

# NEWBURGH

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

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~ohcwogs/History%20of%20Cuyanoga%20County%201879/History%20of%20Cuy%20Cty%201879.pdf>

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## NEWBURGH TOWNSHIP HISTORY

Transcribed by Marlene

Proofed by Jeannette Harper

The Present Township - Early Settlement - Philipe Brower - Marks, Bennett, Treat and Ross - A New Way of Breaking up a School - Rathbun - Civil Organization - Principal Township Officers - Schools - Manufactures - The Austin Powder Company - The California Powder Company - The Newburg Fertilizer Company.

Newburg Township, one of the first to be settled in Northern Ohio, long included nearly the whole of survey township number seven, in range twelve, of the Western Reserve, but the encroachments of the city of Cleveland have reduced it to very narrow limits. It is now exceedingly irregular in shape, somewhat resembling a carpenter's square in general form, and is bounded as follows: North by the city of Cleveland and the township of East Cleveland; south by the township of Independence; east by Warrensville, and west by Brooklyn. The Cuyahoga River flows along the western border, and Mill creek across the southern section-the latter stream occasionally providing good water power. The Ohio canal passes through the southern edge of the township, following the course of the river, and this Atlantic and Great Western and the Cleveland and Pittsburg railways run for a short distance across the south-eastern portion.

The present Newburg is a strictly agricultural region. The soil is fertile, and farming is profitable, especially near the city, where gardening occupies the labors of the people to a large degree. Pasturage is plentiful and excellent, and dairies are numerous. The largest, average from thirty to forty cows each, and Newburg does a flourishing business in supplying the city with milk. Building stone is quarried to some extent, but receives no marked attention as an article of shipment.

Newburg, as now constituted, is simply a rural settlement, with convenient access, however, to more populous regions. There are within its limits neither villages nor churches; but on the other hand, the citizens pride themselves on the fact that there is no place in the township where liquor is sold. The only public buildings are the town-hall and the school-houses.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The earliest settlements of old Newburg were made in that portion now known as the Eighteenth ward of Cleveland. But the pioneers of that tract having been mentioned in the history of Cleveland, this chapter will deal merely with the first settlements in what is now known as Newburg township.

Philip Brower, who was among the early comers, journeyed in 1816 with his wife and seven children from New York State to Independence township. He lived there until his wife died in 1820 and then settled in Newburg, near the Independence line, where David L., his son, had purchased two hundred and seventy acres. David lived on the old place fifty-four years, and died in 1876, aged eighty-five. His widow still survives, residing with her son Perry in Cleveland.

When Mr. Brower moved into Newburg he became a neighbor of Darius Warner, who came from New York in 1816 with five children, and took up the farm now occupied by James Walker, who married his granddaughter. Darius Warner's son, Spencer, carried on the farm after his father's death, and on his own death, in 1861, left four children. Two of them, Mrs. James Walker and Lydia Warner, live in Newburg; Norman resides in Iowa, and John in California.

In the spring of 1820, Nehemiah Marks, Wilson Bennett, Richard Treat, and a Mr. Clark, all young men of Milford, Connecticut, set out in a one-horse wagon for Ohio, and, after a journey of thirty-three days, brought up in the township which is the subject of this chapter. Treat and Clark went farther west, but Marks & Bennett tarried in Newburg, where they had bought farms of Barr and Bardsley, the Connecticut proprietors. Mr. Marks bought one hundred acres on the present Bedford Road, where he still lives, an aged but hale and hearty pioneer, now entering upon his eighty-third year. Mr. Bennett located on the farm next adjoining that of Mr. Marks on the northwest. Soon afterward Thomas Ross, as emigrant from the State of New York, came from Summit County and joined Marks and Bennett, his farm being the one now owned by Asa Dunham, one mile west of the Marks place. While engaged in clearing their farms, Marks, Bennett and Ross kept bachelor's ball in Ross' log shanty until late in the fall, when the family of the latter came out from the East, and then Marks and Bennett boarded with the Ross household. Meanwhile Marks had put up a log house and cleared six acres of land, whereupon, in 1821, he traveled on foot back to Connecticut for his sister, who accompanied him to Ohio, and kept house for him until 1822, when Mr. Marks married. The next year she married Cyrus Parmeter, a Vermonter, who had assisted Marks in clearing his farm, and removed to Strongsville.

As an instance of the difficulty of traveling with vehicles in those days, it may be observed that young Marks walked back to Connecticut in thirteen days on the return trip; when he had a team, he consumed upwards of a month. When Mr. Marks first came out to Newburg he had to cut his way to his farm, although in the following summer a road from Cleveland to Hudson was opened, which was followed somewhat later by the present Bedford Road.

Ross died in 1832, of the cholera. Bennett fell eventually into evil ways, took to drinking, and died a wreck, in 1836. None of the descendants of either Ross or Bennett are living in the township. Mr. Marks married, in 1822, a Mrs. Parmeter, a sister of the man who married Miss Marks. She came to Newburg in 1821, in company with a family of Western pioneers, and drove a team all the way from New England as compensation for her transportation. After reaching Newburg she taught school on the Brainard farm, but unfortunately for the school it was broken up by the speedy marriage of its teacher.

When Mr. Marks settled in Newburg there were on the Bedford Road in Newburg the Jewetts, John and Samuel Brooks, and Nehemiah Wallace, with his three sons, Ira, Chester and Jefferson, the former two

being married. Chester is still living in Morrow County, in this State. Lewis Harper's farm adjoined Wilson Bennett's but he subsequently moved to that part of the township now included in the city.

Edmond Rathbun, now an old gentleman of eighty-five, living in Cleveland with his son-in-law, Freeman Brooks, made the journey in a sleigh from New York to Newburg, in the winter of 1817, in company with Isaac Clark and family. Young Rathbun took up forty-four acres of land near where the "five-mile-lock" was afterwards, constructed, which tract he increased to one hundred and twenty-five acres in 1818. In that year his brother George joined him, and located on a neighboring farm. He removed to Euclid in 1844, and died there in 1877, aged eighty-one. Edmund Rathbun sold out his Newburg place in 1854, and went to Solon, afterwards becoming a resident of Cleveland, as before stated. His wife, who is still living, was the daughter of Samuel Hamilton, who settled in Newburg village as early as 1801. Mr. Rathbun's neighbors besides his brother George, were Milton, Erastus and Joseph Rathbun; a Mr. Burgess, who was killed by the fall of a tree; Jonathan Pearse, who located in Newburg about 1818; John Gould and his son, Myrick; Benjamin Parsons, Wildman White, Samuel Andrus and George Beakle. In the northeast, one of the pioneers was Jediah Hubbell. His house was burned to the ground on Sunday, in 1822, while he was at church. The next morning his townsmen gathered in force, put up a new house for him and moved his family into it before nightfall. That is an example of how people used to help each other in the "good old days." Solomon White was located in the north near the present city line. On the old State road, now called the Fisher Road, were Parker, Shattuck, Amos Brainard, Solas Owens, Lewis Peet and Isaac Clark; the latter having come out with Edmund Rathbun in 1817. A Mr. Remington, Lyman Hammond and Mr. Rightor were settlers perhaps, as early as 1814, near where James Walker lives, but they moved away after a very brief stay.

#### CIVIL ORGANIZATION.

Newburg township was formed by an order of the county commissioners on the 15th day of October, 1814. Until 1873 it embraced the thriving village of Newburg. In September of that year the village and the tract lying between it and the north line of the township were annexed to the city of Cleveland. The remaining citizens of Newburg determined to preserve the residue of their territory intact, and so, on the 2d of March, 1874, the township was incorporated for "special purposes." The only change in the form of election, however, is that each year one trustee is chosen to serve three years.

Financially the township is in a healthful condition. On the 1st of September, 1879, there were in the treasury \$2,555, against which there was not one dollar of indebtedness. The township tax for 1879 aggregated ninety-three and one-half cents on each \$100.

While Newburg village was a part of the township, all the township business was naturally done there, and a large part of the officers lived there, probably a majority of them. Others lived in the northwestern part of the old township. These are all "outsiders" so far as the present township is concerned. Yet if we give a bit of Newburg officers at all we cannot discriminate between them, and we can find no place more proper for it than in the history of the township which still bears that time-honored name. The township books from 1814 to the present time are in the possession of the clerk of the present Newburg, and from them we transcribe the following list:

#### PRINCIPAL TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

1814, Clerk, Erastus Miles; trustees, Giles Barnes, Chas. Miles, Daniel Marvin

1815, Clerk, Erastus Miles; treasurer, Theodore Miles; trustees, Jas Kingsbury, Chas. Miles, Giles Barnes

