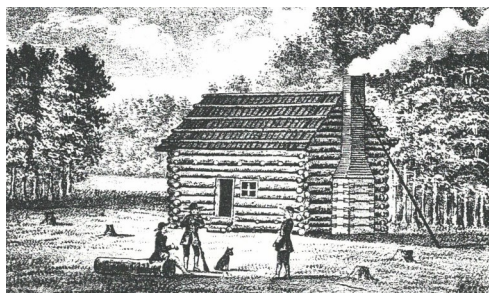




Catherine Weaver Bowsher
Wife of Daniel Bowsher
Born: 1798 Died: 1871

Daniel Bowsher was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania on July 18, 1795. His father, William Bowsher, brought the family to Ross County, Ohio in 1804. Daniel was nine years old when they came to their new home 40 miles south of Columbus.

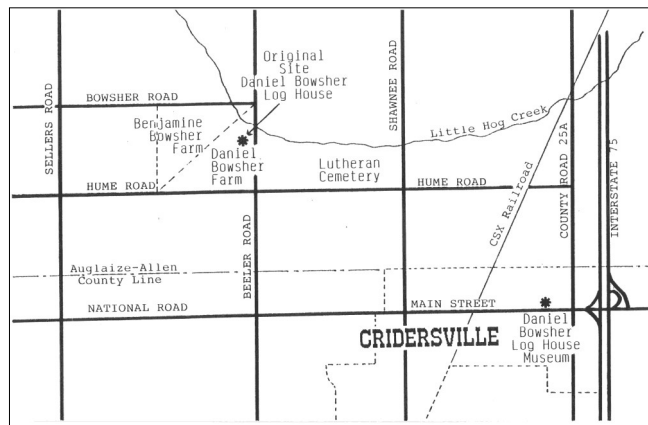
Daniel married Catherine Weaver and they had six children. When they moved to Shawnee Township in 1836, Daniel was 41 years old and Catherine was 38. Their oldest son, Amos had died before they left Ross County. Charles was then 15, Hester 14, Sylvia 12, and Isaac 8. Their youngest child, Catherine, was born in the new home in 1839.



The Log House Becomes A Museum

In 1982, Mr. and Mrs. James Harris, having purchased the Daniel Bowsher farm, decided to donate the log house to a group of Bowsher family members. Their goal was to relocate and restore the log house as a museum in Cridersville. A site for the new Daniel Bowsher Log House Museum on East Main Street was donated by John and Agnes Wolff. A local historical society was established to own and operate the museum.

In July of 1988, the Bowsher family officially donated the restored log house to the Cridersville Historical Society. The Society operates and maintains it as a museum to tell the story of families like Daniel and Catherine Bowsher's who pioneered our region of Ohio.



The Daniel Bowsher Log House was moved from its original site on Beeler Road—approximately 3 miles northwest of Cridersville—to its new home at 603 E. Main Street in 1988.

Daniel Bowsher Log House Museum



Daniel Bowsher, his wife Catherine, and their five children came to western Ohio in 1836. They built a new log home in the wilderness of Allen County—established in 1820. They were among the first pioneer families in Shawnee Township, arriving just four years after the Shawnee tribes were removed to the Kansas Territory. They built their log house near what is today the corner of Bowsher and Beeler Roads, 3 miles west of Cridersville.



