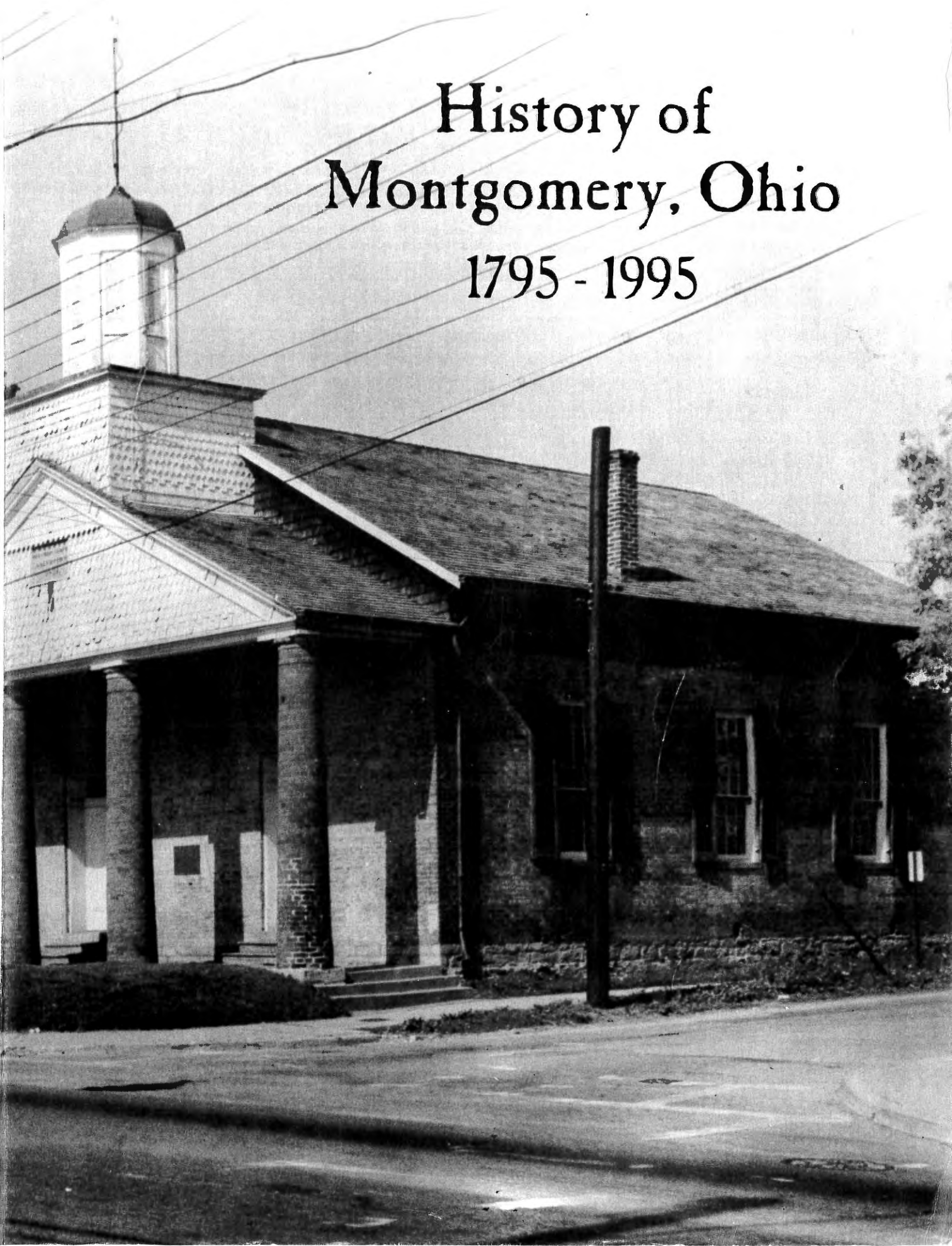


History of
Montgomery, Ohio
1795 - 1995



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1795 - 1995

Compiled and written
for the Bicentennial Celebration
of Montgomery in 1995

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This *History of Montgomery, Ohio*,
was compiled and written for the
Bicentennial Celebration of the
city in 1995.

This book was set in Times Roman type
and printed by Thomas G. Eberhard,
Montgomery, Ohio.

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Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 95-080247.

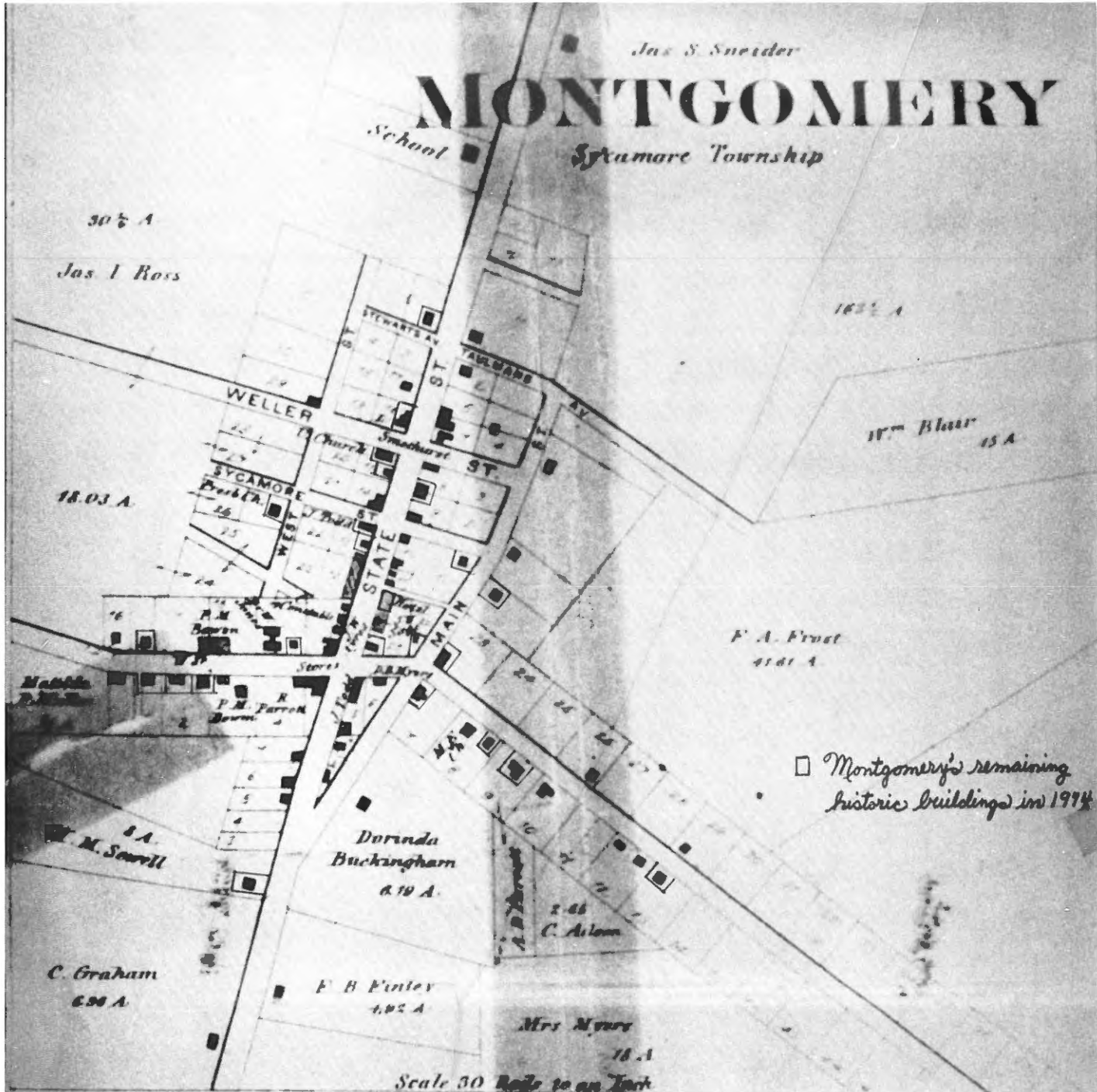
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Cover photo: On the National Register of Historic
Places, the Universalist Church Historic District
was established in 1970 by the city of Montgomery.
This photo was taken in 1969.

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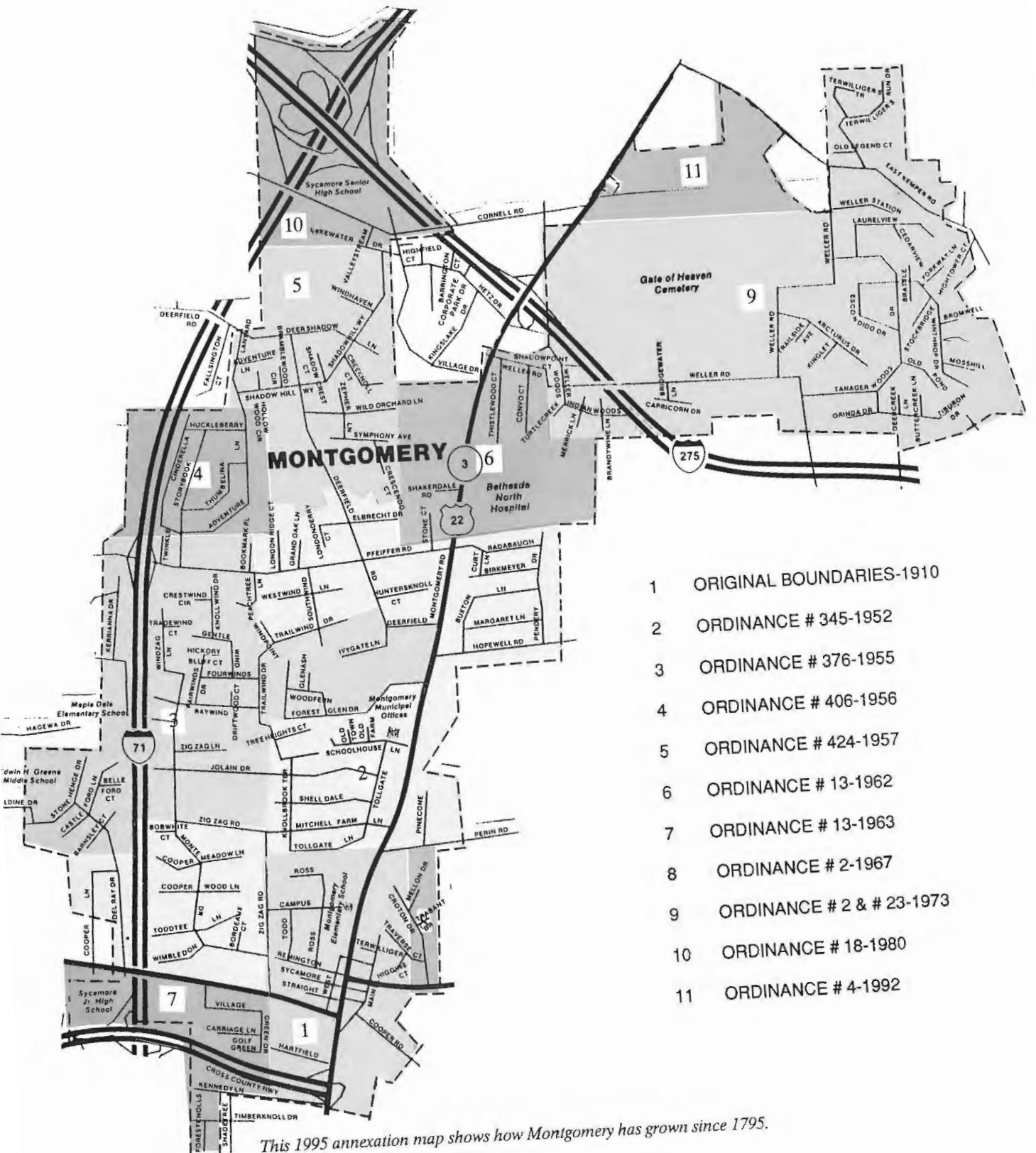
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Montgomery in 1869



One of the earliest plats on record for Montgomery, 1869.

Montgomery's Growth Since 1795



This book has been funded by
The Montgomery Historical Society
The Montgomery Bicentennial Commission.

INTRODUCTION

This book sets down 200 years of Montgomery history written for the city's Bicentennial year in 1995.

Montgomery's history is reflected in who lived here, what they did, and what they built in which to live, work, be schooled and attend church. The more one learns about the earliest families and envisions their arrival in the wooded forests and rock creeks that we call the bustling suburb of 10,000 today, the more one realizes the physical courage and strength of vision these early pioneers had.

The earliest settlers knew each other and came from Montgomery in Orange County, New York. They left comfortable homes and established families to make their way west as the Northwest Territory opened and the Treaty of Greenville was signed with the Indians in 1795. They first settled on Sycamore Creek, then moved a mile or so south to build homes and businesses.

Church and school were important. Church meetings and probably school lessons were in homes soon after settlers arrived. Industrious and hard-working, they soon had a lively business district along a major state road. Our pioneer section of Hopewell Cemetery and two historic church structures stand today from the early 1800s, as do a dozen other buildings.

For many years time stood still for Montgomery. Population remained in the several hundreds until after World War II when farm fields began to be turned into housing subdivisions.

Historic preservation played a major role in development of the business area in the early 1970s, and the decisions by those visionaries established the 19th century village theme that is reflected throughout the city today: colonial architecture in housing, gazebos in parks, development of Montgomery architecture styles in the Heritage District guidelines, brick sidewalks.

City councils in the 1970s wrote historic preservation into legislation. They founded a Landmark Commission to preserve historic buildings and declared the downtown business area an historic district, investing large sums of public money to give it a 19th century village look. The Montgomery Historical Society works diligently with the city to inventory and save appropriate buildings, maintains valuable records and files and supports many worthwhile historic efforts in the city. Of the 29 Montgomery designated landmarks, the city owns five (some have been donated to the city), including the Universalist Church and the pioneer section of Hopewell Cemetery.

Publication of this history has been completed as a volunteer Bicentennial project with the support of the city's Bicentennial Commission and the Montgomery Historical Society. Bicentennial co-chairs Juanita Conklin and Janet Steiner, Montgomery Historical Society President Mary O'Driscoll and retired *Sycamore Messenger/News* editor Mary Lou Rose first met to determine a course of action. A group of about ten volunteers for the project gathered in the fall of 1993 to organize updating the city's history and selected subject matters on which they would research and write. This history workshop committee was headed by Mary O'Driscoll and included the following persons: Juanita Conklin, Don Hirsch, Charles Abbott, Jim Cundiff, Kay Gaffney, Peggy Kelsey, Lennie DeMania, Nancy Detrick, Edwin Hibarger, Janet Steiner, and Mary Lou Rose who was asked in 1994 to edit the book.

Each of these persons brought different skills to the project; some conducted interviews, some performed research, and some wrote accounts. Resources valuable to the committee were the histories and directories published up to 1967 by the founding publisher of the *Sycamore Messenger*, Marion S. Kjellenberg, known as Shelly. Shelly's histories had been published in chronological order, and Betty Perry, a city volunteer, typed this material by subject matter.

Other resources were files of the *Sycamore Messenger* from 1947-1978 and the *Sycamore Messenger/News* (renamed to indicate new ownership) from 1978-1990. Information about prior years was found in interviews, clippings and scrapbooks. Early family history has been extracted primarily from family records. Finding photographs became a challenge because newspaper photo files had been destroyed. However, the Montgomery Historical Society files, located at the Wilder-Swaim House, were of invaluable help as were files of the Cincinnati Historical Society. Michael DuPriest loaned his collection of about 50 photos. Volunteer photographer Jerry Clark provided many special photographs, and copies of old newspaper photos were reproduced.

Workshop member Jim Cundiff provided a very skilled service in reading and copy editing the manuscript.

As with any history book, the view at the beginning is somewhat narrow. As the word gets around and the research begins, more and more information becomes available and the book grows. What we have in this publication is the most complete information available at this date in mid-1995.

Certainly, the all-volunteer Bicentennial Commission has brought a comprehensive year-long celebration worthy of our history, including a 4th of July parade that none of us will soon forget. It is in that spirit that this history has been completed.

Mary Lou Rose, Editor
July 22, 1995

How Montgomery, Ohio, got its name

The first founders of Montgomery, Ohio, settled in 1795, that became a village in 1910 and a city in 1971, were from Montgomery, Orange County, New York, named for General Richard Montgomery, a brigadier general in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Born in Donegal, Ireland, he came to the colony of New York, fought in the Revolution, and adopted America as his country.

During the Revolutionary War, he planned a major invasion of Canada to restrain the British Army from coming from Montreal through the Champlain Valley to take control of the Hudson River. On September 5, 1775, he began a successful effort with a siege of Fort Chambly and Saint Joan. He moved on to Montreal, then to Quebec, the only obstacle in his bid to conquer Canada.

It was in that unsuccessful battle for Quebec that General Montgomery was shot twice and killed. His body was returned to the United States in 1818 at which time a special monument was created by Benjamin Franklin as a tribute to this hero. He was mourned by dignitaries from George Washington to persons on both the American and European continents. Cities, towns, counties and streets have been named for him.

I. THE FOUNDING FAMILIES and EARLY SETTLERS

The founding families of Montgomery are traditionally considered to be three sons of Mathias Felter and his wife Catharine Weller: Cronimus, Jacob, and David¹; plus Cornelius Snyder and Jacob Roosa, both of whom had married Felter daughters; and Nathaniel Terwilliger who had married a sister of Cornelius Snyder. Another early and related family was that of Christian Crist whose wife Elizabeth Weller was a sister of Mathias' wife, Catharine Weller.²

All the families were from Montgomery, Orange County, New York. All were of Dutch or German descent and were members of the Dutch and German Reformed churches of the area. Their families were related because of frequent intermarriages in the small, close-knit Dutch community.

Snyder, Roosa, Terwilliger and Crist were privates in several Ulster³ and Orange County militias at various times during the Revolutionary War. Militia service usually meant being called to active duty when the British threatened; otherwise they remained at home to farm.

After Anthony Wayne's defeat of the Miami and Shawnee at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794 and the signing of the Treaty of Greenville in 1795, settlement of the Northwest Territory was rapid. And the families of Orange County, New York, were among those who decided this newly opened territory had much to offer.

Cornelius Snyder was said to have been the leader of this group who, in the spring of 1795, sold their farms and possessions and left Montgomery, New York. They traveled overland to Ft. Pitt (now Pittsburgh), then went by flatboat down the Ohio River to the mouth of the Little Miami River, and followed it to the present site of Remington. From there they proceeded along Sycamore Creek to a location near the present site of Bethesda North Hospital where they erected cabins to shelter them for the winter.

¹ Because no record of a David Felter, as Mathias' son, has been found in New York and no record found of a David Felter in Hamilton Co. before 1808, the existence of them as a founding family is uncertain.

² It may never be known exactly which families came in 1795, but those that did not make this first trip followed shortly after. Some records in the Roosa family suggest that they may not have come until 1798 or 1799.

³ Ulster County is north of Orange. Before 1790 the northern part of Orange County (including Montgomery) was part of Ulster County.

Cornelius Snyder

Cornelius Snyder (after the turn of the century, some members of the Snyder family changed the spelling to “Snider”) was born in 1762 in Ulster County, New York. He was the son of Daniel Schneider and Anna Margretta Nies. As a teenager during the Revolutionary War he spent some time in the Orange County Militia, 4th Regiment, under Colonel John Hathorn and Captain Mathias Felter. In September 1783, he married Mathias’ daughter, Mary Felter, born in 1762. They had five children born in New York, four of whom survived to come to Ohio.

On June 7, 1796, Cornelius bought Section 4 of Township 5 (Columbia Township until 1803, when Sycamore was formed) for \$1,440 from Thomas Espy who had first purchased it from John Cleves Symmes. This location is the 1995 site of Montgomery Square Shopping Center. Symmes had originally purchased it from the government for 66 2/3 cents an acre.

In 1810 Cornelius, John Elliott, Henry Crist, and Benjamin Sears were involved in building a grist mill on the Little Miami River on John Elliott’s property. To sell the goods produced at the mill, the four men opened a store—the first in Montgomery—at the southeast corner of State and Mechanic Streets (Montgomery and Cooper Roads in 1995).

Cornelius Snyder was commissioned a lieutenant in the Hamilton County Militia in 1797 and was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1803. He also headed the rifle company in Montgomery in 1812.

Cornelius and Mary helped organize the Hopewell (now Montgomery) Presbyterian Church. They probably were among those who, in 1801, requested the services of Presbyterian minister, James Kemper, to preach at their cabin sanctuary on Sycamore Creek. There were no Dutch Reformed ministers in the area, and Presbyterians were the closest to their reformed beliefs. Thus, the Dutch Reformed settlers became Presbyterians. All of the Snyder children were also members of Hopewell Church.



This is in the vicinity where the first settlers arrived after traveling from the junction of the Ohio River and Little Miami River and then following Sycamore Creek. The area is west of Montgomery Road at the Mayfair development.

Cornelius died August 31, 1822; Mary on February 20, 1828. Both are buried at Hopewell Cemetery.

Children of Cornelius and Mary Felter Snyder:

David, 1789-1831, married Mary (Polly) Paxton, daughter of Colonel Thomas Paxton who was the founder of Loveland, Ohio; both David and Mary are buried at Hopewell; had six children baptized in Hopewell Church.

Catherine, 1788-1859, married 1) John S. Terwilliger, son of Nathaniel (her first cousin); married 2) John McCowan; both buried at Hopewell; had five children.

Margaret (Pegge), b. 1790, married Abraham Crist.

Cornelius, 1792-1793.

William, b. 1794, married Catharine Jones in 1812; had five children baptized at Hopewell Church.

John, 1797-1857, married 1) Hannah Moor; married 2) Amy Auten.

Elizabeth, 1797-1821, married 1) Nimrod Fish, two children; married 2) Hezekiah Price.

Sarah (Sallie), 1802-1840, married Nicholas Schoonmaker; buried at Hopewell; had three children.

John Snyder was born October 31, 1797, in Hamilton County. He was one of the founders of the Universalist Church where he also served as trustee and clerk for a number of years. John married twice, to Hannah Moor and then to Amy Auten. He fathered 16 children by them, but many of the children died young, at least six of which are buried at Hopewell Cemetery. He occupied the house at 9462-9466 Montgomery Road that was built about 1830. His son, Richard Snyder, was a U.S. Deputy Marshal and the first treasurer of the Village of Montgomery. The house remained in the family for over a century and is a Montgomery Landmark building.

In 1840 John was a justice of the peace. He was a general in the Hamilton County militia and held that rank during the Mexican War. He died May 24, 1857, and is buried in Hopewell Cemetery, as are his wives. Hannah died in 1832, Amy in 1908.

John's son, Cornelius III, was born in 1822 and married Sarah. They are ancestors of area resident John Murdough, whose mother was a Montgomery resident and Presbyterian Church member, Shirley Snider Murdough.

David Snyder owned the land on which a frame saltbox is located at 7789 Cooper Road, one of the oldest homes in Montgomery, built about 1825. It is a Montgomery Landmark.



The David Snyder home at 7789 Cooper Road, built c. 1825.

Nathaniel Terwilliger

Nathaniel Terwilliger was christened in 1746 at Shawangunk, Ulster County, New York, the son of Matheus and Marietje Oosterhout. He married Catharina Snyder (an older sister of Cornelius) in 1773. Nathaniel served during the Revolution with Cornelius in the 4th Regiment, Orange County Militia, under Colonel John Hathorn and Captain Mathias Felter.

Nathaniel and Catharina had nine children, all baptized in Shawangunk Reformed Dutch Church. Most are known to have come to Ohio with him. Catharina may have died before their trek to Ohio, or soon after, as Nathaniel, by January 1797, had married Mrs. Anne Taulman, widow of Harmanus Taulman. Nathaniel married a third time in 1807 as this notice appeared in the *Liberty Hall* newspaper on July 27, 1807: "Married on Thursday eve last, by Cornelius Snyder, Esq., Mr. Nathaniel Terwilliger, age about 60 to Miss Mary Whiteside, turned of 20, both of Sycamore Township." He had a son, James, born July 1808.

On August 1, 1796, Nathaniel bought the southwest corner of Section 3, Township 5. On March 24, 1797, John Elliott sold him three lots he had purchased from John Cleves Symmes. On May 1, 1801, Nathaniel bought the north portion of Section 3 and platted what would be the town of Montgomery. The plat was recorded on March 24, 1802. The land lay along Mechanic Street (now Cooper) and on both sides of State Street (Montgomery). Mechanic Street was a well traveled route west to the Mill Creek valley at Reading and east to the Little Miami River at Remington. Some envisioned it being the main commercial road east-west, much as Montgomery Road is today for north-south travel.

Nathaniel and his wife Anne are listed by J. C. Olden in his 1882 *Historical Sketches and Early Reminiscences* as being among the founders of Hopewell Church. Several of his children were also members. Nathaniel died in late 1808 or early 1809 and is buried at Hopewell; his estate was filed for probate on January 31, 1809. Apparently Mary died before him as Catharine (we assume his daughter Catharine) Terwilliger was appointed guardian of his son James, age five months.

Children of Nathaniel and Catharina Snyder Terwilliger:

Margreta, b. 1774.

Mary, b. 1776, married Calvin Kitchell (by Rev. James Kemper) 1797/8.

Catharine, 1778-1851, married Joseph Crist; buried in Hopewell.

Susannah, b. 1780, died by 1794.

John Snyder, b. 1781, married Catharine Snyder (his first cousin).

Elizabeth, b. 1783.

Nathaniel, 1785-1835, married Alce Elliott.

Matthew, 1791-1843, married 1) Letitia Shanklin, who died in 1823, and 2) Charlotte; Matthew died in Indiana.

Susannah, b. 1794.

Nathaniel Terwilliger, Jr., baptized in New York, June 4, 1785, married March, 1812, Alce (Elcy) Elliott, daughter of Indian Hill pioneers John Elliott and his wife Mary Miller. John Elliott's stone house near the Little Miami River was built between 1800-1810 and was restored in 1980. Nathaniel and Alce had nine children. Their daughter, Sarah Lackey Terwilliger, born in 1823 in Montgomery, Ohio, married Ebenezer Crist.

Nathaniel died September 4, 1835; Alce died November 19, 1858, and both are buried at Hopewell Cemetery along with several of their children and grandchildren, including their son, George Washington Terwilliger, 1831-1888. George married Mary M. Conover and they had two children. All four are buried at Hopewell Cemetery.

The Felter Families

Four children of Mathias Felter were among the founders of Montgomery: Mary (who married Cornelius Snyder), Cronimus, and Jacob were the three youngest (of five) children by his first wife Catharine Weller; daughter Catharine was the first of eight children by his second wife, Helena-Lena Felter. These children are recorded at the Brick Reformed Church, Montgomery, Orange County, New York.

Cronimus (Hieronymus in Dutch) was born March 16, 1765, and was too young for service in the Revolution. He married Louisa Ganung (or Galung) about 1787. In 1798 Cronimus was commissioned a lieutenant in the Hamilton County Militia. Some sources say he had served earlier at Ft. Washington.

Cronimus and Louisa are listed among the founders of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, and his five children born in Ohio were baptized there. He was one of the first trustees of the church. Records show that he leased the use of the Montgomery Academy on March 8, 1826, for the congregation to use for church services. But Cronimus was an independent sort and was frequently in trouble with the elders of the church. He was called before the Session to answer charges of swearing, intoxication, telling lies about the minister, "holding heretical notions," and "joining with universalists and men of dissipated character" He was suspended and repented several times, as was his daughter, Sallie. He helped with others to form the Universalist Church in 1837. He last appears in their records in 1839.

Children of Cronimus and Louisa Ganung Felter:

Hannah, b. 1788.

Magdalene, 1793-1864, married James McBurney; died in Lebanon, Ohio.

Catharine, b.c.1794, married Andrew R. Graham in 1815; died in Lebanon, Ohio.

Sarah (Sallie), b. 1796.

Cornelius S., b. 1806.

Jacob R., b. 1808, married Ann; buried in Hopewell Cemetery.

James B., b. 1811.

David, b. 1813.

Magdalene Felter married James McBurney of Newburgh, Orange County, New York. He came to Ohio in 1814 and moved to Lebanon, Ohio, in 1830. Their son, Andrew Graham McBurney, born 1817, became a lawyer and famed cabinetmaker in Warren County; in 1865 he became lieutenant governor of Ohio.

In 1815, Catharine Felter married Andrew R. Graham who had come to Montgomery, Ohio, from Newburgh, Orange County, New York. Their son, James McBurney Graham, was born in 1816 and was baptized at Hopewell Church. They moved to Lebanon in 1835. James became the manager of the Western Union telegraph office in Lebanon and served as mayor of that city.

Jacob Felter was born June 14, 1768, and would have been much too young for service in the Revolution. He married Elizabeth Roosa (?), born in 1775 in New York. Jacob and Elizabeth were also founders of Hopewell Church, and all of their 11 children were baptized there. But Jacob joined the Universalist Church in 1837. Elizabeth died June 10, 1835; Jacob, October 18, 1841. Both are buried in Hopewell Cemetery.

Children of Jacob and Elizabeth Roosa Felter:

William C., b. 1799.

Cintha, b. 1803.

Harriet, b. 1805.

Susan, b. 1808; buried in Hopewell.

Jacob Roosa Family

Jacob Roosa was born in 1749 into a prominent Dutch family, the third child of Abraham and Elizabeth Rutze/Rutsen Roosa. During the Revolution he served in the 2nd Regiment, Ulster County Militia, and the 3rd Regiment of Colonel Gansevort. About 1788 he married Catharine Felter. She may have been his second or third wife.

Jacob was a carpenter. The Roosas had a 101-acre farm north of Montgomery. Jacob and Catharine are on Olden's 1882 list of founders of Hopewell Presbyterian Church

Jacob and Catharine's son, Abraham, was a spectator of the circus that took place in 1812 in the barn on the former Blackerby property (Main and Cooper in 1995). One 19th-century historian described Abraham's childhood:

In Abraham's boyhood, wolves had not been exterminated, and as cattle were allowed to run at large, it was necessary to have them brought home in the evenings and securely penned. As soon as Abraham was able to handle a gun, this duty evolved upon him. Provided with musket, ammunition and a faithful dog, he would track the objects of his search by the sounds of the bells, and before the shades of evening set in, have them secure.

On October 3, 1822, Jacob was requested to appear before the elders of the church. "Session met . . . to examine the case of Jacob Rose (sic), who, having been accused of using spirituous liquors intemperately, which was frankly confessed, apparently with sorrow and repentance for the same, and with a determination in God's strength to do so no more." The Session records also report the death of Catharine: "August 7 (1823) Mrs. Catharine Rose exchanged this life we trust, for that of immortality on the right hand of the Redeemer, in his kingdom above." Jacob died December 24, 1831. Both are buried in Hopewell Cemetery.

Children of Jacob and Catharine Felter Roosa:

Jacob Rutsie, 1789-1852, married Sarah, 1791-1835.

Matthias, 1791-1846, married Elizabeth Daniels in 1818.

Abraham, 1795-still living 1874, married in 1819 Blandina Mole (1791-1841). He served in War of 1812; both buried in Hopewell. Son Sylvester served in Civil War in Company G. Ohio Cavalry.

Elizabeth, 1798-1879, married in 1815 Joseph Hutchinson (1794-1847); had 11 children; moved to Clermont County.

Matthias Roosa served in the War of 1812 prior to his marriage to Elizabeth Daniels. They moved to Deerfield Township, Warren County in 1827. He was an investor in the Little Miami Valley Railroad and became very wealthy. He built a dam and had several mills on the Little Miami River. In 1846 he purchased a beautiful Ionic-columned house near South Lebanon. It was owned by the Roosa and related families until 1863 when it was sold to John M. Hayner, another Lebanon businessman. In 1970 it was restored in Sharon Woods Village as the Hayner House.

At his death November 26, 1846, Matthias Roosa owned 533 acres in Warren County and additional tracts in Clermont and Hamilton Counties. He and his first wife, Elizabeth, are buried in Hopewell Cemetery.

Christian Crist Family

The Christian Crist family of Montgomery, Orange County, New York, may or may not have been with the original 1795 group of settlers, but they were also related and are represented in the very early history of Montgomery. The pioneer Cincinnati newspaper, *Western Spy*, lists letters waiting for son Moses Crist in 1799.

Christian, son of Johannis Martinus Crist and Anna Elizabeth Slemmer (her older sister Maria Catharine was Mathias Felter's mother), was born May 15, 1749. He married Elizabeth Weller (sister of Mathias' first wife) on October 31, 1765. It is difficult to ascertain his Revolutionary War service as several Christian Crists (most probably cousins) were in Orange and Ulster County Regiments. But the most likely would be the service listed in the 4th Regiment, Orange County Militia, under Colonel John Hathorn and Captain Mathias Felter.

Christian brought his ten children, ages four to 28, to Ohio, but there is no record of Elizabeth and she may have died before the trip. Christian died in 1812 and is buried in Hopewell Cemetery.

Children of Christian and Elizabeth Weller Crist:

Peter, b. 1768, married Ruth Osborne, 1784-1860.

George Weller, b. 1770, married Sarah Bell, widow of John Cunningham; died in Liberty, Indiana.

Moses, b. 1773, married in 1833 Cynthia Rude, 1786-1832; both buried in Hopewell.

Saloman, b. 1776.

Joseph, b. 1778, married Catharine Terwilliger; she is buried in Hopewell.

Elizabeth, b. 1781.

Abraham, b. 1783, married Margaret Snyder.

Cornelius, 1787-1859, married Sarah Moore, 1791-1876, died in Indiana; Trustee in 1829 of Hopewell Church.

Elias, b. 1789.

Anna, b. 1791.

About 1808 Abraham Crist married Margaret Snyder, daughter of Cornelius. They purchased 108.3 acres on what is now Zig Zag Road from Isaac Jones who had previously purchased it from John Cleves Symmes. The house was built of sun-dried brick. He later sold it to his brother Cornelius, who with his wife Sarah lived there for 33 years. They made several additions to the original house. The house, at 9854 Zig Zag Road, known as the Crist house, is a Montgomery Landmark building. Abraham and Margaret were members of Hopewell Church and had six children baptized there.

Cornelius and Sarah were also members and had nine children baptized at Hopewell. Their son, Ebenezer, 1820-1894, married Sarah L. Terwilliger.



The Abraham Crist home on Zig Zag Road.

Harmanus Taulman Family

The Harmanus Taulman family was in Hamilton County as early as 1795, but they were not part of the Orange County group. Harmanus was born in 1731 in Tappan, New York. He married his second wife, Catherine Blauvelt, in 1774. He was a private in the Revolution and was imprisoned by the British in New York. He died January 22, 1796, in Hamilton County and is buried in Columbia Presbyterian Cemetery. He left a widow, his third wife Ann, and she, according to Probate Court Records, had married Nathaniel Terwilliger by January 1797. In February 1797 Cornelius Snyder was appointed guardian of John Taulman, age 18.

Children of Harmanus and Catherine Blauvelt Taulman:

Harmanus, 1777-1842, never married; buried Hopewell Cemetery.

John, 1779-1833, married Elizabeth Burns, 1792-1876; members of Hopewell Church; John, an 1826

trustee, had eight children; died in Indiana.
 Joseph, 1780-1818, married Hannah.
 Beletye, b. 1782.
 Margarietye, b. 1784.

Harmanus, the son, became a shoe and harness maker in Montgomery. He took an interest in the youngsters of the village and had definite ideas about education. When he died June 16, 1842, he willed \$1,000 to Montgomery School. This was the earliest bequest for public schools made in the country. The principal sum was to remain intact, but it could be loaned out on first mortgages. Eventually the fund was turned over to the Sycamore School District.

When a new high school was needed in the 1970s, Edwin Greene, Sycamore superintendent, met with the son of Walter D. Taulman, a descendent of John Taulman, whose five acres on the north side of Cornell Road were needed for the school complex. Mr. Greene persuaded Mr. Taulman's son, Walter Jr., and his daughter, Helen Taulman Waterman, to donate the land. When the new school was dedicated November 3, 1974, Mr. Taulman's son, daughter, and granddaughter were in attendance. The name "Taulman Tennis Courts" honors the father, who was a sports enthusiast, and a plaque attached to the fence reads: "In honor of Hermanus Taulman who gave \$1,000 to the Montgomery School District: A friend of youth and education."

The Walter Taulman house still stands at 7439 Cornell Road. It is a two-story wood and stucco building built in the early 1800s. It was owned by the Taulman family until 1972.

Joseph Taulman, born November 28, 1780, was appointed the first postmaster of Montgomery in 1812, and tax collector in 1815. His two-story frame house at 7786 Cooper Road is now a Montgomery Landmark building.

Joseph and his wife Hannah both died in 1818 and are buried in Hopewell Cemetery, along with their young son Harmonis. In April 1819, Jacob Felter was appointed guardian of their three surviving young children: Eliza, Caroline and Peter.



Harmanus Taulman's grave in Hopewell Cemetery.

THE EARLY SETTLERS

The Ayers Family

Ebenezer Ayers, born c. 1753, who served in the Revolutionary War, came to Cincinnati around 1794. He had three sons. One son, John, born c. 1775, settled in Montgomery in 1802. Family records indicate he built the first ocean-going vessel in Cincinnati. His father was a designer and builder of ocean vessels in New York. By 1819 Montgomery had a shop where boats were made to take food and other provisions down the river to New Orleans.

In 1803, the same year Ohio became a state, the electors of the new Sycamore Township were directed to meet at the home of John Ayers in the village of Montgomery to choose three justices of the peace. John Ayers was selected as one, as was Cornelius Snyder.

Children of John and Catherine were Samuel, Levi, John, David, Henry, Isaac, Sallie, Betsy, Mary, Rachel, and James who was the youngest. James married Catharine Riker, born in 1795. She left Pennsylvania in 1810 and came to Montgomery. Catharine died at age 83 and was a member of the Montgomery Presbyterian Church for at least 55 years. Both she and James are buried at Hopewell Cemetery.

James attended a locally famous circus that arrived in Montgomery in 1812 and played to more than 50 onlookers. In 1829 he was named a justice of the peace.

Besides constructing a two-story brick building from sunburned bricks at the northwest corner of Cooper and Montgomery Roads, he, like his father and grandfather, built keels of ships in the village. His home at 9423 Montgomery Road is a Montgomery Landmark.

One of the beautiful stained glass windows in the present Fellowship Baptist Church, originally the Hopewell (Montgomery Presbyterian) Church, is in memory of the Ayers family. There is an anchor delineated in blue glass presumably combining the symbol of the shipbuilding profession with the religious symbolism of God as an anchor in one's life. This memorial window, presented by relatives in memory of James Ayers and his wife Catherine, was installed in the church during remodeling in 1890.

Ayers-Smethurst union

James and Catharine's daughter, Sarah Ayers, married William Smethurst, Sr., on November 11, 1846. They had seven children, two of whom died young. Mr. Smethurst, born in Pittsford, New York, in 1820, had come to Montgomery, Ohio, with his parents at age four. The Smethursts farmed on Cooper Road, and the house stands today at 6557 Cooper Road on the site of their farm. Their son Lloyd was elected the first mayor of Montgomery when it was incorporated in 1910. Other children were William, Samuel, Mary and Jenny. William Smethurst married Lillian Ferris of Blue Ash. They lived in both communities, and William Smethurst worked for the Cincinnati, Lebanon & Northern Railroad. Their daughter Gerry is married to the 1995 mayor of Blue Ash, Walter L. Reuszer.

Lloyd Smethurst was clerk of the Universalist Church in 1891. A carpenter by trade, Mr. Smethurst also worked for the Cincinnati, Lebanon & Northern Railroad.

The James Lloyd Smethurst home at 7850 Remington Road, built about 1869, is a Montgomery Landmark.

Lloyd Smethurst Brown, born in New York state in 1822, came as an orphan to live with his uncle, Lloyd Smethurst. He learned tin-smithing and operated a store in Montgomery until 1846. In 1875 he was elected to the Ohio legislature. He died four years later.

Crain Family

The Crain name appears on records in Montgomery. Curtis and Elihu Crain were listed as Sycamore Township taxpayers in 1808.

William Crain, the village blacksmith, built his home at 9463-65 Montgomery Road in 1820. This federal-style brick building with two front doors, is not only a Montgomery Landmark building, but it is the second building in the Universalist Church Historic District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Jonathan Crain built the home at 9441 Main Street in 1842. It is also a Montgomery Landmark building. Mr. Crain first outlined where the house would be built with flagstones that are visible today and one can walk on from the parking lot. These stones are laden with fossils. He finished the house three years later and the Crains, with their three-year-old daughter, Mary, moved in. In a newspaper interview in 1925, Mary Crain Kennedy, at age 93, said she had lived in the house continuously for 80 years.

Before a recent remodeling, a door was built into the staircase in the original part of the house that, when shut, made the staircase look as if it were part of the wall. Parents would scoot their youngsters to the loft upstairs if danger was imminent.

Jonathan Crain, 1818-1891, was the son of Oliver and Abigail Crain. Jonathan had eight sisters and brothers. One sister married Andrew McGrew, another married John Megie. The Megie homestead was built in 1801 at 10002 Zig Zag Road and was torn down after 1960.

In 1843 Jonathan married Catherine Riker, daughter of Thomas and Mary Riker. They had four children. Mary, 1844-1865, married Ambrose Kennedy in 1865. One of their children, Alice, married John Johnston of Blue Ash, brother of Pliny Johnston, local educator and historian. Descendants of the Crains live in the area today: Ruth Johnston Wood and Parke Brewster "Bud" Johnston. They have contributed deeds and tax records signed by Jonathan Crain to the Montgomery Historical Society and provided the Crain genealogy.

The Weller Family

Lodowick Weller was born on November 17, 1779, at Newburg, Orange County, New York. He migrated west and married Lydia Miller in April, 1809, in Hamilton County, Ohio. They lived in Butler County, Ohio, where John was born in Hamilton on February 22, 1812. Sometime later the family moved to Montgomery where Charles was born on September 4, 1821.

On September 12, 1815, Lodowick Weller filed a plat in the village of Montgomery. He is the first owner of an early saltbox house at 7795 Cooper Road that is a designated Montgomery Landmark building.



Sarah Ayers, granddaughter of James Ayers, married William Smethurst, Sr., in 1846. This undated photo was taken on their Cooper Road farm. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Walter Reuszer.

He was a trustee of the Hopewell Presbyterian Church beginning in 1823. Lodowick Weller was probably related to Elizabeth and Catherine Weller, sisters, of Montgomery, New York, who married, respectively, Christian Crist and Mathias Felter.

His son John attended Miami University and studied law. From 1833-1836 he was prosecuting attorney of Butler County. As a Democrat John Weller served in Congress from March 4, 1839, to March 3, 1845.

When the Mexican War started, John joined the army as a lieutenant-colonel and later was promoted to colonel during 1846-47. He returned to Ohio after the war and ran for Governor of Ohio in 1848 but was unsuccessful.

In 1849-1850 he served as a member of the federal commission to establish the boundary line between California and Mexico. In 1850 he moved to California where he opened a law office and was elected a Democratic senator from California to the United States Senate in 1850, serving from 1851-1857.

John Weller was elected Governor of California, serving from 1858-1860. President James Buchanan appointed him Minister to Mexico on November 7, 1860. He served as a delegate to the 1864 Democratic National Convention and then moved to New Orleans in 1867. At the age of 63, a man who had been in the public eye from the age of 21, he died in New Orleans on August 17, 1875.

Weller Street in Montgomery, renamed Remington Road, and Weller Road in the northern portion of Montgomery are named for his father, Lodowick Weller. There is a Weller Street in San Francisco, and one in Hamilton, Ohio, named after John Weller.

William Weller came from Montgomery, New York, at approximately the same time as Lodowick. Two of his descendants live in this area — Marilyn Kuebler Schlosser lives in the house on West Street in Montgomery that her grandfather, George Arstingstall, built in 1901; Bob Weller lives in Maineville. George Arstingstall drove a horse-pulled carriage called an omnibus between Cincinnati and Columbus when Montgomery Road had toll houses every four miles. For snowy weather there were sleigh runners for the omnibus.

Marilynn remembers her mother, daughter of Alice Weller Bell, talking about brick-making kilns that were located behind the old town hall (where Montgomery Elementary School is today). Marilyn and Bob said the Montgomery Wellers are related to the Weller potters in Zanesville, Ohio.

Yost Family and Miller Family

The simple wood frame building at 7872 Cooper Road was both a home and a place of business for Abraham Yost, who operated a tavern there in the early 1800s. It was situated at the junction of two Indian trails, the Shawnee and the Miami. He is probably the same Abraham Yost who is listed as an 1808 Sycamore Township taxpayer.

Yost Tavern was a thriving business as horse-drawn wagon trains brought produce north from Cincinnati, and Montgomery was a first logical overnight stop.

In 1870 White Miller, after having fought in the Mexican War, purchased the house, and the property remained in the Miller family until 1968 when Marion Kjellenberg persuaded the "Miller girls," Margaret, Helen and Irene, to preserve the house by selling it to the Montgomery Kiwanis Club. Irene Miller, great granddaughter of White Miller, said that one of her ancestors, Hattie Johnston, used to deliver eggs to the tavern when she was a small girl, for which she was paid three cents a dozen.

When the Kiwanis Club took over the house, they allowed the Montgomery Historical Society to choose what they wished to preserve before auctioning the remainder of the contents. McGuffey and Baldwin

readers, old Bibles and books, as well as newspaper clippings were then housed in the Sycamore Library for safekeeping until the time when the historical society had a home for these articles.

The Kiwanis Club turned the building over to the City of Montgomery in 1979 and it is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Yost Tavern is also a designated Montgomery Landmark building.

John Meeker

John Meeker, a Revolutionary War soldier buried at Hopewell Cemetery in Montgomery, was born in Elizabeth, Essex County, New Jersey, in 1759 to John and Phebe Clark Meeker. He was called into service from Essex County where he lived until after the Revolutionary War. He served with Captain Benjamin Lane and Colonel Jackamiah Smith at Elizabeth Town, New Jersey. He was at Staten Island when the British landed, returned to Elizabeth Town to build a fort, then served under several additional officers during tours of duty and was discharged in 1778. He moved to the state of New York where he lived for six years.

About 1783, John married Elizabeth Lambert in New Jersey. She was born on May 10, 1768, to Daniel and Mary Randolph Lambert, early residents of Columbia Township in Hamilton County and listed on land records in Ohio prior to 1798. John and Elizabeth moved to Ohio and were on the tax rolls in Sycamore Township in 1808. When he applied for a pension in Hamilton County in September 1832 at 74 years of age, persons he listed as having known him in his present neighborhood included Bathuel Norris, Othniel Bates, John Snyder, David Snyder, N. Schoonmaker and Abraham Miller. Signing his sworn statement were Daniel Hayden, minister of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, and Jacob Felter. His pension of 46 dollars and 66 cents per annum was granted to commence March 4, 1831.

John died September 7, 1835, and Elizabeth on August 26, 1837. Both are buried at Hopewell Cemetery. Children of John and Elizabeth Meeker:

Randolph, 1784-1809, m. 1809 Lydia. He is buried at Hopewell.

Sarah, d. before 1835.

Elizabeth b.c.1788, m. 1810 John Swaim, Hamilton County, Ohio.

John Jr., 1790-1834, m. 1811 Margaret, both buried at Hopewell as well as some grandchildren.

Mary, 1798-1873, m. c. 1816 1) John Frazier, 2) c. 1837 Israel Brush. Buried in Clermont County.

Phebe, 1803-1861, m. 1829 1) Annanias Dunbar, 2) Urias Keelor. Buried Union Cemetery, Hamilton, Ohio.

Christopher Constable

Christopher Constable was born July 22, 1803, in Montgomery, Orange County, New York. His parents were John and Anna Maria Kimberg Constable. He was the youngest of 12 children. He and other siblings who came to Hamilton County between 1820-1826 were: Adam who married Charlotte Bodine; George who married Susan Crans; and Anna Maria who married Marcus Bodine.

Christopher married Jane Clark, daughter of William Clark on December 22, 1826. In the census records he is listed as a harness maker by trade. His children were: Alexander, Elizabeth Jane Cuning, John N., James D., and Mary McGrew.

In July 1830 Christopher bought 50 acres of land for \$800 from Benejah Ayres. This land was in Sycamore Township and part of the Carpenter's Run community in Blue Ash.

Christopher died on April 30, 1884, at 80 years and nine months of age. His wife and children are buried in Hopewell Cemetery.

Adam Grover

In 1803 a home was erected for Adam Grover at 10305 Montgomery Road. The sun-cured bricks that formed the house were made on the premises. Mr. Grover gave property at the southwest corner of Montgomery and Deerfield roads for Hopewell Cemetery and Presbyterian Church, although the deed was not recorded for many years.

The house served as a stage coach tavern in the 1820s and it is thought was one of the houses on the Underground Railroad during the Civil War.

In the 1950s and 60s this was also the home of Marion Kjellenberg, village historian and owner-publisher of the *Sycamore Messenger* newspaper. Shelly and Pliny Johnston researched and published two books of Montgomery's history in the 1960's that contain colorful anecdotes gleaned from early residents still living at that time.

Eli Dusky

Eli Dusky came to Montgomery not long after the first settlers from New York. He is listed on the 1808 Sycamore Township taxpayer list and he filed a plat of Montgomery on March 11, 1820.

Richard Nelson's 1874 *Suburban Homes* reports an interesting anecdote about him:

A remarkable man was Eli Dusky, whose 'mark' may be seen in the records of the county. He was noted alike for industry, simplicity of character, and the limited amount of learning with which he was able to transact the business of life.

In politics, religion, and business he was guided rather by instinct than knowledge or reason. He believed in ghosts and hobgoblins, and fairies were great facts as well as mysteries of his creed. This was known to the neighbors, and they were not slow in taking advantage of such notions.

On a certain occasion, Eli had a prosperous sugar camp not far from his home. His blazing fire was rapidly converting sap into delicious maple syrup, and his barrels were waiting for the first installment, when the shades of evening approaching, he slackened his fire, prepared his camp for the night, and went to his home ruminating over his probable good luck in securing a good crop.

Supper disposed of, Eli retired to his quiet couch, but had scarcely experienced his first nocturnal vision (for he was a great dreamer) when he was roused by the barking of his faithful dog. Quickly dressing, he sallied forth and soon was in plain sight of his factory, where, to his consternation, he beheld, flitting about in the dim light of the subdued fire, the figures of full grown elves to the number of half a dozen.

