



*Grand Women of the America Revolution  
& Pioneer Women of Lake County -  
America250 Edition*

What can be said about Ohio and Lake County as it relates to the US in 1776 and the semiquincentennial celebration in 2026? Facts tell us the American Revolutionary War ended in 1783. Four years later the Northwest Ordinance provides a structure to admit new states on an equal footing with the original thirteen colonies along with many other liberties and land management. Sixteen years later, and twenty years past the war's end, Ohio becomes the 17th state, in March 1803. Thirty-seven more years pass and Lake County is established. This month's

history snippet examines some of the under told stories of women whose contributions helped to win the Revolutionary War and how their pioneering spirit helped a young Ohio prosper.

*Everyday Heroines:*

Many nameless women helped win the war. These women took over farms and stores. They made cartridges, ran bullets, baked, cooked, tended to the wounded and even went onto the battlefields to bring water to the thirsty or to cool the hot cannons. Here are but a few of the thousands who answered the call.

**Molly Pitcher** - At the time of the war, women were not allowed to serve. However, many women went along with their husbands. They cooked, washed, cared for the sick and wounded but those who went onto the battlefields to bring water to the thirsty or cool down the cannons were often called by the common name Molly Pitcher, because of the water pitchers they sometimes carried.

**Margaret Corbin** - This Fighter for Freedom followed her husband into war. At the battle near Fort Washington, NY her husband was killed. Instead of stopping to mourn, she manned his gun and stayed until she too was severely wounded. Congress awarded her a soldier's pension and in 1783 officially discharged her from service to the army she never officially joined.

**Deborah Sampson** - 21 year old Deborah disguised herself as a man to fight in the Continental Army from May 1782 to October 1783. She served in the Light Infantry Troops in Massachusetts, participated in risky missions and even received gunshot wounds in skirmishes. She was honorably discharged and received a military pension. Her headstone simply states Woman Soldier in the War of the Revolution.

**Phyllis Wheatley** - Born in Gambia, Africa, she was the first Black and enslaved individual of the US to publish a book of poems. Well-known around Boston, her poems about George Washington and the idea of promised equality for a new America made her an early heroine.





**Emily Geiger** - The summer of 1781 found General Nathaniel Greene in desperate need of reinforcements. Geiger volunteered to carry the message to General Thomas Sumter. Caught by the British enroute, her quick thinking saved the mission and resulted in the British surrender of the southern states.



**Tyonajanegan** - This Oneida Nation mother chose to take up arms with her husband in support of the colonists. Her evasive actions in the Mohawk Valley saved colonists from the advancing British troops. A later action found her fending off an attack at Fort Saratoga.



*Tyonajanegan*

**Mammy Kate** - Col. Stephen Heard was captured by the British during the 1779 American victory at Kettle Creek, Georgia. Sentenced to be executed, Mammy Kate and her husband Jack used a laundry basket to smuggle him to safety. Heard became Governor in time and honored her as a Black Patriot. 2011 saw her receive Patriot recognition by both the SAR and DAR.

***Not to be Forgotten***

Ann Bates, Abigail Adams, Mercy Warren, Faith Tremble Huntington, Penelope Barker, Polly Cooper, Hannah Till, Sarah Osborn Benjamin, Elizabeth Burgin, Prudence Wright, Sybil Ludington, Dicey Langston, Lydia Darragh and Margaret Kemble Gage.



*Gertrude Seiberling*



### *Pioneer Women of Early Lake County - circa 1800-1850*

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 opened the door to the settling of the Midwest, which included territories that in time became Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. The Western Reserve Era brought many New Englanders to the future Ohio with the promise of land. Life in the early settlements was arduous. The dense wilderness was filled with hardships. The women who arrived tackled the same tasks as their husbands plus that of the home, farm, children, medicine and education on a daily basis. Their family names are well known roads of Lake County and their

graves may be visited in local cemeteries. Below is a short and incomplete list of but a few of our county's earliest pioneering women.

#### *Under told Stories from Lake County—snippet version*

Charlotte Merry, nee 'Adams' - From Avon, New York, she married Ebenzer Merry in 1800. Ebenzer settled in the Mentor area in 1798. Their 12-day bridal tour was spent on an Indian Trail, traversing bridges made of fallen trees and included travel in an Indian canoe. She had four girls and at the time of her death at age 99 was the oldest pioneer woman of the Western Reserve.

