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 parking lot. Meetings are the 4th Monday of each month except August and December or as noted.

Board meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of the month in the Tiffin Room of the Defiance Regional Medical Center.

**Chapter Meeting Dates**

September 26 - Dianne Kline--
*Early Afro-Americans in Defiance County*

October 26 Annual Banquet with Mark D. Young--*American Civil War Museum of Ohio*

Visitors, as well as all chapter members are invited to attend the annual chapter banquet. In addition to the meal and the program, certificates and pins will be presented to new members of First Families for 2011. The banquet meal includes turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry salad, roll, pumpkin dessert and drink. Reservations must be received by October 15th. Please see the reservation information toward the back of this newsletter.

November 28 - Mark Middleton--*Personal Digital Archiving*

December - No meeting
What’s Been Happening at DCGS?

June

June 16, 2011 - Board Meeting Highlights

Dianne Kline, Mary Williams and Cecelia Brown volunteered to do a program, "Using the Internet for Genealogy" at the Defiance County Fair in the State Library's mobile computer lab. The time chosen was 2:00 on Saturday, August 20 and 2:00 on Sunday.

Mary Louise Van Ausdale of Van Ausdale Photography in Napoleon indicated to Cecelia that she will be responsible for seeing that photos of Civil War soldiers from the Bishop Post GAR are available for purchase. Mrs. Van Ausdale would like to put the individual photos on our website to facilitate ordering. She may be contacted at 419-599-5114.

President Brown raised the issue of cemeteries in need of cleaning and/or repair. A request has been made for help at the Blue Cemetery. Cecelia will contact Mark Baden to see if the Boy Scouts would be interested in adopting cemeteries in need of help.

June 27, 2011 - Chapter Meeting Highlights

Twenty-three members and guests were present to listen to Mr. Russell Patterson of Napoleon who spoke on the history of the canal era in Ohio, especially in the Napoleon and Defiance areas. Mr. Patterson provided many photos and had interesting tales of incidents happening on the canals. The flood of 1913 ended the canal era for our area, but the canals were not officially closed until 1929.

Richard Rozevink noted that the plans for the September 10 dedication of Winchester’s Camp #2 and Preston Island were progressing. Speakers are secured and the Defiance County Master Gardeners will do landscaping. The marker will be placed on East River Drive (CR 424 East).

The chapter now has access to the new workroom and storage area at the Defiance Development and Tourism Bureau. The entrance is on Third Street. Rich also noted that the Tuttle Museum is now open the first Friday of each month from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

July

July 21, 2011 - Board Meeting Highlights

Rich Rozevink of the Veterans Historical Committee noted
that plans for the September 10 dedication of Winchester's Camp # 2 and Preston's Island have been completed. East River Road will be closed from 1:00-4:00 with parking on one side of the road. A reception following the dedication will be held at the Women's Gallery at Dana Hall on the Defiance College campus.

President Brown will ask Cindy Mack if she can solicit help from Defiance College students to carry boxes up to our workroom.

**July 25, 2011 - Chapter Meeting Highlights**

Twenty-one members and guests attended the July chapter meeting. Richard Rozevink of the Veterans Historical Committee noted that everything for the dedication ceremony of the monument for Winchester Camp # 2 and Preston's Island is in place for Sept. 10.

Bob Wagner, who is currently president of the Defiance Historical Society and a past Adams Township trustee for many years, was the evening speaker. He gave a brief historical view of Adams Township. He noted that this will be the 108th festival at St. Michael's Church. He outlined some of the major stores which are no longer in existence and told of Domersville, now a ghost town, which was situated ¼ mile from Mekus Road on Domersville Road. He also noted that at one time there were three Lutheran and a Church of the Brethren churches in the township.

Mr. Wagner has been a member of the Defiance County Historical Society for six years and its president for the past 3 ½ years. Auglaize Village was begun in 1966 and is operated solely by volunteers who hold a work day each Tuesday. The biggest draw is the Johnny Appleseed festival in the fall along with the antique tractor show in June. Future plans are the restoration of a diesel locomotive and the building of a track for it to run on. Also volunteers are working on the restoration of a barber shop and would like to bring in and restore a fire house. Saturday, August 13 will be the first Military Day at the village with the new military building open and many military and veterans speakers invited to speak.

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**Inquiry from Member**

Lucas Speaker/ Speaker Pottery in Brunersburg

My ancestor was Lucas Speaker. On the 1850 census he stated his occupation was “potter.” I’ve never been able to find anything about a pottery in Brunersburg, nor exactly what type of pottery he made. I would love to know more about Brunersburg between 1830 and 1890. The only thing I’ve ever seen on the internet is about the big tornado.

Perhaps some of the members of the society know more.

Jeanne Freeman

**If you have any information for Jeanne, please contact our chapter, and the corresponding secretary will put you in contact with Jeanne.**

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**Some Notable Defiance Natives**

(According to Wikipedia.com)

- Alene Duerk, first woman U. S. Naval Admiral
- Chad Billingsley, pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers
- Sam Hornish Jr., driver for the Nascar Penske Racing
- Michelle Burke, television and film actress
- Jason Berry, television meteorologist and storm chaser
- Wild Bill Davison, jazz cornet player
- Greg Kampe, men’s head basketball coach at Oakland U.
- Don Miller, one of the Four Horsemen of Notre Dame
- Jon Niese, pitcher for the New York Mets
- Chad Reineke, pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds
- Terry “Tuff” Ryan, author
- Bruce Shingledecker, Alaskan wildlife painter
- H. Allen Smith, humorist
- Alan Francis, 16 time Horseshoe World Champion

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**Winchester’s Camp No. 2**

Richard Rosevink of the DCGS Veterans Historical Committee has announced that the dedication of Winchester’s Camp No. 2 and Preston Island will be 2:00 P.M. Saturday, September 10. The marker will be placed on East River Drive (CR 424 East) on the north side of the Maumee River in the small Defiance City roadside park shown to the left.
First Families of Defiance County

If you can prove you ancestor was here in Defiance County before January 1846, your ancestor will be classified as a “Pioneer.” If he or she lived here between January 1846 and December 1860, that ancestor will 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 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 Jan Morey, 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 1908 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 snail mail—attention Carol Ehlinger.

