



Olmsted 200

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

Issue 13

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Contents

The Barn Has Been Razed	1
Olmsted Faced Growth Issues 50 Years Ago	5
Anti-Saloon Sentiment Grew in Olmsted	9
Still to Come	15

The Barn Has Been Razed

The big barn that John Hall raised in 1880 was razed during the latter half of May 2014.

Razing Cleveland, a company that specializes in deconstructing old buildings and reusing their materials, did the work. It began right on schedule on Monday, May 19. By Friday, May 23, the roof sat on the stone foundation.



Many current and former Olmsted residents went by to see the last days of the barn at the entrance to The Renaissance along John Road and take some photos. As they chronicled the process on Facebook and elsewhere, “sad” was the word they used the most. At least one observer said it brought her to tears. As one woman put it: “sad...but I understand the wood will be used in other projects, so that’s a happy thought...”

As hard as it was to see the barn disappear piece by piece, it did give people a chance to admire the structure of the barn – Hall’s handiwork that survived 134 years of northern Ohio’s snowstorms, windstorms and summer heat.

Earlier this year, officials of the Eliza Jennings organization, which owns The Renaissance, had decided they could no longer afford to keep the barn. Its north wall was bowing outward, and they were afraid the building might collapse if they did nothing. The cost of preserving the barn was estimated to be \$200,000 or more, and that was too much for Jennings, which is a not-for-profit organization. (For more on that, see Issue 12 of *Olmsted 200*.) But Jennings officials



also did not want to trash such a historic structure, so they hired the Razing Cleveland Company of Brooklyn to take it down.

“Due to the extreme wear and damage to the roof and the North wall of the barn, we removed all interior items, metal fixtures and exterior siding first. Then, after further assessment, we strategically pulled the structure down to ground level.” – Holly Reed

“The process of deconstruction is dismantling a structure piece by piece,” Holly Reed, co-owner of Razing Cleveland, wrote in an email to *Olmsted 200* last week. “In the case of the Hall Barn, the structure was not structurally stable, so our approach had to be different than the normal processes. Due to the extreme wear and damage to the roof and the North wall of the barn, we removed all interior items, metal

fixtures and exterior siding first. Then, after further assessment, we strategically pulled the structure down to ground level.”

The un-barn can be saved.

That allowed the crew to go on with the salvage, piece by piece, without further fear of collapse, Reed said. As already noted, Razing Cleveland tries to repurpose, reuse or recycle as much of the material as possible from its deconstruction projects. Reed said the roof framing consisted mostly of old oak planks, one inch by four inches, and the beams were oak and heart pine.



“All of the wood and stone material that can be reused or repurposed will be sold to various businesses that use such materials for flooring, furniture or art design,” she wrote. “Even the windows are being sold to artists who will refinish them and upcycle them into usable home décor or artwork. Wood scrap that cannot be repurposed will be recycled for mulch or garden landfill. Metal fixtures have been sorted and will be recycled to the appropriate metal recycle facilities.”

Most of the stone from the foundation is destined to be sold to anyone interested in using it for landscaping or rebuilding, Reed said. But not all of it will be sold.

“The marker stone, carved with J.H. 1880, will remain the property of The Renaissance Retirement Community,” she wrote. Jennings officials plan to use the date stone as part of what they refer to as a “green space” in place of the barn at the entrance to The Renaissance.

“We have proposed to work with Eliza Jennings to create a beautifully landscaped sitting park in the place where the barn once stood,” Reed wrote. “We will work with various volunteers who will help us to incorporate materials into the park as a way of honoring what once stood, and the history that the barn represented to so many in the community.”



The park – or green space – is projected to be completed in May 2015, but Jennings officials haven’t determined what it will look like.

“Our current focus is on the safe and purposeful deconstruction of the barn,”

“We are collaborating with Razing Cleveland to create a space that will be a beautiful reminder of the historic significance of the barn that once stood in its place.” – Sandy Skerda

Sandy Skerda, executive director of the Eliza Jennings Retirement Community at The Renaissance, wrote in an email a few days ago. “Once this project is completed we will turn our focus to the space. We are collaborating with Razing Cleveland to create a space that will be a beautiful



reminder of the historic significance of the barn that once stood in its place.”

