

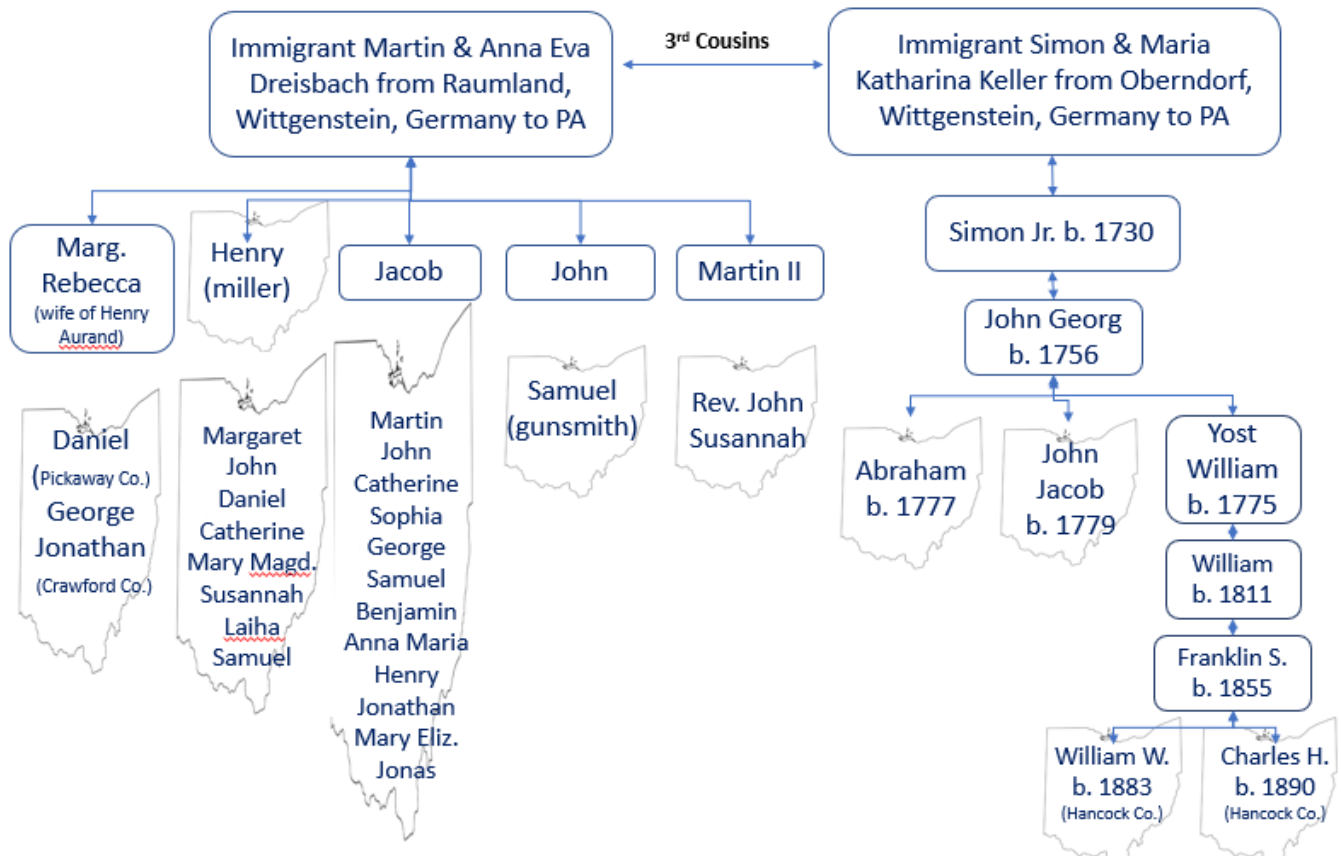
# Dreisbach-Dresbach Family Association Newsletter

The Dreisbach Families Settle in Ohio 1801-1875 – Part 1

October, 2022

Rachel Woolever Meyer

## Which Dreisbachs – Dresbachs - Dresbacks migrated to Ohio?



## Carving a Home out of the Wilderness

Imagine traveling through the forest along Zane's Trace with oxen, horses and wagons (walking beside the wagons most of the way) with great anticipation of the prospects of thriving and prospering in the western land. Some of the men in our families had probably made the trip on horseback to inspect the available government land and make their first payment on a tract. They knew how much work would be required to carve a home out of the wilderness. There were areas in Pickaway Township that were part of the Pickaway Plains in the river bottom of the Scioto which were not wooded. Colerain (Ross Co.), and most of Salt Creek Township (Pickaway Co.) were heavily wooded.

Trees had to be cut down with a felling axe or cross-cut saw to make a spot for the house. The straight logs were notched to fit together and de-barked with a broad axe or an adze for construction of cabins. The tops of the trees were cut into firewood, but the small limbs were set aside in big piles (on top of stumps) and burned. As more settlers moved into a neighborhood, there were wood fires burning constantly, causing a smokey haze to waft through the woods. Water was a necessity, so they located

near a good spring or creek for a water source. In some communities there was a cabin constructed for the purpose of providing shelter for newcomers, and was called “the newcomers’ cabin.” Until enough trees were cut to build a cabin, the families camped in the wagons and lean-tos. Game was plentiful, and some of the boys were in charge of hunting to supply the family with meat. Very few foods could be transported with them from Pennsylvania, but they would have brought a supply of corn meal, flour, salt, potatoes, carrots, and other root vegetables. Winter was likely their first harvest of Ohio maple syrup and “sugaring camps” would have peppered the forests.

To build the permanent log cabin, stones would be placed for a foundation and work began on the fireplace. To lift stones high enough for a functioning chimney, they first built a ladder from small tree trunks and saplings. When enough logs were ready, neighbors were asked to come to their clearing to help raise the logs onto the walls of their one-room cabin. The walls of the cabin were only as high as the men could lift the logs (which weighed hundreds of pounds) or roll them up long logs placed against the cabin walls as an inclined plane. The first objective was to have just one room with a loft, a roof for cover, and a fireplace for cooking and heating. Initially, they may only have had dirt floors. Once the logs were in place, the whole family helped to “chink” the logs or plug the cracks between the logs with mud, moss and sticks. A froe was used to split the wood needed for the shingles on the roof – this was called riving shingles. A shingle river (pronounced with a long “i” as in tiger) was a useful tradesman into the late 1800s on the frontier.

At Hallsville, Isaac Dawson built a 2-story log cabin with porches on each floor. The large upstairs room was used for community functions, like church services, singing bees, spelling bees and social frolics. Abraham Buchwalter, Samuel Dresbach’s father-in-law, built the first brick home in Hallsville. They did not yet know that the clay in Colerain made sturdy bricks. Buchwalter transported his brick from Pennsylvania on the backs of mules. (Source: *1837-Economy and Hallsville-1937*, Ada H. Cryder, 1937 Centennial, pg. 4)

## Settlement by Township

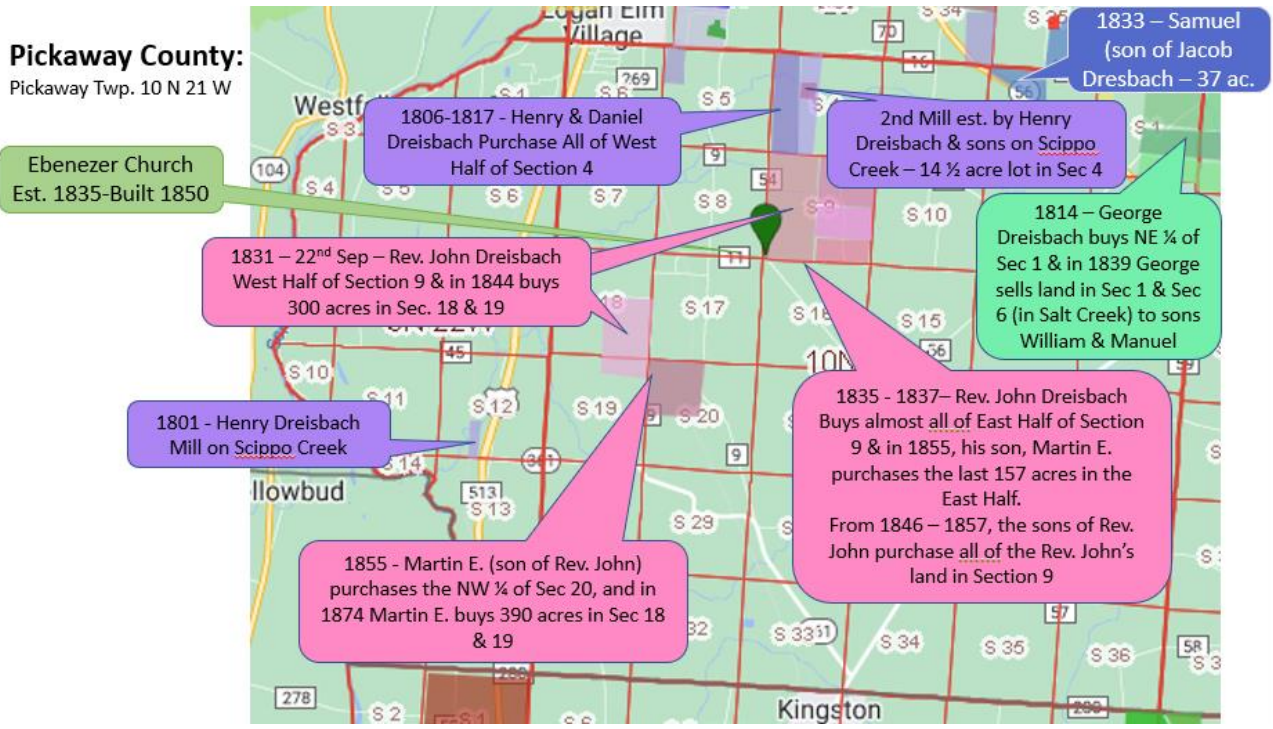
The following charts and maps show the locations of the first Dreisbach – Dresbach – Dresback land purchases in Ohio. All of these spellings are found in deed records, as well as other variations. With the addresses inserted into the maps, you will be able to drive to properties where your pioneer ancestor lived. Following the maps is the listing of Dreisbachs in the order they purchased land in Ohio.

On the maps, you will sometimes see two colors on the same tract of land. This indicates that tract was sold by one Dreisbach to another one. It is like a Dreisbach version of Monopoly.

DISCLAIMER: These are NOT exact property lines. My intent is to generally locate the tracts of land within a quarter section, as settled by Dreisbach and Dresbach descendants. Occasionally there are errors in the legal description of the deeds that I am not aware of. Actual property lines would need to be verified by survey, which is not practical for my purpose.

Much more detail about the individual families, their land purchases, and heirs who inherited the land can be found in the book titled, *The Dreisbach Families Settle in Ohio 1801-1875*, available in the “Books” section on the Dreisbach-Dresbach.org web site ( <https://www.dreisbach-dresbach.org/> ).

