

r j abraham
ten terrace dr
athens OH 45701

||| for the

Athens
County
Historical
Society
and
Museum

||| submitted by
raymond j abraham
28 sept 2014

10 August 2014

TO: The Athens County Historical Society and Museum
FROM: Raymond J Abraham (Athens native-DOB-5 Feb 1934)
RE: THE COURTNEY HOME & INTERESTING ITEMS RE ATHENS, OHIO

The Courtney Home (also known as Courtney Hill and Farm) is the oldest home in Athens, Ohio and remains on its original foundation of sandstone. Partial logs were cemented over to eliminate cold drafts during the winters. The house was built in 1806 and is now (2014)-208 years old. (2017-211)
My brother Paul and I purchased the house in 1970. Paul and I lived in our home for 41 years before his passing in 2011. I remain in the home; now, 44 years.
It was the residence of several occupants over the years and brother and I resided in home for more years than all the other owners; including, the Courtneys. It has undergone extensive remodeling, renovating and repair work. It was completely re-wired-and new plumbing was installed underground to replace old pipes which were deteriorating from the plumbing which was installed during the 40's. Elmer and Laura Jones (realtors from Glouster, Ohio) purchased the house in the 50's and lived in the house for a short period; began building houses on the hill. Thus the hill known as Bingham Road was re-named Joneswood Drive. From the top of Joneswood, the road coming down to Columbus Road was re-named Terrace Drive.

The Courtney Home which is situated at the bottom of the hill has the address-10 Terrace Dr. It had other addresses--Route 33 and Columbus Rd. City advised that we could name our own address, but I chose to keep it Terrace and numbered it 10 since the last house on hill was #8.

The Jones and their young son and daughter lived in the house which also served as their realty offices. For two years it was leased to Beacon School. They held classes there for a few students and fenced in a large area for a playground. 8 Terrace was to be the final home for the Jones. Elmer and Laura lived in the "home" which was really a double-garage and utility room-which doubled as a living room and kitchenette. Their bedroom was one of the garages and the house was to be built on top. They divorced and the addition never happened. After Laura's passing, the bldg. was remodeled and became a 2 bedroom apartment which a young couple now occupy.

NEAL COURTNEY

Neal Courtney, an Englishman, was born in 1758. According to family tradition, he was tending sheep on a hillside in Ireland when he was impressed into service in the Royal British Navy. He swam shore from a British ship in New York Harbor and later joined the Colonial Army in the Revolutionary War. A stonecutter and farmer, he settled in Athens County, the Courtney home, one mile north of Athens in 1806. He sponsored the first road out of Athens to the north, starting at the Bingham's horse-mill (East Bridge) and extending up Carpenter and Lancaster over Columbia and down through--the woods to this site. Courtney departed this earth in 1826 and is buried in West State Street Cemetery. He made all the bricks for the home. The front of the house was part of the old Route 33. A trolley-car ran on rails on the other side of the driveway. There is an Indian mound on the hill behind the house.

Although it is believed by some, that The Bingham House is the oldest house in Athens. The Courtney Home is the oldest on its original foundation. The Bingham House has been moved two times and when it was moved to its present location (The Visitors Centre--across from the Convocation Centre) it was repaired (including replacement of original window(s) by Tri-County vocational students.

Marjorie Mitchell, my good friend and neighbor, lived on Riverview Drive which is a side street of Terrace Dr. The late Marjorie was a former Athens County Clerk of Courts. She believed that the original Bingham House was built at the top of the hill; thus, the name Bingham Road. If this were true, it has been moved 3 times. Bingham's brother Alvan may have lived in the house for a brief time. The Bingham house served as our early court house and Alvan was the first treasurer of Athens County. Bingham Road was a dirt road until the 1950s. Captain Silas was one of the men with George Washington when he crossed the Delaware. His monument where he is buried in West State St Cemetery, states this fact. The painting of Washington Crossing The Delaware hung in many, many classrooms across the nation. I have the one that hung in the old Athens Junior High School. It is difficult to determine which one is Bingham in the painting. Neal Courtney built another building on university territory and may have been used to house students or/and have classes (?) It was torn down several, several years ago. The third Courtney Home was built approximately eight (8) years after the 1806 home. It is located on River Road (across from Rt 33 and Athens High School) and was purchased by Joyce Miller. She has done a lot of remodelling and added a man-made pond. Not Neal, but his grandson Alanzo built this house. The date it was built is engraved on the stonehead above the front door. The same with my house, above the door 1806 A.D, However my front door is now a screened in porch and the back door is now my front door.

