

Lowellville Has Its Cunninghams

By KAREN GUY
Vindicator Staff Writer

In a 1939 *Vindicator* column, Esther Hamilton posed the question: "Who lives in Lowellville, anyway?"

Answering the question, Miss Hamilton provided a roll of family names, with "Cunningham" heading the list, and rightly so on many counts, considering the family lived and prospered in and around Lowellville for many, many years.

According to a 1940's *Vindicator* article by Bob Cunningham, published on the 25th anniversary of the village's incorporation, Lowellville was settled in 1800 by John McGill.

The village was actually called McGill's Mills until 1836, when the name was officially changed with the establishment of a post office.

While McGill and his brother, Robert, are credited as the first settlers, Jesse Cunningham, recognized as the first Cunningham in the village, arrived in 1896.

Jesse was an uncle of Ralph Cunningham, who, with his daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Paul Yeoushan of Poland, now owns and operates a Lowellville furniture business. Ralph became involved because his father, Arthur M., 11th of 12 children, had lived with and worked for Jesse.

The J. Cunningham Furniture Store was founded at what is now 123 E. Water St., moved to the first floor of the old opera house, and still later moved to its present location.

In 1903, the store was physically connected to an 1853 homestead believed to have been built by either the McNevin or Watson families.

In the flyer advertising the grand opening at the present location, slated for May 25, 1903, Cunningham and his partner at the time, Daniel Davidson, who founded Davidson-Becker Funeral Homes of Struthers, billed themselves as "Furni-

ture Dealers, Funeral Directors and Originators of Low Prices."

According to the flyer, the furniture store offered the "choicest assortment" of furniture, carpets, matting, lace curtains, brass and iron beds and many other "useful and ornamental" household items.

"The piece also boasted: "During the past seven years we have built up an enormous business on its own merits, of which we are justly proud, and now in our new career we enter upon a new career and ask our friends to rejoice with us."

The store was open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., with music provided from 7 to 10 p.m. Readers were promised a "handsome souvenir" as a remembrance.

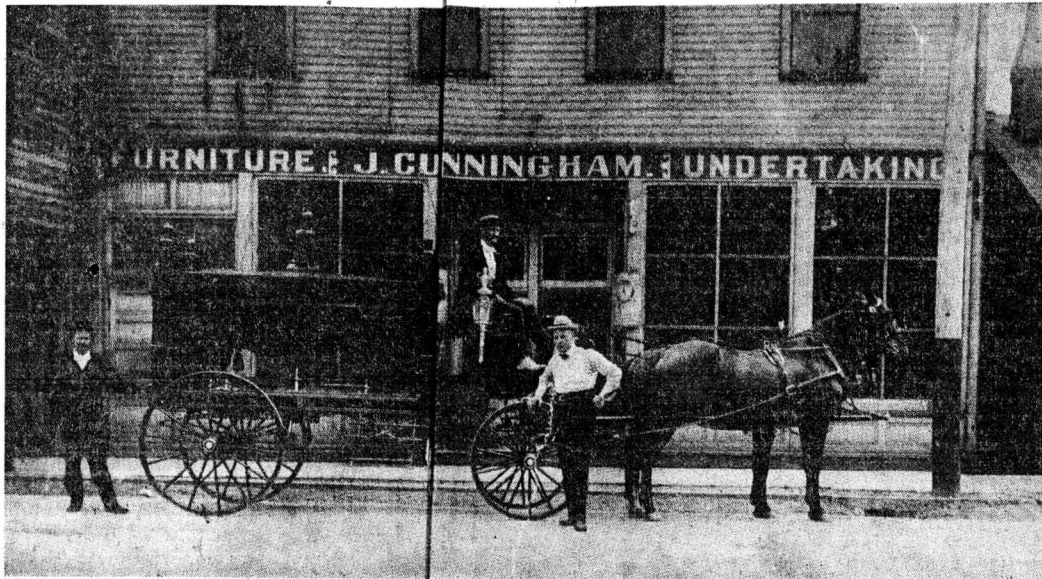
From 1920 to 1932, the business was owned by J. Marquette, who sold it to Ralph's father. Ralph recalls his father cashed in insurance policies and used life savings to make the purchase.