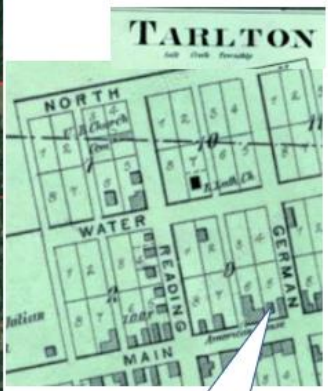
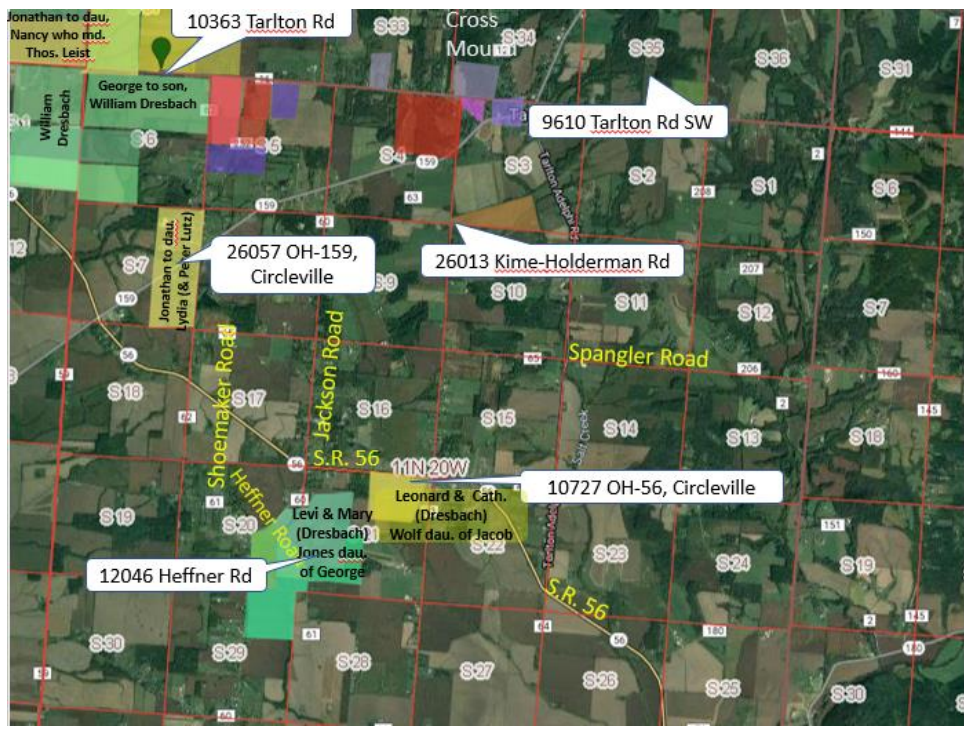
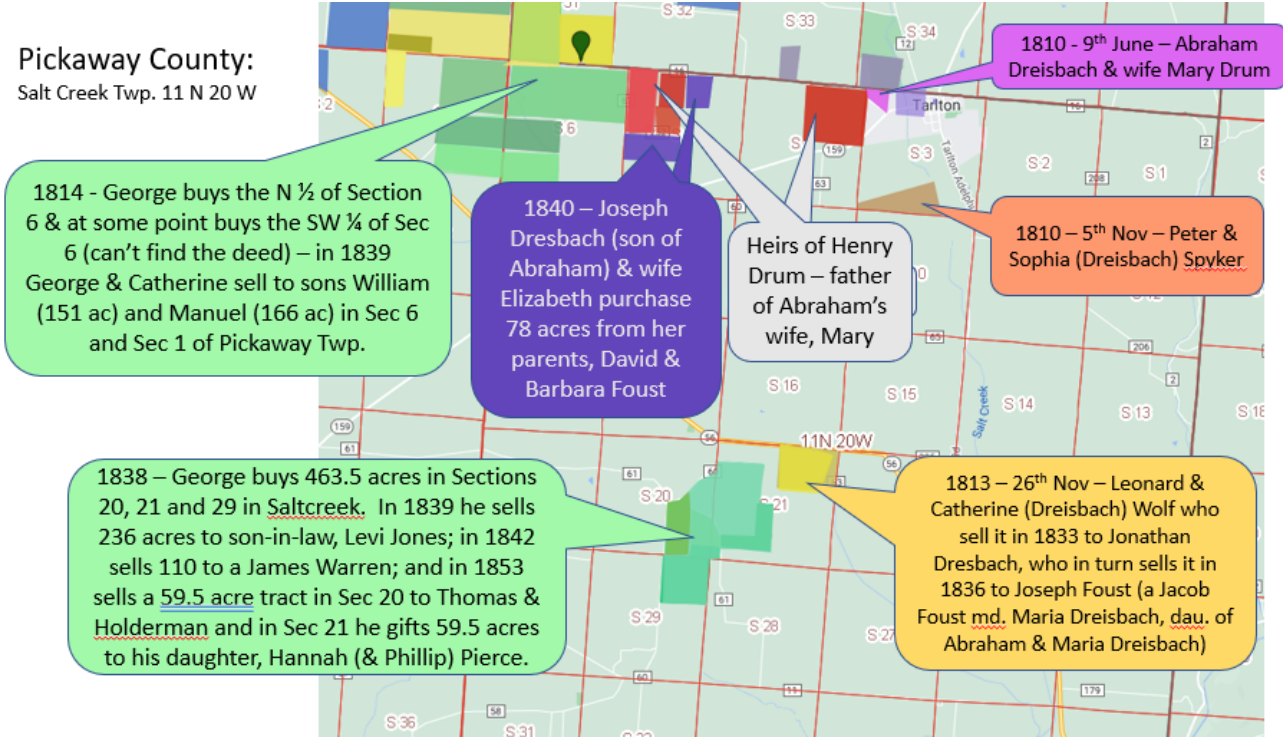
Pickaway Township, Pickaway County





Salt Creek Township, Pickaway County

Pickaway County:  
Salt Creek Twp. 11 N 20 W



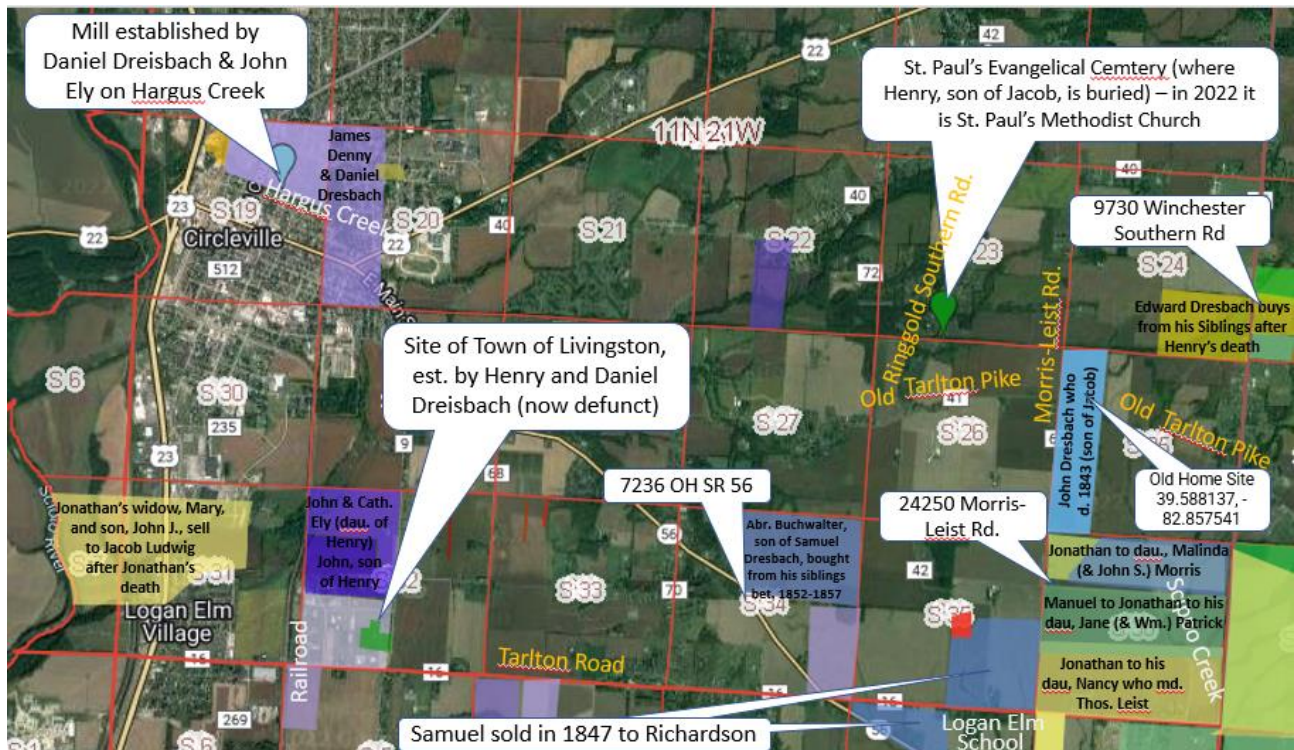
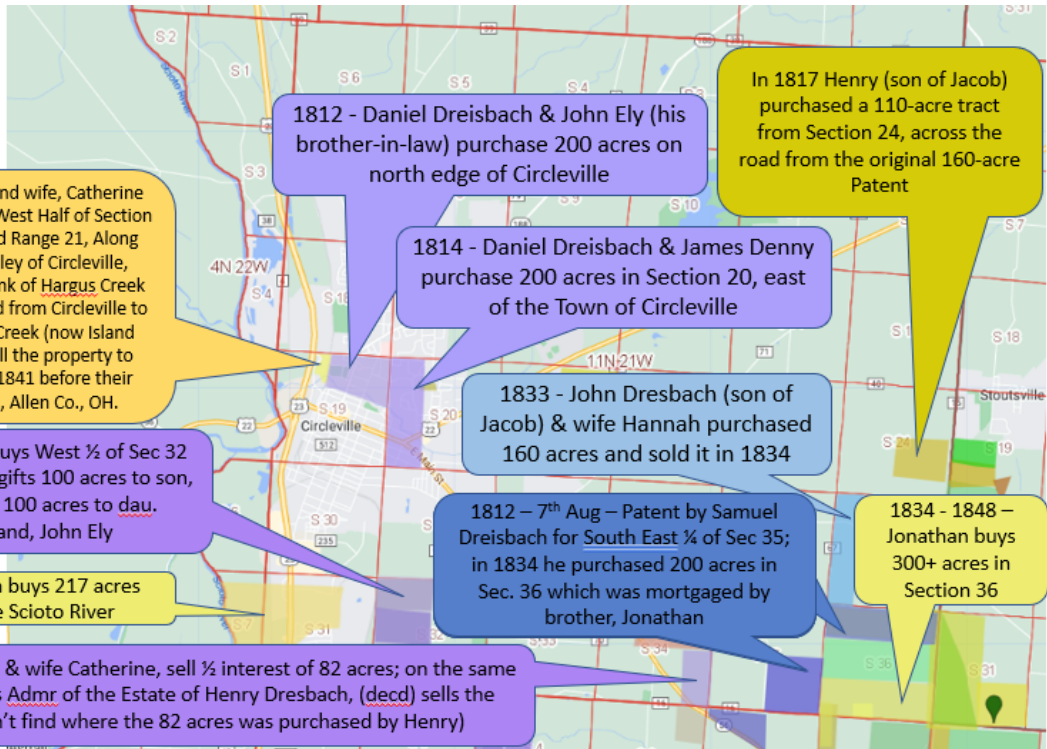
Lot 5 in Square 9, Corner of German and Main Streets, Purchased by Abraham Dreisbach in 1810

