



Who Built Richland County, 1807 to 1820

The founding names, the boundary changes that scattered their records, and a worksheet to prove each one. Part of Brick Walls & Buckeyes, The Names That Built Ohio.

THE RULE

A county history is a finding aid, not proof.

Graham's 1880 *History of Richland County* says so itself: the family sketches were supplied by the families, who are "responsible for all facts and dates," and the pre-1820 pioneer list is "very meager and incomplete." Every name below is a lead. The records on page 2 are where you prove it.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS (FROM GRAHAM, 1880, CH. XXIV)

YEAR	WHO AND WHERE
1807	Jacob Newman (widower from near Canton, Stark Co., originally Pennsylvania) builds the first cabin on the Rocky Fork, 3 miles SE of Mansfield, with Isaac, Jacob, and John Brubaker of Paint Creek, Ross Co., and their sister Catharine Brubaker, the first white woman in the county. Surveyor James Hedges (with Maxfield Ludlow and Jonathan Cox) had run lines here since 1806.
1808	Michael Newman and wife arrive. Mansfield laid out June 11, 1808 by Hedges and Newman, named for Surveyor General Jared Mansfield. Samuel Martin builds the first Mansfield cabin; James Cunningham takes it over in 1809.
1809	McCluer settlement at Bellville (James McCluer, nephew Samuel, Thomas McCluer, Jonathan Oldfield). David Hill at Lucas. Samuel Lewis in Worthington Twp. Copus, Zimmer, Ruffner, McCart, Cunningham, Schaffer, Gardner, Craig near Greentown (now Ashland Co.). First sawmill. Beam's mill soon after (Michael and "Mother" Beam).
1812–15	War slows settlement but Beall's trail (north) and Crooks' road (west) open the county. 1814–15 wave into Plymouth, Cass, Franklin, Weller, Blooming Grove, and Springfield Townships.

BOUNDARY TIMELINE: WHY ONE FAMILY SITS IN FOUR COURTHOUSES

DATE	WHAT HAPPENED	WHERE THE RECORDS ARE
Jan. 1808 (eff. Mar. 1)	Richland County created by act, under Knox County jurisdiction	Knox County, Mount Vernon, for all court business to 1813
1813	County organized; commissioners first meet June 7, 1813	Richland County, Mansfield
Feb. 3, 1845	Strip 4 mi. wide (parts of Auburn, Vernon, Sandusky, Bloomfield Twps.) to Crawford County	Crawford County, Bucyrus, after 1845
Feb. 18, 1846	Entire eastern tier (about 240 sq. mi.) becomes Ashland County	Ashland County, Ashland, after 1846
1848	Congress and Bloomfield Twps., west half of Perry and Troy, to Morrow County	Morrow County, Mount Gilead, after 1848

Key rule: Search the county that existed on the date of the record, not the county on today's map. A Greentown settler of 1809 is a Richland family in 1812 records and an Ashland family in 1850 records, without ever moving.



SETTLERS BEFORE 1820, WITH ARRIVAL YEAR (RICHLAND COUNTY PIONEER SOCIETY, 1869)

As printed in Graham (1880), ch. XXVI, pp. 266–268. Names are given as printed; a likely reading is noted where the print or scan is garbled. Graham called the list "very meager and incomplete," so a missing family is not evidence of absence. Township names are the 1869 townships.

Butler Township (3)

Maria Wood, 1818; Susannah Claberg, 1819; Jacob Claberg, 1816

Franklin Township (7)

Adam Linn, 1819; Mrs. E. Pettenger, 1816; Jacob Bradley, 1819; Samuel Stevenson, 1816; N. Pettenger, 1815; William Hagerman, 1817; Mrs. William Bradley, 1818

Jackson Township (1)

Henry Taylor, 1817

Monroe Township (13)

Jane Douglas, 1819; Mrs. C. Welty, 1819; H. Ritchey, 1815; Joseph Williams, 1815; Mrs. John Douglas, 1818; Daniel Cromer, 1815; William Stewart, 1815; Solomon Gladden, 1817; John Coulter, 1810; Mrs. John Coulter, 1810; I. Patterson, 1817; John Wolfe, 1815; Melzer Coulter, 1811

Madison Township (32)

Mrs. H. McLaughlin, 1816; William Niman, 1815; Stephen Welden, 1819; John Cline, 1815; Mrs. Jane Broill, 1815; Sarah Fleming, 1818; J. H. Cook, 1816; Mrs. A. Anderson, 1818; Robert Cairns, 1815; David Johns, 1812; John Weldon, 1810; Robert Larimer, 1815; E. Wilkison, 1817; Mrs. John C. Gilkison, 1810; Robert Maloney, 1818; James Weldon, 1810; Eliza Grant, 1815; Mrs. Jane Newman, 1819; William Garrison, 1815; Mansfield H. Gilkison, 1811; John Neil, 1815; Harriet Newman, 1817; Henry Newman, 1810; Michael Keith, 1817; Mary Crall, 1814; Mrs. William Garrison, 1819; Mrs. Sarah Finney, 1816; Margaret Niman, 1819; William Darling, 1814; Henry Cook, 1815; Nathaniel Mitchell, 1815; Calvin Stewart, 1816

Mifflin Township (12)

John Vantilburg, 1815; Nancy Tagart, 1814; D. M. Snyder, 1815; James Raitt, 1814; John Yeamon, 1818; Elias Kissling, 1817; Charles Young, 1815; Thomas Starritt, 1816; Mrs. Rebecca Mann, 1814; David Miller, 1817; James Church, 1817; James Starr, 1816

Jefferson Township (12)