Jesse founded the funeral service at the turn of the century. Ralph said that the business, now located at 219 E. Wood St., was at the time of its founding representative of its day in that it offered a livery service and coffin selection.

Bodies were shown at the time in the home of the deceased, Cunningham said. Embalming, however, was done for a long time in the homestead section of the furniture store, and the morgue was located there as well.

He added that before his death, Jesse had embarked on one of his little known business ventures, promoting a hemorrhoid treatment he had invented himself.

One of the chief ingredients in the treatment was — of course — formaldehyde. Jesse did well with it until the Great Depression,



COMPREHENSIVE BUSINESS — A horse-powered hearse was proudly displayed in front of the Lowellville store when it also housed the mortuary. Pictured above are Jesse Cunningham, founder of the busi-

ness; Aaron Schontz, a livery stable owner, and Dan Davidson, Cunningham's partner in 1903 when the store opened.

★ ★ ★
when sales dropped drastically.

Although he said he is proud of many members of his distant and immediate family, Ralph is perhaps most proud of one of his ancestors, Alexander Wright, a delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

The family has some of Wright's letters and points out that he was among those who demanded that a bill of rights be added to the Constitution.

Ralph's brother, Arthur, owns Cunningham Furniture in Alliance, and the family also has a funeral home in Poland, which it opened in 1963.

Ralph and his wife, the former Charlotte Miller, live at 1212 Bedford Road while his mother, Mrs. Marcia Cunningham, lives in Struthers.

In addition to Kathy, the Cunninghams have two other daughters, Marcia Sieg of Birmingham, Mich., and Suanne Rowe of Rockville, Md. They also have seven grandchildren.



STILL GOING STRONG — Ralph Cunningham, who with his daughter and son-in-law owns and operates Cunningham Furniture, stands across East Water Street from the Furniture store which the family has operated since the turn of the century. Founded by an uncle, the Cunningham businesses — furniture store and a mortuary — have been leaders in Lowellville commerce for many years.

Ad Sale Schem Is Pro

COLUMBUS (A scheme involving advertising in enforcement journal der investigation Ohio attorney ge fice.

Richard C. Farrin the charitable, section, said meec businesses are the targets of the scam

"We had the sa lem about five ye Farrin said. "The o are usually cond ther through an telephone campai mail or by a comb both."

Farrin explained vidual or organiz ating the campai say they're calli of "an official-sou tional police offic tion — such as tl Officer Assocat America — and in local affiliation."

According to Fa businesses are tol pitch that the org is conducting thei or quarterly driv advertising in the j

"It is also implic funds are going to, sist officers or wid orphans of slain off said.

"Just the word causes a lot of p give without any questions. The busi or woman is usual to write a check ar body will stop by t up."

The most su scam, however, ducted by the o sending a series of type statements thr mail.

"Sometimes, the nesses are repeate voiced — either same journal or journals," Farrin "Some guys buy i time."

"Typically, these ments look like ac voices. Often, businessman is so h just signs the invo thorizing payment, really knowing what doing."

Farrin said the of the billings are small, ranging from \$50, and usually scrutiny. The scherr on additional credi cause the journal ca official-sounding nar

Record Numbers Seek Salvation Army's Help

Steelworkers running out of benefits, and people "The need is unbelieva-

Lowellville Has Its Cunninghams

By KAREN GUY
Vindicator Staff Writer

In a 1939 *Vindicator* column, Esther Hamilton posed the question: "Who lives in Lowellville, anyway?"

Answering the question, Miss Hamilton provided a roll of family names, with "Cunningham" heading the list, and rightly so on many counts, considering the family lived and prospered in and around Lowellville for many, many years.

According to a 1940's *Vindicator* article by Bob Cunningham, published on the 25th anniversary of the village's incorporation, Lowellville was settled in 1800 by John McGill.

