



# 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](mailto:defiancegenealogy2002@yahoo.com)



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Regular monthly meetings of the Defiance Chapter OGS are held at St. John United Church of Christ at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise stated. The address is 950 Webster Street-- on the northeastern corner of the Defiance College campus. Entry is on the north side of the church adjacent to the college gymnasium parking lot. **Meetings are the 4th Monday of each month except August and December or as noted.**

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

## Chapter Meeting Dates - 2012

**September 24 - Cecelia Brown**

*“Ghost Towns of Eastern Defiance County”* -  
a Power Point presentation

**October 22 - Annual Chapter Banquet**

**6:00 p. m. at St. John UCC**

**Speaker: Steve Hageman -the Civil War and Defiance County**

**RSVP form is at end of newsletter. Deadline for reservations is October 10th.**

**November 26 - Dianne Kline**

*“Using the Newly Released 1940 Census”*

**December - no meeting**

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## Five War of 1812 Veterans to be Honored September 15 at Farmer and Evansport

On Saturday, September 15th at 10:00 a. m., two War of 1812 veterans will be honored at the Farmer Cemetery in Farmer, Ohio by the local chapter of the Daughters of the War of 1812. Following at approximately 11:15, three

more veterans at the Evansport Cemetery will, too, be honored. Flags will be placed upon the graves of these veterans and a short tribute read for each soldier. This will be the first time that the service of these five men have been formally recognized with flags as War of 1812 veterans.



**Defiance County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society  
Newsletter "Yesteryears' Trails" Vol. XXXI Fall 2012**

**Officers and Trustees**

**President** - Cecelia Brown  
Phone: 419-658-2483  
Email: ccbrowngenealogy@yahoo.com

**Vice-President** - Julie Miller  
Email: jmiller@nwwildblue.net

**Recording Secretary** - Mary Williams  
Email: marywill@smta.cc

**Corresponding Sec. & Membership Chair**  
Dianne Kline  
Email:  
defiancegenealogy2002@yahoo.com

**Treasurer** - Lavina Boesling  
Email: lib10@embarqmail.com

**First Families** - Jan Morey  
Email - bjmorey@bright.net

**Newsletter Editor** - Mary Williams  
Email: marywill@smta.cc

**Trustees:**  
David Bennett  
Gladys Donson  
Richard Rosevink

**Change of Address or Email ?**

If you change your address or e-mail 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 \$12.00 for an individual and  
\$15.00 per family.

*An additional \$5.00 is required for mailing the  
four annual newsletters through  
the U. S. Post Office.*

**Download a membership form at  
[www.defiancecountygenealogy.org](http://www.defiancecountygenealogy.org)**

**What's Been Happening at DCGS?**

**June**

On June 18 members of the DCGS chapter met at the Recorder's Office in the courthouse annex. After a brief explanation of the records held there-- land deeds and early veterans' discharge records, members were given time to do individual research.

**August**

At the August chapter board meeting, a history of the Lyla Dove family was presented to the board. After the genealogy is bound, it will be placed in the Defiance Public library for research purposes.

Richard Rosevink of the Veterans Historical Committee announced that his committee is working on recognition of Camp Trimble of the Civil War era. A marker noting its importance will be placed near the current Sheriff's office. A ceremony will be held there at the end of September or beginning of October.

On September 22 from 2:00-4:00 at the Evansport United Methodist Church, records of the church, the Tiffin Township Schools, and the village of Evansport will be on display.

On August 26 chapter members were given a tour of the Andrew Tuttle Memorial Museum located in the heart of Defiance at the corner of Third and Clinton Streets. Andrew Tuttle was a former Defiance resident



and world traveler who amassed many valuable collector's items as he traveled the world. His collection was willed to the city of Defiance if they would create a city museum for his artifacts. A former bank building replete with its safe was found to house the collections. The most priceless part of his collection are the coins, part of which will go on display for the first time in November. On display at that time will be coins of the colonial and revolutionary eras through the Civil War in America. Another fascinating collection is the Indian artifacts which both he and his family members collected from this area. A third important collection are stamps of all nations.

The goal of the museum is to create a variety of displays which will revolve about every 3-6 months. In

November a series of open houses will be held, and after that the museum will be open Thursdays from 10-5 and one Saturday a month from 1-5. With a month's notice, tours can be scheduled for small groups at other times.

The Wall of Conflict delineates the various conflicts which took place in the Defiance area up to the founding of the city of Defiance in 1823 and/or the creation of Defiance County in 1845. The upper balcony (which is not handicap accessible at this time) is yet to be developed but in the future may be used for a classroom or research or for a special display gallery.

The museum also currently houses plaques honoring those residents who have been chosen for the Defiance City Hall of Fame. (More photos on page 40.)

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## Remembering the War of 1812



**Filming for Kentucky Documentary on the War of 1812.** On July 13, 2012, a Kentucky film crew stopped at Ensign Liggett's Marker on the Delaware Bend Road north of the Maumee River. Sergeant Willis is shown on camera; Lt Colonel Kirk Hilbrecht, Director of Public Affairs, talks to John Trowbridge, Command Historian KY National Guard. Lt. Col. Hilbrecht is the highest ranking officer of the current KY National Guard to visit the historic marker in Defiance County. The men were returning from Canada on their way home to Kentucky.



**Ringing of the Bells Ceremony - June 18 at the East Second Street City-County Building.** Mayor Armstrong and Richard Rozevink welcome those in attendance to the ceremony.

