

Pioneer Sketches of Madison Township, Lake County, Ohio

Joseph C. Hager, Ph.D.

Editor

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In Memoriam

My Dad, Joseph C. Hager, Jr. (1927-2004), enjoyed driving through Madison township, buying feed grain in the village, spear-fishing with the Bushnell family in Cunningham Creek, and eating at the old tavern in Unionville.

The Editor

Joseph C. Hager was born in Painesville, Ohio, and raised in Leroy township, Lake County, Ohio. After completing his undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley, he lived and studied in San Francisco, where he earned a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of California. He resides in Utah where he operates a small business on the Internet.

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Preface

This book contains stories of the settlement of Madison township, Lake County, Ohio, as told by the pioneers themselves. Their words transport the reader to a time and condition forgotten by the modern world. To recount and remember their deeds and lives is a step towards better understanding of our present circumstances and ourselves.

I transcribed this document from a microfilm copy of an original manuscript long sequestered in the archives of the Western Reserve Historical Society's Library. After considerable effort, this work is now ready for a wider audience. Its message is one that descendants of the Western Reserve's pioneers, indeed the descendants of all Midwestern pioneers, should hear. I am sure this is the end that the pioneers intended for their efforts.

The centerpiece of this collection of manuscripts is an essay by Joel Blakeslee. More than merely enumerating the progress of his age, Joel Blakeslee perceived that in the struggle to subdue the wilderness, some things were lost that perhaps we would be better to have retained. He celebrates the accomplishments of his generation, but avoids reducing progress simply to disposing of the old and traditional. This distinction is one all Americans might consider.

Joseph C. Hager, Ph.D.

2005

A son of the Connecticut Western Reserve

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Acknowledgments

This work was possible through access to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, a most commodious research library, and most comprehensive for its speciality of genealogical records. I thank the members of this Library for their hospitality and support.

Joel Blakeslee, Abraham Tappan, and the other original authors of the works contained herein initiated this effort more than a century and a half ago. Now their work, prepared for a wider audience, has a completion at last.

Thomas Carr, formerly of Leroy township, was first to impress indelibly on my mind the significance of a genealogy, when he showed me his own family tree drawn in pencil and tacked to his mother's kitchen door, almost a half century ago.

My sister, Mary Susan Spence, first brought my attention to the story of our own family, and the possibility of discovering its connections to history. We are the fourth cousins of Joel Blakeslee, four times removed, and the country described in these chapters is where some of some of our ancestors lived during the period covered by their authors.

Introduction to Madison and Its Pioneers

Joseph C. Hager

The Western Reserve

The pioneers of Madison township were some of the early settlers who came to the Western Reserve of Connecticut. Most of these pioneers were the descendants of the colonists who had settled New England. Their ancestors were among the founders and first settlers of the New Haven Colony, Hartford, New London, and other towns in the Connecticut Colony, Springfield, Boston, and other cities of the Massachusetts Colony, and locales now in Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and other states. Most had roots in America that extended back to the Great Migration of Puritans in the 1630s, and even to the Pilgrims and their legendary landing aboard the Mayflower at New Plymouth in 1620. Most of the migrants were survivors of the long, difficult Revolutionary War that had defeated the greatest power on earth at that time. Their confidence, ambition, courage, and persistence propelled them into a vast wilderness where they infused a robust New England character that persists in this region today. These pioneers created the opportunities for later waves of foreign migrants to meld a new and vital American type.

The Western Reserve originated in a claim by the Connecticut Colony under a royal charter, and later by the State of Connecticut, on unincorporated lands west of its colonial boundaries. Other colonies, and later states, had conflicting claims on the same western lands. These claims were ceded to the authority of the United States after the Revolution in return for jurisdiction over circumscribed areas. In 1786, Congress allowed Connecticut to retain the northeastern part of the present State of Ohio. Connecticut exercised sovereignty over this “Western Reserve” into the year 1800, administering it as a colony and selling the land to fund its public schools, finally renouncing all jurisdiction in 1801.

The Western Reserve legally became part of the Northwest Territory in 1800 under jurisdiction of the territorial legislature and Governor Arthur St. Clair, who had earlier tried unsuccessfully to impose his authority. It was organized as a county in the territory with the name Trumbull, and in 1803, was part of Ohio as it became the 17th State in the Union. The current political boundaries of Madison township derive from the many changes to this original county.

Obstacles to Settlement

Before 1800, the western parts of the states of Pennsylvania and New York generally remained wilderness, and the Northwest Territory to their west was mostly uncharted. The British represented civilization in parts of these states and the territories near the Great Lakes long after their defeat in the Revolutionary War. Their exercise of authority was so fierce and tenacious that enumerators of the United States Federal Census were afraid to enter areas around Erie, Pennsylvania, and Buffalo, New York, to conduct the 1790 and 1800 Federal Censuses.

Indians also posed a danger to white settlers of the west. The Indians were disturbed by the westward movement of settlers onto lands they considered their

own. Some tribes had opposed the American rebels during the Revolution because the colonists were notorious for encroaching on lands reserved by the British for Indians, and these tribes remained allied with the British after the war's end. Although typically innocuous, the Indians might react violently to the persistent westward movement of white settlers or to the sometimes foul deeds of a few, or they might be incited to violence by their British allies. Their mere presence was threatening to potential settlers due to a long history of conflicts between the groups in the east, as the Iroquois fought with the British in the Revolutionary War, and in repeated clashes in Ohio between Indians and irregular militia or border gangs.

The hardships inherent in the vast wilderness of the Northwest Territory deterred many eastern Americans. Paradoxically, settlers came to obtain land, but the land itself needed taming to become hospitable to their lifestyle. Brush needed to be cleared and trees felled to make fields, wells dug, crops planted, and dwellings built. Towns where tools, supplies, and food could be obtained were distant and lacked connecting roads. There were many wild animals that threatened people and their domestic stock. Pioneers were especially frightened by wolves, which prowled in packs, were sometimes clever and fearless, and howled in a very disconcerting nightly ritual. Rattlesnakes and bears also played upon the potential settler's anxieties, and rightly so, as these stories of an early Madison settler and a Painesville resident tell:

Mrs. Julius Mixer (Belinda Simmons) riding on horseback through the woods, as her horse was about to leap a large log, saw a bear preparing to leap from the other side. Horse and rider were terribly frightened; the horse wheeled and ran home. Some time passed before Mrs. Mixer could tell what had happened.¹

The Honorable Samuel Huntington, who was Governor of the State from 1808 to 1810, resided at Painesville in the latter part of his life, and died there in 1817.... One evening, while traveling towards Cleveland from the east, he was attacked ... by a pack of wolves, and such was their ferocity that he broke his umbrella to pieces in keeping them off, to which, and the fleetness of his horse, he owed the preservation of his life.²

Legal and practical problems also restrained settlement of the Western Reserve. Conflicting claims of eastern states, the territorial rights of Indians, and the procedure for gaining title to land were unresolved until long after the Revolutionary War.

Settlement of Ohio

In various eras over the previous ten thousand years or so, peoples of different cultures had made settlements in what is now Ohio. Most of these cultures and peoples disappeared thousands of years ago, leaving burial or ceremonial mounds and other artifacts as evidence of their existence. When the French began to explore the Ohio area in the 17th century, they encountered settlements by Indians, a hunter-gather society with light agriculture. The 17th and 18th centuries were a turbulent time for Indians as war raged between groups trying to control the fur trade. For a time, the Ohio Valley was virtually devoid of Indian settlements. The Iroquois eliminated another Indian culture, most often called the Erie nation, from the area that would become the Western Reserve with a horrific genocidal campaign in the mid-17th century. Lake Erie was named after these Indians, whose nick-

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1. Wickham, G.V.R. *Memorial to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve*. Cleveland Centennial Commission, 1896. p. 215.
 2. Howe, Henry. *Historical Collections of Ohio*. Vol. II. State of Ohio, Norwalk, 1896. p. 42.

name “the Cat people” referred to their preference for raccoons in diet and ornamentation. As is usual in conquest, the divisions among the Indians were later exploited by the settlers of European descent, and their military and political allies, to help effect their victories and displace the Indians.

Both peaceful and military efforts diminished the threat of harm from the British and the Indians that had discouraged early settlement of the region by eastern migrants. The British and their colonial allies had wrested legal hegemony of the west from the French in the 1750s and 1760s during the conflict known in America as the French and Indian War. The former colonists, in turn, took control of western lands south of the Great Lakes from the British under the terms of the 1783 Treaty of Paris that formally ended the Revolutionary War. American officials subsequently negotiated treaties in 1785 at Fort Macintosh and in 1789 at Fort Harmar by which Indians relinquished much of their lands in Ohio, but that ultimately failed to displace them from the land. To eliminate their continued presence, the national government began warfare against a coalition of Indians that was led by a Miami chief, Little Turtle, who was backed and encouraged by the British. In the first action, the army of General Josiah Harmar was cut to pieces during 1790 in a series of battles along what is now the western border of Ohio. Next, the Indians defeated an army under General Arthur St. Clair near Fort Recovery, Ohio, in 1791. Finally, in the most significant battle, near present day Toledo, an army trained and led by General Anthony Wayne defeated the Indian coalition in 1794 at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. The failure of the British to adequately support their Indian allies in this conflict undermined their mutual relationship and diminished British influence in the area. The Treaty of Greenville in 1795 settled this conflict, and the Indians ceded most of their

lands in the Northwest Territory to the United States. Now the way was clear for a new settlement in Ohio.

Early settlers east of the Cuyahoga River found few Indians remaining there, and they were generally friendly. The dissipation of the Indian threat to settlers of European descent is shown in this 1812 letter by Jesse Ladd, one of the early settlers of Madison, to his wife Ruby:

I think there is no more danger of Ohio being disturbed by Indians than there is of Connecticut. There is no fear of danger among the people. I ... shall try to chop a spot large enough for a garden before I return for you.³

Nevertheless, the Indians that remained in the Western Reserve, though rarely dangerous and often greatly helpful to the new arrivals, still managed sometimes to distress early settlers as indicated by these stories of Madison pioneers:

Theodocia Lyman (1817), Mrs. Jasper Brewster, Sr., was startled one morning to find sleeping around the fireplace half a dozen Indians who had taken possession during the night.

In 1810, some drunken Indians came to the house of Levina Holbrook Miller begging whisky; they were ordered out. In great terror, fearing her husband would shoot, she hid his gun. As he seized an old ramrod and drove them out, one said: "We kill you 'morrow," and was afterward seen peering through the window. Save her terrible fright, no harm resulted.⁴

3. Wickham, G.V.R. op. cit., p. 217.

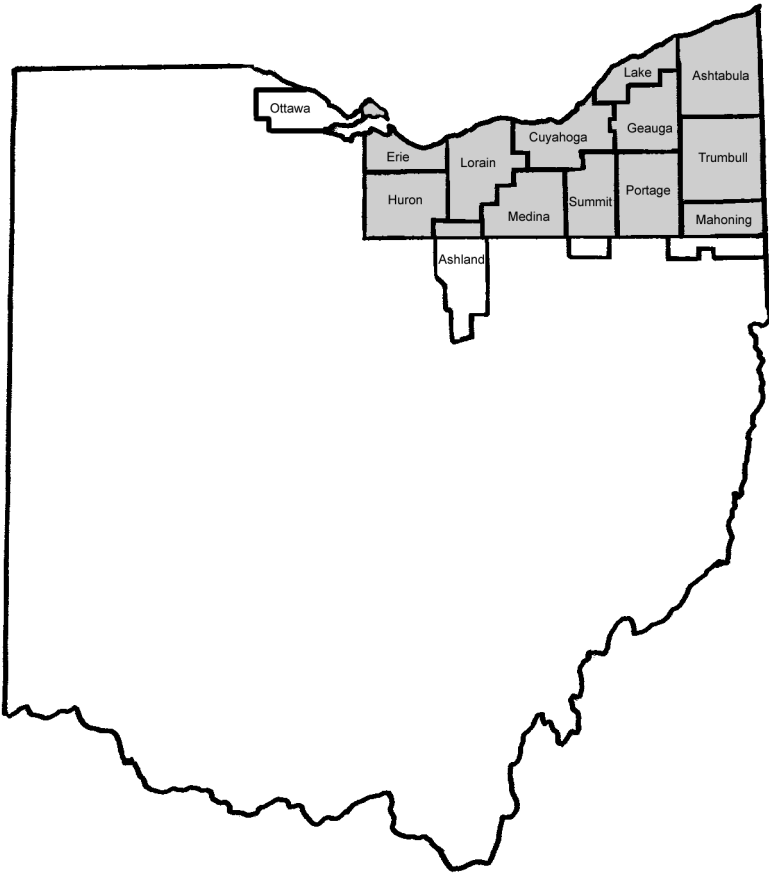
4. Wickham, G.V.R. op. cit., p. 217.

The British threat reappeared during the War of 1812 to terrify Western Reserve settlers, although unjustified by reality. The following story relates one aftermath of Hull's surrender of Detroit in August, 1812:

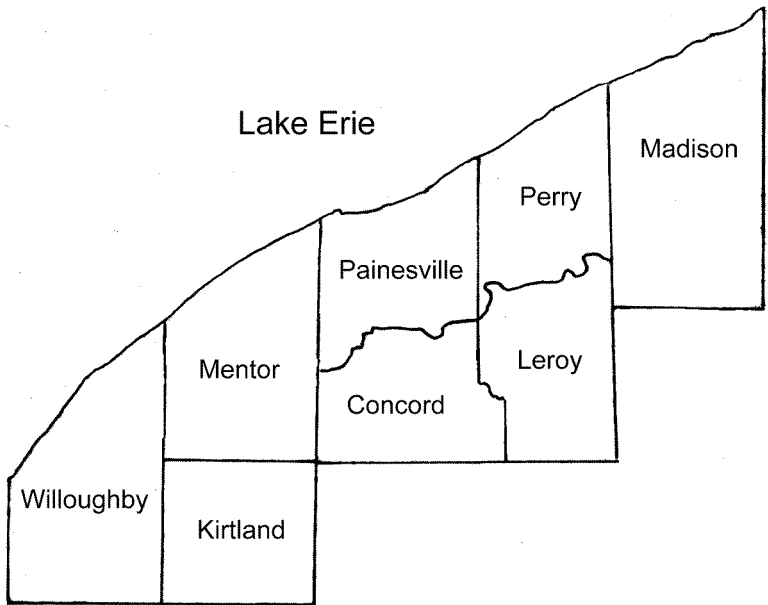
Very soon after the surrender had been made, a woman residing on the lake-coast ... rode night and day, proclaiming to the settlers along the way in a loud voice that the English with hordes of savages were rapidly approaching She arrived at Cleveland at daybreak, and rode through the streets, repeating her frantic cry of alarm, and admonishing every soul to fly for dear life into the depths of the forest; and then led the way with increased speed into the dusky woodlands.... Everybody was thunderstruck with the alarming news, sprang from their beds in consternation, and amid the general confusion, with such hasty preparation as they could make, fled into the neighboring wilderness, — some on horseback, some on ox-sleds, some on foot, women and children crying, and men swearing. They scattered in every direction as they fled, and alarmed the settlers of the interior.⁵

The pace of settlement of in Ohio began to increase as the solutions to its various problems became evident. The first permanent settlement in Ohio, other than fortifications and trading posts, by those of European descent was in 1787 at Fort Harmar on the Ohio River at the mouth of the Muskingum River, the site which later became Marietta. The readiness of northern Ohio for settlement lagged slightly, but by the end of the 18th century, the path began to clear for the eager settlers from the east.

