# THE HISTORY OF PUNDERSON LAKE

# AND VICINITY

**SUMMER OF 1982**

*Louis Horvath*

## 1. THE BEGINNING

The chronological history of NEWBURY TOWNSHIP and the settler occupation of the PUNDERSON area is relatively recent-hardly several hundred years. Much went on in this locality before 1800. When we think of the “early days”, our thoughts go back to the days of the first decades of the nineteenth century. Then we can't help but go on to the eighteenth century and think of the first Europeans who came through this area. We are interested not only in the farmers who came here to clear the land and establish roads and settlements but also in the earlier inhabitants, the frontiersmen, the traders, the soldiers, the missionaries and, of course, the Indians. Finally, we are also interested in the land, the site on which this lake and park stand.

The decision had to be made as to just how much earlier in time I should go. As I reflected upon this, it became increasingly clear to me that the founding of the township and its development was, in part, due to the geological and geographical features which were determined by natural forces many hundreds of thousands of years ago.

So, I went back in time. Way back. Millions of years in the past. Back to the formation of Lake Erie and beyond. For without Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River we would, in all probability, not have a lake such as Punderson in this area. My quest led me back through time to the GREAT ICE AGES. For it was during these times that the stage was set for the formation of the GREAT LAKES and the Great Lakes Drainage Basin. Prior to this, the area was a much different place.

You might ask what all this has to do with the History of Punderson Lake. It was all significant because these are the things that caused this territory to have the attributes which the first settlers found to be attractive enough for settlement and later to become a recreational center. It was the geological features that attracted these early settlers. Who knows what we would have had without Lake Erie.

But let us go back still further in time, to the periods when the important rock formations, salt beds, coal deposits and oil and gas were given to us. For these are some of the valuable natural resources which helped make this territory what it is today.

The various geological Eras (when all this happened) are as follows. The period limits are not specific but follow a gradual merging or overlap which took hundreds and sometimes thousands of years.

CENOZOIC ERA

| Epoch | Start of Epoch Approximate date 1,000 Years |
|---|---|
| Recent | 11 |
| Pleistocene | 1,000 |
| Pliocene | - |
| Miocene | - |
| Oligocene | - |
| Paleocene | 70,000 |

MESOZOIC ERA

| | |
|---|---|
| Cretaceous | 130,000 |
| Jurassic | 160,000 |
| Triassic | 200,000 |

PALEOZOIC ERA

| | |
|---|---|
| Permian | 255,000 |
| Carboniferous | 285,000 |
| Devonian | 320,000 |
| Silurian | 350,000 |
| Ordovician | 400,000 |
| Cambrian | 500,000 |

PRE-CAMBRIAN TIME

3.5 to 4 billion years ago

The rock or stone formations and the natural resources were laid down in these periods over many millions of years. For simplicity, we will skip the details (these can be acquired from any good geology textbook) and run over the Eras starting with the oldest to illustrate the contribution of each. These are the geological times during which the sedimentary rocks and stones were deposited. Most of the other rocks came from pre-Cambrian times.

Most of the Geological formations that interest us for this history were deposited from the beginning of the PALEOZOIC ERA. Starting with the CAMRIAN EPOCH, we have six EOCHS in this ERA. The CAMBRIAN EPOCH lasted about 80 million years beginning about 500 million years ago. During this Era, there were considerable chances in the earth's crust. A lot of uplift, warping and sinking caused drastic changes which had a great deal to do with how our natural resources were deposited. Much of the land surface that we know today was covered with water. For example, this territory was covered by a shallow sea. While the Appalachian Mountain range was formed in pre-Cambrian times, a great deal of changes (volcanic and due to the elements) altered it constantly. From this Era, we got some of our oldest sandstone, limestone and clays.

The ORDOVICIAN EPOCH lasted about 75 million years, ending about 400 million years ago. The fish and other sea life were becoming more plentiful now and these are found in the sandstone and limestone as fossils. The earth crust continued to move up and down and this caused important chances to happen in the location and nature of the seas and lakes. In many cases the seas or lakes became landlocked with no inlet or outlet. Like the Dead Sea or the Great Salt Lake, some of these eventually evaporated leaving vast beds of salt and other minerals. This is how we got the large salt beds which are found underneath this area.

The SILURIAN EPOCH took 30 million years and ended about 320 million years ago. The sea life was more plentiful and this shows up in the fossils of this period more frequently. The changes continued in the earth crust and more isolated salt water lakes resulted giving us more salt beds. In addition, we have iron ore, various minerals, some early oil and gas and still more limestone and dolomite were laid. The area now occupied by Garfield Heights was covered by the shallow seas and much of the time by a large land locked salt lake which evaporated. It was in this Epoch that plants and animals started to appear on land.

The DEVONIAN EPOCH lasted for about 35 million years and ended about 295 million years ago. In this Period, the seas were extremely abundant with life. Amphibians appeared. The climate was generally mild with no marked zones latitudinal. Therefore, the North and South Pole areas were rather warm places without ice or snow. Mountain building continued with radical changes in the Appalachian range. Northeastern Ohio was again covered with sea water for long periods of time. The Epoch gave us more limestone and sandstone.

The CARBONIFEROUS EPOCH, which gave us most of our coal, gas and oil deposits lasted about 10 million years and began about 285 million years ago. The climate was warm, humid and very supportive of lash plant life. The Garfield Heights area was covered with thick and probably impenetrable forests of trees and giant ferns. Besides the coal, oil and gas, this period gave us more limestone deposits.

The PERMIAN EPOCH took place about 235 million years ago and lasted some 35 million years. The uppermost systems of rocks were formed at this time-the final Epoch of the PALEOZOIC ERA. Much of the land which had been covered with shallow seas emerged from under the water through the action of the earth crust. There were extensive mountain range changes and the climate turned harsher-something like today. More rock salt deposits were established at this time. Also, potash bearing rocks, marine sandstone, shale and bedded limestone were formed.

The MESOZOIC ERA was a rather warm, humid and ideal period for the growth and development of plant and life forms. It began about 200 million years ago and lasted about 130 million years. During much of this Era, the site of Garfield Heights was on dry land and the home of the wild life of the time including the dinosaurs. This Era had three recognizable Epochs. The first Epoch (Triassic) lasted about 40 Billion years and was the Period in which the dinosaurs appeared on earth. At first, these were of modest size-one foot to eight feet in length. But, when the Epoch ended, they reached lengths of 30 feet. In addition to the dinosaurs, a large variety of animal life evolved and while some competed with the dinosaurs for food, some became part of their food chain. Much of the rock salt, potash rock, marine sandstone and limestone deposits were formed during these Epochs.

The JURASSIC EPOCH occurred in the middle of the MESOZOIC ERA-about 160 million years ago. It lasted for about 30 million years. The Epoch was noted for increasingly warm, humid and uniform climate all over the earth. There was little or no ice or snow even in the Polar Regions and not much difference in temperature and climatic conditions throughout the latitudes. Animal and plant life continued to flourish. Large reptiles such as the dinosaurs

grew even larger.
This was one of the most stable and quieter climatic periods in the earth's history. But, volcanic action and changes in the earth's crust continued causing topographical changes in mountains as well as bodies of water.

The final Epoch of the MESOZOIC ERA was the CRETACEOUS EPOCH. This period started about 130 million years ago and lasted about 75 million years. This was the time when many of the rooks or stone, such as are used in building products now, were deposited. This was also the final period for the giant reptiles such as the dinosaurs and many other animals and plants which now became extinct and disappeared from the earth. There was lively volcanic activity as well as continued movement of the earth's crust, especially in the far western part of America where the Rocky Mountain ranges went through dramatic changes. While this Epoch gave us some deposits of coal and oil, it is more distinguished for the deposits of calcites of which CHALK is an important example. In addition, limestone and sandstone continued to form. As the Epoch came to the end, the climate changed dramatically and the earth headed into the next ERA.

Then came the CENOZOIC ERA (in which we still live). This Era has seven Epochs but we will only deal with one (the PLEISTOCENE) because this one has the greatest impact upon our environment. While the others were important in history because the evolution of most of the modern animal and plant population occurred during these times, we might skip them for the purpose of brevity. But, we must deal with the second last Epoch because the topographical scene was set in this period. The PLEISTOCENE EPOCH (1 million years long) is but a fraction in time. The great shallow oceans which covered this land had also disappeared. Instead, huge ice sheets covered much of the northern half of North America including this entire locality.

The Cenozoic Era has lasted about 70 million years and is still continuing. The Pleistocene Epoch of this era lasted about 1 million years and this was the time of the Great Ice Ages. At the start of the Era, some great catastrophic event (or events) involving the entire earth caused the climate of the earth to change dramatically from a rather lush and warm world to a cold and icy one.

The water which had evaporated from the oceans and lakes condensed and fell as huge snow storms over the northern hemispheres. The accumulated snow turned to ice because there was little melting. In time, the ice built up to as much as two miles thick and extended as far south as the location of the Ohio River in the southwestern part of the state. Our area was completely covered by the southern rim of the ice sheet which extended to a location between the sites of Akron and Canton.

The Appalachian Mountains seemed to deflect the main ice flow toward the southwest. The great weight of the ice depressed the earth's crust and as the ice pushed south, it scraped, scoured and pushed vast amounts of vegetation, stone, sand, gravel and silt along with its southward movement. It also pushed the earth's crust up along the southern reaches. This created dams for the water that did melt. To illustrate its extent, 28% of the land mass of the Northern Hemisphere was then covered by ice. Whereas today, less than 10% is covered.

The land was not entirely bleak during the Ice Age. Rather there was vegetation and numerous types of wild life existing both near the ice sheet and remotely. Man had already appeared on earth before the start of the Pleistocene Epoch. Archaeologists found evidence of man living over 3 million years ago in other parts of the world. It is certain that cavemen lived throughout the Epoch but not in America. Rather, the life forms found near the ice sheet were the caribou, the mastodon, deer, moose, giant beaver, and, of course, the woolly mammoth. In fact, the mammoth got so close to the ice front that he often got entombed in it and was preserved by the ice for our time. Until recent years, people have been finding perfectly frozen woolly mammoths in the still existing ice of Siberia, perfectly preserved. We know that all these animals existed in this area just outside of the ice front because our anthropologists find them buried in and under the sand and gravel of the glacial deposits. The skeletons of several have been found in this vicinity. In America, man came on the scene somewhat after the end of the Epoch or Ice Age.

During the Pleistocene Epoch's ice age the climate changed a number of times. It became warmer for a relatively short time when the ice would melt a little bit. And then it got colder and the ice advanced. When some of the ice melted, lakes and rivers formed on the southern borders. There is evidence that there were at least four major intervals of massive ice and three major intervals of considerable melting.

Lake Erie began to take form (with the rest of the Great Lakes) at this time as well as a large number of smaller lakes, one being PUNDERSON.. But the body of water we now know as Lake Erie was much different and much larger in these earlier periods. As the great Lake Maumee, it was much larger than present Lake Erie and had a water level at 760 feet above sea level (the Public Square is at 668 feet). The area on the site and around Punderson was then covered by the water of the lake. Early in the Pleistocene Epoch the water flow from the lake went south down the Mississippi Valley and into the Gulf of Mexico. The ocean levels in those days were about 400 feet lower than today and so the topography of the Gulf of Mexico and the entire Caribbean Sea was much different. The mouth of the Mississippi River was well out into the Caribbean Sea and probably south of Cuba. The lake changed as the ice sheet melted and continued to recede toward the north.

As the depth and extent of the lake changed, the Geologists, who studied the history, gave it different names. Successively, it was named Lake Whittlesey, Lake Arkona, Lake Warren, Lake Wayne, Lake Lundy, and finally Lake Erie. Why so many names! Each represented a new lake in the Geological History of this area and was unique in its geographical attributes and its contribution toward the existing topography of this territory. As the melting of the ice continued, the outflow of water from the lake changed from the southern route to a southeastern route through the area now occupied by the city of Buffalo and flowed through the territory now known as the Mohawk Valley to the Hudson River and down to the Atlantic Ocean. Later, the ice sheet retreated enough to uncover the Niagara Falls-Saint Laurence River route. As the water level of the lake fell, water ceased to go by the way of the Mohawk Valley route and then finally all of it went over the Niagara Falls.

Each Lake left its own beach line. These became the shoreline ridges that make up the terraced effect that man found along the southern shore of Lake Erie. It was along these ridges that man, Indian and settler both, found overland travel to be the easiest. The earliest of Indian trails and settler's roads were established along these ridges because they were much easier to traverse than the thick forests further inland. It was the action of the ice mass and the succeeding lakes that made possible the formation of the PORTAGE ESCARPMENT and similar ridges which formed the GREAT LAKES DRAINAGE BASIN.

It is interesting that the DIVIDE between the LAKE ERIE and OHIO RIVER DRAINAGE BASINS is but a relatively short distance (about 30 miles) from the southern shore of Lake Erie. This resulted from the way the glacial debris was deposited by the ice sheet as it retreated. The escarpment is in a line that runs through the area now occupied by the city of Akron. Our important river (the CUYAHOGA) is restricted to this narrow strip of land and it took over the ancient river bed from the previous Epochs. It must wind and wiggle it’s almost one hundred miles to the Lake. First, it begins in an area which is now Geauga County (to the west of Chardon) and interestingly some distance to the north of its mouth on Lake Erie. One of its sources is the outflow of Punderson Lake. Then it flows south west until it reaches the Portage Escarpment at the site of Akron. Here, it turns north and winds and wiggles until it reaches the lake at the site of Cleveland. On its northern route, it makes its way along the ancient riverbed (the Cuyahoga Valley). This is why it is so crooked. In fact, the river was named with the Indian term for 'crooked'.

It is also important that the main branch approaches very close to the Divide and only about eight miles from a substantial tributary of the southward flowing Tuscarawas River which empties into the Muskingum. This became a favorite water route for the Indians for canoe transportation from Lake Erie to the Ohio River. Later, white settlers discovered this route and used it for the Ohio Canal. All this was made possible by the Great Ice Age and the Great Ice mass which deposited the stone, gravel and soil on the site. Finally, the ice gouged out the basin where the present Lake Erie found its place.

## 2. THE INDIANS

Mankind came to this locality very recently when compared with the time span of the geological history. Most of the scientists agree that there is absolutely no evidence of the existence of man in America before the Ice Aces despite the then abundance of animal and plant life here. Rather, archaeological evidence indicates only 'modern man' ever lived on this continent and not the Lower forms of mankind such as the Neanderthal man of Europe and western Asia.

Strong evidence indicates that man came to America during the last half of the Pleistocene Epoch over a considerable period of time (about 75,000 years) crossing on dry land from Siberia to what is now Alaska. There is also evidence that a limited immigration may have taken place over the oceans at a later time. These ocean going immigrants, of course, would have been the people who, quite advanced of the Stone Age hunters, could have been responsible for the advanced civilizations in Central and South America.

The ice mass covered most of the eastern half of the American continent during the Pleistocene Epoch but there was very little ice in the west to obstruct the migration from Siberia. The migration route ran through the western side of the continent, through the valleys of the Rocky Mountain range and into the southern and eastern parts of North America. Subsequently, the migration reached South America. As the migrating hunters reached the area, now occupied by the United States, they found a pleasant and lush environment which was well populated with animals and plants, a veritable paradise. The present desert areas of our west were then well watered and much of it was covered with thick forests and lots of grass.

The migration was not a single incident or a massive movement of people. Rather, it consisted of tribal or family groups coming in waves over many thousands of years. These migrating people were Stone Age hunters and food gatherers. They were following their food supply into the new world. When they left Asia, they were not acquainted with the bow and arrow or metal of any kind. They used stone headed or fire hardened spears, stone headed axes and clubs to kill their game and to protect themselves. They knew the use of fire but did not cook in pots. Rather, they broiled their meat over the fire.

It is believed that the migration from Siberia (originating in Eurasia) started about 50,000 years ago. Up to about 5,000 years ago, these early ancestors of the Indians had a fairly homogenous life style despite the difference in physical types arriving at various time periods and from diverse places on the Eurasian continent. They had no knowledge of agriculture and had domesticated the dog-no other animal.

Regretfully, these early people did not have a written language. And, this continued throughout the history of the Indian up to the time that the Europeans arrived. The Indians always depended upon recall and oral accounts by their older people for their knowledge of history. It is probable that, at first, they were not interested in such abstract things as history. Rather, they were totally employed with hunting for food. So, knowledge of their early history did not survive. By the time they may have become interested in preserving their history, they already lost the knowledge of where they originated and how they came to America. It is interesting that none of the Indian Nations had the least bit of awareness of their origin or even of events that had happened just a few hundred years prior to 1500 AD.

Man came to the Great Lakes Basin and Ohio much after the end of the Pleistocene Epoch. This was not true of the Indians in the southern and western part of the continent. In those parts, there is much evidence that the migrating hunters arrived much earlier and occasionally killed and lived on large animals such as the mammoth. But, in this area, no such evidence has been found although there is ample evidence that the mammoth lived here. So it is safe to conclude that man came here much later, after the extinction of the mammoth and the disappearance of the ice mass.

The movement of the migrating people over the American land mass did not seem to bring meaningful diversity among them (in life style, culture or technology) until about 5,000 years ago. By then, most of them had developed considerable skill fashioning stone implements as well as learning the art of making pottery and baskets. They also found out about bows and arrows. Some were also practicing some agriculture and acquired much of their food by growing it rather than hunting or fishing. A substantial trade or commerce developed among the Indians from coast to coast and to the south.

The differences in language became greater among the tribes and nations. It was on the basis of the major differences in languages that the scientists classified the Indians. It was a fact that there was more trouble in communicating between some of the Indian tribes than between the Europeans and most Indians. By the time the European explorers and missionaries arrived, these differences were developed to the maximum.

The Indian Epic has been divided into four eras or ages for systematic and meaningful study.

1. The Pioneers in the American Wilderness
50,000 years ago to the close of the
Pleistocene Epoch (about 11,000 years ago)

2. The Archaic Age
From the close of the Pleistocene Epoch to about 11,000 years ago.

3. The Golden Age Of American Prehistory
From about 1200 BC to about 1250 AD

4. Prelude to Imperialism
1250 AD to 1500 AD

Each of these periods had some unique contribution to the developing lifestyle of the Indian people. During the first period, they were primitive Stone Age hunters and nomads following the movement of the animals upon which they depended for food. The second period brought improvement in tools, habitations and life style. They learned to cope with the changing climate (after the end of the Pleistocene Epoch). They started to take note of wild plants to supplement their meat diet. The third period brought even more changes. Some learned more about agriculture and began to raise a greater part of their food. They made baskets and pots out of clay. Some of them started to drop their nomadic lifestyle to live in semi-permanent and even permanent villages. About 3,000 years ago, some of them started to use copper from the Lake Superior region and learned a process for hardening the copper that eludes modern day metallurgists. The Archaic way of life persisted in the Great Lakes region until a new breed of Indian came into the region.

By 1500 AD, a unique culture known as WOODLAND had evolved in the Great Lakes Basin and Ohio as the ultimate adaptation of the Indians to the environment of this area. These were the ancestors of the Indians that the European explorers and missionaries found when they arrived here. There were great differences among these WOODLAND Indians in language, life style, culture and social behavior. Some tribes and nations were more aggressive than their neighbors and others were advanced in farming as a means of livelihood. It is not surprising that they were at war with each other much of the time.

It is hard to prove (by archeology) much about early Indian types in the Great Lakes area previous to about 800 BC. This is because the remains of these people were completely destroyed by the elements. Nothing was left for the Archeologists to study except the stone weapons and other nonorganic objects. Despite this, we know that some of the Indians residing in this area prior to the coming of the Adena were Archaic Indians. But after 800 BC, a new people known as the ADENA arrived and settled in the OHIO VALLEY. They left us towns and village sites which have given us some artifacts. Some of these people even migrated up to the shore of Lake Erie and very close to the present site of Punderson Lake.

At about 200 BC, another type of people arrived in Ohio. These were the HOPEWELL who were rather good farmers and built substantial towns. They had a culture even more advanced than the Adena. The remains of their mounds are all over the State and some even within the Cuyahoga Valley. These were sedentary people who lived mostly by farming and very much less by hunting. These were the first people in this area to weave cloth (out of plant material) and make clothing out of it. They, like the Adena, were peaceful but still took pains to live in fortified villages. For, they were surrounded by very aggressive and warlike neighbors.

Their culture and life style was, in fact, a great deal more advanced than that of the contemporary Indians and those who followed them in later times. And during the latter part of their stay another Indian group, the Fort Ancient, came into their area and took over some of their abandoned fortified town sites. They were not as highly developed as the Hopewell and borrowed such from the Hopewell culture. But they, like the Adena, disappeared from the region. Perhaps they got tired of putting up with their murderous neighbors and left for better places.

With the departure of the Hopewell Indians, the WOODLAND Indians took over the entire area around the Great Lakes. Linguistically these have been categorized into two distinct groupings: the Algonquin and the Iroquois. While the Algonquin (they were the first in the area) were the more backward in culture and lifestyle than the Iroquois, the Iroquois were not exactly pleasant people to chum around with. Both were warlike, ruthless with their enemies and constantly fighting each other. They practiced the unsocial habit of eating their captured enemy.

The warfare had been going on for a long period prior to the arrival of the Europeans. When fighting was not going on between the Algonquin and the Iroquois, the tribes fought among each other. So, this area was not exactly a peaceful place even before the first white settler arrived.

The Indian inhabitants of the southern shore of Lake Erie and much of the territory of Ohio were the Erie. While these were of the Iroquois group, they did not belong to the main line Iroquois federation called the FIVE NATIONS. Indian legend has it that the federation was organized by a Huron Chief HIAWATHA for the mutual protection of the five tribes as well as to eliminate intertribal warfare between them. It is interesting that the Huron tribe never belonged to this federation. This federation was centered in western New York and Pennsylvania but ranged to all directions during their raids or wars.

Before the Europeans arrived they were well on their way toward exterminating their cousins the Hurons who lived just north of Lakes Erie, Ontario, Huron and the Saint Laurence River. It is believed that the Huron provoked the wrath of the Five Nations because they took in some of the fugitive Algonquins who were fleeing the war parties of the Iroquois. By that time, the Five Nations had decimated many of the Algonquin tribes to their north. The warriors of the live Nations were elated by their success and turned their attention to other directions. They turned to war against their fellow Indians to the south and finally to the west.

The Erie (who were likewise fearsome people) had taken over the region to the south of Lake Erie as well as the Lake Erie Islands from some less aggressive Indians (including the Adena and Hopewell). Their headquarters or center of operations was along the Cuyahoga Valley. They were every bit as warlike as the rest of the Iroquois and kept the vassal Indians still residing in this region under strict control. It is very probable that they were the ones who ran the Hopewell and the Fort Ancient people out of the area. The territory was very heavily forested and supported dense wildlife including some large wild cats and pumas. It was for this reason that the neighboring Indians called them the ERIE which means the CAT PEOPLE.

The Erie lived in villages and small towns along the rivers and lake shore. While there were a number of Indian Trails running through this territory, most of the travel was by water. Their towns and villages were almost always fortified to some degree for protection against their cousin Iroquois to the east. The Cuyahoga Valley was a favorite dwelling place because the river was so handy and there was plenty of cleared land that they could use for agriculture. Furthermore, the Cuyahoga was one of the important travel routes north and south. The Erie built a score of fortified villages along the river and the Portage Escarpment and added watch towers which also served as signal towers in time of danger. While they were supreme here, they kept out the other Indians very effectively.

But the Erie had an unfortunate tradition of raiding or otherwise molesting their cousins, the Seneca to the east. In the early part of the sixteenth century, the Iroquois of the Five Nations (Seneca, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, and Cayuga) decided that the Erie needed to be punished for this and so they mounted a war effort to eliminate the Erie, just as they did the Huron. The Erie might have held their own but they were outclassed in weapons because the Dutch and English had supplied the Iroquois with firearms. Still, the struggle waged for a considerable time and was very bloody. But village by village, the Erie lost ground. The fight finally centered in the Erie strongholds of the Cuyahoga Valley. Up and down the Valley, town after town was lost and destroyed. The last battle was lost in the Copley marsh not far from the present site of Akron. Most of the Erie died but many were enslaved and some fled toward the west. There they joined remnants of other tribes who had lost to the Five Nations and formed the Wyandot Tribe. These settled in the northwest corner of Ohio.

The Five Nations had no interest in living in the area which they had conquered from the Erie. Only a small part of the Seneca stayed here after the Erie were destroyed. Other Indians, some cousins and some not, were allowed to take over parts of the area but only under the dominance of the Five Nations. The peaceful Delaware (who had been displaced by the Europeans from the east coast) were permitted by the Iroquois to live in the southeastern part of Ohio. Later, they migrated up to the southern shore of Lake Erie. All evidence indicates that the first settlers arriving in Geauga County found Delaware living on the land. The Indians that LEMUEL PUNDERSON, the first settler in Newbury Township, found living on the shore of Punderson Lake were most likely Delaware.

The Shawnee (who came from the old Archaic tribes and had been chased south by the Erie) migrated up from the south and was also given a territory by the Iroquois. They were much more aggressive than the Delaware and less likely to live in the same area with European settlers.

When the Europeans arrived they found the Miami, Shawnee, Wyandot, Delaware, Ottawa, Tuscarora, Seneca and Mingo all subject to Iroquois domination. The loss of life during the intertribal battles of the Indians was far greater than that inflicted upon them in warfare by the Europeans. Also, the susceptibility of the Indians to the diseases brought in by the Europeans took heavy toll. Someone took the time to study this and noted that the inter-Indian fighting was one of the more important factors in limiting the ability of the Indians to resist the encroachment of the European settlers.

It is interesting to note that the hundred years from the early part of the eighteenth century to the early part of the nineteenth century gave the Indians of the Great Lakes territory some of the most astute, intelligent, courageous and very able leaders. Over the years, these included such as Chief Shendeta of the Wyandot, Chief Joseph Brant of the Mohawks, Chief Pipe of the Delaware, Chiefs Half King and Zhaus-sho-toh of the Wyandot, and Cheif Cornplanter of the Seneca.

Other Chiefs no less distinguished were Chief Bohongelhelas of the Delaware, Chief Kehenepelithy of the Shawnee, Chief Little Turtle of the Miami, Chief BIuejacket of the Shawnee, Chief Cow Killer of the Seneca, Chief Pontiac of the Ottawa, and the famous Chief Tecumseh of the Shawnee. Most were very eloquent men and very effective orators. Many of them either were born in Ohio or lived in this area during some part of their lives. Tecumseh, for example, was born and raised in the Cuyahoga Valley.

Many of these chiefs would not have waged war on the Europeans if they would have been treated properly. Atrocities by the Europeans converted most of the Indian Chiefs into enemies of the settlers. Some of the Chiefs went out of their way to promote peace but was forced into war because of the relentless encroachment of the settlements upon their lands and the depletion of the wild game which was necessary for their survival. Some Chiefs remained friendly to individual settlers until they were forced to move on. Such was Chief Stigwanish of the Seneca tribe which Moses Cleaveland and his men found near the west shore of the Cuyahoga and Lake Erie. Chief Stigwanish proved to be a very good friend to Lorenzo Carter and the early Cleveland inhabitants, often helping them to avoid serious hunger by supplying them meat.

