

## A MINI-HISTORY OF NEWBURY

The name Newbury probably came from Newbury, England, and Newburyport, Massachusetts. However, there was a Roger Newbury on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Land Company and they received title to the land of the Western Reserve from the state of Connecticut. The land was bounded on the east by Pennsylvania and extended 120 miles westward. There were 50 in the Land Company and they purchased the Western Reserve for \$1,200,000, each receiving an interest according to the money contributed. The entire tract covered an area of 7,440 square miles but nearly one-third of it was water.

In 1796 a party of surveyors led by Moses Cleaveland set out to survey the land east of the Cuyahoga River. They had instructions not to cut a bush or mark a tree west of the Cuyahoga as this was then the Indian line. They met at Schenectady, New York, traveling by boat and entered the Western Reserve at the mouth of Conneaut Creek. They surveyed townships five miles square and when they reached the Chagrin River they mistook it for the Cuyahoga, and some time lapsed before they realized their mistake.

They tramped, worked and slept in the rain with no shelter except branches from trees. They ran out of food and ate rattlesnakes. As the season wore on, they were ill with dysentery and fever. There are conflicting stories as to whether the survey was finished in 1796 or 1797 but they returned to New England for the winter. Only about a half dozen of the surveying parties came back to live in the Reserve. Moses Cleaveland never visited it again.

Three people remained behind in a cabin "standing on the site of the present city of Cleveland" the winter of 1796-97. One family stayed near Conneaut Creek. These were the first white settlers in the Western Reserve.

The first permanent settler in Newbury was probably Lemuel Punderson in 1810. He had lived in Burton and formed a partnership with a Mr. Hickox to build a gristmill and distillery near the foot of the "Big Pond". Fullertown's first permanent settlers were the Thomas Fuller family in 1821. He built a mill that year.

The "State Road" was cut through from Chardon in 1812 so North and South Newbury were early settlements. By the year 1817 the Geauga County History tells that there were 27 taxpayers (or heads of household) living in Newbury.

Many of the early settlers were well educated and prosperous in New England. They faced financial ruin in the depression following the War of 1812 and set out with few possessions for a trip of over 40 days, through wilderness to the new frontier. The word had spread across Connecticut that this was an "Earthly Paradise" and the "Garden of America". Everything considered a luxury might be had almost without care, labor or exertion. Little did they know what they would endure.

There were two routes to the Western Reserve. One was through the Mohawk Valley, crossed New York to Buffalo and entered Ohio either by boat or along the lakeshore to Conneaut. The other crossed Pennsylvania, climbed the mountains and down to Pittsburgh, following the trails to Youngstown and into the Reserve from the southeast. Travel time for both was about the same.

There were four small towns located within the township in early days. North Newbury had its own post office known as "Garlo" and a store, Gleaner Hall and hotel. Newbury Center was known as "Ford" post office and had a church, store, hotel, blacksmith shop and the "Sons of Temperance" hall which later became the town hall.

South Newbury and Fullertown were also thriving communities with churches, stores, cheese factories and their own post offices. Fullertown had its own doctor.

In this Mini-History I shall follow the numbers from the map on the cover and tell about each historic site. Only a few of these landmarks can be seen today but from this I hope you will enjoy the "Story of Newbury".

#### Number 1 to 9 ONE-ROOM SCHOOLS OF NEWBURY

The early residents of Newbury were of New England origin and education of their children was important. Small schools were started, the first in the summer of 1815. History says "Children traveled through unbroken woods with nothing but blazed trees to direct on their narrow path." Schools usually lasted 5 to 6 weeks.

There were nine one-room grade schools in Newbury, and eight were still in use at the time the new building was built in 1928. They were located in various parts of the township and children walked to school.

In some instances, the Board of Education owned only the building, not the land on which it was placed and if the land was sold, the building had to be moved.

The buildings were made of wood and heated by a big stove. There was no modern "plumbing", just two paths to small buildings out back and these were always the object of Halloween pranksters.

Each school might have from 20 to 30 students and one teacher taught all subjects to children in the first to eighth grade.

These schools closed in May 1928, when the new building was built at Newbury Center and they were sold at auction. All of the buildings except one are still in Newbury but are private property. The building known as "Hickox School" has been restored at the County Museum in Burton.

