

# Perry News & History

Volume 1 - Issue 1

Saturday, July 28, 2007

## Introduction

The newsletter will be available quarterly and as interest develops, it may be published monthly.

This publication is to inform the community of current events, news, and history.

## Historical Society

The Perry Township Historical Society began meeting, early in 2007, as a group of people interested in the history of Perry Township.

The society has filed the required documents, adopted bylaws, and held the first elections. As required by the bylaws; the meetings are held

on third Sunday of each month, from 3:00 P.M to 4:00 P.M., in the Perry Township House.

A primary goal of the society is to open a museum in Perry Township. The location of the museum is being discussed and all options are still open for discussion.

The current candidate for the museum is the Interurban Substation, located at the corner of Greely Chapel and Hanthorn roads. Most of us know this building as the Lima Motorcycle Club.

Other buildings have been discussed as alternate locations, but we are looking for the opinion of the community on this issue. If you know of a building or have something to donate then please contact the society with your information or ideas.

Another mission of the society is to place markers at points of historical significance within the community.

Hamlets (small towns) like Amherst, Rousculp, Warsaw, South Warsaw, and Yoder warrant the placement of a marker. By marking these locations it will help us all remember that these were important places in the community and should not be forgotten.

Another mission is the preservation of historical artifacts and the history, as remembered, of the people living within the township. These include photographs, documents, tools, equipment, household items, and memorabilia of the different era's.

By far the most important history is

the history as told by parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents to their children and grandchildren. This can be captured and preserved either orally, through recordings, or in the written word. This is the type of history that everyone can help to collect.

## Who Is This?

We know who she is. Do you? The answer will be in the next issue.



Hint: She was a librarian at Perry.

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## CONTACT US

Perry Township Historical Society  
P.O. Box 2402  
Cridersville, OH 45806

Email: [info@perryhistory-aoh.com](mailto:info@perryhistory-aoh.com)

Website: [www.perryhistory-aoh.com](http://www.perryhistory-aoh.com)

For membership information contact Sue Cox at 419-648-2805 or mail in the attached form.

## The Warsaw Store



Painting & Poem by Beulah E. Graham 2007,  
Photo by Michelle Graham

### The South Warsaw General Store - Our 'Store'

by Beulah E. Graham - July 2007

With fond recollection - we think of  
the Warsaw Store.

We all just called it 'Warsaw',  
It was fun to walk through that door.

No one seemed 'In a hurry'  
while shopping at the Warsaw Store

A great big smile was waiting  
from Clyde Marshall or Wayne H.

Fess  
and talk by the potbelly stove.  
It sure was anybodies guess!

On Schooler Road at Warsaw,  
twas miles from the nearest town,  
you could get what you needed  
and hear the news or joke around.

Clyde might dance a jig for you,  
such fun could brighten up your  
day....

while Wayne donned various hats  
for the tasks at hand he'd say.

That little store was handy,  
for food, gasoline, or first aid  
...and if you're short on money,  
a slip went on a nail 'till paid!

Yes, we can all remember,  
Wayne's butcher hat, stove, and full  
shelves,  
but what I remember most  
is all the people there themselves.

"Come on, Let's go to Warsaw"  
is what the young boys used to say.  
Its the place to get ice cream  
after "The Game" or bailing hay.

Remember the old black truck  
that would deliver to your door  
And all the items in it.  
Who could ask for anything more?

The store no longer stands there.  
We cannot go there anymore.  
Only in our memory:  
THE SOUTH WARSAW  
GENERAL STORE 1

## Perry History Website

The Perry Township Historical  
Society's web is located at:

<http://www.perryhistory-aoh.com>

The site contains a variety of  
information and new information is  
added each week. Please come to the  
site and browse through the  
information.

You may contribute information by  
contacting a member, using the  
forum, or coming to the monthly  
meetings. Every piece of  
information helps to tell the story of  
the township.

Signing up for the forum is free. To  
sign up click on the "Sign Up For  
Free" link from any page on the web  
site.

## Elections

On July 15, 2007, elections were  
held at the Perry Township house  
for the Board of Directors of the  
Perry Township Historical Society.  
The terms of the President,

Vice-President – Publicity,  
Recording Secretary and Treasurer  
will end on odd numbered years. The  
remaining officer's terms will end on  
even numbered years. All officers  
will serve two year terms.

