

Yesteryears' Trails



Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Defiance County
Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society
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Winter 2019

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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 May, August, and December or as noted.

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

Coming Chapter Programs for 2020

Monday, January 27

“Navigating Family Search: Some New Paths” with Dianne Kline

Monday, February 24

“Humorous WWII Postcards” with Rich Rozevink

Monday, March 23

“Sharing Family Food Heritage”
Members to bring family recipes or reminisces of their families’ traditional foods.

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**OGS
Conference
2020**

Unlocking the Pieces

April 29 to May 2, 2020

Kalahari Resort &

Convention Center

Sandusky, Ohio

www.OGSConference.org

**Defiance County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society
Yesteryears' Trails Vol.XXXIV Winter 2019**

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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.

Change of Address or Email ?

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

Become a Member of DCGS

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

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

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.



October

Board Meeting-

Dianne Kline noted that she had had several responses to the blog topic of surnames from the fly leaf of a Bible with Bruner and Zeller surnames. She noted that those interested could refer to the Bible which is located at Auglaize Village for any additional information. At last count, the blog site had been visited 162,923 times.

Dianne noted that there currently are 85 members. She also noted that she would like to find a volunteer to take over membership duties.

It was decided to begin the 6:30 First Families reception at 6:30 with Frank Butwin's reenactment of Anthony Wayne followed by the First Families inductions and a memorial. Plans for refreshments and the memorial service were discussed.

Saturday, October 19, beginning at 10:00, will be a genealogy workshop at the Defiance Public Library.

After discussion, Pat Wise moved to increase membership in the chapter to \$15.00 for an individual and \$18.00 for a family membership. Rhonda Casler seconded the motion which carried.

Joanne has notified OGS that we will furnish a basket of books and pamphlets about Defiance County for the spring OGS conference.

Programming for the remainder of this year and the beginning of next year was discussed.

November

Board Meeting-

President Allison opened the meeting at 2:30 with the above present. The secretary's reports from the previous board and October chapter meetings were reviewed. Treasurer Dan Hasch presented the financial report for October showing a balance of \$4132.78.

President Allison thanked Dawn Hasch for volunteering for the membership chair of the chapter. Dianne Kline noted that visitors to the chapter blog site now tally 165,978. A correspondence from

member William Schmertz suggested programs highlighting early settlers from each township. The board consensus was that this research would be better addressed in the blog or in the newsletter. Members were asked to investigate resources to see if this is possible.

Rich Rozevink was present to ask if the Turnbull books might be reduced in price as there will be a display at the Tuttle Museum highlighting the business in the near future and a program planned by Leon Jones also highlighting the business. Pat Wise noted that the book might also be used at Auglaize Village. Pat Wise moved to reduce the price to \$15.00 (down from \$21.50). Dianne Kline seconded the motion which passed. Rich also suggested that the history books produced by the chapter be highlighted for Christmas giving. Dianne noted that she would do so in the blog. Mary will highlight them in the next newsletter. Rich volunteered to present a PowerPoint program with the help of Dan Hasch's computer expertise in February highlighting his humorous World War II postcard collection.

A thank-you was received from Frank Butwin, our October reception speaker. He noted his enjoyment of being with the chapter for the evening.

Dianne Kline moved that the chapter join the Stryker Heritage Council at a yearly membership of \$30. Rhonda Casler seconded the motion. Dan Hasch moved that \$50 be given to the Wood County Historical Society as an honorarium for the speaking engagement of Holly Hartlerode-Kirkendall at the coming November meeting.

Joanne announced that Lavoie's Photography of the Bryan area has donated 65,000 images detailing local history and families of the area to the Williams County Public Library.

Programming for the coming year was discussed:

January - Dianne Kline - New Paths to Navigate Family Search

February - Rich Rozevink - Humorous WWII Postcards

March - Sharing Family Food Heritage
For a summer field trip-the regional archival library located at the BGSU Library was suggested.



