

The Clark house is extraordinary -- its early date, the remarkable stone construction, its state of preservation, and the amazing family story of James Clark (1765-1852). Clark was born in Virginia and it is reported that he was a drummer at the battle of Yorktown in 1781. He and his family came to Anderson Township in 1797 and immediately bought land along Clough Creek.

In 1802-03 he built the large stone house that now stands at the corner of Clough Pike and Hunley (6816 Hunley). This house is likely the oldest standing stone house in southwest Ohio (maybe even the state of Ohio). The main part of the house is the original two-story construction of dressed limestone. There is an Eastlake-style porch addition on the east side, probably built in the late 1800s. There is also a small single story addition on the north side, likely added in the late 1800s or early 1900s.

James Clark and his family are buried at the Clough Baptist Burying Grounds off Bridges near Clough Pike.

He was a school teacher, wrote an arithmetic text back in Virginia, built a grist mill, and ran a distillery. He was a very successful businessman and served as a justice of the peace, a judge, and a state legislator. He kept a diary on his trip to Ohio in 1797 and for a bit after he arrived. This original diary has been preserved and copies are available. See attached file.

James Clark (1765-1852) married Susannah Johnson (1765-1837) on 4 September 1786 in Southampton County, Virginia. Their children were:

Patsy 1787-1863  
Orgia 1789-1870  
Orson 1792-1864  
Eliza 1794-1883  
Nancy 1797-1879  
Harvey 1799-1858  
James 1800-1855  
Johnson 1800-1866  
German 1802-1834  
Shelly 1806-1847



James Clark family gravestone in the Clough Baptist Burying Grounds at the corner of Bridges and Clough. JLH



## **CLARK STONE HOUSE -- OWNERS AFTER THE CLARK FAMILY**

Orson Clark (1792-1864) lived in the stone house in 1848 and sold it to Adam Leuser in 1854. The Leuser family lived there for many decades and in about 1919 it became the property of Joseph and Genevieve Messmer (Adam Leuser's granddaughter). Joseph Messmer, "Florist," operated a greenhouse and raised and sold plants. The property remained in this family until the three Messmer daughters (Matilda Zerhusen, Agnes Menkhaus and Ida Messmer) sold the property to Anderson Township in 1995.

Family details:

**Adam Leuser (1819-1905) married Julia Fink (1825-1892) in 1854.**

Both Adam Leuser and Julia Fink were born in Germany. They have seven children in their family:

**Adam** (1852-1912) who is a child from Julia's first marriage but adopted by Adam Leuser and his name was changed to Adam Leuser, Jr.

**Philomena "Minnie"** (1855-1934) who married Anthony Wolfer (1849-1939)

**Mary** (1857-1924) who married Charlie Yeager

**Elizabeth** (1859-1936) who married John Simon Wolfer

**Anna** (1861-1892) who married Jacob Wolf

**Caroline Agnes "Carrie"** (1863-1916) who married John Lipps

**Joseph** (1865-1915) who married Matilda Yeager (1866-1941)

[I have seen different versions of the names and dates.]

**JOSEPH LEUSER** marries **Matilda Yeager** (1866-1941) in 1888. They have:

**Lawrence** (1889-1964) who married Emma Kuntz (1889-1969) in 1910

**Antoinette Philomena** (10 Sep 1892- 2 April 1970) (first child baptized at Guardian Angels Church)

**Genevieve** (1894-1978) who married **Joseph Messmer** (9 Oct. 1891-Jul 1984) 30 April 1919.

**Lorena Maria** (18 Aug 1903-25 Sep 1935) bank teller, engaged to Aloysius G. Geis (1901-1966). She died of typhoid fever one week before her wedding.

**In the 1900 census** Adam Leuser Sr. (head), son Joseph and his wife Matilda and their children: Lawrence, Antoinette, and Genevieve are living in one household on Clough. Adam Leuser Sr. dies in 1905. Joseph Leuser buys the Miller Log House on Clough Pike from the Young family in 1907. Lawrence and Emma Kuntz (1889-1969) marry in 1910. Genevieve marries Joseph Messmer (from KY, 1891-1984) on 30 April 1919. Joseph Leuser died in 1915 (on Easter Sunday morning in 1915 he was found frozen to death on

Bogard/now Berkshire Road). Lawrence and Emma Leuser buy the Log House on Clough Pike from Lawrence's mother and his sisters in 1923. The Leuser heirs sell the Miller Log House property to ATHS in 1971 and the brick house property next door to ATHS in 1973.

