

VILLAGE OF SOUTH RUSSELL THEN AND NOW

BY RUTH CAVANAGH

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS AS A VILLAGE.

The Village of South Russell was incorporated
July 23, 1923.

HOW IT ALL HAPPENED

One hundred years ago, the grandchildren of the
pioneers broke away from Russell Township
becoming the Village of South Russell. Families built
their farms
here. One by
one, as the
farms closed,
new homes
sprang up.

Today,
The Village of
South Russell
is a great
place to live
and raise a
family.



1923-2023

PICTURED BELOW IS
VILLAGE HALL
CIRCA 1923.



Rev. Wood, Wade McIlrath, A. H. Matthews, Delbert Matthews, Will Matthews, John Dumont, Nell Dumont, Dave Robinson, Jennie Matthews-Robinson, Sidney Matthews, Hattie Matthews, Clyde Matthews, Elsie Matthews, Mr. & Mrs. Waller, Bernard Waller, Gordon Waller, Mr. & Mrs. George Warren, Maria Warren, Mrs. Lewis & son, Mrs. Rob Matthews, Mable Matthews, Leona & Myrtle, Aletha Matthews, Robert & Roberta Matthews, Blanch Greene, Dorothy Greene-Matthews, Naomi Smith, Grace Martin & Mother Mrs. Harrington, Francis Wayland-Kimball, Nina Patch, Earle and Dorothy Silsby.

FROM DISCONTENTMENT TO A NEW VILLAGE

Discontent with Russell Township's two-room schools, of which there were nine, spawned the drum beat of secession, beginning in 1920.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

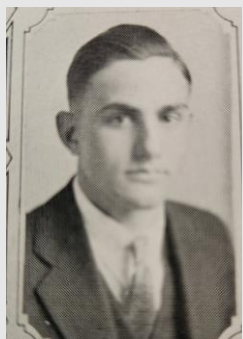


Bob Cathan (1915-2004) "Our school house was a two-room building located on Chillicothe Rd. (5177). The teachers were Mr. & Mrs. Truman Hoxter. Mrs. Hoxter had the first four grades and Mr. Hoxter had the upper four grades. Anyone out of line was sent into the center hall to be paddled by Mr. Hoxter with

a rubber inner tube. Tom Cathan and David McIlrath were two regulars."

"In 1925 South Russell school was consolidated with Chagrin Falls. We were transported to school in a Model T Ford school bus driven by Lynn Waller first, later by Harry Richardson.

Prior to the consolidation there was a horse driven Kid Hack for those far away. The driver, 'Old Pete' chewed tobacco in unison to the clack of the horses' feet."



Audre Blair (1915-2012) "Well you know we had to tend to the cow, the horses while Ma got the stove going. She'd have hot cereal or oatmeal ready when we came in [and] had our lunch buckets packed. We got washed up. We ate. Harry Richardson would wait for us in front of the house. Every so often we were late and had to walk to the old

Schoolhouse [that was] not far from 1317 Bell Rd.

If you sat near the stove, it was too hot. If you sat by the window, it was too cold. Mrs. Hoxter was very kind, but we still pulled pranks. Pulled girls pigtails, let mice out in the school. Frankie Book was the worst, always [doing] something."



Norma Bartholomew Green (1919-2010) "I started School when I was four. Imagine walking down Chillicothe Road, in 1923.

There were more horses than cars, and it was rare to have one pass. We lived at 5084 Chillicothe, where Mr. Arnold eventually moved. So, I had to walk the entire way past Mr. Book's pasture, and that's where he put the bull. That bull scared me to death, I was sure he was going to get me. No electricity, just plain fencing. That bull would follow me, and I didn't dare run. I was always glad if he wasn't pastured when school let out. But he was there every morning, staring at me."



David McIlrath (1915-1972) 46 Paw Paw Lake. "Mom would get up, stoke the stove, make Farina, go out to the chicken house and get

some eggs, pack my lunch can, and put in a glass bottle of milk. Pap would shovel the walk. I'd walk out to Bell Rd. and wait for old Harry Richardson to pick me up. No heat on the kid hack*. (*horse drawn wagon). Sometimes Pap would walk with me out to Bell Rd. Harry had already picked up Dorothy and Laurene Green, [and] others. Mrs. Hoxter was a nice teacher."



