

MAYFIELD

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

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MAYFIELD

Transcribed by Laura Hine

The First Settlers — Unexpected Visitors — Clearing Land — The First Marriage — James Covert — Extraordinary Vigor - No Roads — Bears fond of Veal and Pork — A Lover of Cream Killed — Covert's Adventure with a Bear — Other Settlers — First Church — Cowardly Wolves - Formation of Mayfield Township — First Officers - Notes from the Town Book — Slaughter of Sixty-three Rattlesnakes — First Sawmill - First Gristmill — Halsey Gates — Outbreak of Mormonism — Long-standing Debts — Frederick Willson — Ezra Eddy — Jeniah Jones — Dr. Dille — New Hotels — Willson and McDowell's Mills — Rapid Improvement — Dr. Moon — Dr. Charles — First Church Edifice - Mayfield Academy — Plank Road - Post Offices — The Free Methodist Churches - Church of the United Brethren — Disciple Church — Principal Township Officers.

In the year 1805 Abner Johnson, Samuel Johnson and David Smith came with their families from Ontario County, New York, and made the first settlement in the present township of Mayfield, then known as survey township number eight in range ten of the Western Reserve. They located themselves on the west side of Chagrin River, a little above the site of Willson's Mills, built their cabins, and began operations.

In the spring of 1806, the members of the little settlement were agreeably surprised to see three of their old neighbors in Ontario County make their appearance, with packs on their backs, guns on their shoulders, and dogs by their sides. The oldest of these was Daniel S. Judd, a large, fleshy man, already sixty-five years of age, who had fought in the old French and Indian War forty-five years before, and also in the Revolution, and was likewise renowned as a mighty hunter. With him were his two sons, Freeman and Thomas Judd. The three had started for Portage County, where they designed settling, but having lost their way, they had accidentally come upon their old neighbors whom they had not seen during the previous year. They were so well pleased with the fine bottomlands on the Chagrin River that they determined to look no farther, but immediately began a settlement on the west side, a little above where the Johnsons and Smith had located.

That summer all were busy chopping timber, burning off land, planting a little corn between the logs, and performing numerous other duties incident to the beginning of a settlement. The next fall or winter the Judds went East, and obtained their families and personal property. They had returned but a short time when the first wedding was celebrated in the township—in the last part of 1806 or the first part of

1807—the parties being John Howton and Polly Judd, and the services being performed by Esquire Turner, of Chagrin.

In the spring of 1807, James Covert, the son-in-law of D. S. Judd, came into the township from Seneca County, New York, and located himself in the Chagrin valley, below the site of Willson's Mills, where he has ever since resided. He was already twenty-six years of age, and had a wife and child. As was the case with most of the new settlers, his worldly wealth was very limited, consisting of three dollars in money, an axe, and a dog. After putting up a shanty, he went on foot to Painesville, a city then consisting of three or four log cabins, and bought a peck of poor salt for a dollar, carrying it home on his back. With the remaining two dollars, he bought two pigs. He also purchased a two-year-old heifer on credit from Judd, and thus he began life in Mayfield. He is certainly a remarkable example of what can be accomplished by sheer industry and attention to business, though in truth those qualities must need be accompanied by extraordinary vital powers to accomplish such results as Mr. Covert has brought about.

When the writer visited him in the autumn of 1878, he was, although ninety-seven years old, in the full possession of all his mental powers and all his physical senses except his hearing, and was at work attending to his stock. Always a farmer, he has made himself the owner of over a thousand acres of land, besides large amounts of other property, has long been noted as the richest man in the township, and has in the meantime been the father of twenty-three children, twenty-two of whom he raised to be men and women. The writer has had a good deal of experience among industrious and vigorous old pioneers, but Mr. Covert's is certainly the most remarkable example of them all.

Two of the families mentioned at the beginning of the chapter, those of Samuel Johnson and David Smith, had left the township before Mr. Covert came, and their place was taken by that of John Jackson.

The first birth in the township was that of a child born in the latter part of 1807, to John and Polly Howton, whose marriage has been mentioned above. For several years there were few newcomers except small strangers of this description. The scattered settlers kept busily at work, and soon made considerable clearings around their respective cabins. They were, however, very much isolated. There were no roads laid out in township eight, and for several years its inhabitants had to work their road tax on the lake shore road in the township of Chagrin, now Willoughby in Lake County.

Fortunately, the county was healthy; there being very little even of fever and ague, compared with what is customary in new countries. But there were many annoyances. When the cows had calves in the woods, the bears would sometimes kill and eat them. They were equally destructive to the hogs, but Mr. Covert relates that when he was able to keep a large number of the latter animals they would join together, fight with the bears and drive them off. So impudent were these ursine depredators that they would sometimes come up to the very doors of the settlers' cabins in search of food. One morning Mrs. Judd put her cream in the churn, ready for churning, set it out on a temporary porch and went about her work. On going out after a while, she found the churn upset and the cream all licked up. A number of bear's tracks around the place disclosed the cause of the robbery. When James Jackson, who was boarding at Judd's, came in at night and learned of the affair, he determined to watch for the marauder. Accordingly, after dark, he placed a pail of sour milk on the porch and took his stand, rifle in hand, in the house opposite an open window that looked out on the "bait." After everything was quiet and when the watcher was beginning to get drowsy, he was suddenly aroused to intense wakefulness by hearing something lapping at the milk. Taking aim at the noise, for it was perfectly dark, he pulled the trigger. A light was brought and a big, fat, short-legged bear was found dead beside the pail of milk, with a bullet lodged in his brain.

The wolves were still more obnoxious. After Mr. Covert had been there a few years, he bought two old sheep and two lambs in Chester, Geauga County, paying \$.50 per head for the four; brought them home and turned them into his field. The next morning, he went out and found that the wolves had killed both the lambs and were then making their breakfast off from them. After that, he yarded his sheep at night and watched them a little by day, and soon succeeded in raising a fine flock.

Mr. Covert, notwithstanding his assiduity as a farmer, was also a good deal of a hunter, and so was James Jackson, above referred to. One day the two got in close pursuit of a large bear which Jackson had wounded. The animal, in going down a bank, stumbled and fell into a hole, where he lay on his back with his feet sticking up. Covert crept down to reconnoiter, but got so near that the bear caught his foot in his mouth and bit through boot, foot and all. He hung on, too, and with his paws mutilated Covert's leg terribly. The latter got hold of a sapling and pulled both himself and his enemy out of the hole, when the dogs attacked the bear. The latter then let go his hold and the hunters soon dispatched him. Mr. Covert was confined to the house for several weeks by his wounds.

Among the settlers who came several years after those already mentioned were P. K. Wilson, Benjamin Wilson, Luke Covert, Benjamin Carpenter and Solomon Moore. The early settlers were largely Methodists, and as soon as 1809 they formed a class of that denomination under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Davidson, who is said to have been an eloquent and successful preacher. For many years their meetings were held in private houses and in the woods, as there was not even a log schoolhouse for them to assemble in. The first death in the township was that of Daniel S. Judd, the veteran of two great wars, who died of apoplexy in 1810.

As has been said, the lack of roads was a great annoyance. Mr. Covert states that he has often taken a bushel of corn on his back and gone to Chagrin (now Willoughby) to mill, attended on his return home by packs of howling wolves, not far away on either side. But these animals rarely attacked a man, even in the night. Once, however, Mr. Covert thought he stood a good chance of becoming wolf bait. He had been reaping for a man who lived several miles down the river, in the present township of Willoughby, and was returning home after dark. Two miles from home, as he was following a sled path, (carrying his shoes in his hand that he might the better feel the path with his naked feet in the Egyptian darkness), he was startled by an angry growl, and saw the fierce eyes of three or four wolves glaring at him, not more than six feet away. It was seldom that a wolf approached so near, and the young man thought his time had come. He felt in the darkness for a tree, which he might ascend, and in doing so got hold of a couple of sticks. These he threw with all his might at the heads of his enemies, who shrank back, howling, into the forest. Reassured by finding that they were as cowardly as the rest of their species, he pursued his way, and reached home in safety, although accompanied nearly all the way, a short distance on one side, by his howling foes.

The War of 1812 stopped even what little progress there was before that time, and it was not until 1816 that a schoolhouse was erected in the township. It was a log building, situated on the land formerly owned by Anthony Sherman. It was used for some years as schoolhouse, church and townhall. A few more settlers came after the war, among whom was Seth Mapes, who came in 1815 and remained until 1827, when he removed to Orange. In 1819, a new township was formed, by the name of Mayfield, the first town meeting being held on the 14th day of June, in that year. There were only twenty voters present, and of these, thirteen were elected to fill the various offices.

The meeting organized by choosing Daniel S. Judd, Daniel Richardson and Adam Overoker as judges of election, and John Jackson as clerk. The following officers were elected: Trustees, Adam Overoker, Seth Mapes, Daniel Smith; clerk, John Jackson; overseers of the poor, James Covert, Philo Judd; fence viewers, John Gloge, Michael Overocker; constables, Ephraim Graves, Rufus Mapes; lister, Henry Francisco; appraiser, Calvin Mapes; treasurer, Benjamin Carpenter, Jr.; justice of the peace, Michael Overoker. The following is also a part of the township record for that year, which was sent to the Historical Society some twenty years ago:

"Received of the township of Chagrin, Nov. 10th, three dollars and eighty-eight cents, being our proportion of the money in the treasury at the time of division. Amount of tax levied in 1818, \$76.00; amount paid by Mayfield, 6.80; remaining in the treasury of Chagrin at the time of division, 143.05; proportion belonging to Mayfield, \$3.88. Paid by John Jackson, three dollars and eighty-eight cents to the trustees of Mayfield, money drawn from the treasury of Chagrin and expended between them and the township clerk as a compensation for their services during the year one thousand eight hundred and nineteen."

