfather, Thomas Graham, founded the first paper-making machine used in the west. His grandfather, James Graham, built Graham’s Paper Mills along the Miami River. His grandmother was a niece and ward of Ethan Allen Brown, U. S. Senator and Ohio’s former governor.

His son, Harry G., graduated from Farmers’ College and joined his father in the company in 1888, under the name of A. H. Pounsford & Company. He extended the company into the paper manufacturing business and became a sixty year director for the Champion Coated Paper Company. He also was part of the College Hill Realty Company, which controlled the former Glenwood Apartments. Harry was a well known figure, riding the #17 bus to and from his shop on Walnut Street. He was active in many philanthropic societies and a director of the Y.M.C.A. He was an elder in the Presbyterian church for 30 years and a fifteen year member of College Hill’s council. At his death in 1963 he left $195,000. of his estate to various charities.

Harry’s hobby was growing flowers and distributing them to businesses near his office on 4th Street, and to patients at Christ and Jewish Hospitals. His extensive garden at 5805 Belmont Avenue bloomed profusely from tulips to chrysanthemums.

The former Tweed house overlooked the city and sat on six acres, mostly lawn and gardens. The property was studded with old and unique trees left over from the Farmers’ College days. Along the rear of the property is the abandoned College Hill Railroad tracks.

Harry married Susan Aiken, daughter of Charles Aiken. His half-sister Sarah lived with him toward the end of her life. Sarah was one of the first graduates of the Western College for Women (now Miami University), Oxford, Ohio. She died in 1939 after being an invalid during the last fifteen years of her life due to a street car accident in College Hill. After Harry’s death in 1963 the property was sold in 1968 to Rev. Karl Kollath of the Hoffner Street Church in Northside. The church moved to Belmont Avenue years later when a tornado heavily damaged the Northside church.

Harry and Susan had Arthur G. and Stanley M. Pounsford. Arthur G. attended the O.M.I. and graduated from Cornell University with a degree in engineering. He was chief engineer for the Champion Paper & Fibre Co. at Canton, N. C. and then erected a pulp and paper plant for Provincial Paper, Ltd., at Port Arthur, Canada. He became a Canadian citizen and lived in Port Arthur.

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28 Times-Star, June 10, 1943
Pounsford served as chairman of four victory loan campaigns in Port Arthur and has been appointed by the Canadian government to have charge of a vast wood fuel production program in that region. He was bestowed the Order of the British Empire by the King for patriotic and philanthropic accomplishments. This gave him the right to be called Sir, and wear the British Empire Cross of Silver. He died in 1951.

His brother, Stanley M., died in 1987. He worked his entire life for the Pounsford Stationary Co. It was finally acquired by Ramsey Business Equipment in 1958 and Pounsford’s later moved from Main Street to Ramsey’s headquarters on Central Avenue. He served in W.W. I. Stanley built a house for his daughter Kathleen on Meryton Lane. Willis Forbes built the house, which was paid for by Harry G. Pounsford. Kathleen was the bookkeeper for the family stationary company and died in 1997.

Tyrone Edmund Power was born in Walnut Hills May 5, 1914. A graduate of Purcell-Marian High school, he earned money by working as an usher at the Orpheum Theater at Peebles Corner and as a soda fountain attendant in College Hill. In 1931, after graduating from high school, he went to Hollywood to join his father, Frederick Tyrone Power, and went on to stardom as a leading man.

During the 1920’s, C. Oscar Schmidt moved to College Hill from Clifton. When his forefather, Carl Schmidt arrived to join relatives in Cincinnati from East Prussia, “Porkapolis” was declining. Carl was a nephew of Mrs. Bertha Bruckmann, wife of the brewer Christoph Bruckmann, and through this connection he was apprenticed as a brewer. But his uncle, also named Carl Schmidt, had started his own company and invited the younger Carl to join him, as the elder Carl was in need of financing. The younger Carl entered into the meat processing machinery business in 1870 and changed his name to Charles G. Schmidt to avoid confusion. The two Schmidt’s continued in their partnership until 1886 when Charles opened his own business; Cincinnati Butchers’ and Packers Supply Company, located on Central Avenue. By living on Dayton Street he was only a short walk from his business. In addition to his work, Charles was also very active in many Cincinnati organizations, such as the Literary Society, the Turners, and was the honorary president of the North American Singing Societies which extended from Canada to Mexico.

Charles combined his butcher’s knowledge with a natural mechanical aptitude and patented a meat cooler which protected the meat from water dripping as the ice melted. He also patented a machine that cleaned sausage casings.

From these two inventions, Charles produced a line of meat packing equipment which helped to revolutionize through mechanization the industry of rendering, processing and slaughter. Charles held over 100 patents for his innovations, which are still made under the Boss trademark. His mechanical talent was passed to his son, C. Oscar Schmidt (Sr.) who, in 1918, patented a hog de-hairer which shaved hogs before butchering. Stressing innovation, new product development, reliability and efficiency, the company shaped the meat processing industry and gradually shifted from processing into the less efficient area of slaughtering.

C. Oscar Schmidt moved his family to College Hill, living at 5701 Hamilton Avenue and later, on Linden Drive and Hamilton Avenue. His son, C. Oscar Schmidt, Jr. worked his way through college and received a degree from U.C. in mechanical engineering, a M.S. in engineering and an M.B.A. from Harvard. Just as his education for his career was starting, the Depression of the 1930’s began. He enrolled in the ROTC program which provided his uniforms and the ROTC stipend helped him with living expenses. During this time the company workers were paid, often at the expense of missed salary by the family. When his father died in 1944, Oscar C. Schmidt, Jr. and his brother William took over the business. In 1946 Oscar was elected the firm’s president. Gradually the business was diversified and expanded, at times acquiring their less successful competitors.

One of the most important items the company developed was the electric stunner and animal restraint which helped the industry to comply with the Humane Slaughter Act of 1958. This device was not patented. Mr. Schmidt considered the development costs and the device his gift to the industry, and it was less expensive than the method it replaced.

Oscar Schmidt, Jr. holds over 35 patents and with his sons, Milton and Christoph, are working executives in the company. The Cincinnati Butchers Supply Company is the world’s largest manufacturer of butcher and processing equipment. Requests made for replacement parts on machines that the company manufactured 90 years ago are not uncommon. Located in Elmwood Place since 1940, the company is on its second century of production. Still family owned and operated, all six generations bear the name of Carl somewhere in their names. Still innovating, they have entered the pasta machinery industry as the company continues to adapt to an ever changing industry.

The Simpson family had several notable homes on the hill. The frame house at the corner of Larch and Belmont had a large larch tree in the front yard from when that property was part of the experimental farm. Named “Larchmont,” the house was built in 1870 and was probably designed by Samuel Hannaford, who was years later related through marriage to the Simpsons.

Robert Simpson was born in Rochester, Monroe Co., New York, March 16, 1830. His father was William Simpson and his mother’s name, before her marriage, had been Mary A. Penney. He was educated at the Public Schools and Collegiate Institute of Rochester and began his varied business career there in the counting room of the Rochester Union and Advertiser - then, as now, the leading paper in the city. After this he became a telegrapher on the line then in process of construction from the city of New York to Buffalo and thence into the Mississippi Valley. The company that constructed this line was the precursor of the Western Union Telegraph Company and at that time had its headquarters at Rochester. Mr. Simpson’s ability and devotion to his work secured his rapid promotion in the service of the company until he was placed in charge of its Operating Department in the city of New York; the office being at the corner of Wall and Broad Streets.

After the risings in Cuba, headed by Narciso Lopez, in 1848, 1850, and 1851, the Spanish Government, realizing the necessity to the maintenance of its authority of a telegraph line across the Island, sent agents to New York to contract for the requisite material and supplies and also to engage someone competent to supervise the construction of the line and the instruction of its operators. Mr. Simpson was recommended for the position and in the spring of 1852, sailed for Cuba, where he stayed until the first division of the line was completed and in successful operation. After his return Mr. Simpson consulted the wisest business men of his acquaintance as to the probable future of telegraphy and all agreed that its development was so doubtful as to make it unwise for him to devote to it more of his time.

September 12, 1854 he married Sarah J. Hartwell of Saratoga County, whom he met while acting as telegrapher at Saratoga. Mrs. Simpson’s parents were Thomas Hartwell and Phoebe Rogers, and they lived on a farm not far from Saratoga Springs. In 1855 Mr. and Mrs. Simpson went to Davenport, Iowa, where Mr. Simpson went into the lumber business. In 1858 he gave this up for the insurance business and established a general agency in the city of Davenport, including fire, marine and life insurance, in which he continued until 1861. Wishing to make a specialty of life insurance, he selected the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company of Newark, N. J., as the best to represent.

In 1863 Mr. Simpson accepted the agency in Ohio and selected Cincinnati as his headquarters. The agency of the company had been established in Cincinnati in 1845 under the charge of John W. Hartwell, one of the most prominent and highly esteemed citizens of the place. Mr. Hartwell held the agency until succeeded by Mr. Simpson.

Mr. Simpson was joined by his sons, Frank H. and Robert Simpson, Jr. in the business. Frank Simpson had his house on the northwest corner of Glenview Avenue and Meryton Place (originally

38 Courtesy of Jerry Simpson, written circa 1895.
named Highland Avenue and Huntington Place). This property is at 5801 Glenview. When he was first married he lived in a house next to that of his parents on Larch Street.

Upon first coming to Cincinnati, Mr. Simpson established his family in the city. They also boarded for a time at Riverside and afterwards at College Hill. They were so much pleased with the last place that they went to housekeeping there in 1866 and built, or remodeled, the house they now occupy, in 1867. The family came to College Hill in part to escape the cholera epidemic in Cincinnati.

The Robert Simpson house at the corner of Larch and Belmont Avenues, is still remembered by College Hill residents. Howard Hannaford, whose father was Ebenezer, a brother of Samuel Hannaford, married Ruth Simpson there. Howard was a Presbyterian minister and the couple became missionaries. They both taught English in colleges located in Tokyo. When W.W. II started they were held for a time in a Japanese prisoner of war camp. After their release they continued their ministry in the country of Lebanon. Every seven years they returned to College Hill for a visit, until the end of their lives when they moved to the Llanfair Retirement community.

Robert Simpson purchased the Cincinnati Northwestern Railroad, which was known as the College Hill Railroad and was its president. He was also president of the board of directors of the Ohio Military Institute, and a Mason. He died March 11, 1897.

The eldest son of Robert was William Thomas Simpson born in New York. His first business experience was when he was 14 or 15, collecting bus fares for the line operated by his father, prior to the building of the College Hill Railroad. When he was eighteen he and his father started the galvanizing works on Pearl Street, named W. T. Simpson & Co. This was the first galvanizing industry in this part of the country. Sheet iron was purchased and shipped from Pittsburgh to be galvanized here and was used for roofing and in construction. The company expanded, renamed as the American Galvanizing Works and was sold in 1903.

Simpson purchased in 1890 the Riverside Rolling Mill, reorganizing at as the Cincinnati Rolling Mill Co. The Mill31 made iron and steel sheets of standard quality and most of them were sold in nearby markets. His own Galvanizing Works on Pearl Street, and the American Steel Roofing Company, were two of this Mill’s largest customers.

This plant was run as a sheet mill until about 1897 when it was reorganized as The Cincinnati Rolling Mill & Tin Plate Company. It was then remodeled and operated as a tin mill, making standard Tin Plate Bright Plate, until it was sold to the American Sheet & Tin Plate Company in January 1899.

The American Steel Roofing Company approached Simpson in 1899 for his opinion on establishing a mill in Middletown, Ohio. Simpson, George M. Verity, and R. C. Philips founded the American Rolling Mill Company, later known as ARMCO Steel. A mill in Zanesville, Ohio was purchased in 1905 and Simpson became the first vice-president and general manager of this mill until his death.

He married Sarah Ricker but their only child died as an infant.

William owned many acres in southern Indiana which was his retreat for raising horses and racing roadsters. He followed his father as president of the board of directors of Belmont College. He died in his 1750 Cedar Avenue home, 30 March 1915. His widow continued to live in this Tudor style mansion.

The property was purchased in 1870 by Robert Simpson for $4,000 (about 5 acres, 2 lots) from Norris S. Knight. In 1882 Robert passed it to William T. Simpson. After the death of his widow, the estate went to her nephew Harold Simpson (1935). Three years later, the property was acquired by Logan Thomson. A little of the land was acquired in 1941 by the city for a change in the roadbed. The rest of the property was sold by Logan’s wife, Sylvia, in 1948.

Another son of Robert was Orville Simpson who lived at 1422 Hillcrest Road. He was born in Iowa and graduated from Farmers’ College in 1882. In 1885 Orville became the proprietor of the Straub Machinery Company which manufactured grist mills for grinding flour and meal. Robert had purchased this factory in 1844. Located at Front and John Streets, mill stones from this company were uncovered in

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31 ARMCO Bulletin, 1915
1998 during the construction of the new football stadium. In 1910 Orville built a factory at 1230 Knowlton Street, Cumminsville and changed the name to the Orville Simpson Company. The business was continued by his son, Lowe, who designed the first flour sifter in 1912 for a customer. He was followed in turn by his son, Jeremy, until 1988 when the first non-Simpson became its president. The company produces screening machines and is in business today under the name of Rotex. The sifters allow for sifting, grading and sorting raw materials - from wheat to plastics.

Orville died in 1944. He originally built a house on land that extended from the end of Salvia to the College Hill Presbyterian Church. It was a white frame house facing Hamilton Avenue that set back from the street with a wide lawn. The family later moved and remodeled the house on Hillcrest.

Frank H. Simpson’s son, Harold, built his house at 5675 Meryton Lane. Designed in 1891 by Samuel Hannaford at the behest of Frank, the property was also known as the Simpson weaning house. Frank’s daughter, Frances, married Charles Upson. Charles Upson had two brothers, Mark, who became a surgeon, and Herbert, who married Virginia Anderson, a relative of the Henshaw’s. James Bowman and his daughter, Eleanor McKinney, also owned this house.

George W. Smith lived on Larch Avenue and was a plumber and heating contractor. Active in his community, he was one of the builders of the original swimming pool of Town Hall. Others aiding in the construction were Charles Eisen, Clarence Dutell-a carpenter that lived on Savannah Avenue, Peter Douglas, George Fox, R. J. Dessauer, Willis and Rae Strief, Harry Toepfer, Edward Schnier, Sam Jones and Bill and Joe Hohmann. George Smith had three children: Ruth, Chester Arthur and Virginia. Ruth married William Hammelrath. Ruth has a vivid College Hill memory of W.W. I - that they picked oakum. During the school day, they picked the heavy fibers of the oily, smelly plants, which were brought to the school by the Red Cross. Ruth and William had two children who grew up in College Hill: Smith and Susan.

There also was a Thomson family in Northside, but NOT connected to the Thomson’s of College Hill. Another Peter Thomson had a son named Alexander. Alexander’s brother John married Janet Langlands. John’s estate, “Willowburn,” was in Northside to the rear of the Presbyterian church. The house was built in the Greek Revival style and was built by a willow bordered stream. The street next to the property was named Brookside. In 1870 Janet Thomson owned 49,250 acres of Northside.

Janet’s father was Alexander Langlands, one of the original property owners in Northside. Alexander bought 217 acres and built his home on a rise in 1822 at the corner of Blue Rock and Fergus streets. Later this home was owned by Ephraim Knowlton. Alexander and his wife were part of a group of seventeen people that immigrated from Campbellstown, Argyllshire, Scotland in 1822 and settled in Ludlow’s Station. Others in this party were the Rev. Riske, who married Israel Ludlow’s widow, Rev. David Fergus and his wife Janet Black and their daughters, Mary and Janet, who was Alexander Langland’s wife. They crossed the ocean together and ...journeyed by teams to Fort Pitt. There they built rafts and floated down the Ohio to Fort Washington. At Marietta the women were left, probably on account of the approach of winter and the security of the settlement.

At the time of Ludlow’s Station, the land was heavily forested. Willow trees grew along the banks of the Mill Creek, which had catfish, bass, salmon and sunfish. Herons waded along the shallows. The land was fertile and welcomed the settlers after a long journey.

Paul Sterling Ward built the house at 1646 Cedar Avenue. He was an engineer and inventor, best known

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32 Rotex thrives with focus on handling raw materials, Cincinnati Enquirer, Sept. 19, 1988, page D-14,


34 Souvenir History of Cumminsville, 1911.

Caroline Elizabeth Williams (1908-1988) was an artist who for nearly fifty years had weekly sketches of historic or interesting places in the Sunday Cincinnati Enquirer. In many cases, these sketches are all we have to trigger memories of bygone buildings. Her accurate and realistic drawings were collected by many Cincinnatians. Miss Williams’s father, Carll B. Williams, drew for the Cincinnati Enquirer, and was the director of their art department. The Williams family moved from Covington, Kentucky to College Hill in 1913 and lived at 1634 Larch Avenue. Paul Briol later moved down the street. When her father died in 1928, Miss Williams started to free lance her art. Her drawings for the Cincinnati Enquirer started in 1932 when she joined their staff. Miss Williams went to College Hill School, and Hughes High School. She studied art at the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Art Academy, the Sorbonne in Paris, France and in New York. The family later moved to 1750 Cedar Avenue where her mother, Mary Teal Williams, operated a boarding house with their unused rooms. In the 1950’s she moved, along with her mother, to a log cabin in Burlington, Kentucky. It was here that she printed many of her books and sketches. Her sister, Katherine, and brother, Vernis, have also passed away.

Orville Simpson
Chapter 30
Hymns of Praise - Some Later Churches in College Hill

Ohio pioneers of the Catholic faith traveled here from Maryland, French Canada and Germany. Their life had little time for long ceremonies and they couldn’t afford to support a church or priest. Worship was in small groups praying together augmented by a yearly visit from a circuit riding priest, who would perform necessary sacraments when he came. Pioneers had limited contact with other groups of people and books were scarce. It wasn’t until Ohio became a state that a school and church in every community became a priority.

Even though Cincinnati by the 1800’s was a fast growing town, the Catholic population didn’t have their own school or church. The closest bishop was in Bardstown, Kentucky. The first Catholic church was Christ Church (1812), built at Liberty and Vine streets - beyond the Cincinnati limits - due to the hostility that faced Catholics. It wasn’t until 1820 that the first Catholic church was built inside of Cincinnati through Bishop Edward Fenwick, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Cincinnati. He had been a circuit riding priest throughout Ohio and knew this area well.1

The early churches were few and poor. To raise money for the North American missions, Bishop Fenwick went to Europe. The European Catholics contributed a penny a week per person for missionary work. Within a century, those pennies amounted to eight million dollars for America.

Irish immigrants, who were predominately Catholic, were coming into Ohio to dig the state-wide canal system. The canal system was a major transportation pathway until 1855, when railroads became predominant. By 1913 the canals were starting to be filled in and covered over.

In 1822 Bishop Fenwick moved Christ Church to a site on Sycamore Street when St. Xavier Church now stands. The church was rededicated to St. Peter. By 1825 St. Peter’s was too small and was replaced by a Gothic style brick church built on the same site. This church was named ‘St. Peter in Chains’ in reference to a painting donated to Bishop Fenwick by Cardinal Fisch, who was an uncle of Napoleon. The painting had hung in the cathedral of Seville and was removed during Napoleon’s Spanish campaign. This painting remained on view until 1945, when it was moved to St. Gregory’s Seminary.2

St. Peter in Chains was outgrown in twenty years. Bishop John Purcell, who replaced Bishop Fenwick, planned a new cathedral. The architect was Henry Waters who was famous for his Greek Revival style architecture.

The familiar Plum Street property was purchased by Bishop Purcell in December 1840 for $24,000. from Judge Jacob Burnet. The body of the church was finished in 1845, the spire in 1847 and the Dayton limestone church was fully completed in 1855 at a total cost of $300,000. The stone work was done by Hummel. Charles Cist wrote (1851) that was the ‘finest building in the West.’ It was nicknamed the ‘White Angel’ by its parishioners.

Catholicism was growing in Cincinnati, partly because of the eastern European and Irish immigrants who followed the faith of their native lands. In Cumminsville, the predominately Catholic laborers of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad (chartered in 1846) settled there, leading to the formation of St. Aloysius parish in 1852 and St. Boniface in 1862. Those of German heritage built St. Boniface while those from Ireland remained at St. Aloysius. Prior to the founding of these churches, Northside Catholics had to travel to St. James in White Oak.

And as Catholism grew and was accepted, there were conversions to the faith. Reuben R. Springer3 “...was born in the century year (of) 1800, in the month of November. His father was Charles Springer, a native of West Virginia and his mother was Catherine Runyon of Princeton, New Jersey. After an education in the common schools, Reuben, at age 13, clerked under his father in the post office, but after

two years he became a clerk on a steamer running between Cincinnati and New Orleans. After 12 years of steam boating he succeeded Henry Kilgour, whose daughter Jane he had married in 1830, as a member of the once famous grocery house of Taylor & Co. For ten years he continued in the business and then was compelled to retire on account of poor health. By that time he had already amassed a fortune. In 1842 he became a convert to the Catholic Faith...for the Establishment of Music Hall and the College of Music he gave $420,000. He died December 10, 1884.”

**St. Clare Roman Catholic Church**

The Catholic families of College Hill area met for the first time at the Ohio Military Institute on September 5, 1909. A committee of Joseph Pfeister, John Rabenstein, August Dehmer, Joseph E. Phillips, Stephen O’Hara, C. A. Bender, Martin Frey, John Brossart, J. J. Vogelpohl and George S. Binder persuaded the archbishop to give permission to organize the new parish. It was named St. Clare, in honor of the 13th century woman who was the first superior of a Franciscan convent.

Reverend John G. Stein, a former professor at St. Gregory Seminary, was appointed by Archbishop Henry Moeller. Father Stein celebrated the first Mass on Sunday, October 3, 1909, at Town Hall. One hundred twenty five people attended; the first collection amounted to $19.13.

Reverend Charles Mary Diener (born 17 September, 1872, Cincinnati) was appointed by the Bishop to replace Father Stein on January 20, 1910.

The first Mass was held in Town Hall. Mrs. J. Philips supplied the candles and candlesticks along with several of her carpets. Anna J. Phillips’ cousin, Virginia G. Mitchell is said to have been the first baby baptized in the new parish on 10/06/10.

The new parish was now ready to begin with a look to the future. In 1909 a parcel of land 50’ X 317’ had been purchased from Newbold L. Pierson for $2,000. In February, 1910, permission was given to purchase the present church property. A white framed church with a modest steeple was erected and dedicated by Archbishop Murray in the name of St. Clare. The cost of this 75’ X 35’ structure was $3,000.

Dedication of College Hill’s first Catholic church was an occasion of high celebration. More than 1,000 persons took part in a parade prior to the ceremonies despite a heavy rain. Uniformed knights of several orders added color to the marching line, which proceeded south on Belmont Avenue from Town Hall, took a sharp turn to go north on Hamilton Avenue to Cedar Avenue and then east on Cedar to the Church. John Brossard was grand marshal, assisted by Walter Gray and William Hanlon. Father Diener celebrated Mass; Father George Schmidt preached in English and Father Joseph Bussman in German.

The parishioners were planning for their most welcome part of the parish family - the Sisters. A lot and house on Cedar Avenue, east of the parsonage, was purchased for their use.

St. Clare school opened on September 9, 1912. The lower floor of the Sister’s house was used for the school.

Archbishop Moeller dedicated the present school on October 3, 1915. The building served as combination church and school.

On February 21, 1930, the building of the current rectory and church basement began. The church basement was used for the celebration of Mass until the body of the church could be added. The first Mass was offered in the church basement on August 5, 1930. Father Diener moved into the new rectory about a month later. On January 24, 1931 the old brick parsonage was sold and moved to 5912 Lantana Avenue.

The original St. Clare boundaries have been divided into four parishes: St. Margaret Mary (1920); St. Therese, Little Flower (1930); St. Vivian (1943); St. Richard (1950). St. Richard and St. Therese merged January 2, 1992 into the St. Therese parish. The buildings and grounds of St. Richard also became

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4 Source: Several St. Clare Church histories, Thanks be to God - St. Clare Parish Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Celebration, pages written by James M. Shea. Thanks also to Doris Kuszler and Karen Forbes-Nutting

5 St. Clare and St. Pius (1910) were both formed from St. Boniface, founded in 1862. Source: History of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 1821-1921, Rev. John H. Lamott.
part of St. Therese.

Reverend George Gude was appointed as assistant on August 10, 1948. One year later, on September 17, 1949, Father Charles Diener was hospitalized because of a broken hip. Father Gude was asked to carry on in his absence. Father Gude’s association with St. Clare was to stretch over the next 27 years until his retirement in 1975.

The school auditorium was converted into two more classrooms, making an eight room school with six Sisters and two lay teachers, with an enrollment of 360 pupils.

On February 27, 1953, the Most Reverend Archbishop Karl J. Alter gave permission to build the new church over the existing church basement. The architects Schulte and Schmidt were chosen.

A house and lot on Salvia Avenue was bought for $14,350. The lot was blacktopped for the playground.

It was December 11, 1953, that Reverend Gude was appointed Vicarious Adjuror with full parochial rights.

On June 30, 1954, a house and lot 41’ X 150’, located at 5814 Salvia Avenue was bought for $10,000 for future school expansion.

In 1955 permission was granted by Archbishop Alter to accept bids for the new church. March 26, 1955, the lowest bids on the church were approved by the Archbishop. The general contractor was Edward Honnert and Sons. The total cost including plumbing, heating and electrical work was $470,219. The work on the new church began May 9, 1955. The Right Reverend Magr. Marcellus R. Wagner blessed the laying of the cornerstone on May 9, 1955. The pastor, Father Diener, attended the ceremony in a wheelchair. Rev. Diener died the following year after a lengthy illness.

It was a memorable day for all when on May 26, 1957, Karl J. Alter, Archbishop of Cincinnati, dedicated the new St. Clare Church.

In 1964 the German made stained glass windows, were installed, thus completing the original plans for a suitable decoration of the church.

Construction of the Sisters’ convent was completed and it was occupied in February, 1967.


St. Clare School numbers among the approximately 100 schools conducted by the Sisters of St. Francis, whose Motherhouse is located in Oldenburg, Indiana. The Community of teaching Sisters owes its foundation to Mother Teresa Hacklemeier, a Franciscan religious from Vienna, Austria, who came to America on 1851. The Community’s over 700 Sisters conduct schools in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Michigan, with missions in Montana and New Guinea.

St. Clare school, in existence since 1912, is located on Salvia Avenue. The principals of St. Clare have been: Sister Gonzaga Daller (1922-23); Sister Cupertina Grundler (1923-26); Sister Sulpitia Worland (1926-29); Sister Avelline Grassman (1929-30); Sister Angelique Schrimpf (1936-42); Sister Lorenzo Jaspers (1942-55); Sister Mary William Tausch (1955-57); Sister Carol Ann Angermeier (1957-59); Sister Rose Helen Bosse (1959-65); Sister Mary Agnes (Kathleen) McCarthy (1965-77); Sister Mary Willard Miriam) Kaeser (1977-83); Gretchen Osner, first lay principal.

The first students in St. Clare School in the fall of 1912 were: Grade 1--Edwin Riedel, Earl Weigel, Eugene Brueckner, Edward Dornberger, Robert Deininger, Robert Hutchinson, James Hutchinson, Earl Thesken, Joseph Roach; Grade 2--Albert Weigel, John Lindeman, Arthur Gruter, Lawrence Brand, George Thesken, Marguerite Zitt, Rose Schafer, Eva Huschle, Mary Bross, Irene Brown; Grade 3--Philip Hahn, Joseph Riedel, John Ruby, Clara Stoeker, Virginia Bross; Grade 4--Margaret Brand, George Bross, Leroy Endres, Christopher Weigel, James Curetti; Grade 5--Loretta Gruter, Ruth Nagelie, William Ammann, Merrill Hutchinson, Arthur Duffy, Mark Leiter, Irvin Naegle; Grade 6--Lillian Armbruster, Anna Ammann, Anna Hutchinson, Mary Curetti, Sophia Stoeker; Grade 7--Alice Casey, Eleanor Gruter; Grade 8--Edna Dornberger, Alma Hutchinson.
In 1996 St. Clare’s announced plans for a new school. The new school/gym/parish center will be on Saranac Avenue. The new school will have a library, computer classroom, art classroom, and classrooms for K-8th grade.

**McAuley Convent**

Five Sisters of Mercy on August 15, 1960 started the first McAuley Convent at 1768 Cedar Avenue. The house had been the family residence of Mary Bell Thomson (Mrs. Walter deGollyer Randall).

In 1964 a new addition to this convent was constructed in 1964. It was a three story building with accommodations for sixty-four Sisters, and a chapel. An entrance passageway connected it with the former residence. The Sisters of Mercy that taught at St. Ignatius School in Monfort Heights began to reside at the new convent in 1964. The Sisters of Mercy began to teach at St. Richard of Chichester School in 1965 and they also lived at the convent.

In the summer of 1965 some Sisters of Mercy from McAuley Convent joined with the efforts of people in the West College Hill Community to give new life to this area. Sister Mary Francisca Sherman coordinated the efforts of the Sisters in a six weeks summer program of tutoring, teaching arts and crafts, business and homemaking skills. The program was developed with the leadership of Rev. Edward Jones, pastor of the West College Hill First Baptist Church. Mrs. Grace Saunders, a parishioner of the Church, was also very active. The senior and retired Sisters of Mercy in the Cincinnati area began to reside in 1969 at McAuley Convent.

Demolition of the Thomson-Randall residence took place in 1974 and a new two-story building with a twenty-three room addition was completed in 1976. Today at the convent live the Sisters working at McAuley High School, the senior Sisters and those engaged in other active ministries in the area.

One of the past ministries was the Mercy Braille Library. Back in 1936, Sister Mary Catherine Harty (herself threatened with blindness) discovered that very little was being done for the spiritual life of the blind. She gathered a few blind and some concerned sighted ladies willing to Braille, collect tax stamps and locate the blind throughout the tri-state area. Soon the brailists were making books for each reader.

Further expansion came when Clovernook Printing House asked them to respond to the requests of countless schools, libraries, and individuals in Asia and Africa. Materials from American readers, publishers and other sources were gathered to maintain this project. The entire library has been sent since to the Sisters of Mercy in Africa.

**St. Richard of Chichester Church 1945-1986**

The major benefactor of St. Richard Church was Mrs. Richard Knight LeBlond (sister of Elizabeth Knight who married Edward Henshaw). Given the privilege of selecting the patron saint, she chose the name of St. Richard, a 13th century bishop of the See of Chichester, England, in honor of her husband.

Richard de la Wyche was a man of strong character, a scholar, but sensible and practical as well. He loved people and was greatly beloved by them.

Chosen Bishop of Chichester in 1244, Richard was an able administrator, as well as a holy man. Compassionate to the sinner, he expected high standards from his clergy. Although he considered it his duty to keep the state proper to a bishop, offering hospitality to the rich as well as to the poor, his personal life was very simple.

While preaching a crusade at the request of the Pope to rekindle enthusiasm for the recovery of the Holy Land, Richard became ill and died on April 3, 1253. He was canonized nine years later.

Affectionately known as the ‘Little Church on North Bend Road’ it was founded as a mission chapel shortly after the end of World War II. Cincinnati’s Archbishop John T. McNicholas had recently moved

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6 Submitted by Sister Mary Timothea O’Neill, R. S. M., 1991

7 The Sisters of Mercy were founded in 1831 in Ireland by Mother Mary Catherine McAuley. Source: The Catholic Journey Through Ohio, Albert Hamilton, 1976.

his residence from Norwood to College Hill and saw that the needs of Catholic African-Americans in West College Hill were not being met. A piece of property was purchased on North Bend Road and the Society of the Precious Blood established the mission.

The red brick chapel was begun in the summer in 1945 and was completed in 1946. The congregation started to grow. Rev. Jerome B. Wolf, C.PP.S. was the first administrator, replaced by Rev. Florian Hartke, C.PP.S. in 1948.

In 1950, Archbishop McNicholas died and Archbishop Karl J. Alter was appointed. In that year St. Richard’s became a full-fledged parish. The parish did not have its own rectory and Rev. Hartke lived at St. Clare’s parish house.

The boundaries of the parish were extended in 1953 west to Banning and Pippin Roads, to include the Golfway Acres Subdivision. The Church had 300 parishioners at this time.

There was a need for a parish school by 1955 and construction began. The eighth grade faculty was four Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Sister Agnes Cecelia was the first principal, followed by Sister Adele and Sister Philip Mary. By 1960 the school was enlarged again. In 1965 the Sisters of Notre Dame left St. Richard and the Sisters of Mercy assumed the responsibility of the education of the children under the guidance of the new principal, Sister Mary Timothea, R.S.M.

In 1966 the teaching staff was expanded to three Sisters and four lay teachers. It also was a memorable year for the youngest ladies of the parish, as the girls changed their school uniforms from plain green to green plaid, and the Sisters changed their traditional black habit to one of modern blue. In 1971 at St. Richard’s 25th anniversary the staff was Sr. Mary Timothea R.S.M. principal, Miss Kathleen Ryan, Miss Karen Forbes, Mrs. Anna Lee Rosen, Mrs. Joan Dempsey, Sr. Mary Adelma R.S.M., and Sr. Marie de Lourdes R.S.M. Eventually, the school was closed and a shortage of priests led to the merger of St. Richard and St. Therese in 1992.

**College Hill Christian Church**

The Campbellite or New Light movement of the American frontier was the root of the Disciples of Christ/Christian Church. Drawn primarily from Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist churches, the foundation of this faith was the elimination of various creeds and practices and to believe in no creed but Christ, and no book but the Bible. They were lead by Alexander Campbell.

In 1909 Rev. Harviout met in College Hill Town Hall with a small group of seventeen people to form the College Hill Christian Church. Rev. Justin Green, pastor of another Cincinnati church, served as the first minister. Officers of the church were: Louis Askew, president; Richard Roller, vice-president; Mrs. Carl Kammerdeiner, treasurer; Lillie Barnes, secretary.

Other members of the congregation were: Mr. and Mrs. Steinbeck, John Steinbeck, Lillie Steinbeck, Barbara Steinbeck, Ella Barnes, Walter Askew, Mrs. Louis Askew, Mrs. Richard Roller, Mrs. Huber, Mrs. Ault, Mrs. Nancy (Barnes) Simons, Mr. George Barnes.

A church history written by Bruce Martin states: “At first the young congregation met in homes. Later it worshiped in a storeroom and then over a florist’s shop - both on Hamilton Ave. In 1911 the congregation purchased the present lots on Marlowe Avenue. On July 4 of the same year, assisted by men from Christian Churches throughout the Cincinnati area, the men of the church erected the wood-frame building that housed the church for the next 48 years. hey completed the basic building in one day, including the exterior walls and the roof. The first worship service in the new building was held that same night, with the congregation sitting on the floor joists.

In 1959 the College Hill church became fully self-supporting, no longer dependent upon financial support from The Ohio Christian Missionary Society. During the course of this year the basic

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9 Source: Rev. Larry H. Pigg, Mr. Artie Distler The Dedication of the College Hill Christian Church, June 28, 1964. Historical Highlights 1909-1964 prepared by Bruce Martin.

10 Discover the Disciples College Hill Christian Church

11 To raise funds, members hosted paid dinners at their homes.
structure of the new building was completed, and the men of the congregation finished the interior, including the chancel and the balcony areas in the sanctuary, the floor tile and the ceiling throughout the basement level, and the installation of electrical fixtures throughout the building. In June of 1959 the Church School classes began meeting in the new building. On October 18 of that year the first worship service was held in the new sanctuary, following which the old, wood-frame building was razed and removed from the lot. In 1964, with funds bequeathed for this purpose by the late Rose Graeba, the building was finally completed, the final step being the placing of the spire and cross on June 23.

The church building on Marlowe Avenue was dedicated on June 28, 1964, for a congregation of over 200. One of the best loved ministers was Rev. William G. ‘Daddy’ Loucks, who tended the congregation from 1925 until 1948.

Charles H. Ault was there building the first church in 1911. He recalled that the lumber and necessary tools were available and that with the help of the Carpenters Union, who would teach and aid in the building’s assembly, they were able to get the basic building - roof, exterior walls, floor joists - all constructed in one day. Being a hot July 4 in 1911, the women of the congregation fed the workers and gave them plenty to drink. He recalled the names of several of the congregation of workers: Richard Roller, Jack Chadwick Sr. and Jr., William and George Witt, Fred W. Hoover, and Walter Askew. Mr. Ault was born in 1877 and also recalled for the 1966 newspaper interview; He can remember the day when the ‘Battle of Manila Bay’ was recreated for Cincinnati folks, and the spectators were charged 2 cents each to view the proceedings on the Ohio River from the bridges.

In the congregation are Bertha Steinbeck (Mrs. John Keller) whose daughter, grand-daughter, and great-grandson and great-granddaughter are present members. Bertha’s great-grandson, who was once a member, was Jim Markwell, a United States Army Ranger and the first U. S. casualty of the Panama Invasion.”

First United Church of Christ

Starting in 1855 as the German Lutheran congregation of Cumminssville, the sixteen members sought a place where they could meet and worship. Poor roads suppressed attendance and growth of the congregation, so a Cumminssville location was preferred. Ephraim Knowton rented to them Knowlton’s Hall, in the building known as Knowlton’s Block. Knowlton and his son Sidney were friendly toward Germans and rented the society space for a small price. In addition to a church, a school was necessary because German was not being taught in the public schools. Each member donated a dollar to establish such a school where the children would be taught in their native language. But first they needed a church that could double as a school. On March 17, 1856 Jacob Hoffner, who generously supported several causes, donated a lot on Apple Street. The cornerstone of the church was laid October 26, 1856. The church we remember on Hoffner Street in Northside was completed in 1894, now named the German Evangelical Church. The spire became a landmark on the Northside horizon.

In 1993 a tornado-like wind blew across Cincinnati, lifting and reversing the 197-foot spire so that it crashed through the church point down to the basement. Such damage was done to the rest of the building that the church was demolished and a different site was sought. The church had acquired some years earlier the land of the old A. D. E. Tweed estate on Belmont Avenue, so this is where the new church was built. The church (now the First United Church of Christ) was completed in 1995. Items from the former church were saved and incorporated into the new building: the old cornerstone, stained glass windows, the 1912 baptismal font, Bibles and the inscribed lintel stone above the original church door.

St. George Serbian Eastern Orthodox Church

12 College Hill Centennial, Porter Printing, Thursday June 23, 1966

13 Source: Souvenir History of Cumminsville, 1911.
The Oaks was once the home and convent of this church. The order sold The Oaks and moved into the original, separate carriage house. Members of this faith have Serbian/Yugoslavian roots. Followers of the Gregorian calendar, they celebrate Christmas on January 6, following traditional customs of their homeland.

The United Methodist Church

During April 1908, Mr. Ed. Bohnett met Mr. W. S. Norris in Cumminsville to have a friendly chat. During the conversation Mr. Bohnett asked Mr. Norris if he was still constructing Sunday school and church buildings. With Mr. Norris’s positive answer, the question arose about building a church in College Hill.

As a result of a canvas, the committee found only one local United Brethren member, Mrs. Edith Taylor, who was a member of the Bevis-Dunlap circuit of the United Brethren church. But the canvas also showed that there was great interest in establishing a Sunday school in the College Hill community.

The committee members went to Mr. Newbold Pierson, then in the real estate business, to secure a lot in a convenient place. Among the lots that Mr. Pierson described were two located in the eastern side of College Hill, where the present church now stands.

These two lots were once part of the plat owned by Samuel F. Cary in 1892. Two of the streets in this plot were Woodward and Lincoln, which today are Marlowe and Salvia Avenues. Later Mr. Cary’s daughter, Jessie, transferred the plot to other owners, one of which was Newbold L. Pierson.

Mr. Pierson donated these lots to the community, and during the summer of 1908 a little church was built.

In Feb. 1912 the little church was moved to the lot next to where the present church is located. In April 1912 the ground was broken for the present church building. In Oct. 1912 the corner stone was laid and the building completed in Aug. 1913 at 1449 Marlowe Avenue. The Norris Memorial United Brethren Church was well established, and the ladies of the church served their first meal to those attending the annual conference at the new church.

In 1915 the church was remodeled. Mr. W. Forbes did the carpentry, assisted by John Sevester and Edward Mendenhall, painters. Much of the electrical work was done by J. M. Harrell, who also did the electrical installations in the newly built homes on the surrounding streets. During the following year the parsonage (now Christ’s Community in College Hill) was purchased.

Early in 1940 a new chancel was built with the help of a good architect, Mr. Karl Abel, who is a member of the present congregation. The original church had been used as the Sunday school and the home for the janitor and was torn down to build the two story education unit on that site. The new building was connected to the church building’s east side and was dedicated in 1958.

A new parsonage, located at 6629 Orleans Court, was dedicated on Sunday, April 9, 1967. Rev. William D. Worth was the pastor at that time.

In April 1968 the Evangelical United Brethren Church in the United States, and the Methodist Church United in Dallas, Texas, combined. Thus the little church started in 1908 is today named the College Hill United Methodist Church.

Currently, Rev. Shirley A. Landis is pastor, and Rev. Landis leads her congregation in Sunday worship services in the church’s sanctuary that contains 17 stained glass windows with the following dedications: north windows - In memory of H. Geo. & Sarah J. Sherman, In memory of Walter Jr. & Emily Norris, Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Forbes, H. G. Pounsford; east windows - In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Louis Fink, In memory of Henry B. Corbett, A. J. Spence & wife, Rev. R. M. Fox & wife, In memory of Mrs. Mina Reeves & Mrs. Barbara Forbes; south windows - In memory of Mrs. Martha Taylor, Given by Miss Virgie Betscher & Miss Malinda Miller; west windows - Mr. & Mrs. Martin V. Wert, In memory of Robert H. Glass, Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Gough, In memory of James J. Eiler & George L. Eiler, Alvin L. Sadler & family.

Written by Sheridan E. Yelliott, church historian, College Hill United Methodist Church, 1990.
Charter members of the C.H.U.B. Church were: Miss Eva Seebohm; Mrs. John Eicher and son, Jule, and daughters, Mrs. Edna Morehead and Mrs. Kathryn E. Martin; Mr. & Mrs. H. Rice and son, Philip; Mr. & Mrs. George Taylor; Mr. & Mrs. Sam Taylor; Mrs. Jennie Benison; Mrs. Anna Benison; Mr. J. B. Theders and son, Edward, and daughter Clara Theders Strong; Mr. Percy Strong; Mrs. McCain and son, Roy; Mr. & Mrs. L. Hiatt; Mrs. H. Haverland; Mrs. Fortune; Mrs. Simonton; Mr. & Mrs. Henry Corbett and son, Walter; Mrs. Rose Corbett Kruell; Mrs. Elizabeth Corbett Forthman; Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Harrell; Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Aston; Mrs. Bell Smith Steinbeck.

First Grace Episcopal Church
Courtesy of Mrs. Martha Tuttle
The story of Laura Gamble Thomson begins with the renowned Clark family of Kentucky. John and Ann Rogers Clark had eight children, Jonathan being the eldest and Elizabeth (1768-1795) the youngest. Elizabeth married Colonel Richard Clough Anderson (1750-1826) in 1783. Their eldest daughter, Ann (1790-1863) married Mr. John Logan (1785-1826) and had the following: John, Richard A., Robert W., Elizabeth Clark, Larry, Charles, Isaac, Catherine Mary and Sarah Jane (1822-1905) who married James McFarlane Gamble (1811-1868) of Louisville. Of their large family, it was Laura who married Peter Gibson Thomson of Cincinnati. One of Laura’s sisters, Catherine Mary (1851-1931) married Joseph Rogers of Chicago. One of their children, James Gamble Rogers, became a noted architect. Catherine Mary was the granddaughter of Gen. Benjamin Logan, who was a close friend and companion of Daniel Boone.

The first of this Thomson family, Peter, came from the area around Paisley, Scotland to New York in 1825. A letter which Peter wrote Jan. 1, 1826 recounted his voyage and first year in America: “...I will give an account of my passage to New York. We sailed from Greenock the 12th of November. We was drove into Rose Bay and lay there three days. There was a brig bound to Dumerara that parted both her cables and ran afoul of our ship in a snow storm on the Sunday morning after I left you. When daylight came in, we got the brig parted from the ship and in clear. On our chain cables one of the sailors got his leg taken off at the ankle. It was hanging to a piece of skin and he says, ‘Damn you, has none of you got a jack knife to cut this piece of skin?’ His leg was taken from him and he was sent back to Greenock.

We sailed on Monday afternoon and on Tuesday afternoon we was drove on to Lanach Bay and lay there seven days. It stormed awful while we lay there. Sailed again on the 22nd of November and we cleared the coast of Scotland the next day. We had very stormy weather. All the month of December we had very cold weather and 12th December we had one of the awfullest storms I ever saw in my life. In the afternoon about 4 o’clock when the sailors was reefing the foretop sail, two of the sailors was swept from the yard and one of them we never saw more.

On the 22nd of December our ship took a buck and went down stern foremost. This was about 4 o’clock in the morning. I was on deck at the time with nothing but my shirt on, helping the sailors, and it was blowing and snowing. I was almost froze to death. The ship righted and we got into New York on the 29th of December. That was a passage of seven weeks.

I have a very happy New Year in New York. I went to a ball and fell in with an old lass of mine who was glad to see me and we made a match of it in a few days. I was married on the 6th of January. There was no time for trifling...Her name is Rhoda Johnson. She had a fine son the 1st of November and his name is Alexander...We had on Christmas a whole ox roasted, and the New Year the same for the novelty of it...” The family came to Cincinnati via flatboat from Pittsburgh about ten years after entering the country.

Alexander married Mary Ann Edwards whose family migrated to America from Wales when she was three. They came to Pittsburgh by sled through the snow covered mountains and then to Cincinnati by stage coach.

Due to an accident which killed his infant brother Alexander, Peter G. was the only surviving son. His father and grandfather died within a year of each other, forcing 14 year old Peter to go to work and support his mother and two sisters. In 1868 he purchased a $50 membership in the Bryant, Stratford & Co. Business College. The school offered bookkeeping, commercial arithmetic, commercial law and practical penmanship. He wasn’t robust and joined a gym conducted by Samuel Barrett, a professional boxer. This later became the Cincinnati Athletic Club. At the time of his death, he was the oldest member of this club. He credited his health and energy to the gym, and he neither smoked nor drank.

His first recorded job was in 1871 as a shipping clerk for Robert Clark Company, a bookstore in downtown Cincinnati. Within six years he borrowed money and opened his own store and publishing business on Vine Street. He worked from the store’s opening at 7 A.M. to its closing at 10 P.M. He kept this schedule for 5 years, without taking any time off.
While he was selling books, he also was collecting them - rare books on the history of the Northwest Territory. He had them bound in London and Paris, seeking out the premier names in leather binding, making each book a work of art. They now are with the University of Cincinnati. He 1880 he published a book which he wrote, *A Bibliography of the State of Ohio*, a listing of all books printed in and printed about Ohio up to that date. He wrote this book over a ten year period. It is still available today.

In 1875 he married Laura Gamble of Louisville. He met her by accident. According to family lore Peter G.’s mother asked him to leave work early on a Saturday, when he worked for the Robert Clark Company, to escort her and her friends to a matinee. Across the street visiting a family friend, Laura was included in this group. On the final night of her Cincinnati stay, Peter G. took her to Pike’s Opera House. They had a courtship at a distance after she returned home since, on a shipping clerk’s salary, he didn’t make much money. He proposed. They saw each other only seven times before their wedding day.

Years later in an interview Peter G. was quoted: “My wife was Miss Laura Gamble, a niece of the first Lars Anderson, and she was a wonderful woman. I had $10 when I was married. She had a great gift at writing poetry, jingles and pretty little lines. And she could write the most delightful children’s books and nursery takes. I owe much to her.”

By 1882 they started to publish toy books, games, nursery rhymes and school squeak less slates. Later, valentines were added. The children’s books sold for a dime. Laura did their business bookkeeping. This business was so successful that it was bought by the McLoughlin Brothers of Brooklyn, N. Y. to end his competition in children’s publications. Enough was made from this sale that he could move his family from downtown Cincinnati to College Hill (1885).

Peter G. had three maxims; establish a good credit and then use it as much as you can; keep constantly plugging; there is no luck connected with success, nor any secret. The surest way is to work hard.

It was at this time that he started Champion Coated Paper in Hamilton, Ohio, 20 miles north of Cincinnati on the Great Miami River. There were other paper mills lining the east shore of the river, for hydraulic water power supplied the industry. In those days, the Miami Valley was the third largest paper manufacturing region in the nation. The Miami-Erie Canal also made shipping paper convenient. The paper mills attracted mostly Appalachian workers which added to the growth of Hamilton. Through W.W. II, Champion remained the largest coated paper manufacturer plant in the U.S.

In the 1880’s printing underwent an improvement with the invention of the halftone process. It used tiny dots of varying size to render a detailed picture rather than engraved lines. This new process required paper smoother than any available at that time. The halftone process was used in newspapers and magazines. With his experience as a printer, Thomson realized that a fast and inexpensive way to coat paper would have an unlimited potential market.

Thomson sized the moment and Champion Coated Paper started with $100,000 of capital stock in 1892. He purchased 200 acres around the plant in 1889 and started a real estate business too, Prospect Hill and Grand View subdivisions, advertising homes that would be a 15 minute walk from Hamilton’s industrial center. The nearest industry was a brickyard. He relied on the paper industry already there to provide skilled workers.

One of Champion’s early investors was Harry Pounsford. Champion grew rapidly and built a mill in Canton, North Carolina that had 150,000 acres of trees to supply pulp. Thomson was an innovator in reforestation techniques, being careful not to over cut his trees so that he had an endless, growing, supply of pulp.

A fire in 1901 reduced the Hamilton mill to ashes, but it was immediately rebuilt. In its heyday, Hamilton could produce 15 boxcar loads of paper per day. A flood and fire destroyed the plant again in 1913 and once again was rebuilt, better than previously. One of Thomson’s strengths was constant innovation, seeking more effective and less expensive ways for production.

Thomson was a far-sighted and fair employer. His mills frequently employed several generations of the same family. He established an automatic raise at each five years of employment, free life insurance for his workers, free medical clinics and a commissary where food and household supplies were sold at
cost. One of his first employees was with him still in 1930. He also had his family working in key positions for the company, but they all started at the bottom and earned their way upward.

Peter G. and Laura had five children: Peter G., Jr (married Laura Simpson); Alexander (married Mary Moore Dabney); Mary Belle (married Walter Randall); Logan (married Sylvia Johnston) and Hope (married Reuben Buck Robertson). According to their son Alexander (born 1879), Peter G. took “...every bit as much care of the children as Mother did.”

Peter G. decided to give a nephew of Laura’s who had just completed the Beaux Arts architectural school in Paris - James Gamble Rogers - a chance to design their home. A graduate of Yale, Rogers returned to his alma mater to design the modern Yale campus, Harvard, Philips Exeter school and Brown University. Rogers designed “Laurel Court.” Norris S. Knight originally purchased the 23 acre property Aug. 29, 1867 for $24,214. Thomson purchased the Knight house and land, tearing down the Knight house in which they lived for the site on which to build Laurel Court. The family lived in a home across the street at The Oaks during construction.

Laurel Court was built in 1902-1905, and was based on the French Renaissance design of Le Petite Trianon, the Versailles, France palace of Louis XV and later home to Marie Antoinette. (The Governor’s Mansion in Frankfort, Ky. was built on the same French model). Known as ‘Gamble,’ he also designed a Swiss Chalet style home for Thomson’s sister, Rhoda, who married Charles Rammelsberg, whose father founded the Rammelsberg Furniture Company. Rogers also designed the Walter deGollyer Randall house, on which site McAuley Convent was built.

A railroad spur was added to convey the gray Alabama granite to Laurel Court’s site. The Ionic exterior front columns are made of a continuous piece of stone, not pieces assembled. The building cost $1 million to construct15, not including what Laura spent on furnishings acquired on a worldwide buying trip.

Laurel Court has 36 rooms, including 5 bedrooms, 4 complete bathrooms with showers and 7 foot bathtubs. The bathrooms and outdoor swimming pool were made of Rookwood tile. The bathrooms had three water choices: hot, cold or rain. The library was paneled in African Rosewood with the grain matched to form a butterfly pattern. Its wooden floor had a herringbone pattern that changed direction depending on where the viewer stood. The Turkish carpets were woven especially for particular rooms. Georgian marble was used for the dining room floor. Inlaid Delft tiles highlighted the kitchen walls and the sink. An elevator and central vacuum was installed, the mansion was heated by hot water, and utilities were underground. Solid bronze railings were used on the stair case, supported by balustrades filigreed with the initials PGT. The walls had a cardboard or felt covering underneath the fabric wall covering for acoustical value and to reduce the visibility of any cracks. Some walls were stenciled.

The center of the house has a glass ceiling two-story atrium which permits light to enter the interior rooms. A Tuscan colonnade frames three sides of the Atrium. Interior walls are constructed of polychromic brick made from volcanic ash. Water piped from the cistern below once watered the plants during the winter and during the summer the glass ceiling could be retracted for natural rain. When the house left to Thomson family, some of the large atrium plants were moved to the Krohn Conservatory where they are still thriving.

Years later it was written16 of him: “...he built a noble mansion on College Hill and on its walls hang many pictures of great artistic merit, while within and without the house are a score of bronze and marble statues that are veritable museum pieces. The Italian garden adjoining the house is ornamented with marble statues that would do credit to a European palace. None of these things was merely for display – they were an outward expression of the inner man - a man who loved art for art’s sake and who found in beautiful and artistic things a spiritual satisfaction. Proud as Mr. Thomson was of a magnificent and successful business career, he was much more proud of his ‘Bibliography’ and of his collection of books published in the days when Ohio was in the making.”

15 William Erd of Northside was the brick contractor.

16 Cincinnati Enquirer, Peter G. Thomson Expires Following Lingering Illness: Noted In Industrial World, Sat., July 11, 1931.
Despite all the finery, according to her grandson Chilton Thomson, Laura preferred dressing in borrowed gent’s trousers to play with the children to wearing a fancy dress.

At the edge of the Laurel Court property, Peter Thomson built a lovely house for his daughter Mary Bell and her husband Walter D. Randall.

Laura died in Jan. 1912. Logan and his wife, Sylvia, and their two children, Dwight and Jane, were born and raised in Laurel Court, the family then moved to the Caldwell/Prather house at the end of Windermere Way. Peter G. in 1920 married a family friend, Kate Prather Woolley. She was the widow of Edgar M. Woolley, whose family was in the leather trade and the daughter of Charles Blair Prather. In France during their world wide honeymoon they were lavishly entertained by the publishers of several magazines for whom PGT had Champion Coated Paper supply stocked during W.W. I, at his own expense. He did the same thing for Britain. I believe that, for a while, both \textit{L'Illustration} in France and \textit{The Illustrated London News} were printed on paper made in Hamilton, Ohio.\footnote{Correspondence, Chilton Thomson, July 1, 1996}

Peter G. died in 1931. Mrs. Thomson moved to the Caldwell/Prather ‘Dower House.’ Laurel Court was sheeted and closed. Large plants from the atrium greenhouse were moved to Krohn Conservatory. Later Logan and his family returned to reside in Laurel Court. The house passed from the family in 1947 and for 30 years was the residence of the Archbishop of Cincinnati. Archbishops John McNicholas and Karl J. Alter lived there.

