

## 1819 Letter signed by Stow Township Early Settlers

Donated by Robert Wade 10/4/2017

Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library thanks long-time Stow resident Robert Wade for his generous donation of a Stow Township letter dated 1819. The letter was written in support of Stephen Butler's renewal of a license for a house of entertainment. It is signed by thirteen town leaders, including William Wetmore (1804 pioneer and Joshua Stow's land agent), William's brother Titus Wetmore (Stow's first postmaster), and Stephen W. Butler, son of Stephen Butler. The letter has been digitized and is available for viewing on our website.

According to The Bronson Book by Charles Cook Bronson, Stephen W. Butler was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. He came to the Western Reserve from Lewis County New York in 1806, traveling with John Graham. He and his family built a log cabin on Lot 45. Stephen Butler kept a Tavern for several years. Also known as Deacon Butler, he opened his home for religious services. He and his wife had three sons and one daughter. Son Stephen W. Butler was a drummer in a rifle company in the War of 1812. He married Karen Kingsbury of Hudson in 1812. They settled on the road leading from the Fish Creek to Darrow Street where they raised a family. Henry Willoughby Butler was married to Betsey Kingsbury in 1818, and he inherited the family homestead after the death of his father. Henry was Captain of the Militia Company of Stow and was also a Justice of the Peace. Youngest son, Leander Washington Butler, was 17 years old when his father died. He built a house and farm on the portion of his inheritance and his mother resided with him. He was married in 1829 to Aurora Hamlin. He later moved to Cuyahoga Falls and went into a Foundry and Machine Shop with Ogden Wetmore. Deacon Stephen Butler died in 1822 at the age of 62. According to Bronson, he was a man beloved and respected by all.

The signers of this document recommended that Stephen Butler, being a man of good character, be able to renew his license for a house of entertainment. The license was renewed for a fee of six dollars.

Signers of this document:

**Titus Wetmore:** Titus Wetmore came to Stow Township with a group of pioneers in 1804. He became Stow's first postmaster, with the post office in his house. His house, which was on the northwest corner of the intersection of Kent and Darrow Roads is still standing. It was moved west and is now part of the Dunn-Quigley Funeral Home building.

**William Wetmore:** William Wetmore, known as Judge William, was Joshua Stow's land agent. He led a party of pioneers from Connecticut to Stow Township in 1804. He was a leader in the community and contributed greatly to the development of Stow Township.

**John Campbell:** John Campbell came to Stow Township with the William Wetmore party in 1804, leaving his wife and child behind in order to explore the area first. He then walked back to Connecticut in the fall or early winter of 1804, moving his family here in the summer of 1805. He purchased 128 acres on the east side of Stow Township, with Fish Creek running through his property.

**John Burdick:** The Burdicks came to Stow Township around 1808 and built a cabin near the Campbells on the eastern side of Stow Township. At first there were no doors on the cabins, with only blankets

hung over the doorways. Wild animals were numerous, with pioneer stories of bears, wolves, panthers, and snakes.

**William Lappin:** William (Bill) Lappin first settled in the southeastern part of Hudson township. He was part hunter and part farmer. Early in the pioneer days Lappin carried the wheat grown by William Wetmore twenty miles away to Newburgh to be ground. This was a long and arduous journey, leading his horse on a footpath through the wilderness.

**David Powers:** David Powers is listed in the 1820 census as living in Stow Township.

**William McClelland:** William McClelland settled on a farm in the southern part of Stow Township, on the southern part of what was later the site of the Summit County Home.

**Ethe Wetmore:** Ethe (AKA Itha) Wetmore was born in Middletown, Connecticut, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1773. He came to Stow Township in 1815 with his wife Lucy and family. Ethe purchased 540 acres from Joshua Stow. He was a mason by trade, and built a large brick house about 1821.

**Timothy Wallis** (Wallace?)– Timothy Wallace is listed in the 1820 census as living in Franklin Township. This may be the same person with a misspelled last name.

**James Rich** – James Rich is listed in the 1820 Census in Stow Township.

**Constant Rogers** – Constant Rogers was born about 1768. He and his wife Mercy and their family had a farm on the Darrowville-Fish Creek Road. The farm was on the west side of the road and joined the Williamson farm. Constant and Mercy were founding members of the Stow Christian Church when it was founded in 1831.

**Joseph Hinkston** – Joseph Hinkston is listed as a resident of Stow Township in the 1820 Census. He later moved to Geauga County.

**Stephen W. Butler** – Stephen W. Butler was the son of Stephen Butler.