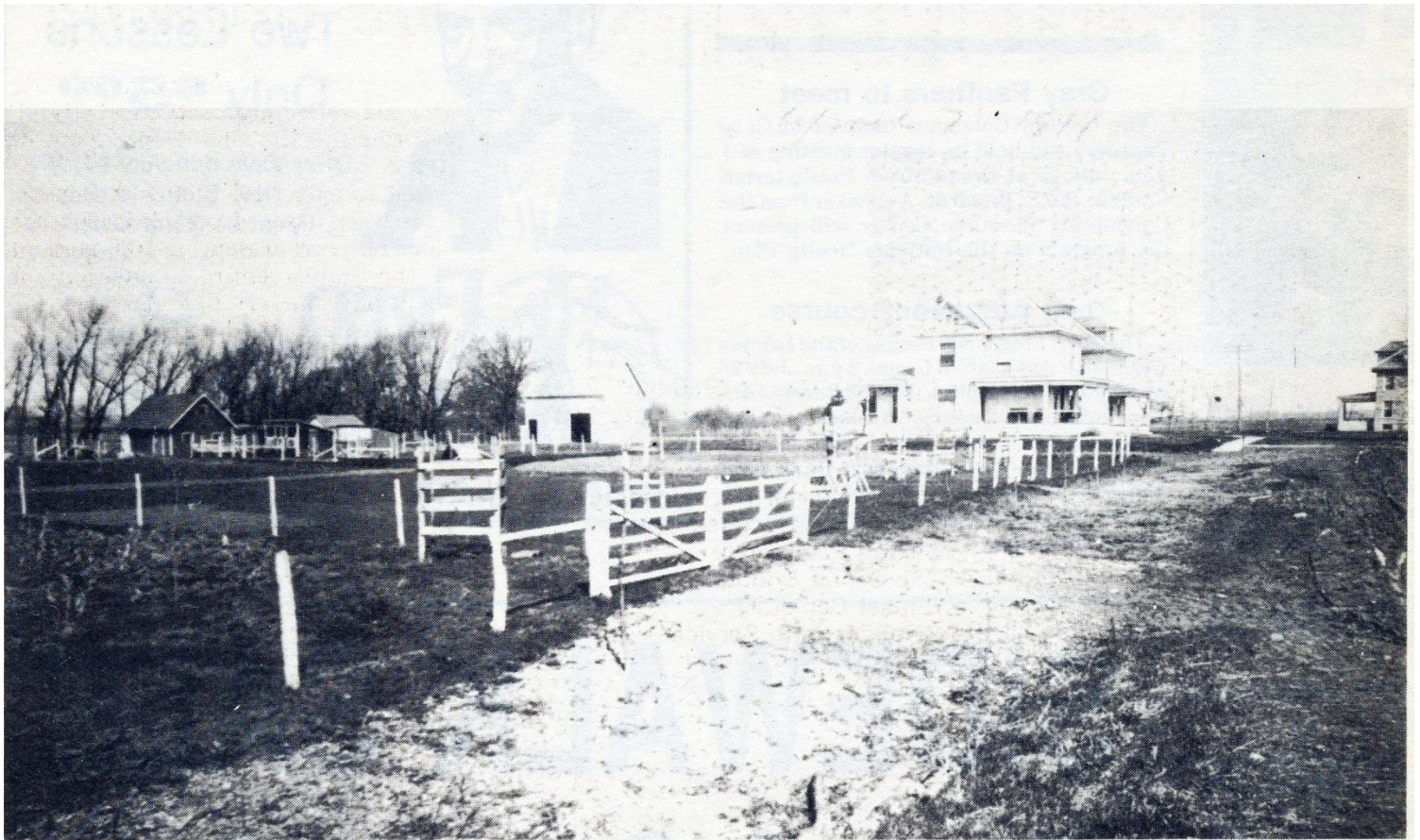




Our pictorial past by the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

This is an aerial view of the Reynoldsburg Tomato Festival grounds, taken Sept. 12, 1973. At that time, the festival was held in John F. Kennedy Park. The round bare spots are now ball diamonds; the entertainment tent is at center, and the talent show tent is at left center. The idea for the Tomato Festival first surfaced Oct. 22, 1965 at the dedication of a plaque in front of the municipal building honoring Alexander W. Livingston for his contributions and declaring Reynoldsburg as the birthplace of the tomato. The first tomato festival, then called "Heritage Holiday Festival and Tomato Show," was held August 27 and 28, 1966 in the Reynoldsburg Shopping Center. The

