



Waldschmidt Home - 1794
Camp Dennison

E. DUNCAN.

Just over the Clermont Count line, at Camp Dennison, two miles north of Milford, is the beautiful, historic Christian Waldschmidt home, built in 1804. The settlement was originally known as "New Germany," and under Waldschmidt's guidance, became a prosperous industrial center. A paper mill, across the road from the house, is believed to have been the first in Ohio. During the Civil War, the home was the headquarters of General Josuah Bates, commandant of a training and induction center for Union troops, located in the village. In 1863, troops from this center engaged Morgan's Raiders in a skirmish near the Little Miami River, not far away. The home has been restored and furnished with authentic antique pieces and is operated as a public memorial by the Ohio Chapter of the D. A. R.



Ohio Society N. S. D. A. R.
cordially invites you to attend
The dedication of their State Shrine
The Christian Waldschmidt House
Located on by-pass 50, Camp Denison, Ohio
near Cincinnati
Thursday, October 23, 1952 at 2 o'clock

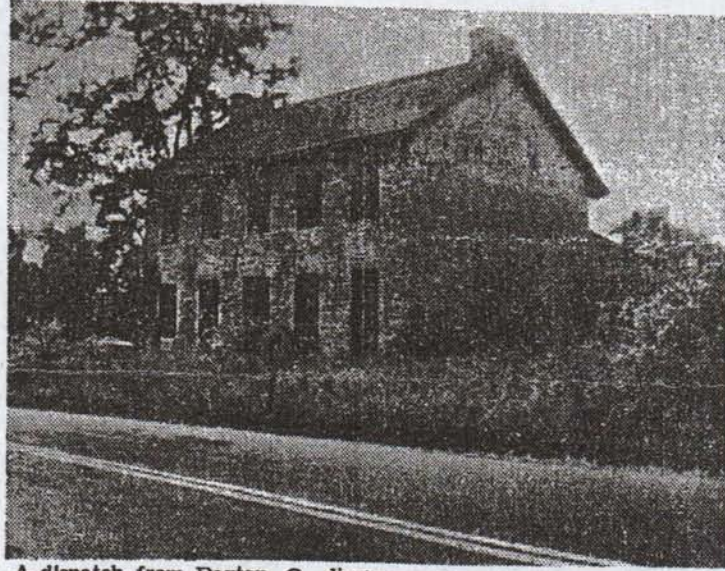
Times-Star

Fri., Jan. 31, 19

1941, was when
Mrs. Chester F. Kroger gave
property to DAR.

THE CINCINNATI

137-Year-Old House Given To D. A. R. for Restoration



A dispatch from Dayton, O., disclosed Friday the gift by Mr. and Mrs. Chester F. Kroger, Cunningham Road, Indian Hill, of an historic stone house in Camp Dennison to the Ohio Daughters of the American Revolution and plans of that ancestral society to restore the edifice.

The gift includes not only the house and grounds about it, but funds to aid in its restoration. Plans to this end will be announced at the forty-second Ohio D. A. R. conference in Cincinnati March 11-13 in the Netherland Plaza Hotel, when a handsome bronze marker to adorn the building will be unveiled.

BUILT IN 1804

The house, built in 1804, and known as the Waldschmidt-Kugler home, is located on the Glendale-Milford Pike, by-pass for U. S. Route 50 in Camp Dennison. It was the home of Christian Waldschmidt, owner and operator of the first paper mill in Ohio, which stood nearby.

Misses Julia and Josephine Kugler, Renfro Avenue, Westwood, great granddaughters of Waldschmidt, will aid in restoring the house by furnishing pieces that originally were in it.

Waldschmidt made the paper on which Cincinnati's early newspapers were printed. His home during the Civil War was the headquarters of Gen. Joshua Bates. Names of Civil War soldiers are written into the woodwork. The stone walls bear the bullet marks from target practice.

