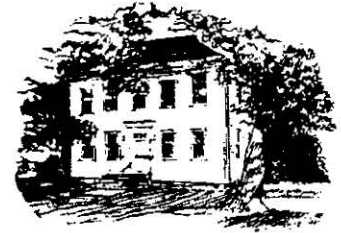


IMAGES

... then and now



Buckingham Lodge
1861

Two Buckingham Brothers and their Legacy



The family for whom Buckingham Road is named was well known in the pioneer days of Hamilton County. Like other early settlers, they emigrated from the east, but their genealogy can be traced to Great Britain.

The name *Buckingham* is of English origin. It has been spelled in various ways including *Buccenheim*. The syllable *ham* signifies *little village*, and the Saxon word *bucen* is supposed to derive from *a great herd of deer*. It is thought that the Buckingham family lived in the county of that name before coming to the colonies in 1638. Descendants of Thomas Buckingham of New Haven, CT

moved west to Pennsylvania, and two sons of Revolutionary War soldier William Buckingham moved to Ohio.

In 1788 Levi traveled over the Alleghenies and viewed part of the Miami Purchase in Symmes Township. He returned east to retrieve his brother, Enoch; and in 1790 the two men selected a tract of 1140 acres in the Miami Valley, across the river from current day Miamiville. Legend says they chose this parcel because, while camping at nearby Cedar Banks, Levi shot a turkey; and the brothers took it as an omen that their future home should be there in the fertile bottomlands desirable for farming.

Native Americans commonly skirmished with pioneers whose presence they resented. Indians scalped and killed white newcomers who ventured into the Ohio Lands. Bands of settlers built stockades for protection, with hunting parties leaving the safety of these blockhouses to procure game. The Buckingham families lived in Columbia and Covalt's Station until it was safer to settle up the Little Miami River in 1795.

Enoch Buckingham had a close call during a hunting excursion. He, along with two other men, Covalt and Fletcher, were surprised by three Indians who shot at them, and pursued the men, "yelling and screaming like demons." Buckingham and Fletcher escaped, but Covalt was killed and scalped.

As the Indian threat diminished, the Buckingham family solidified their presence in the area. They built a big cabin near the river, and records show both men voted in Hamilton County in 1799. Their younger sister Hannah moved to Ohio, married, and lived nearby at Big Sandy Creek in 1809. A close family, they lived clustered together.

Enoch was a man of small stature, but his 7 sons were "stalwart fellows of a very large physique". He also had 2 daughters. Enoch's firstborn, Levi (named for his brother), was the first settler child to be born in Symmes Township. Levi's progeny were 3 sons and 3 daughters. By 1810 Enoch Buckingham was prosperous enough to be one of twelve directors of a company formed at Round Bottom, and recorded in the Cincinnati Almanac. The Buckingham sawmill on the banks of the river near Miamiville grew to include a distillery and a flourmill. The family rifle that was passed from father to son was used by teenage Buckingham boys to shoot fish as they drifted over the riffles of the Little Miami. Throughout the 1800s the Buckingham family farmed the land of their forefathers, raising corn, wheat, and livestock. J.S. Buckingham took his pork and grain by flatboat to New Orleans.

Fifteen grandsons survived Enoch and Levi Buckingham, with many of their offspring remaining in the area through the late 1900s. As early as 1840, Buckingham homes existed on current day Given and Kugler Mill Roads, and lineal descendants served the community well. Dr. Alfred Buckingham leased land to the State of Ohio for Camp Dennison, and tended soldiers there during the Civil War. A. J. Buckingham was on the local Board of Education, which established the Washington School in 1873. A descendent, Viola Turner, later taught at that school; and Lola Louise Bonnell bequeathed her house and 13 acres of land to the Village of Indian Hill. Her home, now Buckingham Lodge, is the office of the Historical Society, and the nearby field and woods are part of the Green Areas Trust.

Though there are no Buckingham families living currently within the Village, the family made an impact for over a hundred years. Many are buried in Miamiville's Evergreen Cemetery. Enoch and Levi carved a living out of the Ohio wilderness, and the Buckingham family legacy remains an important part of Indian Hill history today.