

## Some Glimpses Into Amanda's Past-1

By Carolyn Tilley

When I go down a street, I often wonder what the history of a building is, or what was there at one time. To know about early Amanda and the surrounding community in the 1800's, we have to read what someone has found out. We are lucky in the county that at the end of the century, several histories were written by the pioneers or their sons or grandsons themselves. For the early 1900's and on, we have some records of advertisements in the three first yearbooks of Amanda High School, but more than that we have some first person tales.

Recently I was privileged to spend a day as a guest in the home of Vic and Phyllis Young with Vic's brother Ned. Ned Young just celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and Vic his 87<sup>th</sup>. Vic is one of the oldest residents of Amanda and Ned of Circleville was raised in Amanda, had a business there for awhile and was once mayor. I just listened to many stories of their boyhood times, tales of earlier times they knew, people and events.

We will start in the middle of town with their family and their father's business. There is a parking lot on the north side of Main Street that is the Taylor Funeral Home parking lot today. At one time there was a car dealership there owned by Noah Smith who was also a watch repairman. In an ad for his business in the 1910 Amanda High School yearbook, he sold an overland Model 61T for \$1500. In 1916 Herbert Young, the Young brothers' father, bought the business. Ned was born in a home just west of the village building a bit to the east, but later the family lived next to the funeral home to the west, just across the street from the business. That was the house Mr. Young put up as collateral for the garage at the Farmers and Merchants Bank in the present bank building. Mr. Young sold Buicks and Fords. The Buicks had to be driven here from Lansing, Michigan. Ned said the pistons fit so tight, counting on loosening as they drove, that you could only go 50 miles or so before you had to stop for awhile. The Fords were put together in Columbus. Both the men remember the early cars going sputtering up the street. Supposedly Sam Simon, vice president of the bank, owned the first car in Amanda. The Model T's were done by 1927, ranging in cost from \$175 to \$300, and the A's were coming out in 1928. Ned remembers the posters of the new models to come. Those were boom years. Fordson Tractors were sold in the 20's, also. Cars soon came in by rail, standing up with no wheels, put on later, of course. Some American Legion boys from Amanda made a Model A into an RV and drove off to a convention in Texas.

There was a gas pipeline going across the state to Indiana, and there was a big rotary machine that could rip the earth for the pipe. One driver had his arm ripped off, and Herbert Young had driven the machine on one of the continuous shifts in Pickaway County. Working on the line, were about 400 workers from many countries, immigrants, who were digging where the machine could not go. At the end of their shifts they would go by the big machine and hit it with sticks calling it names as they felt it was taking their jobs. The machine could do a mile a day.

With the garage and many businesses in town, things seemed to be going well. There were two banks, the first mentioned, and the Clearcreek Valley Bank next to Hiatts with the K of P above. Today that is the new medical clinic for Amanda. Then came "Black Tuesday" of 1929 when the



stock market fell. Mr. Young had just brought two Model A Fords from Columbus, when someone called to him that the bank had closed. He thought they meant the end of day closing for the Farmers and Merchants where he had his loans of \$8000 on his house and business and people's car loans. The Depression had started. All of the accounts did not measure up to a bank inspector, and the bank needed its money. This caused Mr. Young to sell his business. The family home was up for sheriff's sale in Lancaster, and with borrowed money from Grandma Young he was able to bid it back. Their father became very bitter as he did not get paid for the many cars he had sold. Many farmers and others lost their farms and businesses. Those with money in the bank did get 92 cents on every dollar. The Clearcreek Valley Bank continued, and we will talk more about the banks. Things became very quiet in the village.

The Young men remember the earlier time that the street Main Street, was dirt, and would be oiled to keep down the dust. Where people crossed, sawdust was put down to keep oil from coming into homes and businesses. It was called Ohio 10 at that time. One Sunday after when Ned was 9 and Vic 6, they were in father's garage experimenting with a blow torch, gasoline, and cattails for some tinder. Things got out of hand and a fire started doing some damage to the workbench. They quickly got water to put out the fire, but father soon found them, and another mistake was made, Ned lied about the incident. He received a whipping with a razor strap, Vic escaping because of age, but as Ned said he never set another garage on fire!

Sometimes his father took cows in exchange for the price of cars or work. They were pastured south of Amanda on the Ross Bussert place, later Clarence Hunter's, and Ned and his sister Geraldine would walk them to Amanda, up School Street, down the alley west to the barns behind the garage, and the milk would be sold around Amanda. During the Depression to make money Tony Swartz and Ned started the Hardly Able Trucking Co. with a cart to haul things for people. A man named Roos, the Hartle Bros, and Joe and Vic Young also had little businesses. They might work for Harley Huston at the mill hauling a small amount of coal to home owners since the usual amount was a ton at a time which no one could afford. The boys would get a quarter for hauling one-half ton. Vic said slabs from the sawmill would be 10 cents each. More tales from Amanda next time.



## Some More Glimpses into Amanda's Past-2

By Carolyn Tilley

The pleasant visit at Vic and Phyllis Young's home of Amanda with brother Ned Young telling stories of their youth, yielded much information. Of course, it led to many more questions about Amanda of the 20's, 30's and on. Ned mentioned the mills by the railroad tracks. There were two standing on the south side on either side of the tracks. According to histories, Charlie Goslin, and then the 1910 Amanda High School yearbook, James and Frank Reichelderfer started as a canning factory in 1901, then later sold to Sears and Nicholas in 1915. The advertisement said packers of "High Grade Peas, Corn and Tomatoes." When the farmers changed to raising corn, it closed. Across the tracks was the Amanda Milling Company, run by the Webb Bros. They dealt in flour, feed, coal, hay and grain, and bought livestock. Huston and Swope owned the mill and bought the canning factory when it closed in 1923. Across the street to the north where the present mill, Amanda Grain is located, was The Farmer's Exchange owned by a Mr. Ream, the first co-op, as Ned explained. In the 1910 yearbook a student wrote a small history of Amanda and we quote, "It now contains eight stores, three churches, a school, two elevators, a mill, a canning factory and glove factory."

As the years went by, there were many stores of all kinds, many not making it through the Depression. John Dickson had a store where the empty building is on Main Street, last a grocery. His sons Lloyd and Ray were with him and Lloyd bought the business later. In the 1912 yearbook, Dickson advertised as a Hardware with Studebaker buggies and wagons, stoves, and sewing machines. In the 1917 yearbook, Willys automobiles were promoted along with clothing and cameras. It was a grocery with furniture, also, as the years went by. H. C. Hiatt in the K of P Building, now the medical clinic, advertised in the 1910 yearbook for dry goods, groceries, shoes, oil clothes, linoleums, stoneware, overalls and work shirts. There were both active businesses when I was a child. Both ran huckster wagon that came to you loaded with groceries. That was a treat for me to have one pulling up in our front yard. The Mettler Bros. sold general merchandise, and Theodore Lape had home furnishings. W. C. Lape was a general contractor. D. Kerby Lerch advertised in the 1912 yearbook as a Merchant Tailor. J. Lerch and Co. had general merchandise, and ran a drugstore. G.A. Lutz and Son also had dry goods, hardware, and motorcycle supplies. P.T. and L. E. Conrad had buggies and carriages, and horseshoeing on South Center Street, School Street now. The building just recently torn down west of the post office on the north, was Welch and Dum Furniture. They sold school books when you had to buy your own. Ned remembers getting his Elson Readers there. Later it was Welch and Shupe, Kirby Shupe. Elsie Dickson Bookman's father later sold appliances there, and Elsie started her business there over 50 years ago.

Besides the above mention of a pharmacy, there was separate advertisement for Edwin L. Middleton, pharmacist in the 1910 yearbook, and A. O. Stephenson, registered pharmacist in the 1912 yearbook who mentioned a soda fountain. Boyd Strayer, class of '08 AHS was his drug clerk, later to run a pharmacy. Many would be surprised to know that in the 1912 yearbook were advertisements for a dentist, H. C. Fogler, and W. A. Cromley, physician and surgeon. Dr. J. E. Hewetson's add was in the 1910 yearbook. His family lived in the beautiful brick on Johns and High, the Johns House. Samuel Strayer had a harness and shoe repair. His son Boyd "Pinky"



Strayer, mentioned above, had the drugstore on the corner of Johns and Main, still open for candies and such when I was young.

The Farmers and Merchants Bank Company in the present bank building was organized in 1904 with a capital stock of \$25,000, noted in gold letters on the front window, Ned remembered. The promoters were from Columbus, and many from Amanda. The president was T. H. Griffith, S.H. Simon, vice president, Clyde Barr, cashier, C.R. Lewis, asst. Cash, P.L. Schneider, secy, and treas, with George Blue, Fred Lauger, Issac Reigel and A. H. Shaeffer Jr. as directors. The bank did very well until the stock market fell and it closed. The Clearcreek Valley Bank was in the K of P building, west of Hiatt's. You will see the word bank in the doorstep as you enter the clinic today. It was capitalized at \$15,000 with Irvin Aspaugh and Leslie Lutz as directors, and John Christy, Wendell's father, involved in the beginning. He became in charge after the other closed. Eventually they bought the closed bank building in the 40's. Upstairs there was a dentist at one time and even the newspaper earlier. The backroom was leased to Amanda Township where the clerk, George Emil Griffith would issue relief orders during the Depression. Those in need would receive an order for a limited amount of groceries and take it to Dicksons or Hiatts for just that much. A Jesse Shue from Mile Hill came to borrow \$50 during the Depression from the Clearcreek Valley Bank; Mr. Christy said they were not loaning. Mr. Shue was most upset as he indicated he owned quite a lot of land, and then reached in his pocket and pulled out a \$20.00 bill, and said, "Here help some poor person who needs it."

Near the bank on the east was once the telephone company and the post office. Joe Young, brother of Ned and Vic, bought that building. Upstairs above the bank at one time, was a Mr. Gortner who ran the Amanda Press. Not only did he print Amanda's paper and was once mayor, but as Ned remembered made kites that had lights on them for night. He later moved, but had his business as early as 1912. Near these businesses by the bank, there was a bus stop for Murphy's Bus in the 1930's. It was a stretched out Packard that ran from Lancaster, Amanda, Circleville, Washington C.H. and back. There were two Spanish-American War veterans living in Amanda, Frank Balthaser and Giggs Nye, who when they received their pension checks would pick up the bus for Lancaster where they promptly got drunk. Everyone knew what they would be like when the bus returned. Ned and some of the boys took some very thin copper wire and strung it across an alley where "Old Man Balthaser", as they called him, would have to walk and get tangled as they looked on with amusement. Mr. Nye usually crossed the street no matter what was coming and all said he would be killed one day, and one day it happened. More of this rambling next time.



### 3 Some More Glimpses into Amanda's Past

by Carolyn Tilley

As I visited with Vic and Phyllis Young and brother Ned Young, I learned so many things; here I am on part three. It seems the more I learn, the more questions I have. I am sure many of you have stories you have heard about the places and people of Amanda. Let's go back to the center corner of Main and Johns. Many remember the building on the southwest, the florist shop today, as a hardware in our recent memory. Originally it was a hotel run by Stanton Johns', (Mid West) parents. In the 1917 yearbook there was The New Lutz Hotel with Teahan and John, Props.! There was a bakery in the west section. Mrs. Johns continued to run it for a time after her husband's death. After Boyd Young sold his Ford and Buick garage, he ran a hardware in the building for time. The Clyde Barr house, funeral home today, was owned by a fellow the Young boys had a problem with, Leon Skank. Between Ned and his friends running an old Model T into his garage and Vic and cousin Barney Young in Mr. Skank's cherry tree, Father Young had to settle matters several times. The house between the hotel/hardware and the Young home was once owned by Jesse Hampshire and son Floyd had a gas station there before it became a funeral home.

The big house on the southeast corner was built by Kirby Lerch. Later a Mr. Johnston who had a general merchandise store next door, lived there. Beside the Legion today was the building where Kenny Hiatt sold license plates in the front part of the store. At one time Al Reams of the mill on the north side of the street owned the home. A Kane family also owned it and then in 1946, Dr. F.C. Ayers and his family occupied the home, and it was his office, also. Today several special young ladies make their home there. Opposite the home was the Strayer Drugstore. Next door to the east, Ned Young's uncle, Toppo Crites, had his electrical shop, and there young Ned began to learn his lifelong occupation.

In 1946 after serving in the war, Ned bought the property on the northwest corner, tattoo parlor today, for \$2200 . It had been Billy Balthaser's store with a barbershop next door, King Brown's Barber Shop, and a bandstand beside it. For a time, his family lived in the barbershop; the Smoke House, they called it as so many had smoked in it. Then they lived in an apartment above Ned's electrical repair shop. One day he visited Mrs. Lily Ochs to fix her iron. Her husband worked at the grain mill. She made wine for the Lutheran church, and after he finished his repair she asked if Ned would like a glass of wine, which he willingly accepted. Tommy Barr bought the property next and made arrangements with the government to build a building for lease as a post office, Shirley's Beauty Shop today. Tommy lived upstairs the corner building and then in an area behind the front area where he had a pool hall and place to play cards during the 40's and 50's. Many fathers brought their children to school events and went down to play cards. It has been a vet's office and now the tattoo had parlor.