Circleville and Washington Townships, Pickaway County

**Pickaway County:**

Washington & Circleville Townships

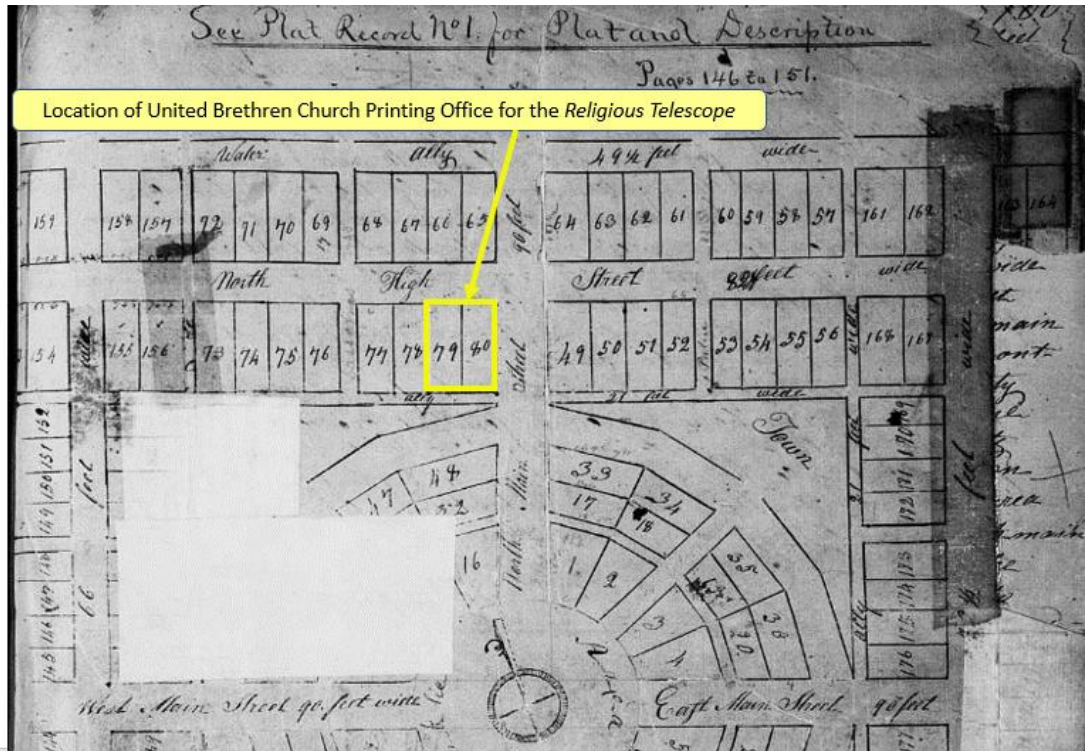
Twp. 11 N 21 W



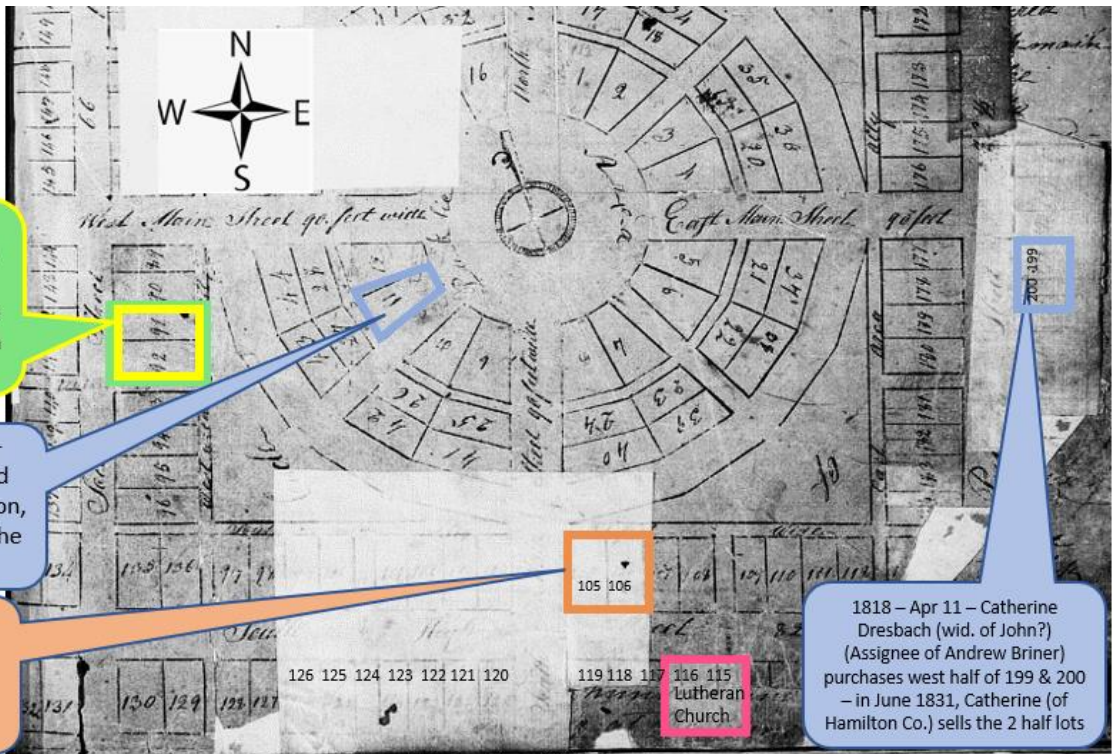


Town of Circleville

The adopted circular layout of Circleville presented by David Kinnear in August and September 1810 (after his submission in July was rejected). A full text description of this revised layout accompanies the plat map in Deed Book Vol. A Pages 699 - 703. Map recorded on page 698.



The adopted circular layout of Circleville presented by David Kinnear in August and September 1810.



1810 – Nov 27 - George Dresbach who sold to Jonathan on 5 Sep 1820 – Jno. sold in 1833 & 1834

1812 – Nov 20 – Henry purchased and then sold to son, Daniel Dresbach the same day

1815 – Sep 29 – Peter Spyker & Sophia (nee Dresbach) from Henry Spyker

1818 – Apr 11 – Catherine Dresbach (wid. of John?) (Assignee of Andrew Briner) purchases west half of 199 & 200 – in June 1831, Catherine (of Hamilton Co.) sells the 2 half lots



