

E. B. Hill (Elijah)

E. B. Hill was born in Great Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York August 9th 1792. He died on November 19th 1879 at 87 years old.

His grandfather came from England and settled in Connecticut where his father John Hill was born. His father was a soldier in the U.S Revolutionary Army during the Revolutionary War. There he served under General Putnam. His wife was a niece of Putnam. Years later his family moved to New Durham, Green County, New York where both his parents died.

When E.B. Hill was 19 years old he started on foot to Ohio with a knapsack. He arrived at Denmark, Ashtabula County on October 27th 1811. He soon brought his brother and sister to his wilderness home. He lived there for four years during which time he was married to 21-year-old Rebecca Harvey.

During this time he enlisted in the Army for the war of 1812.

In 1815 he moved to Kingsville, Ashtabula County and there he lived for four years.

He moved to Dover, Cuyahoga County in 1819. Here his job was to carry the mail to Fort Meigs. This was a journey of 140 miles on the road traveling by horseback while he frequently carried 120lbs. That was in addition to the mail matter.

In 1821 he moved again, this time to Brooklyn, Cuyahoga County. This is where he remained for 12 more years. In 1833 he purchased a farm on the Chagrin River (at the time it was Solon Township). This is where he lived till his death. This map from 1874, shows his property along the Aurora branch of the Chagrin River.



It was thought in 1822 he subscribed to the Cleveland Herald and he took it from then on, except for the years when he could not spare the money to pay for the paper.

When the Chagrin Falls, Solon RR was built, it passed through his farm. And it was he who generously donated to the company the right of way. The station at that point was named Hills Boro. The picture below shows the abandoned railway line today off of Holbrook Rd in Bentleyville.



He was a medium sized man with great physical endurance, as he was uncommonly active. With his own arms he cleared up the forest and built four new homes. As a new settler in the Western Reserve this was one of the hardships and privations he had to go through.

He was very active in the community, serving as treasurer for the Chagrin school located near his home in, what is now, Bentleyville.

This is the school circa 1880.



E. B. Hill was married five times in his lifetime. He outlived all of his wives. His wives are buried side-by-side on a lovely hill on part of the old farm. The names of his wives first to last are listed here: Rebecca Harvey, Sophia Carver, Jeanette P. Hanchet , Lorain Russell, Annie Harvey (first husband was a brother of Hill's first wife)

Hill became a father of a very large family. Many of whom have been dead for years before E.B. Hill. Three family members survived him and remained on the farm.

E. B. Hill had lived seven years in the lifetime of General George Washington. When he first visited Cleveland there were only four houses. It was written by the exponent in 1879 'it was better than reading books to sit and listen to the old man as he related in his particular style the incidents of early days' He was known to have a clear mind and a remarkably correct memory.

He was also known to act on principle in politics and religion, being a member of the Christian church for 47 years. According to the *EXPONENT* 1879 he was 'emphatically the noblest work of God- an honest man. It is no wonder he had a very large circle of friends.

As one can now see E.B. Hill had a remarkable and eventful life.