

**FROM MANUFACTURING
TO
RESIDENTIAL...**

**THE HISTORY OF THE FOX LANE AREA UP TO DETRICK
ESTATES**



(Thanks to Tom Durfee, 25 Warner Lane, for creating and erecting this sign.)

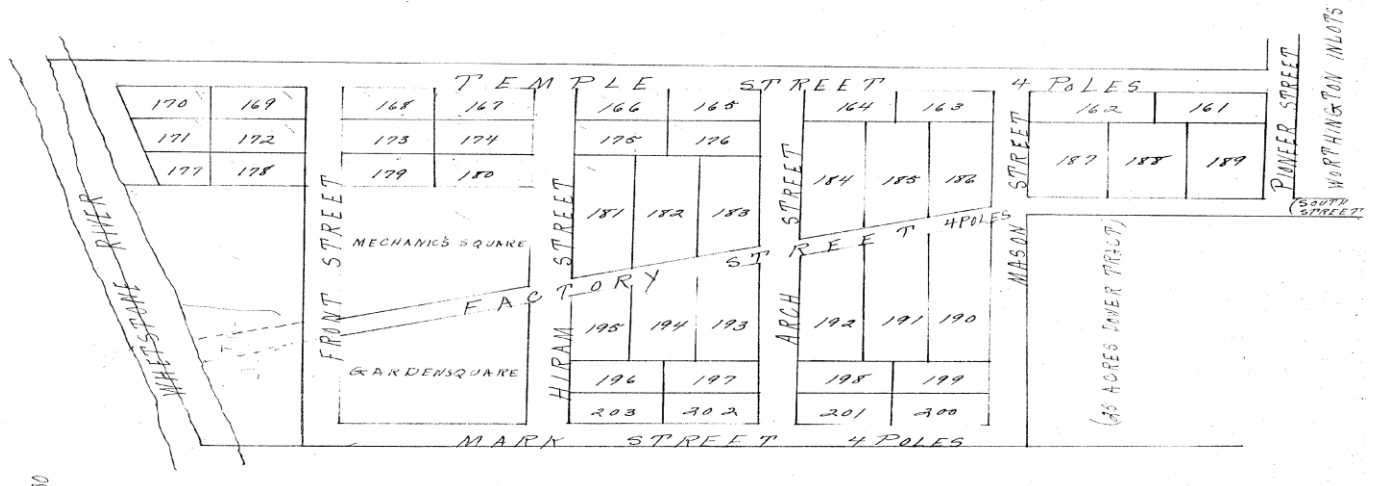
By Steffanie and John Haueisen
Copyright 2020 by Eagleview Publishing

The story of the Fox Lane area (legal name: the Detrick Estates) began more than two centuries ago, when the New England settlers from Connecticut laid out the lots for what would become today's City of Worthington.

THE LAND...

The land the Scioto Company originally purchased in the area remained undivided until all the settlers had arrived from the east. Then they divided the land into primarily two types of lots, the in lots of the Historic District and the out lots of the lands outside the historic district and across the river. The town lots or in lots were a set size of about 3/4 of an acre and the out lots varied in size.

All of this land that became Detrick Estates belonged to Jedediah Lewis and was described as original out lot 26. In 1810, the 52 acres with a saw mill, plus other lands, were set aside from his estate for sale to pay off his debts. His widow was allowed to keep 25 acres, located mostly just to the west of Evening St. and stretching along South St. and can be seen on the map in the lower right corner. In 1812 the 52 acres with the saw mill was given to John Goodrich to pay Lewis's debt who then sold it all to James Kilbourn and associates. The land was divided and each of the individual lots within this parcel was then assigned a number between 161 and 203.



30

The land we talk about in this history is shown on the above map. As orientation, to the west is the Whetstone River, now called the Olentangy River. The boundary to the north of Temple Street is what now Kilbourne Village. (Kilbourne Village land had originally been an outlot set aside as farm rental property for the Episcopal Church). All that remains of Temple Street now is Short St. Temple Street used to lead straight to the Masonic Lodge (after it was built) on High St. Note the many references in street names to the Masonic presence in the Village and its leaders; Arch Street, Mason Street, Temple Street. The boundary to the east is Pioneer Street, now Evening St. and the southern boundary, Mark St., is where Pinney Dr., if it went straight through west to Olentangy Blvd., would delineate the north border of Riverlea Village. Other streets on the map are Front St, now Fox Lane, Hiram Street or now Pinney Dr., Arch Street or now Mid Dr. and Mason Street now Welling Way. Factory Street is now South St.

THE WORTHINGTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY

A dirt road led to the Worthington Manufacturing Company. In the spring of 1814 the first brick buildings were built in the area including the “Boarding House” (located at 25 Fox Lane). It was intended to house single factory workers (unmarried young men, usually from out of town). The Boarding House would probably have had a couple to operate it along with a paid servant to do the housekeeping and cooking. This was a very convenient place to live and work for the single men as well as a natural social lure for entertainment for townfolk and residents. The Griswold Inn and Tavern on the Village Green did not allow card playing; a highly popular pastime. At the Boarding House you were allowed to play cards. (Below: 25 Fox Lane)



Soon, the Manufacturing Company had 18 structures, many of them brick, scattered throughout the property. They were located on lots 162, 163, 164, 165, 168, 172, 177, 178, 179, 183, 184, 186, 187, 188, 189, 192, 193, 195. Frequently carts laden with imported goods, which had arrived via the Olentangy River, and goods made at the Manufacturing Company, were taken up to town to sell. There was a ford across the river about where there is a log cabin now at the intersection of west South St and Fox Lane. The manufacturing company included a grist mill, saddle factory, boot and shoe factory, a tannery, horn smiths, coopers, cabinet shop, a blacksmith shop, hat shop, milldam, sawmill and woolen mill. It made agricultural tools, furniture, splints and more. The Company operated eight retail stores around and in central Ohio. The area now known as Riverlea was a large sheep farm which produced the wool needed for the manufacturing company. Part of the area was set aside and known as Garden Square, suggesting

a community garden where the tradesmen could grow their own produce.

The craftsmen at the Company were paid in several ways. Some were given Worthington Manufacturing Company scrip (equivalent of money) for what they produced, some chose to sell the items they made, under their own name, in retail stores. Others were given Manufacturing Company shares or often a combination of all of the three sources. Occasionally, the Manufacturing Company sold some of their lots to the local craftsmen, who then might have set up their shops on these lots to become more independent.

