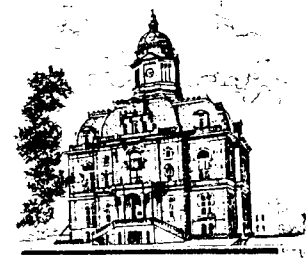


# The Pastfinder



Quarterly Newsletter  
Richland County Chapter  
Ohio Genealogical Society

Mary Jane Henney

Ruth Hostetter

Volume 13 Issue 1

January - March 1994

## 1993 ANNUAL REPORT - RICHLAND COUNTY CHAPTER, OGS

This has been a busy year for the Richland County Chapter of OGS. Two books have been published. *The Marriage Records of Richland County, Ohio 1813-1870* was completed by MAGIC, the computer arm of our chapter. Also, *A Pioneer History of Richland County, Ohio*, written by General Roeliff Brinkerhoff. This book was started in 1857 and published in the newspaper at that time. The Civil War called a halt to the work and after the war it was completed. We have reprinted it.

Our August picnic is always a fun time in our chapter. We have a Richland County Trivia Game that we play, and by adding new questions each year it has become quite interesting. A good idea for your chapter.

Many of our group work as volunteers in the OGS Library each week. Other prepare the OGS Newsletter for mailing each month, work on filing, helping with memberships and other needed volunteer work.

Our Richland County Room at OGS, rented by the chapter, is now open on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and on the first and third Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m..

We publish four issues of the *Pastfinder* each year.

## OUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES FOR 1994

President	Macky Cockley	Trustees:	Robert Cunning
Vice-President	Virginia May		Cary Latimer
Treasurer	Lucille Maglott		Jeanne Elias
Recording Secretary	Eldora McCaskey		Eva Clements
Corresponding Sec'y.	Larry Garver		Doris Miller
			Ron Stroup

The Society wants to thank the outgoing officers and Trustees for their devotion and caring. We wish them well.

This is your organization and we will always need your support to keep it viable. Please let us know of any suggestions as to how we may better serve our membership. Good luck in your research!

**THE INDEX TO VOL. 12 - 1993 IS AT THE END OF THIS ISSUE**

## MENG - MANG NEWSLETTER

Carol McKenzie is searching for any Meng - Mang families in Ohio. Simon MENG b. 28 Oct 1786 St. John, France, came to America and on to Ohio in 1832. Simon mar. Mary Magdalena KOB/KOBI. She has the family back to 1690. If you have information to share for her newsletter she would appreciate hearing from you. You may reach her at: Carol McKenzie, R. R. #1 Box #8, York NE 68467. Vol. 1 No. 1 of the newsletter is dated January - March 1994.

## ORPHAN TRAIN UPDATE

The *Genealogical Helper* for January - February 1994 contains an article about the **Orphan Train Heritage Society, P. O. Box 496, Johnson AR 72741-0496**. They keep a data base of persons who were on these early orphan trains. If you recognize a name on that page (p. 127), please write the above address. They will be happy to share information.

There is a book, *Power In The Blood*, by Greg Matthews that concerns the early Orphan Trains. It tells the story of three children from Schnectedy NY, whose parents died and they were sent west on the train. It is reported to be an excellent story.

## FROM A NEW MEMBER

Mary C. Loher, 7400 - 34th St. #118, Saint Petersburg FL 33711. The surnames she is researching are:

BARTLEY, (Mordecai, David & Edward T.)  
EKEY ( Elvira, Samuel, Robert and John)  
HOOPER (Asenath, John W. & Rev. William)  
Ruth GAYER and Monica GATTON  
BURTLE ( Benjamin, Teresa and Elizabeth Ellen)

## An Interesting Article From Newspaper Research

A hint when you are doing newspaper research - look for an article on family reunions in the months of July, August and September; look for wedding anniversaries, especially an article in the time period of the birthday of your ancestor when he or she attained a great age, 80 years or older. Obituaries were often given about even the most simple artisan or farmer in an area. Look in the weekly papers for at least 4 weeks following the date of the event, and several day following the event in a daily newspaper. You might be surprised. A short announcement of a death might be given and later that week or month, a lengthy memorial might be written. Here is a reunion article that tells much about this early family and their neighbors.

