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

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2022 Vol. XXXVII **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 May, August, and December or 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.



While the DCGS Board has decided to go ahead with programming for 2022, we understand if you are not comfortable attending programs.

We will practice distancing as much as possible and hand sanitizer will be available. We are not mandating masks but encourage their use-- most definitely if you have not been vaccinated.

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DCGS Programs for 2022 To Date

February 28 - Mary Williams

Witches of Salem: The Story of One

Accused

March 28 - Dianne Kline

Using Newspaper Archives

April 25 - John Swearingen

Preserving Family Archives

May 23 - Family Food Heritage

Members Share Family/Ethnic

Recipes

June 27 - Richard Rozevink Defiance in the Beginning (City history from 1822)

In case of cancellation, an email will be sent out. For those not having email, please contact any of the officers to check for cancellations.

Defiance County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society Yesteryears' Trails Vol.XXXVII Issue 1 2022

Officers and Trustees

President - Joanne Allison

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Vice-President - Dan Hasch

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Email: marywill@smta.cc

Trustees:

Rhonda Casler

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

<u>Defiance County First</u> <u>Families</u>

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.

<u>Defiance County Centennial Families</u>

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.



<u>Highlights from the Novembr DCGS Board and the Chapter Meetings</u>

At the November board meeting, discussion was held on updating of the Constitution and Bylaws of the chapter. Dan Hasch moved to create a committee to review and propose revisions for chapter approval. Dianne Kline seconded the motion which carried. Preident Allison brought this up at the November chapter meeting: however, there were no volunteers.

In February an audit committee, appointed by the president should audit the treasurer's books for 2021. Volunteers are being solicited.

Since it was decided that there would be no board (or chapter) meetings in December and January, Dan Hasch will email a proposed budget for 2022 to board members for their approval.

It was suggested that there be a "spring cleaning" of the storage room at the former Legion building. Court officials have been contacted concerning the many boxes of court records currently housed in the room. A date has yet to be set to meet.

Just for fun!

5 GOLDEN RULES OF GENEALOGY

- **#1** Leave no stone unturned, unless it is a headstone.
- #2 Handwriting legibility is inversely proportional to a documents importance.
- #3 The further away a cemetery or library is, the more awkward the opening hours will be.
- #4 The relative you most need to talk with is the one whose funeral you are currently attending.
- **#5** Wherever you find two or more siblings, there also will you find two or more surname spellings.



If you have not joined the DCGS for 2022, don't delay-join today! (This will be the last newsletter you will receive if you do not

join.) A membership form is enclosed in this newsletter.



"Defiance In the Beginning" A DCGS Program - June 27 with Rich Rozevink

At the June 27th chapter meeting Rich Rozevink will highlight the early history of the City of Defiance. The timing is very fitting since next year will be the city's bicentennial 1823 -2023.

Rich noted that Defiance was platted by Horace Phillips & Benjamin Leavell in November 1822. The town plat then was registered in Wood County in 1823.



Jazz It Up, the 2022 OGS Conference, will be held April 27-30, 2022, at Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio. Nationallyknown and local speakers will present topics

to enjoy and to learn from. Topics covered will include the Jazz Age, prohibition, temperance societies, immigration with a focus on Eastern and Southern Europe, ethnic social clubs, and census records, with an eye toward the upcoming 1950 US Census

A virtual option includes live-streaming of the Thursday Keynote session and one pre-selected session each hour Thursday, Friday and Saturday..

For registration and/or for more information, go to www.ogsconference.org/registration.



Genealogy Center's February 2022 Programs

Join us for another month of free, virtual programs! Be

sure, however, to sign up for the courses.

February 8, 2022, 2:30 p.m. EST "Introducing the 1921 Census of England & Wales" with Jen Baldwin - https://acpl.libnet.info/event/6109977

February 10, 2022, 6:30 p.m. EST "City Directories: More than Basic Facts" with Melissa Tennant - https://acpl.libnet.info/event/6111750

February 15, 2022, 2:30 p.m. EST "Discover your Family Story at the RI State Archives" with Rich Hite & Ashley Selima - https://acpl.libnet.info/event/6110836

February 17, 2022, 6:30 p.m. EST "Fort Wayne's African American Founders—Part 3" with the African American Genealogical Society of Fort Wayne - https://acpl.libnet.info/event/6110907

February 22, 2022, 2:30 p.m. EST "Finding Periodical Articles About Your Geographic Area of Interest Using PERSI" with Curt Witcher - https://acpl.libnet.info/event/6137001

February 24, 2022, 6:30 p.m. EST "The Voice of the People: African Americans in the Early 20th Century" with Tim Pinnick - https://acpl.libnet.info/event/6110940

To subscribe to "Genealogy Gems," use your browser to go to the website: www. GenealogyCener.org. Scroll to the bottom, click on E-zine, and fill out the form. You will be notified with a confirmation email.