Our chapter would like for you to join

### **First Families of Defiance County**

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

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

### **Defiance County Centennial Families**

To acknowledge families which have been in Defiance County for 100 years or more, our chapter has established a centennial recognition program. Just one item of proof showing that a family member was here in 1908 or before is needed to register a family. Upon registration, a certificate will be sent from the chapter. For more information, please contact the chapter via email or by snail mail-- attention Carol Ehlinger.

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

### **Free Queries for Chapter Members**

Don't forget that your chapter membership entitles you to unlimited queries in *Yesteryears' Trails* for ancestors from the Defiance area.

Please do limit background information (to about fifty words) and ask for specific information from our readers. Queries may be sent to the chapter email listed on the first page of this newsletter.

### **Of Community Interest in 1887**

When chapter member Connie Duerk spent a few hours at the library looking for the death notice of John Mueller, the old canal boat captain who was the great grandfather of her husband Junior, she ran across two interesting tidbits she wanted to share from *The Democrat Newspaper*, Defiance, Ohio February 24, 1887

**Money Discovered in Copper Kettle** - "After a laborer fell a large tree in Crane Township, Paulding County, one day last week, he discovered that the stump was hollow. While gazing into the cavity he noticed a peculiar looking copper kettle which he immediately hauled out, and on opening it, he found it contained nearly three thousand dollars in silver species of foreign mint. How long the treasure had lain in the stump will probably never be known. The coins all dated back more than a century."

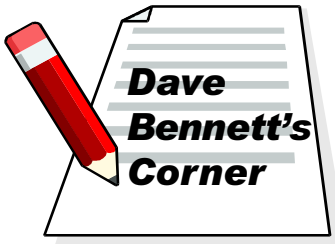
*Connie noted that it made her wonder what happened to the kettle with all the money? What was it actually worth, and what was the foreign country that minted the silver coins??? Forever a mystery!*

**Gusher Struck in Bryan** - "Bryan has struck a gusher with a capacity of about 125 barrels a day, and a gas well that roars loud enough to keep the people living in that neighborhood awake all night. Bryan does not seem to be very anxious about the new railroad since she struck the other bonanza, and would, we are told, rather expend the monies raised for the road in offering factories inducements to locate in Bryan.

*Again, Connie queried: I wonder if they chose the right bonanza? They do have several factories in Bryan, so I guess they chose the right idea to getting more factories in Bryan.*

### **Tell Our Readers about YOUR Civil War Soldier**

We would like to publish articles about members' Civil War ancestors. Please email your article to Mary Williams at [marywill@smta.cc](mailto:marywill@smta.cc). Don't forget, too, to submit your Civil War ancestor for recognition in our Defiance County Civil War Registry. The application form is at the end of this newsletter. It is free and doesn't require too much time or energy. If your ancestor served in a Defiance County unit, or was born, lived, died or was buried in the county, you may apply.



*It's back to school time now, so I thought it fitting for a school story, so here it is.*

### Early School Days in Defiance

by Mrs. S. L. Carey - January 1893

The first year after we came west, I did not attend school but learned my lessons regularly at home and recited to my sister. Sometimes, when Mr. Arrowsmith was at home, I would recite to him. I liked that for he used to praise me for memorizing so well. I did not get much praise at home, for our folks thought praise was not good for children. I know now that I did not merit the praise he bestowed, for it was the easiest thing in the world for me to memorize. What some others had to study hard to learn, I would commit in a very short time and would look with feelings of contempt on those who tried so hard to get their lessons and deserved credit much more than I did. I wonder now why my teacher did not try to take some of the conceit out of me.

In the winter of 1838-1839, I attended school in Defiance, taught by William A. Brown in the old courthouse. One room was large enough to hold all the scholars who attended. Miss Harriet Stowe, the Presbyterian minister's daughter was the assistant teacher. She heard the little ones read their abc's and the young ones reading and spelling classes. Among the young men or bigger boys who attended I remember Rheese Wells, Andrew Kniss, William Landgdon, John Shirley, Frank Southworth, Jacob and Abraham Hudson, Orville Greer, and a number of others whose name I have forgotten. Some of the older girls and young ladies were Mary Hall, Nancy Marcellus, Mary Woodward, Ann Caroline, Louisa Dagget, Lourella Allen, Ester and Mary Southworth.

We read in the "English Reader" in the first class of which I was a member although I was but ten years old. But I had read in that same reader in New York State and could read those incomprehensible prose pieces as well as any of them. We had to observe the "rules" in reading to mind the pauses, to let the voice fall at a period and to raise it at the interrogative point, no matter what the length.

The boys and girls had intermissions separately, the girls first, the boys after. Once when few of us had gone to get a drink of water, we were late getting back.

The boys were just coming out when some of the rude ones began to tease us and would not let us in. When we cried, they laughed at us. Just then Frank Southworth came out and seized some of those boys and gave them a good shaking and made them let us in. Always after that, Frank was my ideal of a gentleman, and if any boys had ever assailed me, I should not have hesitated to call on him for protection.

As we lived on the opposite side of the Maumee, we had to cross by ferry. I had nearly half a mile to walk before crossing, but there was a family living near us, and I used to go with their children, for I was afraid to go alone.

One morning I was late, and they had already gone, but I was told if I ran, I would be sure to overtake them. And I did run, every step, and reached the ferry landing just as they landed on the opposite bank. I was about to turn and go back home, for I was terribly afraid of Jimmy Baker, the ferryman. Mr. Dagger lived across the road which ran near the bank and his daughter Ann just then came out to get a pail of water. She stopped and watched old Jimmy as he came back scolding and swearing at me for being so late and keeping him from breakfast. Ann told me if he did not set me over to come with her to the house and wait till he came back. When the boat touched the bank, I made no motion toward going to get in when he called out, "Come along, you little rat you; I've a good notion to tip you out in the middle of the river to pay you for keeping me away from my breakfast."

