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, July 24** - Visitation to Williams County Public Library in Bryan, Ohio (Meet at the library at 6:30)

August - No meeting

**Monday, Sept. 25**

History of Riverview Gardens - Trish Speiser

**Monday, Oct. 23**

40th Anniversary of DCGS

**Monday, Nov. 27**

Veterans' Pensions - Dianne Kline and Joanne Allison

December - No meeting

On March 4, 1845, Defiance County was created. The county was originally parts of Williams, Henry, and Paulding Counties. The county seat is Defiance, site of old Fort Defiance.
Officers and Trustees

**President** - Joanne Allison  
Email: ljallison1@frontier.com  
**Corresponding Secretary & Membership** - Dianne Kline  
Email: dijimkline@gmail.com  
**Recording Secretary** - Mary Williams  
Email: marywill@smta.cc  
**Treasurer** - Lavina Boesling  
Email: lib10@embarqmail.com  
**First Families** - Mary Scranton  
Email: mjs463@frontier.com  
**Newsletter Editor** - Mary Williams  
Email: marywill@smta.cc  
**Trustees:**  
Rhonda Casler  
Dawn Hasch  
Pat Wise

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

**Defiance County First Families**

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

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

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**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.

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**Change of Address or Email?**

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

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**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
March Chapter Meeting
Black Swamp Medicine Women

The Defiance County Genealogical Society (DCGS) met on March 27. The society was entertained by the Black Swamp Medicine Girls, Jeanne Caryer and Susan Wiesehan. The two women gave an informative and humorous PowerPoint presentation about old time medicines and remedies that were common in the 19th and early 20th centuries. They also displayed a large collection of vintage medicine tins and bottles.

The Black Swamp was known for its many diseases. The women at that time were the main health care providers in the family, and they got their home remedies from older generations and cookbooks. People did not yet know about germs, and were ill-informed as to what caused sickness and diseases. For example, they thought malaria was caused by swamp gas, not the mosquitoes. Poor diet and contaminated drinking water caused the spread of cholera, and in 1849 an epidemic wiped out whole towns and communities.

The college-educated medical profession was just beginning in America but had not yet reached the common folk in rural areas. The effective treatment for ague or malaria, also called summer complaint or canal shakes, was quinine, but it was very expensive.

Desperate to be cured of those and other diseases, people were willing to try any alternative cure. Mineral springs and baths of sulfur water were popular in our area and were believed to have healing properties. Also, self-trained “doctors” traveled the countryside attracting customers with their medicine shows of comedy routines, dancing, and singing, and then they peddled their phony patent medicine cures. It was common for those medicines to produce feelings of well-being because they often contained alcohol, opium, cannabis or morphine, resulting in addictions. Even some of the local doctors’ treatments were brutal, such as bleeding out what they called bad blood.

The Medicine Girls pointed out medicines and devices from their display. They concluded the program by answering questions and quoting from the Bible that “laughter is good medicine.”

April Chapter Meeting
The Life and Times of Andrew Tuttle

The Defiance County Genealogical Society met on April 24, with Tuttle Memorial Museum’s education director Judy Dally gave a PowerPoint presentation about the life and times of Andrew L. Tuttle.
Born in 1918, Tuttle grew up in Defiance and attended public schools there. As early as the fifth and sixth grade, he became interested in collecting and trading stamps, coins, Native American artifacts, and other fine objects.

After graduating from Defiance High School in 1937, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II, spending some time in Italy. He brought home a German Mothers’ Cross, a pistol, and other war souvenirs. He was honorably discharged in 1949 and then went on to earn a bachelor of science in business administration from The Ohio State University.

During the 1960s, Tuttle’s passion for collecting and trading grew even stronger, enticing him to travel in 50 states and 50 countries. He considered every little stamp valuable. For example, while in Portugal, Afghanistan, the USSR, and others, he sent letters home to his family, giving them strict instructions on how to open the envelopes and carefully preserve the stamps on them. Eventually, he accumulated a massive and extremely valuable stamp collection.

