

Yesteryears' Trails



Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Defiance County
Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 7006 Defiance, OH 43512-7006
Web Site: [Http: www.defiancecountygenealogy.org](http://www.defiancecountygenealogy.org)
Email address: defiancegenealogy2002@yahoo.com
Blog site: defiancecountyohiogenealogy.blogspot.com



2022

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Issue 4

Defiance County Genealogy Chapter and Board Meetings

Regular monthly meetings of the Defiance Chapter OGS are held at St. John United Church of Christ at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise stated. The address is 950 Webster Street— on the northeastern corner of the Defiance College campus. Entry is on the north side of the church adjacent to the college gymnasium.

Chapter meetings are the 4th Monday of each month except as noted.

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

Table of Contents

Chapter Meetings	41
Chapter Contacts	42
Chapter News	43
March 4th - Genealogy Help Workshop	44
Attendance Challenge	44
Finding Burial Records	44
LDS Burial Records Online	45
WPA Records Defiance Co. Cemeteries	47
Early Entertainment in Defiance	49
Green Burials	50
1940 County Home Residents	52
County Formations and Namesakes	53
German Gen. Conference- Fort Wayne	53

DCGS Programs for 2023

February 27- Rhonda Casler
"Criminals, Convicts, and Outlaws:
Finding Your Black Sheep Ancestors"

March 27 - Publishing Family Genealogy Books

Beginning with the April 24th meeting--
Histories of Notable Buildings in
the County

May 22 - Sarah Marshall
The Worthington Project



Thank you to those who have supported our organization in the past. With the new year, it is time to once again become a member. You will find an application form at the end of this newsletter.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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

Officers and Trustees -2022

President - Joanne Allison

joanne.richolt.allison@gmail.com

Vice-President - Rhonda Casler

Corresponding Secretary - Dianne Kline

dijimkline@gmail.com

Recording Secretary - Mary Williams

marywill@smta.cc

Treasurer - Dan Hasch

dhasch@defnet.com

Membership - Dawn Hasch

dh_apple@yahoo.com

First Families - Mary Scranton

mjs463@frontier.com

Newsletter Editor - Mary Williams

marywill@smta.cc

Trustees:

Kim Bercaw

Dawn Hasch

Pat Wise

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

**Defiance County First
Families**

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



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

Defiance County Centennial Families

To acknowledge families which have been in Defiance County for 100 years or more, our chapter has established a centennial recognition program. Just one item of proof showing that a family member was here in 1918 or before is needed to register a family. Upon registration, a certificate will be sent from the chapter. For more information, please contact the chapter via email or by postal mail-- attention of Carol Ehlinger.

Become a Member of DCGS

**Chapter dues are \$15.00 for an individual
and \$18.00 per family.**

An additional \$5.00 is required for mailing the four annual newsletters through the U. S. Post Office. Membership form is at the end of this newsletter or you may download a membership form at

www.defiancecountygenealogy.org

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.



Defiance County OGS Chapter News

November Happenings

At the November board meeting, Dan Hasch provided the October financial report showing a balance of \$6,245.14. Dianne Kline noted that she had answered queries concerning the Bostater Cemetery and churches in Highland Twp.

Dianne Kline moved to give \$25.00 to BGSU for the Ohio History Day contest. Rhonda Casler seconded the motion which then carried. Dianne noted that in the past month there were over 1500 hits to the blog site.

Dawn Hasch, membership chair, noted that there are currently 67 members. Dan Hasch noted that the Sherwood Chronicle will soon become a part of Newspaper Archives.

Rhonda noted that those seeking vital records for Defiance County now must get permission from the department where the original documents were created. She noted, too, that she has an index of names who resided at the Defiance County Home. Also some records can be located at the Jerome Library at BGSU including a listing of residents of the county children's home.

Rhonda suggested a punch card to reward members. Top attendees would receive rewards and there will also be a drawing for other members who were in attendance for the meetings February through November.

November Chapter Meeting Scandalous Ancestors

Eleven members were present for the November chapter meeting. President Allison noted that Finding Your Roots is proposing a contest "Tell Us Your

Story" which would allow the winner to appear on their program.

Members then shared some of their scandalous ancestor stories. The main substances of the stories are as follows.

The wife of a UB minister paid her husband's theological costs-- after his death. A husband and wife lived separate lives with separate families without ever divorcing. A German man immigrated to America leaving his German family behind and establishing a new family in America. A Holgate man was killed and his home burned by the Black Legion. There were reports of a theft of a \$3.00 saw, and the offer of forgiveness if 10 jars of fruit would be returned.


A Sherwood tavern owner "Wild Bill" was accused of serving a minor and attacking the town marshal and then the subsequent missing witnesses. A respected treasurer of Flat Rock fled to the Dakotas due to gambling losses. A white woman married a black barber in the 1830s. A "loose woman" abandoned her child. An immigrant fled from England due to practicing medicine without a diploma. A man is sued for paternity since he got one woman pregnant while his wife was delivering his baby.

