Remembering Our Roots

Elmwood to Linworth
1877 - 1909 1910 -

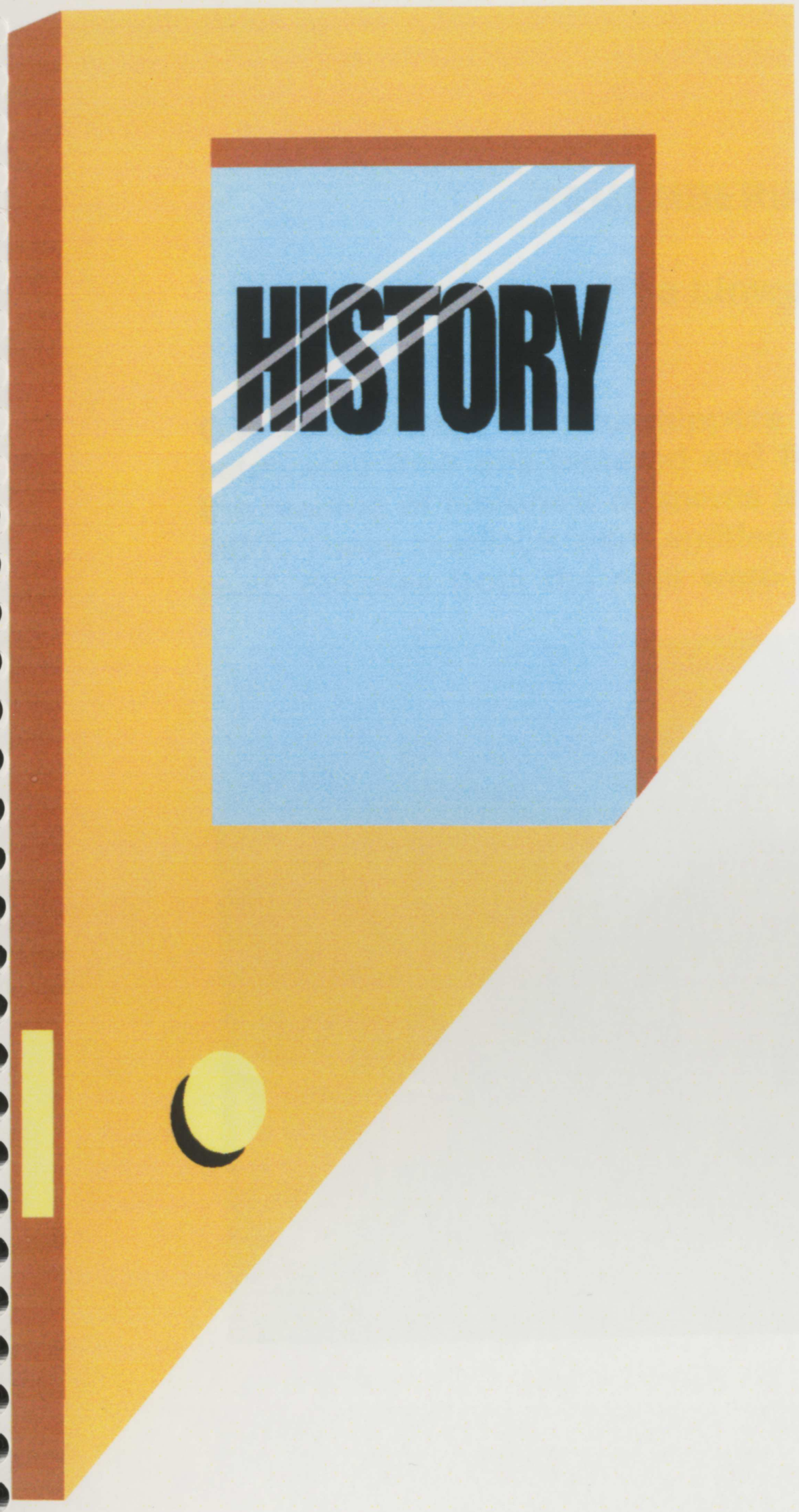












Remembering Our Roots

In writing the history of Linworth United Methodist Church, we thought it equally important to tell the story of Elmwood Station, a small village established in 1877, when the Columbus to Toledo Railroad came north through Perry Township. Early records indicate that during the 1880's ninety-five per cent of the residents were interested in having their own church.

In the following pages, we will tell in text and pictures the history of some of the people who contributed to the growth of Elmwood (Linworth) and its first church.

Special thanks to:

- **Linworth United Methodist Youth for providing funds to restore and enhance old photos.**
- **The people who came forward with the pictures that are now on the walls of Elmwood Station (Heritage Room).**
- **Jeff Brown, Metro Gallery, for scanning, mounting, and laminating the pictures and giving so much of his own time in editing and retyping text.**
- **Jane Trucksis, Curator, Worthington Historical Society, for assisting Jim Thompson in researching historical maps and routes on the underground railroad.**

The Heritage Committee
Linworth United Methodist Church
2002

REMEMBERING OUR ROOTS

The Linworth Minutes

One of the ways the worshippers at Linworth United Methodist Church celebrated their one hundred and fifteenth year as a church was through the reading of historical moments leading to the founding of the church in 1887. These readings were entitled *Linworth Minutes*. As the stories were read, pictures from the past were projected on a screen in the Worship Center at 7070 Bent Tree Boulevard. They are printed in this document as a tribute to the visionary men and women who gave of their time, abilities, and resources to begin a ministry that continues into this twenty-first century.



Read these stories about the roots of a congregation who are grateful for their heritage and who remain dedicated to sharing their faith.

Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way? It means we'd better get on with it—and never quit!
Hebrews 12:1 (The Message)

LINWORTH MINUTES - 1

(Read April 7, 2002)

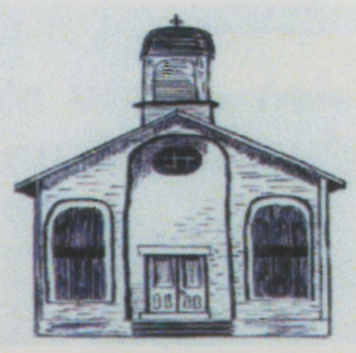
Circuit Rider Churches



The circuit rider was that great breed of Methodist ministers who traveled through uncharted wilderness to cabins of pioneers. These preachers rode circuits throughout Ohio as long as one hundred miles. So hazardous were these routes that two preachers were often assigned to ride together on horseback through these remote regions. After services, they would take meals and lodge with the settlers before moving on. This is how it was in the early 1800's in and around two newly carved out villages known as Dublin and Worthington.



One of the finest known circuit riders in Worthington was the Reverend Mr. Martin. For a time in 1808, he preached in the cabin of Samuel Beech, located one mile south of the village. The little band of Christians continued to meet and have prayer meetings and bible study in homes inside the village. Fifteen years later, in 1823, the first Worthington Methodist Church was built at the corner of Hartford and South Streets.



In 1807, six miles to the west in Dublin, George Ebey and his wife opened their home to the circuit riders. In 1815, the founder of Dublin, Ludwick Sells, held prayer and church services in his log home for the growing Methodist congregation. From limestone quarried nearby, Dublin built its first Methodist Church in 1837 at 155 South High Street.

As the word of God spread, families held church and Sunday School services in homes, barns, and an occasional camp meeting along the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers.

In the 1840's, under the leadership of the great preacher Reverend Uriah Heath, churches sprang up along the Scioto River at Henderson Road and extended as far down river as Marble Cliff Mills. A church on Bethel Road would later join the Flint, Stratford, Dublin, Worthington, and several other remote churches to become known as the Worthington Circuit. It would be another 40 years, around 1880, before this circuit would hear of another newly established village called Elmwood – or as we know it today – Linworth.



LINWORTH MINUTES - 2

(Read April 14, 2002)

Spreading the Gospel



The 1850-60's saw farms springing up in Perry Township along the Scioto River. Forests were being cleared and sawmills were in full production. Gristmills were in operation at various points along the Scioto River from Dublin to Columbus. Most of the Indians were gone from this area and the dangers the Methodist circuit riders had faced in the early 1800's were not as great.

The local Circuit had grown to include churches from the southern edge of Delaware at Stratford to locations along the Olentangy and Scioto Rivers all the way to Columbus.



The circuit riders were not satisfied with just spreading the Gospel in churches, but also stopped at farms and cabins throughout Perry Township from Sam Davis' house along the Scioto to John Wilcox and John Snouffer's homes near Worthington. Farmers and merchants a like would be holding Bible study and prayer meetings.



The preachers planted thoughts of a need for a church between Worthington and Dublin. The question was, "where?" There was nothing between the two towns but deep woods or farmland.



Escaping slaves followed the

In Worthington times were also changing. The town was growing and the building of a bigger Methodist Church was being considered. About the same time feelings across the nation over the slavery issue were reaching a boiling point. Most of Worthington including the Methodist congregation were dead set against slavery. Many residents were already involved in the Underground Railroad. Ozem Gardner on whose farm the Flint Methodist Church was built was a strong leader in the movement, his house being one of the more successful stations. He, with much help, assisted over two hundred slaves on their way to Canada and was never caught.

Some of the courageous people involved in this movement would get caught up in another movement; that is, in about twenty years establishing a church in a new little village called Elmwood Station.



LINWORTH MINUTES

(Read at Linworth United Methodist Church on April 21, 2002)

Indian Bill Moose



A tiny village sprang up in the 1870s along the newly constructed Columbus-to-Toledo railroad tracks. The first building was a railroad depot located near a grove of stately elm trees, thus Elmwood Station became the first name for this new village. That village soon attracted blacksmiths, railroad workers, and cattlemen driving stock to be shipped to market by rail



One intriguing visitor to Elmwood Station through the years was a full-blooded Wyandot Indian named Bill Moose. He was born in Wyandot County in 1837. The Wyandots made regular trips from Upper Sandusky to the burial site of Leatherlips, near Dublin. After paying respect to the Chief, the family would journey to the Olentangy and camp along the river at a location presently known as Highbanks Metro Park. After Bill's parents died in 1871 and were buried in the Indian cemetery at Upper Sandusky, he returned to Perry Township. Using a pair of oxen, he made a living pulling stumps for local farmers.



Because of his Indian heritage, Bill traveled across the United States working with the Sells Brothers Circus and a Wild West Show with sharpshooters Frank Butler and Annie Oakley. These friends knew how much he missed his former way of life. Bill returned to Perry and Sharon Townships and accepted an offer to live along the New York Central railroad tracks a few miles south of Worthington. A cabin was built and he soon began greeting visitors who wanted to meet a "real live Indian"





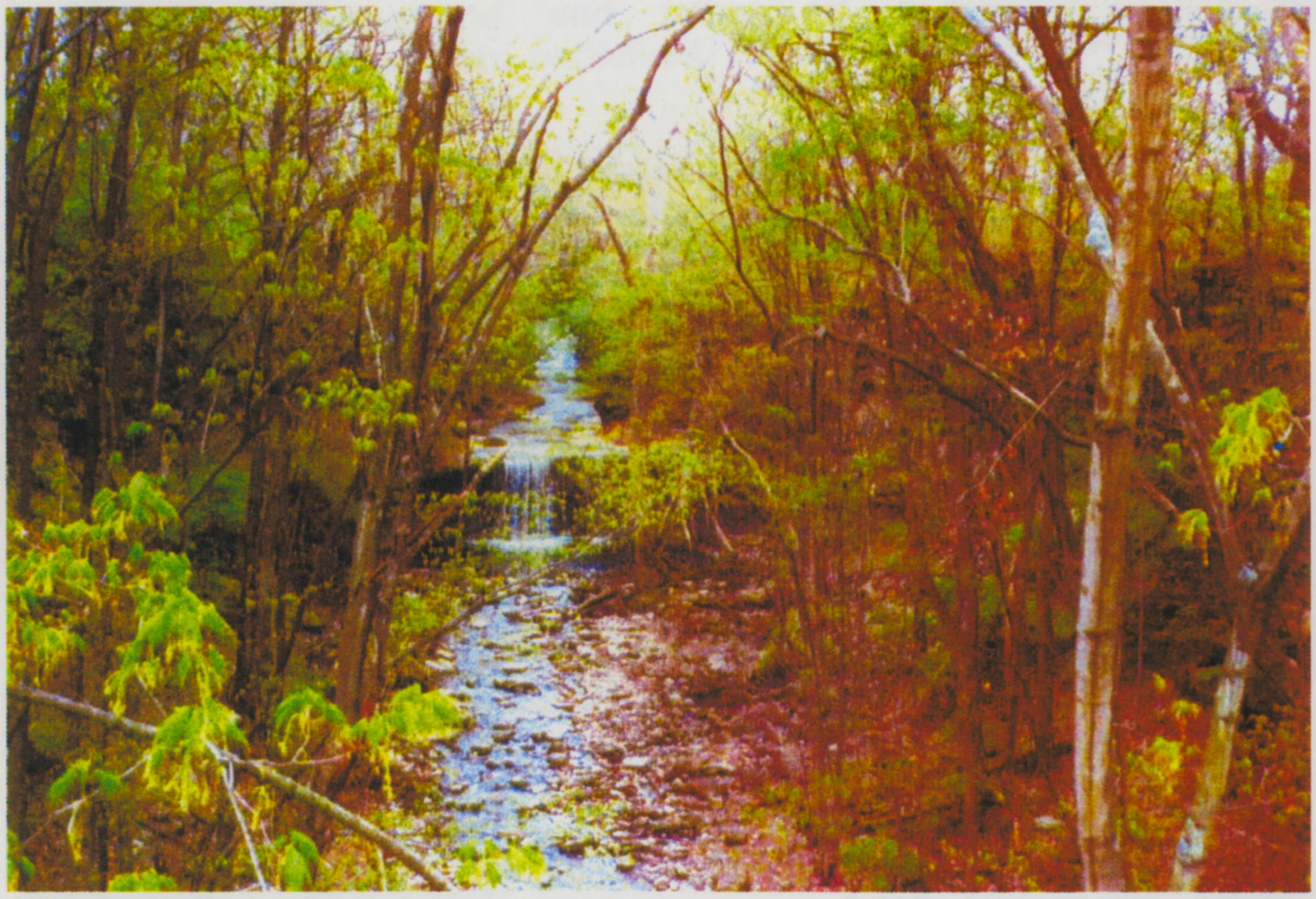
Bill frequently visited friends then living in Elmwood. Often, children would gather around him, eager for one of his stories. Such was the case of a



four year-old boy who, in 1920, would climb up on Bill's knee and listen while Bill and the boy's father would reminisce about the "good ol' days". We know that little boy as our own Jim Thompson, Sr.

Although there is no confirmation that Bill attended services in Elmwood, or at Linworth Methodist Church, he often spoke of his tribe's conversion to Christianity by the preaching of the Methodist Circuit Rider, Reverend Stewart, in 1815.

At the end of his life, Bill was moved from his cabin to the Franklin County Home in 1930. He passed away seven years later on July 12, 1937, just short of his one hundredth birthday.



Indian Run Falls, Dublin, Ohio
(This picture is made looking south.)

Indian Bill often walked to long abandoned Wyandot Village sites near the Olentangy and Scioto Rivers. One such site was located on flat ground just west of Indian Run Falls. In the above picture the site location is past the trees and vegetation to a level area at the crest of the hill on the right side of the falls.

This area is believed to be the location of Leatherlips' village at the time of his execution in 1810.

LINWORTH MINUTES - 4

(Read July 14, 2002)

Elmwood – The Beginnings

Perry Township in the late 1860's was like the rest of the country. The end of the Civil War would bring the need for healing and restoration. Charles Morgan, who served from 1862 through 1865 with the 113th Regiment of the Ohio Infantry, returned to life on the farm. His younger sister, Almeda Jane and her two year old son, Georgie, were not so lucky. They lost their husband and father on a Southern battlefield. He was 26 years old.





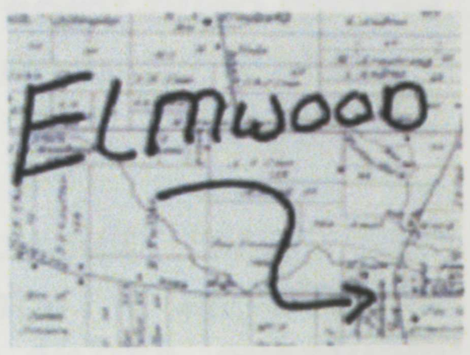


Time healed most wounds and the 1870's brought about changes in Perry Township few had expected. Joseph Armstrong and John Wilcox confirmed the rumors. Not only was a railroad coming north out of Columbus, it was coming right through their fields. After five years of land acquisition, engineering, and construction, the Columbus to Toledo railroad was ready for business. A number of Elm trees were cut down and a train station was built on the north side of Dublin/Worthington Pike.





