

Jackson Family Connections with Marietta, Ohio

By Dan Hyde
Jackson Brigade Reunion
August 5, 2016

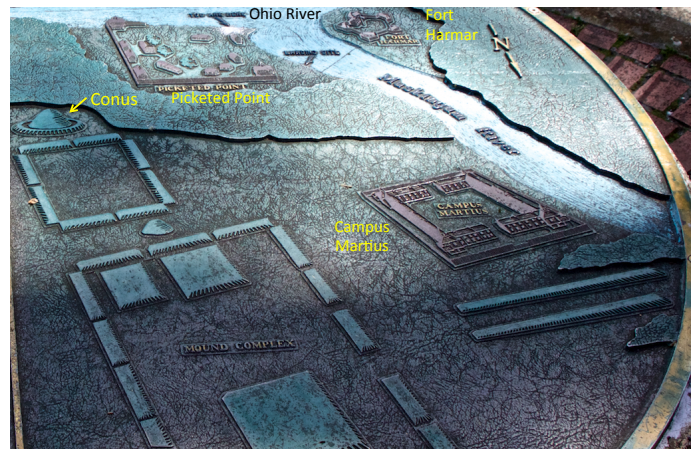
Welcome!

- Plans for this afternoon 3-5 pm
 - Family history exhibits for each Jackson line
 - Talk on [Genealogy](#) by Paula McGrew 3-4 pm
 - Talk on [Using DNA Testing for Genealogy](#) by Dan 4-5 pm
 - Self-guided [Walking Tours](#)
 - [Good Conversations!](#)
 - [Mingle and Match](#) your question - answer!
- Silent Auction
- Other Announcements
 - Jackson Brigade Trolley at 8:30 am Sat;
 - Note: There is a Public Trolley at 10 am Sat

Context and Background

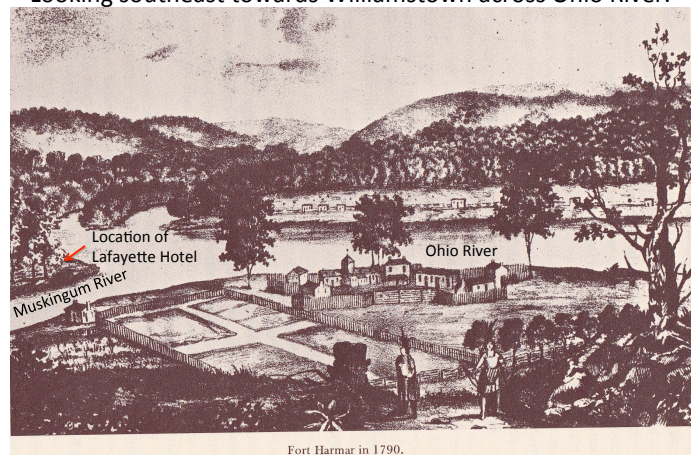
- Ancient Earthworks
 - [Adena](#) culture 500 BC; [Hopewell](#) culture appears later 500 AD
- At end of Revolutionary War, USA gains "[Northwestern Territory](#)"
 - Ceded by Britain in Treaty of Paris 1783. Covered modern states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and parts of Minnesota.
- This side of Ohio River was Indian land
 - Until Treaty of Fort McIntosh in 1785
 - Fort Harmar built in 1785 to keep settlers off Indians' portion.
- Founding of Marietta in 1788
 - by "[Ohio Company of Associates](#)" – 47 Revolutionary War officers from Connecticut and Massachusetts led by [General Rufus Putnam](#).
 - First white settlement in [Northwestern Territory](#).
 - [Putnam](#) was friend of George Washington and received special treatment in U.S. Congress to purchase 750,000 acres in Southeast Ohio.
 - "Aristocrats" – Promised U.S. Congress to civilize the western frontier.
 - Many engineers and excellent surveyors among them.
 - Yankee values. Older houses look like New England.

