



# Union Echoes

## Union County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society

*The Union County Chapter of The Ohio Genealogical Society's mission is to promote and nurture an interest in genealogy by providing instruction, information, and inspiration while encouraging members and others to develop family histories and genealogical records for the benefit of future generations.*

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[karenbaldwin22@gmail.com](mailto:karenbaldwin22@gmail.com)

ALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE! COME AND JOIN US! First Tuesday of months March thru June and August thru November at 10:00 at the library.

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Website: [www.uccogs.org](http://www.uccogs.org)

Address: UCCOGS  
PO Box 438  
Marysville, OH 43040

*Did you know?*

**UCCOGS yearly membership for 2023 will increase from \$12 to \$15, January 1<sup>st</sup>. Pay before the 1<sup>st</sup> for only \$12.**

*From the Desk of UCCOGS Librarian, Nancy Katzenbach*

Nancy Katzenbach, [nankatzen@gmail.com](mailto:nankatzen@gmail.com)



The library is open, and the Genealogy Department is now available for research. There is a UCCOGS member to help on Tuesdays from 9 until noon or by appointment.

Would you please sign the visitor's list in the notebook on top of the cabinet?

UCCOGS takes statistics on how many visitors use the genealogy department in the library.

**LIBRARY VISITORS – If you are researching any Union County family, please sign our register. Other visitors may be researching the same family. Please indicate Y or N for permission to publish in Union Echoes, the Union County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society newsletter. PLEASE PRINT!**

**PLEASE indicate Y or N in the last column below.**

Date	Visitor's Name	Email or Address	Surnames Researching	To Publish
				Y or N
8/1	Marty Scott	<a href="mailto:martylou50@gmail.com">martylou50@gmail.com</a>	Scott, Burnham, Child, Rutan	Y



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**Veterans Day Program**  
**November 6, 2022, 2 pm**  
**Courthouse Lawn at the Plaza**

**Come to the Veterans Program on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm to hear the rest of Simon Shover's story by Bo Johnstone.**



**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**Unless otherwise noted, all meetings in the lower level of the Marysville Library. (Elevator located inside the back door.)**

**231 S. Plum St., Marysville, Ohio 43040**

**10:00 am on the third Saturday of each month except for December 2022, January 2023, February 2023, and July 2023.**

**November 19<sup>th</sup> - 10 am, Marysville Library**

**"Vintage Pictures of Marysville" Presenter – Sue Kienbaum**

*Sue Kienbaum is an Adult Services and Reference Assistant with the Marysville Public Library. Local History & Digitization Specialist Marysville.*



## A Thanksgiving Story True Story of Union County Pioneers

(Source Unknown)

The tradition of Thanksgiving is one of sharing our good fortune with others. This is well illustrated in the following true story as told to the author by his grandmother.

The weather on this cold 1885 winter day was snowy with already several inches of snow on the ground. Tomorrow would be Thanksgiving and all the preparations at the home of **George** and **Margaret McAllister's** home were nearly complete. The **McAllisters** lived along Blues Creek just north of Marysville and had been settled there since the early 1800s. This particular Thanksgiving was one of special significance to the **McAllisters** this year because their son had just returned from a tour of duty with the army.

It was Thanksgiving Eve and the snow blew across the open fields causing the already drifted dirt roads to drift even more. It was about 8:30 PM when a knock at the **McAllister's** door startled everyone. When **George** opened the door there stood an older gentleman, cold and shivering. "Our stage lost a wheel over on the main road, would you mind if the passengers come into your home until we get it fixed"? said the driver. "Of course! They are welcome here," **George** replied. There were three adults and two children that walked in. "The more the merrier" said **George** for you see the **McAllisters** already had their house full. With their son returning from the army that made six children of their own. The **McAllister's** unexpected guests came in and introduced themselves. Two of the adults, and their two children, were from Toledo on their way to visit grandma who lived near Columbus and the third adult was an English gentleman with an accent the **McAllisters** were not at all familiar with.

