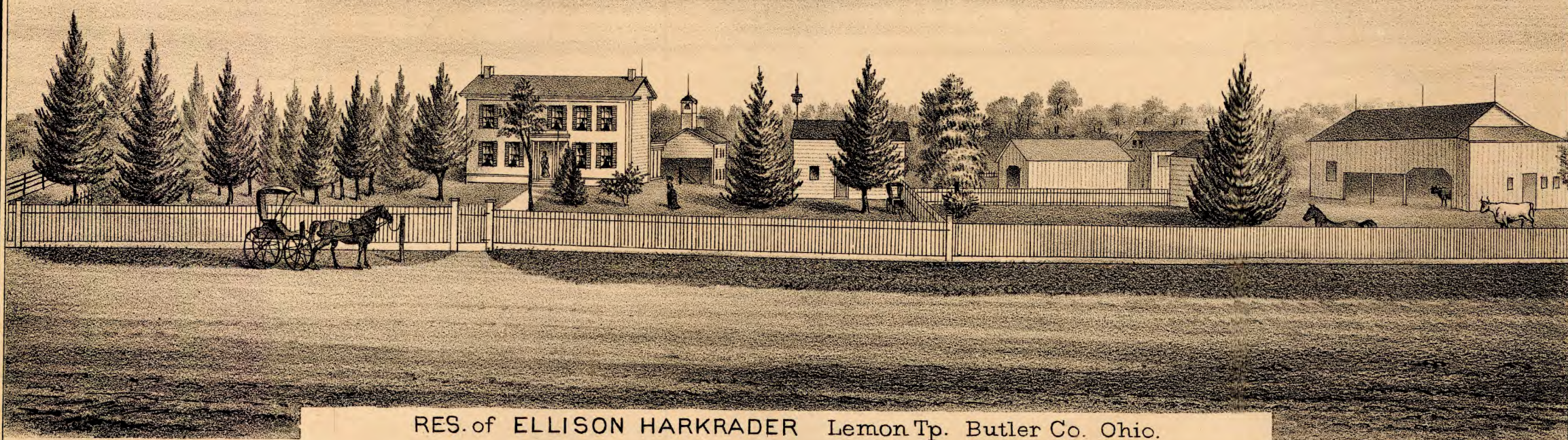
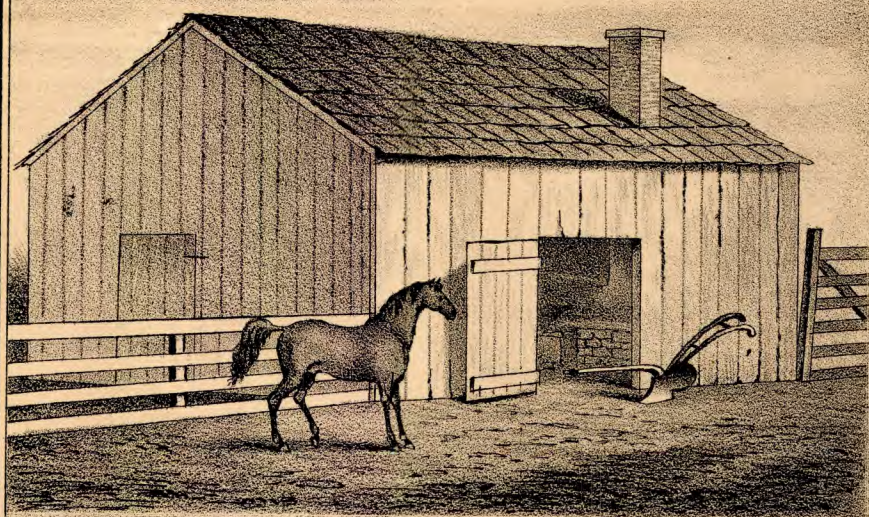




RES. of ELLISON HARKRADER Lemon Tp. Butler Co. Ohio.

A. E. HARDING was born at Shotter Mill, in the County of Surrey, England, the 14th of March, 1829. His parents were John and Sarah Harding, and his paternal ancestry were, for several generations, interested in the business of paper-making. He was the youngest of five children, his father dying two weeks before his birth. During his lifetime the family were in comfortable circumstances, but after his demise the children were compelled to work early in life. At the age of six years he went to work in the paper-mill where his father had been foreman. From that time to the present he has been engaged in some capacity in the same branch of manufacture. In his seventeenth year he left home and went to work out his apprenticeship in the paper-mill at Carshalton, in Surrey. On attaining the status of a journeyman paper-maker, he decided to emigrate to the United States as



soon as he could save money sufficient to pay his way. Accordingly, he embarked at Liverpool in August, and landed at New York in October, 1850. During the succeeding winter he worked in Massachusetts, making his way to Ohio the following spring. On his first trip down the Miami River, on a canal-boat, in June, 1851, he was favorably impressed with the country, and thought it as good a locality to settle in as any he had seen. Accordingly he went to work, first in what was then known as Graham's Mill, six miles below Hamilton, and (after a short employment at Dayton and Hamilton) in June, 1853, as foreman of the Middletown Mill,—the first mill then being erected in the place,—in the employ of John W. Erwin & Bros., who were succeeded, in 1855, by Oglesby, Barnitz, Tytus & Erwin. In 1856 he became a partner in the last-named firm, remaining until 1865, when he sold his interest and became a member of the firm of Harding, Erwin & Co., who built the "Excello Writing-Paper Mill" the same year. This business occupied him until 1873. The preceding year, however, he bought the site and built the foundation of the "Franklin Writing-Paper Mill." In 1873 the firm of Harding, Erwin & Co. was dissolved, and the "Harding Paper Company" organized. For a quarter-century Mr. Harding has been identified with the interests of the Miami Valley, where and elsewhere he is well known as being the first to successfully introduce the manufacture of strictly first-class writing-papers west of the Alleghanies.



RES. of A. E. HARDING Near Amanda, Butler Co. Ohio.