



# Olmsted 200

Bicentennial Notes about Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township –  
First Farmed in 1814 and Settled in 1815

Issue 97

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## Was Hiram Hubbard of Song from Olmsted Falls?

“Hiram Hubbard was not guilty,” according to an old song. Hiram Hubbard once lived in Olmsted Falls, according to old records. Was the man of song also the man who spent time as a boy in Olmsted Falls? Not exactly, but maybe there is some connection.

The song, “Hiram Hubbard,” has been recorded by many performers, including Bob Dylan, Jean Ritchie and Doc Watson. No one knows who wrote it. The words vary from one version to another, but the song is about a man who was captured, tied to a tree and shot to death for a crime he did not commit. The song is believed to date back to the Civil War. At least one version seems to confirm that with the line, “The rebels overhauled him, in chains they bound him fast.”

Hi- ram Hub- bard was not guil- ty. I heard great man- y say.

Hi- ram Hub- bard was not guil- ty. I heard great man- y

say. He was not in this coun- try. He was nine- ty miles a- way.

*Many performers have included “Hiram Hubbard” in their repertoire over the decades. The song says nothing about Olmsted Falls, but the only Hiram Hubbard who served in the Civil War spent part of his boyhood in Olmsted Falls.*

The issue of whether the song had anything to do with a one-time Olmsted Falls resident came up right after Issue 95 of *Olmsted 200* for April went out with a lead story

about Edward Hamlin, an anti-slavery advocate who established a newspaper in Olmsted Falls to promote his beliefs 15 years before the Civil War began. After former Olmsted Falls resident Kevin Roberts received that issue, he wrote:

*I was doing title work on my former house at 7622 Columbia, OF, aka the Samuel Lay House, and discovered that in about 1852 a man named Hiram Hubbard bought about 12 of the surrounding lots to put together a 19 acre farm. He may have built the house, which has been known as the Samuel Lay House forever, likely because Samuel Lay lived there for decades after he moved there in 1856 as a teenager.*

*Anyway, there is a famous folk song, The Tale of Hiram Hubbard, which was recorded many times, including by Bob Dylan. It is based on a true story – Hiram Hubbard was a Union Soldier caught behind enemy lines, put on trial, tied to a tree and shot by firing squad. It is such an unusual name that it may be the same person who built “Samuel Lay House.” The timing is right, too. Hubbard would likely have been an adult male of draft age when the Civil War broke out.*



*Kevin Roberts is seen on the left in 2013, when he was renovating the Samuel Lay House, 7622 Columbia Road. (He has since moved to Connecticut.) On the right is the house a few years earlier in 2010. In the 1850s, Dr. Hiram Hubbard bought land there. His son, Hiram Hubbard Jr., later became the only Hiram Hubbard to serve in the Civil War, but was he the subject of the song of the same name?*

With that information, David Kennedy of Olmsted Falls – who has been doing much research for *Olmsted 200* – set out to learn more, and he did.

“I have no idea how, or if, the Olmsted Falls Hiram Hubbard got his name attached to this song,” he wrote. “But you’ll see in the enclosed [materials] there was only one Hiram Hubbard in the Civil War and he was from OF.”

Indeed, Kennedy scoured official records of both the Union and the Confederate armies from 1861 to 1865 and found only one Hiram Hubbard. He was Hiram Fay Hubbard Jr., the son of Dr. Hiram F. Hubbard, the man who bought the property in Olmsted Falls. The younger Hubbard was born on December 20, 1840, somewhere in

Ohio, but the town of his birth is not listed. His father was born April 8, 1803, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Although the title search conducted by Roberts shows the elder Hubbard bought the Olmsted Township land in 1852, the 1850 Census shows the Hubbard family already resided in Olmsted Township by then. However, it's not clear where. (Note: It all was Olmsted Township land at that time because Olmsted Falls did not incorporate as a village until 1856 and didn't annex the hamlet of Plum Creek, which included the land Dr. Hubbard bought, until 1857.)

