

Allen County Leaders

These individuals are recognized for their leadership in improving daily life in Allen County, inspiring its people, and shaping the county into what we know it as today.



Altstaetter Family

The Altstaetter family, known for their musical talents, became a household name in Allen County during the 20th century. The Altstaetter Band was a large group of self-taught musicians talented on a variety of instruments for both traditional band and orchestra arrangements. They traveled to events across the community from World War I through the 1930s. The newspapers highlight their reach as a band and immense talents throughout their career, with articles and titles specifying that they played for a community picnic of 4,000 in 1917, led the march of 1,000 for a new church dedication in 1915, and delivered free concerts attended by many at their family home. The family consisted of Jacob and Emma and their children: Emil, Gilbert, Clifford, Marie, Waldo, Albert, Clara, Lena, Lewis, Clarence, Alice, and Harold. Alice and Harold were not able to participate in the band at its start due to their young ages. Jacob's father, also named Jacob, immigrated from Germany in 1832, eventually traveling to Allen County, where he purchased 40 acres of land near present-day Columbus Grove. Jacob would inherit and expand the farm to 160 acres, and there he raised his children. He was always interested in music, having been known as a child to practice for hours in the barn on his instruments. He passed that love on to his children, who learned 17 instruments including variations of the cornet, clarinet, trombone, snare drum, violin, piano, horn, mellophone, and harp. Several of the Altstaetter children played multiple instruments for their variety of concerts. The family band was distinctly outfitted in complete uniforms. Their winter outfits were blue with black trim, and their summer uniforms were all white. Their uniforms and musical instruments are on display at the Allen County Museum.



Joseph C. Bradfield (1889-1936)

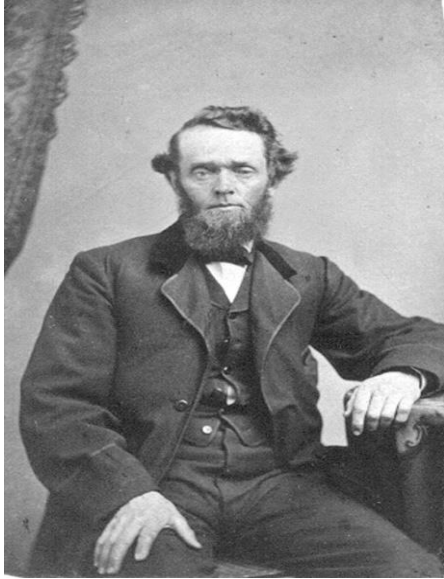
Dr. Joseph C. Bradfield, an esteemed doctor with a career spanning over 25 years, worked towards benefiting the Black community through healthcare, social-welfare programs, and politics. He was born in 1889 in Mount Vernon, Ohio. He attended the Starling Medical College in Columbus, Ohio, which later transformed into the Ohio State University College of Medicine, and he graduated in 1911. In 1912, Bradfield and his wife, Edith Payne, moved to Lima. Joseph Bradfield served during World War I in the Army Medical Reserve Corps at the 365th company field hospital in France. Bradfield set up his medical practice here in Lima when there were fewer than 750 Black residents.

That number would grow following the Great Migration of Black workers from the South to the North, the Midwest, and Western industries for greater opportunity. Bradfield worked to create better living and working conditions for the community by updating their sanitation and serving as an experienced doctor for the health of the residents. Bradfield was active in a multitude of organizations, such as the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Endocrine Club, and the Lima and Allen County Academy of Medicine, to name a few. He strongly believed that participating in politics was the answer to many of the ills of the Black community. He was described as "partisan [Republican] to the core." As a part of his work in creating social-welfare programs, Bradfield and a number of other committee members started the Citizen's Recreation Center in 1933. The doctor passed away in 1936 after catching pneumonia at the age of 47. The Citizen's Recreation Center was renamed the Bradfield Center in 1938 to honor the doctor who dedicated his life to the Lima community.



