Roseville celebrates its sesquicentennial

(EDITOR'S NOTE — The village of Roseville is celebrating its 150th anniversary this weekend. Following is a look at some of the community's history.)

ROSEVILLE — Capt. Ezekiel Rose came from Virginia about 1804 and settled at Deavertown.

But after prospecting around for a while, or decided the present location of Roseville would make a good mill site.

He bought the land and in 1812 platted the village which he called New Milford in honor of his native community in Pennsylvania.

The plat consisted of 69 plots — a Main Street, a cross street called Dover on the west and Water Street on the east side of Main Street.

A survey of the creek made in 1812 by Moses Nye of Zanesville is still in the possession of the Brummage family of Roseville.

House built by Ezekiel Rose in 1814, said to be the first house in Spencer was the report at Face can want or the board of Main Spencer.

The first lot was sold to Jeremiah Sturgeon the same year.

On the site acquired by Rose, William Wann built a saw mill some time before 1829 and William Petty's distillery followed.

In 1829 a post office was established with John Allen as the first postmaster.

Postage was 25 cents a letter and was paid by the person receiving the letter.

The first mail route connected Roseville with Athens. Trips were made once a week on horseback.

The name of the community was changed from New Milford to Roseville about 1830.

Dating to 1804

The history of Roseville really goes back to 1804 when Chauncey Ford and his brother-in-law David Stokely, built cabins on Fords Run where the two main Indian trails — north-south, east-west.

The remains of the Indian trails were visible as late as 1898 and, who came to Roseville from Connecticut by way of Marietta and Waterford area, soon served notice that he intended to stay.

He planted a peach orchard in 1805.

Descendants of both Ford and Stokely still occupy the original land.

Adam Rider arrived shortly afterward from Delaware.

He was followed by William Wann, the Brummages and the Wilsons.

Roseville's first school was a log, with benches and puncheon floors. Elisha Kennedy was the teacher.

At the southwest corner of Main and Second streets stood the two-story brick house of Dr.

White stone in lower left corner of soldier's section in Roseville Cemetery is a reminder that Ezekiel Rose, founder of the town, is buried in an unknown grave in another part of the cemetery.

ROSEVILLE'S 150th BIRTHDAY

By Alison Jones

A town was started long ago,
A small, quiet town that most people know.
A town of roses, cheer and peace.
A place for man, a place for beast.

In 1840 this town began.
Started by one certain man.
His name right now I can't recall,
But he must have been a friend for all.

For he started Roseville long ago,
A small, quiet town that most people know.
The town where I live, the town where I grow,
The town that everyone should know.

Burton was one of the six boys who made the brick.

"We had two clay beds. The top soil was thrown off, the clay was dug up with a mattock and water was thrown on the clay and it was tramped with oxen on a 'G' turn.

"We six boys worked about six months. We made and set a kiln of about 200,000 well-burned brick.

Two weeks after the brick was burned, they secured four brick layers from Zanesville and eight days later the house was ready for the carpenters and finishers.

Robert Allen opened the first store in the town, later followed by Allen and Copeland.

John Laughrun operated the first tavern.

Zedekiah or Zedek Wilson were the first blacksmiths, doubling as coffin builders — walnut caskets for $15.

Barter for goods

Much of the 1830's trade in Roseville was done on a barter basis.

Allen and Copeland store exchanged goods for wheat, corn, butter, tallow, peaches, cumacobs, lard, pork, butter, feathers, wool and special notes of broken banks at current rates.

James Little — the first brick residence in town

Dr. Little came from Vermont in the 1820's and taught in the log school about a mile north of Roseville.

Little boarded with David Stokely, until two years after he arrived. Little sent for his wife and children.

S.W. Howard said "The doctor was a good man of fair abilities and a successful physician.

"He held the office of justice of the peace several years, was elected village councilman, director and village councilman.

Little's brick house was built in 1831. The brick was made near the Dr.

Hugh Laughrun came to town in 1818 to open the Black Horse tavern on Main Street between Dover and Water (First and Second) streets.

His hard liquor was blamed for bringing the community a bad reputation in the early days.

The gamers entered at the Black Horse on Saturdays for horse racing, gambling, target shooting, drinking, quarreling and eventually fighting.

With the Perry County line so close, the rowdies could quickly escape the approaching law and establish like lawing places to subdue the lawing element.

Roseville citizens incorporated the village in 1840.

The next year they turned a nine square-mile section of Brush Creek Township into Clay Township.

Then Roseville quieted down.

In the 1830's William Petty owned several lots on the south end of Main Street.

The area became known as 'Pettysburg.'

Perry came from Virginia, lived in a log cabin home and operated a copper shop and distillery.

Schools improve

In the late 1800's the East School or Hilldale School was constructed.

It housed all 12 grades until 1914 when West School was built on Stokely Street to become the high school.

West School served the community as an elementary school until 1970.

Roseville High School was built along West Athens Road in 1898 and house the high school until 1970 when all Roseville schools consolidated.

