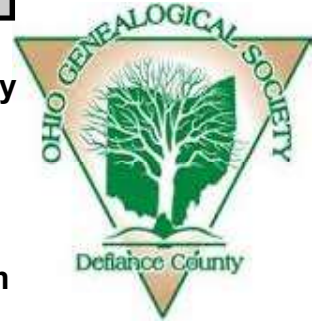


Yesteryears' Trails



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)
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Blog site: defiancecountyohiogenealogy.blogspot.com



2023

Vol. XXXIX

Issue 1

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 as noted.

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

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DCGS Programs for 2023

March 27 - Publishing Family Genealogy Books

Beginning with the April 24th meeting-- Histories of Notable Buildings in the County. On the 24th Dan Hasch will present the histories of three Sherwood building.

May 22 - Sarah Marshall The Worthington Project

June 13 (Tuesday) at 7:00 p.m. meet at the Tuttle Museum



Surname Index and Vertical File to Be in Ohioanna Room

Due to popular demand, the Defiance Library has brought the two local resources back to the Ohioanna Room where patrons have easy access. The surname index is useful in the search for family history and the vertical file for research of local history.

**Defiance County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society
Yesteryears' Trails Vol.XXXVII Issue 4 2022**

Officers and Trustees -2022

President - Joanne Allison
joanne.richolt.allison@gmail.com
Vice-President - Rhonda Casler
Corresponding Secretary - Dianne Kline
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Recording Secretary - Mary Williams
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dh_apple@yahoo.com
First Families - Mary Scranton
mjs463@frontier.com
Newsletter Editor - Mary Williams
marywill@smta.cc

Trustees:

Kim Bercaw
Dawn Hasch
Pat Wise

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

**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.

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

February Happenings

DCGS Board News

At the February DCGS board meeting, President Joanne Allsion opened the meeting at 2:30 at the UCC in Defiance. Dan Hasch provided the financial reports for January and February showing balances of \$6363.15 and \$6234.55 for December and January respectively.

After looking at the chapter's budget for 2022, Dan suggested changing three line items: PO Box Rental to \$225, miscellaneous expenses to \$50 and web site service to \$50. Mary Williams moved to accept the budget for 2023 using the 2022 budget with the three changes. Rhonda Casler seconded the motion which carried. Dan noted that he has sent in the 990 form and two others as required by law.

Dan noted that he had made a link from the chapter web site to the chapter Facebook page. Dianne Kline noted that she had received two year-books; 1949 Defiance College and 1951 Defiance High School. The public library could utilize the college book. If the high school book is not in better condition than the current copy at the library, it may be discarded.

Richard McGee has photos he would like to pass on to any relatives. Dianne will post the information on the blog site and Mary will put the information in the newsletter. Dianne noted that the blog site has had over 268,000 hits. Dawn Hasch noted that currently here are 32 members for 2023. She will send out reminders for those who have not renewed.

It was decided not to send an item for the OGS conference as no one indicated attending. Thanks you were received from the Ohio Historical Day and Sherwood Friends of the Library for their monetary donations.

Dan will have attendance cards ready for the February chapter meeting. Winners will be determined at the November meeting.

Saturday, March 4th is the help session at the DPL running from 10:30-1:00. The number of par-

ticipants was limited to five. The IGGP will be holding its conference in Fort Wayne and also virtually on June 9-11.

Programming for 2023 was set as far as June. July was also discussed as a possible trip to the Hayes Museum.

February Chapter Meeting of Feb. 27, 2023 Minutes of the DCGS Chapter Meeting of Feb. 27, 2023

Seventeen members and guests were present. Minutes from the February board meeting were reviewed. Treasurer Dan Hasch presented the January financial report. President Allison asked for volunteers to contact her to audit the financial information from 2022.

Joanne announced that the International German Genealogy Partnership Conference will be held in-person in Fort Wayne, Indiana, June 9-11. There is also a virtual option with access to programming in real-time. A USB drive is available for purchase allowing all attendees to watch the recorded presentations. For more information, one should go to iggp.org.

