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THE

EARLY HISTORY

OF

LORAIN COUNTY.

AN

ADDRESS

BY

W. W. BOYNTON,

DELIVERED

JULY 4, 1876, AT ELYRIA, OHIO.

ISSUED BY
LORAIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

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HISTORICAL ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY

W. W. BOYNTON,

ON

JULY 4, 1876,

AT

ELYRIA, O.

Fellow Citizens.—

In 1748, an Eminent French Writer informed his readers that a prosperous and Great People, having the form of a free government, was forming and rising in the very forests of America, which they were sent forth to inhabit. One Hundred years ago to-day, that great people, cutting loose from the restraints of foreign domination, declared that the United Colonies were, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; an utterance involving immense and weighty responsibilities. That all men were entitled to life and liberty, and to engage in those pursuits that were calculated to secure their prosperity and happiness; that governments instituted among men derived their just powers from the consent of the governed, were propositions both self-evident and self-vindicating, and found the public mind of the Colonists, not only prepared to yield a ready assent to the principles involved in them, but to give battle for their establishment upon the American Continent. It is not my purpose to undertake to explore, or trace, the causes which led to the declaration of Independence, and to a pledge of life, fortune, and sacred honor in its support; nor to follow the glorious history of the past hundred years, and note the progress and march of a civilization purely American, and the advancement of a people whose rise and growth, whose ascent into a higher National life, have been the marvel of the world, and unequalled in its history. Interesting and appropriate as this would be to the day and occasion, I am expected to occupy a narrower field, and confine myself to an historical account of the settlement and growth of our immediate neighborhood, to which, for a short time, I bespeak your patience.

In 1609, James the First granted to a company called the London Company, a charter under which the entire claim of Virginia to the soil northwest of the Ohio was asserted. It was clothed with corporate power, with most of its members residing in the city of London.

The tract of country embraced within this charter was immense. It commenced its boundaries at Point Comfort, on the Atlantic, and run south two hundred miles, and thence west across the continent to the Pacific; commencing again at Port Comfort, and running two hundred miles north, and from this point northwest to the sea. This line run through New York and Pennsylvania, crossing the eastern end of Lake Erie, and terminated in the Arctic Ocean. The vast empire lying between the south line, the east line, the diagonal line to the northwest, and the Pacific Ocean, was claimed by virtue of this charter. It included over half of the North American Continent. Notwithstanding the charter of the London Company included all the territory now embraced within the boundaries of Ohio, James the First, on the 3d of November, 1620, by Royal Letters Patent, granted to the Duke of Lenox and others, to be known as the Council of Plymouth, all the territory lying between the fortieth and forty-eighth degrees of north latitude, and bounded on the east by the Atlantic, and on the west by the Pacific. This description embraced a large tract of the lands granted to the Virginia or London Company. In 1630, a portion of the same territory was granted to the Earl of Warwick, and afterwards confirmed to him by Charles the First. In 1631, the Council of Plymouth, acting by the Earl of Warwick, granted to Lord Brook and Viscounts, Say and Seal, what were supposed to be the same lands, although by a very imperfect description. In 1662, Charles the Second granted a charter to nineteen patentees, with such associates as they should from time to time elect. This association was made a body corporate and politic, by the name of the Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut. This charter constituted the organic law of the State for upwards of one hundred and fifty years. The boundaries were Massachusetts on the north, the sea on the south, Naragansett river or Bay on the east, and the South Sea on the west. The Pacific Ocean was at that time called the South Sea. This description embraced a strip of land upwards of sixty miles wide, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, including a part of New York and New Jersey, and all the territory now known as the Western Reserve.

In 1681, for the consideration of 16,000 pounds, and a fealty of two beaver skins a year, Charles the Second granted to William Penn a charter embracing within its limits the territory constituting the present State of Pennsylvania. This grant included a strip of territory running across the entire length of the State on the north, and upwards of fifty miles wide, that was embraced within the Connecticut charter. Massachusetts, under the Plymouth charter, claimed all land between the forty-first and forty-fifth degrees of north latitude. In 1664, Charles the Second ceded to his brother, the Duke of York, afterwards James the Second, by Letters Patent, all the country between the St. Croix and the Delaware. After the overthrow of the Government of "New Netherlands," then existing upon that territory, it was claimed that the grant to the Duke of York extended west into the Mississippi Valley.

Thus matters stood at the commencement of the Revolution. Virginia claimed all territory northwest of the Ohio. Connecticut strenuously urged her title to all land lying between the parallels 41 and 42 deg. 2 min. of north latitude from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Pennsylvania, under the charter of 1681, had taken possession of the disputed land lying in that State, and had granted much of it to actual settlers. New York and Massachusetts were equally emphatic in the assertion of ownership to land between those lines of latitude. The contention between claimants under the Connecticut and Pennsylvania charters, on the Susquehanna, frequently resulted in bloodshed. The controversy between those two States was finally submitted to a Court of Commissioners appointed by

Congress, upon the petition of Pennsylvania, under the ninth article of the Confederation, which gave Congress power to establish a Court of Commissioners to settle disputed boundaries, between States, in case of disagreement. The Court decided in favor of Pennsylvania, and this decision terminated the controversy. The question of the title to lands lying west of Pennsylvania was not involved in this adjudication, but remained a subject for future contention. A party sprung up during the war, that disputed the title of the States asserting it, to lands outside of State limits, and which insisted upon the right of the States by whose common treasure dominion was to be secured, to participate in the benefits and results arising from the joint and common effort for independence. This party was particularly strong in the smaller States. Those colonies that had not been the favored recipients of extensive land grants, were little inclined to acquiesce in claims, the justice of which they denied, and which could be secured to the claimants only by the success of the Revolution.

The convention that assembled in 1777 to frame a constitution for the State of Maryland, unanimously resolved that the very extensive claim of Virginia to the back lands had no foundation in justice, and that to acknowledge the claim would greatly endanger the liberties of the people; and in 1778, she called the attention of Congress to the matter, and made a relinquishment to the United States, of the claims of the individual States to the Western lands, a condition upon which, and upon which only, she would join the Confederation. She insisted as the whole people were engaged in a common cause, having a common end in view—the achievement of national independence — that, if the outcome should secure to the country the vast domain stretching from the Alleghanies to the Mississippi, it should become the common property of those by whose united labors it was thus secured.

Added to these embarrassments, the claiming States encountered a denial of their title to some of the lands claimed, emanating from the very source from which they were supposed to have derived it. George the Third, either repudiating the charters of his Royal Predecessors, or rejecting the construction placed upon them in respect to their boundaries, in October, 1763, upon the heel of the Treaty of Paris, issued his proclamation forbidding all persons from intruding upon, or disturbing the Indians in the enjoyment of, their lands, in the valley of the Ohio.

There is little doubt that the conflict in the early charters respecting boundaries grew out of the ignorance of the times in which they were granted, as to the breadth, or inland extent, of the American Continent. During the reign of James the First, Sir Francis Drake reported, that, from the top of the mountains on the Isthmus of Panama, he had seen both oceans. This led to the supposition that the continent, from east to west, was of no considerable extent, and that the South Sea, by which the grants were limited on the west, did not lie very far from the Atlantic; and as late as 1740, the Duke of Newcastle addressed his letters to the "Island of New England." Hence it was urged as an argument against the claims of those States asserting title to Western lands, that the call in the grants, of the South Sea, being, by mutual mistake of the parties to the charter, an erroneous one—the error resulting from misinformation or want of certainty concerning the locality of that Sea—the claiming States ought not to insist upon an ownership resting upon such a footing, and having its origin in such a circumstance. Popular feeling on the subject ran so high, at times, as to cause apprehension for the safety of the Confederation. In 1780, Congress urged upon the States having claims to the Western country, the duty to make a surrender of a part thereof to the United States.

The debt incurred in the Revolutionary contest, the limited resources for its extinguishment if the public

domain was unavailable for the purpose, the existence of the unhappy controversy growing out of the asserted claims, and an earnest desire to accommodate and pacify conflicting interests among the States, led Congress in 1784, to an impressive appeal to the States interested, to remove all cause for further discontent, by a liberal Cession of their domains to the general Government, for the common benefit of all the States. The happy termination of the war found the public mind in a condition to be easily impressed by appeals to its patriotism and liberality. New York had in 1780, ceded to the United States the lands that she claimed lying west of a line running south from the west bend of Lake Ontario; and in 1785, Massachusetts relinquished her claim to the same lands—each State reserving the same 19,000 square miles of ground, and each asserting an independent title to it. This controversy between the two States was settled by an equal division between them of the disputed ground. Virginia had given to her soldiers of the Revolutionary war, and of the war between France and England, a pledge of bounties, payable in Western lands; and reserving a sufficient amount of land to enable her to meet the pledge thus given, on the 1st of March, 1784, she relinquished to the United States her title to all other lands lying northwest of the Ohio. The lands reserved north of the Ohio lay between the Scioto and Little Miami, and constitute what is known as the Virginia Military District. On the 14th day of September, 1786, the delegates in Congress from the State of Connecticut, being authorized and directed so to do, relinquished to the United States all the right, title, interest, jurisdiction, and claim, that she possessed to the lands lying west of a line running north from the 41st deg. of north latitude to 42 deg. and 2 min., and being one hundred and twenty miles west of the western line of Pennsylvania. The territory lying west of Pennsylvania for the distance of one hundred and twenty miles, and between latitude 41 and 42 deg. 2 min. north, although not in terms reserved by the instrument of conveyance, was in fact reserved—not having been conveyed—and by reason thereof was called the Western Reserve of Connecticut. It embraces the counties of Ashtabula, Trumbull, Portage, Geauga, Lake, Cuyahoga, Medina, Lorain, Huron, Erie, all of Summit except the township of Franklin, and Green; the two northern tiers of townships of Mahoning; the townships of Sullivan, Troy, and Ruggles, of Ashland; and the islands lying north of Sandusky, including Kelley's and Put-in-Bay. In 1795, Connecticut sold and conveyed all of the Reserve except the "Sufferer's Land," to Oliver Phelps and thirty-five others, for the consideration of $1,200,000. These purchasers formed themselves into a company called the Connecticut Land Company. Some uneasiness concerning the validity of the title arose from the fact that whatever interest Virginia, Massachusetts, or New York may have had in the lands reserved, and claimed by Connecticut, had been transferred to the United States, and if neither of the claiming States had title, the dominion and ownership passed to the United States by the treaty made with England at the close of the Revolution. This condition of things was not the only source of difficulty and trouble. The Reserve was so far from Connecticut, as to make it impracticable for that State to extend her laws over the same, or ordain new ones for the government of the inhabitants; and having parted with all interest in the soil, her right to provide laws for the people was not only doubted but denied. Congress had provided by the ordinance of 1787, for the government of the territory northwest of the Ohio; but to admit jurisdiction in the United States to govern this part of that territory, would cast grave doubt upon the validity of the company's title. It was therefore insisted that the regulations prescribed by that instrument for the government of the Northwest Territory, had no

operation or effect within the limits of the Reserve. To quiet apprehension, and to remove all cause of anxiety on the subject, Congress on the 28th of April, 1800, authorized the President to execute and deliver on the part of the United States, Letters Patent to the Governor of Connecticut, whereby the United States released for the uses named, all right and title to the soil of the Reserve, and confirmed it unto those who had purchased it from that State. The execution and delivery, however, of the Letters Patent were upon the condition that Connecticut should forever renounce and release to the United States, entire and complete civil jurisdiction over the territory released. This condition was accepted, and thereupon Connecticut transferred her jurisdiction to the United States, and the United States released her claim and title to the soil; and thus, while jurisdiction for purposes of government was vested in the United States, a complete title to the soil, in so far as the States could give it, was transmitted to the Connecticut Land Company and to those who had purchased from it. While this controversy was going on, there was another Contestant in the field, having the advantage of actual occupancy, and in no wise inclined to recognize a title adverse to his, nor yield, upon mere invitation, a possession so long enjoyed. This Contestant was the Indian. During the war between France and England, which terminated in 1763, the Indians espoused the cause of the French. They entered into an alliance with them, and joined in their battles. At the close of that war, the Mississippi was agreed upon, by the Treaty of Paris, as the boundary between the British and French possessions in America. The claim of France to the domain lying east of the Mississippi, was surrendered to England. Soon after the close of the Revolution, the United States sought by peaceable means to acquire the title from the Indians, to the lands northwest of the Ohio; and on the 21st of January, 1785, concluded a treaty, at Fort McIntosh, with four of the Indian nations or tribes. These were the Wyandots, Delawares, Chippewas, and Ottawas. The section of country between the Cuyahoga and Maumee seemed to belong to the Wyandots; the region a little farther south, and comprising the section between the Muskingum and the Ohio, to the Delawares. By this treaty, the Cuyahoga, and the portage between it and the Tuscarawas, were agreed upon as the boundary on the Reserve, between the United States and the Wyandot and Delaware nations. All east of the Cuyahoga, was, in effect, ceded to the United States. The Indians soon became dissatisfied, and refused to adhere to the terms of the treaty. Instead of resorting to arms to enforce its obligations, the United States entered into further negotiations with them; and on the 9th of January, A.D. 1789, another treaty was concluded at Fort Harmar, at the mouth of the Muskingum, between Arthur St. Clair, acting for the United States, and the Wyandot, Delaware, Chippewa, Pottowatoma, and Sac nations. By this treaty the boundary line agreed upon by the treaty of Fort McIntosh was renewed and confirmed, and for the sum of $6,000 to be paid in goods, the Indians, among other lands, relinquished those lying east of the Cuyahoga, to the United States. The consideration agreed upon was paid.

