

Time Line Facts **(Those in bold U underlined refer specifically to the house or road next to it):** 1803 Ohio became a state; 1805 Territory west of Cuyahoga River ceded by the Indians to the United States by Treaty of Fort Industry; 1806 Dover Township is surveyed; 1807 Nehemiah Hubbard and Joshua Stow, investors in the Connecticut Land Co. granted ownership of all of Dover Township; 1810 Dover Township becomes part of Cuyahoga County and first white settlers arrive in what will become Dover Township (Bay Village portion); 1811 Dover Township is incorporated and Leverett Johnson, first white settler to what later will become Westlake starts clearing land near what is today Porter and Center Ridge; 1812 first Dover Township elections; 1816 First school taught in Dover; **c. 1820 Abner and Hannah Smith, who first owned the land under Lilly/Weston house, build brick house which still stands at 27748 Center Ridge Road;** **1826 The dirt road along Dover's middle ridge is officially surveyed and marked, it first is known as part of the Mohawk Trail, then Middle Ridge Road, finally becomes known as Center Ridge Road;** **Late 1820s Stagecoaches begin to travel through Dover along Center Ridge Road, on the Buffalo-to-Detroit route, in the Cleveland area, Center Ridge Road becomes the main route west of the Cuyahoga for settlers traveling to the frontier;** 1832 Dover Blast Furnace is constructed near Dover Center and Center Ridge Roads (it burns down in 1843); **c. 1840 Weston ancestor, Deacon Asa Weston, travels by foot down Center Ridge from Euclid to Toledo and is impressed by lively activity in the Dover Center area and vows to move there, he may have, in about 1855;** **c. 1844 Stone portion of the Lilly/Weston house constructed;** 1845 Dover Academy is constructed near Porter and Center Ridge; c. 1852 Dover Center at Center Ridge and Dover Center Roads has developed as the major commercial center of Dover Township; **Austin Lilly dies and the Lilly/Weston house passes to his widow Roxanna, and possibly other heirs;** 1853 First structure for the Dover Methodist Episcopal Church is built at 27330 Center Ridge Rd (it still stands minus a steeple); **c. 1855 Brick portion of the Lilly/Weston house constructed;** **1866 George and Rhoda Weston purchase the Lilly/Weston house and 161 acres of land from Roxanna, Albertus and Mary Lilly for \$9,000;** **1868 Roxanna Lilly dies;** **1869 George and Rhoda Weston start selling off large chunks of backland to the Aring's, Bierbaum's, Krone's, Moore's and Hunger's, they reserve a narrow strip of land for access which later becomes part of Bassett Road;** **1872 George and Rhoda sell the Lilly/Weston House and purchase 100 acres of land on what is now known as Columbia Road, this 100 acres of land is later divided among their three sons and their descendents including Mae Weston, Doris Weston and Alice Ladanyi;** 1874 The Independent Order of Odd Fellow (I.O.O.F.) construct a brick lodge hall near Dover Center and Center Ridge Road which is also used as the Town Hall until 1955; 1882 The Dover Literary Society forms and establishes a private library for members which later evolves into Westlake Porter Public Library; 1883 The Nickel Plate Railroad lays track along what is now the border between Bay Village and Westlake, with a station at Dover Center Road; c. 1897 What becomes the Lake Shore Electric Railway lays track in what is now Bay Village; **c. 1900 rear portion of the original Lilly/Weston house parcel purchased by the Cleveland Southwestern Railway & Light Co. (C.S.W.R.&L.Co.) for an inter-urban trolley line which is never constructed;** 1909 Dover Village is incorporated; c. 1909 The first automobiles begin to appear on Dover's roads and garage and gas station constructed at Dover and Center Ridge; **1913 Center Ridge Road is paved for the first time – with brick;** **1921 Bus service comes to Dover along Center Ridge Road on the Elyria-to-Cleveland route;** **1924 The first water lines are run down portions of Center Ridge Road;** **1930 Center Ridge Road (now designated as U.S. Route 20) is widened to 40' and paved with concrete, at this time it carries more long distance travel than any other "highway" in the area;** 1940 Dover Village changed name to

