



# Olmsted 200

Bicentennial Notes about Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township –  
First Farmed in 1814 and Settled in 1815

Issue 10

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## Contents

Save the Barn	1
Saloons Kept Olmsted Stirred Up	6
Future of Loomis House Becomes Unclear Again	14
Still to Come	15

## Save the Barn

As Olmsted Township and Olmsted Falls prepare to celebrate their bicentennial, the future is in doubt for a building that has stood through most of those two centuries. It is the stately red barn that stands along John Road near the entrance to the Eliza Jennings Retirement Campus at The Renaissance.



The barn is one of the most-photographed buildings in the township. Framed photos of it have been sold at the shops at Grand Pacific Junction. Artists have painted it. (For an example, go to: <http://www.lauramutchborns.com/>.) Just a few weeks ago, in an attempt to cheer up people enduring a winter of bitter

cold and abundant snow, someone posted a beautiful springtime photo of the barn with blossoming bushes and trees in the foreground. (To see it, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/8318339878/>.)

Unfortunately, officials at The Renaissance are considering tearing down the barn. “Potentially, yes,” Sandy Skerda, executive director at The Renaissance, said this past Monday. “We’ve been told that it’s in very bad shape and could come down, so we’re in the investigation period right now.”

Asked how long might that investigation period last, she said, “Well, we’ve been told that it’s dangerous, so we’re trying to move things along as quickly as we can, but we certainly want to get all the information that we can. So at this time, I don’t know how long that’s going to last, no.”

Although public awareness of the possible removal of the barn has been limited, those who have heard about it have generally been dismayed. They include the Olmsted Township trustees, who have embarked on a project to document the township’s historical structures in conjunction with the upcoming bicentennial celebration. They don’t want to lose such a visible landmark at a time when Olmsted is observing its historical heritage.

While Renaissance officials are still investigating what to do about the barn, Skerda was not optimistic about saving it. “From the initial costs that I’ve been given, I don’t see that that would be possible, no,” she said. She did not say exactly how much estimates of the cost to save the barn are, but she said, “Initial ones were in the six figures.” A few people with experience in preserving old buildings think the actual costs might be much less than that.

But first, it is important to understand why the barn should be saved. It was built by John Hall, the man for whom John Road is named. He was the eldest son of George and Elizabeth Hall, who immigrated to America from Leicestershire, England, in 1847, according to Walter Holzworth’s 1966 book on Olmsted’s history. They first lived in Ridgeville Township (now North Ridgeville) and moved to Olmsted Township sometime before October 7, 1863, when George Hall received his citizenship papers. John Hall was born on April 1, 1838, when the family still lived in England. On November 1, 1875, he married Minnie Robb, another English immigrant.

John Hall acquired the land along John Road that now includes The Renaissance and The Links golf course. Holzworth’s book doesn’t indicate when Hall bought the land, but it is reasonable to assume it was sometime before his marriage or at least shortly afterward, because he made his living as a farmer. He built a large, brick house that contained seven fireplaces. Holzworth called it “an example that in former days a sizable fortune could be derived from agricultural pursuits; also the pride that was taken in building a fine home to enjoy the fruits of their labor.” That house served as the clubhouse for Homelinks, the golf course that preceded The Links. During construction for The Renaissance in the 1980s, the house was removed but the barn remained.

As with the house, exactly when Hall built the barn is not clear, but it likely was in the 1870s or 1880s. He needed it, because he had quite a farming operation. Here is how Holzworth described it (including his punctuation and spelling errors unchanged):

*John Hall became wealthy by farming and sheep raising and the buying and selling the wool of sheep raisers of Cuyahoga, Lorain and Medina Counties. In the days when business transactions were strictly “cash on the barrel head”, it was said that Hall kept enough cash on hand*

*to start a local bank. When remodeling the interior of the old home, workmen entertained the hope that somewhere they might find a roll of bills or a box of gold coins that Hall may have hidden away and forgotten about.*

*His son, George, followed with a profitable dairy and Holstien cattle breeding farm until 1926 when the 164 acre farm was acquired by the Hall Acres Incorporated, who planned an allotment laid out around a golf course. In the depression of the 1930s, the corporation went into bankruptcy and was acquired by the Home Links Golf Club, of which Roy Darby became the principle stockholder and president.*

For more on what had been planned for the original Homelinks development and what happened to those plans after the Great Depression cut them short, see Issue 3 of *Olmsted 200*, which came out August 1, 2013. (All issues of *Olmsted 200* are available online at <http://www.egovlink.com/olmsted/docs/menu/home.asp> thanks to the Olmsted Township trustees. Click on “Bicentennial Committee” and then the issue you want to read.)

