

INTRODUCTION

The following history of Hilliard High School has been compiled by the American History Class as our contribution to this Bicentennial Celebration. We hope you will enjoy the new discoveries and many memories this book contains.

Some Highlights In The History Of Hilliard High School

We find in the "History of Franklin and Pickaway Counties" published by the Williams Brothers in 1880, that "the first school in Norwich Township was opened in a log building at Smiley's Corners, on the river road, and was in operation in about 1814" "A special school-district was cut off in Hilliard, in 1870, although schools had been kept at and near the place for many years previous to that date.

In 1878 the brick school-house was condemned as insecure, and was torn down. A new one was erected during the year, which is adapted for four schools, three of which are in operation at this time.

Besides the school at Hilliard, the township is well supplied with district-schools, nearly all of which are provided with substantial brick school-houses."

"The village of Hilliard was surveyed and laid out into lots in the fall of 1853 (about the time of the Columbus, Piqua and Indiana Railroad), by order of John R. Hilliard on his farm land, at the location of Hilliard Station. It was incorporated in 1869. The first election was held on September 20, 1869 and the new council met first on September 29, 1869 in a room situated at the corner of Columbia and Center Streets."

In the year 1881 in the small village of Hilliard, by means of funds from the town and outlying community, a building was erected. It is now known as the Masonic Hall.

In this building the first high school was established in 1887. Mr. Brown was the first teacher as well as the superintendent. Courses offered included: botany, physical geography, geometry, arithmetic (Ray's Higher), algebra, and six weeks of Latin.

Due to the natural growth of the school, the surrounding village and township districts, a new building later became necessary. This was erected on the site of the present Junior High School. Still later in 1930, it was further enlarged to accommodate further needs.

In the words of Mrs. Mae Latham Weaver (Mrs. James Weaver), "The first school building was a frame building located a short distance east of the site of the present school building. It was built prior to 1845. In 1862 a frame building was erected where the Hilliard building now stands. This was replaced in 1867 by a two-room brick structure. The present building was built in 1878. This is now the Masonic Temple.

In the early spring of 1904, the Hilliard village school and Norwich Twp. school were consolidated under the name of Norwich Township Public Schools.

In the years 1905-06 the new High School building was erected, and was first occupied late in February, 1906.

From the year 1867-1906 the instructors have been the following: T.S. Sheppard, Elijah Culp, Mr. Crandall, Julia Rogers, A. B. Schauck, Mr. Mann, P. R. Mills, J. A. Wilcox, E. U. Livingston, R. L. Albrittian, J. H. Brown, C.S.D. Shawan, Thomas Fitzgerald, O.A. Wright, H.E. Axline, E.A. Kolb, S.E. Weaver, Chauncey Lawrence."

- Signed Mae Latham Weaver
(Mrs. James H.)