There are two sales of note here: In 1816, Orange Johnson decided to move his business to his house on High St. so he sold one of these lots to Kilbourn when the Company was flourishing. The other sale was lot #181 to Joseph Greer in 1815. Joseph was a very skilled cabinet maker who was recruited to work at the Manufacturing Company. He built his house at 48 W. South Street around 1820. He died in 1829. Before he died he had acquired lots 166, 167, 174, 176, 180 to go along with 181. After his death his widow never remarried and took in laundry to make ends meet and well may have rented out these lots to farmers to help pay the bills. She even managed to send daughters Elizabeth and Joanna to join the first class at the Worthington Female Seminary; a private girl's school. The oldest daughter, Isabella married Dr. Thomas Morrow, president of the Ohio Reformed Medical College in Worthington in the 1830s and later at the Cincinnati Eclectic Medical Institute. Joseph Greer was the father of Elizabeth Greer Coit, the very well known Ohio Suffragette, and grandfather to her daughter, Belle Coit Kelton, who carried on with her mother's work. These two ladies are both recognized on a plaque at the Ohio State House. There is more about this family connection to the land a little later in this history.

In July 1818, the Bank of the United States changed its credit regulations and all the loans of Worthington Manufacturing Company were called in. There was also a national recession going on. Both of these events resulted in eventual bankruptcy for the Manufacturing Company. The Manufacturing site lots were sold for taxes in the public sale of 1823. Records of money paid and purchasers are not available because these records have been lost in fires. However, the records which do remain show two well-known businessmen, John Snow and Potter Wright owned many of these lots. James Kilbourn personally made good on many of the debts paying somewhere around \$60,000 to various investors, putting him into personal bankruptcy and financial difficulties for the rest of his life.

The abstract indicates that in 1823, a 4-acre plat containing the saw mill, woolen mill and many

of the buildings were sold to James DeWolf and Associates for \$8,000. It was in this area (most of the land west of Hiram Street to the river and north to Temple Street) that William and Susan Spencer set up their farm with a mortgage to DeWolf and Associates. The Spencers were the local originators of the Anti-Slavery Society which met at their farm and signed the organization's constitution in 1835. In 1832, William Spencer was taken to court for failure to pay his notes to the group of attorneys. The suit was filed by Daniel Upson. William Spencer lost his suit and his land was forfeit to Upson who, in 1838, sold it to John Snow. In the 1850s subsequent sales included transfers between Lyman Cook, John Snow and Potter Wright. Then after several other court cases and more subdivisions of land, the entire factory area lots were reunited under Daniel Cain's ownership in 1866.

THE OHIO 46th VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

It was during this time, in 1861, that Daniel Cain authorized the Ohio 46th Volunteer Infantry (OVI) to train in this spot. The 46th OVI has always been considered by the residents of Worthington as its own. The regiment's first colonel was Thomas Worthington (West Point Class of 1827), son of Governor Thomas Worthington, for whom the town was named. The camp was named Camp Lyon after the first General, Nathaniel Lyon, killed just at the beginning of Civil War hostilities. The presence of the old mill dam and a large spring near the bend of the river in the area known as the Lime Kiln provided adequate water supply. The entire regiment totaled almost 1000 men. In September 1861 a recruiting office was opened in a frame building on the east side of High Street in the business section. William Pinney, of Worthington, was among those active in the recruiting. He received a commission as Captain (Co.E) and it was in his company that most of the Worthington men served. Other companies were made up of volunteers from Licking, Fairfield, and Van Wert counties. Several brick buildings were occupied and tents were erected in the area known as Mechanics Square. These buildings remained from James Kilbourn's ill-fated adventure in 1811, the Worthington Manufacturing Company. After training camp, the regiment marched up Factory Street (South St.) to High St., on to Camp Chase in Columbus where they boarded trains to take them through Cincinnati, then to riverboats and gradually to their first large engagement with the Confederate forces. It was the battle of Shiloh. At Shiloh they suffered heavy casualties but made an outstanding effort to save

the first day of battle so the Union could come back strong the second day and win this very decisive battle of the Civil War. Of the 96 local boys from the 46th, two died before Shiloh; nine transferred to other companies. There were 85 present at Shiloh with four killed, 11 wounded (one died of wounds) and one missing so there were 69 present after battle to continue on towards Vicksburg and New Orleans. Thanks to the efforts of Worthington resident Merlin Denig (Denig Jewelers family) Private Lowis Crawford and the soldiers of Worthington's Camp Lyon have a memorial monument in Walnut Grove Cemetery, where many other members of the 46th, Company E, are also buried. (Below: Memorial marker, note misspelling of Camp Lyon.)



JAMES BIRKHEAD (b.1851, d.1927)

Years passed and the old Manufacturing Company property remained pretty much untouched and uninhabited. In 1891, Daniel Cain's widow bequeathed the land to her friend John Watterson who then sold the western most section, including the boarding house, to James Birkhead in 1892 for \$950.00. Then in 1903, the Coit family (descendants of Joseph Greer) sold the manufacturing lots of 166, 167, 174, 175, 176, 180, and 181 to him for \$400. This purchase reunited much of the western portion of the Manufacturing Company lands and formed what essentially was the property footprint for Detrick Estates which would follow. Birkhead and his wife, Lettie, lived on the property in the "Boarding House," 25 Fox Lane. The barn he used is still located at 590 Keyes Lane, close to Temple Street, his shortcut up to High St. Much as James Kilbourn had helped his neighbors by developing the Manufacturing Company and retail stores, James Birkhead and his family planted orchards, and raised fruit and vegetables that they supplied to Worthington and neighboring areas. It is likely he also had employees to help manage his many acres of land. In addition to feeding his family and supplying food to his neighbors, James became one of the founders of the St. John A.M.E. (African Methodist Episcopal) Church. He and three other local men purchased a lot from Millie Alston on Plymouth St. and moved a building to it in 1897. This building was named the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church and was admitted to the conference the same year. The converted house was used for worship until 1914 when the present building on Plymouth St. was built and dedicated.

Of note, a daughter, Catharine Birkhead Trimble was a 1924 graduate of Worthington High School. She graduated from Ohio Wesleyan with a B.S. in Education, and became the first African-American teacher in the Delaware City Schools.

In 1924, James Birkhead's wife sold the entire property to Emmet Smith. James Birkhead died in 1927. In 1928, Worthington Mayor, Stanley U Robinson, vacated village ownership of all alleys and streets located in Birkhead's property as public thoroughfares.