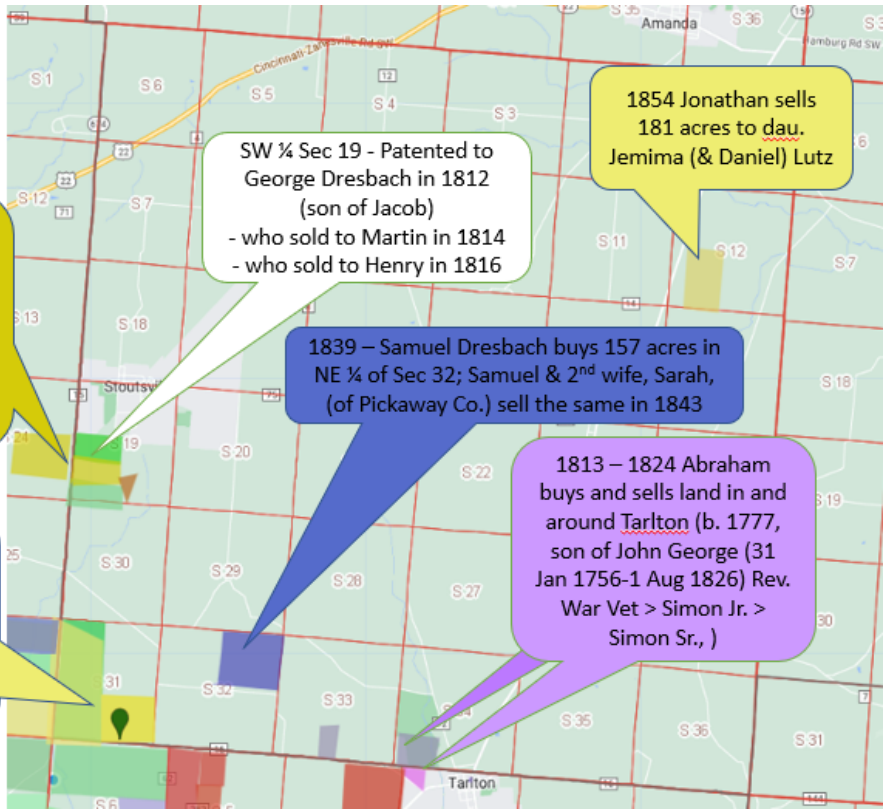
Clear Creek Township, Pickaway County

**Fairfield County:**

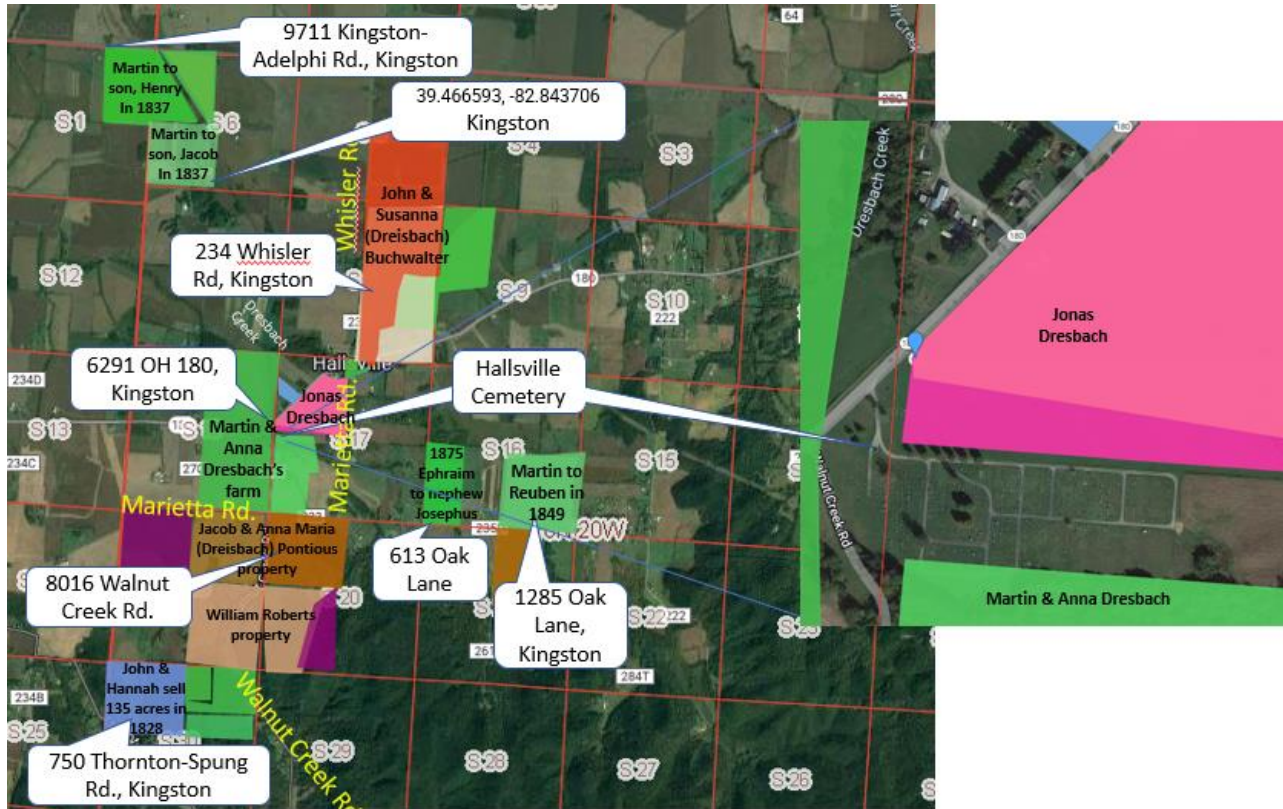
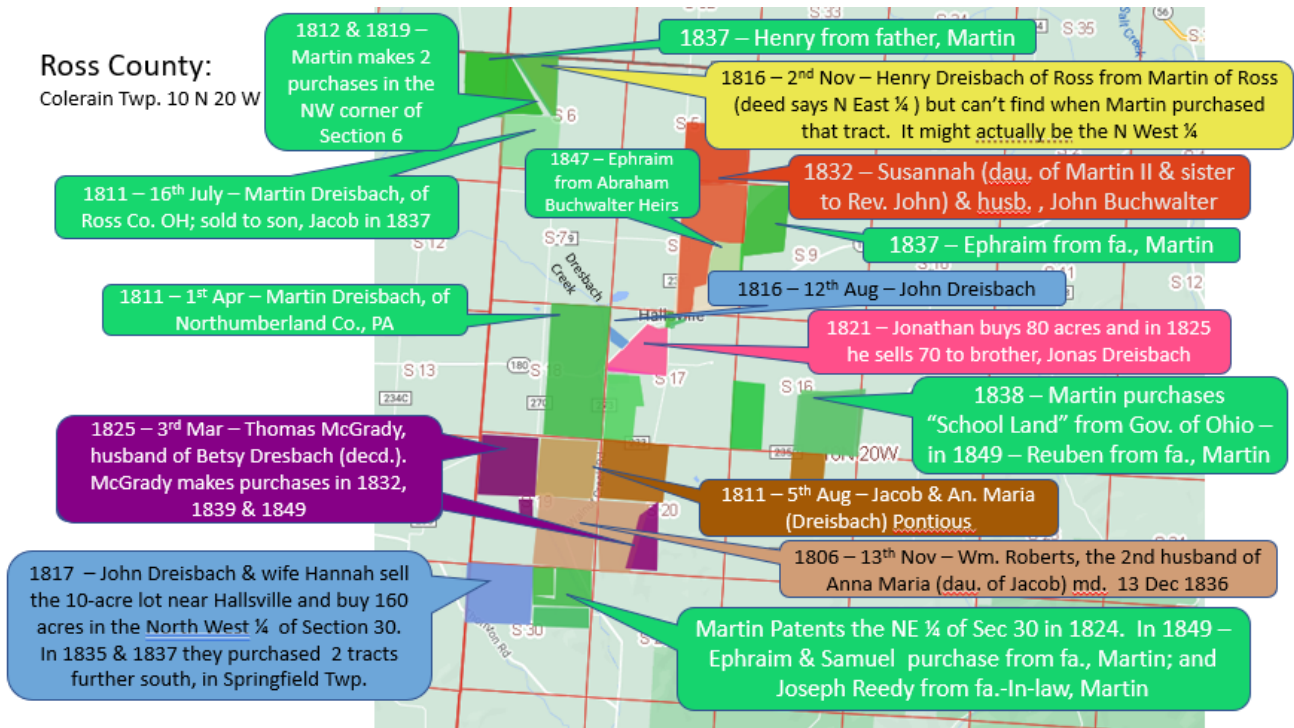
Clear Creek Twp. 12 N 20 W

In 1817 Henry (son of Jacob) purchased a 110-acre tract from Section 24, Washington Twp., Pickaway Co. which is across the road from the original 160-acre Patent

1817 – Jonathan (of Ross Co.) buys the West ½ of Sec 31 from bro., Martin; and in 1824 Jonathan (of Pickaway Co.) buys the South East ¼ of Sec 31.  
NOTE: It was in 1832 that Jonathan, Mary, George & Caty deeded the land to the Dresbach Church



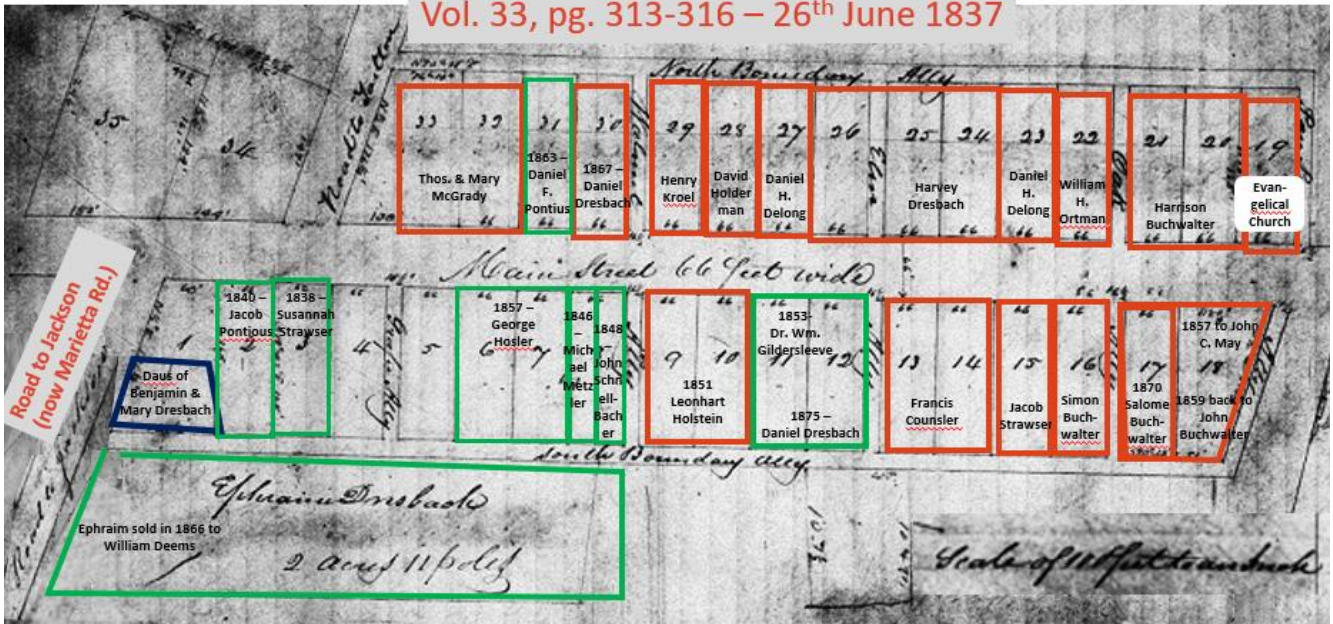
Colerain Township, Ross County





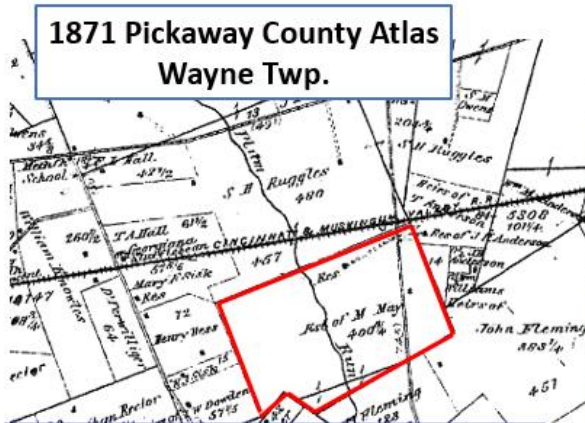
Village of Hallsville (Economy), Colerain Township

**Plat of Hallsville – Ross Co.  
Vol. 33, pg. 313-316 – 26<sup>th</sup> June 1837**



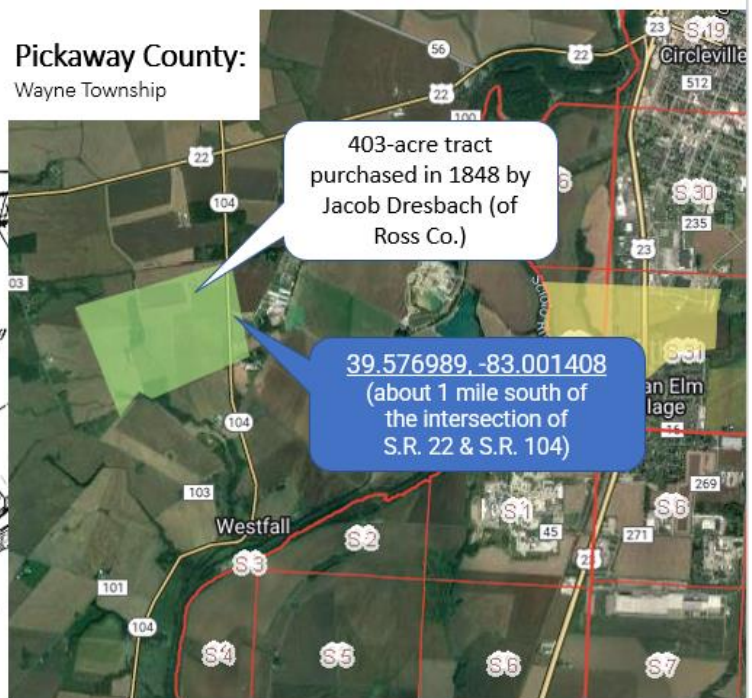
Wayne Township, Pickaway County

**1871 Pickaway County Atlas  
Wayne Twp.**



Jacob Dresbach (son of Martin of Colerain Twp.) purchased 403 acres in Wayne Twp. in 1848. He mortgaged the property and died in 1849 before he paid it off. The heirs filed a Petition to Partition in 1850. The heirs (including his widow, Elizabeth) were forced to sell to cover the debt. It sold to Jacob D. Lutz in 1851, sold again in 1858 to Mary May. In the 1871 Pickaway Co. Atlas, the Heirs of M. May still owned it.