Other than the stone with John Hall’s initials and the 1880 date of construction, no other parts of the barn have been selected yet to stay on the site, she said. “The Renaissance and Razing Cleveland will examine the condition of the materials and then determine what can potentially be used on the site,” Skerda said. “The Renaissance will work with Razing Cleveland on a design for the space and then present a proposal to the Eliza Jennings Board of Trustees.”

Skerda said she wanted the public to know that the deconstruction of the barn “has been an extensive and well thought out process. And while we are saddened that the barn could

not be saved, we are pleased with the careful and precise methods utilized by Razing Cleveland to accomplish this sensitive project with great consideration given to preserving our community’s history.”

Eliza Jennings officials also have welcomed suggestions from the public about what should be left on the site of the barn. Some people whose comments have been collected by *Olmsted 200* aren’t sure exactly what they would like to see there, but they like the idea of having a historical marker to let people know the significance of what had stood there for 134 years.

As one person said after watching the barn being dismantled, it was obvious that John Hall had put much hard work into building it, “and it should be remembered.” A few have mentioned they would like to have a bench there, preferably made out of materials from the barn.

Another said, “They sure need to do something...A ‘wishing well’ with a bench would be nice with some bird feeders for the residents at the nursing home to sit and watch birds. They could put the stone with the date [there] if they kept it right with the well.”

Anyone who has other suggestions for the green space or comments about those already made may submit them to *Olmsted 200* at wallacestar@hotmail.com. They will be shared with Eliza Jennings officials.

Photos of the deconstruction of the barn in this article are courtesy of Holly Reed of the Razing Cleveland Company.

Olmsted Faced Growth Issues 50 Years Ago

In the May issue, *Olmsted 200* reviewed how Olmsted Falls, Olmsted Township and West View celebrated their sesquicentennial in 1964 (apparently unaware they were one year short of marking 150 years since the first settlers moved into Olmsted). This month, *Olmsted 200* considers what the Olmsted communities were like 50 years ago.

When Olmsted celebrated its sesquicentennial in 1964, the big issues involved housing developments, zoning, sewers and overcrowding in the high school. Those issues might not seem very different from those in Olmsted today, but much has changed in those five decades.

In 1964, the high school was still in the building that now serves as Olmsted Falls City Hall and the Olmsted Community Center. It was built in 1916 and expanded in 1928, as well as a few times after that, but by the 1960s, it was straining to meet the needs of Olmsted's student population, which had been growing steadily after World War II. Early in 1964, Gordon Boddy, the high school principal, told the school board that the biggest problems were with the gymnasium, cafeteria, commercial department, band room and industrial arts department.



“We have to limit visiting teams to no more than 100 spectators, and we’ve got the adults here pretty well trained to stay away,” the *Berea News* quoted him as saying about the gym. “Even so, we can’t accommodate all those who would like to attend. The fire and police departments have been greatly concerned for several years about the overcrowding.”

“We have to limit visiting teams to no more than 100 spectators, and we’ve got the adults here pretty well trained to stay away. Even so, we can’t accommodate all those who would like to attend. The fire and police departments have been greatly concerned for several years about the overcrowding.” – Gordon Boddy

In March, the school board decided to put on the November ballot a bond issue for construction of additional rooms for the school. Also in March, the

board decided to increase the starting pay for teachers. A beginning teacher with a bachelor’s degree would receive \$4,700 during the 1964-65 school year, an increase of \$200. In November, voters approved an \$850,000 bond issue that added 24.77 cents in taxes to each \$100 of residents’ property valuation. But even with improvements, the old high school couldn’t handle the strains of growth much longer. Just a few years later, the district built the current high school and turned the old school into a middle school.

