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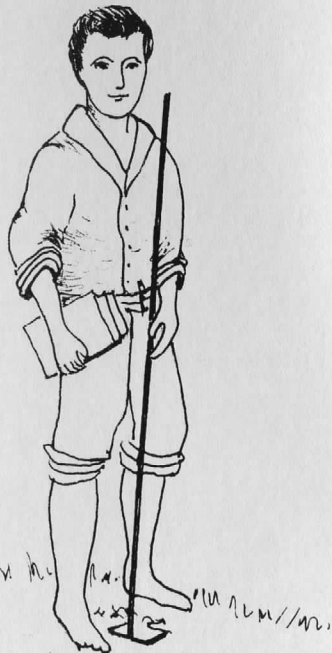
**Village
Of
Moreland Hills**



Birthplace of the
20th U.S. President
James A. Garfield

James A. Garfield

20th PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



INTRODUCTION

To our Friends and Neighbors:

This pamphlet was originally written at the time of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution in 1976 by hard working and dedicated people. In fact, they did such a good job that we thought it was important to retain most of the information and update other parts so it would be of current interest and value to the residents of Moreland Hills.

The history of this area is important to keep alive for it is rich in events of great importance. James A. Garfield was born in Moreland Hills, which was then a part of Orange Township. He was the last of the log cabin presidents, one of 8 Ohio Presidents, and he spent the formative years of his life in this area. He loved the area greatly and wrote in his diary in 1880 on a visit to his birthplace: "--walked out under the cold starlight and tried to recall the old sensations of boyhood. Here I first learned the constellations and their places in the heavens. It is my Greenwich, where all the world is exactly in its right place. Every other place shows variation more or less."

That sums up his and our great affection for Moreland Hills. We hope you enjoy this pamphlet.

Moreland Hills Historical Society
Moreland Hills Women's Committee
Moreland Hills Community Club

HISTORY

The Village of Moreland Hills, like parts of Solon, Pepper Pike and Orange villages had its beginning in old Orange Township. The first pioneers came to this area about 1815-16. At that time the area was referred to as Township 7, Range 10 of the Western Reserve. Serenus Burnet was probably the first to arrive and settled in that part of Moreland Hills which was at one time a part of Chagrin Falls Township. Settlers continued to arrive and in the spring of 1820, this group was determined to have a new civil township. Accordingly, on June 7 the County Commissioners made the requisite order and the new township became known as Orange, named after an old Connecticut town. Some of the settlers, whose family histories became almost synonymous with the Village history, are Seth Mapes who arrived around 1827, the Garfields and the Boyntons who settled in 1828, and the Jacksons who came into the area about 1835. Later, Perry and John Mapes were to operate a fine milk, cream and maple syrup business which in time became the Telling Belle Vernon Mapes Company. C. L. Jackson owned one of the finest farms in the area. The Amos Boynton and Abram Garfield families were related, as the men were half-brothers and they married sisters, Alpha and Eliza Ballou. The Boyntons settled on what is now the northwest corner of Jackson and S.O.M. Center Roads and the Abram Garfield family settled on the southwest corner.

In a letter dated February 7, 1869 to her son James, Eliza Garfield says that in 1827, Abram Garfield purchased fifty acres in Orange Township for \$2.50 an acre from William Tuckerman of Connecticut. It is interesting to note that in the Record of Taxes Paid Into the Treasury of Cuyahoga County in 1827-28 Abram Garfield is on the delinquent list of October 30, 1828. His property is listed as Range 10, Township 7, Section 3 Lot 10 sp -50 acres - valuation \$130.00 - taxes due \$2.98. In 1829 the record shows the taxes were paid. It is from Eliza Ballou's letter that we know that Calvin and John Mapes, John Smith and Uncle Amos Boynton helped raise the cabin in the last days of 1829. It was in this cabin on November 19, 1831 that the 20th President of the United States was born. Abram Garfield only lived two years after his son was born and Eliza was forced to sell twenty acres to help support her family. Amos Boynton served as an unofficial guardian to the Garfield children as they were growing up.

James grew up with his two sisters, brother and mother in their small cabin. James attended school in Chagrin Falls and then in a small school built on the Garfield farm. His mother gave a corner of her property to have a new schoolhouse built. He may have attended school, for a very short time, in what is now the Moreland Hills Village Hall.