A young man deserted from the North Carolina army during the Civil War. A couple was caught in a sting operation selling illegal liquor. Edward Grove, the leader of a rebel group, tried to overthrow the Royal Governor (1630s in NH) and was sentenced for high treason. He was sent to London for sentencing; upon his return, his wife used the "insanity defense" for his defense.

MEMBER QUERY

Ann Jane Cassitt Brobek, died 1892/1896, owned land in Paulding County. Second husband was Israel Brobeck. Where was she buried?

No evidence found in any Paulding County cemeteries. Her daughter and husband were buried in Hedges Cemetery in Paulding County. Israel went to Michigan after her death and was buried there.



Genealogy Workshop

Saturday, March 4 10:30-12:30
Defiance Public Library
Genealogy Help Session
Help provided by the DCGS
Limited to 5 participants

Members of the DCGS will be available to help attendees with their genealogy. There will be guidance whether a beginner or a season researcher who has specific questions to be answered.
No charge for the workshop.

Defiance County Genealogy Society
Meeting Attendance Card
2023

Feb								Nov
Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Sep	Oct		

To encourage attendance at the monthly DCGS meetings, the DCGS board has proposed the following incentive. The first time a person attends a meeting beginning in February 2023, a card will be created. The card holder needs to attend 5 meetings in 2023 and get their card punched to be eligible for a drawing in November. Officers are not eligible. Cards would be kept by the DCGS so that members would not need to carry them.

The Good News-- and the Bad-- Concerning Burial Records

THE BAD NEWS

Some early burials were marked with only wooden crosses or information scratched on rocks which obviously deteriorated; some burials went unmarked entirely. Later, many burials had only temporary metal markers which were not replaced with more permanent monuments.

THE BETTER NEWS

DCGS read the tombstones in Defiance County cemeteries from 1978 and some reread until 2000. Readings of the tombstones were published., but many earlier existing tombstone at that time had previously disappeared or were unreadable. Since then many of those gravestones which were recorded at that time have become unreadable or have even disappeared .

MORE GOOD NEWS

Thanks to genealogy organizations such as Find A Grave and Billions of Records inscriptions (and photos) of tombstones may not be lost.

Family Search, an LDS site allows for searching of cemetery records limited to Ohio. In the catalog, enter Ohio in the place. FamilySearchhttps://www.familysearch.org/wiki/Ohio_Cemeteries Competing for which site has the most burial records are Find A Grave and Billion Graves.

Find a Grave

www.findagrave.com
www.ancestry.com › search › collections

Find a Grave is a searchable website that allows the public to search and even add to an online database of cemetery records. It is now owned by Ancestry.com. The site was created in 1995 by Salt Lake City resident Jim Tipton to support his hobby of visiting the burial sites of celebrities. He later added an online forum which allowed the addition of photos-- and other information from the public. Find a Grave was launched as a commercial entity in 1998 and then incorporated in 2000.

There not only are photos of the gravesites but

much more may be added such as genealogies, family stories and histories, etc. Of course, one should use discretion as some of the information may not be factual!

Billion Graves

<https://billiongraves.com>

BillionGraves partners with FamilySearch, My Heritage, FindMyPast and other genealogical companies. Each of these companies has indexes of BillionGraves records. BillionGraves claims to be the largest resource for GPS-tagged headstone and burial records on the web with over 12 million headstone records. This index is regularly updated throughout the year and pertains solely to U.S. headstones.

LDS Genealogy - Cemetery Records Online

<https://ldsgenealogy.com/OH/Defiance-County-Cemetery-Records.htm#4>

The LDS Organization has compiled photos from Find A Grave and Billion Graves into searchable indexes for most Defiance County cemeteries. Some burials which had no headstones were even replaced with obituaries or other information.

For example all "Ney" cemeteries have been photographed by volunteers for Find a Grave.

Ney Cemetery Records

Doll Cemetery Find a Grave online
Lintz Cemetery Find a Grave online
Marysdale Catholic Cemetery Find a Grave online
Marysdale Catholic Cemetery Billion Graves online
Ney Cemetery Find a Grave online
Ney Cemetery Billion Graves online
Trinity Cemetery Billion Graves online
Trinity Lutheran Cemetery Find a Grave online
Upper Lost Creek Cemetery Find a Grave online

For example by clicking on the word "online" you can access the specific cemetery. There you can browse all of the photos of tombstone or you can enter specific names. The Doll Cemetery has 71 stones photographed. The location of the cemetery is given and a listing of nearby cemeteries.

While many cemeteries are listed and are online, others are not. In that case, the site refers to other resources such as Family Search or Ancestry or even our own DCGS publications.

The following listing is found at the LDS Genealog Site

Defiance Cemetery Records

Most can be found online; other will provide directions to other resources.