"A pioneer reunion among old friends and acquaintances took place at the residence of Mrs. Margaret Hall of Orange township, (now in Ashland Co.) on Thursday afternoon June 26th. Mrs. Hall was a Ralston, by birth, and the occasion was a visit by her brothers, James Ralston, of Plymouth, and Samuel W. Ralston of Auburn, DeKalb Co., Indiana, and a number of other old pioneer friends from Montgomery and Orange townships in Ashland county. It was a pleasant and highly interesting meeting.

"It will be remembered that the Ralstons were originally Scotch, and fled from Scotland to the north of Ireland during the persecution of the Presbyterians, and from that branch of the family descended the American Ralstons, who emigrated to Lancaster Co. PA, about the year 1760. From thence they moved to Washington Co., in the same state, after the close of the Revolution in 1786. Mr. Robert Ralston, Sr., father of the Ohio Ralstons, served in the War of 1812 in a regiment raised in western Pennsylvania.

- continued next page

**RALSTON FAMILY REUNION cont.**

"Robert Ralston, Sr., was married to Miss Jane Woodburn, prior to leaving Washington Co. PA. Mr. Ralston died near Plymouth, Ohio, October 26, 1854, aged about 86 years and 5 months. The children of Mr. Ralston were: Robert Ralston, Jr., who died November 17, 1871, in Clinton Co. Iowa, aged 74 years; James Ralston, of Plymouth, OH, aged 80; Jane Hall, of Nevada, Ohio, oldest daughter; Margaret Hall of Orange township; Mary Gribben of Plymouth; Alexander Ralston, of Tennessee; Samuel W. Ralston, of Auburn, DeKalb Co., Indiana; Mary Dickson, of Crawford County; David Ralston of Clinton Co., Iowa; and Julia Bodley, of Whitely Co. Indiana.

"Robert Ralston, Jr. was the father of the late W. C. Ralston, of San Francisco, Cal., who created such a sensation among the enterprising money changers of California and figured so largely in finances. Those present at the reunion were James, aged 80 years; Nancy, his wife, aged 59 years; Samuel W, aged 66; Rev. John Robinson, aged 59; William Sheets, aged 62; Mary Sheets, aged 66; Josiah Thomas, aged 78; Mrs. Eliza Thomas, aged 68; Andrew Mason, aged 79; Mrs Elizabeth Mason, aged 72; Mrs. Elizabeth Martin, aged 63; Mrs Jane A. Murray, aged 64; Col. George W. Urie, aged 73; Mrs. Maggie Urie, aged 58. The average of those ages is about 79 years.

"The time of their becoming pioneers ranged from about 1814-1817. Mr. William Sheets is believed to have been the first male child in Montgomery township. Mr. Robinson has filled the Presbyterian pulpit about 35 years and still possesses much mental and physical ability. Messers. Mason, Thomas and Urie and their ladies seem to be well preserved and may survive many years. Many regrets that Mr. Graham and lady, and Mrs. Nancy Sheets were unable to be present."

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**We Need Your Help** to keep up the quality of our newsletter. Have you sent us your chart, some information or a short story about your family, a Bible record (prime evidence in proving a line), or some information about Richland County that you think we may not have? After printing, all information is placed in our Richland County Room. Please give permission to publish on whatever you send for publication. We love to get mail - keep it coming. This is your newsletter.