Spectres they were, sure enough, full fledged fairies! Eli did not linger long in selecting a line of retreat. The house reached, the door was soon opened and gain securely fastened, and Eli Dusky safe from intrusion. That night the fairies enjoyed a rich feast, and got home in good time for a sound nap before daylight.

Eli Dusky died January 23, 1828, at almost 73 years of age and is buried at Hopewell Cemetery. Magdalene Dusky, a member of Hopewell Church, died on March 12, 1827. She could have been the wife of Eli Dusky.

Wilder Family

In 1832 when Montgomery had 270 residents, James and Susan Wilder and their six children came from Chepacket, Rhode Island, by steamboat and the Erie Canal Barge. The Erie Canal opened in 1832 and the thought of the family using this new form of transportation adds an adventuresome aspect to these courageous Wilders who left comfortable circumstances in Rhode Island where their family had a fabric dyeing business.

James' brother, Stephen, who had come from Chepachet several years earlier, sold him 76 2/3 acres along Cooper and Zig Zag roads (once Wilder Road). As Stephen had purchased the property from Abraham Crist and John and Elizabeth Taulman, it is possible Abraham Crist lived in the eastern and earliest portion of the present house at 7650 Cooper Road — the single room with the fireplace; one occupant of the house said a beam was discovered in the loft bearing the inscription "1809."

Several architects feel the two-story part of the house was added in the 1840s, and the Todds, who were the last owners of the house before the property was sold to the developers in the 1970s, said the kitchen (Montgomery Historical Society office) was added in 1935.

James Wilder was a direct descendant of Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island, and William White, one of the 102 Mayflower passengers.

Two of the Wilder sons, Benjamin and William, left Montgomery with their brother Asaph to settle in Sacramento, California, where they married two sisters who were survivors of the Donner Pass families. The Donner Pass tragedy occurred in the now-famous Donner Pass in the High Sierra Nevada mountains during the winter of 1846-47.

Mary McGregor Miller and Margaret McGregor, now living in Springfield, Ohio, are direct descendants of James and Susan Wilder and have generously given important artifacts made by their ancestors to the Montgomery Historical Society.

In 1879 the Wilder property was sold to William Blair, a farmer. His widow sold it to William T. Swaim in 1917, and the farmland was converted to the Swaim Fields Golf Course in 1933. The property was sold to Paul Brothers in 1976 for a residential subdivision. The City of Montgomery purchased 13 acres for a park. The Wilder-Swaim house is the headquarters of the Montgomery Historical Society, is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is a designated Montgomery Landmark building.



Susan and James Wilder.

Bowen Family

Benjamin Bowen, 1784-1846, and his wife, Lucina Sayles Bowen, 1789-1852, came to Hamilton County, Ohio, about 1828 from Gloucester, Rhode Island. Benjamin was the son of Dr. Joseph Bowen, a Revolutionary War veteran. They were descendants of an early settler (1640) to Rehoboth, Massachusetts. Lucina Bowen was a descendant of Roger Williams, founder of the Colony of Providence and the State of Rhode Island.

All but one of their nine children were born in Rhode Island: Jabez, Clark S., Francis, Elizabeth Ann, Benjamin, Clovis H., Henry C., William F., and Pardon M. Daughter Hannah was born in Ohio.

Settling first in Cincinnati, Benjamin purchased about 105 acres in Sycamore and Symmes Townships in 1836 and 1838. Some land was parcelled from Felix Rude and Joseph Snider lands — Montgomery Road at Harper's Point today.

Active members of the Montgomery Universalist Church, which may have drawn them to the area, Benjamin, one of the church's first trustees, and his family were contributors to the making of bricks for

construction of the church. Benjamin and Lucina and many descendants are buried in the pioneer section of Hopewell Cemetery.

Most of Benjamin's and Lucina's children began their married lives in the Montgomery area:

Jabez Bowen was a blacksmith in Sycamore Township from about 1835-1880. He and his wife were members of the Universalist Church.

Clark S. Bowen lived in the Montgomery area with his wife Elisheba. They had two daughters and a son, Joseph G. Bowen. Clark is buried at Hopewell Cemetery.

Several Bowens married into the Hunt family of Blue Ash.

Francis S. Bowen owned a large farm along U. S. Highway 42 (Reading Road) just north of the present I-275 interchange. He married Rachel Morris Hunt, daughter of Blue Ash early settlers Isaac and Hannah Carpenter Hunt.

Elizabeth Ann Bowen married John Craig Hunt, son of Isaac and Hannah Hunt. They were members of the Universalist Church.

Benjamin Bowen, 1820-1907, married Harriett Goldtrap, daughter of William and Naomi Hunt Goldtrap who lived in the Humphrey Road/Loveland-Madeira Road area. Benjamin purchased his father's original lands from the heirs in 1853 and is believed to have moved to Brown County, Indiana, where he raised his family. Benjamin is buried at Hopewell Cemetery.

Clovis H. Bowen's first wife was Mary Jane. After she died at age 21, he married Lucinda Hunt, daughter of Isaac Hunt. Clovis lived in the Montgomery area until after 1860.

Henry C. Bowen and his wife Mary lived in the Montgomery area until 1880. He was a trader.

William F. Bowen and his wife Salina and three sons — John N., John E., and Benjamin — lived in the Montgomery area after 1860. They were members of the Universalist Church.

Pardon Morandum Bowen was the youngest son of Benjamin and Lucina and is probably the best remembered. He married Narsissa Jane Ferris and lived in the Montgomery area all of his life.

Pardon was a woodworker, starting as a wagon maker and later as a coffin maker and cabinet maker. When his house was demolished to make way for the post office in Montgomery in 1961, coffins were said to have been found in the attic.

Pardon and Narsissa had a large family and owned a 50-acre farm on Cooper Road across from the present Sycamore Junior High School. He also operated his business from his house on Cooper Road. His son, Elmer Ellsworth Bowen, kept the farm on Cooper for some time after his father's death. He then relocated to Madisonville, Ohio, where he raised a family. Today descendants of the family include George Bowen of Madeira, Ohio, and Robert Bowen of Newtown, Ohio.



Pard Bowen and Betsy Todd were the oldest residents in 1910 when Montgomery voted to incorporate. The view in the background of this 1910 newspaper photo shows Montgomery Road looking north at the corner of Cooper Road. Will Todd's general store is at the corner, now the Village Tavern.

Addison-Blair Families

Unlike marriages today in which the two families involved may not know each other, the girls in 19th century Montgomery often married “the boy next door,” or on the next farm.

For example, daughters of Jonathan Addison and his wife Nancy Brown Addison, who came to Montgomery in 1835, married neighbors. Clarissa Addison married William Hayes Blair, and Mary Addison married Jacob Roosa, son of one of the village’s founders.

Jonathan, 1800-1874, and Nancy, 1804-1888, were born and raised in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Jonathan’s father, Jacob, a Revolutionary War soldier, had come to Sussex County, Delaware, in the early 1700s.

The Addisons joined the Montgomery Hopewell Presbyterian Church and lived in one of the village’s earliest houses, the Crist House c. 1815 at 9854 Zig Zag Road, now a Montgomery Landmark. The deed was recorded in 1848, but the house was purchased earlier. Both Addisons are buried in the pioneer section of Hopewell Cemetery.

Also buried in Hopewell Cemetery are the Blairs. James, 1848-1921, son of Clarissa and William Blair, built the Blair-Barker house at 7844 Remington Avenue for his bride, Annie Cosbey. James Blair was a cattle buyer for the family meat business, Blair and Ferris Meats, visiting neighboring towns and farms to find cattle to butcher. Annie Phoebe Cosbey, 1853-1925, was the daughter of Adam Lee Cosbey, 1816-1899, and Mary Jane Ferris Cosbey, 1819-1871. The Blair-Barker House is also a Montgomery Landmark as well as being on the National Register of Historic Places. James and Annie’s daughter Louella married Albert Barber whose daughter, Marjorie Barber Schuster, supplied this information and lives in Kenwood today.

Annie Cosbey Blair’s nephew, Earl Cosbey, gave land to the Montgomery Presbyterian Church on which the present church on Zig Zag was built.

The northeast corner of Montgomery and Remington roads has greatly changed in the last 200 years. In this photo is seen William Swaim’s house; he was the school principal in the late 19th century. To the north where Otmar Furniture is now was a large inn and barn where teamsters stayed overnight on their journey to Cincinnati. To the rear of the Swaim house were cabins in the 1930s-1960s where travelers could spend the night. This is also the area where the first rustic school building was located by the early Montgomery settlers. This photo was taken in 1969, shortly before the Swaim house was razed.



II. LATE 19TH CENTURY FAMILIES

SWAIM FAMILY / TODD FAMILY

The Swaim Family

William T. Swaim came to Montgomery as principal of Montgomery School in 1873. His wife was Sarah Bonnell of Indian Hill. The story goes that when they had a disagreement, he would throw up his hands and declare it was her “Frenchified” ways of looking at things. He must have secretly admired those ways as he later tried to hire a Frenchman from Cincinnati to teach ballroom dancing to the young ladies of Montgomery. However, Charles Ekermeier, head of the school board, refused to allow the school house used for such “citized” activities, and started a square dance program instead.

William Swaim was considered a village historian. He lived across the intersection of Remington and Montgomery Roads from the Universalist Church and enjoyed telling stories of its origin.

The Swaims had two daughters, Bertha and Harriet. Harriet, who never married, started the first historical society in the mid-1940s in Montgomery to raise funds for the preservation of the Universalist Church.

Bertha, 1879-1961, married Delbert Todd, 1876-1959, in 1905. He was employed as an auditor for the Cincinnati Milling Machine Company until the Depression in the 1930s. They had four children: William Swaim, Eleanor, Jane and Miles Nicholas. (See Todd section.) After William T. Swaim’s death, Bertha and “Doc” (Delbert’s nickname) and Bertha’s sister, Harriet, inherited the farm land their father had purchased at Zig Zag and Cooper Road. They converted the farm land into a public golf course which Bertha and Doc’s son, Nicholas, operated for the family.

Nick’s brother, William, operated the golf course after Nick’s death in 1968 until the course was sold. The first nine holes opened in 1934 and the course was enlarged to 18 holes in 1941. In 1956 another nine holes were added on the south side of Cooper Road. The golf course was sold in 1976 with the majority of the acreage developed into Swaim Fields residential subdivision and 13 acres, purchased by Montgomery, turned into a public park. (See Recreation section for additional information on Swaim Fields.)

Bertha Swaim Todd’s obituary describes her as a “colorful person.” She died at age 81 and lived her entire life in Montgomery although traveled the world several times and spent long periods in Europe. She was an accomplished pianist and organist and attended Cincinnati College of Music. Her obituary also states that “despite all her travels, her first love was Montgomery where she was born. She had much concern for the old Universalist Church and was hopeful . . . that it could be restored.”



Harriet Swaim organized the first effort to restore the Universalist Church in 1944.

The Todd Family

Elizabeth Todd Jones

Two children of Captain John and Sarah Todd of New Jersey, Elizabeth and John, migrated to southwest Ohio in the early 1800s. They settled just south of Montgomery and many of their progeny lived in the village and played an active role in Montgomery through the years.

Elizabeth Todd, 1768-1857, married James Jones, 1765-1834, in New Jersey, after which they moved to Ohio and settled on land south of Montgomery near Galbraith Road. James acquired 424 acres of land between 1803 and 1810, and built one of the first brick kilns (or chimneys) in the area. A sketch of their lives written by a granddaughter, Marian Cregar, described how this resourceful man “built a kiln and made bricks for his house, built a church in Montgomery . . . made the glass for the windows of his own house and the church, giving the best and clearest to the church. He also supplied his neighbors with glass and sold them bricks. He had a gorgeous coach in which Elizabeth rode in state”

The church mentioned is the Hopewell (Montgomery) Presbyterian Church on Shelly Lane constructed between 1829 and 1833. James was an elder in the Hopewell congregation from 1809 until his death in 1834. The couple had 11 children. Their son John Todd Jones and his wife Elizabeth were members of Hopewell Church where he was an elder and delegate to the Presbytery. His house stands today at 7111 E. Galbraith Road. Their son, Ludwill Gaines Jones, 1822-1860, was given the name of an early 1800s minister of Hopewell Presbyterian Church.

John Todd

Elizabeth Todd Jones’ brother, John Todd, 1776-1857, and his wife, Ann Phoenix, 1783-1861, came to Ohio from New Jersey about 1805, coming down the Ohio in a flatboat group, their migration influenced by the prior move of James and Elizabeth Jones who were well established by 1805. John Todd was an industrious and successful farmer and accumulated 323 acres of land between 1810 and 1829. Some of those purchases were from Matthias Kugler, John Stewart and Abraham Crist, all familiar names of early settlers in the Montgomery-Sycamore Township area. John and Ann and their children were members of the Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Montgomery. In 1820 John Todd was elected clerk of that meeting and again in 1821. Their house once stood southeast of the intersection of Miami and Galbraith Roads.

Their children were Nicholas, William, Sarah, Eliza, John, James and Mahlon. Sylvia (1900-1970) and Mary (1898-1983) Todd, daughters of James and Margaret Littell Todd, were active in preserving not only their Todd family history but the 100-year history of Hopewell Presbyterian Church. The Todd sisters lived in the over 100-year-old family home on Montgomery Road until it was razed in the early 1970s.



The stone house built by Nicholas Todd in the 1830s. It stands today next to Dana Motors on Montgomery Road.



The Sylvia and Mary Todd home on Montgomery Road at Kennedy Lane, razed in the early 1970s for office building.

Nicholas Todd

Nicholas, 1803-1894, married Mary Baxter Harper, 1808-1894, of Montgomery in 1831. They lived in a stone house at 8765 Montgomery Road, Nicholas' father having bought the property two years prior to their wedding. The historic house stands today. Eventually, Nicholas owned the house and about 150 acres of land. He and Mary and their family of 10 children, some of whom died in infancy, lived in the big stone house. Their children married neighbors with familiar names: Kennedy, Vorhis, Parrott, Keller, Crugar. They were members of Hopewell Church in Montgomery. It was Mary Harper Todd who bravely resisted Morgan's Raiders during the Civil War. (That anecdote appears in the Morgan's Raiders section.)

Isaac Todd Family

A son of Nicholas and Mary Todd, Isaac, 1834-1923, married Mary Jane Kennedy in 1861. Isaac farmed on 27 acres he inherited from his father and the Kennedy acreage adjacent to the north which Mary was to inherit from her parents. He fostered the Todd family interest in pacing and trotting horses. Ed Keller, a contributing writer to the turf magazine *Horseman and Fair World*, wrote in a 1963 article: "The Todd farm was one of the first in the Cincinnati area that had its own half-mile track, built in the early 1870s. Remodeled in 1887, it was of regulation size and became the scene of some spirited race meets and matinees, and the home training quarters of the Todd stable"

The 27 acres where the one-half mile track was first built in Nicholas' day was still in use when passed on to his grandson Clifford, with the parents living on the Kennedy land to the north. Cliff became a widely known owner and driver of standard bred horses, trotters and pacers, and the line of horses could be traced back to a mare abandoned by Morgan's Raiders during the Civil War.

Clifford, a sixth generation Todd, 1873-1942, married Mary Jane (May) Perin, 1880-1969, of Montgomery in 1904. They had five children: Clifford, Ethel Perin, Hawley, Ruth and Franklin Perin. May's ancestry can be traced back to the early Kugler and Waldschmidt settlers in eastern Hamilton County. The Perin house in which she lived stands today and with an addition and conversion is the location of Chester's Roadhouse. In her later years May lived with her son and daughter-in-law, Hawley and Barbara Todd, in the latter's home on Wards Corner Road, Miamiville. After the death of Clifford Todd, the family sold the property on Montgomery Road. It is now the location of All Saints Roman Catholic Church and Moeller High School.

Clifford Todd, Jr., 1904-1954, married Elizabeth Cost and then Hilda Freudenthaler. Children of Clifford and Betty Cost Todd were Thomas Walter and Joanne. John Harry was born to Clifford and Hilda Freudenthaler Todd. Clifford was elected mayor of Montgomery in 1952, previously serving on council for ten years. He graduated from Withrow High School and the University of Cincinnati in commercial engineering. He was with Cincinnati and Suburban Telephone Company for 16 years and during that time began an appliance business in Montgomery. His grandfather, Oliver Perin, was one of the incorporators of Montgomery.

Cliff and May's son Franklin was a graduate veterinarian of Ohio State University. He always had a brood mare or two with foal which developed into racing stock for local tracks. Frank Todd was a well-known figure in harness racing for 25 years.

William Nicholas, 1862-1936, oldest son of Isaac and Mary Jane Todd, married first Margaret Mullen (d. 1918) of Montgomery in 1900, then Lucy Glaser in 1923 (d. 1936). For 35 years Will Todd had a general store in a brick building at the northeast corner of Montgomery and Cooper Roads. He sold everything from "horse collars to crackers and cheese," according to his daughter Emily. His store was the village post office for years and Will Todd was the postmaster. He often drove for his brother, Clifford, in county fair harness races. Prior to his marriage he had cared for horses owned by the father of Cincinnati

manufacturer, Julius Fleischman. Margaret and William had three children: James who died young, Emily Duncan and Martha Washington.

Emily Duncan, b. 1905, married in 1941 Dan Rees, 1903-1963, an architect, who designed a number of buildings in the downtown business district of Montgomery as well as houses in the area, and whose prize-winning house plan appeared in *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine, attracting requests from the United States and Europe. Former Montgomery Mayor Florence Kennedy lives in a Dan Rees-designed home on Pfeiffer Road. Today Emily resides in the home of her childhood that belonged to her Mullen ancestors at 7881 Cooper Road. The brick portion of the house dates back to 1818.



Emily Todd Rees lives today in her Mullen family house at the corner of Main Street and Cooper Road.

Martha Washington, 1906-1980, married 1930 John Sherritt, 1906-1973. They had two children: William M. and John Timothy. John Sherritt was with the Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company, was active in the Montgomery Presbyterian Church and was sworn in as a mayor of Montgomery in 1954, one month after Mayor Cliff Todd died on June 28.

Delbert "Doc" Todd, 1876-1959, seventh of the eight sons of Isaac and Mary Jane Todd, married 1905 Bertha Swaim. (See Swaim section.) All of his brothers preceded him in death.

Doc and Bertha's oldest son, William Swaim-Todd, 1906-1994, returned to Montgomery where he was born after retiring from a 40-year business career in sales with U.S. Steel and he took over management of the family-owned golf course. A graduate of Withrow High School and Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, he lived on Zig Zag Road. In 1938 he married Mary C. Warne, 1911-1974, then married in 1974 Francis P. Fox, 1919-1986. Children of Bill and Mary are Russell Warne and Nancy Ann.

Bill's brother, Miles Nicholas "Nick," 1913-1968, married Elizabeth Davidson, 1915-1970. They lived in Montgomery and Nick assisted his parents in operation of the golf course. They had four children: William, Kathleen, Victoria and Harriet.

Bill and Nick's sisters married and moved out of town. Eleanor, born 1908, married Claibourne Patty of Little Rock, Arkansas. Jane, born 1912, married Robert Hoffman from Cleveland, Ohio.

Radabaugh Family

William Emmett Radabaugh came to the area in the early 1800s where he farmed land along Montgomery Road south of the present-day Weller Road. William Emmett's son, Benjamin, was the father of James L. who married Ada Pence on December 15, 1898.

James L. (Jim) Radabaugh was elected mayor of Montgomery in 1925 and served until December 31, 1943. During his term of office, city water and city electricity were brought to the village. He was a public works contractor, and his company paved Montgomery Pike in 1924, Kenwood Road, and other highways in the vicinity.

He ran for mayor in 1923 opposing incumbent Clifford Swift who tried many liquor violation cases during Prohibition, bringing a sum of money into the village coffers. Earlier historians have written that evidence from those violation cases disappeared but was sold on the streets of the village. Jim Radabaugh felt he could do a better job as mayor and ran against him. Stories were told of strongarming by prohibition agents from Norwood. One resident, Frank Blair, was accosted and told how to vote and promptly went home and got his shotgun. Some residents heard shotgun blasts, and it was not long until the two agents left town in a hurry. Mayor Swift won re-election in a close vote. Jim Radabaugh persevered, defeating Clifford Swift in 1925.



The Perin family home, later owned by Jim Radabaugh, and now Chester's Roadhouse, in an early 1900s photo.

Jim's brothers and sisters were Oren, Benjamin, Carl, Stella and Laura. Children of James L. are James D., Martha Hackett, Marion, Ruby Phinney, Raymond, Alfred William, Helen Phelan and Leonard.

Jim was a member of the Montgomery School Board and of the joint Montgomery-Blue Ash Board that operated the Sycamore High School on Cooper Road. He lived in a large two-story brick house at 9678 Montgomery Road (Chester's Roadhouse in 1995). The house was built in 1898 by Mr. Perin.

Blackerby Family

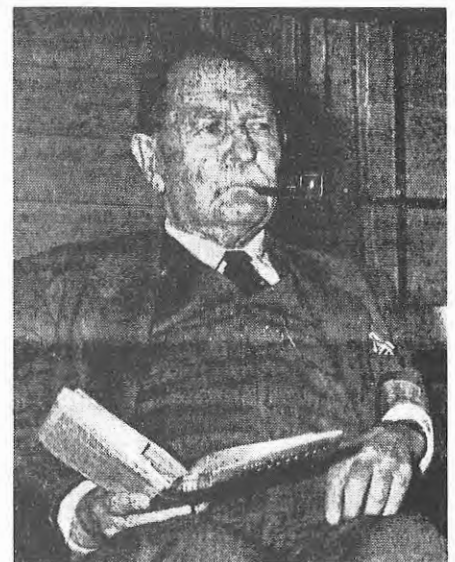
Dr. Jed Blackerby, one of the village's best known and most active residents, moved to Montgomery in 1898 with his wife Effie. He was born in Berlin, Kentucky, in 1860, and received his medical degree from the University of Louisville. He married Effie Mae Redden in 1892. The couple had two children — a daughter, Dorris, who died in 1922, and a son, Lynn.

Dr. Blackerby was the town physician for 47 years. He and his wife purchased the "old" home at the northeast corner of Main and Cooper Roads which in earlier years had been a tavern. Much later, in 1982, the house with hand-hewn beams a foot thick was the scene of a tragic airplane crash and was destroyed.

Not long after arriving in Montgomery, Dr. Blackerby was elected to the Montgomery School Board on which he served for many years. When the town was incorporated in 1910, he was elected to the first village council, serving for a number of years.

When Montgomery celebrated its 150th anniversary of its founding in 1945, Dr. Blackerby was one of the oldest residents at age 84. After an illness of five years, Dr. Blackerby died in 1949.

When Jane Adams (McDermott) came as a young woman to teach in the Montgomery School she lived with the Blackerbys and "was like a daughter to them." After she married Leo McDermott, they lived in the



Dr. Jed Blackerby at age 84 during Montgomery's 150th Anniversary celebration in 1945.

Blackerby house for several years. Mrs. McDermott, later principal of Montgomery Elementary School, lives today in the house she and her husband built on land that was originally part of the Blackerby property.

The Ekermeier Family

Dr. Charles W. Ekermeier, 1857-1930, was not only a man who loved Montgomery, but a man Montgomery loved. He was 73 years of age when he died of heart disease on July 11, 1930. He made his last call at midnight on the prior day, driving six miles to treat a diphtheria patient. Although ill, Dr. Ekermeier would not refuse a call from a patient.

He was known as the doctor who never sent out a bill. He served residents of the Montgomery area for 53 years, having six generations of one family in his practice. It was common that four generations of a family were among his patients.

He brought thousands into the world and was at their bedside when they left this world. The son of a physician who was also a preacher, Dr. Ekermeier played the organ in his youth in a Lutheran Church in Pleasant Ridge. One neighbor described him: "I don't know what church he belongs to now, if any, but his whole life has been a religion; every day a service."

Born in the village of Bonn, Ohio, he was educated at Miami University and the old Eclectic Medical College in Cincinnati. There were eight other physicians in his family. They included his father, William, who served as a pastor and physician for 47 years, founding several German Lutheran churches; his sister, Katharine A. Astler; her husband; their two sons; Charles' brother, S. M. Ekermeier; and his two sons.



Dr. Charles Ekermeier in a 1925 photo.

Charles Ekermeier married Irene Hosbrook, 1848-1930, who died the month before he did on June 6, 1930. They had three children: Mary M., 1886-1940; Charles H., 1891-1982; and William H., 1890-1964.

C. W. was an active member of the Montgomery School Board at the turn of the century. He composed a published song titled "The Montgomery Schottische" in 1911 that was played during the Bicentennial year, including a performance by the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra conducted by Keith Lockhart held at Montgomery Park on June 18, 1995.

During his early years of practice, Dr. Ekermeier rode on horseback to visit patients who remembered seeing his lonely figure riding on a horse on the most bitterly cold days. Time passed, and he served his patients, often going long distances in his buggy. People spoke of his faithfulness, for the way was never too long, or the weather too cold, or the night too dark when distress called him. Living some distance from a hospital and isolated from medical assistance, he was innovative in assisting patients. One time he fashioned an instrument from a stout willow twig stripped of its bark and curved slightly that he inserted to push a piece of meat through a man's throat.

In 1925 the town gave a party for their beloved doctor on his 68th birthday, held at the town hall where they presented him with a new \$1,000 automobile, a purse containing \$1,000, and a new medical case and equipment. Hundreds attended the celebration with an address from a classmate of Dr. Ekermeier's from

school, Dr. C. R. Campbell; music by life-long friend J. D. Meeker, fiddler; and a “picture gallery” that held hundreds of likenesses of babies delivered by Dr. Ekermeier.

His view of money was well known. He once said, “I do not consider money one of the emolument of medical service. In my opinion, science would be far more advanced were it not for monetary consideration. Scientific progress has been brought about in nearly every case by men not concerned with money.”

Son Charles H. Ekermeier was a musician and played in a military band. He was a veteran of World War I. C. W. and Irene’s son, William, married Julia Yost, 1892-1984, of Montgomery, and they lived on Plainville Road. Their son Frank, 1915-1982, married Gertrude Dunn, 1920-1985, and they had two children: James and Donald Frank. James and his wife, Gloria Bailey, have two children: Kenneth James and Julie Beyer. Many Ekermeyers are buried at Hopewell Cemetery.

Dr. Ekermeier lived in a plain house with no doctor’s shingle. His parlor was the office and the only sign of modernity in 1925 was a telephone in the corner. His house-office building was constructed in the 1880s, but the roof line and back of his building can be seen above and behind the stores now located along the east side of Montgomery Road north of Cooper Road.

The Lumley Family

The Patmore-Lumley house (c. 1810), a Montgomery Landmark at 7919 Cooper Road, housed the Crugar-Lumley family for more than 100 years. The house and four acres were purchased by Mrs. Rebecca Crugar in 1872. Her daughter, Antoinette August, was widowed when her husband was killed during the Civil War, so she and her two-month old daughter Florence came to live with Rebecca.

Florence married William Calvin Lumley, a salesman for Early and Daniels who sold flour to bakeries in Cincinnati. William took the train from Montgomery to work every day. As the Lumley family grew over the years, William added to the house. One of the children, Monroe, remembered helping his father cut down large maple trees in front of the house and sawing them into logs when they rebuilt Cooper Road, long before the big snow of 1918. Monroe also recalled the weight scales in front of Todd’s Grocery down the street from his house (where the Village Tavern is in 1995), and that sometimes Montgomery Road would be blocked off for a boxing ring.

Emily Lumley Van Pelt remembered attending Sunday School at the Universalist Church where she could count the number attending on her hands. They included the Ray Williamses, the Yost family, the William Rodds, the McKinneys, the Snyders, and Mr. Swaim who led the singing with a penknife in his hand. Shirley Murdough played the organ as did Bertha Todd who could “make that organ rock,” remembered Emily. The Lumley girls took piano lessons from Dorothy Hammel who lived with her husband Clarence, a surveyor, on Remington Avenue. She also remembered swimming in the summer time at the old iron bridge on Blome Road where they ice skated in the winter.

They all attended Montgomery School — the 1899 building — and her mother attended school at the old town hall built in 1857. Their grandmother Antoinette told them of school life in the 1830 building on Remington Road where naughty students were hung by their thumbs. Antoinette also attended the Academy at the corner of Remington and West Street (Shelly Lane) where young ladies went for an education beyond the 8th grade given at Montgomery School.

III. BUILDINGS — First Structures to the Present

When the first families from Montgomery, New York, chose to settle at Sycamore Creek south of Weller Road in October 1795, their first chore was to erect temporary protection for the coming cold winter months.

Rudimentary huts and quickly-built log cabins served as shelter at first. Anxious for a site on which to build permanent homes, they chose higher ground to the south for their settlement of the new community which they called Montgomery.

Cornelius Snyder bought section 4 in 1796 (north and west of Montgomery Road and Mitchell Farm Lane in 1995). Nathaniel Terwilliger bought a portion of section 3 to the south and laid out a plat for Montgomery that was recorded in 1802. It was in Terwilliger's subdivision along Mechanic or Mill Road (Cooper Road in 1995) that the earliest housing was built. Two saltbox houses, one frame and one brick, that first belonged to Lodowick Weller and David Snyder, were constructed on Cooper Road in 1809 and 1817 respectively and exist today. Yost Tavern, the community's earliest structure built in 1805, and John Osborn's Tavern built a few years later, were both located at the corners of present-day Main Street and Cooper Road. Yost Tavern still stands in 1995.



Yost Tavern. This photo was taken in the mid-1960s and shows Irene Miller whose family lived in the house since 1869. In the middle of this photo can be seen a cellar door that covered a round, brick-lined storage area for barrels of wine and spirits.

The state road, built in 1816 through Montgomery from the Cincinnati Court House to Todd's Fork north of Montgomery, prompted a second growth in buildings. A number of those buildings not only exist but are in use today, and with the Cooper Road buildings comprise a major portion of Montgomery's preserved historic landmark buildings. Eight are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and 22 that are designated Montgomery Historic Landmarks are in this Cooper-Remington-Montgomery Road historic downtown area.

A description of early Montgomery is contained in an 1816 book, *Thomas Travels Through the Western Country*: "Montgomery, a village of a dozen houses, twelve miles from Cincinnati." The number grew to a population of 500 by the end of the century and remained about that until shortly after World War II.

Richard Nelson who lived in Montgomery and wrote a history of the community in 1874 described Montgomery this way: "The cheapest place on the M&C railroad line, to buy property, all the conveniences considered, is probably Montgomery. Choice lots on leading thoroughfares were \$8 per front foot and land close to town cost \$300 an acre. Further out, \$100 per acre. This is a little above what it would have brought twenty years ago, but the recent improvements on the roads and the immediate prospect of two additional roads, together with the recent establishment of an omnibus line connecting with the

accommodation trains, will doubtless bring up the prices to the ordinary level.”

Six pre-1860 farm houses can be found still standing in Montgomery today:

9854 Zig Zag Road, Crist house c. 1815.

7650 Cooper Road, Wilder Swaim house c. 1832.

9611 Todd Drive, Bowen house c. 1840.

10305 Montgomery Road, Adam Grover house c. 1840.

9059 Kemper Road, Mahan house c. 1840.

9257 Montgomery Road, Creekwood Antiques c. 1861.

Another farm house, the Radabaugh house, 10598 Montgomery Road, c. 1830, was demolished in 1992.

Several homes on the south side of Cooper Road west of Main Street reflect housing in the latter part of the 1800s with several houses built prior to 1850. Today's yellow brick Greek revival two-story at the corner, 7881 Cooper Road, was built between 1825-1840. It is on the site of John Osborn's early tavern. Adjacent is the Hoffman house, c. 1870, an adaptation of Colonial Revival; at 7893 Cooper is the Cameron-Feintheil house, c. 1891, a Queen Anne recently restored; at 7913 Cooper the Mills-Hellman house, c. 1839-1847, which has Greek Revival elements with later additions; the Patmore-Lumley house at 7919 Cooper c. 1810 has elements of an early house, with additions and the front porch made after 1905; the residence at 7945 Cooper is a two-story brick with additions c. 1860; the Wooley-Kelsch house c. 1890 at 7967 Cooper is a Victorian structure which has been modified but with its essential style intact.

Other late-1800s houses of architectural significance are the Italianate Blair-Barker house c. 1875 at 7844 Remington, and the adjacent c. 1869 house at 7850 Remington, built for James Lloyd Smethurst, the Village of Montgomery's first mayor in 1910. This house originally sat at the corner of Montgomery and Remington and was moved to its current location in 1987 to save it from demolition. A Gothic Revival house at 7812 Remington Road was built c. 1840-1880 and contains a barn at the rear of the property. The Crain-Eberhard house, 7737 Remington, has the original solid-brick structure built by George Crain c. 1882.

Chester's Roadhouse at 9678 Montgomery Road was built c.1860 and is Greek Revival in style. Montgomery Village Mayor James L. Radabaugh occupied this house during the 20th century.

Few houses built during the early 1900s exist today. Scattered throughout the older section of the city are a few bungalows popular in the 1920s and are easily recognized by the front porch with a sloping roof. A cottage-style house is the Ray Williams residence on Remington Road built in 1930. The late Edith and Tom Behrens built a Dutch Colonial house at the south-east corner of Remington and Cooper Roads in 1929.

Ladell Ferris and Ray Williams in 1946 developed Montgomery's first residential subdivision on Ross Avenue and a portion



A Cincinnati Times-Star story June 21, 1941, headlined "Serenity and Beauty Found," had this photo which shows Montgomery Road where Montgomery Square Shopping Center is today. Two farms lay on both sides of the road: Mitchell's farm on the west side of the road and Lang's farm on the east.

of Campus Lane. They bought eight acres of land from Ray Radabaugh. A one-third acre lot sold for \$1,600 and homes sold for \$16,000. About the same time Cliff Todd, a former mayor of Montgomery, laid out Todd Drive and the balance of Campus Lane. In 1951 Mr. Ferris and Mr. Williams developed homes on Delray Drive.

Other early major subdivisions were Jones Farm subdivision begun in 1953 by William Edgeman and Ray Radabaugh where homes began at \$28,000. In 1957 Storybook Acres was developed by Paul Bauer and Robert Nordloh who chose nursery rhymes for street names including Cinderella, Huckleberry, Thumbelina among others. Homes sold for \$32,500 and up, and the slogan was "An Adventure in Fine Living."

In 1955 former Ohio governor Myers Y. Cooper began to build a subdivision of more than 250 lots on the old Mitchell farm in conjunction with a shopping center on Montgomery Road — Montgomery Square. Houses were built on 15,000 (one-third acre) square-foot lots and the subdivision was named Montgomery Heights. After this subdivision was developed, lot size became an issue within the city, and the zoning code was stiffened to permit single family residences on a minimum one-half acre, or lots of 20,000 square feet.

The earliest subdivisions contained ranch-style houses built during the late 1940s-50s, but it wasn't long until the two-story, four-bedroom, often called the "Montgomery colonial" house, took precedence, providing space for larger families. Price of housing rose with each decade due to inflation and the desire for more spacious and more finely-appointed homes. Montgomery's latest subdivision, The Reserve of



This aerial photo, looking west, shows the same area as the picture on page 27, but now the era is the late 1950s. At the top is the Myers Y. Cooper housing development on Tollgate, Knollbrook, Mitchell Farm, Sheldale, Jolain, and Schoolhouse Lane. The large cleared area is the soon-to-be-built Montgomery Square Shopping Center. At the far left is Montgomery Drive-in Theater; the road to the right of the drive-in is Perin Road with Thornton Nursery just to the right of that. Charlie's Crab restaurant (then the Fox & the Crow) is opposite the drive-in theater in the middle-left of this photo. Photo courtesy of Randy Cooper.

Montgomery, contains lots that sell for \$145,000 with homes in the \$600,000-\$1.2 million price range. It was the site of the 1995 Homerama.

The addition of multi-family housing to the city's housing stock came with the Chelsea Moore development in the 1970s and a subsequent Land Use Study which prescribed multi-family use for properties that bordered Montgomery road from Schoolhouse Lane north.

In 1962 newspaper publisher Marion S. Kjellenberg described the town: "People like to live in Montgomery because it has a countrified village atmosphere." That theme was enhanced with the city's decision to develop the downtown area into an historic district in the 1970s by preserving the 19th century village buildings and by the city's identity as a residential community. The installation in recent years of brick sidewalks throughout the major thoroughfares adds to the village ambience as well as providing a means to walk or bike from one end of the community to the other.

Single Family Subdivision Development in Montgomery:

- 1946 - Campus Lane-Ross Avenue-Todd Drive
- 1951 - Delray
- 1953 - Jones Farm
- 1954 - Imperial Woods (Wild Orchard/Symphony Lane)
- 1955 - Hartfield Place
- 1955 - Montgomery Heights
- 1957 - Storybook Acres
- 1960 - Fairwind Acres(Winds)
- 1970 - Camelot
- 1970 - Village Green
- 1973 - Forest Glen
- 1973 - Governor's Watch
- 1973 - Montgomery Woods
- 1973 - Indian Woods
- 1975 - Montgomery Meadows
- 1976 - Tanager Woods
- 1978 - Ivygate
- 1978 - Swaim Field
- 1984 - Terwilliger's Run
- 1991 - Hartford Hills
- 1993 - Reserve of Montgomery



The photos at right show the first subdivisions in Montgomery, both begun in 1946. At the top, the Williams-Ferris development on Ross Avenue. Note that the street ended at Campus Lane. The bottom photo shows the street that Cliff Todd developed, Todd Drive, parallel to and just west of Ross Avenue.

Historic Houses and Taverns Built Between 1795-1860

Pen and ink sketches were done by Diane Eberhard, Vice Mayor of Montgomery from 1981-1984 and well-known artist. She and her husband Tom live in a Landmark Building at 7737 Remington Avenue.

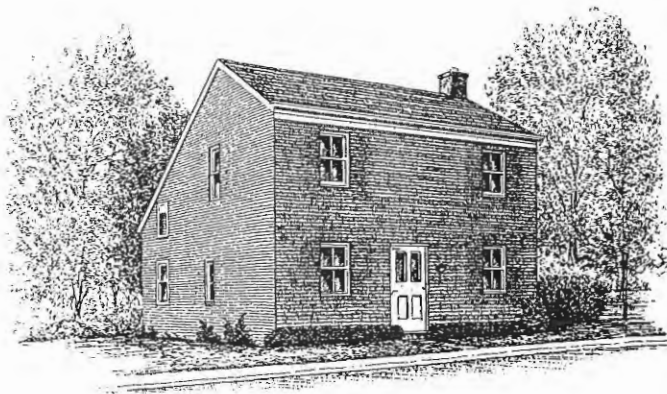
Yost Tavern c. 1805
7872 Cooper Road
National Register Building - Montgomery Landmark

This simple wood frame building, among the first structures erected in the village of Montgomery, was both a home and a place of business for Abraham Yost who operated the tavern. It was situated at the junction of two Indian trails, the Shawnee and Miami. In 1869 White Miller purchased the house, and the property remained in the Miller family until 1968.



Weller House c. 1807
7795 Cooper Road
National Register Building - Montgomery Landmark

An excellent example of early saltbox architecture is represented in the Weller House. This form of architecture gets its name from salt boxes that sat on iron kitchen stoves. The house was first owned by Lodowick Weller, one of the early settlers of Montgomery. It is one of the community's oldest existing structures. It remained a private residence until 1973.



Patmore/Lumley c. 1810
7919 Cooper Road
Montgomery Landmark

This landmark rests on land originally owned by Nathaniel Terwilliger and was sold to Abraham Patmore in 1807 for \$32. The second-story left third of the house and front porch are additions made sometime after 1905. The Lumley family purchased the house in the second half of the 1800s and it remained in their family for more than 100 years.



Blackerby House c. 1814
 Demolished in 1982
 9370 Main Street - Montgomery Landmark

This old Montgomery house was destroyed as the result of an airplane crash on December 16, 1982. It is thought to be the first home of Nathaniel Terwilliger who recorded a plat of Montgomery in 1802. For years this house was a tavern. Dr. Blackerby, a well known medical practitioner in Montgomery, purchased the house in 1906.



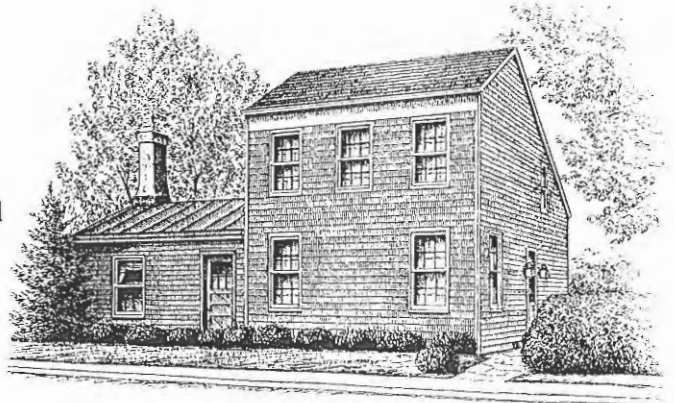
Crist House c. 1815
 9854 Zig Zag Road - Montgomery Landmark

This Federal-style house is one of several pre-1860 farm houses remaining in Montgomery. The early part of the house was built by Abraham Crist, an early settler from New York. The property remained in the Crist family until 1869 when the deed shows the house and 45.3 acres were owned by J. Addison.



Snyder House c. 1817
 7789 Cooper Road
 National Register Building - Montgomery Landmark

This frame saltbox was first owned by David Snyder, son of Cornelius Snyder, a founder of Montgomery. The saltbox style is an unusual example of New England building tradition in Southwest Ohio. It exhibits early construction techniques and details used by the settlers. The fact that the saltboxes remain in this community that has developed so rapidly since 1950 is remarkable.



Sage Tavern c. 1818-19
 9410 Montgomery Road

Originally built as the Montgomery Hotel and in later years known as the Sage Tavern, this structure was built of logs. At one time it was almost three times the present length. Teamsters slept on the floor for 10 cents a night. The last occupant was Barton's Bakery.



Pioneer Building c. 1818-19
9433 Montgomery Road
National Register Building - Montgomery Landmark

This two-story brick, federal-style home changed ownership often. Abraham Slaughter was an early owner and, upon his death in 1830, the house was auctioned for a top bid of \$50. In 1840 it became the residence of Dr. John Naylor, a surgeon at Camp Dennison during the Civil War. In 1875 Dr. Naylor was elected to the state legislature.



Snyder-Crain House c. 1818
9464 Montgomery Road - Montgomery Landmark

Builder of this rural two-story frame house was John Snyder, fourth son of Cornelius Snyder, one of the founders of Montgomery. John Snyder's son, Richard, married Ella Crain and for more than a century, the Snyder and Crain families were owners and occupants of this landmark.



Crain-Conklin House c. 1820
9463-9465 Montgomery Road
National Register Building - Montgomery Landmark

The federal-style architecture of this home features a symmetrical arrangement of windows, two front doors and a hipped roof. The star-shaped anchor-irons grace the second floor and are unique to structures in Montgomery. William Crain, the village blacksmith, built the house in 1820. By the 1880s it belonged to Charles Conklin, who was a grocer. It remained in the Conklin family until the 1960s.



Montgomery Presbyterian Church Manse c. 1822
9449 Montgomery Road
National Register Building - Demolished 1971

This building was the manse for the Hopewell Montgomery Presbyterian Church on Shelly Lane. The manse was demolished in 1971 although the building had been accepted for the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 as part of an historic district. It is believed to be the first National Register Building to be razed in Hamilton County.



Sherritt-Todd House c. 1825
7881 Cooper Road

The style of this house is federal, with a gable roof. The brick portion was built c. 1818. It is on the site of Osborne's log tavern built in the early 1800s. It was purchased by Dr. Alexander Duncan in 1840 for \$650. He had been elected to Congress in 1837. A later resident and owner was James Mill, a blacksmith. Emily Todd Rees, a descendant of the Mullen family who owned it in more recent years, lives in the house today. Emily and her sister Martha were raised in the house.



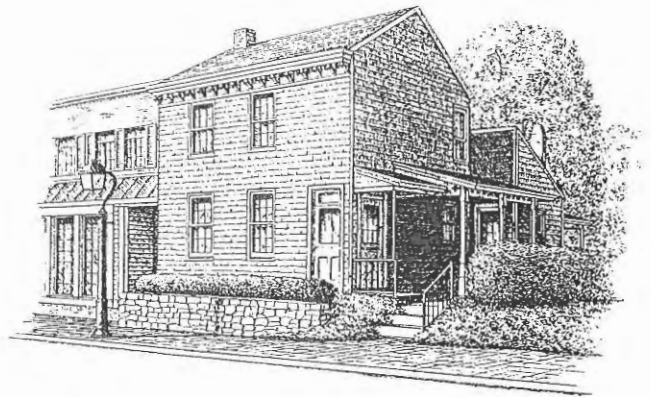
Bell House c. 1825
9521 Montgomery Road
Montgomery Landmark

Over the years the facade of this house has been changed. This landmark retains its architectural value as a saltbox, one of the few left in the area. Its landmark name was taken from Eliza Jane Weller Bell who lived in the house in 1890.



James Ayers House c. 1820
9423 Montgomery Road
Montgomery Landmark

The Ayers family were early settlers who came from New York in 1799. James Ayers was the original owner of this house. He was a shipbuilder as was his grandfather in New York state. A stained glass window depicting an anchor was given to the Hopewell Presbyterian Church by Ayers relatives in honor of their ship-building family.



Radabaugh House c. 1830
10598 Montgomery Road
Demolished April 2, 1990

This federal-style farm house was unique in that it remained in the possession of the same family since the land was first purchased in 1803 by Hezekiah Price. James Radabaugh, a Montgomery mayor, was born in the house. The property is near the site of the first settlement of huts and log cabins that the pioneers from Montgomery, New York, built in 1795.



Taulman House c. 1830
7786 Cooper Road - Montgomery Landmark

This property was first owned by Joseph Taulman, Montgomery's first postmaster and tax collector. Expanded on several occasions, the structure is reminiscent of early-19th century. In conjunction with buildings across the street, it forms the west frame for the Downtown Historic District.



Wilder-Swaim House c. 1832
Zig Zag and Cooper Roads
National Register Building - Montgomery Landmark

The first residents were James and Susan Wilder who arrived from Rhode Island in 1832 with six children. The family first lived in the original portion of the house to the east. The two-story addition was added in the 1840s. The house and farm were purchased by William T. Swaim, principal of Montgomery School, in 1917. His daughters turned the property into a golf course in 1933, and it was sold for a residential subdivision in 1976 with the city acquiring 13 acres for a park. The house is now the home of the Montgomery Historical Society.



Mills-Hellman House c. 1839-1847
7913 Cooper Road - Montgomery Landmark

The original two-story frame house is Greek Revival in style, popular during the 1825-1860 period. A two-story gable and wing at the rear, and the single-story shed roof addition to the rear were added. The front porch is also a later addition. Due to the age and location of this house, built in the area of the original Terwilliger plat of Montgomery, it is an important part of the city's history.



Grover-Kjellenberg House c. 1840
10305 Montgomery Road - Montgomery Landmark

This house was built by Adam Grover from sun-cured bricks made on the property. This house has been a residence, a stage coach stop, a tavern, and during the Civil War was supposedly a stop on the Underground Railroad which transported slaves to the north. Mr. Grover gave land at Montgomery and Deerfield Roads to establish Hopewell Cemetery. Marion Kjellenberg, who owned the house during the mid 20th-century, was a town historian and published the *Sycamore Messenger*, a local weekly newspaper, from 1947-1971.



Jonathan Crain House c. 1845
9441 Main Street - Montgomery Landmark

This fine example of federal architecture was built by Jonathan Crain. Mary Crain Kennedy was quoted as describing the flag stones at the front leading to the back of the house as having been laid by her father before the house was built. They are in place today. She lived in the house for 80 years.



Bowen-Boatright House c. early 1800s
9611 Todd Lane

The original two-story house with a side-porch addition was built shortly after 1800. About 1850 it was owned by the Bowen family, then purchased by James I. Ross in 1869. It was remodeled on several occasions, but complete renovation was made in 1945 when Philip C. Bakes purchased the house. A Sycamore Township Trustee, Cecil Boatright, and his wife Charlotte lived in the house during the mid-1960s to mid-1980s.



Servants Quarters - Brick building behind office
at 9200 Montgomery Road

Date of construction of this building is early. The office building today was once a residence and occupied by the Hieatt family. Mrs. Hieatt was the daughter of Susan and James Wilder. Servants for the family lived in the rear brick building at one time. An effort was made to move the building, but the cost of moving made it prohibitive.



Fleischman House - Built prior to 1850
9769 Montgomery Road

This building now houses Charley's Oyster Bar and Grille. It was used as a residence until 1933 when it was purchased by Julius Fleischman who remodeled it into a plush restaurant called the Fox and Crow. It closed in 1949 due to a gambling raid, but soon reopened and has passed through several owners as a restaurant. In 1959, the property was used that summer for an outdoor drama theater with a large blue and white tent erected on the front lawn. The first play was "No Time for Sergeants."



Perin/Radabaugh House c. 1860
 Now Chester's Roadhouse
 9678 Montgomery Road

The land on which the house was built was first owned by J. R. Roosa, one of the city's founders from New York. In 1869 it was the location of a farm owned by Barbara Lang and was later owned by the Perin family. The house is a two-story Greek Revival brick house. At one time it was the home of James Radabaugh, a Montgomery mayor.



Historic Buildings Built Between 1861-1950

Old Town Hall - 1857
 Built as Montgomery Grade School

The Old Town Hall building served first as Montgomery Grade School. It was condemned in the late 1890s and a new school was built. However, the old building served as the community town hall until 1950 when it was demolished for a new Montgomery Elementary School. Square dances, basketball games, graduations and a wide variety of activities took place in the building between its days as a school and when it was demolished.



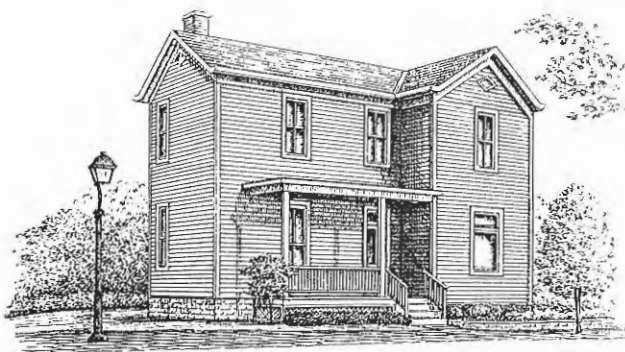
Mason House c. 1861
 9257 Montgomery Road
 Montgomery Landmark

This Greek Revival house is one of the few early farm houses remaining in Montgomery today. In the 1920s-30s the two-story full-width front porch and a one-story rear frame addition were made. It has been the home of Creekwood Antiques since the 1940s.



