



The Pastfinder



VOLUME 45 ISSUE 2

<http://ashlandccogs.org>

MAY - AUG, 2026

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As a chapter member, please consider volunteering as a committee member or elected officer next election. This helps Support the Society as a whole. (Check the By-laws under the "About Us" Section of our website for more details.)

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The Dinner Bell, The Noon Whistle, and The Sirens What's Their History?



These were all methods that our early pioneer communities used to keep in touch. The Dinner bell has been used for centuries and the Noon whistle which came in the late 1800's were methods to bring the community together. It was a rural tradition when the local church bell or, in later years, the firehouse siren or factory horn would blow at noon it was time to come in from the fields for their noon meal or meet locally for a community need. This was quite useful before pocket watches or telephones were common place. (A farmer may have had a pocket watch

but would not use it when out in the field and the nearest phone was at the local drug store). This was a practical tool in these farming communities and critical to their daily lives. This type of communication was also used to gather in the town's people for meetings or other emergencies (since these were small village-type setting and within ear's shot of the sound.



This noon whistle gained even more importance into the early 1900's. What would be categorized as "small-town communities" or "factory communities" across the U.S. adopted the noon whistle at different times in their history and for different reasons. The Mills and factories of the day used this method to mark the shift changes. This same siren or whistle often served as a fire alarm for volunteer fire departments. This was crucial at this time period when fire safety measures were not as advanced as they currently are. It also would have been used for other types of emergencies, including weather and school closing announcements due to bad weather.

The community siren became a vital part of daily life in rural small-town communities of America. Many towns also developed their own type of signally to the community with different sound blasts, such as short blasts, long blasts, or the number of blasts. It's therefore safe to say that this original method of communication has actually morphed into several different purposes. It's hard to pinpoint why each community initiated the usage of the whistle, but it definitely has become a standard for many of these communities. Many Midwest small town communities have grown up hearing this sound alarm as a way for farmers, factory workers, and townsfolk to connect.

The civil defense siren was used to warn civilians of approaching danger. During World War II, the civil defense siren was used to warn residents of nightly curfews and as air raid warnings or blackout periods. These sirens would alert the towns' people to turn off their lights, pull down the shades and even put out a cigarette. There was to be no light for an aircraft to see from the sky. This was probably more of a precaution for the times, but definitely used the siren to communicate the warning to the population. Later in time this was also used as a warning of disasters, such as tornadoes.

The progress of time has led to many sirens being replaced with more specific

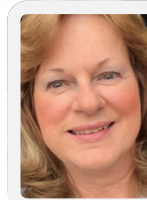
(Continued on page 14)

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E



From your ACCOGS President,

Charlotte ELSON



Hello OGS members!

Hello to the most wonderful Chapter members! I have had so much fun this year and I hope you have enjoyed it as well. We have had Great Speakers as well.

I have a couple ideas, ...and I always get in trouble for those! ...Maybe an outing to just meet somewhere and explore the history of it. For example the 1840 Bennet Cabin at the conservation farm? I already have permission if we'd like to go!! Bring a sack lunch and enjoy the lake looking out the windows.

...Or, meeting at a Library other than Ashland and together checking out what is has to explore. We always feed of each other and together we may find something really interesting. Or plan a day to meet at an old cemetery which may have your relatives in it and explain to us their lives and how they affected your live.

Food for thought, sounds fun to me. Just something different to do. No meeting, just to enjoy. Please let me know what y'all think! You know my Dad was a Texas Cowboy!...I've said y'all for ever. Know I know why, family traits have strong ties.

Thanks Always, *Charlotte*

Dinner Bell, Noon Whistle (Continued from page 13)

warnings, such as the broadcast-based Emergency Alert System and the Cell Broadcast-based Wireless Emergency Alerts. In the early 1950's, AT&T developed the electronic siren which improved upon the decades of using bells, street horns, hand-cranked sirens or steam-screaming whistles. It could create a sound that would extend farther and louder than previous methods. From there, the new-improved sirens could link with other warning media, such as the radio and TV Emergency Alert System, NOAA Weather Radio, telephone alerting systems, and wireless alerting systems in the United States and the National Public Alerting System.



There have been stories where some communities that have let these sirens go by the way side with lack of maintenance have found that a working siren would have helped prevent the extent of damage in an emergency or disaster situation. They have, therefore, reconsidered the value of this communications method. Though the alarm may not go off every day, it's used for emergencies and tested periodically. This would be a situation of hindsight is everything!

Thus, progress of today has somewhat replaced the need for these sirens as a form of community linked communication. However, the culture and tradition still remains important to the small-town "Noon Whistle". The noon whistle has evolved from a farm workplace and fire safety tool into a community tradition and as a nostalgic reminder of our rural and small-town history. But, is the siren a thing of the past, or is it still a benefit to the local citizens?" Everyone has their own thoughts.

And to answer your last question, Yes, Ashland County uses a siren as part of their emergency alert system and is tested on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon.

By Terry HAUN

WANTED: Newsletter Editor.

Our Chapter is still looking for a volunteer to take over the publishing of the Newsletter. In the interim, it has been decided that, beginning with our February 2026 issue, we will publish the newsletter with 12 pages and three times a year. We ask our members to help by submitting articles of interest to them to be included in future issues.

(See page 22 for more information. Contact our President at accogspresident@gmail.com)

C O M M U N I T Y H A P P E N I N G S

Joseph AUSTIN
(*Ashland Press, 21 Nov 1893*)

