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## MS 76 Box 19 Notebook 8 - Trip to Proctor ville and Rome, Nov. 12, 1958 with John W. Lambert

Fred Bussey Lambert

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MS 76  
BX 19  
NBK 8

Trip to Proctorsville [sic] &  
Rome, Nov. 12, 1958  
With John W. Lambert

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MS 76  
BX 19  
NBK 8

Proctorville, Ohio,

SCHOOL TEACHERS

Professor James, Miss Lizzie Ramey, Miss Alice Eaton, Miss Ada Brawley, Mr. Ed Beavens, Y. T. Shirley, Charlotte Wilson, Cora Wakefield, Marinda Reed, Mr. Ben Forgey. He organized the high school here. First class to graduate was Maude Wilgus, Emma Eaton, Ernest Suiter in 1893. Miss Feal Forgey. All these are old timers.

OLD RESIDENCES

Rufus Magee house being torn down now.

Charles Wilgus house, Harrison Wilgus, Aaron Fuller, Theodore Fuller, Abner Smith, Ed Diments, Will Smith, Charley Watters, Will Ferguson, Alex Suiter, William Reckard, Marion Reckard, Edwin Smith, George Bay, Ravilla Gillette, William Allen, Guss Magee, Dr. G. Ricketts, Dr. Feurt, Dr. Reynolds, Morris Magee, Harve Fritchard, Ed Gardner, Mac Smith, Charlotte Wilson, Mrs. Syndors, Cora Wakefield, John Wilgus, William Reynolds, all these are 100 years old and all are standing except the Magee houses. My father's home where I lived is over a hundred years old.

Harrison Wilgus owned my house 60 years. I have lived here since he died in 1927. Thirty years ago Riches kept a hotel here. Dr. Gates lived here before my father bought it.

Proctorville had a fire here in 1900 caused by a dust explosion in the Bush Flour Mill. Buildings that burned were Ben Beckett's tin shop. A four room cottage, Filsons Tire Shop, Filsons Rooming House, Ed Diment's livery stable, a residence, drug store, hardware store, general merchandise store - 2, Bushes' Mill, Masonic Building. Some rebuilt, some drifted to other towns, and had new people move in - it was never the town of pioneer days. My grandfather's house (Charles Wilgus's) has been sold and is made into apartments. In the attic of his house were slave seats. My father was 14 years old when his father moved in. He was 84 when he died and he has been dead 31 years. Do you remember W. P. Martin, who kept store here? The Martin you talked with was his son.

Very truly yours,

Mrs.

Vabe

### SCHOOL TEACHERS

Professor James, Miss Lissie Ramey, Miss Alice Eaton, Miss Ada Brewley, Mr. Ed Deavens, Y. T. Shirley, Charlotte Wilson, Cora Wakefield, Marinda Reed, Mr. Ben Forgay. He organized the high school here. First class to graduate was Maude Wilgus, Emma Eaton, Ernest Suiter in 1893. Miss Feal Forgay. All these are old timers.

### OLD RESIDENCES

Rufus Magee house being torn down now.

Charles Wilgus house, Harrison Wilgus, Aaron Fuller, Theodore Fuller, Ahner Smith, Ed Dimmuts, Will Smith, Charley Watters, Will Ferguson, Alex Suiter, William Rockard, Marion Rockard, Edwin Smith, George Ray, Ravilla Gillette, William Allen, Guss Magee, Dr. G. Nickette, Dr. Fourt, Dr. Reynolds, Morris Magee, Harve Fritchard, Ed Gardner, Mac Smith, Charlotte Wilson, Mrs. Syndora, Cora Wakefield, John Wilgus, William Reynolds, all these are 100 years old and all are standing except the Magee houses. My father's home where I lived is over a hundred years old.

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Very truly yours,

Mrs.

