

First Fleeter

Jacob Nagle

15 Sept 1761 Reading, Pennsylvania

– 17 Feb 1841 Canton, Ohio

President McKinley Tomb, Canton, Ohio



Museum, Library, History Centre



15T June 2016

McKinley Presidential Library and Museum
Ramsayer Research Library

Research Registration

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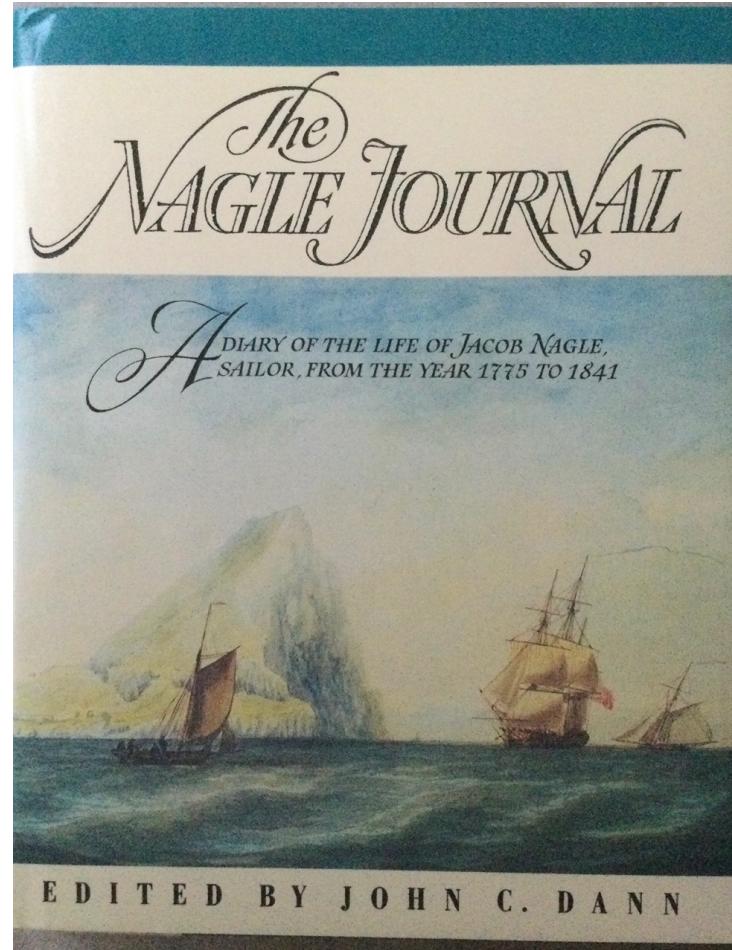
Date(s): 1830's - 1845

Subject: Jacob Nagle - American Revolution Veteran
Australia First Fleeter - 1788

I would like to find any information about
him while he lived in Canton and his burial
location if possible. I am a member of the Fellowship of
First Fleeters - descendants of those on the first ships.

Materials:

