

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge
1861

Indian Hill Roads Commemorate Early Pioneers



Matthias Kugler, an emigrant from Baden, Germany, having lost all his possessions during his westward journey, arrived in Camp Dennison hatless and bootless in 1797. He was employed by Christian Waldschmidt, who owned a saw mill, a grist mill, and two copper distilleries. He earned \$8 per month. Kugler married his boss' daughter, 17 year old Catherine Elizabeth the following year. When Waldschmidt died without leaving a will, Kugler took over some of his father-in-law's mills. Matthias and Catherine produced twelve children. Reputedly illiterate but savvy, Kugler expanded his business interests across the Little Miami River, where he built a new family home, the building once known as the Millcroft Inn. He died in 1854, aged 74, and is buried in the Waldschmidt Cemetery in Camp Dennison.



A descendent of a family from Devonshire, England, and purportedly related to Sir Francis Drake, William Drake II was born in Scotch Plains, NJ in 1757. He served in the militia during the Revolutionary War. After marriage to Anna Turill, the couple, along with other Drake relatives, traveled down the Ohio River on a flatboat to Losantiville (Cincinnati) about 1790. Within 10 years, they purchased a large tract of land at the north-eastern corner of current day Drake and Indian Hill Roads. The stone barn they built still stands. The Drakes had nine children, four daughters and five sons. Originally Drake Road was known as Upper Mill Road, because it led down the hill to a mill on the Little Miami River. When William Drake died, aged 71 in 1822, he was buried on his "home place", a common occurrence on yesteryear's farms.



Though he only had a common school education, Colonel Isaac Waring was a perpetual learner by self study. He was born in Columbia (settlement near current day Lunken Airport) in 1799, but later moved to a 38 acre farm at the corner of Miami and Brill Roads. A member of the Hamilton County Horticultural Society, he was a founder and the President of the Indian Hill Horticultural Society. Meetings of the latter group were often held in the Colonel's "wine house" where members discussed agriculture and sampled local wines. Waring studied philosophy, chemistry, and agriculture. He was known to be a stimulating companion due to his wide knowledge of many subjects, and his sense of humor. He had a trick wine glass, with wine sealed inside, which he served to guests on their first visit to the "wine house", providing a laugh to all others present. Waring, a lifelong bachelor, acquired a printing press at age 69 and published his own works, including the 300 page volume *Miscellaneous Poems*, published in 1878, which documented aspects of village life in the 19th century.