The increase of population was still slow, though two or three new men came in every year. The bears and wolves slowly receded, but rattlesnakes in large numbers infested the land, especially among the rocks and hills. One of the most remarkable adventures with snakes, of which we have ever heard, was related to us by Dr. A. L. Dille, on the authority of Mr. Solomon Mapes, a reliable citizen, who, about 1825, killed sixty-three rattlesnakes, the denizens of a single hollow log. Having discovered what sort of inhabitants were within, he armed himself with a stout stick, gave the log a rousing rap, and then slew the rattlers one after the other as they glided out of the open end.

The first sawmill was built by Abner Johnson and Seth Mapes in 1824, a little north of Mayfield Center. The next year Mr. Johnson alone built the first gristmill in the township on a branch of the Chagrin River, near the site of Willson's Mills.

In 1826, Mr. Halsey Gates came to the locality, which has since borne his name (Gates' Mills), bringing with him the gearing of a sawmill and began the work of erecting one at that point. The next year the sawmill was completed, and the year following a gristmill was erected by Mr. Gates at the same place. Lyndon Jenks was another of the early settlers in the southeast part of the township.

About 1828 there was an extraordinary outbreak of Mormonism in this township. Mormon preachers, priests and prophets seem to have made this a special stamping-ground. Quite a number of the inhabitants were converted to that faith, and some of them appeared perfectly crazy in their enthusiasm. Several families were broken up by the fanatical Mormonism of some of their members. Besides the resident converts, a good many Mormons seem to have come in from the outside and "squatted" in the western and central parts of the township, which were as yet very thinly settled, so that there would sometimes be several families living on a single farm. After two or three years of excitement, they all packed up and moved away, about 1831, to join some larger colony of their brethren.

Mr. Samuel Dean, who still resides at Gates' Mills, came thither in 1829. Nearly all the lots had been purchased on credit from the original owners. The clearings were generally small and the houses of log, though there were a few frames. Some claims had been held on "articles" (or agreements to convey on payment) twenty-five to thirty years; the articles being renewed every few years. If the owner could get the interest, he thought he was doing well, and sometimes he was unable to get enough to pay the

taxes. But after this period, and especially after the Mormons left, a much more enterprising class came in, bought up the old improvements, paid for their lands in a reasonable time, and speedily changed the appearance of the township.

For five years after 1830, emigration was quite rapid. In that year a Frederick Wilson came into the township and settled at what is now known as Willson's Mills. Eltean Wait and Daniel McDowell built the first store in the township (near Willson's Mills) in 1830. In 1831 it passed into the hands of Willson and McDowell, who kept it five or six years.

In 1831 Colonel Ezra Eddy settled in Mayfield and put in operation a tanning and currying establishment near Gates' Mills, which he carried on for many years, becoming one of the most prominent citizens of the township.

The first framed schoolhouse in the township was built at Mayfield Center in 1830. It took the place of the old log one before mentioned as schoolhouse, church, and townhall; elections being held in it down to 1848.

In 1831, Jeniah Jones settled near the center. He describes the hill part of Mayfield as being still almost a wilderness. There was not a building on the State road, and Mr. Jones, soon after this arrival, helped to open that road from the center westward. Of those who were on the hill before 1830, few if any remain besides Rufus Mapes. Joseph Leuty came in 1830. Elijah Sorter, with his sons, Charles, Isaac and Harry, came in December, 1831. S. Wheeling, Lucas Lindsley and others also came in 1831, and settled a mile and a half south of the center.

In 1832 Erwin Doolittle put in operation a carding machine and cloth dressing establishment a short distance north of Willson's Mills, on the same stream on which Abner Johnson's mill was located.

The first physician in the township was Dr. A. L. Dille, who came thither from Euclid in 1834, settled at Willson's Mills, and has ever since resided there. Down to 1834, the inhabitants had to go to Willoughby for their mail-matter. In that year a mail route was established from Chardon, Geauga County, to Cleveland, through Gates' Mills, and a post office was located at the latter place.

Willson & McDowell built a hotel at Willson's Mills in 1833, which they kept for several years, and about the same time, perhaps a little earlier, Hiram Falk opened one at Gates' Mills. In 1834, Halsey Gates put up a fine framed hotel at Gates' Mills with a ballroom in it, which was the center of many a joyous gathering. About 1833 or '34, Willson & McDowell built a flouring mill and sawmill near the site of their store and tavern. The mills were burned in 1839, but were soon rebuilt. General Willson remaining a part or entire owner until they passed into the hands of his son, who now owns them. Hence the name of Willson's Mills has always been a strictly correct appellation.

By this time all the land in the township had been purchased, and a large part of it cleared off. The deer had given way before the axes and rifles of the pioneers, though a few were still to be seen bounding through the remaining belts of forest. Only once after Dr. Dille came, in 1834, did he hear the howling of a wolf. Mayfield was rapidly changing from a wilderness to a civilized township.

About 1849, Dr. T. M. Moon began practice at Gates' Mills and Dr. Alexander Charles at Mayfield Center. The latter remained at the center until the outbreak of the Mexican war, when he received a commission as a surgeon of volunteers, went to Mexico, and died while on duty there.

The first church edifice in the township was built by the Methodists in 1842, at Mayfield Center.

By 1850, the work of clearing up the township was substantially accomplished, the deer had all fallen before the rifles of their foes, or had followed the wolves into banishment, framed houses had generally taken the place of log ones, and Mayfield had assumed very near the appearance which it now presents.

In March, 1856, a few enterprising individuals procured a charter as the Mayfield Academy association, and proceeded to erect an academy on the State road in the southwest portion of the township. The institution was maintained for many years in a flourishing condition.

Mayfield took her full share in the war for the Union, and the names of her gallant sons who fought in that contest will be found with the stories of their respective regiments.

In 1877, a plank road was built from a point in East Cleveland near the line of the city of Cleveland, through Euclid and Mayfield, to the top of the hill half a mile east of Gates' Mills; about three and a half miles of it being in Mayfield.

There are now three post offices in the township at the three villages before mentioned. Gates' Mills, Willson's Mills and Mayfield Center; the first of which has about twenty houses and the others a smaller number. Besides these there are at Gates' Mills a gristmill, a sawmill, a rake factory, a store and two churches; at Willson's Mills, a gristmill, a sawmill, a church; at Mayfield Center, a church, a store, a town hall and a steam sawmill. There are also two cheese factories in the township; one on the State road, a mile east of Gates' Mills, and one half way between Gates' and Willson's Mills.

THE METHODIST CHURCHES.

The Mayfield circuit contains three churches, one at Mayfield Center, one at Gates' Mills, and one on the east line of the township. As has been said, a Methodist class was organized as early as 1809. Occasional preaching was held in the township, but owing to the sparsity of the inhabitants, no great progress was made for many years. In 1835, there was a very earnest revival and a church was fully organized. Rev. Mr. Graham was one of the first preachers; also Rev. Messrs. Excell and Mix. In 1843, the Methodists built, as before stated, the first church edifice in the township, at Mayfield Center. They have since replaced this by a larger one, and in 1853 erected one at Gates' Mills. There are now about a hundred members of the church at the Center, twenty-four of the one at Gates' Mills, and thirty-five of the one on East Hill. The following pastors have preached on this circuit since 1861: B. J. Kennedy, 1863, '63 and '64; E. C. Latimer, 1865 and '66; A. M. Brown, 1867; G. J. Bliss, 1868; E. C. Latimer, Hiram Kellogg, 1870; D. Rowland, 1871; J. B. Goodrich, 1873 and '73; D. Meizener, 1874; J. K. Shaffer, 1875; James Shields, 1877 and '78.

CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN.

This church was organized at Willson's Mills in 1870, and a neat framed edifice was erected the same year. There are now about thirty members.

THE DISCIPLE CHURCH.

In 1871, the Disciples at and around Gates' Mills purchased the schoolhouse at that point and converted it into a church edifice, and have since used it for that purpose. Their numbers are about the same as those of the United Brethren.

PRINCIPAL TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

[Unfortunately, the township books previous to 1849 cannot be found. We give a list of the principal ones from that time to the present, except justices of the peace, which cannot be obtained from the township records.]

1849. Trustees, Truman Gates, L. P. Shuart, Luther Battles; clerk, Jeniah Jones; treasurer, D. Wakeman; assessor, Welman Brainard.

1850. Trustees, Lyndon Jenks, T. Gates, Rufus Mapes; clerk, Jeniah Jones; treasurer, Chas. N. Sorter; assessor, W. Brainard.

1851. Trustees, E. A. Johnson, H. S. Mapes, Osbeit Arnold; clerk, J. Jones; treasurer, C. N. Sorter; assessor, W. Brainard.

1852. Trustees, Harmon Jacobs, Daniel Shepherd; clerk, W. Brainard; treasurer, C. N. Sorter; assessor, E. D. Battles.

1853. Trustees, N. C. Sebins, Harry Sorter, David Hoege; clerk, W. Brainard; treasurer, C. N. Sorter; assessor, L. M. Gates.

1854. Trustees, J. A. Dodd, H. Jacobs, J. Bennett; clerk, J. Jones; treasurer, H. C. Eggleston.

1855. Trustees, Leonard Straight, Luther Battles, H. S. Mapes; clerk, Jeniah Jones; treasurer, Diamond Wakeman; assessor, L. M. Gates.

1856. Trustees, C. N. Sorter, H. S. Mapes, Harmon Jacobs; clerk, L. Straight; treasurer, D. Wakeman; assessor, L. M. Gates.

1857. Trustees, C. Russell, Wm. Apthorp, J. B. Sorter; clerk, Leonard Straight; treasurer, C. N. Sorter; assessor, L. M. Gates.

1858. Trustees, Alva Hanscom, Luther Battles, J. Sherman; clerk, L. Straight; treasurer, C. N. Sorter; assessor, L. M. Gates.

1859. Trustees, Alva Hanscom, L. Battles, J. Sherman; clerk, L. Straight; treasurer, C. N. Sorter; assessor, L. M. Gates.

