

Mary Sheeley's 1976 Ottawa History

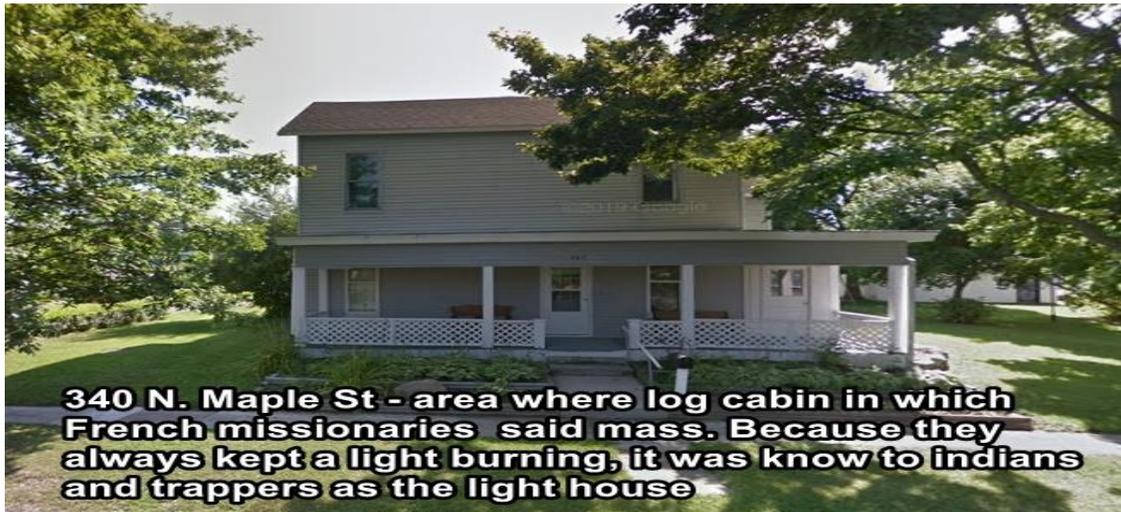
These notes were garnered from Howe's history of Ohio, the 1880 History and 1895 Atlas of Ohio, the Putnam County Centennial History of 1934, and the Putnam, County Pioneer Association history 1873-1973. Kinder's History of Putnam County was also used. Research led up to maps and deeds in the County Recorder's of Amanda Lighthill and interviews with a number of long-term residents in our communities. We are also indebted to Euphemia Hoffman who helped research the old issues of the Putnam County Sentinel.

LEGEND

The Village of Ottawa was laid out on the site of the old Indian town of Lower Tawas. Upper Tawas was near the site of the newly constructed Ottawa Reservoir. The town was platted in 1834 by Aughinbaugh and Barnett of Dayton. When the sale of Tawa Reservation took place in Wapakoneta in 1833, Moses Sutton purchased what was known as the Goose Neck Bottom, lying immediately south of Lower Tawa Town. When Moses and Stansbury Sutton arrived on the Tawa Green on April 13, 1833, they found ten acres of cleared land on the north side of Tawa Run and three hewed-log Indian cabins. The father and son stayed with the Indians until almost September, then left to clear the road to the south over which they would move their goods at a later date.

Michael and Hanna (Galbreath) Row came in May of 1834. Michael Row purchased the first lot in the new plat and built the first hewed-log house in Ottawa on lot 57. It was an inn or tavern known as the Row House. He occupied it until 1877. The substantial frame building still stands and is now occupied by "The Shop" owned by Brian Huggins. When Michael Row arrived, some of the Ottawa Indians were still here. They were reluctant to leave the area where they found good hunting, fishing and an excellent source of maple sugar. Their chief Pedanquit, kept a small stock of goods which he sold to his tribe and early settlers. The Indian Council House on the green was often occupied by whites until they could build their cabins.

The Village of Tawas is known to have existed in the early 1700's. It was visited by French Missionaries and fur traders as late as 1812. The original village of Lower Tawas occupied roughly the land north of what is now known as fourth street, extending as far north as Route 15 and west from where the B and O Railroad now is located to the Blanchard River. The area north of Tawa Run was known as The Indian green. When the village of Ottawa was platted in 1834, Main Street – now known as Perry Street – ran north and south rather than east and west. Row's Tavern was in the center of town. Maple Street still leads into the heart of Lower Tawa to the north.



In the early 1700's, it is known as Tawa Village, upon the left bank Tawa Run, there stood a chapel of logs. A crude altar was at the east end of the building. Within this edifice French missionaries said Mass. A light burned there constantly, and it was known to the Indians and trades as the "The Light House." It was near the present site of 340 N. Maple Street.

When William Galbreath and his family made their way here from Fort Findlay in November 1834, they had to cut a road through the brush. He had a team of horses at the tongue, a yoke of oxen in the middle, and a span of horses at lead. Not withstanding all this, his wagon was mired in the mud. They finally arrived on the Green and bartered for an Indian house in return for bread and meat.

The first death was an elderly gentleman named John Huber. He was buried in the Old Grave Yard, also known as the Pioneer or E.U.B. cemetery. It is in a wooded area back of the Lexington Arms Apartments. It is now on property that is privately owned. The fallen and scattered head stones with almost illegible names of Row, Galbreath, Owens, Ridenour, and Adgate attest to the foothold in change which was the beginning of Ottawa.