Members of the Defiance Genealogical Society were treated to a PowerPoint presentation on the life of General Mad Anthony Wayne by Frank Butwin.

Gen. Wayne, Portrayed by Frank Butwin, Visits DCGS Meeting

The following article was written by our chapter president Joanne Allison. It appeared in The Crescent-News on November 2.

Defiance County Genealogical Society met Oct. 28 when Frank Butwin, depicting Gen. Anthony Wayne, gave a PowerPoint program on the life of the general.

Born in 1745 in Easton, Pa., Wayne's interest in military strategy began early while still a youngster as he liked to command mock battles at recess with other boys. He was educated as a surveyor at his uncle's private academy in Philadelphia where he met Benjamin Franklin, who later sent him and some associates to work for a year surveying land granted in Nova Scotia.

In 1767, Wayne married Mary Penrose and returned to work in his father's tannery, while also continuing work as a surveyor. Later he held county offices and served in the Pennsylvania legislature.

He adopted a military career at the outset of the American Revolutionary War, where his military exploits, his boldness, and fiery personality quickly earned him promotion to brigadier general in February 1777 and the nickname "Mad Anthony." In other circles he also was called "Dandy Tony" sometimes because he liked dancing with pretty women at formal parties.

Wayne led many battles throughout the Revolutionary War. He was present at Valley Forge

during the winter of 1777-78. In 1780, he stopped Benedict Arnold's treasonous plan to surrender West Point to the British military by safeguarding the fort.

After the war, Wayne returned to Pennsylvania and served in the state legislature for a year, then moved to Georgia and settled upon the tract of land that had been granted to him for his military service. He was a delegate to the state convention that ratified the United States Constitution in 1788.

President George Washington recalled Wayne from civilian life in order to lead an expedition in the Northwest Indian War. During that time he was instrumental in building several forts in the Ohio country, including Fort Defiance and Fort Wayne.

In 1794, a tree fell onto Wayne's tent, knocking him unconscious, but he survived to be able to resume the march to the newly built Fort Defiance. Two weeks later, he mounted an assault on the Indian confederacy at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in Maumee. This decisive victory ended the war.

He was then among those who negotiated the Treaty of Greenville between the tribal confederacy and the United States which opened up the Northwest Territory and Louisiana Purchase. The treaty gave most of Ohio to the United States and cleared the way for the state to enter the Union in 1803.

Gen. Wayne died of complications from gout in 1796 during a return trip to Pennsylvania from a military post in Detroit. He was buried at Fort Presque Isle, now Erie, Pa., where the modern Wayne Blockhouse stands.

His son, Isaac, disinterred Wayne's body in 1809 and had the corpse boiled so as to remove the surviving flesh from the bones. He then placed the bones into a bone carrier and relocated them to the family plot in the graveyard of St. David's Episcopal Church in Wayne, Pa. The other remains such as the soup, uniform, knives, etc. were reburied in his coffin but rediscovered in 1878, giving General Wayne two known grave sites. A legend says that many bones were lost along the roadway which encompasses much of U.S. Route 322, and that his ghost wanders the highway on Jan. 1 searching for his lost bones.

Following Frank Butwin's program, First Families chairman Mary Scranton awarded Nancy Robinson and Sue Hepworth membership pins and certificates into the First Families of Defiance County. Nancy and Sue are both residents of California, but traced their ancestors to Defiance County before 1860.

Because this also made them eligible to become Centennial Family Members, Centennial chairman Carol Ehlinger presented them with those certificates. The names of Pat Wise's grandchildren also were added to her First Families lineage.

A reception followed the meeting celebrating the new First Families and Centennial members.



Following Frank Butwin's program, First Families' chair Mary Scranton (right) awarded Californian residents Nancy Robinson and Sue Hepworth membership pins and certificates for First Families of Defiance County. Pat Wise (second from right) added her grandchildren's names to the First Families' listing. Carol Ehlinger (left) presented the Californian women with their Centennial Families of Defiance County certificates showing that their family had lived in Defiance County for over 100 years.