Tuttle also successfully collected some rare coins such as the 300 CE India coin, ancient Roman coins, an historic Vatican coin, and others from Europe, South America, and Africa. One coin dealer from Ceylon, Sri Lanka, accused him of cheating him and put a voodoo curse on his head, but Tuttle survived. Over the years, as with the stamps, he had accumulated an unbelievably huge number of valuable coins.

Similarly, Tuttle also collected Native American spearheads, projectile points, pottery chards, as well as priceless Ancient Incan and Egyptian figures and sculptures all of which he had carefully labeled, grouped by type and place of origin, and packed away in boxes in his storage closet.

In 2003, Tuttle died in a car accident while returning home from Florida. It was his final wish that his entire collection be a gift to the City of Defiance, providing the city would establish a museum in his name. Thus, in 2011 the Andrew L. Tuttle Memorial Museum, 514 W. Third St., Defiance, was opened to the public. These collections can be seen there as well as numerous mementos of Defiance’s natural and cultural history.

Minutes of the May 22, 2017 DCGS Chapter Meeting

The Defiance County Genealogical Society met on Monday, June 26 with seventeen members and guests. Preceding the program, President Allison conducted a brief business meeting. Dan Hasch moved to send flowers to the funeral home in honor of and in memory of our longtime chapter past-president Cecelia Brown. Marilyn Mallott seconded the motion which passed.

May Chapter Meeting

Early History of Defiance College

Barb Sedlock, lead librarian at Defi-
Yesteryears’ Trails - Defiance Co. Summer 2017- Page 17

Defiance College, presented a PowerPoint program detailing the early history of Defiance College from 1850 until 1920.

The college officially received a charter in 1850 as the Defiance Female Seminary although two men were admitted the first year. Later it was advertised as Defiance Normal College. In 1875 nine acres was purchased from William C. Holgate for $1200 on which to build a campus. In 1884 the first building was erected.

Ms. Sedlock showed photos and documents including student rosters from the 1880s. Shown also were many copies of programs from concerts and literary entertainment, commencements, field days and other events-- each detailing what campus life was like in the early days of the college. Newspaper articles highlighted how the college programs were thought by the community to be assets to the city.

Photos and historical documents pertaining to the history of Defiance College can be seen at www.memory.Defiance.edu. First go to "Administration" then to College Historical Documents."

Chapter Meeting of June 24

The DCGS met on Monday, June 24 with twenty-six members and guests present.

Membership chair Dianne Kline noted that currently there are 80 members in the chapter. She also noted that there have been over 75,000 hits thus far to the blog site.

Rich Rozevink passed on thanks to those who submitted articles concerning early Germanic settlers to the Defiance area from Jan Bechtol of the Tuttle Museum. Soon the museum will have an open house and display these articles. Rich also reported concerning a letter sent to the Defiance mayor which noted that William George King of the 38th OVI Co. I is buried in Alabama. Mr. King was the first post master of the town in which he was buried.

President Allison noted that a nominating committee is needed as election of officers should take place in the fall. She also reminded members of the Federation of Genealogists convention August 30- Sept. 2 in Pittsburg.

Rhonda Casler who has worked in the Records Center presented the evening’s program.

Using Probate Records in Defiance Co. with Rhonda Casler

Rhonda detailed what kinds of information can be found in probate court records. One of the most often consulted for genealogical purposes are wills and estates as it provides death dates and locations and often a listing of heirs along with other valuable information. Defiance County records begin in 1845 when the county was formed. Any earlier existing probate records would be found in Williams County, Defiance’s parent county.

Birth records from 1867 until December 1908 fall under probate.. Often the tax collectors reported births. The records may contain the name, sex, date of birth, township/ward. After December 1908 birth records are located in the county health department; also they may be found on FamilySearch.com. There are also separate records for corrected birth records and delayed birth records.

