

CHAPTER XXVII.*

PORTER TOWNSHIP—PIONEER TIMES—EARLY FAMILIES—GROWTH OF SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES
—ROADS AND EARLY INDUSTRIES.

"Ye pioneers, it is to you
The debt of gratitude is due ;
Ye builded wiser than ye knew,
The broad foundation
On which our superstructure stands ;
Your strong right arms and willing hands,
Your earnest efforts still command
Our veneration."

—Pearre.

THE precise date of the organization of this township is not known. It was some time between the 1st of March, 1826, and the 1st of March, 1827. The journal of the County Commissioners, from 1821 to 1831, which contain the order creating Porter Township, was mislaid, but it is quite certain the order was made at the June session of the Commissioners in 1826. It was named after the Hon. Robert Porter, of the city of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, who received, from John Adams, the second President of the United States, a patent for 4,000 acres of land in this township, it being Section 3, in the fifth township of Range 16, in the lands appropriated and set apart by Congress to satisfy warrants issued by the Government for military service. It is believed this was the first patent issued by the Government for lands in this township.

The principal stream in the township is Big Walnut Creek. This stream has its source in the northern part of Harmony Township, in Morrow County, which, in an early day, was known by the expressive name of "Big Belly Swamp." The swamp contained several hundred acres of land, and was covered with water the year round. A large beaver dam surrounded a large portion of swamp, which must have been constructed, judging from the size of the timber growing upon it, by these ingenious amphibious animals before the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. The banks adjacent to this stream are not high, and, in time of a flood, when the country was new and the channel obstructed by flood-wood, it frequently overflowed its banks, and the stream, too,

* Contributed by Hon. J. R. Hubbell.

especially the upper part and near its source, was called "Big Belly," which was thought to be an appropriate name to give it when on a "boom." Big Walnut Creek runs, in a southerly direction, through Morrow County, and crosses the line into Porter Township about one mile and a half east of the west line, and crosses the south line of the township about one-half mile from the west line. It is a branch of the Scioto River, and intersects the Scioto near the line between the county of Franklin and Pickaway. Big Walnut Creek is one of the largest of the tributaries of the Scioto River. There is much rich bottom land along this stream, and, before the forest was felled by the axe of the woodman, there was an abundance of valuable timber, such as black walnut, hickory, butternut, ash, oak and the sugar maple. Wild grapes, wild plums and black haws were in abundance. This stream has a great number of tributaries in Porter Township, among which are Long Run, which has its source in Morrow County, and runs west and southwest until it intersects Big Walnut, a distance of about three miles from the northeast corner of the township. Long Run is very meandering, and has a great number of small tributaries fed by springs and spring runs.

Further to the south is Sugar Creek, which runs diagonally from the northeast corner to the southwest, through the township, to its intersection, about one mile from the south line, and is well supplied with springs and spring runs; and, still further south, running in the same direction, from the east part of the township, is Sugar Creek, with large tributaries, among which is the Wilcox Run. Sugar Creek is quite a large stream, and has its source among the springs at the foot of Rich Hill, in the edge of Knox County, and intersects the Big Walnut in Trenton Township, on the south of Porter. It will be seen, by reference to a map, that these streams have their sources in the dividing ridge which separates the waters flowing in a southeasterly direction to the Muskingum River, and the waters flowing in a southwesterly direction to the Scioto. This dividing

ridge is near the line between Knox County and Delaware. It will be seen, too, that this township is well supplied with a great abundance of pure, healthy water, both for family use and stock. In this respect its advantages are not equaled by any township in the county. This township, too, is blessed with pure air and clear water, and has been noted for its health and freedom from epidemics and malignant fevers. Porter possessed almost every variety of timber, before the first settlement was made by the white people, to be found in the State of Ohio. Along all these streams we have named, walnut, ash, hickory, sycamore, sugar maple, spice-bush, underbrush and papaw, were found in great abundance. Upon the higher and more rolling lands, there were white oak, ash, beech, hickory, sugar maple, and in the swails and on the flat lands there was elm, red oak and black ash. The hickory, white oak and beech covered the ground with mast or shuck for the squirrel, groundhog, the wild turkey and the deer, upon which these animals fed and grew fat, and furnished meat for the pioneer and his family. Soon after domestic animals were introduced, swine fattened upon mast, and the woods were soon filled with wild hogs. There is no waste land in this township. Along the streams, there is considerable bottom land, which possesses a rich and fertile soil. Back and off the streams, the lands are gently undulating and rolling. There is some flat land that requires drainage, but not a large portion of the township. The network of creeks, brooks, and spring runs, that nature spread over these lands, superseded the necessity, to a great extent, of artificial drainage. The soil in this township is well adapted to the growing of wheat, corn, oats, barley, flax, and all the productions raised in this climate, but the great supply of pure water for stock, and the luxuriant pastures, make the lands more profitable for grazing than for farming purposes. There are no mineral lands in this township, and the occupations of farming and grazing furnish most of the inhabitants with employment. All kinds of grasses grown in this latitude do well in this township—timothy, red-top and clover. The blue grass, which springs up without the grounds being seeded, does well on the newly cleared land. Along the Big Walnut Creek, the Waverly sandstone crops out, and furnishes the country valuable quarries. This stone is of nearly the same composition as that found at Berea, but of a much finer grit and quality, and the vein contains a less quantity. On the farm of Zenas

Harrison, situated on the west side of the Big Walnut Creek, is a quarry of this stone. An investigation of the depth and extent of this quarry has not been made, but it is known to be a stone of superior quality for building purposes, and probably extends down into the earth to a great depth, and belongs to the Waverly vein, reaching from the Scioto River, in Pike County, to Berea, in Cuyahoga.

Porter Township is bounded on the north by Bennington Township, in Morrow County; on the east by Hilliard Township, in Knox County; on the south, by Trenton, and on the west by Kingston, and is designated in the United States Military District as Township 5, in Range 16. In chronological order, it is the youngest township in the county. It was the last township organized by the County Commissioners within the present limits of Delaware County. There have been no changes in the original boundary since its first organization, and no survey of the township has been made since the original Government Survey. The first village or town in this township was Olive Green, and was laid out in 1835. The proprietors were Christopher Lindenberger and Festus Sprague. The surveying and platting was done by Joel Z. Mendenhall, Esq. The village was laid out in eight regular squares, and has eight streets and several alleys. It is located upon the State road that runs from Mount Vernon to Columbus in a southwesterly direction, and at its crossing of the north and south road, running from Sunbury to Mount Gilead, in Morrow County, and is about one-half mile from the Big Walnut Creek, on the west. The main street is on the Mount Vernon and Columbus road, on which all the business is done and the inhabitants reside. The original site of this village was seemly and suitable for a town, and at one time it had the prospect of becoming a flourishing village, but, like "some flower born to blush unseen," was doomed to suffer disappointment. In the year 1851, the Springfield, Mount Vernon & Pittsburgh Railroad Company was organized under a former charter, and projected a railroad from Springfield, Ohio, to a point that would intersect the Pittsburgh & Port Wayne Railroad in Wayne County, and passing through Mount Vernon and Olive Green. The right of way was purchased, and the earthwork on the road was prosecuted until its completion nearly the entire length of the road, but upon the completion of the western part of the road to Delaware, the Company was compelled for the

want of means to abandon the enterprise. Olive Green contains now two stores—Mr. D. Morehouse has one, and Mr. Conard occupies the old store-room of Mr. James N. Stark. It has two churches; one blacksmith-shop, worked by John Roberts; one physician, Dr. Foster; one shoe-shop; one millinery establishment, kept by Miss Mary M. Connard, and one carpenter and joiner shop. It has about forty dwelling-houses, and contains about one hundred inhabitants. The Kingston Center Post Office is located here. The Postmaster is D. Morehouse. The first Postmaster in Olive Green was Mr. James N. Stark, who was appointed in 1860. The first store in the town and township was kept by Mr. Christopher Lindenberger, one of the proprietors of the town. Mr. Baird built the first frame house. East Liberty was the second and the only other town in Porter. It was laid out in 1840, by William Page, Jr., on his farm, situated on the east bank of Big Walnut Creek, and the Mount Vernon and Columbus State road, about one-half mile east of Olive Green. It was laid off into four regular squares, and the lots were readily sold. The purchasers built houses, and it for awhile flourished as a business point of some importance, but the failure of the railroad discouraged the parties most interested from further efforts in the way of making improvements. There is one saw-mill, owned by Mr. W. Page, and the Presbyterians have a church edifice, and there still remains in this village a schoolhouse and some thirty or forty inhabitants. It formerly contained nearly one hundred inhabitants. The first physician who settled in this village was Dr. H. Bessee, who located here in 1847, and remained in East Liberty until the commencement of the war in 1861. He now lives in Delaware. The physicians practicing in this vicinity, prior to Dr. Bessee, were Dr. Elijah Carney, of Berkshire, and Dr. Samuel Page, of Pagetown, in Morrow County. The first hotel was kept by Mr. George Blainey, and he was the first Postmaster of the place. The infidel writer, Volney, meditating upon the ruins of Palmyra, said: "Here once flourished an opulent city, but to the tumultuous throng that once visited these temples has succeeded the solitude of death." It is not likely the wail of lamentation by a distant traveler will ever be heard over the ruins of this deserted village.

In the absence of an authenticated record, after three generations have come and gone, it is difficult to give an early history in detail of the first

settlers. More than seventy years have elapsed since the first pioneer settled in Porter; and it is only those to whom an unusual length of days has been allotted by Providence, that are now living of those who were *then* born. In sketching the early settlers, though not one of them, the name of Robert Porter must not be overlooked. It was to him the first patent for 4,000 acres in the United States military land in this township was issued. He belonged to one of the most prominent families in the State of Pennsylvania, and was a lawyer by profession, and, for many years, a Circuit Judge in his native State. He frequently came to Porter to look after his lands; at a very early day and about forty years ago, his son, Robert W. Porter, lived for a short time in this township. As we have seen, Judge Porter's patent was issued by President John Adams, on the 21st day of March in the year 1800, nearly three years before Ohio was received into the Union as a State, and when there was not a white man living within the present boundaries of Delaware County. The family name of the principal proprietor of this township is historical. The Hon. James M. Porter, of Easton, in the State of Pennsylvania, was a lawyer by profession and eminent at the bar. He was a Cabinet Minister under the Administration of John Tyler, and held the portfolio of the War Department. He was a younger brother of Judge Porter. Another brother, David R. Porter, was a great party leader in the politics of his time, and, in the year 1837, succeeded Joseph Ritner as Governor of the State of Pennsylvania; he was re-elected, serving two terms, each of three years, and proved an able and popular Governor. The first settlement in this township was made by squatters in the Porter section, and perhaps as early as the year 1807. A number of families settled on this section before the war of 1812 as squatters, and followed the occupations of fishing, hunting and trapping. Not being the owners of the lands on which they settled, they had no motive to improve them. They were a rude people, and much given to frolic and pleasurable indulgence. They subsisted on wild game and wild hogs, and raised but little grain. They were known in an early day as "Taways," although they were white people, and not of blood kin to the Indian tribe of that name. Like all the early settlers of Delaware County, they were from different States and of different nationalities—English, Dutch and Irish—and their descendants were among these backwoodsmen. It

has been supposed by some, from the fact that Section 4 in this township was popularly called the "Irish Section," that these people were Irish Paddies or their descendants; but such was not the case. Many of these families were from the Wyoming Valley in the State of Pennsylvania. The name of the "Irish Section" was applied to Section 4, for the reason that the legal representatives of Hugh Holmes and Robert Rainey, who located this section, were residents of Ireland, and the patent for these lands was issued by President James Monroe on the 28th day of November in the year 1817, to the heirs at law of Hugh Holmes and Robert Rainey, who at that time lived in Ireland. These parties, by their attorney in fact, on the 10th day of April, 1837, conveyed this section to George C. Bumford, of the city of Washington, and, in 1837, Col. Bumford conveyed by deed this section to John W. Worden, and soon afterward Worden conveyed one-half of this section to Benjamin S. Brown, of Mount Vernon, Knox Co., Ohio. Mr. Brown died late in the autumn of 1838, and it was not until about this date that this section was brought into market. There were squatters on this section of the "Taway tribe" much earlier than this, perhaps soon after the war. These peculiar families were not enterprising; their wants were few, and however many were their sins, the sin of covetousness was not one of them, nor was the sin of ambition, which caused the angels to fall, their sin. They took no interest in schoolhouses or churches, and but few of them were ever known to darken the door of the house of prayer. They obeyed at least one Scripture injunction—they took no thought for the morrow—and, like the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, "they toiled not, neither did they spin."

This tract of land was set apart in the first place by act of Congress, to satisfy warrants issued by the Government for military service, but this section, by a subsequent act of Congress, was granted to the United Brethren society for the purpose of propagating the Gospel among the heathen. These "Taways," perhaps, were not especially benefited by this grant, but it is certain no heathen in pagan lands ever stood in greater need of the Gospel than they did. One of the earliest among the pioneers was Daniel Pint, who lived and died in Porter; then came Timothy Meeker and Timothy Murphy, all of whom raised large families, but few, if any, of their descendants are now living in that part of the county. The

first generation are all dead, and their children and grandchildren retreated further West, as the civilization of the country advanced. Two brothers, by the name of Peter and Isaac Plan, with their families, settled in the south part of the township in 1810. They raised large families, who intermarried with other families in the surrounding townships. They died many years ago, but at this remote period but little is known about them. The second generation, who knew them personally, are nearly all, either by death or removal, gone, and they live only in tradition. In 1817, Ebenezer Lindenberger and his brother Christopher and their families settled in Porter, in that part of the township where the village of Olive Green is now located. They came from the State of Rhode Island. The family owned several hundred acres of land. About the same time, two other parties from the same State came, and settled on adjoining lands. They were Festus Sprague, Esq., and Edward Mason, Esq.; they were married to sisters of Ebenezer and Christopher Lindenberger. Being settled on adjacent farms they formed the nucleus of a new colony. The Lindenberger family were well educated, and in good circumstances financially. The elder brother, Ebenezer, was a graduate of an Eastern college, and Christopher had an education that well qualified him for all the business transactions of life. Edmund Mason was well educated, wrote a good hand, and was by his intelligence and capacity well qualified to discharge the duties of almost any office in the township, county or State. In early life, he was employed as clerk and book-keeper for Mr. De Wolf, the great West India slave-trader. Dr. Wolf, whose successful trade on the high seas made him a millionaire, and secured him a seat in the Senate of the United States as Senator from Rhode Island. Had Mr. Mason possessed the enterprise and ambition equal to his education and natural endowments, he might have acquired fame in political or commercial life. From the time he emigrated to Porter until his death, which occurred about the commencement of the war, he held the office of Justice of the Peace, and other township offices. He always discharged his official duties in a manner highly satisfactory to all parties in interest. The principle of inertia was strongly developed in his composition; he moved like other large bodies, slowly, and, for the want of exercise, he acquired great obesity, which gave him an aristocratic air, and he was known as well by the name of "Pompey" Mason, as he was by the legitimate

title of Esquire Mason. He was kind and indulgent to his family, kindred, neighbors and friends, and made a model magistrate. His court was one of conciliation. His policy was to use every means before a trial, to effect by compromise a settlement between the parties; and, by so doing, he often saved the parties costs, and, as a peacemaker, he made them friends. Having thus passed to another world, it is to be hoped that he enjoys the peacemaker's reward. He was never a church member, and never made an open profession of religion, and, were he to be judged by a sectarian standard, he would not be pronounced a Christian, but his heart was filled with that charity that rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in truth, and is not puffed up. He died as he had lived, without enemies.