1860. Trustees, A. Hanscom, L. Battles, H. Sorter; clerk, L. Straight; treasurer, C. N. Sorter.

1861. Trustees, H. S. Mapes, H. Webster, C. B. Russell; clerk, L. Straight; treasurer, D. Wakeman; assessor, H. G. Eggleston.

1862. Trustees, Gordon Abbey, Nelson Wilson, A. Granger; clerk, L. Straight; treasurer, D. Wakeman; assessor, H. C. Eggleston.

1863. Trustees, N. Wilson, L. Jenks, N. D. Seldon; clerk, L. Straight; treasurer, D. Wakeman; assessor, A. Walworth.

1864. Trustees, E. D. Battles, H. Jacobs, Cornelius Hoege; clerk, L. Straight; treasurer, D. Wakeman; assessor, L. M. Gates.

1865. Trustees, E. D. Battles, N. Wilson, John Aikens; clerk, J. A. Cutler; treasurer, L. Straight; assessor, L. M. Gates.

1866. Trustees, E. D. Battles, N. Wilson, T. Gates; clerk, J. A. Cutler; treasurer, D. Wakeman; assessor, L. M. Gates.

1867. Trustees, N. Wilson, C. N. Sorter, T. Gates; clerk, Wm. Miner; treasurer, Harry Sorter; assessor, L. M. Gates.

1868. Trustees, Ezra Eddy, John Aikens, Leonard Straight; clerk, Tracy E. Smith; treasurer, Harry Sorter; assessor, L. M. Gates.

1869. Trustees, L. Straight, J. Aikens, E. D. Battles; clerk, T. E. Smith; treasurer, C. N. Sorter; assessor, L. M. Gates.

1870. Trustees, N. Wilson, Milo Rudd, George Covert; clerk, W. A. Miner; treasurer, H. Sorter; assessor, John Aikens.

1871. Trustees, H. Jacobs, John Law, W. Apthorp; clerk, Wilbur F. Sorter; treasurer, H. Sorter; assessor, W. Brainard.

1872. Trustees, L. Straight, Wm. Neville, Wm. A. Southwick; clerk, W. F. Sorter; treasurer, H. Sorter; assessor, W. Brainard.

1873. Trustees, Wm. A. Southwick, L. M. Gates, H. Sorter; clerk, W. F. Sorter; treasurer, J. T. Battles; assessor, W. Brainard,

1874. Trustees, W. A. Southwick, L. M. Gates, Wm. Neville; clerk, W. F. Sorter; treasurer, J. T. Battles; assessor, W. Brainard.

1875. Trustees, L. M. Gates, L. Straight, Ira Hoffman; clerk, W. F. Sorter; treasurer, H. Sorter; assessor, W. Brainard.

1876. Trustees, L. M. Gates, A. F. Williams, Ira Hoffman; clerk, W. F. Sorter; treasurer, A. Straight; assessor, W. Brainard.

1877. Trustees, Ira Hoffman, A. F. Williams, A. A. Jerome; clerk H. W. Russell; treasurer, J. T. Battles; assessor, W. Brainard.

1878. Trustees, Harmon Jacobs, Ira Hoffman, A. A. Jerome; clerk H. W. Russell; treasurer, L. M. Gates, Jr.; assessor, W. Brainard.

1879. Trustees, A. P. Aikens, A. A. Jerome, Henry Covert; clerk H. W. Russell; treasurer, A. Granger; assessor, W. Brainard.

COL. EZRA EDDY.

Col. Ezra Eddy was born in Randolph, Orange Co., Vt., Aug. 17, 1805. He was the youngest in the family of seven children of James and Sarah (Newton) Eddy, none of whom are now living. His father having died when Ezra was about ten years of age, he was apprenticed to a Mr. Blodgett to learn the tanner's trade. He remained with him till 1826, when he went to Lodi, Seneca Co., N. Y., where he followed his trade for one year. Oct. 18, 1827, he was married to Sally Ann, daughter of Gideon Keyt, of Lodi, N. Y. She was born Sept. 10, 1810. By this union he had seven children, viz.: Edwin W., born June 9, 1832; died Feb. 5, 1835. Sarah Jane, born May 23, 1836; died May 28, 1836. William A., born in July, 1837. Albert C, born Aug. 28, 1840; died Jan. 29, 1841. Constantine, born July 11, 1842. Harriet M., born Nov. 11, 1845. Sanford, born Oct. 12, 1848. After his marriage he removed to Mayfield, Cuyahoga Co., where he engaged in the tannery business, in which he continued till 1861, after which time he engaged in farming till his death, which occurred Aug. 3, 1870. Col. Eddy was a well-known resident of the county, and was conspicuous as one of the pioneers of Mayfield Township, where he raised a respectable family, and by severe industry and strict economy left a handsome competence. Mr. Eddy was perhaps better known throughout the county than almost any man outside of the city of Cleveland as an independent farmer and intelligent citizen. In the olden time, when militia musters were annual holidays, he was colonel of the regiment east of the Cuyahoga River, which position he filled with ability as long as the old military organizations lasted. For six years he was a commissioner of the county, and as such was respected for his ability, integrity, and faithfulness. As an honest and zealous politician, he was always present at the conventions of the old Whig party, and later of the Republican party, in the county, and was one of the men who gave character to those organizations. As a neighbor, a husband, and a father, his character and that of his family are sufficient testimony of his value in all such relations of life. Long may his beloved widow enjoy the esteem of her friends and the affection of her children.

FREDERICK WILLSON.

This well-known citizen of Mayfield was born in the town of Phelps, Ontario County, New York, on the 4th day of January, 1807. He was the son of George and Esther Willson, the latter of whom is still living with the subject of this sketch, at the age of ninety-two years. He resided in Phelps (most of the time after childhood being spent in attending school or working on his father's farm) until the year 1830. In July of that year, he came to Mayfield, where he has ever since made his home.

The young pioneer located himself at the point now known as Willson's Mills, and soon formed a partnership with David McDowell in the mercantile and farming business. Meeting with success in these occupations, the firm in 1833 built a gristmill and a sawmill at the point just named.

Meanwhile, the subject of our sketch had taken an active part in military affairs. Having served as private, non-commissioned officer, lieutenant, and captain, in a regiment of light artillery, New York militia, before leaving that State, he was, on the organization of Mayfield as a separate company district in 1833, elected the first captain of the first company in that township. On the outbreak of the celebrated "Toledo war," when it was expected that active, and perhaps dangerous, service would be necessary in maintaining the rights of Ohio to that city and the surrounding territory. Captain Willson, with his lieutenant and twelve men, volunteered to take part in the contest. In 1834, he was elected major of the first regiment of infantry, second brigade, ninth division, Ohio militia; in 1835 was promoted to lieutenant colonel, and in 1836 was chosen colonel. In 1838 Colonel Willson was elected brigadier general, which position he resigned about four years afterwards.

On the 6th day of September, 1836, Gen. Willson was married to Miss Eliza Handerson, of the adjoining town of Orange, a lady who has shared with him the joys and sorrows of life down to the present time.

In 1837, Gen. Willson dissolved partnership with Mr. McDowell, taking the mill and farm as his share. Milling and farming have been his occupations since that time, and in both he has been extremely successful; being now the owner of about nine hundred acres of land. In April, 1840, his mills were destroyed by fire, but were rebuilt with characteristic energy, being set running on the 7th of January, 1841. In 1875 they were transferred to the general's eldest son, Myron H. Willson, who still owns and operates them.

Gen. Willson became a member of the Masonic order fifty-one years since, before leaving the State of New York. He has passed through all the degrees, from that of entered apprentice to the Scottish rites, and maintains a high standing among the brethren of the order. Though never a politician, yet in 1846 his neighbors elected him to the office of justice of the peace of Mayfield township, and re-elected him in 1849; the whole length of his service being six years. General and Mrs. Willson have raised a family of nine children, five sons and four daughters. Two of his sons enlisted early in the war for the Union, and both gave their lives in its defense. George A. Willson enlisted in the First Infantry in the summer of 1861, at the age of nineteen, and was killed at the battle of Resaea, Georgia, May 14, 1864. James P. Willson also enlisted in Battery B, First Light Artillery, the same summer, at the age of seventeen, and died in service in June, 1862, having been brought home from Nashville three weeks before his decease.