Smethurst House c. 1869
 7856 Remington Road
 Montgomery Landmark

This landmark was built for James Lloyd Smethurst, a carpenter by trade who also worked for the railroad. He was elected Montgomery's first mayor in 1910. This house originally faced Montgomery Road at the northwest corner of Remington and Montgomery Roads. It was moved to its current location in 1987 in order to save it from demolition.



Hoffman House c. 1870

7887 Cooper Road - Montgomery Landmark

An interesting example of the evolution and adaption of the Colonial Revival style is represented in this dwelling. There have been several additions to the house, suggesting it originally may have appeared very different than it does today. A front porch spanning the width of the house was removed in the 1940s. Recent occupants of the house were the Hoffmans. Robert Hoffman served 16 years as a council member and Ruth Hoffman was clerk of council.

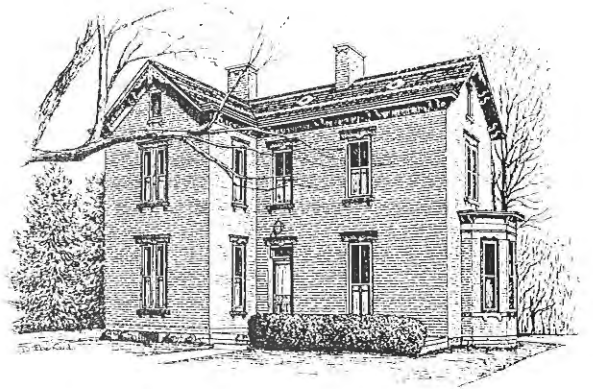


Blair-Barker House c. 1875

7844 Remington Road

National Register Building - Montgomery Landmark

The architecture of this house is unique in Montgomery with its Italianate windows and colored pattern slate roof. James Blair built this house for his bride, Anna Cosbey. This landmark has housed both businesses and residences. A glass front porch was added in 1995 to the house with the approval of the Montgomery Landmark Commission.



Tollgate House c. 1880

Demolished 1977

9669 Montgomery Road

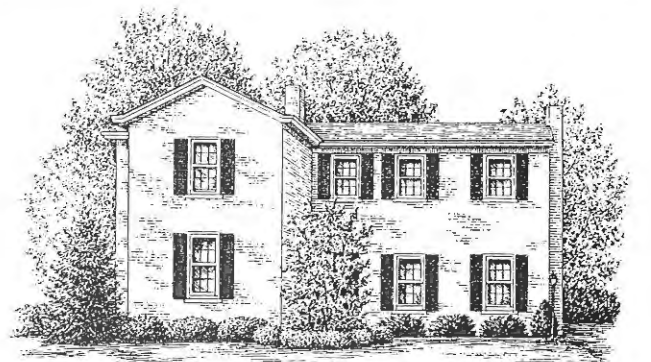
The Tollgate house was the location where, for at least 30 years, tolls were collected from those using Montgomery Pike. The tollgate was abandoned in 1907 when the county bought the toll road and tolls were no longer collected. It was then used as a residence, then a business until it was demolished in 1977.



Crain-Eberhard House c. 1882

7737 Remington Avenue - Montgomery Landmark

George Crain, longtime resident of Montgomery and wagon manufacturer, built this house shortly after he purchased the land. The house includes elements common to the Greek Revival style of architecture. The 1968 addition reflects the traditional gable wing and blends well with the original structure. The CL&N railroad and inter-urban lines once ran to the rear of this property.



Wooley-Kelsch House c. 1890
7967 Cooper Road - Montgomery Landmark

While this Victorian residence has been modified during the years, its essential style is still intact. Foundation walls supporting the original structure are three feet thick. It is said that a tavern once occupied the site. Early owners of the property were among the original settlers of Montgomery: Nathaniel Terwilliger, Joseph Crist, Cornelius Snyder and Lodowick Weller.



Johnson-Murdough House c. 1890
9429 Montgomery Road - Montgomery Landmark

This house is part of the early residential neighborhood of the village. It is a simple front-gable townhouse. N. S. Johnson purchased a house on this property in 1874 for his father's tailor shop. It is thought the house was torn down in 1890 and replaced with the present structure. The house was bought by the Murdough family in 1951. Shirley Murdough was a descendant of Montgomery founder Cornelius Snyder. It was deeded to the City of Montgomery in 1993.



Cameron-Feintheil House c. 1891
7893 Cooper Road - Montgomery Landmark

The Queen Anne style of Victorian architecture — patterned shingles and stained glass — is featured in this landmark. Built by Isaac Cameron, the house first served as a Methodist parsonage. The Cameron family moved into the house in 1897. The house had four owners until 1941 when the Feintheil family purchased it. Edward Feintheil was village clerk in 1949. The house has been recently restored by his son, George Feintheil.



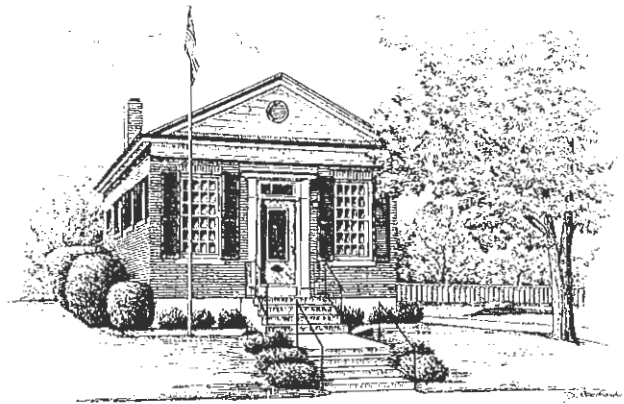
Schlosser House, 1901
9544 West Street

This is a fine example of a T-shaped farm house. It was built by George R. Arstingstall. Although the house is adjacent to commercial area, it is on a side street and retains a rural feeling.



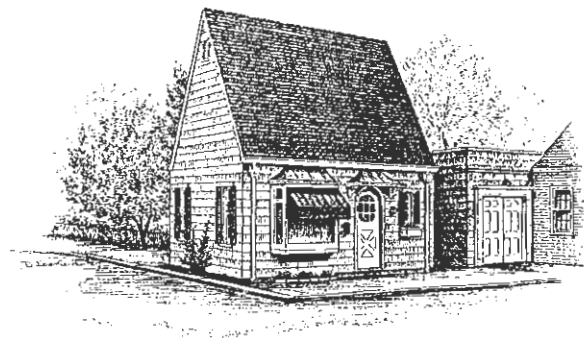
Former Village Hall c. 1925
7816 Cooper Road
Montgomery Landmark

The diminutive size of this former civic building illustrates the modest size of the community it served when constructed in 1925. Built from fines collected during Prohibition days, it served as village hall and jail for 44 years.



1930s Gas Station - c. 1931
9426 Shelly Lane - Montgomery Landmark

G. A. Petersen, regarded as the father of modern service station architecture, created his most famous “cottage style” design for the Pure Oil Company in 1927. The company’s signs proudly proclaimed, “Be Sure with Pure.” Only a handful of these stations remains nationwide. In 1958 local newspaper publisher Marion Kjellenberg bought the station and had it moved to its present location, saving it from demolition. It originally stood at the northwest corner of the intersection of Montgomery and Cooper Roads and represents both a vanishing architectural style and a way of life.



Stix-Durbrow House c. 1928
10451 Grandoaks Drive - Montgomery Landmark

This landmark features classic tudor-style architecture with elements unique to the area. Designed by noted architect Guy Chaney Burrough, this house was for some time the most distinguished estate in Montgomery. The horizontal lap-siding, decorative railings with intricate cut-outs and prominent country design add to the distinction of this carefully restored landmark. The original property comprised more than 30 acres of land, housing a kennel, keeper’s quarters and an outside playhouse for children. Today the home is recognized as the site of spectacular light decorations during the traditional winter holiday season.



Note: Three buildings on Montgomery Road — the Universalist Church, the Pioneer Building and the Crain-Conklin building — comprise the Universalist Church Historic District which was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. The Presbyterian Church Manse comprised the fourth house in this district, prior to being demolished in 1971.

Largest and oldest shingle oak tree in the United States

On December 29, 1963, a large shingle oak tree in the backyard of the Monroe Lumley family at 7951 Cooper Road was determined to be 300 years old. The tree was 15 feet in circumference, 93 feet in height with branches that spread 81 feet 10 inches. Its uniqueness was spotted by Mrs. A. C. Hummel of Madeira, and it was entered in the Social Register of Big Trees of the National Forestry Service, Washington, D.C. and made a champion in 1964. It was found to be the largest and oldest shingle oak in the United States.

The exact age of the tree could not be determined, but Mrs. Lumley's grandmother, the late Antoinette Cruger Gaines, who died in 1927 at the age of 87, was remembered to have made the statement that the tree appeared to be full grown when she was a little girl. The Old Fashioned Garden Club, of which Mrs. Lumley was a member, contributed \$400 to keep the tree fertilized and aided in care of the prized tree by various fund-raising events.

High winds accompanied by a thunderstorm in August, 1972, felled the tree.



This photo of the 400-year old shingle oak appeared in the August 24, 1972, issue of the Sycamore Messenger.

IV. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Early Business: 1795 - 1900

It was tradesmen from New York and tavern-owners that comprised the first business in Montgomery. John Ayres was the son of a ship designer and builder. Wagonmaker Henry Snyder built his own boats to carry freight down the Ohio River. Gunwales of these boats were hewn of logs 50-60 feet in length. In order to get the boats to the Little Miami River at Remington they were hauled on wheels that required a steersman as well as a teamster. A pole was inserted in the center of the rear axle of the wagon and projected backward serving as the tiller. The man on foot behind was the steersman.

Cornelius Snyder, Henry Crist, Benjamin Sears, and John Elliott built a grist mill on the Little Miami River on John Elliott's property. To sell the goods produced at the mill the four men opened a store, the first in Montgomery, at the southeast corner of State and Mechanic Streets (Montgomery and Cooper today). Louis Carnay, a native of France, bought the property from Jacob F. Crist in 1830 for \$200 and built a two-story brick building which stood until 1959.

A two-story building located south of the 1994 site of Barton's Bakery, was built about 1818-1819 as the Montgomery Hotel for Whetstone Lee. Originally built of logs and at one time three times its present length, it was called Sage's Tavern in 1850-1880s. Teamsters slept on the floor for 10 cents per night.

A log-cabin tavern was operated by John Osborn at the southeast corner of Main and Mechanic (Cooper) streets as early as 1806-07.

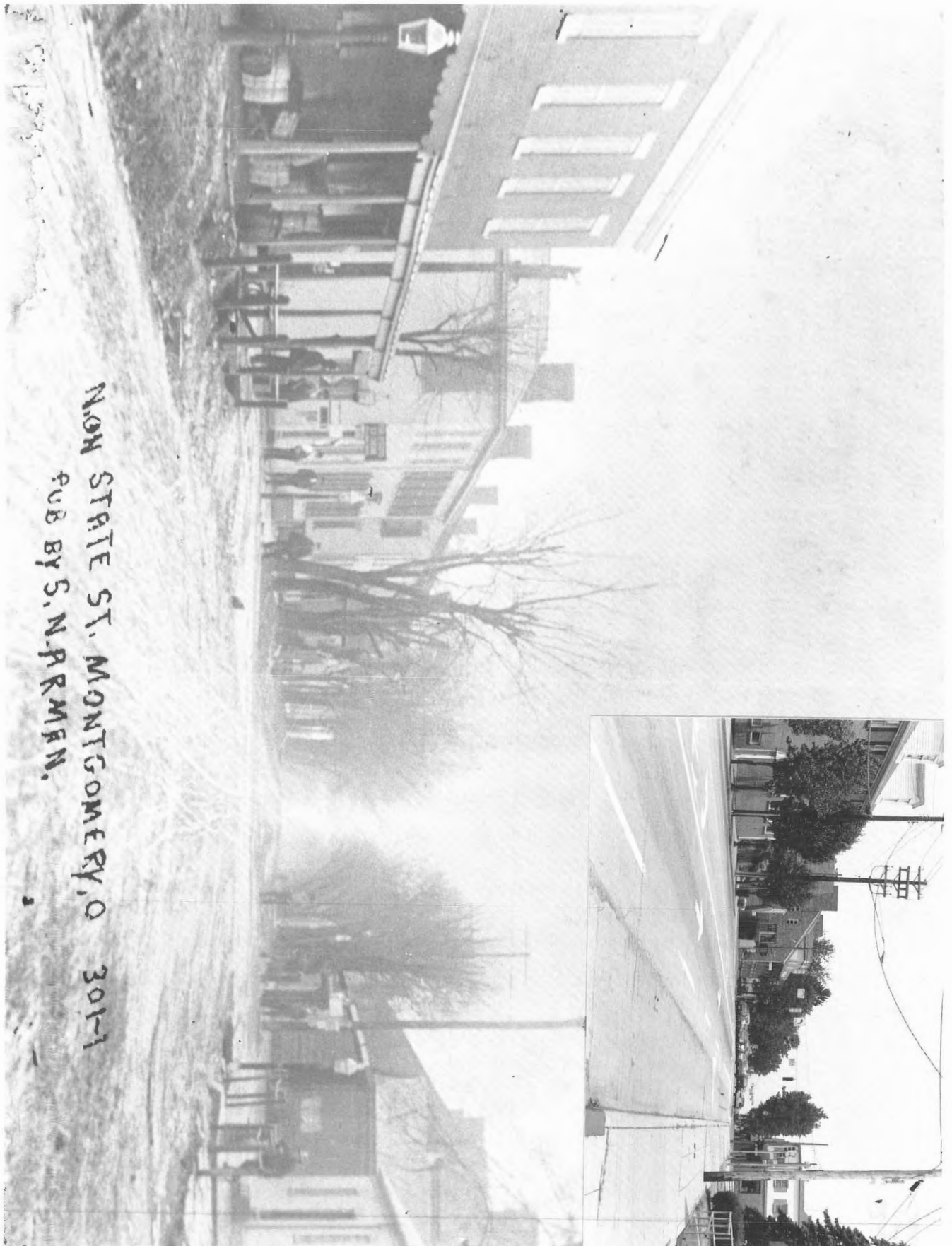
Abraham Yost opened a tavern on the diagonal corner. Presumably the oldest building still standing in Montgomery, Yost Tavern was built about 1805 (some have dated it as early as 1798), and Richard Nelson's 1874 *Suburban Homes*, noted that the imbibers at Yost's tavern consumed 50 barrels of whiskey a year. White Miller purchased the building in 1870 and the property remained in the Miller family until 1968 when the Montgomery Kiwanis Club purchased the structure to preserve it, then turned the building over to the city in 1987.

Nelson described Montgomery as "situated on a leading road which caused it to become a resting place for teamsters and travelers" and to grow from a village with a single tavern to what it was in 1874 — a town of 500 inhabitants. Whiskey was a part of the life of early settlers despite the predominance of God-fearing people. Main Street was the major thoroughfare, and men on long wagon trains bringing produce and other commodities to and from Columbus and Cincinnati found rest and drink in Montgomery taverns.

A description of Montgomery is included in a book published in 1816, *Thomas Travels Through the Western Country*:

At Montgomery, a village of a dozen houses, twelve miles from Cincinnati, we stopped to see a carding machine which was turned by the treading of a horse on a wheel. A circular floor is attached to the upright shaft which is so much inclined as constantly to present him a small ascent. He is blindfolded, and his traces are fastened to a beam. On stepping, the wheel moves towards him. Near this place peaches and apples load the trees.

The state route from the Cincinnati Court House to Todd's Fork was constructed in 1816 through Montgomery and brought second growth to the village. By 1819 the population was increasing, and there were wagon shops, blacksmiths, a grist mill, two taverns and even a shop where boats were made to take provisions down the river to New Orleans.



State Street (Montgomery Road) at the junction of Mechanic Street (Cooper Road), looking north c. 1910.

The town had 270 inhabitants in the 1830 census. A tailor's shop was located on the west side of Montgomery Road and William Crane, a village blacksmith, lived in the house just south of the Universalist Church.

In the 1850s the two-story white brick house at 10305 Montgomery Road was operated as a stage coach tavern with separate sleeping rooms for men and women. There were five original fireplaces in the house and two sets of stairs to the second floor. The house was built c. 1840 of sun-cured bricks made on the premises for Adam Grover.

G. W. Black, who lived in the town as a boy prior to 1850, recalled that Montgomery was a town of commercial importance: "I can remember when Montgomery was a thriving business center, with four blacksmith shops, several wagon shops, stores, two taverns or hotels, a grist mill, and the road almost choked with four and six horse teams."



This 1950 photo shows the building that once was at the southwest corner of Montgomery and Cooper roads and that was Parrott's general store at the turn of the century.

The 1869 *Montgomery Business Directory* lists two physicians; H. P. Parrott and J. W. Ayers stores; H. Crain manufacturer of wagons; T. Long, manufacturer of wagons and buggies; J. R. Mullen, blacksmithing; W. H. Willis, manufacturer of wood homes; C. Constable, manufacturer of harness; J. W. Sage, proprietor of Montgomery Hotel; J. B. and J. R. Mullen, auctioneers; M. Terwilliger, orchardist and dealer of fruit, evergreens and ornamental trees.

Nelson lists these businesses and industries in his 1874 publication:

Two general stores - Richard Parrott and Daniel Dreyfus; two meat stores - James & William Blair, and Minard McKinney; hotel - J. W. Sage; saddle and harness shop - J. C. Riker; three blacksmith shops - James Mullen, Jerold Cooper, Jabez Bowen; two wagon makers - P. M. Bowen and . . . Crane; four carpenters - A. D. Parrott, Eli Dedrick, White Miller, Isaac Cameron; three bricklayers and stone masons - Jone Crane, George Crane and Lloyd Irwin; two brickmakers - William Smithurst, James Ayres; three saw mills (two steam): W. Willis' circular saw; P. W. Bowen, upright saw; A. D. Parrott, horse-power circular saw; three painters and paper hangers - Foster Todd, C. E. Holden, Theodore Todd; two dress makers - Mrs. Riker, Miss Bonnell; land agent, note broker, etc. - Richard Nelson; omnibus line - H. L. Karr; barber - Jonathan Harris; two shoe makers - Lloyd Smethurst and Wm. Schuh; auctioneer - John Mullen.

Professions: clergyman - Rev. Thomas Cortelyou (pronounced "Cor-tel-you"); physicians and surgeons - Dr. William Jones, Dr. Naylor, Dr. I. N. Jones; teachers - William Swain, Miss Cortelyou, Miss Castner; clerks and bookkeepers - R. F. Smith, C. M. Jones, David Kennedy.

Mr. Nelson further describes fuel and food supplies in 1874:

Fuel can be purchased at the station at about Cincinnati prices, and by the carload at cost plus the freight, which together made it last fall fourteen cents a bushel. This coal is of fair quality, though inferior to Youghiogheny.

Fresh meat costs less than in the city, as do also butter, eggs, lard, corn meal, potatoes, etc.

The grist mill being so near, persons having wheat or corn can get their flour and stock feed under city rates. The groceries are a shade higher, but the competition prevents monopoly, and persons wanting goods for cash can do nearly as well as in the city. Fruit of certain kinds is cheaper, if bought in season, and those having gardens need have little of vegetables or fruit to buy.

On building and materials at Pard Bowen's brickyard: lumber for framing was sawed at \$7.50 per thousand, and sold at \$20; brick at the kiln, \$7. Stone and sand in the creeks were available for hauling out. Lime was \$28 to \$30 per hundred bushels. Carpenters charged \$2.50 and \$3 per day; brick and stone masons, \$3.50 to \$4, and plasterers, 14 cents per square yard.

Daniel Dreyfus' general store was located on the northwest corner of Cooper and Montgomery Roads. He conducted a cash-only business in competition with Parrott's Store across the street. He and H. F. Todd were appointed to sell school books for the Montgomery School District in 1891, and in 1893 he was appointed treasurer of the school board. By the turn of the century Todd's Grocery was located in the northeast corner building at Cooper and Montgomery roads.

Jake Ammon operated a popular bakery in Montgomery about 1890, located behind Dr. Blackerby's house on Montgomery Road. Brick ovens were heated by wood fires.

Daniel Schuh ran a shoe shop on Montgomery Road in 1895 where he made shoes and boots with wood pegs rather than nails. He charged \$1.25 for a pair of shoes that fit up over the ankle and around the leg. Boots sold for \$2 per pair.

Dr. Jed Blackerby, one of the village's best known and most active residents, moved to Montgomery in 1898 to set up a medical practice. He purchased an old house on the northeast corner of Main and Cooper and moved the house back 50 feet, completely remodeling it. He not only served as the town doctor, he served on the Montgomery School Board and was elected to the first village council.

Dr. Alexander Duncan, a doctor in Montgomery about 1870, was elected to Congress. He was known for his fishing and fishing stories.

Montgomery did not have a bank until 1956. In the early days it was not unusual for citizens to borrow money from each other. Some were not too prompt in repayment, evidenced by the justice of peace book kept from 1858 to 1866 listing suit after suit for recovery of money.

Louis Kepge ran a flourishing saloon and hotel a few feet north of Remington on Montgomery Road during the late 1800s. North of the saloon was a large barn where a person could stop overnight and rest his horse in comfort. Besides the bar there was a well-used pool table, and a friendly game of cards was often found in progress at a round table in the corner. It was not unusual



Blacksmith C T. Swift stands in front of his shop located where Montgomery and Main make a triangle today.



Inset picture is William Swaim, village historian and school principal. On right is N. S. Bowen, Swaim, and L. H. Bosse. Bottom is the Universalist Church. From Cincinnati Post article, Jan. 15, 1920.

for Mr. Kepge to loan a fellow a small amount of money. He'd walk out the back door of the saloon and return in a few minutes by another door with a loan usually made in gold pieces. No one knew where he stored his money. When he died in 1898, the executor of his estate, Professor William Swaim, searched the barn for the money. He finally found more than \$20,000 in gold coins in earthenware jars filled with human excrement and stored under some shelves. The professor then had the pool table dismantled and found the legs filled with nickels.



Dr. Blackerby's house, later Sheppard Book Store in the early 1980s; the house was destroyed by fire from the plane crash in 1982.



Montgomery Hotel c. 1818. Photo taken in the 1940s.

A Sleepy Village: 1900 - 1950

The early years of the 20th century brought little change to Montgomery. Population at the beginning of the century when the Village incorporated in 1910 was about 500.

At the turn of the 19th century, a general store operated by Dunc Parrott and a Mr. Thompson sold everything from harnesses to sugar. In 1931 Frank Baker bought the property and operated a drug store; it was then known as Braun's Pharmacy, and finally it was operated by Merton Jackson. The second floor of the building was used by the Montgomery Masonic Lodge for some time until their present building was constructed on Cooper Road in 1937. The property was sold to Sun Oil Company in 1959 when the over-century-old building was razed.

Most people were related to each other even as late as 1935, recalled Marilyn Schlosser in a 1993 interview. Time seemed to stand still through World War II.

The 1920s and 1930s

Grocery stores, the post office, and the "corner" drug store were the mainstay of most small rural towns during the days before World War II. Montgomery was no exception.

Rikers operated a grocery and post office in Montgomery as early as 1923. Ellery Meiers and his brother, Arthur, operated a grocery store in the village located where the Montgomery Inn is today.

Haucke's Grocery opened on Montgomery Road in 1932, recalls Bonnie Haucke Eickelberger whose parents owned the store. In 1940 they built a new store, one of the first self-service stores, that operated until 1945.

Reflecting the effects the Depression had on even small communities, Haucke's grocery was selected as a voucher store during the 1930s, and Ohioans who qualified for state assistance could redeem vouchers for surplus foods. The Hauckes lived in a house on the northeast corner of the intersection of Remington and Montgomery roads. Adjacent was a large green house.

No longer in use as a church at this time, the Universalist Church was vacant because the floor was broken and unsafe, although members of Sycamore High School classes of 1945 and 1946 recalled in 1994 that they attended Girl Scout meetings in the church during the 1940s. The Old Fashioned Garden Club made an effort to do some restoration of the old church during the 1940s.

There was so little traffic on Montgomery Road that you could play ball in the middle of it, recalled Clarence Smith, a 1937 graduate of Sycamore High School who lived at the corner of Montgomery and Cooper for 20 years. There were two traffic lights on Montgomery Road: one at Cooper and one at Remington.

The first telephone was placed in Parrott's store in 1897; electricity was brought to the village in 1921.



Soda fountain in Braun's Pharmacy in a 1930 photo. The building was Parrott's General Store in earlier years.

The Montgomery Post Office, established in 1812, was placed in a variety of businesses until a post office building was erected on the site of the Pard Bowen house on Cooper Road in 1961.

Ray Williams Inc. — Oldest Continuously-run Business

Ray Williams, born and raised in Montgomery, founded a sheet metal, roofing and heating business in 1928 at 7813 Sycamore Street. When he retired in 1976, his daughter and her husband, Donna and Bob Jackson took over the business, and today it is being run by the third generation, Linda and David Eberle — the longest running family-operated business in Montgomery.

When Ray Williams' parents Lydia and Harry Williams moved to Montgomery, Harry had the express route from Montgomery to Cincinnati when packages and express items were delivered in a wagon pulled by horses. Harry also worked for Allis-Chalmers.

Born in a house on the property where Williams Ford (no relation) is located in 1995, Ray Williams also lived in an old brick house where North Cincinnati Building and Loan is located today, and in a frame house in the rear of the present-day Charley's. He attended Montgomery School. He and his wife, Laura, live in the house they built when they were married in 1930.

Mr. Williams was one of the original fourteen founders of the Business Club of Montgomery organized in 1943 and has held every office at least once.

With business partner Ladell Ferris, who operated a hardware store in Montgomery, he developed Ross Avenue and Campus Lane where they built about 20 houses. This team also developed homes on Delray (named for them) as well as on Donjoy in Blue Ash. Mr. Williams served as the town's first building inspector and spent eight years on the Montgomery Planning Commission, as well as serving on the first Landmark Commission.

Dutch Oven Barbecue

Children and adults enjoyed the Dutch Oven Barbecue, located on the east side of Montgomery Road north of today's municipal building and just south of Hopewell Road. Barbecues could be purchased for a quarter in the 1930s, and it was a popular spot



Photo taken in 1939 showing west side of Montgomery Road, the site of LaRosa's restaurant in 1995.



Ray and Laura Williams in the 1995 Bicentennial July 4th parade.

well into the 1960s when it was operated by Ralph Cahill.

The Fox & Crow

The Fox & Crow (Charley's Oyster Bar and Grille in 1995), 9769 Montgomery Road, was a famous nightclub during the late 1930s and 1940s where high stakes gambling took place, according to some. If there is a building in town whose walls could talk, perhaps the one to choose would be today's Charley's — where a once-famous restaurant was made somewhat infamous by a Hamilton County sheriff's raid in 1949.



The Dutch Oven Barbecue in a 1978 photo.

Built as a residence prior to 1850 (it appears on an 1847 map) on a more than 30-acre parcel, it was owned by Benjamin Bowen. After several owners, the acreage was sold for \$8,500 in 1912 to Martha R. Williams, a woman doctor. But its most well-known owner, Julius Fleischman, bought it in 1933, turning it into a posh restaurant called the Fox & Crow, complete with a small dance floor and an elegant dining room called the Hunt Room. Frequented by wealthy patrons, it offered an extensive French menu and outdoor dancing to popular tunes by big bands.

Amid rumors of gambling, the Fox & Crow was popular through the 1940s, gaining its greatest share of publicity when County Sheriff's Deputies made a gambling raid in 1949. News accounts of the day tell the story that Carl Meyer, chief investigator for Sheriff Dan Tehan, organized and led the raid arriving unannounced at the door just before midnight on December 31, 1949.

It was celebrity night and singer Kitty Kallen was performing. The doorman tipped his hat, which the deputies were sure was a signal. They soon discovered as they charged in that a rear wall was closing and locking. Kitty Kallen never missed a beat as she dedicated her song to "Carl Meyer and Company," which was recalled by some to be the tune to "Mule Train."

Illegal gambling equipment was found camouflaged in the walls, and the Fox & Crow was closed for a time. There were problems getting another liquor license. It was purchased in 1953 by Tri-State Savings and Loan. In 1955 acreage at the rear was sold for a residential subdivision on Ross Avenue.



This photo taken in the early 1950s shows the Fox & Crow restaurant (now Charley's) with the large field in front where an outdoor tent theater provided plays with "big name" actors and actresses during the summer of 1959.

In 1959 it was purchased by Mark Kroll, given a coat of white paint with black and gold trim, wrote one reporter, who added that the “heavy red and pink decor of the Crystal Room had given way to an elegantly tasteful light blue, white and gold.” The cuisine became continental, and during the summer an outdoor tent theater provided entertainment including nationally recognized talent. That, however, drew opposition from nearby residents and the theater was closed.

In 1963 the former restaurant was purchased by Alvin Matthes who redecorated it but retained the name. When Chuck Muer bought the property, renovating the restaurant into Charley’s Crab in 1979, a re-enactment of the 1949 sheriff’s raid was conducted.

Montgomery Drive-in

The opening of the Montgomery Drive-in in 1939, one of the county’s earliest drive-in theaters with one of the area’s widest screens, was heralded by the community. Events from weddings to Easter sunrise services were held at this popular gathering place where many local teenagers got their first jobs.

There was a large kiddies’ playground, the grounds were well-landscaped, and the drive-in offered a concession stand, recent movies, and was even the site of a balloon ascension in 1949 when balloonist Wood parachuted to the ground.

Captain John Hasse, Montgomery policeman, recalled a good lion tale in a 1976 interview. He told of the time a 150-pound lion was brought in for a promotion at the Drive-in. He received a call about 6 p.m. that the lion was loose. He found it in the woods behind the drive-in. Because it was almost time for the drive-in to open, he called the Cincinnati Zoo which agreed to send out a trainer who told Mr. Hasse that the lion was just “mad” at being tied up and that he would lead the lion by a rope back to the cage, but that Hasse should hold the lion by the tail so the trainer would not be charged by the lion. And the lion was led safely into the cage.

In August 1948 a \$20,000 to \$30,000 fire damaged the drive-in. “Flames from the 110-by-75 foot structure were seen for miles,” reported a *Cincinnati Times-Star* story of the day. Traffic was blocked on Montgomery Road for two hours as the Montgomery and Sycamore Township fire departments fought the blaze. Chief Lloyd Rasch of the Montgomery Fire Department remembered in a 1979 *Sycamore Messenger-News* story that the sound of the fire on the asbestos screen was like firecrackers.



The Montgomery Drive-in Theatre in a 1960s photo. Note the sign: “\$1.20 a carload.”

Another fire struck the drive-in on November 18 and 19, 1975, when firemen were called to the scene as a spectacular blaze played the final scene on the wide theater screen. The sign for the theater, closed in 1971, had been destroyed by fire on October 15 of that year. The property was sold in November 1975.

The Bus Depot

The Greyhound Bus Depot, located at one time in a saloon pool room, was moved to Anderson's Restaurant and finally to Ferris' Hardware during the 1940s and 50s. The bus depot was important to businesses as well as to travelers after the train ceased to run in the late 1930s. Freight was frequently delivered by bus from Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo.

The Brose family had the Railway Express Station in their service station. It wasn't unusual to see crates of live baby chickens or rabbits delivered. One time, Don Brose recalled, a cow was crated and shipped from the Emery estate. Mrs. Emery also shipped her dogs from Peterloon to Michigan where the Emerys vacationed during the summer.



A local youth, Jack Frederick, in his Drive-in usher's uniform, 1945. He added the toy gun to his outfit.

The Gas Station Era

Increasing numbers of motor cars and improvement of Montgomery road in 1930 led to a new business in Montgomery — gasoline service stations.

Brose's Sinclair

In 1932 Henry Brose opened a Sinclair service station at the corner of Montgomery Road and Terwilliger Alley near the present-day Barleycorn's parking lot with \$200 he retrieved out of the bank just before it closed due to the Depression. Henry and his son, Don Brose, operated the service station, introducing the Sinclair brand to the Cincinnati area, from 1932 to 1970, when they sold to Major Tire.



The Greyhound bus stop in a 1950 photo. Anderson's Restaurant is on the right in this picture.

Henry Brose served on the village council for four years, 1942-1946, was street commissioner, and helped set up police and waste collection operations.

Down Montgomery Pike, as the road was often called, were gravity gas pumps situated on the sidewalk south of the intersection of Montgomery and Cooper roads in front of Mac Meguire's pool hall. Drivers parked their cars on Montgomery Road in order to get a fill-up. Ed Lang also pumped gas at his garage on "the point," in a location across from Perkin's Restaurant in 1995.

Schnitzler Service Station

Three generations of Schnitzlers operated service stations at the corner of Montgomery and Cooper, beginning in 1942 when Marion Schnitzler bought the Pure Oil station from Joe Hinson. This was during World War II when ration stamps were needed to buy a new tire. When he'd get a request for a new tire, Marion was required to meet with the Rationing Board in Deer Park.

The Pure Oil building, built in 1931, was about to be razed for a new station in 1957 when Marion Kjellenberg, publisher of the *Sycamore Messenger*, bought the peaked-roof building to preserve it, then moving it adjacent to his West Street (now Shelly Lane) newspaper building.

Marion Schnitzler also recalled when the first traffic signal was installed at Cooper and Montgomery roads in the late 1930s and when an auto agency sold cars named Star, Durant, and Flint, manufactured by the Flint Motor Company. The Flint, he said, was the largest of the three cars and was designed so that one of the front wheels could be taken off, and the car could run on three wheels! Marion also remembered that gas in those days sold for 15 cents a gallon, seven gallons for \$1.



Henry Brose pumping gas at his Sinclair service station in 1932.

In 1967 when the Montgomery Community Fire Department moved from its building on Shelly Lane to a new firehouse on Cooper Road, Don Schnitzler moved his body shop to Shelly Lane where it is located today. Don recalls well those early days of the volunteer fire department when the siren went off in the old fire station and everyone ran to help fight the fire. More than once, he said, the fire truck needed to be pushed to get it started.

Union 76 bought out the Pure Oil Company in the mid-1960s, and Don sold Union 76 products until 1983. Don then concentrated on the auto body business and his son Donnie took over the Sunoco Station across the street which was sold in 1987 to Andrew Hauck, Jr., who built Montgomery Commons complex.

Nann's Nursery

In 1941 Nann's nursery located on Cooper Road. Paul Nann recalled that he moved there with his parents in 1941 when his father operated a part-time nursery. Paul helped his father during high school and when he finished college in 1954, he worked full-time in the business, which he operates today.

The 1940s

Zoning

Village officials could see that change would come after World War II. Even before the war ended, in January 1945, the year Montgomery celebrated its sesquicentennial, a story appeared in the *Montgomery Messenger*, a publication of the Montgomery Business Club, concerning a proposed zoning ordinance which would study use of the land, provide for "ample dwelling spaces," and include a centralized shopping area. The article pointed out that "controlled land uses protect land value and provide both business and homeowners with a security to which they are entitled."

This ordinance would restrict and limit the uses and locations of buildings and other structures including those for "trade, industry, and residences." Height, "bulk," and location of the buildings, percentage of the building to the lot, setback, and building lines would be regulated; the community would be divided into zones or districts.

The subject of land uses was highly controversial, stated the article. Two zones were recommended by Mayor Tom Behrens: a business district that lay between Main Street on the east, West Street (now Shelly



The Schnitzler's Pure Oil station in a 1940s photo.



Three generations of Schnitzlers, l. to r.: Marion, Don, Donnie.

and West streets) on the west, the intersection of Main and Montgomery on the south to the intersection of Main and Montgomery to the north. All other area in Montgomery would be classified residential.

The article recommended passage of the ordinance, described as “similar to those of other neighborhood communities. The close proximity to them necessitates the adoption of zoning legislation which bears a close relationship.”

In the “post-war” days, uncontrolled land uses will create larger problems, predicted the writer, who concluded that “If Montgomery is to emerge a prosperous and progressive community, with the respective rights of each of its citizens protected, it will be because those to whom we have entrusted the affairs of our Village have unselfishly and impartially, through their proper functions, established a place where people will continue to want to live.”

A 1945 view of the village

In the July 1945 issue of the *Montgomery Messenger*, Montgomery was described:

Upon entering the village today one cannot help but notice the pride that the business people take in the appearance of their establishments.

Should you enter from the south a most pleasing sight greets the eye. Beautifully laid out on a well-landscaped hillside is the Montgomery Plant Farm, owned and operated by Frank Reck. A little farther along and on the opposite side of the wide street is a neat brick building, housing an exceptionally neat and well-stocked grocery, operated by John Bowman. Under the same roof and just north of the grocery are the rooms of the Montgomery Business Club.

Directly opposite this building you will see both Fred Ertel's Garage and a neat little white building, just north of the garage, which houses Meguire's Confections, which serves as the Greyhound bus station.

At the intersection of Cooper Road are Braun's Pharmacy, Schnitzler's Pure Oil Station, just recently painted, and a beautifully remodeled village landmark, now belonging to Del Ferris.

West of the oil station on Cooper Road is Riker's Grocery. It boasts a complete remodel job that makes it one of our neatest stores.

East on Cooper is Paul Lever's Garage and Repair Shop, that was formerly owned by Harry VanPelt.

As we proceed up the Pike, the Ferris Hardware, the Village Post Office and Anderson's Dept. Store are seen, all three housed in the same building. Next to the hardware and just below it is the newly built grocery store belonging to George and Minnie Haucke. Farther north, and just recently enlarged, is Dee's Cafe.

Still going north we next see on our left the old Universalist Church, built in 1837. It now is in the process of restoration by the local garden (Old Fashioned) club and will become a wayside Shrine. Across and above is Van Tress' Pottery Shop and next door the neatly painted service station belonging to Henry Brose.

As we leave the village, we cannot help noticing the Drive-In Theatre, known for its beautiful landscaping, credit for which goes to the Manager, Jack Hauer.

Can you think of another village, any place in the whole world, more beautiful than our own? We can't, but maybe we are a little prejudiced.

Role of two mayors

Two former mayors of Montgomery, Thomas Behrens from 1944 to 1949, and John Sherritt from 1954 to 1957, were responsible for much of the village's advancement during those years, according to a story on Montgomery that appeared in the September 1963 “Bulletin” of the Cincinnati & Suburban Telephone Co.

Tom Behrens

The 1963 article said: "Tom Behrens settled in the village in 1923. He was defeated in his first try for mayor by Jim Radabaugh, but in 1943 succeeded in defeating him after 18 years in office. Mr. Behrens felt 'the village was in the doldrums. I got tired of the situation and decided it was time for a change. My term of office could be characterized as one of a lot of firsts. But I guess I was a little too far ahead of the people. Among the "firsts" was the formation of the service department, a building code and a zoning ordinance [1946] that set the pattern for the present-day desirable qualities of the town.



Tom and Edith Behrens in a 1970 photo.



This late 1940s photo from a Cincinnati Times-Star newspaper article shows the Drive-in top right corner; the Fox and Crow in the top left; Montgomery, Cooper, Remington, and Perin roads; and Montgomery Plant Farm bottom center.

Montgomery today [1963] is the way I hoped it would be during my tenure of office.' Tom Behrens, president of the Silverton Bank at that time, looked for a proposed sewer project to attract more development. He also saw the importance of restoration of the Universalist Church which was saved as a result of his efforts." In 1948 the population of Montgomery had grown to 500.

Perhaps Tom Behrens' greatest achievement was saving the Universalist Church from being razed. Early in 1960 a gasoline company had an option for the corner of Remington and Montgomery Road to raze the old church and construct a service station there. When he heard of this pending action, Tom and his wife, Edith, quickly bought the property and saved the venerable building. They put much of their own funds into restoring the 1837 structure, and other individuals and civic organizations such as Montgomery Kiwanis, Woman's Club, and Historical Society have followed the Behrens' example.

John Sherritt

The "Bulletin" article stated: "John Sherritt, a veteran engineer with our company, served on the council for 20 years and as vice mayor succeeded to the mayor's office upon the death of Cliff Todd. He later was elected to his own term of office. Mr. Sherritt was born in the general area and lived for 33 years [in 1963] in the village.

"Quoting Mr. Sherritt: 'Farmers held most of the surrounding land, and they had no wish to sell years ago. When they sold the tracts, the village expanded. We annexed several areas in my term of office The full-time police department was inaugurated by me, and we were able to lower the fire rates. But we had our money problems in those days of fast growth. Our village services increased before the tax duplicate money came in from the new housing.' "

Ray Williams recollects

"Another member of an old-time town family is Ray Williams," stated the "Bulletin" article. "His family has lived here since 1890. 'I used to rabbit hunt as a boy right outside of town,' said Mr. Williams. 'When I was in school, the town had 300-400 people. I'm a sports car and racing fan, and I guess my enthusiasm got a big push when I witnessed the famous automobile race of 1911 through Blue Ash, Montgomery, Silverton and Rossmoyne. The phone was used extensively to control the racing cars.' Mr. Williams later recalled that the famous racer, Barney Oldfield, was among the drivers of that race whose route ran north on Plainfield to Blue Ash, along Cooper to Montgomery Road, and back down Montgomery Road to Silverton.

" "This was a small-time town. As an indication, I was building inspector before the war, and I used to inspect about one house a year. As a youngster I remember the old interurban line that came to town bringing bread from the bakeries in the city.' "

Sycamore Messenger

Marion S. Kjellenberg (pronounced "Shell-en-berg"), who bought the Montgomery Business Club's *Montgomery Messenger* in 1947, began publishing it as a weekly newspaper, renaming it the *Sycamore Messenger*.

The newspaper was first housed in a small office building north of the Pure Oil station at Montgomery and Cooper, but was forced to relocate when the building was sold in 1954. The Montgomery Business Club offered use of their building while Shelly built a new facility for the newspaper. On January 14, 1955, the newspaper staff moved into their new building on West Street with the front portion used for the office and the back for a print shop. Today the building houses Fiber Naturell at 9424 Shelly Lane. The street was

renamed to honor Marion Kjellenberg.

Rosemary DuPriest, who with her husband, the late Paul DuPriest, bought the building in 1976, recalled that Dan Rees helped Shelly with the design of the building. There was a garage door so "Grandpa" Hilfred Kjellenberg, Shelly's Scandanavian father, could pull the old station wagon in with the papers which were printed at the *Oxford Press* in Oxford, Ohio. In the back room were a proof press, a linotype machine and facilities for setting type by hand in the days when a newspaper was put together with metal engravings and lead type "slugs," locked in a form which was then placed on a flatbed newspaper press.

After Shelly's death in 1971, his widow, the late Vivian Kjellenberg, published the paper until she sold to Herb and Betty Behm in 1973. In 1978 the Behms sold the newspaper to Mary Lou and Maurice L. Rose who operated the weekly until they sold it in 1987 to Brown Publishing Company that printed the newspaper until 1993 when they ceased publication.

Rosemary DuPriest also recalled that Shelly put two sheds together to form a little office at the rear of his newspaper building; a clock shop presently uses that location. Shelly also used the peak-roofed Pure Oil building as an office after he bought it and moved it next to his newspaper building to save it from demolition. The former service station has housed a variety of businesses including the Threadneedle Shop and the first location of the now-departed Chatterlings. Today Paul A. Diekmeyer, a jewelry designer, is located in the building at 9426 Shelly Lane.



The first Sycamore Messenger office on Montgomery Road.



Marion Kjellenberg wiping off a village sign in a 1950s snowstorm.

Swaim Field Golf Course

In 1917 Professor William Turner Swaim purchased a 224-acre farm from the Blair family at Cooper and Zig Zag roads. He called the property Swaim Fields. The family did not occupy the farm house but lived in a house located at the intersection of Montgomery and Remington roads.

After Professor Swaim's death, his daughters Harriett and Bertha and Bertha's husband Delbert Todd decided to develop the farm into a golf course. In the early 1930s they hired Indianapolis golf course architect Bill Diddle, and residential lots were added adjacent to the course along Cooper and Zig Zag roads to help pay for the cost of construction. The first nine holes were built, then a second and third nine added. The course was closed and altered in 1965 when I-71 was routed along the western edge. When

Cross County Highway was constructed, the Cooper Road “back nine” section was sold for a housing development called Village Green.

Harriett Swaim and the Todd family operated the public golf course until it was sold in 1976. At the end of World War II, Delbert and Bertha Todd’s youngest son Nick returned home and managed the golf course with a partnership formed by Delbert, Nick, and his brother Bill. When Nick died in 1968, Bill retired from U.S. Steel Company in Michigan and moved to Montgomery, taking over the operation of the golf course in 1969.

Popular with golfers was the 19th Hole, a restaurant and bar housed in an old building made from two old barns, one moved from across the street onto which a columned porch was added. Bill’s son Warne, who spent many summers in Montgomery, recalled that he used to cut grass on the golf course beginning at midnight so the course would be ready for play early in the morning. As a youngster visiting his grandparents, he often sold soda pop to the golfers and recalled pulling the pin on the old water pump to keep the golfers thirsty and encourage his pop sales. A popular yearly event, started by Nick, was the annual Swaim Fields Open House, when players were invited to eat and drink after play.

The golf course ceased operations in 1976 when it was sold to Paul Brothers developers who built the 175-house residential subdivision named Swaim Fields. (See Recreation Section in Chapter 6 for failed attempt by the city to purchase the golf course for a city park.)

The Wilder-Swaim house, primarily a tenant farm house, remains today on the corner of Cooper and Zig Zag roads. It is owned by the City of Montgomery, is a city-designated Landmark house and on the National Register of Historic Places, and serves as the home of the Montgomery Historical Society.

The adjacent Swaim Park has 13 acres and is one of the most-used in the city; the park’s Todd Pond was the water hazard at the 18th hole. Now youngsters of all ages try their hand at fishing.



The Clubhouse and 19th Hole restaurant at Swaim Fields Golf Course.

The 1950s: End of an Era

By the fall of 1950 the Montgomery Village Council had approved rezoning a large area of residential land, about one-third of the village, for retail use. The rezoned area included property on both sides of Montgomery Road from Creekwood Antiques and the south limits of the then-Marion Radabaugh property (near Montgomery Road and Cross County Highway in 1995) north to the village corporation line at Perin Road. This brought about a surge of business development, and the peaceful 19th century village began to change, with new buildings arising along Montgomery Road where two-story frame houses once stood along tree-lined Montgomery Pike.

Perhaps the signal that this chapter in the town's history was closed took place when the Old Town Hall was razed in 1951 for an addition to Montgomery School, and a dozen mercury vapor lights were installed along Montgomery Road. Times were changing.



The old Town Hall, formerly just north of today's Montgomery School.

That zoning decision also set the pattern for building "a fine community of homes," stated Chester Bartlett, Montgomery's Mayor 1961-62, in a 1963 Cincinnati & Suburban Bell Telephone "Bulletin" article. Minimum lot requirements were 20,000 square feet.

In the early 1950s Montgomery remained a rural town. During the next ten years, land annexations coupled with the discovery by people that Montgomery was an attractive town, accelerated the community's steady path of growth. Population grew from 750 residents in 1955 to 3,700 in 1963.

Marion S. Kjellenberg, in his 1967 *History and Directory of Montgomery*, described the new business changes as they took place and were recorded in the weekly *Sycamore Messenger*. He reported that by 1952 business property along Montgomery Pike had doubled in value since 1947.

New businesses in the 1950s

The business scene along Montgomery Road changed in the 1950s with the addition of the Farm Implement Building at Perin Road and T-K Nursery (Thornton Nurseries in 1995) farther north on Montgomery Road.

The new Ferris & Williams building, constructed in the mid-1950s, housed the new branch of the Silverton Bank



The Farm Implement building on the site of today's Steak & Shake.



In 1955 the Ferris & Williams building housed offices on the second floor, the Silverton Bank and Anderson's Restaurant.



The northeast corner of Montgomery and Cooper roads in 1950 had Goodwin's Grocery on the corner, Hulsbeck's paint store and Anderson's Restaurant.



A creamy whip (later Philippi's Pony Keg) was at this corner of Perin & Montgomery roads in the late 1940s. Today it is the site of Schlotsky's Deli and the Rookwood Building.



The "last outpost" of the village before travelers hit rural territory was this restaurant, shown in this 1949 photo, later called the Beacon Inn and now the Society Bank site.

An Easter sunrise service at the Montgomery Drive-in c. 1948 photo. The photographer was standing on top of the screen. Note the choir and ministers on the roof of the concession stand.



and Anderson's Restaurant (BenchMark Federal and former LaRosa's restaurant in 1995). Daniel Rees designed a small building adjacent for Anderson's Food Market.

Hulsbeck's Color Corner, established in 1942 in a building at Recker and Boerger's 1995 location, moved north in 1952 to 9392 Montgomery Road into the building where Clyde and Ruth Ball had operated a variety store. Bill and Lucy Hulsbeck operated the business until 1980 that sold paint and hobbies and whose logo was "Ask Dr. Hulsbeck's prescription for your paint problems." Mr. Hulsbeck served as treasurer and director of the Montgomery Fire Department for more than 20 years, and as treasurer for the village.

Silverton Loan and Building moved into an Early American brick building designed by Montgomery architect Dan Rees in the 1950s, located directly across the street from the historic Universalist Church.

A new building designed by Montgomery architect John Hargrove was built on the northeast corner of Sycamore and Montgomery Road for Keegan Pharmacy (purchased by Edward L. Driver in 1959 who operated a pharmacy into the 1980s and in 1995 is Sabrina's) and for Audrey's Dress Shop operated by Audrey Runge from 1953 to 1961. Area women frequented the shop which provided a variety of clothing for women, from hosiery and lingerie to sportswear and dresses, in a time prior to the building of malls in the area. Audrey held style shows at local restaurants and country clubs. This building was located adjacent to the two-story early Snyder House which housed the Maridot Tea Room and Gift Shop operated from 1949 to 1964 by Charles and Violet Steffans.

Cliff Todd built an appliance store on the west side of Montgomery Road, razing two houses, on the site of today's Recker and Boerger, 9347 Montgomery Road.

Dr. A.N. Marts opened an office in a remodeled old house at Sycamore and Montgomery. In 1954 Dr. David Kerman opened an office on Remington and Main in a new building constructed by Paul Cribben.

