

OUR PHYSICIAN--SETH H. TRUESDALE, M. D.

Seth H. Truesdale, M. D., was born in the Village of Poland on June 20, 1843. He was the son of Joseph and Eliza (Hayes) Truesdale, a cousin of the late President Rutherford B. Hayes.

Joseph Truesdale was born in Poland Township in 1804, where he grew up and became one of the best known physicians of his time in this locality, practicing from 1831 until his death in 1871.

Dr. Seth H. Truesdale was a classmate of the late President William McKinley. In 1862, he enlisted in the army, entering Company B, 84th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry as a private and was discharged three months later. On June 16, 1863, Dr. Truesdale re-enlisted, entering Company A, 86th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry as a first Lieutenant. On June 20, 1863, he was promoted to Captain of his company. His regiment connected with the Ninth Corps., under General Burnside. Its service was mainly in the vicinity of the Cumberland Gap, including the siege. In February, 1864, he was discharged and returned to Poland.

For several years, Mr. Truesdale worked as a clerk in the general store of William McCreary and then moved to Chicago. While in Chicago, he studied medicine at Rush Medical College for one year. He returned to Ohio and entered Western Reserve Medical College, graduating in 1876.

In September, 1864, Dr. Truesdale married Amelia McCreary, who was the daughter of William and Mary McCreary of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. They had two children: Harry, who died in infancy; and William J. who died on May 25, 1895.

OUR BUSINESSES

POLAND'S OLD "BANK"

The Farmers Deposit & Savings Bank, a three-story brick structure was built in 1874. The ceiling of the vault was made of seven huge stones, each a foot long, a foot thick and 16 inches wide. Articles of Incorporation for the bank were filed Oct. 16, 1874, by Robert L. Walker, T. K. Hall, Samuel Hine, Eli Mygatt and Clark Stough. The bank was liquidated in 1923.

John Weed Powers purchased the property and had it converted into four modern apartments. Much of the original wavy glass remains in the windows and the stone was bricked over. Some of the huge beams from the original construction have been used in the remodeling, both in functional and decorative aspects. Mr. and Mrs. Powers make their home in one of the apartments.



THE POLAND COUNTRY CLUB

In June of 1913, the Poland Country Club was organized to promote closer social acquaintances and the betterment of the physical being of its members through pleasure and recreation. Five miles south of the business center of Youngstown on the Poland car line, seventy acres of land were rented from the Realty Security Company. The club's membership was limited to 300.

The Poland Club Realty was incorporated in October, 1916, and the leased land was purchased. On February 13, 1917, the clubhouse was destroyed by fire. A new building was constructed immediately and opened in March of 1918. Business and professional men, with a membership limited to 200, enjoyed the nine-hole golf course, four tennis courts, volleyball court, croquet, and other entertainment .

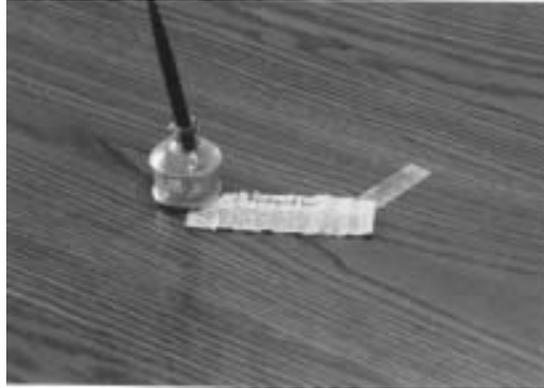
The Poland Country Club was actually located in Boardman Township, west of Sheridan Road, about where Paul C. Bunn School is now located.

THE GRIST MILL

In 1920 the Grist Mill was torn down. It stood on Main Street on the west side of Yellow Creek. The Mill was about 118 years old and nearly as old as Poland.

Poland's first settler was Turhand Kirtland who arrived in 1798, followed by Jonathon Fowler in 1799, who opened the first grist mill in 1801. Grist mills were among the first necessities of the early settlers.

