

## About that Name – Lucas Ohio Pattie



*Photographer Jon Claxton took this photo of Lucas Ohio Pattie, opening for Jackie Greene at the Downtown Brewing Company in San Luis Obispo.*

**San Francisco, California** – RARWRITER.com has become a regular outlet for articles on Bay Area singer-songwriter Lucas Ohio Pattie who, through two albums with this band The Shamblers and a spot on San Francisco radio station KFOG’s annual CD showcase of Bay Area and Northern California artists, has established himself as a rising star. The Jon Claxton photograph (go to [www.jonclaxton.com](http://www.jonclaxton.com) to see more of his work) taken a few weeks back when Lucas opened for another Bay Area minstrel, Jackie Greene, captures the natural charm of Pattie, whose intuitive musical stylings have impressed top Bay Area talent. (A revamped Shamblers features respected bassist Don Bassey, a central figure in the Volker Strifler Band, another Bay Area eminence.)

Among Lucas Ohio Pattie’s many assets is his name, with musical syllables that could almost stand alone as haiku.

In fact, that name has been a source of consideration in the Lucas Ohio Pattie camp. The family name “Pattie” is an important name in California history going back to the state’s pioneering period. Lucas is a direct descendant of James Ohio Pattie (1803-1833) who authored an important book that records the first overland journey to California. This classic travel narrative, *The Personal Narrative of James O. Pattie*,

was published in 1831. Lucas provided RARWRITER.com with the fascinating history of the family and amplified upon the story behind his name.

James Ohio Pattie and his father Sylvester Pattie (Lucas's great-great-great-great grandfather) were among the first pioneers in the Southwest and California and are widely acknowledged to have led the first party of explorers to thread the South Rim of the Grand Canyon and to record that encounter. Sylvester Pattie was the first citizen of the United States to be buried in California, long before it was part of the United States as we know it today.

Historians have noted how these pioneering Patties prized education. Therefore, after the Patties had relocated to Kentucky by wagon train with the likes of Daniel Boone and his family from Virginia in 1780, among the first things the patriarch of the family did was to establish a school. The schooling James Ohio Pattie had on the Kentucky frontier endowed him with the tools to write his narrative, a classic adventure story of the American West. While not completely prepared for life as a fur trapper and explorer, this young frontiersman was uniquely positioned to record his journey heading west.

The first published narrative of an overland journey to California, Pattie's story covers his sojourn of five years and several thousand miles. From 1825-1830 his trapping and exploring led he, his father, and his companions through the Southwest, crossing the arid peninsula of Lower California, and eventually reaching Mission Santa Catalina on the Pacific coast. Trespassing onto Mexican territory without passports, they were put into custody and brought to San Diego. His father died in jail but eventually James Ohio Pattie was paroled. He traveled up and down the coast of California for about another year before sailing to Mexico. After half a decade of exploration and fortune hunting, in 1830 he arrived by ship in New Orleans. He made his way back home to the little town of Augusta on the Ohio River founded by his grandfather 50 years earlier when the Patties had migrated to Kentucky (with another famous pioneering family, the Boones) from Virginia. Pattie was physically and emotionally exhausted, and financially broke. He had only the stories recorded in his journal.

Not long after Pattie returned home, word of his western narrative reached well-known publisher Timothy Flint in Cincinnati just up the road from his home. Flint was fascinated by Pattie's journey and set about to making arrangements for its publication. He achieved this in 1831, and Pattie's narrative has been in continuous publication ever since.

Given that family history, one can easily see why the long, follow-the-bouncing ball name "Lucas Ohio Pattie" is dear to Lucas. It is an asset in many ways, though perhaps a lot to put on a marquis when Lucas Ohio Pattie performs with his band The Shamblers! That is why when performing with the band his decision was to go with "Lucas Ohio and the Shamblers." Alongside that, Lucas has made it clear that it is important to him to pay homage to the band which helps make the music what it is, on stage and in the recording studio. However, just as many love, as I do, the 'triad' of 'Lucas Ohio Pattie,' such triads not uncommon in the annals of blues, country, and rock with such names as Stevie Ray Vaughn, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Jessie Colin Young, John Lee Hooker, and Jerry Lee Lewis.

"I love the name as it was given, and will continue to use it solo and in all publishing and media ventures as appropriate," reports Lucas.

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