With the help of former Athens County Recorder, we spent, on and off, several weeks, locating all the deeds for Courtney Home. I, now, have copies of all the deeds of previous owners dating back to 1807 when Neal sold the house to his son. When we purchased the house from Laura Jones, she was not the owner; but, the realtor for the Bryant Family who had purchased the house several years before. When they left Athens, they rented out the house to 2 couples--one family lived in the upstairs and the other in the downstairs. The ones who lived upstairs used the fire-escape (built when it was The Beacon School) and still remains. Two of the Bryant daughters were students of mine when I was a teacher at Athens High School. They and other family members returned to Athens once and came to visit to see all the remodelling I had done. The former Athens County Recorder (I forgot to mention) was Julia Michael Scott.

When I was in grade school, some of my friends and I used to play in the Courtney Home. It was boarded up at the time but there were places open where we "sneaked" in to play in "the haunted house!" Never, in my wildest, did I ever dream that someday it would become my permanent home! Granted, we did hear strange noises and eerie incidents. But after our priest blessed the house, we never experienced anymore "hauntings."

As a young kid, many of us would go swimming at one of the old resevoirs at Sugar Creek. There used to be an old bldg out there on Rte. 550 which had a sign in front saying it was the oldest bldg. in Athens County. It was torn down several years ago.

Columbus Road-----the old Route 33 still has part of the road visible behind houses on Columbus Rd. One was Dr. Edward Sprague's office and is now a Dental bldg.

Something more interesting is that as Neal Courtney was building my home, another house was being built on what was mostly barren land. It is the Dorr Home (Dorr Dr) and is located down the road from my house, barely visible behind Pine trees and is behind the former Lake Motel which burned down many years ago. Former Athens Mayor Franz Woodworth (1942-48) bought

the house and called it his "retreat home." My Dad used to visit him there. The house is now owned and lived in by Patricia Orcutt Funk and we both feel that it is the 2nd oldest house in Athens. Pat and I were classmates at AHS. The Bingham House was probably built c 1807. He and about 15 others were early settlers of Athens.

Earlier this summer, roofers were doing some repair work on the deck of the balcony of house. They had to take off two beams on either side of the door to fit the roofing underneath. Behind one of the beams was an old, yellowed newspaper which fell apart in pieces. It was The Athens Mirror but couldn't find a date or anything else legible. I called my friends & former AHS classmates-Kenner & Margene Bush (former publishers of The Athens Messenger.) She and Kenner did some research and mailed me a list of the early papers. It had several names before its present name and the one roofers found and it's actually Athens Mirror and Literary Register and was called that for 5 years (1825-30.) 'Course we have other items found in house and yard which date back to early 1800s. Probably, The "Mirror" was put there by owners doing repair work at that time. Shortly after moving to house, I started getting telephone calls and visits from the late Christine Courtney Danford of Chauncey, Ohio. She gave so much information about the house, and being related to the Courtneys, a great deal about them. There are still Courtneys living in both The Plains and Chauncey.

In 1962, while a student at Ohio Universtiy, John Ogden (a descendant of Louisa Courtney Carpenter) did a thesis on the Courtneys. He wrote to me and visited in my home. He wanted to buy my house and also the other Courtney home on River Road. He admitted that he took all the information he could find on the Courtneys from the Courthouse and did not return such. At that time, computers, copy machines, etc. were not as available as they are today. This is probably why much is not written about the Courtneys and the homes. His cousin, Judith Johnson Burkhardt (a descendant of Rufus Courtney) and he collaberated on a book, The Courtneys's-An American Odyssey.

My brother Charles, who passed away in 2013, and his wife owned & operated The Mall Cafe, Columbus, Ohio, for over 45 years. It was adjacent to the Abraham Law Offices on Broad & High Streets. Many of the customers were from the State Capitol building nearby. One of them frequented the cafe after business hours, and ran up a high tab and was unable to pay his debt. My brother accepted an old Atlas of Athens County c 1875 and contains much information on the Courtney Home (10 Terrace Dr.) "A badly decomposed skeleton was obtained from an Indian mound on the farm; then, owned by Neal's son Alanson who purchased the home in 1807-08." A similar passage is published in The Centennial Atlas of Athens County Ohio c 1905.

I often wonder if this mound, on the hill behind my home, could be where Tecumseh is buried (?) The Tecumseh production is presented at Sugarloaf Amphitheatre in Chillicothe, Ohio during the summer months. And it is believed that Indian chiefs were always buried within 90 miles from where they died.

As mentioned before, part of the old Route 33 road can still beseen behind houses on Columbus Road. It crossed over Col.Rd (Rt 33) and ran in front of 10 Terrace. In front of my driveway is a long level strip of land where a Trolley Car once ran.