But a short time, however, elapsed before the Indians, with characteristic disregard of their promises, refused to submit to the obligations of the new treaty. They reasserted their title to the lands conveyed. They declared that both treaties were made, and their assent to them obtained, under the menace and constraint of the guns of the forts; and, therefore, were not binding upon them—a conclusion necessarily following if the premises were true. The Government employed every effort to conciliate them, and to secure their observance of their engagements. Peaceful means failing, resort was had to arms. At first the Indians were successful in their resistance. Generals

Harmar and St. Clair, who successively encountered them, were drawn into ambush, and defeated with great slaughter. General Wayne, in 1795, with a force of 3500 men, met the combined forces of the Indians on the Miami of the Lake, now the Maumee, and after a sanguinary conflict, gained a decisive victory. Nearly every chief was slain. The spirit of the Indians being completely broken by their unexpected defeat in this contest, they met General Wayne in council, and the result was the Treaty of Greenville. This treaty was made between the United States and the Wyandots, Delawares, Shawanoes, Chippewas, Ottawas, Pattawatimas, Miamis, Eel Rivers, Weas, Kickapoos, Piankishaws and Kaskaskias. The Indians, submitting to imperative necessity, again yielded their claim to the lands east of the Cuyahoga, and make no further effort to regain them. It, however, for them, was a trying hour. Brought to realize that they must quit forever their hunting grounds, both memorable and sacred to them for the pleasures they had afforded, their bravest and best slain on the field of battle, they threw themselves upon the ground and bitterly wept, giving unrestrained expression to the wildest grief.

The Cuyahoga river, and the portage between it and the Tuscarawas, as between the United States and the Indians, constituted the western boundary of the United States, upon the Reserve, until July 4, 1805. On that day, a treaty was made at Fort Industry with the chiefs and warriors of the Wyandot, Ottawa, Chippewa, Munsee, Delaware, Shawanoee and Pattawatima nations, by which the Indian title to all the lands of the Reserve lying west of the Cuyahoga, was extinguished. By this treaty all the lands lying between the Cuyahoga and the Meridian, one hundred and twenty miles west of Pennsylvania, were ceded by the Indians for $20,000 in goods, and a perpetual annuity of $9,500, payable in goods at first cost. And although this annuity remains unpaid, because there is no one to claim it, the title to the land on the Reserve, west of that river, was forever set at rest.

During the Revolution, the British, aided by Benedict Arnold, made incursions into the heart of Connecticut, and destroyed a large amount of property in the towns of Greenwich, Norwalk, Fairfield, Danbury, New and East Haven, New London, Richfield and Groton. There were upwards of 2,000 persons and families that sustained severe looses by the depredations of the enemy. On the 10th of May, 1792, the Legislature of that State set apart and donated to the suffering inhabitants of these towns, 500,000 acres of the west part of the lands of the Reserve, to compensate them for the losses sustained. These lands were to be bounded north by the shore of Lake Erie, south by the base line of the Reserve, west by its western line, and east by a line parallel with the western line of Pennsylvania, and so far from the west line of the Reserve, as to include within the described limits the 500,000 acres. These are the lands now embraced within the counties of Huron and Erie, and the township of Ruggles, in Ashland county. The Islands were not included. The lands so given were called "Sufferer's Lands," and those to whom given, were in 1796, by the Legislature of Connecticut, incorporated by the name of the "Proprietors of the half million acres of land lying south of Lake Erie." After Ohio had become an independent State, this foreign corporation was not found to work well here, not being subject to her laws, and to relieve the owners of all embarrassment, on the 15th of April, 1803, the Legislature of this State, conferred corporate power on the owners and proprietors of the "Half million acres of land lying south of Lake Erie," in the county of Trumbull, called "Sufferer's Land." An account of the losses of the inhabitants had been taken in pounds, shillings and pence, and a price placed upon the lands, and each of the sufferers received land proportioned to the extent of his loss. These lands

subsequently took the name of "Fire Lands," from the circumstance that the greater part of the losses suffered resulted from fire.

I have already mentioned the fact that, after this dedication to the sufferers, and in 1795, Connecticut sold the remainder of the lands of the Western Reserve, to a company, know as the Connecticut Land Company, for $1,200,000. The subscription to the purchase fund, ranged from $1,683, by Sylvanus Griswold, to $168,185, by Oliver Phelps. Each dollar subscribed to this fund entitled the subscriber to one twelve hundred thousandth part in common, and undivided, of the land purchased. Having acquired the title, the company, in the following spring, commenced to survey the territory lying east of the Cuyahoga; and during the years of 1796 and 1797, completed it. The first surveying party arrived at Conneaught, in New Connecticut, eighty years ago to-day, and proceeded at once to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of American Independence There were fifty persons in the party, under the lead of General Moses Cleaveland, of Canterbury, Conn. There will be found in Whittlesey's Early History of Cleveland, an extract from the journal, of Cleaveland, describing the particulars of the celebration. Among other things noted by him, was the following: "The day, memorable as the birthday of American Independence, and freedom from British tyranny, and commemorated by all good, free born sons of America, and memorable as the day on which the settlement of this new country was commenced, and (which) in time may raise her head among the most enlightened and improved States." A prophecy already more than fulfilled. I shall occupy but a few moments upon the particulars of the survey. The point where the 41st degree of north latitude intersected the western line of Pennsylvania was found, and from this degree of latitude, as a base, Meridian lines, five miles apart, were run north to the lake. Lines of latitude were then run, five miles apart, thus dividing the territory into townships five miles square.

It was not until after the treaty of Fort Industry, in 1805, that the lands lying west of the Cuyhoga were surveyed. The meridians and parallels were run in 1806, by A. Tappen and his assistants. The base and western lines of the Reserve were run by Seth Pease for the Government. The ranges of townships were numbered progressively west, from the western boundary of Pennsylvania. The first tier of townships, running north and south, lying along the border of Pennsylvania, is range No. 1, the adjoining tier west, is range No. 2, and so on throughout the twenty-four ranges. The townships lying next north of the 41st parallel of latitude in each range, is township No. 1 of that range. The township next north, is No. 2, and so on progressively to the lake. Ridgeville being in the sixteenth tier of townships from the Pennsylvania line, and in the sixth tier from the base line of the Reserve, is township No. 6, in range No. 16. Wellington is township No. 3, in range 18. Elyria township No. 6, in range 17. It was supposed that there were 4,000,000 acres of land between Pennsylvania and the Fire lands. If the supposition had proved true, the land would have cost thirty cents per acre. As it resulted, there were less than 3,000,000 acres. The miscalculation arose from the mistaken assumption that the south shore of Lake Erie bore more nearly west than it does; and also from a mistake made in the length of the east and west line.

The distance, west from the Pennsylvania line, surveyed in 1796–7, was only fifty-six miles. That survey ended at the Tuscarawas river. To reach the western limit of the Reserve, a distance of sixty-four miles was to be made. Abraham Tappen and Anson Sessions entered into an agreement with the Land company, in 1805, to complete the survey of the lands between the Fire Lands and the Cuyahoga. This they did in 1806; and from the width of range 19, the range embracing the townshlps of Brownhelm, Henrietta,

Camden, Brighton, Rochester and Troy. it is very evident that the distance from the east to the west line of the Reserve is less than 120 miles. This tier of townships is gore shaped, and is much less than five miles wide, circumstances leading the company to divide all south of Brownhelm into tracts, and use it for purposes of equalization. The west line of range 19, from north to south, as originally run, bears to the west, and between it and range 20, as indicated on the map, there is a strip of land, also gore shaped, that was left in the first instance unsurveyed, the surveyors not knowing the exact where abouts of the eastern line of the "half million acres" belonging to the sufferers. In 1806, Amos Spafford, of Cleveland, and Almon Ruggles, of Huron, were agreed on by the two companies to ascertain and locate the line between the Fire Lands and the lands of the Connecticut Company. They first surveyed off the "half million acres" belonging to the Sufferers, and not agreeing with Seth Pease, who had run out the base and west line, a dispute arose between the two companies, which was finally adjusted before the draft, by establishing the eastern line of the Fire Lands where it now is. This left a strip of land east of the Fire Lands, called surplus lands, which was included in range 19, and is embraced in the western tier of townships of Lorain county. The mode of dividing the land among the purchasers was a little peculiar, although evidently just. An equalizing committee accompanied the surveyors, to make such observations and take such notes of the character of the townships, as would enable them to grade them intelligently, and make a just estimate and equalization of there value. The amount of th purchase money was divided into 40 shares, of 3,000 a share. Certificates were issued to each owner, showing him to be entitled to such proportion of the entire land, as the amount he paid, bore to the purchase price of the whole. Four townships of the greatest value were first selected from that part of the Western Reserve, to which the Indian title had been extinquished, and were divided into lots. Each township was divided into not less than 100 lots. The number of lots that the four townships were divided into, would at least equal the 400 shares, or a lot to a share, and each person, or company of persons, entitled to one or more shares of the Reserve—each share being one four hundredth part of the Reserve—was allowed to participate in the draft that was determined upon for the division of the joint property. The committee appointed to select the four most valuable townships for such division, was directed to proceed to select of the remaining townships, a sufficient number, and of the best quality and greatest value, to be used for equalizing purposes. After this selection was made, they were to select the best remaining township, and *this* township was the one, to the value of which all others were brought, by the equalizing process of annexation, and if there were several of equal value with the one so selected, no annexations were to be made to them. The equalizing townships were cut up into parcels of various size and value, and these parcels were annexed to townships inferior in value, to the standard township, selected in the manner indicated, and annexations of land from the equalizing townships were made in quantity and quality to the inferior townships, sufficient to make them all equal in value to the township so selected.

The lands of Lorain county, that were taken for the purpose of equalizing townships of inferior value, were those of Rochester, Brighton, Camden, Black River, and that part of Henrietta that did not originally belong to Brownhelm. Tract 8, in range 19, being partly in Brighton, and partly in Camden, consisting of 3,700 acres, was annexed to LaGrange, to equalize it. Tract No. 3, in LaFayette township, Medina county, consisting of 4,810½ acres, was annexed to Penfield. Tract 1, in gore 4, in range 11, consisting of 2,225 acres, was annexed to Eaton. Tract 2, in gore 4,

range 11, consisting of 2,650 acres, was annexed to Columbia; 1,700 acres, in tract 4, in Rochester, were annexed to Huntington; 2,769 acres, in fraction No. 3, in range 11, Summit county, were annexed to Ridgeville; 4,600 acres, in tract 9, in Camden, were annexed to Grafton; 4,000 acres, tract 7, in Brighton, were annexed to Wellington; 4,300 acres, in tract 3, gore 6, range 12, were annexed to Russia; 1,500 acres, in tract 14, in Henrietta, were annexed to Sheffield; 3,000 acres in tract 11, in Camden, were annexed to Pittsfield; tract 3, consisting of 4,050 acres, in Rochester, was annexed to Elyria; 4,000 acres, in tract 2, in Black River, were annexed to Amherst; Bass Islands, No. 1, 2 and Island No. 5, lying north of Erie county, consisting of 2,063 acres, were annexed to Avon; and Kelley's Island, consisting of 2,747 acres, was annexed to Carlisle. After the townships were all made equal in value by the process of tacking and annexation, they were drawn by lot. There were ninety-three townships, or equalized parcels drawn east of the Cuyahoga, and forty-six on the west. The draft of the lands east of the Cuyahoga, took place prior to 1800, and of those west of that river on the 4th of April, 1807. In the draft of the lands east of the river, it required an ownership of $12,903.23 of the original purchase money, to entitle the owner to a township; and in the draft of those west of the river, which included the lands of Lorain county, it required an ownership of $26,087, in the original purchase money, to entitle the owner to a township. The same mode and plan were followed in each draft. The townships were numbered, and the numbers on separate pieces of paper, placed in a box. The names of the proprietors, who had subscribed, and were the owners of a sufficient amount of the purchase money to entitle them to a township, were arranged in alphabetical order, and where it was necessary for several persons to combine, because not owning severally a sufficient amount of the purchase money, or number of shares, to entitle them to a township, the name of the person of the company that stood alphabetically first, was used to represent them in the draft, and in case the small owners were unable, from disagreement among themselves, to unite, a committee was appointed to select and class the proprietors, and those selected were required to associate themselves together for the purpose of the draft. The township, corresponding to the first number drawn from the box, belonged, with its annexations for purposes of equalization, to the person whose name stood first on the list, or to the persons whom he represented; and the second drawn, belonged to the second person, and so on throughout the list. This was the mode adopted to sever the ownership in common, and to secure to each individual, or company of individuals, their interest in severalty, in what, before then, had been the common property of all. When a township, by the draft, became the property of several, resort was had to the courts after their organization here, to effect partition of the same. Soon after the conveyance to the Land Company, to avoid complications arising from the death of its members, and to facilitate the transmission of titles, the company conveyed the entire purchase, in trust, to John Morgan, John Cadwell and Jonathan Brace; and as titles were wanted, either before or after, the division by draft, conveyances were made to the purchasers by these trustees.