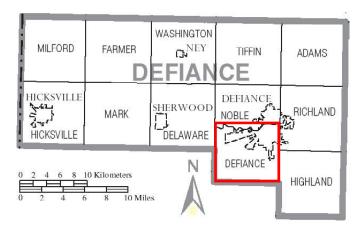


Family Search Announces FREE, Online Learning Opportunities

RootsTech is sponsoring the World's Largest
Family History Conference
100% Virtual, 100% Free.
3–5 March 2022
Sign up for RootsTech so you can enjoy:
Inspiring keynote speakers
Unlimited access to over 1,500 sessions

Expo Hall with companies from around the world
Playlists, chat, and much more

Sign up at Rootstech.org



Defiance Township

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

Located in the southeastern part of the county, Defiance Township borders the following other townships:

Noble Township - north Richland Township - northeast Highland Township - southeast Emerald Township, Paulding County - south Auglaize Township, Paulding County - SW Delaware Township - northwest

The Maumee River forms a portion of the northern boundary of the township. It is the only Defiance Township statewide

Early Voters

The following is the list of voters from In October 1845 shortly after the creation of Defiance County.

John H. Kiser, William Bridenbaugh, John M. Stilwill, Benjamin Brnbacher, John P. Downs, Enos P. Wiley, Rinaldo Evans, Samuel S. Case, Reason Wells, William Billinger, John Drake, J. Rude, Raniel Swinehart, E. C. Case, Sereno Lyman, Brice Hilton, G. W. Evans, H. P. Rice, Samuel Blackman, C. M. Lambert, P. Bellinger, V. Sellinger, James B. Heatley, Anson Holoway,

William Karr, William S. Langdon, F. F. Stevens, Elias Brenner, Elias Churchman, John Blair, William Lewis, James K. Burdge, Joseph T. Clark, Calvin L. Noble, Oliver W. Sawyer, Charles V. Royce, F. Bridenbaugh, Henry Van Wormer, Reuben Whitehead, John Kniss, John Stow, Amos Stoddard, William B. Warren, James W. Wilev. Amos Zellers, David McKellyss, William A. Brown, John Hazeltine, Lyman Langdon, Stphen Kent, William Carter, William Lyman, N. Hopkins, Joseph P. Ayers, Abraham Landis, Henry Allshouse, Jacob Braninger, B. B. Southworth, George Anderson, William Travis, Obadiah Welch, Joseph Webb, Ephraim Webb, Thomas D. Farine, Jacob Teats, Jacob Kniss, James Herrn, P. McCanley, John J. Kuhn, David L. Oliver, Edwin Phelps, I. P. E. Wheldon, James Partee, C. J. Freer, Solomon Stoner, Reuben Strait, Jonas Colby, Casper Sway, John Lee, Walter Davis, J. G. Worts, William Semans, J. G. Woodward, Timothy Fitzpatrick, Perin Fay, Horace Sessions, M. P. Bell, Timothy Dame, John Durkin, Michael Herrn, E. Kinkade, Thomas Warren, John Bridenbaugh, A. Schooly, F. J. McDowell, P. M. Dodd, Jacob Olinger, Levi Rider, Peter Bridenbaugh, William Rider, John Wells, A. L. Downs, Solomon Potter, F. A. Koons, Peter Zellers, M. Thrall, Ezra Hilton, Henry Donley, James Hudson, Sylvester Blackman, John Tuttle, Andrew Master, Benjamin Hilton, John Skeen, William C. Holgate, Isaac Hoover, William Teats, William Edwards, Thomas Lewis, S. H. Greenler, John Terry, Aaron Bixley, Henry Varnemann, D. Graper, James S. Greer, William Barton, John Karnes, J. Allen, Hugh L. Kerr, Lewis Bixby, James Oden, Henry Gray, James Elkins, Abraham Wells, A. Hudson, Thomas Clark, F. Pool, Henry WI Clark, John Winfield, James T. Jolly, J. Edings, M. B. Widmer, James A Partee, Jeremiah Andrews, John Shirley, George Bowden, Norman King, Robert Heatley, Z. H. David, Levi Donley, Richard Hilton, C. G. Andrews, David Travis, Henry C. Bouton, Adam Hall, Emory Houghton, Elias Shirley, W. A. Haller, John Lehman, Charles Speaker, Stephen Karnes, John White, John McCally, John Partee, Lewis Kerr, George Smith, E. R. Thacker, John Garlock

Jacob J. Greene, John Partee, and William S. Langdon - Judges; Mattin Thrall and Henry C. Bouton - Clerks.

