



# Old Tyme Chronicle

Published by Big Walnut Area Historical Society

Volume XXI

April 2021



## Checking Future Daffodils

Alice Chapan and Judy Froelich were checking Myers Inn flowers when David Brehm snapped this photo.

*Beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> . . . .*

## Paul Revere – The Legend, The Myth, The Patriot Man

Brent Carson will tell sides of Paul Revere we never hear in his YouTube presentation which will be available throughout April. Go to BWAHS website at <http://BigWalnutHistory.org> for the link.

Paul Revere born December 21, 1734 or January 1, 1735 (depending on which calendar is used).

The third of 12 children born to a French Huguenot who came to Boston at the age of 13 to be a silversmith. At 13 Paul left school and became an apprentice to his father but when he died, Paul was too young to be master of the silver shop so he joined the army for a short time. In 1757 he returned to Boston to take over the silver shop in his own name. That year, he married Sarah Orne and they had 8 children. Sarah died in 1773, and on October 10 of that year, Revere married Rachel Walker (1745–1813). They had eight more children.

From silversmith to soldier, to dentistry, to iron stoves, to church bells, to copper products, Paul Revere made a name for himself before he died at the age of 83 in 1818. In 1861, over 40 years after Revere's death, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow made the midnight ride the subject of his poem "Paul Revere's Ride" which many of us learned in school.

Carson was born in Delaware, graduated from Hayes High School and taught in Willis Jr. High until he retired. He has been the pillar in the Delaware County Historical Society where he continues to collect local history. He co-chaired the Delaware County Bicentennial Celebration with Rick Helwig in 2008.

Through the years, Carson has helped produce several DVDs and programs on a variety of topics of local history, including William Little's view of very early Delaware, Ohio. *(Continue on Page 2)*

## Is History Repeating?

by Polly Horn

On March 13<sup>th</sup> a year ago, we had made the decision to close the Myers Inn Museum to keep our docents (most of which are over 65 and many over 80) safe during Ohio's Stay-at-Home for the Corona Virus Pandemic. Naively I knew the odds were not good we would open soon but I kept the Calendar of Events in the Chronicle.

In that newsletter, I asked if history was repeating, and shared a story of the "1919 Influenza" deaths in the Horn family. The ink was hardly dry when I lost an 81 year old extended family member and a month later a 51 year old nephew.

Somehow living the experience seems much worse than reading it in history. I hope you take time to write your thoughts and feelings of this past year and file it with your will for your great-grandchildren to find.

Science has come a long way since the 1918 flu epidemic which lasted three years with no vaccines to stop it. Over a million people in Ohio, have had covid, 18,340 of them died. I've had both shots and am waiting for my second week of isolation to end so I can resume part of my life knowing it means wearing a mask. I am grateful to all those who also are getting vaccinations to stop the spread. If you haven't, please reconsider and help save lives.

*Harlem Township . . . .*

# Cook Outwits Land Dealers Buys Harlem Township 16-3-3

Harlem has a very interesting beginning. According to the 1880 "History of Delaware County and Ohio," published by Baskins and Co. in Chicago, a man named Duncan was the original settler in Harlem township. He purchased land from a patentee in 1803 but failed to make a payment so it was sold by the sheriff in 1807. This was not Duncan according to the late Vicki Tieche, author of the book "16-3-3" which clarifies the better-than-fiction history.

Following the Greenville Treaty of 1795 a line was established between the Wyandot and Delaware Indians to the north and the Northwest Territory. On June 1, 1796, soldiers who fought in the American Revolution were finally given land warrants in payment for their service by an Act of Congress. In the same Act, the United Brethren were given land for propagating the Gospel among heathens. These lands are located in the U.S. Military District.

Few of the soldiers ventured to Ohio to see what they had earned. Most traded the grants for groceries, a bar bill, etc. Land speculators bought the land warrants hoping to amass enough to trade for deeds.

A New Jersey lawyer, John Cleve Symmes, known for  
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## Calendar of Events

April 1 Program: **"Paul Revere – The Legend, The Myth And The Patriot Man,"**  
 by Brent Carson  
 Link to YouTube on BWAHS website at  
<http://BigWalnutHistory.org>

April 13 at 6 p.m. BWAHS Board of Trustees  
 Meeting via zoom

**Myers Inn Museum is Open for Tours on Saturdays by appointment. Call 740-965-3582**

*(Carson continued from page 1)*

Today Brent can be found giving tours by appointment at the Delaware County Historical Society and always collecting history and stories of the county.

## Tour Myers Inn Museum

Myers Inn Museum is open for tours by appointment on Saturdays. Masks must be worn and healthy distancing is practiced. All members of a tour must be from the same family and not exceed 10 people. For details call 740-965-3582 and leave a message. Your call will be returned.

**Read "16-3-3," by Vicki Tieche, 2008**

### Joining BWAHS is Easy . . . .

Circle One:

*Individual \$20, Family \$35, Business 10 or fewer employees \$50,  
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*(Harlem Township continued from page 2)*

purchasing acreage on the Ohio and Miami Rivers at what became Cincinnati, had purchased many patents from former soldiers down on their luck.

On April 3, 1800 in Washington, President John Adams and Secretary of State Timothy Pickering were setup to collect land warrants and issued deeds for the U.S. Military District. XVI-3-Section 2 was crossed out when Symmes made his selections. He chose XVI-4-4, XVI-3-1 and XVI-3-3. This last would become Harlem Township.