Applications may be completed at any time. Register your family today!

Free Queries for Chapter Members

Don’t forget that your chapter membership entitles you to unlimited queries in Yesteryears’ Trails for ancestors from the Defiance area. Please do limit background information (to about fifty words) and ask for specific information from our readers. Queries may be sent to the chapter email listed on the first page of this newsletter.

Nominate your Civil War ancestor who had ties to Defiance County for our chapter’s new Civil War Service Certificate. The form with pertinent information is located on the next to the last page of this newsletter.

As you fill out the application for your Civil War ancestor with ties to Defiance County, consider sending an article about this ancestor’s service for publication in Yesteryears’ Trails. You may email the information to Mary Williams—marywill@smta.cc— or mail your article to the chapter’s address appearing on page two. Please limit your article to about 500 words or less. The articles will be printed in the order received; however, if you submit more than one article, be patient as your additional stories will be used after the first submissions of other chapter members. The following is an example of such a story.

Abraham Snyder - 55th Regiment OVI

Submitted by Gladys Donson

Abraham Snyder was born in 1815 in Columbiana County, Ohio (now Mahoning County) a son of Michael and Eve (Musser) Snyder (Schneider), natives of York County, Pennsylvania. Abraham married Susannah Smitle and later followed his three brothers to western Ohio—John to Wood County in 1837 and by 1860 in Defiance County; Alexander to Defiance County before 1850; and brother Samuel came to Wood County by 1850 and remained there. Abraham settled briefly in Seneca County before moving on to Defiance County about 1861-1862.

Shortly after arriving in Farmer Township, Defiance County, Abraham Snyder and his oldest son, Morgan, enlisted in December 1863 in the 55th Regiment OVI for three years. Abraham gave his age as 44 years. Actually, he was past his 48th birthday, probably lying about his age. He died of disease on July 26, 1864 after several months in the service and was buried in the National Cemetery at Nashville, Tennessee.

Abraham’s wife, Susannah, died on Sept. 26, 1865 (tradition says of a “broken heart”) and is buried on her brother-in-law’s lot in Farmer Cemetery, Defiance County. Their son, Morgan, who survived the war without disease or wounds, administered Abraham’s estate in Defiance County in late 1865-early 1866. Abraham left six children—Charlotte, Morgan, Delila, Amanda, Aurand, and Emanuel, mostly grown by the time of their parent’s death.

Abraham’s wife, Susannah, died on Sept. 26, 1865 (tradition says of a “broken heart”) and is buried on her brother-in-law’s lot in Farmer Cemetery, Defiance County. Their son, Morgan, who survived the war without disease or wounds, administered Abraham’s estate in Defiance County in late 1865-early 1866. Abraham left six children—Charlotte, Morgan, Delila, Amanda, Aurand, and Emanuel, mostly grown by the time of their parent’s death.


I hope that you like these articles—look for more in the future. I have enough articles for the next 100 years! I will keep running them until you tell me to stop. So sit back, kick off your shoes, and enjoy. However, keep in mind that I am not a writer nor play one in the movies, but I did stay at a Holiday Inn last night—just kidding.

**Powell Creek area of Highland Township, Defiance County**

A small burial plot on the steep bluff overlooking North Powell Creek on the farm owned by S. B. Mansfield (in 1932) out on State Route 15 has a view of the wooded bottom of the creek that takes its leisurely way across the farms of Highland Township. On this lot there is a lonely ash tree at one corner and a twin black locust. Just outside is a great stump, a souvenir of the forest land to which John M. Sanford came in the early 1830s to become the first settler in the wiles that now are subdued from Highland Township.

The lonely grave stone bears the inscription:

> “John M. Sanford  
> Born Feb 20, 1803  
> Died March 4, 1882  
> Aged 79 years and 12 days.  
> ‘Farewell my wife and children all.  
> From your father, Christ doth call.  
> Mourn not for me; it is vain.  
> To call me to your sight again.’”

The first settler was soon joined by other men—among them were William Boucher, David Skiver, Henry Brechebill, Harvey Hill, Brazilla Henrick, William Mansfield, Jacob Craft, Richard VanSkiver, William Hoyt, James Greer, and John Wiler.

Because Sanford was known for his upright honesty and square-dealing, he became known as the “King of the Country.” Shortly after his arrival, two hunters bound from Hocking County, Ohio, to the hunting grounds of Iowa passed through this section of Defiance County wilderness, and pleased with the abundance of wild game decided to cast their lot with the settlers. These men were David Skiver and his son Augustus, who settled near the junction of South Powell Creek and North Powell Creek where it forms Powell’s Creek. Powell’s Creek was named in honor of the surveyor who surveyed this section for the government in the 1820s.

David Skiver died at his home in Section 19, Highland Township at the age of 67, but Mrs. Skiver, who was much older than her husband, died in 1880 at the great age of 109. She is believed to have been the oldest women who ever lived in Defiance County. She was born in Rockingham, Virginia on Easter Sunday 1769 and was seven years of age when the U. S. A. was born.

Augustus Skiver became the most noted hunter in Highland Township. It was said that he could follow a trail though the forest by sight with the rapidity of a wolf following a scented trail. Augustus made a living hunting wolves for their scalps. The Ohio bounty at that time was $4.00 and the county bounty $2.50. Deer were killed during the months of October, November, and December at which time the pelts were covered with short blue hair and commanded a ready sale.

Philip Hoeltzel, who was born in Alsace, France, in 1803, purchased from James Greer in 1841 a parcel of land on which he erected a sawmill. It was said that at this time there were no settler nearer than Defiance. From Defiance on the Bellefontaine Road, it was eight mile to the first settler and seven miles to the next.