Bessie Crayton (1857-1933)

Bessie Crayton, born Mary Elizabeth Catt in 1857, was a leading Suffragist and supporter of Prohibition in the community. Social activism was prevalent in her family as she was related to Carrie Chapman Catt, who was a leading national campaigner for Women's Suffrage during the same time period. Crayton was the president of the Political Equality Club, which later transformed into the League of Women Voters. Prior to her marriage in 1881 and the birth of her son, Guy, Bessie was a school teacher. Crayton believed that the Temperance and Suffrage movements were allied efforts, and so she devoted herself to both. She pushed for Prohibition through her involvement in the Women's Christian Union and was the backbone behind the local Suffrage movement. She was described as being one of the only women who identified with the Suffrage movement in Allen County. Her husband, William, was an equal supporter of women's Suffrage and her work in various organizations. Crayton and her husband spread the message of Temperance and enrolled over 200 children in the Loyal Temperance Legion on the South Side by 1921. In nineteen-fourteen, Bessie co-organized over 1,500 marchers for a Suffrage parade through the city square. The Political Equality Club campaigned throughout Lima and passed out pamphlets to spread awareness of women's right to vote. Finally, their dream was recognized in 1919 when Ohio passed the Suffrage bill granting the right to vote, and the following day, the 19th Amendment was ratified. When the organization was transformed into the League of Women Voters, Bessie led classes on how to register and vote in elections, providing valuable education to first-time women voters. Crayton and the rest of the Suffragists are remembered for their contributions and dedication to women receiving the right to vote in Ohio in 1919. In twenty-twenty, 100 years after the 19th Amendment became law in the United States, a plaque was placed in the city square commemorating Bessie and the Allen County Political Equality Club's contributions towards Suffrage. To learn more about Bessie and other area women's roles in Allen County's fight for Suffrage, visit the Campaigning for Votes: Women's Suffrage in Allen County online exhibit.



Benjamin Faurot (1829-1904)

Benjamin Faurot, known as B. C. Faurot, made Lima known for industry and the arts. Educated for only one year, he worked as a farmhand for his father and later as a teamster hauling gravel in Kenton. In the 1850s Faurot followed Pennsylvania Railroad's arrival to Lima, where his livery business supplied horses and mules to the Union during the Civil War. Faurot married Helen Wells in 1853, and they had three daughters. He was a staunch Republican and belonged to Trinity Methodist Church, serving on its financial committee. Faurot expanded his fortune through investing in Lima's real estate and incorporated what became Lima National Bank in 1865. He served as president and navigated the business through the Panic of 1873. In 1870 he organized and became president of the Lima Paper Mills, one of Lima's largest employers. Faurot was also president of the American Strawboard Association. Following Faurot's team discovery of oil at the mill on May 9, 1885, Lima's industry and population grew. That same year, Faurot built Lima's first electric plant. He organized the electric lighting of Lima's streets, making Lima, Ohio's third city to electrify. After acquiring the horse-drawn Lima Street Railway in 1878, he electrified the service by 1887, which became one of the first electric railways in the country. He and Calvin Brice worked to bring the Erie Railroad (later Nickel Plate) repair shop to Lima. Faurot organized and acted as President of the Globe Machine Works, Inc. that manufactured portable engines. He also supervised a canning operation for sweet corn on his 700-acre farm. Community-minded Faurot planned a parks system. He opened a park and a driving park on his farm. There the community enjoyed horse races, plays, and baseball games. He built the Faurot Hotel and Faurot Block in 1882. The Faurot Block housed the Faurot Opera House, where international talent performed, and a music hall. The Lima National Bank failed in 1892 after Faurot overextended his finances following the sale of the Lima Paper Mill. He sold the mill to invest in what would become the Lima-Defiance Railroad (completed 1899) and in plans to colonize Mexican land for a Mormon colony and railroad. Within the next 10 years, Faurot lost his wife, daughter, son-in-law, three grandsons, all of his businesses, the Faurot Block, his farm, and West Market Street home. Lima's generous benefactor died destitute and was buried in Woodlawn, a cemetery he helped plan.