# 3. THE FRONTIER

Europeans did not come into the Cuyahoga Valley or even to the southern shores of Lake Erie until the early part of the seventeenth century. This disputes the much earlier explorations of the North American continent by various nationalities.

There is some evidence that Vikings (or Norsemen) penetrated into the area just south and west of the Great Lakes about 1300 during an expedition from Hudson Bay. Some evidence exists that there were Norse settlements along the northeastern shores of North America well before the arrival of Columbus in 1492. Also, there are written accounts by ancient clerics of journeys by Irish Monks to the North American continent even before the Vikings. But, somehow none of these explorers got to Lake Erie or anywhere close to the Cuyahoga Valley and certainly not to Punderson Lake.

The French were the first to see Lake Erie and this was not until the early part of the seventeenth century. Their exploration of the Great Lake Basin and the Mississippi was the basis of their claim to all the territory west of the Appalachian Mountains and east of the South West claimed by the Spaniards. This meant that Punderson Lake and its vicinity were claimed by the French at Quebec in the name of the French King.

The English were restricted to the area east of the Appalachians and to an area around Hudson Bay in Canada.The Dutch had also laid claim on the area around the present site of New York City and along the Hudson River based on their explorations late in the sixteenth century. But the English took over the Dutch claims by force and laid claim to all of the land south of the Saint Laurence River and north of Florida (claimed by the Spanish).

At first, most of the attention of the Europeans was directed toward appropriating as much of the wealth of the 'New World' as they could find. For the Spanish it was gold and silver. For the British and French it was fur. But soon, the British became more interested in establishing colonies and permanent settlements while the French still continued to be interested primarily in the fur trade. It was this difference that finally gave the British control of the land west of the Appalachians and made it possible that Ohio and the Cuyahoga Valley become part of the United States. Otherwise, today we could be part of the French speaking Quebec Province of Canada.

The fur trade required a wild, unsettled wilderness and the Indians. This, the French tried hard to preserve. Their treatment of the Indian and their restriction on settlement was based on the preservation of their profitable fur trade. The English objectives were different.

They found the fur trade was secondary to the profit that could be derived from agricultural products and so they encouraged settlement and farming. This made it necessary to get rid of the Indians in the territory claimed by the British, take over their lands and open the country to the ever increasing flow of settlers from England and later other countries.

The French explorations started in the mid sixteenth century and continued in earnest in the seventeenth. Jacques Cartier explored the Saint Lawrence River in 1534 and the French and Basque fishermen discovered the rich fishing grounds at the mouth of the Saint Laurence soon afterward. They established the coastal fishing villages which still exist with a French speaking population. With the discovery of the abundance of fur, the French made several settlements along the Saint Lawrence River even before 1600 to serve as collection stations (trading posts) for gathering the furs for shipment to France. Cartier had established a small settlement at the site of Quebec in 1535 but it was the great French explorer Samuel de Champlain who founded the city of Quebec on a permanent basis in 1608.

Champlain was already a seasoned explorer of the New World when he first arrived (1603) in the vicinity of New France then centered along the Saint Lawrence River. Previously, he had spent many years serving with the Spanish in explorations around the Central American territories. While on several voyages to New France between 1603 and 1606, he explored the coastal areas from Cape Cod to Labrador quite thoroughly. His observations during his travels convinced him that France should put more effort into establishing and encouraging permanent settlements in New France. However, the fur trade was becoming fantastically lucrative and he wanted to profit from it.

So, Champlain and his companion Etienne Brule came to French Canada in 1608 with Royal permission (acquired through political connections) to set up a monopoly in the fur trade (especially beaver). As part payment to the Crown, he was to establish settlements and bring farmers into the Saint Lawrence region. He became greatly involved in the administrative aspects of this business, turning Brule loose to explore the Great Lakes Basin and make friends with the Indians.

Brule was most qualified and suited for this. He loved the outdoors wild life of the Indians and the unscheduled, unfettered travel this job entailed. One might say that Brute was 'born' to be a woodsman. He and the Indians got along well and even liked each other. In a short time, he became great friends with the Huron and learned their language. He adapted to their life style with ease and even enjoyed living with them. So much so that he eventually took an Indian wife from one of their tribes. Later he had several wives scattered among the various tribes.

Then he turned his attention to the neighboring nations, all the while traveling and exploring. He covered most of the Great Lakes Basin even to the western shores of Lake Superior. It is said that he reached to north shore of Lake Erie in 1628. But to our knowledge, he did not get to the south shore or to the Cuyahoga Valley. He was the vanguard of those who did travel through the Valley and even to stay a while.

Champlain tried hard to stay on good terms with his Indian allies--the Huron and the Algonquin tribes. This led him to make one of the mistakes that later helped to defeat the French claim to the Ohio Territory. In 1609,he joined the Huron and Algonquin in their war on the Iroquois and penetrated into the Iroquois land in the vicinity of Lake Champlain. There he helped his Indian friends gain a great victory over their foes with use of firearms. The Iroquois never forgave the French and remained their mortal enemy forever. However, he and the other French were welcome in the Erie territory before the Erie were defeated by their Iroquois cousins. Thus, the French could not travel into or through Iroquois territory although they did travel north and south in the Ohio Territory. Furthermore, this aligned most of the Iroquois on the side of the British in the British-French wars of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Two interesting cultural types developed among the French in the Great Lakes area as the result of the far trade. While some of the French people who came to New France were farmers who expected to make their living from agriculture, most were fortune hunters who had their eyes on the fur trade. They went into the wilderness to pursue the business and quickly developed the special skills necessary to function satisfactorily and to survive. In a short time, they changed into a very unique type that fitted into the social order of the Indian very well.

Those who gathered the furs from the Indians became known as 'coureurs de bois' (forest rangers). They traveled through the Indian country, lived out their lives among the Indians, sometimes as members of individual tribes and often with Indian wives. They liked the lifestyle and culture of the Indians they lived with and fitted in well with the Indian society. They seldom had antagonistic feelings toward the Indians-unlike the American woodland frontiersmen such as Daniel Boone. They respected the Indian way of life and never presented a threat to the red man. They did most of their traveling about the Great Lake Basin and down along the Mississippi and its tributaries. In this way, they became very knowledgeable of the territory. They seldom returned to the settlements such as Quebec or Montreal for extended periods but rather handed over their furs at some intermediate trading point such as Michilimackanac.

The other type, 'voyageurs', were boatmen who transported the collected furs to shipping centers such as Quebec. These men were strong, durable and capable of working long hard hours at the oars and portaging their loads. Unlike the coureurs de bois, they did not live with the Indians or necessarily speak their language but were skilled in living in the wilderness. They were the then equivalent of our truck drivers today. They used very large canoes and sometimes row boats to carry their loads up and down streams and lakes between the trading outposts and the eastern shipping centers on the Saint Lawrence River. By necessity, their routes bypassed Lake Erie and ran from shipping centers like Quebec to outposts on the upper Great Lakes through a system of waterways of rivers and small lakes in the area north of Lakes Ontario and Erie.

Another type of French who became involved with the Indian was the missionary. These were ordained Roman Catholic priests of the three most important orders in France. The Jesuits were the most daring and aggressive to take the bible to the Indians. The other orders which sent missionaries into the Lake Erie Basin were 'Sulpician' and 'Reccolect'. The priests did not do as well among the Indians as Brule and the other coureurs de bois because they could not integrate into the Indian society. They kept to themselves, did not join in the 'sinful' orgies which were the recreation of most Indians and they looked with disapproval on most of the unsocial activities in which the Indians indulged.

They tried to teach the Indians morals based upon Roman Catholic theology and the fundamentals of Christianity. By whatever means available, they tried to change the Indian's lifestyle as the Spanish missionaries had done in the southwest. They were mostly unsuccessful because these Indians resisted their efforts. The missionaries did not try to become friendly with the Indians in the same way that Brule and the coureurs de bois did. This made their work a lot harder. Therefore, their own existence was harder and much more precarious than the coureurs de bois. But they persisted in covering as much of the Great Lakes region as they could.

The missionaries lived separate from the Indians in their own dwellings or missions which were part of most outposts and forts. In this way, they were always foreigners to the Indians unlike the coureurs de bois. They were harassed and even killed much more frequently by the Indians than were the fun loving coureurs de bois. It is safe to say that they made much fewer conversions to Christianity than did the Spanish clergy. Also, they became 'martyrs' much more often.

The following generation of French explorers after Champlain included Rene Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle who came to New France in 1666.

He and his generation continued the exploration and development of the Great Lakes Basin and the Mississippi River and strengthened the claim of France to these territories. Until his coming, the French bypassed Lake Erie in reaching the other Great Lakes because of the Iroquois. However, La Salle went into the Iroquois (Seneca) territory and set up a temporary settlement just above Niagara Falls to build a sailing vessel, the GRIFFIN, which was the first of its kind to sail the Great Lakes. Although harassed by the Seneca, he and his force prevailed and the ship was launched in August 1679. It is of interest that Father Hennepin, a French priest, was the first European to see the Niagara Falls.

The ship was named the 'Griffon' after an emblem on the family crest of Governor Frontenac's coat of arms. Politics was an important thing even then! The Griffon sailed up Lake Erie, through Lake Saint Clair and out into Lake Michigan after stopping at Fort Michilmackinac (an outpost) on the Straits of Mackanac. This was the first time that the Erie Indians who lived on the southern shores of Lake Erie had a chance to see such a large ship. The outward voyage was scary. They encountered several storms and almost lost the vessel. But La Salle and his men got to the present location of Green Bay and unloaded their supplies. The ship left on the return trip loaded with furs for shipment to the east but it never reached its destination. It was presumed lost in a storm that developed soon after its departure from Green Bay.

La Salle did a great deal of exploring in the next few years. Some of this was done through Ohio and the Cuyahoga Valley. His last trip took him down the Mississippi River to its mouth and into the Gulf of Mexico. He did this and reached the site of Texas where he was assassinated by some of his enemy. He had made many enemies both in France and New France by his political and economic manipulations while engaged in the fur trade. It was on the basis of La Salle's explorations that France was able to hold on to the claim on the Mississippi territory.

During all this time, lesser known French fur traders and explorers were busy ranging throughout the area France claimed. They had permission of the Erie to go through their land and so they used the Cuyahoga Valley route quite consistently. Later, when fighting began with the British near the site of Pittsburgh; French troops also used the route with their Indian allies. The French even went to the extent of marking their territory with engraved lead plates set along the Ohio River. So, the site that Punderson Lake occupies was part of New France at that time.

But the French hold started to loosen with the advent of fighting between the British and French over the fur trade and later over land claims. There were four phases of these wars.

First, the KING WILLIAM WAR which ended in 1697 was strictly over the fur business and did not involve the American settlers. The British (American) settlers were, as yet, occupied with problems east of the Appalachian Mountains. But the Hudson Bay Company headquartered on Hudson Bay, pushed for a greater part of the rich fur trade and this interfered with French profits.

The next three phases: Queen Anne's War, King George's War and the French and Indian War were fought over the years from 1702 to 1763 with increasing interest in territorial sovereignty rather than fur trade. The American settlers were becoming crowded in the territory to the east of the Appalachian Mountains and were beginning to spill out through the mountain passes in increasing numbers.

The French headquartered at Quebec were concerned that their claim to the lands to the west of the Appalachians was in danger of being taken by the British. They sent their Indian allies south to drive the settlers back and when this did not succeed, they sent regular French troops. While there were at least four or five routes that were used by the French for their invasions into the southern territories, the Cuyahoga Valley became an important supply line and route. There was a number of French fur traders located in the Ohio country, some of them along the Cuyahoga River. One had his cabin at the mouth of Tinker's Creek near an Ottawa village. It is probable that the Indians around Punderson Lake took their furs down to these trading posts by canoe.

The final phase, The French And Indian War which started in 1754 and lasted until 1763 ended the hold of France on Ohio and the Cuyahoga Valley. This war was a part of a world-wide conflict between France and England and involved most of the New England Colonies, particularly Virginia which had laid claim to Kentucky and part of the Ohio territory. At first, the French forces were superior and held on to the territory with their Indian allies. They built forts along the western side of the Appalachian Range and in northwestern New York. Fort Duquesne at the site of Pittsburg and Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain were good examples of the type of fortified strong points that the French established. Much of Fort Duquesne's supplies and reinforcements went south by the Cuyahoga Valley route.

George Washington (as a young man) and some of his contemporaries explored, surveyed and fought in this area. Washington became very well acquainted with the Ohio territory and even had land holdings here. He was sent (as a young man and lieutenant) in 1753 under Colonel Joshua Frey with a Force of Virginians to wipe out the French at Fort Le Boeuf and clear them from the upper waters of the Allegheny River.

This expedition ended in failure and Washington was forced to surrender at Fort Necessity to the French who paroled him and sent him back to Virginia unharmed.

The government of Virginia appealed to King George II for regular troops to help in the fight with the French. At first, the King hesitated but later (in 1755) changed his mind and sent General Edward Braddock with a force of British Regulars to clear western Pennsylvania. Washington went along in a subordinate capacity in command of some Virginia militia. The Expedition met defeat as it neared Fort Duquesne and Braddock was killed in action. Washington was one of those who were instrumental in getting the remnants of the expedition back to the colonies.

The French lost the war however when British forces took Quebec and Montreal in 1760 and forced the French out of all of their claims in North America. The Virginians and Pennsylvanians quickly took over Fort Duquesne and renamed it Fort Pitt. The entire New France was occupied by British troops and the fortified outposts were garrisoned by them. But the British government was not anxious for the Americans to settle the land to the west of the Appalachians. King George decreed that, consistent with the treaties made with the Indians, settlers were forbidden to come west of the mountains. Those that tried were turned back by the troops if they were caught. This and the ferocity of the Indians kept most of the Europeans out of the Ohio territory.

The British government, through its forces stationed at outposts such as Detroit, encouraged the Indians to hold back the American settlers from the territory previously held by the French. Some daring hunters and frontiersmen such as Boone made repeated trips over the mountains into the lush land of Kentucky. But the hunters and settlers did not try to make any serious excursions into the Ohio territory until the Revolutionary War started in 1776. Until then, the Cuyahoga Valley and the site of Punderson Lake only saw the presence of the Indians.

Starting with 1671, hunters and curious frontiersmen from Virginia found their way through the Appalachian valleys to the lush hunter's paradise, Kentucky. At that time, Kentucky was a sort of no-man's land for the Indians. The Shawnee from Ohio and the Cherokee from the south shared the land as a hunting ground. The early American explorers and hunters brought back glowing reports of this land to the eastern regions where game as well as land was already becoming scarce. Thus more and more American settlers moved over the mountains even against the hazards from the Indians and the British.

To make things even more interesting, both Virginia and Pennsylvania laid claims to the Ohio Territory. Frontiersmen from both states ranged through the western foothills and into the plains of this wilderness.

Thomas Walker discovered the Cumberland Gap which was used by John Finley in reaching Kentucky for hunting and exploring. Hunting for land was just as important in this time as hunting for fur. Daniel Boone learned of the Cumberland Gap and Kentucky from Finley when they were engaged together as teamsters for General Braddock's expedition against Fort Duquesne. In 1767, Boone went to Kentucky alone and returned after getting lost. He tried again in 1769 with Finley and this time succeeded in getting beyond the foothills and into the plains. Boone spent two years exploring the region, much of the time alone. His optimistic reports of the land resulted in increased emigration from the east of the Appalachians.

In 1775, Boone and a Richard Henderson led a sizable group of settlers into Kentucky to establish Boonsboro on the south bank of the Kentucky River. Soon other forts and settlements were built and this was noticed very much by the Indians living in Ohio and also by the British who had forbidden such settlement. From 1775 to 1782 the settlers and frontiersmen from Kentucky fought the Indians of Ohio and the British from Detroit to Kaskaskia. This was a part of the Revolutionary War. The British inspired Indian raids almost destroyed the new settlements. Boonsboro itself was in siege several times-once by the Shawnee chief Black Fish and his British ally, A D DeQuindre. Boone played a principle role each time in defending the fort.

Until 1749, few Americans traveled through the Ohio Territory except those who were captured by the Indians in their raids upon the western Pennsylvanian and Virginian settlers. The Indians lived a rather stable peaceful existence under the dominance of the Iroquois. With the Erie gone, aggression between the tribes almost disappeared and the coming of the American settlers served to unite them in the defense of their homelands. To their advantage was the emergence of some very strong leaders namely the Ottawa Chief Pontiac, the There was a Seneca village near the mouth of the river where Chief Stigwanish was in charge. The great Shawnee Chief Tecumseh was a frequent visitor to the Cuyahoga Valley with his brother 'the prophet'. There were many other great and effective Indian chiefs either born and raised in the valley or living here.

The Valley was desirable, not just because it was an important water route to the south but also because three important Indian trials intersected here. These brought Indian emigrants into this area. A few of the locations of the villages are known. For example, there were Ottawa villages at several locations north of and at the junction of Tinkers Creek and the River. Also, the British kept urging the Indians to resist the settlements and assisted the Indians with troops and arms. The offer of British General (Hair Buyer) Hamilton at Detroit to purchase all American scalps that the Indians could collect did much to inspire the Indians to aggression.

At this point something should be said of the American frontiersmen who were among the first Americans to range through the Ohio territory. Unlike the French coureur de bois, these were antagonistic toward the Indians, much less respective of the Indian culture and never lived with the Indians if they could help it. They were a unique breed. Hardy, well versed in woodland survival, cunning, knowledgeable of Indian ways and able to exist alone in the wilderness for long periods of time. These men were literally bred for the wilderness and had no difficulty at all in surviving off the land. They did not do well in settled areas-especially towns. Their skills were especially suited for the place and time. Boone, Simon Kenton, Captain Samuel Brady, Colonel Henry Bouquet, Thomas Walker and Finley were examples of this breed.

Boone lived in the Cuyahoga Valley for a part of 1778 as captive of the Shawnee chief Blackfish. He escaped in September of that year to warn the settlers in Kentucky of the impending Indian raids and thereby saved most of the forts and settlements. While living with Chief Blackfish (about five months) he had a good chance to look over the valley. It is doubtful that he got as far east as Punderson Lake. But aside from the several scouting and retaliatory expeditions, he did not stay in the Ohio country long.

In 1788, Captain Samuel Brady was given the assignment by General Brodhead at Fort Pitt to lead a patrol to scout out the strength of British and Indians at Sandusky, then a British strongpoint in Ohio. Brady chose four soldiers and four Chickasaw guides. The party got into difficulty as they were completing their assignment and all were captured or killed by the Indians. Brady was one of those who was captured and marked for torture. However, he was very cunning and resourceful and managed to escape from his captors.

He ran, weaponless, over a hundred miles south and east toward the American settlements in Kentucky. Much of the time his pursuers were hot on his heels and he had to use all of his woodland skills and exceptional stamina to elude them. They almost caught up with him at the site of Kent where he was forced to leap the Cuyahoga River (now called Brady's leap) and Brady Lake where he hid in the water under the reeds until the Indians left. But these frontier types were transitory to the scene and only lasted in the Ohio Territory for a few decades.

The end of the Revolutionary War brought a very short peace to the Cuyahoga Valley before the emigration of the settlers began. The Valley and the area along the south shore of Lake Erie were well populated with Indians at this time, mostly by tribes which came in after the defeat of the Erie. A considerable number of Seneca came from western New York State. Shawnee, Delaware, Mingo, Ottawa, Wyandot, Oneidas, Cuyingas, Massanges, Chippawas and some Mohawks lived in relative peace in their own villages.

These were generally situated along the Cuyahoga River not far from each other. The encounters with the Europeans and the realization that intertribal warfare was suicidal, made them realize that intertribal peace was essential for survival.

Just before the coming of the first settlers into the Cuyahoga Valley and the northeastern Ohio, the Indian population was distributed haphazardly. This part of Ohio was desirable for the Indians because, aside from the water route, there were three major Indian trails intersecting the territory. This made it natural for the Indians to immigrate into the Valley. None of the Indian tribes or nations claimed or forced dominance and rather seemed to be satisfied to live in peace side by side. There was no attempt in tribal grouping.

There was a Seneca village at the mouth of the river where Chief Stigwanish was the leader. Upriver, there were several Ottawa villages, one at about where Warner Road intersects Canal Road and the other on Tinkers Creek near its mouth. “Old Cuyahoga Town” north of Akron was a sizeable Indian village on the other end of the Valley. There were two large ones at 'Big Falls'. Silver Lake also had two which were Seneca. It is said that there were over a thousand Indians in the two villages at Silver Lake. On Turkey foot Lake, Chief Wamtekek had a large Delaware village. At Coventry, Chief Captain Pipe had a village. Chief Beaver's village of Chippewa was at Chippewa Lake. There was a village of Indians not too far from Burton. And, of course, the village of Delaware on the shore of Punderson Lake.

Near Sandusky, Chief Big Son (brother of Stigwamish) had a village of Seneca and important in its leadership were his sons: John Hanur, John Mohawk and Wobmong. There was a Mingo village near Bath of which Logan was chief. A half mile north of Boston there was a large village of Ottawa who looked to Pontiac and Ogonts as their leaders. Pontiac was born and raised in the Cuyahoga Valley but left to assume a larger leadership role before he could become local chief so Ogonts took over. But Pontiac's son Blackbird was educated with financial help from Mr. Bissel of Twinsburg and was seen a lot in this area before he became an Indian Diplomat, scholar and author. Blackhawk, who was born and raised in the Valley, left to fight in the Midwest and was captured at the close of the “Black Hawk War”. On his way to Washington D C, he was permitted to stop to visit his mother's grave site in the Valley.

Logan was chief at Mingotown in the Valley. He was very active and was seldom in the village. Until Colonel Cresap murdered his family and his relatives, he was one of the best friends the settlers had. After this he turned on them and started one of the bloodiest wars on the settlers that the Ohio country saw. When the war ended, Logan made his famous speech (under the Logan elm) which shamed Lord Dunmore's staff and nearly every European who heard or read of it.

## 4. THE EARLY DAYS OF THE WESTERN RESERVE

The end of the Revolutionary War opened the floodgates for emigrants into the Ohio Territory. By 1780, individuals, families and groups of various people filtered into the Ohio territory despite the inhospitable Indian inhabitants.

It was a real estate developers and speculator's dream. There was a surge of speculator interest in the wilderness land. Many had visions of quick wealth from the deals they anticipated. Even George Washington got involved. The speculation and land sales spread to the European continent where hundreds of people were swindled out of their savings by slick dealers at places like Paris and London. In addition, some of the original colonies, now States, laid claim to the new land.

Virginia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York were among the first to claim parts of the land to the west of the Appalachians. Virginia and her neighbor states claimed the Kentucky and Tennessee territory and beyond while Pennsylvania and New York claimed Ohio and lands to the west. Then, smaller States like Connecticut also made claims. The Connecticut people maintained that their original charter gave them the new land along the 41st parallel to the western border of the continent. After a number of court cases and much argument in Congress, agreement was reached by compromise. The states contiguous to the new land agreed to the already established borders. Connecticut agreed to be satisfied with a part of the Ohio territory.

On September 14, 1785, the agreement was formalized between the State of Connecticut and Congress that, in ceding her claims, she would get a strip of the Ohio land 120 mile long from the Pennsylvania border to some point west of the present location of Huron County between the 91st degree north latitude and the southern shore of Lake Erie. The area was named THE WESTERN RESERVE OF CONNECTICUT. For several years this land was treated as if it was part of the State of Connecticut. So, for a while, the Cuyahoga Valley and the vicinity of Punderson Lake was technically a part of the State of Connecticut. But in 1800, legal jurisdiction was given up by Connecticut to the Congress. Thereafter, the area was simply called THE WESTERN RESERVE and it was part of the Ohio Territory.

However, Congress gave the State of Connecticut the right to sell the land in the Western Reserve and use the money to fund educational institutions in that state. Part of this fund still exists. Since Connecticut did not have the facility to survey or sell the land to individual settlers, the state offered to sell the entire tract to private developers as a tract.

The tract was presumed to contain over 3,000,000 acres but this was not assured because, up to this time, there had never been a survey or even a reliable map of the area. Indeed, there was no concept of the true extent of the tract. So, the deal was somewhat speculative because it was based on the 3,000,000 acre supposition which turned out to be somewhat optimistic.

A group of 35 men (residents of Connecticut) negotiated the purchase. The sale was completed on September 2, 1795 for the sum of $1,200,000. The individual investments in this ran from $1683 to $168,185 per member and each got a share in the enterprise relative to his investment. Most did not give cash in hand but deposited bonds to the Connecticut State Treasurer and a mortgage on their personal properties in Connecticut. Then, to protect themselves financially and to facilitate the operation, they organized a syndicate which they named THE CONNECTICUT LAND COMPANY.

The organization was formalized by drawing up articles of association which set forth in detail of how the company would be governed and how the lands were to be sold. The financiers were issued shares of stock relative to the money they put up. Seven directors were chosen to manage the business, among them Oliver Phelps (the largest stock holder), Samuel Mather,Jr. of Lynn, Roger Newberry of West Windsor, And Moses Cleaveland of Canterbury who invested $32,600. Each stockholder was franchised to sell land from the parcels that he owned, by lot, after the survey was completed.

Moses Cleaveland was appointed general agent and given the job of supervising the survey in person. Surveying was necessary in order to locate the boundary lines, to find out how much land there was in the tract, to satisfy Congress and to provide a reliable map of the area. He proved to be a capable leader, administrator and supervisor. The technical talent (surveyors) was found and back up help was hired.

Up to this point the Ohio country was largely inhabited by Indians but a considerable number of American settlers were already coming in from the southern and eastern borders. Marietta (Fort Harmar) was founded in 1788. Cincinnati got its start as Losantiville in 1788. Gallipolis was also founded in 1788. In 1796, Columbus got its start as the village of Franklinton. Dayton was laid out in 1795. Steubenville became a town in about 1790 when a settlement of squatters around Fort Steuben were given permission (by Congress) to claim ownership of the land they occupied.

The Indians had been pushed west of the Pennsylvania border and north of the Ohio River by the Americans and now they lived much too close to each other to sustain their lifestyle. Wild game was being depleted noticeably and it was becoming harder for them to find food.

The frontier settlers also depended heavily on wild game because their farms were not productive enough to give food sufficient to sustain them. This helped to deplete the once abundant game supply.

Many of the Indians started to migrate west even before the pressure from the land developers, federal government and settlers became unbearable. The punitive military expeditions from Pennsylvania and Kentucky created bloody havoc among the Indians. The Federal Government also mounted military expeditions against the British who still held on to Sandusky and Detroit and their Indian allies even into the first decade of the nineteenth century. But despite all of this, the Cuyahoga Valley and what was later to become Geauga County were still the more peaceful locations in the Ohio territory.

Northeastern Ohio still looked much as it had for many thousands of years. There were few trails through the area, only the faint footpaths of the Indian hunters who ranged over the area looking for food. It is very probable that the tributary streams of the Cuyahoga River such as MILL CREEK and the out flowing stream from Punderson Lake were visited such more often by both Indians and European hunters and trappers than the high ground. This is because the beaver made his home in these streams and its fur was prized as one of the most valuable for trading. The land was covered by a dense stand of virgin hardwood trees and an occasional clearing, usually at a swamp or small pond.