Auglaize Village Cemetery Find a Grave online
Battensburg Cemetery Billion Graves online
Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery Find a Grave online
Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery Find a Grave online
Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery Billion Graves online
Brunersburg Cemetery Billion Graves online
Brunersburg Cemetery Ohio Gravestones online
Cemeteries of Defiance, Ottawa, and Wood counties, Ohio. WorldCat
Church records, 1850-1997 (Catholic Church. St. John the Evangelist (Defiance, Ohio)) Family History Library
Church records, 1876-2001 (Catholic Church. St. Mary (Defiance, Ohio)) Family History Library
Cromley Cemetery Find a Grave online
Cromley Cemetery Billion Graves online
Defiance County Children Home Cemetery Billion Graves online
Domersville Cemetery Find a Grave online
Domersville Cemetery Billion Graves online
Evansport Cemetery Billion Graves online
Evansport Cemetery Genealogy Trails online
Foster Cemetery Find a Grave online
Frazee Cemetery Find a Grave online
Hire Cemetery Find a Grave online
Hire Cemetery Billion Graves online
Huse Cemetery Find a Grave online
Independence Cemetery Find a Grave online
Independence Cemetery Billion Graves online
Junction Cemetery Billion Graves online
Kahlo Cemetery Find a Grave online
Kahol Cemetery Billion Graves online
Mansfield Cemetery Find a Grave online
Mansfield Cemetery Billion Graves online
McCauley Cemetery Find a Grave online
McCauley Cemetery Billion Graves online

Myers Cemetery Find a Grave online
 Myers Cemetery Billion Graves online
 New Saint John Methodist Cemetery
 Billion Graves online
 Noble And Tiffin Cemetery Find a Grave online
 Noble And Tiffin Cemetery Billion Graves online
 Old Saint John Methodist Cemetery
 Billion Graves online
 Old Saint Stephen Lutheran Cemetery
 Billion Graves online
 Pleasant Bend and Ayersville Cemetery
 Billion Graves online
 Poplar Ridge Cemetery Find a Grave online
 Poplar Ridge Cemetery Billion Graves online
 Riverside Cemetery Find a Grave online
 Riverside Cemetery Billion Graves online
 Riverside Cemetery US Gen Web Archives online
 Riverside Cemetery Genealogy Trails online
 Riverview Memory Gardens Find a Grave online
 Riverview Memory Gardens Billion Graves online
 Saint Mark Lutheran Cemetery Billion Graves online
 Saint Marks Lutheran Cemetery Find a Grave online
 Saint Mary Cemetery Billion Graves online
 Saint Michael Catholic Cemetery
 Billion Graves online
 Saint Stephen Cemetery Billion Graves online
 Stykeman-Minsel Cemetry Find a Grave online
 Taylor Cemetery Find a Grave online
 Taylor Cemetery Billion Graves online
 Tombstone inscriptions for the cemeteries
 in Defiance City and Township, with Old Riv
 erside Cem[etery], Defiance County, Ohio,
 volume 1 and 2 Family History Library
 Tombstone inscriptions for the cemeteries
 in Defiance City and Township, with Old Riv
 erside Cem[etery], Defiance County, Ohio,
 volume 1 and 2 Family History Library
 Tombstone inscriptions for the cemeteries
 in New Riverside Cemetery, Defiance Town
 ship, Defiance County, Ohio, volume 1
 Family History Library
 Tuttle Cemetery Find a Grave online
 Tuttle Cemetery Billion Graves online

WPA Records of Defiance County Cemeteries

One of the earliest, important sources of burial sites in Defiance County, was the compilation of the WPA.. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was an ambitious employment program created by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1935 during the bleakest days of the Great Depression. Over its eight years of existence, the WPA put roughly 8.5 million Americans to work building schools, hospitals, roads and other public works. One of these projects was the location and description of the burial sites in each Ohio county. At the time of the compilation, the report noted that there were "88 cemeteries and lesser burial grounds in Defiance County."

★★★★★
WHAT BROUGHT THEM HERE
1803-2023



Sandusky, Ohio APRIL 26-29, 2023
★★★★★

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

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

**For more information go to
www.ogsconference.org**

**Conference questions:
ogscord@ogs.org**

From the WPA Records--

Riverside Cemetery

Riverside was (and still is) the largest cemetery; it was laid out in 1848 though it was used as a burial site at least 11 years before. The report noted that there was a consecrated Roman Catholic section on the west side of the ravine. The new section comprised 56 of the total of 68 acres in the cemetery. Also in the new cemetery is the "Soldiers' Field" then owned and kept up by the GAR Bishop Post. Too, there is a "paupers' lot" maintained by the city.

Near the entrance to the new section is a mausoleum built in 1987 at a cost of \$28,000. It is made of bedford stone and is 30 feet high with a Spanish type roof and the inside of Italian Marble.

According to the WPA records, many of the graves from the Old Kahlo Cemetery were moved across the river; other graves, too, were moved from the Old Methodist Church and the old Presbyterian Church which is now the site of the current Presbyterian Church on Washington Avenue.

The oldest known grave (1837) is that of the infant daughter of Lyman and Fannie Langdon, a pioneer family who built the Langdon Tavern to the northwest of Defiance. Coincidentally, the youngest Langdon daughter was buried in 1936 around 100 years later.

According to the report, notables buried there when the report was published were the following. Dr. Charles Slocum (1841-1915) who was a physician, philanthropist and author of *The History of the Maumee River Basin* published in 1905; William C. Holgate, a pioneer settler of Defiance and early leader of the city; Pierce Evans, another early pioneer settler of the area (and a cousin of Forman Evans who founded Independence and Evansport); Francis E. Blanchard, musician and composer; Lon Moore, noted clown of the Hagenbeck-Willace Circus.

