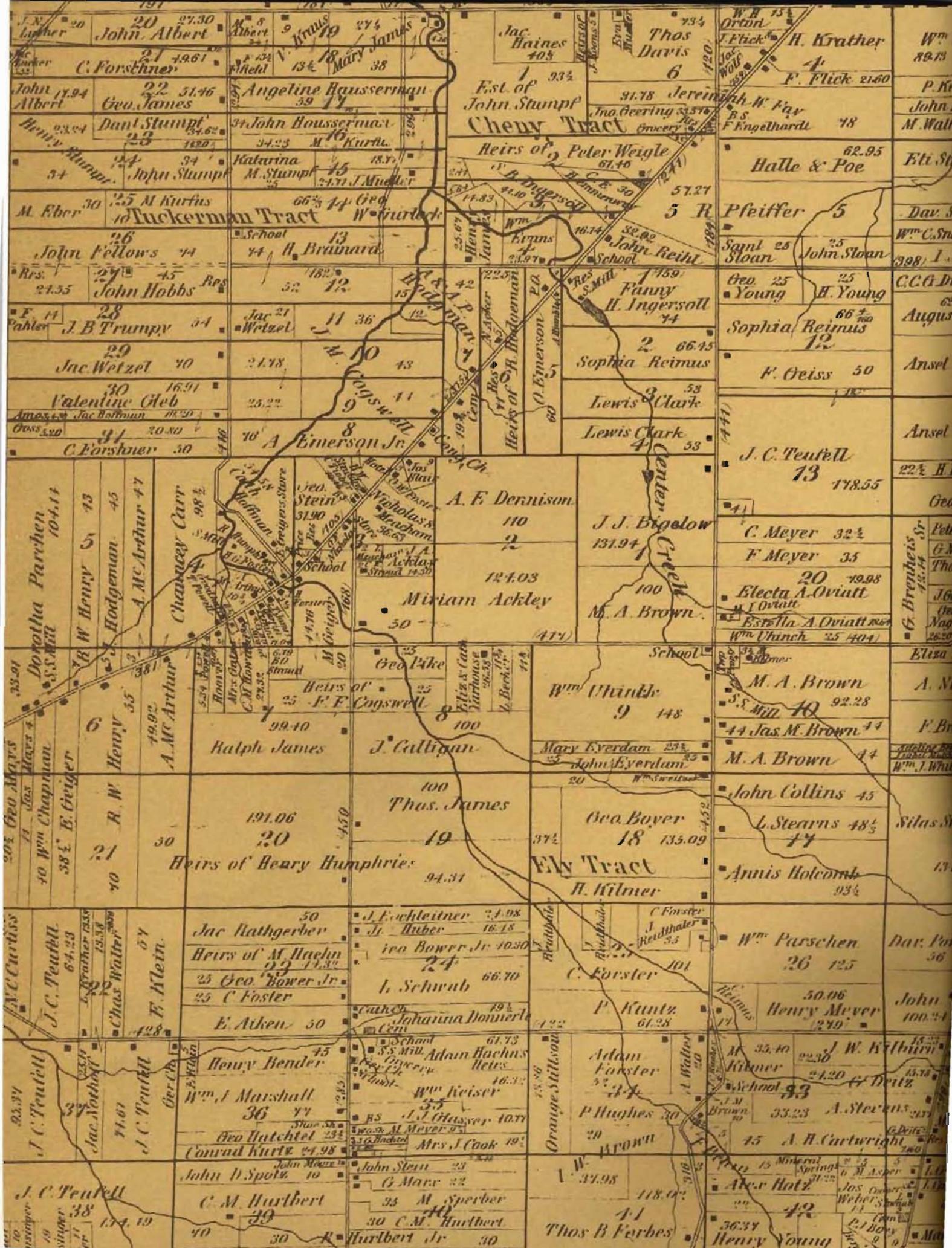


THE HERITAGE OF PARMA HEIGHTS



PARMA HEIGHTS
VILLAGE

1826 — 1926



John Albert 20
C. Forschner 21
John Albert 22
Danl Stumpf 23
John Stumpf 24
M. Kurfus 25
John Fellows 26
John Hobbs 27
J. B. Trumpy 28
Jac Wetzel 29
Valentine Gleb 30
C. Forshner 31

Angeline Hausserman 32
John Hausserman 33
Katarina M. Stumpf 34
Geo. W. Furlack 35
H. Braunard 36
A. P. Pagan 37
A. Emerson Jr. 38

Est. of John Stumpf
Chevy Tract
Heirs of Peter Weigle
H. Ingersoll
Fanny H. Ingersoll
Sophia Reimus
Lewis Clark
Lewis Clark

H. Krather
F. Flick
H. W. Far
F. Engelhardt
Halle & Poe
Pfeiffer
John Sloan
John Sloan
H. Young
H. Young
Sophia Reimus
H. Weiss
J. C. Teuffel
C. Meyer
F. Meyer
Electa A. Oviatt
Estella A. Oviatt
Wm. Church

Dorothea Parchen
W. W. Henry
A. M. Arthur
Charney Carr
Geo. Stein
A. M. Arthur
R. W. Henry
A. M. Arthur

A. F. Derrison
Miriam Ackley
Geo. Pike
F. F. Cogswell
Ralph James
J. Calligan
Thos. James
Heirs of Henry Humphries

J. J. Bigelow
M. A. Brown
Wm. Uinkle
Mary Eyerdam
John Eyerdam
Geo. Boyer
Ely Tract
H. Kilmer

J. C. Teuffel
C. Meyer
F. Meyer
Electa A. Oviatt
Estella A. Oviatt
Wm. Church
M. A. Brown
Jas. M. Brown
M. A. Brown
John Collins
L. Stearns
Annis Holcomb

J. C. Teuffel
Chas. Walter
F. Klein
Henry Bender
Wm. J. Marshall
Geo. Hachtel
Conrad Kurtz
John D. Spolz

J. C. Teuffel
Chas. Walter
F. Klein
Henry Bender
Wm. J. Marshall
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J. C. Teuffel
C. M. Hurthert
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THE HERITAGE OF PARMA HEIGHTS

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a Word of Explanation

ANNUAL REPORTS — be they of cities, private organizations, businesses, or PTA's — have a tendency to be dry-as-dust, statistical humdrums.

For more years than we care to remember, such a report has been avoided in Parma Heights. It was felt that it was far better to have no report at all than to have something that did not do the job.

But the need for the “right kind” of report has persisted. So it was decided to present a report, or a study, in a way that would both inform the people and also add to their feeling for the best town there is.

Lest you be misled, this work is *not* a complete history of Parma Heights. It is an expanded, narrative report that contains some details of the past upon which are superimposed the pertinent governmental facts of the present. The past is offered both for its historical interest and as an aid to understanding the present.

In this account there are, no doubt some discrepancies because the old records themselves do not always agree. This is especially true of the spelling of names, and sometimes the dates clash. The version accepted was always the one that seemed most likely to be the correct one in the light of evidence.

It is appropriate at this time to give my humble thanks to Miss Winifred J. Stroud for providing a good deal of the basic historic information used here. This gracious lady, whose family ties go far back into the area's past, truly has done much for the historic sense of this community.

I can think of no more effective way to demonstrate the respect and affection that Miss Winifred Stroud commands than to recount what occurred at the testimonial for her in 1955.

As more than 600 persons gathered to pay homage to this wonderful lady, not a single cigaret or cigar was lit, even though there were dozens of heavy smokers present. I myself, unconsciously, reached for a cigar, then noticed the lack of smoke. Slowly it dawned on me! Miss Stroud had no use for smoking and knowing this, all of us — many her former pupils — had automatically abstained as a mark of respect for our good and true friend. And you can be assured that there was no liquor, either. Such was the feeling for Miss Winifred Stroud.

A member of another pioneer family should also be singled out for special mention: DeWitt Cogswell, whose ancestors settled on York and Pearl Roads in the 1830's. Mr. Cogswell, who left the community years ago and now resides in Cleveland, is a historian and genealogical researcher by avocation and his assistance to this project was invaluable. Without him, the story would have lacked much of its detail.

There are others, too, who helped but they are too numerous to mention here. Their names appear in another part in this book and I wish to extend to them, too, my heartfelt thanks for such an outflowing of interest in this community project.

From all of these persons and others like them, this town, this city, has sprung. From the early seeds of the pioneers came the roots and from those roots came the towering tree that today is Parma Heights.

Paul W. Cassidy

IN THE BEGINNING

"You'll find us rough, sir, but you'll find us ready."

—CHARLES DICKENS

LONG before the first settler hacked his weary way through the dense wilderness that eventually became Wooster Pike and later Pearl Road, the rich heritage of Parma Heights already had sent out roots and a definite image was beginning to emerge.

Those roots of Parma Heights are wide and deep and in them is intertwined the history of Parma and of Cleveland — and beyond that, the early days of Ohio and the nation itself.

Geographically, all of Parma Heights once was part of Parma — and before that, the combined area was part of Brooklyn Township. At one time the section was labeled "Greenbric" because of a green, prickly mass of brambles that overran the countryside. The thick and matted briars formed an almost impenetrable shield.

In the unsettled period after the American Revolution, the new Federal Government faced — among other problems — the question of populating the western lands acquired from England in the peace treaty of 1783 which ended the successful colonial revolt.

1783

This "Northwest Territory" did not pass without incident into the possession of the new-born U.S. Government, however. States unrolled ancient, almost forgotten documents and laid claim to vast portions of land solely because of obscure colonial commitments from a British Crown that knew little if any of the geography of the new world.

Most important of these to the future of Northern Ohio was the claim of Connecticut, a state which can justly be called a blood relative of Parma Heights and one of the earliest champions of democracy.

The "Fundamental Orders of Connecticut" of 1639 was the first written constitution devised by a commonwealth in the western world and provided for the popular election of a governor and a two-house legislature.

Connecticut's claim to western lands was based on its original charter as a colony. That charter, like other colonial charters, was steeped in ignorance of the territory described. It proclaimed the north and south borders of Connecticut as the 41st and 42d parallels and extended them west to "the Great South Sea."

Connecticut subsequently interpreted "the Great South Sea" to be the Pacific Ocean and, without raising an eyebrow, claimed as part of the state a strip of land about 67 miles deep and 3000 miles wide.

Naturally, conflicts arose with other states having similarly preposterous claims and finally every one of the dissidents gave way to the Federal Government except Connecticut. It, too, finally made a deal, but before that happened, Connecticut and Pennsylvania actually fought a short, unofficial war over rival claims.

The bargain made by Connecticut with the new United States on September 14, 1786, called for her to give up all territorial claims through Pennsylvania plus her western claims beyond Lake Erie to the Pacific Ocean.

In turn she kept for herself — in reserve — a 120-mile long strip of her original land claim from the western border of Pennsylvania between the 41st and 42d parallels along the south shore of Lake Erie. This section became known as the Connecticut Western Reserve or New Connecticut. In today's geography, it extended from the western border of Pennsylvania to slightly west of Sandusky and from Lake Erie south to just below Youngstown.

Of this huge area, Connecticut set aside a half-million acres for towns which had been burned by the British during the American Revolution. This special section was in what are Erie and Huron counties and became known as "the Firelands."

The remaining 3,000,000 acres were sold for the benefit of Connecticut schools at about 30 cents an acre. A group of 35 Connecticut men, representing about 60 investors, banded together and purchased the entire tract. They didn't pay cash, however, using instead what has become the time-honored method of acquiring suburban property: by mortgage.

Surveyors for the new owners sliced the territory up and down into a grid of approximately five-mile-square sections. All sorts of problems — particularly financial — arose and the full story is still to be unravelled.

Briefly, deeds were made out in Hartford, Connecticut, to the original 35 parties for various fractions of the Western Reserve, based upon the amount of investment. But no specific plots of the now-surveyed land were assigned.

A lottery of five drawings in five years allocated the lands, and as a result some investors were assigned land in five widely scattered locations. A buying-and-selling — and swapping market — soon was booming. The result was a scattering of settlers over the entire area rather than a clustering at a natural gathering point like the crossing of streams or the convergence of trails. Virtually no original settler saw his land before he bought it.

This scheme, in effect, set up a rural, dispersed kind of living in the Western Reserve with all lands belonging to specific persons. There was no homesteading and claim-grabbing such as settled the West in later years.

1786

1796

TIED inextricably to local history is General Moses Cleaveland who, as the agent for the Connecticut Land Company, headed the first surveying party in the Western Reserve in 1796. His rough-and-ready hand laid out a town at the mouth of the Cuyahoga and then carried out instructions to divide the Reserve into townships five miles square.

All along the Cuyahoga valley and nearby strong points were the remains of fortifications and villages of the Erie Indians who a few short years before had been all but obliterated by the Indian tribes known as the Five Nations. These upper New York State Indians were the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onandagas, Cayugas and Senecas. Most of the Eries were wiped out and the bulk of the invading Five-Nation warriors — paid by the British — returned to their own lands after their bloody task was over.

Soon the settlers arrived — by water via the lake, and overland by the network of trails worn by Indian migrations before them. First permanent resident of Cleveland was Alonzo Carter, who became a tavernkeeper whose name is perpetuated by a present-day hostelry.

Carter proceeded on May 2, 1797 to the mouth of the Cuyahoga River and built a log house. He arrived from Rutland, Vermont, as did Benjamin Norton and his wife and three daughters in 1820. Norton, however, pushed southward from the lake and settled on Broadview Road in the Brooklyn Township, the township which gave birth to both Parma and Parma Heights. Shortly after the Nortons came Rufus Scovill (sometimes spelled Scoville). A half-brother of Lorenzo Carter, John A. Ackley, settled later in the Parma area after working as an engineer on Cleveland's first stone pier and other harbor installations.

Two names are raised when the question of "first settler" in the Parma area arises. Just as Parma and Parma Heights enjoy common geographic and historic roots, so do both these names merit the title of "first settler."

The two are Benajah Fay and Conrad Countryman.

1816

Benajah Fay, judging from early correspondence now in the family's records and other information, appeared here in 1816. Letters indicate that he was born in Massachusetts but came from Lewis County in New York, and it is widely accepted that he and his wife, Ruth Wilcox, and five sons and five daughters settled at what today is Pearl Road and Theota, just north of Ridge Road in present-day Parma.

Other writings indicate that Conrad Countryman came here from the Mohawk Valley in New York State in 1817 with his wife and, apparently, three sons, who already were young men: Peter, John and Jacob. Some accounts, also mention a brother, William.

As early as 1826, records show Conrad Countryman, William Countryman and Peter Countryman as qualified electors. Jacob appears in other references. Peter married Margaret Nicholas, daughter of Jesse and Mary Nicholas, whose names are prominent in Parma Heights history.

The census records of 1830 list only John, Jacob and Peter Countryman as adult males in the family. The names of Conrad and William do not appear. By 1840, the name "Countryman" disappeared from the census lists.

Be that as it may, the fact is that Conrad Countryman's piece of land was located at about where Stumph (Stumpf) Road joins Pearl, in Parma Heights, and there he settled. He ran a sawmill and a blacksmith shop, and, some reports say, he also kept an inn nearby, possibly the one that became known as the Old Stone Tavern.

It can be said that Benajah Fay was the first settler in Parma, and at the same time it can be said equally accurately that Conrad Countryman was the first settler in what became Parma Heights.