In 2014, the school district again is struggling with overcrowding in the high school, which has been using trailers in recent years to provide additional space. But attempts to raise about \$15 million through a bond issue failed in the elections of last November and this May.

Another set of expenses that worried school board members in 1964 was for school buses. They faced spending close to \$50,000 on buses during the 1964-65 school year. That was second only to the cost of teachers' salaries in the school system's budget. The board decided to eliminate all bus pickups for junior high and senior high students living within one mile of their schools, for fourth- through sixth-grade students living within three-quarters of a mile of their schools and for kindergarteners through third-graders living within half a mile of their schools. The board's intention was to expand the maximum walking distances by 1966 to two miles for seventh- through 12th-graders, one and a half miles for students in fourth through sixth grades and three-fourths of a mile for kindergarteners through third-graders. The idea behind the phased-in approach was to give Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township time to put in sidewalks where they were lacking.

In other school-related events, 1964 was the year the Olmsted Falls Teachers Association was formed, and in October, Dorothy Fuldheim, the well-known television news analyst and host on WEWS (Channel 5), spoke at the school system's second annual meeting of teachers and administrators.



In addition, 1963-64 was the first school year that Olmsted hosted a foreign exchange student, Aysen Ener of Turkey. She lived with the family of Hadley Richards on Water Street. The local chapter of the American Field Service program was formed in 1963. Late in 1964, 16-year-old Larry Brown of 7009 Columbia Road received a letter from the American Field Service notifying him that he would be the first student from Olmsted accepted by the program. He was scheduled to leave in January 1965 to go to a suburb of Sydney, Australia, where his host family said he might learn to surf.

Development challenged both villages and the township.

As with the school system, population growth also was behind many of the issues faced by Olmsted Township and the villages of Olmsted Falls and West View in 1964. Those issues included rezoning, housing developments, sewers and a proposed apartment building.

Early in the year, Olmsted Falls Council received a proposal from Red Coach Enterprises of Cleveland to build a complex of 400 apartment suites in a 42-acre area north of Nobottom Road between Columbia Road and Rocky River. It would require rezoning from single-family to multiple-dwelling classification. The development, estimated to cost \$6 million, was to include 22 garden-type buildings, recreation areas, a small lake, a nine-hole golf course, a swimming pool and a community center.

In May, council accepted a recommendation from the Planning Commission to rezone the land. Only one councilman, Chester Atkinson, voted against it with a warning that the development could be a “white elephant.” Two weeks later, one citizen, G.M. Ault, warned council that the additional residents could add to costs for sewers and schools. In July, about 150 people showed up for a public hearing at which one citizen almost was ejected by police officers. Several people spoke against the rezoning, saying apartments could change the character of the village. Council rejected it unanimously with one member abstaining.

A few weeks earlier, council decided to put a \$300,000 bond issue on the November ballot and submit an application for about \$180,000 in federal funds for a sanitary sewer project. In September, the federal government approved a grant of \$183,600 to help with the costs of a treatment plant and trunk sewers with a condition that construction would have to begin by January 1, 1965. In June, the council had passed a resolution stating that the village would go ahead with the sewer system no matter what voters decided on the bond issue, but members changed their minds in November after the bond issue was defeated 687 to 272. Councilman Robert Hecker called the vote “very discouraging.”

While Olmsted Falls officials wrestled with their apartment and sewer issues, Olmsted Township trustees had their own development challenges to consider. In April, the trustees held a rare Sunday evening meeting at which they approved a resolution to permit smaller lot sizes in future residential developments. The resolution was to allow lots of 12,000 square feet with 65 feet of frontage instead of requiring lots to be no smaller than 15,000 square feet with at least 75 feet of frontage. Two developers – Bruscano Development and C.O. Fisher – had sought the change as they considered building about 960 new houses in the township. Olmsted Falls and West View already permitted the smaller lot sizes.

But some township residents didn’t like that proposal. Theodore TeGrotenhuis of 7315 Columbia Road led a petition drive that gathered 843 signatures to put the issue on the November ballot. Voters rejected the smaller-lot proposal by 839 to 417. Although trustees had said early in the year that they welcomed having residents vote on the issue, they said after the election that the defeat meant a loss of developments that could have brought with them water and sewer systems and the opportunity for the township to increase its tax base.