The board consists of nine persons:

President, Kevin Cox; VP-Publicity and  
Membership, Tony Hayes; VP-Curator,  
Bryon Cox; VP-Programs and Fund Raising,  
Michelle Graham; Recording Secretary,  
Michelle Cox; Corresponding Secretary,  
Melinda Querry; Treasurer, Tom Graham;  
Membership Chairperson, Sue Cox;  
Historian, Kevin Cox.

\*To preserve one vote per person Beulah  
Graham was elected to vote as Historian in  
place of Kevin

## The Beginning Of Perry Township

The settlement of Perry is said to  
date back to 1830 when John  
Ridenour arrived in Perry to  
wilderness, with heavily wooded  
forests, occupied by wild animals  
and the Native American Shawnees.  
Although John Ridenour is said to be  
the first; historical records indicate  
the Isaac Shockey was the first to  
own land. The land became settled  
and the last of the Shawnee left this  
township in 1832.

Perry Township was established by  
the County Board in December  
1833, and organized at the house of  
Joseph Crossley in April, 1834. The  
original trustees are Hugh Skilling,  
Sr., John Ridenour, and Joseph  
Crossley. Moses McDonald was  
Justice of the Peace and James  
Chenoweth was Clerk.

The settlers cleared forest to farm the  
land. Some of the best ground for  
farming, in Allen County is in Perry  
Township. To mill the grain, the  
pioneer farmers went to Cherokee, in  
Auglaize county, about two and a  
half miles from Perry. This is how  
the settlement in Perry started.

## Perry Pride

Each issue of "Perry News & History" will publish an article from a community member about the community.

If you have something to write about the community send the article to Perry Historical Society, P.O. Box 2402 Cridersville, OH 45806.

What is Perry Pride?

All of us will have a different answer for this.

I can think of several things about the township for which we all can be proud but will keep it brief and only highlight one of them.

When driving through Eastgate it is very clear how much Perry Township has grown in the last 30 years. The same can be said when looking at Hanthorn Road and St. Johns Road.

A quick observation reveals that there are approximately 160 businesses in Perry Township right now. Eastgate has grown and traffic has been managed well. The roads and drainage have also kept up with the changes. Businesses are finding our township attractive. This is something all of us in Perry can be proud of.

I also am proud to live among hard working people, that keep the community clean and safe. Our schools are in good condition and do well with the children. The community joins together to help one another in times of need. There are too many to list in a small article.

by Tom Graham July 20, 2007

## Schoolhouse Photos

The society is interested in all old photographs including churches, schools, buildings, farm equipment, and people.. A copy or scan of the

photograph or document can be made and returned or it can be copied while you wait.

Recent research locating the old schoolhouses can be made more complete with photographs of all the old school houses. Some of these buildings are no longer standing.

If you have photographs to share please bring them to one of the Historical Society's meetings.

The full list of the one room schoolhouses is listed on the web site.

## Agriculture

The farmer has been the strength of Perry Township for 177 years.

The first settlers had very little choice but to be farmers and to live off of the land.

They cleared the land with their axe, saw, a horse, and their sheer will to survive on the land that they were settling. There are still many wooded areas within the township. It is difficult to imagine that most of this area was forest when the early settlers arrived.

Hard manual labor paved the way for what the township has now become. Even today, with the time saving equipment farmers have at their disposal, the work is not easy.

Farmers, by the very nature of their jobs have to be patient and confident. Each year they plan and make a large investment in preparing the ground, planting, spraying and then are at the mercy of the weather until the crop is harvested.

The Perry Township Historical Society encourages the farmers in the community write in and share your family's stories, history, and photographs

## On the Horizon

### Ryan's Torn Down



*Ryan's restaurant being torn down, East side of building.  
Location: Between Motel Drive and Roschman Ave, Perry Twp., Allen Co., OH.  
Photo by Tom Graham May 11, 2007*

The view along Greely Chapel Road is changing again. Ryan's was torn down on May 11, 2007. Ryan's was located between Motel Drive and Roschman Ave.

