

The Chronicler

"The Past and the Present are but a Single Road,
and History was Just a Moment Ago."



Tuscarawas County Courthouse circa 1882

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WINTER BANQUET 2019

The Tuscarawas County Historical Society will hold its Annual Winter Banquet on Tuesday evening, November 12, at the Tuscarawas County Senior Center, 425 Prospect Street, Dover. The banquet will begin with social time at 6:00 p.m., a short business meeting and election at 6:25, and the buffet meal at 6:30.

Reservations are required at a cost of \$17 per person. There is a reservation form in this edition of *The Chronicler*, or reservations can be made by mailing your name and payment to: TCHS; P.O. Box 462; New Philadelphia, OH 44663 by Monday, November 4. Reservations are confirmed upon receipt of payment. For any questions contact the Society at (330)308-7494.

This year's program is "The Legacy of Two of Ohio's Greatest Astronauts, John H. Glenn, Jr. and Neil A. Armstrong" by Kevin Petite. Kevin began his interest in space at the age of 6. He followed the early years of the space program from Mercury up to the activities of the International Space Station as it is today. By the time he was 12, he witnessed the historical journey of Neil Armstrong walking on the moon via television. He began collecting space memorabilia at age 14 such as autographed pictures of astronauts and crew patches. He read numerous books related to anything space. By his high school years, he became interested in photography, purchased a quality camera and began taking pictures of various people and objects.

He moved into attending and photographing shuttle launches at Kennedy Space Center for a number of years. This included John

Glenn's shuttle STS 95 in October 1998. Kevin is a member of the WorldWide "Space Hipsters" which is an organization of individuals that have similar interests related to the space program. Kevin continues to participate in anything related to space and often attends such events as astronaut presentations, space gatherings, and lectures focusing on past and future events as well as presenting his space collection and knowledge to community groups. His space collection includes the "Holy Grail" of space memorabilia which is a small fragment of John Glenn's Friendship 7 and Yuri Gagarin's space craft.

We hope to see you at
the Winter Banquet!



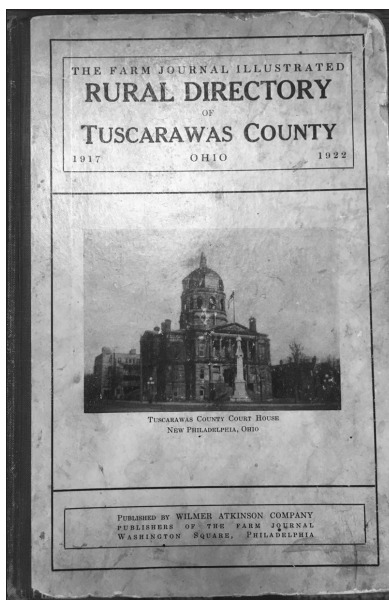
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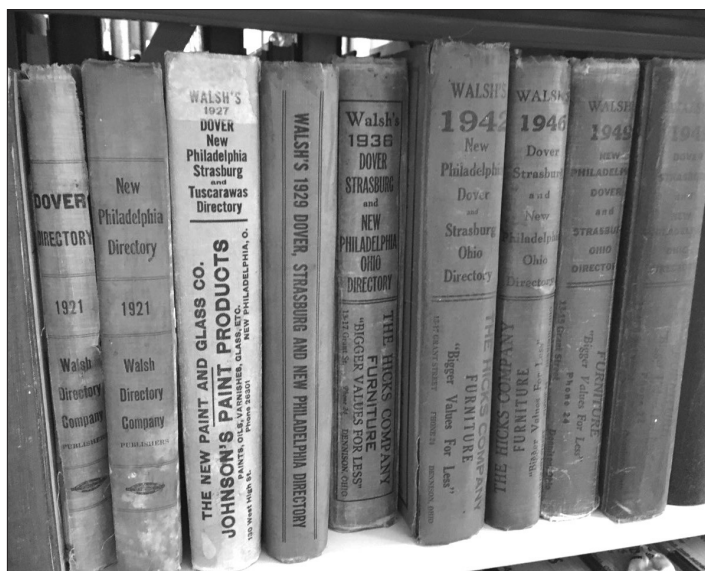
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New Acquisitions

The Tuscarawas County Historical Society recently brought in some interesting new acquisitions. We have added to our City Directory collection with a 1917-1922 Rural Directory of Tuscarawas County and also a 1965 Rural Directory. We also added the 1929, 1942, 1946, and 1949 New Philadelphia, Dover and Strasburg directories, along with a 1921 New Philadelphia directory to the collection. The directories are a great source to trace property ownership into the early 1900s. They also contain a lot of advertising and are interesting in that respect.



The Historical Society has also come into possession of some New Philadelphia, Dundee, Mineral City, Baltic, Bolivar, and other local area postcards. We also obtained quite a collection of paper artifacts, including receipts, booklets, and advertising of Tuscarawas County entities. An especially interesting piece is a panoramic photo of the congregation of the Jerusalem Reformed Church on Stonecreek Road on its Centennial Anniversary, June 16, 1915.



We have also collected a number of new yearbooks. We have added 1920, 1922, 1923, and 1925 to our collection of *The Leader* from Dennison High School. *The Goal* is the name of the Gnadenhutten-Clay Township school yearbook and we now have the years 1907, 1908, 1917 through 1921, 1923, 1926 through 1931, 1933, 1935, 1939, and 1940.



Maggie Nussbaum recently donated a collection of McGuffey Readers and other assorted school books that belonged to her father, Francis Nussbaum and his siblings. The books are interesting in their own right, but also for the names of the country schools on their inside covers. Some of you may remember Mr. Nussbaum and his wife as educators in the New Philadelphia schools.

New Members

Susan Hinton

Michael Smart

Jim McShane

Pat Gombita

James & Sheila Wolfe

BOOK REVIEW

The Last Days of Night

by Graham Moore

If you are looking for a good piece of historical fiction that makes you want to research more of the “real story,” then *The Last Days of Night* is for you.

The Last Days of Night is the fictionalized tale of Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse, Nikola Tesla, and the lawsuit regarding the light bulb. It is the story of whether alternating or direct current would electrify America. The tale is told through the eyes of Westinghouse’s attorney, Paul Cravath. All of these characters are real, and the basis of the story is true. Some of the dialogue used by author Graham Moore is even taken from actual reports of events. In the “Notes from the Author” at the end of the novel, Moore writes, “As a work of historical fiction, this novel is intended as a dramatization of history, not as a recording of it. Nothing you read here should be understood as verifiable fact. However, the bulk of the events depicted in this book did happen and every major character did exist. Much of the dialogue comes from either the historical personages’ own mouths or from the tips of their prodigious pens.” (p. 359) The author, for purposes of creating a better story, does condense 8 years of events in the electrical

world into two.