1816, Clerk, Erastus Miles; treasurer, Theodore Miles; trustees, Giles Barnes, Daniel Marvin, Y.L. Morgan  
1817, Clerk, Thompson Miles; treasurer, Theodore Miles; trustees, Giles Barnes, Chas Miles, Y.L. Morgan  
1818, Clerk, Justus Remington; treasurer, Jedediah Hubbell; trustees, J. A. Smith, Ephraim Hubbell, S. S. Baldwin  
1819 and 1820, Clerk, Daniel Miles; treasurer, Theodore Miles; Trustees, Ephraim Hubbell, Jas. Kingsbury, John Whiteman  
1821, Clerk, Lewis Peet; treasurer, Theodore Miles; trustees, Jehail Saxton, Jedediah Hubbell, Noble Bates  
1822, Clerk, Lewis Peet; treasurer, Theodore Miles; trustees, Noble Bates, Jehail Saxton, Aaron Hubbard  
1823, Clerk, Justus Hamilton; treasurer Thompson Miles; trustees, Jehail Saxton, Peter Robison, Y. L. Morgan  
1824, Clerk, Justus Hamilton; treasurer Thompson Miles; trustees, Theodore Miles, Aaron Hubbard, John Brooks  
1825, Clerk, Justus Hamilton; treasurer, Erastus Miles; trustees, Theodore Miles, John Brooks, Philemon Baldwin  
1826, Clerk, Justus Hamilton; treasurer, Peter Robison; trustees, Jas. Kingsbury, John Brooks, Philemon Baldwin.  
1827, Clerk, Jason Hubbell; treasurer, Gaius Burk; trustees, Cyrenus Ruggles, Lewis Peet, Jesse Harris  
1828, Clerk, T. T. Clark; treasurer, Justus Hamilton; trustees, John Brooks, Jonathan Pearce, Moses Jewett  
1829, Clerk, Philemon Baldwin; treasurer, Gideon Tupper; trustees, Jonathon Pearce, Moses Jewett, Spencer Warner  
1830, Clerk, Philemon Baldwin; treasurer, Gideon Tupper; trustees, John Brooks, Noble Bates, Stephen Titus  
1831, Clerk, Jason Hubbell; treasurer, Gideon Tupper; trustees, Jehail Saxton, A.S. Chapman, C. Hamilton  
1832, Clerk, Jason, Hubbell; treasurer, Gideon Tupper; trustees, Chester Hamilton, A. S. Chapman, Jas. Kingsbury  
1833, Clerk, Jason Hubbell; treasurer, Gideon Tupper; trustees, Gaius Burk, Moses Jewett, A. S. Chapman  
1834, Clerk, Jason Hubbell; treasurer, Gideon Tupper; trustees, Moses Jewett, Samuel Brooks, Jehail Saxton  
1835, Clerk, Jason Hubbell; treasurer, A. C. Chapman; trustees, Moses Jewett, Philo S. Ruggles, A. H. Brainard  
1836, Clerk, Anson A. Miles; treasurer, Philo S. Ruggles; trustees, A. H. Brainard, Aaron Shepard, Asahel Palmiter  
1837, Clerk, Jason Hubbell; treasurer, Philo S. Ruggles; trustees, Aaron Shepard, Asahel Palmiter, A. S. Chapman  
1838, Clerk, Jason Hubbell; treasurer, Philo S. Ruggles; trustees, A. S. Chapman, A. B. Haight, Jabez Gallup  
1839, Clerk, Jason Hubbell; treasurer, P. S. Ruggles; trustees, A. B. Haight, Stephen Titus, Aaron Shepard  
1840, Clerk, Thomas M. Bayard; treasurer, P. S. Ruggles; trustees, A. H. Brainard, Wildman White, Stephen Titus  
1841, Clerk, Justice Hamilton; treasurer, P. S. Ruggles; trustees, A. H. Brainard, Y. L. Morgan Jr. G. Bradford  
1842, Clerk, Justice Hamilton; treasurer, P. S. Ruggles; trustees, Y. L. Morgan, George Rathbone, J. Hopkinson  
1843, Clerk, John Keys; treasurer, P. S. Ruggles; trustees, John Hopkinson, Nehemiah Marks, G. S. Rathbone  
1844, Clerk, Harvey Burke; treasurer, Spencer Warner; trustees, N. Marks, G. S. Rathbone, John Hopkinson  
1845, Clerk, E. G. Simmons; treasurer, Spencer Warner; trustees, B. L. Wiggles, Eben Miles, F. A. Andrews  
1846, Clerk, John Keys; treasurer, Henry Marble; trustees, B. L. Wiggins, Thomas Garfield, Alonzo Carter

1847, Clerk, John Keys; treasurer, Henry Marble; trustees, Thomas Garfield, E. Rathbone, J. S. Ruggles  
 1848, Clerk, John Keys; treasurer, A. W. Gaylord; trustees, Thomas Garfield, J. S. Ruggles, Elias Shepard  
 1849, Clerk, Harvey Burke; treasurer, A. W. Gaylord; trustees, I. G. Ruggles, Elias Shepard, I. W. Kingsbury  
 1850, Clerk, Harvey Burke; treasurer, C. P. Jewett; trustees, E. G. Simmons, Wm. Kelley, James T. Worley  
 1851, Clerk, Harvey Burke; treasurer, C. P. Jewett; trustees, N. T. Meech, J. N. Cannell, Thomas Garfield  
 1852, Clerk, Harvey Burke; treasurer, Elias Shepard; trustees, Thos. Garfield, N. T. Meech, C. P. Jewett  
 1853, Clerk, Harvey Burke; treasurer, Elias Shepard; trustees, Thos. Garfield, Sam'l Stewart, B. L. Wiggins  
 1854, Clerk, H. S. Pratt; treasurer, Wm. Bergen; trustees, A. H. Brainard, Henry Marble, B. L. Wiggins  
 1855, Clerk, Alex Topping; treasurer, Wm. Bergen; trustees, B. L. Wiggins, I. Brayton, C. P. Jewett  
 1856, Clerk, Alex Topping; treasurer, Wm. Bergen; trustees, B. L. Wiggins, R. Edwards, F. A. Andrews  
 1857, Clerk, A. B. Ruggles; treasurer, H. Burkhardt; trustees, B. L. Wiggins, F. A. Andrews, Alex Topping,  
 1858, Clerk, E. W. Greenwood; treasurer, H. W. Burkhardt; trustees, D. L. Wiggins, Jos. Turney, A. P. Leland  
 1859, Clerk, A. J. Hamilton; treasurer, Moses Fish; trustees, Jos. Turney, A. A. Jewett, Richard Rodway  
 1860, Clerk, A. J. Hamilton; treasurer, Moses Fish; trustees, A. A. Jewett, Clark Caley, F. A. Andrus  
 1861, Clerk, J. H. Shepard; treasurer, C. P. Jewett; trustees, A. W. Morgan, Thos. Garfield, Jabez Lovett  
 1862, Clerk, J. H. Shepard; treasurer, P. S. Ruggles; trustees, Thos. Garfield, Moses Fish, P. Potts  
 1863, Clerk, J. G. Ruggles; treasurer, E. T. Hamilton; trustees, G. R. Bowman, Thos. Caine, John Hopkinson  
 1864, Clerk, J. A. Dyer; treasurer, E. G. Hamilton; trustees, J. D. Runnels, Wm. Jones, C. P. Jewett  
 1865, Clerk, R.M. Choate; treasurer, D. J. Wilder; trustees, C. P. Jewett, J. D. Runnels, Elias Shepard  
 1866, Clerk, R. M. Choate; treasurer, N. B. Wiggins; trustees, C. P. Jewett, Moses Fish, Frank Andrews  
 1867, Clerk, M. R. Hughes; treasurer, H. C. Ruggles; trustees, Moses Fish, C. P. Jewett, H. Carter,  
 1868, Clerk, M. R. Hughes; treasurer, H.C. Ruggles; trustees, Elias Shepard, Henry Carter , Thos. Garfield  
 1869, Clerk, M. R. Hughes; treasurer, M. M. Jones; trustees, Elias Shepard, James Walker, Henry Williams  
 1870, Clerk, Wm. H. Cain; treasurer, M. M. Jones; trustees, James Walker, Henry Carter, Moses Fish  
 1871, Clerk, Wm. H. Cain; treasurer, A. J. Hamilton; trustees, James Walker, Henry Carter, Joseph Turney  
 1872, Clerk, J. Crays; treasurer, Henry Shanks; trustees, Jos. Turney, Moses Fish, Edmund James  
 1873, Clerk, Chas. Ruggles; treasurer, Henry Shanks; trustees, C. P. Jewett, Wm. E. Edwards, Cornelius  
 Boyle  
 1874, Clerk, Chas. Everts; treasurer, James Walker; trustees, C. P. Jewett, A. L. Radway, Jacob Flick  
 1875, Clerk, James Walker; treasurer, James Walker; trustees, C. P. Jewett, Jacob Flick, A. L. Radway  
 1876 and 1877, Clerk and Treasurer, James Walker; trustees, Eli W. Carroll, Jacob Flick, A. L. Radway  
 1878, Clerk and treasurer, James Walker; trustees, Jacob Flick, A. L. Radway, Richard Woodey  
 1879, Clerk and treasurer, James Walker; trustees, A. L. Radway, Richard Woodey, E. W. Cannell

## SCHOOLS.

Newburg has now five school districts-two having been added during 1879. At the last report, September 1, 1879, for three school districts, the value of school property was set down at \$10,000. The amount paid teachers for the year was \$735, and the balance of cash in the school fund was \$1,400. The number of children of school age was about two hundred, of whom one hundred and ten were enrolled in the schools; the average attendance being sixty-six. The great discrepancy between the enumeration and enrollment is explained by the statement that many of the children in the township attend a Catholic school in the eighteenth ward of Cleveland. Two fine brick school-houses, expected to cost \$1,600 each, are now being erected in the two recently created districts. The five districts are located as follows: No. 1, in the northeast; No. 2, on Miles Avenue, No. 3, on the Bedford road; No.4, near the California powder works, and No. 5, on Union Street. The members of the board of education are Boardman Pearse, O. W. Quiggin, John R. Edwards, John B. Collett and Jacob Cramer.

## MANUFACTURES.

The manufacturing industries, although few in number, are of considerable importance.

### THE AUSTIN POWDER COMPANY,

(an outgrowth of the firm of Austin & Sons, which was founded in Ohio in 1833), was incorporated in 1868, with a capital of \$300,000 for the purpose of manufacturing all kinds of powder. The works are located near what is called five-mile-lock. Here the company owns one hundred and thirty acres of land, upon which are the mills, tenement houses, etc. Thirty men are employed, and about four hundred kegs of powder are produced daily; the product including blasting, mining, shipping, cannon, meal, and several grades of sporting powder. Mr. L. Austin, who was the secretary of the company until 1873, has been its president since that time.

### THE CALIFORNIA POWDER COMPANY,

an association incorporated by the State of California, has branch factories in various parts of the country, and among them one in Newburg. This branch was established in 1877, for the purpose of manufacturing dynamite, or Hercules powder, for blasting. The business of these works aggregates \$300,000 annually. Forty men are employed, being under the direction of William Wilson, the superintendent. The mills are located near the line of the Ohio canal, in a deep ravine upon an extensive farm owned by the company and comprise about a dozen different structures.

### THE NEWBERG FERTILIZER COMPANY,

composed of J. R. Peck, J. H. Breck, Jr., and E. S. Peck, has a large establishment near the river devoted to the manufacture of bone-dust, super phosphate of lime and neatsfoot oil. The company was established about three years ago, as the successor of Davidson & Palmer.

