

OHIO COUNTRY GATHERING

by Kathryn Campbell Slasor

One of the many highlights of the Ohio Country Gathering held Saturday, June 14, 1997, near Wellsville, Ohio, was the "First Day Cover" stamp that could be purchased, courtesy of the Wellsville Post Office and Postmaster, James Schweizer. The envelope features a photograph of the Shaw Log House, built Circa 1813, and restored in 1984 by James L. Woodrow, in his scenic back yard at 18790 Fife Road. Mr. Woodrow was host to the approximately one hundred fifty historians, genealogists, archaeologists, historical authors and their families and friends for the all-day Gathering. Postmaster Schweizer attended and sold many stamps.

Mr. Woodrow's spacious back yard bordering on Little Yellow Creek, and accented with overhanging pines, became colorfully alive as guests arrived garbed in the dress of their ancestors. Men and women alike wore the kilt, the pleated skirt of the Scottish Highlanders. These colorful plaid tartans were reminiscent of the days approximately two centuries past, when a small group of Scottish immigrants peopled this Little Yellow Creek Valley, which later became known as the Scots' Settlement.

One of the purposes of the Ohio Country Gathering was to bring together those people of like mind and kindred spirit from both sides of the Ohio River. Several generations of pioneer-spirited, adventurous homesteaders have crossed, with much apprehension, the great Ohio to the "New Frontier in the West." Some pushed farther into the plains, while others remained close by to build cities and populate their new homelands.

An example was one James Clarke, who had early made his way into Washington County, with his three daughters. Nancy married Samuel Leeper, and remained in Washington County. Elizabeth married John Gardner, and also remained in Pennsylvania. Rachael, however, crossed the river with her husband, William Wells, about 1795, where William later established the town of Wellsville. They were about this time, joined by her father, James Clarke, who took up land and settled for a few years. He had left the land in Jefferson Township, in Washington County, that he had patented as "Farm Hill," but continued to make trips back home to the vicinity of Eldersville, where he died at the age of 103.

Rachael's sister, Elizabeth, who had married John Gardner, moved with him to Greathouse Castle, also near Eldersville. Elizabeth had narrowly escaped death at the hands of some Indians who one day entered her father's home while she was there alone. She hurried to the loft where she covered herself with some flax. The Indians cut some web from the loom and took some meat from the boiling pot. They left without firing the cabin. Elizabeth and John raised a large family in Greathouse Castle, John dying in 1821, and Elizabeth surviving him by thirty-two years.

James Clarke came alive at the Ohio Country Gathering, in the person of Lt. Col. James Mueting, who drove from Des Plaines, Illinois, especially for this event. Jim Mueting is a direct descendant of the Gardner-Clarke union, his outstanding costume doing justice to the pioneer ancestor he portrayed.

Aiding him in this historical replay of scenes from yesterdav was Cindy Morris. of East

Liverpool, Ohio. Garbed also in her pioneer costume, Cindy's portrayal of her ancestor, Elizabeth Clarke, set the stage for a number of such "reunions" throughout the day.

Traveling the farthest distance for the event was Howard Standish, whose home is in Tempe, Arizona. Attired as Benjamin Davis Sanders, proprietor of the old Sanders Mill, on Cross Creek in Brooke County, West Virginia, he had brought with him several props representative of the Confederate sympathizer who had more than twenty Patents to his credit, of inventions he had perfected throughout the years.

George Chapman and his wife came from Mars, in Butler County, Pennsylvania. George represented his ancestor, also a George Chapman, who established the town of New Cumberland, West Virginia. This couple was also dressed in appropriate costume.

Marie Miller McElhaney, aged 91, from Moon Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, was the oldest in attendance. She appeared as one of her ancestors, Rachael Phillis Moore. The Moore and the Phillis families were early settlers and were prominent in a wide area. Joseph Phillis had had the honor of having lived in three centuries. He was born in 1694, lived through the next century, and died in 1801, at the age of 107. This early family nearly starved after their arrival in their new land. Food had run out before the first crops were harvested. They watched the cows to learn which greens they ate. By doing likewise, they survived until the crops were ready.

Another Joseph Phillis built the log house that stood in the Cherry Valley area of Smith Township, Washington County, until early 1997.

Mrs. McElhaney's daughter, Ama Chambers, represented a member of the Shippens family, from Beaver County.

Hezekiah McCoy, a Union Cavalryman of the Civil War, was portrayed by his descendant, Claude McCoy, of Beaver County. Others hailing from Beaver County included Paul Wilcoxon, whose family dates back nine generations, and Betty McCoy Brodmerkel, who counts among her ancestors, her grandmother, Emma Della Mehaffey McCoy. Terry Schaner came as her grandmother, Edna Josephine Sandbury, who learned to ride horses in the wild west, then became a telegrapher for the Wabash Railroad.

Also from Beaver County came John Stewart, a descendant of George Stewart, who fought in the Revolution. The old log house that stood until recent years on Route 30 near Chester was in the Stewart family many generations.

Jean Armor Stout, whose ancestors took out an eight hundred acre claim on Raccoon Creek in the Fort Dillo area, was attired in the traditional dress of many years ago. She is one of the best sources of information in her area.

