

BEDFORD

Bedford Township History from *History of Cuyahoga County, Ohio; Part Third: The Townships*, compiled by Crisfield Johnson, 1879.

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BEDFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORY

[Transcribed by Susan Ward]

Location - Surface - Soil - Tinker's Creek - Picturesque Scenery - The Pioneers - The First Settlers - Rapid House-building - Parker's Tavern - A Mighty Hunter - The First Child - First Settler in the Northwest - Getting Plenty of Food - First Permanent Resident at the Center - Other Settlers before 1823 - Householders in 1830 - Civil Government - First Officers - List of Officers - Cemetery - Town Hall - The Village - Location and Appearance - The Beginning - The Laying Out - The Incorporation - Officers since 1860 - Post Office - Stores - Hotels - Physicians - Bedford Intelligencer - Early Mills - Woolen Factory - Pail Factory - Tannery - Foundry - The Rolling Mill - Machine Shop - Chair Factories - Schools - Union School - Church of Christ - First Baptist Church - Methodist Church - Episcopal Church - Masonic Lodge.

This township lies on the Summit County line, east of Independence and south of Warrensville. On the east it is bounded by the township of Solon. It is known in the survey as township number six in range eleven. When it was organized for civil purposes, in 1823, it received its present name at the suggestion of Daniel Benedict, in compliment to the place of his nativity-Bedford, Connecticut.

Along the streams the surface of the township is somewhat broken, but in other parts it is generally level. Being also quite elevated, Bedford is a very healthy township. Heavy forests originally covered the ground, but these have been generally removed, although the appearance of the country is yet pleasantly diversified by bodies of timber which have been allowed to remain in their primitive beauty. The soil is variable, but is usually a light loam. It is generally free from stones, and may be cultivated with ease. It is fertile, and yields the ordinary products of this part of the State, but dairying has, to a large extent, become the chief industrial pursuit of the inhabitants.

Tinker's Creek is the principal stream.* It flows from Solon in a westerly course, south of the center of Bedford, to the Cuyahoga, into which it empties in the township of Independence. Its channel is very deep and rugged, forming in places chasms several hundred feet deep, which have almost perpendicular banks of shale or sand rock, and present a grand and picturesque appearance. Along a part of its course through the township, the scenery for varied and attractive beauty is seldom surpassed. The volume of the stream is not so great as formerly, but it yet affords good water power, which has been well utilized. The other streams of the township are small brooks, which flow into this creek from the north.

PIONEER SETTLERS.

About 1810 the township was surveyed into one hundred lots, numbered from northwest, but no speedy attempt at settlement followed. In 1813 Elijah Nobles settled on Tinker's creek near the line of Independence, and was probably the first pioneer of Bedford. He was a man of loose business habits, and soon found himself reduced to extreme poverty with a very heavy incumbrance on his land. As it did not seem possible for him to retain his home there, one the Hudsons, of Hudson, who was related to him, offered him a part of lot forty-six (at the center), if he would make certain improvements on it. With this purpose he moved to what is now the village of Bedford, in November, 1815, and was the first man who lived there. His neighbors in Independence turned out to the number of eighteen, and in a single day built him a cabin from the trees growing on the spot, leaving the family there at night nearly three miles from any other occupied house. Nobles remained all winter at the center, but the following spring he returned to his old place on the creek, and not long after removed to another part of the State. A part of his property on Tinker's creek passed into the hands of Adams & Starr, who built there the first mills in the township, and another part became the home of Cardee Parker who opened the first tavern, (although Nobles may have entertained occasional travelers.) Parker's tavern became quite famous in its way, and after his death, was continued by his widow, who was widely known as Mother Parker. After the canal was built, she removed to Independence, and opened a public house there.

Several months after the settlement of Nobles at the center, Benjamin Fitch, who came to Independence in 1813, squatted on a piece of land in that locality, but after Nobles had left, he, too, became discouraged and moved back to the creek. He sold his "betterments" to Wetherby Nye, but the land ultimately became the property of Joseph Goodale, who purchased it of the proprietors. In the course of the year Fitch returned to the center and built a new cabin on the eastern part of the site of the village, where he lived a number of years, but finally made a permanent settlement on lot fifteen. He was probably the greatest hunter that ever lived in the township, being so uniformly successful that some of his less fortunate neighbors used to "change works" with him—they clearing his land for him while he provided them with game. He was also well known as a maker of split-bottom chairs, and some of these useful articles made by him, over sixty years ago, are yet in existence in the township. In the later part of his life, he moved to Indiana, where he died. He had three sons, named Joseph, George C., and Andrew G. The latter was born at the center in 1818, being the first child born in that locality. His two daughters yet live in Bedford, Harriet being the wife of W. O. Taylor.

Benoni Brown settled in the southwestern part of the township about 1815, but removed in the course of ten years. At the old mill, in the Tinker's creek settlement, Timothy Washburne lived at a very early day, but did not remain long. He was the first blacksmith in Bedford. In this locality also Stephen Comstock settled in 1814, and a daughter, Sarah, born soon after, was the first child born in the township. The family also comprised two other daughters, and two sons named Charles and Stephen. Stephen Comstock, Sr., was probably the first settler of Bedford who retained a permanent residence. A little later James Orr made some improvements in the same locality, but also removed before 1830. About 1818 Moses Gleeson likewise settled there. He was an enterprising citizen, and reared seven sons, named Edwin, Elias, Charles, William, Moses, Sardis and Lafayette, and three daughters.

In April, 1819, Samuel Barnes, of Vermont, came from Newburg, where he settled in 1817, and located in the northwest part of Bedford, but afterwards settled at the village. He died in November, 1872, but Mrs. Barnes is yet living, and is the earliest surviving settler of the township. They reared one son, Orville, and two daughters. One of them, Cordelia, was born in June 1819, hers being one of the first births in the township.

The following year and the year after, Moses Barnum, Abijah S. Barnum and Prentice B. Ross settled on the Newburg Road, but at least two of them moved away at an early date. In 1820 Jason Shepard located on lot two, where he lived until after 1830, when he removed to Newburg. It is related of him that while he was out hunting, he shot a black bear which was helping himself to the wild honey from a "bee tree," which also became the prize of the hunter; and returning home, shot a deer and some wild turkeys near his home, which was certainly obtaining a pretty good supply of food for one day. He had a son, Elias, who is yet a citizen of Newburg.

John Dunham settled in the northwestern part of the township about 1821 and died there in 1850, leaving seven sons, named Ambrose, Chester, Alonzo, John, Asa, Jehiel and Lorenzo. Of these, Asa, who resides on Dunham Street, is the only one living in the township. Wetherby Nye became a resident of Bedford about the same time, and after living in various places finally located in the western part of the township, where he died in 1877. Nathaniel K. Joy lived in the same neighborhood as early as 1822, but soon moved away. On lot four Solomon White was an early settler, locating on the present Libbey farm. Samuel Morton lived in the same neighborhood in 1822, but after a few years moved to Canada.

In 1822 Stephen Robinson located on the present Comstock place, on lot twelve, where he died in 1832. He had eight sons, named Daniel, Nathan, Isaac, Ebenezer, Ezra, Nathaniel, John and Newman. The latter is the only remaining in the township; John lives in West Cleveland: and Ezra in Brooklyn. John White was a neighbor of the Robinsons before 1823, and died in that locality. He reared two sons, named William G. and Charles.

Daniel Benedict settled at the village of Bedford in 1821, and was the first permanent resident there. His family consisted of eight sons: Darius, Ralph, Julius, Sillock, Judson, James, Rodolphus, Phinamber and Allison. Phinamber is the only one living in the county, he being yet a resident of the village. A little later Moses Higby settled in the southwestern part of the township, where he remained until his death. Others living in the township before 1823 were Jared Barnes, Barzilla Burk, William Dunshee, Laban Ingersoll, John Johnson, John Marvin, and Peter Comstock. Within a few years came Philo Barnes, Justin Remington, George M. Payne, Luther and Ziba Willis, Daniel Gould, Hiram Spofford, Barney Cobb, Enoch Allen and Nathaniel C. Hains.

In 1830 the householders of the township were as follows:

John Libbey, Noah Sawyer, Alfred Dunham, Jason Shepard, Charles Goodrich, Enos Hollister, A. S. Barnum, John Dunham, Wetherby Nye, Eli Burke, Alvah Hollister, Hiram Ostrander, Stephen Robinson, James Titus, Julius S. Benedict, Oliver B. Robinson. Daniel Gould, Luther Willis, Darius Warner, William Dunshee, Ralph R. Benedict, Samuel Barnes, Abraham Turner, Joseph Skinner, Joseph Goodale, John White, Justus Remington, Nathaniel C. Haines, George M. Payne, Enoch Allen, James Griffith, Barney Cobb, Daniel Benedict, Hiram Spafford, Benjamin Fitch, Erastus Ives, Jared Skinner, Ziba Willis, Daniel Mora, Moses Kirby, Lyman Eldred, Curtis Wells, Daniel Chase, John L. Willard, Alvin Davis, Danforth Chamberlain, Aaron Warner, John Hill, Mary Ann Parker, Silas Lindsley, Moses Gleason, Peter McArthur, John Schooley, Nathaniel H. Joy, Stephen Comstock, James Hughes, Wm. Currier, Isaac Leach, Isaac D. Leach.

After 1830 the immigration was very large, and the township, although yet new, was soon quite densely populated. In 1847 Bedford had three hundred and twenty voters.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

Agreeably to an order of the commissioners of Cuyahoga County, the inhabitants of the present township of Bedford assembled at the home of Prentice B. Ross, April 7, 1823, to elect township officers. John Dunham, Daniel Benedict and Aaron Shepard were appointed judges; Laban Ingersoll and A. S. Barnum, clerks. The officers elected were as follows: Trustees, Daniel Benedict, James Orr, Laban Ingersoll; clerk, Abijah S. Barnum; treasure, John Dunham; constables and listers, Peter Comstock, Darius R Benedict; fence viewers, Prentice B. Ross, Wetherby Nye; overseers of the poor, Barzilla B. Burk, Stephen Comstock; road supervisors, Daniel Benedict, James Orr, Barzilla B. Burk. Jonathan Fisher, a justice of the peace of the county, qualified the clerk to perform the duties of his office.

A meeting to elect a justice of the peace for Bedford was held July 19, 1823, when John Dunham received seventeen votes; Daniel Benedict, eleven and A. Shepard, one. Dunham declined to serve, and on the 9th of August another election was held which resulted in the choice of James Orr; he having received twenty-five votes. The justices in 1879 are A. M. Whitaker and E. H. Hammond. It is impossible to compile even a reasonably full list of those who have served as justices in the intermediate period; even as to other officers it is very difficult, some of the records having been destroyed or mislaid. As near as can be ascertained they have been as follows:

- 1823. Trustees, Daniel Benedict, James Orr, Laban Ingersoll; clerk, Abijah; S. Barnum; treasurer, John Dunham.
- 1824. Trustees, Daniel Benedict, John Dunham, Stephen Comstock; clerk Benjamin Fitch; treasure, John Dunham.
- 1825. Trustees, Jason Shepard, Pilo Barnes, Stephen Comstock; clerk, Daniel Benedict; treasurer, James Orr.
- 1826. Trustees, Jason Shepard, Pilo Barnes, Stephen Comstock; clerk, A. J. Barnum; treasurer, James Orr.
- 1827 and 1828-records missing.
- 1829. Trustees, Enoch Allen, George M. Payne, Justus Remington; clerk, A. S. Barnum; treasurer, Luther Willis.
- 1830. Trustees, James Titus, Alvin Davis, Justus Remington; clerk, A. S. Barnum; treasurer, Enos Hollister.
- 1831. Trustees, Thomas Marble, Hiram Spafford, Curtis Wells; Clerk, John F. Willard; treasurer Enos Hollister.
- 1832. Trustees, Daniel Brooks, William Hamilton, James Titus; clerk, A. S. Barnum; treasure, Enos Hollister.
- 1833. Trustees, Luther Willis, Augustine Collins, Abial Newton; clerk, A. S. Barnum; treasurer, David B. Dunham.
- 1834. Trustees, George M. Payne. Augustine Collins, Rufus Libby; clerk, A. S. Barnum; treasurer, David B. Dunham.
- 1835. Trustees, Otis Button, Augustine Collins, Rufus Libby; clerk, Enoch Allen; treasurer, David B Dunham.
- 1836. Trustees, Otis Button, Augustine Collins, Amos Belding; clerk, Geo. M. Payne; treasurer, David B Dunham.
- 1837. Trustees, Daniel Gould, John Culver, Amos Belding; clerk, Justus Remington; treasurer, Geo. M. Payne.
- 1838. Trustees, Daniel Gould, Matthew Drening, Amos Belding; clerk, Justus Remington; treasurer, Geo. M. Payne.
- 1839. Trustees, Daniel Gould, Wm. Morse, Matthew Drening; clerk, John P. Robinson; treasurer, N. C. Hains.

1840. Trustees, Rufus Libby, Julius S. Benedict, Matthew Drening; clerk, B. M. Hutchinson; treasurer, N. C. Hains.

1841. Trustees, Justus Remington, Sidney Smith, J. S. Benedict; clerk, B. M. Hutchinson; treasurer, N. C. Hains.

1842. Trustees, Justus Remington, A. Collins, S. Pease; clerk, B. M. Hutchinson; treasurer, N Hamlin.

1843. Trustees, J. Montgomery, A. Collins, John Libby; clerk, B. M. Hutchinson; treasurer, N. P. Benedict.

1844. Trustees, Theron Skeels, Rufus Libby, N Hamlin; clerk, Lee Lord; treasurer, W. B. Hillman.

1845. Trustees, Theron Skeels, Rufus Libby, N. Hamlin; clerk, Lee Lord; treasurer, F. H. Cannon.

1846. Trustees, Theron Skeels, Rufus Libby, N. Hamlin; clerk, Lee Lord; treasurer, Wm. B. Hillman.

1847. Trustees, Theron Skeels, Rufus Libby, N. Hamlin; clerk, Lee Lord; treasurer, Wm. B. Hillman.

1848. Trustees, Otis Button, Rufus Libby, N Hamlin: clerk, Lee Lord; treasurer, Wm. B. Hillman.

1849. Trustees, Otis Button, Asa Marble, Sidney Smith; clerk, Lee Lord; treasurer, F. H. Cannon.

1850. Trustees, Nelson Hamlin, Rufus Libby, Chauncy Osborne: clerk, Lee Lord: treasure F. H. Cannon.

1851. Trustees, Hiram Bacon, Rufus Libby, Hiram Smith; clerk, A. M. Whitaker; treasurer, F. H. Cannon.

1852. Trustees, Hiram Bacon, Benj. Samson, Hiram Smith; clerk, George Fuller; treasurer. F. H. Cannon.

1853. Trustees, Hiram Smith, Asa Dunham, Silas Gray; clerk, L. D. Benedict; treasurer, L.D. Hathaway.

1854. Trustees, Julius S. Benedict, Asa Dunham, George Lathrop; clerk, L. D. Benedict; treasurer, L.D. Hathaway.

1855. Trustees, Jacob Flick Jr., Wm. King, George Lathrop; clerk, Wm. H. May; treasurer, L. D. Hathaway.

1856. Trustees, Jacob Flick Jr., Caswell Wright, Joel Nelson; clerk, Wm. H. May; treasurer, A. H. Comstock.

1857 Trustees, Asa Dunham, Wm. King, Caswell Wright; clerk, Wm. H. May; treasurer, A. H. Comstock.

1858 and 1859. (Records missing).

