



VOL. XXX

Issue Number 2

March - April 2010

The Union County Chapter of The Ohio Genealogy Society (UCOGS), P. O. Box 438, Marysville, Ohio, 43040
We meet at 9:30 A.M. on the third Saturday morning each month in the lower level meeting room at the
Marysville Public Library, 231 Plum Street, Marysville, Ohio. (Elevator inside back door.)

Website: www.rootsweb.com/~ohuniogs

THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS

After several abortive attempts to research my ancestors as far back as I can, I finally decided to get it done. Having been born in Gallia County, I researched as much as I could online, but, if you have done this, you realize that there are still records and documentation that needs to be obtained at the source.

Having my interest piqued by our Union County Pioneer Family program, I found that on the surface it looked like I could apply for Gallia County Chapter OGS First Family Lineage recognition on both my maternal and paternal ancestors, and as a plus, be eligible for Civil War Family status due to my great-grandfather having been in the Union Army from 1862 into 1865.

Proving ancestral links to do the above turned out to be complicated, but with the assistance of the Gallia County Chapter of OGS, I think that I have the necessary documentation.

Through the research, I almost felt like I knew those people born in late 1700s through the 1800s. As you trace the changes and family situations through the 1820 and later census and chattel records a picture of the families and their lives emerges. In Gallipolis I also became acquainted with a person, who, through marriages, etc., ended up with a lot of old pictures, letters, and stories of the people I was researching. She has been sharing these with me and it has added so much of a personal link to these individuals that they are no longer strictly statistical details. There have been situations where I can actually imagine the sadness and happiness of some of these people's lives. Oh yes, I also found a scoundrel or two to spice things up.

If you haven't researched your ancestors as far back in time as possible, I fully recommend it. You will be rewarded with a sense of knowing who your ancestors really were.

On another topic, we have been having difficulty getting correct Email addresses from our members. Please provide us with your current Email address so that we can communicate with you.

Brian Wade – brianwad@embarqmail.com



In This Issue



Officers & Committees
UCOGS News & Tidbits
We Need Your Help!
April Meeting & Speaker
Our Librarian: Her Duties
Pioneer Toys & More
Query
Cemetery Symbolism in Union
County
Found On the Internet
Chattel Property Tax Lists (1826-
1931)
Documentation-How Important Is It?
Upcoming Meetings
The Bigelow Family
Book Review
Claiborne Cemetery (Cont.)
A Note From the Editor
New Speaker for May Banquet

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*Send inquiries with a self addressed
and stamped envelope to:*
UCOGS Query Committee
P.O. Box 438
Marysville, Ohio 43040
*Non-members get the
first query free*

UCOGS News & Tidbits

Welcome! Our newest members:

Dolores A. Holister Kurtz, 2338 Berry Rd,
Lucas, TX 44843-9738. Dolores is researching
Brumenshein, Genke, and Lowry.

Wm. F. and Mary Ann Shier Sorden, 493
Lincoln St, Middleport, OH 45760-1160,
suz4@suddenlink.net; they are researching **Sorden**
and **Schacherbauer**.

At the February meeting of the executive board it was decided that we would dispense with the reading of the minutes at the monthly meetings. Members receive the minutes via E-mail, or can request a copy anytime from Marie Bouic or Dave Gustafson. Additionally, there will be a brief “roll call” wherein each person in attendance will answer a question posed by the president. It’s a nice way to start the meeting and to get to know each other better.

Calvin Wood will be in charge of setting up a table and coordinating with event planners at the Covered Bridge Festival in September.

The OCOGS will furnish the 2010 award for best genealogy project in the Junior division at the Union County Fair. We have always furnished the award. This award consists of a three ring binder with our logo on the front cover and includes blank census forms, family group sheets, sheet protectors, forms for research log, dividers, pocket divid-

ers and more. All of this is put together by **Marie Bouic**, our recording secretary.

We Need Your Help!

Your Webmaster and your editor/membership chairperson need your help. Only you, the individual member can help. We need current E-mail addresses so that you can be contacted if we have questions and so that you can be kept up-to-date about what goes on at meetings.

Rebekah Headings, our Webmaster, sends the monthly minutes to every member with an Email address. Each month she received several undeliverable messages in return. If you prefer not to receive the minutes each month, please, let Rebekah know by return message so that she can remove you from her contact list. You can contact her any time using the Email address listed above.

