

Columbiana County Archives and Research Center

*Preserving the past ****

*Saving the future ****

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FALL NEWSLETTER

NO. 4 2021

Merry Christmas!

The holidays are upon us. We are shopping, baking, wrapping presents and more! Despite all the business of the season, Christmas is a fantastic time to research your family history. At your family gatherings you have the perfect opportunity to ask questions of your older family members. What is the favorite memory of a past Christmas? How did your family celebrate? Look at old photos of Christmases past. Ask about the ornaments on their trees. Did you leave cookies and milk for Santa? Did you hang stockings, go to church, have an advent wreath? What special foods did you only have at Christmas? At what age did you find the true meaning of Christmas?

It is a season for creating and remembering family memories and traditions. Christmas can also be a great time to teach and remember your family history.

Take time to Love your family and neighbors! Be a part of the true meaning of Christmas!

Love & Blessings

Linda

CCARC Business

We have much to be **thankful** for at CCARC. When we asked for donations to enable us to update our computer systems, You (and you know who you are) stepped up and made generous donations. THANK YOU! This moves me to tears! We will have 4 completely new computers, new server and back up server. In the near future we will also have a new web site with several indexes. The computers will be installed by the end of the year. A special thanks to Deb Firestone Himes for her spearheading this big project. God is good all the time and all the time God is good!

CCARC will be closed after Dec 17, 2021 until Jan 11th 2022. Remember that if the weather is not good, the volunteers have to travel. Therefore we would be closed. Please call first before you travel here. (Ph 724-825-5011) Weather permitting, this is a great time to come and research. Hope to see you at CCARC.

What Clues do Your Family's Christmas Traditions hold to your Genealogy Research?

Christmas is a time for spending with family. Also an excellent time to examine your knowledge of your ancestors' Christmas traditions. Christmas has been celebrated in one form or another for the past 2,000 years. Many cultures have developed their own Christmas traditions. Our ancestors brought these traditions to America when they came. The ways your ancestors celebrated Christmas in America can tell you a lot about your ancestral origins.

Christmas in America is a melting pot of holidays traditions from dozens of cultures brought to the shores of the New World. American Christmas has a tree, decorations, presents, Christmas carols, a feast with families and the legend of Santa Claus all coming from different places at different times.

English Christmas Customs: English settlers brought with them their tradition of feasting and general merriment on Christmas. This included firecrackers and playing lots of loud music that included horns and drums as well as group singing. In Massachusetts the Puritans and Pilgrims looked upon this merrymaking with disdain and thought it led to a lack of morals. They banned Christmas and refused to recognize the day in any special way. Christmas was legally reinstated in Massachusetts in 1856.

Dutch Christmas Customs: The Dutch also celebrated Christmas with feasting and merriment. They had the tradition of St. Nicholas, who was a magical man, who brought presents to good children and filled Christmas stockings with sweet treats. The Dutch settled first in New York, and the tradition of gift giving and stockings "hung by the chimney with care" started there in America.

Swedish Christmas Customs: The Swedes were among the first to settle Delaware, and eventually move inward to help colonize the midwest, particularly the areas of Wisconsin and Minnesota. They brought the tradition of hanging a wreath made of evergreen tree branches on the front door. This was meant as a sign that visitors were welcome and used for good luck. They also had a legend of elves who brought gifts on Christmas.

German Christmas Customs: The Germans brought some of our most recognized Christmas Customs to America. These customs include decorating Christmas Trees with candles and other ornaments and baking special Christmas cookies.

French Christmas Customs: French children left their shoes by the fireplace before going to bed on Christmas Eve. They hoped that if they were very good that year, the baby Jesus would fill their shoes with gifts for them to receive on Christmas Day. As Catholics, they attended a midnight mass on Christmas Eve, which many churches do today. After mass the families had a special dinner and spent Christmas day in prayer and contemplation. New Year's Eve was a time to hold a town-wide festival with a Christmas Parade and masquerade ball.

