

# Yesteryears' Trails



Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Defiance County  
Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society  
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Spring 2016

Vol. XXXV

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 3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the St. John UCC at 950 Webster Street.

### Coming Chapter Programs

#### Monday, March 28

Dan Hasch - History of Farmer Center in Farmer Township

#### Monday, April 25

History of Schaffer Funeral Home and Its Predecessors

#### Monday, May 23 and Monday, June 27 TBA

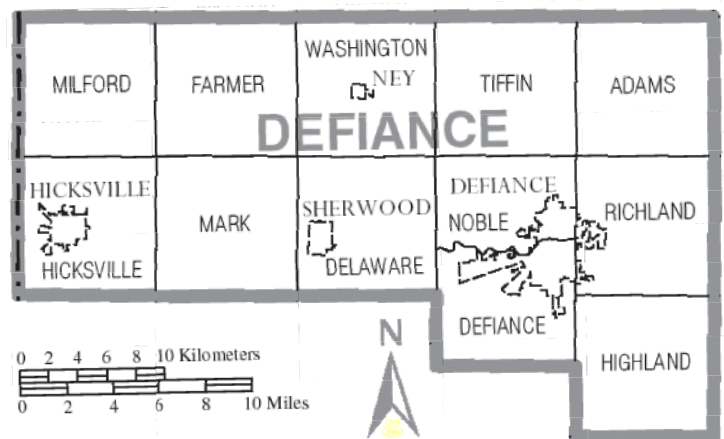
#### Monday, July 25 Visit to Jones Cabin

Meet at St. John UCC at 6:00 for a trip to the Jones log cabin owned by the Eis family.

**If driving to the cabin, take Rt. 281 east (about 1 mile into Henry Co.). Turn right (south) onto Road 18; the cabin is located about a mile on the right.**

## Table of Contents

Chapter Programs	1
Chapter Contact Information	2
Chapter News	2
Early Days in the Maumee Valley	5
Historical Tales of the Maumee Valley	6
"Upper Case" Historical Defiance	7
OGS News and Websites	8
New Structures in Defiance Co. 1885	9
Death of Hector Robert Major	10
Shirley Family Comes to Defiance	11
Death by Abortion	12



**Have you renewed for 2016? A membership form is at the end of this newsletter.  
Don't delay-- renew today!**

### Officers and Trustees

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Gladys Donson

Pat Wise

Dianne Kline

### 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



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](http://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](mailto: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 \$12.00 for an individual and \$15.00 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](http://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 1916 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.

## **DCGS Chapter News**

### **January Board Minutes**

The Defiance County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society board met at 2:00 p. m.. at the St. John UCC on Thursday, January 21st . The balance as of December 31st was as follows: \$1578.64 in the general fund, 779.41 in the memorials and acquisition fund, \$1000 in the microfilm/digitalization fund, and 52.01 in the veterans memorial fund for a balance of \$3400.06.

Dianne Kline reported that the blog site has had over 4000 hits.

Under publications, Dianne noted that she has finished compiling the birth records. She raised the question of whether these records (five volumes) might be put on the web site, as well as, or in place of, putting them into book form. Ideas mentioned were printing books only on demand as well as having limited access online to members only. A final decision was tabled until the April board meeting.

The death of longtime member Rogel Brown, Sr., was recognized. A note of condolence will be sent as well as noting that an item will be placed in the Defiance Public Library in his name.

Lavina Boesling, treasurer, presented a tentative 2016 budget to the board. After reviewing each line item, the board created a 2016 budget in line with expenditures from 2015.

Joanne Allison offered the use of the DVD "A Forgotten Tragedy" created by Rich Rozevink as a backup for a month in which we are found without a speaker. It is the story of the sinking of the Sultana.

Lavina note that she had made arrangements with the Eis family to visit the Jones log cabin the fourth Monday of July, time yet to be decided. The board suggested donating \$50 to them in lieu of our speakers' fee.

The Sherwood Library has requested a genealogy help session for one of the Saturdays in October. Cecelia will also check with the Defiance Library to see if a

help session might be held there.

Dianne Kline move to raise the yearly donation for the use of the St. John UCC to \$500. Lavina seconded the motion which was approved.

### **January Chapter Meeting**

Thirty-two members and guests were present for the January 2016 chapter meeting. President Brown reminded members to renew their memberships for 2016 as only twenty-nine had joined for the year. Cecelia also reminded members that a corresponding secretary is still needed as well as an auditing committee.

Chapter member Pat Wise was the presenter for the evening. Her talk centered on twelve photos she had been given of the building of the Power Dam in 1911. The Power Dam, located on the Auglaize River in southern Defiance County, celebrated its 100th birthday in 2011. The dam and power plant were built in 1911-12 by the Ambursen Hydraulic Construction Co. of Boston, Mass. The cost of the project was \$500,000. The company financing the project was the Auglaize Power Co., which planned to build a plant at Defiance that could generate 4,000 kilowatts per hour and later planned to build two smaller plants.

