

Affadilla Moody Deaver



Affadilla Moody Deaver – Conductor, Underground Railroad, Deavertown, Ohio

From *The Times Recorder* of Zanesville, Ohio, Wednesday, September 19, 1926, edition, page 6:

ally needs strangers. fact between American cities and South American cities might tend to undo any damage that our diplomats may unhappily accomplish from time to time. We ought to have regular mail and passenger air service between mainland United States and Hawaii, Porto Rico, Alaska, Panama, Mexico City, and several South American capitals and ports.

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Little Stories of Southeastern Ohio

(By THOMAS W. LEWIS)

Thomas L. Gray, Friend of the Slave

In part because it lay across the "underground railroads' rights of way" and also because one of its citizens was a courageous and powerful friend of the black refugees Morgan county played a large part in the movement of southern slaves through Ohio to Canada and freedom.

At Parkersburg and Point Pleasant many fugitives crossed the Ohio and were sent forward by their Buckeye friends into Morgan county. Here there were two parallel routes, one reaching Chester Hill and the other Roscoe. These two came together at Deavertown, whence there was but one line to Zanesville.

Befriended 500 Blacks

At Deavertown lived Thomas L. Gray, the foe of slavery, referred to in the foregoing, who is said to have forwarded over 500 of its fugitives northward over the "underground." Rial Cheadle, said to have been a resident of Windsor township, has been credited with being one of Gray's most active co-workers.

An instructive story of the escape northward of a group of slaves has been drawn by an early writer from Gray's reminiscences. To contribute to their greater safety Gray took them a mile from the village to the home of Mrs. Affadilla Deaver who meant to drive to Zanesville the following day and was willing to give them a lift. In the morning she told the fugitives to lie down on the bottom of the wagon. Covering them first with straw and then with her marketing Mrs. Deaver and her 12-year-old son drove away.

Tight in A Mudhole

At a point near Roseville, Muskingum county, the mud was so deep that the wheels stuck fast in and would not budge. But for the live weight Mrs. Deaver could have lightened the load, but relief came when four neighborhood farmers appeared and put their shoulders to the wheels. Being a woman Mrs. Deaver no doubt wondered that none of these men had the curiosity to lift the coverlet of the wagon nor even to ask a question about the lower part of her load. At any rate she reached Zanesville in due time and delivered her contraband to the underground agent.

What Do You Want to Know?

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OTHER SOURCES:

From GENI:

<https://www.geni.com/people/Affadilla-Moody/6000000015385255626>

From Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Affadilla_Deaver

From *People of Color – My Story* by Linda Cunningham Fluharty, October, 2000

<https://www.wvgw.net/marshall/poc-linda.htm>