Museum Curator Explains the History of Early Public Charity in Ohio

The following article was written by our chapter president Joanne Allison. It appeared in The Crescent-News on December 7.



Holly Kirkendall, curator of the Wood County Museum, presented the history of public charity in Ohio prior to Social Security and Workers' Compensation

The Defiance County Genealogical Society met on Nov. 28, when Wood County Museum Curator Holly Kirkendall presented the history of public charity in Ohio prior to Social Security and Workers' Compensation.

For the past few years, Kirkendall and local photographer Jeffrey Hall, have traveled from Wood County to each of the other 87 Ohio counties searching for historical records and photographing former poor farm sites. Thus, the poor-farm-story and the museum's award-winning exhibit, "For Comfort & Convenience: Public Charity in Ohio by way of the Poor Farm" were created.

In 1816, just 13 years after Ohio became a state, the Ohio General Assembly authorized boards of county commissioners to construct poor houses to care for those unable to provide the basic necessities of life for themselves: food, clothing, and shelter. Permanent housing for individuals was called, "Indoor Relief," and temporary help was called "Outdoor Relief."

In spite of a few complaints sent to local newspapers because of the added tax, the state became wholly responsible for the provision and

regulation of these homes in 1867. The State Board of Charities was formed in 1900 to focus on proper management in the care of residents.

Believing that each person needed to earn their keep with an honest day's work, an able inmates were assigned various jobs on the farm to pay for their lodging and food. However, some inmates were too old or too crippled to work the farm, so outside employees were also hired to maintain the facility. Usually, a superintendent managed the farm and his wife managed the people.

In 1853, the name "Poor House" was dropped, and the name "Infirmiry" became the official title. Inmates were separated by gender and classification. Besides adults, orphans and unwanted or abused children also lived in the infirmaries.

For those in the "insane" classification, a Mental Health Warrant to Convey first had to be approved by a judge. Ohio made great efforts to give good care to the legally insane.

Aged inmates received the promise they would be provided with warm housing, food, sleeping facilities, clothing, medical care, and a Christian grave. Many were content to live and work there. There is currently a monument on the Wood County Home Cemetery listing names of inmates buried there.

As bids for construction for a new and improved Wood County facility were presented in 1869, builders were required to construct a few apartments, single rooms for no more than four people, fewer sets of stairs, a dormitory, a chapel, a basement and dining room, a laundry room, hospital wings, and administration offices. Since structure fires were a very big concern in those days, fire prevention was considered in the new construction plans.

The two-story building had to be within walking distance of the county seat. The insane building was separate from the main building. Children were also in a separate building.

The need for the county poor farms declined about the time Social Security started. Some Ohio county homes were eventually torn down, some became county office buildings or nursing homes.

The Wood County Historical Society's museum is now housed in the former Wood County Infirmiry building at the intersection of Interstate

75 and U.S. 6, south of Bowling Green. They are eager to share their interesting exhibits with the public.

For more information concerning the Defiance County Infirmiry, please go to the DCGS chapter blog site hosted by Dianne Kline.

<http://defiancecountyohiogenealogy.blogspot.com/2017/04/the-defiance-county-infirmiry.html>

There you will find an article entitled "An Infirmiry That Is a Model: Defiance Institution Might Be Copied After By Other Similar Institutions in the State-- a Visit Through the Home." The article was reprinted in *The Crescent-News* on April 13, 2017 from an article originally printed in the *Defiance Democrat* on October 8, 1909.

The article begins: "...The Defiance County Infirmiry is without a doubt one of the best arranged and equipped institutions of its kind in the entire Buckeye state... During the past year, a new building has been completed at an expenditure of about \$25,000 and an electric light plant installed at a cost of about \$15,000.."



It is the time of year for renewal (or to join for the first time!) of your DCGS membership dues. This year the DCGS board has set dues of \$15.00 for individuals and \$18.00 for a family membership.