Ann told me not to be afraid, that he would not hurt me, and I stepped in with fear and trembling. But as she stood there on the bank watching, I felt safer, and when I landed, she waved her hand and picked up her pail and went into the house. I felt that I owed my life to her. I fully believed that old Jimmy would have drowned me if she had not stood guard.

Mr. Brown taught the school three successive winters and gave great satisfaction. When we had a different teacher afterward, the scholars used to say, "Brown let us do so and so," or "Brown did not do so and so." Brown was quoted for many years



## X. MILLER - Civil War Veteran- 38th OVI

Submitted by chapter member Phyliss Osmun

Source: EDGERTON EARTH (newspaper) -  
Edgerton, Ohio October 1914



Xavery Miller, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Xavery Miller, was born in Alsace, France, February 10, 1840. He came with his parents to America in 1849, locating in Williams County, Ohio, near Mina: died at the old farm, September 30, 1914, aged 74 years, 7 months, and 20 days.

He was united in marriage with Victoria Troffer, January 6, 1867. To this union were born seven children, (William died in infancy, aged nine months, being the fifth child), of whom six survive, namely, George H., of Montpelier, Frank J. of Milford, Anna of Hamilton, Indiana, Flora of Edgerton, Lena of Williamston, Michigan and Clyde of David City, Nebraska .

Deceased enlisted in Co. A 38th O.V.I. August 26, 1861, for three years or to the close of the war; was discharged September 13, 1864 at New Altonia, Georgia.

After marriage he located on a farm east of Edgerton for a few years, moving from there to Milford township in 1870. His chosen occupation was that of farmer. Being a pioneer he contributed his share towards the development of our county. His was a busy life and it can be truthfully said that whatever he did was well done. By hard work and strict economy he accumulated considerable property and in his later days he had the satisfaction of knowing that all of his children were independent and above want.

His last years were of the severest trial. About twelve years ago he built a modern house in Edgerton and with his wife and two younger daughters, Lena and Clyde, moved off of the home farm to town. After a few years his wife died and he was afflicted with gangrene and suffered the lose of one of his limbs below the knee. It soon spread to the other foot. Realizing his inability to effect a cure, he patiently awaited the end, expressing his willingness to die.

His attachment for the members of the 38th O.V.I. Remained with him to the end. Those of his company who acted as pall bearers were Hon. Walt Tomlinson, Calvin Rodgers, Abe Mavis, and Joe Leek of Farmer Township; Jacob Saul, Bryan; John Stevens, Silas Irish, Leonard Slater of Edgerton. Funeral services were held at the Catholic Church, Edgerton, Saturday at 10 o'clock.

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**Xavery Miller**  
**Co. A 38th OVI**

## PVT. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DIFFENBAUGH 145TH PA. VOLUNTEER INFANTRY REGIMENT CO. C



Article submitted by chapter member Rita Addison

Benjamin Franklin Diffenbaugh was born February 15, 1797 in Lancaster Co., PA. The names of his parents have not yet been determined. Benjamin is listed in the year 1821 in Lampeter Twp. as a Blacksmith. He married his first wife, Elizabeth Weidel, between 1815 and 1820. They had four sons and one daughter.

By 1830 the family had relocated to Erie, PA., and Benjamin operated one of the first Blacksmith shops in Erie. In January 1844 Elizabeth died, and six months later, on July 31, 1844, Benjamin married Lavina Thursten Pickett, daughter of Rev. Daniel Pickett and Anna Corbin Pickett. Six months after his second marriage, on December 18, 1844, Benjamin enlisted for 3 years Naval Service, assigned to the USS Michigan. He was rated as a Coal Heaver. The Michigan operated on the Great Lakes out of Erie, PA. throughout his enlistment.

Upon his release from Naval Service, Benjamin resumed his Blacksmith profession in Erie. He and Lavina became the parents of Benjamin Pickett Diffenbaugh, Anna Diffenbaugh, Hiram Israel Diffenbaugh, and John Collen Diffenbaugh.

Benjamin enlisted as a Private in the newly formed 145th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Co. C on August 14, 1862 in Erie. Benjamin was over the age of 65 at the time of his enlistment.

The 145th was ordered to the front without arms and with very little knowledge of military duty. The Regiment left Erie on the 11th of September under the command of Colo-

nel Hiram L. Brown.

After participating in the Battle of Antietam, toward the close of October the regiment moved with the army down the Loudon Valley to Warrenton where it made a brief halt and then proceeded towards Falmouth, Burnside being in command and making every preparation to meet the enemy at Fredericksburg. On the afternoon of the 12th of December the 145th Regiment crossed a pontoon bridge into Fredericksburg. About noon on the 13th the 145th moved forward towards the fatal stone wall at the foot of Marye's Heights. Pvt. Benjamin Diffenbaugh stood in the 2nd four from right of the Company, and while in the act of climbing over a board fence, was injured from an explosion and concussion of a shell which exploded within about three feet of him, one piece striking him on the outer side of the left limb about midway between the left knee and hip joint, and another piece on the left side of his head and left ear. The blood was spitting from his nose, ears, and mouth and he lay in an unconscious state from the time he was hurt until late in the afternoon.

Benjamin was treated in camp for his wounds, and on December 25th he was transferred to Campbell Hospital in Washington D.C. Just a week after his transfer to hospital Benjamin received a Surgeon's Certificate of Disability, and was honorably discharged on January 5, 1863. The medical inspector noted on his certificate, "Old age, he ought not to have been enlisted".

