

View from The Overlook



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Curtis-Preyer Stone House: LEAVING NO STONE UNTURNED



HISTORIC HOUSE: The Curtis-Preyer Stone House (formerly the Preyer House) is believed to be the oldest standing house in Cleveland Heights.

By John Wheeler, CHHS Trustee

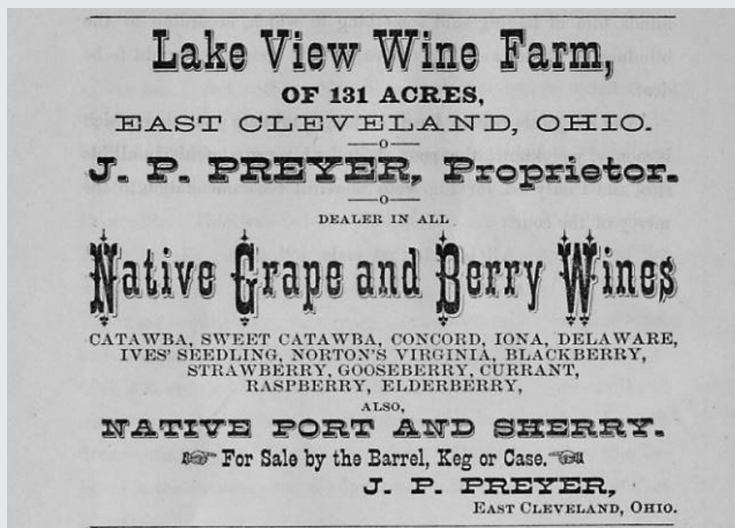
We would have to admit that the stone house on Superior Road is not a building that cries out for attention. Set back from the street, most people would pass by and not even notice it is there. Having owned what is known as the Preyer House for nearly fifty years, we often have had guests miss it as they drove past on Superior, and have had to drive back. What is of interest concerning our home is the amount of information one can trace, and the amount of information that is lacking concerning its “Pre-Preyer” association.

The Preyer House bears the name of the John Peter Preyer family who had purchased it

**ALSO
INSIDE:**

Curtis-Preyer Stone House: The Time Traveler Through the Years of the Dugway Settlement, Old Fairmount Village, and now Cleveland Heights, Compiled by Korbi Roberts, Page 9

ADVERTISEMENT for the John Peter Preyer Wine Farm from the book: "Ten Years' Practical Experience in Grape and Small Fruit Culture," by Hugo Preyer, Canton, Ohio. Bascom & Saxton, Printers. 1875. The author mentions that the advice in the book came from ten years of experience on the J. P. Preyer farm. It includes an explanation aimed at the Temperance Movement, and "total abstinence" believers assuring that the Preyer wines were made from pure berries, without the addition of spirits. The Preyer wines were wholesome and beneficial, not injurious to mankind. He addresses the social concern of drunkenness by promoting the medicinal aspect of wine. Hugo Preyer then provides a Bible quote of his own



to ward off potential hatchet-ladies: St. Paul wrote in his apostolic letter to Timothy, (I. Tim. V. 23,) "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for

thy stomach's sake, and thine often infirmities." He reminds the reader that even Jesus Christ changed water into wine at Galilee.

and many surrounding acres in 1864, following their immigration from Prussia. The Preyers had a large family of seven children. On this land Preyer farmed and developed the Lake View Wine Farm, enlarging his holdings to 131 acres (when he purchased an additional farm in the northeast and southeast quadrants of Mayfield Road and Warrensville Center Road). Mr. Preyer must have experienced an amount of success in this endeavor because upon his death in 1885 among his holdings valued at \$88,000 were some 280 barrels of wine, and this stone house valued at \$3,000.

The house, considered to be the oldest identifiable residence in Cleveland Heights, is said to have been built with the help of Native American labor when constructed, most likely between 1819-1835. Its walls measure a

substantial 20" thick, and in one account is said to have been constructed on a base of a solid slab of living rock. We can easily discern the thickness of the walls, and yes, 20" is a nice even number. However, in all of our time of ownership, we have not heard any deep breathing coming from the basement from any living rock. As for the Native American labor reference, which cannot be substantiated, but is strongly possible, we'll keep as simply adding to the romance of the place. The most intriguing facet of its history is in trying to discover just when it was built, and along with that, why?

It was suggested that the Cleveland Heights Historical Society consult an historical archaeologist to help determine the age of the house due to the lack of primary evidence to date the building. Dr. Roy Larick suggested regional

(and local history) expert Chris Klingemier of Hartford, Ohio. Klingemier teaches classes on historic preservation at Youngstown State University, and with his wife owns the historic 1828 Elam Jones House in Hartford.

So it was, that on a lovely September afternoon Chris and Diane Klingemier paid a visit to the Preyer House. On their initial overview notice was made of the uncoursed, randomly sized and roughly squared, unfaced masonry blocks of the structure, with no evidence of alterations to the window or door openings. The current sash is of a two over two configuration whose dimensions were consistent with 12-over-12 sash of 8" X 12", a configuration that would date the building pre-1835. The much later porch, dormers and roof cladding were not considered in examining the original structure.

Although they did not inspect the roof support system, we informed them that the rafters were of rough-hewn pegged tree timbers. They noted that this practice was common in houses of the first third of the nineteenth century, persisting in rural and farmstead construction beyond the Civil War. Unlike the roof system, their examination of the basement revealed only late nineteenth to early twentieth century materials in the floor joists and flooring. With closer examination they found a single inch-and-an-eighth thick beaded poplar wallboard sistered along one of the modern joists. Set vertically, these wallboards once functioned as interior partitions: perhaps as the only wall material in very early ordinary buildings. This was viewed as evidence of materials present in the house prior to the renovation which gutted at least the first floor, replacing all floor joists and flooring.

Combining physical evidence with historic background provided on the original property owners and their ties to a quarry, the Klingemiers submitted the following:

I. Reasonable certainty that the structure dates from 1819-1835

II. The high ceilings (9 ½') and large window openings are indicative of a very substantial building

A. The question is raised as to whether the building was a single family dwelling, demonstrating considerable wealth, or

B. The building served a mixed purpose, much as an ironmaster's (quarrymaster's) house, providing lodging for workers and home and business for the ironmaster (quarrymaster), or

C. The proximity to the stream and the north wall stone extension raises the possibility that the building was used as a mill, thus providing a rationale for replacing the first floor joists and flooring



Right: Shown is the south facing exterior of the house. Where did the stone for the Curtis-Preyer house originate? The Preyer's granddaughter Caroline Behlen Piercy, in her 1937 "Preyer-Andree Family History" book, writes that the stone was quarried from the creek nearby the house. The house sits on a shelf of this very quarry.

The Cleveland Heights Historical Society



PO Box 18337
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
heightshistory@gmail.com

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The Cleveland Heights Historical Society, founded in 1983, is a state-chartered, 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization.

Our Mission

The Cleveland Heights Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the diverse character and traditions of Cleveland Heights. As a community-based historic organization, the Society encourages and facilitates greater knowledge, understanding and awareness of the heritage of Cleveland Heights.

From the President...

This "View from the Overlook" concentrates on our Curtis-Preyer Stone House – our Cleveland Heights Landmark strongly believed to be Cleveland Heights' oldest structure, with its original section dating from the 1820s or early 1830s. Located on Superior Road, which remains from the pioneer years of East Cleveland Township, the house is situated near our oldest church and our only remaining former schoolhouse; these three were built many decades apart but each is our oldest of each building type. The district is of great historic importance to our community.

The Historical Society's new website has been under construction and can be accessed at clevelandheightshistory.org! Once some of the major links were not functioning we decided to make a significant change, and we think you will enjoy what you see. Let us know! Please continue to peruse our Facebook Page and questions or comments are always welcome – there and through our heightshistory@gmail.com.