Mound Complex as shown on 1792 Map

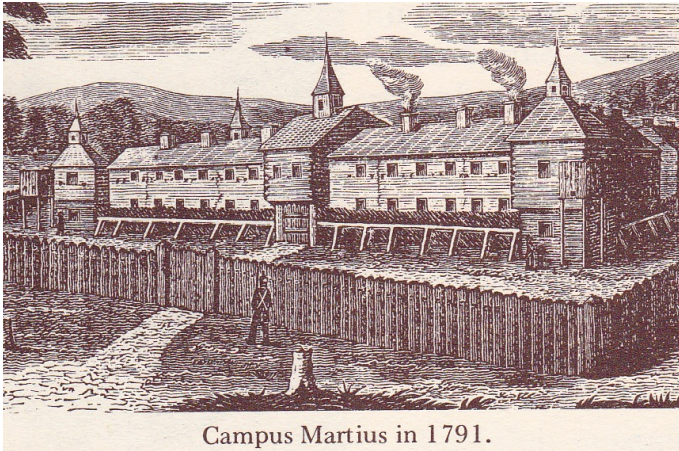


Conus Mound in Mound Cemetery

Fort Harmar – Built 1785. Looking southeast towards Williamstown across Ohio River.

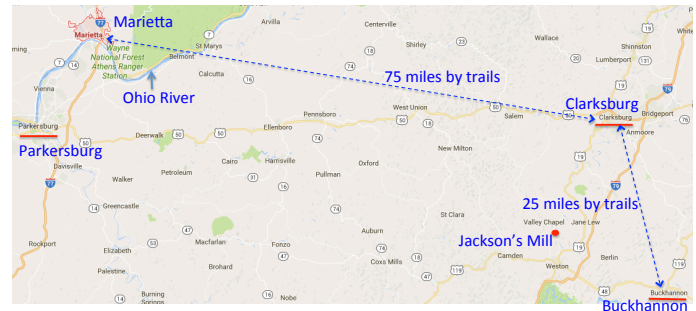


Campus Martius – Built 1790



Campus Martius in 1791.

Locations of Early Events



1768 John Jackson with sons George (12) and Edward (8) arrive at Pringle Tree, Buckhannon.
 1784 George Jackson moves family to Clarksburg, WV.
 1788 General Rufus Putnam and the Ohio Company Associates establish Marietta, Ohio.
 1789 George Jackson and his son John George, age 12, visit Governor St. Clair, Rufus Putnam, and Return Jonathan Meigs, Sr. in Marietta to discuss strategies to defend against Indians.
 1793 John George spends months at Marietta learning about surveying. In one day, he runs from Marietta to Clarksburg to warn settlers of approaching Indians.

John George Jackson and Surveying

- When young, John George Jackson's passion was surveying.
- The Ohio Company at Marietta had some of the best surveyors in the country – General Rufus Putnam being one of them.
- Rufus Putnam told John George he could help the surveyors when he reached 16.
- In 1793 at age 16, John George spent months at Marietta learning surveying and accompanying men on surveying jobs.



General Rufus Putnam

Ohio Company Lands

- Ohio Company purchases 1,228,118 acres with U.S. Military securities.

- George Jackson elected to U.S. House in 1795.

The 1796 Land Law about Northwest Territory stated that a U. S. Surveyor General was to be named to survey the area.

- Congressman George Jackson was instrumental in his friend Rufus Putnam being named U. S. Surveyor General in Jan. 1797.

- In 1797 Rufus Putnam hand picked John George, age 19, as one of three surveyors to survey the large tract of Military Land near Zanesville, OH.



John George Jackson in Congress

- In 1798 John George runs for VA House of Delegates and wins.
- In 1799 John George meets Mary Payne, youngest sister of Dolley Payne Madison.
- Oct 1800 John George marries Mary Payne, probably at James and Dolley Madison's home "Montpelier."
- 1803 John George elected to U.S. House in his Dad's seat.
- James Madison is President Jefferson's Secretary of State (1801-1809).
- In 1809 John George's brother-in-law James Madison becomes U.S. President.
- John George is key leader of Republicans in House.



Mary Payne's sister Dolley Madison

Aaron Burr Controversy



Reconstructed Blennerhassett Mansion on Blennerhassett Island

- Aaron Burr completes his term of Vice President in Jan. 1805.
- In May 1805 Burr sails down Ohio River and stops in Marietta and then Blennerhassett Island to gain support for a private army to attack Mexico because he felt USA would declare war on Spain.
- Burr convinces Harman Blennerhassett to use his island to store military supplies and establish an encampment for Burr's army.
- President Thomas Jefferson declares Burr's private army an Act of Treason.

During Jackson Brigade Reunion 2004 we rode a sternwheeler to Blennerhassett Island and toured the mansion. Remember?