The dry situation along the banks of Powell Creek led to its becoming a sort of headquarters for the pioneers and Indians. Wyandots, Seneca, and Ottawa Indians continued to use this section as regular hunting grounds for seven years after the arrival of the first white, John Sanford.

An old log tavern was built along the banks of Powell Creek a little south of the Mansfield Cemetery. In its early years, it was the common gathering place for both whites and Indians and around the open fireplace were told many tales of wild adventure in the great woods. The friendliness of the Indians is proven by the fact that they liked nothing better than to engage at shooting at a mark with “King John Sanford,” who was them the first justice of the peace in Highland Township.

The old brick school house standing on Mansfield Road was used in its first days as both school and church. Fights were common there during the Civil War days. It may seem rather strange to us today, but many of the early settlers had strong sympathy with the South, and as an emblem of their fidelity they wore butternuts pinned to their coats.

It was said of John Sanford that he held with contempt the wearer of the butternut pins as traitors. One of the outstanding fights was John Sanford and a big copperhead. One Sunday afternoon, a big burly butternut-wearer appeared at the school without a shirt carrying a spade and announcing that he come to “kill, skin, and bury any Northerner who was man enough to stand up to him.” Another who had no love for the wearer of the butternut expressed his desire to show the rapidly swelling audience “what a dead man looked like with his boots on.”

But to the credit of John Sanford, it must be said that although fights were common, no gun play was ever known in this rude settlement. The common sense of John M. always overcame the heat of passion.

(Article from *The Crescent-News* 30 March 1932)
**38th Ohio Volunteer Infantry**

The following soldiers wrote letters to their home newspapers while in service. To read these letters, please consult the specific newspaper listed.

**Field and Staff**

**William A. Choate**
Enlisted, age 27 on August 12, 1861 to serve for three years; promoted to Lt. Colonel from Captain, Co. B on February 6, 1862; Colonel November 25, 1862; died September 12, 1864 of wounds received September 1, 1864 in Battle of Jonesboro, GA
*Paulding Independent* - 1/17/1863
*Toledo Blade* - 4/12/1864

**Major Charles Greenwood**
Enlisted age 33 on August 26, 1861 to serve three years; promoted to Major from Captain Co. A February 6, 1862; Lt. Colonel November 25, 1863; resigned August 12, 1864
*Napoleon Northwest* - 4/22/1863

**Colonel Edward H. Phelps**
Enlisted, age 32 on June 10, 1861 to serve three years; promoted from Lt. Colonel February 6, 1862; killed November 25, 1863 in Battle of Missionary Ridge, TN
*Defiance Democrat* - 5/23/1863

**Enlisted Soldiers**

**Company A, 38th OVI**

**Private Oliver Durham**
Enlisted, age 21, on August 26, 1861 to serve 3 years; mustered out with company July 12, 1865; veteran
*Defiance Democrat* - 4/25/1863

**Private Walter S. Tomlinson**
Enlisted, age 18, on August 26, 1861 to serve three years; appointed Corporal September 14, 1864; mustered out with company July 12, 1865; veteran
*Bryan Union Press* - 8/20/1863

**Company B, 38th OVI**

**Corporal John A. Babcock**
Enlisted, age 41 on August 19, 1861 to serve three years; discharged September 12, 1862 at Columbus, OH on Surgeon's certificate of disability
*Napoleon Northwest* - 9/16/1863

**Company D, 38th OVI**

**Captain Benjamin Miller**
Enlisted, age 36 on August 15, 1861 to serve three years; resigned July 18, 1863
*Defiance Democrat* - 3/14/1863

**First Lieutenant John W. Pollock**
Enlisted, age 35 on September 7, 1861 to serve three years; Promoted from 2nd Lieutenant Co. C May 9, 1864; to Captain Co. F, May 18, 1865
*Bryan Union Press* - 8/18/1864

**Company E, 38th OVI**

**Private Henry C. Bouton**
Enlisted, age 45 on September 10, 1861 to serve three years
*Defiance Democrat* - 2/15/1862

**Captain Robert McQuilkin**
Enlisted, age 27 on September 3, 1861 to serve three years; resigned June 23, 1863
*Williams County Leader* - 10/24/1861, 11/7/1861, 1/16/1862
*Union Press* - 3/21/1862, 4/25/1862, 6/6/1862, 7/25/1862
*Press and Leader* - 10/30/1862, 1/15/1863, 4/30/1863, 6/4/1863

**Private Alfred Plummer**
Enlisted, age 27, September 3, 1861 to serve three years; promoted to Hospital Steward July 19, 1864; veteran
*Press and Leader* - 2/26/1863

**Company F, 38th OVI**

**Surgeon N. Henry Thurston**
*Defiance Democrat* - 6/18/1864

**Captain John Crosson**
Enlisted, age 40, August 17, 1861 to serve three years; appointed Adjutant from 1st Lieutenant Co. F., February 17, 1862; promoted to Captain December 10, 1862; died September 10, 1864 of wounds received September 1, 1864 in Battle of Jonesboro, GA
*Paulding Independent* - 11/20/1862, 2/19/1863, 3/5/1863

**Private Henry Rinebolt**
Enlisted, age 29 on August 17, 1861 to serve three years; appointed Corporal October 1, 1864; mustered out with company July 12, 1865; veteran
*Paulding Independent* - 11/20/1862, 2/19/1863, 3/5/1863

**Company G, 38th OVI**

**First Lieutenant Ransom P. Osborn**
Enlisted, age 29 on September 5, 1861 to serve three years; appointed Corporal October 1, 1864; mustered out with company July 12, 1865; veteran
*Defiance Democrat* - 10/12/1861, 11/9/1861

**Company H, 38th OVI**

**Captain William Stough**
Enlisted, age 41 on September 1, 1861 to serve three years; resigned July 19, 1862
*Williams County Leader* - 11/14/1861, 12/26/1861, 1/30/1862, 2/6/1862
*Union Press* - 1/31/1862, 3/7/1862

**Captain Andrew Newman**
Enlisted, age 24 on September 1, 1861 to serve three years; promoted from 1st Lieutenant July 19, 1862; to Major November 3, 1864; mustered out with regiment July 12, 1865