At this point, there were a few "left over" French trappers and traders in the Valley-one at the Delaware village at the mouth of Tinker's Creek and another near the site of Warner and Canal Roads at the mouth of Mill Creek. In addition, some missionaries also lived temporarily from time to time in the Valley. The most famous of these were two German Moravian missionaries (David Zeisberger and John Heckewelder) who had earlier converted a group of peace loving Delaware down on the Muskingum River to Christianity and established a communities at Salem, Gnadenhutten and Schonbrunn (near New Philadelphia) in 1772.

Harassment from the other Indians, Americans and the British caused them to give up their homes and migrate north toward Sandusky. On the way, they stopped in the Cuyahoga Valley for several years to try to establish a settlement at the mouth of Tinker's Creek. They called their village Pilgerrh (Pilgrims Rest). They were doing well with it despite the harassment of the neighboring Indians until they were told by the Connecticut Land Company to move because they were occupying land that did not belong to them.

So they moved on. Archeological work is still being done from time to time on the site of Pilgerrh.

About the time that the PiIgerrh was given up, the Moravian missionaries sent some of their members down to the original settlements on the Muskingum to harvest the much needed crops so that the group near Sandusky would not starve. While the harvest was on, angry American militia and Indian fighters led by Captain David Williamson (about 90 men) made a retaliatory raid on these unarmed Indians at Gnadenhutten for some damaging raids that other militant Indians (Shawnee and Wyandot) made earlier on settlers in Western Pennsylvania. The Americans took the innocent Indians out of their homes and needlessly massacred them. Only two boys escaped alive to carry the story north to the rest of the Moravian congregation. This was one of the sad and shameful incidence involving Americans.

It was completely stupid because the punitive force completely missed the Indians they were seeking. Meanwhile, the enemy Indians rejoiced that their detested neighbors (the Christian Delaware) were eliminated. But shortly afterward, some of the same men who participated in the massacre of the Christian Indians joined Colonel William Crawford in another punitive expedition into the Sandusky area. This time they were not so fortunate. They met strong opposition from the Indians they were seeking and their entire force was decimated. Their leader Crawford was captured, tortured and put to death by the Indians.

The Moravians had converts and sympathizers throughout such of the European continent and the massacre provoked a great deal of international ill will toward the new American nation. It was so intense and bothersome that Congress was forced to take action. They voted to give the Moravian Indians five hundred bushels of corn but this was shipped (by mistake) to Fort McIntosh on the Muskingum. The food was used by others who were not entitled to it. The unfortunate (Christian) Delaware continued to starve and were finally given relief by the British.

The Ohio Territory had been opened to some extent by military expeditions such as Colonel Henry Bouquet in 1764, General George Rogers Clark in 1786 and General Anthony Wayne in 1794 but the Indians still harbored a great resentment and a willingness to fight for their rights and land. It would take several more decades before the Indians could be forcibly displaced from this land. In the meanwhile, the earliest settlers were always in danger from the most militant of the Indians.

The daily adventures of the surveyors who worked for Moses Cleaveland were well documented because a number of them kept diaries. On Tuesday, June 21 at two o’clock in the afternoon, the Indian chiefs:

Red Jacket, Brant, Farmers Brother, Little Billy, Green Grass Hopper and other representatives of the Six Nations met with the leaders of the surveying party in Skinner's Tavern at Buffalo.

Moses Cleaveland was evidently quite a talker and a showman. A lawyer educated at Yale, a Revolutionary veteran (officer), and an astute businessman, he was well qualified for the job. He was described by people who knew him as a dark-complexioned man with a broad face and coarse features. Several remarked about his crude manners and speech. He was a rough, tough man. His dress was usually sloven (especially in the wilderness) and his conversation was full of “four letter words”. But he did look very much like an Indian chief when he was dressed in frontier garb and this was a distinct help on the Western Reserve.

Fully realizing the magnitude of the Indian hazard to the successful completion of his job, he made elaborate provision to placate the Indians. To set the stage, he dressed up in Indian clothing and with his suntanned face looked much like one of them. He gave the Indians plenty of whisky, food and entertainment. This kept the party going until Friday. Thus he softened these Indians to the extent where they agreed to allow the surveyors do their work. With some money, he secured their agreement that settlers could establish farms on the land to the east of the Cuyahoga River. This, despite the fact that only a part of the Indians residing in this area were represented at the party.

Soon after, the party left Buffalo bound for the northeastern edge of the Western Reserve, Conneaut Creek. There, they met with more Indian chiefs to make sure that there would be no interference of the survey operation. Here, Cleaveland met and placated an Iroquois chief (who had been sent to stop the project). He gave them still more money. Then he made an agreement with Chief Paqua of the Massasagoe tribe which lived near Conneaut Creek. This tribe was too small and weak to merit money but Moses Cleaveland outwitted them with smooth talk and ceremony. He did so well that the tribe made him a chief and even gave him honorary membership!

Thus, it was that on the Fourth of July 1796 the celebration was held on the shore of Lake Erie at Conneaut Creek to mark the beginning of the tremendous job of measuring off the Western Reserve. All of the surveyors and their aides were there. These were neither settlers nor frontiersmen but trained and, some, well educated men who would measure and divide the vast wilderness into the prescribed five mile square plots. It had taken them 68 days to make the trip with their equipment from Dover across New York to Conneaut. Now, they were ready to strike out into the Ohio wilderness.

The way was clear for the surveyors to operate in the Western Reserve- but only up to the Cuyahoga River. The area to the west of the river was still Indian country (by treaty) and could not be touched. The British were still in possession of Detroit and Sandusky from where they directed as much trouble for the Americans as they could. They furnished arms and ammunition to the more militant Indians and urged them to resist the settlement of Ohio. This meant that more military action would have to be brought against the Indians and British before the settlers could consider themselves safe.

The first thing that Moses Cleaveland did was to set up a supply depot and commissary at Conneaut Creek. Joshua Stow (with his family) was put in charge of the depot and agreed to reside there until the completion of the survey. The first building at Conneaut was a log cabin named Stow's Castle. This was to serve as the family's home for the neat year. Elijah Gun and his wife Anna were put in charge of the commissary building. The rest of the party started on the work of exploring and surveying the Western Reserve.

The chief surveyor was Augustus Porter of Salisbury. He was also second in command under General Moses Cleaveland. Porter was an expert surveyor with years of experience. In addition, he was a seasoned woodsman with wide experience in dealing with problems in the frontier wilderness. His deputy and third man in charge, was Seth Pease who was also the astronomer of the party. Other surveyors were Amos Spafford, John Milton Holley, Richard M Stoddard, and Moses Warren. Theodore Shepard was the physician. Joseph Tinker (for whom Tinker's Creek was named) was given the job of boatman as well as surveyor. James Hamilton, a very gruff individual, was the cook.

There were fifty-two people in the party which included Nathan Perry and Nathan Chapman who were hunters and in charge of dealing with the Indians as well as supplying the surveying party with meat. Job P Stiles and his wife Tabitha were hired to look after the commissary at Cleveland (when that outpost was established). On Thursday, July 7, the group was organized at Conneaut into four field parties and the historic survey was on.

The first task of the surveyors was to locate the base line (north-south) along the Pennsylvania border between the 41 degree and 42 degree plus 2 minute north latitudes. Seth Pease had already located the 42nd parallel cornerstone marker at the Pennsylvania-Ohio border which had been placed by an earlier survey (by Pennsylvania). But it took the entire party two weeks to trace the line to the south corner. This gave them a good idea of what they were facing.

They ran into large swamps, heavy forest, thick underbrush, streams, countless gnats, ticks and mosquitoes and thousands of rattlesnakes. How they got through the huge swamp at Pymatuming is a mystery.

They could only go as fast as the axmen cleared the sight lanes for their instruments. Nutritional problems, poor water supply and the continuous exposure to the biting insects caused illness among the members of the party. This was to continue all through the duration of the job.

In the meanwhile, Moses Cleaveland and a portion of the party departed by boat along the shore of the lake toward the west. They were looking for the northwestern edge of their territory-at the Cuyahoga River. It had been decided in Connecticut (by the board of directors) that the main supply point and headquarters for the Western Reserve be established on the shore of Lake Erie at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. This river was known to the Americans (and others) from previous explorations and their decision was made for good reasons. Cleaveland was given the task of locating and surveying the spot.

They traveled very close to the shore and investigated most of the streams which flow into the lake. The maps of that period were still very poor and gave very limited and unreliable information on the shoreline and the location of the streams. For a short time, they mistook the Chagrin River as their destination but corrected themselves as soon as their observations (based on stars) indicated that the Cuyahoga was still some distance to the west.

When they reached the Cuyahoga, Moses Cleaveland made no attempt to precede beyond this River despite the fact that about a third of the Western Reserve was still to the west. The Indian treaties at that time reserved that territory to the Indians for living and hunting grounds. But the area to the east of the Cuyahoga had been cleared of Indian claims and could be considered to be reasonably safe although some Indians still lived there. Furthermore, Moses Cleaveland and his party had more than enough work with the territory between the Cuyahoga and the Pennsylvania line.

A portion of the territory east of the western boundary of the present Huron and Erie Counties was not an ordinary part of the Western Reserve but an addition intended to repay the suffering and losses of the Connecticut inhabitants who were victims of the British invasion (in 1777) when thousands of these colonists were burned out of their homes.

The plight of the victims was desperate. Many lost all of their worldly possessions including their homes. After the war, Congress designated the piece of land at the western end of the Western Reserve to compensate them. This is how that part of the Western Reserve got to be called “The Fire lands”.

After the surveyors located the southern limit of the Western Reserve on the Pennsylvania border, they began to run the range lines from the 41st parallel north to the shore of the Lake. The range lines were to run every five miles with markers at five mile intervals. This was to result in five mile squares (townships).

The type of surveying tools used in those days and the difficulties of the terrain caused many errors so that the range lines (and markers) were not always precise. This caused the Townships to vary in size and the boundaries to be set in the wrong places. The errors in this survey was to cause constant headaches and quarrels for many years.

The ranges were numbered consecutively from Pennsylvania and the townships were numbered consecutively from the 41st parallel. This resulted in a well defined plat from which land could be distributed to the share holders in Connecticut and then sold efficiently by range and township designation. Newbury Township (and Punderson Lake) fell into Township 7, Range 8.

It took two years before all of the surveying was done. The first year only four range lines were completed in addition to the surveying done at Cleveland. The surveyors and their helpers worked very hard and diligently and under incredible hardship. The herds of insects caused great deal of sickness among the men. The exposure to the elements and their poor living conditions also contributed to their misery.

Food was in very short supply at times. The hunters could not find enough wild meat. The depletion of wild game was very noticeable. The men resorted to eating rattlesnakes to avoid starvation. A number of men perished from the hardship and accidents. Some of the original surveyors quit after the first year and had to be replaced. But a core of faithful stuck it through to the end.

On July 22, Moses Cleaveland found the mouth of the Cuyahoga and took his boats into it. The entrance was broad and very shallow because of a sandbar. A short distance upstream the river narrowed and deepened with dense vegetation along both shores. Thick forests were visible on the bluffs on both sides. They landed on the east side at about where old Superior Road now reaches the river. This site is now designated as HERITAGE PARK.

This was a much different river than the present Cuyahoga. The water level was higher and the water much clearer. They saw an old dilapidated log warehouse (left by the French fur traders) on the west bank and an abandoned log cabin at the east bank, about where Whiskey Island is. Nearby was an Ottawa Indian village ruled by Chief Seneca who later became a friend to some of the newly arriving settlers. The main Indian trail came over the eastern bluff and crossed the river at this point on its way west. This was the rote that Cleaveland took on his first entrance to what was to become “THE PUBLIC SQUARE” and downtown Cleveland.

Cleaveland soon saw that his village could not be located in the valley on the east side of the river. First, this was a flood plain and it was marsh much of the time. Second, the area was much too small to contain the town he envisioned.

Later, it was apparent that the large population of biting insects in the valley (the flats) was just too much for human habitation. So Cleaveland explored the area above the bluff and along the Indian trail.

Here, he found considerable level land which was well elevated from the swamps in the valley and had fewer insects. True, it was covered with a very thick stand of hard wood timber but that was not a big problem to the frontier settler. It would provide building material as well as fuel for a long time.

Cleaveland put the surveyors Porter, Pease and Spafford to work measuring out the land to be allotted for the village. At the same time, he put other men to work building some log cabins on the bluff. One was a cabin for the surveyors. Another was a log commissary for the supplies. Then, there was a cabin for Job Stiles and his wife on a new road which they named Broad Street (later to be Superior Avenue). These buildings were about halfway between the Public Square and the river.

The initial plans called for the town to be named CUYAHOGA but the surveyors convinced their leader to name it CLEAVELAND (which was subsequently changed to Cleveland). The primary lots and the Public Square were laid out in accordance with the design of Connecticut towns. On October 1, 1796, Amos Spafford made the first map of the new village and it was ready for inhabitants. But only three people were to spend the first winter in the new town.

The surveying work ended for the year on a rainy Monday, October 17, 1796. Only the first four range lines and the charting of the shore of Lake Erie (from Pennsylvania to almost Sandusky) was completed. This last was done by Porter for information of the lake shore. They had expected to accomplish much more and they were disappointed. Very tired, worn out by the ceaseless toll, they were ready to call it quits for the season. They had endured starvation, exposure, illness and accidents. Their supplies were dangerously low and the winter was coming on. It was time to go, home to Connecticut.

Moses Cleaveland tried to save money from the surveyors' pay by offering them land instead of money for part of their wages. This was because the land sales were not going well back in Connecticut. The Company was low on funds. He drew up a contract with some of them to give them an entire township for one dollar an acre (payable in services) and the promise to settle 11 families in 1797, 18 more in 1798 and 12 in 1799. They were to clear land, build houses, sow wheat and grass in specified acres each year. The village was named EUCLID in honor of the Greek mathematician and patron saint of the surveyors. Few of the surveyors took up the contract to settle at Euclid. In time, it grew into the city of Euclid.

Cleaveland and his surveying party left the village on October 18. Left behind as caretakers of the commissary or supply depot were Job Stiles, his wife Tabitha and Joseph Landon. They were left with provisions for the winter. Fourteen (including Moses Cleaveland) left by boat to go to Buffalo and then overland to Connecticut. Besides the Stiles family and Landon at Cleveland, EIiiah and Anna Gun, Edward Paine, and James and Eunice Kingsbury and family stayed at the east depot at Conneaut Creek.

The 1797 survey party consisting of 63 men including a doctor left Connecticut in the spring of that year to finish the job in the Western Reserve. In this group were eight surveyors. The rest were axmen, chainmen, pack-horse handlers, and laborers. They had learned something from the previous summer and this time they were better prepared. Pease recorded the supplies issued to each team going out into the field. They got: pork, flour, tea, chocolate, sugar, ginger, spirits, vinegar, cheese, pepper, salt, empty bags, fire steel with punk, candles, a tent, axes, hatches, pocket compasses, measuring pins, soap horses, needles and thread.

Upon reaching the Western Reserve they found that both parties that had been left at the depots had gone through desperate ordeals. Job and Tabitha Stiles had a better time of it at Cleveland than those who wintered at Conneaut Creek. The Cleveland group had more supplies in their warehouse and some friendly Indians across the river helped them out with wild game.

The Conneaut group ran out of supplies and food. They lost their cow. Illness and starvation killed one of the children and almost took the lives of the rest. By the time the surveying party reached them in May 1797 the Gun family had moved to Cleveland and the Kingsbury family was in very poor health and in need of food. The Kingsbury family had enough of Conneaut Creek and left with the survey party for Cleveland.

The headquarters was kept at Cleveland and the supplementary depots were located along the Cuyahoga River. The surveying teams scattered through the south and west portions of the Reserve which was still to be measured. Pease personally explored the great Indian trail which ran through the present sites of Stow, Ravenna, Edinburg, Palmyra and Milton. James Kingsbury was induced to settle in Cleveland as the first resident blacksmith. The Connecticut Land Company gave him a town lot for this on the north side of the Public Square (site of the Society National Bank). Here, he built a large log cabin during the spring of 1797.

The work progressed more efficiently and faster during the second year despite some unfortunate accidents and considerable illness. Tinker (for whom Tinkers Creek was named), Pierce and Edwards were drowned when their boat overturned in the lake during a sudden storm.

William Andrews and Peleg Washburn died of Dysentery. Exposure was still a great problem and the mosquitoes made everyone miserable and gave most of them malaria. Often, almost all had this disease at the same time. The doctor was not very helpful and they were forced to rely upon medication by Indian remedies such as herbs and barks.

The first real settler (not working for the Company) to settle in Cleveland arrived in May 1797. He was Lorenzo Carter, son of a widow at Warren, Connecticut where Lorenzo was born. She remarried and moved to Vermont when Lorenzo was only 10. There he went on his own at an early age. He bought some land in Vermont and tried farming. Later, he married and tried to support his family from this farm. But Vermont farms have always been relatively unproductive and soon he and his brother-in-law Ezekiel Hawley decided to try their luck in the Western Reserve. They made their way to Cleveland via Canada and arrived here just as the surveyors were starting their second years work. He immediately bought a lot not too far from the river and built a long cabin on it. Then, he went back east to bring his family and a servant girl to their new home.

Despite all of the hardships endured by the party, the survey was completed during the summer on the land east of the Cuyahoga River. They even laid out 160 acre lots in four of the choice townships: Northfield, Bedford, Warrensville, and Perry. It was during this summer that they surveyed Township 7, Range 8 and Township 7, Range 7 which were to be Newbury and Burton Townships. The range line ran just a few hundred yards east of Punderson Lake.

By mid September, the surveying parties began to assemble in Cleveland to prepare for their return to Connecticut. They departed via the lake on October 3 and from Conneaut Creek on October 31. Pease made his report to the Directors at Connecticut in November and told them that the land was ready for sale.

The caretaker arrangement made during the autumn of 1797 was to assure that about 18 people would live in or near the headquarter town (Cleveland) during the winter. Among these were:Rodolphus Edwards, Job Stiles, Tabitha Stiles, Elijah Gun, Anna Gun and James Kingsbury and his family. In addition, settlers who were not employees of the Company were: Lorenzo Carter and Esikiel Hawley. These people settled down into their log cabins around the Public Square to spend the winter (the second of the village).

## 5. THE PIONEERS

With the initial survey of the WESTERN RESERVE completed in the autumn of 1797, the land was ready to be sold. The shareholders in the Syndicate, the CONNECTICUT LAND COMPANY, received tite to their portion of the land by a complicated distribution plan which involved a lottery or draft.

The complete list of the shareholders indicates that there were at least 52. But some of these had rather small investments in the enterprise. There were 36 major shareholders, that is, who invested a substantial sum. The complete list is: Asher Miller, Uriel Holmes Jr, Ephraim Starr, Luther Loomis, Justin Ely, Elisha Strong, Joshua Stow, Jaboz Stocking, Solomon Coweles, JOHNATHAN BRACE, Daniel L Colt, Enoch Perkins, Elijah Boardman, William Hart, Samuel Mather Jr., Caleb Atwater, Nehemiah Hubbard Jr, Lemuel Storrs, Joseph Howland, Pierpont Edwards, JAMES BULL, TITUS STREET, William Judd, Robert C Johnson, Samuel P Lord, Ephraim Kelley, Oliver Phelps, Gideon Granger Jr, Tephaniah Swift, Moses Cleaveland, Joseph Williams, Peleg Sanford, William N Bliss, John Stoddard, William Battle, Benajah Kent, Timothy Burr, WILLIAM LAW, James Johnson, EIisha Hyde, Uriah Tracey, William Lyman, DANIEL HOLBROOK, Ephraim Root, Solomon Griswold, Thaddeus, Levvett, Ebenezer King Jr, Roger Newbury, Elijah White, Eliphalet Austin, Joseph C Yates, and Samuel Mather.

The accented names indicate original shareholders who owned substantial land in the Newbury Township area. Later investors who owned land in Newbury Township or Burton Township were: Benjamin Doolittle Jr, Samuel Doolittle, Turhand Kirtland, Andrew Bull and Levi Tomlinson. Other absentee landowners included John Reynolds, Richard Bean, John Wyles, and Isreal and Henry Thorndyke.

It was natural for the Connecticut members of the Syndicate to distribute the land by a drawing because this was how such of the land in Connecticut had been allotted in earlier years. The method to be used for the Western Reserve was worked out for the first “draft” on January 29, 1798 for almost one half of the land east of the Cuyahoga River (2,002,970 acres). Within this, lay the Township 7, Range 8 which later became Newbury Township.

It was calculated that each township in the initial draft represented $12,903.23 of the total investment by the syndicate, the $1,200,000 which the Syndicate had paid the State of Connecticut. The shareholders were grouped so that the total share of each group came to $12,903.23. Sometimes a group consisted of a single person but most often five or six shareholders were included in the group.

The draft was held at the offices of the Connecticut Land Company at Hartford.

But very soon difficulties cropped up. First, not all of the townships were precisely five miles square because of the errors due to inadequate instruments and difficulties in surveying in the dense wilderness. This meant that some of the shareholders were being short changed and others got a windfall. Then too, not all of the land and was of uniform quality and some of the shareholders found out that they were allotted inferior land while others had the good areas.

One method used to correct the problem was to cut each township into tracts or subdivisions which the shareholders or land owners could measure into lots of any size they desired. In general, the lots got to be close to 160 acres each although there were considerable variations.

The quality problem was solved by using the "equalizing" theory. The Company set aside a few good townships as equalizing townships. Auburn, Newbury, Munson, Chardon, Bainbridge, Russell and Chester were equalizing townships in Geauga County. These lands were given to those shareholders who had drawn land in inferior Townships. Burton was considered an inferior Township and so those shareholders were given land in Township 7, Range 8 (Newbury). The equalizing was administered by an equalizing committee which allotted parts of the equalizing townships to the eligible share holders.

Another draft was held in 1802 for portions of the seven townships which were omitted from the first draft. By this time, the value of each township had increased to 113,333,33. The survey and corrections continued, however, to correct the errors of the first or 1796-1797 survey. The third draft was held in 1807 when the land west of the Cuyahoga was distributed. By this time each township was valued at $26,680. The fourth draft was held in 1809 when the remaining land and the islands were distributed to the share holders.

The accounting of the Western Reserve Land was as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Land east of Cuyahoga | 2,002,970 acres |
| Land west of Cuyahoga | 827,291 acres |
| Surplus land | 5,286 acres |
| Islands | 5,924 acres |
| Parson's (salt spring tract) | 25,450 acres |
| Fire lands | 500,000 acres |
| Total | 3,366,921 acres |

The Land sales began soon after the completion of the initial survey and the first draft. It seems that most of the share holders continued to live in New England and many in Connecticut. Some hardly ever traveled to the Western Reserve. Rather, they commissioned agents to inspect their holdings and act in their behalf in the wilderness.

These agents received “power of attorney” from the absentee land owners to initiate, conduct and formalize land sales in their behalf. Thus it was that land agents came into the wilderness before most early settlers arrived with the exception of squatters and these were either forced to buy the land they occupied or move. Some land agents were also substantial land owners such as Turhand Kirtland.

Land speculators also entered the field at this time. Some of the share holders were in financial trouble and were glad to sell all or portions of their land to “wholesale” buyers who would retail the land through their appointed agents. A number of such deeds are to be found in the county records.

Burton Township and the village of Burton saw settlers well in advance of Township 7, Range 8 (Newbury). In fact, Burton might be regarded as the mother of Newbury Township because the first settlers to occupy land in Township 7, Range 8 came from Burton. While Burton was developing into a small village in the first decade of the nineteenth century, Newbury Township continued to be unsettled wilderness. It should also be noted that the area was administered as part of Burton Township (the first township in Geauga County to be settled) until 1817.

It might be well to describe the environment in this area at that time. Most of the land was covered by a dense forest of tall trees. Many of these were six to eight feet in diameter and reached up to one hundred and fifty feet in height. Oak (white, black and red), poplars, white wood, beech, maple, ash, elm, hickory, basswood, pepperage, boxwood, ironwood, black walnut and a few hemlock. Where they could grow, there were plum, grape vines, and great expanses of berries. The only inhabitants of this vast wilderness were wild animals and Indians. Wolves, bear, cougars, wild cats and great numbers of rattle snakes were commonly found in the forest. When regular game was hard to find the Indians and settlers had to eat the snakes to stay alive. Well into the nineteenth century people had to be careful in entering the dense woods. It was very easy for those untrained in wood lore to become lost and run the danger of dying in the wilderness.

Thomas Umberfield was among the first settler to bring his family to Burton. The township (Township 7, Range 7) was owned by the proprietors: Titus Street, Turhand Kirtland, William Law, Benjamin Doolittle and Mr. Barnes. These men in undertaking the settlement of their property, organized an expedition of fifteen men to set up a town. They started early in 1798 from New England and gathered at Schenectady for the long journey into the wilderness. They traveled by boat and land until they reached Conneaut on May 28, 1798. There they separated. Seven began at the Pennsylvania line to out a road west along the lake shore to Cleveland.

This was to become part of the first road in the Western Reserve. The rest started south from the approximate site of Fairport toward the future site of Burton.

Traveling with the workers employed by the land owners to cut the road and clear sites, were Thomas Umberfield (and family), Isaac Fowler, and Amariah Beard. Umberfield served as one of the teamsters. The party made its way through the unbroken wilderness with two teams of oxen, several cows and equipment for the first settlement. The inland travel was almost as difficult and harrowing as the journey in the boats on the stormy Lake Erie. They had sailed from Conneaut on May 31 and reached Fairport on June 3. Then they stopped for a short time to rest and get ready for the inland part of their journey.The Umberfield family consisted of Thomas (born 1753), wife Lydia (born 1756), four daughters and one son. Limery (15), Stella (11), Betsy (5) and Mary (who was called Polly) (2) and Harry (12) all played important roles in the life of the new village. They were the first white children in the Township.

The progress was very slow and painful once they started. Some of the men preceded the main group to select the route and make way for the vehicles and animals by cutting out some of the trees and underbrush. Their speed averaged about two miles per day and it took then nine days to reach the site chosen to be the village of Burton. Here they found a relatively flat top of a hill with several good springs of clear water to give them an adequate water supply. The Umberfield family settled down into a canvas tent for the first few nights until their log cabin was ready for them.

Mrs. Umberfield, being the first white woman in the village, was given 60 acres of land (free) by the Connecticut Land Company in recognition. This was commonly done in the Western Reserve to encourage women to migrate to the hostile environment which existed in this frontier. Their plot was in the southeast part of lot 35 and actually adjoining the square to the west.

On July 6th, they moved into their new one room log cabin on Lot 35. The house stood on a small hill southwest of the spring. The one room on the main floor housed the kitchen, living room area, dining room area and the parents' bed. The children slept in the loft which was reached with a ladder. When the woods were cleared, they had a good view of the valley to the west and halfway to the next township (Township 7, Range 8) which was as yet unsettled.

Their neighbors were a tribe of Indians who had their village on the south slope of the hill, not too distant from the cabin. One of their chiefs fell for Limery who was a beautiful young girl at 16. His infatuation became so great that he made arrangements to acquire the girl for his squaw. He offered Thomas Umberfield $1000 for his eldest daughter but Thomas refused.