Little was know of the south shore of Lake Erie, and the adjoining country, until near the close of the 18th century. It was formerly inhabited by the nation of Indians called the Erigas, or Eries, from whom the Lake took its name. This nation was destroyed by the Iroquois, or Five nations.

Charlevoix, in his "History of New France," published in 1744, in speaking of the country south of, and bordering on Lake Erie, says: "All this shore is nearly unknown." An old French map, made in 1755, to be seen in the rooms of the Western Reserve Historical

Society, in Cleveland, names the country between the Cuyahoga and Sandusky rivers, as Canahogue; and east of the Cuyahoga, as Gwahoga. This is also the name given to that river which is made to empty into Canahogue Bay; and the country designated as Canahogue, is indicated as the Seat of War, the Mart of Trade, and the Chief Hunting Grounds of the six nations of the lake. But civil Government was not organized on the Western Reserve until the year 1800. The governor and judges of the northwest territory, under the ordinance of 1787, in 1788, by proclamation, organized the County of Washington, and included within it, all of the Western Reserve east of the Cuyahoga; and in 1796, the year of the first settlement of New Connecticut, the county of Wayne was erected, which included over half of Ohio, all of the Western Reserve west of the Cuyahoga, with a part of Indiana, all of Michigan, and the American portion of Lakes Superior, Huron, St. Clair and Erie to the "mouth of the Cuyahoga." The County Seat of Wayne county was Detroit. In 1797, Jefferson county was established, and the Western Reserve, east of the Cuyahoga, became a part of it, by restricting the limits of Washington. As before remarked, Connecticut and the Land Company refused to recognize the jurisdiction of the United States, prior to 1800. The act of inclusion of their western land within the counties of Washington, Jefferson and Wayne, they declared to be unwarranted, and the power of Congress to prescribe rules for the government of the same, they denied; and from the opening settlement, in 1796, until the transfer of jurisdiction to the general Government was complete, on the 30th of May, in 1800, the new settlers were entirely without municipal laws. There was no regulation governing the transmission of, or succession to, property on the decease of the owner. No regulations of any kind securing the protection of rights, or the redress of wrongs. The want of laws for the government of the settlers, was seriously felt, and as early as 1796, the company petitioned the Legislature of Connecticut, to erect the Reserve into a county, with proper and suitable laws, to regulate the internal policy of the territory for a limited period. This petition, however, was not granted, and for upwards of four years the intercourse and conduct of the early settlers were regulated and restrained only by their New England sense of justice and right. But on the 10th of July, 1800, after Connecticut had released her jurisdiction to the United States, the Western Reserve was erected into a county, by the name of Trumbull, in honor of the governor of Connecticut, by the civil authority of Ohio.

At the election in the fall of that year, Edward Paine received thirty-eight votes out of the forty-two cast for member of the Territorial Legislature. The election was held at Warren, the County Seat. This was the first participation that the settlers had in the affairs of government here. During the same year, the Court of Quarter Sessions, a tribunal that did not survive the Constitution of 1802, was established and organized, and by it the county was divided into eight organized townships. The township of Cleveland was one, and embraced not only a large portion of territory east of the Cuyahoga, but all of the Reserve lying west of that river. This spot was once a part of that township. On December 1, 1805, the county of Geauga was erected. It included within its limits nearly all of the present counties of Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake and Cuyahoga. On the 10th day of February, 1807, there was a more general division into counties. That part of the Western Reserve lying west of the Cuyahoga and north of township No. 4, was attached to Geauga, to be a part thereof, until Cuyahoga should be organized. All of the present county of Lorain, north of Grafton, LaGrange, Pittsfield and Camden, belonged to, and was a part of the county of Geauga, from February 10, 1807, until January 16, 1810. At that date

1807, Ashtabula was erected out of Trumbull and Geauga, to be organized whenever its population would warrant it. Also, all that part of Trumbull which lay west of the fifth range of townships, was erected into a county by the name of Portage, and all of the Western Reserve, west of the Cuyahoga and south of township No. 5, was annexed to, and declared to be a part of Portage. So that all of the present county of Lorain, south of Eaton, Carlisle, Russia and Henrietta belonged to and was a part of Portage, and remained a part of it until January 22, 1811. On the 10th day of February, 1807, the county of Cuyahoga was carved out of Geauga, to be organized whenever its population should be sufficient to require it. On the 16th of January, 1810, the population having become sufficient, the county was declared organized. On February 8, 1809, Huron was erected into a county covering the Fire Lands, but to remain attached to Geauga and Portage, for the time being, for purposes of government.

On January 22, 1811, the boundary line of Huron was extended east, on the line now dividing Camden and Henrietta, Pittsfield and Russia, Carlisle and LaGrange, to the southwest corner of Eaton; and from there, north on the line dividing Carlisle and Eaton, and Elyria and Ridgeville, to the northwest corner of Ridgeville; thence west to Black River, and down the same to the Lake. On the day that these lines were so altered and extended, the Legislature extended the south line of Cuyahoga county, from the soutwest corner of Strongsville, west to the southwest corner of Eaton; thence north, between Eaton and Carlisle, to the northwest corner of Eaton; and from that point, west between Elyria and Carlisle, to the east branch of Black River, and down the same to the Lake. Here was a conflict in boundaries. The boundary of Huron county included all of Elyria, extending east to Ridgeville; and the boundary of Cuyahoga included within its limits that part of Elyria lying east of the east branch of the river. The river was the dividing line between the two counties, in the one act; and the line between Elyria and Ridgeville was the dividing line in the other. This conflict was removed at the next session of the Legislature, by adopting the township line, instead of the river, as the boundary line between the two counties, at this point. This adjustment of boundaries gave to Huron county the townships now known as Elyria, Carlisle, Russia, Henrietta, Brownhelm, Amherst, and all of Black River, and Sheffield lying west of the river; and to Cuyahoga county, Eaton, Columbia, Ridgeville, Avon, and all of the townships of Black River and Sheffield lying east of the river. At that date, 1811, the territory now comprising the county of Lorain, belonged to the counties of Huron, Cuyahoga, and Portage.

The county of Huron, although established in 1809, and extended east of Black River in 1811, was annexed to Cuyahoga in 1810, for judicial and other purposes, and remained so annexed, until January, 1815, when it was organized, and assumed control of its own affairs.

On the 18th day of February, 1812, Medina was formed, and comprised all of the territory between the eleventh range of townships and Huron county, and south of townships number five. It therefore included all of the present county of Lorain, south of Eaton, Carlisle, Russia, and Henrietta. On the 14th day of January, 1818, that county was organized, and its local government put into operation, it remaining in the interim, from the date of its formation to the date of its organization, attached to the county of Portage, for county purposes. On the 26th of December, 1822, Lorain county was established. It took from the county of Huron the territory embraced in the townships of Brownhelm, Henrietta, Amherst, Russia, Elyria, and Carlisle, and those parts of the townships of Black River and Sheffield that lie on the west of Black River; and from the county of Cuyahoga the townships of Troy, (now

Avon), Ridgeville, the west half of Olmsted, (then called Lenox), Eaton, Columbia, and those parts of Black River and Sheffield lying east of the river; and from the county of Medina, Camden, Brighton, Pittsfield, LaGrange, and Wellington. The county, as originally formed, embraced seventeen and one-half townships, which, until the county was organized, were to remain attached to the counties of Medina, Huron, and Cuyahoga, as formerly. It was, however, organized independently, and went into operation, on the 21st day of January, 1824. In the organization of the county, it was provided that the first officers should be elected in April, 1824: and at that election, that part of Lenox that was brought into Lorain, should vote at Ridgeville, and that part of Brighton, lying in Medina before then, should vote in the adjoining township of Wellington. On January 29, 1827, the boundary lines were changed. The townships of Grafton, Penfield, Spencer and Homer, Huntington, Sullivan, Rochester and Troy—some of them organized and some not—were detached from Medina, and annexed to, and become a part of, Lorain; and the half of Lenox belonging to Lorain, was set off to Cuyahoga, to be a part of Middlebury, until otherwise provided. Upon the formation of the county of Summit, in 1840, the townships of Spencer and Homer were reattached to Medina; and upon the formation of Ashland county, in February, 1846, Sullivan and Troy were detached from Lorain, and made a part of that county. Prior to this, and on the 29th of January, 1827, an act was passed, fixing the northern boundary of the county. The mode of forming and organizing the counties had been such as to leave unsettled the northern limit of the counties of Ashtabula, Geauga, Cuyahoga, and Lorain. And in matters involving the exercise of criminal jurisdiction of offenses committed on the lake, in the vicinity of the shore, the question was of too much practical importance to be left in doubt. The Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, fixed the line running through the middle of the lakes as the dividing line between the two countries. Connecticut had reserved the land between the 41st degree of north latitude, and 42 deg. and 2 min. The course and shape of Lake Erie were such that the parallel of 42 deg. and 2 min. would cross the middle line of the lake; and adjoining Ashtabula, that degree of latitude would be south of, and adjoining Lorain north of, the boundary line between Canada and the United States. It was therefore declared, by this act, that the northern boundary of these four counties should extend to the northern boundary of the United States. This carried the northern boundary of Lorain to the middle of Lake Erie, without regard to the northern limit of the Western Reserve.

Before recounting the incidents connected with the early settlement and organization of the county, and the townships comprising it, brief allusion should be made to a fact connected with the history of the Reserve, respecting its common schools. By the ordinance of Congress, of 1785, it was declared that section 16 of every township should be reserved, for the maintenance of public schools in the township. The ordinance of 1787, reaffirmed the policy thus declared. The provisions of these ordinances, in this respect, were not applicable to, nor operative over, the region of the Reserve, because of the fact that the United States did not own its soil; and although the entire amount paid to Connecticut by the Land Company, for the territory of the Reserve, was set apart for, and devoted to, the maintenance of public schools in that State, no part of that fund was appropriated to purposes of education here. Here was an inequality of advantages between the people of the Reserve and of the remainder of the State, in that respect. This inequality was, however, in a measure, removed in 1803, by an act of Congress, which set apart and appropriated to the Western Reserve, as an equivalent for section 16, a sufficient quantity of land in the

United States Military District, to compensate the loss of that section to school purposes, in the lands lying east of the Cuyahoga. This amount was equal to one thirty-sixth of the land of the Reserve, to which the Indian title had, before that time, been extinguished. The Indian title to the lands of the Reserve west of the Cuyahoga, not then having been extinguished, the matter seemed to drop from public notice, and remained so until 1829. At this date, the Legislature, in a Memorial to Congress, directed its attention to the fact, that by the Treaty of Fort Industry, concluded in 1805, the Indian title to the land west of the Cuyahoga, had been relinquished to the United States, and prayed in recognition of the fact, that an additional amount of land lying within the United States Military District, should be set apart for the use of the public schools of the Reserve, and equal in quantity to one thirty-sixth of the territory, ceded to the United States by that Treaty. The Memorial produced the desired result. In 1834, Congress, in compliance with the request of the Legislature, granted such an additional amount of land to the Reserve for school purposes, as to equalize its distribution of lands for such purpose, and in furtherance of its object to carry into effect its determination, to donate one thirty-sixth part of the public domain, to the purposes of education. The lands first allotted to the Reserve. for such purpose, were situated in the counties of Holmes and Tuscarawas, and in 1831, were surveyed and sold, and the proceeds arising from their sale, as well as the funds arising from the sale of those subsequently appropriated, were placed, and invested with other school funds of the State, and constitute one of the sources from which the people of the Reserve derive the means of supporting and maintaining their common schools. This fund is called the Western Reserve school fund.

In undertaking to notice some of the events, connected with the early settlement of the townships of the county, I fully appreciate the liability to error. But very few of the early settlers are left to recount the incidents, privations, and rude pleasures of early life. Tradition is not always reliable, and memory, once fresh and faithful, fades with the approach of advancing years. We venture only a glance, at the early township history, and vouch only its general accuracy. In September, 1807, a company of thirty persons left Waterbury, Connecticut, for the township of Columbia. They were Calvin Hoadley, his wife, and five children; Lemuel Hoadley, wife, and three children, his father, and his wife's mother; Lathrop Seymour, and wife; John Williams, wife, and five children; a Mrs. Parker, with four children; Silas Hoadley, and Chauncey Warner; Bela Bronson, wife, and child. This company were two months in reaching Buffalo, and in undertaking the journey from there, by the lake, were overtaken by disaster, and thrown ashore Many of them were compelled to make the journey from the spot where Erie now is, on foot, nearly to Cleveland.

