



BY SHELLY THOMPSON



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

COSHOCTON'S OLD STONE FORT MYSTERY

Although Coshocton is a relatively small town, it has a wealth of unusual points of interest and “claims to fame.” From being known as the birthplace of specialty advertising to having a street named after the White Woman legend, there’s a lot of intriguing history in the area. The Old Stone Fort in northern Oxford Township is one example. The building is believed to be one of the oldest structures west of the Appalachian Mountains, and perhaps the oldest in Ohio.

Experts have many versions of who built the fort and why. It may have been built by Isaac Evans, one of the first settlers in Coshocton County. But his descendants claim the fort already was an antique by the time they first arrived in the early 1800s.

Another theory is that the French explorer Pierre d’Iberville built the fort. However, archaeologists and historians date the fort to approximately 1679, and although some believe d’Iberville did build some French forts in the western lands between 1679 and 1689, they are said to have been in the Mississippi Valley. Archived records in England indicate the French did not build forts in the United States until the 1750s. There was one recorded to have been built “northwest of the Ohio River” that is generally considered to be Fort Sandusky, but that could be referring to the Old Stone Fort in Coshocton.

Another theory is that British fur trader George Croghan built the fort to protect the Indians — with whom he was known to have traded furs in the Ohio Valley in the 1740s — from the French, but that’s 60 years after the date archaeologists say it was built. Croghan likely stayed at the fort between 1752 and 1759, according to most experts, but it’s unlikely he built it.



The Old Stone Fort in Oxford Township is thought to be the oldest building in Ohio, though its true origin remains a mystery. Below, author Shelly Thompson visited the fort in January.

Still others believe the fort was built by unknown settlers as a spring or meat house. Since the Old Stone Fort dates back 60 years before the first recorded travelers in Ohio, its origin is a mystery.

However, the building and artifacts found in the surrounding area do give us some clues. The structure is very small, measuring 14 feet square, with 22-inch-thick stone walls that were quarried just north of the fort location. The fort has a loft (now inaccessible), and there are narrow vertical gun slits on three sides of the structure. The original door was 3 inches thick. Historians and archaeologists found the fort’s original lintel piece and many rifle balls, arrowheads, and flint knives, suggesting that the Old Stone Fort had been used by a variety of people and cultures over the centuries. There is also evidence that a stockade surrounded the fort at one time.

Continued on Page 21



REBATE PROGRAMS



FRONTIER POWER'S
WATER HEATER
REBATE PROGRAM

If you install a new electric water heater, and have a radio-controlled switch installed by Frontier Power, you could qualify for a \$150 or \$200 rebate.

Your new electric water heater must be at least a 50-gallon tank, and it must be used in a full-time residence. The water heater needs a minimum insulation of 2 inches, a 6-year warranty, and an efficient factor equal or greater than 91 percent. Warranty replacement water heaters do not qualify.

New water heaters can be purchased at Frontier Supply Co. For more information about the line of water heaters carried by Frontier Supply Co., call 740-622-5711 or 800-722-5713.

If you would like to learn more about the Water Heater Rebate Program, or how a radio-controlled switch works, please call Shelly at 740-622-6755 or 800-624-8050.



PROGRESSIVE
Water Treatment



• WATER ANALYSIS

• WATER CONDITIONING SYSTEMS

• REVERSE OSMOSIS



• DRINKING WATER and WATER COOLERS

DELIVERY AVAILABLE



• SOFTENER SALT

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

Give us a call for ALL of your water purifying and conditioning needs!



A division of
Frontier Supply Co.

SAVE ENERGY.
KEEP ENERGY COSTS DOWN.
and GET \$100.

COOL RETURNS

SAVE ENERGY, GET \$100 with **COOL RETURNS**

Cool Returns is a program designed to help Ohio electric cooperative members “Beat the Peak.” Cutting our energy consumption during times of high use is just one step in keeping your electric rates from increasing.