The old Young garage and buildings in the alley was bought by Oscar Potts who lived in the corner of High and Johns with Doc Bope across the street. Doc had his vet's office behind the drugstore along the alley facing Johns. Oscar Potts fixed up old cars. Vic Young said he bought three from him, one for \$15.00. Back on Ned's property, he had torn down the bandstand used in the 30's. It had been built by Pete Hiatt and was sponsored by many businesses in town.



Billy Balthaser who had had a store in Ned's corner building also ran a funeral home from his home on High Street, west of Johns. He had a horse drawn hearse. The Grange building was empty in the 30's and several businesses tried there, but failed. One was James Fox who had a hardware store. It was followed by Lyle and Kline, also a hardware with a funeral home on one side. One of the few groups with money was the Grange, who bought the building selling the top floor to the Masons. They began to hold Saturday night dances to make some money to help off the building debt. In the orchestra was Herbie Roof on drums, Ms. Reed, piano, Eva Roberts on the violin, and Doyle Haas and a Mr. Welch on saxophones. Ned can remember families who came. There was also some Young musicians playing out on Justus' Store on Rt. 22. The O'Dell family often took Ned along to dances to dance with the daughters! The Grange was also rented to a lively religious group. Ned and "the boys" would sneek in the back to watch the proceedings. During the Depression, the group prayed for sugar.

Speaking of sweet things, some of the best ice cream was in a establishment called The Tavern. It was in a big brick house on the southwest corner of Main and McKinley. Gone today, it was a filling station for a time.

Where the post office is today was a large beautiful house owned by the Lapes. It caught on fire one day, in the attic. Since Amanda had no efficient fire service, Lithopolis was called. Every one started carrying things out, in one door and out the other to save all they could. Vic Young said when the pool table dropped from the third floor it was time to quite! When Lithopolis arrived they put the hose in the cistern, but they didn't know how to prime the pump and promptly burned up the pump. Lancaster had been called but that was a slow process. That corner then had a funeral home. Gene Crites had a funeral home in Stoutsville and brought it to Amanda, making his a rest home. He had raised Ward Van Cleve who was in business with him owning the funeral home later. Mr. Crites organized a German band which Ned was in.



#### **4-Some More Glimpses in Amanda's Past-4**

by Carolyn Tilley

In the visit and conversations with Vic and Ned Young, they told of their early school days. The area in front of the school, the A-C Primary today, was vacant. I have seen one picture of children lined up on the front sidewalk with cattle in the pasture to the west. The men remember all the area from behind the Lutheran church and the Johns house vacant to the railroad tracks. They ran through the area to school and sometimes home for lunch. They soon had a path made. Kirby Lerch had come to town with money, Ned said, in the late 1800's and built the big house on the southeast corner of Johns and Main. He bought most of the vacant land across from the school and laid out the Lerch addition. There had been one shack there, the men remembered as Shad Finney's. The new lots began to sell in the 20's for about \$150.00 each. Boyd Strayer, the pharmacist bought several. Later in the 40's Stanton Johns felt his home town of Amanda would be a proper place for a factory. After selling his house in Columbus, he sought notes from friends in Amanda for \$1000 each to start. Several of those men were Ray and Lloyd Dickson, Con Nolte, Tommy Barr, and Ned Young. Mr. Johns bought several lots from Boyd Strayer and started Mid-West Fabricating.

The elementary school the Youngs attended was the 1911 building and the high school was the 1925 building just to the south. They were connected in 1937, the year Ned graduated. The first buses were horsedrawn wagons. Ed Wilson and John Hutchins had early buses. Mark Bussert had one coming in from Hamburg area. Kenny Bussert and their Uncle Boyd Young also ran buses. A Mr. Waits came in from Cedar Hill area where Ned's wife Becky lived. The Youngs remember finally a bus came in from the Clearport area. On snowy days it might not arrive until 10 AM and you could hear the students stamping their feet on the wooden stairs as they came into the building.

Beyond the school north where the skating rink is today, built in the 1950's, was a cement plant in the early 1900's. J. D. Moody and R. P. Moody ran the Amanda Cement Products Co.who also sold fertilizer and agricultural lime. They were on the edge of what of us call "The Prairie".

Old Muddy Prairie Rd. ,Sand Hill Road today, just north of Amanda runs through a bog left by the last glacier, the Wisconsin. As Charles Goslin explains it, it is impounded water after receding of the ice cap where aquatic plants and grasses converted into the bog and formed peat and muck in places as much as ten feet deep. Beneath this peat is a layer of quicksand and marl. A large animal could disappear beneath the surface easily. You can imagine what it was like in the very early days, but it had fertile soil. Soon attempts to make a road through the area were started with countless loads of gravel along with logs laid side by side. When my mother was in school before the Young men's time, they often said don't go home that way as there is no road tonight, after a day's rain perhaps. Many of us remember the swampy area on both sides of the road before attempts to drain the whole area for farming. According to Goslin in early ditching attempts bones of a giant sloth were found. There are two creeks in the low area where beavers may have helped in the creation of the bog. Muddy Prairie Creek runs west to Clear Creek, and Muddy Prairie run empties through Pleasant Valley into Clear Creek near Clearport.



You may wonder why we are discussing this with Amanda history. Ned and Vic Young told me that Amanda used the bog as a dumping area in their early days. Tin cans and other garbage were brought out to the area. But more than that many cars were pushed in; they would think 50 to 100 or more. When new 22 was built bypassing Amanda they had to go through part of Muddy Prairie. Locals told the state of the problems, but they felt they knew how to build the highway. It did have to be redone.

Picture shows along with Medicine Shows were brought to town in the late 40's and shown on Main Street. Ned tells of his sister Janet, his son Ronnie, and David Johns setting up lemonade stands to sell to the audience. We thank the Youngs for a day of conversation and hope you have enjoyed some tidbits of history.



## **The Boiler Explosion at Young's Sawmill**

By Carolyn Tilley

It must have been a pleasant day in October, for Mrs. Simon Young was returning to their residence across the road, when the unthinkable happened. No, you did not miss the news of the Amanda area, for this boiler explosion at Young's sawmill took place on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1887. Perhaps she had brought lunch to her husband and the workers at the mill. She was found in the road about 40 feet from the mill in an insensible condition. Three ribs were broken, and she was badly bruised. She had no recollection of the occurrence, and in fact was thought to be dead at first.

Let's back up a minute to locate this event. The news at the time reported it to be at Dutch Hollow. All of us local folks think of the Dutch Hollow as the area around Israel Lutheran Church and the nearby homes just west of Amanda on Route 22. Charlie Goslin mentions the event in one of his books, but Ned Young, a descendant and my source for many Amanda happenings, located it exactly for us. As the crow flies, it is not far north in the same section as Dutch Hollow, Section 33. Ned relates the mill was located at what is now 5370 Drum Road, 3 tenths of a mile southwest of Ridge Road. Today this is the home and property of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Stoneburner. The exact location is 75 feet east of the Stoneburner residence and approximately 50 feet from the center of Drum Road.

David A. Young, Ned's grandfather had just left the mill a few minutes earlier to go for a log wagon. Ned said David had recently sold the mill to his brother Simon. Four men were killed instantly that day. They were Simon Young, age 33 years, Amos Young, also 33, George Lape, 28 years, and Perry Lape, 24 years of age. The cause of the explosion was never really determined, but the indications were that the water in the boiler had become too low, and the putting in of fresh water produced the explosion. The boiler was torn in two, nearly straight across and a part of it was found 80 to 90 yards away. The crown was found 250 yards distant. The shed was wrecked and scattered, and the posts snapped off like pipe stems. The boiler had been in use for several years, and according to one report had not been considered entirely safe. This all was recorded by a J. P. Winstead, a justice-of-the-peace who had come to investigate.

Simon Young's skull was crushed. Perry Lape was the most mutilated of the four, his head being blown entirely off, and fragments scattered about, his legs broken, and a "ghastly" wound was in his abdomen. George Lape and Amos Young were the other two killed, but less mutilated. Simon Young was the son of David T.



Young, and had been married to Allie, the daughter of Obed Brown of Amanda Township. Amos Young was a son of Emanuel Young, Simon's uncle, making them, Simon and Amos, first cousins. Amos left a wife and four small children. Amos's wife, Mary Jane Lape, was a sister of the other two victims, George and Perry Lape, and therefore, not only lost her husband, but her two brothers on that fateful day. George Lape was a widower at the time, his deceased wife, Anna, being a sister of Simon Young. Perry Lape left a wife and children. His wife was a daughter of Jesse Brown of the East Ringgold. They were the sons of William Lape, and Perry had come to work at noon on the day of the disaster. Edward Young, who was an invalid suffering from TB, was occupying with his wife an upstairs room at the residence of his brother Simon. The shock of the explosion threw him from a chair in which he was sitting and seriously affected his condition, the early reports claimed. One can see how the related families were so affected.

For those interested in connecting some of the descendants of the Young family today, we found some history of the Youngs in a history of Fairfield County. With Ned's great help it was corrected, and we can connect some family and give a bit of their background. The Young family hailed from Berks County, PA where John H. Young was born in 1790, and had married Sarah H. Meyers. He brought the family over the mountains and on the Trace when the oldest son, David T. Young was just 6 months old. They arrived in the fall of 1818. John wrote a remarkable journal telling of events of every day from expenses to where they stayed each night. They arrived at the farm of George Stout near Stoutsville. The family then settled in the Dutch Hollow area. The first homestead was near where the sawmill of the explosion was. The house on the corner of Sixteenth Road and State Route 22 was the eventual home of many succeeding generations, being built in 1875. John and Sarah Meyers Young had 14 children, with David T. the oldest. The rest were: John H., Elizabeth, Samuel, Elias, Emanuel, Isaac, Sarah, Sylvanis, Lydia, Susanna, Silas, Isabell, and Amos. The parents and many others are buried there in the Dutch Hollow cemetery.

David T. Young and Elizabeth Stout married in 1877 and also had 14 children. Elizabeth Stout was the daughter of Isaac Stout of the area. His brother John H. married Sarah Stout, and other community names come up as spouses of the David's siblings, like, Phillips, Fosnaugh, Bowman, and Crites. David T. and Elizabeth had David A. Young, Elisa, Ellen, Rosanne, Simon (killed at the mill), Susan, Joe H., Edward, (the invalid mentioned), Anna, (wife of George Lape killed in the explosion), Wilson, William, Sarah, Mary, and Isaac. David T. Young spent almost his entire life in Fairfield County and died in Amanda Township where he engaged in farming and carried on wagon making. He had owned the mill of the



explosion before his sons David A. and Simon. David T. had run a water-powered sawmill at Dutch Hollow at one time.

The son, David A. Young, of the history article, is the grandfather of Ned Young of Circleville and Vic Young of Amanda. He was the one who had sold the mill to his brother Simon and was just leaving the mill the day of the explosion. He was born in 1852 and owned and farmed land in Clearcreek and Amanda townships. His wife, Louisa Phillips, was the daughter of Jacob and Sophia Crites Phillips. They had eight children: George, Ira, Theodore, Clarence, Ralph, Herbert (Ned and Vic's father) Alda, and Boyd. There is a picture in the county history of all of the children with their parents beside the house at Dutch Hollow. These children and others before, walked the fields south to Owl Hollow School, a one-room school house. Since Ned and Vic's mother was a Crites, Ned said there are many double cousins, as the name Phillips comes up again, also. He had five cousins in his class at Amanda High School. Many, many of the descendants stayed very close to the community. Of note, Amos who was killed in the explosion had a mother who was a Phillips, too. He left four children. A grandson owned land in the valley at Dutch Hollow, another had a business in Amanda, and one farmed in the Amanda area. David A. Young's son Herb, Ned's father, ran a garage in Amanda among other business, and was once mayor, as was Ned. Herb's brother Boyd's family lived in Amanda and the area, and we could go on. It is hard to mention someone whom Ned does not say is related to him. I am sure the many descendants can connect themselves to this pioneer family.

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## **A Century of Service by the Grange**

By Carolyn Tilley

The Clearcreek Valley Grange, # 1843, celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding on March 18, 2012. It was actually chartered as a subordinate Grange on March 22, 1912 in the I.O.O. F. Hall in Amanda. Meetings had begun in January of that year to discuss the advisability of organizing a Grange locally and farmers and their wives met to discuss the possibility. Charles Griffith was elected Grand Master at the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting with 45 persons present. That summer they sent a person to the State Convention and the chapter has continually stayed connected to all parts of the organization. On this special occasion, the Ohio State Grange Master/President, Gary Brumbaugh was the speaker for the afternoon event.

