

UNTO THESE HILLS

Introduction

If the hills, rocks, and streams of the beautiful Federal Valley could talk, what stories they might have to tell! Obviously, however, they cannot, so we must rely on the records that have been kept through diaries, letters, logs, and stories that have been told to one another and finally written down. From the history, we can use our imagination to know what our area was like many years ago. Imagine the virgin timber before land was cleared to make room for and to build the homes. Imagine the sounds of the birds and various types of game that roamed the area before the hunters started in. Imagine the streams before there were any old washing machines to throw into them or drainage ditches to run into them. Imagine the trails made by Indians, animals, and early settlers before the paved roads and squealing tires came to conquer all.

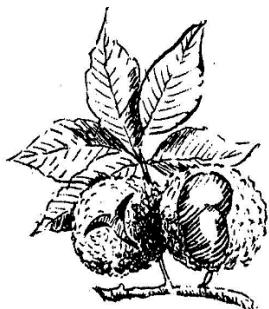
The Ames-Bern area still is a beautiful area in which to live. Many have prospered from this land; many have not. It has seen the Indian come and go, leaving evidence of his presence by the many arrow heads and pieces of flint that the farmer finds when he plows every spring. It has seen the early settler come up from Marietta and settle to farm. That early settler was a curious man, an educated man, one who wanted to learn more as has been evidenced by the founding of the Coonskin Library and such institutions as Ohio University, the oldest in the Northwest Territory.

The land has seen hard working men, who have not been afraid to dirty their hands, men who have not been afraid to stand up for what they believed. For instance, the "Underground Railway" went through this section of Ohio. There were various caves in the area where slaves were sheltered as they made their way north to Canada. Eli Brown was one of the "conductors" who sheltered slaves. (His home and farm are now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Henry.)

The land has seen courageous men, who went to war when it was necessary. Orrie Woolley often told of his father who marched with Sherman to the sea in the Civil War. When his father got out of the army, he had to make his way home the best way he could. He walked, of course, and he got food (bread and crocks of r asking at farm houses.

The land has seen many people and many changes over the years. We call it progress. We call it modernization. We may think that it is good, but we must realize that with the progress we have lost a great deal. Perhaps we can bring some of that back by reading the many selections that the good people of this area have worked so hard and researched to write for us. As you read them, use your imagination, and it might seem that those old hills are telling you their stories.

-Mrs. Lloyd Peyton



Buckeyes—State Tree

Where the West Began There are foreign lands Steeped in traditions gray with time Great cities with towers high Vistas by eastern and western seas, we But, the Buckeye Hills are mine, where smoke from chimneys climb Incense to gods the hill folks know. Where the plowman blends A living silhouette on a distant ridge Against a sunrise sky. Where life is rich in sturdy things Beyond the reach of gold. Rugged, broken ever changing High green hills, Paintings of the old school Great canvasses beyond the dreams of mind and paint and brush. Hanging in Ohio galleries Immortal and eternal. Life is full-contentment everywhere In the Buckeye Hills The garden spot of earth. Hills they are that build strong, from whose changing moods of calm and storm came seasoned men. Who hurled our empire Westward to the sea?

Anonymous

Coonskin Library

The first library was an accomplishment of Ames pioneers that has caught and held the interest of scholars over the years. This was certainly one of the finest examples of civic improvement by our early settlers. The idea for the library was born at a road meeting about 1803, after the matter of roads had been discussed. The settlers had almost no reading materials, and they wanted books to read.

How to pay for the books was the problem. Their business was usually done by barter, and little real money was in circulation. The lack of money did not stop them, for in the forest were wild animals for the hunting, and the pelts could be sold in the East for money to buy the books. The decision was made and plans were soon in the making.

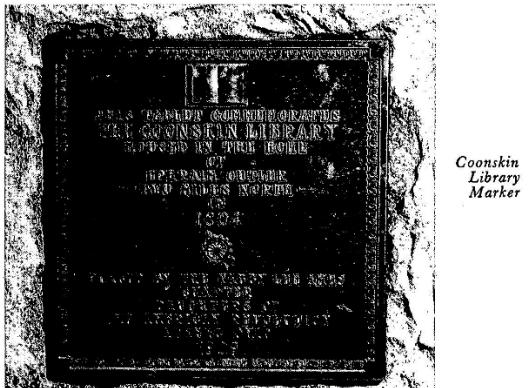
In the spring of 1804 Samuel B. Brown was ready to make a trip to Boston to move his family to Ames township. This would be quite a trip by today's standards. Riding horses over land, floating down rivers, swimming creeks, he must always have been protecting his load from robbers or possible Indian attack. The library group gave him their furs (mostly raccoon) to sell on his trip, setting up an account for Books which Brown and Ephraim Cutler, who accompanied him, were able to buy in Boston. Reverend Manasseh Cutler and Reverend Thaddeus M. Harris helped in the selection of the books. There were 51 books in their first purchase costing \$73.50, and some of them were Robertson's North America, Harris's Encyclopedia, Morse's Geography, Adam's Truth of Religion, and Goldsmith's Works.

