

Roseville Was Thriving Pioneer Town

Early-Day Trade Was By Barter

(Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of stories on the history of Clay Township and Roseville.)

By NORRIS F. SCHNEIDER

North of Second street in Roseville during the 1830's, a high gate kept people out of Dr. James Little's meadow. Dr. Little hired Jonas Burton to chop down the dead beech trees in this meadow and laid it out into lots called Little's Addition. The new subdivision extended from Dover, now Second street, to Whiskey street. When the whiskey disappeared from that district, the name was changed to Third street.

Roseville in the 1830's was vividly described by F. W. Howard and Jonas Burton in articles published by the Zanesville "Courier" in 1887 and 1891. Little's Addition built up slowly. Therefore Howard and Burton wrote mainly about residents on the original plat, especially those living on Main street between First and Second.

Starting at the south end of Main street on the east side, we find that William Petty owned several lots. Howard and Burton mentioned that "Pettyburg" was the nickname for the southern district in the 1830's, and that name still lingers in use today.

Howard said that Petty came with his family from Virginia. "He had two sons and one daughter, all objects of sympathy, being poor and demoralized by the savage system of slavery, among which they spent their days." Petty had a log cabin home and a cooper shop. At one time he also operated a distillery.

North of the creek on both sides of Main street was an area not laid out in lots on the original plat. A mill race crossed Main street from the bend of the South Fork on the west to a mill site at the creek bank on the east. William Wonn bought the site in 1814 and built the saw mill. Isaac Ohlinger added the grist mill in 1830. William Martin and Zadok Wilson became proprietors in 1836.

JACOB REED leased the saw mill and installed a Parker wheel. He had a good trade as long as the water power lasted. Col. John Hiles operated the grist mill. He had been a soldier in the War of 1812 and was one of the prisoners surrendered by Gen. Hull at Detroit. Hiles always insisted the surrender was not necessary.

In 1875 Henry Combs bought the mill. By 1890 he had a three-story building 28 by 50 feet in size and an engine room that measured 21 by 38 feet and contained a 30-horse power engine and boiler. He operated four run of stone. The saw mill occupied the first floor, and flour was made on the upper floors. The mill was moved away about 1946.

North of the mill was a log house containing a distillery operated by Isaac Jones, the hatter. He came from Virginia about 1820. When he had made more hats than he could sell, he would carry them on his back to the Galighers at Zanesville and trade them for supplies. When business was poor, he made whiskey and peach and apple brandy at the distillery.

Jones was later converted by Rev. Riley's sermons in the old log school house. He gave up the distillery and became a devout Christian. Howard said: "Sitting with his friends on store boxes, benches, in lounging places, he would take out his precious Testament and read and discuss the



W. R. Becom, watchmaker and jeweler, has lived and worked since 1914 on the site of the brick store built by J. S. Copeland in 1836.



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

Shoemaker Served As First Mayor

50 cents, flour at \$3.00 a barrel, corn at 20 cents a bushel, eggs at four cents per dozen and chickens at 50 cents a dozen, Howard wrote: "A day's work 50 cents and no demand. Produce is very plenty, but we don't know what to do with it after exchanging our goods for it."

"People are getting dissatisfied with the Jackson - Van Buren administration," said Howard. "This state will give Gen. Harrison 20,000 majority for president."

How business improved by the introduction of pottery making and the construction of a railroad to market the ware, will be related in the next story in this series.

subject as long as any one would listen."

ON THE east side of Main street below First, John Ralph, a tailor, lived in a long, unpainted weatherboarded building. He came from Virginia. Near the corner stood a red frame house bought by Dr. John F. Cunningham in 1840. His earlier home on the west side of the street will be mentioned later.

Across First street lived William Patterson. North of him was the residence of John Forgrave, the first mayor of Roseville. He had served in the U.S. Navy with his brother-in-law, John Horn. In 1839 he came from Philadelphia to Roseville. He was a shoemaker by trade.

One time when he had little work to support his large family, he persuaded Howard and Copeland to start a small shoe factory and make him manager. This branch of the business added several thousand dollars in income to the store. Surplus stock was traded for hides in surrounding towns, the hides traded for leather at the tannery, and the workmen paid in goods and produce accepted in trade.

North of Forgrave came the temperance tavern kept by Matthew Combs. Above him lived Samuel Patterson, a day laborer. Next was John Weaver, a wheelwright who came from Pennsylvania about 1820. Howard wrote: "I have heard him say that he had often taken a spinning wheel on his shoulder to Zanesville, traded the same to old Mr. Isaac Hazlett for store goods, and walked back the same day."

Farther north were the homes of William White and Huff, the tavern keeper, opposite the famous "Black Horse" tavern of Hugh Laughrun.

On the southeast corner of Main and Second streets stood the brick store built by J. S. Copeland in 1836. William Allen became a partner and the first postmaster. It is believed that the first post office was located on this site. F. W. Howard worked as a clerk for Copeland and Allen before he moved to Lafayette, Indiana.

THIS CORNER is now occupied by the residence and store of W. R. Becom, watch repairman and jeweler. He came to Roseville in 1898. For several years he was located on the west side of Main street. In 1914 he moved to his present store. He proudly displays a plaque presented to him by the American Legion for his services in playing taps

on Memorial Day for 59 years. He has been a subscriber of The Times Recorder for 60 years.

Mr. Becom occupies one of the oldest and best business sites in Roseville.

