



Olmsted 200

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

Issue 11

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Contents

Expert Thinks Olmsted Township Barn Can Be Saved	1
Damp Site Could Become a Damp Sight Better	5
No Bars Held: Citizens Found It Hard to Fight Saloons	6
Still to Come	14

Expert Thinks Olmsted Township Barn Can Be Saved

Despite this past weekend’s snowstorm, winter is over in northeastern Ohio, so a decision on the fate of John Hall’s barn at The Renaissance along John Road draws nearer. An official from another Ohio township with experience in preserving such buildings has said he thinks the barn can be saved, but an inside inspection is needed to determine what needs to be done.

As reported in Issue 10 of *Olmsted 200*, officials at The Renaissance are considering tearing the barn down, because they have been told it would cost too much to save it. But others with



experience in historic preservation believe the barn can – and should – be saved, and the cost of preserving it is likely to be much less than the six-figure estimate that Sandy Skerda, executive director at The Renaissance, said she had received.

An email to Skerda late last month was not answered in time for this month's publication, but she said late in February that Renaissance officials were in an "investigation period" on what to do about the barn. She didn't know how long that period might last but said they were "trying to move things along as quickly as we can."

John Hall, whose farm once occupied the land where The Renaissance and The Links golf course are now, built the barn in 1880, according to a stone in the foundation with his initials and the date.



The barn has lasted for 134 years, surviving the construction of The Renaissance in the 1980s, when Hall's three-story brick house was torn down.

The township trustees are interested in the barn's preservation. Recently, when township officials from across Ohio were in the area for a meeting, Trustee Sherri Lippus used the opportunity to show the barn to Barry Tiffany, the administrator of Sugarcreek Township near Dayton.

Tiffany owned a construction company for many years and also had a side business involved with "architectural antiques." He said, "We disassembled old post-and-beam barns with the hand-hewn beams and things like that and did some historic restoration work also." Many homes built from the 1860s through the 1880s were framed in the same way as the barns, he said.

When Tiffany was with West Chester Township, which also is in southwestern Ohio, he was involved in disassembling, moving and reassembling the Muhlhauser Barn, which was built in 1881 and was once part of the Muhlhauser-Windish Brewing Company.

"It really turned out nice," he said. "It's beautiful."

During his visit to Olmsted Township, Tiffany was able to view John Hall's barn only from the outside. To give it a good assessment, he would need to see it from the inside, but he liked what he saw.

"It does have a stone foundation, which is always positive, because then you don't have posts going directly to the ground, and that's where we see a lot of beam rot," he said. "And once that happens, it really messes with the integrity of the barn. Now, that's not to say that there's not been water coming in on the top of that foundation wall and doing the same thing, but it didn't appear to be the case."

Tiffany did notice that the wall on the north side of the barn (the side away from John Road), is bulging a bit. Without getting inside, he couldn't say why, but he was encouraged that it didn't seem to be leaning. In other words, the boards are still straight but are pushed out a bit toward the top.

"Chances are somebody messed with the integrity of the barn on that end at some point," Tiffany said. "It altered the integrity of the framing on that end, and that's what's causing the push. I don't know. Without getting inside to see that, I couldn't say. But certainly, from the rest of the structure, it doesn't look like a barn that I would say needs to be torn down."

The expense of repairing the barn would go up if the beam running across that end would have to be replaced, he said. That beam could be 12 inches to 16 inches square, Tiffany estimated.



"If that's been cut or lost its integrity in some respect, that's an expensive proposition," he said. "There'd have to be considerable disassembly."

Tiffany compared it to Lincoln Logs, because if you want to replace a piece part of the way down a wall, everything above it also must be removed to get to that piece. "So if that's shot, that could be very expensive to put back in or restore," he said.

Kevin Roberts, a lawyer and member of Olmsted Falls City Council, lives in a restored 19th century house on River Road and is restoring the Samuel Lay House on Columbia Road. He has suggested engaging Amish carpenters to fix John Hall's barn for

the quality of their work and their ability to do it less expensively than others. Tiffany agrees that would be a good approach.

“Oh, gosh, yes,” he said. “Those guys are fantastic at that kind of thing.”

In the Dayton-Cincinnati area where he lives, Tiffany said, Amish carpenters do not cost less than other workers, but that’s largely because of the expense of bringing them in from where they live. However, that’s not much of a factor in northeastern Ohio, because many Amish people live nearby, he said.

