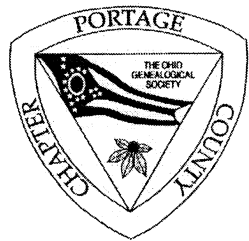


Portage Path to Genealogy



Volume 31 Number 5 September-October 2009

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THE PORTAGE PATH TO GENEALOGY is published by the Portage County Chapter, OGS, P.O. Box 821, Ravenna, Ohio 44266, 6 times a year in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Membership dues are \$10 per year for an individual membership \$12 per year for two people at the same address. Dues are payable in January of each year.

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To Our Members:

I do hope everyone is having a good summer. I enjoyed the cooler weather while it lasted. The last few days are more like summer in Ohio, hot and humid. September is fast approaching and school has already started for most children. Every year just seems to speed up and there never seems to be enough time for all my little projects.

If you plan on doing any research at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus, be aware that the state has cut their budget and they will be on limited hours for the library. According to an article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer the library and archives will only be open on Thursdays. Be sure you check their webpage or call before you make any plans. Of course this goes for all libraries now, as most have cut staff and hours.

I have received only one photo for the contest-the prize is a free one year membership to our chapter. See page two for details and don't miss a chance to win and save \$10.00.

Your President,
Barb Petroski

Meeting Dates—3rd Saturday of the month

Where: Portage County Historical Society, 6549 N. Chestnut St., Ravenna (located next to the Ravenna High School Stadium and just south and across the street from Maple Grove Cemetery), unless otherwise noted.

TIME: 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted

September 19—Tom Neel from the Ohio Genealogical Society- Lifelong resident of Huron County, Ohio, he is the current Office Manager at Ohio Genealogical Society (1984-date). His topic will be *"Ohio Land Records: The Great Experiment"*

October 17—First Settler's Luncheon—Roger Marble will be guest speaker--complete information on page two--reservation form on page 14

November 21—Gearld Payne of Medina will speak as Abraham Lincoln. He dresses the part and becomes Lincoln.

December-no meeting

2010

January—

February—Roger Marble

Chapter News:

Welcome to our New Members

Molly & Shelly EVERETT 11284 Brosius Rd Garrettsville OH 44231 ceverett@neo.rr.com



First Settler's Luncheon (See page14 for reservation form)

First Settlers of Portage County will welcome 3 new members at a luncheon being held at the Strickland House, Portage County Historical Society Campus, 6549 North Chestnut St., Ravenna Ohio (Brick home on south side of Clock Tower and Memorial Garden) on **October 17, 2009**, at 12:00 noon. The new members are: Charles Springston, Jr., Debora Springston Rose and Gary Springston. Any member of the Portage County Chapter OGS is welcome to attend, and this occasion takes the place of the regular October meeting.

The menu will be lasagna, meatballs, tossed salad, green beans and Italian bread and butter and is served buffet style. The dessert, coffee, iced tea or water are also included in the cost of \$10.00 per person. Please send your reservation and payment before October 10, 2009. If you have any questions please call Carolyn at 330-296-4412.

The speaker for the event is Roger Marble.

If you are interested in becoming a First Settler contact me at jlwoodring34@aol.com. The requirement for membership is that you must establish a direct line from yourself to an ancestor who settled in Portage County before December 31, 1840.

Jackie Woodring
Chairperson First Settler's



Don't Forget To Send In A Copy Of A Tombstone Photo!! New Deadline Date

CONTEST—Win a One -Year Membership to the Chapter -- Send or bring to a meeting a copy of a photograph of the most interesting or unusual tombstone you have seen in your strolls through the cemeteries across the land. The tombstone does not have to be your ancestor.

List the state, city and name of the cemetery and date photo taken if known. Also if you have a short story to go along with it please include it with your entry. Be sure to include your name on the photo.

Only two (2) photos per person allowed.

Entries should be received by October 15, 2009.

Photos can be returned to you if requested and please send a self addressed stamped envelope.



CHAPTER E-MAIL ADDRESS, QUERIES There is always space for your queries, just send them in.

If you wish to send a query for this newsletter please send it to pccogs@embarqmail.com

Please limit your query to only two surnames. Queries, which are posted in this newsletter, are free for members. There is a \$1.00 fee for queries from non-members who must mail in their payment with the request.

Mail to: PCCOGS, P. O. Box 821, Ravenna OH 44266-0821

More Chapter News:

A big thank you goes to **Michael Dean** who donated a legal size file cabinet to the Portage County Historical Society Library. It will provide more space for the ever-growing Surname files.



Our Research Policy:

Our chapter has a charge for research time. All research money, after volunteer expenses goes to the chapter as a donation. Our all-volunteer researchers can rack up a lot of traveling to get the information requested, which takes up their time and costs them for travel We do not have a full time researcher or a certified genealogist in our chapter. If the research requested is out of Portage County you will have to contact that county's chapter or check online for a researcher who covers that area.

The research form is available to download at http://history.portage.oh.us/genealogy_society.html



Genealogy News

The Cuyahoga County Council of Genealogical Organizations is holding its annual seminar on Saturday October 24, 2009 from 9-4 p.m. at the Western Reserve Historical Society, 10825 East Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44106.

“Finding Your Ancestors Using New and Time-Tested Resources” is the theme. There are all day seminars with a lunch break-bring your own or order one for \$9.00 in advance, door prizes and raffle prizes. Cost is \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door (includes refreshments and parking) Speakers includes Sunny Morton, Ann Sindelar, Jean Hoffman, Wally Huskonen, Robert Jerin and Jann Pflieger.

For more information visit www.wrhs.org-go to “Library” then “Genealogy” or call 216-721-5722



The Ohio Genealogical Society 49th Annual Conference will be at Park Inn/Seagate Centre in Toledo, Ohio April 22-24, 2010. For more information go to www.ogs.org



Of Special Interest

If you are looking for something to do, on October 9-10-11 check out the Algonquin Mill Fall Festival in Carroll County, four miles south of Carrollton on St. Rt. 332. The Carroll County Historical Society presents this event; it is their 39th year. There is a log two-story stagecoach inn, school house, mill, printing shop, train station-with model railroad set up inside--barn with tools, carriages, sleighs, and more. Almost all food for the event is made on site, including bread, cookies, apple butter and dumplings, sorghum and sauerkraut. Hand made woven rugs, quilts and other craft projects will be for sale at the festival. Attractions include art show, weaving, spinning, steam engines, artifacts, genealogy, music, horse drawn wagon rides, farm animals and pony rides for kids, and a lot more. Cost is only \$8.00 per vehicle. With nearly 70 acres there is room for everyone!