Those early books dealt mostly with religion, travel, biography, or history. In December of 1804, at the home of Silvanus Ames, these books were turned over to the literary association. At a meeting in 1804 Ephraim Cutler was elected Librarian and kept the books in his home.

Thomas Ewing, Ohio University's first graduate said, "There never was a library better read." The Coonskin Library books in the display at the Ohio State Museum were willed to the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society by Sarah J. Cutler of Marietta. Other books from the library are on display in the archives of Ohio University Library.

The only visible thing in Amesville to tell about the library is a commemorative marker placed near the First National Bank in 1925 by the Nabby Lee Ames D.A.R. Chapter of Athens.

By- Nellie B. Woolley



THE DIVISION

As settlements grew, portions of the original 360 square miles of Ames Township were drawn from its boundary to make new townships. By 1828 it had been reduced to 6 square miles, which has remained its dimension to this date 1975.

Shareholders of the Library, who lived in the newly formed townships, usually sold their holdings back to the Library or to individual buyers — all but Dover Township; its readers wanted books. On April 30, 1830, with due procedure and permission granted, Dover readers withdrew a proportionate share of the books and \$7 in cash. Thus, was the Dover Library Association formed. The first director was Josiah True and the books were housed in his home and those of his descendants, Austin True and Sarah True Sprague, until 1906 when the existing portion of the books was given to Ohio University. Recently the books were placed in the archives of the new Alden Library on the University Campus, Athens, Ohio.

The parent association continued in Ames Township under its original name, The Western Library Association, until 1861 when it was sold to three shareholders, J. H. Glazier, E. H. Brawley and A. W. Glazier, who soon abandoned the effort of managing the library, and sold it to William P. Cutler in Marietta, father of Sarah J. Cutler, who was the contributor of the remaining Ames Township library books to the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio --- first by loan, and later as a gift through her will.

When and how the name of "Coonskin Library" became the accepted title is not known. Pondering the change, one may assume that a shorter name was desired, or perhaps, the simpler name seemed more in keeping with the pioneer spirit and plan that brought about the purchase of those first 51 books.

By- Mary Bowman Grosvenor

Wild Life During Pioneer Days There was an abundance of wild game and birds throughout Athens County when the first settlers came here. Amesville was especially noted for its great number of raccoons. This was the main factor for the building of the famous Coonskin Library. The proceeds for the library were derived from the sale of "coon" pelts. You can bet it took a lot of pelts at 35¢ each! But we must take into consideration the fact that labor and materials were also low at this time.

This territory was known as the great Ohio Wilderness, as it was covered by great virgin timber. This being the case, there wasn't enough cleared land to farm, or raise much livestock. Therefore, the settlers had to depend on their hunting skill to produce their food and a little money for their few needs. Meat from wild animals furnished their main source of food, except in summer when there were wild fruit and berries which could be used to some extent. Besides the large number of "coons" there were also numerous deer, elk, bear, wolves, mountain lion or panthers as the old timers called them. Also, there were fox, otter, mink, skunk, wild hog, woodchuck, rabbits, and squirrels too numerous to count.

From wild birds as a source of food there were numerous wild turkeys, quail, grouse, geese, and ducks, as well as the famous carrier pigeon.

The Indians called it the happy hunting ground, or the land of plenty. But fortunately, the Indians didn't settle too thickly in this territory after they learned from their brothers of vast herds of buffalo farther west. The great plains led to the buffalo's downfall, as it would have been almost impossible to annihilate them in the wilderness.

It has often been said the Indians or true Americans have proven to be smarter than the so-called Americans of today. The Indians killed only what they needed to eat, or for the various items derived from skins, bones, teeth, and other by-products. The Indians were supposed to be the savages, but now the tables have turned. Some of the people today look much more like savages. The Indians have made the U.S. government pay millions of dollars for the land stolen from their ancestors.

Getting back to the wild game, we often wonder how the selfish and thoughtless hunters completely exterminated so many different kinds of game. But really it was done by persistent, relentless killing, just for sport. The larger game could be tracked down in the snow, while the smaller game was destroyed by everyone hunting continuously as if it were their occupation. Some of the cartridge companies have been quoted as paying as low as a nickel a piece for buffalo tongues. This was done to sell their ammunition.

It is said to be over a hundred years since we have had elk and bear in Ohio. Fifty years ago, there was hardly a single deer in the state. However, deer have made a comeback, and they are now numerous throughout the state.