When James was about 16 he wanted to go to sea, and walked into the town of Cleveland, and got a job as a mule driver on the canal. He did not stay on the canal long and returned home. He attended Geauga Seminary in Chester in 1848-50 and upon graduation entered Hiram Eclectic Institute, now Hiram College. He entered Williams College as a Junior and was graduated with honors.

By 1853 the Garfield property had been sold and the family was getting ready to move. Again it is the diary of James dated October 9, 1853, that tells us that the family gathered for a last party with "dinner---cooked by Mother." The family visited the spot where the old home stood and James wrote "---our old home is sold and the old familiar scenes of boyhood will be desecrated by strangers". James is known to have returned to the site with his children one day in 1874. As he walked over the site many memories returned and he later wrote in his diary "the day has renewed my health and helped to restore my faith in life".

Garfield continued to make this area his home until 1859 when he was elected to the Ohio Senate. He became a Colonel in the Union Army and rose to the rank of General. He then served in the U.S. House of Representatives and was elected President of the United States in 1880. An assassination attempt was made in July, 1881, but the President did not die until September 19, 1881

In the years that followed this entire area remained one of agriculture, cheese factories and sawmills. It was in 1918 that Robert L. Stern, who was largely responsible for the initial real estate development of Moreland Hills came to live here. In a letter dated December 12, 1975 to Mrs. Virginia Loegler, Robert Stern Jr. tells us that all the roads were dirt, there were no electric lines, but the telephone had made an appearance. As late as 1923, S.O.M. Center Road was a dirt road and Chagrin Boulevard (South Kinsman) and North Miles were the only paved roads. These roads were paved on one side only because the farmers preferred walking their horses on dirt.

The best mode of transportation during these times was the Cleveland-Chagrin Falls Railway. This railway started its operations on May 1, 1897. The route began at Public Square in Cleveland and followed the tracks of the Kinsman carlines with Stop 1 being 116th Street. Then it continued on out Kinsman with stops at Highland Park Cemetery (all trains had funeral cars), made connections with a spur to Warrensville Sanitarium and on to Orange (Lander Circle). East of Orange the route became very interesting. In the 1890's John Stoneman built an amusement park in the area of Brady Middle School and a large lake was created



by building an earthen dam. The park was called Crystal Lake and the interurban train brought many people to this area, then proceeded on its way behind Orange High School. There was a station just to the east of the school where the ruins can still be seen today. The tracks continued to the foot of S.O.M. Center hill where the horseshoe Glen stop was located. From there the train followed a winding route through the ravine crossing several small bridges to the Quarry stop near the junction of Giles and Jackson Roads. The route proceeded south to Miles Road where it passed the Chagrín Falls Car Barns and on into Chagrín Falls Village. The cars ran hourly from Cleveland and Harry Christiansen in his book entitled *Interurbans and Rapid Transit Trains* tells us that the 4:45 Limited was always packed with commuters. Due to financial difficulties, presumably caused by the automobile, the road that ran through our Village to Chagrín Falls was forced to close operations on March 31, 1925.

The Village of Moreland Hills was first organized in 1929. The minutes of the first Council Meeting state that the meetings were held from May of 1929 through 1932 in the home of Mayor Frank J. Lynch. On July 1, 1932 our Village Hall, which had been used as a one-room school house until 1924, became the new home of the Moreland Hills Village Council.

The Village of Moreland Hills is a municipal corporation with a Council-Mayor form of government and has been operating within a Charter adopted by the electors on November 7, 1972. A copy of this Charter may be obtained in the Village Hall office which is located at 4350 S.O.M. Center Road.

In 1937, Robert L. Stern, Sr. decided to subdivide some of the farms he had bought and so a new era came to Moreland Hills. From a population of 114 residents in 1930, the Village has grown to approximately 1300 homes with a population of 3400 in 1990. The lovely forests and fields of wheat, hay and oats have been transformed into homesites. We still have beautiful trees but they are mostly located on well laid-out streets many of which have sweeping views of the valley. Robert L. Stern, Jr. puts it very well in his letter when he points out that we should be forever mindful of the fact that our Village of Moreland Hills ---produced a President of the United States and a great many other people who helped in the transition from beautiful farm country to beautiful home country---" and made our Village a wonderful place in which to live.