The greater part of this company, stopped at Cleveland, and remained through the winter. But Bela Bronson, wife and child; Levi Bronson, John Williams, and Walter Strong, pushed across the Cuyahoga, cut their way through the wilderness to Columbia, erected a log house, and commenced pioneer life. They were eight days in cutting their way from Cleveland to Columbia. In the winter of 1807–8, the families of John Williams and James Geer, arrived; and in the spring and summer of 1808, those who remained at Cleveland during the winter, arrived also. At the apportionment, by draft, in 1807, Levi Bronson, Harmon Bronson, Azor Bronson, Calvin Hoadly, and Jared Richards, had formed an association called the Waterbury Land Company. This Company, Benjamin Doolittle, Jr., Samuel Doolittle, and William Law, drew that township, as No. 5, Range 15, with 2,650 acres in Richfield and Boston, in Summit county, annexed, to equalize it. Columbia, at

the time of its organization, which took place in 1809, was a part of Geauga county. The first election was held on the first Monday of April, of that year, at the house of Calvin Hoadley. There were nineteen voters at the election. Calvin Hoadley, Jared Pritchard, and John Williams, were elected trustees. Bela Bronson was elected clerk. Having no use for a treasurer, none was elected. Lathrop Seymour was elected constable; and to provide him employment, in May following, Nathaniel Doan was elected Justice of the Peace. All of Geauga county lying west of Columbia, was annexed to that township for judicial, and other purposes. The jurisdiction of that judicial functionary, covered, in territorial extent, nearly an empire. The plaintiff in the first action brought before him, lived on Grand River, and the defendant on the Vermillion. It was the case of Skinner v. Baker. The plaintiff had judgment, which was paid, not in legal tender, but in labor. The first school taught was in the summer of 1808, by Mrs. Bela Bronson, in the first log house erected. The first winter school was taught by Bela Bronson, in a blacksmith shop, during the winter of 1809–10. In August, 1812, after the commencement of the war, between England and the United States, an event transpired which occasioned feelings of great apprehension and alarm, not only to the pioneers of Columbia, but to the inhabitants of the entire Reserve. Information came, and spread rapidly, that the British, and their allies, were approaching the settlements, with intent to kill and massacre the inhabitants. A large party had been seen landing at Huron, which was supposed to be the forces of the enemy. Men, women, and children fled from their homes in terror. As the inhabitants of Ridgeville reached Columbia, in their flight, they found the Columbia settlement nearly abandoned. This flight, however, lasted but a short time, when Levi Bronson, returning from Cleveland, brought the news, that the persons landed at Huron, were the prisoners that Hull surrendered, at Detroit, to the British. On the return of those who had sought safety in flight from Columbia, the Elder Bronson, who had refused to join them, informed them that "the wicked flee, when no man pursueth." The inhabitants of Columbia, Ridgeville, Middlebury, and Eaton, at once joined in the erection of a Block House, just south of the center of the town. This was the fortress, to which to flee for safety, in an hour of danger. Captain Hoadly had the honor of commanding this post. A company was organized to garrison it; but we are well informed that the enemy had not the temerity, to come within reach of its guns. The Captain and his men were mustered into the service, and paid as soldiers of the United States army. Able-bodied men constituted the garrison, while the old men, women and children, were left unprotected, at their homes, to cultivate the soil, and receive the first assault of the expected foe. I believe, however, that the roar of the cannon, off Put-in-Bay Island, on the 10th of September, 1813, was the first, and the last, heard of the enemy, after these military preparations for defense were made. The first mail, west of Cleveland, was carried by Horace Gun, in 1808. The route was from Cleveland to Maumee. The only houses on the route were one at Black River, occupied by Azariah Beebe, and one at Milan, occupied by a Frenchman by the name of Flemins. In 1809, the mail over this route was carried by Benoni Adams, of Columbia. It required two weeks to make the trip. The only road was an Indian trail, along the lake, and the carrier went on foot. There was no postoffice, between Cleveland and Maumee, no way mails, and but few who could either read or write. The carrier was compelled, from its extent, to lodge one night in the Black Swamp.

Ridgeville.

Town No. 6, in the 16th range of townships, (Ridgeville), was drawn by Ephraim Root, a lawyer of Hartford. For a few years after its settlement, it was called Rootstown. In 1809–10, Oliver Terrell, Ichabod Terrell, and David Beebe, residents of Waterbury, exchanged lands by them owned there, for a little over one-fourth of the township of Ridgeville. In the spring of 1810, David Beebe, and his sons, David and Loman; Philander and Oliver Terrell, sons of Ichabod; Joel Terrell and Lyman Root, left Waterbury, and after a long journey, reached Ridgeville. These were the first settlers. On the 6th of July, of that year, Tillotson Terrell arrived, with his wife and three children. His was the first family that settled in the township. In the summer of that year, David Beebe, Jr., returned to Waterbury, and brought on the family of his father, and the wife and children of Lyman Root. At the same time, Ichabod Terrell, his wife Rhoda, and five children; his father, and Asa Morgan, his teamster, exchanged their Connecticut homes, and comforts, for the untried experiences of frontier life. Oliver Terrell, father of Ichabod, upwards of eighty years of age, made the entire trip on horseback. They reached Ridgeville in the Fall, cutting a wagon road from Rocky River to the place of destination. They were two days and three nights, en route, from Rocky River. The company that came on in the spring, had built a small cabin of logs, of such size, as so few could carry, the roof being of bark, and the floor of mother earth. This cabin was built in the first clearing made, and on land now owned by John Lansbury. Here all had lived together, and kept bachelor's hall. Upon the arrival of Tillotson Terrell and family, in the early part of July, he "moved in," and remained until the erection of a log house for himself and family, on the premises now owned by Mrs. Harry Terrell. This was not long after his advent into the town. About the same time, David Beebe, Sr., built a log house, a little west, nearly opposite the residence of the late Garry Root. These log cabins were an improvement on the one previously built, in one respect, at least: each had a puncheon floor, and an opening for a window. As window-glass was an article not possessed, foolscap paper was employed in its stead; and while it was a poor instrument, to exclude the cold air from the rude dwelling, it was the best means possessed as a substitute, for the admission of light. Joel Terrell, one of the first of the spring company, returned to Connecticut in 1810, and remained until 1811, when, with his family, he directed his steps again westward, to his future home. The families of David Beebe, Sr., Lyman Root, and Ichabod Terrell, that came on in the fall of 1810, consisted of twenty persons. They were seven weeks on the way. Two yokes of oxen to a wagon, with a horse as a leader, constituted the motive power, that conveyed them hither.

Rhoda Terrel, the wife of Ichabod, was a survivor of the Wyoming Massacre; and at her death, occurring over twenty years ago, left ninety-one grand children, and a large number of great grand children surviving her. The first school house was erected near the centre of the town, on the spot where the Tuttle House now stands. It was consumed by fire in 1814. The first framed house was built by Major Willis Terrell. The first mill for grinding flour was the offspring of necessity. It was erected near where Tillotson Terrell built his log house. It was the Mortar and Pestle. A log about three feet in length, cut from a pepperage tree, set on its end, burned out round in the top, with a pestle attached to a spring pole; these were the sum total of its parts and its mechanism. This was a familiar and friendly acquaintance of the neighboring inhabitants, and by them was kept in constant use, until time and means brought in better days. In 1812-13 Joseph Cahoon, of Dover,

built a grist mill on the small creek at the centre. Capt. Hoadley, of Columbia, possessed a hand grist mill; and in the winter of 1816-17 a mill was built at Elyria, thus removing the necessity for the further use of the Mortar and Pestle.

The township of Ridgeville was organized in 1813. At the spring election of that year there were fifteen voters; and they were all at election. Judges of election were provided, and the polls were opened. David Beebe, Ichabod Terrell and Joel Terrell were elected trustees. Joel Terrell was elected justice of the peace; David Beebe, Jr., constable, and Willis Terrell township clerk. A post office was established in 1815, and Moses Eldred appointed post master. Up to this date the Cleveland post office was the nearest. Town No. 5 in the same range (Eaton), was included in the organization of Ridgeville. It required a population having ten electors to secure the privileges resulting from the civil organization of a township, and where the population was not sufficient in a surveyed town to secure incorporation as a township, two or more towns could unite, and thus secure such privileges. And such union usually continued, until by the increase of population the number of electors required, to secure individual and independent organization, became residents of the town. Adjoining towns, with less than the required number of electors to secure incorporation, were annexed to organized townships, for the purpose of civil and judicial administration; and they remained so annexed until of sufficient growth to entitle them to separate and independent incorporation. During the continuance of the annexation, the inhabitants of the annexed territory were, to all intents and purposes, citizens of the township to which annexed, with the same privileges, and subject to the same exactions as actual residents therein. It will be seen that the practice of uniting surveyed towns for civil purposes, and of annexations for like purposes, were of frequent occurrence and necessity.

Black River.

The earliest attempted permanent settlement was at the mouth of Black River. In 1787, a few Moravian ministers, missionaries among the Delawares and other tribes, with a band of Christian Indians, undertook to make a permanent settlement at that point. In the spring of that year they removed from Pilgrim's Rest, on the Cuyahoga, to the place contemplated as their new abode. Here they hoped to establish a centre, and plant the seeds, of the Christian civilization of the Indians. Their hopes, however, were not to be realized. They had remained but a few days upon the spot selected, when a message from the chief of the Delawares, commanding them to depart from the Black River, was received, and at once obeyed. This was the first settlement in what is now the County; for although temporary and of but short duration, it was a settlement in fact, coupled with an intent to remain. No further attempt was made to settle at the mouth of the river until 1807. In the survey of the previous year, Black River had been divided into three parts—Gore No. 1, Tract No. 2 and Gore No. 3. It was not drawn as a township, but, as before stated, was used for purposes of equalization. Gore 1 was annexed to Olmsted, Tract 2 to Amherst, and Gore 3 to the township of Medina. The persons who drew the three last named townships became respectively the owners of Black River. The first family that settled in Black River was that of Azariah Beebe, consisting of himself and wife. This was in 1807. Nathan Perry, Jr., son of Nathan Perry, of Cleveland, both from Vermont, opened a store at Black River in the same year for trade with the Indians. Beebe and wife were in his employment, and he boarded in their family. They took up their residence east of the river, remained a few years, and left. No addition was made to the settlement until 1810. In the spring of that year, Daniel Perry, an uncle of Nathan jr., settled with his

family near the mouth of the river. He, also, was from Vermont. His stay, however, was not permanent, as he remained but a few years, then moved to Sheffield, whence, after a short residence there, he removed to Brownhelm, where he spent the remainder of a very useful life. During the same year, 1810, additions were made to the town by the arrival of Jacob Shupe, Joseph Quigley, George Kelso, Andrew Kelso, Ralph Lyon, and a Mr. Seely. Some of these soon took up their abode in No. 6—Amherst. In the following year, 1811, there came John S. Reid, Quartis Gilmore, Aretus Gilmore, and William Martin. The first named of this company, John S. Reid, was a man of great energy of character, and soon became prominent, as the leading citizen of the town. He was one of the first three Commissioners upon the organization of the county, in 1824; and before then, and while Black River was a part of Huron county, he was, in 1819, a Commissioner of that county. He was one of the Commissioners of Huron county that directed the joint organization of Elyria and Carlisle. He died in 1831. His son, Conrad, has lived in Black River for sixty-five consecutive years. He and Mrs. Slater, daughter of William Martin, are the only surviving residents of 1811. Quartus and Aretus Gilmore were sons of Edmund, who removed to Black River with his family in 1812. He was the owner of a large tract of land in Black River and Amherst. He built, in that year, the first framed barn ever built in the county.

On the 14th of November, 1811, the township of Dover was organized by the Commissioners of Cuyahoga county. It included within its defined limits the present townships of Dover, Avon, Sheffield, and that part of Black River east of the river; and on the 12th of March, 1812, the territory now comprising the townships of Elyria, Amherst, all of Black River west of the river, and Brownhelm, were attached to Dover, for township purposes. They remained so attached until Vermillion was organized, when the towns now known as Amherst, Brownhelm, and Black River west of the river, were annexed to that township. On the 27th of October, 1818, the township of Troy was organized into a separate township, and included the present towns of Avon, and all of Sheffield and Black River lying east of the river. It will be remembered that Huron county was organized in 1815, and was extended east to Black River, and for a distance, beyond it. At the February session, in 1817, of the Commissioners of Huron county, it was ordered that township No. 6 (Amherst), and that part of No. 7 (Black River), in the 18th Range, which lay in the county of Huron, with all the lands thereto attached in said Huron county, be set off from the township of Vermillion, and organized into a separate township, by the name of Black River. Thus Amherst, Black River, and Brownhelm, were first organized, as Black River.

In June, 1824, the corner of the town lying east of the river was annexed to Black River township for judicial purposes. The first election for township officers, for Black River township, was held in April, 1817. The names of all the officers elected are not known. There were two post offices in the town. The Black River post office was located on the South Ridge, now South Amherst, and the other was named "The Mouth of Black River Post Office," and was kept at the mouth of the river. Eliphalet Redington was the first postmaster of the office at Black River, and John S. Reid of the Mouth of Black River post office.

Brownhelm.