Spanish Christmas Customs: The Spanish re-enacted Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem on Christmas. This was a big pageant that included a procession and a play. A community-wide party followed the pageant with children taking hits at a pinata, holding sweets that fell when broke.

African Customs That Influenced Christmas in the South: Many Africans who came to America were not Christians and did not celebrate Christmas. They had their own holy days. As they converted to Christianity, they incorporated their old traditions into their Christmas Celebrations, influencing the early American South. While the Yule log stated in England, it has special meaning to the enslaved Africans. Once it was set to burning on Christmas Eve, no one worked until it was gone. They introduced the English to their own traditions of dancing, hunting, banqueting, and playing various games. These all became a part of southern Christmas traditions and often continued until New Year's Day.

Look at your family traditions. What better way to honor them this holiday season!

Alfred Vail Questionnaire

Alfred Vail, one of the inventors of the telegraph, sent letters to Vail/Vale families to obtain their family histories. He believed it didn't matter how you spelled Vail; we were probably all related. Alfred retired in 1848 from telegraph operations and spent the next ten years conducting genealogical research. Alfred Vail was hooked on genealogy and although he intended to put a book together with all the information he had obtained, he died in 1859 before he could assimilate all of his findings. His was a very important endeavor and his works were donated to both the Smithsonian and to the New Jersey Historical Society where he lived, along with papers and equipment regarding his work on the telegraph and the Morse code.

In August of 1852 Alfred Vail sent a letter to Eli Vale, my 3rd great grandfather, asking for information on the history of his family line. Eli Vale took the time to answer Alfred Vail's questions, so I suspect that he sent them back to Alfred Vail. Did he mail the answers back and make a copy? Did he have the foresight to know this would be of great importance for his own family? Did he know that a future granddaughter would find Alfred Vail's letter and Eli Vale's replies almost 150 years later among some of his other belongings and think she won the lottery; the genealogy lottery? It confirms dates and validates that some dates have been in error probably as typos for decades. Following are Alfred Vail questions, in italics, and Eli Vale's answers.

If you are a beginner and want to find out more about your family, knowing the answers to at least some of these questions will not only help you but will also be a big help to anyone that may be helping you.

1. *What is your full name?* Eli Vale
2. *What is the date of your birth?* I was born the 16th day of May, 1789.
3. *Where were you born?* in York County, Pennsylvania.
4. *What is the date of your marriage or marriages?* I was married (the first time) the 21st day of April 1814. [Eli was married twice but had no children by his second marriage]
5. *What is the full name of your father?* John Vale
6. *What is the full name of your mother?* Deborah Thomas
7. *What is your wife's full name?* Anne Price Underwood
8. *What is the date of your wife's birth?* May 15th, 1796
9. *What is the full name of your wife's father?* Nehemiah Underwood
10. *What is the full name of your wife's mother?* Mary Price
11. *What is your occupation?* farming, carpenter, & joinery
12. *What is your place of residence?* Middleton Township, Columbiana County, Ohio
13. *What is the full name of each of your children?* See 14
14. *What is the date of birth of each of your children?*
Mary Ann Vale born February 7th 1815
John Thomas Vale born September 19th 1816
Beulah Ann Vale born July 8th 1818
Martha Hambleton Vale born May 31st 1820
Hiram Price Vale born August 7th 1822
Susanna Jones Vale born March 17th 1825
Louisa M. Vale born April 22nd 1827
Lewis Walker Vale born February 3rd 1829
Franklin T. B. Vale born March 31st 1831
James Eli Vale born March 31st 1833
15. *What is the date of death of any of your children that have died?*
Mary Ann Vale died in March --- 1837

16. *Where were your children born?* They were all born in Middleton Township, Columbiana County, Ohio
 17. *Whom have any of your children married?* 18. *How many children have each of them?*
 19. *Where do each of them now reside or what is their present address?*