*Williams County Leader* - 1/23/1862, 2/20/1862

*Press and Leader* - 4/30/1863

*Bryan Union Press* - 8/18/1864

**Corporal Jerome D. Gleason**

Enlisted, age 22 on September 1, 1861 to serve three years; mustered as Corporal; appointed 1st Sergeant June 1, 1865; mustered out with company July 12, 1865; veteran

*Press and Leader* - 1/29/1863

*Bryan Union Press* - 4/14/1864

**Musician Darius W. Baird**

Enlisted, age 19 on September 1, 1861 to serve three years; appointed from Musician December 11, 1863; killed September 1, 1864 in Battle of Jonesboro, GA; veteran

*Union Press* - 2/21/1862

**Private Lee H. Rudisill**

Enlisted, age 21 on September 1, 1861 to serve three years; appointed Corporal July 20, 1862; promoted to Sergeant (date unknown); mustered out with company July 12, 1865; veteran

*Toledo Daily Commercial* - 7/31/1863

**Company K, 38th OVI**

**Captain Edward D.A. Williams**

Enlisted 8/28/1861 as 1st Lieutenant, promoted to Captain 1/28/1862, resigned commission 4/15/1864.

*Toledo Blade* - 4/18/1863

**Private Francis M. Masters**

Enlisted, age 18 on September 1, 1861 to serve three years; appointed Sergeant from Private July 7, 1864; killed September 1, 1864, in Battle of Jonesboro, GA; veteran

*Press and Leader* - 8/13/1863

**Corporal Benjamin F. Mattern**

*Toledo Daily Commercial* - 7/31/1863

**Service Record of the 38th OVI**


**Rosters of 38th OVI Units from the Defiance Area**

(as listed in the *History of Defiance County 1883*- pages 127-130)

**Company D - Officers**

Benjamin Miller, captain; Samuel Donaldson, First Lieutenant; Jacob C. Donaldson, Second Lieutenant; William Boyes, Sergeant; H. Lichty, Sergeant; M. Aubergem sergeant; T. H. Kintigh, sergeant; Samuel Shunter, corporal; E. J. Beals, corporal; Lewis Tehlimern, corporal; M. J. Grines, Corporal; Robert B. Hannum, corporal; J. E. Kintigh, corporal; L. N. Beals, corporal; John B. Murray, corporal; John E. Evans, corporal

**Company D - Privates**

A. J. Bostater, Solomon Snider, William W. Cameron (died

Company E - Officers
Isaac Donafin, captain; J. W. Berry, lieutenant; John Mercer, first sergeant; F. Britton, sergeant; E. M. Brown, corporal; Hiram Sweet, corporal

Company E - Privates

Company G - Officers
William Irving, captain (promoted colonel), Jonah W. White, captain; Ransom P. Osborn, first lieutenant; Alphonzo L. Braucher, second lieutenant (died at Somerset, KY, January 28, 18620; Elbridge G. Willey, first sergeant (promoted first lieutenant); William H. Adams, second sergeant, David Renton, third sergeant; Josiah W. White, fourth sergeant; David W. Lazenby, fifth sergeant; William Renton, first corporal; Bishop E. Fuller, second corporal; Frederick E. Weymeyer, third corporal; George Hall, fourth corporal; Charles W. Morse, fifth corporal; Jacob Warwick, sixth corporal; Edmund Metz, seventh corporal; William W. Ashton, eight corporal

Company G - Privates

Edward Herrick Phelps
(Article condensed from The History of Defiance County 1883 - pages 128-129)

Edward Herrick Phelps was born in Lawrence County, NY December 1827. He began his preparation for law in New York, and in 1851 he moved to Defiance, Ohio where he complete his reading in the office of Wolsey Welles. He was admitted to the bar in 1852 and later married Harriet Welles.

Col. Phelps had been prepared for the great Civil War from his youth acting as a Lieutenant and Captain in the New York Volunteer Militia. During the Mexican War, Phelps enlisted as a twenty-one year old; however, the war came to an end before he saw action.

At the opening of the Civil War, Phelps was appointed Paymaster General of the state [Ohio] by Gov. Dennison. In this position he assisted the governor and Adj. Gen. Carrington in organizing and equipping the initial “three months” men. He also was responsible for
paying all of the Union soldiers in Western Virginia.

Edward’s first commission in the Union army was that of lieutenant colonel of the 38th Regiment on June 10, 1861, and in March 1862 he was promoted to the command of the Third Division 14th Army Corps of which he remained in command until his death at Missionary Ridge near Chattanooga in October 1863.

The History of Defiance County 1883 recounts the death of Phelps: “He [Phelps] had been quite unwell before the battle-- so much so, that on the night proceeding his death he called in two surgeons for consultation’ but when the order was given for the grand advance to the rebel stronghold, he could not think of remaining behind, and moved as usual at the head of his command. When they charged up the hill, he found himself too weak to climb, and being unable to ride his horse, owing to the steepness of the ascent, he was carried along by four of his men. Thus he continued with his brigade in that daring assault, until the summit was attained, and while organizing his men to be prepared for any attempt of them [the Confederates] to retake the stronghold thus gallantly grasped from them, he was shot by a sharpshooter concealed only fifteen or twenty rods from him, the ball entering his breast and killing him instantly.” Colonel Phelps’ body was finally laid to rest in Toledo on December 5, 1863.

48th Ohio Volunteer Infantry

The 48th OVI was organized from September to December 1861 to serve three years. On the expiration of its term of service, the original members (except veterans) were mustered out and the organization, composed of veterans and recruits retained in service until January 17, 1865, when it was consolidated with the 83rd Regiment Ohio Infantry.

