

PARMA

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

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PARMA

Transcribed by Helen Rosenstein Wolf

Proofed by Denise, County Coordinator

Boundaries - Population and Physical Characteristics - Early Settlement - Benajah Fay - Conrad Countryman - Peletiah Bliss - Walking to Connecticut for a Bride - A Large Accession - Emerson, Hodgman, Nicholas, Small and Steele - Asher and Benjamin Norton - Rufus Scovil - Samuel Freeman - Early Hardships - Numerous Hunts - Scarcity of Grass - First Birth, Death and Marriage - Roads - the Harrison Procession - An Irate Democrat - Formation of Parma - First Officers - List of Officers - Religious Matters - Free Will Baptist Church - First Presbyterian Church - St. Paul's Church - St. John's Church - Church of the Holy Trinity.

PARMA, one of the youngest townships in Cuyahoga, covers an area of five miles square, being the territory of survey-township six, in range thirteen. Brooklyn township lies on the north, Royalton on the south, Independence on the east, and Middleburg on the west. Of the population of fifteen hundred, reported by the last census, full two-thirds are estimated to be Germans and other foreigners-the former largely predominating, and manifesting their usual energy as thrifty, industrious husbandmen. They concentrate in settlements, have church of their own, and, although somewhat clannish, are liberally represented in the administration of public affairs.

The surface of the township on the north and west is generally level, but on the east is elevated and undulating. The soil is of a clayey character, and is handsomely productive. Fruit is grown with success, but general farm products are the principal reliance of the inhabitants. Building and flag stones are obtained in considerable quantities, and of an excellent quality; Cogswell's quarry being the most productive. Several mineral springs are also found in the township, and from these, considerable water, of alleged medicinal virtue, is annually forwarded to Cleveland and other points.

Parma has no streams of any consequence, nor has it any railway communication within its own limits, although that convenience is near at hand. It contains a strictly agricultural community, and has no village within its borders. Nevertheless, its schools are excellent, its churches are plentiful, and the people generally appear to be in a prosperous condition.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

In the division of the Western Reserve, or by subsequent sale, township six fell to various proprietors-Tuckerman, Cheny, Ely, Blake, Plympton and others, who early endeavored to promote settlement on their lands. In consequence, however, of the general impression that it was a swampy and undesirable region the owners found the task a difficult one.

Benajah Fay, a native of Massachusetts, who came out from Lewis County, New York, was the first settler in Greenbrier, as Parma was called before it was organized. In 1816 he located upon the Plympton tract. His family, consisting of himself, wife and twelve children, journeyed with an ox-team and one horse. Upon his arrival he had to cut a road through the woods to his farm. He opened a tavern in 1819 on the old stage road, in a double log house, opposite the present residence of J. W. Fay, which, as "B. Fay's Inn," was a famous landmark for many years. Mr. Fay was a man of mark in the new community, served in various local offices, and was always in high esteem as a useful and honored citizen. He built a framed tavern in 1826, and in 1832 replaced it with a brick one, which was the first brick house in the township. He died in April, 1860, aged eighty-five.

In 1817 one Conrad Countryman, a "Mohawk Dutchman," took up a farm on the Ely tract, in the present township of Parma. Countryman lived in the western part, on the line on which afterwards ran the stage road between Cleveland and Columbus. In time he put up a blacksmith shop and a sawmill, in both of which enterprises he was the first in the township. Mr. Countryman's eldest son built a house on his father's farm, and kept "bachelor's hall" in the immediate neighborhood of his father and the rest of the family. Besides being a miller, blacksmith and farmer, Mr. Countryman also kept a tavern, and with all his avocations he managed to keep himself quite busy. He resided in Parma, or Greenbrier as it was then called, until 1826, when, with his family and entire possessions he moved farther west.

Peletiah Bliss, a Connecticut Yankee, traveled afoot in 1818 from New England to Ohio, carrying a pack on his back, and seeking for a location in the boundless west. On reaching "Greenbrier" he was favorably impressed with it, and accordingly purchased fifty acres of land on the Ely tract, where he built a shanty and soon made a clearing.

Previous to making his western journey Bliss had determined to marry a certain fair young damsel of Connecticut as soon as he got matters well shaped in a new home. So, after laboring upon his clearing a few years, until he thought he had prepared a fitting home for his bride, he set out for Connecticut on foot, living, it is said, upon salt pork during the entire trip. He reached his destination in due time (that is, in due time by that kind of conveyance), married the girl of his heart, and with her returned to Greenbrier; the wedding tour being made in a lumber wagon drawn by an ox-team, owned by Edwin Foot, of Connecticut, who was himself on the way to Brooklyn, Ohio. Bliss resided in Parma until his death. He had but one child-a daughter-who moved to Michigan.

The settlement of the township was very slow until late in 1821 when there was an important accession in the families of Asa Emerson, Amos Hodgman, Jesse Nicholas, Joseph Small and William Steele. These families had been neighbors in Maine and in 1817 had removed together to the West; having all settled, though separately, in southern Ohio. They kept up communication with each other and, becoming dissatisfied with their location in that region, they agreed to move north to "Greenbrier." In 1821 they accordingly entered the township in company.

Emerson, who had a family of nine children, bought seventy-five acres on the Tuckerman tract, having lived for a brief time with Conrad Countryman before effecting his purchase. Emerson was a carpenter as

well as a farmer, and resided in Parma until his death, in 1855. Of his children, Oliver, Asa and Lucina (Mrs. Whitney) are still living in Parma.

Amos Hodgman also settled upon the Tuckerman tract, where he resided until he died. Jesse Nicholas located upon the Ely tract, becoming a tavern-keeper and a farmer on the Columbus Road. Joseph Small bought land on the Tuckerman tract and after a residence there of twenty-five years removed to Michigan. William Steele located on the Ely tract and died two years afterward, whereupon his widow returned to Maine; making the journey, it is said, on foot and alone. Of the members of the families above named, who came in 1821, the only ones now living in Parma are John Hodgman and Asa and Oliver S. Emerson, and they three are the earliest surviving residents of the township.

Asher Norton and family came from Vermont in 1823, and settled in the southeast corner of the township. Mr. Norton lived there until 1863 when he removed to Brighton (in Brooklyn township) where he died. His brother Benjamin took up a farm adjoining Asher's about the same time (1823) on which he remained until 1859, when he changed his residence to Brecksville. Rufus Scovill, a brother-in-law of the Nortons, settled near them in 1823, and remained a resident of Parma until his death. Nehemiah Toms, who also married a sister of the Norton's, located near the latter in 1823, and there died. Abner T. Beals, an early settler in Royalton, removed from that township to Parma in 1825, and, after remaining a short time in the northern part, eventually settled on the Ely tract, on the line of the stage road. Mr. Beals resided in Parma until 1876 when he moved to Michigan, where he died.

In 1825 Samuel Freeman, with his wife, ten children and a hired man, made the journey from Massachusetts to Ohio, via the Erie Canal and Lake Erie, and reached Benajah Fay's inn, in Greenbrier, on the night of Saturday, May 26, 1825—twenty days after leaving New England. Mr. Freeman bought a piece of land on the Plympton tract, and, while he was building a residence of his own, he and his family lived for forty days in the newly-built barn of Benajah Fay. Mr. Freeman became a man of considerable local consequence in Parma. He was the first justice of the peace, the first school-teacher and the first post-master. He took an active part in forwarding the religious interests of the little settlement, and was withal a citizen whose influence was always felt for good and whom his fellow citizens held in high regard.

The early settlers in Parma experienced naturally the same difficulties, privations and trials usually encountered by Western pioneers, and bore them with like fortitude. Indians did not trouble them, but savage beasts caused much annoyance, and grand hunts for bears and wolves, in which all the townsmen joined, were frequently resorted to, to get rid of the marauders. Even as late as 1842 the ravages by wolves and bears were very serious, and in that year the people of Parma united in a general hunting party, and spent several days in waging a war of extermination against them.

Good grass appears not to have been very plentiful in Parma for a considerable time after its settlement, as hay for the cattle had to be brought from Middleburg, little except browse being obtainable in Parma. Baking bread on a board before a wood fire and roasting meat by suspending it upon strings hung over the fire, were two of the customs of those primitive days. For some time, the nearest gristmill was in Middleburg. It was not always easy to obtain wheat bread, but "johnny cake," made from corn ground in a home "stump mortar," did good service in its place. When Moses Towl built a gristmill on Big Creek, in Parma, it was considered a great improvement, and Mr. Towl was looked upon as a public benefactor. The first person born in Parma was Lucina, daughter of Asa Emerson. Her birth occurred in March, 1823. In mature life she served with distinction for three years as hospital nurse in the Union army during the rebellion of 1861-65.

The first death in the township was that of Isaac Emerson, a young man of seventeen, who died in the winter of 1823. He was buried on the Countryman place. The next deaths were those of William Steele and his child, who were buried near young Emerson's grave, on the banks of Big Creek. When the cemetery on the Medina Road was laid out the remains of Isaac Emerson were transferred thither, but the graves of Steele and his child were undisturbed, and their bones still lie upon the bank of the creek, although the spot is entirely unmarked.

The first marriage ceremony was celebrated at the house of Joseph Small, when his daughter Lois was wedded to Ephraim Fowls, of Middleburg. An attendant upon the occasion states that the event, although a novel one in the township, was an exceedingly quiet one.

In March, 1827, the town was divided into road districts, the first being "two miles in width on the west side of the town and running a line through the town north and south parallel with the west line; the second running a north and south line through the town parallel with the east line; the third to include the remainder of the town."