Vane



3

Crown City, Ohio  
October 22, 1958

1. The history of the Dillon family begins in Ireland by the name of Lucas Dillon and Sir Henry Dillon came from that part of Europe and landed on the shore of Virginia in 1713 with his family which was the beginning of our clan.

2. From that family came some of the most distinguished people of America. Farmers, teachers, Doctors, lawyers, and Judges of the Common Pleas Court.

3. My Grandfather Dillon came to Lawrence County from Greenbrier County, Virginia in 1816, settled on Trace Creek in Windsor as a squatter. He hauled his household articles in a long covered wagon. He and four brothers and three sisters came down the Guyandotte River, then up the Ohio to Millersport crossed the river and camped on the bank for the night.

After breakfast on the next morning they started for the hilly country around Scotttown one foggy morning and on coming to the hill one of the brothers, Samuel by name, decided he would go up Federal Creek. One mile from the Millersport Road he stopped on some high ground, cut down trees, and built him a house becoming one of the first settlers. Others of the early settlers were James Trussdell, Hamilton Knight, John and Paul Toll, Dr. Clark, and William McKinley. The rest of the family passed to Scotttown, there they divided. Some up Trace Creek and one up Little Guyan, and the others on the ridge that divided the two creeks. All were squatters. They cut down trees and built their homes. Two years later my grandfather walked from his home to Chillicothe and purchased 40 acres of land from the Government for \$5.00. He made the trip in three days.

From his first wife he raised a family of 6 children, my father (Henry Dillon) was one of these. His oldest was killed in battle in the Civil War. My grandfather lived to be 88 years of age. I lived in Lawrence County 50 years Crown City Village in Gallia County 39 years making my age at present 89.

The first house in Millersport was on the north bank of Federal Creek in 1796 by a man named Miller built of Buckeye logs. The Government gave him 640 acres of land for his work in carrying the mail from Gallipolis to a Kentucky town - this tract of land went down the road to Athalia and back in the hills one mile from the river. Now Archie Chapman your teacher. I had gone to school two years to him at the Guyan Valley before your time. From your description the name of the school was Stony Point.

The Ferry Dillon you speak of belongs to another clan of Dillons and is no relation of mine. The surveyor in Gallipolis to whom you talked is still living in Gallipolis and he is a son-in-law of Archie Chapman. Sam White had three children - Robert, Clara, and Nettie. Clara died in Pennsylvania. Bob and Nettie lived on Federal until 1912 when they went north near Columbus and both are dead.

4

Dob married Hannah Doman. Nettie married David Wickline.  
Dave and Nettie parted and Dave went to Louisiana and died down there.  
After going over your description of the road you traveled to school  
to Archie Chapman could have been Fair Play School house. The one  
called Stony Point was down on Gayn Creek. If you require anything  
more let me know.

Yours truly,

A. L. Dillon

10 - 22 1958

1. The history of the Dillon family begins in Ireland by the name of Lucas Dillon, and Sir Henry Dillon came from that part of Europe and landed on the shore of Va. in 1713, with his family, which was the beginning of our clan.
2. From that family came some of the most distinguished people of America. Farmers, teachers, Drs. Lawyers and Judges of the Common Pleas Court.
3. My Grandfather Dillon came to Lawrence Co. from Gre<sup>n</sup>brier Co. Va. in 1816, settled on Trace Creek in Windsor Twp. as a Squatter. He hauled his household articles in a long covered wagon. He and four brothers, and three sisters came down the Guyanotte river, then up the Ohio to Millington Cross the river and camped on the bank for the night.  
(over)

after breakfast on the next morning they started for the hilly country around Scattam. Fuggy morning and on coming to. The hill one of the brothers (Surrey by name) decided he would go up Federal Creek. One mile from the Mother-Port road he stopped on some high ground, cut down trees and built him a home becoming one of the first settlers. Others of the early settlers were James Truesdell Hamilton Knight John and Paul Toll Dr. Clark and William Mc Kinley. The rest of the family passed to Scattam, there they divided some up trace creek and one up Little Gyan, and the others on the ridge that divided the two creeks. All were squatters. They cut down trees and built their houses. Two yrs later my grandfather walked from his home to Chillicothe and purchased 40 A of land from the Govt. for \$500. He made the trip in 3 days.

