

DOVER

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

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DOVER TOWNSHIP HISTORY

Transcribed by Denise, County Coordinator

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Boundaries, Surface, etc. - Attractions as a Place of Residence - Early Settlement - Joseph Cahoon - The Old Tea Kettle - Cahoon Pioneer Association - A Large Riding Whip - Asahel Porter - First Store - Leverett Johnson - Philo Taylor - Dr. Turner - The Flat-Iron Cure - Other Pioneers - Blood's Tavern - J. & N. Crocker - Moses Hall and Family - Amos Sperry - Sylvanus Smith and Others - First Births and Marriages - Drowning of Mrs. Porter - Captured by Indians - Civil Organization - First Elections and Officers - List of Principal Officers - Dover Center and North Dover - Post Offices - Second Congregational Church - Methodist Church at Dover Center - Lake Shore Methodist Church - First Baptist Church - St. John's Church - Lutheran Church - Schools - Dover Academy - Agricultural Society - Dover Lodge, I. O. O. F. - Northwest Encampment - Daughters of Rebekah - Other Organizations - Burial Places - Dover Furnace - The Grist Mill, Etc. - Wischmeyer's Vineyards - Dover Bay Grape Company - Stone Quarries.

The township of Dover, which occupies the extreme northwestern corner of Cuyahoga County, is bounded by Lake Erie on the north; by the township of Olmsted on the south; by Rockport on the east, and by Avon, in Lorain County, on the west. It is township number seven in range fifteen, and covers an area of about twenty-five square miles. The surface is generally level or gently undulating, the soil is fruitful, and the people are chiefly engaged in agricultural pursuits.

The farmers as a rule are men of education and good understanding, and they have not only transformed the forest of sixty years ago into fine-looking farms, but they have also embellished it with many handsome residences - evidences at once of refinement and wealth. The lake shore region is largely devoted to the culture of the grape, the business being extensive and profitable. Fruit-growing has latterly received liberal attention in all parts of the township, and in time this branch of agriculture is likely to become very important. The public roads are numerous and well-constructed, but as yet the limits of Dover have been untouched by a railway, although there is convenient railway communications at stations near at hand in other townships. Although there are numerous small streams their water power is feeble, and is used to only a very limited extent. As a place of residence, especially in the summer time and near the lake shore, Dover has attracted much attention, and in the season mentioned many come within its borders to seek the healthful atmosphere and cooling zephyrs found upon the bluffs which overlook Lake Erie.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first white person to settle in what is now the township of Dover was Joseph Cahoon, who migrated with his family from Vergennes, Vermont, and on the morning of October 10, 1810, located upon land purchased of Datus Kelley, the agent for Hubbard & Stowe, the Connecticut owners of this portion of the Western Reserve. Mr. Cahoon's family consisted of himself, wife and seven children, of which latter the only one now living is Joel B. Cahoon, who, at the age of eighty-six, still resides on the old homestead. They traveled from Vermont to Dover in a wagon drawn by four horses, and a fifth horse was ridden by the girls in turn, in order to give some relief to a terribly tedious journey. They finally stopped on lot eighty-five, on the east side of Cahoon creek, at its mouth. In four days, Mr. Cahoon had completed a log house, the big wagon-box having meanwhile served as a place of nightly repose for the females of the family.

The tea-kettle which did duty on the occasion of the first meal taken by the Cahoon family in Dover is still in the possession of Joel B. Cahoon, and at the first celebration by the Cahoon Pioneer Association (held October 10, 1860, on the spot where Joseph Cahoon built his log house in 1810), a fire was built on the old hearth-stone, tea was steeped in the old tea kettle, and pies were eaten and made from apples borne by the first fruit-tree set out in the township.

The Cahoon Pioneer Association, it may be noted, has for its purpose the annual celebration in a pleasant and social way of Joseph Cahoon's settlement in Dover. Meetings are held upon the Cahoon place, and are participated in only by members of the Cahoon family and their immediate friends. At the meeting in 1878, about one hundred and twenty persons were present. These assemblages were held for a few years upon each 10th of October - the anniversary of Joseph Cahoon's settlement - but, in deference to the wishes of some aged people, the date was changed to August 28, the anniversary of that gentleman's birth.

Joseph Cahoon built upon Cahoon's creek the first grist-mill west of the Cuyahoga River, the frame being raised September 10, 1813, * the day of Perry's victory. Joseph and his son, Joel B., quarried two mill-stones in the creek at North Dover, and these stones are now preserved on Mr. Cahoon's place as relics of the olden time. They also erected a saw-mill nearby, and likewise a distillery, where they made peach brandy - Mr. Cahoon engaged to some extent in peach culture.

In 1814 Joel was sent by his father to Brownhelm for a man to assist in the distillery, and before he set out on his return, he pulled a small locust plant for a riding whip. When he reached home, he planted it upon his father's' place, and now the riding whip, grown to a handsome tree of massive proportions shades the lawn in front of the Cahoon homestead, a graceful reminder of the historic past.

In 1818 Joseph Cahoon built the house now occupied by his son Joel B., and there he died in 1829, at the age of seventy-five.

On the evening of the day on which Joseph Cahoon and his family entered Dover (October 10, 1810), Asahel Porter and his family, together with Leverett Johnson (his nephew), then in his seventeenth year, came into the same township. Leverett Johnson had been living with the family in Connecticut, whence they came to Dover. Mr. Porter, with the assistance of George Peake, of Rockport, put up a log house upon lot ninety-four, now occupied by Charles Hassler. The spot upon which the house stood was long ago washed into the lake. Of the two children who came with Mr. Porter, one, Mrs. Catharine Foot, still

resides in Dover, aged seventy-three. Mrs. Porter was drowned in Rocky River in 1814, and not long after that event Mr. Porter removed to Rockport, after renting his Dover farm to Silas and Elisha Taylor. Before that, however, he kept a store on the lake shore, in Dover, and was postmaster there in 1815. The book in which he kept his store accounts is now in the possession of L. H. Johnson, Esq., of Dover.

Almost immediately after his arrival in Dover, Leverett Johnson, although scarcely more than a boy, began alone to clear land on lot fifty-eight, continuing to live, however, with Mr. Porter. Two years later young Johnson located upon lot thirteen, where his son, L. H. Johnson, now resides. Usually, he spent his Sundays at Mr. Porter's, but during the week lived alone in the wilderness. During the first season his house consisted of a bark roof set against an old log. He was the only settler in that section, and no doubt found life somewhat lonesome; but he worked sturdily away, and although Indians and wild beasts were plentiful, he suffered no molestation. The Indians were friendly, and sometimes assisted him in his farm labors; the wild beasts he scared away at night by keeping up a fire. Young Johnson married Abigail Cahoon in 1814, and conducted his bride to a new log-house, which he had that year erected upon his farm.

Mr. Johnson was early a prominent member of the settlement, and during his life was frequently called to fill positions of considerable importance. He was justice of the peace from 1827 to 1833, and served five terms in the State legislature. After a useful life of unwonted activity, he died upon the old homestead in 1856, in his sixty-second year.

Philo Taylor, an early settler in Rockport, located on the lake shore in Dover, in 1811, and there built the first sawmill in the township. He also opened the first tavern in Dover, but remained in the township only a few years. Dr. John Turner, also a Rockport settler, moved thence to Dover in 1813, locating on the place now occupied by C. C. Reed. He was the first physician in the township, and had a peculiar theory about consumption. He contended that if the patient would exercise daily by swinging a flat-iron in each hand, a cure would be effected. His wife, being consumptive, tried the remedy, but died in spite of it. Dr. Turner afterwards moved to Carlisle, Ohio, and thence to Wisconsin, where he died.

Joseph Stocking came out from Ashfield, Massachusetts, with his uncle, Jonathan Smith, in 1811, and purchased land from the latter, in Dover. He returned to Massachusetts for his family, but postponed their removal on account of the war of 1812. In 1815, however, he migrated to Dover with his wife and five children, accompanied by Nehemiah Porter, John Smith, Asa Blood, Wells, Porter, Jesse Lilly and Ryal Holden - all being related to him by blood or marriage. He migrated to Dover, and located upon the place now occupied by his son Joseph. There he lived until his death in 1877, at the age of ninety-five years and three months.

Jesse Lilly settled first upon the North Ridge, but moved subsequently to the southern part of the township. John Smith located on lot fifty-five, and Ryal Holden about a mile and a half west of the present village of Dover Center. Soon after his arrival, Asa Blood built a log tavern at the place where he afterwards erected the brick hotel now kept by Philip Phillips. In 1825, when Blood was postmaster, one Woolverton drove a mail stage between Cleveland and Elyria, and delivered the mail at Dover Center three times a week.

Nehemiah Porter, with his wife and two children, and Wells Porter, a bachelor, located on lot forty-five. After residing with Nehemiah two years, Wells made a settlement upon lot fifteen. In 1816 Ebenezer Porter also came to Dover. Nehemiah and Ebenezer resided in that township until they died; Wells moved to Cleveland, and ended his days there. Jedediah Crocker moved in June, 1811, from Lee,

Massachusetts, with his wife and seven children, to Euclid, Ohio, whence Noah, his son, went to Dover, where the elder owned land. Noah, with his wife and the three children, settled upon a portion of his father's land, and besides giving it some of his attention, used to go occasionally to Elyria to work in a furnace. He resided in Dover until his death; his children all removed further west. In 1816 Jedediah Crocker left Euclid, and with his family settled in Dover, upon the place cleared by his son Noah. The old gentleman had purchased considerable land in Dover from Hubbard & Stowe in Connecticut, but after his arrival in the West sold all of it except two lots, at \$1.25 per acre - just what it had cost him. At the time of Moses Hall, of Lee, Massachusetts, bought twenty-one hundred acres of land in Dover in 1810, and in the same year removed with his twelve children to Ashtabula, Ohio. Of the Dover tract, he gave to each of his seven sons one hundred acres, and to each of his five daughters fifty acres. Two of his sons Barnabas and James, and one of his daughters, with her husband, Nathan Bassett, settled in Dover in 1811. Barnabas Hall located on lot sixty-two, now occupied by his son Charles, and remained there till his death. James settled upon lot fifty-one, but in 1821 returned to Ashtabula, where he has since resided, having in July, 1879, reached his eighty-eighth year. Nathan Bassett occupied lot eighty-two. He had a turning-lathe, and manufactured chairs, and was also known far and near as a great hunter and manager of bees. He was killed by lightning while at work in his barn in 1842. Nancy, another daughter of Moses Hall, married David Ingersoll, and in 1820 they settled in Dover upon lot thirty-seven. They had seven children, but survived them all; he dying in January, 1879, aged eighty-three, and she in April of the same year, aged eighty. Charles, a son of Moses Hall, settled in Dover in 1821, upon lot forty-eight. He died in April, 1878. His surviving sons in Dover are Reuben and Z. S. Hall.

In 1817 Jesse Atwell, with his wife and five children, came from Steuben County, New York, and on the 4th of July landed at Cleveland. From there they pushed on to Dover, traveling so slowly that they were a day and a half going to Rocky River, and seeing but one framed house on the way. Mr. Atwell had bought lot sixty-eight of Moses Hall, but at the end of five years he bought lot seventy-nine from Hubbard & Stowe for four dollars and twenty cents an acre. There he resided until his death in 1875, aged eighty-nine.

Amos Sperry came west from Oneida county, New York, in 1815, and purchased lot sixty of Lyman Root, an early settler upon it, who then moved to Ridgeville. Mr. Sperry opened a blacksmith shop and a tavern on his place as soon as 1818, although he put up no tavern-sign until 1824. That sign was recently in the possession of the Sperry family. Mr. Sperry kept tavern there only a few years, but followed farming upon his place until his death in 1848, at the ripe age of eighty-seven. His son, Amos Ranson Sperry, who had preceded him into Dover a year, resided upon the homestead until he died. Junia Sperry, of Dover Center, is the only direct descendant of Amos Sperry now living. In 1818 Amos R. Sperry married the widow of Junia Beach, one of Elyria's early settlers. She survived her last husband many years, dying in Rockport in 1877, aged one hundred years.

Among other early settlers in Dover were Jason Bradley, John Wolf, Jethro Butler, Aaron Aldrich, Lyman Root, Eber Loomis and Joseph Root.

Sylvanus Smith was the first settler at the place now known as Dover Center, and built a house upon the site of the store now there. Asa Blood, who kept the first tavern at the center, married a sister of Sylvanus Smith, and two other sisters of Smith married Ansel Rice and Asher Cooley, both Dover pioneers. Mr. Smith was a wide-awake, stirring citizen, a strong advocate of the temperance cause, and the builder of several houses at the center.