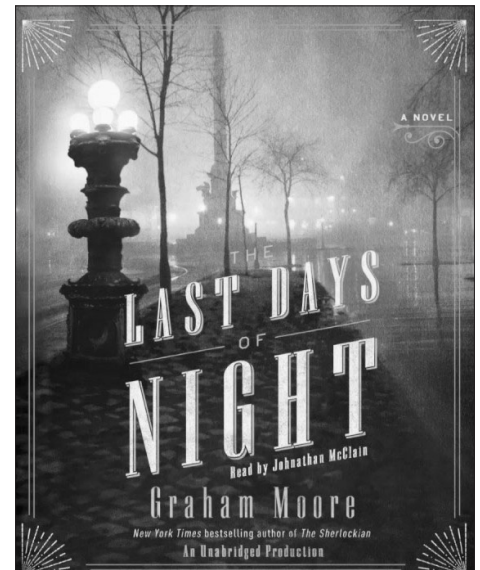
Cravath is a young lawyer in New York City who is hired by George Westinghouse to defend him in a lawsuit filed by Thomas Edison regarding the incandescent light bulb. This act brings Paul into an intertwined world of inventors, lawyers, actresses, and the elite of Wall Street. The book is filled with intrigue and unexpected twists and turns.

I ended up keeping my iPhone close at hand as I read. I often “googled” people and events to learn what was true and what was part of the author’s imagination.

Paul Cravath was born in Ohio in 1861. He studied at Oberlin College and Columbia Law School. His father, Erastus Cravath, was a co-founder and first president of Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, a school for freedmen.

Much of the information regarding Nikola Tesla in the book required further research. Without giving away too much of Moore’s well-crafted tale, some liberties were taken with events involving Cravath and Tesla, and Tesla did not have a laboratory in the basement of a building at Fisk.

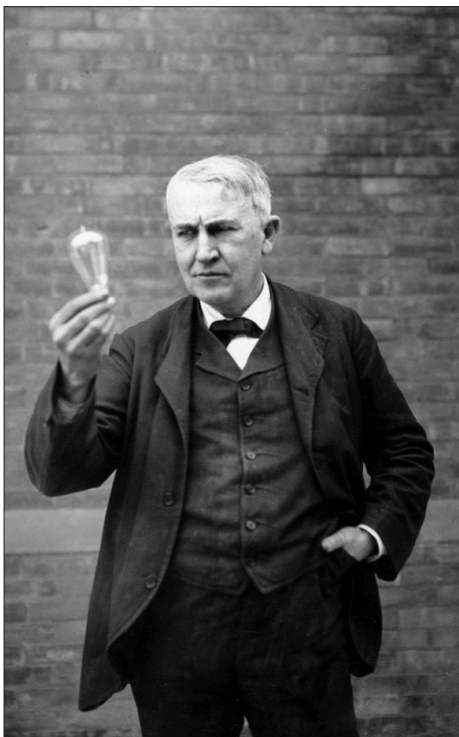
Opera singer Agnes Huntington is another interesting character in the story. She



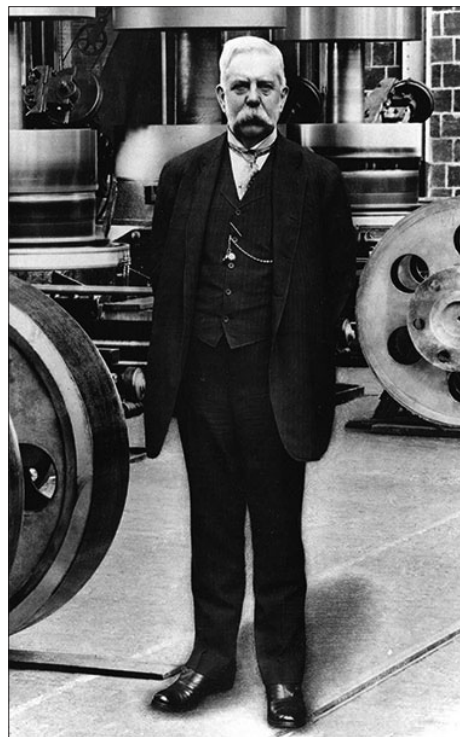
and Cravath eventually marry and have one child.

There is a great website created to tell the history of the characters in the novel. It is located at www.mrgrahammoore.com. It includes a photo of the person and when you move your mouse or finger over the photo, the biographical information is displayed.

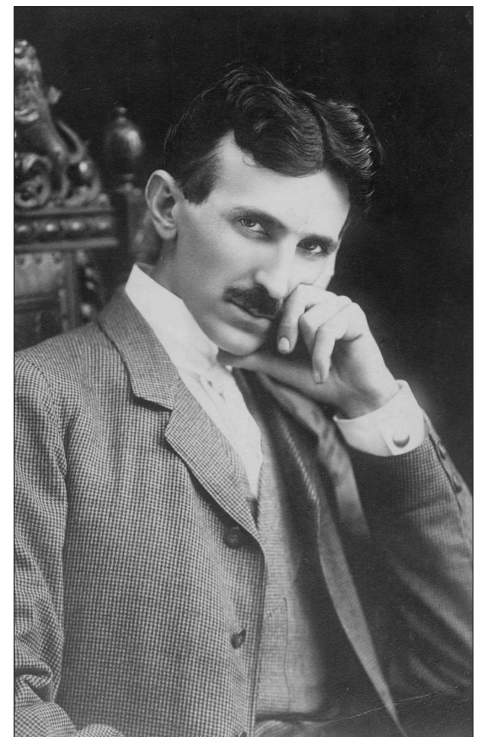
I definitely recommend *The Last Days of Night* for an intriguing and captivating read.



Thomas Edison



George Westinghouse



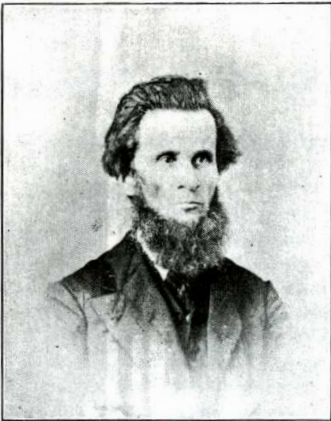
Nikola Tesla

Celebrating 175 Years



This year, New Philadelphia's First Christian Church is celebrating its 175th Anniversary. The church can trace its roots to visits to New Philadelphia by Disciples of Christ minister Alexander Campbell. Sometime before 1832, he came to the county and preached in the courthouse on different occasions. In 1833, pioneer minister Joshua Webb organized the Church of Christ in town with charter members John, Joshua, Albert, and Samuel Peppers, George Huston, W. R. Chilson, Dr. C. J. Reed, Casper Singhaus, Seth W. Dorsey, and Guy Saben. The group worshipped in houses in the area for a few years and then disbanded.

