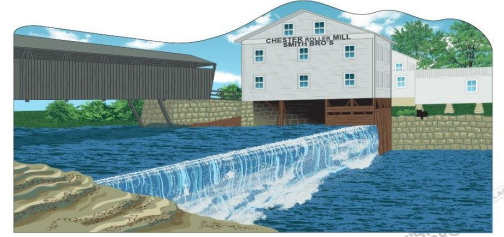


# Recollections from:

# ALONG SHADE CRICK



Fall Newsletter 2023

Chester, Ohio

Volume 43

## Chester Shade Historical Association

740-985-9822

[chestercourthouse@yahoo.com](mailto:chestercourthouse@yahoo.com)

*Hours of Operation:*

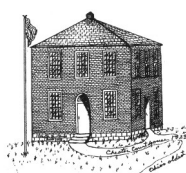
*Friday & Saturday, 10:00 am — 4:00pm*

### Board of Officers and Trustees

President: Jim Smith  
Vice President: Dan Will  
Treasurer: Diana Smith  
Office Clerk: Michael Hart

### Trustees

Greg Bailey  
Dale Colburn  
Becky Grate  
Mary Powell  
Diana Smith  
Jim Smith  
Jim Stewart  
Sue Tuttle  
Dan Will  
Julia Will



### From the Bench – October 2023



### To our members:

Fall season is upon us and farmers are preparing for harvest once again. This will be our third newsletter for 2023.

CSHA has added seven (7) new Lifetime Members to its membership and regular members continue to send in yearly membership dues.

Dan Will and Jim Smith have completed the replacement of the third floor's decking on the Academy Building (*see page 7*).

## From the Bench, Continued

On September 16, 2023 Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) has a meeting in the Dining Hall. The Sons of Union Veterans (S.U.V.) will hold a meeting on Sept, 30 2023 and also tour the courthouse.

I would like to give a big thank you to the S.U.V. Brooks-Grant Camp No. 7 for donating a large screen TV to CSHA.

Also, CSHA recognized Alan and Kaye Holter for donating the Morning Star School Sign in Memory of Pat and Roy Holter. This schoolhouse was located about 200 yards north of Morningstar Road and Bashan Road intersection.

I would like to thank all CSHA members who came out to Chester in October 2, 2023 and cleaned the Courthouse.

Looking ahead for November and December, we will put up our Christmas Tree right after Thanksgiving on November 27, 2023.

Open House in the Courthouse in on December 2, 2023.

On October 19, 2023 Commissioner James Will, Jim Smith, and Dan Will re-attached the Courthouse cupola by use of a manlift to reach the rooftop.

I hope that this will last a few more years. There are many small maintenance jobs that need to be done, and we will take care of these in the near future.

Sincerely,

President James M. Smith



Alan Holter and Jim Smith with schoolhouse sign.

*If anyone has information of this school, please contact CSHA at 985 9822 or Jim Smith at 740 416 5451.*



CSHA President Jim Smith and Meigs County Commissioner James Will aside an electric manlift provided by the county.



## The Ashworths of Meigs

*Submitted by Dan Will*

*The story of* the fine old home pictured here - that of the Ashworths - has been preserved thanks to Mary Donaldson, a member of this pioneer Southeastern Ohio family.

The house was long the residence of her father, Charles Ashworth, and stands near Old US33 (now Rock Springs Road) on Flatwoods Road which leads to SR7 at Five Points.

The Ashworths were among the first settlers of Chester Township; James Ashworth, born in 1759, was the settler in Southeastern Ohio, having brought his family to near Chester in



*“One of the features of the Robert Ashworth family, now little known, was their adventurous life in the West in early days.”*

early days. The Ashworths were Irish people who came to the eastern part of the United States long before the Revolutionary War, in which some of the family members were soldiers in the colonial army. David Ashworth, born in 1785, was a son of James and the father of Robert. David died in 1846, two years after his father, and Robert was born in 1816.

Robert Ashworth was a tanner and had his shop near the home pictured. Remains of this building are still in existence.

One of the features of the Robert Ashworth family, now little known, was their adventurous life in the West in early days.

