

**LAWCO LORE    \*LARGE PRINT EDITION\***  
**VOLUME 31, NUMBER 3 - FALL 2014**

**THE LAWRENCE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
**CHAPTER 74 OF THE OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**



## Message from the President:

Fall is almost here; time to roam around the cemeteries in Lawrence County. We have been busy planning improvements to Wakefield Cemetery. The stones will need to be reset and a fence built. Help is always welcome. Our Nov. 1st. meeting will be honoring lineage applicants. We have people in all categories. We will have a luncheon at the Briggs library with the meeting. If you could bring a dessert or salad to add to our meat course that would be great. We will also have a speaker. New members are joining and sharing their history.

We love to see your smiling faces and hear about your genealogy searches. Nicole Cox gave a great presentation about the iron furnaces of Lawrence County and their history at our last meeting.

Thanks Nicole. The newsletter will now have deadlines. Dec.1st., Mar.1st., Jun.1st., and Sept.1st. Get your articles in as soon as possible so we can include them in a timely manner. The Bicentennial Celebration for the 200th birthday of the founding of Lawrence County will take place in 2016. A committee has been formed and many things are planned. Carl Murdock and Nicole Cox are on the committee. We look forward to reading the articles in The Ironton Tribune and helping with the plans. Remember to send in your family pictures and stories. You might think them just family lore, but genealogy is genealogy.

President, Becky Wilson Thissen

# Calendar of Events:

Next meeting: November 1, 2014

1:00 p.m. at Briggs Library, Ironton.

Speaker: John Radcliff Doerres

## Officers - 2014-2015

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# **PHYLLIS HAMNER ROOM**

**For Local History and Genealogy**

**Briggs Lawrence County Public Library**

**321 South 4th Street**

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**Library website: [www.briggslibrary.org](http://www.briggslibrary.org)**

<b>Tuesday — Thursday 10 AM — 8PM</b>
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<b>Friday — Saturday 10 AM — 5PM</b>
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*Submitted to the Lawrence Register Facebook page.....*

Found this interesting tidbit today and didn't know if you had heard of this man or not. I looked him up and found the following records for him. Since he died in 1893 there's no death certificate so I don't know where he is buried. Maybe Woodland?

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*“William Enochs, Civil War veteran”*

1893, General William H Enochs, Congressman from our District, found dead in bed at his home in Ironton, July 12. He was serving a second term. He was born May 29, 1842 in Noble County, Ohio. He was the only soldier in the Civil War, who enlisted twice as a private and came out a Brigadier General. At the age of 22, he commanded 4000 men. He was nominated at Gallipolis in 1890. He married Miss Annis Hamilton and is survived by her and one son.

## **John Zimmerman, Civil War veteran**

(1837-1909)

John Zimmerman, age 24, was mustered into the 5th Virginia Volunteers at Ceredo, Virginia, Aug. 5, 1861. His campaigns and military wanderings eventually led him to Cedar Creek, Virginia, a member of the VI Army Corps, commanded by Major General Phillip H. Sheridan, and which included a division commander by the name of George A. Custer, who would leave his mark in American history a decade later on a hot and dusty hill overlooking the Little Bighorn River in southern Montana. Here in Virginia, on the morning of October 19, 1864, through a dense fog, units commanded by Confederate General Jubal Early ambushed units of the 5th Virginia Volunteers. In the initial encounter, John Zimmerman was shot

above the right ankle. Unable to walk and in danger of capture, John Zimmerman eventually described his predicament in the "Ironton Register, Thursday, March 10, 1898"

"Editor Register-On Oct. 19, 1864, at Cedar Creek, just at day-break or a little before, the Rebel army under General Early, came swooping down upon us with the intention of driving everything before them, the Fifth Va. General Enoch's old regiment lay on the extreme left of the line of course. There was cavalry further out. We were driven back, and I, among a great many others, was wounded. As I went down I said "For God's sake, boys, don't leave me here," and they did not. They picked me up and carried me till they came to an ambulance in which I was placed and taken

back to Winchester to the field hospital. That evening about sundown my leg was operated on. I had been wounded in the right leg. A Minnie ball, entering just above the ankle and mashed one bone all to pieces and lodging on the opposite side just a little under the skin. The doctor removed it and gave it to me.,, The wound healed all right and appeared all right until two years ago when it broke out in a running sore and had become painful. I supposed the bone had become diseased and called upon Dr. Reynolds of Proctorville, who operated upon it, and instead of finding a piece of bone detached, found another leaden ball embedded in the bone above where it had been sawed off.