Another development-related issue the trustees addressed during 1964 was to have the Zoning Commission require occupancy permits for all new homes in the township. They took that action in September after hearing complaints from some new homeowners that developers in certain subdivisions were not completing their contracts properly. The trustees were concerned they would not be able to do much about substandard homes after they were occupied.

In June, the trustees addressed complaints about construction at new housing sites on Adele Lane and in a subdivision west of Usher Road. Trustee Chairman James Tassie said he had seen open excavations, some filled with water at some sites, while Trustee

Fred Mauer said construction crews were leaving dirt on streets and letting it be washed away into sewers not meant to handle mud. About the houses on Adele Lane, Trustee John Revelt said he had received complaints about lots being graded improperly, roofs leaking and other problems. The trustees required excavations to be lighted at night but decided they couldn't do much more, because the houses were being built under the county building code and inspected by the county, leaving the township without much authority.

In West View (now the southern half of Olmsted Falls), the village council approved the rezoning of 30 lots in the Vinewood Development from single-family to two-family residency. The village also considered a proposal to install sewers in a 550-acre area east of the West Branch of Rocky River and tying them into Berea's sewer system.



Another sign of growth in the area was advertising for Flair homes in West View. An ad with a “Go West Young Mom” headline in the *Berea News* in July targeted young, married women with families. It said buyers could choose from six models, including the Flair Oriental for \$16,990 and the Flair Tudor for \$17,490, each with three bedrooms. The ad promoted “a \$100,000 Recreational Area at Your Back Door” and showed a woman posed for swimming, golfing, tennis, picnicking, baseball and shopping. A map showed the development in relationship to downtown Cleveland with model homes just east of Usher Road.

Late in 1964, West View officials welcomed a new, white fire engine and then new radio equipment for the fire department. The radio equipment was a gift from the Olmsted Grange. The department had 23 volunteers and was working toward getting a charter from the Ohio Inspection Bureau.

Olmsted got a new business in 1964 with the construction of a miniature golf course and driving range by Bagley Golf, Inc., on what had been vacant land along Bagley Road in the section of Olmsted Township between Olmsted Falls and Berea. (More than two decades later, Olmsted Falls and Berea competed for the right to annex that Bagley Road corridor. Berea won with an offer that included water and sewer service.) The new Arnold Palmer Putting Course next to a Dairy Queen at 24475 Bagley Road opened on Saturday, June 20, and then featured a visit from Arnold Palmer himself on June 23.

On August 9, 1964, Olmsted noted the 99th birthday of longtime resident Philip Simmerer, although by then he was living at the Shangri-La rest home at Valley City. He had moved to Olmsted Falls in the 1880s and joined his brother-in-law, Joseph Peltz, in the hardware business. In 1893, they moved their stock into the former hotel at the corner

of Columbia and Mill streets. Peltz eventually left the business to Simmerer, who operated the hardware with three of his four sons – Clarence, Oscar and Russell – for several decades. They posed for the photo at the right, with Philip second from the left, in September 1963, a little more than one year before Philip died. (The sons closed the hardware in 1971. Clint Williams later restored the building as the Grand Pacific Hotel.)



However, 1964 also was the year of Philip Simmerer's death. He died at the nursing home on November 5.

Anti-Saloon Sentiment Grew in Olmsted

This is the fourth in a series of articles about the role saloons played through decades of Olmsted's history. Previous articles appeared in the February, March and April issues.

The battles over saloons in Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township in the late 19th century tended to run in spurts. The late 1880s was a time of much activity on both sides.

In 1887, the opponents of saloons seemed stirred up by their defeat in an election in Olmsted Falls in 1886 that would have invoked the local option clause of Ohio's Dow Law to prohibit saloons within the village. The local newspaper, the *Berea Advertiser*, contained many announcements of meetings of Women's Christian Temperance Union organizations in Olmsted Falls, West View and Butternut Ridge, as well as local residents' participation in meetings of the Prohibition Party.