The bottom line, Tiffany said, is that John Hall’s barn likely can be saved, but someone must examine it from the inside to determine the cost.

“Generally speaking, there’s very few that can’t be saved,” he said. “Again, one of the big determining factors is post rot. How much decay is there to the main beams inside the barn?”

His guess, based on the location of the barn, is that its beams are probably oak, “so they tend to do very well as far as age. Without water contact, they’ll hold up pretty darn well.”

Tiffany suggested that a local fundraising effort could help ensure that the barn would be preserved. “If you can get private donors to raise the money, a lot of times people will get behind that, because it is a landmark in the community,” he said. A key component of that effort could be to get The Renaissance to agree that the building should have a use after restoration, he said.

“One of the most challenging fundraisers you’ll ever take on is: Let’s restore something to just let it sit there and we can all look at it and not touch it,” Tiffany said. “If you can get it restored and have a purpose for it after the fact that benefits the public use, I would think you could raise the fund pretty quick.”

For example, he suggested, one use could be for The Renaissance to rent out the barn for parties. Perhaps, he said, The Renaissance could deed it over to Olmsted Township or another nonprofit entity to operate it for that purpose.

“With the golf course right there and The Renaissance, I think they could definitely find it’s rented a lot of the time,” Tiffany said.

Again, he speaks from experience. At its original location, the Muhlhauser Barn stood on the grounds of Ohio Casualty, an insurance company near Fairfield. Employees of Ohio Casualty wanted the barn to be saved, so they contacted West Chester Township and descendants of the Muhlhauser family about it. The Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty and the Muhlhauser family collected the funds needed to dismantle the barn and move it to the township’s Beckett Park, where it was reconstructed.

That was in 2008. Since then, it has served as a senior center and rental facility. In 2012, the Muhlhauser Barn was a finalist in *Cincy* magazine's list of best places to have a wedding.

Saving John Hall's barn would be a great way to celebrate Olmsted's bicentennial.

Damp Site Could Become a Damp Sight Better

Another project that would be a good way to mark Olmsted's bicentennial is being considered. The project would make the foundation of Damp's Mill easier to see, especially in the summertime.

In the winter and early spring, it's not much trouble. All you have to do is go out on the observation deck behind Falls Family Restaurant. Look down and to the right, and you will see the sandstone walls that once supported a two-story wooden structure that was a prominent part of the skyline of Olmsted Falls for decades.



Snow frosted the stones of the foundation of Damp's Mill on Monday.

However, when the trees and other vegetation near the observation deck sprout leaves in the spring, the view of Damp's Mill disappears until those leaves fall away in the autumn. Keeping the mill visible throughout the year would be as simple as trimming away some of those plants during the warm-weather months. When the idea was suggested to Mayor Ann Marie Donegan this week, she expressed interest and soon had the Service Department looking into it.

Making sure Damp's Mill can be seen year-round would be a much less expensive bicentennial project than saving John Hall's barn, but the mill has something in common with the barn. A few decades ago, the mill's foundation could have been lost to

the fading memories of longtime residents. When Mill River Plaza and the condominiums next to it were built in the 1980s, there was no guarantee the mill's foundation would be saved. But Bruce Banks, who had long researched and preserved much of Olmsted's history, persuaded the people building the Mill River project so preserve what was left of the namesake mill that stood along Rocky River.

An article by Banks in Issue 6 of *Olmsted 200* last October gave a full account of the history of the mill. The short account is that Col. H.N. Whitbeck had the mill built about 1870. Ed Damp soon took over operation of the mill and then bought it in 1876. Damp ran the mill, sometimes in partnership with others, until he sold it in 1906. The flood of 1913 wrecked it. In 1937-1938, the wooden structure was torn down, leaving only the stone foundation. Fifty years later, even that might have disappeared. Now, the challenge is to keep the view of it from disappearing for half of each year. If the city keeps the vegetation trimmed, it will stay in view.

No Bars Held: Citizens Found It Hard to Fight Saloons

Life in Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township in the 1880s was divided along the line of drinking. Those who patronized the saloons did so with gusto that sometimes spilled into the streets with fights and other activities that upset the non-drinkers. Those opposed to drinking continually looked for ways to curb it, but they generally were not very effective.