JAMES A. GARFIELD BIRTH SITE

The Moreland Hills Historical Society, in collaboration with Village Council and various residents of the community, established and developed a permanent memorial to commemorate Garfield's birth place in 1990-91. Before that time, this area was designated by a large stone and plaque which had been put in place in 1937, the 100th anniversary of Garfield's birth. James was born in a log cabin in Moreland Hills, then part of Orange Township, on November 19, 1837.

The purposes for memorializing the site are: as a memorial to a President of the United States who served his country well; as an educational and aesthetic experience for children and adults who are interested in history, and as a reminder of important events in the early history of this community as well as life in an early settlement.

The project was developed with a statue of the teen age Garfield, new steps and bridge leading to the site, punchon benches where the cabin probably was located, three cast aluminum plaques depicting and describing the cabin, the canal experience, and the teaching & preaching activities. In addition, a brick pathway has been established using signature bricks with names of interested individuals and groups. Inside the Village Hall is a Diorama depicting the way the cabin and area looked in 1837.

Indigenous plantings are being placed in the area. Educational work units have been developed for use in schools to supplement the social studies curricula. This will help the teacher give students more background on Garfield as well as an increased understanding of his times.

A Visitors Brochure was developed to help the visitor find the Site, learn more about the early life of Garfield, and find the locations of his home (Lawnfield) and his burial place and monument (Lake View Cemetery). Garfield is one of few United States Presidents whose birth site, home, and grave site can be visited in a day.



**THE MORELAND HILLS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Historical Society was founded in 1980 to "bring together those people interested in history and especially the history of our community, to discover, collect, preserve and disseminate this information." The Society's major function is to discover and collect materials illustrating the history of Cuyahoga County: its exploration, settlement, and development, especially as it affects the development of this area.

In addition, a major goal of this Society is the development and preservation of the Birth Site of James A. Garfield, 20th President of the United States. He was born in this area and some information about his youth is given in the history section. Part of the Garfield Memorial Project is educational - to develop work units to be used by teachers as a supplement to their curriculum - in the study of Presidents and early settlements.

We wish to preserve all documents relating to Garfield and to disseminate information to the public by establishing a Garfield book shelf at the Orange library, providing displays and programs on Garfield as well as other information of historic interest.

The Society has four program meetings a year as well as an annual remembrance of the birth of Garfield on November 19, 1831. Everyone is cordially invited to attend all programs.

The Organization is a 501 C 3 not for profit organization and welcomes all contributions of memorabilia or monetary donations.



**MORELAND HILLS
WOMEN'S COMMITTEE**

The Moreland Hills Women's Committee was founded in 1952 as an outgrowth of the Moreland Hills Village Association. Through the years it has evolved into a committee of female residents who are truly dedicated to working toward the betterment of the Village. The Committee plays an integral role in helping to make our community more special by funding projects which benefit such worthwhile causes as Meals on Wheels, the Orange Schools and New Directions, to name a few. It especially supports the Police and Employees Foundation and raise funds for improvements and furnishings for the Village Hall.

Any female resident of Moreland Hills is welcome, as well as encouraged to join the M.H.W.C. The Committee consists of between twenty to thirty members, who each serve a minimum three year term. The two largest fund raising projects undertaken each year are the popular Spring Plant Sale and the Fall Clambake and Family Picnic. The Committee also sponsors several annual community events throughout the year which include:

The Firemen's Dinner in April for the Police, Fire and Service Department personnel in appreciation for their services.

The Moreland Hills Blood Bank in which all residents are contacted by the Committee once per year and encouraged to give blood in an effort to have it available upon request to any Moreland Hills resident.

A Fall Luncheon at the Chagrin Valley Country Club to report the year's activities to the women of the Village and to enjoy either a fashion show or listen to a well known guest speaker.

A Holiday Party with Santa held in December at Village Hall for all children of the community and their families as a means of promoting good will.

The Moreland Hills Women's Committee is a unique organization designed to benefit the entire community and to provide women residents an opportunity to share their time and talents with their neighbors.

MORELAND HILLS COMMUNITY CLUB

The Moreland Hills Community Club is open to all past and present residents of Moreland Hills. The purpose of the club is primarily social and educational. It meets four times per year with meetings announced in the Moreland Hills Newsletter.

