

UP THE RUN

The Property

We lived *up the run*. With few exceptions, everyone else lived down the run.

Coming down Boggs Run Hill from Route 86, near Route 88 and Sherrard, West Virginia, *our home* was the second house on the left on Boggs Run Road. It used to be the first house on the left, but on July 7, 1952, my dad gave some property to his sister, Ruth. She and her husband, Lemar A. "Johnny" Clarke, built a house about a year later. When addresses were later assigned, ours was 514 Boggs Run Road.

Our home was situated in the valley near the creek, with vast acreage of farmland that rose from our property line to the hilltop locations of Benwood Hill and the area that is now Fort Clark Estates, along Route 86. If we walked up the old wagon path to the right of our property on Boggs Run, it was a short - but steep - walk to those sites.



**Sam, Dad, Tommy Hess, Linda.
Clarkes' new house in the background.**

On the other side of the road from us, further up the run, was the home of Ursel and Florence Loy. Just past there were the three houses on Orum's Lane, the location of the first glimpse of Boggs Run, the creek that comes from the hills above, on Route 88.

The Myers family lived on top of a hill, accessed from a dirt road across from the Clarkes. They could probably have said they lived up the run, since their road was on Boggs Run Road.

My parents, John W. "Jack" and Ruth (Smith) Cunningham, bought *our home* on September 6, 1946 from Dad's uncle, Herman Grant Cunningham, and his wife, Alice (Beever). Herman was the brother of my grandfather, John Wilbur Cunningham, who lived in various places on Boggs Run and, finally, on Brown's Run. My great grandparents, William Grant and Nettie (Atkinson) Cunningham, moved to Boggs Run from Ritchie County, West Virginia about 1905, due to employment opportunities at the steel mill in Benwood.



Herman Grant & Alice Cunningham, on the Boggs Run property, c 1945
Standing: Melvin & Earl. Front: Jacqueline, Herman, Ronald, Alice, Marcella

I always thought Uncle Herman had raised his family in *our home*, before selling to my parents and moving a couple miles down the run. But according to the deed at the Marshall County courthouse, he had only bought the property on November 22, 1943 from Ira Lawson Orum and his wife, Edna (Orum) Orum. After he sold us *our home*, he moved back down the run, just before the 5th wagon bridge (I think), counting up from the mouth of the run.

Ira Lawson Orum, born December 3, 1879, was the son of Civil War veteran (Company "H" 17th W.Va. Infantry), Peter Orum, and Esther/Hester Phoebe McHenry, residents of Rock Hill Road in Sherrard. On September 26, 1908, Ira married a cousin, Edna Orum, the daughter of Joseph E. and Emma (Southworth) Orum.

Prior to Ira and Edna's ownership of *our home*, Edna's mother, Sarah "Emma" (Southworth) Orum owned the property. On March 29, 1898, Emma bought the property from the children of James and Margaret J. (Allen) Gosney. The children (and their spouses) inherited the property from their maternal grandmother, Hannah (Barto) Allen.

Hannah's father, John Barto, died in 1848 and at least part of his property went to Hannah. Hannah and her husband, John Allen, in an agreement of March 11, 1876, made deeds to their children. John Carrigan, husband of their daughter, Amanda Allen, and their son, Wilson Allen, both received deeds to the property their homes were on (probably Sherrard and Wheeling Creek respectively) but, within 5 years,

each had to pay their sister, Margaret J., and husband, James Gosney, \$1500 for their share of the property. John and Hannah Allen lived at the Barto farm at the top of Boggs Run Hill, which included the acreage that is now Fort Clark Estates, as well as the property that extended to Boggs Run that was later the site of *our home*. But their son, Barto Allen, was deeded the home farm "to have and to hold" in the same agreement of March 11, 1876. However, he would not take possession until his parents were dead. But Barto Allen died in 1883 and his mother, Hannah, was still alive until 1897; therefore, Hannah still owned the property. All or part of this property went to the children of Margaret J. (Allen) Gosney following Hannah's death.

The Gosney children and their spouses sold the smaller property, 1 acre and 4 poles, on Boggs Run to Emma Orum in 1898. In 1900 they sold the actual farm place, 98 acres and 54 poles, to Joseph Kolz in 1900. Again, this property included the land that is now Fort Clark Estates.

The Gosney children were John Gosney and wife, Elizabeth; Martin Gosney and wife, Blanche; Hannah M. ["Margaret" Gosney] Gatewood and husband, Joseph; Charles Gosney; Rosa Gosney; Mary Jane Gosney Wilson and her husband, Hugh Wilson; Theodore Blair, the husband of the deceased Sarah Melvina Gosney. For some reason, Blair was not listed on the deed to Emma Orum. Mary "Jane" married Hugh Parks Wilson on May 18, 1898, so he was not listed in Emma Orum's deed.

It seemed curious that Emma (Southworth) Orum, rather than her husband, Joseph Orum, bought the property from the Gosney children.

The story is that Emma's father, George W. Southworth, came to Marshall County and built a log cabin at the bottom of Boggs Run hill. He bought one acre and 60 poles from Thomas P. Jones and his wife, Rebecca Jones, on June 18, 1855. This is a part of the property Thomas P. Jones had bought from Benjamin McMechen on February 19, 1844. On March 28, 1873, Mr. Southworth bought 2 acres and 61 poles from James F. Dowler, who bought the land from Daniel Steenrod and wife on March 27, 1872.

I have no understanding of the property description but it seems like the Southworth properties were in the vicinity of Orum's Lane and directly across the road from Orum's Lane. The 1873 document mentions "on a line with William Rankin..." A later deed (1898) names William Remke as owning the bordering property.