On July 24, 1865, a Battalion of six companies was organized by the consolidation of the 83rd and 114th Regiments. Two companies, E and F, were mustered out October 14, 1865, by reason of expiration of term of service. The remaining four companies, A, B, C, and D were retained in service until May 9, 1866, when they were mustered out in accordance with orders from the War. The unit was the next to the last of the Ohio Infantry regiments discharged from the service. The regiments served over four years, traveled through eight southern states at a distance by land and water of 11,500 miles. Department. Some of the battles in which this unit participated include:

- Shiloh, TN, April 6-7, 1862
- Corinth, MS, October 3-4, 1862
- Chickasaw Bayou, MS, December 28-29, 1862
- Arkansas Post, AR, January 11, 1863
- Port Gibson, MS, May 1, 1863
- Jackson, MS, May 14, 1863
- Champion Hills, MS, May 17, 1863
- Big Black River, MS, May 17, 1863
- Vicksburg, MS (Siege), May 18 - July 4, 1863
- Carrion Crow Bayou, LA, November 3, 1863
-Sabine Cross Roads, LA, April 8, 1864
- Fort Blakeley, AL, April 9, 1864

The biographical sketches below are those members of the unit who wrote letters to their local newspapers.

**Company F 48th OVI**

**Captain Virgil H. Moats**

Enlisted, age 34 on October 15, 1861 to serve three years; promoted to Major February 21, 1863; died July 11, 1863 at Cincinnati, OH from wounds.

*Defiance Democrat- 12/21/1861, 4/26/1862, 5/3/1862, 6/21/1862*

Correspondence to Virgil’s wife is contained in a book published under the title: *Shiloh to Vicksburg: Dear Eliza.*

**Corporal Demetrius L. Bell**

Enlisted, age 23 on November 5, 1861 to serve three years; discharged January 6, 1864, at New Orleans, LA on surgeon’s certificate of disability; veteran

*Defiance Democrat- 5/9/1863*

**Roster of Company F of the 48th OVI**

(as listed in the History of Defiance County 1883 - pages 129-130)

**Officers**

Virgil Moats, captain (promoted major; died at Cincinnati from wounds received at Vicksburg), Aquilla Conrad, first lieutenant; Daniel Gunaullus, second lieutenant; William H. Smith, first sergeant-promoted to first lieutenant; Frederick W. Hoeltzel, second sergeant; Homer Moats, third sergeant (brother to Captain Virgil Moats - died 1862); Joseph Rath, fourth sergeant (died at Defiance on his way home December 1864); George W. Laser, fifth sergeant; Edward J. Todd, wagoner; William H. Doud, first corporal; John E. Richardson, second corporal; James Elliot, third corporal; Demetrius L. Bell, fourth corporal; Robert Cosgrave, fifth corporal; Frederick Speaker, sixth corporal; Philip Roberts, seventh corporal; Charles Martilius, eighth corporal

**Privates**

The band struck up the "Star Spangled Banner," and hastily tied to a staff prepared for the occasion. At this capitol building at Columbus, deafening cheers of the released prisoners.

Waving of handkerchiefs, and amid the wild shouts and waving of handkerchiefs, and amid the wild shouts and deafening cheers of the released prisoners.

The Old flag of the 48th was unfurled to the breeze with the regiment for safe keeping, and it was sewed up in Capt. G.'s blouse, but an old man "sprang forward and tore the flag from its staff and slipped it into his haversack. He was left sick on his way to prison and id not arrive for sometime after; but through all his sickness he clung to the flag, and upon arriving at Camp Ford, Texas, to which place the regiment had preceded him, delivered it to the officers of the regiment for safe keeping, and it was sewed up in Capt. G.'s blouse inside the lining where he wore it in battle of Sabine Crossing in Louisiana on April 8, 1864, the flag-bearer, Isaac Scott threw down the regimental flag, but an old man "sprang forward and tore the flag from its staff and slipped it into his haversack. He was left sick on his way to prison and did not arrive for sometime after; but through all his sickness he clung to the flag, and upon arriving at Camp Ford, Texas, to which place the regiment had preceded him, delivered it to the officers of the regiment for safe keeping, and it was sewed up in Capt. G.'s blouse inside the lining where he wore it in safety up to the time of their being exchanged at the mouth of the Red River on the Mississippi October 23, 1864 after an imprisonment of six months and fifteen days."

"Passing down the Mississippi a short distance, they left the rebel craft and were turned over to Col. Dwight, Commissioner of Exchange. He ordered them on board the St. Mary's, where a band of musicians from New Orleans, and a number of ladies-wives of Union officers- were awaiting their arrival. Upon boarding the vessel, they proceeded immediately to the upper deck. The old flag was then torn from its place of concealment (Capt. G.'s blouse), and hastily tied to a staff prepared for the occasion. At this signal, the band struck up the "Star Spangled Banner," and the old flag of the 48th was unfurled to the breeze with waving of handkerchiefs, and amid the wild shouts and deafening cheers of the released prisoners."

Later the flag was displayed in the rotunda of the capitol building at Columbus.

How the Flag of the 48th Was Saved
(from the History of Defiance County 1883 - page 130)

When the 48th OVI was captured at the battle of Sabine Crossing in Louisiana on April 8, 1864, the flag-bearer, Isaac Scott threw down the regimental flag, but an old man "sprang forward and tore the flag from its staff and slipped it into his haversack. He was left sick on his way to prison and id not arrive for sometime after; but through all his sickness he clung to the flag, and upon arriving at Camp Ford, Texas, to which place the regiment had preceded him, delivered it to the officers of the regiment for safe keeping, and it was sewed up in Capt. G.'s blouse inside the lining where he wore it in safety up to the time of their being exchanged at the mouth of the Red River on the Mississippi October 23, 1864 after an imprisonment of six months and fifteen days."

"Passing down the Mississippi a short distance, they left the rebel craft and were turned over to Col. Dwight, Commissioner of Exchange. He ordered them on board the St. Mary's, where a band of musicians from New Orleans, and a number of ladies-wives of Union officers- were awaiting their arrival. Upon boarding the vessel, they proceeded immediately to the upper deck. The old flag was then torn from its place of concealment (Capt. G.'s blouse), and hastily tied to a staff prepared for the occasion. At this signal, the band struck up the "Star Spangled Banner," and the old flag of the 48th was unfurled to the breeze with waving of handkerchiefs, and amid the wild shouts and deafening cheers of the released prisoners."