During the great flood of March 1913, the earthen embankment of the dam gave way gave way but the structure itself survived. Defiance did receive electricity from the dam before it was purchased by Toledo Edison, and it eventually closed down in 1962. The dam was later bought in 1996 by Bryan Municipal Utilities and now supplies power to Bryan. Several of the persons attending the presentation also were able to add stories and other information concerning the dam and its history.

### **February Board Meeting**

President Brown opened the DCGS board meeting at 3:00 p. m. at the St. John UCC. Minutes from the previous board and chapter meetings were reviewed. Treasurer Lavina Boesling presented the January financial report. As of January 31, there was a balance of \$3111.10 with the following breakdown: general fund 1246.68, memorials and acquisitions 812.41, microfilm reader fund 1000.00, and veterans funds 52.01. Dianne Kline

noted that there had been over 4700 hits to the chapter blog site. Cecelia noted that currently there are 59 members paid for 2016.

Next March will be the 40th anniversary of the chapter. Ideas were presented as how to celebrate the milestone: having a cake, honoring chapter members, having a booklet listing all officers from 1997- present along with the charter members, having charter members tell of highlights during their years, etc. It was also noted that the scrapbooks need updating.

Dianne Kline moved that the Friends of the Defiance Library be given \$20 and the Sherwood and Hicksville Libraries \$10. Joanne Allison seconded the motion which passed.

The visit to the Jones cabin has been finalized. The date and time will be July 25 at 6:15 p. m.. The log cabin is located off of Rt. 281 (about 1 mile into Henry County) with a right turn (South) onto Road 18; it is locate about a mile on the right.

### **February Chapter Meeting**

President Brown noted that a query had come to the chapter for information on the following families from Tiffin Township: McCally, Kuhn, and Whisler.

Chapter member Mary Williams spoke on Mayflower descendants. The Mayflower passengers are remembered due to their fascinating stories: the flight to the Netherlands for religious freedom, the harrowing voyage to the new world, the help of the natives to survive the first winter, the celebration of Thanksgiving with the natives and the love triangle of John Alden, Myles Standish, and Priscilla Mullins. Some of the passengers also established the Mayflower Compact, the first written framework of government established in America.

On board the Mayflower were two groups the Saints (later known to us as the Pilgrims) and the Strangers-those others who came for economic freedom. The "strangers" were entrepreneurs, indentured servants, or those fleeing from poverty or criminal pasts in England.

Presently there are about 35 million Americans who are descended from the original Mayflower passengers. Seven presidents are descendants and well as other no-

tables such as Marilyn Monroe, Clint Eastwood, Katherine Hepburn, Humphrey Bogart, Orsen Wells, and Dick VanDyke who has blood ties with six Mayflower passengers, and many others.

Descendants of the Mayflower passengers are eligible to join the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. The society will research an applicant's possible lineage for \$20 to see if one possibly qualifies. The applicant then must submit the proper genealogical proof to the society for acceptance.

### **March Board Meeting**

The February treasurer's report showed a balance of \$3382.60 in the checking account distributed as follows: general fund, 1487.68; memorials and acquisitions 842.91; microfilm reader fund 1000.00; veterans' memorial account 52.01.

Cecelia noted that there are currently 66 members. Dianne Kline announced that the blog has had over 5500 hits. Dianne has the list of city directories that Rita Relue had compiled for rebinding. Cecelia will check with the library to see if more are in need of rebinding.

Added to the discussion concerning the March 2017 celebration of the chapter's 40th anniversary was the idea that something small would be done at each meeting in 2017 with the big celebration in March. Cecelia will inquire of the Defiance Public Library is there is a spot for a display for the month of March.

Dianne Kline noted that she has completed obituaries from the Defiance Democrat from 1880 to January 920. Also obituaries for the war years of 1940-1945 are complete. Obituaries from other years will be put on hold to see if the Defiance Public Library is awarded a grant to digitalize Defiance newspapers. Notification of acceptance of the grant should announced the end of April.

Dianne raised the possibility of posting out of state births (delayed recording of births) which were found among Defiance County birth records.

Cecelia has taken Defiance Riverside mausoleum records which had been stored at Auglaize Village to the caretakers of the cemetery and is encouraging the sexton to put Riverside Cemetery tombstones on the Find a Grave web site.



## Dave Bennett's Corner From Dave's Files- Early County History

Defiance Democrat  
July 24, 1912, page 2

### EARLY DAYS IN THE MAUMEE VALLEY

*Mr. U. G. FIGLEY is writing a series of articles for the Bryan Press concerning life among the early white settlers of the Maumee Valley. The article that appears in this week's issue of the Bryan paper concerns Defiance to such an extent that the Crescent-News takes the liberty to reproduce it. This article is as follows:*

"To continue and to resume," as Mrs. Josiah ALLEN would say, I have been refreshing my memory of what I had heard and read of early days, sixty to eighty years ago, by a talk with my parents, my father coming to Defiance county (then a part of Williams) from Crawford County in March 1841, and mother from the same county in 1844. They say that many of the old settlers had dirt floors in their houses, some had large sections of bark laid down for flooring and every other day, the pieces were turned over, as they naturally would bend same as a board lying in the sun would warp. Some of the cabins were covered and sided with slabs of bark and sheeted inside with the same. Cupboards were made by pinning boards on long wooden pins fitted into logs of the wall, and a curtain hung over them. For years barns were built of logs and the first frame barns fastened on the wooded pins.

