



Crosby Township Historical Society Newsletter

JULY—SEPTEMBER 2018

The Journey West to New Haven, Ohio

After the Americans won the Revolutionary War and signed the Paris Treaty, they received from Great Britain land located in the territory northwest of the colonies. This territory would eventually become 5 new states; among them was Ohio. To pay off its war debts, Congress passed the Land Ordinance of 1785 to encourage land speculators to buy up the newly received western lands and resell it to settlers. Because the young government had little money, Congress used land warrants and federal certificates to pay soldiers for their service. In turn these soldiers could pay land speculators for property using their warrants and certificates. Congress also encouraged settlement by reaching a peace agreement with Native tribes who had been resisting encroachment upon these lands.

Crosby Township was first settled by many of these veterans who came from places such as Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Kentucky. The village of New Haven was founded by Joab Comstock and Charles Cone, veterans from Connecticut. Joseph Sater, Sr. laid out the plan for New Haven and recorded it in Cincinnati at the Recorder's Office 200 years ago on March 18, 1818. Those who journeyed to our area were hardy, determined people. It was no small task to move west yet if their ancestors had crossed a large ocean to get to America, they could find the courage to travel a large expanse as well.

It would mean crossing the Allegheny Mountains with land vehicles like the Conestoga wagon that could hold 7 tons of possessions and provisions pulled by a team of horses or oxen. They had to ascend and descend a series of summits. The mountains were beautiful but if the weather turned bad, the trails would be difficult and seemingly endless. For most, Redstone, Pennsylvania or Wheeling, (West) Virginia was their destination before they exchanged their wagons for watercraft that would take them down the Ohio River. In a letter by sojourner Robert Whalen to his folks back in New Jersey dated January 9, 1789, he wrote, *"We had an exceeding prosperous journey till we arrived at the Mountains, not having Rain from the time we left Hanover till we came to said place, after which we had Rain almost every day until we got to the Settlement which rendered the remainder of our Journey through the Mountains exceeding laborious, however we arrived within forty Miles of the Settlement and had to leave the greater part of our loads and proceed, as light as possible, for the* (continued page 2)

Programs 2018

October

**Mary Cunningham,
Body
Snatcher's Wife**

November

**Germans in
Cincinnati,
WWII**

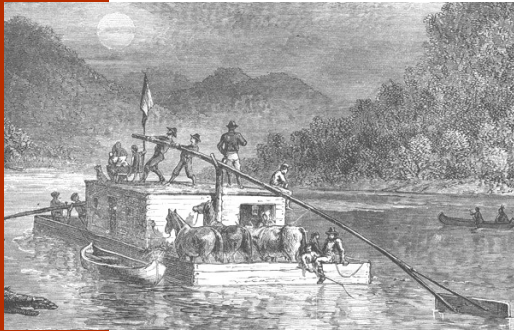
December

**Christmas
Party**



Roads were cut exceeding deep for Miles..." He continued by writing that the weather was nice going back to recover their possessions but on the return it rained again for a distance of 11 miles.

Once they arrived at Redstone or Wheeling, waterways were the easiest and fastest form of transportation but they had to wait until the rivers, specifically the Ohio, were navigable. Not

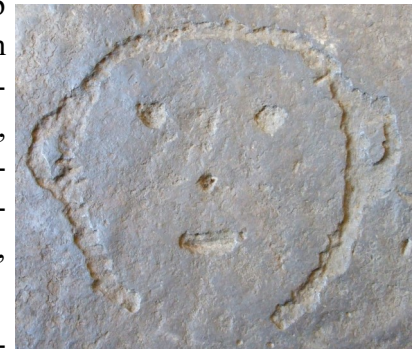


Flatboat used by pioneers

being the depth they are now, cold weather would freeze the rivers in a short span of time. The best time to set sail would be in the Spring after the winter runoffs raised the river levels. Many pioneers learned to navigate their watercraft as they made their way down river. To stay in the current it was best not to row much but allow the vessel to have its own way. It was necessary to look out for obstructions in the waters and keep watch for the numerous small islands that could run them aground. It was also vital to steer clear of other vessels. In the latter half of 1787 more than 900 boats floated down the Ohio carrying 18,000 people, 12,000 animals, and 650 wagons.

Land along the Ohio was rich and densely vegetated except for an occasional opening where a cabin or village stood. A variety of trees such as butternut, papaw, willow, locust, spice wood, coffee, sycamore and buckeye grew like sentinels along the bottom lands. The length across a hollowed out sycamore tree could reach 20 feet. Vines grew so thick they formed a canopy in the tree tops. Fish were abundant and huge. Catfish weighed up to 120 pounds, pike were 5 feet long, and there were unknown species called the gar and the paddlefish. Waterfowl congregated along the water's edge. Turkeys, pheasants, deer, raccoons, beavers, and bears were seen on the banks. An even more unusual sight along the shore were the curious rock carvings by ancient native people that bore the shapes of a hand, head, turkey, fish, and other images.