1860. Trustees, Asa Dunham, James S. Benedict, George Lathrop; clerk, A. M. Whitaker; treasurer, A. H. Comstock.

1861. Trustees, Asa Dunham, Wm. King, L. Tarbell; clerk, A. B. Hubbell; treasurer, Levi Marble.

1862. Trustees, Wm. King, R. S. Benedict, D. D. Robinson; clerk, A. M. Whitaker; treasurer, Levi Marble.

1863. Trustees, James B. Benedict, Sidney Smith, Edwin F. Wheeler; clerk, H. J. Hammond; treasurer, Levi Marble.

1864. Trustees, S. A. Clark, James Egbert, Benj. Lemoin; clerk, Sidney Smith; treasurer, Levi Marble.

1865. Trustees, Horace Herriman, Vincent Salisbury, Benj. Lemoin; clerk, Sidney Smith; treasurer, Levi Marble.

1866. Trustees, Asa Dunham, H. A. Wise, Benj. Lemoin; clerk, Henry Freeman: treasurer, Levi Marble.

1867. Trustees, Asa Dunham, James Egbert, T. B. Patterson; clerk, Sidney Smith; treasurer, Levi Marble.

1868. Trustees, Asa Dunham, B. Lemoin, T. H. Patterson; clerk, Sidney Smith; treasurer, Levi Marble.

1869. Trustees, James Egbert, James Mathew, Geo. Laing: clerk, Sidney Smith; treasurer, J. H. Wakefield.

1870. Trustees, James Egbert, James Mathew, Joseph Mathew; clerk, W. S. Warner; treasurer, J. H. Wakefield.

1871. Trustees, James Egbert, Reuben Parkinson, Joseph Mathew; clerk, J. R. Tudor; treasurer, J. H. Wakefield.

1872. Trustees, Asa Dunham, Reuben Parkinson, Levi Marble; clerk, J. R. Tudor; treasurer, J. H. Wakefield.

1873. Trustees, Asa Dunham, Reuben Parkinson, Levi Marble; clerk, W. S. Warner; treasurer. J. H. Wakefield

1874. Trustees, R. J. Hathaway, Reuben Parkinson, Levi Marble; clerk, W. S. Warner: treasurer, J. H. Wakefield.

1875. Trustee, Asa Dunham, H. D. Lathrop, E. M. Libby; clerk, W. S. Warner; treasurer, J. H. Wakefield.

1876. Trustees, J. C. Walton, H. D. Lathrop, E. M. Libby; clerk, W. S. Warner; treasurer, J. H. Wakefield.

1877. Trustees, J. C. Walton, Johnson McFarland, E. M. Libby; clerk W. S. Warner; treasurer, J. H. Wakefield.

1878. Trustees, J. C. Walton, Johnson McFarland, H. D. Lathrop; clerk, W. S. Warner; treasurer, J. H. Wakefield.

1879. Trustees, J. C. Walton, Johnson McFarland, H. D. Lathrop; clerk, W. S. Warner; treasurer, J. H. Wakefield.

CEMETERY AND TOWN HALL.

In 1857 the township appointed five hundred dollars to purchase a tract of ground for burial purposes. A lot of three and one-third acres was selected in the southwestern part of the village, which has been well fenced, laid out in blocks, planted with fine trees and a vault provided. The township also furnished a hearse and provided the service of a sexton. The cemetery contains some very fine monuments, and has become the general place of interment of the township.

On the 30th day of May, 1874, the trustees of Bedford contracted with David Law, of Willoughby, to build a town hall at the village, for \$13,500. The hall was subsequently seated and furnished, making the entire cost about \$15,000. The building is three stories high with a Mansard roof of figured slate, and has a very attractive appearance. The lower story is fitted up for township offices, and has a room in which the general meetings are held. It was first occupied for this purpose in the spring of 1875. The second story forms a public hall, for lectures, concerts, and other occasions; and the third story has been fitted up by the Masons for the use of their order. The hall is an appropriate monument to the enterprise and progressive spirit of the people of Bedford.

PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES.

The first roads of Bedford were merely under brushed paths, but afterwards, when the township was organized, the people went to work in earnest to improve them. The State road, passing through the township diagonally from southeast to northwest, was built 1830, and at once became a popular thoroughfare, and is still the principal highway of the township. The other highways were in due time improved, the low places being turnpiked. At present the roads are in very fine condition, and in 1879 were in charge of the following supervisors: William Trimple, C. Wright, George Nichols, J. H. Stohman, George Lain, David Winders, James Rees, D. Wells and Amos Allen.

In the spring of 1849 ground was broken in Bedford for the Cleveland and Pittsburgh railroad, and in 1852 the road was fully open for traffic. It has a length in Bedford of about seven miles, and at the village a good train station has been provided. The railroad bridge across Tinker's creel is a very fine piece of massive stone masonry, more than one hundred feet high. About the same time that the railroad was built, the Twinsburg and Bedford plank road was constructed; and at a little later date the Cleveland and Mahoning railroad was opened through the northeastern part of the township. The plank road was abandoned about 1860.

BEDFORD VILLAGE.

This is chiefly situated on lot forty-six, near the center of the township. It is located mainly on the north bank of Tinker's creek, which there flows through a deep gorge, the sides of which are almost perpendicular walls of rock, partly bare and partly covered with trees and shrubs, and presenting a very picturesque appearance. At a bend of the creek, on lot fifty-six, the first effort to start a village was made about 1826 by Luther Willis. He was the owner of water-power which had been employed to

operate machinery, but beyond the building of a few houses nothing resulted from the endeavors of the proprietor.

After 1830 Hezekiah Dunham became the owner of a large tract of land farther north, and mainly on lot forty-six, a portion of which he caused to be surveyed for a village in December, 1834. The plat was made by John C. Sill, and embraced a number of lots south of the present village park (which was at that time devoted to the public use), and west of the turnpike road. Lots were also set aside for a hall for town meetings, and the several religious societies each received a building site. This liberal spirit, and other inducements held out by the proprietors, caused a number of improvements to be made, necessitating, in 1836, an addition of lots on the east side of the turnpike, which was also made by the Dunhams. Other additions were made by the owners of adjoining real estate from time to time, until the area of the village had been greatly extended.

It is not compactly built, and since the Cleveland and Pittsburgh railroad located a station here, in 1852, it has partaken somewhat of the characteristics of a suburban village in relation to Cleveland. It is only six miles distant from the limits of the city, and has a population of about eight hundred. The village contains a very fine public hall, a Methodist, a Disciple, a Baptist and a Presbyterian church, an elegant Union School building, a number of comfortable residences, and the various establishments mentioned a little further on.

Bedford was incorporated according to the provisions of an act of the general assembly, passed March 15, 1837, which set forth "that so much of the township of Bedford, in the county of Cuyahoga, as herein described, viz: The whole of lots forty-five, forty-six and fifty-six, and that part of lot fifty-five which lays northeast of Tinker's creek; also a strip thirty-two rods width off the south end of lot thirty-six, and a strip of thirty-two rods width off the south end of lot thirty-five, west as far as the west line of Justus Remington's land, be and the same is hereby created a town corporate, and shall hereafter be known by the name and title of 'Town of Bedford.'" An election of a mayor, a recorder, and five trustees was ordered to be holden the following April, and yearly thereafter. The mayor chosen was George M. Payne; the recorder, David B Dunham.

All the records prior to 1860 have been destroyed by fire, so that no complete list of officers can be given. The village allowed its first charter to lapse, and on the 3d day of May, 1852, a new act of incorporation was granted, with the limits before given, which yet remains as originally fixed. Since 1859 the principal officers have been as follows: 1860, J. C. Cleveland, mayor; A. M. Whitaker, recorder. 1861, J. C. Cleveland, mayor; W. L. Lord, recorder. 1862, L. D. Benedict, mayor; C. A. Ennis, recorder. 1863 & 64, F. H. Cannon, mayor; S. P. Gray, recorder. 1865, R. J. Wheelock, mayor; Sidney Smith, recorder. 1866, R. C. Smith, mayor; H. Freeman, recorder. 1867, A. J. Wells, mayor; Sidney Smith, recorder. 1868, Benjamin Lemoin, mayor; Sidney Smith, recorder. 1869 to 1873, C. A. Ennis, mayor; A. M. Whitaker, recorder. 1874 to 1875, C. A. Ennis, mayor; L. P. Whitaker, recorder. 1876 to 1877, D. B. Dunham, mayor; W. S. Warner, recorder. 1878, V. A. Taylor, mayor; W. S. Warner, recorder. In 1879 the village officers were as follows: V. A. Taylor, mayor; W. S. Warner, recorder; M. L. Hilliard, C. B. Marble, J. C. Nelson, C. A. Ennis, John H. Grause, J. H. Lamson, councilmen; Robert Forbes, treasure; H. P. Bredes, marshal. A tax of three and one-half mills was levied on the valuation of the village for all purposes of the corporation in 1879.

POST OFFICE, STORES AND HOTELS.

The Bedford post office dates from about 1826. Ziba Willis was the first postmaster. His successor in 1833 was D. B. Dunham, who held the office until 1842. At that time there was one mail per day, by stage; the arrival varied from two to ten hours, according to the condition of the roads. The successors of Mr. Dunham have been J. P. Robinson, R. D. Benedict, Leverett Tarbell, Levi Marble, and the present postmaster, Charles B. Marble. The office enjoys good mail privileges.

The first store in the village, and also the first in the township, was opened by David B. Dunham, in November, 1831, in a building which stood at the forks of the road, opposite the present hotel. He occupied that building eight years, when he removed to a fine stone block, which stood just north of his present residence, and which was occupied by him when it was destroyed by fire in June, 1878. In that building was transacted, for a number of years, a business which aggregated more than \$100,000 per year, and which made Bedford one of the best trading points in the county, outside of Cleveland. Other prominent merchants have been F. H. Cannon, J. P. Robinson, W. B. Hillman, Paddock & Esselstyne, George M. Payne, Zachariah Paddock, Chester Hamilton, Watson I. Gray, M. B. Dawson, Leverett Tarbell, A. H. Comstock, James Thompson, L. D. Hathaway, L. P. Gray, etc. The present merchants are Newman Robinson, since 1845, Robert Forbes, since 1865; C. B. Marble, L.C. Hains, Joseph Hains, C. H. Dustin and J. R. Tudor & Co.

Enoch Allen had the first public house in the village, about 1829, near the present chair factories. He was followed by Amos Belden and others. In 1832 Calvin Barnes put up a good hotel, north of the park which was widely known as the "Checkered House." Among other keepers were Silas Gray and George Lathrop. In 1871 the house was destroyed by fire. In 1832, also the present "Fountain House" was built by Levi Marble, who kept it a few years, and was followed by Abner Heston and others. The present proprietor is Charles Turner, and it is the only hotel in the place. Formerly hotels were kept in the stone block and at other places; the village having, at one time, had five public houses.

PHYSICIANS AND THE PRESS.

Dr. J. M. Turner, who came about 1828 and lived a little south of the village, was the first physician and was in practice for about five years. Dr. Charles Goodrich came about 1830, but fell a victim to the cholera in 1832, Dr. J. P. Robinson was in practice from January, 1832, till his removal to Cleveland in 1865. Dr. D. G. Streeter came in 1845, and remained until his death in October, 1878, and Dr. S. M. Tarbell was one of his contemporaries. Others, formerly in practice, were Doctors A. W. Oliver, Noble H. Finney, _____ Brainard, _____ Gerold and B. M. Hutchinson. The present physicians are Doctors C. M. Hawley, N. A. Dalrymple[,] _____ Daniels, and N. B. Armstrong. The veteran Dr. T. Garlick, for many years one of Cleveland's most eminent surgeons, is a retired citizen of the village.

In 1838 John Hammon, of Ravenna, began the publication of the Bedford Intelligencer, a small sheet devoted to local news and the interests of the Democratic party. In five years, it was discontinued, and the place has since been without a paper.

MANUFACTURING INTERESTS.

The first manufacturing in the township was on Tinker's Creek, near the line of Independence. Sometime about 1815 two men, named Adams and Starr, put up a sawmill and a gristmill, both small, at a point about thirty rods above the mills now situated in that locality. The first mills were suffered to go down, and in 1820 Culverson and Roland improved the present site. The mills erected by them soon after became the property of Moses Gleeson, and have since been operated by him and his family.

About 1821 Daniel Benedict built a sawmill, and soon after a carding machine, on Tinker's creek, near the State road, at Bedford village. These were destroyed by fire, but on the site, there is now a sawmill, belonging to Henry Wick. Below this point Luther Willis built mills in 1825, which are at present operated by Levi Marble. Nearby is a building in which blinds were formerly made and which, at a later day, was a chair factory, but which is at present little used.

Farther down the stream, and just inside the corporate limits of Bedford village, Stephen C. Powers built and set in operation a woolen factory, in 1842, which was in operation about fifteen years. Here, also, was formerly a sawmill; but at present the power is unemployed. In 1843 a pail factory was built by Lee Lord and Enoch Allen, which was carried on successfully, a few years but was then destroyed by fire. Formerly a brush factory gave employment to a number of men, but after a short season was removed. As early as 1832 Allen Robinette put up a small tannery which, since 1840, has been carried on by Hinman Robinson. About 1845 Robinson & Hillman engaged in tanning on a large scale, but after a few years operation the enterprise was abandoned. About 1840 Comstock, Kirkman & Dickey put up a foundry near the creek, which was burned. It was subsequently rebuilt near the railroad, where it remained in operation until 1868, when it was again destroyed by fire.

In 1866 the citizens of Bedford formed themselves into an association for the purpose of establishing a rolling mill. A large capital stock was subscribed, and H. N. Slade chosen the first president. A good mill was built near the railroad bridge, in which from fifty to seventy-five hands were employed. The mill became the property of E. W. John about 1869, and subsequently was owned by the "Leetonia Iron and Coal Company," which also failed. After standing idle a few years, it was purchased by parties resident in Massillon, who removed it to that place, where it is now in operation. During the time it was carried on in Bedford, it is estimated the place sustained a direct and indirect loss of more than two hundred thousand dollars, which was chargeable to that source, while the benefit derived from it was very slight. A machine shop for general iron work was built about 1854 by M. A. Purdy & Son, near the above site, which was last carried on by C. Purdy. In July, 1875, the establishment was totally destroyed by fire.

THE BEDFORD CHAIR FACTORIES.

These have for many years been among the principal industries of the place, and are the only ones which have survived the mutations of time. In 1851 B. J. Wheelock began the manufacture of cane-seated chairs in the old building by the mill, having at first a force of five men. Changes in the firm followed, and capacity of the shop was largely increased, more than twenty men being employed. In 1855 B. J. Wheelock and L. F. Osborne built a large factory on the hill north of the old establishment, the latter being continued meanwhile by Lord, Park & Co. and others. In 1858 the new shops were enlarged by the firm of Wheelock & Wright, and about the same time M. A. Purdy & Son erected a new shop devoted to the chair business, in the same locality, and operated it a number of years. In 1867 the different chair manufactures in the village untied their interests and formed the Bedford Chair Company. Another building was then erected to connect the two factories on the hill, the establishment then being made to assume the shape it now has. At that time about fifty men were employed. At present the factory is operated by Wheelock & Co., on a more limited scale, in the manufacture of single cane-seated work only.

