

# CHAGRIN FALLS

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

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## CHAGRIN FALLS TOWNSHIP HISTORY

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*Serenus Burnet - Two Dollars and a Half per Acre for Land - Other Early Settlers - A Log Gristmill - An Unfinished Bridge - Adamson Bentley - Bentleyville - Beginning at Chagrin Falls Village - Noah Graves and Dr. Henderson - Newcomers in 1837 - A Tavern in a Barn - The Old Deer Lick - Griffithsburg - Bentleyville's Prosperous Days - Dr. Vincent - A Primitive Bank - A College Chartered - Lively Times - Sidney Rigdon - The Financial Crisis - Early Mail Facilities - Asbury Seminary - The Tippecanoe Campaign - Whig Riflemen and Democratic Indians - First Paper Mill - Annexation of Nine Hundred Acres to Orange - Deacon White's Ax Factory - More about Bentleyville - Formation of Chagrin Falls Township - First Officers - Enterprise of the People - Champion's Scheme - A Pleasant Village - The Excitement at the Outbreak of the Rebellion - The Soldiers' Aid Society - Since the War - Business Interests - Chagrin Falls Paper Company - Adams & Co.'s Paper Mill - Williams' Foundry - Gauntts' Machine Shop - Ober's Planing Machine - Other Manufacturers - Congregational Church - Methodist Church - Disciple Church - Free Will Baptist Church - Bible Christian Church - Golden Gate Lodge - Chagrin Falls Lodge - Township Officers - Sketch of H.W. Curtis [sketch to be included in biographies section]*

In the month of May, 1815, immediately after the War of 1812, Serenus Burnet brought his wife and little son, Stephen, and located himself on the west side of Chagrin River, about two miles north of the present village of Chagrin Falls. There he built a rude log-house, and became the first resident of the present township of Chagrin Falls. The nearest neighbors were in the Covert neighborhood, near Willson's Mills, in the present township of Mayfield. For six months after their arrival Mrs. Burnet did not see the face a white woman.

Mr. Burnet paid two dollars and a half per acre for the best river-bottom land, and the proprietors were willing enough to sell even at this rate, for Burnet's was for a long time about the end of settlement in the Chagrin valley. During the next ten years the lower part of the valley slowly settled up, and between 1820 and 1825 Jacob Gillett, Caleb Alson and James Fisher became residents of what is now Chagrin Falls, in the immediate vicinity of Serenus Burnet.

But it was not until the year 1826 or 1827 that any settlement was made in the vicinity of the present village of Chagrin Falls. At that time John Woodward and Benjamin Carpenter built a dam across the Chagrin River, below Williams' foundry at Chagrin Falls, and at the north end of it erected a small log gristmill. The stones were drawn by eight yoke of cattle from a still older mill, situated near where Edmund Burnet now lives, in Orange.

About the same time Gen. Edward Paine, who owned the land west of the present Franklin Street, undertook to build a bridge across the river at the falls, and put four stringers across as a beginning. The work was not completed at that time, however, and the stringers remained, affording a precarious passage to the few footmen who occasionally appeared in the vicinity. Mr. W. T. Upham mentioned seeing them, in 1827 or '28, when hunting in company with his brother E. B. Upham, Alfred Utley and Joel Burnet. The falls were then marked by shelving rocks, which have since been blasted away, and the youngsters cut down a tree, growing on the bank, for the fun of seeing it topple over the precipice.

In the month of February, 1831, Rev. Adamson Bentley, a noted Disciple minister, then forty-six years old, having purchased a large tract of land at the junction of the two branches of the Chagrin River, moved to that point, and immediately began important improvements there. That same year he built a sawmill, and that year, or the next, he erected a gristmill; both being situated near the present residence of his son, Martin Bentley, about a quarter of a mile below the forks of the river. He built a carding machine and cloth-dressing establishment at the same point a little later, and thus made the beginning of a thriving hamlet, which flourished under the name of Bentleyville for over twenty years, and at first seemed likely to be the principal village in that part of the county.

But in 1833 a new village was begun, which soon threw Bentleyville entirely in the shade, and has long maintained an unquestioned supremacy over the various little burghs in the southeastern part of Cuyahoga County. It will be remembered that at this time that part of the present township of Chagrin Falls lying east of the line of Franklin Street, in the village of that name, was in the town of Russell, in Geauga County, while the portion west of that line was in Orange, Cuyahoga County, except a small tract in the southwest corner of the village, which was in Solon, in the same county. The land in Geauga County was owned by Aristarchus Champion, of Rochester, New York,\*\* while that of Orange was the property of Gen. Edward Paine, the founder of Painesville, but then residing at Chardon, Geauga County. In the year 1833, Noah Graves, a Massachusetts Yankee, on the lookout for a good investment, after examining the water power at the Falls, went to Gen. Paine and purchased two hundred and ten acres of land there, for what was then considered the large sum of two thousand dollars. Dr. S.S. Handerson was either connected with Graves at the time of the trade or became so immediately afterward, and together they at once made the preliminary movements to start a city. Lots were laid out and offered for sale, and preparations were made for building mills.

We cannot learn, however, that any houses were built on the site of the village until 1834. In that year Noah Graves, S.S. Handerson, Chester Bushnell, Napoleon Covill, A. A. Hart and Ebenezer Wilcox, all took their families and settled in the new city. In October of that year, Mr. Henry Church, the oldest survivor of the original pioneers of the village, moved thither with his family. He found the families already mentioned, but only three framed houses those of Graves, Handerson and Hart. Mr. Wilcox lived in the house of his brother-in-law. Mr. Graves and Mr. Covill lived in a log house north of the river, while Julius Higgins dwelt in a shanty nearby.

Chester Bushnell built a barn that season on the site of the Union House, in the upper part of which he lived with his family and kept tavern, the horses of the travelers being stabled below. Mr. Graves also built a dam that year, but did not erect his sawmill until the next year, 1835. Mr. Church, as soon as he arrived, went to blacksmithing, his being the first shop in the new village. His partner was Luther Graves, (a nephew of Noah) who had come with Mr. Church.

I. A. Foote, a resident almost as early, came on the 19th of October, 1834. He remembers but two framed houses, those of Graves and Hart. There was still no bridge, and Paine's old stringers afforded the only means of passage. Ira Sherman lived nearby.

There was an old deer-lick near the location of the upper paper mill, and when the first settlers came there were still bark hammocks to be seen hanging in the tops of the large, low beech trees, where the Indians had been accustomed to lie in wait for the deer as they came to drink the brackish waters of the "lick." There was a tincture of mineral in the water, besides salt, and the neighboring stones were glazed by a shining substance, deposited on the evaporation of the water.

The Indians had then ceased to visit this part of the county and the deer abandoned the lick as soon as the white people began to settle in the vicinity. They were still abundant in the neighboring hills, and many a fine carcass was brought in by the early settlers. A. H. Hart was especially noted as a hunter, and Mr. Church was almost equally devoted to the chase, and was a frequent companion of Mr. Hart on his hunting excursions.

In 1835 there was a marked improvement in the new village. Several new houses were put up, the projected sawmill was built, and the woods cleared away for several rods around the buildings. Still there were no roads of any value in the country around, and all kinds of business were of course extremely difficult of transaction. Mr. Church mentions having frequently gone up into the settlement of Solon, got a bag of wheat and carried it on his back to Bentley's little gristmill; carrying it thence, in the same manner, home to Chagrin Falls.

The next year, 1836, the erection of a gristmill at the falls made it unnecessary to go elsewhere for grinding, but the wheat had still to be brought over most execrable roads.

But those were the celebrated "flush times," when everybody was bent on speculation, when paper money was as free as water, and when unbounded riches were consequently expected by the whole community. Scarcely an enterprise could be suggested in which men were not ready to engage. About this same time, 1836, Gen. James Griffith found a water power on the Aurora branch of the Chagrin River, and bought the upper part of it. Ten men, mostly from Aurora, in Portage County, bought the lower part. Griffith built a sawmill and he and the others planned a village to be called Griffithsburg, which, like Bentleyville, was within the present township of Chagrin Falls. Captain Archibald Robbins, the celebrated sailor, who with Captain Riley was taken prisoner on the coast of Africa, and who is mentioned in the history of Solon, bought an interest at Griffithsburg, built a store there and remained three or four years.

Meanwhile, for several years, Bentleyville kept ahead, not only of Griffithsburg, but of its more promising rival, Chagrin Falls. John Oviatt came thither in 1834 or '35, built a trip-hammer shop, and made scythes, axes and similar instruments in large quantities - that is, large for that time and place. This establishment was kept up for five or six years. Another, erected about the same time, was the tannery of William Brooks. In 1835 or '36 Mr. Bentley erected and opened a small store at the same point, being the first store in the present township of Chagrin Falls.

In 1835 Dr. Justus H. Vincent located in the northwest corner of Bainbridge, Geauga County, being the first physician who practiced to any extent in Chagrin Falls. In 1836 and '37 he was a member of the legislature. All the property holders of the vicinity, with Dr. Vincent at their head, applied for a charter for

a bank at Chagrin Falls. This institution, however, did not get fairly under way. The nearest approach to it was a shanty in which one of the residents lived, which was set into the bank of a hill. This, in consideration of its position, was dubbed the "bank," and the resident was breveted the cashier.

In March, 1836, the first religious society in the township was formed, being called the "First Congregational Society of Morense." There seems to have been a disposition to call the new village "Morense," but it was soon given up. The year before this (1835) a college had been chartered, which was to stand on College Hill. There was to be no lack of great institutions, and it is a somewhat amusing illustration of the spirit of the time that the first district school was taught the same season the college was chartered. The teacher was Miss Almeda Vincent, afterwards Mrs. Aaron Bliss of Chicago.

Her husband opened the first store in the village in 1836, in the bar room of the hotel, but soon after built a store on the corner of Main and Orange streets. These were perhaps the liveliest times the village has ever known, except during a short time at the outbreak of the rebellion. Soon after Bliss opened his store, B. H. and H. S. Bosworth also embarked in the mercantile business. Joshua Overton and \_\_\_\_\_ Bennett bought and occupied the tavern. William Fay set up a shingle machine. Charles Waldron and William Pratt were in business as shoemakers, William McGlashan and Dudley Thorp as tailors, and Henry Smith as a mason. George Fenkel was building his gristmill, which was in running order by winter. Caleb Earl built a clothier's shop.

Among other residents already there, or fast coming in, were James Bosworth, with his sons, Freeman, Sherman, Milo and Philetus, and his sons-in-law, Jason Matthews, Robert Barrows, Justus Taylor, Justus Benedict, T. N. West, Samuel Graham and Timothy Osborn, all with families; also, Huron Beebe, Roderick Beebe, William Church and Zopher Holcomb.

To add to the excitement, the celebrated Sidney Rigdon, who was then second only to Joseph Smith as a Mormon preacher, was displaying the glories of the religion of the Latter-Day Saints in numerous sermons and speeches. That religion had not then assumed its offensive polygamous features, and Rigdon, who was known to be an eloquent speaker, was invited to deliver the oration at Chagrin Falls on the 4th of July, 1836. He did so, and among other glowing predictions, prophesied (sic) that there would soon be one great city, extending from Chagrin Falls to Kirtland, fifteen miles north, all inhabited by the saints of the Lord.

The next spring, 1837, the excitement was still intense, and the expectation of universal wealth through the medium of unlimited paper money and the immense rise in the price of land was yet unabated. A Congregational church edifice was planned, and the timber was drawn to the public square, which at this time was dedicated to the public, and included all that block on which the town hall now stands. Two-thirds of it was afterwards given to the Methodist and Congregational churches.

Another great celebration was gotten up on the Fourth of July, and was graced by a peculiar accompaniment. The first marriage in the village, and probably in the township, took place on that day, the officiating minister being Rev. Sherman B. Canfield, the orator of the day, and the parties being Aaron Bliss, the young merchant, and Miss Almeda, the daughter of Dr. J. H. Vincent.

But while all was thus going "merry as a marriage bell" in the financial and social world, the sound of approaching disaster came swiftly upon the ear. During the summer of 1837 the whole fabric of apparent prosperity which had been built up on a basis of worthless paper money, went down even

more suddenly than it had been raised, and business all over the country came to a standstill. Chagrin Falls, like other ambitious, young villages, for several years, made very little progress.

Notwithstanding all the energy previously displayed, there was yet no post office in the village. There was a mail route, however, ran by Seremus Burnet's place, where he had begun keeping tavern. From there the mail was brought once a week by Marcus Earl to the house of his father in the village, where the people gathered to obtain their letters and papers, making it a post office by common consent. The first fatal accident in the township occurred in 1839, when the young daughter of Mr. Overton was burned to death by her clothes catching fire. Mr. C. T. Blakeslee, to whose sketches in the Chagrin Falls Expositor we are indebted for a large number of the facts here set forth, mentions that there were no less than seventeen fatal accidents at Chagrin Falls between 1839 and 1874. The same year Asbury Seminary was incorporated as a Methodist institution, Mr. Williams being the first principal.

Meanwhile Samuel Nettleton builds a furnace, which in 1840 he sold to Benajah Williams, by whom and his son it has ever since been carried on. Mr. Williams had moved to the village in 1837, with his sons Lorenzo D., John W., William M., Francis S., Adam C. and Andrew J.

In 1840, the year of the great "Tippecanoe" campaign, two-thirds of the people of Chagrin Falls were Whigs, and nowhere was there more zeal in supporting the Whig cause than there - in fact, Chagrin Falls has always been a very zealous place in regard to any question in which the people took an interest. When the Whigs of the Northwest held a grand meeting at Fort Meigs, the male portion of Chagrin Falls turned out almost en masse. Dr. Vincent was in command of a company of Whig riflemen. The rest of the Whigs were going in their private capacity, most of them assuming a sort of Indian disguise to add to the hilarity of the occasion. So great was the excitement that most of the Democrats actually proposed to join the Indians and accompany them to the great pow-wow. The offer was promptly accepted, and there was hardly a man left at the Falls.

Four-horse, six-horse, and even eight-horse teams were provided to draw the crowd to Cleveland, where two-thirds of the voters of the county were assembled, whence they went by boat to the Maumee. The Democratic "Indians" of Chagrin Falls acted faithfully in accordance with the part they had assumed, entering fully into the spirit of the occasion, and making no objection to the fierce assaults upon Democracy which resounded from the lips of eloquent orators. But when the procession returned to the Falls it halted on the top of the hill overlooking the village, and there these temporary Whigs drew off, gave one parting whoop for Old Tippecanoe, and then, with a rousing cheer for Van Buren and Johnson, resumed their character as Democrats and returned to their homes.