Marriage records for Defiance County begin in 1845. There is no statewide database but FamilySearch.com has copied early records. Records include application, license, and journal entries with contain the final filings by ministers or justices of peace. Records are kept in the place of application.

Death records for Defiance County in probate begin in 1867 and end in December 1908 when the health department became responsible for the records. Reporting of deaths was done voluntarily or again by a tax assessor. Records may be ordered through the Ohio Historical Society.
Other records which may be found in probate are the following: criminal cases, divorces, name changes, guardianship, coroner inquests, declaration of intents, naturalizations, foreclosures, assignments, partitions, mental incapacities, state window pensions (1913-1940), minister's licenses, physician and nursing licenses, children's home records, (1884-1995).

Adoption records are closed. As of 2015, only the adoptee or an adult lineal descendant of the adoptee can petition the Ohio Department of Health for permission to see the records.

Actions of the DCGS Board

Highlights of the DCGS February Meeting

Minutes of the previous board and chapter meetings were reviewed and corrections made. Lavina Boesling presented the monthly treasurer's report. There is $2702.89 in the checking account with $954.98 in the General Fund, Memorials and Acquisitions $695.90, Library Fund $1000, and Veterans' Memorial Fund $52.01.

Preceding the board meeting, the treasurer's books for 2015 and 2016 had been audited by Ruth Ann Block and Mary Williams. The books were found to be in impeccable order.

Dianne Kline reported that currently there are 48 members for 2017. Currently there have been 51,112 hits on the blog site with an average of 300 hits per day.

A motion was made by Pat Wise and seconded by Dianne Kline that due to the debilitating stroke of Cecelia Brown, Acting President Joanne Allison should be added to the checking account so that there are two active names on the account. Motion passed.

The April 13 genealogy workshop will take place at Northtowne Mall at 5:00. Dianne Kline will lead and Mary Williams will be responsible for technical aspects and handouts. Mary suggested arranging another help session at the Sherwood Library since the first floor of the Defiance Public Library will be undergoing renovation beginning this week and continuing through August.

Joanne reviewed the contract for the Black Swamp Medicine Girls with their program in March and reviewed other monthly programs. Mary will confer with Judy Dally (April) and Barb Sedlock (May) concerning their programs. Rhonda Casler will discuss probate records in June. Joanne will check with the Williams County Public Library for a visitation in July. There is no meeting in August. Mary has sent an email to Trish Speiser to confirm a September program on Riverview Memorial Gardens. The October meeting will be a reception celebrating the chapter's 40th year.

Highlights of the DCGS March Board Meeting

Minutes from the February board and chapter meetings were reviewed. The checking account currently has a balance of $2625.87 with the following breakdown: general fund $853.11, memorials and acquisitions $720.75, library fund $1000, and veterans' memorial fund $52.01. Joanne Allison, as president, has been added to the checking account.

Dianne Kline, as membership chair, noted that there currently are 56 members. With the general fund getting somewhat low, membership needs to be encouraged as it is the major source of funding.

Dianne noted that blog site has had over 56,000 hits.

Due to Maundy Thursday, the beginning genealogy program co-sponsored by the Defiance Public Library has been changed to Saturday, April 22 beginning at 10:30 at the Northtowne Mall. A reminder was made that the OGS Conference is April 26-29. Notification has been received that our chapter will receive a certificate for its 40th year at the convention.

The chapter has received a letter from Germans to America noting that they have a speakers' bureau with speakers available at no charge. It was decided to meet at 6:30 at the Williams County Public Library on Monday, July 24. The rest of the programming for 2017 was reviewed.
**Highlights of the DCGS May Board Meeting**

Minutes from the April board and chapter meetings were reviewed. The checking account currently has a balance of $2706.57 with the following breakdown: general fund $881.11, memorials and acquisitions $772.75, library fund $1000, and veterans' memorial fund $52.01.