Notices of meetings of the Women's Christian Temperance Union occasionally appeared in the newspaper. For example, the West View column in the July 23, 1883, issue of the *Advertiser* included this item: "Miss Sarah Walker of the W.C.T.U. last evening delivered an interesting address on temperance before a large and appreciative audience at the W.M. Church of this place, after which a temperance union was formed of 38 members which Miss Walker stated was the largest one she had ever organized, which is conclusive evidence of the good impression her able address had made. Miss W. left this morning for Rockport where she has an appointment for this evening to speak on the same subject. She has the thanks and best wishes of the majority of the people of this place."

(Rockport was the township that has become the cities of Lakewood, Rocky River and Fairview Park, as well as the western end of Cleveland.)

On August 30, 1883, the newspaper's Olmsted Falls column noted that the Rev. D. F. Bradley would speak on temperance that Sunday evening at the Congregational Church. "Mr. Bradley is an able speaker and will do the subject justice," the correspondent wrote. "Give him a full house."

On October 9, 1883, Ohio held an election on a prohibition amendment to the state Constitution. Although it received more than 80,000 more yes votes than no votes (321,189 to 240,975), it did not receive the majority of all votes cast as required by the Constitution, so it did not take effect. However, the proposed amendment received strong

support in Olmsted. As the *Advertiser* reported in its October 11 issue, the influence of temperance women seemed to have an effect: “The election last Tuesday is said to be one of the most quiet and orderly ever held here, owing to the presence of some seventy-five ladies who served lunch at noon and evening. The Olmsted ladies did nobly. Too much praise cannot be given them. With their help, Olmsted gave a prohibition vote of 256. Among the number were ‘Jew and Gentile,’ temperate and intemperate, who expressed their honest conviction of the liquor traffic. We are the banner township in this county excluding Bedford. Three cheers for Olmsted!”

Although the October 9 vote did nothing to curb drinking in Olmsted, it did seem to stir up passions on both sides of the issue. The November 1, 1883, edition of the *Advertiser* had a long column from F.A. Combs of West View titled, “THE LIQUOR QUESTION,” in which the writer praised local women for their work on behalf of prohibition in the election on October 9. Among its long, rambling comments was the hope that women’s work on temperance might lead to their getting the right to vote: “It has been through the temperance work that the door has been opened into the election hall, and now that the entrance has been made no retreat seems necessary, and perhaps this is the very avenue through which woman shall reach the ballot.”

Unfortunately for the women, it would be almost four more decades before they were granted the right to vote. That happened in 1920 with the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which came just months after the 18th Amendment put Prohibition into effect nationwide.

But within two months of the 1883 vote on Ohio’s failed prohibition amendment, two items in the *Advertiser*’s December 6 issue indicated at least a few Olmsted residents were not willing to let the subject go. One said: “A petition has been circulated asking the Village Council to remove the saloons out of the corporation.”

The other said: “All citizens of the township who are in favor of, and willing to assist in, the formation of a society, the object of which to be the enforcement of law and preservation of order, and furthering the best interests of the township, are requested to meet at the Congregational church on Saturday evening of this week.”

One week later, the December 13 issue had this: “A Law and Order League was organized last Saturday evening as previously announced. A constitution was adopted and a part of the officers elected when the meeting adjourned to meet next Tuesday evening, at Cong. church. A large attendance of the citizens of the township is desired.”

Separately in that issue, this notice appeared:

TO THE PEOPLE OF OLMSTED

Pursuant to previous notice a number of citizens met at Congregational church, Dec. 8th, and formed a society to be known as the Law and Order League of Olmsted. The purpose of this league can best be stated by a quotation from the constitution: “We declare this to be our aim

and purpose, viz.: to aid and support our lawfully appointed officers in enforcing law and the preservation of order, to build up a strong public sentiment in favor of the same, and to use all honorable means to advance the cause of law, order, morality, and the best interests of the township.” The meeting was adjourned to Tuesday evening, Dec. 18th. Let there be a general turnout.

S.C. LAY, Sec.