Then, he offered him $1000 plus his eldest son. This too was refused. In great frustration, the Chief stalked away threatening to steal her. For a long time she was not permitted to go out of the house alone. Years later, she married Simeon Rose and lived until October 20, 1835.

These Indians, like those that were found living on the east side of "big pond" (Punderson Lake) were migratory people. They did not have permanent settlements. This was very noticeable to the pioneers because the Indians would be around for a time and then disappear from the neighborhood. The reason for this was quite simple, however. When the game (which was part of their food supply) became depleted in one area it was time to move to one where the game was still plentiful. Also, the Indians did not have a sanitary department which disposed of the trash in sanitary landfills. When the area got too 'crummy' they just moved to a clean area and fired up the trash and wigwams that they left. Also, in moving, they left their garden plots to fallow and recover the soil fertility. Often they returned to a previous site that had recovered itself. Thus it was in the Burton area during 1798-1799.

Polly (afterward Mrs. Edson) being little had a great time with her Indian friends, both children and adults. The smaller Umberfield children had only Indians to play with since they were the first white children in the neighborhood. She and the adults had a game. They put her on a grape vine and swung her out and up with strong pushes and the half wild dogs would chase the fast swinging girl but never catch her.

The records are not clear on which Indian tribes inhabited the area of Burton and Newbury Townships at the time of the pioneers. An early pioneer said that they were TONAWANDAS who were of the Seneca Nation. This may have been true because Geauga County was about midway between the Seneca homeland in New York State and their hunting grounds near Sandusky. But the Seneca people were not especially friendly toward the whites and the Indians which the Umberfields and Pundersons encountered were sociable.

One pioneer historian notes that one of their important chiefs was named BIG DEER. We may only guess from the relationships between the pioneers and Indians that they might have been DELAWARE. There seems to have been little antagonism or violence but rather a sort of a neighborliness and even friendship in some cases. The nearest the pioneers and Indians experienced violence was when some Indian teenagers stoned the first school-a log cabin. The teacher, Charity Hopson, drove them away with a switch. They did not try to set fire to the school nor did they draw "graffiti" on the walls as modern day teenagers do.

Mrs. Umberfield-Lydia Hotchkiss was of a Cuban family on her father's side and related to William Law by her sister's marriage.

The Cuban ancestor came to Connecticut for his health where he met, fell in love with and married one of the daughters of an old Connecticut family. Returning to Cuba, he sold his plantation and slaves and brought back only the family servants to Connecticut. One of these was a black boy who was given to Mrs. UmberfieId by her mother. She brought him with her to Ohio but he died soon after they arrived at Burton. This may have been the first black person to have reached Burton.

The town square was designated early and the land was apportioned around it to the first of the pioneers. The northwest section went to Umberfield. William Law and Andrew Hull took the southwest. Kirtland took the southeast. Some attempt was made to gain clearings here and there but only one small garden was planted that first season. The exception was that several acres of wheat were planted jointly by the settlers. This was tended by Umberfield that first season. The rest of the men were off improving the road and bringing in more people and supplies. The following winter and spring were hard and the party would have suffered more had not the Indians contributed food to the hungry pioneers.

As soon as they could, others returned to New England to get their families. Beard scouted out his land and then returned to Buffalo where he had left his family while he prepared a place for them at the new site. From Buffalo they came by boat to the mouth of Chagrin River where they landed in August 4, 1798. Their goods came by oxcart from Buffalo along the lake shore and the boats kept up with the oxen so that the entire group camped each night together on the beach. There was a period of three days when tremendous storms drove the boats out into the lake where they were tossed about by huge waves. But at last they reached their destination and just in time. Beard's wife (Eunice Moss) gave birth to a daughter (CIarinda Beard) 6 days later on August 10. In September they settled in Burton. Mrs. Beard, as Mrs. Umberfield, was given 60 acres of land free for being among the first women to settle in the new township.

Jonathan Brooks and the Pond brothers (all young single men) came to Burton soon after the first pioneers arrived. Brooks and Phineas Pond volunteered to go to Poland for corn that winter and take it down to Youngstown to get it ground and bring it to the hungry settlers at Burton. This was a journey which would be of some significance even in modern times. Following the surveyors lines they reached Poland, bought the corn and headed south to Youngstown which had the nearest mill. After it was ground they headed back to Burton.

The winter weather got worse and they became lost for a time in the thick woods. Night came on and the combination of exertion, hunger and cold took its toll. Pond was close to collapse and could not go on any more.

Brooks found some dry wood and with his flint and steel built a fire. Then he cut a flat piece of wood on which he baked some cakes made from some of the corn meal they were carrying. Soon they were warm, no longer hungry and able to continue their journey to Burton where the settlers were awaiting them. Later, Brooks back-packed a 45 pound hand mill (to grind wheat) from Cleveland to Burton so that the pioneers could have flour without going all the way to Youngstown. Then during that winter Brooks and Pond killed two deer which was greatly appreciated in that hungry village.

It took years to clear the village common (or square). All of the homes were log cabins some without floors. But even here, in this wilderness, society existed and there were social feuds. Mrs Beard invited Mrs. Fowler to tea (sassafras) and omitted Mrs. Umberfield and Mrs. Edwards. They, in turn, held their own party and omitted the first two.

In 1812, Thomas Umberfield went to Cleveland to join the militia for the War of 1812. His family went to Huron for safety. The war ended and the Umberfield family returned to Burton where he kept a tavern at the future site of the Exchange Hotel. It is said that a man hung himself in the barn of his tavern in those early days.

Harry UmberfieId, who was born in 1786, remained single all his life. He became proficient in Indian languages and was a great hunter and woodsman. He died May 13, 1838. Stella, born 1787, married Eleaaer Hicko: at a double wedding at which Lemuel Punderson married Sybil Hickos.

Fowler, who had come with the first party (Umberfield and Beard) went back to Connecticut to marry Aseneth Hopson and brought her back to Burton in May 1799. He opened a boarding house just a little south of the square-it being the first lodging house in the village.

Other important events happened in the spring of 1799. Two children (the first in Burton) were born, one to Mrs. Umberfield and one to a Mrs. Hunnis. Ephraim Clark (a millwright) and his family along with his son Isaac and his family came in company with Nathan Parks, Henry Parks, Benjamin Babcock, Eli Hayes and Edmund Hubbell. Some of these came to help build the first mill in Burton, the Beard Mill on the west branch of the Cuyahoga River. In the fall, Eli Fowler, Isaac Fowler and Umberfield left with an oxcart for Pennsylvania for supplies. At Griersburg they bought four sugar-kettles, some oats, flax seed and a few sheep and hogs. Cats were also secured from somewhere at this time and they sold for a dollar each for some time.

There was a mill at Youngstown, one just south of Cleveland and Beard's mill was the third in the Western Reserve. The Connecticut Land Company contributed $500 in Land and the iron gears for it. The initial structure was a gris-mill and it was made of logs.

The second was a frame building housing a saw mill. It is very possible that the lumber used by Punderson and Hickox to construct the first gris-mill in Newbury Township in 1809 was from the Beard saw mill.

A number of early roads converged upon the mill site because most of the pioneers had to have their grain ground. Without this, there was no bread or pastry. Thus, the mill was very important to the pioneer. In fact, one of the first early roads, petitioned by William Law was constructed southeast from Cleveland to Warren ran close by Beard's mill.

Other interesting and important pioneers arrived up to March 22, 1804. But the most important in our story was that of the arrival of Eleaser Hickox who came from New Haven, Connecticut to Poland to work for Jonathan Fowler (for $11 a month) during 1803-1804 and then later settled in Burton. Young, single he quickly found his place in the little village. He was born on July 25, 1776 at Watertown, in Lichfield County, Connecticut.

He served as a drover for a time and traveled mostly over Indian trails while he helped Fowler drive cattle from Ohio over the mountains to the east. He returned for a brief time to Connecticut but started out again for the Western Reserve driving a one horse sleigh loaded with 400 pounds of steel chains, axes and other necessary equipment. At Buffalo he took to the shore of Lake Erie because it was frozen. East of Ashtabula Creek he found a horse frozen in an old ice crack in a standing position with his head above the ice.

Opposite Perry, his horse broke through the ice, his hind feet going through. But it cleared the gap landing the cutter and the load on solid ice. A storm was coming and the ice began to break up. For hours, Hickox hunted for a place where he could cross the ridges to the shore. Just as night came on, he found his way and reached safety.

He reached Grand River on March 20 and found General Paine who had come to take his across. The ice had broken and the river was full. They put the load into some canoes and the sleigh on top and pushed off across the river. It was after one hour’s hard work that they reached the other side. Then they had to go back to lead the horse over and rub him down well after they got him to the other side. That night they reached Painesville and stopped with a Mr. Smith (the first settler there).

There were only three families and 2 horses in the village at the time. The next day he crossed the stream one mile south of Painesville wading up to his chin in the cold water holding on to the rear of his sleigh. He reached Hambden that night. He had still to ford the flooded west branch of the Cuyahoga River before reaching Burton at sundown of March 22, 1804.

Amariah Beard moved to Chester in the summer of 1804 and Hickox bought his building, the first framed barn built in Burton. He remodeled and stocked it as a general store. He bought goods from Jonathan Fowler, now in Poland, and John Irwin of Pittsburg which he brought to Burton on a six ox sled. Thus he became the second merchant in Burton. It is said that many of his first customers were the neighboring Indians.

The first bridge across the east branch of the Cuyahoga was built prior to 1804. During December of that year the floods took out a section of it. The water was high and the weather was very cold nevertheless, a great effort was made to save the structure that remained. The settlers all gathered on the site and got to work. Umberfield's only ax slipped from the ice and went to the bottom of 15 feet of cold icy water. It was his only ax, worth 5 dollars and it could not be replaced. He offered a generous reward for its recovery. Lyman Parks volunteered to get it. Umberfield did not have the cash for the reward but Hickox offered to advance the money. Parks put down a strong pole which two men held and then he took off his clothes and went down into the swiftly flowing water. He found the ax, brought it back, dressed and received the reward-25 cents. Cash was so scarce in those days that even this amount was real money at that time.

Uri Hickox, brother of Eleaser, arrived at Burton in 1805. With Uri came his hired man Dayton and they were employed to chop down the remaining trees in the village square. Uri joined his brother and worked for him prior to his move to Newbury Township a few years later. In 1806 we see the organization of Geauga County and also Burton Township.

Lemuel Punderson (the first settler in Township 7, Range 8) was born on June 4, 1782 at New Haven, Connecticut and studied the building trade under masters such as John and Elias Ford, well known master builders in New England. He came to the Western Reserve in 1803 and made his first stop at Poland, one of the first settlements. Young (21), short of funds, he had to work hard to make a living. This he did by building houses, barns and mills. From Poland he went to Warren to build houses and mills for a Mr. Perkins. Then he returned to Connecticut for a short time to set some of his affairs in order and to visit his parents and other relatives.

He returned and settled in Burton in February 1807. The village already had considerable people. He was initially employed in building a house and barn for Esquire Law. It was not long before he became friends and indeed close friends with Eleazer Hickox who had arrived a few years earlier and was already settled in a house facing the village common. His sister Stella kept house for him while he acted as Land agent for some of the absentee land owners. He also established a store in the center of the village.

Punderson carried on his work as builder but frequented the Hickox house often, especially for dinners. Evidently Sybil Hickox was a very good cook. During this time Hickox got Punderson into the land agent business and gave him advice and training. On February 19, 1808 he got his first appointment to sell land for Andrew Bull. At about the same time he also received an appointment to sell land for William Law. Later, he expanded his cliental to include other land holders who lived in New England. It was necessary for him to look over the lands which he was to sell and this kept him busy exploring the wilderness in all directions.

In particular, he became interested in Township 7, Range 8 (Newbury). At that time it was an unbroken wilderness with only Indians inhabiting it. Vene Stone bought land in the Township in 1802 and even built some structures but did not settle there until sometime after Punderson settled at the foot of the Big Pond. So it is acknowledged that Lemuel Punderson was the first settler in Newbury Township.

There was a primitive road (which William Law had petitioned and which the Connecticut Land Company financed) that ran from Cleveland east and southeast through Burton and down to Warren. This was the only road going through Township 7, Range 8 at that time. There was another road linking Burton with Painesville but this did not get into the Newbury area. It was not until Punderson and other settlers in Newbury Township petitioned the County Commissioners that additional roads were established. Until then, travel was mostly by trails which the pioneers made or found.

Punderson and Hickox became interested in investing in the Newbury area when Punderson discovered “the Big Pond” and its possibilities for development as a mill site. They cut a road or trail from the early Cleveland-Warren road at Beard's mill to the foot of Big Pond. It is very probable that they used this road to get their lumber and supplies to the construction site. Then they started to develop the site at the foot of “big pond”.

The first task was to locate the proper site of the mill and the dam which would give the mill its necessary water power. Punderson explored the area and found that the outflow of Big Pond ran into a ravine which could be dammed up somewhat south of the lake to make a sizeable mill pond. He and Hickox pooled resources and hired help to build a dam, mill structure and a log cabin.

But before most of this happened the two bachelors decided to get married. Lemuel Punderson and Sybil had fallen in love and decided to marry. At the same time Eleaser Hickox courted Stella Umberfield. The two couples got married in a double wedding on October 20, 1808. Their relationship became closer than ever.

The Pundersons moved into quarters over the store and Sybil helped run the store for Eleazer while Lemuel and Eleazer were engaged at the mill site.

The first dam washed out before it was a year old causing serious financial loss to Lemuel. He appealed to his parents for help and rebuilt the dam-this time to last. While the dam and the mill structure was being built, Punderson erected two log cabins to house the workmen and Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Royce. Royce helped supervise the building of the mill and became the first miller. His wife did the cooking for the entire crew.

The mill was completed in mid 1810 and began to operate immediately. Soon after, the still was also in operation converting the surplus grain into whiskey and the mash byproduct into cattle and hog feed. Then on July 12, 1810 Lemuel Punderson and his wife Sybil moved into their new log cabin home in Township 7, Range 8. Lemuel Punderson bought his first land in Newbury Township on October 31, 1811 from Isreal Thorndyke, John Wyles and William Pescott and this included the mill site as well as the site of their home. In the deed he received permission to pass water from the Lake through Lot 12 without liability for damages from flooding. On May 6, 1813, he bought additional land around the Lake from Johathan Brace and secured the right to raise the level of the Lake by no more than six feet.

At the Newbury site, Sybil Punderson soon had contact with the Indians who lived on the east side of the “big pond” (at the site of the campground). They had been there when Punderson first discovered the lake and he made no attempt to chase them off. Rather, it seems that cordial a relationship developed between Punderson and the Indians. They came to his establishment for supplies and it is not improbable that they supplied him with information on the countryside which was then unbroken wilderness.

Sybil's first encounter occurred one morning when some of the Indians came to the house looking for Punderson. Not being acquainted with the finer points of New England manners, they entered without knocking on the door and searched for Punderson from room to room. Sybil was still in bed when they came into the bedroom and scared her into thinking of the awful fate that that she had heard about was about to come to her. But these Indians were not intent on harm and after seeing that it was only Punderson's wife that was in bed they left the room muttering “Squaw, Squaw, Squaw”. Perhaps the humerous aspect became evident to Sybil and Lemuel because they related this to their children and others in the following years.

The Indians lived at the “big pond” and near the Punderson's and other neighbors for years without incident. Once in a while Sybil would check on them. But one morning in 1812 she found out that they had moved overnight. Where they went and why, she never found out.

Lemuel and Sybil had one daughter and five sons. Elizabeth, the eldest, was born on June 19, 1810; Samuel H on January 7, 1812; Daniel H. on February 6, 1814; John on February 6, 1816; Miles on April 26, 1818; and Eleazer on October 16, 1821.

The Newbury settlement was growing and a new era came upon the township and the “big pond”.

## 6. THE SETTLERS

Punderson's mill was in operation, a road (of sorts) had been established by Punderson and Hickox from Burton to the mill site and the stage was set for the settlement of Township 7, Range 8.

Ohio was declared a State officially on March 1, 1803. Geauga (raccoon) County was established officially on December 31, 1805 by the State Legislature. Up to that time the region was considered a part of Trumbull County which extended to the Cuyahoga River and included the Cuyahoga, Summit, Portage and all the other counties which were organized later. Township 7, Range 8 existed as an unnamed township and governed from the village of Burton as a part of Burton Township where the first election was held in April 1806.

Came 1816, the year that was hard to forget. This was "the year that had no summer". The year started of normally but by April the people knew something was wrong. It just would not stay warm. Severe frosts from spring to autumn killed crops and vegetable gardens as well as the leaves on the trees. Snow fell in June. Hay was selling for $45 a ton (imported from Ireland). Flour was $17 a barrel and potatoes a penny a pound-a disaster in the community.

Township 7, Range 8 did not get its identity until April 1817 when the Geauga County Commissioners designated it as Newbury. The first election was held at Punderson's home because he was the foremost citizen of the new township and the South Newbury area was the first settlement in Newbury.

At this meeting Lemuel Punderson was chosen as moderator or chairman. Lemuel Punderson, Solomon Johnson and Joshua Burnett were elected judges of the election. They also became the first township trustees. John Cobb was elected township clerk; Thomas Manchester and Hamlet Coe as overseers of the poor. It is of interest that Coe became recipient of welfare in his old age and Manchester was never a wealthy man. Eliph Gay and Moses Bradley were appointed fence watchers, Seth Johnson appraiser and lister, John Bacheldor appraiser; John P Smith and John Cobb supervisors of roads; Benjamin Hobert constable; Josh M Burnett treasurer; Lemuel Punderson the first justice of peace and his commission started on May 19, 1817.

The township got its name from the towns from which the earliest settlers came. In Connecticut it was Glastonbury and in Massachusetts it was Newburyport. Both places were named after Newbury, England, the ancestral home of many of the families. Of course, most of the early settlers came from the New England States, principally from Connecticut, Vermont and Massachusetts. Later settlers came from diverse regions.

Initially, Newbury Township was mainly owned by the Thornndykes, John Wyles and others. It was divided into three tracts, the central one (tract 2) was one half the width of the other two. The north tract (tract 1) was surveyed into three tiers and divided into thirty six lots which were numbered from the southwest corner running across and back. The middle tract formed two tiers of eighteen equal lots numbered from the northeast corner lot and running west and back. The south or third tract was cut into four tiers of forty four equal lots and numbered from the northwest corner east and back. The big pond (Punderson Lake) is located in lot 17 of tract 2 and lot 10 of tract 3. Other segments of the Punderson land fell into lots 16 and 18 of tract 2 and lot 13 in tract 3.

The first Land sale recorded for Lemuel Punderson was for portions of lots 10, 13, and 14 from IsreaI Thorndyke, John Vyles and William Prescott on October 31, 1811. This was a little more than a year after the mill began to operate and he and Sybil had moved to Newbury. In his deed, he got permission to pass water from the lake through lot 12 without liability for damage from flooding. Why he held off on his land purchase for so long can only be guessed at. We know that the flood of 1809 caused him considerable damage and financial loss when the dam failed. It is very probable that he did not have enough money to build the dam, the mill and other structures and still pay for the land. Since he was the sole land agent for the owners it is likely that he felt secure in the knowledge that, in time, he would own the land. If this was his logic, he exhibited good business judgment.

It is said that Lemuel Punderson was a rather tall, heavy set man with considerable physical strength, the outdoors type. Although he was one of the most important businessmen in early Newbury, he did not dress the part. Usually, he wore work clothing and loved to walk about bare footed in the warmer months. It seems that he had quite a sense of humor and even a practical joker at times. Stories were told about him which proved this. Often strangers would be looking for him to conduct land business since he was the local land agent. They would come to the house and inquire of the ragged, barefoot man working in the yard as to where they could find Mr. Punderson. Punderson would string them along. He would often indicate that Mr. Punderson was indeed somewhere about and would they please come in and have a bit to drink while waiting for him. Then, when the person or persons would be thoroughly convinced that this was the hired hand they were talking with, Punderson would reveal his identity. He would always get enjoyment and a real laugh from this.

Another incident occurred in Warren. He often went shopping or for business to outlying towns just as he was dressed around the house. On this occasion, he was in his tattered outfit and barefoot when he went into one of the general stores to make a purchase on credit.

The clerk, a new one in the neighborhood, did not know Punderson and assumed that he was a penniless bum. The credit was rudely refused and Punderson left the store. He went to one of the competitors where the clerk knew him well and was in the process of completing his purchase when the proprietor of the first store dashed in breathlessly to apologize for the unforgiveable error that his stupid clerk made. Punderson not only had a good laugh over this but delighted, for years, in relating the story.

Obviously, his business ventures and interests were quite profitable. He received commissions from the land sales. He served as justice of peace. At times, he was surveyor, attorney, store keeper, postmaster, agent for absentee Land owners, road builder, lumber dealer, land appraiser, home and barn builder, mill builder, mill owner, Township official and State Representative. He did buy land at this time in Burton, first from William Law (one acre) on April 4, 1811; and then from Andrew Durant (one acre) on September 7, 1811. He seldom worked as miller but hired someone to operate the mill for him.

But his purchase of the rest of the lake and surrounding land did not come until later. On May 6, 1813, he purchased lot 17 tract 2 from Jonathan Brace. The sale was made from Hartford, Connecticut. In the deed, Punderson got permission to raise the level of the lake but by no more than six feet. On January 23, 1817, Punderson bought lots 33 and 34 in tract 3 from Henry Thorndyke and Isreal Thorndyke. He bought part of lot 7 in tract 1 from Julius Granger on November 13, 1819. Another purchase was made on October 27, 1820 when he bought a part of lot 12, tract 3 from John Wyles. Still another purchase was made of lot 34, tract 3 from Marshall Bronson on November 9, 1820. Perhaps his last purchase was made on March 1, 1822 when he bought 960 acres in Township 6, Range 8 for $800 from Henry Champion.

There were three destructive tornadoes after the arrival of the first settlers. One, which occurred in 1804 caused the death of a settler (Miner) in Chester Township. There was one in 1810 and another in 1812. This last one blew down the house in which Theodore Royce, Punderson's miller lived. Much of the dense forest, including the tall trees, was leveled and laid waste by these three tornadoes and its evidence was viewed for several decades as a tangle of dead trees, decaying logs and a vigorous growth of berry bushes. It is quite probable that Punderson had plenty of fallen trees to cut up for his saw mill at this time.

While Vern Stone, who bought land in the northwest corner of Newbury in 1802, may have been the first landowner, but because he lived in Burton until 1818, he is not regarded as the first settler. Lemuel Punderson who came to live in Newbury in 1810 and bought his land in 1811 is considered to be the first permanent settler in the township.

Eleasar Patchin (old Captain Patchin) came into the Western Reserve in 1806, looked around, returned to the east and then came back and moved into the western woods in 1807 and lived there as a squatter. Later, he purchased his first land next to Stone and settled.

Of course, Punderson and Hickox had employees working on the mill, dam and other structures at the foot of "Big Pond" since 1808 but these did not stay in Newbury. The Royce family stayed long enough for their first child (Evelina) to be born in the log cabin. Incidentally, the bed in which she was born can be seen at the CENTURY VILLAGE MUSEUM where it is exhibited in Thomas Umberfield's cabin.

Even Sybil Punderson returned for a short time to Burton to have her first child, Elisabeth and afterward she returned to New Haven, Connecticut where her eldest Son Samuel was born. But the little settlement at the foot of Big Pond grew and became important because of the mill. Trails were blazed from many remote locations to the mill and these served as the first roads until the County Commissioners authorized the establishment of regular roads. The still, operating just a short distance from the mill, was another magnet drawing settlers from the east. But it closed down when the area began to be settled.

For some reason, Lemuel and Sybil stayed in the log cabin until after 1819. Then he built a new and much larger frame building which would have done credit as a plantation manor house in the south. It was located on the east side of the road and just south of the gris-mill, about where the old log cabin had been. Set back behind a white picket fence and lawn and flower gardens, it was a very beautiful and pleasant home. It was approached by a sidewalk that led from the front gate to the broad pilastered front porch. Just behind the house was one of the numerous springs out of which came the water used in the house, to cool the milk and food and to water the animals. Behind the house was a large, spacious frame barn, the first one in the Township.

With his many roles, Lemuel soon became one of the most important men in the community. Sybil also found her place, especially as a responsive "aunt" to the children in the neighborhood. Not only were the people of South Newbury and Newbury Township welcome to the grounds and the lake for recreation but people from other parts of Geauga County. Lemuel was Mr. Hospitality itself! He loved people and allowed them freedom which later land owners denied and was missed a great deal many decades tater.

A glance into his business affairs is possible from a letter that he received from one of his clients, Iaac Mills of New Haven, Connecticut. It is dated October 16, 1817 and relates to land and business dealings in which Lemuel was of assistance to Mills.

*Dear Sir,*

*Mr. Haadly and myself have purchased tract No. one in Town No. seven Range 10 containing by original survey 6732 acres, it being the north part of the Township. Now Sir, we want W. Cowly, as soon as he has lotted our village, to go directly to survey this tract into lots of 100 acres each, as near as may be;--and in running out the tract, we think the lots on east side of the north & south road which passes through the center of the town, should be about 50 rods fronting the highway, and back far enough to make 100 acres;--and the same on the north side of the road from your house to Cleveland. The object of this is to bring as many lots to the roads as possible, and the rest of the lots may be square, unless you and W Lowes judge wish to take a traverse of the Chagrine River thro' the tract and to lot the land on the river, as top prevent any lot from running acrost it, so as to cover both banks of the river. In my judgement this will be of unfortunate, especially if the lots joining the river are not well watered. but having made these suggestions, I would submit the subject to you and W Cowly. We want a small sketch of the loting, information of the timbers, quality of the lots, water & particularly of a millsite, which it is said there is on the land & where it is situated, as soon as possible. The field minutes need not be sent here. I should be glad to learn whether the tract holds out in quantity--pray communicat with W Cowles as soon as you can.*

*I am your abed S*
*Isaac Mills*

The settlers came in an increasing flow. Harry and Rose Numberfield came shortly before 1811 and stayed with the Pundersons for a short time until they got their own house as did the Riddle family at a later date. Uri and Johnson Hickox, brother-in-laws of Lemuel and brothers of Eleazer Hickoz came into Newbury to settle, Uri to build the famous "stage coach inn" at the intersection of Kinsman and State Roads (Rt. 44 and 87). Samuel Davidson worked for Punderson in 1811. Silas Burk and Bildad Bradley as well as Adoniah the wheelwright came about 1812. By that time, Josehp and John Fisher had arrived in Newburg. Old Sam Barker was buying whiskey from the Hickox-Punderson distillery in 1812. He had a cabin up by the "big pond" where he squatted but Punderson did not chase him off. Bodwell also came in 1812 and established a carriage shop nearby. Hamlet Coe established a fulling-mill on the small stream south of the Punderson Mill along with Nijer Bradley who had a cabinet and wood working shop with the first lathe.

Joshua N Burnett, with his eldest son Henry and Miss Hannah Wilbur (his fiancée) came to Newbury in 1815 during the winter on a sleigh.