The Census shows Dr. Hubbard was age 46 and listed as a physician in 1850. His wife Cynthia was 42. Among their children was Hiram Jr., who was recorded as being 11 years old, although he would have been just nine going on 10 in 1850, if the date for his birth of December 20, 1840, is correct. In addition to the Census, the elder Hubbard also shows up on an 1855 tax list for Olmsted Township, which would be consistent if he, in 1852, bought the land for which Roberts found the title records.

It seems that the Hubbards moved to Wisconsin in the late 1850s or 1860 because the younger Hiram Hubbard enlisted not in an Ohio unit of the Union Army but in the Third Independent Battery of the Wisconsin Volunteer Light Artillery on August 26, 1861, for three years of service. Also, Dr. Hubbard's place of death on March 12, 1865, is listed as Madison, Wisconsin.



*After spending part of his boyhood in Olmsted Falls, Hiram Hubbard Jr. served in the Union Army as an officer in a Wisconsin artillery unit.*

During the Civil War, the Wisconsin Third Independent Battery served in the Army of the Ohio and the Army of the Cumberland. It saw service in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. Hiram Hubbard was commissioned as a junior second lieutenant on September 6, 1861. He was promoted to junior first lieutenant on August 19, 1862, and senior first lieutenant on March 8, 1864.

Hubbard was with the unit for the advance on Shiloh, Tennessee, the siege of Corinth, Mississippi, and the Kentucky Campaign. The unit was heavily engaged in the Battle of Stones River, Tennessee, and participated in the campaign at Tullahoma, Tennessee, and the Battle of Chickamauga, near the Georgia-Tennessee border. During that last battle, on September 20, 1863, the unit suffered 26 casualties and lost five of its guns. It was the first major Civil War battle fought in Georgia. Because Hubbard's unit received such heavy losses, it was not reorganized as a full battery but was used instead for garrison duties and detached services.



*This memorial plaque, listing Hiram Hubbard's name, for the Third Battery of the Wisconsin Light Artillery stands at the site of the Battle of Chickamauga.*

Lieutenant Hubbard commanded what was left of the unit from March 1864 to October 1864. He completed his three-year enlistment and was mustered out of service on October 10, 1864.

Sometime after the war, Hubbard returned to Ohio. He died in Sandusky on June 27, 1901, at age 60.

before going off to the Civil War as a young adult the same one who became the subject of the song? Just comparing the facts of his life and the narrative of the song, the answer is no. There is no evidence that Hubbard ever was captured by rebels, and he certainly wasn't shot to death because he lived another 37 years after his service in the war.

Was the Hiram Hubbard who spent some of his formative years in Olmsted Falls

However, although folk songs can serve as a form of oral history, they don't always stick to the facts. As they get passed on from person to person, the desire to entertain sometimes supersedes simple allegiance to the truth. The same process has happened in cinema. Many movies say in their credits they are based on actual events, but they depict some of those events differently than how they occurred in real life. That can mean sometimes putting on a happier ending or a more exciting ending than occurred in real life or condensing the action of the narrative or using an amalgamation of characters to make the story simpler to tell.

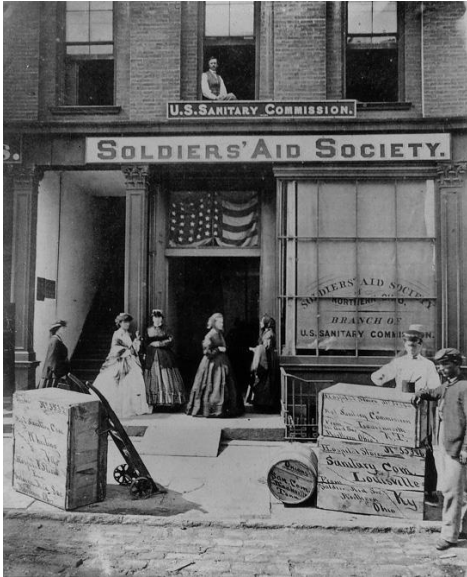
The simple truth about Hiram Hubbard Jr. is that he saw much action during the Civil War, survived the war and lived out the last years of his life back in Ohio. Yet somehow his name was attached to a song about a less fortunate soldier – a song that has lived on long after Hubbard did.