Alamo TV opened at 7836 Cooper Road. Today they are in a building at 9466 Montgomery Road.

In 1954 Charles Ventura bought Goodwin's Grocery at the corner of Cooper and Montgomery and operated a store that was popular for smoked hams and produce. That building had received its second story and brick facade in 1946 and is built around the old Dr. Ekermeier house. It houses the Village Tavern in 1995.

The building known from 1958 to 1993 as Barton's Bakery received a face lift in 1957 when a portion of the two-story early Sage Tavern was torn down. The bakery was located in a one-story section.

The Nate Stein building (Barleycorn's in 1995) was constructed in 1958 housing Meyer's Apothecary, Clean Quick Laundry, Coiffure Studios on the first floor and offices on the second.



John Snyder built his house, now a landmark, about 1818. In the 1950s-60s the house was used as Maridot Gifts & Tea Room.

Iceberg melting contest

In 1954 in an effort to recapture some of the business lost by the closing of Montgomery Road for state road improvements north of town, the Montgomery Business Club built a huge iceberg on the grounds of Farm Implements and held a guessing contest as to when it would melt. A vintage auto was placed on top the iceberg to give it more attention.

At three seconds past midnight on the last day of 1954, the iceberg melted and C. Huerigues of Forestville won a 1955 Chevrolet sedan given by the Montgomery Business Club for the closest guess.

After 18 months of construction, Montgomery Pike, rebuilt two feet wider on each side with the hazardous Radabaugh Hill flattened and straightened, re-opened on October 8, 1955.



It took six months for the huge block of ice to melt.

Early American look desired in the 1950s

Most of the new construction during these years was in keeping with the “Early American” look, but one new building, the Bardon Building, 9505 Montgomery Road, designed by architect Oliver H. Bardon, featured an “ultra modern” appearance when it was built in 1958-59. It also featured air conditioning, a wide expanse of front lawn and a large parking lot.

Ted Gregory’s Montgomery Inn

The business success story in Montgomery has to be Ted Gregory’s Montgomery Inn, known throughout the country for its succulent ribs. In 1995 the Montgomery Inn, which Ted Gregory and his wife Matula bought from Jim McCabe in 1951, called the McCabe Inn, is one of the most successfully run restaurants in the country. It has expanded Cincinnati locations to three, markets its own rib sauce and potato chips and has been a family-run restaurant since its inception. The next generation of the Gregory family runs the three locations today, although Matula and Ted remain involved in the business. Tom Gregory is president of Montgomery Inn, Inc., and operates the Montgomery location; Dean operates the Montgomery Inn at the Boathouse in Cincinnati; Terry works at the Boathouse and Vicky’s primary responsibility is at Montgomery Inn East but works at all locations.

The following is excerpted from an article, “Ted Gregory’s Montgomery Inn: A rib tickler,” that appeared in the January 27, 1983, *Sycamore Messenger/News Business and Industry Quarterly*, written by Mary Lou Rose on how they got started:

Mat and I came down here when I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Her Dad had a sandwich shop at the end of the car line in Kennedy Heights called Charley’s Sweet Shop. He said, “Why don’t you come down here and go into business?” (Ted, born in Windsor, Canada, was raised in Detroit where his parents operated a variety of restaurants.)

We went out and looked at several places and I didn’t think too much of the area. It was rural, out in the sticks, not too many houses. We came out and found this place called McCabe’s Inn. Jim McCabe was a grocer who used to rent from my father-in-law in Kennedy Heights and had moved out here. There was a restaurant on one side and a saloon on the other.

There was this big old ice house, out back, that was really a pony keg. It was an antique ice house; I wish I had it today. It looked like an old log cabin. People would pull up out back, push a button and you would run out back from the bar to give service, sell them a bag of ice, a six-pack, or give cash for bottles. It was a bit hectic. It kept you trim.

Booze cost 30 cents a shot; there were 10-cent beers, and if we took in \$300 on a Saturday night, it was a big night; now [1983] that is a dinner check for 15-20 people. We had a little restaurant on one side. Luncheon special went for 50, 60, 70 cents to \$1.

The area was just starting to build. Builders lined up at six in the morning for breakfast, double shots and beers. All day long they came in and it was great. Our food operation was not that big. We leased the kitchen out to a lady for \$1 a year.

I worked a double shift: up at 6 a.m. and worked until 1 p.m. Got home for a few hours of sleep, then back and work until 1 a.m. when we closed. The woman closed the kitchen at 9 p.m. Her food was horrible; either that or I'm a little particular. Finally my wife Matula would cook at home and bring it over. We lived in Montgomery then, near Sycamore High School on Cooper Lane. Every night it was a gourmet dinner. She's a great cook . . . learned from my mother and father who were both hotel chefs. She improved on them and cooks with wines, spices, mushrooms . . . the most exotic dishes you ever saw; she's great. She would bring food in, enough for three or four or five. One night she cooked ribs for us and had the darndest sauce you ever tasted. It was so good. Still the same sauce. We all ate the ribs, and everyone just raved.

I asked her if she could do that with loin back ribs. We got a box of loin back and tried it. Got a second box and, to make a long story short, we got rid of the cook and took over the kitchen. We had shish kabob; we were the first restaurant in the area to have giant India shrimp. We had a good steak, but we got so busy with the ribs we dropped the rest of the fancy menu and stuck to ribs, chicken, duck and steaks. We kept it simple because we were too busy.

Eventually we had to enlarge. We had the fire in 1976 and rebuilt. We were one of the top 50 restaurants in the country in volume for a private restaurant.

My first employees were Sam the bartender and two waitresses, one for daytime and one at night. Esther McKee has been with us for years. Today [1983] our employees number around 120, not all fulltime.



The Montgomery Inn in 1995.

A small business is all work. You have to devote time to it. You have to keep an eye on the cash register. In the era I grew up, people came here from Europe and knew how to cook. Their background in food was just great. There's salesmanship, and cleanliness is a big factor. My wife cracks the whip, has them dusting and cleaning and scrubbing seven days a week.

My ten favorite celebrities: I was thrilled when Beverly Sills was here. Bob Hope is a big booster of ours; he's done more for me publicity-wise than you could ever believe. All the sports celebrities come in here. We have autograph books with hundreds and hundreds of signatures of who is who in the sports world. The lady golfers love to come here. We throw a big party for them, the LPGA.

Another favorite is Henny Youngman, another booster of ours. He lets me carry his violins when he comes to the airport and comes out to our place for a free meal. Recently [1983] we've been sending ribs to President Ford.

Our biggest rib purchase of all time was 301,000 pounds of back ribs in a period of about ten days. We buy in the offseason when prices are down. That way we can pass the savings along to the customer. I need close to 500,000 pounds to run me for the year [1983].

We ship ribs to the Houston Oilers, the San Francisco Giants, the L.A. Dodgers. We got a big romance going with Tommy LaSorda. Every time he comes to town with the team, we send our automobile down and bring the team out here to enjoy our ribs. Every NFL team, when they hit town, comes out here and also the national league baseball teams.

Had a thrill last year [1982] when I was invited to the Greek Embassy in Washington, D.C. as one of the leading Greek restaurant men in the country. Dinah Shore was in our kitchen one night trying to find out how we cook our ribs.

At the 30th anniversary of the Montgomery Inn held at the Inn in November 1981, Bob Hope commented that it was a pleasure to honor a guy like this. "Gregory talks more than Howard Cosell. With a cigar or a rib in his mouth, you can't understand a word he says, which is Ted's advantage over Cosell. Seriously," continued Mr. Hope, "no trip to Cincinnati is complete without standing out there eating rib after rib. I have a great time."

The Elm Cris Motel

The Elm Cris Motel, 9300 Montgomery Rd., opened in 1954, named for the builder, Elmer Emily and his wife Christine. It was purchased in 1956 by Harold Barrere and has been managed by his daughter, Ruth Jones, since that time. The motel was built as if it were a home, a house incorporated into the line of motel rooms noted Ruth Jones in a 1994 interview. Elmer Emily also built houses on Hartfield Place. The 3-C highway



Montgomery's motel, the Elm Cris, built in 1954.

(Montgomery Road) brought customers to the Elm Cris. Guests included travelers headed for Florida on old By-Pass 50 and celebrities who came to town to perform at the theater in front of the Fox & Crow in 1959: Dody Goodman, Marie Wilson, Imogene Coca, and Woody Woodberry. Doris Day, who came to visit her aunts in Silverton, also stayed at the motel.

Service stations

By 1960 the automobile era was well on its way and six service stations were located in Montgomery.

Perry's Gulf, 9560 Montgomery Road, was built in 1955 at the north end of Main, across from Brose's Sinclair, 9548 Montgomery Road.

Standard Oil located the village's first super service station in the early 1950s at southeast corner Montgomery and Cooper Roads.

Pure Oil Co. in 1957 constructed a new super service station operated by Marion Schnitzler, at the northwest corner of Montgomery and Cooper.

Sun Oil Co. built Sunoco Station at the southwest corner of Cooper and Montgomery that opened on October 3, 1960.

Mobil oil opened a station in the early 1960s at 9841 Montgomery Road at Mitchell Farm Lane.

Fearing a proliferation of service stations, Village Council in 1966 refused rezoning for a Standard Oil station at the I-71 and Pfeiffer Road interchange of the interstate. By 1995 all these stations had ceased operation despite increased traffic.

The 1960s: Progress comes . . . ready or not

The 1960s brought Montgomery into the land of suburbia. Suburbs have unique problems unlike those of more isolated small towns. Control of development within a suburb is often tied to what is happening in communities surrounding it as well as to the "mother" city. Location of major highways; recalcitrant land owners who sue, or threaten to sue, the city if more intense use of their property is not allowed; neighboring communities like Indian Hill that allow no business development; and others that boomed with development — all these reasons placed increased building and traffic pressures on Montgomery Road.

Robert Novak, mayor from 1964-1975, dealt first-hand with those pressures. In a 1993 interview he noted that "lots of pressure came in the 1960s for Montgomery Road. Everyone wanted to build on every corner. First, Shell wanted to build a service station at the corner of Kennedy Lane and Montgomery Road which council did not approve and which was taken by the village to the Ohio Supreme Court where the court ruled in favor of the city's zoning."



Looking south at the intersection of Montgomery and Cooper roads c. 1955. Note the drug store (the old Parrott General Store) on the southwest corner where Montgomery Commons is today, Anderson's department store/restaurant on the left in this photo where the Greyhound Bus depot was, Schnitzler's Pure Oil station, and the Standard Oil station that is now vacant in 1995.

Former Mayor Novak pushed for a strong residential policy for the village and felt that the previous administration's decision to allow the Myers Y. Cooper Company to build houses on less than half-acre lots behind the shopping center was in error. "Our administration put a stop to that practice," he said. His desire for an \$8,000 master plan was turned down by council which he feels resulted in the spending of thousands of dollars on law suits over land use.

In the 1960s another facet of the automobile — the auto dealership — found its way to Montgomery Road.

A 1960s' question: Will Montgomery Road be Little Detroit?

Williams Ford

In March 1962 Ford Motor Company announced plans to build a new sales and service garage on the Marion Radabaugh property on Montgomery Road and asked the city to rezone the property for commercial use. The first building permit was for a \$100,000 building for Williams Ford, Inc., although the agency first opened a used car lot with an office in a trailer. The Marion Radabaugh house was razed for the dealership. In 1965 Williams Ford bought the Dover Dick home north of its sales agency in order to build a large addition to the car dealership.

The rezoning caused reaction in the community. One resident, Carl Brieske, commented, according to former Mayor Bob Novak in a 1993 interview, "You allow Bob Williams to come in here and you are going to have a strip of car agencies all over the place and they will call it 'Little Detroit,' which Bob Williams did call it. I fought it," recalled Mr. Novak, "but council approved it."

Bob Williams recalled that the doors for Williams Ford opened on June 26, 1962, and they sold a car that day: a 1962 Galaxie 500 for \$3,400.

When Montgomery was chosen as the site for the Ford dealership, it was the third choice, according to Mr. Williams. He said he was unaware of the location of Cross County Highway, but designed his showroom to overlook it. The Ford Company loaned him 80 percent and he put up 20 percent to begin the auto agency. He recalls going to the "city fathers" for their approval and was asked to design the building in the style of the community. The original building contained 14,000 square feet with plans to sell 400 new cars and 200 used cars a year.



Bob Williams started business in a trailer on the site of his new Ford dealership.

He paid off the Ford Motor Company in two years. Business was so good he expanded twice. In 1971 he bought property across the street and put in a Mazda dealership. In 1989 he added the Jaguar line of cars and a showroom. In 1995 there are 90 employees and the dealership sells Ford, Land Rover, Jaguar and Rolls-Royce products.

More car dealers

1965 was the year that several car agencies chose to build their dealerships in Montgomery. And some of them had planning battles with Mayor Novak and Council.

A big confrontation was the Cadillac agency. It was to be a Chevrolet General Motors agency. Mayor Bob Novak recalled that when he saw drawings for the building, "I suggested a little more Early American, a little more in keeping with the community. The architect responded that they would be selling automobiles and not covered wagons."

Walter Schott took an option on acreage north of Volkswagen for a General Motors car dealership. After rezoning the rear depth to 900 feet, Franklin Cadillac located on the site that is Camargo Cadillac's dealership in 1995.

Schenke Motors and the village council disagreed on rezoning of property north of Carter's Drive-in. The issue went to court and Schenke Mercury won their suit in 1966. After the rezoning was obtained, the property was put up for sale and was sold to Ivan Perkins who opened Perkin's Restaurant at 9307 Montgomery Road.

American Motors opened a Rambler sales and service garage south of the James Radabaugh home (now Chester's Roadhouse) at 9620 Montgomery Road. It is operated as Montgomery Jeep/Eagle.

Volkswagen bought part of the T-K Garden property and opened a dealership at 9876 Montgomery Road. The Volkswagen operations were moved in 1985 to separate facilities in Loveland. Honda and Mazda are now sold from the Montgomery location.

Doug Morgan operated an Alpha Romeo car agency called Autosport, Inc. that opened in 1966. It was located adjacent to the Montgomery Elementary School.

New businesses in the 1960s

Businesses began to spread both directions on Montgomery Road from the "old" downtown area. The following businesses opening during the 1960s:

Otmar Furniture, Fillipi Pony Keg, Gradman's Montgomery House, Carter's Drive-in, Frisch's Drive-in, Sailboat Sails, King Kwik, Violet Ray Car Wash, the village's first state liquor agency at Stickley Delicatessen, Betty Brite Cleaners, Econ-O-wash, Hitches Meats, Hoffman Party Mart, Ohio Savings and Loan, Montgomery Pony Keg, Montgomery Cyclery, Henderly Design Studio, Burger Chef, and Cole Shower Door.

Some businesses felt the interesting historic architecture of the old downtown was worth preserving. Dr. Slowick purchased the Haucke residence at 9521 Montgomery Road which he renovated



A familiar sight in the '60s, Frisch's drive-in restaurant was where the West Shell building is now on Montgomery Road.

with an Early American look. This 1825 saltbox is a designated Montgomery Historic Landmark called the Bell House. Robert Essex made a renovation of the historic Pioneer Building, 9433 Montgomery Road. This 1818-19 Federal-style brick building is owned by Ted Gregory in 1995 and is a Montgomery Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register.



Presbyterian manse c. 1820s which was razed in 1971 for Montgomery Cyclery.

Others felt that the older buildings needed to go. The Mac Mequire home on Montgomery

Road south of Cooper, which was converted from a covered bridge and moved to that site, was razed for the new Ohio Savings and Loan building where Dr. Ruth Ferris located her medical practice 1963. Willie Grieb moved to his new building for Montgomery Cyclery at 9449 Montgomery Road after considerable controversy regarding demolishing the old Presbyterian Manse at that site.

John Fisher bought the old Blackerby property at the northeast corner of Cooper and Main for an antique shop in 1966 and Dale Acres Antiques opened at 9423 Montgomery Road, operated by Dale and Nancy Smith.

Rezoning requests

Along with new businesses locating on retail-zoned property came requests to rezone residential property for retail. Not all were allowed.

Council turned down Oliver Bardon's request to rezone property from residential to retail for the northwest corner of Montgomery and Pfeiffer for a bowling alley and ten stores. The property had been annexed to Montgomery on June 2, 1962. This request was just the beginning of what was to be a major land-use battle for the village ten years later.

Another rezoning request came from Ed Dieckmann for Dr. Dawson who bought the old Dan Miller home on Cooper Road across from the Masonic Temple. The house was situated on two lots. One was zoned retail and one zoned residential which presented a problem for the home owner and the village. It was not until the mid-1970s that the Dieckmann/Dawson property issue was resolved and an office was built on the Cooper Road site.

In 1964 Ben Radabaugh asked to rezone 12-1/2 acres on the east side of Montgomery Road south of Weller for a \$2 million motel. Opposition surfaced at the public hearing including a representative for the Unitarian Church whose nearby congregation opposed the zone change from residential. Planning Commission proposed industrial use for the site, but when the final council vote was taken, the site was approved for retail.

In 1964 a request to rezone the corner of Montgomery and Hopewell roads for a tv repair shop met with strong opposition from residential neighbors in the Jones Farm subdivision. It was turned down by council.

Montgomery Heights/Montgomery Square Shopping Center

Myers Y. Cooper Co. purchased the old Mitchell farm in 1955. In November the company was before

the council asking for homes to be built on 10,000 to 12,000 square foot lots in the Montgomery Heights subdivision, although city ordinances required a minimum of 20,000 square feet. By 1957 Montgomery Heights Corporation (a subsidiary set up for the development by the Myers Y. Cooper Co.) and the village had agreed to a 141-acre community unit plan to contain 256 lots with a minimum of 15,000 square feet, a proposed three-acre business section along the Montgomery Road frontage, and a city park area north of that retail center.

About that time the developer held a contest to name the new streets in Montgomery Heights Subdivision. Winners received a \$25 bond. Judges were Mayor Sherritt and West Shell, vice president of Myers Y. Cooper Company. Winning names were: Mitchell Farm Court, Schoolhouse Lane, Blackerby Lane, Knollbrook Terrace, Tollgate Lane, Old Farm Court, Old Town Court, Tree Heights Lane and Shelldale Way. Street construction began in 1957, and in 1958 Tollgate Lane and Mitchell Farm Lane were dedicated.

By 1960 the access road was made to the city park and in November 1961 a village picnic was held in the new park. Pete Redmond came to Cincinnati in 1963 to head the Montgomery Heights Corporation, serving as the major contact with the city. He recalled in a 1994 interview that houses were selling for about \$30,000 to \$35,000 in 1963 in the subdivision. Mr. Redmond worked with residents who had concerns about the traffic patterns and impact of the shopping center on neighboring residential areas. Original plans called for a 1,300 foot-long wood stockade fence as a buffer, but his concept of the ornamental concrete fence has served the development well. F. W. Pressler & Sons designed the buildings and the fence. Mr. Redmond's original concept was for a California-style shopping center, but city officials desired colonial style, and the company complied. As he notes today, it is one of the very few colonial style shopping centers built in the 1960s. It was former Ohio Governor Myers Y. Cooper who suggested giving acreage north of the shopping center to the city for a park, recalls Mr. Redmond.

In 1966 the shopping center opened with a 14,707 square foot Kroger's store as anchor, with an additional 22,468 feet of shopping space in the Montgomery Square Shopping Center. General contractor was Fisher Devore. Original tenants also included Spreen's Pharmacy, The Beehive Card Shop, One-Hour Martinizing, Montgomery Square Barbershop and Perkin's Bakery.



A 1974 photo showing the new Kroger's store addition to Montgomery Square. Kroger's was first located where Revco is now.

Development of the 12.9-acre shopping center (four times the original plan) has taken place in four phases, growing from the original 37,000 square feet in 1966 to 130,000 in 1995. The second phase in 1968 added 15,000 square feet and Central Trust. In 1974 a 31,000 square-foot Kroger's was built to the north end of the shopping center, with an expansion seven years later making a completed 45,400 square-foot store. In 1974 shops included Aglamesis Bros., Florangel, Montgomery One Hour Martinizing, Montgomery Square Barber Shop, Shepard Paint & Wallpaper, Cline Realtors, Ben Beaty's Americana Salon, Fashion Fabrics, The Owl Tree, Diamond Creations, Inc., Spreen Pharmacy and Kroger's.

The fourth phase opened in 1982-84 with additions to the north. In 1995 shops include Porter Paint, Revco Drugs, Parcel Plus, Kramer's Sew-n-Vac, Richard's Dry Cleaners, Subway Restaurant, Woodbourne, Wild Birds Unlimited, Famous Footwear, Maverick's, Freeman Jewelers, Eyeworld Optical, Aglamesis Brothers, The Silky Way, Comey & Shepherd, Central Trust, Montgomery Square Barber, Little Professor, Patricia's Card & Gift, Kroger's, Prestige Travel, Nightingale Medical, Sibcy Cline Realtors, The Myers Y. Cooper Company, Republic Bancorp., The Associates, Moto Photo, and Society Bank, The Original Pancake House, and a new 5,000 square-foot building at the south end for Comey & Shepherd.

Ferris Hardware was a popular store in the 1940s-70s. This photo was taken in 1960 during the Village's 50th anniversary celebration of incorporation. Ferris Hardware was Chatterlings in the 1980s and USA Baby in 1995.



The 1970s: The Planning Begins

Bethesda North Hospital

Bethesda North Hospital opened its doors on an 88-acre site in June 1970.

Announcement first came in April 1965 that a hospital, Bethesda Suburban, had chosen the Courtney property (east side of Montgomery Road north of Pfeiffer Road) for a 150-bed hospital. Dr. Arthur Milne represented the hospital at a May 1965 public hearing, stating the plans were "still a bit nebulous" because a study of the site was not complete.

Residents from Jones Farm subdivision located south of the proposed hospital site worried about how close the hospital would be to them, and if extension of Pendery Drive into the hospital site would increase their traffic. Others were concerned that property on the west side of Montgomery Road might be zoned for business after the hospital was built. A petition signed by 182 residents was presented to council asking that there be no zone change for the hospital "until a background for an intelligent decision can be acquired."

In late 1965 Dr. Milne and Mr. Isaacs of Sullivan, Isaacs and Sullivan showed a plan of the proposed hospital to be six stories in height, to contain 150 beds and parking for 300. They also revealed how the hospital would look in 25 and 50 years with several more buildings.

January 17, 1966, was set as the time for a public hearing on the proposed "H" zone for the hospital. Soon after the approval of the hospital on the 88-acre site, construction began. Montgomery officials felt adequate protection was given the residential area surrounding the hospital with its self-contained 88-acre campus.



Update on Bethesda North facilities

In May 1982 Bethesda revealed a \$30 million five-year expansion plan for Bethesda North which would:

- increase the number of patient beds from 188 to 314,
- expand the medical and surgical capabilities,
- add outpatient facilities,
- include an alcohol and drug rehabilitation center
- add intensive and coronary care,
- add an obstetrics wing,
- include a doctors professional building
- add a multi-level parking garage (postponed),
- add a sub-acute facility for aging; instead Montgomery Care Center was purchased in 1985.

The proposed plan included an increase of 413 employees and was estimated to approximately double the salaries paid from a payroll of \$14.4 million in 1981. Bethesda North was Montgomery's largest employer.

Furor over drug rehab

By mid-1982 the community was in an uproar over the proposed drug and alcohol rehab center proposed as a separate building on the hospital grounds. Strenuously objecting to its location were nearby residential neighbors, although area ministers wrote to the city council expressing their support of the project as one needed in the community.

After several crowded and sometimes stormy public hearings, council approved the proposal in a simple majority vote on September 1, 1982. That vote was challenged by David Schmit, chairman of the planning commission, and in early 1983 Bethesda filed a suit asking the court to force the City to allow construction of the alcohol and drug rehab center. Bethesda won the right to build the center but chose not to do so.

1984 Long-range planning

- In 1984 a new long-range plan was presented to city officials with the following in the construction cycle:
- Intensive care unit opened in 1984,



Top photo: former Governor Rhodes at the dedication of the hospital October 15, 1966. Bottom photo shows the progress of the main building construction in 1969.

- Cincinnati Eye Institute opened in 1984 and was expanded in 1994,
- Medical office building with outpatient surgery center opened in 1989,
- Women's center that opened as maternity wing in 1990,
- Substance abuse center with 60 beds; replaced by a major behavior health department, primarily outpatient.

In 1991 child care centers were added with preference given to hospital employees, and additional outpatient services begun. Future expansion would include: outpatient services, gerontology, educational services for staff and the public, future technologies facility and behavior modification center.

Montgomery's City Manager Jon Bormet commented in a 1994 interview that Bethesda North is not only the city's largest employer, but it is also one of the city's greatest assets. The hospital not only serves the medical needs of the community, it has been a very good corporate neighbor, he said.

Bethesda North Hospital's commitment to provide health care to the community has continued to shape Bethesda North in the 1990s. Maternity care is one example. On April 2, 1991, Bethesda North's maternity unit opened its doors, and plans are under way to expand the unit. Another project is expansion of surgical suites and renovation of the emergency department, radiology and endoscopy areas. Also added to the campus in the 1990s was the radiation therapy center, including a state-of-the-art linear accelerator.

Hospital precipitates rezoning requests on Montgomery Road

As valuable an asset as Bethesda North has been, it has influenced how land was to be developed on Montgomery Road, which has affected not only construction in the city, but politics as well. In the early 1970s the city wrestled with land owners anxious to rezone their residential land located across Montgomery Road from Bethesda North hospital, although the 88-acre complex purchased for the hospital was planned as a self-contained unit. The Chelsea-Moore development at the northwest corner of Pfeiffer and Montgomery roads illustrates the problem.

In 1972 the Chelsea-Moore Company presented a proposed business and apartment complex plan for this 22-acre L-shaped parcel running primarily along Montgomery Road. This was the location that Oliver Bardon had attempted to get the village to rezone in the late 1950s for a bowling alley and shopping center.

Montgomery Council rejected the Chelsea-Moore proposal. The plan was revised reducing the amount of land for retail use but council continued to oppose. Finally a plan was approved by council that eliminated retail use but included office development on the Montgomery Road frontage. It allowed low-density condominiums at the rear, and single-family homes to buffer existing single family homes. This plan was vetoed by Mayor Bob Novak. (The mayor was elected separately from council at the time.)

Residents filled city hall urging only single-family dwelling use for the property. Council overrode the mayor's veto; however, in the heat of the conflict, two councilmen resigned — Byron Benton and Carl Radtke. An opposition group formed and collected signatures on petitions to place the plan on the ballot where voters defeated the issue 3-1 (1,723 against; 564 for) in May 1973. Chelsea-Moore then filed suit against the city in late 1973 claiming that the zoning was "too restrictive." Judge Robert L. Marrs ruled in the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas in early 1975 that the zoning by the city was "unreasonable" and that the developer could go ahead with the plan for Montgomery Meadows.

City negotiates

City council, headed by Howard L. Smith, authorized the city solicitor to negotiate an agreement with Chelsea-Moore to include a one-acre buffer area, 50-foot setbacks on office buildings along Montgomery Road, a reduction in density of apartment units, and a landscape plan along Montgomery Road.

Mayor Novak disagreed with council's action. In a news story of that time he objected to council's negotiating position stating that council was "illegally contemplating making zoning changes and granting variances without following procedures required by the Charter and the Revised Code of Ohio." Mayor Novak recommended the city appeal Judge Marrs' decision.

Council President Smith countered that the council wished to "place greater restrictions on the use of the land than the loose condition in which it was left by the adverse decision in the lower court." He told the mayor that council was not engaged in zoning action on the property. "That is taking place in the courts and has been taken out of our hands by the courts."

New council in 1973

These two views of how to solve land-use problems in Montgomery, expressed in 1973, resulted in a hard-fought election that fall. Both sides felt strongly on this issue: keep Montgomery residential. The disagreement was in how to control that use. One ticket was headed by Dale Skelton who had initiated the successful Chelsea-Moore referendum. Mr. Smith, who had been appointed to council in 1972, ran on the other ticket with Roger Aerni and Florence Kennedy, that was successful in that election.

When voters spoke at the polls or in response to surveys during the next 20 years, it was overwhelmingly in support of a residential community, defined primarily as single-family houses on at least 1/2-acre lots. A 1976 study of the city showed that the city had 103 acres zoned retail with 71 acres in use, which city officials felt was more than enough acres to serve the city's 7,000 residents. What Montgomery officials did not want was an auto row or regional shopping center on Montgomery Road. To retain residential was the intent of council fully supported by residents.

In a 1975 news story Mr. Smith described the reasons why he ran for city council in the fall of 1973 and explained the platform he and his two running mates put together as a four-year plan: "I had two interests in running — building the confidence of people in government at the local level, and the preservation of this community."

Planning: the key

Howard Smith continued: "Key to the platform is planning and good land use to maintain an attractive appearance in Montgomery. Zoning alone does little; it is the planning behind the zoning that will determine the appearance of Montgomery ten years from now."

Negotiation and land-use planning were not idle campaign slogans. They were the order of the day. By 1975 Mr. Smith cited these: control of property at Weller and Montgomery; substitution of a better commercial plan (Market Place) behind Franklin Cadillac (now Camargo Cadillac); genuine interest in historical character of the city (citing examples of Fellowship Baptist Church, retention of Blackerby house); and hiring a business planner for the central area.

Negotiation with the Chelsea-Moore plan was complete when in December 1975 Chelsea-Moore president, Robert Guggenheim, announced the plan: 59 townhomes in the \$60,000 range; nine single-family homes in the \$70,000 price range; 8.37 acres along Montgomery for office purposes, no building to be more than 2.5 stories high with limited access, setbacks and parking requirements.

Mayor Novak vetoed council's approval of the plan, but council overrode the veto. Mr. Novak was quoted in a news story in December 1975 stating that the council was changing zoning without going through the proper public hearings.

Montgomery Road lawsuits

Radabaugh

In the meantime, a suit was filed in Catherine Radabaugh's name, wife of Ben Radabaugh, to rezone their residentially-zoned property directly north of Bethesda North Hospital on Montgomery Road. City council in February 1976 agreed to a negotiated settlement for medical office buildings on that 7.5-acre site. The Radabaugh house on the site, in the Radabaugh family since the mid-1800s, was razed in 1992 although attempts were made for the house to be retained as a city landmark.

Montgomery Road property owners

Another problem area for the city was the desire to rezone residential property on Montgomery Road across from Bethesda North Hospital. Montgomery Road from Schoolhouse Lane north to the city's northern boundary at Weller Road was made part of a Montgomery Road Corridor Land Use Study instituted by the city.

This plan studied land uses, building densities, and need for landscaping. Land in the 107-acre study-area was zoned for single-family residential use and fronted on Montgomery Road. However, the threat was quite real that other property owners would emulate the Chelsea-Moore and Radabaugh-instituted law suits to rezone single-family residential property to retail or office, even though the city had been successful in negotiating the requested developments to a lesser density with less impact on the city. "We do not want a Colerain or Beechmont Avenue," was the cry.

When revealed to the public in September 1976 the Land Use Study recommended multi-family use rather than office or retail use for much of the property, with the entire area to include a 50-foot buffer on Montgomery Road, on-site landscaping, street planting and limited access drives.

Opposition to corridor plan

Some property owners on Montgomery Road strongly opposed the Land Use Plan, and ten of them hired former Cincinnati Mayor, attorney Eugene P. Ruehlmann, to represent them. Office use applications were filed with the city by these owners asking for a zone change from single-family residential, and Mr. Ruehlmann told the city that the Land Use Plan was "incompatible with zoning" across Montgomery Road (site of Bethesda North Hospital). The city turned down the office rezoning requests.

By March 1977 eleven residential property owners on the west side of Montgomery Road from Pfeiffer to Weller had requested office use for their properties from the city. In August 1977 the Allendorfs, who owned twelve acres on Montgomery Road, filed suit against the city challenging the city's zoning laws as restrictive and unconstitutional. By the end of September, eight law suits had been filed by Montgomery Road neighbors. It was not until the fall of 1979 that the suits were heard in Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas. On November 29, 1979, Judge Thomas H. Crush ruled in Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas that the residential "A" (single-family) zoning was unconstitutional and returned the issue of rezoning back to the city.

Montgomery appealed the Crush ruling and city council undertook a study of what land uses would be appropriate along the Montgomery Road Corridor. Asserting its independence, the city's planning commission decided to study the potential use of properties in that area and recommended office use of the property and that council abandon the Land Use Study. Council, however, approved an expanded multi-family code and rezoned the properties to multi-family use according to the Land Use Plan. The property owners appealed. In 1981 Judge Crush granted office zoning limited to Montgomery Road frontage. The multi-family rezoning on the rear portion was upheld. City council appealed the office

zoning. The Ohio Supreme Court ruled in July 1982 that the property owners had the right to develop their sites for office use. Again, it was the courts that decided land use within the municipality of Montgomery.

Goals and planning in 1973 did have an effect on development along Montgomery Road north of city hall despite the law suits and resulting court orders. Retail zoning has not been permitted, and stepback zoning has provided protection for single family residences north of Pfeiffer Road. Property south of Pfeiffer remains single family.

Planning chosen to control development

The 1974 Council, that included Alma Blazic and Ray Walther in addition to Mr. Aerni, Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Smith, fully recognized the pressures caused by property owners wishing their land rezoned for more intense use and the resulting effect on the community. Their concerns were:

- Montgomery Road corridor from Schoolhouse Lane to Weller Road;
- The future of the declining original Montgomery Road business center between Cooper and Remington;
- Attractive business development while avoiding becoming a regional retail center;
- Buffering of residential from commercial; environmental protection including signs proliferations and growing traffic and acquisition of park land.

Three major projects grew out of these concerns:

- Montgomery Road Corridor;
- Revision of the zoning code;
- Old Montgomery District.

None too soon, in view of the increasing number of rezoning requests, Montgomery City Council hired a professional planning firm, Vogt, Sage and Pflum, that found that Montgomery had more than an adequate amount of land zoned for retail use for a city its size and that future development in the Montgomery Road Corridor north should be forms of residential. Dick Sage of that firm also recommended planned development be used and a landscape plan be developed for the length of the corridor, with the objective to make Montgomery Road a tree-lined avenue as it once had been.

Plan for downtown

In 1974 Council hired the firm to draw up a plan for the central business district of Montgomery from city hall at Schoolhouse Lane to the city limits at Kennedy Lane.

Former Councilmember Smith credits Dick Sage with the concept of using the historic character of the 19th century buildings in the downtown area of Montgomery as a basis for



The plaque at Montgomery Road and Sycamore Street dedicating the Streetscape.

business development. Mr. Smith noted that because Montgomery did not develop its business district as early after World War II as did some communities, there remained 19th century buildings in Montgomery, including a few early salt box buildings. Council instructed the planners in their study of the downtown business district to include historic preservation of buildings, use of buffer zones between residential and commercial property, and enhancement of the appearance of the business community by preserving the small-town character of Montgomery. Remington and Cooper roads were to be retained as essentially residential streets.

Council President Howard Smith described the plan as “guidelines” for development for the future and cautioned that changes would not be seen immediately, but public improvements would be visible in 1975, including sidewalk improvements and parking facilities.

Original figures for the downtown plan were projected at \$200,000 with the city to pick up the tab of the Streetscape, sidewalks, lighting fixtures, and planning and design for rear parking lots.

Downtown business questions plan

Business owners questioned the plan and opposed closing side streets. Concerns were expressed by business owner spokesperson Boris Berger at a December 1975 council meeting: a more liberal construction code for buildings, a hard look at the sign ordinance, no removal of parking from Montgomery Road and no closing of the side streets unless the same amount of parking space were to be provided elsewhere. When business owners asked who would pay for improvements, the city said that it would pay.

It was a long hard battle to win over local businesses to even participate in the downtown plan, recalled Mr. Smith in a 1994 interview. “The city had to implement the plan in phases, and it was Montgomery’s biggest public expenditure ever.”

Other efforts to control development by the city

Development pressures also were directed at the southern edge of the city’s business district. On Cooper Road west of the downtown area, construction began in November 1973 for American Colony’s two-story office building on Cooper Road where residentially-zoned property abutted commercially-zoned. Office use was allowed by the city as a buffer between the differing land uses. The city required retention of trees on the three-acre site, a building setback of more than 100 feet and a 25-foot greenbelt. Parking was placed behind the building. Across Cooper Road another office building was permitted in front of a care center, with buffering and restrictions between residential and retail zones.

In September 1974 Council President Smith urged city council and the zoning and planning commission to oppose additional fast-food establishments in Montgomery, citing the city’s proximity to regional shopping centers nearby. Mayor Robert Novak concurred with Mr. Smith’s view, noting that it had been his position to keep a “proliferation of fast-food chains out of Montgomery. It used to be gas stations and now it’s hamburger joints,” he commented in the *Sycamore Messenger* issue of September 5, 1974.

In February 1975 the city declared a 90-day moratorium on building permits in the retail district of Montgomery in order to implement the planning and evaluation study of the business district.

The planning effort soon began to have an effect. After the Montgomery Inn was destroyed by fire on April 8, 1975, owner Ted Gregory announced plans in May to rebuild and agreed to construct a building that featured a “village-type architecture,” in exchange for approval to enlarge his restaurant.

Planning in place

In 1976 city council approved a new zoning code, including use of planned development, and hired both an environmental consultant and an architectural review officer. These tools were to help the city develop the business district into an historic downtown district and deal with any large-scale development in the city.

Planned development, said the planners and officials, would give the city the flexibility to work with development requests for hard-to-rezone areas, particularly where the residential zoning abutted retail, and to deal with variance requests, primarily relief from the parking regulations in the downtown area. In turn, the city could negotiate building size, setback, parking, landscaping and other requirements. The base of the tool was negotiation between city officials and the developer.

Planned development provided the base for the Historic Downtown District, plans for which the city revealed in November 1976. The following provisions were included:

- Six land uses (several residential uses, retail and office use) were permitted in the area containing land from Cooper to Remington roads and from Shelly Lane to Main Street.
- Some 30 buildings were identified to be of historic or architectural significance; guidelines were established for building height, setback and side yard requirements, landscaping, color schemes.
- A parking plan was included, as well as street and traffic improvements.
- Implementation of a 19th century village Streetscape with 19th century light fixtures, brick sidewalks.
- Utility lines were to be moved to the back streets.
- Street trees and other landscaping were approved.

The City paid for the downtown renovation and anticipated spending \$2 to \$3 million. Business contribution was to accept the restrictions and review by the city placed on building improvements to conform to the 19th century village theme and to share in the cost of implementing the coordinated parking plan. Actual expenditures are not available from the city; however, they far exceeded original estimates, according to city officials of that time.

Royal visits

As the City encouraged the use of its historic 19th century village buildings for commercial use in the downtown area, a face-lift added to the retail scene in 1975 when Montgomery residents Rosemary and John Van Kirk restored two historic salt box-style houses on Cooper Road. They turned one at 7789 Cooper Road, originally owned by the Snyders who were one of the founding families of Montgomery, into the Luxembourg House where they sold wines and cheeses. The other at 7795 Cooper Road, that had been the home of early settler Lodowick Weller, they renovated for a restaurant named Terwilliger's. Both houses were volunteered by the Van Kirks for the city's landmarks status, and both are on the National Register of Historic Places. Currently these houses are owned by Cooper Street Partnership.

The two salt box houses served as the setting for a reception on June 7, 1975, when the Ambassador to the U.S. from Luxembourg, Adrien Meisch, and the Mayor of Luxembourg City, Collette Flesch, paid a visit to the Van Kirks. Top city officials and Montgomery Historical Society members greeted the ambassador and his entourage who were in this country as guests of Miami University and were brought to the Luxembourg House in Montgomery by Mr. and Mrs. John Dolibois, at that time vice president of Miami University and a native of Luxembourg.

In May 1979 the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, the reigning royalty of Luxembourg, visited the Luxembourg House in Montgomery and were introduced to a small gathering. Again, it was a Miami University connection that brought the royalty to the Van Kirks and Montgomery.

Continued pressure for development in the mid-1970s

Being close to interstates made the area ripe for development not unlike many other suburbs across the country with the need for goods and services. A small-town atmosphere with access to major highways was a true drawing card for families.

The key for development in Montgomery, which the city's elected leadership in the mid-70s saw, was in planning, and just as importantly, in establishing an identity for Montgomery by drawing on its history — a typical 19th century village. Rather than tear down the often-modest 19th century houses that lined Montgomery, Remington and Cooper roads, the city sought to enhance its image with preservation, and in the historic downtown area, encouraged the use of retail to utilize the concept of new development rising out of the old.

More than Montgomery Road under development pressure

Interior acreage was also under development. When commercial use wasn't feasible, developers asked for apartment or multi-family. When that wasn't permitted, single-family housing developed. During the 1970s two former golf courses, Swaim Fields and Tanager Woods, were developed into housing subdivisions.

In 1978 Sycamore High School was the object of two annexation requests. One group of residents adjacent to Sycamore High School requested annexation of the area to Montgomery and the other residents requested annexation to Blue Ash. Residents wishing to annex to Montgomery won the annexation petition adding most of Montgomery Woods residential subdivision to the city as well as the high school.

1980s: Professional City Management

Although the 1980s saw refinement of planning that had taken place during the 1970s, two major pieces of land, the former Montgomery Drive-in property owned by Columbia Oldsmobile and seven acres on Pfeiffer Road at I-71 on which developer William Brisben held an option, were the sites of hotly-contested land uses resulting in expensive law suits and angry residents.

The 1980 census revealed that the city had doubled in size since 1970 with a 1980 count of 10,071, twenty times that in 1910 when Montgomery incorporated as a village. Along with population and commercial growth came changes in the 1980s in how Montgomery was governed. Council coalitions during these decades following village government were drawn along the lines of how to develop the city rather than along political party lines. Republicans were many and Democrats were few in number, so party politics rarely, if ever, played a role. In 1981 voters approved a council-manager form of government and increased the number of council members from five to seven.

Dean Sterling was named the first city manager in February 1982. One of his first responsibilities was to develop a comprehensive city master plan, although this was not accomplished until 1986. In August 1982 a boulevard plan for Montgomery Road from Pfeiffer to Weller road was presented to city officials by Mr. Sterling and his administrative staff. The plan confronted the traffic problem on Montgomery Road by limiting access drives, provided pedestrian access through an eight-foot bike and walk path, and proposed a heavily landscaped boulevard in the middle of a widened and improved Montgomery Road.

Business predicts good year for '82

The business community leaders predicted a good year for 1982 in a local news story. Jim Stofko, general manager for Sibcy Cline Realtors, viewed the "Blue Ash, Montgomery, Indian Hill area as the brightest spot in greater Cincinnati for residential real estate sales," and predicted growth in condominium sales.

Area auto dealers were looking for a good year as well. Ford and Rolls Royce auto dealer Bob Williams predicted a ten percent growth during the 1980s in the 25-54 age category — prime targets as new car purchasers. Williams had his best year ever in the number of sales of Rolls Royce autos with 80% purchased by those living in the Cincinnati area. Bill Enderly, general manager of Camargo Cadillac, described 1981 as a good year for Cadillac with Eldorado coupe sales showing the highest increase.

The decade was one of expansion and growth for many businesses in Montgomery, including the community's local newspaper, the *Sycamore Messenger/News*, which established a *Business Quarterly* in 1980 that regularly reviewed business growth during the decade. Publisher Maury Rose described the growth of the newspaper that reflected growth in the Montgomery and surrounding area during that time. Circulation grew from less than 1,000 in 1978 to 7,500 by 1987 and readership surveys showed increased household income and higher levels of education. The newspaper's profit grew 20-fold in nine years.

Construction permits issued by the city also tell of the increasing growth in both residential and commercial building. (See chart of construction permits, 1964-1994, on page 79.)

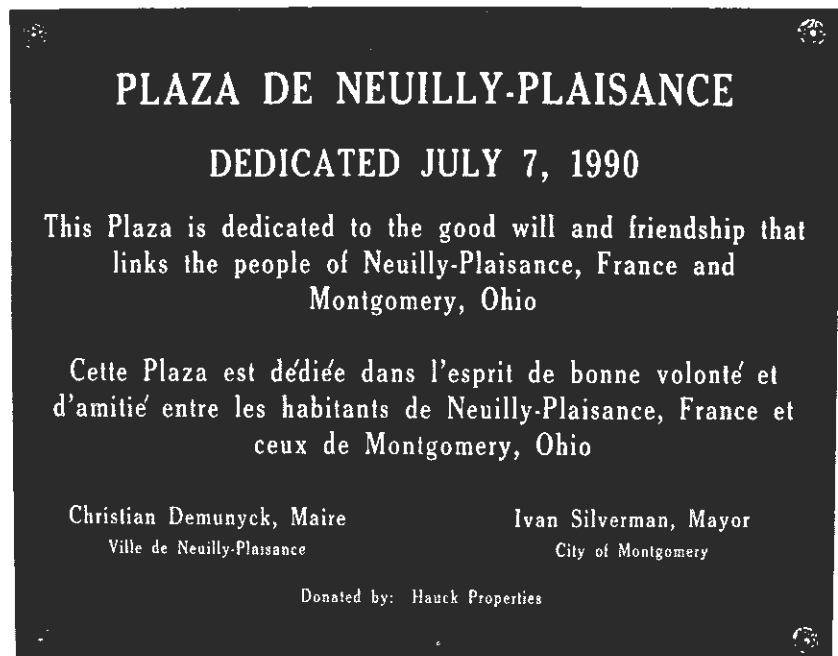
Mid-1980s building boom

By the time the city's second city manager, Jon Bormet, came to Montgomery in 1986, the city was in the midst of another building boom. The city's goals, said Mr. Bormet in a 1994 interview, were to redevelop the heart of the downtown area — the two western corners of Cooper and Montgomery — in a quality way, and to add to the downtown business retail mix. This intersection area had recently housed three service stations, an old post office building on Cooper, the post office having moved to Blue Ash in 1985, and an old auto parts store.

Two developers came to the city interested in developing those sites, said Mr. Bormet. The Manuel D. Mayerson Group proposed a two-story retail center of 16,000 square feet, the Village Corner, for the northwest corner of the Montgomery-Cooper intersection, that would require offsite parking. The Hauck retail development, a three-story 44,000 square foot project called Montgomery Commons, was proposed for the southwest of the intersection that included a 40-by-80 foot public plaza and required offsite parking.

The problem city council members had with the Mayerson and Hauck developments was the large scale of the buildings that utilized the majority of the site so that offsite parking was a necessity. Council members argued for developer participation in the offsite parking, and other downtown businesses asked for increased downtown parking as well.

The parking problem was finally solved when the city and the two developers worked out a lease-back arrangement. The city purchased the two properties at \$1 each, then leased them back to the owner and set up an urban redevelopment tax increment



The fountain plaza at The Commons was renamed Plaza de Neuilly-Plaisance in honor of Montgomery's sister city in France.

Construction Permits, 1964 - 1994

Year	COMMERCIAL		RESIDENTIAL	
	No. of Permits	Tax Evaluation	No. of Permits	Tax Evaluation
1964	3	\$ 605,000	86	\$ 1,978,500
1969	53	1,338,828	108	2,451,038
1975 ('74 not available)	46	2,583,762	94	5,009,250
1979	58	731,249	267	13,439,504
1984	113	2,355,234	157	4,613,580
1989	85	3,701,241	198	3,216,256
1994	91	3,777,947	229	10,838,049

5 Highest Years

COMMERCIAL			RESIDENTIAL		
Year	No. of Permits	Tax Evaluation	Year	No. of Permits	Tax Evaluation
1988	114	\$ 14,171,141	1979	267	\$ 13,439,504
1986	78	10,631,080	1978	190	12,958,650
1990	90	8,327,896	1993	193	12,645,818
1976	80	7,540,603	1994	229	10,838,049
1987	120	7,141,553	1987	213	8,490,080

Statistics provided by Montgomery Building Department.

equivalent fund. In lieu of the owner paying property taxes, the leases bring revenue to the city for 30 years of approximately the tax amount with which the city then purchased offsite parking.

The coordinated parking plan included the city-purchased spaces, the lot adjacent to the Fellowship Baptist Church on Shelly Lane, and a \$1 a year lease with the Montgomery Business Club for their parking area. Eventually the parking lot also included lots in the rear of the Masonic Lodge and the Kromholz building.

Cost of adding the Streetscape improvements, matching those along Montgomery Road, was picked up by the developers, and a city-owned plaza with a fountain was built in front of Montgomery Commons.

A controversial compromise

City Manager Jon Bormet described another critical corner that needed a compromise: the northwest corner of Remington and Montgomery roads intersection. A Montgomery Landmark house, once occupied by James Lloyd Smethurst, elected Montgomery's first mayor in 1910, was purchased by Christos Kotsovos who wished to build a retail store for furs and clothing on the site. After a long and controversial battle, with many protests by the preservationists, Mr. Kotsovos agreed to move the landmark building west of the site and then build his retail shop on the corner location where the landmark once stood. It was a classic compromise, suggests Mr. Bormet, with council approving the change in a close 4-3 vote. To some, it was a highly controversial decision.



The northwest corner of Montgomery and Remington roads looked like this before Christos Kotsovos moved the Smethurst house in 1987.

In 1994 Mr. Kotsovos, who had earlier purchased an adjacent Landmark building to the west, the Blair-Barker house, received permission from the city's Landmark Commission to construct a front-porch addition to the building, the first front-exterior landmark major change permitted. Again, the city compromised with a downtown historic district business in order to assist with the use of historic buildings for commercial purposes.

In 1985 Columbia Oldsmobile, which owned the property once occupied by the Montgomery Drive-In, asked to build a 140,000 square foot shopping center on the 17-acre site which included 11 acres of residentially-zoned property at the rear.

The city was in an interesting position at that time, pointed out Mr. Bormet. Residential property was far more desired by developers than retail. And residents did not wish any residential property turned into retail use. City council turned down the shopping center proposal, and Columbia Oldsmobile sued the city. In a long drawn-out case, the City won in the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, lost in the appeals court, but was finally victorious when the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the property, zoned retail at the front and residential at the rear was "constitutionally zoned." In 1995 the front portion of the acreage is in use as a used car lot.

In 1987 the city received an application to rezone a seven-acre parcel of land on Pfeiffer Road at the I-71 interchange. A developer, William Brisben, who held an option to purchase the land, asked to build an

hotel/office complex on the property, which was zoned for single-family residential use. City council turned down the rezoning request. The developer sued, and the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas ruled against the city, ordering that the property be rezoned. The city then rezoned the property to multi-family use. Again the court ruled against the city, saying that a seven-story building could be built on the site, although the city's building code limits building heights to two and one-half stories in residential areas. Once again it was the courts, without regard to the overwhelming wishes of Montgomery's residents, which determined zoning in the city.