As early as 1833 Benjamin Fitch carried on the manufacture of splint-bottom chairs at his home in the northern part of the township, on lot fifteen. Here W. O. Taylor learned the chair-maker's trade, and in 1844 began work on his own account. In 1863 he erected a shop in this locality, in which he shortly after

began the manufacture of cane-seated chairs, although still continuing to make splint work. In 1874 his factory was removed to Bedford village, where the business has since been very successfully carried on by W. O. Taylor & Son. At present they occupy a large building more than one hundred feet long, with several capacious wings, in which sixty men are employed, nearly as many more persons being given employment outside of the factory, in weaving and braiding chair seats. The work of this factory has attained a wide reputation in 1876 was awarded the medal at the Centennial Exhibition. More than forty styles of single and double seated cane work are made, and the demand for the wares of the factory is so great that it is taxed to its utmost to supply it.

EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

The records of the township are silent in regard to the condition of the public schools, nothing of interest but a list of teachers prior to 1840 being obtainable. This includes the names of Miss Barnes, H. L. Sill, C. Ruggles, R. Root, W. Johnson, D. Baldwin, M. Smith, Polly Allen, Betsy Predner, Mary Ann Sill, Laura Gould, Mary McCartney, Mariah Peck, and L. Ruggles. In 1848 there were eleven districts in the township, having an aggregate of six hundred and sixty-two children of school age. The school fund amounted to \$665.40.

Thirty years later there were two fractional districts and eight sub districts, in addition to the Union School of Bedford village. Not including the latter, the expenditure for school purposes were \$3,441.56. Thirty-three weeks of school were maintained, and the aggregate enrollment was one hundred and ninety-six boys and seventy-five girls. The average attendance was nearly three hundred, all the scholars being engaged in the study of the common branches, except two. The average wages of the male teachers was \$36.00; of female teaches, \$16.50. There were eight school houses the value of which was set at \$10,500. The most of them present an attractive appearance on the outside, and are comfortably fitted up on the inside. In 1879 the board of education was composed of R. J. Hathaway (District No. 4), president; W. S. Warner, clerk; Ozro Osborne, of District No. 1; A. J. Hansay, of the No. 2; H. H. Cox, of No. 3; George Laing, of No 5; F. B. McConnor, of No. 6; Leonard Hershey, of No.7; S. S. Drake, of No. 8.

BEDFORD VILLAGE UNION SCHOOL.

The district was originally organized to embrace only the territory within the corporate limits of the village, but in 1874 the bounds were extended so as to include all of lots thirty-six, thirty-seven, forty-four, forty-five, forty-six, fifty-three, fifty-four, fifty-five, fifty-six and parts of thirty-five, forty-seven, fifty-seven, sixty-five, sixty-six and sixty-seven. In 1873 the present school building was erected, under the direction of a board of education composed of Robert Forbes, R. Moffatt and W. H. Wheelock, and was ready for occupancy in the early part of 1874. It is a very handsome edifice of brick, forty by fifty-six feet, two stories high, with basement, and cost \$15,000. There are four rooms, but at present only three are occupied for school purposes. The schools were attended by the two hundred and forty-one pupils in 1878, the average attendance being two hundred and five. Thirty-eight weeks of school were maintained at a cost of nearly \$1,600, under the principalship of R. C. Smith.

Since 1877 the board of education has been composed of six persons. The present members are J. W. Derthwick, president; N. L. Hillard, secretary; Robert Forbes, treasure; W. T. Wheelock, M. B. Dawson and J. F. Bently.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

Soon after 1830 several religious societies were formed in Bedford, which failed to maintain their organization more than a few years. There being no church building in the place, a small framed meeting house was erected about this period by Mrs. Fanny Willis, which was the first place of worship of the several societies organized before 1841.

The Disciples were the first to form a society that proved permanent. In May, 1830, Rev. E. Williams visited the village to preach, and for some time came every month thereafter. In August Noel C. Barnum was baptized by Mr. Williams, and in April, 1831, Enoch Allen and six [sic] others received the same rite. Preaching was continued by Rev. Messrs. Williams, William Hayden, J. J. Moss and others, and in December, 1833, was organized.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN BEDFORD.

with twenty members and the following officers; Thos. Marble, overseer; Enoch Allen and George M. Payne, deacons. The following year these were under the ministrations of the Rev. A. B. Green. In 1834 Rev. J. J. Moss became a resident Bedford, and for five years taught and preached from house to house. In 1837 a great revival prevailed whereby thirty-two persons were added to the membership of the church. In 1835 Enoch Allen and Allen Robinette were elected overseers; Samuel Barnes, N. C. Barnum and W. W. Walker, deacons.

The church has enjoyed numerous revivals; in 1843 receiving one hundred and six additions, and in 1848 fifty-four additions-among them being thirty persons who had formerly belonged to the Baptist Church. In 1852, under the preaching of Rev. A. B. Green, one hundred and fifteen persons joined at one meeting. The aggregate membership has been very large, reaching nearly twenty-five hundred; and from the Bedford society have originated fifty churches in various parts of the country. At present there are three hundred and twenty-five resident, and one hundred non-resident members. Among those who have originated here as ministers were Irvin A. Searles, Theo. Johnson, Burdette Goodale, Alonzo Dunham, J. P. Robinson, William Robinson, Charles F. Bartlett, Sidney Smith, and a number of others who expound the Word at home.

The elders of the church have been, in the order of their election: Thomas Marble, Allen Robinett, Enoch Allen, Sidney Smith, James Young, C. F. Bartlett, R. S. Benedict, S. F. Lockwood, James Egbert,** W. H. Millman, A. T. Hubbell, Alonzo Drake,** R. J. Hathaway,** Hiram Woods and A. C. Hubbell; and the deacons have been Enoch Allen, George M. Payne, Samuel Barnes, N.C. Barnum, W. W. Walker, A. Gray, Charles F. Bartlett, George Comstock, Silvan F. Lockwood, Augustin Collins, Silas A. Hathaway, Daniel Gould, N. P. Benedict, Lee Lord, J. S. Benedict, A. T. Hubbell, D. D. Robinson, N. A. Egbert, Augustus Rincar,** W. W. Wells, M. B. Dawson, J. W. Derthwick,** J. M. Egbert,** V.A. Taylor,** and Johnson McFarland.**

In 1856 the church employed the first pastor (the ministers until that period having been evangelists), the Rev. J. O. Beardsley, who afterwards became a foreign missionary. His successors in the pastoral office have been J. H. Jones, James H. Woods, A. B. Green, R. Moffit, W. L. Anderson, W. J. Sharp, S. W. Brown, L. Cooley, and E. D. Barclay the present pastor.

The meeting-house was erected in 1838. It has since been much enlarged and improved, being at present a very handsome edifice the value of which is estimated at six thousand dollars. The present trustees are Alonzo Drake, V. A. Taylor, Johnson McFarland, John Way, Milo Hathaway, F. R. Hamlin and S. J. Clark; E. A. Ennis is clerk of the board.

Many years ago, Dr. J. P. Robinson was the superintendent of a flourishing Sunday-school, which has been continued with unabated interest until the present time. It has one hundred and twenty-five members. R. J. Hathaway being the superintendent.

For nearly twenty years the board of managers of the Ohio Missionary Society were located at Bedford; Dr. J. P. Robinson being the chairman, and James Egbert, the treasurer. In later years the meetings have been held at Cleveland.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN BEDFORD.

This religious body was organized November 18, 1834, with the following members: Stephen Rusco, William Wing, Salome Rusco, Phebe Hotchkiss, Isabella Thomas, Silvan P. Lockwood, Ambrose K. Lockwood, Fanny Willis, Mary Robinson, Marinda Holcomb, Clarissa Dunham, Hannah Wing, Lucretia Hammond and John Hammond, by the Rev. S. R. Willard, who also became the first pastor. Stephen Rusco was elected the first clerk, and Silvan P. Lockwood and John Hammond, the first deacons. In September, 1835, the church became connected with the Portage Association, sending as delegates the pastor, Rev. Mr. Willard, Deacon Hammond and Stephen Rusco.

In 1836 John Hammond resigned his deaconship, and John Brainard was chosen in his place. The latter resigned in 1843, and George Morse, John Hammond and Newman Robinson were elected. Augustus Pease also served in this capacity. The present deacons are Newman Robinson and Daniel Cook. The second pastor of the church was the Rev. E. H. Holley, who assumed that relation in February, 1842. The succeeding pastors, with the year in which each began his service, have been as follows: 1844, Rev. W. Levisse; 1846, Rev. W. G. Johnson; 1850, Rev. Mr. Simonds; 1851, A. Freeman; 1855, Rev. Alonzo Wadhams; 1857, Rev. E. A. Turner; 1859, Rev. M. Page; 1860, Rev. Mr. Heath; 1861, Rev. J. L. Phillips; 1864, Rev. Mr. Haven; 1866, Rev. J. B. Hutton; 1867, Rev. G. W. Scott; 1869, Rev. F. Tolhurst; 1875, Rev. Mr. Stephenson; 1876, Rev. S. Early, who yet continues as a supply, and is also superintendent of a Sunday school which has two hundred members. The church reports ninety-five members.

In 1839 the present church edifice was erected, and on the 19th of February, 1840, it was consecrated by the Rev. Levi Tucker. It has since been repaired, and is still a comfortable place of worship. The present trustees are Geo. Cowan, Newman Robinson and Frederick Harter.

THE BEDFORD METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

About 1833, a class of Methodists was formed at Bedford, having among its members N. C. Haines, his wife, Rachel, and daughter, Polly; Benjamin Fitch and wife, Daniel Benedict and wife, and others who had formerly belonged to the Reformed Methodists. Rev. N. C. Haines and ____ Baldwin, acting in the capacity of local preachers, were the first ministers of the class, which did not increase very rapidly in membership. After ministers were sent here by the conference, the services were held in the Willis meeting house, which afterwards became the property of the Methodists, and was moved by them to its present location. In a remodeled condition it forms a pleasant place of worship, valued at \$2,500. The present trustees are S. M. Hammond, Edward Corkill, A. M. Whitaker, G. C. Tinker, J. W. Hickman, and W. T. Wheelock.

The church has at present about one hundred members, and the following stewards: G.C. Tinker, J. R. Tudor, W.W. Corkill and A. J. Lockwood. The pastor since September, 1878, has been the Rev. A. T.

Copeland. Among other Methodist clergy here were the Revs. Alfred Bronson, S. Warrallo, Ira Eddy, L. D. Prosser, J. K. Hallock, W. F. Wilson, M. H. Bettis, W. French, A. Hall, J. H. Tagg, D. M. Stevens, W. F. Day, L. Clark, A. Foutz, Cyril Wilson, Michael Williams, C. F. Kingsbury, S. Gregg, B. J. Kennedy, B. C. Warner, A. M. Brown, B. F. Wade, J. Beetham and J. H. Merchant.

A flourishing Sunday school is maintained by the church, with S. M. Hammond as superintendent.

THE BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The house of worship of this body was erected in 1861, by a congregation which has been formed previous to that date by Revs. F. I. Brown and John Andrews, of the Wooster presbytery. There were sixteen members, and Milton A. Purdy and B. J. Wheelock were the first ruling elders. Before the meeting house was built, Rev. William Campbell became the first pastor, the services being held in Hutchinson Hall and other places. He served the church in connection with that of Northfield, and the subsequent pastors were also in the employ of both churches. These were the Rev. William B. Marsh and the Rev. William Hamilton, D.D. After the latter confined his labors solely to Northfield church, many of the members in the southern part of the township withdrew from the Bedford church and connected themselves with the former body. Others removed, and the church was left so weak that for the past six years the meeting house has been unoccupied.

Other religious societies have had a brief existence at Bedford village and in the western part of the township, where a meeting house was erected on Dunham Street, but all have now become extinct.
BEDFORD LODGE NO. 375, F. AND A. M.

This lodge received a dispensation October 17, 1866, and a year later was duly chartered with the following members: J. B. Hains, C. N. Hamlin, R. C. Smith, A. A. Benedict, W. H. Sawyer, Levi Case, Enoch Allen, A. J. Wells, J. J. Brittan, S. S. Peck, L. C. Hains, Samuel Patrick, E. Cowles, and H. H. Palmer. The officers were J. B. Hains, W. M.; L. C. Hains, J. W.; S. S. Peck, secretary; B. F. Lillie, treasurer; E. J. Parke, J. D.; M. T. Canfield, S. D., and F. Mighton, tyler. The lodge has had one hundred and eleven members, and at present reports fifty-five. In 1874 the upper story of the town hall was fitted up for lodge purposes, at a cost of \$1,500. The size of the main hall is thirty by thirty-six feet; the size of that and the banquet hall is thirty-six by seventy feet. The present officers are S. S. Peck, W. M.; S. H. Gleeson, S. W.; William Golling, J. W.; E. H. Hammond, secretary; C. B. Marsle, treasurer; J. C. Nelson, S. D.; William Klaner, J. D., and H. Conant, tyler.

Bedford Township History from *A History of Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland* by William R. Coates, 1924.

https://archive.org/details/historyofcuyahog01coat_0/page/28/mode/2up

The settlement of township No. 6, range 11, was typical, in its early history, of all in the county. There was no body of people, coming like an army with banners to possess the land. One by one, family after family, they began the work of building a civilization, where barbarism and savagery had reigned. The home was first established. Around the home was built the state, combined authority to conserve for all, the blessings of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The Township of Bedford has as its southern boundary Summit County; its eastern, Solon Township; its western, Independence, and its northern Warrensville. The principal stream is Tinker's Creek. This stream, a branch of the Cuyahoga, rises in Portage County and flows through Solon, Bedford and Independence townships. It was given its name to preserve the memory of Joseph Tinker, who was one of the men sent out by the Connecticut Land Company, of whom the settlers bought their land, to survey the Western Reserve or New Connecticut, as it was then called. He was master of transportation for the surveying parties. In the arduous discharge of his duties, he was drowned in Lake Erie off the northern shore of the county. He had much to do with navigating the streams by reason of his official duties and hence the appropriateness of the designation.

It may seem strange to this generation, in these days of steam and electric and gasoline transportation and power, to speak of Bedford as located upon Tinker's Creek, but, in the wilderness, the streams were of great importance, first as lines of transportation through the unbroken forest, and later as furnishing power for infant industries. The overshot wheel was a great factor in the development of these little communities, in the early days, and for many years after the forests had given way to fields of grain, orchards, and comfortable homes. And thus, as we write of the early days, even the smaller streams enter into our history as factors of vital interest.

At the present time these minor streams, with their valleys and surrounding bluffs, their glens and gorges, are merely interesting scenery. The Bedford Glens on Tinker's Creek at the village are much admired for their native beauty and are visited each summer by thousands.

In 1810 the township was surveyed into 100 lots. The first settler was Elijah Nobles, who came in 1813 and located in the west part of the township, near the Independence line. He later moved to a location in the present limits of the village, and was the first settler there. He was said to be rather shiftless and when he decided to move to the Center, his Independence neighbors, to the number of eighteen, turned out, built his log house and moved him in one day.

Among the well-known characters in the very early days of Bedford was Benjamin Fitch. He came in 1813 and "squatted" on land in Independence and later moved to Bedford, where he located on his own land. He was said to be the greatest hunter in this locality and in harmonious reciprocity, the neighbors gladly exchanged work with him, he to hunt for them while they cleared his land and planted and gathered his crops. Among other things Fitch started the chair industry in Bedford, which has grown to such extensive proportions.

This industry of which we will speak later has continued to be the leading industry of the town. Mr. Fitch

began making splint bottom chairs, the entire office and working force consisting of one man, himself. As proving the excellency of his work, chairs that he made were in existence as late as 1885 and some may still be found. His son, Andrew G. Fitch, was the second white child born in the town, a daughter became the wife of W. O. Taylor.