In February, Olmsted Falls hosted a WCTU convention that was said to be well attended. "A very unprejudiced spirit prevailed throughout the meeting," the *Advertiser* reported.

"Those having a corner favorable to intoxicating drinks are warned not to antagonize with Mrs. Perkins."

The paper said the meeting included singing and a lecture that was "very convincing of the evil results attending alcoholic drinks." The report also included this odd warning: "Those having a corner favorable to intoxicating

drinks are warned not to antagonize with Mrs. Perkins."

A report in the February 25, 1887, column from the Butternut Ridge correspondent said: "A number from the Ridge attended the W.C.T.U. convention at Olmsted Falls. They were cordially received and well entertained and enjoyed the exercises so much that they felt they could not leave until the last word was spoken. All who attended ought to be prepared for more earnest temperance work."

Saloonkeepers made changes in facilities and went to court.

Meanwhile, saloon owners also were busy. In the January 21, 1887, edition of the newspaper, the Olmsted Falls columnist reported: “We understand that two pieces of real estate have recently changed hands. The Hubbard property recently vacated by saloonkeeper Wagner has been sold to H. Fenderbosche; consideration \$1,600. Also the adjoining brick house known as the Nevins property has been bought by Mr. Wagner.”

The report didn’t say exactly where those properties were located, and the writer had trouble spelling the last name of Herman Fenderbosch, who operated the saloon that was in the building now containing the Olde Wine Cellar and Master Cleaners. The report seemed to indicate that Fenderbosch was branching out to operate a second saloon where William Wagner had done business. The February 25 edition of the paper confirmed that with this item: “H. Fenderbosche has opened the saloon at the old Wagner stand.”

That same issue also contained this item: “Mr. Wm. Wagner contemplates erecting a building for saloon purposes.” Thus, even though Wagner had left his previous saloon, he was planning to build a new one.

The next month, the *Advertiser* had two other interesting items. The March 4, 1887, edition reported: “Olmsted legal affairs are on the rush. H. Fenderbosche entered suit against A. Hubbard to recover cost of property illegally sold by defendant to defray the Dow law. J.C. Poe appeared for plaintiff and P.H. Kaiser for defendant. The case was set for trial Tuesday at 2 p.m. before Justice Lock and a jury of 6 men.” But the paper backtracked two weeks later in the March 18 issue: “An error was made in our columns of March 4, which read that property was illegally sold by Mr. A. Hubbard to defray expense of Dow Law – thus doing Mr. Hubbard an injustice.”

The Dow Law required all saloons to pay an annual tax of \$200, so that would have been the expense the paper referred to.

Fenderbosch and Wagner were not the only saloonkeepers in town, but others rarely were mentioned in the *Advertiser*. It took burglary for the paper to mention another saloon in its July 1, 1887, edition: “Thieves have been plying their vocation in the place of late. Last Friday night these lightfooted scoundrels raided the stores of Osborn & Co. and Wagner, taking shoes and some loose change in the P.O. department, from the former, and cigars at latter. From there they went to Miller’s saloon, taking from there some whiskey and cigars. Saturday evening the bartender, who slept in the saloon, was awakened about 2 a.m., by some one at the window that immediately fled – however not until shots were exchanged. A hat was found in the morning but was not an identity.”

One week later, the Olmsted reporter reminded readers why some citizens objected to the presence of the saloons: “Olmsted drunks are enjoying themselves and being well supplied with patriotism, and are still on the path.”

However, the paper then had little to say about either the saloons or their opponents for the next few months.

Saloon-related activities resume.

In the December 23, 1887, the West View reporter had this item about an incident involving horses: “The team of the Berea beer wagon became frightened at the cars while standing in front of ‘our’ saloon and ran away. When last seen the team was going toward Olmsted Falls and beer kegs toward the heavens. If they have not stopped, they are going yet.” In those days, “cars” were railroad cars rather than automobiles.