Joseph AUSTIN was born in the county of Kent, Parish of Seven Oakes, on a farm called Panthurst in England, in the year 1802, April 7. He was the youngest of a family of nine children. At the age of 19 he and his brother, John, in company with their father, started from Liverpool for America, Feb. 7, 1821, and arrived at Philadelphia, Pa., Apr 7, following, it being his birthday. Joseph and his father next came to Pittsburg, Pa., but not liking the county came farther west, locating near Jeromeville, making this their home. Mr. AUSTIN's occupation was chiefly raising hops, being the principal crop that his father raised in the old country. He continued the hop culture from this time up to the year 1850, when the 11th of March he, in company with Wm. NOGGLE, VINING, H. VanNIMAN, John SUNFIELD and Michael ELY, started for California, which distance he walked nearly all the way, arriving there on the 8th of July, following, remaining there just one year to the day and came home by the West Indies. Arriving at Philadelphia he took the shayrees fever and was taken to the hospital where he had to remain until able to start for his home. He arrived here in November, having made a very successful trip. Mr. AUSTIN was married to Miss Catharine HEICHEL in the year 1854, Apr. 24, by Rev. S. RITZ at the McNulty house, Ashland. As a result of their marriage to them were born eight children, all girls but one, and all dead now except two, Josephine Annetta, who married T.M. GEORGE in 1877, and Miss Lucy Dell, who is still single at home. Mr. AUSTIN died at his old home 1/2 mile south of town Dec. 5, 1893. His exact age was 91 yrs., 7 mos., 21 ds. He was a man well read and was highly respected by all who knew him. He was a man who possessed a wide range of knowledge, both from observation and reading. There are few men perhaps in all this country living today that could say as he said when living that they had seen and shaken hands with Lord WELLINGTON. The circumstances which lead to this event of which he felt so proud were as follows: After the Duke of Wellington had defeated Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo in June, 1815, a short time thereafter the city of London gave the Duke a grand ovation, at which demonstration almost the whole of England turned out to do honor to their mighty chieftain. Mr. AUSTIN, then a mere lad, and his father, attended this great gathering. It was on this occasion that he saw and shook hands with England's gallant warrior. Mr. AUSTIN lived a consistent christian the greater portion of his life, being first a member of the Christian church here then later united with the Lutheran church, remaining an active, earnest member until his physical energies became impaired so that he was obliged to remain at his home until his death. For several years he has been as helpless as a child, being well cared for all this time by his only son-in-law, Mr. GEORGE, with the kindness and patience that but few could command. He declined in health until his death, when he closed his eyes in that last long sleep



which knows no waking. The funeral took place from his old home Thursday, Dec 7th, at 10 a.m. and his remains were interred at the Presbyterian cemetery in this place where his mother was buried in 1839, she being the first person buried in that yard. Rev. S.P. KIEFER, of Mifflin, a former pastor of Mr. A., was here and conducted the services....The deceased leaves a wife and two daughters to mourn his departure. (Jeromeville)

Laura LEWIS (*Ashland Press, 22 Mar 1894*)

Mrs. Laura Lewis (nee LASH) came up from Mt. Gilead Monday night to visit her father, Peter LASH.

A. LYBARGER (*Ashland Press, 28 Sep 1893*)

McZena... A. LYBARGER, a prominent farmer living north of here, died on last Tuesday of a tumor, aged 66 years. He was buried at Fairview on Thursday.....

[*Same Newspaper*] Jeromeville...Andrew LYBARGER, who has been afflicted for the past year from a tumor, died at his home near Lake Fork Tuesday of last week at the age of 64 years, and was interred at the Fairview cemetery Thursday at 11 a.m. Mr. LYBARGER has long been a citizen of this township, having lived on the farm where he lived for several years past. He was in good circumstances and owned a couple of good farms and but a year ago or so built a fine new barn on the place where he died. A wife and family of several children are left to mourn their loss.

Wilson LUTZ, (*Ashland Press, 23 Aug 1894*)

Wilson LUTZ, a well known and respected citizen of Mohican township, died at his home near Jeromeville last Wednesday, aged 45 years. Four days illness, 32nd degree Mason. Buried Friday under the auspices of the commandery at Wooster and the Knights of Pythias, of Jeromeville....

[*Same Newspaper*] Jeromeville. Wilson LUTZ was born December 29, A.D. 1848, and died at his home one-half mile east of this August 15, A.D. 1894, aged 45 years, 7 months and 16 days. His disease was appendicitis....He was married October 17, 1869 to Miss Nettie ROBB, and to this union was added eleven children, all of whom survive him. He united with the M.E. church March 2, 1867, at the age of 18 years. He was a Mason of high rank and member of K. of P. of this place. Funeral Friday from his late home at 10:00 a.m., services held at M.E. church. Burial Presbyterian cemetery.

Elizabeth BOGGS, (*Ashland Press, 26 Jul 1894*)

Mrs. Elizabeth BOGGS, of Lee Summitt, Mo. arrived Saturday and is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Jennie E. POE and her brother J.I. DORLAND.

ASHLAND TIDBITS !!

The first settlement laid out in present Ashland County was Perrysville in 1813

ROOTSTECH 2026 CONFERENCE

RootsTech 2026 completed their annual online/in-person conference in Salt Lake City on March 7. The theme for this year's event was "Together," inviting participants to connect, uncover, and share new insights about their ancestors and heritage. It was hosted by FamilySearch. Below Kate Penney HOWARD has graciously added her take on that Conference and the overall results of the conference. www.katepenneyhoward.com.



RootsTech 2026: Ten Things That Made My Jaw Drop

RootsTech 2026 wrapped up on March 7. The theme was "Together," but the unofficial theme was clearly artificial intelligence. AI crashed the party at every forum, every expo booth, and most of the talks. Here are the ten announcements and moments that had people excited.