Aaron Burr Controversy – con't

- **John George** is Federal Judge of area that includes Blennerhassett Island (2 miles downstream of Parkersburg), the focus of inquiry. Secretary of State James Madison asks his brother-in-law **John George** to act as Counsel for the U. S. A.
- Judge **John George Jackson** picks his cousin **George Jackson, Jr.** to gather evidence.
- **John George** goes to Marietta to seek out eye-witnesses. One witness was **Return Jonathan Meigs, Jr.**, a native of Marietta.
- **John George's** brother **Jacob Jackson**, a sergeant in U.S. Army, was head of a small army unit at Memphis, TN. He writes in his disposition that Burr stopped at his post and tried to entice him to desert the army and sail with Burr to New Orleans in preparation for Burr's private army attack on Mexico.
- Burr's trial is Sept. 1807. He is freed by the jury.

A Love Story

- **John George's** wife Mary Payne Jackson, age 27, dies of TB Feb. 13, 1808. He is devastated and depressed for months.
- In 1808 **Return Jonathan Meigs, Jr.** of Marietta wins election as first Governor of Ohio. But election is contested by his opponent and he loses due to lack of proper residency.
- June 1808, **John George** visits **R. J. Meigs, Jr.** at his new home at 326 Front Street, Marietta. **John George** notices and is attracted to **Meigs's** daughter **Mary Sophia Meigs**. She is age 16 and an only child. He is age 30.
- Oct. 1808, **J. G.** tries to visit **Mary** at Marietta but she pretends to be sick and doesn't see him.
- Dec. 1808, **J. G.** stopped in Marietta to congratulate **R. J. Meigs, Jr.** on being appointed U. S. Senator from Ohio. **J. G.** asked **Mary Meigs** if he might call on her in the spring of 1809. She refused him!

A Love Story – con't

- Rejected by **Mary Meigs**, **Congressman John George** returns to the high society scene in Washington, D. C.
- Months later, **J. G.** becomes romantically involved with a Washington Society lady we know only as D. H.
- For political reasons, Congressman Joseph Pearson challenges **J. G.** to a duel. On Dec. 4, 1809, **J. G.** is wounded in hip.
- Living in the same rooming house, **Senator R. J. Meigs, Jr.** tends to **J. G.'s** wounds from the duel.
- Because of his wound, **J. G.** postpones wedding to D. H.
- **J. G.** receives romantic letter from **Mary Meigs** written after many pleas from her father. **J. G.** forgets D. H. and starts a long letter-exchange courtship with **Mary Meigs** in secret.
- **Mary** writes her father and encloses a note to **J. G.** and **R. J. Meigs, Jr.** walks up the stairs and hand delivers it to **J. G.**

A Love Story – con't



John George Jackson



Mary Sophia Meigs

- These love letters between **John George Jackson** and **Mary Sophia Meigs** have survived. They were handed down through the family and Dorothy Davis decided to write her book *John George Jackson* published in 1976 partly because she learned of these letters. She has many tender passages from the letters in her book.
- On July 19, 1810, **Mary Meigs**, age 19, and **John George Jackson**, age 31, married in Marietta probably at the First Congregationalist Church, two doors down from **Meigs's** Home on 326 Front Street.

Slave vs. Free

- In 1803 Ohio becomes a Free State by one vote. Slavery is illegal but Ohio still enacts laws biased against blacks.
- Slavery vs. antislavery - a **major tension** between the two sides across the Ohio River – States of OH and VA.
 - Marietta, OH settled by New Englanders with **Yankee values**.
 - Underground Railroad in Marietta helped slaves escape to Canada. **David Putnam**, **Rufus Putnam's** nephew, directed the antislavery activities.
 - Williamstown, VA had Henderson Hall plantation with **Southern values**.
 - Parkersburg, VA, 17 miles downstream had a slave market.
- **John George Jackson** in Clarksburg, VA owned over 40 slaves who worked in his salt works, grist mill, saw mill, and fuller mill.
- In a letter, **J. G.** wrote to **Mary Meigs** of building her a large house in Williamstown, VA so he could have slaves for house servants.
- In 1821 **John Jackson, Jr.** died on a Mississippi River trip to sell his nephew **J. G.'s** slaves in New Orleans.

More Efforts for Marietta by John George

- **John George** was major stockholder in the Bank of Marietta and an attorney for the Bank in lawsuits to collect debts.
- **John George** petitioned the U.S. House to create a road from Washington D. C., through Winchester in VA to state capital of Indiana that would cross the Ohio River near Marietta.