Forest Home Cemetery

Located in Hicksville Township on the northern edge of the village of Hicksville is the second largest cemetery in Defiance County. It is bisected by the "Auburn Road" and the older part contains 26 acres. In the center of the older section is the Soldier's Monument built to honor the dead from the Civil War.

The first known buried as that in the cemetery was Burton Rakestraw in 1850. The newer part of the cemetery was added in 1921.

Notables buried at the time of the reports were John Swilley (1830-1881) who built the first hotel in Hicksville and was the father of Amelia Bingham, a noted American actress; and Carl Hart, whose Hart's girls band toured in Europe.

Some burial sites of historical or legendary significance were also included.

Indian Mound on Camel's Back Hill

The burial ground is located in Section 34 of Defiance Township at the junction of Lowells Creek and the Auglaize River.

Researchers have uncovered both Indian and White men's bones as well as Indian relics. Researchers are uncertain as to the white men's bones, but they are believed to be those of early French explorers, "possibly members of the LaSalle expedition in 1669 or that of Jean Jacques Blancard a century later. Blancard was a French refugee who settled in Fort Findlay and for whom the Blancard River was named."

Old Indian Burial Ground on the Maumee River

Located in Noble Township is a burial site thought to be an old Indian lookout and burial ground perhaps used by the Delawares at the time of General Wayne.

Old Kentuckian Burial Ground

This site is located in Richland Township in Independence State Park on the Maumee River. This was the site of General Winchester's Camp No. 3 during the winter of 1812-1813. More than 300 Kentuckians died that winter killed or died of starvation. When the Miami and Erie Canal was built in 1837-1848 through the site of the stockade, thousands of bones were discovered and reburied.

Brunersburg Cemetery

In Noble Township and Brunersburg Village, this cemetery has the best authenticated claim to being the oldest in the county still in use. There is a written

record of a burial in 1822 of Margaret Delette. Formally the cemetery was kept by the Brunersburg Methodist Church which was destroyed by a tornado in 1920.

Evansport Cemetery

Another of the older cemeteries is located in Tiffin Township near the village of Evansport. It is found on both sides of the Evansport-Defiance Road with the oldest part on the east side. Pioneer settlers buried her include the Halls, Camerons, and Partees.

Worthington Colored Cemetery

According to the WPA records for the Worthington Cemetery, the "graveyard should have historical value... as it is one of the first Negro cemeteries in the north." The site is in Section 7 of Highland Township. It was begun in 1855 and was abandoned after the death of Mr. Worthington on whose farm it rested. After the time of the burials, the land was then owned by Jennie Watson. Much of the land was then farmed or he report noted that it was a composed of 26 acres and the graves buried beneath the fields

When the WPA investigated they found only about a dozen old white slab markers. At one time it was thought to have 50 or more. The oldest gravestone the WPA workers found was for Anney Champ who was born in 1781 and died in 1855.

Lost Creek Cemetery

The cemetery is located in Section 29 of Farmer Township on Rt. 2. It faces across the road the old Evangelical Church and contains 5 acres. John Bercaw's is the oldest tombstone dated 1844. It is thought to be the oldest grave site in the western part of the county. "Many of the markers date from the 1840s and 1850s. Notables buried there are Henry Wonderly, a pioneer sheriff of Defiance County (1863-1871). Miller Arrowsmith (1808-1893) was one of the first surveyors of Defiance and Williams Counties. George Ridenour (1812-1891) is noted as the founder of the village of Ney. Ira Brown (1804-1905) is said to be the oldest man at the time of the WPA canvassing. He was seven months past his 100th birthday.

Hill Cemetery

This cemetery sits on the top of a sand hill. It also began as a private burial site for the Hill family.

The first burial recorded was that of Jane Hill, wife of Harvey Hill who died in 1858. Notables buried here are many of the early pioneers of Highland Township. According the WPA records: "Harvey Hill, the greatest man and the great ancestor of the Hills... is the foremost citizen." John K. Myers was Justice of Peace of Highland Township for 40 years. John M. Myers was the Master of Ceremonies of the GAR Bishop Post for 20 years.

Also buried here is Charles Mumford, a black southern slave who migrated to Highland Township during the Civil War and owned a farm and raised a family. At the time of the WPA report, the only living relative of the Mumfords living in Defiance County was Bell Hitower. Other important person listed are the Fulmers, Blanchards, and Dunlaps.

Farmer Cemetery

Located just to the north of the village of Farmer, the Farmer Cemetery is made up of 15 acres. It is owned by the village of Farmer and Farmer Township. The site was first used about 1839-1840; it was used as a burying ground for many of the early settlers. It was, however, not officially opened until during the Civil War. Around 25 graves from a private burial ground were moved here in 1863.

Some of the early settlers buried here are Mike Nicely (1813-1883), John Erlston (1839-1929). Gil Thompson (1809-1906), Moses Gardner (1811-1881), A. P. McConkey (1838-1906).