Preservation of Cemetery Inscriptions and Monuments

Shortly before July 4th, we received an email from a reporter asking what the Portage County Genealogical Society was doing to preserve information about our early cemetery burials. He especially asked about our Revolutionary War Veterans. Articles in several local newspapers featured the genealogical societies of Medina and Summit Counties and their efforts to catalog their Revolutionary War Veterans.

In Portage County we have been blessed with Genealogical Society workers that spent years working in the cemeteries recording information, checking and rechecking stones and records. They preserved the inscriptions from the original marker, from sexton records and when possible from the 1930 readings that were made in our county. Today we have these readings published in books and the information was not lost. When I began my work with the Sons of Union Veterans in the 1990's recording on forms all Civil War veterans buried in our county, these books were my primary source for information. They also showed Revolutionary War and 1812 veterans so I widened my approach for many of these gravestones were fast disappearing. The spreadsheets I developed included all three of these war veterans. I covered every cemetery in the county, submitting forms for the civil war veterans to the Sons of Union Veterans and noting the 1812 and 1776 burials on spread sheets. About one hundred stones were obtained for the unmarked graves of veterans that served in these wars. The work was finished in 2006.

The Sons of Union Veterans have since expanded their site to include pictures of the civil war soldiers graves. I thought I was retired but I'm working again. I have completed one township. Even though time will continue to steal the visible memories of these veterans there will be a record, both written and photographed of the monuments they deserve for their service.

You can search the site at www.suvcwdb.org/home/ and then go to search entries. You can search either by name, cemetery or township.

Jackie Woodring

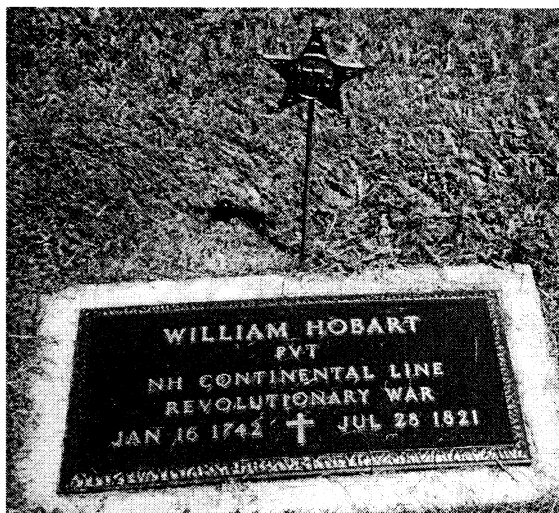
Three examples of military stones and markers