John C Dann's Book published 1988

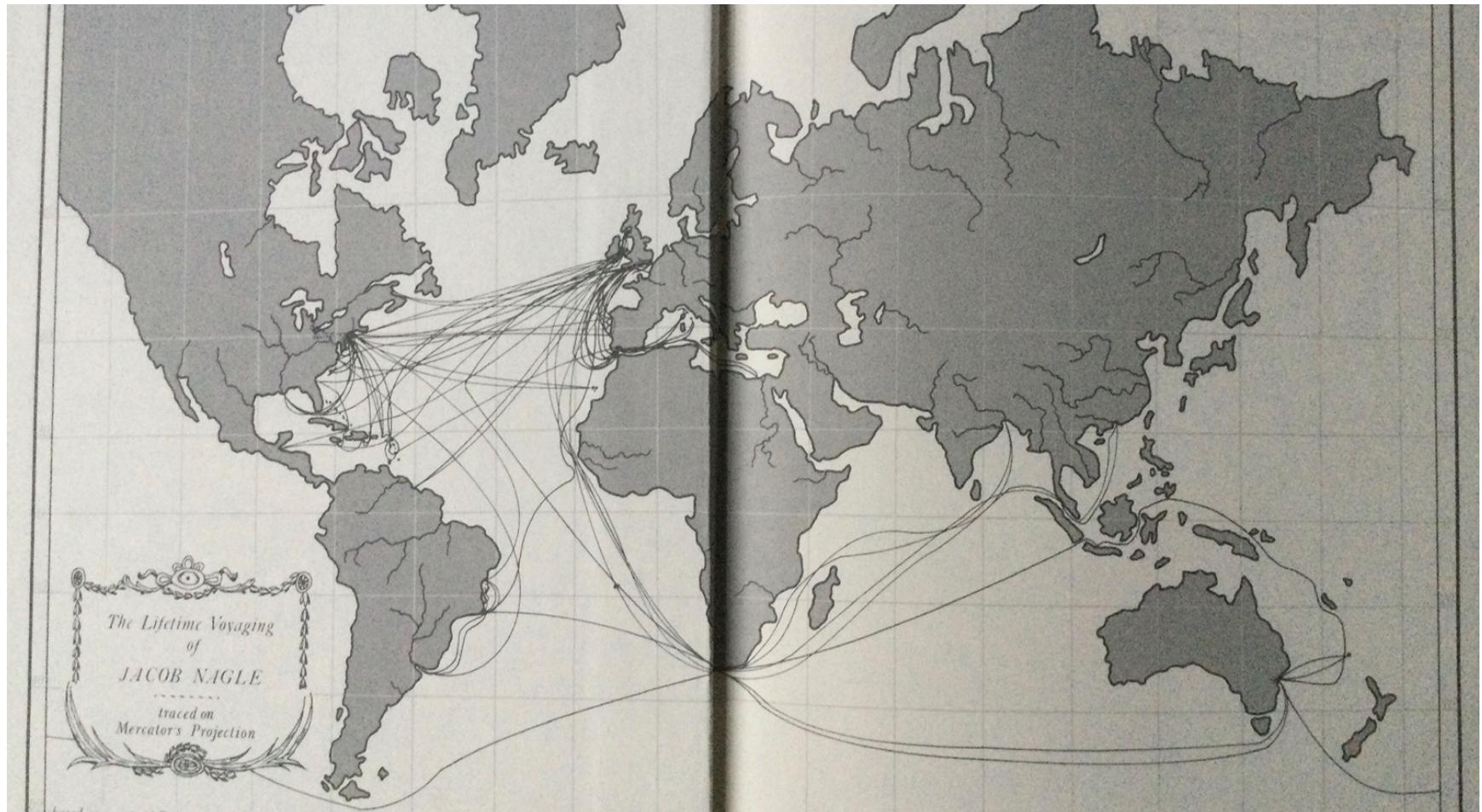


Page from Journal Rewritten by Jacob about 1832, rediscovered 1982

A Sketch or Journal of Jacob Nagle from the Year 1775.

My Father was of the German descent & my Mother of the English de-
cent from England my Grand Mother of my Mother's side having two
husbands, our Family have sprung from the Nagles, Lincolns, Rogers,
& Boons, &c. A short time after my Father being High Sheriff in Reading
Berks County Pennsylvania State, where I was born. Eliot War broke out,
in Boston, about the 28 of April 1775, Massachusetts applied to the States
for assistance, against the British, my father received a Capt Commission
and Listed a hundred & 25 Riflemen in one week, and joining with Vermont
and Virginia Companies, which amounted to five Companies & marched for
Boston in the Month of June 1775, during the time he remained there against
the enemy he received a slight wound, by a Shell, from the enemy across the
bridge of his Nose, after being a considerable time there, came home to
see his family, likewise was promoted as Major in the 5th Pennsylvania Rgmt
which he joined, as the were then, laying in Philadelphia barracks, and took
me with him sometime after they joined the Army, and I went home to Reading