John Norway (1836-1911) was one of the founders of Farmer Center. Darius Allen (1807-1869) was one of the "richest men" in

the township. The earliest birth record is that of Jacob Knight (1787-1855) who was a War of 1812 soldier. Philip Noble (1816-1887) was the first sheriff of Defiance County in 1845 and for whom Noble Township was named. The Hon. A. G. Biglow was a “noted historian, scholar, and man of letter and a one time representative to Congress and also a noted professor.



Citizens' Opera House which was located at the corner of Clinton and Fifth Street. Note the trolleys waiting beside the building.

Early Culture and Entertainment in Defiance

The Home Savings and Loan published an undated publication titled “Defiance’s Colorful Past. The author was Robert B. Boehm who then was a professor of history at The Defiance College.

One of the section of the publication is “Culture, Society, and Entertainments.” The following is an excerpt from that section.

Defiance’s Five Operas

“The peak of the theatre business in the city came during the first decade of the 20th century when five different establishments competed for the rather limited audiences of Defiance and surrounding areas.

The largest and probably most extravagant was the Citizen’s Opera House which later became the Valentine Theatre. The other four were the Elite at 302 Clinton; the Star, 425 Clinton; the Majestic, 515 Clinton; and The Royal, 521 Clinton Street. Seldom, if ever, did the theatres have performances at the same time, but they did provide the citizens with a steady diet of music, plays, and vaudeville.”

Before the opera houses were built, citizens were entertained by traveling troops. Performances were put on in open air areas or in empty buildings. There were also lectures and circuses and vaudeville acts.

Island Park

Another means of entertainment was at Island Park which was in operation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Located on an island in the middle of the Maumee River, the site offered a wide variety of entertainment found on the facilities: “baseball, football, race track restaurant, refreshment stands, and a 700 seat auditorium. Also, there was a pavilion for dancing, a merry-go-round, shooting galley, and penny arcade. To get to the island merry-makers could take with of two steamer boats, the *Goldie* or the *Laurina*. Visitors also could take the trolley or cross the existing bridge with their own vehicles.

Band Music

Even before Island Park, there would have been a variety of bands probably as early as the “late 1840s or early 1850s.’ At one time there were two city bands: the East Defiance Citizen’s Band and the 6th Regiment Band. “The bands “appeared on all the holidays, many political rallies and gave special concerts, featuring marches, overtures, and light opera music.”

According to Robert Boehm, civic organizations were also popular. He noted the following organizations available in the city: Eagles, National Union (Anthony Wayne Council), Tribe of Ben Hur, Modern Woodmen of America, Elks, Masons, German Aid Society, Turnbull Aid Society, Ladies Aid Society, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Catholic Knights of America, Catholic Knights of Ohio, Catholic Ladies of Ohio, Knights of Columbus, St. Bonifacius Societ

(Cont. on page 52)

In the current movement toward “green” and the preservation of nature, some people are choosing green burials. For genealogists this might be a deterrent, as many would choose not to have identifying tombstones!

What Is a Green Burial or Funeral?

Lincoln Heritage Funeral Advantage

<https://www.lhlic.com/consumer-resources/green-burial/>

“Green burial is designed to have a minimal environmental impact and conserve natural resources. Also called natural burial or eco-friendly burial, green burial emphasizes simplicity and sustainability. In a typical green burial, the body is not cremated, prepared with chemicals, or buried in a concrete vault. It is simply placed in a biodegradable container and interred in a gravesite to decompose fully and return to nature.

Natural burials don’t use traditional embalming fluid. There are alternative chemical-free embalming oils that may be used instead when needed. These essential oils degrade without leaving trace chemicals in the soil.

Typical Options for a Natural Burial

For a more conventional approach, there are many ways to ensure your final arrangements are environmentally friendly. And with each option, there are plenty of things to consider. Do you want to be buried in a set location that your visitors know? Do you want to be cremated and have your ashes scattered?

Because of the wide variety of options available today, it’s important to make sure your final wishes are written down and that your preferences are clearly listed. Include where you’d like the burial to take place, such as a mortuary that is certified to perform green services.

Among the things you should specify are:

- 1) Ceremony preferences (passages read, flowers used, music, etc.)
- 2) Preferences for biodegradable coffins, organic or non-toxic embalming fluid, etc.
- 3) Whether or not to have a viewing beforehand

Why Are Some Choosing this Natural Option?

There is nothing new or revolutionary about eco-friendly burials. Most burials before the mid-19th century were conducted this way, and many traditions still call for it. The reasons for selecting this type of burial vary from person to person, but the major motivations for this type of service are:

- 1) Cost-savings. Green burials are typically cheaper than traditional burials because you don’t need to purchase a traditional casket.
- 2) Environmentally friendly. They have less of an impact on the environment because of the materials used.
- 3) Spiritual significance. Many people feel a special connection with nature. This approach allows the deceased to return to the earth naturally.

A checklist for planning a green burial for yourself or a loved one.

Costs

As with most funeral costs, prices for green funerals vary widely based on region and the type of burial site. Plots for green burials in an eco-friendly cemetery, for example, tend to be larger than those in a conventional cemetery so they may cost more.