On July 13, 1843, a reorganization of the church was started by Eli Regal. Regal was from Randolph, Ohio and had been preaching at Minerva. In 1844, member Seth Dorsey donated land on West High Street and a small brick building was built. Early preachers were Timothy Newcombe, Isaac Everett, William Martin, J. Whitacre, J. Warren, Harrison Porter, and Harrison Jones.

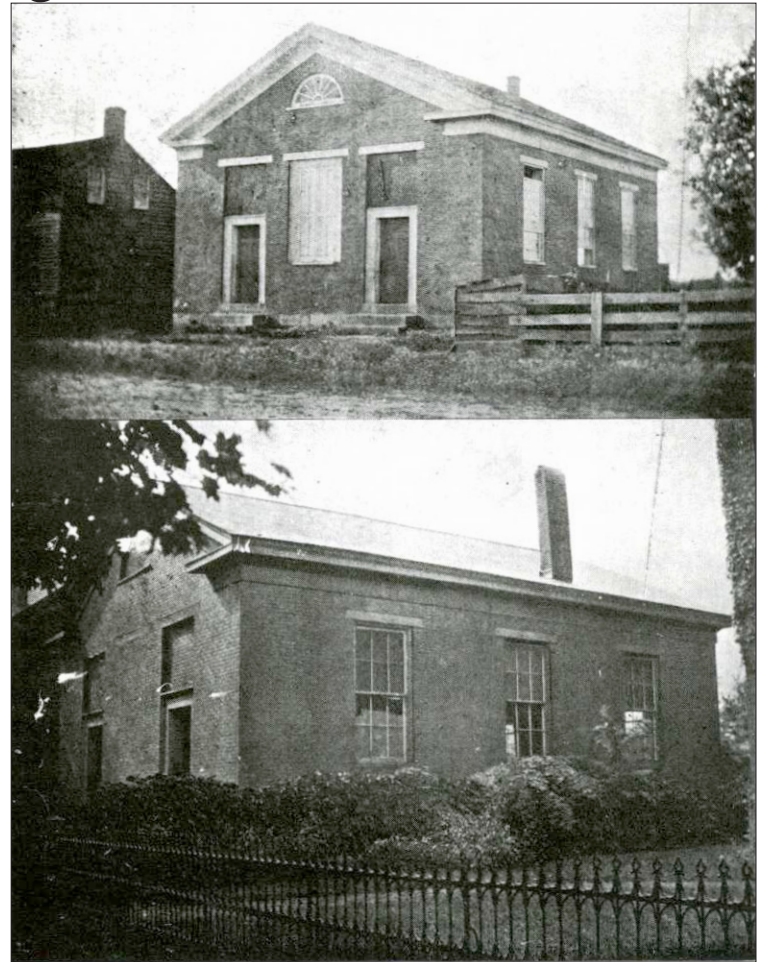


Eli Regal

Reorganized the Church in 1843

Church growth was often encouraged by visiting ministers and tent meetings. In both 1855 and 1875 Leonard Southmayd, a Disciples minister from Stow, preached at the church. Abisha Way, from Alliance, was also a regular guest minister at the church. He loved to debate, and in 1857 held a debate at the church with a Universalist minister from Pittsburgh on the subject of "Eternal Punishment." Around 1859, a guest minister from Hiram College preached at the church. This was James A. Garfield, future President of the United States. While he was in town he stayed at the home of church member Guy Saben. Garfield was a Disciples minister, professor, and president of Hiram. He enlisted during the Civil War and was elected to Congress in 1863. He was the only president to be a minister.

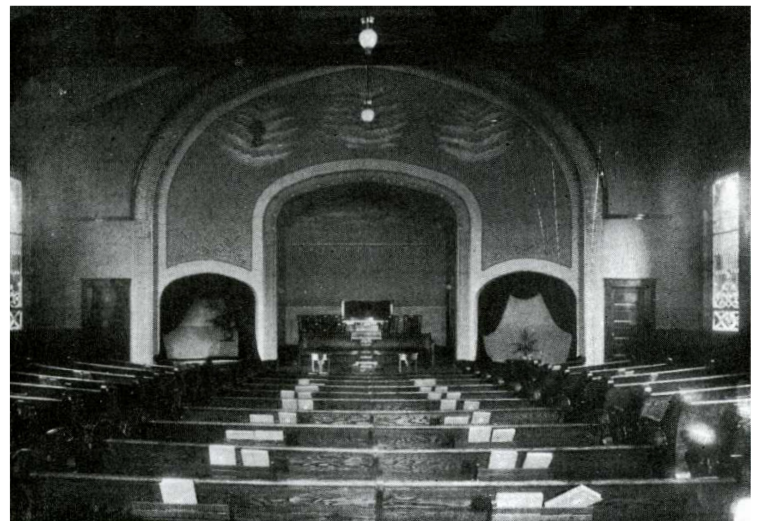
The biggest revival came in June of 1897 with a week-long event held on Franklin Square in New Philadelphia (intersection of West High and 4th Street). The evangelist J. V. Updike took in 113 confessions during that time and the old church was torn down to



