

Mount Cory's
Yesterdays and Today's
for Tomorrow
1872 — 1972 — 2072

IN HONOR OF
THE MOUNT CORY, OHIO
CENTENNIAL

August 18 - 19, 1972

and

Birth of the
Mount Cory
Historical Society

By

*Evelyn Falk, Historical Compiler for
The Historical Society*

The Town's History

The village had started at what is now known as Union Center and with the coming of the railroad was moved to be near it. Cory was laid out by Mathias Markley and Samuel Kemerer in sections 22 and 27 of Union Township, Hancock County, Ohio. The plat consisted of 32 lots and was acknowledged Nov. 8, 1872, before George F. Pendleton, notary public, and recorded Nov. 22, 1872, by Paul Kemerer, recorder.

The village was incorporated May 10, 1887, to be known as Mt. Cory after the petitioners had filed the request with the commissioners in March 1887. Among the outstanding Electors, who delegated Agents W.D. Turner, Levi Falk, and Albert Zugschwert to establish the town, were Jacob Swartz, Isaac Lanning, Gideon Falk, Simon Longbrake, James Gallant, J.A. Jones, W.H. Falk, Denny George, F.R. Adams, Joseph Corfman, Dr. N. Reed, W.J. Staater, Jacob Powell, S.S. Falk, John Sanner, N.V. Turner, W.J. Miller, J.W. Garlinger, N.W. Jenkins, H. Garlinger, Levi Bergman, Jacob Flick, R.R. Bowersox, S. Pugg, J.A. Hubler, A.F. Zay, George Harpster, A.A. Steininger, H.M. Markley, Milo Crawford, W.W. Ghaster, G.F. Steininger, Z.F. Coleman, William Williamson, Elmer Lanning, D.W. Buchanan, A. Link, S.E. Pife, Jacob Shirmuker, N.W. Jenkins, S. Kemerer, A. Reininger, Milfirym Robifuhr, and others.

The Lake Erie & Western Railway was built through Cory in the fall of 1872. (Later the Western Ohio Interurban Line was open for business in Jan. 1906). The railroads promoted business and communication. Among the first was "Cory's Flouring Mills" (and Grist Mill) built by Dr. H.P. Eaten in 1873. He was succeeded by Zay & Runkle who sold out to Levi Falk in 1877. South of the Mills was Levi and Maggie (Zay) Falk's home, now owned by Mrs. Dora Daine Faine. The mills were destroyed by fire in 1895 and today the site is vacant.

Across from the Mills was built the sawmill (now the Landmark Elevator) by William D. Turner in 1873. The next operator of the sawmill was Orland Vickers who had Z.F. Coleman and Milo Crawford as part owners. The last invested in the hotel which was sold to Ben F. Shine and known as "Hotel Shine" with a small livery stable. The hotel also had a wallpaper shop in the north entrance wing. The next owner was Webster Watkins who converted the building into a home, but it was M.E. Wolfrom who removed the north wing and made a porch. The home is now John Cooper's property.

The early times also boasted of Mt. Cory Carriage & Wagon Works, 1872. Zachary U. Geiger, Sole Proprietor, sold out later to Meyer & Jones. Soon J.A. Jones' calling cards stated full ownership and his carriages were advertised at the Ottawa fairs in his own verse:

Mt. Cory EXHIBIT of rigs you can see,
At the tent of Jones on the ground
No finer set of VEHICLES is what I tell thee
And firmly they're made all around.

Jones later sold to Wildermuth & Co., going to Findlay.

The grocery and general merchandise business was started in 1874 by Hall & Harpster, builders. The first grocer and general merchant was W.J. Staater, followed by A.E. Ewing, in the first settlement area (now the corner of N. Main and W. Washington). Later W.D. Turner put his son N.V. Turner in charge until Eli Cramer bought the store. Mr. Cramer, writing a column for newspapers always advertised his creamery, egg, coal, and ice business. His last clerks were Kathryn King Wolfrom and Barbara Reiter Green before the building was razed, making room for two new homes (Robert Bowersox and Genevieve Beagle, present owners). In the south end of town, George Zay and L.B. May had their stores. A newcomer to town was W.H. Falk, who later called his place the Falk South Side Store and was responsible for the erection of Falk-K of P Building. Later ownership of the store included Henry Bowersox, Milt Steininger, Harold L. Falk, and David Reiter. At present the store houses the Post Office and storage rental.