**Pickaway County:  
Wayne Township**



403-acre tract purchased in 1848 by Jacob Dresbach (of Ross Co.)

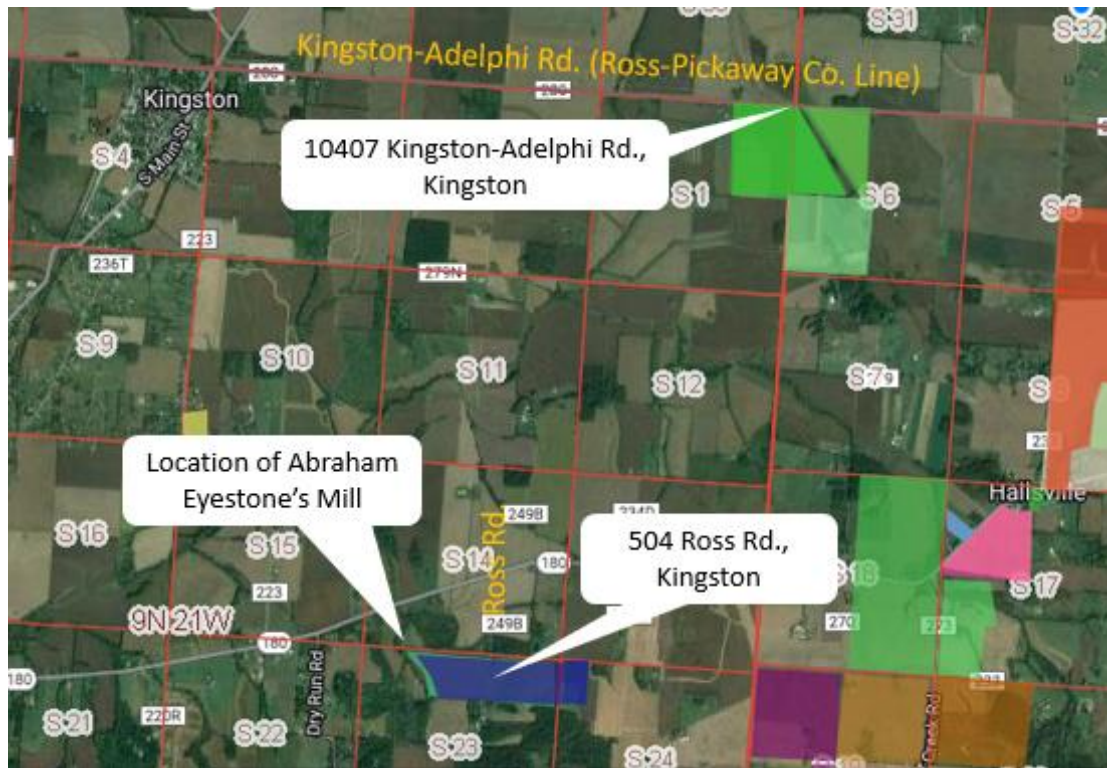
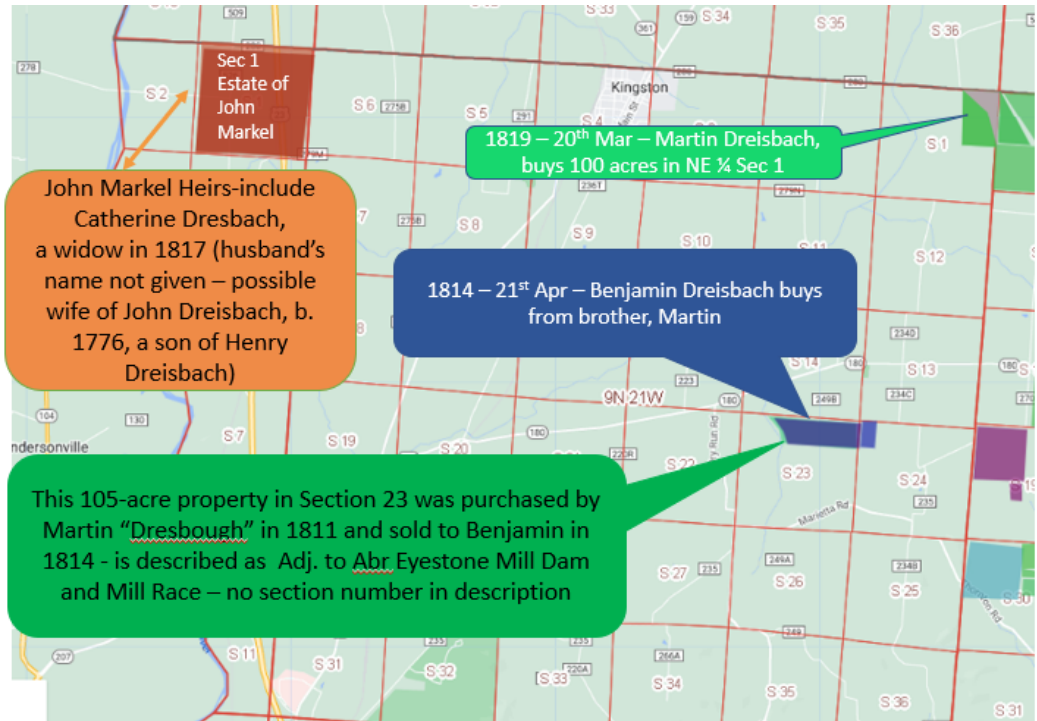
39.576989, -83.001408  
(about 1 mile south of the intersection of S.R. 22 & S.R. 104)

Green Township, Ross County

**Ross County:**  
Green Twp. 9 N 21 W

Note: The wife of John Dreisbach (son of Henry), b. 29 Jun 1776, has not been identified in the Dreisbach-Dreisbach database. If Catherine Markel was his wife, John died prior to the 1817 Markel estate settlement, not AFT 1828 as stated in the database.

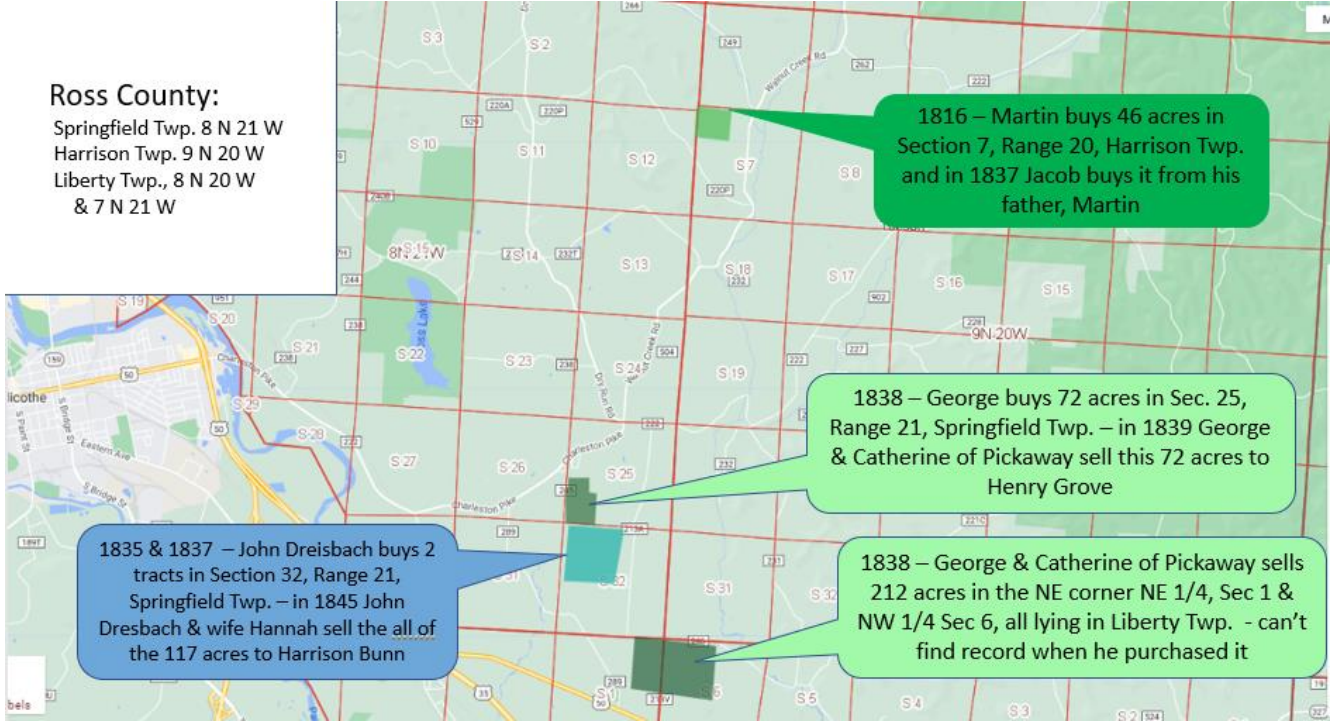
Estate Record found for John – with dates of inventory 11 August 1810 and 2 April 1811