But more important than being first is the matter of what occurred after the settlers arrived.

Benajah Fay had seen the desirability of his location on Pearl Road as it was on the trail to Columbus. Immediately upon arrival he erected a large log cabin. In 1819 he opened a tavern as the road had become quite well traveled by stages heading to Medina and southward. In 1826 this log tavern was replaced by a frame building and in 1832 Fay constructed a large red brick building to serve the needs of stage passengers and the four-horse teams. "B. Fay's, Inn," as the tavern became known, was a regular stop for the stagecoach and was a landmark for years until it was torn down in 1918.

A tattered letter in the possession of Dr. Dudley S. Fay, a great-grandson of Benajah, lists 10 children born prior to the pilgrimage to this area and it is known that two were born later.

One of those born here, Mabel Truman Fay, is believed to be the first child born in the Parma area. Her birth took place on January 26, 1820. The other Fay child born after the family's arrival here was Jeremiah Wilcox Fay, grandfather of Dr. Fay. Jeremiah was born in 1822.

Through the marriage of Mabel Truman Fay in 1847 to Dudley S. Humphrey, the present Fays are related to the Humphreys of Euclid Beach fame. The early Humphreys in the area – William and Dudley, who had arrived in 1826 – fashioned wooden clock cases and brought in clockworks from Connecticut. The assembled clocks were widely sold and the business flourished from 1836 to 1851 in a location on Pearl Road just south of Snow Road, a short distance from the blacksmith shop of Thomas Adams, who came from Amherst, Massachusetts, in 1825.

After a fruitful life of 85 years and a family of a dozen children, Benajah Fay died on April, 1860. His wife, however, lived only to 1831, when she was 50.

As for Conrad Countryman, except for a few sparse mentions, history records little of him. He reportedly moved further west after a 10-year stay.

At almost the same time as the arrival of Countryman, a young East Windsor, Connecticut, Yankee named Peletiah Bliss came to claim the piece of land he had purchased in the Reserve. He cleared the land and put up a log house at Pearl and York Roads in the area later occupied by the Stein farm and the O. F. Nicholas house in the vicinity of today's Parma Heights Park. Then he went back to Connecticut – reportedly walking all the way – to claim his bride, Lucina Grant. The couple returned here in the company of the Foote family of Brooklyn by ox team in 1821.

A Strongsville resident, D. S. Lyons, wrote that when he passed through the Parma area from Cleveland to Strongsville in 1818 "there was hardly a stick of timber cut. The main road, afterwards the Wooster Pike, was marked out four rods wide. The underbrush and saplings were cut but the large trees remained and the roadway wound about them."

The message of Ohio Governor Thomas Worthington to the Legislature which adjourned January 30, 1818, was devoted largely to the need for good roads. In the previous legislature a large number of turnpike companies had been authorized and incorporated and more than 100 public roads were ordered opened and improved.

Governor Worthington in an earlier message had urged that the state join with individuals and private corporations in the construction of turnpikes and pointed out that the state shared the tolls collected, which would reduce its tax rate. This method of providing better transportation became general.



Asa Emerson Jr. was born in Bowdoin, Maine, on Oct. 30, 1812, and came here as a child with his parents in 1821. He died on June 30, 1898.

IN 1821 a veritable population explosion occurred along Pearl Road as the families of Asa Emerson, Jesse Nicholas, Amos Hodgman, Joseph Small and William Steele came trudging in after a brief attempt to settle in Southern Ohio. They were all originally from Bowdoin, Maine.

Asa Emerson had first taken his family to Wheeling, West Virginia (then Virginia), for a year and later for two years to Clermont County near Cincinnati. He brought with him his wife, Sally, and four sons and four daughters and built a log house a bit north of what today is the Pearl Road School adjacent to Parma-South Presbyterian Church. After four or five years, a larger, more comfortable dwelling was built at the spot.

That second home, built on a high foundation near the road was moved back from the street by its present owner, Dr. D. A. Johnston, and remains substantially the same as it was in the original.

Amos Hodgman – his wife, Thankful Small, four sons and three daughters – quickly purchased a parcel on Pearl Road for his homesite and then bought 200 acres from the Connecticut Land Company. The tract included the north portion of the present cemetery on Pearl Road. One of the Asa Emerson boys – Oliver – eventually married Mindwell (Minda) Hodgman, a daughter of Amos. Oliver was an early postmaster.

Jesse Nicholas, taking a cue from the success of Benajah Fay, built an inn just south of the present Pearl Road School on the site of the Parma-South Presbyterian Church. Soon Amos Hodgman similarly built a tavern, slightly to the north, across the way from the cemetery.

The Smalls and the Steeles settled further south below the juncture of Pearl and York Roads. When William Steele died in 1823 – the second recorded death in the section – one report says the couple was childless and that his wife returned alone to Maine. Another says that "William Steele and child were buried on the bank of Big Creek on the Countryman Place . . . Their graves were never marked." Also buried along the creek bank, but later removed to the cemetery, was Isaac Emerson, 17-year old son of Asa and Sally Emerson and the first to die (May 6, 1822) in the new land.

The Small family stayed for 26 years before moving on to Michigan.

1823

FOR four years after 1821 no new settlers appeared, then the moving-in resumed. In 1825, Samuel Freeman and his wife, Sarah Belknap, and five daughters and seven sons (two grown-up ones remaining behind) arrived from Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Their wagon pulled in at the Fay Tavern and until they built a home nearby, they were put up by the Fays in a barn at the rear of the inn. They had made their way west via the newly opened Erie Canal and Lake Erie. Samuel Freeman was the first teacher and first postmaster.

In 1826, Abner S. Beals (Beals) and his family came from Royalton. One of the four children, Julia Ann, had been the first child born in Royalton. She eventually married Robert Hodgman – son of Amos – and became the mother of Mrs. Alice C. Stroud, whose daughters, Winifred and Ruth, until recently lived on Pearl Road near the cemetery on land that had been purchased by their great-grandfather, Amos Hodgman, from the Connecticut Land Company.

The community honors both families with a “Hodgman Drive,” a “Stroud Park” and a “Stroud Elementary School.”

As population increased and wild animals became a menace, various “hunts” were organized. The “Great Hinckley Hunt,” not far from the southern outskirts of the Parma Township, took place in December of 1818. A posse of men from Royalton, Brecksville, Richfield and Brunswick Townships surrounded the Township of Hinckley and gradually drew in a line until every animal was killed or escaped through the firing line. Net result in animals killed: deer 365, bear 17, wolves 5.

This was shortly after a Brecksville resident reported that the snow was tramped solid about her house by wolves, “of which as many as 500 gathered at a time.”

By 1830, however, wild game was getting scarce and before long the stories were better than the hunting. One later account, as a matter of fact, states that in Parma: “As late as 1842 the ravage of bears and wolves was so great that a hunt was organized which lasted for several days.” No results were recorded for the “Great Parma Hunt.”

Other names appeared as settlers came from Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts and elsewhere. Some were original owners of Reserve land while others had re-purchased rights from others. The forest was being tamed, town living developed, roads were built – and organizational problems appeared.

ON March 7, 1826, County Commissioners cut off the southern portion of the original Western Reserve Township of Brooklyn and created a separate township. In taking the action, the commissioners formally decreed:

“Public notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of that part of the township of Brooklyn comprised within the original lines of Township No. 6, the 13th range of the Western Reserve, that said No. 6 has been this day elected into a separate township by the name of Parma, and the said electors are hereby notified to meet at the house of Samuel Freeman in said township on the first Monday in April and to elect township officers according to law.”

Obediently, and thankful for the right to vote, the electors (all men, since women had no vote) gathered at the Samuel Freeman home. This first election was the basis of all the government to follow in Parma and in Parma Heights. And even though the area was a relative frontier, legalities were scrupulously followed.

To insure a proper, legal count, the electors chose as judges of the election the trio of Asa Emerson, David Adams and Jesse Nicholas. Peletiah Bliss and Oliver Emerson were picked to act as voting clerks.

Results of that first balloting saw Peletiah Bliss named clerk and treasurer while Asa Emerson, Samuel J. Varney and David Adams were elected township trustees.

Along with these conventional posts were some that today carry a quaintness long since gone. Benajah Fay and Jesse Nicholas were elected "overscers of the poor." John Hodgman and Benjamin Norton were properly chosen as "fence viewers" and Asher Norton and Amos Hodgman were designated as "supervisors of highways."

It soon became obvious that judicial proceedings also were a necessary part of government. Thus, a few months later — on July 4 — voters gathered at the home of Jesse Nicholas to elect a justice of the peace. Recorded as voting were Conrad Countryman, William Countryman, Peter Countryman, Jesse Nicholas, Asa Emerson, Oliver Emerson, Joseph Small, Amos Hodgman, John Hodgman, Samuel Freeman, Lyndon Freeman, Benajah Fay and Peletiah Bliss. Samuel Freeman was unanimously elected the first Parma Township justice of the peace.

Almost immediately came creation of the first school district of the new Parma Township. It consisted of: "The whole length of the state road (Pearl) through said town and one mile on each way from said road . . ." Ten families made up the entire school district.

The householders comprising that first school district were: Benajah Fay, Samuel Freeman, Thomas Adams, John Hodgman, Amos Hodgman, Joseph Small, Peter Countryman, Asa Emerson, Jesse Nicholas and Peletiah Bliss.

Then, also in 1826, the trustees trimmed off the southeastern quarter of the township for school purposes by making it a part of Brecksville School District No. 4. Directly affected were the families of Ben Norton, Asher Norton and Rufus Scovill. Ben Norton and Rufus Scovill had come from Vermont in 1820. Asher had followed them three years later.

1827

In the first year, up to April of 1827, township trustees collected \$16.84 for road taxes and \$11.38 for "road certificates" — apparently a form of assessment.

The first schoolhouse was a log structure on the hill at the northern corner of what is Parma Heights Cemetery. At the time it was part of Robert Hodgman's farm. It stood until 1841 and many a square dance was interspersed with prayer meetings along with class recitations as the school was the civic and religious center for the "town." A memorial plate in a boulder marks the site.

INDUSTRY reflected the times. As early as 1821, Conrad Countryman and William Wells built a sawmill on Stony (Big) Creek just above where Stumph Road joins Pearl. It was here that years later Conrad's granddaughter, Lucy Countryman, was killed in an accident. Other sawmills, spurred by the increasing need for building materials, went into business. Among them were Robert Hodgman's and Cyrus Ingersoll's mills. The Adams Smithy did a rush business repairing iron wagon tires and shoeing horses. Cider mills and the home production of woolens and linens made up other "industries." Woodcutting, farming and hunting kept the men and boys busy while the women spun and wove.

As in other pioneer areas, whisky was a common but often controversial commodity, especially if family life was at stake. Most farmers found that a bulky, hard-to-sell harvest of grain could be made readily marketable by converting the grain into whisky.

The term "whisky is money" was a widely quoted expression and Yankee understanding made it possible for even a non-drinking man to deal in liquor in a day when muddy roads and slow ox and horse teams made transporting of raw grain more difficult than distilling it. Two barrels of whisky on a horse meant a lot more money than several wagonloads of grain.

But the controversy existed, and in 1829, in the midst of a temperance turmoil, Samuel Freeman was quoted in the *Cleveland Herald* in regard to the old barn-raising custom of hard work plus hard liquor:

"It has been said that we could not get our buildings raised without the aid of ardent spirits. It gives me great satisfaction to state that I recently had a sawmill raised without any other drink but water. Notice was given when I invited my neighbors that no spirits would be provided. Notwithstanding, all that could, attended with the greatest alacrity, and I never saw men take hold of work more cheerfully and although the afternoon proved rainy, I heard no complaint for want of whisky. No accident happened and even profane language, which is usually the companion, was lacking."

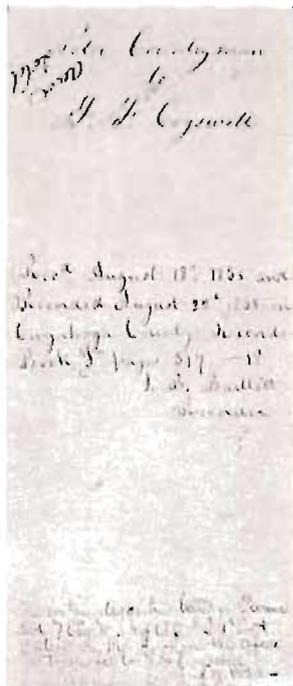
At this time, another event added materially to the migration west. After eight years of laborious digging, the Erie Canal had linked the Hudson River in New York with Lake Erie at Buffalo in 1825 and served as an additional channel in bringing settlers and trade from the East. Oddly enough, although New York Governor DeWitt Clinton is always mentioned in connection with the canal and the Canal was referred to as "Clinton's Ditch," history has all but forgotten the two engineers who made the waterway possible: Benjamin Wright and James Geddes.

Since much of the land in Northern Ohio was still held by Connecticut owners through the original Western Reserve sales, families from the East found the new Wright-Geddes Erie Canal a helpful inducement to go west instead of reselling the land.

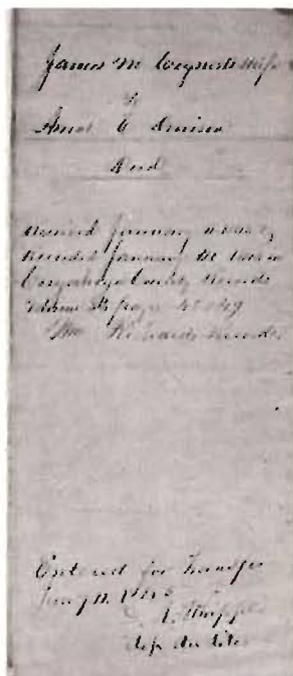
The first such family was the earlier mentioned one of Samuel Freeman. They were among the first users of the Erie Canal. Another was that of Fred Cogswell, who set out for Ohio via the new waterway in 1835. From its home in Stonington in southeastern Connecticut, Fred Cogswell's family is

1829

1835



Peter Countryman's sale of property on York Road to Fred E. Cogswell is recorded in this deed dated Aug. 18., 1835.



This 1845 deed documents the sale of land by James Cogswell, brother of Fred, to Amos E. Denison.

believed to have gone along the coast of Long Island Sound to the Hudson River and north on the Hudson to Albany and the Erie Canal to Buffalo. There transportation was readily available to the Cleveland area either by land or water.

The canal shortened travel time from New York City to the Great Lakes region to eight days. Horses in frequent relays pulled the light packet boats through the canal from Buffalo to Albany in less than four days and the once prohibitive freight rates were slashed to where even average persons could afford to ship belongings westward.

The Erie Canal idea, which had been derided by many and rejected as impractical by the Federal Government, quickly paid for itself and made New York a booming city linked directly to the Midwest. And for those who today may think that the Erie Canal – which may have brought some of their ancestors to this area – is a mossy, broken-down remnant of the dim past, here are a few figures.

As the 150th anniversary of the ground-breaking for the Erie Canal is being celebrated this year, the canal is still a commercial, state-operated enterprise. In 1966 it carried 1,314,000 tons of cargo – all toll-free. Much of its length has become a favorite for pleasure boats and a tourist attraction. About 20,000 pleasure craft “sail” the Erie Canal yearly and the number is growing.