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As with the other townships in the *History of Defiance County 1883*, selected reminiscences of early settlers in Defiance Township can be found *beginning on Page 204*

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Julia A. Kiser	210	Eliza Brubaker	234
Sophia Downs	211	John Lawrence Scott	234
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Hannah McFarlan	211	Abijah John Miller	235
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Daniel H. Killey	223	Joseph I. Levi	248
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Peter Schlosser	224	John Rowe	249
Lay Whitney Richardson	225	Christian L. Geiger	249
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Joseph Ralston

Adam Wilhelm

William A. Brown

William B. Stow, Rev.

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Jesse Hilton 252 Livingston E. Beardsley 253 Christian Harley 253

Weird
History
of
Defiance Co.







The Weird History of Defiance Google Map showcases ten fun or ghoulish stories from around Defiance County. It may be snowy weather but perhaps you might like to plan a tour around Defiance County to see some of the :weird" or at least visit the sites where these events took place.

The driving tour was developed by the Defiance Public Library in July 2020. To get the online site, Google "Weird History of Defiance County"

<u>The brief sketches included are the following:</u>

Haunted Library
The Defiance Slasher
Defiance County Jail Ghost
Human Fly
Defiance City Zoo
Train wreck of 1945
Preston Island Park
Werewolf Sighting
John Dillinger visits Defiance
Schooley Lock
Spiritualist Camp
An Exhumation for \$40
Hicksville Broadway Actress
Amelia Swilley Bingham

Four of the events are the following: **John Dillinger Visits Defiance**

In the summer of 1933, notorious gangster John Dillinger visited Defiance with his sidekick Homer V. Van Meter. They were in Defiance to visit Van Meter's aunt who resided at 1000 Wilhelm St.. The late Jack Palmer wrote a great article about this visit in the October 13, 2011 Crescent News (you can view article above). Read more about Homer V. Van Meter and his ties to Defiance County on the Defiance County Genealogical Society's blog: http://defiancecountyohiogenealogy.blogspot.com/2015/

defiancecountyohiogenealogy.blogspot.com/2015/04/the-not-so-notorious-homer-l-van-meter.htmlohn Dillinger Visits Defiance

An Exhumation for \$40

Salome Nicely, a veteran of the Confederate Army, lost a leg during a battle and lived the remainder of his life with a wooden leg. This wooden leg had a pocket in which he stored his money. After Salome passed and was buried, a relative remembered about this hidden pocket and had Salome's body exhumed and the pocket checked for cash. \$40 was found. The money was given to the family and Salome's body was reburied. Salome is buried in Moats Cemetery.

The Defiance Slasher

In 1934, 7 women were attacked by an unknown person, who quickly became known as the Defiance Slasher. The 5th victim, Miss Mansfield, was attacked near the library while she and her friends were on their way to study. Read more about this on the Defiance Country Genealogical Society's blog: http://defiancecountyohiogenealogy.blogspot.com/2019/07/the-defiance-slasher-victim-5.html

Spiritualist Camp

In the late 1800s, approximately 20 to 25% of people in and around Sherwood were spiritualists. In the mid 1900s, many of these individuals purchased 32 acres to house a spiritualist camp. The auditorium that still stands on this land was built in 1911. Also during this time, the fountain for which the current park is named was constructed. People thought the sulfur water from this fountain had many curative properties, so the water was bottled and used for bathing. The fountain has since been capped. For more information, visit the Sherwood Village website: http://www.sherwoodohio.villagegovt.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5682

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Built in 1826 this brick building was the fist courthouse located in the City of Defiance which until 1845 was in Williams County.

The photo is from the Edward S. Bronson collection. The photo is dated 1910.

