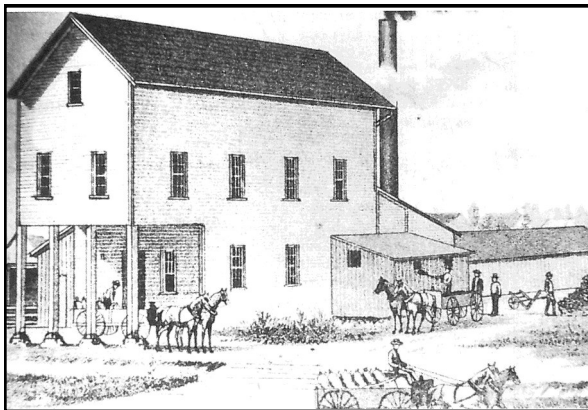


Historians credit Ephraim Crider as the first miller or grain processor in the area. He is thought to have built a steam-powered grist mill in 1859 on his farm adjacent to the village he and his son Isaac had founded in 1856. The mill was located on the north side of E. Main Street in the middle of the present 200 block.

The Crider mill was a large three-story frame structure with a tall smoke stack at the rear for the steam engine that powered the millstones. The grist mill was the place local farmers brought their corn and wheat to be ground into meal and flour. Ephraim sold his mill in 1877 for \$7,500.

Ephraim and Polly remained on their small 32-acre farm — the eastern most portion of the 80 acres they had purchased in 1854. By 1873 their farm became part of the village proper. On December 3, 1880 Ephraim Crider died at age 74. Polly remained in Cridersville until her death on September 4, 1886. They are buried amidst a lovely grove of trees at the St. Matthew's Lutheran Cemetery.



The Crider steam-powered grist mill on E. Main Street



ABRAHAM CRIDER

Ephraim and Polly Crider's second son, Abraham, became a successful farmer in Allen County. In 1882 he was elected a commissioner of Allen County. It is interesting to note that although Ephraim did not live to see his son elected a county commissioner, Polly did. In fact, she was also proud to see her son-in-law, John Reichelderfer (Susan's husband), elected Auglaize County Commissioner in 1884. During the last years of her life, Abraham and John were helping to lead both counties.

Cridersville Historical Society

111 W. Sugar Street

PO Box 2444

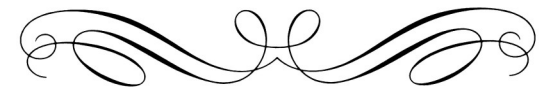
Cridersville, Ohio 45806

419-645-4782



Ephraim & Polly Crider

FOUNDERS OF CRIDERSVILLE



Duchouquet Township
Auglaize County, Ohio

Ephraim Crider was the fourth of six children born to Abraham and Leah (Larrick) Crider. Abraham Crider's ancestors had immigrated to America from Cantonberne, Switzerland in the early 1700s. They settled in what today is known as the "Pennsylvania Dutch" areas of Pennsylvania. The original spelling of their name was Kreider. It was changed to Cryder or Crider after arriving in America.

By the spring of 1800, Abraham Crider had moved from his family home near Schnitzcreek in southwest Lebanon County, Pennsylvania to Frederick County, Virginia. There, on May 12, 1800, he married Leah Larrick. Abraham and Leah had six children — Sophia, David, Sally, Ephraim, Amelia, and George. Ephraim was born on December 25, 1805. By 1810 Abraham and his family had moved from Virginia to pioneer Ross County, Ohio.

On January 30, 1825, at the age of 19, Ephraim Crider married Mary Magdelene Dunkle. She was known as Polly and lived in neighboring Pickaway County. Over the next twenty-two years, Polly and Ephraim would have ten children — Isaac, Elizabeth, Abraham, Hannah, Maria, Leanna, Rueben, Susan, Ephraim, and John. Their youngest son, John, was born in 1847 prior to their move to west central Ohio.

We are not certain of the exact date Ephraim Crider and his family came to the Auglaize/Allen County area. Early records at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church indicate that he had not only donated to the church, but in February 1851 he and his son Abraham endorsed a resolution to

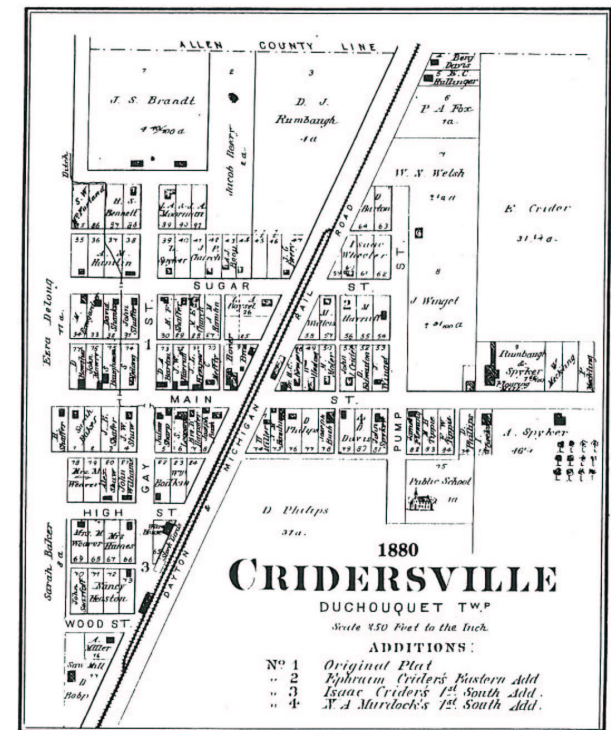
build a new church structure. Ephraim had subscribed to donate \$8 toward its construction.

We do know that on March 11, 1854 Isaac Crider, Ephraim and Polly's oldest son, and his wife Susanna (Searfoss) purchased 80 acres in the south half of the NW quarter of Section 35 in Duchouquet Township. They bought it from Samuel and Catherine Moyer for \$2000. The terms were \$1000 cash and \$500 to be paid on April 15, 1855 and 1856. There weeks later, on April 3, 1854 Ephraim and Polly Crider bought 80 acres just north of Isaac and Susanna's new property. They paid \$2000 cash to Joseph and Christiana Weaver.

It is also not certain if Ephraim and Isaac intended to establish a town when they first bought their land. The Dayton and Michigan Railroad had acquired a right-of-way for a new rail line from the Moyers and Weavers in 1853. If they had not planned it prior to their purchase, the idea came to them soon. In the spring of 1856 they hired Harrison Maltbie, a local land owner and qualified surveyor. On April 17, 1856 he surveyed and platted the original town site for what they decided to name Cridersville.

There were a total of 24 lots in this original town. Seventeen faced Main Street and seven were on the north side of High Street. It is said that Main Street was platted on the path of the old Shawnee trail between the tribe's two reservations. The lots on Main Street belonged to Ephraim and the lots on High Street were Isaac's. The Criders positioned their new town along the west edge of their properties.

It was apparently no coincidence that the east edge of town was platted on an angle. It ran along the right-of-way of the proposed Dayton & Michigan Railroad. When the railroad was completed in 1858, Cridersville was assured success. It provided the area with the transportation link it so badly needed. The village would become the place area farmers could access that link to the outside world. It also made the sale of lots in the infant town much easier. Home and business lots were much more appealing in a community with rail access. Tax records of 1858 list vacant lots in Cridersville with a tax value of \$15 to \$25. The variation was due to their location on Main or High Streets and their proximity to the railroad — closer was better.



This map shows Cridersville in 1880. By then the village had grown to include additions on Main Street east of the railroad and Sugar Street on the north. Ephraim and Polly Crider lived just north and east of the village they had founded in 1856.