If the farmer ground his own meal, wheat being very scarce indeed at times, he would take a suitable sized stump, burn and chisel it out to his taste for the mortar, and for a pestle, fasten a small maul to the top of a convenient sapling and by jerking the hand up and down thus would pound corn into meal. A very large log near a house has been known to have served several purposes. A wash tub was made, same as mortar, except an auger hold led from the bottom to drain the water out. Close by a small mortar was made to use as a wash basin.

Everybody made home made beer almost by the

barrel, for medical purposes, generally putting in whiskey to prevent souring, although yeast and hops were used in fermenting principally.

### Natural Medicines

Among the herbs and barks and roots used, I remember these being named: golden seal, yellow puccoon, dandelion, dock, sarsaparilla, sassafras, blood root, prickly ash, wild cherry ginseng, snake root, mint and some others I do not remember. A small swig of this beer each morning kept each person in fine order. Doctors were pretty scarce and old women were usually called whenever anything serious turned up, even when doctors were handy, for some of the medical gentlemen used horse medicine on their patients, if other stuff wasn't handy, and some were too poor to use calomel, to the extent of people loosing their teeth or part of their faces from its drastic effects.

### Bartering

Markets were slow affairs sixty-five years or so ago, trading what one did not want for what he did want, to the extent of making several swaps before the right thing was secured because money was scarce with merchants, a sort of reciprocity having control of things. To sell wheat after 1849 John TUTTLE had charge of most of the grain business besides dealing in fur and hides, having built a large warehouse on the north side of the Maumee River at Defiance. Tuttle weighed the wheat, gave the man a bill of it and at regular intervals shipped by canal and river to Buffalo or even further, and when his cargo was sold, the cash was divided among his customers, according to their bill, except of course, his commission for selling.

A half Indian named Peter CLARK was for many years the purchaser of the furs and hides bought by Tuttle and others. If a man absolutely had to have money to pay his taxes and some other debt, he would sell something along these lines to Tuttle to get the money. Tuttle was the old standby for a good many years in an all around business way, keeping nearly everything a man would likely need, and would try to help him out if it was possible, not infrequently losing himself in the end to do so.

It was customary for storekeepers to have an open barrel of whiskey with a convenient tin cup for their customers to help themselves, paying no attention to how much a person drank except when they noticed they made

too many trips to the back of the store, when a hint would warn him to let up for awhile.

### Cost of Items

Eggs sold for 3 or 4 cents a dozen, dressed chickens 4 cents a pound, 4 or 5 cents for butter, a dressed wild turkey would sell for 50 cents, corn was 13 cents a bushel, wheat 45 cents, oats 12 cents, potatoes had no particular sale. Horses that would now sell for \$200 to \$250 would then bring \$50 to \$60. Good milk cows were sold as high as \$13. A broken two year old steer brought \$11 and a three year old team of oxen would sell for \$45.

### Wages

Wages were about 50 cents a day. In harvest a grain cutter got five shillings, if he cradled enough for two to bind, he got \$1.00. There was no demand for clover seed or hay, though timothy sold as high as \$3 per ton. Dressed pork sold at from 2 ½ to 4 cents a pound. Coffee had different prices from 10 to 50 cents a pound. Calico was 12 to 25 cents a yard. Gingham 20 cents to 25 cents a yard.

### Bounty for Wolf Scalps

Just compare that strenuous proclamation with the law passed by the Ohio Legislature to pay a bounty of \$3 to \$5 on wolf scalps, on production of the scalp and affidavit that the holder had killed the owner of the scalp. Scalp money helped many old settlers to pay their taxes and family living expenses. Here is a sample affidavit filed with the much office John EVANS, Clerk, etc. of State of Ohio, Williams County:

“I do solemnly swear in the presents of God that the two scalps now produced by me are the scalps of wolves taken and killed by me in this county within twenty days last past and I verily believe the same to have been over the age of six months and I have not spared the life of any she wolf in my power to kill with a design to increase the breed. April 27, 1825 John DELONG.”

In 1825 and 1826 the following names are on the lists of those drawing bounty on wolf scalps, several filed two affidavits, some three and John OLIVER, seven, representing all told a nice little wad of money the state paid, enterprising riflemen to cut down the wolf - Thomas DRIVER, Isaac RICE, John OLIVER, David TRAVIS, Augustus MERITHEEN, Wm. GRA-

HAM, James PELTIER, J. HIVELY, George WERITHEEN, Eli MARKLEY, Dayton RILY, Gavin W. HAMILTON, John DELONG, Elias WALDON, Thomas HIVELY, Francis BLAIR, John HUDSON, David PERDUE, Edwin SCRIBNER.