Jacob's "Lifetime Voyaging" 1780-1830



Jacob's Life

- Jacob's Family 1761-1776 (0-14)
- Service in American Revolution 1776-1780 (15-19)
- Sailing as a Privateer 1780-1783 (19-22)
- Sailing with the Royal Navy 1783-1802 (22-41)
 *First Fleet and HMS Sirius (1787-1792 26-31)
- Sailing as a Merchant Sailor 1802-1824 (41-63)
- His last years 1824-1841 (63-79)
- Burial Information 1841 (79)

Jacob's Family

- Jacob's grandparents migrated in early 1750's from Germany. The family purchased a grist mill in Reading, just north of Philadelphia and had a "degree of financial substance and education."
- George, Jacob's father, became a blacksmith and the local sheriff from 1770-1775. He and his wife Rebecca Rogers had 4 children with Jacob the eldest. George served in the French and Indian War in America in the 1760's.

Philadelphia



American Revolution

- Jacob joined his father in Boston, at the start of the revolution, in early 1776 before his 15th birthday but was then sent home. Later that year, he again joined his father at the Battle of Brandywine near Philadelphia.
- He then joined Washington's Army with his father, who had by then risen to Colonel. Together they spent the winter at Valley Forge 1777-1778.
- In 1780, Jacob enlisted on a US Navy ship, Saratoga and served for 4 months before requesting permission at the end to join a “privateer” in Philadelphia.

Privateer

- With the revolution still happening, Jacob joined a “privateer” which was a ship owned by wealthy merchants to attack commercial ships for their cargo.
- On a “privateering” trip into the West Indies in 1781, he was captured by two British Naval Vessels and put into prison at St Lucia, WI.
- A month later, the French arrived and he was freed. He was again imprisoned in 1782 by the French for aiding a captured fellow American who had been serving with the British Navy.

Royal Navy

- Jacob, along with captured British Naval prisoners was exchanged in May 1782 at St Lucia. Later that month he officially signed on with the navy until April 1783 when the Revolution in America had ended. He was then discharged at Portsmouth, England with pay.
- Later in September, he again signed on to HMS Ganges and remained with the ship for almost 4 years which took him to Gibraltar several times. Jacob writes that these years were a mixture of boredom and harsh treatment.
- In March, 1787, along with several others of the Ganges crew to transfer to HMS Sirius

Sea Battle near St Christopher, May 1782



PLATE 4 *Sea Battle between Hood and de Grasse off St. Christopher, May 1782*

- Jacob had been assigned duties as “steward” on his previous ships due to his writing abilities. The ships logs state that he was an exceptionally intelligent sailor.
- Jacob was one of 7 “volunteers” selected from HMS Ganges to join HMS Sirius.
- Jacob’s journal during the First Fleet’s travel and arrival has become an important part of Australia’s early settlement period.
- As a member of Governor Phillip’s boat crew, he got to know the Governor well and travelled with him on early expeditions around both Port Jackson and Broken Bay.
- He travelled back to Cape Town in 1789 on the Sirius for supplies and remained with the ship although other crew members left there.

Capture of Bennelong



Bennelong



- He was on the Sirius when it went onto the rocks at Norfolk Island in 1790. Jacob was a very good swimmer and as a result, helped to recover many items of cargo from the Sirius shipwreck.
- In March 1791, the “Supply” had returned with supplies from Batavia along with a rented Dutch ship the Waaksamheyd. This ship took the sailors of the Sirius back to Port Jackson and then back to England arriving in Portsmouth in 1792.
- He then returned to London and lived in the “East End” before the days of its development as the East India Dockyards in the great trading era.