Later the flag was displayed in the rotunda of the capitol building at Columbus.

Future Issues To Have More Unit Rosters
In succeeding issues of Yesteryears’ Trails will be rosters and brief unit histories of the 68th OVI (Company B), the 100th OVI (Company D), 107th OVI (Company K), the 11th OVI (Companies E and F) and an additional list of Defiance soldiers taken from The History of Defiance County 1883.

From the Defiance Democrat, 1862

January 11, 1862 – Died, On Monday last, Patrick William, son of Martin and Sophia Gorman, aged 9 months and 20 days.

January 18, 1862 – Death of Early Settler - Pierce Evans
Died on Wednesday last, January 15th, after a short illness, Pierce EVANS, in the 69th year of his age. Judge Evans was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, August 28th, 1793. He settled on the Maumee in 1822, and since 1825 has resided on the farm, near Defiance, which he entered and improved. He was a thrifty, upright and respected citizen. The Funeral will take place today, Saturday, at one o'clock, P.M., at the Presbyterian church.

January 25, 1862 – 80 acres of School Land, Section 16, in Washington township, appraised at $3 per acre, was sold on Wednesday by Auditor Arrowsmith, after lively competition, at $6.60 per acre. The sale closes out the School Land of this township.

Death of Mrs. Piece Evans
Died on Wednesday evening, January 22d, after a lingering illness and within one week of the death of her husband, Mary Ann EVANS, relict of the late Pierce Evans, aged 66 years.

February 1, 1862 – Lieutenant Alphonzo T. BRAUCHER, Second Lieut. In the Defiance Company in the 38th Regiment, and son of Isaac Braucher of this vicinity, died suddenly on Wednesday morning last in Kentucky. His friends received a dispatch on Wednesday morning that he was very sick, and at noon another that he was dead. He was about 30 years of age, of robust health, and of exemplary habits and it could only be extreme hardships that could so soon have worn him down. His father started after his remains Wednesday P.M. and will return perhaps today.

Died on Saturday last, January 25th, in Adams township, Eli MARCKEL, in the 68th year of his age.

February 8, 1862 – The remains of Lieut. BRAUCHER were brought home on Tuesday. The funeral service took place on Thursday – interment in the Burying Ground at Independence. A son of Resin SCOTT, Hicksville township, of the 14th Regiment came home last week from Kentucky, unwell and
before it was known what was the disease, it proved to be smallpox which was well scattered throughout the neighborhood. Bad job! And nobody really to blame.

**February 22, 1862** – William K. DAGGETT died last week at Antwerp, Paulding county. He was a resident of this vicinity for about 10 years to 1841, since which time he has resided in Paulding. He was a native of Saint Lawrence County, New York.

**March 2, 1862** – The dwelling and all its contents of Peter FREDERICKS, formerly a citizen of Mark Township in this county, now residing at Ankeneytown, Knox County, was destroyed by fire on the 17th of February.

**March 8, 1862** – Joel DRESSER, of Antwerp, and once a resident of Defiance, was killed at the battle of Fort Donelson. He belonged to an Indiana regiment, recruited at Fort Wayne.

**March 15, 1862** – Jno. CAMERON, Esq., returned from Kentucky on Wednesday with the corpse of his son, William W. Cameron of Capt. Miller’s company, 38th Regiment, who died in Lebanon Hospital, on Sunday evening last in the 19th year of his age. Mr. Cameron reports 1400 sick there and more arriving daily, and that they fare badly.

J. J. SUTER, a Swiss, a stonemason by trade, well-known in Defiance, died at Fort Donelson about two weeks since. The ice went out of the Maumee on Tuesday night, doing no damage here, except carrying off the Stays and supports used by the railroad men while repairing their bridge, loss $300. The ice was about a foot thick.

**April 5, 1862** – Educational – We give below the names of those pupils of the Defiance High School whose recitations have been most nearly perfect, during the last school term; also the names of those who have been neither tardy nor absent, and of those whose deportment has been perfectly correct throughout the entire term. Most Perfect Recitations – Phebe GREENE, Rosie RUHL, Hattie OTTLEY, Ida PHELPS, Emma PHELPS; Neither Tardy nor Absent – Rosie RUHL and Ida PHELPS; Correct in Regard to Deportment – Adelaide PHELPS, Emma PHELPS and Phebe GREENE.

Rev. Uriah HEATH, a well known Methodist minister, died recently at Zanesville, Ohio. He was the first Circuit Preacher in this part of the State – his charge extending from St. Mary’s to the Michigan State Line – the settlements being all upon the Auglaize and its tributaries. This was in 1825-26.

Died on Thursday morning last, April 3d, after a lingering illness, Mrs. Mary M., wife of Edward F. LINDENBERGER, aged 39 years, 5 months and 6 days. The funeral services will take place tomorrow, Sunday at 10 ½ A.M. at the residence.

**April 12, 1862** – William Rush EVANS, formerly of Defiance, son of the late Dr. John Evans, died at his residence, on the 12th of April, at the residence of his son, John P. Evans, of Defiance.

**April 26, 1862** – In an affray, last week, at Brunersburg, Julius LUEDERS, stabbed R. THALMAN with a butcher knife. After an examination before Esq. KOONS, Lueders was committed to jail, in default of finding bail for $500. John WEIPPERT, Capt Irving’s Company, 38th Regiment, well known in the vicinity of Defiance, died April 12th at the Nashville Hospital.

**May 10, 1862** – Capt. John P. ARAANTS, of Company E, 21st Regiment, died at Brunersburg, this county, on Monday last. Since the campaign in the fall, through Eastern Kentucky, he has not been with his regiment, his health failing gradually until brought home to die. He was 2d Lieut, during the three months service, and acquitted himself so satisfactorily, that on the re-organization of the Regiment, the Captains of the Defiance Company was conceded to him by unanimous consent. He was a young man of excellent character, fair talents, and universally respected. He leaves a young widow, daughter of the late William D. HAYMAKER, to whom he was married but a few days before his regiment left for Kentucky, in September last.