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

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Mayfield, survey township number 8 in range 10, like Chagrin Falls and Orange, includes a portion of the Chagrin River Valley. Originally under the civil jurisdiction of Chagrin, now Willoughby Township in Lake County, it soon formed its own township government and entered into the sisterhood of townships of Cuyahoga County. In its pioneer history it has the distinction among other things of furnishing the biggest snake story yet recorded in the annals of the county. The first settlement was made in 1805 by Abner Johnson, Samuel Johnson and David Smith, who came with their families from Ontario County, New York; in that year and located on the west side of Chagrin River a little above the site of Willson's Mills. The next spring three old neighbors came from New York with packs on their backs, guns on their shoulders and a dog by their side. The leader of this hiking or hunting party and the oldest was Daniel S. Judd. He was a large fleshy man who had fought in the French and Indian wars forty-five years before, and was also a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He was known as a great hunter of animals as well as men. This trip to the Western Reserve was in one sense a long hunt, as their trail took them through many miles of virgin forest. The others of the party were the two sons of Daniel, Freeman and Thomas Judd. The dog we will call Jack. The four, we must still include Jack, had started for Portage County, intending to settle there, but lost their way and by some turn of fate came upon their old neighbors of Ontario County, New York, whom they had not seen for some time. The fine bottom land of Chagrin River attracted them, and finding their old neighbors here as well, their plans were changed and they began a settlement on the west side of the river above where the others, the first settlers, had located. The Judds immediately began clearing, planting as they cleared, built a log cabin, probably more than one, as the sons had families, and in the fall went back East for their families and household furniture. In the family of Daniel S. Judd was Polly Judd, and she made quick conquest of the heart of John Howton, and in 1807 the first wedding was attended with the usual solemnities in this little community. The contracting parties were Polly Judd and John Howton and the magistrate who attended to the legal part of the programme was Squire Turner of Chagrin Falls. Polly, although the first to marry in Mayfield, was not the first daughter of the old warrior to take that step. In the spring of 1807 James Covert, a son in law of Daniel S. Judd, with a wife and child, came from New York to the Chagrin Valley. He located below the site of Willson's Mills, as that location is now given upon the map. He was twenty-six, but other than his interest in realty his possessions consisted of a wife and child, \$3 in money, an ax and a dog. He put up a shanty, went on foot to Painesville for a peck of salt, for which he paid \$1, bought two pigs for the \$2 left, and started in as a pioneer farmer. His biggest asset was his credit with his father-in-law, Judd. From him he bought a two-year-old heifer on credit. Not to trace all of the steps nor to know just how much he owed to his wife, the daughter of the old warrior, for his advancement, it is sufficient to say that at the time of his death he owned over 1,000 acres of land and much other property and was long known as the richest man in the township. He was the father of twenty-three children; and died in 1878 at the age of ninety-seven years. Of his twenty-three children fourteen were by his first wife, whose maiden name was Martha Judd. The eighth born was James Covert, Jr., who for many years conducted the "Chagrin Valley Poultry Farm." This was the Abner Johnson farm, originally owned by that first settler, and was located, as we have said, above Willson's Mills. Samuel Johnson and David Smith left before Covert, Sr., came, so that this Abner Johnson farm was the first farm cleared in the township. John Jackson bought the farms of the first two, Samuel Johnson and David Smith, and became a permanent resident. The first birth in the township was a child to the first wedded pair, John and Polly Howton.

The difficulty that attended the pioneers generally in the county, the handicap of bad roads, was perhaps greater in Mayfield in its early history than in some other townships, as being under the civil government of Chagrin Township, now Willoughby, the few residents were called out to work their road tax in that township and the work done at home was voluntary road work. The Chagrin was much more healthful than the Cuyahoga and there was very little fever and ague, which was so prevalent in many parts of the county in the early days. Young calves and pigs were often killed and eaten by the bears, but Mr. Covert solved the problem by keeping together so large a drove of hogs that they would join together and fight Bruin to a finish. Failing in the pig baffles, the bears would resort to small depredations about the house by night and day. One morning Mrs. Judd put cream in the churn ready for churning, set it out on a temporary porch and went about her other household duties. When she came out to churn, she found the churn upset and the cream licked up neatly and completely. Bear tracks all about revealed the identity of the robbers. James Jackson, who boarded with the Judds, planned a ruse to get the robbers. He put a pail of milk on the porch at night and waited with trusty flintlock. Soon he heard a lapping in the direction of the milk pail, and shooting at the sound in the darkness shot a large black bear. The wolves were very destructive among the sheep. Mr. Covert bought two sheep and two lambs, paying \$2.50 per head. The first night the wolves got the lambs; then Covert built a protection fence and yarded the two. From these he raised a large flock. He was an expert with the gun and he and James Jackson did much to thin out the wild enemy to his flocks and herds. At one time he was badly bitten by a wounded bear that he had approached too closely, and was confined to the house for a long time. Among the settlers who came after Covert were P. K. Wilson, Benjamin Wilson, Luke Covert, Benjamin Carpenter and Solomon Moon. Supposedly these were heads of families in the main. These early settlers of Mayfield were largely Methodists in religion, and as early as 1809 a class in that denomination was formed under the charge of Reverend Mr. Davidson, who was an eloquent speaker and active worker. The meetings were held in private houses, as there was not even a log schoolhouse built at that time. The first death in the township was that of the venerable Daniel S. Judd, veteran of two wars, who died of apoplexy in 1810. After his death Mr. Covert became in a sense the dean of the settlers. In later years he used to relate how he would often take a bushel of corn on his back to the mill at Chagrin, now Willoughby, attended on his return home by packs of wolves. These would follow and howl, rather unpleasant company, but rarely attacked man even in the night time. Once, as he related to a group of children, he was thoroughly scared. He said: "I had been reaping wheat for a man who lived several miles from the river in Chagrin, and was coming home after dark. It was difficult to follow the sled path in the night, so I took off my shoes, carrying them in my hands so that I could feel the path with my feet. When about two miles from home I could see a row of fierce eyes within a few feet all about me. Wolves, generally cowardly, rarely came so close to a person and I was thoroughly scared. I felt in the darkness for a tree that I could climb and my hands came upon two sticks. These I threw with all force at the row of eyes and the animals scattered in the darkness. They followed me all the way home, but at a safer distance on each side, howling at intervals."

War is destructive of the ordinary processes of civilization, and the War of 1812 stopped everything in the line of increased settlement in township 8, range 10. Not until 1816 was there a schoolhouse in the township. It was a log building erected on land of Anthony Sherman. This became the only public hall and was used for a long time as a schoolhouse, church, and town hall. In 1815 Seth Mapes and family came into the pioneer life of the township. They stayed twelve years and then moved to Orange. In 1819 the little community took action towards forming a township government. It has been historically true that in all the history of Cuyahoga County and its constituent townships, as in the entire Western Reserve, orderly and complete civic authority was early established and all the forms of government put in force. It would seem that the failure of the French government to establish a more permanent

foothold in this country was due to its form of settlements. The trading post established in the most attractive points for trade and commercial advantage did not take root and become a fixed and integral part of an empire such as they designed to establish. The township, a small but actual division of the greater county, the officers drawn from its people in most familiar and actual contact with all the rest, entrusted with the dignity and burden of local self-government, was a little world in itself. It had in itself political strength and independence and yet as the athlete trains the smaller muscles to make the powerful and complete man, so these communities self-trained in government are factors in building up and maintaining a great republic. On June 14, 1819, a town meeting was held in the log schoolhouse in township 8, range 10. At a previous meeting the name Mayfield had been selected and the county commissioners had approved of the selection, taken all the necessary steps, and granted the request for the organization. The meeting was organized by choosing Daniel S. Judd, Daniel Richardson, and Adam Overacker as judges of election, and John Jackson as clerk. Twenty men were present and voted and thirteen out of the twenty were elected to office. These first officers of the township were: Trustees, Adam Overacker, Seth Mapes, and Daniel Smith; clerk, John Jackson; treasurer, Benjamin Carpenter, Jr.; overseers of the poor, James Covert and Philo Judd; fence viewers, John Gloge and Michael Overacker; appraiser, Francis Mapes; lister, Henry Francisco; justice of the peace, Michael Overacker. We have said that previous to the organization of the township it was a part of the civil Township of Chagrin. The Western Reserve Historical Society of Cleveland has preserved an interesting record connected with the separation when the Township of Mayfield was formed. The Township of Chagrin settled with its seceding neighbor in strict equity. The record is in the form of a receipt and reads as follows:

"Received of the Township of Chagrin November tenth three dollars and eighty-eight cents, being our proportion of the money in the treasury at the time of the division. Amount of tax levied in 1818, \$76.00. Amount paid by Mayfield \$6.80. Remaining in the treasury at the time of the division \$43.05. Belonging to Mayfield \$3.88.

"Paid by John Jackson three dollars and eighty-eight cents to the Trustees of Mayfield, money drawn from the treasury of Chagrin and expended between them and the township clerk as a compensation for their services during the year one thousand eight hundred and nineteen."

To one given to figures it is easy to compute the ratio and show that Chagrin (Willoughby) paid over the exact proportion due the new township.

The increase following the organization of the township was two or three families per year. Bears and wolves began to diminish in numbers, but rattlesnakes were numerous in all parts. Solomon Mapes, and his achievement is authenticated by others, Dr. A. L. Dille related the story in the '80s, Solomon Mapes killed sixty-three rattlesnakes, the inhabitants of a single hollow log. This was in 1825. He discovered the presence of the reptiles in the log, armed himself with an efficient weapon, and then with a rousing tap on the log would kill the snakes, one by one, as they came out. His count was verified by others. The first sawmill was built by Abner Johnson and Seth Mapes in 1824 north of Mayfield Center. The next year Mr. Johnson built the first gristmill in the township. It was located on a branch of the Chagrin River near the site of Willson's Mills. In 1826 Halsey Gates came to the locality afterwards known as Gates' Mills. He brought with him the gearing for a sawmill and immediately started the building, and the same year began operations. This was in the southeast section of the township. The next year he put up a gristmill, and these two most essential industries centered the settlement which is now the Village of Gates' Mills. Lyndon Jenks was an early resident here.

About 1828 a temporary blight affected the growth and impeded the development of the new township.