As 2020 has been so different than any other, and our Spring Preservation Month talks and walks cancelled, several are available online. One is the PowerPoint presentation by Trustee Korbi Roberts on the history of local streams, and another is that by Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission member Margaret Lann on the neighborhood economic and architectural benefits of preservation; these can be seen several places including the CHHS' popular Facebook Page. We look forward to when we shall hold these events once more.

This has been the second year our Historical Society has been unable to staff a house on the Heights Heritage Tour. If you recall, the 2019 tour was cancelled due to major storm damage in the vicinity where all the entries were situated, and then a tour for this September could not materialize either. We can now look forward to whatever transpires next year with this prime Heights Community Congress fundraiser.

Donations to the Historical Society may now be quickly made through the new website (again: clevelandheightshistory.org). The "Donate" button leads right to the options of paying through PayPal or your credit card, or you may still pay by check. Also, you may still pay your 2020 membership dues – either with the form here or the form on our new website. And please suggest us to others!

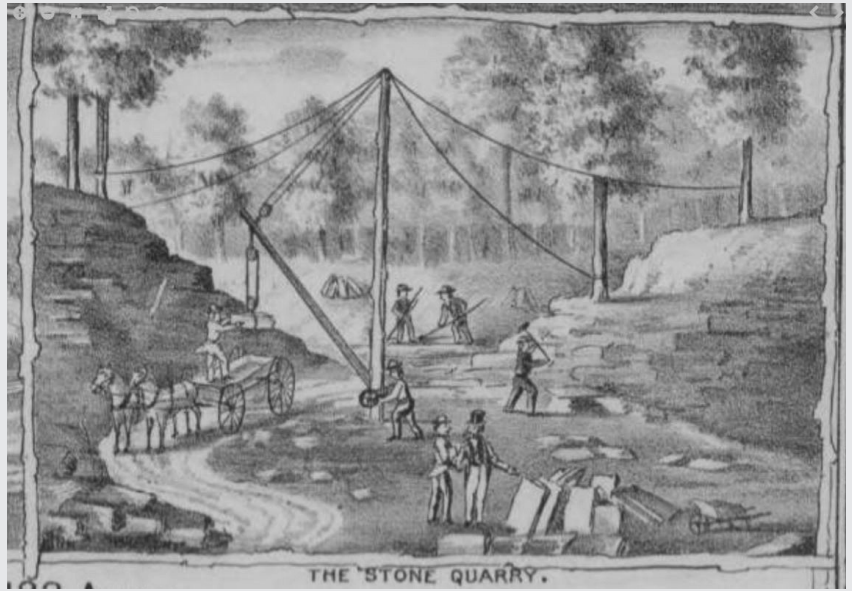
— Ken Goldberg



Lovely front entrance of the Curtis-Preyer house in 2020, with an even lovelier interior within. During the Preyer family years the windows inside, were adorned with baskets of German ivy and caged songbirds.

What would a quarry operation look like in the 1800's?

DOWN THE ROAD from the Curtis-Preyer house was the James Haycox quarry along the same Dugway Creek. Shown here is "The Stone Quarry" from the 1874 Atlas of Cuyahoga County, Ohio by D. J. Lake (Cleveland Public Library). Today, we know the site as Cain Park (NE corner of Lee and Superior Roads in Cleveland Heights). Clay Hellwig, the grandson of J. P. Preyer, wrote that one of the quarry pits eventually reached 75 feet deep and became a secret swimming hole for local boys after the springs and rains filled it up with water. The pit and open ravine once meandering through the park area have long since been filled in. The stream now runs underground in a storm water tunnel. Just to the north of Cain Park, and



interconnecting to the Haycox quarry is the old Lee/Curtis/Stillman quarry of the Hyde Park development. Quarried stone from our local creeks was used for building foundations and

walls of buildings, window caps and window sills. It was also sawed thin for sidewalk "flagging" (notice the thin stone slabs in drawing above which is likely flagging).

III. The building's scale is too large to have been a residence for someone of moderate means in the 1819-1835 time period.

IV. The use of randomly sized, unfaced stone adds credence to the argument rejecting a wealthy owner. The stones are likely roughly squared scrap from the quarry; a wealthy owner constructing a grand house would not have utilized randomly sized, uncoursed stonework, especially on the west (public) façade of the building.

CONCLUSION

The Klingemiers believe that the evidence points to a mixed use of the building related to the quarry operation, housing the owner's family, workers and whatever space was required for business transactions. The date would seem to be 1819-1835 at the latest. They further suggest a look at the early topography of the area; if a viable water source existed, then the mill possibility must be explored.

Preyer's Lake View Farm Map

SHOWN OVERLAYING a current map are the major structures standing while the Preyers owned the land. The Preyer family bought the main farm in 1864 and immediately moved into the stone house. They purchased an additional piece of land in 1868 to connect the front farm back up to the Mayfield Road as it had been with previous owners. It is likely the "old Mill" and blacksmith shop were acquired by the Preyers from previous owners. The farm boundaries are shown here and include at least two natural water springs which provided crystal clean drinking water.

There was a spring-fed pond on the property, but the location is unknown. There was also a spring house located at the northern spring, that was used for keeping food cool and "refrigerated."

Clay Hellwig mentioned that his mother, Mary Amalia Preyer Hellwig, as an eleven-year-old girl, was at this hillside spring-house when a messenger came riding through the area with the news that President Lincoln had been assassinated.

The availability of a spring was also important because most of the Dugway ravine behind the house was, surpris-

ingly, not part of the property. The Preyer family also had an additional farm east of the intersection of Mayfield and Warrensville Center Roads (lot 63 in Euclid Township) planted with vineyards, and they had their own small dairy herd.

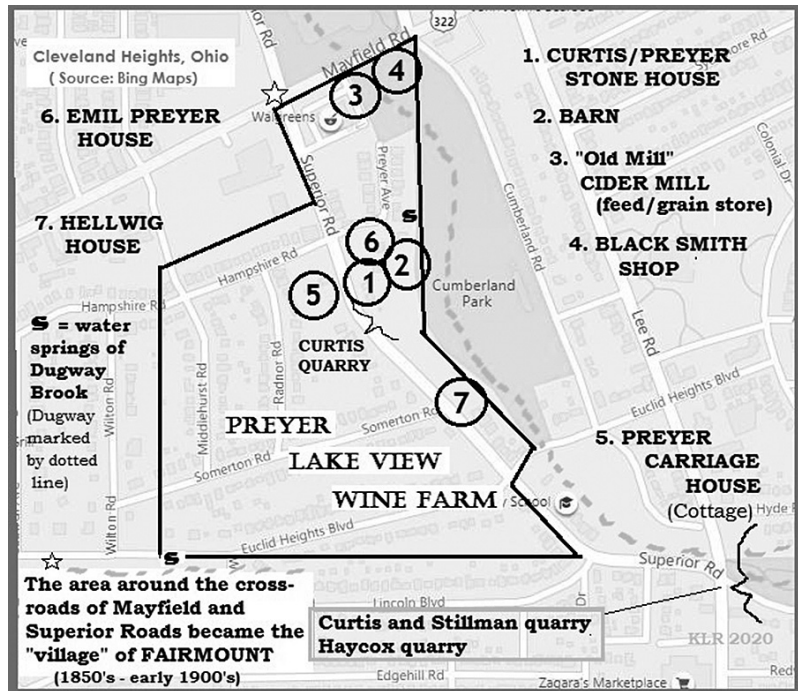
(1) The stone house at 14299 Superior, (2) the barn, (3) a cider mill, sorghum press, a possible early gristmill of some sort. It became a feed and grain store after the Preyers sold the land. (4)

blacksmith shop, (5) Preyer cottage/carriage house at 14300 Superior, (6) home of Emil Preyer at 14287 Superior, (7) home and barn of Albert and Mary Amalia Preyer Hellwig.