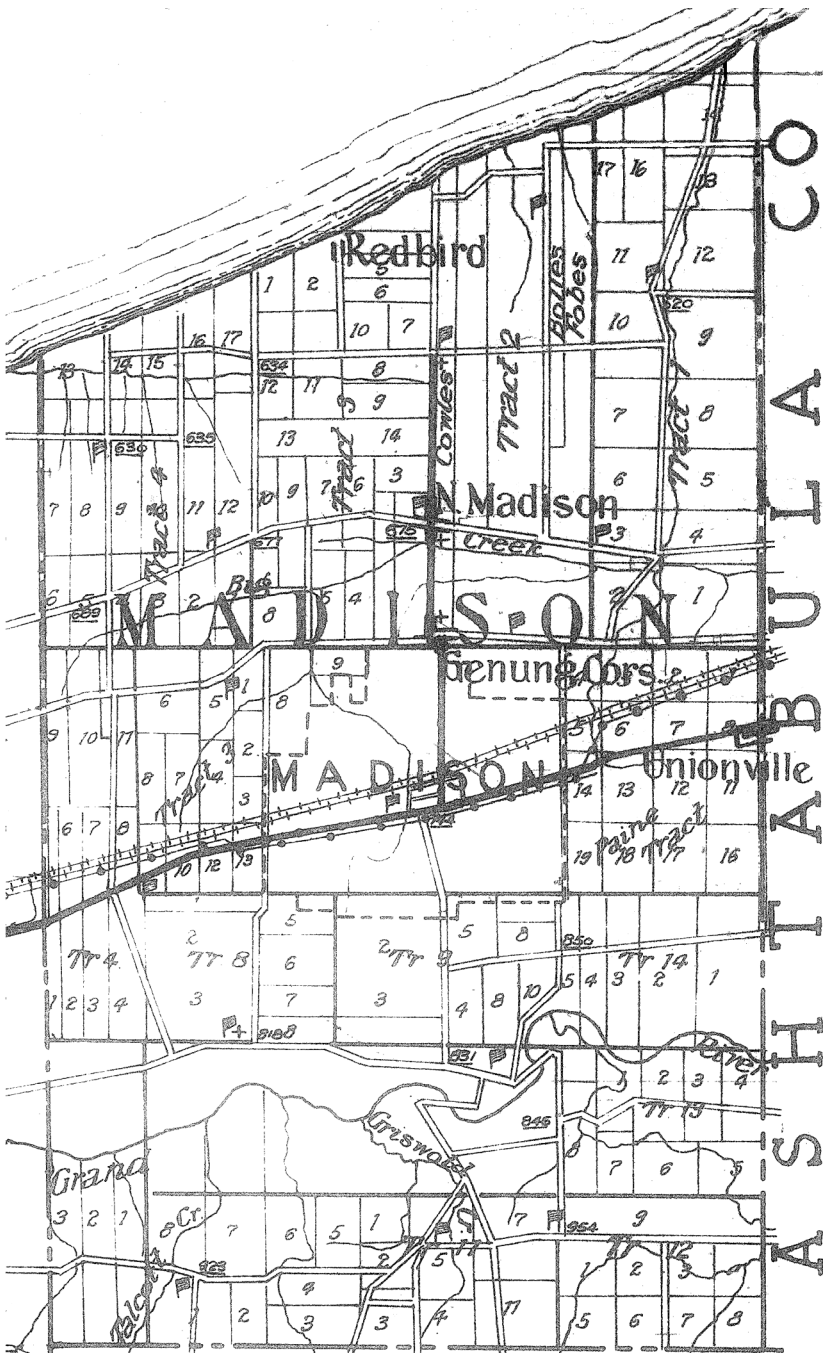
5. Rice, Harvey. *Pioneers of the Western Reserve*. Lee and Shepard, New York, 1883. pgs. 85-86.

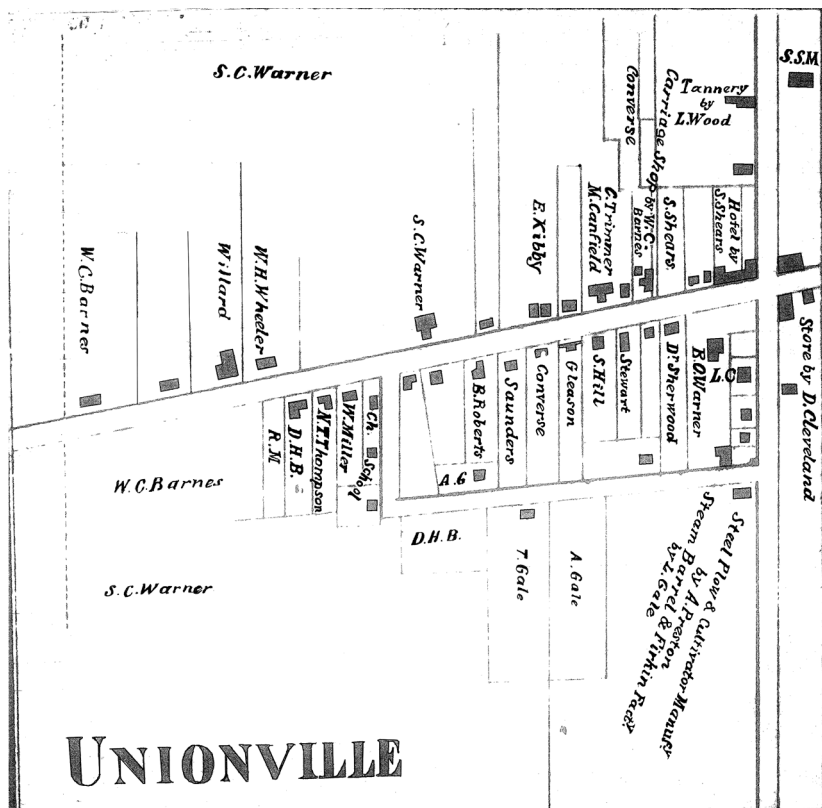


Western Reserve of Connecticut (shaded) in relation to county boundaries in Ohio. The counties of Erie, Huron, Lorain, Medina, Cuyahoga, Portage, Trumbull, Ashtabula, Geauga, and Lake are entirely within the boundaries of the Western Reserve, with parts of Ashland, Summit, Ottawa, and Mahoning within its boundaries. The counties and their boundaries were created long after the Western Reserve was settled, and they changed throughout the 19th century. Trumbull County, named after a Connecticut governor, Jonathan Trumbull, was the original county of Ohio corresponding to the Western Reserve, from which others were created.



Lake County Township Boundaries began as 5-mile square plots on surveyor's maps about 1796. The boundaries evolved subsequently based on practical and geographical considerations, as illustrated above, but the square shapes of the original surveyors' townships can still be imagined. Lake Erie's shore cut diagonally through some of the township squares (e.g., Painesville), and these "gore townships" were often later appended to the township south when constructing political entities, as in the case of the Willoughby, Mentor, Perry, and Madison gores. Some of the gores were used to balance the distribution of lands to shareholders in the Connecticut Land Company, so that each received an equitable value of property. These divisions were called "equalizing tracts." Madison gore was one such equalizing tract that was appended to the land in the adjacent square south, but north of the Grand River, to form Madison township in 1811. Later, the land south of the Grand River in this square was added to its political boundaries.





Above: Map of Unionville from 1857 shows the often mentioned town and its owners about the time the manuscripts were written. (Map of Geauga and Lake Counties. Philadelphia: S.H. Mathews, 1857. FHL # 877766 item 5.)

Opposite page: Map of Madison township shows prominent features, tracts and lots. The dark line under the large label “Madison” on the map separates Township 11 on the south from Township 12 on the north (townships are east-west bands across the Western Reserve). Township 12 extended into Lake Erie and was called “the Gore.” The vertical lines separating Madison township from Ashtabula county on the east and from Perry and Leroy townships on the west defined Range 6 in the original survey (ranges are north-south bands). Notice the original five-mile square of Range 6, Township 11, in which Madison Village is located. Blakeslee mentions the Chapin Tract, shown as Madison Village, and the Paine Tract, shown to its east. (New century atlas of Lake County, Ohio. Philadelphia: Century Map Company, 1915.)

Opening the Western Reserve

Connecticut disposed of the land in the Western Reserve in three large transactions before the transfer of jurisdiction to Ohio. Most of the land, including Madison, became the property of a group of speculators known as the Connecticut Land Company. A policy of this Company was to sell its holdings, which were scattered across the Reserve, to people who were ready to settle on its land. This policy, combined with the diminished threat of hostilities, encouraged widely scattered settlements by individuals, families, or small groups, rather than centralized settlements by larger groups, as in the early eastern colonies.

The prerequisite to settlement of the Western Reserve was a survey conducive to a fair division of the land among shareholders of the Connecticut Land Company, and its eventual sale to settlers. General Moses Cleaveland of Canterbury, Connecticut, led the 52 member survey party of 1796 that began mapping and dividing the Western Reserve east of the Cuyahoga River into five-mile squares. Later, a Madison settler, Abraham Tappan, would be among the surveyors to map the Western Reserve west of the Cuyahoga River, occupied by Indians until 1805. Many of the earliest settlers either were among the members of these surveying teams, came with them, or were encouraged to come by them.

Cleaveland's expedition on Lake Ontario had to slip their boats by British military forces that tried to bar their progress at Fort Oswego, New York. Members of the survey party negotiated with Indian leaders at Buffalo to purchase any remaining claims on the land east of the Cuyahoga River. Their first landing in the Western Reserve was at Conneaut, site of an Indian village, where they divided their forces and began the survey. They observed many of the distinctive features of the Western Reserve and created maps that accurately reflected the land and its streams. Groups of surveyors moved through the territory east of the

Ranges, Townships, Tracts

Cuyahoga, cutting their way through the wilderness to mark boundaries, and helping to establish settlers in Conneaut and Cleveland. Cleaveland's expedition had vast impact on the future of the Western Reserve.

Land was of paramount importance among the profane considerations of Yankee life. Nothing excited more conflicts, legislation, and litigation than issues concerning land, and the technology for managing and resolving these conflicts came west with the surveyors. Their jargon defined the legal issues involving land and was absorbed into pioneer life.

In surveying the western lands, the territory was divided into Ranges and Townships, which were subdivided into tracts, and again divided into lots. The surveyor's use of township lines was different from the later political boundaries of townships within counties, although often the borders of the latter were based on the former. In the original 1796 survey of the Western Reserve, the surveyors began on the Ohio-Pennsylvania border and marked points that were multiples of five miles from the 41st parallel, north to Lake Erie. These latitudinal lines defined the Townships, running from number 1 (containing the land up to five miles north of the 41st parallel, to number 14, the most northern tip of what is now Ashtabula County). Then, working west from the Pennsylvania border, five mile grid lines were marked off, from number 1 nearest to the border, and eventually, after the lands west of the Cuyahoga River were surveyed, to number 24, which ended 120 miles from Pennsylvania. These north-south lines defined the Ranges, bands of land running north and south.

The intersection of the surveyor's bands of Ranges and Townships defined five-mile squares of land,⁶ which provided a basis for distributing land to the shareholders of the Connecticut Land Company. The political division of the Western Reserve into counties

and their townships, when the territorial and later state governments apportioned land, also used the surveyor's Range and Township lines. The current boundaries of Madison township, in the surveyor's terms, is the land of Townships 11 and 12 in Range 6.

Seth Pease was a surveyor in Cleaveland's survey team and led the second survey party in 1797. He describes in his Journal⁷ the journey in October, 1797, east from Cleveland to the Grand River, meeting with one "Capt. Harper" who was part of a group scouting for land to settle. From a camp alongside the Grand River near the Indian settlements on October 6, Pease sent the team of Major William Shepard and Thomas Tupper to explore "Township 11 in the 6th Range." Pease originally named this township Chapin on an early map he drew about this time.⁸

Township 12 in Range 6 extended into Lake Erie, so it was a gore township, later called "Madison Gore." Pease mentions that the committee decided on October 9 "to appropriate the Gore No12 in the Sixth Range" and the survey party "finished the work on Gore No 12 in the 6th Range" by October 27.⁹ How Madison's borders evolved into their current political arrangement is described in the following chapters.

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6. The technology of the time, combined with the wilderness environment, was not good enough to obtain a perfectly accurate survey, resulting in deviations from the intended squares and their locations. *Ohio Land Subdivisions, Vol. 3.* Ohio Topographic Survey, 1925. p. 84.
 7. Seth Pease. *Journals.* In Western Reserve Historical Society, *Annual Report, 1913-1914*, Part 2. Cleveland, 1914.
 8. Chapin township is to be distinguished from a part of this township later called "Chapin's tract" and a small settlement within this tract called "Chapintown."
 9. Seth Pease, op. cit., p. 107 & 113.

The distribution of land to the shareholders was a lengthy and complex process. In regard to the land east of the Cuyahoga River, the Connecticut Land Company first selected the six townships with the best land to sell directly to settlers, rather than to distribute them to shareholders.¹⁰ Township 11 in Range 6 (Chapin) was one of these six townships. The remaining townships were graded by quality, and some of these townships were selected for division into tracts that could be combined with townships of below average quality. The value of this combination provided a fairer distribution. The divided townships used to increase the value of lesser townships were called “equalizing townships” and Madison Gore was one of them. A total of 93 equitable collections of such parcels were distributed by lottery to investors or groups of shareholders. Many investors never saw the land, as most were merely speculators, not settlers. These investors sold their properties.

Some of the settlers were shareholders who occupied their land, but most settlers bought subdivisions of townships from the shareholders, their agents or those of the Land Company, other speculators, or derivative land owners. These divisions were called “tracts” and “lots,” the latter very like what would be purchased today. The shareholders of the Land Company were wealthy, but most speculators lost money because the value of the land did not rise as quickly as expected.

The sale of land in what is now Madison began in 1797 when the Connecticut Land Company started to sell Chapin township (i.e., Township 11 in Range 6). Edward Paine, a resident of Cleveland and later Painesville, purchased 1000 acres, known as the “Paine Tract.” The land in Madison Gore was later

10. These townships were: Chapin (Madison), Mentor and Willoughby townships in Lake County, Euclid and Newburg in Cuyahoga, and Youngstown in Mahoning.

distributed to shareholders, and sale of that land began by the shareholders who received it, or their agents.

Madison Pioneers

The early pioneers called the Western Reserve “New Connecticut” because Connecticut obtained and disposed of the land, and many of the pioneers remembered their ties to Connecticut and its place in history. The Western Reserve still retains its identity today due to the deep stamp the people who came to this area, and their descendants, put on its culture. Like their ancestors, the migrants were people of big ideas and commanding ideals, who were committed to exercising their freedoms to live as they themselves decided. They were self-reliant, independent types who spurned authority and celebrated individual achievement and responsibility. Although most settlers came to obtain better land and greater wealth, part of their motivation was to escape the “crowded” eastern states and reclaim a simpler lifestyle than that possible with too many neighbors.

The pioneers were aware of the accomplishments of their forbearers and intended to repeat some of them in the west. Most were steeped in the religious traditions of the Puritans, but the clergy who came with them were appalled by the apparent disinterest in matters of faith on the part of some pioneers and endlessly chastised them for failing to observe their religious duties. After the difficulties of establishing a foothold in the wilderness had passed, however, every community built one or more churches in the New England style. In addition to farmers and clerics, pioneers with other vocations also came to the Western Reserve, including lawyers, physicians and other educated individuals, former military officers and men, sailors and teamsters, miners, millers, and others with light industrial skills. These people generally had substantial concern for the education of their children, and buildings for schools were among the first constructed, facilitated by provisions of the 1787 North-

west Ordinance. The settlers were unlike the opportunistic and exploitative trappers and traders who preceded them into the wilderness. The settlers' energy and determination led them to permanent accomplishments that significantly affected the course of American history.

James Kingsbury is usually credited with being the first permanent settler in the Western Reserve. He and his family came to what would become Conneaut, the site of an Indian village, shortly after Cleaveland's survey team landed their boats there in 1796. The first white settlement in what is now Lake County was at Mentor Marsh where Charles Parker, a member of Cleaveland's survey team, first settled in 1798. The settlement of Madison township, described in the following chapters, began shortly afterwards.

The following chapters present much testimony about the names of the first pioneers of Madison. The tax roles are another line of evidence that corroborate these statements. Table 1 is an extract of all the names of people who were taxed in 1804 on property now in Madison township (Range 6, Townships 11 and 12). Table 2 is a similar list from 1816. These dates correspond approximately to the period of time covered by the pioneer authors in the following chapters.

Table 1 – Extracts from Tax Roles of 1804^a

Name	Acres	Range	Township	Tract	
Blanchard, Ira	100	6	11		7
Harper, William A.	367	?	?		
Harper, James & Wm.	100	6	11		3
Harper, John A.	100	6	11		6
Pain, Edward	1000	6	11		
William, Joseph	100	6	11		

a.Source: *Resident Proprietors of the Connecticut Western Reserve, 1804*. Nellie M. Raber. Cincinnati: R.D. Craig, 1963. FHL # 928353 item 1.