Leona Gustafson, has been directed by the executive board to prepare and publish a member directory in June or July. The directory will include each member’s name, address, Email address when known, and the Union County surnames being researched by that member. Un-fortunately, over the years the surnames of some long-time members have been lost. If, when you sent your dues for 2010, you didn’t include your surnames of interest, please, send them to me now using the Email address or the physical address listed above. It might be a good idea to send a new list just to make sure that I have an up-to-date list. If you do not want your contact information included in the membership directory and have not already let me know that—now is the time to let me know.

April Meeting & Speaker

On Saturday, April 17 the UCOGS will host a presentation titled Union County Underground by Christy J. Clark of the Union County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Her description of the presentation states, "Union County, Ohio is rich in heritage and the residents are proud of this heritage. Under the strategic plan of the Union County Convention and Visitors Bureau, community leaders and interested parties will preserve, document and promote the heritage of Union County. Unless the heritage of Union County is preserved, historic structures will be underground and only be a faint memory. Discover some of Union County's historic treasures."

~ ~ ~

Since August of 2006, Ms. Clark has served as Public Relations and Tourism Director for the Union County Convention & Visitors Bureau. She is responsible for promoting Union County to residents and visitors through public relations, marketing, tourism and special events.

Prior to her current position, Ms. Clark founded Events 4 You, a public relations and special event planning company which she operated from 2000-2006. She is one of seven Certified Special Event Planners in Ohio. Before founding her own company, Ms. Clark was employed with the Alzheimer's Association of Central Ohio as Special Events Director for four years and the Boy Scouts of America as Finance Director for eight years.

Currently, Ms. Clark serves on the Union County Community Concerts Association Board, Memorial Hospital of Union County Ladies Auxiliary Gala planning committee and is Vice President of the Union County Cultural pARTnership. In addition, she is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Marysville and Parliament. Ms. Clark is a 2005 Graduate of Leadership Union County.

Her personal interests include the arts, wine, golf, walking, hiking, boating, and OSU sports.

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The presentation will begin after a brief business meeting of the UCOGS. It will be in the lower level meeting room at the Marysville Public Library beginning at 9:30 A.M. There is an elevator for anyone unable to manage the stairs.



Our Librarian: Her Duties



Nancy Stewart Katzenbach has served as our librarian and chief researcher for several years. She is a dynamo who makes the lives of her fellow executive board members much easier. Additionally, a little birdie recently told yours truly that Nancy's friendliness and expert personal assistance have been directly responsible for at least one recent addition to our membership. Here, in her own words, is what Nancy does each week:

On the way to the Marysville Public Library each Tuesday morning, I stop at the post office and pick up the mail, after opening the mail I distribute it to the proper officers' folders. I contact the officers by E-mail to let them know there is mail in their folder. If there's a research request in the mail, I start research by looking in **Margaret Bouie's** books, and start collecting the information that is needed. Usually during the day, researchers stop in and I get them started on finding their information. I receive research requests by mail, by E-mail, and the Library forwards requests that they receive to me. Occasionally I receive phone calls both at home and at the library. I also collect Margaret Bouie's files that she has finished and donated to us, take out all the obituaries, and pass those on to **Donna Lavender** who, with her helpers, glue the obituaries to 3 x 5 cards, then Donna puts the obituaries in an index that is updated on our web site. After the obituaries are removed, I put the rest of Margaret's paper work in archival safe plastic sleeves and combine with our files. If we purchase books or have them donated to us, I make sure they go to the library staff to be cataloged before putting them on the shelf. Sometime during the week at home I send out all the collected research, if the person has E-mail I contact them and ask if they want to receive the research by snail mail, or e-mail. The filing is never ending, and I always resshelf books after researchers are done with them.

Pioneer Toys & More

For the members and public who braved the elements and attended the February 20 meeting it was well worth coming out in the cold and snow to meet and hear our speaker, Rosalie Frazier shown here, in costume, with a few of the toys.



Rosalie Fraizer

Rosalie gave us an extra treat by telling us the about of each item of clothing that she had on and the purpose of each.