WHEN the Fred Cogswells arrived here via the canal in 1835, they purchased the old Riley Hance and Peter Countryman place on York Road about a quarter-mile south of Ridgewood Drive, known then as Bean Road. The area is between Ridgewood and North Church Drive. York Road, incidentally, was laid out in 1828 and so named because many of its first settlers – including Countryman – were from New York.

Fred Cogswell's brother, James, had preceded him here in 1833 and took up a large part of the land along Pearl Road from what is now Maplecliff Drive to Halcyon Drive, extending back to the Stumph Road section. The homesite was at Pearl Road and Beaconsfield Drive. It was here that James brought his second wife, Mary Huntington Dewitt, whom he had married in Norwich, Connecticut, in 1833, when she was 18 years old.

In the same area, across the road from James Cogswell's farm, was a piece of land which had been purchased in 1837 by Amos Denison, a brother of Mrs. Fred Cogswell.

Interestingly, the names of streets in the neighborhood are linked to the Denison and Cogswell families. The street immediately south of the cemetery is named Denison. Nearby are Dexter (named for Miss Melissa Dexter, a teacher who married Amos Denison) and Stonington Road and Stratford Drive. The last two names are those of the Connecticut towns from which the Cogswells and Denisons had come. For the record, Denison Ave. in Cleveland is also named for members of the Denison family who settled in the area.

Of more than passing interest are the detailed financial ledgers kept by Fred Cogswell. In addition to such entries as “keeping cow 2 weeks – .50”

and "Bought Table, Bedstead and Rocking Chair - \$4.50" there are listed for 1841, 1843 and 1846 charges "to doctor" of \$3 each for delivery of his sons, Fred, Ed and William. Frank, who came later, cost \$10. Inflation already had set in.

RAILROADS were beginning their appearance as the century moved toward the halfway mark but the hilly, brambly "Greenbriar" country along the Portage Escarpment south of the lake didn't lend itself to railroad building. Heavy hauling was done by barn-fisted drovers and giant horse teams. Travel was by horseback or stage. Ox teams were common, but their pace was interminably slow.

Difficult roads made transporting of goods and people a long and arduous task and the tedious, back-breaking work gave rise to a large number of taverns, or inns, along Pearl Road. These taverns were recreation centers of a sort in which news and gossip was discussed and heady excitement greeted the arrival of the big stagecoaches. Many a deal was made over a dram.

High on the list of early convivial gathering places with their hearty food and even heartier drink were the already mentioned "town's" inns - the Fay Tavern, Amos Hodgman's Tavern, Nicholas Tavern and Old Stone Tavern.

Early family reminiscences provide much information, even though some of the sources prefer to remain anonymous. One of the pioneers whose father owned an inn in the early days duly recorded that his father contracted for meat to serve his guests:

"For porterhouse, a leg of lamb or a piece of corned beef the price then was seven cents a pound. A good-sized chicken was worth 10 cents, smaller ones 8 cents. One of the reasons why they were not worth more was because game was so plentiful. In the spring of the year wild pigeons came by the millions. One man tells of picking up 16 pigeons his father killed with one shot. These pigeons came in such flocks that when they settled on the trees they broke limbs.

"Wild turkeys, geese and ducks were in abundance and could be had in season. During the early years bears were common but community hunts reduced their numbers. The bears carried off young pigs and as a protection to livestock, the early inhabitants wanted to remove the offenders.

"An expert rifleman kept the larder supplied with deer meat. Since wolves destroyed sheep, mutton was scarce but venison was quite plentiful."

But the temperance agitation affected one part of the taverns' services - the supplying of spirits. In 1842, the Cleveland Herald reported: "Because of the temperance movement, whisky is selling in Cincinnati at 12 cents a gallon."

By 1846, temperance meetings were being held widely and the Herald on March 31 wrote: "Quarterly meeting was held in Parma and plans were adopted for a campaign to prevent the sale of liquor in Parma." On May 11, the same newspaper announced: "Cuyahoga County Total Abstinence Society will hold a regular meeting at the Presbyterian Church in Parma on June 3d at 10 a.m."

So the life of the tavernkeeper in the "old days" was not as smooth as some might think.



Edward Denison Cogswell was born in 1843 on the York Road farm of his parents, Fred F. and Harriet Denton Cogswell, sister of Amos E. Denton. He was the father of DeWitt Cogswell.



Mary Francis Pelton Cogswell, wife of Edward G. Cogswell, was a teacher at "Old Number Nine School" in the vicinity of the present City Hall when she married.

1842

1849

ASIATIC cholera clutched at a worried nation in the summer of 1849 and some sections of Ohio fell early victim to the disease. The epidemic began in the South and spread with westward migration to the Pacific Coast by 1851, killing thousands.

The disease apparently was first brought into Northern Ohio to Sandusky on June 25, 1849, by a passenger on the Mad River Railroad, which extended southward to Springfield. The man was removed to a doctor's home and surprisingly enough recovered although the primitive sanitation resulted in the spread of the illness throughout Sandusky, bringing death to about 400 persons in the next three months.

The disease made its deadly appearance here in a strikingly similar fashion. In July of 1849 a sick traveler was taken from the stagecoach at the Hodgman Tavern. Unlike the Sandusky victim, however, this man died and spread the cholera to the Hodgman family.

In the cemetery on Pearl Road across the street from the site of the tavern, a stone proclaims that Thankful Hodgman, widow of Amos, died of cholera on July 22, 1849. On July 28, the same stone says, cholera took the life of a daughter, Thankful, named after her mother. A separate stone for Robert Henry Hodgman, 3-year-old son of Robert Hodgman and Julia Ann Beels Hodgman, carries the same message. He died of cholera on July 23. Also dead of the disease were Robert Hodgman's brother-in-law, Benajah Fay, Jr., and his sister, Mrs. Minda Emerson, and niece, Emily Hodgman. Thus it was that in a single week, Robert Hodgman lost his mother, two sisters, a son, a brother-in-law and a niece to cholera.

Many others fell to the dread illness and contemporary reports say that there were not enough well persons left to bury the dead.

1853

SKETCHY reminiscences show that the Rockefeller family of oil fame lived briefly in the Parma area beginning in 1853. The three boys — William, Frank and John D. — attended school in the area but the family didn't stay long.

In latter years, when the refining of oil brought about a sharp increase in the price of the earlier virtually useless ooze from the ground, the late Frank Stein recalled:

"Coal oil was 80 and 90 cents a gallon and we have to thank Coal Oil Johnnie Rockefeller. I often saw him ride by on his way to see his cousins in Strongsville. He was riding in his car with a duster wrapped around him."

PARMA HEIGHTS' ties to the Civil War are much like those of most northern communities. As the civil strife mounted, more and more youths could be found drilling in the fields behind the Asa Emerson house on Pearl Road. Crowds would gather to watch the soldiers practice loading and firing.

One of the Emerson family, Capt. George Emerson of Co. E, 67th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and son of Asa Emerson, Jr., and Lois Freeman, died of battle wounds received May 20, 1864.

Some estimates are that three-fourths of the homes sent fathers or sons to the war. Others who were called later in the war when a draft was instituted "purchased" substitutes and were allowed to remain at home.



Lois Emerson was the wife of Asa Emerson, Jr. and the mother of George Emerson, who was killed in the Civil War. She was a member of the pioneer Freeman family and came here with her family from Sturbridge, Mass., in 1825 at the age 11.

A complete list of those from the area who took part in the Civil War is almost impossible to compile. Records — many incomplete — do reveal, however, that many of the families whose names dot the early accounts also contributed largely to the history of the war.

The outfits to which the men belonged and the ranks they held are particularly difficult to list accurately, so it is perhaps the better part of valor merely to state that most of the soldiers were in the Ohio Volunteer Infantry and that some were officers and some were enlisted men. Their names have been tracked down from obscure muster rolls, pension files and grave markers of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Those who served included: Charles Whittern; Trodate Clark; George, Orlando and Arthur Emerson; Oscar F., Charles, George D. and David Nicholas; Taylor E., Walter S., Alonzo R. and Luther Stroud; Isaac, Amos, John, Oliver and David Hodgman; William Freeman; Hiram and Harrison Henry; Henry D. and Frederic V. Cogswell; Michael Killmer; Philip Fowles; Henry Hoffman; William T. Johnson; Levi E. Meacham Jr.; Alexander Mutchler; George Pike; Solomon Pritchard; John Snell; Peter Kunz; Chauncey Lane; Lewis Stein; Samuel Wray; Christian Teufel; Erastus Norton; Henry Kurtz; William Burnham; Charles Hornsey; Wilbur Hildreth; Francis W. Brown; Town James; Adam Glebb; Tom Henry and Levi Bartholomew.

There exists no accurate list of local casualties of the Civil War, but family accounts and records of the "Ladies Mite Society, Parma" show that of those mentioned here, William E. Burnham died in the notorious Confederate prison at Andersonville, Georgia. He had been a prisoner in the horror hole 11 months after capture by Mosby's Raiders while foraging near Gettysburg. George Emerson died in a hospital in Washington, D. C., in 1864 of battle wounds. Harrison F. Henry was killed September 20, 1863, at the Battle of Chickamauga. Erastus Norton apparently died in service since a GAR marker in Parma Heights Cemetery carries his life dates as 1833-1865. David Hodgman died in a Nashville, Tennessee, hospital of typhoid March 17, 1863. Levi Bartholomew also died of typhoid in Cumberland, Maryland.

The "Ladies Mite Society" raised funds for welfare purposes for the community's soldiers serving in the Union Army. A list of its members would be the same names that served the town from its founding. After the Civil War, the society continued its money-raising for various causes, including the "Cleveland Industrial School" and the "Sabbath School."

No reference to the Civil War history of the community would be complete without mentioning Lucina Emerson, a daughter of Asa and Sally Emerson. Lucina was a hardy frontier type. She was born in 1822, the first child in what is now Parma Heights.

She lived to be 73 years old and in her full life had three marriages and outlived all three husbands: Charles Nicholas, Levi E. Meacham and Joshua Whitney. Two of her sons were Civil War soldiers — Levi E. Meacham Jr. and Oscar F. Nicholas — while she, herself, was a hospital nurse and served the Union from 1862 to the end of the war.

1864

Of more than passing significance is the fact that some of the families cooperated before the war in the "Underground Railroad" which helped escaped Negro slaves reach Canada and freedom. Few records of such activity were kept, of course, but one story has been handed down through the generations.

The Amos Denison home, now the A.A. organization at 6037 Pearl Road, was one of the "underground stations." Denison a strong abolitionist as were many of the former New Englanders, used to hide fugitive Negroes from the South in the barn and then spirit them to the next station in a wagon whose sides were built up to hide runaway slaves. The iron-tired wheels of the wagon were wrapped with cloth to prevent undue noise during the night trips.

AFTER the Civil War, the Parma area — which included present-day Parma Heights—was widely though sparsely settled. Most of the larger tracts had been broken up into substantial lots and there was a steady movement of families into the area.

Old allotment maps show such names — not always spelled correctly — as Uhinck, Kuntz, James, Carr, Boyer, Bigelow, Hloffman, Forster, Schwab, Rathberger, Keiser, McArthur, Clark and many others joining the earlier, familiar ones of Emerson, Hodgman, Fay, Nicholas, Stroud, Cogswell, Denison, Freeman, etc.

The business directory for Parma Township in 1874 included such advertisements as:

LOUIS MUELLER, Propr. of Grocery and Picnic Garden. Groceries and choice refreshment kept always.

WAGNER & HERBST, Proprs. of Steam Sawmill and Dealers in every description of lumber. Custom sawing done to order.

PRITSCH & CO., Proprs. of Stone Quarry and Manufacturers of Grindstone Patterns; also, Block, Perch and Building Stone constantly on hand. P.O. Brooklyn; Quarry, Parma.

JOHN HERBST, Dealer in choice Family Groceries, Flour, Feed &c; Proprietor of Saloon.

MESSRS. GABLE & HERBST offer for sale in Parma Township, 50 acres of land, good soil, well watered, good timber — in fact, a desirable property, and at easy terms, for which, and for further particulars, apply at farm.

DANIEL A. WARD, Dealer in Stock of every description; also Wholesale Butcher. P.O. Brooklyn; Res. Parma.

HENRY DENZER offers for sale a Farm of 92 acres, 32 of timber, balance cleared, three orchards, two vineyards, well watered. P.O. Brooklyn.

CARTWRIGHT & SALSBURY, Proprietors of Mineral Springs, Parma, known as Lithria Water. Its medicinal properties are unequalled by any spring in the United States for liver and kidney affectious.

1874



Alice Hodgman Stroud, daughter of Robert Hodgman and Julia A Beels, married Byron Stroud and became the mother of seven children, including Winifred and Ruth. Her grandfather was Amos Hodgman, who settled here in 1821.

IN 1876, a good plank road was laid down on Pearl Road from Cleveland to York Road. An earlier try in the 1850's had been a miserable experiment and had been abandoned quickly. The plank road of 1876 was in actual use until a brick pavement came about in 1907.

Tolls on the plank road were charged according to the types of vehicles and cargo or herded animals using the facilities. The southerly toll house was at Pearl and York Roads. Toll collector for many years – and still recalled by the few remaining old-timers – was Oscar Nicholas, the old Civil War Veteran. The Nicholas home was on the spot now occupied by a service station at the “Y” where York and Pearl Roads meet. The toll house was nearby.

It was not as simple to figure tolls in those days as it is today on the turnpikes. For example, charges for vehicles depended on the number of horses drawing them. A horse and rider cost more than horse, and cattle generally were twice as expensive “passengers” as sheep or hogs. Stage-coaches were the busses of their time and paid the highest rate. There were even special charges for “bicycles, tricycles or velocipedes.”

A ready market for farm produce awaited in an expanding Cleveland, so farmers loaded their wagons with vegetables and fruits and started for the big city. The trip took several hard hours and the farmer was on his way generally by midnight, arriving in time to sell his wares by daylight at the market in the vicinity of the Erie Street Cemetery in Cleveland.

Then came the trip back with regular stops at feeding sheds and water troughs for the horses. These sheds were usually adjacent to one of the numerous taverns and while the horse munched in the “parking lot” a cool glass of beer often helped the farmer endure the bumpy trip back home.

In those days of the plank road, the so-called Parma-Brighton section of Pearl Road, was eight feet wide with planks laid crossways on a pair of runners. The planks were about four inches thick, roughly hewn, and were dropped into place without being fastened.

The result was a ripply ride and occasionally the planks would pop out. Rules of the road called for riders to stop and “repair” such spots because a loose plank was a hazard and could cause the loss of a valuable animal. A loaded wagon had the right-of-way, but as today, gentlemen drivers were scarce and many a wagon ended up mired in the mud while an empty rattled on.

This difficult but satisfying pioneer and middle period came to an end in November of 1911 when Parma Heights Village was voted into existence in the midst of a wrangle about the lack of representation of the area in the Parma Government. Once again a separation occurred as in 1826, when Parma was born. A chapter of history closed and a new one opened as the first Parma Heights Council meeting got under way on January 3, 1912.

1876



Winifred Stroud as a young woman began her lifelong activity of teaching and church work. She still lives in the community in which her great-grandfather, Amos Hodgman, had such a large pioneer role.