Benjamin was never to fully recover from his war injuries; he sustained total deafness in his left ear, his left leg was weak and lame and caused him a great deal of pain. It was difficult for him to walk or stand for any length of time. As the years went on he had more and more difficulty doing his work and supporting his family. For the remainder of his life his afflictions plagued him, and his financial state was ever grim.

In August 1879 Benjamin applied for a pension and was placed on the invalid pension roll of the United States, and was granted the amount of \$8.00 a month.

Benjamin and Lavina's oldest son, Benjamin, and his family were living in Seneca Co., OH., and their youngest son, John, and their daughter, Anna, wife of Lorenzo Putnam, relocated to Hicksville in Defiance Co., OH. in early 1880. In late 1881, due to his infirmities and advancing age, Benjamin and Lavina relocated to Hicksville to live with Anna and her family.

Benjamin Franklin Diffenbaugh passed away in Hicksville on December 10, 1882. Shortly thereafter, Lavina returned to Erie Co., PA., where she lived the remainder of her life with her oldest son, Benjamin, who had also returned to Erie. Lavina passed away on April 4, 1888 at the age of 68. They both rest at Forest Home Cemetery in Hicksville. A Civil War Flag holder adjacent to the monument con-

tains the flag for which he fought.

Benjamin and Lavina's youngest son, John Collen Diffenbaugh, married Laura Alta Steel, daughter of Sylvester Steel and Malinda Warner. John and Laura, my great grandparents relocated permanently to Shelby, Richland Co., OH., where they raised their family.

(Above information researched and compiled by Rita Diffenbaugh Addison, great, great granddaughter of Benjamin Franklin Diffenbaugh)



**Benjamin Franklin Diffenbaugh  
Levina Thursten (Pickett) Diffenbaugh  
Forest Home Cemetery  
Hicksville, Defiance Co., OH  
Military Service: Civil War 145th PA Vol.  
Inf.**

## **Town and Gown Lectures for 2012**

*For the past few years, the Defiance College and the city of Defiance have coordinated to bring the community speakers and topics of historical interest. Listed below are the updated programs and sites for the remainder of 2012. All programs begin at 7:30 p. m..*

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| September 27 | "Camp Trimble"<br>Stroede Center  |
| October 18   | "Morgan's Raiders"<br>Stroede Center  |
| November 15  | "The Squirrel Hunters Are<br>Coming" and the<br>"Union Light Guard"<br>Schomburg Auditorium |





## William Donley Co. F 48th OVI

*Submitted by chapter member William E. Schmertz*

William Donley was born to John and Elizabeth McKee Donley 11 December 1833 in Athens Co., OH. The family came to Washington Twp., Defiance (Williams) County, OH in the spring of 1836. In 1862 William married Permelia Cummins, born 1842, died 1875. They had two living children: Lillian (Lillie) C. Donley (McFeters) born 1865, died 1908 and John A., born 1867, died 1936.

In 1876 William married a second time to Lucy A. McFeters born 1858, died 1910, and they had four living children: Charles, born 1877, died 1900; Arie, born 1879, died 1942; Lottie born 1880, died 1946; and Peter, born 1882, died 1958.

The Donley family lived in Ney, Ohio where “Bill” was a blacksmith and a civic leader. Williams Donley served as a private in Co. F, 48th OVI during the Civil War. He was an ardent Republican, member of the GAR and Knights of Pythias and was town marshal of Ney at the time of his death in 1901.

Lucy was an active members of the M. E. Church, W.C.T.U., W. R. C., and the Pythian Sisters.



### The William Donley Family - Ney, Ohio

**Seated: William Donley (1833-1901), Peter (1882-1958) and Lucy McFeters Donley (1858-1910)**

**Children Standing: Arie (1879-1942), Charles (1877-1900), Lottie (1880-1946)**

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## **In the News: Defiance Democrat 1911 and 1912**

### **Mrs. Tracy Kinch - 90th Birthday Celebration**

*Defiance Democrat – May 3, 1911*

*(The article features a family photo showing Mrs. Kinch and possibly her children.)*

April 27<sup>th</sup> was the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mrs. Tracy **KINCH** and in celebration of the event, Mr. and Mrs. Fred **BRENO** of Delaware Bend, entertained in her honor, she being Mrs. Breno’s mother. A fine dinner was one of the features of the day.

The following were present: Mr. and Mrs. Joe **RICH**, Mrs. Alvina **PETRY** and children, Mrs. Mary **KLEINE**, and Mrs. Francis **MOATS** of New Haven, Ind., Mrs. Emma **MICKLES** of St. Louis, Mo., Mrs. Maggie **CORFMAN** of Fostoria, Mr. and Mrs. Peter **KILLION**, Mrs. Katherine **KILLION**, Nick **DIMOND** and Peter **ZENZ** of Defiance, Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. Peter **BRENO** and children, Mrs. Catherine **BOWERS** and children, and Elsie **PERIN** of Sherwood, O., Father **ANTLAUER** of North Ridge, Mrs. Belle **FAIR** and son, Mr. and Mrs. E.S. **LAUB**, Father **THEIS**, Blanche and Besse **STEVENS**, Mrs. Katie **SMITH** and Charles

**STRAIGHT** of The Bend, Fred **BRENO** Jr.

Mrs. Tracy Kinch was born in Kappel, Germany, on the Rhine River, April 27, 1821. She has five living children, nineteen grandchildren, thirty-four great grandchildren, two sisters, Mrs. Francis **MOATS** of New Haven, Ind. who is eighty-three and Mrs. Katherine **KILLION** of Defiance, who is eighty-five

### **Obituary for George Gintner**

*Defiance Democrat - March 16, 1912*

George **GINTNER** was born in Wittenberg, Germany, Feb. 10, 1830, and departed this life at his home in Washington township, March 6, 1912, aged 82 years and 26 days, from the effects of a stroke of paralysis received two days before.