Festus Sprague married a sister of Mr. Mason. In early life, he encountered many hardships and privations. He possessed a native intellect of great strength and activity. Those who know him best, thought that he was never conscious of its power, or that it was kept in restraint by a timid nature. His family brought him to a new country when young, and he had not the early opportunities of his brothers-in-law, the two Lindenbergers and Squire Mason; but, nevertheless, he was well educated for one educated as he was—he was self-taught. His education was such as to enable him to teach a common school, when a young man, and to hold various official positions with complete acceptance. He was a Justice of the Peace for many years, and, although not bred to the profession of the law, he was regarded by those in the legal profession who knew him well, as a lawyer by nature, and his counsel was sought and greatly respected in important cases. He was a near kinsman of Gov. Sprague, of Rhode Island, and related to that highly intellectual and influential family of Spragues of New England, which, for three generations, have been so distinguished in literary and political circles. Judge Esiek Cowen, a celebrated lawyer and jurist of his time, was a near relative. This early pioneer of good sense, some time about the year 1857, sold his property and, with his family, moved to Utah. Some years previously, he became infatuated with the strange delusions of the "Latter-Day Saints," and his good sense deserted him. What made his conversion to the doctrine of this polygamous sect the more mysterious, was that he had reached the "sere and yellow leaf" of life, and was never libidinous or given to licentious

indulgences. But little is known of his life after he left Delaware County. He died soon after he went to Utah. What became of the family, is not known to the author. He will long be remembered by those who knew him while he lived in Porter. Ebenezer Lindenberger and family moved West nearly forty years ago, and Christopher Lindenberger and a part of his family became, like Mr. Sprague, converts to the doctrines of the polygamous saints, and emigrated to Utah. John Lindenberger, son of Christopher, died in Porter a few years ago. He was a good business man, was a Justice of the Peace and held several township offices, and was a faithful and competent officer. The accession of these Rhode Island families to the Porter "Taways" proved to be of great value as a means of civilization. It gave impetus to new enterprises for the development of the resources of this township. They improved the character of the cabins and barns, and the settlement they formed proved to be the beginning of various educational and business enterprises. About the year 1818 or 1819—the precise date cannot be ascertained—another early settler immigrated from the State of Delaware and settled in Porter. Joel Z. Mendenhall was the son of Thomas Mendenhall, who was a merchant by occupation, and resided, in the first part of the present century, in Wilmington, in the State of Delaware. On the 19th day of May, in the year 1800, Judge Robert Porter, of Philadelphia, who was the patentee of Section 3 in this township, conveyed, by deed of that date, 300 acres of land in said section to Thomas Mendenhall. This land was situated on the Big Walnut Creek, about three-quarters of a mile south of the village of Olive Green. This land the father, who was an enterprising merchant and prosperous in business, gave, as a part of his patrimonial estate, to his son Joel. Upon it Joel erected his cabin and settled his family in the year 1819. He had married his wife in Philadelphia, before his immigration to Ohio, and, in the year 1816, he came to Mount Pleasant, Jefferson Co., Ohio, where he lived some two or three years. He was a practical farmer and surveyor, and he pursued for many years both occupations.

From 1820 to 1830, the settling-up of the county, and the divisions and subdivisions of lands, furnished much employment for practical surveyors, and Mr. Mendenhall was occupied much of his time in his professional occupation. His wife was a Miss Eliza Mendenhall, and her

parents, at the time of their marriage, resided in Chester County, Penn. He was a few years her senior, and she was born in the year 1795. They were second cousins. Their ancestors belonged to the Society of Friends, and they always venerated the name and memory of George Fox, the founder of this benevolent and exemplary sect of Christians. Their great-grandfather came over from England to America on the same ship with the celebrated William Penn, the friend and patron of George Fox, and the colony and State that bear his name. This ancestor had two sons, whose names were Robert and Benjamin; the former was the grandfather of Joel, and the latter was the grandfather of his wife, Eliza. Mr. Mendenhall was well educated, wrote a neat and elegant hand as a penman, performed well official duties, was a Justice of the Peace and held other offices; was an honest man, and a kind and obliging neighbor. In 1835, they moved to the town of Delaware, where they lived for a period of seventeen years, and a large portion of the time, he discharged the duties of Justice of the Peace. He built him a neat cottage residence and seemed to enjoy every comfort, but was not satisfied, and, in 1853, he sold his town house and moved back to his farm. Some years later, old age and bodily infirmities compelled him to abandon altogether the occupation of a farmer. He built a house in Olive Green, where he lived at the close of life, and died about the year 1872. His widow is now living at the great age of eighty-five years, and, although blind and helpless, enjoys good health.

In the same year the Luidenbergers came to Porter, Samuel Page emigrated from Broome County, in the State of New York, to Ohio, and settled on a new farm in the western part of the township, near the township line between Kingston and Porter, and a little north of the center of the township, on the Sunbury and Mount Gillead State road. This was in the year 1817. Mr. Page had a wife and several children, and he at once built a cabin on his new farm, and commenced improving and clearing it up. But, about two years later, a brother of his, Mr. William Page, immigrated to Porter from the same county in the State of New York, and purchased the farm of his brother Samuel, upon which he settled. Samuel Page bought and settled on a new farm farther north, on the Big Walnut Creek, in Bennington Township, where the village of Page-town is now located. Upon this farm he lived about twenty years, and died in the year 1839.

The farm descended to his son, Marcus Page, who died a few years after the close of the war of the rebellion. His wife was a Miss Wheeler, and sister of the Rev. James Wheeler, the famous Wyandot missionary. Mrs. Page is still living, and this farm is still owned and occupied by the Samuel Page family. William Page was an industrious and exemplary Christian, and greatly respected. He cleared up his land, built comfortable buildings on his farm, and raised a large family. He was drafted in the war of 1812, but the war having been closed soon after he was drafted, he saw but little active service. He died, on the farm he had cleared up, in the year 1846. His wife, a most estimable woman in every relation of life, was a Miss Sarah Edwards. They arrived in Porter on New Year's Day, and received their New Year's farm in a new country, as a New Year's present. The names of his sons were William A., Roswell, Samuel, Washington and Ransom. None of these brothers are now living except Roswell and Ransom. There was in this family one daughter, who married a Mr. Wells. As already stated, William A. Page was the proprietor of the village of East Liberty, and was an enterprising, intelligent citizen, respected by his neighbors and acquaintances; held the office of Justice of the Peace and other township offices. He died nearly thirty years ago, and his family are considerably scattered; some are dead and others have moved away. Roswell Page married a Miss Sarah Sherman, and settled on his farm of about one hundred and forty acres, situated on the Big Walnut Creek, near East Liberty. This was in the year 1835. He is still living upon this farm.

David Babcock, who came from the State of Rhode Island, settled in Porter in the year 1839, on the east side of the Big Walnut, and near the north line of the township. He cleared up his farm and occupied it until his death, which occurred in the year 1871, at the age of seventy-two years. The farm is still owned by the family, and his widow occupies it. Mr. Andrew Hemminger, a Presbyterian of German descent, moved into Porter Township from Tuscarawas County, Ohio, in the year 1830. After the death of a former wife he had married a Mrs. Weaver, who had several children by her former marriage with Mr. Weaver. These united families numbered in all fifteen. He settled on a new farm on the north part of the township and adjoining the county line on the Mount Vernon and Columbus road, and at

the time he was the only settler on the road between East Liberty and the old Vail tavern stand in Bennington, and for many years movers and travelers were compelled to stop over night with Mr. Hemminger. Forty or fifty teams were known to stop over night at one time, so great was the travel at that early day upon this road. The family put up a double log house on the main road, and went to work clearing up the farm. They had much work to do, and did it. After the death of Mr. Hemminger, which occurred many years ago, his wife took charge of the family and farm. By her good example she taught the children industrious habits, and upon the farm they performed much manual labor, under the watchful eye of their most affectionate mother. This remarkable old lady, after the death of her husband, made several trips on foot to visit her friends in her native county, Tuscarawas, a distance of nearly one hundred miles. She was always accompanied by her faithful old dog "Tiger." This watchful animal would guard his mistress with jealous care by day and night. She lived on the old farm to see all her children grown. She died only a few years ago at a great age. In the year 1833, Mr. Aaron R. Harrison located in the western portion of the township, on the road running directly north from Sunbury to Mount Gilead, upon a tract of several hundred acres. His parents were English and he was born in Essex County in the State of New Jersey. He settled near his New Jersey friends in Kingston Township—the Deckers, Van Sickles and Finches. Mr. Harrison was born in the year 1778, and he married, in the year 1805, Miss Mary Condit. She was a relative of the Condit family living in Trenton Township south of Porter. As usual with the early immigrants, Mr. Harrison and his wife were blessed with a large family of children. He brought them with him from New Jersey in wagons. There were four boys and five girls. His double log house was erected just opposite the house where his son Zenas now lives. Here they lived many years in almost a wilderness, and were compelled to listen to the frightful scream of the panther and the hideous howl of the wolf. He enjoyed many happy days with his family in this new country, and was greatly beloved by all who knew him. It is now a little less than fifty years since Mr. Harrison settled in Porter, and such has been the improvement of the country, the present generation can scarcely credit the fact that in his time in Porter, the panther and the

wolf were so plentiful, the safety of sheep required them to be housed nights and carefully guarded by day. When traveling from the schoolhouse after the spelling-school at night the boys sometimes were seen quickening their steps to secure safety at their homes. The first frame barn in this township was built by Mr. Harrison. It was 30x50 feet. He has been dead for many years and his son Zenas now owns and lives upon the old homestead farm, and his son George lives in Peru in Morrow County. These two sons have ever retained the confidence of their fellow-citizens. Zenas for many years filled many township offices, and, during the past four years, he has been twice chosen one of the County Commissioners.

In 1837, four years after Mr. Harrison settled in Porter, Mr. Charles M. Fowler located in the northeastern portion of the township. He, at an early period of life, left the old homestead farm of his father's in the Catskill Mountains, and, in partnership with Messrs. Snyder and Pratt, began the manufacture of oil cloth, but the business proved unprofitable, and Mr. Fowler emigrated to Ohio, and married a Miss Catherine Ann Gray, of New Philadelphia, in 1840, and immediately moved with his young wife to his new farm in Porter. Mr. Fowler and his wife came overland in a spring wagon—it was the first spring wagon in the neighborhood. Here they built themselves a cabin on their land. Mr. Fowler had purchased 200 acres in the first section of the township, and joined on the north by Bennington Township. He went to work in earnest to clear up his land. So dense was the forest that they could not see forty rods from the house, and only reached this neighborhood by following a path that was marked by blazed trees. After remaining here for four years with his young wife, who had never been out of town or away from home, Mr. Fowler returned with his family to his old home in the State of New York, going as far as New Philadelphia by wagon, and the rest by the canal and wagon. He rented out his farm for four years to Mr. McCreary. He again engaged in the business of manufacturing for about five years, when he sold out his interest in the manufacturing establishment, and returned to his farm and commenced improvements, and he soon had his farm under good fences and cultivation. He built a large frame house and two large frame barns, set out an orchard, and soon had everything about him for his convenience and comfort in the best of order. He and his wife were Presbyterians, and for many years they were regular

attendants of the Old Blue Church in Kingston, a distance of seven miles from their home, but, great as the distance was, they were seldom too late, either for the Sabbath school or the church. But when the New School Presbyterians built their church in East Liberty, he went there, which shortened the distance about three miles. In this new church, Mr. Fowler and Mr. John Van Sickle, of Kingston, were the main props and support. He made several trips to his old home in the Catskill Mountains, and was frequently visited by his father and his mother; she is now living at the advanced age of ninety-three years. Mr. Fowler died in Delaware, where he had moved but a short time previously, on the 12th day of June, 1872, and was buried in the cemetery he had helped to lay out, near the old church he had been so long connected with in Porter. His widow and a part of his family now live on the old homestead. His oldest son, Dr. Fowler, a medical graduate and a young man of promise in his profession, lives in Delaware. Old Mr. Fowler was a great reader, well versed in the Scriptures, and in history, both ancient and modern, and all who had business with him had confidence in his ability and integrity as a man and a Christian.

Mr. Harvey Leach settled in Porter Township in 1834, and married a daughter of Mr. Dunham, who lived on the State road, near the county line between Morrow County and Delaware. Mr. Dunham settled on this farm quite early, but the precise date is not known. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and, in the latter part of his life, he became blind. Mr. Leach is still living, and occupies a farm adjoining the land that belongs to the estate of Mr. Dunham, his father-in-law. One of the early families in this part of Porter Township is the family of Mr. A. G. Kenny. He came from the State of Maryland, in 1828, and settled on a farm about one-half mile from the north line of the county, on a branch of Long Run. He was born in the year 1803, and his wife, whom he married in the State of Maryland in 1822, was born in 1802, being one year his senior. They settled in the woods, cleared up a good farm, raised a family of ten children, built the first brick house in the township, and by their industry, sobriety and honest dealing, have won the confidence and esteem of all who know them. They are both still living and enjoying good health, and still own and occupy the old homestead. Just south of the farm of Mr. Kenny, Mr. Samuel Dowell settled on the

head-waters of Sugar Creek, about the year 1830. He was a native of the State of Maryland, and an old acquaintance of Mr. Kenny. He was married to a young woman in Maryland previous to their immigration to Ohio, but they were not blessed with children. They settled down in the woods, and cleared up a farm. Mr. Dowell built a water saw-mill upon Sugar Creek, and for many years sawed great quantities of lumber, this mill proving to be a great help to many early settlers in Porter. Mr. and Mrs. Dowell were noted far and near for their hospitality, and their friends from great distances frequently visited them. The old inhabitants remember them, from the time they first came to Porter only as old people. He was born in the year 1769, six years before the commencement of the American Revolutionary war, and died at the great age of nearly one hundred years. His wife was born in 1800, and died at the age of seventy-five years. On the Sugar Creek, near the center of Section 1, and of the township, north and south, the Rev. Henry Davey settled with his family, about the year 1832, from Tuscarawas County, Ohio. It was then woods, and Mr. Davey commenced to clear up his farm with a will, built a saw-mill on the creek running through his farm, and, in a few years, his farm was well improved, and had good buildings. He was a man of great energy and will power, enjoyed robust health, and possessed great power of endurance, and was capable of performing great mental and manual labor. He belonged to the Society of Dunkards, and he was far and near known as the "Dunkard Preacher." He dressed in the habit peculiar to his sect. He wore a low-crowned, broad-brimmed, brown fur hat, and a single-breasted, brown cloth coat, with rounded skirts. His hair was moderately long, and his beard heavy and flowing gave him quite an apostolic air, although he seemed free from vanity or hypocrisy. He was recognized as a leader of his sect, and for many years his ministerial duties called him a greater part of his time from home. Although well to do in this world, he and his family were unostentatious, and by no means extravagant in their style of living. In 1856, he sold his farm on Sugar Creek and bought another on Big Walnut, where he lived for several years, and where he again sold out his farm and moved to the western part of the State, where he is still living, but is advanced in years and compelled to be less active in his ministerial labors. While living on his farm in Porter, he induced his people to hold

an annual meeting at his house. The communion and baptismal services were held on the Sabbath day. The announcement having been made several weeks previously, hundreds were brought, out of curiosity, to the services of this peculiar sect. This was the first and last time they ever held their annual meetings in this county. During the day, they had preaching and baptized a great number by immersion, and in the evening and night they ate "the feast of the passover," and administered the ordinance of washing feet. The fatted lamb had been prepared in readiness, and they all sat down around the table. The people were all especially anxious to witness this part of the ceremony, and the number in attendance did not in the least diminish by the approach of nightfall. At the hour of midnight, the washing and wiping of feet began, and when the ceremony closed, they turned around in their seats, and ate the supper of the passover. This ended the programme, and all repaired to their homes. One amusing incident occurred during the "feast," which greatly excited the mirth among the young of the Gentiles. A lad of only a few summers, somewhat acquainted with the Davy family, had been a careful observer, during the day, and having had nothing to eat from early morning, before leaving his home, became very hungry. He supposed this supper was for all present, and for himself as well as others. This belief was strengthened by the young men at the table whom he knew, and he seated himself at the long table, with the communicants. His little eyes were steadily fixed on the communicants, who were washing and wiping feet, and his young mind was thinking all the while about the good supper he was about to have. Outsiders enjoyed greatly his mistake. The smell of the savory soup and lamb greatly excited his hunger, when, greatly to his disappointment, he was taken from the festive board and led to the kitchen by the kind-hearted leader, where his keen appetite was well supplied.