*Chickamauga National Military Park includes this monument to the Third Battery of the Wisconsin Light Artillery. The photo is from Carol M. Highsmith's America Project in the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.*

## Olmsted's Women Served the Men Who Served the Union

When dozens of men from Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township went off to serve in the Civil War in the early 1860s, the women they left behind served them on the home front. Just as the men were swept up in the national effort to preserve the Union, the women also were swept up in a large regional movement to preserve their soldiers.



*The Soldiers' Aid Society used this distribution center at 95 Bank Street (which is now West Sixth Street) in Cleveland to collect and send out supplies for Union soldiers.*

Aid Society rebranded itself as the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio to better describe its purpose and its reach into communities outside of Cleveland. Many large communities in the northern states established similar organizations, but the one in Cleveland was the first. Also, although men established the counterpart groups in Columbus, Cincinnati and other Ohio communities, women founded and ran the original organization in Cleveland, as well as branches in Olmsted Falls, West View and other communities around northeastern Ohio.

“The leaders of the Cleveland society speedily invited the co-operation of the smaller places, sending out an immense number of circulars to clergymen, prominent citizens, ladies, etc.,” Johnson wrote. “Numerous societies were soon organized in nearly all the townships of this county and the adjoining counties...”

“The people warmly sustained the efforts of their gallant soldiers, and the ladies were especially zealous in doing so,” Crisfield Johnson wrote in his 1879 book, *History of Cuyahoga County, Ohio*. “On the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, five days after the President's first call for troops, the ladies of Cleveland assembled for the purpose of offering whatever aid they could give, though as to what it would be they, like everyone else, were profoundly ignorant. For a few days the more active scraped lint and made bandages, and made 'raids' on the people to obtain blankets for new volunteers, as yet unprovided with those necessary articles.”

That initial support group soon took the name Ladies' Aid Society of Cleveland. In October 1861, the society began operating as a branch of the United States Sanitary Commission, which was a private relief agency created by an act of Congress on June 18, 1861, to support sick and wounded Union soldiers. On November 30, 1861, the Ladies'

By the time the society changed its name at the end of November, it was receiving contributions from 243 towns of which 120 had branch organizations. In 1861, the Olmsted Falls branch's officers were listed as Mrs. William S. Carpenter as president and Miss H. Dryden as secretary. A later list from 1862 shows Mrs. Elisha Fitch, who had been vice president, had taken over as president.



*Rebecca Cromwell Rouse, shown here as a young woman in a painting and as an older woman in a sketch, organized and served as president of the Ladies' Aid Society, which became the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio, based in Cleveland.*

An 1869 publication, *Our Acre and Its Harvest: Historical Sketch of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio*, shows other officials of the Olmsted Falls chapter included Mrs. D.H. Perry and Mrs. O.W. Kendall, who served as treasurer, apparently at different times, and Mrs. W.B. Wormly, Mrs. J. Williams and Miss Margaret Fitch as directors.

Mrs. Carpenter was Lucina Horr Carpenter, who had married William Sears Carpenter in 1843, the same year they settled on a farm near Olmsted Falls. She was born in 1823 and he was born in 1813, so he was about 10 years older. In 1851, he was elected as a justice of the peace for Olmsted Township. He also served the township as a constable. After the railroad, which became the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway, was built through Olmsted Falls in 1853, he served as the station agent until 1876. Meanwhile, he became the first elected recorder of Olmsted Falls, after the community incorporated as a village in 1856.

William and Lucina Carpenter divorced in the early 1860s. Perhaps her being replaced as president of the Olmsted Falls branch of the Soldiers' Aid Society had some connection to that because divorce was less common and less accepted in society in those days. Lucina and William are listed as owners of separate properties along Columbia Street (now Columbia Road) on an 1866 tax record. She lived until 1895. Early in 1868, William married Julia Ann Hotchkiss, who was born as Julia Ann Barlow about 1823 in upstate New York, so she was about 45 when she married William Carpenter, who was about 10 years older than her.