Now the question is, did the gun with which I



was wounded fire two balls or did two Rebs hit me at the same time in the same place. I am getting along as well as could be expected under the treatment of Dr. Reynolds.

John Zimmerman came to Lawrence Co. as a young man from Greene Co., Pa. He married Mary Ellen Lewis, daughter of Wilson B. Lewis and Elizabeth Sowards, in 1864. To this couple were born at least two children who died in infancy. And so it was, shortly after the passing of the second of these infant children, that Mary Ellen's mother, Elizabeth Sowards, now married to William C. Dillon, died shortly after the birth of Mary Ellen's half sister, Nettie Dillon. This was August 1873. William, burdened with a large motherless family, was unable to care for Nettie, who was taken in by John and Mary Ellen Zimmerman. She was

raised as an only child and eventually become wife of Vincent F. Dillon in 1895.

John and Mary Ellen Zimmerman were known as "Grandpa" and "Grandma" Zimmerman by all the children of Vincent and Nettie Dillon. I recall many stories and references made to them by my father, Berkley F. Dillon, the third eldest of the V.F. Dillon children. Our family has retained John Zimmerman's original October 1864 commission, campaign ribbons and medals, and a silver pocket watch, which I was told "Grandpa" Zimmerman carried throughout the Civil War. I also recall my father describing that "Grandpa" Zimmerman always walked with a limp.

John and Mary Zimmerman are buried in the old Rome Cemetery, not far from the

gravestone of John A. Bowen, a fellow comrade at Cedar Creek, Virginia and long time friend, who was one of several companions who helped John Zimmerman to safety on that foggy October morning in 1864.

Submitted by Henry S. Dillon



Story and pictures taken from "History of Lawrence County, Ohio

Vol. 2, 2003 with the consent of Henry S. Dillon

## **Samuel Brady Steece, Civil War veteran**

Submitted by: Nicole Cox

Samuel “Brady” Steece was born May 6, 1844, the son of Henry Steece, an ironmaster at Caroline Furnace in Kentucky. On May 30, 1867, he married Ella Willard, daughter of James O. Willard (manager of Buckhorn Furnace and president of the Iron Railroad). Their wedding was the first to be held in the Presbyterian Church in Ironton. He served three terms as the postmaster in Ironton before starting his 30 year mercantile business. On September 25, 1901, he and others started the Ironton Cement Company (later Alpha Portland Cement). He was the father to five children: Anna Willard Steece Richards (1866-1940); Harry Eugene Steece

(1871-1924); Albert Campbell Steece (1874-1955); S.B. Steece, Jr. (1889-1957) and a daughter. Before he started a family and his many successful business ventures, he was a Civil War soldier with an interesting story to tell. The following is an interview with the Ironton Register, printed November 17, 1887.

Interview with Brady Steece, Company H, 91st  
Ohio Volunteer Infantry, USA

Tell us about it, said the REGISTER reporter, the other day, as he observed Mr. Steece leaning against a big box of dry goods just received from New York. Oh, said Brady, it wasn't much but it might have been grapeshot as well as buckshot, for some of the boys took grape on the terrible day and fell to rise no more.

