



The City of *Westlake* Ohio

Celebrating 200 years

1811 - 2011

Mission

- To create awareness of and inform residents and businesses about the upcoming bicentennial celebration and to involve as many as possible in planning and commemorating of Westlake's 200th birthday

Steering committee

Darryl Whitehead, founder and co-owner of Media Madness

Cindy Griffiths-Novak, owner, The Belvedere of Westlake

Lynn Brady, economic development assistant, City of Westlake





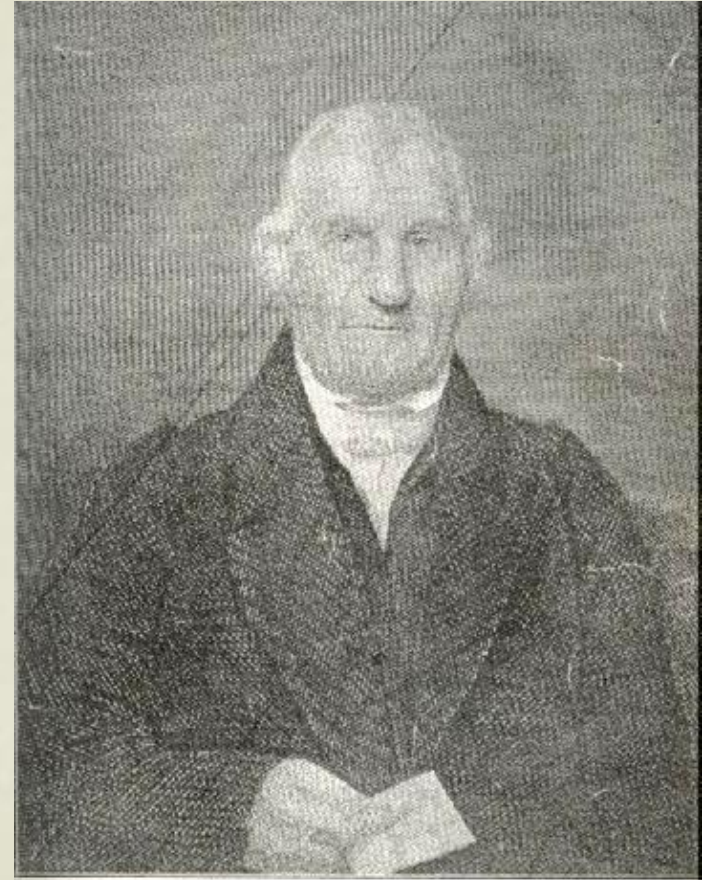
The Top Ten Things You Need to Know about Westlake!

1. Westlake was once part of the state of Connecticut!



Connecticut Land Company

- A syndicate of 60 investors purchased the Western Reserve from the state of Connecticut in 1795.
- The land was distributed to the investors by a lottery.
- In 1807 Nehemiah Hubbard and Joshua Stow drew the slip of paper for land that would later become Dover Township.