The December 13, 1883, paper also ran two letters to the editor. One was from someone identified as “Business Man,” who questioned the motives behind organizing the Law and Order League. Among his comments were: “You say certain things are done here that are in violation of law. What are they? Selling intoxicants to minors by our saloonists. Did you ever try putting meat before a dog, and the result was he ate it, of course. Correct the nature of the dog and you have corrected him. But the softest way is if you don’t want the meat eat not to put it there. Keep your boys away and they wont get liquors sold them. Keeping open saloons after stated hours; this is a village matter and the rest of the township have nothing to do with it. Officials were put up by both sides on that question, when the ordinance was first enacted and those for enforcing it were fairly defeated. Majority rules and why do you, a minority, keep complaining that things do not go as you want them. It is very evident that you are counting on more of you than there really are. Violating the Sabbath, disturbing the peace, and gambling are all mentioned. Who is this Sunday for? Why for us to rest on. That’s it exactly and we propose to rest just the way we want to – if by getting out on the street to express our joy, etc., tends to rest us on Sunday, there we go.”

The newspaper made it clear that it did not endorse the views of “Business Man” and gave someone using the name “LAW AND ORDER” a chance to respond. He denounced “Business Man” and then explained that some citizens had been considering the formation of the Law and Order League for weeks or months: “It was not, and is not, the intention of these persons to proceed to ‘prosecution’ but rather to bring a pressure to bear on the proper officers to see that laws are enforced and order preserved. In regard to violations of law, the officials say – ‘Why do you not report these violations and demand the punishment of the offenders.’ Well it is seldom that a man can be found, I am sorry to say, who will do this, knowing that he will array the whole class of offenders against him personally, and besides will often fail to receive the practical support of those who apparently sympathize with them. But if a goodly number of them should do this unitedly, the results would be far more effectual, and the ‘odium’ much less....”

Despite having the support of the newspaper, the Law and Order League had trouble getting many Olmsted citizens involved. It quickly fell apart, as this item in the paper on December 20 indicated: “The Law and Order society met on Tuesday evening, as adjourned, in the Town Hall. The citizens appointed themselves into different committees to stay at home and did so. Unless more interest is taken such an organization will not receive enough support to make it effective. Meeting adjourned to call of president.”

The end of 1883 seemed to be the end of the Law and Order League, but “Business Man” got the last word. Another long opinion piece he wrote on December 21, appeared in the January 3 issue of the *Advertiser*. But in his effort to mock his opponents, he revealed much about the problems that drove them to try to close the saloons: “Certainly they will not deny that saloonists sell at any and all times, and to minors, drunkards, or whomsoever asks for it. That men come from there drunk, and fight upon our streets, defy officers to arrest them? Not a very unusual thing either. Will it be denied that gambling has been and is going on in our several saloons night and day? Or that our officials are seen to enter these places, and reported to have taken part? Law enforcers and law breakers combined are not so very hard to find here, as some have found to their cost.”

After several more sentences of repudiating the Law and Order League, “Business Man” wrote this: “Several of you have been heard to say since my last article that personally you were not in favor of enacting any more laws against saloon keepers. What reason was given for this? Simply that they were certain they would not be enforced, and become like other enactments here, dead letters.”

The February 7, 1884, edition of the paper had another, briefer contribution from “Business Man” that included this: “If you don’t care we should like to know what has become of that law and order crowd. They must have given up the idea of having the streets cleared of all pedestrians by 11 o’clock, nor do they attempt to break up the auxiliary brass band meeting on Sunday. They have some very soft ideas.”



The Olde Wine Cellar, on the right, now occupies the building that once housed Fenderbosch’s Saloon. Master Cleaners, on the left, is where the pool hall was. This photo was taken during last Saturday’s snowstorm.

A few weeks later, the newspaper indicated in its February 21 issue that the anti-drinking people were trying to stir up another effort. This item appeared in the Olmsted Falls column: "The ladies temperance organization met at Mrs. L.B. Adams' on Tuesday evening and made arrangements for circulating the petition to the legislature."

The March 6, 1884, issue had this contribution: "I am a reader of your paper and would like to say a few words. Why is not the Sabbath kept here? Why not as it is in the village of Oberlin? They have a better influence there, no shooting or any gambling allowed. 'Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.'"

Those last two items indicated that opponents of the saloons might be about to organize another effort against them. But nothing seemed to come of it. Mentions of saloons and temperance vanished from the columns about Olmsted for months after that.

The May 1, 1885, edition of the *Advertiser* mentioned that the Methodist Episcopal Church had a temperance lecture the previous Thursday evening, but the paper had nothing more on the issue of drinking in Olmsted Falls until June 26, 1885. It said: "There is a certain few around here, who of late have developed quite an elevated tendency, and judging from their actions, the saloons must have a great fascination for them."

