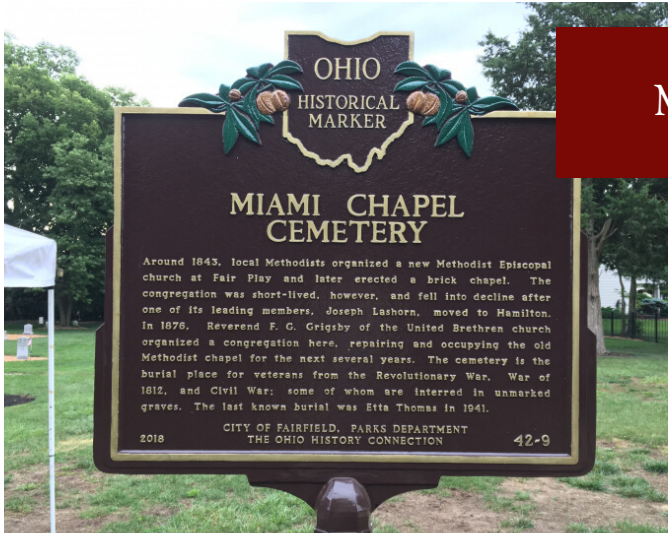


BUTLER COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BUTLER COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKER DRIVING TOUR

*Southeastern Butler County: Fairfield, West Chester
and Liberty Townships*



FAIR PLAY & MIAMI CHAPEL CEMETERY

6210 River Road, Fairfield

Around 1843, local Methodists organized a new Methodist Episcopal church at Fair Play and later erecting a brick chapel. The congregation was short-lived, however, and fell into decline after one of its leading members moved to Hamilton. In 1876, Reverend F.G. Grigsby of the United Brethren church organized a congregation here, repairing and occupying the old Methodist chapel for the next several years. The cemetery is the burial place for



veterans from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and the War of 1812, some of whom are interred in unmarked graves. The last known burial was Etta Thomas in 1941. The area was known as Black Bottom because of the rich, dark soil, and from there sprang the village of Fair Play, or Fair Play Mills. It was the site of many water-powered mills, as mill races were located between bends of the Great Miami River. In 1835, the Graham brothers purchased 300 acres in Fair Play and their paper mill made writing and wrapping paper and bonnet boards. By 1846, the area included a sawmill, a grist mill and three paper mills. Carding and fulling mills for cloth-making and a distillery also operated in the village. Flooding in 1866 and 1868 changed the river's course, making milling untenable. By 1882, the village of Fair Play, which once stretched from Thomas O. Marsh Park to the Great Miami River and is now part of incorporated Fairfield, was gone.

Directions to Next Marker: North on River Road. At the intersection of River and Nilles Road, go straight on Nilles (east). Turn right (south) on Pleasant Avenue (US Rt 127). Take Pleasant Avenue to Resor Road. Turn right (east) on Resor Road. Take Resor Road to Gilmore Road. Take Gilmore Road to Ross Road. Turn right (south) on Ross Road. Gilbert Farm will be on your right.



ELISHA MORGAN HOUSE

6181 Ross Road, Fairfield
Gilbert Farms Park

Elisha Morgan purchased 48.6 acres in Fairfield Township, part of the Symmes Purchase, in 1817. The Farm Mansion was built shortly after he settled the land. The house incorporates two prevalent architectural styles in southwest Ohio in the 19th century. The original front portion is an example of Federal style architecture while the 1858 rear addition represents the Greek Revival style. Built earlier than most farmsteads in the township, the Mansion is a rare example of an early farmhouse that has survived despite suburban development. The Mansion is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Directions to Next Marker: Go left (north) on Ross Road to Tylersville Road. Turn right (east) on Tylersville Road. Stay on Tylersville Road and the entrance to VOA will be on your left.



VOICE OF AMERICA & THE BETHANY RELAY STATION

8070 Tylersville Road, West Chester

During the height of World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt turned to the innovative engineers of the Crosley Broadcasting Corporation to build powerful short-wave radio transmitters capable of delivering broadcasts overseas. On farm fields near Crosley's WLW facility, six 200 kilowatt transmitters and 24 directional re-entrant rhombic antennas were built and on September 23, 1944, the Voice of America Bethany Station was dedicated. The

first broadcast was directed at Nazi Germany and began with, "We shall speak to you about America and the war. The news may be good, or it may be bad, but we will tell you the truth." For more than fifty years, the Voice of America Bethany Station delivered "truthful news" to the people of Europe, Africa, South America, and parts of Asia, despite some like Adolf Hitler who referred to the VOA as those "Cincinnati Liars." New technology and budget cuts resulted in the silencing of the Bethany Station in 1994.



