



January 5, 2017 – Our Old Book Case

Photo caption: Montezuma, Franklin Township 1888 Plat Map. Compare the 1888 Grand Lake Shore Line with 2017 Shore Line.

OUR OLD BOOK CASE

*By Joyce L. Alig, President,
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Compare the northwest area of Franklin Twp. on this Plat Map, from the “Mercer County Ohio Atlas,” edited by B.N. Griffing, and published by Griffing, Gordon and Co., at Philadelphia, PA in 1888., with today’s Maps.

Two Cemeteries are noted in this area of Franklin Twp. The Ellis Cemetery is located in Section 30, on the Cassella-Montezuma Road. The Burdge Cemetery is located on Burdge Road, in Section # 29.

The School # 2 is located in Section 27, at the S.E. corner of the intersection of Harrison Road and St. Rt. 219 A.

On this 1888 Plat Map of Franklin Twp., the Township Hall is located in Section 28, one mile south and one half mile west of School # 2. The Township Hall was moved within a decade.

The Cincinnati, Toledo, and St. Louis Railroad traversed the Township from Maria Stein, to Chickasaw, through the Village of Montezuma, on to Celina and Mendon before leaving the

County. (This railroad was later known as the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton (C.H. & D.). By 1923 this railroad was closed.

On this 1888 Plat Map, the Creek south of Montezuma was known as Beaver Creek.

A Gas Well is identified in Section 24, in 1888. As you know, I have been doing historical research on the petroleum industry in Mercer County. The gas and oil boom began in Mercer County in the 1880's, as well as in other counties in Ohio. Since Grand Lake is also located in Auglaize County, I have been studying the oil and gas wells around the Lake in both counties. Since former Auglaize County Historical Society President and Auglaize County Historian and Author George Nearing passed away in December, I want to recognize his contribution to history, not only in Auglaize County, but also with Grand Lake, in both counties. His dedication to research as well as the preservation of local history and his collection of historical photographs and post cards deserves the highest standards of Academic Credit among Ohio's County Historians. I had the pleasure of meeting his family at the Funeral Home. I am so pleased that the Family Members wish to preserve his Archival Collections.

Who are the Local Historians of Future Generations in Mercer and Auglaize Counties? Are future generations worthy of receiving these fine academic archival collections under their stewardship; or will they toss these collections in File # 13? Will the local County Citizens look to their County Government for leadership in preserving their County History?

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