Donald S. ‘Buddy’ LaRosa bought the property in 1977, partially furnished, for $350,000. It encompassed 7.5 acres. Without this purchase, it is likely that the building would have been razed and apartments built on the site. Much of the building was in poor shape when Mr. LaRosa acquired it. In 1977 it cost approximately $50,000 per year simply to maintain and operate the mansion. Mr. LaRosa did much to restore and preserve the building and grounds. The oriental garden had completely grown over. It took four years to unearth the original garden site and restore it. It took three years to restore the Rookwood swimming pool, which was in such a bad shape in 1977 that it appeared to be a shallow reflecting pool. Mr. LaRosa had the wrought iron gates made in Mexico to add security and privacy to his home. For several years it served as his corporate headquarters and would be open to the public on certain occasions. Through his efforts the house was placed on the both the local and national historic registers (1979).

The house was sold in 1991 with an auction of the furnishings that drew international antique collectors.

In 1997 Champion International Paper sold the Hamilton mill. The Asian paper industry is creating inroads on U.S. production with newer, more efficient equipment and lower worker wages.

The Thomson name may be familiar if you are Boy Scout. Dwight Thomson, due to his support of the Scouts, has been honored by the Dan Beard Council. The Dan Beard Riverwalk Trail, for which any Scout can earn a medal and a patch, takes approximately 3 hours to complete. Starting at Fountain Square, the trail follows the Bicentennial Riverwalk and crosses over the river to Riverboat Row along the Kentucky shore and passes Dan Beard’s house. The medal says Dwight Thomson Trail Award. Mr. Thomson was a Star Scout and an Assistant Scoutmaster and served on many Dan Beard Council positions. For service to boyhood, Mr. Thomson was awarded the Silver Beaver, Antelope and Buffalo.
Laurel Court was seldom called that by members of the Thomson family or their close friends. It was the ‘Big House’ and, in many ways, it was a BIG mistake. It originated in the sudden, and quite dramatic, decision of my grandfather, Peter Gibson Thomson, to provide a ‘meaningful opportunity’ to a young cousin who had just completed architectural school in the Beaux Arts in Paris. It did what it was supposed to do: ‘Cousin Gamble,’ Yale ca. 1896, went on to rebuild much of modern Yale and numerous other important structures in the northeast quadrant of the country.

James Gamble Rogers was my grandfather’s nephew. Like her, he came from a modestly comfortable Louisville family that included most of the Gambles who did NOT make soap or move to California at the turn of the century and make fortunes in real estate out there. He was a grandnephew of George Rogers Clark and son of a well intentioned and ambitious mother who painted in oils. He inherited much of the daring dash and skill of both of them, along with a powerful physique and weak eyesight that prevented him from playing football at Yale. He did however pick the right room-mate, from the future’s point of view: Wm. L. Harkness was to inherit countless millions and make as much again, to pay for the rebuilding of Yale and Harvard!

Gamble (as he was always called) came through Cincinnati on his way home from Paris and, as always, stopped to visit his beloved Aunt Laura and Uncle Peter. At this distance of nearly eighty years, I am sieving bits that I was told or overheard over FIFTY years ago, such as whether the house should have a ‘garritch’ (always PGT’s pronunciation) for ‘motors’ or a carriage house and stable. I know that it was to have both. Also, there was never any doubt that Grandfather intended it to be his beloved Laura’s ‘court’ and so it was named. It had to have a relatively large number of bedrooms. My father, Alec, was still living at home and working at the paper mill in Hamilton. He was twenty-five, a bit younger than Cousin Gamble. Peter Jr. was frequently at home, Hope and Mary Belle were in school in Cincinnati and Logan was about to leave for the new school in Cleveland that had a boarding department, University School. He didn’t go. So: five bedrooms for children, a master suite with dressing and sitting room, four bathrooms (and they were glorious, seven-foot porcelain tubs, separate stall showers complete with ‘liver spray’...I never knew what it was but the handle said so!) And the necessary service accouterments made p the second floor.

The first floor, a true ‘piano nobile’ in classic tradition, is about six feet above ground level. (Incidentally, there was a good sized hill on the site, which was removed by a dummy train to a marsh S. E.) There are (or, were....several of the rooms have changed ‘assignment’ over the years) in a flat horse-shoe from the N. E., billiard room, library, front hall, ballroom and dining room. As above, all backed onto an atrium covered by a (once) removable reinforced glass roof. In the back if the house are pantry, very large kitchen, larder, servant’s dining-living room and a large general service area which housed a hydraulic elevator which, to the best of my knowledge, never had worked. I remember it as a coat and broom closet. The cellars were out-of-bounds when I was a young boy; grandfather died when I was ten and my step-mother, Mother Kate, moved to the Dower House on Windermere Way very soon afterwards. Then, when the house was empty of all but caretakers, I really had a chance to explore! The ground rules were firm, however. No closed door was to be opened, no piece of furniture or bric-a-brac was to be moved. But we were free to play Sardines in the Can, Hide and Seek, slide on the tremendous banisters, play pool, use the house intercom telephones and ...particular joy...play the dinner chimes and the gilded piano in the ballroom. What more could a kid want for a ‘play-house’ on a dull day?

Then, in 1934 (about), my uncle Logan and Aunt Sylvia decided to move up from Hamilton Avenue. My father and the other heirs sold their shares and, very rapidly, the Big House was itself again. Some of the old furnishings were changed; the billiard room became a cozy cocktail room, its fine fire-place frequently used. The living room and dining room got new rugs and draperies (after thirty years, they needed ’em!). Best of all, with relatively young adults who loved hospitality and teen-aged Dwight and ten year old Jane, it was a home again.
My grandmother had been warmly hospitable and very active in College Hill’s active society around the turn of the century. There had been amateur dramatics in the Town Hall (I have a marvelous photo of Dad with a fake moustache in something of the nature of ‘The Belle of the Klondike’; with his black hair, he was a perfect villain) much of which moved up to the Big House. A kindergarten ran for years in the stable, which never accommodated a horse. Grandfather even sat at his Louis Seize ‘maître ébéniste’ desk helping the children make paper chains, and he was a stern and rather humorless man. The lawn and developing gardens were open to everybody but the swimming pool, first in College Hill, was not. It was specifically designed to be in full view of the front porch where, in pre-air-conditioning summer, the family sat up late. Grandmother died in February, 1911, in Florida where she had been taken after a near-stroke. Logan and Sylvia moved in before 1919: Dwight and Jane were born in the house, then in 1918 or 19, PGT married Kate Prather Woolley, a widow and devoted friend. The ‘Logans’ moved out and the newlyweds took the first east-bound trip of the new Cunard Mauretainia for a very unusual honeymoon: they were very close to teetotal, they had no particular goal in their travels and, most importantly, PGT had scads of money and very, very little knowledge about spending it! Mother Kate undoubtedly did have exquisite taste and some knowledge but she let him buy whatever he wanted: a Reynolds portrait and a Byzantine papal crown which proved phony, a mass of carved copies of famous marble statues (which led to a new formal garden to house them) and masses of collectibles such as swords, manuscript illuminations, tapestries, bronzes which changed the interior considerably. My particular favorite was a mechanical bird-in-a-cage which lived on a tabouret in the ballroom. Well wound, it would spring out of its base and warble ‘Funiculi Funicula’, ‘with beak and head moving and wings flapping, then pop back down at the end. In spite of numerous broad hints to Mother Kate, I never got the bird.

In her day, entertainment at the Big House was of two kinds: dinner parties and concert/lectures. Perhaps money paved the way up Hamilton hill but many stars of the Twenties seemed to like to come. Once in awhile, if the performance seemed ‘proper’, I was taken over by a parent or sibling from our house across the street (now Doug Trimmel’s) to hear John McCormick, Richard Crooks, Reinhold Werrenrath, Margarete Matzenauer, singers; Percy Grainger and Anton Rubinstein, pianists; Carveth Wells, explorer; Hendrik Willem VanLoon, historian, and my own fascinating cousin, Gamble Rogers. I could usually sneak into the pantry and kitchen before or immediately after the dinner to goggle at the great table, set from the one-thousand piece of Capo da Monte porcelain which ....supposedly!....had been made at Napoleon’s order for the Princess Borghese. Or, at the twenty-four German service plates emblazoned with gold and scenes from Wagner’s operas. There were two great epergnes of round silver base supporting four caryatids who held a large bowl on their heads, overflowing with grapes (which might well have come from the green house behind) and flowers. I have one piece left of the glassware which was French, acid-etched and picked out in gold in a geometric design.

Mother Kate had brought into the marriage a jewel of a cook, who happened to have the same name, so Mother Kate re-named ‘Kate’ something like Sarah! However, nobody else did. She was plump, strong, incredibly good-natured and was simply ‘Cookie’. She presided over the huge range, coal-burning at one end (that stopped about 1930) with eight over-size gas burners at the other, with four ovens and two huge grills. Mrs. Kinney, who didn’t seem to have a first name, presided over her own end of the kitchen (facing the formal garden) where she had her own work-table and sink to prepare pies, pastries, cakes (her white fruit-cake was Mother Kate’s highly prized Christmas gift to close friends) and especially Parker House rolls. I finished twelve of them one evening, and was stopped with the thirteenth well on its way into my mouth. Kids just could NOT leave her rolls alone so she seldom baked fewer than 144, 72 in two huge flat pans. My occasional job was buttering them, which took half a stick apiece. Meals were far from extravagant and, only at Christmas, Thanksgiving and major birthdays were there more than three courses; then, salad and a sherbert were served before a rich dessert. The first course was almost invariably soup, light and clear if the entree were heavy, thick and rich if not. Always homemade, from one of the stockpots on the range. Dessert was almost always homemade ice cream and cake. Oh, those incredible Angel Foods! Those dreamy Lady Baltimores! (I haven’t seen one since Mother Kate died in 1937.) Particularly memorable are the sand cookies and macaroons. There never was wine until
Repeal, then only on occasions such as Jane’s debut ball in December ‘39 or my wife’s and my Rehearsal Dinner in December ‘41. I do not remember that there was a real wine cellar in the house.

Aunt Sylvia and ‘Nunkie’ Logan stepped up the pace of entertaining, but only a bit. Drinks were now prepared in the ‘new’ sitting room, often held in hand during singing around the grand piano in the living room. Aunt Sylvia’s father had taught piano at home as she grew up and she played well enough by ear but never learned to read music or to transpose key. She had a very sweet, feminine voice and sang accordingly, so the rest of us could not sing the National Anthem to her accompaniment. To everybody’s joy, the singing that began with the Cocktail Song (There’s a moment that comes before dinner... is as much as I recall) did not end until Brown or Horace announced dinner. On Christmas Day, this was at 1:30 PM and lasted until well past 3:00. Then, most of us went for a long walk.

Two events stand out in memory: Jane’s debut, the great hallway illuminated by candles, the living room and sitting room stripped, with two bands alternating for constant dancing. The atrium was as warm as a room, filled with poinsettias and some white flowers, all of which sparkling in candlelight and subdued hidden lighting. Two bars out there and then, at one-thirty in the morning, the dining room opened to reveal a magnificent buffet of good, plain, ‘eatin’ food’ as my oldest brother called it: scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage, English muffins brought from the East (they weren’t yet available in Cincinnati) and Mrs. Kinney’s Danish and cookies. Our rehearsal dinner was dimmed by the fact that Pearl Harbor had occurred but plans previously made sat twenty-four of family, groomsmen, and bridesmaids down to an elegant meal topped off with Perrier-Jouet brut champagne, the reserve of the monarchs of Great Britain. Nunkie had, somehow, laid in a supply for the debut and had enough left over.

One other thing about Laurel Court means much to me: I hold an unregistered, legally meaningless lien on a small bit of it. Here’s how: I was eight, and was caught by one of the gardeners climbing on one of the marble statues. He took me before Mr. Corbett, chief gardener, who led me to my grandfather...at the Riesener desk. Have you climbed the buckeye tree next to the south driveway? he asked, fixing me with stern eyes. No, grand-dad, never! I wavered. Well, go try! I did, and got fairly close to the top, Mr. Corbett watching. We went back into the house. Grandfather was writing at the desk, then turned to me with the paper. It was on is letterhead and said in beautifully perfect Spencerian ‘hand’: I, Peter Gibson Thomson, being in sound mind and health, do hereby give and bequeath the large buckeye tree beside the south driveway of Laurel Court to my grandson, Chilton Thomson, to have and to climb at his will! /signed/ Peter G. Thomson. There, boy, he smiled, climb it and stay off the statuary, please?

Years and years later, after Nunkie died in 1947, the Big House stood vacant again, finally to be sold to the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Cincinnati for the residence of the newly declared archbishop. I wrote to him, offering my welcome and telling him about my ‘lien.’ His lovely reply acknowledged my right to make use of it and added: And, Mr. Thomson, when you come to climb your tree, you may be sure that I’ll be right along side you: then, we’ll go back to the Big House and have a cup of tea!

I never met this lively, witty man. I have never been back to Laurel Court. I am not sure that I would not hear the echoes of Past Presences which would haunt me even more than they now do.
Chapter 33  The Oaks

This property was first part of Richard Hankin’s forfeit. It passed to Isaac and Sarah Sparks, Richard’s son-in-law, to their son-in-law David and Rachel Long, in 1837 to Israel Brown, another of Richard’s sons-in-law and thence to Thomas B. Smith, all buried in Gard Cemetery. A small school was built on the land. For the teacher to live in, a brick building was constructed behind it with a wooden lean-to in the rear. Each room had a fireplace and a central hall separated the rooms, two on either side. The one story, four room building from 1814, is the nucleus of “The Oaks.”

The deed on this land is a catalogue of College Hill history - William Cary, Zaddock Lewis, William A. Bagley, Albert G. Arnold, Abel Canton Wilder. Albert Arnold sold the land in 1837 to the school directors who were William A. Bagley and Jeremiah Steelman. William Bagley’s wife was Rosalinda Witherby. The property was sold in 1863 to Maria L. Knight. Her husband was George C. Knight, a New York developer who built several properties in College Hill. Their son, Norris, drowned in a lake in College Hill about 1871. By now a fine house occupied the land. The house was sold at a sheriff’s sale to John Hunt, who purchased it April 30, 1869 for $18,333.34. The house was sold to Jane and Patrick Kennedy, who went bankrupt. In July 1877 the house was sold by Siller A. Thompson (assignee in insolvency) to Marie E. Emerson, wife of Lowe Emerson.

Col. Lowe Emerson was a distinguished officer in the Union Army during the Civil War. Before the war, he was a Kansas land speculator and came to Cincinnati, returning here to work in the lumber trade. He resided at The Oaks from 1877 until 1902 when the property was purchased by the Thomson family. During that time the Emerson’s expanded and modernized the house. The roof was raised and additional height was added, the sixteen foot ceilings were lowered to their present ten and one half feet, and three other floors were added. A large zinc-lined tank in the attic was installed to collect rain that supplied a bath and sink, which is still in place. The fireplaces were changed and more added. Mr. Emerson was responsible for all the Victorian refinements, such as the parquet floors on the ground level, the sliding cherry wood doors between the music room and dining room, and the open three-story stairway made of cherry wood with inlays of oak that match the paneling in the dining room. Heating was added at this time. The house used acetylene gas for light. This gas was supplied from a shed in the garden.

Emerson was born in 1854 in Massachusetts and of the same family that included Ralph Waldo Emerson. Lowe tried many business ventures early in his life, from wholesale manufacture of shoes, to land speculator. After the Civil War he was in Cincinnati’s lumber business when he met Cincinnatian, John W. Fisher. Fisher had experience in carriage manufacture and made harness, saddle-bags, ambulances and other wagon equipment for the Federal government during the Civil War.

In 1872 these two enterprising young men, Lowe Emerson and John W. Fisher, formed a partnership, The Emerson & Fisher Company, to manufacture buggies. Emerson staked his finances that with their business experience, contacts and Fisher’s knowledge of the carriage and leather trade that they could succeed in changing the buggy industry. They selected two or three representative styles, and commenced a plan of interchangeable parts and buying material in large quantities. They produced a quality vehicle at a price lower than the competition. Buggies that were retailing at $500 each from other companies they could make to be sold $200-$300 apiece, bringing a luxury item into the economic realm of the middle class. The carriages were durable as well as stylish. Sales soared and the market for their buggies increased until they were in demand throughout the country. In 1882, Cincinnati was the leading carriage manufacturing center in the world, producing 100,000 vehicles a year.

The company incorporated in 1881 with Emerson was president and Fisher as vice-president. Emerson was on a board of several other carriage manufacturers and other businesses in which he owned a part; was vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce, and was the president of the National Carriage Makers’ Association in 1886 and for years was a trustee of College Hill’s Belmont College and later, the O.M.I.

The 1896 their first and only venture into automobiles appeared, the Emerson-Fisher, the first car made in Cincinnati.
Emerson retired in 1902 and his son, Lowe K. Emerson became president. The distinctive Napoleonic coach “Body by Fisher” logo, adopted in 1914, became one of the world’s most recognized symbols.

In 1866 Emerson married Maria Elizabeth Knight (1837-1899). Their children were: Harrison Dexter Emerson (married Flora Coan), Ernest Lowe Emerson (1870-1871), Guy Winslow Emerson (1874-1889), who was killed by a lighting strike at his home when he was age 15, Laura Elizabeth Emerson, and Lowe Knight Emerson (1876-1911), who married Flora Coan’s sister, Barbara. Maria’s sister, Olive A. Knight married John R. Allen. Their daughter, Cora Marie Allen (1864-1952) married College Hill’s Orville Simpson. They had two children: Lowe and Robert Orville Simpson. Olive and Maria’s other sister, Louise Mary Knight, married Harrison Dexter. Laura Emerson was raised by her aunt, Laura Emerson, who married Herbert Aiken.

Lowe K. served in the Spanish American War, forming a Cincinnati company of infantry to fight and thereafter went by Captain Lowe Emerson. In 1874 he and Col. R. Dollings formed the Ohio Life Insurance Co. Lowe died unexpectedly of appendicitis in 1911.

The Oaks was sold to Peter G. Thomson in 1902. The building was remodeled and pillars were added to the front when Mr. Thomson anticipated that his son, Alexander, was going to married a Gould daughter. The Goulds came from New York to College Hill for a visit but the marriage didn’t occur. The Thomson’s lived in the house when Laurel Court was under construction. Mr. Thomson gave the house to his son Alexander when he married Mary Moore Dabney, who later became the president of Western College for Women. During their honeymoon in Europe The Oaks was again remodeled. The sash type windows on the ground floor were removed and French doors installed. The one-story porch was removed and the present two and one half story porch added along with a breakfast room. The interior woodwork was changed to the present fluted Corinthian type and decorative Greek key cornices and plaster moldings were installed. Another wing was added with a new kitchen.

In 1920, a tunnel running from the acetylene shed, under the smoke house and into the southwest corner of the cellar was obliterated. This tunnel was mentioned in Levi Coffin’s description of the Underground Railroad.

In the yard is a gingko tree, a gift from Mr. Sugimoto. A trumpet vine still blooms that was planted at the end of the Civil War. A century old pine oak is in the front yard along with oak trees from the time of Farmers’ College. Grapevines smuggled from Portugal by the Thomson’s first gardener, Joe Riis, are still there. Mr. Riis came from the University of Cincinnati and started working for the Alexander Thomson’s in 1907.

After the death of Alexander Thomson in 1939, the mansion was sold to Walter T. Askew, president of the Pierson Lumber Company. Mr. Askew passed away suddenly and his widow, being unfamiliar with the business, sold their interest.

The house was acquired in the 1950’s by the St. George Serbian Eastern Orthodox Church. The exterior was painted gray and the house visually vanished. Green paint covered interior mural decorated walls and wood paneling. The church congregation later moved to the former carriage house on the Thomson property and sold the ‘big house.’ It was purchased by Douglas Trimmel and the late Robert D’Amato in 1977 and the huge task of restoration of the house started. Without their work, time, and loving care, this house might truly ‘be history’ today.
The Oaks, at 5907 Belmont Avenue, was extensively remodeled during 1919-1920. I, the writer, was being ‘modeled’ to be born there in May, 1920, the house not quite complete....nor was I, but that’s another story. The First World War was over; the family and the house had done their part through victory gardens, animal husbandry (four cows, six swine, a work horse), Red Cross and Home Guard....there was a lot of catching up to do. A new guest-room suite out of the two small NE rooms on the second floor with white-tiled bath and foyer; new bath, dressing rooms and sleeping porch for the master suite on the SE and re-decoration throughout. ‘Modern’ wiring, with push-button switches and porcelain-plug floor outlets; RUUD constant-flow hot water heater to cope with endless baths, dish washes and laundry; all gas lighting eliminated with ‘electroliers’ and wall brackets in all major rooms. An amazing total of eight electric circuits, with the fuse box outside the master bedroom and the master switch next to the huge coal-fired furnace in the old stone cellar.

The kitchen and laundry on the west end were up to their task, supplying a major manor. The former was insulated from the western sun by a stair well to the cellar and a large storage room cum larder housing the dozens of bowls and pans needed to cook for an AVERAGE of fifteen people. The range had two coal ovens and four stove rings, two gas with six rings and a broiler big enough to handle two dozen chops. The giant ice-box, built into the wall of the kitchen and the all-weather porch, could take two hundred pounds a day from D. D. Peters’ wagon. The kitchen was connected to the dining-room by a pantry larger than most modern kitchens which had two sinks about 3’ X 3’ and 14” deep, wooden drain boards and towel racks beneath. Cleaning supplies above in closed cabinets, five pairs of glass fronted cabinets surrounding the room which housed five sets of china, numerous serving pieces and drawers full of flat silver. In the porch was the broom closet, a huge built-in container for trash bins and vegetable storage, the stairs to the cellar and the entrance--the only one--to the laundry.

Alice Walton, who lived in the ‘sub’ presided over the laundry daily from 1911 to 1925. She had two sets of tubs, one on the south and one on the west, a huge center table for sorting and folding, a gas fired mangle which could do double sheets I one pass, two pairs of twin-burner gas rings for boiling and a copper washing machine whose slow clunk-suck, clunk-suck could be heard all through the house every Monday and Wednesday. Alice was helped by ‘fill-in’ girls but did all the hand ironing herself with sad irons heated on the ‘rings.’ When she retired, Mamie Thomas took over until the laundry was closed and did the hand ironing with an electric iron.

Sallie Dowtin, who’d worked for Mrs. Thomson’s mother since 1886, joined the staff in 1920 as ‘fill-in’ on Thursdays and Sunday afternoons. Arthur ‘Shinny’ Chenault, ex-Pullman porter and prize fighter, started the same year as heavy cleaner. Ernest (last name forgotten), the man to be immortalized on the Cream of Wheat box, was Butler and Carrie Payne was cook. Outside, Phil Zimmerman had just replaced famous Joe Riis as gardener (Gustav Eckstein wrote his story; Alexander Woolcott reprinted it in his Second Reader aided by Walter Robinson, who had gone to College Hill’s school with Mr. Thomson in the ‘80s. All of these wonderful people were to stay into the ‘30s; Sallie until The Oaks was closed in 1940.

In 1930, to ease working conditions and create jobs, the Thomsons decided on major revamping of the facilities. The laundry was given up when Mamie retired; the Avondale Steam Laundry took on the household as a ‘run.’ By this time, the country place in Indiana added tremendously to the laundry load with week-ends not infrequent bedding thirty, one time forty-two people. A new kitchen was developed in the former laundry space with a hotel sized Kitchen Aid and three giant sinks taking the west-end, a tremendous four door refrigerator (with compressor in the cellar) on the north, cabinets on the south and an all gas range on the dining room wall. A marble-topped center table could seat six, the normal number for lunch or dinner; over-flow, particularly when the children ate in the kitchen ‘when the old folks were out,’ tipped chairs against the cabinets.
Food came from the one acre garden or Bolam’s Grocery at the bottom of the hill by the bushel; oranges and spinach by the crate, milk and cream and butter from Ruther’s Daily by the dozen, daily. When Mrs. Grogan, the seamstress, had to stay on for dinner, her son usually joined in order to drive her home. With grand-parents visiting for six or eight weeks, there were eight in the dining room (the table seated twelve spaciously) and eight more in the kitchen. Easter and other special events demanded card tables set up at the end of the dining room or the adjacent breakfast room for ‘children’ up to 16. Then there’d be two big rib roasts or four legs of lamb or two hams, one ‘sweet’ and one Virginia.

Biscuits or hot rolls came with every dinner, left-overs toasted for breakfast or the few for lunch. Canned goods from Bradens, in California, would arrive by dozens of crates every fall and spring to be carried to the pressing room on the third floor where ceiling-high cabinets housed perhaps forty different products. Soft drinks were made; root beer ‘working’ in the cellar, iced tea or lemonade seasonally and....always....a large granite-ware coffee pot on the back of the stove. When canned ground coffee came on the market, it too was brought in by the case. Mrs. Thomson made a trip to Peebles’ fancy grocery at ‘their’ corner about once a month for tea, candied fruit, special jellies and pickles. She seldom came home with less than two large baskets full.

And yet, it was not a lavish house-hold, in any respect. The four boys all had assigned chores which they performed fairly regularly. Their only sister was killed in 1925, not long after their mother had a still-birth. The entire household tried to distract and/or relieve her. There never had been a chauffeur, for example, so when young Ottawa Indian Michael Kishingo (Indian name A-kish-I-go-yami, the ‘moon maker’) arrived from Harbor Springs, Michigan (where he had serviced the family cars during summer vacations) with the announcement that he was ‘taking’ that job, every one was pleased. He built a three-room apartment in the second floor of the huge old brick and stone barn, outfitted it with home-made furniture, wife and eventually seven children. His work-shop on the main floor took over all the odd jobs of the estate (Mike could do anything, from electric wiring to wine and brandy making) and the maintenance of four cars. He taught the boys wood-craft, auto maintenance, driving....and perseverance.

A very quiet but determined man, he never in his life said that something could NOT be done. The writer not only swam an eight-mile lake in Canada, the summer he was fourteen, because Mike said that he ‘could and should’ and helped him train for it, he also learned a variety of skills from the man who had never been to formal school: how to know direction within a few degrees, even hundreds of feet underground in London’s subways, and how to put a hard-boiled egg into a glass milk-bottle (if you can find one, now!). Secret: shell the egg, drop a fair-sized piece of burning paper into the bottle, put the egg on top and the vacuum created will suck it in! Mike was the last of the staff to be retired in 1940; his family was considerably larger than Mrs. Thomson’s, with only two sons left at home.

There was constant work to keep the big house viable and comfortable. Much of it, thank God and the C. G. & E., never to be done by humans again. Until the late 20s, the tap water was often muddy and had to be settled with ground alum in large tubs. The clay tennis court (now almost obliterated) had to be forked, swept and rolled almost daily - and sprinkled in hot, dry weather. Over a thousand feet of graveled driveway was raked, edges clipped and dust settled with calcium chloride. Wallpaper and lamp shades were cleaned twice a year with ‘water less’ cleanser, something like an art gum eraser. Every inch of every stick of furniture was washed with Ivory suds at least twice a year. The large kennel of English Clumber Spaniels had to be cooked for (there was no prepared dog food until the ‘30s) and each dog combed and patted and washed. The boys mixed with the staff on all of these, along with mowing and trimming the three acres of lawn. They did not, however, work with the strong men who carried every rug to the heavy pipe frame in the back garden to beat the dust out of them, every spring....then roll and wrap in strong kraft paper to store while woven grass rugs replaced them for summer.

Each season brought marked changes. Soon after the family returned from summer stays, Walter Robinson or his helper began to arrive at 5:00 AM to fire up the giant coal furnace. Then the ping-ping-PING, whim-whim-WHAM! Of ascending heat came to the third floor where the boys slept with windows wide open. The two lower floors hot air heat from an exchanger. Some wise-apple kid would roll marbles, or perhaps pour some syrup to run down the long pipes but cod-liver oil was tried only once.
The oldest son married and moved out in 1933, lessening the crush on the two available bath rooms. Breakfast was served by the butler in the glass-walled breakfast room until it got too cold, then in the dining room, at 7:15 promptly. Quite plain; fruit, almost always citrus, dry cereal mostly with milk, toast and jelly. None of the boys drank coffee or tea. The parents were served their even scantier breakfast in bed. All the males scattered before 8:00, the two youngest taken to school in Clifton by Mike, the other going to Hughes by street-car until he went away to school at fifteen.

Mrs. Thomson had a busy morning, every day of the week. Consultation with the cook about meals, very specific for that day, less so about the end of the week. She paid and recorded all the household bills, including the servants....paid weekly by check. During the 20s and 30s, she was president of the symphony board, the YWCA and very active in local politics. She had two other houses to plan toward: the Indiana ‘farm’ every weekend through the school year, a summer place (finally, one owned in Canada from 1934 to 39). She had been the first woman to drive a car in College Hill but, as soon as Mike got back from delivering the boys to school, he’d start driving her around her working day. Except during a protracted illness in 1926, she never had a house-keeper or governess to help her. That time, Miss Isabel Coates from Marlowe Avenue, lived with the family for a year and then moved across the street to Laurel Court to help Mrs. Logan Thomson.

Weekends found the family in Indiana, at their lodge near Holton. The Oaks was never left vacant, however. One man, at least, lived in and Walter Robinson came Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon to check the furnace. Summers, with the family away, was the time for heavy cleaning and gardening. Joe and Nellie Cleeny, who worked at a school during the nine months, moved in to wash and polish everything possible. Shinny and Sallie, Mike and the current butler went to Canada with the family and took their annual vacations in late September. Mrs. Thomson’s plans and programs for all this were usually complete about a year in advance.

The days for such a way of life were at an end in 1940, due to the death of Mr. Thomson in 1939 and the maturing of the four sons. Mrs. Thomson moved to flats or rented houses, helped by Sallie, until the latter died in 1947. The Oaks was sold, to begin a slow but steady decline for nearly a generation until Doug Trimmel ‘caught’ it in the nick of time and began its slow, steady restoration. Once again the large old house, perhaps the oldest continually occupied residence in the state of Ohio, stands proudly on its hill-top, ready to commence another century.
The first thing you learn about restoring a pre-Civil war home is that you never finish. Once you’ve accepted that fact, the rest is all hard labor, time, and a whole lot of luck. By luck I mean, you’ve found the right person to do the work, someone who won’t make what’s wrong, worse. Thinking back, I’ve had my share of bad luck.

Looking back to January 1977 and the first time I saw the huge grey mass (the mansion was painted battle ship grey), which, at the time, I did not know it was called “the Oaks,” named that because of the giant primeval oaks in the yard; I wondered if I was out on my mind for even considering a second look. There was lots of snow that year and the only drive open was the one at the rear on Glenview, so we drove in. I remembering saying, It looks so spooky, I wonder what it’s like inside. Maybe that was the incentive to call the Realtor for the second look.

After setting up the appointment for the ‘second look’ and having a little time to think it over, it seemed such a waste of time to keep the appointment because I knew it was just really a little more house than was needed, but what’s to lose by just looking. So, toward the end of January 1977 after work, we met the Realtor at the rear of the house and he showed us to the rear door on the servants’ wing. The first thing we were greeted with was this incredibly ugly tile floor - black and green squares and all worn out. But that was really just the beginning of ugly sites. That first room turned out to be the original kitchen (pre-1932) and it is now the billiard room with its original oak paneling, cherry wood windows, and beautiful oak flooring. But that first day it was covered with layers of peeling paint, cracked plaster, and that ugly tile.

Next on the tour was the back hall and stairs, which were all painted an institutional green with white trim. The stairwell, which opened three full stories, looked grand enough, solid cherry and oak, and with a little time and paint stripper it could be beautiful again. That little time turned out to be the entire summer of 1978 and gallons of paint stripper. The back hall opened into the main hall and again more green paint. There must have been a sale on green paint because, as it turned out, the entire first floor was green. The ceiling had water damage along with the Greek key cornice, but it all looked repairable. The next room on the left was the library which had space for thousands of books and had fluted woodwork with Corinthian capitals, a ceiling with large holes, and the same water damaged Greek key cornice as in the main hall. The plaster would be no problem, we’ll just hire a plasterer to redo it. Except there are very few plasterers and almost none that do Greek keys.

Across the hall was the music room which was a large room 35 feet long with red chenille carpeting that hid the rotted hard wood flooring of oak and mahogany. Where do you buy mahogany flooring? Through a pair of missing French doors was the breakfast room, all glass with the east wall bayed and a beautiful red tile floor. A great room to enjoy breakfast. It even had a hidden button on the floor to ring for the maid. Then through more missing French doors we entered into what is probably the best room in the Oaks; a huge dining room with a bayed east wall, solid cherry paneling with raised panels of oak, fluted woodwork, a solid cherry buffet, mahogany birch and oak inlaid flooring and, to top it off, a solid cherry fireplace with brown and beige marble. Though the room was all under six to seven layers of paint and with 6 months of almost daily work it would be beautiful again.

I think it was at about this point that the Realtor said, The kitchen and butler’s pantry need to be redone - they’re both outdated! He swung open the pantry door and there it was again - that awful green and black tile and even more of it in the kitchen. The floors were rotted clear through to the basement and in the butler’s pantry I could see part of the servant’s wing on the second floor, what a view! In the butler’s pantry was the call box which is connected to push buttons throughout the home. Just press a button, it rings the box and a small shield with the room name drops. The maid would then know where he or she was wanted. I thought that was really novel.

The kitchen had an old Miller gas range with six burners and five ovens which work and was in reasonable condition considering it was 50 years old.
Well we’ve seen most of the first floor, a few doors were locked and no one knew where the keys were. As it turned out, we sawed the locks off 6 months after moving in and found two servant’s rooms and another set of stairs.

Moving up to the second floor was more of the same and even more on the third. Twenty rooms and six baths in all plus extras, like 23 closets, a few linen closets the size of modern day bedrooms, 70 doors, and an unaccountable number of panes of glass all with loose putty or none at all. Oh, and even, a dark room for photo work.

Well after that first tour, I thought, No way would I buy a place like this, even though there were a few things about the house that I liked. Maybe that’s where I went wrong; I should have said there was nothing about it I liked.

It took 4 months and many more trips up to College Hill before signing the papers. I remember the night before signing I thought I’ve never owned a home before and never renovated thing (except for painting a few old dressers of my mother’s and things like that) - I must be out of my mind for doing this. I was investing every penny I had and I was only 25 years old. Looking back it must have been that naïveté that talked me into it. I had given notice to my landlord and I had no choice any more but to go.

The first 3 months were simply awful. The home sat empty prior to its sale, except for a few furry creatures who moved in and took advantage of the vacancy. They were forced to leave as soon as they were discovered. We contracted with who we thought was a restoration specialist but who really had no more idea of what he was doing than I did. I remember coming home from work and as I walked up to the second floor I noticed the bedroom window was left open and then I remembered it was the window on the side of the house they were sandblasting. It took 12 tons of sand to clean the exterior of the house and half a ton was now in the master bedroom. I wanted to cry but after several hours with a snow shovel and broom, things didn’t look all that bad.

Getting through all the painting, sandblasting, plastering, getting the yard mowed, and the hedge row trimmed made the first summer go by quickly. Fall was spent finding out that the old oak trees dropped millions of leaves, and raking leaves was always something I hated to do.

Winter was next on the agenda. The house is now heated by a new one-half million BTU, low-pressure, gas steam boiler, but during the first and second winters, we heated with a prehistoric, converted to oil, coal boiler. In the yard to the east and rear of the house underground 2000-gallon oil storage tank which is measured with a dip stick. That October in 1977 the boiler was started and, to my surprise, heated the house quite comfortably. My next surprise came the first week in December when the boiler shut down. Out of fuel oil, that winter was long and cold and 6000 gallons later, Spring came. Spring cleaning revealed a thin film of soot that oozed from the boiler. Two years later it was removed from the basement piece by piece - too big to be removed in sections, it was sledge hammered to rubble.

The next 6 years were spent almost endless with either a paint brush or scraper in hand. Today the project is about two-thirds complete and the house is much more comfortable that first time I saw it in 1977, but a house built 140 years ago I’m certain will have a few more surprises up its sleeve in the future.

Recently I was asked if I’d do it all again, and I said, Sure, it’s taught me a lot. Restoring an old house is like life. You can’t enjoy it unless you accept the satisfaction along with all the disappointments, and, like life, a restoration project can hand out plenty of both.
The College Hill that I remembered from the mid-20’s to the late thirties was largely within the loop of the #17 street car. The Episcopal church was at the southern end, across the street from Mr. Bolam’s meat shop, where the best franks and pickle olive loaf in the city was made. Our family doctor, ‘Shorty’ Howard, lived on the dead-end road opposite that and my uncle, Logan Thomson’s family, were down Hamilton Avenue. The Larmons lived further north on Hamilton, not far from the Presbyterian church where I was baptized by Dr. Austin. They owned an enormous touring car, either Packard or Franklin, driven sedately by their jack-of-all-work, Jim (known as Larson) or madly by their oldest son or by my oldest brother, Alex. Dr. Loucks had his dentistry and home almost opposite them, before he moved ‘uptown’ to the business district which grew north and south from the Hamilton-Cedar corner. There were a few businesses further south: C. D. Peters’ ice and coal yard on Llanfair (he, personally, delivered our ice from a dirty white wagon pulled by an equally dirty white horse until we got a Frigidare, about 1926); and the two delights of my young life, the little soda fountain shop just north of the church and the Betty Sweet Shop, next to Kohnop’s shoe repair and shine shop near the end of Llanfair. The lady there used a small metal mallet to break chunks off of a giant chocolate bar that was the glory of her candy counter....one got a bag reasonably full for a nickel. It was hard! Hard enough to suck all the way home to the corner of Belmont and Glenview.

There were fascinating places in that part of town. Dr. P. V. N. Myers lived in a cut-brick house not far from the church. He had worked on the uncovering of Troy and had corresponded with Ledyard, the English discoverer of Nineveh. He taught my father at the O. M. I. (Ohio Military Institute) in the early 90’s and, in his nineties, was warmly appreciative of visits by small boys who’d sit gapemouthed to hear his stories of the long past and gaze reverently at the bits of ancient cities set into his front wall. Leaving, I’d walk toward home past the Frank Simpson’s cow pasture on Llanfair, then past Tyrone Power’s mother’s house and cross to Bolam’s grocery, where my friend Darryl lived and his family worked to supply our food. The first sign that I recall being able to read was on the side of the store, it asked, ‘Eventually, Why Not Now?’ about some make of flour. Inside, there were rows of tin boxes with glass fronts and lovely cookies and cakes inside. The candy counter was in front, featuring root-beer barrels and cinnamon red hots. (Businesses that sold anything to eat were as well-known and rated for their feature items as gourmet restaurants are today. Miller’s Drug Store, on the west side of Hamilton near the Hollywood Theater was known for its chicken salad sandwiches, ‘Doc’ Schneider’s pharmacy at the corner of Marlowe had the hottest candy cigarettes and Fortmeyer’s Drugs at the corner of North Bend Road had the best nectar sodas. The Americus theater in Northside had the best pop-corn, best because you got a bag about the size of a quart for a dime!)

The ‘dummy’ line, the freight branch of the Cincinnati & Lake Erie Interurban, cut across Belmont Avenue next to Bolam’s. Mr. Harry Pounsford had the great sloping lawn opposite but we couldn’t sled there. Mrs. Pounsford sang in the Presbyterian choir but he never came to hear her or the organ that my grandfather gave in memory of my grandmother, Laura Gamble Thomson, at whom I had to gaze throughout Dr. Austin’s rather pedantic sermons. (Things improved later when the Rev. R. Dale LeCourt took the pulpit; the old moldering manse on Groesbeck Road was replaced by an attractive modern house and Mrs. LeCourt was good looking!) Mr. Pounsford’s daughter built a house catty-cornered from the grocery just above the culvert that drained into the stream that ran down behind the O. M. I. The builders cut down a marvelous grapevine on which all the boys used to swing from the dummy embankment to the hill opposite. I was jealous of the older guys who dared: it would’ve been a twenty foot drop to the stream bed if you let go.

It always seemed shorter to walk the ‘dummy’ tracks to the bridge which crossed them, just before Meryton Place and Kirby Road, than to go straight up Belmont to home. In good weather, we kids would explore the new houses being built on Meryton beyond the Simpson’s two houses, in bad, there were barns with real cows....probably the last ones in College Hill. The McCaslins bought the white house at
the corner about 1930, adding another boy to the gang and opening marvelous sledding on their back hill which, unfortunately, featured a few hawthorn trees which defined the slalom. There were a few houses down Kirby, then a lane that ran into the woods where an eccentric ‘hermit’ lived. He was as friendly as he was filthy and always had time to show us his collections: arrowheads, big old pennies, stamps, bottle caps...all the things that boys loved. Sometimes he came to our back door with something to trade and, at 14 or so, I traded my general stamp album to him for a fine Indian axe. I don’t remember seeing him again.

Coming back along Glenview, I was always glad to see Mrs. Stegner, who often, walked her Boston bull terriers. More often than not, she’d ask me....or us....in for a bite or a glass of something. We kids knew the many houses where we’d usually get some calories: Mrs. Benedict, out Belmont, known for her cakes; Mrs. Runck, not quite so far, whose children had a genuine horse as well as a pony and whose black cook made marvelous Virginia reels; an elderly couple on Cedar, near the school, who’d always offer their persimmons in the fall and, when turned down on those sour things, would proffer their own walnuts. It seems to me that we ate all the time! And, nearing home, there was the grape arbor around our acre-size garden and the pear trees lining our back driveway.

The business district was still quite small in the late 20’s. The Brighton Bank had built a rather imposing building at Hamilton and Cedar, just before my memory begins. I went there regularly to put fifty cents into my Christmas Account. One of the Waldman boys sold newspapers on the corner; there were still quite a few to choose from, the Post and the Times-Star in the afternoon, the Commercial Tribune and Enquirer in the morning, and a German one. On the west side heading south, there was the College Hill Toggery, better known as ‘Gene’s’ whose pipeless furnace fascinated me. Then there was the pool hall, an absolute no-no to us, where - gossip said - one could buy real beer and girlie magazines. Across the street was the Buster Brown Shoe Shop, ‘featuring fine Blue Goose shoes,’ a slogan which puzzled me more than the picture of ‘Buster Brown’ in brown knickers walking with a blue goose as tall as himself!

On the northern corners of the intersection were: west, Dow’s Drugs, where Hollywood’s later-to-be glamour king Tyrone Power had worked just before my memory. Its soda fountain did not get most of the kids trade: it was expensive! Fifteen cents for a chocolate soda and they put in only one scoop of ice cream and one shot of syrup! And, when you bought a pack of ‘weeds’ (for your oldest brothers, of course), THEY were fifteen cents straight, not two for a quarter as they were at Miller’s and Schneider’s. On the east side, there was a wonderfully messy hardware store in a former feed dealer’s big red brick building. We weren’t too thrilled when it turned into a restaurant-cafe about 1932. Mr. Hoffman was the kind of old-fashioned store keeper who took as much time with a boy over a bag of nails needed to build a new shack as he was with an adult. Besides, he raised pigeons and, seasonally, had squabs to sell. The two ladies who had the little sewing shop next to the ‘new’ theater (it opened just as sound was coming in and bravely resisted it long enough for me to see Douglas Fairbanks in THE GAUCHO in its silent version and then, months later, with Vitaphone sound) were just the same way. They sold the makings of valentines and were known to offer a piece of maple candy to a kid accompanied by a buying adult.

Dad told me about hunting birds’ eggs and catching passenger pigeons out of the trees in the area around the end of Marlowe, about 1890. Even in my childhood, in the 20’s, that street between Cedar and North Bend was little more than a track. ‘Doc.’ Schneider’s ‘ethical pharmacy’ opposite the end of Marlowe, on Hamilton Avenue, was the only business building north of the Hollywood Theatre. How I remember him! He was always immaculately dressed in a morning suit, grey and white cravat with a stick-pin and wing collar. There were two counters in the tiny store, opposite the corner door: the longer one at a right angle with Hamilton Avenue and the shorter, containing cigars, parallel with it. A tiny gas light burned constantly in a stand above that. A beautiful set of pharmaceutical jars stood on shelves behind both counters but, to me, the REAL magic was a glass dish of the most powerful peppermint ‘cigarettes’ just about where the two counters came together. In person, he’d roll a couple in a bit of ‘pill paper:’ when prescriptions were delivered to us on Belmont Avenue, there’d be four or five rolled up for whichever of us got the dosage -- probably prescribed by Dr. ‘Shorty ‘Howard, who lived on Hillcrest.
‘Doc’ Miller’s drug store, built much later on the other side of Hamilton and nearly opposite the Hollywood, was much larger and more diverse in stock. He had a soda fountain...not as big or glamorous as Dow’s, which had a ‘Moon River’ machine and sold sandwiches...and had plastic phonograph records called ‘Hit O’ The Week!’ for thirty-five cents. That was a dime more than my weekly allowance but I finally saved enough to buy one. It didn’t last very long; when I was through with it, we used it like a Frisbee.

Miller’s Drugs was a major help with my biggest under-10 project: my ‘museum show’ in aid of the new parish house at the Presbyterian Church. I have always been an avid collector of rocks, shells, playing cards, old kitchen implements...whatever. My stellar piece was a meteorite loaned me by a man in Glendale who, as a boy, had seen it fall on his family’s farm in Silverton. I couldn’t lift it, alone, but - with help - got it on my coaster wagon to take to the new building. Miller’s Drugs paid for my tickets, a quarter for children, and fifty cents for adults. He got an advertisement on the back, we made over fifty dollars for the building fund. I had to give back the meteorite; someone returned it to Glendale.

My other ‘main’ trip with the coaster wagon was to the Kroger store on Hamilton Avenue. Mr. Bolam, who supplied most of our groceries from his shop at Belmont and Llanfair, didn’t carry ‘malt extract’ but I rather gathered that my older brothers didn’t want to talk about it, anyway. They’d give me a dime to bring a can or two back to the house. I didn’t know, then, why they wanted it. It clearly said, on the front of the big can, ‘For Baking Purposes Only!’ and I knew they never baked a thing. Several times, bottles cached in back corners of our old basement exploded and I was told that it was ‘root beer.’ Didn’t smell like it, though.

My older brother went to the C. H. School for two years. I never did, but I used the public library branch a lot. I found my first detective story when I was 10 or 11, about a ‘dick’ named Creek. I have been reading mysteries ever since. While being tutored at 14 (after an unfortunate lapse of performance at school), the young university student took me there to find Milton’s *L’Allegro* and *Il Penseroso*, my first look into the world of higher erudition. I can’t say that it worked wonders on my imagination, then.

Grandfather’s house, Laurel Court, was another home to all us kids. He had married for a second time and Mother Kate tolerated almost any kind or number of invasion if it was reasonably quiet and behaved. Better yet, she had wonderful cooks and a kind, friendly butler named Brown who didn’t watch too closely when we’d take down the key to the cellar or to the freight elevator....both prohibited areas. Mr. Corbett, the head gardener, was far tougher. No climbing on the statuary. No climbing on trees. No scuffling up the pebbles in the garden walks or frightening the giant carp in the Japanese garden. He was right, of course, but he didn’t have the ‘touch’ which Brown had, which even made one careful to wash dirty hands before playing the grand piano or the dinner chimes. A favorite phrase of Brown’s has stayed with me to this day: Remember, Chil--tee, you can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar!

College Hill was a bee-hive of activity areas for growing boys and life had much honey in it. I remember so many kind, generous people like Mr. Theobald18, the letter carrier who walked an eight-mile route TWICE a day but who could take time to visit a new pup; Mr. Hildebrand, the neat night patrolman; ‘Whitey, the dean of route seventeen’s motormen who’d let you ride home from the movies when you’d spent your last dime....but remember the next week to collect it for the company! Yes, ‘the cars’ connected us to a big city which started at the bottom of the hill but the ‘best place in town’ was up top.

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18 In a 1994 letter, Mr. Thomson described Mr. Theobald as ...He was a dignified, but affable, white-haired man whom I confused with Uncle Sam...
Chapter 37  Some Assembly Required

Today we have modular homes that are trucked to a prepared site and assembled. But do you know that you might be living in a precursor to that trend - a ready-cut home purchased from a catalog?

Sears and Roebuck houses came directly to the door, pre-cut, ready to assemble, no architect needed. Sears sold and financed nearly 100,000 mail order houses from 1909-1937, peaking in 1926-1929. There was a demand for comfortable homes fueled by a surging economy. Sears opened sales offices in major cities across the country, including one on 4th Street in downtown Cincinnati. Buying a house became as easy as ordering furniture.¹⁹

House kits were delivered anywhere in America where there was a rail line. Montgomery Ward and Aladdin also had home kits available. Even local lumber yards, such a Pierson’s in Northside, had pre-cut houses for sale.

Contractors could pick out house plans from over 100 styles and customize them for the purchaser by altering the floor plan, reversing and changing room locations, or expand the options for house exteriors by using brick, wood or stucco. Houses were available with one or two stories, electric or gas fixtures, and with garages. Interior pictures were drawn with suggested furniture placement and furniture packages were available with the identical items used in the drawings.

Preservationists now recognize the architectural significance of the homes produced by the creative marketing of the catalog movement. There are entire neighborhoods constructed of ‘Modern Homes.’ The houses were varied in roof lines, porch locations and details to add diversity to the street scape. Carrying the Sears guarantee, a full refund was offered if the customer didn’t like the finished house.

A home built in this manner had economy in mind. An ‘Honor Bilt’ home was advertised to cost 40% less than standard construction. Houses were available for under $1,000. Styles ranged from a small cabin to southern-style mansions with tall exterior columns. The latter was called ‘The Magnolia’ and was the most expensive available - $5,140 in 1918. It included French doors, a curved staircase with a black walnut banister, a solarium, servant’s quarters, and inlaid floors. For a short time even steel framed houses were offered.

Construction/assembly was simple even for a novice. All that was necessary was choosing the model, sending an order with a down payment and the house was shipped. Kits included everything - down spouts, paint, varnish, nails, lath, shingles, beveled glass doors, etc. The kits did not include materials for a foundation. The home builder needed to prepare the foundation, haul materials from the train yard to the construction site, and match up parts numbers to those with instruction plans. A pipeless furnace body was $100 extra.

One of the companies that produced Sears’ sash and doors was located in Norwood, the Norwood Sash & Door Manufacturing Co. Started in 1912 it was sold by Sears in 1945 and is still in business.

These houses could have fine detailing but the instructions were simple. An instruction booklet assured the handyman that every board, stud and joist had been notched or mitered to fit and was numbered. The booklet even included how far apart to hammer the nails. This reduced the labor needed to construct homes during a time without electric power tools. The construction materials were shipped in installments so that all the house pieces did not come at once, posing a storage problem. A house filled two boxcars. As can be seen by the large number of these houses still occupied, the houses aged well.

Bungalows were the most popular style from 1900-1930, featuring wide porches. Built-ins were popular; bookcases, kitchen cabinets with continuous counters, ironing boards, and breakfast nooks. The Victorian style of elaborate gingerbread trim was replaced by the economical and efficient Arts & Crafts movement. The new emphasis was on craftsmanship and a return to simplicity, focusing on the family.

Smithsonian, When home sweet home was just a mailbox away, David M. Schwartz, Nov. 1985
Sears, as well as Montgomery Ward’s ‘Wardway’ and Aladdin’s ‘Redi-Cut’ homes, had architects that offered a full range of popular styles. Sears had their own draftsmen but purchased designs from outside architects. The first time ‘Modern Homes’ were offered was in the 1908 Sears catalogue.

In 1911, Sears financing was for 5 years at 6% interest. They were the only company to grant mortgages without inspecting the property or meeting the buyers, even offering small cash loans to start construction. Sears saw as their customer farmers that had some additional land, wanted a new house and had bits of time available to them and their workers that could be used for construction. Factory workers also wanted new, modest houses. At this time, the average factory worker earned $520 yearly. The Depression ended Sears’ ability to continue to carry home mortgages. The ‘farmers friend’ had started to repossess. The house line continued to be available until 1937 amidst a sagging resale market and no demand for new houses.

The Jones/Wells house on Cedar Ave., not built from a Sears kit but from plans published in the

**Cincinnati Enquirer**
Chapter 38  The Fourth of July  
By Mrs. Dorothy Cummings Henshaw

I would awaken at dawn on the Fourth of July with the sound of firecrackers crackling far and near. Soon my Daddy would be urging me to hurry and come outside. He and I would stand on the driveway and toss lighted firecrackers into the grass, and light clumps of tiny crackers woven together that produced a staccato of pops. Soon after breakfast, cars decorated with bunting and flags began parking up and down Larch Avenue beside the Town Hall. Until I was old enough to drive, Daddy would drive his car, and often another man who was a friend of Daddy’s would ask me to ride with him in his car. All the cars were filling with children, many of whom were waving flags and yelling. As soon as all the cars were full, a ‘lead’ car would start us winding slowly along the avenues of College Hill. After touring our streets we would drive up around Mt. Healthy, waving flags at everyone and feeling important.

I remember one time after I could drive, filling our car with children and teaching them to sing out, ‘Ice cream, soda water, gingerade and pop. College Hill, College Hill, always on the top!’

Finally the parade would wind back to Town Hall, just as races were starting. There would be a potato race, a fat man’s race, a three-legged race, a boys race and a girls race. Big tables covered with red, white and blue bunting had been put up under large trees beside the Town Hall building. Voluptuous ladies wearing big aprons were selling lemonade, pop, popcorn, peanuts, candy and Neapolitan ice cream. By lunch time most of the crowd had thinned out and I would go home for lunch.

In the early afternoon, my girl friends and I would return to the festivities wearing ruffled summer dresses and I often wore a big ribbon bow in my hair. A band of uniformed, portly musicians came and sat on chairs in a circle under the trees and began playing patriotic band music and familiar songs we all knew. A stand had been set up and decorated with flags and red, white and blue bunting. Orators would stand on it and make speeches. My friends and I would listen to the music, eat ice cream and talk with lots of other friends.

Late in the afternoon my aunts, uncles, grandparents and relatives would start gathering on big white chairs under the linden trees in our yard at our house, which was across the street from Town Hall on the corner of Larch and Davey Avenues. A big American flag was hung out from our upstairs window and we had put many small flags on all the shrubbery. Our yard was filled with white chairs and tables covered with white linen tablecloths and napkins. Everyone gathered to listen to the music and watch festivities at the Town Hall.

At supper time my mother served ham, her delicious potato salad, pickled beets, cucumber and onion slices, tomato salad, cottage cheese, sharp yellow cheese, peach and strawberry preserves, rolls and butter, tea and coffee. For dessert we had vanilla ice cream which we had made in a freezer in our cellar.

After supper friends and everyone gathered in our yard because it was a wonderful place to sit and watch the fireworks which were going to be set off at the Town Hall after dark. I didn’t watch them there. I went over into the Town Hall lot and sat in the cold, wet grass as close as I could safely get to where the fireworks were going to be set off.

