

# COLERAIN TOWNSHIP | ROTATING ROTUNDA SERIES

## WHO IS JOHN DUNLAP?

The Dunlap family has a large well documented genealogical history, but there seems to be little known about **John Dunlap**, the surveyor, land speculator and founder of Dunlap's Station.

The Northwest Territory had been established in 1787, within which Judge Symmes had organized the Miami Company and then advertised the availability of this land.

**John Dunlap was one of John Symmes' confidential surveyors as early as 1788.** He commanded two companies of surveyors that made the first exploration of the area in September 1788. They mapped out Columbia, the first Symmes Purchase settlement. In 1789, Dunlap surveyed land in what became Hamilton County Ohio.

In 1790, he made his way up the valley of the Great Miami River to the notable bend in the river. The river here bends to the west then curves back to the east, forming a "U" shaped tract of floodplain that the early settlers would have coveted as farmland.

Here, **John Dunlap mapped out 106 acres which he named after his birthplace of Coleraire, Ireland.** (It is located next to the 2,000-year-old Colerain Earthwork and one or more sacred Adena Indian Mounds).

By April 30, 1790, Dunlap had staked out Dunlap's Station/Fort Coleraire and construction of the fortified settlement was begun. It was to be the first inland settlement. It consisted simply of little cabins clustered together upon a space of about an acre, built to face each other and, their roofs so placed as to slope outward and so low that it is said the dogs would jump from the stumps to the top of them, and so get into the enclosure. There was constructed a stockade of rather weak pickets, made of small timber or logs split in half and thrust into the ground, which stood only about eight feet high. Small block-houses were built at the corners of the square formed by the stockade. About thirty persons, men, women, and children lived; including only eight or ten capable of bearing arms.

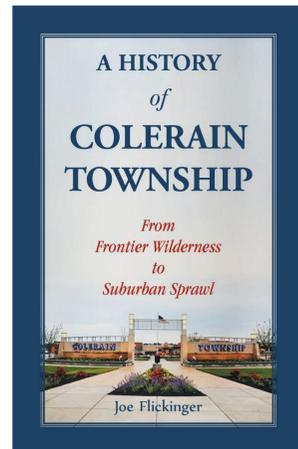
As the year continued, Indians were seen gathering in the nearby countryside. The settlers made an application (as it was called) to Fort Washington (Cincinnati) for protection. Lieutenant Kingsbury was sent with thirteen soldiers to strengthen and protect the Station.

Only one year after it had been settled, Dunlap's station was the scene of the fiercest and longest sustained Indian attack recorded in the annals of Hamilton county. For several days in early January, 1791, Indians who had been gathering in the vicinity in considerable force attacked the Fort. On the eighth they made the fatal attack. The whole strength of the garrison was eighteen soldiers and eight or ten of the settlers capable of bearing arms. The entire number in the Station, including women and children, not counting the soldiers, did not exceed thirty souls. The Indians were estimated at from three to five hundred, led by the infamous renegade, Simon Girty.

**Dunlap's Station was destroyed by the Indians during the attack on the fort in 1791.** It was never rebuilt and no one is sure of its exact location. What does exist is the Historic Dunlap Station Cemetery presumed to have been near the early settlement.

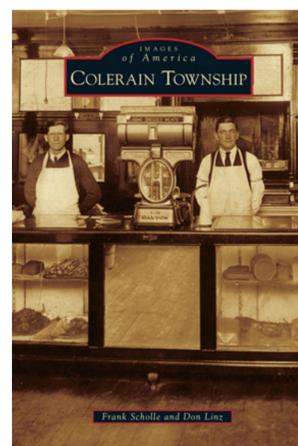
A few remaining settlers held onto the surrounding lands until 1794; when it was learned that the lands linked to the settlement lay outside the boundaries of the patent granted to John Cleves Symmes. It seems that John Dunlap was inclined to land speculation, surveying a town site and selling lots, to which he did not have title. There were years of appeals and congressional actions which required they purchase their land a second time. The pioneers gradually abandoned their homes over the years and in time, the walls and cabins rotted away and the land returned to its earlier primitive condition as Dunlap's Station/Fort Coleraire passed into history and ceased to exist.

In Ford's History of Hamilton County 1881, Ford lists among the first township officers in 1794 as "John Dunlap, Clerk".



### A HISTORY OF COLERAIN TOWNSHIP: From Frontier Wilderness to Suburban Sprawl

This book celebrates the history, heritage, and story of Colerain Township, and its journey from the isolated frontier wilderness, to rural farming, to a modern suburban community, bursting with people and business. Numerous photographs, an appendix, a bibliography, and a full-name index add to the value of this work.



### IMAGES OF AMERICA: Colerain Township

Frank Scholle lived in Colerain Township for over 50 years and Don Linz has been a resident since 1942. Both are past Grand Knights of LaSalle Council and Knights of Columbus, were instrumental in starting the Taste of Colerain in 1990, and have been publishing the Colerain Township calendar since 1998. They worked closely with the Coleraire Historical Society to compile this history.



### COLERAINE, IRELAND

Population: 24,634  
55 miles northwest of Belfast.  
Average Temperature in June: 61 degrees \*F  
"Considered a very large town."



### COLERAIN TOWNSHIP

Population: 58,499  
43.2 sq. mi.  
Average Temperature in June: 72 degrees \*F  
Second largest township in Ohio by BOTH population and square miles.



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