He bought a tract of land south of Punderson and built a large double log cabin, cleared Land for planting and then returned for his family. They all arrived in Newburg before the year was over.

With this group came John Cobb, wife and nine children. He settled on lot 8, tract 3. With Burnett came EIiphalet Gay, a young single man who later married Calista, Burnett's daughter in the first wedding in Newbury Township. The new couple purchased land on lot six, tract 3. Later, he moved to lot 36. At the same time that Burnett came, W.A.Bullock arrived.

In 1815, Solomon Johnson and his eldest son Seth arrived after an eventful journey through Pennsylvania, down the Ohio River and across the State to Sandusky, and down the lake shore to Newbury. They started out on the Ohio River with a full load of wood shingles (along with their household goods) which they intended to sell at Cincinnati. The spring floods caused unusual turbulence in the river and the barge came apart. The load, shingles and household goods, was lost but they escaped with their lives. The family walked from Cincinnati to Sandusky and from there they got a boat to Fairport.

They did save their money which had been stored in money belts and so could purchased a hundred acres adjoining Burnett's where they built a log cabin by 1816 when the rest of the family; Mrs. Johnson (formerly Mrs. Earl), a daughter Didama (she became the wife of Josiah Burnett) and Solomon Jr. joined them. Not far from that location, Solomon made the first bricks in Newbury from which the first brick chimney was built.

With the family also came Jonah Johnson, a second son of Solomon Sr., his wife Folly and an infant son Theodore who settled near his father near the north line of Lot 15, tract 3. Traveling with them came Jon Earl (son of Mrs. Solomon Johnson), his wife Jemima and children and also Albert N Morton and daughter Nabby. These settled to the west of Jonah Johnson.

Moses Bradley and EIisha Talcott probably came just before 1815 and settled on Lot nine, tract 3. John Bacheldor came about the same time and settled on lot 26, tract 3. 1816 was a memorable year for the new settlers. The weather was unusually cold the entire year but this did not prevent the new settlers in Newburg from celebrating the July 4th in a proper manner. Of course the celebration was at the “big pond”. The blacksmith Sybley's anvil and gunpowder made the noise while Mr. Bullock did the oration. A great deal of milk, punch and other liquid refreshments were consumed.

It was also during this year that the State Road (Route 44) was completed from Painesville through Chardon. It was begun on April 18, 1812 with Lemuel Punderson as surveyor and a member of the committee who petitioned the County Commissioners to establish it. The County Commissioners who approved it were John Ford, Vern Stone and Seth Hayes.

Since Lemuel Punderson did not have a transit and quite likely would not have known how to use it if he had one, the road took the most convenient and driest route south from Chardon and past Punderson's mill and on to the southern township boundary. His technique of surveying involved sighting the route through the easiest and most practical route regardless of land ownership. So it was not surprising that it wiggled through the countryside without regard for lot lines so that many farmers who bought land here found the road bisecting their farms. Not even the part of the road going past Punderson's property was satisfactory.

Two years after he first laid it out in 1812, Punderson petitioned to relocate the road between the present location of Route 87 (Kinsman Road) and the end of the Big Pond. But this did not clear out the curves that Punderson put into the first road. These exist to this day. Some say that he purposely made the road winding so that it would pass by his mills at the foot of the lake. However, it can be noted that north of Route 44 and south of South Newbury the road is straight.

The major resurvey and relocation of State Road (Route 44) was begun on June 5, 1820. By that time a sufficient number of farmers were inconvenienced by the winding road to petition the County Commissioners. The list of the petitioners is interesting. On it were: Ethan Brown, Ethan Brewer, Benjamin Woods, Service Finley, Amaziah Keys, Joseph Keys, William Grafts, Roswell Rice, Charles Hinckley, John Jackson, Ladok Rewee, Henry Burwel, Adonyah Bradly, Evi Bradly, Josiah Burnett, Joshua H Burnett AND LEMUEL PUNDERSON. The new road was 60 feet wide and followed the lot lines precisely in a north-south direction.

After this the road building accelerated. A road was established from the eastern edge of Cleveland running through Newburg, Warrensville Township, through Chagrin Falls to the west boundary of Newbury Township. Here, on December 4, 1815, it was continued to the eastern edge of Newbury by petition of a large number of citizens. Lemuel Punderson had a part in this.

On March 4, 1817, Punderson and some of his neighbors petitioned for several roads going east from his mill site and the growing village of South Newbury. The job was started on March 4, 1817 and Hotchkiss and Pond Roads were constructed up to Oak Hill in Burton Township. Ten years later, Hotchkiss Road was extended to the village of Burton. Stone Road was started on December 4, 1822 and it terminated on Music Street not far from Punderson's mills. Auburn Road was begun on June 8, 1824, Butternut Road on June 2, 1828. Pekin road came later, in December 1835. Music Street was not completed to Chagrin Falls until March 1836.

Bell Road is one of the early roads and it was known as Church Road at first. This was because many religious people lived on it. Likewise, Music Road got its name because of the relatively large number of musically inclined people who lived on that road.

As the second decade of the nineteenth century passed on several momentous events occurred. Newbury township was legally organized in 1817. Some new settlers arrived who would play great roles in the township and the nation. Thomas Manchester, Amos Upham, David Walker, Lovel Green, Justin Alexander, W.a. Jenks, the Adams family, John Fisher, Sam Davidson, the Taylor family, Jonas Ward, J.C. Stockman, Charles Dunham, Samuel Hodges, the Joshua Burnett family, John Randolph, Joseph and Noah Morton, Charles Hewett, Apollus Hewett, Rufus Black, Thomas A Mann came in 1817. But the most important settlers who arrived together in 1817 were Thomas Riddle who came in the autumn of 1817 and Hamilton Utley and his family. Other settlers arrived in increasing numbers. In 1818, Abel Fisher arrived with a family of two sons and four daughters. They took land on the west bank of Punderson's saw mill pond on the north side of Music Street. He tended Punderson's saw mill which was erected in 1817.

The Rev. Thomas Punderson (a cousin of Lemuel) preached the first regular sermon on a Sabbath in 1817 in the first framed barn in Newbury. The congregation gathered from several settlements for the occasion. Later, many other ministers gave sermons and finally churches were built on the State Road and then in other parts of Newbury Township.

The little cross-roads settlement grew. Sybley, the first blacksmith was joined by others in his trade. J H" Burnett built and ran the first tavern. A little community developed around the mills (gris-mill, flour mill and saw mill) and it was named South Newbury to distinguish it from other settlements in Newbury Township. Another settlement grew at the northern border of Newbury Township and this was named North Newbury. Then Newbury Center was started in the center of the Township and Fullerston in the northwest corner.

John Earl was the first cooper in the little community. After him, came Nathan Wilson who specialized in water-pails, tubs and buckets. The Cole family had a cooper shop near the Punderson home. Baker was a little to the south. Sylvester Black made barrels but like Willoughby, he made many other containers including sap buckets. Tyler and Wilber were early carpenters. Merrick Almon and John Riddle became famous as home, barn and church builders. John Jackson operated a fine carriage shop on State Road. Andrew Burnett had a tailor shop while Jonas Alshouse operated a harness shop.

One great problem for the settlers in the Western Reserve was that of transportation. Not only the transportation of people, but more importantly, that of farm products to the east where there was a ready market and of goods from the east (those items which they could not produce in the wilderness). Prior to the canals, most of the goods and people had to come overland in wagons by trails or rude roads to Buffalo or all the way to the destination. At Buffalo, the goods could be transshipped by boat to the various lake ports on the southern shore of Lake Erie. The most practical port for the settlers in Newbury Township (and Burton) was Fairport Harbor. There the goods would be transferred to wagons and hauled to the destination. These were freight wagons with wide-deep bodies, very heavy-wide iron tires and were drawn by either by large teams of heavy draft horses or oxen. One example was the famous Conestoga wagon which was invented and made in New England and later in Pennsylvania. The drivers (teamsters) were a breed apart, specialists in transportation (not unlike our present day truckers). They were well paid but they had to have considerable stamina and ability to endure the heavy work and exposure. Their journey often took weeks as they slowly rolled their heavy loads back and forth over the frontier roads.

The transportation of livestock was another matter. Unlike the unperishables, these could not be transported in the wagons but had to be driven alive to their eastern destination. The people who did the driving were also specialists and contracted with the various farmers and livestock dealers to get their animals to the eastern markets. They were called drovers, and like the teamsters, they had to have the stamina and endurance to last for weeks on the road. The drovers used the same roads as the teamsters giving rise to many interesting situations relative to right-of-way.

One of the scarce items on the frontier was sugar. The sugar that reached the frontier had to be brought from the Caribbean islands and transshipped from an eastern port or shipped up the Mississippi River. Needless to say, that by the time it reached the settlers, it was expensive. A most enjoyable substitute was maple sugar which was more readily available through their own efforts. It necessitated the collection and condensation of the sap from the maple trees in late winter and early spring. The settlers found large numbers of sugar maple trees in the forest and also noted that the Indians were using maple syrup and sugar when the settlers arrived.

Well into the first half of the nineteenth century there were large areas of forest wilderness in the Western Reserve and particularly in Newbury Township. It was the job of the young men and boys of the settlement to go out into the woods and locate the maple trees.

They preferred to have the trees in groves so that the collection of the sap and the rendering of the sugar would not involve too such walking and carrying. Fortunately, the sugar maple trees did exist in groves naturally and they were sometimes able to locate groves of hundreds of trees at a single location. A number of such groves were located between Chagrin River and the present location of Mann Road.

The maple sugar operation would be started late in the winter when the ground was beginning to thaw but there was still a great deal of snow on the ground. It was then that the sap began to flow up in the trunk of the tree. It was usually a community enterprise. The young men and boys (helped by the older men) constructed a "sugar camp" in the grove and transported all of the equipment, supplies and blankets (or other bedding) to the site on sleighs pulled by teams of oxen. The sites were usually at some distance from the settlement (in this case South Newbury) and it took a while to ready the camp for the operation.

First the trees had to located and marked. Then shelter had to be built because it was still cold in the forest. Then the trees had to be tapped and the containers for the sap placed beneath the plugs. A storage tank to hold the collected sap had to be made out of a section of a large tree trunk. The large iron or copper cauldrons were suspended from tripods and fires were started underneath them when enough sap was collected to fill each one.

Once the operation started, the fires would have to be kept burning under the half dozen or more (40 gallon) kettles in which the sap was boiled down and condensed into syrup or sugar. The work seemed to be never ending as it stretched out into days and weeks. The maple sap flowed every time the weather changed from cold to warm. The more changes that the maple sugar gatherers experienced, the more sap they could collect. In the meanwhile, some of the party had to gather and cut wood (of which there was plenty) and others tended to the fires and the large syrup pots which were suspended from tripods over the flaming wood. On occasion, one or two of the party would go out into the wilderness to hunt some game. Then they would broil the fresh meat over the very same fires that were cooking their syrup.

While in the sugar camp, they lived in rude log huts or lean-tos which were open on one side (toward the fires). The floor was usually the straw and leaf covering tossed on the earth. The members of the party (who stayed out at the camp overnight) spread their bedding on the straw and leaves and were warmed by the reflected heat from the fires. It was not unusual for their nights to be disturbed by wild animals which were still in some numbers in the woods.

Wolves, bear and smaller animals would investigate the camp perimeter at night despite the always vigilant dogs that their masters brought with them to the camp. Once in a while, something exciting like a wild cat or wood panther would invade the camp and necessitate the use of firearms. However, despite the heavy work involved, the maple sugar making was an experience that the young male members of the community greatly enjoyed and remembered for a long time.

Occasionally, the members of the party experienced some adventure which was quite out of the ordinary, for even them. A story (they say it was true) was told of a drunken bear. It happened upon just such a maple sugar operation quite before 1820. Several male members of the settlers' then living at Burton had been busy making maple sugar at their camp deep in the wilderness at some distance west of Burton. They were completing the "sugaring off" and were in a jubilant mood because soon they would be going hone. The sugar had been put away by the time the sun set and the kettles remained to be cleaned up and packed. They still held the crust of maple sugar on the inner walls of the pots. Our sugar makers decided to wash this crust down with a few gallons of native made whiskey and it worked. In fact, the resulting mixture of whiskey and dissolved maple sugar was delicious and the entire party of adults got roaring drunk. It was not long afterward that all were quite peacefully asleep.

They had not used up all of this heavenly nectar; a considerable amount still remained in the bottom of the kettles. Along came a bear looking for refreshments and found the kettles with the wonderful sweet, intoxicating liquid in them. Without hesitation he got busy. Kettle after kettle, he cleaned them all out. By the last one, he was more than a little confused, dizzy and sleepy. The whisky took its toll. Bruin fell into a deep, happy sleep among the sleeping sugar makers. Upon waking, in the morning, the sugar makers saw the sleeping bear among them and without delay they took action and dispatched him with an ax.

Punderson's mill was the first in Newbury Township but soon other mills were built on the many little streams that ran through the countryside. When the weather cooperated and the streams ran well, the mills had no difficulty in operating. But some years came when drought diminished the streams so much that the mills could not run. At those times, Punderson's mill still ran because it did not depend upon rainfall. The strong springs feeding his lake never failed to give him sufficient water.

The inhabitants of this little village lived as good a life as was possible in those times. Until 1819, all of the dwellings were log cabins. Some of the commercial buildings were frame structures. With the first frame house built by Joshua Burnett, the rest of the village gradually moved into frame houses.

They existed in as beautiful environment as they could have wished. The hills, the forest, the lakes and the rolling fields set the stage. The pioneer spirit, the resourcefulness of the people and most important their concern for each other made this community a good place. The Punderson family had it made! A large estate, businesses, Friends, and a family with lots of love! It would have been logical to expect it all to continue.

## 7. LIFE IN EARLY SOUTH NEWBURY

Lemuel Punderson was dead! He passed away on August 30, 1822 and with his passing the little community of South Newbury lost one of its most influential and dynamic citizens. He had taken on so many of the responsibilities of his family and of the community that it was not surprising that almost everyone felt the loss. The little community knew that it had come to the end of an era and the beginning of another.

He had contracted a fever during the summer of 1822. The illness kept getting worse and soon he was confined to bed. The best medical talent of the time and the area was summoned (Drs. Scott, Goodwin and Denton) but the good doctors could do little to effect an improvement in Lemuel's condition. It is quite probable that they were not ever able to diagnose his ailment correctly. He seemed to rally for a time and the doctors thought that he was on the way to recovery. But then, his fever got worse after he ate some watermelon and the end came soon afterward.

The family, friends and the neighbors mourned him and laid him to rest on the small hill in the little cemetery next to his mill pond and overlooking his mill. Almost all of South Newbury and the surrounding countryside came to his funeral. His close friend and brother-in-law Eleazer Hickox and the rest of his friends from Burton were there. They buried him and mourned him at his gravesite while the rays of the late summer afternoon sun and the first of the fall colored leaves dropped down upon the scene.

He had been working on a large number of business transactions before he became ill and was just getting ready to make a trip to New England with a number of urgent matters. Many of the contracts were verbal and were known only to Lemuel and the party involved. He was the owner of large Land holdings not only in Newbury Township but elsewhere in the Western Reserve. Some of these holdings were new and unknown to His wife and the rest of the Pundersons. The emotional and physical burden on Sybil and the children was extreme. She showed her “pioneer woman” strength however. With the help of Eleaser Hickox and Eleaser Paine, she managed the administration of the estate.

Punderson's death caused economic, emotional and psychological reverberations-not only in South Newbury but in Newbury Township, the surrounding townships and villages and all the way to New England where many of his clients lived. One of the verbal agreements Lemuel had made was with Pardon Miller for the sale of land. Sybil and her children agreed to hold to the contract Lemuel had made and on March 25, 1825 they sold the northern 269 acres of land on lots 16 and 17 in Tract 2 to Miller. This became the famous Steven P Miller Farm and later also known as the EMERALD LAKE FARM.

Other land sales were made to people who claimed verbal contracts. On March 10, 1824 they transferred land to Abel Fisher (Punderson's saw mill operator) who had a promissory note of $182.50 that Lemuel had signed. Fisher got 31 acres beside the lake but the deed contained the permission for the Pundersons to raise the water level of the lake whenever necessary but not exceeding eight feet above normal. Later, the Fisher family sold it back to Daniel Punderson for as of the 1878 land records show that Daniel again owned the land.

The remaining land was distributed to Lemuel's children. Daniel took over the mill and Lands north and east of it. He served as the miller for the rest of his life. He married Ann Shaw (a sister of Mrs. Elijah Haws, Mrs. Crane, and Mrs. Uiial Burnett) who was a lady of most unusual intelligence, charm, pleasant manners, and a warm motherly personality. They built a modest but pleasant frame house just across from the cemetery overlooking the mill pond and lived there for the rest of their lives.

Daniel greatly resembled his father. He was a large man, a little heavy, with a well shaped head, florid complexion, a little slow in speech but with great administrative talent and wonderful character. Like his father, he possessed such sagacity and was often called upon by his neighbors for his opinion. They never had children but continued to have an everlasting love for the young ones in the neighborhood. They were known to the younger generation as Uncle Dan and Aunt Ann. The children would always be welcomed at the Mill or at Aunt Ann's kitchen where she had a never ending supply of fresh cookies and milk ready for them.

John and Elisabeth (Betsy) remained single. Together, they moved to Burton where they settled in an already built very pleasant house. Samuel, the eldest, died while a young man. Miles moved to Troy, the Township just south of Newbury. Eleaser, the youngest, married Ruth Green and settled down in the Punderson house to raise a family. Sybil lived with Eleaser and Ruth for fifty years until her death in 1872. It seems that she and Ruth got along very well. Eleaser continued to run the family farm until his death on August 10, 1894 when the property passed on to the Green branch of the family.

Changes occurred slowly. Although the roads were almost all established, their condition continued to be poor. There were to be no paved roads in Newbury Township throughout the nineteenth century. The existing roads were built and maintained by the citizens who worked off their poll taxes on road improvement or maintenance. There was very little money budgeted by the Township, County or State for roads in those days.

Most roads were still fair weather roads at their best and, with poor weather conditions (especially during the spring thaws), they became impassible even for riders on horseback. This kept most people restricted to the locality in which they lived. A journey of just a dozen miles was a great undertaking. However, some people did travel. Lawyers, salesmen, doctors and others who had business in far places had to find ways to get there. At first it was walking. Then horseback. When some semblance of roads were built, wagons, buggies or other wheeled vehicles were used. Then some enterprising person established a stage line and this was considered a great help.

For those who must travel it was quite possible to go anywhere if one had the patience and willingness to endure the hardships that came with the experience. The stage coach and boats on the lake were the earliest means of transportation between the civilized east and the settlements in the wilderness of the Western Reserve. The stage line from Painesville to Cleveland was one of the first. This line was started about 1815 and by 1818 they were running on a schedule of sorts. The stage left Painesville at 4PM every Thursday and arrived at Cleveland the next day at 10 AM. The return stage left Cleveland on Fridays at 2 PM and arrived at Painesville the following day at 8 AM. The fare was modest, only a few dollars. But comfort was not a part of the deal. The roads were rough; the stages were not equipped with shock absorbers or even real springs. Often, the passengers would have to get out and walk when the road became too poor for the horses (six horse teams) to pull the stage loaded with passengers and luggage.

Of course the stage line ran further east-all the way to Buffalo. By 1824, there were stage lines running three times a week between Cleveland and Buffalo and twice a week to Pittsburg by way of Bedford, Hudson, Ravenna, Deerfield and Salem. There was also a stage to Detroit and one to Columbus and Cincinnati. The trip from Cleveland to Buffalo took 40 hours and cost six dollars. The roads were in such poor shape that in the worst season it took 12 days to get from Cleveland to Pittsburg.

Those who had to travel to or from South Newbury would decide in which direction they would leave the village by Stage. If their destination was New England then they went north to Fairport to board a ship or to Painesville to take an eastward stage coach to Buffalo where they could transfer to either coach or canal boat. Those whose destination was in the southern regions would leave by the southbound stage to Ravenna where they could get connections to stages going to Pittsburg, Columbus or Cincinnati. At any event, it would be a very hard, tiring and time consuming journey. After the advent of the Ohio Canal the travelers bound for the south generally went through Cleveland to board a packet.

In 1825, John 0 Granger started the first stage line to run through South Newbury. By that time, State Road had been improved enough from Fairport and Painesville to Ravenna to allow wagons and stage coaches to operate. True, during certain times in the Fall, Winter and Spring going was difficult. Yet, it was possible to go north and south to get connecting stage coaches east or west.

Uri Hickox was quick to grasp the opportunity. He built his frame tavern on the intersection of Kinsman and State Roads (87 and 44). It was a large building for that time with some space for lodging, meals and a dance hall on the second floor. Its greatest marvel, however, is the massive stone chimney which serves six huge fireplaces (central heating nineteenth century style). There is a smoke house (or room) built into the chimney on the third floor where the meat and other food was smoked to be preserved. But perhaps the most intriguing feature is a hidden room built into the side of the chimney on the first floor which is said to have been used as a hiding place for runaway slaves when the tavern served as a station on the "underground railroad".

But the main function of the tavern was to serve as a way station for the stage line. Here, they changed horses, sometimes stages and loaded or unloaded luggage for the long pulls to Painesville or Ravenna. For example, when someone wanted to go to Painesville, Jefferson or Fairport, they would send their luggage from South Newbury to the Hickox tavern to be loaded on the proper stage. The passenger would flag down the stage, however, at any spot on State Road and ride on to the tavern where his luggage was waiting to be loaded. It was done this way because the stage drivers did not like to disturb the freight load en route. They preferred to handle luggage only at the regular stage stops.

There were other taverns on the route. It is said that there were four major taverns including Hickox's along the stage route on State Road. In addition, Josh Burnett ran a tavern on the west side of State Road near Pond Road. The Terry Hotel and Knox tavern were other inns in the vicinity. North Newbury also had several taverns on State Road. These taverns served the local people as well as travelers and were social centers for the community. There were parties, gatherings and dances, especially on holidays like New Years Eve. Then too, the stage coach taverns often served as the mail distribution centers of those days.

Mail was an important service which depended on roads for regular delivery. True, there was a sort of mail delivery before the roads were established but it was very slow, haphazard and expensive. A man by the name of McElvaine was the first mail carrier in the Western Reserve. In 1803, he started the route from Warren to Mesopotania, Windsor, Morgan, Austinburg and westward to Harpersfield, Painesville and Cleveland. Then he went southeast back to Warren touching as many settlements as he could reach. All this he did on foot and it took him a week.

The route was extended in 1811 to Sandusky and the mail carrier was put on horseback. Still later, the mail was carried by stage coach. The carriers were still needed however where the coach lines did not run. After 1625, the mail came to South Newbury via the stage and a post office was established.

Lemuel Punderson was the first postmaster prior to the establishment of the stage line. He served until his death. While he served, the mail came via horseback from Burton or points south. After Punderson died, D T Bruce took over as postmaster for a short time. Then the office was moved to the home of Thomas Billings who served until the post office was relocated into Gardner's store. Also at that same time, the designation of the post office was changed from Newbury to South Newbury because North Newbury got their own office.

Usually, the early post offices were at the home of the postmaster until the regular post stations were designated. These were in country stores in the nineteenth century. After, 1820, most of the mail traveled by stage coach where boats were not available. This continued until the coming of the railroad which eliminated the stage coaches. But there was a need for carriers all along because the stage route or the railroads did not come close enough to the majority of the people. These carriers delivered the mail by whatever means was available-boat, foot, wheeled vehicle or horseback.

As the forest was cleared away and fields began to appear the people started to have cows and soon milk was in greater supply than the individual family could use. This encouraged the development of the cheese making industry in Newbury Township. South Newbury had several such factories on State Road but the most famous was the three story Ober cheese factory not too far from the Punderson Mill. It was to this plant that the farmers brought their surplus milk and took home (in the same containers) the whey byproduct from the cheese making for their hogs and cattle.

Schools were always important to most of the settlers, even more important than churches. The first schools were held at private homes where the pupils were taught by one of the adults who had sufficient education on the subjects to be covered. The first school in South Newbury was on State Road in the log house of J N Burnett during the summer before he occupied it (1815). Chloe Humphrey taught the small group of children who were able to attend.

After the arrival of the Burnett family, the school was removed to a new log cabin just south of Spring Brook, near the old Parker Hotel on State Road. Here, Lovisa Bosworth taught for a while and then Hamilton Utley, who taught the first winter school in 1818-1819. In 1820, a new frame school house was built in which Amariah Wheelock taught in 1821. A second school opened at about this time in the locality of Uri Hickox's tavern. This was a log cabin and Polly Young taught her until Hamilton Utley also took a period.

This cabin was replaced by a frame school in 1828 and Aberdeen Smith was the first teacher.

In time, the schools of Newbury Township increased in number to nine and were administered as one room district schools. In the South Newbury area there were two, one on Music Street and one on Bell Street. The pupils either walked to these schools, rode their own ponies, were transported by their parents or were picked up by the predecessor of the "school bus" the KID HACK. The kid hack was a wagon constructed to carry children. It had rude wooden benches in the bed of the wagon behind the teamster who was usually one of the parents.

The atmosphere at these one room schools was informal, friendly and interesting. One teacher usually taught all eight grades--the total student body might not be in excess of 20 pupils. The earliest schools did not have many of the equipment and supplies that are considered so necessary today. There were no blackboards, no books, no dictionaries, and certainly no equipment such as projectors or computers. Instead, the pupils were asked to bring any printed matter they could get from home. Some brought bibles. Others brought classics, novels and other printed matter.

It was understandable that the quality of education was entirely dependent upon the ability of the teacher. But teachers were very often poorly educated themselves. Most only went through an equivalent high school education before becoming a teacher. Very often they were young single women who taught for a short time before getting married. They were highly regulated and poorly paid.

Seldom was the school fortunate enough to get a teacher of the qualifications that Hamilton Utley had when he taught in the South Newbury School.

The pupils carried their lunches with them in the morning and these were stored along with their coats in a small room off the entrance at the front of the school. As the school houses became frame holdings, black boards were installed and these helped considerably. Previously, the pupils carried small slate black boards on which each would write their lessons. Paper and pencil were very expensive and not in general use on the frontier. They occasionally used pen and ink but these were home made from easily acquired materials.

The teacher's desk was at the front just before the entrance door. The pupils sat at one or two person desks facing the teacher. The front row of seats was the recitation row where the students who were being taught would sit while the others worked on their assignments. The recitation row was never filled to overflowing because each grade contained just a few students. Sometimes, only one pupil or even none occupied a grade.

The teacher was usually a young single person (man or woman) who came in from outside the neighborhood and got meals and lodging at the home of one of the pupils. The parents took turns in giving this service to the teacher and it was considered to be part of his or her salary. The pay was always meager, just several dollars per month. But the working conditions and the restrictions on the teachers were severe. Their social life was carefully monitored not only by the School Board but also by the parents. Any deviation from what was considered moral in the community was reason for instant dismissal. It is no wonder that none of the teachers taught at one school for any length of time. Also, the teacher was responsible for more than teaching. The maintenance of the school house, operating the pot belly heating stove and other non-teaching chores were considered part of the job.