Today, three of these structures are still standing: the stone house, the cottage/carriage house and the house of Emil Preyer. There are smaller "outbuildings," on the farm (added and removed over time) such as chicken coups, ash-house, outdoor oven and

probably a smoke house. There would have also been "necessaries" (privies, outhouses) as the house was built long before indoor bathrooms became available.

The Preyer family added the wood-framed back extension to the stone house, the nearby carriage house (standing), the Emil Preyer house (standing), and the Hellwig house (demolished). The addition of dormers and porch, and the removal of the fireplaces were all done after the Preyers left.



THE PREYERS START A NEW LIFE

The Preyer family, the best known of the Curtis-Preyer House residents, are pictured here in front of a painting of the church and churchyard in Germany where their daughter Mathilde was buried. The photo shows Albert, Emil, Hugo, Robert, John (Johann) Peter Preyer (the father), Marie (Mary), Charlotte Andreae Preyer (the mother), and baby Emelia. The family would later be joined by one last son, Carl Julius, (born 1863). The caption reads, "Photo taken in 1857, just before the Preyers left Germany for America" (taken from the *Preyer-Andreae Family History* by Preyer descendant Caroline Behlen Piercy. 1937). Members of the Preyer family occupied the stone house from 1864-1892.



ALBERT EMIL HUGO ROBERT JOHN P. PREYER MARIE CHARLOTTE ANDREA PREYER
INFANT EMELIA
Photo taken in 1857, just before the Preyers left Germany for America.

PREYER CARRIAGE HOUSE



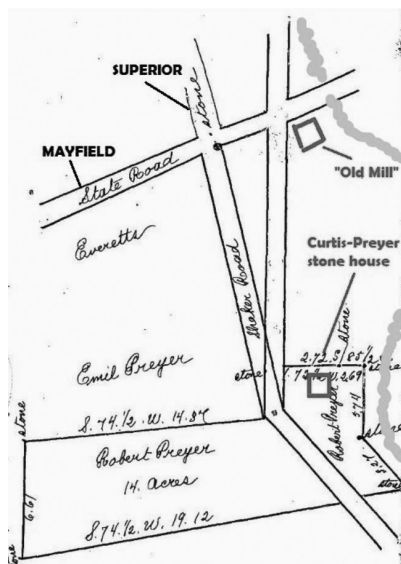
The Preyer cottage/carriage house is seen here in a c.1985 photo (from Clevelandmemory.org). When real estate developer M. M. Brown was creating his new "Mayfield Heights" neighborhood over the old farmland, he had to alter his design slightly to go around this structure. The cottage later became a garage for the house to the right in the picture. It has undergone a further remodelling into a residence now.s (Source: Clevelandmemory.org)

EMIL PREYER HOUSE



The Emil Preyer house is located just north, and next door, to the stone Curtis-Preyer house on Superior Road. Parents John Peter and Charlotte encouraged their children to remain close by them. Built before 1874, the quarried foundation stones are impressive.

A curious Old Road



It has always been puzzling to me that the Curtis-Preyer stone house doesn't face Superior Road. Was the house built to line up with the creek? Compass points? Was Superior once at a different angle? Shown here is an unnamed road or driveway on the Preyer farm from a map found in the Cuyahoga County Recorder deed records for the year 1885. I have superimposed the footprints of the stone house and the "mill" building. It is also interesting that the unnamed road runs beside the building identified by Clay Hellwig as the "Old Mill" (cider mill and later feed store). Not a lot is known about this cider mill. For instance, was it ever water-powered? If so, it is not likely it was a large operation. The *Proud Heritage of Cleveland Heights, Ohio* book mentioned that the Preyers had a cider mill and gristmill, but then gave no further details. This map is interesting too as it shows an area of Cleveland Heights at a time when it was still East Cleveland Township. Mayfield Road is "State Road" and Superior is "Shaker Road." This map reflects a land survey done by J. C. Saxton and is the deed whereby Charlotte Preyer deeded over the stone house to son Robert O. Preyer after J. P. Preyer's death on the condition she gets to remain and live in some of the rooms. (Source: CC deed Book 381, page 224)

HELLWIG HOUSE



The Preyer's daughter Mary Amalia Preyer married Albert E.F. Hellwig in 1875. Their new home and barn was situated down the street from the stone house on Superior Road where Somerton Road comes out to meet Superior. All that remains is part of the brick driveway. (Source: More About the Proud Heritage book)



Photo of a Buhr gristmill stone recently rediscovered by the City of Cleveland Heights, that was once displayed in Cumberland Park with this inscription, "Mill Stone from a gristmill operated on this site until 1900 by Frederick L. Silsby." (Source: *Cleveland Plain Dealer Historical* 2-13-1966.) More research is needed to substantiate a water-wheel gristmill at this site.

Curtis-Preyer Stone House:

The Time Traveler Through the Years of the Dugway Settlement, Old Fairmount Village, and now Cleveland Heights

Compiled by Korbi Roberts

The history of the Curtis-Preyer Stone House (previously known as the “Preyer House”) is fascinating, and involved, to say the least. The stone house had its beginnings at a time when the settlers were completely dependent on the creeks and natural water springs for their survival. The fact that ancient Native American trails crossed at that same spot was not a mere coincidence, the ancient springs and topography of the living earth had called to them all. The trails are now known as Mayfield, Superior and Lee Roads. Fast forward 200 years to 2020, and we hardly know the creek is still there. Now it is mostly hidden from view. In this story, I include the best and shortest overview of the eras, people and events as the stone house on Dugway Creek “traveled through time”.

NATURAL AND HISTORICAL SETTING

Northern Cleveland Heights (originally part of Euclid Township) lies on a local summit of the

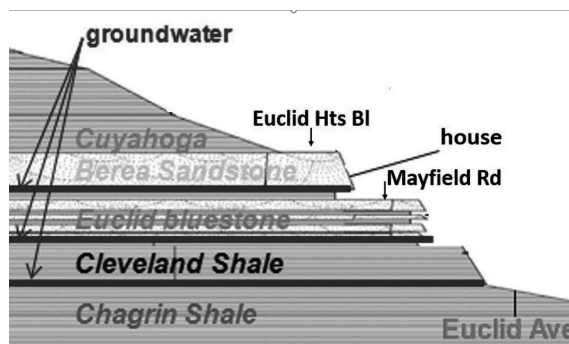


Figure 1. N-S Portage Escarpment profile at Dugway east branch/Superior Road. (Dr. Roy Larick)

north-facing Portage Escarpment. Here, beds of resistant sandstone form a two-step promontory (Figure 1).¹ A flat terrace runs east-west above the lower (Euclid Bluestone) and below the upper (Berea Sandstone) exposures. Early settlers at Mayfield Rd usurped a prehistoric east-west trails running along this terrace (Figure 2).² The local escarpment segment is close enough to Lake Erie to have a lightly ameliorated microclimate. North-flowing streams cut through the sandstone beds

and across the Mayfield terrace. A north-south prehistoric trail followed the east branch of Dugway Brook (current Superior Rd).⁵ By the 1820s, a small settlement, informally known as “Dugway” and “Turkey Knob” grew at the Mayfield-Superior crossroad.^{4,5} In the stepped bedrock terrain, stone could be quarried, mill races could serve grist and sawyer operations, and natural springs gave secure water.⁶ By the 1850s, Dugway had a covered bridge, blacksmith shop and a township school.^{7,8,9} The farms soon established orchards and dairies. It was in the earliest days of this settlement that Richard Curtis built his stone house.¹⁰

RICHARD CURTIS FAMILY PERIOD (1819-1835)

Richard Curtis (c.1892-1850), the son of David Curtis Jr. and Elizabeth Hill, was born in New Haven, Connecticut. The family moved to the Connecticut Western Reserve (northeast Ohio), and in 1806, became early pioneers of Farmington, Ohio.¹¹ Richard later moved to Euclid Township (Cleveland’s eastside), and in 1813 married Clarissa Dille (1795-1838).¹² Clarissa was a daughter of Euclid pioneers Asa Dille and Frances Saylor. Asa was a brother of David Dille, Jr., an “Indian fighter” involved in Crawford’s Defeat (1782) at Upper Sandusky.