Dianne Kline noted that the chapter had received two year books-one Defiance High School and one Defiance College. She has solicited a place for each. Richard McGee has 30 family photos he would like to pass on to interested ancestors. More information will appear in the chapter's blog and newsletter.

Since there was no new business nor any unfinished business, Rhonda Casler began the evening's program "Criminals, Convicts, and Outlaws: Finding Your Black Sheep Ancestors" using her own aunt and uncle's exploits as an introduction to finding black sheep ancestors. She noted that newspapers generally are beginning resources as most have advanced search options. After referring to newspapers, the next logical step would be court records. Criminal records can be found by the clerk of court in the common pleas and municipal records. Document sheets, if available, provide a summary of the cases in question.

Family Search (free) and Ancestry.com (free at many libraries) with their advanced searches is also a good start in the search. Some of the other

resources Rhonda noted which could be consulted: coroner's files, jail records, State of Ohio Archives, census records, mug shots, divorce records (clerk of courts), military records (muster rolls and pension files).



www.ohioexploration.com/paranormal/hauntings/defiancecounty/

The following information is paranormal information gathered by the Ohio Exploration Society. The editors noted that they have collected and indexed thousands of hauntings and legends across Ohio's 88 counties.

Defiance

Defiance County Children's Home – In operation from 1884 until 1914, the buildings of the old children's home are long gone. The cemetery is nearly demolished except for a few sparse gravestones. Some say the spirits of young orphans who lived here are still around. Witnesses have reported hearing children whispering when visiting the cemetery.

Dey Road Bridge – It is said that partygoers would get drunk and jump from the bridge into the river below, only to meet a harsh undertow. Legend says this made the bridge a prime location for those wishing to commit suicide. Witnesses have reported seeing bodies and/or faces in the water when looking over the edge of the bridge. People have gone missing near the location and some feel a strange presence there.

Rolling Hills Trailer Court – Now called Fort Defiance Community Court, residents throughout the community have reported strange encounters with ghostly figures. Some residents have reported seeing the spirits of a woman and child on the grounds and others have reported seeing an orange tabby cat with a white left forepaw. Longtime residents believe there is an old Indian burial ground in the wooded area next to the community.

Valentine Theater – Now converted into a church, a ghostly boy was seen regularly walking up and down the stairs to the basement where the restrooms are located. It is believed that he died there many years ago.

Evansport

Buck Cemetery – Located about 360 yards off a dirt road, the entryway to the cemetery is shrouded by dense trees. It is said that while you're walking back to the cemetery, you can see a strange light at the end of the path, but it disappears by the time you reach it. Witnesses have also reported seeing an eerie apparition hovering above them upon arriving to the cemetery. The ghost is believed to be Mr. Buck, who is believed to be either a former caretaker or a horse thief who was hanged from a tree there.

Hicksville

Fairgrounds – Shadowy images of animals are seen within the fairgrounds and the sound of horse hooves can be heard on the track. A harness race is said to have gone horribly wrong in the 1950s, causing the death of several jockeys and horses.

Old Hicksville Elementary School – Orbs randomly appear in classrooms and bathrooms in the school. People have heard their names being called when no one else is around. (Credits: Jasmine Jordan)

Village – The entire village of Hicksville is apparently haunted. Witnesses have reported seeing shadow people and full-blown apparitions walking the sidewalks and streets at night. Others have heard voices whispering to them. Evidence of satanic rituals was found in one of the community's homes.

Sherwood

Sherwood Tracks – A young boy dressed in 1930s attire has been spotted in the downtown area. To the disbelief of witnesses, the boy disappears near the railroad tracks.



“Early Defiance” by Helen D. Phelps

(Helen was the daughter of Edwin Phelps, one of the prominent early leaders of Defiance.)

The following article is in honor of the City of Defiance’s celebration of its 200th year of inception. The following are excerpts taken from the reminiscences of Helen D. Phelps.

“The original planners of Defiance were Horatio G. Phillips of Dayton and Benjamin Levell of Piqua who acquired considerable land in this vicinity...”