A son of Gabriel WATSON, of Highland township, George W. Watson, a member of Captain Sprague’s company, who came home sick about a month ago, died last week, aged 19 years.

The veteran apple tree, opposite the Fort, which gave fruit to Indians, French and British, now nearly a hundred years old, is coming out in full bloom, with no signs of decay, promising an abundant yield of apples.

**May 17, 1862** – Eli MILLS of Capt. Miller’s Company, 38th Regiment, from above Evansport, died last week in Tenn. His corpse was brought home on Tuesday morning last.

**May 24, 1862** – Letter from surgeon at Cincinnati, Third Street Military Hospital – “Charles W. BIXBY, a private of Company E, 48th Regiment, died in that Hospital, May 19th instant of Chronic Diarrhea. He was brought there from Pittsburgh Landing very sick. He said he lived at Defiance. He left some money and clothes, which his friends can have by bringing letters of administration. They can also get his body at any time; it was decently interred in Spring Grove Cemetery.

**June 7, 1862** – Died on Saturday last, May 31st, in Delaware township, William TRAXLER, aged 50 years, 5 months and 7 days.

**June 14, 1862** – The Homestead Act recently passed... It will be seen, that on the payment of $10 and the Land Officer’s fee, $4, and a residence on the land for five years, 160 acres are granted for a homestead... We notice by the way, that the 160 acres so lavishly and universally promised by all the recruiting handbills of last year are not provided for; and that by this bill the public domain worth $500 million may be taken up by the stay-at-homes, before the soldiers get their bounty land allowed – Congress should...
short illness, Ellen M., consort of J. D. BAKER, aged 33 years, 5 months and 13 days. A husband and five children remain to follow (at the will of the Great Disposer) to the better land.

Died in Delaware township, on the 5th day of June, 1862, Melinda Jane, daughter of Frederic and Huldah Jane SLOUGH, and adopted by G.W. and Sarah Ann HILL, aged 10 years, 10 months and 19 days.

June 21, 1862 – A son of Jonathan FORREST, of this township, died a few days since in the Hospital at Nashville, Tennessee.

June 28, 1862 – Homer W. MOATS, Sergeant in Captain V. H. Moats’ Company, 48th Regiment, died at the residence of his father in Noble township, on Sunday last, June 22d. He came home six weeks ago very feeble, soon took to his bed, lingering betwixt life and death for near a month. His age was 33 years and 6 months – he leaves a wife and three children.

Adolph KOHLMAN, of 7th Ohio Regiment, wounded at Cross Lane, Va., August 20, 1861, died November 13, 1861, a prisoner at War at New Orleans. Mr. Kohlman was known to many of our citizens.

Died in Milford township, on the 19th day of June of Erysipelas in the head, William OTIS, aged 42 years, 3 months and 2 days. He moved to this country in the year 1847, and has resided among us ever since.

July 5, 1862 – Died on Saturday morning last, June 21st, 1862, Mrs. Elizabeth, wife of Henry HARDY, in the 29th year of her age.

July 12, 1862 – Lemira A. BOWKER vs. John BOWKER, petition for divorce. John, of Georgetown, in the county of El Dorado, California. Lemira charges John has been absent from her for three years and with habitual drunkenness for five years past and gross neglect of duty.

July 19, 1862 – Governor TOD has authorized Jas. U. BLUE, of Ayersville, and Wm. H. THORNTON, of Defiance, to raise a Company in Defiance county for the 100th Regiment. These are active, energetic and worthy men, and must succeed in the time (thirty days) in getting the requested number. One month’s pay and one-fourth bounty ($25) is paid in advance to volunteers under the present call. Now is the time – no delay – come right forward.

The Lutherans of Defiance have procured a large, fine-toned bell for their church. It weighs without fixtures 708 lbs., which is about 200 lbs. heavier than any other in town. It costs $240.

August 2, 1862 – J. DUSH, of Delaware Township, Capt. MOAT’s company, 48th Regiment, died July 22nd at one of the Cincinnati Hospitals.

August 9, 1862 – In a list of deaths at Corinth, Mississippi, we find these from this county: William PLATTER, Rheumatism; George OTT, Typhoid Fever – both of Co. E, 14th Regiment, Capt. Wilson’s.

Frank BRAUCHER, son of Isaac BRAUCHER, died on Wednesday last, aged 21 years. He belonged to Capt. IRVING’s Company, 38th Regiment; was home all last winter on sick leave; returned to his company in April, but his health giving away again, was discharged, and reached home two weeks since, but to die.

August 16, 1862 – Lewis E. ENOS, son of Lt. W. E. ENOS, of this place, a member of one of the Michigan regiments, is a prisoner at Richmond, taken during the recent battles in that vicinity.

August 23, 1862 – A son of Jacob KARST, aged three years, a promising young boy, was drowned in the Maumee last week, near his residence.

Died – On Saturday, August 23d, Maria Elizabeth, daughter of John SCHIESS, aged 3 years, 3 months.

August 30, 1862 – Defiance County sent out 300 volunteers within the past ten days – over two companies for the 111th and 70 for the German Regiment, officers as follows: John E. HILL, Captain; Solomon CALLENDER, 1st Lieutenant; Hiram MEEEKS, 2nd Lieutenant. B. F. SOUTHWORTH, Captain; William C. TRAVIS, 1st Lieutenant; Elijah KARNES, 2nd Lieutenant. Martin VIEBACH, Captain; William MARTIN, 1st Lieutenant; ____ 2nd.

September 27, 1862 – Died – On Monday morning, September 15th, Mrs. Elizabeth, wife of John MILLER, aged 64 years and 23 days. November 15, 1862 – Drowned - Oliver HARRIS, a resident of Mark Township, Defiance County, was drowned in the Maumee, on Tuesday evening last, falling from a Canal Boat. He was on his way to Camp Cleveland. He was about 45 years of age and leaves a wife to mourn his loss.

