

Abigail Lucas Clark Cramer—Lucasville Legend

In April 1800 little nine-year-old Abigail Lucas arrived with the rest of her family in this area that would one day become Lucasville. The family had traveled 30 days from Virginia to this place. In 1842 Abigail Lucas Clark Cramer was the last of the original Lucas family still living in Lucasville.

During the years from 1800 and 1842 =

She had lost her mother at age 17.

At age 19, she married John Clark. They had one child, Susannah. Her husband died the very next year in 1811. At that time, she returned to her father's home until his death in 1814.

She inherited a 100-acre farm when her father died.

Four years later, she married Henry Cramer.

She had two more children with him. The first child was Rebecca Ann. The second was William Henry. Henry Cramer died in 1834 his 39th year.

We believe she was particularly close to her brother John. John did not marry until after his father's death. He always lived close and looked after both Abigail and his father.

We can only imagine Abigail's joy in 1816 when John's new bride, Mary, a cousin from Virginia, arrived. She would've known Mary from the time they were little girls living in Virginia.

We know that Abigail was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Portsmouth which was known for helping runaway slaves. And there is a small newspaper article written in 1840 two years before her death. The focus of the article was to enumerate the number of African Americans living in Portsmouth and Lucasville. But in the article, they also mentioned that she had hired an African American man to supervise her farm, and some would not speak to her because of it.

Abigail died in May 1842. Her two daughters Susannah and Rebecca Ann died in 1854 and 1850.

At the end, Abigail had lived long enough to see the little village that her brother had platted grow into a bustling town benefiting from the Ohio Erie canal that had first gone by Lucasville in 1832.

In a much later newspaper article, a reporter is being guided through the Lucasville Cemetery by the first Joseph Brant. Mr. Brant tells the reporter about Abigail Lucas.

“Here lies a woman as good as God ever created. She was the sister to Governor Bob Lucas, and her first husband's name was Clark. She was educated and intelligent and a woman of great benevolence. Uncle Joe cherishes her memory gratefully because she was the first to hold out a helping hand when he came to this county destitute.” from **The Portsmouth Times** “Reminiscences”

Abigail's descendants have continued to live and contribute to the Lucasville area to this day. Her name needs to be remembered, and she deserves to be called a Lucasville legend.

VERY INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT IN JUNE, 2024

Somehow an original plat of Lucasville created in 1819 was preserved through Abigail's descendants. We know there must've been more than one copy of the plat, but one was preserved through Abigail's daughter, Rebecca Ann, and her daughter Rachel. Rebecca's daughter Rachel was cared for by her aunt Rachel Morgan Jones after her parents died. It could be that Rachel Jones may have watched over the plat during this time. How do we know this - because an original plat has been preserved in the Thomas family into which Rachel married.

This 200-year-old plat was recently returned to the Lucasville Area Historical Society. It had been stored at the McConnell farm which was originally the Thomas farm owned by Eva Thomas McConnell, Rachel's daughter. When the farm was sold, Eva's son cared for it at his home. Tom Adkins remembers being told that it was found in the back of an old chest drawer in a shed used for chickens. The drawers were pulled out to make nests for eggs.