Nineteen State Grange officers and officials with their spouses were present that afternoon along with Mr. Brumbaugh. The little hall was filled with members and other guests like County Commissioner Judy Shupe and Sheriff Dave Phalen. Also present was Debbie Hamric, Branch Manager of the Kingston National Bank of Amanda. For a time, the Grange had met in the upper hall of the historic bank building. One surprise was the presentation of a 60-Year Membership Award to Janyce Peters Burleson by the State Grange Master, and local Master Ben Blosser who conducted the afternoon's program. The Clearcreek Valley Grange members then served a meal of their great home cooking for which they are known.

Though locally known as "the Grange", the correct name is The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. It is a fraternal organization for American farmers that encourages farm families to band together for their common economic and political well-being. Founded in 1867 after the Civil War, it is the oldest surviving agricultural organization in American, though much diminished from over a million at its peak in the 1890's to the 1950's. In addition to serving as a center for many farming communities, the Grange was an effective advocacy group for farmers and their agendas, including fighting railroad monopolies and advocating rural mail delivery. Indeed the word "grange" itself comes from a Latin word for grain, and is related to "granary", or generically, a farm. The motto is "in essentials unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

By 2005 membership was 300,000 in American with 3,600 Granges in 37 states. The headquarters are in Washington D.C. and a headquarters building was built there in 1960. Many communities still have a Grange Hall. Locally after meeting in several places, like the K of P Hall and even members' homes, the present building was obtained in 1934 with Oscar Potts purchasing the lot, keeping the house, and selling the hall to the Grange and the Masons who use the upstairs.

The Grange was founded by seven men, mainly by Oliver Hudson Kelly. He was sent out by Pres. Andrew Johnson after the Civil War to collect agricultural data in the South. Being a



Northerner he was not received well but as a Freemason, he overcame the problem and saw a need to bring farmers together. The first Grange was Potomac Grange #1 in Washington D. C. still going strong in 2011. As the organization grew it adopted non-partisan political resolutions to work for the common good. They had insurance and other benevolent aid. It was unusual as women and teens were treated as equals, in fact in local groups 4 of the 16 elected positions are only held by women. Many Granges had cooperatives for awhile, some things were not popular and membership was up and down. However, the Cooperative Extension Service, Rural Free Delivery, and the Farm Credit Services were due largely to Grange lobbying. Other causes over the years have been temperance, direct election of Senators and women's suffrage. In the 1890's to the 1920's political parties took up Grange causes. Many locals then took up community services.

Memberships have included President F. D. Roosevelt and President Truman, A monument to its founding is the only private monument in the National Mall in Washington. Although membership is down as the number of farmers have gone down, it presses for causes like free trade and farm policy. It has stayed non-partisan and had broadened its issues, and all persons are welcome to join. There is a Junior Grange of ages 5 to 14, and at 14 regular membership is available. Within the Grange, ages 14 to 35 is known as Grange Youth. When it began it took many rituals from the Masons, and had secret meetings, oaths, etc. It has 7 degrees of membership and the meetings are generally public today, but they acknowledge their rich history. It is a hierarchical organization from local to National. The community Granges are "subordinate Granges", grouped together as Pomona Granges, usually all in a county. Then comes the state, 36 today, with the Potomac No. 1 that make up the National Grange. They represent the interests of all, but it is a grassroots organization as policy comes from the local. The many benefits over the years is the extraordinary lessening of rural isolation and betterment of farm opportunities.

The first group of local members reads like a roster of community names. Many over the years have reached their 25 and then 50 or more year honors. The Clearcreek Valley Grange had participated in county and state activities. In 1969, Joyce Ann Kerns was chosen Fairfield County Grange Princess and then Ohio State Princess, representing Ohio at the National Grange Convention in Florida. Then in 1979 Joyce and Noah Blosser were chosen young Grange couple for the State of Ohio going on to the National Convention in Iowa in 1980. Many local teams joined with others in the county to enter ritualistic and drill contests where they received numerous first places and

In 1981 Joyce Blosser was elected Lady Assistant Steward of the Ohio State Grange, the first state office from our local.

The youth from the local Grange have been active in the county and state contests. Many members have entered and won talent contests. There have been many youth on the State Youth Committee, State Opening Team and participating in the state ambassador contests at the conventions. In 1994 Shelly Shaeffer was the Ohio State Grange Young Ambassador and then represented Ohio at the National Grange Convention in Lancaster, PA in 1995. Another outstanding happening was when Lisa Carpenter wrote a letter about her mother, Martha, nominating her for Super Parent of the Year. She won first in the state and went on the National Convention in California where she won

first place! There are many winners at the Culinary Showcase Baking contests at the State Fair in Junior and Youth area. There have been many craft winners at the fair and other winners in the State Grange Baking contests.

The Grange has served many dinners over the years for the community. They have helped the village, Fire Department, and the local schools, and Christmas collections with donations and time. For the A-C Primary school they made and donated 106 Phonic Phones. They have donated to and presented many scholarships. They have helped patients of Twin Valley Behavioral to attend the Ohio State Fair, and helped furnish and serve food for the Veterans Picnic at the Chillicothe Veterans Hospital. They have helped with Special Olympics and Farm Fair Day during the Lancaster Festival. They have been buying dictionaries for "Words for Thirds since 2005. The hall has been used by many groups over the years, and the local has sponsored monthly euchre card parties for the community. In 2010 the Grange served a meal and hosted 20 people from the Columbus International Exchange program from Tajikistan (Old Soviet Union). There was a presentation about the Grange, tour of a farm and equipment dealer. The group has served meals at the Soybean Festival/Fireman Festival for many years. Members work at the County Fair at the Donut Hole booth and help put up the County Granger Booth. They have collected Campbell soup labels, eyeglasses, pop tabs, empty cartridges, etc for the State Grange programs. They support State and National projects of all kinds. They help pay part of members' camp fees, conference and convention fees. Clearcreek Valley Grange has been very active over the years and hopes to continue with many activities, working with the county, state, and National Grange activities for many more years to come.



## The Store Across the Street

By Carolyn Tilley

Penny candy, something hot and a drink for \$.15, that tells you that it was sometime back in our past, doesn't it?

You could get these items in a small store across the street from the Amanda High School in the 1930's. The building still stands today as a private dwelling on School Street, the second building south in the block across from the now Amanda-Clearcreek Primary School.

That whole area once just pasture was part of the Lerch addition of Amanda. Merrill Hedges' parents built a home on Halderman Street in that area. Merrill wrote in his memoirs that granddaughter Roxie Bussert Cordle provided me, about the corn, potatoes, sweet corn, strawberries and fruit trees that they grew near the home. The family had a cow and a couple of hogs to butcher and a vegetable garden. After the '29 stock market crash, it was hard to find work and Merrill worked for a farmer in the early 30's. He then worked for the county engineer when business picked up a bit.

Mr. Hedges wrote, "I bought a lot across from the Amanda School, put up a small building and sold candy, soft drinks (5 cents for a small bottle), cup cakes, ice cream bars, school supplies, some bread and a few vegetables. The first 2 years, I closed the store at the end of school term until the first of September when school opened for the next term. I started house painting with Harold Reinschield between school terms. Also helped John Fosnaugh build a new house at Winchester, Ohio. I learned a lot from him about building. Then I built more onto the store, made it wider and longer with another large room overhead with was divided. Then I got a couple of tables and chairs, built a counter, got some swivel chairs for it and started selling lunches. Father and mother moved into the house where we had been living. Mother helped us during the lunch hour."

The Young brothers, Ned and Vic, that helped with other Amanda stories, told of running home through the vacant area of the Lerch addition when in elementary. The school was increasing in enrollment as the surrounding areas came to the school when the one-room school houses closed. There was no cafeteria for quite a while. Vic remembers the first Hedges building as very tiny, a shack they called it, and it seemed to grow each summer, as we have just learned that Mr. Hedges did expand it as he learned building, and he moved his family into the building.

However, there was a bit more going on. Next door Jim Conrad and his son Parnell had a small building where they also sold food. Vic remembers them as very good cooks. They allowed smoking which certainly attracted some students. That is a home today where Parnell raised a family later. Mr. Hedges then put up a very small building on the south corner lot of that block, maybe even on skids, Vic Young thought. Mr. Hedges had his son Clark open at noon for some food, and it also allowed smoking. Vic said you could smell the smoke when near the building, in fact it came pouring out of the open door. You could often see several young men rolling their cigarettes in front, of course keeping an eye open for Superintendent Potts. Mr. Hedges later built a home between these two buildings. This rivalry went on a bit.



Vic remembers seeing Merrill Hedges' wife Frances or his mother carrying food to the store to get ready for lunch from the home on the next street, before a kitchen was added to the store area. Very early the lunch time was an hour, so many could go home to eat. Some of the students at that time had different remembrances, depending on their circumstances or the progress of the store. Vic of the class of '41, went home for lunch, but all remember the candy. Dorothy of '40 said she packed her lunch, as a large family could not afford to eat lunch at the store everyday, but her sisters bought some candy. At that time the home economics girls began to serve lunch to the faculty in an area between the newly connected buildings that happened in 1937. Gwendolyn, class of '41, thought the red pop and ice cream she shared with a friend to make two sodas each day was a treat. She said there was a special of the day, like Spanish rice, good soups or sandwiches. At that time there were a small counter where Mr. Hedges would be ready to serve and little tables. When you walked in there was the candy case on the south wall, a bench and tables and chairs toward the east. On the west were the coolers, and stove, and counters there and on the north wall.

Living in the store now were the parents and three children, Clark, Paul and Esther, and soon granddaughter Roxie was there too. Paul, now in New Jersey, said despite living across from the school, he didn't seem to make it on time, and Superintendent McCollister would be waiting at the door. Roxie remembers her grandfather pounding on the ceiling to wake the boys in the bedroom above. The kitchen and living room were at the back behind the store area. Dick of the class of '45 remembers stopping in the morning before school to get candy and talk. At noon you got a small plate of spaghetti, or a hamburger and bottle of pop all for 15 cents. It was always so clean and the kids never caused any trouble.

Sometime in the 40's a kitchen and cafeteria area was started in the school with the Young brothers' mother, Lee was an early cook. It was in the northwest basement room with the eating area to the south, later the elementary library. This is important as we elementary students were not allowed to go the store during school hours, and that often got us into trouble. The noon hour became shorter. Mr. Hedges went on in his memoirs to say that after World War II began, the government started rationing some kinds of food, sugar, coffee, meat, gasoline, tires, and a few other things. There were ration stamps for them. It got so bad that the family decided to sell the store. Mrs. Hedges got a job at the Vets Administration in Columbus and Mr. Hedges painted full time. As things had slowed down, Betty of '47 remembers living on Coke and potato chips during her senior year, and Wendell of '48 remembers the little packaged pies and Nehi cream soda. A family named Bryant bought the store and Roxie thinks there might have been more owners before the Kinser family owned it in the 50's and 60's.

When Merle and Margie Kinser bought the building, the family lived on Lutz just north of the school. I had a good visit with Margie, a 1937 graduate of Amanda High School. She just missed the one-room school house experience as Ridge School had just closed prior to her starting school, but Merle attended Clearport School in his early years. They were married in 1939. When they bought the store, Merle expanded the store part of the building and the upstairs was an independent apartment, in which daughter Martha lived in later years. All of the Kinser girls helped serve during the rushed noontime. Mae Shupe and Alice Delong also worked there at times.



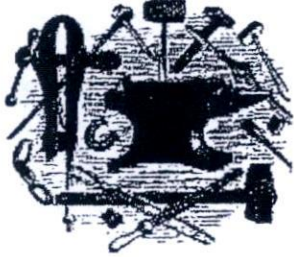
Margie made barbeque sandwiches and hot dogs, and later hamburgers. She got as many as 12 dozen ready for the many students who tumbled in to eat. The school seemed to really appreciate the fact that they could feed the high school and junior high for there was not enough room for all in the cafeteria. The school even informed them when there was going to be a snow day, so they did not prepare so much food. Bean soup was on the menu along with ice cream, pop sickles, drumsticks and pop. She remembered sandwiches were 10 cents, hamburgers 15 cents, and soup also 15. Candy ranged from 1 to 10 cents. They sold gum, tables, pencils and some vegetables for the neighbors. A '59 graduate remembers fondly the sloppy joes.

The counter was enlarged and a jukebox and bowling machine was added during their time. The store was open when there was a basketball game, yes, no football yet. Basketball was the big thing. I can remember the jukebox and the tables. When pizzas became popular a local man helped make them for sale there. Margie said if someone was there who had skipped school, they watched for anyone coming and escaped out the back door. However, things were changing as consolidation neared and then the new addition was added in '63 with its big cafeteria. The school wanted the students to eat there and the Kinsers closed the store. Margie worked in the cafeteria at the school for a time.