KID HACK 45 YEARS LATER

PAW PAW LAKE KIDS BUS STOP - 1968



THE DEPRESSION – 1933

Residents and homeowners were hit hard during this time in America's history. In 1933, the Paw Paw Lake Home Company experienced hardship. Following is a quote from the Treasurer at the time. "The condition at the time was becoming desperate with 14 stockholders carrying the burden that all (44) should share in. There will have to be some definite action taken or this company will surely go on the rocks. Perhaps a new treasurer will have better success in persuading the stockholders to meet their plain obligation to carry on the work which all of them have agreed to do." F.W. Kimball, Treasurer dated December 31, 1933.

VILLAGE HALL ON THE MOVE

1848-2023 175 YEARS OLD



Village Hall was positioned only 15 feet from Chillicothe Road. In January of 1976, it was moved back, eastward, onto a new

foundation and remodeled.

1930 CENSUS

In the 1930 census of South Russell, there were 131 residents including children.

Today, there are 3,962. Of those, 56% are between the ages of 18 and 64. We have 1,448 households with an average of 2.7 persons making up each household. South Russell has a median home value of \$365,800.



CONNECTIONS

When the Village was incorporated, there was no electricity. It was established in 1927. To connect, households were each charged \$25. In today's economy, that would equate to \$433.

South Russell Park was originally Muggleton Farm. Gene Muggleton stated in 1927, "my folks bought a Crosley radio" right after electricity came through.

HARVESTING GRAIN

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Work was hard in the early days of South Russell. Farmers would help farmers harvest together. A threshing machine was used to assist in the work (see photo below).



"The grain (wheat, corn, oats) was separated from the stalk and came out a chute into waiting bags. The straw was blown out a long steerable pipe, either into the straw barn or onto a stack. Each owner would have the dirtiest job, that of moving away the straw and distributing it properly in the barn or on the stack." Eugene C. Muggleton, 1921-1999.

The wives and mothers of those pictured above set up laundry tubs for the men to wash before coming in to eat. The ladies of each household vied to see who might set up the best food for the crew.

EARLY ROADS

Walter and Ann Collier did the early road plowing before South Russell had a street department. In the late 1930's and early 1940's Walter would drive his truck to plow the roads to maintain one lane. Ann sat in the truck bed and would throw cinders out the back, especially in the northeast Ohio frigid winters.

When zoning was established in South Russell, Ann served as the Clerk for the Planning Board. (Both pictured below.)



1908-1997



1903-1990

THE STONE HOUSE

Walter built this stone house in the early 1930's by hand, located at 1581 Bell, where he and Ann lived for many years. It still stands today.



1930'S - A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

CATHAN FAMILY FARM, 100 BELL ROAD



1920s George Bowman Truck



DAILY LIVING
INVOLVED
HARD LABOR



The Soules-Wilber house above was located on Route 306 for many years. It was razed in 2002 and the property is vacant.

This beautiful house was the McSherry home, located at 609 Bell. It was originally built in 1957 by Ibram Clark Robens. It has since been razed and replaced.