MORELAND HILLS POLICE & EMPLOYEES FOUNDATION

This non-profit Foundation dates back to 1966 when a predecessor organization was formed to augment the benefits offered by the Village to the members of its police force. The Foundation provides disability insurance for members of the police department and assists police officers in continuing law enforcement education. In addition, all full-time Village employees now receive supplemental life and accidental death insurance and a holiday bonus. The Foundation also maintains a scholarship program for the higher education of children of Village employees.

Donations by Village residents are the Foundation's primary source of support, but the Moreland Hills Women's Committee also has contributed generously to the Foundation over the years. And, not to be forgotten, the Trustees donate their time and efforts throughout the year in the belief that an important part of the quality of life in Moreland Hills comes from the excellence and devotion of its employees.

ORANGE SENIOR CENTER

The purpose of the Orange Senior Center is to meet the needs of senior adults through friendship, entertainment and education and to help them participate as self sufficient members of the community. The Center is a daily "drop-in" program for all seniors age 55 and over, and from any community. Located at Brady Middle School on the Orange School campus it is open Monday-Friday and services/programs are available in recreation, education and social services. Call 831-8601, ext. 405.



CHURCHES

The pioneer settlers arrived in Orange Township shortly after the War of 1812, and the first of six churches was established in the year 1830. Although no church was within the actual boundaries of the present-day Moreland Hills, the rich religious heritage has been strongly felt throughout the years in our Village.

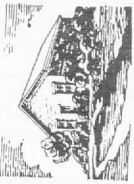
The Methodist Episcopal Church at Orange Center was organized in 1839 and the Methodist Church on Orange Hill had its beginning in 1830, however, neither church remains today. Short-lived churches were the North Solon Disciple Church and the South Solon Disciple Church with about as many members as years in existence.

The Free Will Baptist Church is known today as the North Solon Baptist Church and is located at Harper and Miles Road. Its history dates from the year 1868 to the present on the same site, but where a new building replaces the original structure which served for over one hundred years.

The Garfield Memorial Church is presently located at Lander Circle in Pepper Pike. This church was established in the year 1839 and has been moved a total of four times in its history. It was first known as the Bible Christian Church, and then the Orange Methodist Protestant Church, and in 1929, the name was changed to honor the memory of James A. Garfield whose birthplace was Moreland Hills.

A highlight of those early church years was the circuit rider or "Preacher on Horseback" who was welcomed warmly by the early pioneers when he made the rounds of his circuit to several churches.

Convenient listings of all churches and synagogues in this area can be found in the Chagrin Falls Directory.



SCHOOLS

In the 1870's there were eight one-room school houses in Orange Township, three of which were located in what is now the Village of Moreland Hills. These locations are marked on the map in this pamphlet. One of these schools has become the Council Chamber in the Moreland Hills Village Hall.

In those days the children walked to school or went by bob sled when the snow was too deep. Today all Moreland Hills children are bused to school. Children went to school in the winter months so they could help on the farms, and were taught by itinerant teachers.

Up until 1924, when the old Orange High School was built, students wishing to attend high school went to Chagrin Falls. Again they had to walk or ride the interurban railway.

Today most of the children of Moreland Hills attend the Orange Schools. Those living in the area slightly west of Chagrin River Road and extending to the eastern border of Moreland Hills are in the Chagrin Falls School District.

There are four school buildings on the 176 acre campus of the Orange School District, Moreland Hills and Pepper Pike Elementary Schools, Brady Middle School and Orange High School. The Chagrin Falls School District consists of Lewis Sands and Gunney elementary schools, a middle school and Chagrin Falls High School.

There are also many excellent private and parochial schools located nearby.

Both Orange and Chagrin have extensive recreation programs open to residents within each school district. The Orange recreation program is offered to all Moreland Hills residents regardless of school boundaries.

The Orange Board of Education and the Chagrin Falls Board of Education conduct monthly meetings which are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend.

HIRAM HOUSE CAMP

Founded in 1896, Hiram House Camp is located on 200 acres of natural woodland at the corner of S.O.M. Center Road and Hiram Trail. It is a United Way Agency operating on a twelve month basis serving children and adults from all walks of life.

