

HIGHLAND PIONEER SKETCHES AND FAMILY GENEALOGIES

By

Elsie Johnson Ayres

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- 3— Thomas.
 - 4— Margaret Ann (Evans).
 - 5— John R., who lived in Kansas.
 - 6— Mary Elizabeth (Glenn).
 - 7— Sarah Jane (Hill).
 - 8— Charles B., of Burlington, Iowa.
 - 9— Joseph Henry of Council Bluffs, Iowa.
 - 10— James.
 - 11— Dudley C. Arthur, born in 1846, survived until 1921. His wife, Nancy, born in 1847, succumbed in 1907.
- Dudley C. Arthur served during the Civil War as a member of Co. K, 192nd Reg., O.V.I. John W. Arthur served as a member of Co. A, 2nd Reg., O.V.C.

The homes and public buildings constructed by the Arthurs still grace our landscape and are definitely hidden assets of our county. The word "hidden" is used because, as yet, they remain unmarked. Therefore, they are unknown to the general public. Their style of architecture was undeniably dignified and classic. The carvings, panellings, etc., from native cherry, walnut and oak, used in the interiors, are exquisite works of art. They reflect the taste and intelligence of the builders.

The private homes designed and erected by the Arthurs have a distinct air of elegance. Almost all their homes were designed with cellars (now called basements), so the owners could store food and provisions brought in from their farms or taken in as payment for some service.

A close observation of the homes and public structures erected by the brothers show by their methods the close relationship to the architecture of the Virginia plantations along the James River. Pleasant Arthur was apprenticed to a master carpenter and woodworker near his Virginia home on that very same river. He brought his knowledge to Highland Co.; thus, in so doing, we are much richer in our landmarks stamped by the very fine architecture and woodworking of the Arthur family.

THE AYRES FAMILY IN AMERICA

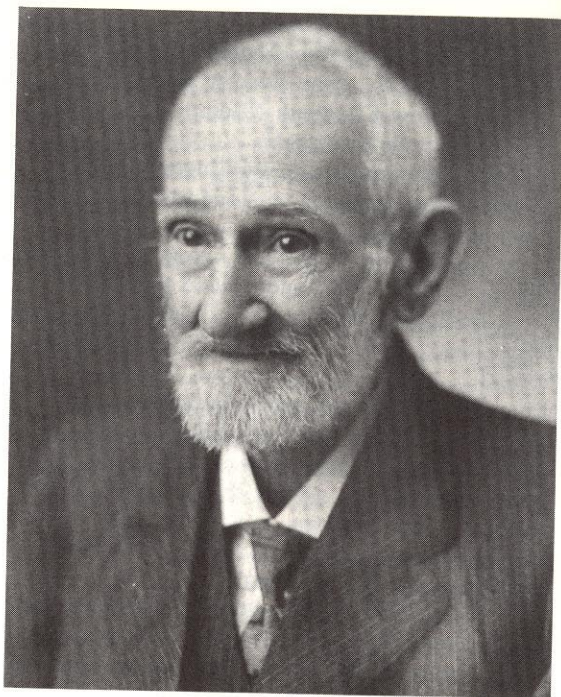
The Ayreses in America, though not as numerous as some other families, have always been very influential, producing men of science, medicine, teachers, ministers, statesmen, etc. The name originated in England in 1066 at the Battle of Hastings. A man by the name of Truelove, a follower of William the Conqueror, found him de horsed with his helmet beaten into his face. He pulled off the helmet, straightened it, and horsed him again. Duke William turned to Truelove and told him, "Henceforth your name shall be Ayres for you gave me the air that I now breathe."

After the battle, Duke William found his rescuer again. He was severely wounded with his leg and thigh gone. He ordered the best of care for "Ayres" and, as a reward for his services, granted him extensive lands in Derbyshire. As a crest, his family was to be recognized by a leg and thigh encased in armor,

cut off. The inscription in Latin on the Coat of Arms—"Virtus sola Invicta," meaning virtue alone conquers or is invincible.