I have heard somewhere of an old settler who, attacked by wolves, defended himself by grabbing a wolf by the legs and using it as a club to knock down the rest till he had used up several that way and managed to get up a tree where he stayed until daylight when he was found by a neighbor. Unfortunately, I have forgotten all but the main features of the story I heard probably forty years ago.”

U. G. FIGLEY

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## HISTORICAL TALES OF THE MAUMEE VALLEY

### Defiance Democrat – June 12, 1912

*The Bryan Press recently had two articles which are of great interest to Defiance. One is by U. G. FIGLEY of Washington township and tells of the first court house of Defiance county and another is by “Upper Case,” a writer in the Press and deals with Historical Defiance.*

### Historic Tales from U. G. Figley

The article from the pen of Mr. Figley is as follows:

I was interested in “Upper Case’s” article in last weeks Press in which he spoke of the organization of Defiance County in 1845 from parts of other counties and in which he says the old Williams County court house at Defiance was standing as late as 1873, and was used as residence by attorney George P. HARDY.

### The Old Defiance Court House

I do not care to go into any detail of the organization of Defiance County, but I wish to tell as best I can something about that old court house. Common Pleas Court in Williams County was held in a warehouse owned by Benjamin LEAVELL on the Maumee River bank from the organization of the county in 1825 till 1828, when it was moved into a moderate sized two story brick building erected for the purpose on Wayne Street, one lot north of Second Street. If I am correct in

my information, court was held in this building still after Defiance County was organized in 1845, when it was sold by the county commissioners. It was a \$7,500 brick court house having been built on the site of the present court house; the later which was finished about 1873. Judges holding court in the old court house were Ebenezer LANE, afterward an Ohio Supreme Judge, David HIGGINS, Ozias BOWEN, Emory D. POTTER, Myron J. TILDEN and Patrick G. GOODE.

### **Waite - a later U.S. Supreme Court Justice- Spoke**

In this old building, Morrison Remick WAITE, afterward Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1874 – 1888, made his maiden speech as a lawyer, having been admitted to the bar about 1840 when a resident of Maumee, Ohio, and was then about twenty five years old.

### **Home of Henry Hardy**

For many years this old brick house was the family dwelling of the Honorable Henry HARDY and in which he passed to the courts above, June 9, 1910, when upwards of eighty years of age. This old house faces the west and about two or three steps from the sidewalk, stands sidewise to the street; and the door on that side of the house led into Mr. Hardy's library or sitting room. Two doors opened into bedrooms on the south end. The stairway is in the northwest corner of the sitting room. Upstairs are three bedrooms. On the east side of the house is or was a frame addition built, I presume, by Mr. Hardy, and used as a kitchen, dining room and wash house.

Mr. Hardy, for many years the occupant of this house, was born in Troy, N.Y., in 1831, and came to Ohio when a boy, learned tailoring with a brother, and about 1850 came to Defiance county and located on a farm in Delaware township. He was elected County Recorder in 1857, serving six years, and during this time was elected Mayor of Defiance, and in 1860 was admitted to the practice of law. He was elected Prosecuting Attorney at the close of his recordership, and served four years. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1874 and 1878, representing Defiance and Paulding counties. These are the most important offices he held. He was a member of secret fraternal organizations, and was in law practice in Defiance from 1860 till a short time before his death. I have visited him often in his home and found him a fine conversationalist and good entertainer. His oldest son, is, I believe, practicing law in Paulding

(George P. HARDY) and another son, John, is a telegrapher in the far west, I think in New Mexico. A daughter, Mary, was for many years a teacher in the Defiance schools, cared for him in his declining years and yet makes her home in Defiance. His youngest daughter, Henrietta, is Mrs. W. C. HETH, of Montpelier.

### **Building of Post Office on Land**

After Mr. Hardy's death, a bill having been introduced into Congress by Representative ANSBERRY to erect a \$60,000 post office building in Defiance, it was definitely decided that the proposed building be erected on this Hardy property and the site of the old Presbyterian church, joining it on the south, and these two properties were therefore sold to the government for that purpose. The Hardy house, this old brick court house, was vacated, and up to date is still standing, waiting for the word to be given to break ground for the erection of the new post office building when it will go the way all old landmarks must inevitably sometime go. This, then, is the story of the old court house.

### **"Upper Case" Writes of Historical Defiance**

The article written by "Upper Case" is as follows:

Mrs. Neighbor loves to converse about the days when she was young and full of fun, vigor and ability. She dwells with great pleasure upon the scenes that still linger in her memory with as much freshness as if occurring yesterday. She has been journeying among the roses and thorns of this life for eight decades and four years; she first saw the sun peeping through the small window in a log cabin in the southern portion of Williams county when the county was larger than it is at the present day; she was born in that part that entered into the formation of Defiance County in 1845.

### **Ohio and Michigan War**

She remembers of hearing people discussing the boundary question of Ohio and Michigan, which brought forth an army from each side of the disputed territory in 1835. This dispute is known in history as the Ohio and Michigan War. This was a smokeless war, a war in which there was not a shot fired, a soldier wounded or killed in either army. History, ancient or modern, fails to record a war of similar character. Governor LUCAS commanded the Ohio troops and Governor MASON of Michigan

commanded the Wolverine contingent.