HMS Sirius at Norfolk Island



Wreck of HMS Sirius at Norfolk Island in 1790



East India Docks, London



- Jacob was “impressed” again in August 1792 while in London due to the start of the Napoleonic Wars.
- After spending the next few years based in home ports, during which time he married Elizabeth Pitman in 1795, he left on HMS Gorgon in Nov. 1795 serving in Gibraltar and the Mediterranean.
- After various engagements between 1796-1798, serving on HMS Blanche, he returned to Portsmouth where he was able to meet up with Elizabeth, his wife and eldest child.
- In 1802, with a peace treaty and for other personal reasons, he retired from the Royal Navy to spend time with his family although he had been offered a position as master of one of the “ships of the line.”

London, England Church of England Marriages and Banns
City of London, St Botolph, Aldgate 1795-1809
Marriage Entry for Jacob Nagle & Elizabeth C Pitman

(The Year 1795)

Page 9

No. 29 } Jacob Nagle - - - - - of th^{is} Parish
Baptized, and Elizabeth C Pitman of this Parish
Winnipeg, - - - - - were

Married in this Church by licence,
this Seventh Day of August in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred
and Ninety Five. By me Matt Carter
The Marriage was solemnized between Us { Jacob Nagle
The Neck of - Elizabeth C Pitman

In the Presence of { John Treador
Elizabeth Parpard

As a Merchant Sailor

- Jacob departed for Lisbon, Portugal with his family in order to book passage on a ship back to America.
- While in Lisbon, a Yellow Fever epidemic erupted. While waiting there, his wife and children died.
- He returned to America, staying with relatives and meeting a sister born after he had left to sail.
- Jacob joined merchant ships travelling to various places in South America, the Caribbean, India and China. Often, he served as second in command due to his experience and scarcity of officers and crew.
- Jacob retired from sailing in 1824 when he was 63.

Jacob's Last Years

Jacob spent the first years of retirement with various relatives in Philadelphia and with his sister Sarah (Sally) Webb in Canton, Ohio.

He spent most of the 1820's and 1830's travelling around Northern Ohio. He also worked in the offices of Bezaleel Wells, a surveyor. Ohio was still a frontier state having been admitted in 1803.

Joseph applied for a pension from the US government for service during the Revolution in 1833 and was finally granted one of 30 dollars a year.

An Early Canton Pioneer Home in early 1800's

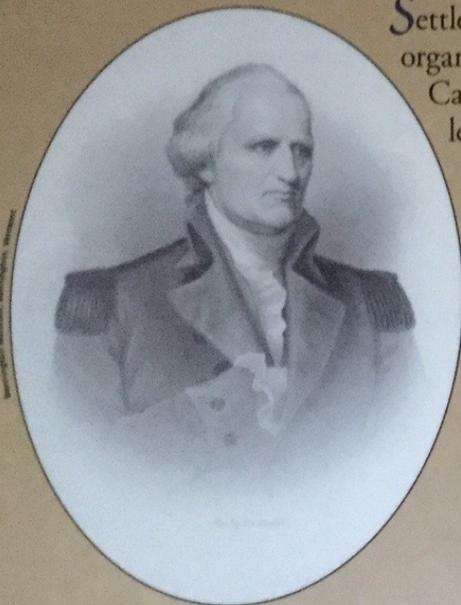


Nagle in Pennsylvania & Ohio



Founders of Canton & Stark County

The Founders of Stark County

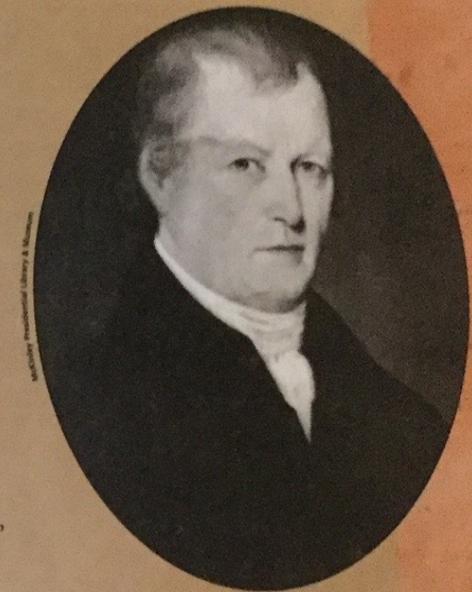


John Stark

Settlement in Stark County began before the county was organized. Bezaleel Wells, a surveyor by trade, laid out Canton in November 1805. A government leader, he learned of the land cessions and plans to build a road through the ceded area. He founded Canton along the proposed road route.