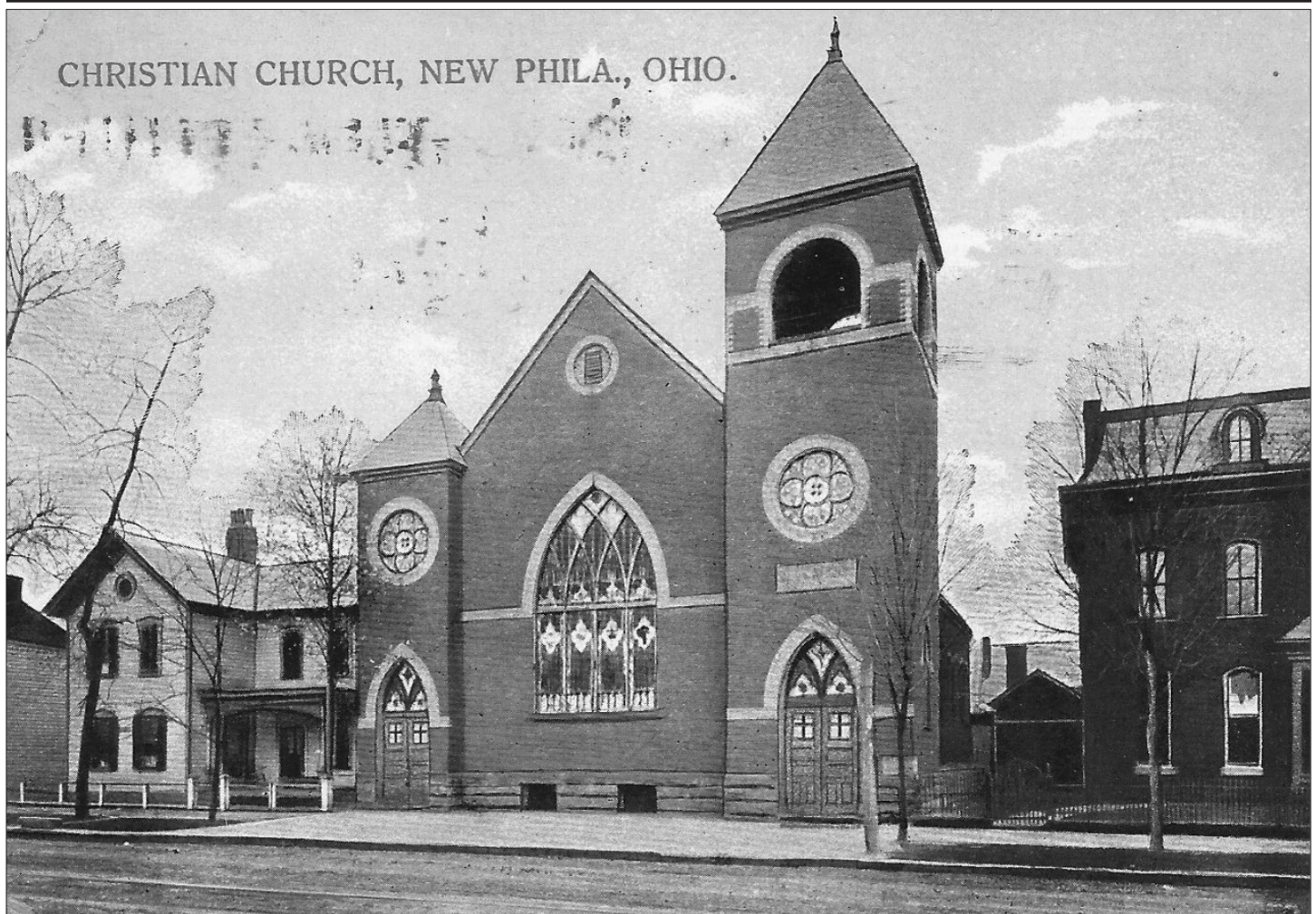
CHURCH OF CHRIST, NEW PHILADELPHIA

Upper View as Erected in 1844.

Lower View as Remodeled in September and October 1884.



AUDITORIUM, REMODELED IN 1906



~ 175 Years, continued from page 4

make room for a bigger one. This church building was dedicated February 5, 1899 with E. V. Zollars, president of Hiram College, as master of ceremonies. The interior of the church was remodeled with the addition of a balcony and rededicated June 26, 1906 by the president of Bethany College, Thomas E. Cramblett. A pipe organ was installed in 1907. By the printing of the 1908 *Historical Atlas of Tuscarawas County*, the congregation had 325 members. Its minister at the time, J. H. Dodd, "...was...highly esteemed or...a might[y] force for educational and religious progress." (p. 48)

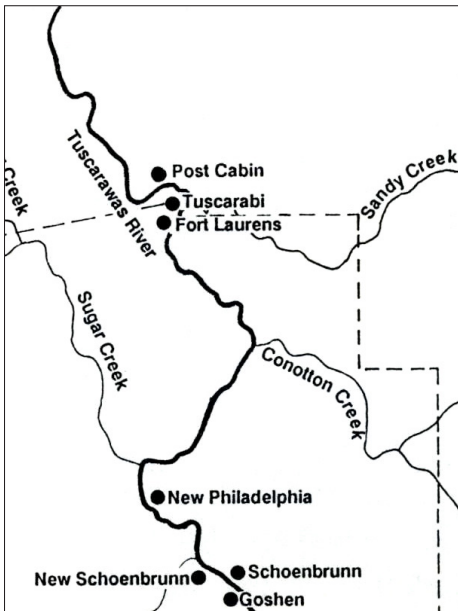
In 1942 a basement was constructed under the building. Property around the church was purchased in 1951 and the educational unit of the church was built in 1958. In 1975, the current edifice of the First Christian Church was built on the same site as the previous church. The old church was torn down and the congregation worshipped at the Kent State Tuscarawas campus while the new church was constructed. A major renovation was completed in 2004.

Early Ministers in the First Christian Church

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1833-1835 | Joshua Webb | 1892-1893 | S. S. McGill |
| 1843 | Eli Regal | 1894-1896 | E. J. Hart |
| | Timothy Newcomb | 1897-1898 | J. C. Meese |
| | William Martin | 1899-1900 | J. W. Gorrell |
| | J. Whitacre | 1900-1902 | J. S. Raum |
| | J. Warren | 1902-1909 | C. B. Reynolds |
| | Harrison Porter | 1910-1912 | Asa McDaniels |
| | Harrison Jones | 1912-1914 | C. A. McDonald |
| | Abisha B. Way | 1915-1917 | J. H. Opil |
| | M. McBride | 1917-1918 | W. D. Ward |
| | Adam Moore | 1919-1920 | Rev. W. W. Johnson |
| | Elder Taft | 1921-1925 | Rev. M. O. Johnston |
| | W. H. Taylor | 1925-1927 | Rev. Donald Campbell McCallum |
| | A.R. Benton | 1927 | Rev. Albert R. H. Miller |
| | James Wilson | 1928-1931 | Rev. James O. Dodd |
| 1875-1878 | J. T. H. Steward | 1931 | Rev. Henry Toogood |
| 1879-1891 | J. H. Dodd | | |

John Heckewelder and His Time at Post's Cabin

On Tuesday, September 10, I gave a presentation to a group of wonderful people at the Salem Historical Society about the Moravian Missions in Tuscarawas County. While doing the research for the presentation, I became interested in the life of John Heckewelder in the time before and after the Tuscarawas Valley missions. He lived an extraordinary life filled with adventures. This will be the first in a multi-part series about the missionary. This first article will cover his time spent at the Post Cabin, just over the Stark County line near present day Bolivar. The information about Heckewelder's time here comes from the book *Life of Heckewelder* by Edward Rondthaler,



published in 1847.