- 1. FamilyTreeDNA Rewrote the Rules on Autosomal Testing** - FamilyTreeDNA launched new Family Finder tests that analyze over 400 times the genetic data of their previous version -- roughly 9% of your genome compared to just 0.02% before. The best news? Upcoming Family Finder Discover reports will be available to all Family Finder test takers, whether they tested recently or years ago.
- 2. GEDmatch is Getting a Complete Overhaul** - GEDmatch has been the scrappy workhorse of the genetic genealogy world for years. The company previewed a major redesign planned for later in 2026, incorporating AI-powered tools to help users interpret DNA matches and make organizing, filtering, tagging, and analyzing notes far easier. This has been a long time coming.
- 3. FamilySearch Released Its AI Tools from the Lab** - For months, genealogists have been testing FamilySearch AI features in beta. At RootsTech, the AI Research Assistant and AI Hints officially came out of Labs and are now available to all users. Full-Text Search also graduated from Labs, and users can now attach search results directly to the family tree.
- 4. FamilySearch Is Testing Natural Language Search** - If you have ever wished you could just talk to a database like a person, this one is for you. Simple Search, currently in Labs, is being tested to allow users to search records using natural language. Ask it a question the way you would ask a librarian. See what it tells you!
- 5. All Revolutionary War Pension Files Are Now Fully Searchable** - Ancestry announced that its Fold3 collection of Revolutionary War pension files are now fully searchable thanks to optical character recognition. Researchers can now search for veterans and their next of kin by name, rather than relying on a limited index. For those of us working on pre-1800 American genealogy, this is a genuine breakthrough. They also announced new AI features, including a record and document transcription tool where AI transcribes, summarizes, and provides source citations for documents and photos uploaded to your Gallery.
- 6. Ancestry Introduced "AI Stories" -- And It's Exactly What It Sounds Like** - A new tool called AI Stories narrates a brief story about a document in a shareable, podcast-style audio file. The possibilities here for people who struggle to write about their ancestors are significant. It could be a meaningful bridge for beginners. It raises questions about voice and accuracy that researchers will need to monitor carefully, but the concept is compelling.
- 7. LifeWeaver Crashed the Party as a Platinum Sponsor** - No one saw this one coming. Newcomer LifeWeaver made a significant splash as platinum sponsor of RootsTech 2026. The tool archives and searches through text messages, emails and other digital communication files to create a story from those pieces. LifeWeaver also allows users to add older phones, computers, hard drives, and scanned handwritten journals, digitizing their contents while preserving images of the originals so they can be shared with family. And critically, users' data is private. The company does not sell data or use it to train AI models.
- 8. MyHeritage Unveiled Scribe AI** - MyHeritage announced Scribe AI at the RootsTech Innovation Forum, demonstrating how the feature analyzes historical documents and photos to uncover genealogical insights. The tool provides record suggestions, photo descriptions, and transcriptions. The MyHeritage team also announced Country Coding, a feature that helps sort and organize international records and visualize your ancestors by country.
- 9. Ancestry Preserve Wants to Digitize Your Shoeboxes** - The new Ancestry Preserve service, heavily featured in the Expo Hall, aims to help customers preserve and digitize their old media, including photographs, slides, film tapes, and more. For genealogists who have inherited closets full of analog memories, this fills a real need. The long-term implications for family history are significant. Your grandmother's slides deserve better than a dark box in a garage.
- 10. Marlee MATLIN and Tara ROBERTS Reminded Us What This Is All For** - The technology announcements were remarkable. But these two keynotes stopped the room. Marlee MATLIN, Academy Award-winning actress, shared her inspiring journey of overcoming obstacles and connecting personal triumphs to family history. As a deaf actor, she did not utter a word, but her facial expressions, animated signing, and story had audiences listening with their eyes and hearts. Tara ROBERTS, National Geographic explorer, shared her extraordinary work documenting slave ship wrecks and reconnecting descendants with their ancestral past.

RootsTech 2026 made one thing clear. The technology is accelerating faster than most of us can keep up. The challenge for our community is to stay human in the middle of it all.

The records are the beginning; the stories are the point.

*Looking Back***“REUNIONS - In Times Past”***Looking Back*

Reunions have been a large part of family get-togethers' in times past, and even into today's Society. Anne BUDD has been collecting these notices and has donated to our library a notebook full of reunions, family histories, etc. If you get a chance, check out what's in our Library, and take a look at the Reunion Notebook in our Family Histories Section.

(Spelling and grammar are usually left as was in the original newspaper article).

AUSTEN-PEARCE REUNION - (Ashland Times-Gazette, 14 Sep 1910)

The third annual reunion of the AUSTEN-PEARCE families was held at West View park, Allegheny, Pa., Aug 26. The Ashland and Wayne county friends went via the Ashland & Western railroad to Custaloga, where they had a private coach on train 6 of the P.F.W.&C. that took them to Allegheny, Pa., arriving there about 5:20 p.m.

Friday morning, Aug. 26 all had arrived at the part, where there was handshaking and meeting of friends that had never met before. All had a jolly good time. Dinner was called about 1 p.m., to which all did justice.

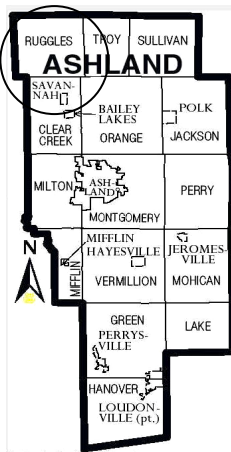
After dinner order was called by J.T. AUSTEN, of Aspenwall, Pa., acting chairman, to transact business for another year. S.S. RAUBENOLT was the acting secretary pro tem. William PEARCE of Beaver Falls, Pa., was elected president, J.T. AUSTEN of Aspenwall, Pa., vice president, S.S. RAUBENOLD secretary of Ohio, James AUSTEN of Monongahela, Pa., secretary of the east, Richard PEARCE of Illinois secretary of the west.

A motion by Robert PEARCE to start a fund for the purpose of defraying expense of having pamphlets printed for the next meeting carried, and the collection taken amounted to \$12.17. S.S. RAUBENOLT was elected treasurer, T.M. GEORGE moved that the next reunion for 1911 be held in Ohio. The motion carried. *(next paragraph of original article was not transcribed).*