About an hour later the stage driver returned with some bad news, the axle was broken and there was no way to fix it until the next day. "Oh my, grandma is expecting us for Thanksgiving dinner" said the mother from the stagecoach. Without hesitation **Margaret** said "Now, now, not to worry, you are welcome to share with us. The English gentleman said but ma'am you have six children to feed. We could not cause such an imposition". "Well, sir," said **Margaret**, "The Good Lord brought us together and I'm sure he will provide."

Thanksgiving Day arrived and **Margaret** was up before the sunrise to start her baking. **George** and two of his oldest sons had gone hunting to hopefully snag some food to supplement their expanded family. And snag some extra food they did. Never before had **George** seen such a bountiful collection of pheasant, rabbit, and quail. **George** and his sons brought home two pheasants, three rabbits and six quail. "It was like the Good Lord set them right in front of us," said **George**. The **McAllisters** had already been God fearing family, so they thanked the Lord for this gift.

As the dinner hour approached the **McAllister's** home was filled with all the good smells that made one's mouth water. Their English guest was **William Hancock**, and this holiday of Thanksgiving was new to him. But the smells of the food and politeness of the **McAllisters** made him feel the spirit of the moment. **Thomas** and **Betty Matthews** and their two children were just as moved by the kindness of their hosts. But none of them were prepared for what was about happen. Just as **Margaret** was setting the huge table that stretched from the kitchen into the adjoining room there was a knock on the door.

**George** opened the door to reveal an elderly gentleman whose mustache has small ice icicles hanging from it. "Excuse me sir, I was wondering if you could tell me how far from Marysville I am?" he asked **George** replied, "About four miles south there on Marion Road." The old gentleman thanked him and bid him a good day. "Wait sir" said **George**, "Please come in and warm yourself." "Thank your sir, but I must get to my sister who is dying. I have already been on the road too long." **George** saw no horse and asked where his horse was. "She slipped and came up lame, so I left her at a farm about six miles back." Then let me take you into Marysville" **George** said without hesitation. "But your dinner will be stone cold." "No matter," said **George**. "I would hope someone would do the same for me if my family was in need." That statement brought tears to the eyes of **Barbara** and moved **William** to volunteer to go with them. "Let me pack some food for you to take with you," said **Margaret**.

On the way back from Marysville as snow fell from the sky, **William** told **George** how impressed he was with his kindness. "My friend, the Good Lord blessed me with a family, a warm home and provides for us every day, the least I can do is show my gratitude by befriending others". Dinner was ready when **George** and

**William** arrived home. It was good to be in the warmth of the fire once again and for **William, Thomas** and **Barbara** the kind sharing hearts of the **McAllisters** had made this a special day. For **William** he understood what Thanksgiving really was and it is said that when he returned to England that he celebrated this American holiday until his passing in 1932. **William's** children carried on the tradition and passed down the story to their children and to this day the ancestors of **William Hancock** celebrate a special Thanksgiving. **William** never forgot the words **George** spoke to him on the way back from Marysville because in a cemetery outside London **William's** headstone is inscribed "We have been blessed with many things so the least we can do is show our gratitude by befriending others."

### UNCLE SAMMY'S GIFT by Lynn Baldwin (March 2012)

It was a small article on the front page of the August 6, 1902, issue of the Plain City Advocate. A casual reader of the paper that day might have glanced over it. Certainly, the article's title "Plain City's Enterprise" did not suggest the enduring impact this "enterprise" would have on the town. The little article with the unimposing title announced that Plain City would be receiving a gift--the gift of a "Town Clock." Not just any clock mind you, but one made by the **Seth Thomas** Clock Company who, in the reporter's estimation, "are the most critical and accurate clock makers in America."

The clock would be a gift from Samuel Taylor, a prominent Plain City area farmer. "**Uncle Sammy**," as he was affectionately known, was the youngest son of **Richard** and **Polly Taylor**. The elder **Taylor** had been born in Virginia, but his family eventually moved to Kentucky. Around 1802, **Richard**, his four brothers, and their families emigrated to Ohio where they all settled in close proximity of each other along Big Darby Creek in what would one day become Union County.