FORREST DETRICK (b. 1895. d.1958)

In his relatively short life, Forrest Detrick distinguished himself as an innovator and community leader. He passed the Bar Exam in 1920, after graduating with fellow student, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale (author of "The Power of Positive Thinking"), from Ohio Wesleyan University in

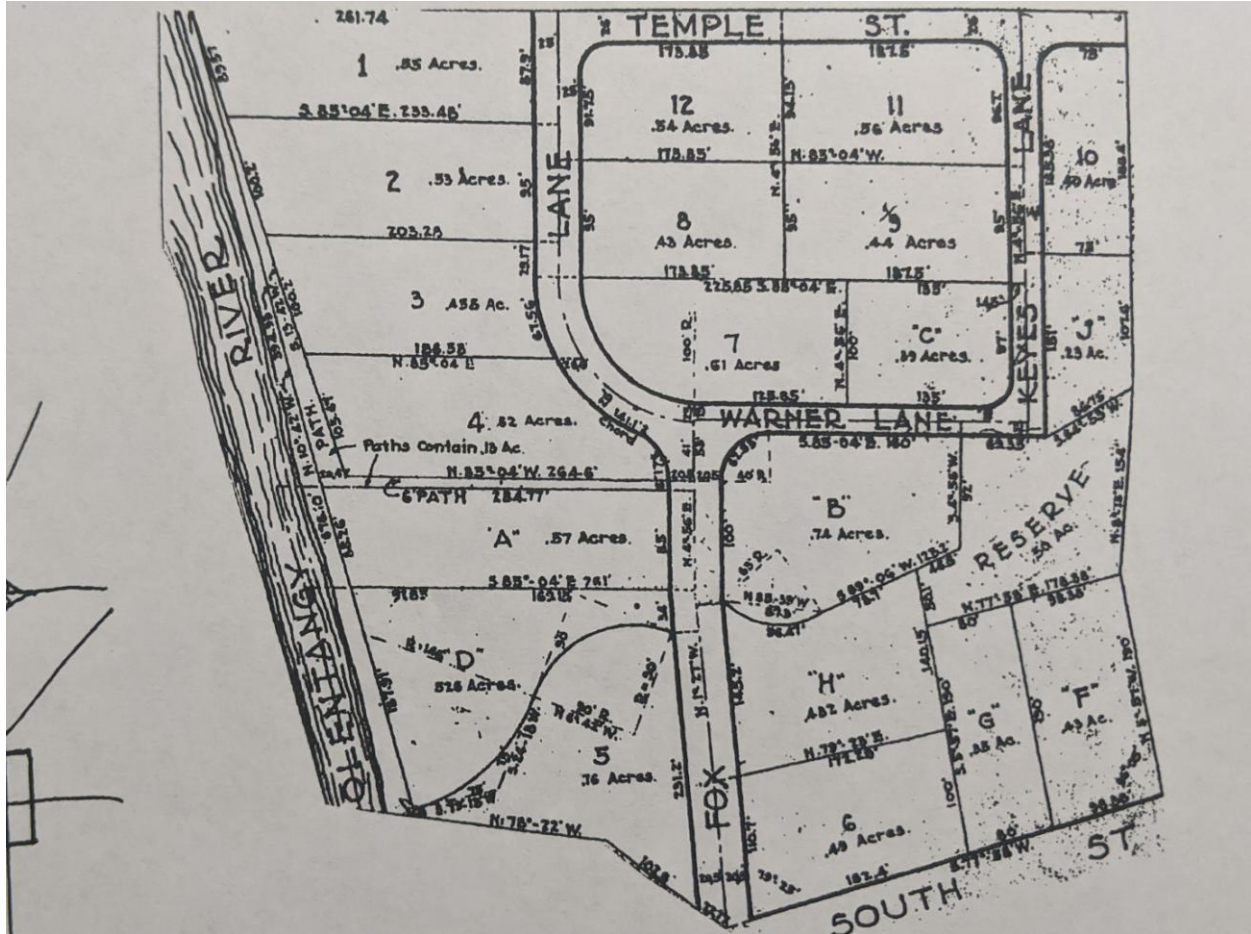
1918. In Worthington, he was the Director/President of The Worthington Savings Bank. He was also the head of the Worthington Chamber of Commerce. In 1936, he was nominated to fill a short term as Court of Appeals Judge in Xenia, Ohio. With an interest in mechanics and automotive science, he applied in 1930 for a patent for a “road scraper” (road grader). By the 1950’s, Detrick’s interest had expanded to the automotive industry. He sponsored the development in 1954 of the Detrick Engine, inspired by a Cruban Empire Car, which he purchased to learn about modern steam cars and the application of steam power to automotives. He had planned to develop a modern steam-powered car, but his sudden death in 1958 ended the project. Because Detrick served as President of the Worthington Savings Bank and practiced as an attorney, his name is on hundreds of deeds as loan officer & notary public as people bought and sold local real estate. (Below: Photo of Forrest Detrick’s grave marker at Walnut Grove Cemetery.)



DETRICK ESTATES

In the 1930s Forrest Detrick began acquiring lots in the area and by early 1940 he had purchased a total of 18 acres of the former Worthington Manufacturing Company area. This was to be only the second planned community in the Worthington area, with the first being Riverlea, created in 1923. His name for the area was to be Detrick Estates; a private community with larger than

usual lots and covenants set up to determine the governing principles, a very unique concept locally. When he first began acquiring the land which is now called Detrick Estates, there were already several houses and vacant lots which were owned by other people. He “purchased” several of the lots and homes for \$1 thus joining these owners to officially become the Estates signers of the covenant papers and founding members.



(Detrick Estates Plat Map from Plat Book 17, p. 301. Lettered properties (A,B,C,D,F,G, H,J) are home or properties which were previously owned and the numbered lots (1-12) were the vacant ones purchased by Forrest Detrick for Detrick Estates.)

After carefully delineating the covenants he sold the entire property to Ruby Frazier, his trusted secretary, for \$1 so that the individual properties and their covenants would be recorded together with the deeds for perpetuity. A day later she sold it all back to Forrest for the same price.