“Montgomery Evans was the first surveyor in this section and he and his wife lived in the old fort and boarded the men who assisted him. The preliminary survey was made in 1818 but the town was not laid out by Levell and Phillips until 1822 when 150 lots were platted. ... Although surveyed in 1822 the town was not entered to the State until April 1823.

“The whole town, with a two exceptions, was covered with a thick undergrowth of bushes south of Second Street and west to a deep ravine which later became the old canal. The ravine was overgrown with a thicket of thorn apples, crab apples, and sumac.

“The streets were not even chopped out, with the exception of First from Jefferson to Clinton-- Clinton to Third. Jefferson was underbrushed for a road from the Maumee to the Auglaize. There was a [river] ford at Second across the Auglaize-- also a road running from Jefferson and First diagonally to where Monumental Park is now at which point it joined the Ft. Wayne trail. Even in the town most roads were mere trails not wide enough for ox-carts....

“At the foot of Jefferson Street a ferry was kept by David Hall, a canoe and a small flat boat were the equipment of the ferry. Below Halls was a two-story house used as a hotel and store. Another log house on the present site of the Brewery and another at the top or the hill above the intersection of Clinton and W. High were the houses north of the Maumee River.

“In 1832 a brick building was erected on Wayne Street north of the present Post Office which many of us remember as the home of our late member Mary Hardy. The lower floor was finished for a court room with two offices above. Robert Wasson and William Seamens made the brick and laid them. At

that time Defiance was still a part of Williams County.

The First Court

“The first court was held on April 5, 1824. Ebenezer Lain of Sandusky was Presiding Judge. Robert Shirley, John Perkins (the first white pioneer), and Pierce Evans were appointed by the legislature as Associate Judges.

The First Recorded Marriage

“The first marriage license was issued to Charley Green of Girty’s Island and Mary Ann Scribner of Damascus in December 24, 1824.

The First Election

“The first election was held April 8, 1824 at which 63 votes were cast for the entire county....

“In 1834 eight years after its founding... my father came from his boyhood home in Upper New York state, a boy of 18.... he said that he thought the north bank of the Maumee River from Napoleon to Defiance was the most beautiful view he had ever seen and nothing he had seen since had changed that first impression.

“On Jefferson Street opposite the R. Peter’s home was a small grocery on Fort Street near Wayne. A hotel was being built on Clinton Street on the site where the [former Hoffmans Furniture store stood]. A store adjoined this hotel and a harness shop occupied the upper floor of the store.

Hotel Living

There were no stoves in the hotel. All the cooking was done over a fireplace. Candles served as light. The builder of the hotel, Payne Parker, lived in a house on Fort street. In the hotel there was one large room on the upper floor (40 x 26 ft.) in which there were eight or ten beds. A tick filled with corn husks, a pair of mackinaw blankets-- colored to save washing-- and a comforter was considered a good bed then...

“West on Clinton across from the hotel was a log blacksmith shop. West of that on the big ravine was a log cabin occupied by Hiram Heath, the village blacksmith. A store at the corner of Wayne and Fort Streets was owned by Elijah Cas, an old bachelor and an eccentric. Later he married but had trouble

with his wife and sold to his brother Samuel C. Case who became a prominent citizen holding the offices of County Commissioner, Recorder, and Post Mater His brother Robert ran the store for him when he was engaged in official business.

The First Team of Horses

“The first team of horses was brought to Defiance by William Greer who did teaming form Maumee to Fort Wayne.

“In stores whiskey sold for 3 cents a drink or two drinks for 6 1/4 cents which was the smallest coin in circulation.

Early Churches of Defiance

“Phillips and Levell set aside a lot on which the Methodist Church now stands ; previously a log church and parsonage had been built. A lot on the Auglaize was designated for the Presbyterians; previously this had been a cemetery and the Presbyterians had bought a lot where the present Post office now stands and had built a log church there.

“The Methodists were the only church holding regular services in the early days. They had toe circuit riders-- one a married man was paid \$200 a year ; the other singe, getting \$100....

“The Catholics had services in 1841 in Timothy Fitzpatrick’s house. There were but two families of that faith-- the Fitzpatricks and Frank Weisenburgers. Father Rappe came from Toledo to say mass.... The church grew rapidly after 1850.