Died on Saturday morning last, November 8th, of Consumption, Phebe GREENE, daughter of the editor of this paper, aged 14 years, 9 months and 6 days.

Died on Thursday morning last, James Madison, son of John M. and Nancy Jane SEWELL, aged 15 months and 23 days.

December 6, 1862 – Captain W. H. THORNTON, 100th Regiment, died last week in Kentucky. His wife reached him barely in time to see him alive. His remains were brought to Defiance on Saturday evening last, and interred with Masonic ceremonies on Monday. The very large concourse of people at the funeral testified the general respect entertained for him, as well as heartfelt sympathy for the bereaved.

December 20, 1862 – Henry KOCH, a corporal of Company C, 108th Regiment, formerly a clerk in Hooker’s store in this place, was killed at the battle of Hartsville, Tenn.

Died in the Hospital at Danville, Kentucky, Amos MARIHUGH and Alfred STUBBS of Adams Township, and members of Capt. Southworth’s Company, 111th Regiment. Both were young men and married.
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>JOHN HOSTETTLER</td>
<td>Ohio, USA</td>
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<td>JOSEPH B HOSTETTLER</td>
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<td>SARA A BURROWS</td>
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<td>GEORGE WASHINGTON FOUT</td>
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<td>GEORGE FOUT</td>
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<td>FRANCES MARTHA FIGLEY</td>
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<td>JULIE LYNNE HOSTETTLER</td>
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<td>DANIEL BOONE MARCKEL</td>
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<td>CHARLES ORVILLE MARCKEL</td>
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<td>BENJAMIN EDLEY MICHAEL</td>
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<td>ETHEL ELIZABETH MICHAEL</td>
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<td>LIDA BALDWIN</td>
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<td>JOHN Hostettler</td>
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<td>JULIA HATFIELD</td>
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<td>EMELINE OSBORN</td>
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<td>CLARK MICHAEL</td>
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<td>JOSHUA BALDWIN</td>
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<td>SARAH ELIZABETH DAVIS</td>
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FIRST FAMILIES DEFIANCE COUNTY BANQUET

Monday, October 24, 2011
St. John United Church of Christ
6:30PM
930 Webster St.
Defiance, Ohio

All Chapter members and First Family members are urged to attend the dinner and program. Visitors are welcome, you do not have to be a member to attend. If you would like to only come for the program and not the dinner you are welcome to do so. PLEASE phone for reservations to be assured a seat.

Reservations and money are due by October 15, 2011.
Please use the form with address below and mail to DCGS PO Box 7006 Defiance Ohio or call Cecelia Brown for information at phone (419) 658-2483

Certificates and pins will be presented to new members of First Families who are accepted in 2011.

The after dinner speaker will be: Mark D. Young President - American Civil War Museum of Ohio

The banquet will be plate-style which includes turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberry salad, roll, pumpkin desert, and drink. Price is $13.00 single and $25.00 couple.

Clip and return with check (made out to Def. Co. Gen. Soc.)

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FIRST FAMILIES DEFIANCE COUNTY BANQUET
Monday, Oct. 24, 2011 at 6:30PM

Name ___________________________ Total # in party _________

Address ___________________________ Phone _________

Attending dinner and program _______ Attending program only ___ (no charge)

Amount enclosed @ $13.00 single $ _________

Amount enclosed @ $25.00 couple $ _________

Reservations and money are due by October 15, 2011.

Please send to: DCGS PO BOX 7006 Defiance OH 43512
Defiance County's Civil War Service Certificate:
A Certificate Accorded by the Defiance County Genealogical Society

To be considered for the DCGS Civil War Service Certificate, an ancestor must be proven to have served in a Defiance County, Ohio military unit during the Civil War or have been a Civil War veteran (either Union or Confederate) who was born, lived, died was buried in Defiance County, Ohio. The applicant must be a member of the Defiance County Genealogical Society for this certificate to be awarded.

The applicant filing for a Defiance County Civil War Service Certificate must include documentation for the ancestor for one of the above events (service, birth, residency, death, burial) occurring in Defiance County, Ohio. In addition the applicant must include proof of the unit with which the Civil War soldier served. The application must also include either a generational chart or a written explanation showing the relationship of the applicant with the ancestor who is the focus of the application. The applicant may be a direct or collateral descendant of the Civil War ancestor.

You may submit as many applications as you wish. Also you may include a story or biography of your ancestor for possible use in the chapter newsletter, website, or future publications. **If you submit an article, please date and sign the submission and note that the chapter has permission to use the article.**

Name of Civil War Ancestor: ___________________________________________________________

Unit with which the ancestor served____________________________________________________

Rank attained if known _______________________________________________________________

Years served if known _______________________________________________________________

1. Attach documentation showing with which unit your Civil War ancestor served. For example, this might be a page copied from a unit history or information downloaded from Ancestry.com. The proof does not need to be a formal government copy.

2. Attach proof that your ancestor was connected to Defiance County in one of the following ways: service, birth, residency, death or burial. The proof does not need to be certified. It may be a copy of a birth certificate, a copy of a census, a listing in compiled birth, death or burial records, copy of land deed etc.

3. Attach a generational chart- or a written explanation-- showing your relationship with your Civil War ancestor.

Applicant's Name: __________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________

Email: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

**Please send the completed application to the Defiance County Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 7006 Defiance, OH 43512-7006.**

Direct questions to the chapter email: defiancegenealogy2002@yahoo.com
Name_______________________________  Phone________________

Address____________________________________________________

City___________________ State________________ Zip_____________

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<tr>
<td>Campaigns of the Army of the Northwest 1812-1813 (pub 2009)</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil War Journals of Darius W. Baird (38th OVI) of NW Ohio (NEW 2011)</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL (Includes all taxes, shipping handling, Prices effective May 2011) TOTAL

Paid by Cash_____ Check#______ Order Received__________ Order Sent____ Form - Sept. 2011