Conservation helps to a certain extent, but it is not nearly so effective as the Indians' method of teaching to honor and obey from the day they are born. They had enough honor to return for a death sentence at a certain date, for a crime, after being set free for a year. Therefore, they didn't need prisons. How many could you trust to that extent today?

The fur industry today runs into millions of dollars. This fact should not be considered lightly, as it is a great source of income for many. But instead of promoting this great source of sport and income, they are trying to pass a law abolishing hunting and trapping. If this were to come to pass, you can imagine how fast the animals would become overpopulated. They would soon become so numerous the farmer would be unable to raise anything. This would be another factor to increase our fast approaching famine.

Among the most common of our animals of the past is the lowly opossum. They have survived down through the ages over man, predators, disease, and all the elements of nature. They are found over most all of North America. In spite of their stubborn resistance they are considered one of the least intelligent of all animals. Their most common means of defense is to play dead when attacked by other animals. However, the male will fight savagely at mating time, and it is a match for many animals its size or larger.

It would be almost impossible for our wild game to return to Ohio to the extent they were when Ohio was first settled. This is due largely to the vast increase in population and the larger numbers of hunters. Many of these hunters spend their entire vacation in the woods and kill as much game as possible. Then there are the hunters who never did work as well as the thousands who are presently unemployed. Taking these facts into consideration, it surely indicates our wild game of the past are going to remain in the past. This being the case, if hunting is permitted to continue without conservation, wild game would soon become inbred and die of disease. In other words, if we take the Indians' advice, we can live in a land of plenty.

Dana McClanahan



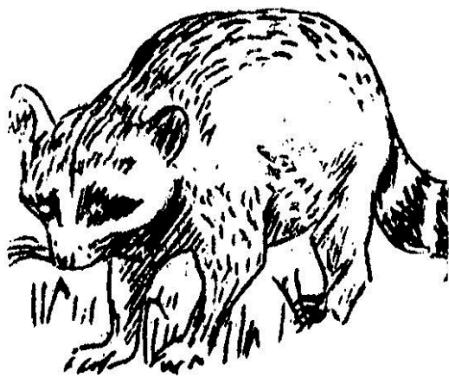
Ephraim Cutler

In 1797 a man named Ephraim Cutler purchased six-hundred acres of Ohio Territory land from Captain John Dodge. Cutler made a trip west to view his land. Upon his return to Massachusetts, he discussed the possibility of settling the new land with two friends, Captain Benjamin Brown and Lt. George Ewing. The three men struck a bargain in which Cutler would sell Brown and Ewing each one-hundred acres of land and he would give each of them one hundred acres, and they would "unite in commencing a settlement." Thus, these three men became the first to blaze a trail through the wilderness to their Ames Township land; they were first to clear a dwelling place, first to cut and shape the logs for their cabin homes, first to bring their families here, and first of about 28 families soon to become a part of the settlement.

In 1795 Ephraim Cutler accepted the agency of the Ohio Company, in which he had been a shareholder from the start. The journey to this area was made in wagons across the mountains to the headwaters of the Ohio, thence down the river in a small flat boat. While descending the river they lost two of their children, Hezekiah, the youngest, and Mary, the oldest, whose bodies were buried on the bank of the Ohio. Ephraim Cutler settled in Ames in 1797 having brought his wife Leah, and four children: Nancy, Charles, Mary, and Daniel. For the next several years Mr. Cutler devoted himself to developing the interests of the Ohio Company and of the Amesville settlement. He took a leading part in the educational, political, and social events. As early as 1801 a school was taught by Moses Everett, a young graduate of Harvard, in a room in Ephraim Cutler's home. Mr. Cutler held many public offices. While serving as Judge he led the opposition to slavery in Ohio. In 1806 Judge Cutler moved to Washington County, settling on the Ohio River about six miles below

Marietta. The Cutler farm in Ames township, was later sold to George and Mandy Anderson and the land was divided among their three children, Bessie Anderson Hines, Charlie, and Doc. The Cutler home is now owned by William Hines, and it is located on Route 329 about 1/2 miles north of Amesville.

Nellie Woolley



Thomas Ewing

George Ewing was probably the first white settler in what is now Ames township. He came to this wilderness area in the spring of 1798 and settled on what later was called the Thomas Gardner Farm. He had a bright and sharp mind and was well educated. He was an active supporter of schools and worked hard for a better community. He served as a township trustee. He had a son, Thomas, who was born in West Virginia in 1789 and came to Ames township with his father when he was nine years old.