- 1) Mary Ann married William Dyke, had one child who died at four weeks old. 2) John Thomas Vale married Lydia Richardson; they have six children, five boys and one girl, Address: Clarkson, Columbiana County, Ohio.
- 3) Beulah Ann Vale married George Conkle; they have six children- three boys and three girls. Address: Defiance, Defiance County, Ohio
- 4) Martha Hambleton Vale married John Richardson; they have six children- three boys and three girls. address: Defiance, Defiance County, Ohio
- 5) Dr. Hiram Price Vale married Ruth Marton (dead) one child a boy. Address: Jefferson, Green County, Pennsylvania
- 6) Susanna Jones Vale married Isaac Booth they have three children two girls and one boy. Address: Achor Town, Columbiana County, Ohio
- 7) Louisa M. Vale married Elwood Pyle they have three children, one girl and two boys Address: Clarkson, Columbiana County, Ohio
- 8) Lewis Walker Vale, not married
- 9) Franklin T B Vale not married
- 10) James Eli Vale, not married. (8, 9, & 10) Address: Clarkson, Columbiana County, Ohio

20. *What is the full name of your brothers and sisters?* 21. *Whom did each of them marry?* 22. *How many children have each of them?* 23. *Where do each of them reside or what is their present address?*

- 1) James Vale married Nancy McElwee they have seven children five boys and 2 girls Address: Columbia Township, Meigs County, Ohio
- 2) Robert Vale (dead) married Martha Cleaver, one child (Isaac Vale) now living in Washington County, Pennsylvania address: Bentleyville
- 3) Lydia Vale married Isaac Norton they have six children, three boys and four girls (she is dead)
- 4) Beaulah Vale married James Fraizer they have two children one girl and one boy address Clarkson, Columbiana County, Ohio
- 5) Anne Vale married John Cleaver they have seven children six boys and one girl address – East Beathlyham, Washington County, Penn.
- 6) Phebe Vale married Jonathan Edmundson (both dead) they have five (living) children four girls and one boy

24. *What is the full name of your father's brothers and sisters?* 25. *Whom did they marry?*
 26. *How many children have each of them?* 27. *Where do each of them reside or what is their present address?*

- 1) Robert Vale married Sarah Cook both dead no child
- 2) William Vale (him and wife both dead) had seven children five girls and two boys
- 3) Joshua Vale married Elizabeth Cleaver (both dead) had six children three boys and three girls
- 4) Anne Vale married Able Walker (both Dead) they had seven children four boys and three girls

28. *What is the full name of your grandfather?* Robert Vale born in London England

29. *What is the full name of your grandmother?* Sarah Boler (Buller) born in Dublin, Ireland

30. *Are there any Vale's or descendants of Vale's in your neighborhood?* There is a Doctor John Vale, address East Liberty, Logan County, Ohio and another who is keeping tavern, address Sparta, Morrow County, Ohio

31. *What are the names of your remote ancestors of the Vale descent?* 32. *Where did they come from and where did they live and bring up their families?* Robert Vale my grandfather came from London (in England) he told me he was born in London and went to school there till he was 19 years of age and about that time he went on board a merchant vessel as first mate to some of the islands and on their return home the Captain of the vessel died and the command fell on him, from the death of the Captain until he returned at his return the owner of the vessel was so well pleased with his care and conduct that he made him Captain of the same vessel and he served that station (i.e. as captain) for some time like 15 years he then getting tired of the seas came to America and settled in York County, Pennsylvania where he raised the before mentioned family of children.

33. *Do you know of their having brothers and sisters and what became of them?* They might have had but I have no recollection of them if any

34. *Do you know whether your ancestors ever visited any of (their relations) those branches as about, what time they came here – occupation and religious profession?* I cannot say that I do

35. *What country did your ancestors come from where they first settled in this country and ----?* From any thing I can find out my grandfather settled in York County, Penna in or about the year 1750 (from England) as to his occupation after he settled in York County, he followed farming he has often told me it was a wonder he ever cleared out so large a farm and worked as hard as he did, being raised a gentleman's son going to school and being on sea as long as he was then to be – a hard laboring man. He belonged to the Society of Friends and died a member of the Friend's society at an advanced age.

