

## **Department of Energy**

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MAR 1 9 2014

David Snyder, Ph.D. Archaeology Reviews Manager Ohio Historic Preservation Office 1982 Velma Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43211

Dear Dr. Snyder:

PPPO-03-2169885-14

# TRANSMITTAL OF A REPORT OF EXAMPLE PUBLICLY-AVAILABLE ARCHIVAL RESOURCES THAT MAY BE USED TO INTERPRET HISTORIC-ERA SITES

As you are aware, since 1996 the Department of Energy at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) has been engaged in conducting archaeological surveys to inventory cultural resources and identify historic properties. All of the surveys were completed in 2012 and we are continuing to document the results and provide them to you and our consulting parties for information.

As is evidenced in the reports, the surveys have yielded a vast quantity of historic-era artifacts enabling us to learn about local preferences regarding familial and social relationships that form the structure of communities as well as economics, and how people made their livings, for example. We have also gathered information on construction materials and methods, farmstead structure and layout. Acquisition records on the ownership of the properties at the time of their purchase by the Atomic Energy Commission were also available, enabling some level of interpretation of these historic-era cultural resources by way of the association of potential names with archaeological resources found on those properties including providing insight into how land parcels, and perhaps their use, changed through time. Some of the names of the landowners at the time of acquisition by the government are names still familiar in the area, such as Shy, Vallery, and Farmer.

Interpretation of the "as found" conditions, taken together with the artifacts and the remnants of the sites and structures themselves, has yielded useful information, but what it has lacked is the ability to associate the cultural resources to their former inhabitants. The enclosed report, entitled "Historic Archival Resources and Their Availability for Historic-Era Sites at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Pike County, Ohio" (RSI/PORTS246), aims to provide examples of how available data may be used to make some of those connections. Examples using information on two families who resided on what is now PORTS are provided in the report for illustrative purposes.

This report identifies a range of archival resources that are available and can be used to provide a better understanding of the history of the people who once lived on the farmsteads that now comprises the PORTS reservation. These types of resources are available to the public. The purpose of the study is to provide examples of what can be learned from generally available information.

While the archival information presented within this report is not meant to be exhaustive, what was found in libraries, archives, and online sources provides a wealth of information on the PORTS farmsteads and the families who lived there, including deed records, photographs, census data, obituaries, probate court inventories, military records and much more. Records such as these can be enlightening and informative and provide accessible links to the past. The report provides a type of template for additional work that may be pursued by others, such as historians, genealogists and archaeologists, should they wish to learn more about the early families of Pike County.

A copy of the report is enclosed and can also be obtained at the Environmental Information Center by contacting 740-289-8898 or at <u>eic@wems-llc.com</u>. Additionally, an electronic copy can be found at http://www.pppo.energy.gov/nhpa.html.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Lawson of my staff at (740) 897-2112.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vincent Adams

Portsmouth Site Director

Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office

#### **Enclosure:**

Historic Archival Resources and Their Availability for Historic-Era Sites at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Pike County, Ohio

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# Historic Archival Resources and Their Availability for Historic-Era Sites at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Pike County, Ohio



Ву

Jarrod Burks, Ph.D.

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May 2013



#### OVAI Contract Report #2013-12

# Historic Archival Resources and Their Availability for Historic-Era Sites at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Pike County, Ohio

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#### **Management Summary**

Phase I and Phase II archaeological investigations at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) in Pike County, Ohio have identified 61 historic-era archaeological sites, many of which are farmsteads. These investigations recovered thousands of artifacts and extensive architectural remains—the material record of a southern Ohio farming community. Except for initials carved into concrete at one of the sites, those who lived and worked at these sites have remained relatively nameless throughout the course of the archaeological investigations.

This report explores the range of archival materials available for cultivating the stories of the people who lived at the PORTS farmstead sites. While the archival investigations described in this review were not meant to be exhaustive, what was found in libraries, archives, and online sources is a wealth of information related to the PORTS farmstead sites, including photographs, census data, obituaries, probate estate inventories, life stories, and much more. This review is intended to provide a glimpse of the resources readily available. If more work is considered by others for the PORTS historic-era archaeology sites, a more exhaustive level of archival research would be warranted.

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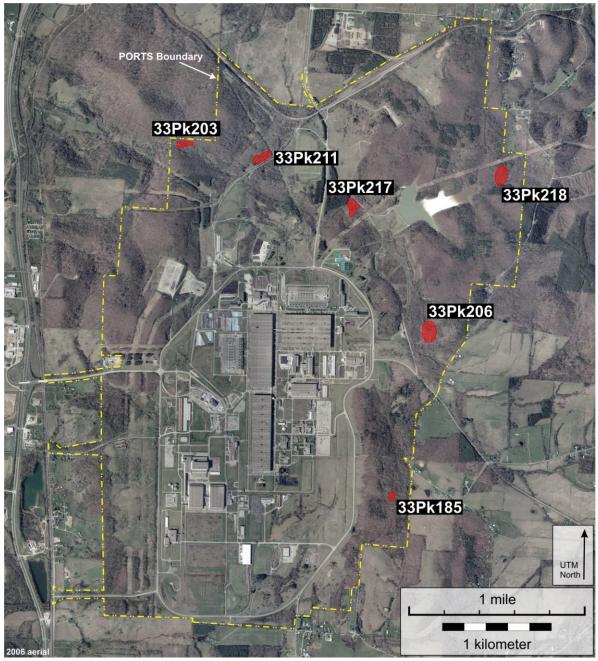
#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Among the various historical disciplines that study the past, archaeologists have the distinct privilege of spending most of their time walking the same sites as people they study, while other researchers must access the past through historical documents. They also regularly handle the very same material culture—spoons, chamber pots, hair pins, coat buttons, etc.—used by those in the past. In fact, it is an archaeologist's responsibility to share these experiences. Using these material remains and their contexts, archaeologists attempt to piece together the past, often producing a broad-brush-stroke vision of events and processes in peoples' lives. With a few exceptions, the material remains collected and studied by archaeologists rarely comes with peoples' names attached to them. Rather, most archaeology is done without the benefit of knowing who and/or how many people lived at a site. This is something that can be remedied for most projects conducted at historic-era sites, as with the historic-era farmstead sites at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) in Pike County, Ohio.

This report briefly explores the range of historic archival resources available to better understand the context of the historic-era archaeological resources at PORTS. Although archaeologists have documented 61 historic-era archaeology sites within PORTS, many of which are farmsteads, this report focuses on historical resources related to the six farmsteads reported by Pecora and Burks (2012): South Shyville Farmstead (33PK185), Ruby Hollow Farmstead (33PK203), Terrace Farmstead (33PK206), Bamboo Farmstead (33PK211), Stockdale Road Dairy (33PK217), and Cornett Farmstead (33PK218). Emphasis was placed on the Ruby Hollow, Terrace and Stockdale Road Dairy Farmsteads as they are some of the oldest sites located on parcels of land owned by reoccurring names. A map showing the locations of all six sites at PORTS is provided in Figure 1. It is important to note that the archival sources used in compiling information about these sites would be equally useful for researching other PORTS historic-era sites. Ultimately, the primary goal of this report is to highlight, in only an introductory manner, the range of archival documentation available. More comprehensive information would result from an exhaustive review of historical documents for all historical landowners.

#### 2. HISTORICAL RESOURCES AND THEIR AVAILABILITY

When attempting to conduct an archival research project related to an archaeological site, one needs a place to begin the search. Most archival data are organized or referenced in one of two ways, by place or by person. In the case of places, politically or legally defined places are the most common organizing principle, such as by town, township, or a parcel of land. For example, most of PORTS is located today in Scioto Township, which was founded in 1851. Prior to 1851, the PORTS area was all within Seal Township—a detail that is important when looking for records organized by township, such as tax records. When attempting to locate people in archival documents, it can be important to know the names of spouses, parents, and children related to the individual of interest. This is especially true when attempting to locate archival information about adolescents or women, since most legal documents and census data, for example, are linked to the heads of households, who typically were men. In the efforts to locate information about the six farmstead sites examined here, and the people who owned and lived at them, the process was typically begun by accessing the county deed records.



**Figure 1**. A map of PORTS showing the locations of the six farmstead sites used as examples in this report (map based on Pecora and Burks 2012).

#### 2.1. Deed Records

Deed records commonly include detailed descriptions of the land parcel, often carrying forward descriptions first made in the nineteenth century. Some of these early boundary descriptions can reveal important information about the landscape from the time the description was first recorded as references are often made to old roads, big stones, or large trees that may not exist today. The deed records for the PORTS area are housed in the Pike County Recorder's Office at 230

Waverly Plaza, Suite 500. The deeds are organized by volume, each of which corresponds to a block of time—older deed volumes include more than a single year. Indexes to the deeds can be used as finding aids and they typically contain alphabetical lists of property buyers and sellers.