Heraldry is of very ancient origin. It can be traced back to the Jewish tribes, but does not mean it was always given to an exclusive or aristocratic class. On the contrary, they were awarded to the humblest, as well as those of the highest rank. Man received his independence, strength of character, self-reliance and resourcefulness from his ancestors.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, rulers granted privileges of coats of arms, etc., to heads of families who had achieved distinction in some endeavor. They were expected to live up to the standard of the virtues perpetuated through that very coat of arms.



Frank Billingham
Born 1799 - died in 1930's
Hillsboro confectionery owner

Deeds of the Battle Abbey (taken from the History of the Church of Britain, published by Thomas Fuller in 1648, in the possession of the author, Elsie J. Ayres), gives the name of Truelove as a follower of William the Conquerer. Thus, the story of the name and its origin is authenticated. Through the years, the name has been spelled in various ways—Ayer, Ayers, Ayre, Ayres, Ayr, Eyr, Eyre, Eyres, Eyer, Eyers—and tradition has it that all were descended from one of Norman William's followers. Descendants are scattered throughout the civilized world.

Thomas Ayres and Elizabeth Hales were married in England in 1720. She was a daughter of John Hales, an Episcopal minister, whose will is dated in West Moreland County, Va., in 1727. Rev. John Hales, son of Nathaniel and grandson of Thomas Hales, arrived in Massachusetts about 1632. Later, the family dropped the "s" from their name. Nathan Hale, who was hung as a spy by the British during the Revolution, was descended from Nathaniel Hales. Several members of the Ayres family were descended from Thomas and Elizabeth (Hales) Ayres.

The Ayres' home in Derbyshire was called "Hope." It was there that Matthias Ayres is thought to have been born soon after 1700. Some descendants of the emigrant Matthias Ayres state that he came to America in 1720; others give the date as 1740. Records show that he and his wife, Elizabeth (Hales) Ayres, were living on "Four Mile Creek," adjoining "Pleasant's Mill Pond" in Henrico Co., Va., in 1743. Matthias Ayres was called a "planter, gentleman, yeoman, etc." Sept. 10, 1755, Matthias Ayres was granted 2,000 acres of land by George II in Albermarle Co., Va. It was located on Hatcher's Creek in the area at the foot of Hatcher's Mountain. The land was in the slate country which furnished slate roofing for many fine buildings.

Matthias and Elizabeth (Hales) Ayres were the parents of a large family that included: Edmond, John Hales, Mary (Molly), Samuel, Nathan, Matthias, and at least five daughters who married men by the names of Ford, Hodgens, Agee, Sutherland and Maxey.

The following Ayres names are to be found in a list of Abstracts of Land Patents at such an early date that they must have been brothers of Matthias Ayres. They were: John Ayres, 25 A., Oct. 24, 1655; Edmund Ayres, 500 A., Oct. 28, 1657; and Benjamin Ayres, 175 A., Nov. 20, 1682, all in Virginia; and Robert Ayres, in Maryland.

Edmund Ayres, son of Matthias, married Bede Maxey in 1785. She was the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Sublette) Maxey and the granddaughter of Edward Maxey, Sr., who was born in France in 1650. He came to America in 1700, where he died in 1728. Edmund Ayres was the father of two children, John Ayres, and Mary "Polly" Ayres, who became the wife of Rev. William Maxey.

John Hales Ayres, born in 1740, was a soldier of the Revolution who served under Col. John Holcombe in the Virginia line. Dec. 4, 1777, he married Jane, daughter of William Sallee. His death occurred in 1828. Jane (Sallee) Ayres, born in 1761, survived until 1848.

John Hales and Jane (Sallee) Ayres were the parents of the following children:

1— Magdalene, Aug. 16, 1778 (Mrs. William Chastain). They reared their 11 children near Logan, Ky.

2— Nancy, known as "Anne," Feb. 22, 1782–Aug. 5, 1869 (Mrs. Stephen Fuqua, Sr., 1769–1843). His first wife was Susannah Garratt. Stephen and Anne (Ayres) Fuqua were the parents of five children.

3— Edmund E., Feb. 24, 1783–1874 (married Margaret Williams, 1799–1888). They reared their eight children near Russellville, Ky.

4— Sallie, born May 24, 1791 (Mrs. Amos Maupin). They lived in Powell's Valley, Tenn.

5— Judith, Feb. 9, 1794 (married Jacob, brother of William Chastain).