The costume, similar to the clothing worn by our pioneer ancestors consisted of a skirt worn over two or more petticoats. The petticoats afforded the ladies much needed warmth in cold weather. Topping the skirt and petticoat was a long sleeved over-blouse that fell below the lady's waist line. Under the skirt, petticoats and blouse they wore a one piece shift that went

from their necks to their knees. They also slept in the same shift every night. Around the waist a woman tied a cord or cloth belt and attached a small cloth bag called a pocket (there were no sewn in pockets); some were beautifully embroidered or may have had not decoration at all. In this pocket might be a "miser" purse that consisted of a knitted tube with an opening for the money. Possibly the most important item carried by a pioneer woman on a daily basis was her "housewife's purse" or sewing kit. Women always kept their hair covered by a cap of some kind, even when they slept. Wearing a cap or bonnet helped keep out dirt and lice. Both were problems since the average person of the late 18th and well into the 19th century seldom bathed more than once a year. The bonnets also helped keep the sun off their skin and out of their eyes. Rosalie modeled many mop caps and bonnets from the period. The scarf acted as a collar, apron, and bag to carry items from the garden.

Dolls were a favorite with children and Rosalie showed a cornhusk doll; rag, or knot, doll; gourd doll; pillowcase doll that would have been made out of a worn out pillowcase; church doll; and a penny doll that would have been sold for a penny by peddlers that traveled by wagon to homes in the country.

After showing us examples of the various dolls Rosalie shared some of the wooden and leather toys that our ancestors played. Among them were whirly-gigs made from wood or leather, Jacob's ladders; different types of balls and cups; tops; yoyos made from wood, leather and medal; noisemakers; pickup sticks (also called jack straws); thumb a trope; and wooden jacks with a wooden ball, often called "knuckles." There were some toys that our German ancestors would have brought with them that were often elaborately carved. There were a few tavern games, mostly wooden puzzles. With the help of our young UCOGS member, Steven Roush, Rosalie also demonstrated some outdoor games the pioneer children would have played. It was surprising how many of the toys can still be found in stores today, though plastic has replaced wood and leather in many of them.

Rosalie also brought nineteenth century catalogs, Sears, Montgomery Ward, and others. Everyone enjoyed the presentation and the opportunity to play with and handle toys that our ancestors would have found familiar and enjoyed playing with.

Thirteen UCOGS members and two guests enjoyed the presentation.

QUERY: Pat Elliott, 516 East St, Caldwell, Ohio 43724, pellriott@localnetplus.com

Seeking info on **Richard and Elizabeth Reed Elliott** and her mother **Anna Dyson Reed Bonnett**. Elizabeth is the daughter of **David** and **Anna Dyson Reed** from Belmont Co. Ohio. Anna came to Union Co. after her husband, David, died and married **Lewis Bonnett** for her second husband. Anna and her daughter Elizabeth were in the 1840 Census of Union Co., Paris Twp. Anna and Lewis Bonnet were in the 1860 Census of Union Co., Leesburg Twp, Pharisburg.

Cemetery Symbolism in Union County

At the March 20, 2010 meeting **David and Leona Gustafson** presented a Power Point slide show of gravestone symbolism found in Union County cemeteries.



Leona & Dave Gustafson

In about 2000 Dave and Leona started photographing cemeteries for the genealogical information contained on the gravestones. They have a web site containing about 40,000 photos of headstones in the cemeteries in central Ohio:

www.genealogybug.net/union_cems/unionindex.htm

Gravestones often contain symbols indicating something more than dates of birth and death of the deceased. These symbols can be religious – angels, crosses, heaven's gates, and curtains (veils), or they can indicate that although the family has been broken it still survives. They can also indicate the deceased's membership in fraternal organizations or the deceased's occupation in life. Modern symbols can also indicate the interests, hobbies, or beliefs of the deceased.

