



Blendon Township's Early Settlers

This list does not represent every early pioneer in Blendon Township



Edward Phelps

Edward Phelps served in the 8th Company, 1st Reg. of the Connecticut Infantry during the Revolutionary War. He was born August 27, 1759 in Windsor, Connecticut, and died August 10, 1840 in Blendon Township. Phelps and his family came to Ohio in 1806 and was one of the first non-native families of Blendon Township. Phelps, along with Ethan Palmer, built the first sawmill in the township on Big Run creek (now Spring Run).



Isaac Griswold

Isaac Griswold was born in Windsor, Connecticut on October 27, 1779. Griswold and his family came to Ohio in 1806 with the Phelps family. The family lived in a small log cabin until Isaac finished the homestead in 1823. Isaac also served as the first postmaster for the Blendon Corners office, assuming the role in 1824 and retiring the position in 1853; the post office was kept in his home during his service.



Jonathan Noble

Jonathan Noble was born in Simsbury, Connecticut in 1776, and died in Blendon Township in 1832. In 1815, he moved his family to Ohio and settled on what would later be known as Westerville Road. The Noble log cabin was built between 1825-1835 and still stands hidden behind multiple additions.



Joseph Ingals

Joseph Ingals was born in Atkinson, New Hampshire in 1752 and died in Blendon Township in 1834. Joseph served in the Revolutionary War under Capt. Hopkins and Col. Seth Warner.

Simeon Moore

Simeon Moore was born in Torrington, Connecticut in 1760. At the age of 16, Simeon enlisted in the Revolutionary War first serving with the Connecticut Militia as a private, then with Capt. Ben Harmon and served three years. In 1807, Simeon moved to Blendon Township where he settled on 500 acres. Simeon passed away in June, 1825.

Benjamin Moore

Benjamin Moore was born in Torrington, Connecticut in 1756 and died in Blendon Township in October, 1825. After serving in the Revolutionary War, Benjamin moved to Ohio in 1807 and settled on land next to his brother, Simeon. Azubah Moore, sister of Simeon and Benjamin, married Edward Phelps. The brothers reputedly constructed the second sawmill in the township on Big Walnut Creek.

Timothy Lee

Timothy Lee was born in Conway, Massachusetts in 1785 and died in 1862 in Blendon Township. Timothy purchased 500 acres in the township in 1807. After his service in the War of 1812, Timothy built a sawmill (the third in Blendon Township), a grist mill, a distillery, and a woolen factory along his property on Big Walnut Creek. Timothy proclaimed to be able to out drink, out swear, and out fight anyone in the township. By 1829 however, he changed his ways and joined the Presbyterian Church. Timothy served as the first Justice of the Peace in the township where his final decision was rarely disputed and highly respected. After seeing hardships caused by whiskey, Timothy closed his distillery. The Lee mansion was completed ca. 1824.



Gideon Hart

Born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1795, Gideon Hart served as a drummer boy during the War of 1812. In 1815, Gideon purchased 500 acres on Big Run creek in Blendon Township. A surveyor by trade, Gideon built and operated the fourth sawmill in the township, and in 1820, completed his house, now believed to be the oldest surviving frame structure in Blendon Township. Gideon planted an orchard, grew sugar maples for maple syrup production, and acted as Justice of the Peace for a time. Gideon passed away in 1859.



Francis Olmsted Sr.

Born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1760, F.C. Olmsted Sr. served in the Revolutionary War (1778-1781) in Capt. John P. Wyllys' Company in Col. S.B. Webb's Connecticut Regiment. In 1808, Francis and his family moved into Blendon Township settling just south of Blendon Corners. Francis is credited for opening the first hotel and tavern in the township. Francis passed away in 1828.

John Mattoon

Born in Vermont in 1767, John Mattoon and his family moved to Blendon Township in 1808 and settled on land between the present-day Schrock and Cherrington Roads. The family started out in log cabins, but, in 1833, constructed a brick house that was later said to have been part of the Underground Railroad. The Mattoon family was very instrumental in the Methodist church in Westerville (Church of the Messiah). John passed away in 1843 and is buried in Pioneer Cemetery.