Joyce Garrett (1926-2011)

Joyce Jones Garrett was incredibly involved in the community throughout her entire life and career here in Allen County. Garrett was born on July 12, 1926. At the time, her father was a chauffeur for a wealthy family in Lima. They lived just above the garage in a small apartment split between her parents, Mabel and Leroy, and her brother Thomas. She attended Roosevelt Elementary and later graduated from Central High School in 1944. Garrett attended the historically black college, Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. She received her bachelor's degree with honors in 1948. Following graduation, Joyce moved to Madison, Illinois to pursue teaching. There she met her husband Forrest Garrett, and they had one son named Forrest Craig Garrett. Joyce and her husband Forrest would divorce after a short time of marriage. She later returned to Lima, and she took on positions across the schools in the community as a substitute teacher as that was the only position people of color could work. It took pressure from groups on both sides of the segregation issue for the school to take a stance and offer Garrett a position as the first black teacher in the community in 1953. For the next several years, she taught sixth grade at Irving and Horace Mann Elementary. Joyce returned to school to further advance her education and she graduated from Case Western Reserve University in Spanish in 1967. She continued her studies in Spanish in Mexico at The Academia Internacional de Español in Saltillo, Mexico.

In 1959, WIMA-TV with community funding created a program to broadcast Spanish, educate the public, and have it be used as a tool in classrooms across Allen County. Joyce, and fellow Central State University Alumnae, Rose Jefferson, led the program from 1959-1964. In 1966, she began teaching Spanish at Lima Senior High School. She was chairwoman of the foreign language department for the city schools from 1974-1984. She retired after 31 years of teaching, 35 years total. That was not the end for her, however, she continued to educate and be a leader throughout the community. She was heavily awarded for her teaching, earning several awards throughout her career. Garrett was a charter member and later president of the Help yourself, Help others Club (HYHO) here in Lima. She taught Spanish for 24 years after her retirement to preschoolers, effectively teaching them to read and speak in Spanish at the Learning to Learn with Care School. Joyce was a lifelong member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, which following her passing set up several community scholarships and funds in her name. She was also a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma International society, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Allen County Retired Teachers Association, a member of the YWCA board and she served as a board member for several years with the Allen County Historical Society. She passed on July 26, 2011 at 85 years of age. She is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.



Anna Mary Goebel (1849-1914)

Anna Mary Goebel was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on May 20, 1849 to John and Mary Boarst Goebel, immigrants from Bavaria, Germany. Her family came to Lima in the 1850s. She and her four brothers attended Lima Public Schools. After graduation in 1862, Goebel turned to the study of medicine. She furthered her education at the Ursaline Convent in Toledo, Ohio, for one year and at the Female Medical Collage in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for two years. Goebel then moved to Michigan, where she worked in the Detroit hospitals for one year. She graduated second in her class of eighty students after completing a three-year course at the College of Medicine,

University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. After completing her education, she returned to Lima. By 1888, Dr. Goebel operated her practice out of her home at 762 W. North St. She had many clients, and she opened an office at 45 ½ Public Square by 1907. Dr. Goebel specialized in the diseases of women and children and nervous diseases. From caring for community members to family members, Dr. Goebel dedicated herself to medicine. She cared for her mother, who suffered from paralysis and died in 1898, and her brother Phillip, a Lima Police Officer who was shot and died in 1902. Dr. Goebel was also active in the local community. In 1888, she participated in the Woman's Allen County Centennial Association, which was organized to commemorate the centennial of the Northwest Territory, where she led efforts to highlight literature covering professions. Her personal library consisted of texts on a variety of topics, such as a 34-volume set of the novels of Balzac, which were ultimately donated by George Lisle Parmenter to the Lima Public Library eleven years after her death. Dr. Goebel was installed as Assistant Guard of the Women's Relief Corps in 1889. She suffered from a spinal injury or disease starting around 1907, causing her health to begin to decline. When her health degraded rapidly in 1913, she had to retire from her practice of over 25 years. Despite seeking treatment in France, Florida, and Indiana, Dr. Goebel ultimately passed away in Washington, D.C. at the home of her brother, Joseph. She bequeathed \$150, or around \$4,500 today, to Mt. Angel, a Benedictine Monastery in Oregon, and half of the profits from the sale of her Tennessee land were given to the Catholic Church Extension Society. Dr. Goebel is buried in Gethsemani Cemetery in Lima.