The meanings of symbols found on gravestones are sometimes obvious and sometimes not. Crosses are recognized symbols of Christianity but were used as a symbol for thousands of years before the birth of Christ. Angels are thought to be messengers of God and guardians of all sorts of things. Curtains are a symbol of passage from one type of existence to another. Lambs are found most often on the graves of children. They signify purity and innocence. Flower buds with broken stems represent a budding life cut short. A sheaf of wheat is used to denote someone who has lived

a long and fruitful life but, on modern stones, can also indicate that the deceased was a farmer. Weeping willow trees are a symbol of mourning and can also indicate that the family will continue to grow and flourish no matter how many branches have been cut off just as the living tree continues to thrive when branches are lost. Hands can be pointing the way to heaven, or God's hand reaching from heaven. Joined hands indicate a married couple, or one person bidding another farewell. The gender of the deceased can often be seen in the sleeve cuff of the hand, a lacy cuff for women and plain for men. Open books indicate an open heart and a closed book indicates the close of a person's life. Entwined hearts indicate marriage. Broken chains and broken columns indicate a life that has ended. Fraternal organization symbols are usually obvious. Many present-day headstones incorporate portraits of the deceased, either photographs enclosed to preserve them or laser printed on the stone.

If you would like to have a list of suggested reading, please contact Leona at llgbug@genealogybug.net or c/o UCOGS, P.O. Box 438, Marysville, Ohio 43040

Attending were fourteen members and six guests.



Found On the Internet

Here are some of the Internet sources that I found that deal with cemetery symbolism.

- **Glossary of Victorian Cemetery Symbolism:** www.vintageviews.org/vvtl/pages/Cem_Symbolism.htm
- **Cemetery Symbolism – a Wary Glossary** (has excellent introductory paragraphs): www.alsirat.com/symbols/
- **Funerary Symbolism** (Another glossary): www.saveourcemeteries.org/cemeteries/symbols.htm
- **Gravestone Symbolism** (with photographs): www.graveaddiction.com/symbol.html
- For more about gravestones in general the best place that I have found is **the Association for Gravestone Studies:** www.gravestonestudies.org/

Editor's note: I recently asked Stephen Badenhop if he might be able to find time to contribute an article of interest to family historians for each issue of the *Union Echoes*. This is his first contribution—the first of many, I hope. Enjoy!

From the Union County Archives

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CHATTEL PROPERTY TAX LISTS (1826-1931)

These records as arranged chronologically, therein alphabetically by taxing district and taxpayer and contains lists of persons owing personal property tax for each year.

On February 3, 1825, the Ohio General Assembly passed "An act establishing an equitable mode of levying the taxes of this state." This act taxed horses at a fixed rate of \$40 per head, cattle at a fixed rate of \$8 per head, and pleasure carriages valued over \$100 and took effect for the tax year 1826. This taxing method resulted in instituting a tax system whereby all residents in the county owning horses, cattle and/or a pleasure carriage had to pay a tax on them; thus creating an annual list of individuals residing in the county, as long as they were subject to the tax.

A "General Property Tax Law" was passed on March 2, 1846, also known as the "Kelly Law," in the namesake of bills creator Alfred Kelly. This law expanded the chattel tax beyond just horses, cattle and pleasure carriages, to "every tangible thing, being the subject of ownership, whether animate or inanimate." Horses, cattle, mules, sheep, hogs, pleasure carriages, gold or silver watches and pianos were the special object of taxation. Objects that were exempt included household goods valued under a total of one hundred dollars, food, farming implements, mechanics' tools and one cow, eight sheep, and four hogs unless the owner had other

property worth over one hundred dollars. Exemptions and tax rates changed many times over in the proceeding decades, but this basic tax structure, which taxed "personal property," through various variations lasted until 1931.

The importance of these records for genealogist is that they prove residency for an individual, as long as the individual was subject to the tax. This was somewhat limited from 1825 to 1846, but from the period 1846 to 1931 the expanded law became much more comprehensive and only exempted the poor, those owning less than one hun-