In 1826 Joseph Porter, of Ashfield, Massachusetts, migrated to Dover with four children - Jemima, John, Leonard and Rebecca, going by way of the Erie canal to Buffalo, thence by lake to Cleveland, and the rest of the way by stage. Mr. Porter located on lot fourteen, where he died in 1844, at the age of eighty-four. James Case, with a family of nine children, moved in 1816 from Ashfield, Massachusetts to Dover, and located on the North Ridge, west of Cahoon's creek, where he soon after put up a sawmill. He died in less than two years, leaving his eldest son, Bernard, to care for the family. He moved about 1826 to New York. Another son, Osborn Case, is now a resident of Rockport, whither he went in 1832. James Case had served as a privateer in the war of 1776, and during his residence in Dover had followed the pursuits of a cooper, a miller, and a farmer. Sumner Adams accompanied Case from Massachusetts to Dover, where he engaged in business as a blacksmith, returning, however, to New England at the expiration of four years.

EARLY INCIDENTS.

The first white child born in the township was Angelina, daughter of Asahel Porter. The date of her birth was April 1, 1812. It is claimed that Vesta, daughter of Nathan Bassett, was the first born, but the best available evidence shows the date of her birth to have been June 14, 1812. The first male child born in Dover was Franklin, son of Joseph Cahoon. The first marriage in the township was that of Leverett Johnson and Abigail, daughter of Joseph Cahoon. John S. Reed, of Black River, - the first justice of the peace chosen in Dover, - performed the marriage service in Cahoon's log house. The second couple married were Jethro Butler and Betsey Smith. On the 1st day of April 1814, Asahel Porter's wife and infant child, Noah Crocker, and George, son of Jonathan Smith, made a journey to Cleveland in an open boat. Upon their return, being overtaken by a storm, they sought to put in at the mouth of Rocky River, when the boat was capsized and Mrs. Porter, her babe, and George Smith were drowned, Crocker alone escaping. The daughter of Daniel Page - who settled at an early date on lot ninety-seven and put up the first framed house in Dover - while temporarily sojourning in an adjoining township, was carried away by Indians, from whom, however, after a brief captivity, she was recaptured by United states soldiers.

ORGANIZATION.

The surveyed township now constituting Dover (No. seven in range fifteen) was, at the time of its earliest settlement, owned by Nehemiah Hubbard and Josiah Stowe, to whom it had fallen on the division of the Western Reserve among the joint proprietors, as narrated in the general history. The civil township of Dover was formed November 4, 1811, and embraced a large tract, extending nearly twenty-five miles along the lake shore as appears by the following extracts from the records: November 4, 1811, it was by the county commissioners ordered "that the following townships be and are hereby incorporated into a separate township by the name of Dover, viz: Townships No. seven in fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth ranges and all that part of No. seven which lies east of the Black river in the eighteenth range, and to be in effect on the next annual meeting." * * * March 6, 1812, it was further ordered "that all that tract of land lying west of the town of Dover and west of township No. six in range sixteen, and east of the east line of the Fire-lands, so called and north of township five in ranges seventeen, eighteen and nineteen, be and is hereby annexed to said township of Dover."

The first township election was held April 6, 1812, at the house of Philo Taylor, at which eighteen votes were cast by the following electors: Philo Taylor, George Kelso, John Jordan, John Brittle, Noah Davis, Andrew Kelso, Timothy Wallace, David Smith, Joseph Cahoon, Joseph Quigley, Ralph Lyon, Joseph Root, Jonathan Seeley, Moses Eldred, Azariah Beebe, Lyman Root, Asahel Porter and Daniel Perry. Some of these lived as far west as Black River, and some lost all identity with Dover, on account of its contraction to its present limits.

The officers chosen at that election were Asahel Porter, township clerk; Daniel Perry, Joseph Quigley and Asahel Porter, trustees; Asahel Porter, Joseph Cahoon and Azariah Beebe, overseers of the poor; Andrew Kelso and Moses Eldred, fence viewers; Jonathan Seeley, lister and appraiser; Noah Davis, Ralph Lyon, Moses Eldred, Sylvanus Fleming, Daniel Brittle and Lyman Root, supervisors of highways; Philo Taylor, treasurer; Jonathan Seeley and Philo Taylor, constables. On the 16th of May, 1812, John S. Reed was chosen justice of the peace. At the second election, which was for State officers, only ten votes were cast. In 1819 but thirty-two votes were cast at the township election. The names of the persons who have served the township as trustees, clerks and treasurers from 1812 to 1879, are given in the following list:

- 1812. Trustees, Daniel Perry, Joseph Quigley, Asahel Porter; clerk, Asahel Porter; treasurer, Philo Taylor.
- 1813. Trustees, Nathan Bassett, Noah Crocker, Daniel Perry; clerk, Asahel Porter; treasurer, Philo Taylor.
- 1814. Trustees, Daniel Perry, Jonathan Taylor, John Turner; clerk, Asahel Porter; treasurer, Philo Taylor.
- 1815. Trustees, Amos R. Sperry, Daniel Perry, Nathan Bassett; clerk, John Turner; treasurer, Leverett Johnson.
- 1816. Trustees, Wilbur Cahoon, Nathan Bassett, Datus Kelley; clerk, Noah Crocker; treasurer, Leverett Johnson.
- 1817. Trustees, Nathan Bassett, Joseph Stocking, Asa Blood; clerk, Noah Crocker; treasurer, Leverett Johnson.
- 1818. Trustees, Henry Taylor, Leverett Johnson, Samuel Crocker; clerk, Noah Crocker; treasurer, Thomas Foot.
- 1819. Trustees, John Smith, Samuel Crocker, Amos Cahoon; clerk, Thomas Foot; treasurer, Samuel Crocker.
- 1820. Trustees, Leverett Johnson, Amos Cahoon, Thomas Foot; clerk, Samuel Crocker; treasure, Jedediah Crocker.
- 1821. Trustees, Nathan Bassett, Amos R. Sperry, Leverett Johnson; clerk, John F. Smith; treasurer, Amos R. Sperry.
- 1822. Trustees, Amos R. Sperry, Noah Crocker, Amos Cahoon; clerk, John F. Smith; treasurer, Henry Taylor.
- 1823. Trustees, Noah Crocker, Amos Cahoon, David Ingersoll; clerk, Asa Blood; treasurer, Henry Taylor.
- 1824. Trustees, Nathan Bassett, David Ingersoll, Thomas Foot; clerk, Asa Blood; treasurer, Henry Taylor.
- 1825. Trustees, Nathan Bassett, Joseph Stocking, Asher M. Coe; clerk; Wells Porter; treasurer, Noah Crocker.
- 1826. Trustees, Joseph Stocking, Thomas Foot; clerk, Wells Porter; treasurer, Noah Crocker.
- 1827. Trustees, Leverett Johnson, Nathan Bassett, John Smith; clerk, Wells Porter; treasurer, Joseph Stocking.
- 1828. Trustees, Leverett Johnson, John Smith, Thos. Foot; clerk, Wells Porter; treasurer, Joseph Stocking.
- 1829. Trustees, Thos. Foot, Joseph Stocking, Leverett Johnson; clerk, Wells Porter; treasurer, Hiram Smith.
- 1830. Trustees, Nathan Bassett, Asa Blood, Amos R. Sperry; clerk, Wells Porter; treasurer, Hiram Smith.
- 1831. Trustees, A. M. Coe, Asa Blood, Thos. Foot; clerk, Jason Bradley; treasurer, Hiram Smith.
- 1832. Trustees, Amos Cahoon, Nathan Bassett, A. M. Coe; clerk, Eli Clemens; treasurer, Hiram Smith.
- 1833. Trustees, Amos Cahoon, Rial Holden, Asa Blood; clerk, Eli Clemens; treasurer, Asher Cooley.
- 1834. Trustees, Amos Cahoon, Chas. Hall, Leverett Johnson; clerk, Eli Clemens; treasurer, Asher Cooley.
- 1835. Trustees, Amos Cahoon, Leverett Johnson, Amos R. Sperry; clerk, Eli Clemens; treasurer, Asher Cooley.
- 1836 and 1837. Trustees, Amos Cahoon, Leverett Johnson, Thomas Foot; clerk, Eli Clemens; treasurer,

Asher Cooley.

1838. Trustee, A. R. Sperry, Nathan Bassett, Austin Lilly; clerk, Eli Clemens; treasurer, Asher Cooley.
1839. Trustees, Leverett Johnson, Nathan Bassett, Austin Lilly; clerk, Eli Clemens; treasurer, Asher Cooley.
1840. Trustees, Leverett Johnson, Arza Dickinson, Aaron Aldrich; clerk, Eli Clemens; treasurer, L. G. Porter.
1841. Trustees, Leverett Johnson, Thomas Foot, Charles Hall; clerk, Eli Clemens; treasurer, L. G. Porter.
1842. Trustees, Amos Cahoon, A. S. Farr, A. R. Sperry; clerk, E. T. Smith; treasurer, Marius Moore.
1843. Trustees, A. S. Farr, Austin Lilly, A. M. Coe; clerk, E. T. Smith; treasurer, Marius Moore.
1844. Trustees, Joseph Brown, Leverett Johnson, Benjamin Reed; clerk, E. T. Smith; treasurer, L. G. Porter.
1845. Trustees, A. S. Farr, Aaron Aldrich, Benj. Reed; clerk, W. Porter; treasurer, L. G. Porter.
1846. Trustees, Aaron Aldrich, Leverett Johnson, Marius Moore; clerk, W. Porter; treasurer, L. G. Porter.
1847. Trustees, Leverett Johnson, Arza Dickinson, Thomas H. Hall; clerk, Wells Porter; treasurer, L. G. Porter.
1848. Trustees, Arza Dickinson, Chas. H. Hall, Alfred Willard; clerk, Wells Porter; treasurer, L. G. Porter.
1849. Trustees, A. M. Coe, Wm. Saddler, N. Coburn; clerk, J. M. Bradley; treasurer, Edwin Coe.
1850. Trustees, A. M. Coe, S. U. Towner, Henry Winsor; clerk, Eli Clemens; treasurer, D. W. Porter.
1851. Trustees, S. U. Towner, Henry Winsor, N. H. Austin; clerk, Eli Clemens; treasurer, Marius Moore.
- 1852 and 1853. Trustees, Marius Moore, C. H. Tobey, Chas. H. Hall; clerk, L. H. Johnson; treasurer, Edwin Farr.
1854. Trustees, Marius Moore, C. H. Tobey, Chas. H. Hall; clerk, L. H. Johnson; treasurer, Lester Simons.
1855. Trustees, Chas H. Hall, D. W. Porter, R. G. McCarty; clerk, A. A. Lilly; treasurer, _____.
1856. Trustees, C. E. Barnum, R. H. Knight, Edwin Farr; clerk, Eli Clemens; treasurer, Jonathan Spencer.
1857. Trustees, R. H. Knight, N. H. Austin, G. W. Laughlin; clerk, Eli Clemens; treasurer, J. Spencer.
1858. Trustees, A. S. Farr, Josiah Hurst, Reuben Hall; clerk, Eli Clemens; treasurer, J. Spencer.
1859. Trustees, Josiah Hurst, Dennis Dow, Clark Smith; clerk, John Wilson.
1860. Trustees, Dennis Dow, S. L. Beebe, A. P. Johnson; clerk, John Wilson.
1861. Trustees, Josiah Hurst, Reuben Hall, A. P. Johnson; clerk, John Wilson.
1862. Trustees, Jonathan Spencer, Adolphus Gridley, Dennis Dow; clerk, Eli Clemens.
1863. Trustees, A. J. Coe, Jonathan Spencer, Edwin Farr; clerk, Thos. Foote.
1864. Trustees, Dennis Dow, Junia Sperry, H. W. Aldrich; clerk, A. A. Lilly.
1865. Trustees, Dennis Dow, Thos. Foot, A. P. Johnson; clerk, A. A. Lilly.
1866. Trustees, H. D. Lamphair, S. W. Simons, E. F. Walker; clerk, E. Meriam.
1867. Trustees, L. H. Johnson, J. Rose, E. S. Lewis; clerk, A. S. Porter.
1868. Trustees, J. Rose, A. S. Ward, S. W. Simons; clerk, A. S. Porter.
1869. Trustees, J. Rose, a. A. Lilly, A. S. Ward; clerk, A. S. Porter.
1870. Trustees, A. A. Lilly, A. P. Smith, H. P. Johnson; clerk A. S. Porter.
1871. Trustees, R. Hall, G. Reubin, N. G. Porter; clerk, C. Pease.
1872. Trustees, A. G. Porter, Leon Coe, J. N. Hurst; clerk, C. Pease.
1873. Trustees, L. H. Johnson, Leon Coe, A. J. Coe; clerk, C. Pease.
1874. Trustees, A. J. Coe, Perry Powell, J. N. Hurst; clerk, H. B. Smith.
1875. [Trustees, sic] Perry Powell, S. W. Simons, J. N. Hurst; clerk, H. B. Smith.
1876. Trustees, S. W. Simons, A. J. Coe, Reuben Hall; clerk, John Wilson.
1877. Trustees, S. W. Simons, L. M. Coe, Henry Wischmeyer; clerk, John Wilson.
1878. Trustees, Jas. L. Hadd, S. W. Simons, H. Wischmeyer; clerk, Jas. Pease; treasurer, Calvin Pease.
1879. Trustees, A. J. Coe, David Sites, Benj. Chappel; clerk, Herbert Lilly; treasurer, Calvin Pease.