1912



By 1850 the Roo

Upper left is 1851 portrait of Roderick N. Hodgman and his sister, Alice. It hangs in City Hall. Upper right is Fay's Tavern, built in 1832. Below it are pictured Jeremiah and Mary Fay, grandparents of Dr. Dudley S. Fay. The 1850 photo to the right shows relatives of DeWitt Cogswell—Uncle Fred, Father Edward D. and Uncle William—all born on York Road. At bottom is tree-shaded Pearl Road home of Robert Hodgman, long a landmark just north of the cemetery before it was razed a few years ago.



Began to Take Hold





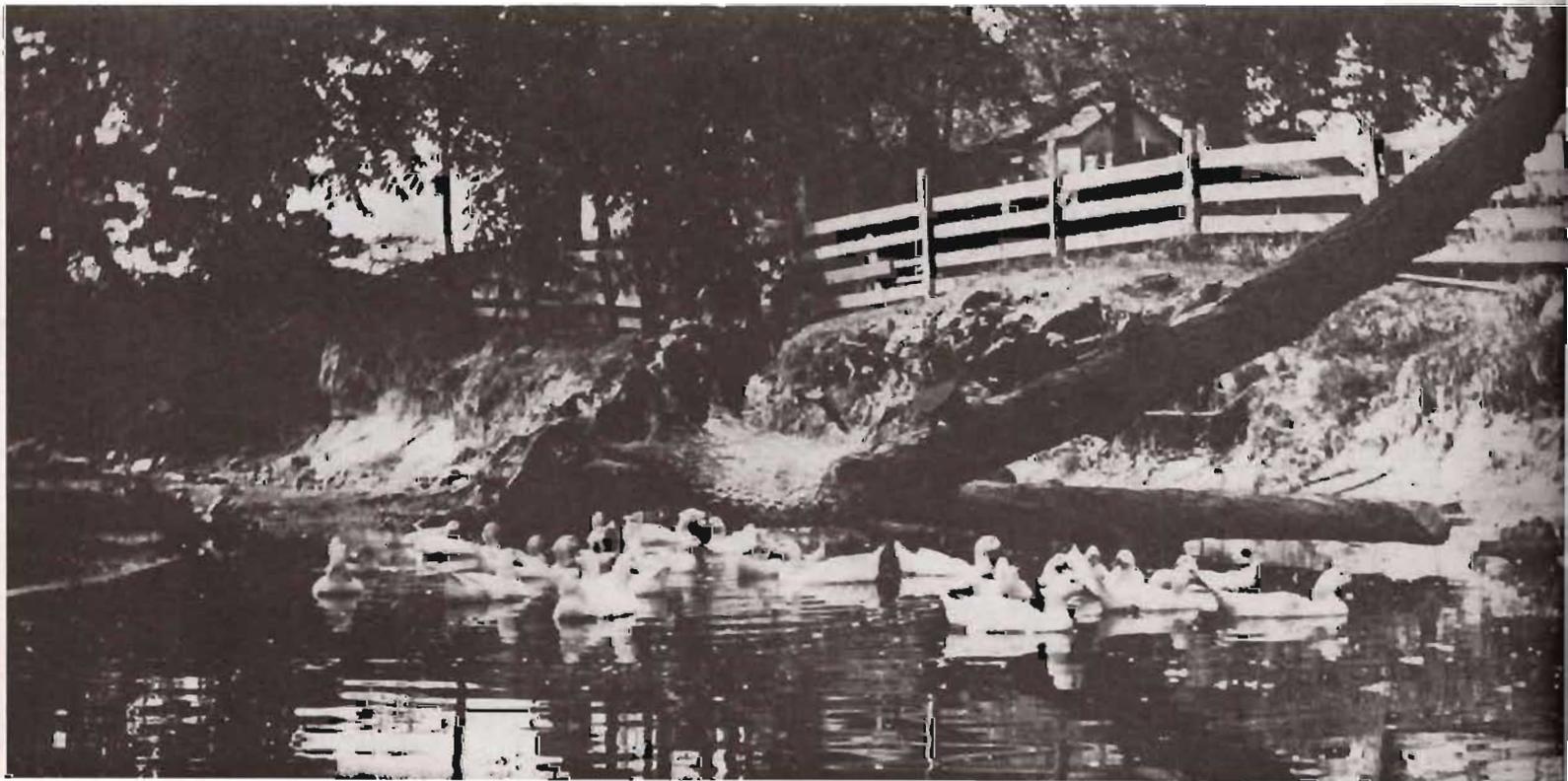
Parma-South Presbyterian Church as it appeared in the 1880's.

*Rare Photographs
Provide Bridge
Into the Past*



Old Number Nine School House stood near the present City Hall on Pearl Road.

This pastoral scene occurred on the farm of the Cogswell family on York Road, a short distance from Ridgewood. It was a favorite spot for church and civic picnics.





Parma Heights Cemetery in the horse-and-buggy days when Pearl Road was a dirt lane.



Stroud family home on Pearl Road still stands. It occupies land originally purchased by Amos Hodgman from holdings of the Connecticut Land Co.



Original Fred Cogswell place, built in the 1830's on York Road. It stood until the 1920's, when the family property was sold.



Hodgman-Stroud family portrait: left to right sitting, Berthold E. Stroud, Ivah L. Stroud, Merton W. Hodgman, Kenneth E. Hodgman, Ruth A. Stroud, Elsie E. Hodgman, Harvey H. Hodgman. Standing, left to right, Hazel H. Hodgman, Alice M. Hodgman, Carl H. Stroud, Winifred J. Stroud.



*Original Asa Emerson home on Pearl Road, just north of Parma-South Presbyterian Church.
This is an early view of the house built in the 1820's.*



Asa Emerson home as it appears today.



*This house was the original structure which today is the
Green Tree Lounge on Pearl Road.*

*Turn-of century view of the
Cogswell family, among Parma
Height's pioneer settlers.
DeWitt Cogswell is the youth
on the far left.*

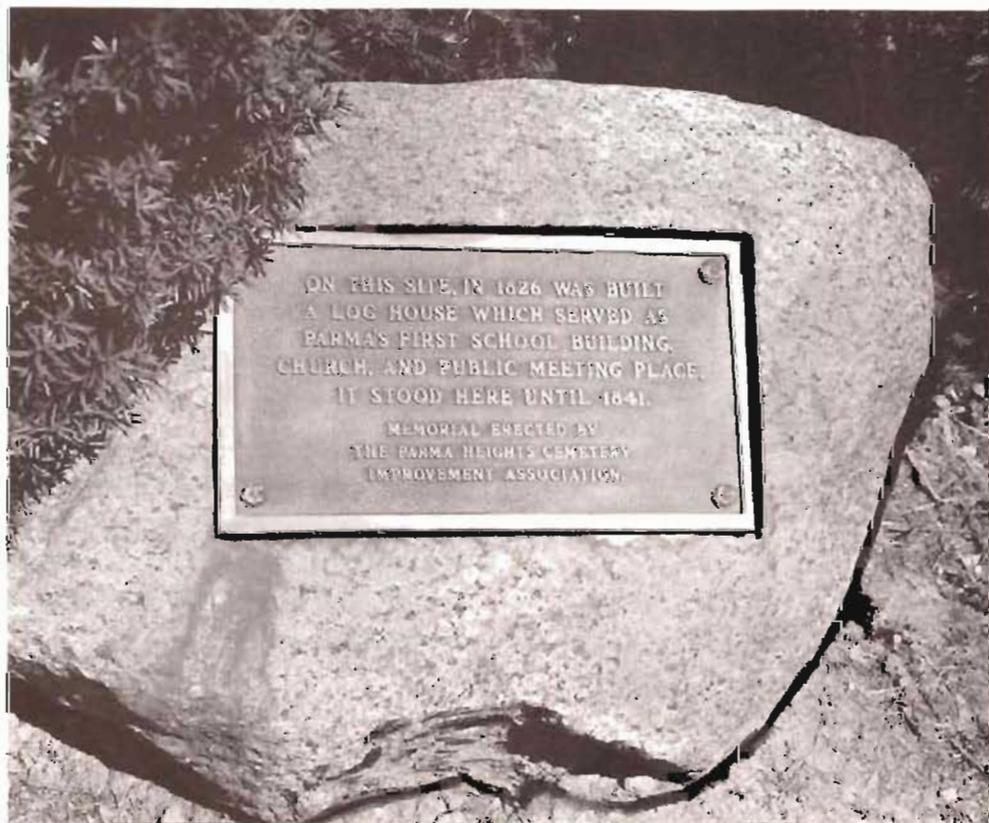


An Era Ends... and a New One Begins

*Old Stone Tavern occupied a spot on
Pearl Road near Stumph Road for many
years. It was torn down a few years ago.*



*Plaque on stone in Parma Heights Cemetery marks location of first school, church and
meeting place on the old Robert Hodgman place. The log cabin was torn down in 1841.*



ON THIS SITE, IN 1626 WAS BUILT
A LOG HOUSE WHICH SERVED AS
PARMA'S FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING,
CHURCH, AND PUBLIC MEETING PLACE.
IT STOOD HERE UNTIL 1841.

MEMORIAL ERECTED BY
THE PARMA HEIGHTS CEMETERY
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

A VILLAGE IS BORN

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasms."

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON

THAT first Parma Heights Village Council meeting in January of 1912 was gavelled to order by Mayor John L. Stadler in the living room of his own home on the site of the Hodgman Tavern across from the cemetery on Pearl Road. The location was a matter of convenient necessity since there was no village hall. The push for separation had succeeded beyond anyone's dreams and no one had bothered to make preparations for a seat of government.

So Council, in its wisdom and abiding faith in the legislative process, created a village hall by the simple expedient of passing Ordinance No. 1. That historic legislation, still preserved in the careful handwriting of Clerk Roderick Nelson Hodgman, stated:

"Be it ordained by the Council of the Village of Parma Heights that the place of meeting of the Council of the Village of Parma Heights shall be at the residence of J. L. Stadler in Parma Heights Village and that said place shall be known as the Village Hall for all business transacted with the village."

The measure was introduced by J. H. Sydenstricker, signed by Stadler both as president of Council and mayor, and was attested to by Clerk Hodgman.

Then, having solved so simply the troublesome problem of a Council home and a Village Hall, the legislators settled back to a busy session that must have lasted long into the night, judging from the amount of business transacted.

BEING men of worldly experience and also wary of the law, the councilmen next made provision for a solicitor — a village lawyer. Then in quick succession they took up the worrisome but necessary task of establishing a body of local law to buttress the morals of the community, or, failing that, to make the culprits pay.



*R. N. Hodgman,
first clerk of Parma
Heights Council in 1912.*

As that first meeting wore on, liquor was banned on Sundays; penalties for drunkenness — “not to exceed \$25 fine” — were written; gambling and “other misdemeanors” were outlawed. Disorderly conduct was not to be tolerated and theft was sternly handled. Interestingly enough, an ordinance against cruelty to animals also was passed, carrying the heavy — at that time — fine of \$100, a sign of the affection and dependence of the farm and country folk for their indispensable animals.

Barely warmed up, Council then decided to make it a crime to impersonate officers of the village. It then turned its attention to common begging, loitering and the more lurid behavior of “dissolute persons.” It goes without saying that all such persons and their actions were dealt with properly. The year was 1912, however, and as the councilmen began to erect a legal wall against the erratic activities of mankind, they ran into something new.

They discovered the automobile — and their carefully worded conclusion stated: “Be it ordained by the Council of Parma Heights, Ohio, that no owner, driver or operator in charge of any automobile or motor vehicle on a public street, alley, boulevard, park, driveway, road or public ground in said village, shall drive, operate, move or permit the same to be driven, moved or operated at a rate of speed greater than 15 miles an hour.

“The owner, driver or operator in charge of any automobile or motor vehicle shall, when signaled by the occupant of any vehicle propelled by horse, stop said automobile or motor vehicle until the vehicle propelled by horse has passed.”

Further, each automobile had to be equipped with a bell, horn or whistle “which shall be rung or blown by the operator whenever there is danger of collision or accident.”

Failure to live up to the law could cause the driver a fine “not exceeding \$100.” The size of the fine proved that the village fathers were not taking lightly this new mechanical menace.

Names appearing as sponsors of the documents on this first historic council day of January 3, 1912, include some still heard in Parma Heights — J. H. Sydenstricker, George J. Heffner, Joseph Rogers, W. H. Rose, E. W. Denison, George Geiger.

These first ordinances were, by law, posted in five prominent locations so that the citizens might have a chance to catch up with their legal reading.

Posting spots were: “On Pearl Road, at N.E. limit of village; on York Road at S. limit of village; on Pearl Road at S.W. limit of village; on J. M. Ackley place at junction of Pearl Road and York Road; at Village Hall at residence of J. L. Stadler.”

THUS ended that first lengthy legislative day of January 3, 1912. The actions provided plenty of food for thought but the village residents took things in stride and in apparent good humor. Everything, that is, except the auto ordinances. Some auto lovers rankled at the 15-mph speed limit imposed upon them and indignantly charged “discrimination” in favor of horses.



*John L. Stadler, first
mayor of Parma Heights.
Served from 1912 to 1914.*



*E. W. Denison,
second mayor,
from 1914 to 1922.*

So, after a two-month lull in which Council passed no further ordinances but which was enlivened by the auto-horse feuding, the legislators gave in and curbed the horses, too, by ordaining that:

“... no person shall ride or drive any horse or horses or other animal or animals in such manner as to endanger or unreasonably incommode any person, or at a rate of speed exceeding 15 miles an hour.”

But Old Dobbin still got the breaks. Whereas the auto ordinance provided for a fine up to \$100, the horse section allowed a top fine of only \$50.00.

With this weighty problem adjudicated, the village solons reverted back to their blue-nose January mood and moved to chink up a few more moral loopholes.

One of their decrees declared it unlawful “for any person or persons on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, to exhibit or participate in any theatricals, circuses or dramatic performances, or to engage in any games of pool, billiards and other games of a similar kind.” Sunday, clearly, was not a day to be trifled with.

But what really bothered the law writers was the growing obsession with boxing. There was one way to put an end to such nonsense, so — another ordinance:

“Any two persons who, by agreement, willfully fight or box at fisticuffs or engage in any public sparring or boxing exhibitions without gloves or with gloves of any kind, and any person who aids, assists or attends any such boxing exhibition or glove fight, and any owner or lessee of any grounds, lots, building, hall or structure of any kind who permits the same to be used for such exhibition or purpose, shall be fined in the sum not exceeding two hundred dollars...”

To prove their broad-mindedness, however, the councilmen exempted public gymnasiums and athletic clubs where “exercising” of this type was part of the normal routine. But no prize fights!

Government consists of more than moral watchdoggery, however, so after that first flurry of tidying up the village’s behavior, attention was focused on that familiar old bogey, taxes.

Thus it was that on May 27, 1912, Council passed “an ordinance to levy taxes for corporate or municipal purposes... for the year 1913.” The grand total to be collected was \$1550, with expenditures ticketed as follows:

For General Fund	\$500
For Public Safety Fund	100
For Public Service Fund	100
For Sinking Fund	800
For Cemetery Fund	50
	<u>\$1550</u>

The clerk was ordered to certify the \$1550 levy to “the auditor of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, to be placed upon the tax duplicate for collection.”

By the fall of the first year, Council decided that it was time to move out of the Stadler home and into a real “Village Hall.” Appropriately enough, in view of its preoccupation with moral issues, Council passed an ordinance designating “Temperance Hall” as the village hall.