Table 2 – Extracts from Geauga County Tax Roles of 1816^a

Name	Acres	Range	Township	Tract	Lot
Andrews, Jarius T.	200	6	11		8,13,14
Bartram, Uriah	150	6	11		3
Cunningham, John	1686	6	12		1
Cunningham, Artemas	182	6	12		14
Cunningham, Amos	182	6	12		4
Cunningham, Cyrus	182	6	12		3
Collins, Samuel L.	200	6	12		16
Cady, William	700	6	11		1
Ellis, Rowland	97	6	11		11
Hill, Amasa	100	6	11		14
Hanks, Elijah	900	6	11		61
Kimbal, Samuel	245	6	11		20
Ladd, Jesse	670	6	11	4, 8	
Loveland, Levi	515	6	11		5
Merry, Ebenezer	28	6	11		11
Miller, James	100	6	11		15
Mixer, Phinehas	200	6	12		1
Noyes, John	100	6	11		12
Paine, Edward	200	6	11		5
Potter, Samuel	105	6	11		16, 6
Pomeroy, Daniel	200	6	11		17
Turney, Asa	100	6	11		15
Tappen, Abraham	241	6	11		1, 6, 19
Wood, John	100	6	11		20
Warner, Nathan	650	6	11		14
Warner, Nathan Jr.	240	11	12	14	1, 2
Warner, Anson	110	6	11	14	5
Waterman, Arthur	182	6	12		6
Transfers:					
Curtis, Charles	420	6	12		2
Holcomb, Timothy	100	6	11		16
Hubbard, John	804	6	12		2
Lovelan, Ebenezer	51	6	12		1
Ladd, Jesse	791	6	11	2, 4	
Meriman, Amasa	54	6	11		1
Stewart, Andrew	150	6	11		9, 10

a.Source: *Duplicate Tax Records*. Geauga County Auditor. 1816. FHL # 4771221.

Pioneer Authors

Joel Blakeslee

Joel Blakeslee is notable for his role in preserving the heritage of the Western Reserve. He was born in Colebrook, Connecticut, on August 13, 1787, son of Samuel Blakeslee (1759-Aft.1832) and Phoebe Curtis (1758-1812). Samuel Blakeslee had an illustrious career as a soldier in the early American army, serving during the Revolution and the War of 1812. Samuel and Phoebe Blakeslee moved their family to Avon, Livingston County, New York, about 1810, taking advantage of veterans' benefits to secure land there. This move brought Joel and his eight siblings into sparsely populated western New York and closer to the western wilderness early in its settlement.

Joel was not physically robust like his father, and turned to a career as a teacher, clerk, and public servant. He developed an interest in music, singing, public speaking, and related activities, and was noted for his knowledge of history, family origins, and antique curiosities. In 1815, Joel married Mary Emmitt, daughter of Rev. Samuel Emmitt, a union which may have fortified Joel's faith and religious commitments.

Joel's hearty and adventurous father and brothers decided to extend their pioneering beyond the New York frontier into the Western Reserve, and they encouraged Joel to join them by offering him some land. He and his wife came to Ashtabula County, Ohio, in 1819, and settled in a wild, remote location he called Colebrook, a name it retains today. Joel's physical frailty was offset by his indomitable desire to apprehend and document his world rather than succumb to it, and mastering the difficulties, he made his wild homestead a family home.

He was, by all accounts, devoted to understanding the past and collecting and chronicling the history of the world he encountered. His activities in Ashtabula

County included schoolteacher, archivist, author, music teacher and musician. Like so many of his ancestors, he began to write, and he produced, among other documents, a lengthy history of Ashtabula County. This original manuscript was destroyed in the Ashtabula Court House fire. Blakeslee's interests can be detected in his work presented here as Chapter 2, for example when he writes of the noises of the forest and the artifacts of an unknown people.

Joel Blakeslee died in Colebrook, Ashtabula County, Ohio, on November 27, 1863. The following notice of his death appeared in the Cleveland Herald on December 28, 1863:

DEATH OF A RESERVE ANTIQUARIAN
— Mr. Joel Blakeslee, of Colebrook, Ashtabula county; the venerable antiquarian and respected citizen, died Nov. 27th, aged 76 years. Mr. Blakeslee emigrated from Avon, N.Y., to Ohio in 1810 [sic], and was the first settler of Colebrook, his family occupying a house which consisted of four wide boards for a floor, and five for a shelter from the weather. The nearest settlement was three miles, to which they went by marked trees. Hardships and privations were the lot of the Blakeslee pioneers, many of them unusually severe. Mr. B., in due time, became locally famous as an Antiquarian, and gathered up the relics of the past and the incidents connected with the early history of every township in Ashtabula county. All the Indian curiosities and history of his section of the Lake region were carefully collected and preserved, and his contributions to the press and the Historical Society at Jefferson were valuable and interesting. They will be more and more prized as generation succeeds generation.

Abraham and Electra Tappan

Abraham Tappan played a significant role in the development of the Western Reserve. He was an associate of General Edward Paine, and his surveyor. In 1801, he surveyed the Old Chillicothe Road for the State Commissioners, one of whom was Paine.

Hon. Abraham Tappan, who occupied a prominent position in the settlement of the eastern portion of the "Reserve," first came to Ohio in company with Judge Walworth. He was engaged in the survey of the lands in the Western Reserve lying west of the Cuyahoga river. In about 1804 or 1805 he married Miss Elizabeth Harper, and for many years lived on the farm purchased ... of John A. Harper. Mr. Tappan was among the first associate judges for Geauga County. He was postmaster at Unionville for a term of years. In 1852 he removed to Woodstock, McHenry county, Illinois, and died there soon after.¹¹

Abraham Tappan taught in 1802 in what was probably the first school in Lake County at Unionville, where his future wife had earlier become the first teacher. About two years later, he taught the first school in Painesville, in a log hut near General Paine's residence. After the Indians relinquished their rights to lands west of the Cuyahoga River in 1805, Tappan surveyed the township lines in the western part of the Reserve in 1806. Also in 1806, he married Elizabeth Harper, daughter of the soldier and pioneer, Colonel Alexander Harper and his wife, Elizabeth Bartholomew.

Tappan held many local offices, including foreman of the Geauga County Grand Jury and surveyor in 1806,

11. *History of Geauga and Lake Counties, Ohio...* Philadelphia: Williams Brothers, 1878. p. 231-lc.

Commissioner of that county in 1807, its sheriff in 1810, and judge for many years. He was well known and highly regarded throughout the Western Reserve. He and Joel Blakeslee shared several common interests, but exactly how they became acquainted is unclear. It may be that Blakeslee's reputation for writing about local history encouraged Tappan to provide him with materials collected earlier.

Electra Tappan was the daughter of Abraham Tappan and Elizabeth Harper, the first of their eight children. She was born November 25, 1808, in Madison township and was educated in Unionville. She shared an interest with her father in the history of her family and the early settlers of Madison, and wrote a history of Harpersfield that was destroyed in the Ashtabula Court House fire. She might have drafted the chapter about her mother, Elizabeth Harper, that appeared in the book *Pioneer Women of the West*.¹² She never married and died March 21, 1896, probably in or near Kansas City, Wyandot, Kansas.

Other Authors

The authors of the other chapters in this book tell much of their own stories. Asa S. Turney, Jr., was a farmer and elder of his church. Cyrus Cunningham was a farmer, schoolteacher, and justice of the peace. Laura Mixer, daughter of Phineas Mixer and Abigail Fobes and presumed author of Chapter 8, married Nathan Whipple on May 18, 1817, in Madison, where they resided. These three writers were young when they moved to Madison with their parents, who were among the earliest settlers, and they observed the growth of Madison firsthand.

12. Ellet, Elizabeth. *Pioneer Women of the West*. New York: Charles Scribner, 1852. p. 274-280.

Origin and Nature of the Manuscripts

The original collection of manuscripts transcribed here is the property of the Western Reserve Historical Society Library in Cleveland, Ohio. It consists of about fifty loose papers of various sizes and shades that are bound, at a much later date than their creation, between two boards. A microfilm copy is cataloged in the Family History Library as item 4 on film 960608.

The first item in this collection, presented as Chapter 2 here, is Joel Blakeslee's centerpiece essay "Sketches of the Early History of Madison." Indeed, the entire collection is erroneously marked and catalogued as a work of Blakeslee. After Blakeslee's essay, however, are bound other essays written by different authors. These manuscripts and notes are probably at least some of the sources used by Blakeslee to create his own essay, but they stand by themselves as informative and useful works.

The evidence for the following inferences are drawn from these documents themselves. Some of the source documents for Blakeslee's essay appear to have been solicited by Abraham Tappan from the residents of Madison. Requests by Tappan are included in the bound papers, and those available are transcribed with the appropriate chapters in this volume. Most of these manuscripts are dated in the late 1840s. Abraham Tappan became involved in a project on the history of Madison by at least 1836, according to his daughter Electra, who says they began the essay included here as Chapter 3 in that year.

The date when Joel Blakeslee became involved, and whether he initiated the project or was invited by the Tappans, are unanswered questions. He clearly had access to the papers that the Tappans had collected because he uses facts that come from them. Other sources were probably also available to him as his

knowledge extends beyond the other bound material. Joel Blakeslee probably wrote his “Sketches” between 1848 and 1850, as indicated by marginal and other contemporaneous notations on the papers.

Transcription and Editing

Each of the pioneer authors of the original manuscripts tells a story in unique handwriting and individual style. From the typically bold, but sometimes illegibly cramped, strokes of Joel Blakeslee, the precise and schooled hand of Cyrus Cunningham, the unpracticed penciling without punctuation of Asa Turney, the authoritative strokes of Judge Tappan, to the diaphanous and elfin hand of Electra Tappan, the medium conveys a message as interesting as its content. Their stories are often compelling and of interest to a wider audience beyond only the authors’ descendants or the residents of Madison.

A literal transcription of these manuscripts is not the optimal way to convey their messages today. The manuscripts vary in quality, but all fall short of readiness for publication. Most are complete in the sense of having a beginning, middle, and end, but they contain errors of fact, mistakes in grammar, unconventional spellings, and gaps for later additions.

Correcting defects and presenting these documents more clearly requires editing, but too much robs the authors of their own style and character. Even transcribing the handwriting of these authors removes some of their character, reducing all to the same electronic type. My solution sacrifices some of each author’s individuality for more accessibility and better readability. The original source is available to the reader who needs to examine it, but its availability and the legibility of the handwriting is an obstacle to most interested people.

My approach is to modernize spellings, case, and punctuation, and avoid re-writing. The minimal rewrites include converting sentence fragments to sentences and some re-ordering of sentences or paragraphs. In regard to the latter, the bound pages of the original documents are sometimes not in correct order. Additions to content, beyond the footnotes, are minimal. I provided the titles for the chapters and the subdivisions in these works. Otherwise, the contents remain very much the work of the original authors.

Abbreviations are expanded, including those of names. Spelling of names are standardized to modern forms, but when they differ from the author's rendering, a footnote gives the original. Although this convention proliferates notes, it facilitates retrieval of names gathered by network search engines.

Footnotes frequently supplement the original texts. They clarify what may be novel or unfamiliar terms, and they enhance the content with views from other works. The footnotes give particular attention to expanding personal information about people referenced in the original sources. They are worth reading.

The most readily available and widely read history of Madison may be that contained in the book *History of Geauga and Lake Counties, Ohio*, published in 1878 (see the Bibliography). This history has a different focus and broader account of the more recent progress of Madison and other topics compared to that presented here by the pioneers. The authors of this previously published history attribute its section on the early settlers of Madison to W. P. Spencer of the *Geneva Times*. It is interesting to consider the discrepancies and agreements of his account with that of the pioneers themselves. Text from this history appears in in the following chapters as footnotes for easy comparison to the pioneers's statements. Other footnotes contain text from this old work to supplement the

descriptions of individuals mentioned by the pioneers. Excerpts from other sources are used similarly.

I have not attempted to correct potential errors of fact in the authors' texts, thus leaving that task to historians. Instead, these documents retain their character as the original statements of the pioneers, with their vulnerability to error. Footnotes mark some of the potential problems. Despite possible historical errors, these documents are valuable genealogical and family history resources.

The most extensive editing was on Asa Turney's account in Chapter 4. He writes in a vernacular and spells phonetically, with little punctuation and few case changes. Reading the original provides an illusion of hearing the nasal whining of Yankee speech and the backwoods drawl of many of the pioneers. To illustrate the changes, a passage from my original transcription follows:

The indians ware very numerous at this time though quite friendly they youst to frequently call at our house and stay all night one day Daniel was out in the woods in company of them with David Bartrom came to an indian wigwam the oald squaw hung on her kittle of venison cooked them some dinner & invited them very strong to partake of her repast but thare weak yanke stumocks would not stand the old squaws manner of cooking so they ware ablieged to refuse the kind offer

This passage can be compared to the edited version on page 73. As a small reminder of Turney's sound, one of his original words remains in the edited text, his word "youst," which might be rendered "used" or "once" but less colorfully. Some less grammatical phrases are also preserved.

Sketches of the Early History of Madison

Joel Blakeslee

Madison Geography

Location



Madison Township in the County of Lake and State of Ohio is comprised of township numbers 11 and 12 of the 6th Range of townships of the Connecticut Western Reserve. It is bounded on the north by Lake Erie, on the east by Geneva and Harpersfield in Ashtabula County; on the south by Thompson in Geauga County, and on the west by Perry township. It is the eastern township of the County of Lake — 12 miles east from Painesville, the county seat, 25 miles west from the Pennsylvania state line, 60 miles west by south from Erie, Pennsylvania, 147 miles west by south from Buffalo, New York, 180 miles northeast from Columbus, the seat of the Ohio State government, and 500 miles northwest from the city of Washington. It contains upward of 3,000 inhabitants.

This township at its organization in 1811 was comprised within the limits of Harpersfield when the township now Madison, was bounded south by Grand River, since which its limits have been extended to the south line of township number 11.¹³

Madison was originally purchased by General Edward Paine and — Chapin of Canandaigua, New York.¹⁴

Primeval Madison



We will before proceeding further, give a short description of Madison as it appeared in its natural state. It was a forest. The blue waters of Erie rolled their waves in boisterous commotion, leaving its shores along the beach in Madison unheard by Civilized Man — nor were its waters noisily rippled, swept by the fragile bark canoe of the Red Man of the forest. A sturdy, strait, and tall growth of timber waved its cooling green foliage over the whole extent of the fair luxuriant soil of Madison — containing now about 27,000 acres of land. Nor did the forest stop here. From far to the east, the south, and the west, the gloomy, almost boundless, forest waved.

The celebrated Mysterious Ridges extending along the southern shore of Erie in their course pass through this township. In Madison are three ridges known as the North, the South, and the Middle Ridges.

-
13. Before 1811, Harpersfield included Unionville, Centerville, etc., changing to a separate township when Ash-tabula County was organized. Madison was organized and received its current name in that year. Before 1840, when Lake County was organized, Thompson administered the part of Madison south of the Grand River.
 14. Edward Paine is the well known namesake of Painesville, Ohio. Blakeslee wrote a dash for Chapin's given name. Other sources say that a Chapin built the first cabin in Chapin's tract. Israel Chapin was a noted Indian agent and land agent who knew the Phelps, Harper, and other families migrating to the Western Reserve. He lived in Canandaigua where the Connecticut Land Company did much of its work. He is probably the namesake of Chapin township, named on an early map by Seth Pease. Who owned Chapin's tract and started Chapintown, the early name for Centerville, now Madison Village, is as yet unknown to this editor.

The North Ridge passes through in tract number 12, called the Gore, the Middle Ridge along the line between tract numbers 11 and 12, and the South Ridge through tract number 11. I would notice that it is remarked that the South Ridge, which is generally about five miles distant from Lake Erie, in its variation from a direct course through the township, corresponds in a striking degree with those of the lake shore at five miles distance¹⁵.

Along this ridge from east to west through Madison was seen an old Indian beaten path, the travelled road of the eastern and western tribes. On this ridge, covered with a heavy growth of whitewood, chestnut, oak, black walnut, butternut, maple, some beech, and a sprinkling of other timbers, mulberry, plumbush, etc., were seen two ancient fortifications, circular, of some extent surrounded by a circular wall of earth with ditches around the outer sides and overgrown with forest timbers, the south of which and along the ridge, an excavation and even tilling were found to contain ancient relics of curious wrought stone, pottery, etc., and large quantities of human bones.¹⁶

By the descriptions given the writer, we are not to suppose these the work of the Indians termed the Aboriginal American. Are not these the relics of a primeval race of men whose works are coeval with the

15. The ridges in Madison were formed by glacial lakes that pre-dated Lake Erie, and thus roughly conform in their shapes to Erie's shoreline, shaped by the same glaciers.