6— Susannah Hales, 1796–1891 (Mrs. Charles LeSeur). He served in the War of 1812. They had seven children.

7— Patsy, Aug. 11, 1798 (was second wife of John Guthrie).

8— John Hales Ayres, II, March 3, 1801 (married Mary "Polly" Seay).

They were the parents of seven children, including a son, John, born in 1840, who died before the Civil War.

9— Jane, June 9, 1803 (Mrs. Joseph Ryal Ferguson). They reared their family in Yell County, Ark.

10— Olive Sallee, 1806-1887 (married Catharine Seay). They had five children.

Matthias Ayres, II, who died about 1803, married Mary Howell. Their eight children were:

1— John, 1774-1831 (wife unknown). They had a son, Thomas Jefferson Ayres, who moved to Missouri in 1829.

2— Sally, no other information.

3— Mary "Polly" (Mrs. John Guthrie).

4— William (his wife was Mildred Chastain). They had a son, Peter, who lived in Kansas, and a daughter, Betsy, who became the third wife of John Guthrie.

5— Robert Matthias, III, who died in 1831 (married Elizabeth Ann Wilkinson and had four children).

6— Patsy "Martha," 1785 (LeSeur).

7— Stephen.

8— Edward Ayres.

Mary "Mollie," one of the daughters of Matthias Ayres, of which there is a good record, was born in 1745. She married Charles, son of John and Susan (Burton) Garrott. (The later families spelled the name "Garrett").

Charles and Mollie (Ayres) Garrott were the parents of the following six children:

1— Betsy (Mrs. Jacob Agee). He was the son of James and Elizabeth (Ford) Agee. They were the parents of six children. James Agee, born in 1758, was 77 years old when he applied for a pension as a soldier of the Revolution.

2— Isaac, 1760-1825, was also a veteran of the struggle for liberty. His first wife, Mollie Agee, was the mother of 11 children. There were two children born to his second wife, Phebe (Fossett) Garrott.

3— Mary, third child of Charles Garrott, married Jock, son of Peter and Judith (Maxey) Ford. They were the parents of six children.

4— Susannah, 1772-1813, was also the wife of Stephen Fuqua (mentioned previously). They were the parents of seven children.

5— Charles Garrott, II, married Chloe Agee in 1785.

6— Edmond Garrott, youngest in the family, no other information.

Nathan, son of Matthias and Elizabeth (Hales) Ayres, was born in 1752 and survived until Jan. 16, 1822. He was the progenitor of the Ayres family in Southern Ohio. According to a record found in the State Archives of Virginia, he was known as Capt. Nathan Ayres. It states—"At a court held in Buckingham County, Va., 9th day of Jan., 1787, Nathan Ayres recommended as Captain of the Company formerly commanded by Capt. Peter May."

Capt. Nathan Ayres chose to marry Mary Christain Leake, who traced

lineage back to the House of Scarsdale, created in 1641, and the House of Warwick in 1659. Richard Leake, 1590-1660, of the British Navy, had two sons, Sir Richard Leake, 1629-1686, and Walter Leake, 1635-1700. William, 1664-1725, son of Walter Leake, married Mary Bostick before 1685. They had a son, Walter Leake, born in 1704. Walter Leake married Judith Mask, born Apr. 14, 1698. She was the daughter of John and Martha (Christian) Mask and the granddaughter of Thomas Mask, born in England, who died in February, 1687.

Among the various notes in the vast Morman Library in Salt Lake City is the copy of a letter from Gen. Washington to Nathan Ayres, thanking him for services rendered. Mrs. Greene of Dallas, Tex., direct descendant of Capt. Nathan Ayres, did a lot of research on the family history and among her many letters to the author's husband, she stated the fact concerning Capt. Ayres and his services in the Revolution. She also said he was a member of the Thirteenth Regiment, Virginia line, and lost an eye while acting as a courier for Gen. Washington.

After his return from the services, Capt. Ayres was listed on tax records as the owner of several hundred acres of land, of seven slaves, and for years acted as "overseer of the poor." By 1792 he was known as Col. Nathan Ayres.