Besides the Indian Mound on the hill behind 10 Terrace, there is a pattern of 12 large stones; maybe, a sun dial(?) Then there is a strange row of bricks & stones (which some believe may have been where "witches" congregated) Next to the "sun dial" is a plot of soft soil. One summer, one of my yard helpers dug a wide hole over 8 ft deep. A hollow space was discovered and could have been part of the "underground railroad." In grade school, our teachers would take us on many field trips; one, being to view the hide-out where slaves hid, before the coast was clear for them to continue on their route to freedom. This hide-out is located in the bldg on E Washinton St. (now a fraternity house.) It continued under 5 locations on Court Street.

Nearly all the bldgs on Court St. have basements. Many have been remodeled for businesses; the, Woolworth's basement, below the former Burger King and many others. Years ago, when Athena Chakiris (Athens native) was a planning commissioner, she wanted to make these sites available as a tourist attraction but owners refused. From Court St, the "railroad" continued below the now Athens Middle School. And then, maybe on to the hillside above 10 Terrace (?) Others; Pictured in atlases and books are Rutland, Racine and McConnelville, to mention a few.

Teachers took us on many field trips. Other than the "underground railroad", we got to see many university buildings and observe classes; especially, the theatre department and see plays being rehearsed. One of our favourites was an annual picnic at the end of the year to the Asylum Grounds. We always called it: The Asylum, The Grounds or the Asylum Grounds. We got to see the orchard and over 100 trees donated from all over the world, the "Zoo" to see the chimpanzees, parrots & other animals. For years, many did not believe there was an alligator in the fountain which was in front of the Administration Building. Many days, after school, classmates and I would run down to the Asylum to play miniature golf, ride in a canoe on one of the ponds, picnic, ice-skate and ski over the hills. We learned so much from the patients we sat on the lawns and talked with. They were ones who were allowed to be outside (but were under supervision.) During the winter months we got to sit in the boathouse and listen to the old man caretaker who told us so many stories. We kept warm inside by a pot-belly stove and the man always had cookies and hot chocolate for us. How we loved this great person. Whether the ponds were planned to represent cards or not, he and many of the patients believed they were; even, if we pretended. But when you walked up to the top of the hills and looked down on the ponds, they did look like the shapes of cards: the heart, spade, club and especially the larger pond which did resemble the diamond! We got to see the deck-of-cards stained glass window in one of the buildings. Many of us and many of the patients would have it no other way. They would have been very upset as we are to read in all the books published that the ponds and other things at the Asylum were myths.

Many of the publishers are not Athens natives and did not do enough research. Mr. Tritipo at the old Trading Post at the far end of West Union Street was very knowledgeable - and taught us more than many of our teachers could. He, my dad and many old-timers told us that the Hocking River was re-routed years and years ago but found its way into its original channel. When I was a fine-arts teacher at AHS & AMS, my students were shown many photos & slides of the old Athens. I was probably the last person to take pictures before the Asylum Grounds were destroyed. Shortly after the re-routing of the river I invited members of the Corp of Engineers who worked on the re-routing, to come and speak to elementary students I was teaching in a summer recreational program. They said that they "couldn't wait to get out of there because the stones on the banks were starting to slip back into the water."

Many areas of Athens are quicksand and the new Baker Centre is built on the old river bed. Whenever there is large rainfall, the basement of Baker is flooded and water has to be siphoned out (?) Even the tower appears to be leaning.

Many of the books written--about Athens are beautifully done; however, have inaccuracies. Two of the most accurate books are "Images of America-Athens" by Athens native Richard A. Straw (AHS '67) and "Images of America-Athens County" by Ron Luce (former director of Athens County Museum & Society.) I have been working on my book about the "real Athens" for over 20 years and I am sure there will be-- skepticism from readers. This letter contains excerpts from my book. I rely on notes, photos and tapes I have kept over the years--which date back to 1916!