16. Ohio contains many such features originating in the activities of several different waves of migrating peoples. As for actual fortifications, versus ceremonial mounds, the Erie tribe, which occupied the eastern regions of the south shore of Lake Erie, built earthen and timber works. The Erie culture was destroyed by the Iroquois in the 17th century, when many Eries were killed, perhaps relevant to the bones mentioned here.

first works of Man, whose history is none left to tell?¹⁷

The Middle and North Ridges were timbered somewhat similarly to the South Ridge excepting in the absence of maple.

Along the western portions of the North Ridge, extending to the Lake was an extensive and valuable pinery, and the face of the whole township was covered with a luxuriant growth of herbage, except for the pinery.

Streams of Madison



The principal streams of Madison are, first, Grand River, which taking its circuitous course in Portage, Trumbull, and Ashtabula counties, takes a westerly course in Austinburg on through Harpersfield, crossing through Madison, cutting off about 5,500 acres of this township south of it where it continues its westerly course to Painesville where it breaks through the ridges northerly, and at Fairport, discharges its waters into Lake Erie.

On Grand River in Madison are valuable sites for mills and mechanical operations, many of which are improved.

Cunningham Creek, which rises from numerous smaller creeks, passes along the eastern limits of the township and discharges its waters into Lake Erie at Harper's landing¹⁸ about 80 rods west of the northeast corner of the township.

At the mouth of this creek is what has long been, and long ought to be known as Harper's landing, from the

17. If very ancient, they are likely ceremonial or burial mounds, not fortifications.

18. Harper's landing at the mouth of Cunningham Creek is also called Madison Dock, once known as Ellensbury.

memorable event of the landing here on June 28, 1798, of Colonel Harper with his family and others, who were the first family of whites landing at this place, which after became the landing place of many of the pioneers of Ashtabula, Portage, Geauga, and Lake counties. This creek furnishes in Madison good mill sites, one¹⁹ occupied. This creek derived its name from John Cunningham, who after a series of years, purchased his land along both sides of this creek, now occupied by his descendants.

In the northwestern part of Madison is a stream on which are three sawmills in operation. This stream empties into Lake Erie near the northwest corner of the township.²⁰

Various smaller streams and springs course their way watering the fertile farms throughout Madison. The lots of this township are generally well supplied with water. The quality of waters found by sinking wells, and those especially on the ridges, is generally soft and pure.

Minerals

Vast quantities of iron ore are found in Madison,²¹ especially north of the North Ridge. Arcole Furnace, an extensive establishment in the North Ridge near the east line of the township, and Geauga Furnace at Painesville are supplied principally from these ores.

19. Possibly, "none."

20. This stream is today called Rose Creek, terminating in Lake Erie from Perry township.

21. These deposits are known as "bog iron," iron ores that collect on the mosses of streams and remain in the bog. Easily mined, these deposits began the industry of iron production in northeastern Ohio, but were later replaced by the truly vast ground deposits of iron ore around Lake Superior that powered Cleveland's steel industry and the city's dizzy growth.

Indians



No regular Indian town was found here. Yet the whoop and warsong, we may suppose, resounded through these groves as the eastern and western tribes passed along. Few Indians hunted here when the whites came, and those left before the last war, the War of 1812.

Wild Animals

The wild animals consisted of the same species which inhabit the wild forests of northern Ohio generally. Panthers and calumants, or mountain cats, were seldom seen or heard, yet they doubtless sometimes passed through Madison as they prowled from their eastern and western hiding places.



Elk were seen in numerous droves sometimes, it is supposed, of 60 or 80 in one flock. Deer are plenty, seen lightly bounding from ridge to ridge. Wolves, bears, wildcats, swarms of raccoons, foxes, porcupines, opossums, and a long catalog of small animals inhabited Madison. Vast flocks of wild turkeys, various species of ducks, and numerous varieties of feathered songsters mingled their melodies with the wild howlings of bands of roving wolves, answering from ridge to ridge, while the shrill whoop and warsong all united to render the wild concert complete.

Settlement of Madison

First Settlers in Madison



The first white settler in this township was James Thompson who came from Jeanette,²² Pennsylvania in 1801. He settled on the east line of Madison, one mile west of the Northeast corner of tract number 11 in the line between the two numbers 11 and 12. He moved into a cabin previously built by a Mr. Merry and Mr. Ward,²³ who had commenced an improvement there by erecting a log cabin, underbrushing 10 acres, surrounding it with a low fence of 6 small rails in height, sowing one peck of wheat, and clearing out.²⁴

This cabin was built of small logs, low in all, a bark roof, and no floors or windows. Mr. Thompson moved into this cabin, in this condition, where he resided with his family for several years. Then, he sold out to John A. Harper, Esq., of Harpersfield, son of Colonel Harper and brother of Mrs. Tappan, lady of Judge Tappan.

The second family that settled in Madison was John Harper, Esq., brother of Mrs. Tappan who purchased of General Paine the lot now the residence of Hon. Judge Tappan in the village of Unionville and is lot number 6. At the date of Mr. Harper's settlement in Madison, his nearest neighbors were in Harpersfield, one of whom was William A. Harper.²⁵ Southerly, Windsor, Mesopotamia, and Warren contained but few settlers, and in the westerly, none nearer than Painesville.

22. Of names of towns now existing, Jeanette is the closest to the word Blakeslee wrote. See Chapter 3 for a slightly different account of the first settlers.

23. These two men might be Jared Ward and Ebenezer Merry, or his brother Hosmer, who were living in Mentor by 1800. Ebenezer is in the tax list on page 16.

The third permanent settler was Mr. Phineas Mixer, who came by way of Youngstown and Warren from Norwich, Massachusetts, and settled on the lake shore near Cunningham's Creek, in the present residence of William Cady, whose wife²⁶ is a daughter of Mr. Mixer. The next settlers were two young men, Joseph Williams and Ira Blanchard.²⁷ Mr. Blanchard settled on lot number 7, next west of Judge Tappan's residence, and Williams, in the west line of the Paine tract

24. "The first settlement in the township was made in the year 1802, and was consummated by a brother of the pioneer settlers of Harpersfield, by name John A. Harper. He came with the family in 1798, and remained with them until 1802, in December of which year he was married. Removing to Madison, he began house-keeping upon 100 acres of land he had purchased, it is thought, as early as 1800. This farm is now owned by Stephen Warner, and the log house erected and occupied by Harper stood a short distance west of Warner's present residence. Here, in November, 1803, their first child was born. This was the Hon. Rice Harper, now living at Sandusky, Ohio. Mr. Harper sold this farm after a few years to Hon. A. Tappan, and, removing to the middle ridge, purchased a farm of James Thompson. This he sold to Mr. Bartram, and purchased the present Hulett farm. In 1815, he removed to Perry township, and remained there until his decease, October 30, 1841. His youngest son, A. J. Harper, Esq., lives in Harpersfield. The next settler was without doubt the James Thompson, above referred to. The date of his settlement we are unable to give, and in fact can learn nothing of him after he sold his farm to Harper." *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 231-lc.

25. Wm. A Harper

26. i.e., Lois Mixer

27. "Ira Blanchard and Theodore Royce come next in order, [3rd & 4th settlers -Ed.] and both settled west of Harper, — Blanchard on lands subsequently owned by Phineas Mixer, Sr., and erected the tavern afterwards owned by Mr. Mixer. He died in 1810." *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 231-lc.

now owned and occupied as the residence of Mr. — Kibby.²⁸ The sixth and seventh families were of Amasa and Simeon Hill from Richfield, Otsego County, New York. They purchased and settled on the Painesville road about 1½ mile west of the east line of Madison in 1807, having previously commenced their improvements in 1806 while their families were staying in Harpersfield.

We will here observe that in the northeast corner of tract number 11 of the township of Madison, adjoining Harpersfield, including so much of Unionville as is contained in Madison, was a tract of 2,000 acres called "Paine's Tract" from his purchase of the same. The residue of number 11, consisting of about 14,000 acres was called "Chapin's Tract" which was surveyed into tracts of 1,000 acres each.

So much of Madison as is included in No 12, a gore township, was surveyed into 4 tracts extending from the lake shore to the north line of Number 11 called Equalizing Tracts, set apart and added to other towns whose value was below medium worth, for the purpose of equalizing the shares of the Land Company. These four tracts numbered from the east.²⁹

It appears that the Commissioners of Equalization of the lands of the Reserve considered Madison in its natural state inferior to no township of the Western Reserve.³⁰

The progress of the settlements in this township has been regularly onward.

28. Possibly, "Tully"

29. This thought appears unfinished. These tracts appear on the map on page 12.

30. The Connecticut Land Company chose Madison as one of the six best townships in the entire Western Reserve.

The 2,000 acres of the Paine Tract were mostly first settled, extending its progress along the south ridge to the west line of Madison. Then, villages flourished in the east and at center of the township. The North Ridge settlement, in rapid progress, excavated the wild forest to fruitful fields. The Middle Ridge, not far behind, followed in the train, while immediately after the War of 1812, Martin Williams 1st, Abijah Stearns, and Nathaniel Holbrook, succeeded by others, broke the forest south of Grand River which in their steady onwards progress now exhibits a thrifty, flourishing community.

In 1807, there were but nine families within the limits of the present township of Madison, viz. Judge A. Tappan³¹ near his present residence; Phineas Mixer³² on the lake shore; Jarius T. Andrews³³ about ½ mile west of Judge Tappan; Ira Blanchard; Amasa Hill; Simeon Hill;³⁴ James Miller³⁵ where he now resides and who came from Hampshire County, Massachusetts and settled in Madison that spring; W. Harper Esq. about ½ mile north of Unionville on the east line of the township; and James Thompson about one half mile west of Esq. Harper, and both on the Middle Ridge. Six of the settlers were on the South Ridge heading from Judge Tappan's westerly about 3 ½ miles, two were on the Middle Ridge, and one was on the lake shore.

31. See Chapter 3.

32. See Chapter 7.

33. "Jarius T. Andrews located on the south ridge west of Unionville, as early as 1805; he was a tailor, and doubtless found little use for his shears, bodkin, and yardstick. Certain it is that he only remained here a short time, removing to Euclid township, now Cuyahoga county." *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 231-lc.

34. See Chapter 6 for the Hill family.

35. See the section on Hunting in this chapter.

Cost of Food



Provisions at this time were rather cheaper than the preceding years when it is stated, wheat was brought in small quantities at \$3 per bushel, corn sold at \$2.00. Several barrels of pork, it is stated, were purchased at Concord and Painesville at \$40.00 per barrel. It is said that the year 1806 was memorable for the event of the immense multitude of squirrels that infested the forests of the lake townships, devastating the cornfields as they passed on their way in a most savage manner, and contributing much to the scarcity of grains and pork in 1807.

Pioneer Priorities

The first established road in the township was on the present Stage road along the South Ridge leading from Ashtabula to Painesville, from the Pennsylvania line to Michigan. Very nearly in the line of this present State and Stage road was in 1802 a beaten Indian path quite through this township.³⁶

The few citizens of Madison suffered but little sickness from the first settlement during a number of years. It is yet esteemed a healthy township although somewhat densely populated, containing upward of 3,000 inhabitants.³⁷ The general health of the citizens from the earliest has been good. The first death of a white person in Madison was of Mr. Blanchard who died of bilious fever in 1808, and was buried in the present Public Cemetery in Unionville.

The first white child to have been born within the limits of the township was a child of a Mr. James Thompson in 1803.³⁸

The earliest marriage of white persons in Madison is said to have been solemnized by Esq. Morse of

36. This road is the current Route 84.

37. The total population of Madison township in the 2000 Census was 18,428 and that of the Village alone was 2,920 (United States Census Bureau).

Harpersfield between the parties Mr. Joseph Williams and Miss Percy Woodworth.³⁹

The first store of goods was opened by James R. Ford on the South Ridge near the west line of the township at the tavern of Daniel Ladd, Esq. There are now five stores in Unionville, two at Centerville,⁴⁰ and one at Arcola.

Madison's First Government

It will be seen from the records that previous to the organization of Ashtabula County, which was in 1811, the present township of Madison was included within the limits of Harpersfield. The counties of Lake and Ashtabula were then included in the county of Geauga. Madison was detached from Harpersfield and created a separate township by its present style on the 1st April, 1811.

The following extract was taken from the records of Madison township, viz.

At a Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
of the County of Geauga — Resolved by the
Board that so much of that part of Harpers-
field as lies in the County of Geauga and is
situated in Township Number Twelve and all
that part of Township Number Eleven as lies

38. In Chapter 3, this birth is dated in 1802. An alternative priority is: "Hon. Rice Harper, son of John A. Harper, and at present residing at Sandusky, Ohio, was, without doubt, the first white child born within the present limits of Madison township. He was born in November, 1803." *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 133-rc.
39. Percy Woodworth. The source of this fact may be Electra Tappan (see below) who gives a date of 1806. A possible contradiction comes from another source: "The first marriage in the western part of the township occurred in the year 1811. The happy pair were John Loring and Miss Esther Hanks." *Ibid*, p. 232-rc.
40. i.e., Madison Village

north of Grand river in the Sixth Number of the Original Survey be, and the same is hereby incorporated and erected into a Separate Township by the Name of Madison, hereafter to enjoy all the privileges and immunities that a separate township belonging. And Also that the Electors meet at the house of Phineas Mixer in said township on the first Monday of April next at ten o'clock AM for the purpose of choosing Township Officers — by Order of the Board,

Signed Nehemiah King, Clerk
Madison April 1, 1811⁴¹

Agreeable to Order the Electors of Madison met and made choice of the following Officers to Wit

Abram Tappan – Chairman

Judges:
Lemuel Potter
John A. Harper

Samuel Potter – Township Clerk

Trustees:
Uriah Bartram
Asa Turney
Thomas Montgomery⁴²

Masters of the Poor:
Rowland Ellis
James Miller

41. According to the *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 234, the meeting voting on this action was held on March 13, 1811.

42. Thos. MtGomery

Fence Viewers:
John Wood
Daniel Turney

Appraisers of property:
Lister Uriah Bartram
Benjamin Custin

Voted that the township be divided into Two
Highway Districts

Supervisors of Highways:
Rowland Ellis
James Miller
Luke Bonesteed

Abraham Tappan – Treasurer

John A. Harper – Justice of the Peace

April 14th, at a Meeting of the Trustees, the
township was divided into 2 School dis-
tricts.⁴³

Events on Mixer's Lake Shore



Mr. Mixer resided on the lake shore five or six years at a mile's distance from neighbors at Harpersfield, suffering the inconveniences incident to a pioneer's life, surrounded by a forest. At this time Esq. Gregory's⁴⁴ gristmill was in operation on Grand River in Harpersfield, where he went for grinding previous to the War of 1812. He removed from this place onto the

43. In a marginal note: "1848 No of Electors in Madison about 600. There are now Fortynine Road Districts, And Twenty Common School Districts."

44. Gregery

South Ridge and settled in the lot next west of Judge Tappan's in Unionville where his son now resides. This removal was in consequence of the inconveniences of bringing up a family of children in respect to educational privileges. Mr. Mixer still retains the occupancy of the place.



The British in 1813, having then the command of the Lake, landed near Mixer's farm on the shore. They took one of his oxen, several axes along the shore, and sundry other articles, leaving a gold piece of the value of \$8.00 with a slip of paper stating that if the sum left was insufficient they would pay the balance on their next visit.⁴⁵

Previous to this event on the ever glorious 4th of July the citizens of the Ridge, Judge Tappan and his Lady, Esq. William A. Harper and Lady, John A. Harper, Esq. and his Lady, Judge John Hubbard and Lady, Esq. Charles Curtis and Lady, Artemas Cunningham and Lady, Benjamin Hanks⁴⁶ and Lady, Jesse Ladd, Esq., from Harpersfield, and others from Madison, whose names are not mentioned, to the number of about 20, feeling the true spirit of July, mounted on horses, in excellent style, abundantly supplied with the rich bounties of their freedom and independence, and paraded in the early morn, through the dense for-

45. The British enjoyed naval superiority on Lake Erie until an attack by Commodore Oliver Perry captured the entire British squadron in the Battle of Lake Erie at Put-In-Bay, Ohio, near Sandusky on September 10, 1813. Perry's victory left the lingering British forces in the Northwest Territory vulnerable, and they were driven from Detroit shortly afterwards and decisively defeated in early October at the Battle of the Thames in Canada by General William Henry Harrison. Thus, this "invasion" of Madison probably occurred after July 4, and before September, 1813. These military victories finally removed from Ohio all British influence.