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the north bank of Federal Creek  
in 1796 by a man named Miller  
built of Buckeye logs. The  
government gave him 640 A of  
land for his work in carrying the  
mail from Gallipolis to a Ky.  
town - this tract of land went down  
the road to Athens and back in  
the hills 1 mi from the river.  
Now Archie Chapman your  
teacher. I had gone to school two yrs  
to him at the Deepan Valley before  
your time. From your description  
the name of the school was  
Stony Point

The Harry Dillon you speak of belongs to another clan of Dillons and is no relation of mine. The surveyor in Gallipolis to whom you talked is still living in Gallipolis and he is a son-in-law of Archie Chapman. Sam White had three children Robert, Clara and Nettie, Clara died in Penn. Bob and Nettie lived on Federal until 1912 when they went north near Columbus and both are dead. Bob married Hannah Dorman. Nettie married David Westline. Dave and Nettie parted and Dave went to La. and died down there. After going over your description of the land you traveled to school to Archie Chapman could have been Fair Play Schoolhouse. The one called Stony Point was down on Layan Creek. If you require anything more let me know.

Yours Truly  
A. H. Dillon



Crown City, Ohio  
October 27, 1958

This is my report of families who lived on Federal when father moved there in 1885. First house was that of Noah Bearberry. He had left the house and father moved in the old log hut.

Bob Keely lived at the foot of the hill in a large hewed log house.

Nest George Armstrong who reared a large family (13 in all), on down the road was Sam White's home who had 3 children in the home, up the hollow lived Earl Sauterud and his family. Nest home was that of Andy Johnson whose daughter (Sarah Johnson) Blake is now living on the middle branch of the creek. Nest place is John Armstrong, who had a family of 4 girls, all have passed on to the next world. Nest is the William McKinley's, Sr., home. He had 3 boys and one girl. They were of Scottish descent. All have gone. House burned two years ago. Nest down was the Farmer home. A. D. who built the house in 1875. Nest the home of Peter, Paul, John, and Alice Told. The house is still standing, but has been repaired and now looks more modern. Nest Forest Glen schoolhouse. Some persons set fire to the house and it burned to the ground 10 years ago.

Nest the home of James Truesdell and his family - all are dead and buried in the Millersport Cemetery. This brings to the fork of Federal Creek. Nest that brings us to the home of Tom Baker who later moved to Millersport with all his family. Three of his children are still living, Bert Baker, Artie Baker Bert and her daughter Nettie Bert.

Baker lived on Federal at the time you came there. Nest house was that of Samuel Dillon who was my father's uncle. He had a son, John, who left Federal Creek at the age of 12, went to Portsmouth, Ohio and began his study for ministerial work and became the presiding Elder of the Millersport church. While presiding over the church, the Dillon chapel, The M. E. Church, was built in 1876 at Athens, Ohio. Dillon came to Federal Creek in 1816 and settled on the property now owned by one Lahon. The old log house has been replaced by a new one.

Nest house the home of Charles Miller who raised a large family one girl in the family who married John Chapman in 1885. I was going to school at Forest Glen and Ada Truesdell was the teacher. She told me the next morning after the marriage at night the evening before. All are passed on and the house still standing. Some grandchildren are still living.

One house is up Federal about one quarter of a mile from the Millersport lane, known as the Andy Miller home has been destroyed by fire and a new one in its place.

#### Middle Branch

Thomas White and his family consisting of his wife, 4 boys, and 3 girls built this house. He was a cooper, teacher, and minister of the

gospel and considered one of the leaders of the community. The house is occupied by his grandson who is 70 years old at the present time.