VILLAGES.

Although possessing no incorporated village, Dover has within its limits two hamlets - Dover Center and North Dover - of which the former is the larger and more thriving. The town hall is located there - a fine two-story brick structure, built in 1873 - and it also has a graded school, a Masonic and Odd Fellows' lodge, a large steam gristmill, a store, several shops, a church and a good number of handsome residences.

North Dover, a mile north of the Center, is near a German settlement and has a German church, an excellent German school, a township school, a store and perhaps a dozen dwellings.

POST OFFICES.

Dover's first postmaster was Asahel Porter, who kept a store and post office on the lake shore near the Avon line in 1815. Reuben Osborn was his successor, and afterwards Eli Clemens received the office. He removed it to North Dover, where it now is. Calvin Phinney was the next incumbent, and after him Daniel Brown, the present postmaster.

The first postmaster at Dover Center was Asa Blood, who kept the tavern at that place. Marius Moore, who succeeded Blood as the landlord, was also the next postmaster, and for many years the post office was located in the tavern. The present incumbent is Hon. J. M. Cooley. A. M. Coe, a settler in 1823, was appointed postmaster at Coe Ridge, in the southern part of Dover, in 1843, and remained so until 1864. The office was removed into Olmstead in 1864, but in 1866 it was brought back to Dover, when Mr. Coe was reappointed, continuing in the office until his death in 1867. In 1874 a change to Olmstead was again made, and there the office still remains.

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DOVER.

This religious organization is the outgrowth of a Congregational Church organized in Lee, Massachusetts, June 5, 1811, with eight members, as follows: Jedediah Crocker and Sarah, his wife, Lydia, wife of Moses Hall, Katy, wife of Abijah Crosby, Jonathan and Abner Smith and their wives. Of these eight, Jedediah and Sarah Crocker and the two Smith families removed shortly afterwards to Dover, and on their arrival continued the Lee church organization, changing, however, the name to the Congregational Church of Dover.

The little band having at first no minister, used to meet every Sabbath to worship with prayer and song. Alvin Coe, a missionary to the Indians, coming that way, preached to them three months, after which they reverted to their former simple service. The church increased slowly, and in 1822 a log meeting-house was built near where the present church edifice stands. Some years afterward the meeting-house was destroyed by fire, and the services were held in Joseph Stocking's barn and in the town-house, until the completion of the church building now in use.

About 1840 the church was divided on the slavery question, and until 1847 one congregation worshiped in the church building and the other in the town house. In that year the two bodies were reunited and reorganized as the Second Congregational church of Dover, with fifty-one members, and the following trustees: John Porter, Leverett Johnson, David Ingersoll. The first deacons of the reorganized church were Alfred Millard, Jonathan Oakes, Selden Osborn, Josiah Hurst. Since 1847 about two hundred and seventy-five persons have been received into the church.

Among the early preachers, Rev. John McCrea was the most prominent. He preached in 1826 and afterward, and was very highly esteemed. The pastor in charge at present is Rev. Henry Walker. The present trustees are L. G. Porter, George Whitsey and John Rose.

An old record testifies that the "Dover Congregational Society" was organized December 28, 1818, "for the support of the gospel," and that the members were Noah Crocker, Nehemiah Porter, David Ingersoll, John Smith, Jesse Lily, Asher Corley, Wells Porter, Jonathan Smith, Stephen Smith, Sylvanus Phinney, Jedediah Crocker, Dennis Taylor, Barnabas Hall, James Hall, Samuel Crocker and Solomon Ketchum. Another old record sets forth that the First Congregational Society of Dover was incorporated February 9, 1831, and that the incorporator [sic] were Calvin Phinney, Sylvanus Crocker, Josiah Hurst and Reuben Osborn.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT DOVER CENTER.

This body was organized about 1825, but in the absence of records very little can be gleaned concerning its early history. The first meetings were held in residences and barns; later, the town-house and the Episcopal church were used for that purpose. The house of worship now occupied by the society was erected in 1853. The church is attached to the Rockport circuit, and is supplied by Rev. John McKean. The membership numbers about one hundred, and that of the Sunday school about fifty. The present trustees are William Dempsey, James Elliott and Jerome Beardsley.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON THE LAKE SHORE.

This was organized as early as 1827 in the township school-house, by Rev. Eliphalet, brother of Leverett Johnson. The class contained at first but six members, but increased quite rapidly. In 1840 the present church building was erected. Mr. Johnson preached to the congregation until he removed from the township in 1842, since which time the church has been supplied by ministers attached to the Rockport circuit, Rev. J. McKean being now in charge. The membership is at present exceedingly small, numbering but seven persons; of whom the three male members, Sherman Osborn, Marshal Cahoon and Henry P. Foot, are the trustees.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DOVER.

This church was organized February 24, 1836, with the following members: Aaron Aldrich and wife, Wm. W. Aldrich, Julia Ann Aldrich, Jesse Atwell and wife, Phineas Alexander and wife, Wm. Nesbitt and wife. Meetings were held at first in the Lake-Shore school-house and in the town-house. In 1845 a house of worship was built on Justus Stocking's land near North Dover, and there the congregation continued to worship until 1856, at which time, the church having by removals and deaths lost nearly all its members, services were discontinued, nor have they to this day been revived. Elders Dimmock of Olmstead, Wire of Rockport, Lockwood of Perry, and Jas. Goodrich, were among those who preached to the church directly after its organization. The last settled pastor was Rev. Mr. Newton, who was engaged in 1845. The church building stood until 1878, when it was destroyed by fire.

ST. JOHN'S (EPISCOPAL) CHURCH.

This organization, founded in 1837, is now extinct, and only a part of its history can be obtained. The members in 1842 were Chas. Hall, Weller Dean, Jesse Lilly, Austin Lilly, Albinus Lilly and a few others, although the average attendance was quite large. A church building was erected in 1837, just north of

Dover Center. It is now used by Calvin Pease as a barn. Services were at first conducted by Weller dean as lay-reader, until the engagement of Rev. Mr. Granville as a settled minister, who remained but a few years. The church began to decline previous to 1850, and in that year was dissolved.

GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

About 1858 quite a settlement of Germans located near North Dover, who, being desirous of establishing a church, sent for Rev. E. Z. Lindeman of Cincinnati, who went to Dover and organized, in 1858, a German Lutheran Church. The original members were J. H. Lindemyer, F. H. Hencke, F. Matthews, H. Luocke, J. H. Trast, Wm. Schmidt, J. H. Weihmann, August Warnecke. Rev. E. Rupprecht, of Lafayette, Indiana, was called to the charge in 1858, and is still the pastor.

Until 1872 worship was held in the Baptist Church at North Dover, and from that time until 1877, in the German Lutheran school-house, which was built in 1872. In 1877 the present fine church edifice was erected at an expense of four thousand dollars. The membership is now forty-seven, and the attendance comprises about sixty families. The present trustees are H. H. Reinkal, G. Meyer and Christian Koch.

SCHOOLS.

The first school teacher in Dover, of whom there is any recollection, was Betsey Crocker, who taught in 1816 in a log school-house on the lake shore, near where the present school-house stands. Philena Crocker, her sister, taught there (at the age of fourteen), as did also Wells Porter. In 1826 the township was divided into five school-districts, which then contained seventy householders.

Dover contains at present eight schools and seven school-buildings, which latter are all brick structures, excellently appointed, and considerably better in every way than the average of township school buildings. There is a graded school at Dover Center, and the school at North Dover will soon be similarly arranged.

In 1879, when the enumeration of school children was made, there was six hundred and twenty-two in the township, the levy for the support of schools being two thousand one hundred dollars.

Attached to the German Lutheran church at North Dover is an excellent secular school. It was organized in 1858 by Rev. E. Rupprecht, the pastor of the church, and began its career with thirty-three pupils. The Baptist church building was used until 1872, when the present school-house was erected. Rev. Mr. Rupprecht taught the school, in connection with his pastorate duties, until 1872, when he relinquished the charge to Mr. H. L. Brokelstuhler, the present teacher. The school is in a flourishing condition, and had, in July, 1879, the large number of one hundred and fifteen pupils.

DOVER ACADEMY.

In 1845 John Wilson, a graduate of Oberlin College - who located in Dover in 1844 - founded Dover Academy, and in that year erected a building for its use about a mile and a half south-west of Dover center. Mr. Wilson's school grew to be a popular institution, and had at one time as many as sixty pupils. In 1852 several public-spirited citizens of Dover proposed to Mr. Wilson to have the school removed to near the Center, and to organize a corporation to control it, to which he assented. A school building was accordingly erected on what is now the Dover fair ground, and an act was obtained incorporating the Dover Academical Association. The building was completed in 1854, and Mr. Wilson continued to act as

principal until 1860, when he retired. Although the academy had been fairly prosperous, the increased usefulness and liberal scope of the public schools impaired (sic) its strength, and led to its being given up in 1862. The building is still standing on the fair ground, and is used by the fair association. The first directors of the academy association were Leverett Johnson, L. G. Porter and Benjamin Reed.

DOVER AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL SOCIETY.

This association was organized in 1850, for the purpose of holding annual fairs in Dover. Money to purchase land was advanced by Messrs. Josiah Hurst, S. L. Beebe and J. Coles, and the ground was at once fitted up by individual subscriptions. The association owns seven acres of land, with the requisite buildings, about half a mile north of Dover Center, and has held a successful exhibition there, every fall since 1850. Julius Farr was the president in 1879, and William Aldrich the secretary.

DOVER LODGE NO. 393 I. O. O. F.

This society was organized in 1867, the charter members being John Kirk, Wm. B. Delford, C. D. Knapp, A. P. Smith, E. Bradford, C. L. Underhill, A. Wolf, P. W. Barton, W. W. Mead, A. S. Porter, Junia Sperry, J. Beardslee, D. B. Wright, D. H. Perry. The present officers are: Perry Powell, N. G.; James L. Hand, V. G.; James Beardslee, R. S.; Benj. Chappell, P. S.; Frank Baker, T. The membership numbers about one hundred. The lodge has fine quarters in the town hall, at Dover Center. This hall, a handsome and commodious brick edifice, was built in 1873 by the town and by the lodge just mentioned, at a cost of \$6,000.

NORTHWEST ENCAMPMENT NO. 188, I. O. O. F.

Northwest Encampment was organized July 1, 1875, with Alfred Wolf, Alfred Bates, L. J. Cahoon, Van Ness Moore, Philip Phillips, Perry Powell and Frank Baker as charter members. The membership now numbers twenty-two, the officers being Philip Phillips, C. P.; Perry Powell, H. P.; Jerome Beardslee, S. W.; John Morrissey, J. W.; F. W. Guild, treasurer.

STAR-LODGE, NO. 67, DAUGHTERS OF REBEKAH, (I. O. O. F.)

The lodge just named was organized in August, 1871, with sixteen charter members. The present officers are John Griffin, N. G.; Mrs. Murray Farr, V. G.; Mrs. John Griffin, secretary; Benjamin Chappel, F. S.; Mrs. Maitland Beebe, treasurer.

DOVER LODGE, NO. 489, F. AND A. M.

Dover Lodge was formed in 1874. The charter members were D. R. Watson, L. M. Coe, G. Reublin, John Kirk, John Jordan, E. S. Lewis, J. L. Hand, S. Barry, Wm. Lewis, G. Pease, Wm. Sprague. There are now thirty members, the officers being Benj. Chappel, W. M.; Wm. Lewis, S. W.; George Tarbox, J. W.; W. V. Gage, secretary; J. M. Cooley, treasurer; Thos. J. Bates, S. D.; W. Grant, J. D.; J. Jordan and A. A. Lilly, stewards; G. Winslow, tyler.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

The Dover Silver Cornet Band, a musical organization of considerable local note, was organized in 1874. The present leader is George Esberger.

A temperance union league was formed in Dover in 1873, and since that time the temperance cause has, at various times, received strong support in the township. A temperance Sabbath school now contributes its efforts toward the same object.

BURIAL PLACES.

The first death in the township is supposed to have been that of Mrs. Abner Smith, who was buried upon the Smith farm and afterward removed to the cemetery on the lake shore, that being the first public burial-ground laid out in the township. A graveyard was laid out in 1820 west of Dover Center upon land donated by Leverett Johnson and others. The first person buried there was the wife of Rev. Mr. McCrea, the Congregational minister.

Both cemeteries contain many fine tombstones, and the care expended upon the neatly kept grounds testifies to the affection felt by the living for those who there rest in their narrow beds.

MANUFACTURES.

The manufacturing interests of Dover are at present limited to a few sawmills, a bending factory and a gristmill.

Tilden & Morley founded an important iron-ware manufactory at Dover Center in 1832, near which place were several rich beds of iron ore. The works, known as the Dover Furnace, stood upon the lot now occupied by the residence of Junia Sperry. The firm conducted a store in connection with the furnace, and employed twelve men. In 1840 Tilden & Morley sold the establishment to the Cuyahoga Steam Furnace Company, soon after which (in 1843) it was destroyed by fire. Benjamin Reed, a former employee of the company, bought the land, rebuilt the furnace the same year, carried on the business until 1848, when the supply of ore was exhausted, and he abandoned the undertaking.