That marked the beginning of another spurt of reports on both sides of the alcohol issue. The Olmsted Falls columnist reported this in the December 30, 1887, issue: “The case brought by the marshal against H. Fenderbosh for violation of the saloon closing ordinance was called Monday and set over until Tuesday for hearing.” What happened with that case is not clear from subsequent issues of the paper.

Early in 1888, an item from the West View correspondent in the January 20 paper gave another indication of how bad some local drinkers could be: “We are informed that some of the young ladies were insulted when returning from church a week ago last Sunday evening by some men apparently intoxicated who were on their way home from a place of a very different character. They seemed to be bent on disturbing the quiet of our place.”

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In the February 17 issue, the Olmsted Falls reporter had this item: “The temperance social at the residence of Mrs. L. B. Adams, Tuesday evening was a complete success. It was enjoyed by about 75 people, and a stray through the young people’s department would convince one the good time being had there. Coffee was served and music and recitations made a pleasant evening of it.”

Saloon opponents also were active at Butternut Ridge, although they did not have the same problem with drinkers disturbing the peace that Olmsted Falls did. In the March 9, 1888, edition, the Butternut Ridge reporter wrote this: “The Prohibition club will meet in the basement of the Congl. church Saturday evening. Question for debate – Is Woman’s suffrage the quickest way to bring about prohibition?” (That question almost predicted the future, because women received the right to vote close to when Prohibition began 32 years later.)

As winter neared an end, the effort to put saloons out of business warmed up again. “Let Olmsted Falls be the first in this county to take advantage of the local option law,” the Olmsted Falls correspondent wrote in the March 9 paper. Some portions of that item did not survive in readable form in microfilm copies, but the writer suggested that the “temperance sentiment” at Butternut Ridge and West View could be strong enough to carry the vote in the township. In the section that is no longer fully legible, the correspondent seemed to review why the last attempt to outlaw saloons in the township failed: “Strange as it may seem, the village, casting about one-fourth of the township’s vote, subsequently voted to retain the saloons and proved that nearly the whole liquor vote of the tp. is in the corporation. We still believe the Falls will free themselves of the

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saloon. When we have demonstrated that ‘we cannot regulate that which regulates the regulation.’ – just look out.”

Apparently back then, residents of Olmsted Falls could still vote in elections in the township, unlike today when votes in the incorporated and unincorporated parts of Olmsted are kept separate.

That same issue of March 9, 1888, contained other articles not specific to Olmsted about restricting alcohol sales, such as this one that seemed to be an editorial from the paper itself: “The Ohio legislature at this session should take one more step in the direction of liquor restriction. The Dow law tax should be raised to \$500 straight at least. The tax now imposed in Ohio is lower than in any state having a license or tax system, and lower than the public sentiment of the state demands. Let it be \$500 straight. The lager beer switch is humbug.”

The newspaper also noted: “A few good citizens, who have voted the prohibition ticket perhaps, are still dissatisfied with the Republican legislature, because more stringent legislation has not been enacted. They criticize township local option law and their bitter hostility to all Republican legislation on this subject seems to carry conviction that they would not be satisfied with anything unless it be accomplished through the third party.”

In addition, the *Advertiser* made a point of saying that it had been “a temperance paper during the twenty years of its existence. But it is not a party prohibition organ for several reasons.” It went on to say that it preferred to support the cause of prohibition by working through the two major political parties rather than by supporting a third party.

The March 30 issue of the paper reported that the WCTU and the Loyal Legion held meetings the previous Wednesday evening, Thursday afternoon and Thursday evening at the Congregational Church in Olmsted Falls as part of the observance of a week of prayers. The Loyal Legion was short for Loyal Temperance Legion, which was the WCTU’s children’s branch. The report said, “Mrs. Dota of Cleveland occupied most of the time.”

The issue goes to the ballot.

