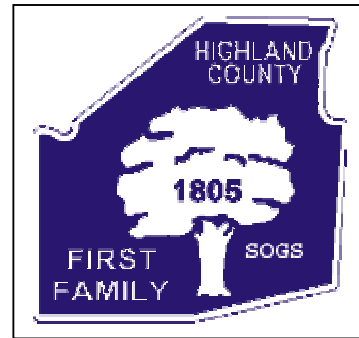


# ROOTS & SHOOTS

## QUARTERLY

The Southern Ohio Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 414, Hillsboro, OH 45133  
SOGS414@sbcglobal.net



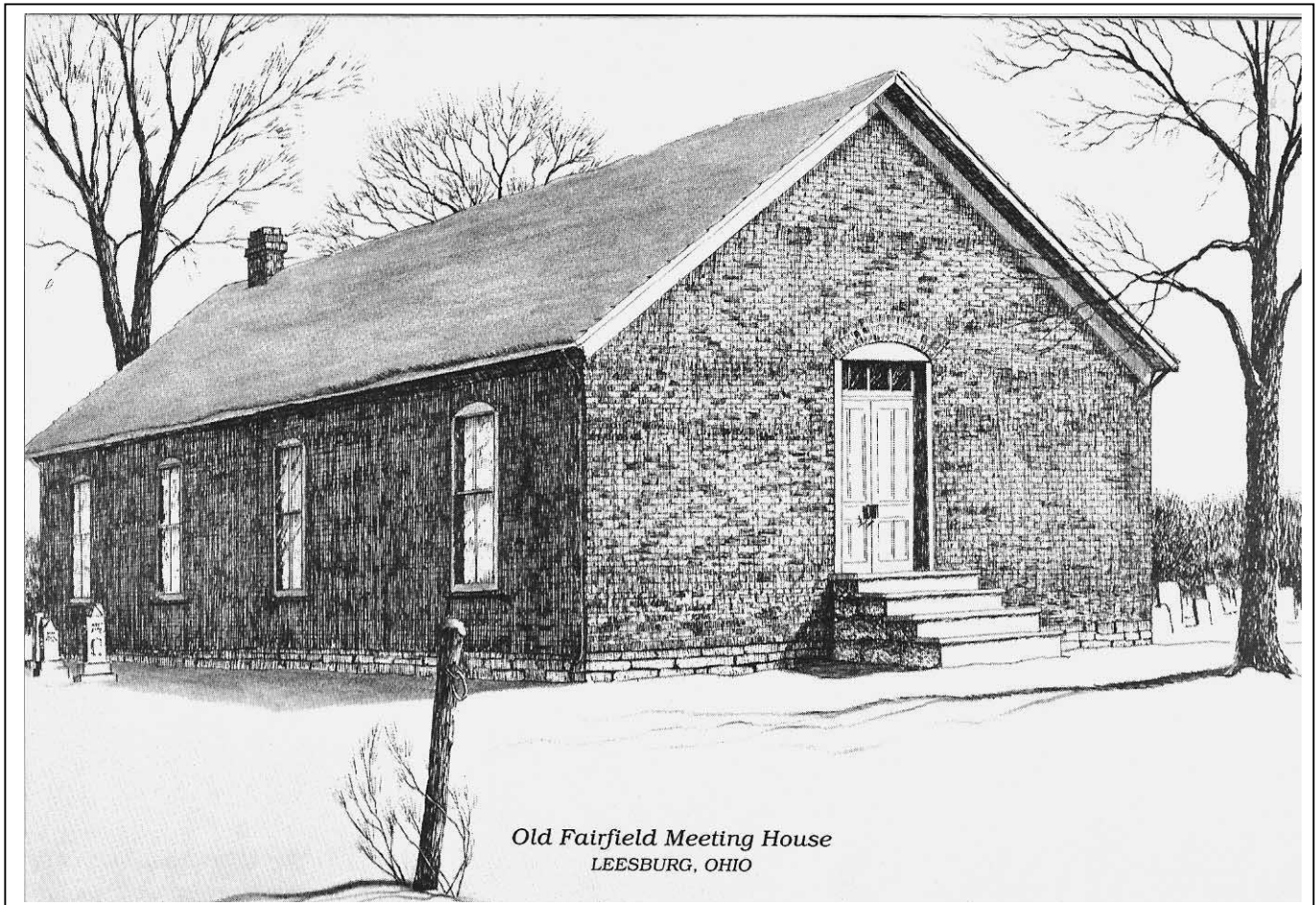
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VOLUME 28 No. 1

