

CAPTAIN JAMES CUNNINGHAM.

Captain James Cunningham was a son of John Cunningham, a soldier of the American Revolution. John Cunningham was born in Ireland. His parents died when he was very young, and he was reared in his uncle's family until he was twelve years old, when he was put on board a sailing vessel bound for America and placed in charge of the captain. Arriving in Baltimore, he was indentured. Upon attaining his majority he was informed that there was the sum of two thousand dollars in a bank to his credit. He then went into business for himself, at Richmond, Virginia. Upon the breaking out of the Revolutionary war he returned to Baltimore and enlisted in the Second Maryland Regiment, and was wounded at the battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777. General Lafayette was wounded in the same battle. The Cunningham estate in Ireland was very large, and it was afterward ascertained that the boy—John Cunningham—was sent to America and reported dead, and that his uncle then took possession of the property!

Captain James Cunningham was born at Baltimore, Maryland, where he grew up to manhood and was educated. Later he went to Virginia, where, in 1804, he married Hannah Stateler, a daughter of Michael and Sarah

Stateler. Soon after his marriage he removed with the Stateler family to Licking county, Ohio. He had one child, named Elizabeth, who afterward married Jacob Baughman, of Richland county. There is a sketch of Mrs. Baughman elsewhere in this work.

Mrs. Cunningham died when her child—Elizabeth—was six months old. After a few years the Captain again married, and removed to Richland county in 1808, and built the third cabin in the Newman settlement on the Rocky Fork. He afterward lived in the first house built in Mansfield, and boarded the surveying party when the town was platted.

Captain Cunningham was very prominent in the early history of the country, and was a captain in the war of 1812. He taught school for a number of years and was a man of note and of influence in the community. He united with the Christian church early in the '30s, and remained in its fellowship until his death, in August, 1870, when aged nearly ninety years.