During the days of the C & E Railroad children could ride the Interurban and attend high school in Burton, Chardon or Chagrin Falls. The Board of Education paid their tuition. Before this, children boarded near the high school of their choice, but many never attended high school.

#### Number 10 UNION CHAPEL

Residents of Newbury built Union Chapel in 1856. It was built on land donated by Anson Mathews and dedicated to free speech by James A. Garfield, twentieth President of the United States.

Residents were resentful when the Trustees of the Brick Church across the street denied Garfield the right to speak in the church because "the church should be used for the Word of God alone".

The Chapel became a community center and was used "for religious instruction, scientific lectures, meetings and addresses incident to the public welfare".

The South Newbury Woman's Suffrage Political Club, one of the oldest in the United States, was organized here. A Woman's Dress Reform Group advocating wearing trousers and getting rid of "unhealthful, unnatural and inconvenient forms of dress" was also started. A "Cold Water Army" of small boys pledged to lifelong abstinence from liquor also used the Chapel. The first kindergarten in Ohio was held there and there was a library at the Chapel too.

Drive slowly through South Newbury to see the Union Chapel. A historic marker has been placed in front of the building.

#### 10-A CENTENNIAL OAK

This tree was planted July 4, 1876, by the Woman's Suffrage Political Club that met at the Chapel. They decided to plant a tree on the Country's 100th birthday, which would grow higher, wider and stronger as the years went by and be typical of the advancement and success of the cause they represented. The oak tree was selected as the variety best suited for the purpose. Bitter antagonism prevailed against equal rights for women and they decided to plant the tree on private property for safety.

A jar, buried in concrete at the base of the tree, contained a history of the club and a program and poem about the day.

If you stand in front of the Chapel and face north, you only have to look across the street to see this magnificent memorial to July 4, 1876. This is on private property.

A historic marker has been placed at the road in front of the tree.

#### Number 11 to 14 HOTELS AND TAVERNS ON STAGE LINE FROM PAINESVILLE

About 1825, a stagecoach line from Fairport and Painesville was established and there were four hotels on the road where people could find lodging. Drivers changed horses at Hickox Tavern at the corner of Routes 44 and 87. This made possible travel to the interior of the state. The Hickox and South Newbury buildings are now private residences. The Torrey Hotel was made into two homes, one-half was moved across Route 44 to the southeast corner. The Knox tavern was torn down.

I have found there was another tavern on Route 44 called the Josh Burnett Tavern on the West Side near Pond Road. It burned in 1885. "Uncle Alf" Utley was a famous fiddler for square dances here.

#### Number 15 to 18 CEMETERIES

In earlier times, the Newbury Cemetery Association did cemetery care. The township trustees took over their care in 1933. They maintain four cemeteries.

Six Revolutionary War Soldiers are buried in Newbury.

Two at Morton Cemetery; Abraham Morton, no service data

Gideon Russell, Pvt., 3rd Conn. Line

Four at South Newbury; Nathan Gordon, Pvt., 3rd Mass. Regiment\*

James Moore, Pvt., Moseley's Mass. Regiment

John Smith, Pvt., Mass. Line

Joseph Wilbur, Pvt., Col. Daggett's Mass. Regiment

A Historic Marker concerning these graves has been placed at the Morton and South Newbury Cemeteries.

Frederick Loveland, Pvt., 1st Mass. Regt. was a Newbury resident, but is buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Burton Township.

\*In the "you can't win" department, I submit the following story. The 1953 History lists this soldier's name as Nathan Ganson. A 1959 Daughters of the American Revolution book said "Gordon not Ganson", so I took this as an authority and listed the name as Nathan Gordon. I was responsible for the spelling of the name on the sign at the South Newbury Cemetery. It is wrong. I have now found out there are descendants of this soldier in Newbury. My apologies.

#### Number 19 to 22A CHEESE FACTORIES

Cheese Factories came into existence about the time of the Civil War. There were five in Newbury. Farmers brought milk each day and it was manufactured into butter and cheese. The large cheeses weighed about 35 pounds and were transported to Chardon and then to New York.

#### Number 23 to 26 POST OFFICES

Each small "town" in Newbury had its own post office. Mail sent to Ford P.O., Geauga County, Ohio went to Newbury Center. Garlo Post Office was at North Newbury, and South Newbury and Fullertown had post offices too.