Junia Sperry, Robert Crooks, and Millard & Smith built a steam gristmill at Dover Center in 1856, and in 1863 sold it to Kirk & Reublin, from whom it passed into the possession of Lilly & Carpenter, the present owners. It contains two run of burrs, and is the only gristmill in the township. Fauver & Hurst Brothers have a "bending factory" and sawmill, (the latter built by Philo Beach, in 1850), about a mile southwest of Dover Center. They employ six men, and manufacture felloes, sleigh runners, shafts, etc.

GRAPE CULTURE.

Grape growing is largely followed on the lake shore in Dover, and some wine is also made there. Henry Wischmeyer came out from Cleveland in 1874, and began to raise grapes upon a tract of fifty acres, now occupied by him. He set out but two acres the first year, but gradually extended his vineyard until now he has twenty-three acres planted in grapes. In 1874 he built upon his land a wine cellar with a capacity of ten thousand gallons, and manufactures considerable wine every year. Numerous varieties of grapes are cultivated, of which the chief are the Catawba, Delaware and Concord.

The pioneer enterprise, however, in the direction of extensive grape culture in Dover, was set on foot in 1865, by the Dover Bay Grape and Wine Company, organized in that year for the purpose of growing the grape in Dover township. Dr. J. P. Dake was the president; R. R. Herrick the vice president, and Dr. D. H. Beckwith, the secretary and treasurer. The original purchase of land included two hundred and ten acres,

situated in Dover, on the lake shore. The capital of the company, fixed at the outset at thirty thousand dollars, was three years later increased to sixty thousand dollars. Fifteen acres were set out with grapes the first year, and since then the area has been gradually extended until now upwards of ninety acres are under cultivation and the annual yield of grapes amounts to one hundred tons. The yield includes all the varieties raised in the northern climate. The company has a capacious wine cellar in Dover and much excellent wine is manufactured yearly. The financial headquarters are in Cleveland; the present officers being R. R. Herrick, president; A. K. Spencer, vice president; and Geo. P. Smith, secretary and treasurer. Grape-growing is also carried on all along the Dover lake shore, but the business - save in the instances above alluded to, is confined to limited individual efforts.

STONE QUARRIES.

An excellent quality of building stone, much used in the township and elsewhere, is found in the southwest part of Dover where the quarries of E. C. Harris and Wm. Geiger have long yielded large supplies although the former quarry is at present not worked to any great extent.

*There seems to have been a good deal of building and raising on the lake shore that day. One lot of men were finishing the court-house at Cleveland; another was raising a barn in Euclid; Mr. Cahoon and his friends were raising a grist-mill in Dover, and there were perhaps other instances, of which we have not heard.

Dover 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/140/mode/2up

We are writing of the extreme northwest part of Cuyahoga County, number 7, range 15, in the original survey, now twenty-five square miles. We say now, because when this number of range 15 was organized as a township, its jurisdiction extended west twenty-five miles even to the "Fire Lands." Thus was the protecting hand of the local government extended into otherwise unorganized territory. At the first election for township officers, voters outside the present boundaries of the township participated. The boundaries are, west, Lorain County; north, Lake Erie; east, Rockport, and south, Olmsted. This is an agricultural, a fruit growing section. It has good roads and the Lake Shore Electric Railroad from Cleveland to Detroit passes through the township. Fine residences dot the northern part along the lake and land that sold in pioneer days for \$1.25 an acre now sells for double that per foot. The streams are small, affording feeble water power, but they were harnessed when the settlers came and ran the mills that were a great boon to the first comers. Hubbard and Stowe were the purchasers from the Connecticut Land Company and they figure in the history of Dover merely as such, never coming to their possessions in the West, but leaving the business in the hands of Dams Kelley, their agent. The first settler was Joseph Cahoon, who came from Vergennes, Vermont, with his wife and seven children, arriving October 10, 1810. Mr. Cahoon brought the family in a wagon drawn by four horses and brought a fifth horse, which was ridden by the girls in turn. In this way they relieved the tediousness of the long journey. They located at a creek which has ever since been called Cahoon Creek. Arriving, the first thing was the building of a log house, which was finished in four days, the women sleeping in the wagon box while the building was under construction. There was no delay. No strikes and no conflicts between the various trades employed in the construction, delayed its completion. The man who swung the ax and the mason who built the chimney worked in harmony, for the two trades were combined. The material men had no schedule of prices. The stones from the creek and the logs from the woods were free. The tea kettle brought from Connecticut by the Cahoon was preserved by Joel B. Cahoon and at the first celebration of the first settlement by the Cahoon Pioneer Association, which was held on the spot where the log house was built, October 10, 1860, fifty years afterwards, tea for dinner was steeped in it and they served also pies made from apples picked from the first apple tree set out in the township. The Cahoon Pioneer Association held annual meetings for many years attended by members of the family and their friends. In 1878, 120 were present. These meetings were held on October 10th for some years and then changed to October 28th, the birthday of Joseph Cahoon. He built the first gristmill west of the Cuyahoga River and it was raised on September 10, 1813, the day of Perry's victory on Lake Erie. On that day also, in the county, a barn was raised in Euclid Township, a large party attending the raising, the workmen were just finishing the courthouse at Cleveland, and to make the day complete this gristmill was raised on Cahoon Creek. Joseph Cahoon and his son, Joel B., quarried two millstones on the creek at North Dover for the mill. These are preserved as relics of the olden time and were in the possession of the family for many years. Joseph Cahoon built a sawmill nearby on the creek and when the raising of peaches had progressed beyond the needs of the home market, set up a distillery for the manufacture of peach brandy. In 1818 Joseph built a very pretentious frame house on the premises, which was later occupied by Joel Cahoon, his son.

The Cahoons became first settlers only by a scratch for on the afternoon of the day they came, October 10, 1810, Ashahel Porter and family came and with them Leverett Johnson, a nephew, who lived with the family in Connecticut. Johnson was only seventeen when they came to Dover. Porter built a log house on lot 94, near the lake, which was later occupied by Charles Hassler. Lake Erie has been constantly

encroaching on the land, and the site where stood the log house built by Porter has been washed into the lake. Quite early in the history of the pioneer experience of this family, the Porters, a tragedy is recorded. In 1814, Mrs. Porter with an infant child and accompanied by Noah Crocker and George Smith, journeyed to Cleveland in an open boat. On the return trip they were overtaken by a storm and as they were attempting to turn in at Rocky River all were drowned but Crocker. Mr. Porter remained in Dover for a time after this tragedy. He kept a store on the shore of the lake and was postmaster in 1815. Later he moved to Rockport, but the family was represented in Dover by a daughter, Mrs. Catherine Foot, who lived past three score and ten there. Of the boy, Leverett Johnson, who came with the Porters, a record is preserved of his descendants. While living with the Porter family he began clearing land some distance away, on lot 58. We say living with the Porters but he only came home to spend the weekend, to use the modern phrase. During the week he lived alone in the wilderness, not disturbed, as was Daniel Boone, who, when a family settled within a mile or two of him, said it was getting too crowded and moved on. Johnson admitted it was sometimes darned lonesome. The first season, his home was a bark roof set against an old log of great size. He was not disturbed by the Indians, who were friendly and sometimes helped him in his work, and he kept the wild beasts away by a fire at night. What kept him at his task, what made the burdens of this life endurable, this lonely strenuous battle in the wilderness? The love of woman. He was carving a home in the forest and battling for her as men have endured, not always in the same way, but for the love of woman. In 1814 he married Abigail Cahoon and took her to the new log house, which he built that year. Johnson became prominent in the new community. He was justice of the peace from 1827 to 1833 and served five terms in the Legislature of the State of Ohio. He died in 1856 in his sixty second year. He was the first director of the Dover Academy, of which we will speak further on. As a legislator he had a varied experience. He began December 4, 1837, when Governor Joseph Vance was in office and Peter Hitchcock and Reuben Wood on the Supreme bench. At this session of the Legislature imprisonment for debt was abolished. The next session was held December 3, 1838. Wilson Shannon was governor. Mr. Johnson served again in 1840 when Thomas Corwin was governor and John Brough was auditor of state. The legislative records of this session recite the fact that in receiving the notice of his election, Governor Corwin made a felicitous speech. In the forty seventh General Assembly, which convened December 4, 1848, Mr. Johnson was an influential member of the House. Seabury Ford was governor. In the Senate there was a turmoil over the canvass of the vote and there were stormy scenes in both houses. At this time the vote for state officers was canvassed by the two branches of the General Assembly. Two members of the Free-Soil party were elected to the Legislature and the whigs and democrats were evenly divided on joint ballot and the election of a United States senator was coming up. The vote in the organization of the House and Senate was disturbed by a contention over the seating of two men from Hamilton County. The Senate after much discussion and many ballots were taken finally perfected an organization but the House organization was more difficult. Upon a call forty-two members responded and thirty-two failed to respond, less than a constitutional quorum responding as present. These forty-two and thirty-two factions each attempted an organization, Benjamin F. Leiter presiding over the forty-two and A. T. Holcomb over the thirty-two. These two rival Houses did not come together until January 3, 1849. The vote for speaker at that time on the first and second ballots stood Leverett Johnson, thirty-four, John G. Breslin, thirty-four, scattering two. On the third ballot Mr. Breslin was elected, receiving thirty-seven to Mr. Johnson's thirty-three. The Dover man was not elected speaker but he had received a high compliment in a stormy period. Mr. Johnson again served in the fifty second Assembly, when Salmon P. Chase was governor, who was elected by a small majority over Henry B. Payne of Cleveland. This session began in 1856. Mr. Johnson died while serving on this, his fifth term in the House.

In 1811 Philo Taylor settled in the town. He built the first sawmill and opened the first tavern but stayed only a few years. Dr. John Taylor came from Rockport in 1813. He was the first physician, but had some

peculiar theories. One of them was in regard to treatment for consumption or tuberculosis as it is now called. He contended that daily exercises of a character that would bring into play the muscles of the chest would bring a cure. His wife was afflicted with the disease and he kept her at daily exercise, swinging a flatiron in each hand, but the treatment was not a success and she died. Whether he clung to his theory after that is not recorded. He moved to Carlisle, Ohio, and later to Wisconsin, where he died. Joseph Stocking of Ashfield, Massachusetts, bought a farm in Dover and with his uncle, Jonathan Smith, came to his new possessions in 1811. He went back to Massachusetts and postponed his return until after the War of 1812. In 1815 he returned with quite a delegation, his wife and five children, Nehemiah Porter, John Smith, Asa Blood, Was Porter, Jesse Lilly and Royal Holden, all relatives. He lived on the farm to the good old age of ninety-five years. Jesse Lilly settled on North Ridge and then moved to the south part of the township. John Smith bought on lot 55 and Royal Holden about a mile west of the present Dover Center. Asa Blood built a log tavern and replaced it in after years by a brick hotel, which was located on the same site. In later years this hotel was kept by Philip Phillips. Dover in its pioneer period was more favored in the way of mail facilities than many other townships. In 1825 with Asa Blood as postmaster it had mail three times a week. A mail stage driven by a Mr. Wolverton from Cleveland to Elyria never missed the post office at Dover Center and it found Postmaster Blood on the job. Nehemiah Porter with his wife, two children and Wells Porter, a bachelor relative, settled on lot 45. Ebenezer Porter came in 1816. Of this family all remained in Dover except Wells Porter, who after settling for some years on a farm of his own, moved to Cleveland. Jedediah Crocker of Lee, Massachusetts, bought in Dover and in June, 1811, came west as far as Euclid. He remained there while his son Noah with a wife and three children came on to Dover and began clearing on his father's land. After a time, he found work in Elyria and worked there from time to time while clearing on his father's farm. This he found more remunerative than farming, and when in 1816 Jedediah came on to Dover with his family, he had sold all the land he bought from Hubbard and Stowe of Connecticut except two lots. He sold for \$1.25 per acre, what it cost him. When he came his nearest neighbors were Barnabas Hall, Thomas Foot, Sylvanus Phinney, Bernard Case, Jesse Lilly, Jonathan Smith, and Harry and Jasper Taylor. In 1810 Moses Hall of Lee, Massachusetts, bought 2,100 acres of land in Dover and the same year moved with his wife and twelve children to Ashtabula. Of the Dover land he gave each of his seven sons 100 acres and each daughter fifty acres. Two of his sons, Barnabas and James and a married daughter with her husband settled in Dover in 1811. Barnabas was located on a farm on lot 62 where he spent his life and was succeeded by his son Charles. James in 1821 returned to Ashtabula. Nathan Bassett lived on lot 82. He had a turning lathe and made chairs. He was known as a great hunter and was a successful bee culturist, an important avocation in the days before the great sugar centrals supplied the world with sugar. He was killed by lightning in 1842 while at work in his barn. But to return to the Hall family, Nancy, another daughter of Moses Hall, who had married David Ingersoll, settled on lot 37 in Dover in 1820. The couple had seven children and outlived them all, he dying in 1879 at the age of eighty-three, and she the same year at about the same age. Another son of Moses Hall, Charles, with his wife, came to Dover in the '20s and settled on lot 48. They had two children, Reuben and Z S Hall. - Of Reuben we will speak in another place. Another pioneer family, Jesse Atwell, with wife and five children from Steuben County, New York, arrived in 1817. They reached Cleveland July 4 and pushed on to Dover, making the trip from Cleveland in a day and a half. They saw only one frame house on the way. Atwell bought lot 68 of Moses Hall. At the end of five years, he bought lot 69 of the original owners, Hubbard and Stowe, for \$4.20 per acre, thus showing that the price of land had advanced since the first sales in the township. Atwell remained on the farm until his death in 1875 at the age of eighty-nine. Amos Sperry came with his family from Oneida, New York, in 1815 and bought lot 60 of Lyman Root, who moved to Ridgeville. Sperry opened a blacksmith shop and tavern in 1818, but he put up no tavern sign till 1824. Supposedly the customers at the blacksmith shop sufficiently advertised the tavern before that time. Believing as Washington said that "agriculture is the most healthful, most useful, most noble employment of man," he in a few years

dropped the shop and the tavern and farmed it until his death in 1848 at the age of eighty-seven. The old tavern sign has been kept in the family as a souvenir of pioneer days. His son, Amos R. Sperry, who came a year before him, also lived out his life on the farm leaving a descendant, Junia Sperry. Amos R. Sperry married the widow of Junia Beach of Elyria. She survived her husband many years, living to be 100 years old. Other families that came early were those of Jason Bradley, John Wolf, Jethro Butler, Aaron Aldrich, Lyman Root, Eber Loomis and Joseph Root.

