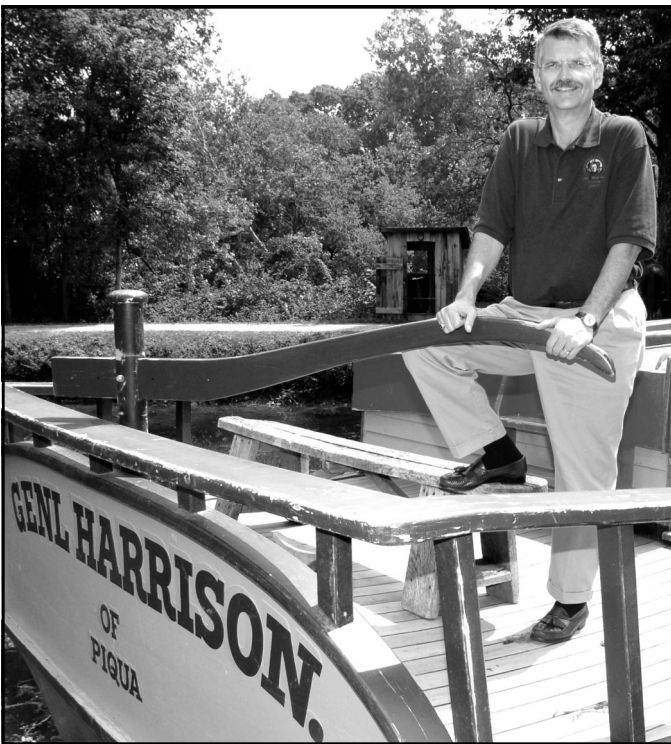


THE BEAN CREEK CHRONICLE

Canal Days Come to Life at SAHC Membership Meeting



Andy Hite of the Ohio Historical Society will share the story of the Miami & Erie Canal at the SAHC's Sixth Annual General Membership Meeting on November 11 in Evansport. (Andy Hite photo)

Ohio's canal system provided more rapid transportation of goods and agricultural products to and from eastern markets than overland routes.

The Wabash & Erie Canal connected the Wabash River in Indiana with Lake Erie, while the Miami & Erie Canal connected the Ohio River and Lake Erie. The two canals intersected at Junction southwest of Defiance in Paulding

County. names reflecting the hopes of Bean Creek becoming a transportation thoroughfare.

Beginning in the 1850s, construction of railroads provided a more rapid and convenient transportation alternative, leading to the canals' demise.

Andy Hite will elaborate on why Ohio undertook the Miami & Erie Canal project, the canal's impact on the young state, and how the canal system operated.

Hite holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from The Ohio State University and has earned graduate credit in Education Administration from the University of Dayton.

Before joining the Ohio Historical Society, Hite taught

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The Stryker Area Heritage Council will revisit Ohio's first major public works and transportation project when Andy Hite of the Ohio Historical Society brings the story of the Miami & Erie Canal to life at the SAHC's Sixth Annual General Membership Meeting in Evansport on November 11.

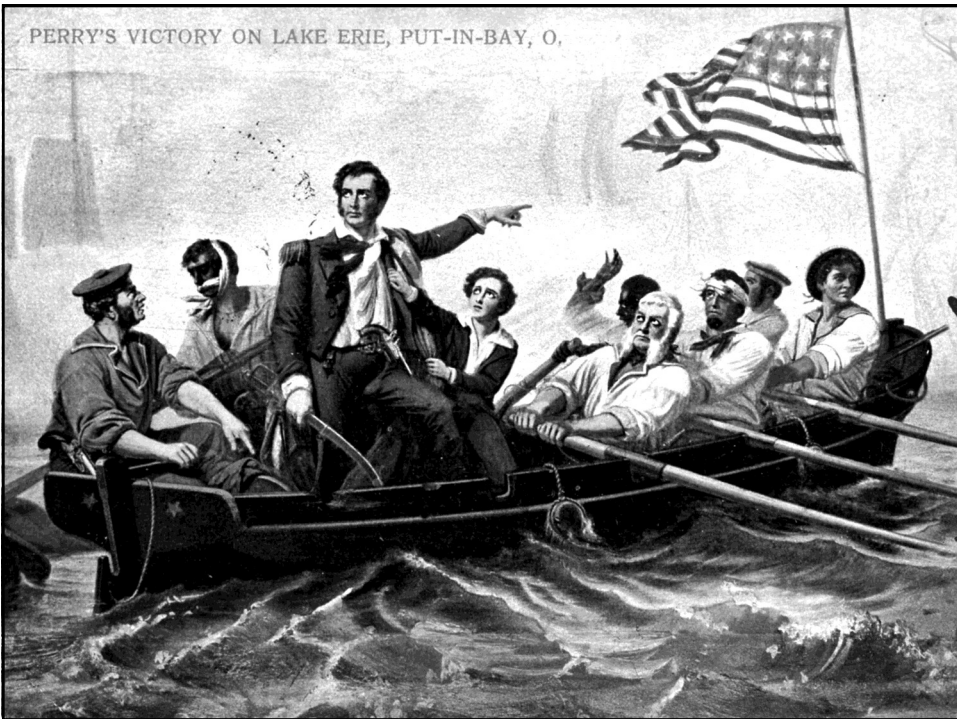
From the 1820s to the 1850s, long before modern highways crisscrossed the Buckeye State,