The Riverside Block (opposite today's Post Office and north) was named after the ditch that ran through the village between the Tin Shop and the Hardware Store. This area had changed through the years: John Sanner's Tin & Stove Shop, Mt. Cory's Harness Shop, Mt. Cory's Saloon (in business only a short time), Farmers Mutual Telephone Co., and Adam Heininger (1883) Hardware Store. This last business was owned later by C.L. Guin, I.A. Hubler, Wm. Longbrake (who moved it to the Town Hall Bldg.), and B.E. Wolfrom.

Schools 1901 Onward

From a one-room to a three-school system of the Cory-Rawson consolidation in 71 years has been remarkable, but the community has always been interested in education.

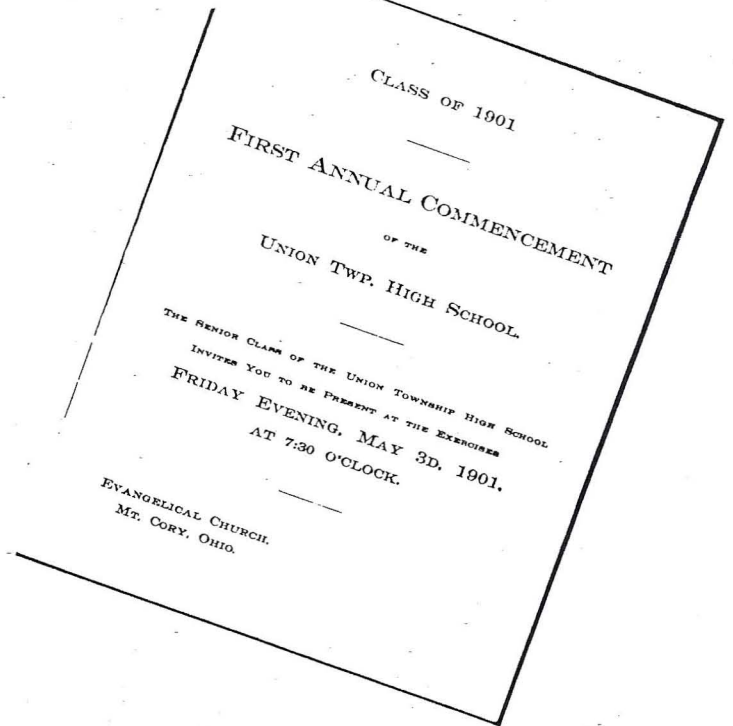


(Picture Upper Right) The No. 10 School's 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades of 1905 had the following pupils: (1st row) Clinton Brenneman, John Bowersox, Carl Grimes, Floyd Griffith, Charles Cramer, Ruth Cole; (2nd row): Marco King, Norma Markley, Nellie Bodkins, Agnes Frizzell, Paul Brenneman, Firm Garlinger, Florence Garlinger, Maudie Grimes,

Marguerite Falk; (3rd row): Grace Houser, Cora Clymer, Ervin Zay, **Otto Zeller (teacher)**, Gene Bodkin, Walter Peer, Dan Cole, Charley Henning; (4th row): Doris Davis, Byrd Neva, Vivian Markley, Earl Griffith, Carrie King, Ray Peer, Eva Bowersox, Helen Moyer, Floyd Moyer, Lloyd Garlinger.



The first graduating class of Union Township was the Class of 1901 with six members: (Standing) **Otto Zeller**, Ida Hubler (later Mrs. Merrell King), Coza Light (later Mrs. A.E. King), Merrell King, **Preston Fellabaum**; (Seated) William Nonnamaker and Supt. P.M. Cox. The class had a reunion 35 years later with all present. But today Mrs. Hubler is the last member.



(Program) That first class had its commencement exercises May 3, 1901, in the Evangelical Church in Mount Cory. The program consisted of music by the school's mixed chorus conducted by J.G. Houser; Rev. S.A. Shisler gave the Invocation; Rev. John Stroup, the Benediction; William A. Williamson, Pres. of the Board of Education, presented the diplomas after the students had given their essays and orations.

Music, Music

The first Cory Band was not in dress uniform.



