

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP BICENTENNIAL  
1807 – 2007

Columbia Historical Society Newsletter  
Winter 2007

The king had granted the original colonies land to the western ocean. This caused some upheaval after the Revolution. Connecticut gave up the land through Pennsylvania only after a war with Pennsylvania at Wyoming on the Delaware River. In 1782 the court ruled the land in Pennsylvania belonged to Pennsylvania. Connecticut still resisted but when the other states gave up their holdings Connecticut gave up its holdings except for 120 miles west of the Pennsylvania line. Virginia retained the Virginia Military Reserve between the Scioto & Miami Rivers. They tried to sell the land as one big parcel but it was still Indian Territory. In 1795 General Anthony Wayne defeated the Indians and the Greenville treaty “legally” removed most of the Connecticut Western Reserved from Indian Territory. Again Connecticut tried to sell the whole parcel. It wanted to invest the money so that the interest could be used for public education. 57 men, formed the Connecticut Land Co., receiving acreage according to the investment made and would be his own salesman. Together they paid \$1,200,000.00 for the parcel. These men were investors and generally had no interest in going pioneering. Connecticut had not wasted money on a survey leaving the land company to do that. The land company appointed Moses Cleaveland to settle Indian claims and do the survey in one season for \$7000. The Greenville Treaty made the western U.S. boundary at the Cuyahoga. But Cleaveland still had to negotiate with the Seneca & Mohawk. The survey team encountered so many difficulties the survey was not completed.

The above taken from Early Settlers of Cleveland by William Ellis.

1805 saw another treaty taking the rest of the Western Reserve from the Indians. Thus in 1807 the Waterbury Land Company was formed to begin the story of Columbia Township. The land was surveyed and those venturing west began the process of deciding what was needed and what was not. They were going to an area of no roads, no buildings and certainly no stores. They endured a famine and an epidemic. Even when the Crockers came in 1829 there were no roads west of the center. They passed through 2 or 3 small slashings on their way to the southwest corner of the township. S.D. Crocker also mentions in a speech given in 1903 Columbia’s clay subsoil and how until tree roots decayed and fields were ditched the fields were really not tillable. The first field the Crocker’s tilled, the plow was drawn by one yoke of oxen, one yoke of steers, and one horse in front. Is this clay subsoil the reason that the Waterbury Company was given the extra land?

Over the past couple of years the society has scanned 446 pictures a few from the collection the historical society owned. Also 50 document scans. We have talked to approximately 15 families but multiply by 3 or 4 for ancestors so more families have been covered. Still that is a small percentage. Members please look in **your** Columbia history and also ask your friends and family for **pictures, documents and stories to be recorded and scanned.**

16 of the pictures from our archive with caption have been taken to the Rural Urban to be a part of our Bicentennial Celebration; hopefully this will bring forth more history.

Homecoming will be June 29, 30, & July 1. The parade and fireworks will be on July 1. Homecoming Committee has asked us and we have accepted to reinstitute the Citizen of the Year Award. We have to get the form ready with some guide lines. The due date will be one month before Homecoming so we have time to get a plaque.

The homecoming committee wants to set up a tent beside us and have a TV there to show our various Video tapes/DVDs. Under the subject of Videos at the April Pot Luck we will be doing the Columbia History Play again with a few rewrites making it in honor of the Bicentennial. We will tape it this time. We will give the scripts out in February and or March meetings so the participants will have them. We are doing this still as radio theater, no memorization required. Would the readers from Christmas let Mary Melnyk (236-8170) or Mary Ellen Jenkins (236-5505 Talk to the machine) know if you are available if you are not at the February meeting.

Meetings - We have some fun history you will not want to miss these.

**February 13 – Columbia Town Hall, 7:30**

Bethia Baker Speaks from the Past: The Value of Old Scrapbooks.

Mary Ellen Jenkins will share some things she has learned about Columbia and West View, circa 1900, as seen through the eyes and heart of Grandma Tidy. Bethia is Elbert Jasper & Shirley Jasper Bartter's grandmother.

**March 13 – Columbia Town Hall, 7:30**

From the Richards Collection: How one woman sought to preserve family and local history. Dorothy Fuller Richards lived in Beebe Town ( everyone knows where that is don't you) and on Snell Rd from 1939 until 2002. Karen and Jerry Richards have kindly shared a lot of the Richards history with us.

**April 10 – Columbia Town Hall, 6:30 P.M.** We eat no later than 6:45.

Bring a dish to share and your own table service. Beverages provided.

Bring a friend to sit in the audience to applaud our performers.

It is membership time: \$5.00 single \_\_\_\_\_ - \$ 8.00 for 2 in a family\_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S)\_\_\_\_\_ PHONE\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN/STATE/ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

I / WE CAN HELP WRITE A STORY/ ARTICLE \_\_\_\_\_

I / WE CAN HELP WITH SCANNING \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR MACHINE \_\_\_\_\_ OUR MACHINE \_\_\_\_\_

I / WE CAN HELP WITH VIDEO TAPEING \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR MACHINE \_\_\_\_\_ OUR MACHINE \_\_\_\_\_

I / WE CAN HELP AT BRONSON HOUSE: CLEANING \_\_\_\_\_, SORTING \_\_\_\_\_ (we need files sorted and enumerated)

I / WE CAN DO A POWER POINT FROM THE SOCIETYS PICTURES \_\_\_\_\_ we have the info

WHO DO YOU KNOW THAT SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED \_\_\_\_\_

We can teach you to use our equipment.