There were 8 covenants:

- 1) That no structure shall be erected on any lot other than one single family dwelling, not exceeding two stories in height and a garage.
- 2) No building shall be erected on any lot nearer than 30 feet nor more than 50 feet from the front lot line, nor nearer than 10 feet to the side line of any lot, except that a garage may be located on the rear one quarter of a lot nearer than 10 feet to the side line, except however on corner lots no structure shall be permitted nearer than 15 feet to the side street line.
- 3) No lot shall be re-subdivided into any building plots having less than 14,000 square feet of area or less than 70 feet frontage.
- 4) No obnoxious or offensive business or trade shall be carried on, on any lot and no sale, use or occupancy shall be granted to any other than a person of the Caucasian Race, except, however that this restriction shall not prevent occupancy by domestic servants. (*Unfortunately, such covenants restricting non-Caucasian and Jewish occupancy were very prevalent in the 1920s, 30s and 40s. In 1948, the Supreme Court ruled that such covenants were basically unenforceable and violated the 14th Amendment. Finally, the 1968 Fair Housing Act prohibited by law such discriminating acts.)
- 5) No trailer, basement, tent, shack, garage, barn or other outbuilding shall at any time be used as a residence.
- 6) No structure shall be moved to any lot unless it meets with the approval of the grantor herein and conforms to the requirements of the restrictions herein set forth, and no building shall be erected on any lot until a design thereof has been approved in writing by the grantor herein, but if the said grantor fails to approve or disapprove such design within thirty days after its submission, then such approval shall be considered as granted and such building may be erected provided it meets the requirements of these restrictions.
- 7) No dwelling shall be erected costing less than \$5,000 on any lot, and the ground floor area shall be not less than 800 square feet for a one-story house nor less than 600 square feet in a house of more than one story.
- 8) No dwelling shall be erected on any lot until a proper septic tank is constructed for use there- with and which shall not permit the effluent to drain into any open ditch, stream or river, and such sewage disposal system shall be approved by the proper health authorities.

These documents also clearly established the road committee and assessing fees. Since these roads are private, each homeowner owns out to the centerline of the pavement in front and grants access to the other residents. The road maintenance shall be borne pro rata by the abutting owners. This road committee “shall consist of seven and shall perpetually being one owner of each of lots designated as “A”, “B”, “C”, “H”, “5”, “7” and “12”. When one of these homes is sold the membership to the road committee passes on to the new owner. At this time the lettered lots were those homes already existing and occupied, and lots #5, #7, and #12 were still just lots. The document was then signed by those current “lettered” homeowners: J. Don and Grace McCormick, Margaret Fraas, Glenna and Paul Clevenger, Bernice Warner, Mary Keyes, and Forrest Detrick.

The following map rendition of the original lots for Detrick Estates shows a bit of change from the earlier one. Detrick Estates includes a ½ acre area called the Reserve which was to be a common area for community activities such as picnics and walking around. Originally Forrest Detrick had the 4 lots along the river from the boarding house north. But he did decide to divide them so that Shug Gerhart, at the north end of Fox, could buy a lot and half making the other three lots a bit smaller and having less street frontage than all the other lots. No. 599 Fox was lot one and half of lot two, No. 587 was half of lot two and half of lot three, No. 581 was half of lot three and half of lot four, and No. 575 is the rest of lot four. This map also gives the original date of construction of each home. Most of the new built homes were single story ranches which were very popular at the time. The pre-existing homes to Detrick Estates were mostly classic two story colonial style.



(Map created by Rebecca Wenden, 595 Keyes Lane)

Some of the new builds on the north part of Fox Lane in Detrick Estates had unusual stories:

***In 1945**, the Emmons family purchased the land where **584 Fox Lane** is. Since construction lasted during several years, they brought with them a disassembled 2 story log cabin they had found on the far-east side of Worthington. They reassembled it to live in while they built their home. In reassembling it they could save only one story. They added the fireplace, bathroom and kitchen. It still sits next door to the home at 584. This second log cabin in the Detrick Estates area was familiar to local residents who once remarked that for many years ballots were counted there on election night.

***In 1949**, Gerald Gerhart, known as Shug Gerhart, purchased lot one and designed and built his home at **599 Fox Lane**. He also then purchased the vacant half lot (half of lot two) next to his lot. Because he was president of ARMCO steel company which had designed the guardrails for

the Ohio Turnpike, he wanted his home to be entirely constructed of steel. His company manufactured all the steel panels necessary according to his design plan. He also had to develop a special paint to keep it from rusting since with the heat and cold the steel panels would contract and expand making it impossible to use just any paint. The expansion and contraction would make little popping sounds which you would gradually become accustomed to.

The residents of Detrick Estates owe Shug Gerhart for saving Fox Lane from becoming a thoroughfare. In 1958, when Kilbourn Village was going to be developed there was talk of putting Fox Lane through to Blandford so the public would have a shortcut to Rt. 161. Since this would lead to a great deal of traffic on the narrow private lane, in 1960 Shug bought the three lots directly north on Blandford, along with a 15-foot-wide strip. In 1963, he divided the 3 lots into two, had two very large homes built on those lots, and he kept the 15 foot wide strip behind them to assure that a road would never be built through. Unfortunately many drivers can't seem to read the No Outlet signs at the entrance to Fox Lane. It was quite entertaining one summer afternoon in 1967 when a semi-tractor trailer driver, who missed those warning signs, spent hours having to back up all the way out to W. South St. (Below: street front 599 Fox Lane, and lower: side/back view 599 Fox Lane showing the large lot.)





From 1941 on, since Shug was an engineer, Forrest Detrick entrusted him to make all decisions on house plans and designs which a lot owner would submit. The first owners had to either design or have designed for them, their own home and then find a builder. You didn't build it unless Shug approved. First homes filled in on Fox Lane and eventually moved around the corner to Keyes Lane with the last original new build occurring in 1972 on Keyes Lane. In 2017, the new owner of the three Gerhart parcels subdivided them creating a new lot in the half lot of lot number two of Detrick Estates and a house now stands there, no. 595 Fox Lane. They then tore down the original steel house at 599 Fox Lane replacing it with a larger new one. ***In 1950**, one of the earliest built after Shug Gerhart was next door at **587 Fox Lane**. Built by Ralph Taylor, this home was constructed completely from recycled building products. It was the only new build two-story for Detrick Estates until the 1972 home. Since the exterior façade was completely constructed using heavy granite blocks, Shug supervised the foundation work. He stated it was strong enough to hold up the AIU Citadel (American Insurance Union, now the LeVeque Tower). The granite blocks had once been under the Interurban (streetcar) which ran along High St. The blocks were taken up when High St. repaving was underway and the Interurban was no longer in operation. Many of the blocks still have remnants of tar or asphalt

from earlier pavings. The interior of the house has two large hickory wood support beams salvaged from an old barn, running east to west. When the beams were installed in 1950, they were already more than 100 years old. None of the interior building materials consisted of conventional lumber cuts but were recycled lumber of different sizes from old construction sites. The original clay tile roof was from an old building in German Village. Shug was greatly amused when Mr. Taylor had an excavator dig out a large hole about 8 feet deep under the garage. When the house construction was done, the hole was filled in with all the extra building materials and any other unwanted materials lying around. Then, the entire pit was filled with concrete. (Below: granite blocks with tar remnants at 587 Fox Lane)