Palmyra: Whippoorwill: Pvt. PA Continental Army

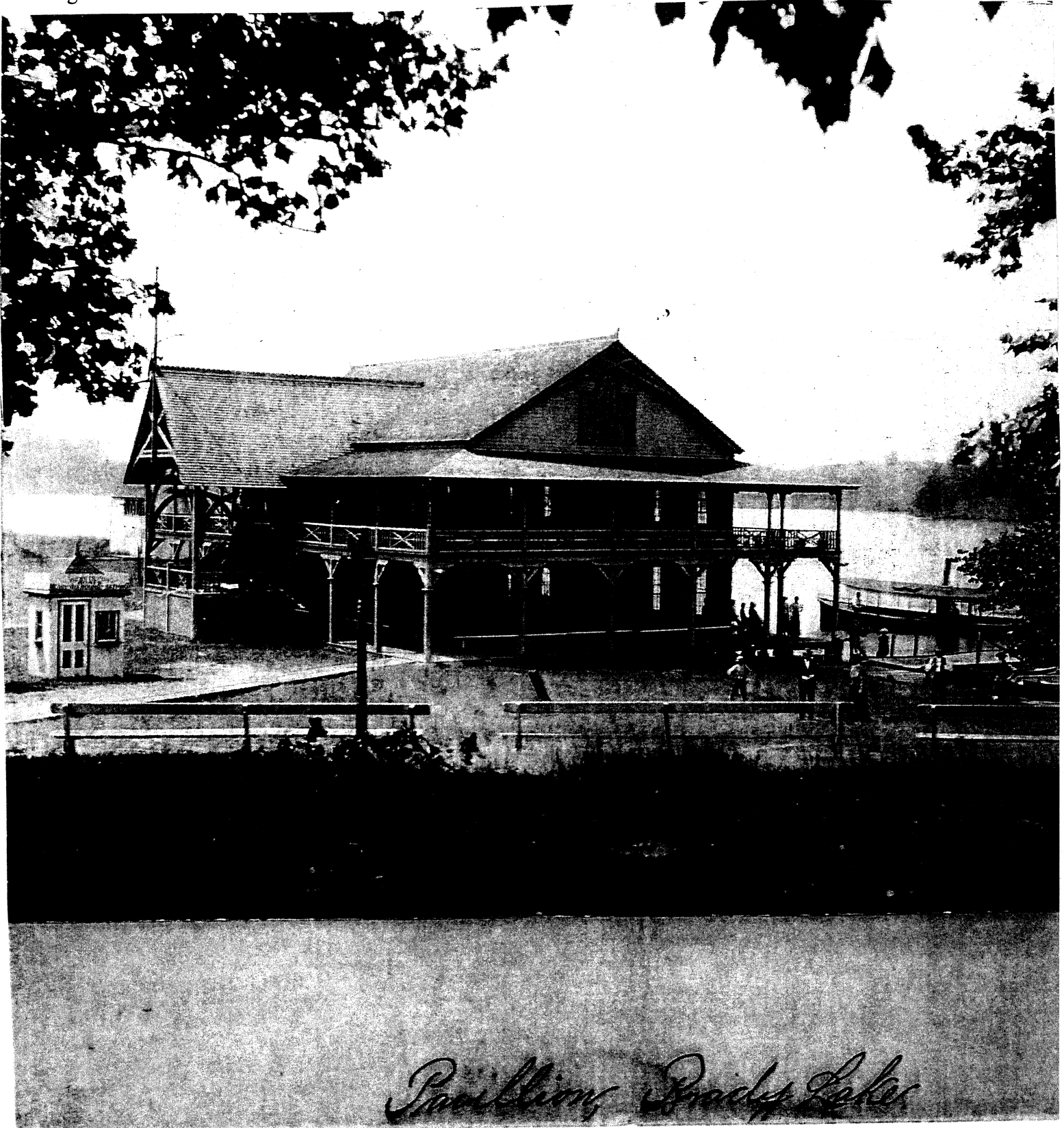


Edinburg: Pvt. Conn. Militia



Windham: New Hampshire Continental Line

The photo below --*"The Pavilion at Brady Lake"*-- is from the archives at the Portage County Historical Society. --Circa 1895. The building was built in 1891. Brady Lake was the resort area for Portage County for almost 100 years. There was a spiritual camp, hotel, the lake for swimming and boating and the amusement park. The roller coaster was a big attraction in the park. The pavilion was to be torn down in 1925 to be replaced by a new one. It is gone now.



News From Court House

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Guy Chandler Cuyahoga Falls, tire builder, 23, and Myrtle E. Hamilton, Kent, 23.

Theodore Shields, North Carolina, rubber worker, 26, and Lela Arp, Kent, 21.

F. A. Smith, Malta, O., 24, and Blanche Hamilton, Kent, 23.

Ladd L. Pitch, Troy, Geauga Co., O., farmer, 34, and Frankie Frazee, Hiram, 25.

Hays Montgomery and Cordelia Winans.

NEW CASES

Byron W. Fessenden vs Louis P. Fessenden et al. Partition. Plaintiff through his Attorney, W. E. Holden, elects to take the premises at their appraised value of \$4,350.

Margueritta Long vs Edward Long. Suit for alimony. The parties were married at Ravenna, July 2, 1914, and have since lived in Kent. Two children have been born to them, James, two years old, and Harold, nine months old. She says he has recently left her and the children without means of support. She says that her husband is extremely jealous of her on account of which they have had family quarrels and difficulties. The defendant is a switchman in the employ of the Erie Railroad at Kent and is earning \$125 per month. Plaintiff asks for temporary alimony and for permanent alimony.

Francis McIlwain, F. H. Carnahan, A. B. Fairchild, Jr., W. J. Beckley, G. H. Robinson, E. Y. Lacey, G. F. Hartlerode, Harold Robson and H. L. Beatty, Wardens and Vestry of Grace Episcopal church, vs Lura Mallory and others. Petition in application to settle and register title to land.

Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Shrop of Girard, O., spent Sunday in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jenkins.

PROBATE PROCEEDINGS

Will of Agnes Richards admitted to probate.

Final account filed in estate of Kellar J. Siddall and in guardianship of Roy P. Copeland, William Hadley and Lewis Freeman.

Frederick B. Mix to F. B. Goard, 145 acres, lot 2, Atwater, \$10,250.

G. Schittkowski to R. O. Garl, lot 28, Kent, \$1.

James Mattoon by exr. to Charles Spires, 8 acres plus, lot 90, Atwater, \$5,025.

Florence Kimes to Betsey Libis, 26 acres, lot 108, Shalersville, \$10.

Albert Dormaier to W. H. Rhodes, 9 acres plus, lot 32, Franklin, \$2.

Anna E. Fuller to Charles L. Boles, lot 43, Ravenna, \$1.

Lewis S. Hopkins to J. H. Bentley et ux, lot 25, Kent, \$1.

Simeon Randall to Emma Alice Denning, lot 25, Kent, \$1.

Wilber Rhodes to Jacob Etter, 2 acres plus, lot 16, Brimfield, \$500.

John Flesman by admr. to William Kernen, 80 acres, lot 74, Streetsboro, \$5,840.

C. D. Ingell by admx. to Donald McDonald Alger, 170 acres, lot 26, Mantua, \$3,400.

Wm. Baxter by admr. to F. E. Sauder, lot 28, Ravenna, \$1,575.

W. A. Moff to Sarah J. Taylor, lot 90, Atwater, 10.

J. W. Hall to Margaret E. Biltz, lot 34, Rootstown, \$500.

Edward F. May to Cordelia C. Miller, 53 acres plus, lot 23, Brimfield, \$1.

Hattie Fredrick to George W. Lumby, 18 acres plus, lot 34, Mantua, \$10.

Charles Leet to C. F. Hankee Co., 86 acres plus, lots 59-67, Freedom, \$10.

Roy H. Smith to Jas. G. Apple, lot 10, Kent, \$1.

Seneca Chain Co. to Fishel & Marks, 2 acres plus, lot 26, Kent, \$30,000.

Charlotta D. Crosley by admr. to Wesley O. and Ellora B. Hollister, lot 25, Kent, \$3,500.

Eugene Vaughn to Frank M. and Jessie Fritinger, 5 acres plus, lots 35-36, Mantua, \$10.

Robert K. McDowell to M. E. and

Mary E. Hanley, lots 8-9-10, Kent, \$10.

Eva Cope to Clark L. Wells, 56 acres, lots 11-20, Edinburg, \$1.

Frank Blair to Nina M. Blair, 121 acres plus, lot 14, Mantua, \$2.

Carl H. Smith et al to Jane Pembroke, lots 29-30, Ravenna, \$1.

W. W. Stevens et al to Richard G. Tracht et al, lot 44 Kent, \$10.

Nora J. Thacker to Carrie W. and Jas. O. Ruckman, 19 acres plus, lot 24, Rootstown, \$1.

Ralph J. Middleton to C. B. Middleton, 45 acres, lot 26, Palmyra, \$1.

George Stroup to Lindsey Stroup et al, 312 acres plus, lots 14, etc., Rootstown, \$1.

R. W. Hank to J. J. Turner, 1 acre plus, lot 28, Hiram, \$200.

Fred W. Belko to Charles Gauer, lot 5, Kent, \$1.

Jas. P. Prosser to Bertha Louise Owen, 14 acres, lot 36, Garrettsville, \$10.

Mary E. Underwood to Loemma Fenton, lot 46, Mogadore, \$1.