*Edwin J. Heffner,
third mayor,
from 1918 to 1922.*



*J. B. McCrea,
fourth mayor,
1922 to 1924.*

Originally, Temperance Hall was built in 1904 on Pearl Road across from York Road on the old Louis Tauber place. The land was leased but the structure was owned by the Independent Order of Good Templars. Construction was a typical community venture with everyone pitching in. The hall was used for lodge and grange meetings and various social events. For a time it was used as a church after fire destroyed the forerunner of the Parma-South Presbyterian Church. When the land lease expired after five years, the hall was moved across Pearl Road onto the property of the church and stood to the north of the present building.

The appellation "Temperance Hall" came from its function as a meeting place for the Independent Order of Good Templars, who were a strong moral uplift force. One oldtimer recalls, however, that certain other forces insisted that the initials IOCT stood for "I Often Get Tight."

It was in that same Temperance Hall – although the name had long ago ceased to exist – that the Parma General Motors Chevrolet plant was born. It was in this historic Parma Heights location that a staff of experts laid out the plans for the largest plant and biggest employer in the Parma area.

(The plant has 8,000,000 square feet under roof and about 8000 employees on a 239-acre site. Here are manufactured Chevrolet automatic transmissions and stamped truck parts.)

BUT let's get back to 1913. By spring, the village's financial structure was developing. Salary monies were appropriated for the clerk and the treasurer at the magnanimous rate of \$70 for the clerk and \$15 for the treasurer – for a six-month period.

The marshal's six-month stipend was a \$10 bill and other police expenses were set at \$30 for a half-year. Six-month costs of other items were: \$125 for street repairs, \$10 for bridges, \$100 for cemetery use.

By 1915 traffic was beginning to be a problem and a "modern" ordinance was passed. It ostensibly was aimed at "any cart, dray, wagon, hackney coach, omnibus, automobile, carriage, buggy or other vehicle use, propelled or driven . . ." but the auto was the real cause of concern. Whereas earlier regulations were concerned primarily with speed and general safety, the new approach was detailed and specific. Rules for driving, crossing intersections, turning, signaling, parking were spelled out and sound surprisingly like today's motor codes.

By that time, public utilities had come to the village. In 1915, a gas franchise was granted to the Berea Pipe Line Company and an electric contract was concluded with the Cleveland Illuminating Company.

On the municipal labor front – much in the news today – early negotiations resulted in rates being set for certain work in 1916. Laborers were paid 30 cents an hour while foreman were awarded an extra dime. Man and team drew 60 cents an hour.

In April, the United States went to war with Germany. The economy boomed and by August of 1917, laborers advanced to 40 cents an hour and the man-and-beast combination also went up 10 cents to 70 cents an hour. What a "man and truck" cost was not indicated.

1913

1915



Vernon E. Craft,
fifth mayor,
from 1924 to 1932.

The Parma War Service League was born and leading citizens once again banded together to give their all. Minutes of the Parma Unit of the Cuyahoga County Liberty Loan Committee reveal that Parma and Parma Heights for the time being were once more lumped together in a common cause.

As might be expected, at that first meeting the families present included the Denisons, Hodgmans, Fays and Strouds along with a few latter-day names.

Official population for Parma was 2000 and for Parma Heights 300, and a quota of \$46,000 — \$20 a person — was set for the war bond drive.

Although the area was heavily German in national background, much patriotic fervor runs through the minutes of the War Service League. The “patriotic citizens present who had enlisted as solicitors were accorded the honor of having Mrs. S. H. Denison place a volunteer’s insignia on their coat lapels.”

The minutes, kept by Miss Winifred Stroud, say: “. . . Any citizen who was unwilling to sacrifice a few luxuries or real necessities if need be to back the brave boys ‘over there’ who are making the supreme sacrifice deserved to be set up, as Mr. Whitehead, the YMCA leader just back from the battle front said, ‘with a stone wall for a background and a firing squad in front.’”

Solicitors in World War I days meant business. In fact each volunteer was instructed to keep a card on every person visited, a record of previous bonds purchased, a record of present purchases and if not investing, a record of the reasons. Lest you think the solicitation was merely another welfare drive, the minutes include instructions that each of the volunteer solicitors was to keep a “record of disloyal remarks or attitude” of those who didn’t buy war bonds.

1917

But other things were going on, too.

Early beginnings of today’s freeway developments began showing up in 1917 when Council approved a resolution of consent for the commissioners of Cuyahoga County to improve Stumph Road from Brookpark Road to “the south line of original lots 31 and 8, Tuckerman Tract, Parma Township and Parma Heights Village. . .”

This was quickly followed by a formal ordinance renaming Wooster Pike as Pearl Road, although the Pearl Road designation had been widely used earlier.

As the country turned back to peace and the 1920’s neared, ordinances set up exact regulations for filing of land plats, dedication of roads and highways, rules for sidewalks, drainage, billboards, posters, etc. Clearly, the look was forward and the plans called for big things.

1919

New roads snaked through developments in various parts of the village. Typical of the actions is the 1919 acceptance by Council in one ordinance the dedication of Fernhurst, Lawnwood and Eldridge Avenues plus Hosslyn Road. Within two years came dedication of Edgebrook Blvd., Beaconsfield Drive, Chesterfield Drive, Greenheath Drive, Keswick Drive and Maplecliff Drive.

As an indication of the growth of a village-wide grid of roads, the budget for six months of 1920 included \$600 for road repairs (instead of the \$125 in 1913) and an additional \$200 for street cleaning.

At 12.01 a.m. on January 17, 1920, constitutional prohibition of liquor went into effect throughout the U.S., but Parma Heights, strangely enough, took its time before passing its own local prohibition ordinance. It was busy making plans for an unprecedented boom.

The federal law, of course, was in effect but it wasn't until April 11, 1921, that Council put its approval on Ordinance No. 70, now long forgotten, but which in its day was the Parma Heights Volsted Act.

For the record, it was introduced by G. A. Hoehn and prohibited "the manufacture, sale, furnishing, transporting, possession, giving away of intoxicating liquors and the keeping of a place where intoxicating liquors are manufactured, sold, furnished, possessed and given away."

Gone were the boisterous early days along the Wooster Pike. Dimmed were the memories of the inns run by Fay, Hodgman and Nicholas and the Old Stone Tavern. Gone were the noisy scenes when drovers throughout the Western Reserve swigged drinks like applejack — known as Jersey Lightning — and some were known to partake of the cheap and plentiful gin colorfully described as "Strip and Go Naked" or the "Blue Ruin."

With the full advent of prohibition, Parma Heights closed its first decade as an independent village just a shade more than a century after Benajah Fay and Conrad Countryman found their green pastures.

THE twenties "roared" but not in Parma Heights. The period was one of quiet, and little growth took place. The air of rural calm remained. Population plodded upward to around 900 and several builders with better plans than economic foresight laid out developments that went nowhere.

Streets were paved, sidewalks laid, fire hydrants put in place. But the ghost neighborhoods slumbered on with no more than an occasional model home built. Taxes, assessments, financial ailments — all combined as the country slid toward a depression. Two decades later, in the housing boom after World War II, new life was breathed into these desolate areas, but they lay fallow through the twenties, thirties and most of the forties.

But some things were done. The present-day Fire Department got its start in the mid-thirties after the Incarnate Word Academy fire created a demand for more protection. The village had a fire pact with Cleveland which consisted of an agreement for the city to respond when called. The nearest station was in the vicinity of Broadview and Pearl Roads and a fire generally got a good start before firemen arrived.

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word had acquired their Pearl Road site in 1930 several years after they had been invited to the Cleveland area by Archbishop Schrembs.

Seven members of the order had fled religious persecution in Durango, Mexico, in 1927 and sought refuge in the United States. In January, 1935, the

1921



*F. F. Theobald,
sixth mayor,
from 1932 to 1934.*

1935



*William D. Uhinck,
seventh mayor,
from 1934 to 1944.*

convent on Pearl Road was destroyed by fire and out of this catastrophe and rebuilding came the Incarnate Word Academy.

It was in this period that the Parma Heights Fire Association decided to buy a fire truck for use by volunteers — who numbered about 30. House-to-house solicitations and proceeds from homecoming celebrations and other fund-raising ventures finally resulted in enough capital to buy the first truck. Even the fire station was privately owned by the Fire Association until, years later, it was acquired by the village.

In those days, streets were largely of the dirt variety. Some asphalt was laid but even maintenance costs were too much for the tiny village which had a \$790,000 debt and which struggled up to the World War II years with very little change.

In 1940, the village counted 1330 residents. In the 122 years since Conrad Countryman put down his stakes in the neighborhood of Pearl and Stumph Roads, the area of what is now Parma Heights had grown in population to only a few more than a thousand persons — a few hundred families.

In 1940, the tax duplicate totaled \$3,000,000 while the operating budget for the 1330 residents was only \$8890. The years immediately after World War II saw the beginning of the population buildup, slowly at first and then at an unbelievable rate. A new Parma Heights began to emerge.

When Hearts Were Young and Gay



Eighth-grade graduating class of 1921 at Pearl Road School. Teacher was Winifred Stroud.



Green Line busses served the southwest area in the early 1900's.



Uhinck's gas station, site of the first fire station, in the middle thirties. It was located on Pearl across from the present St. John Bosco Church.



Seventy years of change are reflected in this photo strip showing how Pearl and York developed from a country location in 1894 (top) to the bottom scene in 1964. The middle view is from 1954.



*Seats of Government
... From 1912
to Today*

First Parma Heights Village Hall was the home of Mayor John L. Stadler in 1912. Council met in the living room.



Temperance Hall, adjacent to Parma-South Presbyterian Church at the time but now demolished, was Council's second home, beginning in the fall of 1912.

Present fire station location in Parma Heights Park served as home number three for Council from the mid-thirties to the middle fifties.





Number four location of Parma Heights government was on Pearl Road across from Incarnate Word Academy for a brief period prior to the building of the present hall.

Present City Hall on Pearl Road just south of the intersection of York and Pearl Roads.



TODAY -AND TOMORROW

"A great city is that which has the greatest men and women."

—WALT WHITMAN

When World War II ground to a halt in 1945, a flood of servicemen was loosed upon the country. From all parts of the world, from all branches of service, came the returning veterans.

Parma Heights got its share. As new, young families were formed, they began a trek to the suburbs, to the country, away from the smoky, teeming city.

Parma Heights was ideally located and its good points were soon discovered by hundreds – and thousands – of new homeseekers. Building boomed, with some contractors putting up hundreds of attractive homes such as those in the tract including the historically named streets of Denison, Ackley, Stonington, Stratford – among others – near the reservoir site.

The postwar explosion continued unabated and the tax duplicate doubled to \$6,120,211 from the 1940 total of \$3,000,000. Population jumped to 3901 by 1950 in contrast to the 1940 figure of 1330. In the decade from 1940 to 1950, operating costs also rose, going to \$60,980 from the less than \$9000 of 10 years earlier. Residents became absorbed with the workings of their government and discovered that they were welcome to participate in decisions affecting their future.

Thus it was that even though city status was not attained until January, 1959, residents of Parma Heights, following the leadership of a group of young men headed by Norman Shibley, adopted a charter in 1953 providing the village with home rule. The first mayor to hold office with substantially increased powers under the charter was Grant Morgenstern.



*George A. Busch,
eighth mayor,
from 1944 to 1952.*

UNDER terms of the charter, the mayor-council form of government then in effect was continued with modifications. Under those provisions, the mayor serves two years while councilmen – selected at large – serve four or two-year periods based on a charter formula.

In addition to the mayor's executive duties, he is an ex-officio member of Council and has the right to introduce ordinances, resolutions and motions and to take part in the discussion of all matters before Council. He does not, however, have a vote in Council.

The mayor also serves as judge in Traffic Court. Civil cases come under the jurisdiction of the Parma Municipal Court, a procedure followed since 1951.

Presiding officer at Council meetings is the president of Council, who is elected for a term of two years by a majority vote of members of Council. When the mayor is officially absent from the municipality or unable to perform his duties, the president of Council takes over those duties.

As chief executive officer, the mayor appoints a cabinet of five department heads to assist him: Recreation, Safety (police and fire), Finance, Service and Law. Functions of the Service Director include, in addition to street maintenance and refuse disposal, the development and upkeep of municipal properties. The Service Director is also the city's purchasing agent and chief building official.

The total effect is that the mayor, with the assistance of his cabinet and Council, runs a multi-million dollar corporation affecting the lives of nearly 30,000 residents.

IN 1954, when the charter became effective, population was 8000 and the tax duplicate had risen to \$18,000,000. The operating budget had jumped to \$183,766 as need for services multiplied with the population. By 1960, residents numbered 18,076, the tax duplicate topped \$38,000,000 and the budget was \$457,876.

In 1969 — today — Parma Heights has an estimated population of about 29,000 residents, with a tax duplicate of \$70,547,069 and a budget in excess of a million dollars. Since 1960, the community has added more than 34 large apartment buildings with about 1,800 units. Another 30 townhouses containing about 300 units have been built since 1960. In the same time, more than 800 single home have been erected in Parma Heights, bringing the total to nearly 6000.

But the real dollar-and-cents picture emerges from an examination of real estate taxes, the time-honored barometer used by most home-owners. These real estate taxes consist of school, state, county and municipal portions.

These taxes have gone up, too, in the Charter Period, but the municipal portion of the total tax has moved upward only slightly despite the huge population growth. This is an accurate measure of the efficient performance of "City Hall."

Greatest increase from 1954 to 1969 has been in the school rate — from \$15.20 per \$1,000 valuation to \$32.50, all voted by the people. In the same period, state and county shares largely controlled by outside vote went from \$3.70 to \$10.50 per \$1,000 valuation.

The municipal portion, however, reflects extreme care and economy in the handling of tax monies. Increase in the rate in the 13 years from 1954 to 1969 was from \$8.50 per \$1,000 valuation to only \$11.30 per \$1,000.

Even this minor increase resulted from a direct vote by the taxpayers. Between 1950 and 1965, Parma Heights residents passed \$1,130,000 in bond issues for the City Hall, Police and Fire Buildings, Hospital and Library and for recreation and safety purposes.

In other words, as population increased — with resultant heavier demands for municipal services — the Administration has managed to meet these additional needs without a corresponding tax bite.



*Frank Breen,
ninth mayor,
from 1952 to 1954.*

How efficient a municipal operation is can best be seen from an examination, and a comparison, of the funds it has to work with.

Parma Heights is mostly a residential community with relatively small commercial valuation and no industry. Most of its real estate revenue comes from its 6,000 homes and 1,900 apartment units. This municipal income amounts to about \$27.50 per resident!

Brooklyn, on the other hand, realizes about \$43 a person. Rocky River takes in \$54 per capita. Fairview Park gets \$47 for every individual. To include a giant, Cleveland gets \$70 per person. And Cuyahoga Heights, with its huge industrial duplicate, realizes over \$500 per resident!

Any housekeeper can readily grasp what it means to run a household on a certain amount of money per family member. It's a matter of simple multiplication.

Parma Heights officials are doing the job of running the city on less money per person than almost any other community in Greater Cleveland.

Economy alone is not a proper goal, however, there must be performance, action and movement forward as well. All these are part of the story of Parma Heights in the Charter Period, a story that reflects a giant step ahead in services to residents.



*Grant Morgenstern,
tenth mayor,
from 1954 to 1956.*

A good place to start is with recreation facilities, since Parma Heights has established an enviable reputation of looking out for its younger generation — although the recreation program is geared to all age groups and all segments of the community.