The Kinser family had built a new house on East Main in 1955, and when they closed the store, the juke box, pinball, and bowling machines were placed in their basement. Their daughters, Vivian, Martha, and Roselyn, hosted many teen parties there, and Margie said some still remind her of the good times they had in their home. The end of an era lasting several decades in that part of Amanda had come its close.



## Occupations of some early Amanda Township settlers



J.P. Hamilton- Justice and Surveyor

Joseph Abrams- Blacksmith

Lemuel and Jedediah Allen-  
Proprietors(tavern)

William Hamilton- Surveyor

Jacob Rush- store keeper

Miss Sabra Case- teacher

Mr. Spitler- cobbler

Mr. Potts- copper

Joseph Abrams- blacksmith

Thomas Mace- tavern keeper

Jacob Rush- storekeeper

Henry Sunderman- merchant

Eli Ashbrook-preacher

Richard Hooker-miller (corn)

Fredrick Leathers-proprietor (tavern)

Jacob Rush- proprietor (store)

Abraham Cole- school master

Peter Ridenour and Henry Ridenour-millers (saw/grist  
mill)





## **Timeline of Amanda**

- Nov. 18, 1819 Amanda was laid out and dedicated by Samuel Kessler. (64 lots at \$1.10-1.33 each).
- 1832 First postmaster and merchant-Joseph Reed
- 1833 Amanda Methodist Church was founded. Lutheran and Presbyterian churches came soon after.
- 1852 Railroad passed through Amanda. Huston Grain Co. erected a building for the storage of hay.
- 1890 Newspaper in Amanda-The Amanda Herald
- 1903 Village council was formed.
- 1906 Newspaper in Amanda-The Amanda Enterprise
- 1906 Fire Department created.
- 1910 The Sears-Nichols Canning factory opened its doors to can peas and beans grown by area farmers. Closed when farmers switched to corn and wheat.
- 1911 Margaret Ann Griffith, for \$1, granted an acre of ground to the township board of education on which to build a schoolhouse.
- 1915-1936 Newspaper in Amanda-Amanda Press
- 1916 Natural gas was piped to Amanda.
- 1927 Amanda purchased a motorized fire truck.
- 1930s Council Chambers were built. Amanda had Strayer's Drug Store, Tatman's Barber Shop, Hiatt's Grocery, Dickson Store, Young's Garage, and Clearcreek Valley Bank
- 1940s Stanton Johns started the Midwest Fabricating Co. Later became Amanda Bent Bolt Co.
- 1950s Bill Wolford's "airport" was established. Chet Shaffer built the roller skating rink.
- 1960s U.S. Rt. 22 was relocated. First police cruiser was acquired.
- 1970s Railroad stopped use of the tracks.
- 1981 Sarah Kennedy was elected the first woman mayor.
- 1982 Ed Wolfe Park was dedicated  
Library



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AMANDA  
(Worthy of Love)  
Latin Derivative

The Village of Amanda is located on a sloping shelf formed by the waters of a prehistoric lake. To the south lie the fertile "Clearcreek" bottom lands, rising gently to a circular ridge of the early lake. The rich soil, many trees and spring fed streams made this area ideal for German settlers wanting farm land. In 1800, William Hamilton settled in this area to help survey townships for the State of Ohio. He named Amanda Township in 1801 and Samuel Kestler dedicated the Village of Amanda in November of 1819. Why the name Amanda? no one knows! Probably in memory of a loved one.

Development was slow and by 1830 there were only four businesses listed. A tavern, blacksmith, barrel maker, shoemaker, and school teacher. School was held in the upper room of a log house. The log structure still exists within a home on High Street. In 1850 J. D. Sunderman had a three story brick building that housed a warehouse, general store and a telegraph office. Sunderman was instrumental in getting a railroad to Amanda. The Village continued to thrive for the next 80 years and eventually had a canning factory, 2 grain and flour mills, 3 hotels, 7 general stores, a lumber yard, cement works, harness/blacksmith shop, hardware shops and a drug store.

As population increased to 500, the services of 3 doctors, a dentist, veterinarian, 2 funeral homes, 2 banks, an opera house, 3 churches, a village council, and a volunteer fire department were needed. School buildings changed from a one room log house to a four room brick building to one housing 350 students by 1911. There have been six additions made in order to accommodate the 2000 students at present. The Village has had three newspapers, a telephone company, a photographer, and a short lived gas company.

After 1940 progress moved in taking the place of self reliance. With the establishment of two metal fabricating factories, the village still lost the race with progress. The railroad has been removed. U.S. Highway 22 bypasses us and one grain elevator now handles the grain from this farming community. The 800 plus residents still support about 30 small business places in this quiet village which is about 30 minutes from the state capitol. Amanda, Ohio is the only post office in the United States with the name Amanda. To date, there is no thought of closing the post office. We give mail service to 1200 families with two rural routes and 300 post office boxes. Our postal staff consists of: Postmaster, 2 part-time clerks, 2 rural carriers and 2 sub-rural carriers.





(Left) Robert Garrett, Sr. was a well know logger and horseman from Amanda. Here he is standing by a large log destined for the lumber mill in Columbus where today Nationwide Arena now stands. Circa mid 1940's.  
 (Top) Marvin Harmon with some Navy buddies (Marvin on the right) celebrating in dress uniforms before being shipped out for the south Pacific in the early 1940's  
 (Bottom Left) Raymond "Pap" Swank and his team on the farm on 159 between Oakland and Tarlton.  
 (Bottom right) Home on leave before heading for Europe, 1943. Vernon Garrett in uniform with brothers Doyle (left) and Don. Photos provided by Bruce Garrett.



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*Ruby inside*

(Top) Ruby (Gordon) Kohler and Raymond Kohler riding their pony on their parents' farm near Clearport, late 1930's.

(Right) This pic was taken behind the house that was across from the Crooks' Greenhouse on west Main Street in Amanda. In this pic, Vern Garrett is working on his Harley while Orv Garrett (left) and Carl Bowman look on.

(Left) Some of the Kohler kids on the farm near Clearport. In the front is Eloise in the middle with Pauline and Eileen on either side. Brother Raymond in behind them. They were the children of Ed and Dell Kohler.



*Raymond Eloise and twins*

Pictures courtesy of Bruce Garrett.





## November Birthdays-The Amandas

By Carolyn Tilley

If it's November, it must be the birthday month of both the township and the village of Amanda. In the very first issue our able co-coordinator of the A-C Towne Crier, Denise, wrote a great history of the village. Let's go back even farther and come up to the birthday date.

Can you imagine this territory in its wild state? A thickly forested area with a few breaks for prairie grasses greeted the first settlers; and many wild animals, plus the Native Americans who called this land theirs. When the Zanes blazed their trail through this part of Ohio, settlers quickly followed, some that same year 1797 and many more in '98 and '99. Many came by way of the Trace, but some came up the Hocking River from the Ohio. According to Charles Goslin, the first arrivals would have been temporarily squatters. The area of Amanda Township was a part of the Congress Lands and was not offered for sale until May, 1801, when the land office was opened in Chillicothe. Land patents do not necessarily tell the date of the arrival of the purchaser, but they do tell whether the purchaser lived in Fairfield County when he completed payment for the land.

Frederick Leathers is considered the oldest settler in the township in the southeast corner very near the future village. He built the first log house between Lancaster and Chillicothe. It was necessarily a tavern. He ran the tavern until 1818 when Isaac Griffith settled and ran it until 1855. His son, Samuel in a first person account in Hervey Scott's, A Complete History of Fairfield County, Ohio, says that the site of Amanda and all the surrounding country was in a wild condition. The best house in the community was the Leathers house. It was of hewed logs and two stories high. The house burned down in about 1858.

It was during November, 1805, term of the court of common pleas that Amanda Township was erected. Although most townships erected that early very far from their present size, Amanda Township is essentially the same size as it was in that time, when a standard township has 36 sections. Although we know many pioneers came before this time, there were three in 1895 in documents signed by Thomas Jefferson. The holders of these land patents (sheepskins) were: Thomas Cole for Section 8; Richard Hooker for Section 19; John Christy for Section 34. Thomas Cole's grandson wrote of the coming of the Allens to Royalton area in the northern part of the township, as "there was not a mark of an ax from Lancaster to his house." Dr. Silas Allen had brought his family to the Royalton area in 1800 and Andrew Barr to the Dutch Hollow area in the same year. It is told that Andrew and his 5 sons had selected a piece of land in Madison, as was the custom to look out and then enter. As he entered the land office at Chillicothe to secure it, Martin Landis came out, having just entered that very piece. Such occurrences were by no means rare, and occasioned a second long and wearisome journey. They settled in Section 33 of Amanda Township. Alexander Denneston's house was selected for the first election of the township officials. These first officials were the township trustees, fence viewers, and overseers of the poor.

Many of the early histories of the county gave a later date for the founding of the village of Amanda. Mr. Goslin says in one of his news columns, that he searched records to find the exact date. Amanda was laid out in the southeast quarter of Section 35 on November 18, 1819. The name of the proprietor was Samuel Kesler. Since he signed documents by his mark, and in German at times, several name variations appear on the legal transactions on different entries in the deed records. To officially dedicate the town of Amanda, probably named after the township, Samuel Kesler appeared on Nov. 18, 1819 before William Hamilton, a justice of peace. One day later it was entered into the county records.

The original town was laid out into 64 lots with Main Street, westward and eastward, and Center Street, north and south, 100 links wide, which is 66 feet. East, South, West, and North Streets were a width of 33 feet. Now find the names of them today.

Samuel Kester (spelling on the first lot sales), and his wife, Polly, sold their first lots February 3, 1820. These lots were numbered 1 to 64 and were 125 by 200 links in size. Number one was in the northeast corner of town and 64 at the southeast corner. Nine lots sold the first day, and as Denise wrote many started their businesses quickly. Early owners were George Nigh, Sr. David Leathers, Jacob Weaver, James Mouser, and Elizabeth Grover. Later many were sold by the administrator of Samuel Kestler, another spelling. In 1826 there were 10 lots that were to be sold for delinquent taxes. The sale occurred on January 6, 1827, with the lots selling for \$1.10 and \$1.33. John Leist, of Clearcreek Township purchased these lots.

The first addition to Amanda was John Rockey's. It had eight lots to the north side of North Street. Surveyed on June 1, 1844, the plat was dedicated July 23, 1844, with George Sanderson, the justice of the peace. The map shown is from the Combination Atlas Map of Fairfield, Ohio by L. M. Everts. 1875. Can you find your way around now, with the street names changed a bit? Main is still Main Street and Center is School Street.



# AMANDA CLEARCREEK TOWNE CRIER



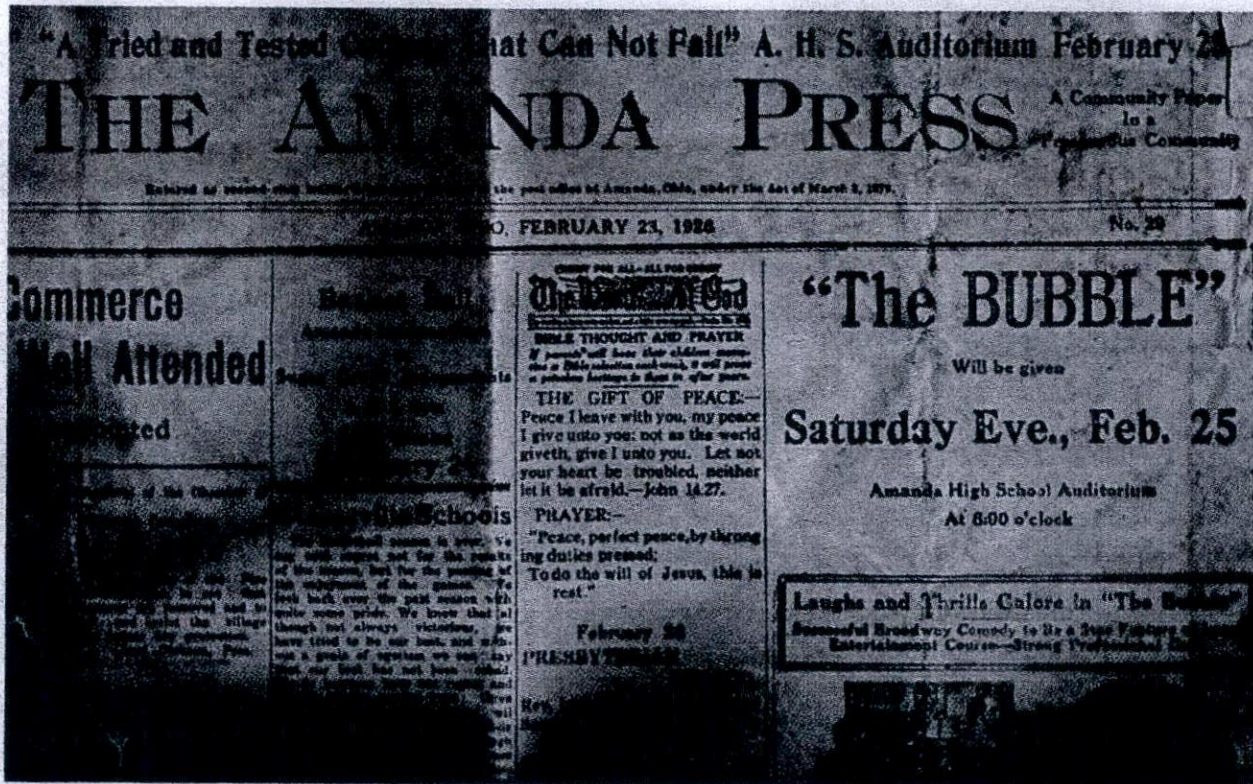
A Publication of the TOWNE CRIER Family of Newspapers

Nov. 19 - Dec. 9, 2006

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**FREE**

## The Old and the New for the Amanda Clearcreek Area



As the month of November in Amanda marks the history of its name it will also mark the start of a new community newspaper.