George Southworth died in 1886; his wife died in 1896. Daughter, Emma Orum, apparently inherited the Southworth family property, and, with her husband, Joseph E. Orum, sold it to her three sisters for a nominal sum. The two properties were deeded to Belle Southworth Mobley, wife of Reuben Mobley (married November 11, 1874), and Mary A. and Eliza Southworth, on February 1, 1898 and February 5, 1898. On March 29, 1898, Emma bought the nearby property from the Gosneys, who had inherited it from their maternal grandmother, Hannah Allen, the daughter of John Barto.

Hopefully, that explains both the Southworth property and the property we lived on.

When I was a child, Dad told me that our house was very old. I didn't doubt that at all because it certainly looked old. But after reviewing the deeds, it wasn't as old as I thought. Dad said the house was built by a carpenter named Ira Orum. Sure enough,

Ira is listed as a carpenter in the census records, but he didn't build the house. He was under twenty when his mother-in-law-to-be, Emma (Southworth) Orum, bought the property; I don't think there was a house on it. And Ira and Edna didn't marry until 1908. Emma's husband, Joseph Orum, a blacksmith, built the original house, which was probably two rooms, as well as the outbuilding that was still standing when my family moved there.

Emma's husband, Joseph E. Orum, born in an unknown location on Boggs Run on December 31, 1863, died March 6, 1922. On May 1, 1924, Emma conveyed the property to Ira and Edna, with the condition that she "have, hold and occupy as a residence and home two rooms of dwelling house on said property during her lifetime."

It is likely that Ira and Edna moved into the home with Emma about that time, along with their two daughters, Dorothy and Marie, who attended Sherrard High School. It also seems reasonable that the fifth room was built on the back of the house at that time. Photos taken about 1928 don't show the room, so it was probably built by Ira after Joseph's death, perhaps as a room for Emma, or for the two girls. It was built without a foundation or heat source, but it was the nicest room in the house in the 1940s, with flowered wallpaper and hardwood floors. Like all the rooms, it had a door to the outside. The inhabitant of the room could have stepped out the door to the backyard to go to the kitchen or the outhouse, without disturbing the other residents.

The Southworth-Orum page of this website contains photos of the Boggs Run house and property that became our home.

http://boggsrun.com/southworthpix/arles_gallery/index.html

Emma died in 1941 and Ira and Edna sold the property was sold to Uncle Herman Cunningham in 1943.

Ira Lawson Orum died November 4, 1947 in Jefferson County, Ohio; Edna died in 1983. They are buried at Allen Grove Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Sherrard. Edna's parents, Joseph E. and Emma (Southworth) Orum, and her grandparents, George and Kessiah (McConkey) Southworth, are also buried there.

As already stated, Emma was the daughter of George W. Southworth and the family lived in a log cabin at the bottom of Boggs Run Hill, close to the property we later owned. A wonderful biography is found in *History of Marshall County, 1984*, published by the Marshall County Historical Society. It was submitted by (Hilda) Marie Orum, one of the two daughters of Ira and Edna (Orum) Orum.

"George W. Southworth came to Marshall County about 1850. He was born in New York and graduated from Amherst College. I have his very faded college diploma.

He married Kessiah McConkey some twenty years his junior. The McConkeys had landed in Philadelphia and rode horseback over the mountains. Kessiah was born three days after they reached Wellsburg.

George purchased three acres of land at the foot of Boggs Run hill and built a log cabin there. Five children were born to them. A son, their firstborn, died in

infancy. Then, Jane, Mary Ann (Molly), Charity Isabelle and my grandmother, Sarah Emma. Neither Jane nor Molly ever married. Isabelle married Reuben Mobley and they lived in the homestead. They had three children. [1]George married Clara Andreas and they moved to Akron. They had several children. [2]Bert (Albert) never married, the daughter [3]Ida taught at Allen school near the top of Boggs Run hill. She married Melvin Morris. They had no children.

Emma married Joseph Orum (son of James Orum) a blacksmith. The tavern at Sherrard had been converted into living quarters and they lived there for a while. My mother, Edna, was born there 8/18/1890. Then they purchased an acre and two poles from Gosneys on Boggs Run just below the Southworth homestead. A son, George, was born there 11/19/1896. He married Bonnie Spurlock. They had no children. Edna married Ira Orum (son of Hester and Peter). I was born on my grandmother's farm at Rock Hill, near Sherrard. We moved to Akron when I was two. My sister, Dorothy, was born there. When I was twelve, my grandfather died and we returned to Marshall County. My father purchased the home place and we lived there a number of years. My sister and I both graduated from Sherrard High School....." [This is the majority of the article; minor editing.]

Another account, written by Edna Orum, was found in her desk:

"Edna was born in log house at head of Little Grave Creek down below Archies old log house. George Wilson lived there then. (They had 3 sets of twins plus some more) John Criswell moved in the house where I was born and we moved to Uncle Joe Orum's little house. Dad had the blacksmith shop on the corner (now where the Flakon Cemetery is). Then we moved to Great Granny's house (Hannah Shaw) way off the road, had shop and farmed Granny Shaw's farm. That was where George was born. Then built shop and house at foot of Boggs Run Road. Dad was hurt with Dowler's horse. After several months we moved to south Whg. 1906 Dad drove a wagon and one horse for Henry Seabright until fall of 1907 then they moved back to house on Boggs Run in 1909. Was there until his death. He died there (1922)."

I have a map on this site, from 1871, that shows the names of the property owners. At that time, the property was owned by George Southworth.