Paris Township	Horses	Mules	Cattle	State Tax	School & County Tax	Township Tax	Total
Net Personal Property Owners Names	Amo	Value	Value	D	Cts	D	Cts
Amadio Abraham	1	40	1	08	0 10	0	39 0 02 0 58
Amadio Henry	2	80	4	32	0 22	0	90 0 03 1 15
Amadio Frederick	1	40	2	16	0 11	0	45 0 02 0 58
Amadio Moses	1	40	2	16	0 11	0	45 0 02 0 58
Amadio Andrew	2	80	3	24	0 21	0	83 0 03 1 07
Amadio Abraham	1	40	2	16	0 11	0	45 0 02 0 58
Amadio John	1	40	3	24	0 13	0	57 0 02 0 66
Barker John	2	80	2	16	0 19	0	77 0 03 0 99
Baker Frederick	1	40	4	32	0 14	0	58 0 02 0 74
Bell Joseph	0	0	7	56	0 11	0	45 0 02 0 58
Collins Matthias	1	40	1	08	0 10	0	38 0 02 0 50
Collins Thomas	1	40	0	01	0 08	0	32 0 01 0 41
Donley John	1	40	1	08	0 10	0	38 0 02 0 50
Elefeto John	0	0	4	32	0 06	0	26 0 01 0 33
Flammings Jacob	2	80	2	16	0 19	0	77 0 03 0 99
Gregg William	0	0	2	16	0 03	0	13 0 0 0 16
Godfrey Lemuel	1	40	0	00	0 08	0	32 0 01 0 41
Henson Louis	2	80	3	24	0 21	0	83 0 03 1 07
Houser John H	2	80	4	32	0 22	0	90 0 03 1 15
Houser George H	2	80	2	16	0 19	0	77 0 03 0 99
Lundey Eli	1	40	1	08	0 10	0	38 0 02 0 50
Luper John	1	40	1	08	0 10	0	38 0 02 0 50
McLain Stephen	1	40	1	08	0 10	0	38 0 02 0 50
Mullen Daniel	1	40	1	08	0 10	0	38 0 02 0 50
Osborn Thomas	1	40	1	08	0 10	0	38 0 02 0 50
Orabuel Amos	1	40	2	16	0 11	0	45 0 02 0 58
					3 30 0 13 18	0	54 17 02

Chattel Tax Page, Paris Township, 1826

dred dollars in personal goods. These records are an excellent source for pinning down an individual's first residence in a locality, as they prove residency.

Documentation How Important Is It?

If you're like I was when I began my journey back in time you knew absolutely nothing about researching your family history. You, like me, had undoubtedly been taught in school about the importance of citing your sources when writing a report or thesis. And you found a way to use footnotes simply because you had to use them or receive a reduced, possibly failing grade. Most of us begin our search of our heritage with the known and work our way back in time. If we're very lucky we still have members of a generation or two back still living and they are willing to share what they know, or think they know. We have a few documents stored in a shoebox, strongbox, or a trunk in the attic or the spare bedroom closet. Perhaps there is a photo album or two tucked away with those documents (birth or baptismal certificates, a death certificate or two, a grandfather's will). Does any of this sound familiar?

If you are very lucky, your family has lived in the same town or nearby for several generations. In that case there is probably a trunk full of goodies and several photo albums. But do the photographs have neatly printed names under each picture? Are the names written on the back of every photograph? Probably not and as each generation left us some the names of those in the photographs left with them. So that now a vague family resemblance makes us wonder if that might be cousin Fannie and, is that uncle Joe standing over on the far right in that group of young men? If, on the other hand, your ancestors are among those who continued the westward trek there are fewer documents and photographs. They couldn't take all of those things with them; there just wasn't space available. And each time they moved fewer unnecessary items moved with them.

Even if you never want to join the Mayflower Society, the DAR, or a pioneer society like our own Pioneers of Union County, you will find as the years go by that you wish you had written down exactly whose closet that family Bible was found in, and the date that you found it. You will forget in what library you found that early history of the town that your great-grandfather came from. And when your second cousin Paul insists that he absolutely, without a doubt *knows* that his grandfather was born in Ireland, not England you will have to search for a month and you still might not find the copy of the item written by Paul's grand-

father that you tucked away fifteen years ago. You know the item—the one where Paul's grandfather filled out a questionnaire for the centennial of Your Town, U.S. A. and, in his own handwriting, says that his birthplace was Coggeshall, England.

The day will come, if you are at all serious about your family history, when you want to write a genealogy, a history of your family so that your many times great-grandchildren will know all about where they came from. Or the day might come when you want to be inducted into a lineage society or a pioneer society. And if you haven't been keeping a very good collection of well documented facts you won't be able to write a genealogy that is worth the price of a match to burn it, and you certainly won't be admitted into any lineage or pioneer society.

Next issue: Documentation - What Is It and How Is It Done?