After reading Betty Hollow's "Ohio University-The Spirit of a Singular Place-1804-2004" I wrote Betty a complimentary letter for a book well-done but did mention some inaccuracies. I am amazed at how quickly the book was written, but with computers and new innovations, it's believable. A copy of my letter to her was placed in the book at the museum, but was removed. I only wish

that more information would have been obtained from those who were available but since have passed away: Helen Gray, Jimmy Anastas, Kermit Blosser, Isabella Brown Dautel (daughter of Millie Brown) who lived in the Brown House at the top of Putnam (Jefferson) Hill. Isabella graduated from Athens High School in 1942 with my sister. She and I have kept in contact until her passing over a year ago. The stories she could tell; mostly, from her mother. One was when Millie Brown was riding her horse and rode over to Meet President McKinley when he was in Athens. Carl Reamer who wrote "View from the Hill: for The Athens Messenger called me often for information for his articles. Many were from notes from letters I had received from Isabella. On one occasion I called Carl to let him know that more Presidents had visited Athens or/and OU. One was President Truman (in 1948) who came out from the club car on the train. The train was only stopped for a few minutes; long enough to empty or put contents on one of the Express wagons. We lived directly across the street from the depot (W Union St) where we had a restaurant. This one conductor always ran across to our restaurant where he got hot dogs and a six-pack of beer. On that particular morning, the conductor told my dad, "Papa Joe", you'd better wake up the boys (my brothers and I) because Truman was on the train!) It was summer and school was out. My one brother and I ran over in our pj's. The train was slowly moving away as the President waved to only a few of us who were there. The Messenger building was farther up on West Union and news spread fast but reporters got there too late and the train was out of sight. At the time, we were one of the few who sold magazines and my brothers and I would be allowed to go on the trains to sell magazines and newspapers. We got to meet many movie stars & other notables who travelled more by trains in those days. To date, 17 U.S. Presidents have visited Athens; the, last being Barack Obama. Another, I told Reamer about, was President Buchanan who was in my house, 2 years before he became President, to attend a wedding party for his cousin Marinda who married Rufus, the son of Neal Courtney. They were married in Logan, Ohio and are buried in Nye Cemetery, Chauncey. During WWII many of us helped collect magazines (many old ones from our restaurant) for Mrs. McGranger who also lived close to train station. When the troop trains came by we passed out the magazines to the soldiers. There was an article about this in Reader's Digest-years ago.

Correction: Rufus Courtney was the grandson (not son) of Neal.

I produced over 150 videos for Local Access & Regional Television. They included many events, parades, The Asylum Grounds (one with Mr. Dickerson who has been maintenance supervisor for "The Ridges" several years and another with his mother who worked at the Asylum for 30 years.) One scene shows her with her grandson, looking down over the hill as she tells her grandson about the ponds and how many still believe that they are in the shapes of cards.), OU Homecomings, sports events, Marching 110 and many, many more. A few were of Athens County Museum & Society and Mt. Calvary Cemetery; narrations, by Jo Prisley and Marjorie Stone. My shows were called "As Time Goes By--ra" which was the original title for my book. It has a new title now. Shows also had original photos. Both the late James Anastas and now, Margene Gilson has the best collection of Athens County postcards. We always joke that I have the real photos depicted on postcard.

I continue working on my book and will maintain that 10 Terrace Dr is the oldest house remaining on its original foundation. We have found many items on the hillside, including Indian spearheads.

Many items I have were to be donated to Museum. Ron Luce visited with me and we selected several items. But Mr. Luce is no longer the Director at Museum and I now have reservations about donations; especially since some items I had previously donated to Museum have "disappeared."

REFERENCES AND/OR BOOKS, ARTICLES

Images of America-Athens Richard A Straw
Athens County: The Second Century 1905-2005 Gary Hunter
Images of America-Athens County Ron Luce
Asylum on the Hill Katherine Ziff
As Time Goes By-A Pictorial Journal of Athens Ohio Marjorie Stone
Ohio University-The Spirit of a Singular Place 1804-2004 Betty Hollow
Athens County Family History-1987 Beverly Schumacher & Mary L Bowman
The Centennial Atlas of Athens County, Ohio Fred W Bush

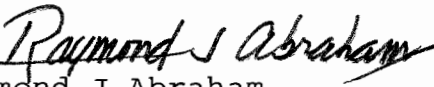
The Courtneys-An America Odyssey John Ogden & Judith Burkhart
Campus Martius, Marietta, Ohio (Arlington VA) (Indiana)
Microfilms - Alden Library, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
Athens County Museum & Historical Society
Athens County-The Second Century (notes not included in book.)
Athens County Atlases Judy Sheakley, R J Abraham---owners

Charles Reamer, † Darrell Herron, † Jean Trepp, † Virginia Hoover, † Helen Gray, †
Violet Russell, † Dalton (was oldest living AHS graduate-1925-passed, age 105)
Isabelle Brown Dautel, † Millie Brown, † Herman Humphrey, † Kermit Blosser, †
Joseph Abraham, † Mattie Berry, † Julia Michael Scott, † Christine Courtney, †
Danson, Namon Joseph, † Judy David, † Joseph Tritipo, † Laura & Elmer Jones, †
Ramona Joseph, † Mary Thomas, † John Jagers and so many others. With the
exception of Julia Michael Scott, all the above have passed away.
Presently, Mary Diles & others are interested in another Athens book.