The village was actually called McGill's Mills until 1836, when the name was officially changed with the establishment of a post office.

While McGill and his brother, Robert, are credited as the first settlers, Jesse Cunningham, recognized as the first Cunningham in the village, arrived in 1896.

Jesse was an uncle of Ralph Cunningham, who, with his daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Paul Yeoushan of Poland, now owns and operates a Lowellville furniture business. Ralph became involved because his father, Arthur M., 11th of 12 children, had lived with and worked for Jesse.

The J. Cunningham Furniture Store was founded at what is now 123 E. Water St., moved to the first floor of the old opera house, and still later moved to its present location.

In 1903, the store was physically connected to an 1853 homestead believed to have been built by either the McNevin or Watson families.

In the flyer advertising the grand opening at the present location, slated for May 25, 1903, Cunningham and his partner at the time, Daniel Davidson, who founded Davidson-Becker Funeral Homes of Struthers, billed themselves as "Furni-

ture Dealers, Funeral Directors and Originators of Low Prices."

According to the flyer, the furniture store offered the "choicest assortment" of furniture, carpets, matting, lace curtains, brass and iron beds and many other "useful and ornamental" household items.

The piece also boasted: "During the past seven years we have built up an enormous business on its own merits, of which we are justly proud, and now in our new store we enter upon a new career and ask our friends to rejoice with us."

The store was open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., with music provided from 7 to 10 p.m. Readers were promised a "handsome souvenir" as a remembrance.

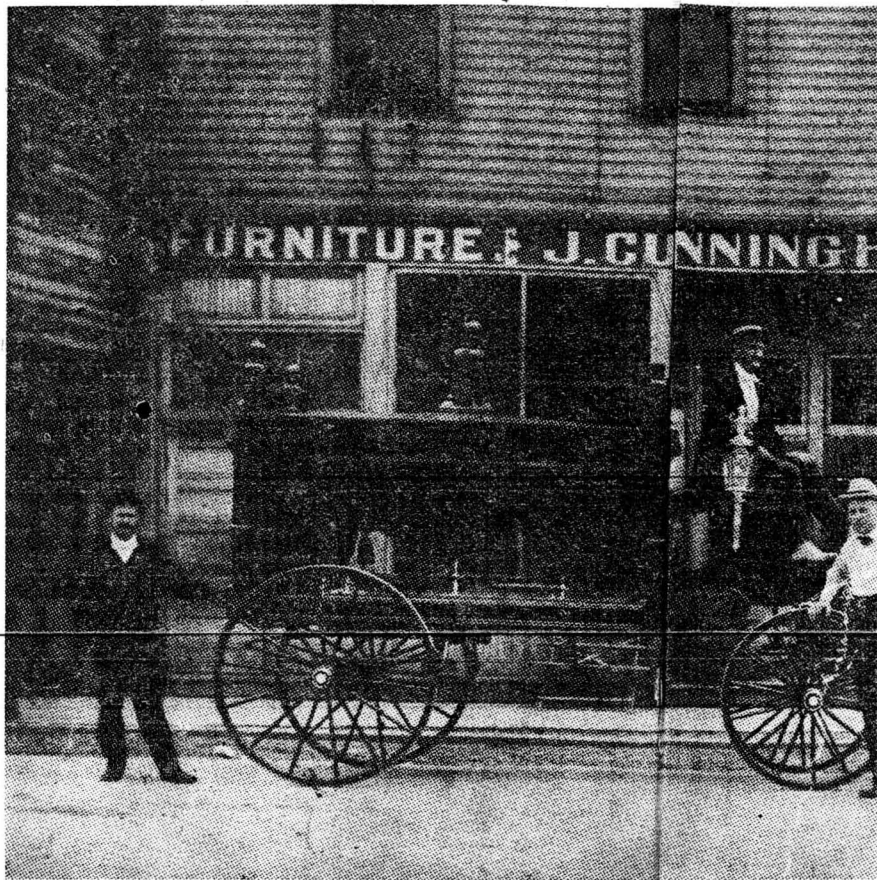
From 1920 to 1932, the business was owned by J. Marquette, who sold it to Ralph's father. Ralph recalls his father cashed in insurance policies and used life savings to make the purchase.