This was nothing more or less than an outbreak of Mormonism. We have referred to the address of Sidney Rigdon at Chagrin Falls in which he predicted that the "Saints" would soon occupy the Chagrin Valley. Mayfield became an especial camping ground for Mormon preachers, priests, and prophets, before this prediction was made, and there were many converts. It is authenticated that they held out the inducement that those joining the Mormon Church, if they had sufficient faith, would never die, but if death came it was as a result of sin. Recent investigations into the operations of The House of David at Benton Harbor, Michigan, have brought out the fact that this sect held out the same inducement. The House of David was founded by Joanna Southcott, an English religious fanatic, who was born in Devonshire in 1750, a domestic servant. Originally, she became a Methodist and soon pretended to have supernatural gifts. She dictated prophecies in rhyme, proclaimed herself to be the woman mentioned in the Apocalypse, and, although sixty-four years old, affirmed that she was to be delivered of "Shiloh" on the 19th of October, 1814. When this date arrived, she was surrounded by her followers but "Shiloh" failed to appear. It was then given out that she was in a trance, but she died of dropsy in ten days. Her publications number over sixty, and are all "equally incoherent in thought and grammar," but a lady named Essam left by will a large sum of money for printing and publishing the "Sacred Writings of Joanna Southcott." This bequest was contested in court by a niece on the ground that the writings were blasphemous, but the Court of Chancery sustained the will. This cult grew and at one time there were 100,000 followers. Then it gradually died out, but never became wholly extinct. The House of David, Shiloh, at Benton Harbor, Michigan, was of this cult. They held to the claim that its followers would not die. When the influenza swept the country, it was published in the newspapers that there were no cases in Shiloh and while the outside world were dying, the members of the House of David were perfectly healthy. Later developments in court in connection with the immorality charges proved against King Benjamin Purnell, have brought out the fact that deaths in the colony were concealed and secret burials were employed to conceal the fact of death, at least to the outside world. This cult, as will be seen, was founded only a short time before Mormonism, and the founders of Mormonism at first adopted this taking idea of immunity from death as a good talking point for their missionaries. As we have said, there were many converts in Mayfield, and some were perfectly crazy in their new faith. Families were broken up by the fanatical Mormonism of some of the household. Besides the resident converts many Mormons moved into the township and "squatted" on land in the sparsely settled portions of the township, on farms in the western and central parts. These were social groups. In some instances, there were several families on one farm. But developments at Kirtland and plans of the leaders there changed the drift and in 1831 they moved away to join the westward progress of the colony. Mayfield breathed freer now and the coming of settlers of a character to build up the best interests of the township began. Samuel Dean had come to Gates' Mills in 1829. By that time nearly all the lots had been bought on credit from the original owners. The clearings were small, the houses log, and if frame houses were seen they were as rare as rail fences are today. The farms were mostly sold on land contracts running from twenty-five to thirty years. When the terms were broken by failure of the purchaser to keep up his payments in full, they were renewed from time to time. If the owner got his interest he was satisfied and sometimes it was difficult to get enough to pay his taxes. After the Mormons left, a more enterprising class came in. They bought up the old improvements, paid for their lands in a reasonable time and a change came over the township for the better. Whatever may be said of the thrift of the Mormons in the West, they were not a benefit to Mayfield and in so far as their influence and history touches the township of Mayfield, and thereby enters into the history of Cuyahoga County, they were a blight.

Soon after 1830, the immigration became rapid. Frederick Willson came and gave his name to Willson's Mills. Elton Wait and Daniel McDonald built the first store in the township in that locality. This passed to Willson and McDonald, who continued in business for five years. Col. Ezra Eddy settled in the township and opened a tanning and currying establishment near Gates' Mills. This he carried on for many years.

The first frame schoolhouse was built at the Center in 1830 and took the place and occupied the site of the old log school, which was the first built in the township. Like its predecessor the new schoolhouse was used for church and town meetings. Elections were held in it as late as 1848. When Jeniah Jones settled near the Center in 1831 that part was still a wilderness. Soon after his arrival he helped to open the state road from the Center eastward. There were no buildings along the line then. Rufus Mapes, who came in 1830, was long and favorably known over the county. Of those who came to the East Hill before this year Rufus Mapes outstayed them all. South of the Center Joseph Lentz, Elijah Sorter and sons, Harry, Charles and Isaac, took up land. They bought from the Mormons, paying \$4 per acre. The grandfather of Elijah, Henry Sorter, better known as Uncle Hank, was of Dutch descent and was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Grandmother Sorter was also of Dutch descent, was once captured by the Indians. At another time another member of her family was made a captive and was released on the payment of twenty-two pounds of tobacco. Some such ransom was paid for the release of Grandmother, as she was not long in captivity. Other settlers, who came about the time that the Sorters arrived, were S. Whaling, Lucas Lindsley, and others. The farmers were getting into sheep raising, and in 1832 Erwin Doolittle started a carding machine and cloth dressing establishment, north of Willson's Mills and on the same stream on which Abner Johnson located his mill.

The first physician in the township was Dr. A. L. Dille, who came from Euclid and settled at Wilson's Mills and engaged in practice there in 1834. Here was the only post office in the township until this year and all residents went there for their mail. Then a post office was established at Gates' Mills, a mail route being opened from Cleveland to Chardon, Geauga County. The year before Willson and McDowell built a tavern at Willson's Mills, and Hiram Folk opened one at Gates' Mills. The year following Halsey Gates put up a fine frame hotel at Gates' Mills, with a ballroom, and for years this was the scene of many a joyous gathering. The same year Willson and McDowell built a sawmill and flouring mill near the site of their store and tavern. These mills were burned in 1839 and rebuilt, Gen. Frederick Willson owning a whole or part until they passed into the hands of his son. By 1839 all the land in the township had been bought from the original owners and a large part cleared. There were some deer still in the woods. Doctor Dille says he only heard the wolves howl once after 1834. Mayfield was no longer a wilderness. In 1849 Dr. T. M. Moon began practice at Gates' Mills, and Dr. Alexander Charles at Mayfield Center. Doctor Charles was commissioned a surgeon in the volunteer army in the Mexican war, went to the front and died while serving in the army in Mexico. The first church building was put up by the Methodists at Mayfield Center in 1842. In 1856 a number of enterprising citizens secured a charter for a school of higher grade in the township. It was known as the Mayfield Academy and was under the direction of the Mayfield Academy Association. A building was erected in the southwest part of the township. This school flourished for many years and gave opportunity to the youth of the township for a more liberal education than the district schools afforded. In the Civil war Mayfield gave its full quota to the Union cause, and the names of her soldiers are recorded in the soldiers' monument on the public square at Cleveland. In 1877 a plank road was built from East Cleveland through Euclid and Mayfield to the top of the hill one half a mile east of Gates' Mills. Of this road three- and one-half miles was built in Mayfield Township. In 1879 there were three post offices in the township, located at Willson's Mills, Gates' Mills, and Mayfield Center. At Gates' Mills there were twenty residences, a gristmill and sawmill, a rake factory, and a store. Two churches gave opportunity for religious services to which all were invited. At Mayfield Center there were the town hall, a church a store and a sawmill. Of the Methodist churches of the township one was located at the Center, one at Gates' Mills, and one on the east line of the township called East Hill. These churches were on a circuit and among the pastors have been in the early years Reverends Mix, Graham, and Excell, and Revs. B. J. Kennedy, E. C. Latimer, Hiram Kellogg, D. Rowland, J. B. Goodrich, D. Mizener, J. K. Shaffer, and James Shields. The United Brethren Church was organized in 1870, and a church building erected at Willson's Mills. A Disciple Church was organized at Gates' Mills in 1871. They bought a

schoolhouse and converted it into a church. Truman Gates, L. P. Shuart, Luther Battles, and Lyndon Jenks have served as trustees.

Of the schools, notwithstanding many recent changes in the local government by the formation of villages out of the territory of Mayfield, they are all under the supervision of one superintendent, W. L. Shuman. The buildings are located in different parts of the original township, but operated as if all were centrally combined. There is one at Willson's Mills, one at Gates' Mills, one at Highland Heights, and one at Mayfield Center. There are, all told, twenty-one teachers, and the total enrollment of pupils is 600.

The year of 1920 witnessed radical changes by the forming of villages out of the township, and four villages were formed as if by a concerted arrangement, and a portion of the township annexed to another village in an adjoining township the same year. The villages were formed by action of the trustees of the township, B. A. Shepard, W. P. Fisher, and J. W. Southwick, and a vote of the people. The township clerk at this time being S. E. Miner. Riverside Village in the northeast section, comprising Willson's Mills, petitioned and the agents of the petitioners were Fred Willson and P. J. Sherman. The population of the territory to be included was 200. Election was held May 27th, and the vote was twenty-eight in favor and seven against the proposition. The people in the north center of the township, west of Riverside, petitioned for a village to be called Mayfield Village. The agent of the petitioners was L. E. Brott. The election on the proposition was held July 6th, and the vote was thirty-two for and five against it. The number of inhabitants was given as 300. The residents in the northwest part of the township petitioned for the formation of a village to be called Highland Heights. The agents of the petitioners were Myron Willis and Aloys Stenger. The number of inhabitants was given as 200. A vote was taken at an election held May 18th and the vote was thirty-two for the proposition and none against it. The inhabitants of the southwest portion of the township, which includes Gates' Mills, petitioned, and the agent of the petitioners was L. H. Elliott. An election was called for November 29th, and here a much larger vote was had, the result being 105 for the formation of a village and 4 against. The name selected was Gates' Mills Village. In this same year of 1920 S. C. Vessy, solicitor of the Village of Lyndhurst, lying on the southwest border of Mayfield, and formerly called Euclidville, petitioned the county commissioners for the annexation of certain contiguous territory in Mayfield Township to that village. This petition was granted, and this territory in the southwest portion annexed to that village. Perhaps no township in the county has mothered so many municipal corporations in a single year.

Commencing at the northwest, the officers of Highland Heights Village are: Mayor, Myron Willis; clerk, Grant Straight; treasurer, Clark Parker; marshal, James Holoday; assessor, Charles S. Marquis; justice of the peace, Otto F. Moses; councilmen, John Franz, John Hager, John Herman, Frank Holoday, Frank McGurer, and Ora Parker. To the west comes Mayfield Village. The officers are: Mayor, G. A. Bennett; clerk, Maynard Covert; treasurer, Carl Schwering; marshal, Seman Grootegood; assessor, W. F. Sickman; councilmen, H. M. Locker, Herman Schulz, D. M. Brott, Dorr Knapp, W. R. Oatase, and Percy Parker. West of this lies the Village of Riverside. The officers are: Mayor, W. G. Schmunk; clerk, F. J. Willson; treasurer, J. A. Southwick; marshal, James Murney; councilmen, N. Battles, E. A. Brigham, I. S. McClintock, J. W. Rogers, P. J. Sherman, and H. O. Stine. The officers of Gates' Mills Village, in the southwest portion of the original township, are: Mayor, F. R. Walker; clerk, H. L. Huncher; treasurer, F. H. Ginn; marshal, C. C. Clark; councilmen, George W. Brown, L. H. Elliott, J. H. Fleming, H. C. Gallimore, R. B. Hayes, and E. S. Miner.

