

Sentinel-Tribune

Stony Ridge has more than many 'real' towns

By Ken Kinney

In a booklet entitled, "Stony Ridge Ohio," published in 1972 for its 100th anniversary, the authors, Levanda E. Hurrelbrink, Lelia Schulte, Grace Metzger and Gladys Sibbersen, wrote that the first word, Stony, came from the many granite boulders left by the glacier when it retreated some 14,000 years ago, ending the million-and-a-half year Ice Age. The second word, Ridge, was derived from the limestone ridge so prevalent through the area, and most Stony Ridgers probably would agree that their name is better than another which was considered, presumably briefly: Beanville.

Where Stony Ridge is now, in the northwestern corner of Troy Township, was surveyed about 1820, but the hamlet itself was not platted until May 1872, for Samuel Shriener. But some 45 or 50 years before Stony Ridge was laid out, the community was one of the 30 or so stops (along with Lemoyne to the east and Lime City to the west) situated about a mile apart on the infamous Western Reserve Road which the federal government installed in the Black Swamp in about 1827, the first converted effort to try to tame the swamp.

The 30-mile road, which ran from Lower Sandusky (now Fremont) to Perrysburg was virtually impassable most of the year, and travelers with horse or oxen-drawn wagons could barely progress about a mile in a day. Thus, the inns and/or taverns at one-mile intervals were necessary.

The road is now part of U.S. 20 (locally called Fremont Pike), which runs from Boston to the Pacific Ocean, ending at Newport, Oregon. It is known that efforts to improve the road began soon after it opened, and by 1848 there was no longer a need to have one in per mile.

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