



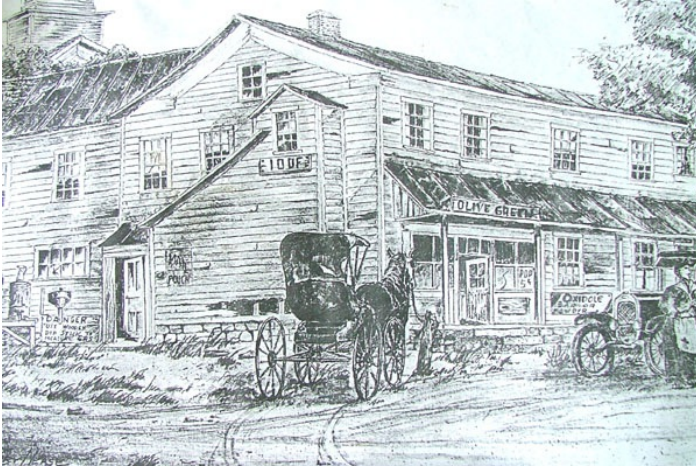
# Old Tyme Chronicle

Published by Big Walnut Area Historical Society

Volume XXIII

October 2023

## *Henry Nease Drawing. . . .*



## *Once the Heart of Olive Green Store and Lodge Are Gone* *by Jennie Kavage*

Last winter the old store and lodge building that towered over the west end of Olive Green for perhaps 150 years was demolished. Pursuit of its history has been almost as interesting as its history itself. Not all hoped for has been uncovered but the search has been arduous and helped along by a number of people and entities.

First the BWAHS's curator, Polly Horn, mentioned the Mendenhall cards. Edward M. Mendenhall had a private title agency and wrote property deed transfers on cards ranging from 1808 to about 1890. Some years ago Duncan Whitney, former prosecuting attorney then judge, gave them to the Delaware County Historical Society.

So, off to the DCHS research library to try to find when the building was built. Volunteer researcher Susan Logan found and printed off a copy of a paper signed by President John Adams granting to John Brown and Israel Ludlow 4,000 acres "being the second quarter of the Fifth Township in the Sixteenth Range of the Tract appropriated for satisfying (Continue on Page 2)

*Coming October 10 . . .*

## **Remembering CA&C Trains**

Gloria (Brown) Parsisson will present a program on the history of the railroad which served this area from 1873 until service ended in 1981. The program is free and will be held in the Myers Inn Meeting Room beginning at 7:30 on Tuesday, October 10.

The CA&C went from Millersburg through our school district and on to Columbus with stations in Condit Station, Sunbury, Galena, Franklin Station and a freight stop for stone at Big Walnut. We celebrated the Sesquicentennial of the railroad on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Gloria is Clerk-Treasurer of the Centerburg Library. She collects Knox County local history and makes presentations throughout the county.

Railroads are of special interest since her paternal grandfather, maternal great-grandfather, grandfather and father all worked on railroads.

Many of us rode on the train. Several businessmen commuted to and from Westerville. Our family went to Orrville for Sunday dinner and returned the same day. Others rode the special chartered train which took the Big Walnut High School Band to Cleveland to play for the Browns football game. All of us got our mail put on the hook at the depot and picked off by postal employees.

Come enjoy this peek into yesteryear on October 10th.

Big Walnut Area Historical Society owns and operates the Myers Inn Museum which faces the southwest corner of Sunbury Square. It is open 10-3 on Saturdays and by appointment for tours on other days by calling 740-965-3582, leave your number!

***ENJOY THE SPECIAL FEATURE  
BY JENNIE KAVAGE ON OLIVE GREEN  
IN PORTER TOWNSHIP***

### *Olive Green Continued from page 1*

Warranty for Military Services.” The township didn’t become Porter until 1826. Before that it was part of Berkshire then Kingston but always identifiable as the 5<sup>th</sup> township in the sixteenth range.