Early School

“A log school west of the ravine was the fist educational effort. This building was erected without mails or metal of any mind; it had no windows, just a log being left out on one side to emit light. This opening was covered with greased paper...A fireplace of sones and clay afforded the needed warmth in the sever winter. School was held for four month in the year.

“Later the court room was used as a school. Here W. A. Brown and Edwin Phelps were instructors. This school continues for 8 or 10 years It was not until the building of the canal that much progress was made is sustaining the schools and then the year was only for six months.

When the state legislature moved the county seat to Bryan in 1840 citizens were compelled to take steps toward building a school. Dr. Jonas Colby, W. A. Brown and Edwin Phelps were instrumental in the promotion. A lot was purchased and a two story building was erected where the late Dr. Reynolds’ house now stands. This was considered the finest building on the Maumee River.

On the Public Square

“In laying out the city, Levell and Phillips” ...had set aside for public buildings only-- never to be sold for private use-- and where the present court house Also located there was a jail made of rude sure timber reinforced by plank until the walls were two feet and four inches thick.

Earliest Doctor

“Dr. Jonas Colby was one of the first physicians and had an office opposite the jail. He was the only doctor between Maumee and Toledo. Dr. Colby used horse and saddle bags. Bilious fever was prevalent and few persons escaped the annual attack. Chills and fever were common ailments. Dr. Colby’s record for one day’s riding was 110 miles of almost impossible trails.

Economic Events

“A saw mill and grist mill were built in 1828 in Brunersburg before either was built in Defiance. In 1842 potatoes were 25 cents per bushel; eggswere 3 cents a dozen; chickens 5 cents a piece; wool \$1 per cord. It was in 1842 that lamps came to town with kerosene although candles were still made by the housewife for years. The Wabash and Erie Canal was started in 1837 and the town was filled with contractors.

“The completion of the Wabash and Erie Canal which was finished in 1843 was celebrated by the excursion running from Defiance to Fort Wayne by canal boat. There was no direct transportation route between Defiance and Columbus. Travellers followed a trail on horseback and oxen were used for hauling between the two points.

!845 an Eventful Year

“1845 was an eventful year for Defiance. The town had grown and the people were tired of going

to Bryan for all their legal business and a movement was started for the formation of a new county.

Bill Passed Creating Defiance County

“Pierce Evans and William C. Holgate, Whigs, with Edwin Phelps, Democrat, went to Columbus and by a bit of successful lobbying succeeded in getting the bill passed on March 4 1845 creating Defiance County out of [mainly] Williams County.” [Milford, Hlcksville, Farmer, Mark, Washington, Delaware, Tiffin, Noble and the upper portion of Defiance Townships were taken from Williams County. Adams, Richland, and Highland Township were taken from Henry County, and the lower portion of Defiance Township was taken from Paudling County.]

‘It was a rainy, bad time. The trails were horrible but they had good horses and felt time in getting the new county. The streams were high and they had to swim the horses, and it was rough riding all day with wet feet and legs. The trip took almost four days.

“One amusing incident my father loved to tell was when they stopped at a farm house over night, he was given a bed over the sauerkraut barrel. The odor was so offensive he go up, went to the barn, and slept in the hay. There was great concernation the next morning when they found his bed empty, but he appeared in time for breakfast.

