

## **Rootstown Historical Society**

*By Norm Reynolds*

### **If You Think You Know Rootstown**

In the last issue, Fall 2019, there were a multitude of questions posed. Please find the answers to those below.

**\*Where is Hubble Hill?** - Locals know that Hubble Hill is on Sandy Lake Road as you leave “five corners.”

**\*Who died at Breakneck Creek?** - Hugh Blair. He was a surveyor who was part of Moses Cleaveland’s (spelled correctly) survey team. It is thought that he fell off his horse and broke his neck as he was crossing the creek.

**\*Where is Rootstown’s steamboat?** - At one time Rootstown had a fancy hotel located up the hill from the corner of Sandy Lake and Meloy Roads. The hotel had a wood fired, steam paddle boat that would take guests across the lake to the beaches at Cady’s Landing. It eventually caught fire and sunk. And as far as we know, the steamboat is still at the bottom of Sandy Lake.

**\*What was the name, and where was Rootstown’s first hotel?** - It was located on Sandy Lake just past Meloy Road. It had many names that changed with the change of owners. Names included the Stafford Hotel and The Altji Hotel (that owner’s daughter’s first name.)

**\*Cady’s landing had very special sand. What was it used for and by whom?** - Seth Day was irritated because when he ordered glass it was often delivered broken and expensive. So, he built a glass factory in Ravenna using the fine, white sand from Cady’s Landing. He was quite successful and had a reputation for providing a high-quality glass.

**\*Where and when was Rootstown’s last airplane crash?** - October 14, 2005. Two airplanes collided at the corner of Industry Road and Tallmadge Road. The debris was spread over a half mile square area.

**\*Where was the barrel factory on Industry Road?** - Near the Barrel Run Winery. Barrel Run Creek Crosses Industry Road two or three times. At one time, the community of Industry had numerous businesses including mills, a post office and a barrel factory. It is rumored that the barrel factory would make barrels from local lumber. When there was enough, they would dam up Barrel Run which created several small lakes. The barrels were floated in the creek and lakes, and then the dams were blown up with dynamite, washing the barrels down to the next lake, and then it’s dam was blown up. The barrels

were floated down the creek to Campbellsport. Here, the barrels were removed from the water and dried. The dry barrels were filled with flour, cornmeal and grain from the area's mills, placed on canal boats and transported to towns such as Akron, Pittsburg, and as far away as Marietta.

**\*Where was the forge on Old Forge Road?** - As far as we can tell, there was never a forge on Old Forge Road. When the canals were first built (1840-1850), small communities would develop in the construction areas of the canal locks. Old Forge Road led to one of the locks called the "Old Forge" lock. It was two miles from Akron and four miles from Cuyahoga Falls, and it eventually becomes Eastwood Avenue.

**\*Can you name three cheese factories that were in Rootstown?** - Goshen Cheese Company (was on Hattrick Road where Hickory Hills was), Henry Hudson Cheese Factory (was on Marks Avenue by the turn), and Ricks Dairy (near the town center).

**\*What was Cook Road's original name?** - Diagonal Road. Originally Cook Road and Rootstown Road were the same road. Then, they were renamed "Industry-Rootstown Road" and "Rootstown-Kent Road." In time, Industry-Rootstown was renamed after a prominent judge to become Cook Road, and Rootstown-Kent Road was shortened to just Rootstown Road.

**\*Before school buses, what did Rootstown kids ride to school in?** - Horse drawn "Kid Hacks." It is rumored that the Kid Hack drivers were afraid to take a wagon full of kids down an icy hill, such as Hubble Hill. So, in the coldest part of the winter, kids had to get out of the Kid Hack, walk down the hill and then reload into the Kid Hack at the bottom of the hill.

**\*Where were the communities of Industry and St. Joseph?** - Industry was a busy community with stores, mills, factories and a Post Office at the southeast corner of Rootstown, on Industry Road. St. Joseph was in Randolph on 224, near where St. Joseph Church is today. Both were bustling communities.

**\*Where was the Maple Lawn Ice Cream Parlor?** - The Hamilton House at the corner of Cook Road and Tallmadge Road.

**\*Who were the Rootstown "Minutemen?"** - At the beginning of the War of 1812, a group of 18 Rootstown men gathered in Campbellsport and marched to the Raisin River in the Sandusky area to fight the British and Indians. By the time they reached Lake Erie, the war was over and the men returned to Rootstown. This group was referred to as the "Rootstown Minutemen."

**\*Where was the Rootstown Town Hall originally located, and when was it built? -**

The Rootstown Town Hall was built in 1809 and remains in use today. It was built on State Route 44, just south of the current fire station. It first received electricity in 1921 and indoor plumbing in 1963. In 1999, the township zoning board began using the basement of the town hall to store accumulated files and records. Today, it is located along SR 44 just south of the town center. The town hall has been moved several times, but is one of the oldest town halls in Ohio.

**\*Who was Rootstown's first permanent resident? -** David Root, Ephraim Root's brother. Ephraim was never a permanent resident of Rootstown; however, he came here many times. Ephraim and David built a two-story home near Camp Road with the help of Nathan Muzzy. David, Clara and their family lived on the second floor, and guests were housed on the first floor. They also cleared land for Rootstown's first wheat crop.