



# Old Tyme Chronicle

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## From the Our President . . .

By Mindy Pyle

With all that has been going over the past year, it was refreshing to see the Myers Inn come to life during Christmas on the Square. During this time, we welcomed our community to join us on the porch for pictures with our Civil War Santa, Rick Helwig, and tour of the museum. I want to personally thank all the volunteers that made this event a success!

We were hopeful to welcome children back to the Inn over the Winter Break, however with rising numbers of COVID we had to cancel the event to ensure the safety of both the volunteers and families.

As the year continues, we are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to host in-person events again. In saying this, we are looking for volunteers to help make these events a success.

### Plans for In-Person Events:

Saturdays in Spring (once COVID and weather allow): Once a month when the museum is open, we will host a kid-friendly activity to encourage families to visit. This will include crafts, read aloud, kid-friendly tours, and other activities to help families learn the history of our community.

Mother's Day Tea, Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>: We invite families into the Inn to participate in an old-fashion tea party.

*(Need for Volunteers Continues on page 2)*

# Thanks

To all who donated to the Year-End drive. We are financially \$1450 better off than before the drive. Many thanks to all of you for your generosity.

Coming February 22 . . . .



*Van Young*

## Daniel Boone – Our First Pioneer

Van Young will present the program to the Big Walnut Area Historical Society via Zoom beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Washington's Birthday.

Our speaker considers himself to be a self-taught historian. Since his retirement in 2012, Van has emersed himself in the study of American history, with an emphasis on the 18th and 19th centuries. He enjoys reading and studying the great civil war era and the effects the war still has on our society today. Van enjoys learning about the people that helped shape our country and the key events that were significant to our nation's growth. Our U.S. history can be hard to read about, at times, since the expansion of immigrants and settlers to the west, was often at the expense of the Native American populations already living there. His story is about one such man and time. "Daniel Boone – Our First Pioneer".

Daniel Boone was a true American pioneer. Often called the Great Pathfinder, he helped blaze trails during the 1700's and led people to travel and settle in what would becomeo all of Kentucky and other parts of our wilderness lands. He was an explorer, soldier, statesman, Indian fighter, and father of 10. The talk shares his life and accomplishments, while also telling about the hard times and challenges colonists were faced with in the colonial era of the 1700's.

Zoom Link will be sent a week before the program via email to everyone who gets this newsletter by email. If you got the newsletter another way, you may request the link by emailing [info@BigWalnutHistory.org](mailto:info@BigWalnutHistory.org).

*Need for Volunteers - Continued from page 1*

**Need for Volunteers:**

Clean the Myers Inn on a regular basis. This includes sweeping, dusting, cleaning kitchen and bathrooms. Compensation available. If you are interested or know someone that is interested, please reach out to Polly Horn at [info@BigWalnutHistory.org](mailto:info@BigWalnutHistory.org).

**Children’s Workshop, Saturdays from 12-3:**

- Volunteers to develop ideas for activities
- Volunteers to work with children during events
- Mother’s Day Tea: We need a lead person to help organize and plan the event. The food can be catered and/or we can use the baking talents of our members.

If you have children or grandchild that are interested in helping, we can provide documentation for volunteer hours for school which can be a great reference when needed.

If you are interested in volunteering or know someone that is interested please send me an email at [mindypyle@gmail.com](mailto:mindypyle@gmail.com) or reach out to Polly at 740-965-33582.

<b>OFFICERS</b>
Mindy Pyle, President
Chip Welch, Secretary
Bill Kavage, Treasurer
Polly Horn, Curator of Myers Inn Museum
<b>TRUSTEES</b>
Alice Lacher
Ashley Hornbacker
Bill Comisford
Damon Bower
Jon Geyer
Mel Meyers
Rick Helwig
Roger Roberts
<i>To contact email to</i> <a href="mailto:Info@BigWalnutHistory.org">Info@BigWalnutHistory.org</a>

<b>Calendar of Events</b>
VINTAGE VALENTINES ON DISPLAY February 1 at 6:00 BWAHS Board Meeting via Zoom February 22 at 7:00 Program: “Daniel Boone – Our First Pioneer” presented by Van Young via zoom
<b>MYERS INN MUSEUM IS OPEN 12-3 ON SATURDAYS Special Tours maybe arranged on another day by calling 740-965-3582</b>

*Trenton Township History*

Part One of the Trenton history is based on the “History of the Perfect Family,” written by Middleton Perfect and given at the Perfect Reunion held in Sunbury Grove in 1884. Suzanne Allen retold this in her book, “A Bit About Our Past in the Big Walnut Community,” which is sold in the Myers Inn Gift Shop.