One of Georgetown, Pennsylvania's claims to fame is the Poe family. This name always brings to mind the two brothers, Andrew and Adam, who gained fame for themselves in the fight with Bigfoot, son of Chief Half-King, at the mouth of Tomlinson Run, Hancock County, West Virginia. The Poe family was represented by five members of the Nash family, the chief attraction being John Nash Maravich, who is well into local history at the age of

eight years. John is a direct lineal descendant of Andrew Poe. His authentic coon skin cap called attention to his pioneer suit, lending him the distinctive look of a frontiersman.

Lawrence and Betty Latimer, of Follansbee, Brooke County, recalled with their authentic colonial period costumes, the days when a cooper was an essential character in a community. The couple came as George Brown Latimer and his wife, Charity Hendricks Latimer, the former having made barrels at their home on Walker Road. This Brooke County family was well represented with six of the presentday members in attendance.

John and Shirley Baker, of Mt. Lebanon, Pittsburgh, realistically portrayed some of Washington County's earliest settlers, the Buxton family. Jacob and Hannah Young Buxton were early pioneers in Cross Creek, Jefferson and Independence Townships, where they settled and raised large families. The first Jacob Buxton, enroute to Kentucky, had the misfortune to have his boat capsize on the river near Georgetown. All his possessions were lost. He and his wife and three children made their way into Washington County, where they decided to stay. Several descendants yet remain, including Brady Dunlevy, who was present from Steubenville, in Jefferson County, Ohio. Brady descends from another line of the Buxtons, who also remained in Washington County, near Eldersville. John Baker is also a descendant of George Baker, who was either the first or the second settler in Beaver County.

Four members of the Robinson family, from Colliers, Brooke County, were present in costume. Donald Robinson portrayed his grandfather, Elijah N. Robinson, and wore the latter's tuxedo he had salvaged from an old trunk in the attic! This versatile adventurer was one of the enthusiasts who went to the Gold Rush in California, then built the lovely home on the Colliers hilltop on his return, where Donald and his wife, the former Shirley Bilderback, reside. Donald's two sisters, Forestine Wiegmann and Delois Williams, also came in attractive costumes of their ancestors. The family also had a display of old pictures and memorabilia.

Bill Early, of Alliance, Ohio, whose ancestor was Jubal Early, Confederate General of the Civil War, was present with his wife, the former Lois Slasor. Jubal Early's credentials may be found in the World Book Encyclopedia, where it is written, "Early led a brilliant advance against Washington, D.C. in July, 1864, but was finally defeated by General Philip H. Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley."

Jeff Gump, of Jefferson Township, and his wife, Maureen and small daughter, Elizabeth, were each dressed in costumes of his and her ancestors. Mr. Gump, a restorer of log houses, represented Andrew Jackson Watt, his great grandfather, who was a carpenter and a farmer who had lived in Richmond, Ohio. Maureen portrayed her grandmother, who was "farmed out" to a family in Pittsburgh, who sent her to a finishing school. Elizabeth, age nine, was there as her great, great, great grandmother. A young lady by the name of Sarah Taylor, in the early days, was taken prisoner by the Shawnee Indians. She came back home five years later with a little girl, who, of course, was half Shawnee. Elizabeth descends from her, and was dressed in Native American costume she had made herself, including her bright-colored moccasins.

Edith McLaughlin, of Richmond, Ohio, is blest with many old pioneer names in her ancestry. Among the more prominent ones are Patterson and Vance. Washington County settler, William Patterson, built the old stone house near Avella, in Cross Creek Township. A son, Thomas, built the gristmill that carried the Patterson name throughout the years, the community still bearing the name, Pattersons Mill. Rachael Patterson had married William Vance and died after bearing nine children. Rachael's sister, Hannah, who cared for the children after Rachael's death, then married their father, but without the blessing of the Presbyterian Church. The church later rescinded its order, but not during the lifetime of William Vance. Although William and Hannah had been married in a civil ceremony, and produced five more children, they were never allowed to receive communion.

William Patterson, Hannah's father, accepted the decision of the church, and refused to let Hannah return to her former home. She had been denied the saddle that should have been given her upon her marriage. A member of the later family told that it still hung in the barn until the farm was sold in 1955. A little calculation reveals that this bride's would-be dowry hung there for 137 years! Such is part of the family history of Mrs. Edith McLaughlin.

Eugene Walker's ancestors were the Jacob Walker family, who came to the Follansbee, West Virginia area. The story goes that when Jacob left his cabin to return east to claim his bride, the weeds and underbrush continued to grow during his absence, nearly covering over the little home. He was forced to cut them down and clear the way before he could carry his bride over the threshold. When she saw the condition of things both inside and out, she sat down and cried all night!

Jacob Walker was one of the many from east of the Ohio River to cross it and settle again on its western banks. He built this cabin where the beautiful Union Cemetery now stands, on the hilltop overlooking the city of Steubenville.

Bernice Bane Gist, of Wellsburg, Brooke County, came dressed as a McBane ancestor, this name later shortened to Bane. The family started out to make a home in the west. They went as far as Kansas City, when Civil War problems beset them. While one of the small children played on the floor of the new home, a group of belligerent soldiers entered, one deliberately stepping on the child. The mother would have no more of this cruel treatment to her family, and announced defiantly, "We're going home!" And back east they came, settling in Beech Bottom, just south of Wellsburg.