Jack Inoway (1889-1942)

The talented chef and business owner, Jack Inoway, was a huge contributor to the Lima community in his life. Jack was born in Japan around 1889. Inoway, originally spelled Inoue, immigrated to the United States at the turn of the century. He married Toshi Hujii, and they had two children named Katie and Carl. Inoway had an incredible career. He began on the Vaudeville stage, showcasing his talent for entertainment and his inverted-and reversible-writing tricks, which were widely recognized. After a short time in the group, Jack enlisted in the Navy, where he honed his cooking skills and he participated in the Navy's World Cruise from 1907 to 1909. Inoway is remembered for being a well-known cook who opened a variety of restaurants during his life in Lima, including Jack & Yoshi Cafeteria, Jack's Cafeteria, and Jack and Frank's Steak House. Jack purchased 80 Japanese Cherry Blossom trees for \$500 that were planted around Schoonover Lake in the park in 1938. He purchased them as "a living memorial to his two children as well as an act of appreciation to the city in which he said he has great faith in the future." Although the trees are no longer there, a plaque stands memorializing Jack Inoway's contributions to the community. However, loved as he was in the community, he was not immune to what was happening outside of Lima. Nineteen forty-one brought the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the fear of Japanese-Americans. Jack's business was searched for ties to the enemy, Japan. He was subsequently cleared, but he decided to no longer pursue cooking. He sold his share of the business to his partner, Fred C. Harrison. Before his death, Inoway had dreams of re-enlisting to support the United States during World War II. However, he passed away before he was able to do so, and like many other Japanese-Americans, Inoway's family was sent to an internment camp in the western United States. His family visited Lima many years later.



James Mackenzie (1814-1901)

The Honorable James Mackenzie had a wide-ranging career of being a soldier, a lawyer, political activist, teacher, newspaper editor, and judge. He was born in Alythe, Scotland, in 1814. James' father William Mackenzie owned a newspaper in Canada, and that was where James learned the business. Mackenzie moved to Ohio in 1837 as the Canadian Rebellion was rising, and he left to support the effort. Mackenzie was unsuccessful in his attempts and returned to the United States. He immediately went to work in New York for a newspaper called the *Freeman's Advocate*, which supported the Canadian freedom cause. During Mackenzie's time in Rockport, New York, he began to study law. He continued those studies in Cleveland, Ohio, and he passed the bar in 1839. James worked as a

teacher and a school examiner across Ohio. Mackenzie moved several times in the next few years and worked as a prosecuting attorney in Henry, Putnam, and finally Allen County. He was elected in 1853 as the representative from Putnam and Henry Counties to the Ohio State Legislature. While in Putnam County, James published *The Kalida Venture* for 10 years. After working on that, he moved to Allen County in 1858, and worked as a prosecuting attorney, and published *The Allen County Democrat* for two and a half years. By 1863, he was elected as judge of the Common Pleas Court, which is a position he held until his retirement in 1898.

On May 28, 1846 Mackenzie married Lucina P. Leonard. Their octagonal home is described as being large with a complete library, which acted as the first public library for the citizens of Allen County. The house no longer stands and instead is now the site of Huntington Bank. They had seven children with six of them surviving to adulthood. Their surviving children were Ella G., Eugene C., William L., Mabel, Isabella, and Lucina Augusta (Finch). His children were equally ambitious in their own careers, whether legal or business-related here in Allen County. All of the daughters were heavily involved in the Allen County Historical Society and the Philomathean Club. He lived out the remainder of his years with his unmarried daughters in their home at 227 S. Collett Street, where they moved after Lucina died in 1888.