ISSN 07-2391

SPRING 2006

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*Old Fairfield Meeting House*  
LEESBURG, OHIO

*“(We) propose that the meeting continue to be held at Fairfield and that there be a house built 76 feet long by 36 feet wide, the walls to be of brick, to be set on a Stone foundation, to be raised 12 feet above that, and to be covered with Joint Shingles.”*

*-Fairfield Quarterly Meeting, 1822*

**S.O.G.S. OFFICERS 2005-2006**

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BOOK REVIEWS	Ruth Hussey

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The Southern Ohio Genealogical Society is a non-profit educational organization. The newsletter is published quarterly. When dues are received after the start of the fiscal year, previous issues for that year will be forwarded only when requested.

Neither the editor nor the society is responsible for any errors of fact, judgment or omission. Any proven error or omission will be corrected at the earliest opportunity. Membership dues are \$12.00 per year for single or couple. The membership year begins September 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 2006 S.O.G.S. CALENDAR

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All regular meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, at 7:00 PM. Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held at Southern State Community College, Hillsboro, Ohio.

**March 9, 2006, Dennis M. Keesee** will speak to us on his book ***"Too Young to Die,"*** which explores in detail the stories of the youngsters who participated in the Civil War. Through child's eyes they saw the Civil War as an all-consuming adventure-an experience not to be missed even at the expense of their lives. From the first rumors of war to enlistment, training, camp life, fatiguing marches and meeting the enemy in battle.

**April 13, 2006, Bob Fetters** will tell us about **Quaker Cemetery Restoration**, Fairfield and Lees Creek Friends, in the Highland County area. Bob will share some of his methods, successes and failures along with other interesting stories related to his work.

**May 11, 2006 Jean Wallis** will host the **Hillsboro City Cemetery Ghost Walk**. Meet at the Chapel on St. Rt. 138 at 6:00 pm. We will visit the graves of five of the cemetery's permanent residents and learn how they contributed to our community and beyond. **Col. William Collins**-Al Martellotti, **Charles Collins**-Richard Davis, **Charles A. West**-Mel Haines, **Sally McCue McDowell**-Jean Wallis, **Rev. Joseph McDowell Matthews**-Dwight Crum.

**June 8, 2006 First & Second Family Banquet**, will be held at the Bell Tower Restaurant, Bourneville, Ohio, on St. Rt. 50, beginning at 6:30 PM. We will be honoring our members that have proven their ancestral lines in First and Second Families in 2006.

Be sure to notify SOGS of your change of address if you are a "snow bird" and change your address during the winter months. Our newsletter is not sent as First Class Mail and will not be forwarded to your winter address.

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## What has SOGS Been Up To in the Last Year?

By: Marianna Morgan

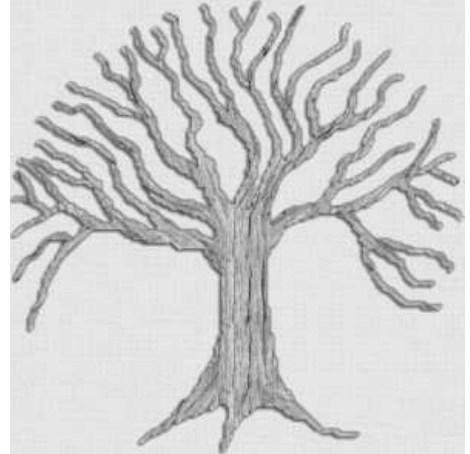
Your SOGS Board has been very busy this last year. We have organized and cleaned our office and added two computers, some additional chairs and a new photocopier machine. We still have need of file cabinets to house 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Family applications. If anyone would be able to donate a file cabinet or two, that would be much appreciated.

