Destination Lodi

A Historical Journey

When I was coming into Lodi on Greenwich Road from Westfield, I was thinking of Joseph Harris and the view he must of first experienced of the land soon to be Harrisville. It’s my understanding his first night spent in Harrisville was near intersection of Harris Road and Miller Bros. I’m sure he could see the valley full of trees and promise.

Lodi is a Historical Village with an extraordinary history. We were the first settlement, first Christian church, first school and we were instrumental in the Underground Railroad. The sub continental divide connecting the Ohio River and Lake Erie is located on the Hall Farm, a Prehistoric Wooley Mammoth was discovered on a local farm. We have three historical landmarks. Jeremiah Higbee was one of our prominate citizens that started his store here later moving to Cleveland. Letha House well known philanthropist and Ann Eliza Young the x-wife of Brigham Young were both married in Lodi. Did you know buzzards return to Lodi before they return to Hinckley?

We’ve lost several landmarks in Lodi due to fire and poor decision, let’s not lose another. We have been blessed with three gentlemen from Cleveland who are interesting in restoring our Lodi Train Depot. It needs a lot of work that needs lots of donated supplies and money. Please help anyway you can.

The Depot dates back to the late 1800s. The Lodi Railroad Museum has a wonderful web site that can give you the history of this historical landmark. [www.lodirailroadmuseum.org](http://www.lodirailroadmuseum.org). Call Paul Bayus @ 330-887-5325 or Joanne Slorgie @ 330-948-2482 if you are interesting in helping.

With the railroad tracks comes train wrecks and Lodi has seen few. One of the earlier accidents, according to Joe Warner occurred in 1937. A passenger train heading west hit a United Dairy can truck traveling north. The driver was left sitting in the cab of the truck with only his front wheels. It sliced the frame of the bed off behind the cab.

I remember the wreck of 1976. Our apartment was a block from the tracks and you could hear the crashing sounds. I looked out the window and you could see railroad cars going straight up in the air.

The depot inself was involved in an accident several years ago when a propane truck was crossing the tracks collided with a train, throwing the propane tank into the end of the depot. The railroad chopped off the end of the depot instead of fixing it.

Please come join us at our Lodi-Harrisville Historical Meeting on October 26th at 6:30pm. Don Gilbert will give the program prior to our quarterly meeting. Mark your calendars. There will be two more programs in November. I will keep you posted.