

The Early Settlement of Scioto County

(Abstracted from the speech read before the Pioneer Association of Scioto County by James Keyes)

Samuel Marshall, his wife and four children were the first to locate and settle permanently in Scioto County. They left Pittsburg in the summer of 1795, and passed down the Ohio River as far as Manchester, where they remained until (General) Wayne made his famous treaty with the Indians.

Mr. Marshall had viewed the mouth of the Scioto, and the fertile lands on the border of that river. When it was distinctly understood that there would be no more Indian wars, he immediately returned up the river in the same boat. He then landed about three miles above the mouth of the Scioto, opposite the mouth of the Tygart Creek, where he built the first log cabin.

John Lindsey, his wife and eight children were the second family to locate here. They came up from Manchester and settled a little further up the river. These two families consisted of adult sons and daughters, so, of course they married one another, as there was no choice outside the two families.

Now, how that was done where there was no court for a license, no preacher or justice of the peace to marry them does not appear in any record, but John A. Lindsey and Polly Marshall were the first married in Scioto County. They built a cabin near Scioto Furnace and started a family of their own.

The first child born in this county was Samuel's daughter, Fanny Marshall.

The second arrival of settlers came from Northumberland County, Pennsylvania and consisted of five families. They built a boat and traveled the Monongahela River, and came down the Ohio until they landed at the mouth of the Scioto River on August 10, 1796. The settlers were; Isaac Bonser, Uriah Barber, John Beatty, William Ward and Ephraim Adams. After a short stay, Adams went onto Cincinnati.