Next house Squire Johnson who raised 2 boys and 2 girls. Next Frank Gurs who had 5 girls in the family and his wife. Next Mrs. Sarah Jane Wall (widow). Next Bill Tipping - last Hamilton Knight. These families were on Federal when you lived there. I will write on the other side for the left branch.

#### Left Branch

First at the very beginning was the home of Robert McKinley who had a wife and two sons. All are gone but the old house is still standing. I was in the home, saw the family, ate two meals as Mr. McKinley had grubbing and a party for the young folks at night. You were living on Federal or in Crown City at the time.

Sum of the statements I have made. Bob Maly came from Pennsylvania to Federal Creek with his wife and Jane, later he was followed by his brother Christopher. They were Dutch. Houses still standing when you were here--Sam White's house, Told house, James Trussell's house, Hamilton Knight's house, Charles Miller's house and James White.



Crown City, Ohio  
October 27, 1958

This is my report of families who lived on Federal when father moved there in 1835. First house was that of Noah Scarberry. He had left the house and father moved in the old log hut.

Bob Neely lived at the foot of the hill in a large hewed log house.

Next George Armstrong who reared a large family (13 in all), on down the road was Sam White's home who had 3 children in the home, up the hollow lived Earl Sucrturrd and his family. Next home was that of Andy Johnson whose daughter (Sarah Johnson) Blake) is now living on the middle branch of the creek. Next place is John Armstrong, who had a family of 4 girls, all have passed on to the next world. Next is the William McKinley's, Sr., home. He had 3 boys and one girl. They were of Scottish descent. All have gone. House burned two years ago. Next down was the Farmer home. A. D. who built the house in 1875. Next the home of Peter, Paul, John, and Alice Told. The house is still standing, but has been repaired and now looks more modern. Next Forest Glen Schoolhouse. Some persons set fire to the house and it burned to the ground 10 years ago.

Next the home of James Truesdell and his family - all are dead and buried in the Millersport Cemetery. This brings to the fork of Federal Creek. Next that brings us to the home of Tom Baker who later moved to Millersport with all his family. Three of his children are still living, Burt Baker, Artie Baker Burd and her daughter Nettie Burd.

Baker lived on Federal at the time you came there. Next house was that of Samuel Dillon who was my father's uncle. He had a son, John, who left Federal Creek at the age of 12, went to Portsmouth, Ohio and began his study for ministerial work and became the presiding Elder of the Millersport charge. While presiding over the charge, the Dillon Chapel, The M. E. Church, was built in 1876 at Athala, Ohio. Dillon came to Federal Creek in 1816 and settled on the property now owned by one Lahon. The old log house has been replaced by a new one.

Next house the home of Charles Miller who raised a large family one girl in the family who married John Chappman in 1885. I was going to School at Forest Glen and Ada Truesdell was the teacher. She told me the next morning after the marriage at night the evening before. All are passed on and the house still standing. Some grandchildren are still living.

One house is up Federal about one quarter of a mile from the Millersport lane, known as the Andy Miller home has been destroyed by fire and a new one in its place.

#### Middle Branch

Tenns White and his family consisting of his wife, 4 boys, and 3 girls built this house. He was a cooper, teacher, and minister of the

12  
gospel and considered one of the leaders of the community. The house is occupied by his grandson who is 70 years old at the present time.

Next house Squire Johnson who raised 2 boys and 2 girls. Next Frank Ours who had 5 girls in the family and his wife. Next Mrs. Sarah Jane Wall (widow). Next Bill Tippins - Last Hamilton Knight. These families were on Federal when you lived there. I will write on the other side for the left branch.

#### Left Branch

First at the very beginning was the home of Robert McKinley who had a wife and two sons. All are gone but the old house is still standing. I was in the home, saw the family, ate two meals as Mr. McKinley had grabbing and a party for the young folks at night. You were living on Federal or in Crown City at the time.

