

THE SUNLIT ROAD

By Tom T. Jones

What was a map containing the precise location of the Sandy and Beaver canal with its connections with the Ohio and Pennsylvania canals, with an accompanying profile, showing the number of locks and the lifts of each was prepared for distribution in this and adjacent counties more than a century ago, according to an advertisement that appeared in the Ohio Patriot of Nov. 29, 1828. A copy of this issue is now in the possession of East Liverpool residents after it was some time ago discovered in an old log house near Salea.

This map was one of Columbiana, Stark, Tuscarawas and Jefferson counties in Ohio and of Ohio, Beaver, and part of Butler and Allegheny counties in Pennsylvania. It was one which, at the moment of the publication of this issue of the county seat paper in the final days of the administration of President John Quincy Adams, the sixth chief executive of the United States, was being distributed by Charles D. Hostetter of New Lisbon.

This map was declared to be one that accurately exhibited the boundaries, ranges, townships and sections with their respective numbers that had been arranged on a scale of three miles to the inch. The map, accordingly, one 24 by 34 inches in size, was printed on good paper and sold for \$1 each. One copy was given to every one who turned in 10 subscribers for this map and were responsible for the price of them. Editors of news papers in Ohio and Pennsylvania were admonished to note the appearance of this map whereupon they also would be presented with a single copy of it. It is quite possible that in some homes or offices in the country one or more copies of this old map have been preserved. If so, they have rare value in maintaining for posterity the sites of many mills and other activities of days more than a century ago in this section of Ohio.

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A poster, announcing the 26th annual Columbiana county fair at Lisbon, Sept. 24-26, 1877, hangs inside the long-abandoned Gaston Mill, along the banks of Beaver creek near the St. Clair-Middletown township boundary line.

The old Gaston mill was erected in 1837 by Flanders Gaston, father of Mrs. Levi Hickman, who still resides in an old homestead nearby.

In later years it was operated by the late Levi Hickman and his son-in-law, Denver Williams. It was the only mill between Williamsport and Clarkson, and served farmers for many miles around. The old Williamsport and Sprucevale mills as well as that at Fredericktown have fallen into decay and ruin, but that at Gaston's mills still stands, although it has not been used for many years.

During its boom days it operated by water power from Beaver creek. The hub of the water wheel remains as is some of the machinery inside the mill. Most of the cogs were wooden, there being but little metal machinery.