Dianne Kline, as membership chair, noted that there currently are 79 members. Under correspondence was a letter from Susan Zeedyk thanking chapter members for the support of her mother, Cecelia Brown, with prayers and cards. A possible help session was suggested for August which is family history month.

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My friend and I have always taken great delight in traveling Route 424 in early spring to enjoy the redbud trees along the Maumee River. The following article explains why the trees are so plentiful in that stretch of the highway.

From the March 26, 1945 article: "Planting of redbud trees along the banks of the Maumee River between Defiance and the Henry County line will be continued next Saturday under auspices of the Defiance Garden Club. " Last Saturday 250 of the seedlings taken from Independence State Park were planted by 20 prisoners of war from Camp Defiance, supervised by Henry H. Reineke and Harry L. Burden. State highway department trucks were used for transportation.

"Each spring the redbuds along the old canal bank east of Independence dam have attracted much comment to the present plan of the Garden Club, in co-operation with the highway department to make extensive plantings along the river and canal banks."

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http://defiancecountyohiogenealogy.blogspot.com

Dianne Kline maintains our Defiance county Genealogical Society’s blog site. She notes that the site has had over 75,000 hits. In the blog of this past June, Dianne has highlighted the life and family of Doctor Ludwell Gaines Thacker. He is one of the many members of the Defiance GAR post 22 that Dianne has researched.

Ludwell’s army career in the Union Army began as follows in the blog: “When only 19, L. G. enlisted in Company D of the 100th Ohio Infantry on July 23, 1862. He mustered in as a private, but in just a few months was promoted to sergeant. Although he had signed up for a three year term of service, he was mustered out on January 6, 1863 on a surgeon’s certificate of disability.”

Both Ludwell and his father served the Defiance area as physicians and were esteemed members of the community. For more information concerning Dr. Thacker, read Dianne’s full article. Other articles included a photo of the graduates of Mark Center High School in 1939, information about the Ney Saloon including a photo taken in 1899, and the WPA Cemetery Survey - Presbyterian or Upper Lost Creek Cemetery, Farmer Township which was one of a series of articles on area cemeteries. Be sure to visit the blog site for a vast variety of subjects Dianne has encompassed.

Just FYI: The Works Progress Administration (renamed in 1939 as the Work Projects Administration; WPA) was the largest and most ambitious American New Deal agency, employing millions of people (mostly unskilled men) to carry out public works projects, including the construction of public buildings and roads.
**Defiance Democrat**  
April 6, 1893

**After Thirty Years of Separation.**

**Doctor Slough’s Detective Work.**

He Finds a Sister of Mrs. J. Eberle Who Has Been Missing Since the War.

Mrs. Jno. Eberle received Tuesday a letter bearing news of a sister whom she has not seen for thirty years. Mrs. Eberle’s maiden name is Ankney. She was born and raised in Paulding County. Their mother died and their father went to the war when it broke out, and the children were adopted by various families.

One of the children named Sarah, who was about five years old at the time, was adopted by a family named Schlosser, who shortly afterward moved to Norwalk, Ohio. Schlosser did not want to go to the war, so he quietly left his wife and the country. Mrs. Schlosser found she could not support herself and the child, so the latter was taken by another family named Fenus. A brother of Mrs. Fenus, named Andrew Amand, who lived at Joliet, Ills., was in Norwalk on a visit. He took a fancy to the little girl and, as a result, she went to live with him.

Until she was about eighteen years old, she lived with Mr. Amand and family. She then was married to John Lesure, of Omaha, Neb., and is living with him in that city now, in comfortable circumstances.

Her whereabouts was ascertained through Dr. E. L. Slough of this city, who was at one time a Pinkerton detective, and has lost none of the acumen and sagacity which made him eligible for such a position. He found out that Schlosser was in Cullman, Ala., and through him traced up the child that is now Mrs. Lesure. Dr. Slough has been working on the case since last August, and in the progress of the affair, has written 103 letters. His achievement is one of which he may be justly proud.