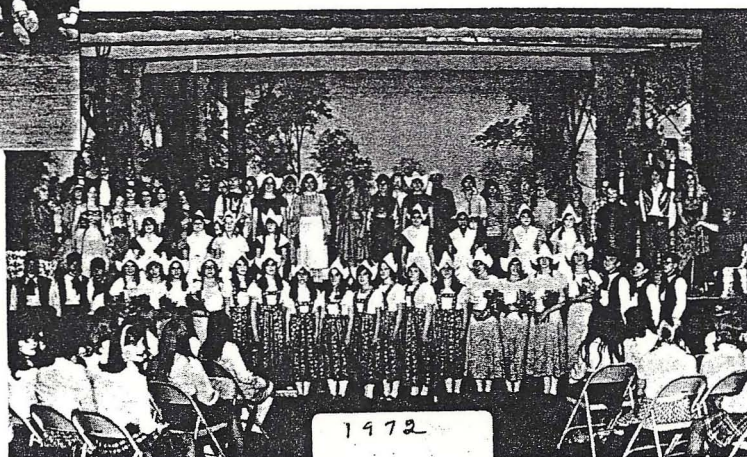
The 1900 Cory Cornet Band in their new uniforms made Cory famous: 1st row) Dr. D.J. King, Otto Kelley, T.B. Ghaster, Winfield Zeller, (2nd row) A.G. Zeller, Elmer Doty, Frank Vickers, (3rd row) Scott Vickers, Dr. A.E. King, B.C. Hews, James Powell, M.S. King, Alvin C. Ewing (Director) and Earl Guin (not present).

One of the first orchestras of the Mount Cory school was directed by Isabel (Stewart) West.



Mrs. June McVetta directed the operetta "Belle of the West" (1955).

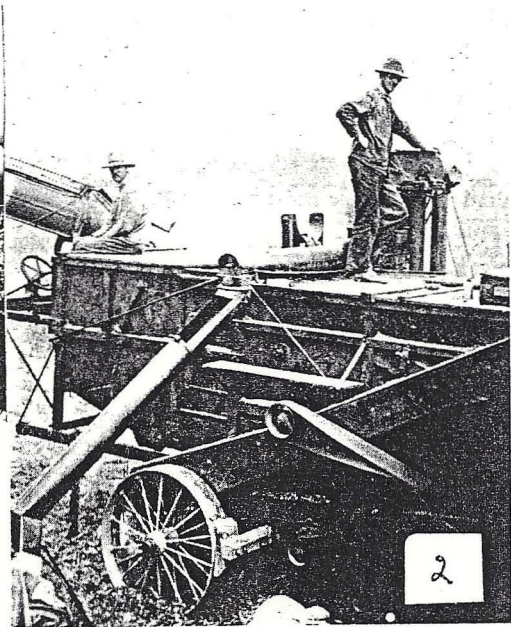
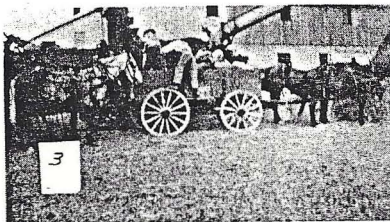
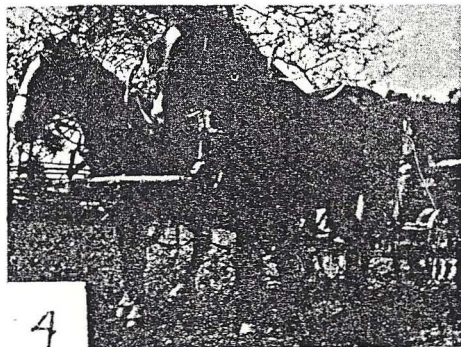
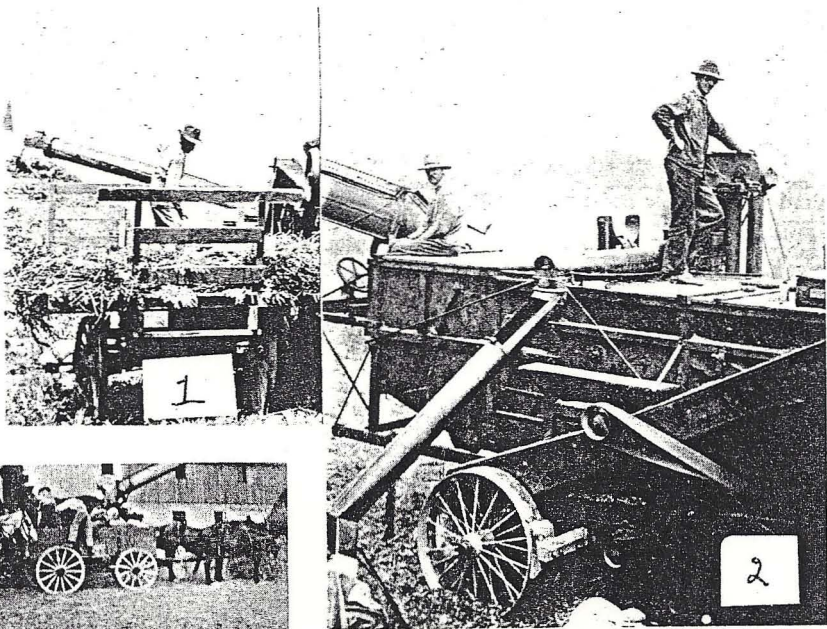
Mrs. Levon Trask was the director of the operetta "It Happened in Holland" (1972).