Westlake Village; 1956 Westlake United Methodist Church relocates to Glenmore and Center Ridge Roads; 1957 Westlake Village becomes City of Westlake; 1984 Construction begins on the current Porter Public Library building on Center Ridge, a major renovation and expansion completed in 2002; **1990s Ashford Estates subdivision is constructed on land behind the Lilly Weston house with an emergency access road constructed directly west of the house; 1995 Alice Ladanyi, a great-granddaughter of George Weston purchases the Lilly/Weston house and it's one acre site from the Ashford Estates subdivision developers;** 1996 Planning Commission and Council approve a Recreation Center and Park immediately west of the Lilly/Weston property with an all-purpose trail looping immediately behind the property; 1998 City of Westlake Recreation Center and Park opens; **2000 Alice Ladanyi and her husband donate the Lilly/Weston house and it's one acre site to the city for use as a museum and historic site in perpetuity;** **2004 The Westlake Historical Society leases the Lilly/Weston house for 25 years for use as a museum of early Dover history, the city sets aside \$50,000 to stabilize and maintain the exterior and structural integrity of the building and the historical society agrees to raise money to restore the interior and operate it;** **2006 The Lilly/Weston house is placed on the National Register of Historic Places;** **2000s Later additions are removed, roof is replaced, foundation stabilized, nearby hazardous trees removed, exterior stone and brick chemically cleaned to remove paint, and repointed, trim, windows and doors repaired and painted and Ohio historic marker is installed;** 2011 Westlake celebrates its Bicentennial; **2016 Lilly/Weston committee formed of Westlake Historical Society board members, city staff and concerned citizens to re-energize the restoration efforts;** **2016 RFP issued by city to determine the structural integrity of the building, particularly the floor joists after a roof leak went unattended during the 1990s;**

General Periods of Dover History:

1. Pre-historic period
2. Until 1805 - Native American
3. 1810 to 1840 – Period of Settlement – includes clearing the land of trees and establishing farms (population is 960 by 1840).
4. 1840 to 1900 – Period of General Farming – chief farm products are corn, wheat, oats & hay or meat from livestock raised on these products. In Dover, fruit growing became a major product towards the end of this period (population is 2,233 by 1900).
5. 1900 to 1950 – Period of Truck Farming – growing fruits and vegetables for the Cleveland market (including many greenhouses constructed on the fertile ridges)(population is 4,912 by 1950).
6. 1950 to 2000 – Suburbanization (population is 31,719 by 2000)
7. 2000 to present – Crocker Park and New Urbanism & Maturation to a nearly built out community (population is 32,729 by 2010).

Austin and Roxanna Lilly were the original owners of the Lilly/Weston house and are who give it the Lilly name. Austin's brother Albinus had a daughter Achsah. Achsah Lilly married Jerome Beardsley in 1846. Jerome Beardsley was a stage coach driver born c. 1821. He and Achsah owned property directly to the west of the Lilly/Weston house. Their son James N. Beardsley and his wife Cora eventually purchased the Lilly/Weston house.

A U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedule for agriculture in 1880 has James N. Beardsley, the owner of the Lilly/Weston house in 1880 profiled: He owns 20 acres of tilled land and 5 acres in permanent pasture or orchards; His farm is valued at \$2,000., farm implements & machinery at \$50., livestock at \$200.; The value of all his farm production in 1879 was \$200.; He mowed 10 acres of hay in 1879 with a yield of 10 tons, 10 acres remained un-mowed; He owns 2 horses, 3 milk cows & 2 other cattle, 3 calves were born, 2 cattle were sold alive, 1 slaughtered; He made 300 # of butter; He has 9 sheep on hand, 12 lambs were born, 10 were sold living, 1 died of disease; He clipped 6 fleeces of 40 #; He had 3 pigs, 8 poultry, 50 eggs produced in 1879; He had 1 acre of orchards with 30 fruit bearing apple trees; he harvested 10 bushels of apples worth \$5.; He harvested 30 # of honey.