The first letter from her long-lost sister was received Tuesday. It was indeed joyful tidings. In a few weeks more, the sisters will be united after a separation of over thirty years.”

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**“COLD CASH Is What Cornelia Spindler Prayed For.”**

Money is the Only Solace for Blighted Affections.

A sensational case has recently been brought in common pleas court. Cornelia A. Spindler brings suit against Brice M. Allshouse for $5,000 through her attorney, L. E. Griffin.

It is an affair of the heart and apparently nothing will assuage Cornelia’s grief but cold, filthy cash. She alleges in her petition that she is an unmarried woman, and that on September 1, 1889, the defendant sought her hand in marriage, was accepted, and the date for the consummation of their plighted troth fixed for the next spring.

She says that when the time came for the marriage, it was postponed on account of the ill health of the defendant and he has ever since refused and neglected to marry her, and she asks damages in the above named amount.

A glance at the marriage record book in the probate judge’s office probably reveals the key to the situation and the reason the suit was brought at this time. On the 9th of this month, a license was issued to Brice M. Allshouse and Mrs. Mary Miller to wed. This probably is the cause of the defendant’s fickleness. The parties live in Hicksville township.
John E. Troeger was born May 9, 1824, at Neudorf, Uberfrauken, Bavaria, Germany. In 1847, he came to the United States locating at once at his present home in Highland township.

In 1859 he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Schall. To this union, two children were born. Mrs. Barbara Baumann of East Defiance survives. In 1864 John’s first wife died. Two years later, in 1865 he married Miss Mary Otilie Garman. Five children were born to them—John living in Kansas, George E. and Henry living in Highland Township, Adam living Buffalo and Anna who lives with her father on the old home farm.

Mr. Troeger boasts of sixteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

John lived in the old homestead which he built in 1847 just south of the St. Stephens Lutheran Church.

Frank Meekus, the pioneer of Adams Township, is another example of a pioneer who came out to the wilderness of Defiance County. Coming here when the country was in its youth and nothing more than a great swamp has built himself a fine country home and raised a family that ranks among the first in the county.

Frank Meekus, Sr., was born in the village of Sundavek, Westfalen, Germany, August 3, 1822. On Nov. 6, 1861, he was married to Miss Mary Eilert also a native of Germany.

In 1872, with his family consisting of his wife and six children, he came to the United States. Landing at New York City, he traveled directly across the country, arriving Sept. 23 at what is now Adams Township. Liking the country, at this point, he purchased a tract of land of 80 acres. At that time the entire country was a forest. With true German energy, he set to work and with the aid of his small sons, soon made a little clearing and erected a small dwelling. In an incredibly short time space, Mr. Meekus and his family had cleared a little patch of land, and in the spring made their first sowing.

From almost the first moment of his landing, Mr. Meekus has been very prosperous, and now is one of the best known farmers of the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Meekus are the parents of 11 children all of whom [at the time of the article] were living. Christ, living in Adams Township; Mary Voerne living at Toledo; Fred, the well known stock buyer, at Jewell; Sister Fabiola of St. Francis Hospital, Lafayette Indiana; John and Andrew both living in Adams Township; Minnie Corressel, living in Adams Township; Kate Clemens living at Defiance; Josephine and Henry living with their father at the pleasant home farm in Adams Township were born in the United States.

Mrs. Meekus, the wife and mother, died March 14, 1902, at the age of 59 years. The entire Meekus family are faithful members of the St. Michael’s Catholic Church of North Ridge.
Hicksville Tribune
January 5, 1882

“Considerable interest has been created in our town in the past few days about the theft of several head of cattle in Mark Township. In the past few weeks fourteen head of cattle have been missing in that township, but the cause of their disappearance was not known until Saturday last, when Jack WONDERLY, John WONDERLY and George SEWELL were detected. On that morning these parties drove to Williams Center and sold to James FISHER, five head of cattle for $65, the Wonderly boys giving their names as Blackburn, and the Sewell boy as Eaton. Eugene BLAIR saw the boys driving the cattle, and recognized them as belonging to Harvey HULBERT, and this led to their detection.