I belonged to Company H of the 91st Ohio

Volunteer Infantry, Capt. Crossley, commanding. Our regiment was brigaded with the 14th and the 9th Virginia regiments and the 12th Ohio. Colonel Duval was our brigade commander. We had twelve pieces of artillery, a squadron of cavalry, the whole force, about 2,000 men being under General Averill. We left Martinsburg early in the morning and marched towards Winchester, but had no got far when our advance ran into rebel cavalry, but a regiment thrown into line of battle quickly put the rebel forces on the move. Thus a half dozen times our march arrested, until we got within four or five miles of Winchester. Then, the usual demonstrations didn't seem to impress the rebel force gathered in a skirt of woods just in front. It was soon ascertained that the rebs meant fight, and that some ugly work was at hand; so our brigade was thrown into line of battle and moved forward under cover of a gentle slope,

where we waited developments. In the meantime our artillery was brought up and ranged along a little raise just to our rear. The artillery duel began and for a while it was hot. The shells came in both directions over our heads, and I believe we made little dents in the earth trying to scooch as low as possible. After thus being subjected to the noise of shells for some minutes, the time arrived to move forward. The woods in which the rebs were posted was about 300 yards ahead of us. Between us and them was clear ground. The first move was that of a squadron of cavalry, from our left, that charged out bravely on the reb right, with the purpose of turning it. But when they arrived within a couple hundred feet of the woods, they came back pell-mell, hurry-skurry, for dear life. If at that moment the rebs had charged us, the fate of the day might have been decidedly different. But they didn't, and that gave us the chance to

charge, which was immediately sounded, and forward we went.

Had we known the force that was in front of us, we might have been badly whipped, for the fact would have moderated our dash considerably, but ignorance was bliss, and in we went to chew up the rebs. Our line was stretched perpendicular to the road; the 14th on our left and the 9th Virginia and 12th Ohio to our right. Our company happened to span the pike, which proved to be a great point of danger.

As we advanced, the artillery played its terrible tune. Our progress was at first moderated, until we came within good gun range, and the reb muskets opened on us, then the charge was sounded and forward we went. Well, now, look here; you don't expect me to describe that charge! If you do it will take a Webster's



Unabridged and several hours to do it. I've been told that right where we were, was the hottest five minutes of the war, and I believe it. Yes sir, it rained balls. I could see them make puffs in the dust of the road like the big drops that begin a summer shower. The rebs had four guns right in the road, down which we were charging, and they let loose with canister. But our boys didn't falter; on they went with the line. Keeping up their battle front, though the way it was strewn with dead and wounded of Company H. What was left of our company kept up the charge, and actually some of our boys clubbed the reb gunners right at their battery. But I didn't get that far. I met with a circumstance on the way. Although it was only buckshot, I thought it was a cannonball gone right through me. At any rate my musket dropped right out of my hand. As I stumbled to the roadside the sight was heartrending. There lay Day and Steel and

Bruce and Hite and Wilkins and others of the boys, killed and wounded. The shower of balls and shriek of shells kept up; and even then, we didn't know but what those who were not killed would be captured. But I soon saw differently, and not withstanding my pain, I was ready to yell; for as I sat beside one of our wounded I saw a long line of rebel prisoners being brought in, and then I felt pretty safe.

Well, we whipped the rebs, and it was a mystery. They had 6000 men in good position and we had not over 2,000, and charged across an open field. I think it was only impudence and dash that conquered. Anyhow, we captured their guns and drove them into Winchester. My company went into the fight with 42 and came out with 11 men under the command of 5th

Sergeant Albert Campbell. It was there Major Crossley, formerly County Treasurer, lost his right arm, and which finally took his life. Eleven of our boys were killed there and twenty wounded. It about blotted out Company H. That night I joined the ambulance train for Martinsburg, and then two days after was taken to Claryville, just in time to escape old Jubal Early, who came up the valley driving our boys before him.

[Editor's Note: S.B. Steece will also be featured in local newspapers as part of the county's Bicentennial celebration]



S. B. STEECE.



## **Lawrence County Iron Furnaces**

At our Lawrence County Genealogical Society meeting on September 6, Nicole Cox gave an excellent presentation on the iron furnaces of Lawrence County. Nicole became interested in the furnaces when she began doing her family research. Several family members had worked in some of them. Her presentation consisted of many interesting facts and pictures.