Stark County

Legislation establishing the county was passed in 1808 and the county organized in 1809. It was named for General John Stark, an American Revolutionary War hero. James Duncan laid out Massillon in 1826. By 1837 townships were organized, communities were established, and a transportation network consisting of roads and canals was in place.



Bezaleel Wells

About early Canton, Ohio



Stark County People

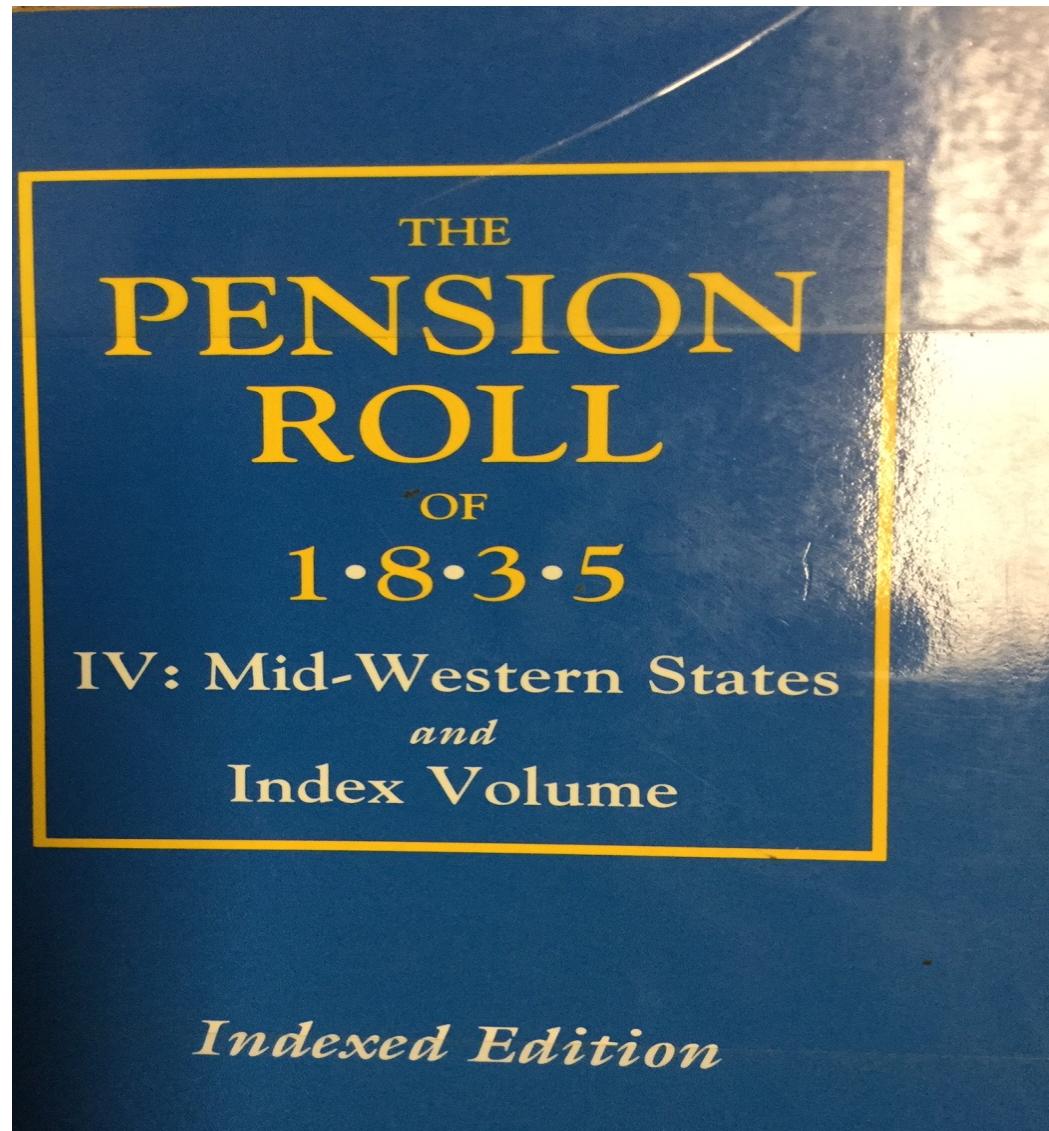
In 1850 the Stark County population stood at 39,878, mostly farmers of Yankee, German, and French heritage. Canton and Massillon were the two largest towns in the county, with a combined population of less than 7,000. African American settlers lived in the Canton and Massillon areas.