North of Second street there was a pasture in the early 1830's. On the west side of Main street on the third lot below Main the first log cabin in the town was built. Unfortunately Howard did not tell the name of the builder.

At the southwest corner of Main and Second stood the two-story brick house of Dr. James Little. It was the first brick residence in the town. Dr. Little came from Vermont in the 1820's and taught in the log school about a mile north of Roseville and boarded with David Stokely. Two years after he came he sent for his wife and children.

Howard said "The doctor was a good man, of fair abilities, and a successful physician. He held the office of justice of the peace for several years, was elected mayor, school director and village councilman."

Jonas Burton said that the Dr. Little house was built in 1831. The brick was made about three rods west of the house. Burton was one of 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 burnt brick."

TWO WEEKS after the brick had been burned, they secured four brick layers from Zanesville, and in eight days the house was ready for the carpenters and finishers. James Brown owned the Dr. Little house in 1899.

North of First street Zadok Wilson, blacksmith and miller, lived. Next came Dr. Settle's home, John James' store and Hugh Laughrun's tavern on the site of the Koble confectionery. Laughrun's "Black Horse" tavern was described last week.

Above the tavern stood the two-story log house of Dr. John F. Cunningham, then the house and shop of William Rambo, blacksmith, and a ramshackle house on the corner. Burton wrote: "Right here on the corner stood one of the poorest houses I ever saw; it was too dirty for a hog pen." Howard said: "The old log rookery spoken of by Jonas Burton was built by James Spurgeon, who bought the lot of E. Rose in 1814, and it probably was one of the first cabins built in Roseville."

These homes and stores in Roseville in the 1830's, as recalled by two men 60 years later, are probably not complete, but they give the best picture available of the pioneer town.

North of Second street was Dr. Little's pasture, dotted with dead beech trees. He employed Burton to cut down these trees. Burton said: "That was a splendid meadow. Some of it was very wet and swampy, but it soon dried out. The lots sold slowly."

The north boundary of Little's Addition was the present Third street, but at first it was called Whiskey street. That name appeared on the map of Roseville in the 1866 atlas of Muskingum County.

MUCH OF THE business of Roseville in the 1830's was carried on by barter. The Copeland and Allen store on the site of the Becom residence offered to take in exchange wheat, corn, oats, seeds, dried peaches, apples, lard, tallow, pork, butter, feathers, wool, special and notes of broken banks at current rates.

Copeland said in a letter written to Howard March in 1837: "Our store is at Roseville, a village containing about 150 inhabitants. Since October last we have taken in at the store 4,000 bushels of wheat and other grains and ten tons of pork. The town contains one other store and two taverns. Following are the prices

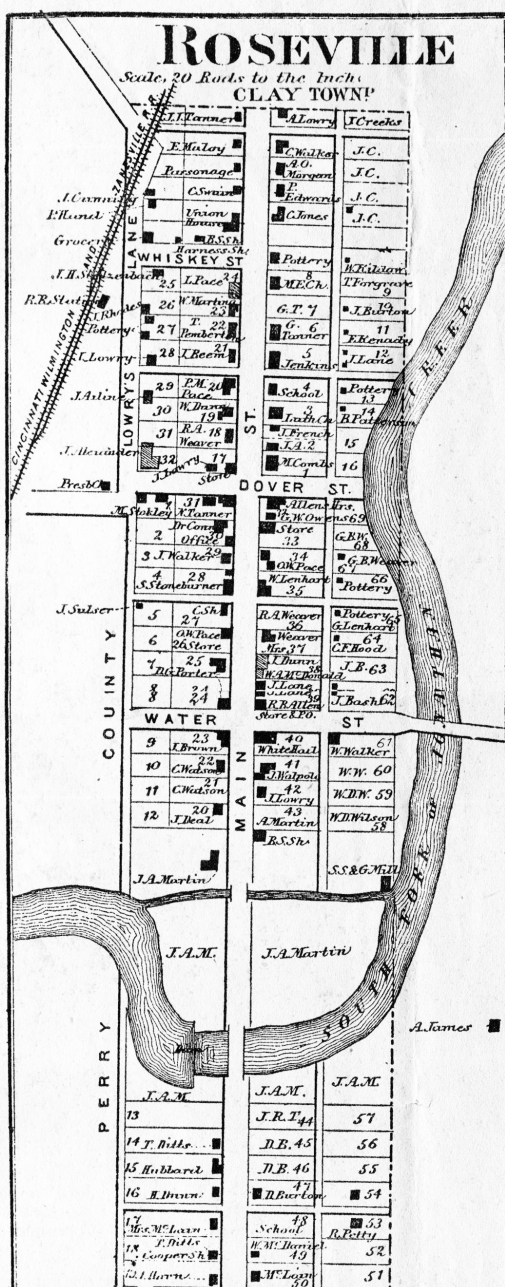
now of some of the other commodities: wheat, \$1.20; flour, \$6.50; beef, five to eight cents; corn, 75 cents; rye, 37½ cents; oats, 19 cents; hay \$5 to \$7 per ton; wool, 40 to 50 cents; butter, 12 cents; cheese, 16 cents."

Roseville suffered from the panic of 1839. Howard thought it was caused by loose credit of wild-cat banks and free trade. "The people, the banks and government credit all went down together; then followed a long spell of poverty and hard times, lasting several years."

By 1840 wheat was selling for



Becom residence and store stand on site of brick store built by J. S. Copeland in 1836 on Roseville's Main street.



Map of Roseville in 1866 with Water street, Dover street and Whiskey street as names of the present numbered streets.