By 1841 business began to revive. Aaron Bliss and John Mayhew built a large stone flouring-mill on the site of the upper paper-mill, with a semicircular stone dam. The latter, however, was carried out by the high water that same season, flooding the village and carrying off two bridges. The same year Noah Graves built a paper-mill on the north side of the river, being the beginning of an industry which has ever since flourished at Chagrin Falls. In January of this year, also, Dr. Vincent obtained the passage of an act taking nine hundred acres from the northwest corner of the township of Russell, Geauga County, and annexing it to the southeast corner of Orange, Cuyahoga County; making recompense by taking the same amount from the northeast corner of Orange and annexing it to Russell. The latter tract, however, was afterwards re-annexed to Orange.

In 1842 the census showed that there were a hundred and nine families in the village, with five hundred and forty members. There were twenty carpenters, five cabinet makers, four wagon makers, ten

shoemakers, five merchants, three doctors and two lawyers. This was considered a pretty good showing for a village eight years old, and such as would justify making a beginning in journalism. Accordingly, C. T. Blakeslee, one of the lawyers just mentioned, and John Brainard, afterwards a professor of chemistry at Cleveland, and later holding the official position of examiner of patents at Washington, combined their forces to start a newspaper. The "forces" consisted of a little credit by means of which they bought a hundred dollars' worth of type on time, and of two pairs of hands with which they made the press and everything else necessary to print their paper, which they called the Farmers' and Mechanics' Journal. Somewhat more has been said of it in the chapter of the general history devoted to the press, on page one hundred and ninety.

In the spring of 1843, there was a good deal of excitement over the prophecy of "Father Miller" that the world was to be destroyed by fire on the 23d of April. About that time Earl's woolen mills caught fire at three o'clock in the morning. As the roof was saturated with oil, it burned off with extraordinary rapidity, casting its lurid glare over the whole village, and far up and down the valley, over the darksome rocks and flashing waters of the Chagrin. For a short time, some of the people thought there was something in the Millerite talk, and that the destruction of the world had possibly begun at Chagrin Falls.

Soon afterward, Deacon Harry White bought the pond belonging to the woolen mill, and established a manufactory of axes. As large numbers of people were then at work clearing up the country, axes had a ready sale near at hand, and Mr. White did a large business. When this land was cleared up, however, the factory was abandoned.

In 1844, both the Methodists and the Congregationalists built churches at the Falls, these being the first houses of worship erected there.

At the time there was a daily line of stages running through the village, between Cleveland and Warren, and the coaches were generally loaded with passengers. The country had pretty well recovered from the financial crisis of 1837, and Chagrin Falls began to feel its dignity again. It was not satisfied with its position in the corner of Orange, and began to moot the question of having a township all to itself. Before recording its organization, however, we must revert to another part of the territory which it was made to include.

Although Bentleyville had not kept pace with its rival at the Falls, yet it boasted of no inconsiderable business. In 1841 a chair factory was begun there by C. P. Brooks, which did a good business and was maintained for five or six years. About 1843, the old grist mill was leased by Lyman Hatfield and turned into a rake factory. This, however, was only kept up about two years. There was also a factory of wooden bowls at the same place. Besides these there were shops of various kinds and fifteen or twenty residences; so that a traveler, who descended into the narrow dell where all this industry was exercised, would certainly have thought that he had discovered one of the most prosperous and promising villages in the country. But from this time onward its prosperity declined, its various industries went down one after the other under the adverse power of floods, and time, and competition, until now there is little indeed to remind the spectator of its former flourishing condition.

At this time (1844), also, the tract now included in Chagrin Falls had been pretty well cleared up, considering the roughness of its surface, and thirty or forty thriving farmers had established themselves in its valleys and on its hillsides. And so, the people of the village and the neighboring farmers agreed that it would be a good plan to have a new township, though it is difficult to see what for. On application

to the county commissioners a township was formed in the forepart of 1845, to which the name of Chagrin Falls was given, and which included lots six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twenty-two, twenty-three and twenty-four, in the northeast corner of Solon; lots four, five, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty and twenty-one in the southeast part of Orange, and lots seventeen, eighteen and nineteen, also in Orange at that time, but which had formerly been a part of Russell, in Geauga County.

The first town meeting was held at the tavern of A. Griswold on the 7th day of April, 1845. James Griffith, Samuel Pool and Pliny Kellogg acted as judges of election, and Jedediah Hubbell and Alanson Knox as clerks; all being sworn in by Henry Church, justice of the peace. The following officers were elected: Trustees, Stoughton Bentley, Ralph E. Russell, Boardman H. Bosworth; township clerk, Alanson Knox; treasurer, Thomas Shaw; assessor, Rev. John K. Hallock (removed from township and George Stocking appointed in his place); overseers of the poor, George Rathbun and Jedediah Hubbell, Jr.; constable, Thomas M. Bayard; supervisors of highways, Sherman S. Handerson, Obadiah Bliss, John Mayhew, Phineas Upham, Duane Brown, John Goodell, Ralph E. Russell, Noah Graves.

Thus, the township of Chagrin Falls, was fairly launched upon its separate existence. There was at this time much talk of the construction of a railroad through it from Cleveland to Pittsburg. In fact, a line had been surveyed through the village the previous year, and the people, with their usual enterprise, subscribed twenty-four thousand dollars to its stock. The scheme, however, fell through. Whatever other faults may have been laid to the account of the people of Chagrin Falls, a lack of enterprise or intelligence could never be justly charged against them. They sought diligently to inform themselves on every subject which came before the public, (taking more newspapers during the first twenty years of the existence of the village than were taken in any other place of its size in the county), and liberally supported every enterprise which gave reasonable promise of promoting the public welfare. The only drawback was that in their abounding zeal they were sometimes inclined to support enterprises and encourage creeds which did not give reasonable promise of promoting the public welfare.

In 1847 the village of Chagrin Falls as described in Howe's Historical Collections as containing one Congregational, one Methodist Episcopal, one Wesleyan Methodist, and one Free Will Baptist church, nine stores, one axe and edge-tool factory, one sash factory, one wheel and wheel-head factory, one wooden-bowl factory, three woolen factories, one paper factory, two flouring-mills, three sawmills, one furnace, one carriage shop, two tin shops, three harness shops, three cabinet shops, and twelve hundred inhabitants. Probably the number of the inhabitant was somewhat exaggerated.

At this period, too, a good deal of attention was given to the grindstone quarries on the banks of the Chagrin, which were pronounced inexhaustible, and were worked to a considerable extent. These have been abandoned in later days, but it is by no means improbable that they may again be opened in response to the constantly increasing demand for that kind of material for building purposes.

In 1848 the Cleveland and Mahoning railroad was organized, and another large subscription was obtained at Chagrin Falls, with the understanding that it should run through that place. It was, however, located through Solon. The same year the Chagrin Falls and Cleveland Plank Road Company was chartered, and in this the people of the Falls invested fifteen thousand dollars. It was partly built in 1849, and finished in 1850. It was not found to be remunerative, and was ere long abandoned, with the exception of the portion between Cleveland and Newburg.

There was always an earnest feeling manifested in regard to education and all cognate subjects. As early as 1842 a literary association was formed, and a few books were from time to time gathered. In 1847 Aristarchus Champion, who, as before stated, was the original owner of the land in Russell, began to build a large hall, which he gave out was intended for the use of the village. In 1848, having completed it, he put in it some eight hundred volumes, which the citizens were allowed to use. The literary association also deposited their books there, and the building was known as Library Hall. Mr. Champion, however, kept the title in himself, and after a few years he removed the books and sold the hall. A board of education was formed in 1849, after which educational interests were supported with as much vigor as before, and under a more thorough and comprehensive system.

In 1852, the Painesville and Hudson railroad was incorporated, with a capital of a million dollars, and line was surveyed through the Falls. So determined were the people to have a communication with the outside world, at any expense, that they subscribed no less than two hundred thousand dollars, on condition, however, that five hundred thousand should be raised in all. This enterprise, too, could not be carried out, and Chagrin Falls was left to depend on lumber wagons as the principal means of communication with Cleveland, Painesville, and the other shipping places on the lake and canal. Nevertheless, its extraordinary water-power, and the energy of its citizens, kept the village in a prosperous condition. It was noted, too, for the good taste displayed by the people in their dwellings and the surroundings, and he who looked upon its white cottages and well-kept yards might have thought himself in a New England village, enriched by the labors of two centuries, rather than in one the site of which had only twenty years before been a perfect wilderness. In 1858 the Asbury Seminary building was sold to the township for a union school, for which purpose it has since been used.

Thus gently, but prosperously, passed the time, until, in April, 1861, the guns of Sumter called the nation to arms. The people of Chagrin Falls had watched the course of events with even more than the ordinary solicitude of the loyal North. Their proclivity for reading and discussion had kept them wide awake on the subject, and when the tocsin sounded there was probably not a village nor a township of the size in the United States which was more ready to respond than were the village and township of Chagrin Falls. On Saturday evening after the fall of Sumter, a large meeting was held in the village to provide for answering the President's call. It was found impossible to conclude that night, and another meeting was called for the next day. At that meeting nearly every man and woman in the township was present, and a large portion of the children. All the churches were closed, for all the people felt that when the nation was to be pulled out of the pit into which traitor hands had flung it, all days could lawfully be employed. The most fiery, and yet the sternest, enthusiasm was manifested, and as the result of the meeting the little township furnished a full company under the President's call for three months' men. Before they could be mustered in, however, the call was changed, and their services were not accepted. A large number of them at once transferred their services to other organizations, and during the war no less than a hundred and nine residents of Chagrin Falls township enlisted in defense of the Union. Their deeds are recorded in the histories of the regiments to which they belonged, in the first part of this work, and there, also, their names are enrolled.

Those who remained at home were equally anxious to help to the best of their ability. On the third of September, 1861, the Chagrin Falls Soldiers' Aid Society was organized, and from that time until June, 1865, under the efficient leadership of its president, Miss Jane E. Church, it was active in supplying the needs of the gallant defenders of the Union. During that time eight hundred and thirty-two dollars were raised in cash for that purpose, and four hundred and six dollars in supplies.



At the close it was found that there was a considerable amount in the treasury. It was resolved by the members of the society to add somewhat to it, and to use the whole in building a monument to the men of the township who had been slain or had died in the service. This resolution was carried out, and the monument was erected during the summer in the beautiful cemetery which overlooks the village from the southeast. In September of the same year (1865), it was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies in the presence of an immense number of people from that and the surrounding townships. In connection with the war, we may note that Gen. Benjamin F. Pritchard, of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry, the captors of Jefferson Davis, had previously for many years been a resident of Chagrin Falls.

Since the war no remarkable excitement has prevailed at Chagrin Falls, but there has been a steady increase in business, and the village has lost none of its old, firm reputation for enterprise and intelligence. Bentleyville has entirely ceased to exist as a place of manufactures or business. An attempt was made about 1868 to revive the city of Griffithsburg, and a large new grist-mill was erected, but the enterprise failed even before the requisite machinery was placed in the mill. Several destructive fires have occurred in Chagrin Falls village. A valuable row of stores at the north end was burned in 1868, and in 1873 what was known as the Philadelphia Block was also destroyed by fire. But these losses were repaired, numerous handsome residences were erected, and now, what with its picturesque scenery, its abundant foliage, and the air of neatness and thrift which everywhere, prevails, Chagrin Falls is one of the very finest villages in northern Ohio. The number of its respective business establishments, professional men, mechanics, etc., is as Griffithsburg (sic) follows:

Papermills, two; foundries, three; woolen mills, one; machine shops, three; planing mills, two; woodenware factory, one; lumber yard, one; grist mills, two; banks, two; lawyers, two; physicians, three; dentists, two; dry goods stores, three; groceries, three; hardware stores, three; drug stores, three; book and wallpaper store, one; jewelry, two; photographer, one; furniture stores, two; shoe stores, three; bakeries, two; millinery stores, four; fancy goods stores, two; tin shops, two; wagon shops, two; shoe shops, two; blacksmith shops, five; harness shops, two; marble shop, one.

We subjoin brief sketches of some of the principal manufacturing establishments.

#### THE CHAGRIN FALLS PAPER COMPANY.

This establishment had its origin in 1840, when Noah Graves put the necessary machinery into an old sawmill, and began the manufacture of straw-paper and wrapping-paper. In 1842 Charles Sears purchased an interest, the firm becoming Graves & Sears. They then began to make writing paper. In 1843 the firm became Sears & Brinsmade, and the manufacture of printing paper was commenced. In the winter of 1843-4 Heaton & Daniels leased the mill, but in less than a year Mr. Daniels sold his interest to Thomas White. The firm of Heaton & White carried on the establishment until 1847, when Mr. Sears bought Heaton's interest. The business was continued by Sears & White until 1850. Younglove & Hoyt then carried it on one year. At the end of that time, they were joined by D.A. Davis and Lewis Sykes, and those four, under the firm name of D. A. Davis & Co., carried on the business successfully until 1858. In the latter year Mr. Davis and W. T. Upham bought the mill of Noah Graves and increased its capacity. In 1860 Mr. Davis bought Mr. Underwood's interest, and took his son, James Davis, as a partner. This firm carried on the business until 1866, when the mill was closed. It was soon re-opened, however, and was owned in rapid succession by P. Warren, J. G. Coleman, Pratt & Pope and Parker, Pope & Co. In 1870 the latter firm began the manufacture of flour sacks on an extensive scale.

In 1871 Mr. Parker sold out and the firm became Pope & Bleasdale. They bought an old peg factory and put in four large machines, and turned the old "Union House" into a sack factory. In March 1875, Mr. Pope sold his interest to Mr. Bleasdale. The mill closed the same year. By January 1876, the Chagrin Falls Paper Company had been organized and had acquired the property, the following gentlemen being the directors: D. S. Pope, I. W. Pope, S. L. Pope, S. I. Pope and David Smith. This company has carried on the establishment to the present time, doing a very large business and employing about fifty hands. The sack factory alone has a capacity of twenty-five thousand sacks per day.

#### ADAMS & CO.'S PAPER MILL.

The site of this mill was originally occupied by Bliss & Mayhew's flouring mill. It was changed into a woolen factory by Bliss & Pool. It was then transmuted into a paper mill, under the proprietorship of the Lake Erie Paper Mill Company. While it belonged to this company it was destroyed by fire. It was afterwards rebuilt and passed into the hands of Adams, Upham & Co. In 1872 Mr. Upham retired and the firm became Adams & Co., who have since been the proprietors. It is situated in the northeastern part of the village, at the extreme upper end of the rapids. The works occupy several large buildings and do a very extensive business, being principally devoted to the manufacture of manilla paper. Both steam and water are used, and from fifty to sixty hands are constantly given employment.