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

[https://archive.org/details/historyofcuyahog01coat\\_0/page/274/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/historyofcuyahog01coat_0/page/274/mode/2up)

Survey township number 7 of range 12 was one of the first to be settled in Northern Ohio. Just how the name was selected and just who was the first settler does not appear in the early annals. The original township "Old Newburgh" was bounded on the north by Cleveland and Fast Cleveland, on the south by Independence, on the east by Warrensville, and on the west by Brooklyn. The historic Cuyahoga River was on its western boundary, and we say "was" because the township as originally formed has passed with the years. Mill Creek flowed across its southern part, providing good water power. This was early utilized. At its falls in 1799 William J. Wheeler and Major Wyatt built the first gristmill on the Western Reserve. The Connecticut Land Company furnished the irons, and David Bryant and his son, Gilman Bryant, who had been quarrying grindstones at Vermillion River, came to Newburgh and made a pair of millstones. They were quarried about half a mile north of Mill Creek falls. In later years these stones were great objects of interest and today one is resting, as it has been for years, on the public square in Cleveland, and another on Broadway in the old Eighteenth Ward. To the pioneer the gristmill was a supreme blessing, and we today can hardly realize how important a function it filled in pioneer life. No wonder the older members of the community preserved these relics of bygone days from the Newburgh mill. To this mill came settlers from all the surrounding territory, and its history, beginning before the nineteenth century came in, is linked with much of early pioneer life. When this mill was completed and ready for grinding, invitations were sent out for a grand celebration. At that time there were ten families in Cleveland (none west of the river), and a few single men. Quite a number came from Euclid, for there was a settlement in that town. The celebration was a success, for they were celebrating the completion of the first gristmill on the Western Reserve. Newburgh has this distinction, and that is a notable one in pioneer history.

The first who came to the township found a fertile soil, and as clearing progressed, good pasturage. Being near Cleveland it was one of the first to take up gardening, and as the city grew the gardens were multiplied and dairies were also increased to meet the demand for milk. It was originally surveyed into 100 acre lots. We have mentioned Major Wyatt and William W. Wheeler. Among other settlers were Philip Brower, wife and seven children, who came in 1816 from New York State to Newburgh and located near the Independence line, where David L. Brower had bought 270 acres of land. Here David lived out his life, dying at the age of eighty-five. When David Brower came to Newburgh he became the neighbor of Darius Warner, who came from New York State in 1816 with his wife and five children. James Walker followed after with both pioneer and romantic intentions, for he married into the Warner family. The old Walker farm was carried on by a son, Spencer, after the father's death. In the spring of 1820 Nehemiah Marks, Wilson Bennett, Richard Treat, and a Mr. Clark, young men of Milford, Connecticut, set out with a one-horse wagon for Ohio, and after a journey of thirty-three days came to Newburgh. Treat and Clark took a look and then continued westward, but Marks and Bennett stayed in Newburgh and bought farms of Barr and Beardsley, the Connecticut proprietors. They bought adjoining farms on the Bedford road. Soon after, Thomas Ross, who had come to Summit County from New York State, settled near them on the farm later owned by Asa Dunham. While clearing their farms Marks, Bennett and Ross kept Bachelors' Hall in Ross' log house, but, late one fall, Ross' family came, and then Marks and Bennett were boarders. But in the meantime, Marks had built himself a log house, and after the summer's work was over, he walked back to Connecticut and brought his sister on to Newburgh for a housekeeper. Not satisfied with just a housekeeper. he "up and got married." The sister followed suit and married Cyrus

Parmenter, a young man who had assisted Marks in clearing his farm. The Parmenters moved to Strongsville. It used to be a saying that walking was better than riding, and when Marks walked back to Connecticut to bring his sister it took him thirteen days, but on the return trip with a team the journey occupied nearly a month. He had to cut a road to and through his farm to the log house. The next year, however, a road was opened from Cleveland to Hudson. The Bedford road was opened later. Of this little settlement of early pioneers in Newburgh, Marks alone contributed to the peopling of the township. Ross and Bennett had no children, or at least none who remained in the township. Ross died of cholera in 1832, and Bennett drank to excess and died a wreck in 1836. Marks married a Parmenter, a sister of the man who married the sister that he brought from Connecticut. Mrs. Marks was a real pioneer woman. She came to Newburgh in 1821 in the company of a family of Western pioneers, and worked her passage. In other words, she drove the team all the way from Connecticut and thus earned her transportation. When she came to Newburgh she began teaching school in a log dwelling, a subscription school, as it was called, the public school not then having been established. This school continued for some time, but Marks broke it up by marrying the teacher. One by one families came. This seems to have been quite the rule over the Reserve. As a fact there were no large companies coming with banners to possess the land, but a home here and a home there was established, and the growth was regular and constant. In Newburgh, or rather in number 7, range 12, the Jewetts came, John and Samuel Brooks, Nehemiah Wallace, with a wife and three sons, Ira, Chester, and Jefferson, Ira and Chester being married, and added to the little colony. In the winter of 1817 Edmund Rathbun came from New York State in a sleigh with Isaac Clark and family. Young Rathbun bought forty-four acres near the five-mile lock, as afterwards designated. Soon he bought more land and increased his farm to 125 acres. George Rathbun came the next year. He was a brother, and bought a farm next to Edmund's. As following the fortunes of these early comers, Edmund Rathbun sold his Newburgh property in 1854 and moved to Solon, and from there to Cleveland. George Rathbun moved to Euclid in 1844, where he died in 1877 at the age of eighty-one. His wife was the daughter of Samuel Hamilton, who settled in Newburgh in 1801. Samuel Hamilton was the grandfather of Edwin T. Hamilton, who was for many years the dean of the Common Pleas bench of Cuyahoga County. Of him we will speak later. Mr. Rathbun's neighbors, besides his brother George, were Milton, Joseph and Enstus Rathbun; a Mr. Burgess, who was killed by a falling tree; Jonathan Pearse, who came in 1818; John Gould and his son Myrick; Benjamin Parsons, Wildman White, Samuel Andrus, and George Beakle. Jedediah Hubbell settled in the northeast part of the township. It is related of him that on a Sunday in 1822, while he was at church, his house burned down. But this was in "the good old days." The next day the townspeople all gathered and built a new house and moved the family in before nightfall. The next settler to be noted was Solomon White. He located in the north part of the township, near the Cleveland line. On the old state road, afterwards called the Fisher Road, there were early settlements, Parker, Shattuck, Amos Brainard, Silas Owen, Lewis Peet, and Isaac Clark, he who came with Edmund Rathbun in 1817. A. N. Remington, Lyman Hammond, and John Righter, who came as early as 1814. Mr. Righter moved to Brecksville soon after. He had been a soldier in the War of 1812. His descendants are scattered over the Western Reserve. Two daughters, Alice and Libby (Elizabeth) became locally famous as singers, Alice as a contralto, and Libby as a soprano. He had ten children. Only one is now living, Mary Righter Fessenden. Her home is in Twinsburg, Summit County. She will be ninety in November. She, like others of the large family, had marked musical talent, and a little printed collection of her poems indicate that she was gifted in other lines. She said to the writer that her father, John Righter, was born in 1790 at Easton, Pennsylvania, and at twenty-two enlisted in the War of 1812, that in 1824 he came to Cleveland with his family and others. The party consisted of her father and mother and three children, and her grandfather and grandmother with two children. On that year Lake Erie was frozen over and there was much travel over it. The party crossed the lake to Cleveland with horses and sleighs. They stayed for a time in Cleveland, when Mr. Righter bought a farm in Newburgh. She mentioned the Stairs, Kendalls, Crittendens, and Rev. Mr. Ashwell, as close friends and neighbors in



Newburgh. She said the party were much disappointed in Cleveland. They found it consisted of scrub oak bushes, sand, and a few scattered buildings. Mrs. Fessenden said her mother's ancestors kept slaves in New England. "In after years our grandmother would tell us children about her childhood and about her old black mammy, and how she loved her. Father and mother often discussed the subject. Mother claimed that the slave was better off with a master than to be a master of himself. Father claimed that slavery was cruel, unjust and wicked, that every human being should be free. \* \* \* After the slaves were set free in Connecticut, the conditions were about the same as they were in the South after the Civil war. It took some time for the state to right itself. Many left for other states. My mother's father's family came to Geneseo, New York. After the Civil war my mother was decidedly changed. She was a strong abolitionist the rest of her life." Mrs. F. said when her father settled in Newburgh, he had considerable means with which to commence life in a new country, that they attended church in Cleveland until the Miles Park Church was formed. It was organized with twelve members, and her father and mother, John and Amy Righter, were two of the twelve. She said that she and five of her brothers and sisters, all born in Newburgh, were baptized in that church.

This incident of pioneer days we give in her own words: "I have a vivid recollection of a little incident that occurred in our home when I was between two and three years old. We lived in a log house, comfortable and roomy. A large old-fashioned fireplace with a crane swung across hung with different hooks of different lengths, for cooking purposes, and with a large hearth stone in front, occupied one side of the room. Our grandmother was a fleshy woman, and in stepping on the stone it went down with her. She caught with her arms and shoulders. She was so heavy she could not be gotten out from above, so father built a staging of barrels and boards under her feet. She was finally rescued, but with a dislocated shoulder. The excitement so impressed and scared me that the scene is just as plain to me today as it was then, over eighty years ago." Another incident that happened in Newburgh, of the serio-comic character, Mrs. Fessenden relates in this wise: "A man by the name of Peck, who was sort of an exhorter or preacher, was so impressed with the idea that he would die upon a certain day that he sent for his friends to be with him in his last hours and hear his dying words. They all came. He went to his room and laid himself down upon his bed. His friends gathered solemnly around him and waited. He tried and tried to die but could not. Finally, he told them he could not die with so many standing around him and sent them all away, but they insisted that they did not want to desert a brother in a dying hour. He tried a while longer and gave up the job. He lived many years after that, and ever afterward went by the sobriquet of 'Old Dying Peck.' "

Mrs. Fessenden's husband was a soldier in the Civil war. He died some years ago, leaving her the only original Civil war widow in Twinsburg, where she resides.