Mrs. Julia Morley, nee 'Gillet'- She arrived in 1793 in what today is Painesville. Her pioneer life experiences included adventures with the enslaved Lewis Clark (Uncle Tom's Cabin fame), the local UGRR movement, Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglas.

Gertrude Penfield Seiberling (circa 1866). This Willoughby pioneering woman's married name tells all in the annals of Akron history and that of her Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens fame. Frank (co-founder of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company) and Gertrude moved into their home in December 1915. Today it is the sixth largest historic home in the US.

Sophia Kimball - Born in 1799 in New Hampshire, Sophia married Dr. Storm Rosa of Painesville in Geauga in 1818. Their Washington Street home was an early / first hospital. She passed at the age of 95.

Mrs. Mary Welch Butler- Born in 1798 in Boston, she came to Ohio in 1810. In 1816, she married Samuel Butler of Grandon / Fairport. In time, Butler became a noted port businessperson and the first lighthouse keeper. Mary was a fine equestrian as well as a woman of refinement and education. She hobnobbed with fine society company and even entertained the Lord Lieutenant Governor of Canada. She passed in 1859.

Miss Rosena Tenney - In 1847, she became the first principal of the Willoughby Female Seminary. The Seminary replaced the former 1834-47 Willoughby Medical College. In 1856, the seminary was relocated to Painesville and became interwoven in the history of Lake Erie College.

Abiathan French - Arrived circa 1802, their family homestead is the current site of Hidden Lake (Lake Metroparks). Kniffen Road was their driveway - their home located just south of the current shelter and archery range. Their family history is closely associated with the early settlement of Leroy Township.

***Not to Be Forgotten - Leroy Township***

Patty Clapp (1805)  
Mrs. Hendrick E. Paine, nee 'Harriet Phelps'  
Margaret 'Aunt Peggy' Caldwell Bates  
Mrs. H.R. Carter  
Roxana Woodward Crofoot - 1820s teacher  
Mrs. Lydia Beebe  
Mrs. Henry Brakeman  
Mrs. Lewis Brakeman  
Mrs. Eva Brakeman  
Judith Scribner

***Not To Be Forgotten - Richmond / Grand River / Fairport***

Mrs. Mary Randall Oakley  
Mrs. Olive Gates  
Mrs. Helen Thompson Sheperd  
Jemina Skinner-Jones

***Not To Be Forgotten - Willoughby***

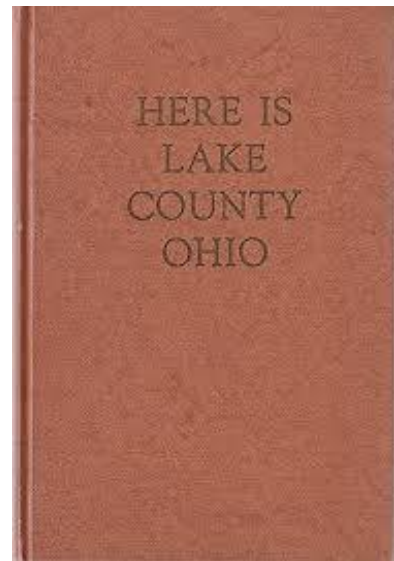
Hannah Waldo Hall (1812)  
Marietta Hodges Walker (1834), early church founder  
Mrs. Henry Brakeman - early church founder  
Mrs. Omar Bliss, nee 'Mary Hall'  
Harriet Clark, nee 'Harriet Elizabeth Stewart'

***Not To Be Forgotten - Painesville***

Maria Phelps Card - Granddaughter of Edward Paine  
Juliana Morgan Walworth - Bank of Grand River, New Market 1803-1806  
Lydia Paine Phelps  
Artemisia Perkins - marries Benjamin Blish  
Mrs. Joseph Peptone  
Mrs. Samuel Huntington - husband was a Ohio Supreme Court Justice, Third Governor of Ohio, Army Paymaster-War of 1812  
Mrs. Harriet Beard, nee 'Wolcott'  
Caroline Cook Mathews - Temperance Movement  
Sarah Marshall Hitchcock

***Not To Be Forgotten - Mentor***

Peggy Jordan marries Captain Parker(1803)  
Phoebe Skinner Blish (1805)  
Margaret Kerr Parmelee  
Mrs. Isaac Sawyer, nee 'Rachel Terry'  
Rachel Corning Dickey - Dickey Farm sold to General James A. Garfield



Harriet M. Corning  
Elizabeth Pettingill Corning  
Rhoda Tolls Sawyer  
Rhoda Prouty Corning

Submitted by. Dan Maxson

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