Ethan Palmer

Ethan Palmer was born in Windsor, Connecticut in 1782 and died in Blendon Township in 1818; he is buried in Pioneer Cemetery. Ethan moved to Ohio with the Phelps and Griswold families in 1806. During the War of 1812, Ethan was a sergeant in Capt. Chancey Barker's Company and later in Capt. Henry Slack's Company. Ethan and Chloe Palmer's 18-month-old daughter, Eliza, became the first burial in Pioneer Cemetery in 1817, marking the establishment of what was then known as Jameson's Graveyard.

Cooper Family

Brothers John and William Cooper came to Blendon Township with their families in 1808-1809 from Virginia. Isaac Harrison, their brother-in-law, also moved at the same time. John was a private during the War of 1812 and served in Capt. Chancey Barker's Company. William (1779-1838) and his family are buried in Blendon Central Cemetery, and John (1777-1861) and his family are buried in Pioneer Cemetery. Isaac Harrison served as a corporal in Capt. Chancey Barker Company during the War of 1812. Isaac Harrison (1781-1862) and family are buried in Blendon Central Cemetery.

George Osborn

Born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1785, George Osborn and his family moved to Ohio in 1808. They first built a cabin on Edward Phelps' land until they purchased property on what is now Cooper Road. George was a private in Capt. George Sanderson's Company during the War of 1812. After the war, he is credited with building the first brick house in the township in 1821.



McDannald Family

The McDannald's settled in Blendon Township after leaving Virginia in 1813. The family continued to prosper and became prominent members in developing the township, Central College Academy, and Central College Presbyterian Church. Samuel had two freed slaves that worked for the family and helped with construction and farming needs.



Garrit Sharp (and the Sharp Family)

Garrit Sharp and his wife, Anna, migrated to Blendon in 1809, having purchased 450 acres straddling the border of Franklin and Delaware Counties. The area, once known as "Sharps Settlement," is now part of Westerville. They built their cabin just south of the county line; their brick house, today known as the Alkire House, was constructed in 1849. Garrit and his wife had ten children: eight sons and two daughters. Many in the family were prominent activists for the Underground Railroad, and active members of the Methodist Church.

Amalthea (Central College)

Amalthea, founded in 1816, was laid out into lots in 1849 by Timothy Lee and the Trustees of the Central College of Ohio, a school of higher learning. Timothy Lee donated 100 acres of land to the Columbus Presbytery, and, in 1842, the college was founded. As a way to raise money, the Trustees divided parts of the college land into village lots. The college, however, went defunct and it was turned into a preparatory school known as Central College Academy, which operated until 1892. Previous accounts claim that Amalthea was named in memory of Timothy Lee's deceased fiancée, Amalthea G. Hart (Gideon Hart's sister), but that has not been proven.



William Schrock

Born in 1758 in Virginia, William Schrock moved his family to Blendon Township around 1832, settling near what is today Cooper and Schrock Roads. He served in Capt. Cord Hazzard's Company, Col. David Hall's Regiment, according to the *Roster III Soldiers of the American Revolution Who Lived in Ohio, 1959*. William died in 1847 and is buried in Pioneer Cemetery.

Reuben Carpenter

Reuben was born in Vermont in 1762. During the Revolutionary War, he served several tours under John Carpenter between 1779-1781. By 1808, Reuben and his family left Vermont and settled on the west side of Alum Creek just north of Schrock Road. Reuben passed away in 1830 and is buried in Pioneer Cemetery; unfortunately, the headstone has been lost.

Westervelt Family

New York natives Matthew and Peter Westervelt explored Blendon (*Harrison*) Township beginning in 1814. By 1816, the brothers had purchased 890 acres along the eastern bank of Alum Creek for \$3,562. By 1818, four Westervelt siblings were living in the area that would become Westerville. The village of Westerville was founded in 1839, though not incorporated until 1858. In 1837, Matthew Westervelt donated land for the construction of the Methodist Church (where the Church of the Messiah is today), and in 1838, donated land to establish the Blendon Young Men's Seminary; the seminary went defunct, and the land and buildings became Otterbein University in 1847.

