

ROCKPORT

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

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ROCKPORT TOWNSHIP HISTORY

Transcribed by Mary Ellen Chambers

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ROCKPORT, one of the northern townships of Cuyahoga County, is number seven in range fourteen, in the survey of the Western Reserve, and lies upon the southern shore of Lake Erie. It contains twenty-one full sections of a mile square each, and four fractional sections, the size of which is reduced by the lake. The township is bounded on the north by Lake Erie; on the south by Middleburg township; on the east by Brooklyn, and on the west by Dover.

The surface of the country is level and the soil is generally productive, especially along the lake shore, where a rich fruit belt contributes largely to the wealth and prosperity of the township. South of that belt, fruit is also considerably cultivated but general farming is more largely followed, and with very profitable results. As a rule, the farmers are intelligent, thrifty and prosperous, their well cultivated and well-appointed farms showing their success in life; while their handsome dwellings-which in very many cases might properly be called elegant-testify to the taste as well as the prosperity of the owners.

Detroit street, as the extension of that street into Rockport is commonly called, follows the lake shore from the township line to Rocky River, an avenue of more than ordinary pretensions, and is also a drive much frequented by the citizens of Cleveland. Bordering it on either side are numerous handsome and

costly suburban residences, set in the midst of tastefully kept grounds, and presenting on a summer day in connection with the smiling fields, the numerous patches of woodland and the broad expanse of the lake, a scene of beauty seldom surpassed.

Rocky river, a rugged but shallow stream, flows through Rockport from the southern line near the southwestern corner in an exceedingly crooked course to the lake, passing nearly the whole distance between high and abrupt embankments, which at the river's mouth are handsomely wooded, and present a very picturesque appearance. Here also, in summer, people from Cleveland daily resort in large numbers, to enjoy the beauties of nature and to rejoice in the invigorating breezes which are wafted landward over the billowy bosom of Lake Erie.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first white person to settle in the township of Rockport (so goes an old record by Henry Alger, himself a settler in Rockport in 1812) was John Harbertson (or Harberson) an Irish refugee, who, with his family, located in the spring of 1809 upon the east side of Rocky River near its mouth. In the same year, and about the same time, Wm. McConley, who came over from Ireland with Harbertson, settled in Rockport upon a place now known as Van Scoter bottom. Neither Harbertson nor McConley tarried long in their new homes, whence they removed about 1810; Harbertson to Huron county, where he resided until his death.

In 1808, Philo Taylor, who had moved from New York to Cleveland in 1806, agreed with Harmon Canfield and Elisha Whittlesey, as agents and owners of land in what is now Rockport, to locate in that township. On the 10th of April in that year, he landed with his family from an open boat at the mouth of Rocky River. He selected a place on the east side of the river opposite the site of the Patchen House, put up a cabin and began clearing. By 1809, he had effected material improvements there. At that time, Mr. Canfield, who had verbally agreed that Taylor should have the place, informed him that he would have to select some other spot, since it had been decided by the proprietors to lay out a town near the mouth of the river, and that the lot originally selected by Taylor would be wanted for that purpose. At this Mr. Taylor became exceeding wrath. He sold his improvements to Daniel Miner, launched a curse against the mouth of Rocky River, and removed with his family to Dover.

Until 1809 there was no highway between Cleveland and the Huron river, that whole region being an almost unbroken wilderness. In that year the legislature made an appropriation for a public road between these points, and selected Ebenezer Merry, Nathaniel Doan and Lorenzo Carter to superintend the work. This road crossed Rocky River near its mouth, and was the only one west of Cleveland until 1814 or 1815. Daniel Miner, who bought out Philo Taylor in 1809, came from Homer, New York, in that year and occupied Taylor's old improvements. In 1812, he began to build a mill upon what is still known as the "mill lot." Before it was completed Miner died, in February, 1813. Despite of Canfield's sanguine expectations, the Taylor lot was never employed as a part of the proposed town which indeed never existed save on paper. Miner kept a tavern and a ferry there in 1811. He shortly afterward bought out Harbertson on the same side of the river, and kept tavern in his old house in 1812.

In 1809 the public highway, above referred to, being completed to Rocky River, one George Peake, a mulatto, and his family were the first to pass over it in a wagon, by which they journeyed from Cleveland to Rocky River, locating on the place lately owned by John Barnum. Peake had been a soldier in the British army, and was in General Wolf's command at the taking of Quebec. Locating in Maryland he had married a black woman reputed to have owned "a half bushel of dollars." He had settled with her in

Pennsylvania, had raised a family of children, and when he moved to Rockport was accompanied by two grown sons-George and Joseph; two others-James and Henry-following soon after. The Peakes introduced an improvement in the form of a hand grist-mill, which was exceedingly well liked by the few settlers, as grinding had previously been accomplished by means of the "stump mortar and springpole pestle." George Peake died in September, 1827, at the great age of one hundred and five.

In 1811 Doctor John Turner, a brother-in-law of Daniel Miner, came from the State of New York and located on the farm afterwards owned by Governor Wood. Two years afterward, while the doctor and his wife were away from home, their residence was burned to the ground and their two children were destroyed with it. After this calamity the family removed to Dover. While the Turners lived in Rockport the newcomers were Jeremiah Van Scoter, John Pitts, Datus Kelley and Chester Dean a brother-in-law of Kelley. Van Scoter located upon the place now known as Van Scoter's bottom, and after remaining a year removed to Huron County. Mr. Kelley occupied the place now owned by George Merwin. In 1834, with his brother Ira, he bought the now famous Kelley Island.

On the 7th of June, 1812, Nathan Alger, with his wife and sons-Henry, Herman, Nathan, Jr., and Thaddeus P.-and his son-in-law, John Kidney, all from Litchfield County, Conn., settled upon sections twelve and thirteen, and founded what is to this day known as the Alger settlement. Two days later, Benjamin Robinson, afterwards son-in-law of Nathan Alger, came in from Vermont and took up a place in that settlement. Nathan Alger, Sr., died January 21, 1813, being the first white person who died in the township. Samuel Dean, with sons Joseph and Aaron W., moved into the township in 1814. Samuel Dean died in 1840, aged 85; his son Chester died in 1855; Horace B. Alger and Dyer Nichols came in during the fall of 1812.

Benjamin Robinson, above referred to, was a famous hunter, and much addicted to a roving life; priding himself, indeed, upon his Indian habits. He became eventually an industrious member of the Alger settlement, but in his old age fell into evil ways, paid the penalty, and died in poverty at the age of ninety.

Rufus Wright, a soldier of the war of 1812, removed in 1816 from Stillwater, N.Y., to Rockport and bought of Gideon Granger three-quarters of an acre of land, now occupied by the Patchen House, on the west side of Rocky River, near its mouth. He paid \$300 for it, evidently sharing Granger's belief that there was destined to be a great city near the natural harbor at the mouth of Rocky River. Wright put up a framed tavern of considerable size, and from 1816 to 1853 the house remained in the possession of the Wright family, passing in the later year to Mr. Silverthorn. As the Patchen House, it is a remodeled and improved structure still containing, however, a portion of the old building. A part of the old tavern is now used by the widow of John Williams as a residence, a little south of the Patchen House. Mr. Wright built half of the first bridge at that point, kept a ferry there for some years, and assisted in cutting out the first road west of the river.

About the time of Wright's settlement, Henry Clark, John James, Charles Miles, and Joseph Sizer came into the township, and between the years 1816 and 1820 Clark and James were also tavern keepers on the west side. The first tavern kept in the township was, as already recorded, the one opened by Daniel Miner, to whom the court of common pleas of the Cuyahoga County issued a license in March, 1811, renewing it to 1812, and also granting a license to keep a ferry. This tavern was only a log cabin, eighteen feet by twenty-four, and stood on the east side of the river, near the end of the present bridge. For some years after Miner's death his widow carried on the tavern, previous to which, for a brief period, Moses Eldred, who located in the township in the spring of 1813, kept the stand.

Joseph, a son of Samuel Dean, who settled in Rockport in 1814, built and carried on the first tannery in the township, on the north ridge, where Lucius Dean now resides. In 1815 Joseph Larwill-afterwards the founder of Granger City-built a mill near the mouth of Rocky River, but before he put it in operation it was burned to the ground. A similar fate befell a mill which was built on the same spot in 1818 by Erastus and Charles Johnson. In 1817 Datus Kelley built a sawmill in section sixteen, on the creek that crosses the north ridge.

James Nicholson, at the age of twenty, traveled in 1803, afoot, from Barnstable County Connecticut, to Trumbull County, Ohio, whence, after a residence of fifteen years, he moved, in 1818, to Rockport, where he had purchased two hundred and seventy acres of land. Upon a portion of that land his son, Ezra Nicholson, now lives. Of James Nicholson's two children, who came with him, a daughter-Mrs. Elias Paddock of Olmsted-is still living. Upon his arrival he put up a log cabin, and at that time was the only settler between the Cuyahoga and Rocky rivers. In 1826 he erected a framed house a little west of where Ezra Nicholson now lives, and shortly afterward opened it as a tavern. Mr. Nicholson resided in Rockport until his death, which occurred in Rockport, when he had reached the age of seventy-six.

Mars Wager, with his wife, Keturah, moved from Ontario county, New York, to Cleveland in 1818, and in 1820 proceeded to Rockport, where he had purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, in section twenty-two, from Francis, son of Gideon Granger. He died in Rockport in 1841, leaving a widow and several children, the former of whom still lives on the old homestead, at the age of eight-five. Her sons, Adam M. and Israel D., are prominent citizens of Rockport.

In April, 1819, Eiel Farr, a farmer and surveyor, with his sons, Aurelias, Eiel, Jr. and Algernon, came into Rockport from Pennsylvania, and settled upon section sixteen. Price French left Ontario county, New York, in 1818, and settled in Indiana. He moved from there to Rockport in 1828, with his wife and six children, and located upon the place now occupied by Ezra Nicholson. He disposed of that portion of the farm to James Nicholson, and afterwards occupied the place where his son, A. G. French, now resides. David Herrington, who went to Middleburg, Ohio, from Otsego County, New York, in 1821, settled two years later in Rockport, upon the place now occupied by his widow. William and Mary Jordan located in 1827 upon the "Jordan place," on the Dover plank road. Mrs. Jordan still resides upon the old homestead, surrounded by her children.

Jonathan Parshall moved from New York to Rockport in 1821, purchased an acre of ground of Mars Wager, and put up a log cabin near the house of the latter. Parshall was a house-carpenter, and also taught school a few weeks in Rockport, but he was not very industrious, and in the course of time, being unable to pay even for his acre of land, he was dispossessed of it.

EARLY INCIDENTS.

Mention has already been made of the fact that Nathan Alger, Sr., was the first person to die in the township. The first white child born in the township was Egbert, son of Philo Taylor, who was born in November, 1809. Addison, son of Datus Kelley, was the second, born in June, 1812, and the third was Philana D., daughter of Henry Alger, born in December, 1812. The first couple resident in the township, who were married, were Benjamin Robinson and Amelia Alger, who were wedded in Cleveland November 5, 1812, by George Wallace, Esq. There was no wedding in the township until January, 1814. Chester Dean, of Rockport, and Lucy, daughter of Abner Smith, of Dover, were united by George Wallace,

Esq., at the house of Datus Kelley. Visitors to this wedding came from miles around upon ox-sleds, and the occasion, so says tradition, "was one of great merriment."

The first justice of the peace was Charles Miles, who was elected June 24, 1819. In that year, at a state election, but thirteen votes were polled in the township.

Previous to 1812, Indians used to rendezvous in numbers at the mouth of Rocky River, and on an island in that stream they buried several of their dead. Upon that island, too, they left their canoes during the winter, while they went in the interior for game. Upon returning in the spring, they were in the habit of building a fire at the head of each grave on the island. The Indians were friendly to the whites before the war of 1812, but on the outbreak of that conflict, many of them joined Tecumseh, and none of them ever returned.

A great "bear hunt" was organized in 1820, and the command entrusted to Joseph Dean, a famous Nimrod of the time. The line of the hunt reached from Rocky River to Black River, and included a small army of hunters. Of bears they got few, but the catch of deer was abundant. The hunt wound up with a grand jollification whereat whisky played an important part, as in truth it invariably did in all public, and many private events of the time.

Whisky drinking was exceedingly popular and doubtless pernicious. At all events so thought Datus Kelley, who at a township meeting in 1827 astonished the company by presenting a temperance pledge for signatures. There was a storm of opposition, and a loud outcry against what was called Kelly's onslaught upon liberty, but despite such a beginning, Mr. Kelley persevered in his purpose and eventually succeeded in gaining many adherents to the cause.

At the first township election but nineteen voters lived in Rockport and as there were eighteen offices to fill it was remarked after the election that every man in the township held an office, kept a tavern or owned a sawmill.

The first bridge across Rocky River near its mouth was built in 1821, by subscriptions, Rufus Wright paying about one-half the expense. There was a great gathering at the raising of the bridge, which consumed a week. When it was accomplished, Captain Wright invited all hands to his tavern, where the whisky jug passed merrily around and where the event was celebrated in so hilarious a manner that even the "Squire" himself danced a jig on a table among tumblers and bottles, while the rest of the company cheered his efforts by singing Yankee Doodle.

A sketch of the early experiences of the Algers, written by Henry Alger, narrates that when he reached Rockport, June 7, 1812, his personal property consisted of an axe, an old French watch, part of a kit of shoemaker's tools a bed and seven cents in cash. As he had borrowed ten dollars to pay his way to Rockport, he was in mood to idle away his time, but began at once to put up his log cabin, and furnished it with a "catamount" bedstead, a shoemaker's bench and two stools. With that outfit he and his wife set up housekeeping. The only kitchen ware they had at first was an old broken iron tea kettle which young Alger happened to find on the lake shore. In the fall of 1812 Mr. Alger went thirty-six miles west of Painesville and threshed wheat for Ebenezer Merry, receiving every tenth bushel for his labor. This shows plainly enough that breadstuffs were very scarce and high at that time.

In 1813 Mr. Alger went to Cleveland to get salt, and for fifty-six pounds of that commodity he worked nine days for S. S. Baldwin, and carried it home afoot on his back. In a similar way he obtained flour-by

chopping timber for Capt. Hoadley of Columbia. He chopped an acre of timber for one hundred pounds of flour, and carried the latter home on his back-a distance of ten miles.

When Philo Taylor first settled in Rockport, in 1808, he went to mill in an open boat to the river Raisin, in the State of Michigan. The corn mills in Rockport at that early day were hollowed stumps for mortars, in which the grain was ground with what was called spring-pole pestle. In 1810 a mail route between Cleveland and Detroit was established through Rockport. The mail, which weighed six or seven pounds, was carried on foot in a valise, by three men, stationed along the line.

GRANGER CITY.

In 1815, Joseph Larwill, of Wooster, Ohio, came to Rockport and purchased the "mill lot" on the east side of the river, and also a tract on the west side near the mouth, where, with Gideon Granger, John Bever and Calvin Pease, he laid out a city, which was called Granger, in honor of Gideon Granger, a large land owner in Rockport and other parts of the Reserve. A sale of the lots was widely advertised, and on the appointed day a great number of people were assembled from a considerable distance. Lots were sold at high rates; some bringing \$60 each; the excitement ran high, and Larwill & Co. felt assured of fortune. The first cabin built upon the site of the new city was put up by Charles Miles near where the Patchen House now stands, and in 1816 John Dowling, George Reynolds and Capt. Foster also erected cabins. In the same year, John James of Boston, bought out Miles, who then located on the farm afterwards owned by Gov. Wood. James, who had brought out a small stock of goods, opened a store, and also a tavern, both of which he carried on until his death in 1820.

In 1816, too, as already stated, Rufus Wright built a tavern there, and there were also several other settlers in the new city at that time, including Asahel Porter, Eleazer Waterman, Josephus B. Lizer and Henry Canfield, the last of whom built what was long known as "Canfield's old store." Mr. Canfield came from Trumbull County, Ohio, the home of his father who had bought considerable land in Rockport. One day he met at his store a lady who had journeyed alone, on horseback, from Connecticut to Royalton to visit her sister. He fell in love with her at first sight, married her shortly afterward, and moved with her to a farm east of the river, now owned by Collins French. He lived there a short time, however, before returning to Trumbull County.

One Fluke, a German, and a potter by trade, came from Wooster and settled in Granger City in 1817, and began to make brown earthenware. Shortly after that Henry Clark came along and opened a tavern, and one Scott moved from Painesville to join Larwill in the erection of a mill. They had got up the frame of a dam when winter set in, but in the spring the flood washed it entirely away. This deeply discouraged Mr. Larwill regarding the future of Granger City, and he abandoned the undertaking in disgust.

The city struggled on a short time after this, but all kinds of business were soon abandoned there, and even the few scattered cabins were speedily deserted by their inmates.

ORGANIZATION.

Rockport was formed as a civil township in February, 1819, and on the first Monday in the following April, it held its first election at Rufus Wright's tavern. Those who voted at that election were Rufus Wright, Asahel Porter, Henry Canfield, Samuel Dean, Chester Dean, Joseph Dean, Dyer Nichols, Daniel Bardin, John Kidney, John Pitts, John James, Chas. Miles, Erastus Johnson, Charles Johnson, Josephus B. Sizer, Datus Kelley, Jas. Nicholson, Benjamin Robinson and Henry Alger.

The chairman of the meeting was Charles Miles; the judges of election were Asahel Porter and Datus Kelley. The officers chosen were Henry Alger, Rufus Wright and Erastus Johnson, trustees; Henry Canfield, clerk; James Nicholson and Samuel Dean, overseers of the poor; Benjamin Robinson and Joseph dean, fence-viewers; Joseph Dean, lister.