Charles Ashworth, the last of the family to live in the old home on Flatwoods Road, was born in 1852. His brother Robert, was a Civil War soldier and after the war was an engineer and geologist in the Far West, before the days of railroads. Charles also went West as did his sister Kate, who became a teacher in Kansas, and returned to Ohio to marry Howard Hoskins. Their home was near that of the Ashworths and two of their children, Asa and Ada, were teachers in Pomeroy. Augustus Ashworth, another son of Robert, went West and returned to Middletown, Ohio, to become a man of wealth and position. David was another son. All five were teachers in their younger days.

## The Ashworths of Meigs, cont.

Charles Ashworth married Margaret Hilber, of a pioneer family in Nease Settlement. He was born in 1852 and his only child was Mary Donaldson. Her father went West to homestead in Kansas in 1880 and saw and knew many of the famous people of the Old West. As a boy he saw Morgan's Raiders when they visited the Ashworth home where they were fed, perforce.

Later Charles Ashworth took up a section of land in southeastern Colorado, property which his daughter inherited and visited many

times. Charles was permitted under homestead laws to work part time and was employed for a time in a Dodge City bank in Kansas when this town was famous as the most notorious in the world. Later he worked in the famous Silver Dollar Bank in Leadville, Colorado, when it was owned by Haw Tabor, one of the fabulous figures of the West in mining days – he made millions in silver mining and died a pauper.

Many members of the Ashworth and Hoskins families are buried in the Chester Cemetery.

The home featured in this article was built in 1867, and was purchased, along with 230+ acres of farm land by Eskey and Mary Hill in 1954. There was a least one other owner of this property between the Ashworths and the Hills. Eskey was well known as a letter carrier in Pomeroy; at home, he raised ponies and horses. Mary passed away in 1979, Eskey in 1985.

The property has since been split up into several tracts and sold; however, many of these tracts are still owned by descendants of Eskey and Mary, including the tract on which this fine old home rests.



***Most of the information on the Ashworth family in this article was obtained from The Harris History by Charles H. Harris, published by The Athens Messenger in 1957.***

***An extensive family history (genealogy) can be found in the Meigs County History Book, Volume I, page 68, published in 1979.***

### Chester Township Tidbits

In year \_\_\_\_\_, the first mail route was established, between Marietta and Chester.

In the year 1824, Chester Township was organized from parts of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ Townships.

In 1834, what epidemic swept Chester?

- A) Measles
- B) Covid
- C) Cholera
- D) Beatlemania

Answers:

Mail route established 1812  
Sutton, Salisbury, and Orange Townships  
Cholera

## THE GREATEST GENERATION, # X

*Submitted by Greg Bailey*



The 450th Bomb Group in action over Europe

Image source - USAAF via National Archive

For those of you new to our newsletter, this is another segment from the daily war diary of Nick Mandella, radio operator/gunner in the flight crew of Lt. Victor Bahr, from our own Chester.

I chose this particular mission because I think it relates accurately the feelings of our young men who flew these missions selflessly to protect our country, and I believe many today are forgetting the sacrifices they made and what they went through.

I guess I could go on a personal tirade on this topic, but this is not the venue for it. As we approach Veterans Day, let's remember that there were untold stories like this. Is it no wonder that they are "The Greatest Generation?"

-----  
Date: 14 October, 1944.

Target: Maribor, Yugoslavia.

Ship: "I'll Get By."

Bomb load: 3x 2000 Lbs.

-----  
"This was a diversionary raid. The bulk of the 15th Air Force was hitting Vienna, and we were to draw the enemy fighters towards us. Our course was plotted in such a way as to make the enemy think we were heading for Vienna and to draw their interception. With no escort we always sweat these kind out as when the Luftwaffe hits, they don't hit in pairs anymore, they travel in dozens, it's safer for them.

Every thing went pretty much smoothly, but about sixty miles from the base tragedy struck and brutally.

The lead ship feathered number four engine and dropped back out of formation. We assumed they were just heading in for priority landing. When we landed, the group operations officer asked us if we had seen a box leader crash land about sixty miles from the base. It hit us like a bolt of lightning. We never thought for a minute they were in any serious trouble as planes routinely land with one engine gone. The only one in our crew who watched them was Gunner Joe Marazzi. Joe said he watched them continue to lose altitude and finally attempt a landing in a small field. He said the terrain was rough and they hit once and bounced and then hit again. They didn't blow up but we learned later that it did go on fire after breaking into three pieces. Abbott the ball gunner and Capt. Smith were the only two to come out alive, Abbott with two broken legs and badly cut face. The Capt. Was in critical condition (he survived) but the other eight crew members gave their lives for their country.