Dorothy Bernice "Bernie" Montague (1915-2022)

Bernie Montague became the first woman to hold an elected county-wide office through dedication and hard work. She started working in the County Recorder's Office in 1934, working her way up to Chief Deputy Recorder in 1948. The Recorder's Office kept real estate records from Allen County, such as deeds, mortgages, easements, leases, plats, federal and personal tax liens, corporation liens, mortgage cancellations and financial statements on chattels. The office also held records of military discharges and unemployment compensation. Under her predecessor, Morgan N. Davis, the first microfilming and photographic duplication of records began. When the recorder died in office in August of 1963, Montague was appointed interim recorder. In the 15 days that the GOP had to decide who would finish the term, she applied for county recorder and campaigned for the position. Bernie announced publicly that she was seeking that position, and she successfully lobbied for it through calling or meeting with every committee member. In an interview with *The Lima News*, GOP Chairman Kent McGough said the decision was "above politics," because Montague was "the most qualified person" for the county recorder opening. Her friendly and straightforward demeanor along with her experience inspired both parties to support her, according to *The Lima Citizen*. Montague was a member of the Allen County Republican Party. She ran successful campaigns for County Recorder, serving four consecutive terms and a total of seventeen years until her retirement in 1980.

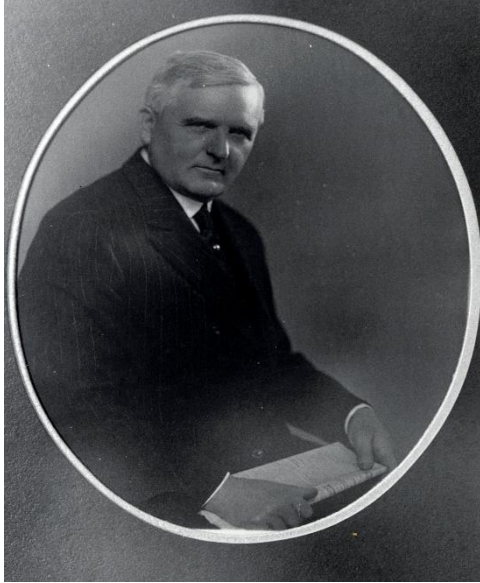
James and Grace Montague raised Bernie in Elida. The family moved to Lima following her father's death. She enjoyed cooking, playing the violin in the Lima Symphony Orchestra, and traveling.



Frances Napier (1942-2016)

An active community member, Frances Napier believed “every citizen has a civic duty to become involved in the workings of the city government.” True to this sentiment, she served as the 5th Ward’s representative on the Lima City Council for over ten years. During that time, she acted as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee. In Napier’s efforts to better the lives of Lima’s citizens, she worked on a variety of issues from loud car radios and razing dilapidated properties to furthering racial understanding. Napier advocated for welfare rights. Napier supported an increase in allowance to cover school fees and clothing through her efforts in the Allen County Welfare Rights Organization in the early 1970s.

She also worked to promote understanding of welfare workers, their needs, and to change negative perceptions of them. Napier used her associate’s degree in business administration and higher accounting to help the community. By the mid-1970s, she worked as Lima-Allen County Community Action Commission’s accountant. In 1976, she represented that organization and served on the State Services Council. Twice in her over twenty-year career, Napier was involved in organizations with disorganized financial situations: first, while treasurer of the helping Hands Credit Union and, second, at the Lima-Allen County Community action, which ultimately let her go and closed its doors after the Ohio Department of Development pulled funding. Despite these setbacks, Napier still continued her public service. At the fifth annual Black History Award Banquet in 1991, Councilwoman Frances Napier was recognized for her “outstanding service to the Lima Community” the previous year. In her four decades of public service, she also held positions of the Head Start Parents’ Community Council secretary, Lima City School board member, an alternate to the Allen County Manpower Advisory Council, and Chairman of Public Works Committee. Napier was a member of the United Church Women, Cub and Girl Scout troops, NAACP, League of Women Voters, and the Phillippian Missionary Baptist Church. Napier had five children.