The following friends were present: Mrs. H.M BROOK, Bellvue, Pa; Willard and C.M. AUSTEN, Aspenwall, Pa; Ora D. PEARCE, Jeromeville, O; Mrs. J.T. AUSTEN and daughters Elizabeth, Maydelene and Grace, Aspenwall, Pa; Harry D. MALISSA, Wilbur, Robert, Wilson and Ralph FOGAL, Waxford, Pa; R.A. and Angeline PEARCE, Jeromeville, O; Mr. and Mrs. Frank AUSTEN and daughter Maxine, Lakefork, O; Thomas AUSTEN, Funk, O; Mrs. G.W. GARN, Jeromeville, O; Mrs. E.E. GORDON, Bellevue, Pa; Mrs. Arthur HUNTER, Avalon, Pa; Sara G, Helen S, and Edwin GORDON, Bellevue, Pa; J.T. AUSTEN, Aspenwall, Pa; Mr. and Mrs. F.P. WRIGHT, Emsworth, Pa; M.S. AUSTEN, Monongahela, Pa; E.F. GORDON, Bellevue, Pa; James A. AUSTEN, Maria B. AUSTEN, James A MEREDITH, Clyde MEREDITH, Monongahela, Pa; Samuel AUSTEN, Margaret AUSTEN, Gibsonia, Pa; John C AUSTEN, Jeromeville, O; Theo. M. GEORGE and wife and daughter Della, Ashland, O; W.K. TREASE, Lucy TREASE, Rhea TREASE, Mrs. C.A. PEARCE and Mrs. J.C. AUSTEN, Jeromeville, O; Mr. Ed F. WOLF, Ashland, O; Matilda [?]SRUMLICK, Funk, O; Mrs. Edwin AUSTEN, Jeromeville, O; Ruth AUSTEN, Etna, Pa; Ruby AUSTEN, Aspenwall, Pa; Mrs. R.E. AUSTEN, Etna, Pa; J. [?] PEARCE, Ed AUSTEN, Mr. and Mrs. John SNYDER, Jeromeville, O; Mrs. Bertha RAUBENOLD, Lakefork, O; A.R. GRAHAM, Mr. Amanda Graham, New Kensington, Pa; Mr. and Mrs. William WARNER. Sharon, Pa; Mrs. George W. BEAM, Herbert M. BROOKS, Eleanor BROOKS and Herbert M BROOKS, Jr, Bellevue, Pa; William PEARCE, Beaver Falls, Pa; Mrs. M. Milligan PEARCE, Melville PEARCE, John PEARCE, St. Louis; R.M PEARCE, Mrs. Nina M. PEARCE, Alice E. PEARCE, Dorothy J. PEARCE, Beaver Falls, Pa; Hester AUSTEN, Wexford, Pa; Mr. and Mrs. David McKELVY and daughter, Minnie E; Gibsonia, Pa; Charles ANDERSON, Mrs. Nettie ANDERSON, Miss Alma Eilian [?], Allison Park, Pa; Mr. and Mrs. Charles PEARCE, Gibsonia, Pa; Mr. and Mrs. J.L. NEGLEY and children A.L.V., Wayne W, Olive and Reginia H., Tarentum, Pa; James Caven AUSTEN, Clara Barba AUSTEN, Edward Calvin AUSTEN, Catherine GURDRED AUSTEN, Gibsonia, Pa; Lydia E. HILF, Flora Gertrude HILF and Charles Gust HILF, Avalon, Pa; Christian James AUSTEN, Avalon, Pa; Mrs. R.D. AUSTEN and Melvin AUSTEN, Avalon, Pa; E.N. PEARCE, Mrs. MAUD PEARCE, Bessie PEARCE, Albert PEARCE, W.C. PEARCE, Mrs. Edith PEARCE and Beulah F. PEARCE, Gibsonia, Pa; L.L. GRUBBS, Wildwood, Pa; Ella M. PEARCE, Beaver Falls, Pa; L.L. RAUBENOLT, Lakefork, O; D.B. AUSTEN, Pittsburg; R.E. AUSTEN and R.N. AUSTEN, Etna, Pa; Mrs. G.E. AUSTEN and Jean AUSTEN, Pittsburg; D. Edwin AUSTEN and Richard D. AUSTEN, Etna, Pa; Helen ROSS and James ROSS, Mrs. Aalbert PEARCE, Russell PEARCE, Bertha PEARCE, Charles PEARCE and Wilbur AUSTEN, Pittsburg; Charles AUSTEN, Etna. Pa.

In conclusion I would say that one and all of our number from Ohio, of whom there were twenty-six, wish to thank the officials of the P.F.W.&C. for their kindness in furnishing a private car for our accommodations to the city. Also to our eastern friends who so kindly entertained us while visiting at their homes and took their time and money to show us through their places of amusement and prominent places, of which there are many in the city.

The previous Reunion for the AUSTEN-PEARCE Family was in 1908 shared in the Vol 37 (2018) issue #4 of the Pastfinder. We also will share the 1914 and 1918 reunions in the future.



Ashland County has 15 townships of which I am focusing on Ruggles township. If you want to know more than “just the facts” about your ancestors, you’ll want to understand about where and when they lived.

Our Chapter has published 14 Research Aid books and working on the final one for Montgomery Township. If you’re interested in reviewing one of our Research Aid books, check our library or our website for the Order Form. The Ruggles Township Research Aid Book #4 is indexed with 152 pages. It contains the early historical foundation, including how it was formed, early tract book records, tax records, maps, towns, cemeteries readings, Church and school histories, etc. The following is only a sample of our township history.

Ruggles Township is located in the uppermost northwest corner of Ashland County. Its neighbor to the west and north is Huron County, and within Ashland Co, it sits east of Troy Township and North of Clear Creek Township. It’s included in the region known as the Fire Lands, and was originally part of Huron Co. The township was named in honor of Almon RUGGLES, a surveyor retained by the Connecticut Land Company in 1808 and the first county recorder of Huron County. Located in Township 1, Range 20 it was organized in 1826 under the jurisdiction of Huron County. By 1830 there were 271 persons living in the township and by 1846 it became a part of Ashland County from portions of Huron, Lorain, Richland, and Wayne counties. This Fire Lands District of the Western Reserve was designated to compensate the losses of individuals from certain areas of Connecticut whose homes had been burned and destroyed by the British in the Revolutionary War. Thus, many of the first settlers of Ruggles were naturally from these areas in Connecticut.

Some of the earliest land owners in the area was Eben JESUP and Jesup WAKEMAN (both from Fairfield Co, Connecticut), land speculators who originally bought most of the land in the township. (The Research Aid Book for Ruggles Township #4, lists a very extensive report of the original Proprietors of Connecticut and the losses recorded from their lands in that state and when the land was conveyed to them). Some other early surnames are WHITNEY, MERRITT, ARNOLD, BEACH, PARKER, HOOKER, WOLCOTT, SACKETT, and SUTHERLAND.

Ruggles township was attached to New London for civil purposed, until its organization in 1826 when the first Election was held 2 January of that year. (Some of these original voters of the township were, Perry DUNFREE, Reuben FOX, Harvey SACKETT, B. STURTEVANT, Norman CARTER, Jacob ROORBACK, Truman BATES, Abraham FERRIS, Justice BARNES, Ezra D. SMITH, Daniel BEACH, and Aldrich CARVER.