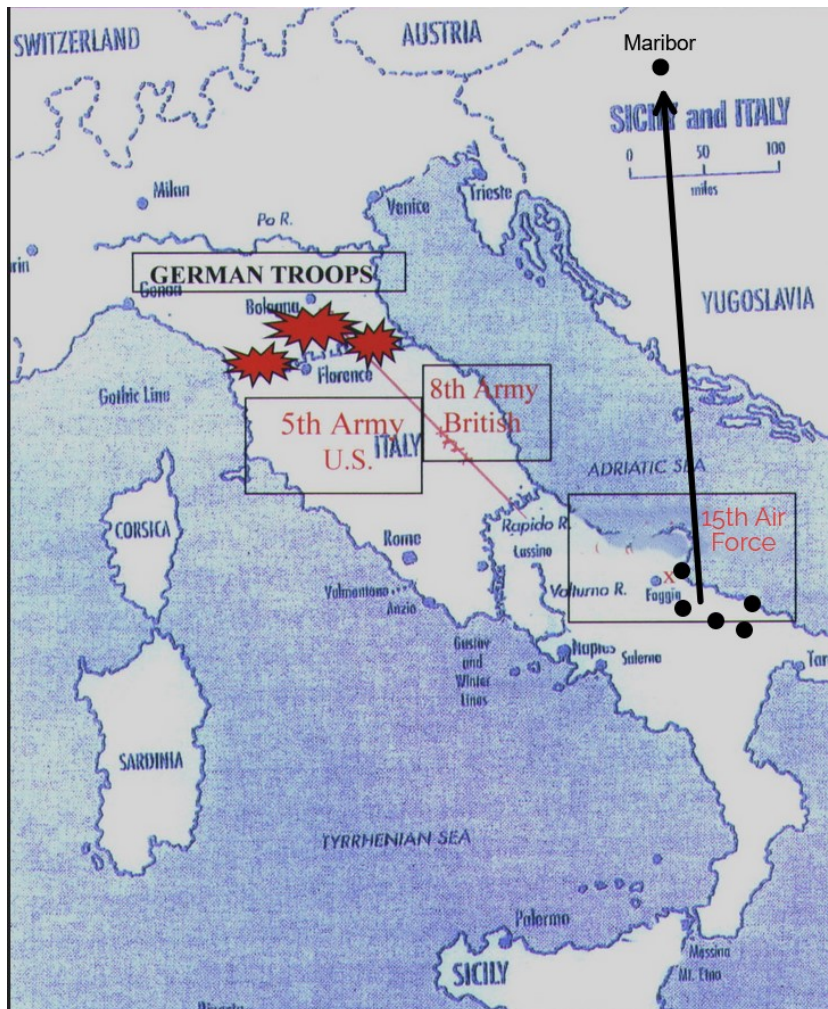


I had seen a ship blow apart over Budapest and some chutes get out, but this?? It's so unreal, so unjust. We had known these boys in the states, they were at Boise with us, and came over on the same boat, same compartment of the ship and slept in our barracks here.

Some perhaps can be indifferent and sort of hard hearted, charging it up to -this is war and war is hell-but I just can't. It goes deeper than that to me. I'm not smart enough to describe my feelings in words. All I know is that those boys were all young and full of life the night before and now through the despicable, ghastly, horrible results of man's inhumanity to his fellow man they are dead tonight. From the official report I could perhaps describe the accident more fully but see no reason to haunt myself further or the others who may read this. Believe me, it isn't pretty.

Back in the barracks, the boys broke out all the whisky and beer they could find and proceeded to get very drunk and noisy. They're all trying to relieve the tension and nerves and the thoughts running through their minds, but for most it's not working. Can't blame them at all for trying but things like this you just don't forget easily, or ever."