There were 23 furnaces throughout the county, established throughout the 1800's. Most of us who have spent a day at Vesuvius Lake are familiar with the reminder of that particular furnace erected in 1832. Ironton, the county seat of Lawrence County, was so named because of these iron furnaces.

The furnaces, known as blast furnaces because of the huge quantities of air blasted in at

the bottom of the furnace, consisted of a stock yard, a charging house, an engine room, a casting house, and a stag wheel. In a blast furnace, fuel (charcoal or coke) and limestone were continuously supplied through the top of the furnace while air was blown into the lower section. Liquid iron collected at the bottom underneath a layer of slag.

The blacksmith periodically let the liquid iron flow out and cool. The molten iron was cast into bars called “pigs”; hence, the name “pig iron.”

Nicole captured the attention of our members.

I read an article by Emmett A. Conway, Sr. about the origin of the term “pig iron.” According to him, the workers compared the operation of the blast furnace to a mother pig and her nursing

piglets.

When they looked at the molten iron flowing from the hearth in the base of the furnace stack, the trench of red iron with many short side branches made them think of a sow (the large feeder trench) and pigs (the end result) (Iron Furnace History in Ohio. [www.oldeforester.com/ironintr.htm](http://www.oldeforester.com/ironintr.htm)).

To learn more about the iron furnaces, read Nicole's presentation "The Iron Furnaces of Lawrence County" at [www.lawrencecountyfurnaces.com](http://www.lawrencecountyfurnaces.com).

Frances Ross-Wheeler

## **From the Ironton Register**

*Reprinted with permission from Sharon M. Kouns*

### **An Underground Railroad Conductor**

#### **Interviewed**

Ironton Register, October 31, 1878

The other day, James was standing on the corner of Third and Railroad, leaning on a pile of tile, when a Register reporter interviewed him.

Notwithstanding, only recently someone had shot at his wife as she stood in the door of her domicile, not a cloud of sorrow dwelt on his brow. The bright sun was warming and James never wore a more friendly smile.

"From 1855 to 1860," says he, "I was largely connected with the underground railway. I must have taken through nearly 300 slaves in that time.

The route we'd take was to Olive Furnace, or to Squire Stewart's in Symmes Township, then over to Noah Nooks at Berlin cross roads, and from there to Wilkesville, in Vinton County. I would take them from Ironton to Olive or Symmes, and then there would be another fellow who would take them to the next station."

"Of course, I never did this for money, and never got a cent except from a free slave who was trying to get away with his wife and girl. He was the scariest fellow, and a perfect baby, too. Out near Olive, while I was trying to get through the woods over into Symmes, the free slave said he must have something to eat. I told him he mustn't show himself to anyone, or we would be gone up, sure. But he said he wouldn't starve, and down the hill he went into a coaling job. I knew we were pursued and thought that would let the cat out of the bag. So me and the women went on to a high point, where I climbed a maple



