



BUTLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# BUTLER COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKER DRIVING TOUR

Northwestern Butler County:  
Oxford, Oxford Township and Israel Township (Preble County)



## DE WITT FAMILY LOGHOUSE 4824 Trenton Oxford Road, Oxford

Zachariah Price DeWitt was born of a Dutch family in New Jersey in 1768. With brothers Jacob and Peter, he migrated to Kentucky where, in 1790, he married Elizabeth Teets, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1774. By 1805 all three brothers had settled in Ohio near Four Mile (Tallawanda) Creek where Zachariah and Elizabeth raised corn, hogs, and, eventually, nine children. Zachariah operated a sawmill, built houses in Oxford,

observed as Masonic Lodge secretary, and commanded a rifle company during the War of 1812. Legend has it that Elizabeth wore a black sunbonnet to cover a scar from having been scalped as a child in Kentucky. Elizabeth died in 1843, followed by Zachariah in 1851. Both are buried in Darrtown Cemetery. Completed in 1805 by Zachariah DeWitt, this two-story log homestead is the oldest building in Oxford Township and one of the oldest remaining log structures in Ohio. On Miami University land and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it has been under the care of the Oxford Museum Association since 1973. Constructed of hewn logs, the four-room house (with attic) has floors of ash and ceilings of tulip poplar and walnut. Its rafters are pegged, not nailed. A smokehouse still remains nearby. When Miami Trustees visited in 1810, looking for a site to build the university, it is believed that Zachariah DeWitt suggested the crest of the hill just west of his home. And that is where the university was built.



**Directions to Next Marker:** Turn right (west) on Trenton Oxford Road (OH 73). Turn left (south) on Patterson Avenue. Continue south on Patterson Avenue (U.S. 27) to the southern entrance of Western Drive, near the Miami Art Museum. Turn left. Follow the drive past nature theatre behind Peabody Hall. At top of hill, Boyd Hall greenhouse will be on your right. Turn left (south) on Western Drive. The marker is on the right, to the left (south) of Kumler Chapel.





## FREEDOM SUMMER 1964

650 Western Drive, Oxford

*In what was called the "Freedom Summer" of 1964, more than 800 volunteers, most of them college students, gathered at the Western College for Women (now Western Campus of Miami University) to prepare for African-American voter registration in the South. Three of the volunteers - James Chaney of Mississippi, and Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner of New York - disappeared on June 21, 1964, in rural Mississippi mere days after leaving*

*Oxford, Ohio. Their bodies were discovered forty-four days later, buried in an earthen dam. Ku Klux Klan members were later convicted on federal conspiracy charges. Erected in 1999, this outdoor amphitheater is a memorial to the slain activists, other volunteers, and ideals of the Freedom Summer movement.*



**Directions to Next Marker:** Continue on Western Drive to return to Patterson Avenue. Turn right (north) on Patterson Avenue and drive to the northern entrance of Western Drive. Turn right (east) on Western Drive. At the first left, turn into the parking lot behind Langstroth Home. Marker is in front of Langstroth, facing Patterson Avenue.



## LANGSTROTH COTTAGE & LORENZO LANGSTROTH

303 Patterson Avenue, Oxford

*Reverend Lorenzo Langstroth, renowned as "The Father of American Beekeeping," lived in this simple two-story, eight-room house with his wife, Anne, and their three children from 1858 to 1887. Unchanged externally, the Greek Revival cottage features brick pilasters and pediments and a fan-shaped front window. In his garden workshop, Langstroth established an apiary and made experimental beehives. On the 10 acres that surrounded his home, he*



grew buckwheat, clover, an apple orchard, and a "honey garden" of flowers. He imported Italian queen bees in efforts to improve native bees and shipped his queens to keepers across the United States and around the world. The Langstroth Cottage was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1982. Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth was born in Philadelphia on December 25, 1810. Although educated at Yale to be a clergyman and teacher, he achieved international fame as an inventor and author. Fascinated from childhood by the intricate and orderly kingdom of honeybees, he discovered "bee space," an open space of not more than three-eighths of an inch which bees would not fill to bond their combs to hives. From this came the world's first moveable frame beehive, patented in 1852, which revolutionized beekeeping and the honey industry. His book, *Langstroth on the Hive and Honeybee* (1853) provided practical advice of bee management and is still in use. Langstroth died on October 6, 1895 in Dayton, Ohio. Appropriately, his tombstone in Woodlawn Cemetery reads "The Father of American Beekeeping."