A portion of that tract was sold to Thomas Worthington, first governor of Ohio. On April 23, 1821 he sold 1,095 acres to Dorcas Lindenberger, a widow from Rhode Island, for \$2,750. It was a little more than one-quarter of the northwest section (2) of the township, everything from the south section line to a line north a little more than 2/3 of a mile. Big Walnut Creek was about mid-way.

Susan Logan suggested using the Historical Index on the online “Recorded Document Search” provided by the County Recorder’s office to trace the old deeds. She provided a three-page instruction sheet and I was able to work at my home computer; much easier than lifting all those heavy deed books.

A grantor list of Lindenberger sales shows Dorcas sold her lots to her children, her relatives and her friends from Rhode Island for the most part. Oldest son Ebenezer got a 275-acre chunk in the southeast corner of Section 2 where he and William Page would plat the village of East Liberty in April 1836. Son Christopher received 100 acres, son George got 91 and

## **Calendar of Events**

- October 6, 10:45-12:45 Prairie Run 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders  
Visit Myers Inn
- October 10, 6 p.m. BWAHS Trustees Meeting
- October 10, 7:30 p.m. BWAHS Program with  
Gloria Parsisson on  
“Remembering  
The C.A.&C. Railroad”
- October 20 Time TBD, BWE 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders visit  
Myers Inn

**MYERS INN MUSEUM IS OPEN  
10-3 ON SATURDAYS  
TOURS ON OTHER DAYS BY  
APPOINTMENT  
CALL 740-965-3582 & Leave your phone number  
so your call may be returned.**

Festus Sprague who got 100 acres was a nephew of Dorcas. These were on the western side of the township where Christopher and Festus would plat the Village of Olive Green in May 1836. Nothing I had read in books, deeds or articles had given me any real evidence the (Go to page 3)

**Big Walnut Area Historical Society**  
**OFFICERS**  
 Rick Helwig, President  
 Vice President to be selected  
 Chip Welch, Secretary  
 Bill Kavage, Treasurer  
 Polly Horn, Curator,  
 Webmaster  
 and Editor of Newsletter  
**TRUSTEES**  
 Alice Lacher  
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 Damon Bower  
 David Martin  
 Mel Meyers  
 Roger Roberts  
 For Information Call  
 740-965-1154  
 leave a message or  
 email  
[Info@BigWalnutHistory.org](mailto:Info@BigWalnutHistory.org)

### **Joining BWAHS is Easy . . . .**

#### **Circle One:**

*Individual \$20, Family \$35, Business 10 or fewer employees \$50,  
 Business 11-99 employees \$75, Business 100 or more employees \$100,  
 Patron \$100, Other ?*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address or P. O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Send with check for dues to BWAHS**  
**P.O. Box 362**  
**Sunbury, OH 43074**

**Olive Green continued**

Lindenbergers built the big house on the hill above Olive Green or when the store was built. Susan Logan had suggested I try looking at tax records for clues. County tax records are kept in the former Odd Lots building on Route 23 north of Delaware, the same building that houses the Board of Elections and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