George Sewell and John Wonderly were arrested Saturday, and Jack Wonderly on Monday. It seems that Jack Wonderly, aged about 21 years, stole the cattle, and that he hired George Sewell, aged 17 years, and John Wonderly, aged 13, to help drive them. At a trial yesterday, Jack was bound over to court by Esq. HUFFMAN in the sum of $1,000, John, $500, and Sewell, $1,000.

As soon as the arrests were made, it became known that Jack Wonderly had also sold cattle, five in number, to Hugh MILLS, at Williams Center, for $70, several weeks ago and that the cattle belonged to Albert COY. To Mr. Mills, Wonderly gave his name as Keister.

In both cases, Wonderly told the story that his mother was a widow and did not have feed for the stock. To the boys, Jack represented that he had bought the cattle. On the second count, they waived examination. Esq. Huffman placed $1,650 more bail for Jack, for his appearance before the grand jury at Defiance today.

Jack Wonderly shot and killed in father in Mark township a few years ago, for which he was sent to the penitentiary, but was pardoned out two years ago.

Each lot of cattle was worth about $100, and Jack will have to go over the road. Opinion is divided as to the guilt of the younger boys.

J. E. COULTER appeared for the state, and THOMPSON & GRIFFIN for the defense.

The boys were taken away yesterday evening. It is not probable that they will get back, except the small one, George. Mr. Mills and Mr. Fisher will both lose the cost of the cattle.

Defiance Democrat
November 2, 1916

“EARLY HISTORY OF DEFIANCE COUNTY INTERESTINGLY SET FORTH
by U. G. TEGLEY

The Ohio Legislature, February 12, 1820, passed an act providing that the land ceded by the Indians to the United States, Sept. 29, 1817, at the treaty at the rapids of the Miami of the Lake (Maumee), should be erected into 'fourteen separate and distinct counties.' Surveys were made from the Indiana state line case to the Western Reserve line, then south to the line of Greenville. The base line of the survey was the 41st parallel north latitude, which is the south line of the Connecticut Western Reserve.

Williams county, named from David WILLIAMS, one of the three captors of Major ANDRE, Benedict Arnold’s 'middleman' in his traitorous deal with the British in 1780, the other two being James PAULDING and Isaac VANWERT (hence the names of those counties), was formed April 1, 1824, and was organized April 24, 1824. January 13, 1825, the state legislature passed a resolution appointing Joseph C. HASKINS of Preble County, Forrest MEEKER of Delaware County, and Robert MORRISON of Miami County as commissioners to locate and establish a county seat for Williams county. Accordingly, they came to Defiance and proposed that if one third of all lots in the town be deeded to the county, and a jail be built, the Commissioners would establish Defiance as the county seat. Of course, this was done and the new capital was ready for business.

Defiance was laid out in November 1822, by Benjamin LEAVELL, of Piqua, and Horatio G. PHILIPS, of Dayton. The plat was acknowledged April 18, 1823, and recorded April 28, 1823, by Thomas R. McKNIGHT, Recorder of Wood county. The original plat numbered 150 lots, and was located at the confluence of the Maumee and Auglaize rivers. Benjamin Leavell was the only one of the two proprietors locating in Defiance, and he erected a home in December 1822, on the northwest corner of Water and Jefferson Streets,
opposite the fort grounds. He afterwards sold out and returned to Piqua. The lumber for his house was sawed at the Brunersburg mill. He was the town’s first innkeeper, and had the first store to supply white settlers. His store was at the foot of Jefferson Street on the river bank.