The canals' influence extended into Defiance and Williams counties. Fueled by speculation that the Tiffin River might become a canal feeder, a number of towns were platted along this waterway between 1835 and 1850. Evansport and Lockport, as well as the ghost towns Williamsport and Southport, were surveyed during this period, with the "port" suffix in their

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War of 1812 Hero Lies Forgotten in Unmarked Grave



When his flagship, the *Lawrence*, and its crew were decimated during the War of 1812 Battle of Lake Erie, Oliver Hazard Perry rowed to the *Niagara* and continued the fight. (Kevin Maynard collection)

By Kevin M. Maynard

Former area resident William Blair was a hero who helped Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry defeat the British during the pivotal War of 1812 Battle of Lake Erie, receiving a medal from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for his bravery and patriotism during the conflict.

Sadly, Blair died destitute—denied a trifling military pension during his final years—and his remains lie all but forgotten in an unmarked grave.

William Blair was born June 5, 1781, in Chester County, Pa. William was 31 years old when President James Madison signed the declaration of war that thrust the United States

into its second great conflict with England.

In the summer of 1812 American forces, hungry for a conquest of Canada, launched a three-pronged attack that ended disastrously.

In the western leg of this ill-fated campaign, Gen. William Hull, governor of the Michigan Territory, led 2,000 men to engage enemy forces near Detroit.

When Canadian militiamen failed to desert and Indian forces under Tecumseh threatened his communications, Hull retreated to Detroit and surrendered on August 16 without firing a shot.

To recapture Detroit and push British forces back, the Americans needed control of

Lake Erie—the main supply artery for England’s western army and its Indian allies.

In February 1813, 27-year-old Oliver Hazard Perry was selected to build and command a fleet to wrest control of Lake Erie from the British. At Erie, Pa., located on the lake shore in the northwest corner of the state, Perry and his men hastily constructed and equipped fighting vessels.

On April 10, 1813, William Blair enlisted in Major William G. Greene’s battalion at Bellefonte, in central Pennsylvania, and was dispatched to Erie. There, on July 14, 1813, Blair later recalled, he “volunteered to go on board Perry’s fleet to fight.”

With a force of nine ships and 532 men, including William Blair, Perry sailed to Put-in-Bay and set up a blockade of a British naval squadron under the command of Lieut. Robert Barclay.

On the morning of September 10, 1813, Barclay’s forces raised anchor and sailed to face Perry. The Battle of Lake Erie commenced about 11:45 a.m., and after two hours of intense British fire, 61 of the 103 men on Perry’s flagship, the *Lawrence*, were wounded and 22 lay dead.

With his flagship and its crew decimated, Perry secured a rowboat and transferred to the *Niagara*. As the *Niagara* approached, rigging of the British

ships *Detroit* and *Queen Charlotte* became entangled, and the *Niagara's* guns quickly pounded them into submission.

Two more British vessels quickly surrendered; others tried to escape, but were quickly stopped by American schooners. Within 15 minutes of reaching the *Niagara*, Commodore Perry achieved a resounding victory.

In his report to Gen. William Henry Harrison following the battle, Perry penned the legendary line, "We have met the enemy and they are ours."

Oliver Hazard Perry became a national hero and his decisive victory over the British buoyed the spirits of a country desperate for some good news.

With Lake Erie under United States control, the British abandoned Detroit. General Harrison overtook their forces, defeating them in the Battle of the Thames on October 5.

Tecumseh was also killed during this battle, effectively dissolving the Indian confederation he had forged in an attempt to drive settlers "back whence they came, upon a trail of blood."

Blair remained in service on the *Niagara* until he was honorably discharged at Erie, Pa., on November 18, 1813. This brief but eventful period appears to be the extent of his military service.