William Lockard Russell (1850-1923)

Lima's "Oil King," William Lockard Russell, left his mark on Lima. Born to a pioneer of the oil industry, Anson Henry Russell, on August 10, 1850, Russell was exposed to the oil industry early in life. His career spanned over 40 years. William was the president of multiple oil companies during his career, and the owner of the Orpheum Theater and a variety of other real estate holdings in the vicinity of West and Market Streets. He was an avid philanthropist in the community. Russell supported the war effort in America during World War I, and he also paid for visiting nurses to mitigate the effects of the Spanish Flu outbreak of 1918 in lower income families. William was an avid adventurer and world traveler with stories fit for several novels. He attained "more than ordinary success in the gold fields" of the Klondike and Yukon regions of Alaska and narrowly escaped with his life there following a snow slide. He visited South America for business and developed a long-distance telephone line with concessions from President Crespo, whose life he saved during his travels across the country. Russell was the only private citizen at the time to be rewarded with the decoration of the 3rd degree of the Baste Bolivar. William was also heavily involved in politics, and although he was asked to run for mayor, he was never interested in that position. Russell was a delegate from the 4th district to the Republican National Convention. He was a member of the Masonic order, the Elks, and the Independent Order of the Red Men. After his death in 1923, following a bout of pneumonia on a business trip, his wife Beatrice received his assets. The home in which they lived at on 649 W. Market Street after her death was donated to the YWCA.



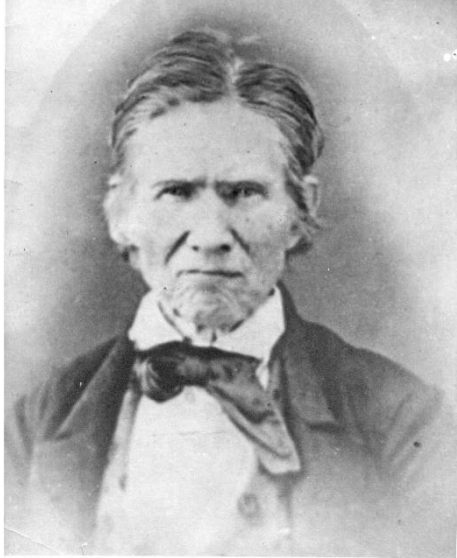
Easter Straker (1918-1992)

Easter Straker, who is among the most recognizable voices and faces of the community in the 20th century, had a career that spanned over 50 years. Her community work and television programs made her an iconic figure in Allen County. Easter was born on August 25, 1918 to John R. and Madge Straker. Straker earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana State Teachers College. However, she chose a career in broadcasting. Straker's programming at WIMA, now WLIO, put on shows such as "Easter's Parade." Her show covered a variety of topics, including testimonials from herself. Easter's radio program was heard each morning at 10 a.m., and it was an informal chat about anything from basketball games to flower shows and more. One of the most recognizable aspects of her show was the "birthday chair" segment. She interviewed and gifted children toys and, later, pennies from 1955 to 1984. She interviewed more than 41,600 children in this program, and one of the birthday chairs currently sits in the museum. Straker gave talks to area organizations on her global travels and more, including one that was titled "Living in the Space Age" in 1963. Straker organized a drive for the Allen County Polio Fund in 1954, and she raised over a million pennies. Easter promoted the Teddy Bear Fund, which continues to deliver teddy bears to sick children in Lima area hospitals today. She also donated time and money to Marimor Schools throughout her life. She retired in 1991 and passed away after a seven-year battle with colon cancer in 1992.



