

The  
History  
of the  
Courtney  
Home

1806  
A.D.



COURTNEY HILL  
(1806)

Neal Courtney, an Englishman, was born in 1758. According to family tradition, he was tending sheep on a hillside in Ireland when he was impressed into service in the Royal British Navy. He swam shore from a British ship in New York Harbor and later joined the Colonial Army in the Revolutionary War. A stonecutter and farmer, he settled in Athens County in 1806 and built this house, one mile north of Athens. He sponsored the first road out of Athens to the north, starting at the Bingham's horse-mill (East Bridge) and extending up Carpenter and Lancaster over Columbia and down through the woods to this site. Courtney departed this earth in 1826 and is buried in West State Street Cemetery. Ten Terrace Drive is the oldest house in Athens and stands on the original sandstone foundation. All the bricks were made on this site. The driveway was part of the old Route 33. A trolley-car ran on rails on the other side of the driveway. There are 2 Indian mounds on the hill. The home was purchased and restored in 1970.



ABRAHAM



10 December 2015

TO: The Athens County Historical Society & Museum  
FROM: Raymond J Abraham, Athens Native  
RE: THE HISTORY OF THE COURTNEY HOME & HILL/FARM)

211-2017  
↑

The Courtney Home, now 10 Terrace Drive, Athens, Ohio became 209 years old in July 2015. There were three (3) Courtney built. 1) Terrace Dr., 2) River Road (now owned by Joyce Miller and 3) One built on University property. Before it was razed several years ago, it was a dorm for students and classrooms. John Ogden, Virginia, a descendant of the Courtneys, did a thesis while a student at OU. He wrote me several letters and visited me once. It was his wish to purchase my home or the River Road home. It was disturbing to me that he took records from the Court House and never returned them! Neal Courtney lived at Terrace for a brief period before .....Terrace Dr. was once Bingham Rd. selling it to his grandson,

Alanzo. Alanzo built the River Road home a few years later. Alanzo married Marinda Buchanan, cousin of President Buchanan. A wedding party was held in my home. They are buried in Nye Cemetery, Chauncey, Ohio.

With the help of former County Recorder, Julia Michael Scott, it took several weeks before all the deeds were located, dating back to 1806. I have copies of all. The Bingham House was built in 1807 and has been moved at least three (3) times. Its present location (The Bingham Historical Center) is across from the Convocation Center. It was restored by Tri-County Vocational students & some of the vintage windows were replaced. In the past 45 years, I have re-wired, installed new plumbing and made numerous repairs.

The residents of this north side of Athens live in one of the more historic sites of our town. One of the first settlers, Silas Bingham, purchased land here in 1796. His brother Alvan was the first treasurer of Athens County. Terrace Drive was known as Bingham Road and it was a dirt road until the 1950s. Captain Bingham was one of the men with George Washington when he crossed the Delaware and he is buried in the West State Street Cemetery. 1

Neal Courtney, another early settler, built the house at the bottom of Terrace; formerly known as the Courtney Farm. Trolley cars ran on the level path in front of the house and the driveway was once part of the old Route 33. The Courtney home, built in 1806, is the oldest house in Athens. Indian mounds can be seen on the hillside. 2

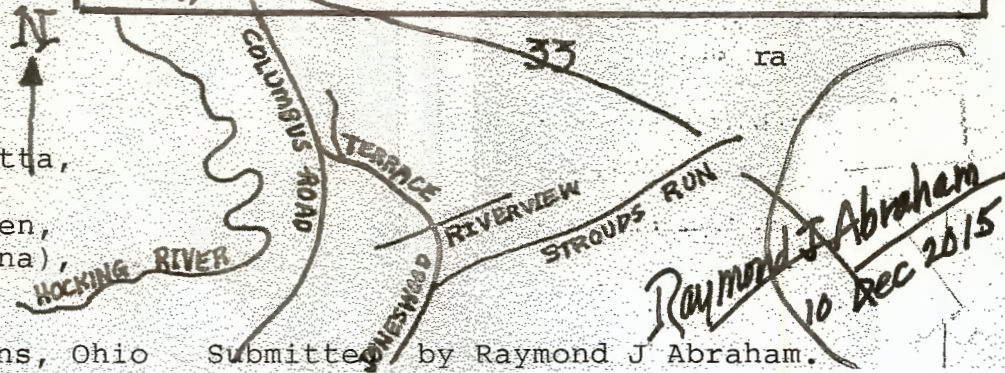
Our present residents come from all walks of life and some are Athens natives. We are proud to boast of our University faculty & personnel; Athens City Schools teachers & staff; business owners; realtors; Hocking College staff; Hospice of Appalachia staff & volunteers; OU & Hocking College students and present & former city officials.