But before this happened, just as the sun was setting, dozens of little balloons were sent up into the air and into the sunset. They were small paper balloons that looked like little Japanese lanterns, inflated by the heat of a lighted candle. Dozens of them floated high up in the air until they floated away and disappeared. But a good many of them caught fire and burned and fell to earth where they could be found almost immediately. To each one was fastened a ticket entitling the lucky finder to claim a box of Dolly Varden chocolates! Each chocolate was a fat, chocolate covered piece of candy, consisting of a big maraschino cherry imbedded in white, runny candy, surrounded by a heavy coating of chocolate. In my time I had eaten perhaps one or two of those delicious things but never even dreamed of owning a whole box of them! It was a treat beyond imagining, made and donated by Mr. Charles Eisen, who lived in College Hill. Quite a number of them fell, of course, and boys raced far and wide trying to find them. As a little girl, I never even thought of trying, but I longed for one. Eventually, in later years the custom of
sending up these balloons was stopped by the fire department after one had fallen on a barn and burned it to the ground.

As darkness began to descend, people from all around gathered into the Town Hall lot and filled a big wooden grand stand there, waiting for the fireworks to begin. As I mentioned, I sat in the damp, dewy grass with other children, as close to the fireworks as I was allowed. The crowd held its breath while the dim figures of the men could be seen in the darkness as they carried torches to light the first colored lights and send the first rockets high into the air. Beautiful colored lights began to shower brilliant beauty all around us, or exploded loudly overhead. Everyone oh-oh-ed and ah-ah-ed as each brilliance exploded in the sky and descended almost onto our heads. We were filled with unbelievable awe as the soft pops and loud bangs and beautiful colors showered over us. We lost track of time as these continued for a long while until at the last, the highest of all of the shooting lights repeated again and again and ended with an ear splitting bang into a flaming American flag. In exhausted silence the crowd dispersed and then we headed home to our own yard. My relatives and many friends were waiting while Daddy passed out chunks of watermelon he had cut for everyone. Friends and I sat on the grass under dim trees and spit watermelon seeds at one another.

Aerial photograph of Town Hall taken from the water tower. The road to the right is Belmont Ave; that to the left is Larch Ave. The Graham Hotel is the low, wooden building closest to Town Hall on Belmont Ave.
Since I’ve lived in College Hill since 1940, Dr. Fred Smart asked if I’d share a few of my memories of what it was like to grow up here. So I sat down, thought a bit, and came up with the following recollections:

Going into Hardert’s Saloon on Halloween because we’d heard the owners were dropping dimes into the kid’s trick-or-treat bags. In the early ’40’s, a dime was a windfall! And if you saved enough of them, you could treat yourself at the soda fountain in Dow’s Drug Store at Cedar and Hamilton where Discopolis’ Wine Shoppe is today.

Sitting on my friend’s front porch on Cedar Avenue with our suit boxes full of movie stars’ pictures which we’d exchange with the same fervor reserved for baseball cards today—a Clark Gable for a Hedy Lamarr, or a Deanna Durbin for a Fred Astaire, etc.

Going to movies at the jam-packed Hollywood Theater where admission had skyrocketed to 40 cents! But during the War, we could get in free when the Hollywood had ‘scrap drives.’ Then, instead of paying, you brought in so many pounds of rubber or scrap metal for the war effort. The Hollywood was a special place at Christmas, too, when there’d be a kiddie matinee and Santa would be on stage handing out little bags of hard candy.

Getting report cards at St. Clare School from the elderly pastor, Rev. Charles Diener, whose advice to us was always the same—Stay Away from Bad Eggs!

When Albers grocery occupied the building next to Hodapp’s, and we thought it was the ultimate in supermarkets! Why, the parking lot must have accommodated at least a dozen cars!

When we did all our Christmas shopping right on the Avenue at such wonderful stores as Braun’s Toggery, Gerstner’s (later called Vonderbrinks) and Ludwig Shoes.

When the heart-throbs for College Hill teen-age girls were the boys from OMI -- the Ohio Military Institute -- where Aiken is now. They were handsome in their sky-blue uniforms, especially at the dress parades on Sunday afternoons. And then there was the cannon that was shot off every morning at OMI about 6 AM. The cadet’s days started with a bang - literally!

Taking ballet lessons for a quarter a session from Mrs. Faison in the gym at College Hill School, and appearing in one of her dance recitals as a female hunter in Peter and the Wolf. Women’s Lib. ahead of its time!

Sitting in our house on Saranac Avenue during the War with all the lights out during the blackouts (air raid practices) while my father, who was the air raid warden on the street, patrolled in is white helmet looking for any houses that might still have lights on.

Declining to join my girl friends’ sewing club -- I had no interest in the domestic sciences then, either -- which met, in of all places, under the bridge over Groesbeck Road, roughly where the wooded ravine behind Hillrise is today.

Proudly walking up to the librarian’s desk at the College Hill Library (located then in the easternmost wing of College Hill School) to accept a brown-and-cream certificate for reading, and reporting on, the required number of books over summer.

In the late ’40’s,’ coming home from high school on the bus and stopping first at Baumer & Reddert’s Appliance Store to watch that marvelous new invention called television in the front window. After all, none of us had a TV at home.

I’ve enjoyed recounting these College Hill memories with you, and hope they’ve stirred up nostalgia for some of you, also.
My earliest recollections go back to about 1911. My father, George E. Jones, had the house in which I still live built in 1910. It is a six room bungalow all on one floor. We had gas lights and a coal furnace. My first memory is that of looking out of the dining room window in the early evening and watching the lamplighter put his little ladder against the light post and climb up to light the street lamp across from our house. From that same window in the winter I would watch for the man and his horse and plow to clear the sidewalks of snow. (Cincinnati didn’t live up to its annexation agreement to continue this which was specified in the annexation papers.) I still have the lighter that we used to light the gas lamps in our house- a rod with a slender tube on the side to hold the wick. It had a sort of key on the top with which to turn on the gas, then the flame on the wick would be used to light the lamps. Mother used to let me do it while she watched me. Then I would go into the parlor and stand at the window to watch for my father to walk down the street from the street car.

We always ate in the dining room and I still think of the delicious old fashioned dishes my mother used to make, which aren’t to be found today. I can remember walking with my mother and father up to Hamilton Avenue Newbold Pierson’s log cabin office just north of Ambrose on Hamilton, when Dad made the final payment on the house. The cabin was moved later on and today stands on Cedar Avenue, the second house east of Saranac on the north side of the street, now covered with siding.

I couldn’t speak plainly in 1911 and would stand at the dining room window and look across the street to the Eicher’s house which I called the ‘moopy’ house because they had their own band, but I couldn’t say music house. It must have been about that time that the little frame fire house was built on the southwest corner of Cedar and Salvia. Each of two horses had its own stall in the back corner of the building. I loved horses so I tried to go over there when I could. The firemen called me ‘Whitey’ because my hair was so blonde. In the summer they would tie the horses out under the big tree west of the fire house. There was a big sink hole next to the tree.

The grocery boy used to come down every morning to get our order and then deliver it in the afternoon. One day he asked me what I wanted and I said a ‘hinnemon’ cake-he handed me the pad and told me to write it, so I drew a circle for the round cake I wanted.

In 1911 my father got his first auto-a used, red Pope Hartford, with acetylene lamps on the front fenders and rods holding the top to the fenders-and red leather seats! It also had to be cranked. There were only three cars in College Hill at that time-Peter G. Thomson’s, my father’s and one other. We had a gasoline tank in the back yard enclosed in a wooden box sort of thing. A garage and graveled driveway were built. From then on we always drove out to the countryside on Sundays.

I can remember driving out Colerain Pike after the waters from the 1913 flood had subsided to see the destruction it had wrought. When we crossed the old Venice bridge we found the road had been washed out, leaving a crater about twenty feet deep where the road had been. A temporary road had been built going some distance down river and swinging around to return to the old road near Venice. I think at that time that Dad had bought his first Model-T Ford.

In those early years I did not get too far away from home. Across the street from us was the little frame church-St. Clare. On that side at the corner of Saranac and Cedar was the one story frame-still there- where the Meyers lived. Their daughter and family-the Beckers-lived on the north side of Marlowe three doors west of the path that led from Salvia over to Ambrose. I knew Alice and Dorothy Becker. The house just west of ours, owned by Mr. William P. Biddle, who owned the hotel at Hamilton and North Bend-here lived the Westhoffs-I called Gertrude, who was five years older that I was-my big sister. She was a cousin of the Becker girls. Mr. Westhoff worked in a jewelry store and one Christmas gave me a lovely little gold ring with one tiny sapphire set in it. Directly across the street was the brick house in

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20 Richard J. Harrell also remembered these horses, mentioning that they were dapple grey.
which the priest, Father Diehner, lived. The Eicher house became the dwelling for the nuns who taught at
the St. Clare School. Miss Rose was the priest’s housekeeper. She was always good to me and when I was
ill would send over special dishes to tempt my appetite.

On the south side of Cedar between Salvia and Hamilton was only the fire house on the corner,
then the two old frame houses, still there. The first was owned by Miss Miles, who had the dry goods
store and next was Lou Eiler, who worked for Mr. Vail, who operated the feed store at the corner. On the
north side of the block were two-story frames, the first the residence of a contractor, the second owned by
Mrs. Vat. I don’t remember Mr. Vitt—he died and Mrs. Vitt had a hard life, working as a cleaning woman
for people in the neighborhood.

There were empty lots until you got near the corner, where there was a small one-story shop and
residence—a glass shop operated, I think, by a Mr. Griffith. The Griffiths lived in back of the shop. At the
corner was the brick store facing Hamilton, which was McNutt’s Hardware store. A building was built
later on next to the hardware store which was the Kroger grocery. Then came the RuthEllen building with
two stores and entrance to the flats above. Next was the two-story frame Huschle building, where he
operated a barber shop in the first store and Miss Miles had her dry goods store in the second one.

There was nothing more until the corner, where soon after William ‘Doc’ Schneider built the little
brick building and had his drug store there. Earlier he had his shop in the Deininger Building next to their
blacksmith shop.

On the west side of Hamilton at the corner of Cedar was the Diehn’s Candy store. The next building
was Doll’s Bakery and at the corner of Marlowe was Dr. Van Pelt’s home. On the northwest corner of
Hamilton and Marlowe was a big brick house with a stone wall along the front, which later became Twin
Lanterns. Next was the lovely little cottage, later moved back to Budmar. Then came Mr. Hoffman’s
house and photo studio. Where Hodapp’s Funeral Home is today stood the old William Cary mansion.

On the east side between Marlowe and Ambrose were the frame buildings there today—the one next
to the corner of Ambrose was Dr. Howard’s residence and office. The brick building at the corner was our
post office for a time. Neither Ambrose nor Elkton were built through to Lantana. We used to go through
the path to go sled riding on the hill on Elkton in the winter time. Coming back to Cedar, at the northeast
corner of Salvia lived the Werts family, with a son named Byron. Mr. Wert was an insurance man and
drove around in a horse and buggy, the building now used as a three car garage was the stable. Next was
the house owned by Mr. Biddle, then our home. The house east of us was being built at the same time as
ours. Mrs. Burke bought it before it was finished and had dormers added on the second floor, so she could
take in boarders. I remember mother saying that they would all come running out to go to the street car of
a morning and would cut down the bank by our driveway, so she planted a type of grass bush to
discourage it.

Just east of Mrs. Burke was another two-story frame where the Kinbers lived. Their only child, Carl,
was my only playmate in the early years. Later on this was owned by the Huschle family, with two
daughters, Ruth and Lucille. Mr. Huschle was the son of Mr. William Huschle, the barber.

Continuing on down on the north side of Cedar was an empty lot on the corner, then the log cabin
land office, moved there from Hamilton Avenue. A friend of ours, the Ambroses, moved into it. They
were a couple well along in years—I was about eight years old when Mrs. Ambrose, of whom I was very
fond, died from pneumonia. The nurse took me in to see her on the day she died and I will never forget
the awful sight of her struggle to breathe.

I think most of the houses on that side of the street were there at that time. All of the houses on the
south side of that block were there as they are today. The building at the corner of Lantana was the
Simon’s grocery—I think they lived upstairs. I believe the Keller family, with a daughter Charlotte, lived
just west of the grocery.

In 1918 I had the flu and was sick for several months—in consequence I had to repeat the fifth grade. I
had Miss Strasser both years. Her home was a very old frame just south of the Deininger building. The

21 Hoffman the photographer began in a frame house at 5912 Salvia Avenue, near Cedar. He moved later to a new residence/shop on Hamilton Avenue.
Presbyterian Church bought it at the time to make room for the new building and demolished her old home. I remember her telling the class that it was so old that it had no nails—had been put together by pegs. She was an interesting teacher. Another house I remember from those years was the John R. Davey mansion at 1626 Linden Drive, which was the boarding house for some of our teachers. Miss Stewart, our sixth grade teacher, gave a party for our class there and we were in the beautiful parlor.

On the north side of Llanfair were the ‘Dummy’ tracks for the freight line used by the Traction Company going along the north side of the street, crossing Belmont going through a ravine and under a bridge on Glenview Avenue, then curving around, crossing Belmont again, going northward crossing North Bend Road and into Steele’s subdivision (West College Hill). It went along Railroad Avenue to Simpson, along Simpson, crossing Galbraith Road and ending at Compton Road in Mt. Healthy. We were always warned to be careful going out on the Llanfair Avenue side and told to stay off the freight cars. About this time Mr. Altamer (our principle) told us one morning that Wilson Hunter, an African American boy in our class, had been killed the day before falling off a freight car and being run over.

In the early spring I would come home from school and mother and I would start down Cedar Avenue looking for very young dandelion plants. Mother made a delicious salad, tossing them with vinegar and bacon, garnishing the salad with hard boiled eggs. Another dish that Dad taught her to make he called ‘slum gullion’ which he said he had learned from hobos—it was liver pudding sausage cooked, taken out of its casing, mixed with mashed potatoes and made into cakes and fried.

We always had a little garden in the back yard. Dad would go out in the evenings and dig in the dirt. The birds would follow him around waiting for him to turn up worms. One year he had a robin so tame it would take worms out of his hand. Dad would go out on the front porch after supper with the evening paper and the robin would spot him and sit on the fence post nearby and call until Dad would laugh and get up and go around the house to the garden. The robin would fly alongside and wait for Dad to dig worms for it.

In 1913 I went to kindergarten—Miss Bridgemann was the teacher in the southwest corner of the little red brick building still standing. (I learned many years later that it had been the high school for College Hill). Hausers lived just west of the school—Steve was in my class and at Easter time they had tiny little baskets with wee candy eggs in them hidden in their yard for the class to find... I can remember making a present for my father—men used mugs for shaving soap then and we made a sort of booklet of round tissue paper pieces to wipe the soap off the razor…

The old school building was in use then—a big two-story brick with three rooms on each floor. Miss Maybelle Brown’s first grade room was on the east side of the first floor. We only had class in the morning—Miss Brown taught music in the afternoon. Miss Alice Wilde’s second grade and Mary Bryant’s third grade were on the west side of the first floor. Miss Gatch had a fourth grade on the east side of the second floor and Mamie Strasser had her fifth grade on the west side. I cannot remember who was in the other room up there. By that time two frame colony buildings had been built just west of the old building my fourth grade was in one of the colony buildings. My fifth grade was back in the old building with Miss Strasser. In the sixth grade I had Miss Stewart; the seventh was Miss Waldman and the eighth, Miss Hattie Braiser. The principal, called ‘Dusty’ Altamer because he always wore gray suits, had his office in that building. We also had manual training for the boys and cooking and sewing classes for the girls in the basement. Our restrooms were also in that building—there was none in the old ‘pig eye’ school and you could see kids running over from there.

The boys used the Cedar Avenue side of the playground and on the Llanfair Avenue side, near the old building, were the swings—the only playground equipment we had. I can remember a May Day fete on the Cedar Avenue side where we wound streamers around the May pole. There was a bell in the tower, which the janitor used to ring a warning bell and a final bell. I used to stop and bring tidbits for the patrolman’s horse tied to a maple tree on Cedar Avenue and pet him until the warning bell rang, then run so as not to be late for school. I would bring clover and apples for my four legged friend named Major. It was awfully hard for small legs to make it across Hamilton Pike—the street car and traction tracks were deep down in ruts from the constant build up of macadam.
Diehn’s candy store was on the northwest corner. I used to go in to buy tobacco for my father and Mrs. Diehn would give me a peach stone candy. She would always watch to make sure that Mr. Diehn wasn’t watching her—he didn’t give out treats.

I can remember the huge oak trees on Hamilton Pike down near Llanfair on the east side of the Pike near Deininger’s blacksmith shop—mother had me take my tricycle there to have it welded when it broke. I also walked that way to go to Sunday school at the Presbyterian Church. Before you got to the blacksmith shop you had to cross the traction tracks where the line came out onto the street. Just before you got to the tracks was a long driveway leading back to the Simpson house. Before that was the yard of the old Hammitt place which had been changed so that it was on (5819) Salvia Avenue. A path started near the fire house and angled across the field to end up on Hamilton Pike near the Hammitt yard. We used to go that way to go to Thesken’s butcher shop in the red brick building on the west side of Hamilton. Later on that same store became the Public Library for College Hill.

In the spring mother would order coal for the next winter. When she knew it was going to be delivered, she would go down to see Mr. Banks about putting it in the coal cellar. The Banks family lived in an old cottage next to the little African American church (site, 1310 Cedar Ave.) on the corner of Piqua. The coal would sometimes be put up in the driveway, earlier it had been dumped in the street. Several doors past Bank’s house was the Jesse Locker home set down below and well back from Cedar Avenue. Jesse was a city councilman, later being appointed Ambassador to Liberia. He was very highly regarded by most of the people of College Hill. His wife had beautiful flower gardens and teachers would bring classes down to see them.

One good friend was Louella Buenger, who lived on Argus Road just north of Cedar. They had a little farm there with greenhouses and gardens. Mr. Buenger worked at Procter and Gamble. They had a horse and buggy and Mrs. Buenger would drive down Groesbeck Road to meet him after work. I used to go there to play. Their house was built into the hill with a kitchen and dining room at the back and cellars into the hill, with the other rooms on the floor above. There was a porch all across the back of the house, and the barn down hill immediately behind the house.

Lou and I used to go to their back fence, climb over and go down into what we called Cataract Woods, the area in the deep ravine below Groesbeck Road. It was full of wildflowers in the spring and we used to find beechnuts. It was wonderful for children.

Some years later I became friends with Earlene Chambers, who lived in the old Harbison house on the west side of Hamilton north of North Bend Road. Just past it was a frame cottage that the Harbosons had built for their own use. The old house stood just about where Harbison Avenue is today. On the northwest corner of North Bend and Hamilton was the old car barn—the street cars would pull in under the sheltering roof off the street and wait there until the next car came along before leaving. It was the ‘end of the line.’

Occasionally mother would take me downtown with her on a Saturday. I can remember riding the summer cars—all open with running boards all along the side and seats clear across the car. Before the Ludlow Avenue viaduct was built the cars would go over bridges crossing Mill Creek, the canal, and the railroad and up onto Ludlow Avenue.

When I was very small I remember crossing the canal bridges downtown. In high water Knowlton’s Corner would be under water and they would build up the street car tracks with ties placed under them. It was scary going up so high above the street level. When you left College Hill about at Windermere Way was the cross over—cars going down on the left side of Hamilton until about Rockford Place—then going onto the center of the street again. The northbound cars went up on the left to the cross over. This was done to prevent cars going over into the deep ravine below the Methodist Home. The old pumping station was on the east side of the cross over.

When I was a little older, we were allowed to take the street car to Cumminsville to go to the old Liberty movie house. We also went to the Cumminsville playground to swim in the summertime.

Finally Hamilton Pike was brick paved in 1916. The interurban gauge was narrower than that of the streetcar and there had to be three tacks on the northbound side. The streetcars only traveled north on Hamilton between Belmont and North Bend Road, but the traction went both ways.
I used to love the old houses along Groesbeck Road and be curious about them. At the Hamilton Avenue end of the street was the Presbyterian Church-very different from its present day appearance. Behind it was the old manse, a frame house long since gone. Next was the Chatfield house owned by the church (1528 Groesbeck Rd, demolished in the 1980’s). Beyond where the Hillrise now stands was the large frame house owned by Mayor Bruce, the last mayor of College Hill as a village. I remember that it had a large porte-cochere for carriages to pull under on the east side-I think the house was painted yellow. It was next to the traction track and the bridge over the tracks on Groesbeck Road.

On the south side beginning at Hamilton were several little frame cottages standing close to the street. Then came several larger houses, one of which was owned by Mr. Altamer. Those houses are still there, including the last one sitting up on a hill just before you came to the traction line (1421 Groesbeck Rd. built by Jacob Tuckerman).

Beyond the tracks were some large frame houses, now gone. The one opposite St. Elmo was occupied by the Jones family, daughter Helen whom I knew. On the north side of that block were several very old brick houses and one frame, still there, at the corner of Kenneth. Across Kenneth, very close to Kenneth but facing Groesbeck, was the large brick where our classmate, Johnny Massman, lived with his aunt and uncle. On the south side was the large Howard estate, the old house now surrounded by apartments. There was a large tennis court in the front and west of the house. I don’t remember just how many other houses were down there until you got to the one sitting way back on the south side of the road east of Argus. The Shepherds’, who had a pear orchard, lived there in what I learned later was another of the Howard homes. There were no sidewalks on the east end of Groesbeck so I didn’t walk there too often.

I can still remember the old Larmon Mansion, where Larmon Court is today, which had been built by Freeman Grant Cary. It stood well back from the street with beautiful sloping lawns and flower gardens. Across from it was the Cincinnati Sanitarium. It, too, stood way back from the road, with a long driveway going downhill past the lake in the low area. The kids used to go there to skate and sled ride too, stood way back from the road, with a long driveway going downhill past the lake in the low area. The kids used to go there to skate and sled ride on the hill leading down to the lake. Next to the drive at Hamilton Avenue was the brick residence of the superintendent. His daughter, Mary Collins, was in our class at school.

Next came Aster Place leading off to the west-at the north corner was Mr. Aiken’s home-he was the supervisor of the Music Department in the Cincinnati Schools. On the south corner was a lovely white frame house, now replaced by apartments.

West from Hamilton ending at Belmont is Pasadena-very few houses on it, one on the north side being the old post office. The south corner was a vacant lot, then one or two houses in one of which lived Elizabeth Kelly, whose mother was a nurse. Then came the Grace Episcopal Church. On the north side, just before Hillcrest were several brick houses. South of Hillcrest on the corner property was the Eisen mansion. Then came the Zebulon Strong house and sitting below the street level a lovely brick, both are still there. On the opposite side was the beautiful Glenwood Apartments, recently torn down. It was considered the elite place to live in College Hill. Next to it up on the hill with a stone wall in front was a very old frame (Obed J. Wilson house) now gone. Then came Windermere Way and the Methodist Home. Back on Windermere was the superintendent’s house, Dr. Ross, whose daughter, Peggy, was in my class. We had mutual interests in the history of College Hill and she told me many things about it as we rode the street car to Hughes High School.

At the end of Windermere Way was a house hidden way back in the woods, which I never saw, but Peggy told me about (Caldwell house). Across Hamilton Avenue from Windermere Way was the red brick pumping station. As you started down the hill from it were some three or four houses, some still are there today. One was the home of Louis Aiken, our music teacher at Hughes High School. Where

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22 Across from Kenneth on Cedar Avenue was an ice house. On Cedar, two houses from Leffingwell, Joseph Fink had a dairy. His daughters were Beatrice and Lorraine, per Irma (Zimmer) Waechter.
Hammond North is today was a large white frame owned by the Laboyteaux family. I learned later that it had been built to replace the octagon house just south of it up on the hill. Across the road from it was a small frame cottage very close to the car track. I remember that a classmate of ours lived there, but died with diphtheria as her family did not believe in doctors. This had once been the old toll gate house. Just above Rockford Place, west of Hamilton Avenue, was the Wilson’s stone quarry. There were two or three houses back there when the stone quarry was active. The quarry could be reached by a cart road off Groesbeck Road.

Louise and I used to walk on Sunday afternoons. Most of the time we would walk up Hamilton Avenue to North College Hill. The traction track was on the left side of the road on a right-of-way of its own. It traveled through North College Hill and didn’t come onto the paved way until it got into Mt. Healthy. The old Harbison place was on the left side of the road. About this time Wittekind started building the house on the east side of the road. The area from the car barn to Harbison’s old house was all a thicket. I learned later on that the old Cary Cemetery was in there, but most of it had been moved to Spring Grove. Some graves were still there and I found out later that the work gang disinterred some of the skeletons. Apparently, one of the graves which had been left was that of Solomon Howard which was then moved to Wesleyan Cemetery.

Marlowe Avenue ran west of Hamilton up to Cary Avenue. I can remember going with another friend to visit the Methodist Sunday School on the south side of the street. All I remember of the north side of that section was the brick police station, now the fire house for College Hill. East of Hamilton Avenue it went as far as Lantana. Most of the houses there today had been built at the time. I believe that the Winnises, who had the feed store, lived two doors from the path opposite Salvia and the Beckers next to the west. I didn’t know any of the people who lived on the south side of the street. Harrell’s lived in a big two story frame on the east side of Saranac about the middle of the block. The Baechle’s lived on the west side. I didn’t know any one on the dead end of it except the Rumpke’s, who delivered our papers. St. Clare Church on the east side and the old Hammitt place on the west side as well as a few other newer frame houses were at the dead end of Salvia. The street ended at the property line of the old Simpson place, which faced Hamilton Avenue.

I used to make my way up Larch Avenue on some of my walks. I have very early memories of Town Hall and the big fireworks displays on the Fourth of July. Mother and Dad had to take me home one very early holiday, because I cried in fear of the fireworks. Later on, the Public Library was in the room on the west side of the first floor. Several of my classmates lived on Larch-Adelia Hanks lived on the south side and Ruth Smith lived on the north side of the street. Ruth Smith lived in another house built from the same plan as ours. Altogether there are four homes in this area built from the same plan-the fourth one is on the west side of Hamilton Avenue in North College Hill and is a ‘guest house’ today.

After crossing Davey Avenue the beautiful Bauhmann home took up a large area on the north side of the street-I remember that they had twin daughters. There were several more old houses past Bauhmann’s, the one just before Paul Briol’s was the old Professor Burns house. It was empty a good part of the time after his died-Mrs. Burns would come back occasionally to try to take care of the property. She was a scary person. I used to meet her on some of the walks I took. She had piercing black eyes, wore tennis shoes and an old coat green with age. She always smiled and spoke to me. The house being empty so much, the kids would break into it and poke into things. Louise’s sister, Margaret Buenger, knew about it and told us some of the things they told her-getting into family pictures, one being of a member of the Burns family in his casket. Finally the house was set on fire and destroyed. Past the Briol house was the lovely big (Robert) Simpson mansion at the corner of Belmont, where the Bellwood is today. I remember it had a big square tower, which I learned many years later was a ballroom.

At the Hamilton Avenue end of Belmont was the Grace Episcopal Church, the manse and several more old buildings/ On the west side was the Belmont Apartment building, an old frame (still there), several small stores (now gone) and then the Ohio Military Institute. We used to like to come up on Sunday afternoon and watch the cadets drill and march-in the spring they used to parade around the hill accompanied by their band. There was a cannon on the parade ground, which was fired at six in the morning and in the evening. The O.M.I. was always special to College Hill residents-being a part of our
lives for so many years. The cadets dated some of the College Hill girls. Some of them used to come to the Presbyterian Sunday School. I never got to know any of them very well. After Ralph and I married I learned that he had a letter from the Institute offering him a job as a riding instructor, when they were considering adding riding to their curriculum. Ralph had been in the cavalry stationed at Monterey, California before I met him. I still have that letter.

Peggy Ross told me about Bishop’s mound on the grounds of Farmers’ College. In winter the kids would have snowball fights from the top of the mound—be king of the mound. Robert Hamilton Bishop came from Miami University at Oxford to join Freeman Grant Cary at the college. He gave specific directions as to be buried on a spot he selected in the grounds of the college and specific directions as to the construction of his burial mound. When he died in 1855 his wishes were carried out. His wife died two weeks later and her casket was slid in beside his. When the Cincinnati Board of Education learned of this after buying the land, they insisted that he had to be removed. Miami University learned of this and asked that they be allowed to take the two bodies up to Oxford. They built another mound at the end of the Rose Garden next to Fisher Hall, following his directions. Another request that he had made was that no stone should be erected over his grave, so that unless you knew the story, you would not have known that this mound was a grave site. The University followed his directions except that the sides of the mound were sloped more gradually so that a mower could be used on it. At the end of the Rose Garden is a circle with an opening showing the mound behind it, a huge boulder is in the center of this circle with a bronze plaque telling who is in the mound behind it.

At the far end of the O.M.I. grounds was a cottage, and then came a wooded area. Next were several lovely old homes—then came the water tower where our water was stored before College Hill came into the city. Somewhere close there on the west side of the street lived Tommy Birch, one of our classmates. He was a friend of Powel Crosley’s son and was supposed to have worked with him to develop the radio. At that time Powel Crosley, Jr. lived on Davey Avenue, about opposite the end of Linden Drive. Several doors from the Cozy Corner on Davey lived Miss Benson. I used to visit her because she had a big collie dog—I loved horses and dogs and my parents would never let me have a pet. Later on she committed suicide by hanging herself in the basement of that house.

On Llanfair between Hamilton and Davey all of the houses there were now were built. The Center family lived in one of them. On the north side of the street there was only one house, a big frame, owned by Mr. Peters, who had the ice and coal business that was in a large metal building at the corner of Llanfair and Hamilton Avenue. Then came the school property and past that an ugly old square building on what was said to be the ‘pound lot.’ The rest of the north side was empty until you got the Lathrop Place. On the south side from Davey there were about five or six houses, and then empty pastures until you got to the old house about opposite Lathrop. I think that there were several more houses, but the corner lot was empty. On the north side were two or three old cottages before you got to Flamm’s Grocery (5802 Belmont Ave.). Around the corner on Belmont there were several houses, then the very old house at the corner of Cedar. On the opposite side was the Pounsford home standing way back on the hill. The came ‘The Oaks’ at the corner of Glenview.

I remember a row of frame store buildings built south of Mr. Vail’s Feed Store (who also had a stable). It stood back a little way from Hamilton Avenue. With a drive leading into the front end of it—there were wide doors at both ends of the building so that wagons could be driven through and over the scale inside. These stores were slanted toward Hamilton Avenue, starting from the south end of the feed store. There was Philip Steinman’s Palace Market in one of them. Shortly after that Mr. Vail had his brick house built just east of Miss Miles’ house. It has since been torn down to make way for the present post office. The previous post office had been in the little brick building just north of Waldman’s house. Several stories were built between it and the bank building’s three stores. Diehn’s old candy store had been moved around the corner onto Cedar (where the meat and produce store is now located). Then the Dow building was built on the corner. Over the years the buildings between it and Doll’s Bakery were built as well as the ones between the Hollywood and doc. Schneider’s drugstore. The Hollywood Apartments were built in what had been the Hammitt front yard. Just north of it was a two-story frame sitting back from the street where Dr. Evelyn Partymiller lived with her parents and had her office. We got acquainted
when she was in medical school and I was in high school—we rode the same street car every morning. She
came a doctor after she graduated. Another narrow brick building was built between the Hollywood and
Party mills. Both buildings have since been torn down—the parking lot for LaRosa’s is there today. Gone
also is the brick station that stood beside the traction tracks (it dated back to the days when the traction
line had been a railroad). That building had been a Marsh Pontiac and then a Porsche-Audi dealership for
some years.

Just behind Vail’s feed store was another small building where Lou Eiler had a poultry store for
some time—later he sold antique’s in it (some of my antiques were bought there). Added on to McNutt’s
Hardware Store was a metal building where some kind of work was done. There were no parking lots in
College Hill as there are today. After Vail’s Feed Store was torn down there was a filling station there for
some years. The old Simpson house just south of the dead end of Salvia is gone and parking lots of the
Presbyterian Church have replaced it. Llanfair Terrace stands where the old pastures were on Llanfair
Avenue. The Larchwood Apartments have replaced the Bauhmann house on Larch. On Belmont new
houses were built in what had been the Pounsford front yard. Their old home on the hill above Belmont
was torn down—their carriage house now serving as a church property. A house was built down in the
ravine where the traction tracks had gone under Glenview Avenue. The bridge is gone—the area filled in
and a railroad built over it as was done with the one on Groesbeck Road.

On North Bend road just east of the Wigwam, the old Matie Bowman home, with its lovely old trees
was raised and now an apartment complex stands there. The library and Pleasant Hill School have
replaced the old Crawford Home. Most of the north side of that street is now apartment buildings. The
pasture lands along the east side of Lantana have been taken up with apartment complexes. Savannah
Avenue was the first street leading north from North Bend Road, it having been the driveway to the
Ephraim Brown house. Later Cary was extended northward and Heitzler and other streets added. The new
College Hill Plaza has replaced almost everything in the block between Cedar and Llanfair except the
bank building.

I loved to walk and every afternoon would walk around College Hill. Sometimes I would follow the
‘Loop’—Hamilton, Belmont, Oakwood, and North Bend—the way street cars ran. I used to enjoy looking at
the lovely homes on those streets. I dreamed of what life had been for the people in those homes in years
gone by. My interest in history was already developing.

On the west side of Hamilton Avenue on the southwest corner of Cedar was a grove of chestnut
trees—we used to go back a path in it to look for the nuts. Next to it back almost to the school fence was a
large frame house owned by Deters, the plumber. In front of it was built a smaller house (which was used
as a police substation before the present mall was built). Mr. Deter’s daughter lived in this little house.
Next south was the Waldman house. He was a painter and his daughter was our seventh grade teacher.
Next south was another frame house—I never knew who lived there. Next was a large brick building where
the Duennes’ lived. I knew Dorothy. Then came the big brick building known as the Augsburger building
(5811-5813 Hamilton Avenue), now gone. Last was a big metal building used to store feed and grain.
Across Llanfair were two very old frame cottages. One was torn down when the former filling station was
built, the other—the Solomon Howard—was moved. Next south was the charming little shingled cottage
built by Newbold for his son. There was a small ravine in the front yard and a little footbridge was built to
cross it.

Coming back to Cedar Avenue west of the chestnut grove were two houses before you reached the
school property23 Katie Forbes (Schevene Neuzel) lived in the first one. A few years ago it was moved to
(1629) Linden Drive. Past the school grounds were several large frame houses, one was that of the

23 1669 Cedar Ave. was the home of Samuel F. Cary. Built about 1840 it is a square frame house, 2.5 stories high with a deep from porch.
At the turn of the century, the prominent College Hill residents. Dr. and Mrs. Jacob Ferris lived in a large frame house at the southwest corner of Cedar and Hamilton
Pike. Dr. Ferriss and E. N. Wild owned 3 acres of Hamilton Avenue and around 1900 subdivided it into lots, requiring a cash payment of $25.00 per lot and the balance
in monthly payments. In 1903, the Ferriss’ divorced. Mrs. Ferriss built a five room cottage at 1615 Cedar. That same year Mrs. Ferriss left College Hill and sold the
house to Katherine and George Forbes. Their daughter was Katherine Forbes Schevene Neuzel.
The second Forbes house referred to was 1714 Cedar Ave. Charles Henry Forbes, carpenter and wagon maker, moved a two room log cabin from North Bend Road to
this site ca 1867. This house stayed in the Forbes family until 1965 when it was purchased from the estate of Alice Forbes Fox, Charle’s daughter. It was demolished
in 1968.
Hausers. In the sharp bend of Cedar was the Haven property—a large frame house occupying a large tract of land. Houses had already been built on both sides of Lathrop Place. On the north side of Cedar, past Diehn’s Candy store was a large old brick—still there. Most of the houses that are there now had been built. Next to the corner of Cary is the house that I always knew had been built off the same plan as ours. At the corner was the lovely big frame home of the Neuzel family—the house still there but the front yard now filled with apartments. Across Cary were two frame houses. The first one still there, the second—belonging to a member of the Forbes family, has been replaced with an apartment building. Next at the sharp turn was the (William T.) Simpson mansion (1750 Cedar Ave.), its front lawn extending all along Cedar to the second turn. Around the turn, well back from the street, was a beautiful white brick mansion with big pillars on the front. The rest of the street was part of the Peter G. Thomson grounds. The houses on the south side of that part of Cedar that are there now had all been built by that time. The first one from Lathrop Place is very old—we always referred to it as Mary Steele’s house.

The Thomson mansion, Laurel Court, was always an important landmark in College Hill. Very few people, except their friends, ever got inside it. There were two greenhouses on Lantana opposite Marlowe. The one raising vegetable plants belonged to the Reeses. Mr. Corbet’s had flowers only. Mother always bought plants from him. He was the head gardener for Thomson and one time he invited us to come up there and see the Thomson gardens. They were beautiful and I think it was the first time I ever saw the flower, lantana. After we walked all through the gardens he took us into the house and showed us the beautiful atrium area with trees reaching up to the glass topped roof. It was an experience I will never forget.

Laurel Court took up the whole area between Cedar and Oakwood. Across Oakwood on that side was a large frame belonging, I believe, to Crosley’s parents. Next came several more houses. The one I remember was the lovely old cottage almost hidden by a screening of blue spruce. Then the Aiken place at the next corner. There is another very old house in the block before you get to North Bend Road. On the south side of Belmont beginning at Glenview, the houses there now were all built in my memory. Next to where the line used to cross Belmont at the foot of the hill is a very old house (part of it the original log, the Witherby house) sitting way back from the street with a swimming pool in front of it belonging to Reno Runck. Just past it near the street is a lovely white colonial, where the Benedicts lived. Mr. Benedict was a professor at the University of Cincinnati and his daughter Jean was a classmate of mine. Both were killed when his auto skidded in front of a street car on Ludlow Avenue. There were a few more houses between that and North Bend Road.

When I was in the sixth or seventh grade the school gave a program at the Town Hall. We were given tickets to sell. I decided to try my luck on North Bend road. One of the first places I stopped was the big mansion east of Lantana, where Judge Coleman Avery lived. He came to the door and bought a ticket, but I didn’t have change and stopped on the way back to give it to him. Sometime after that we saw in the newspaper where he shot his wife and then committed suicide. Opposite Lantana was the Crawford Home for aged African American men. East were fields, a lane leading back to Judge Avery’s stable and race track, where we used to go on a Sunday afternoon to watch the horses. There were three large old houses in large grounds from there until you got to Daly Road. At the corner of Lantana and North Bend in an old house a classmate of mine, Marie Vogele, lived. In the last house before Judge Avery’s a friend of mother’s, Mrs. Holman, lived. I remember she had gooseberries along her fence.

There weren’t many houses along Argus Road. One house not far from North Bend way back from the road was the Gray, the florists, home. There were two or three old houses north of Buengers. Next past Buengers was a house high up on the hill opposite Cedar Avenue. I can’t remember the name of the family but they were from Europe and had ovens in the yard where they baked bread. Next was a lane leading my way back to a house you couldn’t see from the road. Then came the brick house where our postman, Mr. Zimmer, lived. I think the next thing was the big pear orchard reaching to the corner of Groesbeck Road. There were several old houses on the west side of Argus—I think most of them belonged to the Wrenn family. About half way along was a path leading to a huge chestnut tree.

When I was quite small I had whooping cough. It was a very hot summer and my parents moved my little bed out onto the front porch because of the heat. There was no air-conditioning in those days and
they kept the hose running water over the porch floor to keep it cooler for me. I was awfully sick and everyone worried about me. That is one of the times I remember Miss Rose, Father Diehner’s housekeeper, coming over with special dishes. She was always good to me.

Another memory that comes back is when Gertrude Deters, who worked for Miss Miles in the dry goods store, got too close to the little gas stove in the shop and had her dress catch on fire. She took some time to recover from her burns and I think she went back to work for Miss Miles. I remember hearing that Miss Miles was a descendant of the Miles family in Mt. Healthy for which Miles Road is named.

When I was a little older I used to roam all over the hill. One day another girl and I decided we were going to make our way across from the end of Hillcrest to the traction tracks. We forced our way through high weeds until we came out at Howard’s stone quarry down the traction line. We talked to a lady in one of the houses and she gave us a drink of water. She had a piano and wanted me to play. We then made our way up to Groesbeck Road and went home.

Another time I will never forget-I had gotten the soles of my feet covered with tar from crossing Hamilton Pike to go to the library in my bare feet, so I couldn’t wear my shoes to go to the farm. The Bauer’s daughter and I were chasing around in the orchard when I ran a wire into the side of my foot. Mrs. Bauer made a poultice for Mother to bring home and she said it would draw out the poison. Bit I nearly got blood poisoning. Mother called Dr. Howard and he cut open the side of my foot and cleared up the poisoning. In the summer time usually we would hear a bell ringing and knew that the scissor grinder was on his way. Mother would get her knives and scissors to be sharpened. He carried the grindstone in a wooden frame on his back. We also had occasional tramps ask for a meal.

We didn’t get electricity until 1918. I remember that you were only allowed a certain number of outlets and mother had one more than she should have, so she placed a hassock in front of the one in the front hall until the inspector had examined the house.

We had gas lights until that time, gas pipes running up some of the walls to lights on the side-one such was in the pantry. Those lights were odd, a white jet made the flame flare out like a fan-these were also in some of the closets. The light fixtures had a mantle-a sort of mesh shaped like a small bag, which I would light with the lighter after the gas was turned on. Mother had a water powered washing machine-a wooden tub with a wringer on the side. She would connect up the hoses to the faucets and I could hear the click, click of the machine as she did the laundry. She had just gotten a new ice box when Dad decided to get an electric ice machine for her, so she wanted it installed in her new ice box. It was a water cooled Frigidaire, with the unit in the basement in the bottom of the old fruit closet and the box in the back of the pantry. She used the old sad irons, which were heated on the gas cook stove in the kitchen.

The hot water tank was just inside the door leading from the hall into the kitchen. Gas pressure was very uncertain in winter, one time getting so low that Mother couldn’t cook our supper in the kitchen-I went down the cellar with her as she broiled a steak over the coals in the furnace. By this time Dad had a Model-A Ford and drove back and forth to the foundry. He worked in most of the iron foundries in Cincinnati during his lifetime. We always had a little garden in the back yard, tomatoes and other vegetables growing there. We also had a pear and a peach tree. Mother would make preserves and jellies. I also remember that she would make her own cottage cheese. Letting the milk clabber, putting it in a cheese cloth bag and letting they whey drain out into the sink. She also used cloth bags to put fruit in to make jelly and let the juice drain out the same way. About that time Dad decided to get an oil burner put in the furnace-that lasted about two or three years-it wasn’t satisfactory. Then we got a stoker to fire the furnace with coal again. Dad was always looking for gadgets to make Mother’s work easier. Earlier, before we got electricity, we had a strange vacuum cleaner-you pulled the handle up and down on the side to create a vacuum to pull out of the carpets. We had many unusual things that Dad discovered. He was always interested in new things-we got a crystal set radio and I remember sitting around the dining room table with sets of ear phones over our ears while he manipulated a sort of wire whisker over the crystal and we heard far away voices or music. He also bought any new medical discovery he heard about-there is still an old violet ray set in the attic that was supposed to help your health.

There was no lunch room at school in those days so we went home for lunch. I was an only child and I adored my mother, so time spent with her at noon was a joy. One of my favorites for lunch was a catsup
sandwich. (Can you imagine today’s youngsters wanting that?) Sometimes we had soup or bread and jelly. Mother would give me ‘grandma’s tea’-half tea and half milk. Occasionally, if Mother had to go downtown, I would be allowed to go over to Cozy Corner (located in the house at the southeast corner of Llanfair and Dave) where they served soup and a sandwich to the school children.

Mother had bought a piano and had Miss Brown, my first grade teacher, gave me lessons. I took lessons from her for several years, then mother decided to send me to the College of Music (then located next to Music Hall). That was when I started riding the street cars by myself. I went to the College of Music on Saturdays and had lessons for several years with Irene Carter. After I started to Hughes High School I had lessons with Isle Huebner.

Thinking back to the early days of my childhood, I am remembering what life was like. At the beginning of my memories there were only horse drawn wagons to serve the customers. A regular morning event was the arrival of the ice wagon-the driver would chip out a block, carry it in with his tongs and place it in the old oak ice chest for mother. I still have the old ice pick in a kitchen drawer. Another morning caller would be the milk man. I think we used to get our milk from Steiner, who had a dairy farm on North Bend Road a short distance east of Argus-his pastures ran down to the edge of Cataract Woods, where Lou and I used to play and we could see his cows. A butcher wagon used to come by, but I don’t remember who had it. Another family mother used to get vegetables from was the Bauers, whose farm was up on the east side of Hamilton Pike north of New Burlington. They came once a week with vegetables and I think cottage cheese which Mrs. Bauer used to make. We were invited to visit them on the farm and I remember one Sunday being there when they made home-made peach ice cream, the first peach ice cream I ever tasted.

During World War I feelings were high and even reached the children. Lou’s parents were from Germany and she had a pro-German attitude which nearly wrecked our friendship for awhile. At this time nearby German Road became Daly Road as it remains today. My parents bought War Bonds and even at school the war effort was stressed. I was in the fourth grade when we were taught how to pick oakum apart and knot squares to be put together to make blankets. I remember a big parade that all the schools took party in-the girls wore white dresses and wore a sort of headdress with a red cross pinned on it. I can remember being downtown in it and marching down Sycamore Street. Our next door neighbor, Leonard Westhoff, Gertrude’s older brother, was sent into the Army-he looked handsome in his uniform. He was sent to Camp Sherman near Chillicothe, and we used to drive up on a Sunday to visit him. We were hearing stories of German atrocities-one about Edith Cavell, as nurse, as I remember. We didn’t have one the scary blackouts which became so common during WW II. War never seemed to get so close to us in the First World War.

College Hill was beginning to grow. More stores were built along the Avenue and houses were springing up north of North Bend Road. Earlier we used to have to go down to Cumminsville to see a movie at the Liberty or the Park. I think it was about this time that the Hollywood was built. There was an ice cream shop in the store to the left of the lobby, which we patronized after a movie. I think it was about this time that the bank building was built at the corner of Cedar where the chestnut grove had been. We now had our own swimming pool at Town Hall and didn’t have to go down to Cumminsville playground. There were also the tennis courts at Town Hall. It lost its importance after we were annexed to Cincinnati. I remember that there was a Building and Loan office in it for a time. We nearly lost it-our Samuel Hannaford building-as the city wanted to tear it down. Thank goodness they didn’t succeed!

In the fall of 1923 I started to Hughes High School and sadly watched our old school building being torn down. I think it was several years before the present building was completed. Students were taken to Mt. Airy School at that time. I took the music course and was excused a bell early to go home to practice piano. I went into the orchestra and Mr. Kratz started me on cello. After my afternoon practice sessions I would start my walks around the hill to relax. Shortly thereafter I began cello lessons as well as piano at the College of Music. For awhile we were able to ride the traction for a nickel until the street car company stopped them from picking up passengers below North Bend Road. My cello and I used to board the traction and ride down to the terminal on Spring Grove Avenue across from the end of Spring Grove Cemetery. There a bus waited to take us downtown. Lots of times I had to stand and I remember
wrapping my arm around the neck of my cello and a post until I got down there. I studied cello with Arthur Knecht. I played in the Hughes Orchestra and the College of Music Junior Orchestra. At this time music was my main interest, but I always had an interest in history.

Thanksgiving and Christmas were always family gatherings. Usually it would be Aunt Laura’s family coming from Bond Hill. We always had turkey and all the trimmings. One of my jobs was to fill the big fruit bowl for the table centerpiece. Mother always bought kumquats at Christmas and we had apples, tangerines, bananas and grapes to put in the huge bowl, then English walnuts and pecans scattered in among the fruit. Nutcrackers and picks were placed around the foot of that bowl. We always made Waldorf salad which I helped to make and Mother always had me make the dressing for it—a ¼ teaspoon of dry mustard, a tablespoon of sugar in a pan, breaking an egg over them and beating over boiling water until the egg started to thicken, then thinning it with cream. Our vegetable was always Brussels sprouts. The family always remarked about mother’s dressing almost green with the amount of parsley she used in it. Those were wonderful occasions with Aunt Laura and the cousins gathered around our table. Mildred, Florence and Freddie were my cousins. Christmas was always a special time for me as I was married on Christmas Eve of 1929.

Cedar Avenue had been just a macadam road with no curbs for a long time, but finally they built curbs, but the constant build-up of macadam made the street higher than the sidewalks. It was in the 40’s before it was finally made a concrete street. We had two Lombardy poplars, one on each side of the lot, so when the driveway was built it had to be curved because of the one tree. The beautiful Italian magnolia in the front yard was planted when I was a very small child—I am sure that it must be much more than eighty years old today. I always pray that we don’t get a freeze to spoil the blossoms each spring. I wonder now each winter if I am going to be here to see it bloom the next spring. I love my home here and dread the time that death will take me from it. (Ruth passed away in 2004).

After Mrs. Burke and her daughter and son-in-law, Carrie and Tony Epping, (another daughter was married to Mr. Neuzell) moved to Denver, the house east of ours was bought by the Wuest family. Mr. Wuest had one son, Charles, who lived just south of the Knights of Columbus building on Hamilton Avenue in Northside; another son, Dick, was in the Navy stationed in China—he sent many things home for his father to sell, the Chinese trinkets I have come from him. Charles’ daughter, Elizabeth Wuest, was in our 1927 class at Hughes High School. The Wuest family, mother named Julia, lived there for many years. Mr. Wuest had a number of grape vines and made wine. He also had a chicken pen at the back of the lot—a pet hen named Jerry, whom I used to visit. She would sit beside me on a box in the pen and ‘talk’ to me. They had a handicapped son, who had been hit on the head with a baseball, making him speechless and unable to walk. Mother Julia took care of Edwin for many years. She died several years after they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Mr. Wuest lived there alone until his death. Mother Julia was a short, roly-poly little woman, with very dark eyes, of whom I was very fond and spent a lot of time with—she would have me come over to help her bake a cake. There was a daughter, Mrs. Exley, who came to live with them during an illness—she had a son who became a doctor and a daughter, Virginia.

I can’t remember all of the families who lived in that house, but Verne and Zoe Yates were there for a long time—that was after Ralph and I were married. Also Leonard and Harriet Franks were there for a long time—we used to spend a lot of time with those two families. The Franks were still there after Ralph died.

To the west in Mr. Biddle’s house I remember best the Friesens, a widowed mother and daughter Catherine—I was still in grade school when they were there—I remember that Catherine made a little powder compact for me, with hand painted flowers. Much later Cara Fernbach lived there—y that time I was actively searching for Colerain Township history and she helped a lot with that, having lived in the old Charles Cone Inn (which had been in the old town of Crosby) during the 1913 flood. I was interested in that building because it was opposite Dunlap’s Station site on the Greta Miami River. She told me that they had to get out in such a hurry that she left her diamond ring on the mantel and feared that it would be lost, but after the flood subsided they found it still on the mantel inches deep in mud.

She was very interested in what I was trying to do in preserving Colerain township history and would go with me on trips out into the township. She told me many things that she remembered about the
area. She knew where the old toll gate had been on Blue rock Road and how farmers would go through neighboring fields with their wagons and teams to avoid paying the toll gates. She was an interesting person and I had many happy times with her.

Many families had lived in that house during the years Mr. Biddle owned it. The Tertinskys own it now. They have modernized it and have beautiful gardens, both flower and vegetable.

Thinking about the 1937 flood brings back many memories. We were almost completely cut off from downtown Cincinnati-Ralph had to drive down North Bend Road into Carthage to be able to go to work. He was a stationary engineer with the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company, stationed in the old Front and Rose power plant. He had to make his way into town by way of Vine Street, getting as far as Third Street and going into the plant by boat. Knowlton’s Corner was under water up into the second floor of the building’s there. The water was up Hamilton Avenue beyond the railroad tracks and Blue rock. I was teaching piano classes at the time at Garfield School—of course all the schools were closed, but we were called and asked to come into Garfield to help feed the flood workers everyday. You weren’t allowed to drive in those areas without authority, so I was given a Red Cross flag to put on my car so that I could get through. The intersection of Colerain and Hoffner was under water and they had taken down sections of fence on each street at Wesleyan Cemetery. They had put a temporary gravel road across the corner of the cemetery to permit you to get over to Beekman Street. That stretch of Beekman just beyond the school was under water for some distance past Dreman Avenue. They brought the workers in by truckloads, bringing hot food in for them. It was our job to serve their dinner on the school plates, then clean up and wash dishes. The cafeteria was in the basement and I remember looking out the window at flood water up to the terrace leading down to the playground. I also could see the houses on down Beekman Street where I knew some of my students lived.

It was a frightening time—often Ralph wouldn’t get back home until the early hours of the morning. We couldn’t use the water and I remember going to the corner where Eilers had a well in the yard and getting water. Gas pressure was low and it was sometimes difficult to cook. Part of the time there was no electricity.

Then there was the horrible fire—gasoline floating on top of the flood waters caught fire and most of Spring Grove Avenue was ablaze. Many businesses were destroyed. I remember driving down Spring Grove after the water went down and seeing some of the old houses just beyond the Mill Creek bridge. The people living in them had moved all their furniture up into the second floors, which were completely burned away.

I recently learned from Cleon Wingard, who was the Assistant Principal at Garfield, that a National Guard unit was housed in Garfield School during the flood and he stayed in the building during the night and fed the Guards their breakfast in the morning. It was a sad sight to see so many of the homes of our students in the flood waters.

I have fond memories of Garfield. It was a wonderful school and was so much a part of the community life. Mr. Miller, the Principal, had a Mothers Choral Group and I was their accompanist. I gave evening recitals every year and had some very fine students. We also had violin classes. There was a drum corps and the students learned to march. They always took part in the Memorial Day Services at Wesleyan Cemetery. South Cumminsville was a fine, close-knit community.

During the Second World War we spent a lot of time in Colerain Township as Ralph’s sister Carrie was married to Bob Foster. They lived on Banning Road and had an extra lot next to their house, so we banded together and farmed that ¼ acre going there in the evenings to work (we received a gas ration for this). Also they were members of the Wilmot Rifle Club, which put on a training session to learn to shoot (the Federal Government was encouraging everyone to be prepared to use firearms). This was held in the basement range of Bob Foster’s building at the southwest corner of Colerain and Galbraith. We also had beagles and hunted and trained dogs in Colerain Township. Those war years were frightening times—with blackouts occurring regularly. Ralph was a stationary engineer for CG&E and was deferred because of it. We learned of his youngest brother Billy’s death in the invasion of Africa—he was buried there. His brother, Frank, was stationed in the Pacific. Then came the notice that Ralph was changed to 1A—a worrisome time for both of us, but he wasn’t called because they changed the age limit and he was too
old. His younger sister, Margaret, was in the WAVES, so there was always worry over far away family members. I will never forget the sound of President Roosevelt’s voice on the radio announcing the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Over the years we had watched the growth of St. Clare Church-first the little frame building on the Cedar Avenue side, then the construction of the present buildings. The frame church was torn down, as well as the Eicher’s house, which was then a home for the teaching nuns. Strangely enough they didn’t raze the priest’s home, but moved it down to 5912 Lantana. It was interesting to watch the moving of that brick home. It sat up on a bank level with our house and just across the street from it. They built up a support of railway ties in the street until it was level with the house, shifted it onto rollers, which were gradually removed until it was down to rollers on the street-then came the slow move down Cedar to Lantana, north around the corner and onto its new location. Before that the church building, with school rooms on the second floor, had been built on Salvia. Then the new priest’s house was built, partially on the site of the Eicher house. Finally the basement of the present church was built and used as the church for many years until the new church was added above it.