Dressed entirely in green, and with a display of "Green Leaves" newspapers, of which he is the owner and publisher, Joe Nolan, of Washington, Pennsylvania, came to represent "all of my Irish ancestors!"

Charlotte Bradley, of Toronto, Ohio, is doing further research into her ancestors, one of the Wells branches. She believes it is possible that she is related to the William Wells who established Wellsville. If this proves true, this would connect her with the Gardner-Clarke clan.

John McCord, of the Bethany and Buffalo Creek area, was attired in his MacBeth colors, being one of those who helped to carry out the Scottish theme by wearing a kilt of his clan. John is a historical writer, having published the history of Kadesh Chapel, one of the oldest Methodist churches in the tri state area. He is in the process of restoring his family's log house on McCord Hill. He had brought along a table of books, pictures, and many other colorful and interesting items, creating an outstanding display.

Dalvin Donovan was recognized, as having descended from Thomas Donovan, who built the stately brick home on Tent Church Road, Brooke County, in 1839. The lovely old house is still standing and is occupied by the Felton family with their four children. Dal is also a descendant of the Owings, Crall and Gardner families, and makes his home in Coshocton, Ohio.

Bill Ralston, a descendant of the Phillis, Boyd and the McCreedy families, was recognized from Castle Shannon, Pittsburgh. He is an ardent genealogist, spending every spare moment with family histories and graveyards.

Mary Ross, of West Middletown, was present, and although is not herself a historian, her late husband, Homer Ross, was known as one of Hopewell Township's most knowledgeable citizens.

Russell Slasor and his wife, Margie, of Weirton, displayed an old musket that had belonged to the Bills family, from southern West Virginia. John Bills was Russell's ancestor, and was a soldier in the Revolution.

Thelma Rommes and her sister, Ruth Tomlinson, helped to represent Burgettstown, Pennsylvania, by dressing in colonial costume. A search to find a descendant of Sebastian Burgett, founder of Burgettstown, proved futile until the day before the Gathering. It was at this late date that Wesley Burgett was discovered as living almost next door, in Hammondsville, Ohio. Wesley is a farmer in the area, and cordially agreed to attend.

Prior to discovering Wesley, a Burgett descendant had been "manufactured" in the person of Charles Lawson, one of the town's most ardent fans and useful citizens. Charles had agreed to portray his favorite person in history, Sebastian Burgett, but was redeemed with the appearance of a "real" Burgett. All his life, Charles had placed Burgettstown history high on his list of priorities. It was he who had, among countless other accomplishments, discovered the location high on the hill overlooking the town, where the founding Burgetts are buried. Time has left only depressions in the ground, but the discovery was a great addition to the history of Charles' hometown!

Paul Rieger and his wife drove in from the Toledo, Ohio, area. Mr. Rieger is deep into family histories, and has preserved much of this by placing the material where he feels it belongs.

Guests were introduced by June Campbell Grossman, who was herself attired in costume of Adelia Baxter Headington, a great, great, great grandmother. Mrs. Grossman is also descended from James Campbell, a fourth great grandfather who was one of the earliest settlers

in the Hollidays Cove area, now Weirton, West Virginia. Portraying this Scottish ancestor was David E. Slasor, of Vermilion, Ohio. James Campbell was a pack merchant, making many trips across the mountains with his wares, and adding to the gold in his heavy chest with each trip. Descendants today declare that not only the gold, but the chest itself, disappeared several generations ago. Also from this Campbell line were David W. Slasor, Kathryn Campbell Slasor; Alan and Esther Jean Lackey, of Guysville, Ohio; Larry Freshwater and son, of Kenna, West Virginia; and Marie McElhaney, before mentioned as descended from other lines. Jeanne Van Buren, of Vermilion, was a guest. This entire group was in costume.

From the John Hendricks and the Edward Wiggins ancestors came the Latimer family. And from the pioneer Scott family of Jefferson Township, Washington County, came Dale Scott, of Akron, Ohio. Dale is a great grandson of John Scott, D.D., a Methodist minister with fifty years of preaching to his credit. Dr. Scott began his career in the ministry, and spent his early life in the country community near Bethel Church, not far from Eldersville. He also spent his final days there reminiscing through his book, "Fifty Years in the Ministry." He is buried in the Bethel Church graveyard, having died in 1900.

Doris Simon, whose ancestors are many, and whose potential is still great (she has nine children) was present and as always wherever she goes, was looking for more oldtimers to whom she might be related. Her forebears include such names as Klein, Jarvis, Criss, Richardson, and others. Doris hails from Findlay, Ohio, and enjoys sharing her findings.

Another member of the Gardner clan that populated the Jefferson and Hanover Township areas in the days of the John Gardner-Elizabeth Clarke marriage in 1783, is Donnie Grey, of Paris, Pennsylvania. Donnie was present with his wife, Lou.

Guests present who had no visible connection with any of the families at the Gathering, except in the line of friendship, were Dr. Francis Rogers and his wife, Joan, of Kent, Ohio. Dr. Rogers came colorfully dressed as a frontiersman, with leather fringes and fur hat. Joan was also attired in colonial dress. Both are teachers and educators affiliated with Kent State University.