#### BULLARD & MARCH'S WOODEN WARE FACTORY.

This was established in 1842 by Curtiss Bullard and Cornelius Northrop, spinning wheels, reels, etc., being then the principal article of manufacture. In 1848 Mr. Northrop sold his interest, and Mr. John Bullard who was taken into the firm, which took the name of C. Bullard & Son. In 1857 it became C. Bullard & Sons, on the admission of Orson C. Bullard. New machinery was added about this time, and what is called "kitchen wooden ware" became the principal article of manufacture. In 1867 the junior owner died, and the firm again became C. Bullard & Son. The business continued to increase and was carried on by that firm until 1873, when Curtiss Bullard died. In 1875 J.S. Bullard became the sole proprietor and remained so until January, 1877, when Mr. George March purchased an interest and the firm became Bullard & March.

In 1866, the firm obtained a patent for a new kind of butter mould, and this has since become the principal article of manufacture. Over a quarter of a million of these moulds are now made in a single year and the demand is steadily increasing. Immense numbers of butter prints, rolling pins, etc., etc., are also made, all being sold exclusively at wholesale, and being shipped to all parts of the continent.

#### WILLIAMS' FOUNDRY AND THIMBLE SKEIN FACTORY.

This establishment originated in the furnace erected by Benajah Williams in 1844, and has ever since been in the hands either of Mr. Williams or of his son, J. W. Williams, or as now, J. W. Williams & Son. From the manufacture of the simplest and rudest iron articles used in the immediate neighborhood, the establishment has progressed until its products are now shipped by wholesale to all parts of Ohio and into several of the adjacent States.

For many years the principal article produced has been the "seamless thimble skein," known as the "Williams skein," and celebrated for its convenience and durability. Numerous other iron articles, however, are also manufactured, including sad-irons, bolster plates, pruning tools, pump reels, etc., besides a large number of wooden articles, such as axe handles, whiffle-trees, etc.; all being renowned

for their good quality, and the whole establishment, by its employment of twenty artisans, contributing largely to the prosperity of the village in which it is situated.

#### GAUNTT'S MACHINE SHOP.

Adin Gauntt started the first machine shop in the place in 1844, in a part of Rowe's Carriage shop. After nine years of steadily increasing business, he bought the Maple Grange woolen factory in 1853, where for two years he made machinery for working wool and flax. After four years' absence he returned in 1859, and has since been constantly engaged in the manufacture of various kinds of machinery. He now has a large shop in the lower part of the village, where he manufactures planers, matchers, small steam engines, horse powers, etc., as well as all kinds of especially intricate machinery.

#### OBER BROTHERS' PLANING MACHINE, ETC.

This establishment was built by the present proprietors in 1873, being a sawmill, together with machines for planing and matching lumber, making mouldings, sash and blinds, and similar articles. A valuable lathe for irregular work has been patented by George Ober, and the whole establishment is in a highly flourishing condition.

#### OTHER MANUFACTURES.

Other manufactures besides the above are the Chagrin Falls woolen mills, Rose Brothers' foundry, with Ira Smith's machine shop, D. Christian's foundry, W. A. Burnet's machine shop, J. O. Malin's planing mill, and the Chagrin Falls marble works, begun in 1877 by H.A. Sheffield.

#### THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

This was organized as an independent Congregational church on the 26th day of July, 1835, the following being the first members: Thomas N. West, Rebecca R. West, Alexander H. Hart, Polly Hart, Timothy W. Osborn, Sarah Osborn, Salome Crosby, Andrew Dickinson and Thomas West. On the 10th of June, 1836, the church was received into the Independent Congregational Union of Northern Ohio. On the 2d of January, 1837, it withdrew from that connection, and entered the General Association of the Western Reserve.

For eight years after the organization the pulpit was occupied by various temporary supplies, of whom no record has been kept. Rev. John S. Barris preached from 1843 to 1845. Rev. Abram Nast began to serve the church as pastor on the 15th of October, 1845. On the 5th of January, 1847, a constitution was formed, and the church once more became independent.

In 1850 Rev. Mr. Hopkins officiated as pastor. In September, 1851, Rev. E.D. Taylor began to serve the church in that capacity, and continued until 1855. He was succeeded by Rev. Josiah Cannon, who closed his services in July, 1857. In June of that year the church united with the Cleveland presbytery of the New School Presbyterian Church.

For many years after this no records show the proceedings of the church, and in fact, owing to the war and various circumstances, during much of the time there were no regular services. In 1859 a decided effort was made to revive and strengthen the church. On the 14th of April, in that year, it was legally incorporated under the name of the First Congregational Church of Chagrin Falls. In October following,

the Rev. G. W. Walker was called to the pastorate, and since that time the church has been steadily growing in numbers and usefulness.

Mr. Walker officiated until 1872, when he retired to take part in the government of Atlanta University, Georgia. He was succeeded in January, 1873, by Rev. T. D. Childs, who remained until May, 1874. At that time Rev. A. D. Barber was called to the pulpit, which he occupied for two years. Rev. William Woodmansee also served for two years, and was succeeded in October, 1878, by Rev. Edmund Gail.

The church is now in a flourishing condition, having about a hundred and ten members. The Sabbath school attached to it has seventy-five members. The deacons are (in 1878) Lewis Gilbert, John Ober and R. W. Walters; the trustees, D. C. Eggleston, John S. Bullard and R. W. Walters; the clerk, George March.

#### THE METHODIST CHURCH.

As soon as any considerable number of persons were settled in the township, the indefatigable Methodist ministers began to go "on circuit" among them, preaching to those of their faith and to whomsoever else might be willing to listen to their words. Down to 1844 the services were held in school-houses and private houses, there being no other means of accommodation. In the summer of that year, however, a Methodist church was erected at the village of Chagrin Falls, which has ever since been occupied by the members of that denomination.

Chagrin Falls was a part of a very extensive circuit. The visits of the ministers were necessarily infrequent, and the records kept were of the most meager description. We find, however, that in 1854 the circuit contained Chagrin Falls, Mayfield, Gates' Mills, Bainbridge, Orange Hill, Orange Center, Solon, Russell and Chester. The circuit ministers were Rev. Messrs. Patterson and Fouts. These two, together with Rev. D. C. Wright, also served on the circuit in 1855. In 1857 Chagrin Falls and Solon were made a circuit by themselves, on which Rev. E. J. Kenney served in 1857 and '58, and Rev. T. Guy in 1859, '60 and '61. Since that time Chagrin Falls has been a separate station, with the following ministers:

Thomas Stubbs, 1862, '63 and '64; John Graham, part of 1864; H. N. Stearns, 1865 and '66; John O'Neal, 1867; Geo. J. Bliss, 1868; C. T. Kingsbury, 1869 and '70; G. W. Chessebro, 1871; N. H. Holmes, 1872 and '73; W. T. Wilson, 1874; B. Excell, 1875 and '76; A. H. Dormer, 1877 and '78.

#### THE DISCIPLE CHURCH.

Rev. Adamson Bentley was unquestionably the principal person engaged in founding the Disciple Church in Chagrin Falls. In February 1831, he moved to the point now known as Bentleyville, and at once began preaching in the nearest log school house. Before long there were about thirty believers gathered, and a church was constituted under the general superintendence of Mr. Bentley, with Gamaliel Kent as assistant overseer. The first deacons were R. E. Russell and Zadoc Bowell. For several years the congregation usually met at the Griffith school-house; afterwards at the village of Chagrin Falls.

In 1846 a large tent-meeting of the Disciples of Cuyahoga and Geauga counties was held at Chagrin Falls, which was attended by the venerable Alexander Campbell, the most prominent minister of the denomination. Shortly afterward a church building was erected by the Disciples at Chagrin Falls, which has since been occupied by them. In 1849 lectures on the evidences of Christianity were delivered at the Falls by Rev. Isaac Errett, one of the ablest and most logical of the Disciple ministers. Nine years later, James A. Garfield, then a young Disciple minister, since distinguished as a soldier and a statesman,

defended the cause of Christianity in a vigorous discussion with Dutton, a celebrated infidel lecturer, in which the youthful champion displayed much of that thoroughness of information and closeness of reasoning for which he has in later years become celebrated on a wider field.

Since the war the church has steadily increased in numbers and vigor, and now contains about a hundred and forty members, with the following officers: J. G. Coleman and C. H. Welton, overseers; George M. King; Ransom Bliss and Martin Bentley, deacons; Mrs. Jennie Burns, Mrs. Louisa M. Tucker, Mrs. Calista McClintock, deaconesses.

Ministers have not been regularly employed during the whole of the time since the organization of the church, but have been during a large part of it; the following being the principal persons who have occupied the pulpit: Adamson Bentley, Wm. Hayden, W. S. Hamlin, W. T. Horner, James A. Garfield, J. H. Rhodes, B. A. Hinsdale, Sterling McBride, R. G. White, W. S. Hayden, J. G. Coleman, Andrew Burns (1872 to 1878) and James Vernon, the present incumbent.

#### THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH.

This church was originally organized on the 25th day of August, 1839, at the Isham school house in the township of Russell, Geauga County, by Rev. A. K. Moulton, with nine members, viz.: Henry E. Whipple, John Walters, Reuben R. Walters, Jehiel Goodwill, Emily Walters, Sarah S. Morse, Hannah Mason, Faustina L. McConoughy, Lucy Goodwill. The first pastor was A. K. Moulton; the first deacon, appointed in January, 1840, was John Walters, who still holds that position; the second deacon was Wm. S. Phillips. In February 1841, the church was legally incorporated by the name of the Russell Free Will Baptist Church, and in August following, John Walters, Otis B. Bliss and R. R. Walters were elected trustees. Mr. Moulton's pastorate closed in September, 1841. A year or two later the congregation having increased in members, began the erection of the framed house of worship at Chagrin Falls still occupied by them. It was dedicated in 1844, but was not finished until 1845. In February of the latter year the church took the name of the Chagrin Falls First Free Will Baptist Church.

We are able to give a full list of the pastors with their terms of service, the church record being of exceptional excellence. A. K. Moulton, August, 1839 to September, 1841; A. R. Crafts, January, 1842 to April, 1843; Walter D. Stanard, June, 1843 to August, 1844; P. W. Belknap, six months; A. R. Crafts one year; E. H. Higbee, June, 1846 to February, 1848; G. H. Ball, May 1849 to November, 1849; Norman Star, January, 1850 to January 1851. From this time until 1858 there was no regular pastor, the pulpit being supplied by the Rev. Messrs. Daniel H. Miller, D. W. Edwards, J. C. Miller, and others. Rev. E. N. Wright was pastor from February, 1858, nearly three years. The pulpit was then supplied by Rev. Messrs. Darius Woodworth, R. Clark, E. H. Higbee, R. Coley and others. Wm. L. Hosier served from April, 1862 to July, 1863. George Thomas and others supplied the place of a pastor until October, 1864. Rev. B. E. Baker served from that time until October, 1867; W. Whitacre, from October, 1867 to February, 1872; C. Steele from then till the present time.

During these years there have been two hundred and seventy-seven members of the church, the present number being sixty-four. The present officers (1878) are as follows: Deacon, John Walters; trustees, Wm. E. Walters, Augustus R. Vincent, Irwin N. Warner; clerk, R. R. Walters.

#### THE BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The Bible Christian Church at Chagrin Falls was organized in 1846 with seventeen members. The denomination, which resembles the Methodists in many respects, is of English origin, and this church was established on account of the migration of a number of English families hither shortly before the year just mentioned.

In 1851 the church had increased so that it was able to build a small framed house of worship, which was occupied by them until 1874, when the present commodious brick edifice was erected. The society was legally incorporated in 1869.

The ministers have been Rev. Messrs. George Rippin, John Chapel, Joseph Hodge, William Roach, William Hooper, George Haycraft, John Pinch, L. W. Nicket, J. Harris, J. Chapel, R. Mallet and L. W. Nicket again. The church is now in a flourishing condition, with sixty-two members, and with a Sunday school of about ninety members.

#### GOLDEN GATE LODGE NO. 245, F. AND A. M.

This lodge was chartered on the 19th day of October, 1854, the following being the charter members: Caleb Earl, Orison Cathan, Jonathan Cole, Apollo Hewitt, Roderick White, Nathan Hobart, S. B. Kellogg, Samuel Sunderland, Thomas White, L. D. Mix, Henry Burnet.

The Worthy Masters in succession have been as follows: Caleb Earl, L. D. Mix, D. A. Davis, S. L. Wilkinson, M. A. Lander, C. M. Foote, R.W. Walters, H. M. Doty.

The following officers were in authority in 1878: H. M. Doty, W. M.; C. M. Foote, S. W.; James Lowrie, J. W.; F. E. Adams, treasurer; E. W. Force, secretary; Philip Heintz, S. D.; J. W. Smith, J. D.; S.A. Bayard, tyler.

#### CHAGRIN FALLS LODGE NO. 290, I. O. O. F.

This lodge was organized on the 29th day of June, 1855, the charter members being Thomas M. Bayard, John W. Williams, H. A. Robinson, Uriah Ackley and Bennett Robbins. The following gentlemen have served in succession as Noble Grands of the lodge for one term of six months each, unless otherwise specified: J. M. Bayard, J. W. Williams, H. A. Robinson, S. N. Pelton (two terms), J. A. Foote (two terms), W. W. Ainger, G. S. Rathbun, H. W. Curtis, E. Sheffield, J. H. Vincent, L. A. Sunderland, L. B. McFarland, D. White, H. H. Caley (two terms), A. H. Burnett (two terms), H. Washburn, G. F. Stanhope, W. T. Armour, W. E. Walters, W. A. Braund, George Thomas, L. O. Harris, R. W. Walters, J. J. Davis, W. W. Phillips, C. R. Bliss, John Brooks, W. D. Stannard, D. Goddard, O.F. Frazer, E. F. Douglas, H. A. Pardee, M. H. Isham, W. W. Wilber, O. A. Crane, John Armour, A. B. Gardner (two terms), H. U. Bigelow, Wilson Wyckoff, John Haggett, M. F. Brewster.

#### PRINCIPAL TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

1845. Trustees, Ralph E. Russell, Stoughton Bentley, B. H. Bosworth; clerk, A. Knox; treasurer, Thomas Shaw; assessor, George Stocking.

1846. Trustees, B. H. Bosworth, R. E. Russell, Charles E. Morton; clerk, A. Knox; treasurer, O. Bliss; assessor, Geo. Stocking.