Thomas was taught to read by an aunt, and it is said that by the time he was eight years old he had read the Bible through. He had a thirst for knowledge and would walk miles to get a book to read. Tom's first years in the Ames area were lonely, so he spent time with his small spaniel dog in the woods. Tom's first teachers were Moses Everett and Charles Cutler. He worked a year or two at the Kanawha salt works to get money to attend Ohio University. He was in the first graduating class in 1815. After graduation he studied law at Lancaster and was admitted to the bar in 1816. He married Maria Wills Boyle in 1820, and they had six children. Later he became a famous Senator, a Cabinet member, the father of three Union generals, and the foster father of W. Tecumseh Sherman,

Thomas Gardner bought the Ewing Farm and today Mrs. Theodore Fleming lives there. It is here that the famous Ewing Rock is located. It was on this rock that young Tom rehearsed his speeches, this was also near the Coonskin Library which furnished him reading material as he grew up. When they were collecting skins to buy books for this library, young Tom donated all his coon skins (ten) to help buy the books. Nellie Woolley

Edward R. Ames

On the Jones farm, on Route: 329, near Amesville, was born Bishop Edward R. Ames, famous leader of the Methodist Church, and the third son of Judge Silvanus Ames, a man of distinguished lineage, who came to the Ohio country from Massachusetts. The Ames log cabin, built in 1800, stood near the present barn on the Jones farm.

Judge Ames married Nabby Lee Johnson in 1795, and came to the Northwest Territory in 1798, first locating at Belpre. His father was a graduate of Harvard and an Episcopalian clergyman, who served as a chaplain in the Revolutionary war and died at Valley Forge, during the famous severe winter of 1777-78.

The Ames family were leaders in Athens County. Silvanus was the second Sheriff of the County, H Colonel of the local Militia, a trustee of the Ohio University for years, Judge of the County Courts, and a member of the legislature of Ohio.

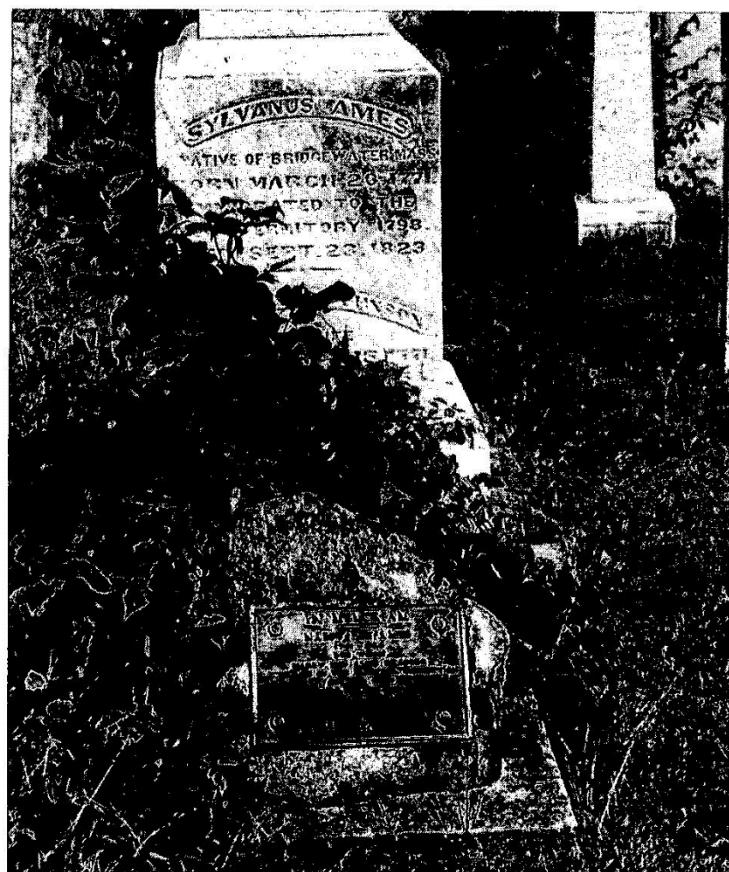
Edward R. Ames was born May 20, 1806, and in early life read the books in the Coonskin Library at Amesville. He enrolled at Ohio University where he earned his way through several years of study by teaching. He became a member of the Methodist Church. While in college, he attended a conference of the Ohio Methodists in Chillicothe in 1828, and so impressed leaders of the church that he was urged to go West.

He attended church conferences in the state of Indiana, and went to Lebanon, Ill. where he opened a high school. In 1830 he was licensed to preach and traveled over a great area as a circuit rider. Before the days of the railroad he was famous in missionary work in the central west, and traveled 25,000 miles in four years in this work.

In 1852, at the age of 46, he was elected a bishop and was considered one of the most eloquent preachers of the United States. During the greater part of his adult life he resided in Indiana, and in late life removed to Baltimore, Md. He often visited Athens. The high school he started in Illinois later became McKendree College. He was licensed to preach by the famous Methodist leader, Rev. Peter Cartwright, and was the first Chaplain ever elected by an Indian Council, serving the Choctaws in 1842. He was the first Methodist bishop to visit the Pacific Coast area.

During the days of the Civil War when the Methodist Church divided into North and South sections, Bishop Ames was sent to New Orleans by President Lincoln to take charge of church property in the South. He died at Baltimore, Md. April 25, 1879.