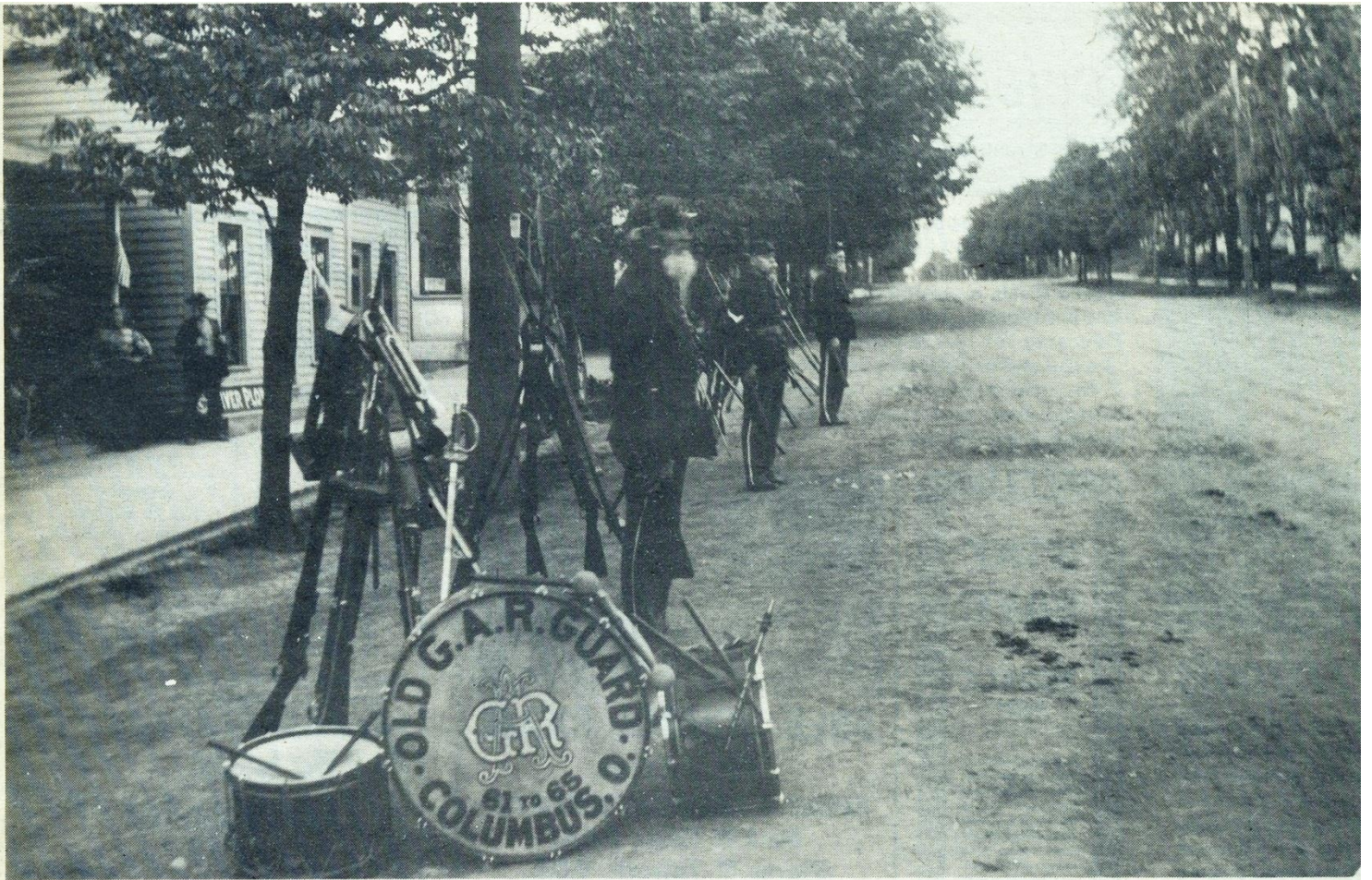
first director was Tyge Irskens, and Mayor George W. Twyford was one of the principal initiators. One of the highlights of the first festival was a tomato fight between Republicans and Democrats. In 1967 and '68, it was called the Tomato Fair and was held in conjunction with Jaycees Fourth of July celebrations; in 1969, the "Tomato Fair" moved to Sept. 16-21 in conjunction with a firemen's carnival. In 1970, the new name, Tomato Festival, stuck, and the festival began being held in Kennedy Park. In 1974, the location of the festival was changed to its current site at Huber Park. Thanks to longtime festival trustee Roy Combes for the photo and information.