John Gottlieb Ernestus Heckewelder was born in Bedford, England on March 12, 1743. His father, David, was a Moravian exile who had first gone to the Brethern village of Herrnhut in Saxony and was in service in England when his son was born. John was educated in the schools of the Moravian Brethern whose chief aim was "leading souls to Christ." (p. 29) By the age of 12, John knew he wanted to "preach the Gospel among the heathen" and felt called to do so. John and his family set sail for America on March 12, 1754. After landing in New York, they made it to the Moravian town of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on April 20. John struggled in America. School in Bethlehem was

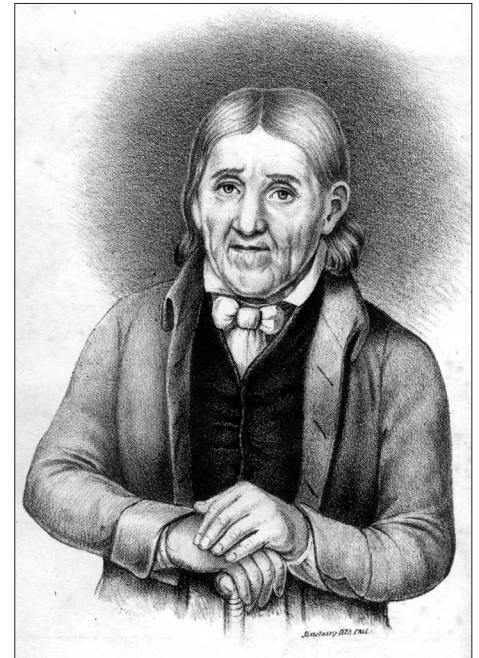
taught in German and he did not understand. Bethlehem was a wilderness, and he had been in an industrial town in England for his schooling. His parents went to the Danish West India islands as missionaries and he was left behind. In 1758, Heckewelder was apprenticed to a cooper in Bethlehem. He longed for something more.

Christian Frederick Post was sometimes a missionary for the Moravians. In 1758 the Governor of Pennsylvania appointed him an ambassador to the Delaware, Shawnee, and Mingo in Ohio. He did good work among the natives, convincing the Delaware to break their alliance with the French. In 1761 he received permission from the Delaware to settle along the Tuscarawas River and instruct the natives in Christianity. He built a cabin and returned to Bethlehem for a helper. John Heckewelder expressed his interest, but did not expect to be chosen because of his young age and his apprentice status. To his surprise he was given permission to accompany Post back to Ohio.

Heckewelder and Post met at Lititz, another Moravian town in Pennsylvania, and set off on horseback for Ohio. From Shippensburg west, Heckewelder described the area as "howling wilderness." They spent one night in the cabin of Jack "Saucy Jack" Miller and Heckewelder goes into detail of the experience. There was no barn for their horses and there were wolves all around. Miller's son's agreed to keep watch on the animals all night. Heckewelder described a night of little sleep as the horses had bells tied around their necks to keep track of them, the wolves howled all night, and the boys shouted to one another as they kept watch.

At Fort Pitt, Post and Heckewelder were treated well by Colonel Bouquet and the men, and a man traveling to Detroit joined them on their journey into Ohio. They arrived at the cabin on the Tuscarawas on April 11, 1762 after a journey of 33 days.

The area had some inhabitants—a trader by the name of Thomas Calhoon lived a mile downriver, the Delaware town of Tuscarawas was south of that cabin and contained about 40 wigwams, and eight



miles north was another Indian village. Soon after the two arrived, the natives became distrustful of Post. They feared he was not there to preach the Gospel, but to establish a foothold in Indian territory to bring in more white settlers. Post had begun to clear land to plant crops and this action alarmed the Indians. They understood the need to plant food, but also knew that French priests with whom they were acquainted did not clear land so much land to do so. Post was called to appear before a tribal council. In the end, the council gave Post permission to plant an area fifty steps by fifty steps.

Even with a garden, their food situation was not good. Post and Heckewelder were in the wilderness with no flour, no cornmeal, and a just few potatoes. They had to live off the land. They ate more fish than Heckewelder could stand and ate mostly nettles. Heckewelder, who was rather malnourished by this point, had the opportunity to work with some Delaware to build a fence. He was happy to help since he was given ample food to eat while with them. He had some of his strength restored, and the Delaware gave him the name "Piselatulpe" or Turtle.

In his agreement with the Governor, Post had to take a group of Indian chiefs to Lancaster for a meeting. His instructions were to bring Heckewelder back east with

him, but both men feared if they left the cabin, the Indians who were suspicious of them would not allow them to return. In the end the men decided that Heckewelder would remain.

Before Post left, they built a canoe which would make shooting wild geese easier. He also left Heckewelder some books but warned him not to read, or especially write, in the presence of natives—it made them very suspicious. “They say they have been robbed of their lands by the writing of the whites.” (p.51) Post left for Lancaster and Heckewelder was alone. He became successful in his hunting with his canoe. Unfortunately, it soon came up missing and Heckewelder faced a shortage of food. The vegetables planted in the garden were stolen. He was soon sick with fever and ague from his proximity to the river. Eventually, Calhoon invited him to stay with him to regain his health, but Heckewelder would not leave Post’s cabin empty. Heckewelder convinced an Indian acquaintance to make him another canoe for the trade of a knife. He had no knife to give him, but got one from Calhoon.

It became apparent that the role of missionary to the Indians was not going well along the Tuscarawas. Three weeks after Post left, Heckewelder heard rumors that Post was not returning, nor would the natives allow him to come back if he tried. The suspicion was too strong that his sole purposed was to “...deliver the Indian country into the hands of the white people.” (p. 55) There were also rumors of war between the Indians and the English. With the help of a traveler through the area, Heckewelder got word to Post about the rumors. Post sent word for Heckewelder to return to Bethlehem. The problem with that was Heckewelder’s horse had been lost or stolen and he was too weak and ill to travel on foot.

Heckewelder went to Calhoon and made arrangements to travel with his pack horse drivers who were planning to go to Pittsburgh with furs. At the time they were also sick with the fever and Heckewelder had to wait until they were well enough to travel. While waiting at the cabin, he was twice warned by friendly natives that he needed to leave. One day, one of Mr. Calhoon’s men called to him from the river bank and told Heckewelder he was



needed at the traders. Indian women had warned Calhoon to get Heckewelder out of the cabin. Heckewelder stayed overnight at Calhoon's, and the next day when his men checked the cabin, it had been broken into by Indian braves. Heckewelder abandoned the Post cabin and stayed with Calhoon, waiting for his men to recover enough to travel. The chiefs who had gone to Lancaster with Post returned to the Tuscarawas Valley. King Beaver, who remained friendly, urged Heckewelder to “hasten his departure.”

