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FAIRFIELD County

FRIDAY  
April 15, 2022

Vol. I | Issue: 16  
\$5.00

## PIONEER LUMBERMAN TO BUILD NEW COURTHOUSE



HENRY J. ORMAN I | *Courtesy of Ancestry.com*

**Joe McFarland**  
The Far-Land Legacy  
The Publishing Legacy Company

**LANCASTER** – In June 1804, Maryland announced the birth of Henry J. Orman. The exact date in June, his parents, and what he experienced growing up in Maryland lay across the void landscape of his timeline.

Henry emigrated early in life to Ohio at nineteen years old leaving his youthful landscape with only his experience and memories within. He settled, for one year, in Somerset before navigating west to Lancaster, Ohio in 1824. Taking up residence, boarding with his employer, he spent the next two years working as a journeyman working on a month-to-month basis, earning \$18 each month he stayed on. He learned the carpenter trade while he worked to frame the mark house and town hall.

He sought office as a Politian, however managed only to serve one term in the town council.

He broke away from politics before he met and married Ann Beck on Wednesday, July 23, 1828, in Lancaster. They both served as members of the local Lutheran church.

In 1829, Henry, a local lumber deal-

See **LUMBERMAN** on page 3

## PLEASANT FARMER TO DIRECT INFIRMARY

**Joe McFarland**  
The Far-Land Legacy  
The Publishing Legacy Company

**PLEASANT TOWNSHIP** – Born to Jacob and Mary “Polly” (Arnold) Fetters on Wednesday, November 14, 1810, Thomas Fetters grew up, learned the farming trade, and would stay in Pleasant Township his whole life.

Thomas married Sarah Bright, of Greenfield Township, on Saturday, December 10, 1836.

While serving as the director of the Fairfield County Infirmary he built a house down the road two miles north of Lancaster.

See **DIRECTOR** on page 4

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# SPOTLIGHT

**Joe McFarland**  
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**Mahala Jane Feters**  
08 JUN 1852 - 19 FEB 1884  
FETERS CEMETERY



Photograph of Mahala Feters.  
Courtesy of Ancestry.com

**PLEASANT TOWNSHIP** – Thomas and Sarah (Bright) Feters reared a large family consisting of nine children. One of which, Mahala Jane Feters, born on Tuesday, June 8, 1852, broke away after she married Perry W. Macklin on her 19th birthday, Thursday, June 8, 1871, and moved to Sullivan, Illinois in 1872.

When death robbed Mahala of a full life, she passed away on Tuesday, February 19, 1884, in Jonathan Creek Township, Illinois, at 31 years old. Her husband, Perry made the trek back to Pleasant Township to honor her interment to remain with her parents in the Feters Cemetery.



Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon the rock. And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Matthew 7:24-27

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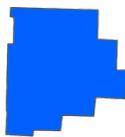
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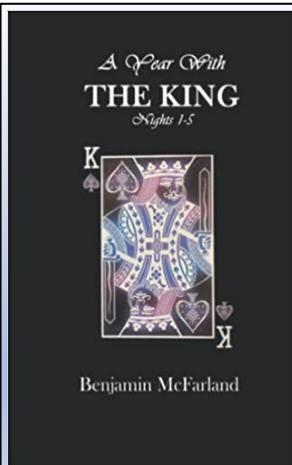
## DID YOU KNOW?



**LANCASTER** – Henry Orman constructed the homes at 147 and 148 E. Wheeling Street during the late 1800s.

With similar architectural designs, the two houses, along with the courthouse, are the only structures which remain today.

Lancaster Eagle-Gazette | SUN 25 FEB 1990 p. 27



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# LUMBERMAN |

*Continued from Page 1*

er, purchased lot 14 from Senator Ewing and the lot remained in the family for years. Henry ran his lumber yard, The Orman Lumber Co., successfully from the transportation the canal brought since its foundation in 1840.