In 1814 came Stephen Comstock. His daughter, Sarah Comstock; born soon after their arrival, had the distinction of being the first white person born in the township. About this time Timothy Washburn settled in the township from the East and was the first blacksmith. His shop, of course, became the meeting place of settlers, the announcing place of new arrivals, a news exchange, a forum.

We note the arrival of Benoni Brown in 1815, of Moses Gleeson in 1818, of Jason Shepard in 1820, John Dunham in 1821, and two families in 1822, those of Samuel Morton and Nathaniel K. Nye. By 1823, when the township was organized, the following persons were inhabitants of this little new republic and qualified to take part in the town meeting, in addition to those already mentioned: Daniel Benedict, Moses Higley, Jared Bark, Barzilla Burk, William Dunshee, Laban Ingersoll, John Johnson, John Marvin, Peter Comstock, Philo Barnes, Justus Remington, George M. Payne, Luther Willis, Ziba Willis, Daniel Gould, Hiram Spofford, Barney Cobb, Enoch Allen and Nathaniel Haynes.

These names will be suggestive to many of the readers of this history as the heads of families, whose descendants in many walks of life, have contributed to the development of the county and state. They were not old men and if we enter into the spirit of this history, we must think of them in the period of which we write as young, vigorous, persistent, and above all industrious to a fault. How else could they conquer the wilderness? Many of the homes could have had truthfully over the doorway the legend, now often seen in connection with various pranks at wedding parties: "Just married." It is an unwritten law of The Early Settlers Association of Cleveland that under no circumstances and on no occasion shall it be called The Old Settlers Association. The point is obvious.

The first gristmill was built by Adams and Starr in the west part of the township on Tinker's Creek. The water power was "conserved" for its operation. We hear a great deal about the conservation of power. The early settlers taught us our first lesson along those lines and their efforts were a great boon to the community.

The first tavern was opened in the vicinity of the gristmill by Cardee Parker. Parker's tavern became famous and after his death his wife, familiarly called Mother Parker, continued the business. The house lost nothing of its prestige under her management and the Parker House or Parker's Tavern continued to be a popular hostelry. In later years Mrs. Parker continued the same business in Independence.

"We'll have nut cakes fried in b'ars grease in Canaan's happy land," was the opening line of a song that was sung by an eccentric character of pioneer days. Naturally you must first get the bear before this consummation, given as one of the delights of paradise, could be brought about. Wild honey was often found in quantity and was considered a great luxury. It was particularly sought after when the shortage of sugar visited the cabin home. The wild turkey was abundant and its flesh prized for the table, as now. Venison was, however, the standard meat for the family use until the settlers were able to raise the domestic product.

Jason Shepard, a short distance from his house, discovered a bear in the act of getting honey from a bee tree. He shot the bear, got a large quantity of honey, and before he reached home shot a deer and a number of wild turkeys. For variety and quick action this was considered a very good "bag" even in those

days. Shepard moved away from the township in 1830.

The pioneers believed in large families and took the injunction to "be fruitful and multiply" as a binding obligation. As examples of this we cite a few of the pioneer families of Bedford.

Moses Gleeson, who settled in 1818 and later moved to Independence, had seven sons and three daughters. The sons were named Edwin, Elias, Charles, William, Moses, Sardis and Lafayette. One of the daughters, Nancy, married Dr. Charles Morgan, who was a prominent figure in the pioneer days of Brecksville.

Stephen Robinson had eight sons, Daniel, Nathan, Isaac, Ebenezer, Ezra, Nathaniel, John and Newman.

Daniel Benedict, one of the first trustees of the township, had nine sons, Darius, Ralph, Julius, Sillock, Judson, James, Rodolphus, Phinamber and Allison.

The selection of a name is among the first things to be done in bringing a town into being. Often the name is selected with little thought and at other times much discussion is involved. The Indian names that figure so largely in the area of the Northwest Territory are not so much in evidence in the township names of the Western Reserve, selected in town meeting. General Bierce relates that at the meeting to organize the township of Bath, Summit County, a heated discussion arose. The town had unofficially been called Hammondsburg, after a Mr. Hammond, who was a large landowner. Mr. Hammond in some manner had offended a number of residents and when this meeting was held and the question of the name arose, one man said: "Call it Jericho, Jerusalem, or Bath or anything but Hammondsburg." A motion was made to select the name Bath, which was immediately carried. We might add that Hammond's Corners still remains as the unofficial name of a locality in that township.

When the organization of township No. 6, in range 11 of Cuyahoga County was taken up, the name Bedford was chosen at the suggestion of Daniel Benedict, in compliment to his native town in Connecticut of that name. By order of the county commissioners, a meeting was held at the home of Prentice B. Ross, to elect township officers. This meeting was held April 7, 1823. John Dunham, Daniel Benedict, and Aaron Shepard were chosen judges and Laban Ingersoll and A. S. Barnum, clerks.

The election resulted in the selection of Daniel Benedict, James Orr, and Laban Ingersoll, trustees; A. S. Barnum, clerk; John Dunham, treasurer; Peter Comstock and Darius R. Benedict, constables and Esters (assessors); Barzilla B. Burk and Stephen Comstock, overseers of the poor; Daniel Benedict, James Orr and Barzilla B. Burk, road supervisors. No justice of the peace was elected at this time but on the 19th day of July a special election was held and John Dunham elected to that office. He received seventeen votes to eleven for Daniel Benedict and one for A. Shepard. Dunham declined to send and August 9th of the same year another special election was held and James Orr elected without opposition. Orr qualified and became the first justice of the peace, and the wheels of justice began to turn.

From the organization of the township the growth was regular and constant. In 1830 there were sixty families in the township. The gristmill and sawmill built by Adams and Starr, taken over and improved by Culverson and Boland, was bought by Moses Gleeson and did work for a large area of inhabitants. At the Center, Daniel Benedict built a sawmill and brush factory, and in 1825, Luther Willis built mills below on Tinker's Creek, thus disproving the statement of the poet that "The mill will not grind with the water that is past."

In 1832, a tannery was operated by Allen Robinett and in 1845 it was purchased by a firm and operated on a large scale. A woolen factory was later operated by Stephen C. Powers and a pail factory by Lee Lord and Enoch Allen. For some years a factory for making blinds was operated. In 1840, the firm of Comstock, Kirkham and Dickey built a foundry. This was burned, rebuilt and burned again. The last fire was in 1868. Daniel Benedict as early as 1821 installed a carding machine in his sawmill, which could do the work of many hands, and save labor for the housewife.

The first post office dates from 1826 and Ziba Willis was the first postmaster. The mail was received by stage. Mr. Willis held the position for seven years. In 1833, D. B. Dunham was appointed and served until 1842. Then in the following order J. P. Robinson, R. D. Benedict, Leverett Tarbell, Levi Marble and Charles B. Marble were postmasters, covering the first half century after the organization of the township.

If transportation alone is not wealth, the lack of it is a serious handicap. The first roads were brush paths with corduroy, that is small logs laid crosswise in marshy places. Not until 1830, when the state road was built through the township did relief from lack of adequate transportation facilities begin in earnest. Road supervisors, elected in 1823, at the annual election first held, and thereafter, had built dirt roads, but these were heavy throughout much of the year. About 1850, a plank road was built from Bedford to Twinsburg in Summit County. In 1852, the Cleveland & Pittsburg Railway came to Bedford. It ran seven miles through the township and had a station at the Center (village). This was a great boost to the growth and prosperity of the town in more ways than one. Besides bringing increased transportation facilities it put a large sum on the tax duplicate to aid in the upbuilding of the schools and the conduct of public affairs. The plank road was abandoned in 1860, but about the same time the Cleveland & Mahoning Railroad was built through the northeastern part of the township.

Cities and villages often grow into being without any definite plan of arrangement. In the development of a new country, if someone with vision does not foresee the future, they just grow. In accounting for the crooked streets of Boston, Massachusetts, it is said the inhabitants built houses on each side of the cow paths, that led in various directions. Cleveland was surveyed for a city, before it was known that a city would be built. As early as 1826, three years after the township organization was perfected in Bedford, Luther Willis made the first effort to start a village. He was the owner of considerable water power. A few houses were built on the village plan.

In 1830, Hezekiah Dunham bought a large tract of land, which he caused to be surveyed for a village, or a portion of it. This was in 1834. The plat was made by John C. Sill. It included land south of the present village square and west of the state road. Certain lots were set aside for town hall and church sites to be given for the purposes named. Lots were sold and the building of the Village of Bedford began.

By an act of the General Assembly passed March 15, 1837, the "Town" of Bedford was established. An election was held the following year and George M. Payne was elected mayor and David B. Dunham recorder. This simple organization was allowed to lapse with the charter, and the township remained as before. In 1852 a new charter was granted to the Village of Bedford to include the same territory as the original town, which was lots 45 and 46 and parts of 55 and 36 of the township. The records of the village before 1859 were destroyed by fire, including the record of the organization under the new charter. The mayors, however, during the Civil war period which followed were J. C. Cleveland, L. D. Benedict, T. H. Cannon, B. J. Wheelock and R. C. Smith, given here in the order of their service.

Perhaps one of the greatest advantages of the village over the township organization, in the development of the county, has been the matter of fire protection. The establishment of a fire

department, usually a volunteer organization, without men devoting their time exclusively to the work, has been the first protective measure. Frame houses are built up in close proximity and until the village is organized even that was not provided. The volunteer fire department in the Village of Bedford has been brought to a state of high efficiency. Its members are employed quite near the engine house, and they respond quickly at the call of the siren, and their work in action at a fire has been highly commended. These organizations, the only ones really possible in the smaller towns, not able to bear the expense of a full-time force, have often been the butt of jokes for their lack of efficiency and for their over efficiency. Mark Twain describes a town where the inhabitants do not insure against fire but against the fire department. The fire department of Bedford deserves a word of praise for its present organization and equipment.

Bedford has suffered much loss by fires and at one time the main business section was burned out. A foundry built by Comstock, Kirkham and Dickey, built in 1840, was shortly afterwards burned. It was rebuilt and again, in 1868, burned to the ground.

The first general store in the township was opened in 1831 by David B. Dunham at the Center (village). Business increased with the growth of the community and a new store was built by Mr. Dunham. This was destroyed by fire in 1878.

The first public house in the village was opened in 1829 by Enoch Allen.

The first physician was Dr. J. M. Turner, who came in 1828 and remained five years. Dr. Charles Goodrich came in 1830 and two years later died of cholera. Dr. D. G. Streator was a well-known character of the early days. He began practice in the village in 1845 and died in 1878.

The first newspaper published in the town was started in 1838. It was called The Bedford Intelligencer. It was a small sheet devoted to local news and was democratic in politics. It ceased publication in 1843.

Of the schools of Bedford no record remains prior to 1840. The little red schoolhouses located in the various school districts of the township were the universities supplied for the schooling of the children of the settlers. Like the township, the little red school is passing. With all its faults it had its remarkable qualities. It sent forth into the world many strong characters whose education came from its system of individual training. It was a university. All in the same room, the little tot in the primer was listening to the recitations of the classes above him and absorbing bits of history, geography, biography, etc. He heard the reading of choice selections in literature, the comments of the teacher, and noted the inspiring things for future reference. This continued until he finally advanced to be an actor on the stage he had so long reviewed. So, it was in other classes. Again, the scholar in the advanced classes was constantly reviewing what he had gone over by hearing, apart from his studying, the mistakes made and corrected in those recitations below. The little red schoolhouse was a great builder.

Among the known teachers of Bedford in the early days were Miss Barnes, H. L. Sill, C. Ruggles, R. Root, W. Johnson, D. Baldwin, M. Smith, Polly Allen, Betsy Predner, Mary Ann Sill, Laura Gould, Mary McCartney, Mariah Peck and L. Ruggles. In 1848 there were eleven school districts in the township, with a schoolhouse and teacher in each. The total school fund amounted to \$665.40. At the present time, exclusive of the Village of Maple Heights, which was formed from the Township of Bedford, there are four school buildings, with a total enrollment of 1,300 pupils and total school expense of \$185,000. The district schoolhouses have been abandoned. Four attractive, rapid and commodious busses bring all pupils who live beyond a certain distance away to the three ward or grade schools and the high school.

The high school building, recently built, is one of the finest in the county. It stands on an eminence with an attractive view all about and around it. It cost, including the site, half a million of dollars. It has a cafeteria, sewing room, a manual training department, etc. The schools of Bedford employ fifty teachers, including the superintendent, two supervisors and the principal of the high school. A. E. Moody, the present capable superintendent, has his office at the new high school building. The principal of the high school is O. C. Irwin.

Leading up to the present complete organization of the schools, from the district school to the present climax, in the new high school with its up-to-date equipment, we gather some intervening history. The Bedford News Register, edited by Mrs. John Freeman, in its High School Edition of February 2, 1922, and which contains an account of the dedication of the new building, collates a fund of information. Articles by Azora Hubbell Parker, Amelia Harrington McCaughey, O. K. Wheelock, Margaret Ennis, May Tarbell, Daisy Anderson, Maurice G. Hammond, Mrs. George Flickinger, Helen Palmer Hubbard, Theodore Blake, Edna Gates Handyside and others are full of interesting reminiscences of the schools.

Between the district schools and the first graded school came a number of private schools. These were held in private houses as a rule. One was conducted in the basement of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The first public school building at the village stood on the square more than seventy years ago. Then came the red schoolhouse on the hill. We quote from the article of Mrs. Parker: "The old red building stood in unadorned simplicity 'four square' to every wind that blew. * * * The spacious ground about the building was alive at noon and recesses with merry boys and girls at play. The favorite games of the girls in summer were Pomp Pomp Pull Away, Crack the Whip and Old Witch. The boys played Two Old Cat, Base Ball (not the present game) and Ante Ante Over. In winter, Fox and Geese was one of the sports and the steep hill at the rear was a fine place for coasting. The fortunate boy with a sled would glide merrily down the hill with his 'best girl' in front, while others found it equally exciting to coast down on a board, and some of the more daring would take the swift slide on their feet.

"There was no grading in the school in those days, but the pupils were incited to strenuous effort by the offer of prizes for scholarship and deportment. Jimmie Mathews won a Webster's Unabridged Dictionary under the tuition of R. C. Smith Reading, writing and spelling received special attention. Rienzi's address to the Romans and Patrick Henry's speech before the Virginia Convention were rendered with all the fervor of impassioned orators. 'The Death of Little Nell' would be read with trembling voice and tearful eye. A critic was often appointed to note the errors in deportment and speech during the day and his observations read at the close of school. This was a spur to good behavior and correct language. To be called one of the teacher's 'wheel horses' was an honor to make one swell with pride. Likewise, a blunder in pronunciation or a stupid recitation sunk one in the depths of humiliation. * * * Debating societies were formed and school papers sparkled with wit and were embellished with poetry. School exhibitions were given which had all the snap and dramatic enthusiasm of the modern plays. Some of the teachers who followed specialized in some particulars. Wahoub will be remembered by the songs he taught in school. 'Fairy Moonlight,' 'Rain on the Roof,' and 'Up with the Lark in the Morning' still ring their refrain in the memory of the few old boys and girls of 'Ye Olden Time.' Harrison Flick, who afterwards became distinguished in law and politics, was popular not only in being a good teacher but in being a good sport with the boys in all their games on the school ground.

