

HISTORY OF DUNLAP'S STATION – WHERE COLERAIN TOWNSHIP BEGAN

On August 24, 1749 French explorers buried a lead tablet at where the Great Miami River joined the Ohio River; thus proclaiming the land for France. For the next 100 years, that lead tablet would be used for surveying purposes. The French later sold the land to the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

October 1785, The United States sends General George R. Clark to the area and he establishes Ft. Finney near the mouth of the Great Miami River.

January 1786, the Shawnee Tribes give up control of the lands east of the Great Miami River by signing the Fort Finney Treaty with General Clark.

In 1787, The United States Congress created the Northwest Territory which included Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and a section of Minnesota. The land was described as being "West of the Allegheny River, North of the Ohio River, and East of The Mississippi River."

THE SYMMES PURCHASE

Benjamin Stites was visiting in what is now Maysville, Kentucky when Native Americans stole some of his horses. As he pursued them through the wilderness in Ohio, he was so impressed with the fertility and beauty of the country that he told his friend, Judge John Cleves Symmes, of its possibilities.

In 1792, Judge John Cleves Symmes formed a syndicate, the Miami Company, and convinced Congress to allow him to purchase a large tract of land between the Great Miami and Little Miami Rivers known as the Symmes Purchase or Miami Purchase. Symmes with the first group of settlers founded the town of North Bend. From there he enlisted the services of a friend, John Dunlap. Dunlap was a Surveyor and Symmes needed his land plotted and boundaries marked so he could sell off parcels of the territory to arriving settlers.

After surveying and plotting the land in 1790, John Dunlap ventured up the Great Miami River to a spot along the East side about seventeen miles Northwest of Ft. Washington (on the Ohio River). Dunlap named the area Coleraine, because of the rolling hills and winding river that reminded him of his homeland – Coleraine, Ireland. The northern border of Coleraine was actually five sections (about 3 miles) more north than it is today. It extended into what is now Butler County.

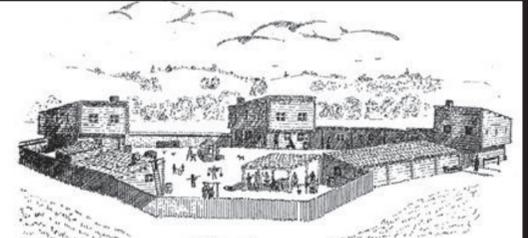
In Coleraine, along a large bend in the Great Miami River, Dunlap and a small band of settlers started clearing an acre of land. They built small cabins with roofs sloping to the rear to keep rain draining away. The cabins were built in close proximity to each other. They hoped this arrangement would improve safety and protection from the Native Americans who roamed the area in violation of the Fort Finney Treaty with General Clark.

This band of settlers also built an eight foot high stockade wall. This wall was not very sturdy, as settlers split the logs used for posts so they could cover more length of stockade wall using fewer logs and cutting down fewer trees. They also built the stockade wall between the cabins using the back wall of each cabin as part of the stockade wall. Using the cabin walls actually weakened the security of the stockade because their sloping roofs were close enough to the ground that dogs could go to and from the stockade by jumping off these low roofs. At each end of the settlement, small block houses were built. Settlers took turns as sentries. They named this settlement Dunlap's Station, but it is sometimes referred to as Ft. Coleraine.

By 1791 about 30 persons inhabited the small fort, including women and children. Only 10 of these were experienced with firearms, leaving the settlement highly susceptible to attack.

The Fort, or Dunlap Station, sustained a brutal attack by the Native Americans in 1791. It was abandoned temporarily by the settlers, who went down river to the settlement at North Bend.

A Model of Dunlap Station has been made by a member of the Coleraine Historical Society, Robert Muehlenhard. It is currently on display in the Colerain Township Administration Building Rotunda. The Coleraine Historical Society considers the Muehlenhard Model to be the single most important visual piece of physical Township history to preserve and share with the Township residents.



Fort Coleraine
FORT COLERAINE



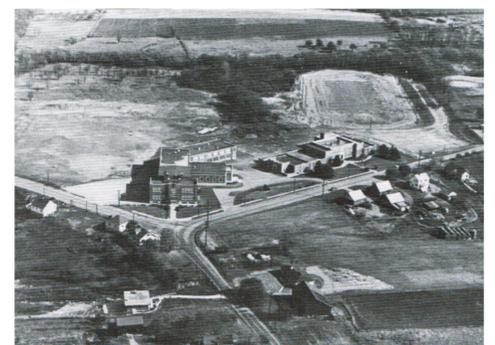
COLERAIN & GALBRAITH
Picture of intersection of Colerain Avenue and Galbraith Road in the year 1960.



COLERAIN BOWL
This date for this photo is unknown at this time.



BARNESBURG TAVERN
This photo was taken around 1905.

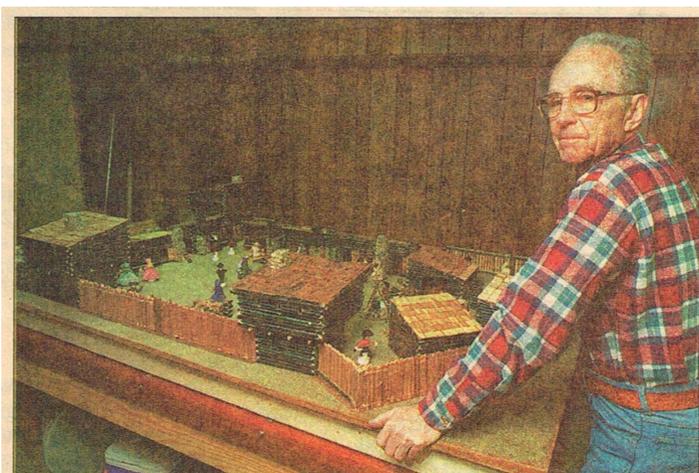


COLERAIN ELEMENTARY
Colerain Elementary in 1927.

BOB & HIS FORT MODEL



Scan this QR code with your phone or tablet to open up this information on our new website.



The Cincinnati Enquirer/Robin Christman

Bob Muehlenhard spent two years constructing this model of Dunlap's Station. He made the blockhouses out of grapevines.