Jessie founded the funeral service at the turn of the century. Ralph said that the business, now located at 219 E. Wood St., was at the time of its founding representative of its day in that it offered a livery service and coffin selection.

Bodies were shown at the time in the home of the deceased, Cunningham said. Embalming, however, was done for a long time in the homestead section of the furniture store, and the morgue was located there as well.

He added that before his death, Jesse had embarked on one of his little known business ventures, promoting a hemorrhoid treatment he had invented himself.

One of the chief ingredients in the treatment was — of course — formaldehyde. Jesse did well with it until the Great Depression,



COMPREHENSIVE BUSINESS — A horse-powered hearse was proudly displayed in front of the Lowellville store when it also housed the mortuary. Pictured above are Jesse Cunningham, founder of the busi-

ness

★ ★ ★
when sales dropped drastically.

Although he said he is proud of many members of his distant and immediate family, Ralph is perhaps most proud of one of his ancestors, Alexander Wright, a delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

The family has some of Wright's letters and points out that he was among those who demanded that a bill of rights be added to the Constitution.

Ralph's brother, Arthur, owns Cunningham Furniture in Alliance, and the family also has a funeral home in Poland, which it opened in 1963.

Ralph and his wife, the former Charlotte Miller, live at 1212 Bedford Road while his mother, Mrs. Marcia Cunningham, lives in Struthers.

In addition to Kathy, the Cunninghams have two other daughters, Marcia Sieg of Birmingham, Mich., and Suanne Rowe of Rockville, Md. They also have seven grandchildren.



STILL GOING STRONG — Ralph Cunningham,

Record Numbers Seek Salvation Army's Help

COLL
scheme
adverti
enforce
der in
Ohio at
fice.

Richa
the ch
section,
business
targets

"We
lem abo
Farrin s
are usu
ther th
telephon
mail or
both."

Farrir
vidual o
ating th
say they
of "an c
tional pe
tion —
Officer
America
local affi

Accor
business
pitch th
is condu
or quart
advertisi

"It is a
funds ar
sist offic
orphans
said."

"Just
causes a
give wit
questions
or woma
to write
body wil
up."

The
scam, h
ducted
sending a
type stat
mail.

"Somet
nesses a
voiced -
same jo
journals,"
"Some g
time.

"Typic
ments lo
voices.
business
just sign
thorizing
really kno
doing."

Farrin
of the b
small, ran
\$50, and
scrutiny.
on additio
cause the
official-so

"We've



ENSIVE BUSINESS — A horse-powered hearse was pround-
l in front of the Lowellville store when it also housed the
ictured above are Jesse Cunningham, founder of the busi-

ness; Aaron Schontz, a livery stable owner, and Dan Davidson, Cunning-
ham's partner in 1903 when the store opened.

★
ropped drasti-

he said he is
y members of
and immediate
h is perhaps
f one of his an-
cander Wright,
the Constitu-
tion.
has some of
ers and points
as among those
ed that a bill of
ed to the Con-

other, Arthur,
gham Furni-
nce, and the
has a funeral
and, which it
}

his wife, the
tte Miller, live
rd Road while
Mrs. Marcia
lives in

to Kathy, the
have two oth-
Marcia Sieg of
Mich., and
of Rockville,
o have seven



STILL GOING STRONG — Ralph Cunningham, who with his daughter and son-in-law owns and operates Cunning-
ham Furniture, stands across East Water Street from the Furniture store which the family has operated since the
turn of the century. Founded by an uncle, the Cunningham businesses — furniture store and a mortuary — have
been leaders in Lowellville commerce for many years.

The Vindicator/Paul R. Schell

k
elp

s unbelieva-
ano said. Yet,
an Army is

Lowellville Has Its Cunninghams

By KAREN GUY
Vindicator Staff Writer

In a 1939 *Vindicator* column, Esther Hamilton posed the question: "Who lives in Lowellville, anyway?"