The road now known as the Brighton and Parma plank road was at an early day the Cleveland and Columbus turnpike, over which there was a vast amount of travel, and upon which, within the limits of Parma, there were four taverns. When William Henry Harrison was elected to the Presidency a band of his adherents in Cleveland mounted a canoe upon wheels, and escorted it over the turnpike to Columbus, with much hilarious demonstration. When the procession reached the house of Asa Emerson, in Parma, that worthy citizen, being an unflinching Democrat, was much disgusted with the Harrison display. He hastily hoisted one of his wife's red petticoats upon a broomstick, and marched defiantly alongside the big canoe, waving his flag and taunting the Harrisonians until the latter were seriously angered, and he thought best to desist, lest they should resort to violence.

In April, 1827, one year after the township was organized, the treasurer reported that he had received in cash for road taxes in 1826 the sum of \$16.84, and \$11.38 in road certificates. The township is believed to have been called Greenbrier before its organization on account of the abundance of that shrub in many places. York street was so named because of the settlement along its line of a community from the State of New York.

As already stated, the township is a purely agricultural one. The only manufacturing enterprises of either early or late days were the following: William and Dudley Humphrey, who came to Parma from Connecticut in 1836, pursued for fifteen years, or until 1851, the manufacture of clock-cases, in which they set works procured from Connecticut. They then sold the clocks through the country, and during their residence in Parma they carried on quite an extensive business.

ORGANIZATION.

On the 7th of March, Greenbrier, which until then had been a portion of the civil township of Brooklyn, was formed into a separate township and given the name of Parma. The first township election was held on the first Monday in April, 1826, at the house of Samuel Freeman, on which occasion Asa Emerson, Jesse Nichols and David Adams were the judges of election; Peletiah Bliss and Oliver Emerson were the clerks. The officers chosen were Peletiah Bliss, township clerk; Asa Emerson, Samuel T. Varney and David Adams, trustees; Benajah Fay and Jesse Nichols, overseers of the poor; John Hodgman and Benjamin Norton, fence-viewers; Peletiah Bliss, treasurer; Asher Norton and Amos Hodgman, supervisors of

highways; Peter Countryman, constable. A list of the persons who have served the township as trustees, clerks and treasurers, from organization to 1879, are given below.

1826. Trustees, Asa Emerson, Sam'l T. Varney, David Adams; clerk, Peletiah Bliss; treasurer, Peletiah Bliss.
1827. Trustees, Benajah Fay, Sam'l Freeman, Asher Norton; clerk, Lyndon Freeman; treasurer, David Adams.
1828. Trustees, Benajah Fay, Sam'l Freeman, Benjamin Norton; clerk, David Adams; treasurer, Asa Fay.
1829. Trustees, Asher Norton, David Adams, Oliver Emerson; clerk, Itumar Adams; treasurer, Jacob Countryman.
1830. Trustees, Thos. Adams, Asa Emerson, Benjamin Norton; clerk, Oliver Emerson; treasurer, Jacob Countryman.
1831. Trustees, Sam'l Freeman, Asher Norton, Peter Countryman; clerk, Lyndon Freeman; treasurer, Benajah Fay.
1832. Trustees, Asher Norton, Daniel Greene, Oliver Emerson; clerk, John S. Greene; treasurer, Benajah Fay.
1833. Trustees, Benjamin Norton, John Wheeler, Oliver Emerson; clerk, Reuben Emerson; treasurer, Benajah Fay.
1834. Trustees, Reuben Hurlburt, Dudley Roberts, Rufus Scovill; clerk, O. J. Tuttle; treasurer, Benajah Fay.
1835. Trustees, Benjamin Norton, Reuben Hurlburt, B. Snow; clerk, Reuben Emerson; treasurer, Jos. W. Kilborn.
1836. Trustees, Barilla Snow, Reuben Hurlburt, David Clark; clerk, Lyndon Freeman; treasurer, John A. Ackley.
1837. Trustees, David Clark, Reuben Hurlburt, Jeremiah Toms; clerk, Reuben Emerson; treasurer, Lewis Reynolds.
1838. Trustees, David Clark, Reuben Hurlburt, Alfred Cleveland; clerk, Henry K. Freeman; treasurer, Oliver Emerson.
1839. Trustees, Sam'l S. Ward, David Clark, Moses Fowls; clerk, Asa Emerson, Jr.; treasurer, Oliver Emerson.
1840. Trustees, John J. Bigelow, Chas. Stroud, James Walling; clerk, F. F. Cogswell; treasurer, Reuben Hurlburt.
1841. Trustees, Reuben Hurlburt, I. J. Lockwood, Wm. Humphrey; clerk, Jas. M. Brown; treasurer, David Clark.
1842. Trustees, Reuben Hurlburt, I. J. Lockwood; clerk, F. F. Cogswell; treasurer, David Clark.
1843. Trustees, Reuben Hurlburt, Barzilla Snow, Lewis Roberts; clerk, Jas. M. Brown; treasurer, Stephen Potter.
1844. Trustees, Asher Norton, Almanza Roberts, Moses Fowl; clerk, F. F. Cogswell; treasurer, John J. Bigelow.
1845. Trustees, Isaac Burnham, Almanza Roberts, Alfred Cleaveland; clerk, F. F. Cogswell; treasurer, Reuben Emerson.
1846. Trustees, Dudley S. Humphrey, Bela Norton, Barzilla Snow; clerk, Jas. M. Cogswell; treasurer, Oliver Emerson.
1847. Trustees, Asher Norton, D. S. Humphrey, Moses Fowl; clerk, Jas. M. Cogswell; treasurer, Oliver Emerson.
1848. Trustees, Phillip Henninger, Almanza Roberts, I. J. Lockwood; clerk, Jas. M. Cogswell; treasurer, Oliver Emerson.
1849. Trustees, Moses Fowl, David Clark, Daniel Stephan; clerk, Jas. M. Cogswell; treasurer, Jas. M. Brown.
1850. Trustees, Jas. M. Cogswell, Almanza Roberts, Phillip Henninger; clerk, Palmer Snow; treasurer, David

Clark.

1851. Trustees, Philip Heninger, Alfred Cleaveland; clerk, Palmer Snow; treasurer, Moses Fowl.

1852. Trustees, Wm. C. Warner, G. Wangelin, Almanza Roberts; clerk, Palmer Snow; treasurer, Moses Fowl.

1853. Trustees, Almanza Roberts, Philip Heninger, Levi Bartholemew; clerk, F. F. Cogswell; treasurer, Moses Fowl.

1854. Trustees, Almanza Roberts, Asher Norton, Cyrus Ingersoll; clerk, F. F. Cogswell; treasurer, Oliver Emerson.

1855. Trustees, Oliver Emerson, John Mead, Philip Heninger; clerk, Palmer Snow; treasurer, J. W. Fay.

1856. Trustees, Almanza Roberts, Philip Heninger, Edward Eggleston; clerk, Palmer Snow; treasurer, Jeremiah W. Fay.

1857. Trustees, Almanza Roberts, Philip Heninger, Edward Eggleston; clerk, Jas. M. Cogswell; treasurer, Marcus A. Brown.

1858. Trustees, Almanza Roberts, Edward Eggleston, Henry Kuntz; clerk, Jas. M. Cogswell; treasurer, Lewis Roberts.

1859. Trustees, Almanza Roberts, Henry Kuntz, Reuben Gates; clerk, Asa Emerson; treasurer, John A. Ackley.

1860. Trustees, Oliver Emerson, Moses Fowl, Philip Kline; clerk, Asa Emerson; treasurer, Cyrus Ingersoll.

1861. Trustees, Wm. Redrup, Henry Kuntz, Jas. M. Brown; clerk, A. McArthur; treasurer, Jacob A. Stroud.

1862. Trustees, Marcus A. Brown, Chas. Umstaeter, E. M. Norton; clerk, Edward Eggleston; treasurer, Jacob A. Stroud.

1863. Trustees, Thos. Davis, Lewis Schwab, Erhart Geiger; clerk, Edward Eggleston; treasurer, Cyrus Ingersoll.

1864. Trustees, David Clark, Henry Kuntz, Erhart Geiger; clerk, Edward Eggleston; treasurer, Moses Fowl.

1865. Trustees, Leonard Snow, Marcus A. Brown, Oliver Emerson; clerk, Edward Eggleston; treasurer, John A. Ackley.

1866. Trustees, Leander Snow, Chas. J. Pond, Jacob Weisel; clerk, Jas. M. Cogswell; treasurer, Cyrus Ingersoll.

1867. Trustees, Henry Deutzer, Jas. M. Brown, Jacob Hoffman; clerk, Asa Emerson; treasurer, J. W. Fay.

1868. Trustees, Henry Deutzer, Leander Snow, Edward Brainard; clerk, Asa Emerson; treasurer, J. W. Fay.

1869. Trustees, Almanza Roberts, O. F. Nichols, Henry Deutzer; clerk, Theo. M. Towl; treasurer, Lewis Clark.

1870. Trustees, Almanza Roberts, W. J. Marshal, H. Deutzer; clerk, Theo. M. Towl; treasurer, John Hobbs.

1871. Trustees, Leander Snow, Almanza Roberts, Jacob Wetzel; clerk, R. N. Hodgman; treasurer, John Hobbs.

1872. Trustees, J. J. Bigelow, H. Deutzer, J. Hobbs; clerk, T. M. Towl; treasurer, O. F. Nicholas.

1873. Trustees, John Hobbs, Wm. Rederup, Philip Unkrich; clerk, S. B. Ingersoll; treasurer, O. F. Nicholas.

1874. Trustees, Henry Kuntz, Asa Emerson, Ralph James; clerk, S. B. Ingersoll; treasurer, Chas. Stearns.

1875. Trustees, Jacob Wetzel, Wm. Redrup, Philip Unkrich; clerk, S. B. Ingersoll; treasurer, John Hobbs.

1876. Trustees, Christ. Tauber, Madison Robb, Conrad Foster; clerk, S. B. Ingersoll; treasurer, John Hobbs.

1877. Trustees, H. Deutzer, C. Tauber, A. McArthur; clerk, S. B. Ingersoll; treasurer, John Hobbs.

1878. Trustees, Wm. Wagner, H. Krather, O. S. Emerson; clerk, S. B. Ingersoll; treasurer, Philip Klein.

1879. Trustees, Philip Unkrich, Chas. Forochner, O. S. Emerson; clerk, S. B. Ingersoll; treasurer, E. D. Cogswell.

RELIGIOUS MATTERS.

