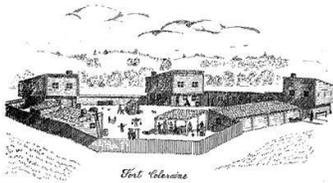




The Abner Hunt Tree

By CHS Member Larry Shad

Who, What, When, Where & Why



Who: ABNER HUNT was part of four-man crew surveying properties north of Dunlap's Station (Fort Dunlap).

What: The crew was attacked by an Indian scouting party previous to the main attack on Dunlap's Station. Cunningham was killed, John Sloan was shot but escaped, John Wallace escaped, but poor Abner Hunt was captured, tortured, tied to a stump within speaking distance of the fort and used by the main Indian force of 300-plus men attacking the fort to entice the occupants to abandon the Station. He eventually succumbed.

When: January 10, 1791.

Where: This all happened at the outpost settlement of Dunlap's Station that was fortified and had eighteen soldiers stationed there to protect the residents, hence sometimes known as Fort Dunlap. (NOTE: The exact location of this settlement has never been determined, but this author believes it was near the existing cemetery on East Miami River Road.) The cemetery has been shown on the Hamilton County road maps as Hedges Cemetery. The Hedges Family owned the surrounding properties in the early 1800's. The sign on the road, for many years, called it Dunlap's Station Cemetery.

Why: LARRY'S NOTE: *I have read accounts of the capture and torture of Abner Hunt and the siege on Dunlap's Station written by several authors. They all differ to some degree. Considering that the accounts were all written at least forty or more years after the fact, we have to accept some variations.*



It has been said over the years that Abner Hunt was buried in the Dunlap's Station Cemetery. A tree stood in Dunlap Station Cemetery for over 200 years

before it was struck by lightning in 1997. **Since Abner Hunt had no permanent marker, could this have been the spot where Abner Hunt was buried?**



In 1997, **Greg Snyder**, then Colerain Township Parks Director, saved a limb from the tree and gave it to **Fred Gaviglia**. Fred gave the limb to **I.H. Bolinger a master wood carver**. Mr. Bolinger made a gavel out of the limb by hand. He carved it, polished it and varnished it. Then presented it to the Coleraine Historical Society. We no longer use the gavel at our monthly meetings; but it is displayed in our Museum.



In 2016, a member of our Society had a small sapling of a tree, about four feet tall, and thought a nice place to plant it would be on a small mound in the northeast corner of Dunlap Historical Cemetery. With history in mind we named the tree "The Abner Hunt Tree".