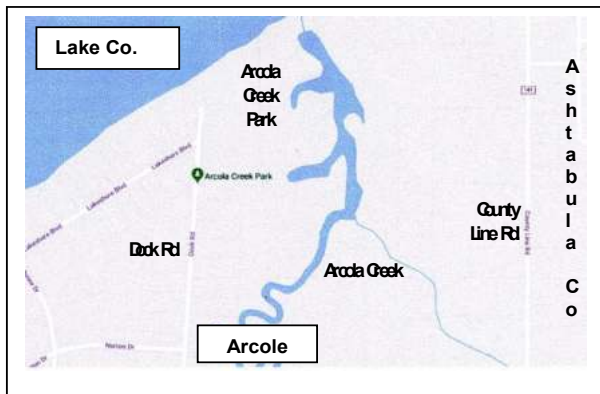


Arcole, Ohio

by Roger Rhoads

The early Lake Co. settlers found large deposits of bog iron, a precipitated form of iron oxyhydroxide that forms from dissolved iron coming out of solution at the shores of slowly moving creeks or lake edges. Following this discovery, the Arcole Iron Works was quickly formed to build a blast furnace manufacturing pig iron. Business was so successful that a second furnace was built to produce stove patterns, hollow ware and heavy castings. In its time this was the largest industry in Ohio.

Located in the extreme northeast corner of Lake Co., the Arcole post office was opened Feb. 3, 1837 (Gallaher and Patera) at the corner of what is today Dock Rd. and North Ridge Rd. (US Rte. 20). That was an important location as it was on the mail route between Cleveland and Buffalo..



This first cover from Arcole is dated Dec. 11, 1832 and rated 6¢ unpaid from the Arcole Iron Works and includes invoices for iron deliveries. Year date is inverted at lower right.



When the iron was gone, the iron works shut down, the post office closed on Sept. 30, 1851 and the site became a ghost town. Today the only remnant of the town is a building housing a law firm that may have been the original Arcola Iron Works and post offices of that era..

A bit further north there is a small public Arcola Creek Park where the creek empties into Lake Erie. This was once the location for the small village of Ellensburg that had a post office from 1839 to 1841. Shipbuilding was a big industry. However, nothing remains of it, only a badly eroded concrete pier that extends into Lake Erie. Furthermore, there is no signage that describes the history, only that it is a bird sanctuary. This author knows of no existing covers from Ellensburg.



The second one is a personal letter to Madison, CT is rated at 25¢ for over 400 miles. It's dated Aug. 4, 1834, again before the published post office opening date.



Information source: "History of the Dock Road Arcola Creek Area Madison Township, Ohio 1796 – 1863" by Sue Orris, Madison Historical Society, Aug. 9, 1980.