Sylvanus Smith was the first settler at Dover Center and built a house there at a point that was later occupied by a store. Asa Blood, who kept the first tavern at the Center, married a sister of Sylvanus Smith. Other sisters married Ansel Rice and Asher Cooley, Dover pioneers. Smith built several houses at the Center, having faith in its future. In 1816 James Case with wife and nine children came from Ashfield, Massachusetts, and settled on the North Ridge, west of Cahoon Creek. He built a sawmill there but died in two years leaving a son, Bernard Case, upon whom devolved the care of the family. Bernard finally gave up the pioneer business and went back to New York. Another son, Osborn Case, went to Rockport in 1832. The James Case mentioned was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. During his short life in Dover, he worked as cooper, miller and farmer. Sumner Adams should be mentioned, who came with Case in 1816, was a blacksmith in Dover for four years and then returned to New England. In 1826 Joseph Porter came from Ashfield, Massachusetts, with his wife and four children, Jemima, John, Leonard and Rebecca. At this period in our history the age of progress was dawning. They came in style, took the Erie Canal to Buffalo, boat by lake to Cleveland, and stage to Dover. The Porter family have been identified so intimately with the history of Dover that it may not be uninteresting to trace back along the line. Some 300 years ago, but after the Pilgrim Fathers had set the example, the first Porter, Samuel, came from England and landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts. Like many of the pioneer families in Cuyahoga County, this one of whom Samuel Porter was the head, was characterized by long life and large families. Samuel Porter moved from Plymouth to Beverly. Here Samuel Porter, second, married Lydia Herrick of Beverly. His son Nehemiah married Hannah Smith of Beverly. The next in line was Nehemiah II, born at Ipswich. He graduated at Harvard in 1745, married Rebecca Chapman of Beverly, was Congregational minister at Ipswich, and lived to lack twenty-one days of being 100 years old. It seemed to be the passion in those days to go to Beverly for a wife. I know of no such book but it occurs to the writer that "The Belles of Beverly" would be a good title for a story. Joseph Porter, whom we have mentioned as coming to Dover in 1826 with his wife and four children, was the son of the minister, Nehemiah II. His family increased to eleven, of whom L. G. Porter, long prominent in the Dover community, was the tenth. He was the eighth son and tenth child. L. G. Porter married in 1838 Catherine Stevens, daughter of Rev. Solomon Stevens, Congregational minister of Dover. Mr. Porter was justice of the peace in Dover for six years, and held other positions of trust. By his will, which was probate after his death in 1884, he left \$1,000 for establishing a library in Dover. A charter was procured from the state on application of the following charter members: Dr. J. M. Lathrop, A. S. Cooley, R. A. Hall, F. J. Rose, T. H. Hurst and J. N. Hurst. The Dover Literary Society, an organization of young people, having the nucleus of a library, joined in, and the library was established under the name of the Porter Library and Literary Association of Dover. A building and lot was purchased and by petition of citizens a legislative act was passed authorizing the levy of two tenths of a mill on the taxable property of the township for the support of the library. Thus, was established a valuable adjunct to the schools and asset to the community. Among the early settlers, the Cooley family have contributed to the sum of Dover's influence in the county. Two members have served in the State Legislature and it has been identified in local affairs of the township. In tracing the lineage in brief, we find that Robert Cooley, or Cook, as it was sometimes written, came to America from Ipswich, England, in 1634. He had three sons, of whom Benjamin, born in 1619, was the youngest. Benjamin with his wife, Sarah, were among the first settlers of Springfield, Massachusetts. He was an ensign in King Phillip's war against the white settlers. They had eight children, of whom Obadiah, born in 1646, was the

second. In 1670 Obadiah married Rebecca Williams of Springfield. Their family consisted of seven children and Obadiah Cooley II was the fourth, born in 1675. This Obadiah took a wife in 1702, whose maiden name was Dorcas Hale. They had six children. Noah, the second, born in 1706, married and moved to Palmer, Massachusetts. Their family consisted of six also. One son, Asher, was a member of a company of Minute Men, who marched from Palmer to Lexington, where occurred the first bloodshed of the Revolutionary war, and Noah II, the first born, was also a soldier in that war. This Noah Cooley, named for his father, married Esther Hyde of Monson, Massachusetts, and moved to Hawley. Their children numbered five and Asher, among the first settlers of Dover, was the fourth born. Asher married Lydia Smith, whose birthplace was Chatham, Ontario. Their typical pioneer family numbered ten and John M. Cooley was the youngest member. John M., besides being active in township affairs in Dover, served as a member of the Sixty first General Assembly of Ohio. At this session Allen G. Thurman was elected United States senator and William Allen was governor of Ohio. John M. Cooley was married in 1854 to Lucy Seymour, who had come from Connecticut to Ohio some time before. They had three children of whom Hon. A. S. Cooley, now serving his second term in the Ohio Legislature, was the first born. After the death of his father, Deacon Asher Cooley, J. M. Cooley occupied the old homestead, and now after some years of residence in Cleveland, the grandson, Hon. A. S. Cooley, or Doctor Cooley, as he is more frequently called, from his profession, has moved to the homestead in Dover and fitted it up with modern conveniences.

Reuben Hall of Dover in 1910 published "Reminiscences of Dover Pioneer Life." He said: "After the township had been partially settled there were four principal roads running through the town, east and west, and nearly parallel with each other. These were the Lake Shore, the North Ridge, the Middle Ridge, and the Coe Ridge roads. Between 1830 and 1850 there was a large emigration from the eastern to the western states. The principal line of travel was the Middle Ridge. The log school where I went to school was on this road, and it was a common sight to see the covered wagons of the emigrants passing by. There were also two or three lines of stage coaches with their loads of passengers and mail going each way daily, with four and sometimes six horses attached. The large amount of travel required many hotels or taverns, as they were called in those days. After leaving Cleveland there was the Bullshead Tavern, then a little farther west Young's Hotel, then the Brooklyn House, then the Rockport House, and at Rocky River the Wright House (now Silverthorn's), then the Telegraph House, and getting into Dover was one kept by old Granger Sperry and at Dover Center there were three, one kept by Job Smith, one by a Mr. Boone, and the other where the post office was kept, by Asa Blood. The latter was where the stage horses were changed for fresh ones to continue their course to Elyria, Toledo and Detroit. Some of the families who have lived in Dover and with whom I have been partially or intimately acquainted, are the following: The Cahoons, the Saddlers, the Fouts, Aldrichs, Bassetts, Browns, Atwells, Clagues, Clemans, Phinneys, Bradleys, Hursts, Crockers, Halls, Stockings, Smiths, Millards, Sperrys, Coes, Hands, Austins, Roses, Taylors, Johnsons, Ingersolls, Cooleys, and many others. The older members of these families have all passed away, and of the next generation and their descendants there are but few remaining. There is one family which I have not mentioned, the Lilly family. There were at one time six brothers by the name of Lilly living in Dover and all but one had large families. Today there is not one in the township by the name of Lilly, and but two who ever bore the name, Mrs. Ann Eliza Saddler and my wife, Mrs. Hall. Uncle Barney Hall and his wife, Aunt Hannah, came to Dover in 1811 and commenced pioneer life in their little log cabin. On September 28, 1812, while Uncle Barney was away and Aunt Hannah had gone to visit a sick neighbor, their log house was burned down. As the Indians were frequent callers and knew that there was a good supply of pewter dishes in the log cabin, it was supposed that they had taken the dishes and then set fire to the house to conceal their crime. Undaunted by this calamity, Aunt Hannah established her kitchen in the hollow of a sycamore stub, from which place she served refreshments at

the building of the new log house, having fresh white ash chips for plates and using the handleless knives and forks raked from the ruins."

The first postmaster in North Dover was Asahel Porter, who kept a store on the lake shore near Avon in 1815. After him in the order named were Reuben Osborn, Eli Clemens, Calvin Phinney, ancestor of Benjamin Phinney, who was county commissioner of Cuyahoga County, a Dover resident, and Daniel Brown, who was there in the '70s. Asa Blood, whom we have mentioned as postmaster at Dover Center, was succeeded by Marius Moore and he by Hon. J. M. Cooley. A post office was started at Coe Ridge in 1843 with A. M. Coe, who settled there in 1823, as postmaster. It had an uncertain tenure. In 1864 it was moved to Olmsted, brought back in 1867 and removed again to Olmsted in 1874.

Surveyed township number 7 of range 15 was owned as we have said by Nehemiah Hubbard and Josiah Stowe. The township organization as erected November 4, 1811, embraced in addition to number 6, range 15, all of number 7, range 18, east of Black River. On March 6, 1812, it was ordered that all that tract of land lying west of the Township of Dover and west of number 6 of range 16 and east of the east line of the Fire Lands, so called, and north of township 5 in ranges 17, 18 and 19, be and they are annexed to Dover. The first election was held at the house of Philo Taylor April 6, 1812. Eighteen votes were cast by the following electors: Philo Taylor, George Kelso, John Jordon, John Brittle, Noah Davis, Andrew Kelso, Timothy Wallace, David Smith, Joseph Cahoon, Joseph Quigley, Ralph Lyon, Joseph Root, Jonathan Seeley, Moses Eldred, Azariah Beebe, Lyman Root, Asahel Porter and Daniel Perry. Some of these first voters came as far as Black River. There is no record or tradition as to the selection of the name for the township. The officers selected at this first meeting were: Clerk of the township, Asahel Porter; trustees, Daniel Perry, Joseph Quigley and Asahel Porter; overseers of the poor, Asahel Porter, Joseph Cahoon and Azariah Beebe; fence viewers, Andrew Kelso and Moses Eldred; lister and appraiser, Jonathan Seeley; supervisors of roads, a large number because of the added territory, Noah Davis, Ralph Lyon, Moses Eldred, Sylvanus Fleming, Daniel Brittle and Lyman Post; treasurer Philo Taylor; constables, Jonathan Seeley and Philo Taylor. An election for justice of the peace was held May 16th and John S. Reed elected as the first justice. Among those who have served as township officers for the first half century and more are: Trustees, Daniel Perry, Joseph Quigley, Asahel Porter, Nathan Bassett, Noah Crocker, Jonathan Taylor, John Turner, Amos R. Sperry, Wilbur Cahoon, Datus Kelley, Joseph Stocking, Asa Blood, Henry Taylor, Leverett Johnson, Samuel Crocker, John Smith, Amos Cahoon, Thomas Foot, David Ingersoll, Asher M. Coe, Rial Holden, Charles Hall, Austin Lilly, Arza Dickinson, Aaron Aldrich, A. S. Farr, Joseph Brown, Benjamin Reed, Alfred Willard, William Saddler, N. Coburn, S. U. Towner, Henry Winsor, Marius Moore, C. H. Tobey, Charles H. Hall, R. G. McCarty, C. E. Barnum, R. H. Knight, Edwin Farr, N. H. Austin, G. W. Laughlin, Reuben Hall, Josiah Hurst, Dennis Dow, Clark Smith. S. L. Beebe; clerks, Asahel Porter, John Turner, Noah Crocker, Thomas Foot, Samuel Crocker, John F. Smith, Asa Blood, Wills Porter, Jason Bradley, Eli Clemens, Austin Lilly, E. T. Smith, W. Porter, J. M. Bradley, Leverett Johnson, A. A. Lilly and John Wilson. Treasurer, Philo Taylor, Leverett Johnson, Thomas Foot, Samuel Crocker, Jedediah Crocker, Henry Taylor, Noah Crocker, Joseph Stocking, Hiram Smith, Asher Cooley, L. G. Porter, Marius Moore, Edwin Coe, D. W. Porter, Lester Simons, Jonathan Spencer. The township of Dover is no longer in existence as such. The territory after being reduced to its normal size, just embracing number 6, range 15, has been divided into two villages, Dover Village and Bay Village. Bay Village includes the northern portion of the original township and includes all of the lake front property, the balance is included in Dover Village. The township organization is no more. In Bay Village are many fine residences along the lake shore. The present officers of Dover Village are: Mayor, R. Sneddin; clerk, C. L. Hopkins; treasurer, Eugene Hickin; assessor, Henry Wulf; council, F. S. Boone, Mart Limpert, Casper Wuebker, H. H. Power, A. L. Tanner and S. A. Sperry. The officers of Bay Village are: Mayor, Walter, E. Wright; clerk, Jesse L. Saddler; treasurer, A. K. Glendenning; marshal, C. M. Geyer; council, I. C. Powell, Henry Koch, William J. Blaha, C.