Upcoming Meetings:

April 17: Union County Underground (Christy Clark) (See page 17)

May 18: Annual Pioneer Banquet (See flier, page 26)

June 19: Annual Pot Luck Picnic will be at the Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints (LDS) in Marysville. It will be hosted by Calvin Wood.

July 17: 4-H Members – Members of area 4-H clubs will present their ancestor research findings in preparation for their entry in the Union County Fair. The UCOGS presents a beautiful trophy to one lucky 4-H entrant at the fair.

August 21: To be announced.

September 13: Saving Your Family Heirlooms (*Please, make a note of the day and time change; location remains the same.*) **Wesley Boomgaarden**, Preservation Officer for Ohio State University Libraries, will talk about steps you should take to preserve your family heirlooms and ensure they are around for generations to come.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS TO BE ANNOUNCED

The Family of Russell Freedom Bigelow

Submitted by Ruth Bigelow Stewart

Russell Freedom Bigelow, Sr. was the first Bigelow to settle in Union County. He settled on Post Road in the Green settlement Union Township in 1813 when plains grass was taller than a man on horseback. Russell Bigelow Sr. was the uncle of **Dr. Isaac Bigelow** the founder of Pleasant Valley, now known as Plain City. Russell and wife **Lucy Sanger** were married in Vermont 1788. They had eleven children. **Lucy, Irena Mitchell, Rev. Russell Jr., Dr. Alpheus, Demmis, Hannah Irwin, Grata, Polly, Abigail, Benjamin, Eliphaz.**

My 2nd great-grandfather, **Eliphaz Bigelow**, married **Miriam McCloud** the daughter of **Charles** and **Sarah Taylor McCloud**. The land which Russell settled on was purchased 13 Nov. 1816 survey Nos. 7472 and 7677 consisting of 172 acres. The Bigelow Cemetery State Nature Preserve is located on this land on the west side of Rosedale Road in Madison County. Here, on this small plot of ground, the Ohio prairie still flourishes, a treasured relic of the wilderness. Four of their children are buried here as is Lucy herself; she died in 1824.

Eliphaz and Miriam had two sons. One son died in infancy, the other was **Alpheus Russell Bigelow Sr.**, my great-grandfather, who was born 6 October 1827, and died 28 August 1851. He had two children; **Delilah** born 1849 and died 1854 and **Alphues Russell Bigelow, Jr.** who was born 2 October 1851 after his father's death.

Alpheus Bigelow, Sr. purchased 116 Acres just before he died. The land had to be sold, but later his heirs purchased it back. His wife was **Malinda Converse**, daughter of **Jeremiah Converse** and **Malinda Derby Converse**. After the death of her first husband, Malinda married **James McCloud**. Three children were born to James and Malinda McCloud: **Nina Rose, Jeremiah, and Maime.**

Alpheus Russell Bigelow Jr., my grandfather, inherited the family farm after the death of Granny (Miriam). He attended College at Ohio Wesleyan, in Delaware, Ohio. He and Vice President **Charles Fairbanks** studied together. Alpheus, Jr. must have been a very industrious man as the farm was equipped with many things to make it self-sustaining. It consisted of a huge horse barn, a separate cow barn, hog barn, granary, blacksmith shop, chicken house, huge orchard, berry patches, and a tile factory. I played in the kilns when I was a little girl. The milk house was near the house. We used to pump water from the pump into a trough that went to a trench in the milk house to keep the milk cool. Alpheus Jr. married **Hattie Parthemore**, 9 August 1871, daughter of **Frederick** and **Permilla (Morse) Parthemore**. Six children were born to them; **Maurice**, a professor at Columbia University, New York City, New York; **Amy** who resided on the farm and died unmarried; **Walter** worked the farm for a while; he later married **Sally Wiatt** and resided in Delaware, Ohio; **William** was editor of *Good Housekeeping* magazine for many years. He married **Retta Koch**. They lived in New Jersey and, later in life, moved to Delaware, Ohio. **Dessie** married **Guy Mitchell** and lived on a farm near New Dover, Ohio. **Merle Bigelow**, my father, was born 21 August 1889 and married **Bertha Robinson**. Prior to his death Alpheus Jr. built a new home in Milford Center, Ohio. So Grandma and Dad continued to live there until they sold the home 1916. Grandma then went back to the farm where she lived until her death. My father took over management of the farm, but his interests were in inventions. He invented and patented the Bigelow Humane Trap which he manufactured on the farm until he sold the farm in 1944. He moved to Marysville, Ohio where he manufactured his traps and lived until his death in 1958. I also found a copy of a patent on a buggy wrench which he invented. I have many fond memories growing up on the farm. There were three children born to my father and mother: **Donald, Ruth** and **Helen.**