### General Wayne's Troops

She remembers of playing in the deep woods not very far away from the Wooded Island in the Maumee river where in later years a bad element used to congregate on the Lord's Day and indulge in bad pastimes which were a disgrace to the Island. In her childish sports used to visit the old fort grounds where General WAYNE warred against the Indians...

She remembers of having seen the soldiers passing up one of the rivers on their way to participate in the war with Mexico. One or more boats conveying the troops stopped in Defiance longer than ordinary, and the band, composed of fife and drum, played "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and other airs, which enlivened the soldiers and everybody cheered. From the flag staff on the boat waved that proud emblem, the glorious Stars and Stripes. Troop after troop of soldiers went through here to engage in this unjust war.

### Fort Defiance

She says but little of the old Fort at the confluence of the Auglaize and Maumee rivers, was visible when she was a girl in the 30's. Only a trench or two and a few logs. The point at the fort gives a magnificent view of the rivers, the island, and all that ground that is historic; across to the other shore of the Maumee river stood the celebrated apple tree that stood there in the days when Defiance was an Indian town. In all parts of the site upon which the city stands were discovered the bones of Indians and especially in the region in close proximity to the fort ground. Strown on either side of the rivers, bones are discovered wherever the earth has been excavated. Many other reminders of the day when the Indians held full sway in this section, such as tomahawks, stone axes, flints and various instruments used by this race of people.

#### **??? Member Query: Baker-Clemens???**

Phyllis Toler is researching her great-great-aunt Elizabeth Baker Clemens and her family. Elizabeth was the sister of my Grandmother Mary Baker from Miamisburg, Montgomery Co., Ohio. Nicholas and Elizabeth had lots of children so hopefully there should be living relatives around Defiance.

Please respond to the chapter if you have helpful information.



Visit the  
Ohio  
Genealogy  
Website

**Upcoming summer sessions** at the Samuel D. Isaly Library in Bellville. All programs are free and open to the public.



Visit <http://www.ogs.org/events/summersessions.php> for more information.

**Annual OGS Conference** at Great Wolf Lodge, Mason, Ohio - April 28-30, 2016

**Tracking Your Ancestors**

For more information, see:

<http://www.ogsconference.org/>

#### **Chapter Programs**

Check out the OGS chapter programs being offered by OGS chapters.



Visit:

<http://www.ogs.org/events/index.php>

#### **Other OGS Resources**

Samuel D. Isaly Library - Online catalog  
Lineage Societies - First Families of Ohio, Century Families of Ohio, Settlers and Builders of Ohio, Society of Civil War Families, Society the Families of the Old Northwest Territory  
Civil War Center  
Journals  
Ohio Genealogy News  
Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly  
Free OGS Databases  
Lineage Societies  
Military  
OGS Indexes  
Florida Obituaries  
OGS Bible Records Index  
Ohio Cemetery Locations Index  
Ohio Obituary Index



## NEW STRUCTURES 1885

### *Defiance Democrat* *May 28, 1885*

*Following is a list of new structures in Defiance County as returned by the assessors for taxation this spring. (The article also contains the value of each structure, not included here.)*

#### Adams Township

Henry ARPS, barn  
Caroline BISHOP, barn  
John BARNES, house  
John LUTZ, barn  
William NAGEL, barn  
Charles NAGEL, barn

#### Defiance First Ward

William NESPITAL, brick add.  
G. N. COWEN, house  
W. H. POWELL, brick office  
MALLETT Bro., skating stad.  
S. T. SUTPHEN, dwelling

#### Defiance Second Ward

Cornelius FLANAGAN, impro.  
C. GEIGER, brick building  
C. W. KROTZ, dwelling  
Casper KUHL, dwelling

#### Defiance Third Ward

Samuel POTTERF, dwelling  
C. GEITWOLD, brick store  
E. N. LEWIS, dwelling  
Curtis HOLGATE, barn  
Ph. DAOUST, dwelling  
H. GERRET, dwelling  
I. W. RICHARDSON, dwelling  
Jos. GROSSELL, imp. on dwel.

#### Defiance Fourth Ward

Joseph LaFOUNTAIN, dwell.  
Joseph LERO, dwelling  
Frank RULF, dwelling  
Michael LERO, dwelling  
Thomas LEMING, dwell.