The first book of town ship records has been lost, and the list of those who have served the township as trustees, clerks and treasurers, can be given only from 1832 to 1879. For that period, it is as follows:

1832. Trustees, Dyer Nichols, Jared Hickcox, Chas. Warner; clerk, Dyer Eaton; treasurer, Calvin Giddings.

1833. Trustees. Alanson Swan, Dryer Nichols, John B. Robertson: clerk, Geo. T. Barnum; treasurer, Ira Cunningham.

1834. Trustees, Alanson swan, Paul G. Burch, James S. Anthony; clerk, Geo. T. Barnum; treasurer, Ira Cunningham.

1835. Trustees, Alanson Swan, Jas. B. Anthony, Jas. Stranahan; clerk, Isaac P. Lathrop; treasurer, Solomon Pease.

1836. Trustees, Jas. S. Anthony, Collins French, Henry Alger; clerk, Isaac P. Lathrup; treasurer Solomon Pease.

1837. Trustees, Epaphroditus Wells, Joseph Dean, Benjamin Mastic; clerk, Isaac F. Lathrop; treasurer, Solomon Pease.

1838. Trustees, Joel Deming, Jas. S. Anthony, Guilson Morgan; clerk, Geo. T. Barnum; treasurer, Solomon Pease.

1839. Trustees, Obadiah Munn, Israel Kidney, Elial Farr; clerk, Geo. T. Barnum; treasurer, Solomon Pease.

1840. Trustees, Elial Farr, Obadiah Munn, Jonathan Plimpton; clerk, Timothy S. Brewster; treasurer, Solomon Pease.

1841. Trustees, Asia Pease, Dyer Nichols, Israel Kidney; clerk, A. E. Lewis; treasurer, Solomon Pease.

1842. Trustees, Asia Pease, J. D. Gleason, P. G. Burch; clerk G.T. Barnum; treasurer, R. Millard.

1843. Trustees, Eliel Farr, W. D. Bell, John P. Spencer; clerk, Timothy S. Brewster; treasurer, Royal Millard.

1844. Trustees, Chauncey Deming, Aurelius Farr, Benjamin Stetson; clerk, Aaron Merchant; treasurer Royal Millard.

1845. Trustees, Chauncey Deming, Joseph Lease, Dyer Nichols; clerk, Theophilus Crosby, treasurer, John D. Taylor.

1846. Trustees, Chauncey Deming, John P. Spencer; G. W. Hotchkiss; clerk, Theophilus Crosby; treasurer, John D. Taylor.

1847. Trustees, Hanford Conger, Aurelius Farr, Jas. Stranahan; clerk, Royal Millard; treasurer, Benjamin Lowell.

1848. Trustees, Hanford Conger, Chauncey Deming, Benjamin Mastick; clerk, G. T. Barnum; treasurer, F. G. Lewis.

1849. Trustees, Aurelius Farr, Osborne Case, Benjamin Mastick, clerk G. T. Barnum; treasurer, F. G. Lewis.

1850. Trustees, Royal Millard, Aurelius Farr, Wm. B. Smith; clerk, G. T. Barnum; treasurer, Truman S. Wood.

1851. Trustees, Aurelius Farr, Thomas Hurd, Jas. Stranahan; clerk, G. T. Barnum; treasurer, Isaac Higby.

1852. Trustees, Aurelius Farr, Thos. Hurd, John West; clerk, John Barnum, treasurer, Lewis Rockwell.

1853. Trustees, John P. Spencer, John Freeborn, Chauncey Deming; clerk, John Barnum; treasurer, Horace Dean.

1854. Trustees, Frederick Wright, Ezra Bassett, John Blank; clerk, John Barnum; treasurer, Horace Dean.

1855. Trustees, Edward Hayward, Ezra Bassett, A. Cleveland; clerk, John Barnum; treasurer, Horace Dean.

1856. Trustees, J. T. Storey, Thos. Hurd, Benj. Mastick; clerk Lucius Dean; treasurer, Horace Dean.

1857. Trustees, John F. Storey, Benjamin Mastick, Obadiah Munn; clerk, Lucius Dean; treasurer, O. W. Hotchkiss.

1858. Trustees, John F. Storey, Richard McCrary, Lucius Dean; clerk, Barnum; treasurer, O. W. Hotchkiss.

1859. Trustees, John F. Storey, Obadiah Munn, John Farr; clerk, A. M. Wager; treasurer O. W. Hotchkiss.

1860. Trustees, Thos. Hurd, Benjamin Mastick, James Potter; clerk, Edwin Giddings; treasurer, O. W. Hotchkiss.

1861. Trustees, Thos. Hurd, Geo. Reitz, A. Kyle; clerk, Robert Fleury, treasurer, William Sixt.

1862. Trustees, Thos. Hurd, Geo. Reitz, Wm. Jordan; clerk A. M. Wager; treasurer, Wm. Sixt.

1863. Trustees, Thos. Hurd, Geo. Reitz, Thos. Morton; clerk A. M. Wager; treasurer, Wm. Sixt.

1864. Trustees, Thos. Hurd, Wm. Tentler, Calvin Pease; clerk, Andrew Kyle; treasurer, Wm. Sixt.

1865. Trustees, Wm. Tentler, Wm. I. Jordan, F. G. Bronson; clerk, Andrew Kyle; treasurer, Wm. Sixt.

1866. Trustees, John F. Storey, F. Colbrunn, A. M. Wager; clerk, John Barnum; treasurer, Wm. Sixt.

1867. Trustees, Allen Armstrong, F. Colbrunn, Alfred French; clerk John Barnum; treasurer Wm. Sixt.

1868. Trustees, Anthony Cline, Lewis Nicholson, John Gahan; clerk, Andrew Kyle; treasurer Wm. Sixt.

1869 and 1870. Trustees, John Gahan, Anthony Cline, Geo. W. Andrews; clerk, Andrew Kyle; treasurer, Wm. Sixt.

1871 & 1872. Trustees, John Gahan, Geo. W. Andrews, Henry Southworth; clerk, Andrew Kyle; treasurer, Wm. Sixt.

1873. Trustees, G. T. Pease, Geo. W. Andrews, John Gahan; clerk, Andrew Kyle; treasurer, Wm. Sixt.

1874. Trustees, G. T. Pease, Anthony Cline, John Gahan; clerk, Andrew Kyle; treasurer, Wm. Sixt.

1875. Trustees, Anthony Cline, J. W. West, Fred Baker; clerk, G. F. Stafford; treasurer, Wm. Sixt.

1876. Trustees, A. M. Wager, John W. Wood, Anthony Cline; clerk, M. A. Mastick; treasurer, B. F. Phinney.

1877. Trustees, L. A. Palmer, J. W. West, A.M. Wager; clerk, Edwin Giddings; treasurer, B. F. Phinney.

1878 & 1879. Trustees, A. M. Wager, George Fauchter, Geo. W. Andrews; clerk, B. P. Thompson; treasurer, B. F. Phinney.

POST OFFICES.

The first postmaster in Rockport was probably a Mr. Goodwin, who, about 1827, kept an office at Rocky River, on the old stage route. In 1829 the stage route was changed so that it passed over "Hog Back" Hill and crossed the river about a mile and a half above the mouth. Then Calvin Giddings, living on Hog Back hill, was appointed postmaster. After a while Giddings moved across the river and took the post office with him. About 1834 the office was returned to the mouth of the river, and Rufus Wright, who then kept tavern there, was appointed postmaster. The office remained at Wright's until about 1852. Abraham, Philip and Frederick, sons of Rufus Wright, being successively postmasters there. In 1852 the office was removed a mile south, where Herman Barnum kept it a year, being succeeded, in 1853, by Benjamin Phinney, who kept a store there. He retained the office until his death in 1864. The office was then again returned to the mouth of the river, where John Williams was the postmaster until 1865. Another change then took the office up the river about two miles, to the house of Andrew Kyle, who continued to be the postmaster there until 1875. This year the office was removed northward to the store of B. F. Phinney, who has been the incumbent since that time. A post office was again established at Rocky River in 1877, at the Cliff House, with William Hall as postmaster. He was followed by A. T. Van Tassel, and he by James Starkweather; the latter being the present incumbent.

Horace Dean, who kept store there, was the first postmaster at East Rockport. After his time the incumbents have been O. W. Hotchkiss, William R. Smith, Jacob Tagardine, Adam Wager and Joseph Howe, the latter being the postmaster during the present year, 1879.

ROCKPORT METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Methodists residing in Rockport, on the west side of the river, enjoyed irregular worship in schoolhouses and private residences until 1847, when a house of worship was erected about a mile and a half west of the mouth of Rocky River. The first class was organized in 1828. William Jordan was the leader; the other members being Dyer Eaton, Mrs. Mary Jordan, _____ Whiting, _____ Bennett, Philena Alger, Sara Doty, Polly Jordan and Sallie Usher. The organization took place in William Jordan's log cabin, and there, worship was held for some time afterward.

The first preacher was Rev. Henry O. Sheldon, a most industrious laborer in the moral vineyard. Upon the erection of the church building, in 1847, the trustees were John D. Taylor, John Barnes, Henry Rauch, Benjamin Lowell and Sidney Lowell. The church membership is now fifty. The leader is C. S. Giddings, who is also the secretary of the society. The present trustees are S. H. Brown, Mark Able, C. S. Giddings, F. McMahan, Ira Burlingame, C. N. Wise and Charles Cuddeback. The present pastor is Rev. John McKean.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

This body was organized May 27, 1832, with the following members: Gideon Watrous, Royal Millard, John Dike, Fanny Watrous, Amelia Robinson, Sarah Herrington, Anna Millard, Lydia Dike and Fannie M. Nichols.

In 1836 a dissension arose when several members withdrew and organized a new church on the opposite or west side of the river. The dissenters engaged Rev. Moses Ware as a settled minister, but their separate organization lasted only a short time. About 1842 they returned to the mother church. The latter received from 1832 to 1847 one hundred and twenty-five members, but in the last-named year the congregation had so far declined in strength that regular worship was abandoned. A further lapse of two years, failing to disclose any renewed vitality, the few remaining members met on the 20th of February, 1850, and formally voted to dissolve the organization. A commodious meeting-house had been erected by the society, being completed in June 1846. This house of worship-long known as "The Tabernacle"-has, since 1850, been given over to free public use for religious worship, public entertainment, etc., and has for many years been in active demand, especially on Sabbath days. The Baptists gathered from time to time, after 1850, for worship in the tabernacle, and had frequent preaching about 1860 and afterwards, but no reorganization of the church has been effected.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

This church was organized in 1835, but very little can be said touching its early history. Its existence was limited to a few years, and the records of those years are lost.

The church was revived and reorganized, however, on the 24th of July 1859, when Benjamin Mastick, Russell Hawkins, Lydia Hawkins, Louisa Trisket, Mary C. Kinney, Silas Gleason, Labrina Gleason, Andrew Kyle and Susannah Kyle comprised the number who were received into membership. The first deacons under the reorganization were Ezra Bassett and Silas Gleason, and the first pastor was Rev. N. Cobb. His successors were Revs. J. B. Allen, E. T. Fowler, O. W. White and E. H. Votaw, the latter being the pastor in charge in July 1, 1879, when the membership was thirty-five.

In October, 1869, the church dissolved the connection, which it had previously maintained with the Presbyterian organization, and was taken into the Sullivan, Ohio, Congregational Association. The church

building now in use was erected in 1861. The present trustees are L. A. Palmer, William Andrews, and A. Barter; the deacons, William Andrews and A. Barter; the clerk, B. Barter.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH.

A Free Will Baptist church was organized in Rockport about 1840, and in 1843 included the following members: Obadiah Munn and wife, John Warren and wife, Jeremiah Gleason and wife, Joseph Coon and wife, Prosser Coon and wife, J. M. Plimpton and wife, Thomas Alexander and wife, Israel Kidney and wife, James Kidney and wife, Sarah and Joseph Hall.

Elder Reynolds, the first minister, preached until about 1847. He was succeeded by Elder Prentiss but afterward returned and preached a second term. After him Elders Beebe, Pelton and others supplied the pulpit. After worshiping in school-houses until 1846, the congregation built a church on Hilliard Avenue, opposite where the Good Templar's Hall now stands. At no time very prosperous, the society declined materially in strength for two or three years previous to 1858, and in that year was dissolved. The church building served until 1877 as a place of worship for various denominations, when it was purchased by Mr. F. Wager, who removed it to his farm and converted it into a storehouse.

ROCKY RIVER CHRISTIAN MISSION (DISCIPLE).

This was not regularly organized until January 5, 1879, although a house of worship was built in the winter of 1877 and '78 and dedicated June 16, 1878. The original members were James Cannon and wife, J. C. Cannon and wife, William Southern and wife, Joseph Southern and wife, Peter Bower, Miss Ella Woodbury, Miss Lou Atwell. James Cannon was chosen trustee; and Elder J. C. Cannon, who was the first preacher, continues to occupy that relation. The membership on the 1st day of July, 1879 was thirty-seven.

FIRST NEW JERUSALEM (SWEDENBORGIAN) CHURCH.

Previous to 1841 there were several families of the Swedenborgian faith in Rockport, James Nicholson and Mara Wager being leading believers. Rev. M. McCarr, of Cincinnati, was invited to come out and form a church, which he did on the 4th of September, 1841, in a school-house near Rocky River. The first members were W. D. Bell and wife, Osborne Case, James Nicholson and wife, I. D. Wager and wife, Delia Paddock, A. M. Wager, Boadicea and Dianthus Thayer, James Newman, Jane E. Johnson, Susanna Parshall, Mars Wager and wife, James Coolahan and wife, Asa Dickinson and wife, Richard Hooper and wife, Matilda Wager, Mary Berthong and John Berry.

The first trustees were W. D. Bell, James Nicholson and I. D. Wagar. The first ordained minister was Rev. Richard Hooper who had been a Methodist preacher in Rockport, and who is said to have been suddenly converted, at a camp meeting, to the new faith. He was ordained directly after the organization just mentioned, and labored vigorously four years as the pastor. Succeeding him the ordained ministers have been Revs. W. G. Day (who preached ten years), L. P. Mercer, D. Noble, John Saal, and Geo. L. Sterns, the present incumbent, who was ordained in 1876. The church membership now numbers about forty. The society worshiped in the Rocky River school-house until 1848, when the present house of worship (remodeled and improved in 1878) was built. The trustees now are Ezra Nicholson, A. M. Wagar and Alfred French.

Incidental to the religious experience of James Nicholson and Mars Wagar it is said that upon their awakening to the new faith they, with their wives, rode in a two-horse wagon all the way to Wooster to be baptized into the church.

DETROIT STREET METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

About 1850 a small band of "Bible Christians" used to worship occasionally in the Free Will Baptist church and continued to do so for three or four years. The first class contained sixteen members; its leader was Mark Tagardine. Rev. Richard Roach, of Cleveland, used to come out and preach for them, as did others whose names cannot now be recalled. Members of the denomination known as the United Brethren also had meetings in the Baptist church at that time, and after the Bible Christians discontinued worship, the Wesleyan Methodists formed a class with mark Tagardine as the leader. Their first minister was Rev. Mr. Crooks.

Later, the Wesleyans gave place to a Methodist Episcopal class of twenty members and of that, too, Mark Tagardine was chosen leader; the Rev. Mr. Jewett of Berea preaching the first sermon. A church edifice known as the Detroit Street M. E. Church was built in 1876, at which time Rev. Mr. McCaskie was the pastor. After him Rev. Wm. Warren took charge. The present membership is one hundred and twenty-five. The class leaders are James Primat, John Webb, Stephen Hutchins and Mark Tagardine, and the trustees are Archibald Webb, James Bean, Jos. Parsons and Peter Clampet.

ST. PATRICK'S (CATHOLIC) CHURCH.

This church, which has a house of worship in the southern part of Rockport, is an Irish Catholic organization. Previous to 1852 its members were able to enjoy only irregular service. In that year the church building now used was dedicated by Bishop Rappe, at which time about thirty families were included in the congregation. The priest first placed in charge was Rev. Lewis Filiere, who also preached at Olmstead Falls and Berea. He served about ten years and was followed by Rev. Fathers Miller, Ludwig, Hyland, Quigley, O'Brien and Kuhbler. Father Kuhbler, the present incumbent, has charge also of the German Catholic church of Rockport. The church of St. Patrick is moderately prosperous and has a congregation of sixty families.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

In 1851 Rev. Philip Stemple, a preacher of Brighton, was invited to visit Rockport and to organize a German Protestant church, about fifteen families being anxious to join the proposed organization. Mr. Stemple organized the church and for fifteen years afterward preached in a school-house, once in three weeks, to the German Protestants of Rockport. By 1867 the organization had grown quite strong and numerous, and in that year a commodious brick church was built at a cost of about \$5,000, besides labor contributed by the members of the society. Rev. Franz Schreck, from Wisconsin, was the first pastor after the completion of the church. The present pastor is Rev. Wm. Locher and the congregation contains about thirty families. The first trustees of the church were Peter Reitz, William Mack and _____ Annacher. The present trustees are Henry Brondes, Frederick Brunner and George Zimmer.

THE GERMAN METHODIST CHURCH.

This was organized in 1847, and in 1851 the present church edifice was built. Valentine Gleb was the first class-leader, and William Mack, John Mack and Henry Dryer were the first trustees. Between 1847 and

1851, Revs. Messrs. John and Klein were the preachers, and a school-house was the place of worship. After the building of the church the preachers were Rev. Messrs. Baldaff, Reicher, Berg, Weber, Detter, G. Nachtripp, Reiter, C. Nachtripp, Buhdenbaum, Homier, Snyder, Nuffer, Nast and Borgerdeng. Latterly the church organization was lost much of its membership and has for some time been without regular preaching. The present trustees are Valentine Gleb, Jacob Knopf, Henry Dryer, Michael Neuchter, and Bartlett Stocker. Valentine Gleb, who was in 1847 the first class-leader, still fills that office, in which he has served uninterruptedly since 1852.

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION (EPISCOPAL).

This edifice which bears the above name, is a chapel of Trinity parish of Cleveland. It was opened for worship in 1875, and was consecrated on Ascension Day, 1879, by Bishop Bedell. Rev. J. W. Brown, D. D., of Trinity, is the rector, and Mr. Charles P. Ranney, of Cleveland, is the lay reader in charge. The communicants number sixteen, and the attendants about fifty.

ST. MARY'S (CATHOLIC) CHURCH.

This German Catholic organization worships in a fine brick church edifice in the German settlement, close to the southern line of the township. The first church building, a plain framed structure, was completed in 1854, when about fourteen families attended services. The congregation includes now thirty-three families. Fathers Graessner, Kuhn, Miller and Kuhbler, with others, have served the church since its organization. The brick edifice, now in use, was built in 1867, at a cash cost of about \$8,000, -although its actual value-by reason of volunteer labor, was much more. The present trustees are George Betts, Jacob Ammersback and Mehurad Nicholas. The officiating priest is Father Kuhbler.

SCHOOLS.

One of the earliest school masters-although he scarcely merited the dignified appellation of teacher-was Jonathan Parshall, a house-carpenter, who lived on a small piece of land adjoining Mars Wagar. He was not over intelligent, nor was he an especially industrious citizen, but it appears that he considered himself fitted to instruct the tender youth and in the year 1829 taught a few scholars in the back part of Mr. Wagar's house. The neighborhood tradition is that Parshall was decidedly poor teacher, and that his experience in that line lasted but a few weeks.

In 1830 a log school-house was built nearly opposite where Ezra Nicholson now lives, in which the first teacher was a lady from Olmstead. The brick structure which replaced the log house not long afterwards, is now used by Walter Phelps as a dwelling.