On November 19, 1819, Pennsylvania Governor William Findley presented Wil-



William Blair's remains lie forgotten in an unmarked grave next to his wife Mary, and children David and Jane, in Troy Cemetery west of Lexington, Ohio. (Kevin Maynard collection)

liam Blair a silver medal bearing appropriate inscriptions and "the impress of Perry." The governor's presentation letter stated: "In compliance with the directions of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, I have the pleasure of conveying to you the thanks of the government for the noble and gallant manner in which you volunteered on board the American squadron on Lake Erie under the command of the illustrious Perry; and also of presenting to you the silver medal of fine workmanship in compliment of your patriotism and bravery in the celebrated victory over a superior British force on the 10th of September 1813.

"And I take this occasion to add my testimony of my sincere accordance with the patri-

otic and grateful sentiments of the Legislature towards you as one of the citizens of Pennsylvania who distinguished themselves in that memorable conflict."

Many details of Blair's life remain unknown. At the time he received his medal from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, he was living in Centre County, Pa.

By 1830, Blair had married Mary Barr and was living in Troy Township, Richland County, Ohio, likely near the village of Lexington, southwest of Mansfield.

Available information indicates William and Mary had at least seven children: Jane L. (born in 1817), David L. (1820), Mary A. (circa 1822), Samuel

First Evansport School Constructed in the 1840s



The southern (left) and center sections of the Evansport school were constructed in 1887, with the northern (right) section added in 1892. (Sue Buehrer collection)

By Kevin M. Maynard

Area pioneers placed considerable importance on their children's educations. As settlers carved out homesteads in the heavily-forested frontier, the establishment of local churches and schools were a top priority.

The 1883 Defiance County history states, "The first school in Tiffin [Township] was taught by Ephraim Doty, in a double log cabin, which stood on his farm in the northwest quarter of Section 21. Hester Ann, George and William Par-tee, Caleb, Andrew and Polly Coy and Houston Russell and Kitty, Rachel and Abner Doty were the pupils. One end of this double cabin was used for a blacksmith shop.

"The first schoolhouse was afterward built near the Old

Evansport Cemetery. John Arnold and John Cameron were early teachers in that shop. There are now 10 schoolhouses in the township, six of them brick."

The date Evansport's first school was established is unknown. On March 13, 1843, John Snider, John R. Cassill and Israel Denneman—Directors of School District Number 1, Tiffin Township—purchased Lot 104 on the east side of West Street, north of Fourth (Mill) Street, for \$30. A schoolhouse was likely erected on Lot 104 about that time.

A newspaper account of the 1847 Evansport Fourth of July celebration mentions that the assembled crowd gathered "upon the common near the schoolhouse," indicating a school had been built by this time.

An 1866 Evansport map

confirms a schoolhouse stood on the southwest corner of Lot 104.

On April 12, 1876, Amos and Lucretia Snider sold Lots 105 and 106 in Evansport to the Tiffin Township Board of Education for \$100. These lots are directly north of Lot 104, across West Street from the Evansport United Methodist Church.

It is unknown whether the existing Evansport school building or buildings were moved to these lots, or if new structures were erected on the site.

The 1883 History of Defiance County notes, "The [Evansport] school buildings are frame, but have two departments, with about 80 scholars in attendance."

By 1879, Tiffin Township was divided into 10 school "sub-districts," with a one-room schoolhouse serving each rural sub-district, with the possible exception of the Evansport school(s). Sub-district 2 consisted of Section 3, Tiffin Township, west of the Tiffin River (including Evansport) and also Section 4.

At its September 20, 1886, session, the Tiffin Township Board of Education approved hiring J. I. Hale to prepare plans and specifications for a two-story, two-room brick schoolhouse with a seating capacity of 60 to replace the frame Evansport building or buildings.

On December 10, 1886, the school board awarded the bid

to construct the new school on Lots 105 and 106 to Jacob Hall at a cost of \$2,545.

In January 1887, an Evansport correspondent wrote to the *Defiance Democrat* newspaper that "a large amount of stone and brick are on the ground for the erection of a large brick schoolhouse. Jacob Hall has the contract for the same.

"D. C. Garber purchased the frame schoolhouse Saturday. Consideration, \$124. Mr. Garber intends moving the same on his vacant lot and remodeling it for a dwelling. It will make a good one."

In September 1887, an Evansport correspondent to the *Bryan Press* newspaper wrote, "A. C. Cameron has moved the old school building on his lot opposite Dr. Russell's and is going to fit it up for a store-room."

At its September 19, 1887, meeting the school board authorized the purchase of single seats manufactured by the Sidney School Furniture Company for the Evansport schoolhouse, and directed Charles Marshall to have the seating placed in the new school building.

The brick Evansport school was completed in September or October 1887 and was officially accepted by the Tiffin Township Board of Education on October 29, 1887.

As constructed in 1887, the building consisted only of the two-story southern section and the central entrance/bell tower section on the north, facing Third (Church) Street.