Dollie Taylor (1922-2020)

The energetic Dollie Taylor was known for wearing multiple hats in her style and civic work. Taylor became the first Black president of Church Women United in 1969, where she had served as secretary two years prior. During that time, Church Women United added a new addition to the Mizpah Community Center (now the Cheryl Allen South Side Center). Lima La Sertoma Club named her Woman of the Year (1996) for her work as president of the Riverside North Neighborhood Association, which she helped found. During her tenure, the association provided equipment for the Lima Police Department's Riverside North community outpost, coordinated neighborhood cleanups including in Faurot Park, and hosted activities for Make A Difference Day. In addition to participating in plays and singing at the Second Baptist Church, Taylor served as Missionary Society president, Ladies Aid Society president, Children's Division of Sunday School superintendent, choir director, and chaired events and campaigns. Taylor also instructed Head Start at Southside Christian Church. She held several positions at the Lima-Allen County Head Start program between 1969 and 1987: teacher, workshop director, and volunteer and parent coordinator. At the Bradfield Community Center, Taylor taught preschoolers, advised senior citizens, and worked on several committees. She served on the YWCA and Mizpah Community Center boards. Taylor participated in the Democratic Minority Caucus, Church People for Change and Reconciliation, Forsythia Garden Club, and Aealeon Club. She moderated focus groups on the community health assessment, Healthy People 2000. Throughout her volunteer work, Taylor gave presentations on a variety of topics to local groups. She earned an associate's degree in child development from Lima Technical College in 1977. Dollie and her husband, Raymond, married in 1941 and had one daughter. Taylor died in 2020 at 98 years old.



Christopher Stark Wood (1772-1855)

Christopher Stark Wood, founding father of Allen County, arrived in this area around 1824. He assisted in organizing Sugar Creek, Hog Creek, and Wapakoneta settlements. He served as Justice of the Peace in Amanda and Bath Townships. Between 1829 and 1831, his efforts focused on establishing Bath Township and the county seat. Wood was the first clerk, a treasurer, then a supervisor of the Commissioners of Bath Township. He oversaw the surveying and platting of 160 acres for Lima, the county seat. As Lima's first and only Town Director, he superintended the first public sale of lots. However, a corrected copy of the Deed of Lima was filed with the state in 1844 due to errors in the description of the land.

Wood also served as an Associate Judge for the Court of Common Pleas and as Road Commissioner to engineer a State Road from the Loramies to Wood County via Wapakoneta and to survey a road through, Bellefontaine, Lima, Putnam County, and Defiance. His home was a place of worship for different denominations, the first Sunday School in Allen County, and a store. He taught Sunday School and arithmetic.

Born in the Virginia Counties (Pennsylvania today), Christopher Stark Wood spent his teenage years in Kentucky. Eighteen-year-old Wood joined the militia, where he fought against American Indians to increase the United States' Northwest Territory in Ohio. He accompanied the expeditions of George Rogers Clark and Benjamin Hogan; participated in the border invasions by General Harmar (1790), General Arthur St. Clair (1791), and General Anthony Wayne (1794); fought in the Battle of Fort Recovery; and scouted during the Battle of Fallen Timbers. Wood participated in the burning of Shawnee villages under General Benjamin Logan in what would become Champaign and Logan Counties, including Blue Jacket's Town (Bellefontaine today). During War of 1812, Wood fought at Frenchtown in 1813, witnessing the River Basin Massacre, and at Fort Meigs. In 1812-1813, Wood became the captain of a spy company, participating in Tupper's March from Urbana to Fort Meigs, and he later recruited and trained spies in the 26th regiment of the U.S. Infantry at Urbana.

Wood married Mary Ann Turner on October 6, 1797, and they had ten children. The Woods moved to Ohio in 1799, living in the Bush Creek settlement in Warren County. By 1805 the Woods moved to Champaign County, Ohio, where Wood was Miami Township's Justice of the Peace, and to Logan County, where he helped establish Bellefontaine in 1820. While visiting his son in Athens, Indiana, Wood died due to injuries from a train wreck in 1855 and was buried there.