Book Review

Editor's note: When Patty O'Connor, Head of Adult Services & Reference at the Marysville Public Library, offered to contribute book reviews of books that might interest our Union County family historians I jumped at the offer. Patty has been researching her family history for about fifteen years and recently discovered that one of her German ancestors came from Bobenhausen, Hessen.

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**Middling Folk: Three Seas, Three Centuries, One Scots-Irish Family** by Linda H. Matthews, (Chicago Review Press, c2010, ISBN: 9781556529696)

As author Linda Matthews points out, history is usually written about those who are rich or powerful, sometimes about those at the lower end of the socioeconomic spectrum, but "who tells the stories of the people in the middle?" As a genealogist, I think it's fair to say that most of our ancestors fall into that middle

group – the folks who went about their daily life in ordinary occupations – farmers, blacksmiths, school-teachers – surviving triumphs and tragedies both personal and global. So Ms. Matthews delved into her family's history to learn how history affected them and conversely, how they affected history. Her story begins in Scotland, then on to Northern Ireland, to the Chesapeake Bay area, and finally to Washington state. There are gaps in the story where documentation is sketchy and she ably fills those blanks with well-researched suppositions. The overall story of these "middling folk" can provide insight into the lives of many of our own ancestors.

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This book is available at the library-- call number is 929.2 MAT. It is also available at most book stores and at Amazon.com, Barnes&Noble.com and other online sources. Hardcover, 369 pages with illustrations and maps.

Claiborne Cemetery, Richwood, Ohio

A List of Burials Published in *The Richwood Gazette*, August 4, 1887, page 2

Extracted and contributed by Kevin Longberry

klongberry1@verizon.net

(Continued from January-February Issue)

Wm Webster son of **J. G. Beardsley** of Co H 82nd OVI 14 Apr 1865 aged 25

J. J. Vansant of Co G 180th OVI died in Alexandria VA 1 Mar 1865 aged 18

Sarah wife of **E. Shepherd** 15 Sep 1866 aged 71

Thomas Winchell 5 Apr 1858 aged 62

George Melick 26 Aug 1861 aged 46

Isaac Darling 1 Jul 1854 aged 66

His wife **Sarah** 31 Mar 1865 aged 74

Frances wife of **F.J. Adams** 22 Nov 1859 aged 58

Maria A. wife of **Harvey E. Evarts** 13 Mar 1864 aged 58

John Shisler 9 Jun (?) aged 55

Lany wife of **Asa Langstaff** died 12 May 1877 aged 86

Wm Sparks 8 May 1873 aged 53

Susan wife of **John Lake** 23 Aug 1872 aged 23

J. H. Langstaff 11 Aug 1869 aged 60

Samuel Harned 2 Sep 1870 aged 86

James T. Wells (soldier of 1812) 2 Sep 1865 aged 65

His wife **Elizabeth** 8 Jun 1885 aged 85

William Wells Co F 13th OVI died Nashville, TN 9 Mar 1863 aged 39

Hiram Wells 28 May 1862 aged 80

Thomas McPherson 26 Jun 1876 aged 67

His wife **Harriet** 16 May 1888 aged 79

Their daughter **Nancy** 5 Oct 1864 aged 33

Alexander Cowgill 21 Aug 1865 aged 81

His wife **Mary W** 7 May 1865 aged 76

Mary Cowgill 14 Jan 1875 aged 54

George Miles 10 Mar 1877 aged 79

His wife **Margaret** 3 May 1858 aged 58

Margaret wife of **Z. B. Smith** 9 Aug 1864 aged 55

Thomas Kirby 9 Jun 1866 aged 64

(To be concluded in May-June Issue)

A Note from the Editor

When I applied for the position as your newsletter editor I knew that I would be working with and for a wonderful group of people. I asked for help finding topics of interest. I asked for family stories, and photographs. I asked for your contributions because, as I said and believe, this is your newsletter. For the first time in the year that I have held this position I find myself with more material than I have space for. I'm elated, but at the same time I have a concern that if I don't include all that you have so generously shared with me I won't receive additional material for future editions. That would be terrible as you are making this truly *your* newsletter by giving so generously. So please, dear friends and fellow family historians, continue sending and handing me your contributions and I WILL find a way to include all of it. It might just have to wait an extra issue.