Around 1920, the upper story of the Evansport school was removed. Classes continued in the building until 1949. (Kevin Maynard collection)

On August 31, 1891, the Tiffin Township Board of Education authorized construction of a two-story 26- x 30-foot addition on the north side of the Evansport school. The contract was awarded to Abram and Isaac Coy on June 10, 1892.

On October 22, 1892, the school board accepted the addition and authorized payment to the Coy brothers of \$1,409.86 plus extras of \$105.14 for a total of \$1,515. The board further approved the purchase of 45 seats, six rear seats, and a desk and chair for the addition from U. S. School Furniture at a cost of \$150.

When completed in 1892, the Evansport school was a fine two-story brick structure topped by a cupola containing a school bell pulled by a rope to ring in classes. Entrances were located on the east and west sides of the building.

About 1920, the school's second story was removed, apparently due to building safety concerns.

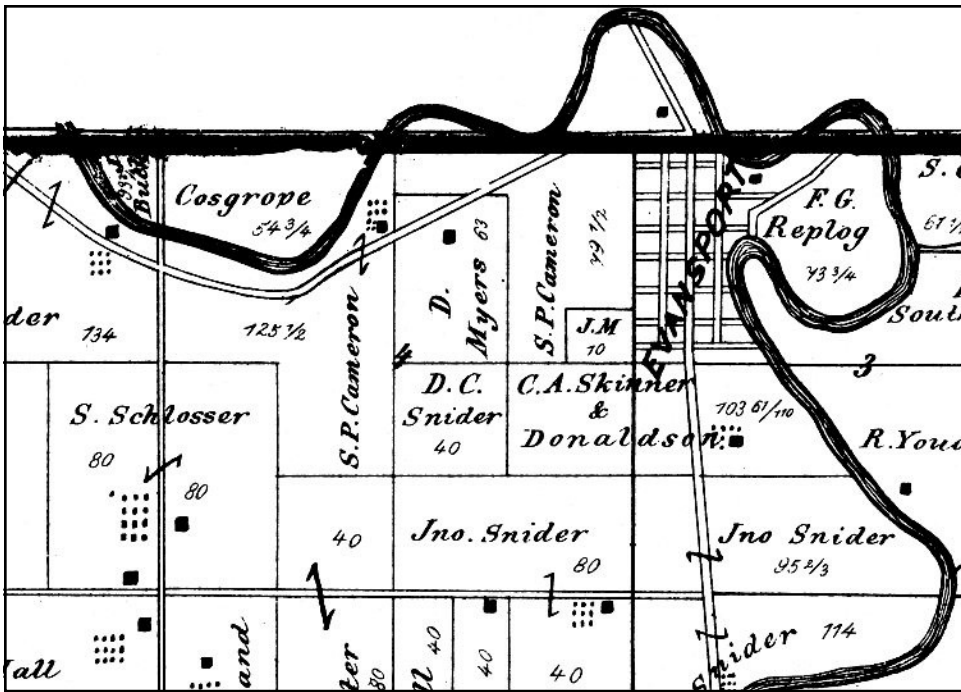
On June 26, 1919, Tiffin Township voters approved a \$75,000 bond issue to construct a brick centralized school to replace Tiffin Township's one-room schoolhouses and to also offer a high school curriculum.

The one-room schools hosted only grades one through eight; upon completing eighth grade, rural students who wished to continue their educations had to travel to a neighboring community with a high school, such as Stryker or Defiance.

The two-story brick Tiffin Township School was completed in 1920 on the west side of Stever Road, in the southeast quarter of Section 16, at the township's geographic center.

In May 1921, the Defiance County Board of Education consolidated the Tiffin Township and Evansport Special school districts into a new Tiffin Rural School District. Although classes continued to be held in the Evansport school

Samuel Schlosser—Farmer by Occupation, Tanner by Trade



The Samuel Schlosser family were local pioneers, immigrating to Tiffin Township in 1846. The Schlossers farmed 160 acres at the intersection of Scott and Wieland roads southwest of Evansport for many years. (1876 Historical Atlas of Defiance County)

Note: The following story is abstracted from data compiled by SAHC members Kimm Bugbee of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Richard L. Cooley of Bryan.

Samuel Schlosser (pronounced Slusser by many) wasn't famous, never founded a village, was never a postmaster nor had any real claim to fame.

Samuel was a simple man who raised his family in Tiffin Township, Defiance County.

Samuel was—as were many others—an American pioneer who helped settle and develop the region in which he lived for the betterment of his posterity.