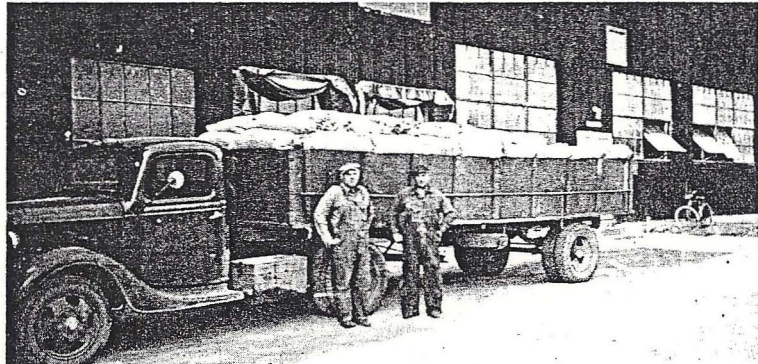
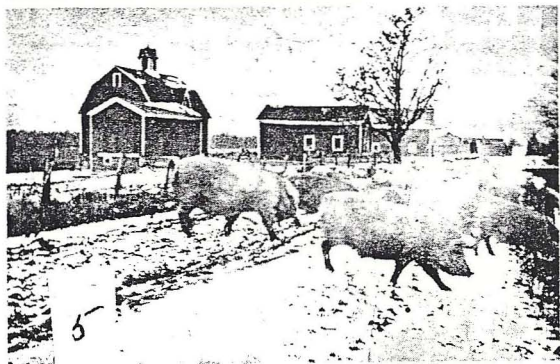
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Exciting Experiences

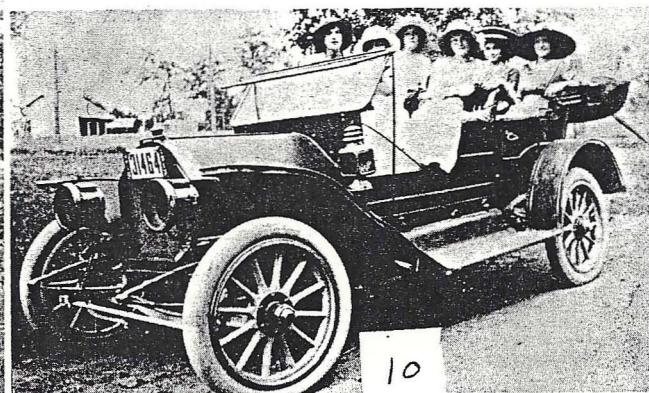
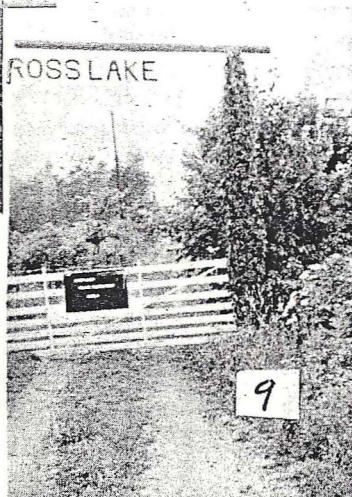
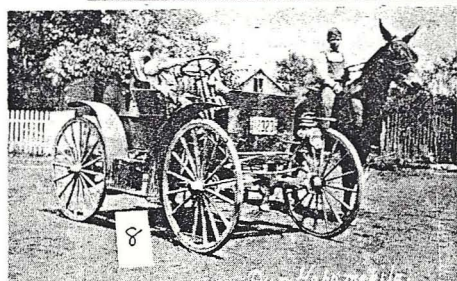
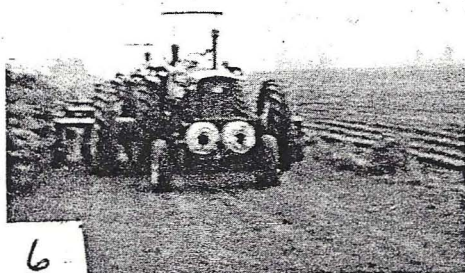
1. D. Huffman on the wagon
2. C. Boobring and W. Ghaster on the machine
3. C. Reiter and neighbors
4. Cultivating on the **Jake Zeller**-Rob Bowersox farm
5. Hog raising led to stopping traffic on old 69
6. 1972 Cultivating
7. Hauling timothy seed for Green Acres
8. Two ways to travel according to Lehr (in car) and Merritt Green
9. Ross Lake and Fun still today
10. Women didn't always wash, bake, and churn.