After a few more months of no mention of the saloons, the October 2, 1885, issue of the paper had this item: "The Council passed an ordinance that all saloons must be closed at 9:30 o'clock every evening except Saturday, when they are allowed to keep their (front) doors open until 10 o'clock. Marshal Taylor is on deck every night to ring the cerfew and to extinguish the lights if the law is not immediately complied with." Nothing more was reported about that ordinance the rest of that fall and winter.

However, a report dated March 15, 1886, from West View noted that a local organization of the Women's Christian Temperance Union had been formed that afternoon at the Methodist Episcopal Church under the direction of Mrs. J.P. Foote from Cleveland. The item said that the women even persuaded eight men to join them.

Another two months rolled by before the Olmsted Falls column on May 14, 1886, reported on the latest meeting of the village council. It included this: "The motion was made and found a second to the effect that in days of yore there was an ordinance made to close saloons at 9:30 p.m., but the busy Olmsted officers had forgot to notify the keepers of such place, consequently this motion to have 50 notices printed for distribution comes up, and you may next expect some additions to vigilance committee. Johnson's motion that the Marshal enforce the ordinance regarding gambling, etc., set aside for further consideration was carried."

It is interesting to note that "days of yore," when the saloon closing ordinance was passed, was only seven months earlier. Also, apparently the authorities in Olmsted Falls did not operate by the motto, "Ignorance of the law is no excuse."

The West View column in that same edition of the paper contained an item about the Prohibition Club's attempt to meet on Friday evening, May 7, at Town Hall in Olmsted Falls. But the township clerk, who had the key to the hall, failed to show up, so club members held their meeting in front of the building. The Rev. S. Early decided not to give the speech he had prepared, but one young man nevertheless walked up and joined the club. Over the next few weeks, comments were exchanged in the Olmsted Falls and the West View columns of the paper over who was to blame for the Town Hall not being opened for the club's meeting, but they did nothing to advance the cause of the club. Apparently, the dispute with the clerk was settled, because by late July, the paper announced that the Prohibition Club had scheduled another meeting at Town Hall on August 6.

Reports in the paper became more interesting beginning with the July 9, 1886, issue. L.B. Adams, who then was the Olmsted Falls reporter, had these two related items:

Suit was brought against Wm. Wagner, by F.R. Lay, for violating the ordinance prohibiting saloons being open after 9 p.m. The case was called Tuesday before Mayor Damp, but a hearing was postponed until Friday that the defendant might have time to procure more testimony.

A petition signed by prominent citizens of township and corporation asking for the passage of the local option clause of the Dow Law, section 11, to abolish the sale of intoxicating drink. The petition will have considerable weight, and a spirited defense will be made. This was also laid on the table.

In the first item, it is interesting to note that the reference was to an ordinance requiring saloons to close at 9 p.m. It's not clear whether the council had passed a new ordinance that went unreported in the newspaper or it was a matter of forgetting that the ordinance passed ten months earlier called for a 9:30 closing time.

The second item refers to the Dow Law, which the Ohio legislature had enacted earlier in 1886 with the support of many Republicans, including Governor Joseph Foraker. Under the Dow Law, saloon owners had to pay \$200 per year to do business. Also, the law permitted municipalities to prohibit or restrict the sale of alcohol within their borders. It was that latter provision that some residents of Olmsted Falls wanted council to use.

One week later, in the July 16, 1886, edition of the paper, the West View column began with this item: "There is some talk of having our village incorporated in order to rid ourselves of the two saloons now in our place." But West View was not incorporated as a village until 1927.

The lawsuit against William Wagner apparently did not go the way that F.R. Lay had hoped. The July 30, 1886, issue of the *Advertiser* reported this:

The result of the case of F.R. Lay vs. Wm. Wagner gives the saloonkeepers here much satisfaction, and they give themselves full assurance that whatever laws they may disregard in the future they will not be molested. This feeling is manifested by their boldness in dealing out liquor Sundays as well as week days.

Brawling and indecent language is indulged in nearly every day on the main street to the thorough disgust of the people, who feel they can do nothing other than tolerate it. It is unpleasant and even disgusting to people and especially ladies who may wish to go to the postoffice or do trading at the different stores.

Another item in the same column said this: "A W.C.T.U. will be organized the coming week. This effort deserves the hearty co-operation of all, and as much interest has been evinced already it is thought that it will be a success."