The mill had three burrs, or flint millstones, with water furnished by damming the creek on a line with the bridge. The water flow was more abundant and regular than it is now.



An original Kirtland Ink bottle and newspaper article



1820 Map

KIRTLAND INK

In the rear of the house across from the town hall, which was then owned by Julius Woodruff, was the laboratory of "Kirtland Ink." George Kirtland developed the formula of this ink, which had a big selling item because of its superiority. Julius Woodruff made and distributed the ink. George Kirtland, the inventor, was a chemist of repute and the ink has never been surpassed for enduring quality. The pond, long known as the "fish pond" in Riverside Cemetery was constructed by Kirtland for the storing of such chemicals as phosphorus. As cheaper but inferior inks made manufacturing of Kirtland's Ink unprofitable, what had been a sizable business was closed shortly after the Civil War. An attempt to revive the business in the late 1880s failed, because no drugs could be obtained that would satisfy the chemist's requirements. By that time Mr. Kirtland was quite aged and extremely particular. Acids from Nordhausen in Germany, galls from Arabia, and other drugs and material of highest quality were finally procured.

Still Mr. Kirtland could not produce the ink he would approve, and give his name to, and the effort had to be given up. His dream was to produce an ink that would be magnetic so it would stick to a steel pen and prevent blotting. The cheaper inks put

Kirtland out of business about 1868.

Mr. Woodruff had a peddling wagon of his own and also used the Hubbard Tin Shop wagon to distribute some of his wares.

The bottle belongs to Barbara Mariotte

THE MEAT SHOP

Jacob Leisch had a meat shop on the southeast side of the dam on Main Street. In the 1890's he also had a covered meat wagon in which he peddled meat on Saturdays throughout the village. He had scales hung from the ceiling of his wagon for weighing his sales. He rang a big dinner bell in front of each house to let them know he was there. The woman of the house would hurry out with a big dinner platter or pan and make her selection as she stood on a step attached to the back of the wagon looking over the cuts of meat laid out on the shelves of the wagon or hanging on hooks on the walls. He had "weenies", which he would toss to the children who gathered around his wagon. The Leisch meat shop was later bought by Smith McCoy who ran the business for about ten years at 23 Main Street, next to the Blacksmith shop. The last owners of the meat shop were Henry, Myron and Dallas McCrone.

MORSE'S DAM

Yellow Creek was a stream that was much more constant, and the run-off of spring thaws and rain was much slower. The early mills were able to run at least several months of the year and helped fill the requirements of the local population. There were two power sites: the dam at the center of the village, southwest of the Main Street Bridge, and another dam at the northeast side of the village, built in 1815 by Elkanah Morse.

The grist mill was a small log building situated in the middle of the creek and reached by a foot bridge, approximately at the present site of Main Street Bridge.

Fowler also had a saw mill on the same stream, built about 1798. After the death of Fowler in 1806, Turhand Kirtland, John Reed, and later John Hunter owned both the saw mill and the grist mill. The grist mill was later replaced by a good frame structure at the northeast end of the Main Street Bridge.

At pool-fill the water was slackened to a point a few feet below a small side stream variously named "Drake's Run," "Clark's Run," and "Minnow Creek" (now in Village Park). The water power was available only a few months of the year, but, the first flow of water was more regular and abundant than at the present time. Later, steam power was added, and was used in conjunction with power during the 1860's.

THE WOOLEN INDUSTRY

Sheep-raising for both meat and wool was one of the main industries of the local farmers. The Arrels, Walkers, and McCulloughs were some of the larger producers. In the 1860's and on to 1880, the wool business was at its best, and Poland was quite an

important shipping point. Much of the wool produced in Boardman and Poland Township was packed in Poland Village, making wool the big money crop of the section. At packing time, farmers were notified on which day to bring their wool to the storehouse, and the wool was sacked and shipped to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Every fleece was passed through the hands of the buyers and inspected for purity. The packing season lasted a few weeks and brought a lot of money into the community.

