

## Wayne County Pioneer # 32

*Benjamin Jones (1787-1861)*

Benjamin Jones was born the 13 April 1787 in Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia, the 12<sup>th</sup> in the family of 13. His parents were Samuel and Leah Thomas Jones. At age 7 the family moved to Washington County, Pennsylvania. Both parents died when he was a young lad and are buried in the Baptist churchyard in Washington Co., Pennsylvania.

By terms of indenture, Benjamin was put to work as a cabinetmaker. After his release, he did journeyman's work in the village and moved to Sharon, Ohio where he built a shop. A disastrous fire destroyed the building and his tools. Some time later he was offered to join Thomas G Jones (Priest Jones) in a commercial venture where he remained until the War of 1812.

In 1811, Priest Jones sent him "west" to find a new area to locate. This was his first glimpse of Wooster. He persuaded Priest Jones and family, a Young family and Betty Scott to join him.

They brought goods to Wooster and opened their first store in the winter of 1812-13.

He returned to marry Hannah Van Nimmon 1 April 1813 in Brookfield, Trumbull County, Ohio. After several months of traveling to New Lisbon and Pittsburgh Benjamin and Hannah arrived in Wooster on the 4 July 1813. After several years living in a two story brick building built by John Bever, they built what was called a "stump house" because they sawed off trees and erected the house upon the stumps. They lived with their family in several areas and finally settled on a farm presently owned by David and Donna Anderson on Wile Road west of Wooster.

The Jones was parents of ten children. Many descendants still live in Wayne County. He died in 1861 and burial at the Wooster cemetery, Section 3.

Benjamin was credited in building the first bridge across the Muddy Fork near Reedsburg, a bridge at Killbuck Creek along Columbus Avenue, first county jail in 1816-17, mail carrier from Canton to Mansfield on horseback. He was elected Justice of Peace 1815 and held many elected offices in the early years of the county. A large painting of Benjamin and Hannah is held by the Wayne County Historical Society where if you look closely another painting is underneath. An unsolved mystery of who was painted first on the canvas. Justine Alexander Geiser- Edited from WCGS Newsletter 2004.

Benjamin Jones purchased three parcels of land dated in 1814. They were 160 acres in the northwest quarter of section 12 in Perry Township (now Ashland County), 160 acres in the northwest quarter of section 34 in Wooster Township, Wayne County, Ohio and 160 acres in southwest quarter of section 30 in Clinton Township, Wayne County, Ohio.

Benjamin Jones was entered in the Wayne County Pioneers in 1992

Benjamin Jones 1787-1861 married Hannah Van Nimmon

Irvin Quinby Jones 1830-1912 married Lavina Thompson

John Thomas Jones 1854-1931 married Elizabeth Barbara Horn

Emma Winona Jones 1891-1968 married Chat Miles Alexander

Justine Alexander Geiser