That Olmsted Falls column also had an item announcing a "temperance mass meeting" scheduled for the next day at Bush's Grove, which was in the northern part of the township that is now part of North Olmsted. It said the Olmsted Cornet Band would furnish the music.

In the August 6, 1886, issue, the paper's Butternut Ridge column reported this: "There was a large attendance at the Prohibition mass meeting in Bush's grove on Saturday, July 31. A meeting was held in the same place on Sunday afternoon with Rev. Mr. Bartram as speaker." A later report from L.B. Adams said the number of people at the prohibition meeting at Bush's Grove was 500. He called it a "grand success" and said a series of similar meetings would follow.

In his August 13, 1886, column, Adams reported this:

The citizens of Olmsted Falls held a mass meeting at the Town Hall on Wednesday evening prior to the Friday election, when it is to be decided in favor of sustaining the saloon or abolishing it from our midst. O.W. Kendall was chosen chairman of the meeting and Rev. Sinks of Berea introduced as first speaker of the evening. The Rev.'s remarks and arguments were clear, well defined and delivered with remarkable force and eloquence, and did not fail to leave an impression. Lawyer H.C. Bunce of this place was the next on the stand, and was a hearty upholder of the Dow law and believes that the time is at hand when the masses should bring this matter to a crisis. Rev. Eastman next took the floor. His interesting illustrations and persuasive arguments were listened to with interest. Said in conclusion that a letter has been received from Rev. J.T. Carroll expressing regret at not being able to be present, and endorsing the cause."

Later in the same column, Adams reported on the August 2 village council meeting. Among the business at that meeting was this:

The much interesting subject of much drunk or no drink, viz. the Dow law was taken up with a zeal. It was moved by Johnson – That a special election be called for citizens to say whether saloons be closed or not. Northrop – Amend it so as to postpone this election until November election not accepted. Pillars – Proper way to allow people to vote but give them time to consider. Johnson – No injustice at all to allow people to vote; if proper to close saloons at all close them now. Pillars – I would not give my vote for an election unless the amendment be accepted. Meade – We only want the sentiment of the people; the Council are representatives of the people. Vote—Meade, Pillars, Bowman, Johnson – yes. Northrop – no. Election judges – Johnson, Northrop; Clerks – Bennett, F.R. Lay. Tickets to read: For Saloons – Yes; or No.

In his August 20, 1886, column, Adams had only this about the election: “The ladies of the W.C.T.U. served ice cream to voters on Friday.” (The newspaper tended to say little when elections did not go its way.)

It wasn't until the September 3, 1886, edition of the *Advertiser* that a letter to the editor explained what had happened:

Aug. 17, 1886: -- MR. EDITOR: As you are doubtless aware there was an election on the evening of the 13th, in that part of Olmsted township known as Olmsted Falls Village to decide whether the saloons in said municipality should be allowed to continue their nefarious and damnable business of robbery, murder, pauper-making, heart-breaking, soul-destroying, tax-producing and law-defying, or whether they should stop their [illegible word] traffic here and go elsewhere to continue it, if continue they must. Well, after a very quiet and very pleasant time of voting, talking and eating cake and ice cream (provided and served by the ladies) the votes were counted, and to the everlasting shame and disgrace of the majority of the voters of the corporation (the saloon keepers, their patrons and those otherwise interested in the miserable concerns) came out victorious, so they with all their attending evils will have to be endured for a while longer, but not a very great while in all probability as the better portion of the community is determined not to submit to the infernal outrage very much longer. Public sentiment is growing rapidly the county over, that such an unholy, inhuman, unjust, unreliable and wicked practice or occupation shall be driven from the land; and go it will have to, as the decree has gone forth and the handwriting is written upon the outer walls in characters that cannot be mistaken.

If there is one thing more surprising than another it is that any one can be so depraved, so lost to all sense of honor and justice as to engage in that which has not a single redeeming feature connected with it; but on the contrary comes the nearest to being the sum of all villainies of anything in the category of crimes, past and present. What other business

is there than can compare with it in the terrible consequences resulting from its preservation? Slavery was regarded as something terrible in its results, and so it was; but it was not a drop in the bucket as compared with saloon keeping and the host of attendant evils that follow in its train. Abolish this cause and this earth would become a comparative paradise, hard times would be a thing of the past and instead of such a vast amount of crime, with all its attendant evils and expenses, we should see little but peace, prosperity and happiness. That such may ere long be the true and actual state of affairs is the sincere wish and prayer of everyone who has the best interests of community and the welfare of the country at heart.