The first sermon heard in Parma was delivered in 1823, at the house of Asa Emerson, by Rev. Henry Hudson, of Royalton, a Baptist minister. Mr. Hudson was also a doctor, and having been called to attend at the birth of a daughter of Mr. Emerson, on a Saturday, he remained, and preached a sermon on the following day. A hasty notice was sent out, and the inhabitants gathered in full force at Mr. Emerson's house, and were refreshed with a renewal of their earlier religious experiences. Mr. Hudson preached in Parma quite often after that, and, as the early settlers in that township were principally Baptists, he never lacked hearers. Besides Mr. Hudson, Rev. Mr. Jackson, of Wooster, also preached to the Baptists of Parma, and although thus it will be seen that the Baptists were the only ones who enjoyed early religious worship in Parma, and yet, somewhat curiously, no church of that denomination was ever organized there.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH.

This church was organized about 1830, in the southeast corner of the township, with but a handful of members, among whom were David Pond, John Johnson, J. W. Kilburn, Alfred Cleveland and Moses Ware with their wives. David Pond was the first deacon, and Moses Ware the first elder. In 1839 there was a great revival when forty persons were added to the membership, which rose in that year to sixty. Among the early preachers were Elders Randall and Walker, the latter of whom was the leading spirit in the revival just mentioned. The organization never owned a church-building, but used a school-house as a place of worship. Toward 1864, the membership grew small by degrees, and the church was dissolved in that year.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The first Presbyterian Church of Parma was organized as a Congregational Church November 7, 1835, with fourteen members, as follows: Samuel, Sarah, Sarah B. and Celinda Freeman, James M. Cogswell, Beulah G. Adams, Catherine Ann Ferrell, Mary H. Cogswell, Descom and Susan Chapin, Frederick and Harriet Cogswell, Catherine Ferrell and Arvin Kennedy. The first clerk was Frederick F. Cogswell, and the first elders, Samuel Freeman, James M. Cogswell and Descom Chapin. At the first meeting it was resolved "not to take for a member any person who is a dealer in, or manufacturer, of ardent spirits."

On the 10th of January, 1836, the Lord's Supper was administered by Rev. B. B. Drake. The first minister was Rev. Benjamin Page, who agreed to give half his time for \$400 a year. After Mr. Page, the ministers were Revs. V. D. Taylor, Phineas Kingsley, C. B. Stevens, J. D. Jenkins, _____ Edwards and others. The membership in 1842 was thirty-seven and in 1844 it was forty. In August, 1879, it was thirty-six. The church, although Congregational was attached to the presbytery of Cleveland from the outset, and in April, 1874, it changed entirely to the Presbyterian denomination.

Public worship was held in a township school-house until 1841, when the edifice now used, was erected. The church has had no ordained minister for several years, being in 1879, supplied by Rev. Anson Smythe. The elders in that year were William J. Marshall, Jacob Bailey and William Cogswell.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH (REFORMED PROTESTANT).

This congregation (German) was organized in 1858, and in that year built a brick church which is still used. Previous to that date, beginning in 1853, Rev. Philip Stempel, of Brighton, had preached to the German Protestants of Parma occasionally, in schoolhouses.

At the building of the church, the trustees were Michael Hoag, Adam Hahn, George Bauer, and John Huber, the membership being then about twenty-five. The membership in August, 1879, was forty-four. The pastor at that time was Rev. Mr. Kraus, and the trustees were George Bauer, William Keyser, Michael Hahn and Gottfried Klanzinger.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH (GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN.)

In 1867 a division took place in the congregation of the German Reformed Protestant church of Parma; a portion withdrawing and forming a separate church, of the Evangelical Lutheran denomination, and they built a house of worship in 1868. At that time the membership was thirty-five, but it has been declining latterly, and now numbers but twenty. The first trustees were Michael Meyer, John Koch, and Gottlieb Miller; the first minister was Rev. Mr. Fuehr. Rev. Paul Littke is the present minister. The trustees are John Koch, Michael Meyer, and Christian Koch. The deacons are Andrew Hoag, John Sharp and Deitrich Basch.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY (GERMAN CATHOLIC.)

Rev. Father Quigley commenced in 1872 to hold Catholic religious services at the house of Conrad Rohrbach in Parma, and at the close of that year the congregation included eleven families. In 1873 a church edifice was built upon a lot adjoining Mr. Rohrbach's residence, and there the Catholics of Parma have since worshiped. Conrad Rohrbach was the first trustee, and still serves as trustee, as does John Gehring. Following Father Quigley as priests, were Rev. Fathers O'Brien, Kuhbler, Zampiel and Fidelius—the latter of whom is the present incumbent, and holds services once a fortnight. The average attendance numbers seventeen families.

SCHOOLS.

The first school taught in Greenbrier was conducted by Samuel Freeman, in his own house, during the winter of 1825. There Mr. Freeman taught his own children—of whom there were not a few—and those of such settlers as deemed book education one of the necessities of life. Parma's first school teacher was a well-educated man for those days, and he so trained his children that after him three of them, Samuel, Jr., Lawrence and Lyndon also became school teachers.

The first school district in the township was set off in May, 1826. In this district was Benajah Fay, Samuel Freeman, Thomas Adams, John Hodgman, Amos Hodgman, Joseph Small, Peter Countryman, Asa Emerson, Jesse Nichols and Peletiah Bliss.

The second school district was set off in December, 1826, in the northeast part of the township. At the same time the southeast corner of the township was made a portion of the fourth school district of Brecksville, and contained Benjamin and Asher Norton and Nelson Scovill. In 1879 Parma was divided into nine school districts, in which the number of school children, between the ages of six and sixteen, was three hundred and ninety. The amount appropriated for school purposes in that year was \$2,000.

POST OFFICE.

Samuel Freeman was Parma's first postmaster; after him the office was held successively by William Humphrey, Oliver Emerson and Harry Humphrey. Oliver Emerson was then appointed to a second term, and has been the incumbent ever since.

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

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Number 6, range 13, would be our designation, if taken from the surveyors' records, which includes a tract five miles square, north of Royalton, west of Independence and east of Middleburgh townships. This tract level in the north and west but hilly in the east, having no streams of size, but with a productive clay soil, fell in the original speculative division of the Western Reserve to several proprietors. There was the Tuckerman, Cheny, Sly, Blake, Plympton and other tracts, and the owners early endeavored to promote settlement on their lands. On account of the general impression that it was a swampy and undesirable region, the original owners had difficulty in finding purchasers at first. Benjamin Fay, a native of Massachusetts, who came from Lewis County, New York, was the first settler. He came in 1816 and located on the Plympton tract. With his wife and twelve children, an ox team and a horse, he made the journey. On arriving he was compelled to cut a road through the woods to reach his farm. He opened a tavern in 1819 on the old stage road in a double log house, an evidence of affluence or a large family in those days, opposite the residence, later, of J. W. Fay. As "B. Fay's Inn," this was a much-frequented hostelry and a famous landmark for many years. Mr. Fay built a frame tavern in 1826 and in 1832 replaced it with a brick one, which was the first brick house built in the township. He served in public office and was honored and useful until his death in 1860 at the age of eighty-five.

In 1817 one Conrad Countryman, a "Mohawk Dutchman," took up a farm on the Ely tract in the western part of the township on a line on which afterwards ran the stage road between Cleveland and Columbus. He built a sawmill and conducted a blacksmith shop, both early and essential industries, these being the first in the township. In addition to all this, he, aided by his son, who had built a log house on his father's farm and kept "bachelor's hall," besides being miller, lumberman, farmer and blacksmith also kept a tavern and we can safely assume that he kept busy. Pelatiah Bliss, a Connecticut Yankee, in 1818, traveled on foot, carrying a pack on his back, seeking a location in the boundless West. On reaching this township he was favorably impressed and bought fifty acres on the Ely tract, built a shanty and made a clearing. Previous to the trip he had become obsessed with the idea of marrying a certain fair damsel in Connecticut as soon as a home was provided. After laboring a few years in the new home to make it and its surroundings fit for a bride he walked back, living on the return journey from his haversack, stocked with salt pork. This incident, with others, is included in a sketch given the writer by Charles S. Whittern for this history, who was born and raised as a boy in the township, was a teacher in the "Little Red Schoolhouse" of those days, and has been connected with the courts of Cleveland for a third of a century. Mr. Whittern published a few years ago a neat volume of poems entitled "The Little Red School House and Other Poems."