Nathan Ayres lived in the old home known as "Mine House," built by Matthias Ayres in 1759. The home was constructed of hand-hewn logs, which were later covered by a framework of native lumber. Although Matthias Ayres drew the plans and superintended the work, the labor was done by his slaves. It was located some five miles north of Alpha, Va.

Nathan and Elizabeth (Hales) Ayres were the parents of the following 11 children:

- 1— Judith Hales, Oct. 1, 1768, (Mrs. Moses Spencer). He was born Jan. 3, 1763, and served in the Revolution from Buckingham County, Va.
- 2— John B., 1772.
- 3— Samuel, 1774, no other information.
- 4— James Nathan, 1776 (he married Catharine Cave (Brown) Ford in November, 1808.) They were the parents of eight children. He died Apr. 19, 1821.
- 5— Walter, Apr. 6, 1779-May 21, 1838. (His wife was a member of the Maxey family). Agnes (Maxey) Ayres was born in 1781 and died in 1837. At his death, Walter Ayres owned 10,018 acres of land in Woodford Co., Ky. He and his wife were the parents of nine children.
- 6— Matthias, born Aug. 31, 1781, in Buckingham Co., Va., served in the War of 1812. He died May 8, 1851, in Saline Co., Mo. The first wife of Matthias Ayres was Susannah Baber, born in 1788. She died May 14, 1813, without issue. On Jan. 19, 1814, he married Nancy Gilliam Howell, 1797-1884. They were the parents of 13 children.

In 1836 the family moved to Missouri. They were scattered throughout a large part of the west—Colorado, Texas, Oregon, etc. Dr. Samuel Matthias Ayres, son of Matthias and his second wife, went west during the gold rush

in 1850, where he died of "Mountain Fever."

7— Elizabeth, "Betsy," born Feb. 26, 1784, married Philip Maxey. After his early death, Betsy (Ayres) Maxey married a Mr. Roberts and lived in Kentucky.

8— Mary, born in 1786, married Aaron Fuqua. They were the parents of 13 children.

9— Peter Leake, born in 1789.

10— Jane or Jean Ayres, born May 14, 1791, became the wife of William Tandy, son of William and Susannah (Thompson) Holman. They were the parents of 7 children.

11— Martha, "Patsy," youngest child of Nathan Ayres, was born Aug. 11, 1793, and died Feb. 24, 1837. She married Jesse, brother of William Tandy Holman, who was born Dec. 26, 1786 and survived until June 8, 1839. They were the parents of 12 children. Three children of Nathan Ayres married into the Holman family.

In 1961, Nellie F. Ayres of Memphis, Tenn., after years of study and research and mounds of correspondence, compiled a 400-page book of "Genealogical Notes on the Ayres Kin and Kin to Kin." It has many notes on the family, but in this record we will give only details of those associated with our Ohio history. Throughout the years, the author has gathered information concerning the Ayres of Highland Co.

Descendants of Rev. John B. Ayres and Peter Leake Ayres, who himself emigrated to the county in 1832, still live in the area. Rev. John Ayres built the home known as "Edge Hill" on the Slate River in Virginia, which remained in the family until 1953. Rev. Ayres, often referred to as "Parson Jack," was an extensive land owner. He was said to have married and buried more people than any other minister who lived in Buckingham Co., Va. If he performed only those services for his son "kith and kin," he would have made an enviable record.

Rev. Ayres was married twice before he reached his majority. His first wife, Elizabeth Amalette, was the mother of Elizabeth "Betsy" Ayres, before her early death. Betsy married Edward, son of Capt. John and Martha (Allen) Chambers. They moved to Red River, Tex., where they reared 11 children. The second wife of Rev. Ayres was Elizabeth Bransford, who became the mother of 10 children. They were:

1— Col. John Bransford, 1794-1859, who was married twice. His first wife, Maria Ford, was the mother of 5 children. After her death, Col. Ayres married Mary Marshall Moseley. They were the parents of 8 more children. Elizabeth Hannah, eldest daughter of John and Maria (Ford) Ayres, married Dr. Robert Hale Ayres, son of Peter Leake Ayres.

2— Nathan, son of Rev. John Ayres, was born in 1796.

3— Judith Leake, 1799 (married Col. Elijah Hanes). They were without issue.

4— Samuel, 1800 (no other information).