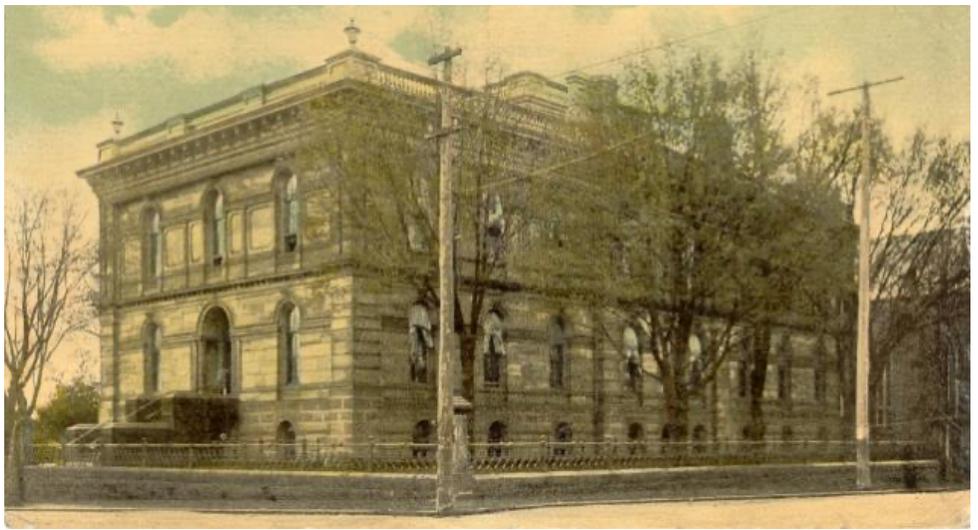
As a good citizen, known by his honorable character and ability to navigate machines mechanically, Henry contracted the projects for building the fine residence of Hocking H. Hunter, the Rising Block, and several other fine structures for the citizens of Lancaster.

When December 4, 1866 rolled over on the calendar, the Fairfield County Auditor received directions to condemn the original courthouse. This transpired to the county commissioners: Joel Shaeffer, Ervin Moore, and C. Trovinger to sign the papers which navigated to the General Assembly of Ohio. The certified document appeared on the Assembly's desk on Valentine's Day 1867, authorizing the commissioners' acceptance to begin construction on a new courthouse.

By March 20th, Henry Orman received the task from the commissioners to erect the new courthouse and direct the construction. On top of following the instructions for the removal process, Henry also took on the weight of locating a new facility to hold a makeshift courthouse. The demolition process required him to pile the bricks on the square while depositing the debris left from the wake of the demolition.

While under the direction of J. F. Vandemark, Henry Orman began to make the arrangements for the courthouse settling on a temporary situation to lease out the First German Reformed Church on West Chestnut Street. The lease agreement coupled Emanuel Giesy and J. J. Grommie, both trustees of the church, with those of the commissioners as they secured \$350 per year for three years to allow the law presence within the church walls. The contract, however, proved to need a two-year extension allowing church gatherings on Sunday and any day during the week where the court presence stood void.

The notice soon appeared on April 11, 1867, to direct Henry to evict the bricks from the square and offer them for sale to the public. Although the individuals who purchased the bricks remained anonymous the funds received were carefully recorded calculating that the sale of the bricks surpassed the cost



**Lancaster City Courthouse as built by Orman.** | *Courtesy of CourtHouseHistory.com*

of the demolition by \$202.

The latter part of April brought on proposals for furnishing stone for the new courthouse as it planned to be positioned on the top of the hill of Main Street from lots purchased from Darius Tallmadge.

On May 2, 1867, Jacob B. Orman became the superintendent and architect for the new courthouse. During the inception of his new innovative assignment, he spent three months traveling with the commissioners Shaeffer and Moore around the state. They exhaustively examined the others while forging their own blueprints and came to a final submission.

After the admirable approval of the construction to commence, George E. Blaire, Henry Ebener, and Henry Krouse accepted the contract to begin laying the stonework for the courthouse. Within the process, Elizabeth Lamott promised an agreement to provide about one hundred acres of her land positioned south of Lancaster for the sole purpose of quarrying out sandstone for the court-

house foundation. John See, Horace Perry, and Davis Shumaker extended their ability to supply stone as well.

His sons, Jacob B., Thomas, and George all picked up the carpenter trade succeeding him. The three brothers had their hands in building the courthouse.

Judge Sherman presented Mr. Orman with his name among those in the Masonic Fraternity. The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, assembled and formed in Lancaster during 1843, knew him as the last standing member.

Henry retired as a carpenter between 1860 and 1870 as recorded on the census. He resided on 107 Wheeling Street in Lancaster, Ohio until his death in the latter part of 1900 after the census recorded his life on June 13th.

After enduring a long, eventful, and much accomplished life, Henry passed away at 96 years old. After receiving respect and revere for nearly fifty years from his fellow peers and their children, his remains reside now underneath the earth at the Forest Rose Cemetery.



**1915 - 1916 | THE ORMAN LUMBER CO. BUILDINGS.** One of the oldest in Ohio, Henry Orman founded the firm in 1840. A major fire consumed these buildings around 1925. The Orman's company constructed sixty percent of the local business blocks as well as the Courthouse. Ida Moury, from 117 South George Street, provided the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette the picture above.

