

HISTORIC HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP

Capt. Benjamin Banning

Captain Banning's was the first adult death recorded in the township. He settled on land one-half mile south of Isaac Sage, and died in 1826. He was buried in his own orchard across the highway from the old Cassell home (28388 Rt. 58). His grave is on the east side of the road about 100 yards north of the house at the south end of the lake (1 2/3 miles south of Huntington Center). His was the only grave in a small family cemetery in Huntington that was not moved in 1868 to the two centralized cemeteries mentioned in the Ethel Cassell history. The location of the grave is presently unmarked. (From the 1950 *History of Huntington* by Ethel Cassell, updated by Ray Cassell in 1991.)

HISTORY OF BENJAMIN BANNING

From: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mbfriedlander/banning.html>

BENJAMIN⁵ (*Abner*⁴, *Samuel*³, *John*^{2,1}) BANNING, was born in Hartland, CT in 1780 and died in Lorain Ohio, 1827 (*Lorain County Cemetery Inscriptions*), of heart disease He married three times; first in Hartland 28 November 1802, MARY COE who was born 1781 in Hartland, in 1781 and died there 1803, daughter of Elijah Coe. He married second in Canfield Ohio, 20 November 1804, PEGGY TANNER.who was born born in Cornwall, CT, 17 Jun 1782, and died in Vernon, Ohio , June 1810, daughter of Tryal and Huldah (Jackson Tanner); and married third in Litchfield, CT in 1813, MARY MUNGER.

About 1801, the church in Hartland decided to impose a new tax on all its members; and this made many people decide to move west to Ohio, which was just beginning to be settled (*Brownlee Manuscripts*); Benjamin and Mary planned on joining them. Unfortunately "in one short year she was consigned to the tomb, leaving an infant daughter but a few days old" (Amelia Eells again) and Benjamin had to go alone, bringing little Mary with him. They were forty days on the road. from Hartland to Vernon, Ohio. There he courted and married Peggy Tanner from nearby Canfield, Ohio they had three sons in quick succession, Elijah and Edmund.. The first died as an infant and Peggy died giving birth to the third. At this time there may have been a quarrel between Benjamin and Tryal Tanner; in any case he left his baby son Edmund Prior with Tryal and returned east to Hartland with Mary and his three year old Elijah. Once there he left Mary with her grandfather Elijah Coe and Elijah with his grandfather Abner Banning. He himself stayed with his widowed sister Melinda for more independence. In three years he had married again, in Litchfield, CT Mary Munger, 15 years his junior; he started a new family , had two more daughters and two more sons, and then decided to try Ohio again. He had collected Elijah and Mary sometime before this because they went with him. They all settled in Huntington, Lorrain County, Ohio and there Benjamin and Mary had two more daughters.

A History of Lorrain County mentions Benjamin several times, he seemed to have finally come into his own. He was called Captain Benjamin because of a short service in the war of 1812. When Huntington was incorporated in 1822, he was named one of the three trustees, and one of two supervisors of the poor. He was the second to be elected Justice of the Peace, and died while still in office. His death, in 1827, was the first adult death in the town and he was interred in the orchard just south of his residence.

In his will he left his son Edmund Prior half the forty acres Peggy Tanned had received from her father (the other half went to Elijah) and one dollar. His other sons got \$300, the daughters \$150. A very curious item in his inventory was 38 clocks (see the probate of his brother Samuel). His wife survived him and married again, a Mr. Slocum. Comments on his children are taken from the letter of Amelia Eells.