This directory will better acquaint our neighbors and may prove helpful in times of emergencies; snow and weather-related incidents, power outages and cases of illness, etc.

The 1905 Centennial Atlas of Athens County

2 A Courtney Odyssey (John Ogden & Judi Burkhardt)

Note: Joneswood Drive was named after Elmer and Laura Jones (realtors who moved to Athens from Glouster; acquired land in this area and built many of the homes.)



REF: ! & 2 above, Campus Maritus, Marietta, Ohio, a c1800 Athens County Atlas, John Ogen, Judi Burkhardt (Indiana), Courtney descendants; a few who still live in Chauncey & The Plains, Ohio

Submitted by Raymond J Abraham.

CC

...Added Notes of Interest

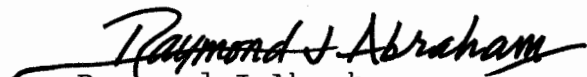
My younger Paul, and I did not realize when we purchased our home at 10 Terrace Drive, that the Courtney Home was built in 1806. We purchased the home from Realtor Laura Jones. She intended to have the house torn down and sell the acreage, which is zoned commercial. The Athens Country Club wanted the site for an in-town club. And after we got the home, Holiday Inn contacted us many times; also, interested in its location. We knew there would be a lot of work with repairs, etc., and it took three (3) years before it was comfortably liveable, although repairs continued. After sharing our home with brother Paul for more than 40 years, he passed on 28 September 2011.

When Ron Luce was Director/Curator for ACS&M, he visited in my home and we selected ten (10) items which would eventually be donated to museum. Jo Priskey has also been to home. We have been friends since OU college days when we were students in the 50s. Back to date house was built, it was discovered when we saw a partially-covered inscription over the front door --- 1806 A.D. (same as inscription over River Road home.) Our front door is now a screened-in porch and the new front door is on the other side of house. I inscribed the date above this door and added the Latin "Cursum Perfidio"-from Timothy in The Bible: "I have fought the fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the Faith." It was considered a "Welcome Mat" in some countries. The Indian mound (s) on the hill is very interesting. I strongly believe that it's possible that Indian Chief Tecumseh is buried there! Many arrow-heads have been found. Nearby is a formation of 12 stones; maybe, a time-piece (sundial) ? And close by it is a hollow space. One year, one of my yard-helpers dug deeper and deeper and discovered a large opening. This may have been one of the hide-outs for slaves during the "Underground Railroad"--escaping to Canada. (?) Many eerie occurrences --but no more--after Priest Blessed home and land.

One of the enclosed page of photos was taken at Christmas time. There is a lighted Madonna and Child in front window. There is a lighted tree on the balcony. In each window is a flame-colored light which has been a custom in our family for many years. Each light is for our parents, our deceased family members, former and deceased students of mine when I was a teacher at Athens High School and Athens Middle School (my alma mater.) the terminally ill (AIDS, Alheimers, Cancer, other), Hospital patients and others.

I hope that all I have written is of interest to you who reads it.

With Love and God's Blessings as my packet is shared with you,



Raymond J Abraham  
10 Terrace Dr  
Athens OH 45701  
(740) 592-1289

cc

.....Terrace Dr. was once Bingham Rd.

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