

STORIES about Our ROADS

Part III

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

This is Part 3 in a series of articles about Walton Hills Roads. We start with our old county roads and end with our village streets. Today we drive on well-paved roads that, although they mirror the rolling terrain of Walton Hills, can be used with confidence throughout the year. It is difficult to imagine them as the steeper, windier, dirt paths and wood plank roadways of years ago.

EGBERT ROAD

Egbert Road, named for James Egbert who petitioned Cuyahoga County for its dedication, became a county road in 1833. Egbert was a landowner whose house was on Egbert, near the intersection of today's Walton Road. By 1860 James Egbert had accumulated 236 acres of farmland along his road. Only a few other families lived on Egbert Road at that time.

Considered a minor thoroughfare by the County, Egbert Road remained a winding, narrow dirt lane with steep hills and deep entrapping ruts, long after several other County roads were planked with wood boards and/or bricked. Traveling up or down the treacherous hills of Egbert Road was an ordeal. During weeks of snow and ice, the road was barely usable. And after rainy periods, residents waited for days until Egbert Road dried and hardened before they hitched up their horse and wagon to use the road.

Finally, in the 1920s the surface was graveled. Several times since then the road has been straightened and graded for safer driving, and paved. We recognize the severe turns and hills of today's Egbert Road, but we can only imagine what the road was like in earlier years.

Originally, the west end of Egbert Road went straight downhill past today's Chestnut and Hickory Drives and Overlook Lane. In 1907 when the New York Central Railroad laid its tracks and built the Dunham Road trestle over Tinkers Creek Valley, the County rerouted Egbert Road so that only one bridge had to be built in the Dunham/Egbert Roads area.

Once again in 1980 Egbert Road was re-engineered at the west end where it meets Dunham Road.

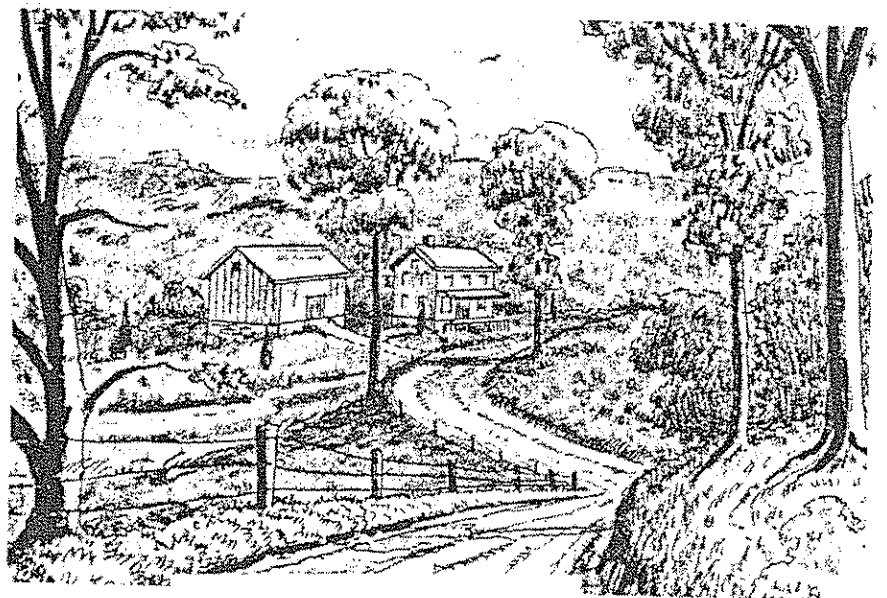
(This 1928 sketch by Joe Jesensky was reproduced by Nina Wolf in 1986)

WALTON ROAD

Walton Road became a dedicated Cuyahoga County Road in 1836. Walton Road was named for the family who pioneered the area along the roadway. Several Waltons, starting with Abner Walton in 1835, purchased acreage, built homes and tilled the land along the road. Members of the family have lived in the village ever since 1835. Today, Sterling and Betty Walton's nephew and his wife, Bill and Joyce Stanton, reside at 7215 Walton Road.

