

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge
1861

Colonel Isaac Waring's Poetry

Colonel Isaac Waring was born in Columbia in 1799, went to common school, and continued his education by self study. His 38 acre farm was at the corner of Miami and Brill Roads. A member of the Hamilton County Horticultural Society, he was a founder and the President of the Indian Hill Horticultural Society. Meetings of the latter group were often held in the Colonel's Wine House. Each month members discussed agricultural practices, and sampled local wine. Waring, a lifelong bachelor, acquired a printing press at age 69, and began publishing his own works. His 300 page *Miscellaneous Poems*, published in 1878, is a remarkable volume.

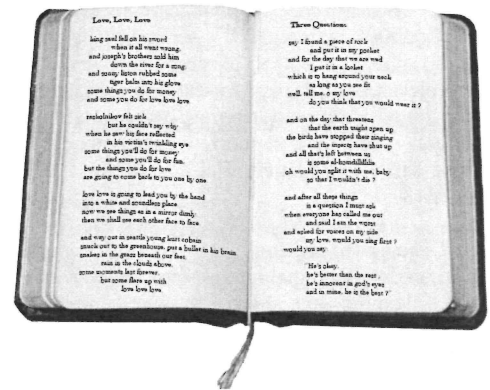
Waring's poetry praised local organizations and places. He wrote *On Odd Fellowship*, calling the group "a friendly band of brothers". Two poems were written for Jefferson School. He advised students to "obey your teacher, love your books..." The Colonel applauded the Jefferson Cornet Band twice in verse, and urged them not to play "ugly tunes". Waring addressed 5 poems to the Horticultural Society of Indian Hill, commending farmers and their endeavors.

Several poems revered the pleasures of outdoor life, e.g. *Fishing and Ducking*; *A Conversation between Birds*; *The Groundhog and the Skunk*; *A Pleasant Walk*; and *A Rabbit Hunt*. Holidays merited rhymes — 2 poems were about the 4th of July and 3 about Christmas. Villagers celebrated Independence Day with a picnic, a band, and a dance, and at Christmas, there was a tree at the one room Jefferson School, with fruit and candy for students. As the Civil War was still fresh in the public memory, the Colonel wrote about it in *J.T. DeMar and the Rebellion* and *On the Horrors of War*. He also praised local ladies who formed a Soldiers' Aid Society.

Waring included opinions on political issues, fashion, and local events. In *On Woman's Rights*, he opposed female suffrage, "when women go to vote with men ... our nation's hopes will all miscarry." Still he glorified woman as "the flower of the land". *The Author's Views on Temperance* advised a temperate life, but stated that "temperance means moderation — not that we abstain." He disapproved of female fashion of the era, writing "woman is the noblest work in all of God's creation, but when she puts the bustle on, she sinks in estimation." Regarding a religious camp meeting in *Arthur's Great Camp Meeting on Indian Hill*, he believed the preacher was "a most egregious pest" because his "aim was money", and the meeting did "no good" for the community.

Many verses celebrated Waring's neighbors and friends. *Darius Flinn's Courtship and Wedding* related the story of a local couple. He saluted a 10th Anniversary in *Mr. and Mrs. Stevens' Tin Wedding*, and a student's educational progress in another poem. *On Colonel Moore's Cider Press* focused on his neighbor's splendid contraption.

A thoughtful man, Waring shared his personal philosophy with readers. In *Traveling through the World*, he concluded "Be honest, truthful, just and kind; and help those who your help may need, and then proclaim to all that this should be man's universal creed." A 15 page poem, *The World's Inequalities* commented that the "world is indeed strange." Waring's lyric poetry, written in couplets and quatrains, presents aspects of life in an earlier era. Life was simpler then, and the Colonel's 96 poems reflect those bygone days.



Miscellaneous Poems can be found at the Cincinnati Historical Society Library.