The unusual part of this story is that six post offices serve Newbury now. Newbury, Chardon, Burton, Chesterland, Novelty and Chagrin Falls post offices all deliver mail in Newbury.

#### Number 27 WILLOUGHBY TAVERN

This was located on the northwest corner at Newbury Center. It was operated in earlier days by Roswell and Ann Blair and later was the residence of Mrs. Lillie Chapman. The house was burned to make way for a gasoline station.

#### Number 28 NEWBURY BOX FACTORY AND SAW MILL

George W. Stafford owned the factory and mill. He employed 18 men and they manufactured wooden cheese boxes. The men turned out between 700 and 800 each day. The mill burned in 1902, was immediately rebuilt and continued to operate until his death in 1918.

#### Number 29 NEWBURY TELEPHONE COMPANY

The company was organized in 1901 with the sale of 63 shares of stock of \$100 each to six men, G. W. Stafford purchasing 40 of the shares. The office and switchboard was one-half mile west of Newbury Center, and people in Newbury, Russell and part of Auburn were served by this company. The lines were sold to Western Reserve Telephone Company in the early 1930's. This is now a private residence.

#### Number 30 GRANGE PARK (NOW KNOWN AS NEWBURY TOWNSHIP PARK)

Mr. George W. Stafford built Grange Park in 1907 on about 10 acres of land that he owned west of Newbury Center. He owned and operated the Newbury Box Factory and Saw Mill which was located in front of the park and also was a major stockholder in Newbury Telephone Company next to the mill. He made this park for the use of Newbury residents and for the annual picnic of his present and former employees and Grange members. The first picnic had been at the mill on August 4, 1906, the first picnic at the park was August 3, 1907, and they were always held the first Saturday in August.

In 1909, Grange members and mill employees built a log cabin at the park. The following summer a dance hall, speakers' pavilion and bandstand were added. The log cabin burned in the 1950's.

Great crowds attended these picnics. There were swings, a merry-go-round, a cable car and a pond on the grounds. Wagons met the Cleveland and Eastern Railway cars to carry visitors to the picnic. There were morning and afternoon programs with famous speakers, music and other entertainment and games for the children. There was a restaurant on the grounds, and dancing both afternoon and evening.

In 1917, Mr. Stafford deeded the park to four Trustees: R. H. Patchin, James Zethmayr, Jay S. Gould and A. R. Church, and it became known as Newbury Grange Park. He died in 1918 and there was a provision in his will for funds to maintain the park.

The property was cared for by the trustees he appointed and their successors and was used by Newbury residents and Newbury Grange until funds from his estate were exhausted.

There had been vandalism over the years and the park was used less and less. The annual picnics were suspended during World War II and never held again.

On January 17, 1958, the property was deeded to Newbury Township and is now known as Newbury Township Park. The Newbury Jaycees are restoring the picnic grounds. Newbury Township Trustees are cooperating by appropriating funds to aid in the project.

#### Number 31 SOUTH NEWBURY KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS HALL

This hall was built in 1901 or 1902 for lodge meetings and dances. The lodge was active until about 1940 when they gave up their charter and the hall was sold. It is now a garage.

#### Number 32 GLEANER HALL AT NORTH NEWBURY

This hall was built in 1904 and was used for lodge meetings and dances. It is now Midway Inn. (Editors note as of January 2001. There was a severe fire at this building and it was demolished approximately five years ago.)

#### Number 33 PUNDERSON MANOR HOUSE AND PUNDERSON STATE PARK

The Punderson Manor House was originally intended to be a summer home for the Karl Long family of Detroit. He was head of a Detroit trucking firm and in the 1920's started construction of a 43-room mansion with 15 bathrooms and 4 fireplaces. After spending \$250,000, he had financial difficulties and the mansion was left unfinished. The property reverted to the former owner until it was sold to the state of Ohio in the 1950's. The state finished the building and the Manor House Lodge and State Park grounds were opened.

Punderson Lake was part of the original holdings of Lemuel Punderson, first permanent settler of Newbury. He was an agent for the Connecticut Land Company and built a mill there. The lake covers 104 acres.