^{13,14}

Soon after his marriage, Richard Curtis and his wife settled on a 70-acre parcel at “Dugway,” part of the large tract of Revolutionary War Veteran Elias Lee.^{15,16} Richard began “clearing the land” for farming, and quarrying the creek stone, until he was able to purchase the land outright in 1819.¹⁷ Across the Dugway Creek lived relatives Jared Stillman and wife Lucy Lee. The Curtis, Dille, Lee and Stillman families were related by marriage and helped each other succeed in

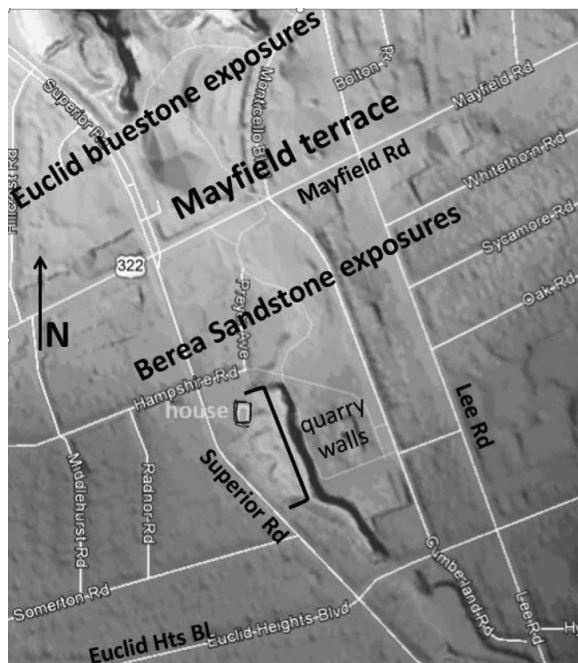


Figure 2. Geography of the Dugway Settlement. A strong spring emerged north of the house. The scalloped edges of the quarry can be seen. (Dr. Roy Larick)

the new settlement.¹⁸ Asa Dille, ran a sawmill nearby, and Clarissa’s brother Jacob, produced oaken barrels.^{19,20} The early families of the area profited from the timber cut from the original forest. The Curtis family remained at Dugway until 1835.²¹ The stone house was built during their occupation. Anecdotes have it built with the help of friendly Native American labor and during a time when wild bears still roamed the area.^{22,25,24} The structure has a typical Cape Cod plan (38’ x 28’) and is built from randomly sized, uncoursed blocks cut from the Berea Sandstone outcrop upon which the house sits. The roof has pegged ax-hewn tree timbers.²⁵ Historical records indicate a large central chimney holding seven hearths and a bake oven.²⁶ Fenestration reflects

Continued on page 12

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CURTIS FAMILY

Richard Curtis, originally from Connecticut, migrated to the Cleveland area in by 1813, as this marks the year he joined in wedlock to Clarissa Dille. The couple had children: Marilla (1813-1816), Havilla M. (1815), William B. (1817), Benjamin Franklin (1819), Matilda (1823), Sardis Dille (1826), and Martha Elizabeth (1830). Sometime soon after (before 1817), the Curtis family moved into their land in what is now Cleveland Heights and soon after built their stone house (Curtis-Preyer stone house landmark). They carried on farming (hay, grain, vegetables, orchard, some dairy) and all other various enterprises, joining in along with extended family in quarrying, lumbering, and milling.

They took advantage of the resources the land provided, and were able to make a good living. In 1835, After a good 20 years on the farm, they decided to become "city folk" and moved into the nearby city of Cleveland. They sold their farm to Esquire Lee Canfield, and purchased some city house lots in the northwest quadrant of Erie (E. 9th) and St. Clair in Canfield's allotment.

In 1837, a Methodist religious revival came through town and inspired the Curtis' to join and follow the congregation. Richard purchased a new farm out in Geauga County (Mantua). Clarissa passed away soon in 1838, She was buried in Lake County near the Mormon Church at Kirtland. After Clarissa's death, Richard Curtis married the widow Julia Miller Blair and they had a daughter Julia Clarissa Curtis (1839). Richard became a valued citizen during his remaining years in Mantua, Ohio. He preceded his second wife to the great beyond in 1850, but was able to leave behind an inheritance for his family. The children, as adults, spread out through Ohio and other states. Many of the grandchildren came back to the Cleveland area eventually, to make it their home.



DR. JAMES RICHARD BELL.

A portrait of dentist James Richard Bell (1853-1912), son of James Bell and Matilda Curtis (1823-1879 or 97), and grandson of Richard Curtis and Clarissa (Dille) Curtis. (Source: "Dental Register," Volume 67, 1913. Edited by Neville S. Hoff, D. D. S., Ann Arbor, MI.)

Not only is the almost 200-year-old historic stone house of Richard and Clarissa Curtis still standing, the historic house of their grandson Dr. James Richard Bell is enduring as well. This house (pictured) was built in 1901, and is located at 1822 E. 89th Street in Cleveland (listed on the U. S. National Register of Historic Places in 1986). The house was designed by architect George J. Hardway and done in a "plain looking" Richardsonian Romanesque style. Dr. James Bell, a well-respected Cleveland dentist, first married Amelia Andrews (1845-1897). He married 2nd wife Anna Marie Roeder (after Amelia's death) and started a new life with her in this house. Even though his grandfather, Richard Curtis, left Cleveland in the late 1830's, many of the grandchildren came back to make this area their home. I wonder if any of them ever drove by the stone house in Cleveland Heights to point it out to their children. (Sources: "Memorial Record of the County of Cuyahoga and the City of Cleveland," pages, 271-272, The Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago. 1894. Also the "Ange family Tree" of cmctigue42 from Ancestry.com; Photo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dr._James_Bell_House)

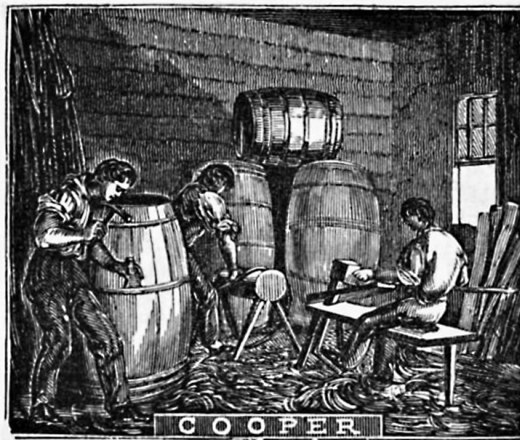


Continued from page 10

12-over-12 sash and doorways of varying sizes. Proximity to the creek, a fashioned stone wall extension, and 20-inch thick walls suggest that the house may have been built as a mill but direct evidence is lacking. More likely, is that the house served mixed uses for the Curtis family and quarry laborers.²⁷ Situated near the house were once many outbuildings, including a spring house, large barn, storage sheds, privies (outhouses), chicken coops, smokehouse and ash house as was typical for many farms.

After the Curtis family vacated, the farm was purchased by a chain of early real estate developers including Lee and Ruth (Butler) Canfield,²⁸ and Edmund Clark.²⁹ Esquire Lee Canfield was the creator of new residential neighborhoods in Cleveland in the 1830's, including "Clinton Park."³⁰ Edmund Clark helped create the "Cleveland Centre Allotment" in the "Ox Bow bend" of the Cuyahoga.³¹ This allotment's Columbus Street covered draw bridge became the site of the "Bridge Wars" in 1837.^{32,33} Subsequent stone house owners included Henry and Polly (Wilder) Taylor (in 1847) (namesakes of Taylor Road in Cleveland Heights),³⁴ and Park B. and Mary (Gorham) Clark (in 1848), a hotel family from Twinsburg.³⁵ Duranson Dart, a gunsmith by trade, and his wife Helen (Kellogg) Dart, owned the farm in 1857.³⁶ By this point in time, the old Curtis Farm was mostly "broad meadows." The great forests with their rattlesnakes, bears, wolves and panthers were now ghosts of the past. The Darts attempted to turn the farm into a dairy, but they were unsuccessful.³⁷ Benjamin Phillips (from a pioneer family) and wife Mary (Sheldon) then bought the farm as a real estate investment in 1863 at a court-ordered auction after several previous owners became delinquent on their outstanding mortgages against the farm.³⁸

What was daily life like during the Curtis' family time in the stone house?