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This affidavit is taken from the Marriage License Affidavit Book, Vol. 1, p. 157 of Richland County, Ohio. - submitted by Tom Neel

The State of Ohio, Richland County, SS

James E. Cox having made application for a Marriage License for Mrs. Maria Newman and J. E. Cox of said County, says that he is over nineteen years of age, and that he has no wife living; Also, that Mrs. Maria Newman is over eighteen years of age and that she has no husband living, and that the parties are not nearer of kin than first cousins, as he verily believes; and that he knows of no legal objection to said contemplated Marriage--

Subscribed to this 14th day of May 1844)

signed: James E. Cox

before me

E. W. Lake, Clerk )

(below is written) - The last of my Earthly comforts. I had better have climbed a sapling.

(signed)

J. E. Cox

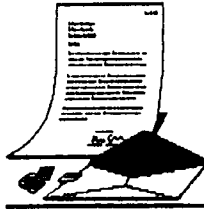
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**THE RICHLAND COUNTY ROOM IN THE OGS LIBRARY, 34 Sturges Ave., Mansfield OH**

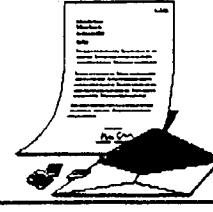
is open on the second and fourth Wednesdays from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

and

the first and third Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



## QUERIES



- BAKER/ROSS Seeking par. of Sarah BAKER 1816-1899, mar. Andrew WORMIAN/WIREMAN; need  
GARDNER par. of Margaret GARDNER 1783-1859 who mar. Samuel WIERMAN/WIREMAN; and  
WORMIAN/ par. of Elizabeth ROSS mar. Henry WORMIAN/WIREMAN.  
WIREMAN Theodore A. BONEBRIGHT s/o ? & Susan J. BONEBRIGHT. James COWAN mar.  
ROBINETTE Cevilla WERMAN 13 Sep 1859. Sallie MOORE d/o Charles W. & Susan ROBINETTE  
BONEBRIGHT BURGER.  
- Madeleine M. Whitney, 13625 New Discovery Rd., Colorado Springs CO 80908-2970
- INK John Brittain INK b 3 Apr 1821 - d. 20 Dec 1846 near Plymouth OH. His nephew,  
John B. INK is bur. in Plymouth Cem. Where is John B. Sr. bur.? Did he marry? If  
so, who was his wife?
- KEECH Richard R/H. KEECH b. ca 1845, lived in Bellville OH in 1895/96. He was s/o Charles  
BATE C. KEECH and Nancy Ann BATE. Did Richard marry? When did he die & where is  
he buried?  
- Kathleen Howseman-Cabral, 1452 Lupton Ave., San Jose CA 95125
- OGLE Have found new Richland Co. family. My gr gr grandfather, Mordecai OGLE & his  
wife, Elizabeth may have purchased land in Rich. Co between 1820-1830. Any info will  
be appreciated.  
- Mrs. J. P. Trokey, 714 S. Vesper Way, Camano Island WA 98292
- GRUBAUGH Interested in any GRUBAUGH connections. Seek info of family of Michael KINER and  
KINER Sarah GRUBAUGH mar. 20 Feb 1842, had 12 children.  
- Linda Barnes 1602 Cambria Drive, East Lansing MI 48823
- CAMPBELL Samuel CAMPBELL b. 1795/99 VA/MD mar. Mary P. OCHRY b. 1822 in OH bet. 838-  
OCHRY/ 1840. They moved to Richland Co., Milton Twp.. ca 1840 according to the 1840 census.  
OCHRO Ch (b. Rich. Co.): Hezekiah b. 1841, Wm. H. b. 1843; Sarah J. b. 1845, Mary E b. 1848  
and Hester b. Oct. 1850. They moved to Erie Co. Perkins Twp. OH on 20 Jun 1850.  
A second land purchase after moved to Canada in 1858; then of Essex Co. Canada  
purchased in Erie Co. OH for \$300. His children moved back to OH & MI in the  
1860's.  
- Frances Campbell, 960 So. Manhattan Pl. #15, Los Angeles CA 90019-2317
- CULVER B. OH these CULVER ch: Mary A. b. 1852, Elizabeth b. 1849, Thomas b. 1847, Falitha  
BOWERS b. 1845. The mother;s name - Elizabeth b. 1828; the grandmother Rachel b. 1786.  
THOMAS Believe family lived in Richland & Williams Co. OH. Mary m. Jacob BOWERS of Rich.  
Co. In 1872 in Williams Co., moved to Denver & both d. there. In 1880 Mary is living  
with Thos. & wife in Williams Co. Are these related to Solomon Culver, a Rev. War  
soldier bur. Richland Co? Do they fit into a Bazeleel Culver b. 1811 in OH? Will share  
information  
- Frank Gardner, 6004 NE 90th Ave., Vancouver WA 98662