Most of the Western Reserve families were of modest or even poor means. They had to be satisfied with the quality of their schools, they had no choice. A few families were wealthy enough to have other alternatives and these would send their children to the better schools of New England. While some of the best leaders were educated in this way, it is also true that the common one room schoolhouse turned out its share of good community leaders and wonderful people.

It should not be thought that higher education was impossible for the average student in the Western Reserve. If he and his family desired it enough, he had the chance to go to the excellent high school and college at Burton. If the student had the use of a horse, this was at a reasonable distance from South Newbury. This school, established in 1805 as an academy, was the predecessor of the Western Reserve College at Hudson which was the predecessor of the Western Reserve University of Cleveland. The academy was the first school of its kind in northern Ohio and served this region for many decades. A severe sickness during 1823 in Burton and other reverses terminated the academy at Burton and it was moved. Some of the educators tried to rebuild a school of higher learning at Burton and while it operated for three years, in 1826 it was evident that the support was not enough and so the academy terminated. But, at the same time another academy started in Chardon. This was considerably farther from South Newbury and required the student to seek lodging there while at school.

Lemuel Punderson had served as supplier of necessities before there was a regular store in the village even though he did not have a store. The villagers and others would come to the mill or his home for those things that he used to store for his own use. Sometimes he freighted in orders for his neighbors at the same time he brought in his supplies from larger towns such as Cleveland, Pittsburg or Warren. But soon, the little village had to have a regular store.

Hiram Colton brought in the first dry goods to Newbury in 1824 when he arrived to settle on the Charles Woodward place. Abiathar Alexander opened a little store in his father's house in 1825. Along with this business, he also operated an “ashery”. Actually, this was a wood burning operation to get the wood ashes from which a primitive alkali was obtained. This was used to make soap and found a ready market in the larger towns which had soap factories. Many of the frontier families supplemented their income by producing wood ashes for this market. They would bring the ashes to the nearest general store or to an establishment such as that run by Alexander and they would be given credit toward the purchase of needed supplies.

A C Gardner set up a large store about 1830 on State Road in the village and did considerable business for many years. Later this grew into the firm of Gardner, Hayden and Weston. Later, another change turned the store over to Doolittle and Weston. Elbridge Hayden sold goods for many years from the Parker Tavern as E W Johnson did from the Burnett tavern. Shumway started a store at North Newbury just before he opened his hotel. Worrallo and others operated stores at Ford (Newbury Center) while Samuel McNutt had a grocery at Fullertown.

Sibley was the first blacksmith in South Newbury. Roswell Rice, Thomas Billings, and the Perry brothers all located in the village. Olds had a shop near Uri Hickox tavern and Robert Mitchell established one in North Newbury. William Chase and Dow Austin operated shops at Ford (Newbury Center).

The villagers got their shoes custom made by one of the several shoemakers of the village. Before the shoemakers settled there, the inhabitants had to go clear to Burton for shoes. But Augustus Gilbert came and started a tannery in the swamp just below the Punderson Mill and started making shoes shortly afterward. Alpheus Haws was his prime workman who made many fine shoes coming out of this establishment. Later, Marble Weaver, Jonas Ward, John Robinson, Sol Burnett, Henry Utley and John Ferris engaged in this trade.

Despite the relative concentration of settlers in South Newbury there was vast stretches of dense forest and wilderness around them. It was not uncommon for someone to get lost in the woods. Even Punderson got lost for several days at one time. For this reason, most of the villagers did not go into the woods without adequate preparation of training. Those who did were people well versed in wood lore and able to find their way through the forest without the need for compass, signs or roads. Then too, many people were superstitious and the tales and legends of spirits (or ghosts) of long dead people, particularly Indians, kept them to the village confines. Part of the wilderness continued through much of the first half of the nineteenth century.

Perhaps the best verbal picture of this and of life in South Newbury of 1830's can be had from the book BARTON RIDGELY written by A C Riddle. He wrote this book in 1873 and it was based on his life as a child and youth in the South Newbury area. The characters in his novel are based on real people who were his contemporaries or lived in the generation or two before him.

## 8. THE FORMOST FAMILIES

Up to this point, we have dealt with only three families in detail; the UMBERFIELDS, the HICKOXS and the PUNDERSONS. But there were other pioneer families who were important in the settlement and the development of Newbury Township, in particular South Newbury. In fact, for the full significance and understanding of the rest of the history of this region, knowledge of these families is necessary. I've included considerable historical detail on some, particularly on the Utley family. This was to illustrate the character and origins of the early pioneers who came to settle Newbury Township.

One of the early families to settle in South Newbury was that of Joshua M Burnett. Joshua was born in Warwick, Massachusetts on May 8, 1772. While still a young man in the east, he married Miss Mchitable Cobb, daughter of Josiah Cobb, a long time member of the Massachusetts State Legislature. By the time they departed for the Western Reserve in 1815, the couple had eight children; a ninth was born in South Newbury.

Joshua Burnett left on his long journey in January 1815 accompanied by Harry, the oldest son, who was also married. The son elected to take his new bride with them. It was winter and due to the heavy snow, the three traveled by sleigh. They took their time on the road and visited friends and relatives on the way. For this reason, it took over four weeks for them to complete the journey.

When they arrived in Newbury Township they found seven settlements started but only five families in residence (the rest were single people), indeed a unique situation. Soon, with the help of Punderson, they located their land and in a little while, they erected their home, a double log cabin. The extra room in this cabin was used for the first school in South Newbury until the later arrival of the rest of the Burnett family when entire double cabin was occupied. Then the school was moved to a new log cabin built nearby especially for it.

On July 4, 1815, Joshua returned to Massachusetts for the rest of the family. They reached South Newbury in October and settled down in their cramped quarters. However, in 1819, Joshua built the first frame dwelling in the Township. Although Punderson had used frame construction on his mills, his distillery and his barn nobody had attempted to build a frame home. It was only after this, that Punderson also built his first frame dwelling. Prior to 1820, Burnett built the first tavern in Newbury Township on State Road at the present location of Bell Street. It was from this location that Punderson and others cut the first road west from South Newbury to Chagrin Falls in 1820.

Joshua's wife died on January 19, 1825 at 52 years of age. He remarried a widow, Mrs. Huldah Jackson. Joshua lived his fairly long life out in South Newbury and died on December 20, 1851 at the age of 79.

Of the nine children, eight were born at Warwick, Massachusetts. Harry, in 1794; Josiah, in 1797; Calista, 1900; Serinth, in 1803; Lauretta, in 1806; Detroit, in 1809; Nabby C, in 1813; Robert Prelate, in 1815; and Purleyette N, who was born in South Newbury in June, 1820.

Solomon Johnson (born November 28, 1763 in Massachusetts) came into the Newbury Township wilderness with his eldest son Seth in 1815 by a very circuitous route. They started from New York State at the headwaters of the Allegheny River, in the autumn of 1814. All winter they worked on producing a large lot of shingles and a couple of rafts. Then, in the spring of 1815, they started down the rivers toward Cincinnati where they planned to seal the shingles and the rafts. But before they could reach Cincinnati, they lost the load of shingles and their household goods in a bad stretch of spring rapids but managed to escape with their lives. Fortunately, they had their money in belts fastened about their waist.

They traveled (on foot) north from Cincinnati to Sandusky and all the way to Painesville. There, they met their old friend Joshua Burnett who told them about the land he had just purchased in Newbury Township. The Johnsons accompanied Burnett back to South Newbury and bought land next to him with the money that they carried all the way from New England. They built their log cabin and sent for the rest of the family. These arrived in the summer of 1816-Solomon's wife, his daughter Diodama and Solomon Jr. the younger son. With them came John Earl, Mrs. Johnson's son by an earlier marriage, his wife Jemima and three children. Also traveling with them was the second son Jonah Johnson and his family (wife and one son Theodore).

Seth Johnson married Saloma Curtis in 1821 and moved into his own house where he raised a family of 12 children. Of this large family, only three elected to remain in South Newbury after becoming adults. Daniel Johnson was the second son of Seth, born in South Newbury on June 22, 1826. He married Belle Gould (of Summit County), daughter of Somon Gould on March 9, 1852. Daniel inherited the Seth Johnson property and lived there for many years. He took an active role in community and political affairs and served his community in many ways. They had a family of four children; Estella, S. Dayton, William C and Lettie Grace. Of Jonah Johnson's large family, but none stayed in the village. Most relocated to Michigan.

The Utley family was one of the most important in Newbury Township. This family was one of the few that could boast of a coat of arms but this was hardly ever mentioned in the Western Reserve wilderness. Hamilton Utley was born at Munson, Massachusetts on April 15, 1790 and was the oldest son of a wealthy and important man.

They came from a very old family whose ancestor Samuel Utley (born 1611 at Thorne, Yorkshire, England) found refuge at Scituate, Massachusetts in 1637 after a disturbance against the Lord of Hatfield Manor from whom they rented land. He did well in his new home, married Hanna Hatch on December 6, 1643 and raised six children. One of these was Samuel Utley, born 1662 (the year his father died).

Samuel Jr. married Sarah Ashe at Stonington, Connecticut on April 9, 1691. It was there that this branch of the Utley family started. Samuel and Sarah had eight children, one of which was Jeremiah Utley who was born at Stonington, Connecticut on May 20, 1701. He married Mary Frink (of Stonington) on August 2, 1825. Jeremiah was an important and active man in the New England colonies prior to the Revolutionary War. He took a large part in church and civic affairs as well as being a veteran of the French and Indian wars. He and his wife had 12 children, one of which was Stephen Utley (Hamilton's grandfather) who was born in Windham, Connecticut on March 28, 1736.

Stephen Utley, like his father, took an active part in the affairs of his community. He married Zipperah Hastings at Windham on April 28, 1757. While married to Zipperah, in addition to becoming father to three children, he became involved in the American Revolution and served it in a number of ways. He became a member of the Pumfret Committee to secure clothing for the ragged Continental Army. In 1781, he enlisted in the Continental Army from the town of Pomfret. However, she died in Pomfret, Connecticut on October 25, 1786. Two years later, on Janurary 15, 1789, Stephen married Sarah Love. He and Sarah had 14 children. One of the three children born to Zipperah was Asel Utley (born June 11, 1761) who was Hamilton’s father.

Axel Utley married Lavinea E Merrick of Monson, Massachusetts at that town. They had six children, one being Hamilton (born at Monson on April 15, 1790). Asel, like his father and Grandfather, was conscious of his civic responsibilities and served his community well. He was primarily a farmer but had other business interests. He took part in religious and educational matters and headed the list of contributors for the first buildings of the Monson Academy. He served as trustee of Monson Academy from 1804 to 1809. He became a wealthy man and one held in high esteem by his contemporaries.

Hamilton Utley, raised in New England, received a very fine education and became a many faceted, cultured person. Indeed, he was an excellent educator, writer, story teller, actor and well versed in the social circles. He learned to play the violin and this proved to be quite useful in his later life. But this is jumping the story a little. He married an auburn haired Monson beauty, Polly Squires on February 11, 1811.

She was of an equally distinguished family that included branches which became important in the Western Reserve-the Riddles, the Squires the Merricks and the Moultons. Both were young (he 21, she 20), and very much in love. While they had many personality traits in common, they also had many differences. This did not seem to disturb their marriage noticeably. They started their marriage in good circumstances and soon had their first four children. Hamilton taught school but augmented his income with speculative ventures. One, in textiles during the War of 1812, lost a fortune for them and, in desperation; Hamilton and Polly decided to immigrate to the Western Reserve wilderness.

They started in the fall of 1817. On the way, they stopped to visit Polly's relatives at Alexander, New York. There, Hamilton got a job teaching school and contracted to stay for the winter. But Polly decided to go ahead with the four children to the new frontier in the company of some of her relatives (the Riddles, Munns and Greens). She drove a well packed ox drawn wagon over the winter snows for many days until they finally reached their destination, a farm west of South Newbury (on Music Street). Here, on land owned by Hamilton's only sister Harriet, they found a partly built log cabin on a hill just east of the present location of Munn Road on Music Street. It is said that the first night in this windowless, door less shelter, Polly remained awake throughout the night, guarding her little family with a shotgun across her lap. She had fastened sheets and quilts across the open windows and door to retain some heat in the cabin.

Polly was a very courageous and resourceful woman, much better suited for the wilderness frontier than Hamilton. She was an excellent mother; warm, loving, devoted to her job of raising this family, indulgent at the proper times and, most important, cheerful with an unending sense of humor. This red haired beauty took charge of the family immediately and, without delay, had a proper log cabin built on the 100 acre farm-not far from the Munn family farm.

While still at Monson, Polly lost a ten month old infant (her third) before it could be baptized. Her pastor Rev. Dr. Ely told her that it had gone to hell because the baptism was not applied in time. Folly was horrified to think that it could have come about because of her neglect. The pastor was no help and Polly, in desperation, began to study the Bible seriously to find out if her pastor was correct. She convinced herself that the pastor was in error and baptism was not related to salvation. In time, she became an authority on the Bible and debated her conclusions with many members of the clergy. Before the move to the wilderness, she and Hamilton became Universalists and when she and her family migrated to the Western Reserve, she brought her religious faith with her and became a leader of this faith in Newbury Township.

Polly was one of the first founders of the Universalist Church in Newbury and both she and her husband sang in the choir.

Hamilton joined his family at Newbury when his teaching contract expired in New York State in 1818. Polly and the four children were already established in the new log cabin by that time. In time, Munn Road was established and the intersection of Munn Road and Music Street came to be known as Utley's Corner. A one room school house was built near the corner and it was long known as Utley's school. Lucky were the children who had the privilege of attending that school because they had one of the most talented, knowledgeable teachers in the Western Reserve. Hamilton taught at this school for 22 winters.

Hamilton was a tall (six feet four inch) dark eyed, brunette hair and very outgoing. He was more suited to the easier and luxuriant life in the east for he was highly educated (for that time), talented in many ways for fine society but not well suited for farm work. He loved to teach. One of his many desirable traits was his great love for children. He loved to entertain them, tell them stories and sing songs with them.His grandchildren remembered this most of all.

One grandchild recalled him many years later thus: "Grandfather was a very tall man with black eyes and hair. When he walked about the house and the large yard, he carried his hands behind his back with the left hand clasping the right wrist. He always wore a long black coat and a high silk hat, soft turned down collar that looked to be held in place by a black silk handkerchief, folded corner-wise and tied in a bow knot at his throat. He was charming and a great story teller. His grandchildren never tired of his tales of Robin Hood, Puss in Boots and Irish fairy tales. I think now that the wonderful tales of cats he often told us were made up for each special occasion."

Both Hamilton and Polly had good singing voices. They imparted the love for music to their family from the beginning. Hamilton taught as many of his children as cared to play the violin and several famous country “fiddlers” came from this brood. The two had 13 children; all but the first four were born at Utley's corner in the log home. After the last child, Hamilton had a frame home constructed upon the property and this eased Polly's life considerably.

Hamilton's outgoing, friendly personality got him to be one of the most liked person in Newbury Township. His neighbors recognized his assets and gave him all kinds of opportunities to serve the community. He was recognized and valued as a musician and played his violin at many social occasions. He was elected Justice-of-Peace. With two exceptions, he served in every office in town. In 1824, he became an ardent supporter of Andrew Johnson and was twice the choice of his party for the Ohio Legislature. While he never became rich, he had a full and satisfactory life, as did Polly.

Despite their obvious dissimilarities and the fact that they married young, Hamilton and Polly had an unusually happy and satisfactory marriage and they were truly devoted to each other to the end. As recalled by their grandchildren many years later, Hamilton was very attentive to his Polly, even as she lay ill in her bed at the end of her life. She retained her unusual beauty and long hair until the end. She died on May 8, 1853. Hamilton followed her on December 30, 1853. Both were laid to rest in the Munn cemetery not far from their home.

The children of Hamilton and Polly constituted a generation from which the early frontier writer A G Riddle drew his material for some of his novels and stories. In particular, THE YOUNG SUGAR MAKERS OP THE WEST WOODS written in 1885 and BART RIDGELY written in 1873 are good examples. The characters in these and other books he wrote were based upon members of this generation and the events which occurred in South Newbury during the second, third and fourth decades in the nineteenth century.

The RIDDLES were of Scotch ancestry who had been settled in Tyrone County, Ireland in the seventeenth century. The ancestor, Thomas Riddle, (born in Ireland in 1739) was brought to America as a small child by an aunt or older sister. Subsequently, he had a family of four sons and four daughters. Three of the sons served in the Continental Army during the Revolution. The youngest of the sons was Thomas Jr. who was born on September 27, 1781 at Monson, Massachusetts. He was very intelligent although limited by the education available in his neighborhood. But he was a superior vocalist and could play a few musical instruments. In addition, he was an ardent patriot and served in the War of 1812. On December 22, 1805, he and Minerva Merrick were married at Monson.

The Merricks were a wealthier family and of Welsh decent (Minerva was the youngest of a large family of girls) and her father did not approve of the less affluent Riddles. But she was of a strong mind and had her way, bringing a dowery of $900 with her as well as a great deal of industry, skill as a housewife and a wonderful personality. In person, she was of medium height, slender, with fine, dark eyes, raven hair and a strong face.

Early in 1817, Thomas Riddle made up his mind to migrate to Ohio. He visited Newbury, bought land and went back to Monson to collect his family. During September, 1817, the Riddles set out for the new land. It seems that the Munns and the Greens started out at about the same time. The Riddle outfit consisted of a pair of spry young oxen with a span of good horses in the lead. The seven people and their household goods made up a heavy load in the wagon. They were loaded to the very limit. The family reached their new home in December after being on the road for forty-one days.

The winter was an unusually cold one and, although they did have land, they did not have a house on it as yet. They found temporary shelter with the Pundersons while Thomas Riddle, with the help of neighbors and friends, put up a very small log cabin. As soon as the cabin was roofed the family moved in-they hung a blanket over the door opening while the door was being fashioned. It was only later that the furniture was fashioned from native wood and a floor of wood planks was laid.

That winter Riddle bought a cow and spent considerable time in cutting the tops of basswood and maple trees for his livestock (he did not have sufficient hay). With the coming of the end of winter, the family got busy with maple sugar making and it was only after that when Riddle started on a larger log cabin into which the family moved in 1818. The boys went to the South Newbury School during the winters and Thomas became increasingly involved in the civic affairs of the little community. In September 1823, Thomas went to help a sick neighbor harvest a crop of wheat that grew near the swamp below Punderson's mill. He became ill from malaria and died, as much from this disease as from the poor medical practices of that time.

Thomas and Minerva had nine children. Of these, Almon (1806), Jose (1808), Thomas Edward (1810), William Henry Harrison (1812), John Adams (1814) and Albert Gallatin (1816) were born at Monson, Massachusetts. The others, Minerva (1818), Roswell (1820) and George 0 (1823) were born in Newbury Township. When these reached adulthood, only one remained in Geauga County, Elmer, who moved to Chardon.

Marsena Munn, the head of the Munn family who settled in Newbury Township, was born in Monson, Massachusetts on March 30, 1771, of a well to do farm family. He married Delinda Anderson (of Monson) on January 28, 1795 and proceeded to raise a family. He and Delinda had two sons and five daughters. The oldest was Thomas Anderson (June 25, 1796) who was to play a large role in the early history of Newbury.

In 1618, Thomas A was sent (on foot) with Asa Robinson (a middle aged man) to scout out the land they had bought from John Wilds in the west part of Newbury Township, make improvements, and prepare to move the family there. They traveled light, having only backpacks. They located the land, which was several miles west of South Newbury, and put up a small simple log cabin. On the following June, the family started their journey from Monson. Their wagon train consisted of a very large wagon drawn by four oxen, two smaller and lighter wagons; one drawn by a team of two horses and the other by one. Loren Parsons, Artemus Robinson and Reuben K. Munn (relative) came with the party.

The first land purchase had been for eleven hundred acres but Munn continued to buy more land when they arrived.

In time, he became one of the largest resident land owners in the Township. He traded his skill as a mill builder for much of this land and also built his own gris mill and saw mill on Silver Creek. He had some success with the saw mill but the gris mill would not operate because there was insufficient water power. He became very despondent and eventually insane. Finally, in 1820, he became the first suicide in the Township when he blew out his brains.

Thomas Anderson Munn had received a very good academical education at the old Monson Academy and was well prepared for life by the time his father died. He was a young man of superior intelligence, great simplicity and directness of manners and speech. Thus, he took over the management of his family's property with much skill and success. In 1823, he married Hannah Fisher and built a frame house on the farm (on Munn Road) where he took care of his own offspring as well as his mother and sisters. He became very active in civic affairs and was elected to the more important township offices, and filled those of Justice of Peace, Township Clerk and Trustee several times. Later, he became a County Commissioner. He was looked up to as a man of unusual good judgment and honesty. He died at Newbury on August 25, 1853 at the age of fifty-seven.

The widow Munn (Hannah) lived much longer (November 2, 1876). They had six children, all born in Newbury Township. Most of this family lived on the farm on Munn Road quite close to the Utley, Riddle, Hayden, Upham and some of the Robinson families. The resulting collection of young people made Utley's corner and the Munn farm very lively social centers.

Other branches of the Munn family in Massachusetts migrated to Newbury. Captain William Wallace Munn and William Munn are two who played significant roles in Newbury.

The UPHAMS were no less important than the fore mentioned. They came to Newbury from Canton, Massachusetts in the fall of 1818. Amos Upham Sr. who was also known as Captain Upham had been a successful merchant in the east until he met with financial reverses. He bought some land from share holders of the Connecticut Land Company and sent his son Amos Jr. ahead to locate the land and make preparations for the rest of the family. The group leaving Massachusetts included Captain Upham, his wife, the wife and four children of Amos Jr., Peletiah Adams with his wife (Captain Upham's daughter) and his mother.

Amos Jr. built his cabin and made other preparations for his people. His wife “Peggy” had a major role in packing and moving into the new wilderness. The party reached their new home and Amos Jr. in the fall of 1818.
Her first view of their new home was not encouraging. She saw a rude log cabin in a little clearing and far from neighbors in the vast forest called the West Part.

But, because she had a cheerful disposition, she soon became reconciled to the new life and worked hard at making this a good, comfortable home for all.

There is a story of how some of their household goods got to their new home. Peggy had shipped some of the things by freight wagon to Buffalo and boat to Fairport where it was deposited on the dock, 25 miles from their home. The problem was getting the shipment to the farm. After a hectic search, Amos and Peggy located a one horse wagon and with the rest of the money that Peggy had left, Amos left with the owner of the horse and wagon to pay for the freight and pick up the shipment.

The country was very wild with few roads and these were but trails. He had to get help from nearby farmers who could pull his wagon out of mud holes with their oxen. He had to break the ice in front of the horse and wagon again and again. Jumping up and down from the wagon, he accidently lost his purse containing all of his money and arrived at Fairport without the funds for the freight payment. The agent was not a trusting sole and refused to release the goods without being payed. With considerable argument, a portion of the shipment was released to him and he returned to the farm and Peggy with his sad story. She trusted her husband and decided to make do with the part of the goods that did arrive while they saved enough money to ransom the rest of their goods, still at Fairport. By spring, they had the money and Amos again set out with another team and an assistant to recover the goods. When they reached the place where Amos thought that he lost the money he was particularly attentive. The snow had melted by this time and the road was visible again. Advancing thus for several miles, he suddenly saw something reddish brown ahead of him. He jumped off the wagon and ran ahead to see what it was. It was his long lost purse with all of the money still in it! The happy Amos reached Fairport, collected his long overdue freight and returned with the good news to Peggy and the family.

The next fall, the pumpkin harvest was bountiful on the Upham farm. Peggy decided that it would be a wonderful idea to make some pumpkin pies from some of them. The only available oven belonged to the neighbor who lived a mile from the farm. This was not bad. Peggy had a wonderful time visiting and pleasantly gossiping while the pies were made and baked. She put them into a large basket and set off for home (on foot). Darkness set in before she got very far and there she was, in the middle of a great forest, in darkness, with wolves and other wild animals about her. She was not calm, to be sure, and tried to hasten on her way. The wolves got closer to her, she got more nervous and soon she tripped and the pies flew off ahead of her.

She got up, picked up the pies she could find and set out again. Again, she fell and again she picked up the pies.

The third time she fell, she landed right upon the rest of the pies. When she finally reached Amos and the boys all she had left in the basket was the crust of one pie and a lot of leaves and twigs.

Captain Upham was a tall, stately man of the old school but in ill health. He did not last long on the frontier and died soon after they arrived. His wife, however, was of tougher stock and lived well into the nineteenth century.

Amos Jr. was born at Canton on November 6, 1787. His wife, Margaret Tucker was born in April 1786 in Massachusetts and lived until March 1872 at Chagrin Falls. The family settled a mile and a half west of the center of Newbury and in a few years moved to the WEST PART near the western boundary of Newbury Township. Here they cleared and developed a fine farm and became influential members of this new community.

The HAYDENS came to Newbury Township in 1828. This family consisted of Moses Hayden, his wife (Elizabeth), three sons and four daughters. They purchased an existing farm which was being sold at sheriff's sale and became farmers. Moses was born in Massachusetts on January 1, 1785 and lived in Newbury and Chardon Townships until his death on August 1, 1876 at the age of 91. He had experience in the textile industry before he came to the Western Reserve. He was an interesting man; intelligent, enterprising, and a nonconformist. He was one of the early Universalists who banded with the UtIeys to found the first Universalist church in Newbury. His wife was a good looking blond who was intelligent and who made a good neighbor for other frontier women. One of his sons, Elbridge, became a merchant and kept a store for some time at South Newbury, became a member of the firm of Gardner, Hayden & Weston.

The FISHER family came to South Newbury in 1818. Abel Fisher (the head) was born at Canton, Massachusetts in April 1767. His first wife (Deborah White) died in 1882 and he married Ruth Tilden and moved to Newbury in 1818 where he died in 1831 at the age of 65. Ruth survived him by several years. Fisher settled on the north side of Music Street just west of Punderson's saw mill and became the supervisor of that mill.

After Punderson's death, he purchased the site and 37 acres from the Punderson heirs on March 10, 1824 and continued to run the saw mill. After his death, the property was bought by Daniel Punderson and restored to the Punderson family. The house that Fisher built and lived in lasted well into the twentieth century and was thought (by that time) that it had been the dwelling of Lemuel Punderson. This was not so. Lemuel's house was south of the gris mill and was occupied by Eleazer (Punderson's youngest son), his family and Sybil (Punderson's widow).

WELCOME BULOCK was one of the most celebrated characters in early Newbury Township. He was born at Royalston, Massachusetts on May 12, 1775. He and Grace Fay (of Athol, Massachusetts) married in 1798 and settled down to raise a family. But the War of 1812 came along and Welcome, being a patriot, enlisted in Captain Field's company at South Orange for the duration.

Immediately upon discharge, he packed up his household into a two-horse wagon and set out with his wife and children (Hiram, Susan, Sabra, Mary and Luceba) for the Western Reserve. They reached Newbury in December 1815 where he took up land and built a cabin. But in the spring of 1818 he relocated to a mile east of the centre (Newbury Center) where he built another cabin and cleared a farm.