Rockport now enjoys an excellent and liberal system of public education. There is a special school district which extends from Rocky River east to the township line, and is composed chiefly of residents on Detroit Street. This district manages its own school affairs under the act of 1871, and has three fine brick school-buildings. One contains a graded school, for which a new house, to cost \$6,000, is to be completed by January 1, 1880. The other two buildings together cost at least \$7,000. The average daily attendance at the three schools is one hundred and sixty, and the amount raised for school support in 1879 was \$3,000.

Apart from this special district, the amount raised for the support of township schools in 1879 was \$1,900. The township contains eight school-houses (seven of them being of brick) valued at \$19,500. The total number of children of school age is six hundred and thirty-three.

SOCIETIES, ETC.

The Rockford Christian Temperance Union, which was organized in 1878, has since then been doing good work, and now is in a flourishing condition with thirty members. The officers are S. H. Brown, president; James Potter, Mrs. S. H. Brown and Mrs. H. Crossley, vice presidents; Miss L. Jordan, secretary; Mrs. J. W. Spencer, treasurer; Miss Annie Hutton, corresponding secretary. The business meetings are held in the Methodist Church, on the west side of the river.

There is a similar organization on the east side of the river known as the Temperance Sunday School. Meetings are held each Sabbath in the tabernacle, and the members are very zealous in behalf of the temperance cause. The organization is under the direction of a managing committee. Strong temperance movements were set on foot in Rockport in 1867, and resulted in the organization of two lodges of Good Templars, which after a brief era of prosperity ceased to exist in 1876.

THE FRUIT INTEREST.

Fruit growing is one of the most important and remunerative industries in Rockport. The region especially devoted to it is that contiguous to Detroit Street between the township line and Rocky River, whence large supplies of all the kinds of fruit raised in this climate are annually conveyed to the Cleveland market.

Dr. J. P. Kirtland was one of the earliest, if not the earliest, to engage to any extent in fruit culture in Rockport, setting out a number of various kinds of trees in 1850. Not long afterward Lewis and Ezra Nicholson and others began a liberal cultivation of fruit. The business developed rapidly and in a short time assumed considerable proportions along the line of Detroit Street, and engaged the attention of all the dweller upon the thoroughfare.

According to the published statistics, the value of fruit sent to Cleveland from Detroit Street in 1867 was \$10,000, while in 1872 it was no less than \$50,000. Fruit culture is by no means a losing business elsewhere in the township, but the peculiar characteristics of the soil on the northern ridge make the most profitable locality.

BURIAL PLACES.

The first graveyard laid out by the white settlers in Rockport occupied the site of the Cliff House. Here, it is said, were buried the bodies of a number of sailors drowned off the "point" in 1812. Henry Alger was buried there as was also Daniel Miner, two of the pioneers, but their bodies were afterward removed elsewhere. Traces of this burial ground remained until the erection of the Cliff House obliterated them. The burying ground on Detroit Street was laid out about 1840, and among the first to be buried there were Mrs. Sarah Ann Brewster and an unknown man who was found dead in the woods-supposed to have been murdered. Rockport now has several cemeteries, many of which are very neatly kept and beautifully adorned.

RAILWAYS.

Three lines of railway, the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis and the Rocky River Railroads, traverse Rockport, the two former passing diagonally across it from northeast to southwest, and the latter, running due west from the township line to Rocky River, one of its termini. This latter road was built to accommodate the tide of pleasure hunters which flows in great volume in the summer season to Rocky River and to the lake shore in that vicinity. It is also a very great convenience to people residing along its line, and from them derives no inconsiderable part of its support.

MANUFACTURES.

The manufacturing interests of Rockport are very few. William Maile on Detroit Street began in 1861 to manufacture drain tile and common brick. The brick business he soon gave up, but for seven years after 1861, he made about three hundred thousand drain tile annually. In 1869 he resumed the manufacture of brick, in connection with the tile business, and at present-in June, 1879-he is making drain tile and Penfield pressed brick, employing three hands.

Mr. John W. Spencer is extensively occupied in the western part of Rockport in the manufacture of tile and brick, in which he engaged in 1874, with his brother, F. J. Spencer. The latter retiring in 1877, J. W. Spencer has since carried on the business alone. He employs four men, and manufactures annually two hundred thousand drain tile and one hundred thousand bricks.

Rockport 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/168/mode/2up

History is the unfinished drama of which our lives are a part. We cannot understand ourselves except we have some knowledge of history."

* * * * *

"History is a story of everybody in the past for everybody in the present, it concerns everybody equally, though it may concern different people at different angles."

H. G. WELLS.

As the founders of Ohio City dreamed of a great lakeport city at the mouth of the old river bed, so the settlers of Rockport looked forward to the founding of a great city at the mouth of Rocky River. The first has come true but not just in the way or under the name emblazoned in their dream, and the second is going forward, but not just in the place they thought of. At least it is true that the settlers cleared the forest for a most enlightened and progressive city, second to none in civic pride and advancement, Lakewood. They did not foresee the railroad that has changed the tide of affairs and made the inland town a possibility.

In the survey of the Western Reserve, Rockport was number 7 of range 14, located in the north part on the lake. It contains twenty-one full sections of a mile square each and four fractional sections, due to the changing line of the lake shore on the north. It has Dover on the west side, Middleburg on the south, Cleveland, but originally Brooklyn, on the east, and Lake Erie washes its northern boundary line. It is generally level and of good soil and that along the lake, like Dover, particularly well adapted to the raising of fruit. In the early annals it is referred to as inhabited by thrifty, intelligent and prosperous farmers. Detroit street is described as a fine avenue of fine residences, extending from Cleveland to Rocky River, which river is heavily wooded by a dense forest about its mouth.

The old annals of Rockport kept by Henry Alger, one of first white settlers, who came in 1812, gives John Harbertson, or Harberson, an Irish refugee, as the first white settler in the township. Harbertson, with his family came in 1809 and took up land on the east side of the river near its mouth. Apparently, he was not the first, for Philo Taylor, who came from New York to Cleveland in 1806, and there met Harmon Canfield and Elisha Whittlesey, agents and owners of land in Rockport, and upon verbal agreement with them as to land in the township, near the mouth of Rocky River, took possession of the same in 1808. He journeyed with his family in an open boat from Cleveland and on the 10th of April of that year entered the mouth of Rocky River and made a landing. He built a log cabin on the east side of the river opposite what was later known as the Patchen House. He cleared land, and in a year's time, had made great changes. He was working enthusiastically when Mr. Canfield, with whom the verbal agreement for purchase had been made, informed him that he must select another location for a farm, as the owners had decided to lay out a town at the mouth of the river and this land would be included in the town. Taylor was very angry at this turn of affairs and decided to shake the dust of number 7 range 14 from his feet altogether. He sold out his improvements to Daniel Miner "launched a curse at the mouth of Rocky River" and moved to Dover. Thus, he was only a short time resident but was in reality the first settler. The same year that Harbertson came, 1808, William Conley, who came with him from Ireland, settled in the township. Conley located on what was later called Van Scoter Bottoms. Neither Harbertson nor Conley stayed long in the township as both moved away in 1810, so that the honors of first settlers could not be conferred on them because of permanent residence.

Until 1809 there was no highway between Cleveland and the Huron River, it was an unbroken wilderness. The Legislature that year made an appropriation to build a road from Cleveland west to that river and appointed Ebenezer Merry, Nathaniel Doan and Lorenzo Carter, to superintend the construction. This Legislature met in Chillicothe on December 4, 1809. It was however in 1810, the year Cuyahoga County was formed and which included in its boundaries all of the Huron County of today, that this road legislation was passed. It is interesting to note some of the proceedings of this legislature. The marriage laws were amended so as to require fifteen days public written notice of an intended marriage, under the seal of a justice of the peace, to be posted in the most public place in the township, which was the residence of the woman. The license fee was fixed at seventy-five cents. A law was passed authorizing a lottery for the purpose of raising money to erect a bridge across the Miami River, as well as similar public improvements elsewhere. The salary of members of the Legislature was fixed at \$2 per day. Augustus Gilbert, Nathan Perry and Timothy Doan were chosen Common Pleas judges for the court of Cuyahoga County. The salary of the judges is not given in the annals but the presiding judges of this court received \$900 per year. This road authorized by this Legislature crossed the Rocky River near its mouth and was the only one west of the Cuyahoga River until 1814 or 1815.

Daniel Miner bought out Philo Taylor's loose property and improvements and moved into the log house Taylor built. He came from Homer, New York. Just what relation he had to Granger City for that was to be the name of the town at the mouth of the river, but which was only built on paper, we do not know. In 1812 he began the construction of a mill on what was afterwards called "mill lot" but died before it was completed. That was in 1813. From 1811 Miner had kept a tavern and operated a ferry on the river. In 1812 he bought out Harbertson, who was located on the same side of the river and kept tavern in the old Harbertson house. In 1809 or 1810 the state highway was completed from Cleveland to Rocky River. The first settler to drive over the new roadway was George Peake, a mulatto. He, with his family, made the first drive over this highway in a wagon and located in Rockport on a farm in later years owned by John Barnum. Peake had been a soldier in the British army and was under Wolf at the taking of Quebec. After leaving the army he moved to Maryland and married a white woman, who was reputed to be wealthy. After his marriage he moved with his wife to Pennsylvania where they raised a family of children and when he came to Rockport, they had two grown sons with them, George and Joseph Peake. Two other sons followed soon after, James and Henry Peake. The Peakes brought with them a hand gristmill, which was a great improvement over the stump mortar and spring pole pestle that they found in the wilds. Family relationships cut a great deal of figure in the development of these new communities. In 1811, Dr. John Turner, a brother-in-law of Daniel Miner, came to the township from New York and located on a farm. This proved to be an unfortunate enterprise for the Turners. Two years after their arrival, when the doctor and his wife were away, their log house was burned to the ground and their two children perished in the flames. Soon after this tragedy, the family, to get away from the immediate reminder of their loss, sold out and moved to Dover. This farm was afterwards the property of Governor Reuben Wood.

While the Turners lived in Rockport the new comers were Jeremiah Van Scoter, John Pitts, Datus Kelly, and Chester Dean. The Van Scoters on the river bottoms, which afterwards bore their name. Van Scoter was a resident long enough to give a name to Van Scoter Bottoms and then moved away. Mr. Kelly occupied the place afterwards owned by George Merwin. Into this new country came men of far-sighted vision. In the rather dramatic discovery of Berea grit and the development of the stone industry by John Baldwin in Middleburg, we have given an illustration. In the character of Datus Kelly we find another, who saw into the future as did John Baldwin. Datus Kelly had prospected about an island in Lake Erie and found it formed of limestone of a superior quality and in 1834 he and his brother Irad bought it for a very

nominal sum. This island has ever since borne the name of Kelly's Island and the outcome of the limestone quarries has been enormous Like the rest the peopling of the township began by little settlements in various parts. Sometimes one large family would constitute a settlement. In June, 1812, Nathan Alger, with his wife and sons, Henry, Herman, Nathan, Jr., and Thaddeus P., came from Litchfield County, Connecticut, and settled on sections 12 and 13. Two days later, led by that afflatus, that has drawn men even beyond the prospect of material gain, Benjamin Robinson came also. His pioneer experience began with the fulfillment of his fond hopes, for he married the daughter of Nathan Alger and took up a farm and founded a home. This location was at once named the Alger Settlement. Nathan Alger, the head of this little colony in the wilds of Rockport, only lived a year after coming to the township, dying in 1813. This was the first death in the township. We should also mention as coming to the Alger Settlement in 1812, Dyer Nichols and Horace B. Alger. In 1814 Samuel Dean settled in the township with his wife and two sons, Joseph and Aaron. This settler remained in the old home until his death in 1840 at the age of eighty-five years. Another son, Chester Dean, a pioneer, died in 1856. It seemed rather necessary in subduing the wilderness and its wild inhabitants, that the pioneers found, that some should not be altogether devoted to clearing and tilling the soil, or even to starting the necessary first industries. The roving life of the hunter and trapper brought a modicum, at least, of the family food supply and thinned the woods of the dangers that infested them. Now Benjamin Robinson, of whom we have spoken as a member of the Alger Settlement, was more given to a roving life than to the industry that the pioneers looked upon as their greatest virtue. He was a great hunter, he prided himself on his Indian habits, he lacked the thrift of others about him. In later life he became industrious but it was too late as he died in poverty. Henry Alger, a married son of Nathan, who came early to the township, has left a sketch of his pioneer experience in which he gives interesting details. He relates that when they came in June, 1812, he had only an old watch, an ax, some shoemaker's tools and shop furniture, a bed, and seven cents in cash. He had borrowed ten dollars to pay his way to Rockport and felt that he must immediately get to work. He put up a log cabin, requiring no cash in that direction. This was furnished with a "Catamount" bedstead, a shoemaker's bench, and two stools. With this he and his wife commenced housekeeping. The only kitchen ware they had was a broken iron tea kettle, which young Alger found on the lake beach. In that fall he went to a farm thirty miles east of Painesville and threshed wheat for Ebenezer Merry, getting in payment every tenth bushel. This work was done with the flail and the hand winnow. In 1813, he went to Cleveland for salt. We have referred to the scarcity and high price of that necessity in pioneer days. For fifty-six pounds he worked nine days for S. S. Baldwin and then carried it home on his back, walking the entire distance. It was probably true of all pioneers but it can truly be said of this one that he "earned his salt." With the same currency Mr. Alger bought flour for the family. For one hundred pounds of flour, he chopped down an acre of timber for Captain Hoadley, of Columbia and carried that home, as he did the salt from Cleveland, a distance of ten miles.

This little glimpse of the hardships of pioneer life will show also of what stuff the builders of the civilization of the new communities were made. Mingled with this hard toil at the first there was a romance and a glamor that appealed to many.

"We will give the names of our fearless race
To each bright river whose course we trace;
We will leave our memory with mounts and floods,
And the path of our daring, in boundless woods;
And our works on many a lake's green shore,
Where the Indians' graves lay alone, before.
All, all our own, shall the forests be,
As to the bound of the roe-buck free!
None shall say, 'Hither, no further pass.'

We will track each step through the deep morass;
We will chase the deer in his speed and might,
And bring proud spoils to the hearth at night.
We will rear new homes under trees that glow
As if gems were the fruitage of every bough;
O'er our log walls we will train the vine,
And sit in its shadow at day's decline;
And watch our herds as they range at will,
And hark to the drone of the busy mill."

Rufus Wright, a soldier of the War of 1812, came from Stillwater, New York, in 1816. He bought three quarters of an acre of land on the west side of Rocky River near its mouth, of Gideon Granger, for which he paid \$300. This astonishing price for so small a tract of land at that period of this history is accounted for. He was locating in the heart of a great city of the future as he supposed. Gideon Granger figures in many parts of the Western Reserve as an original purchaser. This was to be the climax of his western adventures. Granger City, at the mouth of Rocky River was to be one of the great ports of Lake Erie. He had enlisted in the enterprise a number of influential men. Joseph Larwill, of Wooster, Ohio, came and bought a mill lot on the east side of the river in 1815, and a tract of land across on the west side, near its mouth. Here, with Gideon Granger, John Beyer and Calvin Pease, he laid out with an elaborate survey, Granger City. The sale of lots was widely advertised for a particular day and when that day arrived, a large crowd was in attendance and the excitement ran high. It is recorded that lots, in those days of financial limitations, were sold as high as \$60 each. Larwill and Company saw a fortune in their mind's eye. The building of the city began. The first cabin was built by Charles Miles in the year of the sale, 1815. The next year John Dowling, George Reynolds and Captain Foster built on city lots. The city did not materialize very rapidly and Miles sold out to John James, from Boston, Massachusetts, and located on a farm, which farm of productive excellence was afterwards the property of Governor Reuben Wood. Others held on to the upbuilding of Granger City. John James opened a store and tavern, resolved to stay "till death do us part," which he did for he remained there until his death. Rufus Wright, the first comer, built a tavern. Among those who came in 1816 were Asahel Porter, Eleazer Waterman, Josephus B. Kizer and Henry Canfield. Canfield came from Trumbull County, the home of his father, who had bought much land in Rockport. He built and opened a store. One day a lady came to the store, who was visiting a sister in the neighborhood. She was a dashing, attractive girl, had ridden on horseback from Connecticut to Royalton, Ohio. It was a case of love at first sight. The lure of Granger City was wiped out and Canfield married and moved onto a Rockport farm. The old building was afterwards known as Canfield's old store. He lived for a time with his bride on the Rockport farm and then they moved back to Trumbull County. Granger City must have an industrial growth and in 1817 one Fluke, a German potter, came from Wooster and began making earthenware. Shortly after Henry Clark came to the city and opened another tavern. A man by the name of Scott came from Painesville and formed a partnership with Larwill in the building of a mill on Rocky River. They had gotten up the frame of a dam when winter set in. In the spring the floods swept everything away, and Larwill abandoned the Granger City idea in disgust. The city struggled along for a while but was soon abandoned, leaving only a few scattered, deserted cabins. Rufus Wright built a frame tavern of considerable size, but this was not dependent upon Granger City for its patronage. This was operated by the Wright family for some time, from 1816 till 1853, when it was sold to Silverthorn. It was then remodeled and enlarged, but some of the old building was preserved in the structure. A part of the old building was moved away and known as the Patchen House, or it may be that this was used as a residence and that the tavern south of the Patchen House, kept by the widow of John Williams, was confused with this. Wright built half of a bridge across the river at this point and also operated a ferry. He helped to cut the first road west of the river. We have gone ahead a little in our

settlement chronology in giving the history of Granger City. In 1812, when Wright came, Henry Clark, John James, Charles Miles and Joseph Sizer arrived Clark and James kept tavern on the west side of the river. The first tavern opened, however, was by Daniel Miner, the license for the same being issued by the Court of Common Pleas, in March, 1811, and renewed, as shown by the records, in 1812. Miner's tavern was a log cabin 18 by 24 feet on the east side of the river. After Miner died, Moses Eldred ran the place for a short time and then it was operated by his widow. Joseph Dean and his son, Samuel, who settled in the township in 1814, built the first tannery in the township on north ridge. This later was in the possession of Lucius Dean. Joseph Larwill, who came in 1815, who was the active founder of Granger City, built a mill when the city was in progress, but this burned before it was ever used. It is a singular fatality that a mill built on the same site by Erastus and Charles Johnson was also burned to the ground. In 1817 Datus Kelly built a sawmill in section 16 on a creek that crosses north ridge. In 1818 James Nicholas came to Rockport. At the age of twenty he traveled, in 1803, from Barnstable County, Connecticut, to Trumbull County, Ohio, making the trip on foot. After a stay of fifteen years there, during which time he had surrounded himself with a family, he moved to Rockport. He had purchased 270 acres of land in the township. On this he put up a log cabin, this being at that date the only house between the settlements on the Rocky and the Cuyahoga rivers. In after years, a son, Ezra, lived in a frame house built on the site west of the log house that his father built, which was opened as a tavern by Ezra. A daughter became Mrs. Elias Paddock of Olmsted. Mars Wagar with his wife, Katura, came from Ontario County, New York. They came to Cleveland in 1818 and to Rockport in 1820. Here he had bought 160 acres of land, in section 22, of Francis Granger, son of Gideon Granger. Mars died in 1841, leaving the widow, Katura, and several children, among them Adam M. Wagar and Israel D. Wagar. This family was not interested so much in western as in eastern Rockport.