One of our classmates from old College Hill School and Hughes High School became very famous in Cincinnati-Caroline Williams also lived on Larch Avenue. We knew that her father was the artist for the Cincinnati Enquirer-we always looked for his sketches on the weather report and Seeckatary Hawkins-a favorite reading of mine as a child. I lost track of her for awhile, but after she moved to Burlington, Kentucky, I contacted her and we became firm friends because of our mutual interest in history and old buildings. I used to visit her and thoroughly enjoyed her log cabin. I had become interest in old cemeteries and we walked about the one she discovered on her farm. I used to get treats to take to hr big police dog, Annie-I always loved dogs.

Ralph died in 1950 and I started classes at the University of Cincinnati and got my undergraduate degree and teaching certificate in elementary education. I continued my classes after I got a teaching position in 1953 and got a Master’s degree in 1956 and continued for several years after that-for awhile I thought I wanted to get a doctorate. While I was teaching third grade at Struble School I became interested in local history and started actively to try to gather as much information on Colerain Township as I could. It resulted in the formation of the Coleraine Historical Society. I also worked with other groups interested in local history.

In 1966 College Hill was planning to celebrate its Centennial. I was contacted and asked to do a history of the community for Hilltop News. As a result I plunged in to get as much information as I could, researching and interviewing people about what they remembered. One interesting contact was an elderly gentleman who lived on a street northwest of North Bend Road. He told me that when he was a boy he used to tag along with old Mr. Harbison, who would always take two flags with him on Memorial Day or Fourth of July and take them into the old Cary Cemetery. This would seem to indicate that there may have been two soldiers’ graves left there after the Cary family removed their own members to Spring Grove Cemetery. He also made the remark when they were tearing down the Crawford Home on North Bend Road, “I wonder if they discovered the old hiding place for escaping slaves in the sub-cellar underneath it.”

While I was working on College Hill history, the old Bowman house on North Bend Road, just east of the Wigwam was empty. Eleanor Bowman asked me to go there with her as it was to be torn down. Matie Bowman was Eleanor’s aunt or great aunt. Matie’s maiden name was Ludlow-William B. Ludlow had been her father. The original property had been a seven acre tract-the north east corner of Hamilton and North Bend Road. It had been in the family descended from John Ludlow, half-brother to Israel Ludlow and early sheriff of Hamilton County. Matie had apparently become estranged from her family and left everything to her servant, who left many things in the house which upset Eleanor and me quite a bit. Matie had lived a very prominent social life in College Hill and had saved everything. The attic was full of things pertaining to her interests. There were art magazines, pictures, music and old dresses-several wardrobes and many other things. Kids had broken into the house and gotten into the attic before we got there and had gotten into everything-the floor was covered at least a foot deep with the things they scattered. I tried to save as much as I could find-programs of a College Hill women’s group, small calling
cards which visitors used to leave when they came to call (giving us many of the old prominent families),
her speech as valedictorian of her class, as well as her mother’s records. They had both attended and
graduated from the Wesleyan Womens’ Seminary located on Vine Street in downtown Cincinnati.

She was also descended from the Cary family, her mother’s family. One of the things saved from
that attic was a broadside advertising the sale of Rebecca Cary’s seven acre tract in the late 1800’s. Matie
and her husband built their home on a portion of this tract. It was a large two story frame having its front
gable decorated with pieces of colored glass. It was an interesting house. It was too bad that more things
weren’t able to be saved from it.

Biddle’s old hotel on North Bend Road just west of Hamilton Pike had become the Eastern Star
Home. They used the old hotel building for quite some years before building their present building/ I
remember going into Biddle’s for lunch. The old car barn was torn down and replaced with a Kroger
store, the earlier one on the corner with the parking lot north of it. Across Hamilton Avenue the original
tiny Wigwam had grown and grown into the lovely restaurant it is today.

African American families were located in many parts of College Hill-Piqua, next east of Lantana,
goes north off Cedar a short distance, then bends sharply east, has a number of black families. Bertha
(Burgess) Rodriguez and husband Carlos were in the last house on the north side of the street, next the
Lockers, George Smith, ‘Mother’ Wait with daughter Theresa, Estelle and George Wyatt and the Hunters;
on the south side were the Mills, Grace and Tootsie Brown and the Houstons. At the sharp bend was the
Methodist Church. Next to the Christian Church was the little cottage owned by the Banks family;
another Morris family, later a Houston family in the house next to the drive leading down to the Jesse
Locker home. Past that were three or four more cottages, in one of which Mr. Lafayette C. Robinson
lived. On the south side of cedar east of Lantana is a very old cottage owned by the Parrots, who lived as
caretakers on the Harold Simpson estate, while their son-in-law, Hutchins, lived in the cottage. Next was
Nellie McKinney (whom I remember stopping when our magnolia was in bloom and asking if she could
have one of its blossoms to take down to her class in the city as the children there had never seen anything
like it). Next to her lived Cindy (Evans) Houston and Emma Houston. The Morris family (Dorothy
Wyley’s ancestors) lived on Lantana opposite the end of Marlowe and the Hockers lived next to them. On
the east side of St. Elmo near Cedar was the brick house of George Smith’s, next was the Imes family.
They had a son and a daughter, Marjorie, who was a piano student of mine for many years. Mrs. Imes and
my mother were friends. Sarah Virginia Hutchins was another of my students. The Wrenn family went
back many years in College Hill’s history. “Grandpa” John Wrenn also owned a large tract of land on the
southwest corner of Cedar and Argus including the Cornelia (now Elsie) Avenue area. He had several
houses there which faced on Argus Road. Arthur Parrott also lived on St. Elmo. George Wrenn was Louis
Wrenn’s son and was tragically drowned with his two children. Katie McNeer was another resident on St.
Elmo. Families on Cornelia (Elsie) were Louis Hunter, Frank Ally, Conley, Thomas, Duckworth and the
Allens. Mr. Thomas worked for the Thomson family. An Allen family and Mrs. Kinney and son lived on
Argus. A Cox family later lived in Elizabeth Locker’s house on Piqua. The Hawkins family lived and
worked in the ‘Oakwood” (the old Davey mansion on Linden Drive).

On Pasadena there were two African American families- the Petersons and the Williams. George
Peterson became a detective on the Cincinnati Police Force and married Hazel Banks and lived in the old
Banks cottage. The Settles family lived down a lane near the O.M.I. and worked there. On the south side
of North Bend Road not far from Savannah was a little green frame cottage, which I remember from
childhood, in which an African American family lived. We have learned that this lot was bought in 1880
by John Alley, Sr. from the College Hill railroad. In 1904, John Ally, Jr., residing in College Hill died
intestate and frank Ally was made his administrator and guardian of John Alley, Sr., who died in
Indianapolis, Indiana in 1917. Frank Alley and John Alley Sr.’s daughter, Louise Gorham, were the heirs
to this property. It wasn’t until 1935 that the property was sold to Dr. Theodore Walker, who tore down
the cottage and built his brick house on the site. Apparently the heirs must have rented the cottage to
African American families from Mrs. Rosemary Forbes remembered of seeing a tall, thin black man who
played a ‘squeeze box’ living in the green cottage, which had no foundation, only stones supporting the
four corners.
Almost from its beginning College Hill has had a small African American population. There was always a strong Abolitionist element residing on the hill. There were a number of places in which escaping slaves could be hidden. Mrs. Anna Benison, a descendant of the Strong family, told me how slaves used to come up the ravine on the east side of the hill, where the old railroad line was located, and come up to the Freeland Strong home on Hamilton Avenue near where Hillcrest Avenue is today. They would be told to creep in under a huge brush pile in the gully beside the road and given sacks to cover themselves. The Strong children would play around on the brush pile carrying sacks of food, which they would carelessly drop, and would fall down into the brush for the hungry blacks hidden underneath. After dark the wagon would be hitched up with a goodly supply of straw in its bed for the slaves to hide under. Mr. Strong would then drive out the old Colerain road (now Belmont Avenue) to the next station on the Underground Railroad, which was the old brick house at the northeast corner of Colerain and Springdale roads. We never did discover who the conductor at that location was.

There were always a few African American students in our classes at school. As I grew older and developed an interest in history, I learned that some of our African American families had been here from the time of the Civil War or before. Many of the wealthy families on the hill employed them and built homes on the east side of the hill for their servants. The Howard family had a stone quarry down along the traction line on the east side of the hill. There were some five or six houses down along the tracks for the African American quarry workers. There were some living on Lantana, St. Elmo, Cedar, Piqua, Argus and Elsie, along with the Crawford Home for old African American men on North Bend road.

The most prominent African American family on College Hill were the Lockers. Jesse was always highly regarded on the hill. Rev. Laban Locker, a Christian Church minister, was his father, who preached at the little Christian Church on Cedar at the corner of Piqua. After his father died, his mother, Elizabeth Locker, brought the children from their old home in Mt. Healthy and located on Piqua so the children could go to College Hill School. Jesse was a top student and was the valedictorian of his class when he graduated from the old College Hill High School. As a schoolboy he went to the Grace Episcopal Church and pumped the organ for the services. He was a Cincinnati Council member for some years and later was appointed as Ambassador to Liberia, where he died in 1955. His body was flown back to Cincinnati in a military plane. He lay in state in the Cincinnati Council Chambers; a representative from President Eisenhower being here for the funeral. It was probably the largest funeral procession ever seen in Cincinnati as he was taken from City Hall to Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Mt. Healthy for burial.

John Robinson, although he lived in West College Hill, was a well known and well liked figure in College Hill. He had a team of horses and did a lot of hauling for College Hill residents. His son, Lafayette “Lefty” Robinson said his father used to take wagon loads to the railroad station for residents of the Glenwood Apartments when they were starting off to Michigan for their summer homes. He was also the man whom I remembered from my early childhood with a snow plow cleaning the sidewalks of College Hill. His mother was a half-sister to Elizabeth Locker, Jesse Locker’s mother. Many of the old time residents of the hill have fond memories of the Robinson family.

Most members of the African American families on the hill worked in one capacity or another for many of the old families in the area. Ola Mills, of the family on Piqua, worked for the Partl family on Cary Avenue. The Morris family was another old family living on Lantana. John Morris was a carpenter and built some of the houses on Piqua. His wife Julia and their daughter, Ida, was Matie Bowman’s cook. Her daughter, Dorothy (Wyley) remembers going to the Bowman home many times to help her mother. The Smith family lived next door to the Imes’ on St. Elmo and “Chick” Smith was a well known football star. One old man named Higginbottom lived in the old Crawford home and worked for ‘Dusty’ Zimmer on Belmont. He used to tell stories of his father, who was a slave. If only more stories had been handed down!
Chapter 41   The Cincinnati Post 1942-1985  By Jack Klumpe

The war to end all wars--World War I---was 12 years in memory in 1930 but its echo was being felt on the hilltop and around the world following the October 29 stock market crash the year before, marking the end to postwar prosperity. Herbert Hoover had been elected president against Alfred E. Smith, the Catholic Democrat governor of New York. The cry was that grass will grow in the streets if Hoover was elected. The worst American depression began in the seventh month of Hoover’s term and held full fury until early in 1932 when some of the first faint signs began to appear that things would be better. But lives, attitudes and “The Avenue” (Hamilton) as it has become to be affectionately known, would be changing too.

It was against this backdrop that the Ladies Aid Society of the College Hill Christian Church put out their recipe booklet, ‘Favorite Recipes.’ To historians the publication of Mrs. H. E. Turner’s recipe for sweet milk waffles or ‘Polly’s’ directions for making sour milk griddles is not important at this time. What is intriguing are the 72 small advertisements in the thirty six page booklet. Thirty five of them are from College Hill merchants. The others are for Mt. Healthy and North College Hill businesses. Come walk The Avenue with us from a point on Hamilton Avenue exactly opposite Larch Avenue. The ads in the booklet will be our tour guide as we note the changes that haven taken place. The 1930 City Directory will aid us in the addresses. We have to assume a basic correctness because we will find postal officials have slightly changed some of the numbers in these last 70 years although the designation between blocks has remained the same. When a new building came into being the address numbers were often readjusted. For example: Haggis Sweet Shop in the north store of the Hollywood Theater building listed its address as 5920 in the 1930 ad. That number is now Brill’s furniture store. Haggis offered candy, light lunches and delicious home made ice cream at 50 cents a quart.

Standing at 5670 Hamilton Avenue, just opposite Larch Avenue is a two story light gray frame building with vertical paneling covering older windows on the first floor. This was one of Kroger’s early stores. The 1924 City Directory lists this address as the ‘Kroger Grocery & Baking Co’ and continues the listing through 1930 after which it is noted as Adolph Haubner grocery. In 1933 and through 1935 it was Richard C. Rabe grocery. Fifty years ago, 1943, the Directory lists a Mrs. Mamie L. Kern as operating a grocery store at that location. Later the property fell into disrepair with various merchants making brief attempts at survival but finding it too far from the business district and parking to attract customers. The second floor living quarters are still used (1993).

As we approach Groesbeck Road and the College Hill Presbyterian Church on the northeast corner we again refer to our historical notes and learn the front portion of the church was dedicated January 4, 1953 after extensive remodeling to the entire edifice. The rear section, parallel to Hamilton Avenue, was dedicated October 5, 1890 after an earlier brick structure was completely wrecked by a ‘sudden storm’ on a Sunday in 1888, one hour after the end of the service.

At the north of the church, in matching stone, is the Parish House which displays a cornerstone that was laid January 1, 1926.

For a period of time after 1917 the North Room of the church was used by women from the church and from other churches of the hill for Red Cross work. Following World War I the need for different facilities for volunteer work, Sunday School classrooms and a place for the recently organized Boy Scout Troop became apparent. The Parish House was then built and used by the entire community for a time with Mr. Donald Nimmo as director of activities. There was little help outside of the church in maintaining the concept. As a consequence the salaried director had to be given up and the use of the building confined more nearly to church activities.

As we continue our nostalgic walk north on Hamilton Avenue we pass the church parking lot. There, 70 years ago, stood a row of stores. First in the line of four stores was College Hill Dry Cleaners with Ollie P. Pies as proprietor. In his ad he offered one day service and boasted ‘your clothes are insured

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against fire and theft while in our care’.

Next was a shoe repair shop. The directory lists a Fred. A. Hilgemeyer as being at 5750 Hamilton Ave. Betty’s Sweet Shop was next. It was ever popular with the younger generation of the hill. George Timbert was proprietor. He sold candy, of course, Niser ice cream and offered a ‘full line of fireworks and holiday goods,’ his ad stated. And lastly was Ernest L. Hearn’s auto accessory store.

Still standing, but later extensively remodeled was the Pure Oil filling station. It was to become homes for pizza parlors and fried chicken restaurants. Across the street on the southwest corner of Hamilton Avenue and Llanfair was The Refiners Oil Corporation station. BP was the last station at that location, closing in 1991 with the removal of all its pumps. On the west side of Hamilton Avenue, beginning at the northwest corner at Llanfair, William Seiter had is blacksmith shop. Next, standing majestically to the north, was the Duennes Building. It has been cleared from the site, leaving an expanse for future development as part of the shopping mall. The two story brick Duennes Building, built in 1900, had a double store front with apartments on the second floor. The stores served many purposes for grocers William Broschert (1911), Bode Shoe Store, Theskins Meat Market, real estate offices and in 1918 the College Hill Branch of the Public Library was in the north store. The 1930 Directory lists The College Hill Feed Store and Lawrence Volz Hardware store as occupants that year. Volz sold radios which were then just becoming popular having been developed a bare ten years before. He also sold Virgora lawn seed, wall paper and the usual hardware items.

Continuing on Hamilton Avenue we pass the Hollywood Apartments. They are much as they were in 1930 except for new store fronts. The City Directory that year lists the Rev. Dale LeCount as living in apartment 24. He came to the Presbyterian Church as pastor in 1929 and remained until 1943. It was during his pastorate that the church built its manse on Groesbeck Road where he then resided.

To the south of the present LaRosa’s restaurant and noted as 5826 Hamilton Avenue was Harry Renner’s plumbing business. There were five flats above the business and Renner lived in one of them while two were vacant the 1930 Directory notes.

Then as now, from here to Cedar Avenue there is an unbroken line of store fronts. A glance to the roof line shows that it is a hodge-podge of buildings, however, with several stores occupying one building while another front is a single structure. Again, the post office has changed the address numbers since that 1930 listing so comparison with numbers today is not always the same. The building north of LaRosa’s is where Fred J. Kissel had his restaurant. Next was the Schneider’s Grocery. Then, Edwin M. Abshire had his dry cleaning establishment with Spadaro & Bottom fruits as his neighbor. The Burke Grocery Co. was next. Peoples -Packing House occupied the next store with Samuel Kohnop dealing in general merchandise just before we reach the corner where Al Hoffman operated Hamilton Cedar Service. He sold Oakland and Pontiac automobiles as well as ‘gas, oil, tires, batteries, radios, repairing and accessories’.

The intersection of Hamilton and Cedar Avenue to the northeast corner prompts us to recall how it was in 1930. Then, F. W. McNutt had a prosperous hardware store there where he sold along with hardware, ‘house furnishings and Frigidaire refrigerators’. Affluent, as he may have been, he had two ads in the Ladies Aid Society recipe booklet. The one for Frigidaire extolled its fine points with ‘cold control plus surplus power and guarantee of absolute satisfaction by General Motors’. His other ad urged one to ‘get the best results use ‘Mirrow’ (sic) aluminum pans.’

Housewives were not wanting for Kroger stores as they strolled ‘The Avenue’ back then. At 5902 Hamilton Avenue, was a Kroger Grocery & Baking Co. store. Recall there was one at 5670 Hamilton Avenue and find a third near the southeast corner in the Dixon and Wyckoff building at North Bend and Hamilton. The present location of Kroger’s across from Shuller’s Wigwam Restaurant, once held a ‘Pay-n-Takit’ grocery, lists the 1943 Directory. The Kroger Store near Cedar was still in business 50 years ago. Its neighbor to the south was Albert Hardert’s Restaurant while McNutts Hardware store is gone as is the Kroger Store in the Dixon Building.

As we linger in our 1930 memories at Cedar & Hamilton we have become overwhelmed by the number of grocery stores. For next to Kroger’s before the Ruthellen flats was Henry B. Kock’s grocery. Across Hamilton Avenue in Dow’s Corner building was a Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A&P)
store. Its next door neighbor was Henry Stegner’s Meats. His slogan was ‘Some people keep the best...but we sell it.’ Goodies Restaurant occupied later the building. Sue Caruso had a fruit store between Stegner’s and the Palace Market which Philip Steinman ran. He stayed open until 10 P. M. Selling ‘imported groceries, cheese and select meats.’ His motto was ‘we supply the table.’

When you look beyond the facades added to buildings, such as the Ruthellen flats, you get a true picture of the intermix of stores and dwellings before the 1930’s. Early construction had the buildings conform to lot lines. With the coming of sidewalks and paved roads buildings set back from the street chose the opportunity to add store fronts and incorporate the original building with a new commercial venture. So it was with the Ruthellen building when the facade fronts were added. Soon after the additions the Kock Grocery and Albert Hardert rented space in the newly available stores. Hardert had a confectionery.

Between the Ruthellen ‘new’ facade and the Hollywood Theater building one can observe the two store frame building with living quarters above. The building follows lot lines but is at an angle to the street with a small patio in front. The two stores are separated by a center entrance for the flats above. Oscar Lemkuhl had his barber shop in the south store and Ella M. Miles ran a dry goods store in the north section.

Across the street from Brill’s Furniture store at 5920 Hamilton Avenue, Herb Doll had his bakery. An auto agency, one of three in College Hill, was to the north of the bakery. Here is what is now Brill’s Cherry House Annex furniture store, Webster & Brown sold Ford automobiles.

In the two story frame house, just south of a glass front building where 50 years ago Albers Super Market was then located, George M. Hoffman had his photography studio. The address, then as now, is 6031 Hamilton. His phone number, Kirby 0423-R was a party line. Across the street at 6024 in a brown brick building, Charles Zimmermann had his poultry market. In another small shopping enclave between Elkton Place and Kroger’s in the Dixon Building there were two more grocery stores, two meat shops and a bakery.

Louis G. Allgeier, known to his customers as ‘Louie-the-butcher,’ had his shop at 6110 Hamilton Avenue in the Junior Order building. He sold ‘high grade meats and poultry’. Next to him was Katherine Baldauf’s bakery with Ernest E. Eckert operating a meat shop next to her in what is now Schwartz Jewelers. Eckert’s neighbor, who shared the same store front, was the Burke Grocery Company. And lastly in the progression of stores was Multner Brothers grocery. They also sold meats, fruits and vegetables proclaiming in their ad ‘where your dollars have more cents.’ They did business from what is now Bacall’s Cafe.

The College Hill post office in 1930 was on the southeast corner of Ambrose and Hamilton Avenues, later moving to 6120 Hamilton where Angert’s Appliances is located. A succession of building and loan institutions—Star, Society Bank, Ameritrust—had offices in the remodeled corner vacated by the post office.

Thirty years after the turn of the century and not yet 100 years since Freeman Cary created his first school, College Hill still had much vacant land and lots. The east side of Hamilton Avenue from Ambrose Avenue to Elkton Place was still vacant. Herman Mergard, Jr. had yet to build his bowling lanes. Across the street George Hoffman’s neighbor to the north was in the next block. Hoffman lived in the house at 6031 Hamilton. His neighbor to the north was John J. Dupps, Sr. at 6031 Hamilton. To the south of Hoffman’s two story frame house, still standing, were vacant lots before Hobart Flemming’s Restaurant at 6013 Hamilton. The building can be identified as standing alone at one time. Now vacant, it is sandwiched on the north by an also abandoned building that was Desh’s Cleaners and on the south by a newer structure, once Renner’s Plumbing shop.

To further illustrate the amount of land available for development in 1930 we walk the west side of Hamilton Avenue to the north of North Bend Road where South and North Dixon Circle, Peaslee and Harbeson now exist. Here George T. Harbeson had his plant nursery and at a point across from Larry Avenue, William Kraft also had a plant nursery. Harbison advertised in the Ladies Society recipe booklet his ‘Peony and iris farm’ and noted cut flowers were his specialty, selling ‘gladioli, peonies, daffodils, iris and narcissi.’
Older residents of College Hill reading this will recognize as complete as this litany of 1930 Hilltop businesses may seem, there is still much left to be recounted. Many will recall Eugene S. Braun men’s furnishing store and G. Gerstner’s dry goods store in the Brighton Bank (now P. N. C.) building at 5851 Hamilton Avenue. Others may recall the ‘Tom Thumb Golf in College Hill’ which in 1930 advertised itself as ‘Hamilton avenue - opposite the Post Office’. The post office then was at Ambrose and Hamilton. Operators of the course urged one to ‘improve your putting.’ They were open every day from 10 A.M. to midnight.

And off The Avenue at Belmont and Llanfair were the Belmont Grocery and Meat Market. They also sold fruits and vegetables. They had a second store at Hamilton and Belmont Avenues.

At 1618 Llanfair Avenue the C. D. Peters Ice & Coal Company did business. The College Hill Drive-In Delicatessen is there now. Just west and across the street on the southeast corner of Llanfair and Davey was the Cozy Corner Restaurant. You could call Kirby 1269-W for your reservation for their Sunday chicken dinners. The building is now a full residence. Then, living quarters of the owner was upstairs and the restaurant was on the first floor.

Even 70 years ago College Hill was not without its used furniture store. At 1539 Cedar, L. B. Eiler dealt in ‘used furniture, stoves and rugs’ his ad states. The address is in a blue two story frame house near the entrance to the present post office.

Well ‘off the beaten path’ was Frank D. Myer’s Grocery at 1401 Cedar Avenue. He too sold fruits, meats and ‘fresh’ vegetables. The building still stands at the southwest corner of Cedar and Lantana. The store front has been framed over and the building sided.

While College Hill had its plethora of grocery stores and restaurants in 1930 it also had its fair share of barbers, druggists and doctors. On The Avenue you could choose at least three barber shops: Oscar Lemkuhl’s, Kenneth Reynolds’ or Lawrence Wenning’s. Besides Dow’s, there was Beatty and Sarsfield drugstore. William ‘Doc’ Schneider, who was on the southeast corner of Hamilton and Marlowe Avenues advertised ‘we seal our reputation into every bottle.’ Charles Geiser and Fred. C. Swing were physicians on the hill as was Forest V. And Orlando E. Cress who had their offices in the row of Hamilton Avenue stores that had Braun’s Toggery and Gerstners. The doctors Cress had their office in the southern-most of the three stores where, before closing his business, John Ludwig had his shoe store.

To paraphrase the poet who remarked that the memories of yesteryear dim as the swift seasons roll, so it is with life then on The Avenue. What it was then has validity only now to those with a nostalgic curiosity and the historians. Whether we choose to reflect upon it at some convenient figure as fifty years ago or select an arbitrary date as we have with College Hill as it was in 1930 matters little. The fact remains is we could look back when we reach the year 2005 at the 75th anniversary of events in College Hill. But the view from there would be no different than what we have reported here. As it was, 1930, seems to have been a very good year as our hilltop community was coming of age.

College Hill has experienced a relatively mundane existence since 1930 as viewed from a pure journalistic viewpoint.

News reporters refer to ‘hard news’ as that of violence, crime, accidents, and that segment of events that make up much of the days headlines. Routine events, unless they involve larger groups, go unreported in the daily newspapers. Those events are left to the community ‘papers to report.

As a reporter and a photographer for the Cincinnati Post that span nearly 50 years beginning in 1942 and ending in 1985 I can recall few College Hill milestones that have left a lasting mark on the local society. While some may recall seeing The Very Reverend Karl J. Alter, Cincinnati Archbishop, being driven by limousine from his home, Laurel Court at the corner of Belmont and Oakwood, to Hildebrand’s Barber Shop on Hamilton Avenue for his frequent haircuts, it is for the longtime residents of the area to recall Jesse Locker.

Born in College Hill May 31, 1891, Locker attended the community high school and was the only Negro in his class. He resigned his Cincinnati City Council post in 1953 when he was named ambassador to Liberia. His untimely death from a stroke in the African nation Easter Sunday, April 10, 1955 was marked with the body’s return here. It lay in state in City Hall one afternoon from noon until 4 p. M. as thousands filed past the bier. I recall that afternoon. I was there as a photographer for the Post.
As one memory fades another rushes to take its place. My first meeting with Dr. John Willke and his wife Barbara was in their in home one early December afternoon in 1964. At that time sex education was not something that was being freely reported in the newspapers. Dr. Willke was a pioneer in this field but there was little to predict that just six years later he would be establishing a nationwide ‘Right to Life’ movement and become one of the more outspoken foes of abortion.

At that time the Willkes had three children. One was in arms and the other two were active youngsters. A family picture was a must. Dr. Willke obligingly got down on the floor to play with blocks with the older children and Mrs. Willke looked on. The picture was made and a friendship was begun that lasted for many years. Early in the doctor’s career, as an author, I made several cover pictures for sex pamphlets he was producing using members of his family as models.

Today the daily newspapers would ignore the simpler things of life in a community such as the building an addition to a church. But, June 17, 1951 the College Hill Presbyterian Church at Hamilton and Groesbeck broke ground for such an addition and the cornerstone was laid January 20, 1952. Church members had pledged to a mortgage that was not to exceed $150,000 to complete the building program. Photographs were made at each event and they found their way into the newspaper.

Grace Episcopal Church at the corner of Hamilton and Belmont found its way into the daily press in a different manner. One late spring Saturday the rectory was moved along Belmont Avenue from its location behind the church so a fellowship hall could be built on the site. Moving the home to its new site immediately north of Aiken High School was not a remarkable event of the day. Houses had been moved before but this time all eyes were on a half full bottle of milk that was sitting on the kitchen window sill. It, with the house, made the trip to the new foundation without tipping from what seemed a very precarious perch. That made the picture.

The year 1958 also saw the closing of the Ohio Military Institute and its subsequent demolition. When the wreckers ball swung against the structure the next year to make way for Aiken High School, memories of a past culture were spewed upon the ground to be ignored by most but to be cherished by some who picked through the debris to salvage photographs, identification stickers and the other artifacts. They are now being preserved by the College Hill Historical Society.

As other memories are recalled one is with a ‘bang’ and the other with a light. Sometime after midnight the area around North Bend and Hamilton Avenues was rocked by an explosion. This was about 1976. Tolford Insurance, in a remodeled house just across from Kroger’s, exploded from a gas accumulation leaving but a pile of rubble.

The light came from the Methodist Home when one Christmas season a huge electric star was placed on one of the twin towers. Visible from many points in the city it prompted many calls to the newspaper office asking what it was and suggesting a picture of the fact would be in order. We tried many times to get that picture. The problem was when you were far enough away a picture didn’t show what it was and when you were close enough to see what it was, there was little reason to make the picture. The star continues to be lighted each year but the picture remains elusive.

From a collection of old negatives comes one of the more amusing incidents that had even the police confused as they tried to sort out who was at fault in a four car accident at Hamilton and Groesbeck, July 6, 1979. It was not funny to those involved but to onlookers it was a puzzle how four cars could end up in almost a pin-wheel fashion.

Photographic negatives are the way we preserve memories of events. Video and its associated electronics of computers is changing much of how we recall the past. Even now film nor magnetic tape holds the images that are stored in memories. It is to this nostalgia we now turn.

The early 1960’s began to see the demise of the afternoon newspapers in this country as they had been known for generations before. Life styles were changing and a morning newspaper found greater favor with subscribers. In the decade before 1930 most German language newspapers in Cincinnati had ceased to exist. In the decade to follow the fourth of the city’s daily newspapers, the Commercial Tribune, ended its tenure.

Until July 20, 1958 Cincinnati had two afternoon newspapers. The Times-Star was succumbing to rising production costs, weakening circulation and fierce competition from The Post. On this date The
Post purchased its afternoon rival for an estimated $3.5 million.

In a fact not too familiar to many, it was really management problems at the Cincinnati Enquirer that was to spell the doom of the Times-Star. It was in 1956 that Scripps-Howard acquired controlling stock in the morning ‘paper for a little more than $4 million. The Times-Star had failed in its attempt to buy the Enquirer and with that its fate was sealed. Earlier in 1952 the Times-Star had its efforts frustrated to purchase the Enquirer in court by the combined efforts of the Enquirer employees and out of town financing.

Again in 1955 the Times-Star had tried to purchase an interest in the Enquirer, but were outbid for the Enquirer’s convertible debentures. All this while The Times-Star also made repeated efforts to acquire The Post to strengthen their economic status.

The 118 year old Times-Star was dead. Its new owner, Scripps-Howard, now owned both the morning and the only evening paper in the city. Although there had not been any interference from the parent company and the Enquirer was allowed to set its own editorial policies, the U. S. Justice Department was soon concerned about both of the city’s daily newspapers being controlled by the same corporation.

Following lengthy court proceedings Scripps-Howard was required to sell one of the newspapers. After 15 years of holding The Enquirer it was sold May 7, 1971 to an employee led group that sold stock to most of The Enquirer employees at $40 a share as well as to other area residents interested in owning part of a major newspaper. The bulk of the funding, however, came from a corporation named American Financial Leasing Services that was underwritten by other industry. This time the price was $20.8 million.

Following the sale of The Enquirer many Post employees suggested the choice, if there was a choice, was a poor one. With the observable decline of afternoon newspapers across the country, the reasoning was Scripps-Howard would have done better to divest itself of The Post and retained the Enquirer. It was a rapidly increasing lucrative and prestigious morning market. It is ironic that in little more than eight years Scripps-Howard found it financially prudent to enter into a joint operating agreement with the Enquirer to provide all functions of producing a newspaper with the exception of its editorial content. December 7, 1979 began a new era in Cincinnati newspapering when the Enquirer began publishing The Post. This JOA, as it is referred to, is to continue by contract until December 31, 2007 and then may be renewed automatically every 10 years.

To underline the facts and clear up many misconceptions The Enquirer does not own The Post. Scripps-Howard still owns the ‘paper while the Enquirer is owned by Gannett. Under the JOA the contract reads the Enquirer will sell and place advertising for The Post, perform other business and housekeeping operations, print The Post and distribute it. The Post remains a separate and distant editorial voice in the community with its own editor and staff of writers.

In the last 40 years there are several dates in the life of The Post that are milestones in its continued existence that should not be idly dismissed for they affect thousands who have given their careers to Cincinnati newspapers.

July 20, 1958 was a Sunday. It was one of those dates. The rank-and-file of the 649 employees of the Times-Star had little reason to expect this Sunday was to be a memorable one for them. With the purchase of the ‘paper by The Post the night before, the plan was to inform all Times-Star employees by Western Union telegram of this fact. Apparently Western Union was overwhelmed with the delivery task. Many received the telegram after hearing the news first on radio, or a telephone call from a friend. Some did not learn of their fate until Monday morning when they reported for work.

The telegram instructed employees that the Times-Star could no longer offer them jobs but that some would be employed in the coming days by The Post. The day the purchase was announced - Sunday - The Post began moving its base of operations from a narrow, compact and antiquated building at Post Square and Elm Streets, now the site of the Albert Sabin Convention Center, to the luxury of the Times-Star building at Eight and Broadway2. Its main newsroom was so large that on occasions -

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2 Designed by Hannaford & Sons, architects
usually Saturdays - some copyboys would use roller skates to get about. (Until the 1970’s, reporters in the newsroom would call out ‘BOY’ when an errand was to run. This changed when girls were hired and then the call simply became ‘COPY’).

Monday morning, July 21, 1958 was chaotic for both newspapers. Post employees reported to their old familiar building to routinely gather the news and go about the task of setting type and printing a newspaper. For Times-Star workers life had become one of confusion as hundreds gathered in front of their place of work. All doors were locked and uniformed guards stood by each entrance to the building. In the crowd the newspaper’s baseball writer milled with the others. He had his notes in hand from the Sunday game. The floundering Reds had lost to St. Louis by a score of 3-1. Former Xavier star Jim Bunning, then a Detroit pitcher, had thrown a no hit game against Boston and there was no where for the Times-Star to print the news for its readers. The Post would now inform them.

By mid morning under the watchful eyes of guards and former department heads a few employees were allowed into the building at a time to claim personal belongings and have what they were taking from the building inventoried. This went on all day while across town The Post was preparing to print the first combined editions of the Cincinnati Post and Cincinnati Times-Star. It was Volume 77, Number 161. The right ‘ear,’ as that little box alongside the masthead is called, stated the price of the papers to be seven cents. The large Times-Star masthead of the ‘paper was not diminished in size for several weeks. The Post masthead was directly above it.

All type for the combined newspapers was set on The Post’s Linotypes. The headline and the style was unmistakably The Post’s Tempo and Metro. The body type was one that had been created years before for Scripps-Howard newspapers and named Scripps Regal. The Times-Star was using a Bodoni style of type which was distinctive with them so there was no chance for a match with the two type styles.

For a time the combined newspaper printed the comics of both ‘papers. There were four pages of them that first day. The Post assumed the rights to several of the other ‘paper’s features and hired two writers from the Times-Star whose names were familiar to readers. Hired was Earl Lawson who wrote baseball news and Daisy Jones who authored a garden column. With a few exceptions from the total, there were out of work 102 editorial employees, 152 in the composing room, 42 in the pressroom, 58 in circulation, 69 in advertising and 34 executives.

The first day of combined operations, and for some time to follow, proved more than the aging presses at The Post could handle. The total press run for the two newspapers was in excess of 300,000 copies daily. There was about 15% overlap in subscriptions of subscribers taking both papers. During the early part of this new venture the Times-Star presses were used to print much of the run of papers going to former Times-Star subscribers.

After awhile it all became routine. The green Times-Star trucks were no longer seen on the streets. In their place were those of The Post painted red. The legend on the side of each truck proclaimed Cincinnati’s largest newspaper. The oversize news room of the Times-Star on the sixth floor of the building was abandoned by The Post and once again a compact newsroom was created and built on the fourth floor to be nearer the Linotypes, printers, sterotypers and engravers which were also on the fourth floor along with a new photography department.

As another decade was coming to an end, that of the 60’s, there were storm clouds gathering for all of the afternoon newspapers. Even in 1958 Cincinnati was one of the few cities in the country that could boast of two afternoon newspapers. Such cities as New York, Chicago, St. Louis and Los Angeles were down to one afternoon newspaper while those still managing to stave off closing completely were finding profits falling at alarming rates. So it was with The Post.

The Christmas season was always a huge money maker for newspapers. Papers in excess of 100 pages were not uncommon at this time of the year. With the coming of 1970 it became even more apparent advertisers were using direct mail and television to promote their products. All newspapers, both morning and afternoon, were suffering. With the ever increasing popularity of the television evening news, afternoon newspapers’ circulation was dropping and morning papers began showing an increase. This all added up to placing afternoon newspapers in a precarious future.

The seemingly great future The Post envisioned for itself when it purchased the Times-Star was in
jeopardy. For several years prior to December 18, 1975 there were rumors from the business community that The Post was in trouble. Then, there it was. Another milestone. In a one column item on page one of the ‘paper just a week before Christmas we read: Post to end in house rumors. The item confirmed The Post WAS discussing combined production plans with the Enquirer. In early spring of 1975 the newspaper unions were tipped to the possibilities of ‘early layoffs.’

Now that the intent of The Post management was known in no uncertain terms there was great concern among all departments of the ‘paper. The trade unions that produced the paper and the business and circulation employees stood to lose the most. It would be their jobs. It was almost 20 years since many of the Post employees had seen it happen to the Times-Star employees. It would be happening to them. The editorial department would, of course, be exempt for they would still be gathering the news, writing it, but someone else would be distributing it. That is the way a joint operating agreement with a newspaper works.

The 1975 Christmas season was over and 1976 was 49 days old when labor unions of The Post and its management met February 18 for six and a half hours under circumstances that was unique in Cincinnati newspaper history. Representatives of eight unions having contracts with The Post sat with representatives of The Post management under auspices of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

The Working Press, the house organ of the Cincinnati Newspaper Guild which represents editorial employees, stated in a mimeographed sheet: Impressed with the serious situation in Cincinnati. Where unions are bargaining under threat of a combined newspaper operation, the FMCS set up the meeting. The purpose was to lay a base upon which negotiations could proceed in an orderly manner. The meeting opened with general outlines of options opened to The Post. Management, represented by Earl Brown, wondered if the unions were interested in helping avoid the combined operation.

Thus the die had been cast. Was a joint operating agreement with the Enquirer inevitable or was The Post management simply seeking relief in forthcoming union negotiations? In a union caucus chaired by acting president of the Unity Council, Wesley Willis, the unions prepared a resolution to The Post management stating the unions were interested in the fate of The Post and were not inflexible in their positions regarding whatever relief The Post sought.

In the months and years to follow before the inevitable, the editorial workers agreed June 12, 1976 to accept an unprecedented two-year moratorium on base salary increases, and a five year contract. The loss ranged from $2000 to $5000 a person when yearly salaries ranged from about $15,000 to $25,000. The other unions agreed to similar wage freezes to stave off forcing the ‘paper into a JOA agreement.

In September of 1977 The Post and the Enquirer once again resumed talk of publishing both newspapers from a single facility. The milestones were flashing by more rapidly now. At a meeting September 21, 1977, The Post management asked that the unions come up with ideas to save The Post. Management said they had run out of ideas of how to cut losses. Soon it was December. It was 31 days before Christmas when union representatives were told that plans were going ahead for a combined operation with the Enquirer. Objections could be filed with the Justice Department until December 28. The Post asked for a January 16, 1978 date by which it could answer those objections.

Public hearings on the application of The Post and Enquirer for a single facility operation started at 1:30 p.m. Monday, September 11, 1978 in Cincinnati Federal Courtroom 822 before Administrative Law Judge Donald R. Moore. It was a virtual certainty that at some point the request of a JOA would be allowed. A month later Judge Moore made his recommendation of approval. Now it was in the hands of the Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti who agreed November 26, two days short of 26 months when the request was first filed that The Cincinnati Post is financially failing. He approved the joint operating agreement under regulations that had been set forth by Congress in 1970 when it created the Newspaper Preservation Act. The Act gave newspapers the opportunity to obtain exemption from anti-trust regulations. The Post as a full newspaper entity had two weeks to live.

The Post would survive but the price would be that nearly 500 employees represented by eight unions would see their last day of work at the newspaper Thursday, December 6. The following day, December 7, the first Post to be printed by the Enquirer rolled from its presses on Western Avenue. In
the weeks following, The Post’s composing room computers would be gone, the engraving room facilities dismantled and the presses sold to an Australian publisher and shipped away. It was obvious The Post no longer needed four floors of space. This now was a decision the Enquirer would make.

For nearly three years the editorial staff of The Post remained in a nearly deserted building that had been built specifically in 1931 to house the Times-Star. There was more consolidation to save on the square feet of space being used to reduce the rent payments. At the same time there was talk of how best to solve the needs of both ‘papers. It was once suggested the Enquirer and The Post could share space in the Enquirer building at 617 Vine Street but this was soon abandoned in favor of a separate address for the afternoon newspaper. A search was on. One site, just off the Seventh Street exit from Interstate 75 at an old but remodeled school, was rejected as was another on Third Street near Vine.

The vagabond journeys of The Post would note another milestone August 24, 1984 when it made its third move in the last 74 years. This time, it was to 125 East Court Street in a newly constructed building. Here the editorial department would be ensconced on the fifth floor and the photography department and newspaper library on the fourth floor. The move from Eight and Broadway was begun Friday afternoon and continued through the night and all day Saturday, August 25. The main frame computer and about 30 terminals were moved so that when the Sunday corps of reporters arrived, all was in place. Monday it was business as usual as a newspaper was created for that day without ‘missing a beat.’ The Post was at its Post Square and Elm location for 48 years from 1910 to 1958 and 26 years in the Times-Star building.

No U.S. daily newspaper has observed its bicentennial year. The first successful daily newspaper, the Pennsylvania Packet & General Advertiser, published first September 21, 1784, is no longer printed, The Cincinnati Enquirer is 157 years old. The Post is 120 years old and the Times-Star died at the age of 118 years. What the future is for the city’s two remaining dailies can only be speculated. Currently each is serving the wants of its subscribers. Some like morning papers, others like theirs at night. Both will continue to exist long into the 21st century. Whether we will find our daily newspaper tossed upon our front lawn 50 years from now is problematical.

Delivering a newspaper to the homes of subscribers is now the single biggest concern facing today’s newspapers. With electronics so now involved in the production of our daily paper it is only reasonable to anticipate that these same miracles that produce the ‘paper will somehow deliver them to our homes. Historians will then chronicle these next fifty years as we have recalled those last fifty years...

The first news pictures to be printed in Cincinnati newspapers came shortly before the turn of the last century.

While pictures of news events began appearing soon after the invention of photography itself in 1839, it was another 40 years before newspapers would be able to share anything more than a sketch with its readers.

The invention of the halftone process made possible the quick and inexpensive reproduction of a photograph. Experiments by Stephen Horgan at the New York Daily Graphic resulted in the first picture to be printed in this manner. It was of a shanty town in New York photographed by Henry Newton, and appeared in the Daily Graphic on March 4, 1880.

In Cincinnati one of the earliest halftone engravings of any consequence was nearly a half page wide showing the bust of President McKinley on the front page of the Commercial Tribune on Saturday, September 14, 1901 following his lingering death after being felled by an assassin’s bullet. The Cincinnati Enquirer on March 4, 1905 reproduced a picture from the London Illustrated News showing a Russian general receiving news from Czar Nicholas in the early days of the Russian Revolution.

Pictures of local events in Cincinnati newspapers came slowly. Newspapers contracted with established commercial photographers for a photograph of a planned event. One such picture was of The Young Men’s Club ...280 strong, accomplished by Weber’s Band of fifty pieces and the Citizen’s Taft Club and Smitties Band of thirty five pieces as they left for Washington to participate in the inauguration of William Howard Taft as president.

It was also in 1909 that saw the start of newspapers hiring a staff photographer. It was customary for a reporter to work when needed as a photographer. Or, even some other employee of the newspaper who
had photography as a hobby was given the opportunity to make pictures for the ‘paper. One of the earlier news photographers to establish himself as a staff photographer and be remembered by Cincinnatians was Paul Briol.

Graduating from a New Orleans high school in 1908 he came to Cincinnati after less than a year’s work on a St. Louis newspaper. Here he joined the Commercial Tribune as a photographer and ‘Question and Answer’ columnist. His photograph of the first rehearsal of Leopold Stokowski conducting the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra was published in the Tribune on November 26, 1909. It has been called one of the most popular pictures he made as a Cincinnati photojournalist.

Whether it was foresight, or the lure of more money, Briol left the Tribune for a job as photographer with The Enquirer where he stayed until 1920. In a brief 11 year span he in many ways established news photography in Cincinnati. He considered his future lay in commercial, industrial and landscape photography where he did establish his profession.

In the decade from 1920 to 1930 news photography was only something at which a few editors hinted and the word ‘photojournalist’ hadn’t even been invented. It was in the late 1930’s as the U.S. was recovering from the Depression that camera concepts and interest in photography grew rapidly. Great enthusiasm was aroused by the Farm Security Administration photographers as well as bold use of photography by fashion magazines as Vogue and Vanity Fair. Life magazine in this same era was to popularize the miniature camera.

It was in the 1930’s that the 4” X 5” Speed Graphic came to be the ‘work horse’ of the press photographer. Although the camera was first produced in 1912 it did not come into its own until the professional photographer needed a ‘smaller’ camera than the tripod mounted 5 X 7 and 8 X 10 cameras they had been using in their studio. These photographers found they could increase business by venturing outside to make pictures for newspapers.

It is this period from the early 1940’s to the present that we will chronicle here now as they relate to the Cincinnati scene of news photography. Here again, a bit of history is in order as we lapse into the first-person-singular and recall some of the highlights of our 43 years with The Cincinnati Post, most of them as a staff photographer.

For us it began about 1936 with a ten dollar Eastman Kodak Bantam camera. There were those high school days and making pictures for the school magazine. It soon became apparent, however, a better camera was needed. So for $29.95 a Zeiss Ikon camera that would make 16 pictures on a roll of number 120 film was purchased. Following graduation from the University of Cincinnati in 1942 and a certificate to teach seventh grade geography at Holmes High School in Covington, there was a summer’s work at The Kentucky Post. The following year - 1943 - it was another summer at The Post, this time as a reporter. As they say, I learned I had ‘printer’s ink in my veins.’ The bug of newspapering had bitten me.

Leaving teaching in November of 1943 it was back to the paper with stints of sports editing and city editor. With World War II over, there was a move to the copy desk of The Cincinnati Post. This was an unglamorous job. There was little reward writing headlines to someone else’s story or placing captions under someone else’s pictures. The lone highlight recalled from this phase of my journalism was the late afternoon of April 12, 1945.

Sitting on the rim of the copy desk alone with Henry Segal in the ‘slot’ dealing out copy to his lone copyreader the quiet of the newsroom was shattered with the ringing of bells on the United Press Teletypes. The bells always tinkled to alert the wareroom operators when a news bulletin was soon to come over the wires. This was to make certain copy paper was in place and the machine was turned on to receive the news.

The ringing was unduly long. It was like in the days of the baseball games by wire when on the radio you could hear the clatter of the sounder in the background and the announcer was not saying anything. You knew it was going to be something more dramatic when the Western Union operator had copied all the information and the announcer, reconstructing the game from the telegraphed information, began speaking again. So it was with the teletype machine that late afternoon of April 12, 1945.

Then it came: BULLETIN...BULLETIN. Dateline: Warm Springs, Georgia. President Roosevelt died today at 4:35 p.m. EST suddenly and unexpectedly. More to follow.
It was nearly six o’clock. Only Segal, the composing room foreman and I were still at work except for the pressroom crew who were soon to shut the presses down from the final edition run. I had been in the newspaper business less than two years while Segal was an old hand at more than 15 years in the trade.

This was still the era of the EXTRAS. With little hesitation after notifying the pressroom to stop the presses that there would be an EXTRA the three of us - Segal, the composing room foreman and I - put out the extra edition. I read copy, Segal wrote headlines and the foreman set type and headlines. After the presses were rolling with the replated front page the next thing to do was to hurry down to Fourth and Walnut streets.

When you thought you were better than the other guy - that was the Times-Star - someone was always dispatched to Fourth and Walnut because this was the first drop-off point for newspapers downtown for both The Post and Times-Star. It was great satisfaction to the editor and others to be first on the street with the news. In this case that afternoon in April, I recall it was about a half hour before the Times-Star joined The Post for sale on that corner. It was great satisfaction. The ‘team’ I was on had won.

It was a year to remember. Less than a month later on May 8, VE Day (Victory in Europe) came. The HOME and FINAL editions of the paper were combined that day. I, with thousands of others, wandered Fountain Square which was at that time in the center of Fifth street between Vine and Walnut. We were celebrating the War in Europe being over. Then in rapid secession came August 7 when the first atomic bomb was dropped on Japan. September 2 was on a Sunday when Japan surrendered.

My early career on a newspaper was during some of the most momentous times in the world’s history. Being on the copy desk was interesting but being a photographer was where all the fun was. Had it not happened as it did, I probably would have gone back to teaching school.

At that time The Post had two photographers. They were Arthur Lapp and Gene Smith. The Times-Star undoubtedly had a similar duo. News photography was rapidly becoming of age. Smith had announced that the Associated Press was opening a photo bureau in the city and he was leaving to be the AP photographer in town. This was my chance. It was convenient that I should be transferred to photo and given a ‘trial run’ as the managing editor put it.

I went on a few assignments with ‘Smitty’ as most called him. Never before had I used a 4 X 5 Speed Graphic camera. For those unfamiliar with the camera, it used film loaded into what was called a plate holder. One film to each side of the holder which was slipped into a spring loaded back of the camera. In loading the film into the holder in the darkroom, a fiber-board like slide with the top edge silver on one of side and black in the other protected the film from exposure until such time the plate holder was safely in the camera. The rule was that the silver edging was showing for unexposed film and after the picture was made the slide was flipped so the black side was in view. This was one detail ‘Smitty’ had neglected to tell me.

After observing for a time or two it was my turn to make my first picture for a newspaper using the trusty Speed Graphic. Sighting through the wire frame finder which was safer and faster than using the optical finder on the camera, I was told, I made my first picture. It was of some new Marine commandant at his desk with the fellow he was replacing also to be in the picture. I knew how to take pictures, maybe not with a Speed Graphic however. So I did everything flawlessly, I thought. That is until I got back to the ‘paper with ‘Smitty.’

Film and flash bulbs were expensive in 1945 and photographers had learned through the war years to conserve on all materials necessary to produce a picture. The 8 X 10 photographic paper was cut into two pieces to conserve. And, it had become an axiom that one sheet of film was to be used for one subject. So it was with some surprise when, in the darkroom and ready to process the film for the picture that I had just made, ‘Smitty’ in an unbelieving voice asked, You pulled the slide, didn’t you?

Of course I did, I replied. Well, then which side of the holder did you use? They are both silver, he protested. Assuring him that I had certainly made a picture he introduced me to a plate holder and what you did after you had made an exposure. The slide goes in blackside out. Now we have to develop both pieces of film and one will just be wasted, he argued. This was my introduction to being a news
photographer. And I never stopped learning.

It is only in retrospect that I am now aware of the facts that I was one of the first in Cincinnati news photography to give up on the cumbersome Speed Graphic camera and go to the smaller twin lens reflex camera called a Rolleiflex. The Rollei with its square 2-1/4 X 2-1/4 format had some advantages for a newspaper in that you could make either a horizontal or vertical print as the makeup editor might require. With its short focal length lens it was a poor choice for sports photography.

For many of my working years I had a close association with United Press and more so after they bought International News Service (INS) and it became United Press International (UPI). In the late 1950’s the UPI photographers in New York were experimenting with the 35mm camera for news work but in particular for use in sports coverage because of the interchangeable lenses available.

This was all prior to the Korean War when the made in Japan Nikon camera became so popular with press photographers. Before this, out of East Germany came a camera called the Hexacon which was a single lens reflex camera with a motor drive that made it possible to take two or three pictures a second. Also this one could use lenses of greater focal length to zero in on the action while remaining at a safe distance.

This was important, particularly for baseball coverage. Several years before the Hexacon camera came into limited use baseball games were covered from the field using a Speed Graphic camera and flash bulbs for night games. Cincinnati was the last major league city to be allowed to cover games from the field.

As a rule the umpires had only to contend with three photographers during a game. One each from The Post, Times-Star and Enquirer. Usually we congregated on the top step of the home team’s dugout near the water cooler until either side got a runner on first base. Then we would trot out to a position in the coach’s box always being certain to having the coach between you and the batter. This was to lessen the chance of being hit by a batted ball. The coach could be counted on to warn you, or deflect a ball coming your way.

If there was a slide back to first the flash bulbs would fire and the next day each newspaper might have the identical same picture. The angle difference was barely noticeable. With a runner on second, and depending on the batter, we would take up a position near home plate for the hoped for slide home. There were other nuances to covering a game in this manner. Should you fail to get a game action picture there always was the clubhouse to get a shot of the winning pitcher or hitter.

Covering a game by this method had its dangers. I recall being hit in the calf of the leg with a Frankie Robinson foul ball that came whistling past third base when the coach in better judgment, jumped out of the way allowing me to be fully exposed to the line shot.

Gene Smith, the Associated Press photographer for the area, accidentally got us all ruled off of the field some time in the late 50’s. At the time it seemed a tragedy that we were being forced to cover games from a photo position off the field like everyone else in both leagues had been doing for some time. What ‘Smitty’ had done was the unpardonable. He had violated the unwritten rule of every baseball clubhouse and baseball diamond. The exact details escape me now, but he had overheard some bit of conversation between two umpires between innings when he had held his position at third base. He reported in detail the comments to Sports Editor Nixon Denton of the Times-Star. The AP had its offices in the Times-Star building.

When the umpires comments appeared in type, while they were true, they seemed to have a different ring to them. This was the end of our covering a game from the field.

Getting ruled off the field in mid-season presented problems for all three newspapers. None of the papers had equipment to solve the dilemma on such short notice. I recall early on that the Associated Press made a long lens camera available to its photographer. And the Times-Star and Enquirer, both being clients of the AP, got their baseball pictures from this source. United Press sent me a ‘Big Bertha’ camera too. This is what they were called. Using a 5 X 7 sheet film in holders and with a 36 inch focal length lens we made pictures from photo gondolas suspended from the upper decks near the first and third bases at old Crosley Field.

The Big Bertha cameras were dinosaurs. Few photographers covering baseball games used them. We
were forced to for at least the remainder of the baseball season. The 35mm camera was making itself felt, particularly as it was convenient and very useful for baseball. Its motorized drive allowed the photographer the luxury of as many as four frames of action in a few seconds. Then it was simple to pick the best frame for printing. It made better photographers out of all of us.

There are many events from the years of sports photography that flood back in memories. In football: The year was 1967 and Cincinnati was attempting to get a National Football League franchise. Ohio Governor Jim Rhodes, along with many city councilmen, was on hand in Miami, Florida to urge the league to grant the coveted franchise to the Queen City. I was there and also covered the third Super Bowl held there in Miami that year. Then there was that game when Quarterback Joe Namath came to town and crushed the Bengals at Nippert Stadium where the games were played the first few years before Riverfront Stadium was ready. And there was that 1971 game in Green Bay, Wisconsin when Bengals player Ken Deyer was critically injured (spinal cord) and the game was delayed for more than 15 minutes when he was lovingly scooped from the field and placed on a stretcher. He stayed in a Green Bay hospital for months and never walked assuredly again. I had it all on film.