In about the same year, and as early as the year 1830, Mr. William Her and the Gray family moved from Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and settled in Porter, near the north line of the township, in Section 1. His connection with the M. E. Church dates back a period of more than fifty years. He is a local preacher, and is an efficient worker among his own sect, but his mind is broad and catholic, and he frequently goes among other denominations, and with them performs his most efficient work for the promotion of the cause of the Christian religion. He has a beautiful home.

has everything about him arranged in methodical order, and devotes much of his time to reading. He married a daughter of Mr. Gray, now deceased, who lived on an adjoining farm. He has raised two children, both of whom are married daughters, and have interesting families. He relates with great interest, amusing incidents connected with his frontier life. He and his wife are now in the decline of life, but they enjoy good health, as well as the respect of all who know them. S. A. Ramsey, Esq., immigrated from the State of New Jersey about the year 1844, and purchased land and located on what is called the "Irish section," being Section 4 of Porter Township. At this time, this part of the township was very new. This was the last section brought into market for actual settlers. The titles, up to 1838, were in the hands of speculators. Mr. Ramsey settled upon a tract of about two hundred acres, located in the woods, near the center of the section. By his energy and industry, in a few years he put his farm in a good state of cultivation. His buildings, fences and orchards are all in the very best condition, and Mr. Ramsey now, after many years of hard work, finds himself surrounded by the comforts of life, and able, if he chooses to do so, to live, and live well, without labor. He has raised a large family, and is much respected by his fellow-citizens, who have frequently honored him with their confidence by electing him Justice of the Peace, and to other township offices; and in the discharge of his public duties he has been faithful, and is regarded as an honest man. He is a relative of ex-Governor Ramsey, of Minnesota, who is now a member of President Hayes' Cabinet as Secretary of War. James B. Sturdevant, who is a farmer by occupation, and lives one mile east of Olive Green, is one of the oldest residents now living in Porter Township. His father, when James was a small lad, settled in this township nearly sixty years ago. Mr. Sturdevant is a hard-working and honest man, and has cleared up and owns a good farm. His younger brother, Chauncey H. Sturdevant, is also a farmer, and owns the farm where he now lives, and has lived for nearly forty years. He has done his full share of hard work, in clearing up his home in the woods of Porter Township. Mr. Charles Patrick, son of Joseph Patrick, Esq., of Berkshire, settled on the Porter section in 1830, and has cleared up his land and has a well-improved farm of about three hundred acres. Mr. H. Blackledge settled upon a farm, which he has highly improved, many years

ago. His farm is well adapted to the raising of stock, and, for many years, Mr. Blackledge took great pains to improve the quality of stock in his part of the county, and has raised the best stock of any farmer in Porter Township.

One of the most active and prominent business men of Porter Township, and not to be overlooked in this history, is Mr. George Blainey, a native of old Virginia. He immigrated to Ohio in 1873, and engaged in mercantile pursuits in Kingston Township, at Stark's Corners, for several years. He was three times married, and twice married in Virginia. His first wife was Miss Mary Sutton, and after her death he married Miss Mary Kempton, who was his wife when he came to Ohio, but she died a few months after his arrival, and in 1838, he married Miss Elizabeth Van Sickle, the oldest daughter of Mr. John Van Sickle. In 1840, Mr. Blainey removed from the Corners to East Liberty, in Porter, and immediately built there a large frame building for a hotel and store, and for years he kept a hotel and a store of goods, and at the same time engaged in farming. Mr. Blainey was widely known and greatly respected for his well-known ability and honesty. He was a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church, and possessed much more than ordinary ability. He died deeply lamented in the year 1869, leaving a wife and several children. A few years after the death of Mr. Blainey, Mrs. Blainey married Mr. Richard Harbottle, a farmer who had purchased the farm already spoken of and known as the "Henry Davey Farm." Mr. Harbottle was a native of England, and born a subject to the crown of Great Britain, but he did not believe in a monarchical system of government, and, when quite a young man, immigrated to America. With a wife and family, on his arrival, he had nothing to begin life with but his hands and head. Mr. Harbottle has been very prosperous in the home of his choice, and is now known as one of the most enterprising and thrifty farmers in this township. In 1865, the oil speculation in Ohio reached fever heat, and like an epidemic spread over the State. In this year, the Delaware & Hocking Oil Company was organized by Judge Isaac Ramsey, Mr. David Coban, Dr. H. Bessee, Mr. Huston and others, with Charles H. McElroy, Esq., Secretary. The Company, after making a careful and minute examination, discovered what they regarded as marked and unmistakable surface indications of oil. The Company prepared themselves with the necessary machinery, and proceeded to bore for

oil on the Big Walnut, not far from East Liberty. The excitement grew from day to day, the stock advanced and sold rapidly to those who were more hopeful than wise, and expected in a few days to become rich. They sunk the drill to the depth of 900 feet, through the Waverly sandstone, blue clay and clay shale. They were compelled to pronounce the work impracticable, and abandoned the enterprise.

The Company suffered a heavy pecuniary loss besides the mortification of failure. Thus ended the visionary speculation of the Delaware & Hocking Oil Company in Delaware County.

The church history in this township is quite brief. The New School Presbyterians organized a society soon after the division of the church, which was occasioned by the slavery agitation; and in 1840, in East Liberty, they built a large frame church edifice. The principal parties in the building of this church were Mr. John Van Sickle, Charles M. Fowler, William Guston, Isaac Finch, Jesse Finch, Charles Wilcox, George Blainey and others. Their Pastor was the Rev. Dr. Chapman. They at once organized a Sabbath school in connection with the church, which for several years prospered, and was productive of great good. Mr. Ried M. Cutcheon was the architect and builder of the church edifice. In the year 1864, the same parties who built this place of worship laid out and established a cemetery just east of the church and town of East Liberty, in which the remains of many of those most conspicuous and enterprising in the construction of the church and the Sabbath school now sleep.

As near as can be ascertained, the first marriage in this township was that of Reuben Place to Miss Rachel Meeker, at a very early date, but there is neither a public nor private record to be found which contains its date. The first birth is involved in the same uncertainty, but it is believed the first child born in this township was Miss Eliza Allen Mendenhall Pint, and the first death was Polly Place. Joel Z. Mendenhall, Esq., was the first Justice of the Peace elected in this township after its organization, and, as already stated, he was repeatedly re-elected, and made an efficient and competent officer.

The first schoolhouse built in this township was near where Mr. Day now lives, and was called the "Block Schoolhouse," and was built in about the year 1825. Mr. William Wolfe taught the first school, and took his pay in dried apples, at least in part for his wages. There was no market

nearer than the town of Delaware for his goods, and he had no team. The only way or means he had to convey his fruit to market was to carry it on his back and on foot. He had two loads and was compelled to make two trips. The distance he had to go was about fifteen miles, and it took him two days to make a trip. The first day, about the hour of high twelve, he felt the necessity of calling off for rest and refreshment. He had now reached a more densely settled community. He came up to a small cabin and went in, and asked the privilege of taking rest, and called for refreshment, all of which was granted. The only occupant of the house, although unknown to him at the time, proved to be a charming widow. In a short time, the dinner was prepared, and he ate heartily of what was set before him, and when he had finished his dinner, he offered to pay his hostess for her hospitality, but she refused to accept any pay. On his return the following day, he was again fatigued, and called for rest and refreshments, and he was again hospitably received and treated. Before leaving her house, he told his hostess he would be back in a few days on his way to Delaware with more marketing, and that unless she gave him her consent to become his wife, he would regard his life as a miserable fail-

ure, and that he must have a positive answer on his return. When he made his next trip, she told him she couldn't say no. This ended the courtship, and they were soon married. Whether this story is truth or romance, the writer does not vouch, but he relates it as it was related to him. This schoolhouse has multiplied in number over the township, and now in every neighborhood, there is, at convenient distances, a comfortable schoolhouse, where a school at the public expense is kept up on average more than six months in the year, and taught by a competent teacher. The thirty years previous to the year 1880 witnessed a great change in the character, habit and customs, as well as in the fortunes, of the people of Porter Township. An agricultural people, they are enterprising, intelligent and industrious, and free from every manner of vice and immorality. Grog-shops and houses of ill-fame are not to be found in the township, and the citizens generally, if not universally, are well fed and well clothed, and are prosperous and happy. If the "Taways," who lived in the township a half-century ago, were to return to Porter with their long beards and buckskin apparel, they would produce as much sensation among the present inhabitants as a menagerie of wild animals.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

TRENTON TOWNSHIP—ORIGIN OF THE NAME—TOPOGRAPHICAL—SETTLEMENT—BIRTHS, DEATHS, ETC.—SCHOOLS—MILLS AND QUARRIES—CHURCHES.

"How dear to this heart are the scenes of my childhood,
When fond recollection presents them to view."
—Woodworth.

MANY of our elderly readers will readily remember the time when a large portion of the east half of the county was known as Sunbury Township. It was the third township created after the organization of the county, and dates back to June 16, 1808, and was originally bounded as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of Section 2, Township 5 and Range 17, of the United States Military Survey, thence south with said line to the south line of the county, thence east with said county line to the east line of said county, thence north with said county line to the Indian boundary line, thence west by said

boundary line to the east boundary of Marlborough Township, thence south with said line to the southeast corner of said township, thence west to the place of beginning; containing the present townships of Harlem, Trenton, Porter, and half of Berkshire and Genoa, in Delaware County, while the following townships, now in Morrow County, were also included in the original Sunbury Township, viz., Peru, Bennington, Lincoln and Harmony. Township after township was erected from this large scope of territory. Harlem was set off from Sunbury September 11, 1810, and Kingston June 8, 1813. In June, 1816, Genoa was set off from Harlem, and one-half of the new township was from the original Sunbury. Thus it was whittled off, until it was reduced, as we have been informed, to what is now Trenton Township, and

so remained until somewhere between 1830 and 1835, when the name was changed to Trenton, and Sunbury was blotted out of existence like

—“the very stars,
 Von bright and burning blazoury of God,
 Glitter awhile in their eternal depths,
 And, like the Pleiad, loveliest of their train,
 Shoot from the glorious spheres, and pass away,
 To darkle in the trackless void.”

The prevailing tradition concerning this change of name is, that somewhere about the time designated above, Messrs. Van Dorn, Leak and Condit, all early settlers and prominent men of the township, were sitting on a log one day talking over general business matters. Finally, the conversation turned upon the question of the village of Sunbury being in Berkshire Township, while their own township bore the name of Sunbury. It was suggested that the name of the latter be changed in order to avoid confusion, a suggestion that was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Leak proposed the name of Chester—his native town; Mr. Condit wanted it called Orange, but there was an Orange Township in the county already. So Mr. Van Dorn suggested Trenton, for the capital of his native State—New Jersey. The name was agreed to among themselves, and sent into the County Commissioners, by whom it was adopted. Thus Sunbury Township became a thing of the past, while its place was filled on the map of Delaware County by Trenton.

The surface of Trenton Township, while it is not wholly level, can scarcely be called hilly or broken. Along the water-courses, it is a little rough and uneven, while back from the streams it is somewhat rolling, until striking the table-land, when it becomes rather level. Van's Valley, as it is called, is somewhat low, as well as the west central part, while the western and northern portions rise to quite an elevation, and incline to an almost rolling surface. The township is admirably drained by the water-courses, so that but little artificial drainage is found necessary. The principal stream is the Big Walnut Creek, which enters near the north-west corner, and, running in almost a southern direction, passes out on the west line. The next stream in importance to Big Walnut is Rattlesnake Run, so called from the great numbers of that reptile that were found in the cliffs and rocks bordering it. The North Fork enters the township near the center of the east line, and forms a junction with the South Fork in the south central part of the township, runs in a westerly course, and empties into the Big

Walnut near the center of the west line of the township. There are a few other small streams, such as Culver's Run in the northern part, which runs west and flows into Big Walnut Creek. It was named in honor of a family who settled near it in the early times. Perfect's Creek, named for one of the first settlers of the township, is a little south of Culver's Run, and also runs west and empties into the Big Walnut. Dry Run is a small stream which has its source in the township and empties into Perfect's Creek. Mink Run is similar, except that it flows into Rattlesnake, a little above its junction with the Big Walnut.

Trenton Township is well timbered, and maple, walnut, oak, ash, beech, elm and other species are common in this region. At present, the township is bounded on the north by Porter Township, on the east by Licking County, on the south by Harlem Township, and on the west by Berkshire. It lies on the east line of the county, and is a full township, being five miles square, and containing 16,000 acres of land.

In the early settlement of this county, it is not strange that the mighty tide of emigration flowing toward the West should not pass the fertile valleys of the Miami and Scioto. Here everything to be expected in a new country—not even excepting the ague and “milk sick”—was found in profusion. Land good and cheap, magnificent forests and a delightful climate. During the early part of the present century, this tide of emigration reached Delaware County, and toward the close of the first decade, white people began to occupy the division to which this chapter is devoted. They came chiefly from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York, with a family or two from Kentucky. From the latter State came the first settlers of the township, of whom we have any account. These were William Perfect and Mordecai Thomas and their families, and their arrival is recorded in the spring of 1807. One Pearson Spinning owned 1,000 acres of military land, and from him Thomas and Perfect each bought 100 acres, upon which they settled, and at once commenced to improve. Many of their descendants are still living in the county, and from a sketch written by Middleton Perfect for the County Atlas, published in 1875, we extract considerable of the history of this township. Perfect and Thomas made their settlements near the mouth of Perfect's Creek, which took its name from Mr. Perfect. The latter gentleman died in 1812, and was the first death to occur in the township. Bartholomew Anderson came also

from Kentucky, and settled in 1810 east of Perfect's. These are supposed to have been the first settlements made within the limits of the present township of Trenton. Says Mr. Perfect in the sketch already alluded to: "Trenton is justly proud of its pioneers. New Jersey furnished skilled tavern-keepers; the northern part of the township was settled by industrious people from the little blue State. A colony from Ithaca, N. Y., settled in the south part, and another from Pennsylvania in the west part. One of the early settlers kept two 'asheries,' and supplied Delaware with salt and window glass for twelve years." We might conclude that these useful articles were manufactured from the asheries, but that Mr. Perfect adds the information that they "were wagoned" (the salt and window glass, not the asheries) "from Zanesville."

The first settlement made north of Culver's Creek was by John Culver and Michael Ely. They are noticed among the arrivals of 1809. Not long after them came John Williamson, and bought land from Ely. He was a bachelor when he came to the settlement, but, sometime during the year 1810, he married Ely's daughter, Rosanna. Their son, Madison Williamson, is reported as the first birth in the township. John Ginn, William Ridgway and a man named Pressing, came to the township in 1811. They were from the State of Delaware, but not much was learned of them. Ginn died in 1819, and the others some time afterward. They settled near each other, and came originally from the same neighborhood. James and Owen Hough came from Luzerne County, Penn., and are reckoned among the early settlers. The former settled on what is called the Johnson road, and died in 1834. His son, Bartlett Hough, now lives on the old homestead. The other, Owen Hough, left his native place in 1815, when but sixteen years old, with his father's family, and when they reached Pittsburgh, Owen stopped and engaged to work at the garrison there. He remained there about a year and then started and came through to Zanesville, reaching it on Christmas Day. He worked in Zanesville two years, and, in 1818, came to this township and settled on a farm where he now lives.