Number 6, range 13, was known as Greenbrier until its organization when it received the official title of Parma. The only information as to the selection of the name or the change from the unofficial to the official name is the suggestion that Parma is an easier name to write and hence less burdensome to the penman whose tools included the axe, the maul and wedge, and the flail. The settlement of the township was slow until 1821, when a number of families came at the same time. The families of Asa Emerson, Amos Hodgman, Jesse Nicholas, Joseph Small and William Steele, all neighbors in Maine, settled in Southern Ohio in 1817. As related in the sketch of Mr. Whittern, however, the Emersons came to Greenbrier direct from Maine. At any rate, these families kept up a correspondence with each other, those in Southern Ohio being dissatisfied with their location, it was agreed that they should all come to

Greenbrier, which they did in 1821. Asa Emerson, who had a family of nine, bought a farm of seventy-five acres on the Wickennan tract, stopping for a while at Countryman's before buying. He was a vigorous character, a typical pioneer. He became a carpenter as well as a farmer and lived in Parma until his death in 1855. Amos Hodgman settled on the Tuckerman tract, living the balance of his days on the farm and leaving his descendants to continue the reclaiming of the wilderness into which he and his family came as early settlers. Jesse Nicholas and family settled on the Ely tract. Nicholas was located on the old Columbus Road and became a tavern keeper as well as farmer. Joseph Small settled on the Zuckerman tract and after twenty-six years moved to Michigan, but as a rule these early arrivals remained during life and leaving at their death descendants to continue in their stead. Of those who came in 1821, John Hodgman, Asa and Oliver Emerson were in 1880 the earliest surviving settlers. A pathetic incident is related of one family who came with the number in 1821. William Steele, with his wife, (they had no children) who had located on the Ely tract, after two years of frontier life, died. His widow returned to Maine, making the journey on foot and alone.

The sketch by Mr. Whittern, expanded from a bit of local history found in an old scrap book runs as follows: "In the early pioneer days what is now Parma township was a portion of Brooklyn and bore the euphonious and significant name 'Greenbrier.' This appellation was deemed most appropriate by the early settlers because of the vigorous growth and well-nigh universal prevalence of this thorny emerald creeper upon the hilly sections of the territory.

"Parma was settled somewhat later than the adjacent townships and was organized into a township in 1826. In April of that year was held the first township election at the cabin home of Samuel Freeman. Felatiah Bliss was chosen clerk and treasurer, Asa Emerson, Sr., S. J. Varney and David Andrews trustees, Benjamin Fay and Jesse Nicholas overseers of the poor, John Hodgman and Benjamin Norton fence viewers, and Amos Hodgman and Asher Norton supervisors of highways. The Emersons arrived from Maine, after a tortuous journey and a lapse of four years. Their itinerary in the 'wild west' included Charleston and Wheeling in West Virginia, then old Virginia. Coming to Cleveland, then Ohio City and to Parma, they purchased a tract in the woods at three dollars an acre. They found the population in no wise dense, for only four householders had preceded them and they were the families of Benjamin Fay and Conrad Countryman and the unmarried Felatiah Bliss and Mr. Countryman, brother of Conrad, the two latter keepers of 'bachelor halls.'

"The cabins of these 'householders' were all located near the present Wooster Pike. The Bliss domicile, near what is now York Road, was the only residence between Albion and the Emerson cabin. Pelatiah Bliss was a native of Connecticut and there he left his fiancée when he came to seek his new home in the western wilds. Those were the joyous days of tedious locomotion on 'shanks' horses and of moderate migratory speed in 'prairie schooners' drawn by patient oxen gee-ing and haw-ing through the winding ways. Such trivial things, however, could not dampen the ardor of Mr. Bliss, whose 'best girl' must be obtained at any cost and transplanted from the environs of the 'wooden nutmeg State' to the fertile soil in the land of the buckeye. So, this valiant householder set forth on the long journey to Connecticut on foot and alone, carrying only a haversack containing a chunk of salt pork for his subsistence en route. When hunger gnawed and no settler's cabin was near his line of march, Pelatiah would kindle a fire, roast some strips of meat on a sharpened stick, and devour it with a real woodman's appetite. Often on this long tramp was he compelled to accept the hospitable offer of Mother Nature to recline upon her bed of leaves for his night's repose. His destination reached, the nuptial knot was firmly tied, for you know-

" 'Love is as cunnin' a little thing

As a humming' bird upon the wing."

The happy couple engaged passage on the nineteenth century limited covered wagon in which the Joel and George Foote families were just embarking for Brooklyn. In return for these transportation facilities Mr. Bliss served as ox team engineer, directing the limited through without a collision and without the loss of a single passenger.

"As has been said, the Emersons bought their land for three dollars an acre but the same land is now worth as many hundred dollars per acre. In those early days of the 'Johnny' cake and 'punkin' pie, venison steaks were abundant and bear meat was not limited to the worshippers of Epicurus, for our hardy forefathers knew how to use their long-barreled rifles with marvelous accuracy of aim. Their home-made leaden pellets from those trusty guns were as unerring in their course to the heart of the noble buck as were those of the renowned Leather Stocking, famous for his marksmanship, as related by our own James Fennimore Cooper. Samuel Freeman taught the first Parma school and five of the early families combined to build the first church The church was but the fraction of a mile from the site of the present Presbyterian edifice. Where this church stands the old Nicholas tavern stood in the days of the stage coach, drawn by a four-horse team, which carried the mail and passengers through to Medina."

Asher Norton and family came from Vermont in 1823 and settled in the southeast part of the township. Norton stayed on the farm till 1863, when he moved to Brighton, where he died. His brother Benjamin Norton, who bought an adjoining farm in the same year as Asher, remained till 1859, when he moved to Brecksville. Rufus Scovill, a brother-in-law of the Nortons, came the same year with his family and remained till his death. We are getting now nearly to the date of the organization of the township. Albert T. Beals, who had earlier settled in Royalton, came with his family to Parma or Greenbrier in 1825, having bought a farm on the Ely tract. They lived in the township till 1875. Our forefathers were not nomads. In 1825, this year, the little settlement was augmented by the arrival of Samuel Freeman, wife, ten children and a hired man, who came from Massachusetts. Freeman came by way of the Erie Canal and Lake Erie and arrived at the home of Benjamin Fay in Greenbrier Saturday, May 25th, twenty days after starting. He bought a farm on the Plympton tract and the family lived in the new barn of Benjamin Fay until their house was built. Neighborly fraternity was supreme.

The early settlers of Parma had the hardships common to all in the county, and dangers, but the red man had vanished before their coming. Indians did not trouble but wild beasts were numerous and caused much annoyance. As late as 1842 the ravages of bears and wolves were so great that a hunt was organized and a round up similar to the great Hinckley hunt referred to in a former chapter was formulated. This hunt lasted several days. For a long time after its settlement grass was scarce and hay for cattle was brought from Middleburgh. Later the township was a large producer of hay and large quantities were sold in Cleveland. In the most primitive era, there was only browse for cattle and the housewife baked her bread on a board before a wood fire and roasted meat hung by a string over the same wood fire. Wheat bread was scarce but "Johnny cake" made from corn ground in a home stump mortar did its part as a substitute. When Moses Towel built a gristmill on Big Creek it was considered a great boon and Mr. Towl was looked upon as a philanthropist or public benefactor.

The first person born in the township was Lucina Emerson, daughter of Ma. She was born in March, 1823. She married Charles Nicholas and bore him two children. A grandson, Harry, has been a deputy in the county clerk's office in Cleveland for many years, holding a responsible position and being so efficient that political changes do not affect his tenure of position. On the death of her husband she married Levi E. Meacham, who was of Puritan stock, a native of Maine. He came with his parents to Parma in 1820.

His parents were Isaac and Sophia Meacham. It is authentically stated that the mother of Isaac was a granddaughter of the celebrated Miles Standish. By her second husband Mrs. Meacham had one child, Levi E. Meacham, who was left to her sole care, as the father died when he was two years of age. At the outbreak of the Civil war her two sons enlisted, Oscar Nicholas and Levi E. Meacham, the latter being only fifteen years of age, and she herself went to the front and served as a hospital nurse. Oscar served until disabled by wounds and Levi served till the end of the war. She went to the front in 1862 and served till the close of the war, when she returned to the old home in Parma. For a third husband she married Joshua Whitney, whom she outlived for a number of years. Levi E. Meacham was county clerk and state representative after the Civil war and lived in Cleveland until his death quite recently.

The first death in the township was that of Isaac Emerson, a young man of seventeen. He was buried on the Countryman place and later his body was removed to the cemetery on the Medina Road. The first marriage ceremony was celebrated at the house of Joseph Small when his daughter Lois was wedded to Ephraim Towls of Middleburgh. It is reported that this, although the first, was a quiet wedding. The advent of horning parties with the horse fiddle, a scantling or rail drawn over a dry goods box which had been rosined for the occasion, the use of any article that would make a disagreeable noise, and the general disturbance by the members of a disorganized crowd, by whom and for what peculiar end it is not known, entered later into the diversions of pioneer life and has continued with some changes, at intervals, up to the present time.

As has been said, the township was organized in 1826 and the name Greenbrier changed to the official name of Parma, but it has remained an agricultural community. In these days when we speak so glibly of billions it may be interesting to read the report of the township treasurer as to his receipts for the year up to April, 1827. He reported receipts for road taxes \$16.84 and for road certificates \$11.38, making a total of \$28.22. This was the beginning of the good roads movement. In 1827 the township was divided into road districts, the first being two miles in width on the west side, the second the same width, parallel with this north and south, and the third constituting the remainder. The road known as the Brighton and Parma plank road was at an early day the Cleveland and Columbus turnpike; over which there was a vast amount of travel and upon which, within the limits of Parma, there were four taverns. When William Henry Harrison was elected to the Presidency the Whigs celebrated with great enthusiasm. Among other demonstrations a crowd from Cleveland mounted a canoe on wheels and escorted it over the turnpike to Columbus. When this procession reached the house of Asa Emerson there was a counter demonstration. Mr. Emerson was an unflinching democrat, a supporter of Van Buren, and even though his candidate was beaten he was not one to sit idly by and desert him. He hoisted his wife's red petticoat on a broomstick, in derision, and marched defiantly alongside the big canoe waving his flag and taunting the Harrison crowd to intense anger. Good judgment prevailed and the clash amounted only to a clash of tongues and no violence ensued.