The proprietors of those 150 lots reserved the square on which the court house stands to be laid into town lots, unless the town became the county seat, ‘and forever continue to be,’ when it was to be used for public buildings. The original plat of Defiance located it between the rivers and from Jackson street on the west to Fourth street on the south. The square between Jackson and Perry Streets south of Fourth was a donation for a Methodist church and burying ground, and the square between Washington Street and the Auglaize River, and south of Fourth, for a Presbyterian Church. The Old Fort Grounds was a public donation on the same condition.

There had, of course, been white residents of Defiance ever since Anthony Wayne built his fort there in August, 1794. An aunt of Mrs. Margaret Ryder, who resides north of Ney, Mrs. Sarah Warren Evans, wife of Montgomery Evans, an army scout, lived in the old fort for a time, soon after the War of 1812, at which time, it was called Ft. Winchester. Mrs. Ryder’s father, Thomas Warren, came to Defiance from Chillicothe in 1822. William Travis, who came to Noble Township in 1819, found seven cabins occupied by French traders. John and Wm. Preston lived in old Ft. Winchester on the old fort grounds. John married a daughter of Judge Evans of Troy, Miami county. John Driver, a silversmith, was there with his family. He, with his brother, Thomas Driver, some years after, went on West.

Wm Preston, a soldier then in 1812, is considered the first white resident of Defiance. He afterwards moved to St. Joseph in Williams County. Robert Shirley came with his family in 1821. Arthur Burriss, the first blacksmith, had his shop near ‘the old apple tree’ on the North side. Dr. John Evans came in 1823, the next year bringing a large stock of goods from Maumee City, and starting the first extensive store. Albert and Foreman Evans came in 1824. John Perkins lived at ‘Camp No. 3’ a little below Independence. He not long afterward went north of Evansport and built a saw mill and grist mill, I think, on Beaver Creek. As for the French cabins, three stood in the point of the rivers, two where the canal enters the river, and two on the opposite side of the river.

Peter Lombard kept on of the trading houses on the point; L. A. Clair and Peter Bellaire occupied the cabins on the hill. About 1822, two Indian trading stores were kept on the north of the Maumee, on the hill, kept by Peter Bellaire and George Lance, but owned by the Hollister’s of Perrysburg; the other at the foot of Clinton Street on the bank of the Maumee, was owned by the Ferry’s of Michigan. These stores were moved from Defiance about the time Dr. Evans located there.

In 1825, Defiance had a store, a tavern (or rather a sort of hotel) and five or six families, among these being Robert Wesson, Timothy S. Smith, Isaac and David Hull, and James Craig. Isaac Hull had a big trade with the Indians of his store on the north side of the Maumee. Payne C. Parker came in 1827 and ran a trading house on the bank of the river. In 1829, C. C. Waterhouse operated the Pavilion House on the corner of Front and Jefferson Streets, buying out Thomas Warren and William Travis, who had bought out Dr. Evans. Mr. Waterhouse operated a four horse stage running to Maumee City, also. A barn large enough to accommodate 16 horses was built near his hotel, and not a nail or scrap of iron was used in the construction; wood pins being used, even the hinges being of wood. Virgil Squire, in 1858, bought this property and I believe it is yet owned by some member of the Squire family.

Payne C. Parker’s hotel was on the corner of Front and Clinton Street, on the site occupied for many years by Hoffman & Geiger’s furniture store. He rented this store and hotel in 1834 to Blackman & Stoddard, then in a year or so, John W. Moore took it till 1837, when Lyman Langdon ran it for four or five years, and going on his farm in Noble township, sold to Samuel Rohn and C. J. Trude. In a little while, Rohn transferred his interest to Allen Braucher. About 1848, Samuel Greenler took possession of ‘Exchange’, as Langdon had called it, and son sold out to C. L. Noble, who had charge of it when it burned down June 6, 1852, an account of which...
was published in R. R. THRALL’s ‘Defiance Banner’ June 10th:

‘The old and well-known Exchange buildings were destroyed by fire on Sunday morning last. The fire was discovered about 10 o’clock in the hotel stables in which 11 horses were burned. The buildings were the property of Col. J. D. PHILLIPS of Dayton, who had no insurance. The hotel was occupied by C. L. NOBLE, partly insured; David TAYLOR’s law office, furniture, etc. mostly saved.