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 throughout the township. Lastly, when our village founders chose a name for the village they were about to incorporate, their obvious choice was "Walton Hills."

Like Egbert Road, this minor dirt road was bypassed when other county roads were planked in the mid 1800s. Eventually, Walton Road was graded and paved.



Joe Jesensky's 1928 drawing shows us what the land where Walton Road meets Egbert Road looked like 80 years ago. The abandoned house and barn, built by James Egbert, faced Egbert Road.

HICKS LANE - HICKS ROAD

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

Cuyahoga County identified this narrow dirt pathway on its County Atlas of 1858 as Hicks Lane. Beginning with its 1902 County Atlas, the county renamed the lane Hicks Road.

Since the early 1950s Hicks Road is a short street. But it was a much longer pathway in earlier years and it was shaped like a "T." One arm of Hicks Lane began at Walton Road as does Hicks today, but extended farther west—that extension is now part of Spanghurst Drive. Another arm of Hicks made a sharp turn north to Egbert Road, ending at the east side of the house at 16950 Egbert Road—that stretch of road does not exist today. The third arm of Hicks extended to Alexander Road. Today's North Meadowpark Drive is the approximate path of this southern extension of Hicks Lane.

Local farmers used Hicks Lane to take their grain to Alexander's Mill (Wilson Feed Mill, 7604 Canal Road). During the winter months, the County hired local men to maintain Hicks and other nearby roads. The men were paid extra money to use their own teams of horses or wagons while working on the roads.

In the early 1950s L. S. Conelly of Conelly Realty Co. developed the Hicks Road area, creating Spanghurst, Woodlake and North Meadowpark Drives. He designed new streets, plotted acre lots along the new streets and existing roads, and assisted landowners by finding buyers for their lots.

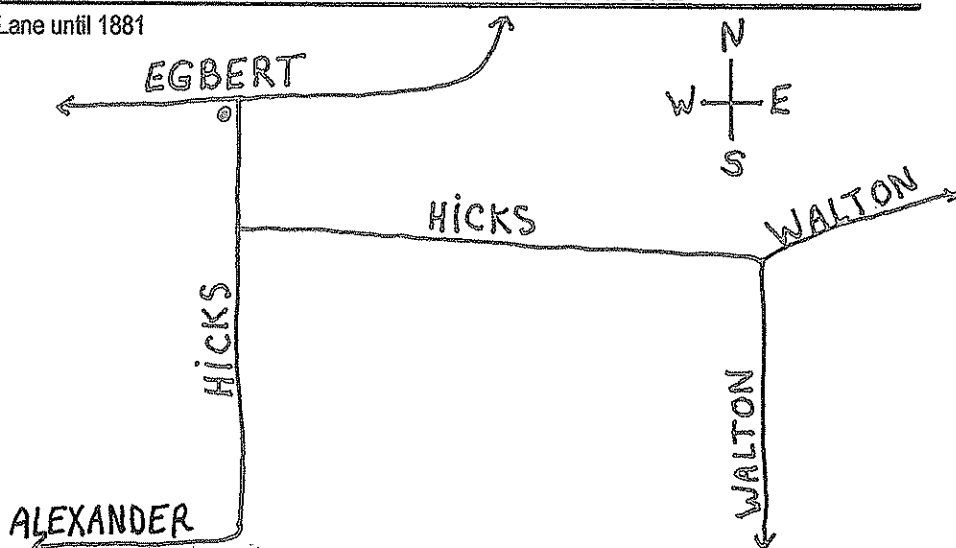
Conelly prepared and paved his new streets to meet the standards of the day for dedication, but he left unpaved the section of Hicks Road that was not his to develop. In the 1950s Roger and Edna Sprengle and Edna's parents, Irwin and Anna Beane bought land along the north side of Hicks Road, building their house at 17703 Hicks Road. Sprengle, Beane and John Sedensky, who owned all the land on the south side of Hicks, wanted to divide their acreage into building lots and sell the lots. The men successfully spearheaded the drive to pave and dedicate today's Hicks Road.