The C & E Railroad made a stop at Punderson Lake. Geauga County Pioneer Association held their annual "Pioneer Picnics" at Lake Punderson from 1882 to 1907. The Geauga County History says, 5000 people attended the picnic in 1886. The picnic was the idea of Honorable A. G. Riddle of Washington D.C., former Congressman and early settler of Newbury.

#### Number 34 MORTON HOME ON BELL ROAD

Brigham Young married Mary Ann Angel, one of his numerous wives, on the front porch of this house. She was a cousin of Mrs. Morton and a convert to Mormonism. Abraham Morton opposed the marriage and would not let Brigham Young into the house so the marriage took place on the front porch. That was in February 1834, and Brigham Young was 24 and Mary Ann Angel was 18.

#### Number 35 CAMP HO MITA KODA

This is a summer camp for diabetic children located on Auburn Road. Dr. Henry J. John, a Cleveland physician, started it in 1930. The name of the camp means "Welcome Friend".

#### Number 36 to 39 and Number 50 GROCERY STORES OF EARLIER DAYS

At the time this history was started, I knew of two grocery stores at Fullertown. I have found out there were three. Two were north of the bridge, one on either side of the road. The grocery store on the Fuller property at the corner of Fairmount and Fullertown (now Sperry) roads was opened later by Mrs. Zila Fuller.

The store at Kiwanis Lake first operated only during the summer months. After World War II, more of the cottages were converted to permanent homes and the store was open all the time. The building is now the Full Gospel Mission Church.

Perhaps you remember an old building at the corner of Auburn and Pekin Roads. This was a grocery and feed store and a station for the C & E Railroad called "Smith's Crossing". All groceries and feeds were hauled to the store via the Interurban. The building was in poor condition and was burned a few years ago.

The Hall Smith store at South Newbury was located just north of the intersection of Bell Road and Route 44. It is now a private residence.

There also was a grocery store at one time on the northwest corner of Bell Road and Route 44 across from the South Newbury depot. I did not have this information when the map was first printed.

The original grocery store building (No. 50) at Newbury Center was a two-story wooden building with a large front porch and hitching posts for horses. This building burned in 1933.

Perhaps you might be interested in the various items sold at a country store in earlier days. Of course, they handled groceries and carried the big wheels of cheese to cut slices for customers. Customers could always have a sample taste of the cheese before purchase. Coffee was ground with a hand grinder. Food was refrigerated, with big chunks of ice. Ice cream was kept frozen by a mixture of salt and ice. They took eggs and potatoes from farmers in exchange for purchases.

They also handled feed for livestock, hardware including lamps, lanterns, pump repairs, nuts and bolts. They carried kerosene to light the lamps and lanterns. They sold horse collars, horseshoe nails, clothing, shoes and boots for the entire family. School books for Newbury School were sold at the Newbury Center store.

A store was open from early morning until after midnight seven days a week. A storekeeper, or members of his family, drove a truck to Cleveland to pick up supplies and to sell produce taken in barter from farmers.

#### Number 40 BOYHOOD HOME OF A. G. RIDDLE (torn down)

No history of Newbury should ever be written without remembering Albert Gallatin Riddle. He was born in Monson, Massachusetts, May 28, 1816, and the large family made the trip to the Western Reserve when he was only 1 year old. Because of the death of the father in 1823, some of the nine children were raised by friends and relatives.

In 1838, he began the study of the law in the office of Seabury Ford. He was admitted to the bar in 1840 and the same year was elected prosecuting attorney of Geauga County. He was later a member of the State House of Representatives.

In 1850 he moved to Cleveland, and specialized in criminal law. He served as defense counsel in the Oberlin-Wellington case, one of the landmarks of the anti-slavery movement.

He was elected to Congress in 1860 and was a friend and supporter of Abraham Lincoln. He was at the first battle of Bull Run and was shocked by demoralization of the Union Army. He wrote his feelings to his wife and against his wishes, they were published in Cleveland papers. He could not believe that defeat was possible. He was not reelected, but was appointed by Mr. Lincoln to be consul at Matanzas, Cuba, to check into blockade-runners of the Civil War.

In later life, he wrote several books, one being Recollections of War Times. His books Ansel's Cave, Bart Ridgley, and Young Sugar Makers of the West Woods, take place in early days of his beloved Newbury.