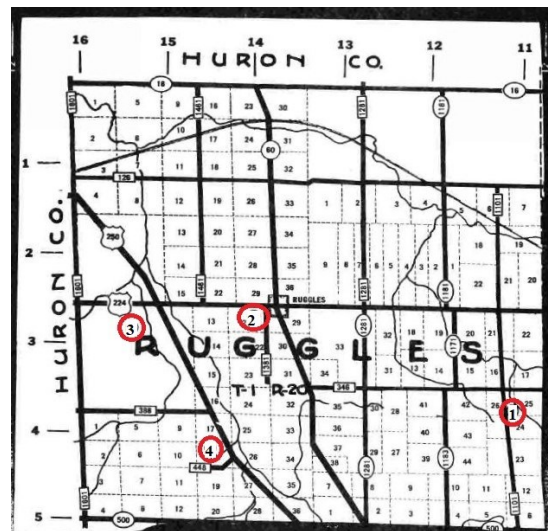
FIRSTS IN THE TOWNSHIP: The first Birth was in 11 Jan 1825 being Wakeman J. BEACH, son of Daniel BEACH. (he married Phebe Ann WASHBURN in New London in 1853). The first Death was in 1826 of Cyrus SANDERS born in Connecticut and nephew of B. STURTEVANT. The second death was that Irena CURTISS. The first Marriage was between James POAG and his second wife, Laura C. SMITH, which occurred 18 Jun 1832, at the home of E.D. SMITH and performed by Daniel BEACH, Esq. The first Saw Mill was built in 1824 by Daniel BEACH just north of Ruggles Corners. The first Store was opened by Josiah BOTSFORD in Ruggles Corners around 1830. First Physician was a Dr. BAKER around 1831. First Post Office was established just south of Ruggles Corners with G.W. CURTISS being the first Post Master. The first Public House was kept by a Mr. McCRADY at Ruggles Corners. In 1824 a schoolhouse was built about 80 rods (1/4 mile) east of Daniel BEACH’s home and Betsey SACKETT was the teacher then. The Research Aid book has recorded many of the early Trustee Records for this township (1841-1852).

William Byron THOM was a “historical columnist”; born in New London, Huron County in 1858. His family had come from Scotland and settled in the New London-Ruggles area. He died in 1945; but during his life he wrote much about the area and was well-traveled. Tom NEEL (from New London and a Ashland Chapter member) compiled his articles and wrote a book “*The Columns of William Byron THOM, New London, Huron County, Ohio: Ruggles, Ashland County, Ohio and the Bee Line Railroad*” which was published in 1992. Within its pages can be found a lot of local and historical tidbits of the people and these communities of the past.

At least two Revolutionary War Solders are buried in Ruggles Township, being Isaac SAMSPON, John CARNEY as well as War of 1812 veterans, Harvey SACKETT, Salmon WESTON, Enoch TAYLOR, and Brahmin JOHNSON. (not to say this is a complete list)

Churches in the area: *Lutheran Church organized 1852 by Rev. John Pope. *First Congregational Church at Ruggles Centre organized 1827. *Methodist Episcopal, formed in 1837, Rev. J.T. MITCHELL of Mount Vernon came once per month and preached either in the house of Hiram TANNER or the log schoolhouse. *Mormon Church, Solomon HANCOCK preached from the Book of Mormon at the Meeting House in Ruggles. *Ruggles Baptist Church, formed late 1830’s, short-lived.

Cemeteries located within Ruggles Township are:



- 1) Old Dutch/German Lutheran Cemetery
- 2) Ruggles Township
- 3) Castle Hill/Sutherland/Crittenden
- 4) Carver Family (an abandoned burial ground)



Ruggles Township is home to CRITTENDEN Farmhouse (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crittenden_Farmhouse), a historic farmstead listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The population as of 2020 census was 955. It is the only Ruggles Township in the state.

WORDS AND SAYINGS THAT HAVE DISAPPEARED OR CHANGED OVER THE PAST GENERATIONS

Can you remember various cliché sayings that you said when you were younger? How about your parents; do you remember them saying things that just didn't make sense to you. Many of these saying that you remember quite vividly will be forgotten and unheard of by your grandchildren. Some of these saying may even be limited to the locale you lived in. Many of these expressions have become obsolete due to progress of time and technology. Some do make it into the Dictionary....most others do not. Some of these you may have known of but not where the term came from. It would be interesting to look up the meanings; also, remember computers won't be able to Spell Check some of these words from the past. We discover that the words we grew up with have vanished, and in time lost to the generations. Future generations will read our correspondence and newspapers and wonder "what were they thinking"! It's good to remember that every generation has its expressions and sayings that relate to only that generation.

Do you remember the phrase "Heavens to Murgatroyd"?

"Let your fingers do the walking" was used in a time when people went shopping from store to store to get what they wanted, so this term was referenced to calling instead of walking. Today, we just order things online - including groceries.

Other words or expression that have become obsolete include phrases such as "Don't touch that dial," "Carbon copy," "You sound like a broken record" or "Hung out to dry." "Don't take any wooden nickels, a "Penny for your thoughts", "It's your Nickel" or "It's your dime" have all gone with the past.

Our senior citizens from a couple generations ago might have used the words like "Jalopy", "whippersnapper", "Not for all the tea in China!" or something was "Swell" or someone had lots of "Moxie". Maybe someone should "Straighten up and Fly Right". They may say we need to put on our best "Bib and Tucker", "Heavens to Betsy!" - "Gee Whillikers! - "Jumping Jehoshaphat!" - "Holy Moley!". Expressions like "In like Flynn" and "Living the life of Riley" or "Kilroy was Here" were common. And, you never wanted to be accused of being a "Knucklehead, a "Nincompoop" or a "Pill". Other common expressions were "Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle!" or "This is a fine kettle of fish!"

The days of spats, knickers, pedal pushers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, beehives, pageboys and the D.A are long gone, along with the saying, such as: "Pshaw", "The milkman did it". "Don't forget to pull the chain", "Knee high to a grasshopper", "Fiddlesticks!" "Going like sixty", "I'll see you

in the funny papers", "Don't get your knickers in a twist", "Wake up and smell the roses", "see ya' later alligator" (and to finish that phrase, "after while crocodile!". There are many other lost words and expressions, more than "Carter has little liver pills".