History of the Defiance County Courthouses

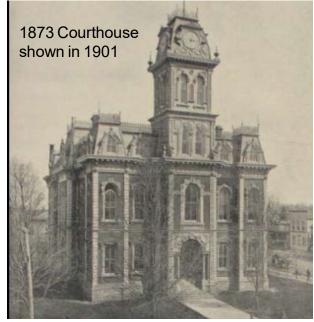
The courthouse shown above was located near the northeast corner of Wayne Avenue and Second Street in Defiance. Besides serving as a courthouse, it was also used as a religious meeting house, a school and finally as a private residence until it was demolished in 1913 to make way for the Defiance Post Office.

The 1845 courthouse was designed by John Bostata. According to some histories. Defiance's This courthouse was a Federal-Style building. Its simple facade had two stories and large rectangular windows. According to various histories, the building quickly became too small as this area of Ohio experienced nearly exponential population growth due to the canal and, later, railroad commerce.

In 1845, City of Defiance became the county seat of Defiance County because of its central location in the county after the 1845 adjustments to the county lines. Portion of lands were taken from Williams and Paulding Counties to form the boundaries of the new county.

Fremont architect J.C. Johnson constructed the Defiance County courthouse in 1873. Although the style is eclectic, it consists mainly of Second Empire and Tuscan Villa styles. The original building, shown here around 1901, included a 125-foot clock tower.

In the 1950s it was decided to remove the third floor mansard roof portion of the design because of safety concerns. The current courthouse is a three-story building. Some of the original decora-





tive stone elements still line the facade, but once again the third floor is topped with a cupola echoing the 1873 courthouse facade.

Moats Ford Dealership iin Sherwood - 1916



An Old Building Has New Life

After celebrating 100 years as a Ford dealership in Sherwood, the building sat empty until Mickey and Anita Schwarzbek rescued it. Mickey tells the story of the building's drastically new purpose.

"After purchasing the 1916 brick building in downtown Sherwood, we noticed that we would frequently see cars stop along the railroad tracks, and people would sit and watch for the trains. That's when we decided, as a family, that we should open a restaurant that included a railroad theme inside and an outside patio for people who want to sit and "train watch."

On the Inside of our restaurant you will find our bar is uniquely shaped like a train with a firepit on the smokestack. You will also find some railroad memorabilia scattered throughout, and many Ohio railroad pictures-- some were even photographed right here in Sherwood. Outside, we have our windows decorated with the different railroad lines that have run through Ohio and some of the local towns that had a train depot along its route."







The remodeled 1916 building is now the Iron Horse Brew.

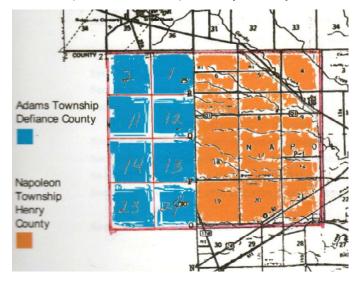


The restaurant/pub pays homage to the history and the importance of the railways in Sherwood. The B & O still runs east and west along the restaurant. In earlier times Cincinnati Northern tracks ran to the north and south.

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The Hanover Settlement

Adams Township - Defiance County Napoleon Township - Henry County



In the mid to late 1800s, people in many parts of the world immigrated to the United States. Some, especially in Ireland- fled due to crop failure. Others came due to and job shortages, rising taxes. Many came to the U. S. because it was perceived as the land of economic opportunity. Others came seeking personal freedom or relief from political and religious persecution, and nearly 12 million immigrants arrived in the United States between 1870 and 1900. During the 1870s and 1880s, the vast majority of these people were from Germany, Ireland, and England - the principal sources of immigration before the Civil War.

For many German farmers, the desire for ownership of farming land drove families to leave their homeland. Germany followed the feudal principle of primogeniture-- that is, the first born son inherited all the land and property from the father. Younger sons who remained on farm lands worked as "hauslings" or "cottagers" for the rest of their lives. They could only become self-supporting by excelling at a trade. The only way to gain farm land of their own was to marry a widow or marry a daughter of a framer where there was no male heir.

Many immigrants to the Hanover Settlement in the 1840s and early 1850s were former "hausling" farmers. Often groups of immigrants who were neighbors in Germany became neighbors in America and so it was with the Hanover

Settlement in the Adams and Napoleon Townships. The area identified as Hanover in Germany during this migration period was roughly the size of 1/3 of Ohio and many lived in the rural areas.

For those who had ancestors settling in this area, one should thank Lucille Panning Sunderman who compiled The Hanover Settlement book. A great importance for reference is the data base of surnames compiled from various sources-- Family Bibles and histories, local newspapers with local news and obituaries, church records (primarily Lutheran), censuses, and early land maps.