That sort of fervor might have been behind this report in the April 13, 1888, edition of the *Advertiser*: “A petition has been circulated and extensively signed asking for a privilege to vote out the saloons. Let the township poll a large vote and it will stimulate the village to try again. The Falls must rid itself of the saloons, and it will.” That same column from the Olmsted Falls correspondent also included this comment: “Let the village vote on local option as soon as possible after the township. Keep things warm.” In addition, as if access to drinking water would help deter some people from buying alcoholic drinks, the reporter included this: “The town pump is in working order and will run opposition to the saloons.”

“A petition has been circulated and extensively signed asking for a privilege to vote out the saloons. Let the township poll a large vote and it will stimulate the village to try again. The Falls must rid itself of the saloons, and it will.”

One week later, the April 20 edition reported that Olmsted Township had scheduled a local option election for Monday, May 7. The columnist included this

effort to persuade voters to close the township’s saloons even though the Dow Law had forced each of them to pay a \$200 tax: “In the coming local option contest in this township let none of our citizens be misled by the tax feature of the saloon. The liquor traffic entails a debt – ruined homes – that dollars and cents will not liquidate, be it \$200 or \$2000. Money don’t hit case at all. Taxation means perpetuation, notwithstanding a great many good people think if they could only have a heavy tax they could drive the saloons from the face of the earth.”

[Again a reminder: These reports are copied here just as they were found in the old issues of the *Advertiser* without any attempt to clean up grammar, spelling errors or odd uses of language.]

“No one doubts the results of the local option vote in the township,” the reporter added. “But there is more depending upon this vote than is first seen. A heavy majority will have a favorable effect upon the vote in Middleburg and Olmsted Falls village.” [“Middleburg” actually was spelled “Middleburgh” back then. It was the unincorporated area of the township out of which Berea had been carved. Later, the rest of that township was incorporated as Brook Park and Middleburg Heights.]

In the April 27 issue, the Olmsted Falls reporter again urged voters to turn out for the May 7 election to outlaw saloons. Although the referendum was about closing only the saloons in the township and not in the village of Olmsted Falls, the correspondent argued that it could lead to both – “Before village voted on local option a year ago it was argued: ‘Our corporation is small and we can only move the saloons a few rods – what is the use trying?’ Let the citizens outside of the corporation do their duty May 7 and the village will have the props knocked from under that objection.”

The opponents of the saloons got their way on May 7, when township voters approved the proposal to exercise the local option clause of the Dow Law. It wasn't long before they made another attempt to do the same in the village. On June 8, the Olmsted Falls correspondent reported: "Our village guardian have decided to measure the community again on local option, and the election will be held on Monday, June 11. Don't forget the time."

As has been noted previously, the *Advertiser*, as a pro-temperance newspaper, tended to say little when elections on closing saloons did not go its way. But in the issue of June 22, 1888, the paper had plenty to say: "Monday evening the citizens of the Falls assembled at the town hall to decide by the ballot whether the saloon was to remain a fixture in our community, contaminating our homes, sending its disgusting results in every direction, or whether we were to have no more of an evil which is doing more to defeat prosperity and undo christian works than any other – or not. And the call seemed to have been well heeded for out of the 102 voters in the corporation 95 were at the polls. At 6:30 the polls were open and electioneering commenced in earnest. The liquor element

were organized and worked with a system. But good judgment seemed abroad and the result was 53 for closing to 41 against closing, giving a majority of 12 for the 'drys.' The sentiment was well expressed in the ringing of bells, blowing of whistles and firing of guns until a late hour. This leaves Olmsted Tp. and

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Later in the column, the Olmsted Falls reporter added this: "The Council have given the saloons a lease of life until August."

In the July 13 issue, the correspondent offered this item: "The ordinance has been passed by the Council to close the saloons the first of August."