In addition to the normal summer camping program, there are camping sessions for the Cleveland and suburban schools. The Teacher Training Program works with area Universities training students and certified teachers the skills to be used when teaching in an outdoor situation. The camp is also used by other community groups for training sessions, week-end retreats and conference facilities are also leased by various organizations.

Hiram House Camp aims to give children a healthy, wholesome, stimulating experience in the out-of-doors through living, playing and working together in a beautiful environment of natural woods. In addition it provides for culturally deprived children from over-crowded inner-city areas.

METROPOLITAN PARK

Bordering on the south side of Moreland Hills and bisecting the Village through the Valley is the South Chagrin Reservation of Metropolitan Park. This section includes the Historic Squaw Rock, Sulphur Springs and a Boy Scout Reservation. The area running through our Village occupies the land between the River Road and Chagrin River. At the north end of the park is the Polo Field which is used by horsemen and kennel clubs for their official shows as well as for polo games and other events. The whole park area is beautiful and offers ample opportunity for hiking, picnicking, bird watching and horseback riding.

ORANGE BRANCH LIBRARY

The Orange Branch Library is located at 31300 Chagrin Boulevard and is part of the Cuyahoga County Public Library System. It was opened in July 1965. It contains over 79,000 items, including periodicals, records, cassette, books-on-tape, compact discs and videotapes. In addition to the supply of materials found in this library it is possible to draw on the complete resources of the County Library accessed through the computerized catalog. Two personal computers and a word processor are available for public use and a meeting room is available for use by community groups.

INDEX TO FOLD OUT MAP

The fold out map and this index have been prepared to help you in several ways. It will help you locate present day streets and areas of interest, and, it was thought that some of you might like to drive around the Village and locate the places of historic interest that we have discussed here. It has been impossible to locate all these areas exactly as they were, some records are not available and some streets have been changed and added. The numbers on the map correspond to the numbers listed below.

1. Moreland Hills Village Hall, 4350 S.O.M. Center Road is believed to have been built around 1860. It was used as a one room schoolhouse until 1924 at which time the centralized school system was built on the present location. In 1932 it became the Village Hall.
2. Garfield farmsite & James Garfield birth site.
3. The one-room schoolhouses located in Moreland Hills are all numbered 3 on the map. That portion of the Orange Schools located in Moreland Hills is numbered 3A.
4. The Cleveland-Chagrin Falls Railway is designated by a double red line. The best place from which to view the substation and earthen dam is the Brady Middle School drive.
5. River Road Cemetery. This little cemetery is one of the loveliest spots in our Village. It undoubtedly started as a family burial plot, but many families are now represented. Serenus Burnet, who was the first settler in the valley is buried here with his wife, Jane. He died May 8, 1858 and Mrs. Burnet died September 22, 1861, both at the age of seventy.
6. Hiram House Camp.
7. Location of Serenus Burnet Farm.
8. Location of Seth Mapes Farm.
9. Location of Abram Garfield Farm & James Garfield birth site.
10. Location of Amos Boynton Farm.
11. Metropolitan Park.
12. Pulpit Rock is not accessible to anyone except members of Chagrin Valley Country Club. It is said that young James Garfield was interested in becoming a minister. Upon returning from church with his family one Sunday morning he asked his mother if this would be possible. She said that it would be when he grew up. When she went to look for him later, she found him standing on the rock waving his arms and pretending that he was a preacher. In later years it is said that he practiced his oratory here.

SOURCES FOR MATERIAL

No attempt has been made to make this pamphlet any kind of literary accomplishment and so no footnotes, etc., were included. However, for those who might enjoy delving a little farther into the past we have listed here sources of our information. The Garfield Diaries and other interesting references are available on the Garfield Shelf at the Orange Branch Library, as well as old books in the bookcase in the Garfield Room of the Moreland Hills Village Hall.

Record of Taxes Paid Into the Treasury of Cuyahoga County in 1827-28. (Available in the Cuyahoga County Recorder's Office).

John M. Taylor Garfield of Ohio. (Lawnfield)

Theodore Clarke Smith, Diaries of James A. Garfield
Vol. I and II.

Theodore Clarke Smith, The Life and Letters of James A. Garfield.
Vol. I and II.

William M. Thayer, From Log Cabin to White House, 1881.