Items also have taken on changes in names from such as the "Ice Box" or "Fridge". Do you ever use the word "telephone" or is it just "phone" or "cell". Words like "take-out" may have a new meaning in the future. What was once where you lived is now your "pad". And, where are your "Peepers".

There are even some advertisement and movie slogans that have crossed over into common usage. Some of them are "Where's the beef", "The only thing missing is U", "I'll be back!", "Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz"

There are many, many others terms from the past AND present, but some that I can think of are:

You're in The Doghouse	In the Family Way
Indian Giver	Jack of All Trades
Johnny On the Spot	A Dark Horse
Okey-Dokey	Knuckle Sandwich
Jump on the Bandwagon	Bust a Gut
It Ain't Over Till The Fat Lady Sings	

One last thought, will Superman find a phone booth...in the next generation?

So the next time you say a cliché word, think about what it will mean to our generations that come after us. Will they laugh and say how strange we were?

Terry HAUN



***A Pedigree Chart is Great For Connecting Ancestors -
A Timeline Is Great For Understanding What Happened To Our Ancestors
- Piedmont Trails***

DID YOU KNOW ???

THAT- Fold3 has recently announced a new Revolutionary War Burial Index, which contains over 67,000 records for veterans who died between 1775 and 1875; and contains valuable details for your patriot while helping to locate other records such as military rolls, service records, pension files, and vital records. Also, full-text searches can be used for their Revolutionary War Pension Files. While this collection is extensive, it is not comprehensive, and not all Revolutionary War veterans are included. Fold3 is a subscription site, but can be accessed for free at any FamilySearch Center). Their website www.fold3.com/blog/new-revolutionary-war-burial-index/

THAT - New Jersey marriage certificates for 1953 are now available for in-person research at the New Jersey State Archives. And FamilySearch has a searchable name index of New Jersey county marriage records 1682-1966; and Internet Archive has a New Jersey Marriage Index, 1901-2016 which contains all brides from 1901-2000, and most, but not all, grooms. A complete New Jersey State Archives Searchable Catalog is found at: https://www.dnet-dos.nj.gov/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/NJSArchivesCatalogMain.aspx

THAT - FamilySearch's Full Text Search (which was first announced in 2024) is now out of Beta. If you've tried the Full Text Search with little results, you might want to visit one of their FamilySearch Center or Affiliate locations. You might find approximately 50% more hits with this method. The full text search results follow the licensing restrictions of the collections on FamilySearch. That means if an item is only viewable from a FamilySearch Centre or Affiliate, it won't be included in the results returned when one does a full text search from home. See their locations at the following site: <https://locations.familysearch.org/en/search>. And, did you know, OGS Library in Belleville, Ohio is an Affiliate location?



Family History Tells America's Story.

As we commemorate "America at 250" in 2026, this is a perfect time to recognize the ancestors that contributed to our founding. It is important that we share the stories of these Revolutionary War soldiers who may have ended up on the now-present Ashland County, Ohio. This is how we can honor them and pass their story to the next generation. They need not be just those who made the history books...but also those who lived and died in this community. They all contributed.

If you'd like to share your patriots story
submit your story to: accogspresident@gmail.com.

DID YOU KNOW ???

When you think of the Pennsylvania Archives, what do you think of? Sometimes people are referring to the building, other times it would be the books. There is a difference between the "Pennsylvania State Archives" and the "Pennsylvania Archives".

The Pennsylvania State Archives is the building with records of the Pennsylvania State Government and is part of the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC). Located in the state capitol of Harrisburg, PA, it is open to the public for research of its myriad of historical and genealogical resources.

However, The *Pennsylvania Archives* is a series of books compiled between the years 1838-1935 covering colonial times through the Civil war period. . Many of the oldest records of Pennsylvania are contained in these series of books. This information may not be available anywhere else as the original records from which they come are no longer available. Many libraries and Historical or genealogy societies have some or all of the series on their shelves. However, there are also digital copies of some of these various volumes available online. Some of these are available to download or view online at [FamilySearch](#), [Internet Archives](#), and [Fold3](#).

"Internet Archive", an online repository of numerous books, manuscripts, videos, and a wide-variety of historical reading, contains the book "Guide to the Published Pennsylvania Archives" at https://archive.org/details/guidetopublished00penn_0. Also, the Pennsylvania State Archives website has a description of what is in each of the ten series <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/phmc/pa-state-archives/research-online/research-guides/published-pa-archives>

There were 10 series of historical records (138 volumes) in this collection.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives Colonial Series* (16 volumes)
2. *Pennsylvania Archives* (no series number) (12 volumes)
3. *Pennsylvania Archives Second Series* (19 volumes)
4. *Pennsylvania Archives Third Series* (30 volumes)
5. *Pennsylvania Archives Fourth Series* (12 volumes)
6. *Pennsylvania Archives Fifth Series* (18 volumes)
7. *Pennsylvania Archives Sixth Series* (15 volumes)
8. *Pennsylvania Archives Seventh Series* (5 volumes)
9. *Pennsylvania Archives Eighth Series* (8 volumes)
10. *Pennsylvania Archives Ninth Series* (10 volumes)

There is a LOT of information in these volumes, but it would take some diligent time to research it all. Sometimes it may seem like "a needle in a haystack" to find this information, but the rewards might make it all worthwhile.

ASHLAND COUNTY CHAPTER NEWS



Welcome To Our NEWEST CHAPTER MEMBERS -

We invite you to submit queries to the newsletter which help connect to others researching your same family. We hope you enjoyed our Welcome Packet of information to help you in your research.

You can start by submitting a copy of your five-generation chart to the Chapter for insertion in our 5-generation book located in the Genealogy room of the Ashland Library.

Send in your free query for the year.

- **Jane EDSON** - From Wichita, Kansas. Researching SMITH, McCREADY, STONEBRAKER, STONE. She can be reached at jbdsn@aol.com

WELCOME TO OUR CHAPTER !

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2027

In October, we will be electing our new officers for the coming year.

Elected Officers are President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

Appointed positions are Librarian, Web Master, and Newsletter.