Deeds always contain the name of the grantor (person or entity selling property) and the grantee (person or entity buying the property) of the property described in the deed. In the nineteenth century, many land transactions were carried out by men, but spouses are often included on deeds, as are children—in particular, when parcels are transferred from parents to a trust including all of their children. For this reason, deeds are an excellent way to fill out family trees, especially in between ten-year federal census enumerations. Deeds sometimes list other previous owners of the property (i.e., not those engaged in the transaction recorded by the deed), therefore making it much easier to identify the property's prior owners.

Since deeds are legal documents, they may be the only places where the signature of an individual is preserved. In some cases, the signature lines are marked by an "X," which may indicate that an individual was illiterate. Some of the older deed records associated with the six farmstead sites contains X's as signatures.

Despite the excellent organization of the Pike County deed records and the aids available to help locate the correct parcels and/or individuals, it can be quite difficult to trace the ownership of a parcel back to when it was first purchased by an individual from the United States Government. In fact, there are particular periods in the past where most of the PORTS farmstead properties exchanged hands many times in rapid succession as certain individuals in the region attempted to make money through land speculation or resource extraction (e.g., logging). Another complication occurs when numerous members of the same family engaged in buying and selling several properties all in the same general area. In such circumstances it can be easy to miss the next link in the chain of ownership related to a particular parcel.

Of the six farmsteads examined by Pecora and Burks (2012), for example, deed searches of the Terrace Farmstead property produced the most complete chain of ownership. As shown in Table 1, it is possible to follow the deed records back to 1843, when Laugham Peters purchased the property from the United States Government. For the next eight years the property changed hands numerous times until 1851, when Charles Dailey appears to have maintained ownership for more than a decade. It is difficult to know if Mr. Dailey and his family were living and farming on this land from the deed records, alone. The Dailey's could have been absentee owners who rented out the farm to another family who lived on the farm or on a nearby property. Unfortunately, deed records rarely make reference to standing structures located on a parcel. It may be possible to detect the construction of a significant building, such as a house, from significant property value increases revealed in deed records and county tax records (see Section 2.8). A significant jump in the property's value could indicate the appearance of house. In order to use changing property values to track the appearance of a house on a property, other factors would have to be held constant, such as the size of the property and the value of the dollar. In the case of the Terrace Farmstead example, the value of the property fluctuates considerably, as does the size of the property. Another complication is that parcels are often transferred between relatives, especially from parents to children, for a single dollar. While this complicates attempts to track changes in property values through time, it can reveal the married names of daughters,

whose husbands are often listed as the grantee.

**Table 1.** History of ownership for the Terrace Farmstead site (33PK206).

Grantee	Date	Grantor	Acreage	\$ Amount	Book-Page
U.S. Government.	12-18-1952	J. & Ellen Todd	96 acres	\$16,950	
J. & E. Todd	9-24-1944	C & Ola Taylor	96 acres	\$1.00	95-261
C & O Taylor	9-22-1943	Anna & Thms. Whittaker	185 acres	\$1.00	95-45
T. Whittaker	12-13-1919	Fred Shy	165 acres	\$1919.00	68-509
Fred B. Shy	8-4-1921	Violet Parker	2 acres	\$65.00	53-537
Fred Shy	8-10-1918	Rebecca Boldman	1-2 acres	\$35.00	69-59
Fred Shy	6-20-1910	Charles Shy	11 acres	\$400.00	59-220
Charles Shy	10-22-1908	Joseph McDaniel	10+ acres	\$375.00	56-297
Charles L. Shy	2-18-1908	Henry Shy	~91 acres	\$1050.00	55-505
Fred B. Shy	2-12-1906	Gore McDaniel	10 1/4 acres	\$300.00	53-528
Fred Shy	4-11-1905	S. P. Violet	11 acres	\$300.00	51-590
Fred Shy	7-20-1896	Charles L Shy	20 acres	\$300.00	42-261
Lavicca Miller	9-11-1895	H. Shy	1 acres	\$25.00	43-310
John Violet	9-6-1886	Henry Shy	10 acres	\$350.00	33-103
*Henry Shy	9-16-1871	W <sup>m</sup> McClure	151 acres	\$2250.00	22-527
W <sup>m</sup> McClure	3-10-1868	Jane McClure	106 acres	\$1520.00	20-163
Jane McClure	2-24-1868	Sheriff Sale (Josiah McCray)	120 acres	\$1520.00	20-139
Josiah McCray	10-6-1864	Charles Dailey & Wife	81 acres	\$1500.00	13-162
Charles Dailey	12-22-1851	Benjamin Violett	69+ acres	\$700.00	12-43
Charles Dailey	9-27-1846	John W. James	40 acres	\$320.00	10-164
John W. James	3-23-1844	Sam Cutlip	40 acres	\$200.00	8-228
John Prye	12-12-1843	L. Peters	40 acres	\$100.00	24-186
Laugham Peters	4-10-1843	US Government.	Large Acreage		Gen. Land Office Washington DC

<sup>\*</sup> Includes two parcels totaling 96 acres (61 & 30 acres) and two parcels totaling 50 acres (20 & 30 acres).

Table 2. History of ownership for the Ruby Hollow Farmstead site (33PK203).

Grantee Date		Grantor	Acreage	\$ Amount	Book-Page
U.S. Government.	1-23-1953	Bronson Farmer	89 acres	\$13,750.00	
Bronson Farmer 3-26-1949 Lundy		Lundy C Ramey	89 acres	\$1.00	102-409
Lundy C Ramey 8-28-1948		Everett & Marie Brown	89 acres	\$1.00	102-198
E & M Brown   10-14-1943		Jacob & Lola Scherer Jr. et al.	89 acres	\$1.00	95-95/96
Nellie Walker et al. (Scherer Children)	4-23-1940		89 acres	\$1.00	90-585
Lola Scherer	4-23-1940	Jacob Scherer Jr. Life estate to Lola	89 acres	\$1.00	90-585
Isaac F. Wooddell	12-26-1930	Lola Scherer	1 acres	\$1.00	81-321
Jacob Scherer Jr.	12-16-1908	Jacob Scherer Sr.	89 acres	\$1000.00	56-343
Jacob Scherer Sr.	?	?	-	-	-
?	?	Benjamin Talbott 1884 map	-	-	-

A summary of the deed records for the Ruby Hollow Farmstead (Table 2) shows a case where the chain of ownership became extremely difficult to follow back into the nineteenth century. In cases such as these, historic maps can provide a link back into the chain of ownership for a parcel (see Section 2.2).

One of the real and important concerns when working with deed records, as an archaeologist, is knowing whether or not the owners of a property actually lived on the property they owned or merely rented it out. Furthermore, a farm's house can be rented independent of the farm land, which could be leased to one or more other families. This complication could bring at least two more families into the context of understanding the archaeological record at one farmstead. In some cases the deed records provide strong evidence that an individual likely did not live at the farm they owned. For example, in the late 1800s buying and selling land for investment purposes was common in Scioto and Seal Townships. The Shy family, in particular Fred B. and Henry (probably Fred's father, Henry G. Shy, rather than Fred's brother, Henry William, who was born in 1864 and would have been too young to participate in many of the transactions) bought and sold many properties, and in some cases they only owned the land for one or two years. Purchasing land for investment purposes is not always profitable, or it at least is not evident in the deed records. This can be seen by the Shy family's recorded information, as they often sold the land for less than they paid for it. A plausible explanation may be that the Shy's (and others) purchased the land for timber, which, once harvested, would inherently reduce the land's resale value. Perhaps the best example of an apparent case of purchasing land as an investment is related to the Bamboo Farmstead, which was purchased by James Emmitt in April of 1867 for \$4,000 and then sold just over a year later in August of 1868 for \$5,000. Emmitt is one of Pike County's best known citizens and its first millionaire. His accounts of Pike County's pioneer past represent most of Howe's (1907) historical information related to Pike County. In the 1870 Federal Census, Emmitt is listed as being 63 years old and having real estate valued at \$667,970.00 (the equivalent of at least \$12 million in 2012, according to the web site measuringworth.com). His profit of \$1,000 on the Bamboo Farmstead sale is worth about \$16,000-\$18,000 in 2012 dollars. That same property was purchased by the previous owner, William Wynn, for \$820 (the equivalent in 2012 dollars of about \$25,000) in 1843 (using the same web site to calculate the value conversion). Although Wynn made a profit when he sold the farm to Emmitt, it is reasonable to assume that he made improvements to the property having owned it for more than 20 years.