Mrs. Nancy Sargeant, 1816; Mrs. Mary Hardesty, 1817; Lewis K. Leedy, 1811; Samuel Shaffer, 1817; J. F. Lewis, 1815; George Coon, 1811; Richard Oldfield, 1810; William Robinson, 1815; J. Flaherty, 1817; Reuben Evarts, 1816; William Weaver, 1815; Mrs. Catharine Garber, 1811

Perry Township (1)

John Steel, 1818

Plymouth Township (5)

Solomon Loffland, 1810; Silas Morris, 1818; Alexander Ralston, 1815; James Ralston, 1814; James Doty, 1815

Sharon Township (5)

Mrs. Jane Kingsborough, 1816; Dr. John Mack, 1818; Harrison Mickey, 1819; Hiram Wilson, 1818; S. Tucker, 1818

Springfield Township (29)

Mrs. Mary Ann Barrett, 1815; Jeremiah Post, 1816; Mrs. Jane Marshall, 1813; James Marshall, 1817; Joseph Welch, 1815; Alexander C. Welch, 1815; John Finney, 1819; Julia Dougal, 1816; Mrs. Ellen Douglas, 1817; Jeremiah Post, 1815; Mrs. Jane Williams, 1813; Thomas Ferguson, 1817; A. Mitchell, 1816; Charles Ensell, 1819; J. C. Dougal, 1817; Mrs. Mirinda Casebar, 1812; J. Dougal, 1817; E. Mitchell, 1816; J. Proctor, 1819; Mrs. Sallie Welch, 1816; Mrs. M. Dougal, 1815; Mrs. Jennette Welch, 1816; Mrs. J. C. Barr, 1815; Mrs. Eliza Finney, 1818; Mrs. Martha Day, 1816; Mrs. Ann Condon, 1814; A. H. Mitchell, 1816; James Finney, 1819; Mrs. Rosanna Welch, 1818

Troy Township (14)

Mrs. Sarah Johnson, 1815; Mrs. Jane Craycraft, 1815; Isaac Gass, 1819; Mrs. Rachel Dickey, 1814; Amos Day, 1815; William Gass, 1812; U. C. Day, 1815; James Craycraft, 1815; Charles Craycraft, 1815; William Post, 1818; Benjamin Gass, 1812; John Meredith, 1818; Samuel McCluer, 1809; James R. Crass, 1811

Washington Township (15)

Mrs. Hamilton Bell, 1815; James Sharpless, 1815 (printed Sirpless); E. Clark, 1815; Thomas Smith, 1816; John S. Smith, 1816; Thomas Pollock, 1817; William Stewart, 1815; Martha C. Piper, 1818 (printed Riper); Hannah Pulver, 1819; Mrs. Mary Flint, 1819; Mrs. Ellen Stevens, 1817; Mrs. Margaret Stewart, 1815; Mrs. Martha A. Craig, 1816; Mrs. Ellen Smith, 1817; J. Ford, 1819

Weller Township (9)

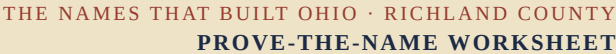
Miss Sarah Dickson, 1814; John Ward, 1819; John E. Palmer, 1819; Mrs. John E. Palmer, 1819; Samuel Pettenger, 1815; J. S. Houston, 1814; John Taylor, 1818; J. O. Hagerman, 1815; Mrs. Abigail Taylor, 1817

Worthington Township (2)

John Bishop, 1817; Mrs. Thomas B. Andrews, 1815

No township given (28)

Margaret Cunningham, 1809; George Dean, 1812; Hiram E. Gibson, 1818; Mrs. D. Dean, 1812; Henry Amsbaugh, 1815; Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, 1816; George Amsbaugh, 1814; George Mull, 1814; Mrs. Mary Bradley, 1818; Mrs. Elizabeth Baughman, 1819; Mrs. Mary Shirley, 1812; Mrs. E. Zent, 1809; Mrs. C. Coates, 1819; Mrs. Harriet Hedges, 1815; M. Day, 1815; A. A. Richey, 1815; George Mitchell, 1817; Samuel Harmon, 1819; Alexander Robinson, 1814; Jonathan Peters, 1816; John Crawford, 1811; C. C. Coulter, 1818; Andrew Mason, 1814; William Bradley, 1819; John Doty, 1815; John Wiler, 1819; Priscilla Burns, 1817; Gayler Blair, 1815 (first name uncertain in print)



- 1 **Land.** Search the name at the BLM General Land Office site (glorerecords.blm.gov) for the original federal patent, then follow it into the Richland County deed books on FamilySearch. Note the township, range, and section.
- 2 **Tax.** Early tax lists (Ohio History Connection; FamilySearch) put a man on the land before any census. Work them year by year to pin the arrival.
- 3 **Probate.** Richland County estate packets and will books name heirs. A widow's sketch in the 1880 book often matches her husband's estate.
- 4 **Before 1813.** Court business for Richland was recorded at Mount Vernon, Knox County.
- 5 **After the boundary moved.** Check Ashland (1846), Morrow (1848), and Crawford (1845) for families in the lost townships.
- 6 **Before Ohio.** Most first families came from Pennsylvania, with strong streams from Ross and Columbiana Counties, Ohio. The brick wall may be a Pennsylvania wall wearing a buckeye.

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Bureau of Land Management, GLO Records — federal land patents by name	Ohio History Connection — early Ohio tax lists, county records on microfilm
FamilySearch — Richland County deeds, probate, tax, and the 1880 county history (Books)	Mansfield/Richland County Public Library, Sherman Room — local history and genealogy collection
Internet Archive — Graham, <i>History of Richland County, Ohio</i> (1880), free scan	Knox, Ashland, Morrow, Crawford County courthouses — for the years each held jurisdiction

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