Living just downstream from **Richard's** new home was the area's most famous pioneer--**Jonathan Alder**. To those of us who have grown up in Plain City, **Alder's** story is a familiar one. Captured by Indians in 1782 from his Virginia home, nine-year old **Alder** was brought to Ohio and adopted into an Indian family. Raised as one of their own, **Alder** adopted their language, dress, customs, and way of life. As a young man, **Alder** married an Indian woman named **Barshaw** and together they built a cabin on Big Darby.

It was here that **Alder** met **Richard Taylor** and other white settlers that were slowly moving into the former Indian lands. These encounters with the settlers stirred distant memories in **Alder's** mind of his family back in Virginia, and he began to think about reconnecting with them. Eventually, he made the decision to go in search of them, but he knew that he couldn't return to the East looking like an Indian, so **Alder** traveled to Franklinton (now Columbus) to purchase enough cloth for **Richard** (who also happened to be a tailor) to make him three suits of clothes in "the current style." Thus attired, **Alder** made his journey to Virginia where he was indeed reunited with his family.

Meanwhile, life along the Big Darby was not easy for **Alder's** neighbor, **Richard**. The land **Richard** had purchased was wet, low land which contributed to bouts of the ague (malaria) that his family suffered from. So, in the interest of his family's health, the **Taylors** returned to Kentucky. Unfortunately, trouble followed. New property was purchased in Kentucky, but questions arose about **Richard's** title to the land. To avoid potential problems that this might cause, he decided in 1811 to return once again to Big Darby, this time buying land on the east bank of the creek in the newly created Madison County.

The **Taylors'** new home was a 200-acre farm carved out of the wilderness in Darby Township. It was here six years later on August 28, 1817, that **Samuel** was born. **Samuel** grew up to be a prosperous farmer and well-known breeder of Norman and Clydesdale horses. In 1839, at the age of 28, **Samuel** married **Eunice Allen**, daughter of **Calvin** and **Eunice Allen**. Together the couple had three children. Following the death of **Eunice**, **Samuel** remarried in 1844 to **Rosanna Kent**. They became the parents of four children.

**Samuel** would spend his entire life in close proximity to where he was born. His roots and ties to the land and the community went deep. As he entered the waning years of his life, he began to reflect on how these ties could be honored. Thus, **Uncle Sammy** arrived at the idea of a town clock-- a symbol of his pride in his pioneer heritage and his hope for his community's future prosperity.

Such a splendid gift deserved a prominent location, a site where the clock could serve as a focal point for the growing village. What better location than the intersection of Plain City's two principal thoroughfares! Several years earlier, the property on the southeast corner of Main Street and Chillicothe Street became available for sale. **Samuel** purchased it and then subsequently sold it to his son-in-law **Wayne J. Keiser** and his business partner **Morris D. Barto**. In 1893, **Barto** and **Keiser** built a two-story hardware store. A tower would now be added to the building to accommodate the new clock.

And so, **Uncle Sammy** placed his order. The much-anticipated clock arrived during the week of September 15. It was an impressive timepiece. The pendulum weighed 75 pounds and would strike each hour against a bell weighing 800 pounds. Upon its arrival, the clock was entrusted to the care of **Earl G. Scott**, a local jeweler, and transported to Scott's shop where, with the assistance of dentist **Dr. Cecil H. Lucas**, the necessary adjustments were made to put the clock in running order. Once they had the clock ticking away, local towns folks were encouraged to stop by **Mr. Scott's** West Main Street shop to see the magnificent timepiece up close and in operation.

Citizens eagerly watched as work on the clock tower progressed. A town council meeting was held to discuss a celebration to dedicate the clock and to thank **Samuel Taylor** for his generosity. Thirteen committees were formed. These committees ranged in duties from one charged with procuring food, to entertainment, to decorations. Saturday, November 15, was selected as Dedication Day.