Samuel Schlosser is descended from hearty German stock in the personage of

Fredrich Schlosser (born circa 1605) of Londorf, Germany. Samuel was born January 14, 1807, near Harper's Ferry, Maryland, to Andreas (Andrew) Schlosser and Catherine Poffenbarger (spellings vary).

For reasons unknown Samuel's father Andrew left the Maryland area circa 1825-26 and in 1828 purchased land in Richland County, Ohio. Samuel later moved to Ohio to be with his parents.

Samuel married circa 1829 to Nancy Mays (daughter of John and Nancy Mays) whom was born January 2, 1811, at Center County, Pa.

The couple's first five children were born in Maryland. While living in Richland

County, two children were born, and the last three of 10 children were born in Defiance County.

In 1846 for reasons unknown, Samuel moved his family from Richland County to the much mosquito-infested swamplands of Tiffin Township.

The 1883 history of Defiance County states Schlosser came to Tiffin Township and "settled on the farm where he now lives." The Schlosser farm was located southwest of Evansport on Sections 4 and 5 in Tiffin Township.

According to the history and some land records Samuel, over a period of time, purchased land totaling 240 acres. The 1883 history also stated Samuel learned the tanner's trade.

Federal census records from 1850 through 1880 indicate Samuel farmed his land and watched his children grow. The census records indicate Samuel's children began to marry, spread their wings and fly from home.

When they left, Samuel's children tended to remain near his farm. Tiffin and Washington Townships in Defiance County, and Springfield, Pulaske and St. Joseph townships in Williams County became their new homes.

Typical of many families of the time period, the Schlosser family was not without heart-

break. Samuel and Nancy's son Ezra (born in 1842) became a victim of the Civil War. Ezra died at the Confederate prison camp at Danville, Va., in December 1863. Ezra served with the 14th and 64th Ohio Infantry Regiments.

Samuel's wife preceded him in death, having passed away in St. Joseph Township, Williams County, on November 11, 1885. The circumstances surrounding Nancy's decease are not known.

Samuel, who was afflicted with asthma for many years, died of dropsy in Tiffin Township on June 1, 1894, and his funeral was held at the Union Chapel Church (probably the Union Chapel Church of God at the intersection of Williams County Roads A and 18). The couple is buried at Edgerton's Maple Grove Cemetery.

The children of Samuel and Nancy Schlosser were Andrew J., born January 16, 1830; Catherine, born circa 1835; Elizabeth Ann, birth date unknown; Lucinda, born November 13, 1846; John, born May 1840; Ezra, born circa 1842; Samuel Jr., born circa 1845; George, born December 16, 1846; Isaiah, born circa 1848; and William, born February 8, 1858.

Some of the surnames associated with the Schlosser family are Hancock, Cooley, Shook, Kemp, Lind, Krathwohl, Gillette, Guilinger/Garlinger, Warfield, Davis, Dietrich, Morris, Carter, Whetstone, Simmons, Kast, Cour-

tade, Gansmiller, Floss, Manley, Miller, McDaniel, Sanders, Coy, Beucler, Buckles, and Bumpus.

Note: The compilers of this article are very interested in obtaining copies of old family photos. Also, they are willing to exchange family information. Please contact either Kimm Bugbee, email Kimm64@aol.com or Richard Cooley, email c_cool_cat@yahoo.com.

First Evansport School Constructed in the 1840s

(Continued from Page 5)

building, it appears high school students attended the Tiffin Township building.

In August 1949, Tiffin Township High School was abolished by the township school board when the Ohio Department of Education refused to renew the high school's charter. A minimum of 50 students were required for a charter, and there were only 33 Tiffin Township High School students at that time.

Classes were discontinued at the Evansport school and two other buildings in the district, and all local students in grades one through eight attended classes at the Tiffin Township School. Local high school students attended classes in Ney, Jewell and Stryker, with tuition paid by the state.

Even without high school students, conditions soon became crowded at the Tiffin Township School. In 1954 a

\$125,000 addition housing four large classrooms, cafeteria, furnace room, and gymnasium-auditorium was completed.

In March 1955, following completion of the Tiffin Township School addition, the Evansport School was sold at public auction to Evansport Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3985. The VFW had leased the facility for its Post hall for several years.

In the late 1950s, the Northeastern Local School District was created by consolidating the Tiffin, Noble and Richland-Adams township school districts. The Tinora High School (an anagram for Tiffin, Noble, Richland-Adams) was completed in 1964 at the corner of Domersville and Banner School roads northeast of Defiance.