E. Osborn, Harry Drake and Robert Hassler. The reader will look in vain for any names among the officers of these villages suggestive of the early pioneer families. They did their work and now in these later days and in this newer era of wonderful advancement the burdens are turned over to other hands. The families of the pioneers are widely scattered.

Reuben Hall, in his reminiscences, states that his father and mother after their marriage in 1819 put their household goods and a stock of provisions for the winter in an ox cart drawn by two yoke of oxen and with a boy to drive or help drive, started for their new home in the wilderness of Dover. After getting to Dover, his father had only 50 cents left, and 25 of this he gave to the boy to take him back to Ashtabula with one of the yoke of oxen. He had left not an extravagant sum with which to begin housekeeping, at least for a newly married couple. In 1825 the forest was dotted with clearings and log cabins. Valuable timber must be destroyed before the pioneer could raise anything to live upon. There was no market for lumber and no mills to cut it. The cutting down of trees was usually done in winter. They were cut into log lengths and piled into heaps for burning. As it required three men and an ox team to do this work, neighbors would change works, helping each other, one to drive the ox team and haul the logs together and two to pile the logs in heaps for burning. When the field, which had been chopped over was finished, the log heaps were fired, and it was a beautiful sight in the evening to see the glowing light which was cast on the surrounding forest. The cleared field was surrounded by a rail fence, the rails being made from selected logs, which were free to split. The pioneer then had a hard task to get in the seed for the first two or three crops for the land could not be plowed on account of the stumps and roots, and he had to take his ox team, hitch to a three-cornered drag, and loosen the ground as well as he could. The planting of fruit trees in Dover, like that in other townships of the County, began early, but, on account of the nearness to the lake, the raising of grapes soon led all the rest. This increased until at one time Dover was the second largest shipping point for grapes in the United States, being exceeded only by Euclid in the northeast part of the county.

The market in Cleveland for potash was a great boon to the first settlers here as in other townships. For a time about the only product that could be turned into money was potash. There were two asheries started quite early in Dover. John Rose opened one at his home and Philip Phillips in another part of the township. We have explained the method of marketing this product and its commercial value in the chapter on Strongsville. Rose and Phillips would gather up the ashes where the log heaps were burned with a team and wagon and haul them to the ashery for leaching. Then the lye was boiled in large iron kettles. Mr. Rose would drive even to Olmsted, Middleburg, and Rockport for ashes. In the new community many small industries sprang up to meet the needs of the settlers. These gradually disappeared as transportation facilities made possible the centralization in larger communities with the application of improved machinery. Amos Sperry Sr. made the nails used in building a barn, in his blacksmith shop. Naturally such a nail factory would give way quickly to machine methods but the barn went up with hand wrought nails. Edwin Hall had a cooper shop where he made barrels of many kinds including pounding barrels for domestic laundry work. The demand for the latter was often greater than his ability to supply the commodity. An industry somewhat short lived grew out of the discovery of iron ore beds in the township. In 1832 Tilden and Morley had a furnace and iron ware manufactory near where the ore beds were found. They had a store also and employed altogether twelve men. The furnace stood on the spot that was later the residence of Junius Sperry. Tilden and Morley sold to the Cuyahoga Furnace Company and in 1843 the plant was destroyed by fire. Benjamin Reed rebuilt in 1848, but he had only operated a short time when the supply of ore was exhausted. Thus ended the iron business in Dover. The passing of the iron industry was followed by the passing of the gristmill that most important factor in pioneer days.

Up to the year 1856 there were several grist mills in the township operated by water power. The small creeks flowing into the lake had sufficient fall to provide for operating the overshot wheel. In 1854 Junia Sperry, Robert Crooks and Millard and Smith, built a steam gristmill. This they sold to Garret Reublin and John Kirk. Afterwards the property was acquired by E. Carpenter and O. Lilly. They did a large business for several years. After another transfer to a Mr. Murphy, it burned down. This was in 1890. In 1892 William Glasgow and his brother bought the mill site and built a new mill thereon installing a roller process for making flour and special machinery for grinding feed. This mill passed to several owners and then the fatality that had followed the locality came again and on November 23, 1811 it was totally destroyed by fire. The township and the gristmill, its early benefactor, have both passed away. Fauver and Hart built a bending factory about a mile southwest of Dover Center in 1850. They manufactured felloes, sleigh runners, and shafts. This was in operation in the '80s but as Mr. Hall makes no mention of it in his Dover book, we assume that it has gone the way of other small industries that have been supplanted by the greater ones, whose customers are nation and worldwide.

The religious history of Dover begins with the transplanting of a sprout from New England. In 1811 a Congregational Church was organized in Lee, Massachusetts, with eight members, Jedediah Crocker, Sarah Crocker, his wife, Lydia, wife of Moses Hall, Katy Crosby, wife of Jedediah, Jonathan Smith and wife and Abner Smith and his wife. All but Mrs. Hall came to Dover, and, soon after their arrival, this organization was kept up under the name of the Congregational Church of Dover. They had no minister but conducted their own services and their numbers increased until in 1822 a log church was built. After some years the log church was burned and then services were held in Joseph Stocking's barn and in the town house, until a frame house was erected. In 1840, this church split on the slavery question. A part of the membership holding that slavery was a divine institution authorized and sanctioned by the teachings of the bible, and the others holding a different view. Of the divided membership, one congregation held meetings in the church building and the other in the town house. This state of affairs continued for seven years and then the two bodies came together and reorganized as the Second Congregational Church of Dover, having at that time fifty-one members. Now the slavery question seems to have been withdrawn as a bone of contention but the doctrine of election, and preordination, was much discussed. Says Mr. Hall: "At the session of the Sunday school the older members would take part, Deacon Osborn, Sr., Nehemiah Porter and others on the affirmative, and Deacon Ingersoll and Deacon Millard and others taking the negative. These discussions were very animated and attended with some heat." In this connection Mr. Hall speaks of the revival meetings held in Dover by President Charles Finney of Oberlin College. He says: "Mr. Finney was of the fire and brimstone order of preachers and he did not fail to give emphasis to the doctrine of hell and the devil. This was before there were any church buildings and he went with his tent to different towns and set it up to hold meetings." Mr. Hall speaks of Mr. Finney as president of Oberlin College, but he was not connected with the college until 1851. There is an old record of this first religious organization which says: "Congregational Society, organized December 12th, for the support of the Gospel, 1818," the membership list is Noah Crocker, Nehemiah Porter, David Ingersoll, John Smith, Jesse Lilly, Asher Cooley, Wells Porter, Jonathan Smith, Sylvanus Phinney, Jedediah Crocker, Dennis Taylor, Barnabas Hall, James Hall, Samuel Crocker and Solomon Ketchum. Another record recites: "First Congregational Society, incorporated February 2, 1831; incorporators, Calvin Phinney, Sylvanus Crocker, Josiah Hurst and Reuben Osborn."

A Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at Dover Center in 1825. The first meetings were held in houses and barns and no church building was erected until 1853. William Dempsey, James Elliott and Jerome Beardslee were trustees in the '70s. Another church of the same denomination was organized in a schoolhouse on the lake shore in 1827 by Rev. Eliphalet Johnson, brother of Leverett Johnson. It started with only six members and has never had a large membership, but in 1840 a church building was

erected. Reverend Johnson preached until 1842 and was succeeded by circuit preachers. The First Baptist Church was organized February 24, 1836 with the following membership: Aaron Aldrich and wife, William W. and Julia Aldrich, Jesse Atwell and wife, and four others. This church began its meetings in the schoolhouse and nine years later built a church at North Dover. It continued in existence ten years more when services were discontinued. Among those who conducted the meetings were Elders Dimmick of Olmsted, Wire of Rockport and Lockwood of Perry. The last settled pastor was Reverend Newton. The church building was burned in 1878. Another church was formed in Dover in pioneer days that gave expression to those wishing that form of worship but which has since been abandoned. St. John's Episcopal Church was organized in 1837 and a church building was put up at Dover Center that year. Five years after there was only a scattered membership including Charles Hall, Weller Dean Jesse Lilly, Austin Lilly and Albanus Lilly. Weller Dean was lay reader, and a settled minister, Reverend Granville, preached for a time. Much consolation must have been derived from the assurance that "where two or three are gathered together, etc." The little church organization dissolved in 1850. In 1858 a German Lutheran Church was organized and the members at the start were J. H. Lindemeyer, F. H. Hencke, F. Mathews, H. Luocke, J. H. Trast, William Schmidt, J. H. Weihmann and August Warnecke. They first held their meetings in the Baptist Church at North Dover. A schoolhouse was built by the congregation, which was used as a church for several years. In 1877 a church building was erected at a cost of \$4,000. The trustees at that time being H. H. Reinkal, G. Meyer and Christian Koch.

The first school teacher in Dover so far as any information can be obtained, was Betsey Crocker, who taught in a log schoolhouse on the lake shore in 1816. This was before any school districts were formed but after the organization of the township it was a public school. Philena Crocker, sister of Betsey, taught there at the age of fourteen. There was a man teacher also, for Wells Porter wielded the switch and ferrule in the same locality. In 1826, there were seventy householders in the township and it was divided into five school districts and a schoolhouse was built in each. The number of sub districts was increased with increasing population. In 1880 the school enumeration of the township was 672. The secular school connected with the German Lutheran Church had at that time 115 pupils. It began with thirty-three pupils. The schools are now operated by separate school boards, Bay Village at the north constituting one school district and Dover Village the other. Parkview school in Baby Village accommodates all in the district. It employs six teachers, has an enrollment of 165 pupils, and is under the supervision of H. H. Wiggins. The schools of Dover Village are all in one large commodious building located at the Center. L. E. Hayes is the superintendent. There are twelve teachers and they have 360 pupils enrolled. The methods employed in districts in the rural parts of the county, that involve the transportation of the distant pupils in busses to the schools, are employed in these school districts.

In discussing the schools of Dover mention should be made of the Dover Academy. In 1845 John Wilson, a graduate of Oberlin College, built a building and opened a school under that name a mile and a half southwest of Dover Center. Success attended the school and in 1852 it was moved to the Center. The citizens being greatly interested organized a corporation and erected a building on what was later a part of the fairgrounds. The name of the corporation was the Dover Academical Association. Wilson, the successful teacher, was retained as principal from the first and remained in charge until 1860. The public schools in the meantime had grown to greater efficiency and were very highly regarded and the academy only continued two years after the first principal ceased his labors there. The abandoned building was afterwards used by the officers of the Dover Fair Association. The first directors of the academy were, Leverett Johnson, L. G. Porter, and Benjamin Reed. The fair association was organized in 1850 and land bought by money advanced by Josiah Hurst, S. L. Beebe, and J. Coles. The property purchased was a little north of the Center. Annual fairs were held here from the date of the organization of the association and they grew in popularity from year to year. People from all parts of the county attended and it was one of

the occasions that many never failed to take advantage of, regardless of weather or conditions. Have you been to the Dover Fair? was a question often propounded. Julius Fan was president of the association in 1880 and they continued to hold these annual meetings for some time afterwards.

Dover has not been devoid of fraternal orders and like her sister townships they were diversified. Dover Lodge of the Odd Fellows, No. 393, had as charter members, John Kirk, William B. Delford, C. D. Knapp, A. P. Smith, S. Bradford, C. L. Underhill, A. Wolf, P. W. Barton, W. W. Mead, A. S. Porter, Junia Sperry, J. Beardsley, D. B. Wright, and D. H. Perry. At the close of the '70s the officers were, Perry Powell, James L. Hand, James Beardsley, Benjamin Chappel and Frank Baker. This lodge and the township jointly built a building to be used as town hall and lodge room at a cost of \$6,000 in 1873. Northwest Encampment, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized July 1, 1875. The charter members were Alfred Wolf, Alfred Bates, L. J. Cahoon, Van Ness Moore, Philip Phillips, Perry Powell, and Frank Baker. A little later the officers were Philip Phillips, Perry Powell, Jerome Beardsley, John Morrissey, and F. W. Guild. The Star Lodge of the Daughters of Rebecca was organized with sixteen charter members in 1871. The officers in 1879 were John Griffin, Mrs. Murry Farr, Mrs. John Griffin, Benjamin Chappel and Mrs. Maitland Beebe. Dover Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, No. 489, organized with the list of charter members as follows: D. R. Watson, L. M. Coe, G. Reublin, John Kirk, John Jordan, E. S. Lewis, J. L. Hand, S. Barry, William Lewis, G. Pease, and William Sprague. There were others, including the Temperance League and the Dover Cornet Band, which in the township, as in other townships, was a musical and social organization. Some of these have ceased to exist and others remain as a part of the social life of today.