1847. Trustees, B. H. Bosworth, R. E. Russell, Harmon Barrows; clerk David Birchard; Treasurer, John Mayhew; assessor, Noah Graves.

1848. Trustees, R. E. Russell, Leonard Sampson, E. P. Wolcott; clerk, David Birchard; treasurer, J. A. Brown; assessor, Noah Graves.

1849. Trustees, R. E. Russell, E. P. Wolcott, Samuel Pool; clerk, Thomas Shaw; treasurer, Abel Fisher; assessor, N. Graves.

1850. Trustees, R. E. Russell, L. Lampson, Hannibal Goodell; clerk, L. D. Mix; treasurer, Chas. Force; assessor, N. Graves.

1851. Trustees, E. P. Wolcott, S. Pool, R. E. Russell; clerk, A. J. Williams; treasurer, A. Fisher; assessor, N. Graves.

1852. Trustees, Horace Waite, S. Pool, R. E. Russell; clerk, John V. Smith; treasurer, A. Fisher; assessor, George Faulkell.

1853. Trustees, S. Pool, Geo. Gladden, H. Goodell; clerk, S. K. Collins; treasurer, J. H. Burnet; assessor, Geo. Faulkell.

1854. Trustees, Alonzo Harlow, H. Goodell, Ephraim Sheffield; clerk, S. K. Collins; treasurer, J. H. Burnett; assessor, J. W. Williams.

1855. Trustees, H. Goodell, A. Harlow, E. Sheffield; clerk, E. P. Wolcott; treasurer, A. Upham; assessor, Jonathan Cole.

1856. Trustees, H. Goodell, E. Sheffield, E. R. Sage; clerk, A. Harlow; treasurer, A. Upham; assessor, J. Cole.

1857. Trustees, H. Goodell, E. Sheffield, A. Upham; clerk, Thomas Shaw; treasurer, G. B. Rogers; assessor G. G. Morris.

1858. Trustees, H. Goodell, E. Sheffield, A. Upham; clerk, Thomas Shaw; treasurer, G. B. Rogers; assessor, J. B. Wilkinson.

1859. Trustees, H. Goodell, E. Sheffield, A. Upham; clerk, L. D. Mix; treasurer, Chas. Force; assessor, L. B. McFarland.

1860. Trustees, S. Pool, Orrin Nash, H. Goodell; clerk, T. Shaw; treasurer, A. Upham; assessor, E. B. Upham.

1861. L. E. Goodwin, E. Sheffield, Julius Kent; clerk, Thomas Shaw; treasurer, L. B. McFarland; assessor, E. M. Eggleston.

1862. Trustees, E. Sheffield, L. D. Mix, Charles Force; clerk, T. Shaw; treasurer, L. B. McFarland; assessor, E. M. Eggleston.

1863. Trustees, E. Sheffield, L. D. Mix, Charles Force; clerk, Lucius E. Goodwin; treasurer, L. B. McFarland; assessor, E. M. Eggleston.

1864. Trustees, E. Sheffield, L. D. Mix, Charles Force; clerk, W. J. Armour; treasurer, L. B. McFarland; assessor, E. M. Eggleston.

1865. Trustees, Charles Force, E. Sheffield, E. M. Eggleston; clerk; W. J. Armour; treasurer, L. B. McFarland; assessor, E. B. Upham.

1866. Trustees, E. Sheffield, C. Force, W. W. Collins; clerk, W. J. Armour; treasurer, L. B. McFarland; assessor, L. A. Sunderland.

1867. Trustees, E. Sheffield, W. W. Collins, H. Goodell; clerk, George King; treasurer, Th. Shaw; assessor, A. H. Rogers.

1868. Trustees, C. Force, S. W. Brewster, Silas Christian; clerk, Eleazer Goodwin; treasurer, Thomas Shaw; assessor, E. B. Upham.

1869. Trustees, C. Force, S. W. Brewster, Silas Christian; clerk, C. R. Bliss; treasurer, T. Shaw; assessor, E. B. Upham.

1870. Trustees, C. Force, S. Christian, J. G. Coleman; clerk, W. H. Caley; treasurer, T. Shaw; assessor, E. B. Upham.

1871. Trustees, J. G. Coleman, S. Christian, Washington Gates; clerk, W. H. Caley; treasurer, T. Shaw; assessor, George Gladden.

1872. Trustees, C. Force, Wm. Hutchings, Alex. Frazer; clerk, Austin Church; treasurer, T. Shaw; assessor, George Gladden.

1873. Trustees, C. Force, W. Hutchings, A. Frazer; clerk, A. Church; treasurer, T. Shaw; assessor, Geo. Gladden.

1874. Trustees, C. Force, Wm. Hutchings, A. Frazer; clerk, A. Church; treasurer, Alfred Williams; assessor, George Gladden.

1875. Trustees, C. Force, Wm. Hutchings, A. Frazer; clerk, A. Church; treasurer, A. Williams; assessor, George Gladden.

1876. Trustees, C. Force, Wm. Hutchings, A. Frazer; clerk, A. Church; treasurer, A. Williams; assessor, George Gladden.

1877. Trustees, Z. K. Eggleston, Wm. Hutchings, A. Church; clerk, D.O. Davis; treasurer, Joseph J. Davis; assessor, George Gladden.

1878. Trustees, Charles Force, Alfred Church, Wm. Hutchings; clerk, D.O. Davis; treasurer, J.J. Davis; assessor, Geo. Gladden.

1879. Trustees, Austin Church, Z. K. Eggleston, Silas Christian; clerk, D.O. Davis; treasurer, J. J. Davis; assessor, L.O. Harris.

\*Many fanciful stories have been told about the origin of the name "Chagrin," applied first to the river and then to the falls, the township and the village, it being often supposed that it comes from the "chagrin" felt by somebody, about something, on its banks. It is, however, undoubtedly derived from the old Indian word "Shaguin," which is to be found applied to it on maps issued before the Revolution. "Shaguin" is supposed to mean "clear," but this is not so certain.

\*\*Aristarchus Champion died at Rochester only a few years since at the age of over ninety years.



## **Chagrin Falls 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/222/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/historyofcuyahog01coat_0/page/222/mode/2up)

The township of Chagrin Falls, one of the smallest in the state, is so closely allied with the Village of Chagrin Falls that it is difficult to separate them, although the township was formed some years before the political organization of the village. It is not one of the originally surveyed townships of the Western Reserve, but was formed in March, 1845, from parts of Solon, Orange, and a portion of territory from Geauga County. The village was not recorded as such until January, 1858, when the plat was recorded in the office of the county recorder. Chagrin Falls is seventeen miles southeast of Cleveland on the Chagrin River. The river here has a fall of 150 feet and thus furnishes excellent water power. The name Chagrin was originally applied to the river, then to the present Village of Willoughby in Lake County, and then with the word "falls" added to the township and village of Chagrin Falls. Local histories differ as to the origin of the name. Harvey Rice in his book on Moses Cleveland relates that Moses Cleveland and his surveying party entered this river supposing it to be the Cuyahoga and finding it more shallow than he had expected and what with sand bars and trouble and delays he was much perplexed, and finding it another than the river looked for, named it Chagrin as an expression of his chagrin at his mistake, but on maps issued before the Revolution this river is distinctly named Chagrin, from an Indian name "Chagrin" and in another record "Chagrin," meaning clear. On Evans' map, published in 1755, it is called the Elk River, this no doubt from the presence of elk about its borders, a few remaining when the first settlers of Solon came, as we have related.

In the account of the early settlements we will refer to the territory now included in Chagrin Falls township and village. In the month of May, 1815 immediately after the War of 1812, Serenus Burnet brought his wife and small son Stephen and located on the west side of the Chagrin River about two miles north of the present village of Chagrin Falls. He built a log house and became the first resident. Their nearest neighbors were in the Covert neighborhood, near Willson's Mills, in the present township of Mayfield. For nearly a year after the family came Mrs. Burnet did not see the face of a white woman. Mr. Burnet had bought a fine farm consisting mostly of river bottom land. He paid only \$2 an acre but the owners felt that they had made a good sale as for a long time the Burnet's were the only residents in the valley. In fact, this part of the valley settled up slowly in the next ten years. Between 1820 and 1825 Jacob Gillett, Caleb Alson, and James Fisher, came with their families and settled in the neighborhood. It was not until 1826 that any settlement was made in the vicinity of the present village. Then John Woodward and Benjamin Carpenter built a dam across the river and at one end built a small log gristmill. The stones were drawn by eight yoke of oxen from an older mill in Orange Township. The condition of the roads can be inferred from this incident. In 1827 Gen. Edward Paine, who owned the land in Chagrin Falls west of Franklin Street undertook to build a bridge across the river at the falls. He put four stringers across but the work was never completed. The stringers remained and were used for foot passage. This was found very convenient by hunters and others who did not fear to undertake the precarious passage. The falls were then flowing over shelving rock which has since been blasted away. Busy with clearing their farms the early settlers, who were not capitalists, gave little attention to the conservation of power in the river. In 1831 Rev. Adamson Bentley, a Disciple minister of local reputation, then forty-six years of age, bought a large tract of land at the junction of the two branches of the river. He moved to that point and began active operations. He built a sawmill and a gristmill a little below the forks. To these he added a carding machine and cloth dressing establishment and began the industrial life of the settlement there which took the name of Bentleyville. For over twenty years Bentleyville flourished and seemed likely to

be the principal business center and village of this section. But in 1833 two other villages were started on the Chagrin River, one of which in the passing years has drawn to it the business of the others and become a flourishing, enterprising, exclusive, in its location, and most interesting town, Chagrin Falls. In 1833 the part of the present village east of Franklin Street was in the Township of Russell in Geauga County. The part west of that street was in Orange and a small part in the southwest corner was in Solon. The land in Geauga County was owned by Aristarchus Champion of Rochester, New York, that in Orange by Edward Paine, the founder of Painesville, but then living in Chardon, Geauga County. In this year of 1833 one Noah Graves, a Massachusetts yankee, observing the excellent water power here and on the lookout for a good investment spotted this as the site of a future town and bought two hundred and ten acres from Gen. Edward Paine. For this he paid two thousand dollars, considered a big price and a large real estate transaction in those days. Dr. S. S. Handerson was connected with Graves in the enterprise.

These men then began as did Moses Cleveland, at the mouth of the Cuyahoga, by laying out a city. Streets and lots were laid out in regular order and the lots placed upon the market, then they made preparation for building mills. This was the logical procedure, for the home and the mill are closely associated, one cannot exist without the other. No houses were built on the present site of the village till 1834, when Noah Graves, Dr. S. S. Handerson, Chester Bushnell, Napoleon Covill, and Ebenezer Wilcox, all having families, built and settled in the new city. Another family was added in October of that year, that of Henry Church. It may be said in passing that Mr. Church remained in the town during his life and at the time of his death was the oldest person in the township of the original pioneers. At the start only three families had frame houses, those of the promoters, Graves and Handerson, and that of Ebenezer Wilcox. Mr. Wilcox lived in the home of his brother-in-law, Mr. Graves, Coville lived in a log house, while the residence of Julius Higgins, nearby was designated as a shanty. In that year of 1834 Chester Bushnell built a frame barn, or a combination of barn and tavern. It was two stories. He lived with his family in the upper part and accommodated guests there and stabled horses below. This site was later occupied by the Union House. The residence part of the town established; the industrial life began. Noah Graves built a dam across the river that year and the following year a sawmill went up. Henry Church countered and opened a blacksmith shop, the first in the town. His partner was Luther Graves, a nephew of Noah, who came to town with Mr. Church. Thus, the town forum and news exchange, as well as a most necessary industry was established. I. A. Foote came to the village in the early part of 1834. When he came there were only two frame houses built, those of Graves' and Hart's. There was no bridge across the river, except Paine's old stringers. Ira Sherman came soon after. When they came there was an old deer "lick" near where the upper papermill was later located and there were bark hammocks in the tops of large low beech trees where the Indians had been accustomed to lie in wait for the deer as they came to lick the salty waters and stones. The mineral was in evidence on the surface of the water and on the stones of the river banks. Both Indians and deer had abandoned the "lick" when the white man came. Deer were plentiful in the town however and many were killed. A. H. Hart and Henry Church were among the most successful hunters. Another year and the new city boomed. Several new houses and the sawmill had been built and clearings made for some distance around the homes. And now the residents awakened to the need of better roads. Business was hampered. Mr. Church went to Solon for a bag of wheat, carried it on his back to Bentley's log gristmill on the river, and then carried the grist home to Chagrin Falls. The gristmill built at the Falls in 1836 made it unnecessary to go elsewhere for grinding, but the wheat had to be brought over bad roads. The year of 1836 ushered in the era of "flush times." As a remedy for the rather depressed business times of 1833 and 1834, Congress in 1836 authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to distribute all the public funds, except five million of dollars, among the several states, according to their representation. The immediate result of this increased facility for obtaining bank loans especially in real estate brought about a spirit of speculation in the country, which, as one writer expresses it, amounted to a mania. A hundred cities were founded and a thousand villages

laid out on broad sheets of paper and made the basis of large money transactions. After the 1st of January, 1837 this money was removed from the banks and overtrading and speculation suddenly checked. Then came many failures. It has been said that during the flush times paper money was as free as water and unbounded riches were expected by everybody. Men were ready to engage in any enterprise. It was at this time that the third village in Chagrin Falls Township was born. Gen. James Griffith discovered a power site on the Aurora branch of Chagrin River and bought the upper part of it. Ten men, mostly from Aurora, bought the lower part. Aurora is the extreme northeast township of Portage County. General Griffith built a sawmill and he and the others planned a village to be called Griffithsburg, which like Bentleyville was within the present limits of Chagrin Falls. Capt. Archibald Robbins, whose tragic career we have referred to in the chapter on Solon, bought an interest in Griffithsburg, built a store there and remained some three or four years. Thus, at one time we had three rival villages in Chagrin Falls, and Bentleyville was in the lead for some years. John Oviatt came there in 1835 and built a triphammer shop where he made scythes, axes, and many other tools in quite large quantities. This industry continued for five years. About the time that Oviatt came William Brooks built a tannery. In 1834 or 1835 Reverend Bentley built a store there, and this was the first store opened in the limits of the present township of Chagrin Falls. In 1835 Dr. Justus H. Vincent located in the northwest corner of Bainbridge, then in Geauga County. He was the first physician who practiced in Chagrin Falls. He must have moved there, for in 1840 and 1841 he was a member of the State Legislature from Cuyahoga County. This was when Thomas Corwin was governor. Doctor Vincent was public spirited and active in promoting the interests of the Falls. Among other things he secured a charter for a bank at Chagrin Falls, but the bank never materialized. As a reminder of this effort a shanty set in the side of a hill was called the bank and the resident was dubbed the "cashier."

