

Copley Township Then and Now

1819 – 2016

LAND SALE WESTERN RESERVE TERRITORY

5 Mile-Square 16,000 Acre-Tracts

\$26,087.00

Only 46 left!

The Connecticut Land Company was selling tracts of land by lottery and in the fourth drawing in 1807 Gardiner Greene's number came up and his pick included 16,531 acres known as Township 2 Range 12. At \$26,087, the price had doubled from the first lottery drawing in 1797.

Township 2 Range 12

MAP OF COPLEY TOWNSHIP
TOWN 2, RANGE 12.



Mr. Greene originally called the tract of land Greenfield.

He later decided to name it Copley in honor his wife Elizabeth Copley Greene.



Elizabeth Copley Greene



The Settlement of Copley

From all accounts, Jonah Turner is known to be the first permanent settler in 1814. Returning to Copley after the War of 1812 as a member of Major Croghan's troops, Jonah set up his homestead in the northwest section of the town in the Stony Ridge area along S.R.18. He purchased 321 acres for \$900 from General Simon Perkins, a friend and land agent for Gardiner Greene.

Tax records of 1826 indicate that Jonah Turner was the only man in the township who owned three horses and eight head of cattle. He served as an Overseer of the Poor in 1819 and as a Township Trustee in 1820.



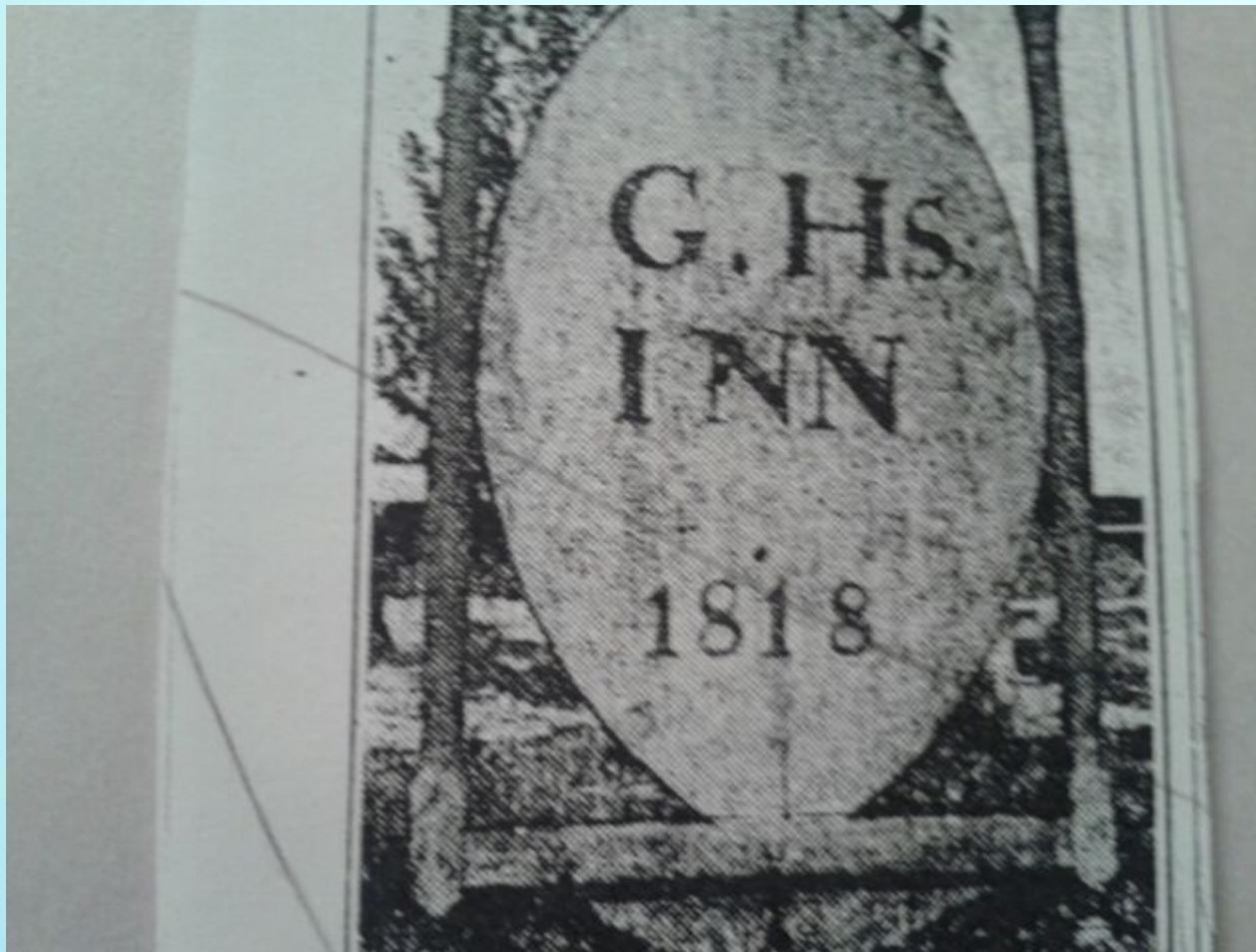
Copley's First Motel / Hotel