At the age of fourteen he was confirmed in the Evangelical Lutheran church. After he grew to manhood, he had a great desire to come to America, but his parents did not approve for he was the youngest of the family, and they thought he would be their help in their declining years, but they did



not wish to stand in the way of his wishes and provided him with the means for his journey. On Feb. 25, 1848, he took passage on a sail vessel, reading America in 74 days. He came to Liverpool, Medina County, Ohio and worked on a farm seven years for a Mr. **WARNER**.

George married Miss Elizabeth **LEINSEDER**, Sept. 7, 1855, and they at once came to Washington Township, settling upon the farm on which he died. He was one of the organizers of the German Lutheran church near his home, and was ever a faithful member. The only remaining member who organized the church left is Jacob **GOLLER**. He leaves his companion, two sons and three daughters in Washington Township, two daughters in Putnam Co., and one at Bryan, besides grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A sturdy pioneer, a good citizen, a faithful husband and a loving father has been called home.

### Snyder Reunion - August 1911

Defiance Democrat – August 23, 1911

The sixth annual SNYDER reunion was held Thursday in the beautiful grove of Joseph LAVERGNE, consisting of five acres, which is located on the Mud Creek road in section two, Delaware township. Those present, who numbered about a hundred, were the descendants of Samuel and Lydia S. SNYDER, who settled in Delaware township in 1846, coming from



Pennsylvania. Mr. Snyder passed away about thirty-five years ago, but his better half, who was generally known as Grandma Snyder, survived until July 10th of the present year, passing away to that better land at the ripe old age of 94 years, 10 months and 2 days.

The dinner was served in the LaVergne grove on a single long table constructed especially for the occasion. And such a dinner it was. It was one of those kind which only country women know how to prepare, and consisted of no end of good things too numerous to mention. No one censured the table for groaning and threatening to break its backbone under the big load of tempting (morsels) which it supported.

After the dinner, the racers were trotted out, which

consisted of ordinary amateurs and professionals who had made records on the turn in days gone by.

**-Fat Women's Race** – Emma SNYDER, 1st; Mrs. Emma SPROW, 2nd. Distance 200 feet; time, 5 minutes.

**-Lean Women's Race** – Mrs. Ida STRUSAKER, 1st; Mrs. Alta LANGDON, 2nd; the balance in hot pursuit, consisting of Alice SISCO, Mrs. Kate MYERS and Mrs. Geo. COY.

**-Runt Race** – Mrs. Alma STUCKMAN, 1st; Mrs. Iona LaVERGNE, 2nd; the remaining two, Mrs. Rilla DONLEY and Mrs. Ida HUTCHINS might develop into winners with a little more training.

**-Long Legged Men's Race** – Leo SISCO, 1st; John LANGDON, 2nd; Alva LaVERGNE, 3rd. It was necessary to run two heats of this race because there was a misunderstanding the first time. When the judges announced “go” one of the geldings thought he said “whoa” and acting on the latter injunction, put the first heat on the hummer.

**-Little Girls' Race** – Lillian LaVERGNE, 1st; Faith SISCO, 2nd; Alta THOMPSON and Geneva LaVERGNE.

**Little Boys Race** – Curtis KINTNER, 1st; Paul LaVERGNE, Preston THOMPSON and George HUTCHINS.

**-Young Married Mens' Race** – Leo SISCO, 1st; John LANGDON, 2nd.

**-Little Misses' Race** – Alta THOMPSON, 1st; Helen PAR-ENT, 2nd.

**-Officers Elected** – After the races, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President – Alva LaVERGNE

Vice- President – H. W. COY

Secretary – Rilla DONLEY

*(A long list of those who registered appeared in the article – see paper for details. Available at the Defiance Public Library)*

### Henry Crowl served under Anthony Wayne

Lydia A. SNYDER, who was the oldest member of the family up to the time of her death which occurred recently, was a real daughter of the Revolution, her father having enlisted under the banner of Mad Anthony WAYNE and served with him during the entire Revolutionary War. Lydia's father was Henry CROWL, her mother, Anna DAVIS.

The desperate fight which Wayne and his detachment of 15,000 men had at Paoli made a deep impression both on the leader and his followers. Mrs. Snyder's father, Mr. Crowl, often told of how Mad Anthony would spur his men on to desperate deeds of warfare by waving his sword above his head and shouting, “Remember Paoli.”

Mr. Crowl was present at the capture of Stony

active service, but was never wounded, although he had one narrow escape from capture. He rode out from camp one day to do a little spying on his own account. He had got almost within the British lines when he was seen. A squad of cavalry started in pursuit of him, and he turned and made a run for the American lines. Bullets whizzed all about him, but he escaped being hit. His horse was a fleet animal much more so than those of the pursuers, and so finally succeeded (to get) behind the lines in safety. Mr. Crowl died October 30, 1834, aged 77 years. Anna Davis Crowl died in 186\_, aged 87 years.