Springfield, Harrison & Liberty Townships, Ross County

**Ross County:**  
 Springfield Twp. 8 N 21 W  
 Harrison Twp. 9 N 20 W  
 Liberty Twp., 8 N 20 W  
 & 7 N 21 W

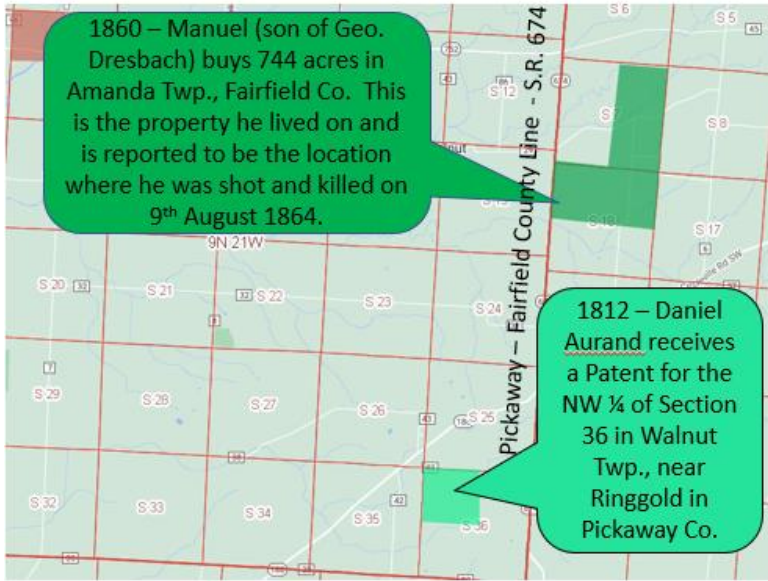




Walnut Township, Pickaway County & Amanda Township, Fairfield County

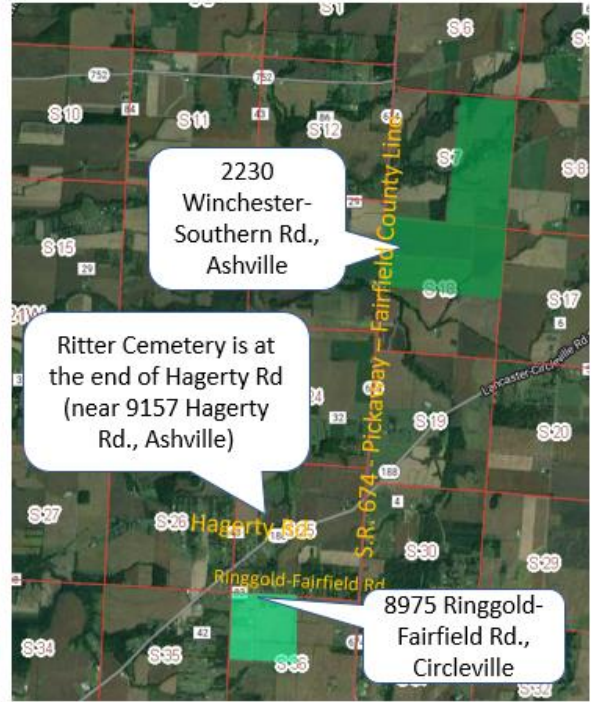
**Pickaway County:**

Walnut Twp. 9 N 21 W



**Fairfield County:**

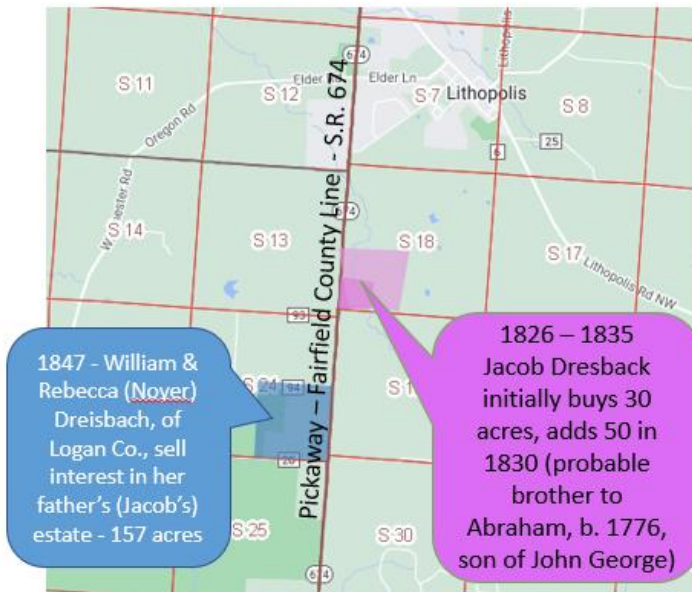
Amanda Twp. 13 N 20 W



Madison Township, Pickaway County & Bloom Township, Fairfield County

**Pickaway County:**

Madison Twp. 10 N 21 W



**Fairfield County:**

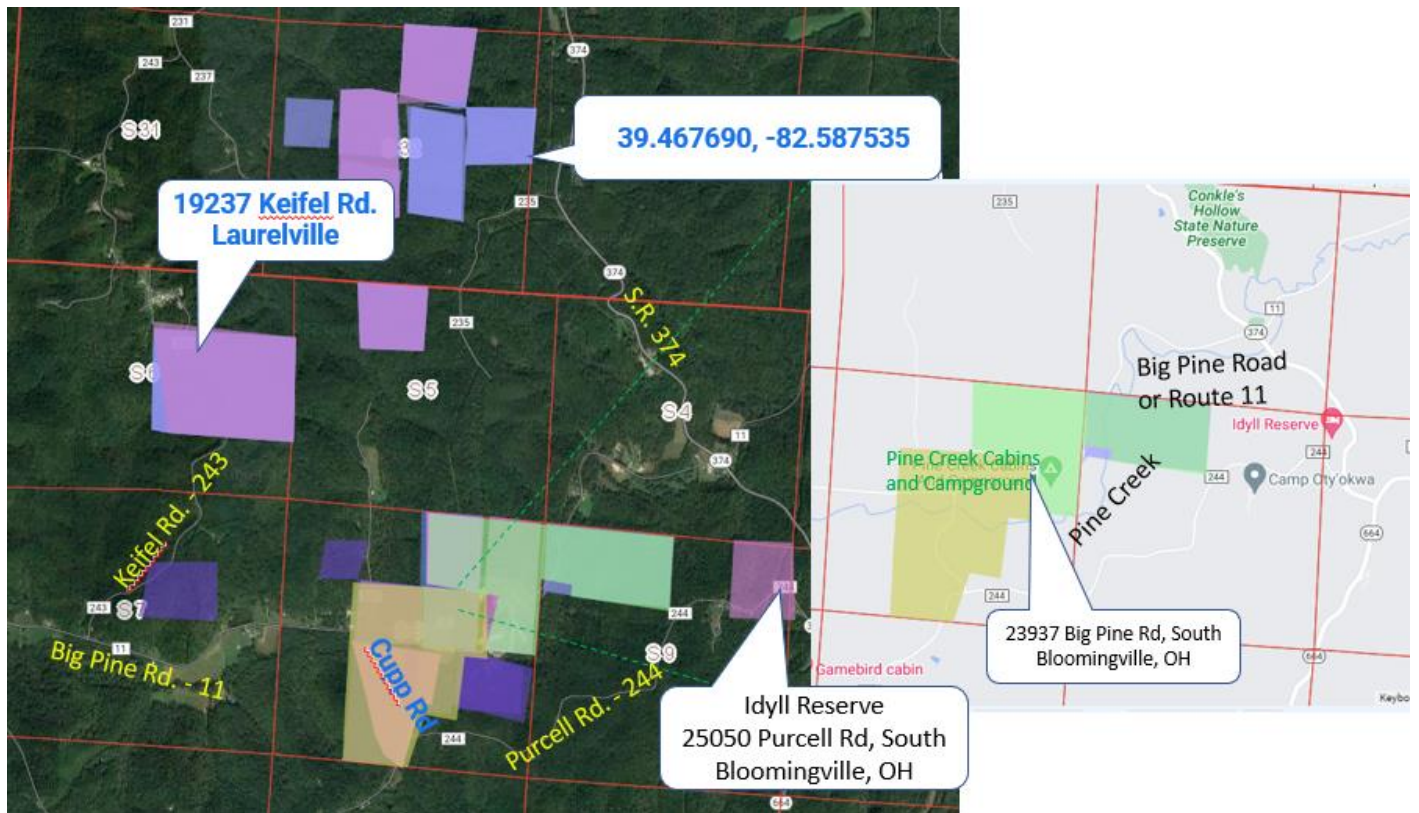
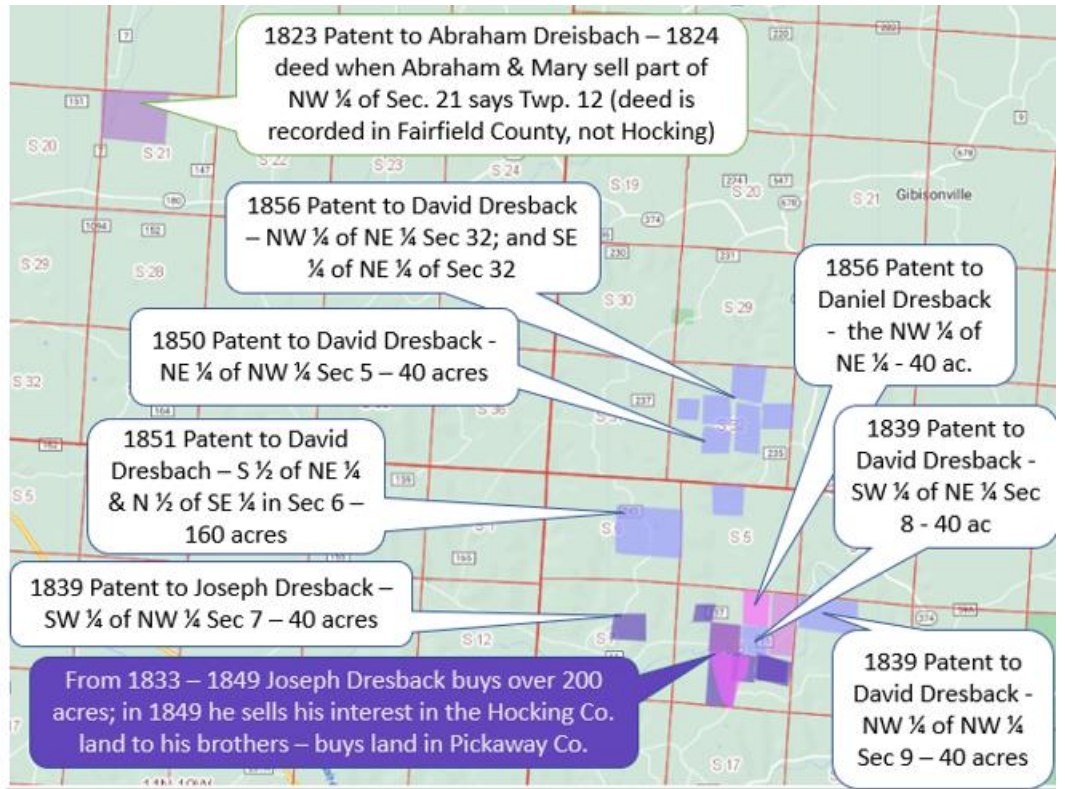
Bloom Twp. 14 N 20 W





**Hocking County:**

Perry Twp. 12 N 19 W  
 Laurel Twp. 12 N 18 W  
 Benton Twp. 11 N 18 W  
 Salt Creek Twp. 11 N 19 W