A number of guests set up their own displays of "Tools of the Trade." John Kranak, of Paris, Pennsylvania, spread his table with old relics from the all-but-forgotten blacksmith shop of his father, and the machine shop of his own former days. A good friend, Harry Orenchuk, came along and enjoyed all the displays, due to his deep interest in local history and people in general. Since Lawrence Latimer's grandfather was a cooper, Lawrence displayed his barrel-making tools on his table.

Historical authors had their "day" at the Gathering. John DeMay, of Pittsburgh, was busy selling his latest book concerning forts of the old settlers. Russell Booth, of Cambridge, Ohio, offered his book for sale, concerning the history of the Tuscarawas Valley. George Chapman filled his tables with his working copies of the Marsh Atkinson, Chapman and Hobbs histories, the originals of which are at the Phillips Memorial Library at Bethany College, Bethany, West Virginia.

Clara Kidder, her husband and daughter, came from nearby East Liverpool, hoping to find a kinsperson of the Quarterman family. This family at one time was prominent in the Burgettstown, Bavington and Cross Creek areas of Washington County, Pennsylvania. The six Quarterman girls married into families such as Baker, Cassidy, Gourley, Boles, Brabson and Neil. The two boys were David and William Quarterman. The family also lived in Midway.

Doris Jones, of Follansbee, Brooke County, was present to represent, along with Howard Standish, of Arizona, the Sanders-Hooker line. Doris's friend, Jane White, accompanied her as a guest.

Dr. Ted McAuley and his wife, Trudy, of Burgettstown, were present as interested parties for the tour of the Shaw Log House. Dr. McAuley believes in salvaging old homes rather than destroying them. To illustrate this, he has purchased, torn down, numbered the parts, and hauled them away for safekeeping, and eventually for rebuilding, the old stone house known to some as the Sankey House, in the Eldersville area, Jefferson Township. This massive stone structure was probably built by the Buxton stone masons, Jacob Buxton having patented "Jacob's Well" in 1803. This same farm later became the Robert Stewart homestead. Trudy's mother, Ora Jean Morgan, of Brooke County, accompanied Ted and Trudy.

Tim Brookes, President of the East Liverpool Historical Society, and curator of the Thompson House Museum, very capably introduced several officers and members of various historical and genealogical societies. Among these were Harry Cline, owner, Ohio Hills Indian Museum; Mary Clark and Bette Jackson, of the Wellsville Historical Society; George and Ann Shaw, from Felton, Pennsylvania, Conveners for Clan Shaw, and Doug Greathouse, well known photographer of the area, and descendant of the Greathouse family of frontier fame.

Others introduced by Mr. Brookes included Ellen J. Ballas, of the Elizabeth Township Historical Society; Francesca Muscari, descendant of Louella Carnegie; Sherri Pepper, Weirton Landmarks; Ruth Brodine, Weirton, whose large collection of history is outstanding; members of Columbiana County Genealogical Society; members of Old Mill Creek Historical Society, and of Fort Vance Historical Society, Burgettstown. Many of these displayed books for sale.

A pictorial portion of the day's agenda was the introduction to "Keepers of the Records," the records in this instance being those historical documents and papers that have been hoarded and guarded for years by zealous history-oriented individuals. Photographs of sixteen of these "keepers" were on display, only six of whom are living today. The other ten have finished their work, and will be remembered for many generations yet to come.

Tim Brookes introduced two of these honored guests, Tom Pike and Richard S. Thompson. Mr. Pike is an authority on local history and an expert on the history of the French and Indian Wars. He built the Fort Tuscarawas Museum, which was at one time a muzzle loading shooting gallery. He is a muzzle loader shooting champion, and an expert on many phases of history.

Mr. Thompson is treasurer of the East Liverpool Historical Society and was a charter member of the Sandy and Beaver Canal Association. He has written a book about Columbiana

County petroglyphs along the Ohio River and Little Beaver Creek.

The other three names mentioned to be honored are now deceased. They include William J. McIntosh, Ed Pugh and Jack A. Lanam.

Mr. McIntosh will be remembered as having been an expert concerning the Scots' Settlement, which included the area where this Gathering was held. He was also a charter member and Past President of the First Families of Ohio.

Ed Pugh was one of 36 people in 1937 and 1938 who formed a caravan and boated down the Ohio River to celebrate the history of the Northwest Territory. The survivors fifty years later, including Mr. Pugh, recreated the event. He was a historical author, a journalist, and at one time, a history instructor in Florida.

Jack A. Lanam was honorary life member of the Ohio Historical Society and curator of the East Liverpool Society. He was a member of the Columbiana County Historical Society and of the Aboriginal Explorers' Club. He was also a member of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, and organized the Sandy and Beaver Canal Association. He was responsible for getting Lock 36 restored in Beaver Creek State Park, which was named in his honor.

June Grossman introduced three of the four living personalities whose pictures had been placed on the board as keepers. They include Jane Fulcher, of West Middletown, Washington County, Pennsylvania, who has preserved records for many years. She probably has the largest collection of historical material in the tri state area, and continues today to add to her store. Mrs. Fulcher was present with her husband, John.

Marie McElhaneys keen interest in family genealogy goes back many generations. At age 91, her memory is keen and she can recall names and places as clearly as she did many years ago. She told the audience that she had recently bought a lap computer. Now, "All I have to do is learn to type!"