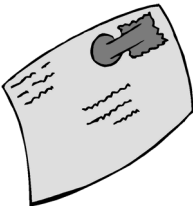
46. Benjm. Hanks

est to the selected ground on the Mixer farm at the lake shore. Upon arriving, the horses were turned out, and the whole party in patriotic style commenced the celebration in the open field near Mixer's then deserted house.

When an excellent cold collection was spread on a table formed by taking Mixer's door from his cabin, the ladies washing it off with lake water, when it was set in its place heavy laden with the good things of this life and surrounded by some of the most patriotic pioneer ladies and gentlemen of the farm and forest of the Connecticut Western Reserve who partook of a noble spirit, of the repast until all were satisfied. Afterwards, they took an excursion on the blue waters of Erie in an old leaky boat, which they found on the shore. After a pleasant excursion, both up and down the Lake a little distance, bailing out the water occasionally, the noble boat was safely brought into port, the happy, cheerful, independent party safely landed, when, all being satisfied, they repaired, each to his abode.

This way, they celebrated the birth of American freedom in good style.

Mail Route



As early as 1804 or 1805, a mail route⁴⁷ was established transmitting the Detroit Mail by way of Deerfield, No. 1 to Portage County where there was a Post Office, thence to Warren, Mesopotamia, Trumbull Post Office, Windsor, Ashtabula County, where Judge Griswold⁴⁸ was Post Master, hence on to Harpersfield by way of Austinburg where Judge E. Austin was Post Master and Esq. Ezra Gregory⁴⁹ at Harpersfield, hence through Geneva and up the Lake hence to Cleveland, and southerly in a circuitous route to Deer-

field. At this time was no Post Office in Geneva. The first Post Office it appears, was established in Madison some years subsequent to the first settlement, when Phineas Mixer was the first Post Master in Madison. There was a horse mail weekly. The office was kept on the South Ridge in the western part of Unionville near where Phineas Mixer Jr. yet resides. In 1809, the United States Mail was first transported along the South Ridge in a clumsy wagon driven by John Metcalf⁵⁰ of Ashtabula. Later, Esq. Mixer was succeeded and two Post Offices established, one at Unionville and another at Centerville⁵¹, and Judge Tappan and Esq. Jonathan Brigham were appointed and commissioned Post Masters in these two places. Another Office was kept at Arcola on the North Ridge. Charles Burr is the present incumbent at Centerville, and Charles M. Doolittle at Unionville. A Mail Stage Coach traverses through this town, along the South Ridge through these two villages each way, daily.

47. Other sources say that the first mail route was from Warren to Cleveland in 1803, walked by a man named McIlvain, passing through Unionville.

48. Judge Griswald

49. Ezra Gregery

50. John Mitcalf

51. i.e., Madison Village

Churches



In regard to the origin of the religious order of society in Madison, as early as a sufficient number of inhabitants were settled here to assemble, and very few they were, they forgot not the assemblings of themselves together on the Sabbath, as the manner of same is on the Sabbath.

These meetings were attended by all and continued until preaching meetings were established, previous to which time, missionary preachers held meeting here. It is thought the first sermon was preached in this place by Rev. Mr. Leslie of Geneva at Judge Tappan's home.⁵²

The first regular established preaching was by Elder Root from Fabias, State of New York,⁵³ who was a Baptist minister and lived here for a term of four or five months. The few citizens of all denominations attended.

Elder Hanks occasionally, for a time, held meetings with the citizens of this place, likewise the well known Baptist minister Joshua Woodworth, now residing in New Lyme in Ashtabula County, at times preached at this place while residing in Jefferson, where he was ordained in 1813.

52. "In 1813 the Rev. Giles H. Cowles, of Austinburg, delivered, in the log cabin of J. T. Andrews, the pioneer sermon of the township. This house stood on the place now occupied by George Fisher. In July, 1814, a Congregational church was organized at the log house of Lemuel Kimball." *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 233-rc. See the next few paragraphs for the first sermon preached, and Chapter 3 for another version of the priorities of sermons and preachers.

53. Presumably, Fabias, Onondaga, New York.

The First Congregational Church in Madison was constituted September 5, 1814, at Centerville⁵⁴ by Rev. Mr. Leslie, Rev. Mr. Badger, and Rev. Thomas Barr, the number of members then nine.

The following was extracted from the First Church records:

It being the desire of a Number of brethren in Madison, then in the county of Geauga, now Lake, to be formed and organized into a Congregational Church, a Meeting was held July 29, 1814 at Lemuel Kimball's in Madison, Rev. Jonathan Leslie presiding as Moderator, when measures were taken for forming a Church which was organized on the 16 Sept. 1814.

The number of Members was nine, Viz.: Jesse Ladd, John Cunningham, Thomas Montgomery,⁵⁵ Jesse Ladd Jr., Lemuel Kimball, Rebecca Montgomery,⁵⁶ Ruby Ladd, Polly Kimball, and Abigail Mixer.

Counsel — Rev. Joseph Badger, Rev. Jonathan Leslie, Rev. Thomas Seidel.

The first settled minister and pastor over this church was Rev. Alvan Hyde from Lee Berkshire County, Massachusetts. After remaining pastor of this church about two and a half years, Rev. Mr. Hyde returned to Massachusetts, where he died.

It is stated that the first sermon preached at Centerville⁵⁷ in this township was by Lorenzo Dow,⁵⁸ stand-

54. i.e., Madison Village

55. Thomas MtGumarey

56. Rebecca MtGomary

ing on the top of a large stump in front of the present Congregational Church at this place.

57. Madison Village

58. Another description of this iconoclastic preacher is:

“He gave notice in April, 1827, to the citizens of Cleve-land, that, on the second day of July following, at two o’clock P.M., he would hold religious services on the bank of the lake, at the foot of Water Street, in the open air. This singular notice attracted general attention, and the day was awaited with patient curiosity. Everybody had heard of Crazy Dow, as he was often called; but nobody in this region had ever seen him. Yet it was well understood that he always fulfilled his appointments. On the day and at the hour specified, a large concourse of people from town and country assembled at the spot designated, all on tip-toe with expectation. A low, umbrella-like butternut-tree afforded them a grateful shade. The day was hot and sultry, exciting free perspiration and the frequent use of pocket-handkerchiefs. The moment two o’clock arrived, a strange apparition, with long curling hair and in shirt-sleeves, with coat folded on one arm and a staff in the right hand, approached the waiting assembly, and deliberately took a seat on the ground beneath the butternut-tree. It was Lorenzo Dow. He folded his arms across his knees, and rested his head on them, as if in deep meditation. The assembly began to whisper one to another, “Is that Dow?” Some said “Yes;” others, in a half whisper, said, “It is the Devil.” The devote itinerant overheard this unsavory compliment, and, lifting his head from his knees, gazed upon the motley crowd that surrounded him for a few moments in silence, then rose to his feet, and said, “Well, here you are, rag, shag, and bobtail!” and, taking a small Testament from his pocket, held it up in his hand, and declared in a loud voice, “See here! I have a commission from Heaven to cast out devils, of which I fear some of you are possessed” In this vein of thought, and with a rhetoric peculiarly his own, he continued for an hour or more He then took his departure, and nobody could tell whither he went, or from whence he came.” Rice, Harvey. op. cit., pgs. 107-109.

Lorenzo Dow appeared at the close of service in Centerville, mounted a stump and preached. He then said he would preach in Unionville, and come on, the people following to Judge Tappan's new barn, which was crowded. This was in 1810. He lay down with his face covered a few minutes, and then rose and preached. He would eat nothing and went four miles and ate at supper and stayed all night.⁵⁹

Notwithstanding all the natural advantages possessed by the citizens of Madison over the majority of those of her sister townships in regard to soil, location, etc., yet the natural divisions of the township of Madison, by those three parallel ridges, by its streams, connected with the civil and religious feelings of the citizens, instead of one Congregational Church, as at first constituted, there are now three Congregational Churches, each of which has a good, well finished, in good state, frame meetinghouse. One of these is situated in the North Ridge, the old location of the first Congregational Church constituted in Madison in 1814.

A Baptist Church has a handsome well built meetinghouse in the Middle Ridge.

A good well finished meetinghouse belonging to a Methodist Society is situated in the village of Unionville in the South Ridge near the east line of the township.

Besides these, there are in the north part of the township, those who worship in a small chapel, and a Free-will Baptist Church who worship in a schoolhouse.

59. The author of this passage, in a shaky unpracticed hand, different from Blakeslee's, is unknown.

Hunting Stories



Mr. James Miller⁶⁰ was one of the noted hunters of Madison in early days. He yet tells as good a bear, wolf, or elk story, just as the hearer chooses.

-
60. "William Miller, from Coleraine, Massachusetts, arrived in Madison in February, 1807. He was accompanied by his son James. They selected one hundred acres of land on the south ridge, west of Madison village, now occupied by James Woodworth, who married James Miller's youngest daughter, Sevilla. The Millers erected, just west of the present residence of Woodworth, a log house of goodly proportions. Here the father and son lived the life of bachelors, kept tavern, and cleared the farm. James returned to Massachusetts early in the year 1809, and was married in July of the same year to Levina Holbrook, and, on the 14th of the following August, started for his Ohio home accompanied by his wife, his mother, and two brothers, – Bolton and Ritchie, – and arrived in Madison after a journey of six weeks. Mrs. Miller, Sr., died in Madison. William and his son Ritchie were members of Captain Montgomery's company (war of 1812), and the former died while in the service. Ritchie was killed a few years since by the cars, at Bedford, Ohio; Bolton settled in Bristol, Trumbull county, and died there. 'Miller's Tavern' afterwards became quite famous by reason of a soldier accidentally shooting himself while at or near the house." *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 231-lc.

Miller's Bear Story



We will give one bear story as related by Mr. Miller. In the autumn of 1808⁶¹, Miller and his father started off with their rifles and nine month old pup in search of his horse running in the woods with bells on, which was a very important appendage in the wild forest in these days. They had not traveled far, when they heard a most tremendous outcry of a gang of seven dogs in full chase of a huge longlegged, long-sided black bear. Mr. Miller's pup joined in concert with the older dogs. The bear soon came in sight with the whole gang of dogs, some hanging on one side, some on the other, and some chasing behind. Mr. Miller perceived that the caravan was coming directly toward him and drew up his rifle to give bruin a salute; but whenever he took aim he found a dog between him and the bear, and to shoot a dog would be not the worst of crimes, but is a loss to community.

The bear with her escort passed by at a quick speed. The men gave chase. Two men with loaded rifles, one old bear, and eight dogs were now running a race. Yelling and snarling, screaming and barking, they made southwesterly about two miles to Grand River.

The bear and dogs would outrun the men on a steady pull, but the bear would often attempt to go up a tree. Then the dogs would besiege her latter and so closely that she would let go the tree and go ahead, they maneuvering until she arrived at the north bank of Grand River, when she made a headlong plunge.

All this time, Messrs. Miller were following, endeavoring to get a shot at the black woolly creature, but the dogs shielded the bear. Bruin was so far safe, as no shot could be made at the bear without endangering the life of one or more dogs.

61. Possibly, "1818."

Making a plunge down the bank, the bear struck land about 20 feet below. Some of the dogs pitched off non-stop until they reached the bottom near the river. The bear ran along side the steep washes down the river. The gang of dogs divided into two divisions, one part below the bear, the remainder above, recommenced the race, and continued it about $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, when the bruin climbed a tall pine and went to roost. sitting on a limb, with her back toward the tree, some 50 or 60 feet from the ground.

Mr. James Miller went up the bank, drew up his rifle, took aim, let off, and broke one thigh of the bear. The bear fell and struck the ground far below the root of the tree, and bounced like a ball. Recovering three of her feet, she attempted to cross the river but as one limb was disabled, the dogs prevented her. She went up a tall elm, poked her nose through the crotch of the tree, and while looking "down" upon the group below received a rifle ball in one side, and fell backward to the ground. The bear seized one dog by the throat, and father Miller, to save the dog, kicked the bear about the breeches. The bear suddenly changed ends, and taking Mr. Miller by the foot, laid him flat on his back. The dogs redoubled their efforts and distracted the bear's close attention, giving Mr. Miller an opportunity to rise upright on an elm cudgel, with which he labored industriously over the hard head of the bear until her will was spoiled.

The battle was over. The bear was dead, and a right, old, longlegged, long-sided, red nosed brute she was. They dressed her upstream about one half mile, when the men to whom the dogs belonged came to them. They were Simeon Hill, David Hill, and John Wood. The bear was soon dissected and each man took his share.

This is only one incident, of probably hundreds of the like, which in the early days occurred in Madison.

Other Hunters



A volume might be compiled on the daring and successful exploits of noted hunters who followed the chase in those days, and before whose deadly rifles⁶², herds of elk and deer, gangs of wolves, and numerous grisly bears fell in Madison forest.

Of the most celebrated forest champions, the noted John La Mont shone most conspicuous. His residence was in Harpersfield. Before his unerring rifle the terror stricken animals, of not only Madison but of the then one far extended grove around, either fled or fell when his hunting uniform was seen in the dense forest.

Wolves



Of the numerous wolves that were slaughtered in Madison, many amusing anecdotes might be related, and many narrow escapes from the jaws of these ferocious animals, which in these short sketches, we shall omit. Suffice to say that these animals were numerous in Madison, issuing at evening in numerous bands from the evergreen pinery in the northwestern part of Madison, sounding in concert. Their long howls mingled with a series of shorter shrill notes of the whole choir as they prowled through the forest eastward between the North Ridge and the Lake, answered by single howling in different directions, until meeting in Geneva with cautious bands from Saybrook, when the most dismal howlings in a general concert were continued until day. When, to the sounds of their own music for these nocturnal meetings, the parties dispersed and marched to their own quarters.

62. These rifles were probably the noted "Pennsylvania rifles" muzzle loading flintlocks with long, rifled barrels that provided state-of-the-art accuracy.

Elk Hunt



Elk were found in Madison in numerous droves. Many were slain for their hides, tallow, and beif,⁶³ which was considered good. We give a short elk story. In December, 1811, Mr. James Miller, his father, Elijah Hanks, Jr., and John Hanks started off to the Lake for elk. On arriving within about 6 rods of the shore, two large elk were discovered on the bank. The dogs were let loose, and the elk ran into the Lake. The men and dogs followed about 1 ½ miles over cakes of ice. When one elk fell in between cakes of ice, he was unable to climb out again. A rope was cast over his horns, and he drew up on the ice, when he plunged at the men. They let him into the water and drawing his head upon the ice, they knocked his brains out with an axe. While dressing this elk, it was found the ice was floating away, which caused the men to drag the elk on in haste. The next morning the shore was clear of ice. The flesh of this elk is said to have weighed 750 lbs. If so, it was an enormous great elk.

Madison Circa 1850

Madison is now upwards of 3,000 free, enlightened citizens, mostly emigrants from the state of Massachusetts, and the principal portion of them from the counties of Berkshire and Hampshire, and their descendants. A considerable portion is from Connecticut, the Land of Steady Habits. Judge Tappan is from the state of New Jersey, to Onondaga County, New York, thence to Madison. Some few others emigrated from New Jersey and very few from Pennsylvania and a few from New York.

Forty seven years have passed since the axe was at the root of the tree by the earliest settler in Madison, then an unbroken forest far away in the midst of the western wilds, where once roamed the bear, the wolf, and

63. i.e., meat

uncivilized man, the whole west from Buffalo a general forest, with here and there, at long intervals, a log cabin. Wherever the pioneer cast his eyes, a forest only met his glance. On reaching the shore of Erie no white man's sail greeted his vision. The Indian canoe bespoke not that he was in the land of civilization.

But the contrast. The pen is inadequate to describe it. I feel it.

We take our stand on the South Ridge on the east line, at Unionville. We find ourselves in the midst of a populous, wealthy, beautifully laid out and handsomely built up, and thriving village. We move westward viewing the noble buildings through to and at Centerville, habitations of wealth, the wide extended farms, stretching far to the right and left as we pass. While gazing, we beheld other farms all under the highest state of civilization. From the eastern to the western limits of Madison, the road we have traversed is one of the most beautiful in the world.