5— Mary Hale, 1803 (Mrs. Thomas Kidder Elderidge, 7 children).

6— Martha, 1805 (also married into the Hanes family).

7— Elizabeth, March, 1808, died unmarried in 1862.

8— Elijah, 1809.

9— Oliver Million, 1811 (he married Judith Ann Spencer). They were the parents of 11 children.

10— Matthias Leake Ayres, youngest son of Rev. Ayres, was born in 1813 and died in 1853. His wife was Rebecca, eldest daughter of Col. Elijah Hanes. They reared their large family at "Edge Hill." At their deaths, they were buried in a private plot on the plantation.

Nathan, son of Rev. John B. Ayres, was born Aug. 26, 1796, and died in Highland Co. near Dunn's Chapel, Feb. 9, 1851. Since so many in his family had double names, he always signed his name as "Nathan Walter Ayres." He applied for a license on Oct. 31, 1821, to marry Martha Hales Bradley, the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Harrison) Bradley. She was born Jan. 22, 1800, and survived until March 6, 1873.

Nathan W. and Martha (Bradley) Ayres were the parents of the following 10 children:

1— Lavinia Anne, Oct. 22, 1822-Feb. 26, 1876 (Mrs. Eli Zink, 1820-Apr. 24, 1856). They were the parents of three children who were:

(1) Nathan Horace, 1849-1879.

(2) Harry Ayres, June 6, 1852 (his wife was Arabella Wiley). They had three children: Ella (Eggert), Anna, who never married, and Jessie L. Zink, who married Bert E. England.

(3) Viola M. Zink, born in February, 1855, married Frank Hibben Jeans.

2— Judith Ayres, 1824, (became the wife of Dr. John F. Richards). They reared three children in Wisconsin.

3— John William Bradley Ayres, July 27, 1826-Sept. 21, 1902. He was one of the foremost businessmen in Southern Ohio. Apr. 29, 1852, he married Mary Anne Duvall, Dec. 15, 1830-Jan. 21, 1909. They were the parents of the following three children:

(1) Walter Duvall, 1853-1891.

(2) Charles Albert, 1855-1937 (his wife was Martha Johnson, born in 1860, she died 20 days after her husband). They had two daughters, Pauline (Mrs. Raymond White Blanchard), he was a landscape artist who had charge of the cemeteries in Paris, France, and Margaret (Mrs. Roy Smith).

(3) The third child of J.W.B. Ayres was Frank Ayres, popular manager of Bell's Opera House, auctioneer, part owner of Garrett and Ayres drugstore, etc. His wife was Ida Marie Hatcher, who lived east of the county seat. They were the parents of two sons, Frank, Jr., and Joseph Hatcher Ayres. Born in 1857, the popular Frank Ayres survived until 1940.

4— Samuel Ayres, 1829-1852 (a victim of cholera),

5— Rev. Robert Oliver Ayres, 1831 (he married Eliza Smith). They reared four sons, William, Robert, Ernest and Walter Ayres, in Athens, Tenn.

6— Nathan Henry, June 1, 1834-June 1, 1894 (his wife was Mary Jane Zink, Dec. 24, 1835-July 29, 1909). Their seven children were:

(1) Martha "Mattie Bell", 1859-1936.

(2) Eddy Clark, 1864.

(3) Harry W., 1868, lived in Oregon.

(4) William, died as an infant.

(5) Clara Burton, also died young.

(6) Lillie Marie, 1875, was killed by an unidentified automobile driver while enroute to work in her office in the courthouse Feb. 5, 1943. She made her home with her cousin, Byrde Ayres, and

(7) Bertha Bell Ayres, 1880-1881.

7— Harriett Marie, 1837-1883, was a teacher who never married.

8— Clarissa, 1838-1909 (Mrs. Alexander Britton).

9— Susan, and

10— Mary Louisa Ayres (Harris).

Matthias Leake Ayres, tenth in age of the children of Rev. John B. Ayres, had a son, James Nathan, born June 9, 1849. He married Nannie Brown in 1871. They were the parents of four children, possibly three more whose names we were unable to find. They were Sarah, who married a Mr. Richardson; Leake; Rev. William Hanes and Maggie Mae (Mrs. John Garland Gary). Rev. W. H. Ayres had a son, William Hanes Ayres, Jr., who was re-elected to Congress in 1952. His son, William Hanes Ayres, III, is currently a member of Congress from the 14th Ohio District. A daughter, Virginia, is the wife of Judge Elba Whiteside of Columbus. They have a daughter, Elizabeth.