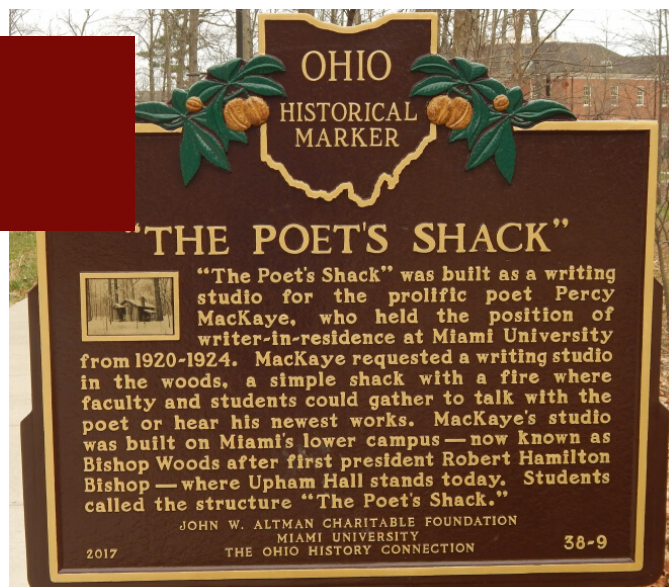
**Directions to Next Marker:** Leave parking lot, turn right on Western Drive, then right on Patterson Avenue. Stay on Patterson Avenue (U.S. 27) through the intersection of Patterson and Spring Street. Bishop Circle will be on the left. Turn left at the second (northern) entrance to Bishop Circle and proceed. The marker will be on the left, at the edge of Bishop Woods, on the curve in the drive.



## THE POET'S SHACK & PERCY MACKAYE

Northwest section of Bishop Woods, on Bishop Circle

"The Poet's Shack" was built as a writing studio for the prolific poet Percy MacKaye, who held the position of writer-in-residence at Miami University from 1920 through 1924. MacKaye requested a writing studio in the woods, a simple shack with a fire where faculty and students could gather to talk with the poet or hear his newest works. MacKaye's studio was built on Miami's lower campus — now known as Bishop Woods after first president Robert Hamilton Bishop — where Upham Hall stands today.



first president Robert Hamilton Bishop — where Upham Hall stands today. Students called the structure "The Poet's Shack." Back Text: Percy MacKaye (1875-1956) was a poet and dramatist elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1914. From 1920-1924, MacKaye held the

position of writer-in-residence at Miami University, the first position of its kind at any American university. Robert Frost praised MacKaye for advocating “to get his fellow poets all fellowships at the universities.” During his time in “The Poet’s Shack”, MacKaye produced the well-known poems “The Trees of Miami” and “An Ode to the Universities” as well as *This Fine Pretty World: A Comedy of the Kentucky Mountains* (1924), a play performed on New York’s Broadway throughout the 1920s.



**Directions to Next Marker:** Follow Bishop Circle to return to Patterson Avenue, then turn right (south) on Patterson (U.S. 27). Turn right (west) on Spring Street. Drive to McGuffey Museum at intersection of Spring Street and Oak Street. Turn left (south) to park on Oak Street. Marker is in front of McGuffey Museum.



**WILLIAM HOLMES  
MCGUFFEY HOUSE**  
410 East Spring Street, Oxford

*William Holmes McGuffey (1800-1873) was a Miami University faculty member in 1836 when he compiled the first edition of the McGuffey Eclectic Reader in this house. His Reader taught lessons in reading, spelling, and civic education by using memorable stories of honesty, hard work, thrift, personal respect, and moral and ethical standards alongside illustrative selections from literary works. The*

*six-edition series increased in difficulty and was developed with the help of his brother Alexander Hamilton McGuffey. After the Civil War the Readers were the basic schoolbooks in thirty-seven states and by 1920 sold an estimated 122 million copies, reshaping American public school curriculum and becoming one of the nation's most influential publications. McGuffey lived at this site in a small frame house in 1828, and in 1833 built this brick home in the Federal vernacular style common to the area. The west wing was added about 1860 in the first of a series of renovations typical of nineteenth-century domestic architecture in the Miami Valley. From the 1850s to 1958 several Oxford families owned the property. At the Miami University Sesquicentennial in 1958, the University purchased the house from the Wallace P. Roudebush family, and it was endowed by Emma Gould Blocker to serve as a museum of University history in honor of McGuffey's legacy. The museum opened to the public in 1960 and*



the house was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1966. It exhibits such unique artifacts as the octagonal table upon which the McGuffey Eclectic Reader was designed and the lectern McGuffey used as professor of Ancient Languages and Literature and University Librarian.