Our pictorial past by the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

This photo, taken in 1911, shows farmland and farmhouses located along Lancaster Avenue north of E. Main Street in Reynoldsburg. The white house and buildings at center and left belonged to Milton and Mary Kate Strahl. Milton Strahl in 1909 was elected to the Reynoldsburg school board. The other house in

the photo, which can just barely be seen at right, was built by Jacob J. Enlows in 1907. This house, 1299 Lancaster Ave., was the home of Lester Minor. Thanks to the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society for the photo.



Our pictorial past

by the Reynoldsburg
Truro Historical
Society

This is a scene in along E. Main Street in Reynoldsburg on Decoration Day, circa 1912. Memorial Day, or Decoration Day, as it was popularly known in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, was originated by women in Columbus, Georgia, who decorated the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers with flowers in 1867. It is not known who the members of the Grand Army of the Republic are in the photo above, but many Reynoldsburg men fought in the Civil War and later led Decoration Day observances. The day always included a program in Mason Hall (where Connell's Hardware is now) and a march from there to services and a firing squad salute at Silent Home Cemetery, remembers Clark Oldham, 83, a lifelong Reynoldsburg resident. Oldham's grandfather, James

L. Oldham, served in Company K, 133rd Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Among those who died in the Civil War was John Rochelle, who died in the South's infamous Andersonville Prison. His brother, Winfield Scott Rochelle, fought in 18 battles, including Sherman's march through Georgia, with Company C, 46th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. W. Scott Rochelle was the last living member of the Grand Army of the Republic in Reynoldsburg, and died at the age of 90 on Jan. 1, 1937. The picture comes from Margaret Ruvoldt, whose grandfather, James Dunlap Kenney, also served in the Civil War as a member of Company D, 78th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Thanks to Clark Oldham, Margaret Ruvoldt, and the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society for the photo and information.



Our pictorial past by the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

This photo shows 7332 to 7342 E. Main Street in Reynoldsburg after 1904. From left to right are the Lower Tavern, built about 1833; the Township House, where the town council and township committeemen met, and in the 1940s was Cochenour's Sunshine Restaurant; the flat-roofed building is the Masonic card room — through the room and upstairs, the Masonic Hall (next building) could be entered; the dark