Of Brownhelm, I shall say but little. Her "early settlement and history" were, years ago, put into enduring shape by one familiar with the incoming and outgoing of her people, during a growth of fifty years. On the 4th of July, 1867, at the celebration of the semi-centennial anniversary of her first settlement, the scenes and incidents connected therewith, were narrated with interesting detail, by President Fairchild, of Oberlin College The town was drawn in the draft by Asher Miller and Nathaniel Shalor. Originally it was bounded south by tracts 14 and 15, in range 19. It included nearly one-third of Henrietta. In 1816, Col. Henry Brown, from Stockbridge, Massachusetts, entered the township, then known as No. 6, Range 19, and built the first log house. He was accompanied here, and assisted in building, by Peter P. Pease, Charles Whittlesey, William Alverson, and William Lincoln. Seth Morse and Renessalaer Cooley also assisted in building the house. Morse and Cooley returned to the East for the winter. Pease, Whittlesey, Alverson and Lincoln remained here. On the 4th of July, 1817, the families of Levi Shepard, Sylvester Barnum, and Stephen James arrived, and after celebrating the Fourth on the shore, entered upon pioneer life near the log house of Brown. These were the first families that settled in the town. During the same year the families of Solomon Whittlesey, Alva Curtis, Benjamin Bacon, and Ebenezer Scott arrived. In 1818, many other families were added, giving hope of a speedy filling up of the town. They were those of Col. Brown, Grandison Fairchild, Anson Cooper, Elisha Peck, George Bacon, Alfred Avery, Enos Cooley, Orrin Sage, John Graham, and others. There were other families that arrived and settled in the south part of the town, subsequently set off to Henrietta. They will be named in connection with the mention of that town. The first framed house in the town was built by Benjamin Bacon. The first brick house in the county was built by Grandison Fairchild, in the summer of 1819. Mrs. Alverson gathered the children of the neighborhood together and taught the first school in the town. Her own house was the school house. The log school house was built on the brow of the hill, in the fall of the same year, and because of its pretentious dimensions, for the times—18 by 22—the street upon which it stood received the name of Strut street, and bore it for many years. Grandison Fairchild taught the school the first two winters, receiving his tuition in chopping. Labor and produce were the currency employed for the exchange of values. Money was very scarce, and nearly all debts, except the one incurred in the purchase of lands, were paid in labor, its products, and those of the soil.

From February, 1817, until October, 1818, the town was a part of Black River. At the latter date, on petition of the inhabitants to the Commissioners of Huron county, No. 6, in the 19th Range, together with the surplus lands adjoining west, and all lands lying west of Beaver creek, in No. 7, 18th Range (Black River), was organized into a separate township by the name of Brownhelm. Col. Brown had the honor to select the name. Township officers were elected at the spring election in 1819, held at the house of George Bacon. Calvin Leonard, Levi Shepard, and Alva Curtis, were elected trustees; Anson Cooper, township clerk; William Alverson, treasurer; Benjamin Bacon, and Levi Shepard, justices of the peace. This perfected the township organization. That part of the present town of Black River lying west of Beaver creek was, in June, 1829, by order of the Commissioners, detached from Brownhelm, and re-annexed to Black River.

Grafton.

Town No. 4, Range 16, was drawn by Lemuel Storrs. In May, 1816, from fifteen to eighteen men left Berkshire county, Massachusetts, and journeyed hither for the purpose of selecting and locating lands for which they either had exchanged, or were to exchange, lands owned by them in that State. Among these men were Jonathan Rawson, John and George Sibley, Seth C. and Thomas Ingersoll, sons of Major William Ingersoll. and brothers of Mrs. Harriet Nesbitt, whose reminiscences of the town, in its early days, have been so recently, and so happily given to the public The selection was made, and all returned East, except the Sibleys, and men employed by Rawson to remain and work at clearing the forest. In the fall of that year, Major William Ingersoll moved his family into the town, arriving on November 4th. He settled just east of Kingsley's Corners, on land selected by his sons in the spring. This was the first family that settled in the town. The journey was made with a span of horses, and three yoke of oxen. A small shanty had been built on the land of the Sibleys, and upon their invitation, it was occupied by the family of Major Ingersoll for about two weeks, during which time, he and the boys erected a log house upon land of his own. In February, 1817, the family of William Crittenden arrived. This was family No. 2. In the month of March following, came the families of the Rawsons, Boughtons, Sibleys, and Nesbits; and a little later in the same season the families of Captain William Turner, Aaron Root, and Bildad Beldin; and not long after the family of David Ashley. An attack was at once made upon the thick forest, and within twelve months from the arrival of Maj. Ingersoll, twelve log houses were erected, that gave shelter to ninety-seven persons. During the following year, additions were made by the arrival of many other families.

This township then belonged to dina county, which was formed in 1812, but as elsewhere stated, for want of population was not organized until January, 1818. From its formation, to its organization, it remained attached to Portage county, where the deeds of the early settlers were recorded. On the 25th of July, 1818, on petition of the inhabitants, the town was incorporated by the name of Grafton, by the Commissioners of Medina county. At the first election held in August, 1818, Eliphalet Jones, William Ingersoll and William B. Crittenden were elected trustees; William Bishop, clerk; Reuben Ingersoll, treasurer; David Ashley, appraiser of property; Grindel Rawson and Seth C. Ingersoll, fence viewers. Previous to the organization of the township, it had been attached to Liverpool for judicial purposes, and in April, 1818, Reuben Ingersoll had been elected justice of the peace, at the election held at that town.

The first school was taught by Miss Mary Sibley, in 1818, in the log school house built near the residence of Capt. William Turner. During the same year a church was organized by Rev. T. Brooks. The pioneer life of the early settlers of Grafton furnish many amusing incidents, one of which shows the inventive power of necessity. When Guy Boughton was on his way from Massachusetts, he sold to Heman Ely a double wagon, and agreed to deliver it at town No. 6, Range 17. On reaching Grafton he found there were twelve miles of unbroken forest between his wagon and the place of delivery. One of two ways must be adopted: he must cut a wagon road the whole distance, or try the navigable capacity of Black river. He chose the latter. He made a raft, launched it, put his wagon on it, shoved off from shore, and in due time fulfilled his contract, by delivering the wagon to Mr. Ely, at the foot of what is now Broad street, in this village.

Sheffield.

Town No. 7, in range 17, Sheffield, in the partition by draft, was drawn by William Hart, of Saybrook. Tract 14, in Henrietta, was annexed to it, to equalize it. Timothy Wallace was the first settler. Previous to Hart's disposition of the land, and in about the year 1812, he agreed with Wallace to give him his choice in lots, if sold by lot, if he would settle and occupy the same. Wallace accepted, entered and improved a few acres on the Robbins Burrell farm, and finally abandoned it. In January, 1815, Hart conveyed the township to Captain John Day and Captain Jabez Burrell, of Berkshire county, Massachusetts. Obediah Deland, Joshua Smith, Joseph Fitch, Solomon Fitch, Isaac Burrell and Henry Austin, bought in, and became joint owners with Day and Burrell. In June of that year, Jabez Burrell and Isaac, Captain Day and Joshua Smith, came west, and made selections. In the following November, Smith and son reached the selected ground, and became fixed settlers. They were soon joined by Samuel B. Fitch and Asher Chapman, who struck hands with them, built a small shanty, and occupied it during the winter of 1815–16. Freeman Richmond and family, took up their abode on lot 2. This was the first settlement of the town by a family. In April following, Henry Root, wife and six children, two boys and four girls, arrived from Sheffield, Massachusetts, and took shelter in Smith's shanty until the log house was thrown up, that was to constitute their humble habitation for the immediate future.

Wm. H. Root, Esq., still a resident, and now in the advanced years of a well-spent life, was the youngest of the two boys. Next, and soon, came Oliver Moon, Milton Garfield, John B. Garfield, A. R. Dimmick, William Richmond and Willis Porter. In July and August, there came the families of John Day and Jazeb Burrell, the first arriving in July, and consisting of twelve persons, and the latter consisting of ten. William, the oldest son of John Day, at a later day, became one of the associate judges of the county. Captain Smith, in the fall, returned to Massachusetts, and brought on his family in March of 1817. There soon followed the Moores, Stevens, Hecocks, James, Arnold, and Isaac Burrell. There is no township in the county, unless it be Grafton, and possibly Brownhelm and LaGrange, that seems to have filled up as rapidly as Sheffield, in the first years of its settlement.

From the organization of the county of Huron, until the organization of Lorain, Sheffield owed a divided allegiance. Originally, Dover embraced Avon, and all of Sheffield and Black River east of the river. At a later day, Avon, and the same parts of Sheffield and Black River, that formerly belonged to Dover, constituted the township of Troy, and they were then in Cuyahoga county. From 1815 to 1824, all of Sheffield, west of Black river, was attached to the township of Black River, as it existed before its territory was reduced to its present limits. This part of Sheffield was then in Huron county. The township was then known as No. 7, range 17. On the first Monday of June, 1824, touched with a little ambition for territorial expansion, she laid her petition before the commissioners of the county of Lorain, at their June session, in the first year of the organization of the county, praying for a township organization that should embrace the in extent its present area, all of Black River township east of Black river, and so much of No. 6, range 17, (Elyria), as was set off to Enoch Perkins, in the partition of that township. The action before the commissioners resulted in the organization of the township, with her present boundaries. Sheffield was the first township incorporated after the county was organized. Her incorporation was the first official act of the commissioners at their June session, 1824. A special election was ordered for the township officers, and took place July 10, 1824. John Day, Isaac Burrell

and A. R. Dimmick, were elected trustees; Nathan Stevens, clerk; Milton Garfield, treasurer. Jabez Burrell had been elected Justice of the Peace in 1819, while the town was a part of Troy, and re-elected in 1822, and was still exercising the duties of the office, at the date of the township organization.

Avon.

Pierpont Edwards became proprietor at the draft, in 1807, of town No. 7, range 16, (Avon), together with Bass Island, No. 1, comprising 1,322 acres of land, Bass island, No. 2, 709 acres, and Island No. 5, 32 acres, in Lake Erie, west of north of Sandusky, annexed to the town, for the purpose of equalization. In 1812, Noah Davis settled on the Lake Shore, erected a log house, remained but a short time and left, never returning. In 1814, Wilbur Cahoon, Lewis Austin and Nicholas Young, made the first permanent settlement of the town. In 1815, Elah Park and others were added. On the 27th of October, 1818, the town, together with the annexations herein before stated, was set off from Dover, and organized in a separate township by the name of Troy, by the commissioners of Cuyahoga county. It will be remembered, that at this date, the river from the point where it passes into Sheffield, north to the lake, was the boundary line between Huron and Cuyahoga counties. A special election was ordered for township officers, to be held November 9, 1818. Elah Park, John Williams and Lodovick Moon, were elected trustees; Larkin Williams, township clerk; Abraham Moon, treasurer. In June, 1819, Jabez Burrell, living in the Sheffield district, and Wilbur Cahoon, were elected Justices of the Peace.

Previous to 1818, the inhabitants called the town Xenia, notwithstanding it was a part of Dover. In December, 1824, upon petition of forty citizens, the name of the town was changed from Troy to Avon, by the commissioners of Lorain county. In 1818, the first school-house was built, near the center of the town, and in the fall of that year, Larkin A. Williams opened the first school to the youth of the few settlers of the town.

Elyria.

Town No. 6, in range 17, (Elyria), at the draft, in April 1807, was drawn by Justin Ely, Roger Newbury, Jonathan Brace, Elijah White, Enoch Perkins, a company composed of Roger Newbury and others, John H. Buell and Jonathan Dwight. They also drew tract 3, in the 19th range, annexed to the town to equalize it. These lands were aparted and divided between the owners, at the September term of the Supreme Court, in Portage county, in 1816. The south part of the town, about one-third of the whole, was set off to Justin Ely; the central part to Elijah White; 2,100 acres north of White's, to Jonathan Brace; and the remainder to Perkins and Newbury. White conveyed to Justin Ely, and Justin Ely to his son Heman Ely, who purchased the Brace tract, making him the owner of 12,500 acres, in a solid body. In 1816, Heman Ely, accompanied by no one, left his home in Springfield, Massachusetts, to visit the lands of his father, soon to become his, in the above numbered town. In due time he arrived, and took up his abode, while here, at the hotel of Captain Moses Eldred, in Ridgeville, about two miles east of the river. During the season, he engaged Jedediah Hubbell and a Mr. Shepard, of Newburgh, to erect a saw-mill and grist-mill, on the east branch of the river, near the foot of the present Broad street, and in the fall of that year, returned to Massachusetts. The erections contracted for, were made during the winter of 1816–17. In January, Roderick Ashley, Edwin Bush and James Porter, arrived from West Springfield, with axes on their

shoulders, prepared to grapple with the forest overhanging the Black river. In February, 1817, Mr. Ely, Artemus Beebe, Ebenezer Lane, Luther Lane, Miss Ann Snow, and a colored boy called Ned, left Massachusetts for Ohio, and in March, joined the company that came on in the winter. Of this company, Artemus Beebe, venerable in his years, and venerated for a life of great usefulness, is the only one surviving. Ebenezer Lane, afterward, and for many years, occupied with much distinction, a place upon the bench of the Supreme Court of the State.