**Directions to Next Marker:** The Stanton House is immediately across Oak Street to the west of McGuffey Museum, facing Spring Street. The marker is in front of the house.



## STANTON'S "MAGNIFICENT" DWELLING

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) & Miami University  
351 East Spring Street, Oxford

Built by "Old Miami" University President Robert L. Stanton, D.D. (1810-1885) as his private home and president's office, Stanton's 1868 Italianate house faced University Square, and welcomed students and guests. The house retains its original symmetrical facade, enclosed portal, grand staircase, double parlors, parlor doors, marbleized slate mantels, and triangular bay windows. Stanton served as president from 1866-1871. Stanton's son, Robert Brewster Stanton, MU '71, famed civil engineer, lived here as an undergraduate. His Miami mentor,



mathematics professor Robert W. McFarland (1825-1910), purchased the house in 1873. McFarland rented it while distinguishing himself at Ohio State University during Miami's twelve-year closure, and then resided here while first president of "New Miami" (1885-1888) and until his death. McFarland's daughter Frances and her husband Llewellyn Bonham sold the home to Miami in 1940.



On November 9, 1870, woman suffrage activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton presented her lecture “Our Girls” in the chapel of “Old Main” where Harrison Hall stands today. She urged her audience to enlist “fathers, husbands, and brothers” in the cause of women’s rights as human rights. Stanton made the first public demand for woman’s right to vote at the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention in New York, which she had helped to organize. Frederick Douglass spoke there in support of Stanton’s resolution. Stanton’s closest ally Susan B. Anthony joined the cause in 1851. Their fifty-one-year collaboration proved essential to ratification in 1920 of the Nineteenth Amendment, which finally granted women the right to vote. In Oxford, Stanton was the guest of her brother-in-law, Miami University President Robert L. Stanton, D.D.



**Directions to Next Marker:** Turn around in parking lot behind McGuffey Museum, accessed from Oak Street. Depart parking lot, turn right (north) on Oak Street, then turn left (west) on Spring Street. Drive to Campus Avenue. Turn right (north) on Campus Avenue. Turn at second left (west) on Collins Street to park. The marker is in front of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity house at the northwest corner of Collins Street and Campus Avenue.

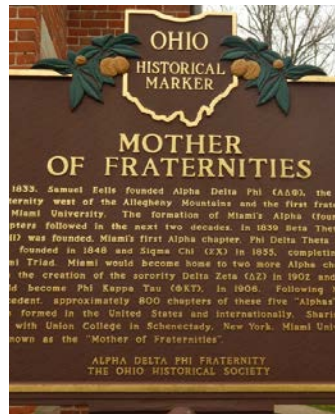


## MOTHER OF FRATERNITIES

Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity  
22 S. Campus Avenue, Oxford

In 1833, Samuel Eells founded Alpha Delta Phi (ADP), the first fraternity west of the Allegheny Mountains and the first fraternity at Miami University. The formation of Miami’s Alpha (founding) chapters followed in the next two decades. In 1839 Beta Theta Phi (BQP) was founded, Miami’s first Alpha chapter. Phi Delta Theta (PDQ) was founded in 1848 and Sigma

Chi (SC) in 1855, completing the Miami Triad. Miami would become home to two more Alpha chapters with the creation of the sorority Delta Zeta (DZ) in 1902 and what would become Phi Kappa Tau (PKT), in 1906. Following Miami’s precedent, approximately 800 chapters of these five “Alphas” have been formed in the United States and internationally. Sharing the title with Union College in Schenectady, New York, Miami University is known as the “Mother of Fraternities.”



**Directions to Next Marker:** Drive west on Collins Street, turn right (north) on Poplar Street, turn left (west) on High Street. At the intersection of High and Main Streets (center of town), turn right (north) on Main Street, then take first right on East Park Place. East Park Place will make a right turn, and the marker is on the left..





# SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY FOUNDING SITE

Northeast corner of East High Street  
and East Park Place, Oxford

Thomas Cowan Bell, James Parks Caldwell, Daniel William Cooper, Isaac M. Jordan, William Lewis Lockwood, Benjamin Piatt Runkle, and Franklin Howard Scobey met in a second floor room of this building to found Sigma Chi ( $\Sigma\chi$ ) in early 1855. All but Lockwood had been members of Delta Kappa Epsilon ( $\Delta\kappa\epsilon$ ) but left over a disagreement as to who should be elected poet of Erodolphian, one of Miami University's literary societies. Runkle and Caldwell, who lived here, designed Sigma Chi's badge, the White Cross. Reflecting the ideals of



Friendship, Justice, and Learning, the Brothers donned the badge and established Sigma Chi on Commencement Day, June 28, 1855. The founding of Sigma Chi completed the Miami Triad, which includes Alpha (founding) chapters of Beta Theta Pi ( $B\Theta\pi$ , 1839) and Phi Delta Theta ( $\Phi\Delta\Theta$ , 1848). Miami University and Union College in Schenectady, New York are known as the "Mother of Fraternities."



41st Grand Consul William P. Huffman purchased his fraternity's founding site in 1973. Built around 1818, the building housed a tavern, rooming house, drug store and hotel at various times between the creation of Sigma Chi in 1855 and 1973. Sigma Chi renovated and rededicated the site in 1993. Restoration work was done in time to commemorate the fraternity's 150th anniversary in 2005 and further site improvements were completed in 2017. Since its founding, Sigma Chi has installed more than 300 chapters and initiated over 340,000 members at college and university campuses across the United States and Canada. The Jordan Standard, articulated by Founder Isaac M. Jordan in 1884, defines a Sigma Chi as "a man of good character," and "a student of fair ability with ambitious purposes, a congenial disposition, possessed of good morals, having a high sense of honor and a deep sense of personal responsibility."



**Directions to Next Marker:** Turn right (west) on High Street, then turn left (south) on College Avenue. The marker is on your right, in front of the Oxford Community Arts Center. Turn right (west) on Walnut Street. The Caroline Scott Harrison statue is on your right, located on the south lawn behind the Arts Center.







# OXFORD FEMALE INSTITUTE

Caroline Scott Harrison (1832-1892)  
10 S. College Avenue, Oxford

*Chartered in 1849, the Institute was the first of three women's colleges established in Oxford. The original brick building was completed in 1850 and forms the core structure. The Reverend John Witherspoon Scott, a member of Miami University's early faculty, headed the Institute. In 1867, the Institute merged with Oxford Female College and later became the*

*Oxford College for Women. Miami University acquired the building in 1928; in 1930 the Daughters of the American Revolution rededicated it as the "Caroline Scott Harrison Memorial." From 1929-1998 it served as a Miami dormitory, nicknamed "Ox College." Since 2003, the three-story building has housed the Oxford Community Arts Center. The structure is the oldest extant women's college building in Ohio. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.*

*Born in 1832 four blocks east of here in her parents' home, Caroline Scott completed her education at the Oxford Female Institute. It was headed by her father, Reverend John Witherspoon Scott, formerly a professor at Miami University and a strong advocate for women's education. In 1853, Caroline Scott married Benjamin\ Harrison, a Miami University graduate, in her parents' home across the street. After leaving Oxford, Harrison, as an active First Lady during most of her husband's presidency from 1889-1893, oversaw renovation of the White House and became the first*



*President General of the Daughters of the American Revolution. An accomplished artist, she was instrumental in designing Harrison's presidential china. She died in the White House in 1892 and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.*



**Directions to Next Marker:** Drive west on Walnut Street, then turn right (north) on Elm Street, and right (east) on High Street. Turn left (north) on College Avenue, which will become Brown Road (Rt 47). After 3.7 miles, the cemetery, marked with a sign as an Oxford Township Cemetery, will be on your left. The marker is in the cemetery.