In the early 1800's, most needed items were made by hand and at home. Families made much of their own clothes and textiles by first carding (combing fibers of wool and flax, and sometimes cotton, to lay in same direction), spinning (twisting fibers into the yarn), and then weaving the yarn into cloth on a loom. Clarissa Curtis's father Asa, and brother-in-law Daniel Tyler ran a sawmill, her brother Libens (Lebeus) was a stone cutter, and her brother Jacob made oaken barrels (in a process as shown in the contemporaneous images above). In the days before plastic containers, these airtight barrels were greatly needed on the market for storing foodstuffs like flour, pork, "black salts" and spir-its. (Source: *"The Panorama of Professions and Trades..."* by Edward Hazen. Published by Uriah Hunt. Philadelphia. 1836. Hathitrust.org)



Northern side of the Curtis-Preyer Stone House showing the back wood-framed addition. J. P. Preyer, as well as other owners made alterations and modern upgrades to the house each in their turn including gas, electricity and indoor plumbing. Despite the availability of stone along the creeks everywhere, stone houses (where the stone actually supports the structure) were actually rare in the area.

PREYER "LAKE VIEW WINE FARM" (1864-1885)

Near the end of the Civil War period, the Dugway settlement was growing into a hamlet called "Fairmount," eventually to hold a general store, post office, small tavern, blacksmithing, cobbler, cider mill, tolled plank road, township school, and two churches.³⁹ Many anecdotal stories tell of a small gristmill on the west bank of the creek run by Fred Silsby, where Preyer Ave. once went through to Mayfield Road.⁴⁰ Cleveland's growing German population began to establish local vineyards and wineries on the Euclid lake plain and the northern Heights.⁴¹ The Preyer family joined in. Initially a King's Forester from Bullay, Germany, John (Johann) Peter Preyer II was an educated progressive thinker who, for his work in labor reform, had garnered two medals from the German Emperor.⁴² Yet as Herr Preyer desired to live in a free democracy, the young family came to the United States in 1857. Bringing along their servants, antiques, and fine China, they were met at the docks by Mr. Preyer's friend Ralph Waldo Emerson.⁴³ The Preyer ancestors

had been linen and velvet makers and Charlotte Andreae Preyer's family were grape growers and wine makers.⁴⁴

In their new home, the family followed the latter. They first settled in Canton, Ohio, and after seven years relocated, in 1864, to Euclid Township (that portion by then renamed as "East Cleveland Township") to be closer to canal, railroads and port-shipping for his produce.⁴⁵ With the purchase of additional local parcels, the Preyers became celebrated for their "Lake View Wine Farm." They also ran a small dairy for cheese making. John Peter Preyer died in 1885,⁴⁶ and his children carried on his grape growing only a short time before selling their share of inherited land to others.^{47,48}

The division of the farm amongst the Preyer children left the stone house sitting on only 14 acres (deeded to son Robert). By the time Robert Preyer sold the house to Charles Asa Post in 1892, the house parcel had been whittled down to only 2-3 acres.⁴⁹ Mr. Post was creating his own suburban allotments at that time. Mr. Post then sold the house in 1893 to Ignatz and Rosa



Above left: Craftmen of long ago left countless chisel marks as they shaped each stone for the Curtis-Preyer house. Labor-intensive handiwork, “mammoth fireplaces,” stories of bear sightings, and help from Native American labor all point to this structure as having its birth early in Connecticut Western Reserve history. **Above right:** On the south facing exterior, J. P. Preyer’s son Albert Preyer, added his initials proclaiming his presence most likely in the 1860’s.

Glauber Stone (surname originally Stein).⁵⁰ In 1896, most of the old J. P. Preyer farm (but not the stone house parcel), became part of the suburban allotment of Marcus M. Brown called “Mayfield Heights” (succeeding the Fairmount moniker).⁵¹ The Stones were a “woolen rags” and real estate family (“I. N. Stone”), the Glaubers were important brass manufacturers⁵². The Stones and their descendants would own the home until 1960.⁵³

It was likely during their early years that the house became altered, including the removal of the central chimney and huge fireplaces. The current dormers and front porch are bungalow in style (~1900-1920).

Sometime in the house’s past, electricity and plumbing had been added. The granddaughter Nancy Rose Stone, and husband Louis Weiss (of the “Mrs. Weiss’ Noodle” family) owned the house briefly in 1945.⁵⁴ In 1960, journalist Faith Corrigan Refsnes, and husband Sigvald owned the home⁵⁵. She was the daughter of Attorney William J. Corrigan, Dr. Sam Sheppard’s defense lawyer in the 1954 local murder trial of his pregnant wife, Marilyn.⁵⁶ Current owners, John and Amy Wheeler, have occupied the house since 1973,⁵⁷ and have created a beautiful interior

with historic wallpaper and furnishings. Today, the house sits on three fifths of an acre. Dugway Creek once had many smaller branches with little natural springs, all flowing from the upper Heights down to Lake Erie at Bratenahl. Today, sadly, most of the creek runs underground beneath the cities in storm sewage pipes, inaccessible to residents and wildlife. Luckily, a small portion of the open stream bed still exists behind the house.

The Western Reserve once held around 300 early settler stone houses. Most were built within a hundred yards or so of a sandstone outcrop quarry. Most were built during the 1830s.⁵⁸ Cleveland’s East Side Heights once had a half dozen early settler stone houses. Two important houses that are known to remain are the Curtis-Preyer, and Warner house (4 miles south in Garfield Heights).⁵⁹ For nearly two hundred years, and with the sweat of many caring homeowners, the Curtis-Preyer Stone House has stood steadfastly against the forces of time — its hand-chiseled stone walls sheltering the many families who called it home. It served across the changing eras, from horse and buggy days to the computer age. This rare and valuable Cleveland Heights landmark provides a tangible link to the past, helping us to understand the local history that continues to shape our daily lives.

Special thanks to:
Dr. Roy Larick
John and Amy Wheeler
Chris and Diane Klingemier
Kelly and Michael Small
Patricia and Dan Jackson
Charles Jakob
Ken Goldberg

REFERENCES & ADDITIONAL DETAILS

1. Dr. Roy Larick, 2020.(archeologist, geologist and historian) <https://www.cleveland.com/life-and-culture/g66l-2019/11/bbcdff43252075/roy-larick-reveals-history-and-geology-locally-and-internationally-my-cleveland.html> accessed 9/1/2020

2. Dr. Roy Larick, 2020.

3. Euclid Township survey map with early prehistoric trails (WRHS) from "Euclid Creek," by Roy Larick, with Bob Gibbons and Edward Siplock. Arcadia Publishing, SC. 2005. Page 15.

4. "Dugway" and "Turkey Knob" settlement from, "More about The Proud Heritage," by Clay Hellwig. The Women's Civic Club of Cleveland Heights, edited by Ruth Mills Robinson and Mary Emma Harris; 1980. Page 4.

5. Early "Turkey Knob" settlers: Elias Lee (1812 CC deed Vol. 1/pg. 427), Jared Stillman (1817 CC deed Vol. 2/ pg. 408), Richard Curtis (1819 CC deed Vol. 3/636), Asa Dille (saw mill lot from Jared Stillman's farm – deed not recorded/but then Dille to Young 1824 CC deed Vol. 10/pg. 247), Clark Currier (no deed recorded, but mentioned later in 1835 CC deed Vol. 205/ pg.18). Curriers were engaged in "general stores," grist and saw milling in the area; the Dilles were sawmill, lumber and cooperage; The Lees, Curtises, and Stillmans, did farming and small-scale quarrying. CC=Cuyahoga County Recorder Office deeds, (vol.= volume or book, with most deeds being two pages). Accessed through website: <https://recorder.cuyahogacounty.us/searches/generalsearchs.aspx>.