The Township of Newburgh was organized October 15, 1814, and the first trustees were Giles Barnes, Charles Miles, and Daniel Marvin, and the first clerk, Erastus Miles. Among those who have served as trustees since have been James Kingsbury, Y. L. Morgan, J. A. Smith, Ephraim Hubbell, S. S. Baldwin, John Wightman, Jehial Saxton, Aaron Hubbard, Peter Robison, John Brooks, Theodore Miles, Philemon Baldwin, Cyrenus Ruggles, Lewis Peet, Jesse Harris, Jonathan Pearse, Moses Jewett, Spencer Warner, Noble Bates, Stephen Titus, A. S. Chapman, Chester Hamilton, Gaius Burke, Samuel Brooks, A. H. Brainard, Aaron Shepard, Asahel Palmier, A. B. Haight, Jabez Gallup, Stephen Titus, Heileman White, Y. L. Morgan, Jr., G. Bradford, George Rathbone, John Hopkinson, Nehemiah Marks, B. L. Wiggins, Eben Miles, F. A. Andrews, Thomas Garfield, Alonzo Carter, Elias Shepard, I. W. Kingsbury, E. G. Simmons, William Kelly, John T. Worley, N. T. Meech, J. N. Cannell, Samuel Stewart, Henry Marble, I. Brayton, Alexander Topping, Joseph Turney, A. A. Jewett, Richard Rodway, Clark Caley, A. W. Morgan, Jabez Lovett, Moses Fish, P. Potts, G. R. Bowman, Thomas Caine, John Hopkinson, J. D. Runnels, William Jorns, C. P. Jewett,

Jewett H. Carter, Henry Carter, James Walker, Edmund James, William E. Edwards, Cornelius Boyle, A. L. Rodway, Jacob Flick, Eli W. Cannell, and Richard Woodly. Among those who have served the township as clerks have been Erastus Miles, J. H. Shepard, J. G. Ruggles, Thomas Miles, Justus Remington, R. M. Choate, Daniel Miles, M. R. Hughes, Lewis Peet, William H. Caine, Justus Hamilton, J. Crays, Jason Hubbell, T. T. Clark, Philemon Baldwin, Anson A. Miles, Thomas A. Bayard, John Keys, Harvey Burke, E. G. Simmons, H. S. Pratt, Alexander Topping, A. B. Ruggles, E. W. Greenwood, A. J. Hamilton, Charles O. Evarts, and James Walker. The treasurers have been Theodore Miles, Jedediah Hubbell, Thompson Miles, Erastus Miles, Peter Robison, Gaius Burke, Justus Hamilton, Gideon Tupper, A. C. Chapman, Philo S. Ruggles, Spencer Warner, Henry Marble, A. W. Gaylord, C. P. Jewett, Elias Shepard, William Bergen, H. Burkhardt, Moses Fish, E. T. Hamilton, D. J. Wilder, N. B. Wiggins, H. C. Ruggles, M. M. Jones, A. J. Hamilton, Henry Shanks, and James Walker.

The county commissioners' records are full of orders in regard to the territory of this township. From the first, closely allied with Cleveland, it was the first to begin the process of making way for Greater Cleveland. The territory annexed to Cleveland and forming the old eighteenth ward was long designated as Newburgh and even to the present is sometimes so called. The first break in the township lines which has continued until the township is no more was made March 23, 1823, when by an order of the county commissioners the township lines were so adjusted as to exclude a tract of 275 acres, which was annexed to Independence. In June, 1847, certain territory was annexed to East Cleveland township, and in August, 1866, a tract was annexed to East Cleveland Village. June 5th certain territory was annexed to Cleveland. This was in 1867. On May 9, 1870, territory was annexed to Cleveland. December 2, 1877, certain territory was annexed to Cleveland. Previous to this, however, the entire remaining portion of the township was incorporated as a village or hamlet, retaining its township organization as well. This was in 1874. March 9, 1878, a portion of the township and hamlet was annexed to Cleveland. September 9, 1893, some of its territory was annexed to Cleveland, and on February another slice was also added to Cleveland. August 7, 1874, the Village of Newburgh was established, and June 30, 1904, territory of the township was annexed to Bedford. November 10, 1906, certain territory of the township was detached to form the Township of Corlett. February 25, 1904, the Village of Newburgh Heights was established out of territory detached from Bedford, and in March of that year the township of Newburgh Heights was established out of the village territory for judicial purposes. October, 1904, the Township of South Newburgh was established, and in December of that year the village. In 1919 the name of South Newburgh was changed to Garfield Heights, and South View Township established. December 21, 1912, Newburgh Village having advanced to the grade of a city, commissioners were appointed to arrange terms of annexation to Cleveland, and in 1913 the commissioners' report was approved and accepted.

Newburgh had some stone quarries in operation in the early days, but only sufficient stone was quarried for local use and very little was shipped. In the annals of the town written in 1879, after the formation of the old eighteenth (the iron ward) of Cleveland by annexation, its territory taken from the township, it is asserted that Newburgh has within its limits neither villages nor churches, but citizens pride themselves on the fact that nowhere in the township is liquor sold. The statement also is made that the only public buildings were the town hall and the schoolhouses. It is asserted also that five schoolhouses existed at that time, that the value of school property was \$10,000, that the wages paid to teachers in that year was \$735, and that the enrollment of pupils was 110. In explanation of the small enrollment, it is stated that many children attended the parochial schools in the eighteenth ward of Cleveland. The Board of Education at that time consisted of Boardman Pierce, O. W. Quiggin, John R. Edwards, John B. Corlett, and Jacob Cramer. Mention is made of manufacturing within its limits, and among them the Austin Powder Company, founded in 1833, near the five-mile lock of the canal, that the company owned 400 acres of land. The production at that time was 400 kegs of powder daily. The California Powder Company,

established as a branch of the Austin Powder Company in 1877 for the manufacture of dynamite, was then housed in several buildings in a deep ravine near the canal. The Newburgh Fertilizer Company, established in 1876 by Davidson and Palmer, was then in operation with J. B. Peck, J. H. Breck, and E. S. Peck as proprietors, manufacturing bone dust and superphosphates. Of these three only E. S. Peck is now living. He was for some time mayor of Newburgh Village.

There are three villages now in existence which were formed from number 7, range 12. Cuyahoga Heights has been but recently organized. Its present officers are: Mayor, Joseph P. Schmidt; clerk, Samuel E. Clapp; treasurer, Robert B. Kerr; marshal, D. L. Davis; street commissioner, John H. Conners; council, Charles F. Conners. Clint N. Gerden, Isaac G. Kennedy, Elijah Rickard, Al Smith, and Albert Shatto. Garfield Heights, with a population at the last census of 2,550, has as its present officers: Mayor, Oliver D. Jackson; clerk, Herman Bohning; treasurer, Fred C. Weber; assessor, William Kramer; council, George R. Green, Claude A. Meyers, Andrew Basel, Rudolph C. Nielson, James Ryback, and H. L. Menke. The justices of the peace are Max Berend and Joseph A. Schmidt. It has four school buildings, employs twenty-seven teachers and has an enrollment of 774 pupils. The superintendent is Glen D. King. Newburgh Heights Village had a population at the last census of nearly 3,000. The present officers are: Mayor, Charles E. Zimmerman; clerk, John A. Fitzgerald; treasurer, John C. McDowell; assessor, A. Linek; council, Harold L. Brotherton, John Diouhy, L. Friess, J. J. Krall, Henry Lissy, and Howard E. Wilson.

Doctor Ruggles was a practicing physician in Newburgh and Cleveland in the early days. There was an A. B. Ruggles, who served as township clerk, and Philo S. Ruggles and H. C. Ruggles, who served as township treasurers. We have not access to the genealogy of the Ruggles family and do not know the relationship, if any, of these early officers to the doctor, but Mrs. Fessenden tells a story of him worth preserving. He was the family physician of the Righter family, and made his visits on horseback astride of the saddlebags. His horse had a trick, not uncommon, of pulling at the halter and breaking away, when hitched. He then would canter home, leaving the doctor to get home as best he could. As Mrs. Fessenden puts it, forbearance ceased to be a virtue with the doctor. He said he would either kill or cure that horse, and he did not care much which. He put a stout hitching strap on and tied the horse to a tree on the bank of the Cuyahoga River near deep water and then hid behind a tree to watch results. The horse pulled quite softly at first and then a little harder, and then he put his whole weight on the strap. Snap it went and over and over, heels overhead, went the horse into the river. He floundered about for a while and finally got out, shook himself and "sneaked" for home. He hugged the hitching post after that and never attempted to break loose again.

We have mentioned Samuel Hamilton as one of the earliest settlers of Newburgh, coming to the township in 1801. His son Jestus Hamilton is included in the list and was one of the earliest trustees of the township. Again, a son of Justus, E. T. Hamilton, was treasurer of the township. His full name was Edwin Timothy Hamilton. His record as citizen and public official is without a flaw. He rose by successive steps to be judge of the Common Pleas Court and looked up to as the dean of that court. He was educated in the public schools of Newburgh, afterwards studying at Allegheny College at Meadville, Pennsylvania. In 1851 he studied law in the office of Kelly, Bolton, and Griswold. Was a soldier in the Civil war. When by the annexation of certain territory from Newburgh, which contained the Hamilton farm, the old eighteenth ward was formed in Cleveland, he was one of the two councilmen to first represent that ward in the city council. Two years later he was elected to the Common Pleas bench to begin a long service there. Few judges have left so marked a record and so deep an impression on the memory of a generation.

The judge was a great lover of a quiet game of euchre as a relaxation from his strenuous duties on the

bench. He never played for any consideration except the joy of winning. He was regular in his habits and usually retired at an early hour. One evening he called at one of the neighbors and when 9 o'clock arrived and he did not return, Mrs. Hamilton became anxious. Eleven o'clock came and no judge appeared. She roused the son, Walter, from his bed, something must have happened to the judge. Walter consoled her 'as best he could, but she spent an anxious sleepless night. About daylight the judge appeared upon his porch with his thumbs in his vest and with a jaunty air. "Oh, Judge, what happened to you, where have you been, I have been almost frightened to death." "He thought he could beat me," said the judge, as he stalked in high feather into the house.

Joseph H. Breck was an early settler of Newburgh, a grand nephew of the Brecks, after whom Brecksville was named. He was a fine farmer and stock raiser. He served in the Legislature for several terms. He was born in Brecksville in 1831 and in 1833 came with his father to Newburgh. His family consisted of four children: George D., Dr. L. B., William M. and Mary L. The wife was Miss Hattie Brooks of Lorain County.

Charles O. Evarts, who was one of the clerks of Newburgh Township, became prominent in the affairs of Cleveland. He was city sealer and later city clerk for a number of years.

Joseph Turney, who was one of the early officers of the township, became county treasurer, and then state treasurer, and his name was long known in connection with the administration of public affairs.