Divella Jones



Sylvanus Ames & Nabby Lee Ames Marker



Amesville Covered Bridge

Beasley-Donaldson History

As early as 1823, the name of Beasley appeared in the history of the Ames area when George Beasley (age 12) with his parents, John and Elizabeth Beasley, came from Virginia and settled in Bern Township. Here, George attended the subscription schools and remained in the family home until he was nineteen. He married Mary A. Gardner in 1830, who was a daughter of the Ames pioneer Thomas Gardner, and they had ten children. George was an energetic man and became a successful farmer and stock-raiser.

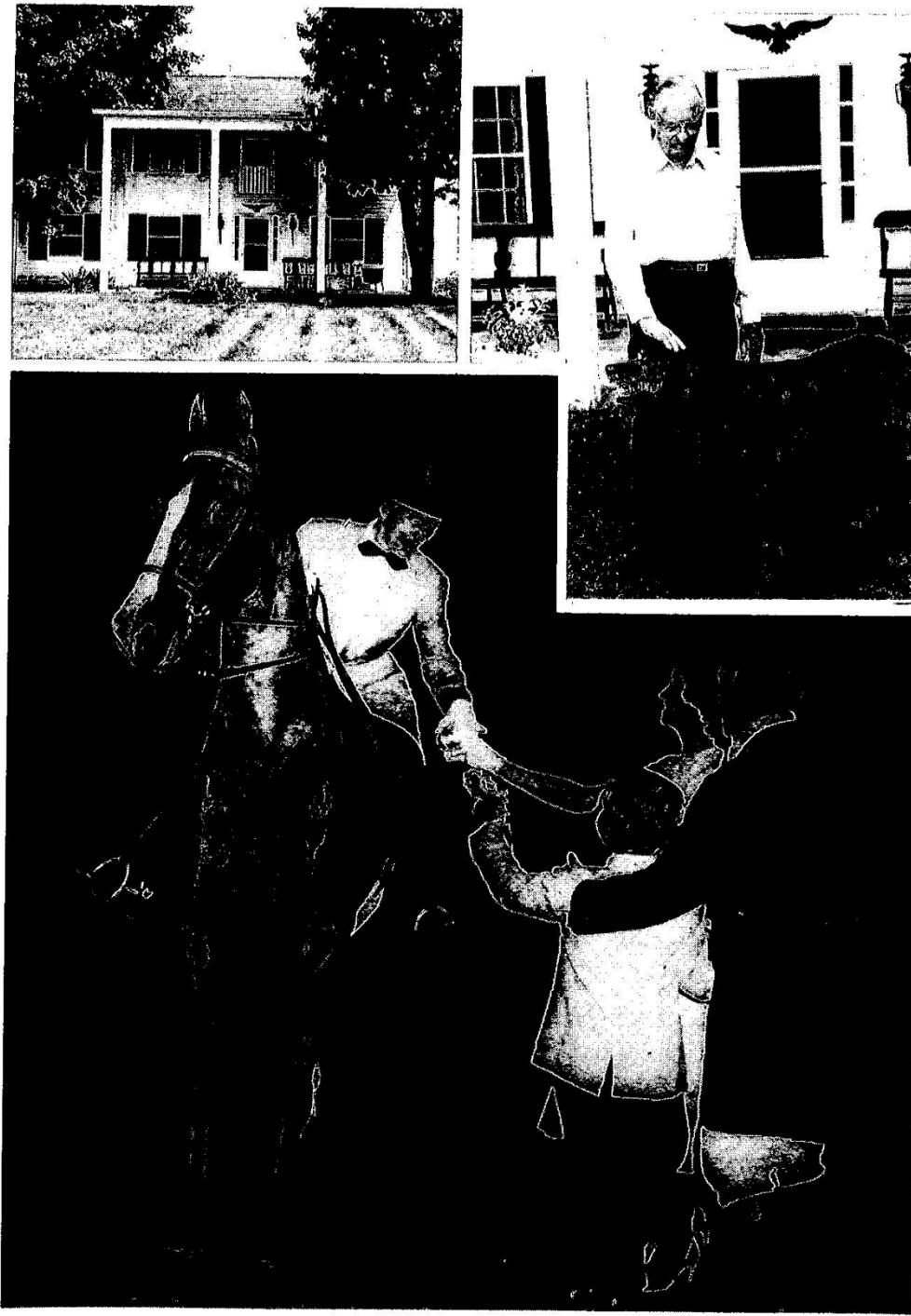
John J. Beasley, the third son of George and Mary Beasley, followed in his father's profession of raising and dealing in livestock. However, that phase of his life came after having served throughout the Civil War. He became the owner of a 235-acre farm in Ames Township which he adapted to raising stock. He married Mazeppa Hill (1871), daughter of Solomon Hill, a pioneer of Athens County. They had one child, Austin, and made their home in Amesville.