Another of the pioneers of this township was Gilbert Van Dorn, from the State of New Jersey, in 1817. When he settled in Trenton there were but two families living on the road between the Licking County line and Sun-

bury, a little village in Berkshire Township. He bought 1,000 acres of land in a beautiful valley which took his name, or a part of it, and is still known as "Van's Valley." The place where he originally settled is now occupied by Mrs. John Armstrong. The next year after he settled here, he opened a tavern, the first place of public entertainment, it is said, in the township, and flung out a sign upon which was painted a gilt sun, and beneath it the mystical legend, "Center Inn." At first, this pioneer tavern was a rude log structure, but as the amount of travel became greater, and Mr. Van Dorn's reputation as a host increased, another cabin was added to the first, and then another and another, until four log cabins, all connected, were required to accommodate his extensive patronage. For eleven years he kept this "cabin hotel," and then put up the present brick (now occupied by Mrs. Armstrong), which he also kept as a hotel for a number of years. The sign of the "gilt sun" was known far and wide, and appeared as welcome to the wayworn traveler as the "shadow of a great rock in a weary land." The same old sign that hung in front of the log cabin inn, pointing the traveler to a place of rest, did the same service at the brick tavern for years. This was long a place of resort where the neighbors met to talk of the common business affairs of the time. The brick tavern was built in 1829, and the brick of which it was composed was burned just across the road from where the house stands. The stone used for the foundations was taken from the quarry now owned by Mr. Williams. It was the first brick house built in the township. Van Dorn also kept a kind of grocery store, where the settlers procured some of the necessaries; but it did not amount to much in the way of a store. He kept it at his tavern stand from the time when he opened the tavern until 1854. Mr. Van Dorn had eight children, and was a leading man in the community in which he lived. John Leak also came from New Jersey. He bought land from Van Dorn and settled just east of the inn. There was a strong rivalry between him and Van Dorn as to who should open the first tavern, but Van Dorn succeeded in getting the start of him. Silas Ogden came in 1820, and, like Van Dorn and Leak, was from New Jersey. He settled on what was known as the State road, and kept the first tan-yard in the township.

In 1823, a man named Oliver Gratax came to the township. Of him, Mr. Perfect said: "He

wore leather breeches, full of stitches, a fawnskin vest and a coonskin cap." He was a bachelor when he came, but recognizing the divine order of things, that "it is not good for man to be alone," even in the wilderness, he soon took unto himself a wife in the person of a Miss Rosecrans. Ira Pierson came from New Jersey in 1838, and settled near where Condit Post Office is located. He came by team and was twenty-nine days on the road; he died at the age of eighty-five years. Jonathan, Alvin P. and Smith Condit came also from New Jersey in 1832-33. The former settled on Walnut Creek, where his son, E. J. Condit, now lives, and his descendants are scattered over the eastern part of the township, and are among the prominent men of the community. Alvin settled near by, and cleared up a farm; Smith died in one month after coming to the settlement. Lyman Hendricks came from Rutland, Vt., and located first in Berkshire in 1812, but some time after came to this township. William Hendricks, a brother, was a soldier in the war of 1812. A man named Roberts was the first permanent settler on Rattlesnake Run, where he lived for many years.

After the close of the war of 1812, emigration rapidly increased, and this division of the county soon settled. Farms were opened, forests felled and the lands cleared up. To the sturdy husbandmen is due the transforming of the great forests of Trenton into the fine flourishing fields and farms now to be seen in this section.

"Let not ambition mock their useful toil
Their homely joys and destiny obscure,"

for it is to the hardy "sons of toil" we are indebted for the general prosperity of the country. In other words, they are "the power behind the throne, that is greater than the throne itself," and to stop the wheels of the "agricultural machine" would soon affect every other branch of business enterprise.

Beyond the settlement of the township, and a sketch of its pioneers, with a glance at its stock-raising and agricultural resources, there is little history of particular interest connected with Trenton. No villages or towns dot its landscapes; no manufactories other than a mill or two and a few quarries; no stores are kept; even the old taverns of the pioneer days have passed away, and, as we have said, there is but little history beyond that of its settlement. It is a fine agricultural region, and considerable attention is likewise devoted to

stock-raising, many of the farmers making it a specialty. The Cleveland, Columbus & Mount Vernon Railroad passes through the township, and has aided materially in developing its hidden resources. Through this channel, its excellent timber finds a market, as well as the stone from its numerous quarries, which are becoming quite an extensive business since the building of this railroad. In a word, the citizens of Trenton are a moral and upright law-abiding people, attend strictly to their own business and leave other people to do the same. In writing its history, we acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr. Harry Vaile, of Delaware, for the principal facts, and to a communication of Mr. Perfect's, which is said to be substantially correct.

The first death recorded in Trenton Township was William Perfect, Esq., one of the first settlers. He died in 1812, about five years after his settlement. Since then many pioneers of Trenton have followed him to the land of shadows.

"The saint who enjoyed the communion of heaven,
The sinner who dared to remain unforgiven,
The wise and the foolish, the guilty and just,
Have quietly mingled their bones in the dust.

"So the multitude goes, like the flowers or the weed
That withers away to let others succeed;
So the multitude comes, even those we behold,
To repeat every tale that has often been told."

But few of the early settlers of the township are still living. Most of them lie sleeping in the little graveyards. The first birth which occurred was that of Madison Williamson, who was born about the commencement of the war of 1812. He was a son of John Williamson, an emigrant of 1809, who, in 1810, was married to a Miss Ely, and was the first marriage, probably, to take place in the community. But the present population of Trenton is proof of how well the pioneers followed the divine command to "go and multiply, and fill the earth."

Van Dorn, as we have already stated, kept the first tavern upon the site where Mrs. Armstrong now lives. Silas Ogden, upon his settlement in the neighborhood, opened a tan-yard, the first of these useful establishments kept in the township. Perfect and Thomas, soon after their settlement, planted out orchards, which were the first efforts made at fruit-growing. The first post office was established by A. C. Leak, and was kept in a cabin about half a mile east of Van Dorn's tavern stand. But the name it bore, and the date of its establishment, we could not learn. George Aker-

son kept a store in an early day, a little north of Condit Post Office. This post office is located at Condit Station, on the Cleveland, Columbus & Mount Vernon Railroad, and is the only station on this road in the township. Martha J. Culver is the Postmistress at Condit. Her father, B. Culver, also keeps a store. He succeeded Wayman Perfect as a merchant at that place. These are the only stores really deserving the names ever kept in the township. Van Dorn kept a kind of grocery, on a small scale, at his tavern, but made no pretensions toward a regular store.

Trenton Township is well supplied with good building stone, and a number of quarries have been opened, which, since the building of the Cleveland, Columbus & Mount Vernon Railroad through the township, are growing into an extensive and profitable business. The first quarry, or the first stone quarried in the township, was in an early day by Mr. Allison. A large quarry was opened, some years ago, on the farm of Joseph and John Landon, on the Big Walnut Creek. Another large quarry was opened by Williams and Knox. A great many others have been opened in different parts of the township, but principally for the use of those who opened them. But with the railroad facilities enjoyed, the stone business must necessarily prove very profitable to this section of the county.

The people of Trenton have always been the friends of education. In an early day we find the pedagogue among them, and, in the primitive schoolhouse of the pioneer time, with the youth gathered around him, he taught them the simple rudiments of "reading, writing and arithmetic." One of the first schoolhouses, perhaps the first in the township, was built near the Big Walnut on the Mount Vernon road, and about eighteen rods north of the bridge. It was of the usual pioneer pattern, a description of which will be found elsewhere in these pages. The first winter school taught in this humble temple of learning was by a man named Goop, and the first summer school was taught by Clarissa Sturdevant. These schools were before the day of free schools, and were taught by subscription, each family sending their children, and paying according to the amount of time sent. Illustrative of the marvelous march of education, we find in Trenton Township to-day seven school districts, all containing substantial and comfortable schoolhouses of an estimated value of \$3,200. Other statistics of the schools are as follows: Balance on hand in 1878, \$1,694.39; State tax,

\$414; local tax for schoolhouse purposes, \$822.53; amount paid teachers during the year, \$1,308.60; wages per month—male teachers, \$32; female teachers, \$22; for fuel and other contingent purposes, \$120.45; balance on hand September 1, 1879, \$1,519.61. Teachers employed—males, 4; females, 7. Pupils enrolled—males, 159; females, 109. Average monthly enrollment—males, 112; females, 91. Average daily attendance—males, 110; females, 85. Pupils enrolled between sixteen and twenty-one—males, 39, and females, 25.

Mr. Perfect, in his sketch of Trenton in the County Atlas, to which we have several times referred, says: "The first saw-mill in Trenton was built by Middleton Perfect and Hazard Adams in 1835. There are no grist-mills in the township." Mr. Vaile, in his notes on Trenton, to which we have referred also, mentions several mills. Among them is one built by John Van Sickle, which is noticed as the "first grist-mill in the township," and was "built in 1835." It is described as having a "brush dam" when first built, but this was afterward replaced with one made of planks. It was situated on Big Walnut, half a mile northeast of Sunbury. Van Sickle sold out to E. M. Condit, who operated it from 1855 until 1862, when he sold it to Jacob Boyd. The latter gentleman sold it to his brother, Henry Boyd, who had purchased the old Brailey mill. This mill was built in 1845, on the creek, half a mile below the Van Sickle mill. Some time after Boyd bought it, he bought the Van Sickle mill from his brother, as noted above, transferred most of the machinery from it to the Brailey mill, and so put an end to the Van Sickle mill. Another of the early mills was Stockwell's saw-mill, but of it little was learned. J. Condit had a saw-mill on Perfect's Creek, which did good service for a number of years. Alvin P. Condit also had a mill on the North Branch of Rattlesnake Run. Williams' saw-mill is situated on Big Walnut at the mouth of Rattlesnake Run, just on the township line. It was built by Crane at an early day, and is still in operation.

Politically, Trenton has always been Democratic, except in 1840, when the *slogan* of "log cabins" and "hard cider," carried the day for Gen. Harrison, and it may have been the strong Democratic sentiment of Trenton that caused the political somersault of Vice President Tyler after the death of Harrison. Anyway, from that day to this, it has kept the faith, and, when necessity

required, it has rolled up Democratic majorities. In the late struggle between the North and the South, the township stood valiantly by the Union, and sent out many of her bravest and best to maintain its supremacy. Their deeds are faithfully recorded in another chapter of this history.

The early pioneers, as a general thing, were pious people. Although they would not have hesitated long about engaging in a rough and tumble fight, and did not hesitate to take a dram (we often hear old people say, however, that there were not so much infernal fire in the whisky then as now), yet they enjoyed themselves, religiously, quite as well as the most fastidious church-goers of the present day. The religious services were simple (and came from the heart), the church buildings were simple, the methods of conveyance to and from church were simple, and the manners, dress and intercourse of the people who attended church were simple in the extreme. But some of the old pioneers still assert that the natural organs of the voice, with which they praised God, were to be preferred to the organ now pumped by a cheap boy, and skillfully manipulated by a popular but not pious young lady or gentleman, robed in all the fashionable toggery of the day, instead of the good old linsey-woolsey or jeans. Let us not quarrel with them about the matter; they have sacrificed their preferences to our modern methods, and many, if not most, of them are praising Him on harps such as "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard."

The first church society organized in Trenton, we believe, was that of the Presbyterians about 1835-36. Among the original members were Simon Condit, Silas Ogden, A. P. Condit, Robert Lewis, Squire Wheaton, Elizabeth Condit, Elizabeth Leak, Magdalene Van Dorn, Maria Condit, Mercy Wheaton, Mary Condit, Jane Ogden and Andrew Herrons and wife. The facts leading to the organization of this church were something as follows: After holding a meeting in June, 1835, with reference to the formation of a society, Messrs. A. P. and J. S. Condit were sent to Alexandria to confer with the minister of that place, but receiving no encouragement from him, they next visited the Presbyterian Church in Genoa Township. From Mr. Ransom, the Pastor of that church, they received but little more encouragement than at Alexandria. He prevailed on them, however, to unite with the Genoa Church. In the September following these visits, a gloom was cast over the community by the death of J. S. Condit. Mr. Ransom being called upon to preach his funeral ser-

mon, took occasion to refer to the visit of Mr. Condit and the object of his mission to him some time before. He said upon further reflection, he had come to the conclusion that he had done wrong in discouraging their project, and believed the time had come for them to organize a church in their neighborhood. Accordingly, a meeting was called at the Ogden Schoolhouse to consider the propriety of at once organizing a society. At that meeting, A. P. Condit was appointed to present the matter to the presbytery, which body decided in favor of the movement, and Rev. Mr. Ransom was directed to establish a church. He was the first Pastor and preached to them for one year, for which he received the sum of \$18.50, all that could be raised by the members. The second preacher was Rev. Mr. Allen for one year; the third, Rev. Ezra G. Johnson; the fourth, Rev. Ahab Jenks. "But," adds our informant, "he being a farmer, and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, only a part of his time could be given to the church."

At a meeting held February 21, 1837, the practicability of building a church edifice was discussed, and finally a resolution was passed to proceed at once with the undertaking. Soon after, their first building was put up, which served them as temple of worship until 1855. The following is a transcript of the proceedings of a meeting held February 5, of this year: "At a meeting of the members of the First Presbyterian Church, of Trenton Township, Delaware County, a motion was adopted that a committee be appointed to circulate a subscription paper for the purpose of building a new meeting-house, and if a sufficient amount for the purpose is secured, they are authorized to act as a building committee, and to select a site and build the house." A. P. Condit, John E. Ketcham and E. M. Condit were appointed the committee, and the further duty imposed upon them of selling the old church building. This they accomplished April 1, 1875, selling it for the sum of \$100, to the United Brethren Church, for a house of worship. Mr. Miles and Mr. Skinner gave their obligations for the payment of the amount, and also agreed to either move the house or secure the lot upon which it stood for the benefit of their society.

The new building of the Presbyterians cost \$1,000 and was dedicated by Revs. Warren Jenkins and John W. Thompson. This served the congregation until a few years ago, when a new church was erected at a cost of \$3,000, and was dedicated May 25, 1879, by Rev. Nathan S. Smith, of Del-

aware, assisted by Rev. Carson, of Westerville. This church is in a flourishing condition, and has exercised a wide-spread influence in the entire community.

The Methodist Episcopal Church dates back almost to the organization of the Presbyterian Church. Sometime between 1835 and 1840, a society of this denomination was formed in a schoolhouse, embracing in its original membership many of the early settlers of the township. The first minister who preached to the congregation in the little schoolhouse was Rev. Curtis Godhard. Another of the pioneer preachers of this society was Rev. Mr. McDowell. The present church was built in 1855, and was dedicated by Rev. Samuel Lynch. The ministers who have officiated since that time are as follows, viz., Revs. John Mitchell, William Morrow and Alexander Blamfield. The church cost originally about \$700. The present Pastor

is Rev. D. R. Moore. A Sunday school is maintained most of the time. This church has been productive of much good in the neighborhood, and many souls, through its influence, have been brought home to Christ.

The Old School Presbyterians organized a society and built a church in this township, but did not exist any great length of time. In 1850, they built their church, but, after awhile, became lukewarm and sold out to the Methodists. This society moved over into Porter Township, and established what is known there as the Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church. It is more fully noticed, however, in the history of that township.

The United Brethren, we believe, have an organized society in the township, and a church building, but of it we failed to learn any particulars, and must pass it with this limited notice.

CHAPTER XXIX.*

HARLEM TOWNSHIP—TOPOGRAPHICAL—MILITARY LANDS—SETTLEMENT—A DESPERATE CHARACTER—CHURCHES—A MURDER—PIONEER IMPROVEMENTS—SCHOOLS—VILLAGES.

"Happy is that nation whose annals are not tiresome."—*Montesquieu*.

THIS township was organized in September, 1810, from territory that at that time belonged to Sunbury Township. The name of "Harlem" is the name of an opulent city in the Netherlands, in Europe, of great antiquity, and from its vicinity there was, in the latter part of the seventeenth century, a great flow of emigration to America. These immigrants established the first colony on the island of Manhattan, and gradually took possession of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, in the Empire State. This name is applied to a locality in the suburbs of the city of New York called the "Harlem Heights." Since the white population took possession of this township, Harlem furnishes but little material for the historian. The major part of the history of all nations, both in the Old and the New Worlds, seems to be made up of recitals of wars and commotions, earthquakes and inundations, floods and fires. These calamities Harlem Township has escaped. Indeed, most happy is that nation, or that coun-

*Contributed by Hon. J. R. Hubbell.

try, whose annals are brief. A prosperous and contented people pass peacefully along the sequestered vale of life, but little observed. The first families, who commenced in the wilderness nearly three-quarters of a century ago, and about whom more in detail will be written further along in this chapter, were noted for their industry, intelligence and morality, and they brought with them from their old homes habits of sobriety, and were a God-fearing people, deeply impressed with the convictions that to be good citizens, they must respect law and order. Their lives were so regular and orderly, they furnish but little to condemn, but much to approve.