### **Pioneer of Delaware Township**

Mrs. Lydia A. Snyder was born in York, PA., September 8, 181\_. In 1834, she was married to Manuel Snyder. She was a pioneer of Delaware Township, having come to Mud Creek in 1848 with her husband and two small children when the country was a wilderness. There were but two families living along the creek in that vicinity at the time, and they were always glad to visit each other and be neighborly. The first few years in the township, their living consisted of "Johnny Cakes" and venison, with other game meat thrown in for variety. Her husband once shot a deer in the dooryard, pointing the gun through the cracks in the cabin.

Mrs. Snyder saw the country transformed from a forest into its present progressive state. Saw the first chopping of the giant trees and helped burn the log heaps and get the land read to raise a little produce. Watched the first efforts to raise the first crops and in those early days, the harvesting was done by the rude tools of the past, and saw the clearings widen out, the roads built, school houses, churches and towns erected.

### **Family History Month at the Allen County Public Library: October 2012—It's Closer than You Think**

*(From the ACPL Genealogy Gems - August 31, 2012)*

Family History Month—2012 is guaranteed to have something for just about every genealogical interest, something every day to expand your genealogical knowledge. The month will highlight cemetery research and tombstone symbolism, state and regional research, census records, assistance with your brick walls, and technology use for genealogical research. This year, our traditional Midnight Madness returns on Friday, October 26, offering the opportunity to do family history research until midnight that night. For detailed class descriptions, more information, and to register for individual sessions, see the brochure at

[http://www.genealogycenter.org/Libraries/2012\\_Brochures/FHM.sflb.ashx](http://www.genealogycenter.org/Libraries/2012_Brochures/FHM.sflb.ashx).

### **Defiance Democrat – Excerpts from 1868** **January 4, 1868**

The new Dam across the Tiffin River, recently constructed by Brice **HILTON**, at Brunersburg, went out on Saturday last. The river being very low and hence to support from back water, the weight of the water above forced an opening in the centre, swinging the halves around against the bank like a double gate. The timber may be saved, but Mr. Hilton's loss is over \$1000 besides eight or ten months use of his grist and saw mills, as no work towards repairing the Dam can be done until next summer. Besides being a loss to the proprietor, it will result in considerable inconvenience to the people of a large scope of the county.

The Saloon of the town is that of E. **REYFF**, under **PREISENDORFER's** Shoe Store. The hall is twice as large as any other in Defiance, arranged for comfort and convenience and tastefully furnished. The best of ale and beer on draught, and oysters and delicacies served up at all hours.

The **EGLER** Brothers are about erecting a Steam Sawmill in Richland township, on the farm of S. **ROHN**, about a mile below Independence Lock. They expect to have the mill running early in the Spring; in the meantime, their yard is ready for logs, for winter delivery.

### **January 25, 1868**

Dr. **COLBY** lost a valuable horse while driving on the Canal below Independence Lock, on Tuesday last. The ice breaking let the horse in'o the mud, and the effort was so great and the time so long to get him out, that he died shortly after.

Died – On Thursday eve last, at the residence of her son, Wm. C. **HOLGATE**, Mrs. **BOSTWICK**, aged 75 years.

### **February 1, 1868**

Father **HOEFFEL**, for ten years past, the laborious and faithful Catholic pastor in Defiance, has gone to Delphos to take charge of the Catholic Church in that place.

### **February 15, 1868**

Married February 8th at St. John's Catholic Church, Defiance, by Rev. D. **O'KEEFE**, Mr. Philip **KNAPP** to Miss Elizabeth **WICKHAM**, stepdaughter of Capt. P. H. **MOONEY**, all of Antwerp, Paulding county, Ohio.

Caution – all persons are hereby notified not to trust my wife, Helen J. **DONLEY**, on my account, for I will not hereafter pay any debts of her contracting, she having left me without any just cause. Sylvester **DONLEY**, Farmer, February 10, 1868.

**February 22, 1868**

Mr. Jno. O. **HEATLEY**, for two years past in our employ, left on Monday last for San Francisco, California, where he proposes to make his home. Success and favorable gales attend him.

Joshua **CAYLOR**, an esteemed citizen of this county, residing in Richland township, died on Wednesday last week, aged 55 years. He had been unwell and “housed up” for more than a year past.

**March 7, 1868**

Died on Thursday morning last, suddenly of Heart Disease, Hattie E. **OTTLEY**, in the 18th year of her age

Died on Tuesday last, after a lingering and painful illness of Cancer, Celia **HALL**, aged 25 years. Died, at Evansport,, January 18th, Jessie, daughter of P. and Mattie **KING**, aged 7 months and 16 days.

**March 14, 1868**

A new post office has been established in Mark township (Section 26), Defiance county, of which J.S. **MECKLEY** is Post Master, called “Mark.” It is at present supplied from Cecil Station.

Died – Suddenly, on Friday, March 6th, Captain Burkhart **GINTER**, 107th Ohio Regiment, aged 30 years.

Died – March 5th, in Defiance township, Michael **BOOR**, in the 70th year of his age.

**March 21, 1868**

Edward **ROEDEL**, a hardworking and steady young German, residing about two miles east of Defiance, in Richland township, was kicked by a horse, about the first of February, on the side of the head and his skull badly fractured. He lingered in a semi-unconscious state until Friday of last week, when death ended his suffering. He leaves a widow and three children.

Died – On Tuesday morning last, of Dropsy, after a lingering illness, Mrs. Maria, wife of Isaac **CORWIN**, aged 43 years and 14 days.

An Untimely Death – A man named Burkhart **GENTNER**, keeping a grocery on Clinton street, came to a very sudden death on Friday afternoon last. It appears he entered a grocery for the purpose of drinking, and while there took several drinks, more than his already used- up constitution would bear,

which rendered him completely senseless, in which state he breathed his last in less than ten minutes after. He was a fireman, and his comrades followed his body to the grave. His funeral sermon was preached in the Catholic church, when Father O’**KEEFE** took occasion to deliver a doctrinal sermon.

