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Christmas Edition

Wilson Bridge Road



A LINWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY

# Linworth Historical Society Newsletter

## Linworth Remembers Christmas 1877



### The Spirit of Christmas Past—1877



The excitement had been building since Thanksgiving. Last year as in previous years, families had gathered in homes or they had traveled to Worthington or Dublin to the Methodist Church for Christmas Eve services. This year, 1877, was going to be different. Fervent prayers and hours of planning were finally coming to fruition. God had given His answer and His blessing. The Village of Elmwood Station, Linworth to us, was having its own Christmas Eve service.

Yes, the year was 1877 and a tiny new village was beginning to take root. The railroad station was in full operation since construction had just been completed. Now passengers could travel to Columbus, shop a few hours, and return the same day. Farms located along the Worthington to Dublin Pike could ship and receive livestock from as far away as Toledo. Ike Deardorf's General Store, built next to the tracks, could supply folks with anything from wool blankets to hardtack candy

That first year for Elmwood Station had been exuberant to say the least. Blacksmith and carpenter shops had been established and wood frame houses were replacing the log homes built by early pioneers, such as Ezekiel Brown and Bela Tuller. The old log building that stood on the west side of Franklinton to Delaware Pike (now Linworth Road) was gone. Its replacement was a new red brick school house which had become the center of attention on the cold December day preceding Christmas.



Ezekiel Brown's House



Wilcox Farm on Smoky Row

The ladies were busy cleaning and filling the kerosene lanterns inside the school house. The men, John Wilcox, Sam Davis, his son Louis, and John Quincy Brown were out back chopping and splitting firewood. On direct orders from the women Harmon Morgan entered the school in order to clean out the ashes in the potbellied stove. Seventeen year old Ellis Brown and two of the Fuller boys, George and Marion, headed into the woods in search of the perfect Christmas tree. "Don't forget to bring back pine cones and greenery for the window sills," called the girls from the door of the school.

Well, the three boys did find that perfect tree. The potbellied stove did its job, first warming their front sides and then their back sides. The circuit rider made his way to the school just as the snow began to fall silently on the tiny village known as Elmwood Station. His message of angels bending near the earth and singing to shepherds on a far away hillside brought both tears and smiles to the faces of the expectant congregation. They nodded their heads in agreement to the circuit rider's words, "For unto you is born this day a savior—Jesus".  
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### Linworth Historical Society

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Remember the attractive woman in the straw hat who was featured in last month's Newsletter? If you found this picture in Remembering Our Roots, you found the correct person, Martha (Neds) Storer. She even liked hats when she was a little girl! Thanks Martha for your contributions to the Linworth Historical Society.



The closing carol seemed to end too soon. This was a special time, a special day, a time to savor every moment. The quietness of the moment was suddenly broken by the voice of five year old Mary Jane Williams. "Look! There's ole Saint Nick." And there by the rear door he stood with a bag full of goodies. Every child there rushed to get in line. As they filed by to the ho, ho, ho's of Santa, they were each given a cloth bag filled with candy. Ida Mae Snouffer turning to Jennie Morgan with a slight giggle, was overheard exclaiming, "Gee, Santa has a laugh just like Ike Deardorf."

The families left the school house in horse drawn buggies and wagons. Some living close by walked. All who stopped to listen in the stillness of that Christmas Eve heard LOVE. And God's presence lingered long in the hearts of those who attended Elmwood Station's first Christmas Eve service.

Many of those early worshippers determined within their hearts to keep the spirit of Christmas alive throughout the year in this new community. Sunday School and prayer meetings began to be held weekly in that same red brick schoolhouse. Many of those children who attended that first Christmas Eve service took on church leadership roles as they became young adults.

This Advent Season let your thoughts drift back to those families crowded into that red brick schoolhouse on Christmas Eve 1877. Remember them for what they would become—the Roots of Linworth United Methodist Church



Taken from 1958 Linworth Calendar



1958 Calendar from Linworth Farmer's Exchange



2003



## Historical Musings . . . . . with Jim

### The Old Fashioned Days

I'd like to go back to those old fashioned times,  
 And hear sleigh bells jingling on horses.  
 I'd like to go back to those long ago days,  
 When one seldom heard of divorces.  
 I'd like to sit by an old fashioned stove,  
 And smell the apple wood burning.  
 I'd like to drink some fresh apple cider,  
 And watch the butter tub churning.  
 I'd like to walk back into grand daddy's woods,  
 And drink from the bubbling spring.  
 Take off my shoes and wade up and down,  
 And worry 'bout nary a thing.  
 I'd like to snuggle up on grandmother's lap,  
 A spot that I loved so well.  
 Listen to her softly humming a tune,  
 And the stories that she'd tell.  
 I'd like to return to the old country church,  
 Where folks didn't make such a fuss,  
 And hear the gospel preached loud and clear,  
 How Jesus Christ died for us.  
 I'd like to go back, but I know that I can't.  
 God has placed me right here today.  
 But there's one thing I know,  
 I'm still reaping the good  
 That I learned from the old fashioned way.



"The Old Fashioned Days" was written by Louise Thompson in 1960

### Share Your Musings with Jim

Are your initials carved in a tree in Linworth? What do you remember about a train ride from Elmwood Station into Columbus? What were some memorable school events? Your memory may be funny, sad, or factual. Whatever it is, share it with Jim. Jim will include some of your stories in his "Historical Musings". Call him: Jim Thompson at 614.885.3958 or write Jim at 770 Mulberry Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43235.

### Bits and Pieces

Where was the exact location of the little red brick school house where Elmwood held its first Christmas Eve service?

You don't know? Take out your album, Remembering Our Roots, and find the answer.

### Merry Christmas

This is a picture of a Christmas card sent by a Methodist minister to members of his congregation in 1947. The postage was one cent. The card was printed by The World Service Agencies of the Methodist Church in Chicago