Sum of the statements I have made. Bob Mely came from Pennsylvania to Federal Creek with his wife and Jane, later he was followed by his brother Christopher. They were Dutch. Houses still standing when you were here---Sam White's house, Told house, James Truesdell's house, Hamilton Knight's house, Charles Miller's house and Tenna White.



Brown City O.

10-27-1958

This is my report of families who lived on Federal when father moved there in 1885.

First house was that of Noah Seaberry. he had left the house and father moved in the old log hut.

2 Bob Neely lived at the foot of the hill in a large hunked house.

Next George Armstrong who reared a large family - (13 in all) on down the road was Sam Whitehouse who had 3 children in the home, up the hollow lived Earl Decenturned and his family.

Next home was that of Andy Johnson, whose daughter Sarah (Johnson) Blake is now living on the middle branch of the Creek.

Next place is John Armstrong who had a family of 4 girls. All have passed on to the next world.

Next is the Mr McKisley's home  
He had 3 boys and one girl.

They were of Scottish descent,  
all are good. Home burned two years ago.  
Next down was the former home of Dr.  
who built the house, in 1875.

next the home of Peter, Paul, John  
and Alice Todd. The house is still  
standing, but has been repaired  
and now looks more modern.

next Forest Glen Schoolhouse  
Some persons set fire to the house  
and it burned to the ground 10. yrs  
ago.

Next the home of James Truettell and  
his family all are dead and buried  
in the Millisport Cemetery. This  
brings to the graves of Federal Creek.

Next that brings us to the home of  
Tom Baker who later moved to  
Millisport with all his family.  
Three of his children are still living  
But Baker, Artie, <sup>(Baker)</sup> and his  
daughter Nettie Bird.

Next Page.

To Baker lived in Federal at the time you  
were there.

## Left branch

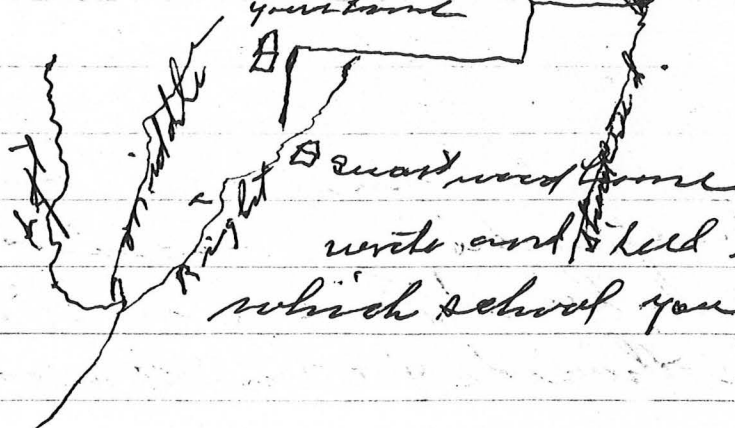
first at the very beginning was the  
home of Robt McKimley who had  
a wife and two sons. all are gone  
but the old house is still standing

I was in the home, saw this family  
ate two meals as Mr. McKimley had  
a grubbing and a party for the young  
folks at night. You were living on  
Federal or in Crown City at the time

I am of the statements I have made  
Bob Mely came from Penn. to  
Federal Creek with his wife and  
Jennie, later this was followed by his  
brother Christopher They were Dutch  
houses still standing when you were here.

Sam White house, I old house, James Russell  
house Hamilton Knight house Chas. Miller house  
and James White

I will follow with the old teacher's tale.



write and tell me to  
which school you attended



next home was that of Samuel Dillon who was my father's uncle. He had a son John who left Federal Creek at the age of 12. went to Portsmouth O. and began his study for ministerial work and became the Presiding Elder of the Millersport Charge. While presiding over the charge, the Dillon Chapel the M. E. Church was built in 1876, at Athalia O. Dillon came to Federal Creek in 1816 and settled on the property now owned by one Kahane.