## THE 1849 CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH AND POOR HENRY H. VANTILBURG

Did you ever discover a family in your genealogical research that seemed to be beset with nothing but tragedy? Well I did, and they lived in Richland County.

One day, while searching for information about my Vantilburg ancestors at the Ohio Historical Society facility in Columbus, Ohio, I came across an unusual document titled: "THE GOLD RUSH LETTERS - TO JOHN MILLER, RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO, 1850 - 1853." It contained copies of 14 letters written to John Miller by a group of young men called the "Richland Boys".

To set the stage for young Henry H. Vantilburgh's role in this story, his father, John Vantilburg, was among the early settlers of Richland County. He had moved there in 1815 from Jefferson County Ohio. John's father, Henry Vantilburg, Sr., had migrated to Ohio from Virginia in about 1797, after serving in the Revolutionary War. John had served in the War of 1812 and when he moved to Richland County he settled in Section 8, based on a land bounty claim for his war service. There he married Mary "Polly" Burns in Jeromesville on May 4, 1819, and they had five children.

But tragedy seemed to follow their family. A son, Thompson McLean, died at the age of two. A daughter, Sarah Jane, died in infancy, and a son, Daniel Francis, died at the age of 40. While a son John Burns reached the age of 72, their 23 year old second son, Henry H., died in a bizarre accident while searching for his fortune.

When gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in California in 1848, it set off an explosive reaction in every hamlet, village and town across America. Instantly, the rush was on to get to California quick as possible. Some chose to make their way across the prairies. Others sailed around the horn of south America. Still others chose a dangerous short cut across Panama.

Henry H. Vantilburg was one of a group of gold seekers called the "Richland Boys," who responded to the great California Gold Rush. While some of them were financed by friends and relatives, many had their life's possessions with them. Henry and the group of young men left Richland County in December 1849 and went down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans. From there they sailed to Panama, where they made their way across the Isthmus on foot and by canoes. Then they sailed up the Pacific Coast to San Francisco, and made their way inland to the gold fields beyond Sacramento. There a few miners became rich beyond belief, but the "Richland Boys" lost everything and some lost their lives.

By the time the "Richland Boys" arrived in the gold fields, all of the good mine sites had been claimed. As a result, they had to work part time for others at \$10 a day, plus board. Then one day they bought a mining claim and a quick silver machine for amalgamating gold for \$400. But the mine soon petered out. At that, Henry and some of the others began prospecting along the Yuba River in Nevada County, California. But by the middle of 1850 some of the group had given up and began returning to Ohio.