Canton and Massillon became the early centers of industrial development. By 1850 their frontier images had begun to give way to a more urban look.

Plat map drawn up by Bezaleel Wells, circa 1809

McKinley Presidential Library & Museum

Pension Roll of 1833



John Burdick -	-	Private	20 00	-	R. Island militia	May 12, 1834	Mar. 4, 1831	80
Ozias Hebbard -	-	do	23 33	69 99	Conn. State troops	Feb. 22, 1833	do	71
Robert Snodgrass -	-	do	20 00	40' 00	Penn. militia	May 28, 1833	do	76
James Thompson -	-	do	80 00	240 00	Va. State troops	Oct. 16, 1833	do	75

Statement, &c. of Stark county, Ohio.

NAMES.	Rank.	Annual allowance.	Sums received.	Description of service.	When placed on the pension roll.	Commencement of pension.	Ages.	Laws under which they were formerly inscribed on the pension roll; and remarks.
Henry Bagum -	-	Private	56 66	169 98	Maryland militia	Nov. 8, 1833	Mar. 4, 1831	73
Joseph Croninger -	-	do	80 00	240 00	Penn. State	Dec. 20, 1833	do	80
Leonard Drury -	-	do	20 00	50 00	Maryland State	Jan. 26, 1833	do	75
John Henry -	-	do	26 66	79 98	Penn. State	Feb. 25, 1833	do	75
Ludwick Houser -	-	do	80 00	200 00	Penn. continental	May 28, 1833	do	89
Michael Hahn -	-	do	80 00	240 00	Maryland militia	Jan. 17, 1834	do	86
Adam Hock -	-	do	60 00	180 00	Penn. State troops	Oct. 16, 1833	do	78
Joshua Knapp -	-	do	80 00	240 00	Penn. militia	Feb. 27, 1834	do	78
Jacob Nagle -	-	Pri. & sea.	32 46	81 15	U. States navy	Sep. 16, 1833	do	73
Benjamin Page -	-	Lieut.	240 00	600 00	do	Mar. 2, 1833	do	82
Cornelius Rickey -	-	Private	69 43	215 57	N. Jersey cont'l	Sept. 21, 1833	do	73
Jonathan Wood -	-	do	80 00	240 00	Vermont militia	Sep. 13, 1832	do	73
William Watson -	-	do	30 00	75 00	Virginia militia	Aug. 9, 1833	do	74
Jonathan W. Winter -	-	do	26 66	66 65	Conn. militia	do	do	69

Died April 11, 1834.

Canton, Ohio 1839



Stark County Democrat, Canton, Ohio. Saturday, 20 February 1841

ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER GONE.

DIED—On Wednesday morning last, the 17th inst. Mr. Jacob Nagle, in the eightieth year of his age. Mr. Nagle was a soldier of the Revolution, and did his first service at the celebrated battle of the Brandywine, in that war, when he was not yet seventeen years of age. He afterwards entered the naval service, and was a sailor fifty years of his life, during a great portion of which time he was in foreign countries. He died, like most of that band of brave and unconquerable heroes who perilled all for the liberty we enjoy, POOR, AND DESTITUTE OF THE COMFORTS OF LIFE,—the only reward his country ever bestowed upon him was a miscalled pension of THIRTY DOLLARS a year. He was ill but four days, and retained his senses to the last.—On Saturday he attended the funeral of his sister Mrs. Webb at which time he expressed a wish that his might be the next.