Samuel Hawkins came to the township in 1815 from Vermont. Foreseeing what was yet to come, Samuel Hawkins opened the township's first Inn on what is now S.R. 18.

He named it the George Washington Inn after his son who was the first settler child born in 1815.

Today, there are nine hotels/motels in Copley.

George Washington Inn



Organization of Copley Township

On July 15, 1819, the inhabitants of the town gathered together at the dwelling house of Jonathan Starr answering to a notice given by the Clerk to County Commissioners for the purpose of electing Township Officers. The crowd then adjourned to the barn of Allen Bozworth “for the purpose of doing business.”

Today, Townships in Ohio still must hold a reorganization meeting on or before the 1st of January each year.

COPLEY'S FIRST ELECTION

After a bit of “doing business,” Jacob Spafford, Allen Bozworth and George Hawkins were elected Trustees and Jonathan Starr, as the Treasurer.

Others elected were Levi Canfield and Jonah Turner as Overseers of the Poor; Parker Tyler and William Davis as fenceviewers; Jonah Turner, Benjamin Taylor and Allen Bozworth as road supervisors; and Samuel Griffin and Joseph Bozworth to serve as constables.

Today, Copley is governed by four elected officials: the Board of Trustees with three members and a Fiscal Officer.

EDUCATION

Education was highly prized in Connecticut and that tradition carried over into the Western Reserve.