Maumee River Mule Bridge Destroyed

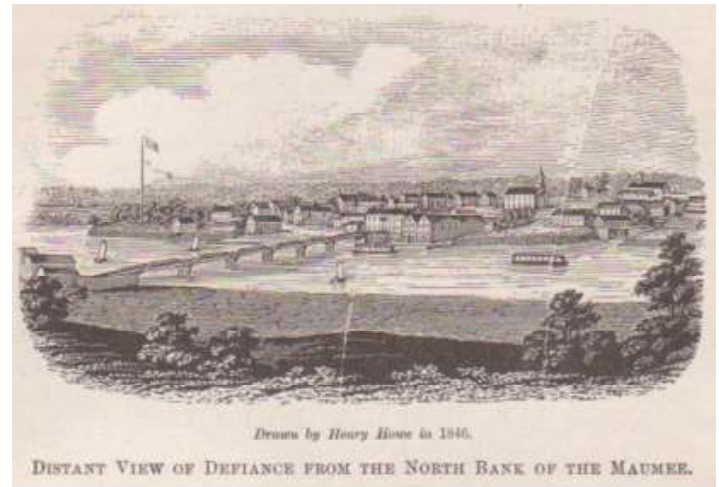
“After the building of the canal, it was necessary to have a bridge across the Maumee, so a toll bridge (Mule bridge) was built near the foot of Clinton Street. This was taken away during a big freshnet in 1846. W. A. Brown, Edwin Phelps, and tow other men were on it and had a free ride to Napoleon where they were taken off-- none the worse for the trip hazardous as it was. There was no dam at Independence then.

“The town did not grow beyond 5th Street for ay years Although the land south of it was cleared of the virgin forest, and corn and wheat planted in the new ground.

Toledo and Illinois Railway

:In 1853 a contract was let for the building of the Toledo and Illinois Railway now familiarly known as the Wabash although a part of the New York Cen-

tral. A book will be published this fall by the granddaughter of Dr. Jonas Colby, Clara Ingram Judson of Evanston, dealing with this period which I am sure will prove interesting-- “The Irish Come to America” which will detail life in Defiance.”



Built in 1875, this union station was on the east side of Deatrick Street SE of Harrison Avenue. Although built by the B&O, the station had platforms on both sides to serve both the B&O and Wabash.



Bronson photo showing the building of the dam at Independence. It was built to provide water for the canal system. The wooden dam was replaced in 1924 by concrete.

Defiance County Fair in 1871 - To be held in Defiance Oct 3-6 beginning on a Wednesday

▷To the Patrons of the Defiance County Agricultural Society and the Friends of Agriculture in Defiance County and Northwestern Ohio.

At a meeting of the Directors of the Society held in May last, it was thought best to again advertise the Premium List for the forthcoming Fair through this medium. Last year the Society began a new era. For the first time in its history, the receipts paid all the premiums drawn, all the expenses, and made some valuable improvements to the Grounds. The spacious Hall erected last year will be enlarged and otherwise improved this year. The stables and stalls erected last year will be improved and repaired, and additional ones erected. In short, no pains will be spared to improve the Grounds and the track, so as to afford the most ample accommodations to visitors and exhibitors.

Farmers of Defiance county, we make this second appeal to you, to step forward the second time and unite with one another in making the best County Fair ever held in Northwestern Ohio: You did it in 1870, and you can do it in 1871.

The county fair was one of the biggest events to include many from Defiance and the surrounding county. Over one hundred categories and their accompanied prizes ranging from \$20.00 to 25 cents were to be awarded. To attend, one had to be a member of the Society but for two dollars, anyone could purchase membership tickets.

Entry for any category was open "to the world"!

Some of the over 100 categories:

- Stallions (\$10 top prize)
- Geldings, Mare and colts (top \$5.00)
- Best collection of horses from any one township (\$20.)
- Trotters and Walkers
- Jacks and Mules
- Cattle, Oxen, Steers
- Sheep, Swine, Poultry
- Field Crops
- Provisions

Some years later, the county fair was moved on "The Pike" that is to Hicksville where it has remained for many, many years.

- Jams, jellies, preserves, apple butter
- Flour, lard, sugars molasses, sorghum, vinegar, pickles
- Cake, cookies, breads, biscuits, pies

Agriculture machines and Implements:

- Threshing machine, clover huller, corn sheller, mower, sawing machines, hay rake, pitch fork, 8 kinds plows, brick machines, washing machines

For manufactures

Harnesses, wagons, carriages, shingles, Various furniture

Domestic manufacture

- woolen blanket, 10 categories of flannel, 8 categories of cloths, jeans, knit stockings, caskets and coffins,

Needlework

- Quilts, tating, hairs chain, wreaths, flowers, bouquet, embroidery, pin cushions crochet and knitting

Pictures and ornamental work

- photographs, oil, water, pen and creations, chromo pictures, paper pictures, hot house plants, live flowers and bouquets,

