

#37 Album

The Walton Family

and

Walton Road Families

and

Walton Road

Hicks Road

# How We Became Known as "Walton Hills"

## Chapter 2

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

The Village of Walton Hills is named for the Walton family who settled in the southwest section of Bedford Township. They pioneered the area along the road that bears their name. Since the early 1800s the section of Bedford Township surrounding Walton Road was called Walton Hills by people living nearby.

### WHY AREN'T WE NAMED "The VILLAGE of LITTLE EGYPT" or "ALEXANDER VILLAGE?"

Yes, Abner and Benjamin Walton created Walton Road and settled along their dirt road, but other sections of today's Walton Hills were also being settled in the early 1800s. Could we have been named the Village of Alexander or the Village of Little Egypt?

...There were subsistence farm families living along Egypt and Dunham Road. Their area was called "Little Egypt," even maps marked the area "Little Egypt."

...The Alexander family accumulated over 230 acres of good farmland along both sides of Alexander Road, between Canal Road and Dunham Road. They marketed their crops, raised farm animals for their monetary value, became quite prosperous, and their road was named for them.

We are probably called The Village of Walton Hills because in the 1940s, when our local leaders started to work together as a team to push for incorporation, they all had ties to the "Walton Hills" section of Bedford Township. Virgil Allen, Jr., Ted Graves, Tom Young, Joe Burns and Ludwig Conelly worked closely with the Bedford Township Trustees who were considering the dissolution of the township by forming three independent municipalities. Township Trustees had support for the creation of Bedford Heights and Oakwood Village. The Township Trustees wanted the entire southeast section of the township ("Walton Hills," "Little Egypt" and the Alexander Road area) to incorporate as one entity. It was probably our local leaders who chose to name

their newly-created southeast section of Bedford Township "The Village of Walton Hills."

### OTHER FAMILIES along WALTON ROAD

Chapter 1 was about Walton family members who settled along Walton Road. Chapter 2 is about another farm family who moved into the Walton Road area at about the same time.

#### Along Walton Road:

#### South of Today's Alexander Road The ORCHARD FAMILY Farms

Simon and Rebecca Orchard had a large farm at the northwest corner of Walton and Sagamore Roads. Their land stretched north along Walton Road to what is now Alexander Road. The first Orchard farmhouse faced Sagamore Road. It was razed in the 1980s to make room for new houses that were soon built along Sagamore Road.

The back of the Orchard house was used as a cheese factory from 1870 into the 1920s. Getting fresh milk to Cleveland markets before it spoiled was impractical, but the milk could be churned into butter and cheese and then taken to market at convenient intervals. The churning was the responsibility of the housewife and children. As local farmers found it convenient to sell their fresh milk to the Orchards, the Orchard's cheese factory flourished.



THIS HOUSE at 17609 Sagamore Road sits at the site of the first Orchard House. (2006 photo)

## How We Became Known as "Walton Hills"

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The Orchard's Walton Road farm acreage, at the northwest corner of Walton and Sagamore Roads, was in more recent years owned by Raymond and Cecelia Brown. The Brown's farmhouse sat at 7880 Walton Road. In May of 1951 Raymond Brown was elected as Councilman to our newly-formed village.

Their daughter and her husband, Lenore and Frank Duale, inherited the property and built a new house for themselves (7956 Walton Road) and divided some of the old farmland into lots.

When John Bolasz married an Orchard daughter, he farmed the land by the northwest corner of Walton Road and South Meadowpark Drive. Later the Kellys owned these 105-acres. John Kelly built his farmhouse (c. 1915) at 7720 Walton Road. In 1950 General L. S. Conelly purchased the property and added it to one of his Walton Hills Estates Developments. Conelly saved two acres of land and the farmhouse for one of his daughters and her husband, Daniel Carter.

An Orchard son owned a large farm along the east side of Walton Road, also south of today's Alexander Road. Richard Orchard bought the land from the Walton family. His house, built c. 1886, stands at 7715 Walton Road.

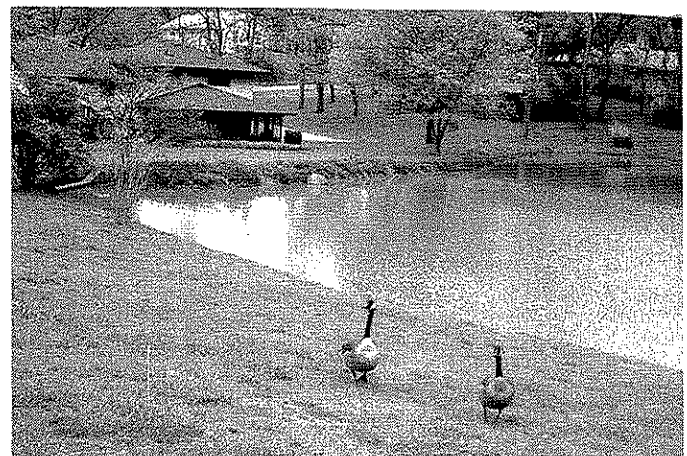
### ORCHARD LAKE

For many years, through the summer of 1949, there was a swim hole called Orchard Lake located on Walton Road by today's Orchard Hill Drive. The muddy water in Orchard Lake may not have bothered the younger children, but the older boys and girls preferred to swim in other near-by lakes, given the choice. Today the lake is shared by property owners and the many Canada Geese who consider it their private property.

