

## Ridgeville's Pioneer Journeys

### Columbia's Rescue - Summer 1809

Noah and Tillotson Terrell brought their families to Columbia, Ohio, by wagon where they would stay a year. Elderly "Uncle" Oliver Terrell accompanied them on horseback. They brought food to a starving Columbia. They examined the nearby land in Range 16 Township 6 (owned by Ephraim Root) and found it potentially good farmland.

In the fall of 1809, Ridgeville founders David Beebe, Sr., Ichabod Terrell and Uncle Oliver exchanged their Connecticut lands with Ephraim Root for first choice of over a quarter of Twp. 16-6.

### April to May 1810 The "Feat of Feet"

David Beebe, Sr., was the leader of fifteen pioneers who hiked 640 miles with backpacks from Waterbury, CT, to Ohio in early spring. They wove through the Taconic Mountains to Albany, NY, and then climbed up the Mohawk Valley between the high mountains. As planned, they passed through the Tug Hill region of NY soon after the deep snows had melted. The rest of their journey was flatter.

They spent a day in Buffalo, NY, buying their heavy tools. They hired a small ship to take this load to Cleaveland under the guard of Lyman Root. With favorable winds, the ship arrived in 7 days. The others hustled along the cold, wet Lake Erie beach for 8 days.

They took some lighter items to Columbia and borrowed pack animals from their kinfolk there. They were welcomed in Columbia with a grand celebration. After a couple days of well-earned rest they were ready to begin building their new town. By arriving early in spring, they could grow crops that first year in Ohio, and have favorable weather for cabin construction and clearing farms in the forest.

## Tuesday, May 10, 1810

The fifteen hikers combined with the three Terrell men already in Columbia. They carried their equipment on their backs through thick giant forests and marshy lowlands to their chosen township. They went along an old Indian trail (now Root Road) that connected the interior to Lake Erie. They named our town "Rootstown" and named Butternut Ridge and Chestnut Ridge for the trees that dominated each.

Near the town center and Center Creek, they set up a camp. David Beebe, Jr., won the competition to fell the first tree. They began to clear two acres and build a "Bachelors' Cabin." This cabin began with Y-croched trees placed in the ground and leaning poles. It probably resembled a double lean-to. It had a dirt floor, beds of leaves and a bark roof. A fire at the open end warded off beasts and mosquitoes. They would soon plant corn and potatoes amongst the stumps.

### Beebe's Backtrack - July to August 1810

The founders selected their farms, and then they built four cabins, cleared farms out of the forest, and started a better road to Columbia.

After completion of his father's cabin in mid-July, and assured the township was doing well, David Beebe, Jr., walked back to Waterbury, CT. He took detailed note of all the lodging and situations en-route.

### Late Summer to October 25, 1810

David Beebe, Jr., wisely guided two wagons back to Ohio, bringing his family and mother, Lyman Root's family, and Ichabod Terrell and his family. From Cleaveland they continued along the beach, then up the Rocky River. They labored fiercely for four days to carve the final 12 miles through the dense growth on what we now call Center Ridge. They had outraced a very wet and cold November by mere days.

## Ridgeville's Settlers of 1810

### Arriving on foot from Waterbury, CT, on May 10:

David Beebe, Sr. (63)	Revolutionary War veteran
David Beebe, Jr. (28)	(son of David, Sr.)
Loman Beebe (19)	(son of David, Sr.)
Whittlesey Hill (?)	
Amos Hotchkiss (22)	
Orrin Hotchkiss (18)	(brother of Amos)
Ira Beebe Morgan (22)	(grand-nephew of David, Sr.)
Sylvester Morgan (16)	(brother of Ira B.)
Lyman Root (29)	(son-in-law of David, Sr.)
Elihu Terrell (51)	Revolutionary War veteran
Joel Terrell (52)	Rev. War vet, brother of Elihu
Oliver Terrell (18)	(son of Ichabod and Rhoda)
Philander Terrell (20)	(brother of Oliver)
Mansfield Webb (23)	
Sheldon Wooster (18)	(great nephew of David, Sr.)

**Arriving from Columbia, OH, on May 10:**

"Uncle" Oliver Terrell (79)	French & Indian War vet
Noah Terrell, Jr. (41)	(son-in-law of David, Sr.)
Tillotson Terrell (25)	(brother of Oliver and Phil.)

**Arriving July 6, 1810 on foot from Columbia, OH, Tillotson Terrell's family:** Electa (23), Horatio (5), Eliza (3) and Alonzo (1)

### Arriving by wagon from Waterbury, CT, on

**October 25:** 4 men, 6 women and 12 children  
**Beebes:** Lydia (64), Lydia (35), Belinda (32), David, Jr., returning, Chester (25), Electa (8), Caroline (1)  
**Roots:** Eunice (31), William (9), Garry (8), Gilbert (4), Homer (1), and Lorain (infant)  
**Terrells:** Ichabod (46), Rhoda (43), Lucinda (15), Orpha (12) Ichabod (10), Elihu Franklin (8), Horace Jefferson (7), Henry "Harry" (4)  
**Wagon drivers:** Lorin Smith (18), Asa Morgan (part)

**Arriving late autumn from Columbia, OH, Noah Terrell, Jr.'s family:** Esther (33), Lydia (13), Noah Herman (11), Esther (7), Olive (6) and Amanda (2)