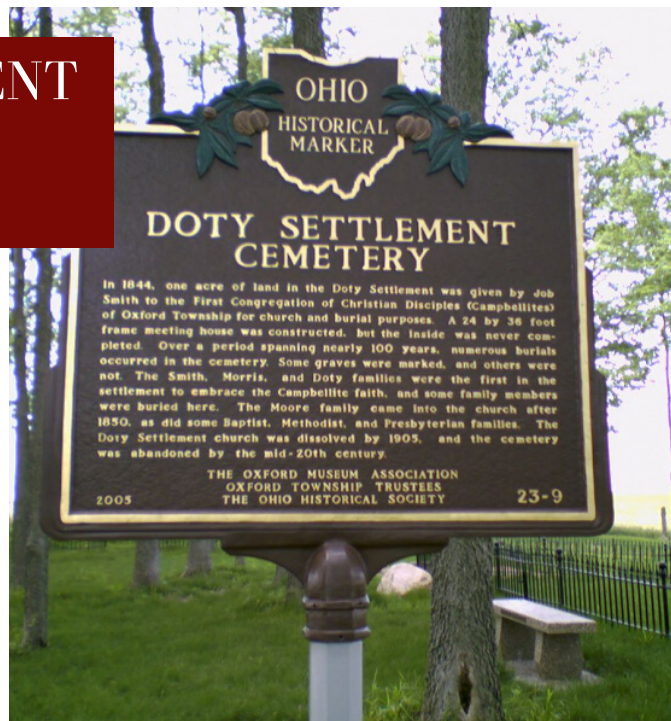




# RESTORATION MOVEMENT & DOTY CEMETERY

Oxford Township Cemetery  
6777 Brown Road, Oxford

*In the early years of the nineteenth century, a religious unrest known as the Second Great Awakening spread across much of the American frontier. Among the most influential of the evolving religious organizations were the Campbellites, or Disciples of Christ, founded in the 1820s by Thomas and Alexander Campbell. The Campbellite movement sought to "restore" New Testament Christianity by calling for a return to the primitive church revealed in the gospels. Campbellites denied creeds and oath-taking and rejected sectarianism. They*



*believed in baptism by immersion and communion on Sundays, and did not use civil courts. They held a millennial view that professed human happiness and the belief that Christ would reign on earth for a thousand years. Believers spread this word to the pioneers of the Doty Settlement and elsewhere. By 1850, there were ninety Campbellite Churches in Ohio. In 1844, one acre of land in the Doty Settlement was given by Job Smith to the First Congregation of Christian Disciples (Campbellites) of Oxford Township for church and burial purposes. A 24 by 36-foot frame meeting house was constructed, but the inside was never completed. Over a period spanning nearly 100 years, numerous burials occurred in the cemetery. The Smith, Morris, and Doty families were the first in the settlement to embrace the Campbellite faith, and some family members were buried here. The Moore family came into the church after 1850, as did some Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian families. The Doty Settlement church was dissolved by 1905, and the cemetery was abandoned by the mid-20th century.*



**Directions to Next Marker:** Turn left (north) out of the cemetery on Brown Road. The Doty Pioneer Farmstead will be the first driveway on your right.

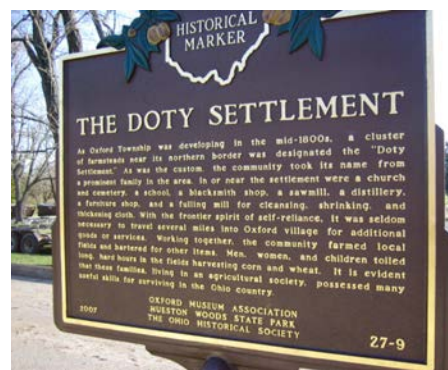


## DOTY SETTLEMENT & PIONEER FARMSTEAD

Huston Woods Pioneer Farm Museum  
6924 Brown Road, Oxford

*As Oxford Township was developing in the mid-1800s, a cluster of farmsteads near its northern border developed and was designated the "Doty Settlement." As was the custom, the community took its name from a prominent family in the area. In or near the settlement were a church and cemetery, a school, a blacksmith shop, a sawmill, a distillery, a*

furniture shop, and a fulling mill for cleansing, shrinking, and thickening cloth. With the frontier spirit of self-reliance, it was seldom necessary to travel several miles into Oxford village for additional goods or services. Working together, the community farmed local fields and bartered for other items. Men, women, and children worked long, hard hours in the fields harvesting corn and wheat. It is evident that these families, living in an agricultural society, possessed many useful skills for surviving in the Ohio country. Joseph Morris established the Pioneer Farmstead in the mid-1830s. Tradition says that he lived in the "cave" or root cellar while he fashioned his two-story home of locally made brick. Early construction also included a well, a privy, a smokehouse, and a woodshed. Morris made his fortune by taking whiskey to Cincinnati and returning with groceries for the Oxford area. During a recession, the Panic of 1837, Morris fell onto hard times and had to sell everything. In 1844, the farm was purchased at a collector's sale by his brother-in-law, Samuel Doty, who was a descendant of Edward Doty, a passenger on the Mayflower that sailed from England to Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620. After the death of Samuel in 1859, his brother Jesse became owner of the farm. In the 1950s, the Pioneer Farmstead was added to the Hueston Woods State Park.



