*DESTINATION LODI*

*A HISTORICAL JOURNEY*

*W. H. CUNNINGHAM*

*Photographer*

*1874*

*W.H. Cunningham, in my opinion was one of the most important citizen in Lodi during our early years. Many in Lodi and surrounding areas used this talented man to document the times by photos.*

*With the help of Wendy Warner, we have placed his home and business at 201/203 Medina Street. It was difficult to find information at the Medina Courthouse, houses moved or torn down, lot numbers changed. I do know that Jeremiah Higbee owned the land prior to Cunningham. Remember the Higbee house moved from Elyria Street to the corner of Wooster and Baker Street.*

*W. H. Cunningham came to Lodi from Pittsburgh, Pa. in 1863 in a car hauled by a team of horses. He operated a photographic studio in his car for nearly twelve years. In 1874, he built his residence and studio on Medina Street. Cunningham had one son Chancy from a previous marriage. Chancy, a photographer worked with his father.*

*W.H arrived in Lodi, meet and married his second wife. Harriet Arabella.*

*In 1911, his business was the oldest in Lodi. At the time of W.H. Cunningham’s death, he had been in business for over fifty years.*

*Biographies “A Biographical Dictionary, Artists in Ohio 1787-1900” and “Langdons List of 19th and early 20th Century Photographers” note W.H. and son Chancy.*

*We have many photos by W.H. Cunningham, many photos are unnamed, and we do not know who they are. When we do open the museum, I place the photos on a table. I am hoping someone will recognize some of their relatives.*

*I spoke with current homeowner Keith Heffernan who is remodeling the house including a new red roof. Looks great! The house will remain a double, Keith living on one side. Thanks you Keith for restoring a historical building!*

*On Thursday April 27, we will be having our Lodi-Harrisville Historical Society meeting at the Lodi Library. The meeting will start at 7pm followed by our program by Kathy Petras from Medina Library. Kathy will lecture on Genealogy.*

*I am working with Eric from the library on historical lectures. I will know the details in the near future.*

*Once again, the LHHS want to thank Moxies, Crop King, Miller Bros, First Congregational Church of Lodi, Lodi Methodist Church, Lodi American Legion, Drug Mart, our Trustees, our husbands and D’Antonios for donating and working at our fundraiser “Dinner and Music with Frank”. We are on our way to a home!*