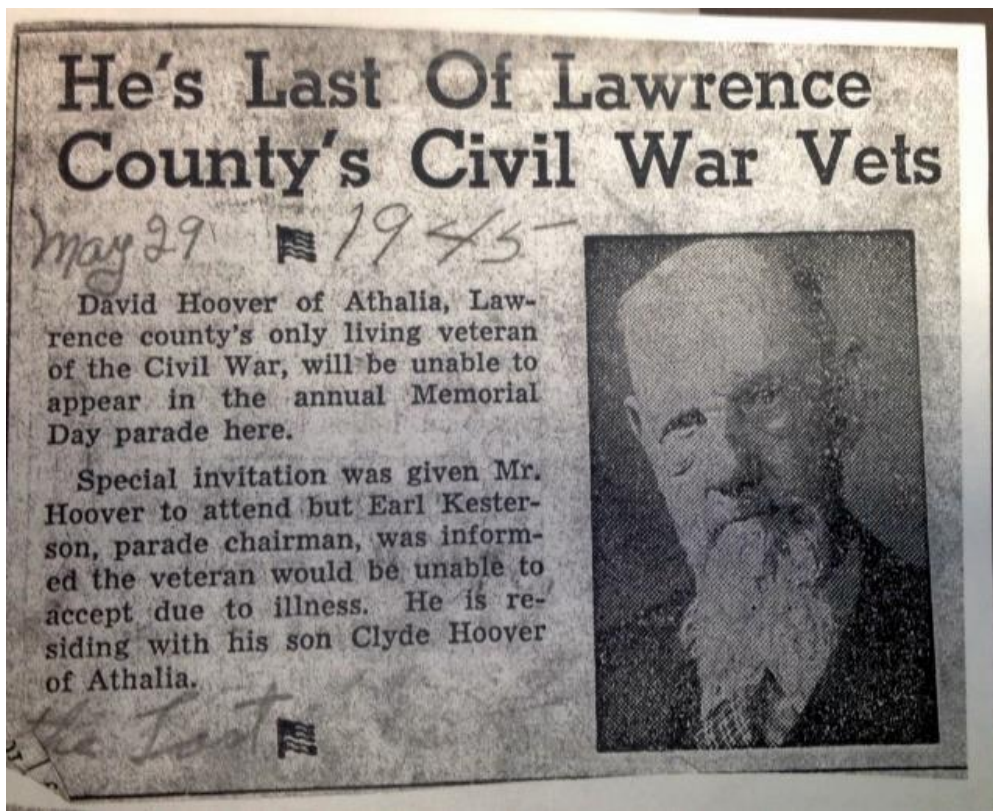
tree to see if I could see the free slave; and sure enough, down in the coaling I saw him, and a lot of men around him. Soon the man made a jump, and away he scampered, the men after him. I had told him before what direction to take, and so I waited for him. Soon he came tearing through the woods, puffing and blowing, and together we slipped off the hill top down the hill side and among the thicket. While creeping quietly through that, some man just above us gave a yell. The free slave jumped as if he was snake bit. Both of the women had carpet-bags, and these I took, and told the women to follow down the hill. I could hear the slave catchers on our tracks. Just then we came to a big tree that had fallen and lay down the hill. Under this I scrounged the women and their carpet-sacks, and telling them when dark came to go down into the hollow and travel in this direction (pointing toward

Symmes), I lit out. They did as they were told, and the next morning they and the man were over on Symmes Creek, safe. They got through all right, but I never saw them since."

It made no difference what James was doing, he would drop everything when train time came. He is a plasterer by trade, and many a time has he thrown down his tools and left a ceiling half covered with mud or skim, to assume his more important duties of conductor of the "underground." You wouldn't think it to look at him, that he was a dashing liberator; but he never shunned a post of danger. His trains departed and arrived while the people slept securely at their homes. Business on the "underground" has ceased, but James is as youthful and smiling as ever.

[Read the full article at <http://lawrencecountyohio.com/black/stories/ditcher.htm>]

## Honoring Our Civil War veterans



*Facebook page by member Tami Goody*

David T. Hoover was born in 1850 and died in 1946. He is buried in Miller Cemetery in Rome Township.

Jacob HANNING....  
(aka Henning/Haney]  
Center Furnace worker  
(1870 Elizabeth Twp  
census lists him as a  
furnace filler),



Civil War veteran (served in Ohio, enlistment date  
Aug 20, 1864)... his son, John Franklin Hanning,  
accidentally shot himself on a hunting adventure  
and is buried in Center Furnace-Superior Cemetery.

This family is the namesake for "Hanning Hollow" in  
Superior (which is now the ATV trail).