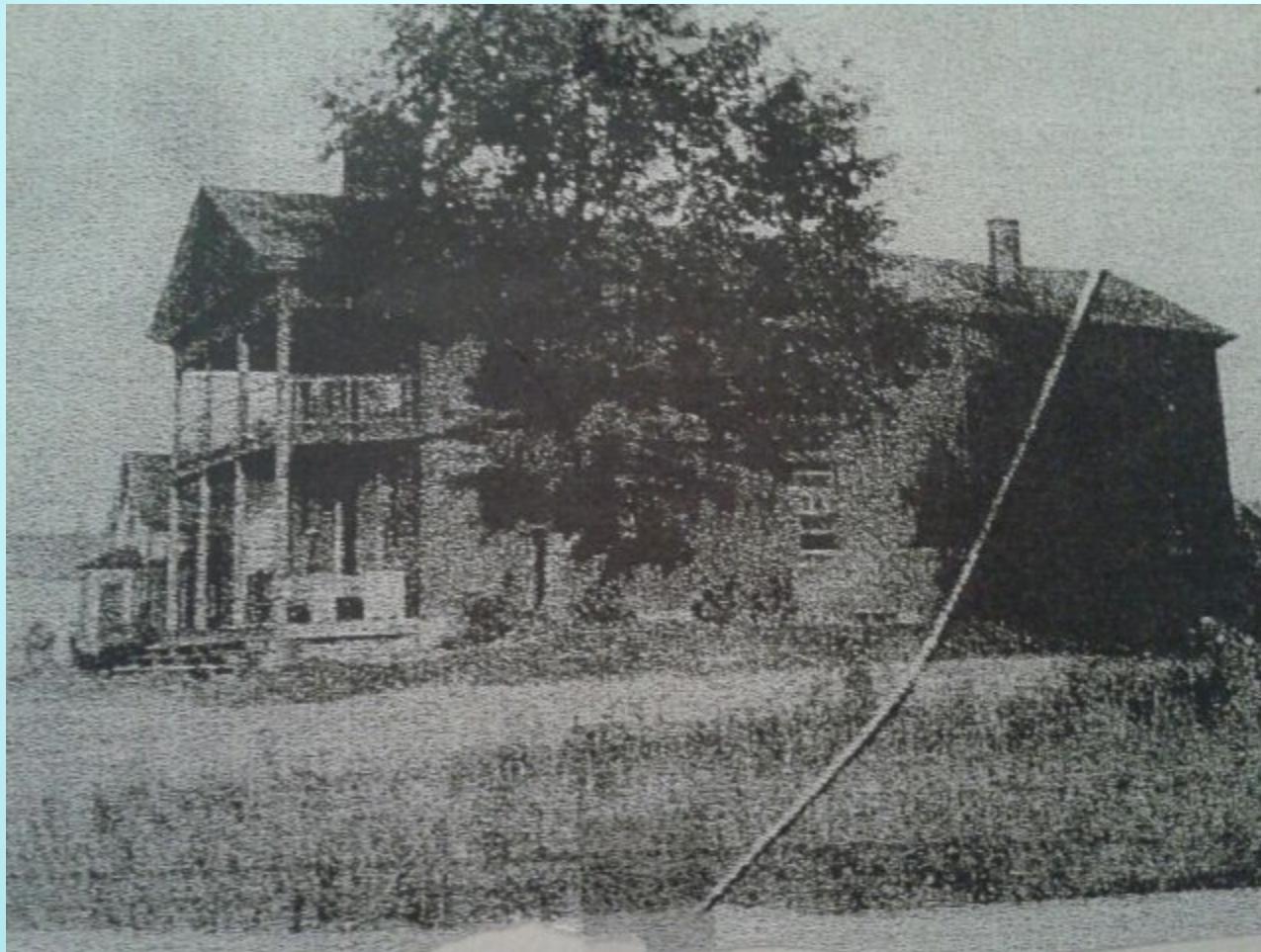
The first school stood on the north side of Copley Circle where the Walter properties are today. The first school year in the winter of 1819 began in late November or early December and ran until February or March. The summer term began in May or June and ran until late August or early September.

To attend school you had to be unmarried and between the ages of four and twenty-one. Primary subjects were reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, history and grammar.

A yearning for a higher education for one's child brought about the first private school in Copley. In 1858, ten citizens purchased a former store built in 1837 with \$1,000. It was on the southeast corner of Copley Circle. The headmaster was Rev. John Encell.

In addition to the 3 R's, Latin, German, Green's Grammar, Ray's Higher Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry and Natural Philosophy was taught.

Encell Private School



1915 Classroom

This rare photo is the only one Copley Historical Society has of students in a classroom. All class photos were usually taken outside of the school building.



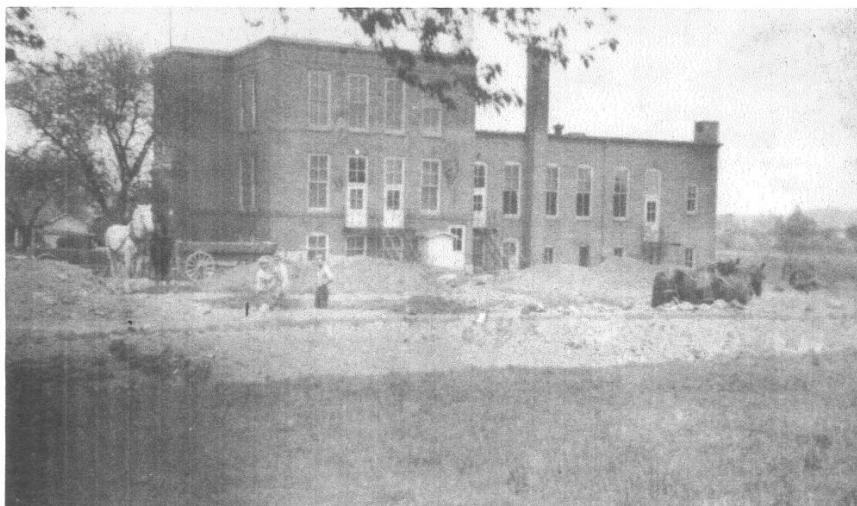
Copley High School, April 14th, 1915,
(9)

Can you imagine walking miles to school each day? Yes, there were some kids who were lucky enough to ride a horse or pony to school; but most had to walk.