For this type of burial, it typically costs \$1,000 – \$4,000 and usually includes a burial plot, fees to open and close the grave, a plot marker, and a one-time endowment to a perpetual care fund to maintain the property as a natural burial site. It does not include the cost of a funeral or memorial service or any processing/transporting of the body.

The cost for a gravesite and interment range from \$200 to \$1,000 for cremated remains. Keep in mind these charges do not include the cost of the cremation process itself, which averages \$1,000-\$2,500 and is handled by a funeral home, mortuary, or crematory. Be sure to shop several funeral homes to find a fair price. Keep in mind you can save money by providing your own casket. The law requires funeral homes to accept any appropriate burial container without assessing an additional fee. So-called “earth-friendly caskets” may be unnecessary and add thousands of dollars to the final bill.

Natural Burial Sites

Natural burial promotes the restoration of poor soil areas and allows for long-term reuse of the land. Natural burial sections typically do not allow upright monuments. Individual graves are identified with a marker flush with the ground at the head of the body. The markers may be a natural rock or a plaque, although they are not typically set using concrete. Some natural burial sites choose to have no physical markers, instead indicating grave locations recorded by GPS. To preserve the pristine natural landscape and protect native plants and wildlife, most green cemeteries limit personal plantings and memorial decorations like potted flowers, wreaths, flags, chimes, and balloons.

Green Burial Caskets

Green caskets made of plain wood, wicker, and even cardboard are acceptable – and encouraged – at most green cemeteries. There are many new products that cater to these types of burials, including biodegradable containers that are made from paper, cardboard, willow, sea-grass, or bamboo that can break down with little environmental impact. Also, you can simply have your loved one wrapped in a favorite blanket or quilt made of natural materials like cotton or wool.

FAQs

Is it legal to have a natural burial?

Yes. There are no laws prohibiting green or natural burial. But you must be familiar with both federal regulations, your individual state laws, and local regulations for where a person can be naturally buried.

Is a natural burial legal in my state?

Green burials are legal in all 50 states, but each one has its own rules about where and how they can be done. A local funeral director can give you all of the guidance you need to have an eco-friendly service.

Can a body be buried without a casket?

Yes. No state law requires the use of a casket for burial. A person can be directly interred in the earth,

in a shroud, or in a vault without a casket. Funeral homes and cemeteries may have their own rules regarding casket use.

Are green burials cheaper than conventional ones?

Yes. Green burials can be substantially less expensive because they do not include the high costs of embalming, ornate caskets, or concrete vaults. Depending on the other elements of the funeral ceremony, an eco-friendly burial could lower the cost by thousands of dollars.

What is a home burial?

If you or your family members own rural property, home burial may be an option. All states except for Arkansas allow burial on private property, although some states require you to designate a piece of land as a family cemetery that is limited to family members only. Plus, each municipality has its own zoning requirements, so be sure to check with yours and obtain the required permits.

Is cremation an option with natural burials?

Yes. Although the process may be altered slightly to comply with the cemetery rules, cremation is usually an option for a natural burial. Many green cemeteries allow people to bury their loved one in a biodegradable urn made of a material like raw wood, paper, or clay. Some natural burial grounds might prohibit scattering cremated remains because the denseness of the elements can smother the foliage when scattered. Likewise, cremated remains are what result after the biodegradable materials have burned away, resulting in little to no environmental benefits.

(Organizations- Cont. from page 49)

ity, League of the Sacred Heart, Ladies Alter Society of the St. Mary's Church, Society of Christian Mothers, Caecelia Maennerchor, Grand Army of the Republic (Bishop Post), Knights of Macabees, Ladies of Macabees, Chamber of Commerce, Commercial Club, Defiance Club, Defiance County Civic League, Defiance Grange, Women's Christian Temperance Union, and English Aid Society. Still, besides these the article notes "there were probably others." Certainly there "would hardly have been an adults in the city who was not a member" of some organization."



Myer's Opera House on the left and Russell House (Sprague Hall) at the corner of Clinton and First.

County Home Residents, April 1, 1940

***Defiance County, Ohio
Census of 1940 – Tiffin Township,***

Leaders, Glen – farm manager, age 62
Leaders, Sarah – matron, age 59 – both work 60 hours a week
Young, Junior – lodger, age 11, attends school
Sanders, Donald – farm hand, age 19
Crawford, Rag – farm hand, age 20
Lewis, Margaret, 64