The problem now is not that Renaissance officials wouldn’t like to save a barn with such a long history. “Oh, I know, believe me,” Skerda said. “This is very difficult for the people that live here and the people that work here – very strong ties to that structure here.”

*“This is very difficult for the people that live here and the people that work here – very strong ties to that structure here.”  
– Sandy Skerda*

Asked whether she had approached anyone about raising funds to save the barn, she said she had emailed the Historical Society a while back but never received a response. “If it wasn’t such an exorbitant amount, that might be an option for us, but that’s a lot of money,” Skerda said. “I think the efforts could take more time than what we have. It certainly is something that we have thought of, but it’s a lot of money to raise.”

### **Some believe it can be saved.**

However, certain people with experience in preserving old buildings think the case of the barn might not be so hopeless. One is Kevin Roberts, a lawyer who also is a member of Olmsted Falls City Council. He lives in a restored mid-19<sup>th</sup> century house on River Road and now is in the process of restoring the Samuel Lay House, built in 1845, at 7622 Columbia Road. (For more on that, see Issue 4 of *Olmsted 200*, from September 1, 2013.)

“I love old barns,” Roberts wrote in an email this past week, adding that he has one on a little farm he owns in Ashtabula County. He said he doesn’t know much about where to get the money for restoration of John Hall’s barn, but he added, “The Amish

guys can do this stuff in their sleep, and at a very, very low cost. They are all dying for work due to homebuilding coming to a standstill.”

*“The Amish guys can do this stuff in their sleep, and at a very, very low cost. They are all dying for work due to homebuilding coming to a standstill.” – Kevin Roberts*

It should be noted that Amish carpenters helped build the wooden, covered bridge on Main Street in Olmsted Falls – the Charles A. Harding Memorial Bridge – in 1998.

In addition, Roberts said, that if The Renaissance would decide not to keep the barn, “I would also be happy to have it moved to the Samuel Lay House, where the original barn collapsed from neglect.”

Another person with extensive experience in saving old buildings is Wendy Hoge Naylor. She and Diana Wellman run a historic preservation consulting firm called NaylorWellman LLC, which has offices in Chagrin Falls and Cleveland Heights. Although she was not familiar with John Hall’s barn, she liked it as soon as she saw a photo of it. “Oh, it’s beautiful,” she said.

Naylor said she got her start in historic preservation through community activism in Chagrin Falls to save buildings about 20 years ago. She was pleased to see that Olmsted Township adopted a master plan for comprehensive land use in May 2013 but said it would be helpful if the trustees would go further with an official statement about the importance of historic preservation. They have expressed such interest in informal statements in the past and have recently expressed concern about what might happen to John Hall’s barn.

Among the organizations Naylor suggested turning to for help is the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which she calls a “very strong” organization that will help people with resources, grants and sometimes on-site workshops. That organization and *Successful Farming* magazine ran a program from 1998 to 2009 to award barn owners who put forth exceptional efforts to preserve and maintain historic barns. Although that program is no longer in operation, the National Trust’s website (<http://www.preservationnation.org/>) still provides links to many of the resources developed for that program, such as a “Toolkit for Conserving Rural Character,” as well as advice for repairing old barns.

Included in the links at the National Trust’s website is one to a Census of Agriculture apparently conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2007 that counted the number of barns built prior to 1960. With 33,762 such barns, Ohio ranks sixth among the states. But the numbers are from a survey limited to farmers and ranchers with at least \$1,000 of annual income from agricultural production. The survey did not include barns not located on farms, such as John Hall’s barn.

Another organization Naylor said might help with saving John Hall’s barn is Heritage Ohio, the state’s official historic preservation organization. Its website (<http://www.heritageohio.org/>) includes information about the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit, including a map that shows a high concentration of those credits being used in Cuyahoga County.