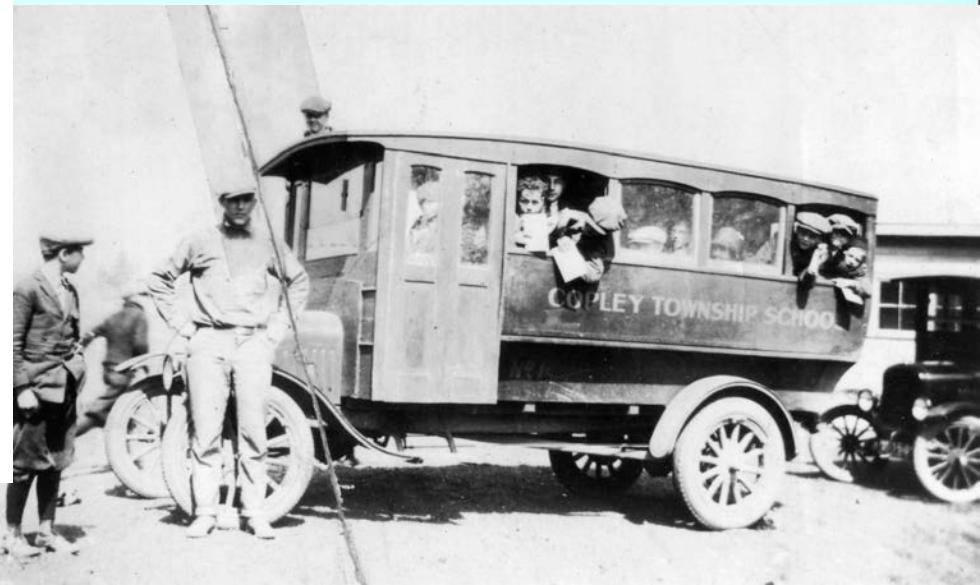
When school transportation became a reality, the first school bus was a horse-drawn wagon; then the first motorized school bus.

School Transportation

Horse Drawn Wagons



First Motorized School Bus



Today, Copley-Fairlawn City Schools have achieved Excellence with Distinction



Educational Goals & Objectives



The Copley-Fairlawn City School District Board of Education is committed to providing a program of education which is consistent with the following goals and objectives:

- 1. TO DEVELOP AND NURTURE CHARACTER TRAITS.*** The Board will promote the development of basic principles that reflect community values. They include, but are not limited to, the following character traits: compassion, courage, courtesy, diligence, honesty, integrity, responsibility, self-discipline, self-respect, and tolerance.
- 2. TO DEVELOP THE MASTERY OF BASIC SKILLS.** The Board will promote the development of the basic skills of reading, writing, listening, speaking, computing, and reasoning independently for effective application in problem-solving situations.
- 3. TO GAIN EXPERIENCE IN THE BROAD AREAS OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE.** The Board will provide opportunities for students to gain knowledge and experience in the fine arts, foreign languages, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences.
- 4. TO DEVELOP SKILLS OF CONSTRUCTIVE, CREATIVE, AND CRITICAL THINKING.** The Board will promote opportunities for students to seek, discover, create, organize, and evaluate knowledge in order to deal effectively with situations and problems in an independent, self-fulfilling, and responsible manner.
- 5. TO DEVELOP SKILLS FOR A TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY.** The Board will promote the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to function in productive employment in a rapidly-changing work place.
- 6. TO GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF ECONOMIC ROLES IN SOCIETY.** The Board will provide opportunities for students to gain a critical understanding of their roles as producers and consumers of goods and services in a global economy.
- 7. TO DEVELOP SKILLS OF CITIZENSHIP.** The Board will promote opportunities for students to become mature, responsible citizens of both American society and the world.
- 8. TO DEVELOP RESPECT FOR OTHERS AND THE LAW.** The Board will promote opportunities for students to develop respect for the rights of others and the law.
- 9. TO GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ENVIRONMENT.** The Board will promote opportunities for students to develop an appreciation for the maintenance, protection, and improvement of the physical environment.
- 10. TO DEVELOP POSITIVE HEALTH HABITS.** The Board will provide opportunities for students to develop good health habits, stressing prevention and wellness as lifelong skills, including exercise, fitness, and recreation. The avoidance of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco will be stressed.
- 11. TO DEVELOP LIFELONG LEARNING SKILLS.** The Board will promote the acquisition of skills and attitudes necessary for students to benefit from educational opportunities beyond high school and for lifelong learning.
- 12. TO DEVELOP WITHIN THE COMMUNITY A SENSE OF PRIDE IN THE SCHOOLS.** The Board will communicate with the community, highlighting the strengths of the educational program, and encourage community participation in school activities.
- 13. TO CONTINUALLY EVALUATE AND REVISE THE CURRICULUM.** The Board will provide, through an evaluation process, a curriculum that is pertinent to both student and community needs.