"Among the ladies who taught in the old schoolhouse was Isabel Cuthbertson Ennis, who was a person of unusual refinement and strength of character. She stimulated not only the mental but the moral

growth of the pupils. Julia Gould Clapp was another teacher who is remembered for her vivid and vigorous personality and for her efforts to stimulate a taste for literature and composition.

"Among the later teachers of conspicuous characteristics was R. C. Smith. He was noted for thoroughness, discipline and grammatical expression. 'Not how much, but how well' was his motto. The last to teach in the old school building was Prof. O. C. Hubbell. Cooperation and good fellowship made school work a pleasure under his regime.

"In 1875 the new building was dedicated by B. A. Hinsdale of Hiram College. Dr. J. P. Robison, of ancient fame, turned over the keys to O. C. Hubbell, the teacher. The old building was used until the new one was completed. Standing in the background, its days numbered, it was sold under the hammer for fifty dollars.

"It remained for Prof. C. D. Hubbell, whose work began in the brick building on Washington Street at the head of Monroe Street, to organize the work into a graded school in 1881. There were two grade teachers the first year, Minnie Robison (Robinette) and Cora Alexander (Orchard). It was in 1885 when the first class to be called high school seniors prepared themselves for the first commencement exercises in the Bedford schools. The graduating class consisted of five members, Amelia Harrington, Etta Conant, Hattie Alexander, O. K. Wheelock and B J Sawyer. This commencement was an auspicious occasion and the whole town turned out. The superintendent at this time was C. D. Hubbell and the school board consisted of the president, J. W. Derthick; clerk, George Whitlam; treasurer, A. J. Hensey; I. M. Harrington, John Hickman and A K Burroughs. The teachers at this time were Flora Stevenson (Freeman), Ida Wells and Julia Benedict (Collins)."

We quote from Mrs. May C. Whitaker, nee Tarbell, now president of The Cleveland Woman's Press Club: "My educational career began with a term in the little red schoolhouse, which stood where the town hall now stands. The schoolhouse was about the size of a prosperous farmer's smokehouse and was built of red brick. Miss Hettie Culver was the teacher. My only memory is of the day when Dora Robinson, Carrie Comstock and myself dared to walk barefooted from our homes across the square to the school. It was very hot and the dust was fine and soothing to our feet, but Miss Culver was shocked * * * My big brother L. P. was disagreeable when I entered high school. He magnified my mistakes and made them public, all to prove that I was too young to be there. It was not the last shock his generation has suffered because of the advance of woman in education."

The present members of the Board of Education are William Wallace, president; Bruce Taylor, vice president; A. B. Blackman, clerk; Justin Griess, H. M. Molder, J. Burkett. From the establishing of the first graded school the superintendents have been C. D. Hubbell, J. L. Wright, J. C. Petir, H. L. Rawdon, O. C. Kurtz and the present superintendent, A. E. Moody.

Closely allied with the schools, as encouraging the study of music therein, and creating also in the community a taste for good music, has been The Bedford Music Club. The founder and first president was Mrs. John Freeman, the present editor of The Bedford News Register. This club was organized in 1899 and was first called The Ladies' Musical Club. The meetings are held in private houses, where programmes are studied. Its concerts are held in the auditorium of the high school. Its presidents have been Mrs. John Freeman, Mrs. Alfred J. Webb, Mrs. Oliver M. Smith, Miss Maude C. Ingersoll, Miss Mary C. Burroughs, Mrs. Hugh L. Norton, now deceased, Mrs. Charles R. Hinchman, Mrs. William B. Yost, Miss Anna Estella Maxseiner, Mrs. Bayard T. Wright, Mrs. William Wallace, Mrs. Douglas P. Handyside and Miss Trissa Hubbard, the present president.

The settlers recognized both the law of man and the law of God. While duly organizing for the establishing of civil local government that all differences should be ironed out by the sober judgment of the law, whose principles should be in accordance with divine law, they yet gave attention to the church as did their New England forbears. Denominationalism was a strong characteristic. The road to heaven was a denominational highway. Sermons were largely devoted to sectarian discussions. Revivals were frequent and the number of converts depended much upon the interest created in certain forms of worship and methods of baptism. No Billy Sunday, in those days, held meetings devoid of or apart from the question of denomination.

The oldest church in Bedford, dating from its first inception, was the Methodist Episcopal. As far back as 1830, the Rev. John Crawford, a circuit rider, whose field of operations was from Hudson to Cleveland, along the east side of the Cuyahoga River, stopped off at Bedford. He met Nathaniel Haynes, the village or township blacksmith, who had been holding some religious meetings, getting together those of the Methodist faith, like himself. Reverend Crawford organized them into a church. There were seven original members, Nathaniel Haynes and wife, Abraham Turner, wife and two daughters and Mrs. Betsy Fitch. Soon after Mr. Fitch, Joseph Skinner, David Skinner, and Daniel Baldwin were taken in as members. The first meetings were held in a schoolhouse and were conducted by circuit riders. The first regular ministers were Ira Eddy and William F. Day. The meetings of the church, as its numbers increased, were later held in a building erected by Mrs. Fanny Willis. For some time, this building was the meeting place of all the religious denominations, but was finally given to the Methodist Church on the condition that it be moved to another lot. Hezekiah Dunham then gave the church a lot on the corner of Columbus and Washington streets and here the building was moved in 1849. In 1885, the present structure at the corner of Main and North streets, was built. The present minister is Rev. S. F. Ross.

The Church of Christ was organized in 1832 and its house of worship built in 1838. Like the Methodist Church, it had no settled pastor for some time, the elders and occasionally a traveling evangelist officiating. The first regular pastor was Rev. J. O. Beardsley, who afterwards went to Jamaica, as a missionary. This church grew in numbers and became one of the largest in the county, becoming a sort of parent church. No less than fifty churches have been organized in different sections as offshoots of the Bedford Church of Christ. Among those who have been pastors of the church since its organization, are many, whose names are familiar to the older residents of the county. J. Harrison Jones, Lathrop Cooley, W. A. Knight, and E. C. Harris, with Reverend attached to their names, are among the number.

The First Baptist Church of Bedford was organized in 1854 and until the present church was built occupied a building, now torn down, near the site of the church now occupied. The old structure was a frame building while the new one is built of brick, attractive in appearance, a modern building with a large auditorium, having a seating capacity of 400 and a Sunday school assembly room capable of seating 100 more. The new building, however attractive, cannot divert the minds of the older residents, who are proud of the fact of their attendance, in worship, in the old. The new church was built in 1893. Among the early members of the church, we note Newman Robinson, George Cowin, Mrs. Sheets, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Ruth and Anne Hunt, and as pastor, Rev. Mr. Tallhurst.

Of later date than the churches mentioned comes the organization of the Christian Science Church in Bedford. Its history runs like this: Mrs. Kate Senter Reid first called a meeting at her home of those interested, with a view to holding meetings in Bedford, March 21, 1916. These meetings continued at her home until 1918, when the place of meeting was changed to the Knights of Pythias Hall. Later, this group of people, which had formed themselves into a society, bought a house on Grace Street, which they remodeled for their use. In this building their services are now held. There is a Sunday school and

reading room, and the society has a membership of twenty-five.

In the section of Bedford Township, annexed to the village in 1922, and now a part thereof, a splendid parochial school building has been erected. It is located in the vicinity of the McMyler Interstate Company. The building is of Spanish architecture, surrounded by large pleasant grounds and is equipped with attractive and suitable furniture for its work. This building was erected in 1912 and the school opened with fifty pupils. It now has doubled in numbers, having 100 pupils, and is under the direction of Dr. John R. Hagan, who was a classmate of Father Frey, secretary to the bishop of this diocese, Bishop Schrembs.

In view of the innumerable accidents in our streets, due to the automobile traffic, it may be of interest to recount the enterprise of one of Bedford's citizens in the early years. Squire Dunham was the first eliminator of grade crossings. His farm extended to Washington Street and over it he built a bridge for a driveway and for the passage of his cattle and other stock. Squire Dunham will be remembered as one of the first officers of the township at its organization in 1823. Says H. W. Hammond in a reminiscent article about early Bedford: "When Squire Dunham laid out Dunham Street, he sold the lot at the corner of said street and Wade Street to my grandfather, John Hammond, who built a home there. In the deed was an agreement that Dunham should have the right of way over this bridge and the privilege of relaying the driveway and repairing the bridge. Few people living in Bedford today can remember the old bridge under which we used to drive." Mr. Hammond adds: "Dear old Bedford! I think I could fill a ream of paper telling about the good old days, the old boys and all the good people, who lived in our village."

Of the fraternal orders in Bedford, Masonry holds a large place. Bedford Lodge No. 375, Free and Accepted Masons, has a history dating back to the close of the Civil war. Its dispensation was granted October 17, 1866 and its charter October 16, 1867. The charter members, all of whom are now dead, were J. B. Hains, C. N. Hamlin, A. A. Benedict, R. C. Smith, W. H. Sawyer, Levi Case, Enoch Allen, A. J. Wells, J. J. Brittan, S. S. Peck, L. C. Mains, Samuel Patrick, E. Cowles, and H. H. Palmer. It has a present membership of 294. The first Master was J. B. Hains, and the present presiding officer is H. W. Davis. A Past Masters' Association of this lodge was organized in 1920 and now has ten members. John Freeman is its president. Summit Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, was organized in Twinsburg in 1856 and removed to Bedford in 1886. It has a Past High Priests' Association of ten members, of which J. B. Kenyon is president, and has at present 206 members. Bedford Chapter Order of the Eastern Star was organized in 1915 and now has 193 members. Mrs. Alice P. Green is Worthy Matron and Miss Laura S. Berena, secretary. Its first Worthy Matron was Mrs. Eliza B. L. Tinker.

Among the other fraternal orders having lodges in Bedford are Royal Dunham Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, Golden Rod Lodge Knights of Pythias, Winchester Circle No. 46, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. A lodge of the Independent Order of Foresters, Unity Hive No. 428 Ladies of the Maccabees, Tent No. 562 Knights of the Maccabees, Dewey Camp No. 4099 Modern Woodmen of America, a lodge of the Woodmen of the World, and Prosperity Lodge No. 4774 Royal Neighbors of Prosperity.

The Bedford Board of Trade has been for some years a vital factor in the prosperity of the town. It had in 1912, when it published a booklet called "Beautiful Busy Bedford," a membership of seventy-six, and its officers were O. K. Wheelock, president; O. W. Kurtz and H. E. Lowry, vice presidents; R. F. Thomas, secretary; C. J. Wheeler, treasurer; P. D. Metzger, John Freeman and E. H. Collins, trustees. Its first secretary was H. A. Adams.

In writing of industrial Bedford, first in point of interest comes the chair industry. Bedford chairs are known over the world. We have referred to the beginning, when Benjamin Fitch, long before the township was organized, began making splint bottom chairs. The first advance of primitive man toward civilization has been marked by getting him up from the ground into a chair. The Indians left no chairs and used none. Chairs are distinctly a product of advancement. W. O. Taylor, in 1833, worked with Benjamin Fitch making chairs. All the details are not known to history but in due time he married his daughter. This industrial romance advanced the chair industry. In 1844, Mr. Taylor began the manufacture of chairs on his own account as W. O. Taylor and Sons. This firm developed into the Taylor Chair Company, in whose chairs "all the world is rocking." Benjamin Fitch made many improvements and invented devices for saving labor in the manufacture. His descendants followed his example. In 1865, Vincent A. Taylor, Joseph F. and William E. Taylor, were associated with their father, W. O. Taylor, in the factory. This continued for some years. As early as 1856, The Taylor Chair Company won the medal at the State Fair in Columbus. In 1876, this company won the "Gold Medal" at the World's Fair in Philadelphia. The certificate of award is preserved in the Taylor family. The award was made for durability, cheapness, and compactness. In 1869 the factory was burned but it was immediately rebuilt, although from lack of adequate insurance, the loss was heavy. Vincent A. Taylor, president of the company, has directed the manufacture to permanent success by specializing in many lines. More than 60,000 "comfortable rockers" have been manufactured and marketed in a single year. It has been said that this is the largest, exclusive, high grade, rocker plant in the world. Mahogany comes to this plant in the log from Cuba, and is sawed into lumber in its own mills and then made into rockers, all the work being done in this factory. We will speak of Mr. Vincent A. Taylor later, but we are not through with the chair industry in Bedford.

More than seventy years ago another chair industry began in Bedford. It is now known as the B. L. Marble Chair Company. Like the Taylor Company, it began in a small way. In 1851 it employed five men. Today it employs some 250 men, and like the Taylor Company specializes in certain lines. The two factories give employment to over 500 workmen. From 1851 it was B. J. Wheelock, then Wheelock and Wright, then another firm, M. A. Purdy and Son, then in 1867 united under the name of The Bedford Chair Company, then Marble and Shattuck, then The B. L. Marble Chair Company. Success has attended these men bemused of devoted service. B. L. Marble and A. L. Shattuck have devoted each a lifetime to the improvement in the manufacture of chairs. As the public became more discriminating, this company called art to its aid and combined it with economic handling of material and scientific methods of shipping the finished product. Designers were constantly employed but before a particular design was placed upon the market the public were called as a jury to decide. Samples were placed on sale and the merits decided upon by a practical test. It was not what ought to suit the public but what actually did suit that counted. Marble chairs are found in the furnishings of statehouses and government buildings in many parts of the country. Mr. B. L. Marble, after a lifetime devoted to this industry, has retired from active participation, but has a son, L. L. Marble, who is active in the company. From "Beautiful Busy Bedford" we quote: "The development of the chair industry in Bedford reads like a romance, and is full of experiences of deepest interest to all. Ever since the days of the old log cabin and open hearth, with grandmother's high-backed rocker, has the work of building Bedford chairs gone on, until it is today a splendid industry in the permanent building of Bedford."

Of the more recent industries of Bedford there is The Franklin Oil and Gas Company, The Best Foundry Company, The McMyler Interstate Company and The Mason Tire and Rubber Company. The Best Foundry Company manufactures stove castings for a variety of makes and for some of the largest stove manufactories in the world. In 1905, the first finished product was turned out. By 1912, it was said to be the largest foundry of this kind in the world, employing 600 men, and with an annual pay roll of \$500,000. The general manager, Mr. Henry M. Molder, is a prominent figure in the industrial life of the

town. The McMyler Interstate Company was incorporated in 1902, located in Cleveland and later removed to Bedford. Its products are structural steel locomotive cranes and other special machinery. This company has placed extensive installations in many parts of the world, including England, Japan, and Australia. It but recently constructed the largest locomotive crane in the world and placed it in the League Island Navy Yard at Philadelphia. One more industry should be mentioned, that of the Bedford China Company. This is of recent establishment but is a factor in the industrial life of, the town.

At present Bedford has two newspapers, The Bedford News Register, which is in its twentieth year, edited by Mrs. John Freeman, and The Bedford Herald, conducted by C. P. Smith, son of R. C. Smith, referred to in connection with the school history of the town. On February 2, 1922, The News Register published a High School Edition, a very creditable number, which reflected credit on the editor. Mrs. Freeman. The Herald has but recently started and its future is to be determined.

The present officers of the Village of Bedford are mayor, N. Ray Carroll, clerk, E. L. Allen; treasurer, W. O. Cameron; marshal, Fred M. Clampitt; police justice, John A. Flick; solicitor, L. R. Landfear; city engineer, B. T. Wright; councilmen, J. A. Squire, L. L. Horton, Fred Oldham, W. C. Warren, E. R. Stillwell, W. L. Avery.