Using the length of ownership, as in the case of William Wynn and the Bamboo Farmstead, it might be possible to identify the farm of residence for an individual, assuming they would own the family farm longer than a property that was purchased for investment purposes. As is shown in the context of this report, Wynn in fact did live at the Bamboo Farmstead site, but not in the house documented during the Phase II work by Pecora and Burks (2012), which may have been built later.

#### 2.2. Historic Maps

Historic maps can be a useful resource for tracking the size, shape, layout, and ownership of property in Ohio. In the case of the PORTS area, there are at least two nineteenth century plat maps that identify the names of landowners. The first is a plat map from 1859. Figure 2 provides an example from a portion of Seal Township. The owner of each parcel is shown as

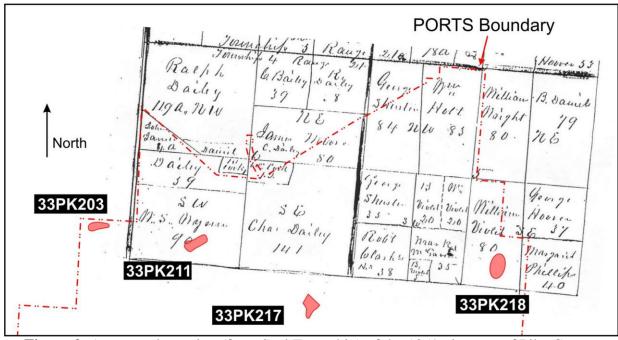
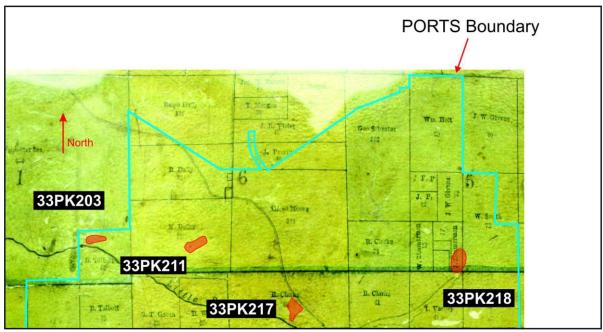


Figure 2. An example section (from Seal Township) of the 1859 plat map of Pike County.

well as the acreage contained within the property. For example, W. S. Wynn is listed as owning the 90 acres in the SW quadrant of Section 4 that includes the Bamboo Farmstead, site 33PK211. An examination of the deed records shows that from 1843 until 1867 William Wynn owned 105 acres in this area, including land adjacent to and south of the 90 acre parcel depicted in Figure 2. This plat map is a "snap shot" of land ownership in 1859. Copies of the 1859 plat maps are available in the Map Room of the Pike County Recorder's Office.

The second plat map dates to 1884 and is organized in much the same way as the 1859 map (Figure 3). Land owner names are shown within the parcels they own, along with the acreage contained in the parcel. Although the names were hand-written in 1859, by 1884 they were printed onto the map. Unfortunately, the printed letters are somewhat less distinct on the later map, making it hard to read. Nevertheless, it can be seen in 1884 that the Bamboo Farmstead site (33PK211), for example, was owned by N. Boiler, who, according to the deed records, bought it in 1878 and sold it in 1898. Since Boiler bought it for \$2,200 and sold it to A. J. Vallery for \$200, the significant price reduction may indicate that Vallery was a family member (e.g. son-in-law). Also included on the 1884 map are major streams, such as Little Beaver Creek, and major roads—the road passing by to the east of the Bamboo Farmstead is old Stockdale Road.

The 1884 Pike County plat map can be found in the old county courthouse building at 116 S. Market Street in Waverly. The 1884 plat map resides on the east wall of the first floor main hallway, behind glass—a very difficult location for obtaining large, quality, images of the map, but adequate for doing property research.



**Figure 3**. A portion of the 1884 Pike County plat map.

Maps and deed records help to connect specific people to specific parcels of land, but these archival resources typically only list the name of the head of household, as well as perhaps a spouse. To learn the names of others associated with these sites, for example the children of these couples, other resources must be consulted, such as census records, birth records, death records, and obituaries.

#### 2.3. Birth, Death, and Marriage Certificates

Birth, death, and marriage certificates are an excellent source for supporting information related to a particular individual. Birth certificates usually contain the name of an individual's father and mother, as well as the date and location of their birth. It may also present the status of the birth (i.e., live, still-born, etc.). This information is useful in obvious tasks such as building family lineages, but there are other uses as well. For instance, date of birth can be an important secondary identifier for a person when a researcher is accessing large databases that might contain more than one person with the same or similar names. While there may be several individuals from the nineteenth century in the United States with the name Henry Shy, there is only one who lived in Pike County and was born on July 12, 1832. The fact that he was born in Germany, which would be obvious on his birth certificate, would be another aid for uniquely identifying the first Henry Shy to have moved to Pike County, beginning the Shy lineage there.

Much of the information on birth certificates also appears in other archival sources, such as census records and death certificates. Some certificates may also include color (or race), father's occupation, and nationality. Figure 4 is an example of a death certificate from Pike County. This one is the death certificate for Jacob Scherer, a property owner of the Ruby Hollow Farmstead (33PK203). Although the deed records were very difficult to follow back into the nineteenth century for the Ruby Hollow Farmstead, they do show that Jacob Scherer transferred ownership of the farm to his son, Jacob Jr. in 1908. The particulars on Jacob Sr.'s death certificate, such as

his birthplace, Germany, and his father's name, Lawrence Scherer, were provided for the death certificate by Jacob Jr., who signed the certificate. Interestingly, Jacob Jr. apparently did not know his mother's maiden name, as it is listed as unknown.

Marriage records are created as a state record after a marriage. These records contain the names of the individuals being married, the date of the marriage, and the names of the parents of the individuals married. Older examples of these records are often incomplete and barely legible. Marriage records are most useful in determining maiden names and names of parents, though this information might also be available in census records. Scott and Mollenkamp (1991) have compiled one hundred years worth of historical marriage data for Pike County, from 1815-1915. This book is available at the Ohio Historical Society library/archives and numerous local libraries, including the Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library.

Information gleaned from sources such as birth, death, and marriage certificates, as well census records (discussed below), can be used to create a picture of an entire family's lineage and can provide the raw material for making family tree diagrams. A family tree has been attempted for two families related to the PORTS farmsteads, the Scherer family and part of the Shy family. Figure 5 is a graphic presentation of these family trees. In both cases, the family trees have been carried back in time one generation from a PORTS farmstead land owner. The names of those who owned PORTS farmstead property are shown in bolded text. Anyone in the family tree known or suspected to have lived at a PORTS farmstead has a red box around their name. Also provided beneath each name are birth-death dates and the location of birth, when this information was available. Finally, only the spouses and children for those in the family who are known to have owned one of the PORTS farmstead sites are included.

As might be expected, family sizes for the two generations tracked are large, from six to ten children in each family. In the Scherer family it is mostly Jacob Jr.'s children who lived at the Ruby Hollow Farmstead for most of Jacob Jr.'s siblings had already moved out of the family house by the time his father purchased the Ruby Hollow Farmstead and moved the family there. Based on the findings made during the Phase II archaeology work (Pecora and Burks 2012), it is possible that the Scherers were living on the farm as late as 1937 because the excavations found that two people with a last name starting in "S" scratched their initials and the date into a new concrete barn foundation.