In the area of Bethesda North Hospital, the Montgomery Road Corridor Land Use plan, offering transitional zoning, has resulted in office buildings being constructed along Montgomery Road frontage with multi-family dwellings and the Montgomery Swim Club bordering the office development. Single-family residential has then been built adjacent to other single-family dwellings. In fact, he pointed out that one area zoned for multi-family use in the 1980s has been developed into single-family residences during the 1990s.

The assets of Bethesda North are considerable for the community, said Mr. Bormet. As the city's largest taxpayer (in earnings tax), revenue from this highly desirable corporate citizen has enabled the city to do many other things. Additionally, the hospital has set high standards in corporate development as it has expanded, according to Mr. Bormet.

Solving the Montgomery Road traffic problem

Another problem when Mr. Bormet joined the city was that of traffic on Montgomery Road. Mr. Bormet credits the city council of the time (1986) that assessed "where we were and where we ought to go. The first priority was Montgomery Road, and a Citizens Task Force was established to study this problem to move traffic and people within the context of the community." What citizens and city officials did not want was a divisive Montgomery Road.

What was a mess is now a plus, assessed the city manager. Montgomery Road in part is a tree- and flower-lined boulevard with brick sidewalks. It has been widened and handles traffic — vehicular and pedestrian. The city instituted a walk and bike path program in 1988. By the end of 1995 there will be ten miles of brick paths throughout the city, linking parks, schools and neighborhoods. The result has been bringing a sense of neighborhood and subdivisions together.

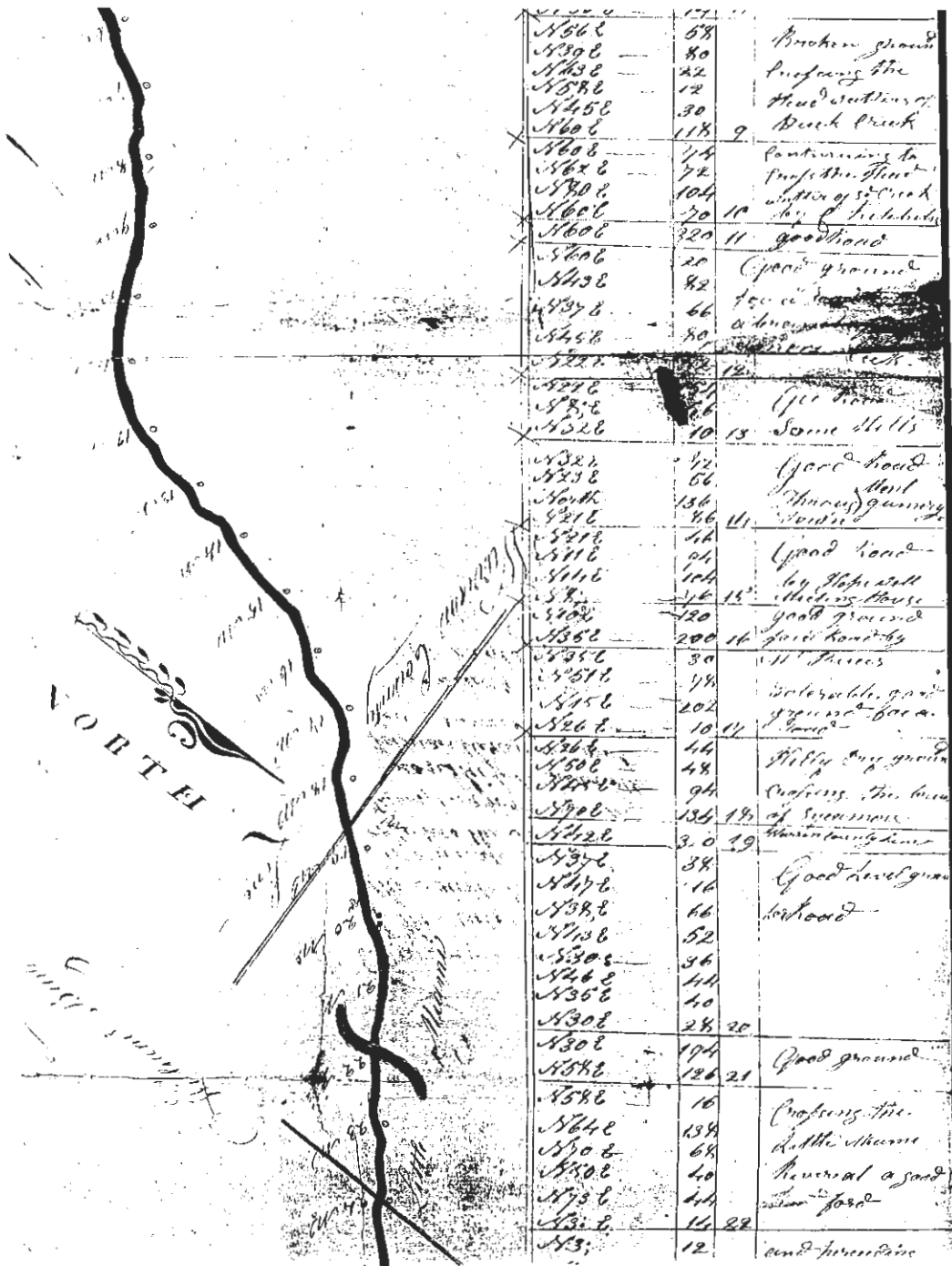
If the 1970s was the "last chance," said Mr. Bormet, "it was the diving, game-saving catch in my mind. It set the stage and laid the foundation for the 1980s-90s by preserving a sense of place — a small village."

Comprehensive master plan for city

By July 1986 the city council with broad input from Montgomery residents put together a comprehensive master plan for the City with the following goals:

- Maintain residential land as high quality low-density single family residential.
- Promote commercial land use within the well defined business area.
- Preserve and enhance the historic downtown area.
- Preserve the environment with natural areas as buffer, require strict landscaping and establish neighborhood and community parks.
- Develop a city road thoroughfare plan.
- Protect integrity of the Montgomery Road corridor.

Additional goals were discussed. A strong annexation policy was defeated by council; a provision for housing for the elderly was removed from the plan; and light industrial land use planning was proposed.



Probably the earliest map of Montgomery Road is this 1816 map of the State Road leading from Cincinnati to Todd's Fork. Each mile on the 39-mile road is noted with a road description. Miles 14 and 15 refer to Montgomery, mile 16 is near where Mason Road crosses Montgomery Road today, mile 18 is approximately at Fields-Ertel and Montgomery roads, and mile 20 is at Columbia Road where the 20-Mile House Inn was another stop for weary travelers. The descriptions are noted in the above illustration, courtesy of the Cincinnati Historical Society.

This State Road had a profound impact on early commercial development in Montgomery. Early businesses, primarily taverns, were housed in log cabins. Shortly after 1816, brick and frame buildings, that still stand today, were built along this road in Montgomery, including the Pioneer Building (1818-1819), Montgomery Hotel-Sage Tavern (1818-1819), Snyder-Crain House (c. 1818), James Ayres House (c. 1820), and the Crain-Conklin House (c. 1820). The straight line on the map notes the Warren County line. The road intersects the State Road to Chillicothe at Todd's Fork. Wavy lines denote where the road crosses the Little Miami River.

V. TRANSPORTATION / COMMUNICATIONS

Montgomery Toll Road

The first settlers traveled to Montgomery primarily by river down the Ohio River from the East to the Little Miami River. They disembarked at Remington and traveled to land that is Montgomery today. Some, including educator and local historian Pliny Johnston, say it was to the site of two trails. The big trail led to Kugler's mill and distillery on the Little Miami near Milford.

A road that was in use by 1816 leading from the Cincinnati court house to Todd's Fork came through Montgomery. A map describes Mile 14 as a "good road through Montgomery," and at Mile 15 as a "good road by Hopewell Meeting House (the present Hopewell Cemetery location)." This state route to Columbus led to a second growth of building along Montgomery Road with wagon trains and stage coaches utilizing it.

The toll road, leading from Cincinnati to Columbus, was in existence as early as 1824, and by 1850 it was reorganized under the name, "The Cincinnati, Montgomery, Hopkinsville, Roachester and Clarksville Macadamized Turnpike Company."

Charles Dickens reportedly commented on Montgomery Road in his 1834 trip to Cincinnati according to a *Cincinnati Times-Star* article September 7, 1928, written by E. B. Kriegel.

It was over this original Montgomery Pike that Dickens, the British writer, rode in his tour by stage coach from Cincinnati to Sandusky, nearly ninety years ago. "Our place of destination in the first instance is Columbus," Dickens says in his 'American Notes' account of his trip. "It is distant about 120 miles from Cincinnati, but there is a macadamized road (rare blessing) the whole way, and the rate of traveling upon it is six miles per hour."

Author Dickens did not mention intervening towns by name but did mention frequent stops at roadside inns to change horses and feed the passengers. It has been conjectured that Dickens may have stopped at Sage's Tavern or at Yost's for refreshment, having ridden 13 miles from Cincinnati.

Rates to use the toll road were two cents per mile for a horse rig and three cents per mile for a team and wagon. Pedestrians were charged one cent for the privilege of using the road with stories told of ingenious ways that were devised to avoid paying the toll. One historian reports 2,000 shares of stock were sold at \$50 per share to construct the road with a dividend return of about 10 percent a year.

The 13-mile tollhouse was constructed in 1836 on Montgomery Road, across from the present-day Chester's Roadhouse. Other toll houses were built at Montgomery and Kenwood roads; Montgomery and Plainfield roads, called 8-Mile Stand, located next to the Silverton Bank and razed in 1952; at Montgomery and Hopewell; the 16-mile tollgate near Mason and Montgomery roads; and 20-mile tollhouse where, appropriately, Twenty Mile Stand is located today.

Farmers helped to keep the toll road in repair by hauling rocks from nearby creek beds in the fall after their crops were harvested. Men and boys broke the large rocks into smaller ones at the rate of 50 cents per cubic yard in those days long before mechanical rock crushers. They wore a heavy glove on the hand that held a hammer used to crush the rocks.

Frank Keller, whose father was secretary of the toll road at one time, recalled in the 1960 Montgomery history, that his father filled ruts in the road using excess rock found along the roadway, hauling it by wagon

pulled by a team of mules. Mr. Forsythe was a maintenance man on the road, Simon Cochran was superintendent, Harry Langdon was the last president and Louis Crosby, the treasurer.

In 1907 the Hamilton County Commissioners bought the remaining 76 miles of toll roads in the county using revenues from a bond issue for the purchase and tolls were no longer collected. The toll had previously been removed from the road south of Ken Arbre in Kenwood. Purchase of the Montgomery toll road was at the rate of \$3,000 per mile up to the Warren County line. A few years later tolls were removed from the road that remained in other counties.

Montgomery Road paved in 1924

In 1924 the present concrete highway was constructed through Montgomery with the grade lowered through the business portion of the town with steps leading to some of the buildings. James L. Radabaugh was given the contract for the construction.

In 1951 the State Highway Department announced that Montgomery Pike, north of Perin Road, was to be rebuilt and straightened with a wider pavement to be laid and the road improved to eliminate the “dangerous Radabaugh Hill,” near the present-day site of Bethesda North Hospital. In September 1954 the state blocked Montgomery Road in front of the Beacon Inn at Mitchell Farm Lane and Montgomery Road for 18 months. Residents living north of the area had to detour over Pfeiffer Road to Blue Ash via Kenwood and Cooper roads in order to get to Montgomery.

Although Hamilton County announced its intention to extend Pfeiffer Road (then a county road) from Deerfield to Montgomery Road in 1951, bids were not taken for the project until 1957.



Historian & educator Pliny Johnston

The issue of parking on Montgomery Road

Parking on Montgomery Road, particularly in the Remington to Cooper Road section (the early business section of the road), has been a problem since World War II. When council wanted to install parking meters in 1958, 20 merchants signed a petition in opposition halting the project. In 1964 the state resurfaced Montgomery Road, but only the two center lanes were improved because the state would not improve lanes used for parking. Late that year A & M Radabaugh improved the remaining two lanes, paid for by the village.

The following year a Village Master Plan presented to the village council recommended a by-pass around the business district with West Street (Shelly Lane today) one way south and Main Street one way northbound. Estimated cost was \$305,000 not including cost of property. Council did not approve the master plan.

Parking became an issue again when a city-initiated and paid-for Streetscape was constructed in the downtown area in the 1970s. Also at issue was the closing of side streets Sycamore and Straight in order to keep traffic from turning left between Cooper and Remington roads on Montgomery. Although the city spent millions of dollars in the improvement of the downtown section and coordinated parking was planned and engineered by the city, downtown businesses fought removal of parking on Montgomery Road and the closing of the side streets.

Other roads

The early road leading from Montgomery to Remington, Madeira and Madisonville bordered the banks and tributaries of the Little Miami River. This was the road that early settlers used for transportation to Cincinnati via the Little Miami. When the railroad was built through Remington, the stop was called Montgomery Station. In the 1870s there was pressure to build a good road between Montgomery and Montgomery Station. However, the better road was never built and the name of the station was changed to Remington. By that time Montgomery had a railroad connection, the C.L.& N. spur, coming from Blue Ash.



The toll house, razed in 1977, where Scandinavian now stands.

The 1869 Montgomery map shows several roads. Remington Road was then called Weller Road; Montgomery Road was known as State Street; Cooper Road was called Mechanic Street. There is also a reference to Cooper as Mill Street in a railroad brochure description of Montgomery in the late 1800s.

Omnibus Line

An Omnibus line connected Montgomery with Cincinnati in 1874. Fare for one way was 65 cents and the trip took three hours.

Bus Line to Montgomery

Cincinnati Transit Company has provided bus service from Cincinnati to Montgomery since the 1950s.



Montgomery Pike closing, 1954. Beacon Inn, where Society Bank is, was the "last outpost" in town before farmland began.

Early School Bus

Ethel Mequire operated the Greyhound bus station in the 1950s. A 31-year resident of Montgomery she brought her own bus and transported children to school in Montgomery and Indian Hill prior to the school districts' providing bus service.

The Railroad arrives

On November 14, 1881, the narrow-gauge Cincinnati Northern Railway ran a 1.4-mile line from the main line at Blue Ash to Montgomery. The train to Montgomery ran in reverse to the Montgomery station located on West Street (now Shelly Lane), midway between Sycamore Street and Cooper Road. Route of the spur was through what is today Swaim Field Park, behind houses on the south side of Remington to the station whose location in 1995 would be the parking lot of Fellowship Baptist Church.

There were five commuter trains that left Montgomery before 7:30 a.m. daily. Each train was made up of four or five coaches; three trains laid over in Montgomery at night. Fare to Cincinnati in the early 1900s was 35 cents, one way, or 60 cents, round trip.

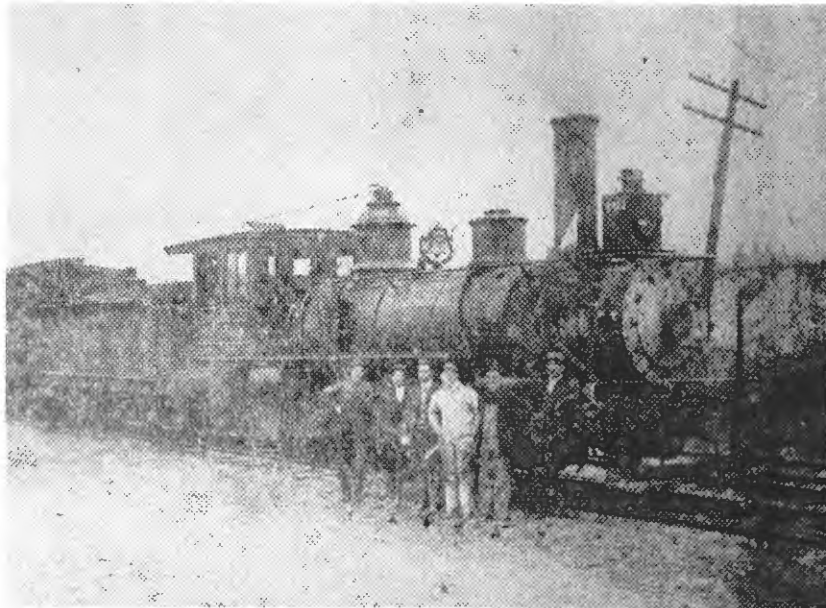
Charles Alger was the hostler whose job it was to see that the trains and coaches were in proper condition each morning. James Ayres was station agent in the early 1900s. In 1926 passenger service was discontinued due to declining use of the trains caused by increasing use of the automobile. In 1933 the tracks were taken up so that Swaim Field Golf Course could be constructed.

When digging for the filtration system for the Montgomery Business Club swim pool in 1966, workers uncovered an old well, ten feet in diameter. It had been used to fill the water reservoir for the engines of the CL&N spur.

Railroad brochure describes Montgomery in 1899

Tom Collins, whose father Larry Collins was employed on the construction of the C.L. & N. and was named a conductor on June 3, 1883, wrote his recollection of the railroad titled, "Memories of the Old CL&N Railway, the Highland Route, 1882-1932," which was published in 1970. He described Montgomery at that time:

The station is almost in the center of the town, so that it is but a short walk on good pavements to any house in the village. The railroad accommodations are very good, four trains leaving this place for the city before 7:30 a.m., and seven during the day. Montgomery was laid out by Nathaniel [sic.] Terwilliger, in the year 1795. As he was from New York, the town was mainly settled by people from New York and New Jersey, a sturdy self-reliant people. It is a village of about 600 people and is not incorporated. There are three churches in the town. The Presbyterian, Rev. Lowry, pastor, is a neat brick church near the railroad station. The Methodist, Rev. Washburn, pastor, is a comfortable

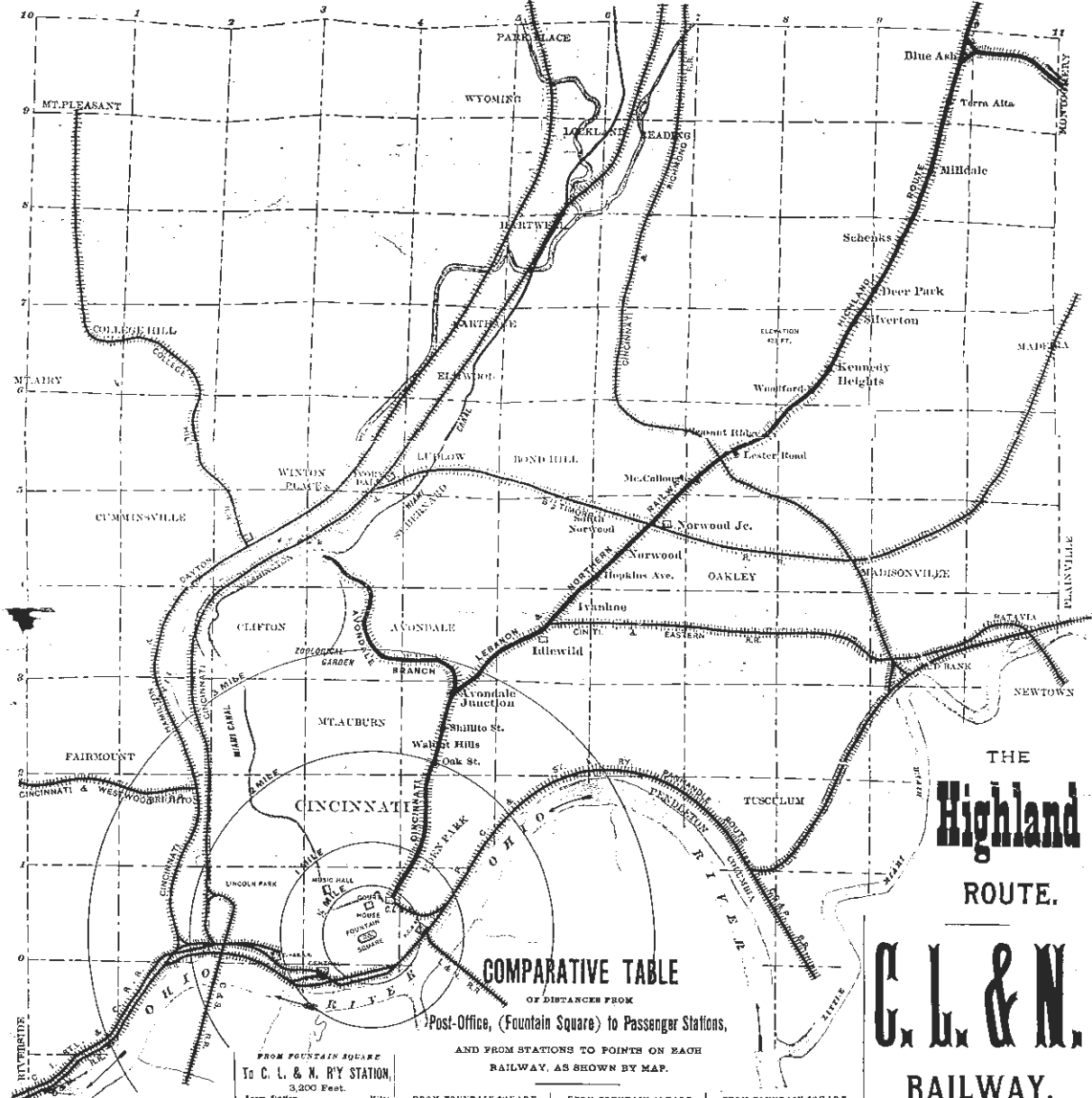


This 1907 photo was printed in the Sycamore Messenger on June 24, 1954. It shows the CL&N train that ran from Montgomery to Blue Ash and then to Cincinnati. The end of the line was near where the Montgomery Business Club is today. Tracks went through what is now Swaim Park. In this photo, left to right, are: Earl Wharton, Robert Bluett, George Marble, Clem Daley, Ray Conklin, and Harry Hoffman.

"HIGHLAND ROUTE,"

(Cin'ti, Lebanon & Northern Ry.)

WALNUT HILLS CABLE CARS PASS PASSENGER STATION TO AND FROM FOUNTAIN SQUARE, EVERY THREE MINUTES.



THE
Highland
ROUTE.
C. L. & N.
RAILWAY.

14 TRAINS
LEAVE CINCINNATI STATION
EVERY DAY,
FOR POINTS ON LINE OF RAILWAY.
Liberal Inducements to persons
PURCHASING land and BUILDING
on Line.

COMPARATIVE TABLE
OF DISTANCES FROM
Post-Office, (Fountain Square) to Passenger Stations,
AND FROM STATIONS TO POINTS ON EACH
RAILWAY, AS SHOWN BY MAP.

FROM FOUNTAIN SQUARE 3,200 Feet.		FROM FOUNTAIN SQUARE 3,300 Feet.		FROM FOUNTAIN SQUARE 4,000 Feet.		FROM FOUNTAIN SQUARE 5,300 Feet.	
Miles.	City Line.	Miles.	City Line.	Miles.	City Line.	Miles.	City Line.
To C. L. & N. RY STATION	0.0	To C. W. & B. Ry. Cent. W'n Sta.	0.0	To P. C. & St. L. RY STATION	0.0	To G. H. & D. Ry Sta. 5th & Hoadly	0.0
To Eden Park Entrance	0.0	To Eighth St.	0.17	To Woodburn	0.22	To Oest St.	0.15
Oak Street	0.18	Brighton	0.30	Torrence Road	0.23	Belgton City	0.25
Shillito Street	0.22	Stockyards	0.40	Pendleton	0.33	Stockyards	0.34
Avondale Junc.	0.5	Cumminsville	0.51	Delta	0.38	South Cumminsville	0.51
Zoological Garden	0.7	East Cumminsville	0.58	Tusculum	0.42	Cumminsville	0.54
Idlewild	0.8	Chester Park	0.7	Columbia	0.47	College Hill Junction	0.6
Ivanhoe	0.85	C. & B. Junction	0.74	Underhill	0.5	Winton Place	0.7
South Norwood	0.9	Ludlow Grove	0.78	Linwood	0.51	Winton Junction	0.7
Norwood	0.95	Bond Hill	0.8	Russelle	0.66	Ivorrdale	0.77
East Norwood	1.0	Pleasant Ridge	0.8				0.8
C. W. & B. Crossing	1.05						
McCulloughs	1.1						
Lester Road	1.15						
Pleasant Ridge	1.2						

THE FLOOD of 1884, — 71 feet above Low Water mark, prevented every Railway coming into Cincinnati, except the "Highland Route" from doing business at all points within the City Limits. The Passenger Station of the "Highland Route" is 105 feet above Low Water, or 34 feet above Flood of 1887. The Railway reaches a point upon Walnut Hills within a few minutes of the Flood of 1884.

This 1890s advertisement shows the Highland Route with the spur to Montgomery in the upper right corner of the flyer.

frame church on Mills Street. The Universalist church, no pastor at present, is a quaint old brick built in 1837 on State Street. There are two physicians in the town, Drs. Ekermeier and Blackerby. Three general stores, one kept by Mr. Bowen, one by Mr. Parrott, and one by the Todd brothers. There is a flourishing Masonic Lodge of about sixty members. The country hereabout is gently rolling and is about 900 feet above sea level.

Inter-urban railway

In 1903 the Inter-urban Railway and Terminal Company extended its tracks from Norwood to Blue Ash and on to Lebanon. In 1904 a parallel track to the CL&N Railroad was built into Montgomery.

Cross County Highway

In the planning stages from the 1950s, Cross County Highway was designed to carry traffic to and from a proposed metropolitan airport to be located in Blue Ash from connecting interstate highways. Although the metro airport was not built, the first leg of the Cross County Highway construction began in 1957 from Galbraith Road to Ridge Road. Route of the proposed highway in Montgomery was determined in 1963 to go behind the high school on Cooper Road, through Swaim Fields (the back nine holes) and terminate south of Williams Ford at Montgomery. Council gave its approval that fall and the county began buying property for the Montgomery leg that year. Bids were finally taken for construction of that segment of Cross County in Montgomery on August 23, 1966.

The eastern terminus, as proposed, would carry traffic through Indian Hill to I-275. Because the Village of Indian Hill objected to the extension through Indian Hill, the county commissioners agreed and terminated the highway at Montgomery Road in Montgomery. In 1984 Montgomery city officials urged the extension due to increasing traffic on Montgomery Road from Cross County Highway. City Manager Dean Sterling suggested that Cross County be terminated at I-71. Neither suggestion was implemented.

In 1994 Hamilton County Commissioners renamed the road the Ronald Reagan Cross County Highway.

I-71 Interstate Highway

In 1958 Montgomery Council held the first reading of an ordinance consenting to construction of the Northeast Expressway through the village. Plans called for the highway to be built a few feet east of Sycamore High School on Cooper Road.

After some discussion in 1963 that the route of I-71 would include an interchange at Pfeiffer Road, council decided not to oppose the interchange. Members of the community disagreed, and a petition was given to council, signed by members of the Montgomery Business Club opposing the interchange.

When bids were taken in 1964 on the leg of I-71 going through Montgomery and Blue Ash that included the Pfeiffer Road interchange, Montgomery Council Member Don Bruce attempted to oppose the interchange, but no council member would second the motion.

Increased use of the interstate led to additional lane improvements in the 1980s, and communities bordering the highway asked the state for assistance in curtailing the noise by the use of sound barriers. Montgomery residents were more than surprised when concrete wall sound barriers were installed along the expressway by the state in 1994-95 and vegetation removed from the right of ways. After strong complaints, the state agreed to replant the vegetation and began to consult with communities along the expressway in selecting more attractive sound barriers. Most residents felt that the example of noise abatement built along the expressway in Montgomery served as the prime example of what not to do.

I-71 and Cross County Highway were completed in 1968, according to Hamilton County Engineer's records.

Circle (I-275) Freeway

Plans revealed in the fall of 1958 showed that I-275 would go from I-75 to Montgomery Road, and the 2.27 mile stretch would have six overpasses. Bids were taken late in the year. A small portion of the interstate highway came into the city of Montgomery when the area surrounding Sycamore High School was annexed to the city.

Montgomery Post Office

The Montgomery post office, one of the earliest in the county, was established in 1812 with Joseph Taulman as postmaster, not many years after the first mail return began in Cincinnati at Round Bottom Mills, later known as the Charleston station.

The Montgomery post office was located in a number of stores throughout the years, including the Will Todd store, Braun's Pharmacy, and Riker's Grocery. From 1940-1960 the post office was located at Ferris Hardware, and everyone came each day to to pick up mail and to visit. In 1949 Postmaster Dan Miller doubled the size of the post office and added more boxes. In 1946 first class postage was three cents per ounce; domestic air mail was five cents per ounce, including delivery to overseas APOs and Navy Post Offices. Montgomery postmasters after Dan Miller's tenure were Cliff Jacobs and Merald Masten.

In 1955 the post office came under the jurisdiction of the Cincinnati Post Office. Door-to-door home delivery began in 1957. The Rossmoyne, Blue Ash and Montgomery post offices were combined in 1957 under zip code 45242. Cleora Anderson was postmaster. Mail was delivered from Blue Ash and Montgomery offices until a new Montgomery branch was opened in August 1961 in a new building on Cooper Road with Mary Peters in charge. When she retired in 1979, receipts were almost \$5 million; there were 25 routes and 41 employees. Zip codes were added to addresses on January 1, 1967.

In 1981 the post office needed more space and selected a Blue Ash location at 4914 Cooper Road which opened on October 15, 1985. The Montgomery post office building was closed in 1985 and torn down in 1986 to make way for the Montgomery Commons.

First telephone

There was one telephone in town for public use in 1887 located in Parrott's store at the southwest corner of Montgomery and Cooper roads. Two carloads of telephone poles were used to bring the line from Blue Ash and calls cost 15 cents.

In September 1893 the Ohio Telephone and Telegraph Company sought permission to string wires through Cincinnati to establish long-distance service.

For a number of years Montgomery was in the Orchard exchange, and it cost to phone Cincinnati. In 1948 the exchange became Sycamore and the toll was dropped. The Orchard Central Office Building for Cincinnati and Suburban Bell Telephone Company, located in Blue Ash at 4881 Cooper Road, was in use until it was purchased by Sycamore School District in 1950. The building serves today as the school district's administrative offices.

Montgomery's Mayors

Photos not available for: Lloyd Smethurst, First Mayor, 1910-1921; or Cliff Swift, Second Mayor, 1922-1924



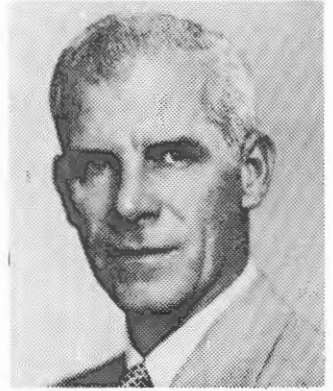
*James Radabaugh
Third Mayor, 1925-1943*



*Thomas Behrens
Fourth Mayor, 1944-1949*



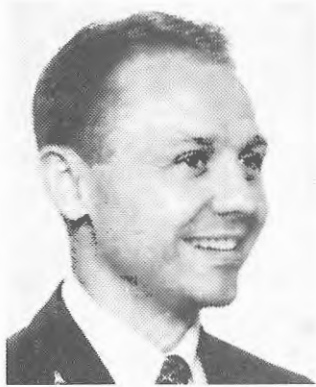
*Carl Dietz
Fifth Mayor, 1950-1951*



*Cliff Todd
Sixth Mayor, 1952-1953*



*John Sherritt
Seventh Mayor, 1954-1957*



*William Ventress
Eighth Mayor, 1958-1961*



*Chester Bartlett
Ninth Mayor, 1962-1963*



*Robert Novak
Tenth Mayor, 1964-1975*



*Pat Herbold
14th Mayor, 1985-1987*



Mayors at Bicentennial reception for elected officials given by Montgomery Business Club April 26, 1995, left to right: Don Hess, 17th Mayor, 1993-Present; Eugene McCracken, 15th Mayor, 1987-1989; Florence Kennedy, 12th Mayor, 1980-1983; Ivan Silverman, 16th Mayor, 1989-1993; Haron Wise, 13th Mayor, 1983-1985; Fred Young, 11th Mayor, 1976-1979.

VI. GOVERNMENT

1795 to 1910

One of the earliest settlements in Hamilton County, Montgomery remained an unincorporated community until 1910, although founding settler Nathaniel Terwilliger platted a subdivision that was recorded in 1802.

Montgomery did not grow much in the 108 years between 1802 and 1910 despite its location on the hard-surfaced Montgomery turnpike, built northeast of Cincinnati in 1824. Montgomery's population was 270 in the late 1830s, reached about 500 in 1887, and remained in the 400 to 500 range in 1910 when it incorporated as a village.

In 1910 Montgomery's area was only .4 square mile (approximately 275 acres), marked by these boundaries: to the east, Indian Hill; to the south, the current Kennedy Lane; to the north, the present-day Perin Road; the western edge was marked by the now Zig Zag Road from Cooper to Mitchell Farm roads.

1910 to 1970: Village government

(See Appendix for complete listing of the city officials from 1910 to 1995.)

A petition was circulated in 1910 to incorporate Montgomery as a village. The circulator of the petition was James L. (Jim) Radabaugh, a successful contractor who became the village's most enduring mayor, serving 18 years from 1925 to 1943. It is his home on Montgomery Road that has been preserved as the Comisar family's Chester's Roadhouse restaurant.

The first mayor of Montgomery, elected on May 17, 1910, was J. L. (Lloyd) Smethurst, who headed an elected village government of eight persons, including the mayor, the clerk, the treasurer and five members of council.

Following Smethurst's 11-year tenure as mayor (1910 to 1921), and prior to Jim Radabaugh's mayoralty, Clift Swift served as mayor from 1921 to 1924 during the turbulent years of Prohibition. Mayor Swift tried many liquor violation cases, much to Montgomery's profit. Money accumulated from fines and, it was rumored, from the sale of confiscated goods, swelled the village treasury during Mayor Swift's administration and provided funding to build a village hall.

In 1925 the now financially-solid village built the village hall with the munificent proportions of 24 feet by 20 feet; it stands at the corner of present-day Cooper Road and Shelly Lane and is one of the city's designated landmarks. During the time that village government was centered at this location, the village's service building was just behind the village hall (where Don's Auto Repair is presently located).



Neil Gushurt, professional sign painter, lettering the village truck in a 1945 photo.

The village government form was to serve Montgomery well for 60 years with biennial elections for the eight elected officials until the community voted to become a city in 1971.

Montgomery did not grow during the first 30 years of its life as a village. In fact, the village's population in 1940 was reported to be 425, less than the 1910 count of 500. Some growth occurred in the post-war period beginning in 1945. The first substantial growth, both in land area and in population, was in 1952 with Montgomery's first annexation from the surrounding Sycamore Township.

By Ohio law, land holders in an unincorporated area may petition to annex their properties to an adjacent village or city, subject to the approval of the county commissioners first, and then the particular village or city. During the 1952 to 1967 period, there were six separate annexations, which greatly changed the size and shape of Montgomery:

1952: Montgomery's northern boundary was pushed to Pfeiffer Road, including the land east of Montgomery Road to the Indian Hill line (today's Jones Farm subdivision and the land immediately south to Perin Road). Along Pfeiffer Road, the annexation included up to a 1/4-mile wide strip to the north side and the immediate south side of the road as far west as the current location of Peachtree Road. On the west side of Montgomery Road south of Pfeiffer, only the area south of the present Schoolhouse Lane was included to a western boundary even with the present Zig Zag Road segment from Cooper to Mitchell Farm. Finally, along Cooper Road, the annexation included property on the north side of the road, much of what is now Swaim Fields subdivision, and the DeRay subdivision. The annexation quadrupled Montgomery's size to 1.6 square miles and its population to about 1,700.

1955: This annexation extended the village's boundary on Pfeiffer Road west to the present Montgomery-Blue Ash line and dropped south to include all of Montgomery which now borders Blue Ash between Pfeiffer and Cooper roads (Zig Zag Road as far as Kerrianna, the eastern portion of Maple Dale School property, the present Fairwind Acres and Camelot subdivisions). Along Montgomery Road, the entire west side from Schoolhouse to Pfeiffer, including Hopewell Cemetery, was annexed.

1957: This annexation involved a 400-acre area north of Pfeiffer Road, including the present Storybook Acres, Wild Orchard, and Shadowhill areas. With this annexation, Montgomery's size grew to 3.2 square miles.

1962: Montgomery's northern border on Montgomery Road was extended to Weller Road. Importantly, this included the land which eventually became the site for Bethesda North Hospital. Just prior to this annexation, much of this land had been the subject of an unsuccessful attempt to establish an incorporated village called "Sycamore."

1963: This annexation involved 150 acres south of Cooper Road including the present Village Green subdivision, the present Timberknoll-Forest Knoll neighborhood off Kennedy Lane, and the Sycamore Junior High School.



These 1949 photos show an election campaign parade. The top photo is in front of Ferris Hardware (USA Baby in 1995) with McCabe's Inn (now Montgomery Inn) visible to the far left. The horse and buggy photo is in front of the old Sage Hotel (next to former Barton Bakery).

1967: A 39-acre area on Remington Road adjacent to Indian Hill, principally the present Governor's Watch subdivision, was annexed.

By the end of this 15-year period, Montgomery had grown from .4 to 4.2 square miles in area and from less than 1,000 in population to about 4,000.

As the era of village government was winding down in the 1960s, the "village hall subject" became a hot topic once more, much as it had early in Montgomery's history. In the early 1960s the location of a new, larger village hall was the subject of heated debate between the "Village" group, who thought that it should be downtown near the old hall, and the "Community" group, who thought that it should be on Schoolhouse Lane. Each fielded a full slate of candidates in the November 1961 election with the "Village" group being successful at the polls. However, the new village hall was finally built on its present site in 1969 under Mayor Robert Novak's (of the "Community" group) administration. Throughout the many years of debate, he had favored this location, a portion of the 8.75 acres donated to the village by the Myers Y. Cooper Company when they developed Montgomery Square Shopping Center and Montgomery Heights residential subdivision.

City government: 1970

In the late 1960s, as Montgomery's population approached 5,000, the minimum required for city status under Ohio law, planning began for this change in Montgomery's government structure. By Ohio law, in order to be able to custom-design a city government for Montgomery rather than accept statutory city government when population reaches 5,000, a citizen charter commission must be elected to develop a recommended government structure in the form of a charter individualized for the community; the charter is then voted on by the general electorate.

It was through this approach that Montgomery successfully developed a new city government effective January 1, 1971, following a vote of acceptance on November 3, 1970. But it was not that simple. It took two years, two separate elected charter commissions, and one charter defeat at the polls to come up with the finally accepted plan.

Throughout the process, certain principles were generally accepted by both charter commissions and were consistent between the unaccepted first version and the accepted second version:

- In contrast to Montgomery's simple village government form, the new government would have two separate powers: a legislative council and an executive mayor. Each was to operate relatively independently with the mayor running the day-to-day matters of the city, exercising judicial powers granted to mayors by Ohio law, carrying out legislative acts, recommending legislation to council, and having no vote at council meetings but retaining veto power over legislation.
- Rather than separately elected individuals to handle particular tasks in the city (e.g., the clerk and treasurer in village government), the mayor as the city's executive, with the consent of council, would appoint individuals to head those city departments. Council would elect its own president and president-pro-tem and appoint its own clerk. The recommended departments for the new city government were to be: Administrative Assistant (to the mayor); Department of Law, Department of Finance, Department of Service, and Department of Public Safety. (Note: The first charter commission simply called the latter the Police Department; the second commission added Building Inspection Services and Fire Protection Services to the responsibilities and called the whole entity Public Safety.)

- The recommended commissions of the new city government, appointed by council, were to be: Planning Commission, Recreation Commission, and Civil Service Commission.
- The mayor and council members would be elected to four-year terms, with councilmember terms overlapping so that municipal elections would still be held biennially.

Despite its containing most of what was endorsed by the second commission and then accepted by the electorate, the unsuccessful first charter was born in great controversy, as six of the original 15 charter commission members refused to sign the final version, and several of these individuals then went on to campaign against acceptance of the charter at the general election.

What were the issues causing such controversy? There were several items in the first charter which caused minor criticism: an increase in the size of council to seven members, and the elimination of partisan (party-affiliated) elections for city office. But the major issue was the loss of power for most elected government members in the city government from the old village government. In the village government: 1) the mayor presided over the council meeting, thus participating actively in the legislative process; 2) council approval was required to dismiss appointed officials, thus involving council in the executive process; and 3) the elected clerk and treasurer each reported separately.

The second charter commission made one minor change from the first charter — decreasing the number of council members from seven to five — and one important political change that permitted council to decide at its biennial organizational meeting who would preside over their meetings, the president of council or the mayor.

Members of the first (1969) and second (1970) charter commissions were:

1969 Commission: Roger Aerni, Albert (Jim) Bechtold, Jr., Alma Blazic, Jack Cisco, Mary Jo Dahm, Paul Dupuy, Roderick Greene, William Hulsbeck, Marion Kjellenberg, George Monseur, Robert Novak, Carl Radtke, Ralph Ross, John Sherritt, Chairman, and Mary Lou Sutton.

1970 Commission: Charles Abbott, Jr., Vincent Blazic, Ric Dreyer, Thomas Eberhard, Herman Hansen, Kenneth Heffner, William Hulsbeck, Todd Hunter, Florence Kennedy, Marion Kjellenberg, Giles Krebs, Dean Lennard, Joseph Lorenz, Kenneth Schneider, Chairman, and William Wingo.

City government, as prescribed in the charter adopted in 1970, was in effect from 1971 until 1981 when the electorate adopted a city manager form of government, again following a charter commission recommendation.

Montgomery continued to grow in the 1970s. There were two annexations during this period:

1973: Annexation of the area that now includes the Tanager Woods, Indian Woods, and Terwilliger's Run subdivisions moved Montgomery's northeast boundary to Kemper Road east of the Weller Road intersection; this annexation included about half of Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

1980: An area along Cornell Road, including Sycamore High School, was annexed.

1970 Charter Commission, left to right, front row: Ken Heffner (behind inductor), Vincent Blazic, Ken Schneider, Florence Kennedy, Todd Hunter, Herman Hansen, Charles Abbott, Bill Wingo. Back row: Ric Dreyer (behind inductor), Tom Eberhard, Giles Krebs, Marion Kjellenberg, Dean Lennard. Not present: Bill Hulsbeck and Joe Lorenz.



Montgomery Township formed

All of Ohio is divided into counties and then into townships which were formed in 1803 when Ohio became a state. Townships were largely rural in character with each having roughly 40 square miles. The original village of Montgomery, and then the city of Montgomery as chartered in 1971, lay entirely within Sycamore Township.

There is a long history of cooperation and mutual respect between Montgomery and Sycamore Township. Through the years, many Montgomery citizens (most recently Albert [Jim] Bechtold, Jr., and Thomas Eberhard) served as elected members of Sycamore Township's governing board of trustees. For Montgomery citizens, Sycamore Township took care of management of Hopewell Cemetery on Montgomery Road and fire hydrant maintenance. The township also contracted with two private agencies for emergency services for Montgomery: The Montgomery Community Fire Company and the Sycamore-Montgomery Life Squad.

The city-township relationship became more complex in 1973 when much of the northeastern area annexed into Montgomery that year came from another township — Symmes. It became difficult for Montgomery to ensure that emergency fire/life squad services were provided to all Montgomery citizens on an equitable basis because Symmes and Sycamore townships were contracting separately for these services.

Amid growing concerns not only about the difficulty of dealing through two township governments for emergency services, but also about the appropriateness of relying on tax-funded private agencies for these services, Montgomery took action in September 1985 to form Montgomery Township within the borders of the city, effective in the portion of Montgomery lying in Symmes Township as of January 1, 1986, and in the Sycamore Township portions as of January 1, 1990. With this change, Montgomery began to contract directly with the private companies, which by 1991 were working to combine as a single, public fire/life squad company, and took responsibility for handling the other matters previously administered by Sycamore Township — Hopewell Cemetery and fire hydrant maintenance.

Montgomery took the final step to form its own municipal fire and EMS department in 1992 after several years of considering formation of joint fire/emergency district with one or both of the surrounding townships.

City Manager government

In the winter of 1980-81, in view of the substantial growth in the city and the greater load on the government, Montgomery City Council commissioned a 12-person charter review committee, chaired by Ken Schneider, who chaired the successful second charter commission in 1970. The membership of the 1981 charter review committee consisted of Wilma Bick, Juanita Conklin, Jack Earl, Thomas Eberhard, Rollin Griffin, Ann Gilton, Maureen Hehman, William James, John Ludeke, Ken Schneider, Janet Steiner, and Lois Wenstrup.

In order to handle the increasing complexity of a city government expected to grow to 12,000 or more in population, the charter review commission recommended: 1) hiring a city manager to serve as the chief administrator of the city, and 2) enlarging council from five to seven members.

The mayor would be whoever council selected as their leader from among their members and would have official/ceremonial responsibilities and judicial powers given by Ohio law. Administrative functions of the city would be reduced to three, with the directors of these departments to be: Director of Law, Director of Finance, and City Manager, all to be appointed by council.

Since managed growth had turned out to be the primary concern of Montgomery government, based on the experience of the 1970 to 1981 period, the charter review committee also recommended changes to strengthen the planning-zoning and historical preservation functions of the government:

- Planning Commission membership increased to seven members, including the city manager.
- Board of Zoning Appeals membership specified as five.
- Planning Commission recommendations to be strengthened by requiring that any council over-rule would require approval by five of the seven council members and that any contrary action by the Board of Zoning Appeals would require approval by four of the five board members.
- Landmarks Commission was recognized in the charter.

The most recent charter change occurred in 1984 and again involved strengthening Planning Commissions's function. Membership of the commission was increased to seven, not including the city manager who would serve only as an ex-officio and non-voting member. Also council was prohibited from taking any action to enact, amend, or repeal any zoning ordinance until after the Planning Commission had reviewed the matter.

In 1989 there was an aborted attempt by initiative petition to amend the city charter to, among other things, increase the council membership to nine, with all members to be elected by the ward system.

Boards and Commissions

Planning Commission

This commission consists of seven members appointed by council for four-year terms. They meet twice monthly, and they conduct studies, surveys and prepare plans, reports and maps relative to planning the growth, development, redevelopment, rehabilitation and renewal of the city. When they make recommendations to council, they review and report their recommendations concerning subdivisions, zoning ordinances and regulations.

Parks and Recreation Commission

This commission, composed of seven members appointed by council and who serve four-year terms, administers and provides for the development and operation of parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities and programs.

Landmarks Commission

This commission consists of seven members appointed by council and who serve three-year terms. They survey areas, places, buildings and structures that may be eligible for designation as landmarks (national or local designation) and are of historic or architectural significance. They review changes to Landmark buildings. The commission provides for continuing education of the citizens of the city concerning preservation of the city's historic and architectural heritage.



Signing Landmark legislation in 1978. Left to right, front row: Florence Kennedy, Howard Smith, Mayor Fred Young; back row: Boris Berger, owner of the Landmark Crain-Conklin building, and Mary O'Driscoll.

Beautification Commission

Formed in 1988 and made an official city commission in 1995, this ten-member committee's first project was to plan for flower beds along Montgomery Road, flower baskets in downtown Montgomery, flowers in the parks and landscaping throughout the city. Benches and newly-designed trash containers were located in the downtown area.

The commission holds a Beautification Day that takes place each May when residents and organizations are asked to volunteer services at designated areas throughout the city to plant flowers. A day is also set aside for schools and Scouts to plant flowers in parks. In addition, members of the commission and local garden clubs plant flowers for several weeks in the spring.

Beautification Commission members spend the month of July looking for the best lawns, flowers and landscaping in Montgomery yards. Ten residential awards, two commercial awards and one Landmark award are presented to the winners at the September council meeting, and the winners receive Beautification yard markers.

In 1991 the commission won an award from the Civic Garden Clubs of Cincinnati for beautification of an alley near the northwest corner of Montgomery and Cooper roads.

Arts Commission

The Arts and Heritage Commission was founded in 1989 as a result of an endowment given to the city for the purpose of promoting the arts and heritage in the city. In 1994 the commission reorganized and changed its name to Arts Commission in order to concentrate on the arts. Their projects have included an annual photo contest co-sponsored with the Art Academy of Cincinnati. They provide a mime and photo display of arts and architecture in the city at the annual July Bastille Day. They sponsor concerts, provide music for the 4th of July parade and give support to local arts groups.

Montgomery Sister Cities Committee

This program began in 1987 when a committee was formed to seek a sister city for Montgomery. The desire was for one that was easily accessible and spoke a language taught in the Sycamore schools. The Sister Cities International organization provided the name of Neuilly-Plaisance, France, a Paris suburb of 20,000 people.

Activities have included travel between the sister cities by more than 100 students, several official exchanges, the re-creation of a French village at Kenwood Towne Centre for a group of artisans to display their wares and talents, an annual student art contest and the annual Bastille Day — a gathering of international residents and friends for a street party in downtown Montgomery. All these activities pursue the commission goal: "Bringing the World Together . . . One Friendship at a Time."

Other Boards, Committees, and Commissions: Civil Service Commission, Board of Tax Review, Board of Zoning Appeals, Volunteers Advisory Committee.

Volunteers in Montgomery

When Montgomery volunteers in public service were feted at the fourth annual appreciation dinner on May 31, 1995, almost 300 volunteers were invited to the event held at Dulle Lodge. Volunteer efforts in the community have been prevalent for years, although many of those efforts are unheralded. Notes from the program for that evening tell of the role that volunteerism has played in the shaping of America. In the early days it often meant survival when neighbors helped each other.

Volunteers greatly assisted with the development of Montgomery from a settlement community with a new church and school, to a village of 500 in the early part of this century with two churches, a school and businesses. By the time Montgomery became a city in 1971 and residents numbered in the thousands, volunteers had developed the first park — the Montgomery Park — building a shelter and developing a ball diamond. Organizations and businesses sponsored ball teams, put lights on the high school football field, provided a teen canteen and worked with Scout programs.

Historic preservation, beautification, the 4th of July parade, the Kiwanis annual sidewalk art show, Bastille Day . . . all have been organized and run by volunteers. The volunteer 1995 Bicentennial Committee solicited hundreds of additional volunteers and raised most of the funding for the year-long celebration.