The 14 Gold Rush Letters are filled with the miners' heart rending tales of frustration, loneliness, disappointment and misery. The only letter in the collection written by young Henry Vantilburg was dated December 22, 1850. In it, he wrote, in part:

"Mr. John Miller: I take my pen to give you as few lines as Samuel is writing - I am well at this time - I expect you think we are making our fortune in the mines but there is no prospect of doing it here - we have went through with a great many hardships in this country and will not get paid for our trouble - when I came here things looked fair for a small pile (sic) but the rivers is what broke us and I can't see any chance now to make up our loss - I fear John will be sadly disappointed for we will sink money in this operation - but we will not be a lone for there is thousands in our circumstances - I think that I will come home with Samuel and Solomon - I will go with them to the city and if I can get in to work I will stay and if not I will be home in March - I dread the thoughts of coming under present circumstance but see no way to better the business - Solomon received your letter and was glad to hear from you and George Hout - I have only got 3 letters from home - inform our folks of these facts - we are not a hosing it out as fast as George expected - you may tell him

**THE 1849 CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH cont.**

I was glad to hear that there was doings in your country - I would like some of your apples-  
I wish you would save some for us if we have the good luck to reach home.

H Vantilburg

Unfortunately, young Henry never made it back to Ohio. In January 1851, he was first reported in the letters of others as being sick, and then that he was working a mining claim on the shares. Then on May 29, 1851, tragedy struck when nine of the "Richland Boys" were at the Segar Bar on the Yuba River. After breakfast, they and about 11 other prospectors piled into a canoe to cross the river to reach their mine diggings on the other side;. But en route the badly overloaded canoe struck a rock about 20 feet from shore and capsized. All of the miners were thrown out. Nine managed to reach safety. However, Henry and four other of the Richland boys were swept downstream by the swift current and over a falls. It was several days before Henry's body was recovered and he and the other unlucky men were buried.

It is not known whether young Henry's body was exhumed and shipped back home. However, there is a grave marked as his in the Windsor - Woodhouse Cemetery in Mifflin Township of Richland County, alongside of those of his parents and his four brothers and sister.

Sometimes I think about young Henry H. Vantilburg, my first cousin three generations removed, and I envy his spirit in rising to one of the great challenges of his day. It was pioneers such as he who dared to put their lives on the line to open the West to a growing, expanding and prospering nation. Yes, I envy his spirit, but not his untimely death!

- submitted by James Wilbur Jacobs, 13343 Ballad Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375

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**QUERIES cont.**

McFADDEN    Want to exchange info with desc. of James & Jane (McFADDEN) HUGHES, orig. from  
HUGHES       Bucks Co. PA. Jane settled in Rich. Co. in the 1830's with ch: John Hughes & daus.  
GALBRAITH   Martha mar. Hulon GALBRAITH and Eliza mar. Andrew HASLETT. Andrew & Eliza's  
POTTER       ch: Rebecca b. 1836 mar, George POTTER in MI in 1858; Jane Ann b. 1833 m. Ben  
LONG         LONG in Mansfield in 1912 (later living in MO); James, William John and Maria. Any  
                 info appreciated.

- Rebecca B. Frank, 464 13th Ave. Co. #7, Sauk Rapids MN 56379

LEITER/  
LEIGHTER    Christian LEITER b. Jul 1800 PA d. 21 Feb 1868 Warren Co. IL, believed to be s/o  
                 Jacob LEITER b. 1759 Lancaster Co. PA d. 1826 Franklin Co. PA Christian had sis.  
TEETER/  
DEETER       Elizabeth and Nancy who both mar. TEETER/DEETER, & bro. who mar. Elizabeth  
                 TEETER. All of them may have moved to Ashland or Richland County, Possibly Mifflin  
                 Twp. between 1826 and 1850. Thank you for any help.

- Phyllis Queen Mattek, Rt. 3 Box 228, Noble OK 73068

**HERITAGE QUEST GENEALOGY ROAD SHOW**

**June 25, 1994**

Fees for the Heritage Quest Road Show are \$32.00 per person. Each additional immediate family member pays \$10.00. For this you receive a subscription to *Heritage Quest Magazine*. a seminar syllabus and 3 queries in the above magazine. Genealogical books & supplies will be on sale. Make checks payable to Marie Knott, 229 Crestview Dr. Hillsboro OH 45133. (513) 393-2452. Enclose a self-addressed envelope for confirmation of your reservation. Program will stress research & computer use.