On January 10, 1877, a passenger train traveling from Toledo stopped at the new village called Elmwood Station, or as we know it today—Linworth. Local families gathered to watch the arrival of the first steam locomotive, and it was probably Ike Deardorff Sr. who yelled out, "Folks, we're on the map!" Life in Elmwood continued to grow at a rapid pace; livestock was being shipped and received, blacksmith, carpenter shops and grocery stores were opening up. The future looked bright.







Elmwood's spiritual life was about to become very bright as well. A new Methodist Circuit rider by the name of Frank Gunsaulus was assigned to the Worthington Circuit. Being young and full of the Holy Spirit, he preached in churches, schools, homes and barns—anywhere he could gather a crowd. On a warm summer evening in 1877, the twenty-one year old preacher held a revival meeting in the red brick schoolhouse in Elmwood. It was an overflow crowd, which according to the Worthington Methodists was getting to be common wherever he preached. Because of that service, prayer meetings and Sunday school classes were started and held in nearby homes.





In those early years, many families walked long distances to church. Josephine Holder, who celebrated her 91st birthday on June 1, 2002, is a lifelong resident of Perry Township. She remembers the stories told about her grandmother, Rose Morgan, walking over two miles with six young children from their farm on Smokey Row Road to services held in the Elmwood School. This in many cases was the only mode of transportation, and it became apparent that the village needed a church building of its own. Many of the local farm families simply could not walk to Worthington or Dublin to worship. Like their parents who originally settled this area, the residents of Elmwood were strong, spirit-filled people. If they needed a church, by the grace of God they would build a church! Stay tuned for further developments.





Oh by the way, that young circuit rider, Frank Gunsaulus, who seemed to start it all with his strong revival meetings in the 1870's, eventually moved on to Chicago, Illinois. There he delivered what became known as the "Million Dollar Sermon. He said that with a million dollars he would build a school where students of all backgrounds could prepare for meaningful roles in a changing society. Philip Armour, a Chicago meat packer, was there that Sunday morning. He

was so excited by the young pastor's vision that he brought forth the million dollars, built the Armour Institute, and made Frank Gunsaulus its President. Today it is known as the Illinois Institute of Technology.

We can remember Frank Gunsaulus here at Linworth, because his spirit filled messages in 1877 are a part of our Linworth story.

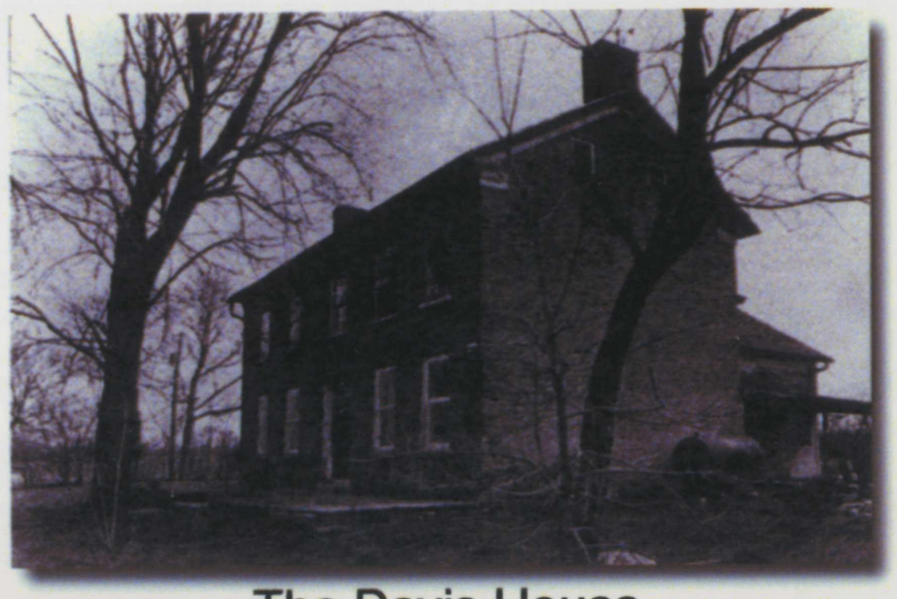


In the years preceding the Civil War, the roots of Methodism were spreading. Circuit riding preachers were invited into the homes of the early settlers throughout Perry Township. Up until 1860, Uriah Heath and Jacob Young were probably the most influential preachers on the Worthington Circuit. Under their strong leadership, three churches sprang up in the 1840's at Bethel, Fletcher and at Marble Cliff Mills along the Scioto River.

From the Civil War and throughout the 1870's, more farm homes would open their doors to bible study, prayer meetings and just plain Christian fellowship.

Some of the homes were:

Mr. & Mrs. John Wilcox 🔴
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Deardorff 🔵
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne (Winnie) Smith 🟠
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Armstrong 🟡
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Davis 🟤
Washington Wilcox 🟠
Mr. & Mrs. John Snouffer 🔵



The Davis House

Revival meeting in one room school house. 🟢



🟢 Pioneer log cabin near Scioto River c.1830
Christians held meetings here in 1840

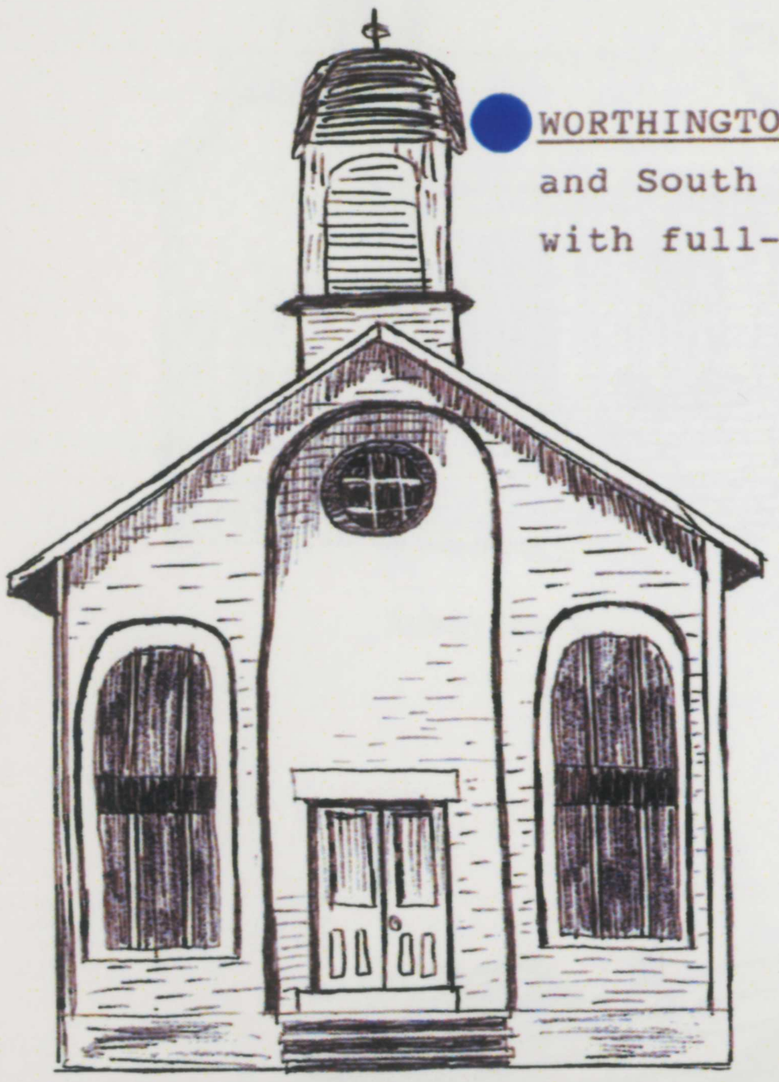
1872 map

Future site of Elmwood (Linworth)



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

Local Circuit 1823 - 1956
(Served by one pastor)



Worthington Church

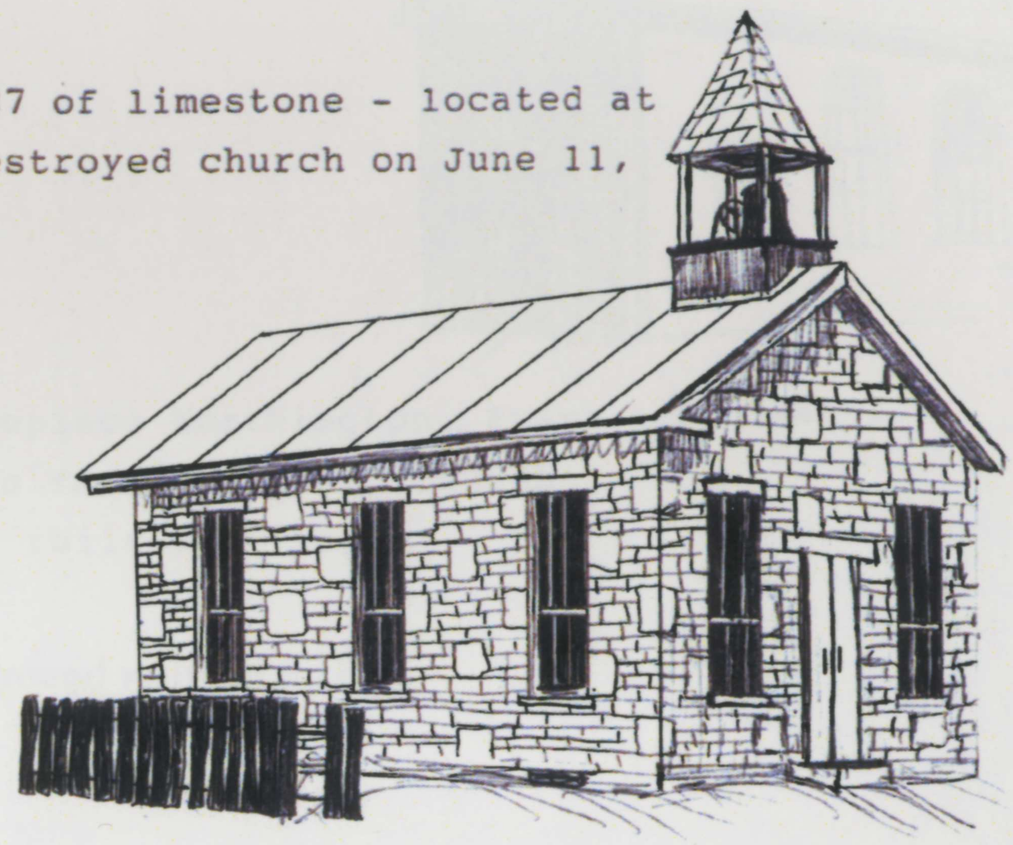
WORTHINGTON - First church built in 1823 at corner of Hartford and South Streets. Left Circuit in 1905 to become station church with full-time pastor.



Camp meeting Olentangy River



DUBLIN - First church built in 1837 of limestone - located at 155 South High Street. Tornado destroyed church on June 11, 1911, and was never rebuilt.

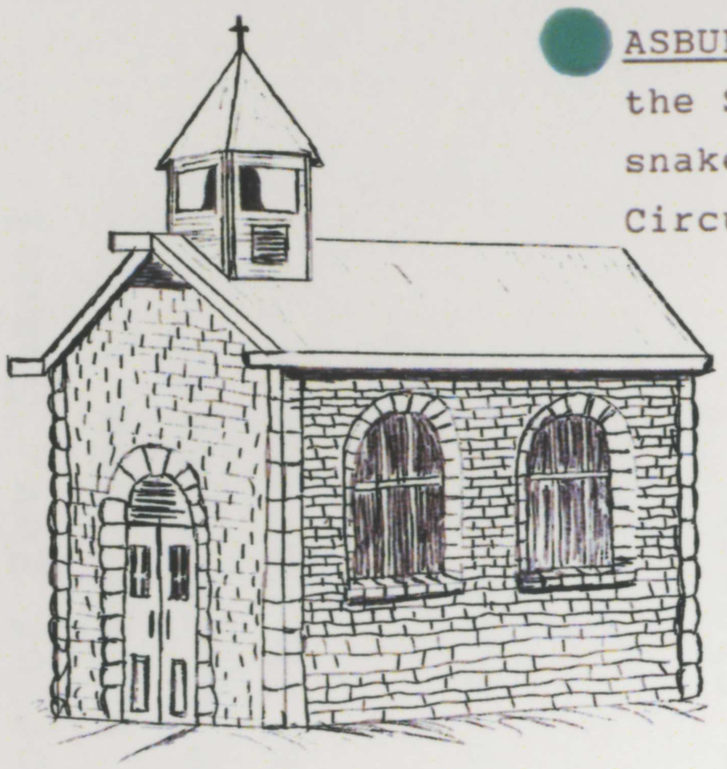


Dublin Church



Fletcher Church

FLETCHER - Organized in 1840 by Circuit pastor, Rev. Uriah Heath. Jacob Wright donated land at the corner of Henderson Road and Riverside Drive - church was built in 1848. It left the Circuit in 1922.



Asbury church

ASBURY - Church built near the Marble Cliff grist mill 1840 on the Scioto River (limestone from nearby quarry was used). Rattlesnakes were so numerous that they had to be exterminated. Left Circuit before 1880.



Grist Mill



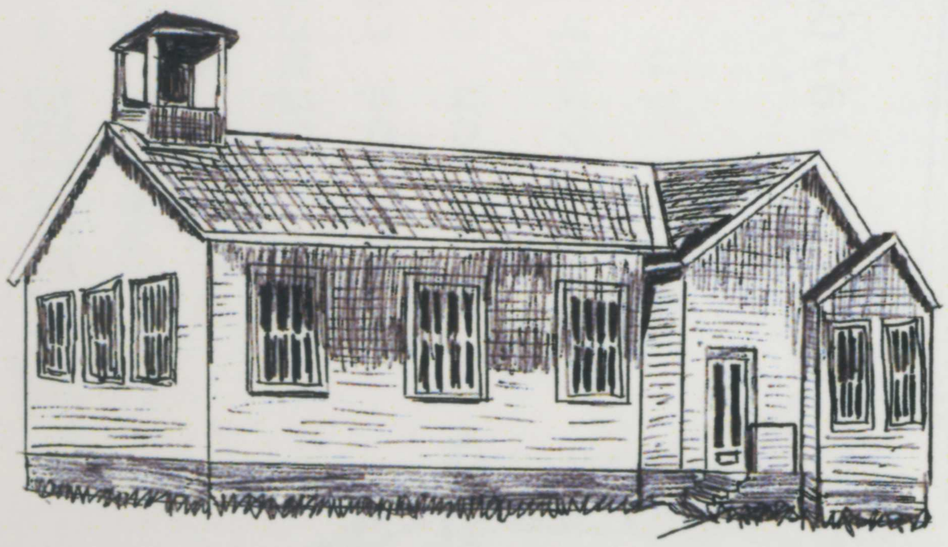
Log church/schoolhouse



Flint Church

Flint/
GARDNER - was added to Circuit in 1905 to replace Worthington. Frame church was erected on part of Ozem Gardner's farm in 1856. Church members were very active in the underground railroad. Left Circuit in 1922.