The journey west took about 2 to 3 months by wagon and another 2 months by river. Once they reached Cincinnati or North Bend, it took another few days to get to the Crosby Township area. There the pioneers would choose a spot that was suitable to make a home. Eventually they would travel back to Cincinnati to record their property.



Rock carving along the Ohio River

Presentations Given By Members

Two of our officers have been asked to give presentations to other historical societies. They are President Melba Guard who gave a power point presentation August 21 to the Harrison Historical Society on her Beuhring & Brinkman Families and Trustee Earl Corson with Larry Shad who gave a power point presentation September 19 at the Coleraine Historical Society on their experiences traveling the Morgan Raiders' Trail.

Thank you to Donors

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The Society would like to thank the following people who have donated the following items this year to our museum and research center. If you have items to donate, please contact Melba Guard (367-2186) or Historian Tracy Burgess (367-2565).

Crosby Township: 1990 census binder/Fernald papers/*First Link: A Story of Fernald* tape/Fernald post-cards

Jill Evans: Lacey's Grocery screwdriver

Jim Innis: *The Indians of Fernald* booklet (3)/*Along the Ohio Trail* booklet (2)/items concerning the Charles Cone site/old Society newsletters/Crosby Township Vital Statistics binder

Gary & Sharon Mortimer: Fort Scott cap, badges, & ribbons/items on the Fort Scott auction/*Ohio Valley History* books (8)/New Baltimore 60th anniversary booklet/*Miamitown Sesquicentennial* book/New Haven church programs

Bill Weisbrodt: American flag for the old town hall

Crosby Township Trustee Meeting

On Monday, August 13 the Society petitioned Crosby Township Trustees at their regular meeting to recognize New Haven's Bicentennial by making a proclamation and adding signage to existing New Haven road signs.. They voted to allocate up to \$500 to purchase metal signs that will read, "Bicentennial Community, 1818 - 2018" to be placed beneath the New Haven road signs. They were receptive towards the proclamation idea and will look into it. The Society is also working with them to put our lease on the old town hall in a written contract instead of a verbal agreement.

~ Sales Corner ~

Crosby Township Bicentennial History
\$15 plus shipping

Stanley McClure's Crosby Township Cemetery Transcriptions Collection
\$5 plus shipping

Back Issues of the Newsletter 50 cents

Log Cabin Sketches by Bev Torres call 581-9337 for prices and availability

Old Town Hall Update



Currently, volunteers are preparing the electric for ceiling lights and fan. This will then allow us to have insulation blown into the attic by Valley Insulation. Once the attic insulation is done, we will receive the \$500 from Butler Rural Community Connection for the grant that was awarded to the Society last September.

Come See Us On Facebook

Thanks to Jessica Doty, who has volunteered to set us up, we are now on facebook under "The Crosby Township Historical Society". Be sure to "like" us. She has also set us up on "Harrison Happenings." A great job was done on both sites.

Plus, we would like to remind you that we have our own webpage on the Crosby Township website and we advertise our meetings in the Harrison newspaper as well as the Venice Cornerstone.

Officers:

President.....Melba Guard.....367-2186
Vice President.... Tony Torres.....581-9337
Secretary..... Shirlee Morgan...367-9671
Treasurer..... Chuck Heis.....738-4343
Trustee.....Mike Minges.....367-0172
Trustee.....Duane Singleton..319-4166
Trustee.....David Roessler...638-9265
News Editor.....Karen Klaene.....922-3379
kklaene@fuse.net

CTHS Board meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday at 7:30 p.m., March through December in the Crosby Township Senior Center, 8910 Willey Road. Meetings are open to the public.

Our Purpose...to encourage the preservation of historic structures and sites; identify, collect, and preserve literary, graphic and artefactual materials significant to prehistoric and historic cultures, schools, churches, businesses, and families of Crosby Township; to increase community awareness and appreciation of this heritage through documentation, educational programs and other public events; and to assist persons interested in this history by making our collected cultural resources available for study.

2018 Membership Dues

Single \$10.00

Family (3 or more in same house) \$15.00

Life Member \$100.00

Please mail dues to: Chuck Heis, Crosby Township Historical Society, Inc., 8911 Willey Road, Harrison, Ohio 45030

Crosby Township Historical Society
8910 Willey Road, Box 12
Harrison, Ohio 45030-9774