In March of 1836 the first religious society in the township was formed. It was called The First Congregational Society of Morense. There was a disposition to call the new township Morense but this idea was abandoned. A year before this, that is in 1835, a charter was obtained for a college, to stand on College Hill. This was secured by enterprising citizens who saw into the future and illustrated the attitude of mind that the church and the school should go hand in hand. While the college, like the bank, did not materialize, education did, for in this year the first district school was taught in the township. Miss Almeda Vincent was the first teacher. She was afterwards Mrs. Aaron Bliss, and was later a resident of Chicago, Illinois. Her husband opened the first store in the village in 1836. It was first opened in the barroom of the tavern but soon after Bliss built a store at the corner of Main and Orange streets. Soon after he opened his store B. H., and H. S. Bosworth engaged in the same business. Other changes took place. Joshua Overton and a Mr. Bennett bought and occupied the tavern, William Fay started a shingle machine, Charles Waldron, and William Pratt were shoemakers, William McGlashan, and Dudley Thorp were in the tailoring business; George Fenkel was building a gristmill; Henry Smith was an active stone mason, and Caleb Earl was building a clothing shop. The gristmill was running by winter, and new residents were fast coming in. It was a boom town. Among those who came on the crest of the boom were James Bosworth, and wife, and sons, Freeman, Sherman, Milo, and Philetus, and sons in law, Jason Matthews, Robert Barrow, Justus Taylor, Justus Benedict, T. N. West, Samuel Graham, and Timothy Osborn, all with families. A family gathering would have been a large convention. Other families who came at this time were those of Huron Beebe, Roderick Beebe, William Church, and Zopher Holcomb. In the midst of this boom the first Fourth of July celebration was held. The orator of the day was the celebrated Sidney Rigdon. Just at this time he was much in the limelight, his career had partaken of the spectacular. He was an orator of wonderful power, a convincing debater, one who could sway a multitude and carry them with him even to the point of making "black appear white or white black." While pastor of the Baptist Church at Kirtland his fame as an orator had spread While in that capacity, he adopted the doctrines of Alexander Campbell and at once lent his peculiar genius and powers to

expounding that religion and brought all, or nearly all, of his Baptist congregation over to the Disciple faith. There was at this time a large and influential Baptist Church at Mentor and when in 1826 the pastor, Rev. Warren Goodell, died, Rigdon, a Campbellite, was called to preach the funeral sermon. His address so pleased the congregation that he was engaged as their pastor, in the fall of 1826. Here as in Kirtland he gradually brought the entire congregation over to the new faith. He occasionally preached at the Kirtland Church as well. His preaching now took a new turn and he began to branch off upon common stock, or applied socialism. This did not take, in Mentor, but kindled a blaze in Kirtland. Isaac Morley was the first convert, a large landowner there. He was so enthusiastic that he threw open his doors to all who chose to enter and make this their common home. Many came and among them the ignorant and profligate. In a short time, the family numbered 100. While this fanaticism was taking root in Kirtland a deeper plot was ripening at Palmyra, New York, and Sidney Rigdon's was the directing mind. Rigdon was frequently absent for weeks at a time from Mentor and on his last return from a long absence he brought copies of the Mormon Bible or Book of Mormon. The revelation had been received on gold plates and translated by Joseph Smith. Rigdon immediately began expounding the glories of the Latter-Day Saints in numerous sermons and speeches. That religion had not then adopted polygamy, and Rigdon, known as an eloquent speaker, was invited to deliver the oration at Chagrin Falls July 4, 1836. He accepted and among other glowing sentences predicted that there would soon be one great city extending from Chagrin Falls to Kirtland, fifteen miles north, all inhabited by the Saints of the Lord. His speech took well as he was simply preaching morality and patriotic citizenship but he was the actual founder of Mormonism, that opposed both. The Smiths, the reputed founders of Mormonism, were schemers, visionary fanatics, and seekers for wealth by a quick route. Before knowing Rigdon, Joseph Smith, Jr., had been searching for gold with a divining rod such as in the old days they used before digging a well to locate the best veins of water. In the revelations as related by him, an angel of the Lord appeared to him and revealed the location of a certain chest to which he was led by a singular mineral rod, but, as he approached, it sank deeper into the earth. It was finally captured, and contained as per revelation the so-called Mormon plates, from which the Book of Mormon was translated. As showing that Rigdon's was the directing mind Smith did not come at once. In November, 1830 four men came to Mentor from the scene of the "marvelous discovery." They were Oliver Cowdery, David Whitman, Zaibad Peterson, and Parley P. Pratt. The entire night of their arrival was given over to consultation with Rigdon. Soon after they all went to Kirtland and made a visit to Morley. Here they gained an easy victory and the class that had assembled there accepted the delusion with fanatical enthusiasm. Seventeen were baptized in the new faith the very first evening and other meetings followed with similar results. In the spring crowds came to Kirtland from Palmyra and other points until it would seem this was the point at which the world was centering. Following the crowd came Joseph Smith, Jr., and Brigham Young. They enlightened the followers more explicitly. The gold plates were twenty-four in number, 13 by 12 inches in dimension, and were not exhibited because they could only be seen by faith. Mormonism grew and the Temple was erected at Kirtland. A bank was established and they issued a Mormon script, which became a circulating medium. The whole thing was managed at first by three high priests, Joseph Smith, Jr., Sidney Rigdon, and Frederick G. Williams. Kirtland lay upon a roadway and the waters of Lake Erie can be seen from her temple roof. The nucleus of a great city was expanding and the conspirators must get busy. All difficulties were settled by additional revelations. Here polygamy was put forward as a fundamental principle of the church. It came about in this way. A daughter of Oliver Snow of Mantua became infatuated with Rigdon's preaching and she and the whole family followed him into Mormonism. Later she became infatuated with Smith, spiritually and otherwise, and became his secret mistress. This relationship was getting noised about and then came the "revelation" and she was "sealed," to him as a wife under the "divine" revelation. She was a person of intelligence and wrote verses among other things. Some of her lines are preserved and they reflect her attitude of mind in the premises:

We thank Thee for a prophet's voice,  
His people's steps to guide,  
In him we do and will rejoice  
Though all the world deride.

These "revelations" became very convenient. At one time Cowdery wanted a secretary, so he had a "revelation." It was as follows: "A command to Emma, my daughter in Zion, A. D., 1830. A revelation I give to you concerning my will. Behold thy sins are forgiven thee and thou art an elect lady whom I have called. Murmur not because of the things which thou hast seen, for they are withheld from thee and from the world, which is wisdom in me in a time to come. And the office of thy calling shall be for a comfort unto my servant Joseph, thy husband, in his affliction, with consoling words in the spirit of meekness, and thou shalt go with him at the time of his going and be unto him a scribe, that I may send Oliver whithersoever I will." At one time Joseph Smith had a "revelation" that Oliver Snow must turn over a farm to pay a debt which he (Smith) owed at the bank and take in return a certificate from some high officer of the church. The old man hesitated, but finally complied, and the certificate proved to be worthless. He had another farm in Mantua and they finally got that. This latter information is given in a small volume by Christopher G Crary, who though a "Gentile" was a close friend of Mr. Snow's. The prophets had trouble among themselves and this first Fourth of July orator at Chagrin Falls, the ringleader, the real founder of the Mormon Church, was finally excommunicated by Brigham Young and consigned to the devil

The second Fourth of July celebration in Chagrin Falls, the next year, found the community still in a bustle of excitement. The constant rise of the price of land by reason of the unlimited paper money continued and there was a general expectation of wealth by reason thereof. A Congregational Church building was planned and the timber for the same drawn to the public square, which at that time had been dedicated to public use It included the tract on which the town hall now stands. Two thirds of this block of land was afterwards given to the Methodist and Congregational churches. This second celebration of Independence Day was gotten up on a grand scale. The orator of the day was Rev. Sherman B. Canfield, and besides delivering the oration he officiated at the first marriage in the village and township, that of Aaron Bliss and Almeda Vincent, daughter of Dr. J. H. Vincent. It is related that this ceremony was public and came in as a part of the general program of the day. But patriotism and patriotic sentiment alone could not bolster up prosperity on an unsound basis and with the year 1837 the boom at Chagrin Falls, as in many parts of the country, went down suddenly and business came to a standstill. In all this activity, so built upon a fabric of paper money, much of which became worthless, the natural and ordinary advancement of the community was neglected. There was no authorized post office and mail route. Serenus Burnet at his tavern kept a sort of convenient distribution place for letters and papers. Once a week Marcus Earl came from Cleveland to his father's home at the Falls and brought mail to the tavern. Coming along to the year of 1839, the first fatal accident is recorded in the annals of the village. A daughter of Mr. Overton was burned to death, her clothing catching fire from a burning log heap. In 1839 Asbury Seminary was incorporated as a Methodist institution and opened its doors as an advanced school, with Mr. Williams as its first principal: Along with this came some industrial advancement. Samuel Nettleton built a furnace. This was sold in 1840 to Benajah Williams. It was afterwards carried on by him. Those who came to the village in 1837 were Mr. Benajah Williams and sons named Lorenzo D., John W. William M., Francis S., Adam C. and Andrew J. Williams.

In the presidential campaign of 1840 Chagrin Falls was largely whig and it took on its most enthusiastic manner entering into the campaign with that zest that has characterized it in later years. When the whigs of the northwest part of the state held a mass meeting at Fort Meigs, almost the entire male

population of the Falls attended. Doctor Vincent was in command of Company C of Chagrin Falls Whig Riflemen. Those going individually assumed Indian costumes to add to the hilarity and significance of the occasion. Drawn into the maelstrom by the excitement the democrats went along with the whigs. Four-horse, six-horse, and eight-horse teams took the crowd to Cleveland where they took the boat for the meeting. The democrats who went along, entered into the fun with the rest throughout the day, and when they got home, drew off into a bunch and gave a rousing cheer for Van Buren and Johnson, and as the old annals recite, "resumed their places as democrats." In 1841 Aaron Bliss and John Mahew built a large stone flouring mill on the site later occupied by the upper paper mill. This was built with a semicircular stone dam, which did not prove to be a success. The dam was carried out the same season taking away two bridges and flooding the village. In this year the first paper mill was built by Noah Graves, as the beginning of that industry at the Falls. The census of 1842 disclosed that there were 109 families in the village and a total population of 540. Included in the 540 were twenty-five cabinetmakers, four wagon makers, ten shoe makers, five merchants, three doctors, two lawyers, a very good showing for the young village. C. T. Blakeslee and John Brainard were included in the legal fraternity. Mr. Brainard became Professor of Chemistry, with residence in Cleveland, and later Examiner of Patents at Washington. These two started the first newspaper. It was called The Farmers and Mechanics Journal. The first number was issued in August, 1842, and it was the first newspaper published in the county, outside of Cleveland. The total capital invested was about \$100. Blakeslee sold out his interest to Hiram Calkins and he sold to M. S. Barnes. The firm name was Brainard & Barnes. The firm sold the paper to H. G. Whipple, who tried to change it to a democratic paper under the name of The Journal. We say "tried" to change it. His foreman, the late proprietor, Barnes, in his absence substituted a whig ticket and whig editorial, which he found floating at the masthead when he returned. Barnes was dismissed and he thereupon started a rival whig paper. Both journals merely survived the campaign. The next year M. P. Doolittle and H. E. Calkins started a paper called The Spirit of Freedom The paper (not the sentiment) died the same fall. Following these journalistic attempts a paper called Labour was published in the village for a short time. The press was bought by Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Sanford. Then Mrs. Sanford began the publication of a monthly journal for women called True Kindred. At the end of five months the management changed from Mrs. to Mr. Sanford, and the name of the paper was changed to The Independent Politician. This was discontinued after a time and there was no further newspaper published in Chagrin Falls until The Exponent was established in 1874 by J. J. Stranahan and P. Hohler. After a year Mr. Stranahan continued the paper as sole proprietor. It has continued as a paper independent in politics, but vigorous in its utterances, espousing the cause of the farmer and the laborer. It at once had a large circulation and it is no idle statement to make that at least under the active management of Mr. Stranahan, it was the most influential paper published in the county outside of Cleveland. Mr. Stranahan served in the Legislature of Ohio for two terms and following his service there was appointed United States Fish Commissioner, in which capacity he served until advancing years caused him to retire. During his service in the General Assembly, The Exponent was found upon the desks of members and its vigorous editorials aided much in securing legislation in the interest of the farmers of Ohio.