James L. Woodrow, who was host to the Gathering, had been placed on the board due to his longtime interest in several phases of history. He had restored the Shaw Log House on the grounds, and provided guided tours through it during the day. He has also built a museum in which he has stored volumes of Scots' Settlement material, such as old pictures of schools, pupils, churches, houses, and anything pertaining to the 1800 settlement. Guests also were given a guided tour of this unique museum.

Ken McFarland was unable to be present. But Mrs. Grossman read out his many credentials which entitled him to listed among the keepers of records. For many years he has visited libraries and courthouses, copying material such as census figures, marriage records, cemetery listings, and some items found only on microfilm. Ken has never tired of the tedious job of copying these faded old hard-to-read scribblings of many years past. He then types them, alphabetizes and indexes them, placing them in readable form for those who wish to have access to the past. He crawls over the ground summer or winter to copy nearly obliterated gravestone inscriptions. His enthusiasm for history and genealogy is endless.

Deceased, but deserving prominent spots on the keeper board, were six others who have

years as an educator in the public schools of Jefferson Township, Washington County. He carefully preserved records of his pupils and school events. He worked diligently with veterans' files, saving all information about those who had served their country in the military. A descendant of the old John Tucker family, of Hanover Township, he was interested in that family's history, and collected and preserved such for future generations.

Frank and Mary Campbell Bowman worked as husband and wife to keep records, not only of their own family, but those families of their community. Mary corresponded for forty years with residents and former residents of Hollidays Cove to gather and preserve the stories handed down to each generation. Through this correspondence, she followed families down their various lines, and compiled this information into readable form. She and Frank together were founders of the Hancock County Historical Society, and kept it in operation for many years.

Frank was instrumental in the restoration of the Peter Tarr Iron Furnace in the Kings Creek Valley, and in keeping records and pictures of its history. The furnace was the forerunner of the giant plant known since the early 1900's as Weirton Steel Company.

Frank's worst moments in life were those when he heard that a graveyard would be desecrated or that an old building stood a chance of being demolished in the name of progress. He protested loudly when the Griffith house, a stone arsenal built in 1793, was to be razed to make way for a high school stadium. He stood by helplessly when the resting place of Weirton's founders was bulldozed over, and a housing development built. Frank spent most of his ninety years collecting history.

A picture of Elza Scott, descendant of the Steen family, who became Jefferson Township's greatest historian, had its rightful place on this honor roll of record keepers. Mr. Scott became one of the first professors of the Eldersville Normal School, and had taught in other country schools that dotted the neighborhood. He came from one of the poorest of families. In the 1930's and 40's, he was given a slot on the Steubenville and Wheeling radio stations, where he composed and read his historical findings each week. These addresses he wrote on the backs of calendar sheets and paper of various origin that had been used on one side. Elza Scott's radio addresses were preserved by Frank and Mary Bowman, and have been donated to the A.D. White Research Society, where they will be made accessible to the public.

Agnes Kreutzberg was honored with her picture on the roll. Agnes was a descendant of Levi Dungan, of the Frankfort Springs area of Beaver County. Agnes, with her husband, Robert, spent many years studying cemetery stones in graveyards, and taking and preserving pictures of these stones. She has compiled several of them, including Florence, Frankfort Springs, Kings Creek, and others, into booklet form. This collection of pictures is probably unsurpassed in size in this area.

Mary Donaldson Sinclair, who lived in the Steubenville area and died in 1940, copied every cemetery and private burial ground in Jefferson County, in her younger days. She piled her five children into the buggy, took along food and diapers for them, and made her

rounds of old burial grounds. Copying by hand, she thus preserved the information on these inscriptions, which would later be obliterated by the ravages of time. She also made copies of marriage records, compiling them into readable form.

James Simpson, who lived in Cross Creek Township from the 1820's until 1902, was considered the best historian of his time. He kept a daily journal of his life on the farm, of the comings and goings of his neighbors, the lives and activities of his children, their births, deaths of his friends and people in the community, and every task that took place each day, from 1850 to his last illness, when his penmanship became extremely feeble. He attended school board meetings, political rallies, funerals, road viewings, hangings, and presidential elections. And most noteworthy of all, he kept a record of it! His History of Cross Creek Graveyard has been widely read, and serves as a boon to the descendants of those buried there.

The second purpose of this Ohio Country Gathering, next to bringing together like-minded historians from both sides of the Ohio River, was to introduce the A.D. White Research Society, and its forthcoming Center for Family and Regional History. A.D. White was an author, educator, and historian in the Washington County area. As a teacher of some of the poorer immigrant pupils during the Great Depression, Mr. White studied all of their backgrounds, and kept records of their families. During his thirty-five years of retirement, he corresponded with possibly three hundred families who were seeking information on their genealogy. Letters with questions and answers flowed to and fro for years, with all of this information from both giver and receiver being filed away and preserved.

Mr. White had a collection of clippings of schools, churches, obituaries, veterans, and countless other subjects. Other history-oriented individuals have expressed the thought of adding their collections to his, when a building is made available in which to house this huge accumulation of information. When this happens, the material will be sorted and catalogued and made accessible for use by the public. A.D. White died July 4, 1994, just four months short of one hundred years.

Pictures of old homesteads in the tri state area comprised another display that drew much attention throughout the day. Some of these homes of our ancestors are still standing, while others have been shamefully destroyed.