In writing of the growth and development of Bedford I am reminded of the lines of Tennyson:
"We rise on stepping stones of Our dead selves to better things."

In 1866, a Rolling Mill Association, with a large capital, was formed and this capital was largely subscribed by Bedford citizens. A plant was erected and business started but after a short but precarious existence, it was removed, the Bedford plant dismantled, and the stockholders left with valueless certificates. This was a loss to the town in many ways.

The care of the sick and disabled has not been neglected in the progress upward from the log house era. The town has a General Hospital, located on North Street, with a corps of trained nurses and a medical staff, composed of Dr. R. S. Hubbard, Dr. W. H. Wycoff, Dr. W. F. Golling and Dr. R. R. Seidel.

The Bedford Bank of The Cleveland Trust Company, with George C. Flickinger, as manager, furnishes the general banking facilities, while The Bedford Savings and Loan Company, organized under the loan company laws, encourages the building of homes by construction loans. We must mention The American Legion Post, No. 350, Frank G. Hoeffler, post commander, by soldiers of the World war; The American Legion Auxiliary, president, Mrs. G. L. Bartlett; the Boy Scouts, F. C. Kramer, scout master; The Pythian Sisters, Mrs. Fern Pinnell, M. E. C.; D'Annunzio Lodge, Bedford Retail Merchants' Association; The Ladies Benefit Association of the Maccabees, commander, Mrs. Lettie Avery; The Federated Parent Teachers Club; The Woman's Athletic Association, president, Mrs. H. W. Davis, and the Volunteer Fire Department, of which reference has already been made, with C. S. Brown, as chief.

Among the new buildings of note and now under construction that of the Church of Christ on North Street should be mentioned. The corner stone was laid October 22, 1922. Under it were placed, as announced by Judge John A. Flick at the service, a bible, which had belonged to Squire Charles A. Ennis, a souvenir plate commemorating the seventy fifth anniversary of the old church, which had belonged to Mrs. Ellen Nelson Marble, late wife of Mr. B. L. Marble, church and Sunday school publications, copies of The Bedford News Register and the Bedford Herald, Bedford Music Club Year Book, Hiram College Year Book, and envelopes containing names of members of various church organizations. The speaker of the day, Dr. Arthur J. Culler, dean of Hiram College, gave an historical sketch of the church known as "Christian" or "Disciples of Christ." Doctor Culler spoke for the restoration of the rural church and

deprecated the practice of the members staying at home on Sunday and sitting by the roadside and selling fruit to passing autoists. He referred to the fact that James A. Garfield, who was a student at Hiram College, when it was called Hiram Eclectic Institute, had spoken before the Bedford Church.

Historical incidents are not wanting in the early history of Bedford. Our local histories all give in detail the hanging of John O'Mic in 1812. This, the first execution in the county, is important as showing the reign of the civil law and the sober execution of criminal justice. O'Mic was an Indian, who killed two trappers, and was tried and executed at Cleveland in that year. After the murder, O'Mic hid for several days in the deep woods along Tinker's Creek. It was near the A. B. C. Railway bridge or near where that crosses the creek in Bedford, that he was finally captured by one of his tribe.

It is related that in 1813, during the War of 1812, a band of British soldiers encamped on Euclid Creek, near Cleveland, and two of their number, out on a foraging expedition, wandered to the home of Elijah Nobles, already referred to as the first settler in Bedford. He took them in and kept them over night, then piloted them to their camp, telling them he would shoot them if they came back. This story is more believable as the incident probably occurred after the victory of Commodore Perry on Lake Erie. Before that time the settlers were in fear and trembling. That victory, although the war did not end until 1814, put courage in the hearts of the settlers.

When the Cleveland, Akron & Columbus Railway was completed it was dedicated by an excursion over the line. A number stopped off at Bedford, including the governor and other state officials, to view the glen, and three of the number were left behind, when the train pulled out. These were taken in a row boat to Cleveland, by way of Tinker's Creek and the Cuyahoga River.

P. T. Barnum was a great advertiser and when he opened his first show in Cleveland, he gave ten free tickets to prominent people of Bedford. Train service not being available and not wishing to lose the benefits conferred on them, the donees went to Cleveland on a hand car. This car was stolen during the evening, and the delegation, manfully, walked home after the show.

Bedford was a safe station on the Underground Railway in slavery days. The woods, glens, and homes furnished an excellent hiding place for refugees, before their final entrance into Canada. It is related that although most of the people in the town knew of the presence, from time to time, of runaway slaves, their presence was never revealed.

We have referred to "Mother Parker's" Tavern, and its popularity in the early days. It is related that one night two travelers came to the hostelry and engaged lodgings, the one a fine looking, large man, and the other quite small, apparently a boy. They left early without paying for their lodging, escaping the vigilant eye of "Mother Parker." Some months later she received a letter enclosing several times the amount, which she had charged on the books to "lost." In the letter was a confession that her visitors were an exiled prince and his young bride from one of the leading countries of Europe. Who this scion of royalty was she never would tell, as the letter in terms requested that the secret of the pair be kept from the public. Dame rumor, however, had it that the prince became, later, the ruling monarch of an empire across the seas.

In 1915, the Village and Township of Maple Heights was formed from the Township of Bedford. The township is merely a judicial township, having a justice of the peace. Its territory the same as the village, is entirely separate from the original township. Bedford Township includes the village, and taxes are assessed at a different rate outside the village, but the work is equitably divided. The township cares for

the poor, the township roads, outside of the village, and little else. The schools are united and pupils transported, as we have described. Maple Heights being entirely separate has its own school system. It had in its schools in 1920, 350 pupils, and employed ten teachers, and the total school expense was \$46,670. The schools have now enrolled 700 pupils, and there are twenty-two teachers employed. The budget for school expenses has reached the sum of \$111,575. Harry L. Peets, Mabel Lawrence, William Harbkersman, Mary Thornfield and L. O. Snyder constitute the Board of Education.

At the organization of the village in 1915, the following officers were elected: Mayor, W. E. Lambert, clerk, C. G. Holtz. The present officers are: Mayor, C. G. Holtz; clerk, F. J. Vasek; treasurer, F. Holtz; marshal, L. Seeley; police judge, F. H. Levy; street commissioner, Joe Miller; building inspector, C. H. Fortenbaugh; justice of the peace of Maple Heights Township, F. H. Levy. The Village Council, which meets the first and third Wednesday of each month, consists of G. W. Caldwell, W. A. Koring, P. Raimer, A. G. Beitt, C. W. Buettner, and E. F. Borges.

In 1921, a race track with the necessary buildings was constructed here by the Ohio State Jockey Club, and the Maple Heights races are an annual event, attended by large numbers. This has done much to advertise the village and contribute to its activities. As an evidence that the new village is functioning as an up-to-date municipality, we give the report of a session of the Police Court as printed in the Bedford Herald of November 2, 1922: "The usual number of violators of the law and ordinances were gathered in by the police force (Marshal Seeley) and were given an opportunity to explain to his honor. D. M. Sherman, of Cleveland, was arraigned and plead guilty to having violated the speed ordinance. Five dollars and costs! C. J. Shelly, of Cleveland, owned to having fractured the speed ordinance, passed to regulate the speed of motor driven vehicles, but upon extenuating circumstances being shown, was permitted to depart upon payment of costs. Mrs. C. Eames, of East Cleveland, blushingly admitted that she was guilty of violating the speed ordinance of Maple Heights. The Court was moved by the beauty and grace of the prisoner and her evident distress, because of her fault, and assessed her the very light fine of five dollars and costs. Thomas Rini, of Cleveland, also entered a plea of guilty to the charge of speeding and was requested to donate to the Village of Maple Heights the sum of five dollars and costs. W. J. Fritz, of Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, was glad to plead guilty to the same charge and escape with a fine of five dollars and costs. J. Dynwozynski of Foreman Avenue, Cleveland, plead guilty to the same charge, whereabouts His Honor, in pity, cut his fine to five dollars and costs. Another speedster, J. R. Gammeter, of Akron, explained fluently and at great length, that motorists in Akron think nothing of driving at the rate of fifty or sixty miles an hour. His Honor was equally confidential and carefully explained to Mr. G., that, after leaving Akron, the speed limit is gradually reduced until, at Maple Heights, twenty miles is the limit. To impress this fact more firmly upon the mind of Mr. G., His Honor inflicted a fine of five dollars and costs."

We have referred to the "Underground Railway" in the period preceding the Civil war, with Bedford as a station. It was peculiar in this, that the law violators were people of prominence and, except in this particular, law abiding. The institution of slavery seemed so obnoxious that a resort to the "higher law" was adopted without disturbing the conscience. Now comes in this day a violation of law by people otherwise law abiding and of the highest character. Rapid transit by means of motor cars becomes so fascinating that innumerable citizens of good repute are daily arrested, tried and sentenced. Oftentimes workhouse and jail sentences are inflicted. This is a historic fact and the day in the Police Court of Maple Heights Village is given merely to reflect that fact without suggesting what the future historian may find in connection with the wonderful progress from the days of the log cabin and the ox team.

Maple Heights, its territory, formed from the original number 6, range 11 of townships as surveyed by

the surveyors headed by Moses Cleveland, is but seven years old, but it has attractive dwellings, fine schools and an enterprising people.

Bedford Township, a farming territory, remains in lessened area and with its organization intact. The present officers are: Trustees, George A. Laing, C. W. J. Alexander and George Forbes; clerk, E. J. Caskey; township road superintendent, Robert Cowan. It has furnished public men of prominence in public affairs. Vincent A. Taylor served as a member of Congress in 1891 and 1892. Alfred W. Lamson, an able jurist, was common pleas judge for many years. Clark Alexander and Pierce D. Metzger served each as county commissioner, Mr. Metzger having served previously as a member of the General Assembly of Ohio. Dr. R. S. Hubbard was county treasurer for two terms, this being the limit under the law. C. Smith, Samuel Patrick and C. D. Hubbell served for many years as county school examiners. Other of Bedford citizens are as deserving of mention, but this will show in what different lines the citizens of Bedford have served the county, the state and the nation. In the Civil war, in the Spanish-American war, and in the World war against central Europe, her citizens were not found wanting. Dunham Post, of the Grand Army of the Republic, and the American Legion Post, survivors of the War of 1860 and of the War of 1914, reflect her service to the nation.

Bedford Township Excerpt from *Memorial to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve* by Gertrude Van Rensselaer Wickham, Under the Auspices of The Executive Committee of the Woman's Department of the Cleveland Centennial Commission, 1896. Parts 1-4.

<https://usgenwebsites.org/OHCuyahoga/Cities/BedfordTwpPWWR.pdf>

All four parts with many other locations are also viewable at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2719949?availability=Las%20Vegas%20Nevada%20FamilySearch%20Library>

Bedford

As nearly as it can be determined, it was in the year 1810 that the township of Bedford was allotted, but no settlements were made until later. In 1823 it received its present name at the suggestion of Daniel BENEDICT, in compliment to the place of his birth, Bedford, Ct.

Bedford, O. is twelve miles southeast of the Public Square in Cleveland and four miles from the city limits. It is on the line of three steam railways and the A., B. & C. electric street cars, thus affording to its citizens unsurpassed facilities for reaching the city.

Bedford is in fact, what before many years it will be in name - a suburb of Cleveland. It lies about 300 feet above Lake Erie, and is noted for the romantic scenery along Tinker's Creek, which flows through the center of the town, and is spanned by the C. & P. railroad bridge, a massive stone structure, offering great attraction for the artist as well as the student of nature.

Bedford is also noted as the "Banner Chair Town" of the state, and Bedford chairs hold their own against any competition.

As Bedford is the only one of the 126 townships of the Western Reserve, as far as I know, that has the honor of having a nobleman for its first settler, I wish to make the most of the fact, and will quote from the Cuyahoga County History:

"In 1813 Elijah or Elisha NOBLE settled on Tinkers, near the line of Independence, and was probably the first settler of Bedford." *** "He moved to what is now the village of Bedford in November, 1815, and was the first man who lived there."

Not a word of this indicates that there was anyone but a NOBLE man here at that time.

Further on it speaks of his "family being three miles from any neighbors," which is a hint that there might have been a NOBLE woman to endure the hardships of pioneer life, and who came into the unbroken forest that she might make a home for those she held dear. - "Then meekly backward to the shade, her noiseless spirit stole once more."

Although forgotten here, I wish for her posterity in the highest and the best that heart can wish, or sense desire, even as she must have done.

Charlotte FITCH and her husband, Stephen COMSTOCK of Bozrah, Conn. settled at Tinker's Creek in 1814, and on April 30, 1815, their daughter Sarah became the first white child born in the township.

Mrs. COMSTOCK was a very smart woman, and the mother of two sons and three daughters. Sarah married James BENEDICT, and lived in Bedford until her death in 1895; respected by the entire community. Mary Ann married J.O. ROSE and removed to York, Ind. Charlotte married Edmund GLEESON, and after his death she became the wife of James C. CLEVELAND of Independence, Ohio.

In 1815 Betsey COMSTOCK, a sister of Stephen COMSTOCK, with her husband Benjamin FITCH, who was a brother of Mrs. COMSTOCK, came from Independence where they had settled in 1813, to the eastern part of what is now the village of Bedford, afterward removing to North Street.

Mrs. FITCH was a native of Bozrah, Connecticut. She was the mother of three sons and two daughters, and was very industrious and a fluent conversationalist.

Andrew Garner FITCH, born at the center in 1818, was the first white child born in that locality. Mrs. FITCH was well known as the "Pioneer Chair Maker."

Harriet M. FITCH married Wm. O. TAYLOR, a son of Orrin and Anna STREET HALL TAYLOR, of Buckland, Mass., who, during his life, did more than any other person to promote the interests of Bedford and its citizens. He also established and maintained a free library for the use of the residents of Bedford.

Mrs. TAYLOR was the mother of Caroline TAYLOR (Mrs. A.J. HENSEY) and Hon. V.A. TAYLOR. She was a lovable woman, and her friends cherish her memory with the tenderest regard.

Selinda FITCH (Mrs. Charles CULVER) was the first woman in town to keep bees, hiving the swarms and taking care of them herself. She is a widow and is living with her son, Madison H. CULVER.

Polly Richardson, with her husband, Moses GLEESON, removed from Stillwater, N.Y., in 1812, to near Massillon, O., where they remained about two years, when they came to Bedford and settled on the State road, where she lived until her death in 1870.

The general travel was upon that road and the stages carrying the U.S. mail passed their door, and their house was the usual place of entertainment for people who traveled that way. Many will gratefully remember the numerous favors received at the hands of Polly GLEESON. She was the mother of seven sons and four daughters.

The GLEESON girls were good looking and great favorites among the young people, no gathering being considered complete without their presence. Mary GLEESON (Mrs. Charles CURTIS), Nancy GLEESON (Mrs. Consider MORGAN), and Mrs. Stiles SMITH (nee Kate GLEESON) reside in Cleveland.

Anna GLEESON married Charles L. WILLES, son of Luther and Fanny WILLES. They are living in St. Paul, Minn., and are the parents of Judge John W. WILLES of the same place.

Hannah SKINNER was born in 1792 at Sherbourne, Vt., and married Jason SHEPARD of the same place.

In 1820 they moved to Bedford on the Newburgh road. Ten years later they removed to Newburgh, where she died at the age of eighty-eight. Mr. SHEPARD was a great hunter and killed many bears, deer and wild turkeys. Their daughter, Manie SHEPARD, married H.S. BRAYTON, and resides in Newburgh. John DUNHAM and Elizabeth HUNGERFORD, his wife, with five children, came from Herkimer, N.Y., in 1818 with a wagon drawn by oxen. They settled on the Dunham road in the northwest part of town, and were the first family on the street.