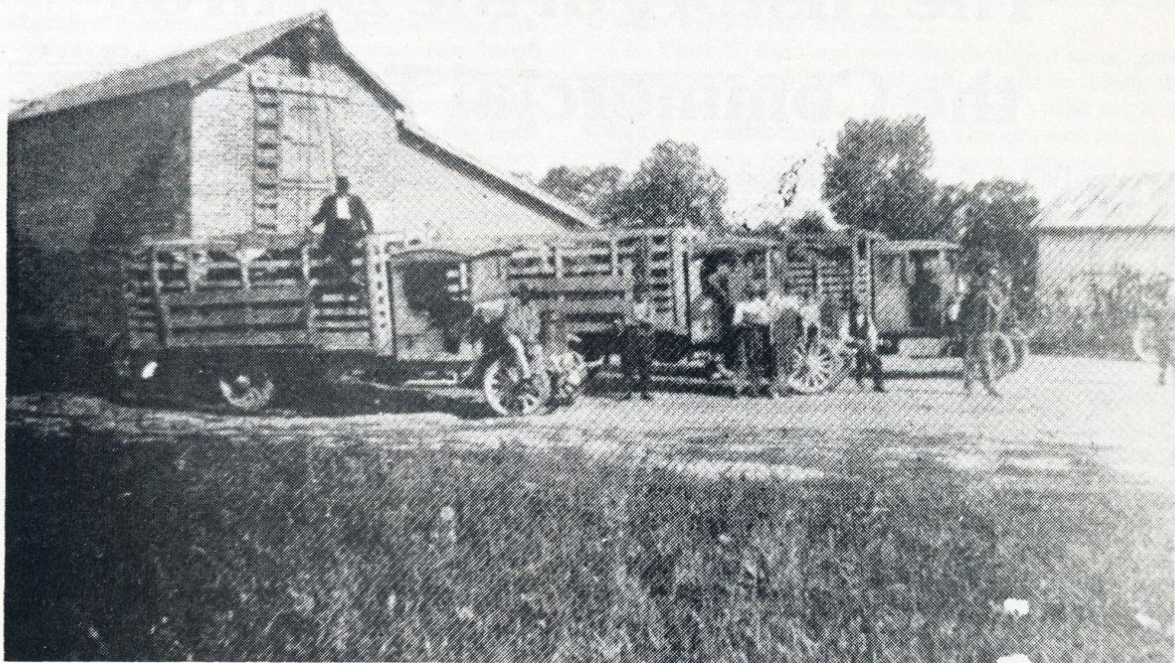
building housed the King of Pythias Hall (upstairs) and Evans Grocery at street-level. The white object is a five-ton street scale, and to the right, out of the picture, is Blind Alley, where carnivals and medicine shows stopped, and where kegs were tapped on Saturday nights. Thanks for the photo and information to the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society.

Interesting facts on Reynoldsburg

- Thomas Palmer was the first known white settler in this territory in 1803.
- The first purchases of land in the area now known as Reynoldsburg were recorded in 1804 to David Pugh, John Edgar and Benjamin Cornell.
- Truro Township, established in 1810, was named for Truro, Nova Scotia, from where several settlers had come.
- John French on Nov. 9, 1831 registered a plat to divide his land along the east bank of Blacklick Creek into 55 lots to be called "Reynoldsburgh," named for James C. Reynolds, a popular resident and the first postmaster.
- On March 16, 1839, the town of

Reynoldsburg was officially incorporated by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio.

- The first mayor of Reynoldsburg was Abraham Johnston, elected in 1840 in the first borough election.
- Alexander W. Livingston developed the first commercial tomato variety, the Paragon, on his farm at 1792 Graham Road in 1870.
- In 1900, the first telephones were introduced in Reynoldsburg; by 1902, the interurban railway system linked Reynoldsburg with Columbus and Newark.
- In 1950, Reynoldsburg had a population of only 724 residents; it achieved city status in 1958.
- The forerunner of the Reynoldsburg Tomato Festival, a Tomato Fair, was held in 1965.
- The Truro Township Fire Department purchased its current fire station in 1975.
- The Reynoldsburg Municipal Building was completed in 1987, finishing the municipal complex that includes the Reynoldsburg Division of Police and adjacent John F. Kennedy Park.
- The City of Reynoldsburg celebrated its Sesquicentennial in 1989.
- Reynoldsburg City Schools, currently undergoing an extensive, three-year districtwide construction project, was in 1992 awarded the "A-Plus in Education Award" from the U.S. Department of Education.



REYNOLDSBURG WAS once known as a "meat town," with several packing houses within city limits. The C.W. Morris Packing Co. was located on Truro

Road. This building is now part of Jim Donahey's locker plant.