Reuben Hall has furnished an interesting account of the blast furnace previously mentioned, which comes from personal knowledge as a resident of the township for the period of the ordinary human life: "One of the largest industries which was ever undertaken in Dover was a blast furnace for making pig iron, which was made from bog ore, and this ore was found at different places on the north side of the middle ridge road between Rocky River and Elyria. The promoters of the enterprise were Doctor Tilden, of Ohio City, and Mr. Morley, a relative of the Morley who used to have a factory for the making of white lead, which was located at the junction of Canal and Champlain streets in Cleveland. It was supposed that the Cuyahoga Furnace Company, which was located at the foot of Detroit Street hill, had an interest in the enterprise, as the products of the furnace were taken to the Cuyahoga furnace. This enterprise required the services of a large number of men and teams. The wood had to be cut in the forest for making the charcoal, and the ore drawn from the beds to the furnace, and when the ore was smelted and made into pig iron, it took other teams to draw it to the city. A high chimney or stack was built and at the top of this, what was called a top house. A bridge was constructed starting from near the road and leading up to the top house, for the purpose of drawing up the coal, ore and lime, to where they were to be put into the top of the stack. A horse and cart were used to transport the coal, ore, and lime over the bridge up to the top house. One of the horses used for this purpose was a large, fine looking sorrel horse by the name of Mike. He was so intelligent and became so accustomed to the work that he would take his loads up to the bridgeway and deliver them in the top house without a driver. The pits for charring the wood into coal were near where the wood was cut. A level spot of ground would be selected, and the wood drawn together and set on end in a circle and built up about the shape of a hay stack and then covered with earth, after which it was fired, and then watchers had to attend it night and day to keep the fire confined so that it would not break out and burn up the wood. When the coal was charred sufficiently, the dirt covering was removed and the charcoal taken out and drawn in wagons with high boxes to the coal shed, which was near the furnace, there to be kept dry for future use. There was a large bellows at the bottom of the stack which was worked by an engine with steam power to keep the coal hot enough to melt the ore. The cinders were drawn out at the bottom of the stack and when there was enough iron melted it was drawn out into beds, which had been formed with gutters to receive it,

and when it was cool it was in the shape of pig iron, and was then taken by teams to the Cuyahoga furnace in Cleveland. The Dover blast furnace was burned down in 1844. The cause of the fire was, that the stack did not settle evenly and became dogged, and when it gave way, it came down with such force that it threw the hot cinders and melted iron all over the building and set it on fire instantly, so that it could not be saved. There was one man who was sleeping in his berth in the plant, who was badly burned and died the next day." While this furnace was in operation it was a great annoyance to the church people, who were brought up in the belief that no ordinary work should be done on Sunday. There were two churches nearby and the running of a blast furnace successfully requires that it continue in operation all the time, nights and Sundays included. There was no charge, however, that the cause of the fire was of divine origin.

The record of Dover in the Civil war is creditable and there were few slathers when the call for troops came. Gilbert Porter, Andrew K. Rose, George M. Miner, Thomas Hammond, Samuel H. Ames, Orlando Austin, Chauncey D. Hall, John Hamlin, Peter H. Kaiser, William Reed, J. Gesner, J. Jordan, and Orlando Smith enlisted in the One Hundred and Twenty fourth Regiment of Ohio Volunteers; John F. Flynn, Leonard G. Loomis, Benjamin Phinney, Bertrand C. Austin, R. W. Austin, Harrison Bates, Melvin B. Cousins, Asahel P. Root, William H. Webbsdale, John Griffin, Martin Lilly, Sanford Phinney, William Sage, David H. Taylor, Stephen M. Taylor, Thomas Williams, Christopher Dimmick, and Marius Tuttle, enlisted in the Forty second Ohio, and Sherman Sperry, Francis Smith, Joseph Root, William Root, and Hiram Bartholomew, enlisted in the Twenty third Ohio. In the latter end of the war when the hundred-day men were called out and the One Hundred and Fiftieth Ohio was formed, Company I was composed entirely of enlistments from Dover, Olmsted, and Rockport. Among them were Junia Sperry, who was a sergeant; John M Cooley, Reuben Hall, Zibia S. Hall, and others from Dover.

This township being level the question of drainage was of primary importance, the question of ditches often holding first place in the minds of the farmers. It became necessary to establish main ditches of large capacity into which the farms could be drained by smaller ones. County ditches were built and over the location of these much controversy arose. The county engineer or surveyor was entrusted with this work and he was often harassed by divided opinions on the part of the Dover residents. The attitude of a person who came before the electors for the office of county surveyor on certain ditches in the township had much to do with his success at the polls. As late as the '70s we often heard of "The Dover Ditch Wars," but they were not wars of violence. The important question of drainage has been settled in its general character for the township. In speaking of the township, we refer to the original territory, for, as we have said, the township has passed with the march of events

The presidential campaign of 1840 echoed in Dover as in all the rural communities. A mass meeting was held in Dover and large delegations came from other towns. The meeting was held in the woods. Avon and Sheffield came with a large conveyance to which was attached as the team, thirty-two yoke of oxen in one line. On one end of the wagon was a small log cabin, decorated with coon skins, and on the other a barrel of cider. In front of this outfit was a small donkey hitched to a cart with the driver seated on a box labeled "Sub Treasury." This was intended as a hit at Van Buren for his position on the banking laws. Cleveland speakers addressed the meeting. Dover sent a delegation to a meeting at Elyria in this campaign, and included in the crowd was a load of thirty-six young ladies dressed in white to represent the thirty-six states of the Union and one dressed in black to represent Texas, which had gained its independence from Mexico and was then a republic, but, in the market for admission as the thirty seventh state of the Union. It is quite likely that this was intended as an expression against the annexation of Texas. As soon as the original pioneers had cleared sufficient land, stock raising became an important industry, horses, cattle and sheep. Buyers came from the East and the money left with the

pioneers spelled prosperity. The sheep industry was important, as in many of the townships of the county, and in Dover as well the farmers kept from 100 to 200 sheep and it may be said that the larger share of the income for the year came from the sale of the "clip" of wool. The buyers would appear in June when the sheep were sheared. Buyers came to Dover from Cleveland and Elyria. In the town also came John Hall and George Hall of Olmsted, Goodwin of Columbia and Willson of Avon, to buy wool in the shearing season, so that there was much competitive bidding in prices.

In 1864, during the Civil war, Doctor Moore, who lived at Dover Center, engaged in wool buying and he paid \$1 per pound for wool that year: To give the other side of the stock raising industry, one year this section was afflicted with a serious drought and farmers were short of winter feed. Sheldon Johnson of Dover bought up cattle in large numbers and drove them to a section not affected by the drought, to winter. He paid \$5 and \$10 per head. Reuben Hall said that, that winter his father sold a pair of steers for \$17 that at the present time would be worth \$200 or \$300. They were three years old. So runs the life of those engaged in "the most healthful, the most useful, the most noble employment of man," farming.

We will close this chapter on the development of number 7 of range 15, in the original survey of the Western Reserve, with a few added notes. The first white child born in the township was Angelina Porter, daughter of Asahel Porter, who was born June 12, 1812, the second was Vesta Bassett, daughter of Nathan Bassett, who was born June 14, 1812. The first male child born in the township was Franklin, son of Joseph Cahoon. The first wedding was that of Leverett Johnson and Abigail Cahoon, which was solemnized by John S. Reed, the first justice of the peace in Dover. The second marriage was that of Jethro Butler and Betsy Smith. An incident that caused much excitement at the time was the taking captive by the Indians of a daughter of Daniel Page, he who built the first frame house in Dover. She was visiting in a neighboring township when taken captive. Her captivity only lasted a few days when she was rescued by United States soldiers.

Dover 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/DoverTwpPWWR.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>

Dover

All Hail! The pioneer women of Dover - those brave, courageous women, who were no less pilgrims than their Puritan mothers. All honor to the sires whose courage gave us so fair a heritage.

“Yet ye were to those hearts of oak
The secret of their might,
Ye nerved the arm that hurled the stroke
In tempest or in fight.”

As early as 1799 Joseph CAHOON visited Southern Ohio, writing to his wife, still in the East, in rhyme his impressions of this new country, but not till eleven years later did he make the journey which gave him the distinction of being the first settler of Dover. Upon their departure from Vergennes, Vt., the villagers gathered upon the green, the minister commended them to divine care, and with a covered wagon drawn by four horses with saddle horse behind, the westward course was taken by Joseph CAHOON, his wife, Lydia KENYON CAHOON, the eldest daughter Mary, the bride of George SEXTON, two other daughters and five sons.

It is the same story you have ever been told of the trackless forest, the unbridged streams, the campfire with iron kettle to supply meals, and milk in a jug suspended from the reach where the butter was churned, as the days came and went. It was a fair October morning, the tenth of that golden month, when the wagon halted close to the shore, where a busy little brook coursed through the ravine, to join the lake, with wooded banks on either side. An ideal spot now; how entrancingly beautiful it must have been too tired travelers!

“I pray you, hear my song of a nest,
For it is not long.”

And there it was soon builded, close under the sheltering bank, and stood with open door for many a pilgrim who came later and went still farther west.

Mr. CAHOON was a miller, and his first work was to construct mills, as the nearest one at that time was in Newburg, sixteen miles away. Mrs. CAHOON was ever spoken of with the greatest tenderness by her children, who admired her gentle ways and dainty personality as much as her accomplished horsemanship and ability as a housewife.

Upon the afternoon of October 10, 1810, Asahel PORTER with his wife, Rebecca JOHNSON, two little daughters, and Mrs. PORTER's brother, Leverett, came to settle half a mile west. The sad story of Mrs. PORTER's death four years later cast a shadow over the community that was lasting. While coming from Cleveland the rowboat in which the trip was made overturned at Rocky River. Mrs. PORTER and her infant son were drowned. The bodies were recovered, and rest in the Lakeside Cemetery, the first burial place in the town.

The little Catharine PORTER, who as a maiden of three years came into Dover upon its natal day, married Ransom FOOTE, lived a short distance west of her father's farm many useful years, devoted to her family and church, honored by a large acquaintance, and when full of years, he loved form was garlanded by the gentle hands of her great-grandchildren, and laid beside the husband taken from her in his prime. Her daughters are a living testimonial of her worth.

In 1811 James and Barnabas HALL with their wives, also Martha HALL, wife of Nathan BASSETT, came to occupy 2,100 acres of land purchased before leaving Lee, Mass. Mrs. BASSETT's daughter, Vesta, was the first white baby born in Dover. Lydia, Mrs. John PORTER, was born in 1814, living all her life in Dover, where her daughter, Mrs. GRIFFIN, still resides. Mrs. BASSETT's other daughters were Lucy, Harriet, Nancy, and Martha. The latter became Mrs. W.W. ALDRICH, a careful, attentive mother of a large family. Mrs. Hannah HALL, upon returning September 28, 1812, from a visit to a sick neighbor, found a heap of ruins upon the side of her log house. The Indians, attracted by the pewter dishes, had taken them and subsequently burned the house. Undaunted by his calamity, Mrs. HALL established her kitchen in a hollow sycamore stub from which she served refreshments at the building of the new house, having fresh white ash chips for plates, using the handleless knives and forks raked from the ruins. When sickness or sorrow came to a home, Mrs. HALL was sure to enter, to relieve, and to assist. She, like most of those noble women, lived more than her three score and ten years.

Of this same family, at a later date, Nancy HALL, wife of David INGERSOLL, a descendant of Jonathan EDWARDS, and worthy of the honor, came to brighten all associated with her. She survived her seven children and her grandchildren, and with a mind clear and interesting, went about doing good when eighty years had made her beautiful.

Charles HALL married Lucy SEYMOUR, of Ashtabula, settling near his brothers in 1821. They both have passed away, leaving two sons, Reuben and Ziba, prominent residents of their native town.

In July, 1811, Jonathan and Rachel TAYLOR SMITH, with their eleven children, came from Ashfield, Mass., securing twelve hundred acres of land, settling upon the North Ridge. The nearest grist mill was at Columbia, and one day, when their meal was exhausted, Mr. SMITH took grain there to be ground. The children went to bed hungry, and when after dark the father returned, Mrs. SMITH prepared corn cakes, putting them before the fire to bake. The hungry children gathered about the hearth and picked off the crust as soon as formed, eating three Johnny cakes in this manner. Mrs. SMITH had five daughters. Mrs. George STRANDEN resides in Dover, a member of the family who gave valuable aid to this history.