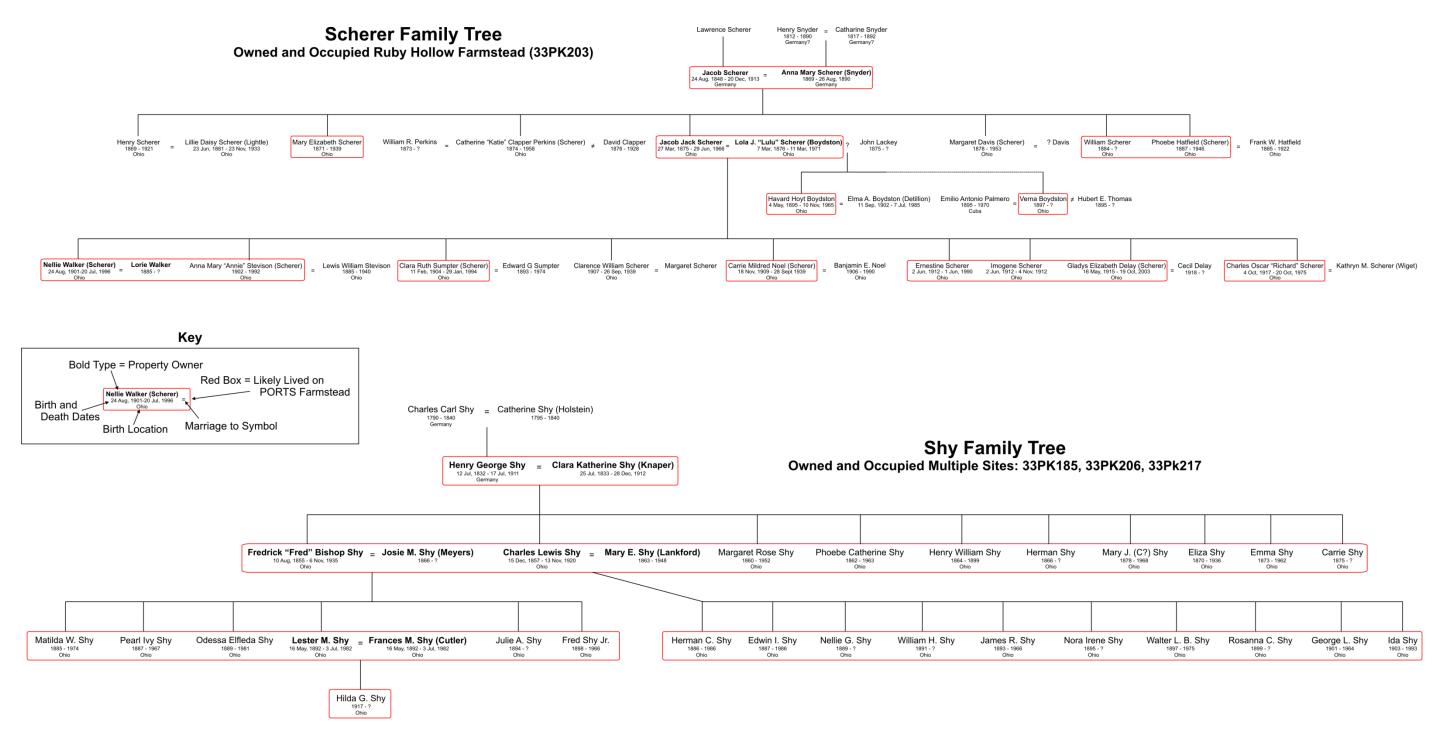
The Shy family presents a different story. All of the Shy's that are shown in the Figure 5 family tree likely lived on or at least owned one of three PORTS farmstead sites. The South Shyville Farmstead (33PK185) was owned by Henry and Fred Shy for a brief time in the late 1800s, but they may not have lived at this location as they were buying and selling many properties in the late 1880s. The Shy name is well represented in the deed records for the Terrace Farmstead (see Table 1), where it appears that the Shys were attempting to assemble an entire farm from the purchase of small parcels. This is likely the place where the Shys lived. The Shys were also involved with the Stockdale Road Dairy site, where in the late 1880s Fred and Henry began buying up parcels for this farm, as well. Ultimately, the farm went to Fred's son, Lester, who sold it to the United States Government in 1952 when the acquisition of properties for PORTS began.

Between the Scherer and the Shy families, we can already see that a large number of people living on the PORTS farmsteads are originally of German descent, with the first generation of PORTS farmstead owners being born in Germany. No doubt this German heritage affected many aspects of the farms these two families owned and occupied. Such influences might be observed archaeologically in several ways, including the type and layout of buildings present on the farms, the kinds of farming practices and implements used on the farm, and the type of livestock kept for beef, dairy, and poultry. In addition to ideas about farming and building houses, the German heritage of some family members also meant that they brought with them a Luthern-based faith. As shown below in her obituary, the first mother of the Shy family to live on or own a PORTS farmstead became a Lutheran at age 14 in Germany, just before coming to the United States, and she remained an active Luthern until the time of her death in 1912 in Shyville, Ohio.

All birth, death, and marriage certificates for Pike County can be accessed in the Probate Court Office in Waverly, Ohio. The older birth and death certificates are on microfilm and both have index books for use as finding aids. Marriage certificates are housed in their original form.

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If death occurs away from USUAL RESIDENCE give facts called for under "Special Information." FULL NAME.	Shrans
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(Month) (Day) (Y	1 HEREBY CERTIFY, The I nitended deceased
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Figure 4. Death certificate for Jacob Scherer, a Ruby Hollow Farmstead landowner until 1908.



**Figure 5**. Family trees for two prominent families who owned and lived at several PORTS farmsteads.

#### 2.4. Probate Records

Probate Court records often contain a wealth of information about people. All wills, inventories of the deceased's estate, and administrative records related to the will are housed in the probate records. Many archaeologists and historians have made use of these documents in the eastern United States (e.g., Shackel 1992), where such documents extend back much longer than they do in Ohio. For the PORTS farmstead sites, the related probate records are housed in the Probate Court offices for Pike County in Waverly, Ohio.

A probate of will is a last will and testament that has been verified by the court to be genuine. This process involves an inventory of an individual's or an estate's assets, payment of the estate's outstanding debt, and a transfer of the estate's property. These records can be used for a wide range of historical purposes. For example, Figure 6 is a portion of the will of Noah Boiler, who owned the Bamboo Farmstead site from 1878-1898. It can be observed from Mr. Boiler's will that he did not live at the Bamboo Farmstead site at the time of his death; rather, he lived about one half mile northeast of Piketon, where he owned a house and about 11 acres that he was bequeathing to his niece, Louisa Boiler. The will goes on to say that Mr. Boiler wished to bequeath \$4,000 to his niece Louisa and thousands of additional dollars in \$1,000 and \$500 increments to many other nieces and nephews. The will also reveals that he owned a farm in Fayette County, Ohio.

Besides serving as a source of information specific to the individual, such as determining the identities of their next of kin and close acquaintances, wills and the records associated with their execution sometimes contain lists of assets owned at the time of death. Such is the case with Lavicia Miller, who died in 1907. In 1895 Henry Shy sold to Lavicia Miller, and husband

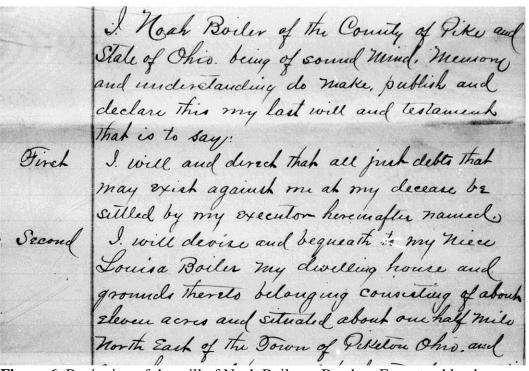


Figure 6. Beginning of the will of Noah Boiler, a Bamboo Farmstead landowner.

Charles (who is not listed in the deed record), one acre of land associated with the Terrace Farmstead site (33PK206). Like Henry, Charles Miller was born in Germany in the 1830s, immigrated to the United States around 1850, and at some point moved to Pike County, Ohio. In the 1900 Federal Census Charles and Lavicia were living near the Shy family as they appear on the same page of the census, between the families of Fred and Charles Shy, indicating the Millers and Shys were close neighbors. Charles apparently served in the Civil War as he filed for his military pension in 1888 as an invalid. By 1902 Charles had died and Lavicia had filed for a new pension status, that of a widow.

It is not clear where Lavicia was living at that time of her death in January of 1907, though it seems likely that it was in the house that she and Charles had built on the one acre of land purchased from Henry Shy. Neighbor Fred Shy served as one of the appraisers of her household goods that went up for auction at her home in April, 1907. Of most interest, the probate records related to Lavicia's will contain a list of the 113 items (some include groups of items) in the sale, their appraised value, who purchased the items, and what was paid. Figure 7 contains a copy of the first three pages of the sale bill related to the auction. The highest priced items on the list are the livestock, including a Bay mare that sold for \$75 and a team of oxen, which neighbor Fred Shy purchased for \$107 (about \$2,500 in 2012 dollars, according to measuringworth.com). Other items of note on the first page of the list include, 100 ft of lumber, several buggies, a very expensive two horse wagon (sold for \$38), and 90 bushels of corn. Information such as the kinds of objects owned by a household and their value are quite difficult to track in the historical record except for in documents such as probate records.

The second page of Levicia's probate of sale inventory (Figure 7) moves down to the smaller farm objects, such as rakes, scythes, and corn shellers, and then on into the household and kitchen tools, including a cream can, clothes wringer, and a spinning wheel. On the third page of the inventory, and the final page shown in Figure 7, it can be seen that Lavicia kept a house with four beds, as indicated by the four white bedspreads, four woolen blankets, and four feather beds. This is an inventory of a farm and household dating from the late nineteenth century through the turn of the twentieth century, a period common to all of the farmsteads documented at PORTS. If similar inventories could be found for other PORTS farmsteads, it might be possible to begin to compare and contrast households across the community of PORTS farmsteads. For example, a bill of sale inventory was located for William Clark, who died around 1850 and is suspected to be the first owner of the Stockdale Road Dairy site. The inventory of his possessions sold at auction also contains items such as a buggy, but that sale primarily consisted of personal clothing items, with numerous shirts and pairs of pants. This suggests that William had divested himself of most of his possessions before to his death and was no longer a practicing farmer when he died. In conjunction with probate records, archaeological materials recovered from the sites could be used to further fill out a material culture inventory associated with the PORTS farmsteads.