### Lima Ethanol Plant



Photo by Tom Graham July 21, 2007

The Lima Ethanol Plant is being constructed and is expected to be producing ethanol before year end. It is located on the north side of Hanthorn Road, between I-75 and St. Johns Road. The historical society will have a detailed report about the plant in the next issue.

## Logo Contest

The society will be sponsoring a contest to design a logo that will be open to the students and the public during the upcoming school year.

Tony Hayes, of the Perry Township

Historical Society, discussed this with Herb Lauer, of Perry High School, earlier this year.

The Drawing and Design class, at Perry High School, will be participating in the contest as one of their assignments during the upcoming school year.

Herb Lauer is the Art Teacher at Perry High School. He is beginning his 28<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Perry and has lived in the community for more than 30 years.

## Reader's Recipes

### Salad & Salad Dressing

¾ C sugar

1/3 C vinegar

1 C oil (Crisco – blue cap)

1 Medium sweet onion (chopped)

½ Tsp. salt

2 Tsp. dry mustard or 2 Tsp poppy seed

Place in blender – top speed for 5 minutes.

I use the red loose leaf lettuce when available. Before using – wash lettuce well and put in ice water for an hour. Otherwise, I use head lettuce.

Recipe submitted by Katheryn Burgess.

## The Grandparent

As a grandparent you provide a unique connection to your grandchildren of the past, including your own parents and grandparents.

Unfortunately, as children and young adults, we often do not listen to enough of what is said to us by our grandparents and later on in life struggle with vague memories to

find the unanswered questions about our very own family history.

We encourage families, especially parents and grandparents, to keep a written history of your family and keep it in a safe place for the family. Eventually someone in the family will become interested and this will be very valuable to them.

## WLIO Interview

On July 28<sup>th</sup> Kevin Cox and Tony Hayes will be appearing on WLIO's "Noon Edition" with Holly Geaman. The interview will also be replayed on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

They will be discussing the Perry Township Historical Society's mission and the membership drive.

## Register

The register is the place where birth, marriages and memorials or obituaries can be listed.

To list information please send the information to Perry Historical Society, P.O. Box 2402, Cridersville, OH 45806.

You may also contact Kevin Cox, Tony Hayes, Tom Graham, Michelle Cox, or Melinda Querry with this information.

We ask everyone in the community to participate with the Register. Not only will it provide local genealogy information, but will also be useful to inform the community about our neighbors.

The police and fire department are also welcome to list total runs, anniversaries or other announcements of community interest.

## Volunteer Fire Department

Rescue: 109 calls (year-to-date)

Fire: 51 calls (year-to-date)

## 1940 Jr. High Basketball Team

The 1940-1941 Perry Jr. High Basketball Team. They were runner up at the tournament.



Photo courtesy of Bob Burgess

### 1<sup>st</sup> Row

Harry Stiles, Roush, Bob Burgess, Don Settlemire, Harry Spees, Harold Hardin, Bill Russell

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Row

Charles Fickle, Norman Case, Norman Lepla, Richard Fry, Elmer Haines, Bernard Roush

### Cheerleaders:

Helen Frank, Nancy Jacobs, Adrian Shoemaker\*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Row

Rufus Williamson, Bob Armstrong, Dick Rudabaugh, Gene Miller, Louis Hitchner, Harry Butterfield, Harold Redenour, Coach Oliver Hager

Bob Burgess listed the names, but wasn't completely sure that the third cheerleader was Adrian Shoemaker. If anyone is sure of the identity of the third cheerleader then please write in to let us know.

We thank Bob for sharing his photograph.

# Interurban – Part 1

## The Interurban

An interurban electric rail system is similar to an urban electric streetcar rail system. The interurban cars are built heavier and can travel at faster speeds than an urban streetcar. Some interurbans carried freight, but they were used mainly to carry passengers.

The first interurbans were constructed during the 1880's. The majority of the interurban lines were constructed between 1900 and 1908.

Ohio had the most interurban lines, with 2798 miles of track, in the state. A map of the interurban line is located on the web site.

## Perry Township Connection

The interurban lines, that ran through Perry Township, connected the township to Lima and other nearby towns and cities.

These lines made travel between communities easier. Places like Ft. Wayne, Russell's Point, Bellefontaine, and Springfield were made easier to reach. Simpler travel throughout Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania was possible.