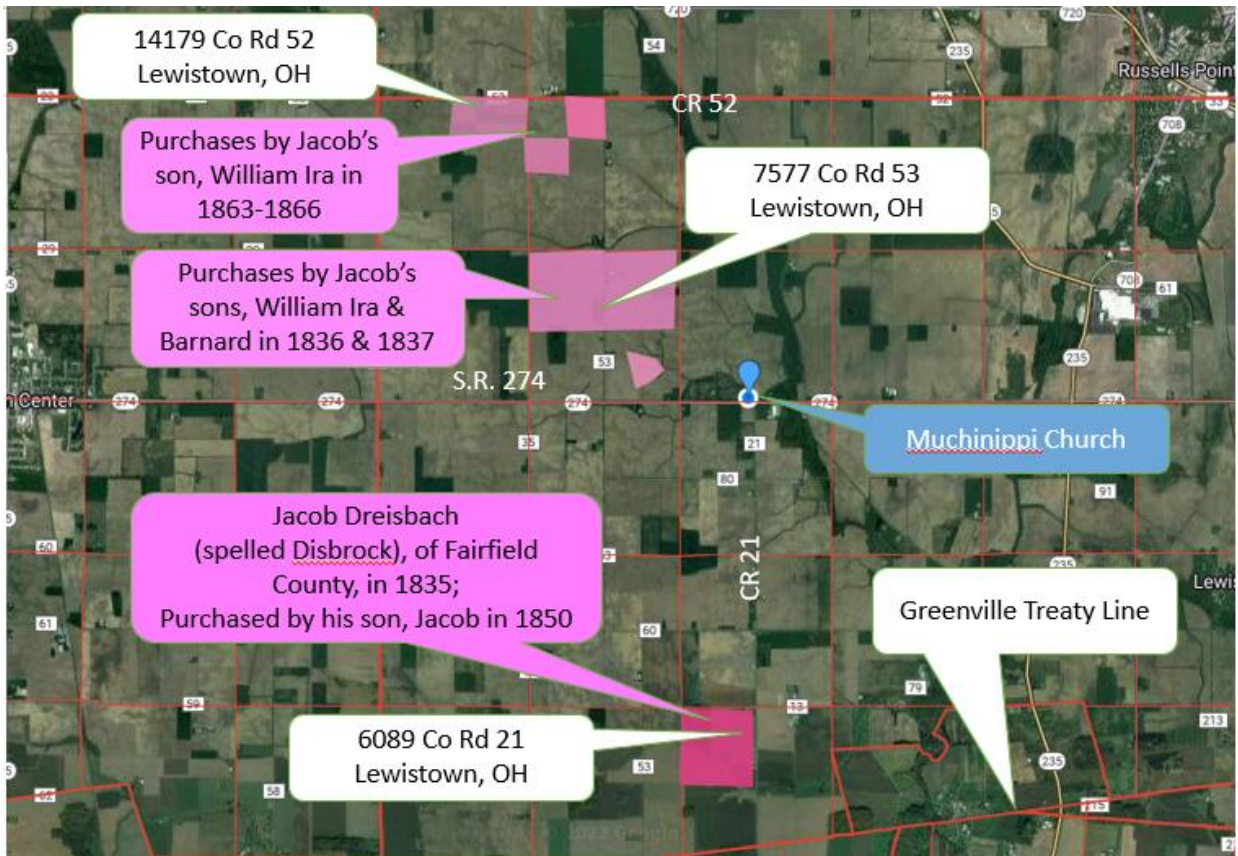
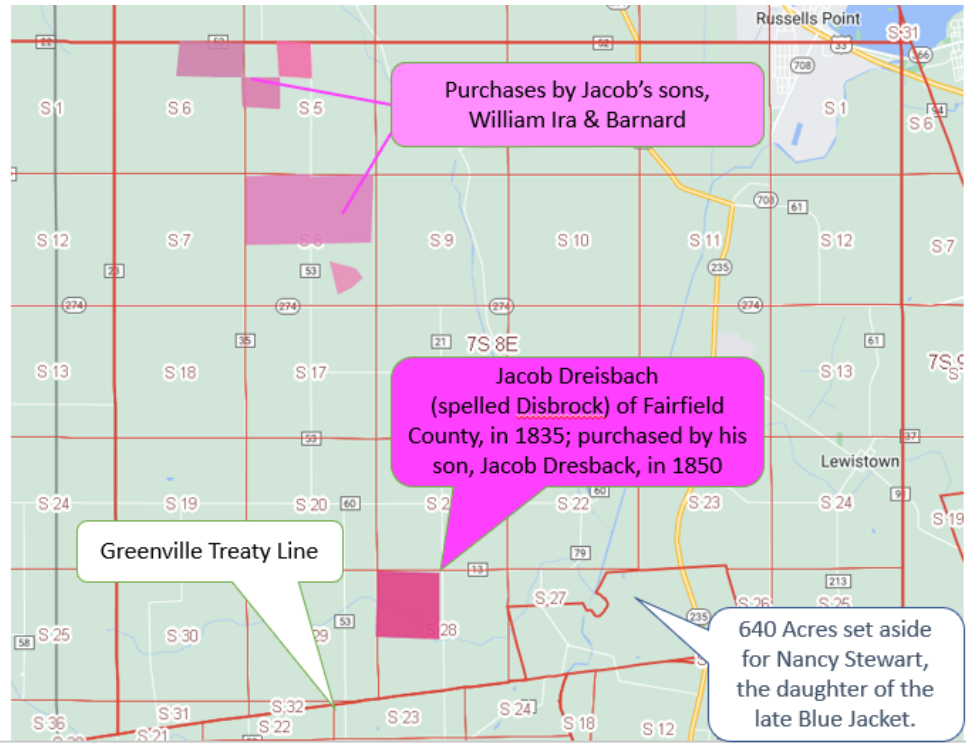


Bloomfield Township, Logan County

Logan County:

Bloomfield Twp. 7 S 8 E

- Land granted Nancy Stewart & Margaret Moore, her mother, the wife of Blue Jacket.
- Shawnee Chiefs, Black Hoof, Wolf, Butler, Snake & Powassay living at Wapakoneta & Capt. Lewis & Panatha at Old Town, signed this grant, 1813.

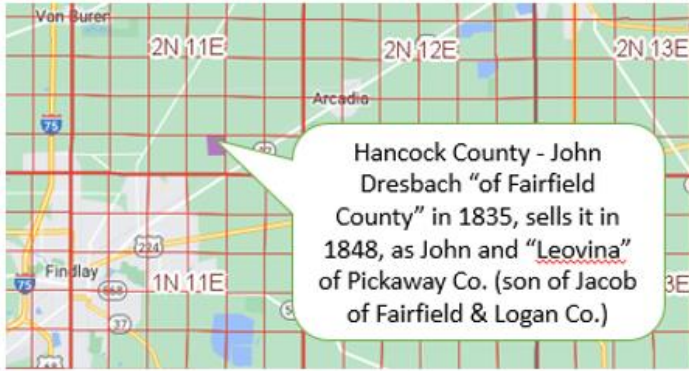




Cass Township, Hancock County

**Hancock County:**

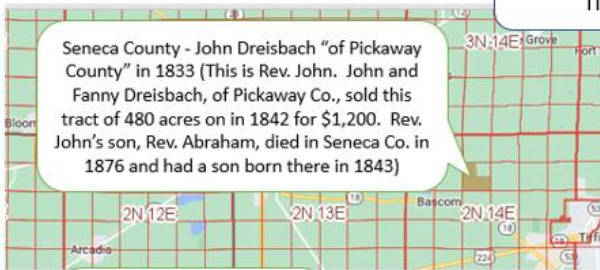
Cass Twp. 2 N 11 E



Hopewell Township, Seneca County

**Seneca County:**

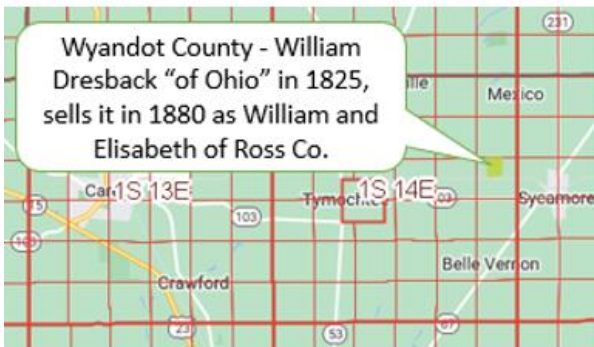
Hopewell Twp. 2 N 14 E

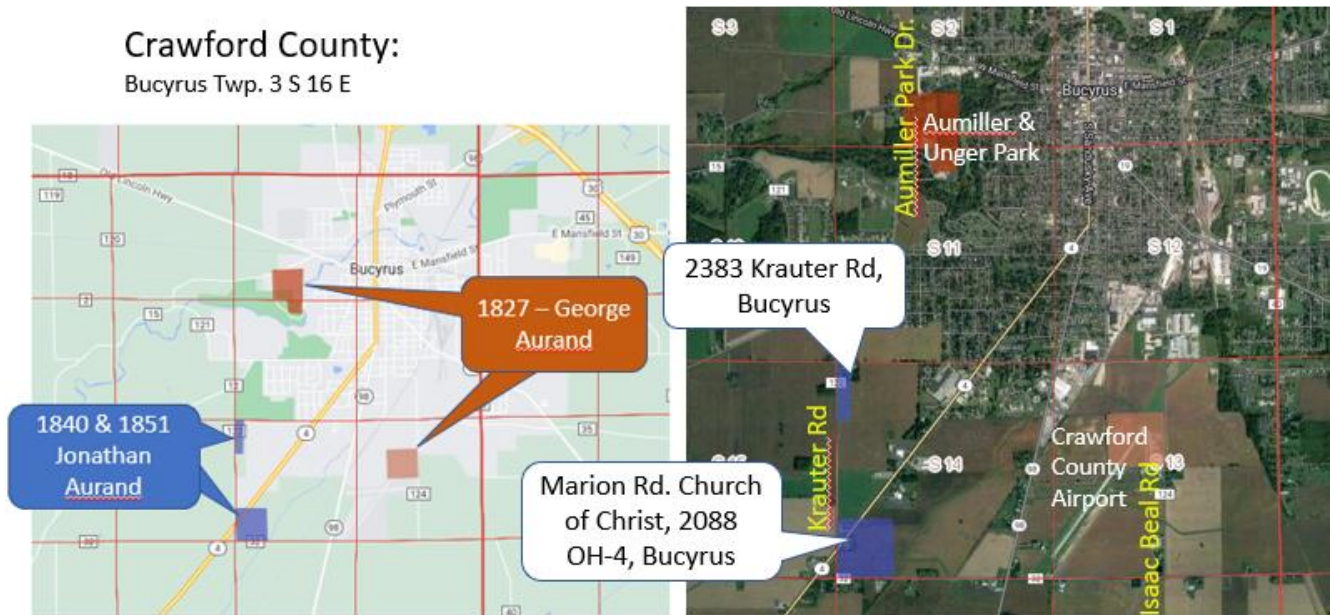


Tymochsee Township, Wyandot County

**Wyandot County:**

Tymochee Twp. 1 S 14 E





The following list shows the order individual family members purchased land. The relationship to the immigrant is shown with the “greater than” symbol, i.e., (>Jacob>Martin Sr.).