Mrs. DUNHAM was the mother of twelve children, five of whom were daughters. She was a very energetic woman, spinning and weaving the cloth, both linen and woolen, for the clothing of her household.

One day Mrs. DUNHAM and her daughter, Eliza (Mrs. Wm. L. WHEELER) wove ten yards of woolen cloth, cut and made by hand two pair of men's pantaloons, besides doing their housework, which would be considered a pretty good day's work now.

Laura DUNAHM (Mrs. Turner HUBELL) is a very quiet, sedate lady, and her friends like to tell the following anecdote regarding her youthful days:

One night there was a dance at a log house in the neighborhood, and Mr. DUNHAM, who was very fond of music, went over, and as the evening passed on, he improved the opportunity to dance with a young lady who was present.

On arriving at home, he told his wife that there was a stranger present, a very pretty young lady, and a good dancer, too. When the young people returned, they were questioned in regard to the stranger. Miss Laura said: "Why, father, you only danced once, and that was with me," when there was a merry laugh at his expense.

Mary BENEDICT was born in Roxbury, Vt., and married Stephen ROBINSON, of St. Lawrence County, N.Y., who was a soldier in the war of 1812. They came to Newburgh, where they lived until 1818, when they removed to Bedford and were among the first settlers of the town. Mrs. ROBINSON was the mother of eight sons and four daughters. Sally, who married Harris JOHNSON, is a widow and lives with her brother, Deacon Newman ROBINSON, who married Laura KENYON, daughter of James R. KENYON and Hannah OATMAN, of Adams, N.Y., who came here in 1833.

Mrs. Laura KENYON ROBINSON is a very neat housekeeper, and her needlework is a model of nicety in execution as well as beauty in design. She was the mother of two sons and one daughter, all of whom were removed by death. Dora B. ROBINSON was a lovely girl, a successful school teacher, active in church work, and idolized by her friends who mourn her loss.

In 1817 Samuel BARNES and Lucinda BARNUM, his wife, of Monkton, Vt., moved to Newburgh and in April, 1819, they came to Bedford, and lived in a log house on the place where Mrs. Avis GREY BORST now resides. Their daughter, Cordelia, was the first white girl born in the village, June, 1819.

Mrs. BARNES, or "Aunt Lucinda," as she was called, was very jovial and quick witted, and many stories are told about her sharpness in repartee, as people took delight in joking her in order to draw out her apt replies.

In 1822 Daniel BENEDICT and his wife, Catherine ROSCOE from Monkton, Vt. settled in the village. They had eight sons. "Aunt Katy" was a small active woman, off-hand in manner, with very strong likes and dislikes. The latter was made manifest when a family who had been living near her was moving away, when fastened a flag to the house and danced a jig.

Their log house was arranged similar to the one on the Public Square in Cleveland during the Centennial year. For a lamp they used a dish containing bear's grease, with a rag for a wick, and lighted it by blowing a live coal until the sparks caught the rag on fire. In the early days none could excel Kathy BENEDICT in dancing and she used to go to dances when well along in years, with her husband and sons.

On one occasion the entire family went to a dance, and upon their return home entered the open court in the darkness. The dauntless mother said that she knew where to find the dish, and would make a light, went in without fear, not noticing that the door was ajar. No sooner had she taken the dish in her hand than she found herself astride of some creature which had arisen as she was stepping over it, and was giving vent to horrible sounds, as she was borne about the room on its back in the darkness, screaming: "Oh, Lordy! What has got me." It proved to be an old porker that had pushed the door open and laid down by the fire.

Enos HOLLISTER and his wife, Lydia BIDWELL, came from Hartford, Conn. About 1824. Their daughter, Susan, married Ambrose DUNHAM, and lived until the age of seventy, when, after a short illness, she said: "My work is done; I am ready to go." "And passed to where, beyond these voices, there is peace." Albina DUNHAM, wife of R.J. HATHAWAY, is a worthy daughter of so excellent a mother.

Mary A. HOLLISTER married Seth PRATT, and removed to Assyria, Mich. Emeline HOLLISTER married Issac ROBINSON, and is living in Newburgh at the age of eighty-four.

Betsey PALMITER came from Vermont to Newburgh in 1821, where she married Eli BURKE, who was a drummer. They settled in Bedford in 1824, afterwards removing to York, Ind. There were two daughters, Jane and Mary; to the former, Mrs. Jane BURKE BROOKS, of Pleasant Lake, Ind., we are indebted for the information concerning many named in this article.

Nancy FOSTER, with her husband, Hiram SPAFFORD, came from Genesee, N.Y., to Bedford in 1824. She was the mother of ten children. Her daughter, Harriet SPAFFORD, married Daniel CULVER, and was the mother of Hetty CULVER, wife of Col. John GIBBONS, of Cleveland. Hannah SPAFFORD married Rev. E.H. HAWLEY and lived but one year afterward.

Hiram SPAFFORD was noted as the bear hunter, and he married for his second wife the widow of his brother, Nathan B. SPAFFORD, who was Mary MORRISON of Stoddard, N.H. She used to do a great deal of fine weaving, and her daughter, Mary C. SPAFFORD (Mrs. Wm. HURST) has some beautiful coverlets that she wove. Mary SNELL, wife of Daniel GOULD, was a native of Ware, Mass. They came to Bedford in 1825 and put up a log house where the M.E. church now stands. Their daughter, Laura S. GOULD, was one of the early teachers of the place. She was well educated for the times, literary in her tastes, and a good singer. She married Stephen G. REMINGTON, and the last year of her life were spent as a recluse.

Fanny WILLEY, a sister of John W. WILLEY, the first mayor of Cleveland, was born in Lemster, Vt. She came to Bedford with her husband, Luther WILLES, about 1827. Mrs. WILLES was short and rather fleshy, and used to wear her front hair in curls. She was very aristocratic for the times, stylish in dress, wearing white in the summer. She was a remarkable woman for business, carrying on the post office after her

husband's death. She also built a church for union meetings, which was known as "Mrs. WILLES' church," afterward donating it to the M.E. church. She used the building while on her premises for carrying on select school. Mrs. WILLES withal was a very devoted mother. To illustrate this phase of her character, a former pupil relates: After a recitation she would sweep across the room in her dignified manner, take up her daughter, Fanny, who was a small child, sit down and sing:

'Mama's pretty little honey - hon -
Honey - honey - honey -
Fum - fum - fum - fum -
Fiddle, faddle fum -
Fiddle, linktum, faddy'

After which she would resume her teaching as if there had been no interlude." She was the mother of one son and three daughters. Marie Louise WILLES married Jacob MEDARY. She is a pleasant faced lady, with a quiet dignity of manner, and is the only one of the family living in Bedford. Mr. Dr. SLAWSON nee Carrie WILLES, inherited her mother's business qualities. She resides in Cincinnati. The youngest daughter, Mrs. Fanny WILLES, is living in Florida.

Rebecca WELLS, of Stow, O., married Justus REMINGTON, a school teacher from the east. They came to Bedford in 1828. Mrs. REMINGTON was the mother of five daughters, Polly, Loretta, Louisa, Matilda and Margery. Her sister, Delilah WELLS, was the wife of Darius WARNER.

Mrs. Enock ALLEN (Anna Rossiter HART), of Ticonderoga County, N.Y., came to Bedford in 1828. Mr. and Mrs. ALLEN kept tavern, and preachers were entertained without charge, as well as any without the means to pay, especially if overtaken by the many ills incident to a new country. They were then nursed and cared for until health was restored, when no pay was expected or taken.

They were charter members of the Disciple church in 1832, and probably no one did more than they to secure preachers of the Gospel to hold regular meetings here.

Delia Caroline ALLEN married J.K. CULVER, a son of John and Catherine GOODRICH-CULVER, and is now living with her son, Wm. CULVER.

Lucy A. ALLEN married George W. CARPENTER and resides in Midland, Mich.

Moses and Betsey BARNUM, parents of Lucinda and Philena BARNUM-BARNES, with their daughters, Julia, who never married, came from Monkton, Vt., in 1820.

Mrs. Sally BARNUM, mother of Abijah S. BARNUM, lived across the road from the Ozro OSBORNE place. Among the early settlers were Geo. M. PAYNE and his wife, Susan HOLCOMB, with their daughter, Livonia, who married Newell BARNUM; Dr. Charles and Mrs. Palmiter GOODRICH, with five daughters; Nathaniel H. JOY and Betsey TORRY, his wife, and five daughters.

The first wedding was that of Laura, daughter of Solomon and Polly WHITE, and James TITUS. Soon after this, Eunice GOODALE, a girl only fourteen years of age, daughter of Joseph and Eunice WELLS GOODALE, was married to David BENJAMIN by Esq. Geo. M. PAYNE.

Susannah GIBBS, of Hebron, N.Y., was married to Abraham TURNER in Delabour, Canada in 1808. They came to Bedford in 1828 with two sons and three daughters. Mrs. TURNER was a good singer and lived to be over ninety years old. Anna TURNER (Mrs. Thomas PEAKE) is a very kind, pleasant woman.

Hannah TURNER married Joseph S. GRANT, and was one of the first teachers in the Sunday school of the M.E. church, continuing in this service over forty years. She is still an ardent member of this church and Sunday school.

Jemima TURNER (Mrs. Solomon ENNIS) was a fine looking woman and a great reader.

Rev. Nathaniel C. HAINS and his wife, Rachel SAWYER, of St. Albans, Vt., came to Ohio in 1822 and remained about a year each in Sandusky, Hudson and Bedford, then in Warrensville until 1829, when they returned to Bedford. In June, 1825, Mr. HAINS preached the first funeral sermon in Bedford. Soon after they came from Warrensville, he formed the first class, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. TURNER, Anna and Hannah TURNER, himself, wife and daughter Polly, which was the beginning of the M.E. church in Bedford.

Mrs. HAINS one day saw a flock of turkeys in the clearing, and raising the window with great caution, she took the gun brought with them from Vermont, hanging in the top of their wagon, and, resting it on the window sill, she fired. So good was her aim that she brought down one of the largest of the flock, and they had turkey dinner next day, done to a turn on the home-made split, which consisted of a cord fastened to the ceiling, from which the fowl was suspended before the big fireplace.

Mrs. HAINS was the mother of nine children, Cornelius and Cornelia being twins, and the latter, who married T.M. BEMAN, is the mother of twin daughters, Ella and Eva, the former being a teacher in the Bedford schools.

Polly HAINS married Sidney M. HAMMOND. She was a great lover of flowers; her yard being filled with them. She used to say that "flowers were the gift of God to brighten our pathway to heaven," and sent them to the sick whenever possible. She had two large plants of night-blooming Cereus, and when they blossomed sent word to all who might wish to see them.

Jemima GIBBS, a sister of Mrs. TURNER, married Stephen PECK, and used to assist him in finishing the coffins that he had made.

Stephen C. POWERS came to Bedford when quite a young man, and soon after his arrival he was taken sick with measles. As the people at his boarding place were afraid of the disease, he was taken in the home of Amos BELDEN, where he was nursed through his illness. Upon his recovery, he discovered that he had lost his heart, and that it was in the keeping of Charlotte BELDEN, who was of a very amiable disposition, and a great worker. They were soon married and he put up the woolen mills, the ruins of which are standing on Tinker's Creek at the foot of Columbus Street.

Anna HILLMAN, of Wilton, Me., came to Bedford with her mother, Clarissa BUTTERFIELD HILLMAN, wife of Hezekiah DUNHAM, in 1831, and celebrated the Fourth of July the next year by her marriage to Capt. Otis BUTTON.

The village of Bedford was then a scattered hamlet, the public square being covered with oaks.

Mrs. BUTTON was one of those patient, tender spirits that shone brightest in the home circle, and she ever exhibited the characteristics of the Christian lady. Her only daughter, Charlotte E. BUTTON, wife of M.B. DAWSON, resides in Cleveland.

Jane WARD and her husband, Robert DAWSON, of Rosedale, England, after living a few years in Canada, came to Bedford in 1832. She was the mother of four sons and two daughters. Mary McClURE (Mrs. Abraham WHITAKER) was a devout woman, and in many ways patterned after Susanna WESLEY in the care of her household and in her relations to the church.

Mary Jane SMITH of West Brownsville, Pa., married Andrew M. WHITAKER and came to Bedford in 1849. She was the mother of Alfred WHITAKER, whose death by a railroad accident last winter was deeply deplored by his large circle of acquaintance. His integrity of character was equaled by few and surpassed by none.

Emma WHITAKER (Mrs. H.O. COURTNEY) and Margaret WHITAKER are living in Bedford.

Jess TRYON and Prudence HURLBURT, his wife, with their family of five sons and two daughters, left Wethersfield, Conn., with a four-horse team. They arrived at Bedford in November, 1831, locating on the Twinsburg road, where her son, John, and daughter, Mary, now reside. Mrs. TRYON lived until her ninety-first year.

Mehitable TRYON (Mrs. Chauncey GAY) came here two years before her parents. She was the mother of five sons.

Elizabeth LEVISEE was a daughter on one of the early Baptist preachers. She married Robert TRYON, and their daughter, Sarah TRYON, is an artist of New York City.

Rena LATHROP, wife of Rev. Carl F. HENRY, of Cleveland, is the daughter of Mrs. Henry LATHROP, nee Melissa TRYON.

Timothy TITCOMB and family lived here in 1831 and for several years after. The question arises, how did J.G. HOLLAND become possessed of "Timothy TITCOMB'S Letters" which he published?

Alonzo FRANKLIN and his wife, Diantha TORRENCE, of Jay, N.Y., came to Bedford in 1834. She raised a family of three sons and seven daughters, all but one of whom are now living. She was a strong temperance woman, and after hearing that with every missionary to foreign lands went thousands of gallons of rum, she decided to give to Home Missions instead, believing the senders needed instruction before the receivers.

Mrs. FRANKLIN remarked once: "That none of her children had married rich, but she was thankful that none had married drunkards." She was quiet and unassuming in manner and always at peace with her neighbors. Teaching her children the obedience due to parents, they in turn delighted to do her will.

Dr. Ezra GRAVES, who used to practice medicine here, was in Canada during the war of 1812, when he was required to swear allegiance to the crown or leave the country. He chose the latter course, and told his wife that she could stay there or go to the United States with old Ezra, just as she pleased. She said: "I'll go with old Ezra," and she came.

Mary BUCKLEY, wife of Anthony THOMAS, was born in Norwich, Conn., in 1777, and was the mother of seven daughters and one son. Five her daughters married and came to Ohio, three going to Newburgh, while two settled in Bedford. Mrs. THOMAS traced her family back to the year 1400. Her grandmother, Mary CHANEY, came over on the Mayflower and married Pictus BUCKLEY. After the death of her husband, Mrs. THOMAS married Thomas COX and came to Bedford.

She was one of the charter members of the Baptist church, organized in 1834.

Sarah THOMAS (Mrs. Nathan B. ROBINSON) lived on North Street and was the mother of Harriet ROBINSON, who married Augustus HUBBELL. She was called one of the prettiest girls in town. Helen ROBINSON, who married Calvin PURDY, was a well-known temperance worker and a member of the Cleveland Sorosis.

Ellen THOMAS married Phillip SLADE, and was the mother of E.P. and Albert T. SLADE, both lawyers of Cleveland, and Ellen SLADE who married H.D. DICKEY. Mrs. DICKEY was untiring in her efforts to relieve suffering wherever it may be found. Mrs. SLADE was a milliner, and also very fond of flowers.