An interurban depot was located in Perry Township at South Warsaw. Although no longer used as power substation the building used for transforming power still stands on Hanthorn Road and is pictured below.

## Powering The Interurban

The interurbans in this area were powered by a series of overhead wires, called catenary, delivering 600 volts of direct current to power the car. 600 volts became the industry standard around 1905.

Direct current cannot travel over long distances High voltage

alternating current was used instead. Alternating current can travel over much greater distances than direct current.

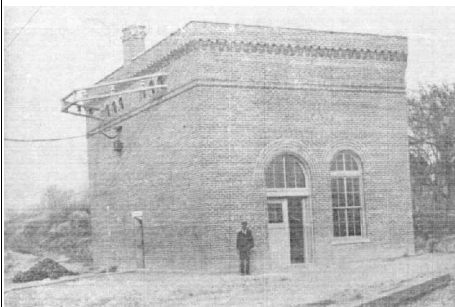
The high voltage alternating current could not be used without stepping it down to 600 volts and converting it to direct current. To accomplish this, the interurban lines constructed substations, spaced out along the lines, specifically for this purpose. These substations did not generate power, but transformed the high voltage alternating current to the lower 600 volts needed by the interurbans.

At the corner of Greely Chapel Road and Hanthorn Road is one such substation.



Photograph by Tom Graham, April 20, 2007

The photograph (below) taken in 1909 shows what one of these substations would have looked like when new. This photograph is not of the substation in Perry Township.



1909 Photograph courtesy of Albert Jackson

## Interurban Photographs Wanted

Photographs of the interurban cars, depots, and substation are wanted.

# Memberships

## Founding Members

Charter / founding memberships have a one time donation and all founding/charter members donating \$10.00, or more, will have their name recognized and displayed in the museum (when opened). The Helping Hands will sign a piece of parchment that will be framed and placed on display.

Every individual, family, or business is welcome to be a founding member. Become a founder today!

### Founding Members

Category	Donation
<b>Helping Hands</b>	\$1.00 to \$9.99
<b>Bronze</b>	\$10.00 to \$19.99
<b>Silver</b>	\$20.00 to \$99.99
<b>Gold*</b>	\$100.00 to 249.99
<b>Platinum*</b>	\$250.00 or more

\* Gold and Platinum memberships include 1 year regular annual membership.

Memorial contributions will also be listed as "In Memory of", or "In Honor of." We ask for a minimum contribution of \$20.00 (Silver) for memorials.

## Annual & Lifetime Members

Members in good standing may vote, receive free admission to the museum (when opened), and receive a quarterly newsletter.

Annual membership is \$12.00 per year for each person or \$25.00 per household.

Lifetime memberships are \$225.00 for each person or \$300.00 per household.

For membership information contact Sue Cox at 419-648-2805 or mail in the attached form.

## Perry Township Historical Society

P.O. Box 2402  
Cridersville, OH 45806

*Please fill in your address*

Name
Address1
Address2
City, State, Zip
Telephone
Email

Founding/Charter memberships are a one time donation and you will receive recognition from within our organization for your donation. This is not an annual membership or lifetime membership.

### *Founding Members*

<i>Category</i>	<i>Donation</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>List Name(s)</i>
<b>Helping Hands*</b>	\$1.00 to \$9.99			
<b>Bronze</b>	\$10.00 to \$19.99			
<b>Silver</b>	\$20.00 to \$99.99			
<b>Gold*</b>	\$100.00 to \$249.99			
<b>Platinum*</b>	\$250.00 or more			
<b>Annual Membership</b>	\$12.00 per person each year \$25.00 per household each year			

\* Gold and Platinum memberships include 1 year regular annual membership.

If multiple names/donations are going to be listed please include them on the line below.

Examples may be: "The Doe Family", "John & Jane Doe", "John Doe"

For memorials please include "In Memory of John Doe" or "In Honor of John Doe" so that we may properly recognize them.

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I have included a check or money order in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_.

Please make check or money orders payable to Perry Township Historical Society. Payments can be mailed to Perry Township Historical Society, P.O. Box 2402, Cridersville, OH 45806. Donations can also be made at our meetings.