Of the four principal tributaries to the main trunk of the Scioto River, running north and south, through Delaware County, not one touches this township. The Big Walnut Creek runs west of the west line a distance of from one-half to one mile, through Genoa Township. Nevertheless, for most purposes, this township is well watered. Large runs and brooks, supplied by springs and spring runs, flow from the east line of the township, in a southwesterly direction, to Big Walnut

Creek. The first of these, to be noted in geographical order, is the Spruce Run, with its north and south branches. The north branch heads not far from the northwest corner of the township, and runs west, bearing slightly to the south, a distance of about four miles, to its confluence with the south branch, in Genoa Township, about one-half mile from the township line. The south branch heads farther south, near the east line of the township, and runs meanderingly through the township, until it intersects the north branch, at the point already named. These streams are well supplied with springs that flow the year round, from never-failing fountains. A few rods distant from the north line and about one mile and a half from the northwest corner of the township, is located a sulphur spring, on a farm that was formerly owned by Mr. Nathan Dustin, and is known, or has been known, as the "Dustin farm." It is now owned by Mr. John Edwards. The character and quality of the water of this spring have been tested by competent chemists, and it is said to be strongly impregnated with sulphur and magnesia, and other minerals, and is very similar in quality to the water of the White Sulphur Springs on the Scioto River, and the sulphur springs at Delaware. The water from this spring flows to the north branch of the Spruce Run. The name "Spruce," is applied to this stream for the reason that its banks are skirted with spruce timber, and are quite noted for their picturesque scenery. Farther south is Spring Run, which flows in a westerly direction, and empties into the the Big Walnut Creek. By far the largest and most important stream in this township is Duncan Run. It has various tributaries and two important branches, both of which rise near the east line of the township, but in Licking County. It traverses a distance, with its meanders, of about seven miles, and passes out of the township about one-half mile from the southwest corner, and empties into the Big Walnut Creek. This stream is well fed with springs and spring runs. The name it bears is taken from the original proprietor of Section 3 in this township, through which it runs. Rattlesnake Run, which heads in Licking County, runs in a northwesterly direction, through the extreme northeastern part of Harlem.

The land in this township is almost uniformly level. Near the mouth of the Duncan Run and the mouth of the Spruce, there is some rolling land; but of the eighteen townships of Delaware County this in the character of the soil is the most

uniform. The soil is a deep black loam, and very productive, and the general yield of all the productions, cereal and vegetable, in this township, is much above the average, compared with other townships in the county. There is no waste land in the township, and scarcely an acre in it that is not tillable. The timber in its native forest was very luxuriant and heavy, and a uniform sameness over the township. Upon the high and rolling land there is some white oak, ash, sugar maple, hickory and beech, but the level and most part is, or was, covered with the burr oak, white elm and black ash. While the land in this township is tillable and produces wheat, corn, oats, rye and barley, the corn crop seems to be the most profitable, and the soil best adapted to its production. The land is well adapted to grazing and stock-growing. All the grasses grown in this latitude do well, especially clover, timothy and red-top. The farms are owned in large tracts and the owners have large flocks and herds of sheep and cattle, but hogs, as well as sheep and cattle, are bred and fattened for the foreign market, with profit to the farmer. The largest landholder in the township is C. B. Paul, Esq., who owns about twelve hundred acres in a body. Mr. John Edmonds owns about nine hundred acres, and John Cook, Esq., owns about six hundred acres. These large landholders are extensively engaged in stock-raising. Almost the entire population of the township is engaged in the occupation of farming. There is no manufacturing to speak of. There are no mines, no canals, navigable streams or railroads, nor towns of much size. Along and near the lower part of Duncan Run there are extensive stone quarries. The stone these quarries produce is the Waverly stone of the very first quality, and these quarries are inexhaustible, but they are so remote from the large towns and cities, and there being no railroad transportation at present they are not valuable to their owners. By reference to the map of Ohio, the reader will perceive that this township is situated very near the geographical center of the State. It is also situated near the center of population of the State. This township contains even sixteen thousand acres of land, and is known and designated upon the map of the United States military lands as Township No. 3, and Range 16. It is bounded as follows: On the north by Trenton Township, on the east by Licking County, on the south by Franklin County, and on the west by Genoa Township. These lands being situated in the United States military

district, the reader is supposed to understand their origin. They were set apart by act of Congress to satisfy warrants issued by the Government for military service. One incident may be of local interest with reference to the second section in this township, being the northwest quarter. Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Greene, of Revolutionary fame, and the most skillful and popular general in that eventful period of our history, next to Washington, was a native of New England, where he resided until the close of the war. He then, with his family, emigrated and settled in the State of Georgia on the Savannah, where he died in the year 1786. The heirs of this renowned general and soldier became the owners of one thousand acres of land in this section. The parties in interest were so remote, the land was neglected and sold for taxes, but about thirty years ago the surviving heirs conveyed their interest to different parties, among others to the Hon. T. W. Powell, of Delaware. Mr. Powell's title was contested by other parties in the Common Pleas and Supreme Courts, but, after a protracted litigation, Mr. Powell's title was confirmed by the decree of the court, and it is on this part of this section the sulphur spring, already described, is located. It may be gratifying to the vanity of some of the landed proprietors of Harlem to know they derive their titles from so distinguished a personage.

With reference to the early settlers in this township, there seems to be more certainty than almost any township in the county. So far as there is any history to be obtained, either from public or private records, as well as from tradition, it concurs with reference to the name of the first pioneer, also to the date of the first permanent settler in Harlem. A man by the name of Duncan purchased in the year 1803, from the patentee, Section 3, but failing to make payment of the purchase money in the year 1807, the Sheriff of Franklin County sold, at public auction, the entire 4,000 acres, at the door of the court house, in Franklinton, to Benjamin Cook, Esq., for 42 cents per acre. An amusing incident, illustrating the shrewdness and caution of this early pioneer, is quite appropriate in this connection. Among the New England families, who emigrated to Ohio in 1805-06, was Mr. Cook. In 1805, he, with family, moved to Granville, from the State of Connecticut, and while living there, he ascertained that this tract of land was to be sold to the highest bidder by the Sheriff. He immediately prepared himself with the necessary amount of funds, as he sup-

posed, to make the purchase. The terms of sale were cash in hand. He was compelled to keep this money upon his person, to be ready to make the purchase, in case he became the lucky bidder; and then again, he was to go among strangers and he was liable to be robbed. He dressed himself, for his own protection, in old clothes covered with patches and rags, permitted his beard to grow long, and put on a dirtier shirt than usual; in short, he presented a picture of wretchedness and poverty. Beneath his rags and patches he concealed his treasure. No one suspected that he had any money or was any other than a beggar, and when he commenced to bid, the rival bidders ceased their competition. They supposed his bidding was a farce, and that he could not pay for the land if it were struck off to him. In this shrewd transaction, he illustrated the true Yankee character, to the amusement of those he had outwitted. He paid the Sheriff the purchase money and obtained his deed, and immediately, by way of Berkshire, moved on to his new purchase. Of this tract he retained 500 acres, and the residue he conveyed to Col. Moses Byxbe. He was the first settler in this township, and when he moved upon his claim, there was not even a cabin upon it, and his family, until one could be built, were compelled to occupy an Indian shanty. This was in the year 1807, and Mr. Cook, for all time, will be honored and his memory revered as the founder of another white colony in the wilderness of America. This pioneer was born in the State of "steady habits," and, as we have already stated, he died in the year 1839. The family was of good stock, and his ancestors emigrated from England to America soon after the Pilgrims on the Mayflower landed at Plymouth Rock.

Mr. Cook was the first Justice of the Peace of the township, and held other official positions with honor and credit. Calvin Tracy Cook was the first white child born in this township. He was born in the year 1808, and died in the year 1831. The oldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Cook was Benajah S. Cook, born in Connecticut in the year 1794, and was brought by his father to Harlem, where he married, and settled on a large farm near his father's old homestead. As a hunter, he was pronounced the modern Nimrod. Desire Cook died in Connecticut. Celina Cook died near Columbus. Miss Cassandra Cook married Mr. Converse, and died in the year 1873. The Hon. George W. Converse, now (1880) a Representative

in Congress from the capital district in Ohio, is their son. Previous to his election to Congress, he served several terms in the State Legislature, and served one term as Speaker of the House of Representatives. James Barton Cook died in 1827. Lucy Cook is still living. John Cook, the only surviving male member of this family, now owns and lives on the old homestead farm of the family. He owns a large and well-improved farm, is an unobtrusive gentleman of good judgment, and for his many amiable qualities is highly respected by his neighbors.

In order of time, the next settler in this township was Stephen Thompson, who settled as a squatter, in the year 1808, on land now owned by Mr. Adams. He was a native of Ireland, and brought by his parents to this country when quite young, before the American Revolution. The family settled in the State of Pennsylvania. He served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was a drum-major. About forty years ago, he was found dead, under circumstances painfully distressing to his family and friends. He retained the habits of a soldier, but was regarded by his neighbors as a peaceable and harmless man. He was unfortunate in his family, and had a son who gave him in his lifetime great trouble, and at his death was charged with being guilty of his murder. The name of the son was Jonathan, and the grand jury of the county immediately upon his father's death (so suspicious were the circumstances) found an indictment against him, charging him with murder in the first degree. Upon this indictment he was put upon trial. His counsel made a vigorous defense. In addition to the plea of "not guilty," the defense of insanity was made. The witnesses were divided in their opinions, and the jury gave the prisoner the benefit of the doubt, which the law in its mercy gives every criminal, and he was acquitted. Soon after his acquittal, he was again arrested, together with a notorious character by the name of Sam Black, on a charge of committing an assault upon Col. Budd, with intent to kill. Upon this charge he was indicted by the grand jury, tried, found guilty, and sent to the penitentiary for three years. He served out the term of his sentence, and was discharged. In 1846, he was again arrested, on the complaint of his brother, Stephen Thompson, upon a charge of committing an assault and battery on him, with intent to kill. Upon this charge he was again indicted by the grand jury, and put upon trial. He pleaded to

this indictment "not guilty," and his counsel made the further defense of insanity. He had now acquired such a notorious reputation as a desperate and dangerous character that he had become a terror in the entire community where he lived. He was never married, and had his home, when out of prison, with an imbecile sister living in Harlem. The family connections and neighbors feared him as they would a wild tiger uncaged. His counsel made the best defense that could be made for him. The weight of evidence, undoubtedly, was that he was insane, and on his first trial the jury disagreed. Upon the second trial, the same defense was made, but such were the fears and prejudices of the jurors and witnesses that he was again found guilty, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. After serving out the full term of his sentence, and receiving his discharge, he was almost immediately arrested upon a charge of outraging his imbecile sister, with whom he lived. He was ably defended by Judge Powell and other counsel, but the defense made for him upon the charge of committing this unnatural and twofold crime proved unavailing, and he was again found guilty, and again, and for the third time, sent to the penitentiary, where, in a few years, the troubled spirit of this most unfortunate man was permitted to return to that God who sent it into this world upon its sad and dreary pilgrimage. The author of this chapter, then a very young lawyer, was assigned by the court to defend him when charged with the assault upon his brother. Profoundly impressed with the weight of his responsibility, he frequently conversed with him in his cell, and became satisfied that Jonathan Thompson was an insane man, and should be sent to the asylum instead of the penitentiary. His voice in its intonations was as innocent as a child's, and seemingly he was as meek as Moses—"as mild a mannered man as ever cut a throat or scuttled a ship." The brother, Stephen, Jr., is still living, and is a quiet and peaceable citizen.

About this time, a number of families immigrated to Delaware County from the same part of the State of Pennsylvania—the Wyoming Valley. The Rev. Daniel Bennett, with his family, settled in Harlem, in the year 1809, on a farm near the center of the township. He was a local preacher, and lived an exemplary Christian life, and died about twenty-five years ago, upon the farm he had helped to clear up more than forty years before. His wife was a Miss Adams, the

sister of Squire Elijah Adams and Mr. John Adams. His oldest daughter married B. Roberts, a farmer, who settled in Harlem, at the "Center," forty years ago. He and his amiable wife are now both deceased. Their oldest daughter was the wife of C. B. Paul, Esq., now the President of the First National Bank of Delaware, the largest landholder in the county, except one, and the largest landholder in Harlem Township. Mr. Paul has filled several township and county offices with both credit to himself and satisfaction to the public. Before the rebellion, he filled the office of County Commissioner, and the first year of the war, he was elected by a very large majority to the office of County Treasurer, which office he held by re-election for a term of four years. Mrs. Paul, of the third generation of Father Bennett's family in Harlem Township, died many years ago. Her husband has shown a tender regard for her memory by refusing further matrimonial alliance. Another daughter of Mr. Bennett married Jacob R. Fetters, a farmer in Harlem. He had two sons, Daniel, Jr., and the Rev. Russell B. Bennett, a Chaplain in the Union army in the late war. The family connection by marriage and otherwise was very extensive, and this wide circle of kindred and friends was greatly blessed by the Christian example and precept of this aged patriarch.

Elijah Adams and his brother John came to Harlem in the year 1809. John purchased of Stephen Thompson his cabin, situated on the west of the farm on which Mr. Bennett settled, where he resided until his death, which occurred more than thirty years ago. His wife was Miss Desire Cook, the daughter of Benajah Cook, Esq.; she died a few years ago at a great age. They raised a large family. Mr. Adams was a very industrious and worthy man, highly respected by neighbors and friends. His oldest son, Abraham Adams, Esq., was a lawyer by profession, resided in Columbus, but soon after he was admitted to the bar, he died of pulmonary disease, leaving a young wife, who still remains his widow. Another son, Elijah B. Adams, was a graduate of the Ohio Wesleyan University, just previous to the war, and on the breaking-out of the rebellion, he entered the army as a private, but soon rose, by his brave and gallant conduct, to the rank and title of Captain. Early in the rebellion he was severely wounded and crippled for life by a fierce encounter with a rebel officer. All his fingers on his right hand were cut off by a saber, which compelled

him to leave active service and enter the invalid corps, where he remained until after the war. He was a brave soldier and a good officer. In 1872, he was nominated by the Republican party for the office of County Recorder, and elected by over 400 majority, and re-elected in 1875. As in the military so in the civil service, he made a good officer. After he retired from the office in the spring of 1879, he removed to Columbus, where he is engaged in business. A brother of Capt. Adams, John Adams, was a Justice of the Peace in his native township, but he has recently removed with his family to Colorado. Silas Adams, a son of his, is still living in Harlem on the old Thompson farm, and is a prosperous farmer. The elder Adams remained but a few months in Harlem, and moved into Radnor Township, where he improved a large farm, and resided on it for more than forty years. Like his brother and brother-in-law, Mr. Bennett, Squire Adams was an exemplary Christian and a good citizen. His wife was a Miss Cary and sister of Mrs. Waters, wife of N. B. Waters, who was one of the first settlers of Harlem. William Fancher, with his wife and a large family of sons and daughters, emigrated from Luzerne County, Penn., to Harlem in the year 1810, and purchased a tract of about 1,000 acres of land in the south part of the township. He was a soldier in the war of the Revolution, but the particulars of his service are not known. He died over forty years ago. His wife survived her husband many years. Mr. Fancher and his sons cleared up a large farm. They were all industrious people. A number of the sons of Mr. Fancher served in the war of 1812. They were all patriotic and brave, and served their country faithfully, and all were permitted to return at the close safe and sound. This family were so conspicuous and performed so important a part in the early settlement, that we regret that our limited facts compel us to be so brief.