Naylor also recommended the Cleveland Restoration Society as another source of information that might be useful in saving John Hall’s barn. The organization is committed to historic preservation projects in and around Cleveland. The society’s website (<http://www.clevelandrestoration.org/>) includes a link to a “Preservation Toolbox,” which is aimed at preserving old houses but has some advice that could be useful in preserving old barns. Under the subject, Cultural Implications, it says: “It is vitally important to keep the distinctive places in our country – those that fill us with pride and inspire a sense of community and a renewal of spirit.”

John Hall’s barn could serve as a focus of Olmsted’s bicentennial celebration, Naylor said, and that could include a fundraising campaign for its preservation. “This is a historic icon,” she said. Because the Eliza Jennings Services Corporation, which owns The Renaissance, is a nonprofit, charitable organization, she said, it would be relatively easy for it to set up a fund to which people could donate money to help save the barn.

“It’s perfect,” Naylor said. “People can donate money through the foundation and specify it’s for use for this barn restoration, and grant money can come in through there.”

In regard to the suggestion from Roberts about engaging the Amish to work on the barn, Naylor said that could help bring the restoration costs down from the six-figure amount cited by Skerda to perhaps \$50,000. However, she expressed skepticism at the “six-figure” estimate and suspected the cost could be much less. But even if the restoration costs are much lower than estimated, some sort of fundraising campaign would be needed, she said.

Throughout her many years of working on historic preservation projects, Naylor said, she often has found people sometimes are too quick to dismiss the possibility of saving old buildings. She said, “People who want to tear buildings down, the first thing out of their mouths is, ‘It’s in terrible shape. We have to tear it down.’”

Some of the buildings her firm has helped to save were in such poor condition that you literally could see through their walls, Naylor said, as she viewed a photo of John Hall’s barn. “The barn I’m looking at – you can save that barn,” she said.

*“You can save that barn. Personally, I really like [the idea of] doing a whole campaign to save the barn to not save the barn but to help The Renaissance. It is good marketing for The Renaissance.” – Wendy Naylor*

“Personally, I really like [the idea of] doing a whole campaign to save the barn to not save the barn but to help The Renaissance. It is good marketing for The Renaissance.”

When told about resources such as those recommended by Naylor, Skerda said, “I appreciate the information about them. I really do.” She agreed that it would be good to find a way to save the barn. “That would certainly be nice,” she said.

Anyone else with ideas about how to save John Hall’s barn should speak up now. The barn’s fate will be decided soon. It would be a shame to lose such a picturesque landmark representing Olmsted Township’s disappearing agricultural past. That loss would be even more poignant in a community that dates its founding from an agricultural act – James Geer’s planting of a small crop of corn in 1814 – rather than when the first settlers – James Geer and his family – moved into the township in 1815. It would be a sad way to mark the bicentennial.

If you have suggestions for how to save John Hall’s barn, send them to *Olmsted 200* at [wallacestar@hotmail.com](mailto:wallacestar@hotmail.com). Any ideas with merit will be forwarded to The Renaissance and the Olmsted Township trustees.

## **Saloons Kept Olmsted Stirred Up**

As 1875 began, Olmsted residents could have been preparing to celebrate a big anniversary. That spring marked 60 years since James Geer and his family moved into their newly built cabin to become the first settlers in Olmsted Township (although it would be another 14 years before the township acquired the Olmsted name). But judging from local newspapers that year, residents planned no celebration. Nor is there any indication they were aware of the anniversary.

Instead, their attention seemed to be on the local saloons, either patronizing them or working against them. An 1874 atlas of Cuyahoga County listed 14 businesses in Olmsted Falls and one more in West View, but it failed to make note of several saloons. Perhaps it was against the policy of the publisher to list such enterprises.

In his 1966 history of Olmsted, Walter Holzworth also mentioned the lack of their inclusion in the atlas’s business listing, but he noted that there were several saloons in and around Olmsted Falls. Christy Burns operated one in the basement of Moley’s store, and J.H. Jennings ran the Dew Drop Inn, where he “sold jug wine and hard cider which he made in his steam driven cider mill,” Holzworth wrote. “He also used the steam power to operate his chair factory. So along with his saloon and cigar business he sold furniture and household goods.”

The only other saloon he mentioned by the name of the proprietor was Herman Fenderbosch’s saloon, which was in the building that now contains the Olde Wine Cellar at 7990 Columbia Road. Initially, the saloon stood by itself, but eventually a pool room was added. That former pool room now houses Master Cleaners at 7994 Columbia.