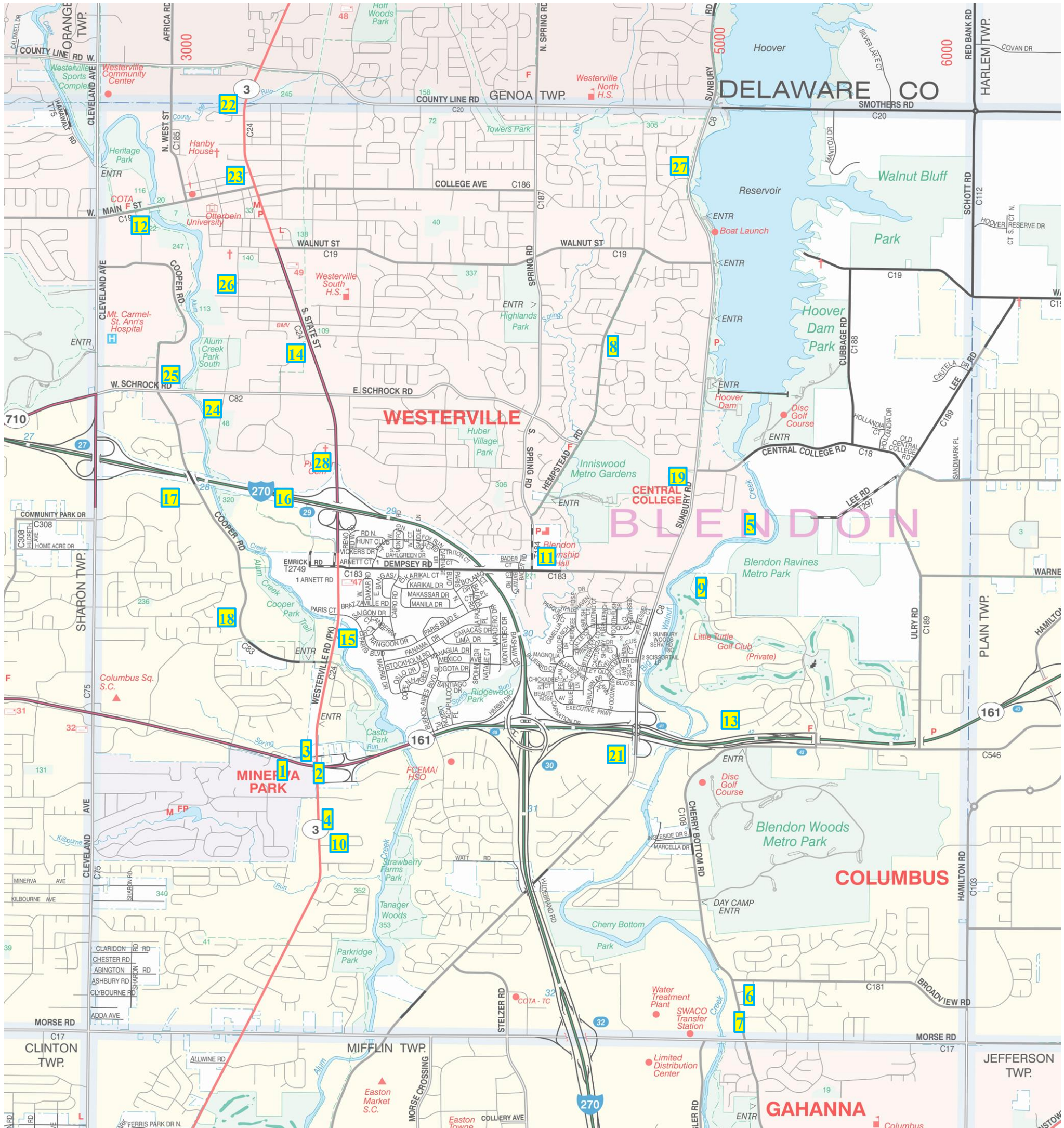
What's in a name?