OTHER & PROBABLY THE BEST RESOURCES

Notes, Letters, photographs, diaries, tapes, home recordings,
drawings, paintings, videos-----Dated back from 1916 to present 2014.

I am sure that some of my writings will always be debated, but my interest
and research is accurate & accounted for in many records. I will continue
to contend that 10 Terrace Dr is the OLDEST HOUSE ON ITS ORIGINAL FOUNDATION!


Raymond J Abraham
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NOTE: Please excuse any typographical
errors. I am temporarily without
a computer and know the contents
could have been presented in a
more acceptable condition.

rja

cc Athens County Museum & Historical Society
Others
Personal



NE

N

COLUMBUS

OHIO

10 TERRACE DRIVE 1806

TROLLEY CAR

ATHENS OHIO

ATHENS COUNTY

COLUMBUS ROAD

OLD ROUTE 33

TERRACE DRIVE

ROAD BEHIND
HOUSES STILL
VISIBLE

RIVERVIEW DRIVE

OLD BINGHAM ROAD

JONESWOOD DRIVE

COLUMBIA AVENUE

MADISON AVENUE TO EAST STATE STREET

mja

10 August 2014

TO: The Athens County Historical Society and Museum
FROM: Raymond J Abraham (Athens native-DOB-5 Feb 1934)
RE: THE COURTNEY HOME & INTERESTING ITEMS RE ATHENS, OHIO

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My brother Paul and I purchased the house in 1970. Paul and I lived in our home for 41 years before his passing in 2011. I remain in the home; now, 44 years.

It was the residence of several occupants over the years and brother and I resided in home for more years than all the other owners; including, the Courtneys. It has undergone extensive remodeling, renovating and repair work. It was completely re-wired-and new plumbing was installed underground to replace old pipes which were deteriorating from the plumbing which was installed during the 40's. Elmer and Laura Jones (realtors from Glouster, Ohio) purchased the house in the 50's and lived in the house for a short period; began building houses on the hill. Thus the hill known as Bingham Road was re-named Joneswood Drive. From the top of Joneswood, the road coming down to Columbus Road was re-named Terrace Drive.

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NEAL COURTNEY

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THE COURTNEY HOME

The Courtney Home is the oldest house in Athens. Built by Neal Courtney in 1806, it was originally known as "Courtney Hill" or the "Courtney Farm." Courtney is buried in West State Street Cemetery, Athens, Ohio.

It was the residence of several occupants over the years and during the 1950s, was a school-house for Beacon School (approx. two years) for classes. A large area on the outside was fenced in for a playground. Fire-escape steps were added and still remain today.

The home was purchased by R J Abraham and P Abraham in 1970 and they have resided there for more years than all the other owners; including, the Courtneys. It has undergone extensive remodeling, renovating & repair-work over the past 37 years.

14 February 2008

r j abraham

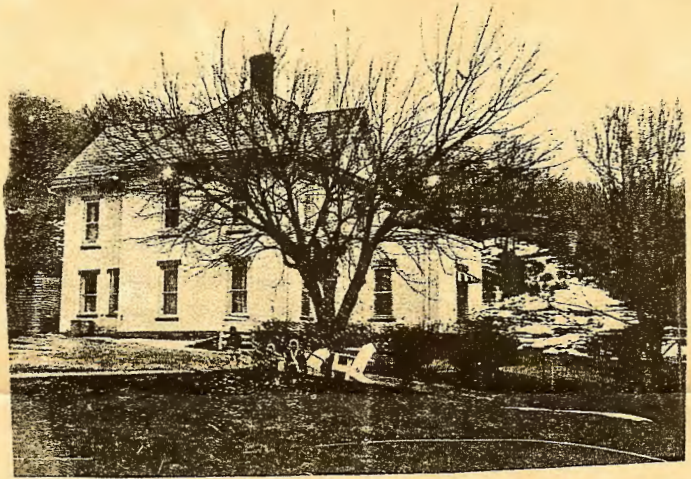


Photo of the house showing the playground area in the foreground. Rt 33 N, Athens OH

C-1950



Ten Terrace Drive, Athens, Ohio

Above photo was taken by Mary Diles c1999. Since then, ivy has covered most of the front & sides of the house. The well at the house can be restored to service. It has beautiful hand-hewn stones down the walls underneath. The house had been painted different colors over the years. We had wanted to sand-blast and restore to the original bricks but it loosened the mortar and was causing damage. I decided on the stucco and bark-brown paint. As the years go by, the paint is fading and revealing the brick underneath, the way it was planned. I added the wooden beams, giving it an English-Tudor effect and arched all the windows for a Spanish flair. We planted all the trees and landscaped the entire area. The 3-car garage was not part of the original home and is constructed with concrete blocks (which I never liked.) I arched the openings which never had doors and added the railing; same, as balcony (front of house) which was once a room-destroyed by the tornado in 1948.