The party, on their arrival, took up their abode in a log house, near the present residence of Hon. Heman Ely. This was built the previous year by Mr. Ely, and was the first building of any kind erected in the town. Previous, however, to its occupancy, and in November, 1816, a family by the name of Beach took up their residence in the western part of the town. Geoge Duglass and Gersham Danks, arrived in April, 1817. Festus Cooley arrived from Massachusetts May 29, having made the entire distance on foot, and on the next day, took charge of the mills on the river. There were now, at least, eleven persons here, and work was at once commenced in earnest. The first framed building was the one occupied during the first season, for a joiner shop, and thereafter, for many years, for a store. Edmund West opened the first store in 1818. The second framed building was for the residence of Mr. Ely. It is now occupied by his son Heman, as the old homestead. At the raising, as was customary in those times, men from many miles away, were present, to put their shoulders to the bent, and assist their neighbor in providing a habitation. All were considered neighbors within a distance of twenty miles. While buildings were being erected, the forest was being felled. Clark Eldred, Esq., then twenty years of age, in 1816, upon Mr. Ely's first visit here, entered into a contract with him for the purchase of lot No. 16, two and a half miles west of the river: and during the winter of 1816-17, commenced to clear the ground, upon which he spent nearly a life. This was the first chopping in the neighborhood. In 1817, the survey of the township and village was commenced by Joshua Henshaw, a skillful surveyor, and continued until completed. In the fall of 1817, Heman Ely and the two Lanes returned to Massachusetts, and spent the most of the winter. In October, 1818, Mr. Ely again visited the east; was made happy while there by his marriage to Miss Celia Belden, returned to Elyria, and directed renewed energies to the development of the town. The first school house was built in 1819, of logs, just east of the river; and for years it served the double purpose of a school house and a house for religious worship. Not far distant, and in the same year, Mr. Chester Wright erected a distillery, one of the most flourishing institutions of pioneer times. The first village lot sold was to Artemus Beebe and George Douglas, co-partners in mechanical labor. The consideration paid was $32. The lot is opposite of Heman Ely's. The house standing there was built in 1818. It was used by Mr. Beebe for a hotel for a great many years. Major Calvin Hoadley of Columbia, in the same year, being employed by Mr Ely so to do, built a bridge over the east branch of the Black river.

As elsewhere remarked, on the 14th day of November, 1811, it was ordered by the Commissioners of Cuyahoga county that township No. 7 in the 15th, 16th and 17th Ranges, and all of No. 7 in Range 18, east of Black River, viz.: the present townships of Dover, Avon, Sheffield, and a part of Black River township, be incorporated into a separate township by the name of Dover; and on the 12th of March, 1812, it was further ordered by the Board, that all that tract of land lying west of the town of Dover, and west of township No. 6 in the 16th Range, and east of the east line of the Fire Lands, so called, and north of township No. 5 in Ranges 17, 18 and 19, be attached to said township

of Dover. This order attached the territory now comprising Elyria, Amherst, Brownhelm, and most of Black River township, to Dover. It is however of little value, other than as an historic fact, that the town was so attached, as there were no white settlers here at the time to reap any benefit from the connection. In 1815, this relation was severed. The organization of Huron county detached the town from its former connection with territory lying east and north.

In February, 1817, the township of Black River was ordered organized by the Commissioners of Huron county. Their action declared that township No. 6, and all of No. 7, in Huron county, in Range 18, with all the land thereto attached in Huron county, east of the Fire lands, should be set off from the township of Vermillion, and organized into a separate township by the name of Black River. It would seem from this order and description that Elyria was included, as it was attached to No. 6, (Amherst), and was in Huron county, and lay east of the Fire Lands. On the 20th of October, 1819, the township of Elyria, comprising towns No. 5 and 6 in Range 17, (Carlisle and Elyria), was set off into a township by the same authority. It was named after its founder, by adding to his name the suffix ria. The two towns remained united for purposes of civil administration until June, 1822. The first election was participated in by the electors of both towns, and took place on the first Monday of April, 1820. The names of the first officers are not ascertainable.

In May, 1818, a post office was established, and on 23d of that month Mr. Ely was appointed Post Master, and continued in the office until April, 1833, when he was succeeded by John S. Matteson. After the act forming the county had been passed by the Legislature, in 1822, and previous to its organization in 1824 the question of the location of a county seat became one of no inconsiderable interest.

The inhabitants of the three townships of Black River, Sheffield and Elyria, were respectively solicitous to secure it. A committee of disinterested persons was appointe l by the Legislature to examine into the merits of the rival claims, and into the public convenience and welfare, having respect to the future needs of the people, as well as the present. In February, 1823, they made their appearance here, and by Mr. Artemus Beebe were conveyed to Black River and Sheffield, and, after examining the three points, selected Elyria as the Seat of Justice. It is not improbable that a promise by Mr. Ely to furnish a temporary court house and jail, for use until the county should erect county buildings, and to donate $2000 towards the erection of a new court house, operated as an inducement to the selection made. The county seat selected, Mr. Ely, in fulfilment of his promise, proceeded at once to erect the court house. It may yet be seen, performing the humble, yet honorable, office of a workshop, in the rear of Snearer & Waldeck's furniture store. It was erected on Cheapside corner, and used for the purpose for which it was designed until 1828, when the erection of the court house now upon the public square rendered its further use, for county purposes, no longer necessary.

It was subsequently used for school and religious purposes. The jail was built a short distance south-east of the present Court House. The family of R. W. Pomeroy, Esq., has been for some years confined in it, on 3d street, with the privilige, however, to go at large without recognizance or bail. On the 22d day of February, 1822, Heman Ely dedicated to the inhabitants of the township the public park, lying between Broad and South streets, and placed the title in Edmund West in trust for their benefit. He also conveyed to West in trust for the use of the county, for county buildings, if accepted and used for that purpose, eight rods of ground by twelve, where the Court House now stands, and the remainder of the back square he conveyed to the town for the benefit of its inhabitants.

These gifts of Mr. Ely to the town,

were followed at a later, and more recent date, by one from his son Charles Arthur Ely, the munificence of which is only equaled by the liberality and large-heartedness which inspired it. The Elyian Library is a monument that will ever keep fresh in the hearts of the people the memory of its generous and lamented Founder.

Wellington.

Wellington, town No. 3, Range 18, was drawn together with 4,000 acres, in Tract 7 in Brighton, annexed to equalize it, by Ephraim Root and James Ross. They sold the town to Frederick Hamlin, James Adams, Francis Herrick, and Harmon Kingsbury, of Berkshire county, Massachusetts; two of these, Adams and Kingsbury, never became residents of the town. In the spring of 1818, the settlement of the town was commenced. Ephraim A. Wilcox, John Clifford, Charles Sweet, and Joseph Wilson, of Berkshire county, Massachusetts, and William Welling, of Montgomery county, N. Y., reached Grafton in February of that year, and in March following cut their path through to Wellington. They made an opening to the sunlight at the centre of the town, and at once built a log cabin for habitation. They carried a few blankets, and bed ticks, filling the ticks with dry leaves. The bedstead was constructed by driving four crotched stakes in the ground, laying poles from stake to stake, and placing white oak shakes from pole to pole. Upon this structure they placed their leafy bed, and upon this bed their weary limbs. Having provided a dwelling, they at once commenced to clear the forest. As often as once a week two of the number went to Grafton, a distance of ten miles, to get their bread baked. The number and ferocity of wild animals made it dangerous for one to go alone. There being two, each constituted a body guard for the other.

Clifford returned to Massachusetts in the following May. On July 4th, of the same year, Frederick Hamlin arrived, accompanied by the wife of Wilcox, her son Theodore, Caroline Wilcox, and Dr. D. J. Johns. Before their arrival, Wilcox had erected a log house on land selected by him north-west of the centre, into which he at once took his family. This was the first family that made its advent into the town. Others were soon added, among whom were those of John Howk, Alanson Howk, Whitman DeWolf, Benjamin Wadsworth, Silas Bailey, Amos Adams, Judson Wadsworth, James Wilson and Josiah Bradley. In the spring of 1820, the first school house was opened in the house of John Clifford by Caroline Wilcox, in which she continued to teach, until a log school house was erected on the spot now occupied by the American House. The school was closed with a grand exhibition, the first entertainment of the kind that has been noted, given west of the Cuyahoga. Frederick Hamlin was one of the associate Judges in the county, appointed in 1824, upon its organization. He was succeeded in that office by his fellow townsman, Dr. D. J. Johns. The township was organized in April, 1821. It was then a part of Medina county. Hamlin was elected a trustee; Wilcox a justice of the peace, and D. J. Johns township clerk. Col. Herrick had been a member of the Massachusetts Legislature while a resident of Massachusetts. He did not remove here until 1837. The town was named after William Welling, one of the first settlers. The then recent achievement of the Duke of Wellington, on the plains of Waterloo, may have inspired a ready acquiescence in the suggested name. Welling subsequently took up his residence in Medina county.

Huntington.

The town next south, No. 2, range 18, was drawn by Oliver Sheldon, Simeon Griswold, John Cowles, Benjamin Kent, and others. Tract 4, in Rochester, was drawn with it. Sage, Skinner, Bowles, and others, soon became large proprietors of the town, by purchase. In the year that Hamlin, Wilcox, and Clifford, left Berkshire county, Massachusetts, to settle town No. 3, range 18, in the Connecticut Western Reserve, Joseph Sage, John Laborie, and others, left Huntington, Connecticut, for No. 2, of the same range. John Laborie, and wife, (the latter being the daughter of Mr. Sage), were the first family that took up its settlement in the town. They left in February, 1818, accompanied by four boys and a girl. They made the route from Connecticut to Hudson, then in Portage county, in four weeks, traveling the whole distance in a sleigh. At Stow, they hired an ox team to take them through, and after six days of severe journey, they reached town No. 1, (Sullivan), then having but four families—settlers of the previous year—within its borders. On the next day, they moved forward, and took possession of a log house, that had been built by Henry Chase There was an opening for a door, but nothing to fill or close it; no window nor chimney. The cracks, or openings between the walls, had not been chinked. They had one neighbor. He had just preceded them in settlement, and was from Easton, New York. Laborie, at once, erected a log house, and moved into it, and there lived for some three weeks, without a window, floor, or chimney. Their bedsteads were made of puncheons, and their beds were ticks filled with leaves. The boys chopped some poles, placed them on the joists above, making a chamber, and took up their lodging in the loft. Sage went South, bought some hogs, drove them home, butchered them, and salted them down in a trough. The trough cracked, the brine ran out, the salt lost its savor, and away went the pork. Mrs. Laborie was not not, however, to remain long, without female friends from her Eastern home. On the 20th of June, of the same year, the family of Isaac Sage, arrived. In the afternoon of the day of their arrival, they were feasted on a pot-pie, made of the meat of a young bear. Early in the fall, there came the families of Oliver Rising and Daniel Tillotson. Benjamin Rising came with Oliver. In 1822, a school-house was built, and Miss Lovinia Loveland, during that season, taught the first school, having fourteen scholars, some coming a distance of two miles, through the woods. The first framed dwelling was built by Reuel Lang. Benjamin Rising was the first manufacturer of the town. J. B. Lang, Esq., thus describes his manufactory: "It was a lathe, operated by a spring-pole, for turning wooden bowls. A bark rope, attached to a long spring-pole, overhead, passing around the Mandrille, which was of wood, and attached to a treadle below. The treading on this, threw the block around, two or three times, and then the pole springing back, threw the block back, ready for another 'gouge.'"

In August, 1822, the Commissioners of Medina county, to which Huntington then belonged, incorporated the town by the name it now bears. It took its name from Huntington, Connecticut, the former abiding-place of the Labories. The organization also embraced the territory now within the township of Rochester. An election was ordered for, and held upon, the first Monday of September. Joseph Sage, Henry K. Ferris, and Benjamin Banning, were elected trustees; Isaac Sage, township clerk; and David E. Hickox, treasurer. Joseph Sage was elected the first Justice of the Peace, at a special election held soon after.

Brighton.

Brighton was first settled in 1820, by Abner Loveland, Jr. He took up his abode on tract 7. Settler No. 2, was Joseph Kingsbury, who settled upon the same tract, in the early part of 1821. Other families soon followed. Had the territory comprised by the township lines, been surveyed into a township, it would have been town 3, range 19; and it was so entered on the county records, at the date of its incorporation. It was, however, formed by the Commissioners of Medina county, out of tract 7, a part of tract 6, and a part of tract 8. Lemuel Storrs was the original owner of all of tract 8. He drew it at the draft in connection with LaGrange, to which it was annexed for equalization. Four thousand acres in tract 7, was annexed to Wellington, to equalize it, and were drawn by Ephraim Root and James Ross, in connection with that township; and tract 6, by Peter Brooks, John Call, William Shaw, George Black, and Pennewel Cheney. Some of these parties sold to, and others exchanged with, Tuckerman Bros., Harmon Kingsbury, Norton, Stocking, Deming, Hamlin, and Alford. Tuckerman Bros. sold to Levi Bliss, of Massachusetts. The township was organized at the spring election of 1823. Joseph Kingsbury, Avory Hall, and Calvin Roice, were elected trustees; Leonard H. Loveland, clerk; Abner Loveland, treasurer; and Abner Loveland, Jr., Justice of the Peace. There were twelve electors, just about the number of persons required to fill the offices in those days. The township belonged to Lorain, as then formed, but, with other townships, remained attached to Medina county, until the organization of Lorain was completed. The school-house and church soon followed the incorporation of the town, and for the observance of all things that concern the public order, and good morals, Brighton ranks among the highest and foremost of her sister townships.