[Adoption Date: July 19, 1994]

LEGAL REFERENCE: State Board of Education—Minimum Standards 3301-35-02 (A)

* CROSS REFERENCE: Copley-Fairlawn City Board of Education "Character Traits" Statement, April 20, 1993

The Sabbath



Disciple's Church

Early residents worshipped as they saw fit and the Sabbath was strictly adhered to as stated in an 1824 law:

That if any person of the age of fourteen years or upwards be found on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, sporting, rioting, quarreling, hunting, fishing, shooting, or at common labor (works of necessity and charity only excepted) he shall be fined a sum not exceeding five dollars, nor less than a dollar.

The First Congregational Church stood on the site where Copley United Methodist Church stands today on the land that was donated by Jonathon Starr for the church building in 1843.

INDUSTRY

- ▶ It is hard to believe how education and religion played such important roles in the nurturing of Copley that the first real industry would be a distillery. Chancey Davis and his brother William opened the first distillery in 1820 on Hametown Road.
- ▶ They turned out whiskey, rum, brandy, gin, and wine for sacramental and other purposes at a rate that sometimes exceeded fifty gallons a day in over 30 years of operation. They closed up shop in 1852.

Allen Bozworth opened Copley's second still along Copley Road west of the center of town in 1826.

Not to be outdone by the Davis boys, Bozworth churned out forty-five gallons of whiskey a day.

The whiskey was flowing and the farmers were making money selling their grain to the distilleries.

Life was good; or so one thought...

The First Temperance Society in Ohio

That's right, the first temperance society was formed in Copley, Ohio!

A group of Presbyterians suggested a day of fasting and prayer to fight against intemperance. On January 29, 1829, the men of the society signed the constitution.

Constable John Gamauf “busting a still”

Early 1930's Sealing up Whiskey Still



Liquor was popular but not everyone was adept at making it. Sugar camps, logging and truck farms weighed heavily in those days. Work was hard. The next slides capture Copley Township in its infancy.



Ansel Miller's Mail Wagon



Clearing a farm in Copley



Copley's Cannon



Elmer Coon, Copley's last elected constable was returned to office 32 times. The Copley Police District was authorized January 1970 by the Trustees.



