

Yesteryears' Trails



Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Defiance County
Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 7006 Defiance, OH 43512-7006
Web Site: [Http: www.defiancecountygenealogy.org](http://www.defiancecountygenealogy.org)
Email address: defiancegenealogy2002@yahoo.com
Blog site: defiancecountyohiogenealogy.blogspot.com



Winter 2020

Vol. XXXV

Issue 4

Defiance County Genealogy Chapter and Board Meetings

Regular monthly meetings of the Defiance Chapter OGS are held at St. John United Church of Christ at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise stated. The address is 950 Webster Street— on the northeastern corner of the Defiance College campus. Entry is on the north side of the church adjacent to the college gymnasium.

Chapter meetings are the 4th Monday of each month except May, August, and December or as noted.

Board meetings are held at 2:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month at the St. John UCC at 950 Webster Street.

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Stay Safe 
Stay Healthy

DCGS Meetings and Events Still on Hold for Beginning of 2021

Our chapter programming is still on hold with the hope that the cases of covid decrease and the number of vaccinations increase. We are tentatively thinking of having chapter programs late spring/early summer. The board voted to extend memberships from 2020 to the 2021 year with no additional cost.



**Defiance County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society
Yesteryears' Trails Vol.XXXV Winter 2020**

Officers and Trustees

President - Joanne Allison

Email: ljallison1@frontier.com

Vice-President

Dan Hasch

Corresponding Secretary & Membership

Dianne Kline

Email: dijimkline@gmail.com

Recording Secretary - Mary Williams

Email: marywill@smta.cc

Treasurer - Dan Hasch

Email: dhasch@defnet.com

First Families - Mary Scranton

Email: mjs463@frontier.com

Newsletter Editor - Mary Williams

Email: marywill@smta.cc

Trustees:

Rhonda Casler

Dawn Hasch

Pat Wise

**First Families of Defiance County
and Centennial Families**

Defiance County First Families

If you can prove your ancestor resided in Defiance County before January 1846, your ancestor can be classified as a "Pioneer." If he or she lived here between January 1846 and December 1860, that ancestor can be classified as a "Settler." To prove your lineage back to your ancestor, you may use birth records, death records, marriage licenses, census records, Bible records, and other primary or supportive secondary records.



The application fee is \$15.00 which covers as many ancestors as you can prove and also covers your membership pin. You must be a member of the Defiance County Chapter OGS. This membership may be paid at the same time as your application fee is paid. The cutoff date is August 1st of the year in which you apply. For more information and to download the application for First Families, please go to the Society's web site at www.defiancecountygenealogy.org or write to the chapter at PO Box 7006, Defiance, OH 43512-7006 attention of Mary Scranton, chair.

Change of Address or Email ?

If you change your postal or email address, **please** make sure you email the chapter at <defiancegenealogy2002@yahoo.com> or send the changes to Defiance Chapter OGS, PO Box 7006, Defiance, OH 43512-7006 so that your current information is on file.

Become a Member of DCGS

Chapter dues are \$15.00 for an individual and \$18.00 per family.

An additional \$5.00 is required for mailing the four annual newsletters through the U. S. Post Office. Membership form is at the end of this newsletter or you may download a membership form at www.defiancecountygenealogy.org

Defiance County Centennial Families

To acknowledge families which have been in Defiance County for 100 years or more, our chapter has established a centennial recognition program. Just one item of proof showing that a family member was here in 1918 or before is needed to register a family. Upon registration, a certificate will be sent from the chapter. For more information, please contact the chapter via email or by postal mail-- attention of Carol Ehlinger.



**Defiance County
OGS
Chapter News**

Due to the COVID-19 virus, there have been no chapter meetings since February, and the last board meeting was held in July. Due to the spread of the virus and the uncertainty of vaccinations, the board has not scheduled any meetings or programs. The board is hoping that by late spring or early summer, regular chapter meetings can be scheduled.



Ohio Chapter

**Palatines to America
German Genealogy Society
Ohio Chapter
2021 Virtual Spring Seminar
Via Zoom
With Speaker
Daniel R. Jones, MS, AG
Saturday, March 13, 2021
10:30 am to 4:30 p.m.**

The Ohio Chapter of Palatines to America announces its VIRTUAL Spring German Genealogy Seminar. Daniel Jones, will present four sessions via Zoom on Saturday, March 13, 2021. Registration is now open at <https://oh-palam.org/registernow.php>.