After the road was paved Howard Shay, a local building contractor, built houses for George and Eleanor Lautanen (17684 Hicks), Gary and Carol Dockery (17722 Hicks), Myron and Eileen Warnke (17723 Hicks), and Andrew and Sophie Weber (17837 Hicks). The Webers, now deceased, were the grandparents of Former Astronaut Mary Ellen Weber.

THE ORIGINAL PATH of HICKS LANE - HICKS ROAD

Note: Alexander Road ended at Hicks Lane until 1881

● House at 16950 Egbert Road



HOW THESE WALTON HILLS ROADS GOT THEIR NAMES

by Bob and Jean Kainsinger

OLD ROADS

NAME OF ROAD

- Alexander Road** In 1881, when this county road was extended eastward from Dunham Road to Walton Road, it was named Alexander Road for Andrew Alexander who owned a grist mill at the canal and a large farm on both sides of the new section of the road.
- Dunham Road** A county road since 1820, Dunham family farms lined the road in what is Maple Heights, today.
- Egbert Road** Egbert became a county road in 1833, after James Egbert petitioned for its dedication. By 1860 James Egbert owned 236 acres of farmland along the road.
- Hicks Lane** The original old county dirt road was shaped like a "T", connecting Egbert and Walton and Alexander Roads. In 1860 Hicks Lane appeared on County maps.
- Tinker's Creek Road** Captain Joseph Tinker, a member of Moses Cleaveland's surveying party in 1796-1797, transported supplies to the group. He drowned in 1797 when his boat capsized in Lake Erie during a storm. At the time the surveyors were charting Tinker's Creek, and named the stream for Tinker. That is how the adjacent roadway got its name.
- Walton Road** Several Waltons, starting with Abner Walton in 1835, built homes and tilled acreage along the road. In 1836 the road was officially named Walton Rd. Bedford people called the Walton Road area of Bedford Township, Walton Hills.
- Cleveland Hill Lane/
Wight Oaks Drive** Cleveland Hill Lane, on county maps from 1860 through the early 1900's, was a dirt access drive connecting the old Cleveland Hill Farm to Egbert Road. (The original path, from the 1820's until the mid 1950's, went north to Tinker's Creek, ending at the bridle path paralleling today's Gorge Parkway.) In 1917 Elmer B. Wight bought the Cleveland Hill Farm, lined the drive with white oak trees, and named it Wight Oaks..

HOW THESE WALTON HILLS ROADS GOT THEIR NAMES

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NEWER ROADS

<u>NAME OF ROAD</u>	<u>DEVELOPER OF LAND</u>	<u>NAMED BY THE DEVELOPER FOR:</u>
✓ Allen Drive	Ludwig Shaner Conelly	his friend, Johnny Allen, who bought then lived in old Walton School, 7307 Walton Road
✓ Carmany Drive	L. S. Conelly	his friend, Otis Carmany, who bought the second Conelly lot
✓ Conelly Drive	L. S. Conelly	himself
✓ Dellwood Drive	L. S. Conelly	his friend, Delmer Mitchell, who built at 7270 Walton Road
✓ Jefferson Drive	L. S. Conelly	Jefferson Walton, who build a log cabin facing Walton Road. Today, the log cabin would be at 18136 Jefferson Drive.
✓ Linda Lane	L. S. Conelly	his granddaughter, Linda
✓ McLellan Drive	L. S. Conelly	his friends, the McLellans, who built at 7285 Walton Road
✓ Orchard Hill Drive	L. S. Conelly	the Richard Orchards who had owned the farmland for several decades beginning in the 1870's
✓ Rotary Drive	L. S. Conelly	Bedford Rotary Club. Originally he planned to sell the lots exclusively to Rotary members.
✓ Shaner Drive	L. S. Conelly	his middle name
✓ Spanghurst Drive	L. S. Conelly	his son-in-law, Carl Spang
✓ Deeridge Drive	L. S. Conelly	for the many deer in the area
✓ East Lake, West Lake, Woodlake	L. S. Conelly	for their settings and lakes developed by Conelly Realty Co.
✓ North, South Meadowpark Dr.	L. S. Conelly	for the fields and park-like settings
✓ Morningside Drive	L. S. Conelly	for its eastern position in Conelly's Walton Hills subdivisions

