

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge-1861

Zachary Taylor DeMar of Indian Hill

One of the pioneer families of Indian Hill was the DeMar clan, and their youngest offspring contributed mightily to the Indian Hill and Madeira communities.

Arriving in Cincinnati in 1828 from Maryland, the extended DeMar family moved to the hill in 1833, where relatives built homes on Walton Creek Road, DeMar Road, and at the corner of Miami and Graves Roads. James and Jane DeMar constructed a log cabin - basically two rooms and a loft - on DeMar Road, and as their family grew, the cabin was enlarged. They had ten children, the youngest being Zachary Taylor DeMar, who was born in 1848. There is conjecture that he was named for Zachary Taylor, the hero of the Mexican-American War and 12th President. The DeMars added a kitchen wing to their homestead in the 1860s, and in the 1880s they purchased an additional 15 acres of adjacent farmland for \$33 per acre.



Zachary Taylor DeMar in 1929

Three of Zachary's brothers served in the Union Army during the Civil War, after enlisting and training at Camp Dennison, leaving Zachary (age 12) at home. Two of them died, and John's grave is in Armstrong Chapel Cemetery. Zachary DeMar became a career educator. Early on he taught the neighborhood youth at the one room Franklin School (8905 Shawnee Run Rd.). As schoolmaster, he taught all subjects to children of different ages and abilities. Later he was the master at the Jefferson School (8300 Indian Hill Rd.), and subsequently Principal of the Madeira Schools for 37 years.

DeMar was one of thirteen men who founded the Indian Hill Horse Rangers in 1903 to "discourage horse thieves, chicken thieves, and other pilferers of farm and home property." The volunteer force patrolled 40 square miles of the hill, on foot or on their mounts. As a member of the original force said, "In the old days, when we wanted to get a man, we had to go after him on horseback or in a rig - but we always got him." In 1910 a new Rangers' charter with broader powers was written, changing the official name to the Indian Hill Rangers. More than a neighborhood watch group, the Rangers were the law in the early 20th century, aided occasionally

by a deputy sheriff. As first President of the Rangers, Zachary DeMar stood for crime prevention and community safety.

Z. T. "Zack" DeMar, a big man of powerful build, erect posture, and much vigor, was President of the Rangers until 1939, when he became an Honorary Life Member. Still a crack marksman in his eighties, DeMar was known for his unerring aim and was "one of the most feared of the Rangers." While on patrol, the original thirteen Rangers had constable powers (the power to make arrests). Known as sharpshooters, they practiced at the old pistol range in Redbird Hollow, holding contests amongst themselves.

In his nineties, DeMar lived with two daughters (Lucy and Vida) at the homestead where he had been born. There he died in his 98th year (September 10, 1946). The Rangers memorialized him, noting that they were "forever indebted to him for the time and efforts he gave so unsparingly in the development and maintenance of the Rangers." Zachary Taylor DeMar witnessed almost a century of Indian Hill's growth - as a resident, a teacher, and a Ranger.



Tombstone at Armstrong Cemetery