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Wilson Bridge Road



A LINWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY

Linworth Historical Society Newsletter

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The Village Blacksmith



In 1803 Simeon Wilcox moved his family from Connecticut to an unbroken forest a few miles west of the Olentangy River (now Linworth). Trees were cut, land cleared and eventually turned into a productive farm. A few years later in 1807 Bela Tuller moved his family of seven from Connecticut to one hundred and twenty acres of forest two miles west of Worthington, and close to the Wilcox family. As the forest gave way to more settlers, the makings of a village began to form. In 1877 after the Columbus to Toledo RR was completed, the settlement was named Elmwood. (Linworth, after 1910) Of all the businesses that would come to Elmwood, none was more important or needed as much as the blacksmith.

Artist Hal Sherman's painting, printed above, gives us an idea of what Elmwood's Village Blacksmith Shop looked like in the 1880's.



Located several hundred feet east of the railroad depot (now Hutchinson Street) the shop was in business until the 1920's. Katherine Proctor, Mickey Smith, Jim Thompson, and Irene Madder are pictured to the left at the location of the old shop.



Albert Uhl, retiring in the early 1960's, was the last blacksmith in Linworth. His shop was located on Mason Alley. One of his last projects was making unique candleholders in order to supplement his income. The one seen in the above picture is to be on display annually in the LUMC Heritage Room from Thanksgiving through Christmas.

Remember Longfellow's (1807-1882) poem, *The Village Blacksmith*? "Under the spreading chestnut tree the village smithy stands . . . Thanks, thanks to thee, my worthy friend for the lessons thou hast taught."



The village of Dublin was known for their Blacksmith Shops. One such building still stands today. The Blacksmith Shop shown in the picture was owned by Theodore J. Steinbower. His shop was located at Number 4 West Broad Street, Dublin, Ohio. The street was later renamed to Bridge Street. T. J. Steinbower was known as a man who could make and fabricate anything out of iron.

Through the years, the building has been used for different types of businesses. Once it was a Blue Sunoco gas station operated by Lyman Wright, a pioneer family of Dublin. After World War II, Dick Litzinger owned an electric welding business in the building. During the past several years and today, the Old Blacksmith Shop is used as a Veterinary Business (32 West Bridge Street).

The above information was provided by Jim Richards of the Dublin Historical Society. The picture of the Blacksmith Shop was provided by Herb Jones also of the Dublin Historical Society. To the right is a picture of Dublin Historical Society members, Herb Jones, Dick Termeer, and Jim Richards, reminiscing with Linworth Historical Society members, Jim Thompson and Julia Slonecker, in front of the Dublin Veterinary Clinic.



L to R: Jim Thompson, Herb Jones, Dick Termeer, Jim Richards, Julia Slonecker

Historical Musings by Jim Thompson



The village blacksmith was a farmer's best friend, repairing anything from a horse drawn buggy to a horse drawn plow as well as shodding the horses.

Martha Wilcox Drake, now in her nineties, recalls those days on the farm. In the picture to the right is Mrs. Drake's father, Dan Wilcox, plowing his garden at his farm on Smoky Row Road. Sitting on the horse is his daughter, Martha.

On Sundays, according to Mrs. Drake, the horse was hitched to a buggy and the family rode to the old Linworth Methodist Church. The picture to the left shows the family ready for the ride to church.



Thanks to Mrs. Martha Wilcox Drake for these family pictures dated June 18, 1920. She and her husband, John, are both 97 years of age and reside at Friendship Village.