Eaton.

Town 5, range 16, at the Hartford drawing, became the property of Caleb Atwater, Turhand Kirtland, Daniel Holbrook, and ten others. Tract 1, gore 4, in range 11, was annexed to it, to bring it up to full value with the selected town. It was originally called Holbrook, and retained that name until 1822, from the circumstance that Daniel Holbrook was a large owner of its soil. It was first settled in the fall of 1810, by Asa Morgan, Silas Wilmot, Ira B. Morgan, and Ebenezer Wilmot. These were all single men. They came from Waterbury, Connecticut, in the spring and summer, with those who took up their abode in Ridgeville. They built a log house, in the fall of that year, on the land long occupied by Silas Wilmot, and jointly occupied it, until, by a change in their circumstances, such occupancy was no longer desirable. By agreement, this house became the property of Silas Wilmot. It was the first erection in the town. In 1812, Silas Wilmot intermarried with Chloe Hubbard, of Ashtabula county. They commenced married life in the log cabin on the Ridge. His, was the first family that settled in the town. Soon after, Ira B. Morgan intermarried with Louisa Bronson, of Columbia, built a log house, just east of Wilmot's, and there took up his abode. His family was the second that took up its residence in the town. Asa soon married, and settled west of Wilmot's.

Not long after, the families of Levi Mills, Thuret F. Chapman, Seneca Andress, Meritt Osborn, A. M. Dowd, Dennis Palmer, Sylvester Morgan, and others, were added. The first school was taught by Julia Johnson, daughter of Phineas, then a resident of No. 5, range 16. The organization of the township of Ridgeville, included Eaton; and the two towns were embraced in one civil organization, until December 3, 1822, at which time it was ordered by the Commissioners of Cuyahoga county,

on the petition of the inhabitants, that No. 6, (5), range 16, be set off into a township by the name of Eaton. At the spring election, in 1823, the required township officers were elected, the township detached from Ridgeville, and organized for independent action.

Carlisle.

Carlisle, town No. 5, Range 17, was drawn by Joseph Perkins, John Richmond, Tracy, and Hoit, William Eldridge, John McClennan, Daniel Tilden, and Jabez Adams. As before mentioned, Island No. 6, then called Cunningham's, now Kelley's, consisting of 2,747 acres, was annexed to it for the purpose of equalization. Those who drew the town, became the owners of that island. The first settlement in the town was made in the spring of 1819, by Samuel Brooks, from Middletown, Conn. He was accompanied by Phineas Johnson, his wife's father, who assisted in selecting the spot, for their future home, Johnson returned to Connecticut. A log house was soon erected, and in it Samuel Brooks took up his abode. This was on the east branch of Black river, in the east part of the town. In September of that year, Hezekiah Brooks, a brother of Samuel, and whose wife was a sister of the wife of Samuel, and both the daughters of Phineas Johnson, Capt. James Brooks and family, together with the family of Johnson, and the family of Riley Smith, left Middletown, and after the usual tedious journey of about six weeks, with ox teams, reached Elyria. Smith and family remained at Elyria for awhile, and then went into Carlisle. The families of the Brookses, and Johnsons, pushed forward to Carlisle, and moved in with Samuel, and remained until other dwelling places could be provided. At about the same time that this settlement was making in the east part of the town, another was springing up in the western part. The families of Jamison Murray, before then, for some time resident of Ridgeville, and Philo Murray, and Philo, jr., had taken up their residence on the ridge, and Obed Gibbs and family, and Ransom and David had settled further south. Soon after, the families of Solomon Sutliff, Chauncey Prindle, Bennett, Drakely, Hurd, and others, were added. Prindle settled at the centre of the town. Abel Farr, and Abel Farr, jr., and John Bacon, were among the earliest residents of the town. Julia Johnson taught the first school in Carlisle, as she had in Eaton and Elyria. She subsequently became the wife of Edmund West, and resided in Elyria.

Carlisle and Elyria were, on the 20th day of October, 1819, organized for civil purposes, together by the name of Elyria. They belonged to Huron county. This connection was sustained and continued until June 4th, 1822, when on petition of Obed Gibbs and others, No. 5, Range 17, was detached from Elyria, by the Commissioners of Huron county, and organized into a separate township by the name of Carlisle. Before this independent organization, a part of the town had adquired the name of Murraysville. This was not satisfactory to the inhabitants away from Murray's Ridge Phineas Johnson wished the town named Berlin, after his native town in Connecticut. The people of the Ridge wanted it called Murraysville, and being unable to agree on either name, a compromise resulted in the selection of the name it bears.

Amherst.

Amherst, No. 6, in Range 18, was drawn by Martin Sheldon, Calvin Austin, Oliver L. Phelps, and Asahel Hathaway. Tract No. 2, consisting of 4,000 acres, in Black River, was annexed to equalize it. Its early history is intimately connected with that of Black River, and in connection with the latter town and other adjoining territory, was organized in April, 1817, into a township by the name of Black River. Its incorporation and organization were

Brighton.

Brighton was first settled in 1820, by Abner Loveland, Jr. He took up his abode on tract 7. Settler No. 2, was Joseph Kingsbury, who settled upon the same tract, in the early part of 1821. Other families soon followed. Had the territory comprised by the township lines, been surveyed into a township, it would have been town 3, range 19; and it was so entered on the county records, at the date of its incorporation. It was, however, formed by the Commissioners of Medina county, out of tract 7, a part of tract 6, and a part of tract 8. Lemuel Storrs was the original owner of all of tract 8. He drew it at the draft in connection with LaGrange, to which it was annexed for equalization. Four thousand acres in tract 7, was annexed to Wellington, to equalize it, and were drawn by Ephraim Root and James Ross, in connection with that township; and tract 6, by Peter Brooks, John Call, William Shaw, George Black, and Pennewel Cheney. Some of these parties sold to, and others exchanged with, Tuckerman Bros., Harmon Kingsbury, Norton, Stocking, Deming, Hamlin, and Alford. Tuckerman Bros. sold to Levi Bliss, of Massachusetts. The township was organized at the spring election of 1823. Joseph Kingsbury, Avory Hall, and Calvin Roice, were elected trustees; Leonard H. Loveland, clerk; Abner Loveland, treasurer; and Abner Loveland, Jr., Justice of the Peace. There were twelve electors, just about the number of persons required to fill the offices in those days. The township belonged to Lorain, as then formed, but, with other townships, remained attached to Medina county, until the organization of Lorain was completed. The school-house and church soon followed the incorporation of the town, and for the observance of all things that concern the public order, and good morals, Brighton ranks among the highest and foremost of her sister townships.

Eaton.

Town 5, range 16, at the Hartford drawing, became the property of Caleb Atwater, Turhand Kirtland, Daniel Holbrook, and ten others. Tract 1, gore 4, in range 11, was annexed to it, to bring it up to full value with the selected town. It was originally called Holbrook, and retained that name until 1822, from the circumstance that Daniel Holbrook was a large owner of its soil. It was first settled in the fall of 1810, by Asa Morgan, Silas Wilmot, Ira B. Morgan, and Ebenezer Wilmot. These were all single men. They came from Waterbury, Connecticut, in the spring and summer, with those who took up their abode in Ridgeville. They built a log house, in the fall of that year, on the land long occupied by Silas Wilmot, and jointly occupied it, until, by a change in their circumstances, such occupancy was no longer desirable. By agreement, this house became the property of Silas Wilmot. It was the first erection in the town. In 1812, Silas Wilmot intermarried with Chloe Hubbard, of Ashtabula county. They commenced married life in the log cabin on the Ridge. His, was the first family that settled in the town. Soon after, Ira B. Morgan intermarried with Louisa Bronson, of Columbia, built a log house, just east of Wilmot's, and there took up his abode. His family was the second that took up its residence in the town. Asa soon married, and settled west of Wilmot's.

Not long after, the families of Levi Mills, Thuret F. Chapman, Seneca Andress, Meritt Osborn, A. M. Dowd, Dennis Palmer, Sylvester Morgan, and others, were added. The first school was taught by Julia Johnson, daughter of Phineas, then a resident of No. 5, range 16. The organization of the township of Ridgeville, included Eaton; and the two towns were embraced in one civil organization, until December 3, 1822, at which time it was ordered by the Commissioners of Cuyahoga county,

on the petition of the inhabitants, that No. 6, (5), range 16, be set off into a township by the name of Eaton. At the spring election, in 1823, the required township officers were elected, the township detached from Ridgeville, and organized for independent action.

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for the manual labor department of the Institute, and for the settlement of a sustaining colony on better terms than elsewhere. Its grand object is the diffusion of useful science, sound morality and true religion, among the growing multitudes of the Mississippi Valley. One of its objects was the elevation of female character, and included within its general design, was the education of the common people with the higher classes, in such manner, as suits the nature of republican institutions." How well it has accomplished this grand object, and carried out this general design, its history already written, affords the most convincing proof. Planted in a wilderness, seemingly the abode of desolation, its nearest neighbor three miles away, it struggled on with opposition and derision, until its accomplished work, gives it rank among the leading institutions of the land. It has graduated upward of sixteen hundred persons, and afforded instruction to about seventeen thousand. It has the happy satisfaction of having survived the odium, which attached to its defense of those principles of freedom and equality, which received their crowning triumph, in the issue, and achievements of the late struggle for the maintainance of American Independence.

Penfield.

Township No. 3, in Range 17, became by the draft the property of Caleb Atwater. He gave it to his six daughters, Lucy Day, Ruth Cook, Abigal Andrews, Mary Beebe, Sarah Merrick, and the wife of Judge Cook. The first exploration of the township, by persons seeking Western lands, was in the fall of 1818, by Peter Penfield and Calvin Spencer, then resident of eastern New York. They were assisted in their examination of the township by James Ingersoll, of Grafton, after which they returned to the East. In 1819, Peter Penfield again came, and selected land, employed Seth C. Ingersoll to erect a log house upon it, and returned home. Ingersoll completed the dwelling in the fall of that year. In February then next, Peter Penfield and Lothrop Penfield arrived, and in connection with Alanson, a son of Peter, already on the ground, and who remained during the winter preceding and taught school in Sheffield, commenced to open the forest four miles from the nearest inhabitant. In the fall of 1820, or early winter, Truman Penfield arrived with his family, the first that came, and moved into the log house built by Ingersoll. In the following March, the family of Peter Penfield, which up to this time, had remained East, arrived, and joined in the occupancy of the log cabin, until another could be erected. Calvin Spencer came again in 1821, selected land, engaged Peter Penfield to build a house upon it, and returned to New York.

In the fall of 1821, Samuel Knapp came, examined the land, made a selection, and returned home, and remained until the fall of 1822, when with his family he took up his abode in the infant settlement, upon the lands so selected. Other families soon followed. David P. Merwin arrived in 1824. Calvin Spencer moved his family into the house prepared for him in the spring of the same year. The family of Stephen Knapp arrived about the same time; and the family of Benjamin E. Merwin in 1825. The township was organized at an election in 1825, held at the dwelling house of Truman Penfield, having been previously ordered by the Commissioners of Medina county, of which county the town then formed a part. The officers elected were Samuel Knapp, Samuel Root and Peter Penfield, trustees; Truman Penfield, clerk; Lothrop Penfield, treasurer. In 1826, Benjamin E. Merwin was elected Justice of the Peace. Previous to its incorporation, the inhabits had agreed upon Richland as the name of the town, and petitioned the Commissioners for an order of incorporation by that name. But the Commissioners ascertaining there were other localities having the name of Richland, rejected the application, and named it Penfield, in honor of the first

settler. Previous to the organization of the town, it had been annexed to Grafton, and in connection with that town enjoyed township privileges, until it was set apart to act under independent organization.

The first school was taught by Miss Clarissa Rising, of Huntington, in the private dwelling of Calvin Spencer. The usual facilities for teaching were, however, soon provided by the erection of a log school-house, in the fall of 1828, and a teacher for the winter supplied, in the person of our respected townsman, Geo. R. Starr.

Sullivan.

In 1828, the township of Sullivan, No. 1, range 18, embracing the territory now included in Sullivan and Troy, was organized by the Commissioners of Lorain county, and town No. 1, range 17, now Homer, was annexed to it for judicial purposes only.

Spencer.

In December, 1831, the inhabitants of No. 2, range 17, applied for township organization, by the name of Spencerfield. The "field" was dropped, and the town was incorporated by the name of Spencer.

Homer.

In March, 1833, town 1, range 17, previously annexed to Sullivan, was detached and organized into a township by the name of Richmond. Subsequently, the name was changed to Homer.

Troy.

In June, 1835, all of the 19th range, south of Rochester, together with the surplus land lying west, was detached from Sullivan, and organized into a township by the name of Troy. Upon the formation of Summit county, in March, 1840, Spencer and Homer were severed from Lorain and re-attached to Medina; and upon the formation of Ashland county, in February, 1846, Sullivan and Troy were detached from Lorain, and were incorporated into that county.

LaGrange.