Another generation of businessmen was represented by Frank J. Beasley who was first a farmer and stock raiser and later turned his attention to the grain milling industry. His relationship to the pioneer families afore described is not known at the time of this writing, but the ability and perseverance of those early farmers and cattle men is reflected in F. J.'s life and family.

Frank J. Beasley married Jooma Marcella Johnson and they had eight children, whose names and activities will be recalled by some present-day residents of Amesville: Bessie Beasley (Elliott); Edna (Strecker); Letha (Hess); Edith Briggs; Otha (Gallagher); Fred R., Carl and Norris Beasley. Only four of the family are living in 1975. They are: Edith Briggs, living in Texas; Fred R. of Athens, Ohio, Route 3; Norris, a doctor of medicine at Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and Carl, also of Florida.

Frank and Mrs. Beasley were members of the Amesville Methodist Church--faithful and generous in their contribution. A present member recalls that on Sunday the entire Beasley family would attend the service, and as was their habit, they would appear with Mr. Beasley in the lead to seat them in a front pew of the church.

In 1894, Frank Beasley bought the Amesville Mill which had been built about a year earlier and for a short time was operated by two West Virginia millers, Erwin and Dan Rollins. Mr. Beasley operated the mill some 40 years while his family grew to manhood and womanhood. During that period, they lived in a house built for them and located across the street: from the Masonic Hall. It was one of the fine homes in its day.



Beasley-Donaldson Home

Fred Beasley

Jennie Beasley—her horse

*Beasley-Donaldson families today live in the Ames area to mark the heritage
of eight generations in pioneer history.*

The Beasley Mill became a thriving business, and a specialty of the operation was the manufacture of flour sold under the trade name "O.K. Flour."

Mr. Beasley was an understanding father of his family. Son, Fred R., began early to develop the innate ability of his forebears. His first venture in business is best expressed in his own words as he addressed employees and friends at a banquet given in his honor at Athens in 1947. He said, "I started out on horseback over in Amesville to sell automobiles. Before that I had been selling buggies, but found out that you could make forty dollars on every car you sold, which beat the ten dollars I got for selling buggies." He also told how his father had loaned him the money to pay for the first car when it came. After selling it, he told his father, "Someday I'm going to have a Ford agency of my own and maybe own everyone in Athens County." This he did, and more, for in 1947 he owned the largest number of Ford agencies of any independent dealer in the world-nineteen in all, located in Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

From a small garage in Amesville, he moved to Athens and "big business." Over the years he earned the reputation from his employees as being "a good man to work for." His ready response to this compliment was, "I only take credit for one thing--I know how to pick good people to carry the ball for me."

During the period he was establishing a business in Amesville, Fred Beasley married Jennie Donaldson, daughter of Ed and Magdalene Weis Donaldson of the McDougal area.

They had three daughters, Alice (Hiveley), Marjory (Mathews) and Virginia (Holzer), who were small when the family moved to Athens. Their children grew up, married, and made homes of their own. Later Fred and Jennie moved to the Donaldson home farm, which has been occupied by eight generations of Donaldson's or descendants of the family since 1780.

After the death of her father, Jennie set about having the old house remodeled, and added to it a style of plantation beauty. Across the lane and up a way, a barn was constructed to accommodate her riding horses. Farther out on the hilltop large cattle barns to house a fine dairy herd and a tenant house were built. "Windy Hills," as they named their home, was a teeming establishment.

Jennie was an expert horse-woman, known far and wide for her showmanship. It has been said of her, "she excelled in riding style and poise, and was always trim in riding attire-usually black habit with derby hat, and accessories of white." For those who saw her and her horse performing-she became a picture to behold.

Another place receiving Jennie's special attention was the McDougal Church. She saw that improvements were made in the building and grounds. There, floodlights were installed to enhance the beauty of the edifice and in its high setting, among the trees, it became a visual inspiration to the night traveler, and yet remains beautiful by day.

With the death of Jennie, and changing times, the home place has become a quiet residence, occupied by Mr. Beasley, now retired, his daughter, Marjory, her husband, Robert Mathews, and their daughter, Candace. The Mathews oversee the home. Pictured here is Mr. Beasley, with the family Irish Wolf Hound; the Beasley home, and a picture of Jennie and her horse.

Mary Grosvenor

Brawley's

Henry B. Brawley, born in 1806, came from Pennsylvania to Ames Township with his widowed mother and three brothers when he was ten years old. Their life was a difficult one. Henry was married to Elizabeth McCune, daughter of Samuel and Mary McCune in 1833. They had four children. Mr. Brawley rented land north of Amesville and later bought the land and lived there all his life. He liked to read and being intelligent, he reached a high degree of culture. He was a hospitable host and a very pleasant man. He was a very religious man and a good church worker. He died in 1879.