Routes on the underground railroad c.1840



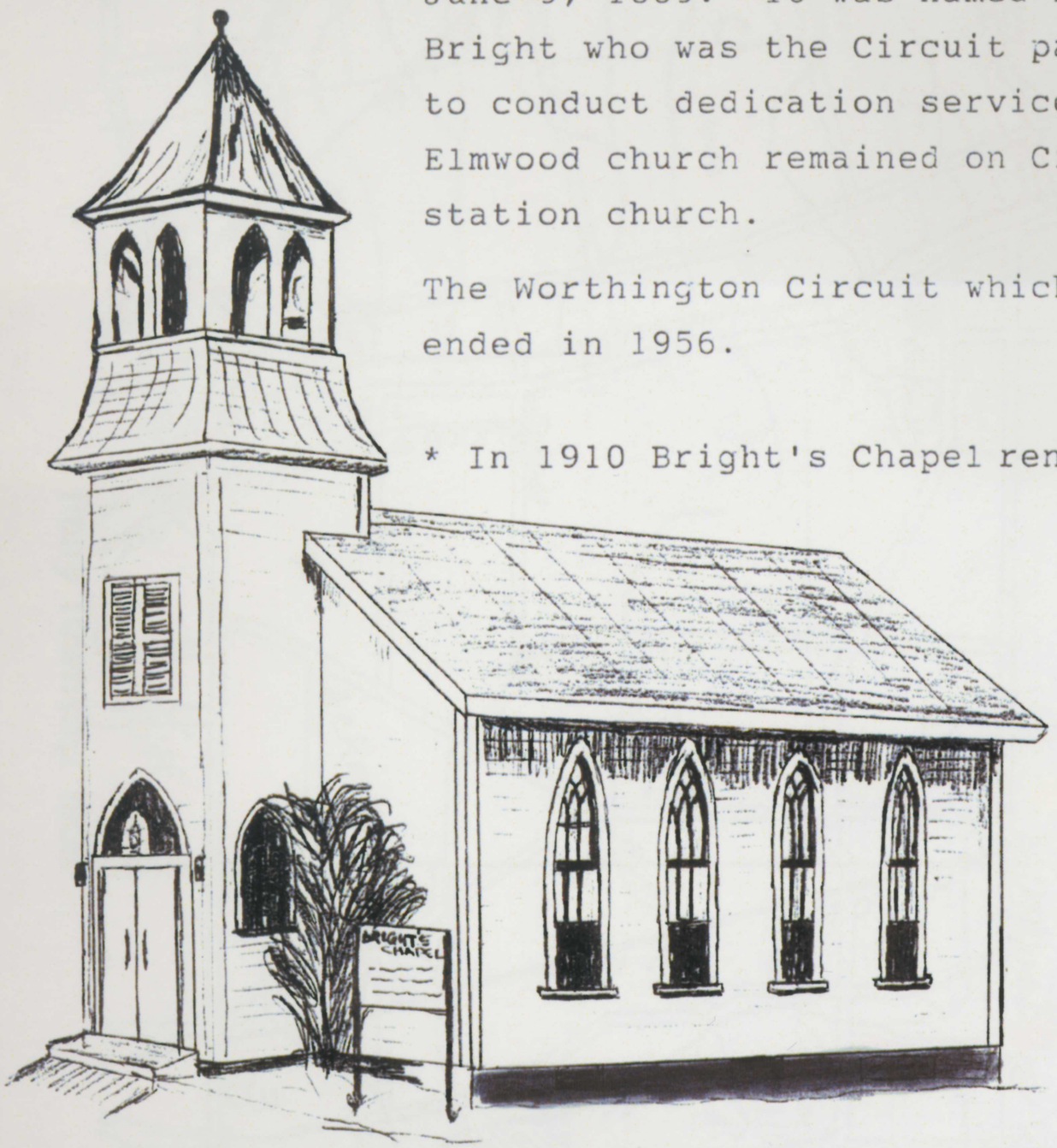
Bethel Church

BETHEL - Third local church organized by Rev. Heath. Frame church built around 1853 at Kenny and Bethel Roads. Became station church in 1956.

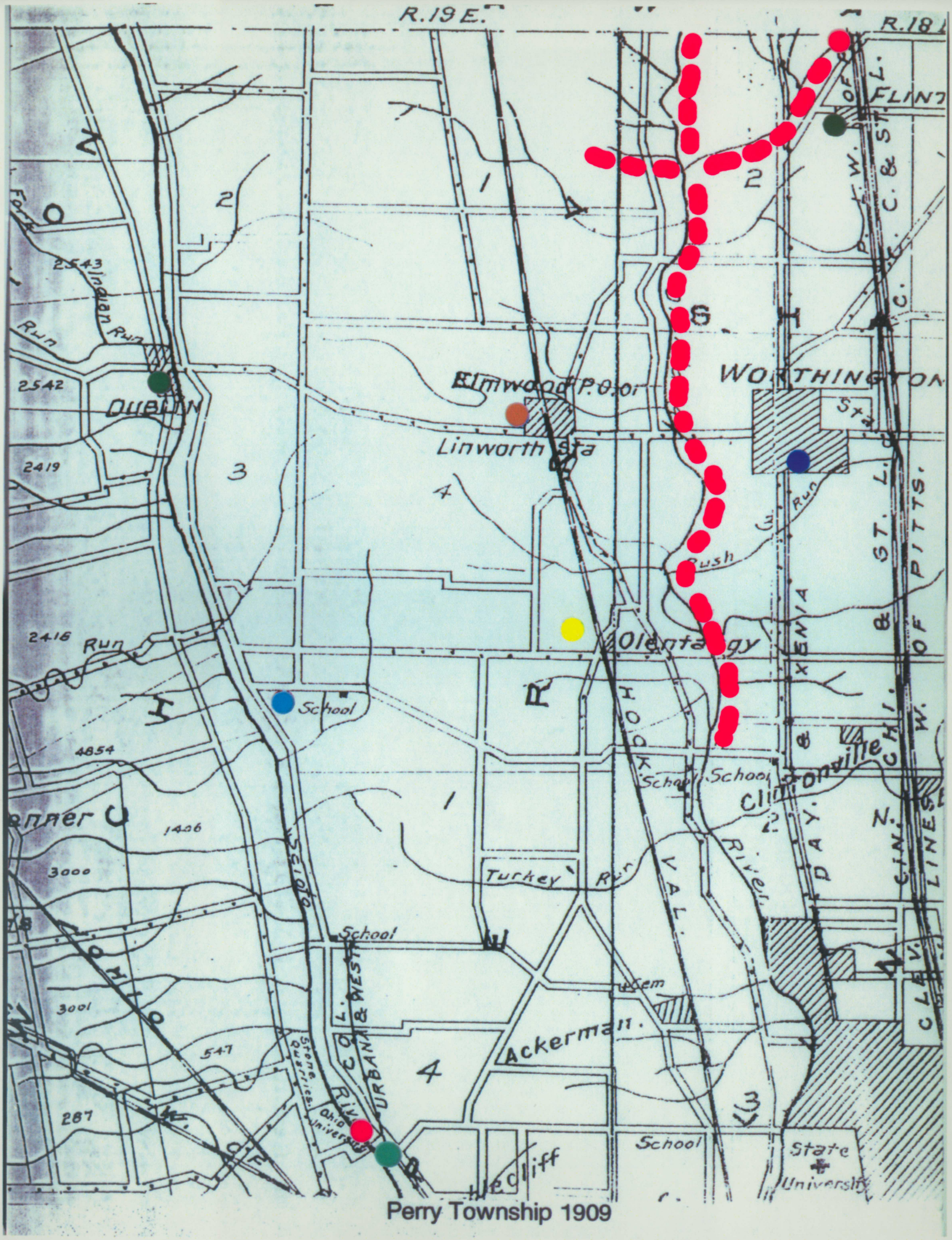
ELMWOOD - Construction on church began in 1887 and was dedicated June 9, 1889. It was named* Bright's Chapel in honor of Rev. Samuel Bright who was the Circuit pastor at the time. He became too ill to conduct dedication service and passed away three days later. Elmwood church remained on Circuit until 1956, when it became a station church.

The Worthington Circuit which began in the wilderness in 1823 ended in 1956.

* In 1910 Bright's Chapel renamed Linworth Methodist Church



Elmwood Church
(Bright's Chapel)



Perry Township 1909



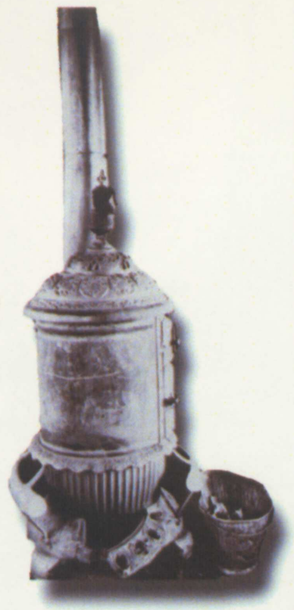
Morgan Family 1896

Residents of Elmwood and bordering farms



1) Lydia Morgan Eisenberg 2) Effie Morgan Thompson 3) Mike Snouffer 4) Lyle Snouffer 5) Fanny Morgan Snouffer 6) Marietta Poole Morgan 7) Spencer Morgan 8) Charles Morgan 9) Laura Holt Morgan 10) Asaph Morgan 11) Francis Morgan Fuller 12) Almeda Morgan Williams 13) Rose Wilcox Morgan 14) Frankie Morgan Snouffer 15) Harmon Morgan 16) Iva Morgan Armstrong 17) Washington Wilcox 18) Laura Wilcox Henderson 19) Emma Morgan Hall 20) Laura Electra Morgan McMahon 21) Edward McMahon 22) Grace Morgan Wright 23) Amanda Pearl Morgan 24) James Melvin Morgan 25) Joseph Morgan 26) Jasper Morgan 27) Luther Pete Morgan 28) Lute Davis 29)Addie Wilcox Davis 30) Ruby Wilcox Weldon 31) John Morgan 32)Milton Morgan 33) Charles McGurer 34) Mary Fuller McGurer 35) John Williams 36) Charles Williams 37) Carrie Williams





Plans for the Columbus to Toledo Railroad began in 1872 and construction was completed in January 1877. Elmwood Station and telegraph lines were completed soon after. The village had passenger train service for over 70 years, beginning in 1878 and ending in 1948. In the early years, the station was a gathering place for local men and boys; many yarns were told and retold around the potbellied stove. A large pond* north of the station was built to supply water for the steam engines; but to the Elmwood locals it became "the ole fishin hole."

*Now McVey Blvd. & Brookbend Dr.







In the early 1800's the forest gave way to the ax of the pioneers and land became ready for the plow. This team of Percherons would plow 1-2 acres a day.







During the early years in Elmwood it was common to see 2 and 4 horse hitches picking up freight at the railroad station. It was also possible to see some of the nations top show animals pass through Elmwood/Linworth en route to the International Stock Show in Chicago Ill.

Laet (1916-1936)
"Great Chieftain of His Clan"
A Percheron Legend
International Grand Champion



Laet sired more International Grand Champion stallions than any other sire, living or dead.



In the 1880's, the railroad station and Ike's General Store/Post Office were two very popular locations in Elmwood. Ike Deardorff, Sr. was Elmwood's first Post-masterin 1885. In 1915, Ike, Jr. became the youngest Postmaster in the United States at age 23. Father and son alike were very supportive of the Methodist Church's fund raising dinners by loaning the ladies dishes and bowls; and when returned, they would go back on the shelves For Sale. Ike, Jr. was self-proclaimed as the village's "greatest fisherman." However, his 6 lb. catfish, caught in the pond north of the depot was never confirmed by his buddies pictured here.



Back row, l to r Ralph Neds, Lyman Smith, _____

Front row, l to r Bill Sells, Ike Deardorff, Jr., Melvin Phillips









ELMWOOD MITE SOCIETY (LADIES AID)

Organized in 1886 to help with revivals and Sunday School classes. Meetings were held in homes and a brick school house south of the village. When Elmwood's request for a church was granted in 1887, the Society helped raise money for the Building Fund. They met once or twice a month, served dinners for a fee, and made articles to sell at bazaars. Church construction was completed in 1889. Their efforts were rewarded in 1911, when a Ladies Aid Room was added to the church.





MINUTES OF THE FIRST MITE SOCIETY MEETING

The oldest written record we have of church related activity in the village of Elmwood Station—now Linworth—goes back to April 22, 1886, when a meeting was held to organize a Mite Society. Its purpose was to help the Sabbath School and the revivals held in an old brick (originally log) school house which stood at what is now 6019 South Linworth Road. Men, women, and youth could belong.

Below is a copy of those minutes. The original minutes are difficult to read because of the aging of the document. An attempt has been made to type them and present them here as closely to the original handwritten text as possible, including the grammar and punctuation usage.

Elmwood, Ohio April 22nd, 1886

A meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Margaret Miller for the purpose of organizing a Mite Society for the benefit of the Sabbath School at Elmwood. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Winnie Smith. Mr. Chester Hard was elected temporary chairman and Mrs. Josie Miller temporary secretary. These two offices being filled, the chairman took charge of the meeting, and motions were made in order:

Mrs. Wash. Wilcox was nominated, and elected President. Mrs. Charles Davis-was elected Vice-President. Mrs. Ida Snouffer was elected Treasurer. Mrs. Josie Miller was re-elected to fill the office of Secretary permanently.

A committee of four were appointed to make a code of Laws by which to govern the Society. The committee consisted of the following ladies: Madgeline Snouffer, Mrs. Margrat Miller, Mrs. Charles Davis, and Mrs. Chester Hard, who drew up the following rules to be accepted by a vote.

Art. 1st – This Society shall be known as the Elmwood Mite Society.

Art. 2nd – The object of the Elmwood Mite Society shall be to collect money, for the benefit of the Elmwood Sabbath School, to be used as thought best for the good of said school.

Art. 3rd – This Society shall be opened by singing, followed by prayer by the President or Vice President. Said Society to be called to order at eight o'clock sharp, to meet twice a month on Thursday nights.

Art. 4th – Once a month we have refreshments, and once a month we spend the evening in singing, speaking, reading, and other moral amusements.

Art. 5th – That a fee of 10 cents be charged on the night refreshments are served, and a fee of 5 cents on the night of entertainment.

Art. 6th – That children under 12 years of age, be charged only 5 cents on the night refreshments are served, and on the night of entertainement children under twelve years go free.

Art. 7th – The following bill of fare be adapted.

1st - Any kind of cake,
2nd - One kind of cold meat and chicken,
3rd - Pickel
4th - Bread and butter,
5th - Tea and coffee.
And any one wishing to have Ice Cream, the Regular bill of fare can be set aside, and the one wishing can make the Ice Cream, the rest bringing cake only.

The above code of laws were passed on by article, and were all accepted by vote. The business all being done, motions were in order to adjourn. And the next meeting was appointed to be held at Mr. John B. Snouffers' on the 1st Thursday night in May. Supper to be served. Nothing further the motion to adjourn was carried. Josie Miller, Secretary.

Pictures of some of the meeting places of this society are printed earlier in this book.

A copy of the original minutes of The First Mite Society Meeting is on the following two pages.

Elmwood Ohio April 22nd 1886

A meeting was held at the house of Mrs. Margret Miller for the purpose of organizing a Mite Society for the benefit of the Sabbath School at Elmwood. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Minnie Smith. Mr. Chester Hard was elected temporary Chairman and Mrs. Josie Miller temporary Secretary. These two offices being filled, The Chairman took charge of the meeting, and motions were in order; Mrs. Nash Wilcox was nominated, and elected President, Mrs Charles Davis was Elected Vice-President, Miss Ida Snouffer was elected Treasurer, Mrs. Josie Miller was reelected to fill the office of Secretary permanatly. A committee of four were appointed to make a code of Laws by which to govern the Society. The committee consisted of the following ladies; Madgeline Snouffer, Mrs. Margret Miller, Mrs. Charles Davis, and Mrs. Chester Hard. Who drew up the following Rules, to be accepted by a vote:

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THIMBLE CLUB

Front Row: Gail McGurer, Lotta Baker, Edith Roberts, Edna Quelette, Etta Jones

Middle Row: Lula Borden, Iva Armstrong, Merle Miller, Mary Edna Trees, Bessie Beard, ?

Back Row: Frankie Snouffer, Sara Hard, Etta McGurer, Nettie Buck

As the new village of Elmwood continued to grow, the ladies of the community united to form the "Thimble Club." Although this was a social club rather than a church group, one of their first projects was to donate a pulpit to the church in 1910. Almost a century later, it still has its place in Linworth Methodist Church.

The Club also made many improvements in the village; one was the laying of cinder sidewalks, another was the installation of street lights. Each woman took care of the lamp in front of her house. She kept it full of oil and trimmed the wick as needed.

Pictured are members being honored at a Christmas party at the home of Louise Thompson in 1957.



From 1877 to 1909, the tiny village of Elmwood grew from a whistle stop along the Columbus to Toledo Railroad to a rapidly growing community with a blacksmith shop, grocery store, post office and a Methodist Episcopal Church.