36. *Do your county records contain copies of wills or deeds or the church record, a register of the birth, baptism, marriages, death, and burial of any of your remote ancestors are there any records or papers in the hands of descendants which may cast any light upon the history of your forefathers?* My grandfather's Will is recorded in York County, Penna if there is any Church record, I expect it on the Book of the friends meeting at Warrington, York Co, Penna. I am not aware of any papers in the hands of any of our relatives as above queried after.

Transcribed from papers belonging to Eli Vale (1789-1879) by Carolyn Vale Stepien, a granddaughter (4)



A Genealogy Poem

by Sandy Coleman

When relatives depart this life, our love for them we find
Is stored in hearts as memories, in all they leave behind.

It's known as genealogy to young ones when they've
grown;
it tells them of our earthly love for those we might have
known.
We think of those who lived before while traveling down
life's lane,
a drop of blood from each of them flowing in our veins.

Those who live so gallantly in war and settled new frontiers,
to make our lands a better place to live in later years.
And as we know they made mistakes and acted humanly
when they were young and temptable just like you and me.

The day we enter Paradise and angels show us in,
when they turn to us and say "please meet your early kin",
Will we hide our eyes and drop our heads and say in
shame,
"I'm sorry but in mortal life I never heard your names".

But no! We'll raise our heads up high to meet their loving
gaze,
and say "Oh yes! I know you and of your earthly days.
Someone wrote the story of how you lived your life;
of times of joy and happiness, and yes, of pain and strife".
And if my work is handed down, I will not be surprised
when descendants come to Paradise and I am recognized.

The early years before the death certificates present a problem of confirming sometimes our ancestors death. We have to look in other places. Just one place is **Columbiana County Infirmary Records** 5 Jan 1886-1904 (OH15 Co R 28). Why were they in the Infirmary Records? What did they die from? What happened to the Family? How did the family survive? **You just might find the answers in this Infirmary Record.**

Pg 2 Feb 27 1886 Regular meeting in session of board of Infirmary directors of Col Co Ohio all present action on **Wm Spiker** in regard to sending him to Imbisal asylum

Pg 18 December 27 1887 Bill of Mardis, Ticket Agent of New Lisbon for Tickets for the **Turk** family and freight Bill to Cleveland Ohio allowed being twenty Dollars eighty five cents Bill for washing cloths for **Turk** family allowed

Pg 26 Sep 7th 1888 Bill of Doctor P Tritt for attendance on **John McGaffick** and Family of ten dollars accepted and ordered Paid. Also Bill of Mrs Younts for four dollars for washing bedding and cloths & cleaning McGaffick house Paid also Bill of Thomas Arthur for work done for McGaffick duering their sickness for one dollar & twenty five cents granted

Pg 106 **Mrs Delany** was furnished transportation to New Jersey - The Trustees paying half of Expense & Directors paying half. **Why did she go to New Jersey? Family?**

Pg 106 Jan 26 1901 Kelly & Tarr Went to Leetonia to investigate **Guyton** Case who was reported down with inflammatory rheumatism by the Salem Twp Trustees After investigating he was given the Alternative of going to Infirmary or nothing. He refused to go to infirmary.