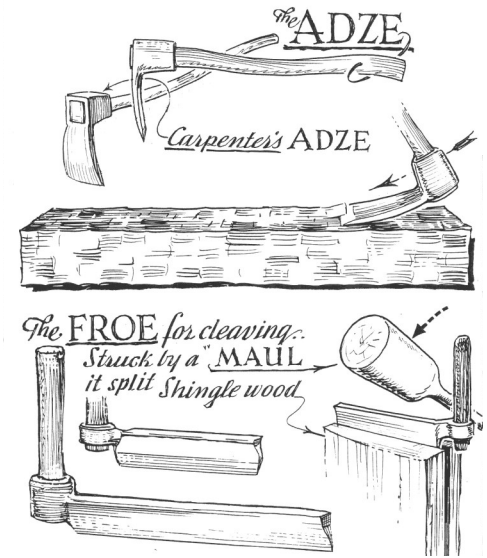
In 1835 Daniel Bowsher and his younger brother Benjamine made a prospecting trip on horseback through this area. The brothers were so impressed with what they found that they purchased 160 acres in Section 28 of Shawnee Township for \$500. This home site was selected due to plentiful game and abundance of sugar maple trees. They also liked it because the Little Hog Creek ran through the northeast corner of the property.

In the spring of 1836, Daniel and Benjamine, along with Jacob Delong,

lead an expedition of 27 people from Ross and Pickaway Counties to pioneer this area of Ohio. They came by trails, waded swamps, and pushed their way through the virgin forests until they reached Duchouquet and Shawnee Townships.

Daniel and Catherine built their log house near the west bank of the Little Hog Creek. The families of both Daniel and Benjamine took shelter in a log hut left behind by the Shawnee when they left for Kansas in 1832. The Bowsher families lived in it while they built their log houses.

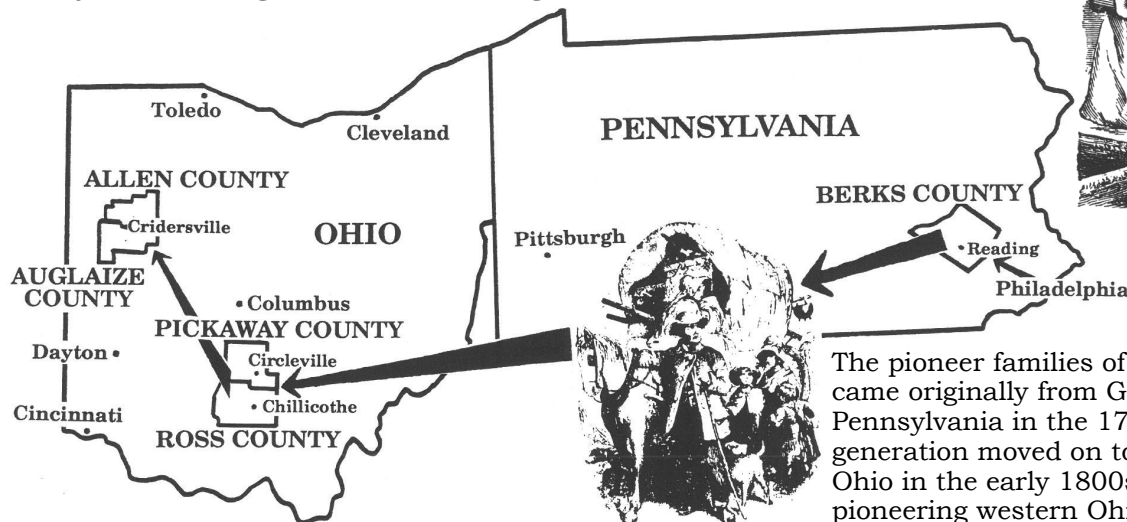
The Daniel Bowsher log house remained in the family for several generations. Like many pioneer log homes, as the family prospered and a new frame house was constructed, the log house served as an outbuilding on the farm.



Building a log house in the wilderness was not an easy task. The work was all done by hand with a few simple tools—axe, adze, hand saw and drill, mauls, and a froe for making shingles.

If there were neighbors nearby, it often became a group effort with one family helping another. There was a job for everyone—from chopping down the trees to hewing the logs, cutting the notches, stacking the logs, and installing the chinking.

It was hard work and required a good amount of courage and perseverance.



The pioneer families of our area came originally from Germany to Pennsylvania in the 1700s. The next generation moved on to south central Ohio in the early 1800s. They began pioneering western Ohio in 1836.

