

Early Settlers, continued

John F. Davidson (1814-1846)

John Davidson's family came to Ohio from Pennsylvania in 1816. He was an older brother of Harriet Davidson Smith. John met his future wife Malissa Smith when their families moved from Pennsylvania to what was then Springfield, Portage County, Ohio. John and Malissa were married on the day after Christmas in 1840. John's younger brother, William, purchased a few acres of farm land across Furnace Run in Boston Township. John and Malissa helped him with the farm near the canal hamlet later to be known as Unionville or Everett. John died on September 1, 1846 at the age of 32 and he is buried in the Ira Cemetery.

Jonathan Hale (1777-1854) Mercy Hale (1779-1829)

Mercy Sanderson Piper Hale was born in Massachusetts in 1779. When she was very young her family moved to Connecticut. She had five siblings, three boys and two girls. Her father was a tailor and she learned to be a tailoress and made clothes for the gentlemen. Mercy married Jonathan Hale on July 11, 1802.



Jonathan Hale was a "down-on-his-luck" Connecticut businessman, who moved to the Western Reserve in 1810, which at that time, was the western frontier of the United States. Mercy then moved with their three children Sophrenia, William and Pamela from Connecticut to the Western Reserve.

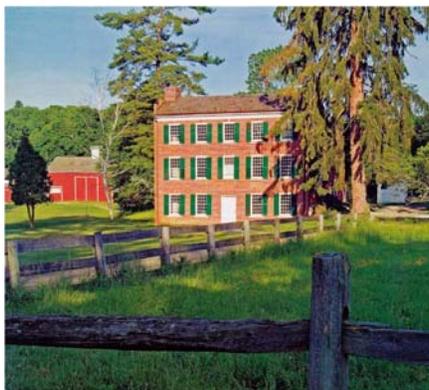
They were part of a group of 15 people, including the Hammonds and Jonathan's sister and husband (cont.)



Ira Cemetery and the Early Settlers

(cont.) who made the arduous journey by covered wagon drawn by oxen. The journey took about six weeks. Jonathan had purchased the 500 acre Hale Farm for \$1250. Mercy had three more children, Andrew, Abigail, and James.

The family lived in a log cabin for 15 years, building a self-sufficient farm and later the brick home that stands today. In May 1829 Mercy went back to Connecticut for a visit. Upon learning of the death of one of her daughters-in-law, she returned to Ohio, and died in October. The Hale family continued to work the farm for three generations.



(photo by Ian Adams)

Acknowledgements

Bath Township
Bath Township Historical Society
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Cemetery Tour Committee

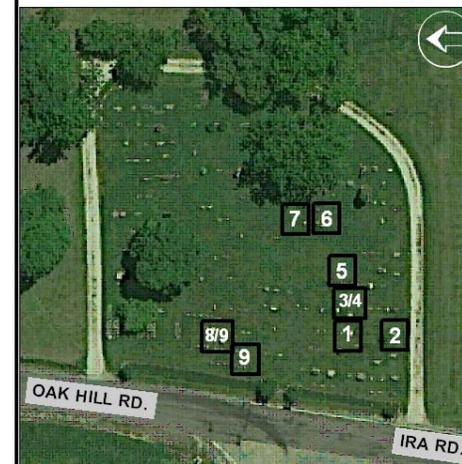
The Early Settlers Tour and other Bath Township
tour brochures are available online at:
www.bathtownship.org.

Ira Cemetery

Early Settlers

Bath Township

Ira Cemetery



1. Nathaniel Scofield
2. Sarah Jones
3. Rachel Hammond
4. Jason Hammond
5. Sally Cole
6. Harriet T. Smith (No headstone)
7. Malissa Davidson
8. Mercy Hale
9. Jonathan Hale

Located at
Oak Hill & Ira Roads,
adjacent to Hale Farm
near
Bath Township, Ohio

Nathaniel Scofield (1795-1836)

Nathaniel Scofield was born in Connecticut, the third son of Jonas and Sarah Scofield, and the fourth of their eight children.