Jacob KILLION, dwelling  
Mary BALSKEY, dwelling  
Fred HEIDPRIEM, dwell.  
Maggie STEPHENS, dwell.  
Jacob MULLER, dwelling  
Elizabeth MILLER, dwelling  
John M. ADAMS, dwelling  
William COLLINS, dweilling  
John A. BUTZ, dwelling  
Frank KINGSBURY, dwell.  
GROWEG & SMITH, hay barn  
Bennett SMITH, barn  
Philip HAHN, barn

#### Defiance Fifth Ward

Susanna BROWN, addition  
A. DOLKE, addition  
William DUERK, house  
Louis EHLINGER, house  
Gilbert PORTER, addition  
R. H. GLEASON, house  
Rudolph KEMMING, house  
Joseph KLOSE, house  
Joseph LONG, house  
Jacob W. MYERS, house  
Frank J. MAINS, house  
Pauline RICHHOLT, house  
M. B. NIEVENS, house & barn  
F. A. SMITH, addition  
J. B. WEISENBURGER, barn  
Peter ZEIGLER, house  
E. W. McMILLEN, house

#### Defiance Sixth Ward

Henry DERIDER, house  
Thos. ENSIGN, add.  
George VOGEL, house  
ARBUCKLE & RYAN, improv.  
John TATE, cellar  
ORONIE (?) STARE Co. shed  
J. J. THOMAS, dwelling (2)  
L. M. LOOKER, dwelling  
G. GARDNER, improvement  
Benjamin GROSALIA, add.  
M. HUITH, improvement  
O. FINCH, frame dwelling  
Robert MOTHERWELL, impr.  
L. SPANGLER, addition

#### Defiance Township

S. L. WIEBLE, house  
T. A. ENDSLEY, house, barn  
J. A. PHILLIPS, house  
G. W. BALL, house  
SAUERS & STEPHENS, barn  
William NEWTON, barn  
Thomas LOVE, barn  
Wm. PHILLIPS, granery

#### Delaware Township

John KUHN, house  
J. C. OPENLANDER, house  
Joseph BLANCHARD, house  
Mary A. HUFFMAN, house  
F. W. LIMBAUGH, barn  
Nellie MOATS, barn

#### Farmer Township

Filsha THARP, house  
John STINGER, house  
James BEERBOWER, barn

#### Hicksville Township

B. F. CASEBEER, house  
Lewis ECK, barn  
Henry RODOCKER, barn  
August STRUBING, barn

#### Hicksville Special District

John L. BEVINGTON, house  
A.J. CROWE, house  
Chas. W. KROTZ, saloon  
C. F. KNIGHT, addition  
Jerry HEEFFER, house  
C. C. LEHMAN, house (2)  
Jno. MURPHY, house  
Dan MITCHELL, house  
Robert MANN, house  
Joseph MANN, house  
B. F. REINLER, house  
Sarah SOLLENBERGER, house  
Geo. SHEPARD, house  
WARNER & HART, house (2)  
Wash. A. SMITH, house  
Thomas CONNELLY, house  
C.A. OSWALT, house  
F. B. PERKY, house

A. P. EDGERTON, house (2)  
David PEEPER, house  
Enos KIMBLE, house (2)  
O. P. COBURN, house  
Melvia BORDEN, house (3)  
J. P. DICKENS, house  
Geo. W. SCOTT, house  
Jos. BUNNELL, house (4)  
Jasper SMITH, wagon shop  
Jno. W. WRIGHT, house

#### Highland Township

John CORTLAND, house  
Christ DECKROSC, house  
Gottlieb EBERLY, house  
Israel SCOTT, add to house  
Isaac SKIVER, house  
Samuel SMITH, crib  
Abraham GILTZ, barn  
Chas. M. MOSES barns (3)  
Daniel MYERS, barn  
Jacob W. MYERS, barn  
Frederick YEUTTER, barn

#### Mark Township

Jacob DEPLER, house  
Joseph MILLER, house  
Christ MILLER, house  
John F. MILLER, add to house  
Adam DULL, house  
Jacob YOUNG, house  
David SLATERY, house  
Amos CONLEY, house  
Felix HUBER, house  
Jesse EVANS, house  
George KYLE, house  
Randolph VOGELSONG, barn  
David HINCH, barn  
Christ MILLER Sr., barn  
John CULLER, barn  
Henry MARTIN, barn  
Joseph DAVIS, house & barn

#### Milford Township

James CONNOLLEY, house  
Ira HENDERSHOT, house  
Thomas F. BASSETT, house

#### Noble Township

J. W. CHAMBERLIN, house  
Jacob DICKMAN, house  
Joseph MONROE, house  
B. F. SOUTHWORTH, house  
Albert WEBER, house  
Charles KRETZ, house  
John F. DOWE, house  
S. P. ALWOOD, barn  
Ezra HILTON, barn  
Hannah GRUNER, barn  
Mike SCHLERET, barn  
Chas. KROTZ, barn

#### Richland Township

Elijah PATTON, barn  
Benjamin TAYLOR, barn  
John SPEEDHOLZ, barn  
John N. MYERS, barn  
J. W. DIETSCH, barn  
Joseph POEHL, barn  
J. J. FINN, dwelling  
C. F. SWITZER, dwelling  
Frank WEETH, dwelling  
John WILHELM, dwelling  
Robert OSMASON, dwelling

#### Tiffin Township

S. RETHMEL, house  
Joseph FREY, house  
D. C. GERBER, imp.on house  
William HALL, house  
Christ HAGEMAN, house  
William SCHLOSSER, house  
Fred SPEISER, house  
Chas. CHENEVENT, barn  
Mary GERBER, barn  
Frank HALL, barn  
N. KING improve on lots  
N. F. PARTEE, barn  
Gorman SILER, barn  
J. O. WISSLER, barn  
Max ZIPFEL, barn

