NEW ROSEVILLE PROGRESSIVE POTTERY FIND

By James L. Murphy

A recent discovery in a Columbus antique mall clinches the identity of a particular style of tan ware cooking ware manufactured by Roseville's short-lived Progressive Pottery (see Roseville Legend, Summer 2001).

The small bowl (7 inches in diameter) has a dark brown Albany slip interior and unglazed exterior and would be indistinguishable from most of the similar cooking ware for which Roseville was famous, except for the impressed mark on the bottom, which reads "Twentieth Century German Acid Proof." Other cooking ware manufacturers used similar phrases on their wares, such as "Acid Proof," "Pure Flint," and "The German," but the Progressive Pottery, which operated only from about 1901 to 1906, used a distinctive decorative vertical banding on the sides of their ware, as well as radial ribbing around the edge of the base, which helped disperse heat. Fortunately, some of these cooking ware pieces have the name "Progressive Pottery" on them, but others do not.

Several years ago, searching along the gravel drive behind the site of the Progressive Pottery, which was in more recent years the site of the Cookson Pottery, produced a few pottery sherds with the distinctive (Continued on Page 4).
Progressive Pottery ware. These had enough of the mark preserved to indicate
that it said "Twentieth Century German," with the "E," "R," and "A" of the word Ger-
man in a very distinctive script, the legs of these letters being distinctly drawn out be-
low. Lois Lehner in her Encyclopedia of U. S. Marks illustrates (p. 106, no. 3) a very
similar mark but the words "Acid Proof" are not upside down and "German" does not
have the distinctive lettering. However, since the illustration was hand-drawn, these
differences may have been made for pur-
poses of legibility. In any case, Lehner was
not able to attribute this mark to a particular
pottery.

The bowl recently found at the Greater
Columbus Antique Mall precisely matches
the features on the sherds found at the pot-
ttery site, and there is no doubt this particular
piece was manufactured at Roseville's Pro-
gressive Pottery and documents a newly
identified mark for this pottery.

The first orchard on this homestead was the product
of one apple that Mr. Buckingham brought to the farm
on making a call. The girls decided to save the seeds and
plant an orchard, which they did. This apple contained
thirteen seeds – each grew and produced thirteen varie-
ties – one being like the original, which they named the
Buckingham. Several of these trees were still bearing
fruit as late as August 10-11, 1883, the time of the Cent-
tennial Reunion.

This Centennial Reunion of the Dozer family was in
memoriam to the births, anniversaries, and deaths of
Henry and Mary Dozer. This event was attended by
many of the third and fourth generations and those near
of the second generation, which enumeration at that date
was 503.

The next effort to number their descendants was on
September 20, 1905 resulting in a count of 1,000. At this
date (our effort covering over two years) shows the
printed names in an accompanying directory, also the
names of younger children, that the names were not yet
given, amounted to 1,633, besides others not reported.

The brief review, is simply, yet reverently in obedi-
ence to an admonition and a sincere heart impulse to my
parents, their parents, and an expression of gratitude and
thanksgiving to God for land, the life, the example and
the desire to perpetuate the principles and name of hu-
manity and our Nation.

We are always looking for stories to share with our
members about the founding families of Roseville.
Please consider sharing your family’s history with us. If
your family is having a reunion in 2004 please consider
writing about it and taking some photographs of the at-
tendees. Alan Virta covered the Rider Family Reunion
in the Summer 2002 issue of The Roseville Legend.

If you have any photographs, postcards, letterhead, etc.
that depict life in Roseville in the early years, please con-
sider sharing them with the historical society.