As Saturday approached, preparations continued. It had been decided that the celebration would include a huge barbecue. When local resident **Emmanuel Rausch** heard about these plans, he knew he had just what was needed to make the barbecue a success.

“**Manny**” **Rausch** was the grandson of German immigrants **George** and **Catherine Rausch**. The **Rauschs** settled in Maryland in 1830 where **Manny**’s father, **Philip**, was born a year later. In 1832, the family moved to Darby Township in Union County. It was here that **Manny**’s father met **Barbara Goesz**. The couple married in 1855 and over time would provide **Manny** with twelve brothers and sisters. **Manny** grew up on the family farm eventually marrying and raising a family of his own. Recently, the **Rauschs** had decided to take their family on a year-long vacation. As they would be gone for a long time, the family’s property was set to be sold at an auction on November 20. The sale would include an ox that the **Rauschs** had been fattening for their own use. When **Manny** heard about the barbecue, he offered to donate the ox. (Sadly, **Manny** and his family would never take that year-long vacation. He passed away the following July after suffering for several weeks from rheumatic fever and heart trouble. He was 38 years old.)

On the Wednesday afternoon before the celebration just as students were being dismissed from school, the meat wagon carrying **Manny**’s ox for Saturday’s roast passed through town. Apparently, an ox was a novel creature to the children because upon seeing the wagon decorated with flags and a large sign proclaiming “Ox donated by **Manny Rausch**” a group of children ran after the wagon hoping to get a look at the animal. The first to catch up with the wagon was a little boy named **Dell Summers**. Unimpressed with what he saw, he returned disappointed to his friends and according to The Advocate said, “You fellers needn’t run, ‘taint no ox at all, it’s nothin’ but an old cow.”

Despite all the planning, the one thing the organizers couldn’t plan for was the weather. They needn’t have worried, however. Despite a little rain Friday night, November 15 dawned a beautiful late fall day much to everyone’s relief. With everything in readiness and the cooperation of the weather, people began arriving in town early in the morning. They continued to arrive in a steady stream throughout the day quickly filling the town square and streets and even spilling over into the alleys.

Earlier in the morning of the big day, two life-long friends of **Uncle Sammy, Thomas Thompson Kilbury** and **James R. Mitchell**, drove a carriage out to **Sammy**’s house to bring him into town. Upon their arrival at the edge of town around 10 o’clock, they were greeted by the Dublin Coronet Band. The band accompanied them to the center of town where a speakers’ stand had been erected. The awaiting crowd greeted the guest of honor with three rousing cheers. Opening remarks were given by **Howard C. Black**, chairman of the day. **Black** traced the events that led up to the celebration and the principal figures involved: **Samuel Taylor** who gave the clock, **Barto** and **Keiser** for the clock tower, **Emanuel Rausch** who provided the ox; **E. G. Scott** who set up the clock on its arrival; and **Dr. C. H. Lucas** who assisted Mr. **Scott**.

Following his remarks, **Black** introduced the next speaker, **Reverend N. D. Creamer**. **Reverend Creamer** in turn was followed at the podium by **Professor Chambers**, a former superintendent. Just as **Professor Chambers** was wrapping up his speech, the keynote speaker for the day, **Dr. W. O. Thompson**, President of The Ohio State University, arrived with a flourish in one of the town’s few automobiles and to the accompaniment of the Dublin Coronet Band.

**Dr. Thompson** had made quite a journey in order to be at the celebration. At 2 a.m. that morning, **Dr. Thompson** had been in Huntington, West Virginia. By rail, he traveled to Columbus arriving there at 8:30 a.m. An hour later he was in Worthington where **Joseph Kahler** and his automobile whisked him away to Plain City arriving an impressive 45 minutes later.