Miscellaneous

"All categories not mentioned in the listing that are decidedly meritorious will receive premiums to be decided by the Board of Managers --William D. Hell - president, Charles P. - secretary



The Commemorative Biographical Record of Northwestern Ohio contains many brief biographies of early prominent and representative citizens and of many of the early settled families. Sketches are included for those counties of Defiance, Henry, Williams and Fulton. The book was published by J. H. Beer & Company of Chicago in 1899. Chicago: On the following two pages are excerpts from the index of the book. The entire book can be found online through Ancestry.com--https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/23841/images/dvm_LocHist009154-00002-0?ssrc=&backlabel=Return&pid=2000000000 and Family Search--<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books--> (and perhaps at other online sites). Index of names at the back.

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Sampling of the index to the *Commemorative Biographical Record of Northwestern Ohio*

Kalahari Resort and Convention Center - Sandusky Ohio
April 26-29, 2023

WHAT BROUGHT THEM HERE
 1803-2023
 OGS Conference
 Sandusky, Ohio
 APRIL 26-29, 2023

Some of the strands the conference will be built around are migration, ethnic, DNA, technology, methodology, military, migration.

For more information go to www.ogsconference.org

Conference questions: ogscord@ogs.org

Defiance County, Ohio Genealogy Family Search

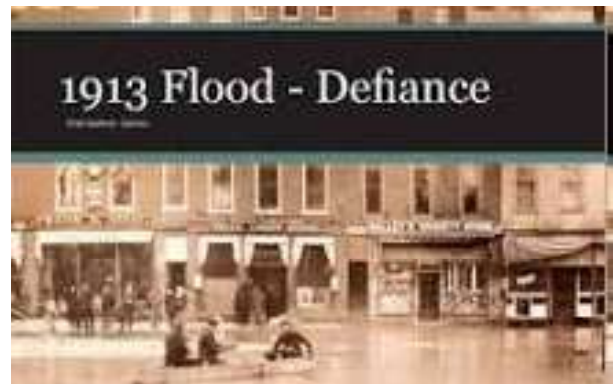
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Defiance_County,_Ohio_Genealogy

In addition to searching for specific genealogical names, Family Search also offers the ability to search by location. The following categories provide an overall guide to Defiance County, Ohio-- its ancestry, genealogy and family history, birth records, marriage records, death records, census records, and military records.

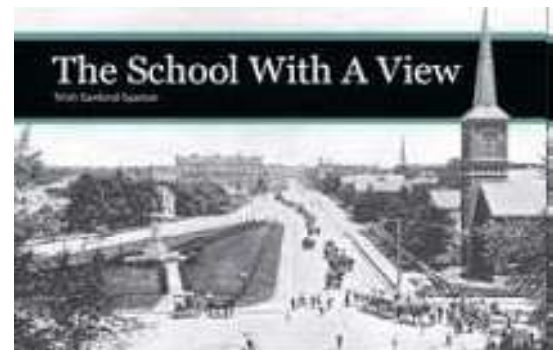
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**The 1913 Flood in Defiance, Ohio
Ohio's Greatest Natural Disaster**
By Trish Sanford-Speiser · 2021
Defiance, Ohio, where the Tiffin and Auglaize Rivers meet the mighty Maumee draining over 6,000 square miles of farmland, was hard hit in the 1913 Flood which still holds the title "Ohio's Greatest Natural Disaster."



The School With A View
By Trish Sanford-Speiser · 2020
The story of Defiance, Ohio as told by the 1918 School sitting at the foot of Clinton Street.

Books are available from Amazon.com and other sellers. (Published by Google Books)

SAMUEL SHUTER.

This prominent citizen of Evansport, Defiance county, is justly regarded as one of our representative citizens, as he is not only an able and successful business man, but he bears an honorable record for patriotism and public spirit, having served as a soldier in the Union army throughout the war of the Rebellion.