The Towne Crier welcomes the residents of Amanda Clearcreek to enjoy our monthly paper. This local newspaper will be filled with positive family friendly news. Our goal at the Towne Crier is to bring communities together through positive information. It will focus on local people, events, and businesses.

The Towne Crier will be delivered free in "the bag" to homes in the Amanda Clearcreek area. There will also be pickup locations at local businesses. The paper can also be found on the web at [www.fairfieldtownecrier.com/actc.html](http://www.fairfieldtownecrier.com/actc.html).

We would also like to thank the local businesses who place advertisements in our paper. We appreciate your support! And to our readers who want positive friendly news in our community.

*We Hope You Enjoy It!*

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969-TOW-11 (8698)



Scouts meet Monday November 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at the United Methodist Church.

### Trinity Lutheran Church Christmas Program

The public is invited to attend the annual Christmas program at Trinity Lutheran Church on Crumley Road. It will be on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the first Sunday night

Community prayer meetings Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. at the Church Manse.

Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>-Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Collection and Dedication.

November 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30-7:30p.m. KICC (Kids in Christ Connected). Regular meetings set for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays every month until May.

have been charged with its care. It is hoped everyone will plan to come and help in this labor of love. Let's decorate our church worthy of the King we await and any other visitors who might come through our doors in search of loving help. The service begins at 10:30 a.m. Call 969-2062 for more information.

of Thanksgiving or Christmas baskets please call Pastor Bill Weaver at (740)746-9547.

### Oakland United Methodist Church

The Oakland United Methodist Church and other surrounding Methodist Churches will have a

[www.inyrounline.org](http://www.inyrounline.org)

On November 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a community Thanksgiving service at 7:00 p.m. There will also be a Thanksgiving carry in diner after church on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A prayer breakfast will be held at the church on Saturday December 2 at 9:00 a.m. Service hours are Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

## The History of Amanda continued from page 8

the big water tower was erected. Around 1957 Stanton Johns donated all the labor to build the firehouse. When work was slow at the factory the men would leave Midwest and work on the firehouse. Later that year he purchased a ladder truck for the fire department.

On July 10, 1959 a 21 year old man named Lew Taylor became the youngest business owner in the state of Ohio. He and his wife Elenor opened Taylors Funeral Home on Main Street. After almost 50 years it is still family owned.

By the 1960's the new bypass took State Route 22 out of Amanda. Some people say that's when a lot of businesses lost customers. Travelers would pass the village without stopping.

Amanda Clearcreek was created in 1960 following a consolidation with Clearcreek Township

School. An elementary wing, cafeteria and high school library were added in 1963.

Sadly, the Dicksons store was sold in 1966 followed by Hiatt's.

In 1967 the post office moved to it's present location. Jeff Dupler has been our postmaster since 1984.

Our water tower was painted orange in 1974. We still had Strayers Drug store owned by Hazel and Boyd (pinkey) Strayer. A local resident Tom Taylor remembers going to Strayers store to buy sodas. It was the place to "hangout" for the children of the village. "For 5 cents you could get a load of candy", said Tom. There was a Sohio gas station as well as a Marathon and Gulf.

In 1977 Davis and Sue McMilen bought the Amanda Roller Rink. They played 8 track music. The grand march and the wall-flower were some highlights of

the evening. The format eventually changed to the disco era. It continues to stay current with the music of today's youth. 1977 also brought changes to Amanda Clearcreek School, a new gymnasium and additional classrooms were added. By 1979 Midwest had expanded and Amanda Bent Bolt was sold.

In 1982 The village of Amanda lost an important member of our community Mr. Stanton Johns passed away. However, his legacy lives on. In 1987 his wife Jane built the Stanton Johns Library in memory of him.

Also in 1982 Woodwares of Amanda was started by Randy Poling and Randy Lutz. It was located at the back of the hardware store on Main Street. In 1990 it moved to Amanda Northern Road and is now owned by Jim and Lucinda Lutz and Gary Young.

In 1985 the Amanda Greenhouse closed. Bill and Glenna Crook owned it for nearly 38 years.

Our town changed again in 1992. The High Street extension was done. Which added several new homes to our area. The Johns scholarship was established in 1993.

Over the last 187 years many things have changed. Several businesses have come and gone. However some things remain the

same. Everyone still enjoys the Amanda Roller Rink. Generations have come to love the fun and excitement it brings to our small village. Elsie Bookman still runs the furniture store. In the last census taken there were over 700 people living in our community. We have seen two new schools built and now a new newspaper has come to our village. We have a rich heritage and with the support of our community a bright future.

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Amanda, OH



war of 1812. Others say it could have been the name of a loved one, of one of the commissioners who had a part in naming the townships.

The first of three houses built in Amanda were occupied by Mr. Spittler, a shoemaker; Mr. Potts a cooper, and Jacob Mouser a blacksmith.

Joseph Reed was the first merchant. He arrived with only a wheelbarrow load of merchandise. Joseph Temple arrived soon after offering a greater assortment to the public followed by another merchant named Henry Sunderman.

By 1830 there were several businesses. A local tavern, blacksmith, barrel maker, a shoemaker and a school teacher. The school was held in the upper level of a log home, located near where St. Peters Lutheran Church on High Street now stands. The first post office dates back to April 12, 1832. Joseph Reed was also the first postmaster.

According to A.A. Graham the first church was Methodist. The congregation organized in 1834. The Lutherans organized shortly after. In 1838 the Presbyterians organized and built the church that still stands on land. The first minister of the Presbyterian Church was William Jones.

lack of interest in growing vegetables and was shut down in 1923, it later became the Houston Grain Company. There were 2 grain and flour mills, a motel, 7 general stores, a cement works, which was owned by Jim Moody (located by the present skating rink). There was also a lumber yard, a harness/blacksmith shop owned by Mr. Conrad, a hardware shop and a drug store.

The first school was recorded in 1855. Then in 1898 a bigger school was built to accommodate the students. By 1911 the building was replaced by a new high school, which housed all twelve grades. As Amanda continued to grow another high school was built in 1925. The two were then connected.

In 1913 John W. Dickson and his son Ray opened the Dicksons store. It included many things from heating stoves to tobacco cutters. Then in 1919 Lloyd Dickson purchased the store from his father and brother. He remodeled it. The store then offered a variety of clothing, groceries and hardware.

The 1920's was an interesting period for the Village of Amanda. A man would come in with a projector attached to his truck and people would watch silent movies. Folks would come from all

where the Kingston National Bank now stands. There were two icehouses that made deliveries (everyone had iceboxes back then). There were two bakery shops owned by Elmer Meisse and Emier Griffith. They would deliver bread to homes. There were also two butcher shops. Balthaser and Noldy owned them.

Electric started to come through Amanda. Victor Young, a local resident remembers seeing a radio for the first time in the window of the Dickson's store.



Herbert Young owned a Ford Garage. He sold Maxwell cars then later Model T's then Model A's. The business was a success until the great depression of 1929. Some business had to close down. The Ford Garage was one of them. Herbert was forced to work on his father-in-laws farm to support his family. The community found a way to get by during these difficult times. Most had gardens that provided them with fresh fruits and vegetables.

In 1930 William Balthaser had a general store on the corner of

Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected in 1932. He initiated the WPA (works project administration). It gave jobs to many local men who could find work renovating government offices and working construction on highways.

In the mid 1930's there were two saloons in the village until the council thought that Amanda should close them down. It was decided by one vote made by Lori Moody.

"The Tavern" was an estab-

lishment that was known to serve the best homemade ice cream around. It also served as a filling station and restaurant. It was owned by Leman Weaver. Weaver later owned a marathon station that was located where Rudys Pizza now stands.

By the late 1930's the village included Strayers drug store and Tatmans barbershop. Also located in Amanda was the Clearcreek Valley Bank.

On December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor was attacked and America went to war. Many young men

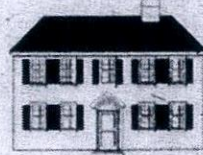
outsiders were coming in. Wonder bread soon took over the two bakeries. Our service men came back and many were unemployed. Some men took advantage of the GI Bill and went to school. Others found jobs outside of Amanda. However, there was a man by the name of Stanton Johns that thought Amanda could thrive. In June of 1945 Midwest fabricating company began. Stanton Johns and his wife were important, well respected members of our community. Their kindness was felt by many people.

In 1946 "Ole Doc Ayers as many people remember him started his practice. Dr. Reichelderfer was also a physician for our village. That same year local residents Bill and Glenna Crook purchased the Amanda Greenhouse. It provided many people with beautiful flowers.

In the 1950's a new establishment was built. The Amanda Roller Rink! It was built by Chester Schaeffer. High school boys would carry the blocks used to build it. The roller rink was fun family entertainment. There was an organ used for the music and it even had a bandstand. Square dances were also held there. Customers would bring spare shirts because it was so hot in the building. The rink was passed from Chester to his daughters Phyll and Alice Jane. They ran it for several years. Another establishment in the 50's was the Amanda Furniture store. It is owned by Elsie Bookman who still runs today. There were three gas stations. One was located where Rudys Pizza now stands. In 19

Continues on page

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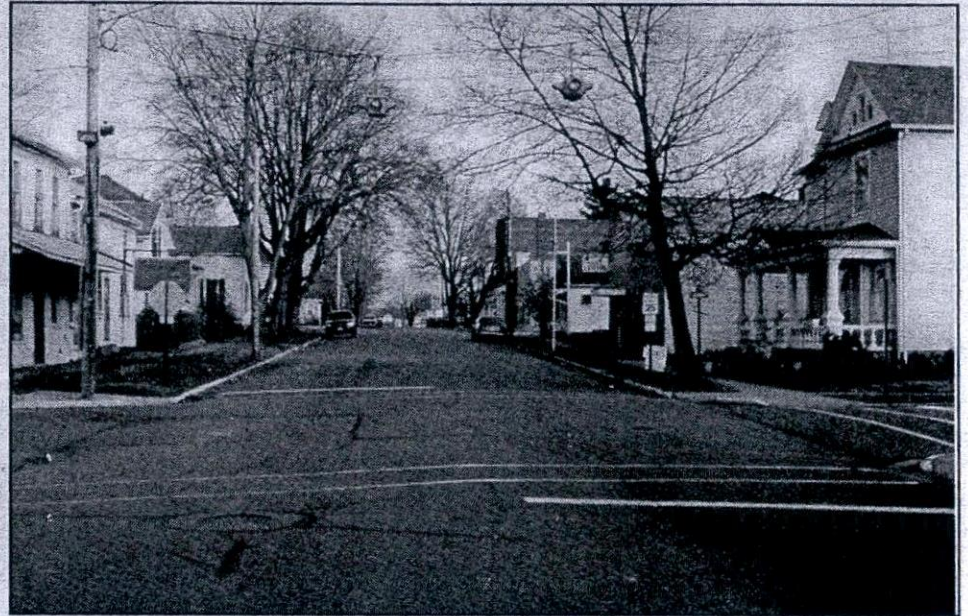


# The History of Amanda



*Main St. looking East Amanda, O.*

*courtesy of Judy and Gene Fauble*



*Main St looking east 2006*

Most people today can't imagine living in Amanda without cable television, cell phones, paved roads or the internet. Let me take you back 187 years ago to the 1800's.