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Did You Know

that Evansport once had a resident gunsmith in John Nicholas Walter? Walter was born in Allegheny County, Pa., in 1818, and moved to Evansport in 1852. Walter is believed to have crafted about 100 rifles in his lifetime and an unknown number of muzzle-loading shotguns. He also made violins and painted houses. Walter died in Toledo in 1912 at the age of 94. His guns are prized by local collectors today, and one of Walter's violins still existed as late as 1983. ■

War of 1812 Hero Lies Forgotten in Unmarked Grave

(Continued from Page 3)

(circa 1827), James (circa 1829), Newton (19) and Nathaniel (17).

William and Mary experienced personal tragedy with the loss of their 12-year-old daughter, Jane, in 1829, followed by their 10-year-old son, David, a year later. Both children are buried in Troy Cemetery just west of Lexington.

Mary Blair died in 1848 at the age of 58 and was buried next to Jane and David in Troy Cemetery. William was 67 years old at the time of Mary's death.

The 1850 federal census lists William as a 69-year-old farmer residing in Troy Township. Living with him were his children Mary (27 years old), Samuel (23), James (21), Newton (19) and Nathaniel (17).

The June 14, 1860, issue of the *Williams County Leader* newspaper, published at Bryan, declared William Blair was at that time a Williams County resident, but he was officially recorded in the 1860 census living with his son Samuel in Scott Township, Steuben County, Ind., on July 20, 1860.

Another son, Newton Blair, married Nancy Glasgow (1837-1905), in Richland County on February 7, 1856. The couple had one daughter, Cyndicia Alice, born in 1857. Newton reportedly moved his family to Springfield Township, Williams County, in 1861. It's

likely 80-year-old William Blair made his home with Newton, Nancy and Alice after their arrival in Williams County.

In 1860 Blair sent a letter to Congress detailing his honorable military record and stating that he was "in needy circumstances, being now over 79 years old." He requested that a special act be passed "granting him a pension, so that he can say at the end of a life devoted to his country: 'Republics are not ungrateful.'"

Blair's request apparently fell on deaf ears, as the *Bryan Democrat* newspaper reported on July 28, 1870, "One of the oldest, if not the oldest, men in Williams County is William Blair, now residing in Springfield Township. The old hero, when we last saw him, was hale and hearty, and in full possession of his mental facilities. Mr. Blair never received a pension from the government."

The 1870 census lists William Blair residing with the Albert and Emily Silvernail family near Stryker.

Blair died at the Silvernail home on January 2, 1871. Upon his death, a correspondent to the *Bryan Press* newspaper wrote, "Mr. Blair was somewhat remarkable for a bright and vigorous memory, for his conversational powers, unquestioned integrity and a patriotism so common at the era of his birth. It was my pleasure to often consult him on the facts of history and the events of the War of 1812, and found

his mind clear and memory retentive to the last.

"But this old veteran had but little to thank his country for except in common with all his fellow citizens. For the past 10 years he has been petitioning the government for a trifling pittance, to which he was justly entitled, but his prayers were studiously unnoticed to the day of his death. He was, however, kindly cared for by appreciative friends, and the local authorities of our township."

Blair's remains were taken to Troy Cemetery for interment next to his wife and two children. The *Defiance Democrat* newspaper noted, "That his remains should be placed beside [Mary's] was the dying request of the old soldier, and exhibits a beautiful instance of the constancy of affection, reaching on through life, as it did, almost to the full and rounded period of a century."

Today, Troy Cemetery contains tombstones for Mary, Jane and David Blair—William Blair's tombstone is conspicuously absent. Perhaps his tombstone was stolen or damaged over the past century.

Another possibility is that due to Blair's self-professed "needy circumstances," the old War of 1812 veteran was denied the simple dignity of a grave marker following his death.

William Blair's silver medal was handed down to his

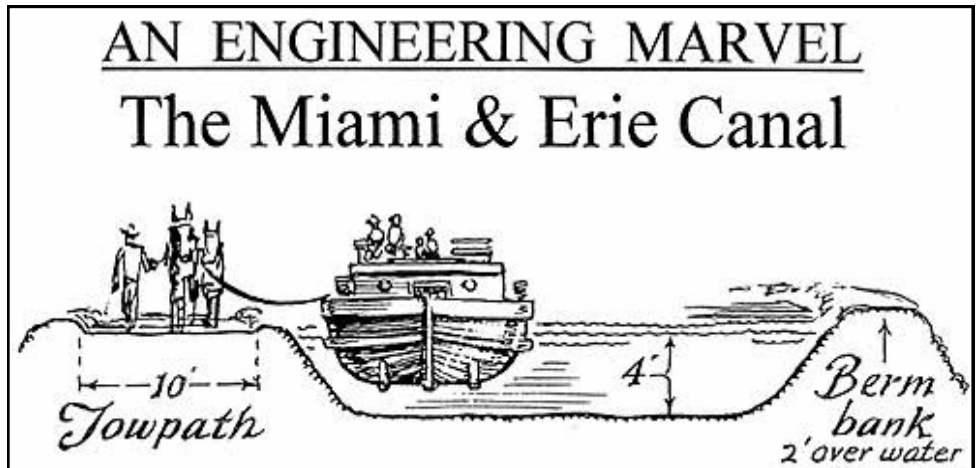
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Canal Days Come to Life at SAHC Membership Meeting
(Continued from Page 1)

American and Ohio History in the Northern Local Schools and in Licking County Joint Vocational School's adult education program.