Miss Dryden was Harriet Howe Dryden, who was born in 1833. She was the daughter of Cyrus Perry Dryden and Harriet Almeda Howe Dryden, who moved to land along Seminary Road (now Lewis Road) in 1834. In 1868, she became the second wife of

Dr. Augustus P. Knowlton, who along with his father William, served in the medical corps of the Union Army during the Civil War. In 1870, A.P. and Harriet Knowlton bought the Dryden homestead along Seminary Road.



*Mary Ann Olcott Fitch served as the second president of the Olmsted Falls branch of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio. Photo courtesy of Tom Atkinson.*

Mrs. Elisha Fitch was Mary Ann Olcott Fitch, who was born in 1811 or 1812 (sources differ) in Hartford, Connecticut. She married Elisha Fitch in 1831 shortly before they moved to Olmsted Township. More about them and their adopted daughter, Helen, who married James Atkinson in 1862, and the house they built at what now is 7555 Columbia Road can be found in Issue 15 of *Olmsted 200* from August 2014.

Mrs. D.H. Perry was Eveline White Perry, who married Daniel H. Perry in 1855. Mrs. O.W. Kendall was Susan Dryden Kendall, who married Oscar W. Kendall in 1848.

In West View, Mrs. Phebe Adams was listed as president and Mrs. M.A. Vaughn as secretary in the 1861 and 1862 Soldiers' Aid Society reports. They also are listed in the 1869 Publication, but that listing further shows Mrs. T.L. Read served as president and Mrs. E.M.

Baker served as secretary, apparently later in the war, and Miss E. Adams served as Treasurer.

In addition, the 1869 publication lists a West Olmsted branch of the society that wasn't included in the 1861 and 1862 reports. Perhaps "West Olmsted" meant the part of Olmsted Township outside of Olmsted Falls. It lists Mrs. Phebe Adams and then Mrs. Horace Tyler as serving as president and Miss Lucia Briggs as serving as secretary and treasurer.

Phebe Underhill Adams was born October 14, 1802. She lived a long life of more than 82 years before she died on February 19, 1885, but the two children she had with her husband, Ransom J. Adams, did not survive childhood. Perhaps the lack of family is why she had time to devote to the Soldiers' Aid Society. Her grave is in the old Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

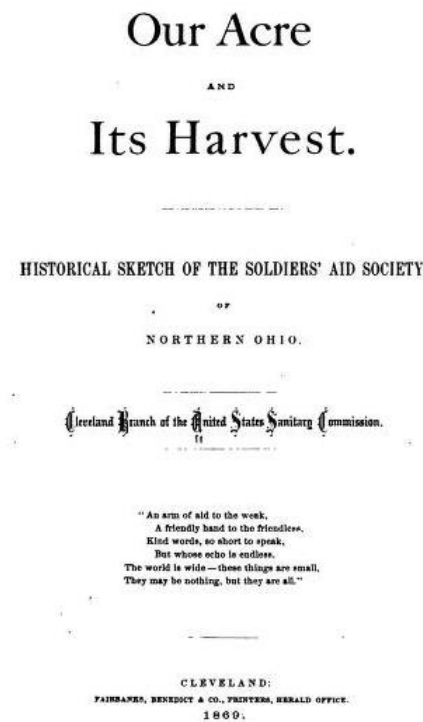


*Phebe Underhill Adams was listed as president of both the West View and West Olmsted branches of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio.*

Mrs. M.A. Vaughn was Minerva A. Van Norman Vaughn. She was born October 28, 1836, in Nelson Township in what now is Ontario, Canada. She married Calvin Riley

Vaughn, who was from Cuyahoga County, on October 5, 1858. His previous wife, Harriet Amanda Hickox, who was from the West View area on the Lorain County side of the border, had died in 1856. Calvin Vaughn died on August 21, 1864, and his body was buried at Butternut Ridge Cemetery. Several months later, Minerva Vaughn was appointed the postmaster at West View. On Christmas Day 1873, she married Barnet Woodbury Wetmore in Geneva, Ohio, where she went to live. She died in 1901 in Cleveland.