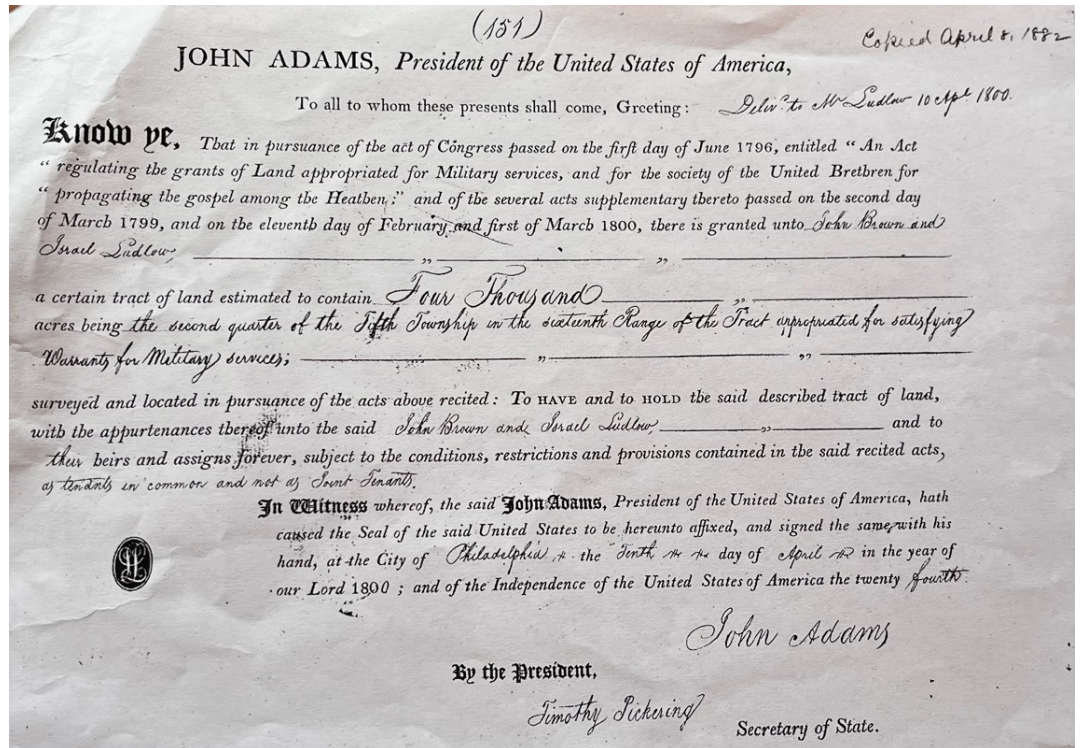
The oldest county tax records are in file folders, not books, and are very fragile. A researcher can only have one folder at a time and must stand at the



**Lindenberger House**

counter to read each delicate page. You feel you should be wearing cotton gloves. The first time I see Dorcas Lindenberger on the tax records is in 1822. She pays \$12.32.4 in state tax and \$4.10.8 in road tax for a total of \$16.43.2 on her 1,095 acres. (Yes, a fraction of a cent was counted.) For the next few years she pays tax on her total acreage but I don't see her name after 1825. She has parceled out the land and those that are getting it are paying the taxes - Christopher, George, Ebenezer, a nephew Festus Sprague and a John who must have been related, perhaps a son but I don't know for sure. Most of the deeds aren't filed until the 1830s. (The kind women who store the old records carried them from storage a few at a time, suggested where I might eat lunch and places I could search next such as the Ohio History Connection. Once the tax records are in books, 1826, researchers can sit to read them.)

Delaware County Genealogical Society is another organization that helps searchers find when buildings were built. Trustees Carol Singer, Larry Dulin and David Pritchard all pitched in to help with the Olive Green history. They shared tax records they had copied for their local history research room in the Delaware

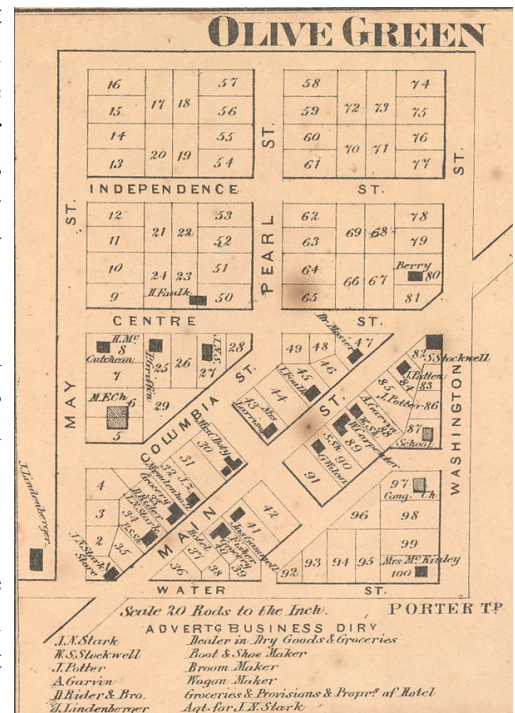


**Lands for Military Service and to Propagate Christianity Among the Heatherns**

County Library. Carol told me about the Ohio and Delaware Memory Organizations and where I might find old Delaware newspapers online.