In 1997, Mr. Hite was appointed Site Manager of the Ohio Historical Society's Johnston Farm & Indian Agency in Piqua, where he works with staff, volunteers, and teachers to create programs that supplement and expand on classroom work designed to address Ohio Department of Education requirements.

The SAHC Annual General Membership meeting begins at 6 p.m. on November 11 at the Evansport United Methodist Church, 1560 West Street, Evansport. The meeting will feature a banquet style dinner (including salad, two meats, potato, vegetables, roll, dessert,



and drink) and is open to members and the public.

Reservations may be made until November 1 by completing the form below and submitting it with a check or money order for \$8 per person to the Stryker Area Heritage Council, P.O. Box 180, Stryker, Ohio 43557, by emailing info@strykerahc.org, or by calling SAHC Secretary Phil Short at 419.682.6421. Payment may be made at the door, but reservations are required by November 1.

Members will also elect representatives to the organization's Board of Trustees and receive an update on the Stryker Area Heritage Council's 2009-2010 activities and progress.

Tiffin Township firefighters and their guests will also be in attendance that evening in honor of the 70th anniversary of the fire department's organization in 1940.

For additional information, check the SAHC website at www.strykerahc.org. ■

STRYKER AREA HERITAGE COUNCIL 2010 Annual General Membership Meeting Reservation Form

I would like to reserve ____ meals at \$8 each for the STRYKER AREA HERITAGE COUNCIL'S Sixth Annual General Membership Meeting, to be held November 11, 2010, at the Evansport United Methodist Church. I have enclosed a check or money order for \$ _____. *Make all checks and money orders payable to the STRYKER AREA HERITAGE COUNCIL.*

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ email _____

Mail completed reservation form with payment to:

STRYKER AREA HERITAGE COUNCIL

P.O. Box 180
 Stryker, OH 43557

SAHC Publishes Civil War Veteran Research Guide



William J. Knight, who participated in the Andrews Raid or "Great Locomotive Chase" is one of the local servicemen highlighted in the new SAHC booklet "How to Research Your Williams County Civil War Veteran." After the war, Knight moved to Stryker and lectured on the raid. (Kevin Maynard collection)

It is estimated that 1,400 to 1,600 Williams County residents served in the military during Civil War, and that more than 400 local servicemen died during the conflict. The Stryker Area Heritage Council has made researching these local veterans easier with publication of "How to Research Your Williams County Civil War Veteran."

The 61-page booklet, coauthored by local historians and genealogists Richard and Cathy Cooley, contains a variety of helpful resources including frequently asked questions, where to find military records,

information on the primary local Civil War units, lists of local discharge records, servicemen who died during the war, a veterans' graves index, and useful Internet sites.

"Next year marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, and the SAHC is looking for ways to commemorate this critical period in American history," said Richard Cooley. "Cathy and I have fielded questions

from genealogists seeking information on area Civil War veterans for years, and addressing these inquiries provided the booklet's foundation."

"How to Research Your Williams County Civil War Veteran" is priced at \$8 for SAHC members and \$10 for non-members. Copies are available at SAHC events, through SAHC Board members and can also be ordered by mailing a check or money order to the Stryker Area Heritage Council, P. O. Box 180, Stryker, Ohio 43557. Include \$3 per booklet for mailing.

Additional information is available by visiting the SAHC website, www.strykerahc.org. ■

War of 1812 Hero Lies Forgotten in Unmarked Grave

(Continued from Page 8)

granddaughter, Cyndicia Alice Blair. Alice married John Guthrie in Stryker in 1880, and the couple moved to Bryan in 1906.

In 1913, the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie, Alice proudly displayed Blair's medal and recounted her grandfather's military accomplishments in local newspapers.

What became of William Blair's medal is unknown. John Guthrie died in 1931, and Alice passed away in December 1932 at the home of the couple's son Wayne in Lakewood, Ohio. John and Alice were buried in Boynton Cemetery southwest of Stryker.

This is where the trail ends. Blair's medal would be of great historical value and interest if it could be located today.

William Blair volunteered to serve his country during its time of need, only to be denied a small military pension when he was old and destitute. Although Blair's story is not unique in that regard, still, it is a shame that Blair is denied the dignity of a simple grave marker in commemoration of his War of 1812 service.