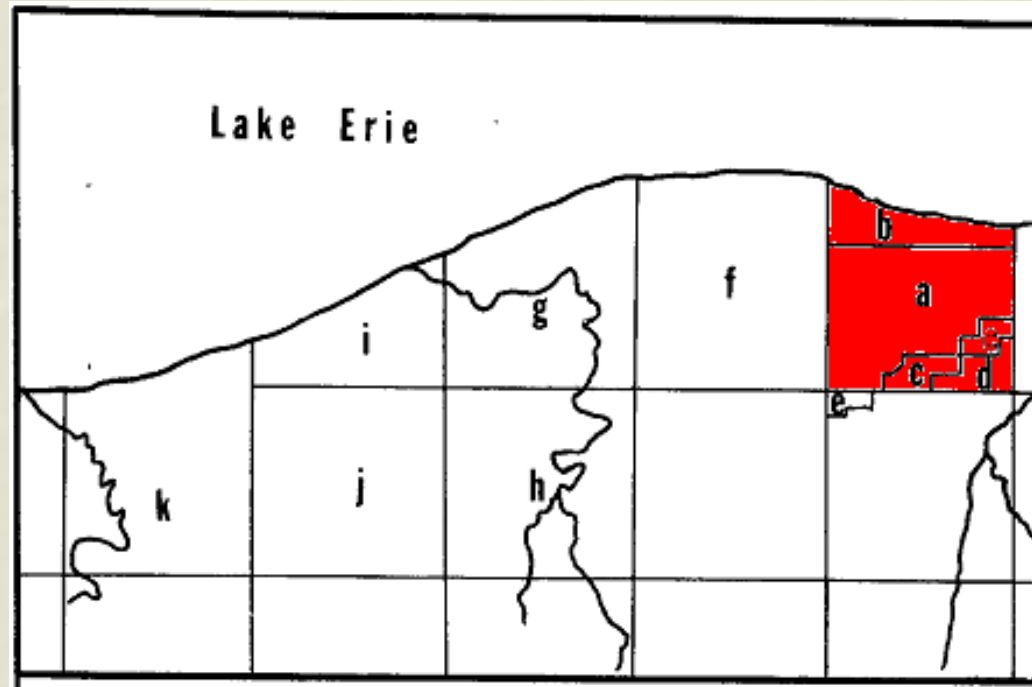


NEHEMIAH HUBBARD.

2. What happened two centuries ago, which is the reason we are gathered here today?



Dover Township Incorporated

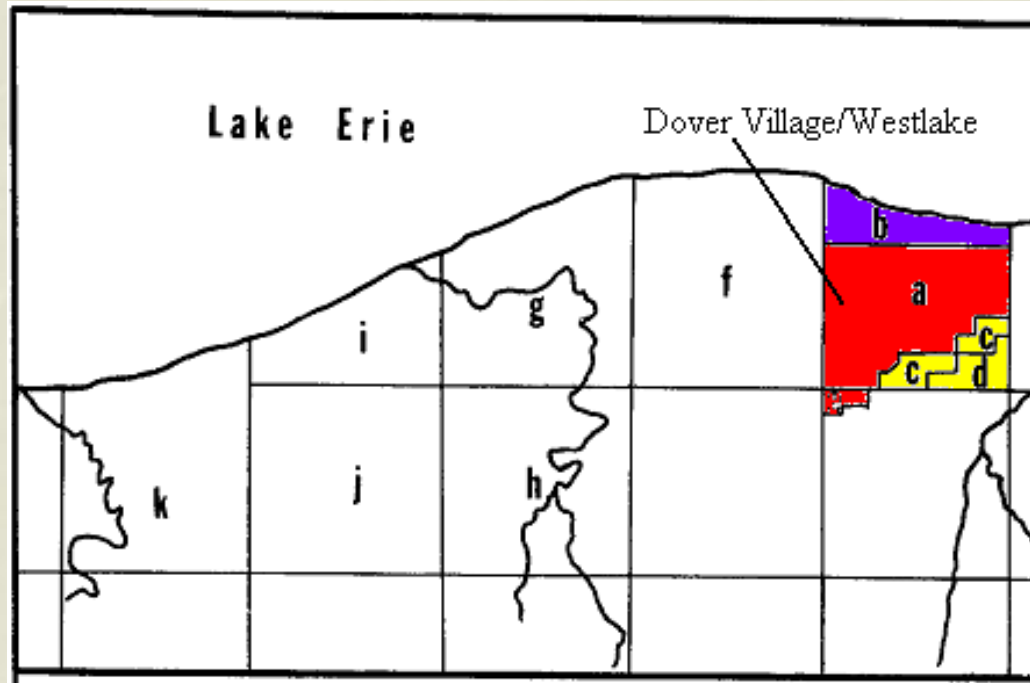


- November 14, 1811 (red areas a, b, c, d in map above) which includes present day Westlake, Bay Village, and part of North Olmsted incorporated as Dover Township.

3. Talk about regionalism –
Westlake, Bay Village and North
Olmsted were once one happy
family!



Then Dover Township became a "house" divided



- In 1909 areas shown in red incorporated as the Village of Dover which became Village of Westlake in 1940 and a city in 1959

4. Who got here first?



First settlers of Dover Twp.

- On Oct. 10, 1810 the first non Native-Americans, the Porter and Cahoon families settled in Dover Twp. along Lake Erie.
- This northern area of Dover Township. later became Bay Village.
- This is why Bay is celebrating their bicentennial in 2010.