Finally, Calhoon’s men were well enough to travel. Heckewelder and the men left for Pittsburgh. Calhoon, his family, and some men stayed behind with the trading goods. He considered them too great in value to leave them. Heckewelder learned that eventually the Delaware chiefs ordered Calhoon to leave. They set out for Pittsburgh and were attacked by warriors. Only Calhoon and one of his men survived. On the third day of his journey back east, Heckewelder met Post and Indian agent Captain McKee. He encouraged Post not to return to the Delaware territory, but Post insisted on going. Upon arrival, the men realized their lives were in danger. McKee was protected by the chiefs, but Post had to flee for his life.

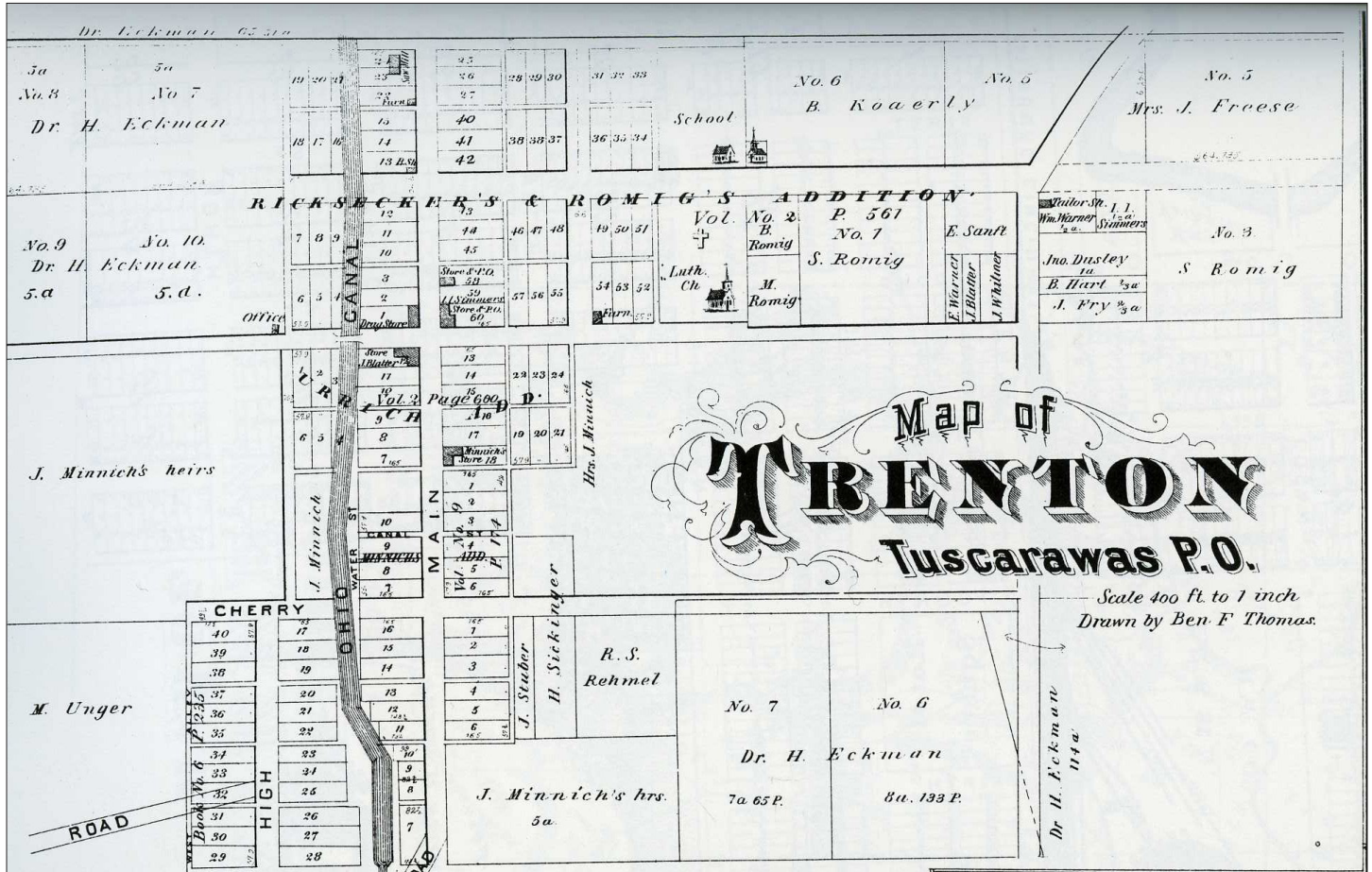
By the third week of October, Heckewelder’s group had made it to Pittsburgh. He was once again sick with fever. He managed to fall in with some

wagoners who were carrying skins to Lancaster. Twelve miles from Carlisle his fever got so bad he had to stop traveling. He stayed at the home of one of the wagoners. When well enough to travel once more, he managed to get a ride on a spare horse of a man traveling to Philadelphia by way of Lancaster. When Heckewelder finally arrived in Lancaster, his Moravian Brethren did not recognize him, his perilous life had changed him so. From Lancaster he returned to Bethlehem after an absence of 9 months.

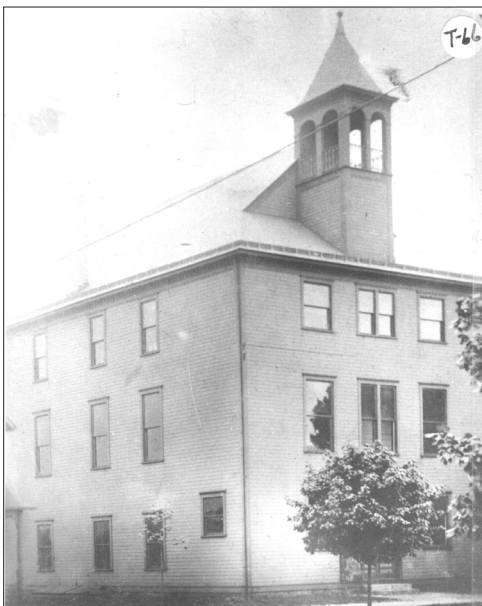
Things there were very different. Many of his friends and family had moved away, as had the man to whom he had been apprenticed. He was left without resources and was on the brink of returning to England. His first foray into the missionary world had been unsuccessful. Heckewelder describes his decision to stay in America, “My anguish and distress of mind having increased beyond endurance, I again resolved to quit Bethlehem forever...I earnestly called upon the Lord to have mercy upon me, and set my mind at ease in some way. All at once my eyes rested on a few lines which someone, probably in a moment of spiritual distress, had written on one of the window panes; a peaceful calm took possession of my mind, I felt comforted, cast every care upon the Lord, and became perfectly reconciled to my situation.” (p. 62) Heckewelder would let God lead him to his next adventure.