*Fenderbosch's Saloon was expanded to include a pool hall. The former pool hall is now Master Cleaners at 7994 Columbia Road, and the former saloon contains the Olde Wine Cellar at 7990 Columbia Road.*

Holzworth wrote that Fenderbosch's Saloon was popular and its patrons included the town's "most influential men." His book tells the story of the mayor who was arrested by the town marshal for carousing at Fenderbosch's saloon. As soon as the mayor got out of jail, he fired the marshal and appointed a new one, who threw the mayor into jail again for "his roisterous toasts and treats to townsmen over his victory."

That jail building still exists, although it is bigger than it was in the 1800s and in a different location. In the 1870s, the jail was a wooden building about 12 feet by 14 feet with iron bars and a thick door. It was located where the parking lot between the Olmsted Community Church and the Moosehead restaurant are now. But in November 1924, the village moved it to Mill Street to serve as a garage for a fire truck. Today, it is close to that location at 25546 Mill Street and houses Jorgensen's Apiary. When he incorporated the jail into Grand Pacific Junction, Clint Williams lengthened the building several feet so he could put in a restroom.



*Some drinkers spent time in the old jail*

The mayor was far from the only person to enjoy the saloons to excess. Problems with saloon patrons spurred many complaints in the pages of the *Grindstone City Advertiser* and fueled a temperance movement by the people who opposed the saloons. For example, this item was in the newspaper on January 7, 1875: "A temperance lecture

was delivered here on Sunday evening by a Miss Weeden of Medina. It was pronounced the best that has been given in this village for some time. Miss Weeden is a Quakeress, and wears the Quaker garb.”

The October 7, 1875, edition of the *Advertiser* included this item: “Thos. Pollard in putting a new front into his building near the railroad, and we are told that the place is to be used for a saloon. It does seem as though we have enough of that kind of nuisance here now, more than should be supported in larger places.”

In the December 16, 1875, edition of the *Advertiser* ran a letter to the editor from writers identified only as “J & C.” This is what it said:

*A few people of our town, on the side of temperance, lately put forth another effort, to keep young men and old, from going the way of the intemperate. A petition to the village council, asking that all saloons and places for the playing of games of chance and skill, be closed at a certain early hour in the evening, was circulated extensively for signatures, of which it received but very few. Our foremost, respected business men refused to sign it, for reasons obvious to themselves. But this can not be considered evidence that they are drunkards, or that they wish to see their sons such. We doubt very much that these people, with their petition, are employing the best means to accomplish their end; but we do not at all doubt their zeal or sincerity. Still we must remind them that zeal must be accompanied by good judgment and enterprise, for over-zeal harms itself and does no one good. A healthy mind is active and must have recreation in sport, etc., after labor, and when a saloon is the most attractive place in a village, it will in, consequence, receive the majority of patronage.*

*It seems to use that these well-meaning temperance people would succeed better, if they would start a counter attraction, to out-do the saloons in the town. Make your homes more attractive, it that may be. Or, have a reading room, where all classes can meet, to spend a little time reading or conversing. It could be easily supported, for all who attend saloons are willing to pay for comforts they enjoy. It is also a fact, “restrictions” and “coldness” of society, drives many boys from what we call “good society.” Then, there being no other resort, they at first, reluctantly, enter the saloons. Such cases are numerous. We put the question here: who is to blame if they finally come out toppers and ruined men?*

Two weeks later, the December 30 *Advertiser* included this item: “Mr. Holton has at last started a ‘counter attraction,’ as referred to by J. & C, in the ‘petition’ article published some time since in your paper. We wish him success.” There is no indication what kind of counterattraction to the saloons was started.

Toward the end of that winter, the newspaper reported in its March 16, 1876, edition that the village council had passed an ordinance “closing all billiard saloons and



places where games of chance are played, from half-past nine o'clock P.M., until six o'clock A.M." Subsequent issues of the paper failed to report on the success or failure of that action. The issue of repeated interest that year was the construction of the railroad depot west of town.

*"We have now no less than seven places where intoxicating liquors are sold in some shape, surely the people of this village need not go dry."*

In 1877, the February 22 edition of the newspaper reported: "J.R. Shaw has aroused the indignation of his old neighbors by renting his place to be used for a saloon. Perhaps it will be a profitable investment. Time will decide

that. We have now no less than seven places where intoxicating liquors are sold in some shape, surely the people of this village need not go dry."