Others we might mention, but the annals of the City of Cleveland will include many who began their career in Old Newburgh and gravitated into the industrial life of Greater Cleveland.

When Cleveland was a little settlement, six miles from Newburgh, two hostelries were in existence in the latter place. The Eagle House, built in the '40s, was of brick and one of the finest buildings in the county, if not on the Reserve. This became later the residence of Joseph Tourney. It had a ballroom occupying the entire second floor, and by some method was provided with a spring floor, so that the old-time dances could be brought out with greater effect. A Mr. Striker, John Baikel and Anson Gailord were the champions in "cutting the pigeon's wing" and their performances were a part of most dances. Sometime later the Cataract House on the opposite side of the present Broadway was built and operated by Mr. Edson. He sold to A. J. Spencer and then it became the Spencer House. The Eagle House was built by Daniel Miles, who gave Miles Park to the city and after whom Miles Avenue is named. His nephew, William Miles, is now a boarder in the same building, which is operated as a boarding house, the famous ballroom having been partitioned off into smaller rooms. William Miles is now eighty-five, but is a most courteous old gentleman with faculties well preserved. Another old citizen of Newburgh is Ashley Ames, who is now nearly eighty-eight years of age and like Mr. Miles is well preserved. Through him and Mr. Miles the writer gathered a number of incidents in connection with the early history of Newburgh. The dances at these early taverns were attended by young people from the surrounding country and they lasted all night. The orchestra usually consisted of two violins and a bass viol with Jack Leland as leader and it was considered a grand orchestra. Ned Kendall occasionally played for the dances out there. He had a reputation, having played before the king and queen of England, and his presence was an event. Jack Leland became a famous band leader of Cleveland and Leland's band was known far and wide. It was the custom of the manager of these parties to send out invitations to the desirable and attractive girls in the surrounding country and bring them to the dance in a sleigh or in the event of lack of sleighing, in a wagon. Then, of course, they were free to accept any invitation from the swains to "see them home" individually. Ashley Ames relates that at one of these dances, when the time for going home arrived, it was storming furiously, so they all stayed to breakfast. Then Jack Leland went up into the ballroom and began playing and they all began dancing again and danced until 9 o'clock. These were

jolly times and recreations that lessened the hard burden of pioneer life. A. J. Spencer was a school teacher in Newburgh for many years and in the days when going to Cleveland was an all-day trip. At one time he ran a bus from Newburgh to Cleveland in day trips. If persons wished to go to Cleveland to the theater or any evening performance, it was necessary to make up a party sufficient to make the trip pay. After he had managed the Spencer House for some years, and he was a very popular landlord, he became the secretary to the chief of the fire department of Cleveland and remained through many successive administrations. Alva Brainard of Newburgh was sheriff of the county and his chief deputy, Benjamin Wiggin, also of Newburgh, lived in the jail, which was then on the southwest corner of the public square at Cleveland. Ashley Ames kept a livery stable in Newburgh, in the section which was later the eighteenth ward of the city, for nearly fifty years. He had nine brothers and two sisters and only he and one brother are living. We have referred to the first gristmill on Mill Creek. After that had been in operation for some time, Noble Bates, who acted as miller for the proprietors of the gristmill, put up a carding machine, and then a sawmill on the same stream. Then he undertook to start the silk industry. Mulberry trees were planted and silk worms procured, but the climate was not adapted to the industry and the enterprise failed.

Abram Garfield, the father of President Garfield, came to Newburgh in 1820. He was married in Zanesville to Eliza Ballot, and the newly wedded pair settled in a log house on a new farm of eighty acres in that part of Newburgh that was first annexed to Cleveland. Thomas Garfield, a son, was born in October, 1822. The father remained here for six years and until the birth of three children. The family moved away, but Thomas returned to the place of his birth. Just what year he came we do not know, but he was one of the early trustees of the township. We find him in Orange assisting the widowed mother after the death of his father, and helping to get together the money to send James to the Chester school. Again, we find him trying to raise the money to send him to college, but as we have related, the money was finally advanced by Doctor Robinson. Thomas must have prospered to some extent, for the Cleveland State Hospital owes its origin to a gift of a tract of land of 100 acres, now within the limits of the City of Cleveland, given by Thomas Garfield and wife for the purpose of establishing a hospital for the insane. In 1852 the Legislature authorized the erection of an asylum and the building was completed in 1855. In 1872 it was partially destroyed by fire and at once rebuilt in a more substantial manner. It has been from time to time enlarged. Its site has for many years been absorbed by the municipal area of Cleveland. In 1896 a portion of land belonging to the asylum was traded for an equal amount of land near the buildings and the relinquished land attached to Garfield Park. This institution now has 1,300 acres of land, 100 with the present buildings in Cleveland and the rest in Lorain County. There are at present 1,870 patients in the hospital and it began receiving patients in 1855. The superintendent is Dr. Guy H. Williams. It is located on a high spot of ground and surrounding the buildings on all sides are attractive grounds with the noble ornament of trees and flowers.

**Newburgh 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/NewburghTwpPWWR.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>

## Newburgh

When in 1795, the Connecticut Land Company sent out its surveyors to inspect the "worthless patch of woodland" in the middle-west, peopled only by Indians, which land it had acquired by purchase from the State of Connecticut, there was no vision that this wilderness would be in after years, become one of the most important parts of the country. For this "worthless woodland" became the Western Reserve of Ohio which has produced some of the ablest men and women in the United States.

When the surveyors arrived, headed by Moses CLEVELAND, it was a question whether the new settlement to be formed should be located upon the low-lands bordering Lake Erie, or further southeastward where hills and gullies existed. "Cleffland," as it was first called, won the day and Newburgh became its environ.

Yet, in those early days Cleveland and Newburgh were rivals; and five year later Newburgh had the larger population. This was due to the malarial conditions existing in Cleveland at that time. The marshes bordering the crooked Cuyahoga River were breeding places for fever and ague. Scarcely any of the early settlers escaped the disease. And it is recorded that after a short sojourn in the Cleveland hamlet, many removed to the higher ground of Newburgh, although most of them retained their land holdings in Cleveland.

Newburgh was formed into a separate township in 1814 and was not annexed to Cleveland until 1872. Yet from 1796 until a few years ago, Newburgh was always mentioned as a suburb of Cleveland. On this account it has been difficult to separate the early history of pioneers, one from the other, as they are so intermingled. Consequently, this sketch of early Newburgh residents can only be considered as supplementary to the Cleveland narrative found in this volume.

In the vital statistics of Newburgh occur the names of KINGSBURY, EDWARDS, WILLIAMS, GUN, HAWLEY and BLINN, these families coming before 1800. A year later came the two HAMILTON families, the GAYLORDS, THORPS and GILBERTS, followed during the next five years by the BURKS, Asael ADAMS and his wife Lucy MYGATT, and the MILES family. Many other notable families well known in Newburgh history came within the next ten years during which time Newburgh village was incorporated.

In a sketch necessarily as brief as this only a few of the earliest pioneer women can be mentioned. Levi WHITE and his wife Sabrina KINNEY came to Newburgh from Bennington, Vt., in 1804. He purchased land at \$1.50 an acre on the site occupied now by the State Hospital. Mrs. WHITE had many interesting experiences with the Indians. They called her "The Good Squaw," demanding food which she dared not

refuse. But they always came back bringing venison and animal skins, much more valuable than the food, to repay her for her kindness. Her husband died in 1812 leaving her with twelve children to support. The records say that she "performed her task nobly." And when her day was done, she was interred in the Axtell Street Cemetery which was laid out in 1801.

MILES was an important name in Newburgh as early as 1806, Charles MILES, Sr., having owned many acres of land in this section at that time. Mrs. Charles MILES, Sr. (Ruth THOMPSON) was the daughter of Deacon Stephen THOMPSON and Mary WALTERS THOMPSON of Goshen, Conn. Mr. MILES serving in the War of the Revolution was ordered home on account of illness. When able, he purchased land at Tinmouth, Vt. And moved his family there. Seven of their eight children were born in Tinmouth. Meanwhile the parents, brothers and sisters of Ruth THOMPSON MILES, having come previously to the Western Reserve, wrote back such glowing accounts of the new land that she persuaded her husband to join them. They first joined her family at Hudson, Ohio, but later decided to locate in Newburgh. Mrs. Ruth THOMPSON MILES is spoken of as a kindly-faced woman, tall, dark haired and of graceful carriage, never wanting in courage and bravery, traits needed in the new land. Her daughter Mary married at the early age of fifteen and died when barely sixteen. Another daughter, Susannah, married Dr. Nathan MANTER. The two oldest sons, Theodore and Erastus - better known as the "MILES Brothers," - are closely connected with Newburgh history both having held public offices. Theodore MILES was a man of public spirit. He gave Miles Park to the village and Miles Avenue, the longest street in Newburgh was given the family name.

Lydia CLARK, the first wife of Theodore, was mother of Eben MILES who married Eunice BATES. The second wife, Fanny Buel HAWLEY, had two sons and four daughters, Livinia, the only unmarried one spending all her days in the old family homestead on Miles Avenue.

Mrs. Erastus MILES (Laura CARTER) was a young woman of determined character and full of spirit. It is related that when she was but thirteen years of age a band of Indians came to their home frightening her invalid mother. Seizing a broom, she went out amongst them wielding the broom right and left, hitting heads and legs promiscuously and crying: "Get out! My mother is sick!" It is needless to state that the Indians, unused to such feminine tactics left without more ado. She married Erastus MILES when but seventeen-year-old. They were parents of Emily who married Timothy T. CLARK, and being left a widow, Joseph K. CURTIS; and Lucretia who became the wife of the Hon. Edward S. HAMLIN of Elyria, Ohio. Mrs. Erastus MILES, late in life chose for her second husband, James STRONG of Cleveland.