As for baseball: There are literally hundreds of incidents that could be recounted, however, two memorable pictures that resulted in costly injuries to Reds players come to mind. One had to do with Roy McMillan sliding into second base only to break his collar bone. Using the motorized Hexacon camera a series of pictures were made that resulted in an eight column strip for the newspaper. In 1961 the Reds had won the pennant with the help of Gene Freese’s play at third base and his bat in critical situations. The next year at the baseball Spring Training in Tampa during an inter-squad game, Freese slid into second base improperly, breaking his ankle. Not only were the series of pictures used around the world via UPI syndication but Sports Illustrated used the picture showing the fracture and the grimace of Freese’s face and the headline The Reds Is Dead. And they were that year, unable to repeat the accomplishment of the year before. Some ball players thought my presence was jinxing them and called me the ‘fracture photographer.’

As for basketball: It was at the Netherland Plaza Hotel that U. C. Basketball coach George Smith introduced a slender Indiana player and his mother with the remark this is one basketball player Cincinnati will never forget. And they haven’t forgotten Oscar Robertson. Then there was the kid from Middletown High School that could work magic tricks and was an outstanding all A’s student. After his years at Ohio State the onetime Cincinnati professional basketball team drafted him. Jerry Lucas led the team to many victories. And there was that tear wrenching time one Christmas at Good Samaritan Hospital where we went to photograph Maurice Stokes. Once a giant of a pro-player he had suffered a brain injury and was an invalid. He could not speak understandably anymore and had only minimal muscle movements. It was Christmas. To make the picture I had wrapped an empty box with seasonal paper to include in the photograph. After making the picture his private nurse, who could understand his mumblings, said to me, He wants you to open the wrapper to see what he got. It was difficult to explain that it was but an empty box but I dutifully opened it and Stokes burst into laughing thinking it was a big joke. It was, but I felt badly about it all.

Who could forget the high school careers of some of those I photographed before even they, themselves, did not dream their names would be so familiar to us all. There was Pete Rose, Don Zimmer and Roger Staubach to mention the most notables.

There were the tennis stars Billy Talbert and Tony Trabert. In their years at the University of Cincinnati the similarity of names confused even the most observing. In boxing it was Ezzard Charles who became the unexpected world heavyweight champion. Also from U. C. came Gregg Cook who had a brief but illustrious career with the Bengals as quarterback and Jim O’Brien whose Super Bowl place kick to win the game will long be remembered. In bowling Eddie Jackson’s name comes to mind. And in distance running is Julie Ispording. These names stand out from others. I have photographed them all.

The surface of recollection has barely been scratched. I have seen the devastation of at least five tornadoes and recall naively ‘chasing’ the one that struck the Sayler Park area of the city and seeing it from a hilltop only to have it disappear before my eyes.

I recall the early days of the 727 airplane and covering the crash of two of them into the hill sides of
Kentucky on their approach to the Greater Cincinnati Airport with the loss of lives totaling nearly 200. And more recently was the emergency landing of the Air Canada DC-9, Flight 797, with fire aboard and its burning on the tarmac of the airport with the loss of 23 lives.

And who among us doesn’t remember May 30, 1977 when Beverly Hill Supper Club burned taking its toll of 166 victims. The memories of that time when I was called away from friends at home to ‘cover’ the catastrophe knowing that my son, Kerry, now Editor of the Brunswick News (Georgia) was to be at the Supper Club that evening with a date.

As I stepped around on the grass I could not then realize that these persons had not just been placed there for fresh air until they revived from the smoke. For them it was over. The panic of uncertainty and trying to do my job as a news photographer, and all the while wondering where my son and his date might be, was indescribable. With my two-way radio I could talk back to The Cincinnati Post but there was no one to respond to my queries but the night watchman and he did not know how to work the radio. Then, sometime later, almost as though it was journalistically pre-ordained, a WLW-TV reporter got word to me on the scene that Kerry had called home and was at the Enquirer, with his date, and writing some of his versions of the event. Later I was to learn his tickets were for the late show. The fire came and there was no show.

In the 1950’s and 60’s newspapers were about their business in a manner differently than they are today. There was more of a personal concern of the little events that made up the lives of individuals. It was reporting by neighborhoods. We all had an interest in what was happening down the street, or across town as trivial, or as saddening as it might seem.

Two such events I recall involve a dog and a cat. Another involves a young girl whose cry I hear to this day. The dog story is this: As I was returning from one story I heard on the police radio in my car of Unit 152 being dispatched to an Over-the-Rhine address. We knew this to be a fire department rescue unit so we responded only to find that the fireman had just ‘rescued’ a small dog whose tail had been caught in the gears of a washing machine. The cat story: It too happened downtown. The newspaper had been called by a woman who kept hearing a cat whine in the wall of her apartment. People used to call newspapers with things like this. I was dispatched and after a time was successful in coaxing the cat to a torn section of the wall where I freed the cat and this time made a picture. The sobbing of the young girl was in the College Hill area many years ago when her father, on a Saturday, had a tree fall on him as he was attempting to cut it down. It pinned him to the ground and killed him. The girl’s cry, “My Daddy is too young to die” is still in memory. I took no picture that time.

Anecdotes of the many years of photographing the Cincinnati Reds in baseball spring training; in the clubhouse and on the field would fill volumes. The closing of old Coney Island; tearing down the many historic buildings to make way for a new downtown; the racial unrest in the Spring of 1968; arrivals and departures at Union Terminal and then its closing; old Fountain Square in the center of Fifth Street and then its re-birth; General Motors 40 millionth car off the assembly line in Norwood in 1959; the Beatles singing group arrival in 1964; walking the Union Terminal concourse with President Truman in the wee hours of his train’s layover; and the list goes on. It seems endless. These are the memories. And this is what history is made of. (ed. note, The Post ended Dec. 31, 2007.)

OMI Baseball Team, 1892  Courtesy of the Emerson family
Chapter 42  Autobiography of Earl Valentine Thesken

On a snowy Saturday morning, April 13, 1907 Dr. Will Abbot delivered my mother Clara Wenderoth Thesken of a fourteen and three quarter pound boy. It was a nip and tuck situation for my mother but she managed to survive to name me Earl Valentine. The Valentine was for my maternal grandfather. My father Theodore Thesken spent a good bit of time bragging about the size of his second son. George had preceded me by three years. We lived on Clark St. when the event took place and my father had a meat market at 1035 Freeman Ave. which was not more than a block or so from old Lincoln Park which is now the site of the Union Terminal (note: Cincinnati Museum Center).

Two years after I was born my brother William was born. It was shortly after that event in November 1910 that my father sold his business and bought another at 5811 Hamilton Ave. in College Hill. Because the new store had a delivery service we had a horse and that led to a long association with horses for George and me.

My sister Catherine was born in 1912 and Clara followed in 1915. Theodora came along some six years later.

When I was four I was enrolled in kindergarten at the College Hill School. I was told that Miss Bridgeman made an age exception because of my size but I like to think it was because of my superior intellect.

The next year I started first grade at St. Clare School. It was a new school with two rooms for the eight grades. The first five were held in the church sacristy. When I was in the fifth grade a new church was built with the church auditorium on the first floor and six classrooms on the second. In spite of the multiple class setups we learned our basics because of the efficiency on the nuns. They were thorough and exacted good discipline. I graduated at the head of my class when I was 13.

When I was about seven, I started to drive the second delivery wagon after school and on Saturday. This was the procedure with a few interruptions, which I will mention later.

After I finished the eighth grade I demonstrated that I wasn’t so smart because a classmate and I deliberately flunked the test required to enter Hughes High School. The idea was that we would get jobs and make money. Of course at thirteen this was impossible so my father enrolled me in St. Boniface Business College. I was somewhat out of my element there because most of the students were a bit older than I. But I spent two years and graduated with knowledge of bookkeeping, shorthand, typing, and business law. I immediately attempted a job as a bookkeeper for a lumber company. That lasted one week. I quit because I could not stand the heat and confinement of a ten by ten office three feet from a railroad siding. My dad put me to work driving the model T Ford delivery truck. That I did until I went to Miami University in 1926. The fall after I left St. Boniface a fellow delivery boy, who worked for a local drug store, talked me into going with him to enroll at West Night High School. Classes met from seven till nine-thirty Monday through Thursday. On Friday night from six to ten we had science classes. Along with the intellectual pursuit we played on the school’s football team. We practiced after school at 9:30 in the gym and played most of our games on Sunday afternoons except when we played other high schools. Then we played on Saturday afternoon or on Thanksgiving morning. I mention this because the football was instrumental in three of us enrolling at Miami. Kentucky and Xavier offered inducements to the three of us, I, Althauser and Nenninger, to play for them. But two Miami alumni Kaese and Blair convinced us that Miami’s work program was a better and surer way to get through. We started as freshmen in September 1926.

Going to a live in University after coming from a Night High School was a unique experience. I had saved up about a hundred and sixty-five dollars and most of it went to pay for the first semester room, board and tuition because the promised jobs were not forthcoming. I was desperate and discouraged and about to quit when I was cut from the freshman football squad because I had lost about twenty pounds. About that time I found a job firing the furnace at St. Mary’s Church which was equivalent to the five dollars a week that board cost. That along with odd jobs cleaning windows and basements for faculty members enabled me to get through. In my sophomore year I have a board job at Ogden Hall and along
with my furnace job and a little clerical job for Dr. Carter I was able to keep solvent. I did land a job working for a builders supply company the summer after my freshman year. It paid thirty dollars per week which was good for those days. The summers after my sophomore and junior years I worked for an Ice and Coal Company—seventy two hours each week for $37.50. That was really good pay those days but the muscle conditioning was terrific. When I went back for my sophomore year I went out for football again but had to quit when Chet Pitser told me I couldn’t leave from practice at six o’clock. I had to be on the job at Ogden at six to keep my job and couldn’t afford to pay a substitute like some of the others.

I majored in History and Social Sciences and also in Mathematics. I had a minor in psychology and philosophy I wanted to attend law school when I graduated. I planned everything towards that goal. When I graduated in June of 1930 I had made arrangements through a friend of the family to work in a large corporation law office. The head of this office had a hobby of helping young legal aspirants through law school in this manner. It was 1930 and the depression. About the middle of the summer the lawyer called me in to tell me that his retainer had been cut in half and he therefore would not be able to pay a salary to cover law school fees. He did offer the opportunity to work in the office for experience and to use the law library. I had been working that summer for the U. S. Engineering Corps. As a draftsman. I thought about continuing there but when all of the vacationers returned they wanted me to join a field team of surveyors. That of course would have been impossible to permit me to attend Chase Law School as I had planned as an alternative. I quit the job and started a long hunt for another. Time for enrolling in Chas passed without me because I did not have the funds.

I took a job with the Miami Chapter of Delta Upsilon to solicit contributions for the new house that was being built. I traveled throughout Ohio, Michigan and Indiana with less than success on a commission basis.

My next job was with the Lily-Tulip Cup Co. selling paper specialized to drugstores and department stores. This was not lucrative enough to keep my family since I was the principal supporter of my mother, father and two sisters who were still in school.

In 1932 I took a job with Western and Southern Life Insurance Co. working at debt collecting and selling insurance. This was pretty good for most of a year but as the depression deepened lapses outran the writings. I quit and took a position with Reliance Life of Pittsburg. That was good for a while but as prospects became harder to find I finally gave that up.

It was while I was working for reliance that I tried to sell my former High School Principal a policy. He wasn’t interested in more insurance but he was interested in someone who could teach a practical course in Sales and Advertising. I took the job and taught three classes each night four nights each week. It helped keep food on the tale and was some of the most interesting work I have done. I kept that job for eleven years.

In the summer of 1934 I heard that a position for a business and social science teacher was open at North College Hill High School. I applied and was hired by the school board. I had been taking some classes at U.C. on Friday nights and at Miami and Ohio U. in the summer for a master’s degree in education and economics.

After teaching for four years I was made a teaching Principal of the High School because I had been doing a good bit of the organization work for the Superintendent who was also the Principal... After the first year as Principal I relinquished all but my advanced math classes and devoted most of my time to administration. This I continued until I resigned n 1947.

In 1943 my mother died and my deferment in the draft was terminated. The school board wanted to appoint me a superintendent but the draft board said no and I was drafted. Then I was rejected as a 4-F because of my age and my sight. I returned as Principal because the board had hired a retiring U.C. professor to be superintendent. In 1947 difficulties between the Supt. And a new board of ed. Developed causing a student/parent strike which lasted forty days in February and March. I was able to get the schools opened by having the North Central Assoc. threaten to withdraw the high school charter unless the entire board resigned and turned the school over to the Probate Court, which they did.

I had had enough of the strife so I resigned and took the position of Assistant Registrar at Miami University. The next year I was appointed Associate Registrar mainly because I had computerized the
registration and record system resulting in expediting the process. I continued as Associate Registrar until 1953 when the North College Hill Board of Education offered the Superintendency at almost double the salary Miami was paying me.

The Superintendency was a challenge. Under the former Super, things had deteriorated both staff and plant wise. I instituted a new salary schedule, got the people to pass a levy, repaired and equipped the school plant and developed a future building program with the aid of Ohio State U. The new salary schedule enabled us to improve the teaching staff and things were looking up.

In the summer of 1954 Clarence Kreger, Provost of Miami University under the new President John Millet, called me and offered the position of director of Extension and Summer Sessions. The salary and opportunity were tempting but I was reluctant to leave the superintendence just when I had so many things going. Kreger and the Board held several meetings and the Board decided they could not match Miami’s offer. I assumed my new position in March of 1955.

The new position was also challenging. John Millet wanted the Extension reorganized into centers with a definite program of studies. This we did, setting up Centers in Dayton, Hamilton, Middletown, Piqua and Norwood in High School buildings after hours. The program flourished so that by 1962 we had 3,200 students at Dayton and nearly five hundred in each of the other centers. In 1960 my title was changed to Director of Academic centers and Summer Session. After President Millet left to become Chancellor of the Board of Regents, Dr. Wilson changed my title to Dean of educational Services, with responsibility for Branch Campuses, Extension, Summer Sessions, Admissions and the Registrars Office.

In 1962 we opened in conjunction with Ohio State University, the Dayton Campus which was to become Wright state University three years later. This was the first of three campuses to be built away from the Oxford campus. When we had increased our enrollment in Dayton to 3200 part-time students it became obvious that we needed more permanent space then we were able to have at Nettie Lee Roth High School. After several attempts to obtain a site and the means to build a campus, Mr. Allyn, chairman of the Board of National Cash Register met with John Millet and President Fawcett of Ohio State and brought about an agreement for the two schools to jointly develop a new campus. Three million dollars were raised from contributions by industry and private individuals as a nucleus for the campus to be sited adjoining the Wright Patterson complex.

We worked with the Ohio State people to develop a campus offering full programs in Arts and Science; Education and Business Administration; which were under the direct administration of Miami U. Ohio State took on the development of the Sciences and Engineering. In spite of expert predictions to the contrary, we opened with 1235 full time students and some 3000 part time students in 1962. Allyn Hall was the first building followed by Oehlman, Millet and Fawcett Halls. Many more have been added since the campus became independent and chartered as Wright State University.

We had no sooner had the Dayton Campus underway when a movement in Middletown for a Junior college led to the development of a second branch campus for Miami U. At a community meeting at the Board of Ed. offices I convinced the interested people that a higher education facility under the administration of Miami University could do more for the community than a Junior or a Community college. Herman Lawrence who had been the director for our Academic center at Middletown was instrumental in interesting Logan Johnson of Armco, Bob Milan of First National and several other business leaders in the idea. The result was a drive to raise a million and a half dollars as a nucleus for the campus. The money was raised under the chairmanship of Logan Johnson and the Armco Corp. who donated Armco Park in University and Breol Blvds. with 120 acres for the campus site. The first two buildings were dedicated in September 1966. They were Logan Johnson Hall and the Gardener Harvey Library. The Armco Girls Clubhouse was contributed by that group for a student center and money for its development was contributed by Calvin Verity. In 1867 the third building was started and dedicated in 1968. It was the Science Technology building and is now designated as Earl V. Thesken Hall. In the meantime Mrs. Gladys Finkelman contributed over a million dollars for the erection of the Dave Finkelman Auditorium, which was dedicated in 1970.

About the time the Middletown Campus was underway a group headed by Peter Rentschler of Hamilton started a move to build a Miami U. campus there. After receiving encouragement from John
Millet- Chancellor, Governor Rhodes, and the University Board of Trustees a committee was formed and a fund raising company brought in to raise a million dollars as a nucleus. This was done with dispatch and the building of a campus was started on the old landfill site between Nielan and Peck Blvds. The site was selected by me and Mayor Kindness after exploring many possibilities. It was the only one centrally located that fit the planned budget. The first two buildings were Mosler Hall and Rentschler Library dedicated in 1968. The technical and auditorium building was dedicated in 1970.

I retired in 1972 after 39 years in education, most of which was in administration.

In 1943 I married Caroline Slack, also a Miami U. graduate, who was a teacher of history in Roosevelt Junior High school in Hamilton, Ohio. She had previously taught for seven years in Harrison, Ohio High school… (Contributed by ‘Teddy’ Theodora Thesken Schubert)

Earl Thesken passed away in 2006 and the following information was from his obituary. Miami U. presented him an honorary doctor of laws degree in 1973. His first wife died in 1981 and he married Galen Glasgow, who passed away in 2005. He had a daughter, Jane, and a son, David.

The Hollywood Theater was opened in the 1920’s with ‘talkies’
Chapter 43  The Developing Business District

The early settlers had business that they could run alone or with the help of their family, frequently out of their cabins. The economy was agricultural and stores provided equipment and seeds for farming, building materials, and those things that a person couldn’t do practically for themselves, such as grind grain or make shoes.

Because there were few directories printed, we don’t know the complete lists of businesses in College Hill. The original business district was a cluster of store around the Hamilton and Belmont Avenues intersection. There, Skillman had his grocery store and the post office was nearby, and for a time was in his store. As people built further away from this area, stores were built a few blocks away. Flamm’s was at Belmont and Llanfair, Kroger’s across the street from Hamilton and Larch Avenues. Because of the lack of early documentation this could have been an early store started by Barney Kroger. Photographs of the store show the same logo on the window as other Kroger stores of that time. College Hill was a walking community - perishables were bought daily at close by stores.

The business district continues to change as customers have a wide array of goods and services everywhere they turn - from huge malls to fewer stores along a sidewalk or in a strip. National chains with enormous buying power, and lower prices, make competition difficult for the small businessman.

Merchants from other near-by communities sold their merchandise in College Hill. There was a constant stream of wagons and early cars going between College Hill and Northside. One such business was Crystal Springs Ice Company located at Knowlton and Apple Streets. There a stream of pure water was turned into ice. Because most of the cost of ice was for transportation, a retail outlet was included in the factory for those wanting a larger than average sided piece of ice and a lower price. During the winter months, they sold coal.

Doctors were also part of the Hamilton Avenue landscape. Dr. Charles Howard had his office in a frame building (still standing) slightly south of Ambrose Avenue. Dr. Milson Basil Van Pelt, originally from Holland and practiced first in Colerain township, built his frame home and office at Marlowe and Hamilton Avenues in 1908. This building was behind the Brighter Day Bookstore. Near Linden Drive was Dr. Charles Geiser. There are still several doctors at that corner. Dr. Schonwald also had his office on the Avenue, as did Dr. J. C. Willke (6304 Hamilton Avenue), Drs. Fred. Swing, Sway, Rice, Sanker and Hunnicut.

A & P, 5905-7-9- Hamilton Avenue, 1926
1939 College Hill Retail Merchants Association
5922/1 Hamilton Ave.

A. & C. Motor Sales  5756 Hamilton Ave.
Bartel Shoe Repair   1604 Cedar Ave.
College Hill Dry Cleaners  5818 Hamilton Ave.
College Hill Grille   5907 Hamilton Ave.
College Hill Seed Store 5818 Hamilton Ave.
Doll’s Bakery       5917 Hamilton Ave.
Ray Drew’s Meats     5846 Hamilton Ave.
Edward’s College Hill Florist  5922/1 Hamilton Ave.
W. A. Effler       5924 Hamilton Ave.
L. Eiler           1539 Cedar Ave.
Ernst Appliance Shop  5922/1 Hamilton Ave.
Herb Desh - Dry Cleaner  5928 Hamilton Ave.
R. Franz          5905 Hamilton Ave.
Hardert’s Cafe     Cedar & Hamilton
Heheman’s Pharmacy 6106 Hamilton Ave.
Honerkamp Motor Sales 5848 Hamilton Ave.
Kessen’s Cafe     6120 Hamilton Ave.
Knopf Hardware    5920 Hamilton Ave.
Krouth Hardware   5836 Hamilton Ave.
Kryn Shoe Store   5840 Hamilton Ave.
Ludwig Shoe Store 5841 Hamilton Ave.
College Hill Drug Store Marlowe & Hamilton
Richter’s Palace Market 5909 Hamilton Ave.
Sand’s Paint Store 5930 Hamilton Ave.
Stang’s Delicatessen 5838 Hamilton Ave.
Van Pelt Service  Elkton & Hamilton
Vanity Beauty Shop 5924 Hamilton Ave.
Wanninger & Dolan  6114 Hamilton Ave.
Woehle’s Pharmacy  5845 Hamilton Ave.
Chapter 44  Businesses Then and Now

Prominent for decades on the Avenue was Allgeier’s Catering and Hall. Started in 1927 by Louis Allgeier as Allgeier’s Grocery Store, it occupied the first floor of the Junior Order United American Mechanic’s building, a fraternal organization that supported an orphan’s home at Lexington, N. C. and a national patriotic legislative program. Located at 6110 Hamilton Avenue, the building was constructed by Willis Forbes. Louis’s son, Norman and his wife Mary Jo were a popular business duo, known for their tasty catering and the hall that was rented by many weddings and celebrations in College Hill. Mary Jo passed away in 1992. She was the local force behind the reforestation program which has lined miles of College Hill streets with blooming trees.

Angert’s Appliances-The Angert family has a long history in Cincinnati. Bill Angert, Jr.’s and Edward Creighton’s great-grandfather, George Angert served in the Civil War as a drummer boy, that is after adding a few years to his age. Later George founded the Eureka Brass Works on Spring Grove Avenue. They made brass valves for radiators, fire hose nozzles, and valves for many purposes. Even today, we use something that George Angert invented—the automatic shut off nozzle at gas pumps. In the early 1940’s the business was sold to the Ohio Pattern Works and he retired but was offered a position with Lunkenheimer Valves that he accepted. George lived on Larry and towards the end of his life became blind from long term exposure to the fumes of molten brass.

His son Ed, father of Carolyn and William (Bill, Sr.), worked for the Ohio Pattern Works during the start of WW II. After the war, he worked for Phillips Oil in Fairfield but it was difficult to get gasoline and car tires for the long commute, so George funded Ed to start an appliance business.

Great grandson, Ed Creighton remembers Ed Angert telling him of how Lindbergh flew into the cornfields that later would become Teakwood and Wionna Ct. in his ‘Sprit of St. Louis’ to help raise funds on his way to Long Island, New York for his transatlantic flight in 1927.

Carolyn and Bill, Sr. went to the Hollywood Theater and they both won prizes in a drawing there; Carolyn a bicycle, Bill, Sr. an electric scooter. Jim Rockwell, a neighbor who was an engineer working for Powel Crosley, Jr., taught Bill, Sr. radio construction, design and repair. Bill, Sr., only 13, started the Victory Radio Repair Service out of his parent’s basement, using his new scooter to pick up and deliver the repaired radios for free.

When Angert Radio and Appliance Company opened in 1944 in the Dixon building, there weren’t many appliances because of the war. There was a waiting list and when a new refrigerator was received, either you accepted that one or it was offered to the next person on the list. Likewise for stoves. By now Bill, Sr. was in high school and he moved his repair shop into a corner of the store with the limited hours of 4:00 to 9:00 PM. During the years of W.W. II repair parts were hard to purchase so Ed would drive through small towns in Ohio and Indiana buying up old radios for the necessary parts.

Bill, Jr. said in an interview, “They sold flashlights, batteries, lamps, light bulbs and attempted to purchase and sell radios, Victrolas and small appliances, but they were difficult to find. They obtained wringer washers that had no electric motors because of war production shortages. My grandfather again hit the road trying to buy motors from hardware suppliers to put together a complete product.

In 1946, Angert’s became the first franchised radio dealer in Greater Cincinnati and expanded into installing roof-mounted antennas. A few years later, we sold the first color television in Cincinnati.”

The original store was on the right side of today’s H&R Block Tax Service. The store was expanded by breaking a wall into the other side of the store. Next to Angert’s on the left was Turner’s Deli. His specialty was boiled ham and Turner’s made noontime sandwiches for everyone around, especially the post office employees. Where Angert’s Appliances is today was originally the post office, before a new building was erected on Cedar Avenue. A pharmacy was on the corner of the Dixon Building with Kroger’s grocery next to it—both are now the College Hill Coffee Company.

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3 Source: William Angert, Jr., Family Beats the Big Boxes, John Rogers.
Bill, Sr. repaired TVs, radio and small electrics but as the appliances moved away from tubes and into circuit boards, Bill, Sr. no longer was able to repair them and moved onto the selling floor. It was voted by Cincinnati Magazine as the ‘Best Appliance Store in Cincinnati’ on its 50th anniversary in 1994. By stressing quality, service, and customer satisfaction this store has successfully met and bested its competition.

Bill, Jr. followed the steps of his father and grandfather in the business. He retired and the business was purchased by one of his employees and his brothers.

Charles and Alice Brill opened their furniture store in 1946 on Savannah Avenue, just over the line in North College Hill. They later opened a second store on Hamilton Avenue in College Hill, closing the earlier store. Charles Brill died in 1970 and Alice Mary Brill died in 1988. For generations this store sold fine furniture.

College Hill Food Market,⁴ 5846 Hamilton Avenue was started in 1945 by George and Frances Smith. A ‘Mom & Pop’ grocery store, the business was continued on by their nephew, Marvin Kolde and his wife Hilda. Once a staple on every block, these small grocery stores thrived until the large supermarket chains started expanding into all neighborhoods.

College Hill Coffee Company and Casual Gourmet has anchored the corner of Hamilton and North Bend at 6128 Hamilton Ave. for fourteen years. Its current owner is Tina Stoebel who has brought a bit of fame to her store by its inclusion in “The Dinette Set” cartoon by Julie Larson which runs in the Cincinnati Enquirer. The cartoon actually uses the store’s logo. The café is a great place for buying gourmet coffee, gifts, food and wonderful pastries. This space was formerly a drug store.

College Hill Progressive Building & Loan⁵ began in 1911 at 5910 Hamilton Avenue. About 1950 it was on the south east corner of Hamilton and Ambrose Avenues. In 1957 it moved to its new building at 6230 Hamilton Avenue. The name, too, changed over time. About 1970 the name was shortened to Progressive Savings, in 1972 it merged with Central Fairmount to form Central-Progressive. It was acquired in 1982 and changed its name to Gem Savings and Loan. The last occupant of the building was the Fifth Third Bank, which acquired the Dayton, Ohio, based Gem Savings and Loan. The business was started by D. D. Flannigan, A. H. Davis, Charles Smith, Jr., John J. Dupps, John Hoffman, Jr., W. H. Carpenter, D. E. Hayman, Robert B. Haskins, O. C. Peters and Dr. J. Ferris to serve a rapidly growing community.

Desh Dry Cleaners⁶ was started in 1939 by Lee Becht who later sold the business to Sherman Evans. The business first was at 5928 Hamilton Avenue and in 1946 moved to 6015 Hamilton Avenue. Herbert Desh, Sr. purchased the business that was later operated by his son, Herbert Desh, Jr. The last owner was Clifton Poe.

W. H. Forbes and Son⁷ built many homes and commercial buildings in and around College Hill. The business was found in 1880 by Charles Henry Forbes, who lived at 17 Cedar Avenue. His son, W. H. Forbes, built the family house at 6017 Cary Avenue by the light of coal oil lamps in 1904. During the summer months, Charles H. Forbes would build homes. During the winter he built wagons and carved woodwork, molds, etc. from his shop behind Deininger’s blacksmith shop. The Forbes and Deininger

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⁴ Source: Marion and Hilde Kolde

⁵ Source: Terry Edward Todd, whose father, Edward H. Todd, grandfather, George E. Todd, and great uncle, Herman Knuepfer, all were employed by this business over the generations.

⁶ Source: Herbert E. Desh

⁷ Source: Karen Forbes-Nutting
family are related by marriage. When Charles died, his sons, Andrew Thomas Forbes, Willis H. Forbes and George Forbes continued the business. Thomas broke away, leaving Willis and George in business together. George died at a young age and Willis then stayed in the business alone, calling it in 1904, W. H. Forbes. When his son, Willis Forbes, Jr., joined the business in 1929 it was renamed W.H. Forbes & Son. Willis, Sr. died in 1944. When his son returned from the South Pacific of W. W. II in 1945 he resumed the business until he retired in 1978.

It was a combination of good fortune, craftsmanship and money that one staircase and three rooms of William Cary’s house, the first brick home (1816) in College Hill, were moved and preserved in the Cincinnati Art Museum. For nine years Mrs. Samuel Joseph⁸, owner of the Hy Pure Drug Company, had wanted to present a group of house interiors to the Museum in her husband’s memory. Then one day in 1938 I was just driving along Hamilton Ave. and saw an old home being wrecked. This house had been the home of John Dupps and was being torn down to build the Hodapp Funeral Home. The building was in excellent condition with hand hewn timbers. Mr. Siple, Director of the Art Museum and Mrs. Joseph chose the rooms and hallway to be saved from among the still standing rooms in the Cary house.

W. H. Forbes and his son, Willis S. Forbes, were the contractors for the disassembly, moving and restoration of the rooms in the Museum. According to Mrs. Joseph: They did the work with loving care, searching for old nails, hardware and boards as examples if the carpentry of the period. The cost for the entire job was $4,170 and it took one year.

Mr. A. Lincoln Fechheimer was responsible for planning the Museum interiors and Benjamin Ihorst, an architect who lived across the street from the Forbes’, was instrumental in getting Mrs. Joseph to sponsor the purchasing of a set of rooms to donate to the Museum.

By the time of demolition, the Cary house was unfurnished and Mrs. Joseph loaned her collection of early American antiques, which were in the style of the period, for display. The 'Joseph Rooms' were dedicated May 10, 1939. The robin’s egg blue woodwork was authentic to the color that the Carys used. The reassembled rooms were identical to the way they originally stood, except for a mantel that was purchased in northern Kentucky.

By 1948 most of the loaned furniture was returned to the owners and the rooms were reopened in 1952 furnished from the Museum’s own collections.⁹

The Linden/Park Hotel¹⁰ Mr. & Mrs. John Henderson purchased the land at the intersection of Cincinnati and Hamilton Turnpike and North Bend Road from the William Cary estate on Oct. 25, 1890. Henderson sold the land to Adam Gray, of the City Insurance Company and a land speculator, in 1892. Mr. Gray sold a portion of the original parcel to the Cincinnati & Hamilton Electric Street Rail Company on July 13, 1898, for $3,000 with the stipulation that ...for ten years no saloon purposes in the sale of intoxicating liquor, malt beverages or wine to be sold... or the property would revert back to Adam Gray and heirs. Gray sold the remaining tract of land to Lewis Hauck in 1899. At that time, this land was not considered part of College Hill.

In 1887 the Village of College Hill passed Ordinance 527 which prohibited ale, beer and porter houses within the community. It wasn’t until Dec. 19, 1910 that #527 was repealed. When the John Hauck Brewing Company owned the land, the Linden/Park hotel was built. The Linden/Park was a resident hotel and had a large ballroom where dances were frequently held. Both the porch and lawn held tables and chairs and on Saturday nights people gathered there to hear the orchestra. People also came out on the street car just to stand on the sidewalk outside of the hotel and listen to the music.

William F. Biddle was the proprietor of the Park Hotel and George Murrison from Scotland was the

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⁸ Times-Star, Iphigene Bettman HEREBOUTS, 3 October 1952.

⁹ Community Resource for Enriching the 5th Grade Social Studies Program in the College Hill Schools, Marion Dinkelaker, thesis, 1952.

¹⁰ Contributed by Mrs. Karen Forbes Nutting.
bartender, Mr. Murrison also cranked the autos for the patrons.

The former hotel building was demolished in 1963 so that a new O. E. S. Home could be built on the site. This was the first Eastern Star Home in Ohio.

Ludwig’s Shoe Store was started in 1932 by John Ludwig. Favorite brands back then were Poll Parrot, Florsheim and Red Ball sneakers. The store originally included shoe repair. The 5845 Hamilton Avenue store was not his only one; he expanded over the years to one in Mt. Healthy, Northgate and Beechmont Malls. A prominent local business leader, Mr. Ludwig held a patent on a shoe/foot sizer which was sold abroad. Next to Ludwig’s was Schwartz Jewelers, a family jewelry store founded in 1932. And next to them was VonderBrink’s dress shop. These three stores anchored a block of store-to-store shopping until they were demolished in 1989.

Pearce’s Auto Care Center11 has been at the same corner, 6014 Hamilton Avenue, since its founding in 1936. Jim Pearce is an accomplished artist but after high school he could not find a job due to the Depression. He joined with Harry Pearce, who was mechanically inclined, to open a service station. Harry eventually bought out Jim’s share of the business. It is now owned by Harry’s son, ‘Hank’ Pearce. This gas station has seen the spectrum of automotive history - from hand pumped gas to computers and electronics.

Piazza-Discepoli Vine Wine Merchants12 5901 Hamilton Avenue was started in 1988 at the corner of Hamilton and Cedar Avenues. Originally the building was built to house a Dow Drugstore (Charles “Daddy” Dean) which later became Brothers Drugstore (Larry & Mark Schwienher.) The last pharmacy on that corner was Family Drugstone. Piazza-Discepoli specializes in quality wines and specialty foods. The Discepoli name has been associated since 1930 in the pharmacy business.

When Guy leased the empty storefront, little did he know the history he was acquiring. In addition to years of accumulated junk going back to the original drugstore, he found old medicine boxes, full gallon bottles of Glacier Spring and Mountain Valley water.

The basement held the original cast iron furnace and water heater (ca 1924). The floor on which the soda fountain from years ago once stood was concrete, which can be seen between the rafters.

Guy was able to reuse the original tobacco showcase as his counter by replacing the glass top with wood and turning it around so that the bin handles face today’s customer. The bottom is lined with corrugated tin to hold damp rolls of newspaper or towels for tobacco humidification.

The suspended ceiling was removed, revealing the tin original made by the Edwards Manufacturing Company. Guy cleaned the tin ceiling for three weeks. The grime of sixty-five years came off, down to the original baked on enamel paint, which is ivory colored. Guy left a small thin strip untouched at the back of the store for comparison. He also connected ceiling lights and fans to the original fixture placement of one light in each bay and two fans in the center of the tin ceiling. When the window display area was renovated, pieces of the black faux marble ceramic that once formed the exterior facade were uncovered. This handsome store is a good example of how restoration and renovation can compliment each other.

Pies Dry Cleaners13 at 5748 Hamilton Avenue (1921) and 5822 Hamilton Avenue (1935) was started by Ollie Pies. When Ollie died in 1945 the business was continued by his sons, Ambrose and Robert. Ollie Pies was known for more than being a good dry cleaner, he was one of the best pinochle players in College Hill.

11 Source: Harry Pearce II
12 Source: Guy Discepoli
13 Source: Ambrose Pies
Renner Plumbing & Heating was founded on March 22, 1922 by John Henry ‘Harry’ Renner. The business was operated originally from the Renner residence at 1772 Cedar Avenue. In 1925 the business and residence moved to 5828 Hamilton Avenue. In 1929 they moved next door to 5826 Hamilton Avenue, a newly built five apartment and two store building built by W. H. Forbes & Son. This building was razed in 1987. In 1940 John’s son, Ed, joined the business and the name became Harry Renner & Son. In 1945 his other son, Harry C., joined and the ‘s’ was added to son. In 1949 they built a new showroom and store at 6009 Hamilton Avenue. Harry Sr. retired in 1960 and in 1970 Harry C. left the business, selling the building to his brother, Ed. Ed operated the business from his Mt. Healthy home until his retirement in 1972.

George Schiering & Son, a family-owned and operated retailer of electrical appliances, was located for more than 25 years in College Hill at 1623 Hamilton Avenue-adjacent to the southwest corner of North Bend Road and Hamilton Avenue. Mr. George Schiering and his wife Carrie opened the business in 1929 with a store on Hamilton Avenue in Mt. Healthy. They became the first General Electric Appliance dealership in Cincinnati, introducing several generations of appliances, including the innovated “wringer washing machine.”

In 1945, their son Glen Schiering, assumed leadership of the business which was then moved to the College Hill location, a building which included the appliance store on the first floor and residential apartments on the second floor. Glen Schiering’s wife, Edithe, provided bookkeeping and scheduling assistance as the business grew. For many years, the family had the invaluable and loyal assistance of their employee, Clayton Lockwood. The retailer received many awards for leadership in the sales of General Electric appliances with significant patronage by the many employees of General Electric in the Cincinnati area. Ronald Reagan, who then was the spokesperson for General Electric, personally delivered an award for excellence to the family in the 1950s.

The College Hill property also included an adjacent parcel fronting on North Bend Road. The family constructed a building on the parcel which was leased for a new College Hill library. In the early 1970s, the family sold the building and property to an oil company which subsequently demolished the building. Angert’s Appliances, the family’s friendly competitor across the street, employed Clayton and assumed the business telephone number to carry on the tradition of sales and service in the community---Glenna Schiering

George Schiering’s son, Glenn, worked both in the family business and was on the board of the College Hill Building and Loan. He continued on the board of the College Hill Branch when Provident bought the College Hill Building and Loan.

Schwartz Jewelers has been in College Hill since 1937. It was founded by Rita Effler and her father William Effler, Sr. who owned a jewelry store in Mt. Healthy. Rita hired Herb Schwartz as a clock repairman, later marrying him shortly before he left for W.W. II. When Herb returned, the store was renamed Schwartz Jewelers. In 1979, he turned over the management and ownership of the store to their son, Dave, and Sandy, his wife, both of whom had been teachers. In turn, in 2007, ownership passed along to Dave and Sandy’s son, Marty. Offering both customer service and price, they have withstood competition for the mall stores and have thrived. Their extensive line of clocks and gifts compliment their jewelry. In their 70 years of being in College Hill, they have been at 4 locations, the current one since 1990.

Shuller’s Wigwam Restaurant was founded by Max Shuller in 1922, a Russian immigrant who came to America in 1913. His first venture in the restaurant business was selling hot tamales from a pushcart in downtown. He purchased a diner from ‘Daddy Hart’ where the Dixon buildings now stand.

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14 Source: Harry C. Renner

Max purchased a lot on the north east corner and built a small restaurant in 1929 and the business moved across North Bend Road. The restaurant has been on the corner (6210 Hamilton Avenue) ever since. When first built, this new building had a second story with four small sleeping rooms and a bath. During the Depression the Shuller’s didn’t turn away a man seeking work - they also were able to sleep in the upper story. Max understood the devastating effects of the Depression well. He owned seven diners by then and lost them all except the College Hill one during the economic crisis.

His building, next to the a Bear Power gas station and the Cincinnati & Lake Erie Railroad station, was replaced in 1933, after the repeal of Prohibition. This one had a roofed, outdoor beer garden which someone remarked made the restaurant look like a wigwam - the name stuck and has been called the Wigwam ever since. Leo remembered\textsuperscript{16} for the \textit{Cincinnati Enquirer}; the drawing of draft beer and the large window shade which hung from the ceiling and used to hide liquor after-hours.

Success of the screened-in beer garden was largely due to 10-ounce glasses of beer at a nickel each. ‘It was before the six-pack and people would come to us with their glass jugs to buy beer and take it home,’ he said. The garden section was enclosed and the building expanded in 1941.

Known for decades by its large Indian and wigwam shaped sign, the restaurant finally went out of business in 2000 and the building was torn down. The site now awaits redevelopment.

\textbf{Visconti-Lechler Pharmacy,} 6106 Hamilton Avenue has been a drug store for many years. Originally two stores, Hehman Pharmacy was on one side and a dress shop occupied the other. The pharmacy, half of today’s area, contained a soda fountain and ice cream booths.

The pharmacy was purchased from Gus and Irene Hehman in 1948 by Ralph E. Visconti, Sr. and Nick Kenney. A former director of marketing for Sperti Drug Products, Visconti left Sperti to establish two Visconti-Kinney drug stores: College Hill and White Oak.

By 1951 the College Hill store was growing and the dress shop was going out of business. The Jacob family sold the building to Visconti-Kinney and the pharmacy was remodeled. The dividing wall was removed in 1955, making the store its current interior size and exterior facade. It was one of the largest and most modern pharmacies in Cincinnati.

The soda fountain - the heart of 75\% of the pharmacies around the country - was enlarged. Ralph Visconti, Jr., who worked at the College Hill location’s soda fountain as a white coated ‘soda jerk’ described it ... as THE place to go for families and to meet friends after school. Those were the days when jerk did not describe a personality, but rather it was a reference to jerking the fountain handles forward to make the soda water spray. Flavored carbonated waters, malts, shakes, phosphates, and Cokes were not the only sweets offered - who can’t remember large glass jars of penny candy?

Drug stores with soda fountains started in the 1860’s. The fountains first sold sparkling mineral waters as a health product, an extension of attending mineral spas. Ice cream wasn’t combined with syrups and soda until 1874, when Robert Green ran out of cream and substituted ice cream to mix with his sodas.

Visconti-Kinney was locally famous for their frosted glasses, making drinks extra cold. French Bauer ice cream was available in hand packed pints and quarts and Ralph Jr. still remembers the prices: nickel ice cream cones, double dips for seven cents and a soda for nineteen cents. The drug store was where families went after church and would take home some ice cream. It was part of the family scenario of the time, Ralph added.

The decline of the soda fountain started during W.W. II when sugar was rationed, young men were drafted and manufacturers retooled for war. The soda fountain business never recovered. The soda fountain-luncheonette started becoming popular. Everyone was in a hurry and lunches allowed the counter area to be busy more often than just for serving dessert. Visconti-Kenney, too, served lunches. Cosmetics, nylon stockings and notions were making their way into pharmacies - making more profit and less mess. Visconti-Lechler’s soda fountain was removed in 1971 or 1972, replaced by a large greeting

\textsuperscript{16} Cincinnati Enquirer, 3 generation at Shuller’s, Steve Hoffman, February 11, 1986.
Ralph, Jr. made deliveries on his bicycle during his sophomore year in high school. He remembers that he delivered Sunday *Cincinnati Enquirers*, medicine and even hot fudge sundaes to as far away as Winsray Court near St. Vivian’s and down Hamilton Avenue to Springlawn. Some things never change, deliveries were free then and are free now.

From 1948 until June 1966, the pharmacy was Visconti-Kinney. Then Ralph Visconti, Jr. and Joseph Lechler formed a partnership, buying the pharmacy. The marketplace has changed over time too. Soda fountains and tobacco counters have been replaced by card, gifts and health care. One of the keys to success for a private pharmacy to thrive against the competition against large chain stores is a wide selection of merchandise and, Ralph said, is personal concern for our customers. There will always be people who want service and product for their money. Stores that give good value have a pharmacist and staff that are interested in their customers and are warm and caring professionals. It is this philosophy which keeps Visconti-Lechler growing today. (ed. Note: the pharmacy closed Jan. 2008)
Chapter 45  North College Hill

An area of medium sized farms, Mt. Healthy became a thriving country town while North College Hill was retained as farmland until the early 1900’s. Most of North College Hill was built between 1905 - 1960.

The village started to develop about 1905 when John Meyer, a saw mill owner, built a small subdivision on the south half of the old Johnson property, on the north side of W. Galbraith (Mulberry, Bising, LaBoyteaux etc.) and called it Meyerville. Meyer used his surplus lumber to build homes at modest cost and required only a small down payment. Attempting to boost home purchases, Meyer built a Protestant church for the community at Noble and Galbraith - this was later purchased by the Methodist Union and in 1908 James N. Gamble purchased it and presented it without debt to a small group of Methodists in the community. The building was replaced in 1927 by the current church as the membership outgrew the original church size.

In 1908 the Ohio Land Improvement Company of DeArmand, Knollman and Shiering, headed by Clarence ‘Buck’ DeArmand, platted the Sunshine subdivision south of Galbraith Road (Simpson, Catalpa etc.) DeArmand called his subdivision Sunshine, a name that could be marketed easily. Promoting on billboards that Sunshine was ‘up where the sun shines and money grows on trees,’ he also appropriated the song Up Where the Sun Shines, Nellie. Attempting to capitalize on the reputation of the then affluent College Hill, DeArmand later renamed the subdivision North College Hill to the everlasting confusion of reporters. Just opposite from Rabbi Wise’s farm was the billboard ‘Up Where the Sun Shines - Houses $5 down and $1 a Week.’

The area east of Hamilton Avenue was called the Clovernook subdivision. By 1916 the population of 500 incorporated Meyerville, Clovernook and Sunshine into the village of North College Hill. The community retained its rural flavor until the 1920’s when water, gas and sewer lines were installed. At this time Hamilton Avenue was paved in bricks. The first mayor was John ‘Jack’ Williamson elected on 6-20-16, and the early village council met at Williamson’s drugstore.

An omnibus was the way passengers traveled until the railroads were built. In 1875 Robert Simpson and John R. Davey organized the College Hill Railroad. The narrow gauge railroad passed through North College Hill in 1877 on the College Hill to Johnson’s Grove, Mt. Healthy run. It consisted of the locomotive and two passenger cars. Running on two rails only 1 yard apart, it traveled into Cincinnati four times a day. The trip took 1 hour and cost .60 round trip. Called the “Dummy Line” because the engine was enclosed by a body similar to those vehicles drawn by horses, the named stuck for many years, even after the styling of the cars changed. The narrow gauge ran until 1930, connecting with the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad at Spring Grove Avenue.

After 1898 the railroad line only hauled freight, for it could not compete with the passenger nickel fare of the new electric interurbs that linked the industrial Mill Creek Valley to the suburbs until 1938. The interurban combined overhead electrical lines like those of a trolley with the speed of a train. The overhead lines were later used by trolley busses until the 1950’s.

Until 1940 there was also a freight line that ran parallel to Simpson Ave. That is why Simpson is so wide in comparison to other streets. The engine was dubbed the Grasshopper and it ran between Cummins ville and Mt. Healthy.

One of the landmark cases that led to the repeal of prohibition was the Tumey case decision of the
One of the landmark cases that led to the repeal of prohibition was the Tumey case decision of the Supreme Court in 1927. The case started in North College Hill when the mayor fined Mr. Tumey for the possession of liquor. Mr. Tumey took the case to the Supreme Court, where Chief Justice Taft ruled against the local justice system that allowed mayors and Justices of the Peace to obtain fines for convictions but gained nothing if a defendant was found innocent.

Many German, Hungarian and Italians homeowners were attracted to this area. Hard working, they understood the value of thrift, and were pleased with the new cape cod and bungalow style homes, some purchased as an ‘Honorbuilt’ kit from Sears and Roebuck. The inexpensive houses and large areas of undeveloped land created the 1940-1950 building boom that doubled the number of available homes. One of the few modernistic style houses built in Hamilton County was constructed of concrete at 2033 West Galbraith Road in 1940. Large apartment complexes currently present in North College Hill weren’t built until the 1970’s.

The current city hall was built in 1931, replacing a frame building which had been a hotel where cattlemen stayed. The pens were located where the Junior High School stands. Some of the early businesses were the Bising Dairy farm which was demolished for the building of St. Paul’s Church. Schild’s was a coal and building supply business. Starting in 1921 it carried cattle feed until 1942. Archie Keen from Batavia had a early lumber yard. Keen’s lumber cart transported the buckets and ladders of the volunteer fire department. Knollman had a hardware and lumber business. It started in an old barn which was demolished in 1908 for St. Margaret Mary Church then moved to Simpson Avenue about 1910. A barrel store became Bittman’s and there was a rope factory on Pippin, south of Galbraith Road. James Seward owned gristmill that was operated by treadle power. Isaac Betts had forty acres which was later subdivided and a street was named for him.

When the 1940 census showed the North College Hill had a population exceeding 5,000, it officially became a city on Feb. 9, 1941. Between the years of 1920-1940 the population rose 374%. The first mayor of the new city was Ed Ahlers.

Still growing, North College Hill annexed 20 acres in 1987. The Cross County highway was originally proposed in 1948 as a link from the Mill Creek Valley to a Blue Ash airport. While the airport idea was dropped the need for a linking highway was retained, and recently completed.

Charles Zimmermann’s Store, Hamilton Ave., College Hill
Chapter 46  College Hill Grows

The postwar period after World War I saw an increase in building. These homes built in the decade between 1920 and 1930 are easy to spot. They are made of wire-cut brick, with some stained or beveled glass windows and doors and are two stories in height in the bungalow style.

But after World War II all over America the building of single family homes soared. For the first time Veterans Administration loans were available. The limit on the loan was $10,000 which paid for a very basic house with few luxuries. One area developed at that time was the Lynnebrook (East Lynne) subdivision of Kenneth Avenue. Built in 1949 by Carl Karst and James Hughes, the properties sold in the medium price range of $11,450 to $12,500. The foundations were of concrete block and the houses four rooms and an unfinished second floor in the lower price range, the second was finished for the higher price. The modern homes had marble window sills, hardwood floors, built in kitchen cabinets, casement windows and copper plumbing. Between 1948-1950 around 76 homes were built there in the Cape-Cod style.

The residents to this represented many professions: Jack McLaughlin and Mr. Hermes, policemen; Dr. Wade Bacon; Dr. Gey, professor at U.C., Albert Schuch; Nicholas Michels, assembly worker and bicycle maker. Marie Butler lived at 1197 North Lynnebrook. Her house was built by Mr. Julius (Jack) Oelrick as were the first six houses on her street. The rest were built by Buffer & Par.

Karst & Hughes built many of the houses on Argus Road, which was Shepherd’s pear orchard and cow pasture while Long Brothers builders constructed similar houses on Faircrest Court. Mr. Dillion purchased the Larson Estate and developed most of the houses on that street.

John D. Haskins wrote to us about his home once located at the corner of North Bend and Daly Roads. That home was an eleven room brick built in 1910 by his parents, Robert B. and Mary Haskins. The property contained 15 acres and was previously owned by Sarah Jessup and was purchased by Robert Haskins at a sheriff’s sale for $2,000. The house was designed and built by Edgar Cummings. Across the street was the Ideal Poultry Farm, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius. It was later owned by Alicia and Ann Kelly, two nurses who operated a rest home ‘The Harriet Sabin Grange.’ A lawn mower shop is located today on the property and Haskin’s home was torn down in 1970 and the site used to build a car wash.

College Hill was annexed to Cincinnati piecemeal in 1911, 1915 and 1923. Some street names in College Hill were changed to avoid confusion with other streets already incorporated into Cincinnati. Such was the case of Maple Ave. which became Llanfair.

Llanfair is an abbreviation of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch, a village in Wales with the longest place name in Britain, whose name means ‘Church of St. Mary’s in a Hollow of White Hazel Trees near the swift whirlpool by the Red Cave of St. Tysillio’s Church.’

Saranac was named in 1912 for Saranac Lake, a health and pleasure resort in the Adirondack Mountains, New York. This street is in the subdivision of Dr. John Nichols, who gave it the name. Built on Saranac Lake was the first sanitarium to treat early stages of tuberculosis. Saranac is an Indian term which means ‘a river that flows under a rock.’

Monticello Avenue was originally named Atlanta Avenue but was so often confused with Atlantic Avenue in Hyde Park that it was renamed in 1941 in honor of Thomas Jefferson’s home.

Edwood was named after Thomas Edward Wood, president of Wood Realty Co. Wood & Associates purchased about 200 acres in College Hill in 1928 and named the subdivision Lakewood. Later, Wood developed much of the area and named various streets with the suffix “wood,” such as Amberwood, Brushwood and Bankwood. Edwood Avenue was named in 1950.

Aspen Avenue was named in 1910 to honor the tree that was used by early pioneers in their
tanneries. The wood could be used for charcoal and the bark was a source of glucoside, both necessary in leather tanning. Originally this was named Inez Street.

The Fifties - Teakwood Acres, A Neighborhood History

In the 1930’s, 15 acres were owned by Judge Coleman Avery (which became the Paul Brother’s property). Described by Mr. Edwin Van Leunen, as a ‘wealthy, retired lawyer,’ his only access to the property was a lane leading north off North Bend Road across from his home. The late Mrs. Doris Wilmes remembered a barn, a creek in a field, and blackberries on a fence on this property. Neighbors remember that Judge Avery married a young woman and their marriage was troubled, and one morning he shot and killed her, then called the police, and killed himself - he wanted to make sure none of her relatives inherited any of his estate. When the property went up for sale, a relative of Mrs. Van Leunen bought it and leased it to Mr. Edwin Van Leunen, who was in the landscape gardening business. They used it for a nursery from the mid-1930’s until they moved away from the neighborhood in 1959.

The Van Leunen family bought the house at 6300 Edwood (now at the corner of Wionna) in 1934, from the Lang Brother Builders, for $10,000. They had a small pool and formal garden on the Edwood side. There were few homes on Edwood in the 1930’s. Just south of the Van Leunen’s were the Ed Wilsons - he was the developer of Edwood Avenue, which at that time was only built up for one block north (to 6400, where Ray Folz, of an insurance agency lived, and later founded College Hill Savings & Loan). Other interesting people in the area - Mrs. Wilson was known as ‘Auntie Wilson,’ an eccentric lady who took a wheelbarrow of manure up and down the street to put on trees that her family had planted. She also hung clothes out on the line but couldn’t wait for them to dry, so she moved the clothes prop back and forth to fan the clothes, hoping they would dry faster. Her daughter, Hazel, had an all-girl orchestra and was a favorite of all the children on the street. Adjoining the nursery property was the field owned by Miss Bann, whose house faced North Bend Road. She was an elderly retired schoolteacher who traveled around the world.

The Van Leunen family sold their house in 1959 for $25,000 to Mr. & Mrs. Donovon. The Lang Brothers purchased the nursery property with the intention of developing it. They signed an agreement with Jack Wittekind Jr. in 1960 who agreed to buy the plots, which were developed with by Lang, promising to build 75 homes. The first model home in Teakwood Acres Subdivision was opened on August 27, 1961. Wittekind built 34 homes on Teakwood Court and 32 - 34 on Wionna Avenue. He lost his option in 1963 and received lots in other neighborhoods from Lang in exchange. Other builders completed the last 8-10 lots on Wionna, the only name mentioned was an Earl Alburger, builder.

Altogether, from 1947 to 1983, Jack Wittekind built over 300 homes in College Hill and surrounding areas. His father had been a brick contractor, and uncles had real estate in the late 1920’s. During the Depression they began to build houses to sell, building many homes on Wittlou, Wittekind, Heitzler and Birchwood.