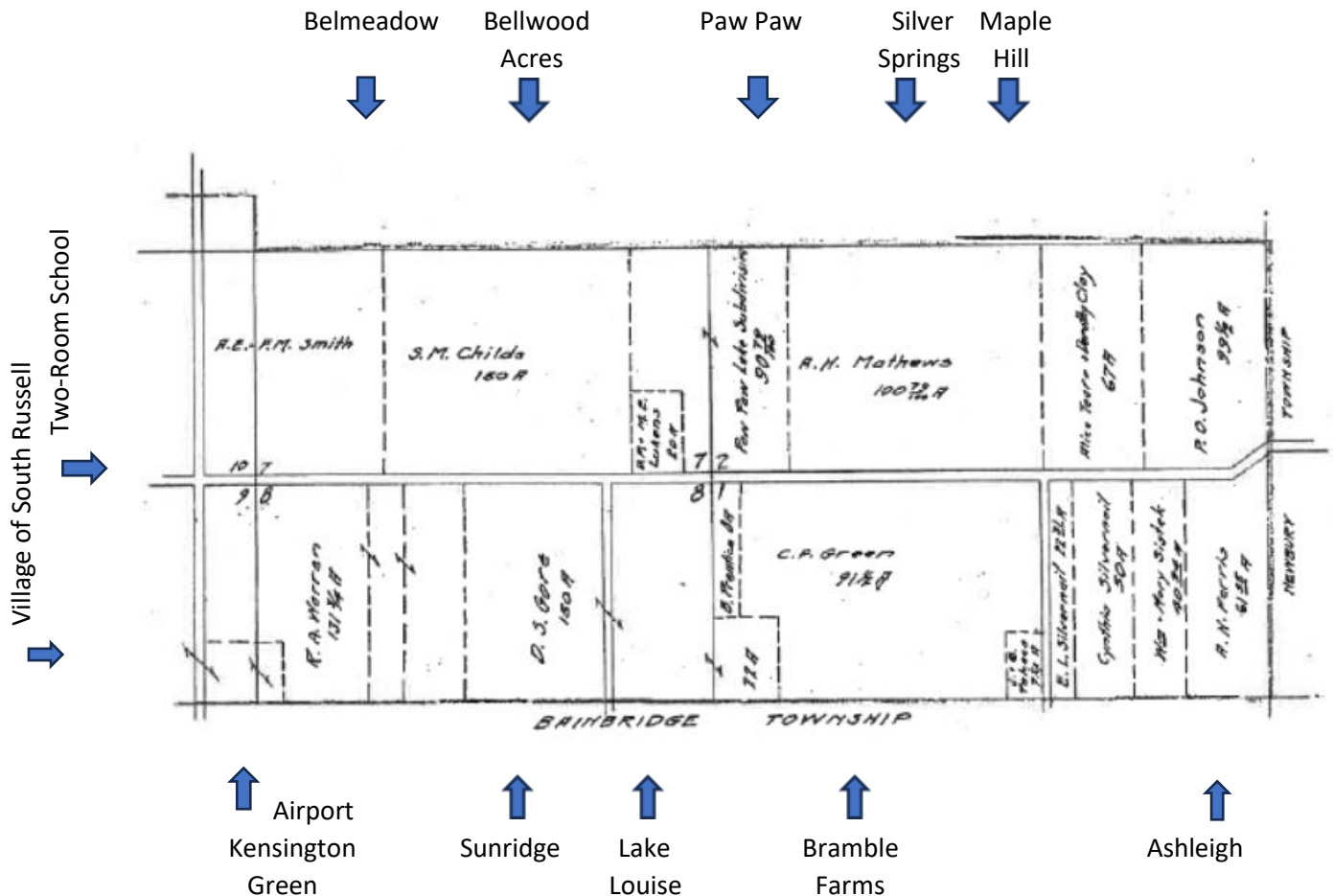


Aerial view of property to the left.