We have said that Parma from the first was strictly an agricultural community. An exception may be noted in an industry that for a brief period was well and widely known. William and Dudley Humphrey, who came to Parma in 1836, pursued for fifteen years, or until 1851, the manufacture of dock cases, in which they set the works procured from Connecticut. These clocks they then sold throughout the country. Their business became quite extensive and the homes of the settlers all over the Western Reserve were equipped with Connecticut timepieces enclosed in Parma cases.

The first sermon heard in Parma was delivered by Rev. Henry Hudson, a Baptist minister, at the home of Asa Emerson. Mr. Hudson was a doctor of medicine as well as a minister, and having been called to attend the birth of a daughter of Mr. Emerson's on Saturday, he remained and preached a sermon on

Sunday. A hasty notice was sent out and the inhabitants gathered in response. After that Mr. Hudson preached often in Parma, and as many of the residents were of that faith he always had hearers. Another Baptist, Rev. Mr. Jackson, also preached there, but no church of that denomination was ever formed. But a Free Will Baptist Church was organized in the southeast part of the township in 1830. Among the members were David Pond, John Johnson, I. W. Kilburn, Alfred Cleveland and Moses Ware, with their wives. A revival in 1839 added forty to the membership. Among the early preachers were Elders Randall and Walker. This church never had a building of its own but used a schoolhouse for worship. It dissolved in 1864. The first Presbyterian was organized as Congregational November 7, 1835, with fourteen members, the Freeman family, James M. Cogswell, Beulah G. Adams, Catharine Ann Ferrell, Mary H. Cogswell, the Chapin family, Frederick and Harriet Cogswell and Arvin Kennedy as, what would be called in a nonsectarian fraternal body, charter members. In this church began the temperance movement. At the first meeting it was resolved "not to take for a member any person who is a dealer in or manufacturer of ardent spirits." The first minister was Rev. Benjamin Page, who was employed to give half of his time for \$400 per year. Among the early ministers were Rev. V. D. Taylor, Rev. Phineas Kingsley, Rev. C. B. Stevens and Rev. J. D. Jenkins. The meetings were held in a schoolhouse until their church was built.

It will be noted that in the early settlement of the townships, so far referred to, the New England type of pioneer prevailed, and this is practically true as to all the townships of the county, but great changes came in the large number of foreign-born citizens who followed them. In the census of Parma taken in 1870, out of a population of 1,500 two thirds were German and others of foreign birth. This change will be noticed in the organization of religious bodies. In 1858 Saint Paul's German Reformed Protestant was organized and a brick building for worship erected. The first trustees were Michael Hoag, Adam Hahn, George Bauer and John Huber. Rev. Mr. Kraus was one of the pastors, but he served after a division of the organization occurred. This was in 1867. Members of this church broke away and formed Saint John's German Evangelical Lutheran Church and the following year built themselves a church building. In 1872, through the efforts of Father Quigley, the Church of the Holy Family (Catholic) was organized. Father Quigley began services at the home of Conrad Rohrbach and a year later, in 1873, a church building was built on a lot adjoining the residence. Mr. Rohrbach was the first trustee.

The first school was taught by Samuel Freeman in his own home in 1825. He taught his own children and such of those of his neighbors as cared to come. If he received any compensation, it came probably in the way of "changing work," those who sent children to his school giving value for the instruction received in farm or other work for Mr. Freeman and his family. The following year, the year of the township organization, two school districts were set off, one in May and the other in December of 1826. Later nine districts were formed to include all the territory of the township, and the "Little Red Schoolhouse" was the university of each district. We can only mention a few of those who taught in these universities, Jane Elliott (Snow), authoress and lecturer, acting as associate editor of this history until her death; John M. Wilcox, who was sheriff of this county and at the time of his death editor of the Cleveland Press; Levi E. Meacham, soldier, legislator and county officer; Charles S. Whittern, court officer in the Common Pleas Court of the county for a third of a century and still so acting, and Reuben Elliott, who served as county school examiner, are some of the teachers whom it is a pleasure to name. Samuel Freeman, the first school teacher, was also the first postmaster of Parma. Others who held the office of postmaster were Oliver Emerson and Harry Humphrey. Parma has some mineral springs of medicinal value and quarries of building and flagging stone. The Cogswell quarry at one time produced a large quantity of material.

Among those who have served as trustees of the township are names that suggest families whose

descendants are numerous as were the trees of the forest when the pioneers came. Benjamin Fay, Samuel Freeman, Asher Norton, David Adams, Oliver Emerson, Asa Emerson, Peter Countryman, Daniel Green, John Wheeler, Reuben Hurlbut, Dudley Roberts, Rufus Scovill, Barzilla Snow, David Clark, Jeremiah Toms, Alfred Cleveland, Samuel S. Ward, Moses Towls, John J. Bigelow, Charles Stroud, James Walling, I. J. Lockwood, William Humphrey, Bela Norton, James M. Cogswell, William C. Warner, Phillip Henniger, William Redrup, Marcus A. Brown, Leander Snow and Philip Unkrich are among the number. Among those who served as township clerk are Lyndon Freeman, Reuben Emerson, O. J. Tuttle, Asa Emerson, F. F. Cogswell, James M. Cogswell, Palmer Snow, Edward Eggleston and Dr. S. B. Ingersoll.

Among those who have served as treasurer, and history does not record that there have been any defalcations are Pelatiah Bliss, David Adams, Asa Fay, Benajah Fay, John A. Ackley, Jacob A. Stroub, Oliver Emerson, David Clark, Marcus A. Brown, J. W. Fay, O. F. Nicholas, Charles Stearns and E. D. Cogswell.

The present officers of the township are: Trustees, H. Gemeiner, J. D. Loder, A. E. Riester; clerk, L. H. Geiss; treasurer, J. F. Kottman; assessor, L. H. Geiss; justices of the peace, H. J. Schaaf and Herman Geltman; constables, W. F. White and Henry Thompson.

The history of a township is the history of its people and we cannot record local incidents without following the invitation of Mr. Whittern, the Parma poet, who says:

"Let's run today in barefoot dreams
Down leafy lanes of youth,
To where the brook sings soothingly Its simple songs of truth."

As reflecting in a measure the home life of Parma, I have been permitted to draw from the unpublished memoirs of Jane Elliott Snow, authoress and coeditor until her death, at will. She lived a long time in Parma on the farm, married there and raised a family, taught in the little red schoolhouse and was a factor in the community for many years. In her introduction she says: "These memoirs are written at the urgent request of friends. They were not asked to be written nor are they written because I am great or have been great, nor are they written because I have been the center of a high social circle and associated with great people. They are written solely because I have lived long and seen many changes. My life has covered the period of great epoch-making inventions and discoveries. It has covered the period when spinning, weaving and other industries were taken out of the home, where they were done by hand, and into factories, where they are done by machinery. During the first two decades and more of my life wood was used for heating and candles for lighting the homes. In farming communities and half of my life was spent there the roads were poor and a farm wagon was the nearest to a pleasure carriage that most people owned. My memory goes to a period ante dating the Civil war by a number of years. I remember well the bitter controversy over slavery that was often heard in our local community. With other mothers, sisters and daughters I felt the woes, the grief, that comes into the homes because of the suffering and loss of loved ones in the mighty conflict. I have witnessed the astonishment and mourning and heard the wail of a great people over the martyrdom of three sainted Presidents. I have sorrowed much and have enjoyed much of life, and now, as the shadows begin to fall and my steps go down nearer and nearer to the final end, I try to recall only the pleasant things in life and to hope that 'He who doeth all things well' will pardon my offenses and at last take me to himself."

Mrs. Snow relates homely incidents of her life on the Parma farm: "After my marriage our home was a favorite place for young people to meet, and back in the days just preceding the Civil war there were many interesting gatherings. A cousin, John M. Wilcox, who was afterwards sheriff of Cuyahoga County,

and editor of The Cleveland Press, then a young man, was teaching his first school in the neighborhood. He made his home with us, as did my brother Reuben, who was attending the school. John was tall and slender while Reuben was thick set. They would improvise little plays and charades for the evening's entertainment for the family, and sometimes for the young folks of the neighborhood, who were invited to witness them. As my brother and cousin were the 'star actors,' one would button his coat about him to make himself appear even more tall and slender, while the other would stuff a pillow under his coat to represent the fat man. The amusing acts they performed created a lot of genuine fun.

"Brother Eugene went through the Civil war, being first with the Seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and afterwards with the One Hundred and Twenty fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, but sometimes he was home on a furlough, as he changed regiments because of the complete annihilation of the first and because he was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga. 'Gene,' as he was called, was a pretty good singer of current songs and when with us added largely to the amusement repertoire. There were many bright young people in the neighborhood, who frequently visited at our home and often took part in the entertainments. They were Mary and Eliza Sloan, Sarah and Estella Sackett, Nellie Prindle, Julia Snow, Viola Snow, Mary, Katie and Julia Kline, Eva, Mary and Katie Kontz and others. Then, too, our home was a kind of half way house between Royalton and Cleveland. As I was one of a large family on my mother's side, and as many of the relatives lived in Royalton, they often called on their way to and from the city. My refreshments were sometimes only a cup of tea and a piece of bread and butter, but for these they were welcome and our associations were most congenial. The day that Perry's monument was dedicated, it was a bright September day, 1859, many of my friends attended the ceremony, as nineteen of them stopped on their way home and took supper with me. I did not witness the ceremony as I had a little one at home to care for.