*Courtesy of The Lancaster Eagle-Gazette on Saturday, June 3, 1950, p. 269.*

# DIRECTOR |

*Continued from Page 1*

After a life soaked within the landscape of Pleasant Township as both a farmer, township trustee, and the Fairfield County Infirmary director, Thomas Fetters met death and surrendered on Wednesday, December 7, 1881, leaving his bride Sarah behind just three days before their 45th wedding anniversary. Thomas left the memory pressed on those he encountered as a highly respected and overall good man. His body lies in the Fetters Cemetery where a large tombstone monument remembers his life.



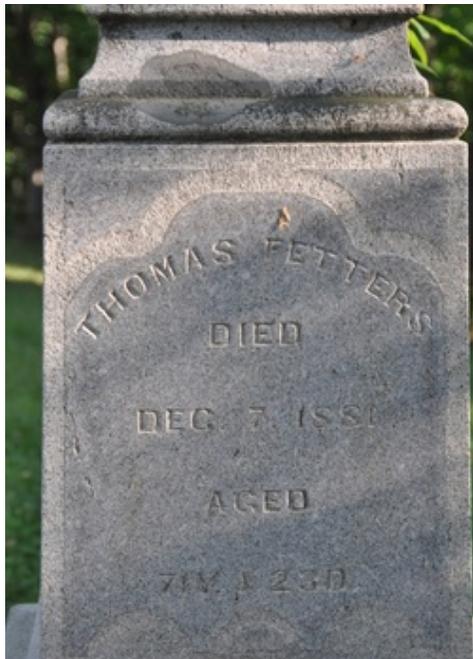
**THOMAS & SARAH (BRIGHT) FETTERS**  
*Courtesy of Ancestry.com*



**HENRY ORMAN's tombstone located in the Forest Rose Cemetery.**  
*Both photos courtesy of FindAGrave.com*



**THOMAS & SARAH (BRIGHT) FETTERS' Tombstone positioned in the Fetters Cemetery.**  
*Both photos courtesy of FindAGrave.com*



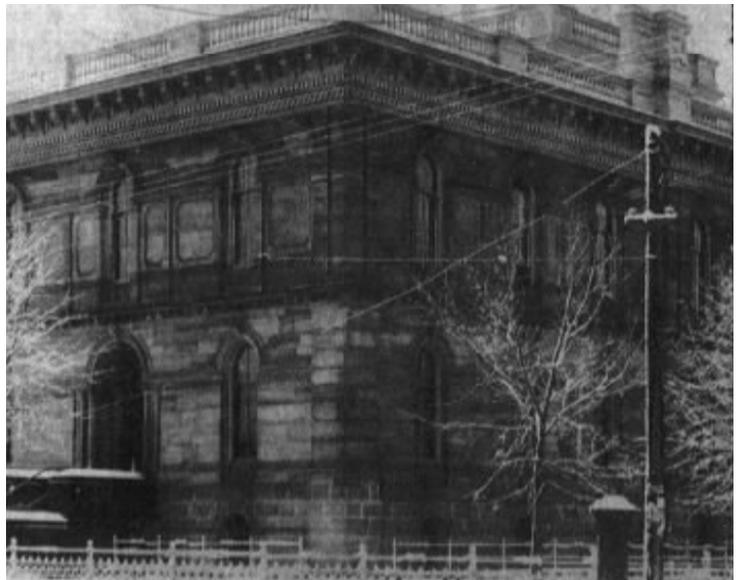
**THE ORIGINAL COURTHOUSE**  
*Courtesy of the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette*

## REFERENCES |

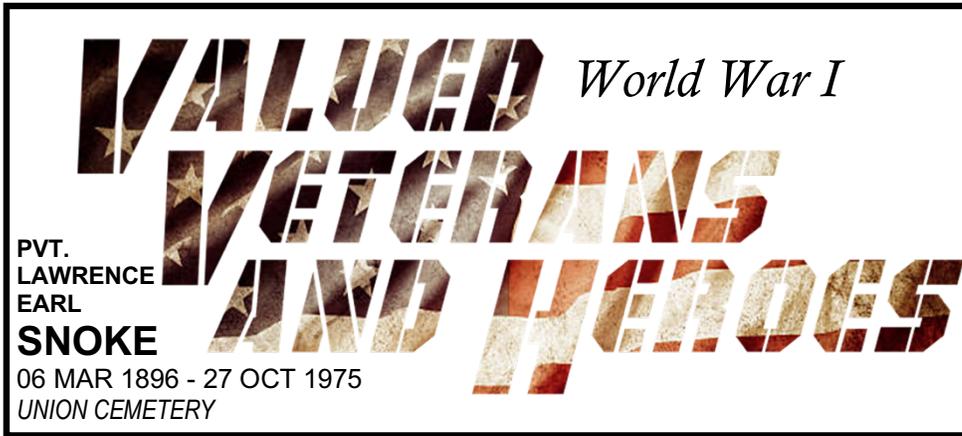
*Wiseman, Charles Milton Lewis. Centennial History of Lancaster, Ohio and Lancaster People, page 212-213.*  
*Lancaster Eagle-Gazette / TUE 29 FEB 1972, p. 1, 4*  
*Lancaster Eagle-Gazette / WED 31 MAY 1967, p. 5*