A similar instance is related of Mrs. Nehemiah PORTER, who, when her husband had gone upon a two days' trip on foot to mill, made her half teacupful of corn meal into gruel for the children, simply tying a handkerchief about her waist to appease hunger till his return.

From Lee, Mass., came Jedediah CROCKER, with his wife, Sarah GIFFORD, and their five daughters. He descended from the CROCKER family that emigrated to Cape Cod soon after the Pilgrims landed. He

entered the Revolutionary service when sixteen years of age, continuing till peace was declared. Mrs. CROCKER lived with her son Sylvanus upon the homestead after her widowhood, and passed away when ninety-two years of age.

Miss Betsey CROCKER was the first teacher in the first log school house in district II, on the lake shore. Her sister Philena, afterwards Mrs. Wells PORTER, assumed the same useful vocation when but fourteen years old. Mrs. Betsey FOOTE CROCKER also had five daughters.

It is related of Mary CROCKER WHITTLESEY that upon returning from her bridal trip, seventy years ago, she brought from the East pear seeds from which grew trees producing delicious fruit even to the present time. It must have been a merry gathering of old friends in new homes when a little company of Ashfield, Mass., neighbors established themselves in this new settlement.

Jesse LILLY, with his wife, Hannah GLOYD, made the journey from Ashfield in the spring of 1815, being six weeks on the way. While coming an ox died, so the faithful cow was substituted, and thus the trip was completed. Mrs. LILLY possessed wonderful self-reliance. On one occasion while her husband was away for the night, she heard the wolves howling near, and, fearful lest they pay her humble home a visit, where blankets did duty for doors and windows, she set to work to protect herself and children. She took a chest which had been used as a wagon seat to the unfloored loft, where it just reached from one joist to another. In it she placed her two oldest children, and with her baby on her lap, she sat beside them through the night. Mrs. LILLY had nine daughters and two sons, one of the latter serving in the Mexican and civil wars. Her daughter, Fanny LILLY BEEBE, was an extraordinary woman.

Mehitable VINCENT, daughter of a Revolutionary soldier, wife of Albinus LILLY, nobly and patiently endured the privations incident to pioneer life. Her husband was a carpenter, and upon preparing to raise a barn frame for Mr. Clark SMITH, took a vote as to whether liquor should be used. The vote was a negative one, probably the first vote for temperance in Dover. Not long after this, while crossing a mill dam in a log canoe, Mr. LILLY was drowned, leaving his wife with nine children. She assumed the care of the farm, and took in weaving to help defray the expenses of the family. Other sorrows came to her, but with fortitude and resignation she accepted all.

Mrs. Achsa BEARDSLEY, Mrs. Matilda HALL, Mrs. Rose DILLENBECK, and Mrs. Elizabeth STOCKING are worthy daughters who love her memory.

Mary HOWES, wife of Luther LILLEY, was a direct descendant of Thomas HOWES, who landed upon Cape Cod in 1637. Her grandfather and father served in the Revolution. She came from Ashfield bringing with her those Puritan traits of love for education and religion. She gave a son to the civil war, thus maintaining the heroic characteristics of her ancestors.

Mrs. Bethuel LILLY, daughter of a revolutionary father, Mrs. Alta Mira LILLY, daughter of Major TOBY of Hawley, Mass., and Roxana SEARS, wife of Austin LILLY, came from Ashfield, Mass., all of whom had families, some still residents of Dover.

In July, 1814, the first marriage occurred in the town. Leverett JOHNSON first saw the fair Abigail CAHOON as she gathered nuts, when he came into "the forest primeval." A mutual feeling of tenderest affection was experienced, which culminated in the happiest manner. The wedding gown was made from six yards of pink cambric. As no minister was near, Justice REED, from Black River, came to officiate. Her home ever after was a mile west of Dover Center, where free-hearted hospitality reigned. Her gentleness

and kindness made her lovable. Of her five daughters, Abigail, Mrs. C.P. GOSS, whose intellectual ability and wit characterized her, and Paulina, who lovingly cared for her mother, deserve special mention. Amos CAHOON stopped when on the way from Vermont with Mr. WILLIAMS, the famous Newburg miller, soon after married "Polly," the miller's pretty daughter, living many years in a log house east of Cahoon Creek. Their daughter, Martha, Married Henry WINDSOR, and Ruth, who taught in the log school house, and after it burned in her grandfather's mill was Mrs. Porter SMITH. The other three daughters live in Wisconsin.

Joseph and Jane FISHER STOCKING, with five children, came from Lee, Mass., settling upon what is known as the Stocking farm, near Dover Center. Their early housekeeping was somewhat primitive and amusing. The dinner table was the family chest, around which pumpkins were placed for chairs. Mrs. Stocking was "Aunt Jenny" to all her friends. Her quiet life, full of devotion to her family ended when eighty-three years were completed. Her daughter, Mrs. Sophronia SCRANTON, lives upon the old place, and delights to tell the stories of those happy days when life was young. The eighty-one years since she came have wrought marvelous changes, and it is a long time in which to gather memory treasures to glorify the sunset days.

Mrs. ROBINSON, Mrs. Marshall CHADWICK, and Miss Martha STOCKING were Mrs. SCRANTON's sisters. Hannah Ingraham BEACH married Amos R. SPERRY, and early innkeeper, in 1818. She lived to greet her numerous family upon her one hundredth birthday.

In 1822 Mr. Chipman SMITH, with his wife, Rebeckah PORTER SMITH, settled upon the place now occupied by the youngest daughter, Mrs. Henry JOHNSON, a part of the original house being still occupied. Mr. SMITH was a blacksmith, his first shop being a fence corner with a bark roof. Afterwards, more commodious quarters were assigned it in the log house where Mrs. SMITH used to strike the iron of which shoes were made, point the nails, and blow bellows, her hours extending from 4 a.m. to 9 p.m. as occasion demanded.

Besides, she entertained the customers, to which every meal was served while they waited. Her hospitality was one of her many virtues. She was equally skillful as a dressmaker and tailoress, having made the first suits of boys' clothes worn by L.H. JOHNSON and Hon. J.M. COOLEY. At weddings fifty years ago, the guests were regaled with her loaf cake and mince pies. Linen spun and woven by her prior to her marriage is highly prized by her family. Her daughter, Catharine, Mrs. Clark WILLIAMS, has contributed largely to the history of the pioneer women whose worth she fully appreciates. Mrs. James PORTER and Mrs. Dr. J.M. LATHROP are also daughters of Mrs. SMITH.

A worthy, faithful, energetic Christian woman of early days was Elizabeth TRYON, who came from New York soon after her marriage to William SADLER, a soldier in the war of 1812. When the Lake Shore Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1827, she contributed largely, giving the lot and much of the building material, being one of the five charter members. The others were Rev. Eliphalet JOHNSON, his gifted wife, Margaret, their daughter, Rebecca, and niece, Catharine PORTER FOOTE.

All her life long Mrs. SADLER cherished the church she helped to build, the membership of which revere her memory. Mrs. Ann Eliza LILLY SADLER, her son's wife, is an enthusiastic worker in the same church. Sarah JOHNSON, wife of Deacon Reuben OSBORN, extended a beneficial influence to all about her. Her only son, Selden, married Nancy RUPLE, a member of one of Euclid's old families. Upon the original farm of Deacon OSBORN is a colony of his descendants to the third and fourth generation. The hospitable homestead is still inviting and attractive.

Mrs. Joseph (GRAVES) PORTER's family was numerous and useful. Her son, Leonard G. PORTER, so long interested in every good work, left as a legacy to Dover, and as a memorial to his family name, the Porter Library.

Mrs. Ebenezer PORTER had two daughters, Mrs. John WILSON and Mrs. Josiah HURST, who were delightful ladies. Mrs. HURST was a graduate from Oberlin College at an early day. Her culture and dignity, combined with her charming kindness, made her a power among her associates.

Mrs. Sylvanus PHINNEY and her daughter Lucy, Mrs. Edwin PHINNEY, Mrs. Calvin (MARTIN) PHINNEY and her beautiful daughter, Angeannette OSBORN, had each her own place in the building of the present. Upon Coe Ridge, in the south part of Dover, with part of his father's first frame house built within his own, lives Andrew COE, who married Mercy BANCROFT. He is the son of Judge Asher COE, who settled upon 900 acres of land in 1823. They came from Middlefield, Conn. Mrs. COE was a quiet woman, even tempered, with strong convictions ardently adhered to. Her daughter Sina was Mrs. N.H. AUSTIN, while Miss Lucetta is still an honored resident at the homestead.

Matilda OWEN, wife of Esquire Eli CLEMENS, came from Rhode Island in 1830. Her eldest daughter, Caroline, married Dennis JOHNSON, and Mary became Mrs. Jared B. LANE. She was a successful teacher in Cleveland for many years. Enjoying the advantages of extensive home and foreign travel and having many personal attractions, she was a delight to her many friends.

Mrs. Joseph BROWN (nee, Mary WINSOR), from Smithfield, R.I., was a descendant of Lord Edward WINSOR, also of Roger WILLIAMS. Her home was a charming location by the lake, where a long, useful life was passed. Her daughters who came with her were Lucina, Nancy, Mary, Rachel, and Elizabeth. Of these Mary, Mrs. John CLEMANS, is the oldest one living. She is an honored matron, alive to the active present, still linking it to the past, the mother of cultured daughters.

Mrs. Aaron ALDRICH was a sister of Mrs. BROWN, living where the beautiful Erie spread a fair scene before her. She was mother of a large family. Julia ALDRICH was a teacher in Dover, and married. Rev. James GOODRICH, of the Baptist Church.

Mrs. Henry ALDRICH, daughter of Mrs. Louisa FOOTE STEVENS, resides at the homestead. The name of ALDRICH is a familiar one in Dover.

Another family prominent in the Baptist Church was that of Deacon Jesse ATWELL, who lived on the North Ridge. One of his daughters taught in a schoolhouse used for service upon the Sabbath. It was so tidy and attractive to the young preacher that he made Miss ATWELL his wife. Through her efforts largely, he fitted himself for better work, and when fame came to him, she acquired the title of Mrs. Bishop William L. HARRIS.

Lydia SMITH COOLEY, with her husband and five children, from Hawley, Mass., became residents of Dover in 1818. Her three daughters Lydia, Rosamond, and Esther, the latter marrying Dr. J.M. LATHROP. Miss Rosamond lived a beautiful life in her father's home, being one of the sweet singers of Dover. Mrs. Clark SMITH was "Aunt Huldah" to two generations, and her work on earth was so worthy that her years were many, and her memory precious.

Mrs. Abraham WARD is one of the elderly matrons of today, while her husband's mother was active in the past.

Catherine, daughter of Rev. Mr. KEYS, became Mrs. Dr. Marius MOORE. She was a lady of fine presence, and lived at Dover Center, where her friends were legion.

After a journey of ten weeks from the Isle of Man, Mrs. Margaret CLAGUE and daughter Ruth walked from Cleveland, in 1837, to the farm now occupied by her children, which was ever afterward her happy home.

Mrs. Melinda OVIATT was an intellectual lady. Her daughters, Louisa, Mary, Caroline, and Laura, were all teachers. Her son, Luther M. OVIATT, was superintendent of Cleveland schools, afterward librarian of the Public Library.

Mrs. Benjamin REED, later Mrs. Colonel B. MASTICK, was an excellent mother, very successful in the management of business, greatly respected throughout a useful life. Mrs. L.H. JOHNSON is her eldest daughter.

In 1818 Joseph CAHOON built a frame house upon the west of his log cabin, which, remodeled, still stands. To this home, in 1842, his son Joel P. CAHOON, brought his wife, Margaret Dickson VAN ALLEN, and their six children. The journey from Cincinnati was made with a two-seated top carriage, the first in Dover. Mrs. CAHOON was a native of Washington, D.C., being four years old when the British invaded that city, burned the Capitol, and took her father prisoner. She had seen Dolly MADISON as mistress of the White House and clasped the hand of LAFAYETTE when he was the nation's guest, in 1824. She conformed herself to the mode of life so different from all she had enjoyed, giving all her energy to improve in education and culture her new home. Patriotism, devotion to religion, hospitality, and cheerfulness were a part of her life. She originated the CAHOON pioneer celebration, which commemorates the anniversary days since Dover passed its fiftieth milestone. The gentle Lydia, to whose place she succeeded, was fondly cherished, and when her eighty-four beautiful years had passed, she left as mistress of the sacred home the first daughter born to her within its walls.

The number of excellent women who once lived in Dover is so great that it is with reluctance we stay the pen. If any look in vain for a cherished name among this group of Dover's jewels let it be remembered this is but a page in the volume which should be written, and that the many unite to make the beautiful whole.

My greeting to the living is one of cheer, of congratulation upon the rich inheritance which is our, for "We need not go abroad for stones to Build our monumental glory."

IDA M. CAHOON
Chairman and Historian

Dover committee - Miss Martha W. CAHOON, Miss Catharine P. FOOTE, Mrs. Catharine SMITH WILLIAMS, Mrs. Harriet PORTER GRIFFIN, Miss Florence COE, Mrs. Clara HALL COOLEY