Answering the question, Miss Hamilton provided a roll of family names, with "Cunningham" heading the list, and rightly so on many counts, considering the family lived and prospered in and around Lowellville for many, many years.

According to a 1940's *Vindicator* article by Bob Cunningham, published on the 25th anniversary of the village's incorporation, Lowellville was settled in 1800 by John McGill.

The village was actually called McGill's Mills until 1836, when the name was officially changed with the establishment of a post office.

While McGill and his brother, Robert, are credited as the first settlers, Jesse Cunningham, recognized as the first Cunningham in the village, arrived in 1896.

Jesse was an uncle of Ralph Cunningham, who, with his daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Paul Yeoushan of Poland, now owns and operates a Lowellville furniture business. Ralph became involved because his father, Arthur M., 11th of 12 children, had lived with and worked for Jesse.

The J. Cunningham Furniture Store was founded at what is now 123 E. Water St., moved to the first floor of the old opera house, and still later moved to its present location.

In 1903, the store was physically connected to an 1853 homestead believed to have been built by either the McNevin or Watson families.

In the flyer advertising the grand opening at the present location, slated for May 25, 1903, Cunningham and his partner at the time, Daniel Davidson, who founded Davidson-Becker Funeral Homes of Struthers, billed themselves as "Furni-

ture Dealers, Funeral Directors and Originators of Low Prices."

According to the flyer, the furniture store offered the "choicest assortment" of furniture, carpets, matings, lace curtains, brass and iron beds and many other "useful and ornamental" household items.

The piece also boasted: "During the past seven years we have built up an enormous business on its own merits, of which we are justly proud, and now in our new store we enter upon a new career and ask our friends to rejoice with us."

The store was open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., with music provided from 7 to 10 p.m. Readers were promised a "handsome souvenir" as a remembrance.

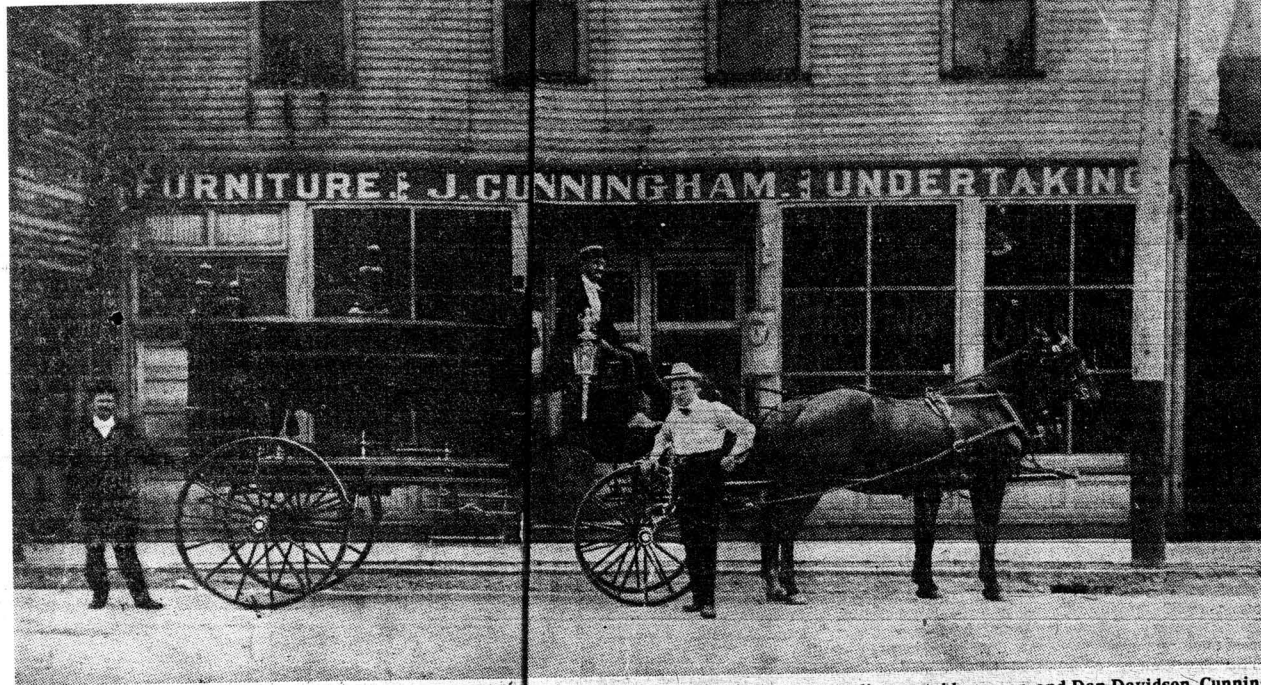
From 1920 to 1932, the business was owned by J. Marquette, who sold it to Ralph's father. Ralph recalls his father cashed in insurance policies and used life savings to make the purchase.