Tusky Walking Tour 2019

On Monday, September 16, the Tuscarawas County Historical Society was invited to the Tuscarawas Branch of the Tuscarawas County Public Library to conduct a walking tour through the village of Tusky. Curator Kim Jurkovic led the tour with about a dozen participants. We thought we would publish the tour here so anyone interested could take a walk around the village and enjoy the rich history of Tuscarawas.



Begin at the Library and head north on Main Street...



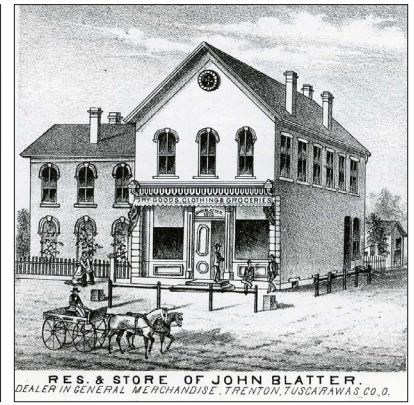
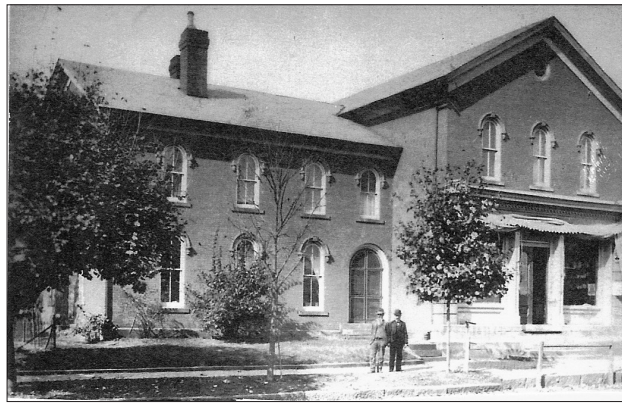
1 Town Hall—209 S. Main Street—site of the current library. The town hall was built in 1904 for \$6930. The first floor contained a festival hall, council room, mayor's office, township room and a jail cell. The second floor was the location of the auditorium and stage and the third floor housed various local lodge organizations. The building was torn down in 1950.



2 J. F. Reiser General Store—139 S. Main Street, current Bombs Away building. This building was built in 1901 by J. F. Reiser as a general merchandise store. It was in business for 40 years. The building then became the A&P Emporium.

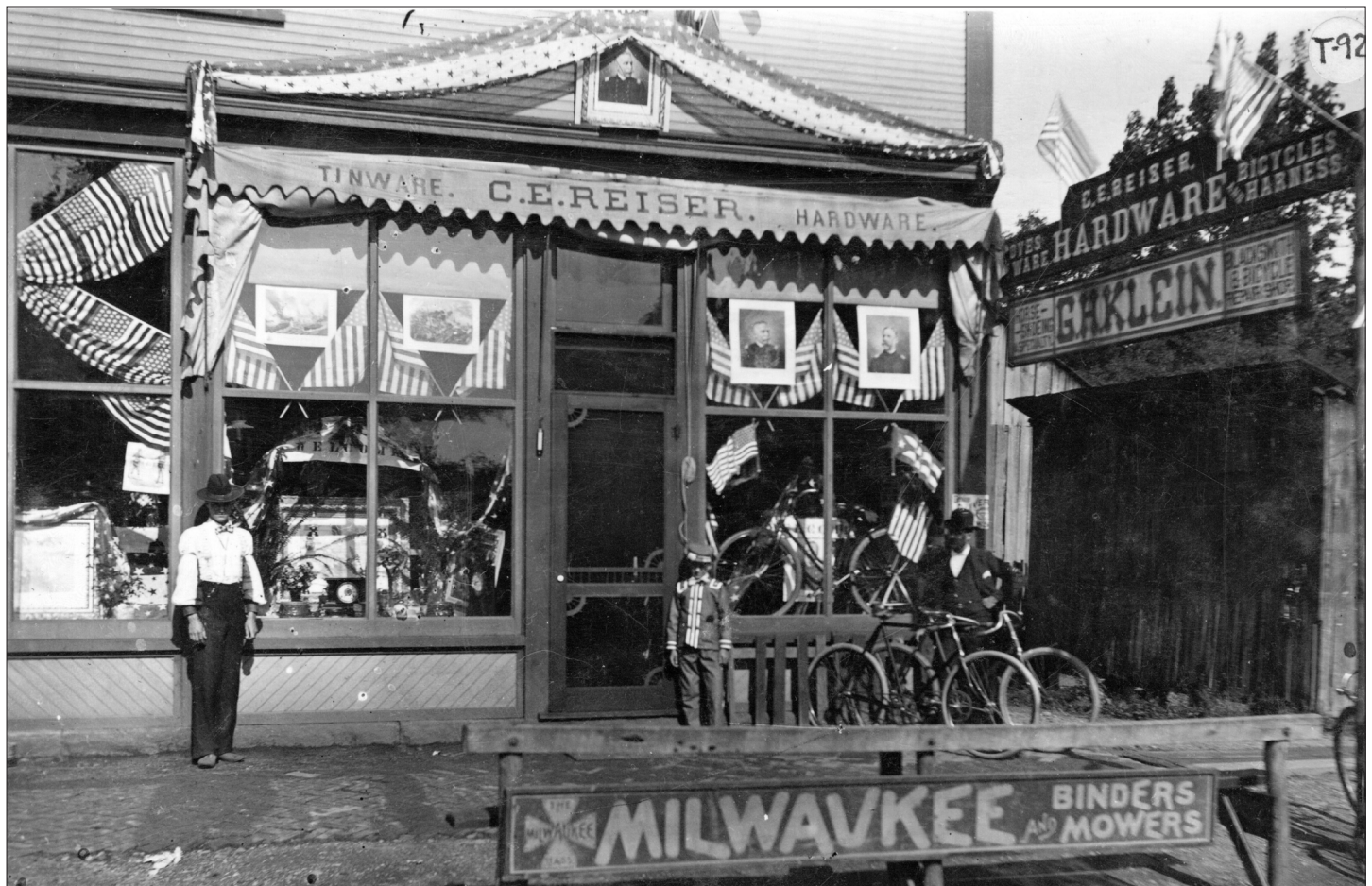
~ Walking Tour, continued on page 9

3 Canal House—108 S. Main Street--This brick structure was built in the early 1870s by John Blatter. It has served many purposes over the years including the post office and a general store. The post office was on the right side and the store on the left. J. F. Reiser had his general store here from 1892 until 1901 when he built the 2nd building on the tour. For some time it was known as the Lehr building.