### **Woman's case aroused others.**

Two months later, the newspaper ran an item that was sure to raise the concerns of many readers. In the April 19, 1877, issue, it said: "A drunken woman was also one of the attractions on Monday. She was tumbling about the street, but was picked up and taken to the saloon of Mr. Fenderbosch where she was taken care of. Mr. Fenderbosch claims that she came to his place while she was sober. He sold her a half pint of whisky which she still had when she was taken back there, but where she got the stuff that made her drunk deponent saith not. That woman has a family of small children at home who need a mother's care continually. It is only about three weeks since this same woman was taken through the streets to her home in a beastly state of intoxication. Her character is well known by every dealer in liquors, and every person who will sell any intoxicating drinks to such a person will be well to understand that they are violating a law which makes them liable to a heavy fine."

That was not the end of that matter. The May 3 edition of the paper had this item: "The woman spoken of in our last communication, requests us to state that she is not an habitual drunkard. This statement we will expect her to prove correct if proven at all. She does not deny her condition on the days spoken of, but has resolved to abstain from all intoxicating liquors hereafter, and it is hoped that for her own credit, and for the sake of her children, that she may be able to resist temptation and throw off the appetite for strong drink."

Because the correspondent avoided using the name of the woman, it is hard to tell whether a subsequent item a year and a half later, in the January 16, 1879, edition of the newspaper referred to the same woman and her family, but if it didn't, the case was very similar. Here is what the item said: "There is a case of destitution a little east of the village that shows the result of the use of too much whisky very plainly. The family consists of the father, mother and four children, the eldest child being six years old and the youngest but four weeks. The father is an industrious laborer, and earns enough, with

what he raises on the few acres of land he has, to keep his family well, but the mother spends everything for drink, carrying off corn and potatoes and trading them for whisky. She is now very sick from exposure, and the children are nearly naked, except the youngest, which a resident of the village kindly furnished with clothing a day or two ago. The father is obliged to stay at home and care for the family, giving him no chance to earn anything for their support. – *Leader*” [*Leader* seemed to be the nom de plume of the Olmsted correspondent.]

A similar item appeared in the June 19, 1879, edition of the paper: “One of the most disgraceful scenes of later years that has been uncovered for public gaze in this village, occurred last Saturday evening, and was witnessed by about seventy-five men and boys. A woman living in this vicinity has been in the habit of drinking to excess; and then going to the stores and places of public resort and using obscene and abusive language and raising a row generally. The citizens, thinking that ‘forbearance had ceased to be a virtue,’ determined to put an embargo on these street scenes, the next time they were repeated. Saturday night she again appeared upon the streets loaded with the requisite material for a row, i.e. whisky, accompanied by her two little children and a dog. After a half hour’s incessant firing with her tongue, Marshal Mason separated her from her screaming children and dog with much difficulty, and escorted her to the lockup where she remained until Monday morning, when she was brought before Mayor Adams, and fined \$2 and costs for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. If society has one public enemy whose criminality surpasses another it is assuredly the wretch who will sell whisky to a woman (because he is permitted to do so by the law) and witness the above drama unmoved and indifferent. An intoxicated woman, two little children, a dog (who realized the situation far better than its mistress did) trying to pull her from the officers of the law – pleasant thoughts. It is but act second, scene first; a skeleton, whose unwritten pages time will yet fill. Oh, if they, now in the spirit world could but see the fruits of the seed sown by them, because it was a profitable vocation, and could witness its growth, ‘This is my work’ would be ringing in their ears throughout eternity.”

Back in 1877, the Olmsted Falls correspondent filed a report on November 12 with this observation: “Although much temperance work has been performed in our village we can, today see no decrease in the amount of liquor drunk. Instead of a decrease in the number of tipplers they seem to be on the increase. Some of the reformed have gone back to seek that which once stung them, and others who were never before known to indulge, take an occasional spree. What we can see daily upon our streets ought to be sufficient warning to any man of reason. What can be the prospect of a young man who gets drunk? It will make a finished tramp or desperado of him in time. Francis Murphy, himself, would be a failure in this place. Yet we believe that all temperance work is not lost, every good work spoken has its effect somewhere and at some time.”