The old log house has been replaced by a new one.

Next house the home of Chas. Miller who raised a large family. one girl in the family who married John Chapman in 1885. I was going to school at Forest Glen and Ida Truesdell was the teacher. She told me the next morning after the marriage at night the evening before all are passed on and the house still standing. Some grandchildren are still living

One house is up Federal  
about one quarter of a mile from  
the Millersport lane; however  
as the Andy Miller house has  
been destroyed by fire and a  
new one in its place.

### Middle Branch

1. Lewis White and his family  
consisting of his wife 4 boys  
and 3 girls built this house,  
he was a cooper, teacher, and  
minister of the gospel, and  
was considered one of the  
leaders of the community. The  
house is occupied by his  
grandson who is 70 yrs old  
at the present time.

Next house, Squire Johnson  
who raised 2 boys and 2 girls

Next Frank Ours who had 5  
girls in the family and his wife

Next Mrs Sarah Jane Wall (widow)

Next Bill Tippins & his wife Hamilton Knight

These families were on Federal which  
you live at there. I will write on  
the other side for the left branch

O. C. LAMBERT

EVANGELIST-AUTHOR-LECTURER

PHONE 390

WINFIELD, ALABAMA

Nov. 14, 1958

Mr. F. B. Lambert,  
Barbourville, N. Va.

Dear Mr. Lambert:

Please pardon my long delay in answering your interesting letter. I too am interested in our family tree.

Our people migrated from Georgia about 125 years ago. I think before that they were in North Carolina and Virginia.

William and Martha (Ramsey) Lambert  
William born about 1810; Martha born 1817.  
Children: Alex, James, Mack, Hiram, George,  
Henry, Ben, Marsha and Mary.

Hiram, my grandfather, was born 1845.  
Sarah (Chastain) Lambert, his wife, was born 1849. Hiram died 1917.

Their children: William, Emma, Mattie (Martha), Belle, James, Mack, David, Joseph, Charles and Austin.

My father, William Edward was born Sept 13, 1868 and died in 1957, nearly eighty-nine.

My mother, Paratine (Dodd) Lambert was born Mar. 26, 1865, about the time of Pres.



Lincoln's death. Their Children:

Orlando Clayton (myself) born Sept.

16. 1890. Children in my father's home:

O. C., Otis, Lera, Eric Hiram, Harry, Dookie and Herschel.

My great-grand-father's mother was. When I started this sentence I was sure I could remember this name, but I cannot.

I will be glad to have a copy of what you have if that is possible.

I am enclosing a picture of me and my wife made about 1950. Another snap-shot of my father near his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Hoping to hear again.

Sincerely,

O. C. Lambert

18

# History of Proctorville, Ohio

By Mrs. Pearl Vale  
Proctorville, Ohio

Proctorville was settled in 1812. Was known  
( ) as Quaker Bottom.

Charles Hilgus was one of the Pioneers of Lawrence County. He was born in New Jersey December 3rd, 1801 settled in what was known as Quaker Bottom in March 1814 where he resided during life. There was but 6 cabins in the settlement at that date, the county being very wild and unbroken, abounding with wild game of all kinds and Mr Hilgus was one of the keenest of hunters. He owned considerable land. While engaged in plowing on a farm near, where he now lives, he turned up one human skeleton after another. They were buried very near the surface, side by side. There was about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre of this ground and it is supposed to be the burial ground of the Mound Builders. Three large mounds still remain to mark the place. He also found jugs and jars that would hold ( ) from one to 10 gallons, but not in a state of preservation. Underneath the porch of his home, was a mound containing two bodies

supposed to be chiefs on account of their great stature. At the date of Mr. Hilgers settlement they used the water and pestal to grind their corn.

