

EDWARD PAINE

Painesville's Leading Citizen

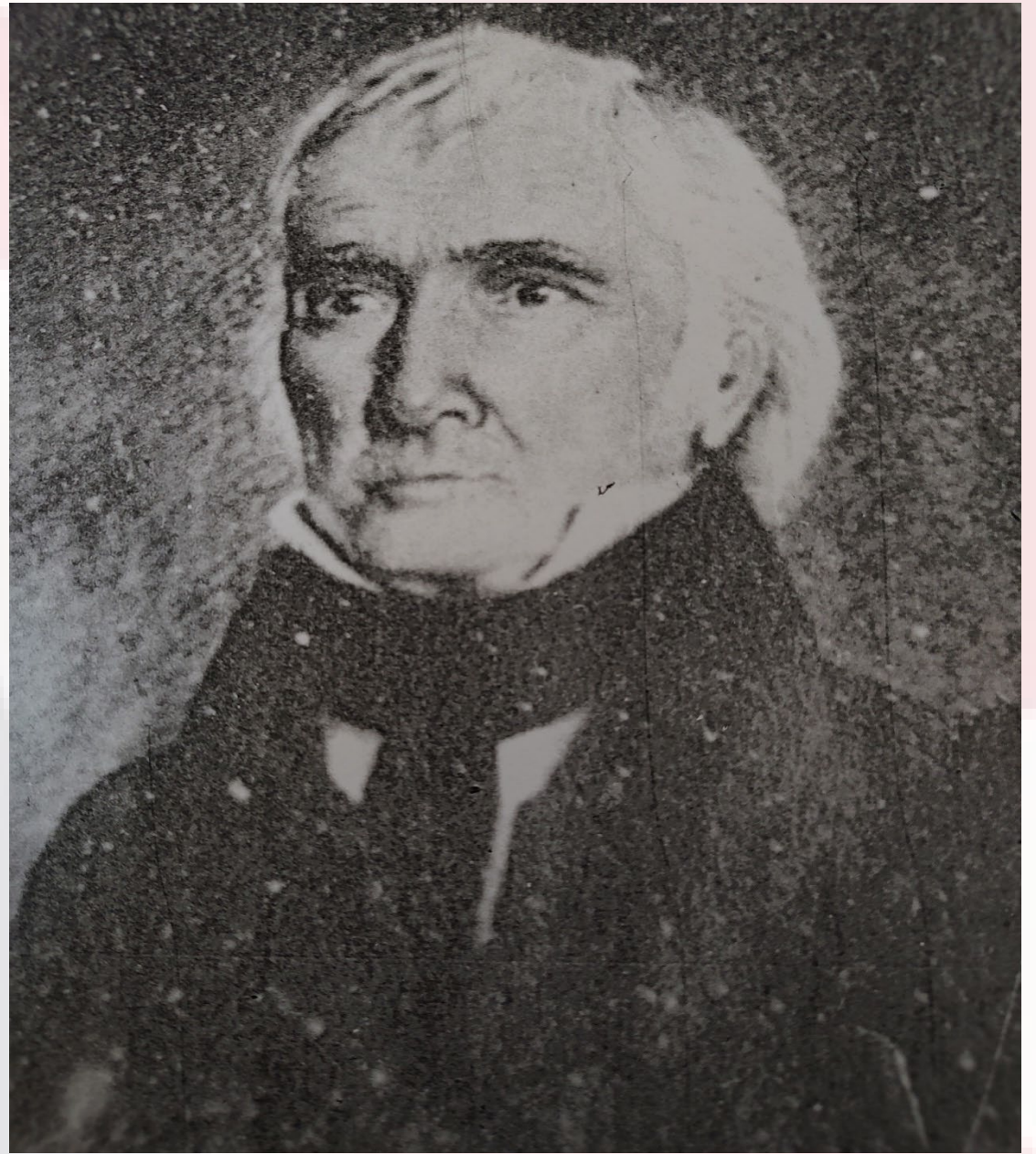
Edward Paine was born January 27, 1746 in Bolton, Tolland County, Connecticut to Stephen Paine IV and Deborah Skinner. When the Revolution began in 1775, Edward enlisted in a regiment of the Connecticut militia. Commissioned as an ensign, he served several enlistments during his service, rising to the rank of captain of the Fifth Company of the Alarm List in the 19th regiment. Edward served as captain until the close of the war. Documented Paine family lore has shared that Edward's father instilled in his children a sense of patriotism and was proud that all seven of his sons served and fought for independence during the Revolutionary War.

Edward married his first wife Elizabeth "Betsey" King, of Bolton, Connecticut on September 7, 1769. Edward and Betsey became the parents of eight children. Betsey died in August 1795, leaving Edward with eight young children to care for. On January 28, 1796 Edward married a second time to Rebecca (White) Loomis. Edward and his second wife would go on to welcome three additional children to the family. Rebecca died in October 1815, leaving Edward free to marry once again. A third marriage followed, as he married Lovina (Lyon) Brown Hovey on June 26, 1816, who would outlive him by several years.



Edward and Betsey moved their young family to Scipio (now Aurora), New York in 1790. There he built a log home south of the village on Paine Creek. When a post office was established at Scipio in April 1795, Edward was appointed its first mail carrier with a salary of \$175 per year. In that same year, he was elected commissioner of highways and charged with overseeing the development of new thoroughfares through the wilderness. He would go on to serve several sessions as a representative in the state legislature and would rise to the rank of brigadier general in the state militia. Henceforth, Edward was known as "General" Paine.

Early in 1800, Edward purchased a 1000-acre parcel of land in the Western Reserve from Henry Champion for the sum of \$2250. In March of the same year, Edward and a group of sixty-six friends and family members left Scipio and proceeded to Buffalo, New York, which was then a western outpost. They intended to travel by sleigh across a frozen Lake Erie to their final destination along the Grand River, but soon into their journey, they found the ice to be unsafe and were forced to delay their journey until the spring thaw. Temporary shelters were quickly built, while some of the men went on ahead with the horses and cattle. When the lake opened, the party proceeded in open boats packed with household goods, tools, food supplies, seeds and fruit tree saplings. Edward and his family settled along the Grand River north of the present city of Painesville, where he built a log house and called his home "Elysian Point".



Edward was quickly recognized as a man of fine character. In October 1800, he was elected to the Territorial Legislature and became the first representative from the Western Reserve. 1801 saw the Trumbull County court appoint officers for the local township governments. Edward was appointed an appraiser of taxable properties and a supervisor of highways. In time, he would go on to be appointed one of three commissioners charged with supervising the building of a road to connect the territorial capital with Lake Erie. Edward was responsible for mapping the route for what would be known as the "Old Chillicothe Road". In April 1802, the first election of township officials was held. He was chosen chairman at that first town meeting. Originally known as Champion, the township was later renamed Painesville to honor Edward, who was a leading member of the community at that time.

Edward died on August 28, 1841 and was interred in the Old Washington Street Cemetery in Painesville, Ohio. The year 1900 marked the centennial of the founding of the City of Painesville. At that time, a movement to erect a monument in memory of the founder of the community was spearheaded by one of Edward's granddaughters and the New Connecticut Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Sexton records from the Old Washington Street Cemetery assisted with locating Edward's original burial site. Edward's remains were then placed in a new casket and buried beneath a monument erected in Charter Oak Park located at the intersection of Mentor Avenue and West Washington Street in Painesville, Ohio. The monument was dedicated in a civic ceremony held on July 4, 1900 during the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Painesville.