The law does not require a probate process after death, and some may choose to avoid the process altogether for a variety of reasons, e.g., there is no estate to divide, there is a valid last will and testament, there is a lack of capital to pay probate fees, there are time constraints, or perhaps there are privacy concerns. As a result, some individuals may have no probate record. Additionally, there can be multiple probate records if the estate includes property in multiple counties or states.

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**Figure 7.** Inventory (page 1) of materials sold at an estate auction related to Lavicia Miller, a former occupant of a PORTS farmstead property.

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	let Doubletrus Te	25	Tay lor Ashy	33
34	Corn Sheller	15		70
37	Spring tooth Narrow	25		70
38	Zon Scrap dron	3 00		11 00
39	Grendingstone	25	James Heavens	100
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**Figure 7.** *continued*. Inventory (page 2) of materials sold at an estate auction related to Lavicia Miller, a former occupant of a PORTS farmstead property.

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**Figure 7.** *continued.* Inventory (page 3) of materials sold at an estate auction related to Lavicia Miller, a former occupant of a PORTS farmstead property.

Other historically useful document types housed in probate court records are related to changes in adolescent guardianship, for example. When a child's parents or caretakers (e.g., grandparents or other family members) die or can no longer take care of the child, guardianship is legally transferred to a different adult through the rulings of the probate court. Documents related to transfers of guardianship are useful in a variety of ways relevant to understanding the history of PORTS historic-era sites and the people who occupied them. The death of a parent, or other type of legal guardian, was undoubtedly an extremely important event in a child's life and it likely shaped their future.

Guardianship records figure very prominently in understanding the changes in ownership related to at least one PORTS farmstead, the Stockdale Road Dairy site (33PK217). Table 3 summarizes the deed records related to this farm, which at the time it was sold by Lester Shy to the United States Government in 1952 covered 120 acres. As the site's ownership is tracked through time, a very unusual set of transactions related to 80 acres of the property is noted. In 1838 Robert Clark purchased the 80 acres from Richard Hawkins. It is assumed that this is the 80 acres of the farm containing the houses and outbuildings examined by Pecora and Burks (2012). The next entry related to this property dates to 1867 and it is a transfer of the property for \$1.00 from Andrew Kilgore to Amelia and Emma Clark. However, there is no record of how the property moved from Clark to Kilgore and just how Kilgore might be related to the Clarks. Generally, only family members transfer property to one another for \$1.00, but that is not clearly evident in this case.

Two other archival sources help clear up this irregularity in the deed records related to the Stockdale Road Dairy site. First, probate records show that there was a change in legal

**Table 3.** Summary of the deed records related to the Stockdale Road Dairy site (33PK217.

Grantee	Grantee Date Grantor		Acreage	\$ Amount	<b>Book-Page</b>
U.S. Gov.	11-21-1952	Lester M. Shy	120	32,220	107-231
Lester M. Shy 2-18-1933 F.B. Shy		F.B. Shy	120	1	82-87
F.B. & Henry Shy 9-14-1883		Robert & Amanda Kidd	80	1900	30-291
Robert Kidd	10-31-1882	Amelia & Emma Clark	80	3,000	29-396
Amelia & Emma Clark	5-6-1867		80	1	20-668
Robert Clark	Robert Clark 3-9-1838 Richard Hawkins		80	425	5-403
Richard Hawkins	ichard Hawkins 8-4-1836 William Clark		80	225	5-2
F.B. Shy	5-30-1905	John T. Donahue & wife	38	600	53-90
John T. Donahue	9-30-1896	Charles Donahue	40	275	42-335
Charles Donahue	8-11-1887	Joel Moore & wife	40	275	33-442
Joel Moore	12-24-1883	Joseph Armstrong (Auditor)	40	5.81/acre	30-409
Levi Moore	8-4-1836	William Clark	80	225	5-1
William Clark	William Clark 10-19-1815 US Land Office		160	n/a	n/a

guardianship for Amelia and Emma Clark in 1853. Figure 8 shows the probate record for Amelia Clark's change in guardianship. In this document we see that Eliza Clark and Andrew Kilgore are listed as paying \$200 to the court for transferring guardianship of Amelia from Robert Clark to Eliza. Robert was then deceased and presumably Eliza's husband. This was perhaps necessary because Amelia's father, or previous guardian, left the farm to Amelia but she was not old enough to own property yet, and therefore needed a legal guardian who could hold it in her name. Another possibility is that Eliza was not Amelia's birth mother, suggesting that Robert was a widower with two children who married Eliza after his previous wife died making Amelia and Emma Eliza's step children. Amelia and Emma might also be nieces of Robert and Eliza. These are details that would require additional research in the birth, death, and marriage certificate archives to resolve.

An examination of the 1850 United States Federal Census (see Figure 11), which shows that Eliza (age 45) is the head of the Clark household in 1850. Six children are listed below her in the census, including Amelia and Emma. Also a part of the Clark household are Andrew Kilgore (age 26), his wife Sydney (age 25), and their children James and Emma. We suspect that Sydney is the eldest Clark daughter, and that she and her husband Andrew are living with Sydney's mother while they work on becoming financially independent. This apparently did not take long, for in the 1860 census Andrew Kilgore is listed as having property valued at \$29,800, with six hired male farm hands, a female servant, and the servant's two children all living on the Kilgore property. It is suspected that as the eldest male in the household, Andrew Kilgore took over legal control of the Stockdale Road Dairy site after his father-in-law Robert died. When Andrew and his family moved and Amelia and Emma were old enough, Andrew returned title to the land to Amelia and Emma. In the 1860 census, Eliza (then 55), Amelia (21), Emma (incorrectly listed as Anna) (14), and elder sister Harriett (26) are still living together, perhaps at the house (near the road) on the Stockdale Road Dairy site (this would require more research to confirm).

Children can be very difficult to track in the archaeological record. One place where evidence of them commonly is encountered is in finding their toys and other playthings around houses on archaeological sites. Evidence of children is also scarce in archival records, since they are not heads of households or taxpayers. However, they often figure prominently in probate records, where they are named as beneficiaries in wills, or when there is a need to transfer guardianship. As noted previously, they also appear by name in federal census records.

-3	
	KNOW ALD MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we Eliza Clark and
	Andrew Hilgore
1000	
	all of Pike county, and State of Ohio, are held and firmly bound unto the State of Ohio, in the penal sum of Live
	Hundred dollars, current money; to the payment of which,
	well and truly, to be made to the State of Ohio, WE bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, jointly
	and severally, firmly by these presents.
	Sealed with our seals, and dated this 3 12 day of November 1853
	WHERE AS, The above bound Eliza Chark has this day be
<b>E</b> (1)	Chosen Guardain for Amelia Clark aged 16
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	Court willin and for the Educity and State
<b>E</b> (1)	minor and legal representative of Robert Clarke decreased.
<b>美</b> (1)	Now the condition of the above obligation is such. That if the shove bound, Eliza Clarks
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	with a just account of the profits asising from the estate of said minor and deliver up the same to the Probate
<b>E</b> (1)	Court, at such time as said court may require, and discharge with fidelity the trust reposed in her then this
<b>*</b>	obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and wirtue.
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**Figure 8.** Probate record related to a change in legal guardianship for Amelia Clark, an owner of the Stockdale Road Dairy site (33PK217).

#### 2.5. Obituaries

Obituaries are a supplementary archival resource that is most useful when used in conjunction with other sources. An obituary was not written for every person who died in the past, but they were written for many people and they can be filled with information about a person's life. These documents usually contain a list of surviving family and friends, birth and death dates, place of death, and religious affiliation. Obituaries are most often created by family or friends and submitted to a local newspaper for publication. In some counties, there may be an indexed

compilation of obituaries, as is the case for Pike County. These records can be found at county libraries and at the Ohio Historical Society. Obituaries are not mandated or controlled by the government and as a result can vary dramatically from one individual to another and may not exist at all for others. Furthermore, the information in obituaries is not historically verified, though it usually comes from a reasonably good source—the deceased's family. Regardless of the source, and as with other archival information, it is worth cross-referencing obituary information with other archival sources to confirm its accuracy.

Two versions of the same obituary for Clara Shy, the Shy family matriarch who was married to Henry Shy, are shown in Figure 9. One (on the left) is derived from an unknown newspaper and the other was compiled and researched by family members. Both contain a wealth of information about Clara and the Shy family, including Clara's place of birth, names of her children, what she died from, and colorful descriptions of her moral character.