Notwithstanding the swarming of so many political entities from the original hive the Township of Mayfield formed so long ago in the wilderness has still an active existence and its territory, diminished, surrounds the Mayfield Center of the years gone by. The present officers of the township are: Trustees, B. A. Shepard, John Southwick and W. P. Fisher; clerk, Stanley Miner; treasurer, L. D. Hine; assessor, Charles Marquis; justice of the peace, Horace Neff; constable, S. Grootegood. Among the officers up to

the '80s we will recall many scions from the original pioneer stock as well some of the pioneers. Among those who have served as trustees are: Truman Gates, L. P. Shuart, Luther Battles, Lyndon Jenks, Rufus Mapes, E. A. Johnson, H. S. Mapes, Osbert Arnold, Herman Jacobs, Daniel Shepherd, N. C. Sebins, Harry Sorter, David Hoege, J. A. Dodd, J. Bennett, Leonard Straight, C. N. Sorter, C. Russell, William Apthorp, J. B. Sorter, Alva Hanscom, J. Sherman, H. Webster, Gordon Abbey, Nelson Willson, A. Granger, L. Jenks, W. D. Seldon, E. D. Battles, John Aikens, T. Gates, Milo Rudd, George Covert, John Law, William Neville, William O. Southwick, Ira Hoffman, A. F. Williams, A. A. Jerome and Henry Covert. Among the clerks, some of whom served quite long terms, we note, Jeniah Jones, W. Brainard, L. Straight, J. A. Cutler, William Miner, Tracy E. Smith, Wilbur F. Sorter and H. W. Russell. The treasurers also have served quite long terms. Among them have been D. Wakeman, Charles N. Sorter, H. C. Eggleston, L. Straight, Harry Sorter, J. T. Battles, A. Straight, L. M. Gates, Jr., and A. Granger.

Before closing the chapter on Mayfield we are constrained to give something more of a few of the characters identified with the township and county of which it is a part. Col. Ezra Eddy was born in Orange County, New York, in 1805. He was colonel of a regiment of militia, which drew its membership from all that portion of the county east of the Cuyahoga River. For six years he was county commissioner. Frederick Willson was born in the Township of Phelps, Ontario County, New York. He has been mentioned as coming to the township in 1830 and giving his name to the locality, Willson's Mills. He served in the militia of New York before coming to Mayfield and was lieutenant and then captain in the light artillery service. He was elected captain of the first company of militia formed in Mayfield. They drilled and made great preparation for going to the front in the "Toledo war," which was a controversy over the boundary line between Michigan and Ohio, but Uncle Sam stepped in and averted the appeal to arms. In 1834 he was elected major of the First Regiment, Second Brigade, Ninth Division of the Ohio Militia. In 1835 he was elected lieutenant colonel, and then colonel, and in 1838 he was elected a brigadier general, and ever after held the title of General Willson. He married Miss Eliza Henderson of Orange Township. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity for sixty years. His sons were inclined to military service. George A. was a member of the Cleveland Grays, First Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was killed at the battle of Resaca in the Mexican war. James P. served during the war in the First Ohio Battery, and died soon after his return home. M. H. Willson, the oldest son, succeeded his father, General Willson, in owning and operating Willson's Mills. He was so engaged for a quarter of a century. It may be mentioned that General Willson's grandfather, Henry Willson, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The wife of General Willson, who gave him nine children, was of New England stock. In coming to Mayfield, the Willsons took claim to a tract of government land. Harry Sorter came with his father, Elijah, to Mayfield in 1831. He got his education in the district school, which was kept in a log schoolhouse. Perhaps it would be more exact to say that he finished his education there, for he had attended school some in New York before the family came to the Western Reserve. Elijah Sorter bought his land of the Mormons. Harry, when only twelve years of age, drove an ox team to Cleveland, carrying a load of Mormons. He spent his early life on the farm clearing. In 1875 he was elected to the Legislature and served in the Sixty second General Assembly. He served six years as township treasurer. W. A. Thorp was long a resident of Mayfield. His father, Warren A. Thorp, was born in Cleveland. He was a grandson of Yale Thorp. Yale Thorp built Yale College in Connecticut and left an arrangement whereby his posterity could be educated there free of charge. W. A. Thorp served for a number of years as township trustee and held other township offices. A. A. Jerome was born in Orange Township. His father, Asahel Jerome, was a native of New York State and his mother, who before her marriage was Miss Lavina C. Sabin, was a native of Connecticut. A. A. Jerome served in the Union army throughout the Civil war. He was twice wounded, the last wound received at the battle of Winchester, when he fought under Sheridan, resulted in the loss of an eye. Enlisting as a private he was promoted to be sergeant. He served six years as county commissioner. George A. Bennett was born in Mayfield, where he was a blacksmith for thirty years. His

father, Jacob Bennett, was an early settler and was a blacksmith by trade. His shop was the first one in town and after his death George continued the business. George A. Bennett was treasurer of Mayfield Township for fifteen years and served as county commissioner. James H. Gates, for a long-time postmaster of Mayfield, was the son of Charles Gates. Just what relationship there was to Halsey Gates, who gave his name to Gates' Mills the annals do not disclose. The Gates family were of Scotch ancestry. The Battles family enter largely into the history of Mayfield. The annual family reunions held in the township have been events of interest. An address delivered at one of these gatherings held in 1888, by Luther Battles, is preserved and is full of historical interest. Mary Ann Battles was chosen historian for the association. The meeting referred to was held at the residence of Lorenzo Baffles, the old homestead. Luther Battles in his address paid this tribute and we quote it because so largely the history of the county is made up of the doings and transactions of men and the women are "understood" as factors but not specifically mentioned. He said: "I ask, who was the great central figure and loving sympathizer in all our trials and vicissitudes, our griefs and disasters, our hopes and fears, who heard every cry and felt the throbbing of every heart? None but mother."

Mayfield 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/MayfieldTwpPWWR.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>

Mayfield

Mayfield, Cuyahoga County, is situated about sixteen miles east of Cleveland. It has no railway communication within its own limits. The Chagrin River winds through the town on its way to the lake. The scenery along its banks is varied and beautiful, especially at that season of the year when the foliage of the forest trees have "put on their dress of red and gold, for summer has gone, and the days grow cold."

Every generation has its early settlers, in whose life experience all succeeding generations become interested. If we look back into the record of early times, we shall encounter the surprising fact that less than a century ago the township was a vast forest.

The lives of the early pioneers abounded in brave deeds, and the women of that period were as brave and heroic as the men, and we should rejoice that there is a spirit at last awakening by which their memory is to be preserved, for we are indebted to them for many of the privileges and blessings we not enjoy. In this way the lessons of pioneer life, with its joys and sorrows, its trials and hardships, can be gathered up and preserved, and it becomes of interest to know the manner in which they lived; to what perils they were exposed, the opportunities they had for education and social enjoyments, and the difference there must have been between the log cabin in the forest and the comfortable homes they had left behind them.

In the year 1805 Abner JOHNSTON, Samuel JOHNSON, and David SMITH came with their families from Ontario County, New York, and made the first settlement in the present township of Mayfield. In the spring of 1806, they were agreeably surprised to see three of their old neighbors, with packs on their backs, guns on their shoulders, and dogs by their sides. Mrs. Daniel S. JUDD and his two sons. They had started for Portage County, where they intended to settle, but having lost their way, they accidentally found their old neighbors, and were so well pleased with the country that they began a settlement near them, and returned East in the fall for their families and personal property.

After their return the first wedding was celebrated in the township, the parties being John HOWTON and Polly JUDD. The marriage ceremony was performed by Squire TURNER, of Chagrin (now Willoughby). Mrs. Samuel JOHNSON and David SMITH with their families moved from the township, and their place was taken by John JACKSON, who married Sally JUDD. In the spring of 1807 Martha JUDD, who married James COVERT, Sr., came from Seneca County, New York, with her husband and one child. She was the daughter of Daniel JUDD. Mr. and Mrs. COVERT walked ten miles to where the man lived who was to bring them to the new home in the forest. Their courage almost failed them when they saw his poor

horses and wagon, but as they had started, they decided to come on. When they reached the bank of the Grand River, they found the stream so high they could not cross with the horses and wagon, so they came across in a boat, and walked from there to their new home - a distance of twenty miles - carrying their child, ax, and a few things in a bushel basket.

Like most of the early settlers, their worldly wealth was very limited, consisting of \$3 in money, an ax, and a dog. After putting up a shanty with a puncheon floor, he went on foot to Painesville, bought a peck of poor salt for a dollar, carried it home on his back, and with the remaining \$2 bought two pigs; and thus, they began life in Mayfield. She was a kind, hospitable woman and an excellent nurse.

She was the mother of many children. One son yet resides in Mayfield. She endured all the privations incident to pioneer life. The first birth in the township was a girl, born in the latter part of 1807 to John and Polly HOWTON, who was named Phoebe HOWTON.

The early settlers were largely Methodists, and as soon as 1809 they formed a class of that denomination under the charge of the Rev. Mr. DAVIDSON, who is said to have been an eloquent and successful preacher. For many years their meetings were held in private houses and in the woods, as there was not even a school house for them to assemble in.

The first death in the township was that of Daniel S. JUDD, a veteran of two patriotic wars, who died of apoplexy in 1810. There were no roads laid out in the township, and for a few years there were few newcomers, but the scattered settlers kept busily at work clearing around their respective cabins. They were, however, much isolated. Fortunately, the country was quite healthy, but there were many annoyances. The bears and wolves committed many depredations, and would often come up to the very doors of the settlers' houses in search of food. They killed sheep and other stock.

