

ing timbers forbade their advance. Without venturing far, they returned, declaring that no man could cross the stream. Thereupon Captain Cunningham volunteered to act as messenger, and receiving the message from Colonel Kratzer, he mounted his horse and plunged into the flood, and crossed in safety, and from the other shore heard the applause of his comrades-in-arms. After riding nine miles through the wilderness and darkness of the night, he delivered the message to Colonel Root, who verified the statement of the soldiers that Hull had surrendered. The next morning he returned to the camp on Alum creek, and for having rendered such brave and valuable services received mention in military orders from his commanding officers.

Captain Cunningham had charge of the troops at the burial of the Zeimers and Ruffner. He at once dispatched couriers in all directions to inform the settlers of what had occurred and to advise them to go to the block house for protection. Captain Cunningham took in situations intuitively and was prompt and fearless in action. He was never unmindful of the fact that he was the son of an Irishman, who had served as an American soldier in the war of the Revolution and had helped to consecrate the battlefield of Brandywine with his blood.

After the close of the war of 1812, Captain Cunningham removed to the southern part of the county where he engaged in school teaching for some time, but later gave his attention exclusively to farming. As nearly as the date can be ascertained, he built the house, the logs of which are now the property of the Centennial Commission, in 1821—85 years ago.

The fact that Captain Cunningham removed from Mansfield before it had taken a prominent place among the towns of the state, made him almost unknown in the later-day history of the city. Had he remained here and sought preferment, his ability and education would doubtless have given him a high place among his fellow men. And now, in view of the fact that Captain Cunningham was the first resident of Mansfield, and was for a number of years closely connected with its history and growth, and assisted in erecting its block house, it now seems very meet and proper that the timbers of his old home, in which he had passed nearly half a century, should be used in the rebuilding of the old-time block house.

In about 1830, there was a religious movement, quite general in Eastern Ohio, for what was termed "A restoration to primitive Christianity," in which Alexander Campbell was the principal leader. At a camp meeting held by these people on what is now known as the Brinkerhoff farm, in Washington township, Captain Cunningham was baptized in the Bentley run, by Elder James McVey, and became one of the staunch members of that denomination. The remaining forty years of his life were lived in that faith and he died in its fellowship and communion.

In the winter of 1855-6, Captain Cunningham had a severe illness from which he never fully recovered, and the remaining years of his life were passed in the retirement of his home. He bore his afflictions with soldier-