

ROYALTON

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

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ROYALTON TOWNSHIP HISTORY

Transcribed by Linda Schreiber

Proofed by Laura Hine

Boundaries, etc. - First Settlers - Mr. Clark - Robert Engle - An Aged Emigrant - T. and H. Francis - John Coates - Jonathan Bunker - C. A. Stewart - John Ferris - Boaz Granger - John B. Stewart - A Large Accession - David and Knight Sprague - Royal Tyler's Store - The Tousleys and Nortons - York Street - Mills - First Marriage - Going to Mill under Difficulties - Early Taverns - Civil Organization - Origin of Name - First Officers - List of Principal Officers - Post Office - Royalton Center - First Baptist Church - Free Will Baptist Church - The Disciple Church - The Methodist Church - St. Mary's Church - Schools - Early Teachers - Present Condition of Schools - Cheese-making, etc. - Empire Lodge - Cemeteries.

Royalton, noted at one time as a very important dairy township, and still of considerable consequence in that respect, consists of a valuable farming region and contains a community of prosperous people. It is survey township number five in range thirteen of the Western Reserve and is bounded on the north by Parma, on the south by Medina County, on the east by Brecksville and on the west by Strongsville. The east branch of Rocky River, which is there but a small stream, flows across the southwest corner of the township, and although still smaller water courses are plentiful yet mill-power is very scarce.

The only village is Royalton Center, which is a small place, but is very picturesquely located. Agricultural and dairy products are the support of the people, and they furnish a good subsistence. Excellent building stone is found in at least two quarries, but the lack of railway facilities limits the stone market to a circuit near home.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first white settlement upon the territory of Royalton was made in 1811 by a Mr. Clark, who, after making a clearing, brought his family in and located upon section twenty-five, in the southeastern corner of the township, on a tract now occupied by H. A. Carter, a son of Clark's widow by her marriage to Lewis Carter. Clark must have died within a few years after making a settlement, for in 1816 Carter married the widow and took up his residence on the Clark place. Lorenzo - a son born of this latter union - was the first white male child born in the township.

On the 2d of June, 1816, Robert Engle with his family and his father-in-law, John Shepard, arrived from the State of New York and settled upon section fourteen, about a half mile south of the center. This was the first settlement after Clark's, whose family remained for five years the only white occupants of the township. Mr. Engle's father-in-law, Mr. John Shepard, had served in his youth as an attendant on a French officer at the time of the Braddock campaign and was present at the memorable defeat of that general. He claimed to be eighty-seven years old when he moved to Royalton with Robert Engle, at whose house he died in 1847. The inscription upon his tombstone fixes his age at one hundred and eighteen years, nine months and eighteen days. Robert Engle, who was famous as a hunter and trapper, died in Royalton. One of his daughters married Simeon Enos, who lives upon the old place.

Thomas and Henry Francis, brothers, settled in 1816 on adjoining farms a half mile north of the center. The Francis brothers lived in Royalton useful and honored men and died on the farms where they had first settled. Rhoda Francis, born in 1816, was the first white child to see the light of day in Royalton. In December, 1816, John Coates (popularly known in Royalton as Uncle Jacky Coates), settled with his family upon section twenty-one, where he built at first a house of round logs, which he replaced a year or so afterward with a double log house. The latter was put up by Boaz Granger, who took his pay in land. Mr. Coates, who came from Genesco, New York, owned about thirty-five hundred acres of land in Royalton, which is yet known as the Coates' tract, and which he sold out as settlers required.

The house built by Granger for Coates was the first one in the township supplied with a cellar, and was regarded as an eminently aristocratic mansion. Mr. Coates' son, John, came out with his father, and in the following spring another son, Charles, also came with his family. Catherine (daughter of John Coates, Jr.,) was the second female child born in Royalton, where she still lives as Catherine Teachout.

In 1817, Jonathan Bunker, from the State of New York, located upon section eleven, where he had received a tract of one hundred and fifty acres from Gideon Granger in exchange for one of fifty acres near Palmyra, New York, his former home.

Mr. Bunker belonged to a historical family which gave its name to the celebrated Bunker Hill. Two of his uncles had also participated in the battle fought on Breed's Hill, to which the former name has been given, where one was killed and the other wounded.

Ephraim Moody, a neighbor in New York, accompanied Bunker to the West. The journey was made in a sleigh drawn by a pair of horses, of which each owned one. Moody stopped short of Royalton, leaving Bunker to go on alone. The latter reached his newly acquired property in the morning, and by night he had put up a shanty. During the following eight months he labored there alone, clearing and cultivating his land, and when at the end of that time his family came out, they found a comfortable log house and crops well advanced.