HOW THESE WALTON HILLS ROADS GOT THEIR NAMES

NEWER ROADS (continued)

✓ Stuble Lane	Carl Stuble, with Conelly's help	himself
✓ Fern Lane 1956	Ward R. Heck, Conelly sold lots after Heck's death	his wife's first name. Ward Heck, a Bedford realtor, lived on Logan Street in Bedford.
✓ Logan Drive 1956	Ward R. Heck, Conelly sold lots after Heck's death	Heck owned acreage in Walton Hills. Heck subdivided the land, cut a road. He named it Logan Drive after the street of his Bedford home.
✓ Kral Drive 1960	Lillian Kral, with Conelly's help	herself
Dunham Lane 1941	Bob and Hazel Chvatal	In the 40's summer cottages were grouped along the dirt lane owned by his parents, Dr. Frank and Mae Chvatal
Chestnut, Hickory, Tulip Drives 1959	Chestnut Ridge; Floyd Carr, Sr.	names of trees in the area
Kydan Drive	descendants of Kydan Scarpete	Kydan Scarpete
Summerset Drive 1960	Guy and Ruth Iarussi, Conelly sold the lots	the beautiful view Summer sun setting on the newly-cut subdivision
Rauland Dr. '74	Rauland Corp.	himself
Andras Drive '76	Richard Matusz	English spelling of his father's first name
Sonny Drive '76	Richard Matusz	himself; his nickname
Colonial, Laurel and Regency Drives 1979	Harry B. Davis bought the planned subdivision from the Ratners of Forest City	Forest City named the streets with generic names. The original name for Rashell Drive was changed; another street in the zip code area already had the name.
Rashell Drive 1979	Harry B. Davis	Dick Hopkin's granddaughter. Hopkins was a Walton Hills councilman at that time.
Brenda Lee Drive 1995	Ken Pund	his wife's first name

- p. 122. The Village of Walton Hills: Tracing Our Heritage
 Jean and Bob Kainsinger
 c. 1986

THE NAMING OF THE CONELLY STREETS

Allen Drive — for his friend, Johnny Allen, who bought then lived in old Walton School, at 7307 Walton Road.

Carmany Drive — for the second lot buyer and friend, Otis Carmany.

Conelly Blvd. — for General Ludwig S. Conelly.

Dellwood Drive — for his friend, Delmer Mitchell, who had a Franklin Oil service station on the lot next to Conelly's Bedford house. Del and Jessie Mitchell bought a Conelly lot and built a house (7270 Walton Road). They sold to the Freys in 1948.

Deeridge Drive — for the many deer in the area.

East Lake, West Lake, and Woodlake Drives — for their settings and lakes developed by the Conelly Realty Company.

Hicks Road — for old Hicks Lane.

Jefferson Drive — for Jefferson Walton who built a log cabin along the east side of Walton Road. The cabin sat far back from the road, on today's property at 18136 Jefferson Drive.

Linda Lane — for his granddaughter, Linda, who was his daughter Jeanne's girl.

McLellan Drive — for friends of the family. The McLellans, before the mid 1940's, lived at 7285 Walton Road.

Morningside Drive — for its eastern position in the Walton Hills Estates Subdivisions.

North and South Meadowpark Drives — for the fields and park-like atmosphere.

Orchard Hill Drive — for the Richard Orchards who had owned the farmland for several decades beginning in the 1870's.

Rotary Drive — for the Bedford Rotary Club, of which Conelly was an active member. Originally he planned to reserve the lots for Rotary members.

