



150 Stories for 150 Years

Ollies' Tuition (in 1888) was a Wagonload of Corn

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This photograph is Olive Garner upon the occasion of her entry into Wilmington College in 1888. Ollies' tuition payment to Wilmington College was a wagonload of corn. Through our family word-of-mouth, I learned she attended and completed the fall semester, but sadly was called home to care for her aging parents.

She was the 10th and youngest child of the family. Her father was James Garner, an ordained minister of the Society of Friends whose memorial is archived in the yearly meeting minutes, built a meetinghouse in the Sycamore community. This collection of farms, homes and a one-room schoolhouse is located in southwestern Jefferson Township, near Westboro, in Clinton County. The church building was built of recycled wood salvaged from the torn-down Ferristown railroad boarding house, which housed the company's tie-makers in Perry Township of Brown County. The ties, brought through the Sycamore area, were used to build the Hillsboro branch of the Marietta & Cincinnati Railroad through Westboro in 1852. This was the first railroad built in Clinton County. The meeting house was built at the corner of Hunt & Sycamore roads.



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