History says that "Samuel Smith BALDWIN, son of Samuel and Hannah NORTHROP BALDWIN of Ridgefield, Conn. Came to Newburgh in 1808 and settled upon a farm on Aetna Street." He brought with him his wife Sarah CAMP BALDWIN, and several young children. At this time, they had been married about eleven years. The writer of this sketch had the privilege of examining a diary and docket written by Samuel S. BALDWIN and preserved through all these years by one of his descendants. In these he tells of much of the daily life of those early times. He held the offices of Sheriff and County Surveyor and was an important man in the community. His daily life was recorded as attending to acts of justice, surveying and taking up new tracts of land upon the Western Reserve, and "logging" in which neighbors with their oxen assisted him. Frequent mention was made of such neighbors as W.W. WILLIAMS, Joel THORPE and Amos SPAFFORD. In this Diary he tells of one of his surveyors crossing the ice at Black River on horseback, carrying a bag of provisions eagerly expected by the women at home. The horse broke through the ice and was drowned, its rider being obliged to walk back to Newburgh. The bag of provisions was later fished out of the river. Mr. BALDWIN also tells of the calamity that befell the CARTER

family by the drowning of Harry CARTER, a lad of ten years, in the Cuyahoga River and the search for the little body.

Mrs. Samuel S. BALDWIN (Sarah CAMP) was a delicate woman of culture and refinement. In leaving the comforts of her Eastern home she had little realization of the hardships she would encounter as a pioneer in a new land. She brought with her a fine wardrobe and accessories, indicating wealth and good taste, but quite unfitted to pioneer life. She departed this life in 1818, after the birth of twins, at the early age of thirty-six years. Her daughter Lucretia married Reuben HENRY. Caroline became Mrs. Victor M. CANNON of Aurora, Portage County, Ohio. Julia married Thomas NORTH, Sarah, Almeron DODGE, and Emily, one of the twins, became Mrs. Francis MORAN.

After the death of his first wife, Mr. BALDWIN married Rhoda BOUGHTON, daughter of Nathan BOUGHTON of Stockbridge, Mass. And of Revolutionary War fame. She proved a real mother to his motherless children, but was herself left a widow three years later.

It has been said that while Connecticut created the Western Reserve of Ohio, pioneers from Vermont and New Hampshire settled it.

Upon Miles Avenue still reside descendants of Ashley AMES who came to Newburgh from Vergennes, Vt., in 1795. Ashley AMES was the son of David AMES a soldier in the Revolutionary War and a native of Hollis, N.H. He married Sarah WILLARD, daughter of John O. WILLARD of Cleveland in 1826 Sarah WILLARD AMES was a young woman of genius. Her fine taste and artistic ability was proverbial. She was not only proficient in fine needle work and embroidery, but her decorative skill was unsurpassed in those days. She was able to take almost any kind of material and from it make something beautiful; yet, with it all, she was the capable mother of ten children of her own, and her motherly instincts impelled her to adopt and bring up two other motherless little ones.

Of her ten children, the first seven were boys, who, lacking sisters, were taught all the intricacies of house-keeping, including knitting and sewing, by their practical mother. They stated, later in life, that these accomplishments were greatly appreciated by them.

Surely Mrs. Ashley AMES was a worthy ancestor of Miss May AMES, artist and teacher in the Cleveland School of Art, from whom she claims to have inherited her own talents.

Noble BATES and his wife, Aurilla BOOTH BATES, arrived in Newburgh in 1812 from Essex, Vt., bringing with them two little daughters, Sophia and Elvira. Afterwards, two little daughters, Lucy (Mrs. Benjamin WIGGINS) and Eunice (Mrs. Eben MILES) were born in Newburgh. Mr. BATES was a millwright, but as the early settlers had little to grind, they had often only cornmeal upon which to subsist. When white flour was obtainable there was great rejoicing. There is a story that one night Mr. BATES brought home a cherished sack of white flour after the hungry children were in bed and asleep. Nothing daunted by the lateness of the hour, Mrs. BATES baked a large pan of biscuits as soon as possible and roused the children who proceeded to fill their little stomachs with the hot food, much to their hearts' content. Late in life Sophia, the eldest daughter of Noble and Aurilla BOOTH BATES, became the wife of Thomas GARFIELD, uncle of President James A. GARFIELD.

INGERSOLL is a name that occurs often in the annals of Newburgh. The Connecticut Land Company sold nine hundred acres of land in Newburgh to Elijan INGERSOLL in 1812. The price was \$1,400. Elijah was the son of David and Lydia INGERSOLL of Lee, Mass. When twenty years of age, Elijah INGERSOLL had



married Polly BARLOW, who lived out her brief life in her home town of Lee. Later, he married Betsey THOMAS, who, with his eight children accompanied him to Newburgh, the three oldest being married before coming West.

Nathan, the oldest son, married Polly PERRY, daughter of Abraham and Temperance HATCH PERRY, in Lee, Mass. Their wedding journey was to their new home in Newburgh. The young bride had much fear of the Indians who were quite numerous in this section during certain season of the year. She soon learned, however, that their actions were not hostile.

Polly PERRY INGERSOLL was by nature sympathetic and philanthropic. She was always ready to lend a helping hand and no one was ever turned from her door unrelieved. She lived to be more than ninety years old. Her daughters were Adaline (Mrs. Thomas CROSBY), Samantha (Mrs. Charles HALL), Lucy (Mrs. John KELLY), and Jane who remained unmarried. Her three sons: Edwin, John and Barlow, became respected citizens of Newburgh and Cleveland.

From Sudley, Vt. Came Jonathan and Lucy SCOVILL PEARSE to Newburgh hamlet in 1817. They came by ox-team and covered wagon which was the only mode of land travel in those days. Their first home was a log cabin upon a ten-acre tract of land near the corner of Harvard and Independence Streets. Their taxes per year upon the property were \$13.65. As many of the early residents of Newburgh were "land poor" even this small sum was hard to raise. It meant a continuous saving of even the pennies.

Wolves howled about Newburgh during these years and terrified the residents. A bounty was offered for each wolf slain. Among the "wolf papers" still in existence is this one which explains itself:

"This certifies that Lorenzo NALLY has produced to me one scalp of a wild wolf over the age of six months, proven according to law, for which he is entitled to receive from the State of Ohio the sum of \$4.00 as per act of the Leg." (Legislature.

*Signed, Theodore MILES, J.P.*

Mr. and Mrs. PEARSE were the parents of seven children, nearly all born in Newburgh.

At one time, a few years after the forming of Newburgh into a separate township in 1814, there were eight families in Newburgh hamlet by the name of RATHBUN. Among them were Edmund, George and Jonathan RATHBUN, originally from Rhode Island.

The wife of Edmund RATHBUN was Julia HAMILTON, daughter of Samuel and Susannah HAMILTON, whose bravery and fortitude under great tribulations has already been mentioned in these pages. Mrs. Edmund RATHBUN was the mother of three daughters, Caroline, Melinda and Lydia, all of whom married into the family of David BROOKS, another pioneer resident of Newburgh. Caroline became Mrs. Samuel BROOKS and Lydia, Mrs. Freeman BROOKS. Edmund RATHBUN was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

The wife of George RATHBUN was Harriet WARNER, daughter of another early resident of Newburgh. Jonathan with his family moved to Orange County, but the families of Edmund and George lived on Harvard Street, Newburgh, for many years.

Aaron HUBBARD and his wife Esther TIBBALS HUBBARD, came to Newburgh hamlet in 1820. Two years before, Mr. HUBBARD had traded land in Broome, Schoharie County, N.Y. for unimproved land in Newburgh, sending his son ISRAEL and his married daughter Cynthia (Mrs. Stephen TITUS) to take

possession of it. The Aaron HUBBARDS came as far as Buffalo with an ox-team and span of horses attached to two covered wagons. At Buffalo Mr. HUBBARD shipped some of his heavier freight on the small wooden steamer "Walk-in-the-Water" which plied between Buffalo and Cleveland. His wife drove the span of horses through to Newburgh. This would not be considered much of a feat in these days of automobile travel and cement roadways. But in those days when the Western country was mostly uncleared land, the public highways not much more than beaten paths, and wild animals howling at night, it took some bravery on the part of a woman to set out upon such a journey.

Mrs. Aaron TIBBALS HUBBARD was originally from Durham, Conn. She remembered many childhood incidents of the Revolutionary War - one, the passing of Gen. Washington and his staff past her home. She was a woman of energy, exceptional good judgment - and possessed of a cheerful disposition. Fond of reading, she retained her mental facilities to the end of a long life.

This sketch is but a page in the early history of Newburgh. Much more might be told if time and space permitted. It is difficult for us of the twentieth century to realize the trials and hardships encountered by our pioneer ancestors upon the Western Reserve of Ohio.

*Ella STURTEVANT WEBB*

*Historian*

(Note: The information contained in this narrative was gleaned from various pioneer histories and from letters and original records still in existence.)

Middleburg committee - Miss Mary BIGELOW, Mrs. Lucy VAN TYNE, Miss Mary STONE, Mrs. Mary E. ELMORE, Miss Lou PEEBLES, Mrs. J. P. COLE

**FROM: July 5, 1896 CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER:**

**GRANDPA BENNETT – IN ABOUT A MONTH HE’LL REACH THE AGE OF ONE HUNDRED ADVENTURES IN HIS YOUTH**

**He tells many humorous anecdotes of early Cleveland and describes the city in 1818**

**His ancestors can be traced back to the French Royal Family and his predecessors played an important part**

During these very interesting times of reminiscences, when so much is being said about early settlers, it is very pleasing indeed to meet a hale and vigorous man, who lived in the former century, and who, for eighty years, has been active in the very region that developed from a scrub oak swamp into the beautiful city of Cleveland.

Zenas Lewis Bennett will be 100 years old next month, having been born August 11, 1796. He was born in Rensselaer County, NY, although the permanent home of his parents was in Vermont. His parents were Stephen Bennett and Polly Lewis Bennett, and through the latter he traces his ancestry back to the Louises of the house of Clovis of the French monarchy. Alphonso Louis, his great-great-grandfather on his mother's side, was at the head of a clan of French Normans, and left France on account of some persecutions. He came to Massachusetts and his grandson, Ablanthar Lewis Jr. was the grandfather of Mr. Bennett, the subject of this sketch. Ablanthar Lewis Sr. was instrumental in the abolition of the whipping post for witchcraft.

Capital and corporal punishment of witches had been carried to such an extent in those early days that it was the chief menace of New England and Judge White called a council to determine some means of remedy or prevention. There was a law at that time to the effect that the complainant should receive half of the fine and Ablanthar Lewis Sr. suggested that this be carried out in full and that the punishment of forty lashes save one be considered as fine, and half of it be given to the witch and the other half to the complainant. This was tried a few times and the results were entirely satisfactory.