Mr. Bunker, during his solitary experience, used to be frequently troubled by wild beasts, and more than once his shanty, which was always open, received marauding visits from bears. He was, however, a fearless man, and far from being frightened away by the bears and wolves; he hunted and trapped them with great success. He was an expert ropemaker, and for some time, during his early days in Royalton, supplied Cleveland with about all the white rope used there. For its manufacture he used flax raised upon his farm, and also hemp purchased from Mr. Weddell, of Cleveland. Mr. Bunker also had a nursery of four hundred apple trees, from which many of the present orchards of Royalton were supplied. He had a family of nine children, and died in 1844, aged eighty-two.

Chauncey A. Stewart settled in the autumn of 1816 upon section four, the place being now owned by his son, T. H. Stewart. Mr. Stewart was a famous hunter and trapper, and one may still hear many stories of his adventurous exploits in search of bears and other large game. John Ferris settled in the township in December, 1816, and about the same time Solomon and Elias Keys, both from the State of New York, became members of the new community.

Boaz Granger, of whom mention has already been made, came out in 1817. He was a neighbor of Jonathan Bunker in New York, and when he came to Royalton, boarded awhile at the house of the latter. As before stated, he purchased land of John Coates on section eleven, and in part payment built him a house and barn, the latter structure being the first framed building erected in Royalton.

In the summer of 1817 Samuel Stewart settled upon the State Road on section fifteen, where his son, John B. Stewart, now lives. The latter, now aged eighty-eight, has always been one of the most prominent men in the township, and in his old age, looks with satisfaction upon the record of a busy and honorable life. He was a land surveyor in his younger days, and for many years was the agent of Gideon Granger for his Royalton land. He was the first clerk of Royalton, was chosen a justice of the peace, with Lewis Carter, in August, 1819, and long served the township in various public capacities. Mr. Stewart is the only one now living of those who voted at the first township election, in 1818.

In the winter of 1817 and spring of 1818, the settlement was very decidedly increased by the arrival of Eliphalet Towsley, David Sprague, Francis How, Abial Cushman, ____ Warren, Parley Austin, John Smith, Israel Sawyer, David Hier, ____ Claflin, ____ Hayes, Knight Sprague and Benjamin Boyer. Towsley settled in the southwest, where his son James had a short time before made a clearing. James returned to New York after his father came, and attended school a year. He then came back to Royalton and settled near the center, but subsequently removed to Brooklyn, where he died in 1879. Eliphalet Towsley resided in Royalton until his death.

David and Knight Sprague, brothers, were from Royalton, Vermont. Knight Sprague was blind, having, it is said, lost his sight while working as a blacksmith in the east. He was, however, a remarkably energetic man, and was thought by his neighbors to be able to discern the situation of objects almost as well as many who were blessed with perfect eyes. He built the first town-hall owned by Royalton, took an active part in all affairs of the time, and died on the place on which he first settled. An early township record sets forth the fact that Mr. Sprague was chosen fence-viewer in 1821, but how the blind man managed to "view" the fences the record fails to state. David Sprague settled upon section five, whence he afterwards removed to Middleburg, where he died.

John Smith was also from Vermont, and located on section seven. He was killed in 1823 by the fall of a tree. John Hier and his brother David located near the Strongsville line. The former died in Hinckley and the latter upon his farm at Bennett's Corners.

In 1818 the newcomers included Henry Hudson, a doctor, farmer and Baptist preacher, James Baird, Asa and Samuel Norton, Kersina and John Watkins, Smith Ingersolls and O. C. Gordon. Mr. Baird, who was one of Jonathan Bunker's neighbors in New York, married the oldest daughter of the latter and located on section eleven, adjoining Bunker's place. He afterward moved a mile farther south, and about 1827 went to Lorain County.

Settlements began to be made at the center about 1827, in which year Royal Tyler opened a store in a ten by twelve log-house. He afterward removed to Brooklyn, and was succeeded in the store by his brother Benjamin, who also practiced the healing art. He now resides in Brooklyn.

William and James Towsley were early settlers at the center, as was also a Mr. Bostwick. Kersina and John Watkins located near the center, but the former soon died, and the latter then moved out of the township. Asa Norton bought land of John Coates on section twelve, and paid for it by daily labor. The only time he could devote to his own farm was the nights and the Sundays, and these he never failed to use to the utmost extent possible.

Samuel Norton who was a teamster at times between Cleveland and Medina, settled upon section eleven. Both Nortons resided in Royalton until they died. Smith Ingalls lived on a farm adjoining David Sprague's, and there died after a well spent and active life. He was the first postmaster in Royalton, and frequently served in township offices.