In 1819 Elial Farr, a surveyor from Pennsylvania, with his wife and family, including three sons, Aurelius, Elia, Jr., and Algernon, settled on section 16. Price French left Ontario County, New York in 1818 and moved to Indiana, then in 1828, with wife and six children moved to Rockport. He bought a part of the James Nicholas farm, or rather the farm on which Nicholas later lived, and then moved to a farm afterwards occupied by A. G. French, a descendant. David Harrington came from Otsego, New York, in 1821, to Middleburg, and in 1822 moved to Rockport. After his death the place was managed by the widow or owned by her. William and Mary Jordan came in 1827 and located on the Dover plank road Jonathan Parshall came in 1821 and bought an acre of ground of Mars Wagar and built a log cabin dose to Wagar's. He was a house carpenter and taught school some, but was not a thrifty citizen. In the pioneer mind he was downright lazy. He neglected the acre of ground and neglected to pay for it, so that Mr. Wagar got it back eventually. Parshall is among the early settlers of the township and came the year of the first election for township officers. The first white child born in the township was Egbert, son of Philo Taylor. Egbert was born in November of 1809. Addison, a son of Datus Kelly, was born in June, 1812, and Philana, daughter of Henry Alger, was born in December of that year. The first marriage was that of Benjamin Robinson and Amelia Alger. These were Rockport settlers, but the wedding was held in Cleveland and the official knot was tied by George Wallace, Esq. Squire Wallace came out to Rockport to tie the next knot for the settlers. The second wedding was that of Chester Dean of Rockport to Lucy Smith of Dover. The wedding was held at the house of Datus Kelly. Visitors came for miles around on ox sleds. This was in January, 1814. This wedding is down in the annals as one of the red-letter events, with lots of fun making and a wedding feast of noteworthy viands. It also added to the popularity of Squire George Wallace of Cleveland, as a marrying justice. The first justice of the peace in Rockport was Charles Miles. He was elected June 24, 1819. At this election only thirteen votes were cast.

As at the mouth of the Cuyahoga, the Indians used to come in great numbers at the mouth of the Rocky River, and there leave their canoes while they were fishing and hunting. They buried their dead on an island in the mouth of the river, and would build fires at the head of each grave on their return. The

Indians here mostly joined Tecumseh when the War of 1812 broke out. They had been friendly to the whites before the war, but they were practically all gone when the great bear hunt was organized in 1820. This was on the plan of the Hinckley hunt, mentioned in a former chapter. Joseph Dean was in command and the line extended from Rocky River to Black River and a small army of hunters took part. They got a few bears, many deer, but the big thing was the celebration at the close of the hunt when hilarity under the auspices of John Barleycorn held full sway. Whiskey drinking was quite universal at that time and there was only occasionally an advocate of temperance, much less total abstinence. Datus Kelly at a township meeting in 1827 occasioned much surprise and remonstrance by circulating a temperance pledge for signatures. Kelly was in a very small minority, but he kept on and steadily gained supporters for his side. At the first general election in Rockport for township officers the vote was small. Only nineteen voters lived in the township and there were eighteen offices to fill. Of course, this situation obtained in the early organization of the townships generally. Some men held a number of offices. After the first election in Rockport Township, it was remarked that every man in the township either held an office, kept tavern or owned a sawmill. The first bridge over Rocky River was near its mouth. This was built by subscription and not by a lottery, as at one time authorized for bridging the Miami. Of this first bridge Rufus Wright paid about half of the expense. This was in 1821 and there was a great gathering to celebrate the completion of the bridge. Captain Wright invited ally hands to his tavern and there was free liquor and the loving cup was the whiskey jug. This meeting was at the bridge raising. Captain Wright became so enthusiastic and elated over the bridge that he danced a jig on the top of a table, while those otherwise at liberty cheered him on and sang "Yankee Doodle" in place of an orchestra. Philo Taylor dared the storms of Lake Erie and used to go to mill in an open rowboat as far as the Raisin River in Michigan, until nearer gristmills came. The evolution was from the spring pole and stump pestle to the hand mill, to the gristmill with its overshot wheel, where the settlers could come without money and without price, the miller taking toll from the grist left to be ground. As early as 1810 there was a mail route through Rockport from Cleveland to hand mill Detroit. This was first operated by three men on foot, as a relay route, back and forth. It was, of course, a very small mail and carried like a field dispatch from one man to the second and by the second to the third and so on. In return, the same. The first postmaster in Rockport was a Mr. Goodwin, who kept a post office in 1827 at Rocky River on the old stage route. Then Calvin Giddings was appointed and in 1829 the mail route was a mile and a half above the river mouth over what was called Hog Back Hill. Apparently, Goodwin was postmaster here when Giddings was appointed, having his office on the east side of the river. When Giddings took hold, he moved the office across the river. In 1834 Rufus Wright was keeping tavern at the river mouth, with just the fading twilight of Granger City before him, when he was appointed postmaster and the office was again back there. Here in his tavern, it was kept until 1852. Three sons of Rufus were postmasters in the old hotel or tavern, in turn, Abraham Wright, Philip Wright and Frederick Wright. In 1852 the office was moved a mile up the river, where it was kept for a year by Herman Barnum and then Benjamin Phinney, who kept a store, was appointed. He was postmaster until 1864 and then the office was taken back to the mouth of the river and John Williams was postmaster for about a year. In the meantime, Ben Phinney, Jr., was serving in the Union Army. John Williams surrendered the postmastership to Andrew Kyle, who moved the office to his house about two miles up the river. Here it remained until 1875, when it was taken back to Benjamin Phinney's store. We are now reaching the period of larger development when the township is giving place to cities and villages within its border. In 1877 a new post office was established at the Cliff House on Rocky River, with William Hall as postmaster. He was followed by A. T. Van Tassel and he by James Starkweather. Horace Dean was the first postmaster at East Rockport. Then in turn were O. W. Hotchkiss, William B. Smith, Jacob Tegardine, Adam Hagar and Joseph Howe, who served in the '80s.

The organization of the township was perfected in the town meeting style imported from New England.

The county commissioners had erected the township in 1819. There is nothing in the annals in regard to the selection of the name. That may have been by common consent selected when the commissioners took action. The election was held in Rufus Wright's tavern in April, 1820. There were nineteen voters present. It will be interesting to give the names of those who voted. The voters at this first election were: Rufus Wright, Asahel Porter, Henry Canfield, Samuel Dean, Joseph Dean, Chester Dean, Dyer Nichols, Daniel Bardin, John Kidney, John Pitts, John James, Charles Miles, Erastus Johnson, Charles Johnson, Josephus B. Sizer, Datus Kelly, James Nicholson, Benjamin Robinson and Henry Alger. The chairman of the meeting was Charles Miles. The judges of election were Asahel Porter and Datus Kelly. The following were elected as the first officers of Rockport Township: Trustees, Henry Alger, Rufus Wright and Erastus Johnson; clerk, Henry Canfield; overseers of the poor, James Nicholson and Samuel Dean; fence viewers, Benjamin Robinson and Joseph Dean; lister, Joseph Dean. Now among those who have served the township in public office for the first fifty and more years are familiar family names and a perusal of the partial list seems to tie the present with pioneer days. Trustees, Dyer Nichols, Jared Rickox, Charles Warner, Alanson Swan, John B. Robertson, Paul B. Burch, James S. Anthony, James Stranahan, Collins French, Henry Alger, Joseph Dean, Epaphroditus Wells, Benjamin Mastic, Joel Deming, Guilson Morgan, Obadiah Munn, Israel Kidney, Elial Farr, Jonathan Plimpton, Asia Pease, J. D. Gleason, P. G. Burch, W. D. Bell, John P. Spencer, Chauncey Deming, Aurelius Farr, Benjamin Stetson, Joseph Leese, Q. W. Hotchkiss, Hanford Conger, Benjamin Mastick, Royal Millard, William B. Smith, Thomas Hurd, John West, John Freeborn, Frederick Wright, Ezra Bassett, A. Cleveland, J. F. Storey, Tames Potter, George Beltz, A. Kyle, William Jordan, Thomas Morton, William Tentler, Calvin Pease, F. G. Bronson, F. Colhrunn, A. M. Wagar, Allen Armstrong, Alfred French, Anthony Cline, Lewis Nicholson, John Gahan, George W. Andrews, G. T. Pease, Fred Baker, L. A. Palmer and George Fauchter. Of the township clerks many served for long terms and the list is shorter. Clerks, Dyer Eaton, George T. Barnum, Isaac P. Lathrop, Timothy S. Brewster, A. S. Lewis, Aaron Merchant, Theopolis Crosby, Royal Millard, John Barnum, Lucius Dean, A. M. Wagar, Edwin Giddings, Robert Henry, Andrew Kyle, O. P. Stafford, H. A. Mastick, Edwin Giddings and E. P. Thompson. Of the treasurers there are no records of defalcations and William Sixt, Ben. F. Phinney and others served long terms, being repeatedly reelected. Treasurers, Calvin Giddings, Ira Cunningham, Solomon Pease, R. Millard, Joseph D. Taylor, Benjamin Lowell, F. G. Lewis, Truman S. Wood, Isaac Higby, Lewis Rockwell, Horace Dean, O. W. Hotchkiss, William Sixth and Ben. F. Phinney. Of the trustees, John P. Spencer was an ensign in the militia of New York State before coming to Ohio, appointed by President Van Buren. His father, Jonathan Spencer, was born in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, in 1778. He was a tanner, currier and shoemaker. After his marriage to Mollie Jones, of the same town, he bought a farm in Brookfield, New York, and moved there in 1803. He brought his family to Olmsted falls in 1834. John P. Spencer was the second son of a family of eight children. In 1830 he bought 125 acres of land in the south part of Rockport. Two years later he married Electa M. Beach, and he always gave her great credit for his business success. He added to his farm until he had a large estate. His wife was born in Connecticut and brought with her into the western wild the thrift attributed to natives of that New England state. They had a family of five, John W., Henry B., Mary R., Hannah L. and one other, John W., who was a soldier in the War of the Rebellion. The Wagar family are identified with the early history of Rockport most intimately. Mars Wagar and Katura, his wife, were dominant figures. Mars was born in Saratoga, New York, in 1791. He had an academic education. He studied at Lansingburg and Troy academies. In 1813 he married Katura, who was the daughter of Adam and Anna Miller of Ontario, New York. Two years after marriage they came west and in 1820 arrived in Rockport. Israel D. Wagar was the second son. He was not given the educational opportunities that his father enjoyed, graduating from the district school. He taught school in the West and South, after devoting his early life to clearing land. After his teaching experience he came back to Rockport and engaged in farming and fruit growing. He is more widely known by his later occupation of buying and selling real estate. In 1843 he married Isabella Pike and they raised a family of eight children. In 1876 Mr. Wagar traveled abroad for pleasure and larger information.

Another family quite well known in connection with the township life of Rockport was that whose head, on the banks of Rocky River, was Benjamin Phinney. He was a merchant (storekeeper) all his life. He began this business in Dover. He was born in Massachusetts in 1805 and was brought to Dover by his father; Sylvanus Phinney, with the family in 1813. Sylvanus Phinney was a tanner and carried on that business thirty-nine years in Dover. Coming to Rockport, Benjamin Phinney immediately engaged in the mercantile business and continued until 1865. The Phinney family, as you trace back to the earlier generations in the British Isles, were merchants as a rule. Benjamin Phinney was a member of a militia company in the early days, but was never called into active service. His son, Benjamin F. Phinney, became well known in the county and served, as we have said, in township offices. He was born in Avon, Lorain County, August 3, 1845. Attended common schools and studied a year at Berea College. Either the love of adventure or patriotism, or a combination of these two, prompted him at the age of seventeen to quit his books for his country's service. With a cousin of the same age, he stole away at night to Ridgeville Center, where a company was being organized, and without his father's consent enlisted. This was in 1861. This company was assigned to the Forty second Ohio, under the command of Col. James A. Garfield. He had a most active war experience. When this regiment was made a part of Sherman's army and were headed for Vicksburg, in an engagement at the mouth of the Yazoo, he was struck by a shell and was reported killed in battle. He recovered and after a long convalescence, returned to the army. At the death of his father, he kept the store in Rockport and was appointed postmaster. In 1881 he was elected county commissioner and in 1884 he was reelected, his term expiring in 1887. In the following year he moved his family to Cleveland and made his home there His latest public service was as a member of the Board of Equalization.

Number 7, range 14, has had a diversity of political experience. Organized as the Township of Rockport it has grown hamlets, villages and cities, until the Township of Rockport is no more. Its territory at the present time is, first and foremost, the City of Lakewood, of which we will speak later, extending along the lake from Cleveland to Rocky River. Second in political importance and largest in area has been the City of West Park, which in 1823 was annexed to the City of Cleveland and is now a part thereof. From Lakewood west of Rocky River to the west line of the original township extends the Village of Rocky River, and west of the river and farther south in rather irregular outlines lies Fairview Village. These four municipalities do not comprise the entire territory of original Rockport Township, for of a portion of the territory has been formed Geidwood Township out of two separate tracts, not contiguous, the extreme southwestern corner and a tract north of the southern part of Fairview Village, bounded on the north by Rocky River Village.

The religious expression of the township has been quite varied as well. A part of the pioneer life in close relationship to the schools were many forms of worship and organizations in conformity therewith. There was the Rockport Methodist Episcopal Church, Baptist Church, First Congregational Church, Free Will Baptist Church, Rocky River Christian Mission, Disciples Church, First New Jerusalem Church (Swedenborgian), Detroit Street "Bible Christians," a Methodist Episcopal Church, Saint Patrick's Church (Catholic), German Evangelical Church, German Methodist Church, Church of the Ascension (Episcopal), and Saint Mary's Church (Catholic). In this diversity of creeds, as one of the horny handed farmers expressed it by illustration, there was one common ground. When the stumps in the clearings began to rot away and the ground became more easily tilled, the grain drill was invented and came into use slowly. There was much antagonism and differences of opinion as to the merits of this new method of seeding, many holding to the old way of sowing broadcast, others adopting the new method and using the grain drill. "Well," said the old farmer, "we all agree to the idea of putting in a crop." From the first settlement of Rockport the Methodists held class meetings in schoolhouses in irregular fashion until

1847, when, a church having been organized, & building was erected one and a half miles west of the mouth of Rocky River. William Jordan was class leader at that time, and the membership included Dyer Eaton, Mrs. Mary Jordan, Mr. Whiting, Mr. Bennett, Philena Alger, Sarah Doty, Polly Jordan and Sally Usher. The church was organized in William Jordan's log house. The first preacher was Rev. O. Sheldon. We hear much of him, from his unsuccessful efforts to found a colony in Middleburg Township, on the basis of Christian socialism, he seemed always an active worker and a figure to stand out in the early history of this part of the county. When the church was built the trustees were: John D. Taylor, John Barnes, Henry Rauch, Benjamin Lowell and Sidney Lowell. In the '70s C. S. Giddings was class leader; Rev. John McKean, pastor, and the trustees were S. H. Brown, Mark Able, C. S. Giddings, F. McMahon, Ira Burlingame, C. N. Wise and Charles Cuddeback. The Baptist Church organized May 27, 1832, with the following members: Gideon Watrous, Royal Millard, John Dike, Fanny Watrous, Amelia Robinson, Sarah Herrington, Anna Millard, Lydia Pike and Fanny M. Nicholas.

Six years and harmony was not spelled with a capital "H." A division occurred on doctrinal differences. The dissenters withdrew and organized a church on the west side of the river and hired Rev. Moses Ware as a settled minister. This separate organization did not endure for long. In 1842 the dissenters returned to the mother church. For some time after their return the church prospered. Many members were added and a commodious church called the Tabernacle was built. This was in 1846. In 1847, a year later, for what cause the annals do not disclose, meetings were abandoned, and in 1850 a few met in the Tabernacle and formally dissolved. The Tabernacle was given over to the free use of other religious denominations and was usually in use on Sundays. Groups of Baptists would occasionally gather, but the church was never re-organized. The First Congregational Church was organized as early as 1835, but no record is preserved of that period. It lapsed. In 1859 it was reorganized with the following members: Benjamin Mastick, Russell Hawkins, Lydia Hawkins, Louisa Trinket, Mary C. Kinney, Silas Gleason, Labrina Gleason and Anna and Susanna Kyle. The first deacons were Ezra Bassett and Silas Gleason, and the first pastor, Rev. N. Cobb. Other ministers in the early history have been Revs. J. B. Allen, E. T. Fowler, O. W. White, E. H. Votaw. In 1869 it left the Presbyterian Association, with which it had been connected, and joined the Ohio Congregational Association. A church building was erected in 1861. L. A. Palmer, William Andrews, A. Barter and B. Barter have served as officers of the early church. The Free Will Baptist Church was organized in 1840 and its original membership indicates that the families who constituted its roster were of the same mind and husband and wife were not divided. They were Obadiah Munn and wife, John Warren and wife, Jeremiah Gleason and wife, Joseph Coon and wife, Prosser Coon and wife, J. M. Plimpton and wife, Thomas Alexander and wife, Israel Kidney and wife, and Sarah and Joseph Hall. The first minister was Elder Reynolds. Following him after seven years of service were Elders Prentiss, Beebe and Pelton in their order. This church held services in schoolhouses until 1846, when a church building was built at Detroit Street and Hilliard Avenue. The church declined and in 1858 was dissolved. The building was afterwards used by various religious organizations, and then sold to F. Wagar who moved it to his farm for use as a farm building.