***In 1953, 581 Fox Lane** was built by James Kelso. His home was unusual in the fact that he specified Roman bricks to cover the entire exterior. They are very labor intensive, and more expensive to lay than normal bricks because they are longer in length, but shorter in height, thus requiring more rows of bricks to equal the same height as the normal bricks. (Below: Roman brick wall at 581 Fox Lane)



***In 1955, 600 Keyes Lane** was built and finally in 1956, after being vacant land owned by Mary Keyes when Detrick Estates was being created, a home was built at **580 Keyes Lane** by Ralph Liebert.

***In 1972**, the final original “new” build in Detrick Estates was constructed when 25 Warner Lane was subdivided to create the lot. This home, **585 Keyes Lane**, replaced the corral and small barn where Shelly Hoffines’ horse happily greeted all visiting neighbors passing by. The house at 585 was also designed by the new owner and was the only other new build to be two-story and have a more traditional look.

(Below: 25 Warner Lane, looking at porch on west end with barn to the left or north side of the property. Bottom photo: barn with corral stretching along Keyes Lane. All of this was replaced by the home at 585 Keyes. Photos courtesy of Sarah and Tom Durfee, 25 Warner Lane.)



PHYSICAL CHANGES COME TO DETRICK ESTATES

Over the decades many changes to the physical look of Detrick Estates occurred.

***In 1940**, part of the overall plat for Detrick Estates contained sections of a street called Temple Street. It ran between Fox and Keyes Lanes and a bit east of Keyes Lane. It is delineated on original deeds. This had been a short-cut street during and after the times of the Worthington Manufacturing Company when it led up to the Masonic Lodge. Development in the 1940s and 1950s along W. South St. gradually ate up this land leaving only a very short segment to High St. now called Short St.

The parts of Temple Street in Detrick Estates were retained for utility easement until after the completion of Kilbourne Village and then gradually became a part of the properties (which had the half ownership all along) at 596 Fox Lane, 595 Keyes Lane and 590 Keyes Lane.

***The original** plat map shows a fishing path running east/west behind the boarding house at 25 Fox Lane and along 575 Fox Lane . The fishing path was then connected to land running behind all the properties to the north and then into where Kilbourne Village is now. This gave folks a walking shortcut to Rt. 161 as well as access to the river. After the completion of Kilbourn Village, with the walking path being cut off, the fishing path was absorbed into the properties of 25 Fox Lane and 575 Fox Lane and the residents at 581, 587 and 599 Fox Lanes all bought the access portions along the river.

The fishing path was also used by Worthington Village residents as a path to dump things in the river. The “official Village dump” was at the end of W. South St. but the fishing path was closer and easier for those in the center of the town to use Short St. and/or cut through what is now Kilbourne Village. From the times of the first settlers, these two primary dump sites were used to keep the usual dump scavenging animals away from the main population.

***Another change**, though not noticeable on a plat map, was that all of the homes originally had septic tanks. Covenant #8 specifically refers to the need to maintain and grant access to the septic tank. It wasn't until after the “great flood” of 1959 that Worthington put in a comprehensive sewer system with Detrick Estates being tied into the sewer system in 1961. That is when the Army Corps of Engineers constructed a sewer conduit crossing through the Olentangy River,

creating a sort of low profile dam at the bend in the river. It is the main sewer line out of Worthington.

***Another curiosity** of being in this part of Worthington, which was really considered the outskirts, or the “boonies,” at that time, was that everyone was on telephone party line which was shared with W. South St. Private phone lines didn’t start until about 1964 and later. Yes, people did listen in to conversations even though you weren’t supposed to.

***The most controversial** physical change came about over what happened to the original land set aside, called the Reserve. The Reserve was the half acre area which Forrest Detrick had originally set aside for communal, internal use by all the residents of Detrick Estates, who in turn all equally paid the taxes on it. In 1961, all the Detrick Estates homeowners and Forrest Detrick’s widow completed a quit claim deed in order to divide up this Reserve area and add it to the 4 abutting land owners. These four parties then agreed to pay the taxes on it but keep it open for continued communal use. These four abutting landowners were 366 W. South St. (the Harmons), 358 W. South St. (the Trucksis’), 580 Keyes Lane (the Lieberts), and 560 Fox Lane (Bernice Warner).

Then, in 1986, the new owners of 560 Fox Lane claimed that their portion (0.12 acre) of the original reserve was theirs to do with as they saw fit since their deed did not contain any restrictions on it and that any restrictions on that parcel were only in Bernice Warner’s deed and name. They intended to take some of their property combine it with the Reserve property subdivide and create a new lot. All of the other residents fought this, since it was against the intent of the 1961 division and of the original intent of Forrest Detrick. After an extensive fight, eventually they lost the battle and City Council approved the subdivision. In 1987, 28 Warner Lane was built, thus becoming the last house built in Detrick Estates, until the 2017 build at 595 Fox Lane.

THE PRE-DETRICK ESTATE PROPERTIES

***25 Fox Lane** was the Boarding House which was built in 1814 and was there for the Worthington Manufacturing Company surrounded by other factory buildings. In the

manufacturing company property there were 18 known structures scattered around by the 1820s, most of which had brick foundations.

***560 Fox Lane** was the next one built in 1932. The building foundation includes part of one of the brick buildings from the manufacturing company, has a beautiful wood mantel from one of the taverns torn down long before 1932, and has bricks which were fired during the Civil War and left over from the building of the second Methodist Church.

This was the home of Bernice Warner. She was known as the “worm lady.” She was advertised in Rodale’s magazine as the organic gardener’s friend. She raised organic worms which she sold: 1000 worms for \$1. A neighbor’s child, Bill McCormick, recounted how he and his brother were paid to dig the worms and package them up for shipment. Several of the neighborhood boys were similarly employed over many years. She was very picky about making sure the number of worms per shipment was accurate. She later was very active in the local Playhouse-on-the-Green productions and the actors would live in her home. This house was a hub of activity during the 40s and 50s with the worm business and in the 60s and 70s with the actors and parties.