In May 1836 Christopher Lindenberger and Festus Sprague's plat of Olive Green was certified by Justice of the Peace William Page. Lot 1 sat prominently at the triangle formed by the intersection of today's Route 521 and 656. Right down the hill from the Lindenberger home, perhaps Christopher had already built a store building there. When Eskham Hayes investigated the building before it was taken down he found the floor joists in the front section were

(Go to page 4)



**From the 1866 Beers Atlas**

## Olive Green Continued



***6340 St. Rt. 656 - Waiting To Be Torn Down***

logs with tops flattened to hold the floor boards. I've been told by the current owner the house on the hill has the same kind of joists.

Some histories say Christopher Lindenberger was the first storekeeper in Olive Green. Old postal records from the National Archives show he was the Olive Green postmaster from 1 Dec. 1845 to 6 Jan. 1851. Then the post office is apparently renamed **Porter** on 6 Jan. 1851 and George Blayney becomes postmaster.

Even before the Lindenbergers started developing their crossroads a similar story was unfolding just to the west. The History of Delaware County, Ohio, published by Baskins in 1880, says James Stark came to Kingston Township with members of the Rosecrans family and others from the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania in 1809. His purchase of Lot 17 in Kingston Township was filed March 14, 1811. It included the crossroads of what is today state routes 61 and 656. He built a large house (don't know when) and kept a "house of entertainment" for travelers for many years. The area became known as Stark's Corners. A log school house was built which served as a church on Sundays. In 1836 a Methodist Episcopal Church was built.

The Baskins says a James Moore built a storehouse there "46 or eight" years ago, which would have been in the early 1830s. James N. Stark, born in 1823 to James Stark and his second wife, Elizabeth Wilcox, took over the business, the Baskins goes on, but "discontinued" in a few years. By the 1850s James N.



***James Stark House in Kingston Twp. at the corner of 61 and 656. Photo taken from the 656 side about 1899.***

was buying farm property as well as lots 88 and 89 on Main Street (now 656) in Olive Green. On 3 Jan. 1851 he was appointed Kingston Centre postmaster, a position he held for 25 years.

The early 1850s was a time of anticipation for Olive Green. A railroad was planned from Springfield to Delaware, along the north side of Olive Green to Mt. Vernon and beyond. The railbed was being built. Salmon Lott had a 30-lot addition to the village platted.

On June 1, 1853 Christopher Lindenberger and his wife Rhoda sold Lot Number 1 in Olive Green to James E. Brown, Daniel Collins and Jonathan S. Brown for \$400. On March 29, 1854 Jonathan S. Brown sold his third of the property to James N. Stark and Daniel Corbin for \$1,000. On the first day of April, 1854 James E.. Brown and Daniel Collins sold their two-thirds of Lot 1 to James N. Stark and Daniel Corbin for \$1,000. On October 9, 1854 James N. Stark bought out Daniel Corbin for \$500.

On Sept. 7, 1855, Christopher and Rhoda Lindenberger sold James N. Stark Olive Green lots 2, 3, 4 and 35 for \$175. In addition Christopher agreed to keep open for Publick (sic) use a passage 16 feet wide on the west side of said lots and also on the west side of Lot No. 1 extending from one street to (Go to page 5) another. At some point James N. bought Lot 34 where

he ran a blacksmith shop.

He had married Charlotte Harrison from Virginia in 1846 and had a growing family. The Olive Green store and postmaster's job must have looked like a good way to make a living for a young man of 31.

Possibly Christopher Lindenberger held on to the prominent Lot One for nearly 20 years because he already had a store on it. He sold it for \$400, much more than an empty Olive Green lot. His mother Dorcas had died April 22, 1843. Christopher died on May 7, 1864. Both are buried in Stark Cemetery.

At some point James N. Stark must have revamped his store and had a grand opening with a grand poster printed in Cincinnati. A company that has this poster for sale online thinks it was printed around 1861 because the printing company only used "Times Print, Cincinnati" at that point in its history. It does mention "the war years" so certainly sometime from 1861-65.