This was succeeded by the hand mill and greater milling was very laborous, by these means it used to take a day to grind two bushel of corn, the next advancement was to water and steam mills. After they began to raise wheat, they used to have wheat bread as a luxury every Sunday morning, and they appeared to enjoy them selves more than people do now with all their advantages.

The school were all maintained by subscription plan. Mr. Hilgers was the largest contributor toward the erection Methodist Church, though not a member. He felt the need of civilizing influence. He was one of the foremost as a promoter of Education helping to build the present High School building. Mr. Hilgers has been a public benefactor all his life. Charles Hilgers was married to Elizabeth Laffoon in this county Sept 13, 1817 she was born in East Virginia Sept 15 1809. Their children are William born August 23, 1830. Daniel June 2, 1832 died April 1-1872 John November 6, 1834 Franklin May 6-1837 died Feb. 11-1844

Charles Harrison January 20, 1849, died (3) 19  
Oct 1927 Mary E. Smith born March 14, -1850  
( Alice Reynolds July 19 - 1852

The parents of Mrs. Wilgus was Daniel and  
Catherin Laffoon, The former born in 1770  
and died in 1865. She later born in 1787 and  
died 1831. The parents of Mr. Wilgus James  
Wilgus born June 6, 1777 died February 7,  
1869 and Hannah Wilgus born July 12, 1777  
died May 1815.

Mr. Wilgus was sheriff of Lawrence County  
for two terms and he has also filled the  
position of commissioner. So of his sons  
were in the war of 1861 Daniel and  
Charles Harrison members of company K  
3<sup>rd</sup> West Va. Daniel was sergeant and  
Charles Harrison corporal. They were mus-  
tered into the service Sept 7 - 1863 by  
lieutenant Webb U. S. A. The health of both was  
impaired in the service.

My great grand parents. Hannah Wilgus was  
born in New Jersey July 12 - 1777 died in Cabell Co  
West Va May 30 - 1815

James Wilgus was born in Philadelphia, Pa  
( June 6, 1869

Brother William Wilgus born Jan 3, 1809  
and died in Lawrence Co Ohio Aug 9, 1829



4 Sister Ruthwah King was born in New Jersey  
Sept 7-1799 and died in Lawrence County Ohio  
December 1838.

Sister Rhoda Parker born in New Jersey Oct 17  
1803 and died in Lawrence County Ohio June  
20-1844

Sister Theodocia Billips born in New Jersey Oct 20  
1800 and died in California Dec 20, 1878

Sister Mary Tucker Born in Ohio Jan 19, 1811  
and died in Lawrence County Ohio Aug 22,  
1863.

Sister Nettie Billips born in New Jersey 1800 and  
died in Iowa.

Sister Sarah Ward born in Ohio 23, 1813  
and died September Law Co, Ohio 1836

Grandfather Charles Hilges was born in New  
Jersey in Dec 3-1801 and died March 26.  
1893

Sister Christian Gillett was born in New  
Jersey Feb 2-1807 died in Lawrence Co Ohio  
March 20-1893

Elizabeth Hilges was born Sept 10-1809  
and died November 13, 1892.

In 1824 the first saw mill was erected and  
soon after the first post office was located in  
Quaker Bottom with Joe Miller as mail carrier.  
In those days there was no means of travel  
other than horse back or floating down the  
river on rafts, so Joe Miller walked to...

Merritt Ohio to Portsmouth carrying the 20  
mail which was not very heavy also his rifle  
as the country was filled with wild Indians and  
game of all kinds.

Certain season of the year the Indians  
came into the valley to procure lead from a  
mine located some where between Crown  
City and Burlington. At such a time Joe  
Miller would swim the river at Crown City and  
walk on N. W. side to Burlington, in order  
that he might come in contact with hostile  
Indians. He would lay mail and rifle on a log  
in front of him while he swam from one bank  
to the other in his heavy suit of buck skin.  
It cost 25 cents to get a letter out of the Post  
Office. Charles Wilgus rode one half day horse  
back, before he found a man who had 25 cents  
to loan him. Mr. Kimball loaned him the  
money. Charles Wilgus settled here in 1814 and  
Jacob Proctor Jr. and Solomon Reckard  
were among the early settlers.