TAXPAYER

Perhaps the election loss did stir up opponents of the saloons as “TAXPAYER” suggested it would, because the Butternut Ridge column on September 10, 1886, reported: “A prohibition club was organized on the Ridge Saturday evening in the school house in Dist. No. 1. There will be another meeting next Saturday eve.”

One week later, the West View column for September 17, 1886, had this item: “An officer just passed through this place in hot pursuit of one of the Olmsted Falls saloonkeepers of recent acquisition and unenviable reputation.”

In subsequent weeks, reports from Butternut Ridge indicated that meetings of the W.C.T.U. and the prohibition club there were attended well. But interest in the cause was not so great in Olmsted Falls. The West View column for October 8, 1886, had this item: “The prohibition club meeting was not a success in only one sense of the word at Olmsted Falls, Friday eve, Oct. 1. If there had been four less the meeting could not have been called to order.”

Toward the end of 1886, the Olmsted Falls column in the *Advertiser* reported: “The recently rendered decision upon the Dow law will undoubtedly close four of the saloons of the place.” Unfortunately, there was no explanation of what the decision was or why it would affect four saloons in particular.

As the people of Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township entered 1887, the familiar battles over the saloons seem to continue as they had for well more than a decade, but the prohibitionists and temperance campaigners were getting better organized, and changes were coming. The next issue of *Olmsted 200* will have more on that.

Still to Come

As Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township prepare to celebrate their bicentennial, the next issue of *Olmsted 200* will review how they, as well as what then was the Village of West View, celebrated their sesquicentennial. Also, that issue will have more about Olmsted’s saloons and efforts to eliminate them. A few other articles are in the works for future issues. One will be about West View, using some recently uncovered Olmsted Township records. Another will be about the history of Olmsted’s greenhouses. Anyone

with information or photos about greenhouses, present or past, is invited to share it. And again, anyone with suggestions for saving John Hall's barn is encouraged to share those ideas.

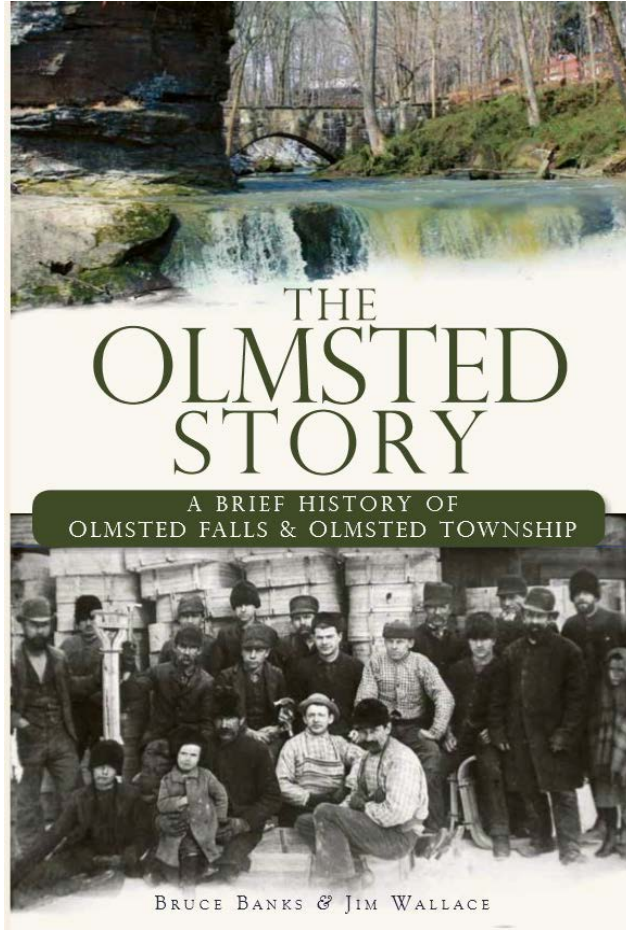
If you know of others who would like to receive *Olmsted 200* by email, please feel free to forward it to them. They can get on the distribution list by sending a request to: wallacestar@hotmail.com. *Olmsted 200* now has readers in several states, including California, Arizona, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Massachusetts and Maine, as well as in Mongolia and Japan.

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 can be found on Olmsted Township's website. Go to <http://www.egovlink.com/olmsted/docs/menu/home.asp> and click on "Olmsted 200."

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.

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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