6. Dugway Creek (also called Dugway Brook) was the site of many natural water springs, especially around today's Cumberland and Forest Hill Parks. When the suburbs were created the many creek branches, and their nearby springs, were redirected to flow into underground tunnels and pipes. The ravines were then filled over the top. The early settlers built their log cabins near these springs out of necessity for pure drinking water, and to use the cool water (in spring houses) as "refrigeration" to keep

food fresh. Springs were sometimes mentioned on the deeds. The Curtis-Preyer Stone House farm had two main springs — one north of the house (1857 CC deed Vol. 88/pg. 84), and one near the border of Lot 48 (see map) near Euclid Heights Blvd. and Woodward Avenue (1864 CC deed Vol. 129/pg. 16). The spring north of the house was shared by other "Turkey Knob" settlers with its water being "piped in" to the early businesses along Mayfield.

7. "More about the Proud Heritage," Clay Hellwig, page 14. He writes, "When Mayfield was a plank Road, it dipped down into a pretty valley between Superior and Lee Roads and crossed Dugway on a small wooden bridge. At one time, it was a covered bridge..."

8. Park Brown Clark to the East Cleveland Twp. Board of Education for a school lot (1857 CC deed Vol. 100/pgs. 18-19). This is the same parcel where the Superior Schoolhouse landmark sits (the first schoolhouse there was of brick).

9. The 1858 Hopkins' map shows us some early building footprints of the "Turkey Knob" settlement (Cleveland Historic Maps). Some of the footprints are later identified by other sources. For example, two blacksmith shops are identified 1) One on the north side of Mayfield mentioned in 1863 CC deed Vol. 126/pg. 271, and, 2) 1874 D. J. Lake, Titus map as "B.S.S" on south side of Mayfield Road (parcel of Alfred P. Simon 1857 CC deed Vol. 91/pg. 183). One of the footprints is later identified as a general store in Clay Hellwig's story. In the "Proud Heritage of Cleveland Heights," book page 108, the author mentions a Mr. Hawkins nearby, who was a furniture and wagon maker.

10. It is a sad thing that houses are rarely mentioned in the deeds, and that all house builders don't include a special stone with the built date and "builder name." In lieu of this, we are dependent on as many related facts as possible along with the context of the times. The year 1820 (give or take a few years) would be a likely build date for the stone house if based on time of ownership. Richard Curtis was living and working on the land before 1817, but did not officially own it until 1819, (and

likely built the house soon after ownership), keeping in mind the house could have gone up in the eighteen-teens. The likely date for house construction is 1825. At this point the Richard Curtis farm is prosperous enough for him to add more land to it (1825 CC deed Vol. 5/pg. 355). The end of stay for the family is 1835 (the



An East Cleveland Township history of the neighborhood around the Curtis-Preyer house in the early 1800's, mentioned, "Indians were frequent visitors in pioneer homes, and their papooses played with their children." (Source: "Memorial to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve," edited by Gertrude Van Rensselaer. Vol. 1, Page 71 (East Cleveland Twp. history), published by the Women's Dept, of the Cleveland Centennial Commission. 1896).

last possible time for house to be built). The Children of Richard and Clarissa Curtis were Marilla, Havillah, William B., Benjamin Franklin, Matilda, Sardis Dille, and Martha Elizabeth. The Ancestry.com JMLEavens Family Tree by jmsyndram indicates that daughter Marilla died in a fire as an infant in 1816. It is likely the Curtises were in a log cabin on site before the building of the stone house, as was the trend at the time for pioneers in the township.

11. Richard Curtis' family: H.Z. Williams & Bro., "The History of Trumbull and Mahoning Counties: with illustrations and biographical sketches." Cleveland, Ohio; 1882. Chapter V (Farmington), pages 316-317.

12. Richard Curtis and Clarissa Dille married 1-14-1813 in Euclid Township (ancestry.com, Cuyahoga County marriage records). Ancestry.com, "JMLEavens Family Tree" by jmsyndram

13. Van Rensselaer- Wickham, Gertrude, "The Pioneer Families of Cleveland Vol. 1", under the auspices of the Executive Committee of the Woman's Department of the Cleveland Centennial Commission, Evangelical Publishing House; 1896. page 71.

14. History of Cleveland. Ohio by Samuel P. Orth Volume 3 pg 264-267 biography of W. Wallace Dille.

15. Connecticut Land Company investors to Elias Lee (1812 CC deed Vol. 1/pg. 427) which included about 489 acres in Euclid Twp., Tract 9. It included lot 48.

16. Elias Lee "by gentleman's agreement" allowed Richard Curtis to settle on the west 70 acres of Lot 48 (sometime before 1817, reasoning as follows: In 1817, Elias Lee sold the east portion of Lot 48 to son-in-law Jared A. Stillman and daughter Lucy (Lee) Stillman (1817 CC deed Vol. 2/pg. 408). This later deed mentions "Richard Curtises corner," indicating the Curtis farm is already present (before their 1819 purchase date).

17. Richard Curtis purchased the west 70 acres of Euclid Township Lot 48 for about three dollars an acre. (Elias Lee and wife Mercy Lee to Curtis 1819 CC deed Vol. 3 /pg. 636). This is the original land of the Curtis Farm. The low price supports that the Curtises are likely buying "unimproved" land that they will have to "clear" themselves before they can farm.

18. Lees and Stillman by marriage noted above. Curtises related to Stillman through Richard Curtis' sister Marilla Curtis Stillman, she is the wife of John Davis Stillman (senior). Curtis related to Dille by marriage as noted above. Ancestry.com family trees.

19. Clarissa Curtis' father, Asa Dille, and her brother-in-law, Daniel S. Tyler, had a sawmill lot just south of the stone house down Dugway Creek/Brook. They sold it to Robert Young in 1824 (1824 CC deed Vol. 10/pg. 247-248).

20. Clarissa's brother, Jacob Saylor Dille, was a cooper by trade. He is listed as making barrels from wooden "staves," in 1850. (Federal 1850 census, Products of Industry, Cuyahoga County, East Cleveland

Township, WRHS Library, microfilm T1159, roll 12, Non-population census 1850-1880). Other census records support this.

21. Richard Curtis and wife Clarissa sell the farm to Lee Canfield for about 63 dollars an acre (1835 CC deed Vol. 18/pgs. 205-206), perhaps an overestimation of the land's resources. This starts a chain of money loss as several successive buyers are not able to pay off the high mortgages. Lee Canfield expands the farm greatly (almost doubles it in size, adding a southward parcel that is now part of "Grant Deming's Forest Hill Allotment").

22. Hellwig, Clay, "More About the Proud Heritage," edited by Ruth Mills Robinson and Mary Emma Harris; 1980. Page 4. He writes, "This house, not as a rumor, but as known fact, was built with the help of friendly Indian labor. This information came down to me from my aunts and mother, who got it from an old original pioneer lady whose husband was one of the original settlers of the Connecticut Western Reserve in this territory. While I have no information on the exact date the house was built, it would be a fair assumption to say that it was probably put up about 1812 or 1814."

23. Piercy, Caroline Behlen, "The Preyer-Andeae Family History," self-published, Cleveland, Ohio; 1937. Page 151. She writes, "old settlers in those parts claimed that Indians carried the great masses of stones into place for the builders. A very old lady on the Silsby farm...as a small girl used to carry her brother's dinner to him while he was at work on the masonry of those walls, and that on her way she often met Indians and, occasionally, a bear as she went to and fro daily."