Mr. Bennett's mother, Polly Lewis, was about 12 years of age when her father ran his horse home and sent her to tell her brother, Ablanthar Lewis Jr. to run to the school house with his drum and beat an alarm. He did so, and at that, men ran with their guns to Concord, and the battle of Lexington was fought. Just before this a British officer had asked the elder Ablanthar the road to a certain place and, thinking he had been misinformed, called the young American a liar. Upon this the son of American soil struck the representative of John Bull with a sword, cutting a hole in his uniform, and the latter fled.

A Britisher named De Fee enlisted 100 of the most able young men in Massachusetts and was secretly planning to march them into the heart of the British camp and give them away to their enemies. One of the young men was Daniel Lewis, Polly's brother, and Mr. Bennett's uncle. He suspected something wrong and fearlessly and plainly accused De Fee of his plot and threatened to annihilate him, whereupon the latter became frightened, turned pale, jumped through a window and escaped.

These anecdotes are related to show the kind of blood that flows in the veins of Grandpa Bennett. He is entirely fearless and resolute. One night during the past year his daughter told him she thought she heard a noise upstairs. He asked, "Where's my cane?" and climbing out of bed he seized his heavy cane as a weapon and mounted the stairs as fearlessly and as nimbly as any younger man could have done.

His father, Stephen Bennett, traces one branch of his ancestry back to the house of Marie Antoinette. Stephen was absolutely fearless, and although physically weak and never entirely well, he never hesitated to hitch up and break the wildest or most untamed horse in the country. He died of consumption at the age of 45 years, but his grandfather lived to the age of just 124 years, when he was killed at a church log raising at Newton, RI.

Mr. Zenas L. Bennett resides with his daughter, Mrs. J.N. Bleasdale, at No. 1637 Harvard St. He absolutely refuses to be interviewed by reporters and to take part in any public meetings, although he is glad to have his friends and relatives call on him. He is a very pleasing and interesting conversationalist, and delights to talk with intelligent persons, and especially to an appreciative listener. His vigor is almost phenomenal. His mind is clear, his voice strong, his step steady, his hearing but slightly impaired, and his appetite fully developed. He walks without a cane, reads ordinary print easily with spectacles, hoes corn and potatoes, and attends to the garden in general. The write has recently seen him, when he was not wearing his spectacles, stoop and pick up a pin from the path or floor on which he was walking. He says that he knows he could ride a bicycle, but as he has no occasion to do so, he will not try it for the mere sake of an exhibition. He feels uneasy if he does not have something to do, and consequently is either reading or at some kind of work nearly all the time. Recently he has spent a great deal of his spare time at caving walking sticks. He can do a really good piece of cabinet work and is a genius of considerable ability in making whatever he wants. In his reading he prefers books of travel, history or science, and avoids all light literature and especially fiction. He reads the daily papers, but says that he prefers to omit about three-fourths of their contents.

He has read the Bible through 43 times, and is going to read it once more. He remembers what he read, and is able to quote scripture by the chapter. A great many of his expressions abound in biblical reference. For example, on returning from a visit he remarked: "The scriptures say that we must neither drink wine nor strong drink. I think that tea we had there would have done to use in the observance of the Feast of the Passover."

He is a capital storyteller, and his anecdotes abound in reminiscences of early times. A few days ago, he said: "There's one thing certain. The Lord never made me for a figurehead or a pioneer sideshow."

"How do you know, grandpa?"

"Well, I shall tell you. If He wanted me to dance at the call of these younger generations, He would have given me the inclination to do so."

Last week he said to his grandson: "I want you to be here with your shotgun on the eleventh day of August." "Why?" "Because on that day I shall be 100 years old and I want you to prevent folks from attempting to come in and hold a fandango over me; for, if they do so, I declare, I'd rather go and jump into the lake. Some people live to be figureheads and tell wonderful stories, to which younger persons listen with open eyes and mouth, but I have never been eaten up by a bear or wolf nor shot at by an Indian. The nearest I ever came to being eaten up was by a woman, and that was when I dived to the bottom of the St. Lawrence River, fifty feet, and brought up her drunken husband by the hair of his head."

In 1818 he moved to Cleveland with his mother and his uncle's family, his father having died when he was very young. They came from New York with their goods packed in a wagon and drawn by a team of horses. They arrived at the present site of Newburg at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon and they were until sunset going only one mile, clearing a way through the woods to the Bedford Road. Travel was very slow in those days, being altogether by team, either horses or oxen. No traveler or teamster at that time ever thought of taking a journey of even a few miles without an ax in his wagon with which to clear the way.

After coming to Cuyahoga County, he became acquainted with and married Almira Woods, daughter of James C. Woods and Annie Baldwin Woods, who lived near Tinker's Creek, just south of Newburg. They had five children, two of whom are yet living, Mrs. Bleasdale of Harvard Street and Mrs. Lucretia Conkey of Randall; twenty grandchildren, sixteen living, and thirty great-grandchildren, 21 living. Mrs. Bennett died near Warrensville in July, 1891, at the age of 86.

In the earlier times money was the scarcest article in the settlement, and often the people resorted to barter or an exchange of goods, instead of regular buying and selling. A feature of this was often seen in tax paying, as the greatest struggle of the year was in raising money for this purpose. Often the settlers would have an opportunity to do work on the public highways and thus work out their taxes. One year, when Broadway was being transformed from an ox trail to a wagon road, the clerk told Mr. Bennett that he could consider his taxes paid for the year if he would dig out by the roots a certain large hickory tree that stood in the road near the present corner of Willson Avenue and Broadway. He agreed to do the work and at once commenced it. He dugged around the tree and chopped off all the side roots, then he felled a large cottonwood tree in such a way that the latter struck the hickory tree, tearing it out by the remaining roots. He then went up to the office and the clerk asked, "Are you tired?" "Oh no, but I thought I'd quit." The job had been finished much sooner than was anticipated.

Grandpa Bennett tells of the condition of Cleveland in 1818. There were but eighteen dwelling houses from the present extreme limit of Newburg, near the Newburg Asylum grounds, to the square. The whole country was covered with underbrush and deer, bear, wolves and Indians were to be found within the area where the city now stands. There was a small shipyard at the foot of Superior Street, on the west side of the river, and there was but one steamboat on Lake Erie. It was a very small, crude affair, called the Walk-on-the-Water, and carried passengers and freight between here and Buffalo. That is the only connection of any kind, besides by team, that Cleveland had with the remainder of the world in any direction. This boat was probably built in 1817. There was only one gristmill here in 1818, and that stood in the valley west of Newburg. In the same hamlet was one store, owned by E. Miles. Down near the present site of the tanks of the Standard Oil Co. was a soap factory, owned and operated by Jabe Kelley. At the southeast corner of the square was B. Johnson's, and around the square was J. Waterman's and the old jail. East of that stood the gallows. Irad Kelly and Nathan Perry each had stores, and these were at that time the only stores in the city of Cleveland. Across the street stood Noble H. Merwin's tavern. Chris Gunn had a boathouse at the foot of Superior Street and carried people across to the shipyard. Later a Mr. Watkins also built a tavern in the city and Job Doan built one at Doan's corners. Abraham Hickoks cut the brush away, put up a blacksmith shop on Superior Street, and hung out a shingle upon which he had written "Uncle Abraham works here." This was the only shop of the kind then in the city. Daniel Benedict did carding and dressing and Arthur Williamson had a tannery on the side hill, near where the lighthouse now stands, and made buckskin breeches. These garments were famous for their wearing ability and were the first goods manufactured in Cleveland. Philip Baldwin, also owned and operated a tannery in Newburg, and this completes a synopsis of the entire business enterprise of the city of Cleveland at 1818.

In about 1819 Julius Meigs came here and commenced to manufacture barrels and tubs, and at about the same time Charles Lawrey established the first distillery on Jewett's place. The next distillery was started by Petrie, from whom Petrie Street takes its name. The first real factory of any kind that was of importance was an ax factory, owned by a Mr. Powell.

The changes that have taken place, even during the lifetime of a single individual, appear almost beyond conception. The land which is now counted as the most valuable in Cleveland was once considered not worth the taxes. A tract of 50 acres, now in the very center of the city, and of which the Erie Street Burying Ground is a portion, was once offered by Jarvis Clark, brother of James S. Clark, to Chester Wallace for a little bay horse, but the latter said "What use have I for that scrub oak land, that will have a tax of 3 shillings on it?" And he would not trade.

Scranton's flat, extending along the river over half way from the Columbus Street bridge to the creek, spanned by the Petrie Street bridge, was sold for a dollar and a half; and Case's flat, bordering the river for nearly a mile, where now stands a very active and flourishing part of the city was also sold for a dollar and a half. Although, it must be remembered, that then these flats were, indeed, very flat, and were mostly black ash swamps, which a man or deer could not cross excepting by passing from one fallen log to another.

These swamps were drained by digging the canal and opening the mouth and channel of the river. When the water in the river was low and the wind blowing from the southeast it was impossible for any but the very smallest kind of a boat to enter the mouth of the river, where no many large vessels are plying daily. The most of the early settlers did not like the land in the present limits of Cleveland, but preferred that along Tinker's Creek, some distance south of the Newburgh asylum. Mr. Bennett's uncle was offered 200 acres of land now near the center of the city for his team and wagon, but he went to

Warrensville and traded for 56 acres of woods, which he considered more promising. The land around here was mostly owned by the Connecticut Land Co., and the company sent an agent here to view it and report concerning its value. He came, carefully looked over the ground, and returned with the report that it was "not worth the taxes, as deer were feeding within 80 rods of the old courthouse, and the land was mostly scrub oak swamp covered with underbrush, and was certainly not worth two shillings per acre."

**FROM: JANUARY 29, 1900 PLAIN DEALER:  
EIGHTY-TWO YEARS IN CLEVELAND  
FOREST CITY'S OLDEST LIVING SETTLER TELLS OF BYGONE DAYS  
REMEMBERS WHEN HOWLING WOLVES RAN IN PACKS ON PUBLIC SQUARE**

George Watkins, 88 years old, who claims to be the oldest living settler of Cuyahoga County and Cleveland, was found in a reminiscent mood yesterday. Days of when there was no Euclid Avenue, but the road to Buffalo, and when howling wolves often ran in packs across what is now the Public Square, were brought to mind. The exterior of the house at No. 832 Logan Ave., in which Mr. Watkins now resides, the plain frame, white painted walls and the green shutters is a style of years ago, and when once inside the house and engaged in a conversation with the aged gentleman one can easily imagine himself as living 70 years ago.