Your support helps us to support interesting programming, genealogy classes, our annual First Families reception, and our newsletters, web site, and blog site.

Form is at the end of this newsletter.

Origins of Defiance County and Its Townships

On March 4, 1845, the Ohio government authorized the creation of Defiance County. Defiance was created by taking areas from Williams, Henry, and Paulding Counties. Defiance County covers 412 square miles, and one percent of the county consists of urban areas. Defiance County includes three incorporated villages, Hicksville, Ney and Sherwood, and the city of Defiance. In Defiance County there are twelve townships: Adams, Defiance, Delaware, Farmer, Hicksville, Highland, Mark, Milford, Noble, Richland, Tiffin and Washington.

Did you know?

Adams Township was organized in 1836 while belonging to Henry County. It was named for Judge Bishop Adams, a pioneer settler. It is one of 10 Adams townships statewide.

Defiance Township was not organized until 1846 (after the organization of the county in 1845). It was created from portions of Auglaize Township in Henry County and parts of Paulding County. It was so named after the fort established by General Anthony Wayne. The **city of Defiance** was laid out in November 1822 by Benjamin Leavell and Horatio Phillips with 150 lots platted.

Delaware Township was probably named after the native Americans living in the area. In 1817, the following tribes were in northwestern Ohio: the Wyandot, Seneca, Delaware (Lenape), Shawnee, Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Ojibwe (or Chippewa). They relinquished their claim to four million acres of land in northwestern Ohio by signing the Treaty of the Maumee Rapids. The **village of Sherwood** was named for General Isaac Sherwood, a Civil War veteran and Congressman, who helped the village get its post office. The **village of Delaware Bend** was laid out by W.. D. Hill and Company in 1874.

Farmer Township was originally called Lost Creek Township, and under the name Farmer was organized in 1836. The present name honors

Nathan Farmer, an early settler. It is the only Farmer Township statewide.

Hicksville Township was organized in 1839. It is the only Hicksville Township statewide. Led by Henry W. Hicks, the Hicks Land Company platted the community in 1835 and 1836. The **village of Hicksville** was incorporated in 1871. A post office has been in operation at Hicksville since 1838.

Hicksville made its debut in American literature in 1885 when Mark Twain mentioned the town in Chapter 33 of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Tom Sawyer claims to be a stranger from Hicksville, Ohio.

Highland Township was organized in 1842 as a part of Henry County. Its name is suggestive of the two sandy ridges extending through the township. **Ayersville** was named after early settler Joseph Ayers. The village had a post office as early as 1849.

Mark Township was named for Mark Kenton, an early hunter and trapper of the area. It is the only Mark Township statewide. The township was erected by the Defiance County Commissioners in 1850 on petition of Mr. Williams C. Hutchinson. The village of **Mark Center** was laid out in 1875 when the railroad was extended. The community was so named because of its location being near the geographical center of Mark Township. A post office has been in operation at Mark Center since 1875.

Milford Township was established in 1837. Originally the township was a part of Williams County, and now the township is divided between Williams and Defiance Counties. **Williams Center** was once the center of Williams County (before Defiance County was established in 1845).

Noble Township is the smallest of the 12 townships and is bound on all sides by other Defiance County townships. The village of **Brunersburg** was laid out in 1834 by Daniel Bruner and Henry Zeller. The original plat had only 28 lots..

Richland Township was organized in 1824 as a part of Henry County. The Wabash and Erie Canal was excavated beginning in 1837 and completed in 1842. The village of **Independence** was laid out about 1838 by Foreman Evans.

Tiffin Township, organized in 1832, was most probably named for Edward Tiffin, the first governor of Ohio. Ephraim Doty, acclaimed as the first settler, died in 1845. The village of Evansport was laid out by Jacob Coy and Albert and Amos Evans in 1835 with a 122 lots.