Franklin Local School District. The building is now Roseville Middle School where 218 fourth through eighth graders attend classes.

Roseville Primary School was built in 1959.

A 1959 Times Recorder photo of remnants of the tury Hill at Roseville in 1840.
Bible Christian Church which was built on Cen-

Roseville is also a community of churches.

Rev. William Foster, an itinerant Lutheran minister, held frequent house to house services in Roseville from 1812 to 1818.

About 1820 a log meeting house was built on the hill famous for its beech trees and where the cemetery was located.

Denominations shared

There, the four denominations — Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists — all held services and whenever a minister was in the community.

The Eberdenbon Methodist Society was formed at the home of W.B. Elderwood near the present Ebenezer United Methodist Church in 1820.

The present Ebenezer was built in 1860.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church can be traced back to 1812 when Rev. William Foster began to hold worship in the homes of settlers.

The first log meeting house was built in 1820 and a permanent organization of St. Paul's of Roseville was erected in 1836 when the separate congregations united to call Rev. Amos Bartholomew, who served three years, until 1839.

The present church was begun in 1931.

Roseville Presbyterian Church was organized in 1849 with 26 charter members. The first church was built in 1851, replaced in 1881.

That church burned in 1919, leaving the Presbyterians without a permanent church home until late 1920 when the new church was completed.

St. Paul's Methodist began in 1848 with the first permanent Methodist church built of logs on the lot where the present church now stands.

This house was built by Adam Rider, an early settler of Roseville, who moved into the community in the early 1800's from Delaware.

This was one of Roseville's many potteries. The industry began to develop just before 1840 and though potteries are pared down considerably in numbers today, they remain the economic foundation of the community.

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A survey of the creek made in 1812 by Moses Nye of Zanesville is still in the possession of the Brummage family of Roseville.

Rose built the first house in 1814, said to be the James farm, although others report the location was at the head of Main Street.

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On the site selected by Ezekiel Rose, William Wonn built a sawmill some time before 1820 and William Petty's distillery followed.

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That church burned in 1918 leaving the Presbyterians without a permanent church home until late 1923 when the new church was completed.
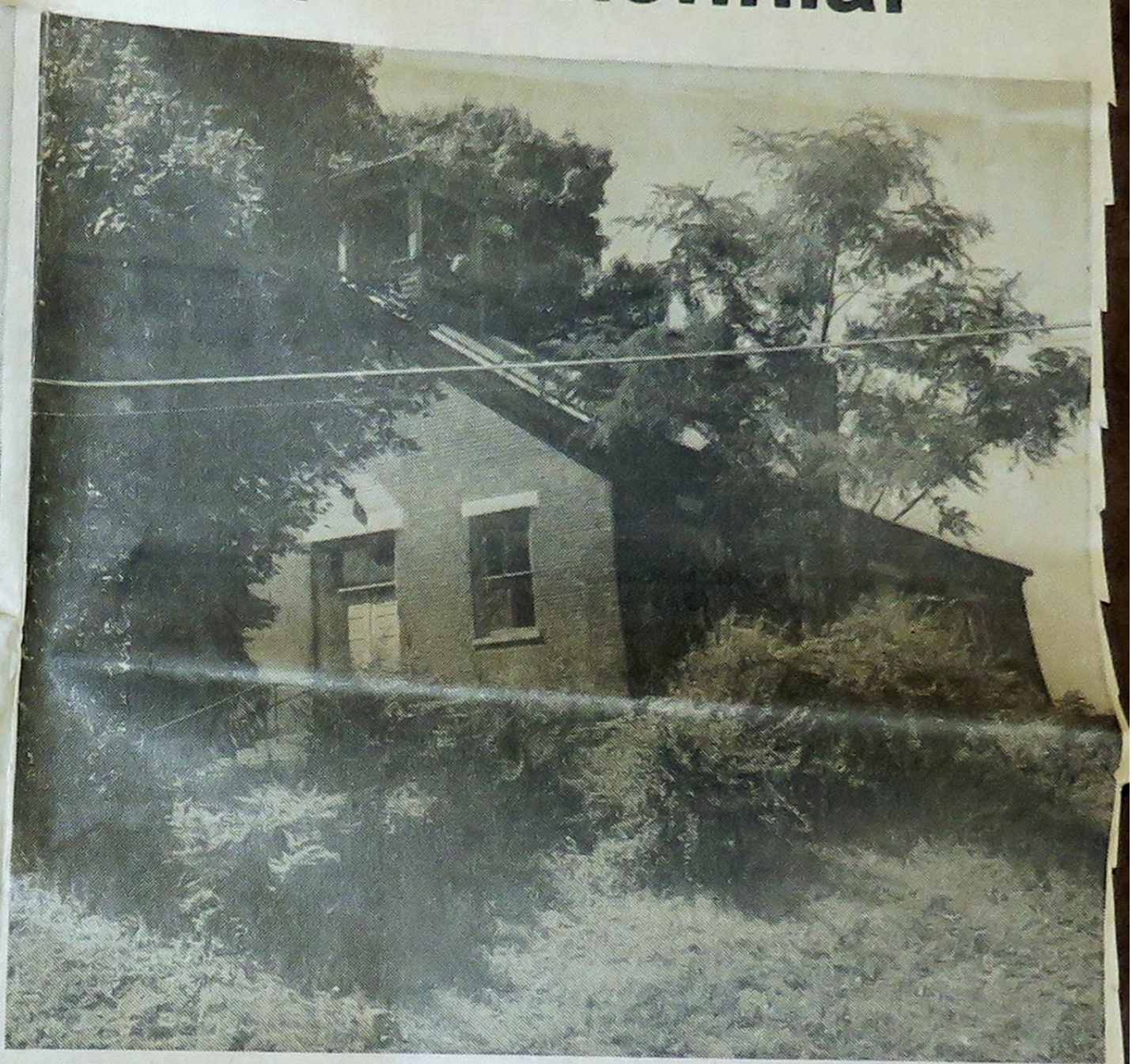
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This was one of Roseville's many potteries. The industry began to develop just before 1840 and though potteries are pared down considerably in numbers today, they remain the economic foundation of the community.