**THE ORIGINAL COURTHOUSE during the 1860s.**  
*Courtesy of the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette originally provided by Len Hajost on Wednesday, February 7, 1996, p. 12.*



**1900 - THE NEW COURTHOUSE**  
*Courtesy of the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette originally provided by Len Hajost on Wednesday, February 7, 1996, p. 12.*



PRIVATE LAWRENCE EARL SNOKE  
Both courtesy of Ancestry.com

**SUGAR GROVE** – Born to Henry Joseph and Cora A. (Ream) Snoke on Friday, March 6, 1896, Lawrence Earl Snoke grew up with a younger sister, Virgie M., in Sugar Grove, Ohio.

Snoke enlisted in the United States Army on June 4, 1917 and served his country as a Private during World War I. He was later discharged on April 16, 1919.

Prior to his discharge, Lawrence journeyed back home to Sugar Grove from Brest, France as his Company – Company C, 112th Engineers – departed on the ship, *Kansas*.

Lawrence married Mary Elizabeth Howe, born on Tuesday, November 21, 1893, on Thursday, July 15, 1920, in

Athens County, Ohio, at the age of 24; Mary was 26.

After their marriage, Lawrence registered for World War II in 1942. At the time he worked as a Bus Driver for Berne Union as well as sitting on their School Board, as listed on his World War II registration card.

Lawrence and Mary had one son and four daughters as reported on the 1940 census: Roland Henry, Anne Elizabeth, Esther Arrena, Donna Ruth, and Leona.

On Monday, October 27, 1975, Lawrence Snoke breathed his last. His body lie interred in the Union Cemetery in Millersport within Fairfield County. The military tombstone rests in row 6.



PRIVATE LAWRENCE EARL SNOKE's military tombstone as it remains positioned in Union Cemetery.  
Courtesy of FindAGrave.com

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER U 1399	1. NAME (Print) LAWRENCE EARL SNOKE (First) (Middle) (Last)	ORDER NUMBER
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) RFD #1 SUGAR GROVE FAIRFIELD OHIO (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)		
3. MAILING ADDRESS SUGAR GROVE R NO1 (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)		
4. TELEPHONE NO	5. AGE IN YEARS 46 DATE OF BIRTH MARCH 6-1896 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	6. PLACE OF BIRTH SUGAR GROVE FAIRFIELD OHIO (Town or county) (State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS MARY ELIZABETH SNOKE RFD #1 SUGAR GROVE OHIO		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS "SCHOOL BUS DRIVER, BERNE UNION SCHOOL BOARD."		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS BOARD OF EDUCATION SUGAR GROVE FAIRFIELD OHIO (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42) (over)	16-21630-1	Lawrence Earl Snoke (Registrant's signature)

LAWRENCE EARL SNOKE's World War II Registration Card.  
Courtesy of Ancestry.com



A young Lawrence Snoke with his dog.  
Courtesy of Ancestry.com



LAWRENCE EARL SNOKE's tombstone in Union Cemetery.  
Courtesy of Ancestry.com

**THANK YOU**

TO THOSE WHO SERVED THESE

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

We truly thank you for your service and dedication to protecting our freedoms!

**The Far-Land Legacy**

# REFERENCES

\*All research is extensive and is not limited to the following resources.

\*\*The Far-Land Legacy wishes to thank General George Sanderson, Charles Russell Goslin, Hervey Scott, The Fairfield County Genealogical Society, The Fairfield County District Library, all online and book resources, and everyone else involved for the preservation of Fairfield County history, securing future generations with the ability to learn from past stories and build the future.

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**WORD SEARCH**  
The Soldiers of Andrew's Raid  
Last Week Answers

**LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

1. GEORGE  
2. SCOFFLE  
3. NOVEMBER  
4. CHRISTOPHERGRIST  
5. ELCAPITAN