The article made me realize that the house was older than what realtor had told us when we purchased the house; probably, thinking we would not buy it. It was in bad shape and took a long time to fix it up. But I enjoyed and still do, working on the house. This is what got me interested in doing the research work and learning how old the house really was!

1806

212
years
old
2017



—Messenger Photo By Dan Dry

DAMAGED IN 1948 TWISTER — The L. W. Gibbons home — known by some as the Courtney home — at the bottom of Terrace Drive off Columbus Road, was heavily damaged in a tornado in 1948 that roared through Chauncey, The Plains and Athens. At that time there were no other houses or commercial establishments around the house, or damage in the area would have been much more extensive.

point where Russell's Riverside Station and the Sunset Motel are now located it crossed Route 33 and cut over the hill. At that time there were no homes on the hillside overlooking Route 33. Had that tornado hit today, the damage would have been higher and probably there were would have been injuries or deaths.

The L. W. Gibbons home — known locally as the Courtney home — was smashed, but no one injured. It was located at the bottom of what is now Terrace Drive. Trees across from where the motel stands

were twisted into splinters. Hail ripped into houses on the ridge and then the cone skipped over the tree tops to the airport where it tossed planes around like toys. Four planes were wrecked and there was damage to the Children's Home.

As the funnel cleared the hill there was evidence another cone was born because a house and a barn were leveled on Strouds Run, almost parallel to the airport but separated by a steep ridge.

There was damage throughout Athens as fringe

winds tore through town. One of the famed McGuffey Elms was split on the Ohio U. campus, telephone and electric lines were downed and trees were uprooted throughout the city.

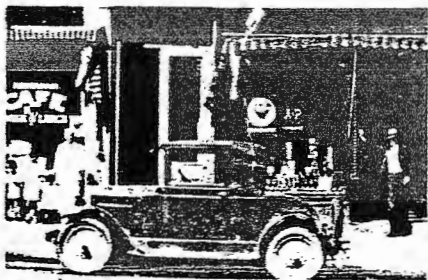
Those two storms struck in the days before the tornado warning system. Today we hear radio and television warnings advising us of possible tornadoes and alerting us when a funnel is sighted. When the announcer warns we are in a tornado area, you better believe him, even if it only happens every 10 or 20 years.

This photo and article appeared on the front page of The Sunday edition of The Athens Messenger (1974.) I had been in Columbus, Ohio during the week-end and my brother was also away. I returned early that Sunday evening and stopped at mailbox at front of driveway to get mail and The Messenger. I was more scared than surprised! My first reaction when seeing the photo was, "Oh, no, the house had been damaged by a storm or another tornado!" Thank God, everything was O.K. Nevertheless, I was upset and called The Messenger the next morning. I have always wanted privacy. Writer Roy Cross and former student, photographer Dan Dry could have contacted me. There were unwanted visitors and cars in my driveway for a couple of weeks.

THE ABRAHAM FAMILY

The Abraham family traces its ancestors back to the Biblical descendants of the Semites, to a mixture of Roman and Christian Crusaders, and to Abraham, Father of a Multitude.

Joseph Abraham, an Athens businessman for 45 years, was born in Isza, Syria in 1889. He came to the USA in 1905 on an American liner and lived in Uniontown, Pennsylvania before moving to Athens in 1917. He married Philomena Joseph (St. Paul's Catholic Church, 1920) and became an American citizen (1924). Abraham purchased the Sloane building (corner W. State-Court) where he opened Abraham's Candyland Cafe. The children, all born on the 2nd floor residence, were delivered by Dr. John Sprague. Abraham built a family home on the corner E. State-Marietta Ave. Mrs. Abraham was killed in an automobile accident in Michigan in 1939 (age 38) while enroute to a nephew's funeral. Abraham died in 1965.



Joseph Abraham with children Julia, Jim, Charlie, Bill and Mitch in 1934 under Cafe sign

Gen. James Abraham, Assistant Adjutant General, Army, Ohio, served with Gen. Patton's Army, World War II. He owned Athens Appliance & TV (1951-1963). He and wife, Meryl (Riley), former Athens schools psychologist, live in Gahanna. Children: Michelle (former Miss U.S.A.) and Danny, lawyer, Columbus.