HENRY HUBBARD'S TIN SHOP

In the 1860's Henry Hubbard and Son, dealers in tinware, had a shop on the northwest side of Main Street, opposite Water Street, and employed six men. He kept two wagons for delivering his wares to small retailers, who were located in a large territory. In another record of 1874, it is noted that Henry Hubbard manufactured tin, copper and sheet ironware, and was a dealer in stoves, hardware, roofing, and eave-spouting.

THE CABINET SHOP

Mr. William Augden came to Poland in 1838; his cabinet shop was on the south side of Main Street facing Center Street. He was a very skillful mechanic and, also, the village undertaker. In the years before, and following the Civil War, he had a hearse drawn by one horse, a tall elongated Bay. The hearse itself consisted of a spring wagon on gear, surmounted by a framework, enclosed in black, draped curtains, and just large enough to accommodate a coffin. Mr. Augden himself was a tall erect man, and when he was on professional duty, he wore a long Prince Albert coat and a high beaver hat.

Another furniture-making shop was owned by a man named Robinson, in a building that was located on Main Street near where Duncan Plumbing is located. The building was later moved to the corner of Main and College Streets.

In a record of 1874, Baker & Sons (Moses, Leonard, and Sylvester Baker), proprietors of "Steam Furniture Works," planing mills, and a broom handle factory, were dealers in first-class furniture of every description. The plant was located on the northeast side of Pittsburgh Road, just beyond Nesbitt Street. John Baker and his four sons are buried in Riverside Cemetery. His fourth son, not mentioned, was a member of Co. H, 105th Ohio, VI., died in 1862.

WAGON AND CARRIAGE SHOPS

Mr. Prim was probably the earliest wagon maker in the village. James Robison who came to Poland from Maryland in 1819 learned that trade from Mr. Prim and later had a business of his own here. For many years it was his job to overhaul and repair stage coaches when they stopped in Poland on their trips between Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

Benjamin Carpenter had his shop on the east side of Main Street on the second home site south of the Main Street bridge. His business was in operation in the years before the Civil War and was still in operation in the early years of the 20th century, run by Mr. Carpenter's son, James.



South Main Street

Just before E. M. Withers had the buildings razed, his daughter took these pictures. Several years later Miss Margaret Wire had Kay Wilson from Canfield enlarge, paint and frame this street scene for her.

The house on the right was the Ray Morris family home, along with a barber shop operated by Mr. Harry Macklin.

The next home was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Clark Nesbitt (grandparents of Miss Margaret Wire). This building at one time was on the Village Green and used as a schoolhouse.

The next building was Mr. Nesbitt's tin shop. He was in the plumbing, spouting, roofing and tinning business. He hired his son-in-law, Mr. Dale Wire, as his helper, who later took over the business when Mr. Nesbitt passed away.

The building in the back was the Nesbitt barn, which stored the first two-wheeled fire cart, with ladders, that was used in the village whenever there was a fire.

The old brick building was a food market, occupied by Mr. Morris Schwartz. He started the business in April, 1929. Mr. Schwartz then moved to the next building, which in the 1920's, was a drug and confectionery store operated by Mr. Hugh Cover and, later, by Mr. Vernon Lee.

Poland Village Administration Building at 11 South Main Street was constructed in 1924 and housed the fire department, the police department, and the library for many years.

What was an Isaly Dairy and a grocery store at one time is now the Home Savings and Loan Bank.

The old Post Office at 221 South Main Street is currently an antique store.

The Stough-Cover-Haynes Dry Goods building at 412 S. Main Street has been converted into apartments and has no resemblance to the original building.

The one-time 1850 Hall Drug Store at 416 S. Main Street was later a grocery store; children were able to purchase their penny candy. The building was later remodeled into apartments.