Finding obituaries for individuals who lived at a given property can be quite difficult once they move on to a new residence, especially if that residence is outside the local area of the site. Newspapers are some of the best sources for obituaries and several newspapers were active in the PORTS area, including the Republican Herald (of Waverly), the Waverly News, and the Pike County Republican (1868-1893), the latter of which is available on microfilm at the Ohio Historical Society. Also available at the Ohio Historical Society archives/library, is a compilation of Pike County obituaries from newspapers, transcribed by Ruth (Lewis) Sakal, and edited, typed and indexed by Janie (Parks) Conklin.

### Clara Katherine Knaper Shy

Birth:

Jul. 25, 1833, Germany

Death:

Dec. 28, 1912 Shyville Pike County Ohio, USA

Mrs. Clara Katherine Shy (nee Knaper) died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. E. Galford, of Shyville, Ohio, last Saturday in her seventy-ninth year. She was the mother of twelve children: Frederick (Ex-Commissioner of Pike County); Herman; Mary J.; Charles L.; Margaret R.; Phoebe C.; Henry J.; George; Eliza; Emma; Caroline; and Mary C.

Clara Katherine(Knaper)Shy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Knaper, was born in the province of Hanover in Germany on July 25, 1833. She emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1850, and almost immediately came from there to Ohio, settling in Jackson County, Ohio. Here she was married in 1854 to Henry George Shy. After their marriage they removed to Pike County, Ohio.

Mother Shy was the victim of bronchial pneumonia, superinduced by senility.

She united with the Lutheran Church when fourteen years of age, and was ever a constant member.

She was unassuming in manner, never appearing more than she was, but her every action disclosed the gold of her character and won everyone to her with her simple goodness. As a citizen she was respected and loved by all who knew her. As a church member she was loyal and true. As a wife she was ever true and devoted to her husband. As a mother she was affectionate and tireless in her devotion to her children. She love them with a tur mother's love.

As the gentle dewdrop, she passed to her reward on December 28, 1912, in her seventy-ninth year, at the home of her eldest daughter, Mrs. W. E. Galford, of Shyville, with whom she had lived for the past year.

She is mourned by four sons, five daughters, forty-three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, besides a large number of relatives and a host of friends. She was interred in Mound Cemetery, Piketon, Pike County, Ohio.

(Obituary of Clara Katherine Shy, unknown newspaper, from the Genealogy of the KNAPER-KANAPPER Family of Hanover, Germany complied and researched by Pearl (Shy) Lochbaum and arranged and published by Mathilda (Shy) Condon and Mrs. Herbert Shy Vulgamore)

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Clara Katherine Knaper, was born July 25, 1833, near Osnabruck, Germany. Clara came to the United States alone when but seventeen years of age.

After an ocean voyage of six weeks, she landed at Baltimore, Maryland, then went on to Dallastown, Pennsylvania, where her brother Heinrich lived. He had sent her passage money, and she was determined to repay her brother and sister-in-law for this favor, so immediately went to work for a wealthy family. One day her sister-in-law decided to pay her a visit and to see how she (Clara) was faring in her job. She found that this family was requiring Clara to do more work than she was able to do. So, the brother and wife advised Clara to leave this employment, and told her that it was not required or necessary that she repay her passage money. They urged her to go to Scioto County and visit her sisters, Mary Elizabeth Marting and Mary Catherine Marsh, which she did, and while there met and married in 1853 young Henry George Shy.

No wonder that Henry Shy was so captived by this pretty, rosy-cheeked girl with beautiful red hair, so long that it nearly reached the floor when she was standing.

The young couple lived in Jackson County for about six years before moving to Pike County, Ohio where they lived for the rest of their lives.

Clara Shy died December 28, 1912 at the home of her daughter Margaret, of pneumonia.

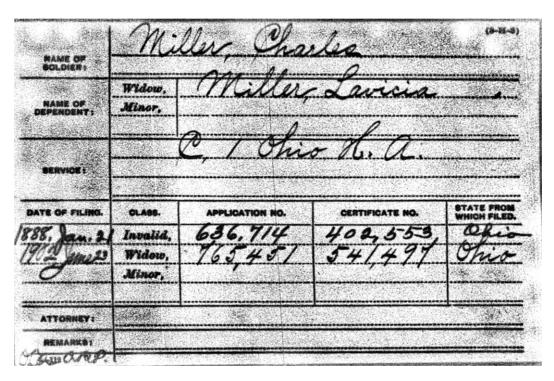
(from the Genealogy of the KNAPER-KANAPPER Family of Hanover, Germany complied and researched by Pearl (Shy) Lochbaum and arranged and published by Mathilda (Shy) Condon and Mrs. Herbert Shy Vulgamore)

Figure 9. Examples of two obituaries compiled by family members for Clara Shy.

#### 2.6. Military Records

Military records are a government record of soldiers enlisted and drafted primarily during times of war. There are many different types of records including, but not limited to: enlistment, discharge, muster rolls, pension records, medical papers, and U.S. War Bounty Land Warrants 1789-1858. These records contain a variety of information, including the name, age, location of enlistment, and race; and depending on the age and type of record, they may also include marital status, occupation, length of service, date of death, cause of death, branch of service, and rank. Though an incredibly useful resource, military records are only applicable to those individuals who served in the military, as well as perhaps their spouses. Military records, particularly those from the United States Civil War, often contain misspelled names or difficult-to-decipher handwriting. Most military records are stored at the U.S. National Archives. Military records for this report were accessed through the web site www.ancestry.com.

Figure 10 is an image of the Civil War pension record for Charles Miller, who was earlier described as likely spending the last years of his life on a small parcel of property that was once part of the Terrace Farmstead (33PK206) land owned by Henry Shy and sold to Charles' wife, Lavicia in 1895. Charles's pension record shows that in 1888 the Millers filed for pension funds under the "invalid" class. Charles appears in the 1900 U.S. Federal Census, but in 1902 his wife filed for pension funds as a widow, indicating that Charles had died shortly after the Federal Census was taken. This could be easily confirmed with his death certificate.



**Figure 10.** Charles Miller pension record, from the U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934.

#### 2.7. Census Records

Census records are population records that were, and continue to be collected by the federal government every ten years. A secondary benefit of this population schedule is the detailed personal information collected by the census takers. This information is useful when doing many types of population-scale analyses. These records have expanded in scope since their inception in 1790, at which time the census consisted of a simple count of individuals living at residence and tallied by age, gender, and race. This approach persisted through the 1840 census. As a result, census records from 1790-1840 are far less useful than those from 1850-2010, and primarily they are only useful if the individual being researched is the head of a household and white. The 1850 census marks one of the first times when details are recorded about household members other than the head of the household. Figure 11 is an example of a page from the 1850 Federal Census that includes Eliza Clark's household, who at the time owned the property containing the Stockdale Road Dairy site (33PK217). Many families in the nineteenth century consisted of more than just a nuclear family of parents and their children. In this case Eliza and six Clark children, from ages 6-21, are listed. Below the youngest, Emma, is what appears to be another family, that of Andrew Kilgore and his wife Sydney. As discussed above, Sydney is likely the eldest Clark child who, after marriage, is still residing at home while she and her husband Andrew prepare themselves for life in their own home. This move appears to have happened before the 1860 census for in that year Sydney and Andrew are no longer listed as part of the Clark household. Before moving to their own farm, Sydney and Andrew were likely helping Sydney's mother Eliza, a widow, raise the other young Clark children.

Due to the decennial cycle of the Federal Census, any household changes that occurred in the intervening years are not included in the schedule, which is one of the limitations of census records. Also, an individual's federal census records are subject to a 72-year privacy rule that protects the personal information of those being surveyed. As such, the most current census records available to the public are those from 1940. Records from 1800, 1810, and 1890 have been lost or destroyed, which, coupled with the 72-year rule, can result in significant gaps in the census data. All intact census records from 1790-1940 can be accessed through the National Archives. These records, including scans of the original pages, were found through the web site www.ancestry.com.

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numbered in order of visits	Families numb in the order	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Agn.	Sex.	Color, White, or mulatto,	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Est owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH.  Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year. Attended School		Whether deaf an dumb, blind, insan idiotic, pauper, o convict.
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**Figure 11.** A portion of a page from the 1850 United States Federal Census, showing the Clark household (Eliza appears on Line 2), owners of the Stockdale Road Dairy site (33PK217) at the time.

#### 2.8. Tax Records

The nineteenth century Pike County tax records are stored on microfilm at the Ohio Historical Society state library and archives. The earliest records available cover the period 1816-1835 and are sorted by township. Some Ohio counties may also store their historic tax records at their auditors' office, but Pike County does not. These tax records include information about the total acreage, value of lands, location of lands, and taxes paid by each landowner. This information is useful in determining the value of a person's or family's assets and can be vital in expanding upon information already gathered from census and probate records.