Julia Abraham Pate, managed Father's business until her death in 1983. She was a secretary, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, and was a WAVE, US Navy, World War II. Children: Joseph, Edward and Roseanna.

Charles Abraham, restaurant proprietor, Columbus, is married to Mary (Steele), Athens. Daughter, Swanee, is married to Don Christman, son of former Athens County Schools Superintendent.

William Abraham owns law firm, Columbus (President and Chairman of Board, Security Bank, Athens). He and wife, Dolores (Trantanella), have sons: Rick, attorney; and Joe, student, Ohio State.

Mitchell Abraham owns Angelo's, Dexter's and Studio 38, Athens. Wife, Ellen (Bebe) Green, comptroller, Security Travel, was chairman, Athens County Heart Fund. Children: Mike, Debbie, David and (Dee, Athens High School.)

Raymond Abraham, a teacher at Athens High School, served in US Army,

Germany. A painting he did of Pope Paul is in the Vatican and was acknowledged in a letter from the Pope.

Paul Abraham, youngest of six sons, is owner of Campus Sundry.

The Abrahams (now totalling 40) watch family films and reminisce years past at Christmastime. They remember selling magazines on the trains when "Papa Joe" had a restaurant on West Union. They will never forget the cold, wintry night at the Ohio Theater, Court St. when "The Three Stooges" movie was interrupted by an announcement for *Messenger* carriers to report to the *Messenger* building. Minutes later, the Abrahams were on the street corners with the "green extras." It was 7 December 1941 — Pearl Harbor had been bombed!

It has been a long time ago since Joseph Abraham talked about his boyhood days, in the old country, playing near the birthplace of Jesus. Submitted by R.J. Abraham

...from the ATHENS COUNTY
ATLAS & FAMILY HISTORIES
(1987)



Photo was taken in 1934 (Year I was born.) Youngest brother, Paul, was born in 1936.



THE ABRAHAM CLAN

Christmas 1997. Family now
totals 85 - 2017
and all live
in Columbus Ohio
area. I remain
the only Abraham in Athens.

JIA

Formerly known as Middletown, Athens derived its name from Athens, Greece (The Centre of Culture and Learning.) The design on this card depicts a Greek Temple with Doric columns, reminiscent of The Parthenon. The red, white and blue honor our patriotic colors and the green edges on the laurel wreath represent the Ohio University in Athens.

This was my design submitted in a contest to have a flag for Athens. I received a call from one of the members on the judging committee telling me that this design was chosen. It would be announced during half-time of an OU football game. The announce- was that Mayor Rick Abel and Service Safety Director Wayne Keys decided to extend the competition time. Another design was selected. It took time, but I eventually accepted their decision (?) After all, many of my designs have been chosen: A schools logo, A county fair design, a cover for the AHS Sports Hall of Fame, an Athens County ornament which has been displayed for several years on the Christmas tree in our State Capitol Bldg (along with the other 80 some counties. But more importantly, the cover design I did for the 1976 Bicentennial Ball was chosen to be one of several items placed in the Time Capsule at the Athens Recreation Centre to be opened up in 2076!

A Painting I did of Pope Paul is on file in The Vatican Library. Another painting is a portrait of Pres. John F Kennedy and was acknowledged in ltr from Jaqueline Kennedy and is in The Kennedy Museum file in Massachusetts. It was done after his assassination. I met Kennedy when he was a senator and was in Athens in 1959. He and I are fraternity brothers of Phi Kappa Theta. In 1980 The Messenger printed a full two-page copy I did of a Christmas tree with over 15,000 names hand-lettered to the publisher. It qualified for the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest worded card sent to the publisher of a newspaper. Previously, the longest recorded letter to an editor was one of 13,000 written to the Editor of the Fishing Gazette in 1884.



So, I have had more than my 15 minutes of fame. I admire all those who have success all over the world. I started the Athens High School Bulldog Hall of Fame in 1967. To date, the large billboard contains the names, photos & resumes of graduates of AHS, The Plains and Chauncey (45 total.) Many are former students of mine, eg. Maya Lin (designer of VietNam Memorial. It consists of those who have achievements in the fields of sports, medicine, art, photography, political, military, etc. Aforementioned are items which were intended for The Athens County Museum & Society.

r j ~~abraham~~

28 July 2012

Ron,

non Luce

Again, thanks for reminding us of our past in ATHENS COUNTY! Especially nostalgic to me was the photo of the former Bank of Athens (pg 48) as well as many others in your book. The door to the left took you upstairs to the office of Dr. John Sprague. He delivered all my brothers, sister and me in our home which was at the other end of Court Street. Dad used to tell his customers at "Abraham's Cafe" (now The Pub) that my cost for delivery was a can of pipe tobacco and a can of Maxwell House Coffee. How well we remember the visits to Doc Sprague and sitting in the waiting-room which was like a quaint Victorian living room. His son, Dr. Edward Sprague delivered most of my nieces and nephews and his office for years was on Columbus Rd (now Dental Depot.) In all, Doc Ted delivered 6,000 babies!