Henry D. Young to Ervin Denney, 2 acres, lot 1, Suffield, \$1.

F. J. Quirk et al to P. E. Nelson, lot 91, Garrettsville, \$10.

Nettie Royer to Edward Roberts, 32 acres plus, lots 13-23, Randolph, \$2700.

Matt Sand to Josef Zamostny, 75 acres plus, lot 7, Mantua, \$10.

Frank Fugman to Mary Fugman, 88 acres plus, lot 1, Mantua, \$10.

Vernon R. Flesman to P. L. Frank, Ravenna, \$10.

Bertha A. Shrimplin to John Mole-dor, lot 11, Kent, \$1.

Charles Cady to H. R. Loomis, lot 25, Ravenna, \$1.

J. F. Fenton to George Beal, 132 acres, lot 92, Shalersville, \$10.

Addie Riley to Howard W. Seifer, lot 30, Kent, \$300.

Henry Gast to H. W. Riddle, Jr., 19 acres plus, lot 32, Ravenna, \$10.

Chas. D. Hart et al to Phillip and Sophie Kraker, lot 35, Mantua, \$10.

The article below was among a stack of newspaper clipping found at the Portage County Historical Society. There was no date on the item but it appears to be about 1887.

Sources of Immigration Into Portage County

Brief sketches of the lives of pioneers of Portage county have been published in C. Brown's "History of Portage County," in the "History of Portage and Summit Counties," in "Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve" and in several family histories. The genealogies in these accounts may be assumed to be fairly correct, since they are based upon examination of county and township records. This study has accepted their results, unless some obvious fallacy appeared.

The Connecticut Land Company was a child of Connecticut and its members, the purchasers of the Western Reserve, largely Connecticut citizens. We should expect, then, to find a preponderance of Connecticut immigrants, among the early settlers of the Western Reserve and of Portage county. The list of early settlers of practically every township of the county shows a decided majority of immigrants from Connecticut. A few names from other New England states appear. A few are found coming from Pennsylvania, or southern Ohio and an occasional settler from some other state. Later settlers came more and more frequently from Western New York, from Pennsylvania, and in the decades following our period of study, from Europe. An occasional European immigrant is found among the very early settlers. Frequently not the original purchaser himself, but his son or some indigent relative came west to settle on the lands and represent the owner in the sale of land to settlers. The record of almost every township shows something of this sort.

Take the case of Atwater township, lying on the southern edge of the county. Captain Caleb Atwater was the original purchaser of this township, along with other land in the Western Reserve. In 1799 Captain Atwater with a party of friends set out from Wallingford, Connecticut to see his new lands. In the party was one man, Asa Hall, who brought his wife and planned to settle. All except Asa Hall returned East the following fall. Not for them the rigors of frontier life. David Baldwin came from Wallingford in 1801. In 1805 came Joshua Atwater, son of Captain Caleb, who had given his son Atwater township—twenty-five square miles of it—for a farm. Son Joshua was also from Wallingford. In 1806 came John H. Whitesey, a Scotch Methodist, Asahel Blakesley, Caleb Mateon, all from

Connecticut, and two others whose origin I have not been able to determine. The following year brought a group of settlers, among them a certain William Strong, from Durham, Connecticut. It brought, also, a group of immigrants from South Carolina, some five men, including John Campbell and William Marshall, who is famous locally for being one of the stone masons who built Fort Sumter. The second decade of the township's history brought settlers from seven other states. Greene County, New York, is represented by several prominent settlers, Pennsylvania gave several more. From Southwick, Massachusetts, in 1815, came Daniel and Charity (Loomis) Hillyer, with seventy-five others. Most of these early settlers were from New England, stock several generations back, but an occasional name such as Douthitt, Stockberger, Kettring, or Webber indicates a foreign nationality. A considerable number of this second wave of migration are indicated as coming from Western New York, which usually meant that their ultimate origin was New England, and very probably Connecticut.

An interesting side light into the economic status of the early pioneers is found in the case of Ira Mansfield. Major Ira Mansfield was one of the pioneers in Atwater township. He came through from Wallingford, Connecticut in 1806, and purchased 360 acres of land from Joshua Atwater. He had at least sufficient means that his "trusted clerk" might decamp with fifteen hundred dollars of his money while the major was in camp at Detroit during the War of 1812. High living on the Western Reserve!!! Major Mansfield was probably an exception. The usual story is one of poverty, homely poverty.

The settlement of other townships presents a similar picture. General William Hart of Saybrook, Connecticut, the original proprietor of Edinburg township was a man of some means. He invested \$200,000 in Western Reserve land and purchased several townships. He was a speculator and did not settle on his land, but sold it to others. He gave the northeast quarter of the township to his nephew, Richard Hart, who did settle there. The first two settlers in the township, "Squatters," came from another township (Rootstown) in the county. James Stoops came in 1815 from Beaver county, Pennsylvania. Alanson and Justin Eddy, after whom the township is named, came from Williamston, Mass. and Robert Calvin from Virginia. The largest group migration in the early years of the township was in 1816, when forty-two people left Connecticut and settled in Edinburg.

It appears, then, that the earliest settlers, for the most part, were from Connecticut. As time went on, other regions came more and more to furnish the immigrants. New York and Pennsylvania stepped into the forefront.

Even among the earliest settlers there were non-New England elements. The first settlers in the township of Franklin, now Kent, were the Haymaker family, German Pennsylvanians. The Boosinger family came to Ravenna in 1800. Barbara Boosinger was born in Wurtemberg, Ger-

many, as shown by the birth certificate in the possession of her descendants (William Price's family) today. The earliest settlers of Hiram township were "squatters" from Pennsylvania. After 1809 the New England proprietors arrived and with them came a stream of New England immigration. The changes in the source of immigration within the second, third and fourth decades are revealed in an interesting poll of the Ohio legislature made by Henry Howe in 1846. He found that out of 108 Ohio legislators at that time, 24 were born in Pennsylvania, 23 in Ohio, 18 in Virginia, 10 in New York, 18 in the New England states (including 6 from Connecticut), 7 in Maryland, 6 in Europe and one each in Kentucky and North Carolina. Making all allowances for sectional differences between Northern and Southern Ohio, these figures cannot fail to indicate an increase in importance of New York and Pennsylvania as sources of immigration.

