



### DEFIANCE COUNTY DIRECTORY

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Paid by:

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### HISTORY OF DEFIANCE COUNTY

As part of the Great Black Swamp, Defiance County was one of the later counties in the state to be settled and organized. However, due to the county's four rivers (the Augitzin, the Tiffin, and the St. Joe) Defiance County is and has been a transportation hub since prehistoric times. Transportation helped shape local history. Americans as well as for later settlers in the area. The Shawnee, Ottawa, and Miami Indians often used this site for trading and councils. In fact, Pontiac, the great military leader of the Ottawa tribe was born in this area, and many of the area tribes belonged to Tecumseh's confederacy. When General Anthony Wayne moved into the area in the late 1700s to try to improve relations with the Indians and resist British influence in the area, he built a fort on the site of the present-day city of Defiance. The fort was destroyed in the war of 1812, another fort named Fort Winchester, was built near this site as well. Although neither fort remains standing today, the sites where they once stood can be visited. They were located on high ground overlooking the confluence of the two rivers. Chequamegon, and Fort Wayne. This provided transportation for area goods to outside markets and also helped in the draining of the best swampland. Although the canals strong impacts in Defiance County. From 1870 to 1880, when the canals in the county were being drained and cleared, many of the canals have been replaced by highways and railroads as the means of transportation. Many of the canals can still be seen around Defiance County.

Prior to Ohio's settlement in 1803, the area which is now Defiance County was part of Western Pennsylvania. When Ohio became a state, the Defiance County area belonged to Montgomery County, which at that time was a wide strip of land along Ohio's western border which extended from Michigan to Kentucky. Approximately eleven years later, a reorganization occurred and present day Defiance County became part of Darke County, which at that time extended north to the Michigan border. In 1824, most of the surrounding counties were reorganized into the present-day counties of Adams, Henry, Richland, and Williams County. Defiance County was once part of Adams County, Adams, Richland, and Highland Townships were once part of Henry County, and the southern half of Defiance Township was once part of Paulding County.

The City of Defiance and other villages and communities in the county contain businesses of varying sizes and types, but most of the county is still a gently rolling farmland.