Mr. Watkins came of New England stock, and when he was six years old his father emigrated with the family from Connecticut, and after a long and perilous overland wagon journey settled near Cleveland on a plat of ground which is now the corner of Doan Street and Euclid Avenue. In that day what is now Euclid Avenue, with its palatial residences, was called the road to Buffalo, and not by any means was it at that time cleared of stumps and trees, while deep and almost impenetrable woods fringed it on either side. Cleveland was at that time composed of about 150 inhabitants and extended from the Cuyahoga River east to about Erie Street.

"My father was a ship carpenter, and he worked on the first schooner ever built in Cleveland, the Minerva by name. The one log school house was on the road to Newburg, and there I went to school for three years. Newburg had as many as a dozen buildings then, and was what we called a great place. On the corner at Erie Street, where the Hickox building now stands, there was a small frame building. Between that and the square there was only one building, a small log cabin. A one-legged man lived there, and he drew all the water, in barrels, that was used in Cleveland, charging at the rate of 12 cents a barrel. He was a peculiar individual, and my chief pleasure whenever I got to Cleveland was in teasing him.

"I remember that the largest building then in the neighborhood was on the corner of what is now Superior and Bank Streets. It was a brick structure and was occupied by the Commercial Bank of Lake Erie. My father had a sum of eastern money, or what we called good money, when we got here. Only Commercial Bank of Lake Erie money could be used successfully here then, and my father lost considerable in the change, though how much I do not know.

"On the square at that time there was the courthouse, a small frame building; a tavern, run by a man named Marcy, which was a more pretentious structure of two stories; and a small log affair, which served the purpose of a jail. One of my duties was to carry eggs to Cleveland once a week. Tied up in a handkerchief I usually took four dozen eggs, and many times I had great difficulty in disposing of them.

“For 17 years I kept a public house, or tavern, on what is now Morris Street. My only customers were wagon movers, as there was no other mode of travel. Covered wagons, with emigrants bound for Michigan, Iowa, and even Utah, came along with their destination painted in great letters on the covered tops.

“There was only one boat then, called Walk-in-the-Water. I never was fortunate enough to get a good look at her, for the boat never landed in Cleveland, but the passengers were transferred to land by small boats. The Cuyahoga River was then filled with sand, and many times I have waded the river, hardly going to my knees in water.

“Barn and house raisings were great events in those days. One thing was certain; however, it was impossible for a man to get his building raised without plenty of whiskey. I remember a man by the name of Janges, who announced a barn raising. He purchased a pint of whiskey, which he supposed to be enough for 40 men. The barn did not go up that day, and when the next morning five gallons of whiskey was on hand, the barn was raised successfully and with no trouble at all.

“Sammy Cozad had a gristmill and sawmill in what is now Wade Park and it was there that the farmers for miles around secured lumber and had their grain ground. The first doctor was a man named Graves, who lived somewhere in the woods near where Adelbert College is now situated. He traveled on horseback and had a wide practice. A man by the name of Levi Billings operated a stone quarry in what is now Euclid Ridge, and in 1832 he built a railroad, constructed entirely of wood, from the quarry to Cleveland.

“When we settled near Cleveland, father built a barn first, according to Connecticut fashion, and we lived two years in a log cabin with no doors or windows, huge blankets being stretched across the openings. At that time there was all manner of game, and bear and deer meat was a common article of diet. I remember in 1834 that the boys on Doan’s Corners chose sides with the boys from the road to Buffalo for a grand squirrel hunting match. There were ten boys on a side, and the rules were that no dogs or guns should be used, but simply clubs. In the one day 2,200 squirrels were killed and we beat the road to Buffalo boys 200 squirrels. The losers had to pay for the supper which we ate at Job Doan’s tavern, which was a two-story log building situated at Doan’s Corners, or what is now the corner of Euclid Avenue and Doan Street.

“I attended the first menagerie, circus and the first theatrical performances that ever came to Cleveland, and I have never attended a similar event of any kind since. I did not enjoy the menagerie or the theatricals, but I thought the circus was wonderful. As I remember it, the name of the theatrical company was the “Cherry Stone Theatrical Stars.” The show was held in the courthouse on the square and I remember that the girls all wore cherries around their heads, and it seemed to me that the exhibition of cherries was the only thing in the show. The bills for the circus announced that a boy 11 years old would turn a somersault over 11 horses. The matter was discussed with incredulity by the entire neighborhood before the circus arrived. For myself, I did not think it possible. When I saw the boy turn over the horses, I thought it the most amazing thing imaginable.

“The two big events of the year, for the young people, were two dances; one on the Fourth of July, and the other on New Year’s. We commenced dancing at 1 in the afternoon and continued until daybreak of the next morning. The music was furnished by a fiddler named Hindersot, and he furnished music for these great occasions for years. The dances were held in Job Doan’s tavern. The other amusement we

boys had was once in a while a game of ball. The rest of our lives was pretty tough and hard sledding, I can assure you.

“In those early days it was a pretty serious thing if the fire went out on a winter day. We had no means of getting fire ourselves, and so had to go a mile or more to the nearest neighbors to get fire. Two long hickory barks could be kept ablaze, with care, until we covered the distance between the houses.

“My father, Timothy Watkins, had a charcoal pit and employed a man by the name of Triscott to tend it. I remember a narrow escape Triscott had from ravenous wolves one night. He started to his house from the pit late at night, accompanied by his dog, when he was tackled by six large wolves. The only thing that saved his life was a large torch which he carried and brandished in the faces of the wolves. There was an empty log cabin on what is now Kennard Street in which there was a ladder. Triscott got into the cabin, but not before five of the wolves had followed him inside. He slammed the door shut, and keeping the ravenous animals at bay with the torch, he ascended the ladder to some beams overhead, where he spent a terrible night. Early the next morning he knocked some of the clapboards off the roof and got down to the ground. Neighbors were summoned and the five wolves quickly killed.

“I remember the first copy of the Plain Dealer, and I was a warm personal friend of the editor.

“The great woods, which surrounded us, kept much of the cold winds away. The coldest weather I remember of in those days being 5 degrees below zero. The colder weather of today is caused, to my mind, by the open condition of the country.

“And lastly, of churches, last because there were no churches in those days. The first circuit riding preacher that I remember to have visited Cleveland was in the Ohio River and Cuyahoga County circuit, so you see how much opportunity we had of hearing the gospel. The people were strict in their observance of Sunday, however. I remember that no one was permitted to travel on the Sabbath, but that was because there was no one to travel on Sunday, I guess.”

**FROM: JUNE 25, 1905 CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER:  
PIONEERS, 400 OF THEM MEET AGAIN  
ASSEMBLE AT PARK AND HEAR STORY OF NEWBURG'S EARLY DAYS  
NOT A DAY FOR YOUNG FOLKS, GRANDPARENTS RULING SUPREME**

Yesterday the Newburg pioneers held their annual reunion and outing at Garfield Park. Last year there were 200 people at the gathering. This year there were 400. They began coming at 10 o'clock in the morning, every party laden down with lunch baskets that gave promise of good things and by noon the pretty rustic pavilion was filled with old settlers, their children, and their friends.

There were many reunions of people who had not seen each other for years, and the older people especially enjoyed the opportunity to meet friends of former years. After dinner was over, they all gathered in the pavilion for a short program.

H.D. Marble, the president of the association, presided and made an opening speech welcoming the people there again and speaking of reunions past and to come. W. S. Kerruish gave a talk on Newburg memories, speaking of old landmarks that were gone, and telling of old pranks and stories which brought many smiles from the people.



Miss Percie A. Trowbridge read a carefully prepared paper on the history of Newburg. A paper which gives details seldom found and which is so valuable that copies of it have been requested to add to the records of the region.

A Mr. Kingsbury, one of the first men to come to Cleveland, was, it seems, the first settler in Newburg, moving out there in December, 1797. He afterward built the first frame house in the settlement, portions of which are still standing. Soon other settlers followed, leaving Cleveland at last with but one white family.

For some years Newburg was the more popular of the two places and Newburg flourished and grew, quite overshadowing its sister town to the northward, her first start being due to a sawmill and gristmill opened there – quite different affairs from the great mills of the present day for which the place is famous.

A particularly interesting part of her article reads: “The first lawyer and the first doctor came in the same year, 1810. The lawyer was Alfred Kelley and the doctor was Daniel Long. The first schoolhouse was started near Judge Kingsbury’s in 1800. It was taught by Miss Sara Doan.

“In regard to religious matters we cannot hold our heads very high. The Rev. Joseph Badger, a most devoted home missionary visited our community in 1802. He said that Newburg was a little better than Cleveland, but that among the five families that he found here he discovered to his great regret no apparent piety. They seemed to glory in their infidelity.”

Miss Trowbridge goes on to give a long and detailed account of the early settlers, of the manner in which the town was built up, of the old buildings and streets. Her facts are interesting to everybody, but especially to those who have lived, or yet live, in that vicinity, and the applause when she finished was long and loud.

At the close of her paper, C.F. Emery spoke, and then Boardman Pearce, a man of 91, the oldest settler present. Mr. Pearce spoke but a few minutes, a few reminiscent words on the people and places of other years, and the pleasure of these reunions on the old settlers. Mr. and Mrs. Pearce and William Kerr were the oldest people present.

Mrs. C.P. Jewett, who is proud of being one of the old settlers, delights in tales of the town as she remembers it. “We lived in a log house, as most folks did those days, and I remember when my uncle came through from the east and brought me a muslin dress. There weren’t many muslin dresses then, and I was so proud of it. I went to school in a little log schoolhouse and sat on a bench that was just a log split in two, turned round side down, and supported by four sticks. That schoolhouse was church and town hall, too. Afterward they put up a brick building there, and it was turned into a dwelling. William Thompson lives there now. What was the chief industry in the early days here? Farming. We hadn’t any idea of the big mills that were coming. There was a sawmill and a gristmill, and those were enough for us.”

Many remembrances of old times were told by the men and women, all of whom were delighted to talk of the past. It was not the day for the young folks. Their fathers and mothers and grandparents ruled, and did all the talking, and had the best time, thoroughly enjoying every minute of the day.