Mrs. E.M. Baker apparently was Eugenia Minerva Disbro Baker, who was born in 1843, married Merrill Eri Baker in 1862 and died in 1897. Merrill Baker was a stone quarry superintendent most of his working life. He remarried two years after Eugenia's death. He died at age 83 at the West View station on July 13, 1918, when he was hit by the Cleveland-bound train he was about to board.



*Our Acre and Its Harvest, which was published in 1869, compiled information about the activities of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio during the Civil War and afterwards.*

felt the shock. Thousands of contributions of every description flowed in upon the ladies of the society, by whom they were forwarded to the suffering soldiers.”

By July 1862, the society had 325 branches, but Johnson wrote, “The officers of the Northern Ohio Society refused to receive money from any of the subordinate

Mrs. Horace Tyler was Sarah Stevens Tyler, who became the second wife of Horace Tyler on September 20, 1837. He was born in 1802 but her birth year is unknown.

The Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio with help from its branches in Olmsted Falls, West View and elsewhere demonstrated how effective a philanthropic organization could be during wartime two decades before the founding of the American Red Cross. Financed by private donations, the organization used its funds and donated goods to provide medical supplies, clothing, food and hospital services to soldiers throughout the Civil War. The society's distribution center was located at 95 Bank Street (now West Sixth Street) in Cleveland.

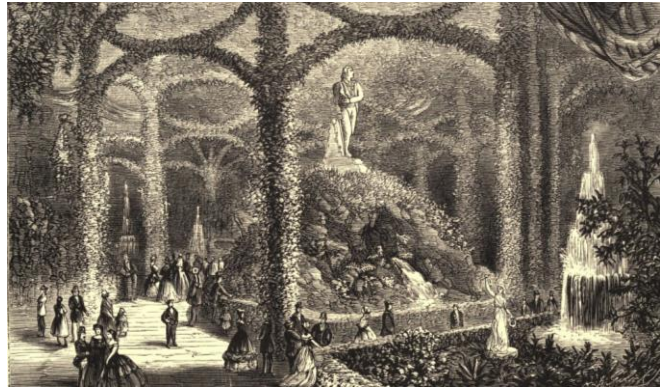
Following the Union capture of Fort Donelson in Tennessee in February 1862, the society sent a thousand sets of hospital clothing and 160 boxes of supplies to the troops. The organization's efforts intensified after the Battle of Pittsburg Landing, also known as the Battle of Shiloh, on April 6-7, 1862. Nearly every regiment from northeastern Ohio was involved, and hundreds of men from Cuyahoga County were among those killed and wounded. Crisfield Johnson wrote that “the whole community



organizations, thinking it better that it should be invested in material, prepared for use by members of the various associations at home, and then forwarded by means of the facilities which the Northern Ohio Society could furnish.”

By the winter of 1862-1863, the society had more than 400 branches. Along with its other donations, the society sent potatoes and onions when the army needed vegetables to prevent scurvy in the soldiers.

In late February and early March 1864, the society staged the Northern Ohio Sanitary Fair to raise funds. It was held in a temporary building on Cleveland’s Public Square that was shaped like a Greek cross. The exhibits included floral and artistic displays, as well as some with war souvenirs. Major General James Garfield, who later became president, opened the fair, which was more successful than expected. In the end, the society had raised \$78,000.



*This is an artist’s depiction of the Floral Hall at the Northern Ohio Sanitary Fair in Cleveland in early 1864.*

The organization used the money to set up a depot hospital in Cleveland.

After the war, beginning in May 1865, the society operated an employment agency for six months that helped 206 mostly disabled former soldiers find work. By June 1, 1866, the society had about \$9,000 left. That money was used to settle former soldiers’ war claims, bounties, back pay and pensions.