Among the delightful people who visited our home were a number of good singers, among them being the Stevens, Abbott and Clark families. Mr. Abbott taught singing school for many years. Lucretia Clark played the melodeon and always had the latest song and newest book. The Akers family were specially favored with the gift of song. The mother, Mrs. Joseph Akers, before her marriage had a little melodeon that she carried with her when she was expected to sing, and the music she would get out of it was not only surprising but delightful. During the decade of the '60s war songs such as "John Brown's Body Lies Moldering in the Grave" and "Marching Through Georgia" were sung at every social gathering. As we were near Cleveland, young girls would often come from the city and teach a summer term of school. Among the number was Miss Josephine Saxton, a pretty, ladylike young woman, who afterwards became Mrs. Ammon, and had a beautiful home on Euclid Avenue. She was prominent in philanthropic work and a member of some of the earliest woman's clubs of the city. For her interest in a poor girl, whom she felt was unjustly treated, she was summoned to court to answer as witness in the case. As she refused to make known the girl's whereabouts, she was sent to the Old County Jail for contempt of court.

While in jail, which lasted for six weeks, Mrs. Ammon had her cell nicely fitted up with rugs and other luxuries from her home. Here she received, most graciously, her many friends and the time seemed to have passed in a very enjoyable manner. The judge who sentenced her to a brief term of imprisonment said it "was a case where a woman was condemned for not talking." After her return home Mrs. Ammon had the cell duplicated in her palatial residence, and over the door were the words "Welcome the coming and speed the parting guest."

The Fourth of July was usually observed at the country tavern with a ball, when dancing would begin at 2 p. m. and last until morning. The young ladies who attended these balls usually wore a plain gown in the afternoon and took with them a dainty white or colored muslin to wear in the evening. Quadrilles and

cotillons were the favorite dances. There was very little waltzing and such things as the "cakewalk," "turkey trot" and the "tango" were then unknown.

The imprisonment of Mrs. Ammon, which Mrs. Snow refers to, attracted very wide newspaper publicity at the time and became a sort of mystery reel in serials shown in the daily press. The girl of whose whereabouts Mrs. Ammon remained silent was finally brought into court and turned over to her legal guardian.

Number 6 of range 13 has not escaped the general spirit of progress. The little red school has been supplanted and the original township organization has been broken into by the organization of a municipality, from its territory, called Parma Heights Village. This was originally a separate school district, but now the schools are all united. Parma Heights Village was organized in 1912 with John Stadler as mayor, R. N. ("Roddy") Hodgman as clerk and B. O. Stroud as treasurer. Mr. Stadler served two years and was succeeded by E. W. Denison, who served for four years. The next mayor was Edwin J. Heffner, who also served four years. George Heffner, a brother of Mayor Heffner, was a member of the first council of the village. The present officers of the village are: Mayor, J. B. McCrea; clerk, Mrs. Bernice Uhinck; treasurer, Walter Geiger; assessor, Henry Wetzel; councilmen, E. W. Denison, Mrs. Julia Eastman, George Geiger, A. R. James, G. A. Hahn and W. H. Rose. Mr. Hodgman served continuously from the organization of the village, as its clerk, until his death in 1922. Vernon Croft is justice of the peace or police justice of the village. The board of education consists of C. H. Miller, Carl Haag and Henry Schaaf. In the place of the nine schoolhouses in the various school districts there are now three, the high school at the center, a graded school on the State Road, corner of Wick, and a graded school on the Wooster Pike. Busses are operated in carrying the pupils to and from these buildings, as has become the settled practice over the county.

John A. Ackley, whom we have mentioned as having served as township treasurer, later served as treasurer of the school board. Mr. Ackley was a half-brother of Lorenzo Carter, the most famous of Cleveland pioneers, and had many of the characteristics of that gentleman, being tall, stout and fearless. He was engineer in the building of the Ohio Canal, built the first stone pier at Cleveland Harbor, and was regarded in his day the best authority on water control and coffer dam construction in the country. He was employed by the United States Government on many important building enterprises. He was the first marshal of the Village of Cleveland, Ohio. His son, John M. Ackley, now living at the age of eighty-eight, followed in his steps as an engineer and was for several years county engineer of the county. His work as surveyor is shown in innumerable plats made by him for the county records and their accuracy has never been questioned. Mr. John M. Ackley has furnished the writer with papers connected with the schools of Parma while his father was treasurer of the school board. In 1843 the school certificates, signed in the main by J. W. Gray, school examiner, have at their head the legend "Education is the Palladium of Liberty." Among the teachers thus commissioned to teach and whose meager salaries are recorded were Julia A. Beals, Emily T. Gillett, Abigail H. Andress, William Wheeler, S. W. Haladay, Charles H. Babcock and Caroline Humphrey. Another list dated 1851 included O. O. Spafford, L. R. Thorp, S. W. Chandler, Frances C. Eaton, Eliza Storer, Frances Huntington and William Taylor. Perhaps the most famous pupil of the "Little Red Schoolhouse" of Parma was John D. Rockefeller. His father, Doctor Rockefeller, moved to Parma after 1853 and William, Frank and John D. attended the district school there. William and Frank for a longer time, as John D., being the oldest of the boys, soon got work in Cleveland.

Parma 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/ParmaTwpPWWR.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>

Parma

Parma is one of the youngest townships in Cuyahoga County. In consequence of a prevailing impression that it was a swampy and undesirable region, the early settlers of the County avoided this section. The center of the township lies about eight miles south of the Public Square in Cleveland. The township is bounded north by Brooklyn, east by Independence, south by Royalton and west by Middleburg. It is an agricultural community and contains no village. Fully three-fourths of the population are Germans.

The first settlement in the township was made in 1818 by Benjamin FAY, Sr., a native of Massachusetts. He came from Lewis County, N.Y., with his wife, Ruth WILCOX, his daughters Amanda, Harriet, Huldah, Sophia and Mary, and five sons. A daughter, Mabel FAY, was born to them in 1810. She was the first white child born in Parma.

Mr. FAY and family came by ox team from their home in New York. From South Brooklyn they had to cut a road through the woods in order to reach their farm. In 1819 Mr. FAY opened a tavern in a double log house, known as "B. FAY' Inn." This was a noted landmark for many years.

Conrad COUNTRYMAN, a Mohawk Dutchman, accompanied by his wife and three sons, young men, reached Parma about the same time Mr. FAY did. They took up the farm afterwards owned by Moses TOWL. In 1821 Mr. COUNTRYMAN erected on the banks of the Stony Creek the first saw mill built in the township. In this mill, a few years later, his little granddaughter, Lucy COUNTRYMAN, was accidentally killed. Mr. COUNTRYMAN also built the first blacksmith shop in the township.

Hezekiah CLARK and his wife, and Captain STONEBRUNNER settled on farms near Conrad COUNTRYMAN's, in 1818, but the soon moved to Cleveland.

Pelathia BLISS, an enterprising young man, carrying his pack on his back, started on foot from his home in Connecticut, seeking his fortune. He arrived in Parma in 1818, and was so pleased with the location that he built himself a cabin near Mr. COUNTRYMAN's, and at once began clearing a farm. He had left behind him, in Windsor, Connecticut, a bright eyed, intelligent young woman, who had promised to join him when he had found a home. In 1820 he returned and Lucina GRANT became Mrs. BLISS. The wedding journey was taken in 1821, in a wagon that brought Mr. FOOT and family to Brooklyn, and the couple were soon settled in their Parma home. A daughter, Nancy, came to gladden their home in 1823. She is now Mrs. Proctor PEARSE, of Bloomingdale, Michigan.

In 1820, two hardy and intelligent young men, Asher NORTON and Benjamin NORTON, came from Rutland, Vermont, and took up adjoining farms on the Independence line road. With Asher NORTON came his wife, Ruth HARRIS, and their daughters Mary C., Azuba A., Sophia and Emily R. Benjamin NORTON was accompanied by his wife, Betsey MINER, his daughters Phebe, Jane, Permelia, and two sons. For four years these families were alone in that quarter of the township. Then a brother-in-law, Rufus SCOVILLE, together with his wife, Roxy NORTON and daughter Clara joined them. Mrs. SCOVILLE had four sons.

The children of these families were obliged to attend school in Brecksville as until 1832 there was no school in that part of Parma. In 1826 Nehemiah TOMS and wife Sally MINER, a sister of Mrs. Benjamin NORTON, joined the east Parma settlement.

There were no further additions to this colony until 1831, when Bela NORTON and wife Eliza HOPKINS, their daughter Marcia came, also Joel NORTON and wife Annie DANIELS, with their daughters Roxy, Mary, Fanny, Betsey and Clarissa. Thus, it will be seen that to the State of Vermont, and to the NORTON family, belongs the honor of having settled the Eastern part of the township. How isolated and lonely must have been the condition of these mothers and daughters, coming as they did from the intelligence and advantages of their New England homes!

In October, 1821, the little company of pioneers in the Western part, or what was afterwards known as the Cleveland and Columbus Road, was increased by the arrival of five families. They were those of Asa EMERSON, Amos HODGMAN, Joseph SMALL, William STEEL and Jesse NICHOLAS; Mrs. Sally SMALL EMERSON and Mrs. Thankful SMALL HODGMAN were cousins of Joseph SMALL. Mrs. STEEL was a niece of theirs, and Mr. NICHOLAS was a relative of all.

They had been neighbors in the town of Bowdoin, Maine. Together they had journeyed with ox teams and horses to Wheeling, West Virginia. After spending a year there, and another year near Cincinnati, their hearts had turned with irresistible longing to the old home in Maine. They started on the return journey.