The Old Northwestern Turnpike was a stagecoach line from Winchester, VA to Parkersburg in early 1800s.

U.S. Route 50 basically follows this path today and passes through Clarksburg and crosses the Ohio River at Parkersburg, WV.

Another Love Story



Cecelia Jackson born December 11, 1854 on Stone Coal (near Weston, WV), a daughter of Jacob J. and Parmelia Watson Jackson. Jacob is son of John Jackson, Jr.



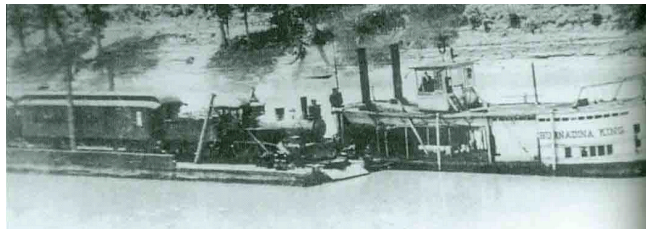
Jacob H. Bush and his dogs

Back: Goldie Elizabeth Corathers-Mace, Minnie Clark-Corathers.

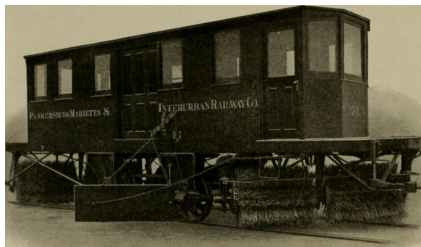
Front: Gay Bush-Clark, **Cecelia Jackson-Bush-Bonnett** holding Patricia Mace. (Photo 1939).

Another Love Story – con't

- In 1870, **Cecelia Jackson** was married when only 16. Jacob H. Bush accompanied her home from church hand-in-hand and her mother punished her for it.
- This was too much and the young people promptly eloped.
- With R. E. Bush and Clark Jackson, she and Jacob Bush rode horseback to Clarksburg where they took a train for Parkersburg.
- At Parkersburg, the train cars were ferried up the Ohio River 14 miles to Marietta, Ohio. This was her first train ride and it ended in her marriage. No bridge over Ohio at Parkersburg until 1871.
- In Marietta, Ohio a 16-year old woman didn't need her parents' consent to marry as she would in Virginia.
- The couple went to live with his parents at the Bush house.
- The couple had 11 children and many descendants are at the Reunion. Ask them for further details!



Railroad cars were ferried up Ohio River for 14 miles from Parkersburg to Marietta until 1871.



"Parkersburg, Marietta & Inter-urban Railway" car with brushes to sweep off the snow on the tracks. About 1900.

Building Bridges

- **James Madison Jackson⁶**, son of **Meigs Jackson⁵**, was born in 1874. **Meigs Jackson's** father was **James Madison Jackson⁴**, son of our **John George Jackson³**.
- From 1898 to 1900 **James Madison Jackson⁶** was city engineer of Parkersburg, WV. The "Parkersburg, Marietta & Inter-urban Railway" was constructed by him from Parkersburg to Marietta, Ohio, in 1900 and 1901.
- He was responsible for the first bridge over the Ohio River between Williamstown and Marietta as part of the Inter-urban. Construction began in 1900 and finished in 1903. At the time, this bridge was the longest cantilever design span on US inland waters.

Newspaper Family

- **Benjamin Jackson McKinney⁵**, born in 1850, was son of William Piatt McKinney and **Indiana H. Jackson⁴**, a daughter of **William Lowther Jackson³**, son of **George Jackson²**.
- **Benjamin J. McKinney** bought the *Marietta Times* newspaper in 1890 and published it until 1908, when he sold it to his sons **Frank** and **Will**. For over 50 years the two sons operated the company.
- In 1898, he transformed the weekly into a daily *Marietta Times*.
- The McKinney family operated the *Marietta Times* until 1974.
- **Benjamin J. McKinney** was mayor of Marietta from 1908 to 1909 and in 1912 was appointed State Inspector of Oils by Governor Harmon.
- See article on **Benjamin Jackson McKinney** in the November 2014 *Jackson Brigade Quarterly*, pages 6 and 7.



Looking north at Parkersburg Marietta Interurban Railroad Company Trestle, Williamstown, WV. View of a section of track, probably damaged by flood waters. 1913.

I hope you have enjoyed our journey through history with the Jackson family and Marietta.