Washington Township was established in 1838. Named for George Washington, first President of the United States. it is one of forty-three Washington Townships statewide. Originally the **village of Ney** was named **Georgetown** after George Ridenour who laid out the original 28 lots in 1846. A post office called Ney has been in operation since 1850. Ney, the present name, honors Michael Ney, a French officer and military commander who fought in the French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic Wars.

Trolley Car Accident in Defiance in 1904

The following article was printed in the Philadelphia Inquirer on August 13, 1904.

Three persons were killed and three badly injured in a trolley car wreck at the Baltimore and Ohio crossing in this city just before noon today. The killed: Mrs. Helen Reisenwetter, Cleveland, O., 27 years old; Gerald Gaede, aged 5; Rollin Gaede, aged 3, both sons of Rev. M. Gaede, of Defiance.

The wounded: Mrs. Olga Gaede, Earl Barnhart, Harold Fragl. The latter two are members of Company E, Sixth Regiment, Ohio National Guard, of Hicksville, en route to drill at the Maumee Valley chautauqua.

The crossing is at a curve, and the motor-man did not see a cut of cars backing down. The trolley car had a trailer and both were crowded. The injured will recover.

Highlighting Our DCGS Historical Publications

Thanks to the efforts of Richard Rozevink and the late David Bennett, our DCGS chapter has benefited of the research, compilation, and printing of articles which highlight historical periods of Northwestern Ohio. Information for ordering these publications is found at the end of this newsletter.

Campaigns of the Army of the Northwest 1812-1813

(pub. 2009)
\$10.00

Civil War Journal of Darius W. Baird (38th OVI) of NW Ohio

(pub. 2011)
\$10.00

Reproduction of Turnbull Wagon Co. Catalogue 1904

(pub. 2011)
NOW reduced price of \$15.00

225th Anniversary of Anthony Wayne's Fort Defiance; A Collection of Short Stories

(newly published 2019)
\$10.00

Interesting websites--

For cemeteries of Defiance County that list their latitude and longitude--

<http://genealogytrails.com/ohio/defiance/cemeteries.htm>

For bios of early Defiance notables such as Alfred P. Edgerton, William C. Holgate, Edwin Phelps, Charles Elihu Slocum, Adam Wilhelm--

<http://genealogytrails.com/ohio/defiance/bios.html>

SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED BY DCGS MEMBERS

If you would like to contact a member to discuss a common research surname, please email your contact information and the member's number to defiancegenealogy2002@yahoo.com and we will ask that member to get in touch with you.

<u>Mem.#</u>	<u>SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED</u>
528	Richolt, King, Cooper
621	Batt, Pahl
99	Bayes, Haley, Partee
448	Boesling, Schwake, Heldberg
551/552	Mapes, Paxton, Cooper, Sigg, Cupp
258	Rose, Wilson, Lewis, Hively, Gaskill, Inman, Cool
653	Smith, Viebach, Watson
392	Hussey, Stuckey, Mansfield, Sieren, Lloyd, Grosenbacher, Bennett, Peterson
302	Diehl, Herr, Schmaltz, Conn, Swartzel
27	Walters, Polter, Gusler, Snyder, Musser
189	Anderson, Eitniear, Schoonover, VanVlerah, Wagner
412	Dowe/Dauwe, Hilton, Speaker
658/659	Hale, Parker
630	Wolfrum
5	Varner, Baum, Deckrosh, Ankney, Hill, Bish, McClure
652	Artoon, Doan
376	Meek
241	Beerbower, Rinlecl, Parker
648	Young, Hughes, Rulf, Redden, Blosser, Severns
417	Bottenberg, Chaney, Perry
103	Osmun, Scranton, Kurtz, Miller, Scott, Boone, Peter, Patten, Martin, Willard
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168	Sevrence, Diehl, Moog, Brenner, Doty
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554	Henry Partee
530	John Hall, Lydia Franklin Bills, Edward Hall
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