The Rocky River Christian Mission, a Disciples Church; was organized in 1879 and a church built the previous year but not dedicated till the church was organized. The original members were James Cannon and wife, J. C. Cannon and wife, William Southern and wife, Joseph Southern and wife, Peter Bower, Miss Ella Woodbury, Miss Lou Atwell. The first trustee was James Cannon and the first preacher, Elder J. C. Cannon. In the '70s there were some forty families represented in the church. The New Jerusalem Church (Swedenborgian) has an interesting history. Before 1841 a number of families of that faith had settled in Rockport, James Nicholson and Mars Wagar were the leading believers. They invited Reverend McCarr of Cincinnati to come to Rockport and form a church. He came September 4, 1841, and called a meeting in a schoolhouse on Rocky River. Here and at that time a church was organized. The first

members were W. D. Bell and wife, Osborn Case, James Nicholson and wife, Israel D. Wagar and wife, Delia Paddock, A. M. Wagar, Baadicea and Diantha Thayer, James Newman, Jane E. Johnson, Susanna Parshall, Mars Wagar and wife, James Coolahan and wife, Asa Dickinson and wife, Richard Harper and wife, Matilda Wagar, Mary Berthong and John Berry. The first trustees were W. D. Bell, James Nicholson and L. D. Wagar. The first ordained minister was Rev. Richard Hooper. Reverend Hooper had been a Methodist minister in Rockport, attended a camp meeting of Swedenborgians and was suddenly converted to that faith, and was ordained at once. He was the pastor for four years. Following him were Revs. W. G. Day, L. P. Mercer, D. Noble, John Saal and George L. Stearns in the order named. Their meetings were held in schoolhouses until 1848, then in other church buildings. In 1878 the church put up a building of their own. The trustees at this time were A. M. Wagar, Ezra Nicholson and Alfred French. Israel D. Wagar, a son of Mars and Katura, who was one of the first members of the church, gave this as his creed: "I believe that all men will in the end be saved, that the eternal purposes of the Almighty will never be thwarted or turned aside by his creatures; that 'He is good to all and His tender mercies are over all his works,' that the human mind is so organized that it will yield to treatment, that the wicked by association, discipline and punishment, under the guidance of divine wisdom, will in the end be saved." The religious experience of the two leading members of this church and their intense devotion to the cause, is shown by the fact that they, when first awakened to the call, drove with their wives in a two-horse lumber wagon all the way to Wooster to be baptized into the new faith. In 1850 a little band of "Bible Christians" met at frequent intervals for four or five years in the Free Will Baptist Church. It was called a class and Mark Tegarden was its leader. Rev. Richard Roach used to come out from Cleveland occasionally to preach to them. The United Brethren also met in the same building for occasional worship. After the "Bible Christians" stopped meeting, the Wesleyan Methodists formed a class and Mark Tegarden was its leader. They engaged Reverend Crooks as the first preacher. After a while the Wesleyan Methodists gave way to the Methodist Episcopal denomination and a class was formed and still Mark Tegarden was the class leader. Their first pastor was Reverend Jewett of Berea. This organization was denominated the Detroit Street Methodist Episcopal Church and a building was erected in 1876, when Reverend McCaskie was pastor. Rev. William Warren followed him and the class leaders under Warren were Joseph Primat, John Webb, Stephen Hutchins and Mark Tegarden, and the trustees, Archibald Webb, James Bean, James Parsons and Peter Clampitt. Saint Patrick's Church, an Irish Catholic organization, was formed in Rockport previous to 1862. A church was built and dedicated by Bishop Rappe with thirty families in the congregation. The first priest was Rev. Lewis Filigree, who also preached, as we have said, in Berea and Olmsted Falls. He served ten years and then followed him in the order named: Reverend Fathers Miller, Ludwick, Hyland, Quigley, O'Brien and Kuhbler. In 1889 this church included in its congregation sixty families.

The German Evangelical Church, of Rockport, was organized by Rev. Philip Stemple of Brighton. He came to the township on invitation in 1851. When organized the church included fifteen families. For as many years Reverend Stemple preached to the German Protestants of Rockport in a schoolhouse. In the meantime, the church had a steady growth and in 1867 a fine brick structure was built costing in cash \$8,000, and with much labor and material donated. The first pastor in the new church, considered a very fine one in those days, was Rev. Frank Schrecl from Wisconsin, and the first trustees were Peter Reitz, William Mack and a Mr. Annacher. Others who have been on the board of trustees are Henry Brondes, Frederick Brunner and George Zimmer. As illustrating the changes in population from the original New England settlers, besides the above, in 1847 the German Methodists organized a church and the following year built a church building. The first-class leader of this organization was Valentine Glebe, and the first trustees, William Mack, John Mack and Henry Dryer. Among those who have served as preachers have been Revs. John Klein, Baldaff, Reicher, Berg, Weber, Defter, G. Nachtripp, Budenbaum, Heidmeyer, Snyder, Nuffer, Nast and Borgerdeng, among the trustees have been Valentine Gleb, who

also served for many years as class leader, Jacob Knopf, Henry Dryer, Michael Neuchter and Bartlett Stocker. Saint Mary's Church, a German Catholic organization, was perfected, and a frame building erected in 1854 with fourteen families. After its membership had more than doubled, a fine brick church was built. Father Kubler was for some time the officiating priest, and among the trustees have been George Betts, Jacob Ammersbath and Mehurad Nicholas. We must mention one other church that seems to belong to the early history of Rockport and that is the Church of the Ascension, Episcopal. This, a chapel of Trinity Parish, Cleveland, was opened in 1875 and dedicated in 1879 by Bishop Bedell. It was opened with Rev. J. W. Brown of Trinity as its first rector and Charles P. Ranney of Cleveland as its first lay reader, and started with an attendance of fifty persons.

The earliest schoolmaster of Rockport was Jonathan Parshail. He was not an educator of standing and even in the days of the first schools was behind the times. He was a carpenter and the original Mars Wagar said he did not deserve the name of school teacher. Mars ought to have known, for he saw much of him. He said he was not very intelligent and much less industrious. Perhaps Mr. Wagar was prejudiced, for this Parshail bought an acre of ground next to the Wagar house and never paid for it, although he built a log house there. Parshail thought himself qualified to teach and taught a few terms in the bath part of Mr. Wagar's house. These terms were inclined to be short, as his pupils inspired with other things than his teaching did not long continue. This self-inspired youth began teaching in 1829. In 1830 a log schoolhouse was built opposite the Ezra Nicholson home. The first teacher, and the first real teacher in the township, taught there. She was a lady from Olmsted. As we have not her name, we can only give credit to the Township of Olmsted. Soon school buildings were built over Rockport in the various subdistricts. The log schoolhouses were replaced by brick in most instances. Out of eight schoolhouses built in the districts seven were built of brick, but poetically and really, they were still "The Little Red Schoolhouse." The reason for this may be explained. Rockport has been almost wholly a farming and fruit growing township. The only industries of note have been the two brick and tile works. William Maile on Detroit Street manufactured brick and tile quite early, and John W. Spencer in the west part of the township operated another brick and tile works, and very properly the authorities patronized home industry.

The schools of Rockport have led in the advancement of the various municipalities within the township. The cities of West Park and Rockport have grown only with the growth and greater efficiency of the schools. Fairview Village schools absorb those of the Township of Goldwood. The present officers of the village are: Mayor, George B. Sweet; clerk, Ross P. Jordan; treasurer, Nick Gillis; assessor, Harvey Eaton; marshal, James Wescott; councilmen, A. G. Eggleston, E. M. Spencer, John Kaiser, F. L. Dyke, George Chittock and J. B. Lewis. The schools are in one large building and there are employed twelve teachers. The principal is Lewis F. Mayer. The enrollment of pupils is 285. Goldwood Township has officers as follows: Justice of the peace, Arthur H. Hill; constable, Thomas Sanford; trustees, Charles Anthony, William J. Thomson and John D. Rehberg; clerk, Walter H. Thomson; treasurer, John Wilker; assessor, Evan Heston. The schools, as we have said, are united with the Village of Fairview, and are under the general management of the County Board of Education and the County Superintendent. The officers of Rocky River Village, which has grown from a small hamlet in a few years to a populous village, as shown by the school enumeration, are: Mayor, Carl A. Stein; clerk, Frank Mitchell; treasurer, E. L. Stafford; assessors, A. E. Zuske; councilmen, W. M. Dean, J. O. Gordon, William Hutchinson, Warren S. Lovell, L. J. Zeager and Charles J. Zuske. The schools are housed in three separate buildings and are under the immediate supervision of C. C. Pierce. Twenty-four teachers are employed and the enrollment of pupils has reached this year 629. The officers of the City of West Park, which has this year been annexed to the City of Cleveland, and forms a ward of that great city, and whose offices are vacated by that procedure, were: Mayor, Henry S. Reitz; auditor, Fred Fenchter; treasurer, Fred Alber; assessors, ward 1, John

Leonard; ward 2, George Cooper; ward 3, Louis Thomas, ward 4, Joseph Bashmer; councilmen, Everett J. Short, J. H. Hager, Peter J. Mueller, Albert Ehle, Charles E. Wallis, Charles C. Hahn, John Koellacher and J. A. Neubauer. The schools and other features of this portion of the original township will be treated, further on, as a part of the City of Cleveland, which is its present place in history.

Rockport Township History (LAKEWOOD) from A History of Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland by William R. Coates, 1924.

Of Lakewood, the beautiful city of homes, the gem of the outgrowth on the soil of old Rockport, the fruition after some years of the labors of the first settlers, who laid the foundation, we cannot speak too highly. Its wonderful growth, in keeping with the growth of Greater Cleveland, of which it is a western border, is phenomenal. Its homes are all that the name implies. There is no seeming attempt to outdo one another, but everywhere neatness and variety and the attractive ornaments of trees and flowers, and well-cut lawns. By the courtesy of Hon. Richard F. Edwards, of the Ohio House of Representatives, we are permitted to draw from his forthcoming book on "The Pioneers of Lakewood." Mr. Edwards is a grandson of Doctor Fry, one of the early pioneers of Rockport, and lives at 1375 Fry Street in the City of Lakewood. He has been elected and reelected to the General Assembly and is serving as a member of the Finance Committee of the House. He has had large experience as a newspaper writer in New York City and elsewhere and has interviewed many men of national and international fame, yet he sees in the sturdy pioneers those enduring qualities, those original achievements, which should be recorded for the present and future generations. His work on the finance committee of the House of Representatives has been marked by dose application and carefully formed judgments rather than spectacular display. He is known as "The watch dog of the treasury." He says in his introduction: "These sketches are of the earliest residents of Lakewood, who settled in this district more than half a century before the World war. They are gathered all from first hand sources. There is material for many a romance in the early history of the present city of more than 50,000, in the stories of the Nicholsons, the Wagars, the French family, the Halls, the Kirtland and the Winchester families. The greatest of all the pioneers was the Dr. Jared P. Kirtland, but the fascinating side lights on the career of this wonderful man could only be obtained from my Harvard classmate, Mars E. Wagar, and from J. C. Andrews and William Johnson. I looked with wonder through the pages of my encyclopedia that I found no mention of the man who originated all of the well-known varieties of cherries. He was a famous horticulturist and a great doctor. His textbooks were used at Yale. He discovered that this lake district was especially adapted to grape culture, because the underlying shale strata retained the moisture needed for the growth and development of that delicious fruit." Mr. Edwards speaks in his introduction of the French family and says: "The original member of the French family was Price French, a younger son of Lord French, who married the daughter of an Indian chief. His elder brother died and he was called home to assume the title left by his father, but refused, and on the outbreak of the War of 1812 he served in the army of his adopted country against the British. * * * The Calkinses and the Winchesters were of old Yankee stock and of distinguished lineage. The first Winchester helped the slave, George Harris, immortalized in Mrs. Stowe's 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' to escape from his would-be captors, and was later haled before the court at Painesville." Mr. Edwards concludes his introduction by saying: "We do not need to worship our ancestors, as do the Chinese, but it is well worth while to understand their ideals and methods and see to it that we do not slip, so far as the former are concerned. The reading of their deeds will do us good." We will give enough of the sketches of Mr. Edwards to show their merit and historical interest and the necessity of preserving in permanent form that which would otherwise be lost. "Perhaps no descendant of Lakewood pioneers has a stronger claim to fame than the late Ezra Nicholson, son of James and Betsy

Bartholomew Nicholson, who built the first permanent home in what is now Lakewood, 110 years ago on the site of the mansion of the late Robert Wallace, Detroit Street, opposite Waterbury Road. The fine allotment through the fruitful acres was in fact named after the Connecticut town where the pioneer wife was born, Chatham, Barnstable County, Massachusetts, the birthplace of James Nicholson, who was a minister's son. For our splendid old Yankee citizen, who has now passed on to the 'greatest adventure of life' was what writers are pleased to call a man of vision, inheriting that sixth sense of looking afar into the future to some closed book, that led his father, when twenty-one years of age, to travel on foot from the Massachusetts home to the far-off Western Reserve, which, not a decade before, was the home of the hostile Indian. The date was, in fact, but ten years after Mad Anthony Wayne had broken the power of the savages at 'Fallen Timbers,' sixty miles west of the Cuyahoga. At first James Nicholson settled in Ashtabula, where he bought a section of forest and began clearing for his future farm. Here he married and one day after he had lived here six years there came along a homesick traveler from the wilderness five miles west of the Cuyahoga River, who stopped to visit former friends. He offered to trade with Nicholson and give money to boot. The Ashtabula farm was improved and the other's land was in what is now Lakewood. Our pioneer was a Yankee, and, as a matter of course, he must see the land. He walked to Cleveland to satisfy himself before he closed the deal. There wasn't any better means of travel by which he could transport household goods and therefore he traveled the seventy-five miles with his bride to the new home, driving a yoke of oxen, and taking several more days than is now required for the express trains to span the continent. When it was necessary to build a fire before the door at night to keep away the wolves and bears, the young husband was drafted into the army fighting against the British in the War of 1812, and left his wife alone in the wilderness for three months. While he was away a bear came and carried off the family pig squealing in its arms. The same bear was shot by the musket which Nicholson carried to the front. Nicholson bought 160 acres more land out of the earnings of the original purchase. His holdings then extended from the west line of Cohasset Avenue allotment to the east line of what is now Elbur Avenue. On this estate there was never a mortgage. When he built the first home in 1812, the or y habitation between the Cuyahoga River and the Rocky River was a ferryman's house on the west bank of the Cuyahoga River and another on the east bank of the Rocky River. Detroit Street was a crooked blazed trail through the woods. The second home was built on the hill on the west side of Nicholson Creek, where a fine residence now stands. It was fastened together by wooden pins, no nails, and in consequence swayed and creaked dreadfully when there was a heavy wind. Twenty-five years after the building of the log house the present homestead, opposite Nicholson Avenue, was erected in a chestnut grove, a former camping place for Indians, who often exchanged products of the chase for much prized salt. This homestead has been occupied since only by Nicholsons. Ezra Nicholson was then only two years old. This sketch would not be complete without a brief history of him. He was a man of 'vision.' If he had done nothing further than invent the 'Nicholson Log,' which is in universal use in the navy, his fame would be established. He was the first capitalist to see the importance of natural gas, an unknown agent fifty years ago. The first gas well in this part of the country was put down by Ezra Nicholson just south of Scenic Park, a gusher, more than half a century ago. Inability to pipe the product resulted in abandonment of this well, but not discouraged. he bored another just west of the old homestead, which is in use today. Mr. Daly will take notice that our fine old neighbor put in pipes as far as Cove Avenue and told the neighbors to 'hitch on' free of cost. He organized the first rapid transit, the Rocky River Railroad, with the late Dan P. Rhodes and Elias Sims and was the first president. The old depot (McGuire's then) still stands, the third house west of Fifty eighth Street on the north side of Bridge Avenue. This was the eastern terminus. The railroad ran to the Cliff House, Rocky River, and the car fare was 20 cents. George Mulhern was the first conductor. Later Mr. Nicholson negotiated the right of way for the Nickel Plate Railroad, which bought the Rocky River Road. He was the first clerk of the Hamlet of

Lakewood and served on the committee that selected the name. The permanent home of the sons is still in Lakewood.

"It is a far cry from the present modern and model City of Lakewood to 1789, when a hunter and trapper visited the then newly established City of Marietta, on the Ohio, and stated that he had traveled westward on the southern shore of Lake Erie as far as the River Cuyahoga. He ventured the opinion that the location was a good one and would someday be the site of a great city. At the time of his visit to the new City of Marietta, the City of Lakewood was only inhabited by Indians. Right in the City of Lakewood today are a number of families whose histories are practically the history of the town before it became a municipality. One of the best known is the Wagar family, who at one time or another have owned at least one fifth of the entire 3,600 acres that constitute the area of the town. It was more than 100 years ago that the first Wagar came to Ohio from Lansingburgh, New York. He was Mars Wagar, a man learned in the classics and the mystery of surveying. In 1820 he purchased 111 acres of land in East Rockport, a mile and a half east of Rocky River. He paid \$5 an acre for the homestead on which four generations have since lived and it is interesting to note that his grandson and namesake this year sold twenty acres of the interior of that farm with no street frontage for \$95,000, or practically \$5,000 an acre. Incidentally Mars E. Wagar told the writer that that property was assessed for taxes at the same value as the price of sale. The old abstracts show that the Wagar homestead was bought from the estate of Gideon Granger, who took his title direct from the Connecticut Land Company. The Grant House property through which now runs the extension of Belle Avenue was sold to Israel Kidney, twelve acres in all, for \$7 an acre. The original Wagar's grandson, many years after, bought back two acres of the same for \$14,000. The real price first paid for the twelve acres was a yoke of oxen. This was often told by Mrs. Katura Wagar, who long survived her husband. On this \$84 estate was built the hotel, which after the Civil war was called the Grant House. This hotel stood on a steep hill and the hill was a favorite coasting place in winter. This hotel was the scene of many a wild revel and many are the stories told about it. One is of Innkeeper Bennett, who made a bet with a famous local woodman that he could not saw five cords of wood in one day. Bennett lost his money. Another episode of the old days when John Barleycorn was still triumphant is related. It was decided to play a joke on one of the inebriated frequenters of the place. A ghost was fitted out to intercept the home going frequenter on a gloomy boisterous night. The victim saw the ghost some distance away and provided himself with a rock. 'Who are you?' he asked. 'I am the devil and have come after you,' was the reply. 'Well, take this,' said the much-sobered man, whereupon the rock sped true and the ghost was knocked out. As a sequel to this story it is related that the doctor refused to patch up the injured ghost until his fee of 50 cents was paid.