#### Washington Township

Fred HAGGERMAN, house  
Sarah CUMMINS, house  
Sam MATTER, house

A.ROBESTEN, house  
J. B. SILER, house  
John WEBER, house  
Nicholas GREEN, barn  
Chas DENSE, barn  
Eliza HOFACKER, barn  
J. P. HUFFMAN, barn  
F. W. URY, barn

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#### **DEATH OF A FORMER DEFIANCE CITIZEN *Defiance Democrat* December 2, 1886**

*The following obituary notice of a former Defiance county citizen was handed us by Joseph RALSTON:*

“MAJOR – Hector Robert MAJOR was born near Bristol, England, January 23, 1806. He came to Canada at the age of 17, and to Defiance County, Ohio a few years later. He married Mary COLGAN January 1, 1835. They moved to Richland County, Ill. in 1855 and to Flora, Ill. in 1860. In August 1872, Sister Major died, leaving her husband and three children, Sarah, James, and Allen. On November 10, 1874, Father Major married Rebecca HOWE, who still survives him.

After a long and severe illness, Brother Major peacefully died November 4, 1876. He professed religion and united with the M. E. Church nearly forty years ago and has since been a consistent and active Christian. He and his faithful companion assisted in the organization of the first Methodist society in Flora. During these early years of Methodism, and until his death, he gave the church his hearty support. For several years, he served as steward and in other church offices.

The subject of the above sketch will be remembered by many of the older citizens as keeping a hotel in the house now owned by Peter WESTRICK in the Third Ward, called the “Major House.” He afterwards moved to Brunersburg and kept a hotel called “Our House” and while there built a plank road from Defiance west for several miles.

## **“Shirley Family Comes to Defiance”**

by U. G. FIGLEY

*Defiance Democrat*

*March 1, 1917*

Robert SHIRLEY, Sr., his wife, Rachel, and six children, moved from near Chillicothe, O., to Fort Defiance, in 1822. The children were James, Elias, Robert, Mary (who afterward married Thomas B. AUSTIN), Nancy, Ruth (who married Rev. James B. AUSTIN, a prominent Methodist pastor for many years), and John Gilbert. The oldest son, Nathan, will be spoken of hereafter.

The trip occupied three weeks. The first place they saw Indians was at Wapakoneta. They were Shawnee, partly civilized. At what had been Ft. Amanda, a man named Russell lived. One family lived in Fort Jennings and were the only white people till Fort Defiance was reached.

A man had to go ahead with an axe to clear the trail of brush and fallen timber and find proper places to ford the streams tributary to the Auglaize. At Fort Jennings, James and Robert, (the latter 13 years old), took the cattle and the hogs on to Fort Defiance. Robert remained and James returned to help with the remaining 15 miles. After helping across the Auglaize, he, with his gun, ammunition, flints, punk, blankets and compass, started on foot for Fort Finley, where after journeying safely through the wilderness, he bought a pirogue, loaded it with provisions and poled it down Blanchard's Fork to the Auglaize and thence safely to Defiance. The provisions had been raised at Ft. Finley the year before with the intention of settling there, but James' trip to Defiance, before returning to Chillicothe, decided them to move to Defiance.

### **Early Day Scenes**

In the meantime, after James left the party, they came to Oconoxee's village on the Auglaize 13 miles above Defiance, where Charloe afterwards was located. The Indians called the horses "pashekoxee." They were having their feast at the close of the sugar-making season. They roasted a bear with its hind feet on the ground and the forepaws supported by upright poles. Elias and Mary went into the Indian village to "see things." The cornfields were on the opposite side of the river from where Robert, Jr. afterward located.

They went one whole day then without fire, supper or breakfast because all the bread had been given to the Indian children and the flints had been given to James, except what had been packed in one of the wagons, an oversight, both ways.

At noon, after a 30 hours fast, the wagon with the flints was unloaded until the box containing the food was reached. A fire was quickly built and the first cooking by Mary was given to the mother, on account of the little 10 month old John Gilbert. With the aid of a friendly Indian, they found a good camp for the night, and the next forenoon, they reached the old fort ground, where Robert was waiting for them. They then moved into one of the block houses of old Fort Winchester, the other being occupied by Mr. Preston.

### **Bank Was Steep**

The fort was standing in good preservation, except the barracks on the bank of the Auglaize. The bank was very steep and gave a fine view. The block-houses, the four large gates with sentinel boxes over them, were good, and the pickets or palisades in good order, and strong enough to protect even then. The blockhouse in the northeast corner had a good cellar that had been used for a magazine during the war. This is the block-house referred to in another article as being moved into in 1816 by Montgomery EVANS.

From the cellar, an underground tunnel led to the river by which soldiers could get water without being seen by a possible enemy. In the block-house at the end of the barracks, facing the southeast, were several iron-bound chests containing written documents concerning the war left by the officers.