We next extend our walk along the Middle Ridge, where the scene is not changed, a beautiful road where wide spread farms on each hand are presented to our view, cultivated in an excellent manner, yielding their rich bounty to their happy owners. Next, we visit the North Ridge, from east to west, here too beauty and wealth walk in hand.⁶⁴

We pause. The forests are subdued. Fertile fields and heavy laden orchards of the richest fruit now occupy the same ground. The wigwams are no more seen and by most of us forgotten that they existed in Madison. Splendid villages and elegant mansions now occupy their places. The Indian path beneath the shady foliage of the South Ridge we can no longer trace. Where

64. Blakeslee left this sentence incomplete, and the last phrase was apparently finished by another hand.

was it? The Stage and State road, on which so much refinement and wealth now pass, occupies the same ground. Where is the beloved square where the untutored Red Man performed their nocturnal devotions, chanting to the Great Yohiciwah or other object or objects of adoration, accompanied by the solemn tones of the sacred drum, or in other manner, worship their deity? The sacred drum or other idol worship is no longer heard. In all directions, above the lofty buildings, we behold the spines of temples erected to the worship of the True and Living God.

This Madison Township

by Abraham Tappan &
Electra Tappan

Preface

This Madison Township was commenced in the winter of 1838-39 by my father and myself, but a long sickness, followed by a long residence from home, prevented its being resumed, and I send it in its incomplete state as the best that I can do.⁶⁵

A large proportion of the early settlers were from New England: the Ladds and Brewsters from Massachusetts, the Kimballs from New Hampshire, the Emorys and Baileys from Vermont,⁶⁶ Curtis Hubbard,⁶⁷ and Bidwell from Connecticut, Tappan from New York.

[signed] Electra Tappan⁶⁸

65. To whom this paragraph is addressed is not revealed in the documents, but possibly, Electra Tappan is sending her manuscript to Joel Blakeslee.

Some Early Settlers in the Gore

People that first came on to the Gore⁶⁹ with their families were:

Jabez Smith	Came on 1815
Martin Williams	Came 1815
Abijah Stearns	Came 1816
Lewis Randall	Came 1816
Lemon Copley	Came 1816
Nathaniel Holbrook ⁷⁰	1816
Lucius Howland	1818
Daniel Mathews ⁷¹	1817
Henry Cross	1816
David Holbrook ⁷²	1818
William Long ⁷³	1818

66. "Carlow Bailey came from Caledonia county, Vermont, and located near Unionville, in December, 1819. He was a carpenter, and erected many of the houses in that village. His wife, whom he married December 5, 1816, was Apphia B., a sister of Dr. Emory. The children born prior to their coming to Ohio were Emory, who married Eliza Church, and lives in Toledo, Ohio, and Harlow (deceased). The children born in Ohio were Alanson, married Flavia Bond, resides in Buffalo; Harlow (deceased); Edison (deceased); Caroline, married John Blair, resides in Madison village, and with them her aged parents; and Daniel, the youngest, who married Mary Donnelly, and lives in Buffalo. The male members of this family have been extensively engaged in ship-building in Madison, Toledo, and elsewhere. Mr. Blair removed to Madison village in 1863; he has ever been an energetic, stirring business man." *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 232-1c.

67. Curtiss Hubbard

68. Electra Tappen

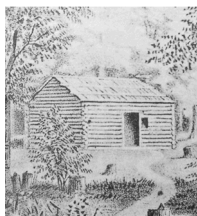
69. See Chapters 1 and 2 for explanations of the Gore.

70. Nathaniel Holbrooks

71. Daniel Mathues

72. David Holbrooks

First Settlers in Madison



The first settlers in Madison were James Thompson and his family; and Joel Paine and his wife. They came in December, 1800. Thompson and his family remained several years; Joel Paine and his wife remained but a few months; returning to Painesville, their last residence. Paine resided on Lot number 1, and Thompson, on Lot number 4 in Paine's Tract.

The first birth in Madison was in the family of James and Jenney Thompson in July, 1802. The new born infant was a son and received the name William McFarland, named so after Major McFarland, one of the first settlers of the adjoining town of Harpersfield.

The first person married in Madison was Joseph Williams, who married a young woman by the name of Percy Woodworth. Her marriage was in Madison in 1806. She was at the time residing in her fathers family, whose house stood within a few rods of the southwest corner of Geneva. Williams resided at the time of his marriage on Lot number 15, Paine's Tract. Asa Turney and family afterwards resided on the lot.⁷⁴

The first death in Madison was Ira Blanchard. This took place in July, 1808. Blanchard took sick in May of that year, of bilious fever;⁷⁵ and was the subject of painful and distressing sickness to his decease. He was a young man, perhaps 28 years of age, and left a young wife, who had a son born two months after her husband's death.

73. Wm. Long

74. See Asa Turney's account in Chapter 4.

75. Possibly, typhoid fever, malaria, or hepatitis.

The first regular physician who resided in Madison was Dr. John Emory⁷⁶. Dr. Emory was from Vermont, was a young unmarried man, and but lately commenced practice in his profession when he emigrated to this town. This was in the summer of 1815. His residence was in Unionville. He married in July, 1816, to Elizabeth Wheeler, eldest daughter of Judge Wheeler.⁷⁷

The first merchant who settled in Madison was William Holbrook, Esquire. In October, 1815, William Holbrook and Solomon Kingsbury of Painesville, bought of Abraham Tappan, two acres of land at Madison 4 Corners, now Unionville. Mr. Holbrook, immediately on his removal to Unionville, commenced building a store, which was so far finished that he placed a store of goods in January, 1816. His family resided in the chamber part of the store.

The first public house⁷⁸ opened in Madison was kept by Ira Blanchard. Blanchard opened his house for public entertainment in the latter part of the year 1806. The place is now owned and occupied by Deacon Melchar Mixer, being Lot number 7 on Paine's Tract.

The first school taught in Madison was at Madison 4 Corners, now Unionville. Asa Wheeler, Jr. was teacher. The school was kept in a house owned by Samuel Potter;⁷⁹ commencing in November, 1814, and continued there the following winter.

76. John Emery

77. "Hon. Samuel Wheeler studied law, and after his admission to the bar located at Unionville, where he rose rapidly, and soon acquired a fine reputation. He was a member of the legislature of Ohio several terms. He died November 8, 1831." *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 231-lc.

78. i.e., a home and tavern

The Court of Quarter Sessions sitting at Warren appointed Judge Austin of Austinburg, Solomon Griswold, Esquire, of Windsor, and Aaron Wheeler, Esquire of Harpersfield, Commissioners, to survey and lay out a road from the Pennsylvania line at Conneaut to the west line of Chapin, now Madison Village. To this duty the commissioners attended in September 1802, and surveyed and laid out the road in accordance with the order of their instructions. This was transacted under the authority of the Territorial Government. The road, then established, is now known to east of the Ashtabula Creek, as the North Ridge Road; and to the west of said creek as the South Ridge Road⁸⁰; and is the first public highway ever established in Madison. The laying out and establishing a road from Chapin west line, to Chagrine⁸¹, now Willoughby, was entrusted to other Commissioners, appointed by the same authority and at the same time with the first named Commissioners.

Ira Blanchard was the first permanent settler who bought and resided in Madison.⁸² He came to Painesville in November, 1801. His last place of residence, before coming to this country, was Pompey, Onondaga County, New York. Blanchard at the time of his arrival at Painesville was young, not over twenty one; and was without a family. He purchased Lot number 7 in Paine's Tract of General Edward Paine, and worked

79. "William Potter was a native of New London, Connecticut, born May 10, 1788. His life from twelve to twenty-one was principally passed as a sailor.... He emigrated to Madison, May 8, 1809. ... He spent three or four years with a brother Samuel, living south of Unionville." *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 231-232.

80. This road is now Route 84.

81. Later, spelled "Chagrin."

82. Apparently, the authors think that since Joel Paine and James Thompson did not stay long in Madison, Blanchard was the first permanent settler.

for the General the year and a half following to pay for his lot. Two dollars per acre was paid for the lot. He commenced working on his purchase in May or June, 1803, and was married in the summer of 1806 to Lydia Case of Austinburg. He died in July, 1808. Blanchard was a worthy citizen.

Joseph Williams came from Pompey, New York to Painesville in May, 1802. He purchased Lot number 15, Paine's Tract, of General Paine, and worked for the General and paid for his lot wholly by his labor. He married and settled on his lot in the summer of 1806. He enlisted in the army, and served under the command of Captain J. A. Harper. He died in the public service in the fore part of the year 1814.

John Wood came into this country in December, 1805, at that time a young single man without family. Mr. Wood purchased Lot number 20, in Paine's Tract. He was married in February, 1807, to Minnie⁸³ Montgomery, daughter of Thomas Montgomery. He settled on his lot in the following June. Mr. Wood and his wife are still living, and reside in Madison, on the south side of Grand River near the east line of the township.

The First Church in Madison

At a meeting of several professors of religion, at the house of Mr. Lemuel Kimball, in Madison it was agreed to organize a church, to be denominated a "congregational church in the town of Madison"; and agreed that when organized, a confession of faith as contained in articles, then presented, sixteen in number, should be the ground of their faith. And, at the same meeting, they agreed upon the form of a covenant.

83. Possibly, "Maria Montgomery"

The Rev. Jonathan Leslie was at the meeting and presided as moderator. It was voted also, that an invitation or request be made to the Reverends Wm.

Badger,⁸⁴ Leslie, and Barr, to be present at the time of organizing the church; and that Wm. Barr be requested to preach on that occasion.

On September 16th, by previous appointment the following named persons met for the purpose of being organized into a church; to wit: Jesse Ladd, John Cunningham, Thomas Montgomery, Jesse Ladd, Jr.

Lemuel Kimball,⁸⁵ Rebecca Montgomery,⁸⁶ Ruby Ladd, Polly Kimball, and Abigail Mixer. The following named ministers were present in council: Rev. Messrs. Joseph Badger, Andrew Rawson, Jonathan Leslie, and Thomas Barr. Prayer was by Wm. Leslie.

It was agreed in council, after examining the confession of faith and the covenant, to organize a church. Rev. Mr. Rawson preached from Jer. 23–2ch. Rev. Mr. Badger read the confession of faith; to which the candidates subscribed. They then solemnly entered into covenant with God and each other, and were pronounced a church of Christ. Concluding prayer was by Rev. Mr. Barr. The first communion of the church was on the following sabbath. The first additions to the church appear from the records to have been May 5th, 1816. The persons then admitted were William Ensign, Mary Ensign, Asahel North, Mrs. North,

84. The authors probably confuse the given names of the clerics mentioned in these paragraphs, but they are left as written and uncorrected. The actual names of these ordained ministers were Joseph Badger, Thomas Barr, and Jonathan Leslie. Whether other people with names as given above actually existed is unclear to this editor. Sketches of the early Presbyterian and Congregational ministers in the Western Reserve can be found in *The Plan of Union*. W. S. Kennedy. Hudson, OH: Pentagon Steam Press, 1856. FHL Film # 1759276.

Frances Curtis, and Mary Ann Hubbard. The second addition to the church was April 19th, 1817. Persons admitted at that time were Deacon Jasper Brewster, Mrs. D. Brewster and Deacon Foster Emerson. Third addition was May 17, 1818, Ida Cunningham,⁸⁷ Mercy Cady, Harriet Talcott, and Harriet Gordon.

On July 9th, 1816, the church adopted articles of practice, eight in number, in conformity with the recommendation of the Grand River Presbytery. By the first article, the church adopted the regulations proposed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church and approved by the General Association of the State

85. "Lemuel Kimball and family, from Cheshire county, New Hampshire, arrived in Madison township, August 27, 1812, and stopped at Unionville, where he remained one year, then removed to Madison, and with his brother, General Abel Kimball, took up seven hundred acres of land. The present elegant residence of General Kimball stands upon a portion of this purchase. The family of Lemuel Kimball consisted of six children, — Mrs. Paige of Painesville, also Mrs. Dr. Ross, of same place; Addison resides in Madison. General Kimball occupies a prominent position in the township, and has been ever foremost in promoting its interests. While a member of the State legislature he, in March, 1848, by his own efforts, procured the charter by which we have to-day our Lake Shore railroad. He had no petition, but worked the matter through by judicious "swapping" off. He was elected the first time in 1844." *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 232-lc.

"In 1812, following Indian trails through a dense forest, Sophia Kimball came, with her father and his family, from Ringo, N. H., to the then Western wilderness of Northern Ohio. As the little party journeyed on they met couriers from Sandusky Bay shouting the news of Hull's surrender, and warning them to turn back to escape the Indians, who, it was feared, would soon overrun the country." Wickham, G.V.R. op. cit., p. 43.

86. Rebekah Montgomery

87. Possibly, "Ada Cunningham"

of Connecticut June 16th, 1801, for the promotion of union and harmony amongst the churches in the new settlements. The second article authorizes the appointment of a standing committee, from among the male members, of not less than three, nor more than seven. The duty of the committee was to take cognizance of the disorderly conduct of members.⁸⁸

The remaining six articles, not materially different from the articles of practice, generally adopted in churches, excepting the eighth, which condemned the practice of collecting hay and grain, or any part of the business of making sugar⁸⁹ on the Sabbath.

The names of the male members, chosen at this meeting as the first standing meeting of the committee of the church were John Cunningham, Jesse Ladd, Jr.,⁹⁰ and Asahel North.

The first Presbyterian minister who preached in Madison was the Rev. Jonathan Leslie. The meeting was at the house of Amasa and Simeon Hill. This was the year 1810. It is not now recollected that any clergyman of any other denomination preached in the town until after the years above mentioned.

88. Churches had a long tradition in New England of enforcing their rules with committees that reported misconduct. The elders or minister gave warnings and offered counseling to wayward members. Ultimate punishment was excommunication from church membership.

89. The making of sugar and maple syrup from the sap of the sugar maple tree is practiced today in Lake County.

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90. "Jesse Ladd, originally from Connecticut, came from Washington, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, to Madison on horseback, in 1812, and purchased of the Connecticut Land Company some six hundred acres of land on the south ridge. After making some preparation for settlement he returned for his family, consisting of a wife and five children, and his aged father, then eighty-two, who died two or three years subsequent to the arrival.

By reason of the very large emigration at that time, Mr. Ladd was induced to engage in the business of keeping tavern, and accordingly erected for that purpose, soon after his settlement, the house now occupied as a dwelling by Joseph Wood. This business he carried on until his death, in 1827, but, owing principally to the hard times succeeding the war of 1812, during which property depreciated in value to a generally ruinous figure, the enterprise never proved successful financially, and he died insolvent. The farm, with buildings, which alone cost some five thousand dollars, was after his death sold for three thousand six hundred dollars.

He married Rubey Brewster, of Massachusetts, whose ancestor, Elder William Brewster, was a prominent passenger in the "Mayflower." Of the five children, four are now living, as follows: Mrs. Edward Bissell, Mrs. Cushing Cunningham, Mrs. (now widow of) Dr. Andrews Merrimon, all residing in Madison; and S. T. Ladd, of the firm of Ladd & Marshall, lumber-dealers, Painesville.

Mr. and Mrs. Ladd died, he in August, 1827, and she in July, 1824." *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 232-rc.

A Record of the Family of Asa Turney

Asa S. Turney

Of their removal from Old to New Connecticut

When we started for the western world, we were in all nine in family: father, mother, five boys, and two girls. Father was 50 years, 2 months, 15 days when we arrived in this place, and mother was 41 years, one month.

Daniel the first and oldest was 21 years, 7 months, 20 days;

Phebe the 2nd was 18 years, 9 months, 20 days;

David the 3rd was 15 years, 0 months, 6 days;

George the 4th was 12 years, 9 months, 18 days;

Charlana the 5th was 10 years, 4 months, 9 days;

Asa⁹¹ the 6th was 5 years, 9 months, and 9 days;

Marvin the 7th was 2 years, 4 months, 9 days; and

Eli the 8th was 6 years, minus, making him purely buckeye, and making our number in all 10 in family.

Daniel started from Reading in the state of Connecticut⁹² to this country April 24th, 1809, with his pack

on his back, in company with Levi Bartram⁹³, Uriah Bartram⁹⁴, John French, and John Reed.

After he arrived in this country, he bargained for the place on which I now live of a man by the name of Williams.⁹⁵ He then wrote back to father to come on

91. "ASA S. TURNEY. The subject of this sketch was born in the town of Reading, Fairfield county, Connecticut, in the year 1804. He came with his parents to Madison township when five years old, making the journey with an ox-team and a span of horses. It was a long and somewhat tedious journey, requiring fifty-three days to perform it. There were then no roads or bridges, — simply a wild kind of trail through the woods. The horses and oxen were made to swim the streams, the goods were put aboard such rude boats as could be found in those days, and a line attached to the wagons and drawn across by hand. At the time of his arrival at Madison there were but three houses between his present residence and Painesville, and only three in Painesville. Mr. Turney has resided for sixty-nine years on the farm his father located. At the age of twenty he was united in marriage to Laura Hoyt, daughter of Isaac Hoyt, of Madison. She was born in the same town as that in which her husband was born, and moved into Madison in 1815. They had seven children, — six daughters and one son, — all of whom are living. Nancy, the eldest, married Frank Wyman, who is deceased; she resides in Centreville. Polly married Franklin Fellows, and lives a short distance from the homestead. Almira married Horace Norton, and lives in Perry. Amanda is unmarried, and remains at home with her parents. Carlos married Caroline Winchester, and is a neighbor of his father. Laura married Willard Martin, and now lives in Newbury. Louisa married Miner Allen, a railroad-engineer, and lives in California, near San Francisco. The family are all members of the Disciple church." *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 236-237.