The table below shows that after 1830 immigration into Portage county was not rapid, and after 1840 the population practically stopped increasing. Even today the rural population of the county is little greater than it was in 1840.

Population of Portage County by Decades

1810	2,995
1820	10,095
1830	18,820
1840	22,965
1850	24,419
1860	24,208
1870	24,584
1880	27,500

H. E. D.

The following collections of news clippings are from various Portage County newspapers and not all of them have dates.

June 7, 1901

Portage Sentinel Mar 31, 1851

A Great Sugar Camp.

A few days since I made a hasty visit to Gen. Chauncey Eggleston's celebrated Sugar Camp in Auburn Geauga Co., (the Gen. resides in Aurora, Portage Co.) He taps from twenty-five hundred to three thousand trees, by boring with a half-inch augur, puts in from two to three spiles for each tub; the tubs all hang on one of the spiles. It requires the services of from eight to ten persons and four horses to carry on all the parts. The boiling works are in a large frame building built on a side hill, in which is a large vat, resembling an old saw mill flom, which will hold some two hundred and fifty barrels of sap. The sap is gathered in iron-bound casks some six or seven feet long, holding three or four barrels, fitted to a kind of stone boat, so as not to be thrown off by hitting trees and roots. It is drawn by two horses to the boiling-house, rolled off on a level with the vat, and the sap runs into it. It is then drawn through conductors into seven large sheet iron boilers set in an arch running parallel with the vat.—After being sufficiently boiled down, it is drawn off and put into casks to cool; after which it is put into a kettle for the purpose, and boiled until it will grain; then put on to two semicircle tables and worked lively with levers until dry and fit for barreling. It will be observed that the arrangements save a great amount of wastage and labor. In addition to the boiling house there is a good frame dwelling house, and a log stable for horses, cows, &c.—The fixtures are all permanent. Taking it all together, it is quite a business place at this season of the year. He makes from six to ten thousand pounds of sugar annually, of a very nice quality.—P. Deal.

Nov 24, 1913

HEART TROUBLE 1913
 24 **CAUSE OF DEATH**

Kent—Mrs. L. E. Rodenbaugh died Saturday at noon, succumbing to the attack of heart trouble of Thursday morning. Burial in the family lot in Standing Rock cemetery from the house Monday at 2 o'clock, Rev. Mr. Besaw in charge.

DEATH'S

Summons Comes to Mrs. Thomas May.

DIED AT HER HOME MONDAY EVENING AT 7 O'CLOCK.

Was an Estimable Woman and One of Kent's Oldest Residents.

Mrs. Thomas May, one of the best known ladies in Kent, a woman respected and esteemed by a great circle of friends, passed away at her home on North Water street Monday evening at 7 o'clock. Her death was due to cancer of the stomach.

Mrs. May was a native of England, but had resided in Kent for thirty-three years. Her birthplace was Kingston-on-Thames, and the date August 16, 1830. Her maiden name was Esther Bayes Walter. She was married to Thomas May on February 9, 1851.

In 1857 Mr. and Mrs. May came from Louisiana to Canada. From there they came to Ravenna in 1862, from which place they moved to Kent five years later. Here they have ever since resided, rearing their family and making for themselves a comfortable home and a reputation as good citizens, loved and honored by friends and acquaintances. Last February they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, surrounded by children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. May, of whom seven survive to share the loss with their aged father. They are: Walter May, Covington, Ky.; Mrs. John Ravenscroft, Robert O. May, Mrs. W. J. Coffeen, Kent; Mrs. H. O. Dunbar, Meadville, Pa.; Frank May and Mrs. B. C. Stokes, Kent. There are nineteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mrs. May was a faithful member of the Episcopal church since she was twelve years of age. She was a member of the Woman's Relief Corps and took a deep interest in the work of the organization. Her husband is a veteran of the Civil war and a Past Commander of A. H. Day Post, G. A. R.

The funeral was held at the Episcopal church yesterday at 2 p. m., Rev. Robt. Kell officiating. Interment at Standing Rock cemetery.

Many beautiful floral remembrances came from friends in Cleveland, Meadville and Covington, besides designs from the K. O. T. M., L. O. T. M., W. R. C. and Ladies' Parish Guild.

The pall bearers were sons and sons-in-law of the deceased.

Among those in attendance were Walter May and John Ravenscroft, Covington, Ky.; Mr. and Mrs. Endicott, Warren; Lloyd Donithan, Cleveland; H. O. Dunbar, Meadville; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Ravenscroft, Alliance.

June 9, no year

"Darius and Carryon" Portage county boys, wrote a long story for the Republican-Democrat telling of their experiences in the Rocky mountains and gold regions of the west, in which they detailed an interesting chapter of events and sights, how they got there, what they saw and how they felt. The letter was written at Alma, Park county, Colorado, June 9.

People in this section of the country remember the season of 1881 as one of extreme drought that burned grass and cereals to the root and compelled farmers to buy feed for their stock in the summer time. But conditions in the vast sweep of prairie country were much more favorable; they wrote, and while more rain would have been acceptable farmers were not suffering in their fields as were their brethren in Ohio and other states east of them. Church Writing from St. Louis, they said that Bob Ingersoll's Church was the largest one in the city, and that the largest room in the town was the room for improvement.

They told of seeing thousands of dead cattle lying unburied at the side of the railroad through southern Kansas, victims of the severe winter which caught them in its deadly grasp. The sight of the living herds grazing among their dead fellows was harrowing and uncanny, they said, making them think of the cruelty of Dame Nature, while looking upon evidences of her benevolence in rich country about them.

Their first vision of Pike's peak, 140 miles away, was at La Junta. Pueblo, misery and despair were words synonymous of meaning; it appeared to them, they said in another part of their letter.

The travelers were from Atwater.

No DATE

Foil Attempt at Robbery of Mantua Bank

Marshal Cowell Captures Marauder, Jas. Matzek, of Pope's Corners—Mayor Brown Binds Prisoner over to Court under \$3,000 Bond

An attempt was made to rob the First National Bank at Mantua Wednesday morning about 2:00 o'clock. Marshal Cowell heard the crash as the prowler was attempting to remove the glass from the west window which he had partly cut into sections with a glass cutter.