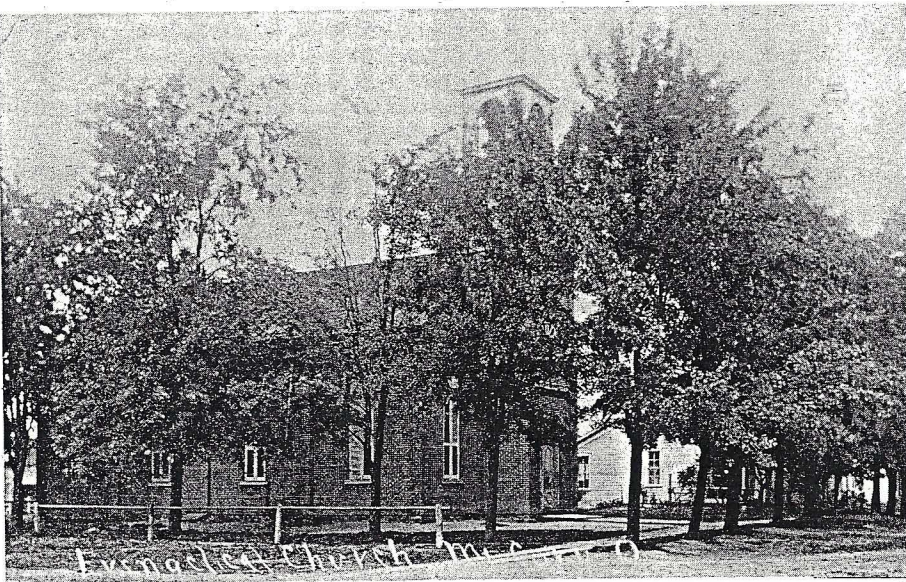
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The "Brick" Church 1846



The Mt. Zion Evangelical United Brethren Church of the East Findlay Circuit was organized in 1838 by Rev. Michael Long. From there westward, the work came to Cory with the missionaries from John C. Albright, the founder of the First Frontier and Foreign Missionary Society, 1841.

In Cory the Society was organized, 1846, by Rev. J.G. Zinser, Presiding Elder. The Charter members were Rev. and Mrs. Henry Longbrake, Mr. and Mrs. Gressley, and **Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Zeller**. The Class Leaders were H. Gressley, followed by Gideon Falk (1848), and later Isreal Benner, David Falk, Andrew Link, **John Swartz**, and Reuben Deifenderfer.

The first Sunday School (in homes) was in 1849. The first church was a frame building, 1853, and was dedicated by Bishop Long, who spoke in German; and Rev. A.E. Dreisbach, Presiding Elder, in English. Also in 1853 David Falk deeded the lot for the church parsonage. When the Cory frame building burned down, the present brick church was built to the Main St. front under the ministry of Rev. William Wonder and dedication by Bishop Dubs, 1875. Later, improvements in the church included a new bell, belfry, modern basement class and social rooms, hardwood floors, and pews.

After 1900 many ministers served this charge including the Reverends B.E. Oyler, A.C. Stull, E.B. Crouse, S.A. Shisler, P.R.B. Peer, C.W. Ruhlman, O.D. Myers, A.J. Foreman, A.E. McVey, Irvin Kaufman, Earl Leist (Centennial Celebration of 1946), Robert Priest, and Barry Wolfe.

Among the outstanding active church members before 1900 were John Weisel, Adam Heininger, C.L. Guin, Alvin Ewing, and Cyrus Bowersox. Later outstanding S.S. Superintendents were W.M. Sheldon, John Bubring, Dr. A.E. King, J.W. Renninger, W.S. and M.S. King, Milton Steininger, John Bowersox, W.A. Nonnamaker, Clarence Reiter, and Lynn Cupples.

The two churches in the town consolidated under the name of the Mount Cory United Methodist Church, having the formal union service June 20, 1971. Today's minister is Rev. Oscar Brown; and the Trustees are Merle Welch, Roger Eck, Lynn Cupples, Gary Crawford, R.D. Crawford, Dale Amstutz, Stanley Wagoner, and Clyde Augsburger.