At the famous Fourth of July celebration at Punderson's farm in South Newbury, he was the primary speaker and delivered a spirited oration. He was an ardent hater of Great Britain and of the Federalist Party being a staunch democrat. When the center was recognized by a post office, he was appointed the first post master. He was a powerfully built man, muscular, had striking features with deeply tanned skin, considerable intellect and a strong voice. He was considered a great hurter who killed hundreds of dear, many elk and bears and wolves. Being generous, he often supplied his less fortunate neighbors with fresh meat.

A story was told of his adventure in the West Part woods while making maple sugar one spring. He was boiling the sap in large kettles suspended over wood fires and during the night, fell asleep on a board beside the Kettles. His dog was with him but it also fell asleep alongside Welcome. The fires had burned out and the forest became very dark. The wolves crept up and were about to jump on him when his dog woke up and immediately attacked the intruders. Bullock also woke and sprang to the fray. He picked up a still smoldering log from under one of the kettles and started working on the fighting wolves. The wolves, surprised by his action, turned tail and disappeared. Undoubtedly, a timid man would have suffered a far different outcome.

He was the subject of many colorful tales in those early days of South Newbury and also a story teller of great renown. His house was a popular place for the young people (especially the boys) to gather because his daughters were not only attractive but charming as well.

JUSTIN ALEXANDER was called “Uncle Aleck” and by some “the Dominie” in early South Newbury. He was short, stout, and had a face that beamed with serenity, sweetness and benevolence. He was very religious and a devout believer is the Christian revelation. He was a bible scholar and delighted in giving services at his home, not only on Sundays, but on weekdays as well. Surprisingly, he claimed to be a Unitarian.

The above families are but a few of those who put life into early South Newbury.

## 9. OUR BEAUTIFULL LAKE

As the first half of the nineteenth century rolled on, the life and environment around and in South Newbury and the Newbury Township changed. The once heavily forested wilderness quickly disappeared. Natural disasters such as tornadoes, the farmers' desire for clear lands for planting and the operation of the early lumber industry caused a most significant depletion of the forest.

In less than twenty years, most of the dense wilderness was gone. Only small patches of trees remained, serving as wood lots for the farmers. Even the great forest in the WEST PART was gone. Likewise, the wild animals which had been so plentiful before the pioneers came, vanished. The deer, the wild turkey, the bear, the wild cat, the wood panther, the wolves, the beaver and even the rattlesnakes were either gone or were very hard to find.

By mid-nineteenth century, the change was almost complete. There were less trees left in the township than there was to be a hundred years later. Many of the saw mills ceased operation because there were not enough logs coming in to the mills and the larger, more productive saw mills in newer western forestlands provided lumber at less cost than the local mills could meet. So, mill after mill closed down and the little dams and mill ponds vanished.

Likewise with the gris-mills and flour mills. People preferred to buy and use the whiter, cheaper, less perishable white flour of the large commercial mills. The local flour mills could not meet this competition and closed one by one. The gris-mills lost out to the large livestock feed factories which turned out feeds reported to be specially formulated for rapid growth in the animals and this at less cost than even Punderson could provide. So the gris-mills went the way of the rest.

But up to the beginning of the twentieth century, many still found life in Newbury Township and South Newbury to be satisfying and happy. The younger generation provided a lively social climate and the older generation kept the traditions and anecdotes alive. Although the roads improved to a small extent by the end of the nineteenth century, roads throughout Newbury Township were still poor relative to other parts of the country. The Township and the County were reluctant to spent adequate money on road construction and maintenance. Rather, the officials preferred to let the local people handle the road maintenance by working off their poll tax. This resulted in plenty of graded and gravel roads but few bridges and few paved roads.

Up to the twentieth century, there was chance for the “cottage industries” such as cheese factories, tanning works, blacksmith shops, coopers, shoemakers and textile works a chance in small towns such as South Newbury.

The increase in pasture land favored large dairy herds and soon the farmers where producing increased quantities of raw milk-much more than the locality could consume in that form. So, cheese factories were started to turn the surplus milk into exportable cheese products. South Newbury had its share of these factories. Farmers from miles around South Newbury would bring their milk to the Ober Cheese house on State Road. In this three story frame building (not too far from Punderson's mill) the milk was transformed into round rolls of delicious cheese and these were shipped to urban areas in Ohio and neighboring states.

But what was more significant, the people were on the move. Those who inherited the pioneer spirit of their parents and desired the opportunities and the challenges of the frontier wilderness, moved on to the new western frontiers in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. A few even got as far as California. Others preferred the urban life and moved to larger towns such as Chardon, Chagrin Falls, Cleveland and even New York City. Of course, the girls often met and married men from outside the Newbury area and left for those parts with their new husbands.

WILLIAM L UTLEY, second child and eldest son of Polly and Hamilton Utley; ALBERT GALLATIN RIDDLE, sixth son of Thomas and Minerva Riddle; JOSE MERRICK RIDDLE, second son of Thomas and Minerva Riddle; ROSWELL RIDDLE, seventh son of Thomas and Minerva Riddle; ELMER RIDDLE, eldest son of Jose and Caroline Riddle; WILLIAM WALLACE MUNN, eldest son of Reuben King and Eliza Ann Munn; and Col. WILLIAM LAWRENCE UTLEY, second child of Hamilton and Polly Utley were some of the notables coming out of the second and third generations. More detailed accounts of their history and accomplishments can be found in such publications as THE HISTORY OF GEAUGA AND LAKE COUNTIES (1878) and subsequent revisions of 1880 and 1953.

A verbal description of South Newbury (about 1840) shows a compact, cozy little village; certainly with much more substance than the present community. Going south from the southern tip of Punderson Lake (Big Pond) we find Punderson's saw mill at Music Street and the first dam and upper mill pond. This mill was operated by various people, and by Abel Fisher for a long time, for the Pundersons. When the timber was depleted in the area, the mill ceased to operate.

Next we come to a blacksmith shop on State Road (Route 44) adjacent to the small community cemetery where Lemuel Punderson and the deceased members of his family were buried. Here, also, we find the graves of most of the early pioneers (and some of their decedents) of South Newbury. We come immediately to Punderson's gris-mill run by Daniel Punderson with the home that he and Ann built opposite the mill and across the road.

Eleaser Punderson and his wife Ruth lived in the comfortable and interesting frame home built by Lemuel to replace the log cabin-just south of the mill. It still has the white picket fence and gate in front. A. Parker came next with his tavern and opposite on State Road were a tannery, and the homes of Gilbert and Parker.

Continuing our stroll down State Road, we pass the home and farm of C Burnett, one of the Burnetts who remained in South Newbury. Down the road we pass the village store with its wide front roofed porch. Here, we can find any of the many local products as well as goods freighted in from Cleveland, Pittsburg and Fairport. Next to the store, A Mathews had his house. Opposite these, L Shaw's residence, a shoe shop and B Luther's home appears. Then we come on to the brick Church where James A Garfield was forbidden to give a talk. Opposite, the FREEDUM CHAPLE would soon be built-which Garfield would dedicate.

South of the church, we come to the residence of W Redfield and opposite a shop. Next to Redfield, a wagon shop where horse drawn vehicles were being built or repaired. Then comes the home of L Smith and next to him a blacksmith shop. J Burnett's home and farm comes next and further south J C Burnett and his tavern with the Weavers and J H Smith opposite. Apparently, the cheese factories and other industries which came at a later date did not exist yet.

A plat map of the village twenty years later shows a considerable increase in the number of homes on the east side of State Road and the addition of Ober's cheese factory as well as the chapel.

The people of Newbury Township gave more than their share to preserve the Union during the Civil War. The young men and also those not so young volunteered into the several famous Ohio Regiments who gave such good account of themselves during the conflict. The women, no less, did everything they could to make up for the loss of the men to the armed forces. They did more of the farm chores, organized into service committees and were the chief producers of the battle flags which their men carried into the field. A detailed and good account can be found in the pages of THE HISTORY OF LAKE AND GEAUGA COUNTIES, 1878.

South Newbury became even more of a settled farm center after the Civil War. A number of small industries developed in and near the village as well as in the rest of the Township. The social life of the area continued to expand. ALFRED SQUIRES UTLEY, the fourth child of Hamilton and Polly, became the foremost country musician in this part of the country. He served for over fifty years as “fiddler” and dancing master for the young as well as the old. So popular did he become, that the people who organized the dances and the tavern keepers fought for his services.

He received as such as fifty dollars an evening-a large sum in those days. It is said that he would not tolerate bad behavior at any of his dances and would stop his fiddling to give the misbehaving dancers a lecture. What amused the crowd most was his habit of including his admonitions as comments while he sang his dance calls.

In addition to being a wonderful fiddler, he was also a very good weatherman. The farmers would come from miles around to get his forecasts because he was rarely wrong. To just say that he was popular would be an understatement. When it was known that he would be the fiddler at a dance, twice as many people would come. Despite his many attributes, he remained single all of his life.

There is a story of one close encounter with marriage. He became engaged to a fickle young lady who agreed to accompany him to Chardon for the wedding ceremony. They started out from South Newbury in a one horse drawn buggy on State Road toward Chardon. During the ride, a heavy rain storm came up and the two were thoroughly drenched and had to turn back. The wedding was postponed but it never occurred because the young lady ran away with a traveling salesman. Alf took it hard for a while but recovered, never to become deeply involved with women again.

HENRY UTLEY, fourth child of Hamilton and Polly, also became a famous fiddler but he left Newbury Township to settle in Chagrin Falls. There, he became the city Marshall for many years. He was also a drawing card at the country dances of those days.

However, the greatest magnet for social activities in the summer months was Punderson Lake. The Pundersons retained ownership of such of the land around the lake until the beginning of the twentieth century. The family members, just as their father and mother (Lemuel and Sybil) were very hospitable people and loved to see their neighbors enjoy the lake. It was wide open for anyone to picnic, camp, fish and boat.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the Pundersons started to sell off small portions of the land on the east side of the lake to families who built summer cottages on the lake shore. On September 18, 1882, John Punderson, Eleazer Punderson and Ruth sold 2.58 acres of land on the east shore of the lake to a group of Chagrin Falls people: Y P Upham, J Otman, A C Williams, E B Pratt, George March, and E L Williamson on which they built summer cottages. These were north of the Wales Hotel and did not interfere with the Pioneer picnics

The Punderson hospitality was so traditional that in 1882 a group of “old timers” headed by A G Riddle decided on a picnic of the descendants of the pioneers.

The first annual meeting of this group was held on August 22, 1882 on the east shore of Punderson Lake (now occupied by the camp ground). There were no facilities on the grounds at that time and the people had to eat their picnic meal from blankets and sheets spread on the ground.

The picnic was such a huge success that the organizers decided to make it an ongoing affair. The group was organized as THE GEAUGA UNION PIONEER ASSOCIATION. Every annual meeting and picnic drew crowds in the thousands from all over the County. The third meeting was held on August 22, 1884 and the speakers were Col William Utley, Hon. George H Ford and A G Riddle. Judge Taylor presided as master of ceremony. The Burton band played and there was singing and dancing as well as the recreation afforded by the lake.

At the next meeting, August 21, 1885, there were 3,000 in attendance. The next one drew 5,080. Then, at the 1887 meeting, John and Eleaser Punderson pledged them the use of those grounds for as long as the Punderson family retained ownership of the land. By that time, James E Wales had built a hotel on the site on land that he leased from the owners. It was a two story frame structure with a porch extending across the front and facing the lake. Associated with the hotel were a dancehall and other buildings, probably cottages and service buildings. This hotel was to play a great part in providing recreation to many South Newbury people as well as others from considerable distances.

I have not had luck in finding such specific information about it-almost all of the people who used it are now gone. But, from the written comments, it had to be an elegant establishment for that time. Mrs. Ash who lives on Route 44 has a silver serving dish that was once used in it. The hotel dining room had a reputation for fine food and Jim Wales was reputed to be a good host. Many people came from distant places to stay in his inn and enjoy the great beauty of the lake and the countryside. After Wales was established on the east side of the lake, he participated fully in the Pioneer picnics and always supplied some of the music. The dancehall was available and the boats that he kept at the nearby boat landing were very popular. In addition, he put a small steam boat on the lake and the people were able to go on rides around the lake. There was a very nice sand beach in front of his hotel.

Mrs. Rona Walters attended the Pioneer picnics as a child and she relates of their adventures. "There was much preparation the day before the picnic. They lived on a farm some miles from the picnic site. The chickens were all cooked and fried the day before. The beans were baked, the pies were made and the frosted cake was prepared. We could always have two or three dozen hard boiled eggs and two or three pounds of good cheese from Ober's cheese factory. Even the horses were not forgotten. A bundle of hay and a sack of oats was put in the back of the buggy."

"Our white dresses, hats and starched petticoats and the buttons put on my father's white shirt-all these were laid out on the spare bed the night before-with our clean linen dusters. Our linen lalp robe was also ready and clean."

"On the morning of the picnic, father and mother were up at 5 AM as usual and hurried through their chores and milking. My father always took his milk to Ober's cheese factory. At that time the factory was located across from the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. He drew the milk with old Hell hitched to a two wheeled cart. Shop, our dog, always followed behind. Then he came back bringing back the milk cans, now filled with whey, which he fed to the hogs."

"breakfast was ready when he came back and our dinner was packed. Everyone was too excited to eat much for breakfast. By 8 AM, we were ready to drive the 6 miles to Punderson Pond. Sometimes we started earlier, as my father always wanted a nice place to tie his horse. And also, we would have a good place to eat our dinner. Sometimes horses had to be tied by the roadside as far back as George Hodges farm."

"At that time there was nothing except the grove and the pond-no buildings, no picnic tables or benches and only two or three row boats on the beach. Upon arriving, my mother would look for her family from Auburn-the Wings, Staffords and the Wilburs. This was the day for visiting and each family group would arrange to eat together. The Pond was the only attraction for the children. At that time, there was quite a little beach and the children would play along it. Sometimes, my father would take my sister and me out in the rowboat to pick water lilies as I never saw them except on the Pond."

"At dinner time the different families would gather together for their dinner. The table cloths would be spread on the grass and we would all sit on the ground around them."

"The speaking was in the afternoon. The speaker's stand was very small and usually trimmed with maple boughs. There were a few plank seats for the audience, the rest of us stood or sat on the ground. As I recall, Judge Taylor was always there. Also A R Riddle. Music was usually by either the Burton, Chardon or Parkman bands. I remember that one year some of the people from Auburn came on horseback dressed up as early settlers. The pioneer women rode behind the men on the horses."

"It seemed that the speaking part was only secondary because it was a day for family reunions. It is hard to visualize today how many hundreds of horses and buggies were there from all over Geauga County."

"Everyone stayed as long as they could. But they had to get home in time to do the evening chores and the milking. Usually, a few would stay so late that there would be a little horse racing on the way home."

Someone wrote a song of Punderson Lake for the August 30, 1895 annual meeting and picnic. It was sung at that event by the choir and the thousands of participants.

LAKE PUNDERSON
AUGUST 30, 1895

Lake Punderson, thy glory gleams
In sunlight's fair, refulgent beams,
And as we gather here,
In memory our minds are cast
Along the vista of the past.
To view the pioneer.

Those by-gone days come into view,
When dred men, in a rude canoe,
Glide o'er thy placid face,
And every trembling leaf or flower
Seems charged with an inspiring power
Of majesty and grace.

We vew in memory thy bring,
When timid deer came down to drink,
And silence reigned supreme
Along thy banks; how could they know
The onslaught of a prowling roe,
Son ushered on the scene.

The arrow flies; the vital breath
Succombs to overpowering death,
And now the red man hies
With speed, and soon the wigwam fire
Bespeaks a feast, and fears retire,
While food before them lies.

We see the sturdy pioneer
Upon thy verdant bank appear,
We trace, as with a wand,
The struggles of advancing days
In this uncultured land.

And now a change comes o'er thy face,

As in a mirror now we trace
Thy placid crystal waves;
Felled to the earth a forest lies
And lofty mansions greet our eyes
Above the old Indian graves.

Thy crystal waters ebb and flow,
And now in pleasure we can go
And view thy glories o'er,
We listen to entrancing tales,
Or spend a pleasant hour with Wales,
Upon thy verdant shores.
There aged Lester Taylor stands,
And Daniel Johnson takes our hands
In friendship's cordial grasp,
And many others there appear,
who have withstood through many a year,
Time's onward withering blast.

As the nineteenth century came to its end, other changes came. Modern transportation came to Newbury Township and South Newbury village. The interurban electric lines started to build through the area during 1890's. The company evolved from an early Chagrin Fall line chartered on December 3, 1895 to build and operate line to Chagrin Falls and then on to Kinsman or Meadville, Pennsylvania. It was built to Chagrin Falls and started to operate between that town and Cleveland by May 1, 1897 as The Cleveland & Chagrin Falls Electric Railway Co.

Elated by their success, the directors rechartered their company as the Chagrin Falls & Eastern Railway, Inc. to build on to Garrettsville and Leavittsburg. They intended to make a Youngstown connection at that terminal. By 1902, the cars reached Hiram and in 1903, Garrettsville. A little later, the line was extended to Middlefield, just as another electric line was being constructed to that town from Gates Mills and Burton. This was the first electric interurban to reach South Newbury as it crossed the southern part of the village at the intersection of State Road and Bell Street.

The Cleveland & Eastern Railways Inc. was chartered to build and operate an electric line from Cleveland to Chardon and Middlefield. It was originally planned to extend the line to reach Youngstown and Pittsburg. S

Starting from Chardon with steam locomotives and flat cars filled with building materials and workmen, the track was laid west toward Cleveland and east from a junction (stop 24) located between Fowler's Mill and Fullerton through Punderson Lake and Burton to Middlefield. The interurban firm bought a 50 foot wide right-of-way through much of the area and did not run along public right-of-way as much as the Chagrin Falls line.

On June 19, 1899, the line was completed from Chardon to Gates Mills and service was started with a rented Nickel Plate engine and Lake Shore & Michigan Southern passenger coach for the beginning until they could complete the electrification and acquire the electric cars. By December 29, 1899, the first electric operation started between Chardon and S.O.M. Center Roads and shortly afterward the cars ran into downtown Cleveland. The branch to Middlefield (and Punderson Lake) was opened early in 1900 from an isolated junction (there were no roads within miles) in a wooded glen. Through cars usually ran between Cleveland and Chardon and passengers would have to transfer to a shuttle car going to Middlefield via Punderson Lake and Burton. When the traffic was heavy to these points then through cars would be added and the passengers did not have to transfer.

On November 21, 1901, both systems were merged by the Everett-Moore Syndicate into the Eastern Ohio Traction Company and plans were announced for a Middlefield-Andover-Meadville, Pennsylvania extension as well as a Burton-Jefferson link. The track gangs actually started work on the roadbed east of Middlefield going toward Andover. Work was also carried out east of Garrettsville. But all of these stopped for lack of funds as it became apparent that the traffic would not be as great as expected and the revenues would not support the investment.

The travel conditions in the territory served by the C & E were very poor at best and impossible in some parts of the year. East of this area, the farmers routed their produce to the Youngstown and Pittsburg markets. The paved roads of the time terminated at Taylor Road in Cleveland Heights and an independent plank road company operated a toll road to Chagrin Falls. So it is not surprising that the people in the territory to be served by the interurban would be enthused and eager for the new service.

The Chagrin Falls line started a bit earlier with five deck roof city type cars built by Kuhlman of Cleveland and a combine (combination passenger and freight) car; The Cleveland & Eastern had a more impressive fleet. They had six passenger cars painted deep maroon and named for the communities the line passed through-Hamden, Mayfield, Chester, Munson, Chardon and Burton. In time, both lines acquired sore combines and freight cars, as the freight business grew.

The coming of the interurban changed the environment and lifestyle in Newbury Township and South Newbury in particular. No longer was the village and the lake isolated from the larger towns to the west. The farmers found that they could ship their produce (especially milk) profitably to Cleveland. Their dependence on the local cheese factories disappeared and these folded because the cheap milk was no longer available. Country hotels, inns and taverns such as the Hales Hotel began to receive visitors from places like Cleveland.

The country people found it relatively easy to go into the city for cultural events or shopping. Previously, it was a two day trip. Country events such as Burton's maple sugar festival, the Geauga County Fair and other festivals along the interurban route were heavily visited by the city folk. The advantages even extended to the school children of Newbury. Until this time, there were no High School facilities in Newbury Township and those who aspired to that education had to go to Burton by horse or board near the school. Now, the students lived at home and commuted to the school on the C & E. Thus, as the twentieth century arrived, a new era began for the residents of Newbury.

## 10. LATER YEARS

The turn of the century and the first decade brought many changes to South Newbury and its inhabitants.

All of the children of Lemuel and Sybil Punderson died by the end of the nineteenth century. The Punderson name was now kept by the grandchildren-children of Miles Punderson. The mill and the rest of the property of Daniel and Ann went to her relatives, the Greens, after their death. The property of Eleazer and John were deeded to L L Punderson (son of Miles) by his two uncles at their death. L L Punderson, in turn, developed the Dollar Pond into a sizeable lake (Punderson's Lake) by damming up the outlet. He allotted the land around it for cottages and later all year homes (the Punderson's Lake Allottment).

The Punderson farm, administered by Eleazer, went to Ruth's relatives after her death. By 1900, W A Hawes owned the lot 10 end of the land and lake while Emma L Miller had the northern or lot 17 portion. C. G. Whitney owned the land around the cemetery and including the lower mill pond. But Hawes owned the saw mill, flour mill as well as the ponds. Hawes also owned and lived in the house formerly occupied by Dan and Ann Punderson.

But the most transforming event was the coming of the interurbans through the South Newbury area. The earlier line, from Chagrin Falls came through the southern part of the village in the mid-1890's to connect Cleveland to Middlefield and Garrettsville via Chagrin Falls. The line (single track) crossed State Road at the Bell Street intersection. There was a small depot with a high platform (across State Road from Smith's General Store) from which the freight was loaded and unloaded. Here, the passengers got on and off the cars. The businessmen, farmers and people wishing to go into Cleveland or other points would converge on this depot at the scheduled time.

The second C & E line was built a few years later and initially ran from Cleveland through Gates Mills to Chardon with a branch going to Middlefield through Burton. Punderson Lake and South Newbury was on this branch. It was built to take care of travelers and freight from summer cottages at a number of Lakes aside from Punderson and the Wales Hotel and the nearby cottages. This line developed much more business that it’s southern sister and was, by far, the busier. The wealthy commuter even had his own special “the BANKERS LIMITED” which had luxurious appointments, special services which included the morning paper from Cleveland for every passenger on it. In addition, the line supplied special picnic or excursion cars as well as funeral cars.

Jim Wales built his two story hotel on leased land soon after 1882 and developed the east side of the Lake (to a limited extent) as a recreational area.

A narrow dirt road which came off State Road and went along the shore of the Lake, served the patrons of his hotel and dance hall (just about where the present utility building of the campground now stands) and the owners of the summer cottages to the north. Jim provided board and lodging for those wishing recreation and relaxation at the lake, rowboats, Swimming beach, a small steam boat for rides and even a carousel for a short time. His Hotel was famous during its heyday for its dining room and good food.

North of his establishment, there were some summer cottages owned mostly by the Church, Upham and others from Chagrin Falls. Many of these people were descendants of some of the pioneer families and early settlers of South Newbury. Although they had moved from Geauga County and now lived in Chagrin Falls, they enjoyed coming back to Punderson Lake where they enjoyed their childhood environment.

The Interurban line took a 50 foot right-or-way through the area of the present Punderson State Park and through the center of the present campground. The rails went between the Wales Hotel establishment and the summer visitors at the cottages. There was a regular stop in front of the Hotel. This was used by both the hotel people and the cottage owners. The line was certainly good for Jim Wales business as well as a great convenience for the cottagers and locals.

The Miller Farm became a celebrated dairy farm in the latter part of the nineteenth century and was known as THE EMERALD LAKE FARM because of the small lake which nestled between Kinsman Road (Route 87) and Punderson Lake. A narrow hilly dirt extension of Stone Road ran south through the farms to Music Street. This had been used for many years as a short cut to South Newbury and Punderson's mills. By 1906, the Miller family no longer lived there and it was advertised for rent by A W Davis in several issues of the Geauga County Leader. It was noted to have 237 acres, a bank barn and orchard. We know that whoever rented the farm did not stay there long because soon it was sold to a newcomer who would have a major impact on the area.

In the July 11, 1906 issue of the Geauga Leader, the following appeared on Punderson Lake: "There is not a more beautiful body of water among all the inland lakes of Ohio, than beautiful Lake Punderson. Of ample size for resort purposes with clear spring water, and surrounding green hills, it is a most attractive place for people who desire to spend a day or a week of comfortable outing away from such great crowds as frequent the city resorts. A clean well managed hotel and with all the conveniences needed for a quiet and restful outing, no place can compete with Beautiful Lake Punderson".

In the Wednesday August 22, 1906 issue was: "Let us all remember the Geauga County Pioneer picnic at Lake Punderson next Friday, August 31. There will be the usual pleasures that day.

Address by Hon. E L Lampson of Washington. Music by South Newbury Band. Songs by the old peoples choir. Dancing afternoon and evening with music by Max Fischer's orchestra. All come and have a good time."

In reporting on the picnic, the paper had this in its Wednesday, September 5 issue: “The annual pioneer picnic at Lake Punderson last Friday was one of the best ever held in Geauga County. The day was perfect for an outdoor gathering such as this, and the crowd was large and composed largely of the older people of the County, although pleasingly interspersed with the younger people who were attracted by the amusements and pleasures of this beautiful resort. The old people's choir furnished the vocal music and greatly delighted the crowd. The South Newbury Band, a youngster in years but already one of Geauga County's best, enlivened the occasion with delightful music. The speakers, Hon E L Lampson of Jefferson and Hon Geo. A Groot of Cleveland gave very interesting addresses. However, the main and most enjoyable part of the event was the visiting among the old friends who had been drawn together from many sections of our great county, and for this reason the Geauga County Pioneer Picnics will continue to be the most interesting and popular event in this county as long as there are any old people among us and as long as friends delight to meet friends, and as long as the mind and heart of men find pleasure in recalling the reminiscences of the days gone by. We cannot forget the old pioneers who have done so much in developing this county and making it a home for the zoning generations."

It should be noted that the first rainy day for the picnic was on August 30, 1901 and the only other was on August 28, 1903. All of the others had sunny and pleasant weather.

Another item in one of the 1906 issues announced another recreation at the Lake: "Several Burton young men are in camp at Lake Punderson. Anyone wishing to find them should inquire for the “Happy-to-lucky” camp. Many friends are planning to dine with them before their return to civilization."

The coming of the C & E interurban was initially greeted with enthusiasm. The country people could go to Cleveland for cultural events and not have to spend two days doing it. They could leave after work and return the same day. Also, visitors from Cleveland and other places could come to the country for recreation much easier. The farmers found that the interurban boosted their income. The children who desired higher education than the Newbury schools afforded could take the interurban to Chardon, Burton and even Cleveland without having to board close to the schools. The store keepers could order and get all sorts of goods on short notice.

However, the interurban cars scared the dickens out of the country people who were used to horse drawn vehicles rather than electric cars that ran over high and not too substantial trestles. Nor were they at ease with the not infrequent wreck or derailment. Soon, a great deal of negative comments were pronounced about the operation of the lines, not only in the newspapers but in the Village, Township and County council meetings.