Henry's oldest son, Edward H. Brawley, was born in Ames Township in 1835. He worked with his father on the farm and attended the local school. Later he attended Ohio University and in 1862 he married Jenny McCollum and they lived on a 221-acre farm which was part of the old Brawley farm.

Edward Brawley had six children. John married Alice E. Wedge of Coolville. Robert and Mary Gertrude lived on the old Brawley farm and were quite active in Grange, Farmer's Institute, and church. Robert was a township trustee. He and his sister, Mary Gertrude, lived with their mother, and when the sister died in 1926 Robert and his mother lived together until her death in 1932. Robert lived alone then until his death in 1944. ·

Nellie Woolley

The Browns

Captain Benjamin Brown was born in Worcester County, Massachusetts, on the 17th of October, 1745. He was the son of Captain John Brown. The maiden name of his mother was Elizabeth Jones. At the age of twenty-seven he married Jean Thomas who survived him and died in Athens, Ohio in 1840.

In 1775 he connected himself with a regiment of "Minute Men" as they were called. He took an active part in the Battle of Bunker Hill and served with distinction throughout the Revolutionary War. The station of Aid-de-Camp was offered to him, but he declined the honor, from a sense of his limited education, it being that of all the New England farmers of that period. He resigned in 1779. The Continental currency had so greatly depreciated that his month's pay would not purchase a bushel of wheat for his family, and he was forced to leave the service and return home to provide for these wants by his personal efforts.

In 1796 with several other families, Benjamin Brown came to the territory northwest of the Ohio River. He reached Marietta in the spring of 1797. Soon Captain Benjamin Brown and Ephraim Cutler accompanied Lieutenant George Ewing on one of his trips to view his lands, which ended in an arrangement that, on condition that Mr. Ewing would sell one-hundred acres each and donate each of them one-hundred acres, they would unite with him in commencing a settlement. After a thorough exploration each made his selection of land and Mr. Ewing, having previously made a small clearing, built a cabin, moved his family out in March, 1798. Captain Brown and Judge Ephraim Cutler gave assurance that they would follow as soon as necessary arrangements could be made.

The following is taken from the manuscripts of Ephraim Cutler:

"Circumstances prevented us from carrying out our plans until the first of May, 1799, when a rain fell sufficient to raise Federal Creek so as to admit large dugout canoes and men who had been previously engaged and the next day they started with our goods and furniture down the Muskingum and Ohio rivers then up the Hocking and Federal Creek a distance altogether of eighty miles.

Captain Brown had prepared 1 cabin on his land and now both his family and mine were to be removed. There had been added to our family while in Waterford two children and the Brown's family had increased by one.

I, with four horses took Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Cutler and children through an entire wilderness to our new home. Night overtook us before we were able to cross Sharps Fork of Federal Creek and we were obliged to in-camp. The canoes arrived with our goods the next day."

According to the records of the late genealogist, Heber Henry, they landed near the place since owned by the following: Colonel Absalom Boyles, Abel Glazier, Henry Curtis, Edward Curtis, O. D. Jones, and now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard S. DePue.

During Captain Benjamin Brown's residence in Ames, he was one of its prominent citizens holding various offices and contributing largely to the advancement of the settlement. He was the father of nine children. His daughter, Sally Brown, married Abel Glazier in 1794 in Washington County, New York, and came to the North West Territory, settling in Ames township, then in Washington County, Ohio. In 1804 he purchased his farm from his father-in-law, Captain Benjamin Brown. This farm today is owned by some of the descendants of Daniel Fleming. The location is the first farm house on the right on Linscott Run, earlier known as Brown's Branch.

Daniel T. Brown, grandson of Captain Benjamin Brown, married Maria Foster of Athens, Ohio, 1845 and brought his wife home to Ames. Daniel later became well known in Iowa as a paper manufacturer. Maria "Grandmother Brown", as she was later called, told of her memories of Ames to her daughter-in-law, Harriett C. Brown, wife of her youngest son Herbert D., and she, a journalist, wrote down her remembering and a book was the result called Grandmother Brown's Hundred Years 1827-1927. From a footnote from the book—"It may be interesting to note that great grandsons of the three men, Captain B. Brown, Judge Ephraim Cutler and Lieutenant George Ewing, have been associated in recent years in the executive branch of the federal government. Charles G. Dawes, former Vice-President of the United States, was the great grandson of Judge Cutler. Thomas Ewing, former Commissioner of Patents, was the great grandson of Lieutenant Ewing, and Herbert D. Brown, former Chief of the United States Bureau of Efficiency, was the great grandson of Captain Benjamin Brown."

Captain Benjamin Brown died in 1821 at the age of 76 years at the home of his son Captain John Brown in Athens who had married Sophia Walker, daughter of Dr. Ezra Walker, the first resident physician in Amesville.