92. Presumably, Redding, Fairfield, Connecticut

93. Levi Bartrom

94. Uriah Bartrom

with the family. We accordingly started November 7th, 1809, and arrived safe in this town December 30, 1809, after a long, tedious, and toilsome journey of 53 days. The reader will readily imagine something of the trials attending such a journey at this season of the year if he has even traveled in the fall of the year, a journey of six hundred miles almost without roads or bridges. One would now scarcely believe it could take 53 days hard labor to accomplish such a journey, to see what the roads now are, and yet stranger still to tell, one can now start by means of the conveyances we now have and go the whole journey in less than 53 hours.

But when we arrived at our place of destination, our trials were not all over; we had left a land of plenty (a plenty of hills and ledges of rocks, to say the least of it) with a numerous estate of friends and relatives, and had come to a country entirely new, with but few inhabitants except the wild animals that would prowl around our dwelling at midnight, which gave us much trouble to protect our flock and herds from being destroyed. It will be readily supposed that bread stuffs were not very plenty at this time. I think we had to go to Warren to get a little corn on horseback. We sold the wagon that we moved with, which was taken new from the shop when we started, for two barrels of pork, and I should think from the best recollection I have of it, it was double prime, that is two hogs to the barrel. There were nine families in this town when we came in 1809; the last days of the year we made the tenth. I will give the names: Robert Montgomery, John Wood, Phineas Mixer, Samuel Potter, Amasa Hill, Jarius Andrews, Rowland Ellis, Abraham Tappan, and James Miller. We had very clost repast for the first year or two. I will assume every one knows that it takes no small amount of provisions to keep quiet the gastric juices of nine in family at the labori-

95. See Tappan's account of Williams in Chapter 3.

ous effort of clearing land where the timber was as heavy as it was on the South Ridge.

Other Incidents in Madison



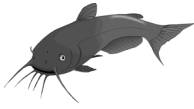
However, we all lived it through, not without some work, however, to see the wilderness and the solitary pea blossom like the rose. One thing that made it quite advantageous was that what little there was, was very fine. I very well recollect of going over as far as the river to Robert Montgomery's and sometimes down to James Miller's for a little milk. This one would think was a great ways to go, two miles, now to beg a little milk, and I once recollect of being sent to carry home a vessel that was borrowed with milk of Mr. Montgomery's, and it was filled again for me to bring home with me. With this we youst to put about two or three waters to one milk.⁹⁶ The women youst to fix it up into a kind of spooned victuals they called "plop robing" by wetting up some flour and working it until it was pretty dry, working it into small particles and when the milk and water boiled, this was stirred in, which was quite a luxury in the wilderness.

We youst sometimes to catch fish in Grand River. There were then no dams across the river at this time. The way we youst to catch them⁹⁷ was by commencing in the center of the river on a rapid and build a crib, similar to a corn crib, with poles. This we called the fish basket. From the upper end, we would build a stone wall diagonally to each shore, pointing up stream. This would be so loose it would raise the water but very little, and the time was divided off so that every man knew his turn, when to go to the bas-

96. They diluted the milk to make it last longer.

97. What follows is a description of a fish weir, or trap, that was commonly used to catch fish in a river. A garbled phrase giving details of the poles' positions is omitted.

ket, and all that was in the basket in the morning belonged to him.



Sometimes, we would out the whole company, men, women, and children, for a kind of frolic. We would go up perhaps a mile above the basket, would stretch a grape vine across the river, and tie it full of bushes across the river, then drag it down to the basket, and it was fine sport to see the great muskellunge⁹⁸ and catfish tumble into the basket, so that during the fishing season we fared very well. I should think it was not more than one or two years before Mr. Scott⁹⁹ built a mill dam across the river at Painesville. Then, the fish could not come up. At this time there were but three houses where the village now stands.

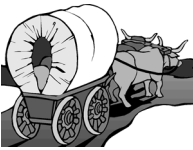
After a few years there was a man by the name of Latimer that set up a store of goods. I recollect being in the store one day, and saw him selling some of his articles. A man gave him a quarter for some indigo,¹⁰⁰ he put the money into one of the sacks and indigo enough in the other to balance it; tea was four dollars a pound, and such kind of cambric¹⁰¹ as now sells for 16 or 18 cents per yard would be from 75 cents to one dollar per yard. Such were some of the disadvantages we labored under at this time.

98. A large, predator fish of the pike family native to this area, also known as muskie

99. "As early as the year 1807, Joel Scott constructed a dam across Grand river and erected a grist- and saw-mill. This was the first established in Painesville, and, unlike many of the former mill privileges on this river, has been improved, until it is at present second to none on its entire length." *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 217lc.

100. A blue dye for cloth

101. A thin cotton cloth



From the first of March, 1811, to the first of March, 1812, there passed my house 192 wagons and 15 sleighs of movers; seven families of the number stopped in this town.

October 19th, 1811, on Saturday morning, Aaron Wheeler's son, Charles Wheeler, went out in the woods to get chestnuts.¹⁰² He got lost, sun about 2 hours high. At night, there came up a severe squall of wind and rain, which blew down a great many trees. The people, almost all, went in search for Charles all night and continued their search until Monday morning, sun about 2 hours high. They found him unable to walk, and could with difficulty speak so as to be understood. Both night and the day, very cold and frosty, Charles had neither hat, stockings, shoes, nor outside coat on, and was wet as a drowned rat.

There was no town house nor meeting house in this town until 1816, when there was a block house built at Centerville for a town house meeting and school house. Previous to this, town meetings and religious meetings were held at father's house. We had visits occasionally from the Reverend Mr. Badger, Mr. Leslie,¹⁰³ and others, and once in the absence of preachers the friends youst to have a social meeting by themselves and enjoyed their little society very well.

102.This incident is mentioned elsewhere (Ellet, op. cit.); Aaron Wheeler married Margaret Harper, Electra Tappan's sister.

103.Mr. Lesley



The Indians were very numerous at this time though quite friendly. They youst to frequently call at our house and stay all night. One day, Daniel was out in the woods, in company of them, with David Bartram.¹⁰⁴ They came to an Indian wigwam. The old squaw hung on her kettle of venison, cooked them some dinner, and invited them very strongly to partake of her repast, but their weak Yankee stomachs would not stand the old squaw's manner of cooking, so they were obliged to refuse the kind offer.

I am not great for telling snake stories, but will relate a few narrow escapes that happened during the first few years. The snakes were very thick, and their bite was generally fatal. Simeon Hill was bit by a rattlesnake and died twenty four hours after he was bitten.



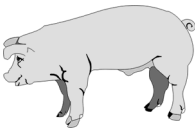
Daniel was once crossing an old brush fence. In stepping over one log, as he was about to put his foot to the ground, he saw a large rattlesnake where he was about to place his foot. He made a spring over that, and the next step, he was about to place his foot on another, so he made the second leap, and cleared the other.

David was out with his gun one day for the purpose of shooting squirrels about the corn field. He saw a squirrel in the top of a tree. He was under the tree, and had to shoot about straight up. He laid himself down on the ground, with his eye directed towards the squirrel in the top of the tree. There was a chip in the way of the breech of the gun that had to be removed in order to bring his piece in range of the squirrel¹⁰⁵. He put down one hand and rolled over the chip, still kept

104. David Bartrom

105. The chip apparently regulated the rear sight and had to be removed to lower it, in order to compensate for the proximity of the squirrel. Flintlock rifles were not made to shoot directly overhead, thus causing the misfire.

his eye steady on the on the mark. When he got all ready, he pulled the trigger, and his gun being so straight up, the priming fell out and some of the powder fell into his eyes, and there was no explosion at this time. He looked down and was winking his eyes to get the powder out of them when he first saw the danger. There was a rattlesnake coiled up close to him and the chip, which he rolled over, rolled against the snake, and still the snake was quiet. If his gun had not misfired, probably the snake would then have aroused from his lethargy and would commenced attack on him for disturbing him in that way.



After we had been here for a year or two and had got a little stock¹⁰⁶, we were constantly annoyed by the wild animals. The bear would kill our hogs, and the wolves would kill our sheep. Sometimes, our hogs would make their escape from the barn and come home horribly mangled. One night, the wolves came into our barn yard that was but a few rods from the house and killed six sheep, then set up a tremendous howl to let us know who did the mischief, then went off. At another time, they came and killed three that were in a field close by the house.

The boys youst to hunt considerable. One year they killed three bear and fifty raccoons.

I will now give another register of the Turney family as it now stands:

Asa Turney¹⁰⁷ died April 5th, 1833, aged 75 years, 5 months, 2 days;
Polly Turney, wife of Asa Turney, died Oct. 9th, 1835, aged 66 years, 11 months, 7 days;

106.i.e., farm animals

Daniel Turney was married to Amy Cook¹⁰⁸ on the 1st day of January, 1811,¹⁰⁹ and died March 9th, 1841, aged 52 years, 9 months, 19 days;
Phebe C. Turney is still living, and was married to Erial Cook Sept. 25th 1814 and is still living age 58 years;
David was married to Eunice Parmly November 12, 1818, and died March 5th 1826, 32 years, 2 months, 25 days;
George W. Turney was married to Polley Parmly June 1st, 1820, and died February 19th, 1830, aged 32 years, 11 months, 10 days;
Charla Turney was married to James Gage February 26th, 1818, and died July 11th, 1827, aged 27 years, 10 months, 21 days;

107. "Asa S. Turney, with his family, horses, cattle, and worldly goods, arrived in Madison on December 30, 1809. The spring preceding, Mr. Turney's oldest son, Daniel, with Uriah and Levi Bartram, John Reed, and John French, all young men, came out on foot from Connecticut, and looked over the section where Mr. Turney finally settled. The glowing account of the beauties of the place determined Mr. Turney to make it his future home. He left Redding, Connecticut, November 6, with a wagon drawn by a yoke of cattle and a span of horses. The journey was fraught with hardship; but by dint of perseverance, the end was reached, and in 53 days they arrived at the Mecca of their pilgrimage. Mr. Turney purchased 100 acres of land on the south ridge, being the same now occupied by his son, Elder A. S. Turney. The children of this couple are Daniel, David, George W., Asa S., Jr., Marvin, Eli A., Phebe C., and Charlena, but three of whom are now living." *History of Gauga and Lake Counties*, p. 231-rc.

"Asa Turney, Sr., erected the pioneer cider-mill in Madison, in about 1824. It was located on the south ridge, west of the present residence of A. S. Turney, and for many years did the cider-making for the locality." *Ibid.*, p.236-lc.

108. Ammey Cook

109. Possibly, 1817.

Asa S. Turney was married to Laura Hoyt Oct. 17th,
1824, is still living aged 45 years;
Marvin Turney was married to Abigail Fairchild April,
1831, and is still living, aged 42 years;
Eli Turney, the Ohio boy, was married to Minerva
Seeley¹¹⁰ May 5th 1833 is still living aged 34.

So you see, that out of a family of ten, only four
remain to tell the story of forty years, where at their
commencement, all was almost a total wilderness.

[signed] Asa S. Turney
August 16th, 1849

Tappan's Request for Information

[Abraham Tappan wrote to Erial Cook for information about his arrival, and to his wife Phebe (Turney) Cook for information about the Turney family. As Electra Tappan indicates, this information was provide by Asa S. Turney, Jr., in Chapter 4. -Ed.]

Mr. Erial Cook¹¹¹ will please state in writing the year he came to Madison, from what place in Massachusetts he came to this country, at what time & to whom married.¹¹²

Mrs. Cook will also please state at what time, her fathers family came to Madison, from what town did William Turney come, Mr. Turney's age when he came; also the names of all his children, to whom afterwards they married — At what time did Mr. Turney die — and also Mrs. Turney.

Unionville, Oct. 10, 1848 Abraham Tappan

110.Minerva Seele
111.Ariel Cook

[The following note is in Electra Tappan's hand and includes a relevant anecdote about the Turneys she apparently collected separately: -Ed.]

Mr. Cook, married Phebe Turney, and Anna Cook married Daniel Turney, and the Turney manuscript answers all questions.



Lois Mixer wanted to borrow a novel one Sunday and went to the Turneys to get it. When she went in, Mr. Turney was making a broom; Daniel making shoes; the others cleaning harness. Mrs. Turney spun flax on the little wheel, and girls spinning on the large wheel. "Well! Well! I never saw people work on Sunday before." "You would not see now, if you had stayed at home," was Mrs. Turney's reply.

112. "Erial Cook left Washington, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, in the spring of 1812. Arriving in the State of New York, he passed one season there, and completed his journey to Ohio in the spring of 1813. He was single, and came with Jesse Ladd, an uncle. Mr. Cook took up one hundred acres of land, married Miss Phebe Curtis Turney, of Madison. Mr. Cook cleared the farm and removed to Michigan, where he died in 1867. The children were Fanny, married Walter Olmstead; Harriet, married Fred M. Foster; George T., married L. G. Genung; Harmony, married Charles Dunham; and Phebe, who married J. Beardslee, (deceased). Mr. Cook was quite a hunter, and it is said that in April, 1824, he killed a wild-cat, a monster fully six feet in length." *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 232-rc.

History of the First Settlement of Tract One

**In the Northeast Corner of
Madison Township**

Cyrus Cunningham

The Cunninghams Move West

In the autumn of the year 1810, John Cunningham, Esq., of the township of Plainfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, a farmer, exchanged his farm in that place with Governor Caleb Strong of Northampton, Massachusetts, for wild land in Tract number 1 in Township 12 in the Sixth Range of the Connecticut Western Reserve, called the Gore, for two dollars per acre. And on the 7th of February, 1811, John Cunningham, aged 66 years, with his wife, accompanied with his son Artemas, aged about 29 years, and Cyrus, aged 23 years, with his wife making five persons, started from Plainfield with two sleighs drawn by five horses with as much loading as they could bring. We had a great abundance of snow the first part of the journey. We came with the sleighs to a place called Canadeway, when the snow entirely failed. We stored a part of the loads, procured a wagon, and brought on what we could. The women

sometimes traveled on foot, and sometimes rode on horseback. After a fatiguing journey, we arrived at the house of John A. Harper, Esq., on the fifth day of March, 1811.

Cunningham's Settlement



At that time, the people had about done making maple sugar, and the weather soon became warm and pleasant, attended with heavy thunder showers. We set about building a loghouse in the woods a little east of the spot where Cushing Cunningham's old house now stands, in the midst of the orchard, which was the first orchard set out on said tract, and in little more than a week, put up the first loghouse built on said tract. We moved into it, having to split and hew everything about it, as was customary in this place. The first week of our arrival, a petition was circulated and signed by all the men then living within the bounds of what is now Madison township, being 15 or 16 names all told, for the purpose of having the township incorporated and called Madison. Before, it had somehow or other had the cognomen of Chapin. In the course of the spring, we girdled, underbrushed, cleared, and fenced about ten acres in the southeast corner of said tract, the same spot where Cushing Cunningham's house and buildings now stand. We planted and sowed the greater part of it, being the first field enclosed and planted on said tract. The summer passed away without any remarkable occurrence, being a fruitful season. In the fall of 1811, we built the second loghouse and commenced building the first sawmill¹¹³ in the township on Cunningham's Creek, so called, a little above where the upper mill now stands. We labored under no small inconvenience. Our pasture was inconveniently large, extending from the South Ridge north to the Lake, and east and west,

113.A sawmill cuts logs into lumber.

from Cole's Creek in Geneva west to Rose's Creek in the northwest corner of Madison. Our cattle ranged the woods thus far.

Hardships and Sickness

The winter following was attended with affliction by the death of Hannah Cunningham, wife of Cyrus Cunningham, and her infant son. The infant died the 28th of December, and the mother, the 12th of January, 1812 following, aged 22 years. In June, 1812, war was declared against England. Some were alarmed and guards were kept along the Lake. During this year, the sawmill was put in operation.