Peter Leake, ninth in age of the children of Col. Nathan and Mary (Leake) Ayres, was born Feb. 4, 1789, and died in Highland Co., Dec. 1, 1849. He came to the county in 1832 from his home in the James River area of Virginia. Peter L. Ayres married Elinor Tandy Holman, who was born Jan. 7, 1798, and died Sept. 4, 1835, three years after their arrival in our county, and soon after the birth of their last child.

Peter Leake Ayres and several of the family were laid to rest on the old Ayres homestead on the Anderson Road, northwest of Hillsboro. The family burial plot was north of the beautiful brick manor home built by Peter L. Ayres soon after his arrival. Several manumitted, or freed, slaves accompanied the family to Ohio. They lived in log homes on the Ayres homestead, helped with the erection of the home and with the construction of two town houses, the apartments on the northeast corner of Main and East Sts. and the second home which is now the home of the Highland County Historical Society, open to the public as a museum.

The family burial ground, surrounded by a brick wall, has all but disappeared from the scene; only a few tombstones can be found. The house, on what is known as "Horner's Hill," has been unoccupied for years and is now only a heap of past memories. It was acquired by the Horner family after Peter L. Ayres' death.

Peter Leake Ayres' second wife was Clarissa Dorsey of Brownsville,

Pa. Born March 4, 1798, she survived until May 30, 1877. The Dorseys were a distinguished Colonial family who traced their ancestry back to the Crusaders in the Holy Land, even back to Adam, using the genealogy of the Virgin Mary, as given in Luke. They were related to the Herrons, Boyds, Browns and others who emigrated to Highland Co. After the death of Peter L., Clarissa (Dorsey) Ayres married a member of the Barry family and lies buried on their plot in the local cemetery.

Peter Leake and Elinor Tandy (Holman) Ayres were the parents of the following children:

- 1— Robert Hale.
- 2— William Bradley, Oct. 20, 1816–Sept. 17, 1821.
- 3— Edward, Jan. 31, 1819–Oct. 31, 1821.
- 4— Nathan Tandy.
- 5— James Thompson.
- 6— Susanna Elizabeth.
- 7— Fletcher Burette, April 11, 1829–June 1, 1830.
- 8— Anne Burette, Feb. 27, 1831–March 28, 1831.
- 9— Thomas Burge, and

10— Mary Maria Ayres, who was born in 1835. She and her mother were the first burials on the Ayres' farm in Highland Co., victims of the cholera.

Robert H., Nathan T., James T., Susanna and Thomas Burge, only a few months old, accompanied their parents to Ohio. The eldest son, Robert H., was a "botannical physician" and took over the Lilley laboratory on South High. May 19, 1836, he married Elizabeth H., eldest daughter of Col. John Bransford and Maria (Ford) Ayres. She was born Nov. 18, 1817, and died many years before her husband.

Dr. Robert H. and Elizabeth (Ayres) Ayres were the parents of four children, William Burette, who died Dec. 7, 1840; Leroy Tandy, whose death occurred July 18, 1852; Souelle, who was called "Elly." She married a son of Joseph Van Pelt, but died in 1856 shortly after her marriage; and Mary C. Ayres, who died in October, 1889.

Dr. Robert H. Ayres outlived his wife and all their children. Sometime after the Civil War, he and his wife returned to the old homestead, "Edge Hill," on the Slate River in Virginia. He died near Eldridge Mills (named for Thomas Eldridge, who married Mary Hale, daughter of Nathan Ayres, I), Dec. 19, 1891.

Nathan Tandy, second son of Peter L. Ayres to reach maturity, was born Jan. 4, 1822, and died Aug. 18, 1845. At death, he was a Methodist minister holding services in Dunn's Chapel near their home. He left his wife, Mary, daughter of David and Lydia Black, and a week-old son named Tandy Fletcher Ayres, born Aug. 11, 1845. He was renamed Nathan Tandy after his father's death. More about Nathan T. Ayres is given under Atlee Bernard Ayres, noted architect of Houston, Tex.

