

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

7108 Glendale Milford Road and Its Inhabitants

Recently a demolition permit was issued for a quaint house with Indian Hill history – located at 7108 Glendale Milford Road. Accessible through the entrance to the Indian Hill Public Works/Water Works Department on Ohio State Route # 126, it was the long-time residence of the Smith family.

The house itself was originally located on Drake Road, near where the current primary school is located. In the late 1950s it was moved intact to Camp Dennison. The building could not fit under the Shawnee Run Road overpass, so it was transported down Kugler Mill Road, and put on a new foundation. It became the home of Mr. & Mrs. Clarence (Dorothy) Smith and their son.



7108 Glendale Milford Rd.



**Clarence with many of
the trophies.**

Long involved with Indian Hill, Clarence's knowledge of guns and his devotion to shooting were pivotal in the course of his life. In 1940, Mr. A. H. Chatfield hired Smith to serve as a Minuteman, which then was the private police force on "the hill". Back then there were only about 500 families, and the main problems were chicken thieves, horse thieves, and bootlegging. At that time Clarence resided in Montgomery. As a Minuteman, his starting salary was \$1200, \$100 per month. He augmented his income by working at Ferris Hardware and fighting fires in Montgomery. When Indian Hill incorporated in 1941, the Rangers were formally established, and Smith joined the force. The Minutemen turned over all equipment (cars, radios, etc.) to the Rangers. The Board of Directors of the Rangers urged all policemen to become superior marksmen and encouraged them to compete. The members of the force practiced behind the current day Administration Building, and at a range in Redbird Hollow. They traveled to Pennsylvania, New York, and Florida and won many trophies in local and national competitions. Then in the mid-1950s, Indian Hill purchased 31 acres in Camp Dennison which was then known as Camp Ross. A Village Council member laid out a new shooting range. It opened in 1958.

The Smith family moved to the wooden abode which had recently been moved to 7108, adjacent to the new shooting range and the Little Miami River. Clarence became Rangemaster, overseeing the scheduling and maintenance of the facility there –including mowing the grass. Regular target practice was mandatory for all policemen, and many officers shot at additional times to improve their skills. Clarence Smith worked at the Range 7 days a week until shooting on Sundays ceased, and then he worked for 6 days weekly. He was a state certified firearms instructor, an NRA firearms instructor, a teacher at the Police Academy in Sharonville, and an official referee. He chaired the national shooting match at Camp Perry, Ohio for 5 years.

Besides serving Indian Hill residents as a Ranger for 35 years (retiring in 1976), Smith was the director of the Indian Hill Junior Rifle Club from 1962-1983. Village youths between the ages of 12 and 18 were trained, practiced, and competed under his watchful eye. Clarence worked with these students three evenings a week and accompanied them to matches. His wife, Doretta (known as Do) faithfully did all the paperwork and kept records for the organization. The Junior Rifle Club was very popular, boasting as many as 100 students some years and being featured in numerous *Indian Hill Bulletin* articles. The Club had its own flag and uniform: a red jacket with an American Indian on it and embroidered with each shooter's name. The group competed in national contests and accumulated many trophies. Statewide they won first place for 3 positions: indoor, outdoor standing, and outdoor prone. These youths were champions, and Smith coached them for 21 years.

Clarence H. Smith died in 2004, and his wife passed away in 2019. Their son Clarence A. Smith served for 45 years with the MIHJFD before his retirement in 2018. Their home will soon be razed. This special family exemplified the ideals of public service, loyalty, and dedication to the community. Their story is worth recounting.



1979 NRA Award