I remember the clock on the corner, which eventually was moved across the street where Chase Bank is now located. And now, you have it at the Athens County Society & Museum, thank God! My late brother Bill (Att'y-Abraham Law Firm, Columbus, Ohio) and investors built former Security Bank and first branch on East State Street. Bill was President & Chairman of Board and after several years, bank was sold to Peoples Bank. The upstairs of Security Bank was national headquarters for AMWAY where I worked during summer months when I wasn't teaching at Athens High School. It brought back more memories as I sat at my desk in the same area where Doc Sprague's office was.

The Berry Hotel was across the street. Although many signs and advertisements called it Hotel Berry, we always called it the Berry Hotel, or simply "we're going to The Berry." Oh, the scenes of so many of our high school and college dances. This grand hotel was sold to car-dealer Fred Beasley (Carpenter St.) and later to Jack Claxton and both did extensive remodelling to the hotel. So many notables, including movie stars & Presidents (not to forget big bands like Harry James, etc.) either entertained, visited, stayed overnight or simply dined in the beautiful "Plantation Lounge." Refer to article encl. All my family worked at The Berry at one time or another—cleaning, washing dishes or/and waiters in dining-room. Deterioration started when the university bought the hotel and it became a dormitory—"Berry Hall." Try as many protested in the razing of the building, it didn't work and it was demolished in 1974. My family wanted to buy the hotel and completely renovate, keeping the hotel in the upper level and miniature malls in the lower level. It was to have underground parking and the decor in the plans were ala New Orleans style. Plans were also to have a travel agency for sports-related events for Athens and Ohio University. Instead, it became the Security Parking Lot for customers in our bars, bank and pizza house and also parking for church-goers at St. Paul's Catholic Church on Sundays. It is now the Secure Parking Lot.

Tanya Thompson and I worked for over 8 years planning the Berry Commemoration Week, designed and had the plaques installed at former Hotel site and also at the Alumni Memorial Gate on campus. We had speakers everyday at the Museum and the first floor exhibited memorabilia from the hotel. A tent and chairs were set up on the last day in front of the site of hotel for speakers and guests. It ended with an open house at the Berry home. It was then, and for 18 years, the chapter house for my fraternity Phi Kappa Theta and I served as Alumni Chapter Advisor and House Director. Refer to another article encl. We had many open houses and an annual neighborhood cook-out in conjunction with OU; thus, helping the town-gown relationship.. The housing corporation decided to sell the house 2 summers ago and it is now just another student rooming house. I was given permission to give away several items. Tanya Thompson got the oriental rug (which she has already displayed during recent Baker Center exhibit); Jo Priskey was given one of the chairs for the Museum; Francine Childs was given the pie-rack cabinet and others were given other items. Mattie Berry actually made the pies for the hotel in the kitchen of the home. Although I was not born before Edward Berry passed, I do remember Mattie (who outlived her husband) and was at my mother's funeral who was killed in an automobile accident—age 38—when I was only 5 years old. Both the Berrys are buried in West Union St. Cemetery.

During the Berry Week, Bill Jones loaned the crystal ball which he has from the hotel dance floor, Vibert Cambridge has the Berry Hall sign but we left the model of the hotel at the museum (now, in your office.) The late Howard Fulks (The Plains) was able to get tiles from floor and fireplace (and a crystal chandelier) from hotel and the foyer of his house has the tile on the floor and also in fireplace he built. When hotel was being razed, many items were given away or sold.

It is a shame that so many buildings were razed—Ewing Hall (beautiful and so reminiscent of Notre Dame University buildings), Howard Hall, AHS Junior High Bldg., and others. The late Marsha Rose and I (with over 500 signatures, presentations, videos, etc.) were able to save Athens Middle School (my alma mater AHS) from being razed. Contractors agreed that it was in better shape than—"new" HS. As I've said before and will say again: "Athens & OU are notorious for tearing down old bldgs faster than we bury the dead!"

nuf sed-----*Paul* r j abraham