441 South Main Street home was built in 1853 and is the former George Kirtland-Hine House. This home is well preserved and is the present home of Sam and Mitzie Talarico.

500 South Main Street: The Tally-Ho Tavern, built in 1876, was constructed by Walter Arrel as a townhouse for his wife who did not like country living. The Tavern was a well-known stage coach stopping point. The home is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Meloy who have preserved the building and converted the home into a bed and breakfast inn.

7090 Pittsburgh Road: The Fitch Kirtland-Bishop Home was built in 1850 on 25 acres. The Victorian house was constructed of bricks made on the site by Fitch Kirtland, grandson of Turhand Kirtland, the original settler and agent of the Connecticut Land Company. This home was called "The Oaks." In 1903, George Bishop married Isabel Kirtland. In 1914, George S. Bishop bought the Kirtland farm from his brother-in-law Lucien Kirtland. The property is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Somers.

The well preserved home of Dr. Joseph Truesdale was built in 1830 and still stands at 14 Water Street.

15 Water Street: This home is the site of the old Comb Factory, built in 1826 by William Pyle.



The history of the Old Stone Tavern dates back to 1803. A Polish patriot, Kosciuszko, an aide to General George Washington, scratched the following verse, with a diamond, in a window pane of the stone Tavern: (it is said

that this is how Poland was named)
Old Poland 'neath the Northern Star
has yielded up the ghost:
But Poland new the wreath shall bear;
the young Ohio's boast.

The Haynes House at 118 N. Main Street was built in 1845; Mr. Haynes was a

storekeeper.

At 26 Water Street was the Old Methodist Manse, built in 1840.

At 35 Water Street was the Harley Tuttle Home, built in 1840.

BROOM MAKING

One of Poland's earliest industries was broom making. In connection with his saw mill, Elkanah Morse promoted broom making. Charles Bishop, Sr., John Fankle, Squire Elijah F. Drake and Hugh Cover followed in this business. Hugh Cover bought a 22-acre farm on Youngstown Road and raised broom corn for making the brooms. Broom corn was bleached in a shed by burning sulphur in an iron pot. Brooms were sewed and trimmed by hand, and Hugh's s grandsons were salesmen, many times trading brooms for produce or other products. Mr. Cover also farmed some of his land. J. Freemont Cover, one of his sons, did most of the farming, and later married Anna Marshall in 1886; they lived in a little four-room house on the corner of Main and Cover Streets.

TAILORS

Thomas Riley was probably the first tailor in Poland. He was the husband of Rachel Fowler, daughter of Jonathan Fowler, the first white child born in Poland. Rachel was married to Mr. Riley in 1820, and wore her mother's wedding dress; according to the record, "Thomas, as he was a good tailor, no doubt wore a suit of his own making."

Adam Case came to Poland sometime in the 1840s and opened his shop in a one-story building, which stood on a site near the present Fire Department. He carried on his business almost to the time of his death in 1896. He usually employed two or more helpers. During the Civil War his business required much extra help, as he made many army overcoats; among his customers for officer's coats were John Cracraft, Dr. Fowler, Captain Truesdale, Captain Wilson, and many others.

POST OFFICE, SEWING MACHINES

Adam Case also was Postmaster in Poland during President Buchanan's administration just prior to the Civil War. William McKinley, then a youth of 17, was his clerk in the Post Office.

Adam Case brought the first sewing machine to Poland in 1855. It was a heavy duty machine known as the "Singer." This machine was used continually until Mr. Case retired; it was cog-gearred and when in operation made a loud noise about like the late "Model T" auto.

FIRST POSTAL SERVICE

The first regular postal service in the Western Reserve was established in October, 1801. The route between towns was covered on horseback. In 1803, the

population warranted a weekly delivery service, which required three days each way. A proposal to carry the mail, dated 1805, reads:

"I will engage to carry the mail from Pittsburgh, via Canfield, Poland, and Youngstown, to Warren, once a week, for \$850 a year."