$5,000,000 Subdivision Planned

Plans for development of a 65-acre tract in Lakewood Subdivision, College Hill, with ultimate expenditure of more than $5,000,000, was announced Saturday by Thomas E. Wood, president of the Wood Realty Co.

There are 120 lots in the subdivision ranging in size from a half-acre to an acre. Estimated cost of the individual homes to be constructed will be upward from $30,000, Wood said.

21 Written by Peggy Kehrer
22 Times Star, May 9, 1953
All of the utilities will be underground, including water lines, telephone, gas and electric service. Street contracts have been awarded and actual work will start within to weeks Total cost of these improvements alone will amount to $500,000, Wood estimated.

The newest Lakewood Subdivision project is north of Hollywood Avenue and south of Oak Knoll Drive and designated prime residential area, zoned resident A, and fully restricted.

Edward C. Ahlers and George Eveslage, vice presidents of the Wood Realty Co. are in charge of new development. Lou Graf of Ayers & Graf will conduct the engineering details.

Development of the area completes the dream of Wood, who, in his youth, tramped the virgin section in quest for rabbits and squirrels. The original Lakewood tract comprised 167 acres and was acquired many years ago by Wood’s firm.

At that time, Wood visualized making the section an outstanding home development of its type. With the newest project under way, his dream has come true, Wood mused.

Since the end of World War II in 1947, Wood has constructed more than 300 homes in the northern section of Lakewood. This area extends from Galbraith Road south on Daly Road and west to Clovernook Drive. Another section along Tarawa Drive in adjoining North College Hill has 56 homes, which were constructed by Wood for war veterans. These homes sold for $11,500 and have enhanced considerably in value since then.

Carrie Schiering at the family’s General Electric Store, Mt. Healthy location ca 1929
Courtesy of Glenna Schiering
Chapter 47 Men and Women from College Hill Who Served in W.W. I.I.

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These portraits are of Rebecca and William Cary. They were purchased by Mrs. Dorothy Henshaw by auction when then house of Mrs. Matie Bowman was sold. Mrs. Bowman was a descendant of the Carys.

Courtesy of Mrs. Betty Henshaw.

Freeman G. Cary

Samuel Fenton Cary

Courtesy of Fredrick S. Lamb.
Deborah Ann Bard, 1830-1876, age 27. She was the wife of Alfred B. Arnold. Courtesy of Ruth S. Cummins.

Moses Nutt Gray
Courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. McNeil.

Adam Gray, 1849-1919.
 Courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. McNeil.

Juliana Witherby.
 Courtesy of Juanita Brown.
Anna Cary Howard, 1765-1854.
Wife of Solomon Howard.
Courtesy of Mrs. Ruth S. Cummins.

Anna Maria Howard, her daughter, 1809-1887.
Wife of Albert Gallatin Arnold.
Courtesy of Mrs. Ruth S. Cummins.

Dr. Kilgour on the Glenview Avenue bridge.
Courtesy of Mrs. Martha Tuttle.

Edward & Ella (Cary) Sayre.
Abigail Crary Gray

Ethel Peirson and Nellie Gray. Courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. McNeil.

Mary Katherine Gray. Courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. McNeil.


Gilbert LaBoiteaux, Mt. Healthy.
Courtesy of Mrs. Ruth J. Wells.

Constance (age 5) & Mary Edith (age 3) Cochnower
Photo by George Hoffmann.
Courtesy of the Taylor family.

Cora Allen, wife of Orville Simpson.
Courtesy of the Emerson family.

Courtesy of the Taylor family.
1919
Powel Crosley III (left), Page Crosley (center) and Laura Emerson

Top to Bottom: Ella Thomas Brochard; Agnes Anderson, Laura Emerson Aiken; Alice Wilde, ??; Helen Coy, Alice Henshaw. Courtesy of the Emerson family.

Powel Crosley, Jr. & his Crosley car.
Courtesy of Joseph Rice.

Arthur Pounsford.
Courtesy of the Emerson family.
Samuel Emerson, 1802-1845.  
Courtesy of the Emerson family.

Nancy Wilson Emerson (1805-1893), wife of Samuel Emerson, mother of Lowe Emerson.  
Courtesy of the Emerson family.
The Oaks, June 1888. The Emerson Family left to right: Lowe Knight Emerson, Laura Emerson Aiken, Col. Lowe Emerson is holding the horse. Seated: Mr. R. Allen, father of Cora Allen Simpson, Olivia Knight Allen. Boy next to horse: Guy Winslow Emerson, later struck and killed by lightning. Standing Cora Allen Simpson holding Lowe Emerson Simpson, Mrs. R. Allen.

Herbert Aiken, husband of Laura Emerson.
Joshua Pierson

Carrie Joella Arnold Ferrier

William ‘Bill’ Scharbach.
Courtesy of Juanita Brown.

5837 Hamilton Ave., Post Office. Photo by Felix Koch. First two and last two persons are unidentified. The carriers were Bill Scharbach, Anthony, Gabe (in rear), Theobald and Rice. On the curb sits Jack Strong who dispatched ‘special deliveries’ from his bicycle.

Courtesy of Ruth Scharbach.
Class of 1888

Nov. 3, 1913, 4th Grade
34. Lewis Heltzer?. Courtesy of the Taylor family.
Courtesy of Glenna Schiering.
Freeman G. Cary’s House, 5651 Hamilton Avenue.

Charles T. & Adaline (Betts) McCrae House, Belmont Avenue.
Courtesy of Mrs. Martha Tuttle.

Adam Gray House, Larch Avenue.
Courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. McNeil.
5819 Glenview Avenue.
'Goat Manor', ca 1948.
Courtesy of William Angert, Jr.

The same house about 1900.
Courtesy of the Emerson family.
Pierson Land Office after it had been moved to Cedar Avenue. Courtesy of Richard Dasch.

College Hill Post Office
Courtesy of the Emerson family

The second ‘pig-eye’ school.
Courtesy of Mrs. Martha Tuttle.
Ohio Military Institute, 1900. Courtesy of the Emerson family.

Ohio Military Institute, Dress Parade.

Ohio Military Institute
Isaac & Mary (Toy) Betts House,
6275 Collegevue Place.
Courtesy of Mrs. Martha Tuttle.

Parsonage, College Hill Presbyterian Church, 1903.
Groesbeck Road.
Courtesy of the Emerson family.

Chatfield House
by Caroline Williams, 3-21-1943

College Hill water tower, Belmont Avenue.
Emerson North Hospital. Main Building.

Emerson North Hospital. Ventilation Tower.

College Hill Post Office,
by Caroline Williams, 11-21-1976

Caldwell House,
by Caroline Williams, 4-6-1941
Pleasant Hill Academy, about 1830.

Close up of William Cary House, Hamilton Avenue.

The Oaks, June 1888.

The original carriage house of The Oaks. Courtesy of the Emerson family.

In the center is the octagonal Isaac LaBoyteaux House. Hammond North Condominiums stand now on the site. In the foreground is the toll gate and gate keepers house on Hamilton Avenue.
Logging the site of Laurel Court, prior to construction.

Laurel Court

Music Room, Laurel Court
Howard Stone Quarry.
East Side, Hamilton Avenue.

Hamilton Avenue
Toll Gate

Ed Sayre’s Omnibus,
1873.
One of the most Beautiful Homes of its Kind in the World

The Methodist Home for the Aged
College Hill, Cincinnati, Ohio

Art Room and Corridors

Wilson Memorial Chapel
Pounsford Mansion, Belmont Avenue.

J.C. Daller Residence.
Raymond House.

Graham Hotel, Belmont Avenue.

Grave of Mahlon Brown.
   Wesleyan Cemetery.

Tombstone of William Bell.
   Jessup Cemetery.
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Appendix I

AIKEN

I. Charles AIKEN 1818-1882, parents James & Nancy AIKEN. Charles m Martha Stanley MERRILL, 1832-1895
   A. Walter Harris AIKEN 1858-1935 m Lucy Bakewell AVERY 1862-1936
      a. Gwendolyn Bakewell AIKEN m Powel CROSLEY, Jr. b 18 Sept. 1886 d 28 Mar. 1961
      b. Walter Avery AIKEN 1891-1952 m Opal WINTER 1903-1943
      c. Victor Audubon AIKEN 1897-1962 m Norma QUITTER
   B. Louis Ellsworth AIKEN 1861-1949 m Nancy IRWIN 1869-1954
      a. Louis E. AIKEN, Jr. 1908-1975 m Laura MONTGOMERY
      b. Dorothy AIKEN 1893-1894
   C. Alice Cordelia AIKEN m Charles H. AVERY, brother of Lucy Avery
   D. Carrie Dewing AIKEN m Thomas BAGLEY b 1859. See WITHERBY.
   E. Susan Merrill AIKEN 1867-1943 m 1891 Henry Graham POUNSFORD b 1864-1963
   F. Herbert Pinkerton AIKEN m Laura EMERSON. See EMERSON.
   G. Jennie S. AIKEN 1858-1863
   H. Mary AIKEN 1869-1874

BROWN

I. Ephraim BROWN\(^1\) b Feb. 26, 1768 married Feb. 10, 1791 to Eunice GARD by Judge John Cleves Symmes, North Bend, OH., d June 23, 1835 and buried in Gard Cemetery, College Hill (Cincinnati OH). Ephraim's brother was Israel BROWN (who married Elizabeth HANKINS Jan. 3, 1802) Eunice GARD b Feb. 17, 1771 in New Jersey, died Sept. 11, 1847 and buried in Gard Cemetery. Her parents were Gershom GARD and Phebe HUNTINGTON. Issue:
   A. Effana BROWN m John MAPLE
   B. Mahlon BROWN b 27 Mar 1797 d 27 July 1847 m Harriet BROWN b 10 Sept 1802
d 4 Oct 1863. She was the dau. of Israel & Elizabeth Hankins Brown. Issue:
   a. Elizabeth BROWN b 30 Aug 1822 d 4 Aug 1849 m Patrick GROGAN of Mt. Airy ,
b 2 Aug 1815 Ireland d 31 Jan 1891. He was the son of Edward Anour Belle
      MacDonald GROGAN.
b. Eunice BROWN b 6 Jul 1822 d 24 Nov 1862 m 15 May 1845 John Cox EVERSULL
   b 25 Aug 1812 d 12 Dec 1903. See EBERSOLE. Issue:
   aa. Maria M. EVERSULL b 27 Apr 1846 d 28 Sep 1915
   bb. Mary Elizabeth EVERSULL b 29 Sep 1847 d 15 Sep 1912
   cc. Alice E. EVERSULL b 26 Jul 1849 d 29 Nov 1920
   dd. Anna B. EVERSULL b 18 Aug 1851 d 6 Jan 1925 m John A. CALDWELL
      b 21 Apr 1852 d 24 May 1927
      aaa. (Dr.) John Alexander CALDWELL 1877-1958 m Orpha FEATHERSTONE
         bbb. Bessie CALDWELL 1883-1968 m Edgar W. McCALLISTER
         ccc. Robert K. CALDWELL 1888-1955
   ee. Edna Cornelia EVERSULL b 22 Nov 1853 d 7 May 1858
   ff. John Cox EVERSULL Jr. b 30 Jan 1856 d 25 Nov 1914
   gg. Harriet EVERSULL b 23 Jan 1858 d 27 Nov 1940

\(^1\)Source: Sue Bell
hh. Ephraim Elwood EVERSULL b 13 Dec 1863 d 29 Sep 1951  
m Mattie M. TALLANT b 5 Oct 1871 d 18 June 1955

ii. Warner Solomon EVERSULL b 29 Oct 1865 d 18 Feb 1944  
m Olive McGREW b 16 Jul 1872 d 28 Oct 1954

c. Addison BROWN b 1831-1831

d. Mahlon BROWN, Jr. b 10 Jul 1832 d 2 Apr 1848

e. Ephraim T. BROWN b 26 Aug 1835 d 25 Dec 1878 m ?Kate L. DEVINE

f. Israel J. BROWN b 15 Aug 1839 d 1882/3

g. Harriet BROWN 1841-1850

C. Cyrus BROWN m Nancy ROGERS

D. Walter BROWN

E. Elizabeth BROWN m 1) George CAIHART Dec. 27, 1796 by J.B. Miller., J.P. m 2) Jesse B. STEPHENS

F. Eunice BROWN m Vesper NICHOLS, Aug. 18, 1832 (She d circa 1834 - 1836. He remarried. Eunice possibly buried in Gard Cem.)

G. Caroline BROWN d July 16, 1849 m ? VANN LAYAUK

H. Lucinda BROWN b June 21, 1805 d 1848 m 1822 James GILKEY, 1807-1895

I. Julianna (Julia Ann) BROWN m Luther WITHERBY/ WETHERBY (1779-1844), son of Rev. Danforth WETHERBY. See WITHERBY.

J. Phebe BROWN m Elisha STOUT 25 Feb. 1810

K. Asa BROWN b April 17, 1809 d Nov. 20, 1861

The Eversull/Brown Family Bible

Solomon Eversull Sr. b Nov. 15, 1783
Mary Cox Eversull born 1790
John Cox Eversull Jr. b Aug. 25, 1812
Eunice Eversull born July 6, 1826
Maria M. Eversull born April 27, 1846
Mary E. Eversull born Sept. 29, 1847
Alice Eunice Eversull born July 20, 1849
Annabelle Eversull born Aug. 18, 1851
Edna Cornelia Eversull born Nov. 22, 1853
John Cox Eversull born Jan. 30, 1856
Harriet (Lucille?) Eversull born March 9, 1859
Ephraim Elwood Eversull born Dec. 13, 1863
Solomon Warner Eversull born Oct. 29, 1865
Mahlon Brown, son of Ephraim and Eunice Guard Brown, born March 27, 1797
Harriet, daughter of Israel & Elizabeth Hankins Brown born Sept. 10, 1802
Elizabeth Brown born Aug. 30, 1822
Eunice Brown born July 6, 1826
Ephraim T. Brown born Aug. 26, 1835
Israel J. Brown born Aug. 15, 1839
Harriet Brown born Dec. 29, 1841
Addison Brown born June 26, 1831 (note: incorrect date)

2 Source: Harry Starr III
Mahlon Brown Jr. born July 10, 1832
Harriet L. Brown born Dec. 29, 1841

John C. Eversull married to Eunice Brown May 15, 1845
Anna B. Eversull to John A. Caldwell Dec. 28, 1876
Elwood E. Eversull to Mattie Tallaut April 15, 1891 (noted incorrect in Bible, should be Ephraim Elwood)
Solomon W. Eversull to Olive McGrew Nov. 26, 1896
(Missing) 28-1825 to Ephraim Brown S (missing)
Mahlon and Harriet Brown were married April 12, 1821

Edna Cornelia Eversull died May 17, 1858
John C. Eversull, Sen. died Dec. 12, 1903
Mary E. Eversull died Sept. 15, 1912
Eunice Eversull died Nov. 24, 1914
John C. Eversull, Jr. died Nov. 25, 1914
Maria M. Eversull died Sept. 28, 1915
Alice E. Eversull died Nov. 29, 1920
Anna Eversull Caldwell died Jan. 6, 1925
Harriet L. Eversull Nov. 27, 1940

John A. Caldwell, Sr. June ? 1928
Solomon Warner Eversull born Oct. 29, 1865 died Feb. 18, 1944
E. Elwood Eversull born Dec. 13, 1863 died Sept. 29, 1951
Solomon Eversull Sr. died 1884
Mary Cox Eversull died 1878
Mahlon Brown Sr. died July 27, 1847
Harriet Brown died Oct. 4, 1863
Elizabeth B. G. died Aug. 4, 1849 (should be Eliz. G. Brown)
Ephraim T. Brown died Dec. 25, 1878
Israel J. Brown died 1882 or 1883
Addison M. Brown died J?? 26, 1831
Mahlon 2nd died April 2, 1848
Harriet died De(missing)

(Honorable) Israel BROWN, brother of Ephraim BROWN

Israel BROWN was born 7-20-1778 in New Jersey, he died 5-24-1852. His grave is marked with an obelisk: HANKINS, d/o Richard Hankins. She was b Sept. 29, 1782 died May 12, Sacred to the memory of Israel Brown a native of NJ, immigrated to Cincinnati in the spring of 1797, departed this life May 24, 1852 78yr 10m 14dd. He married 1-3-1802 Elizabeth 1861. They are buried in the Wesleyan Cemetery, Section I, lot 40.

Issue: 1. Harriet BROWN b 9-10-1802 d 10-4-1863 m Mahlon BROWN, her 1st cousin. They are buried in Wesleyan Cem. Section I, lot 38. Mahlon is not mentioned in the cemetery records, however a fragment of his stone is still in place. If it weren’t for a photograph of this stone intact by Mrs. Ruth J. Wells, the fragment would be unidentifiable.
Issue: 1. Mahlon BROWN (Malum) b 7-10-1832 d 4-28-1848. Buried in Wesleyan Cem. Section I, lot 39
2. Ephraim BROWN b 1834 d 12-28-1878
3. Israel BROWN
4. Harriet BROWN b 1841 d 8-17-1850. Buried Wesleyan Cem., Section I, lot 38
5. Eunice BROWN m 5-15-1845 John Cox EVERSULL (1812-1903). See EBERSOLE

2. Sarah BROWN b 1804 d 11-26-1874 m Charles THORP. Sarah is buried in Wesleyan Cem., Section I, lot 40
   Issue: 1. Ann THORP
   2. Parres THORP
   3. Israel THORP
      4. Charles E. THORP 1 yr d 6-13-1859 bur. Wesleyan Cem. Section I, Lot 43w

3. Ethan H. BROWN b 10-24-1806 d 11-26-1842 m Elizabeth ?. Ethan is buried in Gard Cemetery, College Hill, Cincinnati, OH.
   Issue: 1. Elizabeth BROWN

4. Elizabeth BROWN b 4-13-1810 d 10-2-1874 m 11-27-1832 Thomas HUMES (b 2-11-1811 d 11-15-1880). Thomas’s father, John, manufactured spinning wheels and Windsor chairs in Cincinnati. The Humes’ moved to Rush County, Indiana about 1844 or 1845 to farmland owned by Israel Brown and later willed to Elizabeth and her children.
   Issue: 1. Israel Brown HUMES b 11-29-1834 d 1-1-1917 m 1) 4-19-1857 Nancy Jane COOPER (8 Feb 1836- 20 Jan 1874) m 2) 2 March 1878 Lucinda Jane SMITH (27 Sept. 1842-24 May 1933).
      Issue by Nancy:
      a. Mary (Mollie) HUMES
      b. Maude HUMES
   Issue by Lucinda:
      c. Ira HUMES
2. George B. HUMES (1836?-1849)
3. John Craige HUMES (6 Oct. 1837- 17 Apr 1922) m 21 Feb 1860 Mary Elizabeth PERKINS (13 Aug 1843-21 Apr 1917)
4. Benjamin Gregg HUMES (1841-1865), died from wounds received in the Civil War, Battle of Franklin
5. Wellington HUMES (1844-15 May 1907) m 22 Oct. 1868 Laura SMITH
6. Worthington HUMES (1844-) m 6 Feb 1867 Sarah E. JONES
7. Mary E. HUMES (b 13 Nov 1846-) m Samuel R. PATTON (27 Nov 1842-20 Dec 1865)
8. Thomas J. HUMES (Jan 1848- 5 Jan 1920) m 16 Sept. 1869 Indiana LYONS
9. Robert H. HUMES (1852-1899)
10. Sallie HUMES (1855-1914)
5. Judith BROWN b 1812 d 7-17-1838 is buried in Gard Cemetery, College Hill, Cincinnati, OH.
6. Oliver James BROWN b 1814 d 9-29-1899. Buried Wesleyan Cem. Section I, Lot 39, grave 5E m Lucy ?
7. Israel BROWN, Jr. b 7-19-1817 d 11-20-1903, Little Sisters of the Poor. Buried Wesleyan Cemetery Section I, lot 40, grave 2W. Listed as W. J. Israel Brown in the cemetery records m 2-14-1841 Martha A. HARRISON b 9-17-1822 d 6-10-1882. She was a granddaughter of William Henry HARRISON.

3Source: Jane B. Thorpe, Edward P. Spencer
2. George Crawford BROWN b 10-27-1843 d 8-11-1850. Buried Wesleyan Cem, Section I, lot 40
3. Elizabeth BROWN b 3-1-1840 d 11-11-1875. Buried Wesleyan Cem., Section I, lot 40
4. Sara Bell BROWN b 6-22-1848 d 5-6-1889 m Alexander L. BEVIS
5. Oliver BROWN b 1-1-1851 d 7-7-1933 m 6-20-1883 Clara Ellen Augustine DRESSING
6. Kathy H. BROWN b 4-25-1853 d 9-5-1899 m 9-10-1872 Samuel S. BEVIS, son of David Bevis & Axsher STOUT. Samuel was b 4-12-1848 d 4-27-1909 Moved to Missouri.

Issue: 1. Oliver Brown BEVIS b 8-13-1873 m 12-3-1898 Debbie McCARTY
2. William A. BEVIS b 4-24-1878 m 6-26-1901 Pearl REYBURN
7. Emma Josephine BROWN d 2-11-1864 unmarried

CARY FAMILY TREE

A. CHRISTOPHER CARY moved to Ohio in 1802. Revolutionary War pensioner. b 2-25-1763 E. Windsor, CT. d. Feb. 6 1837 near College Hill. He purchased land 7-1-1801 in downtown Cincinnati from Israel Ludlow. He was buried Spring Grove Cem. Lot 166 Section 53 m 1) 1773 ELSIE TERREL, Lyme NH. 1773 m 2) 1784 LEAH BROKAW, Cincinnati OH d 1815 m 3) MARGARET McCARTY 1825. Issue:
1. LUCY CARY b 1784 m James McGINIS
2. ROBERT CARY b, Jan 24, 1787 Lyme, NH, came to Cincinnati 1802, was soldier in the War of 1812, d Nov. 13, 1866 married 1) 1813/1814 (Betsy) ELIZABETH JESSUP, d July 30, 1835, m 2) 1837 ANNA LEWIS. See JESSUP. Issue:
a. ROWENA CARY b 10/18/1814, d 1868 m ISAAC B. CARNAHAN
b. SUSAN CARY b May 1, 1816 m ALEXANDER SWIFT
c. RHODA CARY b 1818, d 1833
d. ALICE CARY b April 26, 1820 d Feb. 12, 1871, buried Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York.

e. ASA CARY b May 5, 1822 m LEAH A. WOODRUFF 1850. Lived in College Hill. He d 1-23-1894
f. PHEBE CARY b Sept. 4, 1824 d. July 31, 1871 in Newport, R.I. Buried next to Alice in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York.
g. WARREN S. CARY b. Oct. 16, 1826 m 1) Martha A. ?? m 2) 11-7-1878 EMMA TREMPER Issue:
   aa. ROBERT CARY
   bb. ALEXANDER S. CARY b 12-25-1851 d 1-1-1866 accidental gunshot, buried Spring Grove Cem.
h. LUCY CARY b 1829 d infant.
I. ELMINA CARY b 1831 d 1862 m ALEXANDER SWIFT

3. BENJIAH CARY b Lyme N.H. 1788, moved to Cincinnati, OH. with father in 1802, served War 1812, m MARY (Polly) NICHOLS, Hartford, Vt. 1812; settled on farm near College Hill and lived there many years, then moved to farm near New Richmond, Clermont Co., Oh. where he died in 1858. Issue:
   a. MARIA CARY b 1813, m GILBERT HATHORN, lived in Minn. and had several children
   b. CHRISTOPHER CARY b 1816, studied medicine, married twice, lived in Indiana
   c. FRANCIS CARY b 1819, m had children, lived in New Richmond Ind.
   d. BENJAMIN F. CARY b 1821; m HARRIET BARTON who d 1870, was a farmer in Clermont County, OH., he d 1865. Issue:
      aa. WILLIAM CARY
      bb. MARTHA CARY m WILLIAM McMATH, lived in Foster, Ky.
   cc. ALBERT CARY
      dd. EMORILLIS CARY who lived in Chicago
   ee. BENJAMIN CARY
   ff. SUSAN CARY m GEORGE R. KLINE, lived Des Moines, Iowa. Issue:
      aaa. WALTER W. CARY
      bbb. HAZEL CARY b 3-23-1886 m HARVEY S. WAGNER 6-16-1907 Portland, OH.
      ccc. GEORGE E. CARY b 1-6-1889
      ddd. EDWIN C. CARY b 1-20-1891
e. MARTHA CARY b 1824 m Mr. HOPPER Cincinnati, OH.
f. MARY CARY b 1827, d 1855 m THEODORE KENNELLY and had 2 daughters
g. AMANDA CARY b 1828 d 1837
h. ADALINE CARY b 1833, died in childhood.
i. VARUS B. CARY b 1835 m Sarah CRAWFORD, had son that died as an infant.
   Varus died in the Union Army, Civil War.
j. ANDREW JACKSON CARY b 1838, died in childhood. Twins.
k. MARTIN VAN BUREN CARY b 1838, died in Union Army. Twins
   l. VENUS CARY b 1841 died in childhood.

4. MARIA CARY b 1790 m 1808 John LORING
5. CHRISTOPHER CARY b 1792 d 1807 Cincinnati.
6. IRWIN T. CARY b 1826
7. MARIA CARY b. 1828
8. ANNA CARY b 1831, d 1864 in Missouri, m MR. SPRONG
9. ? JAMES FINLEY CARY

B. SAMUEL CARY b. 1773 d as infant

C. DELIA CARY (Deliverance) b. 10-26-1769, m ROSWELL HAZELTINE of College Hill, d 1828.

D. WILLIAM CARY b. Lyme NH 1-28-1783, d 3-28-1862 College Hill, buried Spring Grove Cemetery. Lot 14 Section 57. In 1802/1803 he purchased land at the head of Main Street in downtown Cincinnati. While he was self educated, he revered education and his sons became some of the major speakers and writers of their time. He married 1-8-1809 REBEKAH FENTON daughter of Roswell & Deborah FENTON. Rebekah was born Saratoga County, New York, Aug 19, 1791, d 2-18-1889. She is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery. Issue:
1. FREEMAN GRANT CARY b 4-7-1810 d Pleasant Ridge 8-26-1888 Butler Co., OH m 1) 4-4-1833 Hamilton Co. MALVINA McCANN d 1-8-1872
m 2) JANE BATES RICHARDSON, no issue by Jane. Issue:
a. REBECCA FENTON CARY b 3-5-1834 m 5-17-1853 DR. WILLIAM B.
LUDLOW, son of John & Hettie LUDLOW**. Issue:
   aa. FREEMAN CARY LUDLOW
   bb. JOHN LUDLOW
c. MARY (MATIE) LUDLOW m 14 Nov 1894 HARRY KEMP BOWMAN,
   College Hill. See HENSHAW. Issue:
   aaa. WANDA LUDLOW
d. REBECA (BESSIE) LUDLOW m FRANK E. WALKER, College Hill
b. ELIZABETH CARY b 4-29-1836, died childhood
c. MARIA CARY b 3-15-1838, died childhood
d. MALVINA ESTELLA (ESTILLE) CARY b 1-13-1841 m GEORGE S. ROLL
e. ANNA RAMSAY CARY b 2-16-1844, graduated Ohio Female College m
   JOHN M. HENDERSON, graduated Miami Univ. 1860. Issue:
   aa. William Cary HENDERSON
f. WILLIAM CARY b 3-7-1847 m ELIZABETH H. POTTER. Issue:
   aa. James S. CARY
g. SAMUEL FENTON CARY b 6-2-1849
h. MARY FREEMAN CARY b 3-2-1855 m DANIEL CORT. Issue:
   aa. SIMON L. CORT
   bb. LELA CORT
2. WILLIAM WOODWARD CARY b 2-23-1812 d 7-25-1848 m 4-30-1835 ELANOR
   SMITH. She died of ship fever Oct. 1854. Issue:
a. HELEN M. CARY b 6-11-1836 d 10-25-1854, died of ship fever
b. ADALYN S. CARY b 12-9-1838
c. EMILY IONE CARY b 12-14-1840 d 9-11-1863 m 9-27-1860 ALONZO HORTON
d. MARIA CARY b 6-2-1844 d 11-12-1867 m 9-19-1861 DAVID CARNAHAN
3. (Gen.) SAMUEL FENTON CARY b 2-18-1814 d 9-29-1900 buried Spring
   Grove Cem. Section 57 Lot 14, m 1) 10-18-1836 MARIA LOUISE ALLEN
   m 2) 5-29-1849 LIDA J. (ELIZA) STILLWELL, d 8-1-1903. Issue:
a. MARTHA LOUISE CARY b 9-16-1837 d 12-16-1856 m 10-16-1855 CHARLES
   B. HUBER
b. ELLA WOODNUTT CARY b 2-13-1841 m 11-14-1871 EDWARD D. SAYRE
c. LOUISA ALLEN CARY b 5-24-1847, died infant
d. SAMUEL FENTON CARY b 3-22-1857 d 12-13-1920 m 6-1-1886 CORNELIA
   GOODRICH. Issue:
   aa. ETHELWYN CARY b 1-20-1890 m JOHN COCKE
e. OLIVE CARY b 8-12-1851 died infant
f. JESSIE CARY b 10-13-1858
E. In 1809 Deliverance’s other sons, JOHN STRONG (b 3/25/1787) and ZEBULON
   STRONG (b June 9, 1788) joined her. Capt. John Strong had four other sons by previous
   Zebulon’s brick house still stands next to the Laboyteaux Apts., Hamilton Avenue. John’s
   land was north of Hillcrest Ave. Zebulon married HANNAH ROGERS. Issue:
   1. JOEL STRONG 1827-1885 m EMILY N. SPILLARD 1831-1895. Shortly after the
      Civil War Joel started a grain and feed business in Northside that was purchased in
      1882 by Mr. Barney Topmoeller and Mr. Henry Weber. Issue:
      a. FORREST STRONG 1870-1870
      b. EDWARD H. STRONG 1862-1922 m FRANCES BARBARA SCHUERMANN
1864-1931

c. JESSIE DORA STRONG 1854-1892
d. MURRAY W. STRONG 1860-1860
e. THOMAS S. STRONG 1859-1889
f. JOSHUA L. STRONG 1872-1875
g. L. C. STRONG 1865-1865
h. MAURICE H. STRONG 1854-1887

2. ELON STRONG b 12-24-1820 d 4-17-1902 m 5-11-1845 ELIZABETH SKILLMAN
b 12-1-1845 d 8-2-1894. Elon was a carpenter. Issue:
a. FREELAND RAWSON STRONG 1857-1926 m AMANDA WELSH 1865-1930
Issue: aa. EARL FREELAND STRONG 1901-1980
b. HANNAH STRONG b 8-10-1848 d 12-15-1921 m JONATHAN SKILLMAN
b 7-25-1836 d 9-25-1911 Issue:
   aa. CHARLES NELSON SKILLMAN b 1872
   bb. ELIZABETH SKILLMAN, d infant
   cc. CORA EUGENIA SKILLMAN (1874-1903)
   dd. ELLA MAY SKILLMAN (1876-1918)
   ee. ANNA LOUISE SKILLMAN b 1879
   ff. MILDRED SKILLMAN b 1881
   gg. ETHEL BLANCHE SKILLMAN b 1883
   hh. PEARL SKILLMAN, d infant
   ii. LILLIE BELLE SKILLMAN (1884-1890)
   jj. THOMAS EDWARD SKILLMAN (1887-1969)
c. JOSIAH STRONG
d. EMMA STRONG m ? HILL
e. ALBERT STRONG
f. LILLIAN STRONG m ANDY NORRIS
g. FREELAND STRONG m ?? SEEBOHM. Issue:
   aa. ANNIE STRONG
   bb. EDWARD STRONG
   cc. SHERMAN STRONG
   dd. ZEBULON STRONG
   h. MINNIE STRONG

3. SERED STRONG 1816-1853
4. PHEBE B. STRONG b 1819 m LUTHER DAYTON
5. WILLIAM CARY STRONG b 1823 m SARAH SAYLOR
6. HENRY ROGERS STRONG b 1825 m MARY COLLINS
7. MARTHA (Maggie) STRONG 1830-1876 m ?? SINGLE
8. ELIZABETH STRONG 1833-1901 m JOHN RUSSELL

F. JOHN STRONG m SARAH ?? Issue:
1. EBENIZER P. STRONG 1819-1887 m MARTHA A. ?? 1824-1872. Issue:
   a. CAREY GILBERT STRONG 1843-1869
   b. FRANKLIN F. STRONG b 1845

Deliverance’s other children joined her:
G. ANNA CARY b May 5, 1765 m SOLOMON HOWARD and moved to College Hill, d 1854, College Hill. See HOWARD.

H. PHEBE CARY b Aug. 25, 1767 Scotland CT., d 1822 m JOHN CRARY, Norwich Vt. Their son, Lyman CRARY lived in College Hill. The CARY, CRARY and BALLARD families all moved together to Cincinnati. See CRARY.
I. HANNAH CARY  b. Dec. 16, 1771, died infant

K. SAMUEL CARY b 1778

L. MERCY CARY b March 5, 1776 m THOMAS WESTON, moved to College Hill where she d 1830. His daughter, Anna, married 1827 John ADAMS. Their daughter, Mary Ann ADAMS married Henry CASE of Colerain Township. M.

M. JOHN CARY b Dec. 26, 1780  d 3-23-1863 Ashtabula OH m 1) 1806 HARRIET KNAPP  m 2) ?? Issue:
1. ORRIN CARY
2. HARRIET CARY
3. FRANKLIN CARY
4. (Rev.) LORENZO CARY b 1813 NY, Congregational minister, graduate Yale 1835 m 1838 Mrs. SARAH E. PECK. Her will was probated 7-9-1856. He was a professor of languages at Farmers’ College in 1851. He died 1857. Issue:
   a. FERDINAND E. CARY b 1840
   b. SARAH JOSEPHINE CARY b 1842
   c. ANNA GERTRUDE CARY b 1844

5. DELIA CARY
6. JOHN CARY

** JOHN LUDLOW b 1795  m HETTIE ??  b 1800. Issue:
  1. WILLIAM B. LUDLOW b 1828
  2. SAMUEL LUDLOW b 1830
  3. JOHN LUDLOW b 1835
  4. AUGUSTUS LUDLOW b 1836
  5. WALTER LUDLOW b 1840

How the Carys are related to Rev. D. Allen of Lane Seminary
John Cary (the Immigrant) had:
1. John Cary  b 1645
2. Francis Cary b 1647
3. Elizabeth Cary b 1649 m Deacon William Brilt
4. James Cary b 1652
5. Mary Cary b 1654 did not marry
6. Johnathan Cary 1656-1695 m Sarah Allen, d/o Samuel Allen
7. David Cary b 1658
8. Hannah Cary b 1661 did not marry
9. Joseph Cary b 1663
10. Rebecca Cary b 1665 m 1685 Samuel Allen, brother of Sarah
    It is from this marriage that Rev. Allen descends.
   Issue: 1. Samuel Allen b 1686
    2. Ephraim Allen b 1689
    3. Timothy Allen b 1691
    4. Joseph Allen b 1693
    5. Mehitabel Allen b 1695
11. Sarah Cary b 19667

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4 Source: Charlotte Ware
* Information sent from Ruth S. Cummins, included a letter from the First Congregational Church in Thetford, Vermont which indicates that Deliverance Cary may have married John Strong after the births of their sons. John Strong was married four times: 1) Lucretia Crouch in 1744, 4 sons: Abijah, Joel, Solomon, Ezekial 2) Thankful Bascombe in 1764, no children 3) Jael (Jane) Chamberlin, widow, in 1781, no children 4) Deliverance Cary, widow of Dr. Samuel Cary.

From the letter dated 6-6-1988: In 1784, John Strong was complained of (to the church) for absenting himself from public worship, for rash, and unchristian expression to his wife, for shutting her up and confining her, for turning her out of doors and causing her to go away and live from him. There is no record of a divorce, as it was frowned upon.

There is also no record of any marriage to Deliverance in 1786 in either the church or town records. Two sons were born to John and Deliverance: John, Jr., March 25, 1787 and Zebulon, September 7, 1788. A listing of the church records reads: A son born to John Strong of a Concubine March 25, 1787.

On January 1, 1787, John Strong deeds 20 acres in Thetford to Deliverance Cary of Lyme, N. H. Just before he died in Thetford in 1795, (born 1724), John Strong deeds to: Deliverance Strong, the Wife of the aforesaid John, and also unto John and Zebulon Strong, sons of the aforesaid Deliverance, all right and interest in a certain parcel of land.

**CHACE**

I. Ernest CHACE lived on Belmont Ave.
   A. Howard CHACE m 1) ? m 2) Iola FLANNIGAN
   B. Mildred CHACE m Robert McKINLEY
   C. Margaret CHACE m Paul MENARD
   D. Allen CHACE m Adeline McCREA, built a house on Connecticut Ave. upon land that was once the McCrea orchard. See McCREA.
      1. Robert CHACE m Lynn MOORE
      2. Laura L. CHACE
   E. Charles CHACE
   F. Elizabeth CHACE m Dr. A. HOLMES

II. Norman CHACE, brother of Ernest, lived on Belmont Ave. across from Grace Episcopal Church.
   A. Norman CHACE, Jr.
   B. Eleanor CHACE

**COMPTON**

I. Jacob Richard COMPTON b 21 May 1760 Hopewell, Hunterdoon Co., NJ. d Oct. 1, 1821, buried in Old Compton Cemetery beside his wife. His parents were thought to be Isselstyne COMPTON & Aaltjue BLAAU (Orchie Blue). Jacob married Oramina (or Erminia) HYDE 15 June 1780 Hunterdoon Co., NJ. Oramina was born 16 July 1760 Hopewell, Hunterdoon Co., NJ. She died 30 June 1833. Her parents were John HYDE of Mercer Co., N.J., born 7 Oct. 1708 England, d Hopewell NJ 16 April 1796. He married Ann Elizabeth RUNYON (1718-1808) in 1734. Another daughter, Elizabeth, married Benijah STOUT. At the time of the Revolutionary War, there were more than 100 Compton families in New Jersey and most moved west.

Issue: A. Sarah COMPTON b 4 Feb. 1781 Hunterdoon Co., NJ., died 8 Oct. 1853 m William HANKINS b 21 April 1777, d 18 Sept. 1853, son of Richard HANKINS & Rachel LETTS. The Hankins’ were related to Mary Lyons who came in the caravan from NJ to
Cincinnati. Both Sarah & William are buried in the West Compton Road Cemetery, Mt. Healthy, OH., as are most of their children. See HANKINS

Issue: 1. Jacob Compton HANKINS d 26 Dec. 1827
2. Polly HANKINS d 1 Aug. 1809 at 11 months of age

Issue: a. Lucindy HANKINS b 2 March 1839
b. William HANKINS b 12 April 1841
c. John L. HANKINS b 8 Sept. 1843
d. Delia HANKINS b 11 July 1846
e. Angeline HANKINS b 3 July 1848
f. Sarah Jane HANKINS b 26 Aug. 1851
g. Caroline HANKINS b 1 Oct. 1855
h. Albert HANKINS b 18 March 1856
I. Theodore HANKINS b 18 March 1858
j. Alexander HANKINS b 8 Jan. 1860
4. Oriminah Compton HANKINS b 5 Feb. 1814.

B. Richard J. COMPTON b 29 March 1782 Hunterdoon Co., NJ., d 29 Jan. 1852/53 m Mary LYONS


D. Nathan COMPTON b 11 March 1785 Hunterdoon Co., NJ, d 19 July 1857, Clay Co., Ind. m 1) 5 March 1808 Jane HANKINS (1737-1834) dau. of Richard HANKINS (1749-1824) & Rachael LETTS. Richard Hankins was the son of William HANKINS and Mary Evelman. m 2) 23 Feb. 1836 Nancy HATT

Issue: 1. William Hankins COMPTON b 21 Dec 1821 d 1916 m 16 Jun 1844 Emily STEWART
   Issue: a. Rhoda Jane COMPTON 1848-1922 m Joseph Allen WATTS
2. Amanda COMPTON m Richard D. WERT
3. John K. COMPTON m Hannah ?? (based on deeds)
4. Ira S. COMPTON m Martha ?? (based on deeds)


G. Rachel COMPTON b 5Sept. 1790 d 12 June 1866 m 9 Sept. 1810 James HOEL


I. Anna COMPTON b 30 May 1794 Mason Co., Ky. d 15 Oct. 1867 m 1) 3 Aug. 1812 Warren BURDSALL (1792 Delaware-1824 Ark.) m 2) ??? HEATON, Warren Co., OH

Issue: 1. Nathan Compton BURDSALL b 31 Oct. 1814 m Sarah ??
2. Ruth BURDSALL
3. Joanna BURDSALL m Jesse THOMPSON


Issue: 1. Catherine COMPTON m Henry HERDENBROOK
2. Oliver P. COMPTON d in Civil War
3. Orminah (Emma) COMPTON m Lester KENNEDY
4. Sarah COMPTON m James JOHNSON
5. Freeman COMPTON
6. Alvira/Elvira COMPTON
7. Alfred COMPTON b 16 July 1833 m 1854 Nancy Jane LUCKEY, he died in the Mexican War, 1915. He was a carpenter and partner in Compton & Brothers, Hamilton, OH. Nancy d 1922.
   Issue: a. Lester K. COMPTON d 1924
   b. Thomas L. COMPTON
   c. John A. COMPTON
   d. Francis M. COMPTON d 1889
   e. William S. COMPTON d 1898
8. John A. COMPTON, d 31 May 1864, Civil War
9. Spencer P. COMPTON
10. Hannah COMPTON m Josiah BUNTING
11. Hetty COMPTON
   K. Eliza COMPTON b 24 Jan. 1798 d 29 Sept. 1853 m Joseph V. HATT
   L. Oramina COMPTON b 7 March 1800 d 21 Feb. 1836 m James SEWARD, buried Old Compton Cemetery, Mt. Healthy, OH.
   M. Reuben Stout COMPTON b 3 Oct. 1804 Mt. Healthy, OH. d 5 Dec. 1861 m 25 Nov. 1824 Bathsheba LABOYTEAUX (1st cousins). Bathsheba was b 11 June 1807 d 26 Aug. 1892. See LABOYTEAUX.
   Issue: 1. Uriah COMPTON b 6 Jan. 1839 d 18 Feb. 1839
   2. Eliza COMPTON b 18 Nov. 1840 d 25 Dec. 1922 m Dr. William FORBES
      Issue: a. Harry FORBES
      b. Charles FORBES
      c. Mary Estel FORBES b 1896 d 15 Oct. 1989
      d. Jesse FORBES m Arthur FINK
      e. Ethel Mary FORBES b 8 Feb. 1898 d 13 May 1965 m Wilber C. RECKER
   3. Alexander L. COMPTON b 10 July 1846 m ??
      Issue: a. Garfield COMPTON
      b. Shirley COMPTON
      c. Grace COMPTON
   4. Cornelia COMPTON b 30 Jan 1849
   5. Emaline (Emma) COMPTON b 18 June 1837 m Allen CHADWICK
   6. (Rev.) Andrew Jackson COMPTON b 10 April 1834 d 8 April 1917 Tarpon Springs, Fla. m 25 March 1857 Iowa to Jane Amelia HARRIS (1835-1905)
      Issue: a. Charles Sumner COMPTON b 24 Sept. 1860
      b. James Edward COMPTON (1867-1949/50)
      c. Frank Andrew COMPTON b 15 June 1875, Ca. d 15 June 1964, Ca.
         m Margaret NESBIT
      d. Emma COMPTON b 1886
   7. Howard COMPTON b 7 Nov. 1831 d 13 Aug. 1832
   8. Hannah COMPTON b 8 April 1830 d 9 April 1833
   9. Freeman COMPTON b 12 Feb. 1828 d 1 Aug. 1829
   10. Oliver COMPTON b 21 Nov. 1826 d 2 May 1907 m Elizabeth VOORHEES
      Issue: a. Ralph COMPTON
      b. Laura Mills COMPTON b 27 June 1860
      c. Flora Price COMPTON
      d. Alfred R. COMPTON m Emma WOODS
         Issue: aa. Clyde COMPTON m Nina SCOTT
bbb. Mary COMPTON  
ccc. Mildred COMPTON  
ddd. Ollie Marie COMPTON  
eee. Alta May COMPTON  
fff. Edna COMPTON  
e. Eugene Oliver COMPTON m Mary KELLEY  
Issue: aa. Norma Jean COMPTON  
f. Elmer COMPTON m Ruth WATKINS  
Issue: aa. Jack COMPTON  
bb. Marvin COMPTON  

11. Chrystalina COMPTON b 16 Sept. 1825 m Thomas KINNEY

Elias COMPTON\(^5\), Jacob R. Compton’s cousin, b 1788  d 12 Aug. 1864  m 1) Catherine DIE  
m 2) Abasheba HILL, d 1831. Elias was the son of Azariah COMPTON.  

Issue: 1. Enoch Drake COMPTON b 1 Jan. 1814 m Martha McCLELLAND. Issue:  
a. Sara COMPTON  
b. Anna Jane COMPTON m ? STARKREADER  
c. James E. COMPTON  
d. Katherine COMPTON m ? LAEKEN  
e. Wilson M. COMPTON  
f. Charles COMPTON  
g. Frank COMPTON  
2. Samuel COMPTON, died infant  
3. Mary Ann COMPTON, mother Abasheba, m ? WAGNER  
4. Phoebe COMPTON, mother Abasheba, m ? SWARTZ  
5. Joseph COMPTON, mother Abasheba, owned a blacksmith & wagon shop, m  
Sara ??  Issue:  
a. Austin COMPTON  
b. Ida COMPTON  
6. Azariah COMPTON, mother Abasheba, m Alice FLEMING. Issue:  
a. Frank COMPTON  
b. Alice COMPTON m ?? SCOTT  
c. Edward COMPTON  
7. Charles B. COMPTON, mother Abasheba, b 1827  m 1) 1863 Margaret BOGGS,  
d 1871  m 2) Martha HUNT. Issue:  
a. Ella M. COMPTON m Frank ELLIS  
b. Clarence M. COMPTON  
8. Wilson Martindale COMPTON, mother Abasheba, b 27 Feb. 1828 d May 1908  
m 27 Feb. 1855 Elizabeth HUNT, sister of Martha. Issue:  
a. Elias COMPTON b 3 Aug. 1856 m Othella Catherine AUGSPURGER  
b. William Henry COMPTON b 28 June 1859 m 1880 Anna Van DYKE  
c. Charles Rudolph COMPTON b 30 Oct. 1860 m 21 July 1890  
Elizabeth Belle WHITE. Issue:  
aa. Martha Elizabeth COMPTON b 1891 m Kenneth Ian Ross  
bb. Lelia Ann COMPTON b Feb. 1893  
cc. William Campbell COMPTON b July 1894 m Jane SCHIEL  
dd. Marybelle COMPTON b Jan. 1897  

\(^5\)Comptonology Vol. 4, No. 2, Aug. 1947
ee. Charles White COMPTON b Aug. 1898
GRIESMER

COX

I. Andrew COX  b 22 Mar 1761  d 1850 m Rebecca ??
  A. Christine COX  b 18 Sep 1784  d 26 Mar 1873 m Christine JONES  b 22 Sep 1781  d 21
      May 1861
  B. Mary Elizabeth COX  b 1790  d 8 Jan 1878 m 15 May 1809 Solomon EVERSULL  b 15
      Nov 1783  d 3 Dec 1884. See EBERSOLE
  C. John COX  b 27 Apr 1795 Ky  d 5 July 1849 m 21 Feb 1823 Nancy WILLIAMS  b 4 June
      1804  d 11 July 1849
  D. Margaret COX  b 18 Mar 1797  d 15 May 1877 m 10 July 1818 Edward DeSERISY  b 3
      Mar 1790 Paris, France  d 6 Aug 1854, son of Edward DeSerisy
       1. Edward DeSERISY (postmaster College Hill 1853-1876, Justice of Peace 1860)
       2. Lewis DeSERISY
       3. Jackson DeSERISY
       4. Armand DeSERISY
       5. Melagton DeSERISY
  E. Jane COX
  F. Andrew COX, Jr.  m Margaret MAPHET

CRARY⁶

I. McQuarrie CRARY
     m 31 Dec. 1677 Christobel GALLUP
     Issue: 1. Christobel CRARY b Feb. 1679 m Harris Ebenezer PLAINFIELD
            2. Peter CRARY, Jr. bapt. 30 Apr. 1682 m Ann B. CULVER
            3. Margaret CRARY bapt. 20 Aug. 1682 m Ebenezer PIERCE
            4. (Judge) John CRARY II bapt 8 Aug. 1686 d 29 May 1759  m 1) 12 Oct. 1715
               Prudence HAYWARD WHITE (1686-1736), widow of John WHITE
               m 2) Ann SATTERLEE (1692-1754), widow of William SATTERLEE
               Issue: a. John CRARY III b 13 Aug. 1716  d 1806  m 1750 Mary RAYMOND
               Issue: aa. Elizabeth CRARY
               bb. John CRARY IV  b 9 Mar. 1753 Plainfield CT.  d. 1 June 1854
                  Cincinnati, Finney Burying Ground m 1783 Lyme, NH. Phoebe
                  CARY b 25 Aug. 1767 d 1822, dau. of Dr. Samuel
                  CARY and Deliverance GRANT. See CARY.  Issue:
                  aaaa. John CRARY V b 1783, CT. d ca 1843 m 1814 Roxanna
                  BALLARD
                  bbb. Lyman CRARY, Sr. b 11 Nov. 1786 Norwich CT., came to
                     Ohio 1806  d 17 Feb. 1875 College Hill  m 15 Apr. 1816
                     Hannah MILLS b 10 Jul 1794 d 18 Jul 1868 Cin., dau. of
                     Peter B. MILLS. Hannah & Lyman buried Spring Grove
                     Cemetery. Issue:
                     aaaaa. Martha CRARY b 21 Jul 1817 m 9 Mar 1842 Dr.

⁶Source: Ruth Rohrbough, Beverly Dimmick

A-14
George W. PLINKTON
bbbb. Arthur CRARY b 21 Aug. 1819
cccc. Abigail CRARY b 2 Jul 1823 m 2 Jul 1848 Moses Nutt GRAY. See GRAY.
dddd. Milton Whiteside CRARY b 15 Jun 1826 d 7 Dec. 1915, never married
eeee. Lyman CRARY Jr. b 23 Jan. 1829 d 29 Jul 1876 m 17 Sep. 1873 Minerva KAYLOR
ffff. Peter Mills CRARY b 14 Sep. 1831 d 20 Nov. 1920 m 4 Dec. 1878 Mrs. Mary Adaline SMITH
gggg. Caroline CRARY b 22 Feb. 1835 d 21 Mar. 1836
ccc. Benjamin Franklin CRARY b 1792 m Mary McMULLIN
ddd. Samuel CRARY b 15 Nov. 1806 Cincinnati d 18 Apr 1885 m 1) Sophia ? m 2) Magdalena KRAMER
eee. Silas B. CRARY b 1 Aug 1803 Cinn. m Amanda SPENCER
fff. George CRARY b 15 Aug 1815 Cinn. d 28 Feb 1864 m Elizabeth B. TAYLOR
ggg. G. Alonzo CRARY
c. Mary CRARY
dd. William CRARY m Annie DAVIS
ee. James CRARY
b. Elizabeth CRARY m Benedict SATTERLEE
c. Hannah CRARY m Daniel WOODWARD, Jr.
d. Prudence CRARY
e. Ann CRARY
f. Mary CRARY
g. Lucy CRARY, died infant
h. Rachel CRARY m Benjamin SPAULDING
5. William CRARY bapt. 5 Nov 1687 died young
6. Robert CRARY bapt 5 Nov 1690 m Elizabeth ?
7. Hannah or Ann CRARY bpt 17 July 1692 m Nathan B. BUSHNELL

EBERSOLE-EVERSOLE-EVERSULL

I. Christian EBERSOLE, son of Jost (Joseph) EBERSOLE b 1741, PA. d Nov. 1801 m Eva GEPHARDT. Christian married Eva when she was 15 years old. They lived in Hagerstown, MD. and Leesburg,VA. After the Revolutionary War, his name probably changed to EVERSOLE. Tradition has it that he later changed it to EVERSULL, as did his brothers. He died on their way to Cincinnati, and Eva continued and settled in Cincinnati. They had thirteen children, those known are:
A. John EVERSULL b 31 Mar 1760 d 3 Jun 1842 Anderson Twp., OH. m 1) Elizabeth ?? m 2) Rebecca MORRISON, dau. of John & Lydia SILVER, widow of ?? Morrison. This family lived in Anderson Twp.
1. Henry EVERSULL b 22 Dec 1803 d 8 June 1890 m 28 Aug 1842 Hannah FOWLER

7 Information from Harry Starr III
b 29 Mar 1823 d 7 May 1892
2. George W. EVERSULL b 2 Feb 1805 d 30 Sept 1876 m 26 Aug 1830 Dolly Ann
   Elizabeth ROBERTSON b 19 Sept 1814 d 5 Jan 1858. Their son Warner EVERSULL
   m Margaret EVERSULL, dau. of Solomon & Mary Elizabeth Cox EVERSULL
3. John EVERSULL b 1807
4. Margaret EVERSULL
5. Benjamin EVERSULL b 1811
6. Calvin EVERSULL b 1813
7. William EVERSULL b 1815
8. Warner EVERSULL b 1817
9. Benton EVERSULL b 1819

B. Jacob EVERSULL b 29 Feb 1766 d 30 July 1844 m Catherine SMITH b 10 Sept 1771
d 19 July 1849. Issue:
1. Abraham EVERSULL b 5 May 1791 d 24 Feb 1883 m 14 Mar 1815 Elizabeth
   ALLEMONG b 12 Sept 1791 d 29 Aug 1877. Abraham was in the War of 1812.
2. Effie Letitia EVERSULL b 8 Feb 1793 d 17 Feb 1835 m 3 Apr 1811 Dr. William
   JENKINS (1781-1852)
3. Elizabith (Polly) S. EVERSULL b ca 1795 d 1 Oct 1828 m John BLACKBURN
   (1794-1856)
4. Catherine EVERSULL b 27 Feb 1797 d 16 Dec 1882 m Richard AYER (1788-1828) as
   his second wife.
5. Jacob EVERSULL b 7 Apr 1804 d 11 May 1886
6. Bartholomew EVERSULL d. 30 Apr 1866 m Martha Ann ZKNOTT
7. Martha Ann EVERSULL b 9 Oct 1808 d 24 Aug 1900 m Thomas MADDUX
8. Mary EVERSULL, died young

C. Solomon EVERSULL b 15 Nov 1783 d 3 Dec 1884 m 15 May 1809 Mary Elizabeth COX
   b 1790 d 8 Jan 1878, dau. of Andrew & Rebecca COX. See COX. Issue:
1. Eliza A. EVERSULL b 1810 d 19 July 1869
2. John Cox EVERSULL Jr. b 25 Aug 1812 d 12 Dec 1903 m 15 May 1845 Eunice BROWN
   b 6 July 1826 d 24 Nov 1914. See BROWN.
3. Jacob EVERSULL b 1814 d 16 May 1882 m 28 June 1847 Mary Jane BROWN b 1825
d 26 Apr 1902, dau. of Mahlon & Harriet BROWN. Jacob was a boat builder. See
   BROWN.
   a. Margaret Ann EVERSULL 1850-1883
   b. Virginia C. EVERSULL b 29 Nov 1851/53 d 28 July 1937 m Nicholas MADGETT
   c. Eliza C. EVERSULL b 1852
   d. Isaac Martin EVERSULL b 18 June 1854 d 13 Nov 1899 m Mary Josephine RENTZ
   e. Armand DeSirccey (Jake) EVERSULL b 1925 m Elizabeth FLYNN
   f. S. Effie EVERSULL 1861-1862
   g. Mary E. EVERSULL b 30 Jan 1862 d 21 June 1911 m Thomas H. THOMPSON
      d 1914
   h. Eby EVERSULL 1864-1865
   i. Belle I. EVERSULL b 8 Aug 1866 d 22 Feb 1917 m Andrew FLYNN
D. Rebecca EVERSULL b 6 Jan 1816 d 7 Jan 1903
E. Isaac EVERSULL b 10 May 1820 d 30 Apr 1848
F. Margaret A. EVERSULL b 26 Mar 1822 d 17 Nov 1910 m 16 Nov 1859 Warner
   EVERSULL b 6 Sep 1834 d 31 Oct 1902, son of George & Dolly Ann (ROBERTSON)
   EVERSULL. Issue:
   a. Solomon EVERSULL b 15 Feb 1861 d 25 Mar 1931 m 10 Oct 1907 Nancy
POTTENGER  b 13 Dec 1869  d 26 Mar 1958, dau. of John & Lucinda Ann (HUSTON)
POTTENGER
b. Warner S. EVERSSL b 7 Aug 1909  d 16 May 1976 m Ida May LIERLE
G. Mary EVERSSL  1824-1828

EMERSON

I. Col. Lowe EMERSON 1837-1916 m 1866 Maria Elizabeth KNIGHT 1837-1899.
   See SIMPSON. Issue:
   A. Harrison Dexter EMERSON d 1949 m Flora COAN. He was a broker in N.Y.
   B. Ernest Lowe EMERSON 1870-1871
   C. Guy William EMERSON 1874-1889. Killed by lightening.
   D. Laura E. EMERSON d 4 MARCH 1947, 71 years, m Herbert Pinkerton AIKEN.
      See AIKEN.
   E. Lowe Knight EMERSON 1876-1911 m Barbara COAN, sister of Flora. Issue:
      a. Elizabeth EMERSON
      b. Harriet B. EMERSON
      c. Laura EMERSON m Dr. William RUSSELL

GARD

Gershom GARD b 1738 Morristown N.J., d Dec. 28, 1806, was the son of Jeremiah GARD, Rev. War soldier. Jeremiah was born 1717 Stonington, Conn., d July 19 1783 Morriston NJ. He married Elizabeth Johnson and had 15 children. Elizabeth was b c 1716, d 1776 and was buried in Morrisontown, NJ.