"If one should start to view critically the history of the pioneer Rockport family, the Winchesters, after which the avenue at the east end of Lakewood is named, one might say that it was a case of too fine eugenics, for father, mother, and nine children, half of the latter born in East Rockport, were known locally for their good looks, and more than one of their descendants was endowed with genius in art or literature, or both, but not one reached success in those lines which had been so freely predicted for them. Nature demanded a letdown of indifference to success for a generation of the family, whose ancestral line included clergymen, professors, college presidents and men of affairs. Philander Winchester, who staged a runaway marriage with Eliza Gillman Calkins, daughter of a Lakewood pioneer, was the original Winchester of this county. He settled in Lakewood in 1848. The old homestead that stood at the southeast corner of what was later Spring Garden Avenue was tom down a couple of years ago. His father, Rev. Jonathan Winchester, was granted a license to preach and a charter from the Connecticut Land Company to build churches in the Western Reserve in 1797. Mr. Philip Winchester, the only one now living in Ohio of the seven surviving children, living at 1798 East 101st Street has the license carefully preserved. Mr. Winchester is an official of the Standard Oil Company. He is the

youngest of the nine children. Philander Winchester started his youth with the romance of a runaway marriage and his life was filled with drama, which did not include the results obtained by the worship of the dollar. In 1840 he managed the Painesville Telegraph at a time when that town was expected to be greater than Cleveland. The two towns were running 'neck and neck' in population. Later with L. L. Rice, he as business manager, piloted the paper, which was succeeded by the Cleveland Leader. But it was in the days of the 'underground railway' that the high points in the drama was reached. Famous were his exploits in aiding the escape of the tour Clarks, Lewis and Walter the most famous. Lewis was the original of George Harris of Harriet Beecher Stowe's immortal 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.' Philip Winchester tells of the thrilling events connected with the work of his father as a leading 'conductor' on the 'underground railway, as he heard the story from his mother, of the many black boys from time to time hidden in the cellar of the Winchester home; how many a time going down into the dark cellar members of the family had stumbled upon trembling slaves hidden there during the day to be transported to the next station in the night time. On a day made historic, report came to the Winchester home that Walter Clark had been captured by two slave catchers, who were taking him back to the South. Mr. Winchester planned to surprise the southerners at a steep narrow piece of road, tip the hack over the bank and release the prisoner. It was known that Clark was seated between his captors and tied to them with a strong rope, and Mr. Winchester as planned slipped up unobserved and cut the ropes. In his excitement the first slash did not succeed and the next time he cut too deep and laid open the prisoner's back with his knife. 'It was wonderful, my father has told, me,' said Philip Winchester, 'that Clark never winced as the blood flowed and gave no sign to the two captors.' The next thing that happened was the overturning of the coach in the dark. Clark ran to the buggy of Mr. Winchester and they drove away. The slave catchers released the horses and pursued them on horseback. In the meantime, Mr. Winchester had changed coat and hat with Clark. The Clarks were the children of a wealthy planter by a beautiful quadroon girl and were of a lighter complexion even than Mr. Winchester. As the pursuers came in view Winchester, supposedly Clark, leaped from the buggy and made up the hill into a thick copse, while Clark drove hurriedly on, as the pursuers dismounted and followed Winchester. Winchester kept up the chase for hours, while Clark was being hurried to safety on his way to Canada. He finally allowed himself to be caught and not recognized by the slave catchers was put in the lockup at Painesville. In the morning, he was brought into court and the judge remarked: 'Why, there must be some mistake, this is Mr. Philander Winchester, an old schoolmate of mine.' He was released to the chagrin of the slave catchers and the delight of the citizens who were against the slave chasers. Mr. Winchester belonged to a generation of this splendid family, who believed in the pursuit of ideals at any personal cost."

"In old East Rockport there were a small select number, who stood out above the rest. Among them were Dr. Jared P. Kirtland, James Nicholson, Price French, Mars Wagar, Franklyn R. Elliott and Dr. Richard Fry. Doctor Kirtland easily stood first, and we believe today there is no one who could dispute that title with him. The old Kirtland homestead of indigenous narrow cleavage sandstone was built when he purchased the 200 acres extending from what is now Madison Avenue to the lake, bounded on the east by the Price French acres. This includes the entire present Kuntz estate. Bunts Road was the eastern boundary south of Detroit Avenue. The purchase was made in 1837. Several other pioneer homes were built of the same material as Dr. Kirtland's. This mansion still stands on Detroit Avenue opposite the Elks' Home, changed by stucco and porch additions but not improved in the eyes of old settlers. Doctor Kirtland was born at Wallingford, Connecticut, in 1793. His father, general agent for the Connecticut Land Company, intended to send him to Edinburgh University, Scotland, but the breaking out of the War of 1812 prevented and he sent him to Yale, where he graduated in the medical department. His life was devoted to the study of medicine and natural history, plant and animal life. He was a national authority on natural history, geology, etymology, pomology and horticulture, and was an intimate of Agassiz. He made discoveries of the parthenogenesis of silk worms and the fish fauna of the lakes. Twenty-six

varieties of cherries were originated by him and half a dozen pears. He was an expert taxidermist and taught many of the sons and daughters of settlers the art just for the love of it. One of them for a long time had a sign in front of his house, 'Bird Stuffer.' That was before the pretty word taxidermist became popular. He also showed his neighbors how to make wax flowers, perfect imitations of plant life. He was the first and only president of the Cleveland Academy of Science, succeeded by the Kirtland Society of Natural History, and, with Doctor Delamater, was the founder of Western Reserve Medical College, where he was a lecturer for twenty years. Doctor Kirtland in fact was the savant of Rockport, the grand old man of his day. He was six feet tall and a figure that would be noted anywhere. The older men of today remember the mane of white hair, the strong splendid face, aquiline nose, and the look of genius that marked him out from all others of that day. The children and young men looked up to him with something like awe. In his house was the most wonderful library in miles around, 6,000 volumes. Among them were the complete works and pictures of the great Audubon, worth at that time \$400. He knew all the local birds and all about them. The demesne about his house was a veritable park, and the blooming magnolias, then unusual, were the wonder of all who passed. He could not bear to see a fine tree injured in any way. The present Mars Wagar said he never was so chagrined in his life as at a reproof from the old doctor. His mother had taken the preacher and his family to board and, by the way, for 80 cents a week for each member, and when the domime could not pay in cash, she accepted his nag in payment. The horse was balky and tipped Mars' father into the creek once with a load of watermelons. It remained for the sun to discover the way to manage the animal. He found that by getting out of the wagon and giving the horse an awful crack with anything he could find, the horse would run away thinking he had got nu of me maven. He did not know that the driver had climbed in over the backboards and was well satisfied as long as his steed went in the right direction. One day the horse balked in front of the Kirtland house. Mars got out, and seeing nothing else available, tore a branch from a buckeye tree. Just at that moment the Doctor looked over the hedge and said: Mars, your mother would not approve of that. Many stories are told of the doctor's democratic ways. The old doctor one day carried some feed across the street to his pig pens and asked a young man who was passing to hand the pail to him over the fence. The young man did so and was thanked for his trouble and then asked his name. I am Reverend Mercer of the Swede-Georgian Church,' was the reply. Yon should wear a tan hat and a long tail coat for that calling,' said the doctor. Doctor Kirtland was the author of textbooks used at Yale College. One day two elegant young men stopped in front of the manse and asked an old man in nondescript domes where Doctor Kirtland lived. The old man pointed to the house. The young men were Yale students and were making a pilgrimage to meet the great man of their university. They politely asked the old man to hold their horse which he did, without comment. Mrs. Pease, the doctor's only daughter, came to the door and to the question where Doctor Kirtland could be found, she pointed to the old man holding the horse. The young men were tremendously embarrassed while the Doctor enjoyed the joke in the same degree. In Civil war times, the great savant was greatly stirred. He did not waste his patriotism in sentimentality, but volunteered his services to examine men for the army at Columbus. Of his descendants, only one, Noble Pease, a great grandson, lives in Lakewood."

"One of the three oldest families in Lakewood, of those who have members living here and have made their mark on local history and contributed to our progress is the French family. In the history of Price French, adopted citizen of the United States, we can find a model of loyalty for the country in which he had made his home. He was a brother of Lord French, in the East Indian service of England in the early years of 1800. He was a younger son and what little capital he had was furnished him by his mother, when he sailed for Canada. He remained there a short time when he came to Vermont and was married. When his older brother died, he refused to return to England and assume the title, but remained here and served in the War of 1812 as a lieutenant. He came to Rockport in 1818 and settled. He bought fifty acres north of Detroit Avenue, partly paid for it and proceeded to clear away the heavy forest. This he

traded with Nicholson for fifty acres of unencumbered land on the south side of Detroit Avenue extending to what is now Bunt's Road. Mr. John French, who lives at the corner of Wyandotte Avenue and Detroit, lives on the land purchased from James Nicholson and within 200 feet from the site of the original home of his grandfather, Price French. Of the original family there were three sons and three daughters, Collins, Albert, Alonzo, and Mrs. White, Mrs. Wedge and Calipherma, who never married. Three sons of Albert French served in the Civil war for three years, the last two named being twins. Several members of the family have filled various offices in Lakewood."

"There are today only two streets in Lakewood. All the other thoroughfares have high sounding names such as avenues, boulevards, courts, etc. These two streets are Fry Street and Hird Street, both named after early owners of the land. The former street was named after Dr. Richard Fry, who bought twenty-seven acres running from Detroit Avenue to the lake about 1,000 feet west of the west line of the City of Cleveland. Doctor Fry practiced medicine in Cuyahoga Falls, at one time a promising rival of Cleveland. For seventeen years before coming to East Rockport in 1864, he had taught school in Cleveland. He was at one time head of the grammar department of the school on St. Clair Avenue, where number one's engine house now stands. He was a contemporary and friend of Andrew Freese, the first principal of the first high school of Cleveland and the first superintendent of schools. He was a gifted educator, whose special lines were mathematics and language. A lengthy complementary notice is given to Doctor Fry in a book on Cleveland schools published by Mt Freese more than a half century ago. But even the teacher, especially the one who gives all there is in him to that self-sacrificing calling, gets frazzled nerves at last, and at the age of sixty Doctor Fry bought the Detroit Street property on the advice of Doctor Kirtland. Doctor Kirtland said that the land along the lake was bound someday to be of great value, and he was right, but when he advised the purchase in place of acreage at 105th Street and Euclid Avenue, he was in error as a prophet. There was a tumbledown log house where the basement of the present block, northeast corner of Fry and Detroit now stands. The old homestead that was erected, cost even in those cheap times more than the land and when it was sold a dozen years ago the buyers paid only \$200 for the building. Doctor Fry and Martha Johnson Fry, his wife, were of Yankee descent. He was born in Hartwich, Otsego County, New York, in 1803, near Cooperstown, and often told of meeting James Fennimore Cooper when the latter was a young man and he a small boy. The doctor's grandfather came from Providence, Rhode Island. Mrs. Fry's father, Captain Jacob Johnson, fought in the battle of Lake Champlain against the British in 1813. In his seventy fifth year Doctor Fry delivered the Fourth of July oration at Cooperstown. The Cooperstown Freemans Journal made the address and the fact of the presence of Doctor Fry and his wife the main feature of their next edition and brought out the fact that fifty years before, at the age of twenty-five, Doctor Fry had been the Fourth of July orator at the same place. Many of the progenitors of the leading families of Cleveland were friends of Doctor Fry and not a few went to his school. Among these were Mark Hanna, the Chisholms, John D. Rockefeller, James F. Clark and the Nortons and Champneys. Doctor Fry lived in the old homestead, which stood at the rear of the present Annette block, until his death went years ago. Many used to make pilgrimages 'out in the country,' now Lakewood, to see their old teacher.'

Doctor Fry and Doctor Kirtland belong in a larger way to the history of the county as do many of the pioneers, who are specifically identified with the original townships. The annals of the townships are of the county and form a perspective, surrounding and interwoven with the City of Cleveland, whose present growth is beyond the wildest dreams of the founders, and whose future greatness no one with accuracy can predict. In a lesser degree but in a corresponding ratio, the same can be said of Lakewood.

Rockport Township History (EAST ROCKPORT) from A History of Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland by William R. Coates, 1924.

East Rockport came into existence in its first designation as a post office. The little settlement in the township in about the center of the eastern part, or that between Rocky River and Brooklyn Township, was granted a post office by the postmaster general and it was opened in the store of Lucius Dean, which was near the present location of Belle Avenue. Presumably Lucius was postmaster. The store was for some time the only general store in the settlement and was later known as the Johnson store, the post office was named East Rockport. Later when the hamlet was formed the name was changed. It may be that the residents had witnessed the difficulties arising in some New England towns from holding to one name and attaching designations of direction. It is related that in Connecticut an old gentleman visited Haddam. He found East Haddam, West Haddam, North Haddam, South Haddam, and Haddam Chisholm's, and had so much difficulty in locating the home of some friend that he said he wished the devil had 'em. When the hamlet was organized August 31, 1889, the selection of a name was discussed with a great deal of interest. The name "Arlington" was first adopted and application sent to the postmaster general for a post office in that name. The postmaster general replied that there was another post office in the state so named and to avoid confusion suggested that some other name be chosen. Thereupon a committee was appointed to consider the question of a name and report. Ezra Nicholson and A. B. Allen were the committee and they made a canvass of the residents before reporting. The name Lakewood was chosen as appropriate and euphonious. The hamlet of Lakewood was organized, having a population of some 400 souls. The first trustees were I. E. Canfield, William Maile and Noble Hotchkiss. They were chosen at a special election held July 11, 1889. They were sworn in by Gen. J. J. Elwell and met at the home of Noble Hotchkiss for the first meeting. Ezra Nicholson was chosen clerk and treasurer and his bond was fixed at \$5,000. Charles Townsend was chosen marshal and chief of police and his bond fixed at \$50. Noble Hotchkiss, Jr., was selected road supervisor. The board got right down to business. At this first meeting four ordinances were passed. One to regulate the speed of horses or vehicles to eight miles an hour, one forbidding any person to overload, overdrive, torture or torment, or deprive of water any domestic animal, one regulating saloons or drinking places, and another fixing the amount to be assessed for taxes at \$1,000. The second meeting was characterized by business activity. The president was authorized to swear in eleven special policemen, giving each one a badge for which he was to pay 50 cents. At the April meeting in 1890, Francis M. Wagar was appointed marshal and road supervisor in place of Charles Townsend and Noble Hotchkiss, Jr., who resigned. At this meeting also a lockup or jail was authorized to be built under the supervision of President Canfield. This action was taken because of the fact that the good fishing in Rocky River and its recreational advantages called a great many sports to its banks, who were often guilty of petty offenses as a part of "having a good time." In August, 1890, an ordinance was passed providing a penalty of from \$5 to \$100 for betting, gambling, or other retractions of the state law, with a proviso that the informer should receive 50 per cent of the fines. This ordinance was never signed by the president. For several years the officers of the hamlet received no compensation. In April, 1892, the trustees voted the clerk \$35 for his services for the past years. Thus, Ezra Nicholson became the first salaried or paid official of Lakewood. At the second election of the hamlet in 1893, C. L. Tyler was chosen president to succeed I. E. Canfield, who had served three years. A resolution of thanks was given the retiring president for his fidelity and conscientious service, unanimously. The topic of interest in the hamlet in the early days of its corporate existence was the building of a plank road from Rocky River to West Twenty fifth Street, Cleveland, and the building of the Rocky River Railroad from the river to the city limits of Cleveland at Bridge Street. Another project was the building of the Woodland Avenue and West Side Street Railway from the city limits of Cleveland at Highland Avenue through the hamlet to Rocky River. A franchise was asked in the spring of 1893 on

the promise that cars should run through from the public square to the river, that the line should be completed in one year and that one fare should be charged to Belle Avenue and an additional fare beyond that point. A twenty-five-year franchise was granted after a great deal of discussion. The officers of the hamlet after the election in 1895 were: Trustees, C. L. Tyler, president, N. Hotchkiss and C. A. Willard; clerk, William F. Crosse; treasurer, L. Johnson; marshal, John Billington; road supervisor, C. Worthington, and engineer, N. B. Dare. William Prutton was afterwards selected on the board to fill the vacancy caused by the death of C. A. Willard. The hamlet was functioning efficiently when agitation for electric lighting for the corporation and the residences was agitated by the citizens. The Illuminating Company was at that time unwilling to enter the field and there was a general demand for the establishment of an electric lighting plant. C. L. Tyler at once took steps to comply. He explained the needs of such action before the trustees and John French was appointed to act with him as a committee to study the situation. Their report was made in favor of the project and an engineer was employed and the plant established. This did good service for several years and was finally taken over by the Illuminating Company. In 1898 free mail delivery was established within the corporate limits of the hamlet. In that year the officers of the hamlet were: Trustees, C. L. Tyler, president, Noble Hotchkiss, and J. Tegarden; clerk, N. W. Hird; assessor, Samuel McGee; treasurer, J. Johnson; marshal, Henry D. Howe, and road supervisor, Clark Worthington. February 14th, action was taken by the trustees looking to the building of Clifton Boulevard. The necessary legislation was passed the same year and the improvement made certain. In the work of securing this as well as the electric lighting plant, President C. L. Tyler is by general consent given praise for having done a large share. Lakewood's sewer system was founded under his administration. There was opposition and the progress of Lakewood as a hamlet may not have been as rapid as in later years under other forms of government but the corporate existence contributed. Much stress is often placed upon political forms by those who are instrumental in the adoption of something new. "For forms of government let fools contest, whate'er is best administered is best." In 1899 the officers of Lakewood were: Trustee, Otto C. Berehtold; president, W. A. Wilbur and J. E. Tegarden; clerk, John French; treasurer, C. R. Maile; assessor, E. T. Schupp; marshal, Lewis R. Smith; road supervisor, Alexander McAuley. In that year N. C. Cotabish, Alexander Horn and Harry Culp were appointed a commission to assess the damages and appraise the benefits in connection with the building of Clifton Boulevard.