A 1959 Times Recorder photo of remnants of the Bible Christian Church which was built on Century Hill at Roseville in 1840.

Franklin Avenue Church of Christ was founded in 1892.

Roseville Church of the Nazarene was built in 1936, by a group of men and women who started meeting in homes for Bible study and prayer.

The current Nazarene church was completed in 1970.

Can you get there from here?

During the early years of New Milford there wer no bridges.

One of the earliest transportation problems faced by Roseville residents was crossing the creek.

In 1844 subscriptions were solicited and a horse bridge built across the creek.

In 1851 the construction of the first railroad was begun through the area. It was completed in 1857.

F.W. Howard wrote about the first bridge which probably crossed the present Second Street:

"In Spring 1844, Robert Allen, F.W. Howard and others organized themselves into a committee to solicit subscriptions for a horse bridge across the creek.

"The people petitioned the county commissioners and offered donations for a bridge at Roseville without success, altough it would accommodate three roads centering there.

"In time the amount subscribed was about $100 in labor and materials and $10 in money, the sums ranging from 25 cents to $2 each.

Building a bridge

"After examination the committee decided they could build for that sum a bridge wide enough for wagons to cross by locating it at the narrow aprt of the creek on Brush Creek Road.

"They were successful, making this the first bridge at Roseville.

"It proved to be a great convenience, as residents could use it in high water going by way of the bridge to Zanesville."

Roseville residents could reach larger stores of Zanesville in shorter time after construction of the Cincinnati, Wilmington and Zanesville Road.

The company was chartered in 1851.

Muskingum County subscribed $100,000 for construction of the line as far as Morrow.

Instead of extending the road to Cincinnati, the company made a connection with the Little Miami Railroad into that city.

Rail line opens

The line opened to Zanesville in May 1856, crossing the northwestern corner of Roseville and Clay Township.

With this improved means of transporting stoneware, the pottery industry developed rapidly in Roseville and Clay Township.

Large piles of ware were deposited beside the railroad track for shipment.

Jonas Burton wrote to *The Courier* in 1891:

"The transportation of stoneware and various other articles gave Roseville a start and it has become the center of a great trade and noted for its variety of clays."

Roseville has been a pottery center for more than a century.

A large art pottery originated in the town and kept the name ater moving to Zanesville.

Many large and small potteries in Roseville are still operating, years after the pottery industry has declined in other communities.

The pottery boom

William Lenhart built the first pottery in Roseville on "Potter's Alley" in 1838.

In 1866 there were nine potteries, or "Bluebird Shops" as they were called, listed as in or near Roseville proper.

By 1892 there were 15.

By 1885 the economic foundation of Roseville rested in the clay industry. This is still true today.

In 1950, the village survived — along with Crooksville, Rose Farm and other southeastern Ohio communities — the onslaught of the Moxahala Creek.

Millions of dollars in flood damage were incurred by these communities.

Outside aid came to the area from the Red Cross and a public relief fund administered by the Salvation Army.

Fire protection

Though ill-prepared for flooding, Roseville has protected itself from fire since the late 1880's.

The department graduated from handpulled pumpers by 1900, shortly after which the first horse-drawn gasoline powered pumper was purchased.

Prospering businesses, industry and community concern — it's all found in Roseville.

It's been there for 150 years, thus far, making it an important community and good neighbor to southeastern Ohio.

On parade

There was merriment for all as the village of Roseville celebrated its first 150 years as an incorporated community during a weekend sesquicentennial program. Saturday, a parade, cloggers and musical entertainment were featured all day, following the 10 a.m. ribbon cutting ceremony. Activities will continue today with a community church service from 11:30 to 12:30 a.m. at Roseville Elementary School and an ox roast 1 to 3 p.m. at Roseville American Legion. (TR Photo by Jeff Cope) (See story on Page 1-D)