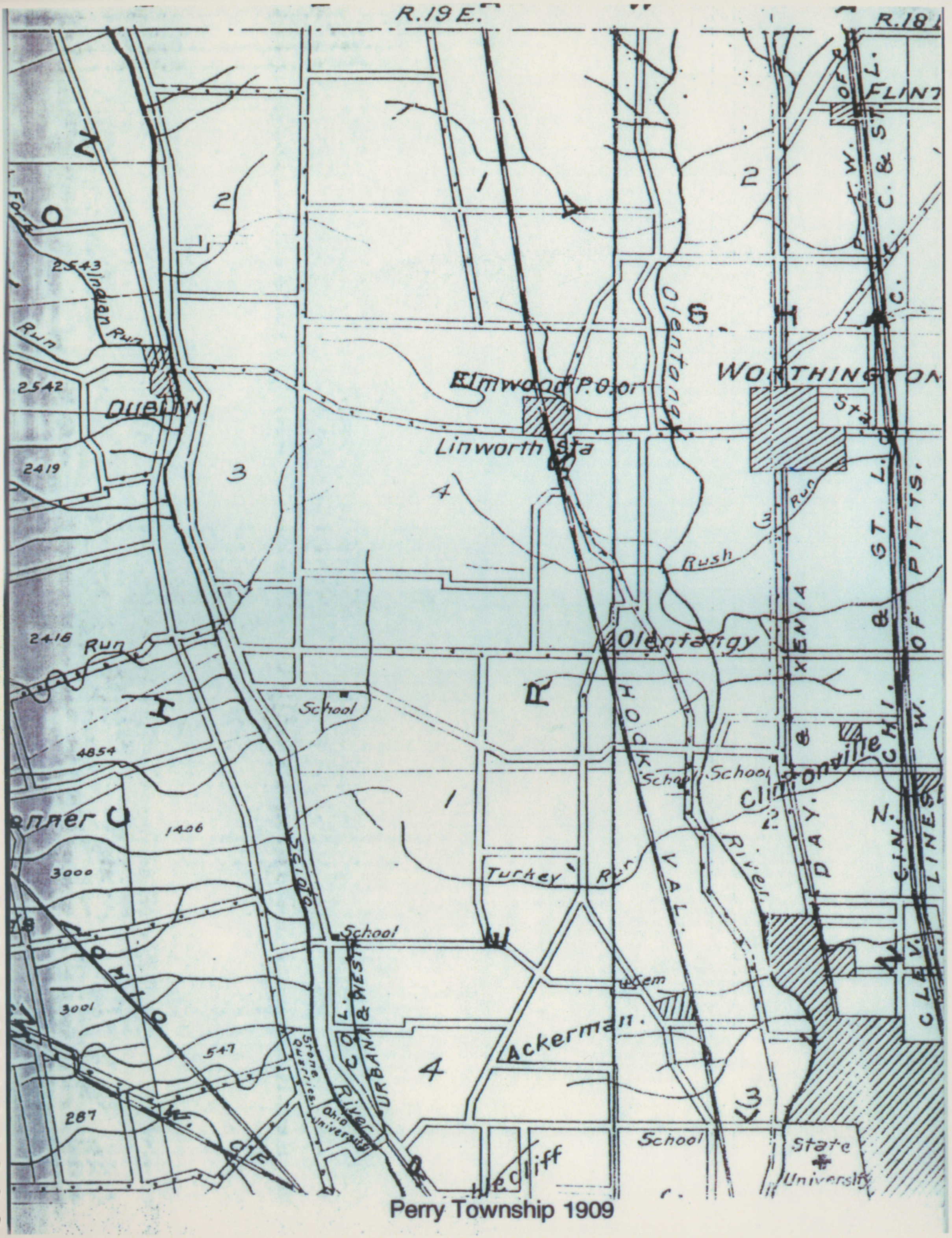
Freight shipped to the Elmwood in Perry Township occasionally was sent to Elmwood Place near Cincinnati.

The U. S. Post Office was reporting the same type of problems. Because of these kinds of mistakes, it was decided that Elmwood of Perry Twp. needed a new name. After many suggestions, the name was changed to Linworth by using the last syllable of Dublin and the first syllable of Worthington.

As this 1909 map shows, Elmwood had a post office and Linworth had a railroad station at the same time.

In 1910 Elmwood in Perry Twp. ceased to exist.




R.19E.
R.18
FLINT
C. & S. T. W.
C.
2
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7
Olentangy
WORTHINGTON
Elmwood P.O.
Linworth Sta
DUBLIN
2543
Indian Run
2542
2419
3
4
2416
Run
Rush
Run
School
4854
1406
3000
3001
547
287
Turkey
Run
School
Hook
School
School
Clintonville
XENIA
ST. L. & PITTS.
C. H.
W.
N.
DAY.
River
VALLEY
Ackerman
Stone Quarries
Ohio University
URBANA & WESTERN
C. H.
V.
C. L. & N.
State University
Perry Township 1909



ELMWOOD

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Class No. 2

Elmwood, Franklin Co., Ohio.

ADDIE HARD, - Teacher
C. E. Hard, Supt.
Rev. Frank Smiley, Pastor

Class Roll

Anna Price	Alice Morgan
Alice Morgan	Bessie Jennings
Florence Legg	Forrest Castell
Frankie Morgan	Hattie Ridgway
Ira Martin	Katie Groomes
Norma Smiley	Minnie Hard

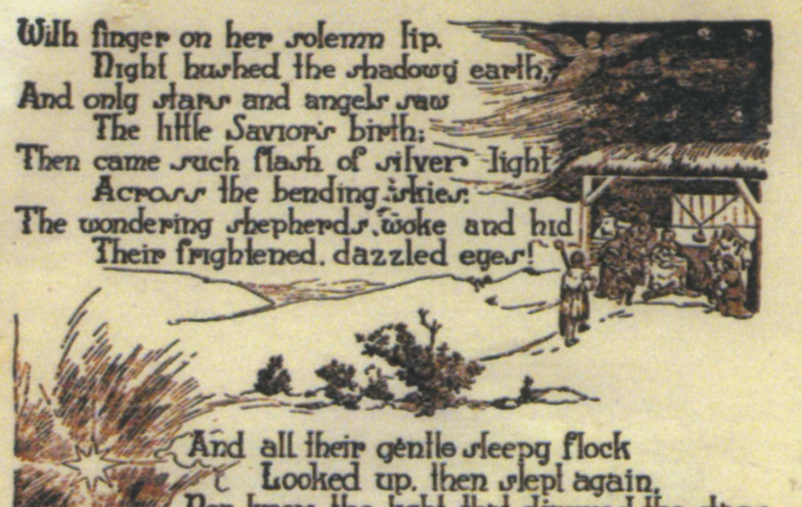
My heart is full of memories
As with affection true
I speed beneath the wintry skies
My season's wish for you
The wishes so warm and so sincere
A happy Christmas,
Bright New Year.



Like small curled feathers, white and soft,
The little clouds went by.
Across the moon, and past the stars
And down the western sky
In upland pastures, where the grass
With frosted dew was white.
Like snowy clouds the young sheep lay
The first, best Christmas night.

The shepherds slept; and, glimmering faint,
With twist of thin, blue smoke,
Only their fire's crackling flame
The tender silence broke—
Save when a young lamb raised his head,
Or when the night wind blew,
A nesting bird would softly stir
Where dusky olives grew.

With finger on her solemn lip,
Night hushed the shadowy earth,
And only stars and angels saw
The little Savior's birth;
Then came such flash of silver light
Across the bending skies;
The wondering shepherds woke and hid
Their frightened, dazzled eyes!



And all their gentle sleepy flock
Looked up, then slept again,
Nor knew the light that dimmed the stars
Brought endless Peace to men—
Nor even heard the gracious words
That down the ages ring—
"The Christ is born! the Lord has come,
Good will on earth to bring!"

Then o'er the moonlit, misty fields,
Dumb with the world's great joy,
The shepherds sought the white-walled town
Where lay the Baby Boy—
And oh, the gladness of the world,
The glory of the skies,
Because the longed-for Christ looked up
In Mary's happy eyes!

Elmwood's Three Schools
1860 to present



Typical brick school house built in Perry Twp. during the 1860's. Built on the West side of Columbus to Delaware Free Pike (now called linworth Road). Methodist revival meetings were held in the one room school in the 1870's.

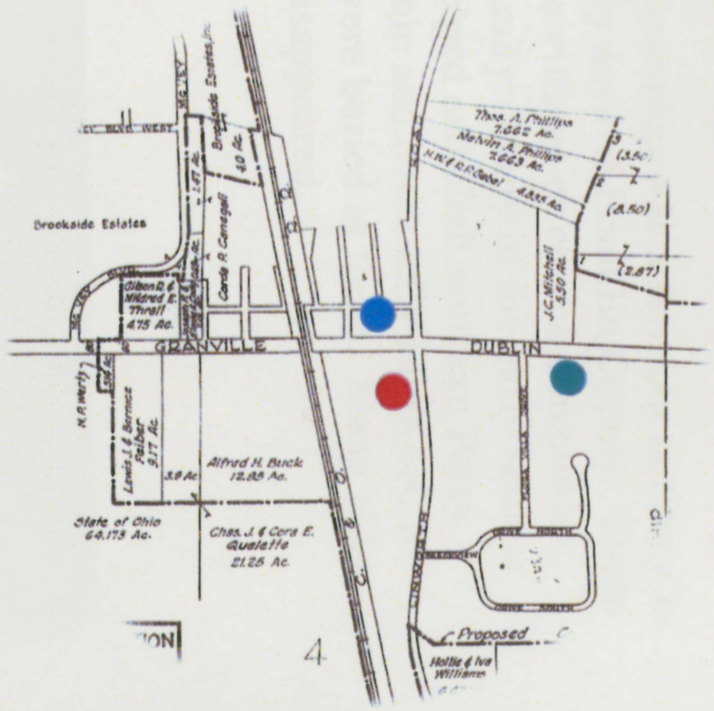


Elmwood School - 1893
School built in late 1880's. In use for almost 30 years. Located northwest corner of Dublin and Worthington Pike and Columbus to Delaware Pike (now State Route 161 and Linworth Rd.)





Linworth School built in 1917 - called North Perry. Still in use after 85 years. (SE corner of Flora Villa Dr. and State route 161).



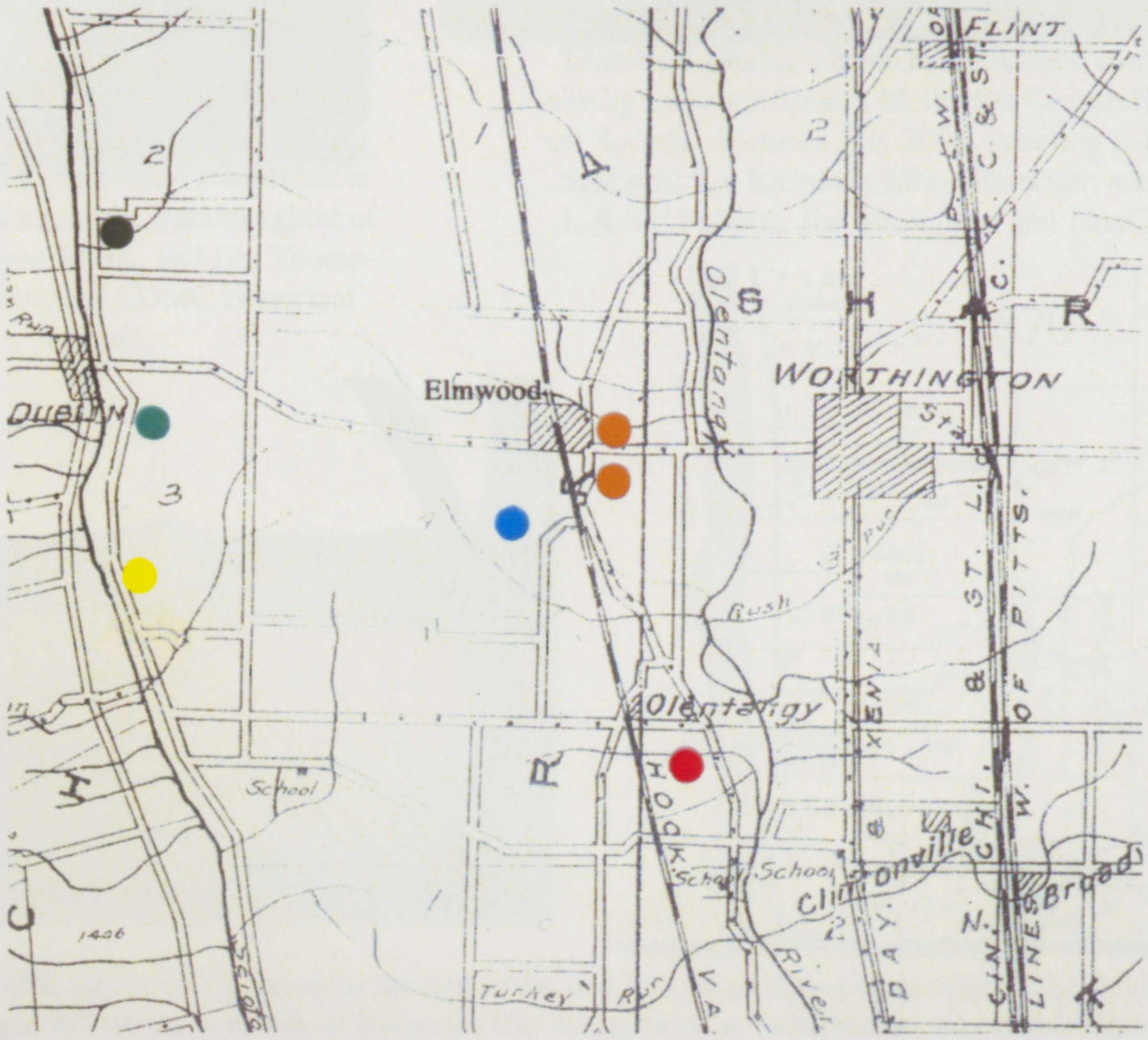
Local Pioneer Cemeteries



Perry Township was a farming territory in the early days of Franklin County. There were no villiage or church cemeteries; only family. Many of the early settlers who helped establish northern Perry Township and eventually Elmwood in 1877 were buried in these. Many sites have disappeared.

- Kempton cem. est. 1819
- Davis cem. est. 1823
- Ferris cem. est. 1848
- Deardorff cem. no date
- Wilcox cem. no date
- Family cem's. in Elmwood (no record of names)







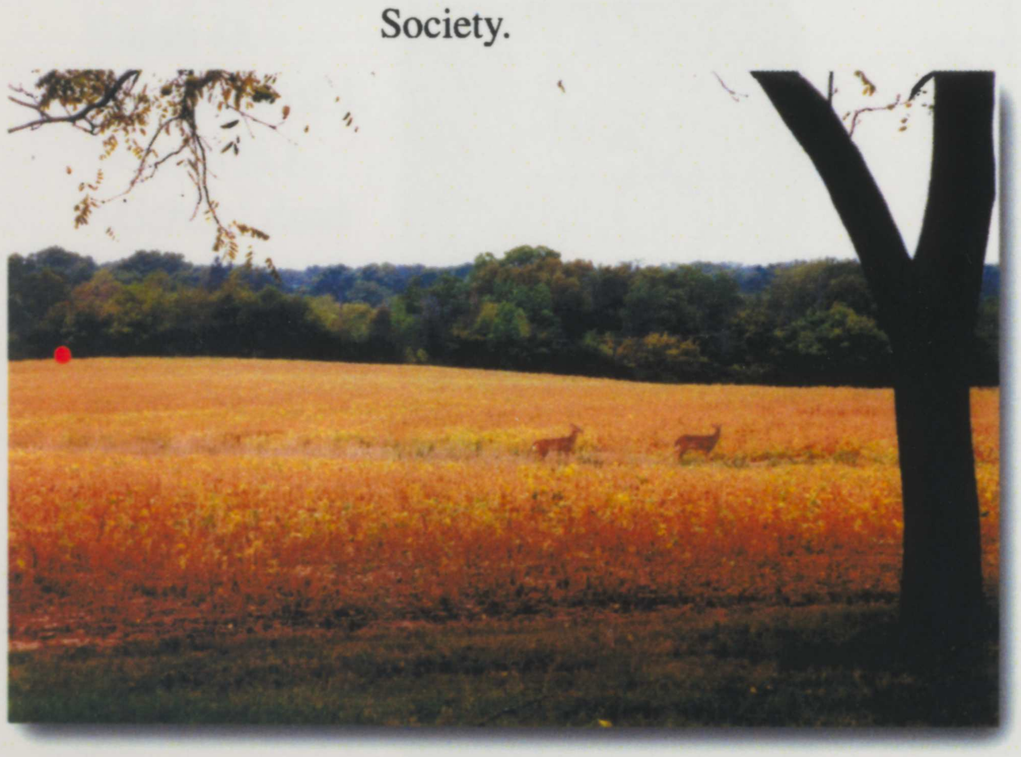
Joseph Ferris came to Perry Township in 1818, where he met and fell in love with Sarah Smith. They were married in May, 1819, and settled on part of her parents' farm, a dense forest along the east bank of the Scioto River–now Riverside Drive and Bright Rd. In1820 Joseph and Sarah built the first frame house in the upper Scioto River Valley. (Residence of Josephine Holder 2004)