Nathaniel and his wife Hannah moved to Ohio in the early 1820s and had 2 daughters Keziah, who died at age 4 years, 6 months in 1829, and Emmaline, who died just a month shy of her 6th birthday in 1836. Their son Eli Nathaniel was born in 1834 and lived to be

45 years of age, serving in the Union army during the Civil War. Nathaniel died in 1836.

His widow Hannah Scofield married John Gillson. They had two daughters. In 1877 Hannah and John were involved in an accident crossing a ford. Hannah survived but her second husband was dragged into deep water and his body was not recovered until four days later. Hannah died in 1886 at age 86 and is buried near her daughter Maria and close to her Scofield family.



Sarah Jones (1821-1847)

Sarah Hammond Jones was the daughter of Theodore and Rachel Farnham Hammond. She was born in Bath Township on September 15, 1821. Sarah married Nathan S. Jones on March 20, 1837. Nathan was a carpenter from Bristol, New York, and is credited with the construction of several buildings at Hammonds Corners, including the Whitcraft General Store on the current site of the Garth Andrew store.

Sarah Hammond Jones, continued

Theodore gave his daughter a house and about a half acre of land located on Lot 25. Nathan Jones lived on a half-acre directly opposite Sarah's land along the current Cleveland-Massillon Road on Lot 26. Nathan died in 1846, and Sarah died in 1847 at the age of 26. The couple left behind two young sons who went to live with Sarah's brother James Hammond in Indiana.

Rachel Hammond (1758-1842)

Jason Hammond (1762-1830)

Rachel was born in 1758 in Connecticut to Theodore Hale and Rachel Talcott. She was the older sister of Jonathan Hale.

Jason Hammond was born in Connecticut, the eldest of nine children. His mother died when he was thirteen. His father, Nathaniel, remarried and Jason shared his home with seven additional siblings. Rachel Hale married Jason Hammond in Connecticut and had six children there: Theodore, Rachel, Jason, Lewis, Mary, and Horatio.

Jason was a successful farmer, miller, and merchant. His health declined and a business partner stole his assets and left town. Jason sold what was left to pay his debts. He traded his Connecticut farm to a land speculator for the first choice of land in the Western Reserve. He then owned over one thousand acres of wilderness which would become the south side of Ira Road west to Cleveland-Massillon Road. Jason and family arrived in the Ira Valley in 1810.

The family moved to Ohio in 1810 where the original Hammond plot ran all the way from what is now Cleveland-Massillon Road down to the Cuyahoga River Valley, on the south side of Ira Road. For a time, Bath was called Hammondsburg. The family lived their first eight Ohio years in a cabin built by a squatter.



Hammonds, continued

Later they began a house that their son Lewis completed in 1836. It still stands today on Ira Road.



Later Jason split his land between his three sons and was generous to his daughters as well. Rachel outlived Jason by 12 years, dying at age 84.

Sally Cole (1800-1835)

Sally Cole was born in New York in 1800. She married John Cole there and had two sons, Ransom and Albert, and a daughter Sarah. Shortly after moving to Bath Township when Ransom was 7, Albert 3, and Sarah just a baby, she died at the age of 35 on April 1, 1835.

John, 36, met an 18 year old young woman named Mary Ruggles, married her five months later, and had five more children (Mary, Eleanor, Eliza, Harvey, and Laura.) They lived in Northampton and later Boston Township. As a widow, Mary later lived in Bath Township.

All three of Sally and John's children married; two of them produced nine children of their own.

Harriet T. Smith (1827-1847)

Harriet was born in 1827, the youngest of nine children. After her parents, William and Mary Mast Davidson had moved from Pennsylvania to Springfield Township, Ohio. Her father died in 1831 when she was just five years old. The family moved to an established Portage County farm where Harriet's oldest brother James took over the operation of the family business.

When she was 18, Harriet married Austin Smith, age 21, in 1845, in Brimfield. Within eighteen months, Harriet died...possibly in childbirth like so many young pioneer women of the nineteenth century.