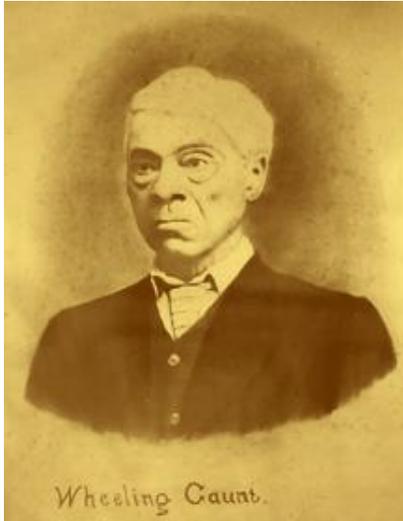


“It is not what we have but what we share.” *Wheeling Gaunt*



Wheeling Gaunt, a former slave who had purchased his own freedom, came to Yellow Springs in the 1860s. By his death in 1894, he owned a substantial amount of land. Gaunt bequeathed to the village a large piece of land on its western side, requesting that the rent be used to buy flour for the "poor and worthy widows" of Yellow Springs. Although the land was used to create Gaunt Park, and thus does not generate rent, the village expanded the bequest to include sugar. It still delivers flour and sugar to the village's widows at Christmas time, a tradition that came to be known as the **Christmas Flour** and

continues to this day.

Yellow Springs employees spend this time each year distributing sugar and flour to all widows (and widowers) in the community “regardless of their ethnicity.

“It is not what we have but what we share.” *Wheeling Gaunt*

1. <https://ysheritage.org/wheeling-gaunt-2/>