Gershom GARD, also a Rev. War soldier m Phebe HUNTINGTON Jan. 18, 1758. Her grandfather was Samuel Huntington (m Sarah ?). Samuel's issue was: Thomas, Hanna, Samuel (Jr. b 1710), Simeon (b 1696 Newark NJ m Thankful ?, he died c 1770) Simeon's issue: John, Samuel, Eunice, Phebe - b 1731 NJ, d 1812 Hamilton Co. OH.

Issue of Phebe and Gershom GARD:
1. Job GARD b 1763 - 1829 m Elizabeth MAGEE
2. Seth GARD b March 14 1775, N.J., d July 25, 1845, Gards Point, Wabash Co., Ill. m Mary BROWN 7-29-1796 b 14 Dec 1774 d 1856. Issue:
   a. Susan GARD b 5 Dec 1797 m 1815 Jarvis FORDYCE
   b. Ruth G. GARD b 19 Jun 1800 d 10 Nov 1848 m 14 Nov 1816 Ephraim ARMSTRONG
   c. Amerila GARD b 18 Jun 1802 d 1867 m Charles Wilson McNAIR 1795-1855
   d. Benjamin Franklin GARD b 3 Apr 1805 d 17 Aug 1860 m 1) Mary BRATTON 1806-1855 m 2) ?? KITCHEN
   e. Resin GARD b 5 May 1807 (twins) d Apr 1858 m Sarah MILS
   f. Justus GARD b 5 May 1807 (twins) d 25 Feb 1870 m 19 Oct 1828 Anna OMAN
   g. Anna Eaton GARD b 27 Apr 1809 m ?? EATON
   h. Ann Phebe GARD b 15 Sept 1809 m Joseph A. COMPTON. See COMPTON.
      i. Hiram GARD b 28 Jul 1814 m Louise ??
      j. Joseph GARD b 3 Oct 1816
3. Eunice GARD b 15 Feb 1771 - Sept. 11, 1847 m 10 Feb 1791 Capt. Ephraim G. BROWN. See BROWN.
   a. Juliana BROWN8 b ca 1803 m Luther WETHERBY/WITHERBY (1779-1835). See

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8Source: Juanita Brown

A-17
WITHERBY.
aa. Eunice WETHERBY m ?? VON SKOYLOE
bb. Susan WETHERBY m 1846 Ralph PENDER
cc. Warren Danforth WETHERBY m Sara GOSHORN
dd. Lucy WETHERBY m Patrick GROGAN
ee. Francis WETHERBY
ff. Mahlon WETHERBY
gg. Jackson WETHERBY
hh. Thomas Branch WETHERBY
ii. Phoebe WETHERBY
b. Mahlon BROWN m Harriet BROWN
c. Cyrus BROWN m Nancy ROGERS
d. Walter BROWN
e. Asa BROWN b 17 Apr 1809 d 20 Nov. 1861
f. Lucinda BROWN b 21 June 1805 d 16 July 1849 m 1822 James GILKEY (1807-1895)
g. Phoebe BROWN
h. Effania BROWN m John MAPLE
i. Elizabeth BROWN m Jesse B. STEPHENS
j. Eunice BROWN m 18 Aug 1832 Vesper NICHOLS
k. Caroline BROWN d 16 July 1849 m ?? VAN LAYAUK

4. Hannah GARD b 1773 m (Judge) Squire GIBB 6-19-1797.
5. Daniel GARD b 1761 d July 1790 m Hannah MERRICK 1-26-1783
6. Elizabeh GARD b 1759 m Robert WHALEN/WHEELAN
7. Ruth Huntington GARD b 2-15-1764 d 1-15-1813 (1819?) m March 10, 1785
   Peter Perrine LEE
8. Jemima GARD b 1769 d June 12 1850 m Peter KEEN⁹ Sept. 10, 1789, some sources list her b 1760, d 1844 at age 84.
   a. Angeline KEEN b 29 Dec 1791 m 19 Jan 1815 James POOL, Sr.
   b. Daniel KEEN b 1794 d 13 Aug 1875 m 14 Dec 1815 Mary COMPTON. See COMPTON.
   c. Hannah KEEN
d. Dennis KEEN b 25 Dec 1798 d 9 Oct 1854 m Margaret COMPTON, dau. of Levi COMPTON
e. Ira KEEN b 23 Nov 1800 d 30 Aug 1887 m 23 Nov 1800 Eleanor JORDAN
   f. Shulamite KEEN b 21 Dec 1802 d 8 Mar 1889 m Caleb JORDAN
g. Edwin KEEN
h. Asenath KEEN

9. Betsy (Tibba) GARD b 1767 m Aaron WAGGONER. See WAGGONER.

Other Gards were in the area. Gershom’s nephew Alexander, son of Capt. Daniel Gard, came with Gershom to North Bend, Oh. and stayed in the Delhi area, spelling their name as Guard. Gershom’s brother Ephraim (1776-1863) settled in Butler Co. Gershom’s cousin Benjamin (son of Capt. Jacob Gard, son of Daniel Gard, brother to Jeremiah Gard) married in Butler Co. There was also another Benjamin Gard in Butler Co.

Ephraim GARD¹⁰ b 1 Mar 1776, Pa. d 21 Nov 1863 Ill. m Susannah SUTTON, d 10 Aug 1851, Ill. He

⁹ Source: Paul Holsen and Margaret B. Corbet
was Captain of a company from Butler Co. in the War of 1812. The family moved from Pennsylvania to Butler Co., Oh. then to Fayette Co., Indiana and finally to Sangamon Co., Ill.

1. Keziah GARD b 1801 OH m John McDOWELL
2. Maria GARD b 1803 OH m Abijiah STOUT. Abijiah died in Calif. leaving his widow and nine children in Butler County, OH.
3. Rebecca GARD b 1805 m Joseph HAMILTON, moved to Indiana and then to Little Rock, Ark.
4. Jacob GARD b 23 Sep 1806, Butler Co. m 10 Mar 1835 Jane CAMPBELL
5. James L., GARD b 22 Oct 1808 m 30 Oct 1829, Ind. to Sarah SUTTON
6. John S. GARD m Mary ELLIS
7. Harrison GARD m Serena COOK, moved to Missouri
8. Jeremiah GARD m Dicey A. SMITH, moved to Little Rock, Ark.
9. Ephraim GARD m Pauline PARR, moved to Missouri
10. Lucinda GARD b 7 Jan 1821 m 1854 Solomon MILLER
11. David GARD m Lydia HOCKENBERRY. David and his son Albert were killed 21 June 1850 when lightning struck the tree they were taking refuge under.

Benjamin GARD d b 1760 m Lucy HAWK. Benjamin was a private in the War of 1812 and settled in Butler Co., OH. The following MAY be their children.

1. Charity GARD m 27 Sep 1810 John McKINSTRY
2. Daniel GARD m 25 Dec 1809 Elizabeth SUTTON
3. Elizabeth GARD m 6 Sep 1807 Joseph WORTH
4. Ezekiel GARD m 1 Jan 1811 Elizabeth GILL. Eziekiel built the Gard Tavern in 1835 at the intersection of West Chester and Cincinnati-Dayton Roads. The tavern served as a coach stop and jail.
5. Rebecca GARD m 29 Mar 1808 Robert CRANE
6. Sally GARD m 30 Nov 1805 Robert CRANE
7. William GARD m 18 Sep 1806 Sarah CAMPBELL

Benjamin GARD¹¹, cousin to Gershom GARD

I Capt. Daniel GARD 1707-1777 m 1) ?? m 2) Elizabeth DAVIS

A. Capt. Jacob GARD 1748-1810 m Sarah HATHAWAY
      m 25 Nov 1813 Butler Co., OH Eliza ADAMS b 30 Jun 1793. All children born in Indiana. Issue:
      a. Thomas GARD b 1814
      b. Jane GARD b 1814
      c. Jacob GARD b 1816
      d. Phebe GARD b 4 Jul 1820
      e. Anna GARD b 1821
      f. Hannah GARD b 1824
      g. Benjamin GARD b 1827
      h. Squire GARD b 1828
      i. Aaron GARD b 18 Dec 1832 d 12 Dec 1912 m 18 Mar 1858 Catherine TOLER
      j. Eliza GARD b 1832
      k. John GARD b 1836

¹⁰Source: Family History and Genealogy Lines of William Hugh Gard Family, 1965
¹¹Source: Bob Campbell
1. Rebecca GARD  b 1838  m. ?? GARD  b 24 Sep 1822

GIFFIN\textsuperscript{12}

I. William GIFFIN b ca 1720-30 Farlagh, Londonberry, Ireland d Columbia, Hamilton Co., OH. married Hannah WILSON. Issue:
A. James GIFFIN d 1809 m 2) Margaret (Carson) McMAHON. James buried in LaBoyteaux-Cary Cemetery. Issue:
   1. Robert C. GIFFIN b 20 June 1799 d 25 Jan 1876 m Sarah TAYLOR
d   Feb. 3, 1872 71yrs. 7mos. 10da. Both buried in Jessup Cemetery
   Issue: a. William GIFFIN m ??
       Issue: aa. Clara GIFFIN m Harvey ASTON
2. James GIFFIN, Jr. b 1800 m Mary ??
3. Rebecca GIFFIN b 1803 m John CAMPBELL.
4. Hannah GIFFIN 1804-1870 m Samuel John POUDER (1804-1870) son of John and
   Elizabeth  (Kniselley) Poudre. Samuel’s brother Lemuel m Mary ASTON.
   Issue: a. Elizabeth POUDER 1830-1859 m Wm. Boliver COLLIER
   b. John POUDER 1831-1864 died in Civil War
   c. George POUDER 1835-1920 m Harriet GIFFIN 1849-1893
      aa. Harvey Wilson POUDER 1887-1973 m Corinne Gardner MENEFEE
   d. Harriet POUDER 1841-1931 m Charles WEST, Jr.
   e. Mary Jane POUDER 1845-1924 m Wm. B. COLLIER, her widower brother-in-
      law  m 2) Alonzo SMITH
   f. Samuel POUDER 1833-1834
   g. Margaret POUDER 1837-1848
   h. Mary POUDER 1839-1844
5. John GIFFIN b 1809 m Mary Stitz CARTER
6. Maria GIFFIN m Press SMITH
B. Robert GIFFIN, killed by Indians in Ohio
C. John GIFFIN b ca 1775 Pa., moved to Groesbeck and settled in Oxford, Butler Co., OH.
   m Elizabeth CARSON. Issue:
   1. Wilson GIFFIN b 30 June 1814 Groesbeck, OH d 19 Dec.1893, CA  m Mary Ann
      CURRAN  (1826-1904) Issue:
      a. William GIFFIN m Mary ELLEN BENDER
      b. Robert GIFFIN, Jr.
      c. John Taylor GIFFIN m Mary TAYLOR
      d. Mary Jane GIFFIN
      e. James GIFFIN
      f. Jeremiah GIFFIN
      g. Harriet GIFFIN m George POUDER 1835-1920
2. Ambrose GIFFIN
D. William GIFFIN, Jr.
E. Wilson GIFFIN m Mary NIXON
F. Jacob GIFFIN
G .Isaac GIFFIN
H. Ann GIFFIN m James McCLELLAND
I. Elizabeth GIFFIN m ?? CUMBERING

\textsuperscript{12}Sources: Ruth J. Wells, Ruth C. Wright, Mrs. Jean G. Glass

A-20
L. ?Paul GIFFIN, killed by Indians, Ohio

GRAY

I. David GRAY m Typhenia NUTT b 24 Jan 1778 d 15 May 1867, dau. of Adam & Typhenia NUTT

A. Moses Nutt GRAY d 9 July 1887 m 2 July 1848 Abigail CRARY, b 2 July 1823, , dau. of Lyman CRARY and Hannah MILLS. See CRARY. Issue:
   1. Abbie GRAY b 1866 d 3 Mar 1946
   2. Adam GRAY b 27 May 1849 d 9 Apr 1919 m Mary TREE b 26 Dec 1850 d 3 Oct 1933
      a. Joseph Lambert GRAY b 1882 d 14 Feb 1924
      b. Robert Adam GRAY b 9 Aug 1883 d 7 Apr 1947 m Susan BURNET
   3. William S. GRAY b 1864 d 8 Jan 1905
   4. Elizabeth GRAY m Ward ROBINSON
   5. Milton GRAY

B. David GRAY b 1820 d 22 Feb 1903 m 1) Mary Eleanor ?? b 24 Jan 1825 d 25 Apr 1859 m 2) 1860 Amanda (Mandy) JESSUP 1832-1911. See JESSUP. All children by first wife. Issue:
   1. Charles Freeman GRAY 1857-1857
   2. David Augustus GRAY b 1846-1864
   3. Mary E. GRAY b 1848 d 1932
   4. William GRAY 1844-1864
   5. Typhenia GRAY 1845

C. Charlotte GRAY b 1806 d 22 July 1869

Do not know how James Gray fits, possibly a brother of Moses:

James B. GRAY m Maria WHITEHEAD (information from Spring Grove Cemetery records)
   1. Walter James GRAY b 17 Apr 1851 d 15 Dec 1933 m Johanna CASEY b 2 June 1858 d 18 Dec 1943. Issue:
      a. Addie Marie GRAY 1887-1949
      b. Daniel G. GRAY b 6 Dec 1895 d 25 Dec 1942 m Bertha GULLEMAN
      c. Albert J. GRAY b 17 Nov 1885 d 25 June 1971
      d. Alice GRAY
      e. Harry A. GRAY b 7 June 1890 d 11 Nov 1956 m Edith May KAMMER

HANKINS

I. William HANKINS b ca 1709 m Mary EVELMAN b ca 1712 d ca 1794

A. Richard HANKINS b 18 Dec 1749, Wilkes, NC. d 29 Aug. 1824 m Rachel LETTS
   Issue: 1. Sarah (Sally) HANKINS b 20 Feb. 1771 d 17 Dec 1825 m 6 May 1790. Isaac SPARKS b 24 Nov 1768, Penn. d 21 Aug 1834. See SPARKS.
   Issue: a. Elizabeth SPARKS b 22 Apr 1793, PA. d 9 Dec 1825 m James McCASH b 26 Aug 1788 d 22 Oct 1871, son of David Lenoir McCASH & Margaret EWING. See SPARKS.
   Issue: aa. Isaac Sparks McCASH b 28 Apr 1819 d 5 Mar 1911 m Martha

13Information from Mr. & Mrs. McNeil

A-21
Ann VANZANDT, dau. of Reuben VANZANDT & Eliza SEWARD. See VAN ZANDT.

bb. Elizabeth McCASH b 1825
c. Rhoda McCASH d 1 Nov 1825, 9 yrs. old

2. William HANKINS b 21 April 1776 d 18 Sept. 1853 m Sarah COMPTON
   b 4 Feb. 1781 Hunterdon Co., NJ   d 8 Oct. 1853. See COMPTON.
   Issue: a. Polly HANKINS, d 1 Aug. 1809 at 11 months
   b. Jacob Compton HANKINS d 26 Dec. 1827
   c. John Letts HANKINS b 30 Dec 1818 m 14 Feb. 1838 Caroline LABOYTEAUX , b 6 Sept. 1819 d 14 May, 1847. See LABOYTEAUX.
   Issue: aa. Lucindy HANKINS b 2 March 1839
          bb. William HANKINS b 12 April 1841
          cc. John L. HANKINS b 8 Sept. 1843
          dd. Delia HANKINS b 11 July 1846
          ee. Angeline HANKINS b 3 July 1848
          ff. Sarah Jane HANKINS b 26 Aug. 1851
          gg. Caroline HANKINS 1 Oct. 1855
          h h. Albert HANKINS b 18 March 1856
          ii. Theodore HANKINS b 18 March 1858
          jj. Alexander HANKINS b 8 Jan. 1860
   d. Orriminah Compton HANKINS b 5 Feb. 1814

3. Elizabeth HANKINS b 1784 d 12 May 1861  m 3 Jan. 1802 Israel BROWN,
   B 20 July 1778 d 24 May 1852. See BROWN.

4. Jane HANKINS b 23 July 1787, NJ d 28 July 1834 m 5 Mar 1808 Nathan
   COMPTON, b 11 Mar 1785 d 19 July 1857. See COMPTON.
   Issue:  a. William Hankins COMPTON b 21 Dec. 1821 d 1916 m 16 June 1844
          Emily STEWARD. Issue:
             aa. Rhoda Jane COMPTON 1848-1922 m Joseph Allen WATTS
             b. Amanda COMPTON m Richard D. WERT
             c. John K. COMPTON m Hannah ?? (based on property records)
             d. Ira S. COMPTON m Martha ??    (based pm property records)

5. Rachel HANKINS b 5 Sept. 1790 d 1866 m Samuel HOEL

6. Richard HANKINS, Jr. b 9 April 1801 d 6 Oct. 1853

B. John HANKINS

Hankins Bible Records

Jacob Compton was born in the 21 day of May in the yere of our Lord one thousen seven hundrid and sixty.
Margret Compton was born the 9 day of February in the yere of our Lord one thousen seven Hundred and sixtey fore.
William Hankins was born in the Aprile the 21 the year 1777.
Sary Hankins was born in the year 1773.
Oriminah Compton Hankins was born February the fif day of our Lord eighteen hundred and fourteen.
John Letts Hankins was born December theay thirtyeth day of in the yeare of hour Lord one thousand

14Source: Mrs. Ruth J. Wells, Fred Braun
eight teen hundred and eighteen 1818
Jacob Compton Hankins dyed the twenty-sixth day of December in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and twenty seven.

**HENSHAW**

I. George L. HENSHAW m Sarah REVALL
A. Edward HENSHAW 1764-1810 m 1789 Elizabeth LUTMAN 1768-1822
   1. Edward HENSHAW 1760-1760
   2. Sarah HENSHAW 1762-1763
   3. Elizabeth HENSHAW 1770-1774
   4. Sarah Ann HENSHAW b 1801
5. George HENSHAW 1805-1881 m 1823 Ann OLDENBERG d 1883
   a. Henry HENSHAW 1839 - died 30 Nov. 1902
   b. Sarah HENSHAW b 1841 m 14 Nov. 1894 Henry S. BOWMAN
      aa. Harry Kemp BOWMAN m Mattie LUDLOW. See CARY.
         aaa. Wanda LUDLOW
      bb. Frank BOWMAN m Mary ANDERSON, her sister Virginia ANDERSON m Albert UPSON
      cc. James Churchill BOWMAN m Ethel Seymour PIERSON b 19 July 1877, daughter
           of Joshua Pierson and Lillie Edgerton Goodman
      dd. Georgia BOWMAN m William DUNBAR, son of William Dunbar and Carrie
           Knight. See EMERSON.
           aaa. William DUNBAR
              bbb. Ruth DUNBAR m Byron SCHONWALD
                 aaaa. Ruth Ann SCHONWALD m James IBOLD
                 bbbb. Helen SCHONWALD m Robert APGAR
            ccc. Cornelius DUNBAR
      e. Edward HENSHAW 1828- d 17 July 1902 m 1860 Mary KNIGHT 1841-1933. Her
         sister Elizabeth KNIGHT m Richard G. Le BLOND. See EMERSON.
         aa. George HENSHAW 1861-1930 m Emma MILLER
            aaaa. Edward HENSHAW m Charlotte ANKSMAN
            baaa. George Warner HENSHAW
            cbbb. Roger Miller HENSHAW
         bb. Eliza ‘Lida’ HENSHAW 1863-1934
            ccc. Edward HENSHAW 1865-1946 m Ellen JOHNSON. Her sister Mary JOHNSON
                m Rev. John Stanton ELY, her other sister, Lucy JOHNSON m Lewis
                CROSLEY. Lucy & Lewis Crosley had Charlotte Crosley who m Bud RUNCK,
                parents of Reno Runck, and Ellen Crosley m William McCLURE. Issue:
                aaaa. Lewis HENSHAW b 1892 m Dorothy CUMMINGS 1904-1996. Issue:
                   aaaa. (Dr.) Edgar Cummings HENSHAW 1929-1992
                      bbbb. Lewis Johnson HENSHAW 1933-1959
                     cccc. Stanley Knight HENSHAW 1938
                dd. Mary ‘Mano’ HENSHAW 1868-1962 m Sydney CARTER
               ee. Percy J. HENSHAW 1870-1942
              ff. Richard HENSHAW 1872-1938, engineer & architect
                 gg. Stanley Knight HENSHAW 1875-1953 m Alice Maybelle BARROWS

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15Source: Mrs. Dorothy Henshaw
ff. Alice Caroline HENSHAW 1877-1955 m Frederick WAGSTAFF
gg. (Col.) Albert Melville HENSHAW 1879-1956 m Nancy Stanton ELY
aaa. Hugh HENSHAW m Betrice SCHMIDT
bbb. Mary Kathleen HENSHAW m Tom BIRCH
hh. Ellen Ann (Nell) HENSHAW 1881-1978
d. Ann HENSHAW 1830-1907 m Gibson W. HARRIS
e. George HENSHAW b 1832 m Alice ??.
f. Samuel HENSHAW b 1835
g. Martha HENSHAW b 1837
h. William HENSHAW 1843-1843
i. William HENSHAW b 1846
j. Amelia HENSHAW 1803-1805

HOWARD

I. Solomon HOWARD (b 2-12-1761 d 10-31-1834) m 11-8-1783 Anna CARY (b May 5, 1765 d 1854). See CARY. Issue:
A. Cyrus HOWARD, b 7-4-1785 m 12-12-1810 in Fentonville, New York, Lucy Ann FENTON (b 1800) who was the daughter of the governor of New York. Had 14 children.
Issue: 1. Roswell Fenton HOWARD, first child born in College Hill, 1814
   2. Anna Cary HOWARD b 11-13-1820 d 6-20-1836
   3. George HOWARD b 1824
   4. Benjamin F. HOWARD b 1826
   5. Stephen Fenton HOWARD b 1828
   6. Cyrus HOWARD b 1830
   7. Lucy HOWARD b 1840
   8. Solomon HOWARD, president of Ohio University
   9. Caroline HOWARD

B. Solomon HOWARD, Jr. b 5-30-1788
C. George HOWARD b 4-10-1791 d 7-21-1838 m Sally ??, d 1833
D. Anna Maria HOWARD, b 9-27-1809 d 8-4-1887 Jeffersonville, Clark Co., IN. Moved from Greenfield OH. to Jeffersonville 1873, m 1-15-1827 Albert Gallatin ARNOLD b 4-25-1802 d 12-6-1880, moved to Jeffersonville, IN. in 1873. He was the son of Jacob ARNOLD & Sarah KIPP. Issue:
   1. Alfred Bartlett ARNOLD b 2-7-1828 d 7-13-1892 m Debbie A. BARD/BAIRD
      Issue: Carrie Delia ARNOLD m George Bartlett FERRIER
   2. William ARNOLD 1830-1831
   3. George ARNOLD 1831-1833
   4. Isaac ARNOLD 1833-1834
   5. Esick ARNOLD 1834-1873 m Martha COLEMAN. Esick lost a leg in the Civil War
   6. Caleb ARNOLD b 1836 m ??
   7. Sarah F. ARNOLD 1839-1839
   8. Joseph ARNOLD 1840-1862
   9. Lemuel ARNOLD 1842-1843
  10. Alice F. ARNOLD 1844-1912 m John A. PORTER
  11. Marie L. ARNOLD 1846-1846
  12. Alanson G. ARNOLD 1849-1849 (named for Alanson Grant)

16Source: Ruth S. Cummins

A-24
13. Anna M. ARNOLD 1851-1851  
14. Sylvia M. ARNOLD 1852-1923 m William FRENCH  
15. Florence G. ARNOLD 1854-1886 m John W. COOPER  
16. ?? Anna H. ARNOLD  
E. Sara Ann HOWARD m Josiah GRANT  
F. Amelia HOWARD m William C. HOAGLAND. He m 2) Miranda ?  

Jacob ARNOLD (1771-1816/17) m ca 1790 Sarah KIPP  
Issue: 1. Albert G. ARNOLD  
2. Cyrus ARNOLD, buried in Gard Cemetery, age 17  
3. William ARNOLD m 1818 Catherine SLOOP  
4. Son  
5. Susan E. ARNOLD m 1833 Joseph T. CARR  
6. Daughter  

HUSTON17  

Issue:  
A. Paul HUSTON b 18 Sept 1767 m Jean CHARTERS b Glasgow, Scotland 14 Dec 1771  
Issue:  
1. William HUSTON m ??  
   a. Paul S. HUSTON 1823-1848  
   b. Ann Elizabeth HUSTON  
2. Mary HUSTON  
3. John HUSTON  
4. Paul HUSTON  
5. John HUSTON  
6. Jennet HUSTON m Thomas BURNS.  
   Issue:  
   a. Mary Jane BURNS m Leander DAVIS  
7. Samuel HUSTON m ??  
   a. James Steward HUSTON, distiller m ??  
      aa. Andrew HUSTON  
      bb. James HUSTON  
8. Martha HUSTON  
9. Nancy HUSTON  
10. James HUSTON  
   a. James HUSTON 1811-1878 m Martha CONE m 2) Mary MORRIS  
      aa. Paul Andrew Jackson HUSTON m 1859 Mary BEVIS  
11. Elizabeth HUSTON  
B. Samuel HUSTON  
C. David HUSTON  

JESSUP18  

17Ford’s History of Hamilton County, Ohio, 1888  
18Source: Ruth J. Wells
I. John JESSUP m Eliz. ??, Long Island N.Y. were farmers and whalers. Issue:
A. Henry JESSUP
B. Isaac JESSUP b 10-12-1673 d 1753 Noyaok, Long Island, N.Y. m Abigail ?? N.Y.
   Issue: 1. John JESSUP b 1698 m Phebe ?
   2. Nathaniel JESSUP bc 1698 m Phebe HAVEN, 1736-1816
   3. Abigail JESSUP
   4. Lewis JESSUP d 1759
   5. Stephen JESSUP 1710 d 9-11-1764 lived in Cumberland Co., NJ m Mary DARE,
      daughter of Wm. DARE II. Issue:
      a. Sarah (Sara) JESSUP
      b. Daniel JESSUP 1748 - 1/19/1772
      c. Abigail JESSUP m ?? DAVIS, d. Rev. War, Valley Forge. Issue:
         aa. Abigail DAVIS m Bernard GALLEGHER d 1814. Issue:
            aaa. Wm. Davis GALLEGHER
         d. John J. JESSUP 1730 - 1804 m 7-14-1771 Judith HALL b 1750 d June 1825,
            75 yrs, Gard Cem., d/o Benjamin HALL. John J. may be buried in Gard Cem. He
            served in Rev. War. Issue:
               aa. Rachel JESSUP b 9-7-1877 d 1-15-1863, 75 yrs m 1805 Cary B. JOHNSON
                  Sept 12, 1805. He d 2-16-1866, 85 yrs. Issue:
                     aaa. Drusilla JOHNSON 1807-1849 m Samuel WESTON
                     bbb. Jemima JOHNSON 1810-1831 m 1830 Isaac WESTON, brother of
                        Samuel
                     ccc. Jane JOHNSON 1813-1840 m 1832 George W. RICE
                     ddd. Abner JOHNSON 1816-1846 m Mary C. MORGAN
                     eee. Sarah A. JOHNSON 1819 m 1841 Joseph E. MUNGER
                     fff. Hampton JOHNSON 1824-1869 m Harriet FREEMAN
                     ggg. Cary B. JOHNSON, Jr. b 1832 m 1859 Sarah L. JACKSON, daughter
                        of Joseph & Mary (RIDDLE) JACKSON, dau. of John RIDDLE
                        hhh. John JOHNSON d infant
               iii. Augusta L. JOHNSON 1828-1831
               bb. Daniel JESSUP 1792-1843 m 1814 Anne (Nancy) SEWARD, d 1866. Dan
                  served & wounded in War of 1812, had a farm & orchard. Issue:
                     aaa. John JESSUP 1814-1879 m 1840 Mary YOUNG
                     bbb. Elsey JESSUP 1816-1917 m 1836 Jesse CORLISS
                     ccc. Irwin LESSUP 1818-1874 m 1847 Elizabeth TAYLER
                     ddd. Abiezer Miles JESSUP b 6-26-1820 near Mt. Healthy d 7-25-1907 m
                        12-18-1845 Carolyn SHARP b 3-11-1826 d 3-21-1910, family moved in
                        1832 to Scipie, IN. Issue:
                           aaaa. Edward Miles JESSUP b 6-22-1861 d 10-26-1934
                           bbbb. Libbie Ann JESSUP b 7-10-1846 d 1934
                           cccc. Wm. F. JESSUP b 1-21-1856 d 11-24-1912
                           dddd. Flora Veola JESSUP b 5-22-1859
                           eeee. Harmon S. JESSUP b 8-27-1864
                           ffff. Lydia Jane JESSUP 1851-1856
                           eeee. Nancy JESSUP b 1823
                              fff. Sarah Ann JESSUP b 1827 m 1847 Temple WINDLE
                              ggg. Angelette JESSUP 1832-1914 m 1858 Lymon GOULD
                              hhhh. Veola Jane JESSUP 1834-1925 m 1855 John GRANT

A-26
iii. Oliver JESSUP 1819-1906
cc. David April JESSUP 1795-1875 (1867?) m 1814 Elizabeth SMITH b 1798 N.H., d 12-28-1851 55 yrs. married by Wm. Cary, J.P. Issue:
   aaaa. Alvin L. JESSUP b 9-9-1858 d 4-15-1950 Denver, Col. m 2-6-1896 Lou Elva MOORE
   bbbb. Edward JESSUP b 1850
   cccc. Lewis JESSUP b 1852
dddd. Freeman JESSUP1855-1868
   eeee. Kenton JESSUP1862-1855
bb. Andrew Jackson JESSUP b 1829- never married
cc. Sarah JESSUP 1833-1916 - never married
dd. Mary JESSUP b 1822 m 6-6-1843 Samuel VALENTINE
eee. Louisa JESSUP m 10-4-1838 David WILLIAMS
fff. Edith JESSUP m 10-29-1810 Gideon JOHNSON
ggg. E. H. JESSUP m 9-12-1837 Charlotte RANDALL
dd. Phoebe JESSUP 1793-1865 m 10-27-1810 Samuel JOHNSON, Sr. Issue:
   aaa. John JOHNSON
   bbb. Abigail JOHNSON,
   ccc. James JOHNSON
ddd. Samuel JOHNSON
ee. Dario JOHNSON
ee. Lydia JESSUP b 9-22-1825 d 12-12-1901 m 1846 Firman LABOTAYEUX b 1-29-1823 d 10-30-1890. See LABOTAYEUX. Issue:
   aaa. Frank LABOTAYEUX
   bbb. Louis LABOTAYEUX
   ccc. Flora LABOTAYEUX
ff. Stephen JESSUP bap. 6-6-1772 d 1832 m 1) ? Rachel WHITE 12-9-1795 Salem Co. N.J. m 2) ? ? m 3) Marcy (Mercy) (STOUT) VAN ZANDT 1777-1868, dau. of Benijah & Eliz. STOUT. Marcy m 1) Henry VAN ZANDT. See VAN ZANDT. Issue:
   aaa. Elizabeth (Bets) JESSUP b 11-13-1796 d 7-30-1835 m 1-13-1814 Robert CARY. See CARY. Issue:
      aaaa. Alice CARY b 4-26-1820 d 2-12-1871
      bbbb. Phoebe CARY b 4-4-1824 d 7-31-1871
      cccc. Susan CARY b 5-1-1816 m Alexander SWIFT
dddd. Elmina CARY 1831-1862 m Alexander SWIFT, after Susan's death
ee. Asa CARY b 5-5-1822 d 1-23-1894 m Leah H. WOODRUFF
ffff. Rowena CARY b 10-18-1814 d 1868 m Isaac B. CARNABAN
gggg. Rhoda CARY 1818-1833
hhhh. Lucy CARY, died infant
iiii. Warren CARY b 10-16-1826 m 1) Martha A. ?? m 2) 11-7-1878 m 3) Emma TREMPER. Issue:
      aaaaa. Robert CARY
      bbbbb. Alexander S. CARY 1851-1866
bb. Lydia JESSUP (1835-1901) m 5-16-1836 Stephen H. VANSCOYSOCC
ccc. Rachel JESSUP (Marcy mother) m Stephen AYERS
ddd. James JESSUP m 4-15-1844 Nancy COLLISON
ee. Israel JESSUP (1810-1845) m 3-23-1837 Matilda BRECOURT. She m 2)
John Jessup MILES, cousin to Israel JESSUP Issue:

aaa. Rhoda Ann JESSUP 1844-1929 m James Andrew LOWREY

bbb. Mary JESSUP b 1844, twin to Rhoda

ccc. Jerome B. JESSUP 1839-1862 d Civil War

fff. Isaac JESSUP m 1820 Abigail SNODGRASS. Issue:

aaa. Jay JESSUP

bbb. Abby JESSUP

ccc. Elizabeth E. JESSUP

ddd. Israel JESSUP

eeee. Clinton JESSUP

ggg. Rhoda JESSUP m ?? BUTLER

hhh. Firman JESSUP b 1824 d 2-8--1868 m ? went to St. Louis, Mercy mother

iii. Mercy VAN ZANDT m 1825 Thomas Branch WITHERBY, daughter of Mercy from 1st marriage, See VAN ZANDT, WITHERBY.

gg. John JESSUP, Jr. b 3-16-1775 Cumberland Co., N.J.

hh. Judith JESSUP b 3-16-1775 d 9-10-1839 m 1796 Abiezer MILES, Brush Valley, Northumberland Co. Pa. b 12-2-1766 d 9-7-1832. Issue:

aaa. John Jessup MILES b 1801 m 1) Margaret SKILLMAN m 2) Matilda Brecourt JESSUP

bbb. Margaret MILES

ccc. Israel MILES

ddd. John B. MILES

eee. Ella MILES

t. Rachel JESSUP bap. 1-10- 1773 d 1-5-1816 buried Gard Cem., may have been named Lydia Rachel.

e. Isaac JESSUP 1743 - 1806 m 9-6-1774 N. J., (Nancy) Anne ROBINSON, d/o John ROBINSON (d 1755). Isaac served Rev. War., came to Hamilton Co. 1801. Had 160 acre farm in Green Twp. In 1817 the farm was sold & some of their children moved to Switzerland Co., Ind. Isaac may be buried in Gard Cem. Issue:

aaa. Laurania JESSUP b 3-7-1775 d 2-8-1799 m 9-26-1797 John JAGGERS

bbb. Hannah JESSUP (d Ind.) m John CARPENTER

ccc. Abigail JESSUP (d Ind., Switzerland Co. at age 88. Born Deerfield, NJ) m ?? HILL

dd. Lydia JESSUP m ??, d Ind.

ee. Daniel JESSUP b 9-7-1780 d 10-12-1866 (Indian Dan) m before 1813 Nancy STEWART. Issue:

aaa. George Washington JESSUP b 12-1-1815 d 4-1-1886 m 12-28-1841 Julianna (Julia Ann) ASTON, b 2-4-1819 d 8-7-1886, foster children:

Charlotte UNDERWOOD who was a niece of Julia & who m Thomas Owen ASTON on 11-5-1878; Harriet HOWARD

bbb. Amanda M. JESSUP 1832-1911 m 1860 David GRAY 1819-1903. See GRAY.

ccc. John JESSUP

ddd. Isaac JESSUP 1814-1885 m Charity BANNING daughter of Asa BANNING. Issue:

aaa. Eli JESSUP b 1848 m 1) Sarah Louise PUTERBAUGH m 2) 1886 Margaret P. MALCY

bbb. George Washington JESSUP 1852-1926 m Almaretta SILVERS

cccc. Martha Jane JESSUP 1850-1933 m Moses WALL
dddd. Henry JESSUP 1863-1944 m Leulla ROBINSON
eeee. Amanda JESSUP b 11-12-1846 m 10-8-1870 Thomas BYRUM
       Issue: Isaac, George, Della, Henry Perry, Dasing
ffff. Angeline JESSUP b 1857 m ?? SANDERS
gggg. Lucetta JESSUP b 1869 m ?? JONAS
       hhhh. Mary JESSUP b 1854 m Joshua DYE
ee. Elizabeth JESSUP
ff. Noah JESSUP
gg. James JESSUP
hh. Oliver JESSUP 1819-1906 m 1843 Deliverance BARNES, daughter of
      Stephen & Henrietta (PINE) BARNES. Issue:
      aaa. Stephen Barnes JESSUP 1845-1904
      bbb. Luella JESSUP 1864-1882
      ccc. Martin JESSUP 1844-1850
      ddd Mary JESSUP 1847-1917 m Jesse WICKERSHAM
ee. Anna JESSUP 1849-1917 m Charles LOSCH
      fff. Frances JESSUP 1850-1917 m 1) Martha FIELDS m 2) Belle PRATT
      ggg. Eunice JESSUP 1853-1927 m 1876 Samuel STICK
      hhh. Jefferson JESSUP 1856-1884 m 1881 Sarah Jane MALOY
      iii. Augusta JESSUP 1857-1860
      jjj. Augustus JESSUP 1857-1905
      kkk. Henrietta JESSUP 1861-1942 m 1) Jesse FOWLER m 2) Ernest
           FOWLER, brothers
      lll. Emma JESSUP 1859-1937 m 1881 John W. LYONS
      ii. Stephen JESSUP
      jj. Merilla JESSUP
      kk. Permilia JESSUP b 1793 d 6-5-1811
      ll. Nancy A. JESSUP b 3-10-1829 d 5-31-1884 m James LONG b Scotland
          4-10-1832 d 5-16-1888. Issue:
          aaa. Genevera LONG 1865-1904 m John MILLER
          bbb. Zendera LONG 1858-1946
          ccc. Barton Webster LONG 1859-1943 m Dora THOMAS
          ddd Malina LONG 1861-1940 m Rev. Thomas J. HALSTEAD
      mm. Andrew Jackson JESSUP 1837-1886 m Elizabeth KRAMIG 1853-1930.
         Issue:
            aaa. Julius JESSUP
            bbb. Horace W. JESSUP
      nn. Hester Ann JESSUP 1838-1884 never married
f. Walter JESSUP 1790-1844 d Ind. m 6-23-1814 Rachel SMITH, sister of Mary.
   Issue:
      aa. Ezra JESSUP
      bb. Hosea JESSUP
      cc. Isaac JESSUP
      dd. Alvin JESSUP
      ee. John JESSUP
      ff. Harvey JESSUP
      gg. Nancy JESSUP
      hh. Jared JESSUP
   g. Isaac JESSUP Jr. b 3-11-1789 d 11-5-1848 m 1816 Mary SMITH, 1797-1852 d/o
Walter & Mariah SMITH. Issue:

aa. Ammarah JESSUP 1817-1849 m 1841 Charles A. GARY
bb. David S. JESSUP 1819-1842 m 1838 Elizabeth NOLAN
c. Mahala JESSUP 1820-1837 m 1837 Timothy JAYNES
dd. Eli JESSUP 1822-1847, died Mexican War
e. Lorana JESSUP 1824-1847 m 1844 James NOLAN
ff. Phebe A. JESSUP 1827-1916 m 1) 1848 Bazillia O'BRIEN m 2) 1853 Samuel CUNNINGHAM
gg. Juliet JESSUP 1831-1849
hh. Hannah JESSUP 1834-1849
ii. Lewis B. JESSUP 1836-1914 m 1864 Chloe CULP
jj. Abigail JESSUP 1838-1923 m 1857 Henry VAN DUSEN

LABOYTEAUX

Gabriel also had at least two brothers, Pierre (Peter), and Paul, came to America 1685 from La Rochelle, France. Isaac Boytout is listed in 1677 as a French Huguenot and as an early settler in New York and New Jersey.

Gabriel LABOYTEAUX

I. Gabriel LABOYTEAUX (b 16 ??, became citizen 8-3-1687 d 1733/34 NJ, went to NY in 1701. m 1) Marquise FLUEREU b 16?? France m Sept. 8, 1693 (? 8-9-1689), First French Church of New York d Oct 1693 NY city, buried Trinity Churchyard. Issue:

A. Marie LABOYTEAUX b 4-28-1690 New York city d 1712/13 m 1708 in Amsterdam Rev. Louis ROU/REU, s/o Jean Reu
B. Elizabeth LABOUTEAUX b 9-16-1691 m 1721 Jean HASTIER
C. Marquise LABOYTEAUX b 2-16-1693 d 10-11-1693
D. Susanne LABOYTEAUX b 8-25-1695/96 d 8-26-1695

m 2) 1695 (m ??1719) Agnes Constance LEBRUN (sometimes listed as BROWN) b 1698, island of Gaudelope daughter of Moise Le Brun who settled in S. Carolina m 2) ?? BOGART

E. Paul LABOYTEAUX b NY 11-22-1699, d past 1766 m 1) 1719 New York city Elizabeth SMOCK. Issue:

1. Elizabeth LABOYTEAUX m Mar. 12, 1783 Monmouth NJ Andrew BROWN
2. (Capt.) John LABOYTEAUX in Capt. Malcomb's Regiment, NY Militia, d c 1781, m Hannah SMITH
3. Joseph LABOYTEAUX was innkeeper NJ m 1) 1784 Ann KEEFER (?) m 2) 12-17-1769 Catherine SICKLES
4. Peter LABOYTEAUX, Sr. b Raritan Landing 1737 d 9-14-1813 m 1) Elizabeth HENRY 11-9-1749 Middlesex. m 2) 1758 Keziah (SMOCK?SEBRING) d 2-1-1814 at age 70, moved to OH ca 1800, farmer
5. Gabriel LABOYTEAUX 20 m 12-31-1772, Mary Fitz RANDOLPH, Christ Church, New Brunswick (also have for location, Piscataway, Middlesex Co., NJ,

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19Source: Ruth J. Wells

20Source: Gabriel m Mary Fitzrandolph, Collection of the NJ Historical Soc., Vol. 9 First Series Abs. Wills of NJ, Vol. 30 Will of Gabriel Leboyteuix (sic) of Piscataway, Middlesex Co. - to daughters Catherine & Mary; executor wife, Constance and son Paul. Proved April 10, 1734, will written 3-20-1728.
daughter of David Fitz RANDOLPH)

6. Phebe LABOYTEAUX
7. Catherine LABOYTEAUX m 1730 1) Peter (?Jean) BODINE (son of John Bodine)
   Issue: Maria bapt. 3-29-1732, Angenette bapt. May 1734, Petrus bapt. 4-11-1736
   m 2) Rolf ROLFSON, Piscataway
8. Mary LABOYTEAUX b 5-18-1715, living in 1735
9. Gabriel LABOYTEAUX b 1728
10. Jeanne LABOYTEAUX b 4-4-1698
11. ? Peter LABOYTEAUX b 3-23-1703 Raritan, New Jersey m Jemima ??
12. ? Benjamin LABOYTEAUX b 4-27-1709 Raritan, N. J.
13. ? Jantien de Bedeb LABOYTEAUX b 6-17-1709 Raritan, N. J.

However these are listed as the children of this same Paul LABOYTEAUX according to the records of the French Hugenot Church, Vol. 1, Raritan Dutch Church, baptisms, Readington Dutch Reformed Church. All born Readington, Somerset Co., NJ

Issue:
1. Thomas LABOYTEAUX christened 26 Dec. 1720
2. Catherine LABOYTEAUX christened 16 Dec. 1722
3. Jannetje (female) LABOYTEAUX christened 21 no month, 1725
4. Elizabeth LABOYTEAUX christened 26 Dec. 1726
5. X. Peter LABOYTEAUX christened 24 March 1728
6. Metje (female) LABOYTEAUX christened 28 March 1731
7. Marie LABOYTEAUX christened 11 Nov. 1733

John LABOYTEAUX21, son of Gabriel LABOYTEAUX
m c 1762 m Hannah SMITH. Issue:
1. William LABOYTEAUX b c 1780 m ?? . Issue:
   a. William LABOYTEAUX b c 1812 m Sallie THOMPSON. Issue:
      aa. George Brooks LABOYTEAUX b c 1842 m Missouri (HARRIS) DANIELS
2. Samuel Smith LABOYTEAUX
3. Peter Gabriel LABOYTEAUX
4. John G. LABOYTEAUX
5. Hannah LABOYTEAUX
6. Nancy LABOYTEAUX

John G(abriel) LABOYTEAUX, son of Capt. John LABOYTEAUX

Phebe wife of John G. LABOYTEAUX22 d 2 Feb 1845 age 77, relict of John, b c 1768-70
Issue: (per will, Owens Co., Ind.)
1. Stephen LABOYTEAUX b 5-22- 1804 m 5-17-1838 Henry Co., IN m 1) 10-25-1828 Deborah WILLEY 1806-1837, dau. Of Charles & Mary WILLEY m 2) 1838 Catherine MULLEN,

Will 5-21-1780, probated 6-29-1780. Wife Hannah, children: John, Samuel Smith, Peter Gabriel, William, Hannah, Nancy. Other sources list them as: John (b c 1764), Samuel Smith (b c 1766), Peter (b c 1767), Gabriel (b c 1768, Gabriel (later John G., b c 1770), Daniel (b c 1772), Hannah (b c 1773), George Washington (b c 1775).

22Source: Will, Owens Co., IN.
1824-1895, dau. of John & Hulda MULLEN. Issue:
a. Huldah LABOYTEAUX b 7-22-1839 d 8-19-1876 Hamilton Co. m 2-16-1858 Lewis E. BROWN, b 9-25-1828 Roanoake Va d 8-26-1909 Issue: James Clay, Lewis, Norvil, John F., Charles C.
b. James LABOYTEAUX b 9-26-1843 m 1-8-1867 Margaret ALGER (b Va.). Issue:
   aa. Edward LABOYTEAUX b 1867
   bb. Elmer R. LABOYTEAUX b 1869 m Lena SHARP 6-7-1900
   cc. Catherine (Kitty) LABOYTEAUX b 1871 m 12-21-1892 Jos. E. AXON
   dd. Pearl LABOYTEAUX b 1878 m 2-2-1878 David FADELY
   ee. Virgil LABOYTEAUX b 1880 m 6-22-1901 Catherine WILSON
   ff. Frank A. LABOYTEAUX b 1884 m 6-14-1906 Bessie WHITE
   gg Clyde LABOYTEAUX b 9-15-1886 m 12-27-1915 Beatrice YUNKY
   hh. Lillian LABOYTEAUX b 3-16-1889 m 2-17-1909 Jess E. KIMMEL
c. Mary Emeline LABOYTEAUX b 11-28-1846 d 1864 m John CLARK 12-11-1868
d. John F. LABOYTEAUX b 5-26-1850 m Electra HUBBARD 2-15-1872
e. Flora LABOYTEAUX b 6-13-1856 m 7-10-1875 Wm. H. ABBOTT
f. Freeman LABOYTEAUX b 8-15-1829 m 2-25-1854 Mary MULLEN
g. Elisha LABOYTEAUX b 5-22-1831 d 3-17-1886
h. Harriett LABOYTEAUX b 9-4-1833 d 10-29-1867 m John MERRILL
i. Bashaba LABOYTEAUX 1835-1836
2. Elisha LABOYTEAUX
3. Bathsheba LABOYTEAUX b 6-11-1807 d 26 Aug. 1892 m Reuben COMPTON
   b 10-3-1804 d 12-5-1861 s/o Jacob R. COMPTON, brother of Sarah Compton who m William Hankins. See COMPTON. Issue:
   a. Uriah COMPTON b 1-6-1839 d 2-18-1839
   b. Eliza COMPTON b 11-18-1840 d 12-25-1922 m Dr. William FORBES
   c. Alexander L. COMPTON
   d. Cornelia B. COMPTON
   e. Emaline (Emma) COMPTON b 6-18-1837 m Allen CHADWICK
   f. (Rev.) Andrew Jackson COMPTON b 4-10-1834 d 8 1859
   g. Howard COMPTON b 11-7-1831 d 8-13-1832
   h. Hannah COMPTON b 4-8-1830 d 4-9-1833
   i. Freeman COMPTON b 2-12-1828 d 8-1-1829
   j. Oliver COMPTON b 11-21-1826 d 5-2-1907 m Elizabeth VOORHIS
   k. Chrystalina COMPTON b 10-16-1825 m Thomas KINNEY
4. Joseph LABOYTEAUX m 1) Hannah ?? m 2) Elizabeth ??
5. Asher LABOYTEAUX

Peter LABOYTEAUX, Sr. son of Paul LABOYTEAUX & Elizabeth SMOCK

Peter LABOYTEAUX, Sr. b 1737 NJ d 9-14-1813 m 2) 1758 Keziah SMOCK(?SEBRING) b c 1744? d 2-1-1814. Peter was in Somerset Co., NJ during Revolution and came to Ohio in 1800, m 1749
1) Elizabeth HENRY. Was a cooper & a farmer. Issue:
1. Mary (Marie) LABOYTEAUX b 6-10-1758 NJ m 1780 Wm. VAN DYKE\(^\text{23}\)
   New Jersey. He was in Capt. Peter D. Vroom's Co., 2nd Regt. Somerset Co. Mil. and was in active service Dec 3-Dec 14, 1776. Issue:
   a. Dominicus VAN DYKE m Mary PACKER

\(^{23}\)Source: DAR Roster III, page 365; Somerset History Quarterly Vol. 8 p 61
b. Peter VAN DYKE m Ada BLUE
c. Phebe VAN DYLE m Lewis Packer William VAN DYKE b 1756 d Mar. 24, 1807.
d. William VAN DYKE, d young
e. Margaret VAN DYKE
f. William VAN DYKE m Elizabeth AUTER
g. John VAN DYKE b 7-7-1797
h. Henry VAN DYKE b 11-8-1799
i. Jane Wilson VAN DYKE b 1-22-1802
j. Joseph VAN DYKE b 11-23-1803
k. Nicholas VAN DYKE

2. John Peter (Peter Jr., aka Piker) LABOYTEAUX b 4-22-1774/75 d 3-4-1842 m 1) Lena COLE m 2) Sarah LOWE

3. Joseph LABOYTEAUX b NJ m 1) Hannah ?? d 10-22-1807 ag 23/25 yrs. m 2) Elizabeth ??

   Issue:
   a. William LABOYTEAUX

4. Peter P. LABOYTEAUX b 1783 d 1847 m Julia Ann PACKER m 2) Mgt. CAMERON m 3) Anna BATSON

5. Abiah LABOYTEAUX b 1777 d 1850 m Reuben STOUT

6. Dorety LABOYTEAUX

7. Jemimah LABOYTEAUX\(^24\) b 5-10-1777 NJ d ?10-29/12-29-1858 m 1795 John RUNYAN.

   Issue:
   a. Rhoda RUNYAN b 1814
   b. Mary RUNYAN b 1836

8. Catherine LABOYTEAUX m in NJ Noah RUNYAN. He came to Hamilton Co. from Henry Co. IN. Settled in Coleraine Township 1805. Issue:

   a. Thomas RUNYAN b 1-26-1799 NJ m Mary MULLEN 3-16-1820.
   b. George RUNYAN b 1808 Henry Co. IN.

9. Phebe LABOYTEAUX

There is some confusion about which Jemima Laboyteaux married Jacob Wimmer.

Hypothesis: Two cousins named Peter Laboyteaux, grandsons of Gabriel, both had daughters named Jemima. Many give the following Jemima, wife of Jacob Wimmer, as the daughter of Peter & Keziah Laboyteaux.

Jemima LABOYTEAUX m 12-11-1781 Jacob ZIMMER/WIMMER of Henry Co., IN.
Jacob Wimmer pension record 4-20-1833, b Nov. 1762 Somerset Co., NJ, lived 14 years Pa, 7 years in Ohio, 4 years in Henry Co., IN.

Issue: 1. Peter WIMMER b 4-11-1782 Somerset Co, NJ (soldier in Oh. pack horse brigade)

   2. Jacob WIMMER b 1784
   3. Nellie WIMMER b 9-9-1787
   4. Sallie WIMMER b 1790 m ?? JORDAN
   5. Abraham WIMMER
   6. Keziah WIMMER

\(^24\) Marriages-Somerset Co. from 1795 Runyon, John & Jemima J. ?abateaux 12-6-1795
1850 Springfield Township Census, p 257, house 476
Mrs. Anna H. Callahan wrote in materials sent to Mrs. Ruth J. Wells in 1959: Our family tradition has always been thus: Peter & John Laboyteaux were brothers, both in Revolutionary War. John went into the Navy, lost his leg and died. Peter was with Washington at Valley Forge in 1777-1778 when Washington used as headquarters the mansion of the Potts family to which Polly belonged. Valley Forge flag that flew that winter over the headquarters was given to Peter who passed it to William his eldest son, then to Betsy (mother of Mrs. Callahan's grandfather), then to her grandfather (Converse). It was loaned to Battle Creek Centennial and never returned. Never found Peter's was record.