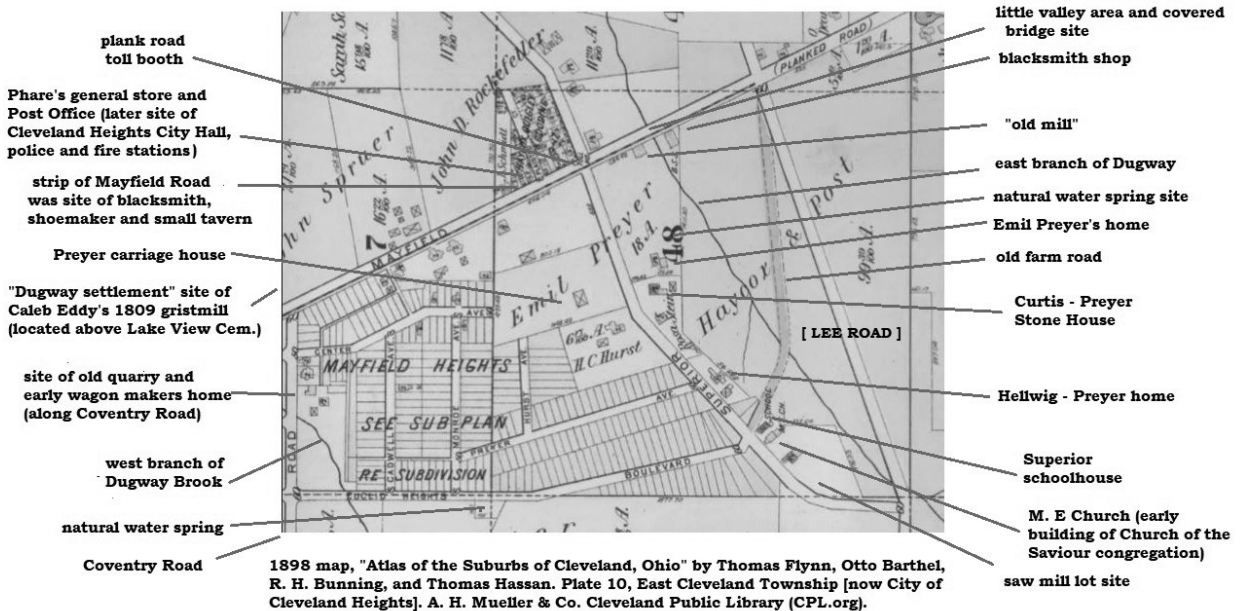
24. Johnson, Crisfield, "History of Cuyahoga County, Ohio in Three Parts...", published by D. W. Ensign and Co., Philadelphia; 1879. page 228. He writes, "The Indians were frequently to be seen in all parts of the city and surrounding counties, but they seem to have been very friendly..." Many stories come down to us from pioneers in the area who interacted with the Native Americans in the early decades of 1800's. The seasonal camps of the Senecas, Delawares, Chippawas, Ottawas, Wyandots, and other tribes were seen about the area camping along the creeks of their ancestors.

25. Current homeowner observation.

26. Piercy, Caroline Behlen, "The Preyer-Andreae Family History," self published, Cleveland, Ohio; 1937. Page 151-152. Describing the house during the years the Preyer family occupied the home, it reads, "In the center of the house is a huge chimney with a fine wide-mouthed fireplace in each of the front rooms. In between these flues on the same chimney was a great oven opening into the back hall near the kitchen and pantries." It goes on to say, "Upstairs, there were four rooms, all with a fireplace." "All told, there were seven greedy fireplaces and one oven on that one great chimney!"

27. In September of 2018, historical archaeologist Chris Klingemier and his wife Diane, analyzed the Curtis-Preyer Stone House. Their findings are documented in the email, "Summation of Thoughts

Remnants of the Dugway settlement and old Fairmount Village intersection of Mayfield Road and Superior Road



on the Preyer House," 12-6-2018. One goal, was to better date the house, and determine if it could fit within the time frame of the Curtis Family's occupation, which it did. Mr Klingemier expressed that the house seemed not a grand home of a person of wealth, but rather a structure for working folks of moderate means. This fits the profile of the Curtises well. The Curtis-Preyer house is very similar to another stone house not too far away, built c. 1815 by Jesse Holcomb at 8505 Route 534, Mesopotamia, Ohio. The website oldstonehousesmespo.com (accessed Aug. 2020).

28. Richard Curtis and wife Clarissa to Lee Canfield (1835 CC deed Vol. 18/pgs. 205-206)

29. Lee Canfield and wife Ruth to Edmund Clark (1837 CC deed Vol. 24/ pgs. 241-244) and Edmund Clark to Lee Canfield (1840 CC deed Vol. 29/pgs 189-190).

30. Griswold, Seneca Origen, "The Corporate Birth and Growth of the City of Cleveland...", (WRHS Tract 62), Cleveland, Ohio. 1884. page 303 and 304 has: "In November of 1835, Lee Canfield, Sheldon Pease, and others allotted the two-acre lots in the north-east corner of the city plat, and also the adjoining ten-acre lots

by their plat they laid out and dedicated Clinton Park. Between the park and the lake, they built for that day fine houses with a double front, facing the lake to the north and the park to the south, expecting, no doubt, that the fashionable population would choose that section to build their palatial mansions."

31. "Cleveland: The Making of a City" by William Ganson Rose, World Publishing, Cleveland, Ohio. 1950, page 133. "James S, Clark, Edmund Clark and Richard Hilliard laid out Cleveland Centre in December [1833], comprising the land in Ox Bow Bend, the first curve of the Cuyahoga River, and offered town lots for inflated prices. This was an Elaborate piece of city planning." He goes on to describe the allotment, which was essentially like half of a wagon wheel with "Gravity Place" boat landing being the "hub", and the streets named after family members and countries, radiating out like wheel "spokes."

32. "Annals of the Early Settlers Association of Cuyahoga County," Number I, Published by the order of the Executive Committee, Mount and Carroll, Printers and Stationers, Cleveland, Ohio. 1880. "There arose these enterprising spirits, James S. and Edmund Clark, who buying up "Cleveland Centre" and Willeyville,

opened up Columbus Street straight south from Superior Street and erected the Columbus Street draw-bridge."

33. "Memorial to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve," published under the Auspices of the Women's Department of the Cleveland Centennial Commission. Edited by Mrs. Gertrude Van Rensselaer Wickham, 1896. Page 197. "The famous Bridge War had its origin in this company building a covered bridge over the river at the foot of Columbus Street, adjacent and convenient to their property, demanding a toll on it, and applying for a charter with the provision that no bridge be built within five miles of it, there being at the same time an injunction on the float bridge at the foot of Detroit Street." The Ohio City folks would not tolerate being "cut off" that way, and they showed up with crow bars, clenched fists, clubs, axes, rifles and even an old war cannon, to tear the bridge down. The Cleveland City government eventually intervened, and made sure access across the Cuyahoga was more equitable.

34. Daniel A. White and Ruth (Hurd) White to Henry Taylor (1847 CC deed Vol. 39/pg 479)

35. Henry Taylor and wife Polly (Wilder) Taylor to Park Brown Clark (1848 CC deed Vol. 43/pg. 112)

36. Park B. Clark and Mary (Gorham) Clark to Duranson Dart (1857 CC deed Vol. 88/pg. 84)

37. "Helen M. Leonard Dart Biography," Oberlin College Archives, "Francis Dart Record Group," 9-29-1904. 19 pages. Thanks to Ken Grossi, College Archivist at Oberlin College Archives, 148 W. College St. Oberlin, Ohio. This autobiography contains a short description of life at the Curtis-Preyer Stone House. The inexperienced couple bought 28 cows to start a dairy. They established two daily milk routes into the city of Cleveland. The long hours, the mismanagement of the farm, laborers and servants, got the better of them (they later divorced). The dairy failed and they were unable to pay off the mortgage. Helen mentions the huge fireplaces in the stone house.