Our only source of income, at this time, is the sale of books and membership dues. We also re-organized and cleaned our bookshelves at the office and the library at Southern State.

We attended an OGS Conference and brought many new ideas back to our local chapter that will be helpful in our organization and service to the public.

We are working on compiling and publishing a new marriage record book with marriages beginning in 1900 in Highland Co.

Also, Deidra Branham, Auditor's Assistant, City of Greenfield, has graciously given us a rough draft copy of all the internments at Greenfield Cemetery up to the present time and we are working on this so we can publish and make available sometime in the coming year.



Our 1<sup>st</sup> Families of Highland Co. application process has been such a terrific success, we have added 2<sup>nd</sup> Families of Highland Co. This is for Ancestors of those who were settled in Highland Co., Ohio between January 1, 1831, and December 31, 1860. Please contact us for applications if interested. The deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup> for consideration this year. The Awards Banquet will be June 8 to be held at the Bell Tower Restaurant, Bourneville, Ohio.

We have set up an e-mail address to handle questions & inquiries. [sogs414@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sogs414@sbcglobal.net). We are also working on a website for SOGS.

We have been sending out, via e-mail, reminders of upcoming meetings to our members who have furnished their e-mail address to us. We call this "Broadcast". Would you like to be included, if so, just furnish us your e-mail address?

Jennifer West at Hillsboro Library has been forwarding names of people who would like to attend a Genealogy Class. We will conduct this class in the spring. Please let us know if you would like to be included in this class.

We would also like to conduct a study on the use of e-mail as a means of receiving your quarterly newsletter. Would any of you like to be a part of this study? If so, please let us know. You would receive your regular snail mail newsletter as well as a copy via e-mail during the study. If this works smoothly, you would then receive your newsletter only by e-mail. Wouldn't this be a wonderful convenience to receive your newsletter via e-mail as we move together into the future?

Don't forget our informative and fun monthly meetings held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. We are sorry we had to cancel the Christmas Banquet this year because of the weather. We will just have twice as much fun at the 2006 Christmas Banquet!

## Old Fairfield Meetinghouse

By: Jack Fitzgerald

*"(We) propose that the meeting continue to be held at Fairfield and that there be a house built 76 feet long by 36 ft. wide, the walls to be of brick, to be set on a Stone foundation, to be raised 12 feet above that, and to be covered with Joint-Shingles." - Fairfield Quarterly Meeting, 1822*



The discovery of these minutes fourteen years ago launched me upon a journey which resulted in a book and the beginning of restoration work at the Old Fairfield Meetinghouse. The description above is a plan for what would become the Fairfield Meetinghouse. Construction upon the building began in 1822 and was completed in 1823. The structure stands today much as it was envisioned in the minutes of 1822. It is the oldest existing church building in Highland County, Ohio.

Friends at Fairfield held worship in this house from 1823 until 1912. Friends moved to a new meetinghouse which was constructed in the village of Leesburg in 1912. It is the facility that Leesburg Friends Meeting utilizes as a place of worship today. As Pastor of the Leesburg Friends Meeting, I am strongly interested both in the history of Leesburg and Fairfield Monthly Meetings.

Living on the Ohio frontier required sacrifice. The white settlers who crossed over the Ohio River left behind family, friends, and conveniences. The threat of hostile Indians, contracting dreaded disease and an uncertain future awaited the Americans who came to Southwest Ohio in the late 1700's and early 1800's. One of the comforts in this new environment was the certainty of religious conviction.