LaGrange, town No. 4, range 17, with 3,700 acres in tract 8, range 19, now in Brighton and Camden, was drawn by Henry Champion and Lemuel Storrs. Champion owning two-thirds and Storrs one-third, of the purchase. Champion conveyed his part of the town to his son-in-law, Elizur Goodrich, who exchanged part of it, with Nathan Clarke, Roger Phelps, Noah Holcomb and James Pelton, for lands owned by them in Jefferson county, New York, where they formerly resided. The three last named, in the fall of 1825, visit the ground to form a judgment of its merits for farming purposes, and returned home. Goodrich, also, exchanged lands with David Rockwood, Asa Rockwood, Fairchild Hubbard, Joseph Robbins, Sylvester Merriam and Levi Johnson. On November 14, 1825, Nathan Clarke made the first settlement of the town. During the next season, the families of Noah Holcomb, Sylvester Merriam, James Disbrow and Joseph A. Graves, arrived for permanent settlement, and a new abiding place. In the latter part of the same year, Fairchild Hubbard moved in from Brighton, where he had remained during the season of 1826. Population so increased, that in the fall of that year there were over sixty persons, resident in the town, with more continually coming.

At the June session of the Commissioners of Lorain county, 1824, LaGrange, then known as town 4, range 17, was attached to Carlisle for civil and judicial purposes, and remained so attached until its separate organization in 1827. Immigration had been so

rapid, and of such numbers, during the eighteen months succeeding the advent of the first family, as to necessitate an independent township organization. In January, 1827, it was detached from Carlisle and incorporated into a township by the name of LaGrange. The first election for township officers was held in April of that year, at the dwelling house of Fairchild Hubbard. Eber W. Hubbard afterward one of the associate judges of the Court of Common Pleas, was elected township clerk; James Disbrow, treasurer; Noah Holcomb, Noah Kellogg and Fairchild Hubbard, trustees, and Eber W. Hubbard, Justice of the Peace.

Henrietta.

Henrietta was organized during the same year. In November, 1826, the inhabitants in the south part of Brownhelm, petitioned the commissioners to take off the three south tiers of lots, and attach them to unsettled lands lying south, and incorporate the same into a township. The petitioners took occasion to say, that it was seven miles from the Lake Shore, to the south line of the township; that there had been but little communication between the north and south settlements; and that it was extremely inconvenient for some part of the people, to attend on the public business of the town. The prayer of the petition was rejected; but at the same session of the commissioners it was ordered that tracts 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, in range 19, with surplus lots lying west of said tracts, be erected into a township, by the name of Henrietta, and be attached to Brighton for judicial purposes. This township, as thus formed, included a large part of the present township of Camden, and a little more than two-thirds of the present township of Henrietta. As organized, it was not satisfactory to the inhabitants in the south part of Brownhelm, and in February, 1827, upon their petition, two tiers of lots, being over a mile in width, were detached from the south part of Brownhelm, and annexed to Henrietta; and tract No. 9, was detached from Henrietta, and annexed to Brighton. An election was ordered for township officers, which took place in April, 1827, Calvin Leonard, Simeon Durand and Smith Hancock, were elected trustees; Justin Abbot, clerk; Joseph Powers, treasurer; Edward Durand, Justice of the Peace. In March, 1830, lots 86, 87, 88, were detached from Brownhelm, and annexed to Henrietta; and in March, 1835, lots 81, 82, 83, 84 and 85, the remainder of the tier, were added. The first settlement was on the Brownhelm territory. The first occupants were Calvin Leonard, Simeon Durand, Ruloff Andress, Joseph Swift, John Denison, Uriah Hancock, Jedediah Holcomb, Almon Holcomb, Obed Holcomb, Joseph Powers, the Abbots and possibly others. They took up their abode there, in 1817, about the same time that the Shore settlement was made. After the organization of the town in 1827, a postoffice was established on the hill, and 'Squire Abbot appointed first postmaster.

Pittsfield.

The first white inhabitants of No. 4, range 18, now Pittsfield, were a man by the name of Barker, and his two sons. He cleared a small spot on the northeast corner of lot 96, and there built a small log house. This was as early as 1813. Barker enlisted and went into the Military Service of the United States, in the war of 1812. His two sons remained a while, and left. Some surveyor's instruments were found in their cabin, a few years after. In the Draft at Hartford, in 1807, the town was drawn by Ebenezer Devotion, William Perkins, and eight others. Tract 11, in Camden, range 19, consisting of 3,000 acres, was annexed to the town, to make it equal in value to the others to be drawn. In 1819, the township was surveyed into lots, and divided between those who had purchased it.

Milton Whitney became a large owner. In 1820, he came from the East, made an examination of the land, and entered into an arrangement with Thomas and Jerry Waite, sons of Thomas Waite, then of Russia, by which they were to settle in town No. 4, range 18, upon his giving them fifty acres of land, each. This he did, and in the spring of 1821, the two Waites moved into the town, and took up their residence there. They were the first permanent settlers in Pittsfield.

Immediately following the settlement of the Waites, they were joined by Henry, and Chauncey Remington, upon a gift of one hundred acres of land to each of them, by Whitney. The next settler was a minister by the name of Smith. Mr. Norton, soon thereafter, moved into the town. He built the first framed barn erected in the town. The town filled up quite slowly; so much so, that there was but one framed house in the town, as late as 1834. The town was early annexed to Wellington, for township purposes, and remained so annexed, until December, 1831, when, on petition of the inhabitants, it was detached, and incorporated into a township by the name of Pittsfield, taking its name from Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where many of its land-owners resided. In April, 1832, the selection of township officers completed its organization as a separate township.

Camden.

In March, 1835, an order incorporating Camden township, was made by the Commissioners of the county. The prolongation of the line between Russia and Pittsfield, west to range 20, was its northern boundary, and the extension west to the same range, of the line between Pittsfield and Wellington, its southern. It was carved out of Brighton and Henrietta. Tracts 9, and 10, and parts of lots 8, and 11, in range 19, together with surplus lands lying west, formed the material for its territorial composition. Tract 9, by the draft at Hartford, became annexed to Grafton, and was drawn by Lemuel Storrs. Tract 10, annexed to Dover, by Nehemiah Hubbard and Joshua Storrs. Tract 11, annexed to Pittsfield, was drawn by Henry Champion and Lemuel Storrs. It has before been remarked, that none of the 19th range, south of Brownhelm, as originally formed, was surveyed into townships, but was all surveyed into Tracts, which were wholly originally annexed to other towns, for purposes of equalization. Leonard Clark, with his family, accompanied by his wife's father, Moses Pike, made the first occupancy of land now forming the town of Camden. This was in 1829. This family lived there but a few years before moving West. In March, 1833, the families of William Scott, and John Johnston, took up their settlement on tract 11. These were the first families that permanently settled, at least in that part of the town, then constituting a part of Henrietta. Later in the season, a school-house was "thrown up," by the inhabitants, and Mrs. Johnston gathered the few children, and opened the first school. Other settlers soon joined, among whom were those of Waugh, Clark, Douglas, Washburn, Cyrenius, Holcomb, Wells, Lee, Wilcox, Smith, and Eddy. On the 6th of April, 1835, the first election for township officers, was held in the log school house, and resulted in the choice of Azel Washburn, Robert Douglas, and Obed Holcomb, trustees; John Cyrenius, clerk; David Wells, treasurer. Gideon Waugh was the first Justice of the Peace.

Rochester.

At the same session, that Camden was set apart and organized into a township, lots 1, to 15, inclusive of tract 3, with all of tracts 4, and 5, and a part of tract 6, in range 19, together with surplus lots, 9, to 14, inclusive, lying west of the range, with a part of surplus lot 8, were united, and formed into the township of Rochester. Tract No. 5, was drawn by Uriah Holmes, in connection

with the town of Litchfield, Medina county; and tract 4, by Oliver Sheldon, and others annexed to Huntington. The first settlement was made by Elijah T. Banning, in April, 1831. Between 1831, and 1835, Benjamin C. Perkins, William Shepard, John Conant, John Baird, Samuel Smith, Luther Blair, Joseph Hadley, Nehemiah Tucker, M. W. F. Fay, Erastus Knapp, Obijah W. Babcock, John Peet, and others, some with, and some without, families, were joined to the settlement.

The township was organized on the 6th of April, 1835, by the election of John Conant, Joseph Hadley, and Nehemiah Tucker, trustees; M. L. Blair, township clerk; Benjamin C. Perkins, treasurer. The organization of Camden and Rochester, in March, 1835, and Troy in June following, completed the organization of the townships of the entire county. At the organization of the county, there were not to exceed ten organized townships. At the spring election, 1824, Asahel Osborne, John S. Reid, and Benjamin Bacon, were elected Commissioners for the county; Sherman Minott, auditor; and Josiah Harris, sheriff. In the fall of the same year they were re-elected. At this election there were three hundred and thirty-two votes cast. The first term of the Court of Common Pleas was held on the 24th of May, 1824, by Hon. George Tod, President of the Third Circuit, and Moses Eldred, Henry Brown, and Frederick Hamlin, his associates. Wolsey Wells, the only resident attorney, was appointed to prosecute the pleas of the State, and also clerk of the Court for the time being. He served as clerk only one day, when Ebenezer Whiton was appointed and assumed the duties of the office. Edward Durand was appointed surveyor for the county. Court continued its session for three days and finally adjourned.

At the first session of the Commissioners, Edmund West was appointed County Treasurer; and at the next session, John Pearson was appointed Collector of State and County taxes. This completed the official organization of the county. Literary and educational societies sprang up at an early day, and supplied the means for mental culture and improvement In 1828, the Lorain County Library Society, was incorporated. Heman Ely, Reuben Mussey, and others, were incorporated by the name of the "Elyria High School," in 1831. This school flourished for some time, under the Superintendence and tuition of the Rev. John Montieth. In 1831, John Montieth, and his associates, were incorporated by the name of the "Elyria Lyceum." In March, 1835, Daniel L. Johns, and others, were incorporated by the name of the "Wellington Social Library Company." These were private corporations. These societies, and others of a similar character, served a good purpose, and were well supported until a more general diffusion of the means of education and mental culture obviated the necessity of their continued existence.

The time I have consumed, reminds me that I am wearying your patience. I will detain you but a moment longer. One of the most pleasant features of this day's celebration, is the coming together, and the warm greetings, of old friends. It is like the reunion of the family at the Golden Wedding, where gratulations are interchanged, and the recollections and pleasures of youth are revived. We are happy in having with us, so many, then young, whose immediate ancestors were the ones, who, upwards of a half century ago, exchanged their homes, in New England, for a life in this far-off land. They were the advance-guard of the Empire of the West. Little do we, of a later day, know of their trials and sufferings; little of the self-denial, the self-sacrifice, the longing for homes left behind, and the society of former days, of those, who pioneered the way, to this New Land of promise. Their hardships were not those of the battle-field, but those incident to a life, at the outpost of civilization. The most of them have gone to the rewards of a work well accomplished. Many of them are still here, survived to witness the Centennial

Anniversary of their Country's Independence, and to join in its acclamations; enjoying the fullest and freest civil and religious liberty, surrounded by a thickly populated community in the enjoyment of like freedom, with the promise of its continuance forever. But, as we look back to the day when they first made their advent here, and note the intervening progress of events, and the great growth of the people, and of the things which denote their prosperity and happiness, what changes have been wrought! The same sky above, and the same earth beneath, are still here. The same rock-bound rivers, and the same beautiful blue lake expanding upon the North, are also here. But what else, that has not undergone change? The dense forest has melted away, and its savage inhabitants, are gone. The land then in the wildness of nature, is covered with cultivated and fruitful fields, with thriving and growing villages, with cities of great wealth and architectural beauty. There is one, but a short distance away, whose surpassing beauty is equalled only by the splendid promise of its future. There are facilities for carrying, for transit, and intercommunication, that bring remote neighborhoods into friendly intercourse and seeming proximity. There has been an accumulation of industries, and industrial products, surpassing all expectations. Institutions of learning, spreading a knowledge of the arts and sciences, and affording the means of high intellectual culture and scholarship, long since sprung forth, and found a welcome habitation and seat, in this New England of the West.

These are some of the fruits of that energy, and courage, brought hither by the Pioneers of that early day. The germ of New England culture, those influences that soften, elevate, and refine her social life, were brought. They brought the Bible, the church, and the school—the inevitable attendants, and sure security, of an enlightened future. Some of them brought what DeTocqueville names, as the surest guaranty of equality among men —poverty and misfortune. But good neighborhood, common sympathy, and fraternal regard, mitigated the rigors of the one, and supplied the needs, and necessities, of the other. They brought with them a deep love of Liberty, an immovable trust in God, a Patriotism inspired afresh by the glories and achievements of the Revolution; and accepting, yet defying, the hardships and privations that threatened, they came, bearing aloft the Emblem of their Country's Liberty, and led forth to this benighted wilderness and wild, the advancing hosts of civilization.

Let us, my friends, rejoice in the example, in the courage, in the patriotism, and worth, of those hardy Pioneers. Let us rejoice that we are the honored recipients of the blessings they secured and transmitted. Let us rejoice in the happy and glorious future, of which the present is so full of promise. And above all, let us rejoice in a country, whose progres, during the century, up the highway of nations, commands alike the wonder and the admiration of the world; and whose crowning glory, is, that before the century's close, it extended the ægis of its protection, and imparted the full fruition of its liberty, to the humblest citizen of the land.

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