His remains were interred in Canton, on the 18th with military honors by Captain Weber's company of German Guards, accompanied by the German Brass Band, and a numerous concourse of Citizens, who respected the honesty, and patriotism of the old sea beaten veteran. We are requested to offer the thanks of the surviving relatives of the deceased, to the military and to the public, for the sympathy which was manifested, for them, in their affliction.

... their affliction.
Advertiser and Journal. Cincinnati, Ohio. Thursday, 25 February 1841

ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER GONE!

Died, on Wednesday morning, the 17th inst. at Canton, Stark county, Ohio, Mr. JACOB NAGLE, in the 80th year of his age. Mr. Nagle was a Penn[s]ylvanian by birth, and entered the army before he was seventeen, and was in the battle of Brandywine. He served for some time in the army with great credit to himself, and afterwards entered the American navy. He was subsequently pressed into the British sea service, where he remained upwards of forty years. During the continuance of the memorable contests between England and the combined fleets of France and Spain, Mr. Nagle was in active service, and distinguished himself for his resolute bravery, in several of the great naval battles between those powers. He was in the expedition which made the early settlements in New South Wales, and was an active participator in the capture of the celebrated chief Bennelong. Of the utmost simplicity in his manners, he was nevertheless of undaunted courage. The writer of this article knew him well. Many an hour have we listened to him, recounting the privations he underwent in the continental army, and the perils he encountered upon the waves. Peace be to his ashes! Never did the earth cover the remains of a more honest man than Jacob Nagle. "He died like most of that band of brave and unconquerable heroes, who periled all for the liberty we enjoy:—POOR, AND DESTITUTE OF THE COMFORTS OF LIFE, the only reward his country ever bestowed upon him, was a miscalled pension of *thirty dollars* a year." The soldiers' "farewell shot" echoed over the last resting place of the old sea-beaten veteran, and he reposes from all his toils and privations with the love of all who knew him.

McKinley Avenue Park former Plum Creek Cemetery

McKinley Avenue Park

(originally Plum Street Cemetery)
Established 1805 as a public graveyard

1805 In the fall of 1805, Bezaleel Wells purchased land from the United States Government and began to plat a new village named Canton. In the original plat map, the section of ground now known as McKinley Park was designated as a public graveyard. It came to be known as Plum or Plum Street Cemetery and later as McKinley Cemetery.

1808 The first person interred here was the wife of John Matthews, the butcher, in the spring of 1808. She died as a result of childbirth, the child being the first "white" child born within the city limits. The second was Mr. John Bower (or Bower), the blacksmith, who died in June of the same year. Later the cemetery became the final resting place of William Capes, a soldier who had served during the Revolutionary War.

1897 An affidavit sworn by Francis M. Reed, Park Superintendent between the years of 1890 and 1900, tells us that he received an order from City Council in 1897 or thereabouts to lay down the tombstones then standing in Plum Street Cemetery, with the inscriptions face up, to cover all the gravestones with earth with two or three exceptions, and to sow grass and plant trees for shade.

Mr. Reed affirmed that he personally supervised this project. Before starting, he and Assistant Engineer Pflouts counted the graves and the gravestones, listing 128 graves. In his opinion, there were at that time at least 200 graves in the cemetery, but many had ceased to be visible and the tombstones had been destroyed or carried off. He states that he and Pflouts prepared a map showing the location of all graves in the cemetery, together with a schedule showing the names of the dead appearing on the tombstones. This map was filed in the archives of the City Engineer in the City Hall building, in Canton, Ohio.