In 1820 the first school of only 20 pupils  
was organized. The house was built for that  
purpose one mile from the ~~mouth~~ mouth  
of Simms Creek and was fashioned after  
the pioneer style. The first sermon was  
preached in 1799 in Luaker Bottom  
and the first society organized, was the society  
of Friends in 1799. The second society was

was that of the Baptist in 1824. (6)  
The old settlers had what they called Muster  
day and they met once a year to settle all  
their debts. One man came with \$5.00 paid  
all his debts and went home with his five.

The Methodist Church here was organized  
in Proctorville in 1871. Had a membership  
of 140 with W. C. Holiday as minister.

The first Sabbath School was organized in  
1824 by William Gillon and numbered  
20 scholars. Charles Wilges gave the lot  
where the church stands and was the largest  
contributor to the building.

In 1827 there was three acres of cleared  
land on which a one and half story  
house stood first frame house built in  
this community. This house was very unique  
in structure. as the main wall was built  
of brick and heavy timber, such as is used  
today in building barns. This brick wall  
was covered with weather boarding and  
plastered in sides. Men came for miles  
around and marveled that the wind did  
not blow it away. In 1827 Mr Wilges  
moved into this house, so he built a room  
and porch to make it safe in wind storm.

In April 1900 when 37 buildings were



7) burned in our little village.

As fine timber as ever grown was piled into log heaps and burned, while other timber was cut and used as fuel of boats.

The schools grew in interest. There arose an idea of laying off land into lots and build a town which was named Grant Town. This town extended as far East as Walnut St and was plotted and named by Charles Wilgus, and from Henry St to Ferry Street was known as Proctorville Landing, was laid off and named by Billy Magee. Things ran on for a while but trouble arose for charging boats for landing at Mr. Wilgus landing. He became very indignant over this, and set a post in the center of the grade, leading to his landing by this act the name was changed from Grant Town to Proctorville in 1837 thus honoring Mr. Jacob Proctor Jr. with its present name.

Jacob Proctor was the first post master in Proctorville serving from 1837 to 1855

Once again we find Proctorville replotted by G. T. Shirley in 1878 at which time it became a corporated town. The town grew, business increased until the fire in

( 1900 burned the business sections. Some rebuilt some went to other towns, until today



8) we find not Proctorville of Pioneer days,  
but a new town with almost an entirely new  
people to govern and be governed.

Stags weighing 500 pounds sold for 175-  
Beef cattle sold for \$2.50

Turkeys would come 100 gauge and it  
was common to kill 15 at one time  
when out hunting.

Meat was plentiful these days.

Only had wheat bread on Sunday,  
Coffee for breakfast on Sunday and  
Tea on Sunday for dinner.

Burlington used to be the Capital.

(Copy)

Newport, Ohio.

Sept: 21, 1943

Mr. F. B. Lambert,

My Dear Sir:

My mother's name was Margaret Williams, before she married my father, John Sowards, and she was his first wife.

After mother's death, he married an Emery, and after her death, he married a ~~Stewart~~<sup>vers</sup>. All are now dead. I had one sister Emma, who also is dead.

My father had an uncle, George V. <sup>Coffman</sup> Sowards, and he had two girls. One married Vint Rankins (Mahala) and one, who, I believe married ~~as Goff~~<sup>no, Roy Johnson</sup> who lived out west.

Maudy  
Sowards

About all the Rankins family are dead. I am - now - past-70 years old, and my house is at Kenanga, Ohio I and my wife, at the present time are staying here with my daughter

My wife has been bedfast four years with strokes. That is about all the information I can give you.

Very Truly yours,

Homer? W. Sowards.  
~~Homer?~~