Continued on Page 12

J. C. Vernier & Company

Dealers in Shelf and Heavy Hardware, Agricultural Implements, &c., Defiance Street

A most prominent feature of our commercial and trade intercourse is that in which we find J. C. Vernier & Company particularly engaged. This enterprising and progressive institution is one of the recent acquisitions to the mercantile interests of this city, yet, as a truly metropolitan establishment has evinced its abilities to meet the full requirements and demands of the trade in this branch of business pursuit, and the recognized superiority and high excellence of its goods has placed it among the most reliable and trustworthy mercantile houses of northwestern Ohio. The premises occupied embrace a large, fine structure, 22 x 65 feet in dimensions, two story, with an additional store-

room, 22 x 40 feet in size, and two story, located eminently and eligibly on Defiance Street. Here there is carried a most excellent and diversified stock of general and special hardware, embracing light and heavy goods, shelf hardware, contractors', mechanics', carpenters' and farmers' tools and supplies, gardening and blacksmithing tools and implements, pumps, paints, oils, varnish, putty, window glass, nails, screws, doors, sash, blinds and all kinds of buggy paints and varnishes, guns, ammunition, etc., as well as tinware, sheet iron ware, household furnishings, cutlery, and all goods in this line of business pertaining to general home and personal use. This house makes a special feature of tin and sheet iron roofing, guaranteeing satisfaction and perfect fulfillment of contract, or money refunded. They, as well, make a specialty

of agricultural implements, carrying none but the very best and most reliable makes, of the latest improved designs and patterns, all goods being of excellent material and superior workmanship. This establishment is a representative house in this branch of commerce in this county, and well deserves the liberal and extended patronage it enjoys, and it has such connections with Eastern houses and manufacturers that it is able to offer such inducements as few other similar establishments in this part of Ohio or adjoining states, and persons will do well to see them before going elsewhere. *Business Review and Directory of Williams County for 1891-92* ■

J. W. SHUTER
FUNERAL DIRECTOR
 Evansport, Ohio

STRYKER AREA HERITAGE COUNCIL Membership Form

Student (Under 18) \$1 Senior (65+) \$12 Individual \$15 Couple \$25 Family \$30
 Individual Life \$300 Business \$45 Non-Profit Organization/Institution \$30

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

New Member Renewing Member

Mail completed membership form with applicable payment to:

STRYKER AREA HERITAGE COUNCIL

P. O. Box 180

Stryker, OH 43557

Make all checks payable to the Stryker Area Heritage Council

Welcome New and Renewing SAHC Members!

The Stryker Area Heritage Council extends a very hearty welcome and its appreciation to the following new and renewing members for their interest in and support of the organization: Donna Albright-Green, Coldwater, Mich.; Janis A. Beck, Stryker; Thomas F. Curtis, Riverview, Mich.; Carmen Daft, Oak Harbor, Ohio; the Defiance County Genealogical Society, Defiance; David Douglass, Bryan; Nancy Elder, Montrose, Colo.; Dave and Kathy Frank, Stryker; Kenneth and Marilyn Frank, Stryker; Glenn and Mary Geren, Sherwood; Jim and Georgia Grube, Stryker; Philip Juillard, Basin, Wy.; Stan and Rita Kruse, Stryker; Mabel Myers, Stryker; Dorothy Opdycke, Bryan; Earl and Kay Reiniche, Stryker; Penny Schmidt, Holland, Ohio; Thomas Short, Columbus; and the Stryker Heritage Home-makers, Stryker! ■

First Evansport School Constructed in the 1840s

(Continued from Page 7)

The Tinora junior high building was completed on the same campus in 1971 followed by the elementary school in 2001. On December 20, 2001, after completion of Tinora Elementary School, classes were discontinued at Tiffin Township Elementary. The building was razed in January-February 2003.

The Evansport school building survived for more than 50 years after classes were discontinued. On March 23, 1991, Evansport VFW Post #3985 and its Ladies Auxiliary sold the building and property to Ron and Linda Cupp. The Cupps in turn sold the building and grounds to Tiffin Township in 1996. The building was razed in 2004 and the site is today occupied by the Tiffin Township Fire Department's facility. ■

War of 1812 Hero Lies Forgotten in Unmarked Grave

(Continued from Page 10)

William Blair wasn't a native son, but we can proudly call him one of our own, and his patriotic service during the War of 1812 should not go unnoticed.

Although he resided elsewhere for much of his life, Blair's final years were spent in the northwest corner of Ohio, not far from the watery scenes of heroism he shared with Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry on a September day in 1813. ■

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