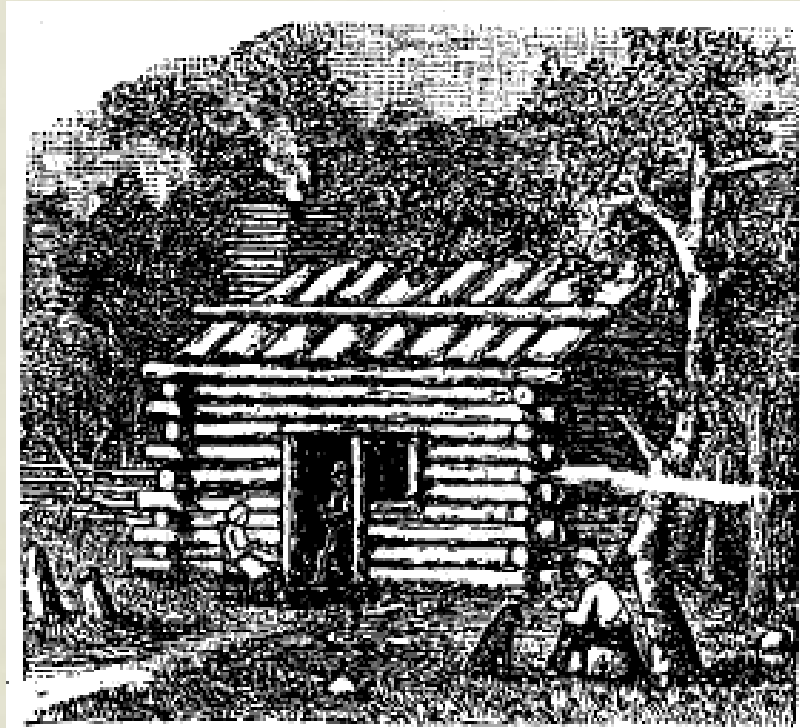


A PIONEER'S LOG CABIN.



First settlers of Dover Twp.

- The Porter household included Mrs. Porter's 17 year old nephew Leverett Johnson.
- Leverett Johnson began clearing land in the vicinity of Columbia and Center Ridge roads in 1810.
- In 1812 Leverett Johnson built a crude shelter and in 1814 a log cabin on land at Porter and Center Ridge roads, part of the land later donated for Evergreen Cemetery.



A PIONEER'S LOG CABIN.



1811 settlers of part of Dover Twp. that later became Westlake

- Abner & Rebecca Smith settled on land on Center Ridge Road where the “1820” house was built at the corner of Glenmore Road and later the Smith/Weston house was constructed out of stone quarried in Westlake.





1811 settlers of part of Dover Twp. that later became Westlake

- Along with the Smith family, brothers James and Barnabas & Hannah Hall, and Noah Crocker and his wife and three children were the first residents of what would later become Westlake.
- James Hall settled on Detroit Road near Avon line.
- Barnabas & Hannah Hall where West Bay plaza is located.
- Noah Crocker at current Detroit & Old Bassett roads.



Crocker home circa 1853

- On land owned by the Crocker family in 1852, relatives of 1811 settler Noah Crocker, built this fine house, which still stands at 29292 Detroit Road, on the northwest corner of Detroit and Old Bassett roads.



5. What was the first heavy industry in Westlake?

Heavy Industry

- The Dover Blast furnace was built between 1830 & 1835 – long before there was zoning!
- It was located along Cahoon Creek, northeast of Dover Center and Center Ridge, behind the Circle K and the Rusty Barrel.
- The blast furnace utilized bog ore, which was raw material on the surface of the ground along the north side of Center Ridge Road.
- It was a 24/7 operation that irritated nearby church-goers on the Sabbath.

6. What is with the friendly rivalry between Bay Village and Westlake?



Rivalry?

- Bay Village split from the rest of Dover Township over taxes and representation.
- During the late 1800s the lake shore became a popular summer residence area.
- Most of the property value was along the lake and the elected officials were farmers who lived away from the lake.
- There were disagreements on how the taxes were spent within the Township.
- After the Nickel Plate railroad came through in 1881, the wealthier folks split off the northern portion, they took the railroad and the taxes it paid with them.