MARIEMONT GROUP CREDITED

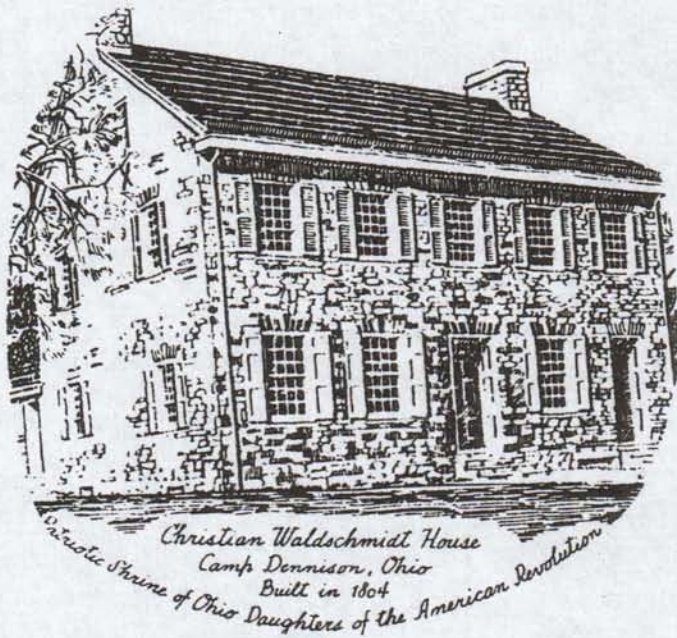
Waldschmidt was one of a group known as "Pietists," who fled from Kinzig-on-the-Rhine, Germany, in 1786 to escape religious persecution. He led some of them to Ohio in 1794. They bought land in the vicinity where now stands the old stone house of John Cleves Symmes.



Top is shown the historic stone house given to the Ohio D. A. R. by Mr. and Mrs. Chester F. Kroger and, below, Miss Ramona Kaiser, who first called attention to the historic significance of the house.

Chapter that the D. A. R. State Society came into the possession of its newest historic holding.

Each year the state society marks one historic site. Each chapter submits a site. A book, "Glimpses Into the Past," by Miss Ramona Kaiser, Drake Road, Indian Hill, called attention to the Waldschmidt-Kugler home and the Mariemont Chapter named that as its choice. It was ratified by the state society. Mr. and Mrs. Kroger, learning of the interest of the D. A. R. in the stone house, made the gift of it.



Christian Waldschmidt House

7567 Glendale-Milford Road
Camp Dennison, Ohio 45111

It was in 1795 that the first of the families arrived to make a new life in the wilderness. By 1804 Christian has this lovely stone, held together with white mortar, large house built for his family. He is said to have built the smaller stone house near by for his daughter, Catherine Elizabeth, who married Matthias Kugler. These homes are of the Pennsylvania Dutch style of Lancaster County.

The first store was kept in the large room now designated as the Museum Room in this house. Here the women often brought produce or woven cloth to exchange for staples. This room also served as a school and for church services on the Sabbath which was observed, the outside entrance making it convenient for the community.

The Tavern Room also had an outside entrance down the steps. Here much business was transacted and tales were told, as friends and strangers passed news along.

Catherine Bollender Waldschmidt died in November, 1810, and the following year, when fifty-six years old, Christian married Magdalena (Polly) Kern Custard, a thirty-three year old widow, who became the lady of the house. Their daughter, Sarah, was born the next year.

Both Christian and his son John died during an epidemic of "cold plague" in

March, 1814. His son-in-law, Matthias Kugler, became the manager and the family lived in this house until 1849, when the Kugler fortune was lost through over speculation.

After a succession of tenants the house was appropriated by lease to the War Department in 1861, and became known as Gen. Joshua Bates' headquarters and commissary, until the close of the war in 1865. Later it was used to store wheat, corn and hay. The house became delapidated, and a blot to the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Kroger donated the house and grounds to the Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution in 1941. Mrs. Ramona Kaiser Bradley served as chairman for the restoration of this historic Christian Waldschmidt House. This committee spent hours to research the Pennsylvania houses even before beginning the task of remodeling the building. An architect's bid was accepted and work begun. Then the war was declared and with additional expenses not included in the bid stopped the restoration until later.

Due to the dedication of the administrations of Ohio State Regents and the labor of love of many Ohio Daughters we can be proud of the refurbishing since the dedication of the House in 1952.

as a private in the Pennsylvania Regiment from Berks County. He fought until the end of the war. However, three years before the war ended Christian married Catherine Bollender, in Reading Town, Pa., August 15, 1780.

In 1786 John Waldschmidt died. He was buried in the graveyard connected with the church called Swamp (earlier called Cocallico) in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Christian's father had given work in his paper mill to all the men, except one, who had come to America with him from Germany. A man named Bockenheim did not go to Lancaster or Montgomery Counties, Pa., but remained in Philadelphia. One day Bockenheim came to visit his old friends from Germany. He brought them news of settlements that were being made in the North West Territory. He spoke of the fertility of the land and the many business opportunities this new country offered. In 1794 Christian Waldschmidt and several companions journeyed over the rugged Allegheny Mountains on horseback, then by flat boat down the Ohio River to a small town at the mouth of the Little Miami River, named Columbia. They stopped at the Tavern of Kasper Schutz, who had served in the war with Waldschmidt in the Company of Captain Strong. From Columbia they set out to explore the land between the two Miami Rivers.