In the spring of 1991 the city decided to formalize coordination of volunteers and hired a program director. To see how the hundreds of volunteers play a pivotal and unique role in what takes place in Montgomery, we can look at 1992 for an example.

The 1992 volunteer program report shows nearly 3,200 volunteer hours contributed through the VIPS program as well as countless additional hours given by those who serve on city committees and commissions. The value placed on services performed through the VIPS program in that year alone was estimated to be more than \$21,000. Volunteers include senior citizens and high schoolers; they gathered data and put together complete records of Hopewell Cemetery, retyped by subject matter the 1967 history of the city, planted trees and flowers throughout the city, designed brochures and invitations, served as recreation and safety village aides and historic tour guides. They were booth sitters, typists, bulk mailers, carpenters, fund raisers, photographers and artists.

Parks and Recreation

Montgomery Park, Schoolhouse Lane and Montgomery Road, 1958

The first park in the village, Montgomery Park, located at Montgomery Road and Schoolhouse Lane, is on an 8.75-acre parcel that was given by the Myers Y. Cooper Company to the city in 1958 when the company developed the adjacent shopping center and residential subdivision. A portion of the land was used for a new village hall and parking lot, with the balance of about six acres used for a park.

The original layout of the park included an amphitheater, tennis courts, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, picnic shelter and grove, and even a park canteen center.

Former Police Chief Ray Moore remembered that “John Stevenson, who was superintendent of Burns-Conway Contractors, donated use of a patrol grader, and we began to dig for the amphitheater. We spent months with many volunteer hours, given in both hand and motorized work, to get that park in condition. The bowl effect was deliberate, developed for the the amphitheater in the late 1950s, but with the appointment of a recreation commission, all the plans changed.” The first ambitions were dropped due to the need for ball fields and limited funds.

The fireplace in the shelter was built by Kiwanis members, and the bridge was built by the Boy Scouts of Troop 674. Other facilities in the park presently include the ball field, playground equipment, a basketball court, and picnic shelter and grove.

Desire to add park land

Bob Bintzler, a member of the city's recreation commission from 1966 to 1976, recalled the annual budget in those days was \$1,500, with \$1,000 needed to maintain the six-acre Montgomery Park. The \$500 went to baseball-related needs.

Although the budget provided no funding to acquire park land, the commission was constantly aware of the potential need for park and recreational facilities. The commission studied the issue locally, as well as suggested federal and state recommendations, and found that Montgomery's population-to-park-land ratio was short by many acres even if fields at the YMCA, the schools and the one park were included. Neither the city administration nor residents supported additional park land during this period, Bob Bintzler said.

The recreation commission continued to look for sites. A 20-acre vacant parcel south of Deerfield east of I-71, actually in the city of Blue Ash, was a possibility. An agreement was worked out, but it fell through when the administration of Bob Novak would not agree to spend money for park land in another community. Another 20-acre parcel in the Tanager Woods area was discussed, but again there was no support.

Swaim Field Park, corner of Zig Zag and Cooper Roads, 1976

In the early 1970s, while Montgomery youngsters still had to use ball fields provided by the Sycamore schools and in Blue Ash, a third choice appeared to meet expansion needs. The commission studied Swaim Field Golf Course and developed several layouts to utilize the land to include an 18-hole golf course with about 13 acres as a multi-purpose park.

Resident sampling in a 1974 survey on the need for park and recreational facilities in the city revealed that 70 percent felt the need for a large park for recreational use. A broad-based committee, formed in January 1974 recommended the selection of Swaim Fields, the 116-acre golf course owned by the Todd family, who offered to sell the course to the city for \$1,670,500. This site was chosen "for its size, availability, price per acre and ease of use for recreational facilities," committee members said.

City council chose to place the issue on the ballot for voters to decide at a June 1975 election although city council could have purchased the land without going to the voters. The proposed 3.36-mill levy would bring in \$1,775,000 that included \$104,000 for park development. Twenty acres would be developed in ballfields and tennis courts, and an 18-hole golf course would be retained.

A concerted effort by the city's park and recreation commission, the committee, and a citizen's group worked to win over a majority of the voters. An anti-park group formed.

The Swaim Field park issue was defeated by 251 votes on June 3, 1975, due to strong opposition from the business community, who desired additional homes on the site rather than park land. Another factor in the defeat of the issue was the announcement by the Sycamore School District that it would place a substantial school levy on the ballot in the fall. This placed many voters in the position during a time of recession of having to choose between a park or schools.

After the levy failed, the land was sold to Paul Brothers on June 19, 1976, for a residential subdivision. Over the years, former city officials, as well as park advocates, have regretted this defeat.

Former Mayor Bob Novak commented that losing that large park land was a major disappointment. He noted that it cost the city \$400,000 to construct storm sewers to service the Swaim Fields subdivision. Former council President Howard Smith also regretted the loss, calling it "council's million dollar mistake."

However, the city purchased 13.3 acres from Paul Brothers at the corner of Zig Zag and Cooper roads which was developed into Swaim Field Park. That acquisition also saved the Wilder-Swaim house, now a Montgomery Landmark and National Register House. The park also includes Swaim Lodge, that residents

can rent for approved activities, a fishing pond stocked yearly by the city for Montgomery Kiwanis' fishing contest, two picnic pavilions, tennis courts, ball fields, basketball and volleyball court, horseshoe pits, and children's playgrounds.

Johnson Nature Preserve, Deerfield Road, 1974

The city acquired by contribution a nature "preserve" on Deerfield Road. On July 4, 1974, the 7.2-acre Johnson Nature Preserve on Deerfield Road was dedicated, given to the city by Dr. and Mrs. Frank L. Johnson. The Johnson Preserve is adjacent to the 65-acre Hazelwood Botanical Preserve owned by the University of Cincinnati that is used for botanical study and contains some unique flora that was studied and documented in 1927. The effort made by recreation commission member Katie Hinricks to preserve this special nature area resulted in it often being called "Katie's Bog."

Park programming

Although continuing to remain alert to additional park land acquisition, as well as sustaining a strong ball program for youngsters, efforts by the commission also turned to finding uses of the parks for families and adults. Shelton "Jack" Page was the "granddaddy" of that effort. A retiree of General Electric, he devoted his efforts to maintenance and use of the parks during his ten years on the commission. When he retired in 1984, he was named "Lifetime Honorary Chairman of the Montgomery Parks and Recreation Commission."

The commission organized summer evening programs for adults with square dances and big band dances proving to be popular. Jack Page was the first to recall that there were others that were not popular, with only the committee members in attendance.

A Christmas program was instituted with grade schoolers from Montgomery School providing carols as the tree at city hall was lighted. The event has since moved to the downtown plaza, and it is the time that the lights are turned on in the trees lining the downtown historic district. Vital to the youngsters in attendance is the arrival of Santa Claus. For most of the years Santa was Jack Page, wearing a Santa suit which his wife Louise kept in repair.

There were kite-flying contests in the spring and holiday concerts by the Sycamore Community Band and Sycamore Community Singers.

Funding was limited. Jack Page, who visited the parks on a daily basis, recalled that Montgomery resident Ken Heffner gave the city's service director a key to his barn. "If there was anything we didn't have, we were told by Ken to go and get it. We tried to repay him, but he would never accept a penny. I don't know what we would have done without him in those days," assessed Jack.

When Bill Niehaus came on the commission in 1980, his concern was land for ball fields. Active in the baseball association, he felt Montgomery residents wished to support having sufficient ball fields in their own community rather than sharing those of other communities, primarily Blue Ash and Sycamore schools. The commission ran informal surveys, two or three during the early 1980s, which showed that residents did wish to acquire additional park land. The commission also recognized that it was time, if not past time, to acquire vacant land before it was consumed by development. He credits a major effort by three commission members, who became members of city council, who pushed the acquisition of park land in the late 1980s: Eugene McCracken, Mike Samuels, and Mike Sullivan.

Dulle Park, Deerfield Road, 1989

The city purchased 15 acres from the Ben Dulle family on Deerfield Road in 1989 for \$650,000. The purchase included land along Sycamore Creek. The city sold 1.2 acres and developed the other acres as a park. The former Dulle house was rebuilt into Terwilliger Lodge, a 2,600 square-foot facility with a full kitchen, well-appointed meeting and reception room, and a deck that overlooks the park. This facility is used for civic meetings and is available to rent. The park contains baseball and soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball court, sledding hill, picnic shelter, and a bike path along Sycamore Creek that connects with the Deerfield Road and Montgomery Road bike paths.

Pfeiffer Park, Corner of Montgomery and Pfeiffer roads, 1989

Dedicated on November 1, 1989, this 2.7-acre park was purchased for \$250,000 and includes two tennis courts, a gazebo, playground, fountain, and walking path.

Pioneer Park, Deerfield Road, 1993

The city's recreation commission viewed vacant land on Deerfield across from Dulle Park and recommended that the city buy the Schulte property, recalled Don Jenner, a commission member in the late 1980s. There was no city money available, so Don Jenner, Jane Ann Archiable and Gene McCracken led a committee of about 20 park enthusiasts in an effort by initiative petition that placed the issue for the purchase of the 20 acres on the ballot in the fall of 1990. The .7 mill issue was successful by 126 votes.

Pioneer Park was dedicated in June 1993. It includes some of the most scenic areas in Montgomery, including a lake and a walk along Sycamore Creek, and contains soccer and baseball fields, a five-acre nature area, skating pond, walking and bike trails that link it to Dulle Park. The park also includes a fishing pier, Scout camping site, and a gazebo for band concerts. A Bicentennial Grove was dedicated in July 1995. Cost of the 20 acres for park land was \$1,075,000 made in two purchases — one in 1988 and the other in 1991.

Weller Park, Weller Road, land purchased in 1993

Weller Park, 20 acres on Weller Road, was purchased by the city in 1993 for \$2,077,167 in an area serving residents of northeast Montgomery. The park is to be developed.

The gazebo in Pioneer Park, dedicated for the Bicentennial in 1995.



Montgomery Police

Police department presence in the Montgomery area grew slowly as did the need for policing.

In the early history of the area, law enforcement officers were justices of the peace. Hamilton County in 1803 directed electors of the new Sycamore Township (in which the village of Montgomery was located) to meet and choose three justices of the peace. John Ayres was one of those. Additional early justice of the peace appointees from Montgomery: 1809 - Cornelius Snyder; 1829 - James Ayres, Matthew Terwilliger, and Nicholas Schoonmaker; 1839 - John Clark; 1840 - John Snyder; 1863 - Daniel B. Myers; 1873 - John Todd.

In 1886 the 16 Mile Stand Rangers formed in the northeast area of Hamilton County to detect and arrest horse thieves and other criminals and to provide mutual protection of the property of its members. They first met at Sycamore Township Hall, and Israel Todd was one of the signers of the articles of incorporation. These early Rangers had the power to arrest anywhere in Ohio and held the strongest police power at that time in the state. By 1968 there were three members: Blair Strawser of Blue Ash, whose family has kept the charter in effect to this day; James Radabaugh of Montgomery; and Lester Oberle, a Montgomery cattle dealer.

After Montgomery achieved village status in 1910, a town marshal was appointed whose primary duty was to cut down on the number of traffic speeders passing through the village. The age of the automobile had arrived. By 1940 one of the big jobs for the town marshal took place on Saturday and Sunday, handling the heavy traffic jams that piled up on Montgomery Road due to another modern phenomenon — the outdoor drive-in theater. Montgomery's first police chief, Ray Moore, recalled the names of two town marshals during the 1940s — Ed Ralston and William S. Myers. Bill Myers, in addition to his marshal duties, and Art Meiers collected trash and performed some street work for the village.

In 1946 two deputies from the Northeast Rangers, John Hasse and Ed Grohman, were hired to patrol the village at night. By 1952 Montgomery council signed a contract with the Northeast Rangers to patrol the village 12 hours a night at \$400 per month.

Then crime began to take place during the day. In 1953 thieves took an 800-pound safe from Farm Implements, Inc., on Montgomery Road, containing \$213 in cash and \$500 in checks. Just after the 4th of July in 1954, thieves broke into the Montgomery Drive-in Theater office and got away with \$4,000.

First Police Chief, Ray Moore

On September 15, 1955, Richard Ray Moore was named police chief on a part-time basis. In 1956 village council enacted an ordinance creating a full-time police department headed by Chief Moore, at age 29 the youngest police chief in the county. Captain John Hasse was hired full time, and a third man, Joe Marcum, was added to the department in 1957.

The first police department was located in the jail cell at the old city hall located at Cooper



Montgomery's first police force: left to right, Joe Marcum, Chief Moore, John Hasse.

Road and Shelly Lane. When the basement was remodeled, the department moved downstairs to an office. On April 8, 1964, it moved to the second floor of the building located directly behind the city hall that had been vacated by the fire department. The village service department occupied the first floor of what is now the location of Don's Auto Repair.

The department's first cruiser was purchased in 1956 from the Northeast Rangers, and Chief Moore recalled that council debated for more than an hour on the purchase of a new set of tires. With a very slim village budget, the local Kiwanis Club pitched in and bought first-aid and oxygen kits for the patrol car. Kiwanis made other purchases and donations to the department over the years. In 1959 Ted Gregory's annual Christmas party at the Montgomery Inn brought in more than \$400 for the police, fire department and life squad.



Chief Ray Moore with the village's first car purchased in 1956.

Not all police work in the village was traffic or crime-related. Chief Moore recalls that he and Ken Heffner sanded snowy streets some days and even patched roads. Members of the police department installed new village of Montgomery signs in June 1961.

Working with the village youth was always important to the police, recalled Chief Moore. He, Joe Marcum, and Montgomery resident Bob Simons organized a Montgomery Knothole Baseball league in 1961 as well as softball for girls, women, and men.

Patrolman Marcum brought bloodhounds to the department and used the bloodhounds to track break-ins; a film was made about the use of bloodhounds in police work, and Chief Moore continued to show the film to youngsters when they visited the police station until his retirement in 1982. When Patrolman Marcum was diagnosed with cancer, the community rallied around, and policemen came from all over the county to paint his house one Saturday. Joe Marcum died in 1963.

Money was always scarce in the village, although Chief Moore said residents always supported the police department. Cost of police protection for the village in 1960 was \$18,950.

In 1961 the department's only patrol car was equipped with a transistor radio to avoid having to keep the motor running so the old radio would not drain the battery. A second car was purchased in 1963. There are six marked and six unmarked patrol cars equipped with radios, radar, computers and shot guns in 1995. There is also a car used in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program.

In 1965 the department was hooked into the Hamilton County Communications Center, and the village bought a two-way radio system. That year the department budget rose to \$35,000. The budget for 1995 is \$1.3 million.

In 1969 with about the same manpower and better salary schedules, the police department moved to the new community building at Montgomery Road and Schoolhouse Lane with the luxury of a darkroom and a locker room. In addition to Chief Moore, patrolmen included John Hasse, Charles Sellars, Richard Schlechty, Frank Anderson, and Paul Hermes. By 1970 the budget was \$90,000.

Personnel were added in 1973 and 1974 to reach a total of ten uniformed officers including the chief. One officer was designated a detective. By 1979 there were 13 police officers, the chief's salary was slightly more than \$20,000, and the total department budget was over \$250,000. The geographic area of police coverage had increased due to a number of annexations including Sycamore High School and sections of I-71 and I-275. In 1981 the department budget rose to \$483,000.

Major changes in the department took shape during the 1980s. In 1981 and 1982 training activity increased, organizational titles were restructured, a second detective was assigned, and a part-time clerk was hired. A more active crime prevention program was begun along with liaison with the schools, intelligence gathering, and public speaking. In 1982 a female officer was hired for the first time.

Chief Charles Sellars

When Chief Moore retired in 1982, Sergeant Charles Sellars was named police chief, serving from 1982 until 1991.

In 1983 new weapons were issued to all officers, three new patrol cars were purchased at one time, and the department had a fleet of nine vehicles. Budget for the year was just under \$600,000, and refinements in the operation and equipment were made including the development of a policy and procedures manual. The department purchased its first personal computer and the first video camera in 1986. By 1987 the department budget grew to just under \$1 million with 16 uniformed police officers.

Chief Sellars, who also served briefly as city manager, retired from the police department in 1991. He had been with the department for 28 years.

Chief Don McGlothlin

Named to replace Chief Sellars was Don McGlothlin, who had served as patrolman, sergeant and lieutenant since joining the department in 1974. In 1994 he was also named fire chief, which he considers to be a stewardship role until the fire department is installed in the new safety center being constructed at Montgomery and Hopewell roads. Chief McGlothlin oversees a staff of 17 police officers and a budget of \$1.3 million.

Today's typical patrol officer is a college graduate with a minimum of 500 hours of police training at an accredited police academy. Each spends at least 80 hours a year in additional classroom training and 30 hours of local in-service training. The department serves more than 9,000 Montgomery residents and more than five square miles within the city.

Communications have improved dramatically. Police cars now contain cellular phones which keep more officers on the street, and there is instant officer-city-county communication as well as with the fire department.

During the past six years three police officers have been wounded while on duty. Mike Young was shot in the chest in a bank holdup in December 1989; Mike Platje's patrol car was hit head-on by a drunk driver in February 1990; and in March 1995 Detective Don Jasper was shot six times by a suspect fleeing a holdup. All three were saved by wearing bullet-proof vests.

Today the philosophy is communication with residents, as well as education, particularly with youngsters. The department instituted the D.A.R.E., drug and alcohol self-esteem program in 1992 and commits a Montgomery police officer to teach during the school year. The department is involved in a safety village program for preschool children, county-wide S.W.A.T. operation, and a bike patrol program begun in the spring of 1994.

Montgomery Community Fire Company

Bucket brigades fought fires in Montgomery for well over a hundred years, and every household in the village kept a filled bucket at the door. When the Universalist Church bell would start to ring, it was a signal for everyone to grab a bucket of water and come running.

Under discussion for some time, the Montgomery Fire Company incorporated on October 14, 1929, to acquire, own and operate fire fighting apparatus. An organizational meeting was held that named William Travillo fire chief, Elery Meiers assistant fire chief, H. R. Van Pelt engine man, and Mac Meguire assistant engine man. The organizing committee members were Albert Ertel, chairman, and Messrs. Cook, Butterbaugh, Rasch, Hoffman, Meiers, Miller, Bowen and Behrens.

The first membership meeting was held December 16, 1929, with officers elected to head a committee to solicit subscriptions to fund the volunteer fire company: Albert Ertel, president; Marion Radabaugh, vice president; Thomas F. Behrens, secretary/treasurer; and directors, D. P. Miller, Elery Meiers, J. S. Radabaugh, P. A. Johnson, Harry Van Pelt, and B. V. Radabaugh. One of the first orders of business was a motion to bring the Kirkup Minstrels to town for a benefit performance held on February 22, 1930, with proceeds of \$32.65.

The fire company asked for subscriptions from local property owners that brought in enough revenue to make a down payment on equipment. On March 12, 1930, they ordered a Howe engine with 1,000 feet of hose for \$5,800. The truck arrived on July 3 and was paraded throughout the community on July 4.

In June 1930 a firehouse building committee was formed and membership fees were established in 1931. Property owner fees were: one parcel, \$25; 2nd parcel, \$15; additional parcels, \$10 each. In 1932 the department made 32 calls and property saved was valued at \$17,500. In 1933 the department joined the Eastern District Fire Protective Association.



The new fire truck, 1930, and members of the early fire company: Ray Ross, Orlie Butterbaugh, Chief Bill Travillo, Al Chinn, Frank Doyle, Ed Lang, Charles Ross, Ellery Meiers, Mac Meguire.

Some of the fire department personnel in a 1961 photo in front of their station on West Street (now Don's Auto Repair on Shelly Ln.) Some men identifiable, left to right: F. Hessdofer, Lloyd Rasch, Clarence Smith, ____, Claude Boehm, ____, Bud McBride, George Dahm, Bill Hoffman, ____, Charles Butts.



The first firehouse was built in 1930 on West Street (now Shelly Lane) behind the village hall and rebuilt in 1950 by the volunteer firemen. In 1962 a two-story brick station was built on Cooper Road and a north station was built on Kemper Road in 1976.

The Montgomery fire department needed to refinance the debt to the Howe Fire Apparatus Company, so attempts were made to solicit 150 new members, dividing the area into districts in a

membership campaign. By January 1934, 51 new members were gained; by 1935 there were 269 members. In 1937 fire calls increased to 27 among members and seven to nonmembers. In 1938 Cliff Knabe was given authority to collect funds for the fire department for a ten percent commission.

The company liquidated its debt to Howe in 1933 and purchased a used Ahrens-Fox 750-gallon pumper from the Madison, Indiana Fire Company, in order to meet the requirements of the Ohio Fire Inspection Bureau. By 1939 service had been extended to some parts of both Sycamore and Symmes townships.

In 1948 a new truck was purchased, a 500-gallon pumper, for \$9,300, with \$9,000 raised in cash and pledges. A Labor Day festival was held on the school grounds in a fund-raiser with a Fire Queen contest announced at a penny a vote. There were 16 young women who entered the contest with Audrey Boehm (Runge) selected as queen; she reigned over a celebration held in spite of heavy rain. The contest brought in \$2,337 and was the "shot in the arm" the department needed.

A second truck was purchased in 1954 for \$11,895. Until 1957 the volunteer fire company was financed by selling memberships, door-to-door solicitations and the fund-raisers, although the community continued to hold an "Appreciation Dance" at the Montgomery Business Club to benefit the fire and police departments.

Radio communications updated the department in 1954. In prior days a telephone rang in the homes of three firemen. The first to arrive at the station pushed a button that activated the siren on top the firehouse. A 1-mill fire department levy was approved by the voters in November 1957 the first tax money received by the Montgomery fire company.

In 1966 the department made 85-90 runs. Equipment was updated in 1969 with an 85-foot aerial ladder in order to service the six-story Bethesda North Hospital. By 1977 it made 300 runs and employed a paid fire chief and two paid firemen.

Through the years boundaries of the fire company changed, and the department covered not only the city of Montgomery but parts of Sycamore and Symmes townships. It was renamed the Sycamore-Montgomery Fire Department, added the services of the Sycamore-Montgomery Life Squad, and was supported with fire and life squad levies voted on by residents living in Montgomery and in the covered areas of the two townships. This arrangement resulted in property owners who lived in different areas paying different levy amounts for fire protection. And as long as the city of Montgomery remained within Sycamore and Symmes townships, the township trustees negotiated the fire contracts for the city. Montgomery formed its own township on January 1, 1990, and on October 8, 1992, Montgomery council voted to form the City of Montgomery Fire Department to include both fire and emergency medical services.



Groundbreaking for the Cooper Road firehouse in 1962. Wielding shovels are Mayor Chester Bartlett, on the left, and Del Ferris, president of the Fire Company board with Fire Board director Bill Hulsbeck between them. Fire Capt. Lloyd Rasch, left of Ferris, and Walt Wagner, front row, look on.

In 1995 the Montgomery Fire Department has six full-time firefighters, 30 part-time firefighters and a Dalmatian mascot named Sparky. All full-time firefighters are trained as paramedics and most part-time firefighters are also paramedics. Four persons are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The firehouse, temporarily located at Hopewell and Montgomery roads, at the south side of Hopewell Cemetery, will locate in 1996 across the street to a new safety center which will house the police department in addition to the fire and life squad.

Fire chiefs since the department began: 1942 - William Travillo, 1948 - Mac Meguire, 1960 - Joe Hundemer, 1969 - Lloyd Rasch, 1977 - Walt Wagner, 1981 - Bob Young, 1982 - Don Hoerlein, 1990 - Jim Buehler, 1993 - Don McGlothlin.

Montgomery Life Squad

Life squad service began for Montgomery residents when the Blue Ash Life Squad began operations with one ambulance in 1955. In 1959 property was purchased and a building constructed at 4960 Cooper Road in Blue Ash, and in 1965 a second ambulance was put into service.

In 1968 the squad was renamed the Blue Ash-Montgomery Life Squad, better reflecting the area of coverage. The first woman joined the squad in 1971, and in 1977 increased area population necessitated a third ambulance. Full-time paramedic service was initiated in 1979.

A larger station was constructed on Kenwood Road in 1972. Passage of a 1-mill tax levy in 1978 brought the life squad regular funding with the taxes collected for Montgomery residents and administered by Sycamore and Symmes townships. In 1981 the city of Blue Ash withdrew from the operations, and in 1982 the squad was renamed the Sycamore-Montgomery Life Squad. In 1991 the Kenwood Road station was sold and the squad moved in with the Montgomery Fire Department at the Cooper Road station with 24-hour in-station service established.

In 1992 Montgomery city council voted to form a city-owned fire and life squad and on October 1, 1994, the Montgomery Fire Division including the life squad made its first response. In 1995 equipment consists of two ambulances with 36 firefighters and life squad members who have been trained as paramedics and emergency medical technicians. The squad made 850 runs in 1994, and since 1993 the life squad and fire department equipment go together on all runs. These services move to the new safety center in 1996.



1995 photo of newest pumper and three of the fire/paramedics, left to right, Jim Ledford, Emily Hill with Sparky, Steve Marks.

Six killed in 1982 downtown Montgomery air crash

Unquestionably the worst disaster to take place in Montgomery was a tragic airplane crash on December 16, 1982. It took the lives of six as a twin engine Cessna 411 careened over downtown Montgomery, exploding as it crashed into the Sheppard Bookstore at Main and Cooper roads that morning.

The plane, bound for Lunken Airport from the Chicago area, carried four FBI agents from Chicago, an accused embezzler who was leading the agents to a reported stash of money in the Cincinnati area, and a retired Chicago policeman. The Sheppard house was destroyed by the fire accelerated by spilled aircraft fuel.

Mrs. Olga Sheppard, owner-operator of the store, and a customer got out of the building through a side door. J. Kannard Sheppard made his way to a window and porch roof on the second floor and was rescued by Rob Penny, a Montgomery fireman. A bookkeeper for the Sheppards escaped through a back door. Gloria Albrecht, who operated a shop in the basement of the building, was also able to get out. Phyllis Neyer was rescued by fireman Frank Lerner from her burning station wagon parked in the bookstore lot. She suffered severe burns and a broken leg.

Cause of the crash was never revealed, although the local newspaper, *Sycamore Messenger/News*, applied in 1984 through the Freedom of Information Act for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) report and followed with a conversation with the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Neighboring fire and life safety departments responded quickly, and damage was confined to the bookstore building. The plane crashed less than one block from several gas stations and three blocks from Montgomery School where children were in attendance.

Witnesses in the downtown Montgomery area that day heard the loud roar of engines, then saw the plane come out of an overcast sky at a steep angle shortly after 10 a.m. The plane, traveling more than 200 knots per hour, came out of the clouds, said observers. It flew low over Sycamore Junior High and was so low when it came to downtown that it snapped power lines on Shelly Lane where a witness, seated in a teller window (North Cincinnati Savings and Loan in 1994), saw parts of the plane fall in the parking lot. She thought the plane was going through her window.

The plane was in an almost vertical position as it crossed Montgomery Road, barely missing trees and buildings as it flew over Barton's Bakery parking lot, dropped one propeller onto the roof of a wallpaper store on Main Street, snapped a Main Street utility pole, then careened into a parked pickup truck in front of the bookstore. Overturning the pickup, the plane then skidded over the ground and into the foundation of the bookstore, spilling fuel over Phyllis Neyer's parked station wagon in which she sat. Some witnesses reported an orange fireball. Members of the Montgomery Fire Department were on hand in a matter of seconds as were employees of the Montgomery post office who felt the jolt of the crash in their building next to the fire station.

All six of the plane's occupants were killed, including pilots and FBI agents Terry Hereford, Wheaton, Illinois; and Robert Connors, Naperville, Illinois. Passengers also killed included FBI agents Mike Lynch and Charles Ellington; Carl Johnson, a suspect in a 1975 Chicago bank embezzlement of \$641,000, and Patrick Daly, a retired Chicago police detective accompanying Johnson. Supposedly, Johnson was going to show the FBI agents where a stash of money was hidden in the Cincinnati area.

The building was an historic one. It was long occupied by Dr. Jed Blackerby who moved into the house in 1906. The house was said to have been built before Terwilliger laid out the plan for Montgomery, which would date the original structure from the early 1800s. The house was constructed of solid oak, and an old barn once stood east of it and reportedly was where the circus was held when it came to Montgomery in 1812. The hand-cut timbers in the frame of the house were eight inches thick by ten feet long.

VII. HISTORY

PRESERVATION: "The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see." — Winston Churchill

Historic Preservation in Montgomery

Stories of the early families and the original settling of Montgomery have been passed along for 200 years. It is interesting that information discovered in the 1990s varies little from the stories that have been handed down.

The first written history of the village, printed in 1952 by Marion S. (Shelly) Kjellenberg, was titled "Ole Montgomery — The Interesting Village of Southern Ohio." A second history and directory of "Ole Montgomery — The Village of Lovely Homes and Friendly People," came out in 1960 and a third expanded version in 1967.

Shelly, who published the local weekly newspaper, *Sycamore Messenger*, was greatly interested in preserving history as well as telling the stories. The first town historian of whom we have record was William T. Swain, Montgomery School principal, who moved to Montgomery in the 1870s. Blue Ash native Pliny Johnston, an early superintendent of Hamilton County Schools who later had his real estate office in Montgomery, was another of the history storytellers and wrote a number of articles for Shelly.

The first effort at preservation began when Harriet Swain and the Old Fashioned Garden Club attempted to restore the Universalist Church in the mid-1940s. In the 1950s Shelly moved the little Pure Oil 1930s service station building that was to be demolished to a site beside his newspaper publishing building on Shelly Lane. In the 1960s Edith and Tom Behrens took an interest in preserving the Universalist Church when it was threatened with demolition.

By 1970 the interest in saving the historic 19th-century buildings of Montgomery had grown to the point that four buildings were named to an historic district, one of the first in Hamilton County, and were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. An advisory committee, appointed to review existing older structures to consider the merits of establishing an historic protective area within the village, toured the village and inspected 35 buildings. They took slides of important structures and collected historical information about buildings. The committee recommended changes in the zoning laws that would give legal protection to historic buildings in Montgomery. As a result, application was made for the historic district consisting of four properties: Universalist Church, Crain-Conklin Building, the Presbyterian Manse, and the Pioneer Building. This application was approved in December 1970, placing these buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. It was a big step for preservation in Montgomery.

Unfortunately, even with National Register protection of the buildings, the Manse, part of the newly-formed historic district, was demolished in August 1971 to make way for the Montgomery Cyclery.

The loss of that building seemed only to prompt a greater interest in preservation. The Montgomery Kiwanis Club purchased the old Miller House/Yost Tavern on the northeast corner of Main and Cooper Roads, rented it for an antique shop, and turned the early 1800s building over to the city in 1987 to ensure its preservation.

Efforts to save the Manse from demolition sparked the founding of the Montgomery Historical Society in 1970. It was not long before city council began to take an interest in historic preservation, particularly in the downtown area that needed renovation, and Montgomery Council Member Howard Smith worked with the Montgomery Historical Society to develop legislation to preserve historic structures.

In 1976 landmark legislation was approved by city council, and a Montgomery Landmarks Commission was formed to establish criteria to preserve historic structures in Montgomery, to provide oversight on these landmark-designated buildings and to educate the community regarding the city's preservation efforts. By 1977 there were 15 buildings that met landmark specifications and were designated Montgomery Landmarks.

When the city established the Old Montgomery Business District in 1977, the landmark buildings were an important, if not key, component to the district.

In 1988 Montgomery became one of ten cities in Ohio to receive the status of Certified Local Government by the U.S. Department of Interior which establishes strong criteria and guidelines for review of changes and alterations to designated historic property to help preserve the historic character of the city.

By 1995 Montgomery has 29 designated landmark structures which are marked by a special landmark plaque. Five of these landmarks belong to the city. The Universalist Church was given to the city by the heirs of Edith and Tom Behrens, the city acquired the Wilder-Swaim house that was included in the purchase of park property, Kiwanis gave the Yost Tavern to the city, Ted Gregory gave the Johnston-Murdough house to the city, and the city owns Hopewell Cemetery whose Pioneer Section is a landmark. Eight of these landmarks have national designation.

Many of the 1995 Bicentennial projects reflect an interest in preservation in Montgomery with twice-a-month walking tours of historic buildings, yard markers provided for landmark buildings during special events, and a new entrance and flag plaza at Hopewell Cemetery.

Montgomery Historical Society

Efforts undertaken in 1944 to renovate the Universalist Church became the forerunner of the historical society. The effort was spearheaded by members of the Old Fashioned Garden Club, principally Harriett Swaim, president of that club, that raised \$3,500 to restore the cupola, repair the roof, remove the gold-tipped lightning rods, and renovate the interior of the church built in 1837.

Twenty-six years later, in 1970, another group of preservationists organized for the purpose of saving the historic Presbyterian Church Manse at 9449 Montgomery Road. The Manse, c. 1840, home of a succession of beloved Presbyterian ministers, was scheduled for demolition to make way for the Montgomery Cyclery building. A concerned group of Montgomery residents gathered at the office of *Sycamore Messenger* publisher Marion Kjellenberg to do whatever was necessary to save the Manse, and the birth of the present-day historical society took place that night.

The Manse was one of four buildings,



The Historical Society is located in the Landmark Wilder/Swaim House.

located on the west side of Montgomery Road proceeding south of the Universalist Church, that comprised an historic district placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. Unfortunately, the combined efforts of the newly-formed Montgomery Historical Society, the Montgomery Woman's Club, Miami Purchase Association and the National Trust were not enough to save the Manse. It was demolished in August 1971.

Early meetings of the historical society were held at the Thomas Eberhard home on Remington Road, the former city hall on Cooper Road and the present city hall on Schoolhouse Lane. The society is presently located in the Wilder-Swaim house on the corner of Cooper and Zig Zag roads, a Landmark building owned by the city of Montgomery.

The first officers were: Dottie Mayersky, president; Joan Feroce, first vice president; Tom Eberhard, second vice president; Mary O'Driscoll, secretary; Claire Holthaus, treasurer. Directors were Martha Seaman and Michael DuPriest.

Members of the society were persistent in persuading the city to undertake efforts to form municipal landmark legislation to save the city's buildings of historic and architectural significance. They continue to encourage preservation by working closely with the Montgomery Landmark Commission and the city. The society collects and preserves historic documents, pictures, newspapers, and maintains a clipping file from current newspapers that cover Montgomery's governmental activities, community activities and its people.

The society works with schools and local organizations by giving tours and slide programs, sponsors exhibits, and holds activities at the Wilder-Swaim House. Fund raisers include auctions, dinners, brunches, ice cream socials, attic sales and sales of note cards and drawings of Montgomery Landmarks. Funds are used to preserve the history of Montgomery.

Current officers are Mary O'Driscoll, president; Juanita Conklin, first vice president; Jo Gavin, second vice president; Nancy White, treasurer.

Military Veterans in Hopewell Cemetery

Named after a Revolutionary War general from New York State, Montgomery is the final resting place of nearly 200 men and women who served in almost all branches of our country's armed forces.

Hopewell Cemetery's grave markers record veterans from each of our country's wars, from 1776 to 1973: 5 from the Revolutionary War, 2 from the War of 1812, 2 from the Mexican War, 39 from the Civil War, 3 from the Spanish-American War, 45 from World War I, 82 from World War II, 8 from the Korean War, and 8 from the Viet Nam War.

Five of Hopewell's tombstones mark the graves of Revolutionary War veterans who were among Montgomery's founders: Cornelius Snyder, Nathaniel Terwilliger, and Jacob Roosa who served in the New York State Orange County 4th Infantry Regiment, and Christian Crist and Joseph Meeker. Another, and much later, stone marks the grave of Pearl Harbor casualty Elijah A. Cummins, a native of Kentucky.

Two Montgomery men held high military posts in the Mexican War: John Snyder was a general and John Weller was a colonel, and both were descendants of the original Montgomery settlers.



Cornelius Snyder and Nathaniel Terwilliger, founders of Montgomery and Revolutionary War veterans.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Montgomery men enlisted in several Union Army cavalry and infantry regiments and were mustered at Camp Dennison. Some of these men joined the 4th and 5th Ohio Volunteer Cavaliers that later fought Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's raiders.

In the 1898 National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held at the Hermitage on Cincinnati's Madison Road, the 4th Regiment staged its own reunion and later held reunions with Morgan's Men Association of Lexington, Kentucky. Montgomery's Civil War and 4th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry veterans attended both events.

World War I's Junior Order of United American Mechanics Council No. 62 had 16 veterans from Montgomery, of which two were killed in action in France.

Veterans buried in Hopewell Cemetery:

Revolutionary War: Christian Crist, Cornelius Snyder, Sr., John Meeker, Jacob Roosa, Nathaniel Terwilliger.

War of 1812: Nathaniel Cochran, died 1845; Burger Miller, died 1842; Abraham Roosa.

Mexican War: Waite Miller, Co. K, 1st Ohio Infantry, died 1901; William Blair, died 1891; John Snider, General in Hamilton County Militia, died 1847. Served but not buried at Hopewell: John Weller, Colonel.

Civil War: Jacob Addison, Jonathan Addison, Mannin Apgar, Henry Bolser, N. S. Bowen, Fred Carney, Alex Constable, William Doepky, Jr., Fred Deffinger, James Frame, George Freising, Samuel Garnes, Charles Graham, Joseph Gray, Thomas Groover, Jonah Harris, Carroll Hosbrook, Sgt. Lloyd Irwin, Robert Isdell, T. B. Isdell, David Johnston, Warren Jones, Ambrose Kennedy, Paul Lamar, David Land, Willet Lepley, W. Malsbary, Minard McKinney, White Miller, Dr. John Naylor, John Phillips, James Radabaugh, Daniel Ready, Jacob Reit, Joel Riker, John Riker, John C. Riker, Daniel Rikes, Joseph Roosa, Sylvester Roosa, J. Sage, William Schiear, William Sinthurs, Cornelius Snider, Jr., Tylee Snider, Henry Stowder, Foster Todd, Sam Voris, John Watson, G. Weller, John Weller.

Spanish American War: Joseph Will, Co. A, 28th Ohio Infantry Regiment, died 1965; Charles Kelly, Corporal, 1st Ohio Infantry, died 1948; Deward Werden, Sergeant, 1st Ohio Infantry, died 1947.

World War I: George Reitz, killed 1918; Charles Ekermeier, Howard Cunningham, Clarence Aiken, John Munz, Elbert Adams, Gordon Ferguson, William Ekermeier, Milton Conklin, Morton Hoffman, Lawrence Venard, Allee Turner, Arthur Doepke, Stephen Rantz, Allen Teal, Thomas Megie and William Jentz. Others from Montgomery who served included Ellery Meiers, Benjamin Radabaugh, Claude (Ted) Bowen and Carl Bowen who was killed in action within a month after arriving in France.



This plaque which hung in Brose's service station listed the local veterans of WWII. Photo courtesy of Historical Society.

Morgan's Raiders

Morgan's Raiders came through Montgomery because of a clever ruse by Confederate General John Hunt Morgan. In the summer of 1863 Morgan started from Tennessee with 3,000 men, but lost some by drowning while crossing the Ohio River and more in skirmishes along the way. He was down to about 2,000 men when he came into Hamilton County. The raiders captured the telegrapher in Glendale and placed their own man on the telegraph key. He sent out word that the Rebels were going to attack Cincinnati and Hamilton.

At the time that Morgan's Raiders cut across Hamilton County, the Cincinnati area commander General Cox, on orders from General Burnside, divided the city and county into militia districts and assigned commanders to each. Militia in Symmes and Sycamore townships were to report to C. Constable in Montgomery, and officers were to assume command and establish headquarters.

While the militia concentrated on the southern portions of Hamilton County, the Raiders swept through the northeastern areas, including Montgomery and Blue Ash, virtually unopposed. They were looking for fresh horses, food and drink.

The Raiders saw a Union flag in the old stone Todd house below the village of Montgomery and ordered Mrs. Nicholas Todd to remove it or they would shoot it down. They took two horses that had been purchased a week prior in Wilmington, leaving behind two old beat-up nags too worn out to travel. Nicholas Todd had paid \$500 for the beautifully matched black team and buggy, and he made every effort to keep them but to no avail. However, he was rewarded. The two nags left by the Raiders provided the start for his harness horse stable that he, his son and a grandson operated well into the 20th century.

Frank Keller, grandson of Isaac Todd, told the story that the filly left by the Raiders foaled a colt that beat Grey Henry in a race at old Chester Park. He also told that his grandfather, Thorndyke Keller, was warned of the approach of the Raiders and drove his horses deep into the woods so they would not be taken. The Raiders, however, did rob the beehives at his home.

Montgomery residents were creative in protecting their horses and property. One man put his horse in the parlor of his house and locked the door, telling the Raiders when they rode up that his children were inside the house and were suffering with the dread disease of smallpox. Residents of the Crist House on Zig Zag lowered a bag of jewels into the well by the kitchen. Another story was told that a slightly wounded soldier foraging for food and plunder was discovered by a Megie boy at his home on what is now Zig Zag Road (on the site in front of Montgomery Presbyterian Church). The soldier returned to tell his superior that Union troops were closing in.

Shelly Kennedy, granddaughter of Jonathan Crain, met one of Morgan's men on the staircase of her home with a rifle in her hands. He left in a hurry. Mary Smethurst, as a frightened little girl, saw General John Morgan's Confederate cavalry invade her father's dairy farm near Montgomery and forcibly exchange spent horses for fresh ones. That farm was located on Cooper Road between Blue Ash and Montgomery.

VIII. ORGANIZATIONS

Montgomery Masonic Lodge

Montgomery Lodge # 94 F. & A.M. was organized on January 18, 1827, by one of Montgomery's earliest settlers, Abraham Crist. It is one of the oldest lodges in Ohio.

The Lodge was chartered with eight members: William Crane, R. Cunningham, F. Barman, Abraham Crist, Jeremiah Leyman, James W. Robinson J. A. Reeder, and John J. Cross. The first officers were J. W. Robinson, master; John J. Cross and Abraham Crist, wardens.

They first met in Sage's Tavern, located north of the corner of Montgomery and Cooper roads. Dues were 12 1/2 cents per month. After four years the lodge adjourned on November 10, 1832.

Fourteen years later on October 21, 1846, the Lodge was reinstated and began to meet in homes.



Two organizations built buildings in the mid-1900s: the Masonic Lodge was built in the 1930s on Cooper Road (top photo) and the Business Club in 1947 at the end of Sycamore Street. Both structures have since had additions.

Members then met in a number of public locations in Montgomery until 1937. That year the Lodge conducted a fund drive for their own building. The fund drive did not bring in the necessary funding so they worked out an agreement for the builder to finish the basement on their site on Cooper Road. The upper floor was added and the lodge building completed in 1961.

The Masonic Lodge, located at 7790 Cooper Rd., has 533 members in 1995; officers are: Kevin M. White, master, and Albert Penny, Jr., and Paul Wolf, wardens.

Business Club of Montgomery

The first meeting of 13 business owners in Montgomery to organize a business club was held at the Montgomery Town Hall on August 11, 1943. Those present were: Mrs. Ella Baker, Ike Anderson, Paul Leever, Ladell Ferris, Ray Williams, Henry Brose, George Haucke, John Bowman, Fred Ertel, M. L. Meguire, Frank Doyle, Henry De Malade and Cliff Todd.

The group organized with Ladell Ferris as president and Paul Leever as vice president. Within a month the club held its first street fair and presented the proceeds of \$1,200 to the village to purchase a service truck. In 1955 the club's Montgomery Harvest Home was staged for three days and included flower, fruit and vegetable displays, 30 merchant booths located in a large tent, and rides for kids.

The club established a newspaper, the *Montgomery Messenger*, in 1943 that was edited by Paul Lever and Claude Gosset, principal of Montgomery School. The first issue was published to advertise the club's Festival and was distributed in both Montgomery and Blue Ash. By mid-1946 the paper was published once a month. On February 27, 1947, it was sold to John Brecht, John Hargrave and Marion Kjellenberg, and in June 1947 it was published weekly. In 1949 Mr. Kjellenberg acquired the entire interest in the newspaper and the name was changed to *Sycamore Messenger*.

In 1949 a club house was built at the west end of Sycamore Street at a cost of \$13,000 with club members doing most of the work on the building. It was used as their meeting place but was also used by the community for a gathering place. For one year, when the school population grew faster than new classrooms could be built, the largest room was divided and used for two classrooms. Meetings for the Montgomery Woman's Club and the Montgomery Kiwanis have been held there as well.

In 1961 the clubhouse was remodeled and enlarged and in 1966 a swimming pool was added to the property.

Fire struck and destroyed the building on January 20, 1977, a day when the temperature was 15 degrees below zero. The club rebuilt the building enlarging the size and adding a newly-designed colonial entrance.

Over the years the Business Club's interest in the community has far exceeded providing facilities for community activities. Club members took a vital interest in the welfare of the community by supporting Scout troops, the Sycamore Athletic Club, Sycamore Schools, providing uniforms for the Sycamore High School football team, supporting community police, fire and life squads, among other interests. The club has encouraged activities for the benefit of families including children's parties at Halloween and Christmas, Easter egg hunts and a teen canteen.

Ray Williams, a founding member, recalls that the club was founded "because we were a community of little businesses and wanted to help ourselves and our town." They first met in a building near where Perkins is located today.

Kiwanis Club of Montgomery

Sponsored by the Eastern Hills Kiwanis Club, the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery was organized on October 31, 1955. George Vetter was named the first president; Robert Hoffman, vice president; Al Hoge, secretary, and Arthur Van Pelt, treasurer.

They first met each Monday at the Fox and Crow Restaurant (presently Charley's). Other meeting places over the years have included Montgomery city hall, Montgomery Business Club, the Kenridge Club and various area restaurants. In 1995 Kiwanis meets each Wednesday at Swaim Field lodge.

Membership is open to men and women who are interested in personal growth and have a commitment to the community. The first woman to join the club was Marlyn Heffner who joined in 1987; she was elected president in 1990. Seventeen past presidents and one charter member continue to be active in the club.



The art show in the center of "Olde Montgomery."

The club's many projects are a testimony to the Kiwanis International motto: "We build." The project that has captured the fancy of the community is the Kiwanis Sidewalk Art Show held each September. A small art show held in front of Montgomery Elementary School in 1956, conducted by the Montgomery Woman's Club and taken over by Montgomery Kiwanis in 1959, has grown to a show that lines the streets of downtown Montgomery, draws more than 250 exhibitors, and attracts Sunday afternoon crowds of 15,000.

Village Mayor and Kiwanian John Sherritt headed the art show in 1959 and the 1960s. In 1970 Harry Henderly took over chairmanship responsibility and will continue through 1995 when he turns it over to his assistant, Kit Taylor. It was a clothesline art show in the beginning with art hung along Montgomery Road from Cooper to Main Street. Harry Henderly recalls roping off the two sidewalks of Montgomery Road in the downtown area leaving two lanes for cars and an occasional horse that might come by. Student artists enter the show and an art scholarship is awarded yearly to one of them. Cash awards are given to top art show prize winners with a silver tray to the Best-of-Show.

Kiwanis initiated a Citizen of the Year award in 1978; Montgomery residents were asked for nominations with the club selecting the final honoree. The selected Citizens of the Year who were honored at a community banquet included: 1978 - Herman Hansen, 1979 - Ray Williams, 1980 - Kenneth Heffner, 1981 - Thomas Behrens, 1982 - Richard "Ray" Moore, 1983 - Juanita Conklin, 1984 - Jack and Louise Page, 1985 - Mary O'Driscoll, 1986 - Florence and Craig Kennedy, 1987 - Dorothy Mayersky, 1988 - Howard Smith, 1989 - Marlyn Heffner, 1990 - Robert Novak, 1991 - Harry Henderly, 1992 - Betty Bartlett, and 1993 - Janet Steiner.

The club sponsors Key Clubs at Sycamore and Indian Hill high schools and a Builder's Club at Sycamore Junior High in which student groups work with Kiwanians on a variety of community projects.

The list of charitable and educational efforts that the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery has participated in and contributed to is a lengthy one and includes: student scholarships, Congressional Scholarship in Washington for a Sycamore senior, Easter egg hunt, Halloween candy distribution and fishing contest for youngsters, and sponsorship of knothole baseball and youth soccer teams. The club holds an annual 10K



Harry Henderly retired in 1995 after 26 years as chairman of the Kiwanis Art Show. He is shown holding a plaque honoring his service.

race in Montgomery, purchased the historic Yost Tavern to preserve it and then turned it over to the city; built the war memorial at Swaim Park and the stone fireplace and shelter at Montgomery Park. Kiwanians helped restore the Universalist Church and the Wilder-Swaim House.

There are 38 members in 1995, and the president is Dennis Bock.

Montgomery Republican Club

The Sycamore Township Republican Club served members in the Montgomery-Blue Ash area for many years. However, as Montgomery's population grew, so did interest in government and politics in the village. In the late 1950s, an informal group began to meet in homes to share their political philosophy regarding local, state and federal problems.

In 1962 this group, led by Henry Blome and Robert Novak, organized the Montgomery Republican Club. A constitution and bylaws were drawn up and adopted in March 1962.

Manard (Pete) West served as the first president. Membership was open to all male persons who believed in the principles of the Republican Party. Persons of legal age were designated as senior members; underage as junior members. In 1967 the constitution was amended to drop the term "male" from membership requirements so that women could join.

Special functions of the club included an annual picnic and Montgomery Baseball Night at a Cincinnati Reds game. The club joined with the Montgomery Woman's Club, Montgomery Kiwanis and the Montgomery Business Men's Club to hold an annual benefit party to raise funds for the police, fire company and life squad. The club also sponsored political forums and local candidates' nights.

The club is no longer active.

Brushettes Art Group

The Brushettes Art Group was organized in 1963 from a painting group that studied with artist Elmer Ruff. In 1978 the group began to hold weekly year-round painting sessions without an instructor.

Since that time the Brushettes have met at Swaim Lodge to paint there or go on location. There have been 52 artists who have painted with the group. The yearly membership is limited to 20.

Founders were the dean of Montgomery painters, Radia Pfingstag, as well as Ellen Haffner and Adele Garneret. Many Brushettes are members of the Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati, the oldest woman's art club in the nation. Members have held one-person exhibits as well as group exhibits that attract a wide audience. Some have attained national recognition. They are regulars at the annual Montgomery Kiwanis Sidewalk Art Show and exhibit at a number of other shows in southwest Ohio. Many of their paintings are included in private collections of area residents.