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# **Publications for Sale by the** **Society:**

**Ohio residents must add sales tax, at their home county rate, on the order total, including any shipping charges. Please show county and rate on your order.**

**"1820 Federal Census of Lawrence County, OH"**

by John Jones - \$6.00 + **S&H**

**"1830 Federal Census of Lawrence County, OH"**

By Donald R Clark - \$9.00 + **S&H**

**"Lawrence County Tax Lists 1818 & 1821"**

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**"Lawrence Township Cemetery Inscriptions"**

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**"Rome Cemetery Inscriptions, with Rome Township to 1850"** by John Jones - \$12.50 + **S&H**

**"Earliest Marriage Records of Lawrence County, Ohio, Vols. I, II, & III combined ( 1818-1843)"**  
by Vera Murnahan - \$10.50 + **S&H**

**"Lawrence County Declaration of Intent and Naturalization Records"**  
by Donna Murdock - \$11.00 + **S&H**

**"Index to Volumes I and II: Military Discharges"**  
recorded between Sept 30, 1864 & Aug. 21, 1919  
by Donald R. Clark—\$9.00 + **S&H**

**Lawco Lore** back issues: 1st issue ordered- \$2.00  
additional issues in same order- \$1.50 **includes S&H**

**"Catholic Cemeteries of Lawrence County, Ohio"**  
compiled by Lowell Slimp - \$18.50 + **\$3.50 S&H**

**Lawco Lore---The First Decade---1984-1993**  
Reprint -not indexed-523 pgs. \$49.00 + **\$5.00 S&H**

## **"History of Lawrence County, Ohio 1990"**

3rd printing - 398 pages, every name index

**\$55.00 + \$6.50 S&H**

## **"Hardesty Lake Historical Atlas of Lawrence County"**

In 1985 the county Historical Soc. combined the local and family history sections of the 1882 Hardesty History with the plat maps of the 1887 Lake Atlas of Lawrence County.

Indexed. **\$45.00 + \$5.00 S&H**

## **"History of Lawrence County, Ohio Vol. 2**

### **"Ohio Bicentennial Edition — 2003"**

500 family stories, 150 churches, township maps with cemeteries spotted and listed, historical update

293 pages, fully indexed

**Price cut-now \$55.00 + \$5.50 S&H**

**Shipping and handling:** Where not listed with price: \$4.00 for the first item and \$1.50 for each additional item.

Under Ohio law, shipping charges are taxable.

**Members now get a 10% discount on regular priced publications. Discount should be applied before adding shipping charges. Sales tax will apply to total including shipping.**



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: NEW or RENEWAL

Annual dues: \$10 per household Mail to: Lawrence  
County Genealogical Society, PO Box 1035,  
Proctorville, OH 45669-1035

New\_\_\_ Renewal\_\_\_ Year/s\_\_\_\_\_

Total Encl.\$\_\_\_\_\_

Name/s\_\_\_\_\_

Member No.\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address\_\_\_\_\_

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Are you currently a member of the Ohio Genealogical Society?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

**Lawrence County Families being researched:**

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**May we share your address, email address, or phone number with other researchers?    Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_**

**Draw a line through any section you don't want shared.**

**May we deliver your newsletters by email as a pdf file?**

**Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Prefer hard copy \_\_\_\_\_**

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TO HELP KEEP MAILING COST DOWN.**

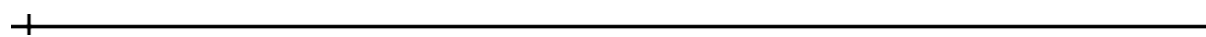
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**If you get a new email address, please send a message from that new address to: [Lawcoloreman@aol.com](mailto:Lawcoloreman@aol.com)  
Please be sure to include your name in the email.**

## **Welcome new member Debbie Rogers!**

**Remember dues expire December 31st unless paid ahead!**

Need help tracking down an ancestor? We can help! Send us your inquiries and let's work together to break down that "brick wall."



The Lawrence County Genealogical Society donated \$100.00 to the Building Fund for the Ohio Genealogical Society.

The letter they sent us states, "This fund is extremely important to the Society and its mission to collect and protect Ohio records and family history. This fund's effect will be felt far into the future as it produces funds needed for the collection, preservation, and dissemination of

these records. Your name will be on record in that far distant time as one who truly was a friend and supporter of the Society's efforts. We thank you for your gift and support.”

Your dues and donations go toward projects like this. Thank you to our members for keeping us going!