## Number 41 NEWBURY TOWN HALL

The Newbury Town Hall was built in 1851 as Sons of Temperance Hall. For a history of the hall, I thought I would tell of the way the building looked in earlier days. A large stove on each floor heated the building. There was a raised wooden walkway from the hall to the street so ladies could alight from carriages and not have the problem of muddy skirts. Horses were tied in the shed across the street on church property while residents attended meetings at the town hall.

In about the early 1920's a Delco system was purchased cooperatively and furnished lights for both the town hall and church. The Delco system was in the church shed. My memories of the old Delco systems are that they were not always dependable. I can remember attending Grange meetings as a small child when the lights would dim, and one of the men present would race across the street to re-start the Delco gasoline engine. The engine ran a generator which charged glass bat- teries that gave the power.

The original land for the town hall was a small parcel. Additional land was purchased later, the building was raised, a basement was put underneath and the building was made larger, including a kitchen on the second floor. For nearly 70 years, Newbury Grange used the upper floor of the town hall for its meetings.

## Number 42 NEWBURY SCHOOL

The first bond issue submitted to voters to build a centralized school was for \$85,000. This was in 1925 and the bond issue failed. It was resubmitted in 1926 and it failed again. The Board of Education changed the building plans, lowered the amount of the bond issue to \$75,000 and it passed in 1927. The school building was built in 1928 and students moved in January 1, 1929. During the fall of 1928, school was held at Newbury Town Hall, Newbury Church, and Center and Pekin district schools.

At the time of the move to the new building there were 124 students in grades 1 to 12. The first graduating class of eight students was in May 1930. At that time, Newbury was a farming community. Only four school busses were needed, one for each quarter of the township and the busses were owned by the bus driver. In early days school busses were call "kid hacks".

School enrollment remained stable until after World War II when the move to the country began. To give the reader an idea of the growth of the township the following is information on school enrollment:

1929-124 students	1953-562 students	1970-1116 students
1934-200	1958-833	1973-1124
1937-255	1963-923	1976-1139
1947-269	1968-1042	

Increased enrollment has forced seven additions to the original building. An elementary school building containing grades 4, 5, and 6 was finished in February 1973, and an auditorium is under construction. Newbury has the only non-consolidated school in Geauga County. It is the only school district serving one township

#### Number 43 NEWBURY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH (United Church of Christ)

In recalling the history of the present Newbury United Community Church, one must remember that it is a combination of two great churches. The South Newbury Congregational Church and Newbury Community Church both established in spirit in separate corners of the township in the spring of 1832.

Our Newbury Church as we know it today, located on Center (Auburn) Road south of Kinsman Road, was originally built in 1845. South Newbury used our church for meetings until 1857 at which time their new "Brick" church was consecrated.

Due to lack of occupancy at the Newbury Center Church, a rapid deterioration created a need for a complete overhaul and renovation in the early part of 1890; the appearance achieved outwardly at that time is quite recognizable today. In 1957 a \$70,000 addition including the addition of a church basement, porch and educational unit was made, and in 1965 a third floor was added providing additional needed classrooms. A parsonage is located next to the church. The present pastor is Rev. Edward Malzer.

A thumbnail sketch of history from  
NEWBURY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH  
First One Hundred Thirty Years by Jean N. Russell, Church  
Historian

#### Number 44 SOUTH NEWBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The early South Newbury Church was always called the "Brick Church". It was a Congregational Church, but they did not want to emphasize denomination, and this was the only brick church in the area. It was a two-story structure, a select school was held on the first floor for several years and religious services were held on the second floor.

The church building burned in 1905 and was replaced with a white frame structure, an impressive part of the architecture of South Newbury. A parsonage was built next door.

After the South Newbury congregation merged with the Newbury Community Church, the church property was sold to the Church of the Nazarene. The parsonage is now a private home.

#### Number 45 ST. HELEN CHURCH

The first masses for St. Helen Church were held at the Kiwanis Lake Community Hall in June 1947. Later a house, barn and over 10 acres of land were purchased on Route 87 and first services were held in the barn on August 28, 1949.

Men of the parish helped with the remodeling of the barn. The church was blessed and dedicated on Sunday August 20, 1950, by the Most Rev. Bishop Edward F. Hoban.