On May 4, 1893, Lakewood was organized into a village and the first officers were: Mayor, J. J. Rowe; solicitor, G. N. Shaver; clerk, Harry J. Sensel; councilmen, Jay C. Andrews, R. F. Edwards, C. E. Newell, W. D. Pudney, C. C. Southern and Daniel Webb. Of these first officers of the village three, Mr. Pudney, Mr. Rowe and Mr. Edwards, have served in the Legislature, Mr. Rowe is the present senator and Mr. Edwards the present representative, resident in Lakewood. The mayor following J. J. Rowe was Bernard Miller, then came N. C. Cotabish, who was the last mayor under the village government. The growth of the village was so rapid that in 1912 after nine years as a village Lakewood became a city. The first officers were: Mayor, J. B. Coffinbury; council, Clayton W. Tyler; president, W. A. Bennett, M. J. Earle, James Gormsen, L. E. Kerber, B. F. Mills, Frank V. Reid and Frank L. Thurber. Two years later the city passed under a new charter and the officers were: Mayor, Clayton W. Tyler; director of public works, N. C. Cotabish; of law, Dohert G. Curren; of finance, B. B. Cook; council, W. A. Bennett, John H. Brown, William F. Crosse, James Gormsen and H. E. Gresham, James Gormsen being chosen president; chief of police, Henry C. O'Dell; fire chief, Joseph H. Speddy. The following year Councilman John H. Brown resigned to take his place as a member of the Legislature, and James J. Hinslea was chosen to fill his place. It should be noted that while Lakewood became a city by proclamation of the secretary of state on February 17, 1911, it continued under the village government until January 1, 1912. Its growth since that time has been very rapid. Perhaps no better illustration of its material growth can be shown than by showing the growth of expenditures of the city as given in the report of the city auditor. The first year under the city

government, under Mayor Coffinbury, the city expended \$534,258. This does not include school expenditures. The last year under Clayton W. Tyler, the successor of Mayor Coffinbury, the city expended \$1,136,832, the last year under Mayor B. M. Cook, the third mayor of the city, the expenditures were \$1,475,291, and the expenditures under his successor, the present mayor, L. E. Hill, for the year 1922 were \$2,355,412. The school expenditures are not included in any instance. The annual report of the building inspector for this year shows that building permits were issued for 1,074 dwellings with a total valuation of \$6,526,725, nineteen apartments with a total value of \$1,029,000, fifty commercial buildings with a total value of \$1,058,000, one theater, four churches, ninety-three alterations, 745 minor buildings, one market house, three public garages, two ice stations, six gasoline stations and three shops. The total valuation of the building permits issued this year of 1922 was \$9,503,285 or an increase over the year 1921 of \$4,315,093. There are seventy-four miles of paved streets in Lakewood and the repairs for 1922 cost \$43,266.63, and the cleaning \$9,154. Nearly \$10,000 was expended in sidewalk repairs and as much more in garbage disposal and rubbish collection. There are ninety-one miles of sewer pipe laid in the city streets. The Lakewood police recovered stolen property, including automobiles, to the value of \$51,805.78, and the mileage of the motorcycles used by the police was 44,659 miles, showing that motorcycle men traveled a distance equal to one and four-fifths times around the earth in the year 1922. The fires of the city involving property valued at \$16,513,720 have called out the fire department 335 times, and the total losses by fires has been \$30,702, covered by insurance to the amount of \$28,312. The total bonded indebtedness of the city on December 31, 1922, was \$4,463,540.70, and the balance in the sinking fund at that date was \$439,299.85. The care of parks involves something less than \$10,000 in expenditures. There is Lakewood, Wagar, Madison and Rocky River parks, owned by and assets of the city. The present officials of the city are: Mayor, L. E. Hill, who is also director of public safety and director of public works; director of law, R. G. Curren; director of finance, A. O. Guild; council, James Gormsen, H. S. Hart, L. A. Hilde, Olive B. Kirk and Maude C. Waitt; city engineer, E. A. Fisher; building inspector, George A. Durant, sewer, sidewalk and street superintendent, George Cavell; superintendent of the water department, J. G. Peitz; chief of fire, J. H. Speddy; chief of police, L. B. Miller; health officer, Dr. W. J. Benner; sanitary officer, A. J. Phelps; milk inspector, R. S. Cooley; trustees of sinking fund, R. E. Bartholomew, P. T. Harrold and George N. Shaver; civil service commission, C. C. Buitman, J. C. Hoffman, T. M. McNiece and F. W. Maerkle. The secretary of the commission is F. R. Thrall. Elsie M. Hutchins is deputy director of finance.

From the district schools to the present efficient and comprehensive system of schools in so short a period is one of the marvels of Lakewood's development. Even up to the time when the hamlet was formed as the first breakaway from the primitive township organization, the schools were of the ordinary country type with little or no attempt at grading and instruction confined to narrow limits. It was the one room school, having its merits in that the individual pupil had no restraint upon his advancement and no restrictions as to his choice of studies, provided he found in the teacher one capable of meeting his requirements. From the first school started in Mars Wagar's log house by Jonathan Parshall, a shiftless professor of the magic of avoiding labor, to the present high schools of Lakewood, there is an advancement so wonderful as to seem like the stories of the transforming wand. The schools of Lakewood employ 300 teachers and have an enrollment of 8,000 pupils. The high school, Senior High, alone, has an enrollment of 1,900 and employs eighty teachers. There are two Junior high school buildings and ten grade buildings. C. P. Briggs is principal of the high school, John C. Mitchell assistant principal, and Jane M Penally, dean of girls. A handbook of Lakewood High School just published says: "The first graduating class in 1885 required one diploma, but classes grew little by little and the high school moved into a new building, now called the Grant School, just south of the old Rockport Building, where Lakewood High made its beginning. In 1893 a high school building was erected just across from the present site of the Board of Education Building. In 1917-18 the present high school building was

erected at a cost of over \$1,000,000, to accommodate 2,000. It is now filled and overflowing into the new junior high schools as they are erected." The curriculum includes English, public speaking, journalism, short story writing, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, science, biology, plant production, chemistry, physics, agronomy, history, economics, French, Spanish, Latin, penmanship, spelling, business arithmetic, bookkeeping, which includes accountancy, shorthand, typewriting, commercial geography, business law, cabinet making, foundry work, pattern making, sheet metal work, printing, electrical construction, mechanical drawing, cooking, household chemistry, home nursing, sewing, millinery, art, designing, commercial art, costume illustration, music, and physical education. The school has three publications, a monthly magazine, an annual, and a bi weekly newspaper. They are called The Arrow, The Cinema and The High Times. The library has a collection of over 5,000 books. One of the school yells is called Alma Mater. It is this:

ALMA MATER

Lakewood High we're proud of thee.
All allied in loyalty,
May thy counsel ever be Within our memory.

Chorus

Hail to thee,
O, Lakewood High, Thy dear name uphold.
We shall ne'er forget The purple and gold.
Honors then to Lakewood High,
May her fame reach to the sky,
May we always heed her cry,
To bravely do or die.

Superintendent Charles P. Lynch was principal of Warren High School for five years, was a teacher in Central High School of Cleveland in 1902, principal of West High School, Cleveland, and has been superintendent of the Lakewood schools for a number of years.

Lakewood is called the City of Homes and it might with equal truthfulness be called the city of churches, as is Brooklyn, New York. Some, that have their roots in the soil of pioneer days have already been mentioned. Among the churches of the city are the New Jerusalem Church, the Lakewood Methodist Church, Church of the Ascension, Saint James Roman Catholic Church, Lakewood Congregational Church, Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Lakewood Christian Church, Lakewood Presbyterian Church, the English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, the Lakewood Baptist Church, Calvary United Brethren Church, the Detroit Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, Lakewood United Presbyterian Church, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Lakewood, and Rocky River Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1911 with the following officers. President, F. L. Thurber; vice presidents, J. B. Coffinbury and J. C. Lowrie; secretary, W. C. Kenaga; treasurer, J. R. Cotabish; directors, J. H. Ruck, A. E. Kellogg, F. S. Winch, George D. Koch, P. A. McCaskey, B. S. Blossom, G. A. Hanson, and F. V. Reid. The purpose of this organization reads on its minutes as follows: "The purpose of forming this organization is to promote and protect the moral, social, business and civic interests of the City of Lakewood, Ohio; to acquire, hold and diffuse such information as will best serve such purposes, and to provide entertainment for its members." Judge Willis Vickery succeeded as president of the Chamber in 1915. Other associations are the Lakewood Merchants' Credit Association, organized to establish a uniform system of credits and collections, and the Retail Merchants Board, organized "to

further and protect the interests of the retail dealers of Lakewood; to make it hard to defraud the retailer without imposing hardship on the honest debtor; to make it easier to collect just debts without distressing those worthy of and needing careful consideration at the hands of credit men."

Among the financial institutions of the city are the Lakewood State Bank, corner of Detroit and Belle avenues, the Lakewood branch of the Cleveland Trust Company, of Cleveland, corner of Detroit and Highland avenues, the Colonial Savings and Loan Company, corner of Detroit and Belle avenues, and the Rocky River Savings and Banking Company, on Blount Street, Rocky River.

The clubs and fraternal orders include the Lakewood Tennis Club, the Lakewood Young Men's Business Club, the Cleveland Yacht Club, which owns the island at the mouth of the Rocky River, and has large clubhouses, docks, tennis and croquet grounds, gymnasium, swimming pools and sun parlors, its property valued at more than \$50,000. The Lakewood Boat Club, the Lakewood Thimble Club, "to promote intellectual growth and social fellowship, and to aid philanthropic institutions," Current Events Club, "an organization for the social enlightenment of its members and to provide literary and social recreation of a high order," the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Lakewood Division of the Woman's Suffrage Party, now out of a job, the Lakewood branch of the Associated Charities of Cleveland, on Detroit Avenue near Fry, established to take over the charity work of the City of Lakewood. Of the secret and benevolent orders there is a lodge of the Knights of Pythias, and of the Pythian Sisters, three blue lodges of the Masonic Order, an Eastern Star Lodge, Lincoln No. 309, two Forester lodges, Lakewood and Companion, Independent Order of Foresters, Clifton Lodge, Knights of the Maccabees, Lakewood No. 490, and Ladies of the Maccabees, Lakewood No. 437, the Royal Protective League, and Catholic Order of Foresters.

Lakewood Hospital, established by the Lakewood Hospital Company, is located on Detroit Avenue, with a dispensary on Madison, and its history is interesting. It was built by a company but not for profit and its maintenance has been at times difficult. The Lakewood Hospital Charitable Association, composed of ladies, has greatly aided in the maintenance. Among the trustees of the institution may be mentioned W. J. Hunkin, E. W. Fisher, Oscar Kroehle, Miss Alice M. Brooks, and Judge Willis Vickery. The Lakewood Sanatorium, founded by Dr. A. S. McClain, for the treatment of those afflicted with rheumatism and nervous diseases, is located at 18411 Detroit Avenue. This is classed as a public institution and its aim is to give treatment under home surroundings. Mention should be made of the parochial school in connection with Saint James Church. This was established in 1912 under the auspices of the Sisters of Humility and Mercy. The school structure, Saint James' Hall, has sixteen class rooms and is provided with a fine auditorium. Rev. Michael D. Leahy is at the head of the work. Saint Augustine Convent, located on Lake Avenue, is the only one in the city. It has an attractive home building and pretty surroundings. Among the structures that attract attention is the Rocky River bridge, built by the county. When it was built it contained the largest concrete arch in the United States. Since that time, it has been exceeded by others. This affords a fine view of the river valley. It is built entirely of reinforced concrete, which "moth and rust doth not corrupt." The Masonic Temple, located on Detroit Avenue, is one of the fine structures of the city.

In 1915 the authorities published an illustrated pamphlet, a chronological statement of facts concerning the City of Lakewood, which was sold for the benefit of the fire and police pension fund. In this are many pictures of residences and public buildings of the city, which are exceedingly attractive.

Lakewood has no industrial life to record. Like the original township, which was number 7 of range 14 in the original survey, afterwards Rockport, it has never "been contaminated with the vices of

manufacture." The nearest approach to industrial activity was in 1914 when the gas well boom was on. Some 200 wells were sunk and oil derricks loomed in the sky, but the boom was short lived and only a limited number were paying propositions.

"The City of Homes" is in every respect a residence section of Greater Cleveland. The only distinction is that it has its own municipal and school government. The question of annexation to Cleveland has been agitated from time to time. At a recent election the question was submitted to the voters and the proposition to annex voted down. At this election referred to, or rather at the general election held at this time, West Park voted otherwise and its territory is now a part of Cleveland. Just how the sentiment on this question will develop remains for the future historian to record. At present it is a beautiful city of 55,000 inhabitants, characterized by high ideals, intelligence, and progressive, vigorous life.

Rockport 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/RockportTwpPWWR.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>

Rockport

Rockport, one of the northern townships of Cuyahoga County, lies on the southern shore of Lake Erie. It is eight miles from Cleveland, and the Nickle Plate, Lake Shore, and Big Four railroads run through it. The Cleveland & Elyria, also the Detroit Street electric roads, pass through portions of it. Rocky River flows through the town from the southwest corner to Lake Erie, passing nearly the whole distance between high and abrupt embankments, which are thickly wooded and present a picturesque appearance. The first white person to settle in the township (so says an old record, kept by Henry ALGER) was John HARBERTSON, an Irish refugee, who, with his family, in the spring of 1809, located upon the east side of Rocky River, near its mouth, and William McCONLEY, who came with him.

George PEAKE, a deserter from the British army, with money entrusted him to pay the soldiers, married a black woman in Maryland, who had nursed him through a sickness. He came with his family to Rockport, 1809, and his wagon was the first to pass over the new road from Cleveland to Rocky River. He had four sons, who, with their father, built the first hand mill, which was a great improvement over the stump mortar and spring pole pestle. Peake lived to be one hundred and five years of age.

Sara, daughter of Samuel and Mary WELLER DEAN, born in Massachusetts, 1789, married Datus KELLEY, and moved to Rockport, 1811. She was one of the foremost women in acts of benevolence, in giving cheer and assistance to the despondent, and was patient amid the trials and privations of her new home. She would often take her babe in her arms and ride on horseback six or eight miles to care for the sick, and was both nurse and doctor for many years. She died at Kelley's Island, 1864, having survived her golden wedding three years. Her son, Addison, was the first white male child born in Rockport. Her husband, Datus KELLEY, at a township meeting in 1827 astonished the company by presenting a temperance pledge for signatures. There was a storm of opposition and a loud outcry against what was called "Kelley's Onslaught upon liberty," but despite all this he persevered, and succeeded in gaining many adherents to the cause.

The first wedding in the township was at Datus KELLEY's, 1814. The parties were Chester DEAN and Lucy SMITH, daughter of Abner SMITH, one of the pioneers of Dover. George WALLACE, Esq., of Cleveland, performed the ceremony. It was a splendid wedding for olden times, although there were no sleighbells jingling in Rockport then. Those who were wealthy enough to own a yoke of oxen rode on sleds, and those who owned no team went on foot. Mrs. DEAN had two daughters, Lucy and Sarah.

Abigail TAYLOR, second wife of Chester DEAN, came with her parents from Lenox, Mass., 1812. And settled in Dover, O. She married Chester DEAN 1818, and came to Rockport. Her husband died 1838. At the death of her husband, she was left with nine children. By rigid economy and good management, she was enabled to keep her family together and give them a fair education. Their principal food at first was fish caught in the river. They used sassafras and other herbs for tea. After a while they were enabled to procure a quarter of a pound of tea, which was used only on state occasions, and lasted a whole year. She made her own candles, and, if the supply gave out, would resort to pine knots and hickory bark. Money was very scarce, and every penny was hoarded for freeing their home from debt and for taxes, which were about \$2.50 a year.

Out of a barn containing 600 bushels of wheat only seventy-five cents in money was realized. "Aunt Nabbie," as she was called, was very hospitable, and ever ready to respond to the calls of neighbors in sickness or trouble. She died, 1881, in the eighty-sixth year of her age. Her daughters are Mary Ann (Mrs. Philip P. WRIGHT) who has three daughters, and makes her home with one of them. Mrs. W.D. KELLEY (Marcella DEAN) is now living at Kelley's Island.

Mrs. Eliel FARR (Hannah GARDINER) was born in Boziah, Conn., 1769, married and came to Ohio 1819, and settled in Rockport, where she remained until her death. She was the mother of four sons, and adopted a girl, whose name was Jane. Her husband was as civil engineer, and among the relics of the FARR family are plans of the first bridge built across Rocky River. They kept store, and here are some items taken from an old account book:

Oct. 15, 1816, 1 bbl. Salt.....	\$8.25
Sept. 4, 1816, 5 ½ yds. Calico.....	3.10
Aug. 27, 1816, 1 ½ yds. Broadcloth.....	10.50
Oct. 14, 1816, 3 ½ yds. cotton sheeting.....	1.75
For postage on letters.....	.25

The FARRS, having their pewter dishes stolen by Indians and expecting company, resorted to the expedient of whittling some out of basswood chips.

Mrs. Aurellus FARR (Marilla FOLLET) came in 1812 with her father's family from Lenox, Mass., where she was born. After arriving at their destination, they at once set about making their home, and endured all the privations and hardships familiar to early settlers. Marilla married in 1821, and they moved on to a farm in Rockport, where she resided until her death, 1874. Her daughters were Amanda (Mrs. William BIDWELL) and Hannah (Mrs. Alfred KELLEY), now deceased. Emily, wife of D.K. HUNTINGTON, is now living in Olmsted, O. Mrs. FARR was a faithful friend and neighbor, a kind mother, and for many years gave to her husband's aged father the tender care of a true daughter.

Mrs. Rufus WRIGHT (Hepsibath ST. JOHN) was born and married in the State of New York. She, with her family, settled in Rockport 1816. Her husband, Rufus WRIGHT, was a soldier in the war of 1812. He kept a ferry at Rocky River, and built half of the first bridge at that point, the rest being built by subscription. He assisted in cutting out the first road west of the river, and bought three-fourths of an acre of land now occupied by the Silverthorn House for \$300, evidently sharing the belief that there was destined to be a great city near the natural harbor at the mouth of the river. WRIGHT put up a tavern of considerable size, and from 1816 to 1853 the house remained in possession of the WRIGHT family. A part of the old building still remains in the improved structure.

One day Mrs. WRIGHT started on horseback to visit a neighbor, when she encountered a bear, which disputed the right of way, walking back and forth in front of her horse. She concluded discretion the better part of valor, and postponed her visit for that day. She is remembered as being a good woman and kind to the poor. Her daughter Laura was lame, and never married. Hester (Mrs. HALL) eventually made her home in Indiana. Maria married Chauncey DEMING, went into his father's family, and, like Ruth of old, became one of them. She was a kind neighbor, and amidst her domestic labors, ever found time to give to the sick, and many a dying pillow was smoothed by her tender touch. She died in Rockport, 1881, aged almost seventy years. Two of her daughters would be counted among the pioneer women. Laura married Murray FARR, is the mother of three daughters, and still lives on a portion of the old farm. Mrs. Calvin TARR (Josephine DEMING) has two sons and one daughter.

Mrs. McMAHON (Julia BENEDICT) probably the oldest pioneer woman in Rockport, was born 1800 in Stamford, Conn. In 1831 she, with her husband, came to Ohio. They were considered wealthy in those days, having about \$500. She has never had a sick day since, and when eighty-six years old was able to walk ten miles. During the first year of her pioneer life, she would take butter and eggs in a basket on her arm and walk to Cleveland, a distance of eleven miles, to exchange them for groceries. Their first crop of potatoes was taken to Cleveland, where they were offered but three cents per bushel, the pay in trade. Mr. McMAHON in disgust pulled the end board out of his wagon, and let them roll into the river. She remembers seeing Lafayette. She is the mother of nine children, and is at present living with her son, Philotas McMAHON, at Rocky River.

Mrs. Patrick KENNELLY (Mary BARRON) was born in Tipperary County, Ireland, in 1813, came with her parents to Cleveland in 1834, where she married Patrick KENNELLY, who had accompanied them across the ocean. After their marriage they came directly to Rockport, and he was employed by Reuben WOOD, who was afterwards Governor of Ohio. In a few years Mr. and Mrs. KENNELLY purchased a little farm of their own. Her husband was soon stricken with paralysis, which left the burden of providing for the family upon herself and young children. She raised her family and lived to the age of seventy-seven years.