In 1897 the City Board of Park Commissioners reported that all the rubbish had been cleared from the graveyard and most of the stones buried. They were covered with 336 wagon loads of dirt hauled by park workers who filled in all the low spots to even out the yard. President William McKinley once talked from a grandstand

temporarily erected among the remaining gravestones.

An article in the Canton Repository on Sunday, May 9, 1897, tells an interesting story about the cemetery. Quoting from Superintendent Reed: "I have heard that when the contractor, some years ago, was cutting South Street [now 6th St SW] through the property from South Plum [now McKinley Ave SW] to High Street for the laying of pavement, the workmen turned up some skeletons. The cut was some six or eight feet deep. I have been told that these bones were buried at the south embankment where my men are plowing, it being necessary to grade that side and sweep the dirt out for transportation to another portion of the cemetery. We ran into these bones. As I said, we could not determine whether they were human or not. They resembled the bones of an arm, and were rather small. They were carefully preserved and decently buried in another part of the cemetery in order to set at rest any doubt in the matter."

1900 The Aero Club of Canton wanted to launch gas-filled balloons from the site but was disallowed. In 1908 the club attempted to obtain a title to the land. A suit was filed by a resident, Joseph Blake, who thought that it "should remain in all respects a graveyard." The court agreed. Mr. Blake obtained a reversionary title to the property in 1912, but the City maintained a possessory one. Making the graveyard into a park did not forfeit the City's right to the land as long as markers were left denoting the ground was still a graveyard. Later in the year, the newspaper quoted City Solicitor Harold E. DeHoff's comments to City Council: "Since this graveyard originally was platted on the original plate of the City, there is no way under the law that it can be changed."

2007 A partial stone still stands that belonged to Mr. Obed H. Kline who died of consumption March 8, 1845, at the age of 31 years.

Sources: Entrymen of Stark County; Bezaleel Wells, Founder of Canton and Steubenville, OH by Edward Thornton Head, 1948; Old Landmarks of Canton and Stark County, Danner, 1904; Cemetery Inscriptions of Stark County Ohio v 5; Tree Climber, Stark County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society, July, 1983; Canton Repository-Russell McCauley, 0/01/1967; Gary Brown, 2/24/1986; Edd Pritchard, 3/06/2005; articles from 7/30/1986, 5/09/1897, & 3/13/1845

Bezaleel Wells 1763-1846

Known graves still remaining in the park as of 2006 are:

Augustine, John d 1835
Samuel, LP d 1824
Kemmell, John A d 1841
Cake, Adam L d 1836
Dunn, J d Aug 1836
Cake, Johanna d/o Anna E -n/d
Schmitin, Elizabeth d 1821
Webb, SH d aug 5 1821
Webb, J d 1825
Sala, Dr. John d 1851
Smid, Wm d Aug 1824
Guise, Jefferson Newton d 1836
Guise, George Gessler d 1832
Kryder, Mary Ann d 1823
Kryder, Anna Eliza d 1823
Spengler, Maria d 1786
Rex, Adam d 1818
Toffler, Samuel d 1834
Kribbs, Susanna w/o George n/d
Shortwell, Solomon d 1820
Kline, O.H. d 1845 (still standing)
McGow, Rich James B & Wife n/d
Merryman, Sarah Ann w/o Sheridan A. Merryman d 1848
Shriver, Matilda Shrimson d 1832
Shriver, Barbara d 1817
Laurence, Wm n/d
Miller, Henry d 1852
Miller, Margaret d 1810

In 1887 9 other graves were moved to West Lawn Cemetery and are interred in 63H. 9 others also moved to West Lawn.

Submitted by Jan McMurry and Eileen Knipfer

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McKinley Park, Canton Ohio



McKinley Park with one remaining gravestone (top right)



FFF Grave Memorials Project

- Project of placing FFF Plaques on or near known graves of First Fleeters
- Efforts at recognising Jacob Nagle in Canton
- Contacts made in Ohio at Library and Canton City Government
- To date the project has stalled
- Perhaps a plaque may eventually be placed in McKinley Park where the Plum Street Cemetery was located in the future