In 1843 a great deal of excitement was caused in the village as elsewhere over the prophecy of "Father Miller" that the world was to be destroyed by fire on the 23d of April of that year. Of course, the real Millerites put on their ascension robes and prepared for the occasion but the unbelievers, although not accepting the prophecy so positively and eloquently announced, were "from Missouri" and had to be shown. Well, at 3 o'clock in the morning of the appointed day in the year of our Lord 1843, at the Village of Chagrin Falls, Earl's woolen mill caught fire and as the roof was saturated with oil, burned with great rapidity and cast a most brilliant glare over the village, the river and the country around, lighting up the homes and starting frightened people from their beds. While it lasted the excitement was intense and a

real scare gripped the village. The millennium was indefinitely postponed, but the mill burned down. As Miller did not fix a future date and the world seemed still solid Deacon Harry White bought the old site of the burned mill and erected an ax manufactory. This tool was still much used at that time and sales were large and continued until the land was quite generally cleared, when the manufactory was abandoned. In 1844 a Methodist and a Congregational Church were each built at the village. There was a daily stage line from Cleveland to Warren, touching the Falls, and the coaches were crowded. There seemed to be a healthy recovery from the depressed times following the collapse of the boom. Bentleyville, however, once ahead of the Falls, was losing ground. The chair factory built by C. P. Brooks did a good business for five or six years. The gristmill, in 1843, had been turned into a rake factory by Lyman Hatfield, and then the manufacture of wooden bowls was added. At that time the town looked prosperous. There were fifteen or twenty residences but like Albion in Strongsville there is left but a memory. Time, floods, and competition did their work and it was wiped out. Before this time, however, there had been agitation for a new township. The three villages on the river were not so much concerned about a separate organization, but the idea of a separate township was gaining ground Chagrin Falls did not like the idea of being in a corner of Orange. There were thirty or forty farms now well cleared up and they joined in the agitation for a separate township. Application was made to the county commissioners and in 1845 a separate township under the name of Chagrin Falls was formed to include the northeast corner of Solon, the southeast part of Orange and a part of Russell in Geauga County. The first official town meeting was held at the tavern of A. Griswold on April 7, 1845. Samuel Pool and Pliny Kellogg were chosen judges, and Jedediah Hubbell and Alanson Knox, clerks. They were sworn in by Henry Church, a justice of the peace. The election resulted in choices as follows: Trustees, Stoughton Bentley, Ralph E. Russell, and Boardman H. Bosworth; clerk, Alanson Knox; treasurer, Thomas Shaw; assessor, Rev. John K. Hallock. Hallock soon moved away and George Stocking was appointed in his place. The other officers elected were: Overseers of the poor, George Rathbun and Jedediah Hubbell, Jr.; constable, Thomas M. Bayard; supervisors of the highways, Sherman S. Henderson, Obadiah Bliss, John Mahew, Phineas Upham, Duane Brown, John Goodell, Ralph E. Russell, and Noah Graves. About the time when the new township was formed there was much agitation over the prospective building of a railroad from Cleveland to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the line surveyed passed through the Village of Chagrin Falls, but notwithstanding the fact that the residents of the Falls subscribed for \$24,000 in stock, it did not go through. This community seemed ever awake to any proposition that would benefit the town and they were fully alive to the doings of the outside world. They supported every enterprise that gave promise of contributing to the general welfare. More newspapers were taken in Chagrin Falls, during the first twenty years of its existence, than in any place of its size in the county. In 1847 it had in the neighborhood of 1,200 inhabitants and the variety of its manufactures was increasing. In 1848 the Cleveland & Mahoning Railroad was built. A large subscription was raised by the residents of Chagrin Falls, conditional upon getting the line through the town, but in this they failed and the road was built through Solon. Not daunted, the people of the Falls said if they couldn't have a railroad they would have a plank road, and the same year the Chagrin Falls and Cleveland Plank Road Company was chartered. Chagrin Falls people invested \$15,000 in the enterprise. This road was completed in 1850, and a beginning made in 1849. It was never a paying proposition and the planks were not renewed and the road abandoned except between Newburg and Cleveland. In 1852 the Painesville and Hudson Railroad was incorporated with a capital of \$1,000,000 and the line as surveyed passed through Chagrin Falls. With its fine water power and active industries, the people of the Falls were determined to have better communication with the outside world and, be it said to their credit the people of the Falls subscribed \$200,000 to this project. This enterprise failed and the people were still dependent upon the lumber wagons with which to communicate with Cleveland, Painesville, the lake and the canal.

It is interesting to note how in this enterprising but isolated community all questions of education

received such earnest attention, notwithstanding the fact that some of its larger propositions along these lines, like the chartering of a college before the first district school was opened, came to naught. In 1842 a literary society was organized. This began collecting books and soon had the nucleus of a library. In 1847 Adstarchus Champion, who was the original owner of a large tract of land in Russell erected a large building for the use of the village. The next year he put in 800 volumes, for the free use of the citizens of the village. The Literary Society took their books there and the building was known as Library Hall. Champion kept the title of the property himself and afterwards removed the books and sold the hall to the Board of Education, which was formed in 1849. Then the educational interests were prosecuted with much vigor. In 1858 the Asbury Seminary was sold to the Board of Education of the township for a Union school. Thus, the schools advanced from year to year, the Union School being the center of educational activities, until today Chagrin Falls has on these grounds three buildings. There are nineteen teachers employed, with a total enrollment of 700 pupils, and a graduating class from the high school this year of thirty-two. The superintendent is W. E. Stoneburner. Two important elements have contributed to the prosperity of Chagrin Falls, its splendid water power and the energy and public spirit and intelligence of its citizens. Their taste is shown in well-kept yards and attractive homes, and, years ago, it resembled not the typical pioneer village in the wilderness, but a New England town of long standing. In a publication put out by a lecture bureau some years ago Chagrin Falls was designated as the best lecture town in the United States. As an illustration of the interest taken, a course of lectures was advertised there and the sale of seats was to open at such a time and place. The afternoon of the day before the sale of seats was to take place a line of ticket buyers assembled. Coffee and sandwiches were served to those in the line, the wives, sisters and sweethearts relieving the weary men through the long night from time to time until the ticket sale opened in the morning.

Illustrative of the patriotic sentiment of the town, on Saturday, after the fall of Fort Sumter, a public meeting was called and this was adjourned to the following day. At this meeting nearly every resident of the town was present. All of the churches were closed to enable the congregations to attend the meeting and enthusiasm was at white heat. A full company of three months' men was raised as it was thought at first the war would be of short duration. Before this company was mustered in the call changed and the men of the company were consigned to other organizations. During the war 109 men enlisted from Chagrin Falls Their deeds are recorded in the record of the various organizations. September 3d the Chagrin Falls Soldiers Aid Society was formed and continued under the leadership of Mrs. Jane E. Church until the end of the war. This society raised \$832 in cash and \$406 in supplies. At the close of the war there was a balance left in the treasury and this formed the nucleus of a fund which was raised for the erection of a soldiers' monument to the men killed in the war. This monument was dedicated in 1865. Among the Chagrin Falls soldiers may be mentioned Gen. Benjamin F. Pritchard, who captured Jefferson Davis and received much notoriety by reason thereof. General Pritchard was a resident of the Falls for many years before the war.

After the Civil war the business of the township centered more and more at the Village of Chagrin Falls. Bentleyville ceased to function as a business center. In 1868 there was an attempt to revive Griffithsburg. A large gristmill was built there but the business did not come and the enterprise failed. Bad fires, the calamity that attends so many new villages, have cast at times a temporary blight on the town. In 1868 a row of stores was burned and in 1873 the Philadelphia Block, so called, was burned. Many fine residences were built in the '70s. In the Annals of 1880 the town is recorded as having two paper mills, three foundries, one woodenware mill, two planing mills, one lumber yard, two gristmills, two banks, two lawyers, two physicians, three dentists, two dry goods stores, three groceries, three hardware stores, three drug stores, one bookstore, two jewelry stores, one photographer, two furniture stores, three shoe stores, two bakeries, four millinery shops, two fancy goods stores, two tin shops, two wagon



shops, five blacksmith shops, two harness shops, and one marble shop. As in Bedford the leading industry in the original upbuilding of the village was its chair factories, so in Chagrin Falls the industries that counted most were the paper mills. The Chagrin Falls Paper Company was organized in 1840 by Noah Graves. He made straw paper, wrapping paper mostly. In 1842 Charles Sears bought an interest and the firm name became Graves & Sears and writing paper was added to the line manufactured. The following year the firm name was changed to Sears and Brinsmade and the manufacture of printing paper began. The following year the mill was leased to Heaton and Daniels. Daniels went out and the firm was Heaton and White. In 1847 Sears came back into the firm and its name was Sears and White until 1850. Following this date, it was Younglove and Hoyt for a year, and then Davis and Sykes until 1858, then Davis and Upham until 1860, then Davis as sole proprietor until 1866, when the mill closed. It was reopened in 1870 and the change of proprietors were in this order, P. Warren, J. G. Coleman, Pratt and Pope, Parker, Pope and Company. It was engaged in the manufacture of flour sacks but soon the firm name was changed to Pope and Bleasdale, who enlarged the business. In 1876 the Chagrin Falls Paper Company was organized with the following directors, D. S. Pope, I. W. Pope, S. I. Pope, and David Smith. With this constant change of proprietors, the business had still increased until under the management of the Chagrin Falls Paper Company the output was 25,000 sacks per day. The changes in the management of the other paper mill were as frequent. It was started by Adams and Company, who took over the site of the Bliss and Mayhew flouring mill, then it was turned into a woolen factory by Bliss and Pool, and then operated by the Lake Erie Paper Mill Company and while under their management it was burned. It was rebuilt and taken over by Adams, Upham and Company. In 1872 Upham went out and the firm name became Adams and Company, who increased the business, having several large buildings and employing about sixty hands. The woodenware factory mentioned was started in 1842 by Curtiss Bullard and Cornelius Northrop for the manufacture of spinning wheels, reels, etc. The demand for these articles decreasing it began in 1857 the manufacture of kitchen ware. In the '70s under the firm name of Bullard and Marsh its principal output was a butter mold. Of the three foundries the first started was the Williams Foundry and Thimble Skein Factory. This was opened in 1844 by Benajah Williams. It was after some years conducted by his son, J. W. Williams. Among the articles manufactured have been sad irons, in later times more commonly called flatirons, bolster plates, priming tools, pump reels, and also wooden articles, such as ax handles and whiffetrees. The machine shop was started in 1844 by Adin Gaunt. The product has been matchers, planers, small steam engines, horse powers and intricate machinery of various kinds. The planing mill was opened in 1873 by George Ober, and the marble works by H. A. Sheffield. We have given enough to show the great variety of products manufactured in the town, so largely necessities in the home. It would seem that, with the power of the falls, the village, with its surrounding farms, could have made itself industrially independent from the outer world.

We have referred to the churches. The Congregational Church was organized in 1835. Its first members were Thomas N. West, Rebecca It West, Alexander H. Hart, Polly Hart, Timothy A. Osborn, Sarah Osborn, Salomy Crosby, Andrew Dickinson, and Thomas West. Its pastors at the first have been Revs. John S. Harris, Abram Nast, \_\_\_ Hopkins, Josiah Canmor. In 1857 the church united with the Cleveland Presbytery. After its incorporation in 1869 the pastors have included Revs. G. W. Walker, D. T. Childs, A. D. Barber, William Woodmansee and Edmund Gail. The Methodist organization up to 1844 met in schoolhouses, then a church was built. In 1854 it was on a wide circuit including Chagrin Falls, Mayfield, Gates Mills, Bainbridge, Orange Hill, Orange, Solon, Russell, and Chester. This circuit was covered by Revs. Patterson, Fouts, and Wright. In 1857 the circuit was limited to Chagrin Falls and Solon, and covered by Rev. D. C. Wright. The pastors since it began its separate existence have included Revs. H. N. Stearns, John O'Neal, George J. Bliss, C. T. Kingsbury, G. W. Chesbury, N. H. Holmes, W. T. Wilson, B. Excell, and A. H. Dormer. The Disciple Church was organized at Bentleyville in 1831 by Adamson Bentley, the founder of the village. It started with a membership of thirty and met in a log schoolhouse. Gamaliel

was the first overseer, and R. E. Russell and Zadoc Bowen were the first deacons. After seven years in the schoolhouse, it moved to Chagrin Falls In 1846 the Disciples held a large tent meeting there representing the counties of Cuyahoga and Geauga. Alexander Campbell was present and the meeting was largely attended. Shortly after this big meeting a church was built. In 1849 Isaac Eret delivered a series of lectures to the Disciples, but the most interesting incident occurred nine years later when James A. Garfield held a discussion with a man by the name of Dutton. a somewhat noted infidel. Among the preachers of the early days were Adamson Bentley, William Hayden, W. T. Horner, Tames A. Garfield. T. H. Rhodes, B. A. Hinsdale, Sterling McBride, A. S. White, J. G. Coleman; Adam Burns and James Vernon. The Free Will Baptist Church was organized at a schoolhouse in the Township of Russell by Rev. A. K. Moulton. The first members were Henry E. Whipple, John Walters, Reuben T. Walters, Sarah E. Morse, Hannah Mason, Faustina L. McConoughy and Lucy Goodwill. Moulton was the first pastor and John Walters the first deacon. It was incorporated in 1841 with the following trustees: John Walters, Otis B. Bliss and R. R. Wailers. Among the early pastors following Reverend Moulton have been Revs. Walter D. Stanard, A. R. Crafts, P. W. Belknap, E. H. Higbee, G. H. Ball, Norman Starr and Daniel H. Miller. A church was built in 1845. In 1846 a Bible Christian Church was organized, composed of English families. In 1851 a frame church was built and in 1874 it was replaced by a brick one, having been incorporated in 1869. Among the early ministers were Revs. George Rippin, John Chapel, Joseph Hodge, William Roach, William Hooper, George Haycraft and John Pinch.

Among the fraternal orders the Masons were the first to organize and a Mason lodge was chartered in 1854. The charter members were Caleb Earl, Orison Cathan, Jonathan Cole, Apollo Hewitt, Roderick White, Nathan Hobert, S. B. Kellogg, Samuel Sunderland, Thomas White, L. D. Mix and Henry Burnet. The masters of the lodge in the early days have been Caleb Earl, L. D. Mix, D. A. Davis, S. L. Wilkinson, M. A. Lander, C. M. Foote, R. W. Walters and H. M. Doty. A year later the Odd Fellows Lodge was organized with the following charter members: Thomas M. Bayard, John W. Williams, H. A. Robinson, Uriah Ackley and Bennett Robbins. Later on, came the Independent Order of Good Templars Lodge, a Knights of Pythias Lodge, the Chagrin Falls Chapter (Masonic) and other similar fraternal and beneficial orders, not to omit the Grand Army of the Republic, with its representative Post.

The Township of Chagrin Falls has had efficient officers and a list of the men who served it in a public way will so demonstrate to those conversant with its history. The early trustees were: Ralph E. Russell, Stoughton Bentley, B. H. Bosworth, Charles E. Morton, Leonard Sampson, E. P. Wolcott, Samuel Pool, L. Lampson, Hannibal Goodell, L. D. Mix, Horace White, George Gladden, Alonzo Harlow, Ephraim Sheffield, E. R. Sage, A. Upham, Orrin Nash, Julius Kent, Charles Force, E. M. Eggleston, W. W. Collins, S. W. Brewster, Silas Christian, J. G. Coleman, William Hutchins, Alexander Frazer, Z. K. Eggleston and A. Church. Among the clerks have been A. Knox, David Orchard, Thomas Shaw, L. D. Mix, A. J. Williams, John V. Smith, S. K. Collins, E. P. Wolcott, A. Harlow, Thomas Shaw, Lucius E. Goodwin, W. J. Armour, George King, Eleazer Goodwin, C. R. Bliss, W. H. Caley, Austin Church, D. O. Davis. The early treasurers were Thomas Shaw, O. Bliss, John Mahew, J. A. Brown, Abel Fisher, Charles Force, J. H. Burnet, A. Upham, G. B. Rogers, L. D. Mix, L. McFarland, Alfred Williams and John J. Davis. E. P. Wilmot has served among the early justices. of the peace and is at the present time one of the justices for Chagrin Falls. He is a lawyer of ability and has a large acquaintance over the county. His study of the law began in the office of Henry C. Ranney of Cleveland. Perhaps one Chagrin Falls man in his day was more widely acquainted over the county and state than any other resident, Dr. H. W. Curtiss. Born in Portage County he graduated from the Cleveland Medical College in 1851 and came to Chagrin Falls the following year. He was elected and reelected to the office of state representative and then elected and reelected to the State Senate. When Governor Rutherford B. Hayes was elected president of the United States, and in consequence resigned the office of governor, Doctor Curtiss became president of the State Senate and acting lieutenant

governor of the state. Following this service, he was elected and served a third term in the State Senate. At home he was active in local affairs and served for fifteen years as a member of the school board at Chagrin Falls. Mrs. Curtiss' maiden name was Olive B. Rood. They had four children, Dwight C., Dan P., Paul and Virginia. In connection with the chapter on Chagrin Falls an incident while J. J. Stranahan was a member of the General Assembly and which illustrates his fondness for a joke may be recorded. Stranahan was a faithful and able representative and these jokes were only occasional. From one of the southern counties of the state there came to the Sixty seventh General Assembly a representative, a retired, confiding, weak in the upper story representative, a democrat who in some unexpected way was elected to the House. Being a clergyman by profession, Stranahan suggested to him that he open the session with prayer at some time. He demurred, suggesting that he was not qualified for so important a function. The negotiations resulted in Stranahan writing out the prayer. When the morning selected came the gentleman recited the prayer as it was written by Stranahan. Among other things he praised the administration of Governor Foraker in the highest terms. The fact of a democratic member praising the administration of a republican governor was unusual and the newspapers over the state gave it wide publicity. Some, however, discovered the joke and published the fact that Stranahan wrote the prayer.