Middleton also wrote about Trenton in the 1875 “Illustrated Historical Atlas of Delaware County.”

**Joining BWAHS is Easy . . . .**

**Circle One:**  
*Individual \$20, Family \$35, Business 10 or fewer employees \$50,  
 Business 11-99 employees \$75, Business 100 or more employees \$100,  
 Patron \$100, Other ?*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

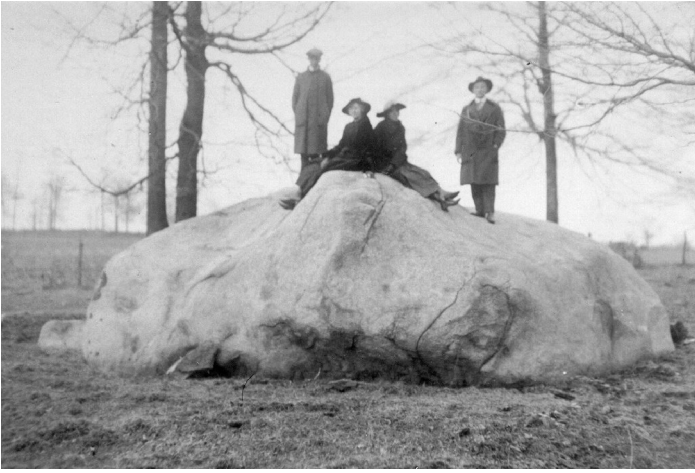
Address or P. O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Send with check for dues to BWAHS**  
**P.O. Box 362**  
**Sunbury, OH 43074**



*Big Rock Got its Name from Glacial Boulder*

## Trenton Township, Part One

*Compiled by Polly Horn*

Trenton Township became what was left of Sunbury Township after Harlem, Porter and half of Berkshire and Genoa as well as Peru, Bennington, Lincoln and Harmony in Morrow County were formed. There is an 1820 census record for Big Rock which probably includes much of Sunbury Township and the early settlers of what is now Trenton.

Middleton Perfect is listed as the authority on Trenton history in the 1879 Atlas of Delaware County. To emphasize the potential of the land and woods, he tells of one settler who came in 1817 had only the clothes he wore but he accumulated \$30,000.

He noted much of the eastern part was still not developed but referred to Gilbert Van Dorn when he noted New Jersey furnished the skilled tavern keepers. The northern part of the township was settled by industrious people from the Little Blue State. A colony from Ithaca, New York settled in the south and one from Pennsylvania in the west part. All were strong men, well fitted for toil in a forest.

Suzanne Allen, a Perfect descendant, used Middleton Perfect's paper shared at the Perfect Reunion in 1884 in her book, "A Bit About Our Past in the Big Walnut Community."

In 1790, William Perfect, jr. and his wife Elizabeth Day and young sons were natives of Virginia who moved via Daniel Boone's Cumberland Gap to Kentucky Co., VA,

which was to become Kentucky. Thomas, John, and maybe James made the trip. Truman, William, maybe James, and Rebecca were born in Kentucky, Rebecca married and remained there.

Mordecai Thomas, also of Virginia, came to Kentucky and like the Perfects, began moving north. History says, Perfect and Thomas each bought 100 acres from Pearson Spinning who had 1000 Military acres to sell.

"After the Perfects crossed the Ohio River, Middleton Perfect was born in March 1805 near Brush Creek in Adams County, OH.

Leaving Elizabeth and the young children in Adams County in the winter of 1806, William and his older sons went to their land in Trenton "to deaden a few acres." In 1807, they returned to Trenton with the rest of the family. Baby Middleton rode on his mother's lap on the horse while the others rode on horseback or walked to drive the cattle and hogs. All went well until they had to cross the Big Walnut Creek. Middleton said they crossed on 'Slippery Rails' and old Diamond lost her footing and he and his mother had a rather cool bath.