**Directions to Next Marker:** Turn left (south) on Brown Road and drive 3.5 miles. Turn left (east) at Sycamore. At first traffic light, turn left (north) on Route 732 (Morning Sun Road). Turn left (west) on Corso Road (just north of Oxford Dental Center). Black Covered Bridge is at the end of Corso Road.



## BLACK (PUGH'S MILL) COVERED BRIDGE

5401 Corso Road, Oxford

One of the few remaining covered bridges in southwestern Ohio and the only one in Butler County on its original site, this bridge was built in 1868-1869 to give access to a saw and grist mill owned by James B. Pugh on Four Mile (Tallawanda) Creek. The wooden frame three-story mill had a 16-foot overshot water wheel to power it. Pugh's Mill ceased operation after two decades. The name of the span gradually changed to Black Bridge, likely because there was a white covered bridge downstream near present State Route 73. The Oxford Museum Association assumed stewardship of the Black





Bridge in 1976 as part of the American Bicentennial celebration. Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, it was restored and rededicated in 2000. One of the longest and most impressive of Ohio's covered bridges, the Black (Pugh's Mill) Bridge was built in 1868-1869 by master builders Bandin, Butin, and Bowman. It is unique for its combination of two truss types "Childs and Long" within a single structure. Originally a cambered (arched) single span of 209 feet with a roadway width of 18 feet, it was modified in 1869 with the inclusion of a central pier under it for additional support. The trusses were then remodeled by replacing some of the wooden diagonals with iron rods to enable the builders to lower the bridge down onto the pier by backing off the nuts on the ends of the rods, thus eliminating the camber and forming two spans instead of one.



**Directions to Next Marker:** Return to Route 732 on Corso Road. Turn left (north) on Route 732. Drive north on Route 732 to the intersection with Route 177 (4.2 miles). Turn left (north) on Route 177 and drive through town of Morning Sun. Stay on Route 177, and turn left (west) on Camden College Corner Road. Follow Camden College Corner Road to Hopewell Church on your right, with marker in front.



## HISTORIC HOPEWELL CEMETERY

6471 Camden College Corner Road  
College Corner (Preble County)

*The Hopewell Associate Reformed Church and Cemetery, now known as Historic Hopewell, was founded in 1808 in a log building that was replaced in 1826 with the present building. It was built by the area's first settlers, mainly Scotch-Irish who left Kentucky and South Carolina because of their opposition to slavery.*

*The church encouraged worship by African Americans and played an important role in the Underground Railroad. It became the parent church for four "Daughter" Presbyterian congregations: Fairhaven in 1835, Oxford in 1837, College Corner in 1849, and Morning Sun in 1876. Reverend Alexander Porter, the first pastor, was committed to education and constructed a school near the Hopewell Spring that still produces clear water. "Old Hopewell" was completely refurbished in 1880, but by 1915 the membership declined and regular services discontinued. Today Hopewell holds Sunday services in the summer and is maintained by a generous and devoted group of volunteers. Back Text: The Hopewell Cemetery was the first public cemetery in Israel Township. Thomas McDill, who died in 1813 after returning home from the War of 1812 in ill health, was the first person buried here. The cemetery is estimated to have over 1000 graves in the original acre of ground and became the second largest burial ground for Revolutionary War soldiers in Preble County; it is also the final resting place for Hopewell Church members who served during the Civil War. Alexander Porter and Dr. Edward Paxton, the first and last pastors of Hopewell, are also buried here. Noted for their craftsmanship and integrity, several early nineteenth stone monuments, carved by local sculptor Oscar M. Pay, dot its landscape. Surrounded by a 19th century dry-laid limestone fence, the cemetery remains active today, and along with the Hopewell Church, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.*