

Joseph Wardlow

Joseph Wardlow was the first person to actually come to the present Oak Harbor area with the idea of at the least platting the area for development of a town site. He staked a claim on the north bank of the Portage River in the area now known as Oak Harbor in October, 1832. Who was this man and where did he come from? Very little is known about the man. The majority of the information below was provided to Wayne Drier, Managing Editor of the Ottawa County Exponent, in June, 1994 by great-great-grandson, Donald C. Wardlow, Sr. (1994 address was 638 W. Bennett Ave., Glendora, California 91741)***

Family name – Wardlaw (This is how Donald Wardlow said it was first spelled) – Came to America from Scotland.

Parents – Robert & Janet (Downley) Wardlaw

Joseph Wardlow (Wardlaw) and his twin, Hugh, born April 21, 1791 in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

Robert/Janet Wardlaw family moved to Brown County, Ohio in 1800 (North of Georgetown, Ohio).

Joseph Wardlow married Sarah Kimball on May 18, 1825 in Georgetown, Ohio. (Some abstract of titles in the Sandusky/Ottawa/Lucas County legal documents say her name was Sara.)

Children born in the Brown County, Georgetown, Virginia area: Son, Thaddeus, 1825; Son, William, 1826; Daughter, Mary Ann, 1827.

Joseph and Sarah left Brown County, Virginia in 1828 and moved to (?). Unknown where in Ohio the family was from 1828 to 1832.

Moved to Sandusky County, Ohio (Ottawa County did not exist until 1840) in 1832 and remained in the area around present day Oak Harbor and Harris Township until 1847.

Children born in the Sandusky/Ottawa County area: Daughter, Amanda, 1832; Daughter, Phoebe Jane, 1833/34; Son, Chester P., Nov. 13, 1838 (This is who Donald Wardlow of California is descended from); Son, Henry Hazen, Oct. 5, 1843.

Deed recorded at the Sandusky County Court House on April 8, 1835 describes the town plat of Hartford. Wardlow is described as a prospector. Purpose was to “expose the same for sale”. Plat is dated April 6, 1835 with survey done by David Camp.

Joseph Wardlow appears not to have lived in Hartford. He had a farm in Section 11, Harris Township. His brother-in-law, Benjamin Kimble (Kimball), lived next to him on Section 9.

Of the 61 lots owned by Joseph Wardlow, he sold 31 of them between April 8, 1835 and November 27, 1837. The remaining lots were sold to Adolphus Kraemer, Chester Walbridge, and Ira Smith on February 27, 1838.

Joseph and Sarah Wardlow moved, in late 1847, to Fulton County, Indiana, 10 miles west of Rochester near Leiters Ford. He bought 40 acres from the (U.S.?) government on Nov. 16, 1847 and 40 acres from Allen Frazier on December 11, 1847.

Joseph Wardlow became sick and was treated by a doctor on June 7,8,9, 1848.

Joseph Wardlow died June 9, 1848. (Death registered at Rochester Court House) It is not know where he is buried. There is no known grave site.

Sarah Wardlow remarried January, 1850. She died June, 1850.

Farm sold in 1857 & 1859 except 1/6 which Hazen had been living on. It was sold on July 16, 1860.

*** Donald Wardlow does not have a picture of Joseph Wardlow. None is known in the family. There are no known pictures or descriptions of him available in either Ohio or Indiana. Mr. Wardlow also asked about Joseph's occupation from 1832-1847 while he was in Ohio. Other than selling land in Hartford and living (on a farm?) in Harris Township, nothing is known.