(Francis Murphy was a temperance evangelist based in Pittsburgh who persuaded millions of people to sign pledges to abstain from liquor.)

Perhaps because there was not much good to report in the cause of temperance, it was several months before the July 4, 1878, edition of the newspaper reported that the

Good Templars Lodge had passed a resolution on the evening of July 1 and requested that it be published. The Good Templars were a fraternal group dedicated to temperance. This was the resolution:

*Resolved*, that we as a body congratulate the Temperance element of Berea upon the sudden departure of one of their citizens has taken up his abode in Olmsted Falls and located himself in our midst where our people view him in his habitual disrespectful avocations. That knowing he will care nothing for the censure of public opinion, and only congratulate himself in the pleasure of his boon companions, treating the costliest jewels of society as his legitimate plunder. That we deeply sympathize with our community, where in he (with the rest of his clan) must vegetate and flourish. That we as a society have no interest in the prolongation of his worthless existence, and we consider it in conformity with the highest code of morals, to disincumber from devastating presence. That we look, upon the selling of liquor as a murderous business and will do all in our power to drive the traffic from the pale of civilization.

*Resolved* That a copy of the above be printed in the Olmsted column of the REPUBLICAN AND ADVERTISER.

F.O. Bradford, W.G.T.

A.J. Pillars, Rec. Sec.

[Editor's note: In quotations from old newspapers, odd spellings and uses of punctuation are copied as closely as possible from the original sources. Also, as the above reference indicates, the *Grindstone City Advertiser* had gone through a name change – actually a few name changes. In 1876, it became the *Cuyahoga Republican*. In 1877, it became the *Cuyahoga Republican and Advertiser*. But by the end of 1877, the name was shortened to the *Republican and Advertiser*. In 1879, the name changed again to the *Berea Advertiser* and stayed that way until 1909.]

The July 25, 1878, of the paper had this item: “Casper Miller has purchased the Northrop homestead and is building a place for a saloon near the lumber yard. We shall not say success to him.” Perhaps related to the saloon business was the item that preceded that one: “Olmsted Falls has a jail, and the same was christened on the Fourth. This place has furnished its share of criminals this summer, and with one exception they have been punished.”

By the way, the Northrop homestead included 100 acres of land in 1875, when Julia Carter Northrup died. It stretched from Plum Creek to Fitch Road. The Northrop house, which was built in 1842, still stands on a hill overlooking the curve along Columbia Road. The address is 7872 Columbia Road.

On August 21, 1879, the *Advertiser* reported: “The last of the long mooted reasons for enacting so little temperance legislation of late, exploded at the recent meeting of the Council. The expressions have almost become hackneyed, that firstly: no Marshal dare enforce an Ordinance; secondly: no man dare enter a complaint to the

Council. The first named reason has been discounted since Mr. Wm. Mason has filled the office of Marshal, as all Ordinances have been impartially and strictly enforced. Mr. Geo. Boeman disposed of the second excuse at the last meeting of the Council.”

One week later, this item appeared: “Temperance pledges are being circulated in the village and numerous signed.”

*“Temperance pledges are being circulated in the village and numerous signed.”*

The September 25, 1879, issue of the *Advertiser* provided a long account of the village council meeting that was held beginning at 8:45 on the evening of September 20. Included was this item:

*The temperance Ordinance was then read. Its import was to prohibit the sale of intoxicating drinks after named hours, but not close the places where sold. The Ordinance was ineffectual – so thought the Council. Councilman J.T. Barnum then read an Ordinance drafted by himself, and classed as Ordinance No. 2. This not only prohibited the sale of liquors but also closed the saloons. This seemed to give satisfaction.*

*On motion the rules were suspended and Ordinance No. 2 voted for or against on its first reading. Messrs. Barnum, Fitch, Reynolds, Pillars and Pollard voted in the affirmative, and Mr. Moley in the negative.*

*After voting an appropriation of \$10 to pay the fees of the Marshal’s attorney, etc., the meeting adjourned at the midnight hour.*

*We give the Ordinance as passed:*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2.**

*An Ordinance to regulate ale, beer and porter houses, and other places of public resort for the purpose of tippling and intemperance;*