In July, 1813, Amos Cunningham and wife with three children, Laura, Emily, and John, came on from Hamilton, Madison County, New York to settle with us. They were accompanied on their journey with an old neighbor Benjamin Lemoin, a Revolutionary soldier who was going to settle in Welshfield, Geauga County. He was sick when he arrived.

This winter was noted for the epidemic of the spotted fever that prevailed through the country. Lemoin continued sick, and Anna Cunningham, wife of John Cunningham, was attacked with the same disease so violently that in less than three days after the attack, she died. Within an hour of the same time, Lemoin died. Thus, two persons, heads of families, were stricken down in one short hour, much lamented and missed. These deaths happened about the 22nd of February, 1813.

Only about a week after, Emily, daughter of Amos Cunningham, aged about 3 years, died very suddenly, supposedly of the same disease prevalent. In April, 1813, Amos Cunningham built the first framed house in the township of Madison and made the improve-

ment where he now resides. In June, 1813, Artemas Cunningham built the first framed barn in the township on the place where he made the first settlement, standing a little south of Cushing Cunningham's old house. About the first of May in the same year, Artemas Cunningham was married to Miss Patty Hanks.

John Cunningham, the patriarch of the family, with his son Artemas and his wife, continued living at the first residence. Cyrus made his residence with Amos Cunningham. Thus it was that the two families settling first on the tract were partly broken up.

Arrival of More Families

In August, 1813, Arthur Waterman came and settled on the tract.¹¹⁴ He brought his family, consisting of his wife and nine children and effects in a single team. They took up their residence in a loghouse built by Cyrus Cunningham near the sawmill.

In October, 1813, Ward Cunningham, son of Amos Cunningham, was born, being the second child born on said tract. In December, 1813, James T. Cunningham, the oldest son of John Cunningham, then residing in Hamilton, Madison County, New York, having

114. Arthur Waterman came from Rhode Island to Madison, arriving in August, 1813. An ox-team with a horse hitched ahead formed the motive power. He located on the farm now occupied by his youngest son, John H. He took up two hundred acres. The family who came with him were a wife and ten children; two were born subsequent to their arrival in Ohio. Of this extensive family the following now reside in Madison: Labin, married Sally Austin; Phebe, married Luther Winchell; Lucy, married James Lewis; and John H., who married Emeline St. John. Mr. Waterman died October 9, 1830. Mrs. Waterman deceased November 15, 1861. *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 233-lc.

made nearly all his preparations for removing his family to this place, died very suddenly of a fit, as supposed. On the reception of the news, Cyrus Cunningham went to the assistance of the family and brought them on, arriving during of the first days of March, 1814. This family consisted of the widow¹¹⁵ and one son, Cushing Cunningham, 12 years old, and two daughters, Maranda and Mary. By arrangement, they were located in the first house, and beginning made on the tract.

James T. Cunningham, son of Artemas Cunningham was born in January, 1814, being the third child born and the oldest now living born on the tract. In the spring of this year, Artemas removed to the Lake, and made a beginning, and built a loghouse about 50 rods north of the old gristmill on the east side of the road as it now runs, in the midst of the woods and without any road.

In the spring of 1814, Cyrus Cunningham built a frame house, the second on the tract and township, having previously commenced a clearing, the second beginning on the tract, being the lot below the road and bridge on the creek. The house was located on the rise of land at the south end of the Arcole Furnace Store. In May, 1814, Cyrus Cunningham was married to Miss Mary W. Crary and commenced living on the lot he now resides on.

The same summer, the first school was taught by Mrs. Cunningham in the stoop of Cyrus Cunningham's house, consisting of twelve scholars: four from Charles Curtis's, four from Arthur Waterman's, two from Uriah Bartram's, one from Amos Cunningham's, and one from Widow Cunningham's. Scholars came through the woods from four different ways.

115.i.e., Nabby Cunningham

Each party brought their favorite dog with them as a protection from wild beasts.

In 1815 Samuel L. Collins¹¹⁶ made a beginning on the lake shore about half a mile west of the Dock.

In 1815, the news of peace was received early this year, and settlement progressed more rapidly. Ebenezer Lovell¹¹⁷ with his family settled between Amos and Cushing Cunningham's about the same time Enock Judson settled near the northeast corner of the tract about the same time Moses Gage and James Gage commenced a settlement south of the gristmill.

In 1816, Erastus Edgecomb made a beginning south of the gristmill on the spot where Thomas Blair now lives. The first gristmill¹¹⁸ was built by Artemas Cunningham and Judge Wheeler.

In 1817, Elijah Ford commenced a beginning east of the creek on the farm now occupied by his descendants.

In the fall of this year, the first log school house was built on the tract about 40 rods west of Cyrus Cunningham's house and the first winter school on the tract was taught by Cyrus Cunningham during the winter of 1817-18. The whole number of scholars was 48, the average daily attendance was 36, which was thought to be a good beginning in this newly settled country.

September 8th 1848

116.Saml L. Collins

117.Ebenr Lovel

118.A gristmill grinds grain to flour.

Hanks and Tisdell Families

Electra Tappan

Tappan's Request for Information

[Abraham Tappan's requests to the Youngs for information about the Hanks and Tisdell families seem to go either unanswered or undelivered, so inferring from the handwriting, Electra Tappan supplies some of this information, but she is not explicitly named as the author. -Ed.]

Mr. Mark Young and Mrs. Young will please state in writing at what time Dea. Elijah Hanks came to Madison. What place in Connecticut did he come from? By what conveyance did he come? What was his age when he arrived, the names of all his children, to whom they were married after they came? At what time did Mr. John Young come and also Mr. Mark Young? When did Elder Hanks come on to the Reserve? When did Dea. Hanks die, and also Mrs. Hanks, and their age at death? When and where did Elder Hanks die?

Unionville Oct. 10 1848

[signed] Abraham Tappan

From circumstances beyond our control, these notes were never filled, and I will supply them from memory as well as I can.

The Hanks Family

The Hanks and Tisdels¹¹⁹ came from Connecticut about 1813 with 6 teams and brought the silk culture with them,¹²⁰ and the Tisdels followed it for years. Both the Youngs' wives were Mr. Hanks' daughters.

Artemas Cunningham married Patty Hanks.

Betsey Walker¹²¹, who came with them, married Levi Bartram.

Benjamin Hanks brought his wife with him.

John Hanks married Rosanna, a girl they brought with them.

In 1838 the old people were living on their farm.

Elder Hanks was a Baptist minister and well liked by other people.

119.Tisdales

120.They had silkworms and made silk thread.

121.“Mrs. Levi Bartram (Betsy Nott Walker) came in 1811 from Ashford, Conn. Two years later her wedding tour was a four mile horseback ride through the woods to the home on the Middle Ridge, where the remainder of her life was spent. She and her husband were often awakened at night by the pigs squealing as wolves bit them through cracks in the pen; guard must be kept till morning, for the pig skins might be needed to pay taxes.

Mrs. Bartram was a skillful weaver, and for a number of years paid the taxes with the product of her loom. She carded (no machine being in the State), spun, and wove flax and wool for the family clothing and bedding. Her daughters were women of notable energy and decision and at the age of fourteen spun and wove beautiful linen fabrics and double coverlets.” Wickham, G.V.R. op. cit., pgs. 214-215.

The Tisdel Family

The Curtis Tisdel¹²² family¹²³ were co-heirs, of the Anneke Jans¹²⁴ Estate in Trinity Church¹²⁵, but there was a vein of insanity in the family. I think they have let the heirship lapse.

122.Curtis Tisdale

123.“Deacon Curtis A. Tisdel, of Wilmington, Tolland county, Connecticut, was married in 1800 to Sarah Parker, and in 1812 exchanged his lands east with Gideon Granger, agent for unimproved lands in Ohio, and on September 30, 1812, he left his native town and, with a train of two yoke of oxen and three horses, with two covered wagons, in which were his aged parents, a brother, Silas, a wife, and one child, began the journey of nearly six hundred miles, which was to terminate in that far-away wilderness, “New Connecticut,” or the Western Reserve. Arriving in New York State, they stopped for a time to visit friends, and arrived in Madison March 3, 1813. The children were Phebe A., who became the wife of Joseph Cady; Peres A., married Huldah Hill and lives in Illinois; Freeman, married Nancy Sinclair (deceased); Betsey, married John Whitmore (deceased); Thomas A., married Maria Stowe (deceased); Mary A., married Don Wyman and lives in Perry; and Silas, the youngest child, who married Elizabeth Ely. This gentleman is at present recorder of Lake County, now serving his second term. Mr. Tisdel, Sr., was a farmer. He held many positions of trust in his township. He was deacon of the Baptist church for thirty years. He died November 20, 1838. Mrs. T. died March 20, 1868.” *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 232.

The ancestral surname of the Tisdel family was A’Tisdel or Antisdel, and was sometimes spelled “Tisdale.” - Ed.

124.Anneke Ians

125.Anneke Jans was a prominent member of the Dutch colony. Her estate in New York City became embroiled in litigation brought by contending heirs until 1847 when the claim of Trinity Church was finalized.

Phineas Mixer Family

Laura (Mixer) Whipple¹²⁶

The Mixer Family Moves West

Phineas Mixer and Abigail,¹²⁷ his wife, started with their family of five children, viz. Julius U. Mixer, Lois Mixer, Phineas Mixer, Laura Mixer, and Anna Mixer from Norwich, Hampshire County, Massachusetts on the 17 day of October, Anno Domini 1803, for New Connecticut. We had two teams. One team consisted of a span of horses and a yoke of oxen; the other, of a single span of horses, which brought the family. We came by the South Route, crossed the North Rivers at Fishkill, the Delaware at East Town, and forded the Susquehanna at Harrisburg.

In Pennsylvania, the horse team with the family took a wrong road that led to a river (name not known). The hill was quite steep and of smooth rock, so no danger was apprehended until we arrived to within a few feet

126. The author of this chapter is not explicitly named in the original. The author is obviously a child of Phineas and Abigail Mixer and writes in the first person. Eliminating the three children who are mentioned in the third person, only the older son and Laura remain. The handwriting is very neat and floral in style, suggesting a feminine hand.

127. i.e., Abigail Fobes

of the bank of the river. When, to our great surprise there was a perpendicular precipice of 15 feet before us. The horses were instantly whipped into a run and as they leaped from the precipice into the river below, to the joy of all within, it struck right without doing any damage, except breaking the wagon tongue.

We crossed the Ohio at Macintosh¹²⁸ and arrived at Warren, Trumbull County, Ohio in the latter part of November. At Warren, father left the family, while he went to select a piece of land. He selected his land 1¼ miles west of Harper's landing on the lake shore. He obtained help at Painesville and Harpersfield, and put up a body of a log-house. He agreed with two men to put a roof on the house, cut out a door, and split puncheons¹²⁹ for a floor whilst he went back to Warren for the family. We left Warren in January and came by way of Painesville to the lake shore at Fairport, and from Fairport on the ice to Madison.

Living in Madison



We arrived here on Saturday, just before sunset, January 27, 1804. We found the body of the log-house as father had left it, without roof, door, or floor. The snow was, at that time, about 18 inches deep. The family stayed on the sled while they cut down a beech tree and cut out a door. The sled boards were then taken for a floor. A fire was built in one end of the house, and there we remained without any covering except the wide spread heavens until the next week, Thursday. Here we remained seven years without any neighbors nearer than five miles.

128. Probably, the site of Fort Macintosh near Beavertown, Beaver county, Pennsylvania

129. Split logs, with their flat side upwards, made the floor.

We then moved onto the South Ridge near Unionville in 1810. The town was organized the same year, and the first town meeting was held at our house in 1810. Fifteen votes were given, one of which was illegal. Father and mother continued to live near Unionville until they died.

Summary of Family

Phineas Mixer¹³⁰ died November 3, 1821, aged 66 years, 8 months, and 22 days.

Abigail Mixer died September 18, 1834, aged 78 years, 3 months, and 26 days.

Their children are all still living in Madison, except Anna the youngest daughter. She lives in Ashtabula. Lois, the eldest daughter, is still living on the old farm on the lake shore. The youngest son is still living on the farm near Unionville.

130. Phineas Mixer, Sr., of Norwich, Massachusetts, arrived in Madison on the 24th day of January, 1805, and made settlement on a tract of six hundred acres upon the lake shore, a little above Madison dock. ... Mr. Mixer had, prior to his removal to Ohio, arranged for the construction of a house upon his possessions. This was only partially completed upon his arrival, and was entirely without a roof. It was terribly cold; the snow lay deep upon the ground, and the situation was certainly a trying one; but he was not one to become discouraged at trifles. Temporary shelters were soon constructed, and, by the aid of Harpersfield settlers, his cabin was soon completed. He remained on this property until the year 1811, when he removed to the south ridge, and took the log tavern Mr. Mixer was somewhat advanced in life when he came to Ohio, and he died a few years after removing to Unionville. He was a man of sterling qualities, and active in promoting local improvements. His family, who came with him to Ohio, consisted of two sons and three daughters. Julius married Belinda Simmons. He died in 1864. He had six children, five of whom are now living — two in Madison; those are Adeline (Mrs. H. Witzman) and Miranda (Mrs. Arnold), who occupies the old homestead. Phineas, Jr., married Miss Dorcas Woodworth in 1821, and succeeded to the homestead. The year following he built the house he still occupies. His life has been a useful one. He was for many years after the organization of the township constantly in office. He was a soldier of the war of 1812, and it is said assisted in harvesting the first wheat grown in Madison township. The children are Albert K., lives in Unionville; Talcott, lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Emma (Mrs. W.C. Barnes — their daughter Lida is now the wife of Mr. I. I. Pope, of the Chagrin Falls Paper Company); Phineas, Jr. (2d), Arkansas; Anne E.; Arida; Abigail of Marietta, Ohio; Aretas, drowned at Ashtabula in 1868; and Emily B., of West Winsted, Connecticut. The other children of Phineas Mixer, Sr., are Lois, married William Cady, deceased; Laura, married Nathan Whipple, resides in Madison; and Anna, married Jesse McDonald, deceased. *History of Geauga and Lake Counties*, p. 231.

Other Notes

[Bound with the other manuscripts are smaller pages that contain short notes made by Electra Tappan and Abraham Tappan. Some of these repeat information in previous chapters, some contain new information. - Ed.]

Electra Tappan's Notes

Ira Blanchard was the first settler in Madison 1803¹³¹.

Jarius Andrews,¹³² settled in 1807 next to the Blanchard Lot on the south side, on a little stream of water.

The Hills located next west and the Turneys west of them.

One Lumins¹³³ opened a brickyard on the creek west of Mr. Andrews and sold it to Mr. Frisbie who made brick and quarried stone for years.

131. The Tappan version of Madison's history shows Blanchard as the first permanent settler, but others clearly settled there previously for shorter periods. It is interesting that even this descendant of Colonel Alexander Harper does not give priority to any member of the Harper family, despite the fact that Madison was once part of Harpersfield, and the Harpers's properties spilled across current boundaries.

132. Jarius Andrews

133. Possibly, "Lummis" or "Lunims"

Unionville was noted for its school, which was just across the county line in Harpersfield, was truly a union school. There I was educated.

Electra Tappan¹³⁴

Abraham Tappan's Notes

[The following are in a different hand from Electra's, without explicit attribution, probably her father's. - Ed.]

Hezekiah Hill, sen. died February, 1812, aged 82 years.

Thomas Montgomery¹³⁵ was hurt by the fall of a tree June or July 9, had his leg amputated in consequence of the injury in 1818.

Robert Montgomery, youngest son of Tom and Rebecca Montgomery,¹³⁶ was killed by the felling of a tree May 31st, 1819.

Amasa Hill came to Madison with his family in 1806, Simeon Hill in 1805, Hezekiah and Jonathan Hill¹³⁷ in 1807.

Hezekiah Hill, Sr., and wife came in 1810. John Wood settled in Madison in 1807. Thomas Montgomery [written above name: 'June 18' -Ed.] settled in Madison in 1811.¹³⁸

134. Electa Tappen

135. Thomas Mtgomery

136. Rebekah Montgomery

137. Jonothun Hill

138. Possibly, 1810

Simeon Hill Died July, 1810, by the bite of a rattlesnake.¹³⁹

139. On the back pages of these notes are two receipts for working on the road in a different hand: "This is to certify that Jed Haines has performed one Days Work on the Road to apply on his Military tax. June 4th 1845 John Hains Suprevs" and "This is to certify that Dan Cunningham has performed one Days work on the Road to apply on his Military tax. June 4th 1845 John Sherwood. Super-v" These remarks reflect reuse of the paper.

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