7. Why does Westlake owe some of its prosperity to Bay Village?



Westlake prospers

- Westlake has prospered partially because founders in Bay Village didn't have the foresight to take the land south of the railroad which became Westlake's prime industrial area and later provided the vacant corridor for I-90



8. Why has Westlake turned out so well?



Continuity in leadership and sticking to the “plan”

- Able leadership of many long term visionaries including: Mayor Clough for 24 years; Council Presidents Peterson and Killeen for a combined 34 years; Past Planning Commission Member Dick Lancashire for 31 years, Current Planning Commission Chairman Richard Schultz 24 years & Planning Director Bob Parry for 23 years. These individuals, along with many others, have resisted the “easy way out” during the years of intense growth pressure in Westlake.
- Westlake passed its 1st Guide Plan in 1963, its 2nd in 1980, and updates in 1985, 1991, and 2004. The result has been controlled and balanced growth with sustained vision.

9. What is the story behind
Crocker Park?



Crocker Park: a long history

- Crocker family descendents still owned much of the land Crocker Park is constructed on as late as 1892 and portions of the land in 1911.
- Some of the land was purchased by members of the Juergemeier family as early as 1892. The Juergemeiers were farmers who emigrated directly from Germany and first settled in Westlake in the 1860s. They were part of “the German settlement” along Bassett and Detroit roads.
- The Carney family acquired some of the land with other investors as early as 1963.





Crocker Park: a long history

- Crocker Road as a connector between I-90 and I-480 was first discussed during the 1960s before either freeway was constructed.
- When the Crocker/Bassett I-90 interchange was completed from the west in 1970s it began to raise land values & stimulate growth
- The completion of I-90 eastbound from Crocker in 1976, further raised its value.
- Crocker Road was finally completed from I-90 to I-480 in North Olmsted in 2009





Crocker Park: a long history

- The Juergemeier brothers were likely the last major farmers in Westlake, tilling the soil into the 1980s until the Promenade was built on the frontage of Detroit Road.
- Much of the land making up Crocker Park had been long-abandoned grape vineyards.
- The Carney family and Robert Stark of Stark Enterprises (owner of The Promenade) joined forces to plan & build Crocker Park in 2000 - 2004.





Crocker Park: a long history

- Crocker Park created a “downtown” for Westlake.
- Was one of the 1st true mixed-use new-urbanist developments built in the Midwest.
- Is a regional destination that has attracted international visitors to Westlake.
- Has won design awards for the developer and the architects.
- It is the largest single development in the city, has the highest assessed value and largest property tax payer.



10. Who the heck is Jack Miner?

OHIO

HISTORICAL
MARKER

JACK MINER

Jack Miner, noted conservationist and naturalist, was born at this site on April 10, 1865. Miner, who moved to Ontario, Canada, in 1878, achieved worldwide recognition for his pioneering studies of waterfowl migration. His work with migrating birds led to the establishment of a bird sanctuary at Kingsville, Ontario, the publication of several books, and the formation of the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation.

THE WESTLAKE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
AND

1975

THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

5-18

Jack Miner

- Noted conservationist and naturalist was born in Westlake in 1865 living near Dover Center and Westown Blvd, until age 13 when the family moved to Canada.
- He had such a love for the land of his hometown that he asked for a few bags of soil to plant a garden at his bird sanctuary in Ontario; later the Westlake Kiwanis fulfilled his wish.
- In 1944, the year he died, he was ranked as the fifth best known man on the North American continent.



Let's Celebrate!

References

- The preceding powerpoint was prepared by William R. Krause, Asst. Planning Director of the City of Westlake with assistance from Robert Parry, Nicolette Sackman and Lynn Brady. Sources include:
- *History of Cuyahoga County, Ohio* by Crisfield Johnson, 1879.
- *A History and Civics of Dover Village*, by Reign Hadsell and Hazel Rutherford, 1930.
- *You've Come a Long Way, Westlake and You've Got a Long Way To Go*, by William M. Robishaw, 1993.
- City of Westlake and Cuyahoga County records.