(This poster is framed and on display in the local history room at the Sunbury Community Library.

Margaret Arnold working there on Sunbury's contributions to the Delaware Memory project pointed it out, looked for information on the old store and made numerous suggestions of places to search.)

Unfortunately the railroad only made it from Springfield to Delaware before running out of money. Porter Township was left with the railbed but neither track nor train. People who had cast their hats in that direction had to be disappointed and some lost money. That was followed in the 1860s by the certainty there was oil at a particular site. A number of people invested to bring in the drilling equipment. The drill went down hundreds of feet and struck absolutely nothing. Once again hopes were dashed and pocketbooks were lighter.

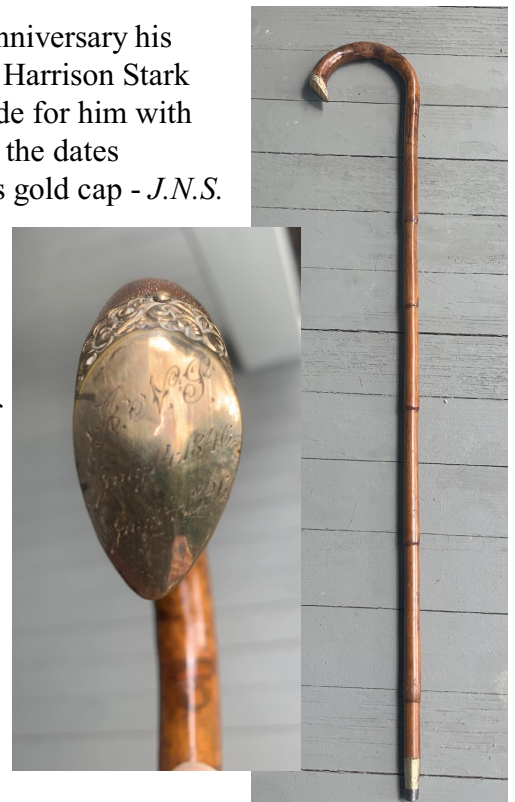
In the 1850 census when James N. was 27 years old he said his occupation was farming. In 1860 he says he's a merchant. In 1870 he says it's "miscellaneous." By the 1880 census he is living on East Rich Street in downtown Columbus and says he is in "Real Estate."

At one time he owned at least 2,000 acres in Kingston and Porter Townships, some of which went at sheriff's sales in his later life. His years as Kingston Center postmaster came to an end in 1876. Could this have been the time he gave up the Olive Green store? The facts haven't been found yet.

On their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary his wife Charlotte Harrison Stark had a cane made for him with his initials and the dates engraved on its gold cap - *J.N.S.*

*July 14-1846,*  
*July 14-1896.*

At some point they moved to Mansfield where some of their six children lived. James N. died May 6, 1899. Charlotte died Dec. 7, 1902. They are buried in Mansfield.





*Stark Home from Rt. 61 in 1938*

Note: There is another century-plus of history to be written in another newsletter. Former storekeeper Gerald Crowl once listed these names of others who had the Olive Green store after Stark: a Newell, Nelson Conard, Al Williamson, Joe Wilcox, James Gleason, Homer Lott and Milo Owen. Anyone who has any information on any of these people or the Big Walnut IOOF Lodge and Rebekahs that owned the building, please contact Jennie Kavage, 740-524-8181.



## The Stark Family

1-r front row-Lucy Corralia Stark, James N. Stark, Charlotte Stark, Clifton LeMertine Stark;  
2nd row: Ora Edmonia Stark, Linton Lethco Stark, Isadora Adell Stark, Wello Waneta Stark.

(Thanks to John Stark who provided pictures and information for this article. James N. Stark was his great-great-grandfather and once owned the Porter township property where John lives. The Stark house still stands at the intersection of state routes 61 and 656 after possibly two centuries. John says it remained in the Stark family until the 1940s when it was sold to the Pittman family that still owns it today.)