(Below: 560 Fox Lane)



***550 Fox Lane** was built in 1939 by the McCormick family, with some help from neighbor George Shellabarger.

***25 Warner Lane**, built in 1939 also was built with bricks fired during the Civil War left over from the building of the second Methodist Church.



***358 W. South St.** was built in 1939 by Mary Keyes who also owned the property where 580 Keyes Lane is now.

***23 Fox Lane** was built in 1941 by Margaret Fraas.

In the 1930s when Forrest Detrick was investing in the area some of the parcels were not available for sale. 25 Warner Lane was for sale so Detrick bought that house and property and sold it in the same year to Curley and Catherine Morton. The land at 540 Fox Lane was vacant so this was actually the first house built in 1941 as a Detrick Estates home. The land at 366 W. South was already in contract in 1940 with a house being built on it by George and Wilma Shellabarger.

Once all the properties were involved in the planned community, the covenants and other official paperwork was completed by Forrest Detrick in 1940. It was these landowners whose signatures

are on the original deeds and covenants since they were the only residents at the time and they had significant input into the creation of the covenants.

Addendum: Meg Lentz, who along with her husband Ed, built the house at 585 Keyes Lane in 1972, had a notation which was included in her abstract used in this history. She has addressed it to Rebecca Wenden, 595 Keyes Lane. She says “Attached is drawings depicting the 15.38 acre tract in outlot #26 of the Scioto Company purchase owned for many years by Forrest Detrick. The subdivision, which contains 10.74 acres off of the west end, incorporates most of the lots that you have shown in the map. The Detricks retained all of the land on the east side of the property for themselves as Margaret Detrick anticipated building a larger home on the lot where our house now stands. The land on either side was to have been lawn. The property now designated as 590 Keyes Lane had a barn (Birkhead’s barn) which housed the Detrick’s daughter, Cynthia’s horse and Princess, owned by Bill Owens. When the houses on the south side of West South Street were erected, Mrs. Detrick abandoned her plans and the Detrick house was built on Olen Drive.”

Another note: In the 1930s, while he was acquiring the properties involved and working with the current land and homeowners, Detrick decided to name the mainly dirt paths which led to his lots: **Mildred Fox** owned the “Boarding House” in 1933, the name “Fox” was designated for the main dirt road leading from W. South St. along the river to the north part of the Detrick parcel. **Bernice Warner**, having built her house in 1932, and becoming well known for her organic worm farm, had the dirt path leading along her residence to the east named after her. **Mary Keyes**, who had the home at 358 W. South St. built in 1939, and who also owned the land later to become 580 Keyes Lane, had the path leading directly north from her ravine into the “reserve” and along her property named after her. These were the three ladies of the 1930s who had three lanes named after them.

“SOCIAL MEMBERS” OF DETRICK ESTATES

***590 Keyes Lane.** This was vacant land until a home was built here in 1956. It was the part of the land on which Mrs. Detrick had earlier planned on building her larger home. Originally part of the Worthington Manufacturing Company, it later became part of the fruit and vegetable farm

owned by James Birkhead. His barn is still on this property. The barn was conveniently placed there during his tenure because it was right along Temple Street, the short-cut up to the town center. During the decades between Birkhead's death in 1927 and the establishment of Detrick Estates, homes started being built in this land which had not been previously developed and Temple Street became obliterated south of Evening St. By the time new owners acquired the land 1954, it was landlocked with no access. An agreement was then reached that the owners could use the Detrick Estates lanes as access and would pay into the road fund but not have any voting rights regarding Detrick Estates. Any alteration to this agreement would require 80% of the Detrick Estates members to agree.

*The other log cabin in the area is at **410 W. South St.** and has a very well known history. The cabin, dating from the early 1800s was originally located on W. Wilson Bridge Rd. It was owned by a dentist, Dr. Elmer Latham who used it as a hunting lodge. He and his wife later decided to use it as a summer home and getaway from his home in Columbus, so he had it moved to the present location in 1910. To move it he had it dismantled and hired four boys to float the logs downriver, haul them out and then rebuild the cabin. There is an oral history by Dr. Latham's daughter, Alice Latham Wood, of her times living there and the moving process of the log cabin at the Worthington Historical Society.

Dr. Latham sold the property in 1920 which was later occupied by Herman Miller, an Ohio State University English professor, who hosted James Thurber several times as well as Carl Sandburg. Upon the death of Herman Miller, James Thurber sent his widow, Dorothy this letter, from West Cornwall, Conn. dated April 21, 1949.

Dearest Dorothy:

It is hard to write the day after Herman Miller's death, for it marks the end of my oldest friend, and in so many ways my closest. No matter how long it has been since we saw each other, an old communion was easily and instantly reestablished. There was no other man who knew me so well, and I took pride and comfort in his sensitive understanding. He remembered everything, over thirty-five years, and brought it out with his special humorous soundness. There was more depth and pattern to our friendship than to any other, and I have nothing that can take its place. It was more pleasure to have his laughter and appreciation than anyone else's, because he was the one who completely understood all the references, sources and meanings. I have known nobody else in whom sensibility and intelligence were so perfectly joined. I tried to make as much of a

study of him as he did of me, and since I knew his gentleness as few did, it was a private joy of mine to watch him raise his shield against the dull and ordinary persons whom he kept on the outside. Not many got through to an appreciation of his aristocratic mind, his fine judgment of people and books, and his love of the wonderful, from the comic to the beautiful. For those he loved there was no code or key, though. It was all free and open, generous and devoted. One of the nicest things about him was that genuine shyness which at first couldn't believe that the ones he loved loved him. His happiness was all the greater when he found out. There was never a moment when he wasn't important to me.

April 22

I couldn't write any more yesterday, and since then I've been thinking about Herman's good old Henry James awareness... Helen delighted him like a Christmas gift, because he saw she was made to order for me—and a tough order that is. I keep remembering all our fine days together, the suppers at your home, the party at the Whites in New York, the old chalice in Brooklyn, the time I kept going to the bathroom in the chemistry building, waiting for Minnette (Minnette Fritts, a college heartthrob of Thurber's) and Herman's magnificent laughter when she rode up in a car and he saw she was going to have to sit on my restless lap all the way to Broad and High. I got more pleasure and satisfaction out of Herman's laughter than anyone else's. It was wonderful when his sides actually began to ache and his eyes to stream. I will always remember it.