Peter LABOYTEAUX (b before 1742) d 10-7-1870 m Polly POTTS. Issue:
1) Jemima LABOYTEAUX b 5-12-1763 d 4-20-1833 m 11-11-1781 Jacob ZIMMER
   b 11-17-1762 NJ d 4-17-1782
2) Jacob LABOYTEAUX b 4-17-1762
3) William LABOYTEAUX b 5-23-1767 m Eva Van CLEAVE. Issue:
   a. Betsy LABOYTEAUX
4) Elizabeth LABOYTEAUX b 4-9-1765

"This is a copy of family records\(^{25}\) in the old Bible given to my Grandfather, Peter Laberteaux (sic), by his Grandmother on his 21st birthday. He died 10-7-1870 at 80 yrs. (b 1790)

Records
Sara Potts Born in November the 22 in the year of our Lord 1731
Jonathan (illeg) was born in the year of our Lord God, Jan. 1756
Dorithy, daughter of Elizabeth (illeg. same name as above) was born in Nov. the 22 in the year of our Lord 1757.

The following is a copy from a piece of paper sewed into the old bible and gives no surnames. We have always thought them to be Laberteaux.
Jeamima is born 12 May 1763
Eleazebeth " 9 April 1765
William " 23 May 1767
Jacob " 29 Sept?May 1769
Angenitje " 9 Sept. 1771
Geabere " 7 Jan. 1773

Then on the back cover is written, Jacob Zimmer is born April 17, 1782 (should be Jacob Zimmer was married to Jemima Labertow (sic), 1781).
The Z looks like a W. John Peter Laboyteaux

Isaac Wimmer (1802-1885)\(^{26}\) wrote about the life of his parents, Jacob and Jamima Laboyteaux. Father’s (Jacob Wimmer) first military experience was in 1775, when he served as a drummer boy in Uncle Simeon Stout’s company. He served through the revolution. In 1778 he was at the furious battle at

\(^{25}\)Source: Mrs. Ida L. Phillips to Ruth J. Wells

\(^{26}\)Three Generations of Laboyteaux in the United States by Harry Laboyteaux
Monmouth Court House, where he was wounded, and saw General Washington and Wayne and many others. When my daughter Sarah once asked him why he went off to fight he answered very slowly... ‘My father sent me off to fight because the damned British burned our barn and stole our best milk cow.’ In 1780 he married my mother, Jemima, daughter of Peter and Kizzie Labouteaux.

In 1795 father, mother, and my brother Peter and sister Sallie moved west into Pennsylvania...One of my first memories is floating down the Ohio on a flatboat for Cincinnati, where mother’s people, including Grandfather and Grandmother Laboyteaux, had settled in Mt. Healthy. They died there in 1814...

We lost mother in the cholera epidemic of 1833. She was accounted something of a doctor, with great knowledge of herbs and such, and took ill while nursing the sick. She was a small woman, but handsome. Father was fond of saying that he had won the greatest beauty of Middlesex County...

John Peter LABOYTEAUX, son of Peter LABOYTEAUX, Sr.

John P. LABOYTEAUX  b 3-14-1775 N.J. d March 4, 1842  67 yrs 10 mo 13 da  
m 1) Lena COLE Issue:  
a. Mary LABOYTEAUX b 7-7-1796  
b. Catherine LABOYTEAUX  b 1-28-1798 m 4-10-1818 Hamilton County, OH. Jacob McGILL  
(1798 age 60yrs 9mo)  
c. William S. LABOYTEAUX b 3-28-1800 NJ d 6-25-1884 Henry Co., IN. m 1) Abigail  
WOODRUFF m 2) Alice ?SIMMONS m 3) Mary Ann CASE  
d. Keziah LABOYTEAUX b 12-2-1802 m Walter BROWN  
e. Sarah Ann (Sallie) LABOYTEAUX b 9-25-1805 m 11-2-1827 Wm. BLAND, Jr.  
(b 5-1-1802, Philadelphia)  
f. Peter C. LABOYTEAUX  b 2-14-1808 d 1857 m Almeda Ann LOWE 9-3-1850, 
Henry Co., IN.  Issue:  
   aa. William LABOYTEAUX  
   bb. Mary C. LABOYTEAUX  
m 2) 9-28-1811 Lenah/Sarah/Sallie LOWE  b 1-16-1791 d 1-16-1842  
   51 yrs 2 wks 3 da. Issue:  
g. Lena LABOYTEAUX b 5-16-1812 m 1) Henry CASE m 2) Benjamin NORRIS 1800-1880.  
   Issue:  
   aa. Henry CASE Jr.  
   bb. John CASE  
   cc. Lena CASE  
   dd. William CASE  
   ee. Catherine CASE  
   ff. Lafayette NORRIS  
h. Sarah (Sallie) LABOYTEAUX  b 9-14-1814 m Benj. F. MAYHEW  
I. Julia Ann LABOYTEAUX b 1-21-1817 d 1901 m 1838 Frances Carr WRIGHT  
   (b 10-16-1813) Issue: Alvin Delos, John, Philadelphia Nicodemous, Frances Carr, Jr., Mary,  
   Cornelia, Ohly, Joseph F. Wright. Frances Carr’s sister, Maria Louise, married Samuel  
   LABOYTEAUX.  
k. Gilbert S. LABOYTEAUX (was a painter) b 3-17-1820 d 4-18-1914 m 7-1-1847 Anna  
   (Nancy) STEVENS (b 1822 Mass. d 3-21-1898) d/o Ebenezer & Lucy Stevens. Issue:  
   aa. Lucy Anna LABOYTEAUX b 1847 m W. O. HENDERSON. Issue: Geraldine,  
   Amelia, Blanche  
   bb. George L. LABOYTEAUX b 8-8-1849 d 3-14-1928 m Angeline SNODGRASS  
   (b 1851 d 11-30-1926), d/o John & Catherine Snodgrass. George operated a general store  

A-35
in Mt. Healthy and moved West where he was a building contractor. Issue:

aaa. John S. LABOYTEAUX b 8-19-1871 d 8-29-1927 m Ollie ?

bbb. Gilbert L. LABOYTEAUX Jr. b. 8-24-1873 d.11-14-1940 m 4-29-1896 Bianca
BROWN b 4-2-1874 d 12-24-1962 d/o Alexis & Susan Yerkes BROWN

ccc. Jesse C. LABOYTEAUX b 8-26-1876 d 12-25-1950

dd. Clarence G. LABOYTEAUX b 12-2-1880 d 3-17-1921

eee. Charles LABOYTEAUX b 1887, lived in Dayton, OH

cc. Jesse LABOYTEAUX b 5-10-1858 d 9-15-1931 m Frank E. NOBLE

dd. Zoe LABOYTEAUX b 10-8-1867 d 11-25-1945 m 1) ?? KEMPER m 2) Albert R. BETTS

l. Firman LABOYTEAUX b 5-28-1823 (?1-28-1823) d 10-30-1890 m 2-5-1846 Lidia/Lydia
JESSUP b 9-22-1825 d 12-12-1901 Mt. Healthy. See JESSUP. Issue:

aa. Frank M. LABOYTEAUX b 1-?-1846 m 1) Eliza SIEBEL m 2) 1882 Emma P. VARSIG.

Issue:

aaa. Eugene Milton LABOYTEAUX b 8-23-1869 d 1-24-1944 m Mary BECKER

bbb. H. Matilda (b 3-1-1872) LABOYTEAUX

ccc. Clifford b 11-?-1875 d 2-25-1877 LABOYTEAUX

ddd. Beatrice LABOYTEAUX (actress)

eee. Elsie LABOYTEAUX

bb. Flora C. LABOYTEAUX b 2-28-1858 d 2-11-1922 m Edward McGILLIARD

1853-1929. See McGILLIARD. Issue:

aaa. Douglas LeBoyteaux McGILLIARD b 5-10-1882,

bbb. Jessie Ray McGILLIARD b 9-30-1883

ccc. Edwin Guy McGILLIARD b 11-6-1892

ddd. Clifford Gibbons McGILLIARD b 8-9-1890

cc. Lewis K. LABOYTEAUX b 5-8-1853 d 12-19-1921 m Laura M. McGILLIARD

b 2-3-1859 d 9-8-1932, d/o Wm. & Rebecca Crieiger McGILLIARD of Wyoming, OH.

See McGILLIARD.

m. Lafayette LABOYTEAUX b 11-12-1825 d 10-18-1871 New Orleans, died of yellow fever. m 1) Elvira ?? m 2) Almira A. LOWE 4-1-1847 Hamilton Co. m 3) Harriet VAN DYKE b 1823 Georgetown, OH d 11-9-1891 d/o Jonathan & Rebecca VAN DYKE

Issue:

aa. Augustus Anderson LABOYTEAUX b 1-1-1855 d 12-19-1860

bb. Douglas LABOYTEAUX b 8-21-1862 d 2-23-1868

cc. Herman Van Dyke LABOYTEAUX b 10-23-1860 d 4-12-1861

dd. Lafayette LABOYTEAUX, Jr b/d1846 (buried Spring Grove Cem.)

n. (Andrew) Jackson LABOYTEAUX b 11(?)-23-1828 m 8-1-1850 Josephine L. ROMAN/RHARMAN, will 10-16-1850. He was a cooper.

o. Almina (Almyra) LABOYTEAUX b 4-4-1832 d 1872 m Firman LAING 5-6-1849, d. 1860 in a hunting accident. Issue:

aa. Andrew Jackson Laboyteaux LAING b 1857

p. Hannah LABOYTEAUX m William G. ARMSTRONG

Peter P. LABOYTEAUX, son of Peter LABOYTEAUX, Sr.

Peter P. LABOYTEAUX b 1783 (27-10-1874) d 7-20-1847, buried Batson Cemetery, age 68yrs. He came to Hamilton, Co. OH in 1804. m 1) Julia Elizabeth PACKER m c 1803 d 1813

m 2) Margaret CAMERON d 1833 m 3) 5-27-1834 Henry Co. Anna BATSON, d cholera, Henry Co., Ind. Issue:
a. Samuel LABOYTEAUX b 7-10-1805 d 1-11-1887 m 9-23-1827 Mary (Maria Elizabeth) 
   Louise WRIGHT b 2-8-1811 d 7-23-1895, dau. of Hon. J. F. Wright. Issue:
   aa. Eliza Jane LABOYTEAUX b 5-31-1838 d 2-15-1894 m 3-12-1863 George W. 
      HOFFNER (1838-1916). George was s/o Jacob Henry HOFFNER who came to Cin. 
      from Penn. in 1805 Issue: John (b 1866), Samuel (b 1870), George (b 1873), Thomas 
      (b 1876), Jacob (b 1880), Walter (b 1884)
   bb. Lucretia LABOYTEAUX b 11-18-1836 d 1910 
   cc. Susan LABOYTEAUX 
   dd. Ann Marie LABOYTEAUX b 4-2-1833 
   ee. Joseph Wright LABOYTEAUX b 6-18-18??
   ff. John Murray LABOYTEAUX b 10-11-1843 d 1-27-1918, was in Civil War. m 1-1-1871 
      Francina ERVEN. Issue:
      aaa. Grace M. LABOYTEAUX m 1893 Clarence W. HOLLINGSWORTH 
   gg. Frederick William LABOYTEAUX b 7-28-1828 d 1909 m Sarah RUNYON 3-5-1853. 
      He was a cooper. 
   hh. (Dock) Florian Monroe LABOYTEAUX b 6-12-1841 m Hattie A. IMMELL 9-18-1870 
   ii. Lucindy Ellen LABOYTEAUX b 9-10-1846 d 12-7-1887, 41 yrs.
   jj. Peter Thomas LABOYTEAUX b 11-21-1830 d 3-29-1864 (tombstone 11-21-1836? 
      d 3-29-1861) m Sarah ?. He was a cooper. Issue:
      aaa. Francis M. LABOYTEAUX.

b. Keziah LABOYTEAUX m 5-10-1832 Michael SHIVELEY b 5-17-1807 Monogahela 
   Co., Va. Came to New Castle, Henry Co., Ind. c 1832 with members of her family. Issue:
   Catherine m Samuel Franklin ROOF 

c. Elizabeth LABOYTEAUX d 1833, cholera m Batson ROSS. Issue: Thomas, John, Mary 

d. Catherine LABOYTEAUX 

e. Peter LABOYTEAUX d 1847 

f. Joseph LABOYTEAUX b 1819 m 3-16-1838?1839 Sarah WISE, sister of Elizabeth, b 1821. 
   Issue:
   aa. Jacob LABOYTEAUX 
   bb. Johnson LABOYTEAUX 
   cc. Margery LABOYTEAUX m 8-27-1864 Thomas RILEY 
   dd. Thomas LABOYTEAUX 
   ee. Sarah LABOYTEAUX 
   ff. Mary LABOYTEAUX 

gg. Andrew Jackson LABOYTEAUX m 1) 1855 Matilda M. WOOD d 6-12-1858 m 2) Emma 
   Frances CARR 1840-1905, dau. of William P. CARR & Lydia BURR. Issue:
   aaa. John B. LABOYTEAUX d 1856 
   bbb. Jessie LABOYTEAUX 
   ccc. Lydia LABOYTEAUX 
   ddd. Julia LABOYTEAUX 

g. Jane LABOYTEAUX m Henry BICKEL 1-27-1838 Henry Co., IN. 

h. Mary Ann LABOYTEAUX (1824-1882) m 4-1-1857 Silas McSHURLEY (1828-1903) 

i. Sarah LABOYTEAUX m Wm. McSHURLEY. Issue: Thomas (b 1837), John (b 1841), 

j. Stephen LABOYTEAUX (b 1843) 

l. David LABOYTEAUX b 9-12-1823, Mt. Healthy D 1892 m 2-27-1841 Elizabeth WISE, 
   b 11-17-1826. Issue: 
   aa. Lavina LABOYTEAUX b 1839 m 9-19-1877 Samuel GEPHART 
   bb. Sarah Ann LABOYTEAUX b 1842 d 1873 m 3-17-1864 Dr. Henry C. SUMMERS 
   cc. Robert LABOYTEAUX b 7-9-1844 m 9-10-1868 Biddi HAMILTON
dd. Mary H. LABOYTEAUX m 8-14-1868 Miles H. BURR
ee. Elizabeth LABOYTEAUX
ff. Samuel LABOYTEAUX m Nettie A. DAUGHERTY
gg. Maria LABOYTEAUX
hh. Harriet LABOYTEAUX
ii. Laura LABOYTEAUX m 12-1-1885 Perry SKINNER
ll. Louisa M. LABOYTEAUX b 7-18-1855 m Adam L. HEATH
mm. Josephine b 3-18-1857 LABOYTEAUX m ?? JEARL
nn. Richard LABOYTEAUX m 5-12-1916 Catherine HUFF
oo. Jeanette LABOYTEAUX d 1931 m ?? ORR
m. Daniel LABOYTEAUX b 1813 m 7-21-1837 Mahala WOLVERTON. Issue:
   aa. Mary E. LABOYTEAUX m 6-22-1861 Daniel J. SMITH
   bb. Alfred LABOYTEAUX
n. Rush LABOYTEAUX
o. Thomas LABOYTEAUX b 7-4-1836 d 1865 m 4-12-1860 Ellen M. COOPER, d/o Imla &
   Susan Cooper, Harrison Twp. He died in the Sultana explosion & was a Civil War prisoner
   at Cahaba Prison, Ala. Issue:
   aa. Agnes LABOYTEAUX b 1861
   bb. Leonore LABOYTEAUX b 1864
p. John LABOYTEAUX b c 1833
q. Stephen LABOYTEAUX b 12-7-1840 d 2-19-1925 , ?m 11-1-1866 Odessa EVANS

William S. LABOYTEAUX, son of John P. LABOYTEAUX

William S. LABOYTEAUX b Mar 28 1800 NJ, d 6-25-1884 Millcreek, Henry Co., IN. was a
farmer m 1) 6-4-1825 Abigail WOODRUFF b 1811, d 1-5-1827, age 17 m 2) 5-14-1829 Alice
(?SIMMONS) d 3-1-1836 age 25 m 3) 10-31-1839 Mary Ann CASE b 3-31-1810 d 4-19-1884
Henry Co., IN. Issue:
a. William Suder LABOYTEAUX b 1-5-1827 d 6-23-1827
b. Abigail LABOYTEAUX b 9-30-1829 d 10-2-1915 Celina, Mercer Co., OH. m Dr. James D.
   McKIM, b Jan 1832, Seneca Co., NY, d 1-15-1871 Castalia, Erie Co., OH.
   Issue: Ida May McKim b 7-20-1858 Castalia, d 11-12-1942 Canton, Stark Co., OH
   c. Eveline LABOYTEAUX b 6-4-1833 m 10-29-1851 James HOFFNER
      Issue: James Tucker Hoffner
   d. Mary Ann LABOYTEAUX b 9-24-1835
   e. Amanda LABOYTEAUX b 8-18-1840 m 3-4-1859 Frank PHELMAN.
      Issue: Blanche, Effie, Guy
f. John P. LABOYTEAUX b 1-23-1843 m Mary SEWARD, dau. of Daniel SEWARD.
   Issue: aa. William 1864-1865 LABOYTEAUX.
g. Melissa LABOYTEAUX b 5-31-1846 m Edwin KENT 12-23-1868 Ham. Co. OH
h. Alice LABOYTEAUX m 6-5-1870 IN. Samuel D. WISEHART.
   Issue: William, Edmond
I. Josephine (Josie) LABOYTEAUX b 1-26-1851 d 2-12-1878 m 6-8-1875, IN. John W.
   MARSTON

LaBoyteaux Bible 27

Samuel LaBoyteaux m Louisa Wright Sept. 23, 1827

27Source: Ruth J. Wells
Frederick Wm.  b July 25, 1828
Peter Thomas  b. Nov. 21, 1830.
Ann Maria  b April 2, 1833
Lucretia b. Nov. 18, 1836
Eliza Jane b. May 31, 1838
Florian Monroe b. June 12, 1841
John Murry b. Oct. 11, 1843
Lucindy Ellen b. Sept. 10, 18 ??
Joseph Wright b. June 18, 18 ??

Samuel LaBoyteaux d. Jan. 11, 1887  81 yrs. 6 mo.
Lucinda E. d Dec. 7, 1887  41 yrs. 3 mo. 27da.
Maria Louise d July 23, 1897  84 yrs. 5 mo. 15 da.
Peter Thomas d. March 29, 1864  34 yrs., 4 mo., 8 da.
Eliza Jane Hoffner d. Feb. 15, 1894  51 yrs. 9 mo. 18 da.
Hiram E. b 12-26-1855  d March 15, 1894  38 yrs 3 mo  20da.

Peter J. LABOYTEAUX, son of John (b 1764), grandson of Capt. John LABOYTEAUX

Peter J. LABOYTEAUX b 1793 NJ (d 10-15-1872, Ind.) m 11-26-1817 Phebe DAVIS b 9-20-1800, d 12-4-1885, d/o Joshua and Jemima Davis. Peter was a tailor. Joshua Davis was born 1760, N.J. and fought in the Battle of Monmouth. He settled on a farm in Colerain Township. He died Oct. 23, 1839. Issue:
a. Eveline LABOYTEAUX m Charles GALE
b. Hannah Louise LABOYTEAUX b 1825 m 1848 LaSalle SILSBEE, went to Iowa
c. James M. LABOYTEAUX b 12-15-1833 m 1-7-1871 Huldah MULLEN. He was a cooper.
d. Isaac Newton LABOYTEAUX b 3-28-1828 d 8-8-1894 m Margaret McLENNAN (McLENNON) 11-20-1856 Ham. Co., she was b 7-2-1835 d 9-15-1909. Issue:
aa. Robert Riley LABOYTEAUX b 9-3-1857 d 3-6-1887
bb. Edward LABOYTEAUX b 10-13-1862 d 3-30-1892
c. Isaac E. LABOYTEAUX b 7-3-1864, Madison, Ind. d 9-5-1912 Rome, Italy m Mary HINCHMAN
dd. Grace M. LABOYTEAUX b 9-27-1856 d 6-25-1949
e. Charles Louis LABOYTEAUX28 b 2-6-1867 d 6-1-1896 Edith M. CIST b 1-28-1873 d 8-22-1946, d/o Gen. Henry Martin Cist d 1902. Charles was Quarter Master of the Home Guard, president of the Republic Paper Board Co., and later his own company, The C. L. LaBoiteaux Company. Issue:
aaa. Edith Margaret LABOYTEAUX 1897-4-19-1968 m Marston ALLEN. Issue: Mary Morris, Marston, Jr., Louis Laboyteaux., Samuel
bbb. Henry Cist LABOYTEAUX 1898-1938 m Annie Coombs RICHARDSON 1922 , m 2) ?? . Henry was in the 136th Field Artillery. Issue:
aaaa. Edith Cist LABOYTEAUX. m 10-30-1949 m Thomas Lowe BOGARDUS, Jr.
bbbb. Emily Annie LABOYTEAUX.
ccc. Mary Morris LABOYTEAUX m 1) Wm Hartshorne ELLIS, Jr. 2-7-1919 m 2) William DUNBAR. Issue: Ann Burrows
ddd. Robert Louis LABOYTEAUX 1910-6-10-1975 m Suzanne MEROS. Issue:

28Source: Rev. Andrew Newman
aaaa. Renee LABOYTEAUX  m ?? SANTRY
bbbb. Suzanne Antoinette LABOYTEAUX  b 1915  m 11-7-1939 Paul Henry
  TOBIAS
e. Murray LABOYTEAUX  1828-1829
f. Lucinda LABOYTEAUX

Parents unknown  

John J. LABOYTEAUX

b 2-20-1785 NJ  m 8-6-18 16/?1817 Mt. Healthy,  Elizabeth (Betsy) ??  b 8-3-1787 NJ. Issue:
  a. Caroline LABOYTEAUX b 6-9-1819 d 5-14-1847 m 2-14-1838 John Letts HANKINS
     b 12-30-1818. See HANKINS.  Issue:
        aa. Lucindy HANKINS b 3-2-1839
        bb. William HANKINS b 4-12-1841
        cc. John L. HANKINS b 9-8-1843
        dd. Delia HANKINS b 7-11-1846
        ee. Angeline HANKINS b 7-3-1848
        ff. Sarah Jane HANKINS b 8-26-1851
        gg. Caroline HANKINS b 10-1-1855
        hh. Albert HANKINS b 3-18-1856
        ii. Theodore HANKINS b 3-8-1858
        jj. Alexander HANKINS b 1-8-1860
  b. John LABOYTEAUX  b 4-1-1825, cooper m Mary ??  b c 1827. Issue:
     aa. Theodore LABOYTEAUX  b 1846 m 4-30-1871 Delaware Co., Ind. Kate AMEY
     bb. Almira H. LABOYTEAUX  b 1848,
     cc. Anna LABOYTEAUX  b 1849
  c. Josiah LABOYTEAUX  b 4-1-1833, was a cooper
  d. Hiram LABOYTEAUX  b 4-15-1841  d 9-3-1911 m 1-30-1863 Elizabeth Ann FISHER
     b 5-5-1845  d 12-31-1892, both buried Batson Cem., Henry Co., Ind.

McCrea

I. Charles McCREA m 1861 Adaline BETTS, dau. of  Isaac BETTS
   A. Kingsley McCREA
   B. Clifford McCREA m Cora CUMMINGS.  See McGILLIARD.
   C. Harry McCREA
D. Charles McCREA m Francis HUMER
   1. Jane McCREA
   2. Robert McCREA
   3. Adaline McCREA m Allan CHACE. See CHACE.
      a. Robeert CHACE m Lynn MOORE
      b. Laura CHACE
   4. Alice McCREA
   5. Mary McCREA m William HAVEN
E. Addison McCREA
F. Florence McCREA m Dr. Harris M. BENEDICT, professor of botany at University of
   Cincinnati.
   1. Harris BENEDICT

A-40
2. Anne BENEDICT
3. Jean BENEDICT
4. Martha BENEDICT m Richard TUTTLE
5. McCrea BENEDICT, died WW II
G. Edith McCREA

McGILLIARD

I. John McGILLIARD 1783-1878 m Elizabeth CAMPBELL 1784-1861
   A. Mary McGILLIARD m John MOORE
   B. Squire Reeves McGILLIARD 1809-1878 m 1) Sarah GARDINER m 2) Sarah BROWN
   C. Hannah McGILLIARD
   D. John Smith McGILLIARD m Abigail PRESTON
   E. Andrew McGILLIARD 1815-1897 m Susan B. SHERMAN 1823-1883
      a. Elizabeth McGILLIARD 1842-1918 m William CUMMINGS 1833-1898
         aa. Cora CUMMINGS 1862-1938 m Clifford McCREA d 1918. See McCREA.
         bb. Luela CUMMINGS 1865-1916
         cc. Edgar CUMMINGS 1867-1937 m Florence PHARES 1872-1937
            aaa. Dorothy CUMMINGS 1904-1966 m Lewis HENSHAW. See HENSHAW.
            dd. Estella CUMMINGS 1869-1948
            ee. Harry CUMMINGS 1871-1915
      b. Reeves McGILLIARD 1845-1901 m Carolyn BOLSER
      c. Clark McGILLIARD 1847-1922 m 1) Harriet MOORE m 2) Lucy B. MOORE, sister of
         Harriet
      d. Charles McGILLIARD 1849-1874
      e. Elida McGILLIARD 1851-1933 m Alonzo CURTIS
      f. Walter McGILLIARD 1856-1868
      g. Alba Elmer McGILLIARD 1860-1927 m 1) Cora Ida DARE m 2) Harriet Ann MORRIS m 3) Harriet L. MARPE
F. William McGILLIARD 1819-1891 (twins) m Rebecca CRIGER 1822-1900
   a. John McGILLIARD m Emily MAGNUS
   b. Stanley McGILLIARD m Alice HARTWELL
   c. Edward McGILLIARD 1853-1929 m Flora LABOYTEAUX 1858-1922. See
      LAYBOYTEAUX.
   d. Emmaline McGILLIARD
   e. Harriet McGILLIARD
   f. George McGILLIARD
   h. Laura McGILLIARD 1859-1932 m Lewis K. LABOYTEAUX, brother of Flora.
G. Eliza McGILLIARD 1819-1845 m Lewis K. LABOYTEAUX
H. Susannah McGILLIARD 1823-1826

OLMSTED

I. Ebenezer OLMSTED, Sr. m Elizabeth LOVELL
   Issue: A. Ebenezer OLMSTED Jr. b April 24, 1763 Bradford, Vt. M ca 1785 Damaris
      SPAFFORD b Dec. 5, 1767, d/o Broadstreet SPAFFORD & Mary PAGE
      Issue: 1. Anna OLMSTED b 12-2-1786
         2. Eleazer OLMSTED b 12-10-1788 m Rhoda HURLEBURT

Source: Dr. Thomas R. Olmsted
3. Ebenezer Broadstreet OLMSTED b 1-27-1791
4. John Spafford OLMSTED b 7-2-1793 d 3-3-1873 m 1) 3-25-1813
   Fletcher, Vt. Mahettibel TYRRELL (d 9-3-1838) d/o Arad & Jamima
   TERRILL m 2) ca 1837 Margaret ?POWLESON m 3) ? Nancy Ann
   HORTON. Issue:
   a. Russel Chauncy OLMSTED (1813-1864)
   b. Thaddeus Tyrrell (T.T.) OLMSTED b 1817 d 3-11-1853 Pleasant,
      Ind. m 1) 1839 Elizabeth R. BELL b 8-24-1821 d 1-11-1846, d/o
      William BELL & Rebecca KENDALL. Issue:
      aa. Hettie Ann OLMSTED b 8-7-1839 d 2-8-1865 m 4-16-1857
      bb. Addison OLMSTED b 1840 d 10-8-1862 m April 1860 ?Sarah
         DEFOE
   cc. Rebecca Jane OLMSTED b 1841 m 12-1-1859 Henry T. OWENS
   dd. Charles W. OLMSTED b 1843 d 9-30-1878 m 4-25-1867 Aramilla
      BLODGETT (1846-1879) m 2) Lucinda BELL 1825-1867, d/o
      William BELL & Rebecca KENDALL
   ee. Maria Louisa OLMSTED 1849-1913 m 10-14-1871 James R.
      POWLESON (1837-1912)
   ff. Russell Thaddeus OLMSTED, M. D. b 10-31-1850 d 3-26-1921 m
      8-26-1875 Lovina E. COLE
   gg. Elizabeth OLMSTED b 3-2-1852 d 9-4-1859
   c. Elizabeth (Betsey) OLMSTED b 1820 d 3-2-1852 m 11-28-1836
      Joshua BATES (1808-1885)
   d. Maria L. OLMSTED (1815-8-31-1838) m William P. JOHNSON
   e. Polly OLMSTED b 5-25-1795
   f. Nobel OLMSTED b 8-14-1797 m Delia ?
   g. Betsey OLMSTED b 4-20-1800
   h. William F. OLMSTED b 1804 m Malina ?

Cincinnati Daily Gazette. Sept. 12, 1838, Obituary
Departed this life at Pleasant Hill, at the residence of her father, on the 31st of August after a severe
illness of 12 days. Maria L. Johnson, consort of Wm. P. Johnson, and eldest daughter of J. S. Olmsted,
Esq. Also on the 3rd instant at the same place after a painful illness of 15 days, Hetty Olmsted, wife of J.
S. Olmsted, Esq. Both of the above died of unshaken confidence in their redeemer. Mrs. Olmsted has
been enduring severe bodily afflictions for 19 years-all of which she has borne without a murmur.

POUNSFORD

I. William POUNSFORD m 27 July 1815 Sarah SISSON
   A. Arthur Henry POUNSFORD 1821-1893 m Sarah M. GRAHAM 1831-1918 dau. of James
      GRAHAM & Sarah BROWN m 2) Amanda HATHAWAY
         See AIKEN.
            aa. Kathleen (Kit) POUNSFORD 1921-1997
         b. Laura Thomson POUNSFORD 1904-1979 m J. Spencer ALLEN
         c. Mary Aiken POUNSFORD m 24 June 1919 Frank Bradley CROSS
         d. Arthur Graham POUNSFORD 1891- 1957 m Mabel TWENSTON m 2) Anna
McKENZIE
   aa. Arthur POUNSFORD
   bb. Susan POUNSFORD
e. ? Lewis POUNSFORD
f. Harry A. POUNSFORD 1889-1889
2. Ella H. POUNSFORD m 1865 Charles H. GUIOU
3. Sarah Beach POUNSFORD 1847-1939 (half-sister)

SIMPSON\(^{30}\)

I. William SIMPSON m Mary A. PENNEY
   A. Robert SIMPSON b 16 March 1830 Rochester, Monroe Co., N. Y. d 11 March 1897
      m 12 Sept 1854 Sarah J. HARTWELL (1832-1922), dau. of Thomas HARTWELL and Phoebe ROGERS. Issue:
      1. Robert SIMPSON, Jr. b 15 Aug 1864 m 1892 Ada Lilliam RAMP, no issue
      2. Frank Hartwell SIMPSON b 8 Aug. 1867 d 18 Dec. 1934 m 1891 Ann TAYLOR
         a. Harold Taylor SIMPSON b 20 Dec 1892 m Marita GALE
         b. Laura Carroll SIMPSON b 7 Dec 1894 d 8 March 1984 m 1) Peter G. THOMSON, Jr. See THOMSON m 2) ?? LAMB m 3) Philip LAWILL
         c. Delle SIMPSON b 22 Oct 1896 m William ERNST
         d. Frances SIMPSON b 16 Jan. 1899 d 1975 m Charles H. UPSON
         e. Eleanor SIMPSON b 1 Sept. 1902 m Edward C. ORR
      3. William T. SIMPSON b 12 Sept. 1855 d 30 March 1915 m Sarah RICKER d 11 May 1934
         a. Robert Ricker SIMPSON 1880-1885
      4. Mary Adelpha (Della) SIMPSON b 30 Oct. 1858 m 1883 Dudley EMERSON, his father was Thomas EMERSON. Dudley was a cousin of Lowe EMERSON. See EMERSON.
         a. Mary Elizabeth EMERSON b 18 July 1884 m Paul BRIOL
         b. Ruth Nancy EMERSON b 19 Sept. 1885 m Howard HANNAFORD, nephew of the architect Samuel Hannaford
         c. Earl Arthur EMERSON b 19 Aug. 1887 m Margaret Hamilton JAMES
         d. Saradella EMERSON b 12 Jan. 1892 m ?? SADLER
         a. Lowe Emerson SIMPSON b 10 Jan 1887 m Mildred FOLGER. Issue:
            aa. Orville SIMPSON
            bb. Lowe SIMPSON
            cc. Jeremy SIMPSON
         b. Robert Orville SIMPSON b 4 Dec 1903 m 1937 Margaret WRIGHT. Issue:
            aa. Margaret A. SIMPSON
            bb. Barbara A. SIMPSON

SKILLMAN\(^{31}\)

\(^{30}\) Source: Mr. Jeremy Simpson

\(^{31}\) Source: Mrs. Joan Hughes
I. Martin Nevin SKILLMAN from Somerset, N. J.
A. Isaac Nevius SKILLMAN (b 11-24-1803 d Oct. 1840) m 15 Jan. 1825 Parmelia (Amelia) STRYKER (b 1-5-1807, d 1892, Marion Co., Ill.) Issue:
   1. Elizabeth SKILLMAN b 12-1-1825 d 8-2-1894 m 5-11-1845 Elon STRONG (had a store in College Hill, son of Zebulon STRONG) b 12-24-1820 d 4-17-1902.
      See CARY. Issue:
      a. Freeland Rawson STRONG 1857-1926 m Amanda WELSH 1865-1930
         Issue: aa. Earl Freeland STRONG 1901-1980
      b. Hannah STRONG b 8-10-1848 d 12-15-1921 m Jonathan SKILLMAN b 7-25-1836 d 9-25-1911. Issue:
         aa. Charles Nelson SKILLMAN b 1872
         bb. Elizabeth SKILLMAN, d infant
         cc. Cora Eugeina SKILLMAN (1874-1903)
         dd. Ella May SKILLMAN (1876-1918)
         ee. Anna Louise SKILLMAN b 1879
         ff. Mildred SKILLMAN b 1881
         gg. Ethel Blanche SKILLMAN b 1883
         hh. Pearl SKILLMAN, d infant
         ii. Lillie Belle SKILLMAN (18884-1890)
         jj. Thomas Edward SKILLMAN (1887-1969)
   c. Josiah STRONG
   d. Emma STRONG m ?? HILL
   e. Albert STRONG
   f. Lillian STRONG m Andy NORRIS
   g. Freeland STRONG m ?? SEEBOHM. Issue:
      aa. Annie STRONG
      bb. Edward STRONG
      cc. Sherman STRONG
      dd. Zebulon STRONG
   h. Minnie STRONG

B. Infant
C. John S. SKILLMAN b May 1829 d 7-17-1830
D. Martin SKILLMAN b/d 1831
E. Alva SKILLMAN b 1832 d 2-25-1833
F. Newton SKILLMAN b 1838
G. Anna SKILLMAN b 1840 m Theodore BURNS, buried Marion Co., Ill. East Lawn Cem., Salem
H. Mary SKILLMAN b 1-26-1841 d 8-3-1915 m Leonard B. HARRIS (b ca 1823 d 1900)
I. Josiah SKILLMAN b 12-23-1836, College Hill

Unknown relationship between Jacob and Martin SKILLMAN:

Jacob SKILLMAN m Mercy ??
1. Isaac N. SKILLMAN m Harriet ADAMS 1848-1922. He had a store in College Hill. Issue:
   a. John A. D SKILLMAN 1934 m Cora LANE 1870-1922
2. Benjamin SKILLMAN b 1787, N. J. m Nancy ?? b 1790. He was a weaver.
   a. Margaret SKILLMAN b 1830 N. J. m ?? WILLIAMSON
   b. Sarah SKILLMAN m ?? ROBERTSON
   c. Nancy Ann SKILLMAN
d. Thomas SKILLMAN

3. Jacob Jr. SKILLMAN m ?Jane A. LA RUE 1807-1876
   a. Isaac SKILLMAN 1838-1919

4. Thomas SKILLMAN

5. Abraham SKILLMAN b 1787, N. J. m Abigail TUCKER b 1793
   a. Henry M. SKILLMAN b 1828 (twin to Ann) m 1857 Augusta Viola FOSTER
      aa. Harry SKILLMAN
   b. Issac N. SKILLMAN 1816-1879 m Hattie DRUSCILLA b 1822
      aa. Mary Jane SKILLMAN b 1842
      bb. John P. SKILLMAN b 1843
      cc. David Henry SKILLMAN b 1845
      dd. Abraham SKILLMAN b 1846
      ee. Hannah SKILLMAN b 1849
   c. Charlotte SKILLMAN b 1826
   d. Ann SKILLMAN b 1828
   e. Sarah Ellen SKILLMAN b 1833

SPARKS

SPARKS

I. Isaac SPARKS b Fayette Co. Pa. 11-24-1768 d Aug. 21, 1834. He m 1) 5-6-1790 (Sally) Sarah HANKINS b 2-20-1770 d Dec. 17, 1825 m 2) Elizabeth ?? See HANKINS.

Issue: A. William SPARKS b March 18, 1791 d 1876, m 2) Mary Ann HORNADAY, July 21, 1825, Rush Co. Ind. m 1) Sarah or Catherine HOWELL 1810-1815 m 3) Mary (Polly) TEMPLETON. Polly moved to Rock Port, Atchison Co., Missouri after his death.

Issue: a. William J. SPARKS m Olive WILKINSON
   b. Charlotte SPARKS m Albert HERRICK
   c. Sarah SPARKS b 10-8-1824 m George Washington SCOTT
   d. Anna M. SPARKS m ?? SAMPSON
   e. Eliza A. SPARKS m ?? DuBOIS
   f. Oliver G. SPARKS b ca 1832 m Elizabeth ??
   g. Susan H. SPARKS m William BARTHOLOMEW
   h. Martha B. SPARKS m ?? DAVIS

B. Elizabeth SPARKS b 4-22-1793 d 12-7-1825 married James McCASH 1788-1871, son of Margaret EWING and David Lenoir McCASH

Issue: a. Harriet McCASH m William OSBORN
   b. Elizabeth McCASH m Jediah Stout HILL
   c. David McCASH m 1) Mary BRUIN m 2) ?? DERBY
   d. Sarah Ann McCASH, unmarried
   e. Israel McCASH m Sarah Ann LOPER
   f. Isaac Sparks McCASH m Martha Ann VAN ZANDT, dau. of Reuben VAN ZANDT and Eliza SEWARD. See VAN ZANDT. Issue:
      aa. Amelia Ann McCASH m Quinton Brown JAMES
      bb. Isaac Newton McCASH
      cc. Andrew McCASH
      dd. Mary B. McCASH

C. Mary (Polly) SPARKS b 1-5-1795 d 2-20-1870 married Obediah SEWARD of Mt. Healthy. Issue:

32Russell E. Bidlack, Paul E. Sparks, The Sparks Quarterly, correspondence
a. Joseph Irvin SEWARD m Charlotte HOPPER
b. Samuel SEWARD m Elizabeth LOVELESS
c. Sarah SEWARD m DR. GREGG
d. Eley SEWARD m John VAN DYKE
e. Francis SEWARD m Phoebe VAN DYKE
f. Ruth SEWARD m John HUSTON
g. William SEWARD m Mary Ann JUSTICE
h. Louann P. SEWARD m Daniel FRANKLIN

D. Rachel SPARKS  b Sept. 19, 1798  d 1-5-1841, tuberculosis  m Daniel LONG (b 2-28-1766  d 10-1-1869). Daniel  m 2) Abigail LINDLEY. Issue:
   a. Isaac Sparks LONG 1821-1893 m Sarah V. SMITH
   b. Jacob LONG 1823-1825
c. William P. LONG 1825-1912 m Sarah D. REEVE
d. Alfred J. LONG 1828-1884
e. Rhoda LONG 1830-1897 m John SPIVEY
f. Israel LONG m Jane MORRISON
g. Martin V. LONG 1835-1854
h. Susan A. LONG 1840-1840

E. Nancy (Anna) SPARKS  b Oct. 2, 1800, Fayette Co., Pa.  d. 6-7-1841 m 11-2-1820 to Tunis COX s/o William G. Cox. Tunis m 2) 1842 Sarah SAUTER. Issue:
   a. William COX b. 10-7-1821
   b. Thomson COX b 11-29-1822 m 1844 Susan PATTERSON
c. Mary Ann COX b 6-21-1824 m Nicholas GOSHORN?
d. Sally COX b 12-6-1825 m ?? TITUS
e. Greshem COX b 3-18-1827
f. Andrew Jackson COX b 2-6-1829
g. Elizabeth COX b 12-12-1830
h. Isaac COX b 3-17-1832
i . Martha Jane COX b 9-1-1834
j. Harriet COX b 1-8-1836 d 6-25-1868 m Alexander DOM of Mt. Healthy
   aa. & bb. Twins died as infants
   cc. Alma DOM m ?? WOLFRAM
dd. William DOM
   ee. Alexander DOM Jr. b 2-12-1865 d 1-10-1930 m 1887 Catherine SMITH
   ff. G. Ivan DOM b 1866
k. George Washington COX b 12-27-1837 m 1) 1858 Rebecca AYRES m 2)
   1868 Mrs. Martin (HOLE) SMITH
   l. Catherine COX b 6-5-1839

F. John D. SPARKS  b Oct. 8, 1802 m ??

   1807, d Mar. 14, 1839)  m 2) Rebecca ??.
   Issue a. Alford SPARKS
   b. Elizabeth SPARKS
   c. Ermsley SPARKS (daughter)
d. Sarah SPARKS
e. William SPARKS
f. Andrew SPARKS
g. Edward SPARKS
f. Rhoda SPARKS
H. Thomson SPARKS b 12-1-1808 d 11-14-1833 of cholera m 2-2-1832 Lucy Jane HEAD 1810-1880.

Issue: a. Francis (Frank) M. SPARKS b 12-12-1832 d 6-28-1910 m 1) 7-24-1859 Lydia GARNER 1841-1863 m 2) 5-6-1882 Matilda J. LOUDENBACK 1846-1926

Issue:
   aa. Ladora SPARKS m Charles E. MOORE
   bb. Meotta B. SPARKS m John C. LOUDENBACK

I. Sally SPARKS b 12-20-1810 m Simeon LEGGITT, brother of Sarah

J. Rhoda SPARKS b Nov. 6, 1816, died 11-1-1825, buried in Gard Cemetery.

THOMSON

I. Peter THOMSON b Perth, Scotland 1799, d 1865 m Rhoda JOHNSON

   A. Alexander THOMSON 1825-1878 m Mary Ann EDWARDS 1826-1914, dau. of John C. EDWARDS

   Issue: 1. Alexander THOMSON 1855-1857

      2. Peter Gibson THOMSON 1851-1931 m 1) Laura GAMBLE, 1853-1913, dau. of James M. & Sarah (Logan) Gamble m 2) Kate Prather WOOLEY 1863-1935, widow of Edgar Wooley and dau. of Charles B. & Catherine PRATHER. Issue:

         a. Peter Gibson THOMSON, Jr. d 1985 m Laura Carol SIMPSON. See SIMPSON.

         b. Alexander THOMSON 1879-1951 m Mary Moore DABNEY, dau. of Charles W. DABNEY and Mary Chilton BRENT (1886-1980). Charles W. Dabney was the president of the University of Cincinnati 1904-1920. Mary Moore was president of Western College in Oxford, OH. Issue:

            aa. Lewis Clark THOMSON 1918-1988 m 1) Betty Orr BULLOCK 1922-1984 m 2) Pilar GALLO. Issue by Betty:

               aaa. Margaret THOMSON
               bbb. Carol THOMSON
               ccc. Christy THOMSON

            bb. Alexander THOMSON Jr. 1909-1944 m Adele NOYES. Issue:

               aaa. Adele Louise THOMSON 1933-1991
               bbb. Alexander THOMSON III

               ccc. Charles Dabney THOMSON 1915-1970 m 1937 1) Sylvia GOULD, div. m 2) Jane FRASIER 1917-1974 Issue: (with Sylvia)

               aaaa. C. D. THOMSON
               bbbb. Tina THOMSON

               Issue: (with Jane)

               cccc. Mary Moore THOMSON

            ddd. Chilton THOMSON m 1941 Janet FRENCH Issue:

               aaaa. Chilton THOMSON, JR.

               bbbb. Maynard French THOMSON

               cccc. Willetta THOMSON

            eeee. Mary Moore THOMSON 1911-1927

33Records of Spring Grove Cemetery

A-47
c. Hope L. THOMSON d 1958 m Reuben B. ROBERTSON. Issue:
   aa. Reuben B. ROBERTSON, Jr.
   bb. Hope ROBERTSON
   cc. Logan Thomson ROBERTSON d 1988
 d. Mary Bell THOMSON d 1955 m Walter DeGollyer RANDALL. Issue:
   aa. Herbert Thomson RANDALL
 e. Logan Gamble THOMSON 1884-1946 m Sylvia Y. JOHNSTON 1892-1961
daughter of Edgar Dwight JOHNSTON & Jane Lewis ROOTS. Issue:
   aa. Dwight G. THOMSON m Gloria ??
   bb. Jane THOMSON m Mark HERSCHEDE
3. Rhoda THOMSON 1848-1903 m Charles Rammelsberg 1847-1895, son of
   Frederick Rammelsberg and Sarah Maria LAPE. Issue:
   a. William Rammelsberg b 1869
   b. Fredie Rammelsberg 1870-1871
   c. Alice E. Rammelsberg 1872-1957
   d. Rhoda Rammelsberg 1874-1927 m 1) Charles Griffith ROBINSON
   m 2) Theodore BURKHAM
   e. Clara L. Rammelsberg 1876-1947
   f. Sallie Rammelsberg b 1878
   g. Kathleen Rammelsberg 1879-1963 m Col. Clarence K. LaMOTTE
The Van Zandt name came from Holland and was originally Van der Zandt. The first Van Zandt to America was John who fought in the Revolutionary War with General Lafayette. John had three sons: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, which spread the surname, each settling in a different state.

I. Isaac VAN ZANDT b New Jersey, came to Ohio in 1802, came to Hamilton Co. 1805, m ??
   Issue: A. Henry VAN ZANDT b ca 1772 m 1795 Mercy STOUT, 1778-1868. Her parents were
   Benijah & Elizabeth STOUT. Mercy named her son Reuben after her brother. Mercy m 2) Stephen JESSUP. See JESSUP. Issue:
   1. Reuben VAN ZANDT 1779-1874 m 1822 Eliza SEWARD, dau. of Samuel SEWARD* &
      Elsie JENTRY (Gentry)
   2. Martha Ann VAN ZANDT 1823-1892 m 1840 Isaac Sparks McCASH. See
      SPARKS.
   3. Samuel S. VAN ZANDT 1824-1892 m Mary CUMMINS 1823-1883, dau. of
      William & Mary CUMMINS. Issue:
      a. Cornelia VAN ZANDT 1846-1867
   4. Jane VAN ZANDT 1826-1907 m ?? LITTELL
   5. Margaret VAN ZANDT 1828-1862 m James McCASH. See SPARKS.
   6. Emeline VAN ZANDT b 1829 m 1851 m 1)Thomas J. RUNYON
      m 2) ?? WYCHOFF
   7. Elecey L. VAN ZANDT 1831-1900 m 1857 C. Tacitus TIFT
   8. Mary S. VAN ZANDT 1833-1906 m 1858 Israel H. PENDERY
   9. Alfred H. VAN ZANDT 1836-1912 m Rebecca Ann SEAMAN 1842-1928, dau. of
      Capt. Henry & Georgetta SEAMAN. Issue:
      a. Mary E. VAN ZANDT 1867-1950
      b. Charles A. VAN ZANDT 1869-1945 m Ella MOULTON
      c. Georgetta VAN ZANDT 1866-1867
   10. Alexander C. VAN ZANDT 1838-1912 m Eveline WOLVERTON 1841-1881, 
      daughter of Amos & Elizabeth WOLVERTON. Issue:
      a. William VAN ZANDT
      b. Adeline VAN ZANDT
      c. Henry VAN ZANDT
      d. Eloise VAN ZANDT
   11. Elizabeth VAN ZANDT 1841-1891 m Eugene DISERENS 1838-1873. Issue:
      a. Cora DISERENS 1868-1942
      12. Caroline VAN ZANDT 1844-1894, unmarried
      13. Clara VAN ZANDT 1847-1926, unmarried
      B. Mercy VAN ZANDT m 1825 Thomas Branch WITHERBY. See WITHERBY.
      C. Margaret VAN ZANDT m Richard CONKLIN
      D. Maria VAN ZANDT m Elisha SEWARD, brother of Elizabeth

* Samuel SEWARD m Elsie JENTRY (Gentry). Issue:
   1. Obadiah SEWARD b 9-18-1790
   2. Ann SEWARD b 4-4-1792
   3. William SEWARD b 1-3-1794
   4. James SEWARD b 12-25-1796
   5. Samuel SEWARD b 1-17-1798
   6. Joseph Owen SEWARD b 3-25-1800
7. Elias SEWARD b 3-14-1802 
8. Elizabeth SEWARD b 4-3-1804 
9. Martin Gentry SEWARD b 10-19-1807 

I. Aaron VAN ZANDT, Fleming Co., Ky. m Margaret KEITH. Issue: 
A. James VAN ZANDT 
B. Aaron B. VAN ZANDT 
C. Isaiah K. VAN ZANDT 
D. John A. VAN ZANDT 1791-1847 m 1824 Nancy RUNYON 1798-1837 
E. Ann VAN ZANDT b 1801 m Adam HESTER 
Unknown is the relationship between Aaron and Henry Van Zandt, but they were sufficiently related to have Henry lose property from the judgment against John A. Van Zandt.

WAGGONER

I. (General) John Christopher WAGGONER m Rebecca ?? 
A. Aaron WAGGONER b 29 July 1760 m Betsy (Tibba) GARD b 4 Jan. 1759, dau. of Gershom GARD and Phoebe HUNTINGTON. Issue: 
1. David WAGGONER b 1781 m Heziah ?? 
2. John WAGGONER b 1783 m Amelia ?? 
3. Gadberry (Gad) WAGGONER 1785-1844 m Catherine WILLIAMS 1787-1856. Issue: 
   a. Nathan WAGGONER 
   b. Prudence WAGGONER 
   c. Rhoda WAGGONER 
   d. Asher WAGGONER 
   e. Ezekial WAGGONER 
   f. William WAGGONER 
   g. Catherine WAGGONER m 1834 Thomas KEMP 
   h. Peter Williams WAGGONER 
   i. Sarah Ann WAGGONER 
4. Asher WAGGONER b 1787 m Meirya ?? 
5. Rhoda WAGGONER b 1790 
6. William WAGGONER b 1792 m Susanna ?? 
7. Rebecca WAGGONER b 1796 m Peter WILLIAMS 
8. Gershom WAGGONER b 1798 
9. Daniel WAGGONER b 1800 
10. Phebe WAGGONER b 1802 
11. Aaron WAGGONER, Jr.

WILSON

Not related to Obed J. WILSON

I. John WILSON 
   A. Samuel WILSON 1784-1857, came to Hamilton County, Ohio in 1828 with family, married 

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34 Source: Anita Fuller Nance and Mary C. Dingle
Indenture 23 Oct. 1816

35 Records of the Spring Grove Cemetery; Source: Jack O’Neill
1814 Sally NESMITH 1787-1873. Samuel was the son of John WILSON and Jane LYNN. Sally’s sister, Margaret Nesmith Morrison 1785-1851, a widow, lived with them for years. They were the daughters of Deacon James NESMITH & Mary McCLURE.

1. Harriet Nesmith WILSON 1825-1920, unmarried
2. Theophilus WILSON 1815-1899 m 1843 Lydia PADDOCK. Issue:
   a. Morris Hubert WILSON
3. James Nesmith WILSON 1817-1819
4. David Morrison WILSON 1819-1887 m Emeline Biddle TOMLINSON 1847-1887. They went to Syria as missionaries and lived in TN. when they returned. He is buried in Grandview TN next to his old friend and father of his son’s wife, John Silsby. Issue:
   a. Tomlinson WILSON, missionary m ?? SILSBY
5. Sally Ann WILSON 1820-1868, unmarried
6. Jesse Parsons WILSON 1822-1862 m 1848 Minerva RUFFNER d 1858. Jesse died in the Civil War
7. Mary Jane WILSON 1823-1887 m 1843 Rev. George Washington PYLE 1846-1887 Issue:
   a. Theodore Wilson PYLE b 1844 m Carrie ANDRESS
   b. George W. PYLE, Jr. 1846-1868, Civil War
9. Margaret WILSON 1847-1849

B. Theophilus WILSON
C. David WILSON
D. John WILSON

WITHERBY

I. John Keyes WITHERBY m Levinah RAND
A. (Rev.) Danforth WITHERBY 1771-1857 m 1) 1794 Lucy STILES. Came from Thetford, Vt. in 1806 with his 3 sons via ox cart. m 2) 1844 Lydia YILLET. Issue:
   1. Luther WITHERBY 1799-1851 m Juliana BROWN 1804-1875, dau. of Capt. Ephraim BROWN & Euince GARD. See BROWN, GARD. Issue:
      a. Lucy WITHERBY m Patrick GROGAN b Ireland
      b. Eunice WITHERBY m ?? Von SKOYLOE
   c. Susan Spencer WITHERBY m 12-15-1846 Ralph PENDERY
   d. Warren Danforth WITHERBY m Sarah GOSHORN, dau. of Jacob & Sarah GOSHORN. Issue:
      aa. Albert Eugene WITHERBY
      bb. Franklin S. WITHERBY m Mary E. NUNEMAKER
      cc. Luther A. WITHERBY m ?? TIMBERMAN
   e. Francis WITHERBY m Joseph DRAIN
   f. Mahlon WITHERBY b 1828 d as a young man
   g. Jackson WITHERBY m Elizabeth STOUT
   h. Thomas Branch WITHERBY d 1843
   i. Phoebe WITHERBY d 1925, unmarried

2. Thomas Branch WITHERBY b 1802 m Mercy VAN ZANDT. See VAN ZANDT. Issue:
   a. John Gano WITHERBY m 1) Mollie ?? m 2) Mollie TAYLOR
   b. Rosalinda WITHERBY m 1855 William BAGLEY, his 2nd wife. Issue:
aa. Thomas Keyes BAGLEY b 1858 m Carrie Dewing AIKEN. See AIKEN.
   aaa. Ruth BAGLEY
       bbb. Helen BAGLEY
   bb. Ella BAGLEY, by 1st wife
      cc. Ida BAGLEY, by 1st wife
      dd. Susan BAGLEY by 1st wife
   c. Marietta WITHERBY m George SHIVELY
   d. Freeman Cary WITHERBY 1839-1917 m 1883 Molly (PRICE) LISHAWA d 1916.
      Issue: aa. Ella LISHAWA m ?? FERRY
3. John H. WITHERBY b 1806
4. Philinda (Philo) WITHERBY m Philip POMROY. Issue:
   a. Danforth Witherby POMROY
5. Electra WITHERBY 1808-1854 m ?? WINSTON
6. Oliver Spenser WITHERBY b 1815, went to CA. for the gold rush, stayed and became a judge
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