Consider applying for one of these positions to support the Chapter and the Volunteers who are already helping.

ASHLAND COUNTY CHAPTER LINEAGE SOCIETIES?

Those interested in applying to one of the Ashland County Lineage Societies should complete the application by **August 31, 2026** which are available at the Chapter Library in the Ashland Public Library or at the Ashland County Genealogical Society website. You need not be a member to apply. Application fee of \$15 for all applicants. If you want a copy of the form or have questions or need help, contact our Lineage Chairperson,

Marleen APPLEGATE (ACCOGSLineage@gmail.com).

Requirement for Lineage Societies follows:

- ♦ **First Families of Ashland County**
Proving the applicant's ancestors were living in Ashland County prior to 1850, and there is a direct lineage from the ancestor to the applicant.
- ♦ **Settlers and Builders of Ashland County**
The pioneer ancestor must have been in Ashland County between Jan 1851 and Dec 31, 1870. Again, there must be a direct line from ancestor to the applicant.
- ♦ **Century Families of Ashland County**
The pioneer ancestor must have been in Ashland County between January 1871 and December 31 one hundred years prior to application year. (*currently, this would be 1926*) Must be a direct line from ancestor to applicant.

OGS Fall Retreat

Join us September 11-12, 2026 at our own Ohio Genealogical Society Library in Bellville, Ohio for a fun retreat where you can interact in small groups with our speakers and enjoy the OGS Library at this time. Hybrid options are available for those who wish to join virtually. Registration is available at www.ogs.org/event/2026-ogs-fall-retreat/ and deadline is Aug 28.

Attendance is limited to the first fifty registered attendees. (OGS Library is located just off I-71 on St. Rt. 97 W)

Our Featured Speakers for the 2026 Fall Retreat are: Eric E. JOHNSON, Deborah KITKO (MLIS), Lauren KUNTMAN, and Thomas S. NEEL (MLIS). We look forward to seeing you there!





ACCOGS CHAPTER LIBRARY

Located 2nd Floor of Ashland Public Library, 224 Claremont Ave, Ashland, Ohio. Assistants available most Tuesday and Thursday mornings (9-12). Contact Ginny FEIBER @vfeiber@zoominternet.net for other arrangements.

We host a Genealogy and Local History research room on the upper level of the Ashland Public Library. It is open during normal Library hours; and is maintained jointly by the chapter and Ashland Public Library. It contains Family Histories (over 600 Family Surname books, binders, or pamphlets, local history (including church and school resources) as well as Obituary files, Chapter Lineage files, and local newspapers on microfilm from 1852 to Dec 2018. Our Chapter Library also contains several rows of other research materials pertaining to other Ohio counties and States. Our ATG OBIT INDEX file is updated yearly adding the previous years obits from the Ashland Times Gazette (ATG) through 2025

(Most materials in this collection are not cataloged in the Ashland Public Library System as they are owned by the Chapter.)

Recent Donations to the Chapter Library

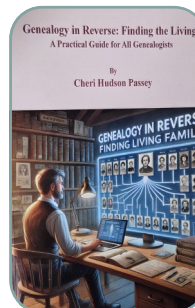
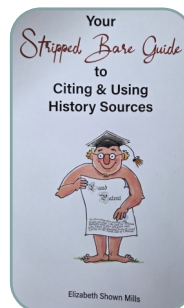
- ◆ GAULT Research Group - Descendants of the GAULT Brothers of Washington Co, Pennsylvania (3 vol)
- ◆ Deana APPLGATE - Biographical History of Northeastern Ohio (an Index), Images of America, The Village of Lincolnwood Cemetery; Inscriptions Adams Co., Ohio Meigs Twp.
- ◆ Tom NEEL - Royal Arch Masons, Ashland Chapter #67 Minutes (various years 1855-1969), Membership Dues (various years 1920-2010), Financial (1951-1960), Visitors Register (1943-1954)
- ◆ Genealogical Publishing Company - Your Stripped Bare Guide & Using History Sources (Elizabeth SHOWN MILLS)
- Genealogy in Reverse: Finding the Living (Cheri HUDSON PASSEY)

BOOK REVIEW FROM GENEALOGICAL PUBLISHING CO (By Tom NEEL)

Joe Garonzik of the Genealogical Publishing Company in Baltimore MD donated two books to our Ashland County Chapter while we were exhibiting at the Ohio Genealogical Society Conference, and he invites readers to check out some of their other titles, both reprints of classics and new works, on their website – genealogical.com

Your Stripped Bare Guide to Citing & Using History Sources (GPC #2839, ISBN 9780806321523, \$27.00, 138 p.) by Elizabeth Shown Mills (2025) is a basic citation manual that she says is “less intimidating for [the] new researcher” than her masterpiece, *Evidence Explained* (2007), now in its 4th edition. Recalling “the cringes I caused myself,” Mills stresses simplicity for the user by employing universal citation templates for each record group – books, manuscripts, newspapers, digital resources, etc. An author should identify the 5 W’s – Where, When, Who, What, Why – when exploring the source for a fact about an ancestor. Mills includes guidelines for analyzing the quality of evidence; the difference between direct, indirect, and conflicting references; rules for documentation; and the construction of footnotes and bibliographic notes – title, description, place of creation, date, where accessed, publisher, and more. With many tables, a great key, bibliography, and index, this is a must purchase for the serious genealogist.

Genealogy in Reverse: Finding the Living, by Cheri Hudson Passey (GPC #4882, ISBN 9780806321516, \$19.95, 54 p.) is also a 2025 publication by a YouTuber (GenFriends Genealogy Chat Show). The author, a former investigator seeking families of MIA soldiers, introduces the reader to genealogical software, DNA basics, the Genealogical Proof Standard, social media venues, public record databases, and photo collections, in addition to websites that might be utilized in a search for living descendants of an ancestor. There is a section on introducing yourself to newly found cousins who might be “very suspicious of unsolicited contact.” Although a great title, the author mentions sites such as BeenVerified and FindaGrave, but does not employ case studies to identify the detailed methodology needed to get that search in reverse for the living to work.



