

Whiskeyville

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The “town” of Whiskeyville still shows up on a few maps to this day (online maps to be specific), but if you visit the spot, it does not seem like the little bustling place it used to be more than eighty years ago. The spot is simply a pass-through intersection today.

Located on the ancient lake beach ridge, known as the South Ridge at Routes 58 and 113 (formerly, 59), upon Original Lot #48, was this small hamlet. The small sandstone South Ridge Road School was just north of the northeast corner, on Route 58. The original schoolhouse that it replaced (wooden) is said to have been the first in the Township. Then just south of that on the same side of the road and right next-door, was the Crandall Cemetery. Then we have the intersection, and on Route 113 just east of the intersection (on north side of 113, facing 113) was the 6 Mile House. It was called this because it was six miles equidistant from the Henrietta House, the Beebe Tavern (Elyria), and Lake Erie. It was built in the early days of the stagecoach era and eventually burned October 6, 1933, after a gala event there had concluded that evening. The structure was simple yet grand, being in the design of the early structures of this area. On the lower floor was located the bar area and open space to gather. The second floor had the guest rooms.

At this time the roads here were only one or one-and-a-half lanes, and the unconfined aquifer spring was tapped (Cherry Knoll today) in the center of the intersection so that travelers could get a quick drink and water their horses as well. There was also a tap near the 6 Mile House, by the west door, where horses were tied to the hitching posts. The place was often lively in the evenings. A few whiskey stills were set up in the rear of the 6 Mile House. It was the place to stop for travelers from near and far.

Then just east of the 6 Mile House was the old Reuben Allen house (facing north side of 113 also), which was built there in the 1820s and demolished just a few years ago. He was one of the first settlers in this place, once known as Kirkbride’s Corners. The house was one of the first built at these corners and in that general area. In 1817 Reuben Allen and wife Pearl (Smith) Allen, along with their children, traveled by wagon from Vermont to Lorain County. (Reuben Allen is not on the 1816 Huron County tax records, so the

1817 date is sound.) Here they chose the site for their homestead in this portion of the unbroken forests. They used their covered wagon as a temporary shelter, and soon a primitive home was constructed of hewn logs. Then the frame house was built, using Jacob Shupe's sawmill, in the 1820s. Reuben Allen and Chiliab Smith (Smith, who came in October 1815 from Tyringham, Berkshire County, Mass. with wife and five children) are both listed in the 1820 census of Black River and were living next to each other.

Chiliab Smith kept the first tavern in this vicinity, and it is thought that he built the second frame house in the Township, but this is unconfirmed. It is very possible that this tavern was later known as the aforementioned 6 Mile House after it gained more notoriety in the area – more research is required here to determine if it is the same tavern. His daughter, Lucia Smith, died in 1824 at age 25, and was among the early burials in the then-established Crandall Cemetery. F. Ferris carved her grave marker of native Amherst sandstone. A large elm tree took root and grew around the young woman's gravestone, eventually uplifting it from the ground. The tree grew to be a giant, and it was more than a hundred years old when it was cut down after succumbing to Dutch Elm Disease, sometime before 1959. However, the stump was left, with the stone protruding out from it. Another of the earliest documented stones in the Cemetery was that of Rhoda Crandall (Ezekiel's wife) who died in 1818.

Later the Routes there were widened, and this called for the re-location of the Crandall Cemetery (measuring 30' or 36' by 40') to the Kendeigh Corner's Cemetery (Quarry & Middle Ridge Roads) in April of 1959. The South Ridge Road School had long since been closed, and the structure is gone. The spring there, near the intersection, still flows, as it did before Whiskeyville was, and now, is not.



6 Mile House at Whiskeyville