Bottom Photo: ORCHARD LAKE as seen from Orchard Hill Dr. (2006 Photo)

Top Photo: The JOHN KELLY house, built c. 1915, at 7720 Walton Rd. (2006 photo)

Middle Photo: The RICHARD ORCHARD house, built c. 1886, At 7715 Walton Rd. (Date of photograph unknown)



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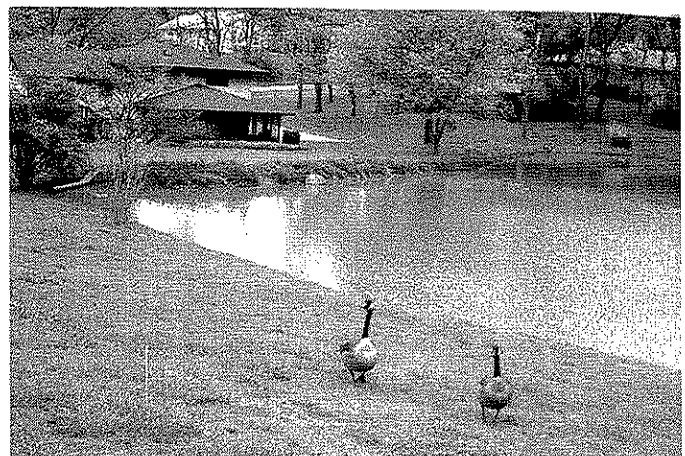
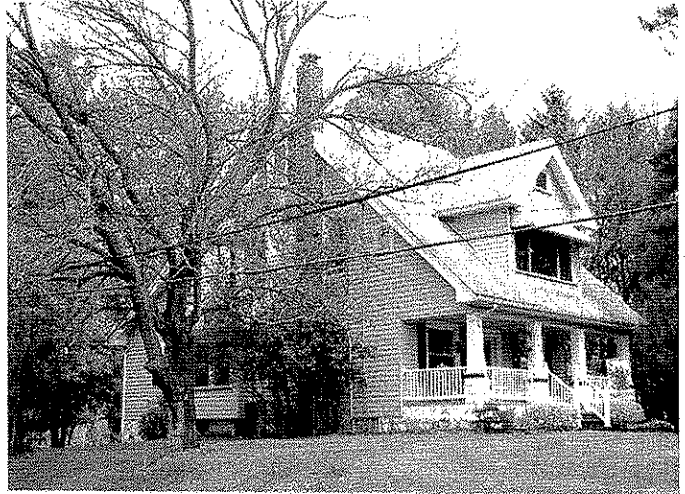
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## The STORY of the WALTON FAMILY

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

The Village of Walton Hills is named for the Walton family who settled in the southwest section of Bedford Township. They pioneered the area along the road that bears their name. Not only was the road named for the Waltons, but since the early 1800s the section of Bedford Township surrounding the roadway was called Walton Hills by people living nearby.

### THE STORY BEGINS

In Lancaster Pennsylvania a young Quaker man was disowned by his community for marrying outside his church. Seeking to live in friendlier surroundings, in 1803 Joseph Walton and his young Irish bride Sarah packed their belongings and traveled west. They eventually settled down in the town of Bedford Ohio, where they raised five children – Abner who was born in 1804, Betsy, Benjamin, Rebecca and Abigail.

### ABNER and BENJAMIN WALTON

When they were young adults, Joseph and Sarah's two sons, Abner and Benjamin Walton, moved outside the Bedford limits, to a plot of land they rented off Egbert Road in Bedford Township. The young men cleared and prepared the land for farming and grazing. By 1846 Abner and Benjamin Walton both became land owners of their acreage. Their dirt road off Egbert Road became known as Walton Road.

Abner's log cabin was along the east side of the road near today's Carmany Drive. Benjamin's cabin, also on the east side of Walton Road, was on his land to the south of today's Alexander Road. Within the next decades Walton family members accumulated considerable acreage along the road.

Abner Walton married Almira Hunt, who was from the neighboring town of Northfield. Abner and Almira Walton had three children -- Jesse, William and Thomas Jefferson (born in 1845) who later changed his name to Jefferson C. Walton.

### JEFFERSON and JULIA WALTON

Jefferson C. Walton served in the 128<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War, guarding Confederate prisoners at Johnson Island, on Lake Erie. In 1871 he married Julia Spafford. Julia Spafford's family members owned 160 acres of land along the east side of Northfield Road north of today's Alexander Road, and 102 acres on the north side of Sagamore Road between Walton and Dunham Roads.

For a time the young couple lived in a log cabin on Walton Road. Today a house stands on that same spot, but its address is 18136 Jefferson Drive. Jefferson and Julia then moved into a house they built in c.1879 on land owned by Jefferson's father, on the western slope at a bend in the road (7228 Walton Road). Near the turn of the century, Jefferson inherited the property from Abner Walton.

The Jefferson Waltons had four children, all of whom were known by their middle names -- Henry Bird, Albert Roy (born in 1874), Almira Belle, and Laura Maude. Only Roy chose to live in the family homestead and farm the acreage. The other children moved into town where they had city conveniences.



JEFFERSON and JULIA WALTON built this house in 1879 at 7228 Walton Road (Photograph by Nina Wolf, 1986)