*Sec. 1. Be it ordained by the Council of the Incorporated Village of Olmsted Falls, that all ale, beer and porter houses, or other places of public resort, for the purpose of tippling and intemperance, shall be closed between the hours of 9:30 o’clock P.M., and 6 o’clock A.M., and from 10:00 o’clock P.M., on Saturday until 6 o’clock A.M., Monday following.*

*Sec. 2. It shall be unlawful to sell or offer for sale within the Corporation limits of this Village, vinous, malt, or other intoxicating liquor, between the hours of 9:30 P.M., and 6 A.M., or at any hour on Sunday; this provision shall not apply to liquor sold on an order of a medical practitioner.*

*Sec. 3. It shall be unlawful for any persons visiting any of the aforementioned places, to refuse to disperse when the hour of closing (provided in this Ordinance,) shall arrive, or to in any manner prevent the closing of the same.*

*Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the Marshal to arrest all persons found violating any of the foregoing sections of this Ordinance, and bring*

*them before the Mayor for trial; and any citizen may on oath cause the arrest of any person for violating the above Ordinance, and prosecute them to conviction.*

*Sec. 5. Any person convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance, shall be fined any sum not exceeding \$5 and costs for the first offense, and for any subsequent offense, any sum not exceeding \$10 and costs, and stand committed until paid.*

*This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and legal publication.*

On October 16, 1879, the *Advertiser* included this item: “The Temperance Ordinance went into effect last week Tuesday.” That ordinance might have had the desired effect, because reports about problems with drinking in Olmsted Falls disappeared for about a year.

However, an item in the December 25, 1879, edition gave a rare mention of a saloon outside of Olmsted Falls. The report was filed from what was called District No. 8 in reference to the sub-district of the Olmsted Township school district. That was the southeastern-most corner of the township. The school was along Sharp Road near Sprague Road. The correspondent from that area, who used the pseudonym, “Nomad,” referred to the Pine Tavern but did not say exactly where it was.

The next mention of a saloon-related problem in Olmsted Falls appeared in the October 28, 1880, edition of the newspaper. It is a rambling item that is hard to decipher for someone who was not there at the time, but it refers to a “row in one of the village saloons” and generally laments what happened when alcohol got the best of otherwise intelligent people. The items ends with these words: “*Boys don’t drink!*”



*Olmsted Falls in the late 1800s still had unpaved streets that were travelled by horses and wagons.*

After that, saloon-related news about Olmsted was absent from the paper's pages for the next two years. On July 27, 1882, the Olmsted correspondent, who was identified as A.J.P., had this: "Rev. David Tatum will lecture on temperance in the M.E. Church next Sunday evening. Go." Apparently, A.J.P. did go, because the August 3 issue included this: "Rev. David Tatum delivered a decidedly warm Prohibition speech in the M.E. church Sunday evening. A \$3.20 house greeted him." It is interesting to keep in mind that the Methodist Episcopal church (now the Grand Pacific Wedding Chapel at 7970 Columbia Road) was just a couple of doors down from the Fenderbosch Saloon (now the Olde Wine Cellar at 7990 Columbia).

But within a few months, saloon problems were back in the news. The October 12, 1882, edition of the newspaper included this item: "At the last meeting of the Council it was decided to enforce the nine o'clock ordinance, closing saloons in the village. The saloons in question have abused all moral and legal rights of society, keeping open at all hours of the night, and it is reported the state law regarding the selling of intoxicating liquor to minors has been violated in some instances. It is a b-a-d business boys."

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One week later, the paper mentioned that a prayer meeting for women would be held at the home of Mrs. T.C. Stokes and that there was talk of organizing a chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

As 1882 ended, struggles over what to do about the saloons in Olmsted Falls were far from over. In the years

ahead, those battles would include more ordinances from the village council, a lawsuit and attempts in both Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township to use ballots to put the saloons out of business. The next issue of *Olmsted 200* will have more on those actions. (For the first article on this subject, see Issue 9 of *Olmsted 200* from February 1, 2014.)

## **Future of Loomis House Becomes Unclear Again**

The lead article in Issue 6 of *Olmsted 200* from November 1, 2013, was about the house that Newton Loomis built in 1834. For many years, that house, which now is located at 7850 Main Street, served as the Olmsted Falls branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library. But when the new library opened along Mapleway Drive in February 2013, the Loomis house became vacant.