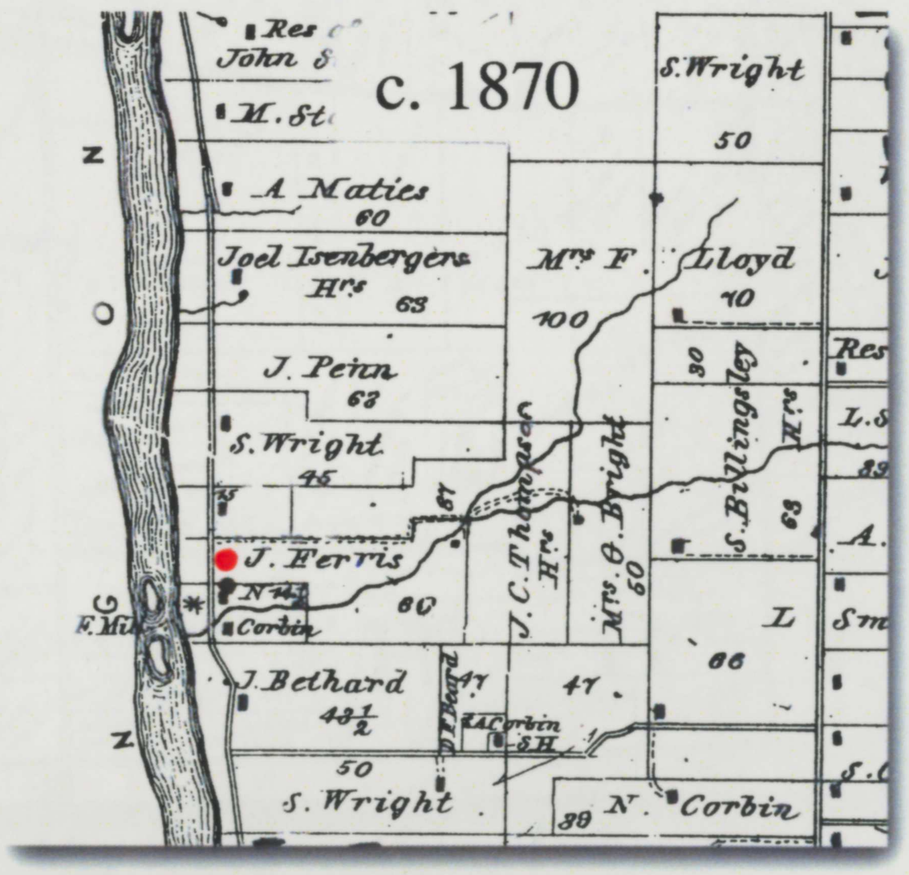
Pictured examining broken tombstone is Josephine Holder, great-granddaughter of Joseph and Sarah Ferris, and Jim Thompson, co-chairman of LUMC Historical Society.



Historical Marker placed at abandoned cemetery site by Linworth United Methodist Church Historical Society. Pictured July 2004, kneeling L-R: Ray Sanborn, Jim Richards, Julia Slonecker; standing L-R: Ed Pollock, Jim Thompson and Janet Enck.



●Established in 1848, the Ferris Cemetery is located in the tree line along the western edge of the field, approx. 700 feet south of Bright Rd. on the east side of Riverside Dr. As recently as 1930, there were visible signs of at least 24 burial sites. Two confirmed burials are pioneer settlers David Smith and his wife, Elizabeth Gooding Smith.





Location of cemetery is behind grove of trees on Ohio State University property, w/o Godown Rd. - adjacent to Don Scott Airfield.



Jim Thompson was searching for traces of the abandoned Wilcox Cemetery in July 2002 when an Ohio State University employee uncovered a tombstone while grading and leveling farm land.

Sarah O.
Daughter of J.
W. and E.J.
Michael died
Sept. 21, 1854.
One year, 3
months, 24
days.

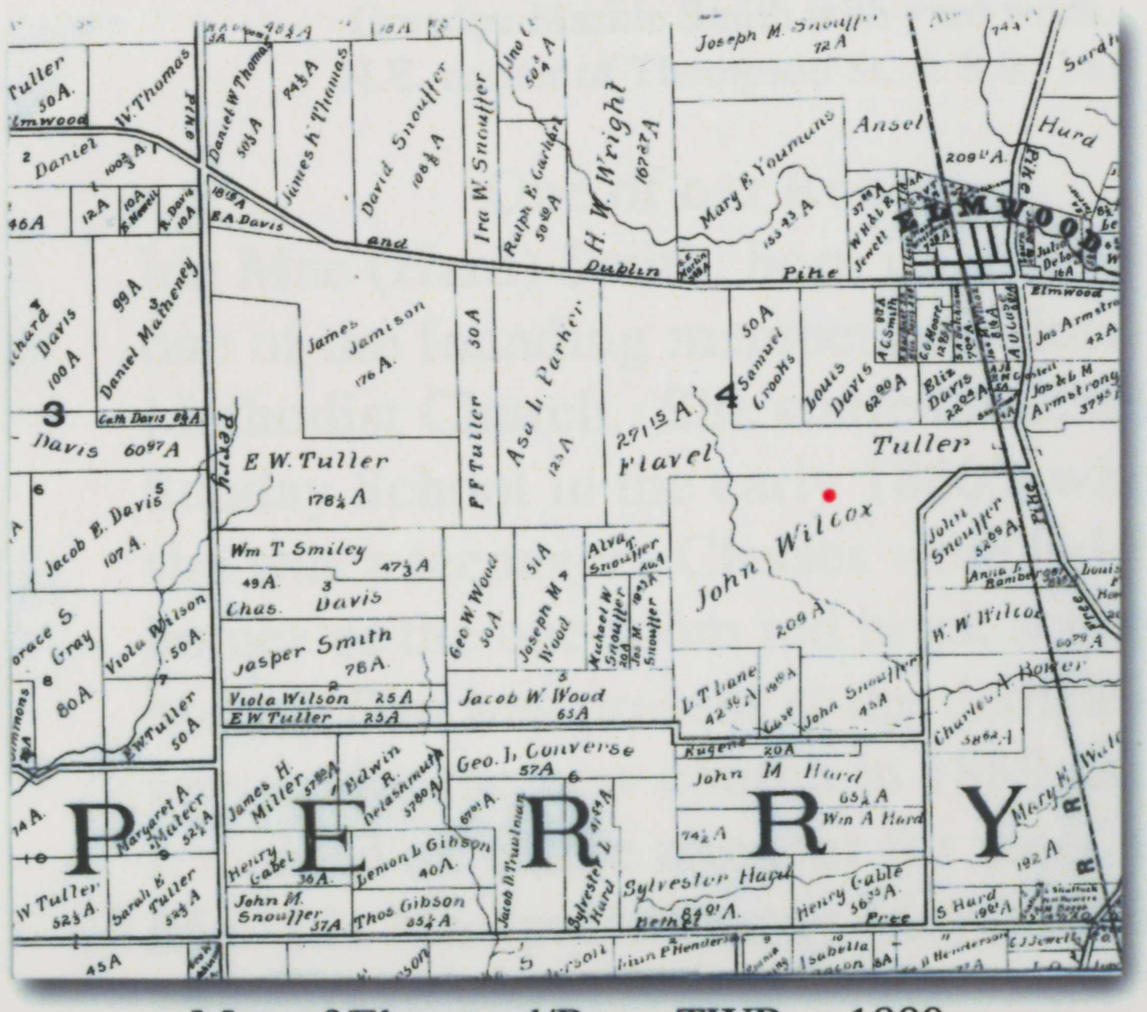


Simeon Wilcox came west from Connecticut in 1803 to a wild unbroken forest in Perry Township where he built a cabin and established a home for his wife and children. His son, Tracy, assisted in clearing the land; and, in time the family extended the boundaries of the farm and became very successful.

In 1889, Tracy's sons, John and Washington W., along with residents from the Village of Elmwood, built a small one-room chapel. Today it is known as Linworth United Methodist Church.



Cemetery marker was made by Linworth Methodist Church Historical Society member Ed Pollock in 2003. Placing flowers for the 4th of July 2004 are members, L-R Ray Sanborn and Jim Thompson.



Map of Elmwood/Perry TWP. c. 1890

• Wilcox Cemetery

Elmwood to Linworth
1877 - 1909 1910 -



Linworth railroad crossing - 1940



Ruby McCray, longtime Linworth Methodist Church member at work on the farm c. 1920



Martha (Neds) Storer helping Grandpa Markie Smith with yard work. N.E. corner of Thompson St. & S.R. 161



Standing: Homer and Lesta Smith
Seated: Ida Mae and Markie Smith

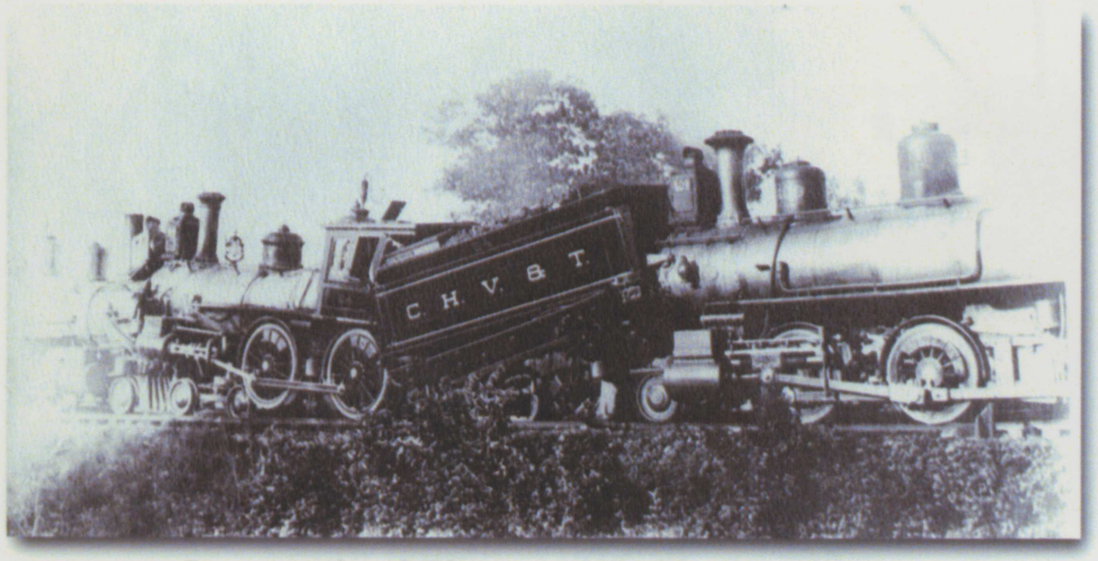
One of our Roots

Ida Mae (Hard) Smith, born in 1866 was one of the founding members of Elmwood Methodist Church. She started teaching Sunday School in the early 1880's when she was a teenager. Classes were held in homes or the one room red brick school house. She was present at the dedication service for the new church in 1889 and remained an active member for most of her life. Ida Mae passed away May 2, 1965 at 99 years of age.

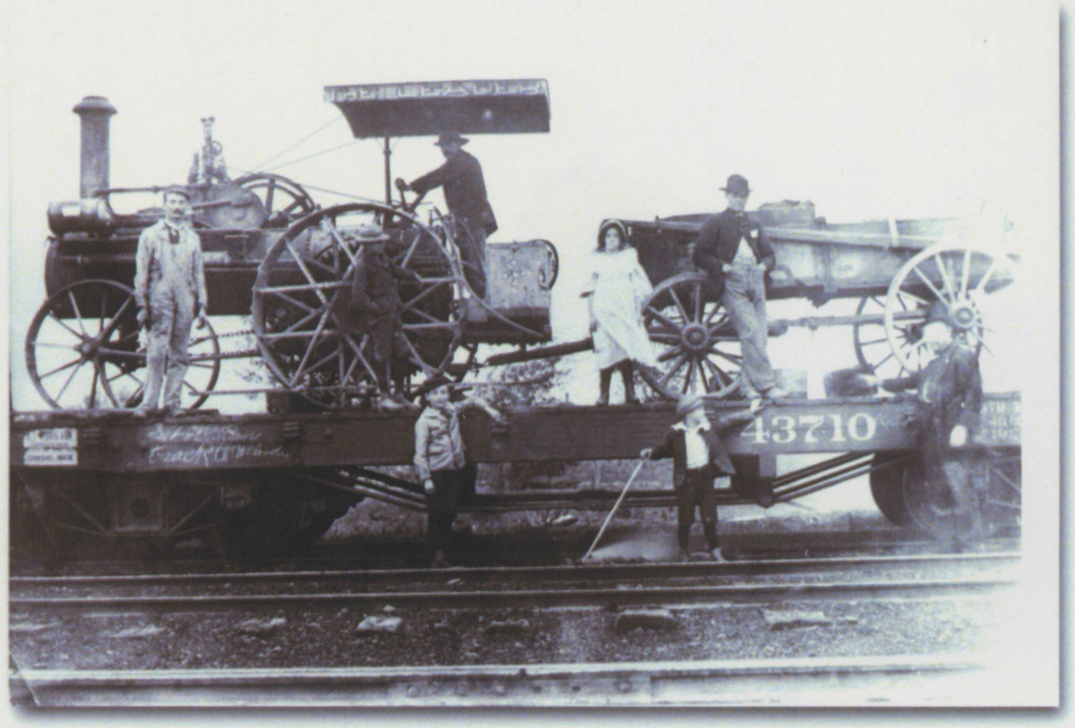
Many of the folks who grew up in Elmwood/Linworth reminisce that a visit to the train station was a source of recreation. It was exciting to see if the train was on time, who was arriving and departing and to hear what was going on "up and down the line". Old timers fondly refer to the stationmasters as the main source of information. John Beard was assigned to the station in the early 1900's. he died in 1919 and was replaced by Wolfe Clark, who held the position until he passed away in 1955. He was the last stationmaster and devotion to his job is the characteristic most remembered by his fellow townsmen. His daughter Margaret Sherman recalls "even on Sunday when daddy was at home and a train didn't sound right he would go to the station to see if everything was ok".


Wolfe C. Clark

Sometimes it wasn't.



Just north of Elmwood Station c. 1880



Elmwood farmers going modern

Many passenger trains have stopped at the Elmwood/Linworth station during the 70 plus years of operation. None has more nostalgia attatched to it than "Old #36". On its run between Toledo, Ohio and Ashland, Kentucky the "South Bounder" was scheduled to arrive in Linworth at 1:10pm daily. Many trips were made to Columbus to shop a few hours and return home on #35. Trains traveling North would only stop at the station if passengers were getting on or off, thus the term "Flag Stop". Bill Lewis, long time Linworth resident spent many days at the train depot when he was a young boy. He recalls "Old #36" made its last run in the early 1950's.





South bound "Old #36" - 1948



North bound #35 - 1948



Brief History of Linworth Methodist Church

In April, 1887, a meeting was called in Elmwood and Winnie Smith, a local farmer was elected to attend the Quarterly Conference at the Worthington Methodist Church to ask that Elmwood be granted a church. This request was approved, providing $500.00 could be raised.

A building committee was formed and the planning began. The Ladies Aide or Mite Society were the first to help raise funds for the building. The young people of the community also helped by giving suppers and providing entertainment. The money was raised and a lot was donated by Mr. McClelland of Columbus.

A revival meeting was held in September of 1888, while the building was still under construction - planks and boards were used for seats. Over 50 conversions resulted from this meeting, 22 were baptized, and 30 became members.

On June 9, 1889, the church was dedicated; approximately 300 people attended. The church was named Bright's Chapel in honor of Rev. Samuel Bright who was the minister of the Worthington Circuit at the time. He became too ill to conduct the dedication service and passed away 3 days later. The frame church had one room, kerosene lamps and 2 potbellied stoves.

The people of Elmwood had a church and they gave thanks to God.