The war of 1812 stopped even what little progress there was before that time, and it was not until 1816 that a log school house was erected. It was used for some years as school house, church, and town hall. In 1816 Nancy COVERT (Mrs. Peter BILSON), her husband, and four children came from Seneca County, New York, in a lumber wagon drawn by oxen. She knew many of the hardships of pioneer life, and used to have to work out of doors, mow, cut grain with a sickle, break flax, spin and weave cloth for her children's clothes. She is remembered as a very cheerful woman and a good nurse. Two of her daughters are living, Polly, widow of Samuel JOHNSON, and Lorinda, wife of George PATTERSON.

Julia SMITH (Mrs. Seth MAPES) came to Mayfield in 1815, her husband arriving a few days before to prepare a home for his family. She covered an ox cart with canvas, made such preparation as she could for the journey, and, with her children, came to the new home. She cared for her little ones, and drove the oxen the entire distance, and arrived safely, as much to the pleasure as to the surprise of her husband. She was a woman of wonderful courage, kind, and hospitable, and lived to be eighty-seven years of age.

Polly SMITH (Mrs. Peter KEESLER) came here from Seneca County, New York, in 1816, bringing seven daughters and two sons with her. They came with an ox team and wagon over poor roads, and fording unbridged streams. Their home was in a log house in the forest, which they cleared, sowed wheat and corn among the stumps, and began pioneer life. Their children had to go a long way through the woods to school. She is remembered as a kind woman in sickness and trouble.

Abigail ALLEN married Rufus MAPES in 1816; was a descendant of Ethan ALLEN, and was born in the province of Maine before it was a State; came to Ohio and settled in Mayfield in 1818. She was the mother of seventeen children, fifteen of whom grew to maturity. Her husband was a soldier in the war of 1812. She was an excellent nurse, and was indispensable to her neighbors and friends in time of sickness and death. Brave in time of danger, being often left alone with her little children, she would keep fire burning on a stump near their cabin all night to prevent wolves from killing their sheep. Being sent for when her father was dying, her husband being away from home, she left her older children and home, took a colt from the lot that had never been broken, saddled and bridled it and, taking her baby eight months old in her arms, rode to Willoughby, a distance of ten miles, and saw her father before he died. The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. MAPES was celebrated in 1868. She was a devoted Christian, an affectionate mother, and very kind to everyone.

Margaret McLAY was born in Pennsylvania, moved to Mentor, O., and was married to Benjamin WILSON in 1818. The day after the wedding they came here and commenced housekeeping in a log house in the forest. She was a very industrious woman, and used to go out in the evening by the firelight of the brush-heaps that her husband was burning and spin flax. She was very hospitable, and in the good old days, when it was fashionable for neighbors to go and spend the evening and have supper, her home was the scene of many a joyous gathering. She was very devoted to her family. Her oldest daughter, Pauline, who married Ira HOFFMAN, is one of the oldest ladies living here who was born in Mayfield, and is a noble woman.

After the war of 1812 the population steadily increased, and we find the names of MAPES, RICHARDSON, GRAVES, GLOGE, FRANCISCO, and OVEROCKER. In 1819 a new township was formed and named Mayfield. The first town meeting was held in June of that year, twenty voters being present; of those thirteen were elected to fill various offices. There could not be found a more accommodating kind-hearted people than inhabited the town at this time; if a neighbor was in trouble or sick, all were ready to minister to his wants; if there was to be a logging bee or a barn to be raised, they would come many miles to assist in the work.

Sally COVERT, nee POTES, was noted for being an excellent cook, and they used to send for her to cook the dinner for a logging bee or barn raising, she being the only young lady that could cook and season a pot pie made in a caldron kettle. She was also one of the early school teachers, was a beautiful woman, and is still living in her Western home.

Lucinda SHELDEN came with her husband, Pleg SHERMAN, Sr., and children from North Adams, Mass., in 1824. She was the mother of a large family of boys and two daughters. Her daughter, Phoebe, married James COVERT, Sr. Sarah married Hiram EGGLETON, and is living in Michigan. Mrs. SHERMAN died at the home of one of her sons in Michigan.

Hannah KNOWLTON, Mrs. GRANT, came from the East with her son, Halsey GATES, in 1826, and to Mayfield the following spring. She was one of the pioneer women who could card, spin, and weave cloth and blankets, spin flax and weave linen. One of her great-granddaughters has a white woolen coverlet that she made for her mother, embroidered with colored yarn that she spun and twisted, as fine as the split zephyr we use now; it is a very nice keepsake to be handed down from generation to generation as a specimen of the work done by our pioneer grandmothers. One of her seven children lived to be eighty-two years old.

Lucy Ann BRALLEY, wife of Halsey GATES, was born in Delaware County, New York, came here in 1826. They bought their land of the Connecticut Land Company in its wild state, built a log house and commenced housekeeping in the forest. Mr. GATES brought with him the gearing of a sawmill which was completed the next year, and the year following he erected a grist mill. He helped survey the first road from GATES' Mill to Cleveland, established the first mail route between those places, and carried it the first year at his own expense.

Mrs. GATES raised a family of eight children, the first three of whom were cradled in the sap troughs. In 1834 they erected a fine frame hotel, which is used now as a dwelling house. She was a very genial landlady, a consistent Christian, and gave liberally to all works of charity.

In 1829 Laura SHERMAN (Mrs. Samuel DEAN) came from North Adams, Mass. She started to cross the river when the water was high, with two of her children, in an ox-cart. When they reached the middle of the stream the cart tipped over, and she and the children came very near being drowned. Her husband caught her by her hair, and lifted her out. She had a child under each arm.

In 1843 there was a tornado. It blew her sick child through a window about twenty rods from the house. It took another child, two and one-half years old, carried him up out of sight, and when he came down, she caught him in her arms. Her seven children all were hurt, except the one that crawled under a straw stack. It took the house up and turned it over on one side of the roof. The report was current that her husband had a great amount of money in gold, and people came for miles around to search for it. It demolished the school house, but the teacher, seeing the storm coming, dismissed the school, and none of her pupils were hurt. Mrs. Anthony SHERMAN (nee ALDERMAN) was rolled over and over on the ground, her husband took their little boy, put him in a hollow place in the ground, and lay down over him to keep the wind from blowing him away.

In 1828 there was an outbreak of Mormonism in the township. Quite a number of the inhabitants were converted to that faith; several families were broken up, and some of their members moved away to Salt Lake. Sally JACKSON, who was born in Mayfield, was one of the early school teachers. She and her sister, Eliza, went with their parents to Salt Lake.

The first framed school house was built at Mayfield center in 1830, and was used as school house, church, and town hall, elections being held in it until 1848.

Harriet WILSON was born in Phelps, N.Y., in 1808. At the age of sixteen she married David McDOWELL, and energetic young man of Phelps, and in 1830 they moved to Mayfield with their three children and their household goods. They made their way through the forest where there were only narrow roads and blazed trees to mark the route to their new home - a log house - which they soon left to live in the dwelling house and store, built by WAITE and McDOWELL - the first store in Mayfield. In 1833 her husband and brother, Frederick WILSON, built the first hotel, and she was the first landlady, and by her kind, cheery disposition, won many warm friends; she was hospitable in manner, witty in conversation, and given to deeds of kindness - nursing the sick and relieving the wants of the poor. She was left a widow in 1843 with six children to care for. In 1847 she married Egbert JOHNSON, by whom she had one daughter, at whose home she died in 1879, and is buried near her hold home in the Willson's Mills Cemetery.

Caroline SANFORD came from Genesee County, N.Y., with her husband Caleb RUSSELL, in 1830, knew many of the hardships of pioneer life, and was the mother of two sons and four daughters. She was one

of the brave mothers whose sons gave their lives to save the country they loved. Two daughters survive her, Emily, who married Benjamin FISH, and Harriet, who married Loren CURTIS. Mr. and Mrs. RUSSELL were members of the Methodist church for many years.

Sally RATHBUN (Mrs. Samuel WHITING) came from Pittsfield, Mass., in 1831, was one of the settlers in this part of town, could spin, knit, and do all kinds of work done by the women of that time; was one of the members of the early Presbyterian Church, and was an efficient church worker and kind woman. Margaret MIDDAUGH (Mrs. Elijah SORTOR) came from Seneca County, N.Y., in 1831. She was one of the pioneer women who suffered many privations in the new home and used to weave in order to buy seed corn to plant. When she rode on horseback, she would carry two and sometimes three children. She raised a family of ten children and lived to be eighty-eight years old. Mr. and Mrs. MIDDAUGH celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with a golden wedding, to which relatives and cherished friends were bidden. Such privileges come to but very few in life.

Sally SORTOR, nee JONES, came to Mayfield with her parents and was the mother of ten children. A very kind-hearted Christian lady, one of her daughters said she could not find language to write of her mother that could express what she was to her, and that her childhood years were full of little errands of sympathy and good things for the sick and needy sent by her mother. She was a Christian mother and still lives in the hearts of her children and friends.

The first physician in the township was the Dr. A.L. DILLE, who settled at the Wilson's Mills in 1834. He married Jane BOOTH, of Mentor, O. He died some years ago and was taken to Mentor and buried by the side of his father. Mrs. DILLE went to Michigan to live with her sister and died there.

Dorcas WAKEFIELD, nee RUDD, came from Watertown, N.Y., in 1834. It took sixteen days and nights on Lake Erie before they reached Cleveland. Her first home was a log house without any floor, a shake roof, and no door or window. They used to hang a quilt at night at the opening and would wake up mornings in the winter and find their beds covered with snow. She was a tailoress and supported the family by sewing. An excellent nurse, she took care of her family, who were ill with typhoid fever, without the aid of a physician. She was much beloved for her amiable, Christian character.

After a journey of nine weeks on the ocean from England, Hannah LEUTY, her husband, John NEVILLE, and two little boys landed at New York. The children were very sick on the water, and she hardly knew whether they would live to see land or not. Her first home was a poor log house, but she lived to exchange it for a beautiful home and see Mayfield change from a wilderness to a nicely settled township. She saw her children grow to manhood and womanhood and become useful members of society. She was a devout Christian and church worker and by her works will she be remembered.

