

## The Pioneers of Waite Hill Came From New York

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William D. Waite, 1765 to 1844. He was born in 1765, the son of William Waite of South Hadley, Mass., and a descendant of the immigrant ancestor, Thomas Waite, *|although reported to have been of Thomas Wait of Portsmouth...I do not have the link and would appreciate hearing from anyone who does|* who came to America in 1634 and located in Boston, Mass., with his brothers Richard and Gamaliel Waite.

They were born in Wales and traced their ancestors from Ralf the "waite" or minstrel of William the Conqueror.

About 1638, Thomas Waite followed Roger Williams to Rhode Island where greater religious liberty could be found. In Rhode Island he settled and reared his family. He died in 1677.

William D. Waite spent his youth in South Hadley, Mass. He married Spedy Ferry and they migrated to Saratoga County, N.Y., and in 1807 they were located in Marcellus, Onondaga County, N.Y.

He purchased 314.5 acres of land in the Connecticut Western Reserve located in Cuyahoga County, formerly township of Charlton, later Chagrin. It is now known as Waite Hill in Lake County. The deed to the property is dated Nov. 20, 1820.

In 1821 two of his sons, Erastus and Alvan came to clear the land purchased by their father. They built two large log houses on the plateau near a spring and also cut trees for a road towards Kirtland where Samuel Tomlinson had built his log house and where the Kirtland grist mill and saw mill could be reached.

In the fall of 1821 after the crops were harvested, the Waite families left New York for their new home in Ohio They went to Buffalo where they came by boat to Fairport Harbor and then went by wagon to their new homes.

In 1822 the married daughters, Polly and her husband, Dexter Otis and Roxanna and her husband, Stephen Tinkham arrived. Another log cabin was built for the Otis Family and the settlement of Waite Hill began.

Children of William and Spedy Waite were: 1.) Polly, born 1785, married Dexter Otis, died 1881; 2.) Roxanna (Roxy), married Stephen Tinkham; 3.) Erastus, born march 25, 1793, married Jan. 1, 1817 to Mercy Fisher, died Dec. 18, 1839 (OBIT) 4.) Alvan, born 1803, married Dec. 6, 1827 to Sophia Gunn, died 1847; 5.) Luther, born April 12, 1809, married Eliza Thompson first and Samantha Thompson second, died at Ridgeville, Lorain Co.; 6.) Sophia, born 1811 and died 1865, she was unmarried.

William D. Waite served as a private during the Revolutionary War in the Connecticut Line, enlisting May 26, 1780 under Colonel William Douglas.

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The cemetery inscriptions at the Waite Hill Cemetery located on the plateau cut in half by the township line between Kirtland and Willoughby read: Waite - William Waite died Oct. 3, 1844, age 79 years; Spedy, wife of William Waite, died March 17, 1838, age 68 years; Sophia Waite, died Nov. 19, 1865, age 54 years; Eliza, wife of L.E. Waite, died Jan. 7, 1840 in the 31st year of her age; Erastus Waite, died Dec. 18, 1839, age 46 years, nine months; Mercy, his wife, died June 29, 1879, age 82 years, four months.