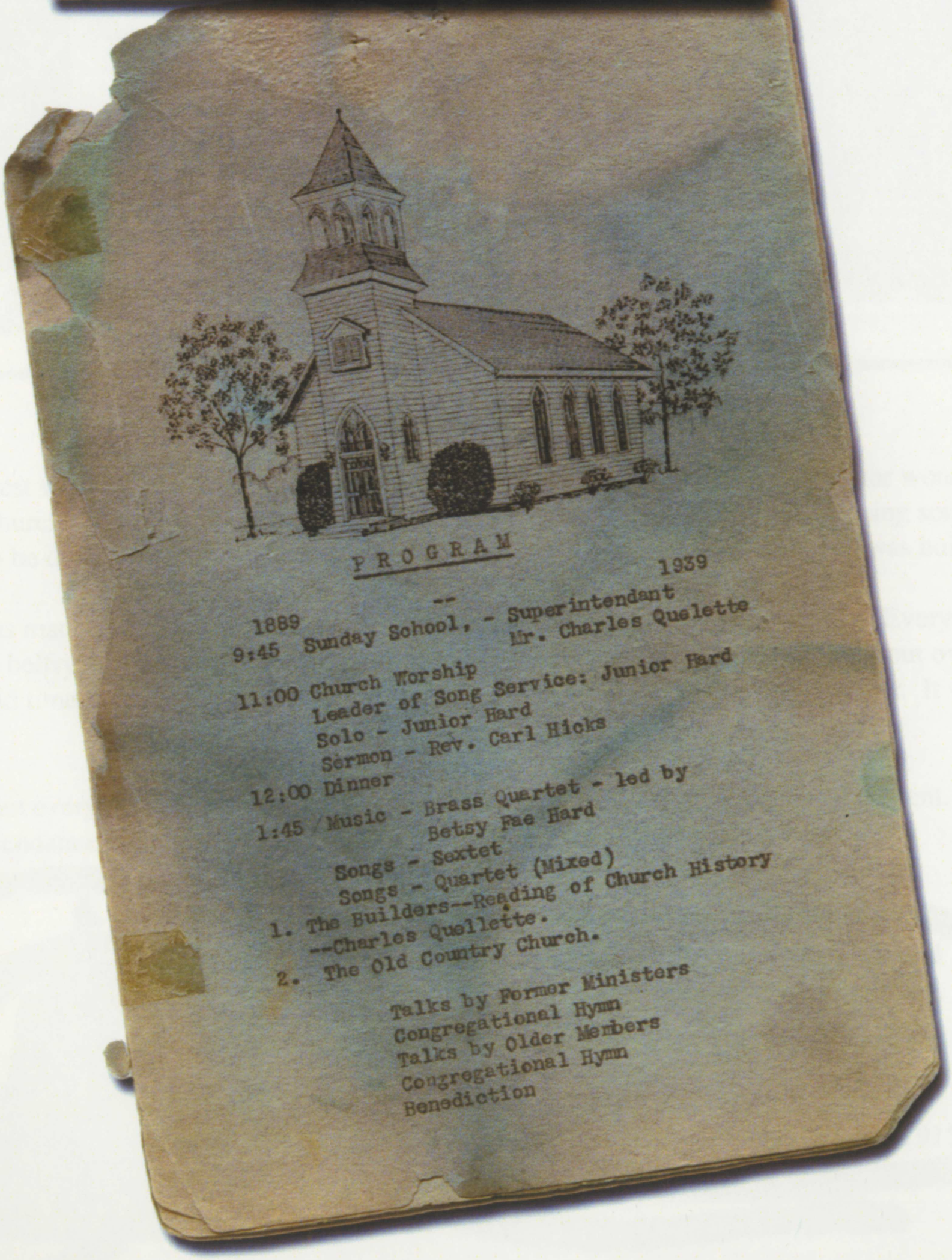


Bright's Chapel
Linworth's Earliest Methodist Church



2424 West Dublin-Granville Road
Worthington, Ohio 43085





PROGRAM

1889 -- 1939

9:45 Sunday School, - Superintendant
Mr. Charles Quelette

11:00 Church Worship
Leader of Song Service: Junior Hard
Solo - Junior Hard
Sermon - Rev. Carl Hicks

12:00 Dinner

1:45 Music - Brass Quartet - led by
Betsy Fae Hard
Songs - Sextet
Songs - Quartet (Mixed)

1. The Builders--Reading of Church History
--Charles Quellette.
2. The Old Country Church.

Talks by Former Ministers
Congregational Hymn
Talks by Older Members
Congregational Hymn
Benediction

50th Anniversary and Homecoming of Linworth Methodist Church



The Old Church Bell

Church interest waned in 1903. Attendance dropped into the teens and the circuit pastor wondered if maybe the church doors should be shut. A faithful few refused to give up, while agreeing something needed to be done to rekindle the spirit that was so alive in 1889, when the church was built.

A suggestion was made that a bell would help remind people when services were starting. Everyone liked the idea; so a belfry was added. In 1904 Elmwood Methodist Church had a bell ringing out over the countryside. Old timers claimed, "you can hear that bell as far away as the Olentangy River. It was as if God Himself was calling you to church."

The bell rang out every Sunday morning, not only for church services but for any special event. Church attendance increased steadily requiring construction of a larger church in 1957.



"Oh, what a joyful sound the church bell made when Mike Snouffer would ring it. He could make the sweetest music ever with that bell."

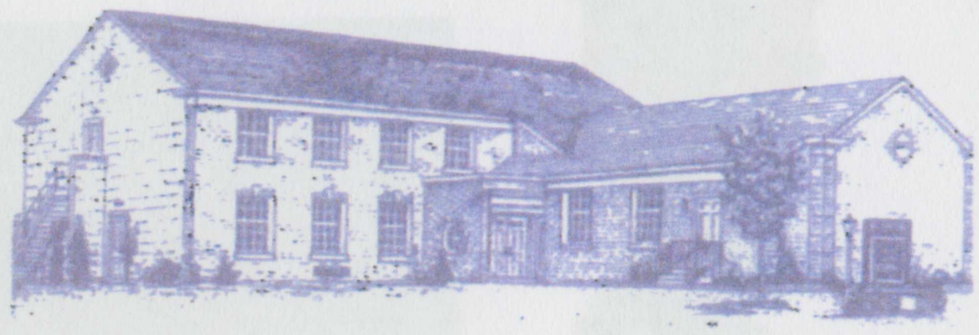
Alice Neds - 1915

Purchased 1904 - Cast iron - 850lbs. - Cost - $25.00

The Old Church Bell



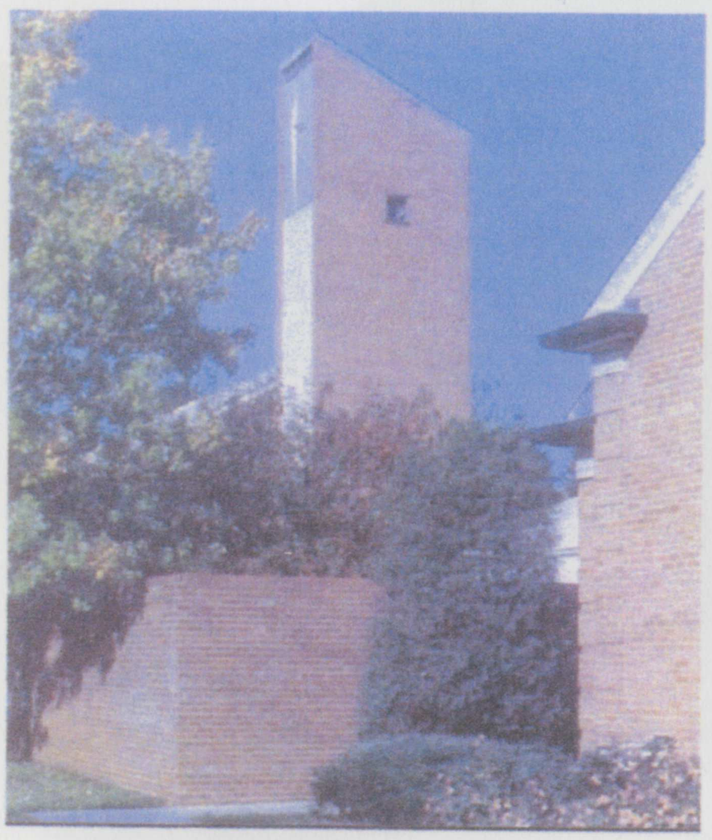
The bell in the old church on Dublin-Granville Road had invited the countryside to worship for over fifty years. During the summer of 1957 everyone dreamed of putting the same bell in



the new church on Linworth Road, but the lack of finances prevented the construction of a bell tower. The members who lived in or around Linworth missed the sound of the bell on Sunday mornings and were determined that the next addition would include a tower – ***and it did***.



Due to more complications, the bell could not be hung even though the tower was completed in 1966. Church member, Charles Kreachbaum, studied the problem and rounded up some men. Using a power chain



hoist, they raised the bell up the side of the tower and into place. The design of the building made it impossible to ring the bell by tugging on a hemp rope as our grandfathers did in the early 1900's. So on Easter Sunday 1970, Charles, not to be deterred, climbed to the top of the tower and announced the celebration of Resurrection morning by ringing the bell using his trusty hammer. After thirteen years of silence, the bell was again performing its age old function. Charles later designed and installed an electric striker which could ring the bell with the flip of a switch.



"As pastor I have had the opportunity to call upon our senior members since the bell has been mounted. They speak with glistening eyes about our bell being back in the tower, and the beautiful sound of a church bell ringing out over Linworth again. May we voice our heartfelt thanks to all who shared in this labor of love. It will be cherished for a long time to come. God bless you, Charles, and all who worked with you!"
(Rev. Ben Edwards—May 20, 1970)

Merry Christmas 1946



The Linworth Methodist Church

REV. CLYDE C. PINNELL, Minister

Sunday Evening, December 22, 1946

We extend a hearty welcome to each and every visitor

My Dear Friends:

This will be the last word before Christmas. I have often thought that it would be a good thing for each person to pledge himself to make the reading of "A Christmas Carol" part of the Christmas ritual. There is one sentence in it which will be indelibly stamped on all our hearts — "I will honor Christmas in my heart and keep it all the year."

There are some things that must go with the passing of the day, but there are some things that ought to remain. For instance, might we not think as much about children every day as we do for these few days? Or if for one day faultfinding, and bigotry and a whole host of evil spirits take their flight, need they ever return?

And if for a brief spell fountains of generous impulse be unstopped, if toward all mankind we soften, need we ever freeze up again? To any need we ever be distant and cold?

"I will keep it all the year." Honestly, it seems as though we might.

Sincerely,

Your Minister, Clyde Pinnell

"...God Bless Us, Every One."

Dickens', The Christmas Carol

MY CHRISTMAS STOCKING ..... Sharon Douglas

WHITE CHRISTMAS ..... Cloeen Gee

A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS ..... Ann Spring

THE REASON IS QUITE CLEAR ..... Jimmie Lee Thompson

MOTHERS ALWAYS DO ..... Bernita McGurer, Johnnie Custer, Kay Adams, Ralph Quelette

AWAY IN A MANGER ..... Entire Primary group

SPEAKING OF BOYS ..... David Mirise

MY SPECIAL STAR ..... John Paul Herring

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL ..... Bible Class

HELPING SANTA CLAUS ..... Joey Mitchell, Dale Sherman, Harriet J. McGurer, Barbara Southard, Carolyn Carpenter

SELECTIONS ON THE MIRIMBA ..... Henry Shuster IV

DEDICATION OF THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

THE COMING OF CHRIST (A Christmas Pageant in Tableaux)

Tableaux No. 1 — Phrophecy

Tableaux No. 2 — The Annunciation

Tableaux No. 3 — The Birth of Christ

Tableaux No. 4 — The Apparition of Shepherds

Tableaux No. 5 — The Adoration of the Shepherds

Tableaux No. 6 — The Heavenly Host

Mary .....

Joseph ..... Marjorie Buck

Isaiah ..... Charles Dildine

..... Kenneth Carpenter

Ann Sherman Jane Spring Barbara Feathers Cloanna Carpenter

Soloist ..... Jane Bishop

Chorus ..... Mrs. William Wolcott, Mrs. Charlotte Southard, Mrs. Florence Bishop, Mrs. Otta Shuster, Mrs. Louise Thompson, Mrs. Clyde Pinnell

ccompanist ..... Mrs. Margaret Sherman

rogram directed by ..... Mrs. Beryl Mitchell, Mrs. Margaret Sherman, Miss Martha Jane Neds and Mr. Kenneth Storer

Christmas Greetings
Linworth United Methodist Church
2002

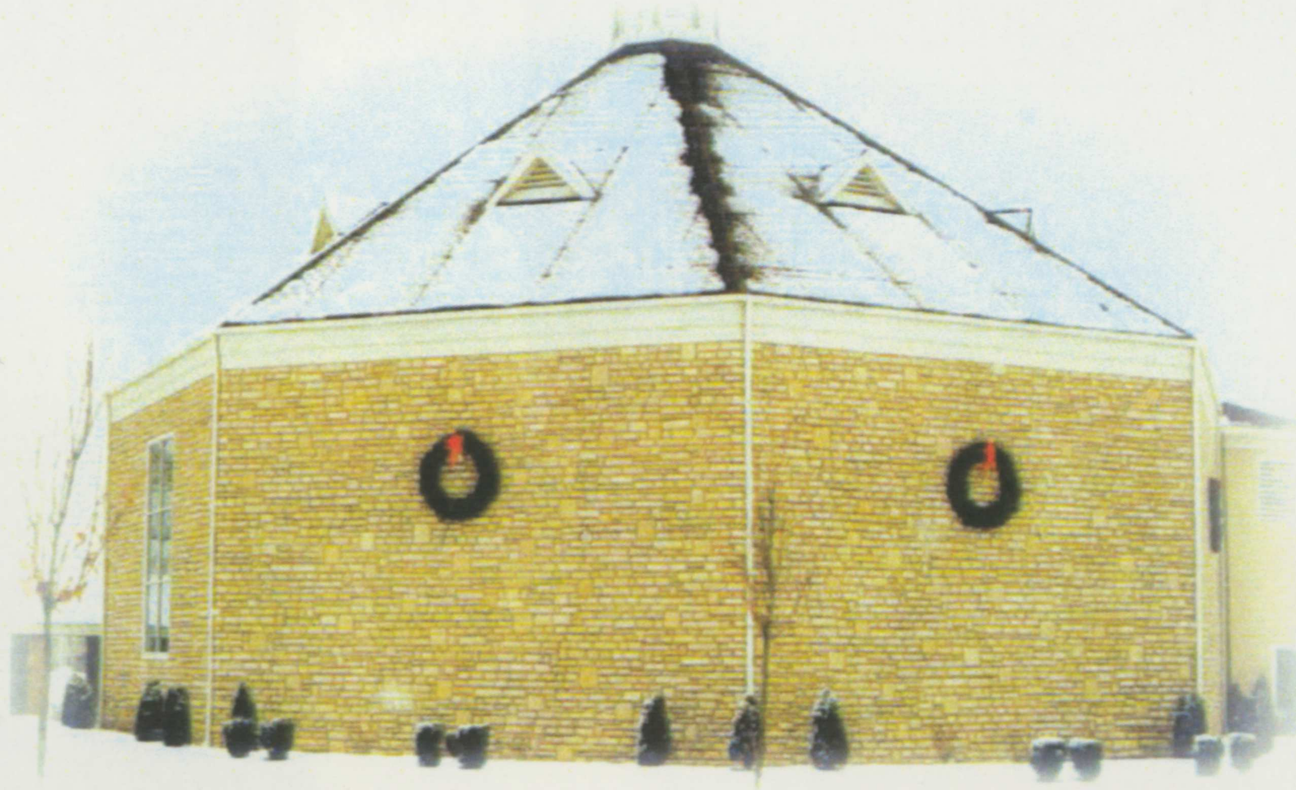


2424 W. Dublin-Granville Road
1889 - 1957



6200 Linworth Road
1958 - 1996





7070 Bent Tree Boulevard

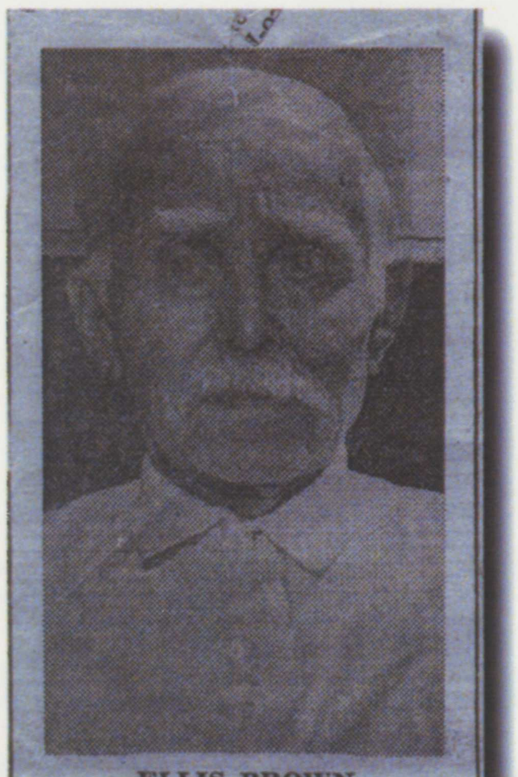
1997 - Present

Linworth Farmer's Exchange - organized in 1920



Employees - late 1930's

l. to r. 1. Lyle "Whitey" Snouffer, 2. Roy Shuster, 3. Otto Smith,
4. Herman Mason, 5. Ralph Thomas, 6. Mr. Warner, 7. Helena Nelson
8. Howard "Dutch" Sells, 9. Ruth Wright, 10. Norman "Skeeter" Brown,
11. Brice Brown 12. Herman Cosgray

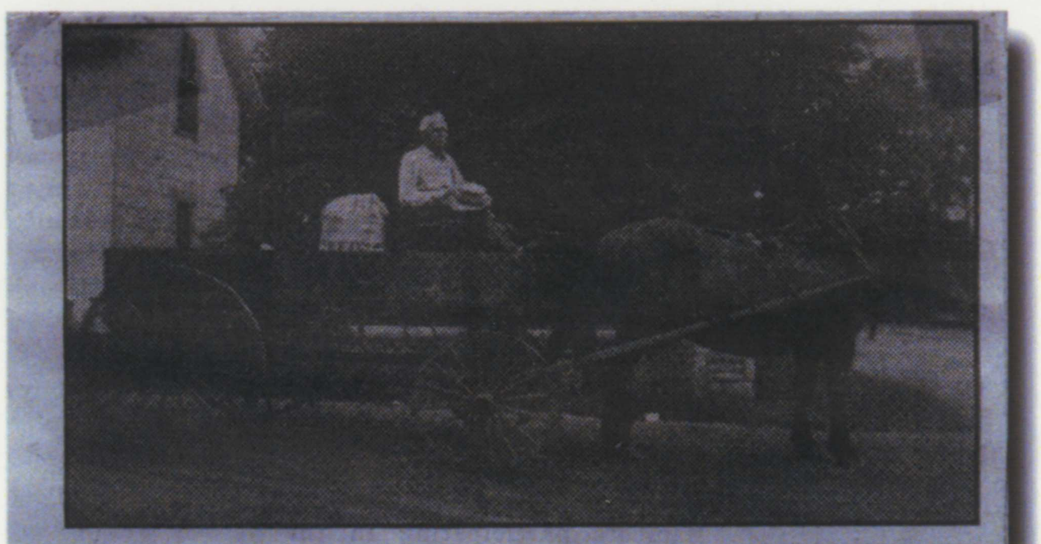


ELLIS BROWN

E. H. Brown, Sesqui Figure, Succumbs at 94

Ellis H. Brown, Franklin County's oldest native-born man, died Sunday at his family home, 6195 Olentangy River Rd, the same house in which he was born 94 years ago.