On reaching Parma, however, they concluded to locate there. Log houses were soon erected and preparations made for the approaching winter. What tongue can tell of the hardships and inconvenience suffered by these women on this long journey from Maine to Ohio!

Much of the time, especially over the mountains, the women and children had to go on foot. One of the girls, Sally EMERSON, suffered all through life from having one shoulder higher than the other. This was supposed to have been caused by having been led so much by an older person on this journey. One morning as the caravan was about to move, it was found that the baby in the Emerson family was missing. At last, he was found, nearly smothered under a feather bed, which had been accidentally thrown over him. That boy is now Mr. Taylor EMERSON, of Cleveland, the only survivor of the EMERSON family.

Lucinda B. EMERSON was the second white child born in the township, March, 1822. Dr. Henry HUDSON, of Royalton, was called to attend Mrs. EMERSON at this time. Dr. HUDSON was not only a physician, but an ordained Baptist minister. He was called on Saturday to attend Mrs. EMERSON.

Early the next morning word was sent around for all the settlers to gather at the log cabin of Mrs. HODGMAN, and there, on that spring morning, March 3rd, 1822, the first sermon preached in Parma was delivered by Rev. Henry HUDSON.

In May of that same year occurred the first death in the township. Isaac EMERSON, a young man of 17 years of age, was called from earthly scenes. A grave was made for him on the banks of Stony Creek, near the home of Mr. COUNTRYMAN. In September, Mr. William STEEL was called away from the hardships of pioneer life, and his child soon followed him. Mrs. STEEL, like Naomi of old, being thus left a widow and childless, soon returned on foot and alone to her old home in Maine.

Abner S. BEALS and his wife, Jane SHEPHERD, came from Geneva, N.Y., to Royalton, Ohio, in January, 1821. In the spring of 1825, they removed to Parma. Mr. BEALS was the first settler on the State Road in Parma. He first located in the northern part of the township. The children attended school in Brighton, and walked to Sabbath school at Brooklyn Center, a distance of 3 ½ miles. There were many wild animals and rattlesnakes in the township then. One morning, Mr. BEALS went out to shoot a partridge and his little son accompanied him; suddenly Mr. BEALS heard the boy, who was a short distance from him call out "Daddy! See the big hog!" He turned to see a large bear on a direct line between him and his boy. The father's hand trembled so that he dared not fire until the bear had passed the range of the boy. He tracked the bear some distance by the blood from his wound, but lost him amid the rocks of the neighboring brook. At one time, Mrs. BEALS' little daughter, Julia, was going with her sister Eliza to a spring after water. Her kitten followed them and Julia tried to fasten it in a hollow log until she returned. The kitten refused to enter the log and Julia stooped to learn the reason. There she saw a great rattlesnake coiled ready to strike.

To his daughter, Julia, who married Robert HODGMAN and has spent 71 or 73 years of her life in Parma, has fallen the pleasant task of directing these pioneer records.

Mrs. SMALL was a noted housekeeper. Everything about her log house was "neat as wax." The first wedding in the township occurred at her house, when her daughter Lois was married to Ephraim FOWLES, of Middleburgh.

Mr. Samuel FREEMAN and Mrs. Sarah BELKNAP FREEMAN, with their seven daughters and five sons came from Stonebridge, Massachusetts, to seek a home in the West. They came via Erie Canal and Lake Erie, and after a journey of 20 days, reached "B. Fay's Inn," Saturday night, May 26th, 1825.

Mr. FAY had an unoccupied barn, and on Monday morning the FREEMAN family took possession of it. A fireplace was built at one side of the empty mow. The mother and daughters turned the stable into a sleeping apartment. The father and sons took possession of the loft, and the barn floor served as a dining room. Here the family lived for forty days, until a house had been erected for them on the farm that has ever since been known as "the FREEMAN place." Mr. FREEMAN was a man of education and culture. No family did more toward building up the religious and educational interests of the community.

The first school in Parma was taught by Mr. FREEMAN in his own house. He was the first postmaster of the township, and held many offices of trust in church and township. Mrs. FREEMAN was a fitting wife for such a husband. Nearly all her daughters and sons became teachers in the public schools, and earnest workers in the church. Selemda FREEMAN married Reuben EMERSON and is still living, in Lakeland, Minnesota. Lois FREEMAN became Mrs. Asa EMERSON and yet lives amid the scenes of her girlhood in Parma.

Thomas ADAMS and wife settled across the road from where Mrs. Fanny INGERSOLL now resides. He was a blacksmith. His brother, David ADAMS and wife, Buelah PRINCE, purchased a part of what afterward became the John A. ACKLEY farm. These brothers came from South Amherst, Mass. In 1825.

There was a lull in the settlement of the township from 1825 to 1830. In the spring of 1829, Daniel NICHOLS and wife, Sibly, with their daughter Betsey and sons, Charles and Joseph, came from Bowdoine, Maine. William GORDON settled on the center road near the Royalton line in 1829. He was the first white settler on the Center Road. His wife, Sarah SHEPHERD, came to Royalton from Geneva, N.Y., in 1821. Mrs. GORDON was of a happy, cheerful disposition, well fitted to find comfort in the midst of the hardships of a new country.

In December, 1829, according the report of the school enumerator, there were but 24 house holders in the township. During the years 1831 - 1834 inclusive, Parma was rapidly settled. The most of the farms were taken up during those years. Many of these settlers came from the State of New York, Indeed, one road was named "York Street," because of this.

In 1832, John J. BIGELOW, of Richfield, made the brick for B. FAY's new inn. Mr. BIGELOW was so pleased with the land on the Center Road, that when his contract was completed, he purchased 200 acres, paying for it the sum of \$500.

In the spring of 1833, he came with his wife, Phila HUMPHREY, and took possession of a little house which had been erected by a man who had "slashed" five acres of land for Mr. BIGELOW. Phila HUMPHREY was born and reared in Goshen, Connecticut. From the "land of steady habits" and refinement, she came to Richfield, and thence to her Parma home. There was no floor in that home. The fire-place consisted of a flats tone for a hearth and another stone for a back. From these a chimney was built of sticks and plastered with clay.

In anticipation of the arrival of a sister from Connecticut, Mrs. BIGELOW fitted up a room. It was a shed built against the log house. It could be reached only from the outside, as there was no door between the two rooms. This room Mrs. BIGELOW floored with "culls" or staves that had been rejected as unfit for market. In this room, Fanny HUMPHREY, afterwards Mrs. Cyrus INGERSOLL, spent her first night in Parma. Yet this home was the beginning of a beautiful home in which were reared two refined and cultivated daughters, both of whom were successful school teachers. They were Celia, now Mrs. George DEMINGS, of Cleveland, and Ellen, afterward Mrs. Dr. DANIELS, of Townsend Ohio, now deceased. Mrs. James BROWN, Sr., nee Silence PETTEE, was born in Claremont, Massachusetts, 1782. Her father was a commissioned officer in the Revolutionary Army. He was, I think, of Huguenot extraction, and his daughter inherited a large portion of the sturdy independence and force of character which fitted her for pioneer life. She came to Parma in 1833 with her husband and four children.

Here a log house, containing one room, was built, and here she spent most of the remaining years of her life. She was an expert spinner and weaver. People came from Royalton, Brooklyn, and Middleburgh, bringing material for "tow and linen" cloth, to be used for table cloths, towels, bed ticks and aprons; wool for sheets, underclothing, dresses for women and girls, and satinet for the men and boys. The coloring was done with the bark from the oak, hickory, chestnut, maple and butternut. Sometime the wool from black sheep was mixed with that from white, making "sheeps' grey" which was durable if not handsome.

She was paid 6 ¼ cents per yard for weaving plain cloth, and 10 cents per yard for “kersey” and “satinet.” In the midst of the labor necessary to the making a home in the wilderness, she found time to cultivate flowers. A sunny spot was set apart for poppies, great golden crowned marigolds, spicy grass pinks, hollyhocks, where bumble bees reveled, and powered themselves with yellow pollen, and one queenly damask rose. Down in a far corner was the chamomile bed, whose aromatic blossoms made into a pillow, were supposed to be a sovereign balm for insomnia, and many other ills. There, too, grew dill and horehound, wormwood, mint and anise.

Mrs. BROWN was a woman of strong convictions, and they were impressed upon the character of her sons. She was one of the earliest temperance workers, also a staunch anti-slavery woman. Her husband and son, James, were among the six who voted the first abolition ticket in Parma.

Mr. and Mrs. BROWN were members of the Baptist church in Royalton, and used to walk to service, a distance of five miles, when they could not take the ox team.

Eunice OLDS and her husband, Samuel ROBB, were the first settlers on State Road, between the Royalton line and the Chestnut Hills. They came from Webster, N.Y. In three days from the time the first tree was cut, a log house had been built, and the family had moved into it.

Openings were left for door and windows, and over these blankets were hung. Only half the house was roofed at the time. About them was the unbroken forest. Wild deer came and gazed in wonder at the inmates of the lonely dwelling. Wolves and bears were sometimes seen near it.

The solitude of the forest was seldom broken by the presence of their fellow beings. They rarely heard from their old home, for there were few facilities for conveying mail, and when they received a letter, they had to pay 25 cents postage on it.

With Mrs. ROBB came her mother, Mrs. OLDS, and her daughter Lavina ROBB, who married Alonzo CARTWRIGHT, and still resides in Parma. These pioneer mothers were not long without the companionship of other women. Before the year 1831 had ended, five other families had settled on the State Road.