From the very beginning of their migration and onward through years, there were many transactions of real estate, both buying and selling. Several Dreisbachs were involved in land speculation, and many were purchasing enough acreage to be able to divide their holdings among their children. At times it seems like a real-life game of Monopoly, selling among themselves.

1. 1801 – **Henry, the Miller** (son of Martin Sr.), of **Ross County**, Ohio made a contract to purchase 20 acres of land from John Rush, with George Moots as surety, on Scippo Creek, in Pickaway Twp., Section 12, Township 3, Range 22, recorded later in Pickaway Co., Vol. C, pg. 687. In 1806 Henry purchased the West ¼ of Section 4 in Range 21, Twp. 10, recorded in Ross Co., Vol. 7 pg. 329. Henry and sons also improved and/or established a mill on Scippo Creek in R 21 Twp 10 Sec 4.
2. 1806 – 13th November– William Roberts, who becomes the 2<sup>nd</sup> husband of **Anna Maria** Dresbach (>Jacob>Martin Sr.), the widow of Jacob Pontious, together with John Port receives a Patent for the E ½ of Section 19 in Twp 10 and Range 20. On 26th September 1820, in his own right, as assignee of John Roberts, together with Abraham Buchwalter received a Patent for the South West Quarter of Section 20 in Township 10 and Range 20 (Colerain Twp.) in Ross Co.
3. 1810 – 9 June – **Abraham** Dreisbach, (>John George>Simon Jr.>Simon Sr.), of **Salt Creek Twp., Pickaway Co.** purchased from Jacob Coldren Lot 5, Square 9 in Tarlton, previously



in the township of Clear Creek, county of Fairfield but now in the township of Salt Creek and county of Pickaway, Township 11, Range 20, Vol. A, pg. 673

4. 1810 – 5 November – Peter Spyker and wife, **Sophia** Dresbach (>Jacob>Martin Sr.), purchased from John Shoemaker a 72-acre tract in Salt Creek Township, Pickaway Co., just south of Tarlton – Section 3, Twp. 11, Range 20, Vol. A, pg. 143. Peter served in the War of 1812.
5. 1811 – 1 April – **Martin**, (>Jacob>Martin Sr.), purchased from John Geehr the East Half of Section 18 (320 acres), (Colerain Twp.) Township 10, Range 20, in Ross County for \$2,400, Vol. 10, pg. 238. The *History of Kingston, Ohio*, page 46, states Martin and Benjamin Dreisbach arrived in Colerain Township in 1809, settling near Hallsville. Martin served two terms during the War of 1812: from the 20th of July 1813 through the 17th of August 1813, and the 23 August 1815 through the 22nd February 1816.
6. 1811 – 5 August – Jacob Pontious, husband of **Anna Maria** Dresbach (>Jacob>Martin Sr.), purchased 140 acres in Colerain Township, the North end of the East ½ of Section 19, Twp., 10 N, Range 20 W. Between 1828 and 1831 Jacob and Mary purchase the undivided shares of the estate of Boston Overly, lying in the North West ¼ of Section 20, Colerain Twp. This land adjoined their farm in Section 19. Jacob served in the War of 1812.
7. 1812 – 1 January – Daniel **Aurand** (son of Henry Aurand and Margaretha Rebecca Dreisbach, daughter of Martin Sr.) receives a Patent for the North West ¼ of Section 36 in Twp., 9, Range 21, Walnut Twp., Pickaway Co.
8. 1812 – 7 August – George (>Jacob>Martin Sr.), assignee of Peter Apple, received a Patent for government lands, being the Southwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 12, Range 20, in Clear Creek Twp., Fairfield County, containing 160 acres. The *History of Kingston, Ohio*, page 45, states George Dreisbach arrived in 1811 in Salt Creek Township (Pickaway Co.) and settled on Scippo Creek. He purchased the NE Quarter of Section 1 in Pickaway Twp., and the North Half of Section 6 in Salt Creek Twp., in January and February of 1814.
9. 1812 – 7 August – **Samuel**, (>Jacob>Martin Sr.), assignee of Henry Haller, received a Patent for government lands, being the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Washington Twp., Pickaway County, containing 160 acres. Served in the War of 1812, discharged 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 1813 (same day as brother, Benjamin). After the war he married Catharine Buchwalter on 7 Sep 1814 probably in Pickaway or Ross County, Ohio.
10. 1812 – 1st September – **Daniel** Dreisbach, Circleville Director, (>Henry>Martin Sr.), with his brother-in-law, John Ely (who md. Catherine Dreisbach) purchased 200 acres in Section 19 on the north edge of the Town of Circleville, Vol. A, pg. 380. On the 30th November 1812 Henry (Daniel's father) purchased Lot 11 in Circleville, then sold it to his son, Daniel, on the same date. In 1814 Daniel and partner, James Denny, purchased another 200 acres in Section 20, on the northeast edge of Circleville, Vol. B, pg. 143. This land was divided and sold through the years. It is also where Daniel erected a dam on Hargus Creek and established a grist mill with James Denny.

11. 1813 – 26th November - **Catherine** Dreisbach (>Jacob>Martin Sr.), and husband, Leonard Wolf, received a Patent for the North East Quarter of Section 21 in Township 11 and Range 20, in Salt Creek Twp., Pickaway Co.
12. 1814 – 21st April – **Benjamin** Dreisbach (>Jacob>Martin Sr.), purchased from his brother, Martin, 105 acres in Ross County, described as “Adj. Abr Eyestone Mill Dam” – located in Section 23, Twp. 9, Rg 21, Vol. 12, pg. 115. On 9 Jan 1819 he purchased another 20 acres in Green Twp. in Section 24, Vol. 15, pg. 498. The *History of Kingston, Ohio*, page 46, states Martin and Benjamin Dreisbach arrived in Colerain Township in 1809, settling near Hallsville. Benjamin served in the War of 1812 – Discharged 6 Sep 1813.
13. 1816 – 2nd November – **Henry** Dresbach (>Jacob>Martin Sr.), purchased the South West Quarter of Section 19 in Clear Creek Twp., Fairfield Co. (Twp. 12 and Range 20) from brother Martin (who had bought the same from brother George), Vol. L, pg. 203; and also part of Section 6 in Colerain Twp., Ross Co (Twp. 11 Range 20), Vol. 13, pg. 593. In 1817 Henry purchased 110 acres in the adjoining Sec. 24 of Washington Twp., Pickaway Co., Vol. C, pg. 606 and Vol. E, pg. 188. Henry served during the War of 1812 twice: from the 20th of July 1813 through the 17th of August 1813; and again from the 23 August 1815 through the 22nd February 1816.
14. 1816 – 12th August – **John** Dreisbach (>Jacob>Martin Sr.), purchased 10 acres in Section 17 of Colerain Twp., Ross Co. (on the edge of Hallsville), Vol. 13, pg. 506, which he sold in 1817 and purchased 160 acres – the North West Quarter of Section 30, Range 20, Township 10 (Colerain) Ross Co., Vol. 13, pg. 651.
15. 1817 – 2nd Nov – **Jonathan** Dresbach (>Jacob>Martin Sr.), purchased the West ½ of Section 31 in Clear Creek Township, Fairfield Co. (Twp. 12, Range 20) from his brother, Martin, Vol. L, pg. 202. In 1820 he purchased inlots 91 & 92 in Circleville from brother, George, Vol. E, pg. 218; and in 1824 he purchased another 3 lots in Circleville at Sheriff’s Sale, Vol. F, pg. 286. On 8th November 1824 he purchased 160 acres in the South East Quarter of Section 31 in Clear Creek Twp., Fairfield Co. (the location of Dresbach Church), Vol. O, pg. 54.
16. 1825 – 14th April – **Jonas** Dresbach (>Jacob>Martin Sr.), purchased a 4-acre lot at the edge of Hallsville in Colerain Twp., Ross Co., Vol. 22, pg. 397. He purchased another 70 acres from his brother, Jonathan, on 1 May 1826, located in Section 17, Township 20, Range 20, Vol. 22, pg. 398. Jonas and wife Mary (Throckmorton) sold their property in Ross Co. in 1839. Presumably, this is when they made the move to Fulton Co., IL.
17. 1825 – Thomas McGrady and Elizabeth **Betsy** Dresbach (>Jacob>Martin Sr.), b. 4 Feb 1800 in Northumberland Co., married the 1st of April 1824 in Ross County to Thomas McGrady. The earliest land record found for Thomas McGrady is dated 3rd March 1825 when he purchased 145 acres in Section 19, Colerain Twp., less than 3 weeks after Betsy had passed away, Vol. 21, pg. 53.
18. 1826 – 19th September – **Jacob** Dreisbach (>John George>Simon Jr.>Simon Sr.) – purchases a tract of land from John & Catharine Glick in Section 18, Bloom Twp., Fairfield



Co. but not indexed (Twp. 14 Range 20). He continues to buy, mortgage and sell tracts in Section 18 for 11 years. In 1835 "Jacob Disbrock" is issued a Patent for the NW ¼ of Section 28 in Twp. 7 S Range 8 E in Logan Co., OH.

19. 1827 – 1835 – **George and Jonathan Aurand**, (sons of Henry Aurand and Margaretha Rebecca Dreisbach, daughter of Martin Sr.) make purchases of small acreage in Crawford County, Ohio.
20. 1831 – 22nd September – **Rev. John Dreisbach** (>Martin Jr.>Martin Sr.), purchased the West Half of Section 9 in Township 10 and Range 21, in Pickaway Twp., Pickaway Co., Ohio, Vol. J, pg. 270. In 1833 Rev. John also received a Patent for 480 acres in Section 9, Twp. 2N, Range 14E, Seneca County which he sold in 1842.
21. 1832 – 1st April – **Susannah**, the sister of Rev. John, (>Martin Jr.>Martin Sr.), and her husband, John Buchwalter, of Colerain Twp., Ross Co., purchase from his father, Abraham Buchwalter, 207 acres in the East Half of Section 8, Range 20, Colerain Twp., where they now live, Vol. 37, pg. 365. In 1839, they purchase the adjoining SE ¼ of Section 5, Vol. 37, pg. 467.
22. 1842 – March 10th - **Samuel Dresbach, Gunsmith** (>John>Martin Sr.) was the son of John Dreisbach (also a Gunsmith) & Catharine Youngman of Mifflinburg, PA. Samuel md. Mary Magdalene Dunkel (aka Dunkle), lived first in Fairfield County. Made their first (and only) purchase in Ohio, of Lot 4 of Watts Addition in Circleville, Pickaway Co., Vol. 19, pg. 75. His father, John, began his trade of Gunsmith while living on his father's (Martin Sr.'s) farm. Since Martin Sr. was a blacksmith, it is possible that John learned the trade from Martin Sr. (See *The Life and Times of Martin Dreisbach (1717-1799)*, Falconer, pg. 78.)