The white building's address is 111 N. Main Street.

4 Post Office—the current post office was built in 1914 by A. T. Myers who operated a general store in the structure. The building became the post office in 1956. The structure originally had brick pillars and a porch roof on the front and part of the right side. The white building beside the brick post office was also used as the post office at one time. It also housed Annie Parr's millinery shop and Garver Electric.



5 G. H. Klein Store—116 N. Main Street(empty lot)--G. H. Klein came to Tuscarawas in April 1897 as a blacksmith. Following an injury in 1901, he opened a hardware store. He added groceries a year later and operated the store until his death in 1920. The store eventually became Hursey's Grocery.

~ Walking Tour, continued on page 10

~ Walking Tour, continued from page 10



6 Blacksmith Shop and Gas Station—In 1897 Sherm Stemple bought a blacksmith shop from John Rolli. A more modern structure was built on the site and torn down in 1973 to build the Indian Valley Restaurant. In 1917, Stemple put a gasoline pump in front of the blacksmith shop. He then built a filling station where the restaurant parking lot is located. He sold Canfield and Sinclair gasoline. After Stemple died, his son-in-law, Ralph Schneider ran the station.

Turn right onto School Street...



7 Indian Valley Middle School (and the Methodist Church)—the first school was built on this site in 1820. The present school, built in 2008, is the 6th school structure on this spot. A Methodist church sat to the right of the 4th school building. It was built about 1870 and used until the congregation disbanded in 1921. The school then rented the church building and used it for a gym. They purchased the building in 1927 and tore it down in 1928 to build the 5th school.

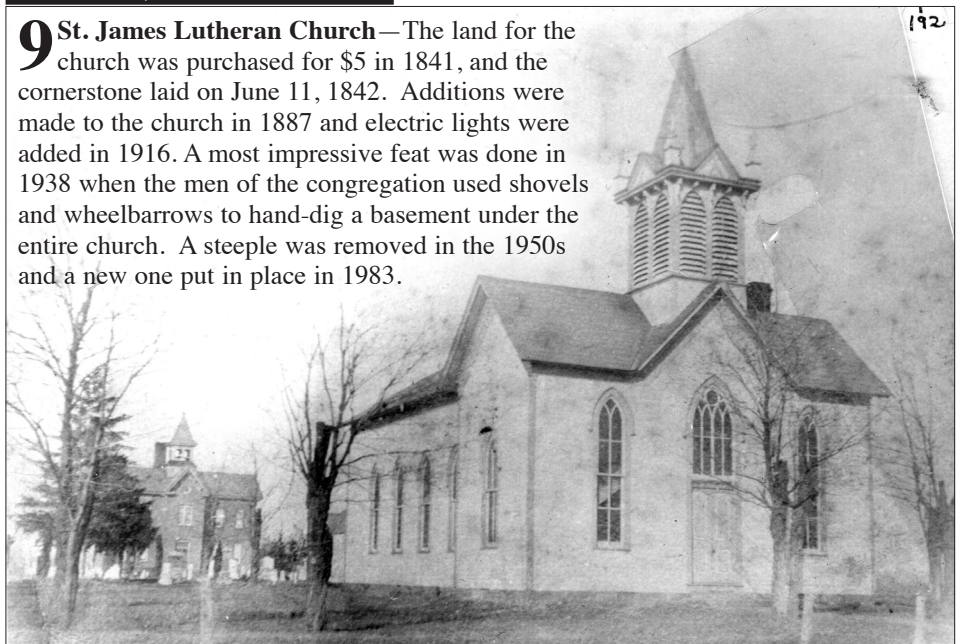


8 Cemetery—To get across School Street to Church Street, take a stroll through the St. James Lutheran Church cemetery. There are 32 Civil War veterans buried here and many interesting stones including the one belonging to Dan Crites, which he carved himself.

CHURCH STREET (Head east after the church to the corner of Church and Emma)



9 St. James Lutheran Church—The land for the church was purchased for \$5 in 1841, and the cornerstone laid on June 11, 1842. Additions were made to the church in 1887 and electric lights were added in 1916. A most impressive feat was done in 1938 when the men of the congregation used shovels and wheelbarrows to hand-dig a basement under the entire church. A steeple was removed in the 1950s and a new one put in place in 1983.



10 304 Church Street—This was once the home of Mr. & Mrs. Dan Crites. Along with carving his own stone for the cemetery, Mr. Crites also built the brick block building in his backyard that was originally intended to be a mausoleum for him and his wife.

Head south on Emma to Cherry Street. Head west on Cherry toward Main.

11 Benner House—228 E Cherry Street--Robert Benner was married three times and had 10 children to 2 of those wives. His first wife was Sarah Eckman, daughter of Dr. Hiram Eckman, a prominent land owner in Tuscarawas. Robert was injured by a hatchet in his leg as a child, but despite the disability, still volunteered for service in the 161st Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. He was a farmer by profession, and like his first father-in-law, came to own a good amount of land in Tusky.



12 White Lily Gas Station—114 E. Cherry Street--The station was originally owned by Mike Unger. It was then owned by Russell Morgan who was assisted by his son, Kenny. It was known as Kenny's Sunoco. The next owner tore the building down and built a new one known as Donehue's Service Station. It was later called Big Blue Sunoco and Allensworth Sunoco.

Head north on Main Street, back toward the Library...



13 Confectionery—This building on the corner of Cherry and Main Streets has been known as many things. In 1949 it was Metzger's Confectionery. It has also been a saloon, laundromat, and pizza place. It had also been the McConnell and Pancher Confectionery.



14 Rube Reiser Store—234 S. Main Street--This store was built in 1907. The Reisers originally sold farm machinery, buggies, wagons, stoves and general merchandise. Rube, Irvin & Albert Reiser formed a partnership in 1925 to sell Buick automobiles. A porch and balcony were added to the building at one time. The store closed in the mid-1930s. There was a short-lived grocery store in the building, and the library used the second floor in 1950 when the new city hall was being built. The building eventually became the Jack Hensley Produce Market.

2019

Tuscarawas County Historical Society

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