The present officers of the township are: Justices of the peace, E. P. Wilmot and M. L. Miner; trustees, J. G. Coleman, E. O. Foster and E. L. Lowe; clerk, F. A. Williams; treasurer, James R. Porter; assessor, C. F. Phillips, constables, R. F. Shipley and B. R. Hill. The present officers of the village are: Councilmen, John A. Church, William Didham, Frank Eggleston, Homer S. Kent, Edward McCollum and Silas Whitlock; mayor, Leslie Wycoff; clerk, Gladys M. Foster; treasurer, Martha Ridge; assessor, Charles Phillips. The former clerk was J. V. Class.

We have referred to the effort of the Chagrin Falls residents to get a railroad to the Falls. The building of an electric line by the Cleveland & Chagrin Falls Railway Company in the '80s was a great boon to the town. Providing as it did, in common with all suburban lines, for both passenger and freight transportation, it was the one thing most needed. The growth of the village has since progressed steadily. By the census of 1900 it had 1,586 residents, in 1910 it had 1,931, and in 1920 the census report gives the population as 2,237. Judging from the school enrollment of this year the increase in population for the ten years following 1920 will be still greater. An annual event in Chagrin Falls for some years has been the fair which draws people to the town from a wide area for a week of fun and profitable recreation. This fair like that at Berea is fostered and aided financially by the county, the county commissioners each year making the necessary appropriation.

Identified with the history of Chagrin Falls are many whose names have not been mentioned. Among these are Prof. F. B. Shumaker, who was superintendent of schools for many years, and was president of the County Teachers Institute; Joseph Stoneman, hardware dealer; James H. Shute, a large property owner; William Hutchings, who began his business career by working for Doctor Vincent at \$10 a month, and who afterwards owned the Vincent estate and many other valuable properties, who did much work for the county, was active in getting the railroad to the Falls, and then settled down as a hardware dealer; William A. Braund, the carriage builder; Austin Church, the blacksmith, whose ancestors were soldiers in the Revolutionary war and the War of 1812; A. M. Burns, son of Rev. Andrew Burns of Chagrin Falls, who served on the staff of General McCook, one of the "fighting McCoys," who was promoted for gallant services in the Civil war, was state senator, agent for the United States Treasury and assistant city solicitor of Cleveland; John S. Bullard, who was postmaster way back in 1834 and served on the school board, an expert manufacturer, who engaged early in the woodenware production; William H. Dripps, hardware merchant and one time mayor of the town; William Larkworthy, merchant and philanthropist;

Arthur H. Williams, merchant of note, whose brother, Arris H., was killed at the battle of Gettysburg, and Capt. H. B. York, a gallant soldier and officer in the Civil war.

**Chagrin Falls 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. Transcribed by Betty Ralph.**

<https://usgenwebsites.org/OHCuyahoga/Cities/Chagrin%20FallsTwpPWWR.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>

Chagrin Falls

Chagrin Falls Township includes Chagrin Falls, Bentleyville and Griffithsburg.

In 1815 Syremus BURNETT, with his family, located two miles north of the present village of Chagrin Falls, paying \$2.50 an acre for his land, which was then considered a high price. For six months after their arrival Mrs. BURNETT did not see the face of another white woman.

The third family to settle in the township was that of Maj. Allen HUMPHREY, who was in command of the forces in Cleveland at the time of HULL's surrender at Detroit. His daughter, Maria Clarissa, married Eleazor GOODWIN, and later they made Chagrin their home. Mrs. GOODWIN took an active part in the exciting events of anti-slavery days. A daughter, Fanny, Mrs. Amassa ALLEN, lives in the village; also, a son, Roswell W., who married Maria CONVERSE, a woman whose life has been filled with good works and good words.

Chagrin has the first millstones made for grinding corn in Cuyahoga County. They were made in 1815. In 1831 Rev. Wm. HAYDEN, with his wife, Mary McCULLOM, and their family located at the falls of the Chagrin River. Mrs. HAYDEN was devoted to her home, carefully rearing their three daughters and four sons. Mr. HAYDEN traveled horseback all over the country to preach, going even to Canada. At the time of his death, he had traveled enough to take him around the world. Their daughter, Rhoda, and ambitious, intelligent girl, married Mr. J.G. COLEMAN, and they became substantial citizens of the village in later years.

In 1833 the village of Chagrin was founded by Noah GRAVES in the company with Dr. S.S. HANDERSON. One thousand acres of land were purchased and in 1834 the little village was fairly starting with seven families. Sarah HART, born in New York, was the wife of Dr. HANDERSON, and bravely did this mother-in-the-wilderness meet the perplexities of pioneer life. The marriage of their daughter, Mary, to Philetus BOSWORTH, was the first wedding in the village, and an occasion of great merry-making. Nancy became Mrs. BEEBE.

Mr. A.A. HART, a brother of Mrs. Dr. HANDERSON, with his wife, Polly ELDRIDGE, were pioneers.

Betsy D. HUTCHINS was the wife of Henry GRISWOLD. The howling wolves were often kept from their door by bright fires of hickory bark. Mrs. HUTCHINS was an expert spinner and weaver. She has now her reel, which was charred by the fire that destroyed their log house. Their eldest daughter, Mary, married J.M. STEVENSON, and has lived in Chagrin longer than any other resident.

Charlotte SMITH, born in Vermont, came while yet a child with her parents to New York. She married Napoleon B. COVILL, and in 1834 came to Chagrin. She is described as kind and affectionate but firm and very brave in times of danger.

Catherine GRAVES and her husband, Ebenezer WILCOX, were married in Conway, Mass., and settled in Chagrin in 1834. Living with Mrs. WILCOX was a Mr. GRAVES, a widower, who married Minerva, daughter of Capt. Allen GAYLORD, of Newburg, who was in the battle of Lake Erie under Com. PERRY.

Chester BUSHNELL and family were early comers, and were progressive citizens. Mr. BUSHNELL built a barn, the upper part of which they lived in for a time, taking boarders and stabling the horses of the travelers below.

Hannah CARLTON, second wife of Caleb EARL, was mother of Angeline, Mrs. Nathaniel WARREN, who saved herself at the time of the "flood," when the dam gave way, by catching hold of the overhanging bough of a tree, as the avalanche of water, bridge, timbers and debris rushed down, sweeping away her boat.

The EARL home was by common consent the post office.

Two early families were those of Margaret SMITH, Mrs. Luman GRISWOLD, and Mary GRISWOLD, Mrs. George SMITH, from Vermont.

Rachel RICE, from Connecticut, became Mrs. Jacob GILLETT, and lived to be 97 years of age.

Clarissa SANDERSON, with her husband, Henry CHURCH, and daughters, Jerusha and Jane E., were from Sanderson, Mass. At Buffalo they took the "Daniel Webster" to Cleveland. The "Michigan," the first steamer on the lakes, raced all the way down. The "Daniel Webster" burned butter and tar and finally took fire, which was only extinguished after hard work.

No better idea of the character of Mrs. CHURCH can be given than the beautiful manner in which she cared for a little motherless girl entrusted to her, who, although children of her own came to her, to their home, ever received the full measure of a mother's love. Her eldest son, Henry, is the oldest man living in Chagrin who was born there.

Coming with the CHURCHES, and from the same town, were Luther GRAVES, a nephew of Noah GRAVES, and his wife. A daughter born soon after their arrival is said to be the first little lady born in the township. Mr. CHURCH and Mr. GRAVES were partners as blacksmiths.

Among early records are the names of Wm. CHURCH and wife, Caroline TORREV, from Massachusetts, and Samuel GRAHAM and wife, Marry HEMINWAY. Mrs. GRAHAM had two daughters.

Emily ELLSWORTH came from Massachusetts in 1835 as the wife of John HAYMAKER.

Deacon Thomas Nelson WEST and wife, Rebecca CLARK, from Harbor Creek, Mich., managed the underground railway of those dark days. Mr. WEST was chief engineer and Mrs. WEST conducted the "station," which was in their attic. Their son, Robert was the first little gentleman born in the village. It is said of Mrs. WEST: "There was hardly a sorrow of earth but came to her, yet through all she retained her love and confidence in the goodness of God."

Mrs. Richard PRATT, Sarah FITCH, from Rochester, N.Y., moved to the village in 1835. She now lives with her daughter in Iowa.

Lucinda OVERTON married Justus Hull VINCENT in Herkimer, N.Y., and moved to Chagrin in 1835. Mrs. VINCENT was equal to all emergencies. Once when the river was too high to cross, she nailed the door of an old tin lantern to a board and grated corn enough to make Johnny-cake for her family. The marriage of her daughter, Almeda, to Aaron BLISS, on the fourth of July was the occasion of a great celebration. The bridal gown was of silk, which the bride had ridden many miles on horseback to purchase. Another daughter, Mary, studied medicine and is now practicing in Chicago.

Diana HARDY, a teacher at Orange, became Mrs. Jackson VINCENT, and claims the honor of having taught James A. GARFIELD his A B C's.

Marilla POOL, of Plainfield, Mass., came to Chagrin in 1836 as the wife of Obadiah BLISS. Mrs. BLISS was of a bright, sunny disposition, well fitted to meet the disappointments of pioneer life. Her nine sons and four daughters were all fine singers. Two sons were surgeons in the war of the rebellion; the eldest will be remembered as GARFIELD's surgeon. Of this large family two remain, Mrs. Marilla FORCE and Mrs. Serepta WENHAM.

Judith ROBENS and husband, Joshua OVERTON, occupied the "Union House," and the sad death of their little daughter by fire in 1840 was the first death by accident in the township. The day after, the old cemetery was laid out, and this was the first little body to be placed there. Mrs. OVERTON has one daughter, Julia, and is herself kindly cared for in the home of her son.

Lewis BENEDICT with his wife, Lydia B., also arrived in 1836. Mrs. BENEDICT is now over ninety years of age. She was an eye-witness to the terrible scene just mentioned.

Mrs. Olmstead BANCROFT, Mary BRACE, of New Jersey, was a most devoted mother and true woman. A noble pioneer was Mrs. Chas. WALDRON (Hannah BARNUM), a cousin of the late P.T. BARNUM, America's illustrious showman. One daughter, Mrs. Uraina HEWES is still a resident of the town.

Sibyl HAMISTON, Mrs. Russell SHEFFIELD, was ambitious and industrious and reared her family carefully. A very youthful pair were Saloma BANCROFT and A.C. GARDNER, who often fired a gun from their window, at night, to frighten away the wolves. Mrs. GARDNER became a model mother and a wise counselor. Of this family one son, A.B. GARDNER, of the village, and three daughters remain.

In 1836, as residents for a few years, were Mr. Chester PLASTRAGE and wife, Alvine STURTEVANT. He later married Louisa Dayton LAUDER.

Geo. FENKELL built the first gristmill. His two eldest daughters, Charlotte and Phyllis Ann, took charge of their father's household, boarding the men who worked for him. They bought the first cook stove, which was quite a curiosity. The mother, Hannah HATFIELD, who came the next season, was a devoted home body, carefully rearing her children and skillfully managing all business matters that came to her charge. She was active till her death at eighty-four. One daughter, Mrs. Pame'a TENNY, and one son, D.L. FENKELL, are residents of Chagrin.

Amelia EDICK, of Russell, O., was the third wife of Deacon Cyrus BAILEY.

Mrs. Ira SMITH, Betsy HOLMES, resides with her daughter, and has reached the age of seventy-nine. She has always been kind and helpful in sickness and true to her friends and to her convictions.

In 1835 a young lady, Polly Maria SCOFIELD, on a visit to her sister, Mrs. BOSWORTH, alighted from the coach in front of the Union House. Zopher HOLCOM, at work building a house opposite, watched her and remarked: "Boys, that girl will someday be my wife!" a prophecy which proved true. Two of their daughters reside at Chagrin, Mrs. Orrin SNEDAKER and Mrs. LARABEE.

Marcy LITCH, accompanied her parents from Vermont, traveling all the way in wagons, in the winter time. Five days they traveled on the ice of Lake Erie. The weather turned warm, and they searched all one day to find a place where they could climb the steep bank. At nightfall they found a practical outlet, and the next morning there was no ice in sight on the lake. Marcy married James FISHER, and of their family two were daughters. Mr. FISHER did not live long, and after his death Mrs. FISHER married Nathan HOBART. Edler BENTLEY officiated at both weddings. One granddaughter of this family lives in the town, Mrs. Hugh HANDERSON.

Truly a home body was Alice BROCKWAY, wife of Josiah ROGERS. For twenty years she never left her own yard, and never saw the bridge spanning the river after crossing it when moving into the village. She lived to ninety-five. One of her sons was a physician of the early days.

Ann HOUS, Mrs. H.A. RODGERS, a daughter-in-law, with her husband, came at the same time. One of the prominent business men was John MAYHEW, who was three times married. Elizabeth Frances SLONE was his first wife, Roxey MARTIN the second, and Judith MARTIN the third. The latter's daughter, Mary, was Mrs. A.A. KINGSBURY.

