

# Old Records Are Fascinating Tremendous Changes Noted

AVON -- Registered your cattle brand with city officials yet? Of course not -- but your ancestors did back in the 1800's.

Old municipal records are particularly fascinating, since they give us insight as to how our ancestors lived.

For example, on May first, 1863, Joshua C. Upham transferred some of his stock to one George F. Smith. The city records show record of the transfer and also record of the stock mark -- a half penny on the top of the right ear and on the underside of the left ear.

Another record reads as follows: Stock mark for cattle, sheep and swine for Vernon Barrows -- an inverted "V" on the underside of the right ear. This mark was registered with township officials on Aug. 10, 1865.

Also recorded by the township was the "taking up of strays" -- and this was a common practice. The township's old yellowing records read as follows: "Stray -- taken up on the 10th day of June, A.D. 1863, as a stray Avon Township, Lorain County, Ohio, by the subscriber who there resides, a bright bay mare with heavy black mane and tail. Suppose to be about seven years old, about 11 hands high and a natural trotter. She has one white hind foot and no other marks or brands are perceivable about her."

Cows and horses were constantly being picked up as strays. In fact, the record shows the following: "Notice city, as does the former schoolhouse, now a private home, just east of the Avon Center Cemetery.

Also important historically is the Stone Eagle Farm house, owned and occupied by Mrs. Gladys Tomes, Detroit Rd. Many of the old buildings are gone. The mills along French Creek, and the swinging bridge remembered by many a school child, have vanished from the sites they once occupied.

The carriage barns that were behind St. Mary Church are gone, as is the blacksmith shop that once stood in the center of town.

Changing times have brought a multiplicity of changes in Avon over the passing years as progress moves inexorably ahead.

The early Indian trails have either disappeared entirely,

Broke into my enclosure on the 12th inst., a red and white yearling bull. The owner is requested to pay charges and take said bull away."

Oxen -- real oxen -- also were known to stray. The city records show this entry for Oct. 11, 1867: "Taken up by the subscriber on the 29th day of Sept., 1867, one yoke of oxen supposed to be about eight years old. One of said oxen brown color, also a white spot on his rump. No other particular marks or brands visible on said oxen. One of said oxen red color with no marks or brands visible. Said cattle are large size and in good order.

Old records reveal the low cost of road materials in "the good old days," and the old records also reveal something that today causes headlines when it is discovered. Not only that, today, a full investigation is accorded, and the matter is rectified. We refer to voting irregularities.

Avon was not without this, too, as the old records show. Shortly after the annual election early in April, 1869, the records state: "1869, April 14 -- It having been made to appear to the satisfaction of the trustees that more votes were cast for supervisor in Road District No. 4 than there were legal voters in said district. George F. Smith and George McLellan each having received sixteen votes and there was quite a number of voters absent, we do therefore declare the office in said Dist. No. 4 vacant and we do hereby appoint Henry Titus, a

man. The pioneers persevered, continuing to live from day to day despite sometimes incredible odds. They fought the wilderness and the Indians and sickness and harsh winters, and each spring saw them a little stronger, a little bit more indomitable.

During the early and mid-1800's, when the city was governed by township trustees, a clerk, a treasurer, and more than a dozen or so road supervisors, and of course, the constables, there was no Town Hall.

It was not until April 11, 1870, that the trustees assessed the township for the purpose of building what they called a "townhouse." This building, of red brick with long narrow windows at the sides and stone steps leading to the front door, dating from 1871, cost the Township of

resident of said road district supervisor for the ensuing year". And Henry Titus appeared and was duly sworn into office.

## Avon Historical Society Places Cosumes

Avon -- During the three-day Sesquicentennial Celebration, an Antique Show and Sale will be held at the Avon Mower Service Parking Lot on Detroit Rd. at the intersection of French Creek Rd.

Anyone with antiques to show or sell or both will be permitted to do so without charge during the Sesquicentennial.

Each person will be responsible for his own items.

## Antique Show and Sale to be Held

Avon -- The attractive window displays in the city are the work of members of the Avon Historical Society, who dressed manikins and set up the various displays.

The historical items on display at French Creek Tavern catch everyone's eye, as does the display in miniature on the organ at the tavern.

Costumes used in the various window displays have been donated for this purpose by various women of the community.

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9:30 p.m. at the Avon Plaza parking lot on Detroit Rd.  
MONDAY, SEPT. 7

Featured Monday will be an Ox Roast from noon to midnight. This will be held at Avon Isle Park, just off Detroit Road a short distance west of the intersection of Colorado Ave. (Rt. 611).

Women's games will be held here from 2 to 3:15 p.m. with men's games following from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Judges of sesquicentennial costumes will be held at 6:30 p.m., with ribbons to be awarded to the winners.

Beards grown by the men during the summer months will be judged at 7 p.m. with trophies to be awarded.

Categories in the costume judging include men's, women's, boys and girls, and infants up to two years of age, including boys and girls.

Contestants in the "shave-off" each will receive a Schick shave set, complete with razor, shaving cream and blades. The winner will receive a full year's supply of free blades from Schick, and each contestant will receive a hand mirror from Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co.

Prior to the beard judging and "shave-off" the Keystone Kops will roam through the city fining unbearded men who do not have shaving permits and confining them to the stockade.

Two television sets will be raffled off during the week-end. One is a color set and another is a black-and-white set. Both are on display at the Electronic Service Laboratory on Detroit Road in the Avon Plaza. The drawing will take place Monday at 10 p.m.

From 7 to 11 p.m., there will be dancing at Avon Isle Park.

CONGRATULATIONS ...  
to the City of Avon!

on its 'Sesquicentennial'

Good Samaritan

Nursing Home, Inc.

32900 Detroit Road

Avon, Ohio

Westmore 7-6201

Birthday Greetings ...  
to the City of Avon!

BUCK HARDWARE & SUPPLY

HARDWARE, PLUMBING  
ELECTRICAL AND HOME SUPPLIES

PITTSBURGH PAINT AND GLASS

37079 Detroit Road

Avon, Ohio

Phone WE 4-5118

was mayor, and members of council were E. A. Brown, John J. Fortthofer, Lawrence Hackel, Lawrence Leonard and C. B. McAllister. Regular meetings were set for the first Monday of each month. Appointed to the position of street supervisor of sewers, ditches and drains.

F. J. Stack was the village's first solicitor. Lewis Bennett was the clerk. Some of the first order of business to be considered by the new council of the new village was the approval of an ordinance prohibiting the placing of glass on walks and paths in Avon, and approval of an ordinance permitting the business in Avon to open for business at 4:30 a.m. Central Standard Time.

In 1919, the council approved an annual budget totalling \$11,445. This was divided

Drag Race Saturday  
Morning at 9 AM

The Drag Race is on, the cars are being tuned(?) up and the drivers (?) are getting their instructions from Head Starter and Head Commissioner of the race Police Chief Robt. Gillis. Because of the intense desire on the part of the participants to win this race, it was decided that the Chief of Police be the sole judge and rules commissioner, one of the rules set forth by Chief Gillis is that no car (again we use the word loosely) shall exceed the speed limit to be set by the Judge (Chief Gillis).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
to the City of Avon!  
on its

Sesquicentennial Anniversary!

Tom's Country Place

Catering to Weddings - Private Parties - Dances

3442 Stoney Ridge Avon, Ohio