One section of The Hanover Settlement contains an alphabetical listing of the emigrant's surname at birth, the surname of the spouse, the villages of birth and the year of birth. What a wonderful resource for those seeking information about their ancestors!

Section 5 also provides great help to find the villages from which the ancestors came. Listed are the towns or villages from the larger districts found in the Hanover region

Another section contains names from the three prominent German parishes. A data base contains baptisms, confirmations, death and burials, and marriages.

Other sections contain census records from 1850 noting names, ages, occupations, property values, and birthplaces. Ownership maps have been created from tax records of the previous years of 1855 and 1856. There is also a listing of patent deeds with locations, number of acres, and date the deeds were recorded.

Section 14 lists the Lutheran Churches of Northwest Ohio and their dates of organization.

Issues of Der Deutsche Demokrat from 1900-1940 are available on Microfilm from the German Lutheran Heritage Society.

Unfortunately, there seem to be few copies of this book available. If you have a specific question, you may contact the DCGS chapter or the German Lutheran Heritage Society (located near Archbold, Ohio) at http://germanlutheranheritage.org.

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Find us on social media!

defiance public library system

Defiance • Sherwood • Hicksville



www.defiancelibrary.org/resources/genealogy

Online Genealogy Resources available from the Defiance Public Library

Check out the online genealogy resources available at the DPLS using your DPLS card. Most resources allow instant access with just a click of the mouse!

Newspaper Archive

One of the world's best resources for historical and genealogical information. Access more than 400 years of family history, small-town events, world news and more.

Chronicling America

Chronicling America provides free online access to more than 17 million digitized historic newspaper pages covering 1789-1963.

Ancestry: Library Edition

U. S. Census records; military records; court, land and probate records; vital and church records; directories; petitions for naturalization; passenger lists and more. IN LIBRARY ONLY.

Heritage Quest

Comprehensive treasury of American genealogical sources—rich in unique primary sources, local and family histories, convenient research guides, interactive census maps, and more.

Defiance County Veterans Directory

A collection of Defiance County veterans who

served in local militias, state national guards units, federal branches of service, active duty or reserve.

Ohio Obituary Index

An index to over 3,500,000 obituaries, death & marriage notices & other sources from Ohio from the 1810s to the present day. Actual obits may be ordered from over 60 partner libraries.

African American Heritage

This collection was created to develop a comprehensive mix of resources, records, and tools specifically pertaining to African Americans.

Fold3

Access to military records, including the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served.

Ohio Memory Project

https://www.ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p15005coll20

This included the Bronson photographs-- photos of Defiance area 1900-1940, the Hoffman family photograph collection from the early 1900s, and the Defiance Oral History project with the accounts of Defiance residents from the 1970s through 2000

DPLS Digial Archives

Defiance County Yearbook Collection - The Defiance Public Library System houses many local yearbooks from area schools and has digitized much of their historic collection for you to browse and search. Yearbooks ranging from graduating years 1906 to 1950 ainclude schools from the Farmer, Hicksville, Jewell, Delaware, Highland, Sherwood, and Mark townships. This is a searchable data base.

he Historic Homes of Defiance Calendar Col-

lection - Since 2001 the Historic Homes of Defiance has published a monthly calendar featuring original pen and ink drawings of area historic homes and buildings. The full collection has been scanned and digitized for viewing by the public.

<u>Defiance County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society</u> <u>Membership Form for 2022 Year</u>

Please **print or type and** send with check made **payable to DCGS**. **Send to:** Defiance County Chapter OGS, PO Box 7006, Defiance, OH 43512

Membership year is January 1 through December 31, annual \$15.00 per person, \$18.00 for family. If you need to update your 5 generation charts, please return a five generation chart, sign and date the form giving permission to publish in the newsletter.

First Name	Last Name	
Maiden Name	Spouse Name	
Address		
CityS	State	
Zip code	Phone # ()	
E-mail address	Birthdate	
New Member or Renewal	Single or Family	
Donation to DCGS for \$ Sp	ecified Intention (please indi	cate)
**Would you prefer your newsle printing and postage costs, please Member of First Families of Defian Your surnames in Defiance County:	e add \$5.00 to your member ace County, Yes No (
Program Suggetions:		
What services/support would you be Officer/Trustee, Computer data entradisplays, Indexing, Telephone/callin	e willing to offer DCGS? (CI ry, Transcribing records, Proo ag, Fundraising, First Families	
publications.	, 1	•
Office use only: Date Pd C	ck. # Cash Me	embership #Card sent