Just as **Kahler** and **Thompson** were motoring toward the town limits another group of dignitaries were arriving. It was a fortunate coincidence that **General Axline**, president of the Urbana, Mechanicsburg, and Columbus electric road; **Mr. W. K. Schoeff**, president of the Cincinnati Traction Company; **Capt. J. B. Foraker**, his vice president; and **W. A. Ginn**, chief engineer of the U. M. & C. electric road happened to select this day to inspect the route for the interurban they were planning to build through Plain City. Earlier that fall on September 10 The Plain City Advocate ran a small article announcing the proposal of an interurban line coming to Plain City. The Dublin Coronet Band proudly led both contingents to the center of town where the crowd erupted with three cheers for **Dr. Thompson** and another round of cheers for the interurban officials.

By now it was noon and time for the event that had brought everyone together. It was time for **Uncle Sammy's** clock to begin its march through time. The clock's pendulum, which had been held back by a string, was released by **Uncle Sammy** allowing the clock to chime for the first time. As the twelfth and final chime died away, a profound silence had fallen over the crowd. **Reverend Hunt** offered a prayer of thanks. And then it was time for the barbecue to begin!

The crowd returned to the new **Barto** and **Keiser** building which had been elaborately decorated for the occasion. Flags and potted plants lined windows that had been draped with red, white, and blue bunting. The first floor was filled with long tables decorated with red, yellow, and white chrysanthemums. At the table of honor sat **Uncle Sammy**, his daughters, and **Barto** and **Keiser**. Filling out the remainder of seats at the head table where many of the town's senior citizens.

**Newton J. McMasters**, proprietor of the Central Bakery and Restaurant on North Chillicothe Street, prepared the meal. In addition to the 600 pounds of beef provided by **Manny Rausch's** ox, diners feasted on 500 pounds of ham, 3 bushels of beans, 60 gallons of potato salad, 15 cases of celery, 15 cases of cookies, and 6000 buns. The thirsty crowd drank 6 barrels of coffee. It was estimated that 3000 people enjoyed the barbecue. And best of all--it was free! (Unfortunately, tragedy would shortly befall the **McMasters**. In 1903, a disastrous explosion occurred at the restaurant resulting in a fire that killed Mr. **McMasters**. The remainder of his family left Plain City in 1905.)

At 2 p.m. everyone returned to the speakers' stand to hear the featured speaker OSU President **Dr. Thompson** give **Uncle Sammy** a glowing tribute. At the conclusion of his talk, he encouraged citizens to show **Uncle Sammy**, who sat nearby in his carriage, their appreciation. Dutifully, many in the audience formed a line near **Uncle Sammy's** carriage and began to quietly file pass their benefactor shaking his hand in appreciation.

Following the conclusion of **Dr. Thompson's** speech, "a regular **Buffalo Bill** parade" took place. Led by **Major Butler** and **Captain H. C. Robey** and under the command of **Colonel C. M. Butt**, a procession of Indians and "ragamuffins" made their rowdy way out to Pastime Park much to the amusement of the spectators. Those who lingered into the evening enjoyed a fireworks display. Balloons were released and fireworks set off from the top of the new Bank-Dutton building.

It had been a picture-perfect day. Attendance was estimated at about 5000 people. Not bad for a community with a population according to the 1900 census of 1,432. Those who were there for the day-long celebration would recall this as one of Plain City's most memorable events. The only

mishap of note occurred when young **Paul Durnell**, at play after dark, ran into an iron hitch rack cutting a nasty gash above his left eye. **Dr. Mattoon** patched up the youth with a couple of stitches.

At the outset of the Twentieth Century, the citizens of Plain City had much to look forward to and be proud of. There was the promise of an interurban line. The newly formed Plain City Club had created a fund for the purpose of purchasing a park. **Jake Taylor** was contemplating buying a fountain for the town square to replace the one that had been damaged some time ago by a team of runaway horses. The town could boast of good water, lights, schools, and churches. Plans were in the works for a sewer system and paved streets. And now as the last of the crowd began to slowly drift away and head for their respective homes, they could hear in the clear night air the distant chiming of what would become the most iconic symbol of this proud little village—**Uncle Sammy's** gift.