The Pastfinder is the quarterly newsletter of the Ashland County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society and is issued four times a year. The Newsletter is for you, our members. Please submit articles of interest with name of the newspaper, date, and page number. (We always want to see our sources.) Also, your name as contributor is requested. We look forward to hearing from you.

We WELCOME suggestions for input in the newsletter: Pastfinder Editor, Terry HAUN (AshOGSeditor@gmail.com)

2026 ACCOGS CHAPTER PROGRAMS

(Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.. Unless noted below, Jan-Feb-Mar meetings are Virtual Meetings using "Zoom" as our platform. April-Oct will be Hybrid (which means Virtual and "in person") unless otherwise noted. Held at the FREER Home, 1260 Center St, Ashland, Ohio except the July Picnic. Check our Facebook Page and Website for any changes.)



JUL 21 - Chapter Potluck Picnic. Held at Freer Community Center. Begins at 5:30 PM.

AUG 18 - "Ohio and World War I: Reconstructing your Ancestor's Military Service Records" by Eric E. JOHNSON

SEP 15 - "The Trails Through Penn's Woods, records of Colonial Pennsylvania" with Sandra RUBLE (VIRTUAL ONLY)

OCT 20 - "The Witch of Mansfield: The Wretched Life of Phebe WISE" with Mark SEBASTIAN

NOV 10 - CHAPTER LINEAGE BANQUET - "American Royalty Grace KELLY and Jackie BOUVIER KENNEDY ONASSIS" with Julie KOENIG. (*Reservations required; \$25 per person at Freer Home; social hour begins at 6 PM*)

NOV 17 - Chapter Cookie Exchange (Begins at 6:30 PM at Freer Home) Everyone bring cookies or recipes and exchange.

DECEMBER - No Meeting (Happy Holidays !)

OTHER 2026 PROGRAMS / CONFERENCES

Jun 21-26 GRIP Virtual - (with Drew SMITH and Katie CRICHTON).\$\$ <https://grip.ngsgenealogy.org>

SEP - OGS Fall Conference: at the Samuel D. Isaly Library in Bellville, OH (see page 21 for more info)

**** Check conferencekeeper.org.** Their website states "*the most complete collection of Genealogy events online*". If you're interested in a program that isn't mentioned, check their site. They list Conferences, Virtual Events, Podcasts, Genealogy YouTube Channels, etc..

WANTED - NEWSLETTER EDITOR FOR 2026

(From Terry HAUN, Your Current Newsletter Editor)

The Chapter is still looking for someone who would take over publishing the Chapter Newsletter on a permanent basis in the next year.

The new Editor does NOT have to be a local chapter member, they can live away and do it remote. It would help to have some typing skills and knowledge of Word and/or Publisher. The Editor comes up with the articles of interest to members and able to research to write the various articles, though there is often help from our members. If someone is interested in the position, contact me at AshOGSeditor@gmail.com. I would be available to help the new Newsletter Editor create and write up the articles with a variety of sources and continue to provide various articles in the future. This can all be done from your computer and the internet at home (in your jammies, if you like) Our members are the bloodline of our chapter and we are here for you, but we need your involvement to keep it actively relative to our Chapter goal.

Thank you all for your help in keeping our chapter in the forefront of Ashland County Genealogy.

CHAPTER PUBLICATIONS:

Our Ashland County Chapter has many published Ashland County research aid books for sale.

Visit our website, <https://ashlandccogs.org/publications/publications-order-form/> for descriptions of them. You can order online, or print the order form and mail to the address shown.

THE PASTFINDER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ASHLAND
COUNTY CHAPTER, OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Ashland County Chapter
Ohio Genealogical Society
PO Box 681
Ashland OH 44805-0681

POSTAGE
HERE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailing Label

Ashland County Chapter of OGS Lineage Societies

Ashland County Lineage Society applications can be printed out from our web site. Go to the ASHLAND CHAPTER link of our website. **August 31 is the yearly deadline for induction.** See Marleen APPEGATE, Lineage Chair for questions

◆ First Families of Ashland County

(FFOAC). Pioneer ancestor must have been in Ashland County prior to 1850.

◆ Settler's & Builders of Ashland Co, OH

(SBOAC). Pioneer ancestor must have been in Ashland County between January 1851 and December 31, 1870.

◆ Century Families (CFOAC). Pioneer ancestor must have been in Ashland County between January 1871 and December 31 one hundred years prior to application year.

Newsletter Editor: Terry HAUN
Newsletter Mailing: Pat DEANE

Chapter Membership

Ashland Chapter OGS Membership
\$5-Student; \$15.00-Single;
\$20.00-Family (one address)
Life—\$150.00 (S) or \$225.00 (F)

Send to Linda FULK, Treasurer
P.O. Box 681, Ashland, Ohio 44805
Membership year is January -December

See our website for an Application Form
**[https://ashlandccogs.org/membership/
membership-form/](https://ashlandccogs.org/membership/membership-form/)**

Chapter Meetings

The Ashland County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society meets the **third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.**

Program at 6:30 pm with Chapter business meeting immediately following. Chapter meets all months except July (annual Picnic), November (Fall Banquet, reservations only), and no meeting in December.

All meetings are free and open to the public.

Chapter Library

*Located 2nd Floor Ashland Public Library
(224 Claremont Ave, Ashland, Ohio 44805)*

Volunteers

(Ginny WARNES FEIBER - Library Coordinator)
(Linda WARNES FULK - Library Assistant)

Ginny FEIBER; vfeiber@zoominternet.net

Ashland County Chapter website

<http://ashlandccogs.org>

Ishu SAKTHIVEL, Webmaster

Meeting Cancellations

In-Person Meeting will be cancelled if schools are closed due to bad weather.

For other types of cancellations, check our Facebook page or listen to WNCO or WMFD.



Like us on Facebook

FIND US ON THE INTERNET:

Our Chapter Website: <http://ashlandccogs.org>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AshlandGenSoc

CHAPTER CONTACTS: Corres.Secretary: ACOGSSEC@gmail.com (OR) Newsletter: AshOGSeditor@gmail.com

The Ashland County Chapter OGS is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization; donations to the Society are tax deductible. Your gifts help us buy books for the library, acquire speakers for our programs, and provide the means to publish our books. Consider a gift above and beyond your annual membership to help preserve the records left by our Ashland County pioneers.