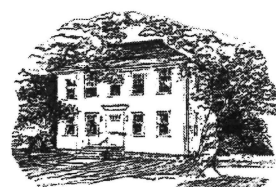


IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge
1861

Indian Hill Roads Commemorate Early Pioneers

Many Village roads are named for the settlers who first lived there. Here is a sampling.



In 1789 Levi Buckingham came to the Ohio Country from the East Coast. Soon after his brother Enoch and sister Hannah followed. Together they purchased 1140 acres - part of the original Miami Purchase – from Benjamin Stites in 1795. Shortly afterwards, Levi and two other pioneers were hunting near the Little Miami River when three Indians attacked them, “yelling and screaming like demons”. Buckingham and one man survived, but the third hunter was killed. Both Levi and Enoch were Baptist deacons of a fervent nature. Enoch’s firstborn, Levi (named for his brother) was the first settler child to be born in Symmes Township. Altogether he had 7 sons and 2 daughters. Levi produced 3 sons and 3 daughters. The Little Red Schoolhouse property was sold to the local school board in 1873 by Josephine and Ambrose Buckingham. Fifteen grandsons survived Enoch and Levi, and many of the clan remained in Indian Hill through the 1900s.



William Cunningham lived on the north side of the road, and his brother Albert James on the south. Both were natives of Pennsylvania and moved to Ohio in 1802. Not much is known about William. Albert prepared for college at an academy in Milford, and graduated from Antioch. After teaching school for 8 years, he became an attorney. He practiced with Lewis French for 10 years, after which he practiced alone. He was a Knight Templar, a Mason, and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His progeny was 6 daughters and 2 sons. He was elected to the Ohio Legislature in 1869 and served as Speaker of the House. His 1869 vote broke the tie in the General Assembly on the Fifteenth Amendment, assuring that in Ohio, citizens would not be denied the vote based on “race, color, or previous condition of servitude”. This paved the way for the ratification of the amendment, giving former slaves the vote.



The son of William and Lydia Graves, Thomas Graves was born in Portsmouth, Ohio in 1806. His father died when he was 6 years old. He was sent to Whitewater Township in western Hamilton County and raised by his uncle. He attended a subscription school there, where parents/sponsors of students were obliged to pledge payments to the teacher. Thomas worked at the Kanawha Virginia Salt Company (near Charleston WV) which went bankrupt. After several years trading goods up and down the Ohio River, he purchased 96 acres on Indian Hill in 1840. He was a successful farmer, and a member of the Indian Hill Horticultural and Agricultural Society. According to Society minutes, he served on the Floral Committee, and exhibited bouquets as well as specimens of apples, cherries, and potatoes at different meetings. Thomas and his wife, Mary, had four children: William, Ebenezer, John, and Lydia.