# LIMPYTOWN the town that never was

### By Clarence Troyer

I have written quite a few articles on the villages of eastern Holmes and western Tuscarawas Counties, and in each one, with a little research, I always found that at one time the village was blest with some business and industry. In many of them, they still have quite a number of things going for them. However, with Limpytown, there never was a town, a village or even a hamlet. There was no business place or industry in this place, just a number of people living in the community with their various occupations, and a crossroad where a school house was located. So, why the name?

The chances are that no person living today would know for certain how the name Limpytown originated. I asked Emanuel Beechy about the name and he stated that he heard that many years ago, a man lived in the community who walked with a limp, and that thus they started to call the name Limpytown. Well, that's good enough for me.

## WOLF CREEK

Some time ago, I received a card from Emanuel and Katie J. Miller stating that they had some history that they would like to share with me. After having some trouble locating them, I had the pleasure of visiting with them. The history that Emanuel had was regarding Limpytown. He stated that the original name was Wolf Creek. He said that a pioneer lived down along the creek who built himself a cabin with one opening, but no door. It seems that the area was infested with volves that would come to his cabin for some scraps of food left by the pioneer. Instead of a door, the pioneer hung a quilt over the opening to keep the wolves out. The pioneer was said to have shot the last wolf seen in the area. The name of Wolf Creek was thus given to the place according to Emanuel. That's good enough for me, too.

## EARLY SETTLERS IN LIMPYTOWN

The following is a list of people that Emanuel gave me that used to live in the area. His memory goes back to 1905 when he lived in Limpytown with his parents - the Joe Millers.

Henry Steely - Coal miner and fireman for the saw mill of William and Abe Hostetler.

Amos Harmon - Worked by the day.

Joe Meddich - made Muzzle Loader Rifles.

Lewis Harmon - Plasterer.

Sam Darr - Ax handle maker.

Henry Selzer - Cream and egg route.

Joe Miller - Hauled R.R. ties to Sugarcreek.

Jacob Darr - Mason and gunsmith.

Levi Harmon - Coal miner.

Infields - Joe, John, William and Jacob - Had a cider press.

John Infield - Auctioneer.

Albert Nirode - Township clerk for many years.

Jess Meddick - The rifle maker.

Albert Yoder - Made hand axes out of steel.

Aaron Yoders had a few blind boys that used to make small baskets with beads.

Dr. Dan Schumaker - a very famous doctor was born in Limpytown. He practiced in New Bedford and later went to Dover where he established a fine practice.

Emanuel also related how Henry Steely had a six year old son, Claude, who found a powder can that his father used in the coal mines, and not old enough to realize the danger, lit a match to it. It resulted in the boy's death.

Jacob Darr had the first automobile in Limpytown - an Olds. Emanuel said that Mr. Darr traded the Bill Balder property on the Olds.

## A VISIT WITH GROVER YAKLEY

The same afternoon that I visited with Emanuel and Katie, I also stopped to talk to Grover Yakley. He recalled a spelling contest that was held at the Limpytown school at one time. In those days, students and teachers prided themselves with being able to spell most, if not all the words in the spelling book. On this particular night, a teacher by the name of Jacob Krieg who taught at Troyer Valley, was the last one on the floor. The man who pronounced the words gave Mr. Krieg a word that really stomped him. After some thinking, Mr. Krieg stated that the word was not in the book. It was discovered that the word had been copied into the spelling book from a Geography text. We will have to admit that the people of that day really knew how to spell.

He also related how a house in the Limpytown area burned to the ground because of a rather freak incident. Someone put too much wood into the stove and then took some pieces out again. The partially burned wood ignited other pieces of wood and thus caused the fire that destroyed the house.

Another incident that he recalled had to do with Levi Harmon, the coal miner. He occasionally did a little stealing, particularly when he had a few to many drinks. One day the sheriff came after him, but when Levi saw him coming, he started running. He ran down Wolf Creek, and when he went past the Infields, they told him that the sheriff was going to catch him. Levi stated that the sheriff would not be able to get him, and if the sheriff would start shooting, he would zigzag while running and thus avoid being hit by the bullets.

## THE LIMPYTOWN SCHOOL

Emanuel Beechy informed me that the original school house in Limpytown was built over a hundred years ago, and was located at the cross road. Because of the lack of playground space available, a second school was built. This is the building which was converted into a dwelling and is occupied at the present time by Mrs. Clara Mullet. The building is still at its original site. The first school building was moved to the Emanuel Beechy farm and was used for a chicken house.

Around the year 1943, the second school was closed and the students were transferred to the Troyer Valley school where additions were built to the school to accommodate the extra students. Ed Sliffe had donated the land on which the school was located for school purposes - .42 acres. When the school was closed, the township sold the building and the land to Emanuel Beechy.

Here are just a few of the many teachers who taught at the Limpytown schools: Herb Hostetler, Robert Bahler, Lester Mast, Alvin Schlarb, Bris Limbach and Harry Hothem. I am certain that many of you will be able to recall a host of other teachers who gave of their talent to the boys and girls of the Limpyto area.

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