## **Quarry Accident Took a Young Life 150 Years Ago**

The opening of quarries in Olmsted Falls in about 1870 brought an industrial boom to the community and employed dozens of men at a time over the next few decades. But an item from 150 years ago in the Olmsted column written by L.B. Adams in Berea’s *Grindstone City Advertiser* for June 9, 1871, indicated how dangerous quarries could be, not only for the men who worked in them but also for the children who lived near them. In this case, it was a quarry run by Luther Barnum at the site of what now is David Fortier River Park:

*A singular and fatal accident occurred here, early Sunday morning. A little son of John Welch, six years of age, climbed upon some stone cars that were standing on the side track which leads into Barnum’s quarry, and loosened a brake. The grade being steep, the cars began to move swiftly down the track, and the child, becoming frightened, tried to get off, when he fell between the cars and was crushed so badly that he died in a short time.*

*The moving cars brought up against some others, standing further down the track. One of them was thrown from the track and damaged considerably.*



*One piece of rail near a pile of cut sandstone is all that is left of the railroad spur that hauled stones out of the quarry that was located on land that now is David Fortier River Park in Olmsted Falls.*

That, of course, was a time before governmental safety regulations, insurance requirements and threats of lawsuits led to fencing off industrial sites to keep children and other intruders away. Today, the park that has replaced the quarry welcomes children of all ages, at least during daylight hours.

More about the quarries of Olmsted Falls and West View and what became of them can be found in Issues 80 through 85 of *Olmsted 200* from January

through June 2020.

## **Historical Essayist and Quarry Historian Pass On**

Two men whose work touched the pages of *Olmsted 200* passed away this spring. One was Patrick Carroll, a 66-year-old graduate of Olmsted Falls High School from the Class of 1972. He contributed essays about his adventures growing up in Olmsted Falls and comments about other stories.

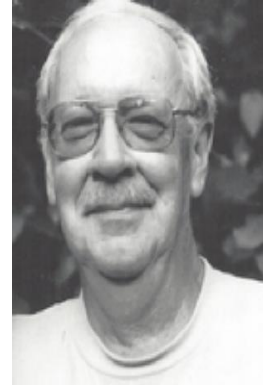


*Patrick Carroll told stories of growing up in Olmsted in the 1960s and 1970s*

One of his essays, “Olmsted Teens Take on the Legend of Gore Orphanage,” was published in Issue 66 from November 2018. A few months later, Issues 69 and 70 from March and April 2019 included a two-part story from him: “Winter Games Were Daring Half a Century Ago.”

Carroll, who made his living teaching and performing music, intended to write other essays for *Olmsted 200*. In June 2019, he wrote in an email, “I have a good story from around 1967-68 concerning the annual firemen's small fair that Olmsted Township used to put on behind the fire department on the corner of Fitch and Cook Rds. It was a summer event.” He also had

mentioned one he intended to write about early years at Fitch Elementary School. Unfortunately, he suffered from many health problems in recent years that prevented him from putting those recollections in writing. He died May 6 in Wooster, where he lived in recent years.



*Ralph Pfingsten wrote about all the Berea Sandstone quarries of Ohio.*

Another writer whose work has been mentioned in *Olmsted 200* was Ralph Pfingsten. Reader Ross Bassett wrote in April that he had died in March. Pfingsten's obituary said he was 81 years old. He was a Berea resident who did much volunteer work for the West Park Historical Society. Also, he was known to many people around Ohio as Mr. Salamander for many years of studying salamanders as a biology researcher. What brought him to the attention of *Olmsted 200* in Issue 92 from this past January was his 2019 book, *The Berea Sandstone Quarries of Ohio: The Real "True Grit."* It includes the histories of many quarries, including those that operated in Olmsted Falls and West View. Stories in *Olmsted 200* delved deeper into the operations and legacies of the local quarries, but Pfingsten's book, which is available through the West Park Historical Society, provides the wider perspective of all the quarries in the region.

## Still to Come

The next issue of *Olmsted 200* will include stories about the building of one of Olmsted Township's first roads, the creation of its first cemetery, a big Independence Day ceremony after the Civil War and a Civil War veteran from Olmsted who survived Confederate prisoner of war camps.