At a special meeting of Fire Company, Liberty No. 1, of Defiance, held March 17th, the following preamble and resolution were adopted by unanimous signing of the company:

“Whereas, Burkhart **GENTER**, deceased, was formerly a member of this company and, as expressed by resolution, passed at a former meeting of this company, “a diligent, faithful and energetic fireman” and “one always at post on occasions of fire, and prompt in his attendance at all meetings of the company,” and... “Whereas, said publicity casts upon the name of the deceased, and upon his innocent and unoffending children, infamy and shame, as well as reflecting upon the honor and reputation of the company, and “Whereas, our friend can no longer defend himself, his lips being closed in death; therefore:

RESOLVED, that we consider it our duty to defend the memory of the deceased, his children and our company, from the improper, uncalled for, and slanderous insinuations appearing in said public, and do declare the statements contained in said article attending the death of our deceased comrade, false in every particular and as to the cause of his decease, we offer to the public, the following certificate:

“Defiance, O, March 14, 1868 – I hereby certify that I have been the physician of Capt. Burkhart **GENTNER** for the last thirteen years, that I attended upon him in his last sickness, and that the deceased died of apoplexy, caused by a disease of the heart, with which he has been afflicted ever since his return from the army. J. **RUHL**, M.D.”

RESOLVED: that copies of the foregoing be presented to the Defiance papers for publication..

J. F. **DEATRICK**, Foreman John J. **FRITCH**,  
Secretary

**March 28, 1868**

Died – In Defiance township, March 17th, Erastus T. **FRENCH**, youngest son of Wright and Emeline **FRENCH**, aged 11 years and 2 days.

**April 11, 1868**

The Defiance Sons of Temperance installed their officers in a public meeting at **LINDENBERGER**’s Hall

## **In the Tuttle Museum**

One of the displays in the Andrew Tuttle Museum highlights the importance that the B&O Railway played in the development of Defiance

The safe, a relic of the former Building Savings and Loan, will be used to both display and protect the vast and costly display of Tuttle's coin collection.



This desk owned and used for many years by William C. Holgate was most recently housed in the Defiance Public Library. Holgate is the namesake of the village of Holgate, Holgate Avenue, and William C. Holgate is considered one of the founding fathers of the city and of the county.



One of the current revolving displays which includes this pump organ is a tribute to the Rettig family who played a prominent role in the musical tradition of the city. The museum is responsible for displaying tributes which honor Defiance business which have continued for fifty years or more.

*(Cont. from previous page.)*

last Monday evening. The attendance was large... The Officers installed were: W.P. – James J. **McBRIDE**; W.A. – William **CORWIN**; R.S. – G. G. **ECKRIDGE**; A.R.S. – Edward **SQUIRE**; F.S. – James J. **JARVIS**; T.C. – W. **EVANS**; C.I. – N. **THACKER jr.**; A.C. – L. **LOBDELL**; I.S. – Par. **SMITH**; O.S. – Isaac **HOOVER**; C. – Rev. W. V. **THOMAS**.

**Infirmiry Farm** – The Committee of Defiance County have been in session the greater part of the last two weeks, discussing the Poor House question and visiting the farms offered for sale. They visited

quite a number and finally fixed upon that at present owned by Chas. **KROTS** (the Reuben **BROWN** farm) on Tiffin River and in Tiffin township – five miles north of Defiance on the Evansport road. .. Mr. **KROTS** remains on the farm... Complete possession to be taken in the fall, when the Infirmiry, it is proposed, shall be put into operation. The Commissioners propose no building improvements at present except an addition to the dwelling. This farm is in a quiet neighborhood of thrifty farmers, centrally located, and must be generally regarded as a judicious selection. A neat and commodious M.E. chapel was built

*(Cont. from previous page.)*

on the northeast corner of this tract, some six years ago. The price to be paid is \$8000 in payments running four years.

**Died**, on Monday, April 6th, Rosalvo M.

**DUNN**, aged 24 years, 10 months and 8 days.

**April 18, 1868**

Died, at Brunersburg, April 9th, Lilley, daughter of John and Margaret **HATFIELD**, aged 8 years, 7 months and 17 days.

**April 25, 1868**

The dwelling house of Mrs. I.T. **BOWMAN**, was destroyed by fire on Thursday night last. Contents mostly saved. Loss probably \$800.

Died, April 17th, Elizabeth **PEARCE**, wife of William **PEARCE**, deceased, aged 87 years, 4 months and 6 days.

**May 16, 1868**

**Distressing Affair.** The saw mill of Peter **CONKLE**, (late county Commissioner), in Adams township was destroyed by fire, Friday morning of last week. Three sons of Mr. **CONKLE** had been running the mill until a late hour, when they retired to sleep in a small room in one corner of the building, and about two o'clock were aroused by the smoke and flame of the burning mill. Two of the sons jumped from the back window and escaped without injury, the other, in attempting to get out by a lower gangway, got fastened by the foot in such a manner that he could not be liberated, until he was badly burned. He died from the injuries during the forenoon. He was a most exemplary young man, and had been but recently married to a daughter of John **CARPENTER**.

**June 13, 1868**

The name of the post office at Oakland Station, near the Defiance and Henry county line, is now Oakalona, and is in Henry county.