In the same year, and it is believed at the same time, from the same part of the State of Pennsylvania, Mr. N. B. Waters, with his family, moved into the township, lived here for several years and then removed to Fairfield County, where he lived for about eighteen years. He then returned to Delaware County, and settled in the upper part of Radnor Township, where he lived until his death, which occurred in the year 1858. His wife was a Miss Cary, and was the sister of the wife of Squire Elijah Adams. His son, Benjamin C. Waters, was born in Fairfield County, but when quite a

young man he removed to Harlem, married the daughter of his father's old friend, Col. William Budd, about the year 1846. By trade he was a blacksmith, and for several years he followed the business in the village of Harlem, but he was an intelligent young man and was soon elected a Justice of the Peace. In 1860, he was elected Sheriff of the county, and in 1862 re-elected, and served in this office a period of four years. In the latter part of the war, he was Assistant Provost Marshal for the county, and for several years United States mail agent on the route from Cincinnati to Cleveland. In 1869, Mr. Waters was elected Probate Judge of Delaware County, and re-elected in 1872. Though not bred to the profession of the law, he had much legal learning, and his native good sense and judgment enabled him to discharge satisfactorily the responsible judicial duties of his office. Judge Waters, in all his official positions, had the reputation of being incorruptible and honest. He is now in poor health and living in retirement.

Among the early and most numerous of the pioneer families, is that of John Budd, who emigrated from the Wyoming Valley in the year 1810, and settled upon a large tract of several hundred acres, situated in the west part of the township, on Duncan Run. This family by marriage was connected with all the early families of this township. When Mr. Budd came to Ohio, he was considerably advanced in years, and all his sons were were young men grown. Their names were Benjamin, Eli, John and William. We may not give their names in chronological order of their births. Benjamin Budd settled east of his father, cleared up a farm, but in a few years afterward he sold his farm and moved to Indiana with his family and died there. His brother, Eli, settled on a farm further east, cleared it up, and about the same time sold out and emigrated to Indiana where he died. The elder Mr. Budd died on the old homestead, he helped to improve in the early days of the county, and his son William, by purchase and inheritance, became the owner of the old homestead property. His son John, or Dr. John Budd, the cognomen by which he was known, purchased from his father for \$250, 100 acres of land, situated north of the village of Buddtown, as it is called, where he settled and lived until his death, which occurred in 1872. Soon after his father settled in Harlem he married Miss Mary Adams, the sister of Elijah and John Adams. The fruit of this union was several children, some of whom are now living in

the vicinity of Harlem. He was by profession a physician of the botanical school, and had never enjoyed the advantages of a collegiate education, but had practical common sense and never undertook to do in his profession a thing beyond his skill. He was amiable and kind hearted, and a good citizen, and at his death was eighty-seven years of age. His wife died some years before him. William, who will be remembered by those who knew him as Col. Budd, was something of a character. He had dash and enterprise, owned and run a mill, kept store, carried on farming on a large scale, dealt in stock, and had a taste for military and political life. He was Colonel of a regiment in the peace establishment, and had a great taste for litigation. He sometimes engaged in legal practice in the Justice Courts. His wife was Miss Adams, a sister of Elijah Adams and Mrs. Bennett. They raised a large family of sons and daughters, and both died many years ago. He left a large estate. Upon his death, his oldest son, James Budd, became the owner of the "Old Budd Homestead," as it was called, consisting of several hundred acres, to which he made additions by purchase until he became the largest landholder in the township, and one of the largest in the county. James Budd was very much a "chip of the old block." Like his father, generous and kind-hearted. For many years he was extensively engaged in the stock trade, and at the close of the war met with heavy pecuniary losses, sold his farm and moved West. The oldest daughter married Maj. Jesse C. Tull about forty-five years ago. He was a native of the State of New York, and, when a young man, came to Ohio and was employed as a school teacher in Harlem. After his marriage to Miss Budd, he was an active business man in Harlem, dividing his time in agricultural and mercantile pursuits. He is now, and for many years past has been, engaged in the hotel business in Columbus. Another daughter, as has already been seen, is the wife of Judge B. C. Waters. There are still living in Harlem a number of the descendants of this family.

Benjamin M. Fairchild immigrated to Harlem either in 1808 or 1809, the exact date is not known. He came from Bennington, Vt. For many years after he came to Harlem, he was employed by Benajah Cook, to work on the farm and at other kinds of work. He was a millwright and mechanic by occupation, but possessed a versatility of genius that enabled him to take up and lay down at will, almost any trade he chose. When

he came to Harlem he was unmarried, and lived for several years in the life of single blessedness in Harlem, but being a Christian in his religious faith, he yielded to the Divine sentiment, "It is not good for man to be alone," and, about the commencement of the war of 1812, he married a wife, and sent for his brother, Shuman, who was married and had a family, and was living in Vermont, to join him with his family in Harlem. He had already, by his industry and savings, laid up money enough to purchase a farm from Mr. Cook, of about 150 acres. Mr. Fairchild was a very industrious and worthy citizen. He built several grist and saw mills, and opened up several stone quarries. He gave gratuitously the stone for the Central College. These quarries he bought from Col. Moses Byxbe, and were located on Duncan Run. He died in 1878, at an advanced age. His brother moved into the township in 1812, to Harlem, and lived on a farm south of his brother's farm and adjoining. He was liberal and charitable to the poor. He died without heirs, and left his estate to his wife and his brother's family, except \$1,500, which he donated to the church.

One of the earliest and best examples of a pioneer and backwoodsman is Mr. George Fix, who settled in Harlem Township over sixty years ago, on a farm of 100 acres, located near the southeast corner of the township. He raised a large family of sons and daughters, all of whom live unmarried with the old people on the old homestead, and in their habits and manner of life are, for all practical purposes, hermits. The old gentleman, at the age of eighty-five, is stout and active. By nature a stalwart, with a large and muscular frame in his younger days, he was capable of great physical endurance. He is an honest, inoffensive man. His sons and daughters, in the character of their persons and habits, resemble their father in his eccentricities. Conrad Wickizer, a native of Berks County, Penn., settled in the southeast part of the township about the year 1812. He improved a farm and raised a large family; many of them and their descendants are still living in Harlem, and the eastern part of the county. George Wickizer was well educated, and held several township offices. He was an honest and upright man. Mr. Wickizer died of cholera, which it was supposed he took from exposure. During the cholera season in Columbus near thirty years ago, his son, who was living in Columbus, was attacked by this malignant disease and died; the father conveyed the remains to Harlem for burial, and was soon

afterward attacked by the disease, and in a few hours died. There are quite a number of the family connection still living in Harlem. One of the early families in this township was the Mann family—Thomas Mann, Eleazer Mann, Abijah Mann and Gorden Mann. They intermarried with the early families and have left a large and numerous posterity, now much scattered. Some are still living in Delaware and some in Franklin County, and many have moved West. Daniel Hunt, Esq., a native of Washington County, Penn., immigrated to Harlem, and settled upon a farm of 200 acres, about one mile east of Harlem Center. He cleared up his farm, and was an industrious man and very prosperous in his worldly affairs, but bail debts he was compelled to pay, and other misfortunes, very much embarrassed him financially, and, now over seventy years of age, the fruits of hard labor in his younger days have been taken from him to pay the debts of other people. He came to Harlem about the year 1835. He held the office of Justice of the Peace for several years, is a member of the Disciples' Church, or the Campbellite Church, and is an honest man. John Hanover and his family immigrated from Ohio County, W. Va., to Ohio, about fifty years ago, and settled on a farm in the southeast part of the township, where he cleared up his farm and raised a large family. He died about twenty years ago upon the homestead he helped to clear up and improve. It is now owned and occupied by his son, Mr. Lyman Hanover, who is an Elder in the Baptist Church.

Between fifty and sixty years ago, Elam Blain, Esq., immigrated from Pennsylvania and settled on a new farm on Spruce Run. He was an intelligent but unassuming man, and reared a large family of children. For fifteen years, he was a Justice of the Peace of Harlem Township, and held other official positions. On a farm adjoining the farm of Squire Blain, on Spruce Run, a man by the name of John Miller settled, about sixty years ago. He was a hard-working man, honest, and was one of the pioneers who cleared up the township of Harlem, and encountered the trials and hardships of life in a new country. He died on the farm on which he had lived, only a few days before this history was written (March, 1880). He was, at his death, over eighty years of age, and left a large family of children and grandchildren. About the same time that Mr. Hunt settled, his brother-in-law, Jonathan Bateson, a native of Washington County, Penn., settled on a farm of

200 acres, on the north of Squire Hunt's farm. He cleared up a large farm, and was a very industrious man. He was for several years a Justice of the Peace, and was always highly respected. He and Squire Hunt married two sisters; their maiden name was McClelland. Nathan Paul settled upon a farm of about 400 acres, about one-half mile east of Harlem Centre, in the year 1839. He was an enterprising and intelligent man, and, in a worldly point of view, was a thrifty man. His wife was a Miss Bell, who is still living. He died in the year 1850, at the age of forty-one years, leaving a large estate, and two sons and a daughter.

Among the prominent and leading farmers of this township, thirty years ago, were George Gardinghout, Thomas Goosuch, Joseph Goosuch, David Goosuch, John Goosuch, and others. But the scope and purpose of this work is to write the history of the township and sketch the early pioneers, and incidents connected with their descendants.

Late in the autumn of the year 1871, the quiet and peaceable community of Harlem was startled by the announcement that one of the most active business men of the township had been cruelly and wickedly murdered. Mr. Charles F. Garner, for many years a resident of Harlem, a successful farmer and stock-dealer, by occupation had been for several years engaged in the business of purchasing, for the butchers and the Columbus meat market, fat cattle and hogs. On the 28th of November, he drove to Columbus a lot of fat cattle. After making sale and receiving his pay, amounting to several hundred dollars, he started, late in the evening, for his home in Harlem, with his money in his possession. On his departure from the city, and without his knowledge, a young man named Barclay, who had previously made his home with Mr. Garner, and had been in his employ, concealed himself in the rear part of his wagon. On reaching the covered bridge crossing Alum Creek, about four miles from Columbus, on the road from the city to his home in Harlem, Barclay struck him over the head with a club and broke in his skull. The blow, though not producing instant death, so stunned him that he became unconscious. Barclay, supposing he was dead, after robbing him of his money, left him in his buggy in the bridge, and made his escape. Garner soon rallied from his unconsciousness sufficiently to drive his team to a neighboring farmhouse, where he stopped and remained until his death, which occurred on the 3d of December, following.

The evidence of Barclay's guilt was only circumstantial. He was arrested, near Summerford, Madison County, and was immediately indicted by the grand jury of Franklin County, for murder in the first degree, tried, found guilty and hanged. Whether the murder was committed for "hire and salary, and not revenge," or both, is known only to that tribunal before which all are to be tried, and that will commit no mistakes. Before his execution, the wretch made a full confession of his guilt, and then suffered the righteous punishment prescribed by that ancient law, "that whosoever sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed."

The first church or meeting-house built in this township was by the Methodists, in the year 1812, on the farm of Benajah Cook, Esq. It was a plain log house, small in size, and the first minister who officiated in it was the Rev. Daniel Bennett. For many years, there was regular preaching on "week days," once a month, and at first it belonged to the Columbus circuit, but afterward was attached to the Worthington circuit. The congregation worshipped in this log house until 1838, when a new church was built upon the present site, about one mile north of Harlem. It is a large and commodious brick structure. The dedication sermon was preached by the Rev. Uriah Heath, of Worthington. At Centerville, the Methodists have a church, an offshoot of the Harlem Church, which was built about the year 1845. At first the congregation worshipped in a schoolhouse just east of the village, and the Campbellites also worshipped in the schoolhouse on alternate Sundays, and, on account of the difficulties that would sometimes occur between the respective congregations, it was called, in derision, "Confusion Schoolhouse." The present structure was built about 1855, at a cost of \$1,600. The bell cost \$372. This church was also dedicated by the Rev. Uriah Heath. The present minister is the Rev. Ralph Watson. The Disciples, or Campbellites, organized a church in this township, in the year 1840, at the residence of Jonathan Bateson. The first organization consisted of nine members, as follows, viz.: James Oglesbee and wife, Jonathau Bateson and wife, James Beauseman and wife, C. D. Clark and Daniel Hunt and wife. The present church edifice is located about one mile east of Centerville, and cost \$1,500. In the year 1861, the Old School Predestinarian Baptists organized a church, and built the church edifice in 1868, the money to build the same having been donated by Mrs.

Huldah Fairchild. The first Pastor was the Rev. John H. Biggs. The present Pastor is Elder Lyman B. Hanover.

The first mill built in this township was run by hand, and the second mill was run by horse-power, and built in 1815 or 1816. Soon after these mills were built, John Budd, Sr., built the first grist-mill that was run by water power, and at the same time built a saw-mill. Benjamin M. Fairchild built a grist and saw mill. These mills are located on Duncan Run. Benajah Cook at an early day, built a saw-mill on Duncan Run. Col. D. Keeler on Spencer Run erected a saw-mill at an early day. For many years after this township was first settled, the nearest mills for grinding wheat were at Chillicothe. There is now a good steam grist-mill at Centerville.

The first post office in Harlem was at Buddtown or Harlem. It was established in 1816, and the first Postmaster was Col. William Budd.

The first death in the township was that of a Mr. Harris, but the circumstances of his death are not recorded, and there is now no one living who knows the particulars. He was probably a stranger in the township.

The Indian trails of seventy years ago have been superseded by broad public highways, traversing the township in every direction. There are roads running east and west, and north and south on the section lines, and crossing at right angles at the center of the township.

The first schoolhouse built in the township was built near the close of the war of 1812, and the first

teacher was David Gregory, of Berkshire. The house was a log cabin, with holes cut through the logs, and greased paper pasted on the logs over the windows to let the light into the interior. This house was located on the site of Harlem Chapel. The first school teacher, Mr. Gregory, subsequently became a prominent citizen of Delaware County—was a Justice of the Peace, County Commissioner, Representative in the State Legislature, Director of the State Prison at Columbus, and was a man of much more than ordinary ability. Soon after the commencement of the war of the rebellion, he emigrated to the State of California, where he died several years ago. This rude schoolhouse in the wilderness where the children of the pioneer received a scanty education, has multiplied to about eight times its numbers. The public schools are supported on an average half a year at the public expense, and taught by competent teachers.

This township contains but two towns or villages. Centerville is situated at the center of the township, and was laid out in 1848. The proprietors of this village were Edward Hartrain and Ben Roberts. Harlem Village was laid out in 1849, and the proprietors were Amos Washburn and James Budd. Centerville contains two stores, two blacksmiths, the M. E. Church, an apothecary's office, one wagon-maker's shop, and some other mechanics, and in all, about one hundred and fifty inhabitants. Harlem Village is not so large. It has one store and several mechanics, and not to exceed fifty inhabitants.

CHAPTER XXX.*

GENOA TOWNSHIP—TOPOGRAPHICAL—SETTLEMENT—RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL—MILLS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS—POST OFFICES.

"Where is the patriarch you are so kindly greeting?
Not unfamiliar to my ear his name,
Nor yet unknown to many a joyous meeting
In days long vanished—is he still the same?"

—Holmes.