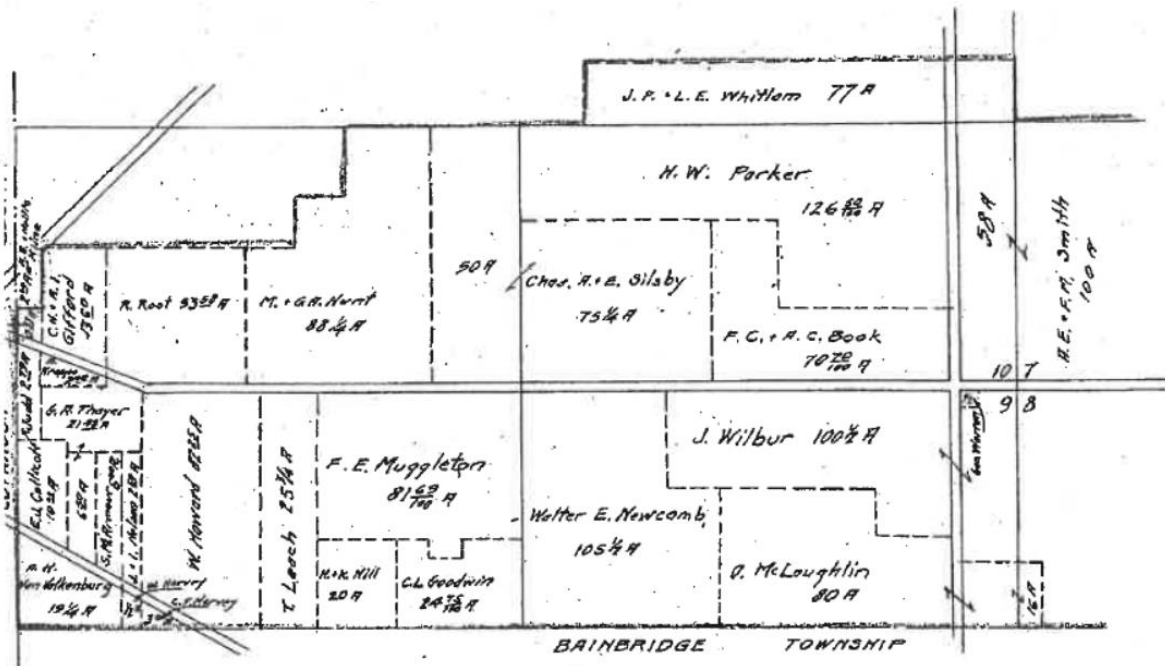


ORIGINAL PLAT MAP OF THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH RUSSELL – 1923

NOTATIONS BELOW INDICATE TODAY'S SUBDIVISIONS



Chagrin Heights ↓ ↓ Countryside ↓ The Preserve ↓ Gurney ↓ Whitetail
 ↓ Emerald Lakes School Manor Brook



↑ Rolling Ridge ↑ Southwyck ↑ Rarick ↑ Sugar Bush ↑ Chagrin Lakes Cemetery

AIRPORT HISTORY

Horn's Flying School began in 1930. In 1979 the airport was sold and became Kensington Green. This photo of David McIlrath, Flight Instructor, was taken in 1965.

Originally the land was owned by Albert Warren. When flying became popular in the late 1920's he gave up the use of his farm for an airport. Wilbur Horn, a WWI pilot began his flight school there and hired many instructors to teach. He taught hundreds of people how to fly single-engine planes, mostly Piper Cubs. With two runways, the airport accommodated up to twin-engine planes.

A restaurant was on location which offered delicious, sought-after full dinners and alcohol to the hungry crowds.



TAKEN FROM THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT - SUBDIVISION FILE