Rhoda ARNOLD (Mrs. Lemuel SOUTHWICK), with her husband and children, became residents of Mayfield in 1834. They came from Albany to Buffalo by canal and from there to Cleveland on the steamer Walk-in-the-Water, the first vessel propelled by steam that traversed the waters of Lake Erie. She is spoken of with respect and kindness by all who know her. An only daughter, Lydia, who married Benjamin SHERMAN, was a lovely woman. She was found by the bedside of the sick and among those who had need of her gentle voice and helping hand, was a devoted mother, kind neighbor, and "Aunt Lydia," as she was called, will long live in the memory of those who knew her.

Mrs. John HOLMES, nee Betsy WARE, made the journey from Connecticut in a lumber wagon drawn by an ox team. She had two daughters, Harriet, who married William SOUTHWICK. Maria married Buell ALLEN and is still living in Youngstown.

Achsah SHERMAN, who married Lyndon JENKS in 1825, came to Ohio from North Adams, Mass., in 1834, bought the JENKS homestead the following year, and lived there until her death in 1893. She was one of the active, useful women of her time, was active in church work, and had great decision of character and energy. After sixty years of age she took woolen rolls, spun and colored the yarn, and made a suit of clothes for each of her three sons. A typical pioneer woman and a worthy helpmeet, she endeared herself to the whole community in which she lived and her children "rise up and call her blessed."

Arethursa PORTER, with her husband Luther BATTLES, and eight children started from Herkimer, N.Y., in 1834 to their long talked of home. There was a small log house on their land, but no roads, and but few improvements had been made in the neighborhood. Here they commenced the long, weary struggle for life anew. She sacrificed one of her sons at the shrine of liberty. She was a kind, Christian woman and had great love for her children.

Chloe HOWARD (Mrs. William APHORP) was born in Stockbridge, Mass., in 1808. Her father served as drummer boy in the year of 1812 and died at Sackett Harbor. She was trained to spin, weave, and knit, was married in 1835, and in 1838 came to Mayfield. She ate the first meal and spent the first night at Condit's tavern, Euclid Road. She remembers the cups and saucers used then as being like those of her mother at home. Soon after they went to their farm of one hundred acres of unbroken timber land in the northwest part of Mayfield and bought and paid for it with their united savings. In a log house her son and daughter were born. It is needless to say she knew what pioneer life meant. She is eighty-eight years old, well, hearty, and above all cheerful and glad to see her friends.

Names of women who were members of the First Presbyterian Church: Mrs. Anna STRONG, Mrs. Lucius STRONG, Mrs. Samuel WHITNEY, Mrs. HUMPHREY, Mrs. Daniel WILLIAMS, Mrs. Lyman RUSSELL, Mrs. Daniel SHEPARD, Mrs. Ralph TYLER, Mrs. Milton RUSSELL, Miss Maria BECKWITH, and Mrs. Tabitha TYLER. Their influence for good is felt at the present day. Meetings were held in the school house at the center of the town on one Sunday and at State Road Corners the other. After some years the meetings were discontinued, some of the members having moved away. There is but one denomination now in Mayfield, the Methodist.

Mrs. David LAW, nee Alice WILLIS, came from Ireland in 1835. Her husband built a log cabin in the forest, and they settled down in agricultural pursuits. She was the mother of five sons and four daughters. Mr. and Mrs. LAW lived only a few years after coming here. The daughters grew up lovely women. Alice married Gideon HENDERSON, afterwards Howard ALLEN; Jane married Wales HENDERSON; Mary, Horace TIBBITTS, and Martha, Mr. GREGORY. Two of the sons made Mayfield their home - John LAW, deceased, and Mr. Robert LAW.

Esther COLLINS was born in Brandon, Vt., moved to New York when quite young, was a schoolmate of Stephen A. DOUGLAS' father and mother, was married to George WILLSON, whose father was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. She left a nice home in the East, and came to live in a log house in the woods in 1836. Her husband, returning to his old home to visit, was taken sick and died there. After a few years, she went to live with her son, Frederick WILLSON, and spent the remainder of her life in his home. She used to knit stockings and mittens for the soldiers. She lived to see her great-grandchildren. She had a remarkable memory, and we all loved to listen to her stories of the Revolution and "the olden times."

She lived to the advanced age of ninety-four years. Jane (WILSON) SORTOR, her youngest daughter, was one of the early school teachers at Mayfield Center.

Eliza HENDERSON came with her parents from Columbia County, New York, to Orange Township in 1833, and was married to Frederick WILLSON in 1836, and came here. Together they shared the joys and sorrows of life for many years. She was the mother of nine children, and lived to see six of them consigned to their last places of rest. Two of her sons enlisted in the war for their country, and both gave their lives in its defense. She had an innate love for the beautiful was very fond of flowers, and is spoken of with love and respect by all who shared her society or enjoyed her hospitality. She was a great lover of home.

Hannah PRATT (Mrs. Luke WASTE) came from Washington County, New York, with her husband and two children in 1837. They first settled in Willoughby, and came to Mayfield in 1840. She was a very kind-hearted woman. She bore the noontide toil and heat, and at eventide, with tired, folded hands, waited for the summons which should open unto her the morning of eternal day.

Fidelia TAGGART, wife of Lyman RUSSELL, was born in Blandford, Mass., came to Mentor in 1831, and to Mayfield in 1838. She was a very hospitable woman, and made a home for the pioneer preachers who held services in the log school house and barn. She lived a beautiful home life with her family, and although an invalid many years of her life, was always cheerful and very grateful for any little kindness shown her. She died on the sixty-third anniversary of her wedding, aged eighty-four years.

Harriet HOLISTER was married in Bennington, Vt., in 1829 to Ruel CUTLER, moved to Kirtland, O., in 1840; two years later she came to Mayfield. She was left a widow at age of forty, with eight children to care for. She managed, by industry and frugality, to keep her children together until they were old enough to take care of themselves, giving them all the education possible. She lived to see two sons (who served in the civil war) and her three youngest daughters pass away with that dread disease, consumption, in less than five years' time. When seventy-five years old she went to live with her daughter, Mrs. STRAIGHT, in Michigan, but in one short year her remains were brought back and interred a short distance from where she had spent so many years of her life.

Sylvia SKINNER was born in Kirtland, O., in 1817, and was one of the first school teachers at Little Mountain, and was married to Amherst PINNEY in 1842. She used to spin and weave cloth for her children's dresses, also coverlets and woolen carpets, she was kind and hospitable to everyone. Her husband was from Mesopotamia, and people going from the eastern townships of Geauga and Trumbull to Cleveland used to stop and stay all night there. They called it the half-way house. She died quite young. Her three daughters survive her.

Sally PEASE (Mrs. Selden MINER), who came with her husband and children from Hebron, Conn., in 1843, was a bright, capable woman. Her daughter Clara (Mrs. Leroy WHITING) has been a worker in the Sunday school for many years. A young lady in her class says: "She is one who will never grow old, for she is so in sympathy with young people." Melissa (MINER) AIKEN was a noble Christian woman, interested in all works of charity and love, and although an invalid a good share of her life, her hands were never idle. Many will remember her "cheerful countenance, which doeth the heart good like a medicine." Truly may it be said of her:

"The sweetest lives are those to duty wed,
Whose deeds, both great and small,

Are close-knit strands of one unbroken thread,
Where love ennobles all.”

Mr. and Mrs. Welman BRAINARD came from Brooklyn, O., in 1843. He was one of the pioneer preachers. Mr. William LEUTY deeded him five acres of land for a home if he would come here and organize and superintend a Sunday school. Many are indebted to him for the good seed sown in their hearts in their youth, and the Book of Life will the shining record tell. Mr. and Mrs. BRAINARD were respected and loved by all who knew them. They lived a long, useful life, and celebrated their golden wedding.

The first church edifice was erected in 1842, and has since been replaced by a larger one.

Among the early teachers we find the names of Ann STRONG (SNOW), Eleanor STRONG (WHITING), Hannah BROWN, Jeannette EGGLESTON.

Harriet BRAINARD (nee BATTLES) was president of the Soldiers' Aid Society which did so much good during the civil war for the sick and wounded soldiers “and to it belongs the great and lasting honor of being the first society of women organized for the noble work of bearing a people's love to a people's army.”

Lucinda MILLER (Mrs. Henry HIGGINS) came from the East to Auburn in 1844, rode the entire distance in a lumber wagon with her husband and three children, was fourteen days on the road, then moved to Newburg, and came from there to Mayfield. She was a member of the Disciple Church a great many years, was an excellent nurse, cultivated and loved flowers, and was a great reader. Her daughters who came with her were Helen, who married Dr. WASTE, and Rosina, who married Greer PAGE.

Mayfield was the birthplace of Mary A. SORTOR, who grew up to be a useful and influential woman, was a successful school teacher, and taught for some time here in the Cleveland schools, and while there was instrumental in organizing a mission school. She was married to Mr. A.D. McHENRY in 1873 and they went as missionaries to India, and spent eight years in that noble work. She came home broken down in health, and died six weeks after her return.

Irene SHEPARD was born in Mayfield in 1841. She married Dr. CHALLIS, and for a number of years they were missionaries in Bulgaria, where they did a grand work. They have returned, and are living in Michigan.

Mrs. Selden MINER (Sally PEASE) came to Mayfield in 1843, a widow. Some of her sons lived here, and after their father died, one of them went back for the mother and her two daughters, Mrs. Clara MINER, who married Leroy WHITING, and Melissa MINER, who married Ashahel AIKEN.

May the shadows of time deal gently with the few who are left.

Mrs. David GILMORE
Chairman and Historian

Committee - Mrs. Clarinda LAMOREAUX, Mrs. Nellie MINER, Mrs. Sarah RUDD, Mrs. Ida RUSSELL, Mrs. Clara WHITING, Mrs. Laura STRAIGHT, Miss Florence LAW, Mrs. James COVERT, Mrs. Hattie KEESLER

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