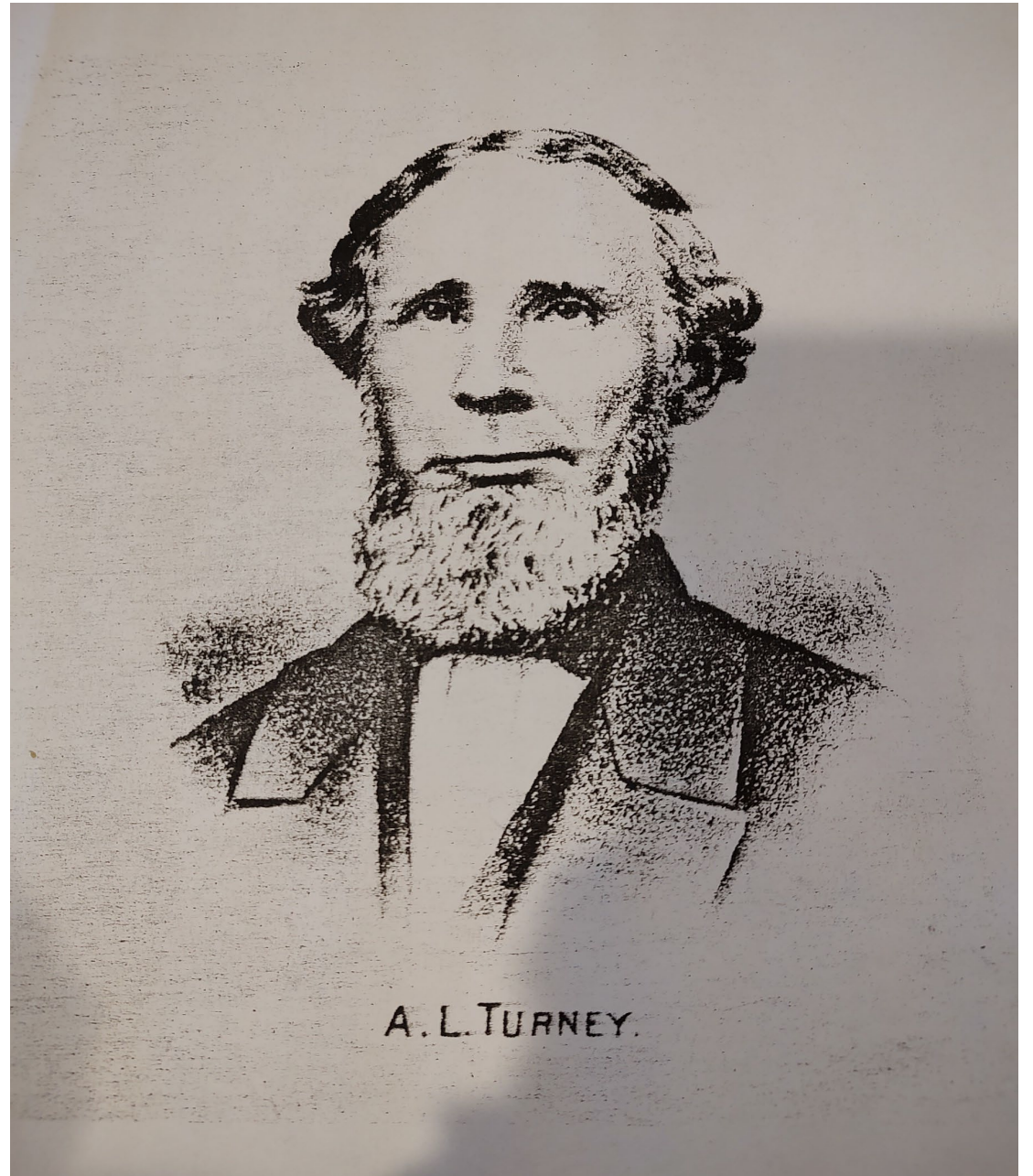


ASA TURNEY

Early Madison Resident

Asa Turney was born October 15, 1759 in Fairfield, Connecticut to Stephen and Sarah Squire Turney. In 1777 at the age of 18, he enlisted as a private in the Revolutionary War and served in a Connecticut regiment commanded by General Arnold. He fought in the battle of Danbury, Connecticut, a town taken and burned by the British. He later served at Black Rock, Battery Point. His brother, Aaron Turney, was captain of a Connecticut Company, while a younger brother, Abel Turney, enlisted at the age of 15. All three of the brothers continued in service until the end of the Revolution.

Asa married Mary (Polly) Downs of Redding, Connecticut in a local Baptist church on January 24, 1787. Asa and Polly had eight children, seven born in Connecticut and their youngest in Ohio. After the war, Asa was said to have been the captain of a merchant vessel until he and his family migrated to Ohio in late 1809. For the considerable sum of \$105, Asa purchased 100 acres of heavily timbered land from the Connecticut Land Company in Madison Township, Lake County, which was previously known as Centerville, Chapin Township, Geauga Township.



Handwritten documents in the Madison Historical Society state that “he migrated to the wilds of Ohio”. The Turney family made the journey by wagon with a team of oxen, leaving Redding, Connecticut on November 6 during cold weather and arriving in Madison Township on December 30, 1809 after traveling for 54 days. His wife and daughters were said to have taken turns riding the only horse, while his sons went ahead in search of game. There were no roads or bridges simply a wild kind of trail through the woods. The horses and oxen were made to swim any expanse of water, the goods being placed on rafts or whatever was available with a line attached to the wagon and drawn across by hand.

Asa was the fourth settler to build a house within the limits of Madison Township. It was a primitive log cabin with furnishings and conveniences of the most primitive order. There were but three other houses between his home and Painesville. The homestead was later deeded to his son, Asa Squire Turney and then to Carlos Asa Turney who dedicated the lands to raising grapes and livestock. Asa was elected a trustee in April, 1811 when Madison Township was incorporated. In time, he built the first cider mill in Madison in 1824. He died at his home in 1833 and is buried in Middle Ridge Cemetery in Madison, Ohio.

Today, Asa Turney’s later home can be found at 746 East Main Street in Madison, Ohio. It is a yellow two-story dwelling with white trim and a blue inner door. The Madison Historical Society recognizes Asa Turney as an important patriot of the American Revolution and early resident of Madison. The Daughters of the American Revolution - New Connecticut Chapter have honored him with an inscribed brick located at the America 250 Patriots Marker at the Lake County Courthouse in Painesville, Ohio.