There is a great photo of the Leuser family: Joseph, Matilda and Lawrence, Genevieve, Antoinette and Lorena in front of the stone house in about 1905.



Notice the painting details of the gingerbread porch structure and the addition to the house on the north side.



Photo about 1912-13. The baby is Clara Leuser born in 1912, held by Emma Kuntz Leuser. Left to right: Antoinette Leuser (1892-1970), Emma Kuntz Leuser (1889-1969), baby Clara Leuser Smith (1912-2007), Matilda Yeager Leuser (1866-1941), Lorena Leuser (1903-1935) and Genevieve Leuser Messmer (1894-1978). Matilda Yeager Leuser is sitting with her three daughters, her daughter-in-law Emma and first grandchild Clara on the steps of the stone house on the west side of the house.



March 17, 1968



October 1969 (slide)





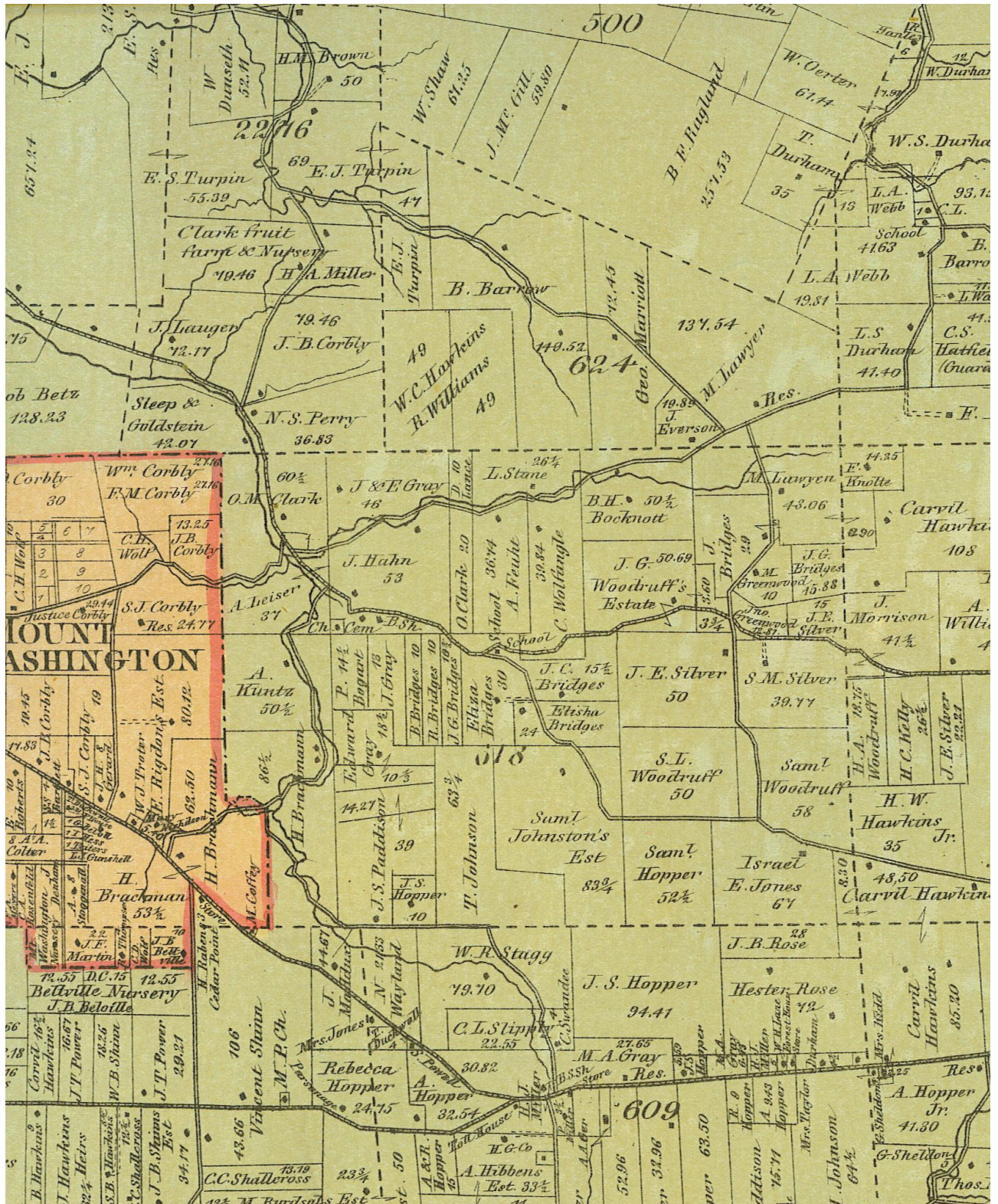
April 10, 1971



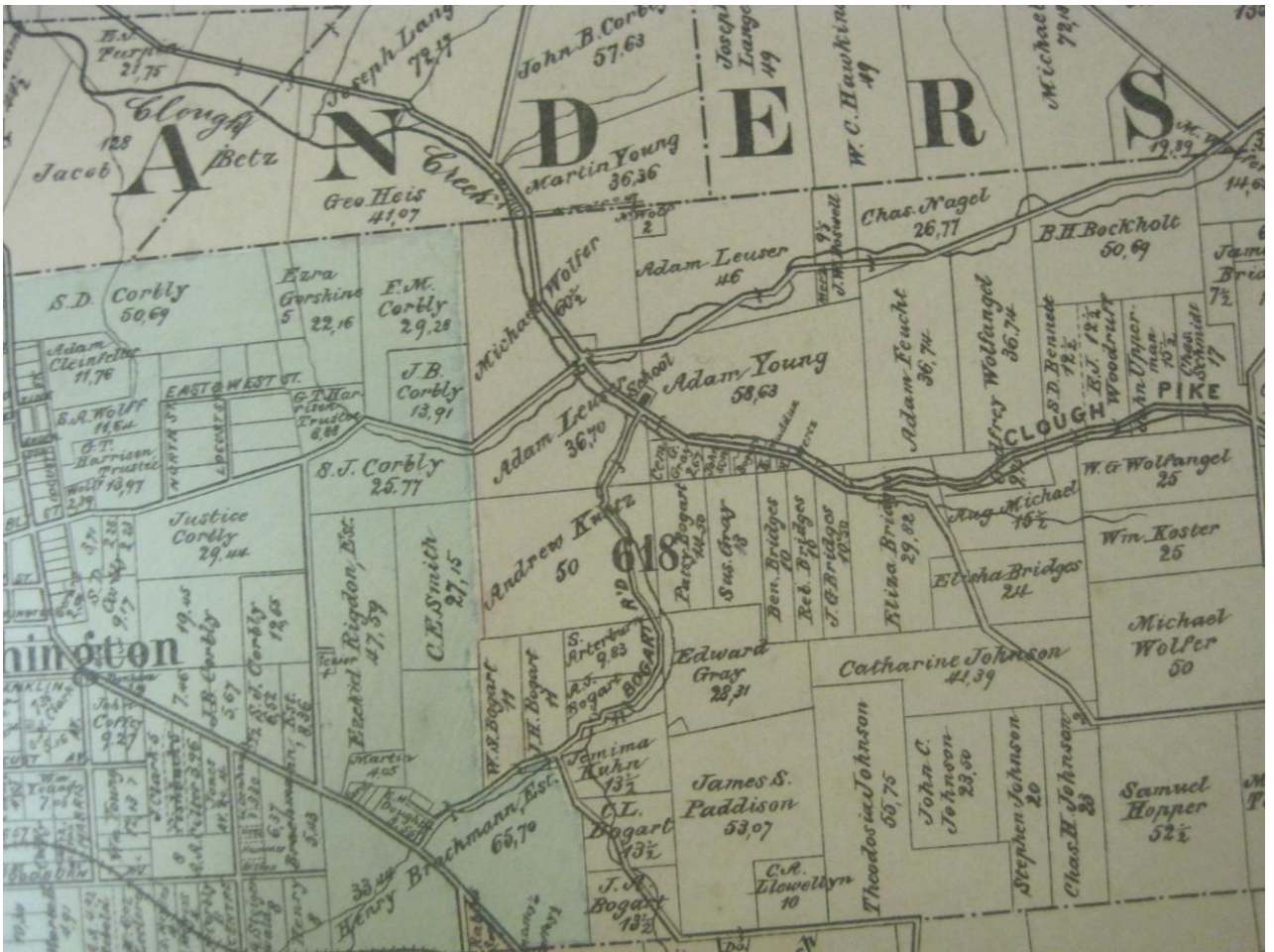
September 16, 2009



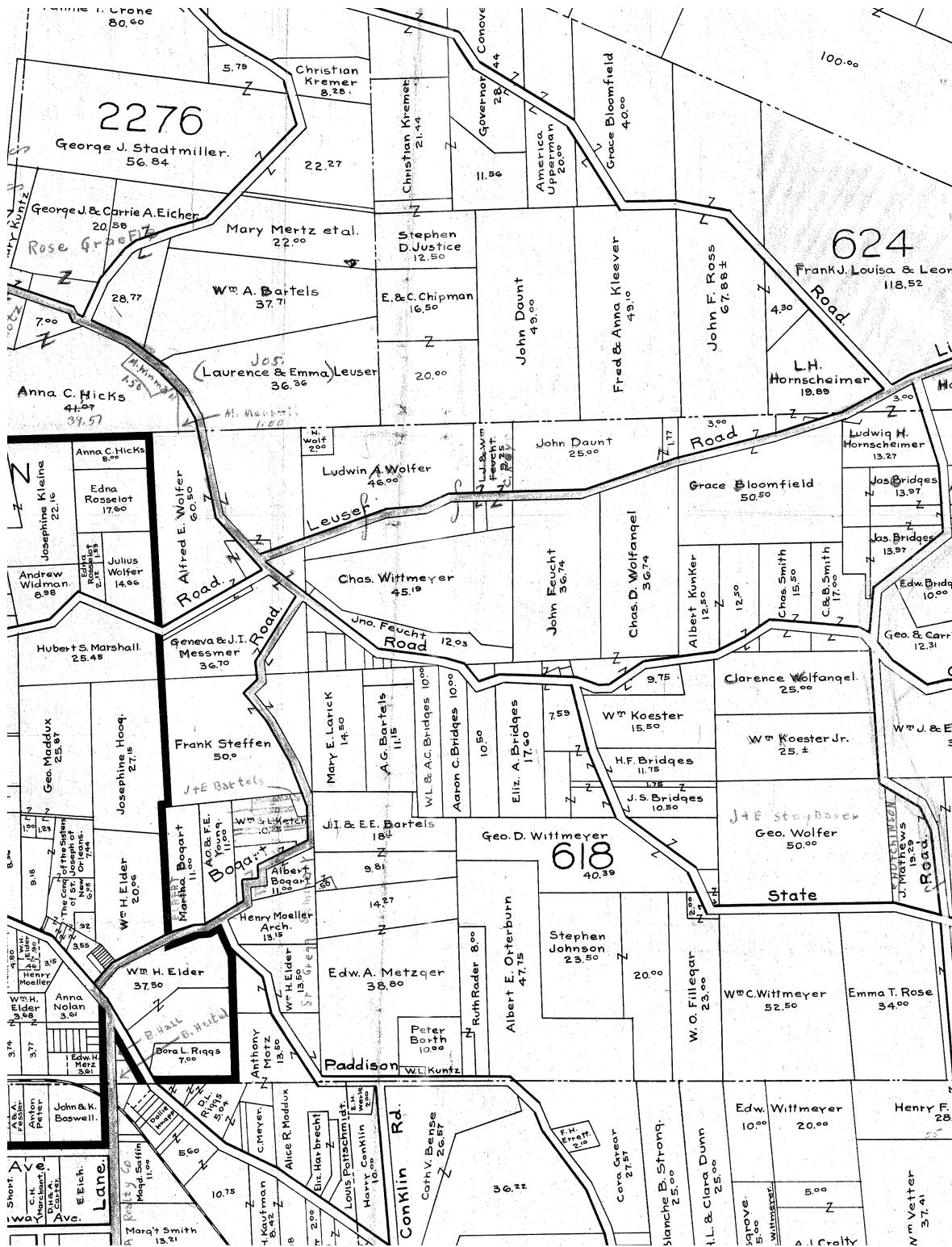
Sign on display at GreenField Plant Farm Sept 4, 2014 JLH



1869 Titus map



1884 map



1926 map Hunley Road was known as Leuser Road at that time.