James Thompson, son of Peter L. Ayres, born June 10, 1824, died Dec. 19, 1894. He married Matilda Reed Sept. 17, 1848. It was James T. Ayres who was associated with John M. Hiestand in a large mercantile estab-

lishment on the south side of West Main Street after the Civil War.

Susanna Elizabeth, only daughter of Peter L. and Elinor T. (Holman) Ayres to reach maturity, was the first wife of James K. Marlay. She died April 28, 1852, a victim of cholera, as was Leroy Tandy, son of Dr. Robert H. Ayres. They were interred on the family plot. Two of the colored "retainers" who came to the area with the family were also cholera victims. This fact added fuel to the tale that the "house on Horner's Hill was haunted."

Joseph K. and Elizabeth (Ayres) Marlay were the parents of a daughter, Mary Marlay, who married Henry Doggett. Their son was the well-known Lang Doggett.

T. Burge Ayres, youngest child of Peter L. to reach maturity, was born Jan. 15, 1832, on the James River plantation before the move to Ohio. He died in the Ayres' homestead, south of Hillsboro, Dec. 1, 1906. His funeral oration, given in the Pleasant Hill Church east of his home, was said to have lasted over two hours. He was laid to rest in the nearby cemetery beside his wife, Deborah (Jones) Ayres, who was born near the forks of the Elk Horn River in Kentucky, Feb. 22, 1830. They were married April 23, 1851, and lived happily until her death July 14, 1894. T. Burge Ayres was a teacher, operated a drugstore in Lynchburg, and served in the Union Army. At one time he and his father were associated with J. Madison Trimble and owned over 3,000 acres of land in the county.

T. Burge and Deborah (Jones) Ayres were the parents of eight children:

1— Suella Enos, June 23, 1853–Feb. 10, 1931, (Mrs. John C. Hufferberger). They were married March 31, 1874. His death occurred June 21, 1934. Mrs. Chris Brunner was a sister of John Hufferberger, as was Mrs. Fredrick Zane. The Brunners were in the shoe business for over half a century, and the Zanes were tanners and leather workers. John C. and Suella (Ayres) Hufferberger were the parents of 12 children.

(1) Edith, first wife of Dorson Bennett, born Aug. 9, 1875, she died in 1922, leaving a son, Arthur Dorson Bennett of Brownsville, Tex., where the family lived.

(2) Wynne, who lived in the south.

(3) Burge.

(4) Atwood of Clinton County.

(5) Lena, second wife of Dorson Bennett, she is the mother of eight children and has had a remarkable career among the Mexicans living near her home in Texas. She was accorded the honor of being selected Texas "Mother of the Year," as well as many other honors.

(6) Anita (Mrs. Joe Barnett). They were the parents of four daughters, Geneva (Mrs. Arthur Lyons); Betsy, deceased; Janet (Mrs. Donald Robbins); and Eva Jean (Mrs. Mike Walsh).

(7) Elsie (Moseman).

(8) Tandy.

(9) Marshall, of Selma, O.

(10) Ina (Mrs. Charles Boyd).

(11) Lavinia, and

(12) Stella, who died of diphtheria at the age of 13.

2—Edwin Burette, Jan. 1, 1855-Feb. 6, 1943 (his wife was Clara Sarah Billingham). They were the parents of four children.

Clara S. was the daughter of Benjamin Cherry Billingham, who was born in 1799 and died in 1867. He was a shoemaker by trade, who came to Hillsboro with the John Robinson Circus. His first wife and a baby daughter died in Cincinnati. Benjamin Cherry Billingham was born in Bellingham Co., England. In a letter found among the Smith papers was a statement—"Poor old Mr. Billingham died yesterday, worked himself to death."

Benjamin Cherry Billingham married Sarah, daughter of Jacob Shorts of Lebanon, Warren Co., in 1850. She was born Sept. 5, 1814, and survived until Dec. 21, 1889. They had two children, Clara S. and a son, Frank Billingham, 1856-Feb. 27, 1930. For many years Frank Billingham operated a bakery and confectionary in Hillsboro. Later he moved his family to Clarksburg, W. Va.