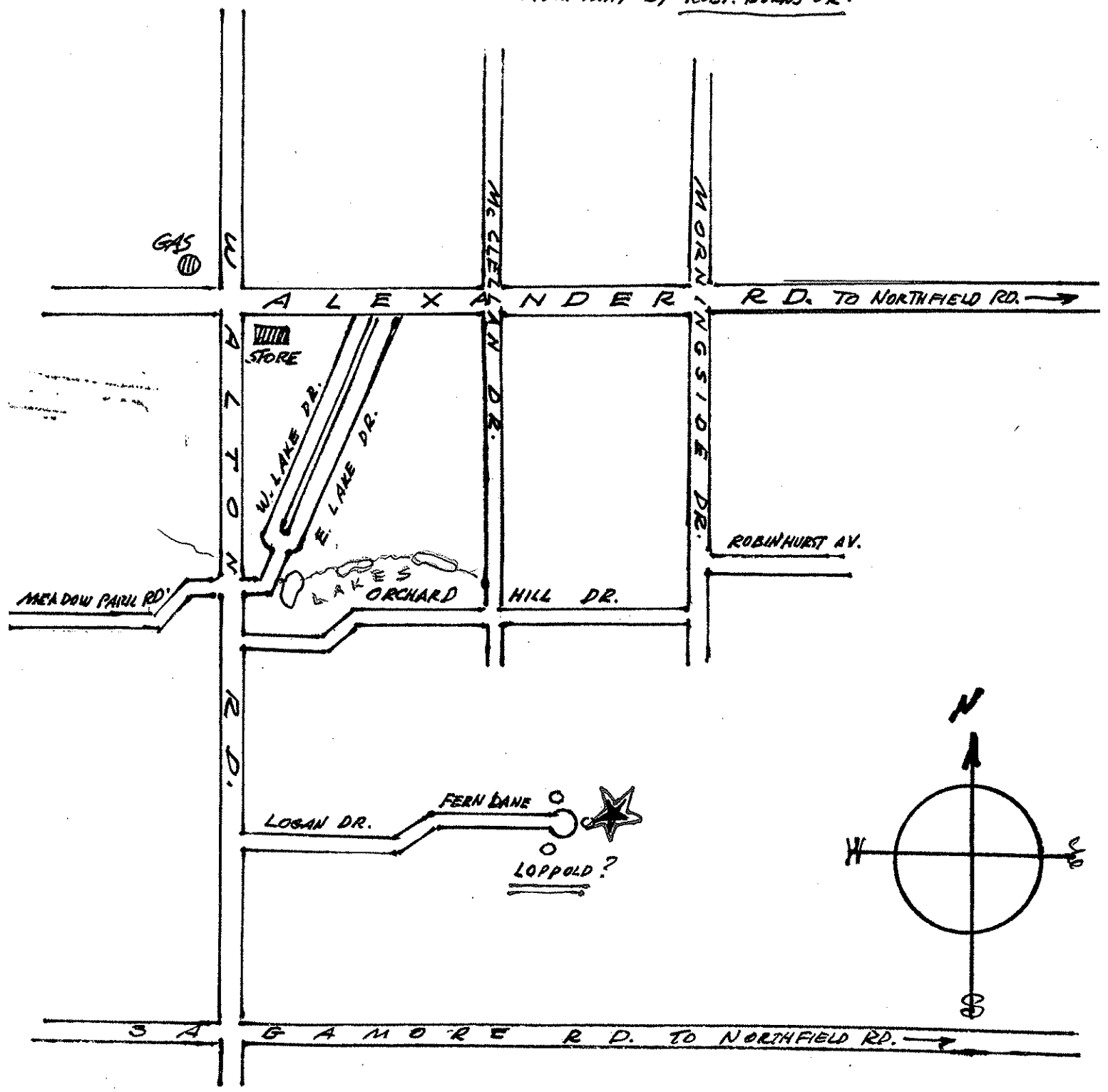
Shaner Drive — Ludwig S. Conelly's middle name was Shaner.

Spanghurst Drive — for his son-in-law, Carl W. Spang.

Original Notes & Map - included in
The ROBT. BURNS JR. PAPERS at the
BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LOCATION MAP OF SAGAMORE HILLS INDIAN STATUE

FROM MAP BY ROBT. BURNS JR.



V.D. VESENSKY-DEL.