Some typical items from the Geauga County Leader were: "Several northern Ohio newspapers in reporting the recent disastrous accidents on the C & E say this railroad company is having such "bad luck" lately. Bad luck, indeed! The company is mighty lucky that there have not been such worse wrecks and more of them. The trouble is simply and merely incompetent management, wicked if not criminal carelessness, and stupid negligence in keeping the road in safe repair. The road has been on the bum most of the time since the company imported one of its officials. If the company would promote Supt. Doyle to the position of manager, there would be a marked improvement. There is scarcely a motorman or conductor on the road who could not manage the road with fewer mistakes than is being done now. The road is surely unsafe for travel and the public is taking warning from the many recent wrecks."

The following from another issue illustrates one type of trouble confronting the passengers and the line: "Last Wednesday morning a collision between the milk car and the Grange excursion car near the residence of B F Bliss in Newbury on the Chagrin Division of the E 0 T electric road, badly injured several people. The motorman, John Plowman of Chagrin Falls, had a foot fractured. Mrs. W H Irwin of Troy, got some severe bruises and Miss Grace Dodge of Troy go her lip badly cut. Several other passengers were slightly injured. The milk car was standing on the main track just beyond a sharp curve, and the motorman on the passenger car failed to see it in time to stop his car."

Still another mishap was reported thus: "Another serious wreck occurred on the C & E electric line last Sunday evening. About 5:30 o'clock the west bound car left the track near novelty and rolled over into the creek. Hugh Williams of Burton was the most seriously injured of any of the passengers, he having one knee badly bruised and the ligaments torn loose. Mrs. Williams and several other passengers were somewhat bruised. The body of the car left the trucks, and the trucks remained on the track. Mr. and Mrs. Williams were removed to the home of his brother, C E Williams in this village (Novelty) where he will be laid up for several months. This was the through car from Chardon and was in charge of conductor Henry Hossler. It is reported that there is no blame attached to the car men, as the motorman had slowed up for the curve, but was probably the fault of the poor equipment of the road. The crew in charge of the car are two of the most experienced and careful men on the road."

The safety problem was never solved and the negative impression with the public continued until the C & E terminated its service in 1925. This factor and the excessive fares and freight rates proved too much in the face of the competition from the automobile, bus and truck.

At the turn of the century, a man, who would bring drastic changes, came on visits to Punderson Lake and the Wales Hotel. Mr. W B Cleveland, a Cleveland industrialist and inventor, was introduced to the beauty and charm of Punderson Lake and its environment by his father who would bring him to stay at the Wales Hotel. Mr. Cleveland fell in love with the land and the lake and resolved to own it someday.

A bachelor and an outdoors buff, the Wales Hotel saw him often as a guest. The interurban was a very convenient way for him to get to this resort. He came with fishing rod and gun, by himself or with companions. By 1902, his affection for the lake and the land reached the point where he resolved to own it. He bought his first parcel, the old Punderson farm and house on Music Street (the house Abel Fisher built) from Georgia Hawes (a Punderson descendant) on June 26, 1902. A few years later, he purchased the Miller (Emerald Lake) Farm. The portion of Stone Road going through his farm was eliminated by mutual agreement with the County Commissioners and his farm was then continuous from Kinsman Road to Music Street. In time, he assembled a large farm in excess of 500 acres surrounding the Lake and named it LAKEFIELD FARM.

Mr. Cleveland was a descendant of one of the cousins of Moses Cleveland. This cousin unlike Moses did come to the Western Reserve to live. The family settled in Cleveland during 1835. It was there that Mr. Cleveland was born, raised and educated. He was an important industrialist of his time and had patents on 17 inventions. This interesting man also had a number of hobbies. Among them was the breeding of hunting dogs which was the first activity he established on his new estate. He took pleasure in participating in hunting dog competitions across the country with his dogs and did considerable traveling.

On one trip to the National Field Trials at Grand Junction, Tennessee where his dogs won top awards, he met Miss Ocie Coppedge. They fell in love, became engaged and married at Stanton, Tennessee in 1904. After the wedding, the couple came to live at the LAKEFIELD FARM, now surrounding Punderson Lake. They stayed in the old farm house until Mr. Cleveland was able to build a suitable house on the bluff overlooking the lake-now occupied by the Lodge.

This house was a spacious, comfortable, well designed and somewhat luxurious dwelling for the time and place. It was of frame construction with a wide veranda around the three sides facing the Lake. Of course, there were other buildings on the property, barns, service buildings and boat houses.

They even had a gas well for a while until it became choked with salt water and had to be abandoned.

The dog breeding became a business when Mr. Cleveland began to make his own dog food for his kennel. It is reported that he had up to 60 dogs at one time. The dog food was made in a large building situated on the present site of the most southern cottages in the present park. Soon, Mr. Cleveland's friends took note of his excellent dog food and petitioned him to sell it. This is how he became involved in the dog food business.

One of the attractions and recreational objects on the Lake was his houseboat. This was a large rectangular craft with six bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and an engine with which it could be moved all over the Lake. It was built by a Pittsburg boat building firm. The boat was used for parties and for entertaining the many guests of the Cleveland family and gave them many enjoyable hours of cruising on Lake Punderson.

On one of his trips to Chicago, Mr. Cleveland came upon a “naphtha” launch on exhibit at a sportsman show. He purchased it and had it shipped by rail to Cleveland and then freighted to the Lake on a wagon drawn by four horses. The launch gave the family a great deal of pleasure for years.

In 1906, Mr. Cleveland started to collect wild animals for his farm. He brought some buffalo, elk, wolf and Asian cows to join the domestic stock which included goats, sheep, cows, horses and poultry. Later, he also got some swan and cranes. All this earned the name of THE LAKEFIELD ZOO for his farm. Of course, he had to put up some strong secure fencing around the grounds and limit admission to it. When the fences and locked gates went up around the land on the eastern side of the Lake there was loud protest from the cottagers, the people who frequented the Wales Hotel and Dancehall and some of the locals who had enjoyed complete access to the lake and grounds since Lemuel Punderson found it and settled there.

It was a shocking experience for most of the people in the area. They had always looked upon the Lake as their own, to be used for recreation with complete freedom. For almost a hundred years, the people of South Newbury had used its waters for the annual harvest of ice, so necessary for year round refrigeration. Now, they found that this newcomer laid claim on the land and waters and forbid them free access to it. The most disturbing part came when he brought suit in court to claim full ownership to all of the water in addition to the land to which he had title. The court decided in his favor and the fate of the cottagers and the Wales Hotel was sealed. In time, the cottages were taken over as was the hotel. Every structure was demolished restoring the area to the natural state existing at the time that Lemuel arrived.

Perhaps the most disturbing part of was when the officials of the Geauga Union Pioneer Association were told that they were no longer welcome at the old PICNIC GROUNDS on the east side of the Lake. These picnics had been held there for over twenty years and had become a tradition. At the final picnic on August 30, 1907, the PIONEERS bid their last farewell to their beloved lake with this song (specially written for the occasion by B H Pratt of Troy and sung by the Choir to the tune ofoi Auld Lang Syne).

GOODBYE

Fair Punderson, a Iovely spot, a place we hold most dear,
From year to year your charms have brought Geauga's Pioneer.
The place where we so gladly meet and clasp the friendly hand;
With happy hearts each other greet, a noble worthy hand.

Those happy years that we've enjoyed are writ on memory's page,
And as we walk the downward road all brightly grow with age.
Your lovely banks, your stately trees, the splashing of the oar,
The rippling wave, the cooling breeze, that greets us from the shore.

These all remind us of the joys of past and bygone days
When we were youthful girls and boys, in times so far away.
But we must seek another home in which to meet our friends,
And wheresoever we may roam out thoughts to you will trend.

So-fare you well, dear Punderson; we part with deep regret.
The happy days that we have seen we never can forget.
And as we bid you now adieu with moisture in our eye
Often shall we think of you. Goodbye, dear friend, goodbye.

The following several years the Pioneer Annual Picnic was held at the Burton Fair Grounds. Then, it was moved to the Newbury Park, also known as Stafford's Grove. But year after year the attendance fell until it died with the last of the pioneers. The cottagers vacated when it became apparent that they were not only denied access to the Lake but could only use the one road to their summer homes with the express permission of Mr. Cleveland. So, by 1908, the Cleveland Family was in full possession of all of the land surrounding the Lake as well as the Lake itself.

Of course, there are two sides to every controversy. From Mr. Cleveland's point of view he had every right to limit admission to his land and the Lake. Did he not own the land around the Lake? He was not antisocial. He and his family had many friends who often came to the farm—but only when invited.

Mr. Cleveland was an orderly man and did not like to have strangers trespassing upon his property. Neither did he like to have people drop in on him unannounced. He preferred to schedule the visits of the friends and the many civic and social organizations with which he had connections or sympathies. To his credit, he had a very serious regard concerning his responsibility as a property owner and did not want anyone injured on his land. He wanted to avoid law suits originating from such incidents.

But, he seemed to have limited communication with his neighbors and they with him. Simply, they did not understand each other and each other's viewpoints. Furthermore, he was disturbed by the possibility of having the Lake defiled by numerous small cottages and houses-such as subsequently came to Kiwanis and Dollar Lake (Punderson's Lake). Also, trespassers and strangers on his property bothered him. But most of all, he wanted to preserve the pristine beauty of the lake and its surrounding land.

In 1911, he bought the mill ponds and the old mill. The mill still operated under leased arrangements but he used the ground floor for a fish hatchery. Here, he raised fingerlings with which he restocked the Lake from time to time.

Ahead of his time, Mr. Cleveland installed an electrical system in his house-powered by a Delco Plant. This system was automatic. Whenever a light or appliance was turned on, the gasoline powered generator was activated. His children found it quite fascinating and would keep turning the lights on just to hear the plant go on (when their father was not about).

The Cleveland children grew up on the farm and went to the neighborhood "one room" schools. Unlike their father, they socialized well with their schoolmates and were well liked by them. Dr. W B (Bill) Cleveland, one of the children, recalls his childhood well. The maple sugar making, feeding the buffalo, swimming in the lake, Trapping muskrats for pelts (he got $9 for each), and having other adventures on the farm.

There is an amusing story told by Dr. Cleveland of the time when his brother first started to go to the little "one room" school closest to them in South Newbury. His mother had equipped him with a very nice woven reed lunch basket-quite fashionable in the best circles. The lad left with the basket but did not come back with it. He complained that it did not fit his needs as well as the "lard buckets" which the rest of his fellow students used. So Mrs. Cleveland had to send him to school thereafter with a lard bucket.

The Cleveland family had another home in Cleveland where Mrs. Cleveland preferred to live. Mr. Cleveland, however, loved his lake and his farm and stayed out there as much as he could. Although the taxes and upkeep strained the family budget, it was manageable until the end of the First World War when Mr. Cleveland's finances took a turn for the worst.

A defense contract with the Government was canceled and he was left without reimbursement. At this point, Mrs. Cleveland's brother Dr. Everett Peter Coppedge took a hand in the financial affairs and a share in the farm.

The Cleveland family tried several ways to augment their income in the 1920's. For a time, there was a girl's camp operated on the west side of the Lake. Mr. Cleveland allowed a boat concession to occupy the southern edge near State Road (Route 44). They raised farm produce and sold this. But they also continued their social contacts, parties and allowed the Case School of Applied Science to operate their summer survey camp on the land.

Finally, in 1928, Mr. Cleveland contracted a terminal illness which necessitated more involvement from his brother-in-law and friends. One particular, Fred Bickerhaupt was a very close friend of the family and stayed with Dr. Cleveland at the farm when the rest of the family was in Cleveland. An opportunity came in 1929 to sell the land when Mr. Karl Long of Chicago (executive officer of the Long Trucking Company) offered to buy Lakefield Farm. The deal was formalized but, by then, Mr. Cleveland died.

Mr. Long was just as captivated by the beauty of the Lake and land as Mr. Cleveland had been. He resolved to develop it into a country estate the like of which had not been seen up to that time in Newbury. But, he was married to a city woman who was attached to Chicago and its social life and would not come out into the Newbury “wilderness”. They compromised when he allowed her to determine the type of dwelling they would build on their new farm-the Cleveland house was not good enough for them. The Cleveland house was demolished (except for the main chimney and Mr. Cleveland's study) which were incorporated into the new mansion which was built on that site. The MANOR HOUSE was designed and constructed to resemble an English Tudor Mansion and it had with 43 rooms, 15 bathrooms and 3 fireplaces before construction on it ceased. Mrs. Long intended to staff the Manor with servants from Cleveland and Chicago.

But Mrs. Long was never quite convinced that country living was as enjoyable or desirable as life back in her beloved Chicago. When the Great Depression came and Mr. Long was pressed financially, work on the Manor slowed down and finally stopped-unfinished, despite the 5250,000 that had been spent on it. Just about in the middle of the Depression Mr. Long died. Mrs. Long collected the $100,000 life insurance money and headed back to Chicago, abandoning the property which was now heavily in debt with a mortgage held by the Cleveland Family. The property reverted to Mr. Cleveland's widow and her brother Dr. Coppedge. ,

By that time, Mrs. Cleveland had married Fred Eickerhaupt and he also had an interest in the farm. Family life resumed on the farm but it was not the same. The Cleveland house was gone and the unfinished Manor was unsuitable for habitation. They used the Punderson House and another cottage called the Coppedge house as well as some of the other buildings on the farm. The Coppedge, Cleveland and Bickerhaupts all came out for summers and week end holidays. Mr. Cleveland remembers the many children who enjoyed the lake and the farm.

But it was increasingly difficult to meet the maintenance expenses and taxes. The families were not as dedicated to the farm as Mr. Cleveland had been. By 1947, they clearly wanted to sell the farm and lake. For a time it seemed that the Geauga Community Hospital would buy it and establish the hospital building on part of the land. But this did not materialize. Rather, the State of Ohio took interest in the Lake and its possibilities for recreation and purchased the first part in October, 1948. The last parcel was purchased in 1965.

There were many changes over the years since the turn of the century. The Punderson Mill burned down on May 15, 1922 a short time after some trespassers were caught in it. Some say it was arson. Gone are the interurban. They ran their last cars in the mid 1920's. South Newbury lost such with the passing of time. The general stores, the mills, the tanning works, the blacksmith shops, the shoemakers, the woolen mill, the cheese factory-all these are gone. Even Punderson's 172 year old dam is gone, washed out on Thursday, November 4, 1982.

But I found some very friendly, charming descendants of the early pioneers, settlers and other local people during my research. They still remember the old days, the pioneer picnic days, the restrictions of Mr. Cleveland, but also the friendly, good hearted Cleveland family children who were their school mates.

So Punderson Lake and the surrounding land was returned to the people, to be enjoyed by all as during the Punderson era. For most of those descended from the pioneer families and still living there, the lake and Land may not have the same special sentimental meaning that dwelled in the minds of those who attended that August 30, 1907 annual picnic where the "Goodbye Song" was song in farewell to their beautiful Lake. But a part of it lingers on in the coming generations.

And, to be realistic, it must be acknowledged that Mr. Cleveland's point of view had merit. For it was he who preserved the Lake and land from the developers and made it possible for the circumstances that caused this lovely park with its campground to be here. Perhaps not by direct intent but certainly by making possible the circumstances by which it happened.

Who knows, but with normal development, today we would see a multitude of cottages perched around the perimeter of this Lake rather than this campground and recreational area.

## 11. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

After the Civil War, a historical society was formed in Geauga county by the regaining pioneers and those who were interested in preserving the history of the area. The greatest accomplishment of the society was to write and publish a history of Geauga and Lake Counties in 1878.

At that time, the area, now covered by both counties, was in the Geauga County and administered from the county seat at Jefferson. Shortly after the book was published the historical society ceased to exist. However, there were enough pioneers and descendants of the earliest families left in the county who were interested in preserving history and the memory of the early settlers to take action. By this time, many of the younger people were moving out to new frontiers in the west and something had to be done to renew family ties occasionally.

To do that, some of the leading citizens and those of the pioneers who were still living in Geauga County joined together to hold a family style picnic on August 22, 1882 on the east side of Punderson Lake. The Punderson family, who owned the land, were not only most hospitable toward the group but joined them in planning the affair. The original idea for the picnic was credited to A. S. Riddle and James M. Bullock. Daniel Johnson was in charge of the arrangements. Of course, Riddle was the principle speaker. Everyone had such a good time that it was agreed that another picnic should be held on the following year.

The second picnic was also during the last week of August in 1883. Again, the weather was cooperative and the event turned out to be a huge success. This time Judge Lestor Taylor, A. G. Riddle, Colonel William Utley and Peter Hitchcock were the speakers. Again, everyone agreed that the picnic should be restaged on the following year.

It was on the third picnic, on August 22, 1884, that we know of the first band music on the program. On this occasion, the Burton band entertained and Lestor Taylor presided as master of ceremonies. The speakers were A. G. Riddle, Colonel William Utley and George Ford. There was no objection to continuing the picnics.

While planning the fourth picnic in June, the founders decided to give it a permanent status with an organization which was named THE GEAUGA UNION PIONEER ASSOCIATION. Lestor Taylor was elected as permanent president; Daniel Johnson, vice-president; W. R. Munn, secretary; J. L. Way, corresponding secretary and Frank Plus, treasurer. The picnic was held on August 21, 1885 with 3,000 participants and A. G. Riddle, J. 0. Converse, Peter

Hitchcock and C. Y. Corrall as speakers.
A song was composed for the picnic by B. H. Pratt of Troy.

The next picnic was held on August 20, 1886 with 5,000 attending and Prof. A. B. Hissdale was the main speaker.

In 1887, John and Eleazer Punderson pledged the use of the picnic grounds to the group as perpetual and for as long as the Punderson family would retain ownership of the land. The speakers on this occasion were D. W. Canfield and I. N. Hathaway.

In 1888, the first singing group was reported. This was the pioneer choir whose members were John Nash, Mrs. Millie Truman, Mrs. Minnie Fox, Mrs. M. H. Chapman and Frank Snow. Later, Mrs. Mary Sager, Mrs. Julia Ford, Mrs. Flora Naughton, Mrs. Mamie Fran, Rev. I. B. Henshaw, Rev. N. E. Hulbert, M. L. Maynard, C. H. Bates and C. R. Post joined the group. Miss Leona Howard was organist and B. A. Pratt was director.

It was about this time that the picnic got some much welcomed support from other sources. Jim Wales, who had built a hotel near the picnic site, contributed heavily. At every picnic the PIONEERS could not only count on at least one band or orchestra but also the use of his dance hall. This did such to make the picnics attractive to the younger generation.

Things changed greatly when the Punderson family sold the land in the first decade of the twentieth century. The Punderson brothers who gave their pledge were already dead and the heirs had no interest in holding on to the land and the lake. So beginning with 1904, parcels were sold, mostly to Mr. W. B. Cleveland, an industrialist and inventor from Cleveland who consolidated the original Punderson holdings by 1907. At that year's picnic, he informed the PIONEERS that they could not use the site anymore and would have to relocate. This was quite a shock because the picnics at Punderson Lake had become a tradition by that time. A sad song for the occasion was written by Pratt and song by the choir and the participants.

The PIONEERS moved the picnic to the Burton Fairgrounds for the next several years but it did not work out. It just was not like the PIONEER PICNICS at Punderson. Later, they moved it to the Newbury township park on Kinsman Road but to no avail. The picnics died out as did the Geauga Union Pioneer Association because the old pioneers finally passed away. The GEAUGA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY emerged from the ruins of the old Association and is currently in charge of preserving local history in the county along with several smaller regional historical societies.

During the summer of 1983 a group of Geauga county historically minded citizens, associated with four Historical Societies and the Punderson State Park, decided to recreate the old GEAUGA UNION PIONEER PICNIC at Punderson

Lake. A committee composed of Geauga residents who were interested in history worked on this project for two months--July and August.
The picnic was held on August 27, 1983 at the south end of Punderson Lake--the original site was now used as part of the campground and was not available.
The program was to depart from those of the original picnics and deal with history by recreating the characters of notable people who were active in the county in the 19th century. Thus, LESTER TAYLOR (Ted Peterson) was selected to be MASTER OF CEREMONIES. Judge Taylor held that position as well as President of the Association for a great length of time.

Other characters were selected to speak because they had contributed significantly to the 19th century society in this area. The character portrayals were done by members of the Geauga Lyric Theater Group. The brass band, recruited locally, was to portray the South Newbury Cornet Band which played at many of the picnics.

The picnic program during the afternoon was as follows:

1:00 PM Address of welcome by LESTOR TAYLOR.Ted Peterson

1:10 PM Remarks by DANIEL PUNDERSON….. Terry Sedivy

1:20 PM Songs by "TOUCH OF CLASS"..Tim Blair, Director

1:35 PM Remarks by A. G. RIDDLE..Roger Pettibone

1:45 PM Singalong……. Walter Thomas, Director

2:05 PM Remarks by SUSAN B ANTHONY....Joan Pettibone

2:15 PM Music by Brass Band...Carl Lemponen, Director

2:15 PM Old Time Bicycling...Charles Buechele Family

2:35 PM Remarks by ELLEN MUNN ……..Mimi Leinweber

2:45 PM Dulcimer Music………..Dwight Ladd

3:00 PM Remarks by JAMES A. BARFIELD...George Dauler

3:10 PM Guitar Music….Mrs. Fuggman

3:30 PM Remarks by JULIA GREEN ………Shirley Malzer
3:40 PM Squaredancers……….Betsy Simpson, Director

The Geauga Union Pioneer commemorative picnic committee: Chairman, Louis Horvath; Vice Chairman, Jim Douglas; Historical Consultant, B.J. Shanower. Program sub-committee Roger Cassidy (Chairman); Beverly Ash; Helen Burns; Jan Beracz; Terry Sedivy. Publicity sub-committee Jan Beracz (Chairman); Sylvia Wiggins; Bill Felberg. The site and logistics were arranged by the site sub-committee Bob Powers (Chairman) assisted by Bob Sheehan (Punderson Park Manager) and the Punderson Park Staff.

As the contribution of the present generation to the two earlier written songs, Mr. Dwight Ladd of Auburn wrote the following especially for the picnic that was held on August 27, 1983.

BACK TO PUNDERSON

(To the tune Battle Humn of the Republic)

The forest path are shady and the lake is sparkling blue, And we're coming here to picnic as our forebears used to do; To do some reminiscing, and to spin a yarn or two

At Punderson today.

CHORUS

Hallelujah, we're returning!
Hallelujah, we're returning!
Hallelujah, we're returning
To Punderson today.

The people are arriving from the North, South, West and East,
To recreate the speeches and to laugh and talk and feast,
Enjoying simple pleasures that the years have not decreased
At Punderson today.

CHORUS

A number are descended from the early ones who care,
While those arriving later cannot take an equal claim;
But if we love Geauga we are one and all the same
At Punderson today.

CHORUS

And as we face uncertainly the dread of future years,
We seem to hear the message from those stalward pioneers
"Just keep on pushing forward and forget your doubts and fears
At Punderson today."

CHORUS

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Encyclopaedia Britannica

2. The Great Lakes Frontier--John Anthony Caruso, Bobbs-Nerrille Co., 1961

3. Hopewell Archaeology--David S Brose and N'omi Gerber, Kent State University Press, 1979

4. The Cuyahoga—William D Ellis—Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1966

5. The Western Reserve--Harlan Hatcher, The World Publishing Co., 1966

6. Early Settlers of Cleveland--Donahue Ellis, Cleveland State University

7. Lake and Geauga County History, 1878

8. Lake and Seauga County History, 1880

9. Lake and Geauga County History, 1953

10. Ohio's Western Reserve--David Lindsey

11. Ohio Town Names—William O. Overman

12. The Gospel of the Redman--Earnest Thompson Seton and Julia N. Seton, Psychic Press LTD, London

13. The Jonathan Hale Farm—John J. Horton, The Western Reserve Historical Society

# 1. FORWARD

This is a source manuscript written as a project for the VOLUNTEER IN PARK (VIP) PROGRAM of the Ohio Department Of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation. It is intended to be used by the staff of Punderson State Park as a source of information for the presentation of amphitheater talks on the history of Punderson Lake and its vicinity.

The subject matter is far more voluminous than that which is contained in this manuscript. The limits of time, the length of the manuscript and other factors forced the omission of such pertinent and interesting information from the text. However, what has been included should be enough to serve the primary purpose. If more information is found to be needed, it can be found in the original sources which are listed in the Bibliography.

I wish to acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of the local Geauga County people who were so kind and helpful during the research. Without their help, this manuscript would have been much less complete. Some are long time inhabitants and descendants of early settlers.

The ones most involved:

From South Newbury are: MRS. LLOYD Y. FROHRING, MRS. CHARLES POWELL, MRS. LLOYD ASH, and MRS. EDWARD BOTTLER. MRS. MIRIAM STEM of Chagrin Falls was the source of information on cottagers around Punderson Lake during the turn of the century.

From Burton; MRS. SYLVIA WIGGINS of the Geauga County Oral History group at Kent State University (Burton Campus); MRS. GLORIA ARMSTRONG, librarian at the Century Village Library of the Geauga County Historical Society at Burton; MR. B. J. SHANOWER, storekeeper at the country village general store, MR. STANLAE MERRITT, retired Geauga County Highway Engineer (Burton resident) and historical authority an roads in Geauga County; and MRS. CAROL VARGA, Director of the Burton Public Library.

Those at Chardon; Mr. LARRY CORBUS, Director of the Chardon Public Library; MR. ROBERT PHILLIPS, Geauga County Engineer; MR. PHILLIP KING, Geauga County Recorder and the people in his office who were very helpful.

Dr, Y. B. Cleveland, (presently resident of Cleveland Heights and of the family which had the last private ownership of Punderson Lake before it was bought by the State) contributed valuable information and photos of the area around the Lake as of the first decades of the twentieth century. MR. ALBERT GAZDA, present owner of the Uri Hickox Tavern was helpful in providing information on the one of the earliest hotels in Newbury Township.

MRS. MARGARET SEYMOUR, branch librarian at the Sates Mills library, allowed me to copy photographs of the C & E interurban line.

My appreciation also goes to the Punderson State Park Staff, especially MR. BOB POWERS, the Park Manager, for their support and help in completing this project. Also, MR. JIM DOUGLAS, President of the Geauga County Historical Society gave me much needed help with advice and encouragement.

It would have been impossible to prepare the book for publication without the advice, assistance and cooperation of several Geauga County history loving people. MR. JAY GILES, trustee of the Geauga County Historical Society, made arrangements for the publication to be made as a project of the Society. His help with legal and financial matters was invaluable. The editing was done proficiently by SUE GILES (MRS. JAY GILES). The fine quality of style is due to her work.

Lastly, the help and encouragement from MR. B. J. SHANOWER did much to bring this history to print.

Lou Horvath

# CONTENTS

1. The Beginning 2

2. The Frontier 17

3. The Early Days Of The Western Reserve 27

4. The Pioneers 38

5. The Settlers 50

6. Life In Early South Newbury 62

7. The Foremost Families 71

8. Our Beautiful Lake 82

9. Later Years 92

10. Subsequent Events 103

11. Bibliography 108

Preface 109

Contents 111