"York" street was laid out about 1828, when one Briggs and William Ferris built there, followed a year or two afterward by William Gibson, John Marcellus, Page Claflin, John Tompkins, James Bunker and George Abrams. Samuel Gibson built a steam sawmill in the west, and not long afterward William Thomas and James Goss built another one in that vicinity, the presence of a belt of fine timber making the timber business quite profitable. Harvey Edgerton built a steam sawmill in the south-east, about 1830, at which time that part of the township first began to receive settlers to any extent. The earliest residents there were Sardis and Harvey Edgerton, Barton Brown, Mr. Akins, John Edgerton, Lewis Miller, Otis Billings and others. Abner S. Beales settled in 1821 near the Center, next to Robert Engle. He lived there four years, and in 1825 removed to Parma.

EARLY INCIDENTS.

The first marriage in Royalton was that of Asa Norton to Lovey Bunker. The ceremony, which was performed by "Squire" J. B. Stewart, was the maiden effort in that line of the newly-chosen justice. Going to mill in the pioneer days was a disagreeable necessity, for there were none nearer than Vaughn's log gristmill, where Berea now stands, and the way to it was through a dense wilderness. Freeman Bunker, now a resident of Royalton, related how, when a boy, he used occasionally to set out for Vaughn's mill with three bushels of corn across his horse's back. By a peculiar arrangement, the like of which we have never observed before in the history of pioneer milling, Vaughn always went himself, or sent somebody, half way to meet such persons as had notified him that they would have a grist for his mill. Young Bunker used to send the requisite notice beforehand, and then, after struggling through the woods and underbrush to the place where he expected to meet Vaughn, would call out loudly, when the worthy miller would usually appear and take the grist away with him. Sometimes, however, owing to the vague character of the road, the lad or the miller failed to find the appointed spot, when the former would be compelled to roam around the woods a long time before finding the other end of this singular transportation line.

Mr. Bunker relates that he was frequently followed by wolves during his trips to the mill and elsewhere, and that troops of them were common spectacles; but the craven creatures never made serious onslaughts save upon such small game as happened to be exposed to their attacks. Bear hunts, organized upon an extensive plan, occasionally called nearly all the residents of the township into service, but excursions after deer, turkeys, etc., were too common to attract any attention.

It is said that there was not a single framed dwelling house in Royalton, until 1827, when Jonathan Bunker erected one. The first Fourth of July celebration was held in 1821, and was attended by the usual jollification customary on such events at that day. Francis How is said by some to have kept at the center the first tavern opened in Royalton, but this opinion is disputed by others, who claim that the first Boniface was Charles Coates, who kept on the State Road, on the site of Asper's hotel, north of the center.

ORGANIZATION.

Previous to 1818 Royalton was a part of the civil township of Brecksville, but on the 27th day of October, 1818, the county commissioners ordered that "township number five, in range thirteen, be set off into a separate township with the name of Royalton." It is said that Knight Sprague, the blind man before mentioned, was anxious to name the township in honor of his own native town of Royalton, in Vermont; and it is further said that he paid a gallon of whisky for the privilege, but to whom does not appear. Doubtless it was distributed at a meeting of the "sovereigns" assembled to determine on a name. The first township election was held at the house of Robert Engle, November 9, 1818, at which time the following officers were chosen: John B. Stewart, clerk; David Sprague, Francis How and Elias Keys, trustees; Benjamin Boyer, fence-viewer; Francis How and Elias Keys, appraisers of property; Robert Engle and Elias Keys, supervisors of highways; Abial Cushman, constable; Chauncey A. Stewart, treasurer; Robert Engle and David Sprague were the judges of the election, and Chauncey A. Stewart was the chairman. The first election for justices of the peace was held in 1819, when John B. Stewart and Sam'l Norton were chosen. The election was set aside, however, on the ground of illegality, and at a new election John B. Stewart and Lewis Carter were duly elected justices. Their commissions were dated August 10, 1819. We give herewith a list of the names of the persons who have served as trustees, clerks and treasurers of Royalton from its organization to 1879.