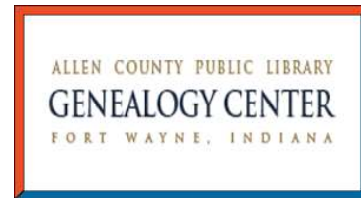
Topics to be discussed are 1) Finding your European Ancestors: Record Types and Resources for Research, 2) Using non-parish registers to solve research problems, 3) From the

Alps to the Rhine: Your Swiss Research, 4) Using Geography to Find German Records

**Ancestry Library
Edition Available
Through March for
Library Card Holders**



The Defiance Public Library System recently announced that Ancestry Library Edition is now temporarily available for library card holders to use from home. This feature will be available through the end of March 2021. Research your family history with this enhanced library version of Ancestry.com. Search the U.S. Federal Census from 1790 to 1940 as well as immigration, vital, military, court, church, and ethnic records. Explore city directories, the Social Security Death Index, and more. Please note that the content in the Library Edition of this resource differs from personal subscriptions.



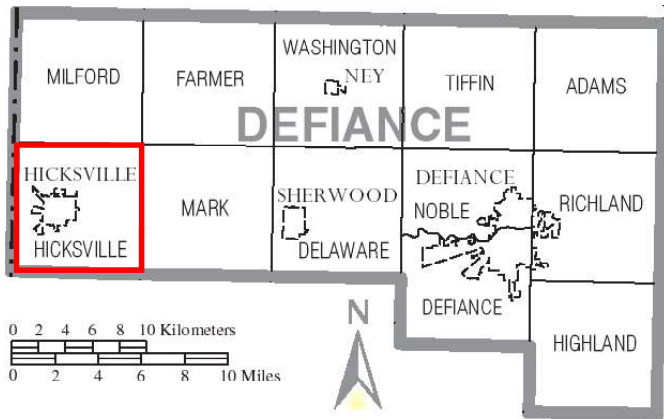
**Genealogy Gems: News from the Allen
County Public Library at Fort Wayne**

No. 203, January 31, 2020

genealogygems@genealogycenter.info

In this issue:

- *The Importance of Ethnic Origins—Black History Month and Beyond
- *“The Atlas of the Irish Revolution”
- *World War I Transportation
- *PERSI Gems: Gloves & Mittens
- *History Tidbits: “I’ll pencil you in:” Dance Cards
- *Library Catalog Insider: Label Searches in WorldCat
- *Genealogy Center’s February Programs
- *Indiana Genealogical Society 2021 Annual Conference
- *Staying Informed about Genealogy Center Programming



Hicksville Township and the Village of Hicksville

Much of our current knowledge of early Defiance County comes from the *History of Defiance County [Ohio 1883]*. **The entire book can now be found on-line through the "Open Book" located on the website Internet Archive.**

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL23666713M/History_of_Defiance_County_Ohio

Hicksville Township lies in the southwest corner of Defiance County. It was organized in June 1839. The Hicks Land Company and the American Land Company were primarily responsible for its early settlement. The Hicks Land company had owned 14,000 acres of land and the American Land Company 4,000 acres. All of the lands of the Hicks Land Company were entered in 1835-1830 in the names of Henry W. Hicks and Isaac S. Smith, who were allied with steamboat ownership and merchants from New York.

Among the earliest settlers in the township on the Fort Wayne Road were David Landis, Mark W. Babb, William Hollinger, and Nelson Tustason. On the Newville Road were Alonzo Works, Ezra Dickson, James Thomas, Luther Loveland, Lewis Michaelles and High J. Marcellus. On the Edgerton Road were Allen Pearson, David Blain, Joshua Hall, Isaac Miller, and Isaac Wartenbe. On the Bryan Road were Buenos Ayers, David Grier, John Ryan, Ebenezer Johnson, Casper Ginter, and Thomas McCurdy

Hicksville Village

Although the village was not incorporated until 1871, the first school was taught by Ransom Osborn in 1836. The first mayor was Thomas C. Kinmont.

Early churches in the area were the Union Presbyterian Church organized in Farmer Township in 1848, the Hicksville Presbyterian Church organized May 12, 1855, the First Presbyterian Church was built in 1858, the Protestant Episcopal Church was opened in 1873, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Lutheran Church, the Christian Church, and the Catholic Church.

An Active GAR (Grand Army of the Republic), the i. Donafin Post, was organized on April 1881. Beginning on page 284 of the 1883 History is a listing of members and the units in which they fought during the Civil War.