The 25-acre Parma Heights Park on Pearl Road at York provides a fine example of civic effort. Here can be found tennis courts, baseball diamonds, swimming pools, miniature golf and other recreational facilities. Here, too, is located the modernistic Library and along one side of the park is the Police Station, the Fire Station and the Service Garage.

The pool facilities, dedicated in 1959, include swimming, diving and wading pools along with a bath house, spectator stations and a concession building. Nearly 70,000 admissions were recorded last year.

Baseball diamonds in this area plus those in the Reservoir section further north off Pearl Road behind the Cemetery provide space for several thousand children in the baseball program. Diamonds are also available on York Road at Letterman Drive on Cuyahoga Community College property.

Besides the Parma Park and Reservoir sites, other play areas are located at Pearl Road School; the North Church Park (eight acres), adjacent to Stroud School; Stroud Park (12 acres), at Ackley Blvd. and Brookmere Road; and Powers Road Park (13 acres). Tennis courts in Parma Heights Park are flooded during winters to provide ice-skating arenas.

Each summer an extensive playground program keeps children active and provides them with a play-and-physical fitness package that cannot help but make them healthier — and better citizens, too.

BUT recreation is only one part of the services performed by the Municipal Government. Police, fire and housekeeping chores are other vital activities.

The early township days of law enforcement by constables and marshals along with a completely volunteer fire protection system have long vanished. Today's Parma Heights police and fire organization is so modern that its last revision occurred in July of this year.

On March 18, 1968, the personnel of the Police Department was pegged by Council at "one chief of police" two captains, six sergeants, 13 patrolmen first class, and such special and auxiliary policemen as the mayor shall from time to time designate."

One captain serves as head of the Detective Bureau. In addition, the mayor has powers to appoint temporary policemen to up to four months as needed to cope with any emergency.

On July 10, 1967, Council ordained that the Fire Department — once a fully volunteer "bucket brigade" — be composed of "one fire chief, one captain, two lieutenants, seven firemen-drivers (being the same classification as that previously entitled 'fireman first class')."

The action further stipulated: "There shall also be volunteer firemen in a number not to exceed 25 as shall from time to time be duly designated and appointed."

These modern Police and Fire Departments and the Service Garage are housed alongside the park on four acres of land. Both departments are fully equipped to handle all emergencies. Parma Heights was the first suburb — in 1966 — to purchase a fire truck with an aerial platform.

The Service Department has, along with its regular equipment, special machinery for leaf removal, sewer cleaning and snow removal. It was the first in this part of the country to use Bombardier Snow Plows for sidewalk snowplowing and pioneered the use of a vac-all for sewer cleaning and tree-leaf removal.

The Service Department consists of the director plus two supervisors, two foremen, a mechanic, 12 drivers and 11 laborers. Part-time, year-round help consists of six employees. To this force, eight employees are added for summer work.

Administrative office personnel in City Hall include a full time service director and finance director, mayor's secretary, clerk of council, court clerk, building clerk, finance clerk, two income tax clerks and bookkeeping machine operator; and a part-time license commissioner.

Current annual payroll data shows administrative personnel pay to be \$87,000. Police Department payroll includes \$175,000 for regular police, \$18,000 for part-time police and \$26,000 for clerical (dispatchers and stenographers).

Fire Department payroll runs \$92,000 annually for regular members and \$10,000 for volunteers. Service Department figures reflect the cost of street repair as about \$95,000, garbage and rubbish collection as \$56,000, and street cleaning and clearing at about \$18,000.

What a far cry from the days when the marshal drew \$20 a year and police expenses were \$60 a year! That was when street repairs were \$250 a year and bridge fix-up cost \$20 annually. But that was in 1913.



*Roy F. Cappallo,
eleventh mayor,
from 1956 to 1958.*

No community has been more zealous in its support of schools and Parma Community Hospital than Parma Heights although both the hospital and the school system are multi-suburb, cooperative ventures.

Parma Heights, Parma and Seven Hills are partners in the school organization, which has been the fastest growing of any in the county. No other suburban school system can boast of three high schools. Enrollment in the system is nearly 25,000 students.

The Public School System consists of more than a score of buildings, of which four are in Parma Heights, including Valley Forge High School on York Road. A dozen or so parochial schools enrolling about 12,000 students are also in the area and receive warm support.

On the higher education level, Cuyahoga Community College maintains a western campus on the former Crile Veterans' Hospital grounds on York Road, a tribute to the cooperation of local, county and federal authorities.

Community College took over the 60 buildings of Crile plus a theater, auditorium, cafeteria and gymnasium. Extensive remodeling resulted in about 50 classrooms and laboratories, a library and bookstore for the 3000 students enrolled in two-year courses in liberal arts, sciences and technologies. An enrollment of 10,000 is anticipated for this western campus within the next 10 years.



*Paul W. Cassidy,
twelfth mayor,
from 1958 to present.*

In regard to the hospital, Parma Heights was in the forefront of the drive to build such facility and it is to the credit of the city that its mayor, Paul Cassidy, has been the Hospital Board's attorney ever since the early planning stage. He was instrumental in obtaining a \$2,500,000 federal grant for aid in construction and much of the planning was carried on in Parma Heights City Hall, which served as a meeting site for the hospital trustees prior to the opening of the hospital.

The hospital, which was built at a cost of \$6,000,000, has more than 200 beds and 40 bassinets. It was dedicated on August 1, 1961, and has enjoyed a full capacity almost from the beginning.

Financing of the initial construction was done through federal Hill-Burton funds and a bond issue passed by Parma Heights, Parma, Seven Hills, North Royalton, Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights. Participating communities each have two members on the Hospital Board, although the hospital operates as a private, not municipal institution. This was a pioneer effort in providing municipal bond monies for institutional construction and has been duplicated throughout the country.

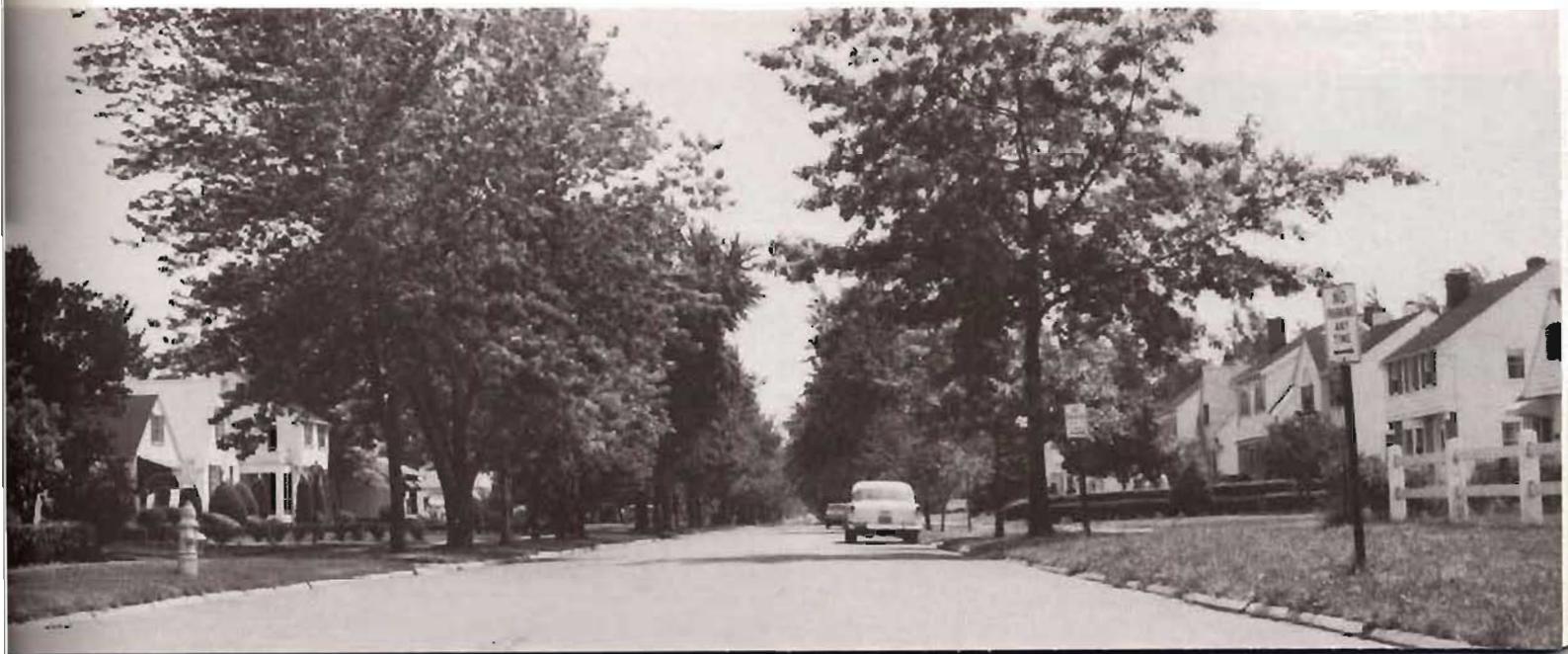
Similarly, Parma Heights was the first city in Ohio to pass a bond issue for building a library. In 1960, a \$150,000 issue made possible the construction of the library which then was leased to the County Library system.

In addition to the "firsts" already mentioned, Parma Heights was the first municipality in the county to pay hospitalization for employees, the first to lease police cars, the first to own and operate a miniature golf course. It also was among the first to adopt the Regional Dwelling House Code and to approve the construction of high-rise apartments.

*Quiet, Residential
Streets Replace
Country Lanes*



Notabene Drive (top) and Parma Park Boulevard (bottom) are typical of quiet residential streets served by fortress-like reservoir (above). Left is Parma Community Hospital, a symbol of cooperation among communities in the area.



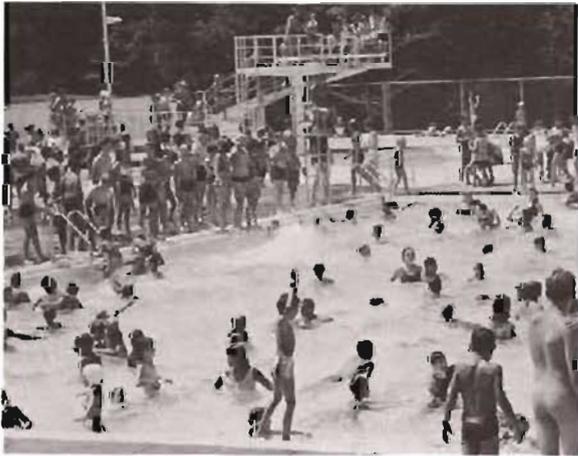


Zig-zag roof adds to the appeal of modernistic Parma Heights Library.



Valley Forge High School rates high as a showplace of learning.

Reading, Learning, Living

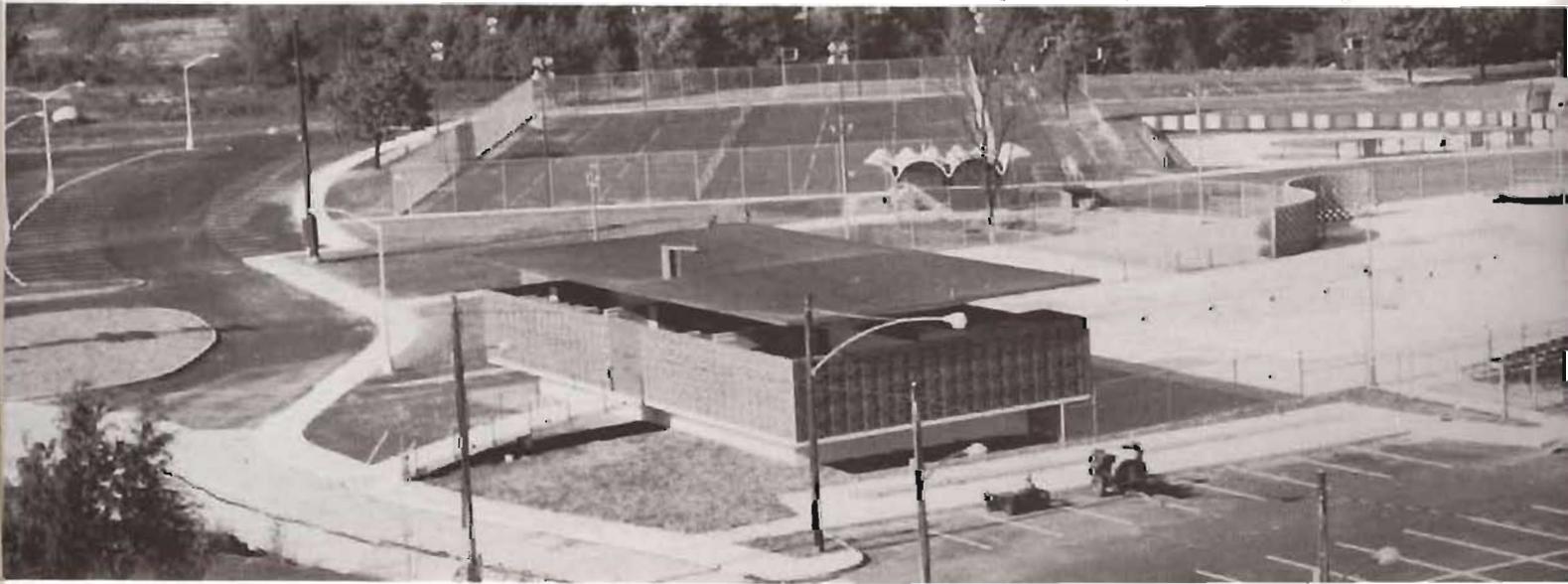


Kids have swim fun in park pool.



Building firm occupies typical new business building.

Bird's eye view of up-to-date Parma Heights Park.





Educators' apartment building reflects modern thinking.



Attractive Ohio Savings building on Pearl Road.



Cuyahoga Community College offers higher learning on site of former Crile Veterans Hospital on York Road.

Playing and Working



Union Commerce structure shows new bank trend.



Pillars give R. A. Gall office building a touch of the old South.

Incarnate Word Academy has grown with the area since its start in the community in the thirties.



on the Spiritual Side

Always there are ideas, always there is performance. Just as this narrative was being written, a delegation called upon the mayor to preserve the historic nature of the Pearl Road Cemetery and to beautify it and expand it for further use. Two of the visitors no longer live in Parma Heights, but they feel they always will belong here and their hearts remain.

The four were former Mayor Roy F. Cappallo, Mrs. Esther Slack Kitzel, Mrs. Virginia Windoffer and DeWitt Cogswell.

Thus it is in Parma Heights.

But the story is not ended, even though the words run short. The hopes of the early settlers have been realized beyond any dreams they dared to dream, yet the future still beckons.

Today Parma Heights looks back proudly and with dignity upon a heritage that is rooted in American ideals, and it looks ahead confidentially and boldly to a continuation of a government of the people, by the people, for the people.

Very early, even before the formation of Parma Township, the need for religious services was felt among the residents clustered along Pearl Road.

Except for occasional, sporadic services in various homes, there was no attempt to organize a church until 1830. At that time a Free Will Baptist group succeeded in welding together a congregation which lasted until the Civil War although it never built a church. A Methodist group also met in members' homes but it was temporary in nature and disappeared before long.