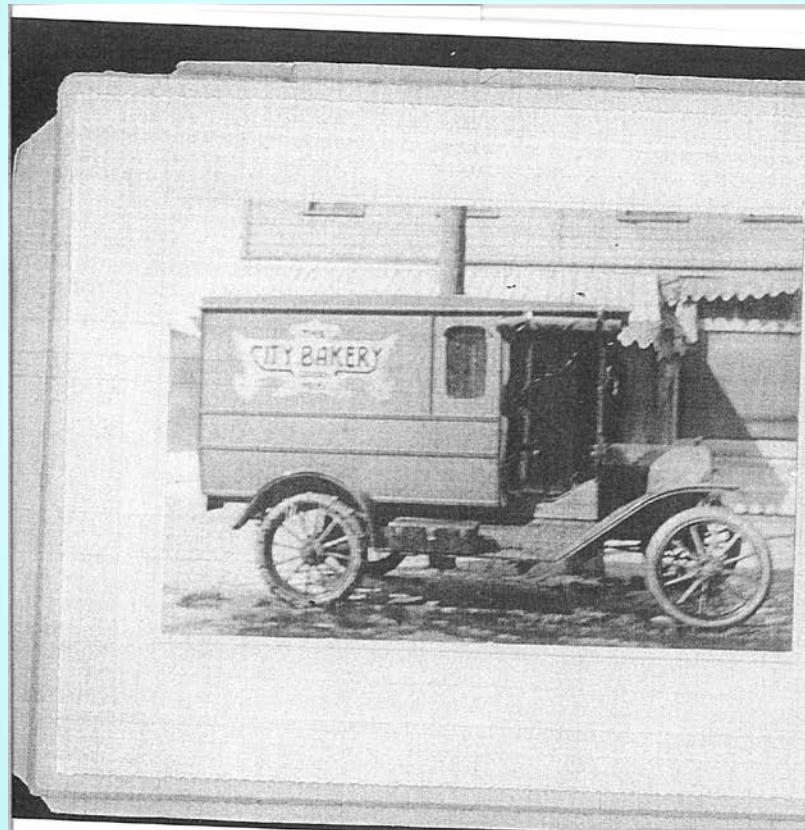


Kramer's Store and First Disciple Church on the Circle



Early Settlers

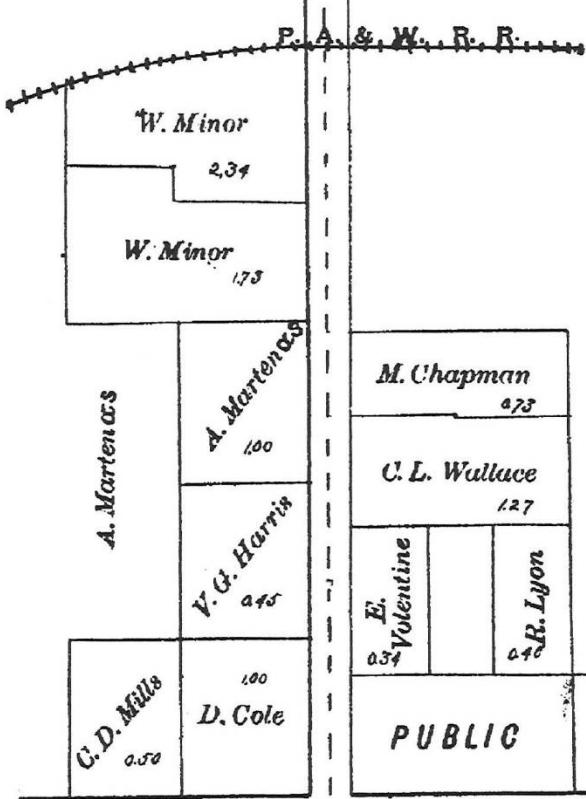




The City Bakery Truck
Company owned by the Aberth Family



Copley Centralized School – First in the State of Ohio



COPLEY CENTER COPLEY TOWNSHIP.

SCALE 400 FEET TO ONE INCH.