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**OGS Conference
has gone VIRTUAL
for 2021**

**Registration
is open
March 1**



**2021 Ohio
Genealogical
Society
Virtual
Conference
April 14 - 17, 2021**

www.ogsconference.org

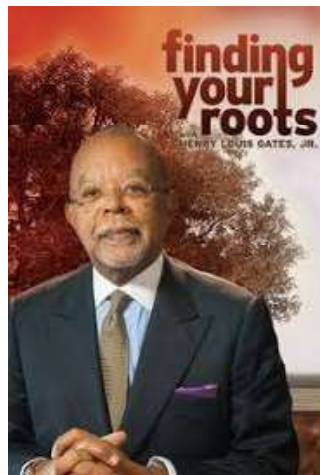
The annual OGS conference will still feature a great lineup of speakers and topics, but it is now set up to be held virtually, so you will be able to “attend” from the comfort and convenience of any location via computer, tablet, or phone.

Programming is planned according to general interest categories: regional, technology, records, ethnic, methodology, DNA, and Shoebox. Some sessions are live, and some are recorded.

Connecting with highly respected genealogical speakers who will energize your research efforts can still happen.

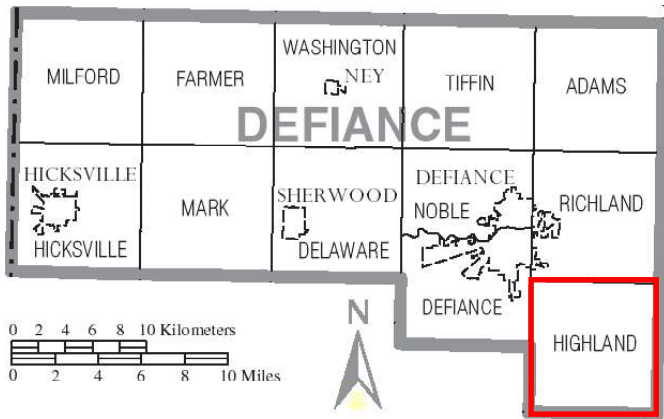
**Finding Your
Roots
Season 7
PBS
Tuesdays
8:00 p.m.**

Clint Black, Don Lemon, Pherrell Williams, Glen Close, and Roseann Cash will be among some of the guests discovering their ancestral backgrounds and surprising family stories. Dispelling what he terms a myth, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the host of the program, says that names were NOT always changed at arrival in America by immigration officials; instead immigrants generally chose to “Americanize” their surnames.



Save on gas!

**Save on hotel
cost!**



Highland Township and Ayersville

Much of our current knowledge of early Defiance County comes from the *History of Defiance County [Ohio 1883]*. The entire book can now be found on-line through the “Open Book” located on the website Internet Archive.

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL23666713M/History_of_Defiance_County_Ohio

Highland Township is located in the extreme southeast of the county. It was organized in 1842. There are two sandy ridges running through the township. Powell Creek drains the southwest corner.

The first election (when Highland was still a part of Henry County) was held December 18, 1843. Township officers elected were Trustees—John M. Sanford, Philip G. Hoeltzel, and Henry Brechbill. Treasurer elected was Brazillia Hendrix; Clerk, Jacob Kraft; Overseers of the Poor, William Boucher, Augustus Skiver, and John Wiler; Fence Viewers, Jacob T. Peterson and David Skiver.

Voters in October 1945

Abraham Creamer, Jacob T. Peterson, Solomon McCollock, Thomas Peterson, John M. Sanford, Jacob Kraft, Henry Brechbill, August Skiver, Isaac Skiver, Brazillia Hedrix, Phillip G. Hoeltzel, Joseph Wagoner, C. B. West, John Wiler, Daniel Clark, Charles Dellette, Robert Randall, Henry Wite, Albert Stites, Hezekiah Clark, Jefferson Warren, John McBernhill, William

Boucher, Henry Stites, and John Wiler.

Ayersville Village

Ayersville was not a platted village; however, as early as 1849 there was a post office. The village was named after Joseph Ayers. In 1883 there was one store with the post office which was owned by Nathan Boutell. Other enterprises were one doctor, an Episcopal Methodist Church, a school house, a blacksmith shop, a saw mill, and Grange No. 369. The church, having a congregation of about 75, was built in 1860 at a cost of \$700. Other denominations present in the area are the German Evangelical Lutheran, Presbyterian, New School Baptist, Free-Will Baptist, and Dunkard

Person Reminiscences from the 1883 History

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