Pg 107 Feb 2 1901 **Edward Guyton** of Salem Tp required relief. They went to Leetonia to investigate the case & found Trustees statement correct. Guyton refused to go to the Infirmary & no relief was allowed

Pg 110 Feb 12th 1901 W A Farr & F O Kelly ordered relief to **Peter Jackson & family** of Liverpool as follows: 1 Mattress & 1 set springs, 1 comfort, 2 Pillows and furnished Doctor, Also ordered **Joseph Patterson** a pauper of Liverpool conveyed to infirmary

Feb 13th 1901 W A Tarr Posted Books, and also ordered John Rinehart to Bury **Peter Jackson**, Deceased, of East Liverpool, Ohio

Feb 14th 1901 J M McBride ordered John Albright to pay transportation for **Mrs Peter Jackson**, of Liverpool, to Richmond Va & charge the bill to county.

Pg 118 Apr 4th 1901 **Elizabeth Wallace** being duly reported by Trustees of Fairfield Twp as being sick with Typhoid fever. McBride & Tarr went to Columbiana to furnish relief if patient was unable to be moved to infirmary. She was allowed nurse @7.00 per week until able to be moved to Infirmary.

Pg 158 Mar 1 1902 G W Armstrong & W A Farr went to Leetonia to Investigate the case of **Joseph Balloga** a romanian who was crushed at Cherry Vally work & they hired nurse for him at \$1.60 per day some to be paid out of his wages F O Kelly order **Roy Wilson** Burried at Wellsville by Haughs undertaker

Pg 161 Mar 14th 1902 G W Armstrong & F O Kelly took action in the **J W Crawford** case of fairfield Twp this day & decided to give the family \$37 per week for six weeks The Trustees of same twp agreeing to pay the funeral expenses of this same man if we would take care of the family.

When you find a carpenter, look for his account ledgers. Carpenters made coffins. The following was found in **Levi Boulton's** ledger, which we have a copy at CCARC. This was before Death Records with dates from 1850 to 1854. Notice the price for the coffins. Also it tells for who and the size of the Coffin.

43)		Coffins Dr	
1850			
8 " 7	Moses Embree Dr to	making coffin for wife 5ft 6 in lined hinges	5 50
	Jonathan Edmundson Dr		
11 " 23	1850 To making Coffin for child 20 in lined		1 50
1852			
4 " 8	made Coffin Lydia Chapman		4 00
9 " 20	1852 Israel Heard Dr to	making coffin for child lined 3ft 2 in	2 50
5 " 3	1853 Richard Tulloss Dr to	making coffin for daughter Sarah	5 50
9 " 3	1853 Mifflin Cadwalader Dr to	making coffin for child 3ft 3 in lined	2 50
9 " 28	1853 Samuel Heicklen Dr to making	coffin for wife 5ft 6 in lined	5 50
9 " 18	1854 Samuel Hollingsworth Dr to	making coffin for child lined (3ft 4 in)	2 50
9 " 22	To making Coffin for daughter (5ft 4) lined hinges		5 00
9 " 28	To making Coffin for prison Samuel (3ft 10 lined		3 00
10 " 1	To making Coffin for son William (4ft 10 in lined & hinges)		4 50
			15
10 " 12	1854 Jesse B Hoopes Dr to making	Coffin infant	1 25

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129 S. Market St.

Lisbon, Ohio 44432

Maybe there is no death record in Columbiana County, Ohio for your ancestor. Have you looked for a record where your ancestor had lived before coming to Columbiana County? James Clark died in Columbiana County, Ohio without any record to be found here. However in the *Adams Sentinel*, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (16 Jan 1837 pg 3), his death notice was found.

DIED

On Thursday last, MARTHA, daughter of Mr. John M'Dermad, deceased, of this borough, aged about 5 years.

In Dark county, Ohio, on the 31st Dec. Mrs. HANNAH DENWIDDIE, wife of Mr. Henry B. Denwiddie, formerly of this county, in the 34th year of her age.

At New-Lisbon, Ohio, on the 29th Dec. Mr. JAMES CLARK, Sen. formerly of this county, in the 99th year of his age.

At Indiana, Pa. on the 31st Dec. the Rev. N. G. SHARRETT, formerly of our Theological Seminary, in the 35th year of his age.