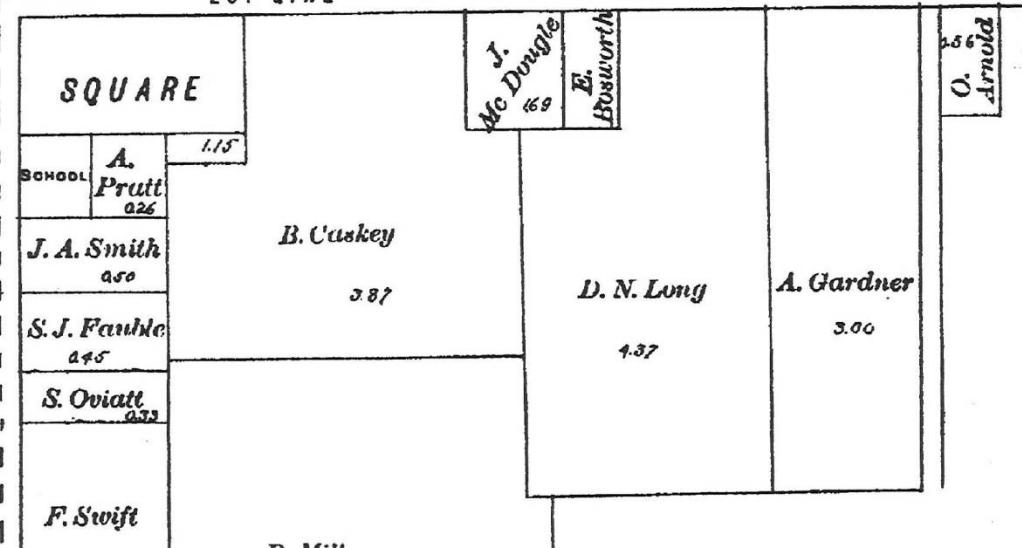
G. Starr

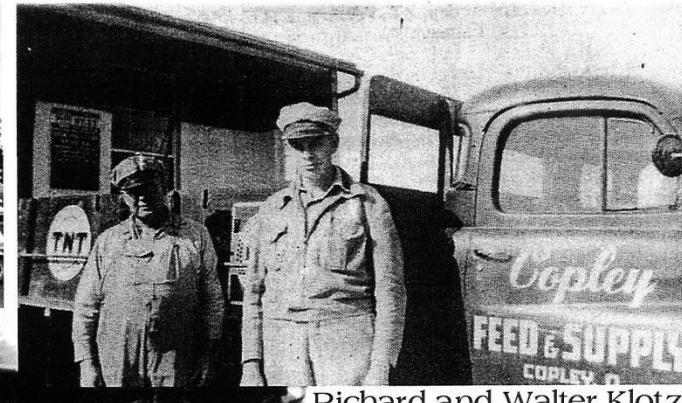
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Lot 23

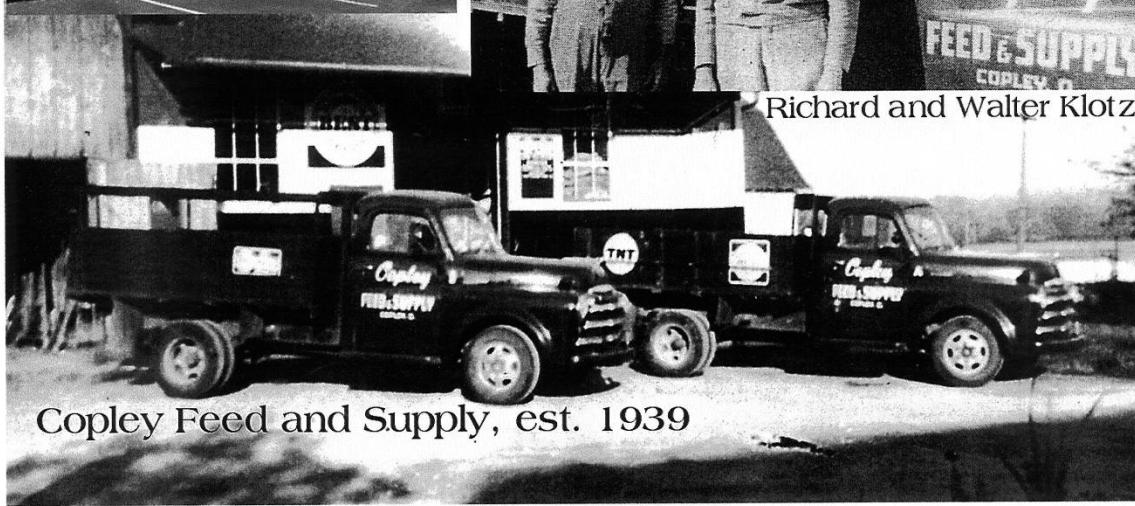
PUBLIC

J. Swigart





Richard and Walter Klotz



Copley Feed and Supply, est. 1939



Creamery



Copley Volunteer Fire Department circa 1937



First Woman Trustee Elected in 1980



Historic 1891 Copley Depot placed on the Federal Register



Copley Today

- ▶ Population: 17,306
- ▶ Largest township in Summit County
- ▶ 55th largest of the 1,308 townships in Ohio
- ▶ Larger than six Cities in Summit County
- ▶ Larger than all Villages in Summit County

Community



Copley Community Park



COPLEY COMMUNITY CENTER



Thank You for your interest in Copley Township

To learn more about the history of Copley,
visit the Copley Historical Society's Museum on
the first and third Wednesday at Copley Town Hall
from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
and
Copley's Historic Depot and Caboose on the
second Saturday of the month from
1–4 P.M. April–October