#### **Death of Horace Sessions**

Death of Horace **SESSIONS**. Horace Sessions, Esq., a well known attorney, and prominent citizen of this place, died at Adrian, Michigan, on Saturday morning last, June 6th, aged 55 years. He was one of the delegates from the Congressional district to the Chicago Convention, where he contracted a severe cold. At Adrian, on his return, where he stopped off on a few days' visit to friends, he took to his bed and sank rapidly. His body was taken to Painesville, the home of his parents for interment. Mr. Sessions was one of the pioneers of the Maumee Valley, residing in

Defiance for more than thirty years. He leaves a widow, but no living children. He accumulated a large estate, principally in land property.

**Gymnasium Association.** The Defiance Gymnasium Association has now become an established "institution." At a called meeting of the members, had at Mr. **WALLACE**'s school room, on Saturday evening, June 6th, for permanent organization, the following officers were elected: G.G. **ESKRIDGE**, President; G.W. **BECHEL**, Treasurer; J. J. **JARVIS**, Secretary; Wm. **KAISER**, Captain; Andy **ISER** and Wm. **BIGSBY**, Janitors. The place selected for erecting the necessary fixtures is the terminus of the street along the Auglaize River and near the fort – out of the way and well suited to the purpose...

**June 27, 1868**

J. A. **SIMMONS**, Democrat, was recently elected Justice of the Peace in Delaware township, in place of Chas. **BAKER**, declined.

Mr. Peter **BECHER**, who had been in a decline for more than a year past, died of consumption on Tuesday morning last in the 36th year of his age. He was an excellent and hardworking mechanic (brick layer) and erected, as contractor, or by the day, half dozen or more of our brick business houses.

**July 4, 1868**

Married, Saturday, June 27th, by Rev. Mr. **JOHNSON**, at Lima, Ohio, Mr. Fillmore **HILTON** to Miss M.E. **BENTON**, both of Defiance county.

**July 11, 1868**

Married on the 1st inst., at Sellersville, Bucks county, PA., by Rev. S. **WAGNER**, at the house of Rev. P.S. **FISHER**, Dr. I. J. **WIREBACK** of Defiance to Miss Maggie **FISHER**.

Died, at Evansport, June 25th, 1868, Willie, son of Elizabeth and John B. **MURRAY**, aged 1 year, 5 months.

**July 25, 1868**

Drowned – E. **BOLAN**, aged about 40, and Washington **COBURN**, aged 17 years, were drowned while in swimming on Sunday, July 12th, in the St. Joseph River, near the State Line, about a mile above Webster's Mills. **BOLAN** leaves a widow, but no children.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Description of Publications - Defiance County Genealogy Society</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total</b>
Reprint of 1876 Defiance County Atlas with Indices (Paper- pub 2007)	\$25.00		
Plat Map Index or Biographical Index for the 1876 Def. Co. Atlas	\$8.00 each		
Index to the 1976 Defiance County History Book (pub 2006)	\$15.00		
Index to the History of Defiance County 1883 (pub 2008)	\$30.00		
Def. Co. Tombstone Index '78-'83: Book A-K or Book L-Z (pub 2001)	\$30.00 each		
Early Death Records of Defiance Co. 1867-1884 (pub 2001)	\$25.00		
Def. Co. Deaths 1884-1907: Book A-K or Book L-Z (pub 2004)	\$25.00 each		
Def. Co. Deaths 1908-1996: Book A-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. & City Tombstone 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 & Milford Twps. 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		
Tiffin Twp. Def. Co. Tombstone Inscriptions (Read '96-'06; pub 2001)	\$25.00		
Washington Twp. Def. Co. Tombstone Inscriptions (Read '97; pub 2005)	\$20.00		
Def. Co. Births 1867-1908: Book A-D, Book E-I, Book J-M (pub 2001)	\$35.00 each		
Def. Co. Births 1867-1908: Book N-Sm, Book Sn-Z (pub 2001)	\$30.00 each		
Def. Co. Marriages - Small Vol 1: 1845-1861 (pub. 2001)	\$20.00		
Def. Co. Marriages - Small Vol. 2: 1855-1885 (pub 2006)	\$30.00		
Def. Co. Marriages Vol. 1&2: Feb. 1885-May 1897 (pub 2009)	\$25.00		
Def. Co. Marriages Vol. 3&4: Jan. 1897-Nov. 1903 (pub 2009)	\$30.00		
Def. Co. Marriages Vol. 5&6: November 1903 – December 1912 (pub 2010)	\$25.00		
Def. Co. Marriages Vol. 7&8 Dec. 1912-Nov. 1925 (NEW 2011)	\$25.00		
Defiance County Naturalizations (pub 2008)	\$20.00		
1890 Defiance County Veterans' Census (pub 2007)	\$15.00		
Enumerations of Males in Defiance County 1847-1895 (pub 2006)	\$25.00		
Def. Co. Probate Index 1845 - June 1995: Book A-K or L-Z (pub 2001)	\$30.00 each		
Def. Co. 1870 Census Index: Book A- La or Book La-Z (pub 2001)	\$25.00 each		
Campaigns of the Army of the Northwest 1812-1813 (pub 2009)	\$10.00		
Civil War Journals of Darius W. Baird (38th OVI) of NW Ohio (NEW 2011)	\$10.00		
Reproduction of Turnbull Wagon Co. Catalogue 1904 (NEW 2011)	\$21.50		
Genealogical Research Guide for Defiance County, Ohio (NEW 2012)	\$2.50		
<b>TOTAL (Includes all taxes, shipping handling. Prices effective May 2011)</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	

Paid by Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Order Received \_\_\_\_\_ Order Sent \_\_\_\_\_

Form - March 2012

**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 proved 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