Garden Clubs

Village Green Garden Club

The Village Green Garden Club was founded in 1957 as an interest group of the Montgomery Woman's Club. This evening group was established to stimulate a knowledge of gardening among amateurs; to aid in the protection of native trees, plants and birds; and to encourage civic planting.

Early activities included a junior garden club at Montgomery Elementary School in which members gave a workshop for students each month, a Christmas Caravan and house tours.

The club continues to hold an annual flower show and is active in other civic projects.

Lazy Daisy Garden Club

This garden club was organized in 1959, an outgrowth of the Montgomery Woman's Club.

During its early days the organization decorated and cleaned the Universalist Church for the Christmas season. During the summer months members cleaned, mowed and weeded the lawn of the church. Another project was a pocket park on Montgomery Road where Montgomery Cyclery is located in 1995.

Other projects include planting pansies at Kenwood Nursing Home, providing flower arrangements for the Montgomery Care Center, Bethesda North Hospital, and Montgomery Woman's Club monthly meetings. Members also plant bulbs at the Sycamore Senior Center.

In 1980 they purchased and delivered 1,500 trees for Arbor Day distribution at Sycamore schools. They plant and maintain flower beds throughout Montgomery.

The herb garden at Wilder-Swaim house is a continuing project begun in 1984. As their Bicentennial project the club enlarged that garden and added designation signs, installed a flower arbor and purchased a commemorative bench.

Old Fashioned Garden Club

This club was organized on April 25, 1930, when six women from Blue Ash met to promote civic beauty by planting flowers and trees to beautify homes and community. Children participated and formed a junior garden club. Dues began at five cents per month. By 1964 dues had increased to \$2 a month, and in 1995 were \$10.

Charter members were Mrs. C. E. Lay, Mrs. E. F. Marsh, Mrs. G. W. Hook (first president), Betty Lay, Mrs. Jessie Harmon and Betty McPherson. Mrs. Ralph Riker, the first member from Montgomery, joined in 1931; eventually the club's membership came from both communities. Honorary members include Mrs. Frank Gerry, Mrs. Anna Meyers, Mrs. George Johnson, Mrs. Iva Reuppel, Mrs. J. K. Blackerby, Mrs. Emmett White (president, 1941-43) and Hattie Swaim (president, 1943-45).

Activities have varied over the years. The club held its first flower show in 1931 at Cincinnati Music Hall. They presented 300 Christmas wreaths they made to elderly persons in county homes in 1940. World War II projects included sponsoring victory gardens at Sycamore High School and Montgomery Elementary School, providing fresh flowers at Red Cross reception centers and at the soldiers' reception center in Mt. Adams. In 1944 the club undertook efforts to preserve the Universalist Church, spearheaded by president Hattie Swaim; this effort preceded the foundation of the Montgomery Historical Society. (See Chapter VII, *History*.)

In 1955 the club celebrated its 25th anniversary with a tea at the Hopewell-Montgomery Presbyterian Church (Fellowship Baptist Church in 1995), and in 1980 marked its 50th anniversary with a tea at the Montgomery Presbyterian Church on Zig Zag Road.



Old Fashioned Garden Club 25th Anniversary Tea, April, 1965, left to right: Helen Hunt, Blanche Stanton, Mary Louise Lumley, and Rebecca Robinson pouring tea.

Montgomery Woman's Club

The Montgomery Woman's Club had its inception in the Todd Drive-Campus Lane area when Mrs. William Creager held an organizational meeting for ten civic-minded women in her home in the fall of 1952. After several meetings in the ladies' homes, the first public meeting for women wishing to join was held in January 1953 in the cafeteria of Montgomery Elementary School.

Attending the first meeting were representatives from the Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs that chartered the group. With the exception of a few years the Montgomery organization has maintained membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Mrs. Creager's message to the 74 women attending the first meeting was: "Our united effort and enthusiasm will make the Montgomery Woman's Club the very finest in the Federation."

From the beginning the club's goals were civic and cultural improvement. Two of the first projects were to obtain door-to-door mail delivery from the post office and get a public library for the area. Some residents weren't interested in door-to-door mail delivery; they enjoyed visiting as they went for their mail each day in the room next to Ferris Hardware. However, woman's club members' efforts were successful, and door-to-door mail began in 1957.

Because there was no public library in the community, the club established a lending library by donating books to Sycamore High School. These books could be checked out, and additional books were given each year. When the Sycamore Library opened in 1963, the club donated 250 books, also providing a copy machine, curtains and rugs. The club continues to donate books to the library through an ongoing honorary library project.

Early projects reflected the needs of a growing community. One project was to persuade residents to provide covers for old wells and cisterns. With the help of the Boy and Girl Scouts, the club sponsored a "Poison the Ivy Week" to get rid of poison ivy in the village. The club co-sponsored a teen canteen and instituted an art show in front of Montgomery Elementary School which grew into the esteemed Montgomery Kiwanis Sidewalk Art Show held each fall.

Early in the club's history a scholarship program of grants to high school seniors was established. Improvement of education has always been a high priority for the club, and both money and time have been given to assist in passing school levies, serving on the school planning commission, providing a six-week program for under-privileged children, and supporting pre-kindergarten classes and foreign exchange students. The club has also provided student loan funds and sent students to Washington, D.C., for the Presidential Classroom program. However, the scholarship fund, begun in 1955, has been the major project.

The club has not neglected civic projects. Financial support has been given for trees in the parks and along Montgomery Road, for a public address system in the village park, for American flags to fly along Montgomery Road during patriotic holidays, and for holiday decorations in the historic downtown area.



Montgomery Woman's Club helps decorate trees, 1983. Left to right: Kathy Wolff, Nina Glover, City Service Supt. Woody Proffit, Aldeen Scheetz, Susan Grier, Carol Woolegde in center.

Monies have been given to the Senior Citizen Center, Montgomery Historical Society, and for the restoration of the Universalist Church; volunteers have given many hours for meals on wheels and at area nursing homes.

Over the years a variety of means have been used to raise funds to support the projects and endeavors. In 1959 a Christmas Caravan tour of area homes was initiated; in 1972 an Antiques Show was added, and for the past several years a "Finery and Fleas Market" has been held. The club has issued two club cookbooks with the newest, the 1994 edition, featuring color photos of Montgomery and published in time for the city's Bicentennial.

Town Hall Lecture Series

In 1962 a Town Hall Lecture Series was established to provide cultural experiences for the local community by bringing outstanding lecturers to the suburban areas. National and international figures have presented their lectures which began at the Mariemont Theater, soon outgrown. Day lectures are now held at Kings Island and an evening one at Sycamore Junior High.

Lecturers have included former President Gerald Ford, opera stars Roberta Peters and Beverly Sills, designer Bill Blass, former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill, newsman Charles Kuralt, actors David Niven and Charlton Heston, author Erma Bombeck, and TV personality Art Linkletter. Marilyn Quayle was a 1994-95 lecturer, and Barbara Bush is on the 1995-96 series, for which a fourth lecture has been added.

Profits from the series support educational endeavors. Scholarships are given to deserving students, and beginning in 1974, the club entered into a joint effort with the Sycamore Board of Education to establish the Sycamore Student Cultural Series. Through this program the club provides funding to bring at least three outstanding cultural programs each year to all students in the Sycamore School District. The club also has a fund for continuing aid for college students.

In response to founding member Mrs. William Creager's welcoming message, the club has won many honors. The first award came in 1959 when *The Woman's Home Companion* named the Montgomery Woman's Club as one of the 250 outstanding clubs in the United States. Many additional awards have been given the club during the past 35 years.

Since 1952 the club has contributed more than \$800,000 to the Sycamore School District, to projects in Montgomery and the Greater Cincinnati area.

To provide social and personal contact with other members in the club there is a variety of interest groups including literary, garden, bridge, cooking, handicrafts, and sports. Membership in 1995 numbered 134.

Active charter members in the club for more than 40 years are Emily Rees, Emily Beall, and Violet Steffens.

Boy Scout Troop 674

Troop 674, sponsored by Church of the Saviour, received its charter in 1958. From the beginning the troop has been active in community projects, including building the bridge and the stone work in the creek in Montgomery Park.

With the help of Scoutmaster Ben Dulle and Assistant Leader Wally Macaulay and under the direction of Dick Pratt, the troop at one time built 24 fiberglass canoes and traveled the Little Miami River and the Current River in Missouri. Most years the troop sends Scouts to the national Scout ranch in Philmont, N.M. Over the years many Scouts have earned the coveted Eagle Award.

In 1995 the troop's membership is 50, with Scoutmaster Steve Murphy and seven adult leaders. Current projects include building stairs and a bridge at the Blue Ash YMCA, donating Christmas gifts to needy

children, performing the flag ceremony at Montgomery Woman's Club meetings, and other community activities as they are requested. To earn money for their projects, the scouts sell Christmas greens and send a clean-up crew to the Greek Festival.

Boy Scout Troop 258

In 1928 an application for a charter to organize Boy Scout Troop 258 contained the signatures of a group of Montgomery residents: John Murray Greene, Delbert Todd, George Brownlee, H. E. Murdough, Dr. J. O. Blackerby and Charles Eckermeyer.

Original Scouts of Troop 258 were: Roderick Greene whose father, John Murray Greene, was the Scoutmaster; Claude Boehm, Robert Hoffman, Harry Cordes, John Shafer, John Sherritt, Clarence Hammel, and Gene Rasch.

From 1928 to 1948 the troop was sponsored by citizens of Montgomery. After disbanding for lack of a Scoutmaster between 1949 and 1953, from 1953 to 1962 it was sponsored by the Business Club of Montgomery. Since 1963 the troop's sponsor has been the Montgomery Presbyterian Church.

In 1988 the troop was recognized for 60 years of Scouting by the city of Montgomery. Three of the original Scouts were on hand for the celebration: Gene Rasch, Roderick Greene, and Claude Boehm. The troop's first Eagle Scout in 1958 was Joseph Weber. Over the years, 26 scouts of Troop 258 have obtained the rank of Eagle Scout.

In 1995 the troop leader is David Tricky, and the troop has 55 members, eight of whom are Eagle Scouts. Community projects include building steps at Dulle Park, building trails in Pioneer Park, planting 100 Dutch elms, clean-up work in Johnson Nature Preserve, and building a horseshoe pit at Swaim Field Park.

Girl Scouts

Girl Scout troops in the area have members from Montgomery, Blue Ash, Sycamore and Symmes townships. During the Bicentennial year, 29 Girl Scout troops participated in the making of a Bicentennial quilt. A total of 353 Scouts worked on the quilt.

Marilyn Kuebler Schlosser remembers her Girl Scout troop meeting at the Universalist Church in 1935. The Scout leaders were Constance Pohl and Edna Riker. Members of the troop were Edna Kellum Stagge, Marge Ralston Jacobs, Mae Alice Hammel Longhorst, Anna Rie Peters, and Betty Forste.

Besides Scouting activities, area Scouts participate in many community projects, among them planting flowers in Montgomery parks in the spring, and conducting tours of the Historic District in downtown Montgomery.

Montgomery Swim Club

Members of the Montgomery Woman's Club discussed informally, in 1957, the advantages of a swimming pool in



Uncle Al and Wanda Lewis entertained the crowd, including this Brownie troop, at Montgomery's 50-Year Town celebration in 1960.

Montgomery. Realizing that a public pool would put too great a tax burden on residents because a bond issue would be necessary, the thought was given to organize a private swim club.

About 30 persons attended a meeting held in August 1957. At a meeting a week later it was decided to begin the sale of memberships. Each interested person was asked to put up a \$10 binder. Memberships cost \$275, and a goal of 350 members was set. By April 1958, 313 were sold.

The club purchased 17 acres for \$10,000 fronting on Pfeiffer Road from Bauer and Nordloh, Inc., developers of Storybook subdivision. By early spring, the project was started and an olympic-size pool was opened in July 1958. Total cost of the facility, including the land, was \$80,000. Ed Driver was hired as pool manager.

The club was instrumental in establishing the Private Pool Swim League in 1959. Each year the swim team participates in swim meets and has won championship awards many of those years.

The property was sold in the late 1980s for approximately \$3 million and the money reinvested in a new facility on Montgomery Road. The new facility, opened in the summer of 1991, includes three pools — regular, lap, and baby — and seven tennis courts. Membership is approximately 400 families.

Montgomery-Sycamore Baseball Association

The first organized baseball in Montgomery began in 1961 when Police Chief Ray Moore and police officer Joe Marcum, along with Bob Simons, organized the first Knothole baseball teams. They also organized softball for girls, women and men.

Montgomery-Sycamore Baseball Association started in 1979 to promote baseball and softball activities for boys and girls in the Sycamore School District. A volunteer organization, the association is led by a board and league coordinators who administer recreational T-ball, Knothole baseball and girls softball for youth ages six to 15. Teams are supported by community businesses, parents and volunteers who manage and coach the teams. The Baseball Association uses the fields and facilities provided by the city of Montgomery and the Sycamore School District.

Sycamore Athletic Club

On Thursday, September 2, 1976, headlines in Montgomery's *Sycamore Messenger* read: "Sycamore Athletic Club Celebrates 20 Years at Youth Bowl." The article tells that Bill Sherritt of Montgomery, founder and organizer, was recognized for his efforts in beginning the program. Ross Bachman was honored as the first president.

The Sycamore Athletic Club has provided athletic opportunities for the children of Sycamore School District for 39 years. S.A.C. began as a neighborhood youth football organization. Today's expanded program attracts about 700 boys and girls ages five through eleven.

The basketball program, added in recent years, for boys and girls in third to sixth grades, fields 49 teams in three leagues. Athletic fields and school gyms are provided by Sycamore School District for practices, games and tournaments. Financing, leadership and coaching of the organization are provided by the parents and supporters of S.A.C. athletes.

Greater Sycamore Soccer Association

In 1974 under the leadership of Jim Heath, eight soccer teams were organized with 120 players that were 4th, 5th, and 6th grade boys and girls. In 1976 with 400 girls and boys participating, the Greater

Sycamore Soccer Association was founded, naming Jim Heath as its president. Other officers were: Gail and Jim O'Meara, Bob Sack, and Linda and Dave Schmalz.

The first soccer team had just a few sponsors, with most of the financial support coming from parents, donations and registration fees of \$10 per child. Today most of the teams have sponsors and the registration fee is \$35 per child.

The Greater Sycamore Soccer Association is a member of Soccer Association for Youth, and its teams play other local community teams. Special teams selected by try-outs travel to play teams in other states. There are over 1,500 girls and boys participating in soccer in 1995 with games played both in the spring and fall seasons.

Organizations no longer active

The Quadrille Club — This square dancing club, started in 1946 by Marion Radabaugh and Dan Rees, met once a month at the Old Town Hall. Gus Keisman was caller for many years, followed by Leonard Radabaugh.

Village Players — Organized in 1965, the group's first play was "All Because of Agatha."

Sycamore Coin Club — This club was active in 1965; publisher of the *Sycamore Messenger*, Marion Kjellenberg, who was very interested in numismatics, was the prime motivator for starting this group.

Junior Order of United American Mechanics — Over the years this group met in the Old Town Hall, Sage Tavern, and the building at the southwest corner of Montgomery and Cooper roads. The group was an affiliate of the Masons during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Different groups of workers and tradesmen formed their own groups within the Masonic organization, although these groups no longer exist.

Trash Club — Organized in 1949. This was a card and social club and was called the Trash Club because it met on the day trash was picked up in Montgomery.

Montgomery Hobby Club — Organized in 1945 by Mrs. Rose Miller, with help from Mrs. Fred Ertel and Mrs. M. C. Meguire. A quote taken from the 1945 April issue of the *Montgomery Messenger* said: "Few of us realize just what Mrs. Miller is doing for this group of children. Not only are they given a social evening, but they are being taught to develop hobbies, which without doubt is a big step toward making good all round citizens for the future of Montgomery."

Montgomery
Red Cross ladies
in a parade on
Montgomery Road
in 1917.



IX. CHURCHES

Hopewell / Montgomery Presbyterian Church

Montgomery Presbyterian Church was founded by the first settlers to Montgomery. Cornelius Snyder and the related families of Felters, Snyders, Roosas, and Terwilligers were members of the Dutch Reformed faith in their hometowns of Montgomery and Hopewell in Orange County, New York. Soon after their arrival in the fall of 1795, they were gathering for worship in one of the log buildings on the banks of Sycamore Creek.

This Sycamore Creek congregation was officially organized as a Presbyterian church in October 1801 by the Rev. James Kemper. The Presbyterian church closely resembled the Dutch Reformed in theology and organization.

In 1803 the name of the church was changed to Hopewell, and the congregation moved to a larger log building in what is now Hopewell Cemetery.

In 1819 the church moved into the village of Montgomery and met in the Academy, a two-story brick school building. It was not until 1829 that a lot on the corner of West Street (now Shelly Lane) and Sycamore Street was chosen to be the site of the new meeting house. The bricks for the church were made, and the building constructed, by member and elder, James Jones, who had a brick kiln. The congregation was meeting in the building as early as 1830, but it may not have been completed until 1833.

The name of the church was changed from Hopewell to Montgomery in 1867 to correspond with the name of the village. Planned and organized by the Ladies Aid Society, major remodeling of the building was begun in 1890. A gabled annex and a bell tower were added to the east side of the church. Nine beautiful stained glass memorial windows were also installed at that time. A cellar was dug in 1945 to create space for a kitchen and Sunday school rooms.

Due to the village's rapid growth in the 1950s and 1960s it was realized a much larger building with more modern facilities was needed. The area where the church stood was on a back street with little land available for expansion. So, reluctantly, it was decided to move from the heart of Montgomery to land recently willed to the church on Zig Zag Road. The present sanctuary was dedicated on July 1, 1962. In 1976 a new fellowship hall and more Sunday school rooms were added. In 1995 additional renovations were begun.

Forty ministers have served the Montgomery Presbyterian Church in its nearly 200-year history.



The Hopewell/Montgomery Presbyterian Church, the first congregation organized by the settlers of Montgomery. The building is on Shelly Lane.

Foremost were the Rev. Thomas F. Cortelyou from 1862 to 1888, who willed his house to the church for a manse, and the Rev. Walter F. Peters from 1930 to 1960.

Earliest members in full Communion

Names as they appear in church minutes: Margaret Orr Ann McKown Prudence Baker Catharin Rosa Catharin Riker margaret Bell Sampson and Rachel McCullough Samuel and Elisabeth Irwin Francis and hannah Bodine James and Elisabeth Jones John and Lydia Layman Daniel and Elon hunter Matthew and marian hunter John T and Elisabeth Jones Cruncemus and Levica felter Magdalene Duskey Elisabeth felter ann Todd mary Snider Ida Simonson Nancy Swallow Catharin Snider Lettisha Terwileger Coziah foden Isabelah Codington wm bodine Elisabeth handby Mary and Sarah Michel Sarah felter Catharin graham Prudence keller Sarah V Smith Mariah Turner Elisabeth B weller Temperance hagerty wm and Rachel Jones george Layman Is Newkirk.

Foremost Ministers of Hopewell / Montgomery Presbyterian Church

James Kemper

James Kemper was the founder and first minister of Hopewell/Montgomery Presbyterian Church. Kemper, the first Presbyterian minister ordained north of the Ohio River, arrived in Cincinnati in the fall of 1791. He survived several Indian Wars — in his first four years in Ohio, members of his congregation came to church armed — to minister to increasing numbers of churches in southwest Ohio. He served Montgomery from 1801 - 1808.

Thomas Foster Cortelyou

Thomas Foster Cortelyou was minister of Montgomery Presbyterian Church from 1861 until his sudden death in January 1888. During his 26 years as pastor, he was deeply involved in the Sabbath School program, often serving as teacher or superintendent.

For 15 years he was vice-president of the Cincinnati Sabbath-School Association. Church membership increased from 90 to 160 during his time here. Montgomery helped organize the Madeira Presbyterian Church in 1882, and Rev. Cortelyou served both congregations.

He and his wife Louise had five sons, but all died in early childhood. Rev. Cortelyou died of typhoid at age 55. His home, built in 1822, was willed to the church for use as a manse.

Walter F. Peters

Walter F. Peters was one of Montgomery's most beloved ministers. A native Cincinnati, Rev. Peters attended Lane Seminary and served in the Army during World War I. In 1919 he accepted a call from Morrow Presbyterian. During his 11 years there, he and his wife Annarie had two children.

Coming to Montgomery in 1930, he worked to bring the community into the church: Boy and Girl Scout troops were organized, a Drama and Hymn group formed, a young men's group known as the "Trail-Blazers" started, and a tennis court was built behind the church. In 1939 Rev. Peters began the first communicants' class. Sunday evening worship was reestablished after an absence of many years.

After 28 years at Montgomery, Rev. Peters retired to Florida in 1958. Returning to Montgomery for a visit in 1960, he was made Pastor Emeritus. Walter Peters died in 1964 and was buried in Morrow, Ohio.

Universalist Church of Montgomery

The admired and beloved landmark of Montgomery, the Universalist Church at the corner of Montgomery and Remington roads, was built of sun-cured bricks in 1837. Design of the building, which bears elements of Christopher Wren and Williamsburg styles, was influenced by early settler Cornelius Snyder. The church also bears a similarity in design to the Presbyterian Church in Montgomery, New York, from where the Montgomery, Ohio, first settlers came. It is one of the earliest church buildings in Hamilton County still standing and one of a few known in the state to have round brick pillars on the facade.

These four round brick pillars have a greater circumference at the bottom than at the top, and stories have been told that one pillar holds a bottle of whiskey. There are about 100 bricks throughout the structure that contain key prints, the significance of which is not known. There are two entrance doors, one for men and one for women. The bell installed in the portico roof was rung for services, to signal the fire department, for funerals and to muster local militia. Today it is rung for special occasions in the city.

There was a balcony in the interior at one time and two chandeliers. One has been removed. The pews and candelabra are original. The 1864 organ and late 19th-century pulpit and furniture are original. The floor has been replaced three times, the last time in the 1960s by the Montgomery and Silverton Kiwanis clubs after the church was purchased by Edith and Thomas Behrens. This effort, that included replastering and repairing walls and ceiling, replacement of glass, restoration of pews and installation of electric heat, was also made possible by the assistance of the Montgomery Woman's Club and other community members. Replacement of the cupola and some renovation was accomplished in the mid-1940s in a project spearheaded by the Old Fashioned Garden Club.

The church was the focal point of community activities during the 19th-century. This is where theological debates, courts of law, and a variety of meetings were held. Church was the most important social institution of the 19th century.



The Universalist Church in a 1939 photo.

Formal organization of the Universalist Society did not take place until August 3, 1839. Eighteen were enrolled as members on August 17, 1839. They were: Benjamin Bowen, Tylee Chamberlain, Thomas Dewey, Cronymus Felter, Matthias Felter, William Jones, Hiram McKowen, Daniel S. Meeker, Henry Patmore, E. M. Pingree, who served as pastor, William Riker, Arthur C. Ritter, Sarah Ritter, John Snider, David Thompson, William Turk, and Samuel Voorhees.

Those founding the Universalist Church were part of a "great division" that began in 1819, and by 1825 three separate groups left the Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Benjamin Bowen, Levi Buckingham and Jacob Felter were the initial group. Split over doctrine, the Universalists held more liberal concepts and did not believe in infant damnation.

By 1844 membership peaked at 95 under Pastor Pingree. Operations ceased in 1926, although one service a year was held to maintain the tax status. In 1956 the property was deeded to the Universalist Society of Ohio. In 1955 a local historical society had been formed to either get title to or at least save the building, but to no avail. By 1959 the state society decided to sell the building.

After the death of Edith and Tom Behrens, who had purchased the church in 1962, their heirs gave title of the church to the City of Montgomery. In 1977 the Universalists held a service in the Montgomery church for the first time in 50 years. In 1987 a re-dedication of the Universalist Church was held on October 11, and a plaque dedicated honoring donors John Rengering and Margrete Chapman.

The Montgomery Historic Trust maintains the building now. It is the keystone building of the National Register District, having been placed on the National Registry in 1970, and it is a designated Montgomery Landmark.

Early Methodist Church

The village's first Methodist Church congregation organized on July 4, 1819, with Joseph and Olive Reeder as the prime movers. The new congregation met at Reeder's Tailor Shop in Montgomery. First members were Mrs. Sarah Price and her two sisters, all daughters of Eli Duskey; Mary and Elizabeth Slaback; Hester Bowman; Hester Anderson; and Nancy Mills. Later meetings were held in Eli Dusky's home.

Emotional in their religious expression, the Methodists were not looked upon with favor by the villagers made up of more austere Presbyterians. Some unsympathetic ruffians in the village watched until the Methodist congregation knelt in prayer, then armed with pins attached to long poles, pricked the



Cooper Road looking west toward Main Street in an 1899 photo. The Methodist Church with its bell tower is to the left.

worshippers. The disturbances culminated in a suspension of the meetings for some time. They were then resumed on the second floor above Mr. Reeder's tailor shop in a room which accommodated 100 persons. The villagers were finally convinced, and some converted, by the zeal of these Methodists.

In 1829 Joseph Reeder was accepted into the ministry by the Cincinnati Conference. By 1839 the congregation was able to purchase land on Cooper Road where they built a church (located in 1995 between 7887 and 7893 Cooper Road). Historian Richard Nelson wrote of the church in his 1874 history:

The Sabbath school averages 50, and is superintended by John Keller, an active worker and enterprising citizen. Mr. Keeler took charge of this school some two years ago, when it consisted of no more than a few scholars in each class. Feeling the need of good music, he was laying his plans to purchase an organ, when Mr. J. K. Green . . . sent the school such an instrument. . . . Whereas it was difficult to find a leader of the music, now it has an efficient choir, who, by regular rehearsal prepare themselves for their interesting work.

Pastors were Dr. Granville Moody, Reverends Kalbfus, Arthur Elliott, Bishop Foster, J. M. Buckley, Levi White, and John M. Malsbary, who lived between Montgomery and Blue Ash and who served the congregation for a number of years as pastor. His obituary printed on September 5, 1894, described him as "having been a Methodist divine for nearly fifty years."

In the early 1900s the congregation dwindled and services were suspended. About 1920 the building was sold to a community club in Hazelwood, sawed in two and moved one piece at a time by a threshing machine. A section was built between the two halves when it was resurrected on Deerfield Road, making a larger building where square dancing and other social events were held. The building was razed in 1995.

Ascension Lutheran Church

In 1968 the then Lutheran Church in America offered Pastor John R. Bender the position of mission developer for Montgomery and the surrounding area. Pastor Bender organized a small group of interested families and began holding Sunday services in Maple Dale Elementary School.

Under Pastor Bender's leadership, this group was able to recruit additional members, and, with the assistance of the Board of American Missions, purchase land and build a church. This building at 7333 Pfeiffer Road was dedicated on September 21, 1969.

The church building has been enlarged once and the interior was recently remodeled under the leadership of Pastor Steven Grieser, the fourth pastor to serve Ascension. Also, there has been a significant increase of parishioners.

Church of the Saviour

Church of the Saviour, United Methodist at 8005 Pfeiffer Road, began in 1957 with a group of eight. In 1959 construction began on the first building unit.

Involved in mission projects, the church has supported missionaries in Africa, resettled two Southeast Asian families and has rehabbed property in the inner-city. The church's most visible project is its Drive-Through Nativity, begun by Pastor Kay Short in 1987. It is the church's annual gift to the community. Another community service is the Montgomery Nursery School, established by Montgomery resident Arlene Kennedy in 1962.

Gospel Baptist Church

Gospel Baptist Church, an independent Baptist church, was organized in 1963. The congregation first met in a renovated plumbing warehouse in Norwood. After rebuilding several times the members moved the church, in 1974, to its present location at 6477 Cooper Road.

The church is involved in missionary and outreach work and had a significant ministry for the inmates of the Cincinnati Correctional Institute. Gospel Baptist Church has sponsored the development of other churches in the area.

Fellowship Baptist Church

Fellowship Baptist Church began in Lockland in 1969. After meeting in a home for several months, the congregation rented a building in Blue Ash. In July 1969 the old Presbyterian Church on Shelly Lane was purchased from the Church of the Nazarene. The church grew rapidly and in 1974 began extensive additions to the historic building which is a Montgomery Landmark building.

Fellowship Baptist provides Sunday school, children's church, and youth programs.

Montgomery Assembly of God

Montgomery Assembly of God was organized by a small group of Pentecostal believers in Deer Park. In 1973 the church constructed a new building at 7950 Pfeiffer Road. In 1977 the educational wing was added and in 1988 a larger sanctuary was built.

The focus of the church has been as a ministry to the family, couples, singles, children, youth, and to those age 55 and older. A variety of mid-week meeting and services are offered. The church supports extensive world-wide missions.

Montgomery Church of Christ

The congregation of the Montgomery Church of Christ, 6555 Cooper Road, is fifty years old. Formerly located in Silverton, they moved to Montgomery and built a new church in 1986. Pastor is Reverend Jerry G. Mueller.

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 10345 Montgomery Road, began as a mission on November 1, 1981, (All Saints Day) with ten families in attendance. With the Reverend Dr. George A. Hill III as rector, Sunday services were held in the Commons area of Sycamore High School. The congregation became a parish in December 1983.

After many years of searching for the right location, land on Montgomery Road was purchased and the present building completed and dedicated on June 11, 1991. There are three services held each Sunday with church school classes for all ages.

Swedenborgian Church

Kemper Road Swedenborgian Church at 9035 East Kemper Road, has been a part of the Montgomery community since it moved here in 1968 from Oak and Winslow Streets in Cincinnati. This congregation was founded in 1811.

The church is involved in many outreach ministries. The Wedding Chapel Ministry is a major part of the program. A number of resident summer camps for youth are sponsored at the Retreat Center on Rocky Fork Lake. Many seminars, discussion groups and workshops are held on various topics from spiritual growth to recovery issues. All of these programs are open to the public. Members are also involved in soup kitchen activities, Lake Isabella Adopt-A-Park, and a ministry at Cottingham Retirement Home.

An historic landmark

Hopewell Cemetery c. 1801-1803
 Corner of Deerfield and
 Montgomery Roads
 Montgomery Landmark

This is the location of the burial ground for Montgomery residents from the earliest beginnings of the settlement. Grave stones date as early as 1803. Many early graves had wood markers which deteriorated rapidly resulting in unmarked graves. In 1803 the Hopewell congregation of the Presbyterian Church moved from the

Sycamore Creek location south of Weller Road to this location, and the cemetery grew around the old log meeting house building. That building served the church until 1819 when they moved to the Academy School and then built the church on Shelly Lane.

Since the meeting house moved, this land has served as a cemetery only, with the oldest section at the corner of Deerfield and Montgomery roads designated as the Pioneer Section and a Montgomery Landmark.

Many early settlers whose names are part of Montgomery history are buried in Hopewell: Snyder, Roosa, Terwilliger. The cemetery holds the graves of five veterans of the Revolutionary War as well as veterans of the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, Spanish-American War and veterans of wars of the 20th century.

Hopewell Cemetery, consisting of 12 acres, parallels the settlement and growth of Montgomery, and reflects the ongoing history of the community.

Two 1995 Bicentennial projects enhance the cemetery: a flag plaza built at the location of the cemetery house, and a commemorative entrance to the Pioneer Section along Montgomery Road.



A 1950s photo of Hopewell Cemetery, showing the pioneer section.

Other cemeteries in Montgomery

Jewish Cemetery

Land adjacent to Hopewell Cemetery to the west was purchased for a Jewish Cemetery in Montgomery in June 1958 by the United Jewish Cemetery Association. There were 59.7 acres from the original purchase sold for the Ivygate subdivision in 1971, with the remaining 14 acres serving today as a cemetery for Jewish families.

Gate of Heaven Cemetery

The Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati purchased 475 acres of farm land for a cemetery at 11000 Montgomery Road in 1948. Acreage has been sold for other purposes, and today the 250-acre cemetery is a lawn level memorial cemetery serving Catholic families in the Archdiocese. The land was originally in Symmes Township, but through two annexations is now within the geographic boundaries of Montgomery.

X. SCHOOLS

First public school

The first schoolhouse built in Montgomery was the typical log-cabin type with openings left for two windows and sized-newspaper serving for sash and window glass. This school, built in 1812, stood at the northwest corner of the intersection of Remington Road and Main Street.

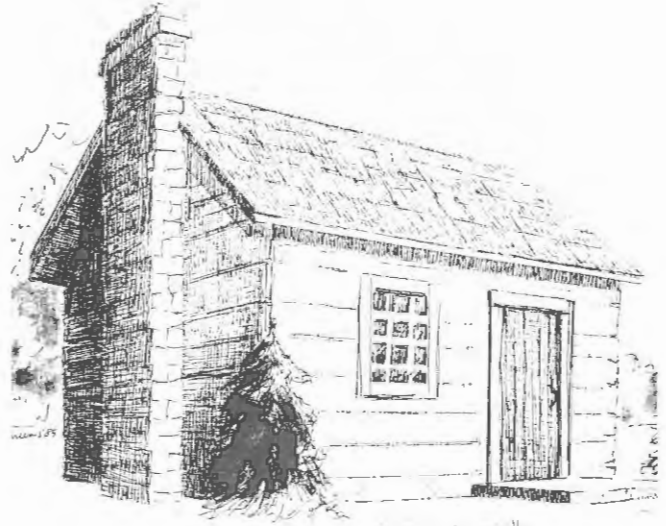
Early accounts describe the school building as primitive and tell of a method of punishment for unruly children that utilized a six-inch opening in the crude floor. Any child needing to be chastised had to dangle bare feet in the hole until released by the teacher. Snakes were numerous (little danger of poisonous snakes), but the discipline was effective.

In 1832 the log building was replaced by a small two-room brick building that became the first public school in the village of Montgomery under the Ohio State School Law enacted in 1828. A lengthy battle took place for free tax-supported schools. On one side it was argued that it was unjust to expect landowners to pay for schooling for tenant children; the other side of the argument held that an educated electorate was necessary to make democracy work.

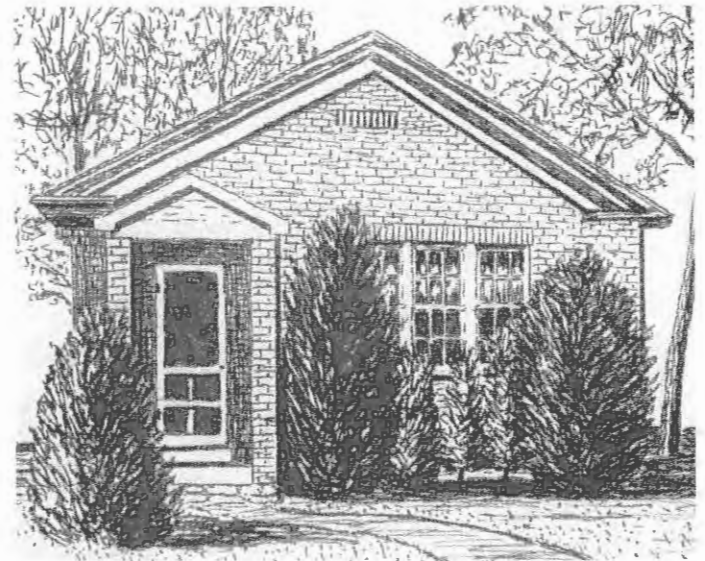
Ruth Stoll Winter remembered her parents bought the old schoolhouse before 1921, purchasing it for \$2,000 from a family who used it for storage. Painting the thick brick walls white to seal for moisture, they remodeled the two-room schoolhouse into living quarters. The schoolhouse sat in the middle of a one-acre lot. Mrs. Winter's father, Frank Stoll, was a botanist and florist, raising flowers and vegetables which he sold.

An early friend of public education

Harmanus Taulman, a bachelor and shoe- and harness-maker who came to Montgomery from New York, left one-third of his estate of \$3,000 to the new Montgomery School District when he died in 1842.



An artist's concept of the first Montgomery school built in 1812.



A sketch of the brick 1832 school building as it appeared in the 1920s as a residence.

He is buried at Hopewell Cemetery, and his tombstone reads: "The friend of youth and education." Interest on that \$1,000 amounts to about \$50 per year currently and goes to the Sycamore School District.

Private schools in Montgomery

The Academy

Richard Nelson's 1884 "The History of Hamilton County" speaks of Montgomery Academy, located at the northwest corner of today's Shelly Lane and Sycamore Street. It was a classical school. A lively description was provided by Mrs. Hettie Johnston to Mrs. Margaret Miller:

... It was also used for religious services, boards from the second floor being removed to allow persons upstairs to hear the speaker on the first floor. When a funeral was held there on a school day, the pupils went out into the yard and sat on those boards to leave space inside for the friends of the deceased. For gatherings outside of school hours, the boards were simply piled back against the wall upstairs.

In 1819 the congregation of the Hopewell Presbyterian Church moved to the Academy building for services. Mr. George Moore taught at the Academy from 1827 to 1829, at the time the Hopewell Presbyterian Church was under construction across the street. Other professors were Mr. Hayden and Mr. Locke. The old Academy was razed in 1832, and a new four-room brick school built on the site. Eliza Megie Johnston, mother of Pliny Johnston, local educator and historian, taught in the early private school.

Hare's Academy

About 1830 another academy was headed by Professor Gilbert Hare. This private co-educational classical school is said to have been located in about the same location as the Montgomery Academy and probably simply followed the Montgomery Academy chronologically. This is today's site of the Academy Square doctors' offices.

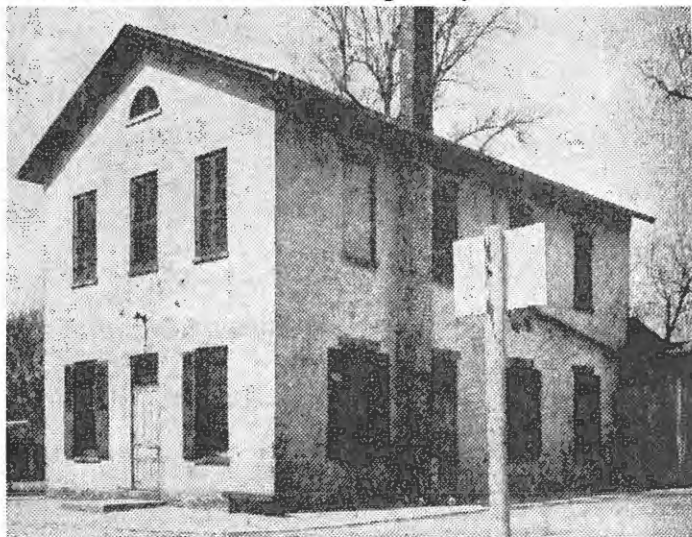
Dames School

Dames School for Girls was held in the home of Daniel Miller on Mechanic Street (Cooper Road) about 1817. This was a private tuition-run school with a separate school held for boys.

Third public school building in 1857

By 1857 a larger school was constructed, a two-floor brick school built on Montgomery Pike near the location of the office of the present-day Montgomery Elementary School. Montgomery resident Marilynn Kuebler Schlosser remembered from discussions of local history with her mother, Edith Arstingstall Kuebler, that bricks for the building came from the Wellers who lived near the school and were potters. They built a kiln to fire bricks made from local clay for the Presbyterian Church and the school building. Edith's grandmother was Liza Jane Weller.

A large bronze bell was cast for the new school in 1857 by The Buckeye Foundry of Cincinnati, paid for at a cost of \$90 by Dr. William Jones, president of the Montgomery School Board of



The 1857 school, later used as the town hall and meeting place.

Education. Dr. Jones, a medical doctor, was also a state legislator.

As a result of an 1867 Ohio state law that permitted reorganization of school districts, residents in Montgomery School District voted unanimously in 1869 to become a separate and independent school district. A three-member board was elected: John Todd, D. B. Myers and Cornelius Snider. They first met on November 11, 1869, with Mr. Snider elected chairman, Mr. Todd as treasurer and Mr. Myers as clerk and recorder. In 1870 the first levy of five mills for the school was approved with three mills to pay for operating expenses and two mills for building and repair.

In an annual report of the school district made on April 10, 1871, the amount the district received that year was \$999.25; amount paid teachers, \$829.83; amount for incidentals \$103.55. Total expenditures: \$933.38. Balance: \$65.87. Enrollment included 60 in primary grades, 33 in intermediate, and 30 in the high school department. Principal was S. L. Nicolay. In 1887 the assessed valuation of the school district was \$300,612.

On January 22, 1892, the court created special school district No. 4794, the Blue Ash district, and Judge Howard Ferris sent a bill to the Montgomery School Board for \$61.21 in court costs, which the board refused to pay because board members agreed not to give up territory for the new school district.

So much territory was taken away from the Montgomery school district that it was necessary to raise the taxes to seven mills in May 1892. And by 1894 the assessed valuation declined to \$213,180, which cut revenues to the school and necessitated cutting teachers' pay by 25 cent per day. The same year Montgomery received its first tuition pupils when Mr. Mendenhall was allowed to send his children to school for 75 cents a month, provided he sent at least two children.

Fourth public school building in 1899

The 1857 school building was condemned by Hamilton County inspectors in 1899; they stated major repairs were needed for it to be fit for school use. The board issued \$6,000 in bonds to erect a new building, and a four-room, two-story brick building with a bell tower was constructed. The old school bell was installed in the new building and rung at the beginning of each school day as well as used to announce the one-hour recess. This new Montgomery School was built north of the old school that was then leased to the town for meetings and dances. Residents called that building "the old Town Hall."

Montgomery resident Ray Williams remembered that the town hall contained a large room on the lower floor with a beautiful hardwood floor and a stage at the back. His sister Irene and her girl friends planned dances in the hall at the end of World War I from 1917 to perhaps 1920. Meetings of organizations, including the Junior Order of the Mechanics, were held upstairs. When Ray installed a furnace in the basement under the stage in the mid-1920s, he found that the stage and basement had been a later addition.

Ray Williams graduated from Montgomery Elementary School on June 10, 1921, with commencement exercises held at the old town hall. Besides Ray the eight other students graduating were Florence Johnston,



The 1899 school built just north of the old town hall. This building served Montgomery as a school until being razed in 1966 for an addition to Montgomery Elementary.

Marion McKinney, Marjorie McKinney, Wilhelmina Oliver, Junior Pfiester, Leonard Radabaugh, Anthony Rape, and Mabel Rude. Teachers were Miss Huger for primary; Mrs. Pennington, intermediate; and Mr. Schilling upper grades and principal. Ray Williams recalled that Mrs. Penning came to Montgomery each morning on the inter-urban electric streetcar.

William T. Swaim served as principal and teacher for the new school when it was built in 1899. His salary was \$65 a month. Mr. Swaim was first hired as principal-teacher for the school in 1873-1877, left for six years, then returned in 1883. He purchased a farm at Zig Zag and Cooper Roads in 1917 (Swaim Park and residential subdivision today), but the family home was located at Remington and Montgomery roads (Otmar furniture in 1995).

In 1901 it was necessary to levy 10 mills for school expenses and three mills for the bond issue, and in 1904 the board resolved to establish a three-year high school.

High School classes held at Montgomery School

Records of the Montgomery Historical Society include an application made to the state commissioner in 1902 for a four-year high school held at the Montgomery School. The application was signed by Principal and Superintendent Sanford J. Brown and Clerk Charles Ekermeier. Also found were copies of high school report cards of Mamie Ekermeier as well as a list of high school courses she took at Montgomery School in 1905-06 when she studied Latin, Caesar, English literature, American literature, advanced Western history, general history, rhetoric, physiology, physical geography, physics, plane and solid geometry and high school algebra. These courses took place over an 18- or 36-week period and consisted of five recitations of 30-60 minutes each.

Ray Williams recalled that when he was in grade school during the late teens, high school classes were held on the upper floor. At this time rural elementary, or grade schools, educated students through eighth grade. Those wishing additional schooling often had to travel some distance or live with a local family to attend high school. Students finishing Montgomery School attended high school in Norwood or Withrow in Cincinnati.

Jane McDermott: Principal-Teacher, 1930-1942

George J. Brownlee, principal of Montgomery School from 1925-1930 (who lived in the tollgate house across Montgomery Pike from then-Mayor James Radabaugh's house, now Chester's Roadhouse), hired Jane Adams from Reesville, Ohio, in 1927 to teach intermediate grades.

Miss Adams, who was married to Leo McDermott in 1928, wrote for this history in November 1993 telling what Montgomery School looked like when she arrived 68 years earlier, and describing what school was like during the Depression years of the 1930s:

It was a red brick, two-story, four-room building with a nice flag pole in the front yard. As you entered the front door, from a small porch, there was a narrow hall with a door on the right side which led to the two basement rooms. Each basement room had a coal furnace which heated one side of the building.

From the front hall there were six or seven steps up to the first floor. There were two rooms on the first floor very much alike. They were large rooms, each with an outside door on the far side



Jane Adams McDermott

for a fire escape, and each with a large chalk board across the front of the room.

At the back of the first floor hall were steps down to a narrow hall to the back floor. From the back door you could see two outdoor toilets.

This was the Depression era; many men were unemployed. Finally, there was a government project (W.P.A.) to help these people. Through this (W.P.A.), our school house was thoroughly cleaned, walls painted, inside toilets put in, play ground remodeled, and a first-class ball diamond added.

The large school bell was used every day. The rope came through the ceiling from the bell tower on top the building to the second floor hall. One of the larger boys would usually ring the bell. If he pulled too hard, the bell would turn over; then the boy would have to crawl through an opening in the ceiling and turn it over again.

The second floor plan was the same as the first floor. My room was on the south side. The north-side room was not used for a classroom for several years. But each room had a fire escape, and children could be out of the building in less than one minute.

The floors were unfinished wood floors, very dusty always. I finally bought a tank type G.E. sweeper for \$35 which helped. We also cleaned our erasers with it. The janitor who stoked the fire at 8:30 a.m., then left so that teachers had to throw in a shovel of coal when the fire got low; then he swept the floors but did not dust the school rooms.

We had very few books on our book shelves. It was probably in the late 1930s when we bought a *Richards Encyclopedia* for \$36. We wanted *World Book*, but I remember it was \$75.

I can't remember when the Book Mobile from the Cincinnati Library started coming once a month, but for us it was invaluable. Classroom books were bought by the parents, and books were handed down and re-sold many times.

Our courses of study included reading, writing, arithmetic, English, history, geography, and health. In the 7th and 8th grades, we added civics, agriculture and beginning algebra. Music was included in the '30s, and art much later.

We observed holidays much the same as they do now, except we had Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. Several times the school prepared the program but gave it at the Presbyterian Church. Most of the children went to Sunday School there and Rev. Peters knew them, so we had one program instead of two.

The 8th grade state examination was given for several years. We looked forward to it, and many pupils did very well. I enjoyed going back to the school house in the evening for a couple of hours to work with them.

We generally had a baseball and basketball team. We competed with Blue Ash, Hazelwood and Concord. For a small school I think we won our share of games.

The salary for teaching 4th, 5th, and the 6th grade a half day was \$110 a month for ten months. When I took over as teacher and principal in 1930, I received \$150. I taught 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, and I had from 32 to 42 pupils.

During those Depression years, some teachers worked without being paid for three or four months or longer. Montgomery didn't have money for extras, but the teachers were always paid (eventually).

Teachers at that time were Mary Alger who taught primary grades; Jane Adams (McDermott), intermediate; and Principal George Brownlee, upper grades. There were less than 100 students in the eight grades, all of whom walked to school, then walked home for lunch, and finally walked home at the end of the school day. Occasionally, students would bring a lunch and accompany Jane Adams home at noon.

When Jane Adams was married in November 1928, she left school the day before Thanksgiving, asking her students not to tell anyone until after 6 p.m. that she was to be married that day in Wilmington. At that time few married women were accepted as teachers. However, she returned as Mrs. McDermott and continued her work at Montgomery School. She was named principal in 1930 and served in that position until she retired in 1942. Mrs. McDermott, who came back in 1947 as a teacher at the school, retired again

in 1966 and lives in Montgomery in 1995. She celebrated her 90th birthday in July 1994 and attended Montgomery Elementary School's Bicentennial Program in March 1995. She is the oldest living retired principal of Montgomery School.

The fifth Montgomery School building

An increase in school population after World War II, coupled with the 1949 consolidation of Blue Ash and Montgomery Elementary Schools and Sycamore Township Union High School into the Sycamore School District, led to the formulation of plans for a new Montgomery Elementary School.

Adding to the needs of the school was the institution in 1949 of kindergarten classes that were held at the old town hall and land annexations during the 1950s to the village of Montgomery that increased the population eight-fold.

The old town hall, condemned in 1899 as unfit for school use but that proved fit for community use for more than 50 years, was finally razed in 1951 to make way for the new building. In 1952 a new one-floor



A photo taken in 1952 of the just-completed Montgomery Elementary School.

brick school containing five classrooms for grades 1-6 and two kindergarten classrooms, at a cost of approximately \$250,000, was opened. In addition, there was a principal's and secretary's office, a cafeteria which doubled as a library, a health room, storage room, rest rooms for students and faculty, and a conference room.

Principal Claude C. Gossett, 1942-1955

Overseeing the new school construction was Claude C. Gossett who had been named principal in 1942. A large crowd attended the dedication of the school on April 19, 1953, "in spite of snow and cold weather." Principal Gossett served as master of ceremonies for a program that included songs, invocation, the school history, flag presentations and an address by Judge Robert Gorman whose father served as principal of Montgomery School in 1882. Hattie Swaim, James L. Radabaugh, and George Arstingstall were honored as the oldest former students of the school. The 1899 building remained standing where the first-grade wing is located in 1995, and one had to go outside to get from one building to the other.

Mr. Gossett earned a master's degree from Xavier University, but felt his early country-school experience best prepared him as a teacher. He served as principal at Hazelwood for 12 years prior to coming to Montgomery in a teaching career that spanned 36 years. Highly regarded in the community, he worked with children's summer programs throughout the Cincinnati area and served as playground director at Montgomery. He had a keen interest in sports and coached the baseball team at Hazelwood, then the basketball and baseball teams at Montgomery for 14 years.



Claude C. Gossett

Ray Williams remembers Mr. Gossett as civic-minded and a member of the Montgomery Businessmen's Club. He was considered the "dean" of Hamilton County principals and was a past president of the Elementary Principals' Association. He co-founded the *Montgomery Messenger*, forerunner of the *Sycamore Messenger*, in 1944. In April 1955 Mr. Gossett died suddenly of a heart attack and Jane McDermott was named acting principal.

Principal Nancy Bohart, 1955-1968

In the fall of 1965 Nancy Bohart, kindergarten teacher at Blue Ash Elementary for 12 years, was named principal. A graduate of the University of Cincinnati, she earned a master's degree from the University of Maryland. Since leaving Montgomery School in 1968, she has married and lives in Florida.