It was then that William Hamilton settled in this area to survey townships for the state of Ohio. Named after the Township, it was the month of November 1819 the village of Amanda was established. No one knows for sure how the township got its name. Some say that it was named after the historic fort of Amanda in Auglaize County, Ohio. However this can be questioned since the fort was established during the war of 1812. Others say it could have been the name of a loved

In 1850 J.D. Sunderman had a three story brick building that housed a warehouse, general store and a telegraph office. He was instrumental in getting a railroad to Amanda. By the year 1852 there was a community of about 200 people. This was also the year that the C&M.V. railroad passed through town. In 1880 the estimated population grew to 375.

The village of Amanda continued to grow and after the turn of the century it had a canning factory started by Francis and James Reichelderfer (sold to Sears and Nichols in 1915), however the factory was short lived due to lack of interest in growing vegetables and was shut down in

over (even with chairs tied to the tops of their cars) to get a good seat. If you didn't have a chair, a box would do. Everyone was excited when a sound system was added.

Farmers would come to Hiatt's and Dickson's stores to exchange their cream and eggs for groceries. Both stores owned huckster wagons. Each wagon would go around the countryside and deliver groceries and exchange goods.

The Home Restaurant was the place to eat! It was owned by Etta Alexander. Another establishment in the 20's was the glove factory. It was located around where the Kingston National Bank now stands. There were two icehouses that made deliveries

Main and Johns Street. William was also the undertaker for the village of Amanda.

Two men with the names of Lyle and Cline opened a funeral parlor where the Grange now stands. Clines wife was a school teacher for Amanda. Mr. Dorie Lape owned a home where the post office now stands. Next to it was a furniture store. After Lape died it was owned by Welch and Dum. The furniture store sold school books. In the 30's the school did not provide textbooks, you had to purchase them yourself. Many families would try and find an older student who could pass the books down.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected in 1932. He initiated the WPA (works project administration) which helped many local

from Amanda enlisted in the military. The government drafted young men when they turned 18, even if they were still in high school. This period was especially hard on families. Everything was rationed. People would have to travel to the ration board in Lancaster for stamps so they could buy food, gas, postage stamps and many other necessities. Mothers and wives would hang flags in the windows of their homes with a star on it to represent each member of their family that was in the service. The war ended in 1945. Many things had changed. The village of Amanda had closed some of it's business.

Others were just starting. More outsiders were coming in. Wonder bread soon took over the two bakeries. Our service men came





St. Peter's Lutheran Church purchased the frame Methodist building in 1881 and rebuilt it in 1892. Rev. Fishburn was the first pastor.



Noah Smith's garage on Main Street is pictured about 1930. Several customers are standing beside the public pump and water trough.

## Amanda—Linking Past & Present

by Sue Maxwell

Imagine land you could not walk across because it could be shaken for rods around with a heavy foot step. Two locations in Amanda Township had this strange propensity in earlier times. Deer and other animals could not cross them in pioneer times, according to contemporary accounts, but heavy tiling permitted the stony soil to drain and produce good crops. These jello-like plots were known as "Muddy Prairie" in the area of Muddy Prairie Run, and "Shaking Prairie" to the west.

The first settler in Amanda Township is regarded as having been Frederick Leathers, A Virginian, who settled in the vicinity of Amanda at an unrecorded date, but most probably somewhat prior to 1800. He operated one of the first taverns in Fairfield County along the Chillicothe Road just east of the present village. It was a large, two-story log structure, and Leathers also operated the stillhouse which supplied the beverages for the tavern. A canny businessman, Leathers also seems to have established the several travel routes which crossed or terminated at this inn. These roads were changed to different locations afterwards, and Leathers sold the tavern in 1818 to Isaac Griffith who ran it for many years. It burned in 1858.

About 1800, Andrew Barr and five sons from Pennsylvania settled about two miles west of what would become the Village of Amanda. Yankees, Dr. Silas Allen and his four sons, along with about three dozen other settlers, left their native Vermont destined for Mississippi. By the time they reached Lancaster, they had decided to settle in Fairfield County, and Section 3 of Amanda Township became their new home. The fine carriage in which part of the Allen party arrived in Lancaster could not be driven through the heavily forested region

between that city and Royalton. The men cut a road to their new home, but the fancy carriage could never be used for travel. It was stowed away and became a turkey roost, according to an early account. Other early travelers, mostly Pennsylvania Germans, settled in the vicinity prior to 1810.

Two Allen sons, Lemuel and Jedediah, laid out the town of Royalton in the northern part of the township in 1810, and Lemuel opened a tavern. Jacob Rush from Baltimore started the first store in the tiny village in the same year.

The first school in the township was held in Lemuel Allen's stable and was taught by Miss Sabra Case who received \$1.25 per pupil for each twelve-week term.

Cedar Hill in the western part of the township and New Strasburg were other early villages besides Royalton. None of the three attained the stature of Amanda.

Early records show that this particular section of Amanda Township was purchased by Mathias Kessler in April, 1812 for \$2 per acre. In his will dated 1817, he gave the southeast quarter of Section 3 to his son, Samuel, who dedicated a portion of this land to the establishment of a village in 1819. Samuel was recorded as being the proprietor of "The Village of Amanda" which consisted of a couple of buildings at the crossroads of what became Main and Maple Streets. About 1830 William Hamilton surveyed the 64 original lots.

About 1850 Amanda began substantial growth when the railroad was completed, placing the town on a direct commercial route between Zanesville and Cincinnati. In those days it is said that 400,000 bushels of grain were shipped annually from Amanda.

The first schoolhouse was also completed about that time and when it was destroyed by fire, classes were held in the home of

Adam Nye (the red brick west of the Lutheran Church). The present site of Amanda Schools was deeded for school purposes in 1911 by Miss Anna Griffith. In 1912 when the "new school" was completed at a cost of \$25,000, it boasted seating for 350 pupils and had a playroom, a "spacious laboratory well equipped for physics, botany and agriculture, a splendid library consisting of 500 volumes and a superintendent's office."

Early accounts state that until about 1830 there were three residences in Amanda occupied by Mr. Spitzer, a shoemaker; Mr. Potts, a cooper and Mr. Mouser, a blacksmith and tavernkeeper. In 1835 John Will had the first piano which he built himself. Also mentioned at about the same time are sales conducted by an auctioneer named Dea. Goods sold in the village at that time were trundled to town in a wheelbarrow by Joseph Reed. Sometime later Joseph Temple also sold goods.

During the mid-19th century, two gentlemen were especially prominent in Amanda's growth. J.H. Sunderman, who established a business at the corner of Main and Center Streets, built the mile-long section of railroad track through the village in 1852-53. He enlarged the business property to include a two-story brick grain warehouse. The basement housed the railroad and telegraph offices and he sold dry goods and groceries above. This building burned in 1897.

Samuel Dum constructed a steam-powered flour mill in 1849. During his 15-year operation, Dum ground nearly 1,000 bushels of grain daily. Part of this mill is still in use. Samuel and his father, Jacob, built two of the "finer" brick homes in the village.

By 1880 Amanda had 375 residents who patronized three general stores, two hotels, a provision store, drug store, grist mill and



blacksmiths, three physicians, two grain warehouses and a railroad depot.

By the turn of the century, James and Francis Reichelderfer purchased the land where the Sunderman warehouse had stood and built a mill and canning factory to take advantage of the area's agricultural production.

By 1890, Amanda had a newspaper, *The Amanda Herald*, published by Captain A.R. Keller as the official paper of the 90th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Association. *The Amanda Enterprise* was published by William Gortner in 1906; and between 1915-1936 the *Amanda Press* was published, first by William Gortner and later by C.E. and Mary Valentine.

In 1912 Amanda boasted seven general stores, two drug stores, two meat markets, two grain elevators, two harness shops, two hotels and a hardware store, furniture store, jewelry store, farm implement dealer, a new bank, a canning factory, glove factory and a newspaper.

By 1925 a number of other businesses were added including a second bank, a creamery, three garages, a car dealer, two tinner and plumbers, two funeral parlors, two restaurants, a cement products factory, a bakery, an electrician, a photographer and a veterinarian.

In the early 1940's, Stanton Johns started the Midwest Fabricating Company which produced threaded rods for the automotive industry. His company prospered and later incorporated a second factory, Amanda Bent Bolt Company.

In the 1950's, Bill Wolford's "airport" was established which included a hangar and a

*The present site of Amanda Schools was deeded for school purposes in 1911 by Miss Anna Griffith.*

light passenger plane, and Chet Shaffer built the roller skating rink.

During the 1960's, U.S. Route 22 was relocated and now bypasses the village. In the mid-1970's, the railroad ceased use of the tracks, but in spite of the loss of these two commercial assets, Amanda today supports some 30 businesses.

region has been important to the residents from the earliest times. The Turkey Run Baptist Church was one of the oldest in the township. It was organized in 1817 and held meetings in Hooker's school house until about 1838 when the congregation erected a frame building.

The Amanda Methodist Church was founded in 1834 and held services in what is now the Lutheran Church. The Lutherans purchased and rebuilt the former Methodist Church building in 1884 with a Rev.

*In the mid-1970's, the railroad ceased use of the tracks, but in spite of the loss of these two commercial assets, Amanda today supports some 30 businesses.*

Fishburn as its first pastor. Prior to 1884 the Lutheran congregation in Amanda went to Israel's at Dutch Hollow.

The Presbyterian Church at Amanda was organized in 1838 and a frame building predated the brick church building constructed in 1879 at a cost of \$4,000.

Even older was the Royalton Methodist Episcopal Church which dates back to 1809 when Rev. Ralph Lotspeach began to preach in Lemuel Allen's cabin. A bit later services were held in the log school house.

Amanda has always been a progressive community. In 1903 a Village Council was formed and that group created a fire department in 1906. Natural gas was piped to Amanda in 1916 at a cost of 30¢ per thousand cubic feet. The village purchased a motorized fire truck in 1927 and council chambers were built in 1930. A village water system was constructed in 1953 and the first police cruiser was acquired sometime in the 1960's. Sarah Kennedy was elected the village's first woman mayor in 1981 and Ed Wolfe Park was dedicated in 1983.

"The more things change, the more they remain the same," goes an old saying, and this is true of Amanda, as it is of most small towns with a historical past. They go on providing a living link with those who have lived there before, and they will continue to do so into the future. □

*The author is grateful for the help of Mrs. Roxie Cordle of Amanda for her help in preparing this article.*



Amanda Mills sports a fake sign on its roof in 1918. The sign was etched into the photo. The mill also is shown from nearby railroad tracks, above right.



HISTORICAL COLLECTION

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AND  
Representative Citizens

EDITED AND COMPILED

BY

CHARLES C. MILLER, Ph. D.

Ex-State Commissioner of Ohio Schools

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CHICAGO, ILL.

HISTORICAL COLLECTION



Amanda's commercial and mercantile progress has been of an enduring and substantial nature. There are at present seven general stores, two drug stores, two meat markets, one hardware, one large furniture store, one jewelry store, one farm implement store, two grain elevators, one flouring-mill, one large canning factory, a glove factory, two harness shops, two hotels, and a new and modernly constructed bank, property valuation \$15,000. The bank was organized in 1904 to meet the growing demands of the business interests of Amanda. Amanda is a splendid shipping point. The village has a total population of about five hundred.

#### THE NOBLE FAMILY

John Sweyer was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, and coming to this country with his parents first settled in Hagerstown, Md., thence to Lancaster, Ohio, in 1812. He was married to Margaret McDill, of Scotch descent. He and his brother-in-law, Col. John Noble (father of John W. Noble, late Secretary of the Interior under Harrison) were among the first to keep what was known as the better class of hotels, John Sweyer being spoken of as the famous hotel man. He afterwards located on his farm south of Amanda and built a large hotel, well remembered for the entertainment of its guests, and this being the direct stage line from points west to Washington, D. C., many personages of early history—Henry Clay, Santa Anna and others—were entertained at the inn. John Sweyer was also the brother-in-law of Henry Duble, a pioneer of this county. Of the ten children of John Sweyer, only one survives, this being H. McDill Sweyer, now living in Circleville, at the advanced age of ninety-one years.

The late Samuel Sweyer, son of John Sweyer, was born in Lancaster in 1816, was married to Anna Catherine Lowrie, of Mifflin County, Pa., and located upon his farm west of Amanda, living there until the time of his death in 1898. His children are John C., Elizabeth M., Delia C., Charles F., Clara L. and Mary F. Clara L. died Sept. 18, 1906. John C. was married to Nora Barr in 1908 and lives on the home farm west of Amanda. There are two children by this union, namely: Anna Katherine and Richard B.

The present township officers of Amanda are as follows: Geo. W. Blue, C. W. Griffith, Meinhard Palm, trustees; C. A. Barr, treasurer; Bert Borchers, clerk. The members of the school board are F. S. Barr, Milton Williamson, Clint. Reigher, Charles Ruff, G. O. Noecker. The churches are as follows (outside of the village): Israel's Church, Geo. F. Ditmer, pastor; Evangelical Church at Trinity and at Cedar Hill, Dubbs Division, C. W. Ruhlman; Evangelical, at Cedar Hill, Esher Division, E. F. Marchland; M. E. Church at Royalton, Amos Turner.