A radio-controlled switch will be installed on your air-conditioning unit, and a one-time rebate of \$100 will be mailed to you, the homeowner or business owner. Your electric account will also be credited \$4 for the months of June, July, August, and September each year.

Qualifications

- Air conditioning must be from a **central** air-conditioning unit or **heat pump** type of air-conditioning unit. Window units do not qualify.
- Must be a full-time residence or place of business where there is significantly higher electricity use in the summer from the air-conditioning unit.
- Part-time accounts, garages, campers, and seasonal accounts are not eligible for this program.

If you are interested in participating in the Cool Returns program, or checking to see if you would qualify, please call Shelly at Frontier Power at 740-622-6755 or 800-624-8050.

Continued from Page 19

A unique find was a bronze compass of French design that may have been carried by an explorer. The compass was found in 1918 by a farmer plowing the field near the fort. It was thought to be more than 200 years old at the time, but it was still in perfect working order.

The fort had long been abandoned by the time European settlers moved into Coshocton County, and the empty fort sat neglected for the next 150 years, until Manches Atkinson, who owned the property, realized its importance and deeded it over to the Coshocton Historical Society for preservation in 1952.

Many Coshoctonians were generous with their labor,

supplies, and funds to restore the Old Stone Fort, and a dedication was held May 14, 1953, after the completion of the restoration. Due to weather, the fort has been restored a few more times, but is in need of repair once again. Unfortunately, the Coshocton Historical Society has dissolved, and the fort’s ownership, as well as upkeep, remains in question.

The Old Stone Fort is located near the banks of the Tuscarawas River on County Road 254 in northern Oxford Township. The French compass and part of the doorway, as well as other artifacts, can be viewed at the Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum in Roscoe Village.

Sources: www.midwesternepigraphic.org, www.holmesbargainhunter.com, www.thetravelingpraters.com, www.coshoctonohio.pa-roots.com, www.youtube.com – NBC4



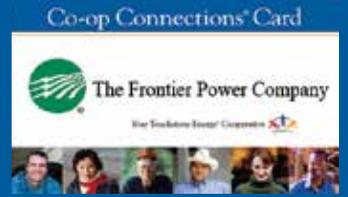
THE FRONTIER POWER COMPANY LOCAL PAGES

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to spring
forward on **March 12!**
Set your clocks ahead
by one hour.



Co-op Connections Card



Because you are a Frontier Power cooperative member, your Co-op Connections® Card provides you with special discounts online and at participating local retailers. Be sure to visit this month's highlighted business and check out offers on the Internet by clicking the Co-op Connections Card icon on our website, www.frontier-power.com.



\$1 off adult admission



NOW OPEN FOR THE SEASON!
778 SOUTH 2ND STREET, COSHOCTON
740-623-3233



THE FRONTIER POWER COMPANY

CONTACT

800-624-8050 | 740-622-6755
www.frontier-power.com

OFFICE

770 S. Second St.
P.O. Box 280
Coshocton, OH 43812

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert Wise
President

Larry Blair
Vice President

David P. Mizer
Secretary-Treasurer

Tim Anderson

Jim Buxton

Bill Daugherty

Ann Gano-McCleary
Trustees

GENERAL MANAGER

Steven K. Nelson

ATTORNEY

Michael D. Manning

PERSONNEL

Dakota Albertson
Stephanie Blair
Matthew Compton
Kyle Cramblett
Phil Crowdy
Jason Dolick
F. Scott Dunn
Mark Fabian
Michelle Fischer
Tyler Frazer
Rick Haines
Robert Haines
Josh Haumschild
Ken Hunter
Tim Keirns
Kelly Kendall
Lucas Landaker
Chad Lecraft
Matthew Limburg

Mark Lindsey
Francis "J.R." McCoy Jr.
Mike McCoy
Blake McKee
Melvin McVay
Chad Miller
Corey Miller
Bill Mizer
Marty Shroyer
Bornwell Sianjina
Nate Smith
Gene Swigert
Shelly Thompson
Jonathon Tolliver
Robin Totten
Andrew Vickers
Vickie Warnock
Jim Williams