Edwin B. and Clara (Billingham) Ayres were the parents of:

(1) Sarah Ella, "Byrde," 1878-1943, who never married. She was a government worker in Washington, D. C. for a number of years, leaving behind a "story in pictures" of the war bond sales, Washington landmarks, and the many parades that followed World War I. She returned to Hillsboro to become one of the town's most popular photographers.

(2) Benjamin Burge, 1881-1948, whose wife was Mary Hueil of Cincinnati. They lived in California, where her death occurred in 1947. They were without issue, he returned to Ohio and lived with his brother, Edwin B., Jr.

(3) Harriett Marie (Mrs. James E. Winter). They had an only daughter, Elizabeth (Mrs. Philip Wilbanks). He was a native of Lynchburg. After her husband's death, Harriett (Ayres) Winter retired to a home in Gainesville, Fla. She is the only living child of Edwin B. Ayres, Sr.

(4) Edwin B. Ayres, Jr., 1891-1964, was a popular druggist, civic and religious leader of Hillsboro throughout his lifetime. In 1914 he married Edith Laymon. They were the parents of one daughter, Clara Elizabeth (Mrs. Winston H. Duckworth) of Columbus, O. After his first wife's death, he married Elsie Johnson (Baker), author and historian.

3—Ida Dora, third in age of the children of T. Burge Ayres, born July 28, 1856, died at the home of her father three years after her marriage to John N. Tevis. She was laid to rest in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

4—Alice May, Oct. 22, 1858-March 30, 1924, remained unmarried. She lived in the Ayres' home in Hillsboro, but spent her last days in the Methodist home in College Hill.

5—Effie Laurette, born May 20, 1860, married her double cousin, Hugh Edward, son of Edward M. and Margaret (Jones) Ayres. Their mothers were

sisters and their fathers were first cousins. They were the parents of:

- (1) Margaret
- (2) Maxey
- (3) Edward Ayres.

Although they lived in another state, they often visited the Ayres' families in Highland Co.

6—Arthur Burge, born Aug. 12, 1862, became a prominent dentist.

7—Harriett Lavinia, March 18, 1864—Aug. 5, 1938, was a Methodist missionary to Mexico for over half a century.

8—Maggie, youngest child of T. Burge Ayres, born Aug. 7, 1865, died Oct. 16 of the same year. She was buried on the family plot in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

There are many entanglements in the Ayres family genealogy by the many intermarriages between the Maxeys, Holmans, Fuquas, Garrotts, etc. To further complicate the records, after the death of Mary (Leake) Ayres, Nathan married a widow, Mary (Bondurant) Maxey. Her first husband, Rev. Edward Maxey, Baptist minister, born in 1749, died in 1782. Two children of Rev. Edward and Mary (Bondurant) Maxey married children of Nathan and Mary (Leake) Ayres. After the death of Nathan Ayres, Mary (Bondurant) Maxey Ayres made her home with her eldest son, Ephraim Maxey, in Bath County, Ky. At her death, she was said to have been buried in the apple orchard of her son's farm.

Matthias Ayres and his wife, Elizabeth Hales, progenitors of the family that settled in Kentucky and Southern Ohio, was the owner of vast tracts of land in Virginia. He, as well as his sons, were all well educated. They were known as "Colonial Merchants," which meant they owned more than 200 acres of land and had sufficient resources and a background of high attainment.

Descendants of Matthias Ayres served in the Revolution and in every major conflict in which the United States has been involved. Items brought over the mountains are now cherished heirlooms. They have a valued meaning because they are reminders of the ancestors who helped carve homes out of the wilderness.

Today many think it is old-fashioned to believe in family mottoes, etc., but the Ayres motto, "Virtue alone conquers" is still in good standing. We do know that goodness, honesty and virtue ultimately conquer.

The old family pedigree of the Eyres (Ayres) of Derbyshire, preserved at Hassop where the family has lived for more than 700 years, contains this statement—

"And the seat he lived at he called Hope,
because he had hope in the greatest extremity."

GEORGE WASHINGTON BARRERE

Barrere is a Basque name originating in France. It means simply "a barrier." The family were among the vast number of Huguenots who were driven out of France. Members of the Barrere family were among the first

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