If you know of other people who would like to receive *Olmsted 200* by email, please feel free to forward it to them. They can get on the distribution list by sending a request to: [wallacestar@hotmail.com](mailto:wallacestar@hotmail.com). *Olmsted 200* has readers in several states beyond Ohio, including California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Michigan, Wisconsin, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maine, as well as overseas in the Netherlands, Germany and Japan.

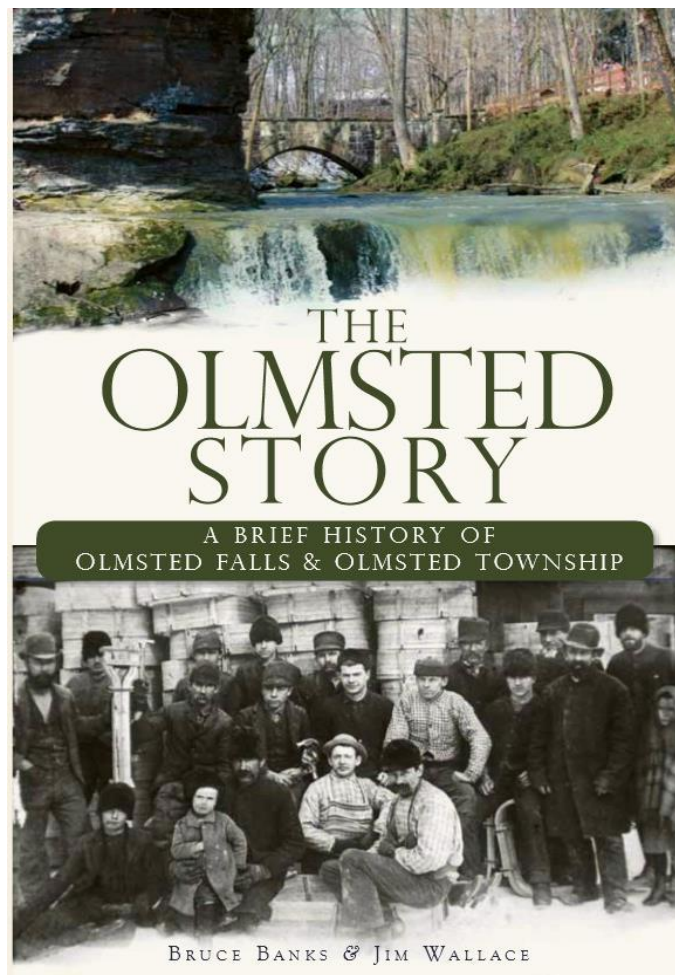
Your questions and comments about *Olmsted 200* are welcome. Perhaps there is something about Olmsted's history that you would like to have pulled out of *Olmsted 200*'s extensive archives. Or perhaps you have information or photos about the community's history that you would like to share.

If you have missed any of the past issues of *Olmsted 200* or want to share them with someone else, all of them can be found on Olmsted Township's website. Go to <http://olmstedtownship.org/newsletters/>. A list of *Olmsted 200* issues is on the right side. Click on the number of the issue you want to read. All of the issues of *Olmsted 200* also

are available on the website of the City of Olmsted Falls. Find them at: [http://www.olmstedfalls.org/olmsted\\_falls\\_history/index.php](http://www.olmstedfalls.org/olmsted_falls_history/index.php). A link to *Olmsted 200* can be found on the left side of the page.

Except where otherwise noted, all articles in *Olmsted 200* are written by Jim Wallace. Thanks go to Mary Louise King for help in proofreading and editing many issues. Thanks also go to David Kennedy for frequently contributing research and insight for some stories. Written contributions and photos, as well as comments and questions about items in this newsletter, will be considered for publication. Send any correspondence by email to: [wallacestar@hotmail.com](mailto:wallacestar@hotmail.com).

*Olmsted 200* is written, researched and edited by Jim Wallace, who is solely responsible for its content. He is co-author (with Bruce Banks) of ***The Olmsted Story: A Brief History of Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township***, published in 2010 by The History Press of Charleston, S.C. ***The Olmsted Story*** is available at Angelina's Pizza in Olmsted Falls and the Berea Historical Society's Mahler Museum & History Center and through online booksellers.



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