

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge-1861

H. C. Whitacre and Whitacre Park



H. C. Whitacre

In 1880 Harvey Constable Whitacre was born in Butlerville, Ohio. One of three children, he received his early schooling in that Warren County hamlet. Under the provisions of the Boxwell Law of 1895, he attended Blanchester High School and graduated in 1899. Afterwards, he attended the National Normal University in Lebanon, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1901.

That same year he married Edith Ludlum. Both were professional educators. Edith taught music, and H.C.'s first position was principal of Butlerville School (where he had gone to school). The couple eventually had six children. While their family was young (1911), H.C. purchased a farm at the southeast corner of Given and Kugler Mill Roads. He called it the "home place". He kept two adjoining farms in Butlerville, even though the family moved to Indian Hill. A brilliant man, H. C. graduated from Yale in the Class of 1908 and received his law degree from the University of Chicago.

H.C. used his initials because he didn't like the name Harvey. He taught and was principal in the Cincinnati Public School system during the daytime. He practiced law at night and on weekends, and farmed during the remaining hours. His law office (shared with a partner) was in downtown Cincinnati. H.C. wore a navy blue suit, white shirt and tie when he went to the city, but he shed those clothes as soon as he came home, and put on his farming clothing. He also deposited his false teeth into a cup on the shelf inside the kitchen door as soon as he arrived. A tall thin man, H. C. was a staunch Republican. He also was a justice of the peace and an avid reader who valued education and encouraged his children to attend college.

Whitacre's two horses (Napoleon and June) pulled sickles, cut hay and pulled wagons on his property. H.C.'s vegetable garden was large and prolific. He raised tobacco for his own use, and grew broom corn, with which he made brooms. The garden was surrounded by raspberry vines, and at the rear of the house were the grape arbors. H. C. also grew several varieties of apples and cherries in his orchard. He had a milk cow and occasionally raised a pig. In addition to the two-story clapboard house, there was a barn, a garage, and a few other outbuildings.

Edith Whitacre died after a series of strokes in 1956. H. C. passed away in 1972, at age 92. His farm was acquired by the Nature Conservancy, a national preservation organization, which held the property until Indian Hill Village could purchase it. The Village applied for an \$81,000 matching grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and was awarded the funds a few years later.

Indian Hill then (1978) bought the property from the Nature Conservancy, and converted it to a park, to be used for passive recreation. Nowadays, Whitacre Park has a mulched circular walking trail which meanders through a second growth forest. H.C. Whitacre's old home place — once a working family farm in the 20th century is a popular place to stroll or relax and reflect. At a family reunion, Whitacre descendants contributed a bench with a memorial plaque near the entrance to the park in 2010.



Edith and H. C.

Whitacre House