The Marshal could have shot the man as he stood with the flashlight full on him, but gave him a chance for his life, and as might have been expected, he ducked around the corner in an attempt to make his get-away. The Marshal thought he could head him off by going around the bank on the street side, but arrived at the alley just in time to send two shots after him as he dodged back and ran up the hill past the Hine house, and then thru the Hoskin garden. Cowell went to the depot to get James King to telephone for help and as Mrs. Finch had been aroused by the falling glass and shots, she was ready to put thru all the calls they requested and continued to help by calling surrounding towns. Mantua greatly appreciates her efficient work.

Eugene Hammel and Howard Wheeler had just driven up thru town from the south and had informed the searchers that they had seen a car parked on Canada road with lights dimmed. Eugene took Howard home and Howard drove back as soon as he could get a car out, arriving just after Earl Mizer

had heard the patter of feet on the pavement beyond the railroad tracks. As the pursuers drove over the bridges they turned out their lights, and as they turned onto Canada Road the fellow thought it was his pals and came up to the car to face the Marshal's gun, this time at close range. Earl Mizer recognized him as James Matzek of Pope's Corners. His pals evidently beat it as soon as they heard the shots, as several remember hearing a car being driven at a high rate of speed about that time.

Matzek says it was a yellow and black Packard roadster, but will not tell the names of the men, in fact, claims not to know.

Detectives and finger print experts, also a photographer from Cleveland, were in Mantua early Wednesday morning, and another detective agency was calling for information about noon.

At a hearing Wednesday forenoon, Mayor Brown bound Matzek over to Common Pleas court under \$3000 bond. In a talk with Matzek's father, the Mayor was told the family would try to do nothing for him, as his record in the past few years had been too unsatisfactory.

The Youngstown Telegram corroborated a few facts about the affair and rushed an extra to Mantua before many of our citizens had heard of it. But the two newsies who brought the papers put 'em wise in no uncertain tones.

County Passes Year Without Single Murder; 18 Killed In Auto Mishaps

1-1-1935

What was the outstanding news development of 1934 in Portage county? Paradoxically, it was something that never took place—the fact that not a single murder was perpetrated in the county during the now dying year.

This would not be unusual were it not for the county's record of wanton killings since the beginning of the prohibition era. As late as last year the county was shocked by the slaying of eight persons, six of them victims of the bootleg feud that has furnished county officials with baffling murder mysteries for more than a decade.

Repeat undoubtedly deserves a lion's share of the credit for temporarily silencing the gangster's guns. Some observers believe, however, that the vendetta started by prohibition ended with the death of "Big Joe" Audino Thanksgiving Day, 1933.

Other crime news was conspicuous by its absence. To be sure there were several holdups but crime did not play the part in this year's news that it did in the preceding year. The major crimes were the Mogadore bank robbery in May, the \$1,500 stickup at the Redfern Mills last summer and the \$532 Evening Record holdup on Nov. 3. Leonard Bash, former Kent rubber worker, is serving a life sentence and his companion, Milton Chestnut, a 25-year sentence for the Mogadore robbery.

The automobile claimed more lives than usual as though to

make up for the total absence of murders. Fifteen persons met death in traffic accidents in Portage county and three Portage countians were killed in mishaps that occurred outside the county.

Book Tragedy
Probably the most tragic accident crept into one of the last chapters of the year's book of news happenings. Mary Jean Book, Garrettsville high school basketball idol, was fatally injured when the car in which she rode was struck by the speeding auto of Harold Vaughn, boy-pistol handit, at the intersection of Highland ave. and Clinton st. in Ravenna, Dec. 22.

Two small girls, both pupils of Ravenna Township school, were killed by automobiles. Doris Wise, 13, daughter of Mrs. Scott Bushey, met death when she was crushed by an automobile driven by George Slates in front of the Township school, April 21. The life of Anna May Scarlett was snuffed out by wheels of the car driven by Frank Hull, Kent justice of the peace and attorney.

The "death trap" at the intersection of Routes 14 and 18 at Edinburg took the lives of four persons. Mrs. Cora Rawson Brown, 20, Cuyahoga Falls, a bride of seven hours, and Mrs. Mildred Kuriz, of Akron, 23, were killed May 16 and Frank Vickers and William Moran were killed Dec. 15 after the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection. At least 20 persons were injured in accidents at the dangerous crossing.

The following news clippings are from various Portage County newspapers from the files at the Portage County Historical Society.

May 12, 1936

John R. Burns, Kent, Recalls His Rescue From Well Cave-In

5-12-1936

The rescue of Dr. D. E. Robertson and Charles Alfred Scadding from their living tomb in the depths of the uncharted gold mine at Moose River, Nova Scotia, and the death of their companion, Herman Maggill recalls to John R. Burns, Kent realtor, his own experience when a lad of sixteen years.

"I followed the story of their entombment and its chapters of death and rescue from the beginning of the tragedy and if ever I thanked God from the depths of my soul, I did so when I read that the two men were saved, although saddened by the fate which overtook their companion," Mr. Burns said.

Buried Under Dirt

He related his own experiences in the spring of 1875 when he him-

self was buried under an avalanche of dirt which fell upon him while helping his father lower a well on a farm now owned by Mr. Grath two miles southeast of Kent at the Breakneck school house corners. This was the first school attended by the late Judge C. B. Newton.

"Father and I had to work at what we could find to do, and when he took this job I went with him to help lower the six foot shaft.

"Suddenly, as I was working to loosen a two foot tile fifteen feet below the surface, the wall collapsed and I was buried under dirt and debris which piled itself over my head.

Shouting for assistance, father jumped down into the well and commenced in frantic haste to dig

me loose. I still have a scar on my head where he hit me with his shovel. His cries brought Mrs. J. L. Long and her sister, Miss Atkins, both of whom I am told, have since passed from this life.

The shock and the crushing weight on my body would soon have ended the story of my life had my father failed to get air to me in the nick of time. Although under such a crushing load, I retained consciousness, and this to me, is one of the most remarkable parts of the story. I was standing upright, and remember of wondering what would come next. I guess I did not have time to become unconscious. What a load and what a pressure! All at once the mass of earth seemed to leave me, giving me air and releasing me from the deadly grip. Dad fell to the bottom of well ten feet lower, but was not injured.