The first permanent religious organization came about in the fall of 1835 when a few residents met at the home of one of them to hear the Rev. S. C. Aiken of the First Presbyterian Church of Cleveland (Old Stone) preach and help in the initial phases of starting a church.

Some had thought that the new church would be Presbyterian, apparently, but it turned out that most of those present were Congregationalists from Connecticut. So the church became a Congregational one. Temperance was its keynote and at the first meeting it was resolved "not to take for a member any person who is a dealer in or manufacturer of ardent spirits."

The meeting was held at the home of James Cogswell on Pearl Road and records show that charter members along with James Cogswell were Fred Cogswell, Amos Denison, Samuel Freeman, Joshua Whitney, Lyndon Freeman and Descom Chapin.

At first, services were held in the log house on the site of the Parma Heights cemetery. The house was also used as a school and civic center.

In 1874, after a four-week series of revival meetings held daily, morning and evening, the church changed in denomination to Presbyterian. Today it is known as Parma-South Presbyterian Church. For the past 40 years, its spiritual leader was the widely respected Dr. Howard B. Withers and its most prominent layman was David Forrest.

JUST two years earlier, in 1872, eleven Catholic families of German background organized the beginning of Holy Family Church, which in turn is one of the spiritual predecessors of St. John Bosco Church.

Conrad Rohrbach, in whose home the first Mass was said by Rev. Patrick F. Quigley of St. Mary of Rockport, was the moving light. Rohrbach donated land next to his home for a church and a cemetery, which still exists on Pleasant Valley Road.

A frame church was built and except for the period from 1894 to 1917 religious services were offered by a succession of priests of the Franciscan and Most Precious Blood orders.

In 1911, a larger church was constructed, but it wasn't until 1929 that Holy Family got its first resident pastor. From that point, the story is one of rapid growth and expansion and in 1963 the St. John Bosco Parish came into being. Today it serves the bulk of the Catholic families in Parma Heights.

In that year of 1963, on June 10, Mayor Paul Cassidy and Council President Roland Reid plus Rev. Edward M. Tulley made arrangements for the use of Greenbriar Jr. High School for Sunday Masses and Saturday confessions as a forerunner to the present St. John Bosco Church and school.

Because religious beliefs know no boundaries and there are no such things as "church districts," it is impossible to list churches strictly by city boundaries.

The churches listed here are those in the general area of Parma Heights. Although some are not within the city itself, they still are a vital part of the community.

Churches and locations are:

All Saints Episcopal Church,
8911 Ridgewood Drive.

American Baptist Community Church,
12000 Huffman Road.

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran
(Missouri), 6041 Ridge Road.

Divinity Lutheran (American),
11877 Blossom Avenue.

First Church of Christ Scientist,
6735 York Road.

Holy Family (Catholic),
7367 York Road.

Jehovah's Witnesses,
6087 Ridge Road.

Parma Christian, 7000 Ridge Road.

Parma EUB, 5930 State Road.

Parma Heights Baptist,
8971 Ridgewood Drive.

Parma Park Reformed,
11001 Ridgewood Drive.

Parma-South Presbyterian,
6149 Pearl Road.

Ridgewood Methodist,
6330 Ridge Road.

St. Bridget's (Catholic),
5620 Hauserman Road.

St. John Bosco (Catholic),
6460 Pearl Road.

St. Paul United Church of Christ,
7507 York Road.

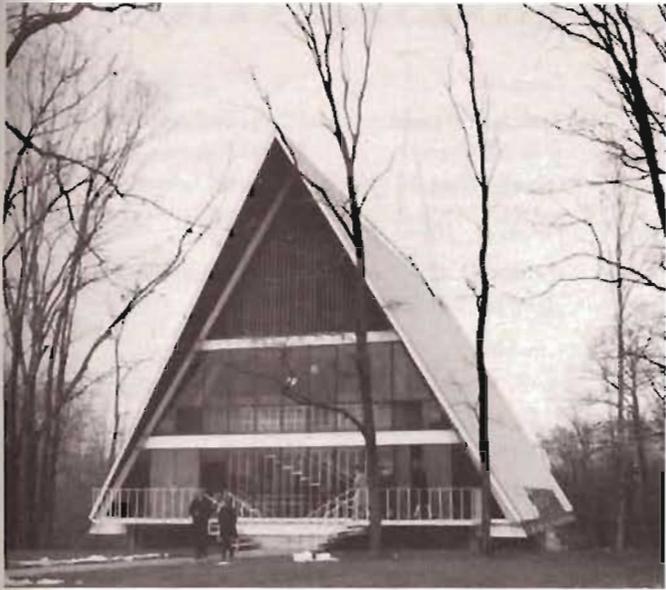


Panna-South Presbyterian, 6149 Pearl Road.

And They Bowed Their Heads to Pray

St. John Bosco (Catholic), 6460 Pearl Road.

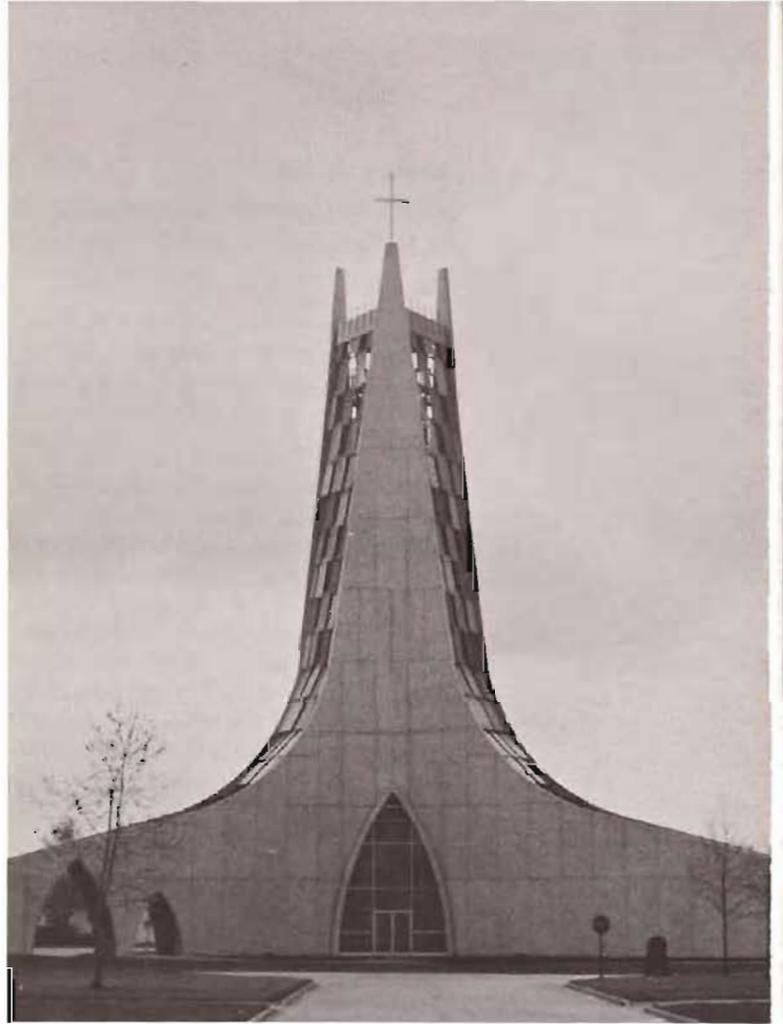




Parma Park Reformed, 11001 Ridgewood Drive.



First Church of Christ Scientist, 6735 York Road.



Divinity Lutheran (American), 11877 Blossom Ave.



Parma Heights Baptist, 8791 Ridgewood Drive.

ADMINISTRATION AND

January 3, 1912

John L. Stadler—Mayor and President of Council
R. N. Hodgman — Clerk

Council:

E. W. Denison	George Heffner
George Geiger	W. H. Rose
Joseph Rogers	J. C. Sydenstricker

January, 1914

E. W. Denison -- Mayor and President of Council
R. N. Hodgman — Clerk
B. E. Stroud — Treasurer

Council:

W. H. Rose	G. W. Hoffman
J. C. Sydenstricker	J. M. Ackley
George Geiger	W. T. James

January, 1916

E. W. Denison — Mayor and President of Council
R. N. Hodgman — Clerk

Council:

Merrol Tiber	W. T. James
S. B. Bartley	W. H. Rose
George Geiger	G. W. Hoffman

January, 1918

E. J. Heffner — Mayor and President of Council
R. N. Hodgman — Clerk

Council:

H. Carl Haag	W. H. Rose
George Geiger	G. W. Hoffman
C. A. Hoehn	W. T. James

January, 1920

E. J. Heffner — Mayor and President of Council
R. N. Hodgman — Clerk

Council:

S. H. Denison	W. H. Rose
George Geiger	C. W. Hoffman
C. A. Hoehn	W. T. James

January, 1922

J. B. McCrea — Mayor and President of Council
Bernice Uhinck — Clerk

Council:

S. H. Denison	G. A. Hoehn
Julia Eastman	Arthur R. James
George Geiger	W. H. Rose

January, 1924

Vernon D. Croft — Mayor and President of Council
Bernice Uhinck — Clerk

Council:

Arthur R. James	W. H. Rose
J. B. McCrea	E. W. Denison
George Geiger	Lewis M. Selzer

January, 1926

Vernon D. Croft — Mayor and President of Council
Rose M. Rohrbach — Clerk

Council:

A. F. Wentz	George J. Hewlett
J. B. McCrea	Phil Binz
William D. Uhinck	M. E. Pelton

January, 1928

Vernon D. Croft — Mayor and President of Council
Rose M. Fox — Clerk
Allen McDairmid — Treasurer

Council:

George J. Hewlett	J. B. McCrea
M. E. Pelton	A. F. Wentz
Henry C. Mueller	Phil Binz

January, 1930

Vernon D. Croft — Mayor and President of Council
Rose M. Fox — Clerk
Margaret A. Geiger — Treasurer

Council:

A. F. Wentz	A. C. Green
H. C. Mueller	Phil Binz
D. A. Johnston (Resigned)	
J. C. Mohberly	
F. F. Theobald (replaced D. A. Johnston)	

January, 1932

F. F. Theobald — Mayor and President of Council
Rose M. Fox — Clerk
Margaret A. Geiger — Treasurer

Council:

Phil Binz	Edward Kundtz
E. J. Heffner	M. E. Pelton
George Herrman	R. E. Schumacher

January, 1934

William D. Uhinck—Mayor and President of Council
Margaret A. Geiger — Clerk
Rose M. Fox—Treasurer (Resigned 8-7-34)
Mary Davidson — Treasurer
(Appointed August 7, 1934)

Council:

Larry Colby	Adelbert J. Thomas
Joseph Maruna	William E. Painting
Phil Binz	
Harold Miller (Died early 1934)	
Herbert Walz — (Filled vacancy created by death of Harold Miller.)	

COUNCIL 1912 TO 1967

January, 1936

William D. Uhinck—Mayor and President of Council
Margaret A. Geiger — Clerk
Mary Davidson—Treasurer (Resigned April, 1936)
Miss Freeman — Treasurer (Appointed 4-7-36)

Council:

Phil Binz William E. Painting
Adelbert J. Thomas F. Stauffer
Joseph Marina
Herbert Walz — (Resigned July 6, 1937)
Bert Henke — (Appointed August 3, 1937)

January, 1938

William D. Uhinck—Mayor and President of Council
Margaret A. Geiger — Clerk
V. Svatek — Treasurer

Council:

Bert Henke William E. Painting
Anthony B. Kurtz Adelbert J. Thomas
Joseph Marina
Phil Binz (Died December, 1938)
Ed Kundtz (Appointed December 6, 1938)

January, 1940

William D. Uhinck—Mayor and President of Council
Margaret A. Geiger — Clerk

Council:

William E. Painting Adelbert J. Thomas
Roy Urban Ed Kundtz
Anthony B. Kurtz
Bert Henke
(resigned February, 1941 to become Marshal)
George Busch (replaced Bert Henke, 2-4-41)

January, 1942

William D. Uhinck Mayor and President of Council
Margaret A. Geiger — Clerk
Rudy Medved — Treasurer

Council:

George Busch William E. Painting
Ed Kundtz Edward Bucher
Anthony B. Kurtz Roy Urban

January, 1944

George Busch — Mayor and President of Council
Margaret A. Geiger — Clerk
Rudy Medved — Treasurer

Council:

Edward Bucher Roy Urban
Ed Kundtz Louis C. Meyer
Anthony B. Kurtz James C. Whitney

January, 1946

George Busch — Mayor and President of Council
Margaret A. Geiger — Clerk
Rudy Medved — Treasurer

Council:

Howard Bohmer Anthony B. Kurtz
Edward Bucher Nathan Lawless
Edward Harrington Roy Urban

January, 1948

George Busch — Mayor and President of Council
Margaret A. Geiger — Clerk
Rudy Medved — Treasurer

Council:

Howard Bohmer Anthony B. Kurtz
Edward Bucher Nathan Lawless
Edward Harrington Roy Urban
Harry Kail (replaced Nathan Lawless, 4-49)

January, 1950

George Busch — Mayor and President of Council
Margaret A. Geiger — Clerk
Bernice Bauer — Treasurer

Council:

Frank Breen George Coates
Norman Chapius Edward Harrington
Harry Kail (Resigned September 1, 1950)
Anthony B. Kurtz
Ed Kundtz
(replaced Harry Kail September 19, 1950;
resigned March 6, 1951)
William McPhetridge
(appointed to succeed Kundtz — May 1, 1951)

January, 1952

Frank Breen — Mayor and President of Council
Margaret Wingert — Clerk
Elmer Koster — Treasurer
Norman Shibley — Solicitor

Council:

Roy F. Cappallo
Norman Chapius (died February, 1952)
James Lightner (Resigned January 21, 1952)
Louis J. Parker
George W. Spanagel
Peter Thomas
Grant A. Morgenstern
(replaced Norman Chapius, 2-18-52)
Calvin Harmon (replaced James Lightner, January
21, 1952; resigned June 29, 1953)
Paul W. Cassidy
(replaced Calvin Harmon, July 6, 1953)

CHARTER OF
THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS
ADOPTED . . . November, 1953

January, 1954

Crant A. Morgeastern - Mayor
Norman W. Shibley -
Director of Law (resigned March 1, 1954)
Arlene Anthony - Clerk of Council
George W. Spanagel - Director of Finance
Charles R. Hays - Director of Service

Council:

Edward J. Rieck - President of Council
(Appointed to fill vacancy of Fred Schroeder)
George Baird
Roy F. Cappallo
Paul W. Cassidy (Resigned March 1, 1954
to become Law Director)
Joseph Ehrman
Louis J. Parker
Robert Whitaker
Don Rhodes (Appointed April 5, 1954 to replace
Paul Cassidy)

January, 1956

Roy F. Cappallo - Mayor
Paul W. Cassidy - Director of Law
Arlene Anthony - Clerk of Council
George W. Spanagel - Director of Finance
Charles R. Hays - Director of Service

Council:

Erhardt Rieck - President of Council
Donald Rhodes (resigned 4-1-56)
George Baird
Joseph Ehrman
Louis J. Parker
Roy F. Cappallo (resigned January 2, 1956)
Robert Whitaker (resigned January 2, 1956, ap-
pointed to fill unexpired term of Roy F. Cappallo)
James M. Anthony (appointed January 2, 1956)
Roland E. Reid (appointed April 30, 1956)