Harry Christiansen, Northern Ohio's Interurban and Rapid Transit Railways.

Hiram College Alumni Broadcaster, Summer Issue, 1968.

History of Cuyahoga County, 1879.

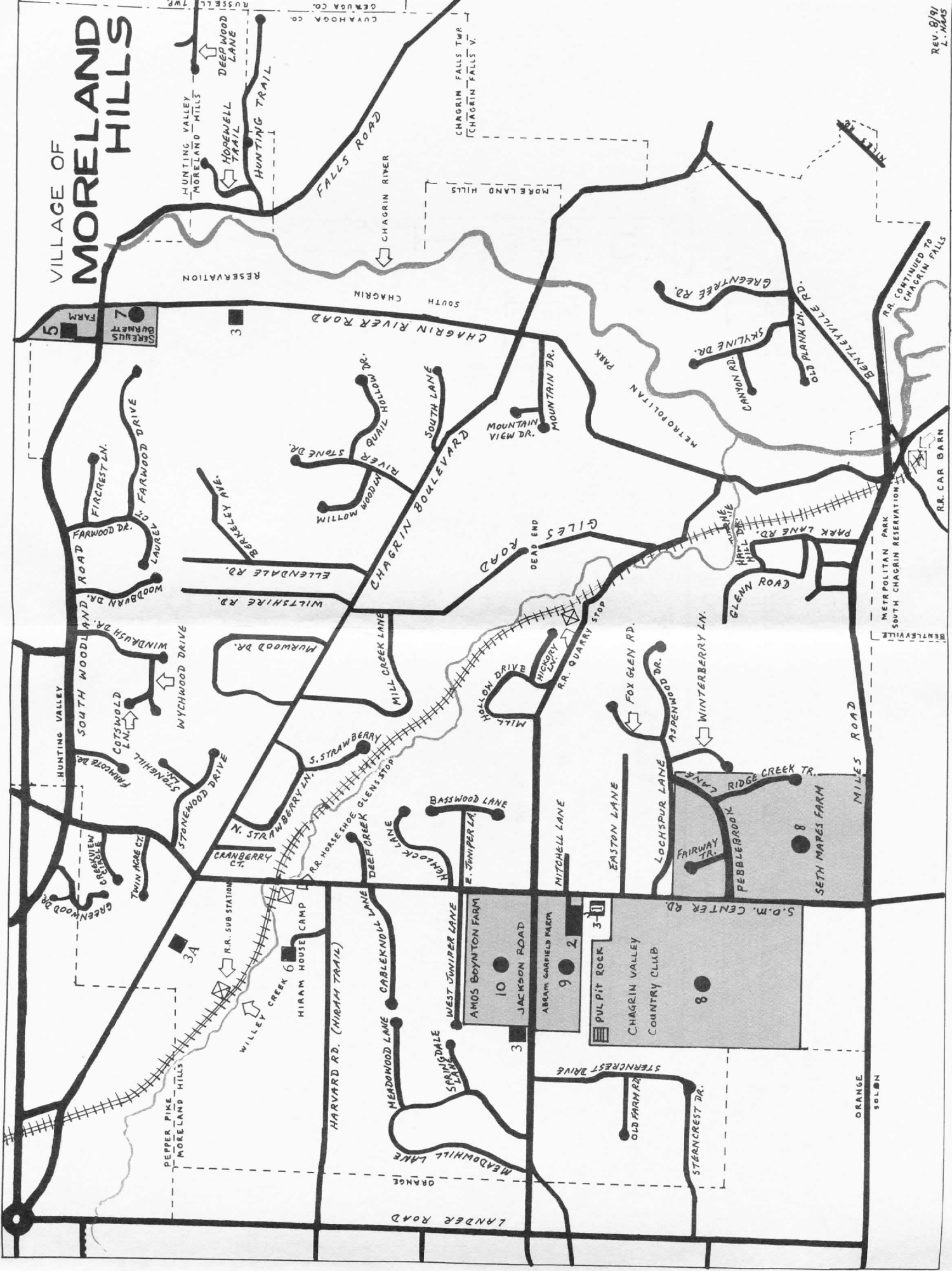
Personal Letter from Robert L. Stern, Jr. to Mrs. Virginia Loegler dated December 1975.