Mrs. Lucretia (John) HAMMOND had an unconquerable desire to see a bear, and her husband was anxious to gratify her. As he was passing through a cornfield one day, he encountered a bear, and although a half-mile from home he called at the top of his voice - Creshy! Creshy!! Creshy!!! Here's a bear."

This so frightened Master Bruin that he dropped his corn and started off on a run, and for aught we know to the contrary, is still running. It is suspected that he took a south-east course and reached Wall Street, New York city, where he could have his accustomed diet of corn, and is now running up and down the Board of Trade, striking terror the hearts of those with whom he may come in conflict.

Rachel PACKARD and her husband, Reuben ELDRED of Plainsfield, Mass., came to Bedford in 1833. Mrs. ELDRED was of a very domestic nature, and used to spin and weave a good share of the time that she could spare from household duties. The names of all their children began with the letter R. Rosella ELDRED married S.N. WINCHESTER, and was a very active woman. At the time of the Civil War her husband and two sons enlisted in the service of their country, while she was one of the moving spirits of the Soldiers' Aid Society.

Romelia ELDRED (Mrs. A.D. ACKER) is still living in Bedford, where she has many friends. She has been down to the village many times with twenty-five cents to pay postage on a letter.

Marilla HOLT of Columbus, N.Y., married Esq. John TINKER, and with her family came from Adams, N.Y., to Bedford.

Mary TINKER married L. TARBELL, and is the mother of two sons and one daughter. J.D. TARBELL, the youngest son is mayor of Bedford.

May TARBELL married Grove G. CANNON, and after his death she became Mrs. Alfred WHITAKER. She now resides in Cleveland.

Adelia J. TINKER, Mrs. J.D. SHOLES, is a contributor to several papers and magazines.

It is not every town that can boast of a woman who was so much married as Betsey HAMLIN. She became Mrs. WAY, Mrs. Nathaniel FARRAR, Mrs. John CULVER, Mrs. Hezekiah DUNHAM, and Mrs. Adamson BENTLEY. She died at the age of eighty-four, having been a widow for several years. When she was Mrs. CULVER, a young lady of the family about to be married was feeling somewhat nervous over the ceremony when Mrs. CULVER said: "Oh that is nothing when you get used to it, why I would just as soon stand up and get married as not!"

Betsey PALMITER and her husband, Allen PRATT of Phelps, N.Y., came to Bedford in 1831. She was the mother of four sons and two daughters. Mary J. PRATT who married Philemon SMITH, and Betsey A. PRATT, Mrs. Luman BARNES, are widows and reside in Holden, Mo. There are fifty-six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren in the PRATT family.

At a wedding in the 30's some young men wheeled the village cannon to the home of the bride and fired a salute in honor of the event. Inadvertently the cannon was pointed toward the house and blew the mortar chinking from between the logs, filling the house with dust and smoke, so that one could not distinguish the bride from the groom.

Abner CLEVELAND with his family came from Rutland, Vt. The only daughter, Fanny L. CLEVELAND, lives with her brother Clark, both being unmarried.

Rufus LIBBEY came from the east and took up a farm. After a few years he decided to take unto himself a wife. He went to Waverly, O., where he was married to Cassandra FOSTER, who is still living at an advanced age with her son E.W. LIBBEY.

Eliza QUIGLEY was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and moved to New York City where she married Wm. CARLISLE. They came to Bedford in 1834. Mrs. CARLISLE was the mother of eight children, a member of the Baptist church, a woman of great moral courage and strong religious convictions. She is now living with her daughter, Mr. J.M. LEWIS of Cleveland, and retains all of her faculties, and the characteristics that the pioneer life developed.

Hannah BARTLETT married John C. HALL, and Zarina married Rev. H.G. MARCH, of Solon. Lucy A. was compelled at the age of twelve years - by the death of her mother, to assume the responsibilities of housekeeping for her father and brothers, which she did with ability and cheerfulness.

Wm DICKEY and his wife Mary KENYON, with three sons and three daughters came from Adams, N.Y. in 1833. Almira DICKEY, Mrs. Nelson HAMLIN, although of a retiring disposition, is a woman of dignified manner. She resides in Cleveland, also her sister, Mrs. Geo. RUGG, Harriet DICKEY.

Catherine WINFIELD and her husband, Thomas MARBLE, with four children came from Phelps, N.Y. in 1833 and settled on the Newburg road. Mr. MARBLE died in 1838 leaving her with six children. She then married Thomas BURGESS, and four children were the result of this marriage. She was the mother of six daughters and lived to be ninety-one years of age.

Serephina MARBLE, who married E.D. LEMOIN, is living in Dry Town, California, and the other daughters reside in Newburgh. They are Lucinda MARBLE, Mrs. Chauncey PALMER; Mrs. Phebe MARBLE TERRELL; Acenith MARBLE, who married "Honest Joe TURNEY," afterward State Treasurer; Mrs. Thomas RIDDLE, nee Julia BURGESS, and Rhoda BURGESS, Mrs. Henry PUTNAM.

Nancy McCLINTOCK was born in Manchester, N.Y. and came to Bainbridge, O. with her uncle's family, where she met and married Calvin PERKINS, whose father, Stephen PERKINS, came from the east with David HUDSON, the founder of Hudson, O. At the time there was only one house in Cleveland, and that was a block house. Mrs. Stephen PERKINS was a Bishop and related to the HUDSONS.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin PERKINS with three children came to Bedford in 1844, settling on the farm now occupied by their son Samuel. Elizabeth PERKINS who married George ARNOLD, is a widow and resides at Five Pints near the old home. Anna PERKINS is the wife of Geo. P. NICHOLS. Mrs. PERKINS was a woman of rare ability and physical strength. None excelled her as a devoted nurse, and her services were in demand in cases of sickness among her neighbors.

Sally WATSON was born in Providence, R.I., and when eight years of age lived in Renselaerville, N.Y., where she went to school to Silas GREY, and they were married when she was in her fifteenth year. They came by boat to Cleveland, which on the passage got aground on a sand bar at Erie, when all hands - women included - had to take their turn at the pump. Their son Alanson was born on Lake Erie during their voyage, which lasted eleven days.

On reaching Cleveland, they went to Ravenna and remained until 1833, then came to Bedford and bought the Allen Hotel on Willes Street. Afterward Mr. GREY bought and painted what was known as the "Checkered Hotel," on what is now North Park Street. Mrs. GREY was a fine looking woman, and very kind to the poor.

Eliza GREY, Mrs. Thomas GREER, and Adaline GREY who married Alonze HESTON, removed to Charlotte, Mich. Lorinda GREY married Alonzo HESTON and removed to Chicago. She was a handsome girl as will be seen by the following report of a banquet given by the Cleveland Grays at the American House, which she attended in company with her sister and Mr. MONROE, who was a member of the Grays. "The Cleveland Grays presented a fine appearance, but it would take the pen of an angel, dipped in the sunbeams of heaven to describe the beauty of the Bedford GREYS."

Lucy A. GREY married Dr. S.U. TARBELL and resides here, being the only one left of her mother's family of twelve children. She is a widow and is very charitable and sympathetic to those in trouble, and many have occasion to remember her with gratitude.

Ira. LAMSON and Lydia WARD, his wife came from Phelpstown, N.Y. to Bedford in 1834. On their way they put up at a hotel for a night, and in the morning after feeding the horses, the covered basket used in taking out the feed for them was hung under the rear of the wagon. After they had gone quite a distance on their way, a noise was heard, and a hen flew out of the basket cackling. The boys caught the hen, and they had pot-pie for dinner next day. Mrs. LAMSON was the mother of four sons and five daughters. At one time the children were going for the cows when a number of deer, having been frightened in some way, ran across their path, and one of the young became entangled in the brush, when a man who happened along just then, killed it, and carried it off on his shoulders. Alvira LAMSON taught school, and as very young children used to attend school at that time, she would carry peppermint candy to amuse them, and when they were tired make a bed upon the benches for them. She married Edwin HENDRICK and removed to Paw Paw, Mich.

Mrs. W. B. HILLMAN, nee Thankful LAMSON, is living in Hudson with her daughter, Mrs. Mollie Hillman HITCHCOCK. Mrs. Caroline LAMSON (A.H. COMSTOCK) has two daughters, Alice COMSTOCK, Mrs. E. INGERSOLL of Portland, Oregon, and Carrie COMSTOCK who married R.W. SADLER of Akron. Martha

LAMSON married Halsey HESTON, and her daughter, Rosetta, Mrs. A.J. HUBBARD, resides in Birds Eye, Ind. Mrs. Phebe LAMSON (F.D. BENTLEY) resides in Bryan, O.

Mrs. COMSTOCK remembers being called to the door by her father one morning in 1837 to see the pigeons fly north. There were such immense numbers of them as to completely hide the sky from view. Mrs. Lydia WARD LAMSON was a remarkably bright and active woman, and lived to be ninety-four years of age. Judge LAMSON of Cleveland is her grandson.

Erastus IVES and his wife Peggy RONK were among the early settlers. She was an enthusiastic church member, and once said when giving her testimony, that "She should come to church if she had to go above her knees in mud." During a protracted meeting the house was crowded, and Mr. IVES was present. In the meantime, something had gone wrong at home and he was needed there. His wife came to the church door and called out, "Erastus, come home!" Standing not upon the order of his going, he seized his hat and rushed down the aisle.

The SKINNERS lived on North Street. Mrs. Jared SKINNER was a very kind woman, and used to roast potatoes to put in the hands of the neighbors' children to keep them warm while going to school. Mrs. Joseph SKINNER, nee Calista BOYNTON, was a cousin of James GARFIELD. Mrs. David SKINNER was Lydia WEBB, and her mother lived with her. James SKINNER married Lydia WARNER.

Mrs. James YOUNG (Mary Smith) was always singing about her work. The entire family used to go to church, rain or shine, and all were fine singers.

Amelia YOUNG who married Dr. D.G. STREATOR, was one of the daughters.

Betsey SMITH (Mrs. John YOUNG) used to gather the neighborhood together Sunday afternoons and give them instructions in the Bible.

Augustus PEASE and Patty ALLEN, his wife, were ardent members of the Baptist church.

Theron and Samantha KING-SKEELS, and daughter Almeda were from Lebanon, N.Y.

Absolom SALISBURY and Betsey BECKWITH, his wife, who came from Henderson, N.Y. were the parents of Charlotte SALISBURY who married Otis FARRAR, and is now living with her daughter, Mrs. N. F. WOOD, nee Frances FARRAR.

Peter ROBINSON and Hetty his wife, the parents of Dr. J.P. Robinson were early settlers. The latter married Betsey DUNHAM. They removed to Mentor, O. where they were very intimate friends of President and Mrs. GARFIELD.

Lydia DUNHAM, Mrs. F.H. CANNON, resides in Twinsburg.

Polly HILLMAN married David B. DUNHAM. Their daughter Julia DUNHAM married Levi COMSTOCK and resides in Cleveland.

Irene CLEVELAND (Mrs. Stanton BROWN) came from Watertown, N.Y. She was a short, good looking old lady, with a motherly face and is remembered with great tenderness.

Alonzo DRAKE and his wife, Sarah E. PARMELY came from Monkton, Vt. In 1835. Mrs. DRAKE was a fine looking woman, and was one of the first teachers in the Baptist Sunday School. She was the mother of Emma H. DRAKE who married Z.J. WHEELER, and Sarah E. DRAKE, Mrs. Dr. Eli CLARK of Willoughby.

Nancy HATHAWAY was a very fine singer. She married Joseph COMSTOCK, and was the mother of Julia Ann COMSTOCK who married Reuben PARKINSON. Mrs. COMSTOCK afterward married Augustus PETTIBONE.

Adelaide PARKINSON (Mrs. Ozro OSBORN) has a pleasant face which combined with a suave manner attract to her many friends.

Anna TAYLOR (Mrs. Godfrey RICHARDSON) and family located on the Kellogg CULVER place in 1838. Her husband died the next year, and she was left with a family consisting of two sons and seven daughters. She was a very energetic woman and used to take in weaving to help support her family. She afterward married John MOUNT, and died in 1880, at the home of her daughter Mary. Mary RICHARDSON married Levi MARBLE, a son of Aunt Katy MARBLE-BURGESS. She lives on Main Street and is the mother of C.B., F.D. and B.L. MARBLE who inherit from her qualities that make them good business men.

Adeline C. PLATT and her husband, Bloomfield J. WHEELOCK of Hunter, N.Y., among the Catskill Mountains, came to Bedford about 1849 with a delegation of one hundred and ten persons. This company came to Bedford under the auspices of Mr. WHEELOCK, and among them were many estimable ladies whose influence was exerted for good in community in church, educational and philanthropic work.

Elizabeth SHAW (Mrs. James GORDON) of Fifeshire, Scotland, with her son A.M. GORDON who was about two years old, came to Bedford in 1844. She was the mother of seven children; very patient under severe trials, seldom away from home, except to attend church. She was a great reader, a strong temperance woman, and her last words "Calvary is coming," were expressive of her undying faith in her Savior.

There were some women teachers in the early days, all of whom deserved especial mention, but lack of space forbids. Among them were Alzina AMES, Polly ALLEN, Lucy BALDWIN, Miss BARNES, Julia BARNUM, Linda BASSETT, Arzelia BENEDICT, Harriet BOYNTON, Zeria BURKE, Rosamond CLARK, Caroline HARTSHORN, Cornelia KNAPP, Alvira LAMSON, Sarah NEICE, Julia PARSHALL, Jannah Jane PECK, Maria PECK, Fanny Robinson, Mary Ann SILL, Mrs. SMITH, Julia Ann TRYON, Jemima TURNER, Sally WARNER, Eunice WATERS. I will quote from a district report of 1840 showing the comparative wages of men and women for about the same amount of work.

"The average number of scholars in attendance on the male teachers was 16 males and 6 females, the wages were \$20 per month."

"The average number of scholars in attendance on the female teachers was 16 males and 5 females, the wages were \$4 per month."

In a school taught by a lady in the '30's, a boy answering a question in geography as to the form of government of the United State, in contrast to that of Great Britain said, "We have no ducks, eels or heddiddle-diddles." (Dukes, Earls or hereditary titles.)

Some of the teachers had to board around among the patrons of the school, and at one place a young lady teacher was obliged to sleep with the eldest daughters in a trundle-bed which was drawn from under the bed occupied by the parents, and two of the smaller children.

In the early days of no newspapers, and few books, ghost stories were prevalent, and things not otherwise accounted for were often laid to this source.

When Laura GOULD was teaching school in the brick school house, strange noises were heard in an outhouse. This continued for a day or two when such a fear came upon the scholars that they could not study, and school was dismissed. No one dared to go near the building until a man came along the road who said, "I am going to find out what in creation that is" - and he did; upon forcing the door open he found a big black calf.

The pioneer mothers of Bedford were possessed of the requisites of true womanhood - "Grace" to endure, "Grit" to dare, and "Gumption" to make the best of the hardships incident to such a life. We deplore the fact that we cannot fully set forth the merits of anyone mentioned in this article, or even name all who are entitled to mention, but shall endeavor to have the statistical table as complete as possible.

Miss Dema BENNETT

Chairman and Historian

Bedford Committee - Mrs. Eliza DUNHAM WHEELER, Mrs. Mary FRANKLIN ALLEN, Mrs. Caroline LAMSON COMSTOCK, Mrs. Joseph B. HAINS