Mrs. Long and her sister tried to pull me out with a derrick, but could not do so until they had loosened the dirt about my ankles. I have always looked back to that experience as a seeming miracle."

Hit By Foul Air

He said that at a later time he came in contact with what was popularly known as "foul air", and that to come through a foot of the deadly gas is like having the weight of a ten story building on one's head.

"Take it from me that to go into any stone walled well is a perilous venture. I have known of such wells having a hollow seven feet behind the walls. My advice is to keep out of them."

Burns said he had been hardly able to sleep since reading of the entombment at Moose river, for he knew what they must be suffering in the extremity of their ordeal, and the terror of deadly mine gas which might envelop them at any moment.

From Po. Co. Hist. Soc. Scrapbook # 51 page 26-- Nov 1913

MANTUA

MRS. ANN MASON BLAIR.

Ann Mason was born in Hiram, April 5, and died at Mantua, Nov. 18, 1913. She was a daughter of Carnot Mason and granddaughter of Elijah Mason of Lebanon, Conn., who was one of the three first permanent settlers in Hiram township. The family were for many years numerous in Hiram and always prominently identified with its best interests, Carnot Mason being one of the first trustees of the Eclectic Institute, now Hiram College.

Ann was the youngest but two of a family of five brothers and five sisters, two, only, of whom survive her: Mrs. J. J. Ryder of Hiram and Mrs. Frankie Coit of Ravenna. When Ann was a girl of ten years, her mother was called from a large family needing a mother's counsels and care and the family broke up. But in those days of large families there were large hearts and the sisters found homes for a time with their aunts, Ann going to live with Mrs. Charles Raymond. After the marriage of the older sister,

Emily, to J. J. Ryder, the Ryder home became the center of the family life for several years. In the course of time Ann found a congenial and worthy companion in Frank Blair, of Mantua to whom she was married January 22, 1873. Four children came to add to the cares and the pleasures of the home: Claud C., of Girard, Frank B. of Mantua, Harry M. of Girard and Nina who has remained to be a comfort and a helper in the home; and one grandson, Robert Mason Blair, son of Harry M. Blair.

In girlhood she became a Christian, uniting with the congregation of Disciples in Hiram and later identifying herself along with her husband with the Methodist Episcopal church at Mantua. None ever had occasion to doubt the sincerity of her Christian profession. For a time she was a student at Hiram. She was endowed with unusual graces of person and of spirit. Few kept so young in heart. Nature and education and the grace of God had done much for her; and through a long and painful illness she continued to shed the sunshine of love and good cheer over the home. Christian faith marked the morning of life; Christian hope the going down of the sun and a beautiful Christian womanhood spanned all the years between.

B. S. D.

Hiram, O.

Jan 1910

DEATH OF ASAEL BAIRD.

Asael Baird, father of Mrs. A. L. Alderman and of Mrs. Elton Craver, died in Cleveland, Sunday, January 23, of Bright's disease, aged 80 years and 4 months.

The following is reprinted from the Portage County Historical Society Newsletter Volume III No. III—J. B. Holm editor.

It is a divorce notice for Sophronia [no last name-she ran off with Edward Wicks] There is no date for when the notice first appeared but the date in the notice is 1866.

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Michael Stuart was once a well known Ravenna lawyer and gained more than local fame by publishing a divorce notice all in verse. This has been in public print before but it is not known to present day readers and is printed here.

DIVORCE NOTICE

The undersigned, in modest tone
Announces to his wife who's gone;
With deep regret and short discourse
His application for divorce.
Before the court of Common Pleas
He's filed a statement of his case
And charges his Sophronia dear
With conduct very strange and queer;
To speak quite plainly says that she
Is guilty of adultery.
That, not content with one man's charms,
She folds whole townships in her arms;
And rose like Bey of eastern climes
Commits the act a thousand times.
In gross neglect of duty, she
Is worse than Madam Xantippe
And makes her home from sill to spire
Almost as hot as Hades fire.
In eighteen hundred sixty-six
She hitched herself to Edward Wicks,
And leaving plaintiff quite alone
She eloped with Ed to parts unknown.
Complainant morns, alas, alack,
And mourns for fear she will come back.
And therefore to Judge Tuttle's gone
To cut the knot that made them one.
At next November's term of court,
Sophronia will please report
Or in default of doing so
Petitioner will not be slow
To ask Judge T. to cut the chain
To make the prisoner free again.

The items below are copied from "*The Lady's Receipt-Book*" by Miss Leslie published in 1854 by A. Hart, late Carey & Hart in Philadelphia. The book contains "New & Approved Methods of preparing soups, fish, turtle, puddings, [and so much more] and general housewifery and needle-work." There are lists of remedies for all kinds of ailments. The book is part of a collection of cookbooks located at the Portage County Historical Society-archival library.

BREAKFAST, DINNERS, SUPPERS, ETC.

At the earnest request of numerous young housekeepers, the author has been induced to offer the following hints for the selection of suitable articles in preparing breakfasts, dinners, and suppers. They, of course, may be varied according to convenience, taste, and the size and circumstances of the family. Receipts for them all may be found either in the present work, or in its predecessor, "Miss Leslie's Directions for Cookery."

BREAKFASTS FOR SPRING AND SUMMER.

—Fresh shad broiled; hashed mutton; boiled eggs; potatoes fried—Indian cakes; rolls.

Hashed veal; broiled ham; poached eggs; mashed potatoes—Milk toast; rolls.

Fried cat-fish; omelet; cold boiled ham, or smoked tongue—Rolls; buttered toast.

Veal cutlets; stewed clams; ham and eggs; potatoes mashed—Rye batter cakes; rolls.

Clam fritters; hashed veal; cold ham; potatoes—Milk toast; muffins.

Fresh shad broiled; stewed chickens; cream cheese—Indian batter cakes; rolls.

Mutton chops; omelet; boiled potatoes—Rice batter cakes; muffins.

Minced veal; broiled ham; poached eggs; cream cheese—Milk toast; rolls.

PIGEON SOUP may be made as above. It will require one dozen tame pigeons, or two dozen wild ones.