Alum Creek, by some, is thought to mean "Salt Creek" referring to the brackish, muddy water of the stream. It could, however, be an etymology based upon the rustic American pronunciation of "elm" as "alum" named for the groves of elm trees that once grew along the creek. Big Walnut Creek was a name given during the 19th century. Prior to Big Walnut, it was known as "Big Belly," named after a Native American that once lived near the stream. Another historic name for Big Walnut was "Gahanna," a Native American word meaning "three united in one." This is appropriate since Alum Creek, Big Walnut Creek, and Blacklick Creek all merge into one river. Big Walnut refers to the groves of walnut trees that once covered the area.

**NOTE – Blendon Township was known as Harrison from its founding in 1815 until December 8, 1824, when the name was changed to Blendon.*

Blendon Township Historic Locations

This map does not show all historic locations



1. **Edward Phelps** homestead site - *Demolished ca. 1887*
Located 3047 Granville Rd. E
 - Veteran of the Revolutionary War
 - Buried in Blendon Central Cemetery
2. **Blendon Corners (Blendon Four-Corners)**
3. **Isaac Griswold** homestead site - *Demolished ca. 1968*
Located 5305 Westerville Rd.
 - Original Blendon Twp. Settler 1806
4. **Jonathan Noble** homestead - *Still Standing – private owner*
5030 Westerville Rd.
 - Buried in Blendon Central Cemetery
5. **Timothy Lee** homestead - *Still Standing - private residence*
 - Veteran of the War of 1812
 - Buried in Blendon Central Cemetery
6. **Simeon Moore** homestead property - *Demolished*
 - Veteran of the Revolutionary War
 - Buried in Pioneer Cemetery
7. **Benjamin Moore** homestead property - *Demolished*
 - Veteran of the Revolutionary War
 - Buried in Pioneer Cemetery
8. **Gideon Hart** homestead - *Still Standing – private residence*
 - Veteran of the War of 1812
 - Buried in Blendon Central Cemetery
9. **Native American Indian fort site** - *Demolished*
10. **Francis Olmstead** homestead site - *Demolished*
 - Veteran of the Revolutionary War
 - Buried in Blendon Central Cemetery

11. **Geographic center of Blendon Township**
 - Blendon Central Cemetery
 - Blendon Township Offices
12. **Joseph Ingals** homestead site - *Demolished*
 - Veteran of the Revolutionary War
 - Buried in Pioneer Cemetery
13. **Native American Indian mound site** - *Demolished*
14. **John Mattoon** homestead site - *Demolished 1974*
 - Early settler of Blendon Township
 - Buried in Pioneer Cemetery
15. **Native American Indian village site** - *Demolished*
 - As described by H. Warren Phelps
16. **John Cooper** homestead site - *Demolished*
 - Veteran of the War of 1812
 - Buried in Pioneer Cemetery
17. **William Cooper** homestead site - *Demolished*
 - Buried in Blendon Central Cemetery
18. **George Osborn** homestead site - *Demolished*
 - Veteran of the War of 1812
 - Buried in Pioneer Cemetery
19. **Village of Amalthea**
 - Later known as Central College
20. **Edward Landon** - *Homestead site unknown (not mapped)*
 - Veteran of the Revolutionary War
 - Buried in Blendon Central Cemetery, but his grave has been lost.

21. **McDannald** homestead site - *Demolished*
 - 5847 Sunbury Road
22. **Garrit Sharp** homestead - *259 N. State Street*
 - Early settler of Blendon Township
 - Veteran of the War of 1812
23. **Peter and Matthew Westervelt** homestead sites - *Demolished*
 - Early settlers of Blendon Township
 - Westerville's namesake
24. **William Schrock** homestead site - *Demolished*
 - Veteran of the Revolutionary War
 - Buried in Pioneer Cemetery
25. **Reuben Carpenter** homestead site - *Demolished*
 - Veteran of the Revolutionary War
 - Buried in Pioneer Cemetery
26. **Native American Indian mound site**
 - Demolished in the early 1950s
27. **Native American Indian mound site**
 - Demolished ca. 2008
28. **Blockhouse (fort)**
 - Built to protect settlers against possible Native American attacks.
 - Later used as a schoolhouse and church.
29. **Aaron Philips (Phillips)** - *Homestead site unknown (not mapped)*
 - Veteran of the Revolutionary War
 - Buried in Pioneer Cemetery, but his grave has been lost.