Jessie founded the funeral service at the turn of the century. Ralph said that the business, now located at 219 E. Wood St., was at the time of its founding representative of its day in that it offered a livery service and coffin selection.

Bodies were shown at the time in the home of the deceased, Cunningham said. Embalming, however, was done for a long time in the homestead section of the furniture store, and the morgue was located there as well.

He added that before his death, Jesse had embarked on one of his little known business ventures, promoting a hemorrhoid treatment he had invented himself.

One of the chief ingredients in the treatment was — of course — formaldehyde. Jesse did well with it until the Great Depression,



COMPREHENSIVE BUSINESS — A horse-powered hearse was proudly displayed in front of the Lowellville store when it also housed the mortuary. Pictured above are Jesse Cunningham, founder of the busi-

ness; Aaron Schontz, a livery stable owner, and Dan Davidson, Cunningham's partner in 1903 when the store opened.

★ ★ ★
when sales dropped drastically.

Although he said he is proud of many members of his distant and immediate family, Ralph is perhaps most proud of one of his ancestors, Alexander Wright, a delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

The family has some of Wright's letters and points out that he was among those who demanded that a bill of rights be added to the Constitution.

Ralph's brother, Arthur, owns Cunningham Furniture in Alliance, and the family also has a funeral home in Poland, which it opened in 1963.

Ralph and his wife, the former Charlotte Miller, live at 1212 Bedford Road while his mother, Mrs. Marcia Cunningham, lives in Struthers.

In addition to Kathy, the Cunninghams have two other daughters, Marcia Sieg of Birmingham, Mich., and Suanne Rowe of Rockville, Md. They also have seven grandchildren.



Ad Sale Scheme Is Probed

COLUMBUS (AP) — A scheme involving the sale of advertising in phony law enforcement journals is under investigation by the Ohio attorney general's office.

Richard C. Farrin, chief of the charitable foundations section, said medium size businesses are the primary targets of the scam.

"We had the same problem about five years ago," Farrin said. "The operations are usually conducted either through an intensive telephone campaign, or by mail or by a combination of both."

Farrin explained the individual or organization operating the campaign usually say they're calling on behalf of "an official-sounding national police-officer association — such as the Police Officer Association of America — and infer it has local affiliation."

According to Farrin, the businesses are told in the pitch that the organization is conducting their annual or quarterly drive to sell advertising in the journal.

"It is also implied that the funds are going to go to assist officers or widows and orphans of slain officers," he said.

"Just the word 'police' causes a lot of people to give without any further questions. The businessman or woman is usually asked to write a check and somebody will stop by to pick it up."

The most successful scam, however, is conducted by the operators sending a series of invoice-type statements through the mail.

"Sometimes, the businesses are repeatedly invoiced — either for the same journal or several journals," Farrin said. "Some guys buy it every time."

"Typically, these statements look like actual invoices. Often, the businessman is so busy, he just signs the invoice, authorizing payment, without really knowing what they're doing."

Farrin said the amounts of the billings are fairly small, ranging from \$40 to \$50, and usually escape

Record Numbers Seek