When I think of Herman, I think of you both, in a thousand ways. There was no other life for him than with you, and you were his complete happiness. You were wonderful for each other, and there is nobody like you.... the last time I saw Herman, he told me he was not afraid, but I hope and pray it was not bad. Please tell us what you can, but don't write until you feel up to it. I know you will bear up somehow, and I know you will find serenity in the perfect memory you have of your years together. Few people have had so much....We send you our deepest love, Dorothy. We mourn with you, and we will think of you constantly. God bless you.

From:

SELECTED LETTERS OF JAMES THURBER

Edited by Helen Thurber and Edward Weeks

Little, Brown & Co. 1980

Later the log cabin was owned by Gordon Chandler who called it Smokerise. There is a drawing and description of it in Bill Arter's Worthington Vignettes book on pg. 23.

This spot was also the official ford across the Olentangy River and there was a ferry which carried goods from the west side to the east. The ferry stopped running well before the turn of the 19th century. It did remain a common spot for river crossings given how shallow it is for most of the year.

The low, accessible area of the river also served as the town dump. The water would wash away edibles, keeping wildlife out of the town. There is still some interesting “trash” which washes out periodically; ceramics, glass bottles, farm implements, etc.

Another interesting side note: 410 W. South St. is not in Detrick Estates, nor in Worthington. It is only in Sharon Township - an island unto itself. For quite a time Sharon Township provided the local Fire Department, so the township retained river access to launch rescue boats on the river. Sharon Township no longer has a fire department but has retained jurisdiction over this property.



(The Dr. Latham log cabin floated down the river in 1910 and now located at 410 W. South St.)



(On the same property you can see the spring house where early dwellers could refill their water jugs and bottles. The Olentangy River is in the background.)

MEMORIES OF GROWING UP IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF WORTHINGTON; DETRICK ESTATES.

Bill McCormick who arrived here in 1939 at age 3, grew up in the house his father built at 550 Fox Lane. He fondly recounts the neighborhood children all playing hide and seek in the reserve and digging worms for Bernice Warner. These children included the Frasses, the Emmons, Dan Warner (Bernice's nephew) and his brother. They also swam in the river, which was clear and full of bass, in the summer, ice skated on the glassy ice (which was possible prior to the sewer line constructed in 1961 when any downstream ice would freeze in chunky ripples), sledged down the hill in the reserve in winter and hunted and fished regularly. Bill also recollects that he had to dig his own worms to fish with while his good friend, Dan Warner could use Aunt Bernice's supply.

Dan Kelso who grew up at 581 Fox Lane recounts two stories he fondly remembers.

"I think the most interesting and unique person in the neighborhood was Mrs. Warner who raised

earthworms and shipped them all over the world. We used to sneak into her beds at night to get some for fishing. Like most of the boys, the summers were spent on the river, fishing, hunting for frogs and crawdads and the winters, ice skating and sledding

The other story is the dinner bell that the Hoffines (25 Warner Lane) had on top of a telephone poll beside their steps. Every night at 5:00 Mrs. Hoffines would ring the bell and the kids had to come home for dinner. At the time Dad (Jim Kelso) was working at the advertising agency Byer and Bowman, and had the Bob Evans account. They developed a radio jingle you may remember that went something like "Bob Evans, down on the farm". There was a bell ringing in the background and they had made a recording of the Hoffines' bell and used in the jingle. That jingle was used by Bob Evans for quite a few years.

Lastly, you may already know this, but the McCroy family lived at the end of Keyes lane. We always used their backyard as a sledding hill. Their youngest son just served as the Governor of North Carolina. And Ralph Liebert (580 Keyes Lane) who lived across from the Hoffines, started the Liebert Corporation from his garage.”

Rob Trucksis, who grew up at 358 W. South St., says...

“just a few memories I enjoy looking back on: Of course all the 4th of July celebrations... My earliest goes back to Gerharts in their big yard. And the Christmas parties at Tot and Willie's (the Steinmans at 588 Fox Lane) were always fun. I think there was more than one. And then later, the Christmas progressives. Later in their lives a group of women on the Lanes (including Mom, Jane Trucksis) formed a group called The Warner Corner Lunch Bunch who would get together for lunch every month or quarter. And you would never know what you would get from the Rossos. (More about John Rosso later in Steffanie's memories.)

Here are some other memories from my childhood... Apparently when brother Brad (Trucksis) was four or five (or younger) he somehow got out of the yard. Mom was a little frantic of course. But she looked over towards the ravine and here he comes... With something in tow... A horse that was in the Hoffines corral. I'm sure the horse found its way home.

The river was our play ground. Supervised of course, until we got older. Hours upon hours of fishing, looking for tadpoles, minnows, clams, crawdads, splashing around. We dammed up the creek in the ravine to make a small pond and would deposit our daily catch in it. And if the dam would ever break we would have to slowly follow the creek to Fox Lane picking up the fish and rebuilding the dam. We would dig into the worm pits at Bernice Warner's to get night crawlers

for bait. Speaking of Bernice. Spent many hours weeding her gardens. It was very hard tedious work for small kids (she was a stickler). But it was worth it for a plate of brownies and a few dollars. If we were lucky we'd get a jar of her home made preserves. Brad and I also cut just about everybody's yards back on the lanes. Winter was also a great time. Taking about half an hour to get bundled up in our snowsuits. Trudging across the back yards with sleds in tow to get to the McCroy's sledding hill. Hours of daredevil sledding. No major injuries except a few bumps and bruises.”