The descendants of John Brown and his brother Benjamin have, multiplied in the West into the thousands and may well be compared to the sturdy oaks of the forest.

. -Gerald R. and Audrey Chalfant Nagle

The Deans of Ames Township

The family name Dean not only appears early and consistently in area history but ancestors have been traced back to the colonial era. John Dean (1600-1660) and his brother Walter were among the first to settle Massachusetts. John lived first in Dorchester and in 1637 moved to Taunton, Massachusetts where five generations of descendants dwelled until Nathan Dean III traveled to Ames Township in 1815 with his adult family.

The name of Dean first appears in area history in the 1802 Ames Township organization records. One of the 33 township residents was Silas Dean, a rich old bachelor. The 1807 township records show that he owned 1315 acres which included what has historically been called the Dean farm. He probably built the old Dean residence which stands as an old building behind the current home of Anthony Sargent. Mudsock, an early township community, was located on his property just east of the current Hmesville Cemetery. An early log school was built here in 1804 and the Presbyterian Church was founded here in 1831. In 1865 the current church was built. Silas Dean was an early grand juror (1802), township appraiser (1804), one of the first three Athens County Commissioners (1804) and township supervisor (1808). He should not be confused with Silas Deane, a revolutionary politician who died in 1789. The next Deans to appear in the area were those previously mentioned, Nathan Dean III and his family of six sons (Nathan IV, William Thayer, Gulliver, Leveed Tisdale, George Leonard and John Nicholson) and three daughters (Sally, Mary Emily and Fannie Ziporah). He moved here from Norton (Bristol County), Massachusetts with his family already grown to adulthood. He was elected to be a battalion colonel at an early militia muster. It is not clear whether or not Nathan III and Silas were related. Silas probably came to Ohio from Massachusetts as did the majority of the members of the Ohio Company. In any event, Nathan III came into the possession of some of Silas Dean's property.

Of the original Nathan Dean III family Nathan IV and his wife Fanny remained on the family farm. He served as an early postmaster (1837-1841). Gulliver and his wife Mary, a daughter of Judge Ephraim Cutler and granddaughter of Dr. Manasseh Cutler, also settled in Ames Township. He was a stonemason who not only helped establish the Methodist Society (1824), but furnished stone and helped build the current Methodist Church. His brother George L. also lived in the township and was active in the founding and construction of the church. Gulliver was a township trustee (1830-31) and a shareholder in the Coonskin Library. Mary, his wife, noted for her benevolence opened her home to weary itinerants for 50 years.

John N. and William T. settled in Athens. Both were involved in the manufacture of brick. John N. owned and farmed the land between Dean Avenue (W. Washington St.) and the Nathan William, eldest son of Nathan IV married Catherine McDaniel. He lived on the

family farm near Amesville and became a prominent farmer and stock raiser. He lived in the home that is currently the Anthony Sargent home. He was born in Norton, Massachusetts. He and his wife had two sons, Nathan Edgar and Henry L.

Henry L. Dean died at the age of 22. Nathan Edgar inherited the Dean property. He became a prominent stock raiser and auctioneer. He was a character to behold traveling around the country and crying sales with his wagon and mules. Word of mouth has it that he owned the first Edison phonograph in the area and shared it with others via telephone. To hear it in the evenings all one had to do was call the operator and be switched in to the phonograph line. Nathan Edgar married Roan Owen and had three children, Mertie Lee, Linnie May and James: Edward. Mertie married Charles W. Green and they remained childless. Linnie remained single. James married Viola Lightfoot and had two sons, William Edward and Charles Raymond. On his death N. Edgar's property was divided among his wife and three children.

William E. Dean married Genevieve Nuzum and now resides in Tarpon Springs, Florida where he works in produce sales. They have no children.

Charles Raymond Dean married Elsie McConnell. They have four children, Charles Richard, Larry Edward, Gary Eugene and James L. Raymond has been in the retail business until recently. He now manages his rental property. He currently resides on a portion of the original Dean farm. A portion of his home was originally built by N. E. Dean.

C. Richard Dean married Sara Womack. He currently lives in Athens with his wife and two daughters, Alisa G. and Laurel A. He is a member of the Ohio University faculty.

Gary E. Dean married Judy Fisher. He lives in Albany, New York where he manages a university book store. They have no children.

Larry E. Dean lives in Ames Township with his wife Karen (Linscott) and children, sons Told A. and Sean R. and daughter Heather L. He works as a mason.

: James L. Dean lives in Columbus with his wife Juanita (Berger) and daughter, Terrel Joan. His occupation is a radio news announcer.

A portion of the original Dean farm is still in the family; some of it is owned by Anthony Sargent. Two descendants still live in Ames Township, C. Raymond and wife and son Larry and family.

—Richard Dean