At the early age of fifteen, Emily FLINT came from Vermont to live with her aunt at Claridon, O. The monotony of the journey was relieved by the overturning of the stage-coach, door side down, so that the passengers had to be lifted out of the window. She taught two years, then returned to her home, followed by Chiles T. BLAKESLEE, who went to bring her back as his bride. Mr. BLAKESLEE was soon after admitted to the bar. These two did much for the intellectual advancement of the village. It is said of Mrs. BLAKESLEE that a hasty or cross word was never known to pass her lips.

Their sons all became lawyers or ministers. Jennie E. is the wife of Rev. C.L. RICHARDS, or Baraboo, Wis., and Carrie preserved the family traditions by marrying a lawyer, J.M. EDGERTON. Mrs. BLAKESLEE resides with Mrs. RICHARDS, is in good health and able to attend church, though past 80. Hon C.T. BLAKESLEE and Jehu BRAINARD were editors of the first newspaper in the town, a copy of which can be seen at the Historical Society rooms.

Mrs. Geo. MARCH, Laura Ann BLAKESLEE, was born in Hartford, Conn.

Starting from Massachusetts on the day of the opening of the railway from Worcester to Springfield, came Abner T. ALLEN and bride, Eunice SHEPARD. Mrs. ALLEN is remembered by many as very hospitable and a lady of much refinement.

Amasa I. ALLEN arrived the same year, but not until 1851 did he choose his bride, Wealthy HOLMES, whose happy song, while performing home duties, and sunny temperament endeared her to all.



Jerusha SMITH, wife of Rev. Benajah WILLIAMS, from Hartford, Conn., was a great worker in the Methodist Church. L.D. WILLIAMS, her eldest son, was the first postmaster of the village. He married Oliver Tryphena WARREN. Benjah WILLIAMS' second wife, Hannah Maria GARDNER, was an invalid, but deeply interested in her home.

Fanny TENNY became Mrs. John Wesley WILLIAMS, and her whole life was devoted to doing good. Sarah PARSHALL, born in Palmyra, N.Y., married Jeddiah HUBBEL. They lived on a large farm for some years. She never failed in her duty, paying always strict regard to the dictates of her conscience.

A most wonderful needlewoman was Mrs. Thomas BAZARD (Ruth KNOX) from Blandford, Mass. Dainty muslin colors and delicately embroidered veils are evidences of her skill. Her daughter became Mrs. Eugene KENT.

General Alanson KNOX, and wife, Lucinda KNOX-KNOX, followed their daughter to the then far West. General KNOX was a gentleman of the old school and his wife, like the daughter, a skillful needlewoman. A carpet made by her which has the appearance of tufted work is still in use in the home of her granddaughter.

A quiet, retiring person was Mrs. Lucinda B. WILKINSON (Parmelia JOHNSON), from New York. Her son, S.L. WILKINSON, resides at Chagrin.

Wealthy SMITH of Hadley, Mass., married Pliny KELLOGG, and with him moved to Chagrin. Her daughter, Leonora L., married Harmon BARROWS, and her daughter, Ermina, became Mrs. Judge JONES, and Lydia, Mrs. DAVIS, afterward Mrs. CALEY.

Louise C. JONES, born at Sudbury, Mass., was educated at the Holliston school, and while there met Rev. Jarius T. STURTEVANT, who became her husband. Then commenced a life of mingled joy and sorrow. Her husband was a member of the M.E. Conference and there were many changes, many meetings and partings. Mrs. STRUTEVANT thus describes the view upon first entering the village: "Surely they were well supplied with quilts, as they were used for doors and windows." She is still living in Ashby, Mass., at the advanced age of eighty years.

From Lee, Mass., came Sarah EASTON, the happy bride of Curtis BULLARD. She was sprightly and bright, and her ready wit made her a great favorite. Passionately fond of flowers, her garden was the pride and envy of the town. Mrs. Sarah ROGERS is her daughter.

Sarah Ann RICHARDSON, born at Barkhamstead, Conn., educated at Catherine Beecher's school at Hartford, married Col Royal TAYLOR. She was ever doing good, and looked well after the poor in winter, especially those who came from foreign countries.

Louisa Nancy TAYLOR, wife of J.P. BRINSMADE, was of gentle disposition and winning manners. Her son, Col Allen T. BRINSMADE, now represents the family.

From Langtry, Devonshire, Eng., came Mary STONEMAN and her husband, John CLEVERDON. They were six weeks on the water. Mr. CLEVERDON is among the oldest residents.

Sally DAVENPORT and her husband Harvey WHITE, identified themselves with any work that tended to the upbuilding of the town. Three of their daughters are now living. There were a family of singers. Mrs.

Mary WHITE having a particularly fine soprano voice. All were great workers in the Congregational church.

Jane GREY, born Belfast, Ireland, married Thomas WHITE, and came to America, settling in Chagrin in 1843. Two daughters now live in the village.

An early resident was Pricilla TAYLOR, who became Mrs. PECK.

Clarissa BOSWORTH was the wife of E.P. WOLCOTT. Of their children, four were daughters.

Eliza BENJAMIN came with her parents from New York. One day, while walking through the woods, she espied an object moving slowly before her, and after some delay, succeeded in capturing the prize, a young fawn. She married I.A. FOOT, and their daughter, Sarah, became Mrs. D.L. FENKELL. Mrs. FOOT aimed through life to make others happy.

Sedrana NASH, born in New York, married Thomas SHAW, and with him moved to Chagrin in 1841. Three daughters comprised the family, Miss Lizzie being the first ordained minister sent out from the village. Mrs. SHAW was ever to be found at the bedside of the sick, cheerful and helpful.

Marilla NASH, Mrs. Samuel POOL, having no children of her own, tenderly cared for a little motherless boy and girl. She now lives in the home of this adopted son.

Four sons of Mrs. Chas. E. MORTON (Huldah A. NOAH) gave valuable service throughout the war for the Union. Mrs. MORTON now resides in Hamilton, Mo.

Mrs. Abel FISHER (Ruth GREEN), from New York, was jolly company, entertaining her friends in most novel and original ways.

Thomas CHRISTIAN and wife (Mary D. KRIGG), from the Isle of Man, were highly esteemed citizens, but lovers of their native land.

Mrs. Jonathan SHEFFIELD (Laura M. STEPHENSON) was distinguished as a noble, ambitious woman, and Mrs. Hiram GLEASON (Maria HUBBEL) as a "peacemaker" among her neighbors, as in her own family.

Mrs. Alfred WILLIAMS (Louisa GREEN) from Newbury, Mass., a most estimable lady, still resides here.

Mrs. UPHAM (Lucy HEWITT) from Canton, Mass., moved to Ohio as early as 1817, and to Chagrin in the forties.

Mrs. Hezekiah RUSSELL (Roxana VICKINGER) was a most energetic woman, and considered no sacrifice too great for her children. She lives with her son George. Mrs. RUSSELL and Mrs. OVERTON are the only pioneer women living in the village today.

Mrs. Amos UPHAM (Margaret TUCKER) was an energetic, hard-working pioneer. Soon after coming to Ohio, while going through the woods on a visit to a neighbor, carrying a babe and a basket of provisions, she was attacked by wolves. After an exciting race she reached a place of safety, herself and the babe unharmed, but the provisions gone. Only one of her children is now living, Mr. E.B. UPHAM.

Mr. Adin GAUNTT and wife, Martha DIXON, were from southern Ohio. His second wife was Hannah DEAN.

Nancy LOCKWOOD, born in New York, married Wm. YEAMANS. She had been a teacher and was well educated. Her son is Prof. YEAMANS, of Detroit Medical College.

Mrs. Reuben R. WALTERS (Emily WHITE) was the mother of three sons, of whom Dr. R.W. WALTERS, of the village, is the only one remaining. Mrs. WALTERS was a most lovely woman, teaching her sons: "If you can say nothing good of a person, speak not of him."

Rachel SMITH married Harry BENEDICT. Of her thirteen children one was a daughter. This family were all musicians.

Mrs. Samuel SUNDERLAND (Hannah HOPKINS) was of a happy disposition, and always ready with aid for the needy.

A sister of Mrs. SUNDERLAND, Rachel HOPKINS, became Mrs. Leonard LAMPSON. These two were faithful Christians, never lagging in their work for good. They were fine singers, enjoying to old age that part of the church service.

Wm. HUTCHINS and wife, Mary DOWNS, from Devonshire, Eng., both hired out to work for Dr. VINCENT, Mr. HUTCHINS helping to build the house that afterward became their own. They received \$12.00 a month for their labor, he \$8.00 and she \$4.00. They afterwards purchased land to which they found a clear title and could not be had unless they could also purchase the adjoining lot. They decided to borrow the money of a distant friend, and Mrs. HUTCHINS set out on foot, alone, for a three days' trip, returning promptly with the money. They did much for the Bible Christian Church, and by honesty and industry amassed a handsome fortune.

Jeannette, daughter of John EARL, acted as mother to five younger sisters.

Mrs. Benj. WILLEY (Polly SMITH) was from New York, the latter part of the thirties. Her daughter, Jane, is Mrs. A.C. WILLIAMS, of Ravenna.

Honor SUMMER, widow of Elisha WHITE, Mrs. Milo BOSWORTH, and Mrs. Boardman BOSWORTH (Eliza SCHOFIELD) were all most estimable women. The latter assisted ably with the work among the poor, who had come from foreign shores. Her daughter, Jennie, became Mrs. W.H. CALEY.

Mrs. Timothy JONES (Caroline HURLBURT) was another good woman who worked among the poor in winter. She cared especially for those who came from England.

A most industrious woman was Mrs. Isaac BURTON (Betsy PRESTON), who spun and wove all the clothing for her family. She had eleven great-grandchildren and up to her death took pleasure in knitting or crocheting for some of them.

Mrs. Wm. FAY (Esther TUFTS) and her daughter, Lucy Ann, Mrs. Lewis GILBERT, were from Hadley, Mass. Mrs. GILBERT's daughter, Susan, is Mrs. Judge JORDAN. Mrs. TUFTS was a beautiful needlewoman, which accomplishment has been inherited to the fourth generation. Mrs. GILBERT is remembered with the

tenderest regard by every resident in the village who knew her. She was a woman of sweet and beautiful character.

Mrs. Chas. FORCE (Marilla BLISS), one of the pioneers, still lives, at the age of seventy-nine. She is a well-preserved woman, and takes great interest in all the modern improvements.

Lucy Ann, sister of Charles FORCE, became Mrs. Hannibal GODSEL. She was a woman of refinement and education, and had a remarkable memory. She took an active part in home work during the late war. Her daughter, Arvilla, is Mrs. Dr. DOTY, of Chagrin.

Ralph RUSSELL and wife (Laura ELLSWORTH), from Chester, Mass., located at Griffithsburg, 1831, and founded the Shaker settlement. Their daughter, Mrs. Andrew RUSSELL, the only one left of the family, has resided on the same farm for sixty-five years. Some two years later Mrs. Grand PERKINS (Sophia BILIES), with her two daughters, Amanda and Louisa, moved in. In 1834 Col GRIFFITH and wife, Abia STOWE, infused new life into the settlement. Mrs. STOWE was the daughter of a fine old family in Stowe, O.

Orson LORD and wife, Amanda S. PERKINS, also located here. The latter's sister, Loisa became Mrs. Zena RIDER.

Capt. Archibald ROBBINS was a noted sailor, and had been taken prisoner at one time on the coast of Africa. His wife was Elizabeth WILLIAMS.

Another family was Elijah B. HILL, his wife, Rebecca HARVEY, and their six children, four girls.

Lois CARTER was the wife of Lester JUDD, a dry goods merchant, from Ravenna.

Mary Ann SABIN married Levi RAWSON and moved here, 1833. At the same time came Amanda DYE, the bride of Ralph SABIN, from Randolph, O.

In 1836 Electra KENNEDY and her husband, Evert GALLEY, moved to Bentleyville. The same year we find Hiram GALLEY and his wife, Amanda KENNEDY, as residents of the village.

Eunice COVEY married John WOODWARD. Of four children, two were daughters.

Coming a widow with three daughters was Elizabeth BENTLEY MORFORD, who was very skillful with her needle.

Stroughton, the eldest son of Rev. Adamson BENTLEY, married Orsey BALDWIN.

Matyin BENTLEY married Huldah KENT.

The site for Bentleyville was selected by Rev. Adamson BENTLEY, 1831, who, with his wife, Mary BROOKS, and children, from Warren, settled in the rude log house which he had built the year before. Their provisions consisted of ten barrels of flour, six barrels of pork, six barrels of salt, etc. He established the Disciple Church and preached for years without salary. Mrs. BENTLEY was a woman of great intelligence and well versed in Scripture. Their daughter, Lorinda, became the wife of Thomas CLAPP; Mary married S.K. COLLINS; Laura became Mrs. Stephen BURNETT, Lucretia died, age 21, and Emily became the wife of

Gamaliel KENT. The third daughter, Martha, married Julius KENT, remained at the old home and is the oldest living resident of Bentleyville. When Mrs. KENT was a child but ten years old, her mother, wishing to bleach some linen, sent her daughters to the house of a friend, as there was no grass about their own home. The faithful little girl stayed three weeks, turning the linen each day.

Mrs. Elisha HIGLEY (Adeltha HORTON) from Bainbridge, assisted her husband in taking daguerreotypes. They had one daughter.

Almeda CRARY married John GOODELL. She lived but a short time. His second wife was a widow, Eliza A. RATHBURN, nee BRYANT, who made her home in later years with her daughter, Mrs. Geo. WAITE, at Chagrin Falls.

Other honored names were Mrs. Wm. BROOKS (Jane DUNCAN) from Pennsylvania; Mrs. Calvin BROOKS (Sophia HOYT), Mrs. Uriah HOYT (Comfort Livina DAYTON), and Mrs. SMITH (Fannie WORDEN, from Liberty, N.Y. Mrs. SMITH was a remarkably energetic woman, and lived to be ninety-five years of age. Mrs. John SMITH (Nancy THORPE) and Mrs. John MORRIS, nee GIFFORD, were also worthy women. A lack of enterprise or intelligence can never justly be brought against the people of Chagrin Falls. They have sought diligently to inform themselves of every subject which comes before the public. More newspapers were taken during the first twenty-five years of the existence of the village than in any other place of its size in the country.

Liberally do they support any enterprise which gives reasonable promise of promoting the public welfare.

*Cadace A. PRATT*

*Chairman and Historian*

Chagrin Committee - Mrs. Arvilla DOTY, Mrs. Cora ALLEN TENNY, Mrs. Jane PHELPS KENT

Complimentary Members - Mrs. Alice GLAISDELL UPHAM, Mrs. Martha RUSSELL WHITE