GENOA TOWNSHIP, named by Elisha Bennett from the town of Genoa, in Italy, is situated south of the township of Berkshire, in Range 17, and is known as Township 3. The western half of Genoa formerly belonged to the old township of Berkshire, while the eastern half was in the town-

* Contributed by H. L. S. Vaile.

ship of Sunbury. When Harlem was formed, it took in all of what is now Genoa, which latter was set off from the former June 4, 1816, and, at present, is bounded as follows: On the north by Berkshire; on the east by Harlem; on the south by Franklin County, and on the west by Orange Township. It is composed entirely of United States military lands, and is a full township, being five miles square. The principal stream which enters the township is the Big Walnut, called in some sections the Gehenna, and Big Belly. It received the name of Big Walnut in

this township, from the fact that its banks and bottoms were covered with a dense growth of black-walnut trees, which have long since, in a large degree, disappeared, and now, when black-walnut lumber commands a high price, and finds a ready sale both in this country and in Europe, we are not surprised that the farmers and old settlers speak in a regretful manner, of the loss sustained by the lavish use of this timber for fence rails, at an early day. Thousands of rails have been split, and old dug-out canoes made from logs that to-day would be worth hundreds of dollars. The doors, floors and sometimes even the walls of the cabins were made from this wood, and it is related, that, in clearing the land along the banks of the Big Walnut, the early settlers used to chop the tree in such a manner that it would fall into the creek and thus be carried away by the current. The Big Walnut flows through Genoa Township from north to south, just east of the central part, with a very winding course, receiving from both the east and west a number of small tributaries. In the early settlement, the waters were alive with fish. Game of every description was found in the forest that lined its banks, and the Indians held this locality in high favor, and expressed many regrets when called upon by the whites to vacate the land which had been bought from them, and, when removed beyond the treaty line, would avail themselves of every opportunity to come down and hunt. The soil is quite rich. In a few localities there are deposits of sand and gravel; beds of clay are frequently met with which have been utilized in many instances by the farmers, as the fine brick houses scattered throughout the township will abundantly testify. Along the course of the Big Walnut occasionally are to be found rich bottoms which bear abundantly, but which are frequently overflowed by the spring and winter freshets, although these inundations tend in some instances to make the raising of a crop a hazardous undertaking. However, the mud deposited by this overflow is an excellent fertilizer, thus compensating by an increased yield for the occasional loss of a crop. One of the greatest freshets experienced in this locality took place in September, 1866, at which time the bottoms were flooded. Sheep, hogs and cattle were drowned; haystacks and parts of buildings were seen going down stream.

About the same distance west of the central portion of the township is what is called the Ridge, a high piece of land forming the "divide" between

the waters of Alum Creek, in Orange Township, and the Big Walnut. On either side of this water-shed the land becomes comparatively level. However, along the course of the Walnut on the west, it is badly broken; east of the same, it is rolling. The land is naturally well drained, although in some localities and especially on the bottom lands, artificial drainage is absolutely necessary. In its geological aspect, the township presents some interesting features. Along the west bank of the Big Walnut, about two miles below the town of Galena are seen a wonderful shale deposit. Here in one place, the road called Yankee street makes a curve, and, rising with a hill, follows along the very edge of the highest shale cliffs to be found in Delaware County. For fifty, and, in some instances as high as sixty feet, the cliffs rise almost perpendicularly from the bed of the Big Walnut. The view from the top of the cliff is very fine, but the danger to be met with sometimes, as the following incident will show, detracts very materially from the romance of the scenery. Ira Bennett, who lived in the township, was traveling homeward one dark night, riding a blind horse, and when he had reached the locality where the road is so near the edge of the precipice, his horse lost the track, and walked off the cliff. Bennett in his descent grasped a bush, and finally succeeded in reaching the top of the cliff, more frightened than hurt. His horse was found dead the next morning at the base of the cliff. At another time, Lewis McLeod was but little more fortunate. While riding along near the same spot, the night being dark and his horse blind in the eye next to the precipice, the horse saw a light from the other side of the road, when he shied and went over the cliff. McLeod sprang from the horse's back just in time to save himself from going over, but his horse fell to the bottom. The next day, a party upon going to the spot where the accident happened, to their great surprise found the horse alive at the bottom of the cliff, although somewhat bruised. They succeeded in getting him home, and in a few days he was apparently ready to try it again. In some places along the Big Walnut, there is an outcropping of Waverly sandstone, which is excellent for building purposes, although the quarries in Trenton and Berkshire are more generally worked, and the stone is said to be of rather a superior quality. In some places in the beds of shale, there is found a thin layer of limestone of inferior grade. On account of the ease with which it can be quarried, however, it is sometimes used for building

poses, but one trial is sufficient for the most venturesome house-builder. After being taken from the bed and exposed to the air, heat and frost, it begins to crumble, and the builder soon finds that his house is liable to come tumbling down.

The first settler in what is now Genoa Township was Jeremiah Curtis. He started from his home, in Hartford, Conn., with his family, July 9, 1804. His conveyance was a three-horse team, and, after seven weeks of travel, he arrived at the town of Worthington. In 1805, moved to Berkshire, where he built a cabin and planted a nursery—the first in the county—from seed brought from Connecticut. He had been here but a short time, when he bought of Col. Byxbe a section of land on Yankee street, and, about the year 1806, moved on to this land, situated on the Big Walnut, near the oxbow head of the creek. At this early date, there was no mill nearer than Chillicothe, and the wheaten flour that he brought back with him from a trip to that place, was the first in the locality. Soon after he located, he built a grist and saw mill, and a still-house. Salt was \$5 per bushel and Zanesville the nearest place to get it. In 1811, fearing the effect of the war, which was soon to take place, he, for the protection of his family, moved to Marietta. He lived but a short time after moving to that place, dying of spotted fever June 21, 1813. He was a man of indomitable energy and perseverance, as well as sound judgment. After his death, his son, afterward the Hon. John Curtis, moved the family back to the farm on the Big Walnut. John was ten years old when his father came to Ohio and had to bear his share of the trials of a pioneer life. He ultimately became a man of great influence and held a number of positions of trust and honor.

In the winter of 1806-07, John Williams, a local minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church, came to this locality and erected a cabin on the hill near where the covered bridge crosses the Big Walnut, at what was known as Williams' Ford. It was not until the summer of 1807 that he moved his family, consisting of his wife and ten children, into their new home. He found this country almost an unbroken wilderness, and, like a true, earnest pioneer, worked as well as prayed. In the daytime, the blows of his ax could be heard resounding through the woods, while in the evening he gathered his family about him and held a service of prayer. When Sunday came, he would

repair to the home of one of the early settlers, and deliver a sermon to those who had assembled. His first sermon was preached in the cabin of Joseph Latschaw, on the farm now occupied by John Roberts. Mr. Williams was the first minister in the neighborhood, but lived only five years after he had erected his cabin. His son William remained with him until 1812. In that year, he joined a detachment of the army which was on its way to Fort Meigs, and was under Harrison when that fort was besieged by the British and Indians. After the war, he returned to his father's, and located in the immediate vicinity. He died a number of years ago. Thomas, another son, settled near by, on the creek. His oldest son, James, was the first white child born in the township. Thomas is dead, although his descendants still live in the old brick house on Yankee street. Joseph Latschaw came here about 1807, from New England, and at first entered Berkshire, where he remained but a short time, when he moved into Genoa, and located upon the land now owned by John Roberts. This settlement was in the northern part of the township, southwest from the town of Galena. Here he erected his cabin and immediately cleared about four acres on the bottom opposite. At that time, this bottom was covered with driftwood, which served as a convenient source from which to gather his fuel. He remained on this farm until 1810. In the spring of that year, Hezekiah Roberts came to Genoa, from Luzerne County, Penn., bought Latschaw out, and began planting corn in the bottom land that had been cleared. The supplies he had brought with him had given out, and it became necessary to procure an additional stock. In the mean time, a child had been born to him, and it was necessary to obtain some luxuries for the mother. So he started through the woods, and, by following the Indian trail, reached the town of Zanesville, where he succeeded in getting what supplies he could carry, and returned home to his wife, who was anxiously awaiting his arrival. He made another trip to Zanesville soon after, and while there purchased a number of young apple-trees, which he set out on the land opposite his cabin. Roberts was a blacksmith, and immediately put up a small log shop just east of his cabin, the first of the kind in this section. In this shop he worked until his son was large enough to take his place. Roberts assisted to erect the old Custis mill, the first in the township, and was one of the first men who raised a crop of flax. He bought the old Copeland mill, and, moving it

to the west side of the creek, ran it for several years. His son, "Long" John Roberts, so called on account of his great height, was the second white child born in this township. When his father ceased to work at the blacksmithing trade, John took his place and worked continually for forty years. At present, he is obliged to relax his accustomed labors on account of ill health. The house he occupies was built in 1813, and he has lived in it since that time. David Weeks entered the township in the latter part of 1807. He was from Saratoga County, N. Y., and located on land now occupied by Shoaf, south from the present village of Galena. Weeks has been dead for a number of years. William Cox came into the settlement the same year that Weeks put up his cabin. He was from Pennsylvania, and in his passage over the mountains had to undergo many hardships, nearly freezing to death one night in the great forest west of the Alleghanies. After countless difficulties, he succeeded in reaching Worthington, from which place he soon after entered Genoa Township, and settled on the Big Walnut, in the "Ox Bow" bend of that creek. He immediately put up his cabin, and continued to live upon and improve his land until his death. Marcus Curtis, a brother of Jeremiah Curtis, and Elisha Newell, with their families, both from Connecticut, arrived in the settlement in 1808. The former purchased a tract of 681 acres of land on Yankee street, in the northeast part of the township. He it was who accompanied his brother to Chillicothe, and helped bring back the first supply of wheaten flour seen in this locality. Marcus, not long after his arrival, began the manufacture of brick from clay found on his farm, and built the first brick structure in the township. The house is still standing on Yankee street, a short distance below Jay Dyer's. He was the first, also, to introduce the Durham breed of cattle into the township. Newell located his family on Yankee street, in close proximity to the Curtises. A few years after, he purchased the saw and grist mill which Jeremiah Curtis had erected, and began running both mills, but not being very successful, he sold out in about a year to Hezekiah Roberts, after which he confined himself to farming. Alexander Smith, whose sons and relatives are at present prominent members of the community, came to Ohio from Pennsylvania in 1808. He settled upon land situated nearly in the central part of the township, and was a man prominently identified with its

interests, both agriculturally and politically. For many years, he was an Elder of the Presbyterian Church.

Fulrad Seebring, grandfather of William and Washington Seebring, came into this section in 1810, and set to work at once reclaiming his grant from the great forest trees. This land was located on the east side of the Big Walnut, near C. Roberts, and the first clearing that he made was on a rich "bottom" of the creek. His cabin was situated near Big Walnut, and thus an abundant supply of water for stock and other purposes was afforded. Ary Hendricks came in 1810, and located on land southwest of Galena. He took an active part in the early settlement of the township, and was one of the first officials. Thomas Harris and his son-in-law, Henry Bennett, came to this township in 1810. They were originally from Pennsylvania and emigrated from that State to Hocking County in 1805, where they remained until 1808, when they followed the Indian trail north and entered what is now Harlem Township, but which, at that time, was included in the township of Sunbury. They remained here two years, then in 1810 sold their land, upon which some improvements had been made, "forded" the Big Walnut near the covered bridge, which spans it where the road that leads to Harlem crosses, came to what is now Genoa Township. They at once set to work and raised comfortable log cabins. Bennett's cabin was situated near Yankee street, on the farm upon which his son, H. Bennett, resides. After he had been in this locality for some time, he erected a substantial frame house, which is still standing. Thomas Harris, the old pioneer, died at the advanced age of one hundred years and six months. His son, Samuel Harris, was frozen to death in his wagon, on his return from hauling provisions to the soldiers at the North. Some thought that he was killed and robbed by two men who were with him on his return, but this is not generally considered the fact. Elizabeth Harris Bennett, widow of Henry Bennett, is the oldest living person in Delaware County, and one of the first women that came to this locality. She was born in New Jersey, on the 10th of May, 1778, and is at present one hundred and two years of age. She was married to Henry Bennett on the 22d of February, 1794, in Pennsylvania, and accompanied her husband, and her father, Thomas Harris, to Ohio, and took part in all their movements preliminary to the permanent settlement made in Genoa in 1810. For a woman of her age she is wonderfully preserved,

having all her faculties intact and seeing without the aid of glasses.

Byzbe Rogers was an old Revolutionary soldier, and served under Washington and other commanders seven years. He was with the "Father of his Country" when he made his famous crossing of the Delaware River to attack the Hessians at Trenton in 1777. Rogers came to Ohio from the State of Pennsylvania about 1809, and settled for a short period in Knox County. Having disposed of his property in that locality, for a large grant of land in this section, he moved up here in 1810 and located the farm now occupied by Henderson. For the first few years, he was actively engaged in clearing his land. His influence contributed largely to the formation of the new township of Genoa. He died in 1825. Jacob Clauson came from Luzerne County, Penn., in 1810. He was induced to emigrate from the latter State by Ezekiah Roberts and accompanied him hither. He was a shoemaker by trade and the first one of that calling that came to this settlement. When Roberts bought his farm and cabin from Latshaw, Clauson purchased a small piece of ground from him and, erecting a little cabin, commenced his occupation of shoemaking. After remaining here a short time, he found that the business did not warrant his remaining and he closed up his shop and journeyed to Franklinton for the purpose of getting work. While looking for work in that town, he assisted in raising the first log cabin upon the site where now stands the city of Columbus. Finding that work of his trade was as scarce in Franklinton as where he had just left, he returned to his former place of residence, and began to clear a piece of ground, and continued to occupy himself as a farmer until his death.

Elisha Bennett, one of the earliest settlers, came here from Pennsylvania, by way of Harlem, as early as 1809. His glory lies in the fact that when it was decided to organize and erect a separate township from Harlem, and the project was carried into execution, he had the honor of naming the same. When he came to Genoa, he settled on land near the Maxwell Corners, and died there a number of years ago. Jonas Carter settled here, and was from New England, at an early date, and located his grant on the Big Walnut, which is the farm now owned and occupied by Jay Dyer. He erected his cabin on the rising ground just east of the creek, and began clearing a small lot on the "bottom," but becoming discouraged from some reason or other, he sold out to Jonathan Dyer,

and moved into the State of Indiana, where he died. Dyer lived upon the land until his death. Johnson Pelton and Sylvester Hough settled here in 1812. They were from the East, and entered the present limits of this township by way of Berkshire, settling on land just south of Galena. They have passed away, with a majority of those of that day. Mitchum started for this township from New England, with his family, and while on his way, took sick at the town of Cadiz, Harrison Co., Ohio, and died there. The rest of the family continued on, and reached this locality where they settled. In connection with his son, Hines Mitchum, a very interesting story is related. He was a very religious man, and used to journey to great distances, for the purpose of participating in the church exercises. Moreover, he was an excellent singer, and his presence was often sought, and always appreciated. There was a quarterly meeting (it will be seen by this that he was a good Methodist) to be held at the little town of Westerville, in Franklin County, on a certain evening, and as the meeting was to close with singing and other appropriate exercises, he was cordially invited to attend, and, on the afternoon preceding the evening of the day on which it was to be held, he started for Westerville. At that time, a dense wood stretched away for miles in every direction, and there was not even an Indian trail leading from the settlement on the Big Walnut, in Genoa Township, to the town of Westerville. But Mitchum, trusting in his knowledge of the woods, started in the direction of the town. Dusk found him quite a distance from his point of destination, and he was plodding along, unmindful of the shadows that were creeping down upon him, when he was startled by a long howl, which sent the blood curdling to his very heart. He knew that sound too well to be mistaken. It was the hungry, famished cry of the gray wolf. Soon he heard the same cry at the north, then at the south, and then from every direction. He knew that he was surrounded, that he had not a moment to lose, so, selecting a tree that stood near, he was soon hid among its branches, and none too soon, for scarcely had he seated himself on one of the limbs, than, with a mighty bound, a huge wolf sprang upon the spot he had just vacated. In a short time, the entire pack assembled at the bottom of the tree, and expressed their disappointment in howls of baffled rage. Mitchum appreciated the fact that he was in rather an uncomfortable position. Night was fast approaching, and the

idea of remaining in that tree until the next morning was anything but pleasant. Suddenly the thought struck him, that he would sing. The idea was certainly a novel one, but worth the attempt, so, striking up one of his familiar airs, he poured forth the notes in his most melodious strains. He had sung but a short time, when he was surprised to find that the wolves had ceased howling, and thus encouraged, he continued singing, while they all sneaked off. Whether they left in disgust, or felt the overpowering influence of his voice, he never said, but it is related that when he arrived at Westerville, just after the meeting closed, he gave an account of his experience by saying that he had just come from a praise meeting, where the voices were naturally strong, but needed cultivation.

