

DALEVILLE LONG AGO

Now, for some of the Boosters who believed in the future of Daleville, there was Chris Hollinger from Greenville, Ohio, an Undertaker and Carpenter who built a fine home which is now the home of Mrs. Grace Zumpe. Then across the "Bee Line" he erected a building to house his Hearse, opposite to the entrance to the Dale cemetery.

East of town at the top of the hill lived Pete Helvie, who operated a saw mill, also cider and cane mill. He lived in a log house which was later the R. N. Shroyer farm. His mill was west, back by the river on what is now the Dr. O. A. Tucker farm. It was a water driven mill and portions of the mill race are still there. On the State road was a log bridge, across the mill race, but no bridge over the creek. Pete Helvie had passed on and left Daleville without a Mill and the nearest mill was at Middletown, a long way to go with a horse and wagon. Then John Richmond came along and acquired the Helvie Mills and moved them all to Daleville, on a plot of ground in the Snider addition. Loads of apples and sugar cane came in large quantities, and business became so flourishing that the streets from the "Bee Line" was opened under the name of "Sorgum street. Cider and sorgum was the two great articles, and apple, peach and pear butter was in great demand. At my home, mother and the girls would make 100 gals. of pear, peach and apple butter every fall and put away in 10 gal stone jars, and it would all be gone by butter making time again.

In the early 1890's two men came to Daleville, B. F. Lefter and Jack Gant, and lived on South Main. Lefter, where the Mio Oliver home is now, and Gant on south. As there was no place to get brick, they went east of their homes and made them all by hand, placed them in the sun to dry and made enough to build the first Tile Kill. Tile was in big demand for ditches were open and in a few years all the ditches were tiled and their was farming over them. We still have two of the Lefter children living in Chesterfield. Claude and his sister Mattie Lefter Cranor.

Now, in the year of 1890 John M. Cranor and his secretary Miss Fell Adams from Winchester came and took up residence in the Hurley house and opened up a bank. The bank

was located in the point of the Stewart furniture store. John M., as he was known was wide awake to the needs of Daleville. In a few years he had acquired the brick yard and then went on south Main street at the Midland R.R. and built a second brick yard.

On Main street at the cemetery, school house, and intersection with the Bell creek turnpike there was a very rugged mill in the center of Main street so he secured an order and removed the remains and headstones from the cemetery and had them taken to Saunders cemetery.

At the Methodist church was a real mud hole, very hard to get through in wet weather, so he had the hill cut down and the mud hole filled up. Then Cranor saw that the town needed an industry, so he got in touch with some moulders in Piqua, Ohio, George Barber, Alex Touchman, George Jones and Morgan Haite and several more, and they came here and founded the "Ideal Stove" foundry. Soon a large brick bldg. was erected and the output was great. Car load after car load was being shipped to the large Mail order house in Chicago, Sears Roebuck and Co. Everyone here had jobs that wanted to work. His next move was to find some place to live, so out south Main street he built what is known as "Brick row" and in the first house on the corner was where he and his wife Mattie Lefter Cranor lived. This foundry continued for years and was the main industry that kept Daleville on top. The Stove foundry did such a big business that the Midland R.R. built a spur track down to the foundry, where many car loads were hauled away.

Best wishes,

Berryman and Barbara.