Although many of those who attended the day's festivities came together as strangers, many others were friends and family of host, Jim Woodrow. These included his sisters, Doris Brown, who was present with her husband, Frank, and who served capably as one of the musicians; and Esther Raffa, who helped with the guided tours of the buildings. Others serving as building staff were Jim's daughter, Maureen Locke, and her husband, Darrel. Brent McPherson and his wife and daughter, were present in costume, with Brent also serving as a guide. Norma J. Hogue, of East Liverpool, helped to staff the buildings.

Chetty Muscari, of East Liverpool, helped to coordinate the entire affair, as did Harry Cline, of Wellsville, and Bruce Kirbaugh, of Salineville, as well as Jim's son, James Woodrow,

Martha Lippitt, of Rinard Mills, Ohio, represented Clan McIntosh, and was helpful in distributing information on various clans. The Shaw Clan was also in costume, and several members of the Columbiana county Genealogical Society had tables of books for sale. Another helper with the many chores to be done was Jenifer Bryan,

William Knudsen, from the vicinity of York, Pennsylvania, brought with him an unusual item for display. A wide money belt, containing ten pockets with buckels, inscribed with figures that told the story of possibly one family's life in Revolutionary War days, was a center of attraction. Made with linsey-woolsey, the belt had been passed down for many generations, and was typical of articles made in the 1700's.

Delightful strains of old-time melodies were provided through the fiddle, the guitar, the accordion and the dulcimer, as local musicians shared their skills. Those who played various instruments included Carl Jones, from Carrollton, Ohio, who was present with his wife, Martha. Carl, dressed in kilt, is a capable old-time fiddler. Earl and Alice Whitehill, from the Laughlin Corner area of Beaver County, entertained with dulcimers, and were accompanied by others with the same instrument. Sue Pickelshimer and two others formed a group and also entertained. Frank Boyd and his wife, Mae, came from East Rochester, Ohio. Frank rendered some beautiful old fiddle tunes reminiscent of lively square dance days. He brought back beautiful memories of long ago.

Enjoying both the music and the Scottish traditions as explained by some of those in tartan dress, were Debbie Kaul and Mark DiGiacinto, from Brooke County, West Virginia. Others whose day was one of extreme enjoyment were Clara Alvarez, of Burgettstown, who had books for sale for the benefit of the restoration of the small Victorian Building in Fairview Graveyard; Bob Pollack, Avella, who helped sell books written by A.D. White and James Mullooley for the Fort Vance Historical Society; and Robert Seeburger, of Pittsburgh, who generally accompanies Bill Ralston on his constant quests for history. Bob is from the Vance line.

Due to the limited parking space in the vicinity of the home of the host, it was found necessary to seek space close by for the large number of cars that were expected. A large flat field adjacent and across Fife Road, was investigated. Previous owner of this land was found to be Sandra Baker, who readily gave her consent to be invaded by hordes of automobiles of strangers. Meanwhile, she sold the property to Tom Trevor, who graciously followed through with Sandra's plans, with the result that dozens of cars were parked "in the field." Directing the job of parking were Harry T. Campbell, of Paris, Pennsylvania, and Rick Snyder, of Colliers, West Virginia. Other volunteers for carrying books, pictures, folding tables, folding chairs, displays and exhibits from the parking lot to the back yard of Jim Woodrow's home, were Sandra Campbell, of Paris; Carol Campbell and Beverly Pettit, of Louise, West Virginia. Dressed in bright yellow outfits, these three young ladies were kept busy for several hours, shuttling guests to and from the field, folks soon realizing that, "The girls in yellow are here to help us!"

As the afternoon and evening wore on, and interspersed with the music of the violins and their accompanying instruments, there drifted from a short distance away, the shrill, haunting notes of the bagpipe. In the talented hands of a young lady named Heather McNaughton, this national instrument of Scotland transported the listener back in time to the nostalgic days of Columbiana County's Scots' Settlement. And with the waters of Little Yellow Creek and its shimmering pines as a backdrop, the picture was clear that this day was, indeed, an Ohio Country Gathering.



The Shaw Log House
Built Circa 1813 - Restored in 1984

by James L. Woodrow

"In 1812 Farquhar Shaw and wife, Jennet, natives of Invernesshire, Scotland, migrated to the Scots' Settlement and purchased the southeast quarter of Sec. 29 in Madison Twp. They cleared the land and erected the log house which served as the family home until 1874.

As members of the Yellow Creek Presbyterian meeting house, they were devout Christians, honest, industrious and thrifty. The household was felled by cholera in July of 1851. During the period of illness, food was left by neighbors at a fence row some distance from the cholera stricken house. Within six weeks, five members of the family were dead. Many Shaw descendants are living in the U.S. today."



"OHIO COUNTRY"
GATHERING

STATION



Dear Friends:

We realize that the sketches of families mentioned in this synopsis of the Ohio Country Gathering are very brief. We also understand that each family could be expanded upon, given an extension of time, and with some effort on our part, as well as yours.

At this writing, one half of the year 1997 is past and gone. If all goes well with us, we are considering adding to the sketches of each family, bringing more detail into focus, and creating a larger and more attractive book. Many of you will wish to own one.

However, we will need your help. Perhaps there are genealogical facts about your family of which we may be unaware. You may have an old photograph from the past that you would like for us to use. Or you may know of a family or an individual that you believe should be included.