38. Master Commissioner of Cleveland (Henry Abbey) To Benjamin Phillips (1863 CC deed Vol.120/pgs 201-203). Today, when a property is bought, a title search is done to make sure the property is free and clear of incumbrances. Not so in the past. Duranson Dart, Henry Taylor, and George and Esther Farr were all sued for past unpaid mortgages on the old Curtis farm. The farm was sold at court-ordered auction, and Benjamin Phillips was the highest bidder.

39. Clay Hellwig, in his "More About the Proud Heritage," pages 11-20, describes life at old Faimount, mentioning the people, events and shops.

40. A buhr gristmill stone found in Cumberland Park by the Cleveland Heights Public Works Department "some years ago" (date unknown). From email dated 1/29/2020 from Kara Hamley O'Donnell, City Planner and Historic Preservationist of Cleveland Heights. From this, more sleuthing was done, and author Marian

Morton, led us to the Plain Dealer article of 2-13-1966, "The Heights of History," by Esther Brightman. In the article is a photograph of two men inspecting a buhr millstone with the caption, "Frank C. Cain, Mayor of Cleveland Heights from 1914 to 1946, points out the inscription, MILL STONE FROM A GRIST MILL OPERATED ON THIS SITE UNTIL 1900 BY FREDERICK L. SILSBY, to the present Mayor, Kenneth S. Nash. The stone is in Cumberland Park". Clay Hellwig, in his "More About the Proud Heritage," pg. 15, writes about the building immediately to the west of Dugway Creek at Mayfield Road called "Fred Silsby's Old Mill." In Mr. Hellwig's time, it was a grain, hay and feed store with a steam-powered cider mill in back (once used to press molasses from sorghum).

41. In the "History of Saint John Lutheran Church: One-Hundred Years of God's Grace 1853-1953," by Edythe M. Westenhaver, layout and production by Robert L. Reeves, published by the congregation, South Euclid, Ohio; 1953. Pg. 12. The history mentions that starting in the 1840's the first German Families arrived in the area. By 1860 there were 24 families including the Melcher, Wischmeyer, Rolf, Linnert, Detering, Schmidt, Prasse and Shafer. The Rolf, Bente, and Linnert families settled around South Taylor and Noble Roads in Cleveland Heights in the 1850's. In 1864 the John Peter Preyer family, and related Behlen family came here from Canton, Ohio. The Preyers though, may not have been members of the St John Congregation., but rather the Presbyterian church at Collamer.

42. The Preyer family information comes from Caroline Behlen Piercy's book, "The Preyer-Andreae Family History," self-published, 1937. She was the granddaughter of J. P. and Charlotte Preyer. The chapters on "The Preyer Home in Cleveland Heights," (pages 151-159), and the "Last Chapter," (pages 189-194), are the most useful. On Page 149, it mentions, "John Peter was almost 50 years old; he had won his Croix de Guerre for twenty-three years of faithful and unusual service under the Prussian King."

43. Ibid, 142. Philosopher and Transcendentalist Ralph Waldo Emerson, and John Peter Preyer had been long time pen-pals.

44. Ibid, 111.

45. Ibid, 148.

46. Ibid, 189.

47. John Peter Preyer died a well-off man. His vineyards were divided up amongst the children: Emil (1885 CC deed Vol. 381/pg. 225), Robert (1885 CC deed Vol. 381/pg. 224), Mary Amalia Hellwig (1884 CC deed Vol. 381/pg. 306), Hugo (1885 CC deed Vol. 380/pg. 582), Carl Julius (1885 CC deed Vol. 379/pg. 454). Carl got the farm at Warrensville Center Road and Mayfield. His son wrote, "Ten Years' Practical Experience in Grape and Small Fruit Culture," by Hugo Preyer, Bascom and Saxton Printers, Canton, Ohio; 1875. This book contains an advertisement for the J. P. Preyer farm.

48. Board of the State Viticulture Commissioners of California,

"The Directory of the Grape Growers, Winemakers, and Distillers of California, and the Principal Grape Growers and Winemakers of the Eastern States," published by the Board of State Viticulture Commissioners of California, Sacramento, CA; 1891. This directory shows the "Fairmount" village grape sellers, which includes the Preyer heirs. By this time, the Christ Brothers (Valentine and John) had purchased the lower acres of Preyer's old vineyard.

49. Robert O. and wife Ella J. Y. Preyer to Charles Asa Post (1892 CC deed Vol. 526/pg. 84)

50. Charles Asa Post to Rosa Stein (1893 Vol. 564/pg. 8)

51. When real estate developer Marcus M. Brown, was buying up the Parcels for his Mayfield Heights allotment from the Everettes, Valentine Christ, and others around 1896, the stone house Parcel was already in the hands of the Stone/Stein family, so it was not included.

52. "Jacob B. Glauber," mortuary notice in the Plain Dealer Historical, 5-22-1905. He is the father of Mrs. I. N. Stone. It also mentions his sons own the Glauber Brass Manufacturing Company.

53. Stone family to Sigvald and Faith (Corrigan) Refsnes (1960 Cuyahoga County deed 9966/page 613).

54. Louis Weiss and Nancy (Stone) Weiss 1945 Cuyahoga County deed Book 6001/page 372.

55. Sigvald and Faith (Corrigan) Refsnes 1960 Cuyahoga County deed Book 9966 page 613.

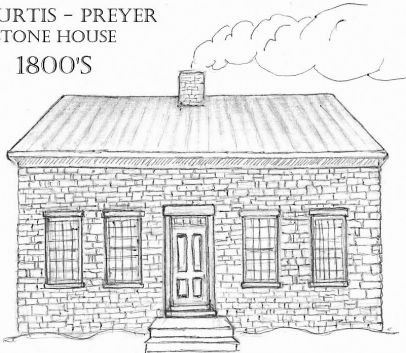
56. "W. J. Corrigan Dies: Sheppard Trial Star," Cleveland Plain Dealer Historical 7-31-1961. The article mentions that Faith Refsnes is his daughter.

57. Gale Vargo to John and Amy Wheeler Cuyahoga County deed Book 13330/page 565.

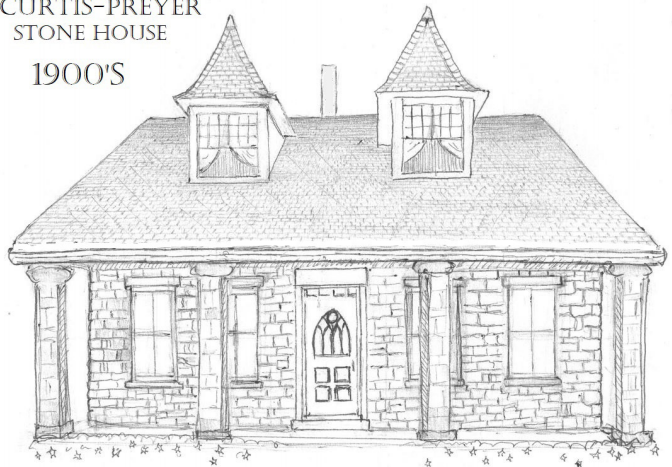
58. Dr. Roy Larick.

59. <http://www.clevelandareahistory.com/2010/04/spencer-warner-residence.html>

CURTIS - PREYER
STONE HOUSE
1800'S



CURTIS-PREYER
STONE HOUSE
1900'S



The Curtis-Preyer Stone House Transforms - Throughout the 1800's, the fine sandstone house resembled a "plain stone box." During the Preyer family occupation, the house was adorned with a lattice porch across the front, with a "porch roof" of living willows (Preyer-Andreae family History" page 151). In the 1900's, the house took on a lovely, quaint appearance with addition of dormers and roofed porch. Many have wondered if the house long ago had any small transom windows. There are still many mysteries about the house that are waiting to be solved. (*House interpretation sketches by Korbi and Kelsey Roberts*).

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