They were pleased with the Valley for two reasons. First, they foresaw the possibility of the old Indian Trail leading to present Chillicothe, Ohio, becoming a high road. Secondly, the river was navigable for canoes and flat boats. Waldschmidt at once felt he must own a site in this area for a mill. He hastened to Cincinnati, Ohio, to make a purchase from John Cleves Symmes, who owned most of the land between the Great Miami and the Little Miami rivers. He completed his purchase in 1795 and returned to Pennsylvania. Three men were left in the new country to clear the land and erect block houses, forming a fortress against the Indians who were still troublesome even though the Treaty of Greenville had been signed in August of 1795.

Waldschmidt disposed quickly of his property in Pennsylvania. He sold his mill to David Saur who owned a printing establishment. Most of the settlers were ready to leave in

1795, the rest followed in 1798 including some new additions.

Waldschmidt's fortune flourished in the new country. He built a paper mill, cooperage, distillery, woolen mill and dyeing house, blacksmith shop, and started a school. By 1804 he had built for himself a large home. It was built of field stone, held together with white mortar. He lived in this house until 1814 when he died of "cold plague" or influenza. He is buried in Camp Dennison, Ohio, cemetery. His grave has a bronze DAR marker on the stone.

Johannes Kugler, one of the original colonists from Germany, had died shortly after his arrival in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. His son, Mathias Kugler, joined the settlers going to the Ohio Country. He worked for Christian Waldschmidt. Kugler was then a handsome lad of seventeen, and while working and living in the Waldschmidt home, he fell in love with Catherine, the daughter of Christian Waldschmidt. They were married, and the once poor Mathias Kugler became the son-in-law of the rich Christian Waldschmidt, and the successor in the management of "New Germany" as the community was then known. The Kugler family lived in the lovely stone house until 1849. The Kugler fortune was lost through over-speculation, and Waldschmidt House saw a succession of tenants. During the Civil War it was the headquarters of General Joshua Bates. After the war it was used for storage of corn, wheat and hay. Soon the walls began to sink and crack and the once lovely home became an eyesore in the community.

In 1941 Mr. and Mrs. Chester Kroger bought the house and immediate grounds and gave it to the Ohio Society Daughters of The American Revolution. Their gift was accompanied by a check for five thousand dollars to assist with the restoration. After months of research in the Pennsylvania Dutch country, restoration began. Then came World War II and all worked stopped. In 1947 it began again and proceeded slowly and expensively. The House was dedicated in 1952.

Waldschmidt House has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, thus insuring its future. The house is indeed unique, having been built and lived in by a soldier of

General William Henry Harrison, the father-in-law of Christian W. arranged to purchase 1,140 acres of this land at the price of one Spanish Dollar per acre. In signing the deed to his property, Christian Waldschmidt Americanized his name to Waldsmith, a spelling that was continued by most of his family. Christian W. left his friends to clear the land and to build cabins, while he went back to Pennsylvania for his family and others who returned with him in the spring of 1796. By 1798 twenty families had settled in what was called the village "New Germany", and shortly thereafter, erected a church, a grist mill, a paper mill, a linen mill, a saw mill, a woolen mill, a distillery, a large cooperage, a warehouse, a blacksmith shop and a general store. Christian W. was the leader in the settlement and became its banker. His most important industry was the paper mill, one of the first, if not the first, paper mill in that part of the Northwest Territory. In 1811 he expanded his holdings by buying a tract of land on the east side of the Little Miami River, that had been granted to George Washington, by the Colony of Virginia, for his services in the Revolution. In 1804 he built a stone house in the "Pennsylvania Dutch" style of architecture with which he was familiar in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In this house, for a time, he had his office, general store and bank. Later he built a smaller stone house just to the south of his own. This one was used as the general store and the upstairs was used for the living quarters of his daughter and her husband, Mathias Kugler. During the Civil war all of the "Big Bottom" was taken over by the Government for a training camp. The large house was used for 'officers' quarters. The Camp was in charge of General Joshua Bates, and village was renamed - Camp Dennison - for the Governor of Ohio. After the war the house was never again used as a residence.

In 1941 the Ohio Society of the DAR came into possession of this house, and the Society has restored it as a Museum and Shrine. It is located on Ohio State Road 126 and the National By-Pass of Route (U.S.) 50. The following quotation indicates how the Ohio DAR regards the Waldschmidt House:

"The Ohio Daughters of the American Revolution are justly proud of their Shrine which they have restored in memory of a Patriot and a staunch American of great foresight, who created an industrial settlement in the midst of a wilderness."

Christian Waldsmith lived in this house from 1804 until his death on March 30, 1814. He is buried in a cemetery up the road from the house. The DAR placed a marker on his grave on July 4, 1947.

Since John Christian Waldschmidt served as a private in the American Revolution, all feminine descendants of his line are eligible for membership in the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Likewise, all male descendants of his line are eligible for membership in the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.