The Quakers who came first to Leesburg in 1802 did so as part of a religious community. The Meetinghouse was the focal point for community as the Friends traveled westward. Lewis Savage describes the typical Friend's Meetinghouse that was built on the Ohio frontier: *The long rectangular building had plain glass windows and two doors, the one on the right for men, and the one on the left for women. The interior of the building was plain and was divided by a partition and sliding shutters into two equal parts. The shutters were left open for worship but were closed for their separate business meetings. The benches were plain and straight and set at floor level. At the front there was a raised platform with two or three facing seats for the use of ministers and elders. There was no pulpit, organ, lamps, or ornaments to attract the eye and disturb the worship.* One has a picture in mind of a quiet community of faith living in a pastoral setting when describing Quakers.

Currently, efforts are being enacted to restore Fairfield Meetinghouse back to its original condition. The building is the property of the Leesburg Friends Meeting. A new joint-shingle roof has been placed upon the structure. The old floor was gutted out and a new floor installed. The beams which support the building have been reinforced. Electric and heat has been added to the facility. The interior walls have been redone. The doors and windows have received a new look. There is still work to be done, but much has been accomplished. We are indebted to Dan Ridgeway for most of the restoration work at the Meetinghouse.

The Fairfield Cemetery is next to the Fairfield Meetinghouse. This venerable burying ground contains the graves for the brave pioneers who settled the area. Visitors will find the grave of Sarah Beals, widow of Thomas Beals who was at the forefront of Quaker migration into Southern Ohio. Jean Wallis tells us that Sarah Beals was born in 1724 and has the distinction of being the oldest person, as to date of birth, to be buried in Highland County with a tombstone inscription. Sarah died in 1813 at the age of 89 and her grave is the one closest to the door of the Meetinghouse.

*Old Fairfield Meetinghouse (cont.)*

Another publication of interest to those interested in early Quakers in Southern Ohio has been written by Pastor John Fitzgerald. It is entitled "**A Peaceable Pilgrimage**" which highlights the Quaker migration to Southwest Ohio and the building of Fairfield Meetinghouse. The book contains 80 pages of text and is replete with photos, graphs, and footnotes and it sells for \$20.00. You may order this book from the same location as posted below.

Pastor Fitzgerald would enjoy giving a tour to anyone who would like to view the Old Fairfield Meetinghouse and Cemetery. He also would be glad to talk about his book with interested groups.

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### 2005 FAIRFIELD FRIENDS CEMETERY

Reviewed by: Ruth Hussy

A forty-four page booklet, "**2005 FAIRFIELD FRIENDS CEMETERY**," compiled and written by Robert A. Fetters, is a comprehensive list of the people buried in the Fairfield Cemetery. It is located on the grounds of the Old Fairfield Meetinghouse, the oldest surviving church building in Highland County. It is in Fairfield Twp., one mile south of Leesburg, in the junction of St. Rt. 771 and Fairfield Roads.

During the summer of 2005, the cemetery was restored and the location of all gravestones recorded. In the introduction of his book, Mr. Fetters gives credit to the many people who helped with this exceptional project. In addition to listing the names and information of the burials newly discovered during the restoration of the cemetery, he also received permission to include information from the 1954 publication of David N. and Jane N. McBride, "Cemetery Inscriptions of Highland County, Ohio" and the names of those burials



in the Fairfields Friends Cemetery which the McBrides listed. In addition, Mr. Fetters, with permission, included excerpts from William Wade Hindshaw's "Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, Vol. V, The Ohio Quaker Genealogical Records," "Fairfield Monthly Meeting," which listed burials mentioned in the Fairfield Monthly Meeting Minutes.

This publication should be of particular interest to those who are researching early Quakers in Highland and Clinton Counties. Mr. Fetters is donating the proceeds from his book to help with the restoration of the Old Fairfield Friends Meetinghouse. The Leesburg Friends Church is selling the book for \$15.00 and may be purchased by contacting: Pastor John Fitzgerald, Box 393, 149 South Street, Leesburg, OH 45135, or call: 937.780.9375 or e-mail: [jfitzgerald8@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jfitzgerald8@cinci.rr.com). Robert Fetters will speak at the April 13, 2006, S.O.G.S. meeting on "Quaker Cemetery Restoration."