Symmes sold 16-3-3 to Solomon Broderick, another land investor in New Jersey, not to Duncan. Broderick failed to make the payments so Symmes had to file suit in the new town of Franklinton, Ohio, for the purchase price and back tax payments totaling \$5674.36. Not wanting to go to Ohio, Symmes hired John Haggins, Attorney at Law, to go to Ohio and represent Symmes. Haggins was to add his expenses to the total cost. Broderick failed to show so the land was put up for sale by the Sheriff at the door of the courthouse in Franklinton on June 11, 1807. The property would go to the highest bidder who must pay cash at the sale. Public Notices about the sale were printed and one was posted in Granville dated May 1, 1807.

Benajah Cook saw the sale notice and spent time checking out the property. He collected money in gold coins but was leery of going to Franklinton knowing robbers would be waiting for anyone coming to the sale. He took an old coat to his wife and ask her to sew patches all over the coat to hold his coins. He grew a beard, made himself scruffy looking and planned to appear a little more than drunk at the sale.

Everyone expected Moses Byxbe, who had already purchased a lot of the future Delaware County, to come to the sale but he did not show. However, several well dressed possible buyers were there. By noon a beggar, dressed in a patched coat so filthy he was drawing flies, staggered around the steps. In spite of people trying to get the beggar to move on he stayed his ground. When the beggar said he wanted to bid, the sheriff knew he had to allow it so the bidding began. The asking price was \$1.42 per acre. No one bid. The beggar bid 10 cents an acre. The others upped the bid but each time the beggar went higher. The men became disgruntled and decided the sheriff should call the man's bluff and

when he could not pay, they would run him out of town and return to the sale.

The last bid went to Benajah Cook for 42 cents an acre. He stepped up to the table and tore open a patch removing gold coins. He continued opening patches until he had purchased the land for \$1680 and \$40 in court costs - all in gold.

Now he had to get away from Franklinton before thieves got him. He returned to a livery stable where he hid his things in the loft, and transformed himself from the beggar back to a man traveling through the town. He easily made it out of Franklinton and decided to waste no time getting to Moses Byxbe in Berkshire.

Although Cook had the deed for 4000 acres, he really only wanted 500 for himself. Byxbe agreed to buy the other 3500 at the price Cook had paid for it. He also agreed to the legal work. This worked well for both parties because Cook needed to set up a shelter and clear some land, not be bothered with finding buyers. Byxbe already had contacts to sell land.

Benajah returned to Granville to tell his wife Cassandra, and children Ben, Celina, James, Desire, and Cassie they were moving to his new land. Legend says they stayed in a deserted Indian shelter while they built their cabin. Their son Calvin was the first white child born in the township. He was followed by Lucy, Laura, John and Elisha – all born after the move.

As you might guess, with that many Cook children, many of the settlers in the township married into the Cook family. Celina married William Fancher. Desire married John Adams.

John Cook married Helen Tomkins and they had a son John who married Amelia Gorsuch. This couple had a son John who became the great, great, grandparents of BWAHS member Linda (Cook) O'Quinn. John and Amelia's daughter Alice married Frank Paul. They are the great grandparents of Tom and Jerry Paul.

**Settlers Move to Harlem Township**

Stephen Thompson was the second settler in the township who may have been a squatter. His son Jonathan and a daughter were considered insane. Jonathan spent years in jail but his brother Stephen, Jr. was considered a model citizen. **(Continue on page 4)**

Brothers Elijah and John Adams came from Vermont in 1809. Silas, John's son, stayed when others moved on.

**Harlem Settlers from Luzerne County, PA**

Many of the Harlem settlers came from the Wyoming Valley of Luzerne Co. PA. like the settlers of Galena, Berkshire, and Sunbury, since Moses Byxbe had those additional 3500 acres to sell.

Rev. Daniel Bennett came in 1809, married a sister of Elijah and John Adams.

John Budd with his grown sons Benjamin, Eli, Dr. John and William settled on Duncan Run in the west part of the township. Dr. John was not a real medical doctor but a physician of the botanical school. William was known as Col. Budd owned a mill, kept a store and farmed. His son James inherited the Budd homestead.

In 1810, William Fancher, an American Revolutionary War veteran bought 1,000 acres in the south part of the township. His sons served in the War of 1812.

**Stone Quarries Attracted Vermont Settlers**

Benjamin Fairchild from Bennington, Vermont was a millwright and a mechanic bought quarries on Duncan Run in 1808 or 9. He talked his brother into moving to Harlem. They built several grist and saw mills

**Other Harlem Settlers**

Edward and Elizabeth Cockrell came from Virginia in 1811, settled on a farm and raised eleven children.

David Gorsuch was two when his parents Benjamin and Margaret (Hill) Gorsuch moved to Harlem in 1832 on a 125 acre farm where they raised twelve children. David apprenticed as a carpenter, married Eunice Clark and when his parents died he bought out the other heirs,

farmed and continued his trade. He raised thoroughbred cattle.

Harlem Township has two villages. Centerville was located in the center of the township in 1848 by Edward Hartrain and Ben Roberts. It latter became Center Village. The big school for the township was located here.

Harlem was founded by Amos Wsshburn and James Budd in 1849.

**General Nathan Greene's Land in Harlem**

Harlem's largest original land warrant went to General Nathaniel Greene who received 1000 acres in the Section 2 (in the northwest quadrant of the township) of what is now Harlem Township. He had died in 1786 in Georgia. His heirs eventually sold the land around 1850 to Hon. Thomas W. Powell of Delaware, Ohio.

**What became of Duncan? No one knows but his name is on the stream running through the township.**