Steffanie Haueisen: My Memories...I arrived at 587 Fox Lane in October 1958 a few months before my 12th birthday. I find it hard to be as succinct as Bill, Dan or Rob because by nature I am loquacious. Once I participated in hunting frogs and tadpoles but that once was enough. Not my thing! In the warm weather months I loved to work in the yard, weeding and mowing so I became a chatty nuisance to my two main “other mothers” – Nancy Gerhart (599 Fox Lane) and Tot (Mary) Steinman (588 Fox Lane). On hot summer days, Tot would invite me into her cozy kitchen where we would have ice tea and scones. At Nancy’s, we talked gardening and she showed me how to put up preserves. Often I went into Norma Anderson’s kitchen (596 Fox Lane) to provide “expert” feedback on the taste of her baked goods. We four often exchanged recipes. From about age 10 I had taken over the cooking for the family for many reasons and it was something I truly enjoyed. I was blessed as a child this way being mentored by 3 fabulous cooks as well as by my grandmother. These ladies were artistic, generous, kind and truly my best friends in spite of our age difference. I went to a private school so I never socialized with any children in the neighborhood since I didn’t know them. Shug Gerhart was a wonderful person too. Often my dad went turkey, pheasant, and rabbit hunting with him in southern Ohio. In 1971, when I got married, Nancy and Tot gave me a bridal shower. We had decided to hold the reception in the back yard. My dad and John, my fiancé, were struggling to remove the chain link fence we had in back to keep the dogs in. After a couple of hours working in the hot sun, and only removing one of the posts with Shug watching intently, Dad sat down to rest and Shug said, “What you boys need is a railroad-tie jack to remove those posts!” My dad agreed and a bit angrily asked where could we find one and Shug replied, “I have one in my garage.” My dad said, “Why didn’t you tell us earlier”, and Shug replied, “I thought you would appreciate it more now!”

Another really colorful character was John Rosso who built the original home at 575 Fox Lane.

He had a wicked sense of humor which he shared with everyone and you never really knew what to expect from him, but he was always a funny and good humor kind of fellow. For most of the years he lived on Fox Lane he had dogs. He liked Scotties and gave them very unusual names such as Linus. Early on he started the dog walk/cocktail time parade of dog owners from Keyes and Fox Lanes. He and Jack Hoffines (who was Tot Steinman's brother) were the regulars and they were joined by anyone who had the time that day. They would walk the dogs, chat and drink their cocktails and then go to their respective homes to dinner. This continued on for many years with an ever changing number of people and dogs. Finally, there were no dogs left, so John Rosso got one of those leashes for "invisible" dogs and they continued on with their walks as if the dogs were still there. Nothing would stop them. In my mind, I can still see them coming down the lane like clockwork.

John Haueisen, who has been mowing the grass at 587 Fox Lane for half a century, recalls how residents of The Lanes helped give Worthington unique status in the world of music and art.

Worthington is one of only seven cities in the entire world to have a playable, rare Tröndlin fortepiano.

How did it come about?

John has a pen pal in France, an accomplished pianist with whom he discusses music via email. One day, as she was surfing the internet, and curious to learn more about Worthington, she saw a photograph on the website of the Worthington Historical Society. She recognized the piano and told John, "You have a rare Tröndlin piano. You should get it restored or sell it to someone who will restore it to playing condition."

It turned out that longtime resident, Meg Lentz, (585 Keyes Lane) was a member of a Worthington Historical Society "study group" which had raised money, back in the 1990s, to have the piano restored. But no one knew where to begin, so the project had been forgotten. Modern piano repairers just didn't have the tools or knowledge of how to fix a piano that was "born" around 1825.



Worthington's rare Tröndlin piano—one of only seven in the entire world in a playable condition

Lanes resident, Beckie Dickie (540 Fox Lane) to the rescue! Beckie was working as a docent leading visitors on tours of the Orange Johnson House museum which is one of the three properties the Worthington Historical Society owns and operates. A visitor asked, "What's the story on the old piano?" Beckie explained that we would like to have it restored, but no one knows of a person who works on such old pianos. The visitor answered, "My professor and Oberlin University has been doing that for years!"

Beckie wrote down his name, and got it to John, who contacted Robert Murphy, the Oberlin piano-restorer about a possible restoration of the piano. Sue Whitaker, the curator of the historical society, handled the correspondence with Robert Murphy, and arranged for him to do

an appraisal of the cost.

John had hoped it might be only a couple of thousand dollars, but it amounted to tens of thousands. Immediately ready to give up on the project, John was told by the historical society's president, Dr. Jutta Pegues, "Don't give up. There are people in Worthington who might contribute to such a project."

With help from his pen pal, and from residents of The Lanes, and many members of the Worthington Historical Society, thousands of dollars were raised to hire Oberlin University piano-restorer, Robert Murphy, to perform the restoration, which took two years.

Why is it worth restoring an old piano? It's because Tröndlins are unique, in how the keys needed to descend only about half the distance required on current pianos. This allows the fingers to strike a note, and move more quickly to the next note. Some works by composers like Felix Mendelssohn had been thought to be unplayable—and they are!—on today's pianos. However with the shorter keystroke distance, they can be played on Tröndlins—pianos built in the city of Leipzig, Germany where Mendelssohn lived.

When Nicole Lemaire came to the United States in 2016 to play concerts on the Tröndlin fortepiano that she had envisioned having restored, several ladies of The Lanes helped her feel welcome and appreciated.

They organized a progressive dinner on The Lanes, starting at Connie and Frank Shepherd's (600 Keyes Lane) house for hors d' oeuvres, then next to Debbie and John Perrin's (580 Keyes Lane) house for dinner, and on to Meg Lentz' (585 Keyes Lane) for desserts at the fireside. The French couple both expressed delight at the kind welcoming by residents of The Lanes.

Even before they arrived from their medieval village in southern France, Debbie and John Perrin offered them use of their grand piano for Nicole to practice on for the upcoming concerts. She was overwhelmed by the generosity of neighbors on The Lanes. Meg Lentz, Connie and Frank Shepherd, and Debbie and John Perrin, were also part of the exclusive chamber music audience of only sixteen that can fit into the drawing room/music salon of the Orange Johnson House to enjoy a unique musical interlude.



Piano-restorer Robert Murphy answers Nicole Lemaire's questions about the fortepiano's action.

Big cities all over the world would be jealous to have a real Tröndlin piano, and thanks in part to the kind families on The Lanes, Worthington has a unique treasure.

WOSU Television was so impressed by the collaboration of Worthington residents, a French pianist, and Ohio's own Oberlin University, in saving and restoring an unusual link to the past, that they produced two videos about the Tröndlin restoration project.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVm_0RIaw4g&t=3s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSzc-jTgtKc>

The original builder families of Detrick Estates were of a generation ago with few of us here left to tell their stories and those of all the dedicated, interesting people who lived in this part of Worthington from the time of the early settlers who came to Worthington in 1803.

With the help of John, who took all the photographs and has been a part of Fox Lane since 1971, we are telling its long overdue story.

Steffanie and John Haueisen

We thank Kate LaLonde, Director of the Worthington Historical Society, for her technical and editing assistance.

In addition, we thank Rob Trucksis for finding documentation about the “Reserve” which his mother, Jane Trucksis, had compiled. His excellent memory was also truly helpful.