Wild pigeons may be made very fat by catching them alive in nets, at the season when they abound; clipping their wings to prevent their flying away; putting them into a field where there is a stream of water convenient for them to drink, or into a large yard; and feeding them twice a day with corn. When fattened in this manner, they will be found profitable articles for sale; the objection to wild pigeons being that they are usually so poor and lean.

AUTUMN AND WINTER BREAKFASTS.—

Pigeons stewed with mushrooms; fried sweet potatoes; broiled tomatoes—Muffins; milk toast.

Fresh fish broiled; cold ham; potatoes—Indian cakes; rolls.

Oysters stewed or fried; broiled ham with poached eggs—Toast; rolls.

Broiled chickens; ham omelet; broiled tomatoes—Indian cakes; toast.

Stewed chickens; egg-plant sliced and fried; potatoes—Rice batter cakes; rolls.

Hashed duck; ham broiled; poached eggs—Flannel cakes; toast.

Oyster fritters; cold ham or tongue; sweet potatoes sliced and broiled—Indian cakes; rolls.

Mutton chops; broiled tomatoes; pickled salmon—Rice batter cakes; toast.

Beef-steaks; stewed oysters; boiled potatoes—Indian cakes; muffins.

Stewed chickens; sausages; mashed potatoes—Rolls; toast.

Broiled chickens; liver pudding sliced; potatoes—Buckwheat cakes; rolls.

Hashed veal; pig's feet fried; potatoes—Buckwheat cakes; toast.

Venison steaks; broiled sweet potatoes; eggs—Indian batter cakes; rolls.

Venison pasty; fried smelts; mashed potatoes—Buckwheat cakes; toast.

Minced cod-fish, dressed with eggs, parsnips, onions, butter, &c.; sausages; boiled potatoes—Indian cakes; rolls.

MUSTARD PLASTERS.—Mustard plasters are frequently very efficacious in rheumatic or other pains occasioned by cold. It is best to make them entirely of mustard and vinegar without any mixture of flour. They should be spread between two pieces of thin muslin, and bound on the part affected. As soon as the irritation or burning becomes uncomfortable, take off the plaster. They should never remain on longer than twenty minutes; as by that time the beneficial effect will be produced, if at all. When a mustard plaster has been taken off, wash the part tenderly with a sponge and warm water. If the irritation on the skin continues troublesome, apply successive poultices of grated bread-crumbs wetted with lead water.

A mustard plaster behind the ear will often remove a toothache, earache, or a rheumatic pain in the head. Applied to the wrists they will frequently check an ague-fit, if put on as soon as the first symptoms of chill evince themselves.

PORTAGE COUNTY PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Portage County Cemeteries:	Price-Ohio residents only add tax to price
Volume I-Franklin Twp. 1810-1990*	\$49.00
Every Name Index to Franklin Twp., companion to Volume I 1810 – 1990	\$25.00
Volume II-Brimfield & Suffield Twp. 1808-1991	\$33.00
Volume III-Mantua Twp., Village & Station 1807-1992	\$33.00
Volume IV-Freedom & Windham Twp. 1812-1992	\$33.00
Volume V-Edinburg & Palmyra Twp. 1805-1993	\$33.00
Volume VI-Randolph Twp. 1804-1993	\$33.00
Volume VII-Deerfield & Atwater Twp. 1808-1993	\$33.00
Volume VIII-Paris & Charlestown Cemeteries 1819-1993	\$33.00
Volume IX-Rootstown Township 1809-1994	\$25.00
Volume X-Streetsboro & Shalersville Townships 1809-1994	\$30.00
Volume XI-Aurora & Hiram Twp. Hiram Village. 1803-1995	\$34.00
Volume XII-Nelson Twp. Garrettsville Village. 1800-1995	\$34.00.
Volume XIII-Book I-Ravenna-St. Mary's, Grandview 1860-1996	\$34.00
Volume XIII-Books II & III, Ravenna-Maple Grove& 2 no-longer-existing cemeteries 1802-1996 [sold as set only]	\$55.00
Complete Every Name Index to Portage County Cemetery Books Volumes I – XIII [2 books, sold as set] includes the indexes only for all thirteen volumes	\$50.00
Portage Co. Chap. OGS Newsletters with Index 1979-1988	\$30.00
Undertaker's Records of Ira L. Herriff -Burials in Portage & Summit Co. Volume III is not available.	
Volume I-1869-1889	\$20.00
Volume II-1889-1896	\$20.00
Volume IV-1901-1907	\$20.00
Volume V-1907-1912	\$20.00
Portage County Wills, Estates & Guardianship Probate Court Records	\$40.00
Located at the Portage County Historical Society Ravenna OH 1813-1942	
[index includes name, date and last known place of residence]	

All volumes are softbound. Cemetery volumes include tombstone inscriptions, available sexton records, histories of the cemeteries and maps to help locate burial plots. *Volume I includes a surname index and Volumes II through XIII have an every-name index. A separate publication for Volume I has an every name index. Prices include shipping charges.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Make checks payable to: **Portage County Chapter OGS**
 Mail to: **P. O. Box 821**
Ravenna, OH 44266-0821

Date _____ Dues for year 200 _____ Renewal _____ New Member _____ Member of OGS _____

Membership: Individual \$10.00 _____ Joint (2 people/same address) \$12.00 _____

Book Order \$ _____ Donation \$ _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE:(_____) _____ E MAIL _____

IS THIS A NEW ADDRESS OR E-MAIL? YES _____

NOTICE: If you wish a membership card please enclose a SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) Thank you.

Please attach a list of the surnames you are researching. There is a limit of 12 names for this listing! **Please PRINT Surnames-- must be received by February 15th** to be included in the March-April newsletter.

FIRST SETTLERS LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Date: Saturday, October 17, 2009

Where: Strickland House-Portage County Historical Society 6549 N. Chestnut St Ravenna OH 44266

Time: 12:00 Noon—catered lunch served buffet style includes tossed salad, lasagna, meatballs, green beans, Italian bread/butter and dessert.

NAME _____

Phone or E-mail _____

Number attending at \$10.00@ _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Payment due before October 10, 2009

Please return your reservation and total payment to
Carolyn Kale, 1201 S. Diamond, Ravenna, OH 44266

Portage County Chapter OGS
P.O. Box 821
Ravenna OH 44266