Founding the Western Reserve and its First County Commissioners

When the Western Reserve was founded, it became a part of Trumbull County. Not until 1846 did part of the Western Reserve become Mahoning County.

On March 1, 1846, the first County Commissioners were elected, as were auditors, sheriffs, treasurers, recorders, prosecuting attorneys, and probate judges, plus the state representatives from Mahoning County (23rd District) and the state senators.

NESBITT'S TIN SHOP

Clark Nesbitt and his brother, James, had their tin shop on Main Street. In the late 1890s, Poland Women had help with their canning of fruits and vegetables from the Nesbitt brothers to seal their cans. While steaming hot the food was poured into the shining new cans; flat pieces of shining new tin were clamped over the tops and quickly soldered down by Mr. Nesbitt who had brought his soldering kit with him. In later years the tin shop faded away and Mr. Nesbitt and his son-in-law, Dale Wire, operated a spouting business.

SHOE MAKERS

Shoe shops were operated by William Bishop, Sr., R. D. Scannel, Walter Ford, George Allen, and others. R. D. Scannell was an aristocratic old shoe maker, whose manners were courtly. He never appeared in public unless faultlessly garbed in his black frock coat and tall silk hat. He was a real Yankee, but had no family connections in the Poland area. William Bishop, Sr. is included in the "Other Bishop Family History" in this book.

THE TANNERY

According to historian Harley A. Tuttle, John McConnell built the first tannery, which probably was situated on the south side of the creek, just above the Main Street Dam. McConnell ran it for several years, and it was then owned by James Shepard and later by Robert Hawley. In reference to the tannery: "There was a tannery near the upper dam whose history I am unable to give. My first knowledge of it is about the close of its operation when it was owned by the late C. B. Stoddard. Mr. Graham was the boss tanner and had two or more assistants. The best leather was made at this tannery, strictly "oak tanned," which is even yet conceded the process that makes for strength and

endurance in leather." Other and cheaper processes of tanning drove the old timers out of business, and Charles Stoddard closed his tanning operations; with his brother, Henry, they embarked in show business. They assembled a side show consisting of various freaks, wild animals and ponies, and traveled in company with "Dr. Thayer's Mammoth Circus" up and down and across the county for several seasons; they made a considerable success of the enterprise. When the show went into winter quarters, the Stoddard brought their animals to Poland and housed and cared for them in the old tannery building. There was quite a collection of animals which included tropical birds, monkeys and some huge snakes.

WAGON AND CARRIAGE SHOPS

Two other wagon and carriage shops recorded as "good", existed in Poland. Gideon Austin's store was on Boardman Road (also the owner's residence), a New England style structure that stood on the south side of the road, just west of the Sohio Gas station, Mr. Austin's brother-in-law was Elijah Delin, an early carpenter and an excellent craftsman who built many homes, some still occupied.

Allen and Woodruff had a foundry on the lot at the southeast corner of the bridge on Main Street. Both partners were moulders, and two sons of Mr. Allen assisted them. They had a machine and a small pattern shop. They used to "cast" once a week and always had a gallery to watch the operation. They made all kinds of castings, plows, stove parts, tea kettles, iron kettles, skillets, and had a very successful business until the larger shops in Youngstown made operations in Poland unprofitable.

THE CATTLE BUSINESS

The cattle business was extensive, beginning before the Civil War and lasting to the turn of the century. Drove of cattle and sheep were frequently seen passing through Poland on their way to Pittsburgh. Local buyers were the Brownlee's, McCrone's, Twiss and others. All Poland was fenced at that time to protect the yards from the droves of cattle. Local cows were permitted to roam at large during the summer. A drove of cattle consisted of twenty cattle to two or three hundred cattle. What an occasion of interest to the small boy! The cry "here comes a drove" would call all the youngsters who wanted to know how many cattle were in the drove.