A. M. RICHARD’s saddler shop, lost about $150, and Wm. FERGUSON’s tin and stove store, loss about $500. The Banner building was partly saved by great exertion of the citizens. Dr. O. ALLEN’s drug store was in imminent danger. Pierce EVANS and E. F. LINDENBERGER had their goods considerably damaged in removing them.’

In 1833, William SEMANS, Pierce TAYLOR, Walter DAVIS, Frederick and Peter BRIDENBAUGH were Defiance residents. Thomas WARREN had gone on a farm on Mulligan’s Bluff in Delaware Township before this. Davis was the first cooper,. Jacob KNISS, I think it was, was the first shoemaker. CRAIG & JOLLY started the first tannery nearly about the corner of First and Clinton Streets.

March 10, 1834, the name of the town was changed from Ft. Defiance to Defiance; May 19, 1821, the first post office was established with Timothy SMITH as postmaster, in his house on the North side. The post office in 1822 was moved into a little 10 x 12 building built for it on the south side of the river. Peter G. O’HARA and Samuel EWING were his bondsmen for $700. The mail route extended from Piqua to Perrysburg via Ft. Wayne, a distance of 200 miles; the carrier was Thomas DRIVER, who made his round trip every two weeks. I may as well give a list of Defiance postmasters here, with the year or date of appointment, up to the present:

May 19, 1821 – Timothy S. SMITH
June 30, 1826 – Benjamin LEAVEY
Jan. 13, 1830 – Joseph HULL
March 12, 1831 – Foreman EVANS
October 21, 1837 – Jonas COLBY
July 6, 1841 – Sereno LYMAN
March 18, 1842 – Orlando EVANS

Feb. 13, 1845 – Samuel S. CASE
October 5, 1847 – Wm. RICHARDS
June 20, 1851 – Henry C. BOUTON
May 16, 1861 – Chas. W. EVANS
Aug. 4, 1868 – Joseph RALSTON (special acting)
March 3, 1869 – Joseph RALSTON
February 20, 1871 – Francis BROOKS
February 26, 1875 – Geo. W. DEATRICK
1887 – John M. HENGSTLER
1891 – Charles B. SQUIRE
1895 – Peter WEIGERDING
1899 – Herman A. SPANGLER”

From the Andrew L. Tuttle Memorial Museum 514 West Third Street, Defiance, Ohio 43512 Phone 419-782-0746 Date: Mon, January 9, 2017 11:20 am To subscribe: <thetuttle@cityofdefiance.com>

“Old newspapers always intrigue us. They are brittle and yellow and hard to unfold without losing scraps of paper along the fold line. They seem so old-fashioned, so quaint, so “Good Old Days.” Old newspapers do, though, pull us back into history. The Defiance Crescent-News of Saturday, April 27, 1929, reported on life in good old Defiance, Ohio.

• The Twin-Towers Barbeque, on Route 24 east of Defiance, offered home-baked foods, sandwiches, salads, ice cream, soft drinks, and was “open for the season.”
• The Elks sponsored a dance (round and square) at the hall for 25¢.
• A 4:00 children’s matinee of “The Elks Big Minstrel Show,” was to be held in the high school auditorium, price 10¢ with copy of the ad.
• Airplane rides were offered by Albertus Motor Sales at the Defiance Simplex field. A giant Ford Tri-Motor took folks on a twenty-mile ride over Defiance. All this for $5, or free if one ordered a new Ford Model A car or truck.
• Nolan’s coffee was sold for 45¢ per pound. the Graham-Paige automobile for $935.

Thanks for a minute of your time.”