Figure 12 shows an example of the Seal Township tax records for 1835. Note the name William Wynn at the bottom of the page. According to this tax record, in 1835 Wynn owned 90 acres of land in Range 21, Township 4, and Section 6. Deed records show that Wynn owned the property containing the Bamboo Farmstead (33PK211) site in the decades leading up to the Civil War, after which he sold the property to James Emmitt. Assuming this tax record entry relates to the same property, and it almost certainly does, in 1835 Wynn paid \$1.17 in taxes for the property containing the Bamboo Farmstead. Also listed for this property are "lots, houses, factories, etc." worth \$156. This might be the I-House foundation explored during the Pecora and Burks (2012) Phase II investigations at the Bamboo Farmstead site. I-Houses would have been a type of house present in the 1830s, but it is hard to be assured that this \$156 relates to the Bamboo Farmstead

house and its surrounding buildings. In fact, as described in the next section, this \$156 value likely includes only the cabin that Wynn and his family were living in at the time.

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**Figure 12.** A portion of the top and bottom of pages from the Seal Township 1835 tax record—note William S. Wynn's entry at the bottom of the page.

#### 2.9. Other Archival Sources

There are many other archival sources related to the PORTS farmsteads that have not been discussed but do exist and could be researched to further enhance the picture of the historic-era occupations of PORTS. For example, the Land Office Records related to the early occupation of Pike County could be studied. These are stored at the Ohio Historical Society library/archives. Other archival sources include Records of Appraisal resources or agricultural census data. All could contain useful information about those who lived and worked at the PORTS farmstead sites.

There is one additional resource that was encountered during this research that appeared in the pages of the Republican Herald newspaper in the late 1800s and is worth highlighting. During the 1870s and 1880s, the first settlers in the county, Pike County's pioneers, were passing on. In recognition of their achievements in settling the county, the Herald ran stories of their remembrances. One individual's account in particular is very poignant, that of William S. Wynn. The account in its entirety is presented in Figure 13. Wynn mentions several things of interest to the Phase II work done by Pecora and Burks (2012) on the Bamboo Farmstead site, which is known from deed research to have been owned by Wynn. In the previous section on tax records, an example of a tax record showing the taxes that Wynn paid in 1835 is presented, and speculations were made about the stated value of dwellings and such on his property. The estimated value of \$156 seemed somewhat low given the type of house (inferred from foundation remains) found during the archaeological work. In fact, Wynn described in his own words in the

account below some interesting things about the house he lived in while on the property. He states that when he bought the property in 1832 or 1833, "there was but a little bit of a cabin on it, to which I made an addition...." There are two important messages to archaeologists in this statement about the house Wynn lived in on the property. First, he said there was already a cabin on the property when he moved there, indicating a dwelling was present even before 1832. While Pecora and Burks' (2012) Phase II work did find ceramic sherds dating to the early 1800s, no obvious architectural remains from this early period were found. These early sherds could in fact be the location of Wynn's cabin site. There is no mention of a large house in Wynn's account, perhaps explaining why the estimated value of the house was so low in 1835 as compared to other properties listed in that year's tax records.

Wynn also makes an important point about what he did for a living, something that should be remembered when considering the meaning behind column 7 in the Federal Census, which reports the "Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each male person over the age of 15." In his account, Wynn proclaims that farming was his life's occupation. However, he also ran a boat, a business that was none too successful, and made considerable profits in helping to construct the Portsmouth and Columbus turnpike. Neither is an occupation that was listed in the Federal Census, which has Wynn listed as a farmer in 1850 and 1860, when he is living at the Bamboo Farmstead site, and a farm laborer in 1870 (at age 74) after he has moved away from the property.

#### March 6, 1873

#### William Smallwood Wynn

I was born in Loudon County Va., near the foot of the "Short Hill" not far from the Blue Ridge, if, indeed, they are not one place known by different names. I first saw the light of the day on the 22nd of October, 1795. Of my ancestors I have not much knowledge beyond the fact that they were Stalwart men on my father's side. My father was named William S. D. Wynn, and was, I believe born in Maryland. His middle name was Smallwood, and I think mother and he were cousins. My mother's name was Mildred Smallwood. Of her ancestory I know no more than of those of my father. My father's occupation was that of a farmer, after he came to Ohio, but I am of the opinion that he was in business of some kind in Virginia, for I recollect that he had a great many papers. My parents left Virginia in the fall of 1800, bringing with them eight children, of whom I was the seventh. One, Eleanor, was born in Ohio, June 24, 1801. My father settled below Piketon, near the river, but afterwards moved on to what is now known as the Vanmeter place, near where Willliam Vulgamore resides. While we were living near the river, just below the month of Big Beaver creek, we were at one time in a marrow, and I might say in a tight place. My father knew nothing of the sudden and high rise of the Scioto river, nor did his nearest neighbors, Patrick Johnston. All at once we found ourselves surrounded with water, and, in order to save ourselves, we left the house and built a pen of rails on higher ground and covered it, on which the bedding was placed and the families mounted. Word was soon conveyed to the people on Pee Pee Prairie of our peril, and some of them - probably the Chenoweth - came to our relief with a canoe and ferry boat. We landed on terra firma, and enough shelter while the waters were subsiding in the cabin of John Barnes, where we remained three days. I remember we had a horse which father brought from Virginia, which undertook the swim to a place of safety, and taking a straight course for the shore, when, within a few rods of it, he became entangled in the grape vines, and stuck out into the raging water. After swimming around the house three times he shot out with the current, and went over into some brush at the bend of the river and was drowned. We had quite a number of cattle, some sheep and a goodly number of hogs. All were drowned, which proved a serious loss to the family. The horse was called Dolphia and was a favorite, as he was the only horse that my father owned.

My parents had but three sons, <u>John Noble</u> was older than I, and <u>Daniel</u> was next younger. They neither of them lived to marry. But in course of time,

Susannah, married Daniel Dailey:

Sarah, married Jeremiah Rice:

Nancy, married Abner Cooper:

Eleanor, married Samuel Long.

They all raised families except Nancy, who died soon after marriage, as well as her husband, in Illinois.

Mary Ann and Belinda were never married.

On the 30th day of December, 1819, I married <u>Jane Sappington</u>, with whom I lived but a very short time. She died, and was buried on the Vanmeter form.

William Wynn story, source: Republican Herald

**Figure 13.** William Wynn recollections from his life (page 1 of 5).

William Wynn story, source: Republican Herald

- l again married, on the 9th of June, 1825, Hannah Carr. We have had thirteen children, viz: Nancy, Ann. Elizabeth, Andrew Jackson, Isaac Carr. John Noble, Diantha B., Benjamin Franklin, Susannah D., Silas H., Melissa Jane, Charles Crawford, Mary Hannah, Smiley Anderson. Nine are now alivefour dead. Of the dead,
  - B. Franklin, married <u>Drusilla Welch</u>, by whom he had two children-<u>Alonzo Jefferson</u> and <u>Louisa Bell</u>. These children are now members of our family, as their mother shortly after followed her husband to the grave, and she requested us to bring them up. <u>John Noble</u>, <u>Elizabeth</u> and <u>Smiley Anderson</u> died single.
  - Of the living, Nancy Ann married Israel Green. They reside in Scioto township.
  - Andrew Jackson, married Ann Rebecca Chew. They have had eight children viz:
    - Mary, Hannah, Diantha B., Alice Ann, William S., Margaret Jane, Rebecca Josephine, John Oscar, and Nancy Melissa. They reside in this county.
  - Diantha B., married William Johnson and moved to Kansas. They have had eight children, viz: Nancy Ann. Isabelle. Hannah. Margaret, Samuel, Matilda. Emma Lorett and one daughter, whose name I have not heard. They are all living but the oldest one, Nancy Ann.
  - Susannah D., married George W. McRay. They had five children, viz:
    - Augusta Florence, Lethe Alma, Hannah, Ida, Melissa Jane. Two only are living Lethe Alma and Melissa Jane. One died unnamed.
    - Susannah's husband died in Missouri October, 1871. She returned to Pike county and resides with us.
  - Silas H., married Sarah Jane Clifford, only a few months ago. They reside with us also.
  - Melissa Jane, married <u>Harmon O. Johnson</u> in February, 1872, and moved to Kansas.
  - Mary Hannah, married Mark V. Snyder, and lived in Illinois. They have had two living children- William Edgar and Charles Ruby.

Charles Crawford is unmarried and resides at home.

I acknowledge an elder son, whose name is <u>William</u>, but he is not the son of the mother of my children enumerated above. He was born in 1821, and married <u>Susannah Conley</u>. They have had six children -

John Wesley, Elizabeth Hannah, William Riley, Alonzo Jefferson, Geo. Douglas, and Charles Bliss. John, William, and Alonzo are dead.