---



Capt. Smith – Pilot: Seriously injured and survived

Bill Abbott - Ball Turret Gunner:  
Both legs broken

The following gave their all:

Capt. Kahan - Copilot

Lt. Jones - Navigator

Lt. Evans - Bombardier

Cecil Mattos - Engineer

Gene Carney - Radio Operator

Bill Smiley - Nose Turret Gunner

Ned Rentmeister - Waist Gunner

Bernie Kaplan - Tail Gunner

*May we never forget!!*

## Meigs Commissioners meet, address county business

by Lorna Hart  
STAFF WRITER

POMEROY, Ohio (WV News) — The Meigs County Commissioners met in regular session Oct. 5 to address county business.

Vice President Zachary Manuel, Member Shannon Miller and Clerk Tonya Edwards were present, with President Jimmy Will absent. Also attending were Sheriff Scott Fitch, Sheriff's Capt. Frank Stewart, Michelle Hyer, program director/district liaison, and Meigs County Treasurer Tim Ihle.

Ihle gave the opening prayer, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Tonya Edwards. Manuel called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., and the previous week's minutes were accepted and current week's bills were approved.

Several appropriations and appropriation adjustments were made to the county budget. Only one bid was received for the Scipio Volunteer Fire Department project. Manuel



Staff photo by Lorna Hart

Chester Shade Historical Association President Jim Smith at the Chester Academy. Smith, along with Vice President Dan Will and Trustee Greg Bailey, have made repairs to the stairs and decking of the academy, which houses the CSHA office and genealogy library.

opened the bid at 10:10 a.m. from Municipal Emergency Services (MES). Hyer said they were unable to accept this bid because MES was the original company who

estimated the contract. The Electronic Pollbook memorandum of understanding was signed by the commissioners. A copy of the memorandum is on file with the clerk.

The commissioners gave approval to reimburse Chester Shade Historical Association (CSHA) for the extra material to complete decking repairs on the back side of the Chester Academy.

CSHA maintains and manages the Academy and Old Meigs County Court house/Chester Court house, and the group has been working to repair to the stairs and decking. The material was needed for additional structural repair to the decking. The repairs have been completed by CSHA volunteers, including President Jim Smith, Vice President Dan Will

and Trustee Greg Bailey. The commissioners went into executive session at 10:24 a.m. and met until 11:32 a.m. When the session was over, a motion to adjourn the meeting was approved.

The Meigs County commissioners meet each Thursday at 10 a.m. at the courthouse unless otherwise announced.

The commissioners gave approval to reimburse Chester Shade Historical Association (CSHA) for the extra material to complete decking repairs on the back side of the Chester Academy.

CSHA maintains and manages the Academy and Old Meigs County Courthouse/Chester Courthouse, and the group has been working to repair to the stairs and decking. The material was needed for additional structural repair to the decking. The repairs have been completed by CSHA volunteers, including President Jim Smith, Vice President Dan Will and Trustee Greg Bailey.

Lorna Hart, River Cities Tribune, Oct.17,2023



A gap in  
reality, or  
Deck of  
Theseus?

Marilyn Spencer, of Long Bottom, spent over six (6) hours in September weeding and tending the flower bed at the base of the hill.

Thank you MARILYN for your volunteer effort.



Amos Dunham's 'sketch of their experience' as a Pioneer (1846)

Howe, Henry. *Historical Collections of Ohio*. The State of Ohio, 1904

Submitted by Jim Smith

People, who have spent their lives in an old settled country can form but a faint idea of the privations and hardships endured by the pioneers of our new, flourishing and prosperous State. When I look on Ohio as it



is, and think what it was in 1802, when I first settled here, I am struck with astonishment and can hardly credit my own senses.

When I emigrated I was a young man, without any property, trade or profession, entirely dependent on my industry for a living. I purchased sixty acres of new land on credit, two-and-a-half miles from any house or road, and built a camp of poles seven by four feet, and five high, with three sides, and a fire in front. I furnished myself with a loaf of bread, a piece of pickled pork, some potatoes, borrowed a frying-pan and commenced housekeeping. I was not hindered from my work by company ; for the first week I did not see a living soul, but, to make amends for the want of it, I had every night a most glorious concert of wolves and owls. I soon (like Adam) saw the necessity of a helpmate and persuaded a young woman to tie her destiny to mine. I built a log-house twenty feet square – quite aristocratic in those days – and moved into it. I was fortunate enough to possess a jack-knife : with that I made a wooden knife and two wooden forks, which answered admirably for us to eat with. A bedstead was wanted I took two round poles for the posts, inserted a pole in them for a side-rail, and two other poles were inserted for the end pieces, the ends of which were put in the logs of the house – some puncheons were then split and laid from the side-rail to the crevice between the logs of the house, which formed a substantial bed-cord, on which we laid our straw bed – the only bed we had – on which we slept as soundly and woke as happy as Albert and Victoria.