Comfort Penney came to this locality about 1812, and was one of the first to erect his cabin on the "Ridge." He was from Pennsylvania. Lanson Gooding came about the same time, and located near Penney, on the "Ridge." He was from the East, and in 1814 taught one of the first schools in the township. The building was a log cabin, and was situated on the farm of Ralph Smith. John Roberts, an early settler, came from the Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania, and when John Butler, the Tory leader, together with Brant and his Mohawks, swept into that beautiful valley and began massacring the settlers, Roberts fled to the fort, and when that was taken, he succeeded in escaping to the Federal lines near Philadelphia. After the close of the Revolution, he settled in Pennsylvania, whence he moved hither before the war of 1812, and settled on Yankee street. When a detachment of Harrison's army came through the western part of Genoa, on its way to Delaware via Berkshire, he joined it, and was under Harrison at the siege of Fort Meigs. After peace was declared, he returned to his home on the Big Walnut, where he continued to reside until his death. Duell, the first physician in the township, came at an early date. Dr. Skeels was also an early settler. William Hall came to Ohio in 1806, with the man to whom he had been apprenticed in Goshen, Conn., and settled with him at Worthington. He was born in Vermont, and at this time was sixteen years of age. He remained here until early in 1811, when he, in company with a friend, started for Connecticut, via Cleveland, on foot, arriving there in the early part of the summer. On their way through the woods, near Cleveland, they were one day con-

fronted by a huge panther. Both being unarmed, they each seized a club, and after a great deal of yelling and flourishing of their rude weapons, succeeded in scaring him away. Soon tiring of the monotony of an Eastern life, he returned to Ohio in November of the same year. In 1812, he responded to a call for volunteers to help locate and cut out the old military road, over which supplies were transported to Fort Meigs. Mr. Hall soon after was appointed a recruiting officer, and succeeded in raising a company for the regular service, and was commissioned a First Lieutenant. His company was attached to the Twenty-seventh Regiment of infantry, the Colonel being Lewis Cass. He was with Harrison at Detroit, and in the invasion with Canada, and took part in the battle of the Thames. After this battle, which eventually ended the war in this direction, he was discharged, having served his country for three years. In 1815, he married Polly Curtis, and settled on the Curtis farm, in this township, where he spent his life.

From 1816 to 1819, there came into the township the families of Diadatus Keeler (who was a very enterprising man, and the first to introduce fine-wooled sheep, and the China and Berkshire breed of hogs), E. Washburn, Jacob Hartburn, Abraham Wells, Eleazar and George Copeland. Dr. Eleazar Copeland was a man who, upon his advent into the township, began to use all his energy and resources for the promotion of its best interests, and was connected with nearly all the pioneer industries. He was drowned in the waters of the Big Walnut, under the following circumstances: He was part owner of a saw-mill situated on that stream, and, during a continuance of low water, there had accumulated a great many logs about the mill. A sudden and heavy rain having raised the water in the creek, the logs were floated off, and began going down stream in the current. His wife, noticing this fact, suggested that her husband, who was an excellent swimmer, should enter the water and try and save them. The doctor leaped in for the purpose of gaining the other side, but when about in the middle, he was seized with cramps, and after a vain effort to reach the bank, sank under the turbulent waters, and was drowned. This occurred on Wednesday, and although people gathered from every direction to search for his body, it was not found until the following Sunday, and then under circumstances which were very peculiar. It was understood throughout the section that a thorough search was

to be made on that day, and a great crowd had gathered for that purpose. John Roberts and his brother-in-law, Mr. Smith, had left the main party, who were exploring near where he went under, and began to search farther down stream, on the west bank. Having sat down nearly opposite the mouth of Spruce Run to take a rest, John Roberts' attention was attracted by the hum of flies, and watching them closely, he saw them go in and out of a small hole which had been made by one of the searching party in a sand-bar. He went down to the spot, and, after scraping away the sand, he discovered the body, face downward, completely covered with sand and drift-wood.

Joseph Linnabau, an industrious and energetic farmer, came to Genoa Township a few years previous to the Copelands. They emigrated from Luzerne County, Penn., and settled in the south central portion of this township. Dusenbury and Roswell Cooke came somewhat later than the Copelands. The latter was the first to introduce thorough-bred cattle into this township. There is an old tradition which has been handed down through the early settlers, that somewhere along the course of the little creek called Spruce Run, opposite the mouth of which Dr. Copeland's body was found, there is a lead mine. The pioneers relate that often a body of Indians would come down to this locality, and, after hunting a few days, for the purpose of removing any suspicion that might be aroused, they would go up this creek, and, after remaining for some time, would pass north, loaded with lead, which was almost pure. A number of attempts have been made since to discover the mine, but without success.

The Rev. E. Washburn came with his wife to Genoa in the winter of 1816-17, when society and all else in this newly settled country was comparatively in a primitive state. Money was almost unobtainable, and that little in circulation was, in many instances, unstable and depreciated. Necessities were more difficult to secure than luxuries are now. Under such circumstances, and amidst these trying conditions, it would appear that a field of great usefulness was open to the advent of a man like Mr. Washburn. He was a universally esteemed and loved father in the Presbyterian ministry, an ordained and appointed missionary of the Cross, but was solely dependent for support upon his labor and the voluntary contributions of the people among whom he devoted his untiring energies. At the time of his coming, there re-

sided on Yankee street only the families of Jonas Carter, John Curtis, William Hall, William Cox, Marcus Curtis, Johnson Pelton and Sylvester Hough. Previous to Mr. Washburn's arrival, there had been but one sermon preached by a Presbyterian clergyman within the present limits of the township, and not one had been preached upon the Sabbath day. He immediately commenced preaching throughout the regions which are now embraced in the townships of Blendon, in Franklin County, Genoa, Berkshire and Trenton, in Delaware County, and continued so to preach until the year 1829 or 1830. He often spoke of the many acts of kindness and fraternal regard he and his family received from the hands of the early settlers and pioneers of the forest. Just previous to his coming, there had been organized by the Rev. Mr. Hughes, then of Delaware, a Presbyterian Church in Berkshire, the members of which were scattered over Genoa and adjoining townships, but, on looking for the records, none were found; so that, in 1818, the church was again formally organized, and Samuel Thompson, Julius White and John Brown were chosen and ordained as its Ruling Elders. Mrs. Rachel Curtis, Mrs. Katy Curtis, Ralph Smith, William Hall and Alexander Smith were members of the Berkshire Church, but resided in the vicinity. In 1830, the Presbytery set off the members who resided in the vicinity, and constituted them into a separate church, known as the "Presbyterian Church and congregation of Genoa." The members who were thus set off were sixteen in number, and, as near as can possibly be ascertained, were Marcus Curtis and Katy (his wife), Ralph Smith, Rachel Curtis, William Hall, Alexander Smith, Nancy Allen, Freeman Chester, Simeon Chester and Charissa (his wife), Diadatus Keeler, Eleazar Copeland, Obediah Seebring and Abigail (his wife), Mary Foote and Augustus Curtis. Just previous to this time, the Rev. Mr. Washburn was living upon a tract of land containing a few acres, which he had purchased and improved, situated on the farm then owned by William Hall, nearly opposite the road leading to the mill, a little north of Mr. Roberts' residence on Yankee street. He continued to supply his neighborhood with preaching until some two years after he removed his residence to Blendon.

On the 19th of February, 1831, the session of the Genoa Church met for the first time, the Rev. Abah Jinks being Moderator, and Diadatus Keeler and Eleazar Copeland Elders. These men

were appointed by the Presbytery, and as there is no mention made on the records of their ordination, it is presumed they were Elders in the Leburn, or Blendon Church, at the time of their transfer to this organization. The Rev. Ahab Jinks continued to minister to the congregation until 1836, when he was succeeded by Rev. Calvin Ransom. During this year, fourteen members who resided in Trenton Township and its immediate vicinity, were set off and organized as the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton. In 1837, Mr. Jinks was again the stated supply, and so continued until 1841. During the year 1840, a protracted meeting was held, in which the Rev. Mr. Cable assisted the minister in charge. In 1842, the Rev. John McCutchen was their Pastor, and continued to minister to the congregation one year. In 1844, the Rev. R. De Forrest came and preached as an evangelist for the space of about eight weeks. In the succeeding year, 1845, the Rev. Mr. Avery officiated, and continued his ministrations one, or perhaps, nearly two, years. From the year 1845 to the year 1850, the congregation enjoyed the labors of the Rev. Mr. Whipple, Rev. Milton Starr and Rev. M. Brown. In 1850, the Rev. Warren Nichols occupied the pulpit and remained until about the close of the year 1852. In the summer of 1853, the Rev. David Coyner, then a licentiate of Franklin Presbytery, was employed, and continued his labors for two years and part of a third. From the fall of the year 1855 until the summer of 1856, the pulpit was vacant. At that time, the Rev. Homer McVey, then a student of Lane Seminary, during his vacation preached for the charge occasionally. August 1, 1856, the Rev. Warren Jenkins—from whose discourse, delivered January 1, 1860, we have gathered the information in relation to the church, and other items of interest—entered upon his labors, and, at the time this sermon was delivered, had supplied this congregation and that of Trenton alternately. Following him, and for the space of three years and five months thereafter, the Rev. Mr. Coyner had charge, since which time there has been but little preaching, and, for a number of years, they have had no regular Pastor. In the summer, however, they have a Sunday school. When the church was first organized, it held meetings in the schoolhouse then standing in the rear of the present residence of Augustus Curtis. In the year 1837-38, the present house of worship was erected, and the same was dedicated the 8th of December, 1838.

The Methodist Episcopal Church existed as an organization as early as 1840, worshipping in schoolhouses and cabins of the settlers. It was not until 1849, they commenced to build at Maxwell Corners a frame church at a cost of \$800. The church was dedicated by an English minister named Taylor. The ministers who have held this charge are as follows: George G. West, Havens Parker, William Porter, Havens Parker, Samuel C. Riker, Martindale, Brown, Dr. Gurley, Hooper, Ellis, Adair, Elliott. This denomination existed and worshiped in this church until about 1865. At that time, the ministers in charge, Revs. Adair and Elliott, declined preaching longer on account of political differences, and brought the matter before the Quarterly Conference. The conference decided the church to be a non-organized band, and appointed a committee, consisting of John Milicent, Bijah Mann and Elijah Adams, to sell the church edifice. This committee immediately advertised the church for sale, and H. Bennett bid it off for \$336 for the Christian Union denomination, which had been formed out of the dissolution of the Methodist Episcopal society. The church was then rededicated, about 1866, by the Rev. Green, from Columbus, who have organized it. The ministers that have officiated since its last organization are as follows: Green, Gates, Stephenson, Durant, Allen, Mann and Flax. The Rev. Mr. Stephenson is now in charge, and holds meetings every two weeks.

It is not uncommon, at this day, to hear the rising generation wondering how it came that these old pioneers and their immediate descendants possessed such "good common sense." Nature was the inimitable book from which they gained the inspiration that was to make the "wilderness bloom and blossom as the rose," and if perchance they were able to attend, in the dead of winter, the little log schoolhouse on Ralph Smith's farm, where in 1814 Lanson Gooding taught the rudiments of learning, they realized that they were enjoying a boon too sacred to be idly thrown away. Lanson Gooding has long since disappeared, and the log schoolhouse, too, is gone. Near its site stands a substantial frame school building that is a credit to the township. A large brick schoolhouse is situated near the covered bridge, at the old Williams' Ford, and the Curtises, Williamsses, Halls, and the sons and daughters of other well-known pioneers, who used to tramp through the snow for the purpose of attending the little log structure near the same spot, if alive, could

scarcely be made to realize the great changes and improvements that have been made. Perhaps the accompanying statistics will be of interest to some:

Balance on hand, Sept. 1, 1878, \$932.72. Local tax, for school and schoolhouse purposes, \$1,230.03; total, \$2,667.80. Amount paid teachers, primary, \$1,173; amount paid for site and buildings, \$480; amount paid for fuel and other contingent expenses, \$150; total amount of expenditures, \$1,803.

Balance on hand, September 1, 1879, \$864.80. Number of districts or subdistricts, 9; number of schoolhouses erected during the year, 1; cost of schoolhouses erected during the year, \$498. Number of schoolhouses, 9; number of rooms, 9. Average number of weeks in session, 24. Total value of school property, \$4,500. Number of teachers necessary to supply schools, 9; number of different teachers employed, gents, 4; ladies, 5. Average wages per month, gents, \$30; ladies, \$22. Number of teachers who taught the entire year, ladies, 2. Rate of local school tax for 1878-79, 2 mills; rate of local school tax for 1879-80, 1.9 mills. Number of different pupils enrolled within the year, boys, 180; girls, 125. Average monthly enrollment, boys, 170; girls, 125. Average daily attendance, boys, 160; girls, 120. Number enrolled between ages of sixteen and twenty-one, boys, 45; girls, 46.

Jeremiah Curtis built the first mills in the township, and the first still-house, which were situated on the Big Walnut, on the farm now owned by Stephen Ury. Curtis only ran the mill a year or two, when he sold out to Elisha Newell, who ran it about a year when, the dam and buildings becoming undermined and unsafe, he sold out to Hezekiah Roberts. Roberts built a race across his farm, erected a three-story, hewn-log grist-mill, and putting in the running gear of the old mill began to do business. This was in 1816, and at that early date they had no buhr-stones but had to work with what were known as "nigger heads." This mill ran until 1839, when it was burned down, owned at the time by a man named Duncan. It was rebuilt and soon after sold to R. C. Barnum, who sold out to Lewis Mahany. Under the latter's ownership, steam was introduced and it ran for a number of years. When business having become dull, the mill was sold to Mathias Roberts, who took the steam gearing out and took it to Illinois and put it in a new mill in that State. At present, there is nothing left of the mill excepting the frame-work. The dam has long since disappeared having been carried away during a heavy freshet.

About 1826 or 1827, Squire Hough and Dr. Copeland put up a grist and saw mill down where Yankee street crosses the Big Walnut. The grist-mill had but one run, which was made of flint ridge-stone. After they had run the mills a short time, they were joined by a man named I. S. Carpenter, and through his influence and his co-operation, they built a brick dry-house and put machinery in the mill for breaking hemp, which at that time was raised upon nearly all the farms in this vicinity and formed the principal staple. McLeod, who came to this locality from Pennsylvania at rather an early date, put up a saw-mill about 1838 on Big Walnut Creek, just east of where Mr. H. Bennett now lives. The dam was made from logs and stood for many years.

There are only two bridges in the township, one near Maxwell Corners and the other at Williams' Ford. The former was built about twelve years ago. The latter was built by the Sherman brothers. Both are wooden structures, and covered. The State road connecting Columbus and Galena was surveyed by Barack Weeks about 1821 or 1822. There was an old State road connecting Worthington and Berkshire, which ran through the western part of the township. A detachment of Harrison's army is said to have traveled over this road from Worthington on their way North. It has not been used for some fifty years. The Columbus & Mount Vernon Railroad follows the ridge through the township, running southwest and northeast. There is simply a flag station at what was formerly the Genoa Cross-roads, and the people are compelled to go to Galena if they desire to avail themselves of the advantage of railroad traveling.

Maxwell Corners, formerly known as Maxwell Post Office, is the nearest approach to a town in the township. It at present consists of one store, a church, and a few frame houses, and is situated on Yankee street, in the southern part of the township. A survey was once made, and a town laid out, the name of which was to be Inglesbe, but the plat was never recorded. After the post office at the Genoa Cross-roads had become defunct through the neglect of Dr. Badger, who moved away without naming a successor, the office was placed at Maxwell. It existed here for a short time, when on one occasion the mail carrier having got drunk, the Postmaster, Thomas Kline, resigned, and this office also perished, although at present there is an effort being made for its restitution. The first post office in the township was at the residence of Marcus Curtis, and he was the first Postmaster.