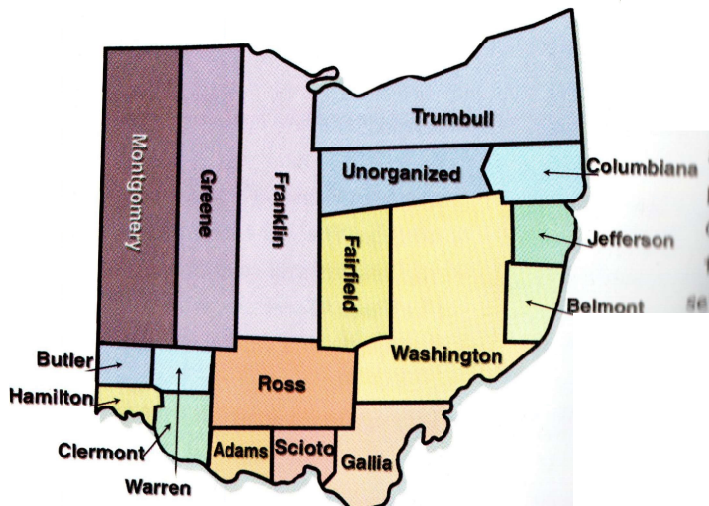
Inmates of f the County Home

Farasht, Agnes, 29, widow
Davidson, Goldie, 28, single
Young, Bonnie, 40, divorced
Thompson, Harriet, 37, married
Smith, May, 48, single
English, Mary, 48, married
Krider, Edith, 37, divorced
Haskel, Margaret, 61, widow
Hartley, Phyllis, 37, married
Spro, Hazel, 33, single
Spro, Gladys, 48, single
Shortgen, Kate, 54, widow
Shortgen, Lucile, 34, single
Wonderly, Martha, 66, single
Kelley, Mae, 44, widow
Altenberger, Florence, 40, widow
Diamond, Anna, 45, single
Johnson, Stella, 36, single
Sewell, Gertrude, 44, single
Blair, Mary, 81, widow
Wood, Mary, 82, single
Newman, Rena, 83, widow
Sanders, Sadie, 72, single
Gooshea, Mary, 82, single
Henry, Jennie, 82, single
Lenhart, Mary, 84, widow
Burke, Orlando, 59, single
Wells, Benj. F. 84, married
Hilbert, Wm. G., 39, single
Bensnider, Clyde, 50, single
Leonard, Alpheus, 71, widow
Wilson, Geo. B., 85, widow
Keesbury, Earl, 31, single
Wrede, Leo, 50, single
Weaver, Raymond, 39, single
Weisenberger, Fred, 64, divorced
Bentley, Frank, 59, married
Speck, John, 61, divorced
Speck, Alfred, 54, married
Dye, Wade, 70, single
Speck, Ora, 54, single
Parker, John G., 64, single
Place, Glen, 41, single
Smith, Walter D, ?, single
Drenning, Sam, 86, widow
Coyr, Steven, 72, single

ConKolb, Jos., 60, single
Oliver, Everett, 68, single
Nichols, Glen, 50, single
Gump, Williard, 42, single
Miller, Henry, 65, single
Lemon, John, 63, single
Bricker, Harry, 63, single
Kyle, Robert, 61, single
Spangler, Leroy, 59, single
Philson, Thos., 80, single
Calhoun, John, 60, single

Were there always 88 counties in Ohio?

No. When Ohio was admitted as a state in 1803, the counties were as shown below. This is important to know when researching ancestors who lived in Ohio in the early years of its existence. The Defiance area would have been in Montgomery County!



It is also interesting to know the origin of the names of some of the counties in Ohio especially of those nearby Defiance. Of course most of us know that Defiance (1845) was named for Fort Defiance built in 1794 by General Anthony Wayne.

Here are some of the area counties with their inception dates and namesakes;

Allen (1820) probably named either for Ethan Allen, Revolutionary War hero, or for John L. Allen, a hero of 1812.

Fulton (1850) named for Robert Fulton inventor of the steamboat.

Henry (1820) named for Patrick Henry, celebrated orator of the Revolutionary War and Governor of Virginia for over five years.

Lucas (1835) named for Robert Lucas, Ohio governor 1832-1836, who personally commanded Ohio troops in the 1835 boundary dispute with Michigan.

Ottawa (1840) named for the Ottawa Indian tribe. The name in their language meant “trader.”

Paulding (1820) named for John Paulding, one of the three soldiers who captured Major John Andre, British spy in the Revolutionary War.

Putnam (1820) named for Israel Putnam, Revolutionary War Major General who gained fame at the Battle of Breed’s Hill.

Van Wert (1820) named for one of the three who captured Andre.

Williams (1820) honors David Williams, one of the three who captured Andre

Wood (1820) named after Major Eleazer D. Wood, U.S.. Army Engineer, who built Fort Meigs in 1813 while serving on the staff of General William Henry Harrison.

IGGP Conference 2023



**Crossroads and Connections:
Find your Family Story**

**To be held in Fort Wayne
June 9-11**

The Allen County Public Library and Genealogy Center are partnering with the International German Genealogy Partnership for their 2023 conference. The conference will take place June 9 - 11, 2023 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, at the same time as the city holds its annual German Fest. This “most German town” (as it historically has been called) will be the place to be early in the summer! There will be an onsite component and a virtual component.

More information will continually be made available at the IGGP website, <https://iggp.org/>, in the IGGP newsletter at <https://iggp.org/cpage.php?pt=89>, and on their Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/IGGPartnership/>.