January, 1958

Paul W. Cassidy - Mayor
Richard K. Desmond - Director of Law
Arlene Anthony - Clerk of Council
(resigned 4-23-59)
Alice M. Cowles - Clerk of Council
(appointed 4-23-59)
George W. Spanagel - Director of Finance
Charles R. Hays - Director of Service
(resigned 8-31-58)
Charles H. Cole - Director of Service
(appointed 8-31-58)
Carl A. Long - Director of Recreation

Council:

Roland E. Reid - President of Council
James M. Anthony
George Baird
Joseph Ehrman
Charles H. Cole (Resigned 8-25-58)
Louis J. Parker
Daniel A. Tobik
Carl A. Long (appointed 8-25-58)

January, 1960

Paul W. Cassidy - Mayor
Richard K. Desmond - Director of Law
Alice M. Cowles - Clerk of Council
George W. Spanagel - Director of Finance
Sidney M. Jordan - Director of Recreation
Ernest R. Warnke - Director of Public Safety
Charles H. Cole - Director of Service

Council:

Roland E. Reid - President of Council
James M. Anthony
Carl A. Long
Louis J. Parker
Albert T. Pingel
Daniel A. Tobik
Joseph M. Ehrman (resigned 10-24-60)
John R. Roman (appointed 10-24-60)

January, 1962

Paul W. Cassidy - Mayor
George W. Spanagel - Director of Law
Alice M. Cowles - Clerk of Council
Alice J. Schroeder - Director of Finance
Charles H. Cole - Director of Service
(resigned 8-15-63)
Daniel A. Tobik - Director of Service
(appointed 8-16-63)
Sidney M. Jordan - Director of Recreation
(resigned 7-22-63)
Ernest R. Warnke - Director of Public Safety

Council:

Roland E. Reid - President of Council
James M. Anthony
Carl A. Long
Louis J. Parker
John R. Roman
Daniel A. Tobik (resigned 7-22-63)
Albert T. Pingel (resigned 8-12-63)
Sidney M. Jordan (appointed 7-22-63)
Ernest R. Warnke (appointed 8-26-63)

January, 1964

Paul W. Cassidy - Mayor
George W. Spanagel - Director of Law
Alice M. Cowles - Clerk of Council
(resigned 3-1-65)

Margaret B. O'Neill — Clerk of Council
(appointed 3-1-65)
 Alice J. Schroeder — Director of Finance
 Daniel A. Tobik — Director of Service
 Frank A. Lange — Director of Recreation
(resigned 12-31-64)
 Ernest R. Warnke — Director of Public Safety
(appointed 1-25-65)
 William H. Maddox — Director of Recreation
(appointed January, 1965)

Council.

Roland E. Reid — President of Council
 James M. Anthony
 Charles H. Cole
 Sidney M. Jordan
 Carl A. Long
 Louis J. Parker
 Ernest R. Warnke (resigned 1-25-65)
 William S. Sharkin (appointed 2-15-65)

January, 1966

Paul W. Cassidy — Mayor
 George W. Spanagel — Director of Law
 Margaret B. O'Neill — Clerk of Council
 Alice J. Schroeder — Director of Finance
 Daniel A. Tobik — Director of Service
 William H. Maddox — Director of Recreation
 Ernest R. Warnke — Director of Public Safety

Council:

James M. Anthony — President
 Charles H. Cole
 Sidney M. Jordan (resigned 8-17-67)
 Louis J. Parker (resigned 2-28-66)
 Carl A. Long (resigned 7-1-67)
 Roland E. Reid
 Myron A. Kronenberger (appointed 3-7-66)
 William S. Sharkin
 William A. Niro (appointed 7-24-67)
 Raymond A. Mosshart (appointed 8-18-67)

January, 1968

Paul W. Cassidy — Mayor
 George W. Spanagel — Director of Law
 Alice M. Cowles — Clerk of Council (resigned 3-10-69)
 Kathryn Lucas — Clerk of Council (appointed 3-10-69)
 Alice J. Schroeder — Director of Finance
 Daniel A. Tobik — Director of Service
 William H. Maddox — Director of Recreation (resigned 4-15-69)
 James J. Riha — Director of Recreation (appointed 4-16-69)
 Ernest R. Warnke — Director of Public Safety

Council:

James M. Anthony — President
 Charles H. Cole
 Myron A. Kronenberger
 Raymond A. Mosshart
 William A. Niro
 Roland E. Reid
 William S. Sharkin

*Mayor Paul Cassidy
and Members
of Council*



Mayor Paul W. Cassidy



*James M. Anthony
Council President*



*Charles H. Cole
President Pro-Tem*



Roland E. Reid



Myron A. Kronenberger



Raymond A. Mosshart



William A. Niro



William Sharkin

BOARDS AND

BUILDING COMMISSION:

Frank Monhart – January 2, 1954 to December 31, 1959.
Anthony B. Kurtz – January 2, 1954 to May, 1968.
Donald Kromer – January 2, 1954 to present.
George Baird – January 4, 1960 to present.
Richard D. Rufe – January 2, 1969 to present.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

George Herr – January 2, 1954 to March 31, 1960.
William Wivell – January 2, 1954 to December 6, 1954.
Henry Krohn – January 2, 1954 to July 18, 1955.
Charles Stockman – December 6, 1954 to December 31, 1957.
Daniel A. Tobik – December 5, 1955 to December 31, 1957.
Leo Lesnak – January 2, 1958 to January 23, 1959.
John R. Roman – January 23, 1959 to October 24, 1960.
James W. Slough – January 4, 1960 to present.
Myron A. Kronenberger – July 13, 1960 to March 7, 1966.
Thomas J. Lowry – March 27, 1961 to January 25, 1965.
Fred B. Harms – January 25, 1965 to present.
William C. King – July 11, 1966 to present.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

Calvin Harmon – January 4, 1954 to December 31, 1955.
Richard Holland – January 4, 1954 – 1955.
George Foster – January 4, 1954 to 1955.
Robert Quick – March 21, 1955 to January, 1958.
Roland E. Reid – July 18, 1955 to May 7, 1956.
Harold Frost – January 2, 1956 to September 9, 1957.
Rudy Flock – May 14, 1956 to present.
Joel Edison – January 6, 1958 to May 26, 1958.
William C. Berry – May 26, 1958 to June 6, 1960.
Michael Span – May 26, 1958 to present.
William Cawley – June 6, 1960 to December 31, 1964.
C. Anthony Stavole – March 8, 1965 to February 14, 1966.
Edmund L. Goodwin – February 28, 1966 to present.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:

Michael Gallagher – January, 1954 to November 1, 1958.
James M. Anthony – January, 1954 to January 2, 1956.
Edwin Helfner – January, 1954 to January, 1961.
Ralph Keegan – January 16, 1956 to August 28, 1961.
George King – December 8, 1956 to July, 1960.
Martin J. O'Brien – July 13, 1960 to August 28, 1961.
William Clutterbuck – January 9, 1961 to July 26, 1965.
Lester D. Weiler – August 28, 1961 to March 24, 1969.
Donald L. Heine – August 28, 1961 to February 23, 1965.
Joseph J. Bystricky – February 23, 1965 to August 28, 1967.
C. Anthony Stavole – February 14, 1966 to present.
Richard D. Rufe – August 28, 1967 to February 26, 1968.
Richard A. Graff – November 13, 1967 to present.
Edward B. Hickey – February 26, 1968 to present.
Richard C. Rupp – March 24, 1969 to present.

RECREATION COMMISSION:

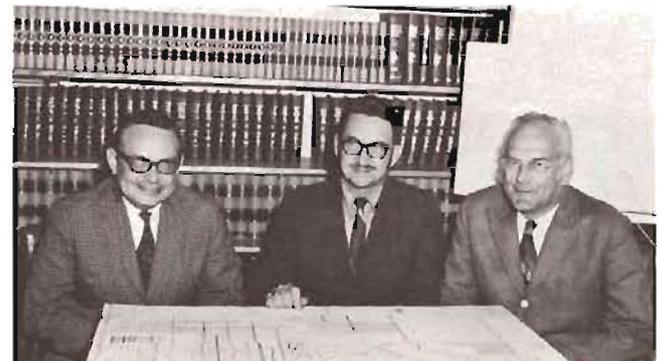
Carl Thomas – January 4, 1954.
Frank Loebbs – January 4, 1954 to November 12, 1956.
Wallace Heiden – January 4, 1954 to July 18, 1956.
Dr. Joseph Kay – January 4, 1954 to November 12, 1956.
Robert Chetlan – July 18, 1955.
Calvin Harmon – February 2, 1956 to June 11, 1956.
Walter Staab – June 11, 1956.
Charles H. Cole – February 25, 1957 to December 31, 1957.
Don Brown – February 25, 1957 to October 14, 1957.
Harry Leckler – February 25, 1957 to September 14, 1959.
Carl A. Long – February 25, 1957 to May 26, 1958.
Martin Plungraf – January 6, 1958 to September 22, 1958.
Sidney M. Jordan – January 6, 1958 to September, 1958.
Clenford Shibley – June 9, 1958 to May 28, 1962.
Robert Calkins – January 12, 1959 to July 13, 1964.
Jerry R. Kuhn – January 12, 1959 to present.
William J. Scheel – February 8, 1960 to July 13, 1964.
Frank Lange – June 11, 1962 to February 24, 1964.
Leonard Rob – February 24, 1964 to present.
William A. Niro – July 13, 1964 to July 24, 1967.
Edward B. Hickey – July 13, 1963 to February 26, 1968.
Mason F. Duffy – August 28, 1967 to present.
Richard D. Rufe – February 26, 1968 to January 2, 1969.
Gerald M. Cornell – January 2, 1969 to present.

PARMA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL:

Robert Quick – January 1958 to present.
Charles Stockman – January 1958 to November 1, 1958.
Michael Gallagher – November 1, 1958 to September 14, 1959.
Harry Leckler – September 14, 1959 to July, 1965.
William J. Clutterbuck – July 26, 1965 to present.

BOARD OF REVIEW OF THE MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX:

C. Anthony Stavole – September 25, 1967 to present.
Charles Abookirc, Jr. – September 25, 1967 to present.
James Bodnar – September 25, 1967 to present.



Building commissioners, from left, are Richard D. Rufe, Donald Kromer and George Baird.

COMMISSIONS



Planning Commission includes, from left, James W. Slough, Myron A. Kronenberger, William C. King, Mayor Paul W. Cassidy and Fred B. Harms.



Board of Zoning Appeals consists of, from left, Michael Span, Rudy Flock and Edmond Goodwin.



Members of the Civil Service Commission are, left to right, Richard A. Gruff, Edward B. Hickey and Richard C. Rupp.



Recreation Commission Members, from left, are William A. Niro, Mason F. Duffy, Jerry R. Kuhn, Leonard Rob, and Gerald Cornell.



Parma Community Hospital Board members from Parma Heights are Robert Quick, left, and William Clutterbuck.



Municipal Income Tax Board of Review members are, from left, James Bodnar, C. Anthony Stavole, Charles Abookire

boards and commissions (*continued*)

PARMA HEIGHTS CHARTER COMMISSION:

Michael R. Gallagher – Chairman	Calvin O. Fritz
Fred B. Graham – Vice Chairman	Hovey Q. Gamble
George E. Coates – Secretary	Edwin J. Heffner
Elson Buesch – Treasurer	Ralph A. Kroeger
James M. Anthony	A. T. McCulloch
Lee J. Bailey	Ralph Mog
George Baird	
Stanley A. Blair	Theresa Cordisco – Clerk

1959 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION:

Michael R. Gallagher – Chairman	Myron A. Kronenberger
Calvin O. Fritz – Secretary	Martin J. O'Brien
Roy F. Cappallo	Henry G. Prokupek
William Clutterbuck	Robert M. Whitaker
George E. Coates	Eleanor B. Hill – Clerk

1969 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION:



1969 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

From left: Robert K. Cody, Richard C. Rupp, Erhardt Rieck, Harry H. Leckler, Nick Radlick, William Clutterbuck, Chairman, Carl A. Long, Ralph D. Sperli, Secretary, and Archie Stephen. Not shown, Eleanor B. Hill, Clerk.



MORAL CLAIMS COMMISSION

Members are, from left to right, Vern T. Kraushaar, Paul R. Stevens and Albert J. Lalle.

PARMA HEIGHTS CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion Post #703	Parma Heights Garden Club
Parma Heights Lions Club	Parma Heights Civic Club
Parma Heights Chamber of Commerce	Parma Heights Junior Chamber of Commerce
Parma Heights Republican Club	Parma Heights Democratic Club
Parma Heights Junior Women's Club	Women's League of Parma Heights
	Parma Heights Historical Society

Members of City Cabinet



George W. Spanagel
Law Director



Alice J. Schroeder
Finance Director



Ernest R. Warnke
Safety Director



Daniel A. Tobik
Service Director



James J. Riha
Recreation Director

Chart for the Future

Parma Heights is in midpassage. All that transpired before the adoption of our charter can be seen as the slow, difficult launching of a great community. The charter was our catalyst and we are now settling down to solving the big problems that always follow great change.

The day is probably not too far off when we as citizens will need to decide whether or not we care to pay the price of political independence. Being almost entirely a residential community with no industry to share the tax burden, we are rapidly approaching the day when we will need to tax ourselves considerably more to meet the increased costs of government. If we, the people do not want our community's separate existence badly enough, we will have only one other choice, to explore the possibility of merger with industrially rich cities in this area.

To the basic problem of tax structure can be added the problems of mass transportation and freeways as well as flood control, refuse disposal, cultural growth and so on.

Any charting of our future must include plans for solving these difficulties.

Parma Heights will succeed and triumph! Of this I am certain because our town has always had a veritable pyramid of great ideas and fine men and women to implement them. Let's move ahead with the job!

Paul W. Cassidy

PARMA HEIGHTS, OHIO, U. S. A.—1969

LAND

Total square miles	4.13
In use	95%
Residential — 1,720 acres	95%
Commercial — 158 acres	90%

<i>RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS</i>	5,994	with 7,849 units
Single family	5,830	
Two family	68	with 136 units
Four family	1	with 4 units
Apartments		
Over stores	1	with 6 units
Town Houses	52	with 375 units
Large apartments	37	with 1,458 units
Miscellaneous	5	with 40 units

<i>COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS</i>	199	
Shopping Centers	3	
Motels	2	with 137 units
Taverns	16	

SCHOOLS

Public — High Schools	1
Elementary	4
Parochial — High Schools	1
Elementary	1
Private	1

<i>CHURCHES</i>	6
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<i>PARKS</i> — 58 acres	3
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<i>MILES OF STREETS</i>	55
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<i>MILES OF SEWERS</i>	50
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TAX DUPLICATE

Residential	46,110,780	} Average residential appraisal for tax purposes — \$7,532
Commercial	16,075,610	
Public Utility	4,692,270	
Personal Property	3,668,409	

<i>TOTAL TAX DUPLICATE</i>	70,547,069
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PEOPLE

Population 1940	1,330
Population 1950	3,901
Population 1960	18,100
Population 1969 estimated	29,000
Registered Voters	11,844
Number of full time city employees	67
Police — 20, Fire — 10	
Median annual income per family	\$11,384-\$11,672
Average annual income per family (1968)	\$10,761