In this block-house was a hand mill, with buhr mill stones that ground good meal if the corn was hard and ripe. There was also a large grater like a horseradish grater, on which corn just out of the "milk" stage could be grated to make mush or griddle-cakes. This fort was about 200 yards up the Auglaize from Wayne's old fort, and some of the remains of which yet stood.

### **Some Early Settlers.**

Four French families lived along the Maumee, above the point, two American families lived a mile up the Auglaize, named DRIVER, one a silver-smith, the other a shoemaker. Six miles below Defiance on the Maumee at Camp Number Three lived John PERKINS, Montgomery EVANS, and John HIVELY. Two of these

families had looms and wove flax and tow linen-linsey. There were no sheep to get wool till Jas. SHIRLEY brought three sheep from Urbana in 1824.

A trading post was just outside the fort, kept by a Frenchman, and another was on the north side kept by a Mr. RICE. Calico was only 50 cents per yard. Indians bought it and made it into very long shirts reaching below the knees; the more loud the color, the better it pleased them. I have seen Indians thus attired, wearing broadcloth breeches under their shirts.

At that time there were no white people between Defiance and Ft. Wayne. Travelers planned to go with the mail carriers from Piqua to Fort Meigs (afterward Maumee City). There was a great deal of travel from Detroit to Ft. Wayne, Green Bay and Ft. Dearborn (Chicago), all of which passed through Defiance.

### Indians Traded Here

The Ottawa Indians traded mostly at Defiance – skins of otter, beaver, bear, raccoon, fox, mink, muskrats, wild cat, deer; also beeswax from wild honey, ginseng and various berries were articles of commerce.

The squaws made beautiful mats in different colors. Because James Shirley made a pole covering over the grave of a son of a Miami chief who died and was buried at Defiance, the chief, Oconoxee, solemnly, with Indian rites, adopted him as his son.

James and Elias, and several other whites, not long after this, joined the Indians to run down a half-breed who had shot his squaw in the back. While this was going on, there was great excitement; the Indians moved camp entire to near the Shirley house and took rails from the fence to make a fire, hooked a pig to eat, and otherwise behaved badly that night, making the air shudder with their yells and screeches. The half-breed was not captured.

### Chief Lost Control

Oconoxee seems to have had little control over his Indians, being something of a hard drinker himself, and in a drunken frolic, got into a quarrel with his son-in-law and treacherously killed him, and his own little grandson as he sat on his mother's knee. The Indians held a three days council and decided he must die, and the news was brought to Defiance that he was to be beheaded the next day.

Messrs. Wm. PRESTON, Thomas WARREN, Samuel KEPLER, and a few others, went down the

Auglaize to see the execution. The Indians made room for them in the circle around the council fire, the condemned chief and his wife sitting within the circle. Three chiefs came from a separate tent and by majestic ceremonies, divested him of his office and set aside the death verdict. But it did not make much difference in his behavior. Finally, these Indians were removed to the reservation west of the Mississippi.

For several years, the Shirley family lived in a double log cabin built farther up the Auglaize, and entertained travelers that chanced along – they and the Prestons. There were no churches, ministers, schools, doctors, roads, carriages or mills. Mail was received from Piqua or Fort Meigs, the carrier getting their letters at those places and paying the postage, and collecting when delivered.”

(For more of the story, continue reading in the next Defiance Democrat.)

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### Death by Abortion.

#### *Defiance Democrat – March 10, 1881*

Etta HOY was a few years ago, a pretty girl up in Delaware Township, kind-hearted and respected. But she fell, and for several years lived a life of shame. In September last she met a young traveling gymnast, Hugh C. WHITNEY, and the two traveled and lived together until last Friday.

Whitney had a situation and variety troop in Toledo, and with Miss Hoy, boarded at John BOYLAN's on St. Clair street. Two weeks ago last Monday, Etta was taken ill and a Dr. H. L. BAKER was called. Whitney says that a few days after, he saw Baker perform an abortion with instruments upon Miss Hoy. She became very sick and Whitney pawned his clothes and trinkets and valuables to procure her medicine and comfort.

Last Friday she was chased into the street from her boarding house, and Whitney had her placed on a Wabash train with the intention of taking her to her mother's home in Delaware Township. They came as far as the B. O. junction where they were to wait for a train, when Etta requested to be taken to the house of Amand ESCH, with whom she was acquainted. Her request was granted and she was placed in bed, never to rise again. She became delirious, and at four o'clock Saturday morning and died. Coroner DAVIS held an inquest, and he and Dr. WELCH made a post mortem examination. A verdict of abortion at the hands of H. L. Baker was returned. Toledo officials were notified of the facts of the case. The body of Miss Hoy was taken home on Saturday for burial. Baker was arrested on Tuesday.

Defiance County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society  
Membership Form

Please print or type and send with check made payable to DCGS.

Send to: Defiance County Chapter OGS, PO Box 7006, Defiance, OH 43512

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Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

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Your Surnames in Defiance County:

\_\_\_\_\_

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