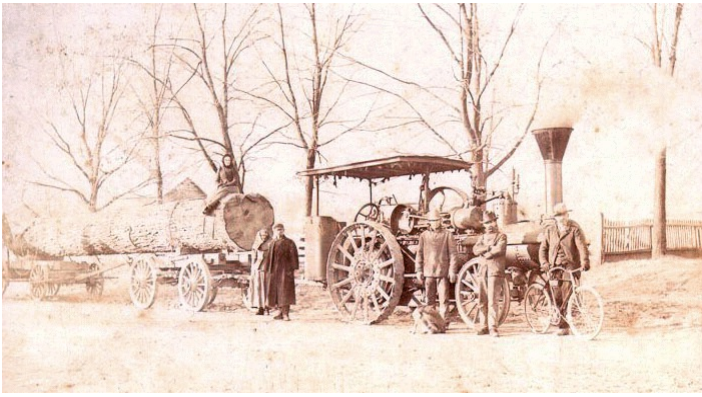
"The snow was four to five inches deep and the first night we built a rousing fire by the side of the big sugar log. Some branches were cut from trees and laid in the snow which served in place of bedsteads, on which the bedding was placed and which was used until the mansion could be built."

"It was 14 by 18 feet and one and a half story high, having a puncheon floor, a door and paper windows which were oiled a bit, if you please, to make them transparent and give more light but could not very well resist many severe storms. The door had good wooden hinges and a latch of the same material with a string to lift it. There was a stone fireplace and hearth and the chimney was topped out with mud and lath. The roof was made of 4 foot shingles which were of wood, except held by weight poles instead of nails. Our furniture was hauled in a cart made of wood, except the wheels and drawn by a yoke of oxen and one horse. So you need not expect that we had a great amount of furniture and household goods," described Middleton.

"A bell was put on the one horse and put out to grass.

*(Continue on Page 4)*

*(Trenton Continued from page 3)*



***Rose Perfect riding a log on Jacob Fisher's Farm***

“The cattle were treated in the same way and I had to look after them night and morning. Father and several of the boys who could do a man’s work, soon cleared land enough to support the family,” continued Middleton,

“The William Perfect and Mordecai Thomas families each had a hundred acres at the mouth of a creek they named Perfect’s Creek. There they built the first cabins and later planted apple orchards.”

In the 1879 Atlas, Middleton tells of “one settler who came in 1817 had only the clothes we wore but he accumulated \$30,000.

Middleton noted, “New Jersey furnished the skilled tavern keepers (referring to Gilbert Van Dorn in Vans Valley). The northern part of the township was settled by industrious people from the Little Blue State. A colony from Ithaca, New York settled in the south and one from Pennsylvania in the west part. All were strong men, well fitted for toil in a forest.

“One of the early settlers was Oliver Gratrax who ‘wore leather breeches, full of stitches,’ a fawn-skin vest, and a coon skin cap. He married a Miss Rosecrans.

“The settlers in the eastern part of the township, came from New Jersey in 1823 and settled on the Little Walnut. In 1810, Bartholomew Anderson settled just east of Perfect in 1810.

“John Culver, Michael Ely and their families settled on Culver’s Creek in 1809. Soon after John Williamson bought land from Ely and during 1810 married his daughter Rosanna Ely. Their son Madison Williamson

was the first baby born in Trenton Township.

“A settler, name unknown, had made improvement on the Steth farm. A man named Roberts was the first permanent working settler on Rattlesnake Run, He remained there for 20 years. John Ginn was a settler on the creek as early as 1807. William Ridgeway, joining farms with Ginn, was a later arrival.

“Rattlesnakes were very numerous along the banks of the creek in the piles of rocks, and scores of them and yellow reptiles were slain in the spring as they crawled out of their dens half torpid.

“Quarries exist all along the creek. Williams and Knox had one to the southeast Sunbury. A large quarry was opened by Joseph and John Landon just east of Big Walnut.

“Middleton and Hazard Adams had the first sawmill in 1835. Silas Ogden was the first tanner. A small still was run by John Culver in 1812.

“George Akerson ran the first store north of the Condit postoffice in 1835. Gilbert Van Dorn opened his Center Inn in 1816 had the first grocery and first church in the township.

Middleton closed his memories by noting “stock-raising, as everywhere in Delaware, is a specialty. Norman Perfect has some fifteen or twenty thoroughbred shorthorns. Fine woolled sheep have been the pride of the agriculturist.

The construction in 1873 of the Columbus and Mt. Vernon railroad through the township opened a way through its woodlands and an avenue of produce which will speedily tell in enhanced values and new growth. The hidden resources of stone and underdeveloped lands will come into play, and the Trenton of to-day will be to the future as the days when Perfect and Thomas moved in are to the present.”

As far as Middleton recalled, his father William Perfect, jr. was the first death in the township in 1813 at the age of 66. He was buried in Sunbury.

Middleton and his mother continued to live at the old homestead until 1837. His mother died at the age of 76 and is buried with her husband.