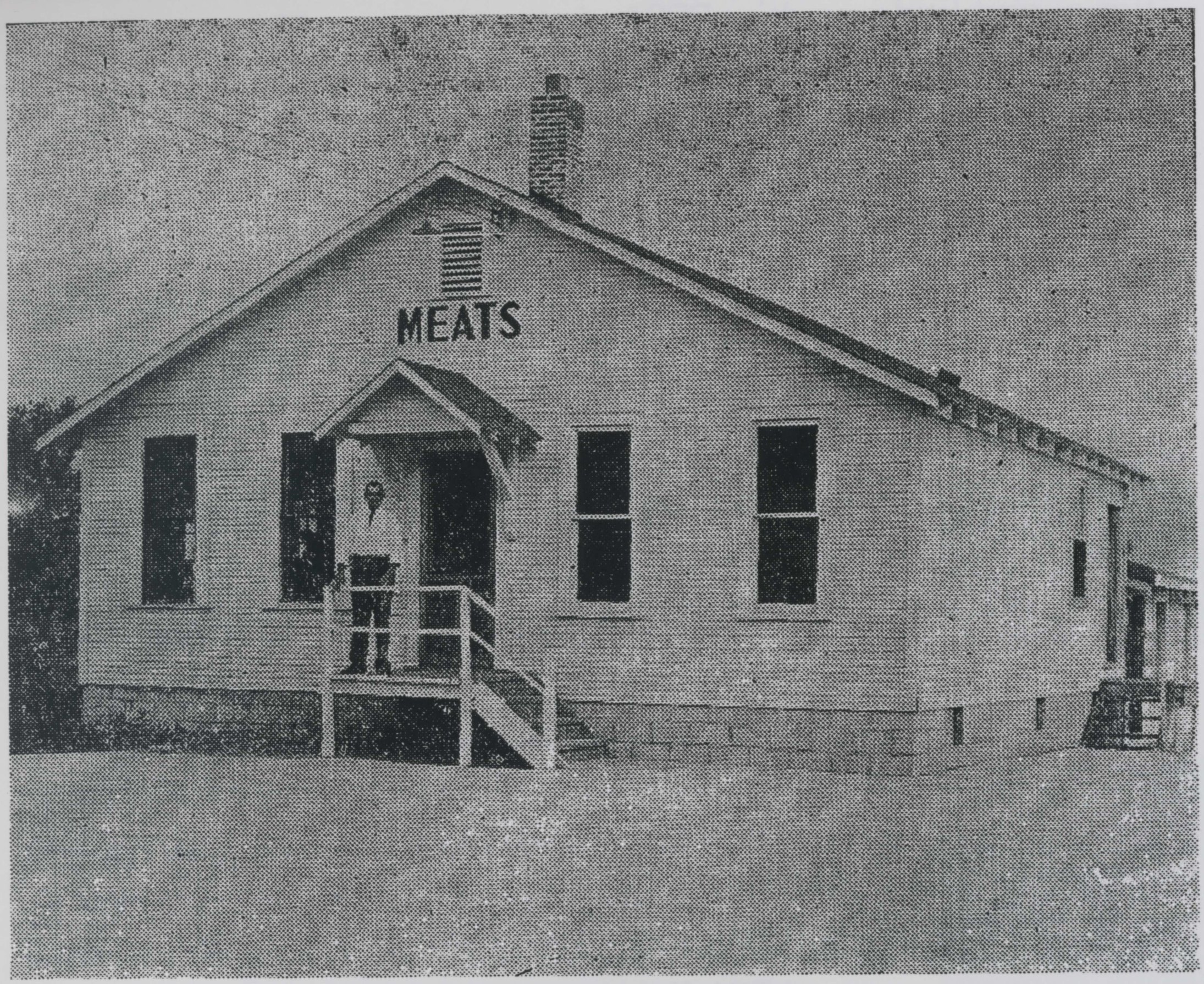
He had received special recognition during last spring's sesquicentennial celebration.



We are not trying to give the impression that Linworth is a "one-horse" Town,—far from it.

With all the modern conveyances that stop at The Linworth Farmers Exchange, such as jeeps, trucks of all kinds, tractors and trailers, etc., we were pleasantly surprised and honored by having Farmer Brown, "Uncle Ellis", come in with old Dobbin and the spring wagon after his weekly supply of Linworth Quality Feeds.

Uncle Ellis, as he is known to his many friends, will be 90 years old, "come Ground Hog day". 1949



Buck's Meat Market
2365 West Dublin Granville Rd.
Established 1932

Eight years ago we visualized the need for a place where the citizens of Linworth could buy home killed meats, and at prices in reach of all. We knew there was a real need for good meats; and after careful consideration, we decided to meet the demand with quality as our first consideration. On Friday evening, July 26, 1940, we will hold our formal opening and cordially invite you to visit us and inspect our newly enlarged plant and sales room.

Bert Buck, Owner

The Village of Elmwood began in 1877 with one building, a railroad depot. By the late 1930's the population had grown to over 300. The residents were proud of their community and would often boast "we can take care of ourselves. We have a railroad depot, post office, 3 grocery stores, a blacksmith shop, meat market, farmer's exchange, carpenter shop, Doc Jewett to take care of our ills, and a church to help us with our spiritual needs."

Ike Deardorff's store, next to the railroad tracks, had been in business since the 1880's. Spafford's Confectionery was at the northeast corner of St. Rt. 161 and Linworth Rd.



W. H. Ware

Across the street on the southeast corner was the third grocery store/filling station. Although ownership changed from time to time, it would serve the locals for over 60 years. In 1946, Owen Adams bought the store from William Ware and was in business until 1954.



Spafford's Confectionery c. 1940
l. to r. Doc Jewett, J.R. Walton, Dale Morgan, Charles Walton, Del Spafford, Mrs. J. R. Walton



For 41 years O.A. Smith worked at his trade as a blacksmith and is pictured above sharpening a cutter bar in his workshop at the Linworth Farmer's Exchange Co.

When Owen Adams became the owner of a grocery store in Linworth in 1946, he became an instant hit with the kids. On "Trick-or-Treat Night" in October, word got out that "Mr. Adams is giving out candy bars, ice cream cones, and jelly beans and....." Well, Mr. Adams never had his windows soaped or his outhouse tipped over. <u>We all liked Mr. Adams.</u>



Mike Adams, Donny and Marsha Russell



Owen Adams

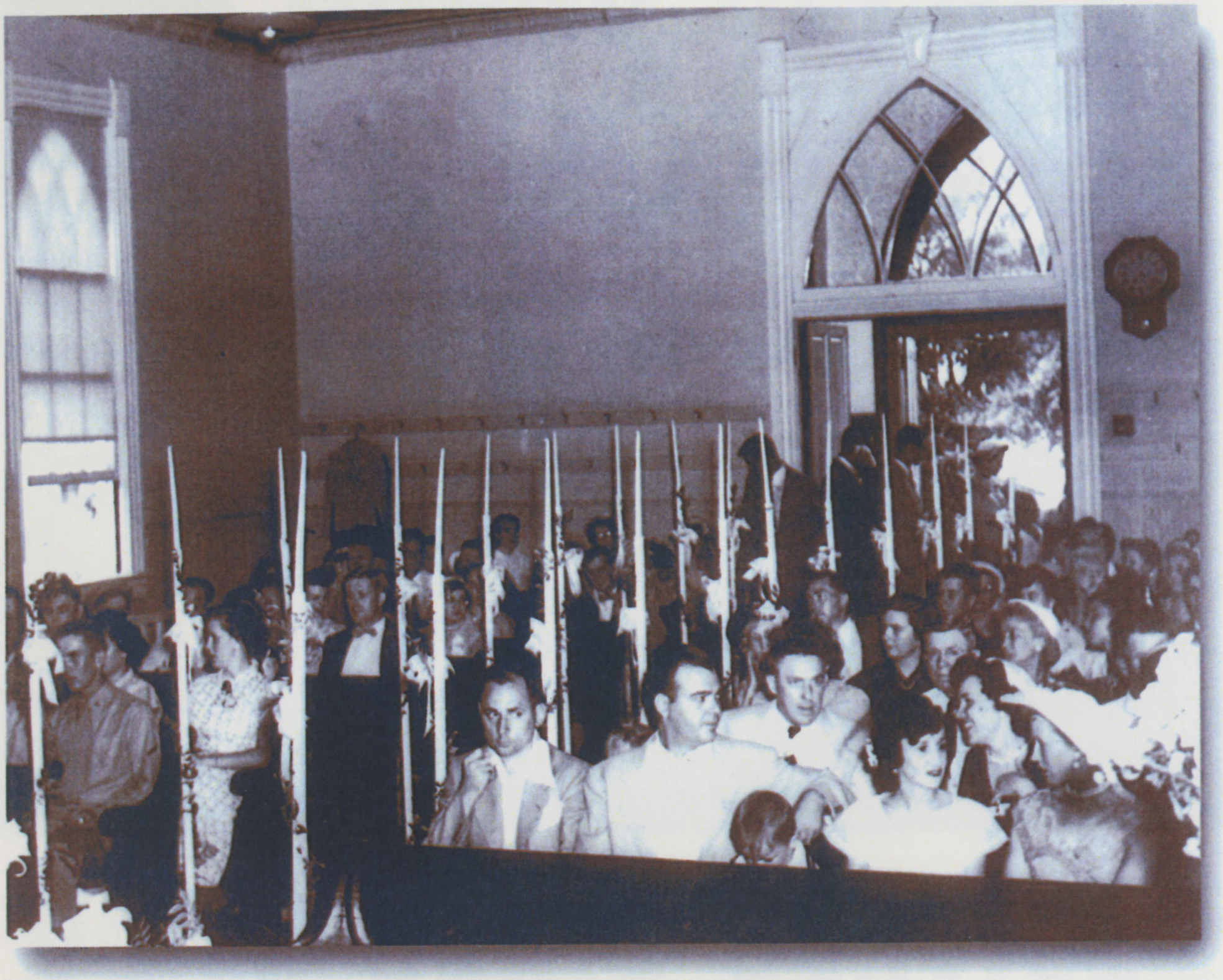


Owen pumping gas
S.E. corner of Rt. 161 & Linworth Rd.



Chester Smith & Owen waiting on a customer

Wedding at Linworth United Methodist Church in the summer of 1952
2410 W. Dublin-Granville Road
Joy Graham to Don Partlow - Officiated by Rev. Archie Lung

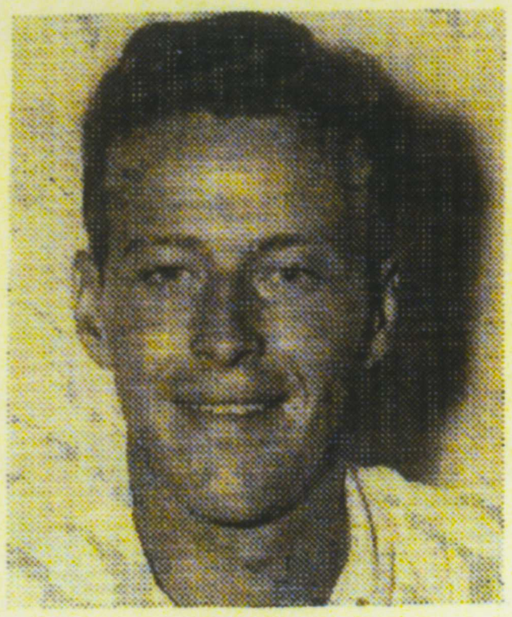




Since 1889, many weddings have been performed in the first Linworth Methodist Church at 2410 West Dublin-Granville Road. On June 29, 1952, Rev. Archie Lung officiated at the wedding of Joy Louise Graham and Donald Wesley Partlow. The temperature inside the church on that warm summer evening was 98 degrees with no air conditioning.

Joy's great, great grandfather, John Wilcox, was a founding member of Elmwood Methodist Church in 1887.

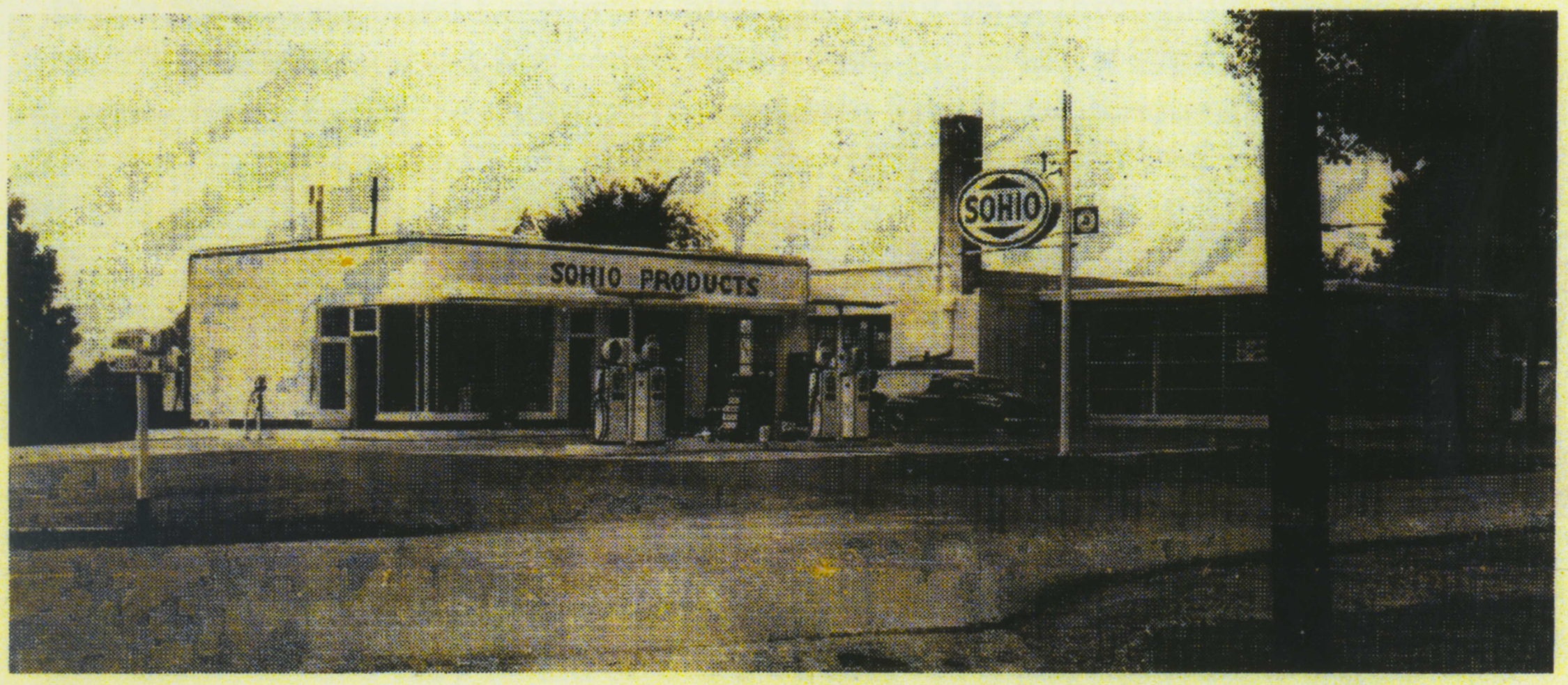
The clock on the back wall is still in use at the present Linworth United Methodist Church at 7070 Bent Tree Boulevard.