The plan then was for Olmsted Falls to use a \$150,000 Community Development Block Grant to convert the building into a senior center. However, as the *Sun Post-Herald* reported this past week, city officials have decided to return the federal grant and

not use the old house as a senior center. Instead, Mayor Ann Marie Donegan wants to seek another \$150,000 grant to convert a storage space at City Hall into a senior center. Donegan reportedly suggested the city should either lease the Loomis house or sell it to a business while at least two members of council favored renting out the building.

## Still to Come

The next issue of *Olmsted 200* will have more about the 19<sup>th</sup> century fights over drinking and Olmsted's saloons. Still in the works is an article about the history of Olmsted's greenhouses. Anyone with information about greenhouses, present or past, is invited to share it. Also, old photos of greenhouses or anything relating to them would be welcome. And again, anyone with suggestions for saving John Hall's barn is encouraged to share those ideas.

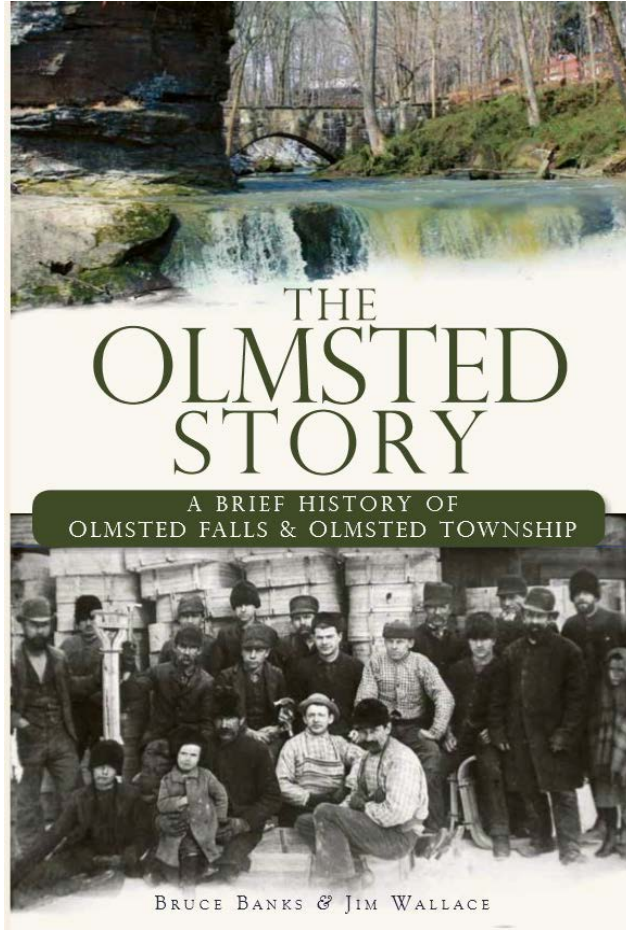
If you know of others who would like to receive *Olmsted 200* by email, please feel free to forward it to them. They can get on the distribution list by sending a request to: [wallacestar@hotmail.com](mailto:wallacestar@hotmail.com). *Olmsted 200* now has readers not only in several states, including California, Arizona, Texas, Florida, Massachusetts and Maine, but also as far away as Mongolia.

Your questions and comments about *Olmsted 200* are welcome. Perhaps there is something about Olmsted's history that you would like me to pull out of my extensive archives. Or perhaps you have information or photos about the community's history that you would like to share.

If you have missed any of the past issues of *Olmsted 200* or want to share them with someone else, all of them now can be found on Olmsted Township's website. Go to <http://www.egovlink.com/olmsted/docs/menu/home.asp> and click on "Bicentennial Committee."

Except where otherwise noted, all articles in *Olmsted 200* are written by Jim Wallace. Written contributions and photos, as well as comments and questions about items in this newsletter, will be considered for publication. Send any correspondence by email to: [wallacestar@hotmail.com](mailto:wallacestar@hotmail.com).

*Olmsted 200* is written, researched and edited by Jim Wallace, who is solely responsible for its content. He is co-author (with Bruce Banks) of ***The Olmsted Story: A Brief History of Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township***, published in 2010 by The History Press of Charleston, S.C. ***The Olmsted Story*** is available at Clementine's Victorian Restaurant at Grand Pacific Junction and through online booksellers.



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