Rev. Fr. James J. Moran was pastor of St. Helens Church from 1952 to 1975. Upon his retirement, Rev. Fr. Andrew F. O'Boyle came to serve the parish. Father Moran became Pastor Emeritus. Rev. Fr. Mark Pitoniak was an Assistant Pastor from 1959 to 1967 and again from 1972 to 1975.

St. Helens School was founded 1961 and classes are held for the 3rd to 8th grade. There are 117 students in the school.

Some of this information is from history of the church published on its Silver Anniversary, 1974

#### Number 46 FULLERTOWN CHURCH

The Fullertown Church is a part of the history of Newbury although the building was located on Fullertown (Sperry) Road just over the line in Russell. It was started as a Sunday School held at the Fullertown School house and they later purchased the Macabee Hall. This was a two-story structure with worship services held upstairs. They became affiliated with the Friends Society and church services were held there for over a half-century. At one time, a barn was situated behind the church for horses.

The church disbanded about 1955 and the property was sold. The large building is situated on the eastside of Sperry, north of Fairmount. Because of widening the road, the building is very close to the road. It is now private property.

#### Number 47 WALES HOTEL (Proprietor J. E. Wales)

The Wales Hotel and Dance Hall was located on the east shore of Punderson Lake and was a popular spot in the 1890's and the turn of the century. It was situated close to the Cleveland and Eastern Railway stop at Punderson. An added attraction at the hotel was a small steamboat on Punderson Lake.

#### Numbers 48 and 49 THE CLEVELAND AND EASTERN RAILWAY and THE CHAGRIN FALLS AND EASTERN RAILWAY

The Cleveland and Eastern Railway (C & E) and the Chagrin Falls and Eastern Railway (C. F. & E.) were two of many transit lines across northern Ohio that are now only a memory. The era of the railway was from 1899 to 1925.

The "Maple Leaf Route" had two branches, one from Middlefield and one from Chardon. They met at a "Wye" in a wilderness west of Rock Haven Road on the Chester-Munson township line and then became one line traveling through Gates Mills, Mayfield, South Euclid and Cleveland Heights to downtown Cleveland

The Chagrin Falls and Eastern also had two branches. One branch came from Middlefield and one from Garrettsville and Hiram and met south of Burton, entering Newbury at Snow Road. The line crossed Route 44 to Bell Road, traveled the south side of Bell Road to Munn Road, and then turned south to the Auburn line. From here the line went to Chagrin Falls, Orange, Lander Circle and then to Cleveland via Kinsman Road.

Cars carried freight as well as passengers. Farmers were able to ship their milk, eggs, vegetables to the city, and the return cars carried hardware, dry goods, groceries, everything imaginable.

This was new for Geauga County. Theatre cars ran into Cleveland on Saturday evenings. Excursion cars went to Burton Fair, Chesterland Caves or Punderson Lake. People traveled the C & E to come to the country for the weekend. They purchased lots and built cottages at the new Kiwanis Lake and Restful Lake developments, or came on special excursion cars to pick blackberries or visit a maple sugar camp.

As automobiles, trucks and busses came into use in the early 1920's, passengers and freight dwindled and the end of the C & E came on March 31, 1925. There are a few places in Newbury where you can still see "where the C & E went through".

Number 50 NEWBURY CENTER GROCERY STORE

See pages 7 and 8-Grocery Stores of Earlier Days

I know I have forgotten some things, perhaps misspelled a name or had the wrong date on a story. The more I studied the more confused I became. Please accept my apologies. I hope this mini-history will be interesting and the reader will want to learn more about the township of Newbury. The map that is used on the cover was compiled in the fall of 1975 for a Bicentennial Bus Tour of the American History classes of Newbury High School. In one evening, I made up the map of 40 Historic places. The remaining were added later as additional information was compiled. I learned from the Bicentennial Committee that I was to work on this history about April 1, 1976, and in two and a half months this was on its way to the printer for distribution on July 4, 1976. I could not have finished the project had it not been for the help and encouragement from several Newbury residents and for historical material loaned to me. Each reader can add to this mini-history what I have forgotten!

Marian Gould Bottger  
(Mrs. Edward J. Bottger)  
for the Newbury Bicentennial  
Committee

NEWBURY BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE:  
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