



Our Old Bookcase, May 4, 2017, Palmer and Miller Grain Co., Celina, 1904

Photo caption: Palmer and Miller Grain Co. Elevator was located on the north side of West Logan St., about two blocks west of S. Mill Street, and a half block east of Godfrey Street in Celina, 1904.

OUR OLD BOOK CASE

By Joyce L. Alig, President, Mercer County Historical Society

The October 1926 Insurance Map by Sanborn Map Company, illustrated the building of the Palmer and Miller Grain Co. Elevator at 435 West Logan Street, on the east side of the Cincinnati Northern Railroad Tracks.

The 1888 and 1900 Celina Plat Maps in the 1888 and 1900 copies of the “*Atlas of Mercer County, Ohio,*” identify an elevator at this site. The Cincinnati Northern Railroad first went through Celina, c. 1883-1884. The relationship of the site of the elevator located adjacent to the railroad was no accident. The train cars delivered the grain to the grain markets at sites along the railroad. This modern method of transportation made all of the financial difference to grain mills. The smaller villages which had grain mills, but lacked the presence of a railroad, lost out on the economic advancement of the villages.

Palmer & Miller Grain, W. Logan Street, advertised as Grain Dealers, as identified by the 1904 “*Celina Ohio Business Directory,*” printed by Pony Printing Co., Portland, IN. The 1909 “*Directory of Celina and Mercer County Gazetteer*” carried two advertisements for Palmer & Miller, wholesale and retail

dealers in grain, flour, seeds and wool. Perry C. Miller had the Office in rooms 19 – 20 Union Block, and Wm. T. Palmer had the elevator at West Logan Street, near Cincinnati Northern Railroad tracks. They had a telephone in 1909 because their phone numbers were listed as 11 and 166.

With the Mercer County Historical Society's Archival Collections of the Palmer and Miller Grain Co., there is a small photograph of the elevator, with the statement written on the back of the photograph, "*Rebuilt after World War I Fire.*" The 1916-1921 "*Directory of Mercer County Ohio,*" listed Palmer and Grain Co., in Celina. W. T. Palmer and Perry C. Miller were listed as owners. Palmer-Miller Grain Co. was listed in the 1921 R.G. Dun, Mercantile Agency Reference Book. Therefore, Palmer and Miller Grain Co. was in business after World War I.

After Mercer Landmark came to Celina, Palmer Miller Grain Co. merged with that Company, but I do not have the exact year of that merger. The 1978 "*History of Mercer County, Ohio,*" stated that Mercer Landmark had purchased Palmer and Miller Grain Co. The history of Mercer Landmark also made reference to the November 11, 1977, fire razed the elevator building. Celina citizens probably remember the 1977 fire; was that fire at the Palmer and Miller Grain Co. site on West Logan, or was that 1977 fire at another location owned by Mercer Landmark?

Thank you for all of the Mercer County Historical Society Members who have renewed their Membership for 2017. Thank you also to our new Members for 2017. New Members are always welcome. Everywhere I go in Mercer County, citizens tell me how they read this local history column and how they like local history. That confirms to me that the work I do to preserve local history is valued.

The young readers, who tell me they are interested in Mercer County's history, give me faith that the Mercer County Historical Society will continue preserving local history at the Mercer County Historical Museum, for future generations. I invite each of those readers to become Members of the Mercer County Historical Society. Thank you for helping the Mercer County Historical Society Members to achieve their Mission, "*To Preserve Mercer County's History and To Educate the Public about that History.*"

Mercer County Historical Society President Joyce Alig, may be contacted at 3054 Burk-St. Henry Road, Saint Henry, OH 45883, or hystalig@bright.net or 419-678-2614.]