If you are at all interested in this project, please let us know by the end of September. Beginning the first of October, we will have more time to devote to history and genealogy. We will work on this through the long winter months, and hope to have it completed by the middle of April, 1998. We will probably all meet again at that time for another tour of some local spot that we had never realized could be so "enchanting!"

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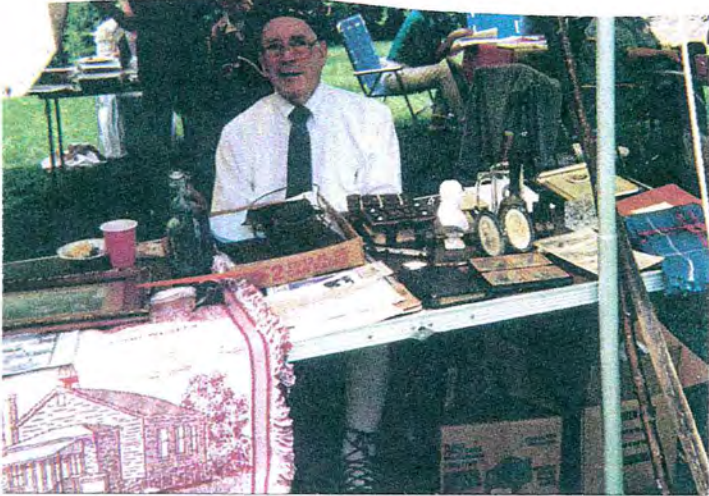
(P.S. - Details of Tour Number 3 for 1997 are in the planning stage. The date has been set for Saturday, September 20. Meet at Colliers United Methodist Church (where we met for the Colliers tour last April). Time, about 2 p.m. We will car pool from there to the Morton Hill area. Speakers will narrate history at various stops. Following the tour, we will return to the point of beginning, where food will be available.)

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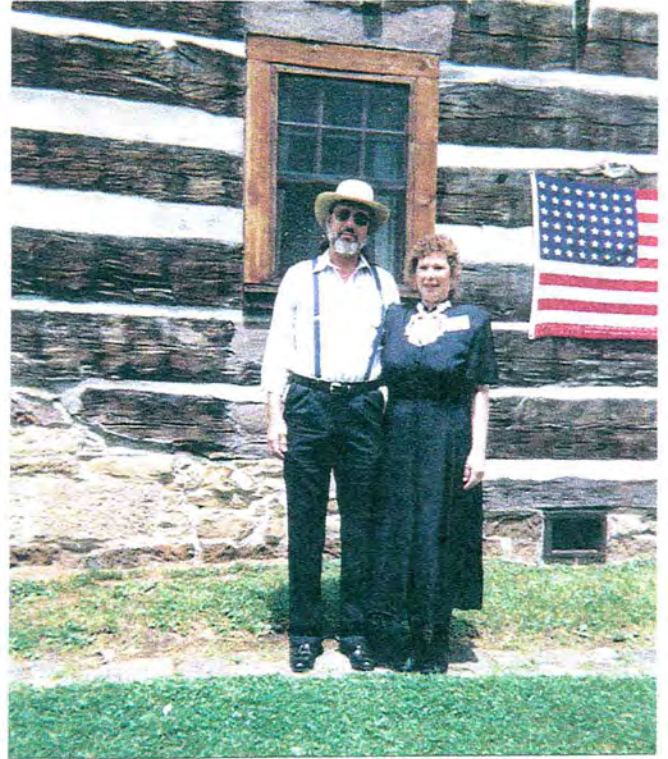
Ohio Country Gathering-June 14, 1997



John McCord



John McCord



David E. Slasor and Jeanne Van Buren



The Gump Family
Maureen, Jeff and Elizabeth

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Joan and Dr. Francis Rogers talking with Elizabeth Gump



Shirley and John Baker



Kathryn Slasor, Jim Schweizer,
Jim Woodrow and June Grossman

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Bill and Lois Early
Margie and Russ Slasor



Kathryn Slasor and Jim Mueting



Kathryn Slasor and Jim Mueting



Lt. Col. James Mueting

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Two Robinsons, Forestine Weigman and Don Robinson with Scottish guest.



Dolores Williams, Don Robinson, Shirley Robinson and Forestine Weigman Eldersville and Colliers



Two of the Latimer Family



The Latimer Family

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Edith McLaughlin and Bevier Jansen



Alan and Ester Jean Lackey



The "girls in yellow" helpers



Donnie Grey and guest

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Howard Standish, Jane White and Doris Jones



Jim Schweizer and David W. Slasor



The Buxton Descendants
John and Shirley Baker with
Charlotte Bradley and Brady Dunley



Jim Woodrow and
and his sisters

Ohio Country Gathering-June 14, 1997



June Grossman seated with Joan and Fran Rogers



Guests



June Grossman

Ohio Country Gathering recounted

By Kathryn Campbell Slasor
Special to The Review

WELLSVILLE — One of the many highlights of the Ohio Country Gathering held June 14, near Wellsville, was the "First Day Cover" stamp that could be purchased, courtesy of the Wellsville Post Office and Postmaster James Schweizer. The envelope features a photograph of the Shaw Log House, built Circa 1813, and restored in 1984 by James L. Woodrow in his scenic back yard on Fife Road. Woodrow played host to approximately 150 historians, genealogists, archaeologists, historical authors and their families and friends for the all-day gathering.