**Figure 13.** *continued*. William Wynn recollections from his life (page 2 of 5).

Farming has been my life occupation but it has been varied or interspersed with other occupations. In my younger days I used to boat. The first trip I made-about 1820 or 1821-was on a flat boat loaded with corn which I took to Natchez. John Boswell was my partner. He is dead. We paid about 20 cents per bushel for the corn, and sold it for 75 cents per barrel, which was not a large price. Indeed, we made only a moderate profit for our venture and had it not been that we met with no loses or accidents, we would not have come out whole. The second trip was made in 1822, with about the same results. We afterwards made a trip to the "falls' on the Ohio river at Louisville, I sold out my interest to my partner. Afterwards Parnham Boswell brother to John, and I went into partnership in the keel-boat business. We bought a keel-boat at Piketon and went down to the mouth of the Scioto and up the Ohio to Point Charleston, where we exchanged our corn, bacon and shoes, made by the late Levi Moore, for salt and brought it up the Scioto to Kilgour's mills and then wagoned it to Chillicothe. We afterwards made two trips to the Kanawha, and on our third trip sold the boat and were to receive a certain amount of salt to be delivered at William Lodwick's store in Portsmouth. But we never received the first bushel. So our sale was a total loss to us.

I afterwards made a bargain with <u>Frank Adams</u> to build me a boat somewhat in the fashion of a keel-boat. It had raceboards, was sided up and covered. He built it near the mouth of Sunfish. It was of the Bitter-head style. With it I went one trip up Kanawha. It was loaded with corn and bacon. Unfortunatley, through the carelessness of my hands, the boat swung around on the <u>Johnson Shoals</u>, and was badly injured. the water got into the boat, soaked the corn, which was spoiled by the time we arrived at the place of our destination, and was almost a total loss. The bacon was not materially injurned, but my loss was considerable, just how much I do not recollect. I got back to Portsmouth and hired a man to take care of the boat, which he did most effectually. He sold the boat and all of its belonging, none of the proceeds of which I was able to recover. This put an end to my boating operations, which on the whole, had provided unremunerative.

About 1832 or '33, I purchased the farm of 90 acres where <u>Geo. W. Head</u> now lives, in Seal township, for \$300. There was but a little bit of a cabin on it, to which I made an addition, planted an orchard, and made other improvements. In 1839, I sold this to <u>Daniel Ware</u>, but just for how much I do not recollect, but I think about \$600. I then rented the <u>Cornelius Millar</u> farm, then including what now constitutes the Gibson and Elt. Millar farms. We moved down there.

Our family then consisted of ten and during our stay of two or three years all the children were down with chills and fever, including myself. I was very low and becoming discouraged hardly knew what to do. But one day I came up to Piketon and seeing <u>Daniel Ware</u>, I bantered him for a repurchase of the farm. I made him an offer to pay for it in corn at 20 cents per bushel, and he said, you give me \$800 worth of corn, the horse you are riding for my little pony, and the trade is made. I hastened to close the bargain and as soon as we could moved on to our repurchase. I paid \$800 very much easier than I was able to pay the \$300, though it

**Figure 13.** continued. William Wynn recollections from his life (page 3 of 5).

was done at a time when the whole country was suffering from hard times. Indeed, the times were so hard that I had to sell my corn and take in payment therefor whatever I could get. I sold one lot to <u>William Welch</u>, out on the Little Scioto and took my pay in barter. I remember that a part was in metal ware, and I have now a large kettle taken in part payment for that lot of corn.

While I lived on the Millar place the Portsmouth and Columbus turnpike was under construction. I took a sub-contract under Hickenlooper and Van Laser to grade one mile of the road from the Scioto county line north, running from 100 to 150 yards above the Big Run bridge. I put the culverts in and also did the stone work on the bridge, and covered the same with the first woodwork. It has since been recovered. then I took a contract for one mile, commending near L. Branson's in Waverly, and ending beyond the covered bridge near the property now owned by G. Schauseill. About the same time I took this mile, Mr. Hickenlooper wrote me from Scioto county to come down and see him. He had taken a contract to grade a portion of the road in Scioto county. He was not able to carry out his contract and having done some work and drawn \$90 therefore I agreed to take the contract of his hands, he retaining the \$90. Then I had my hands full. I went on and graded my mile in Waverly so that I could give my exclusive attention to my Scioto County contract. Having finished that I put in bids for graveling, and every section from Pike county line to Portsmouth was awarded to me-16 miles and 24 rods. I made as quick work of this contract as possible. On the grading, I made but a small amount, but in the graveling I was able to handle upward of \$2,200 as the net profit of my bids. My friends feared I should not lose all I had, but fortunately I did not.

I have said that my life long business was that of a farmer, Yet it will have already have been seen that I engaged in other pursuits. While on the turnpike I took a contract of <u>Cornelius Millar</u> to build him a stone house, which stood where the present now stands. The stone in the one was in the other, the house I built having been torn down and rebuilt. When I was living on the homestead from the first time, say about 1833 or '34. I taught school. My certificate was signed by <u>Ellias Doughty</u>, and <u>William Reed</u>, both since deceased. I taught two terms the first by subscription and the second under the certificate I speak of above.

In 1835, I was elected a Justice of the Peace for Seal township. My commission, which I now have, was signed by <u>Robert Lucas</u>, Governor, I have a second commission signed by <u>William Dennison</u>, Governor in 1860.

In 1814, I was drafted into the army. I had then just arrived to the military age. We rendezvoused to Franklinton, near Coulmbus. I was out six months. Went out via lower and upper Sandusky to Fort Megis, where I remained all winter. I have had two warrents for 80 acres each of the public lands, and am now in the enjoyment of a pension from the government for my military service.

I have now lived to a ripe old age, and in looking over my past life I can see where I have made mistakes, and who can not? It is said that experience is a dear school teacher, and I confess I have paid my tuition and hope that my future ventures may be distinguished for the exercise of good judgment.

**Figure 13.** *continued*. William Wynn recollections from his life (page 4 of 5).

William Wynn story, source: Republican Herald

My wife's parents came from New York to Ohio when she was quite young. They dying, shortly after she is not able to tell much concerning her progrenitors. Her father's name was <u>Peleg</u>, her mother's maiden name was <u>Elizabeth Travis</u>. Her parents left six children -five girls and one boy, viz:

Diantha, Isaac, Rachel, Aurilla, Hannah (my wife), and Tiley, though she writes it Silancey.

<u>Diantha</u>, married <u>Joseph Brown</u> and moved to lowa, where they raised a family. They are both dead.

Isaac, remained in New York, but of his late history I know nothing.

Rachel, married James Moore and lived near Sandusky. They had two children. She is dead.

Aurilla, married Lawrence James. They had two children. He died and she married a second husband Jacob Freeland. They removed to lowa. He died of cholera in 1852. There are a large family of the Freeland children. Aurilla lives in Crawford county.

Tiley, married Reuben Sowders. They had a family of children. He died

**Figure 13.** *continued.* William Wynn recollections from his life (page 5 of 5, shown here).

#### 3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this report a sampling of the wide range of archival materials that are available for the PORTS historic-era farmstead sites are noted and described. In some cases these materials only assist in filling out family lineages (e.g., birth, death, and marriage certificates), while in others they provide specific information related directly to the archaeological record of the farmstead sites (e.g., the probate inventories from Lavicia Miller's estate auction or William Wynn's description of the cabin he lived in at the Bamboo Farmstead site). Linking the archival materials with the archaeological record, although challenging in some cases, brings the ultimate human element to the archaeological investigations of the farmstead sites. It helps attach names, and in some cases faces directly to the archaeological record. But archival records are more than just a way to find names to go with ceramic sherds and rusty nails. They provide a wealth of data that itself can be examined in studies of health, economics, and other historical and anthropological topics.



**Figure 14.** Catherine Head, wife of George Head, residents of the Bamboo Farmstead site.

While the Phase II archaeological investigations of the PORTS farmstead sites did not recommend any further work be done at the archaeology sites, clearly additional archival research could uncover a wealth of information related to the farming community that once lived on the properties that now make up PORTS. In particular, it is recommended that if any additional archival work continue, that it would be beneficial to build out the family lineages associated with those who lived in and owned the PORTS farmsteads. An abundance of information related to material objects and their value was found in the probate records. With all of the caveats that accompany the use of probate records (see Shackel 1992), it is suggested that a more detailed compilation and analysis of these probate inventories would greatly inform studies of the artifact assemblages found during the field work at PORTS historic-era sites. Such inventories, coupled with tax records and census data, would be an excellent way to gauge the economic status of each family, a detail that might help explain differences between farmsteads detected in the archaeological record.

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