#### BERNE TOWNSHIP

Berne Township is bounded on the north by Pleasant Township, on the east by Rush Creek Township and by Hocking County, on the south by Hocking County, and on the west by Madison and Hocking townships. This township was christened Berne by Samuel Carpenter, one of its earliest settlers, in honor of the Canton of Berne, Switzerland, the home of his ancestry. It is one of the largest townships of Fairfield County, comprising all of Township 14, Range 18, except one and one-half sections from the northwest corner, which belongs to Lancaster township and two tier sections, from 1 to 12, inclu



## CHAPTER VI

## TOWNSHIPS AND TOWNS

*History of Each Township—Schools—Teachers—Churches—Noted Incidents and Events—Local Industries—Historical and Descriptive Sketches of the Various Towns and Villages.*

## AMANDA TOWNSHIP

Amanda Township lies in the southwest part of Fairfield County. It is bounded on the north by Bloom Township, on the east by Hocking, on the south by Clear Creek, and on the west by Pickaway County. The land is rolling. Clear Creek traverses the township from north to south, Walnut Creek and Turkey Run flow west and drain the western part of the township.

"Muddy Prairie," about one half mile by three-fourths, in the southeast corner of the township, was a tract of country, which, in early days could be shaken perceptibly for rods around by treading heavily on the ground. It was low and marshy and covered with peat. It has been drained and is very fertile soil. Another portion—about 60 acres in the southwest corner of Section 20, was called "Shaking Prairie." It also has been drained by improved methods and raises excellent crops. The soil of the township is rich, consisting of clay and a rich black loam.

In the southern part of the township Frederick Leathers is considered the first settler. He settled near Amanda and kept

one of the first taverns in the township. It was located on the old Chillicothe road. This tavern was sold to Isaac Griffith and in 1858 it burned.

In 1800 Andrew Barr and five sons came from Chester County, Penn., and settled two miles west of Amanda. Their descendants still live in the township.

Only one railroad crosses Amanda township and that crosses the southeast corner with the only station in Amanda.

The first telephone company seeking a franchise was the Central Union Telephone Company, they came here in 1883 and constructed an exchange and operated from that time up to the present.

The Lancaster Telephone Company obtained a franchise in 1900 and installed a telephone exchange and at first met with great encouragement from the people of the town and localities to which they built in the county, but the development of farm companies and free county service retarded their growth and has practically left their business in a condition which will limit their opportunities to exist.

"I am unable to obtain any information as to the time the Western Union telegraph company installed their office at Lancaster; all I

know is that I learned the business with A. Y. Barks, who had taken the place of George Clark, a Lancaster boy, who had been promoted to a better office. This occurred in 1868 when I was attending the grammar room taught then by Samuel Knabenshue, father of Roy Knabenshue, the noted aeronaut. In connection with this, it may be well enough to mention that no part of the country turned out more expert operators than did Lancaster; among the stars were Geo. Clark, Newt Foster, John Flood, Albert Bowser, Jim Blair and Will (Buck) Scott, who is now copying the United Press in Detroit."

## ROYALTON

Royalton was the first village in the township and was laid out in 1810 by Lemuel and Jedediah Allen. The Allens named the place Royalton in honor of the county from which they came. It has never grown, as have some of the villages in the county.

Cedar Hill is a little village in the western part of the township.

## AMANDA

Amanda was named by William Hamilton, the first surveyor of Fairfield County. Its beginning dates back to about 1830, when Samuel Kester is recorded as a proprietor of the "Village of Amanda," which was nothing more than a couple of buildings at the crossing of Main and Maple Streets, which marked its location as ten miles west of Lancaster. Its substantial growth began in the year 1850, when the Z. F. C. Railroad was completed, placing it upon a direct route of commerce between Zanesville and Cincinnati. In the first days of the Zanesville and Cincinnati Railroad it is said that 400,000 bushels of grain were

annually shipped from Amanda. Being a level country, the grain within a radius of nine miles was all brought to this point.

It is thought that it was about this time that the first schoolhouse was completed, upon the site of the present Adam Nye residence. It was crudely constructed of mortar and brick, with long interior benches for recitation and the study of the only text-book, the Testament. The present school building site was deeded for school purposes by Miss Anna Griffith. The present school building has been just completed at an approximate cost of \$25,000. It contains a seating capacity of 350 pupils, in addition to one playroom and one spacious laboratory well equipped for physics, botany and agriculture, one splendid library room containing 500 volumes, and a superintendent's office. At present the teachers are all college trained. O. C. Minnich is the present superintendent.

There are at present three churches and four parsonages in the village limits. The Methodists, organized in 1834, held their first services in the present Lutheran Church. In 1884 the present brick structure was erected and dedicated. The present pastor is Rev. J. H. Redmon. The Presbyterian Church was organized in 1838 by Rev. Dr. Hogue of Columbus, O. Rev. William Jones was the first pastor, and services were first held in what is now the A. H. S. Gymnasium. In 1873 the present brick building was erected and dedicated. Rev. W. A. Sears is the present pastor.

The Lutheran Church was organized in 1884 by Rev. Fishburn. The church was rebuilt in 1892. Rev. Dittmar is the present pastor. Sunday school was inaugurated in Amanda in the year 1860 by the Rev. Mr. Thorn. The United Brethren Church maintain a parsonage in the village also. The charge lies outside the corporation limits.



# Nature Notes



Charles Goslin

## Amanda's Birthday

L. H. Everts, in the 1875 "Historical Atlas of Fairfield County," states that Samuel Kerler laid out the town of Amanda west of Lancaster about 1830. Hervey Scott, in his "1795-1876 History of Fairfield County" published in 1877, used the same year as the founding date of the community; however, he changed the name to Kesler.

In the "1883 History of Fairfield County" the historian A. A. Graham also used "about 1830" as the founding date of this early town. He gives Samuel Kessler as the proprietor. C. C. Miller in his 1912 "History of Fairfield County" continues to use this same date and the name of Samuel Kester for the dedication of Amanda.

### Searched Records

In an attempt to pin down the exact date of the laying out of Amanda, we made a search for this information among deed records of the county. In deed book "M," page 450, we located the plat of Amanda. It was laid out on the southeast quarter of section 35 of Amanda Township on Nov. 18, 1819. The name of the proprietor was Samuel Kester.

Since Samuel Kester signed documents by his mark, several name variations appear on the legal transactions on different entries in the deed records. To officially dedicate the town of Amanda, Samuel Kester appeared on Nov. 18, 1819 (160 years ago), before William Hamilton, a justice of peace. One day later Hugh Boyle, the Fairfield County Recorder, entered this dedication into county records.

November is also the anniversary month of Amanda Township for which the town was named. It was during the November, 1805, term of the court of common pleas that Amanda Township was erected. There are some references that say the name Amanda came from the historic Fort of Amanda in Auglaize County, Ohio. However, this can be questioned, since this fort was established during the War of 1812. It may have been the name of the wife of one of the commissioners who had a part in naming the townships.

### 64 Original Lots

The original town of Amanda was laid out into 64 lots with Main Street (westward and eastward) and Center Street (north and south) 100 links wide, which in today's measurements is 66 feet. East, South, West and North Streets were laid out with a width of 50 links or 33 feet. All these street names have been retained except West II is now McKinley Avenue.

Samuel Kester (spelling on the first lot sales) and his wife, Polly, sold their first lots Feb. 3, 1820. These lots were numbered 1 to 64 and were 125 by 200 links in size. Number one lot was in the northeast corner of town and 64 at the southeast corner. Nine lots were sold the first sale day. Among them were two purchased by Jacob Weaver and one each by Elizabeth Grover, David Leather, Jacob Conrad and Martin Miller. Jacob Mouser, the town's first blacksmith, purchased three lots, two for his home and the other for his shop. His shop would have been on Main Street and just across the alley from his home.

The first shoe and boot maker was a Mr.

Spittler and the first cooper a Mr. Potts. Joseph Reed was the first merchant. He arrived with little more than a wheelbarrow load of merchandise, according to A. A. Graham in his "History of Fairfield County." The next merchant was Joseph Temple, to be followed by Henry Sunderman. A further search of the lot sales records may locate the place these merchants conducted their businesses.

### Delinquent Taxes

In 1826 there were 10 lots that were to be sold for delinquent taxes by Samuel Carpenter, Fairfield County Auditor. This sale occurred Jan. 6, 1827, with the lots selling for \$1.10 to \$1.33 each. John Leist purchased these lots. Leist was one of the early settlers of Clearcreek Township.

The first addition to Amanda, which is having its birthday (tomorrow), was John Rocky's. It had eight lots to the north side of North Street Surveyed by W. Hard on June 1, 1844, John Rocky, the plat was dedicated July 23, 1844, with George Sanderson the justice of peace.

Among the early residents of Amanda were Abraham Christy, Selby Howard, George Nye Sr. (may have been only a lot owner), and Samuel Dum. It was Dum who erected the first mill in Amanda, according to the late Grover Dum. The Conrads were early blacksmiths.

### Earlier School?

The first school in Amanda to be recorded was in 1855. In that year Margaret Ann Griffith, for \$1, granted an acre of ground along East Street to the township board of education on which to erect a schoolhouse. However, there is a reference to an early school on lot 4 of the original town of Amanda, which as yet we have been unable to verify its date of operation.

Churches came early to Amanda, the first of which was the Methodist. The congregation organized in 1834, according to A. A. Graham. In 1883 it erected a new church, then turned the former church over to the trustees of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Amanda on Nov. 1, 1884. The Lutherans of Amanda organized about the same time as the Methodists. The Presbyterians organized in 1838, and built the church that still stands on land granted them for \$1 in 1845 by John and Charlotte Boyle.

The first post office in Amanda dates back to April 12, 1832, with Joseph Reed the first postmaster. Reed was the first merchant in Amanda. He started in business with little more than a wheelbarrow load of merchandise. Further research may disclose the location of this post office, which was probably in his store.

### Railroad Arrives

In the year 1852 the C. & M.V. railroad passed through Amanda, which at that time was probably a community of about 200 people. By 1880 the estimated population was 375. In the 1970 census, 788 were recorded.

Huston Grain Co. erected a building for the storage of hay. It was here in 1910 the Sears-Nichols canning factory opened its doors to can peas and beans grown by area farmers. When the majority of area farmers converted their fields to corn and wheat, there was a lack of produce for canning, so this factory closed its doors.

In the 1930s, when we spent quite some time in the vicinity of Amanda, some of the places we remember were Strayer's drug store, Tatman's barbershop, and Hiatt's grocery where the neighborhood farmers exchanged fresh eggs for groceries. There was the Dickson store, which carried about anything you wanted, and Young's garage, where I believe you could buy a Ford car.

There was the Clear Creek Valley Bank, where you went to pay telephone bills — those who still cranked their phones before making a call. The Huston Grain Co. was where you could buy seeds and fertilizer for spring planting, fence and tile for farm improvement, sell your hay, grain and straw, then buy coal to keep you warm in winter.

Since the time when we were well-acquainted with Amanda, many changes have occurred. There is a larger and attractive post office and many of the places we once knew are no longer in business. Once it was entirely a farming community, but agriculture now shares the local scene with small factories.



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KI

## Your Money

## Summer

If you are the parents of a gifted child, you need some special "talents" too — and one requirement is finding the "right" summer camp for your child and making sure he or she meets all the prerequisites for admission.

Right now — today — is the time you should be writing for information and application forms. Even November is a bit late to be asking to be placed on a mailing list.

For in most cases, you must submit your applications by January at the latest. You must be alert to the fact that the screening interviews, examination of portfolios and auditions will take place in March — and decisions will be made quickly so that scholarship forms may be turned in.

In a large percentage of state-sponsored camps, there is no tuition charge at all. And even at camps which do charge fees, the costs to you usually are only a fraction of the expenses of running the camp and scholarships are available. You must, in brief, plan well

operated camps. (2) Councils they sjo ads in covering letter of (while) private parents the child arts can (3) I camp in you ca (requ: at the for the (4) If food, h check can te Frates do a reading stance. Educat educat the ca pletely govern

### THE LITTLE WOMAN



"Maybe I shouldn't have eaten that submarine sandwich before going to bed. It seems to be firing its torpedoes in my stomach."



# TOWNSHIP HISTORIES.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

### AMANDA TOWNSHIP.

Amanda township lies in the southwest part of Fairfield county. It is bounded on the north by Bloom township, on the east by Hocking, on the south by Clear Creek and on the west by Pickaway county. Its area is thirty-six square miles, comprising township thirteen, range twenty.