Shortly after she took the position, in 1966, a two-story wing was added with eight classrooms, a library, art room, book storage room, two rest rooms and custodian's cupboard.

As population continued to increase in the Sycamore School District, restructuring of grades to meet this problem affected the number of grades at Montgomery Elementary School. When Sycamore Junior High was built in 1955, 7th and 8th grades moved from the elementary schools to the junior high, leaving grades K-6 at Montgomery School. When 6th graders were moved to a wing at the new Sycamore Junior High on Aldine Drive in order to accommodate the growing number of students, grades K-5 remained at the elementary schools.

In 1974 when the new Sycamore High School was completed, 7th and 8th grades moved to the old high school. The Aldine Drive junior high became an intermediate school for grades 5 and 6, leaving the elementary schools with students in grades K-4, which is the case in 1995.

Principal Ruth Dillon, 1968-1989

Miss Bohart was succeeded in 1968 by Mrs. Ruth Sasser Dillon, a 4th and 5th grade teacher at Maple Dale. At the time of her appointment, enrollment was 619 students with grades K-5th housed in the building.

Her philosophy of education was demonstrated by her relationship with parents, students and staff.

She worked to reduce class size, the number of students per teacher. Enrollment increased to 745 students by 1974 with 33-36 students in a class.

Montgomery School needed more space. Colony buildings were added in 1982-83, and in 1987 three trailers were placed at the rear of the school. By 1987 average class size was reduced to 23 students per classroom.

Mrs. Dillon began a collection of films, books and other media that grew into a first-class media center that was designed to be the heart of the school. When she retired on November 2, 1988, the center was dedicated in her honor.

Mrs. Dillon was recognized by the Ruth Dillon Scholarship, instituted by the Montgomery Parent-Teacher Organization in 1988-89, that is awarded to a graduating senior from Sycamore High School who is to study education, and who, most importantly, attended Montgomery Elementary School.

A graduate of the University of Cincinnati, she was married to the late Paul Dillon and has a son, Douglas, who is an elementary school media specialist. Mrs. Dillon is a Montgomery resident.

During Mrs. Dillon's tenure as principal, the first assistant principal was hired for Montgomery School. Jack Buchholz was named to that position in 1977. He was succeeded by Ronald Brooks and then Mike Pastura. When Mrs. Dillon retired, Peggy Phillips succeeded her as principal; then in 1989 she moved to the new Symmes Elementary School as principal.

Principal Mike Pastura, 1989

Mike Pastura was named principal in 1989, a position he holds in 1995. Current assistant principal is Lori Robson, who succeeded Pamela Gribi.

A sense of history is part of the curriculum at Montgomery, commented Principal Pastura because the school is located in the old village portion of the city. Two retired principals have contributed to that effort. Mrs. McDermott kept scrapbooks from 1927 to 1966 that contain school pictures of her classes, names, news articles and programs about her students. Mrs. Dillon wrote a chronological history of the schools in Montgomery from 1795 to 1994 using documents and information contained in school files. She compiled a history and worked with the renovation and display of the 1857 school bell in Montgomery School. The bell was installed and dedicated in a new bell tower constructed in 1995 as the school's Bicentennial project.

In March 1995 the third grade students presented a Bicentennial Program as a culmination of the pioneer history project. The presentation was an original play about the founding of Montgomery with shadow puppets, costumed singers, dancers, and instrumentalists.



The 1857 school bell in a tower built to celebrate the city's Bicentennial.

Montgomery School Mothers Club / Parent-Teacher Organization

A Mothers Club was in existence in 1927, recalled former Montgomery School Principal Jane McDermott. There was little money in the treasury and members held monthly card parties to provide funds for the school. Mrs. McDermott recalls the purchase of the school's first duplicator from these funds. The group also sold seeds. About seven or eight years later the club joined the County PTA. During the 1940s, mothers prepared hot lunches in the old town hall cafeteria and served them to students at the school next door.

In 1978 a PTO was established after disbanding from PTA. The group holds four meetings a year, works with the Young Authors' Program and holds the annual school carnival in the spring — the major fund-raiser. A three-phase playground project was dedicated in November 1979. Long a dream of Principal Ruth Dillon, the parents' organization undertook the six-year project using funds from the school carnival and other activities. In 1985 the 1857 school bell was restored by the PTO with research conducted by Principal Dillon.

Montgomery School Principals

- 1868-1869 Mr. Tucker
- 1869-1871 S. J. Nicolay
- 1873-1877 William T. Swaim
- 1877-1878 Mr. Haucke
- 1879-1880 Mr. Barrows
- 1881- F. M. Gorman
- 1883-1899 William T. Swaim
- 1890-1902 David Spence
- 1902-1903 Sanford T. Brown

1905-1906 Bertha H. Hegner
 19— 1917 Mr. Zimmerman
 1917-1921 Mr. Schilling
 1924-1925 John Henderson
 1925-1930 George J. Brownlee
 1930-1942 Jane A. McDermott
 1942-1955 Claude C. Gossett
 1955-1968 Nancy Bohart
 1968-1988 Ruth S. Dillon
 1988-1989 Peggy Phillips
 1989- Michael Pastura



Teacher Miss Bein stands in front of her 1917 Montgomery School class.

Other area rural grade schools

The Sycamore Township area had six elementary schools serving the rural community during the 1800s and halfway into the 1900s. They were Blue Ash, Plainfield, White Oak (Hazelwood), Montgomery, 16-Mile Stand and Weller.

When the need arose for an area high school in the early part of the 1900s, all six schools discussed the possibility. However, it was two elementary school districts, Blue Ash and Montgomery, that made the decision to launch a joint high school, Sycamore Township Union High School, built in 1925-26 on Cooper Road, halfway between the two communities.

In 1948 a representative from the Ohio State Department of Education surveyed and then recommended consolidation of these six elementary school districts with the high school in an area of 21 square miles. Advantages of consolidation for Montgomery School District were financial assistance, reduced number of grades per teacher, and institution of kindergarten.

This was accomplished on April 26, 1949, and a five-member board of education was created. Members came from the five largest of the six districts with no member from Weller School. Members of that board were Morton F. Hoffman, elected president of the board, from Montgomery; Frank Ferris II from Blue Ash; Walter C. Reuszer from Plainfield; Norman C. Shumard from White Oak; and Leslie Meier from 16-Mile Stand.

Some rural grade schools closed

Weller School on Hopewell Road was a one-room school built in 1876 with 21 students in 1948. It was closed and sold in 1950 for \$5,000. In 1995 it is a private home.

Sixteen-Mile Stand School on Montgomery Road in Symmes Township built in 1879 had 85 students in 1948 with two teachers and was closed in 1952. It stands today, privately owned.



This photo from a 1927 Sycamore High School yearbook, The Log, shows the new school, then called Sycamore Township Union High School, built on Cooper Road, now Sycamore Junior High School.

Hazelwood School on Cornell Road was closed and sold in 1963 for \$49,000. Today it houses Fibre Glass-Evercoat Company.

Plainfield School at the intersection of Cooper and Plainfield Roads was used as a school until 1974. It is the site of the Sycamore Senior Center in 1995.

The site of Blue Ash School changed when the 1892 building at Cooper and Kenwood Roads was sold and demolished in 1985. The Sycamore Board of Education purchased the former Indian Hill School District Wyandot School, moving Blue Ash Elementary School to that location on Kenwood Road. Blue Ash Elementary School won the Elementary School Administrator's Hall of Fame Award in 1995. Principal is Adrienne James.

Maple Dale Elementary School

The increased population in Montgomery and surrounding communities within the Sycamore School District during the 1950s required the building of a third elementary school. Montgomery School had served Montgomery area students for a century and one-half. In 1960 construction began for a new elementary school, Maple Dale, that draws students from Montgomery as well as from Blue Ash. Maple Dale Elementary School at 6100 Hagewa Drive, was dedicated on November 6, 1960. This campus-style building is located on a 16-acre tract purchased from Wilbur F. Kennedy, within the boundaries of two cities, Blue Ash and Montgomery. The building, consisting of 20 classrooms, an auditorium-gymnasium, library, dining area, health room and office, cost \$709,709.

Four principals have served the school: David A. Harcum, 1960-1962; Wilbur J. Rose, 1962-1967; J. Melvin Berry, 1967-1988; and Philip M. Hackett, 1988 to present. Assistant principal is Marianne W. Sweetwood.

The school's motto: "Success for everyone in every way," is the philosophy on which decisions are based at the school today, said Principal Philip Hackett. Technology has brought computers to almost every classroom, pre-school is held for three and four-year olds, and the school serves an increasingly diverse school population that requires English as a Second Language program.

Maple Dale Elementary School was selected as a Hall of Fame School in 1993, one of the top eight in Ohio. Current enrollment is 670. Principal Philip M. Hackett was selected as Ohio's 1995 Distinguished Principal presented by the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators. He was chosen from among nine principals nominated statewide.

Maple Dale Association

Florence Kennedy, a Montgomery resident, was the first president of the Association, founded in 1960 when David Harcum was principal of the new school. One of the major fund-raising events, the annual Maple Dale Follies, drew a popular following due to participation in the follies by teachers and administrators as well as parents in the district.

Currently MDA has 370 parent members who give 12,000 volunteer hours each year to the school. Most events are planned to raise funds. That includes adding playground equipment, an annual Giving Tree during the holidays, grade level and teacher grants and other financial support. The Sunshine Fund was established for Maple Dale families who need "extra care and loving support" during a difficult situation. There is a kindergarten-parent coffee, a When Nobody's Home program and semi-annual brown bag lunch meetings for working parents.

Symmes Elementary School

A fourth area elementary school, Symmes Elementary, was built to meet increasing school population and opened in 1989, once again relieving over-crowding at Montgomery School. Peggy Phillips is principal. This school was named a Blue Ribbon School for 1993-94 by the U.S. Department of Education.

Edwin H. Greene Intermediate School

When students complete 4th grade at Montgomery Elementary School, they attend Greene Intermediate School for 5th and 6th grades. The school at 5200 Aldine Drive was built in 1962 as a junior high. The school, named for Sycamore's first superintendent, Edwin H. Greene, has had four principals: Warren Anderson, Jack Bucholtz, C. Craig Harris and Steven C. Hill. Enrollment in October 1994 was 975.

Two classroom wings have been added since 1974, each containing six classrooms. A new gymnasium has been added and the old gymnasium converted to a media center. Special education now meets in the old media center.

Sycamore Junior and Senior high schools

The cornerstone for Sycamore Township Union High School at 5757 Cooper Road was laid on April 18, 1925. High school classes were held as early as 1902 at Montgomery School and in 1919 at Blue Ash School, but the 1925 high school, built halfway between the two communities, was the first high school to serve all students in the six grade-school districts that included Montgomery.

The two-story brick building, dedicated on January 16, 1926, cost \$65,000 and contained nine classrooms, one office, restroom, garage and auditorium with a large stage and two dressing rooms. The high school annual, *The Sycamore Log*, began publishing that year and described the basketball court as one equal to any in Hamilton County. There were rooms equipped for cooking and sewing.

Enrollment was 60. There were four on the faculty. Cora M. Hawley was principal in 1926, having served as high school principal for high school classes held at Blue Ash Elementary School since 1920. She also taught Latin, math and music and coached girls' basketball.

Roy J. Kennedy was principal from 1927 to 1949, then served as a teacher for seven years. In his 22 years as principal he saw high school enrollment grow from 60 to 550 students. After he died in December 1962, a scholarship was established in his memory that is given annually to a graduating senior at Sycamore High School with funds from the seven parent-teacher organizations in the district schools.

Other faculty members in 1927 were Kathryn Edmiston who taught home economics and English, and Bertha S. Joseph who taught English, Spanish and Biology. The senior class in 1927 had five members: Laura Roosa, Laura Wolf, Viola Senour, Florence Johnston and Harry Cordes.



Roy J. Kennedy

Oldest living graduate of Sycamore High School

Laura Roosa who grew up in Blue Ash, graduated from Blue Ash School and then Sycamore High School in 1927, married Ray Williams of Montgomery. They have lived in Montgomery since 1930.

Mrs. Williams is the oldest living graduate of Sycamore High School. Her daughter, Donna Williams Jackson, graduated in the class of 1950 and two grandchildren, Michael Jackson, class of 1972, and Linda

Williams Jackson, graduated in the class of 1950 and two grandchildren, Michael Jackson, class of 1972, and Linda Jackson Snow, class of 1973, comprise three generations of Sycamore High School graduates.

Mrs. Williams donated her 1927 Sycamore High School diploma to the high school. The diploma is signed by Principal Cora M. Hawley and Superintendent Roy J. Kennedy.

Elsa Vogel Curless graduated in the class of 1933 which she served as secretary/treasurer. She remembers that basketball was the most important sport. There was no football, nor band. Those who could walk home were those who participated in after-school activities. She well knew it was a long walk to Sycamore High School from her farm home. The youngest of eight children, Mrs. Curless lived on a farm that encompassed both sides of Montgomery road located where Columbia Oldsmobile and Gate of Heaven Cemetery are in 1995. A small van-type vehicle picked up the few who could not walk to high school. She first graduated from 16 Mile Stand School, then Sycamore High School. Her daughter, Gloria Curless Harbin, graduated from Sycamore in 1966, and her granddaughter, Jennifer Harbin, will graduate with the class of 1995, making another three generations of Sycamore High School graduates. Mrs. Curless, a retired teacher, has donated her diploma to the high school.

The 1927 *Sycamore Log* depicts a glee club and a 17-member Sycamore symphony orchestra led by Mr. Wiley and organized through the parent teacher association.

Origin of Aviator name

The school district's mascot name, Aviators, came as a result of a late 1940s-50s effort by Cincinnati to locate a metropolitan airport in Blue Ash. Doris Adams Coffey, class of 1948, recalls that a student in her class, Edward Waddell, won the contest to name the Aviators. He won a savings bond in the fall of 1947. Mrs. Coffey worked on the 1947 *Sycamore Log* and recalled that money was scarce during wartime, and the book was mimeographed, rather than printed, that year.



Laura Roosa Williams, 1927 graduate of Sycamore High.



The Sycamore High School Symphony Orchestra. Photo from 1927 Log.

Juanita Stone, class of 1945, wrote of another milestone reached in 1944 when “blacks were able to attend the Junior/Senior prom of Sycamore High School.” She credits classmates Thelma Hedges, Mattie Myles and Betty Williams in “making this difficult task a reality.”

The first band, founded in the early 1950s by Margie Sklos who taught high school music, according to the 1948 yearbook, had uniforms that consisted of capes borrowed from the theater or choirs and old army hats. In 1955 there were 60 members in the band directed by Jack Valz, the school’s first music director. The following year a parent organization raised money by selling scrap metal for uniforms that were gray with green and gold trim.



The High School Band in a 1965 Sycamore Log photo.

During Walter E. Denecke’s tenure as principal of Sycamore High School, 1956-1966, the football stadium and auditorium were built. The original football field was located where practice fields and the parking lot are located in 1995. School population doubled between 1954 and 1969.

Crowding at the high school was evidenced by the need to place students on a split-shift attendance during 1972-73 while plans were being formulated to build a new high school on Cooper Road. The first shift, including juniors, seniors and members of band and athletic activities, attended from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the second shift, freshmen and sophomores, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

New Sycamore High School in 1974

Sycamore’s new high school opened in the fall of 1974, designed to hold 2,000 students in a concrete block two-story structure built with open, non-traditional classrooms without doors and, in some cases, without walls. It was filled with brightly-colored graphics and lockers, was carpeted and air-conditioned. The 226,000 square-foot school was built on 47 acres at a cost of \$5.7 million.

The number of high school graduates topped 400 in 1977 when there were 425 who received their diplomas at the first commencement held at Cincinnati’s historic Music Hall.

It wasn’t long before walls and doors were built for the classrooms and the graphics disappeared. The academic program was enriched and languages (five in 1994), music, art and photography were emphasized in the curriculum. The school has won academic and athletic championships. In 1987 the school district joined the Greater Miami Conference that offers competition for athletic and academic teams, and in 1994 established an athletic Hall of Fame. There were 402 graduates in the 1994 class, with 85 percent planning to attend college or pursue some additional education. High school enrollment in 1994 was 1,849 with 130 faculty members.

Additions to the high school include enlargement of the media center, a gym and classroom wing added in 1990, and 12 additional classrooms in 1993.

High School Principals

1920-1927	Cora M. Hawley	1967-1972	William E. Spreen
1927-1949	Leroy J. Kennedy	1972-1973	Eugene C. Shrimpton
1949-1950	Robert Wearly	1973-1980	Rollin D. Goodpaster
1950-1954	Edwin H. Greene	1980-1986	Howard D. Barns
1954-1956	Norman E. Purdy	1986-1992	E. Tutt Lambert
1956-1966	Walter E. Denecke	1992-1995	Douglas W. Gorham
1966-1967	B. F. Auer	1995 -	Dennis Klasmeier

Dennis G. Klasmeier, 1995 -

Deer Park, Ohio, native Dennis G. Klasmeier was named principal of Sycamore High School in May 1995. A graduate of Morehead State University, Kentucky, who earned a master's degree at the same university, he came to Sycamore in 1974 to teach speech and drama. In 1982 he was named assistant principal at the high school.

Sycamore Junior High

In 1955 an eight-room junior high school that cost \$126,000 was constructed adjacent to the Sycamore High School building on Cooper Road. In 1956 when Walter Denecke was chosen as principal for the high school, his two assistants divided responsibilities. Kenneth Seaman took charge of grades 7 and 8 and James Turner grades 9-12. The elementary schools then housed grades K-6.

By 1960 the junior-senior high would not hold the continually increasing number of students. Plans were drawn for a new junior high school to be located at 5200 Aldine Drive. In the fall of 1961 the building was complete enough to house 7th grade; 8th grade moved in the following year, and in 1966 the 6th-grade moved into a new wing. The elementary schools then housed students in grades K-5. In 1966 the two buildings on Cooper Road were consolidated into one larger senior high school.

When the new high school was opened in 1974 on Cornell Road, the junior high grades returned to the Cooper Road location. This time the junior high occupied the entire building.

Sycamore Junior High School applied for and won the National Education School Excellence Award in 1987. Superintendent Garth Errington and Principal Bill Sears accepted the award at ceremonies held in Washington, D.C.

School enrollment in 1994 was 997, according to Kevin S. Boys, principal of Sycamore Junior High School. Additions to the school include four classrooms, enlarging the media center, constructing an elevator to make the building handicap-accessible, installing new windows and ramps, and making restroom improvements.

Sycamore Junior High Principals

1955-1961	(5757 Cooper Road) Walter E. Denecke
1961-1966	(5200 Aldine Drive) Kenneth C. Seaman
1966-1974	Warren G. Anderson
1974-1980	(5757 Cooper Road) Howard D. Barns
1980-1982	George "Bud" Acus
1982-1986	Daniel Henke
1986-1992	James W. "Bill" Sears
1992-	Kevin S. Boys

Sycamore Schools Superintendents and Board of Education

Edwin H. Greene, 1950-1974

Probably the best-recognized name in the district is that of Edwin H. Greene, who served as principal of Blue Ash School and Sycamore High School, was Sycamore School District's Superintendent from 1950-1974, and was a 1929 graduate of Sycamore High School. The Edwin H. Greene Intermediate School was named for him when he retired in 1974. Mr. Greene died in 1995.

For Edwin H. Greene, who was named superintendent of the district in 1950, those years of rapid growth required innovation, which translated into increasing numbers of students and not enough funding to meet their needs. Creativity was required, and Mr. Greene is credited with encouraging innovative ideas.

It was Mr. Greene's philosophy that "every child can learn," and he encouraged new ideas and believed in giving students as many experiences as possible. It was important to him to know his staff, and he was quite visible in the schools. His sense of humor and willingness to sacrifice for the good of the school district (including a few years of occupying an office in the basement of Hazelwood School) made him popular with staff and students. When he retired in 1974, the school on Aldine Drive was renamed the Edwin H. Greene Intermediate School in his honor.



Edwin H. Greene

Retired assistant superintendent Joseph B. Flege, who came to the district in 1952, recalls the philosophy of the district at that time: "Learning needs to be systematic and sequential. Children need to be actively involved in the learning process. Discovery rather than being told was the best way to learn." The National Education Act of 1959 provided funding that made innovative programs feasible, said Mr. Flege.

An example of the district's philosophy was the outdoor education program established in 1956. The idea for the program was prompted by Myrtle Smith who took Girl Scouts from Blue Ash to Europe. What began in one school as an outdoor adventure at Camp Kern has grown to incorporate all fifth graders who participate in outdoor education as they attend Camp Kern for three days with their teachers and Sycamore High School students who serve as counselors.

Curriculum development, incorporating research skills, establishing a library program for grades 4-12, establishing high school vocation training were just some of the accomplishments made during Mr. Greene's tenure, said Mr. Flege.

Eugene Shrimpton, 1974-1985

Eugene Shrimpton, a native of Cincinnati, graduate of the University of Cincinnati and principal at Woodward High School, was hired in 1972 and spent a year as high school principal prior to being named superintendent of the district following Mr. Greene's retirement.

Mr. Shrimpton's tenure saw increased attention to academics, particularly at the high school level, with experienced teachers hired to conduct Advanced Placement courses. He oversaw the building of the new high school on Cornell Road. Those who worked with him viewed him as a teacher advocate who developed a "family feeling" among his staff and described his management style as that of captain of a team. While student population increased more than threefold during Mr. Greene's tenure, school population began to stabilize during Mr. Shrimpton's, growing by only 300 students. Mr. Shrimpton retired in 1985. He died in 1990.

Garth Errington, 1985-1994

Dr. Garth Errington came to Sycamore from Huntington, West Virginia, although he spent most of his educational career in Michigan. His first task was to oversee passage of a school levy which was successful. Improvements were made to each school in the district as well as construction of a new elementary school on Enyart Road to serve growing numbers of students in the Symmes Township area.

Keys to his tenure were goal-setting and communications within the district and the community. A community newsletter, *The Pilot*, was initiated and distributed within the Sycamore School area, and he set up a Superintendents' Advisory Council consisting of presidents of the parent-teacher organizations of each of the six schools. An award-winning Staff Development Center on Cornell Road was instituted by Dr. Errington in 1991.

Bruce Armstrong, 1994

Dr. Bruce Armstrong was hired in 1994 to replace Dr. Errington who retired. A graduate of Ohio State University with a Ph.D from the University of Iowa in education administration, Dr. Armstrong came to Sycamore from the Worthington, Ohio, school district. His philosophy is that a school district is a reflection of the community that supports it, and his desire is to bring together involvement and collaboration among the administration, school board, community and staff.

During 1995 the school district is conducting public forums, meetings and workshops to develop priorities for the district. A Community Dialogue, held on January 9, 1995, brought 480 parents and community residents together to begin the public discussion.

"We're trying to produce capable graduates for the following customers — parents, taxpayers and society, and not necessarily in that order," Sycamore Superintendent Bruce Armstrong reported in a local news story. "It's important to get the community involved in the planning process." The year-end goal is a list of about 30 priorities with a plan to implement them.

A round-up of activities in the various schools within the Sycamore School District published in a March 1995 issue of *The Pilot* shows the variety of interests that include: latchkey child service at elementary schools, community volunteers as readers, class speakers and teacher-helpers, after-school enrichment programs and sports activities, participation of schools in Montgomery Bicentennial activities, drug awareness, safety and fire safety programs sponsored by local public safety departments, programs developed with local businesses, mentoring, volunteers serving the community from the Key Club and other high schoolers, in addition to a wide selection of extra-curricular activities.

Board of Education

Sycamore School District's first board of education was selected with a member from each of the five largest elementary school districts when the school district was organized in 1949. The first organizational meeting was held on May 27, 1949, and the members were Morton F. Hoffman from Montgomery School, Frank Ferris II from Blue Ash School, Walter C. Reuszer from Plainfield School, Norman C. Shumard from White Oak School and Leslie Meier from 16-Mile Stand School.

Since 1949 two of those schools have been closed, White Oak and 16-Mile Stand. New schools have been built including Maple Dale and Symmes elementaries, the Edwin H. Greene Intermediate School, and a new Sycamore High School on Cornell Road.

The Board of Education has seen the district grow from an enrollment in 1949 of 1,326, to an enrollment in 1994 of 6,073. Budget of the district has grown from \$129,056 in 1949 to \$45 million in 1994.

The board has dealt with unprecedented growth in student population, changing educational requirements, challenging social change, and new generations of parents who have had different expectations for the education of their youngsters.

Members of the 1995 Board of Education are Robert Mills, president; Carolyn Keller, vice president; Peter Hershberger, Don A. Hirsch and Susan Wilke.

Serving to assist the board is the Sycamore Schools Planning Commission established in 1956. The commission is made up of community and business leaders, parents, teachers, administrators and board members whose role is to study issues of importance for the board of education and make recommendations from citizens for policy decisions.

Selected highlights of the Sycamore School District

- 1947 Sycamore Athletic Association formed to raise money and uniforms for 11-man football team at Sycamore High School. Team was on the field in the fall.
- 1948 Sycamore Aviators won Class B state baseball championship.
- 1949 District purchased first school buses.
- 1951 Wage scale for high school teachers: \$2,000 to \$2,800 per year.
- 1952 Sycamore High School accredited.
- 1954 Special Education classes held for slow learners. New athletic field dedicated. Field lights contributed by Montgomery Business Club and bleachers built by Sycamore Boosters Club.
- 1955 Band Boosters organized.
- 1957 Sycamore Aviators co-champs in Hamilton County football league.
- 1958 Flyerettes organized at Sycamore High School.
- 1960 Sycamore Board moved school administration offices to old Sycamore telephone exchange building on Cooper Road.
- 1960 Sycamore became a City School District.
- 1961 District expenditures totaled \$1,686,016.
- 1976 PAT program instituted in 5th and 6th grades for children who qualify as "gifted."
- 1977 Headstart classes began at Maple Dale School.
- 1979 Sycamore High School land area annexed to City of Montgomery.
- 1987 Sycamore Junior High won National Excellence Award.
- 1994 Blue Ash Elementary School Principal Adrienne James accepted the Hall of Fame award given by the Ohio Association of Elementary Schools Administrators.
- 1995 Symmes Elementary School Principal Peggy Phillips accepted the Blue Ribbon School Award given by the U.S. Department of Education.
- 1995 Maple Dale Elementary School Principal Philip Hackett selected Ohio's Distinguished Principal.

Enrollment:

- 1949 - 1,326
- 1954 - 1,916
- 1959 - 2,607
- 1964 - 3,282
- 1969 - 4,050
- 1974 - 4,700
- 1979 - 4,819
- 1984 - 5,000
- 1989 - 5,505
- 1994 - 6,073

XI. CELEBRATIONS

MONTGOMERY CELEBRATES ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL

The town went all out for the 150-year celebration in July 1945 with residents joining wholeheartedly in a parade that probably will never be surpassed. All participants wore clothes of long ago. They rode in surreys and buggies, on high-wheeled bikes and in ancient automobiles. Streets were lined with friends and neighbors.

There was a street fair, display of old relics, exhibits of the pioneer era at the Universalist Church. Organizers even pushed a two-seated airplane from Blue Ash to Montgomery for the festival.



Observing one of the antique cars on display at the 1945 celebration is Frank Rich with the old lantern, Pliny Johnston at the wheel, and Dr. Jed Blackerby.



The street dance at the 50th Anniversary celebration in 1960.



The 1960 parade along Montgomery Road where Thornton's Nursery is now and Society Bank where Beacon Inn was. Note there is no Montgomery Square or other business, just farms on both sides.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Village of Montgomery's 50th Anniversary of incorporation was celebrated on September 22-24, 1960. Downtown Montgomery was decorated with colored lights for a week before the celebration. Montgomery Road from Cooper to Remington was closed for a street dance and fireworks. Activities also included a parade, a Miss Montgomery contest, pet show, baby contest, and the dedication of Montgomery's first park, at the corner of Montgomery Road and Schoolhouse Lane.

MONTGOMERY KIWANIS ART SHOW

The art show, started in 1956, now draws 15,000 to 20,000 people each year on the third Sunday afternoon in September. The work of more than 200 artists is displayed along Montgomery Road from Cooper to Main Street.

MONTGOMERY DEDICATES A NEW CITY HALL

On August 24, 1969, at 2 p.m., Montgomery dedicated its new home. The old village hall, occupied since 1925, had outlived its usefulness.

The new city hall, following the historic tradition of "Old Montgomery," was of early American design. The left side of the building was occupied by the six-man police department under the guidance of Chief Ray Moore. Behind the police office was a two-cell "Pokey," and storage room. On the ground floor, below the council chambers, was a large room available for meetings and gatherings of Montgomery organizations. Tables and chairs were purchased by Montgomery Kiwanis Club. The adjoining kitchen was furnished by the Montgomery Woman's Club, including a range and refrigerator.



The new city hall dedicated in August 1969.

U.S.A. BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN MONTGOMERY, 1976

The City of Montgomery joined with the country to celebrate its 200th birthday with parades, old-time festival, hoedowns, art and essay contests, concerts, and a display of historical items at the Universalist Church. Ladies from the Sycamore Senior Citizens Center crafted a Bicentennial Quilt, designed with the country's Bicentennial logo. The Quilt was raffled at the old-time festival, along with a needlepoint picture of Independence Hall.

The year concluded with the placement of a time capsule in a cornerstone at Bethesda North Hospital. The time capsule is to be opened on July 4th, 2076.

To help fund the Bicentennial celebration, the Montgomery Bicentennial Committee sold certificates for any amount of money a person wanted to donate, for a share of Bicentennial Stock in America. The certificates were suitable for framing as a souvenir of the 1976 Bicentennial of the United States of America.

AN ANNUAL EVENT — JULY 4th PARADE, FESTIVAL

The annual parade and festival started in 1975 as part of the country's 1976 Bicentennial celebration. The parade begins at Sycamore Junior High and ends at Montgomery Park where there is a festival each year.

The parade has 115 to 135 units with entries from local and area businesses, civic organizations, Scout troops, churches, neighborhood associations, Syrian units, historic vehicles, a bike unit with scores of youngsters taking part, and anyone who wants to organize a unit, wear a costume and march.

The festival always features food booths, music, pony rides, pet show, contests, and games.



Logo of the 1976 USA Bicentennial.



Marlyn Heffner was the Statue of Liberty for Kiwanis' entry in the July 4th, 1986 parade. Kiwanians Jack Rosen, in the rear, and Ken Heffner, who built the float, rode along with Marlyn. A little known fact: because of the day's heat, Ken put a fan in a cubicle under Marlyn's long gown. The float won an award.

BASTILLE DAY

Montgomery celebrates Bastille Day each July in honor of its Sister City, Neuilly-Plaisance, France.

The celebration, started in 1990, takes place in the Historic District of downtown Montgomery. The event features food from local restaurants, children's games and contests, and plenty of musical entertainment. One of the highlights is "La Petit Tour De Montgomery," a big wheel and tricycle race.

Bastille Day is sponsored by Montgomery Sister Cities Commission and Montgomery Merchants Association.

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

"Preserving our past, celebrating our present, planning our future." — Montgomery Bicentennial Commission.

In order to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of Montgomery, Ohio, the City Council appointed a Bicentennial Commission on June 11, 1992. Members named were Charles T. Abbott, Juanita Conklin, Stanley Day, Lynn Doll, Vicki Hirsch, Don Hirsch, Mary O'Driscoll and Janet Steiner. Janet Korach was the council representative to the commission, and Juanita Conklin and Janet Steiner were named co-chairpersons.

The commission went to work immediately to plan a year of activities that began in October 1994. Hundreds of volunteers provided year-long activities and events to entertain, educate and celebrate 200 years of the city's history.

The first official event was a Bicentennial Kickoff party hosted by the Montgomery Woman's Club and held at Peterloon Farm on October 8, 1994. A new song composed by Montgomery resident Jan Wiess was introduced: "Montgomery, Home To Me."

The following month a community-wide ecumenical service was held at the historic Universalist Church on Thanksgiving Day in November 1994 with area clergy taking part in the service.

On December 4, 1994, the Blue Ash Symphony dedicated their winter concert to the Montgomery Bicentennial, where a rousing piano rendition was performed of the "Montgomery Schottische," written in 1911 by Dr. C. H. Ekermeier, a Montgomery doctor for more than 50 years. The concert was held at the Assembly of God Church with the Blue Ash Woman's Club hosting the event.

The Business Club of Montgomery recognized past and present mayors and council members at a dinner reception on April 26, 1995. Also recognized were police and fire chiefs who had served the city.

Dedication of the installation of the school bell made for the 1857 Montgomery School was held on May 16, 1995. This original Montgomery School bell, displayed for a number of years in the elementary school on Montgomery Road, was installed in a new tower in front of the school as a Bicentennial project.

During May a pioneer encampment took place at Pioneer Park, sponsored by Assembly of God Church, which also held a 1795 church service in the Park. The Montgomery Arts Commission held a Mayfest at Dulle Park.

Merchants in Montgomery sponsored Old Fashioned Days on June 16 and 17 with wagon rides, hot air balloon rides, mock trials of city council members and the city manager. The Masonic Lodge held tours and provided free lunches for their guests. There were craft and antique exhibits, music and a wide variety of food available in the downtown historic district and Montgomery Square Shopping Center. A photo exhibit was held at the Universalist Church, sponsored by the Montgomery Arts Commission.

The Bicentennial Plaza and Fountain were dedicated in front of the city municipal building on June 18. The three-tiered fountain is surrounded by an inscribed brick-lined plaza that holds park benches, large trees and appropriate landscaping. The plaza also includes large paver bricks and bronze plaques to recognize the corporate and citizen sponsors who financed the \$180,000 plaza and fountain project. A gala dinner was held recognizing these sponsors.



The Bicentennial fountain in front of city hall.

A magical night in the park followed the dedication with thousands of residents filling the park, bringing blankets and chairs to hear the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, conducted by Keith Lockhart, perform a concert of varied music that included a performance of Dr. Ekermeier's "Montgomery Schottische." The evening concluded with a dazzling display of fireworks set off on Emery property across Montgomery Road.

A Bicentennial grove of trees and gazebo were dedicated in Pioneer Park on July 2 with good old-fashioned entertainment when a baseball game was played using the original rules. The Shamrocks of Sharonville played the Montgomery team made up of council members, police, fire and other city employees as well as members of civic organizations and baseball coaches. An ice cream social was held for the fans by the Montgomery Presbyterian Church.

Johnson Nature Preserve was rededicated that same day with members of the Miami and Shawnee Nations participating in the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnson who donated the 7.2 acre preserve in 1974 also attended this event that was hosted by the Montgomery Woods Neighborhood Association.

A brunch was held by the Sister Cities Commission to entertain the city's guests from Montgomery, New York, and Neuilly-Plaisance, France.

There were 130 units lined up for the Bicentennial 4th of July parade that wound its way from Sycamore Junior High to Montgomery Park with thousands of wellwishers lining the streets. Leading the parade on a horse was General Richard Montgomery of New York, portrayed by New York school teacher Marc Newman, along with other visitors from the "mother" city, including Montgomery, New York, Mayor Steve Brescia, and Marion Wild and Joan Smith from the Historic Montgomery, New York, Association. Visitors in the parade also included Paul Hery, deputy mayor and Jon Pierre Pegurri, vice mayor of Montgomery's sister city in France, Neuilly-Plaisance.



Montgomery council persons, left to right: Fred Kleiser, Richard Tuten, Ivan Silverman, Janet Korach, Gary Gross, Dave Shardelow.

Descendants of early families invited by the Bicentennial Commission rode in a horse-drawn wagon and were introduced at a ceremony in the park following the parade. Descendants came from the Snyder, Bowen, Constable, Smethurst, Crain, Terwilliger and Radabaugh families.

After the parade families enjoyed a festival held in Montgomery Park that featured a two-tiered red, white and blue birthday cake that served 2,000, children's games and contests, pony rides and a variety of music and food booths. The day ended with a riverboat cruise on the Ohio River to Riverbend to attend a concert of patriotic music by the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, concluding with fireworks.

On July 17 the city's annual Bastille Day Celebration, sponsored by the Sister Cities Commission, was held with an added Bicentennial flare. Magicians, Mother Goose, bands from rock and roll to jazz, special Bicentennial art exhibits, children's games and the best of Montgomery food provided the fare for the day and evening.

As summer progressed Montgomery residents were treated to a concert by the Community Band, along with a reception for volunteers on August 4, 1995.

A community concert, held on September 1 in Montgomery Park, featured the band, Impact. A community concert on September 16 brought the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

A Grand Finale Country Fair held at Swaim Park on September 23 also featured an Encampment by the First American Regiment which portrayed soldiers stationed 200 years ago at Ft. Washington in Cincinnati. They patrolled southwest Ohio including the Montgomery area during the early settler years. At the Wilder Swaim house the time capsule and contents were displayed, to be installed in the new safety center that will be completed in 1996.

On September 24 the First American Regiment performed an 18th-century memorial service at Hopewell Cemetery honoring the Revolutionary War soldiers buried there. That day a new entrance marking the Pioneer Section of Hopewell Cemetery was dedicated with installation of a 1795 flag and an historical marker, a project of the Montgomery Landmarks Commission.



As the final ceremony of the Bicentennial Celebration in Montgomery, September 24, 1995, the Fife and Drum Corps of the 1st American Regiment, Revolutionary War, presented a memorial service as it would have been done in 1795. The regiment portrays men who patrolled Pennsylvania and Ohio after the Revolutionary War.

The Bicentennial Commission published a coffee-table book of Montgomery pictures by Cincinnati photographer Miles Wolf who spent a year photographing Montgomery scenes, activities and people. The commission along with the Montgomery Historical Society supported the publication of this history of Montgomery, edited by Mary Lou Rose and Juanita Conklin, that was published in the fall.

Throughout the 1995 year residents purchased commemorative trees and benches placed in the parks and throughout the city. Residents also purchased bricks inscribed with their names that were installed around the fountain plaza and at Hopewell Cemetery where a new flag plaza was dedicated in the fall. Schools held pageants, essay and art contests throughout the school year. Montgomery and Maple Dale elementary schools held special Bicentennial programs.

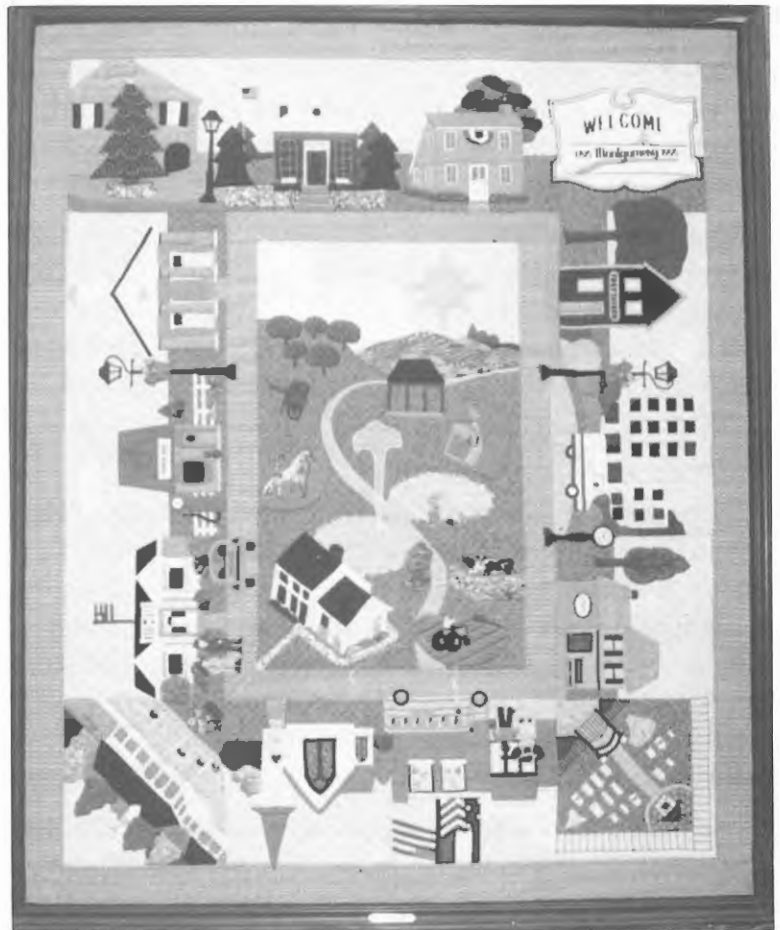
Walking tours of city landmarks in the historic downtown district were held on Saturdays from May through September.

The one-year official Bicentennial celebration concluded with a riverboat cruise on the Ohio River in October 1995 for the host of volunteers who provided the community with this extensive celebration whose goal was to provide a legacy for all to remember this 200th birthday of "our town."

Bicentennial Quilt

The Bicentennial Quilt was completed early in Montgomery's Bicentennial year. The quilt is made of squares that depict Montgomery landmarks as well as other popular sites of interest. It was handcrafted by 14 volunteers.

Chairperson - Marlene Mather;
 Designers - Vicki Todd Baker and Susan Grier. Other volunteers: Lillian Burns, Virginia Rismondo, Jane Carson, Kay Schubert, Florence Kennedy, Pat Stratman, Fran Kiehfuss, Rose Langdon, Alice Millette, Nancy Tassos, Nancy White, Jodi Woehler.



The beautiful Bicentennial quilt.

Epilogue

MONTGOMERY TODAY AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

By Mayor Don Hess

As Montgomery begins its third century, it essentially remains what it has always been — a fine residential community complemented by an active business district.

Over the last two hundred years, Montgomery has changed in so many ways. Its population has grown, its borders have expanded, and the commerce conducted by its merchants has changed. What has not changed is that Montgomery remains a good place in which to live, to work, and to raise a family.

Montgomery's challenge for the future is to retain, and even enhance, those qualities which make it such an attractive community.

The obstacles which lie ahead must not be overlooked or underestimated. Montgomery today is almost fully built. With the exception of The Reserve of Montgomery (located off Weller Road at the northern boundary of the city), no large tracts of land remain available for development. Montgomery as a community is maturing. As the city ages, it will become increasingly important for the city to take active steps to retain its vibrancy and attractiveness. One need not venture far from Montgomery to see examples of communities which have matured gracefully, and others which time has left behind.

It is no coincidence that Montgomery has retained its historic and residential character for this long. Without the foresight and tireless efforts of past city officials, Montgomery might be a much different place than it is today. As noted earlier, the post-World War II era brought much change to Montgomery, and its proximity to Interstate highways 71 and 275 has created intense and unrelenting development pressures which continue to this day. Commercial developers in the 70s and 80s sought to make Montgomery Road a high-density commercial strip its entire length, from Cross County highway to I-275. Had this been permitted, it would have changed the fundamental character of Montgomery forever.

That this did not happen is a tribute to the people of Montgomery. Montgomery's residents have always valued their community and the quality of life it offers. They never wavered in their desire to protect the character of Montgomery and to resist the pressures from outside developers who sought to rezone residential areas of Montgomery to commercial use. Some battles were won and some were lost, but the character of Montgomery was preserved. Two men who played leading roles in this era were Mayor Robert Novak and Council President Howard Smith. Today's Montgomery residents, and future generations of Montgomery residents, owe much to these men, who helped to establish many of the zoning protections that remain in place today.

So, too, must the business community be prepared to respond to the challenges which lie ahead. The commercial market of today is much different than the market of 200 years ago — or even 20 years ago. The advent of mega-malls, such as the Kenwood Towne Centre, have changed the shopping of our nation. Mega-stores provide stiff competition for the smaller specialty shops of Montgomery. Montgomery's business community remains of great importance to the city, and its vitality benefits all Montgomery residents.

In recent years important steps have been taken to preserve and enhance Montgomery as a quality community. In the 1970s the city made substantial public improvements in the downtown area, including brick sidewalks, street lamps, and numerous plantings. These improvements complemented the historic nature of the downtown area and helped to support a positive business atmosphere in the area. In the last ten years the city reconstructed Montgomery Road, with a boulevard in some areas, to improve the flow of traffic within the city, but without attracting more through traffic.

Important residential amenities have also been added. In the late 1980s, 35 acres of parkland were added on Deerfield Road, known as Dulle Park and Pioneer Park. A new 20-acre park on Weller Road is in the initial stages of development. The city has also constructed nearly ten miles of bikepaths for the enjoyment of walkers and bikers. The city offers a wide array of recreational activities and promotes special events, such as the annual Fourth of July parade and the Bastille Day celebration. These amenities and events help make Montgomery a desirable place in which to live. They enhance the quality of life and help create a real sense of community. In many ways, that is what Montgomery is all about.

For two hundred years Montgomery has been a good place in which to live, to work, and to raise a family. That seems to be a most fitting goal for the future.



Montgomery city officials in 1995, left to right: City Manager Jon Bornet, Council members Gary Gross, Janet Korach, Mayor Don Hess, Council members Fred Kleiser, Ivan Silverman, Vice Mayor Richard Tuten, Councilmember David Shardelow.

Appendix
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January 1, 1952

Mayor C. Dietz (Resigned 11/5/52, C. Todd appointed)
 Council C. Ball, F. Ertel (Resigned 3/7/52, J. Sherritt appointed), Hoffman, E. Sams,
 Todd (Appointed Mayor 11/5/52, E. Ankenman appointed Council), G. Weber (Deceased
 10/21/53, K. Streicher appointed)
 Clerk E. Feintheil

January 1, 1954

Mayor C. Todd (Deceased 6/30/54, J. Sherritt appointed)
 Council Ball, Hoffman, T. Huffard, Sams, J. Sherritt (Appointed Mayor 7/28/54, E. Ankenman
 appointed Council 7/28/54)
 Clerk K. Streicher

January 1, 1956

Mayor J. Sherritt
 Council Ankenman, Ball, K. Heffner, Hoffman, R. Lueders, Sams
 Clerk R. Stesh (Appointed 11/17/54)

January 1, 1958

Mayor W. Ventress
 Council Ankenman, C. Bartlett, Heffner (Resigned 12/3/58, F. Egbert appointed), Hoffman,
 J. McGuinness (Resigned 12/19/58, R. Anderson appointed), G. Risk
 Clerk C. Brieske
 Treasurer W. Hulsbeck

January 1, 1960

Mayor W. Ventress
 Council I. Anderson, Jr., Ankenman, Bartlett, Brieske, J. Dreyer, Hoffman
 Clerk A. Cinquina
 Treasurer W. Hulsbeck

January 1, 1962

Mayor C. Bartlett
 Council Anderson, Ankenman, Brieske, E. Dittoe, Hoffman, W. Sherritt
 Clerk C. Butt
 Treasurer W. Hulsbeck

January 1, 1964

Mayor R. Novak
 Council I. Anderson, Jr. (Resigned 7/7/65, J. Stephenson appointed), Ankenman (Resigned 8/4/65,
 B. Benton appointed), D. Bruce, Dittoe (Resigned 6/1/64, C. Bartlett appointed, resigned
 6/7/65, C. Radtke appointed), Hoffman, W. Sherritt
 Clerk A. Bradburn (Resigned 9/2/64, J. Lorenz appointed)
 Treasurer W. Hulsbeck

January 1, 1966

Mayor R. Novak
 Council Benton, Bruce, P. Dupuy, J. Lorenz, Radtke, Sherritt (Resigned 9/1/67, B. Roskopp
 appointed)
 Clerk G. Frazer (Resigned 12/7/66, R. Lottes appointed)
 Treasurer W. Hulsbeck

January 1, 1968

Mayor R. Novak
 Council Benton, Bruce, Dupuy, Lorenz, Radtke, Roskopp (Resigned 12/4/68, J. Cisco appointed)
 Clerk R. Lottes
 Treasurer W. Hulsbeck

January 1, 1970

Mayor R. Novak
 Council Benton, Bruce, Cisco, Dupuy, T. Hunter, Radtke
 Clerk R. Lottes
 Treasurer W. Hulsbeck

January 1, 1972	
Mayor	R. Novak
Council	Benton (Resigned 10/4/72, E. Kosty appointed), Bruce, Cisco, Dupuy (Resigned 7/29/73, F. Kennedy appointed), Hunter, Radtke (Resigned 10/4/72, H. Smith appointed)
Clerk	R. Lottes (Resigned 1/3/73, A. Blanton appointed)
January 1, 1974	
Mayor	R. Novak
Council	R. Aerni, A. Blazic, Bruce (Resigned 2/6/74, R. Walther appointed), F. Kennedy, Smith
Clerk	A. Blanton
January 1, 1976	
Mayor	F. Young
Council	Aerni (Resigned 3/2/77, C. Abbott appointed), A. Blazic, Kennedy, Smith, Walther
Clerk	A. Blanton
January 1, 1978	
Mayor	F. Young
Council	Abbott, Blazic, Kennedy, Smith, Walther
Clerk	A. Blanton
January 1, 1980	
Mayor	F. Kennedy
Council	Abbott, D. Hess, J. Johns, R. Moore, Smith
Clerk	D. Eberhard
January 1, 1982	
Mayor	F. Kennedy
Council	D. Eberhard, Johns, E. McCracken, R. Moore (Resigned 1/1/82, J. Steiner appointed), W. Siegel, H. Wise
Clerk	J. Ramsey
November 27, 1983	
Mayor	H. Wise
Council	Eberhard, P. Herbold, Johns, McCracken, Siegel, Steiner
Clerk	J. Ramsey
December 4, 1985	
Mayor	P. Herbold
Council	J. Conklin, Johns, McCracken, Siegel, I. Silverman, Steiner
Clerk	J. Ramsey (Resigned 4/1/87, M. Ruble appointed)
November 29, 1987	
Mayor	E. McCracken
Council	Conklin, M. Samuels, Siegel, Silverman, M. Sullivan (Resigned 12/9/88, D. Hess appointed), R. Tuten
Clerk	M. Ruble
November 26, 1989	
Mayor	I. Silverman
Council	K. Bookbinder, Hess, K. King, R. Reichert, Samuels, Tuten
Clerk	M. Ruble (Resigned 11/7/90, J. Korach appointed)
November 24, 1991	
Mayor	I. Silverman
Council	Bookbinder, G. Gross, Hess, King (Resigned 3/3/93, J. Korach appointed), Reichert (Resigned 10/21/92, F. Kleiser appointed), Tuten
Clerk	J. Korach (Resigned for council seat, S. Hamm appointed)
November, 1993	
Mayor	D. Hess
Council	Gross, Korach, Kleiser, D. Shardelow, Silverman, Tuten
Clerk	S. Hamm

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