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Defiance County Genealogy Society
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Description of Publications

	Price	Quantity	Total
Reprint of 1876DefianceCountyAtlaswith Indices (Paper- pub. 2007)	25.00		
Plat Map Index or Biographical Index for the 1876Def.Co.Atlas	\$8.00 each		
Index to the 1976DefianceCountyHistoryBook (pub. 2006)	\$15.00		
Index to theHistory of DefianceCounty 1883 (pub. 2008)	\$30.00		
Def. Co. Tombstone Index '78-'83: BookA-K or Book L-Z (pub. 2001)	\$30.00 each		
EarlyDeath Records of Defiance Co. 1867-1884 (pub. 2001)	\$25.00		
Def. Co. Deaths 1884-1907: BookA-K or Book L-Z (pub. 2004)	\$25.00 each		
Def. Co. Deaths 1908-1996: BookA-E, Book F-K, Book L-R or Book S-Z	\$30.00 each		
Def. Co.Out of County and State Burial Permits 1973-1998 (pub. 2004)	\$25.00		
Def.Co.Riverside Interments: Jan. 1978-July 2006 (pub. 2007)	\$25.00		
Adams Township Def.Co. Inscription Book (Read in 2000; pub. 2005)	\$25.00		
Def. Twp.& CityTombstone Inscription. (New Riverside Cem. not included) (Read in '78-'82; pub. 2001)	\$25.00		
Defiance City New Riverside Tombstone Inscriptions (Read '78-'82; pub. 2001)	\$35.00		
Delaware Twp.Def.Co. Tombstone Inscriptions (Read '01-'02; pub. 2005)	\$30.00		
Farmer Twp.Def.Co.Tombstone Inscriptions (Read '94; pub. 2008)	\$30.00		
Hicksville Twp.Def.Co.Tombstone Inscriptions (Read '00-'02; pub. 2007)	\$35.00		
Highland Twp.Def.Co.Tombstone Inscriptions (Read '01; pub. 2005)	\$25.00		
Mark & MilfordTwp.Def. Co.Tombstone Inscriptions (Read '01; pub. 2004)	\$25.00		
Noble Twp.Def.Co.Tombstone Inscriptions (Read '92; pub. 2005)	\$20.00		
Richland Twp.Def.Co./Tombstone Inscriptions (Read '78-'82; pub. 2001)	\$20.00		
TiffinTwp.Def.Co.Tombstone Inscriptions (Read '96-'06; pub. 2001)	\$25.00		
WashingtonTwp.Def.Co.Tombstone Inscriptions (Read '97; pub. 2005)	\$20.00		
Def. Co. Births 1867-1908: BookA-D, Book E-I, Book J-M (revised 2016)	\$40.00 each		
Def. Co. Births 1867-1908: BookN-SI, Book Sm-Z (revised 2016)	\$35.00 each		
Def. Co. Marriages - SmallVol 1: 1845-1861 (pub. 2001)	\$30.00		
Def. Co. Marriages - SmallVol. 2: 1855-1885 (pub. 2006)	\$25.00		
Def. Co. MarriagesVol. 1&2: Feb. 1885-May 1897 (pub. 2009)	\$25.00		
Def. Co. MarriagesVol. 3&4: Jan. 1897-Nov. 1903 (pub. 2009)	\$30.00		
Def. Co. MarriagesVol. 5&6: November 1903 –December 1912 (pub. 2010)	\$25.00		
Def. Co. MarriagesVol. 7&8 Dec. 1912-Nov. 1925 (pub. 2011)	\$25.00		
Defiance County Naturalizations (pub. 2008)	\$20.00		
1890 Defiance County Veterans' Census (pub. 2007)	\$15.00		
Enumerations of Males in DefianceCounty1847-1895 (pub. 2006)	\$25.00		
Campaigns of theArmy of theNorthwest 1812-1813 (pub. 2009)	\$10.00		
Civil War Journal of DariusW. Baird (38thOVI) ofNWOOhio (pub. 2011)	\$10.00		
Reproduction of Turnbull Wagon Co. Catalogue 1904 (pub. 2011)	\$21.50		
225th Anniversary of Anthony Wayne's Fort Defiance; A Collection of Short Stories (newly published 2019)			
	\$10.00		
TOTAL (Includes all taxes, shipping handling. Prices effective May 2016)	TOTAL		

Defiance CountyGenealogy Society
 PO Box 7006,
 Defiance, OH 43512-7006

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 or 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

Defiance County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society
Membership Form for 2023

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

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

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

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Maiden Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip code _____ - _____ Phone # (_____) _____

E-mail address _____ Birthdate _____

New Member ___ or Renewal ___ Single ___ or Family ___

Donation to DCGS for \$ _____ Specified Intention (please indicate) _____

****Would you prefer your newsletter (circle one) Snail mail (USPS) or E-mail. Due to increased printing and postage costs, please add \$5.00 to your membership fee for snail mail.**

Member of First Families of Defiance County, Yes ___ No ___ OGS Member? Yes ___ No ___

Your surnames in Defiance County:

Program Suggetions: _____

What services/support would you be willing to offer DCGS? (Circle all that apply)

Officer/Trustee, Computer data entry, Transcribing records, Proofreading, Meeting greeter, Setting up displays, Indexing, Telephone/calling, Fundraising, First Families Committee, Speaker, Teaching, Other

I do ___ do not ___ give permission to have my information printed in any handouts, newsletters, or publications.

Office use only: Date Pd. _____ Ck. # _____ Cash _____ Membership # _____