Woodrow's spacious back yard bordering Little Yellow Creek, and accented with overhanging pines, came colorfully alive as guests arrived garbed in the dress of their ancestors. Many of the gentlemen wore a kilt, the pleated skirt of the Scottish Highlanders. These colorful plaid tartans were reminiscent of the days approximately two centuries past, when a small group of Scottish immigrants peopled this Little Yellow Creek Valley, which later became known as the Scots' Settlement.

One of the purposes of the Ohio Country Gathering was to bring together those people of like mind and kindred spirit from both sides of the Ohio River. Several generations of pioneer-spirited, adventurous homesteaders have crossed the great Ohio to the new frontier in the "West." Some pushed farther into the plains, while others remained close by to build cities and populate their new homelands.

An example was one James Clark, who had made his way into Washington County, Pa., before the turn of the nineteenth century. His three daughters were Nancy, Rachael and Elizabeth. Nancy married Samuel Leeper, and remained in Washington County. Elizabeth married John Gardner, and also remained in Pennsylvania. Rachael married William Wells, who eventually established the city of Wellsville.

In their costume at the Ohio Country Gathering, Lt. Col. James Muezing, who made the trip from Des Plaines, Ill., portrayed his ancestor, James Clark, while Cindy Morris, whose home is in East Liverpool, and who is a direct lineal descendant of one of James Clark's daughters, Elizabeth, was realistically clad in appropriate dress. Re-

unions such as this were the order of the day.

Traveling the farthest distance for the event was Howard Standish, whose home is in Tempe, Ariz. Attired as Benjamin Davis Sanders, proprietor of the old Sanders Mill on Cross Creek, in Brooke County, W. Va., he brought with him several props representative of the Confederate sympathizer who had more than 20 patents to his credit, of inventions he had perfected throughout the years.

The oldest in attendance was Marie Miller McElhaney, of Moon Township, Allegheny County, who represented her ancestor, Rachael Phillis Moore. Mrs. McElhaney is 91.

George Chapman and his wife came from Mars, in Butler County, Pa., to represent the former's ancestor, the George Chapman who established the town of New Cumberland in Hancock County, W. Va.

The famous Poe family, of Georgetown, Pa., was represented by their descendants, several members of the Nash family. John Nash Maravich, who is well into local history at age 8, was none other than Andrew Poe himself, in his period costume, accented with a coonskin cap.

Elizabeth Gump, of Jefferson Township, Washington County, Pa., portrayed an ancestor of very early days who was half Shawnee. Elizabeth, 9, had made her own Native American costume, complete with brightly colored moccasins.

The list could continue, with several dozen families present who had turned back the hands of time to the enjoyment of all. Introductions to these costumed descendants of the founders of a small portion of America, were made by June Campbell Grossman, of Paris, Pa. Grossman is a lineal descendant of James Campbell, who was one of the earliest settlers in the Hollidays Cove area, now Weirton.

Another portion of the day's agenda was the introduction to "Keepers of the Records," records, in this instance, being those historical documents and papers that have been hoarded and guarded for years by zealous history-oriented individuals. Photographs of approximately fifteen of these keepers were on display, a few of them present, and some having passed away. Another display consisted of pictures of old homesteads in the Tri-State Area, some still standing, others having been shamefully de-

stroyed.

A number of guests set up their own displays of "Tools of the Trade." John Kranak, of Burgettstown spread his table with old relics from the all-but-forgotten blacksmith shop of his father, and the machine shop of his own former days. Lawrence Latimer, of Brooke County, W. Va., reminded guests that a cooper had at one time been an important character in a community, by understanding how to make barrels. Since his grandfather was a cooper, Latimer brought along his tools.

Historical authors had their day at the Gathering. John DeMay, of Pittsburgh, was busy selling his latest book concerning forts of the old settlers. Russell Booth, of Cambridge offered his book concerning the history of the Tuscarawas Valley.

Tim Brookes, president of the East Liverpool Historical Society, and curator of the Thompson House Museum, introduced several officers and members of various historical and genealogical societies. Among these Harry Cline, of the Ohio Hills Indian Museum; Mary Clark and Bette Jackson, of the Wellsville Historical Society; George and Ann Shaw, Conveners for Clan Shaw of Pennsylvania from Felton, Pa.; Tom Pike, local historian, and many others.

Delightful strains of old-time melodies were provided through the fiddle, the guitar, the accordion and the dulcimer, as local musicians shared their skills. And at frequent intervals, there drifted from the distance, the haunting notes of the bagpipe. In the talented hands of a young lady named Heather, this national instrument of Scotland transported the listeners back in time to the nostalgic days of Columbiana County's Scots' Settlement. With the waters of Little Yellow Creek and its shimmering pines as a backdrop, the picture was clear that this day was indeed, an Ohio Country Gathering.



Area history buffs (clockwise, from bottom left) Marie Miller McElhane of Coraopolis, Jean Stout of Clinton, Allan Lackey and Esther Jean Lackey and Allan Lackey of Athens County share informa-

tion at an Ohio Gathering held June 14 at the Fife Coal Road home of James Woodrow. (Photo by Gina Gulutz)

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Jim Woodrow "Scots" Museum

Jim's home

The Shaw log house, restored



Little Yellow Creek