The first August issue of the newspaper in 1888 came out on the third day of the month. The lead item in the Olmsted Falls correspondent's column was in the form of an obituary:

"DIED – Tuesday, June 31, of maturity after an illness of some weeks, O.F. Saloons. The many friends of deceased mourn his loss and will meet to miss him. The interment will take place under the village bastille some time in August and 'tis thought best to keep watch at his grave for a period, lest the ghost be tempted to arise and walk." [Obviously, the column was not edited well

"DIED – Tuesday, June 31, of maturity after an illness of some weeks, O.F. Saloons."

or someone would have realized that “June 31” should have been “July 31” and the spelling of “bastile” could have been corrected.]

Later in the column was this more straightforward report: “The time fixed by ordinance for the closing of the saloons in this place has arrived and the proprietors have not taken down their signs. Some of them will porbably [sic] run strictly temperance places selling nothing but light drinks.”

Thus, by the end of the summer of 1888, the saloons in Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township had to quit selling beer and other alcoholic drinks – at least openly. In mid-September, the Cuyahoga County chapter of the Prohibition Party held its convention in Olmsted Falls to nominate candidates for the upcoming general election. The *Advertiser* reported on September 21 that about 150 people attended the convention. It also said: “Rev. J.F. Smith made an eloquent speech followed by Dr. E.S. Loomis, who for thirty minutes presented facts and figures and argued in a most convincing manner. On the whole the meeting was a most gratifying success.”

The newspaper had little more about alcohol in Olmsted for the rest of that year. The issue of whether Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township should be dry seemed to be settled – except it wasn’t. In 1889, action on the issue switched to the courts. More on that is coming up in the next issue of *Olmsted 200*.

Still to Come

In addition to having the next part of the series about Olmsted’s saloons and any new information about what will replace John Hall’s barn, the next issue of *Olmsted 200* will consider whether the odd choice several decades ago to consider 1814, instead of 1815, as the date of Olmsted’s founding was not so much a deliberate decision as a result of imprecise writing.

Other articles in the works for future issues will be about the history of West View, the once-prominent Fitch family and Olmsted’s greenhouses.

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.

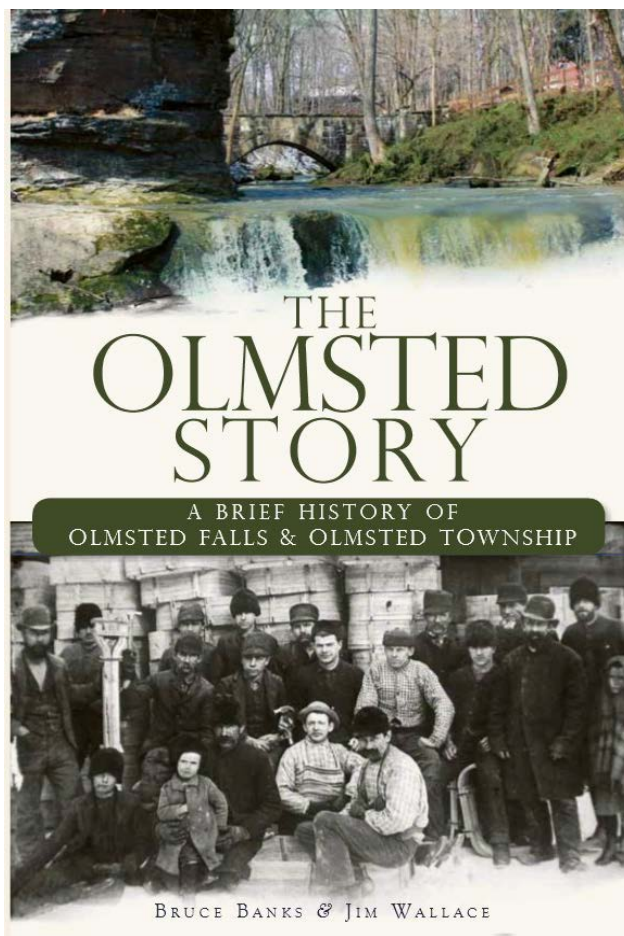
Your questions and comments about *Olmsted 200* are welcome. Perhaps there is something about Olmsted’s history that you would like me to pull out of my extensive archives. Or perhaps you have information or photos about the community’s history that you would like to share.

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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