A native of this State, Mr. Shuter was born December 8, 1824, in Montgomery county, where his father, Peter Shuter, was at that time engaged in farming. The latter, who died in Sumner, Lawrence county, Illinois, in 1872, was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1800, as was also his wife, Barbara (Honsinger), who died in Montgomery county, Ohio, in 1873.

Our subject was the fifth in a family of twelve children, and as a farmer's son was given practical instruction in all the details of agricultural work. He remained at the old home in Montgomery county until April, 1857, when he came to Defiance county, and located at Evansport, where he engaged in raising tobacco, being one of the first to undertake that business in Defiance county. In 1858 he became interested in mercantile business in Evansport, in partnership with Thomas Yeager, and continued for more than a year; but he still devoted the greater part of his attention to tobacco raising, together with other farm work. On August 15, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Thirty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and he served with that regiment until mustered out, July 23, 1865. He took part in numerous engagements, including the battles of Stone River, Wild Cat Hill, and Perryville, and was with Sherman in the famous Atlanta campaign. Entering the service as a private, he was raised to the rank of corporal, and during the "march to the sea" he had charge of twenty-one mounted men, detailed to forage for headquarters.

When the fighting was over he returned to his home in Tiffin township, Defiance county, and in September, 1865, he engaged in mercantile business in Evansport, continuing successfully until 1877, when he retired. He owns two hundred and forty-nine acres of good farming land in the township, and the care of this occupies much of his time, his judicious management making it one of the best farms in the locality. While he takes great interest in the questions of the day, and is always ready to forward any progressive movement in his community, he has never been an aspirant for public office. In politics he is a staunch Democrat. Socially he is a member of Lodge No. 489, I. O. O. F., of Evansport, having been connected with that order since 1855.

On December 29, 1858, Mr. Shuter was married in Tiffin township, Defiance county, to Miss Abby Snider, and the union has been blessed with four children: Mary O. (who died at the age of five years); Thomas E.; John W.; and Charles R. Mrs. Shuter is a native of Evansport, born December 22, 1840, the fifth child in the family of John and Nancy (Coy) Snider, who were among the earliest settlers of Tiffin township, having removed there from Greene county, Ohio, in 1831. The father, who was for many years a leading agriculturist of Tiffin township, died in May, 1890, aged eighty-three years. The mother passed from earth in September, 1897, also aged eighty-three years. Mrs. Shuter is a member of the M. E. Church of Evansport.

Coon Hunting Death - 1863

January 3, 1863 – Charles DUNNING, for many years master of a boat on the Wabash Canal, and from 1858 to the spring of 1862, a resident of Delaware township, Defiance county, where he was also a Justice of the Peace, was so injured by the falling of a tree, while out Coon hunting in Paulding county on Wednesday last, that he died on Saturday morning last.

AYERSVILLE ITEMS.

The boys of this village have a fine time coasting upon the present ice and snow.

There was a sad accident happened one of the citizens of Highland township on last Friday evening. Mr. John Wise, a colored man of said township, went to Defiance with a load of wood and sold it and then got drunk and started home, taking the wrong direction. He went up the canal and tried to drive across the canal and drowned his team and himself. So much for saloons.

Canal Deaths - 1863

April 25, 1863 – The bodies of Henry MILLER, of Defiance, a Shoemaker, and ___ MAYER, a BARBER from Fort Wayne, were found in the level below WILHELM's Lock, Defiance on Thursday last. The last seen of these men was on Tuesday night previous, when Miller started from down town to accompany Mayer to the depot, who intended to return to Fort Wayne. It is supposed that they fell, the night being very dark, from the lock crossing into the canal; and from the appearance of the bodies, it is probable that they were arm in arm, one carrying the other over, falling head foremost on the stones and timber below. Miller's absence was not noticed, as it was supposed that he had accompanied Mayer to Fort Wayne. Both were Germans and young unmarried men.

Farming Death - 1863

October 17, 1863 – Peter DILS, a son of Mr. Joel Dils, age 18 years and 3 months, was so badly injured by a runaway team, that he died on Friday morning, October 9th. He had been driving the farm team on a road near his father's farm, and was thrown from the wagon while going down hill, falling on his head, fracturing the skull. He was a boy of kind disposition and industrious habits.

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