From N.Y. came Mr. and Mrs. FISK with their daughters, Almeda, Azelia, Lydia and Amanda. With them came George BOYER and his wife, Harriet FISK.

From Dutchess County, N.Y. came John JOHNSON and his wife, Margaret with their daughter, Mary Ann. David F. JONES and wife, Hannah WEAR came from N.J. They brought with them three daughters, Mary Jane, Caroline and Deborah, and their son-in-law, John COOK and his wife, Eliza JONES and daughters Debby Ann and Eliza Jane.

Mrs. JONES was the mother of five sons. One of them, Carlos JONES was the founder of the “JONES Home” for orphan children. These women cheerfully bore the hardships and inconvenience of pioneer life. They lived to see the unbroken forest changed to cultivated farms, dotted with pleasant homes. Their wearing apparel was entirely homemade. It was spun and woven from flax and wool by the mothers and daughters of 1831, and cut out and made into garments by their own hands, and that without the aid of fashion plates. What a contrast in dress the mothers and daughters of 1831 would present beside the woman of 1896!

Miss Clementine PERRY was born in Clinton County, N.Y. She was engaged to be married to Ithiel J. LOCKWOOD. He believed that he could better his condition by emigrating to the West. He reached Parma October, 1830, and purchased a farm on the Independence line road. A year and a half was spent preparing a home, and then he returned for his bride.

In the latter part of January, 1832, they started on their long and wearisome journey to their new home, in a two-horse sleigh, leading an extra horse. They reached Parma in February. On this farm Mrs. LOCKWOOD resided till 1857, when she moved to Cleveland. Three daughters and a son were reared in the Parma home. Mrs. LOCKWOOD died in 1892.

Miss Louisa SAXTON and Miss Alma PRINDLE, of East Charlotte, Vermont, married two brothers, James WALLING and Ransom WALLING. In the spring of 1832, soon after their marriage, the husbands came to Parma to find homes for their wives. The young wives waited until fall and then came on to join their husbands. The log houses that had been prepared to receive them had been built on the Royalton line, a half mile from any road. The only way to reach their homes was along a path marked by blazed trees. The men worked on their farms in the summer and at their trade as coopers in the winter. Her for 18 years they dwelt side by side.

In 1850 Mrs. Ransom WALLING's home was traded for a farm in Royalton, at a point which has since been known as "WALLING's Corners." Here Mrs. WALLING resided for many years. After the death of her husband, she moved to Cleveland, where she died in 1892.

Mrs. Louisa WALLING moved to Wisconsin in 1852 and died there.

Somewhere in New England, I think in Vermont, Polly HASTING's life began. Her parents removed to Batavia, N.Y., where she married John PARRISH. Here three sons and four daughters were born to them. In 1834 they came to Parma and settled on the Independence line, in the neighborhood of the NORTONS and LOCKWOODS. Their's was a Christian home. Mrs. PARRISH reared her children in the fear of the Lord. Her sons were faithful Christian men. Hugh L. PARRISH became a loved and honored minister of the M.E. Church, and was at one time Presiding Elder.

Mrs. Polly PARRISH was not permitted to reap the fruit of her seed sowing. From her Parma home, about 1845, she was called to be forever with her Lord. A moss covered stone, in the little cemetery on Independence Road, marks her last resting place.

No reminiscences of the pioneer women of Parma would be complete that did not speak of "Aunt Jane KILBORN." She and her husband, Joseph KILBORN, "Uncle Joe" as he was familiarly known, came to Parma in 1833, and settled on the State Road. Here they spent the remainder of their days. Mrs. KILBORN was of a bright and happy disposition. She won the friendship of old and young, because of the friendliness of her nature and kindness of her disposition. She reached the age of 84 years, and yet she never grew old in heart.

Her maiden name was Jane MACH, her birthplace, White Hall, N.Y., and she was married at Penfield, N.Y., in 1827. Her home in Parma became the favorite resort of young people, and she retained her love for them to the end of her life.

Mrs. KILBORN was an earnest Christian. She was one of the original members of the Free Will Baptist Church, organized in the school house in that district, about 1834. Associated with her in church work

were a number of faithful Christian women. Among them were Mrs. Jane BEALS, Mrs. Margaret JOHNSON, Mrs. Lois POND, Mrs. Chloe BUNKER, Mrs. Polly WARD and Mrs. Maria CLEVELAND. The minister in those early days resided at a distance, and came Saturday in time to attend the Saturday night prayer meeting. He remained till Monday and was entertained in the homes of these women. Then, many who attended church resided at a distance. They were invited to the homes of these women who feasted them with the "meat which perisheth," as cheerfully and faithfully as the minister had broken to them spiritual food.

Miss Mary Huntington DeWITTE was born in Norwich, Conn., in 1813. She was reared amid the culture and refinement of that city. In 1832 she was married to James M. COGSWELL, then a merchant there. The following year they concluded to seek a home in the West, and came to Parma. Although it had been 15 years since the first settler had built his log home in Parma, the country was yet comparatively new. It seemed an uninviting and incongenial spot in which to build a home for a cultured and refined young woman of 20. But such women were needed to counteract the influences of an opposing nature, always to be found in a new settlement. It is beyond human power to estimate the elevating and ennobling influence of Mrs. Mary COGSWELL upon the community.

The Parma Congregational church was organized November 7, 1835, with a membership of 12 persons. The sisters in the church were Mrs. Mary COGSWELL, Mrs. Sarah FREEMAN, Mrs. Susan CHAPIN, Mrs. Harriet E. COGSWELL. The Misses Sarah B. FREEMAN, Selenda FREEMAN and Catherine FERRELL. Of the original members only one, Mrs. Selenda FREEMAN EMERSON, is now living. Mrs. Mary COGSWELL and Mrs. Harriet E. COGSWELL both passed from the church militant to the Church triumphant, in 1895. Mrs. Mary COGSWELL was a woman of earnest faith and fervent spirit. Upon her and her husband devolved, for many years, the duty of entertaining Bible agents, visiting ministers, and strangers connected with church work. Cheerfully and hospitably was this performed. She loved the Sunday school, and was an earnest teacher there, until her advanced years compelled her to resign her work. She was quiet, retiring, and somewhat reserved in manner. Only when "the books" are opened on the great judgment day can it be known what was wrought by this earnest, consistent life.

Mrs. Harriet DENISON COGSWELL, wife of Frederick F. COGSWELL, and sister of Amos E. DENISON, came from Stonington, Conn., in 1834. They purchased a farm of Jacob COUNTRYMAN on York Street.

Mrs. COGSWELL was a great collector of natural curiosities and of Indian relics. Her father was a sea captain and had brought her strange things and beautiful shells from many parts of the world. She had added to these until she had one of the finest private collections to be found. She delighted in exhibiting this collection to all who visited her. The many strange things she had to show them, and her motherly ways, won the hearts of children. Her sympathetic ways and conversational powers won a large circle of friends whom she delighted to welcome at her home. It might be truly said of her "She had not an enemy."

Mrs. Lydia PALMER WHITNEY, whose nephews, Dwight PALMER and Charles PALMER, were so known in Cleveland, came to Parma in 1836. Her home was over three miles from the Congregational church. But she and her husband at once connected themselves with that church and were rarely absent from its services. Ill health prevented her from taking as prominent and active a position in society as she was qualified to fill. But those who had the privilege of seeing her well-ordered home found in her a warm hearted, helpful friend. Her home contained more books than were to be found in most families; these were freely lent to her sick friends, and helped to brighten many hours of pain.

Mrs. Sally WEAVER TOPPING and her husband William TOPPING came from Bainbridge, N.Y. in 1834. In those pioneer days school teachers "boarded around," but had one place called home to which they could always go, when necessary. Mrs. TOPPING's mission was to make a home for the teacher, and well did she perform this mission, as many a weary, homesick teacher could testify. Her daughter, Harriet TOPPING HITCHCOCK, to whom we are indebted for many helpful hints, now resides in Grinnel, Iowa.

Mrs. Moses OVIATT (Electra SPAFFORD) was a granddaughter of Thomas CHITTENDON, the first governor of Vermont, her mother being Electa CHITTENDON, who, with her husband, Jacob SPAFFORD, settled in Richfield, O., 1818. Here the daughter, Electa, was born. She married and moved to Parma, 1840, and for nearly a half century the OVIATT homestead was noted for its liberal hospitality. Mrs. OVIATT was one of the most amiable of women, and her whole life was characterized by kindly words and ministrations. Her four children, Martin, Herbert, Sarah and Martha, are all residents of Cleveland, and her granddaughter, Mr. C.M. OVIATT, is well known in the literary circles of that city.

Mrs. Barzilla SNOW (Polly GRINNELL) was a native of Massachusetts, near Boston. After her marriage she lived for a number of years in New Haven, N.Y., and in 1833 emigrated with her husband to Parma, where she died 1855 in about the seventieth year of her age.

Mrs. SMITH possessed unusual gifts of mind and heart. She was a devoted mother, a kind neighbor and true friend. She reared a family of eight sons and three daughters, who, one and all, ever dearly loved and deeply cherished the memory of their noble mother. To the latest hour of her life, she was a great reader, and could readily converse on the leading topics of the day.

But two of her children are now living, Leander, a resident of Parma, and Vira Ann, Mrs. Lyman MOUGHTON, who lives near Leavenworth, Kas.

Mrs. Julia A. HODGMAN
Historian

Parma Committee - Lucy A. WARD, Parma; Martha OVIATT HOWLETT, Cleveland; Jane REYNOLDS BROWN, Elyria; Nancy BLISS PEARSE, Bloomingdale, Mich.; Mrs. Harriet TOPPING HITCHCOCK, Sedgwick, Kan.