Don Wright

GRAND OPENING

FRIDAY and SATURDAY
AUGUST 26th and 27th



DON'S SOHIO SERVICE

Linworth Rd. and Route 161 • Linworth, Ohio



Jim Mason



Tom Phillips



Dick Brown



Dean Wright

Don E. Wright says the password at his new Sohio station is "Service". Old friends and new neighbors are invited to come in and look the place over. Patrons will find the most modern service equipment and a full line of popular Sohio products.

- **Sohio X-TANE and Sohio Boron Supreme Gasolines**
- **Sohio HQD, Premex, Sohio, Esso and Polarine Motor Oils**
- **Sohio Lubri-check lubrication**
- **Atlas Tires, Batteries and Accessories**



Come in for your FREE GIFTS opening days JUICE SHAKERS, KEY CHAINS, BALLOONS, CANDY

It's SOHIO for Service!

You're invited! Fri. and Sat., August 26th and 27th

In 1955 Standard Oil of Ohio opened a filling station in Linworth. It was built on a lot at the southwest corner of State Route 161 and Linworth Rd.

Don Wright of Linworth owned and operated this station for 25 years. (Don's brother, Dean, eventually opened his own Sohio station a few miles away at the corner of Kenny and Henderson roads. This caused some customer confusion for awhile; that is, until the residents in the northwest Columbus area realized that Don and Dean were "identical twins")

Don's Sohio supported Linworth Church in many ways throughout the years. In 1957, Don sponsored a Methodist Men's fund-raiser at his station to help raise building funds for the new church on Linworth Rd. In 1958, after much indecision as to how to move the bell out of the old church belfry, Don hired a crane, removed the bell and took it to Chuck Lewis' home. The bell remained in Chuck's barn until it was installed in the new facility.

In the 1960's and 1970's, Don parked the Youth school bus behind his station, as a convenience for the church. He also kept the bus in good running order. Don is also fondly remembered by the Youth and Seniors. Friday and Saturday nights were favorite times in the late 50's and early 60's for teenage boys to hang out at the station and work on their cars. For years he kept the vehicles of the older folks maintained. The older widows like Jenny Hall knew they could call Don or one of the employees and they would be there without fail to assist them. Jenny used to say when she asked Don how much she owed, he more than once replied "aw forget it." Such were the times in small town America.



1. to r. Don & Dean Wright or Dean & Don Wright



Rev. Carl Hicks 1937-1941
50th Anniversary Celebration - 1939

Linworth Methodist Church
2410 West Granville Rd.
1887-1957





Rev. Clyde Pinnell 1944-1947
Church Additions; basement, kitchen, furnace (replacing potbellied stove)



Rev. Archie Lung 1947-1953
Completed additions - Purchased first electric organ 1950

Rev. Carlton Currie 1941-1942
Rev. James Orr 1942-1944

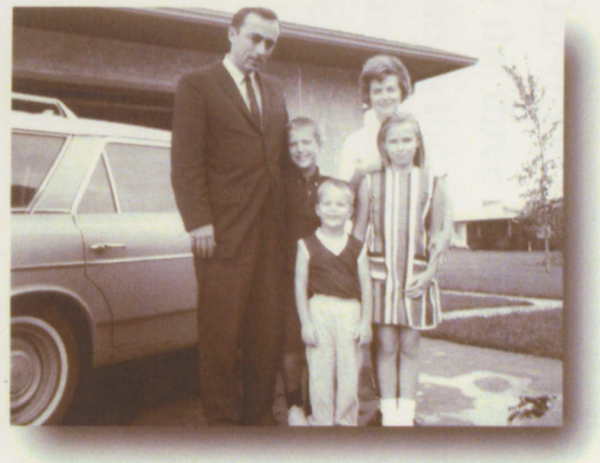


Rev. Deloss Smith 1953-1956
Plans for new church



Rev. Bob Hartman 1956-1960
Linworth becomes station church.
Ground broken September 15, 1957
for new church at 6200 Linworth Rd.

Linworth Methodist Church
6200 Linworth Rd.

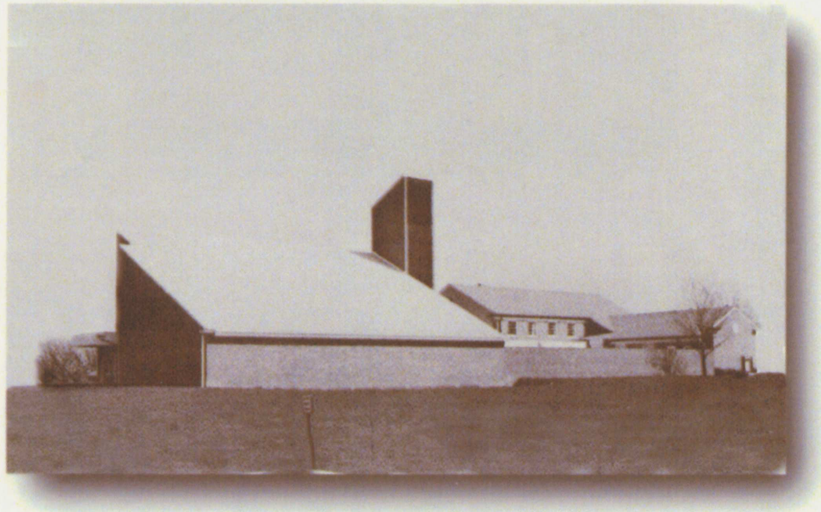


Rev. Theron (Ted) Smith
1960-1968



Rev. Smith in first sanctuary
c.1960
A major addition including
a new sanctuary was completed
under his ministry in 1966









Rev. Benjamin (Ben) Edwards
1968-1980
His pastorate is the
longest in Elmwood/Linworth's
history



Linworth has supported Scouting since the 1920's



Linworth Methodist Church c.1938



1949 Linworth Cub Scouts/ Boy Scout Troop #156
Wilderness outing (creek behind church)

"From our farm on Smokey Row, I rode my pony or bike to Boy Scout meetings at the church. Sometimes on the way, I'd stop and visit Ruth Buck, a pretty girl whose family had just moved to Linworth."

Stan Wilcox - 1934

Those visits paid off for Stan. He and Ruth were married six years later in Linworth Methodist Church.

"Our troop went camping down by the three willows swimming hole in the Olentangy. The plan was to have fish for our meals. We got to foolin' around in the river and didn't catch a thing, so all we had for supper was beans."

Bud Trees - 1931



Linworth Campfire Girls 1946









l. to r. Sam McGurer, Lawrence Graham

In 1955 a decision was reached to relocate the church and build a new structure. Land was purchased at 6200 Linworth Rd. Ground breaking ceremonies were held Sept. 15, 1957. Consecration service was June 15, 1958 with Rev. Bob Hartman as Pastor.



Louise Thompson with her vacation Bible School class



Homecoming

September 20, 1987
Linworth United Methodist Church
"A Century of Faith and Love 1887-1987"
l. to r. Mike Mahoney, Gene Folden, Tom Sagendorf, Elizabeth Reed, Carl Hicks, Dwight Martin, Clyde Pinnell, Bishop Dwight Loder

1887 "Return To Elmwood" 1987

































Sunday Afternoon Picnic
1910

Above are some of the "roots we remembered." The adults were involved with the "early beginnings" of Elmwood Methodist Church in 1887. Some of the children in the picture took part in the Centennial parade and play in 1987. One of those was Alice Graham (shown sitting on couch with husband, Lawrence).





Lena Mae & Winnie Smith
Approximately 1890



Portraying Lena Mae & Winnie Smith in 2002



Linworth Church Pageant
1955



Linworth Church Pageant
1987
One Hundred Years

LINWORTH PLAYERS PRESENT
"EARLY BEGINNINGS"
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2002

CAST

NARRATOR 1	ED POLLOCK
NARRATOR 2	TIM LOAR
WAYNE (WINNIE) SMITH	JIM THOMPSON
LENA MAE	MAXINE BARTELT
PASTOR DAVID	WARREN GOODENOW
INDIAN BILL MOOSE	RICK NELSON
YOUTH	J.J. HARDIN, MARLENE MOORE, CLAYTON MOORE, KENZIE BRUCK, KATIE YOUNG, KATIE JOSEPH, KAITLYN NELSON, NATE NELSON
SONG LEADER	SHELLY LONGO
CHILDREN	AUSTIN DICKEY, ALLISON DICKEY, MARA KILGORE, NATE LONGO, BEN STAYSNIAK
LADY 1	JEAN QUELETTE
LADY 2	DAWN MOORE
BILLY	RICK LITTELL
MARY	APRIL HUGHES
MARY'S FATHER	DALE WENNEKER
LADY 3	CAROLYN WIDENER
TEAM MANAGER	DARRELL MONEYHON
UMPIRE	RICK NELSON
JOHN	JIM KILGORE
REV. MARSHALL	HOWARD DEAN
REV. HENDERSON	STAN FAWLEY
JIMMY	GABE MYSTER
TALENT SHOW DIRECTOR	JACK POHLMAN
TALENT SHOW	SHELLY LONGO, PALMER MOORE

PRODUCTION STAFF

"NEW BEGINNINGS" AUTHOR	LOUISE THOMPSON
DIRECTOR	TOM MILLER
MUSIC ACCOMPANIST	TOM COOK
SOUND/LIGHTS	RON MOORE, JIM KOKAI, JIM BROWN, ERIC REIDINGER, DAVE BAUER, TED KUHN
PROPS/STAGE CREW	KEN STORER, GENE HUGHES, MARTHA STORER, NANCY BROWN HERMAN SLONECKER, BOBBIE MILLER

Linworth United Methodist Church
Celebrates
One Hundred and Fifteen Years

Early Beginnings

As part of the one hundred and fifteenth anniversary activities of Linworth United Methodist Church, the Heritage Committee presented the reenactment of a play entitled "Early Beginnings". This play was originally written and presented by Louise Thompson, long time member of the congregation, when Linworth celebrated its one hundredth birthday.



The play was preceded by an old fashioned pot-luck dinner for the entire congregation. Serving tables as well as many stomachs bulged with the mouth watering dishes everyone brought to share. Many persons attending wore clothing reminiscent of the late1800 and early 1900 eras. Cameras flashed amid laughter and conversations of a congregation celebrating one hundred and fifteen years as a community of faith. Former pastors, Clyde Pinnell, Ted Smith, and Ben Edwards were distinguished guests.



A busy stage crew turned the church's worship center into a theater in the round. Spotlights focused the audience's attention on vignettes depicting a people eager to have a church in their community. From center stage we heard conversations of longing



and faith and of struggles for financing and building. Chicken dinners for fifteen cents, quilting bees, and prayers eventually led to their first services. Off center stage the audience caught a glimpse of Indian Bill Moose and Linworth's youth as the early church ball team. The team seemed a little more enthusiastic about Billy's love life than ball. (Maybe life hasn't changed very much after all!) The final off center stage activity was the talent show reminiscent of the early church "after service" events.



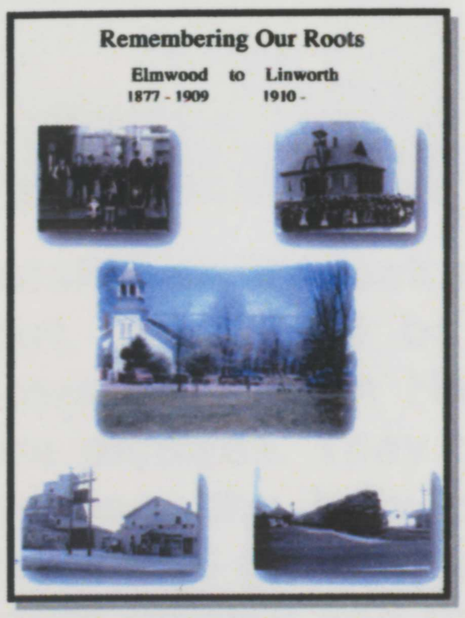


Two narrators guided us through the transitions in time. The singing of children, soloists, and accompanists brought applause. We laughed at Lena Mae's witty gab and cried as the beautiful Mary and determined Billy said their wedding vows. We empathized during their church meetings. A chuckle was heard with their discussion of a purchase of a church bell for twenty-five dollars. (What was our 2002 quote to hang that same bell?!!)



"Early Beginnings" was an evening to remember our past. "Early Beginnings" was also an evening to dare to dream and plan for another one hundred and fifteen years.

LOOKING TOWARD THE YEAR 2117
Linworth Today



Through the pictures and words of *Remembering Our Roots* we have had a glimpse of the Linworth community and of the Linworth United Methodist Church dating back more than a hundred and fifteen years.

For those curious persons who may pull out this book—probably their grandparent's copy—in another hundred and fifteen years, the year 2117, we are including some pictures of Linworth today.


1940

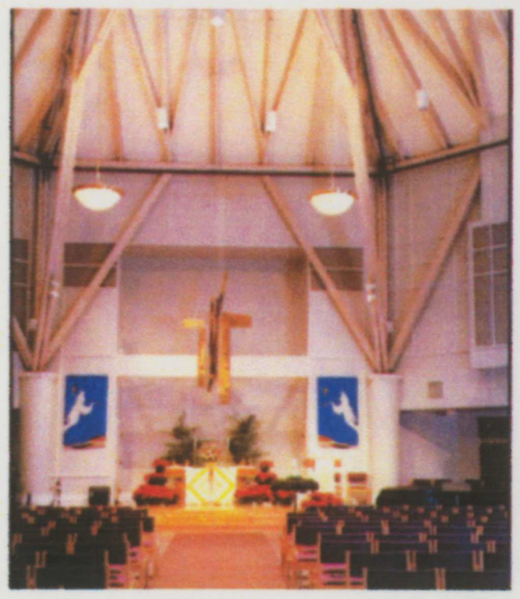
A few pages back you saw a large picture of the Linworth railroad crossing in 1940. Here's that same railroad crossing in 2002. (Where are the beautiful trees?) Don's Sohio Service has been replaced by one of today's "mega" stations. Eating establishments and automobile dealerships are a part of Linworth's current landscape. Our early church on Route 161 (Dublin-Granville Road) still looks familiar, but it is now the Village Bookshop. We don't have an Indian Bill for the children to visit, but Linworth does have a new play area for them. We can only guess what those early settlers and builders would say if they could visit Linworth today. They would undoubtedly shake their heads, as do we, while watching the hundreds of automobiles, often bumper to bumper, creep through the intersection at Linworth and Route 161. Linworth remains a busy place, but some of the Americana ambience has disappeared.











Our church, Linworth United Methodist Church, has moved to 7070 Bent Tree Boulevard. Those visionary pioneers of the faith would be delighted to learn that there are now over six hundred persons who worship each week at the church they struggled to start. We would be happy for them to enter the Elmwood Station Heritage Room and look at their own pictures. They could enter the Worship Center and hear the lofty pipe organ. Perhaps they would be intrigued by the drums and guitars heard in the more contemporary worship service. They would quickly see that we have remained a visionary and entrepreneurial people determined to meet the needs of a changing society. We introduce them to our Linworth Children's Center with its God-based curriculum. We invite them to join our service group making sandwiches for the homeless. They watch the impact group going to a near-by nursing home on craft or game night. They are startled to learn that we now board planes and go on work trips to other countries. Landscapes and buildings change, but the faith and vision of our founding mothers and fathers remain in our hearts and in our actions.





What will those who read this book in the year 2117 say? God grant that they will join the Apostle Paul in saying,

> "Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it—and never quit!" (Hebrews 12:1 from *The Message*)