New Speaker for May Banquet

Carol Mickley, Pioneer Chairwoman, was recently informed that Pete Raymond, the Abraham Lincoln impersonator, has recently undergone surgery and will be unable to perform at our Union County Pioneers banquet. But, like the true professional that he is, Mr. Raymond provided the name of another Lincoln impersonator and the show will go on. Allow me to introduce:

G. "Abe" Payn

Personal Biography

GERALD A. PAYN (Gerry or Jerry), Wooster, Ohio 44691,

E-mail - gmpayn@sssnet.com

Born in Lodi, Ohio - attended and graduated - Lodi Public Schools 1957

Served in Ohio National Guard 1957 to 1963

B.S. 1961 - The Ohio State University College of Agriculture - Farm Management Major,

Member - the OSU Marching Band (tuba player & "i" dotter)

Was Dairy farm owner-operator 1961-1968

Science Teacher & Guidance Counselor 1968-1994

M.S. 1973 - The University of Akron College of Education - Guidance & Counseling

Abraham Lincoln Presenter (beginning 1999); During 2009 had 86 engagements as Mr. Lincoln; has visited every place Mr. Lincoln lived during his lifetime plus a number of Civil War Battle sites and other related places

Life member of National Association of Lincoln Presenters (one of almost 200 members).

Employed part time (Town House activities & bus driver) by Sprenger Retirement Centers (Smithville Western Commons - Wooster)

Active member (former Board member) (sings in choir) - Congress Community church

Active charter member and officer - Northwestern Ruritan Club

Active member and trustee - Wayne County Historical Society

Member of Sons of Union Veterans Given Camp # 51

Driver - Stark/Wayne Meals on Wheels

Active Member & Officer - Wayne County Retired Teachers Association & ORTA

Assisted with Wooster Bicentennial events in 2008 (chaired the Wooster Chautauqua)

Former Governing Board member - Tri-County Educational Service Center (4 yrs)

Former School Board Member - Wayne County Schools Career Center (4 yrs)

Former Volunteer & Foundation Board Member - Malabar Farm State Park

Married to Marilyn with three children and six grandchildren

Hobbies - presenting Abraham Lincoln, traveling, being with grandchildren, playing tuba, singing, etc

Is a "full height" Lincoln presenter at 6'4".

Performs in costume (and whiskers) and presents in first person.

Speaks on a large variety of topics - Life of Lincoln (any "chapter"), Lincoln and Religion, Lincoln and Law, Lincoln and Slavery, Lincoln and Politics, Lincoln's Education, Trials and Tribulations of Lincoln's Presidency, Lincoln at Cooper Union, plus others.

Can deliver any of Lincoln's speeches.

Can perform with a Mary Todd Lincoln Presenter (Marilyn Ferguson of Wooster).

Glad to answer questions re: any part of Mr. Lincoln's life (depending on question, may go out of character)



UNION COUNTY CHAPTER O.G.S. ANNUAL PIONEERS BANQUET

Tuesday, May 18th, 2010

Arrive 5:30 - Eat 6:00 P.M.

Der Dutchman Restaurant, Plain City

Guest Speaker:



(A.K.A. Pete Raymond)

<http://www.peteraymond.com>

Dinner is \$17.00 per person,

Family Style, Beef and Chicken

Reservations are **prepaid** and **required** by May 13th, 2010.

Make checks or money order payable to: Union County Chapter OGS

Pioneer Banquet Reservation Form

Please return this with payment to:

Union County Chapter OGS

P. O. BOX 438

Marysville, Ohio 43040

Deadline for reservations is May 13, 2010.

Please submit this form with your payment.

Number of people attending the banquet ____ @ \$17.00 each Total: \$ ____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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