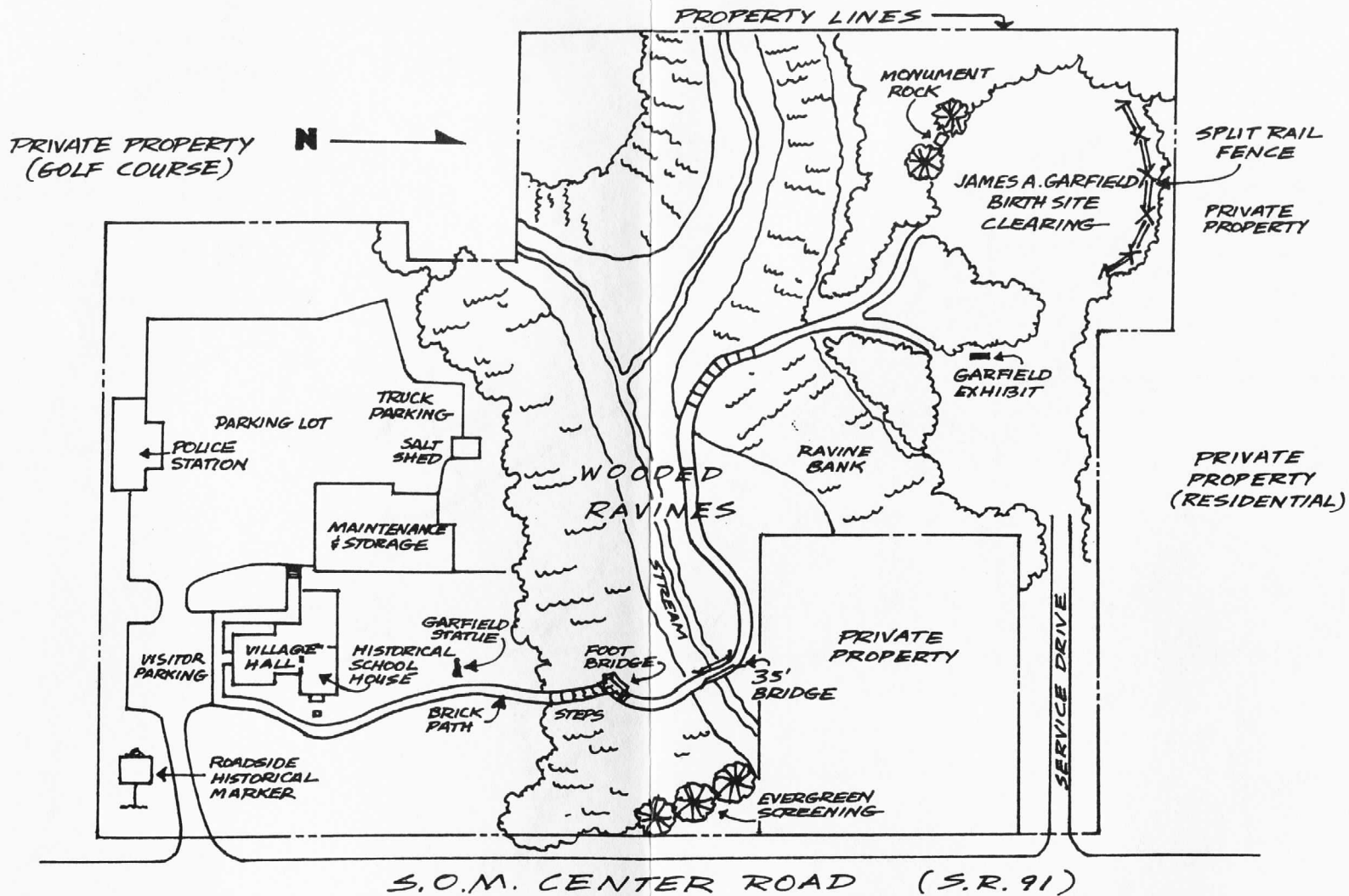
Allen Y. King, The Heritage of 120 Years - Garfield Memorial Church January 25, 1959.

John North, History of Orange Schools. 1968.

Western Reserve Historical Society News, May-June, 1975.

VILLAGE OF MORELAND HILLS





VILLAGE HALL AND GARFIELD FARM AND BIRTH SITE PROPERTY