SOUTH RUSSELL SUBDIVISIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Platted</u>	<u>Area/Streets</u>
Barwood	12-18-86	Laurelbrook
Bellwood Acres I	5-24-55	S/L#1-12/Bell Road-near Lakeview/Leaview
II	09-06-55	Lakeview & Leaview from Bell-North
III	04-08-57	Lakeview north end & Circle Dr.
IV	06-25-57	Lakeview-north end by lake
Bramble Farms I		Bell Rd.-Across from Paw Paw & Sil.Springs
II	05-21-90	Champion (Off Snyder)
Cedric Morrison I (Rolling Ridge)	05-03-55	Daisy - north end S/L 1-6 to Woodside
II	05-04-55	Daisy-from SR 422 & Woodside-south end
III	08-09-55	Woodside (north end) & Forest
IV	08-01-57	Deerfield Drive-west end-not culdesac
Chagrin Lakes I	07-29-67	S/L#42-86 Sheerbrook Dr. from SR 306
II	03-12-68	S/L#23-38 & 50-52, Maple Springs & Parkland
Chagrin Lakes Club I Resubdiv.	12-12-68	S/L#64-68B Sheerbrook
Parkland Estates Block A	11-01-65	Royal Oak culdesac & S/L 1-14 MapleSprings and recreation area.
Sheerbrook Acres	12-05-70	S/L#1-22 Sheerbrook culdesac from Bell-N
Chagrin Heights I	03-25-25	Fairview from Bellnorth, & Hazelwood from Walters-east
II	03-24-27	Mapleridge, Fernwood & Laurel from Bell north & Bell & Hazelwood(Maple-Laurel)
III	10-10-27	Fernwood & Laurel-northern end
Country Estates	09-19-74	Countryside, Spring, Anglers,Hazelwood
Deerfield Estates	08-03-89	Culdesac area of Deerfield Dr.
East Bell	06-17-88	Bell Rd./NE side/West of 306/W-Gurney.
Emerald Lakes I	09-08-86	Waverly & Kimberwick
Florence Hayes	06-01-78	Chillicothe north of Bell-east side
Gifford I	02-02-59	North west end of Bell & Walters
Kensington I	09-14-87	Kensington Dr.
II	09-14-87	Annandale, Westover, Wolfpen & Fairfax
III	09-14-87	Foxhall, Dorset, Potomac, Waterford, & Bishop
Lake Louise	09-25-56	Louise, Morningside, Garden Park, Ridgecrest
Maple Hill	05-26-59	Maplehill
Manorbrook I	07-28-80	Old Section done by Thomas & Thomas
Manorbrook Drive Extension	10-10-88	New section done by Snavelly-west off 306
Paw Paw Lake	01-19-21	Paw Paw
Pleasant Acres II	11-16-53	East & West Bel-Meadow
Silver Springs	01-23-89	Silver Springs Trail
Snyder Road Estates	06-06-75	Snyder-west side from Bell south
SunRidge Lane	02-23-81	SunRidge
Whitetail I	09-12-88	Whitetail Drive & Deer Court

BARNs!



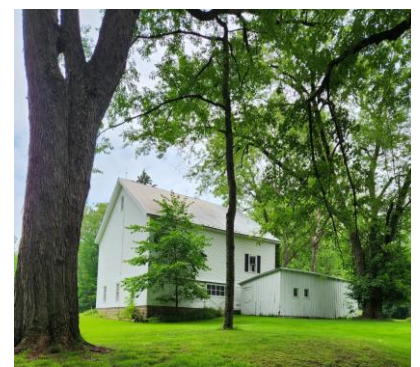
Bells Corners (Soule's Corners) circa 1830. Refurbished in the late 1970's. Original owner, John C. Bell, now owned and remodeled by Donald Yert.



Bell Road barn adjacent to Lakeview Lane.



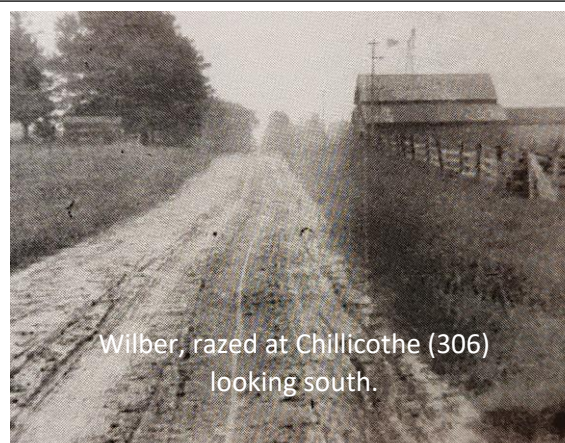
Old gate post at Rarick Cemetery.



Above, Willard/Rarick barn built circa 1850, adjacent to Rarick Cemetery. Now owned by James Cotesworth.



Bud Stahl, his father-in-law, Mayor Alexander "Sandy" Fairweather, and baby Jennifer Stahl on the Stahl home located at Southwest corner of Bell & Rt. 306.



Wilber, razed at Chillicothe (306) looking south.

Kruse Barn located at 1508 Bell Road, built circa 1860 by Isaac Rarick.