In process of time, a yard-and-a-half of calico was wanted ; I started on foot through the woods ten miles to Marietta to procure it but, alas ! when I arrived there I found that, in the absence of both money and credit, the calico was not to be obtained. The dilemma was a serious one, and how to escape I could not devise ; but I had no sooner informed my wife of my failure, than she suggested that I had a pair of thin pantaloons, which I could very well spare, that would make quite a decent frock the pants were cut up, the frock made, and in due time the child was dressed. The long winter evenings were rather tedious, and in order to make them pass more smoothly, by great exertion I purchased a share in the Belpre library, six miles distant. From this I promised myself much entertainment, but another obstacle presented itself I had no candles ; however, the woods afforded plenty of pine knots – with these I made torches by which I could read, though I nearly spoiled my eyes. Many a night have I passed in this manner till twelve or one o'clock reading to my wife, while she was hatchelling, carding or spinning. Time rolled on, the payments for my land became due, and money, at that time in Ohio, was a cash article ; however, I did not despair. I bought a few steers ; some I bartered for, and others I got on credit – my credit having somewhat improved since the calico expedition – slung a knapsack on my back and started alone with my cattle for Romney, on the Potomac, where I sold them, then travelled on to Litchfield, Connecticut, paid for my land and had just \$1 left to bear my expenses home, six hundred miles distant. Before I returned I worked and procured fifty cents in cash ; with this and my dollar I commenced my journey home-ward. I laid out my dollar for cheap hair-combs, and these, with a little Yankee pleasantry, kept me very comfortably at the private houses where I stopped till I got to Owego, on the Susquehanna, where I had a power of attorney to collect some money for a neighbor in Ohio.

I might proceed and enumerate scenes without number similar to the above, which have passed under my own observation, or have been related to me by those whose veracity I have no reason to doubt ; but from what I have written you will be able to perceive that the path of the pioneer is not strewn with roses, and that the comforts which many of our inhabitants now enjoy have not been obtained without persevering exertions, industry and economy. What, let me ask, would the young people of the present day think of their future prospects, were they now to be placed in a similar situation to mine in 1803 ? How would the young miss taken from the fashionable, modern parlor, covered with Brussels carpets, and ornamented with pianos, mirrors, etc., etc. , manage her spinning-wheel in a log-cabin, on a puncheon floor, with no furniture except, perhaps, a bake-oven and a splint broom?



## 2023 CSHA Membership

Memberships begin on January 1 and expire on December 31 of each year.

Please make checks to CSHA. Thank you.

\$15.00 Individual Adult, \$150 Lifetime Membership

### **PLEASE PRINT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(If email has changed, we are asking you to verify your email address)

Student Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Persons: Individual \_\_\_\_\_, Amount to Pay \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_

(If you would like - please mark one of the following and a member of the CSHA will contact you)

☐ I would like to volunteer at the Courthouse/Academy

☐ I have a family history or other items to donate to CSHA

☐ I have stories to tell

Thank you, we appreciate your support!

**Yes, I would like to volunteer!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I can volunteer: One day a week \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

One day a month \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Occasionally \_\_\_\_\_

As needed \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred day: Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

We are open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am till 4 pm. Please call first. 740-985-9822

Special Skills\*: Filing \_\_\_\_\_ Typing \_\_\_\_\_ Word Processing \_\_\_\_\_ MS Excel \_\_\_\_\_



Chester Shade Historical Association

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740-985-9822

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## *Your Dues Count*

*The money that you pay for dues goes to promote our organization.*

*It helps us pay our utility bills and upkeep expenses, making it possible to keep the buildings open to the public, as well as historical programs for youth and adults. Please check out our membership page and sign up today. Memberships begin in January and end on December 31 of each year.*