Directions to Next Marker: Turn Right (west) on Tylersville Road. Turn right (north) on Cox Road (Rt 117). Take Cox Road to Liberty Highway. Turn Right (north) on Liberty Highway. Take Liberty Highway to Cincinnati Dayton Road. Turn right (north) on Cincinnati Dayton Road.

JAIN CENTER OF CINCINNATI AND DAYTON

6798 Cincinnati Dayton Road, Liberty Township

The Jain Center of Cincinnati and Dayton was established on April 22, 1979. The foundation stone of the Jain temple, the first of its kind in Ohio, was laid down on August 21-22, 1994. The temple was dedicated September 2 - 4, 1995 when more than one thousand people from all over Ohio and many other states participated in holy rituals to install three idols of Jinas (Gods). The Jain Center is a place for the teaching of non-violence, reverence for life, and compassion for all beings. The center was the home of the twelfth biennial convention for the Federation of Jain Associations in North America, which was held on July 3 - 6, 2003.



Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi, a disciple of Acharya Vijayanandsuriji (Atmaramji) Maharaj, introduced the Jain religion to North America during the Parliament of the World's Religions, which was held in Chicago on September 11-27, 1893. A year later, on September 18, 1894, he introduced Jainism to Ohio during a visit to Cleveland. The Jain religion and its teachings of universal love are eternal, and the faith recognizes twenty-four Tirthankaras (prophets) during the present era. The 24th and the last Tirthankara was Lord Mahavira (599 - 527 BCE), who once said, "In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief, we should regard all creatures as we regard our own." Ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truthfulness), Asteya (non-stealing), Brahmacharya (chastity), and Aparigraha (non-materialism) are the basic principles of Jainism. Its motto is "live and let live and help others to live."

Directions to Next Marker: Turn right (south) on Cincinnati Dayton Road. Turn right (west) on Union Center Blvd. Stay on Union Center Blvd. to the superstreet intersection. Follow the directions to Symmes Road west. Stay on Symmes Road west to Gilmore Road. Turn right (north) on Gilmore Road. Turn left (west) on Bobmeyer Road. Bobmeyer road to Airport Road. Turn right (north) on Airport Road.



BUTLER COUNTY AIRPORT & THE HOGAN FAMILY

2820 Airport Road East, Hamilton

The Hogan Family owned and operated what was known as the Hamilton Airport for over 52 years. Airplane owner and pilot, Carl "Pop" Muhlberger and aviation enthusiast and farmer, Joe Hogan, co-founded the airport in July 1929. Muhlberger taught Joe to fly and in return, Joe managed and maintained the field. During the Great Depression, Muhlberger could not afford to operate the airport, closing in July 1932. With financial backing from Joe's older brother, Charles, and their father, William, the family purchased and reopened the airport. Running the airport was a family affair. Joe taught his brothers, Bill, Bernie, and Art to fly. They raised money to run the airport by barnstorming, sightseeing flights, and flying lessons. Sisters, Mary Ann, Katie, and Loretta (Sauer), also flew. They, along with their mother Emma, helped run the airport and its restaurant.

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The airport expanded after the passage of the Civil Pilot Training Act of 1939 and the Hogans trained pilots in partnership with Miami University. Additionally, the War Department leased the airport for pilot training under the Civil Aviation Authority. The Hogans instructed more than 300 pilots for service during WWII. After the war thru the 1970s, the brothers continued improving the airport to meet local demand by lengthening the runway twice, building hangars, and installing runway lights and radio navigation equipment. By 1974, more than 200 aircraft were based at the airport with operations of 74,000 general, private, and charter flights. As private owners, the Hogans could not obtain government grants and loans for further renovations and sold the airport to the Butler County Commissioners and the cities of Hamilton and Fairfield in 1985. The airport eventually became known as the Butler County Regional Airport-Hogan Field.



**THANK YOU FOR JOINING OUR TOUR OF
SOUTHEASTERN BUTLER COUNTY. MORE TOURS
OF HISTORICAL BUTLER COUNTY TO FOLLOW!**

PHOTO CREDITS: Many of the photos and text are courtesy of Ohio History Connection / RemarkableOhio.org or from the Butler County Historical Society/Kathy Creighton.