Mrs. Jeremiah GLEASON (Catherine DEDRICK) came with her husband from New York in 1831. They drove through with a span of horses, bought 130 acres of land on the "hog's back" road, and turned the horses in towards payment. Mrs. GLEASON was an industrious woman, the first one up in the morning. She had four sons and three daughters. Two sons are still living in Lakewood hamlet.

Keturah MILLER, wife of Mars WAGAR, came from Ontario County, N.Y., in 1820. They drove through in a wagon and brought three cows with them. They would put the milk in the churn and the motion of the wagon churned the butter. They located on Detroit Street and had five sons and two daughters. The son Israel D. married Elizabeth PYLE, 1822. She is the mother of eight children, is gentle in her nature, kind and hospitable, and beloved by a large circle of friends. She is still living on Detroit Street.

Sarah CURTISS, wife of Joseph HALL, came from Chatteris, England in 1832, and bought two acres of land of Joseph GRANT at \$40 per acre. They had four sons and three daughters. The sons are living in Lakewood.

Rosetta SHELHOUSE, born in Vermont in 1792, married James SAXTON, and with her young husband emigrated to the Western Reserve in 1812, traveling by wagon a distance of 1,800 miles. Here is a portion of a letter written by her at the age of eighty years: "While living in a stockade with other families on the shore of Lake Erie, as a protection against unfriendly Indians, we experienced an awful

anxiety, while listening to the roar of distant cannonading, which decided that important naval victory of Commodore PERRY." She was a pioneer in four States, Ohio, Michigan, Kansas, and Nebraska, where she died at the age of one hundred and two years. Her daughter, Rosetta SAXTON, born in Vermont in 1812, married Collins FRENCH in 1832, having made his acquaintance while teaching school near his home. Mrs. FRENCH was one of the first members of St. John's Church, in Ohio City, was president of the Soldiers' Aid Society of East Rockport during the war, was very hospitable and her home a model of neatness and thrift.

Malone WINSLOW, the first white child born in Malone, N.Y., and named after the town, married Jonathan PLYMPTON, came to Ohio in 1833, and settled on the east side of Rocky River. They had six children. Clarissa PLYMPTON, their daughter, married J.A. KIDNEY and lives in Lakewood.

Mrs. James NICHOLSON (Betsey BARTHOLOMEW), born at Waterbury, Conn., in 1793, settled in Rockport in 1818, where her husband bought 200 acres of land. They lived in their wagon until they put up a log cabin, and at that time were the only settlers between the Cuyahoga and Rocky rivers. In 1826 they built a frame house, and shortly afterwards opened it as a tavern. Mrs. NICHOLSON died January 1879. Her son Ezra resides on the old place.

Mrs. William BROWN (Eunice Sackett BLANKESLEE) came from North Haven, Conn., in 1827, and married in 1832. She spun and wove wool blankets, carpets, and linen.

Anne KEELER, born in Vermont, 1779, came with her husband, Zenas BARNUM, and settled in Rockport. She was a devoted mother and Christian and was a great lover of flowers, of which she cultivated many rare kinds. Her daughters were Delia (Mrs. George FERRIS) and Jane (Mrs. DEMING).

Sarah PLACE, born in Providence, R.I., in 1809, married Benjamin BROWN and came with her family to Rockport in 1830. She was a woman of strong characteristics, was interested in all the affairs of the nation, and a great reader. She died at the age of forty-eight years. Her daughter Phebe married George T. BARNUM, who was clerk of the township as early as 1833, and afterwards member of the State Legislature. She had five daughters and lived in Rockport until her death. Sarah, the second daughter, married Henry JORDAN and died in 1846.

Mrs. Calvin GIDDINGS (Mary BENNETT), born in Jefferson County, N.Y., in 1805 was adopted by an uncle when three years of age and brought by him to Ashtabula, O., in 1808. She married Calvin GIDDINGS. She was a woman who seldom went among her neighbors. She said: "I simply could not go, having to make, mend, and cook for nine boys." She had not been to the mouth of Rocky River since the bears ran wild there. She was a lover of flowers and did fine needlework. Her daughter, Mrs. Gideon PEASE, is the only one of her children living in Rockport.

Mrs. Solomon PEASE (Mary E. ROGERS) was born in Chautauqua County, N.Y., and came to Rockport in 1827. Like all pioneers, they had their hardships. She spun and wove cloth for herself and family. Of her five children all are living but her daughter Dorothy, who married Frederick WRIGHT. Mrs. PEASE died in 1888 at the age of seventy-nine years.

Laura FOOTE, wife of J.D. TAYLOR, born in Berkshire County, Mass., in 1807, came with her father's family, David FOOTE, and settled in Dover in 1815, was married in 1824, and immediately commenced housekeeping in a log cabin in the woods in Rockport. She had three sons and two daughters. They were among the first members of the Methodist church. Mrs. TAYLOR died in 1859.

Mrs. Isaac HIGLEY (Phebe M. JOHNSON), born in Dutchess County, N.Y., in 1793, married Isaac HIGLEY and came to Rockport in 1834. They had six sons and three daughters. Three children are still living, Mary C. WHITNEY, a resident of Wellington, O., and Olive A. GOLDING, of Saginaw, Mich. Her son, M.J. HIGLEY, is living on the original farm in Rockport.

Eliza JORDAN, born in New York State, came to Ohio in 1830 with her husband and family. Her sister Polly, who married Homer CLARK, also came in the same year. Susan, another sister, married Harlow LANDPHAIR and came to Rockport in 1834. They had five sons and four daughters. She died in 1856. The eldest daughter, Susan, married and settled in Iowa. Sophronia married David CHITTOCK and died in Rockport. Sabrina married Jacob GASNER and moved to Dover, where she died.

Mrs. Alva LANDPHAIR (Sally KNOWLES) came from Madison County, N.Y., with her husband in 1832 and settled in Rockport. They had five sons and six daughters. Several children are yet living. One daughter is in Cleveland.

Mrs. Ben McClAREN (BOWERS) (Julia SOUTHERN) came with her parents from New York. Little Julia went to school in a log house on what is now the ATWELL place. The stump of a tree, enclosed within the walls, served as a desk for the teacher, Miss MASTERS, an aunt of I.U. MASTERS, afterwards Mayor of Cleveland. She had ever been a consistent member of the Methodist church and still lives in Rockport. Mrs. William GALLOP (Polly WORDEN) came from New York to Rockport in 1836. She had three sons and eight daughters, all born in Brookfield, N.Y. Her daughter Betsey married Philip JORDAN in Madison County, N.Y., and emigrated to Rockport prior to 1840. They had two sons and four daughters. Their son Ansel enlisted in the war of Rebellion and died in Libby Prison. Betsey JORDAN died in Rockport in 1842. Mrs. Royal MILLARD (Annie FRANCIS), born in Massachusetts, in 1786, was married to Royal MILLARD in 1809. She had two sons and five daughters. In 1831 they moved to Rockport and bought a farm on the north bank of Rocky River, where she resided until her death. Her daughter Mary (Mrs. A.S. BRISTOL) settled in Ravenna, O. Annie (Mrs. Addison KELLEY) removed to Kelley" Island in 1854. Lucy Frances (Mrs. Elijah MURRAY) remained with her parents until their death and then removed to Kelley's Island. All are now dead.

Mrs. James STRANAHAN (Frances FOSTER), born in Massachusetts in 1800, was a descendant of the Winslows of colonial fame. Her grandfather was a member of the Massachusetts constitutional convention. She was educated at Amherst Academy, where she became acquainted with Noah WEBSTER, author of the dictionary. After leaving the academy she taught the public schools. When a child she saw the American troops pass her door on the way to Boston during the war of 1812. She married James STRANAHAN, a merchant, of Syracuse, N.Y., and came to Rockport in 1833. In going to their home, near Stranahan hill, while attempting to cross the river with two children, they, with their wagon were nearly swept down the stream, which was swollen to a mighty torrent by the spring rains. She was a plain, modest woman, but of sturdy convictions, was opposed to the whisky-drinking habit so popular among the early settlers, was a wise counselor, a prudent and loving mother, and esteemed by those who knew her best. She died in 1889. Her daughters were Frances (Mrs. John HEATON), Lydia, now deceased, and Mary (Mrs. George Andrew FARRAND, of Rockport).

Rachel SMITH, born in Massachusetts in 1800, married Silas SOUTHWORTH, came to Dover in 1811, and removed to Rockport in 1836. She was a sturdy, industrious woman. When a child she stood on the banks of Lake Erie with her father, who was a soldier of the Revolution, and witnessed the naval battle

fought by PERRY. Her only daughter and surviving child, Mrs. William SPRAGUE (Rebecca SOUTHWORTH), is living in Dover.

Catherine PARKS, wife of John SWEET, born in Madison County, N.Y., in 1812, moved to Rockport with her husband in 1838. They came with one horse and covered wagon and a cow led behind. She died in 1873. Her only child, Mr. D. O. SWEET resided in Rockport.

Wealthy FRANCIS, born in Swansea, Mass., in 1774, married Peleg MASON, a soldier, commissioned lieutenant and ensign by John HANCOCK and Samuel ADAMS. These commissions, also a few pieces of continental money and a sample of Boston harbor tea, are preserved in the family. Her husband having died in the service, she sought a home with her sister, who had married her husband's brother. At the death of her sister, she adopted her sister's child, Lydia MASON, who married James S. ANTHONY. Together they settled in Rockport in 1832. Wealthy MASON brought with her apple seeds and planted an orchard, a portion of which is still standing. She was an energetic woman, a good cook, a thorough housekeeper, and could spin and weave. She died at the home of her niece in 1849. Mrs. James S. ANTHONY died in 1856, aged fifty-four years. The eldest daughter married Jonathan PECK and is living in Elyria, O. Sarah Lord ANTHONY, the youngest daughter, lives in Denver, Col. The family of Edward M. ANTHONY, the youngest son, lives on the old homestead.

In 1812 Nathan ALGER, with his wife, Susan, and four sons, came from Connecticut and founded what to this day is known as the "ALGER Settlement." His son, Henry, married Susan NICHOLS. Their daughters were Philana D., the first white girl born in Rockport, 1812. She married MORGAN, and was the mother of two sons and four daughters. After being a pioneer here for several years, she moved to Michigan on a forest farm, which she cleared, doing the logging and plowing with a yoke of oxen. She also planted her fields, her husband being perfectly helpless from rheumatism. She was a woman of refinement and culture, and a devoted Christian.

Mrs. Nathan ALGER (Emily FOLLIOU) moved from Massachusetts in a wagon in 1812, and married in 1828. Her daughter Tempy (Mrs. William HALL) is yet living.

Mrs. Isaac WARREN (Amelia BRONSON), born in Connecticut in 1799, married in 1814, and came to Rockport in 1822. She had five sons and two daughters, was a thrifty woman, spinning and weaving cloth, both from flax and wool.

Mrs. Charles L. USHER (Marvin PALMER) born in Connecticut and married in New York. In the winter of 1818 she, with her husband and family, drove through from New York in a sleigh, a portion of the way from Buffalo on the frozen lake. She was the mother of three sons and four daughters. Mary born in New York in 1802, married William JORDAN in 1821, removed to Rockport in 1827, and settled on the South Ridge. Mr. JORDAN taught school winters, which left his wife to care for their growing family. It was the home of early Methodism in Rockport. The first class was organized in 1828, and many a time the sap kettle was taken from the crane and set aside to give place to the preaching service and prayer meeting. The circuit rider, with his saddlebags, was a welcome and regular guest at her hospitable home. She had twelve children, who grew to maturity. In 1845 her husband died, leaving her to care for her large family, which she did, giving all a fair education. She died in 1882. Her daughters now living are Jane E. (Mrs. Sidney LAWRENCE), Mary A. (Mrs. S.H. BROWN), and Lucy, who remains at home.

Mrs. Benjamin SPENCER (Sallie USHER) born in New York, 1808, came with her father's family to Rockport in 1827. She married Benjamin SPENCER, and had a son and a daughter. She died in 1840.

Mrs. Mathew JORDAN-SPENCER (Diana USHER) came to Rockport in 1827, married Mathew JORDAN, and had two sons and two daughters. Her husband died in 1843, leaving her the care of her children. She afterwards married Benjamin SPENCER. Of this marriage one daughter was born. She had a remarkable memory. She died in 1896, aged eighty-six years.

Hannah INGRAHAM, born 1777 in N. Bradford, Conn., married Junia BEACH and in 1816 moved to Ridgeville, O. She found a temporary home with Judge ELDRED, with whose assistance a home was built. Here Mrs. BEACH lived but one year. Her husband dying, she again found a home with the good Judge ELDRED, where she remained until she married Amos SPERRY, of Dover. During their residence in Dover, they kept a tavern, which was a haven of rest to travelers on the stage coach which then made regular trips from Cleveland to Detroit. Mr. SPERRY died in 1847, after which his widow resided with her daughter, Mrs. J.P. SPENCER, of Rockport. During her long life she was much noted for her powers of endurance. She once made a journey of sixty-six miles on horseback, carrying a child in her arms. She was a member of the Congregational church. She died at the age of ninety-nine years.

Electra Miriam BEACH, born in Norfolk, Conn., 1811, only daughter of Junia and Hannah INGRAHAM BEACH, came to Ohio in 1816, when the red man still lingered and wild beasts were plenty. She married J.P. SPENCER and removed to their home in Rockport, riding with their household goods on a sled drawn by oxen. The "setting out" included the spinning wheel and distaff, and for a score of years the hum of wheels vied with the art of muslin and lace embroidery, in which she excelled. Six children to be clothed and fed left no time for idleness. Mrs. SPENCER was an ardent Methodist, and in touch with the progressive ideas of the day. Her home was the center of generous hospitality. She died in 1890. Her eldest daughter married James A. POTTER, Hannah L. married Francis W. MASTIC.

Sarah TOMLINSON married Russell HAWKINS at Derby, Conn., in 1813 and emigrated to the "Reserve" in 1817. Her father had given her a farm of 100 acres in Kirtland. This was sold for one Mentor, and in 1836 this also was sold, and one purchased in Rockport, on which her grandchildren still live. Her daughters, Elizabeth and Caroline, were among the early teachers in Rockport, teaching for seventy-five cents a week, and "boarding around."

Lydia (FOSTER) HAWKINS, born 1793 at New Braintree, Mass., left her old home in 1831 to visit her sister, Mrs. STRANAHAN. In 1843 she married Russell HAWKINS, of Rockport, where she died in 1861. During the years of the underground railroad, she was of great assistance to her husband, their house being a station for the colored refugees on their way to Canada. It is related that at one time her best bonnet was taken without her knowledge, and used as a disguise for a colored woman who was fleeing from bondage.

Mrs. Benjamin MASTIC (Eliza TOMLINSON), who settled in Rockport was the devoted mother of seven children, a kind neighbor, and a consistent Christian. Her eldest daughter, Lavina, married Nathaniel WOOD and is a resident of Rockport. Laura removed to California, where she married and died. Cornelia married A.B. SPENCER, and lives in Rockport.

Keziah WITT, born in Massachusetts, 1806, married Ezra BASSETT, and came to Ohio in 1837, traveling by wagon to Troy, thence by canal to Buffalo, and from there to Cleveland by steamer. The eldest daughter, L.D. NICHOLS, remembers a race between their steamer and a rival. Mrs. BASSETT had five sons and two daughters. She lived in Rockport in 1890. Her daughter Marzilla became Mrs. L.D. NICHOLS, and Elizabeth, Mrs. Charles JORDAN; both reside in Rockport.

Fanny Marilla NICHOLLS, born in Connecticut, 1792, married Dyer NICHOLS, came to Rockport and settled in what was then known as the Alger settlement. At the time of Perry's victory her goods were packed for removal to safer quarters, and she was listening for the roar of cannon, when a friendly Indian came and told of Perry's victory. She returned to New York on a visit, making the journey on horseback, her husband walking by her side. In 1814 they again returned to Rockport, where she remained until her death in 1875.

Mrs. Morgan WATERS (Catherine BROOKS) came from Ireland in 1828 with her husband and two daughters, and settled in Canada. Later they removed to Rockport. The Oldest daughters, Mary and Catherine - finished their education in a log school house on the Public Square in Cleveland. Wild turkeys were plentiful, and at one time Catherine caught three in a trap, which took the combined efforts and three children to drag them to the house. Mrs. WALTERS died in 1848.

Mrs. Weller DEAN (Achsa Whitwood), born in W. Stockbridge, Mass., 1814, came to Ohio in 1834, on a visit to Aunt RAWSON, in Grafton or Rawsonville; while there, became acquainted with A. Weller DEAN, whom she married. They came to Rockport and resided with a relative while their log house was being built; at its completion began the battle of life, and no pioneer ever fought more valiantly than she for an unencumbered home which, after many years, was realized. She took a deep interest in leading events of the time, and it was a rash individual who had the boldness to antagonize her in political debate. Reared amidst culture and refinement, she adapted herself to the conditions of pioneer life. Of the many who came to her door, not one departed hungry, and no one who wished a night's repose under her roof was ever turned away. She was ever at the bedside of the poverty stricken, and in contagious diseases went where others feared to go. She was desirous that her children might receive a better education than the common schools afforded. In the early "forties" she was a regular attendant at the Episcopal church in Dover.

Mrs. Reuben WOOD (Mary RICE) was born in Vermont in 1798. In that State her girlhood was passed, and there she married Reuben WOOD, a young law student. They came to Cleveland in 1819, when the city was a village of less than two hundred inhabitants. Mr. WOOD rose rapidly to fame in the new West, and in 1850 was inaugurated Governor of the State. He resigned this position in 1853 to accept the Consulship to Valparaiso, Chile.

They came to Rockport in 1836. Mrs. WOOD was left a widow in 1864, and two years later removed to California, making several trips across the continent at an advanced age. She was president of the Soldiers' Aid Society of West Rockport during the war. She had two daughters. Loretta married G.B. MERWIN, who was Consul to Chile. While there she wrote a history of the country. She was loyal and patriotic, and during the war, with her mother, did good work for the soldiers of the Union. Mary married Seabury MASTIC, and removed to California, where she now resides.

It is impossible to name all the families or to mention sons and daughters who came with the pioneer element. The mention of any name in this list, without detail, is a grateful tribute to the zeal and courage attendant on pioneer life; an inheritance from such ancestors is better than riches.

Lucy JORDAN
Chairman and Historian

Rockport Committee - Mrs. Nellie D. CRABBE, Miss Elizabeth Hawkins