The land is generally gently rolling. Clear Creek is the principal stream, traversing the township from north to south by a somewhat circuitous course. Walnut Creek and Turkey Run, flowing west, with their tributaries drain the western part of the township. "Muddy Prairie," about one-half mile in width and three in length, in the southeast corner of the township, was a tract of country, which, in early days, could be shaken perceptibly for rods around by treading heavily upon the ground. It was low and marshy and covered with peat. In early times there was great danger of miring in crossing it, but it has been drained by heavy tiling, and now produces excellent crops.

Another small body of land, about sixty acres, in the southwest quarter of section twenty, on account of its peculiar "shaking" qualities was called "Shaking Prairie." Deer could not cross it in pioneer times, but it too has yielded to agricultural purposes, under an improved system of drainage.

The soil of this township is very fertile; it is partly clay, and partly a rich black loam. Fruits, vegetables and cereals of all kinds, produce a general yield. Except a few patches of ground along Clear Creek, the entire township was forested at the coming of the first settlers, with a mingled growth of sugar, walnut, ash, oak, cherry, hickory and other varieties of timber.

In the southern part of the township, Frederick Leathers, a Virginian, is regarded as the first settler. He settled in the vicinity of Amanda and kept one of the first taverns in the county, and the first in this township. It was located on the old Chillicothe road, about one hundred yards east of the village. It was a large two-story log structure, and a famous resort in early times. A still-house was operated on the premises, which supplied the beverage in universal demand at that time. It was the aim of Leathers to make his tavern a central point, and for that purpose he succeeded in establishing three or four public roads which crossed or terminated at his place. These roads were afterwards changed. This tavern was sold to Isaac Griffith, who remained in possession for many years. It burned to the ground about 1858.



About the year 1800, Andrew Barr and his five sons, Thomas, Samuel, James, William and John, came from Chester county, Pennsylvania, and settled in section thirty-three, about two miles west of Amanda. Thomas served in the war of 1812. Andrew Barr died about 1813. His descendants still live in this part of the township.

George Dysinger, from near Hagerstown, Maryland, was another early settler. He located on Clear Creek, about two miles north of Amanda, and died on the homestead at a ripe old age. Among his earliest neighbors were John Hinton, Michael, Peter and Henry Ride-nour, Abraham Myers, George and John Nigh, Timothy and Daniel Collins, Philip Herron and others.

In the vicinity of Royalton the Allens were the first settlers. Unlike the other settlers hereabouts, they were Yankees. It was early in 1800 that a colony of forty souls, consisting of Dr. Silas Allen, his four sons, Lemuel, Jedediah, Whiting, and Benjamin, John Searle and Abner Burnat, and their families, left the county of Royalton, Vermont, destined for distant Mississippi. Traveling overland, they reached Lancaster, and pleased with the country, they concluded to abandon their original intention and settle in this county.

Section three of Amanda township was selected as the site of their future home, and in a short time they were safely domiciled. Dr. Silas Allen died there about 1822. His two sons, Jedediah and Lemuel, remained here till the close of their lives, and in their time were among the most prominent men of the county. Whiting and Benjamin removed to Delaware, Ohio. Searle lived and died here, but Burnat emigrated to Meigs county. The colonists brought with them a fine carriage, for the use of the women, but when they reached Lancaster they could go no further with it. At this time there was not a tree cut between Lancaster and Royalton, and the men must cut a roadway to their new home. The carriage was finally brought to its final destination, but was never used as a pleasure vehicle. It was stowed away, and thenceforth until it perished from decay became a "turkey roost." The settlement was in the vicinity of an Indian encampment called Tobytown, and the natives frequently paid friendly visits to their new neighbors, usually for trading purposes. They would cross the prairie in single file, the squaws carrying their papposes on their backs, lashed to a board, and on arriving at the cabins would stand up the boards outside while they went in. Mrs. Elvira Meeker, daughter of Lemuel Allen, is still living at Royalton, at the age of ninety years.

Scott's History of Fairfield county contains the following from the pen of Thomas Cole:

"In the spring of 1800, three men, names not remembered, came from near Chillicothe and broke ground on the prairie in section number four, planted corn, and then returned home. They came back in due time and tended their corn twice. The next fall one of these men sold his share to Horatio Clark, receiving a horse in payment. The other two likewise disposed of their shares to parties not now remembered. In November of the same year, Wilkinson Lane, of Huntingdon county, Tennessee, settled on section eight, and was succeeded in the month of June following by Thomas Cole, who had entered the section. The family were never troubled by the Indians. In a few years

Mr. Cole built a school-house on his land, hired a teacher, Abraham Cole, for eight dollars a month, and then invited all who wished to send their children and pay a pro rata share or not, as they could or would. In those days school hours were from "sun to sun," or as soon as scholars arrived. On one occasion Broad Cole, son of Thomas Cole, born in 1802, and recently deceased, thought of beating the master at school some day, and after a few failures to do so, left home one morning about daybreak, but on arriving at the school-house he was greeted with a good fire, and found the master, a Mr. Smith, banking up earth against the school-house, to protect it against cold. That house was built on the north part of section eighteen. David Swope and William Long were settlers on section eight in June, 1807. In 1803 Valentine Reber came out from Pennsylvania, and entered section ten of the township, and in 1805, he brought out his young wife from Berks county, and settled on the section.

Frederick Ehernman, a German, was one of the earliest settlers. His cabin was on section nine. On section ten, John Huber from Pennsylvania settled early, and lived the remainder of his life. Samuel Peters, Valentine Reber and John Hannaway were three adjoining settlers in the northern part of the township, and each had a family of fourteen children. Richard Hooker, on the southeast quarter of section eighteen, was among the first pioneers. Still others were Joseph Abrams, a blacksmith from Pennsylvania; Thomas Mace, section thirty-three, where he kept tavern and taught school; Henry Christy, section thirty-four; J. P. Hamilton, an early justice and surveyor; Francis Brothers, David Brians, John Crist, section thirty-four; Jacob Gardner from Pennsylvania, Joseph and Edward Highlands, James, John and William Long, section nineteen; James Morris, near Amanda; John Owens, section twenty-five; Thomas Selby, John Torrence, and the Whitesmans.

Royalton was the first village in the township, and one of the first in the county. It was laid out in 1810; Lemuel and Jedediah Allen were the proprietors; William Hamilton the surveyor. It was laid out by the Allens that they might have the convenience of mechanical skill close at home, obviating the necessity of going to Lancaster for workmen, when their services was required. Lemuel Allen opened a tavern here in 1810, and the same year Jacob Rush, from Baltimore, brought a stock of goods to the embryonic village, and started the first store.

The first school in this vicinity was on Lemuel Allen's place. He had just built a stable and determined on dedicating it by holding a school there. Sending to Granville he secured the services of Miss Sabra Case, who received \$1.25 per scholar for a term of twelve weeks. She had an enrollment of about twelve pupils. Warren Case afterwards taught here. A school house was immediately built on the site of the present building in Royalton, where public instruction has since been dispensed to the children of the village.

The little town was named Royalton from the county from which the Allens emigrated. It has never grown to any considerable extent. Its business, briefly, consists of one general store, a drug store, a furniture



store, two shoe shops, and two blacksmith shops. Two physicians are located here.

Amanda, located in the southeastern part of the township, is a thriving village, which, in 1880, had about three hundred and seventy-five inhabitants, but now perhaps one hundred more. It was laid out about 1830, by Samuel Kessler. The first three houses erected were occupied by Mr. Spittler, a shoemaker; Mr. Potts, a cooper, and Mr. Mouser, a blacksmith. Joseph Reed brought the first little stock of goods to the village for sale, "about a wheel-barrow load," and soon after Joseph Temple offered a greater assortment to the public. Henry Sunderman, however, was the first merchant of prominence. He first sold goods here on commission for Martin & Rogers, then went into business for himself, and carried it on extensively up to the time of his death. There are now three general supply stores, two hotels, a provision store, drug store, grist mill, one brick yard, two harness shops, two blacksmith shops, and a number of other industrial shops located here. It is claimed that four hundred thousand bushels of grain are annually sold at this point, and shipped *via* the Zanesville and Cincinnati Railroad, which passes through the place. Nearly all the grain within a radius of eight or nine miles is brought here, owing to the level or descending roads leading from all directions to Amanda. The village affords three practicing physicians, a neat two-story brick school house, and two churches.

Central Valley Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 548, at Amanda, was instituted July 10, 1873. The charter members were: W. H. Dickson, B. Balthaser, T. J. Barr, C. H. Sunderman, T. L. Hewiston, Wm. Acton, W. B. Sunderman, P. Hewiston, H. D. Aldenderfer, George Aldenderfer, David Crites, Joseph Bechtel, Andrew Laps, and Samuel Griffith, Sr. The membership now numbers seventy-eight.

Amanda Lodge of F. and A. M., No. 509, was instituted October 28, 1876. Names of charter members were H. G. Trout, Edward Griner, Levi Lawrence, J. D. Landis, B. F. Rambo, Jacob Balthaser, D. M. Miesse, J. A. Julien, and D. J. V. Wolf. The membership has materially increased.

New Strasburg was the name of a town laid out many years ago, about a mile west of Amanda, but it never attained a larger size than six or eight houses.

Cedar Hill is the name of a post-office in the western part of the township, where a small cluster of houses may be seen.

The Presbyterian Church at Amanda was organized in 1838, with William McKinley, John Wylie and Thomas Propeck as elders. Rev. William Jones was the first minister. He presided over the church eight years. During his administration a frame house of worship was erected. The original members numbered thirteen, but within a year the little flock grew to a membership of ninety. Revs. Jewett, William Nelson, George Carpenter, A. Taylor, William Galbreath, William McMillan and A. B. Price have successively been installed pastors. In 1879 a handsome brick church, 40x56 feet, was constructed, at a cost of \$4,000. The present membership is sixty.

The Methodists of Amanda worship in a frame church which they built about forty or more years ago. Their membership is about forty. The congregation is included in the Tarleton circuit. Rev. Dixon is the present pastor.

Turkey Run Regular Baptist Church is one of the oldest organizations in the township. The society was organized September 6th, 1817, by Elders Eli Ashbrook and Jacob Thorp. The early meetings were held in Hooker's school house, until about 1838, when the present frame structure was erected. It has recently undergone extensive repairs. Rev. George Tusing is the present pastor. The present membership is about thirty.

There are two Evangelical Association (Albright) churches within the township. The Trinity church is located about two miles northwest of Amanda. The structure is of brick, and about 35x45 in size, erected in 1870, at a total expense of \$2,500. Rev. Emanuel Tunner had charge of the church when the building was erected. The present pastor is Rev. Eli Shoemaker; the membership about thirty. The society is an old one, and prior to 1870 conducted its religious services at W. Meisey's residence, and in his wagon-shed. Cedar Hill chapel is a building similar in character to the Trinity church, and was erected one year later. Its membership exceeds fifty somewhat. Previously they held meetings at the adjoining school house, and at Reigle's residence. Among the early ministers of this church were Revs. Roch, Wolpert and Downey.

Fairview chapel, a Methodist meeting-house, is located near the north line of section 23, and is a neat brick. The class that worships here is not very strong. It was organized more than thirty years ago, and is included within the Royalton circuit.

The Royalton Methodist Episcopal Church dates its origin back to 1809, when Rev. Ralph Lotspeach began to preach to the church-loving people of this community, at the cabin of Lemuel Allen. The services were held only occasionally for a while, and were then conducted for many years in the log school house of the village. About 1825 a frame parsonage was built by the members on the site of the present church. When it became dilapidated through age, it was removed, and the brick meeting-house now standing was constructed. It has recently been repaired. The membership exceeds three hundred. Rev. D. J. Smith is the officiating pastor.

This township had its little mills, like all others in pioneer times. Amongst the earliest was Richard Hooker's on Turkey Run. When the stream was high there was sufficient water-power to grind the corn for the neighbors, but in dry weather they were compelled to patronize more distant mills. The Ridenours owned and operated a little saw and grist mill on Clear Creek.

Valentine Reber operated a distillery on section 10, where a large quantity of spirits were manufactured. Richard Hooker also owned a small one.

The early schools were of the typical rude class of the day. They were almost uniformly small cabins, with a huge fireplace at one end, and chimney built of logs outside. Light was obtained by removing a



log and replacing it with strips of greased paper. A rough slab extending along the walls of the building formed the writing desk. There was no floor, commonly, and when the children were at play during recess a dense cloud of dust would be raised. It was a building like this that would be used perhaps two and one-half months in a year for school purposes, and the remaining nine and one-half months the sheep and hogs would hold undisputed sway. About the only books used were Dilworth's Spelling Book, a primer and the New Testament. Occasionally a little arithmetic was taught, but a class rarely progressed as far as the "rule of three."