## Welcome! New Member!

### John Emery Roberts

Researching surnames: **ROBERTS, LODWIG, MAIN, WARREN, RUSSELL**

**[John43066@gmail.com](mailto:John43066@gmail.com)**

#### \*\*\*\*WANTED\*\*\*\*

##### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

- No experience necessary
- Do NOT have to live in Union County or in Ohio
- Supported by UCCOGS Board Members
- Member of the UCCOGS Board

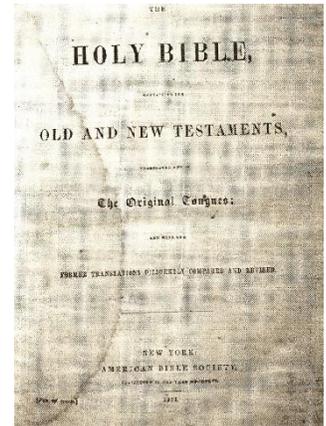
Interested contact Librarian:  
Nancy Katzenbach  
**[nankatzen@gmail.com](mailto:nankatzen@gmail.com)**

Previous editor resigned due to health issues.

Ina Keckley Family Bible  
Donated by Margaret Tolliver to  
Union County Historical Society

## Names found in the Bible:

George Keckley	born 24 Sep 1822
Nancy Keckley	born 18 Jul 1824
Lydia Ellen Keckley	born 11 Oct 1845
John Martin Keckley	born 28 Sep 1848
Joseph Leander Keckley	born 25 Feb 1853
William Shannon Keckley	born 15 Dec 1857
Joseph Michael Keckley	born 25 Nov 1860
Jasper Keckley	born 06 May 1868
Howard F. Keckley	born 09 Feb 1885



George Keckley and Nancy Davis  
married 15 Feb 1843  
Samuel Westlake and Lydia E. Keckley  
married 01 Aug ????

John M. Keckley and Edith O. Rames  
married 14 Oct 1873

THE HOLY BIBLE  
CONTAINING THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS,  
TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORIGINAL TONGUES:  
AND WITH THE FORMER TRANSLATIONS  
DILIGENTLY COMPARED AND REVISED  
NEW YORK:  
AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
INSTITUTED IN THE YEAR MDCCCXVI  
1871

William Winget died 05 Apr 1874

Willie Winget died 01 Jul 1861 24yrs 11mo 15days

Phebe Winget daughter of Wm.& Sarah J. Winget  
died 13 Jun 1889 aged 23yrs 4mo 23days

Sarah Jane Winget died 18 Oct 1902 aged 76yrs 10mo 24 days

## CORRECTION TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER

- If previous newsletter states "REVISED" on front page, do nothing.
- If you want a revised newsletter, send me your email address.
- Otherwise, change the page numbers starting with the front-page being page 53.....60. The "What's Inside" needs to be changed to correspond with the correct page numbers

Dues are for the calendar year (January 1 thru December 31, 2023)

Current dues expired on December 31, 2022

Renew now and receive your password for the website!!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

Dues are \$15.00 per year (single or household) effective January 1, 2023, and lifetime membership is \$150.00. Each member receives bi-monthly newsletters. Members are invited to contribute articles and clippings for publications. You may also send ancestor charts, biographies, Bible records, and family research.

May we use your information on our Website (members only section). Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Returning Member \_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the Ohio Genealogical Society? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Surnames you are researching in Union County

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**GO GREEN!!** May we send the Union Echoes newsletter to the above email? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Dues are \$12.00 per household if paid by December 31, 2022.

Dues are \$15.00 per household for 12 months, January-December 2023.

Lifetime membership \$150.00 per household forever.

Make check payable to Union County Chapter OGS:

Return form and dues to:	Annual Membership	_____
Union County Chapter OGS	\$15.00 or \$12.00 if paid by 12/31/2022	_____
PO Box 438	Lifetime Member (\$150.00)	_____
Marysville, Ohio 43040-0438	Donation	_____
	Total Enclosed	_____

These monies buy research materials, microfilm for the Marysville Public Library, and for guest speakers. We are a 501(c)(3) society.