PRINCIPAL TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

1818. Trustees, David Sprague, Francis How, Elias Keys; clerk, J. B. Stewart; treasurer, C. A. Stewart.
1819. Trustees, Lewis Carter, David Sprague, Jonathan Bunker; clerk, J. B. Stewart; treasurer, C. A. Stewart.
1820. Trustees, Israel Sawyer, Isaac Isham, Sam'l Norton, Jr.; clerk, J. B. Stewart; treasurer, Parley Austin.
1821. Trustees, Eliphalet Towsley, Israel Sawyer, James Bird; clerk, J. B. Stewart; treasurer, Parley Austin.
1822. Trustees, Jonathan Bunker, John Ferris, John Smith; clerk, J. B. Stewart; treasurer, Parley Austin.
1823. Trustees, Parley Austin, Francis How, Elias Keys; clerk, J. B. Stewart; treasurer, Parley Austin.
1824. Trustees, Sam'l Norton, Ezra Leonard, C. A. Stewart; clerk, J. B. Stewart; treasurer, Parley Austin.
1825. Trustees, Boaz Granger, Ezra Leonard, Smith Ingalls; clerk, J. B. Stewart; treasurer, Parley Austin.
1826. Trustees, Smith Ingalls, Ezra Leonard, John Ferris; clerk, J. B. Stewart; treasurer, P. Austin.
1827. Trustees, Wm. Teachout, Jas. Towsley, John Watkins; clerk, J. B. Stewart; treasurer, John Watkins.
1828. Trustees, Jas. Towsley, Smith Ingalls, James W. Wild; clerk, John B. Stewart; treasurer, Thos. Francis.
1829 Trustees, Wm. Teachout, Edward Scofield, Smith Ingalls; clerk, John Coates 3rd; treasurer, Thomas Francis.
1830 and 1831. Trustees, Edward Scofield, W. D. Eastman, R. K. Towsley; clerk, J. B. Stewart; treasurer, Thos. Francis.
1832. Trustees, C. Brunson, Wm. Teachout, Zara Sarles; clerk, J. B. Stewart; treasurer, John B. Davis.
1833. Trustees, Francis How, John Coates, Jr., Isaac Isham, Jr.; clerk James Towsley; treasurer, John B. Davis.
1834. Trustees, John Coates, Jr., Ebenezer Bostwick, John B. Stewart; clerk, Jas. Towsley; treasurer, John

B. Davis.

1835. Trustees, O. C. Gordon, Harvey Edgerton, Eliphalet Towsley; clerk, James Towsley; treasurer, Francis How.

1836 and 1837. Trustees, O. C. Gordon, Harvey Edgerton, J. B. Stewart; clerk, Jas. Towsley; treasurer, John B. Davis.

1838. Trustees, J. B. Stewart, O. C. Gordon, William Teachout; clerk, Jas. Towsley; treasurer, John B. Davis.

1839. Trustees, J. B. Stewart, Robert Wilkinson, Wm. Teachout; clerk, Jas. Towsley; treasurer, O. C. Gordon.

1840. Trustees, Wm. Teachout, J. B. Stewart, Smith Ingalls; clerk, Eliphalet Towsley; treasurer, O. C. Gordon.

1841. Trustees, Smith Ingalls, John Coats, Francis Bark; clerk, Eliphalet Towsley; treasurer, O. C. Gordon.

1842. Trustees, Smith Ingalls, Edwin Wilcox, Wm. Ferris; clerk, Eliphalet Towsley; treasurer, O. C. Gordon.

1843. Trustees, Edwin Wilcox, Zara Sarles, Wm. Ferris; clerk, Eliphalet Towsley; treasurer, H. M. Munson.

1844. Trustees, Zara Sarles, Daniel A. Minor, Wm. Towsley; clerk, James Towsley; treasurer, Lewis How.

1845. Trustees, Parley Austin, Rowley Leonard, Joseph Teachout; clerk, James Towsley; treasurer, Edwin Wilcox.

1846. Trustees, Smith Ingalls, Wm. D. Eastman, Wm. Teachout; clerk, Charles Teachout; treasurer, Lewis How.

1847. Trustees, Wm. D. Eastman, Wm. Ferris, Asa Varney; clerk, A. Teachout; treasurer, L. How.

1848. Trustees, Smith Ingalls, James Towsley, S. M. Wilcox; clerk, Joseph Smith; treasurer, Lewis How.

1849. Trustees, James Towsley, Zara Sarles, Edwin Wilcox; clerk, Joseph Smith; treasurer, Lewis How.

1850. Trustees, Robert Wilkinson, Rufus D. Gibson, Thomas Bark; clerk, Joseph Smith; treasurer, Lewis How.

1851. Trustees, Robert Wilkinson, Francis P. Howe, O. H. Graves; clerk, Joseph Smith; treasurer, Lewis How.

1852. Trustees, Henry Aiken, Norman A. Graves, Thomas Meacher; clerk, Joseph Smith; treasurer, Lewis How.

1853. Trustees, Robert Wilkinson, Thos. B. Coats, Wm. Ferris; clerk, James Towsley; treasurer, Arenzo Sarles.

1854. Trustees, Robert Wilkinson, Henry Akin, T. B. Coates; clerk, Wm. Hodgkinson; treasurer, Lewis How.

1855. Trustees, Henry Akin, T. B. Coates, J. Marcellus; clerk, Thomas Coates; treasurer, Wm. Sarles.

1856. Trustees, D. A. Miner, Sardis Edgerton, Wm. Ferris; clerk, Jas. Towsley; treasurer, Martin S. Billings.

1857. Trustees, Dan'l Miner, Sardis Edgerton, Robert Wilkinson; clerk, Joesph [sic] Smith; treasurer, Martin S. Billings.

1858. Trustees, Sardis Edgerton, John Marcellus, James, Ferris; clerk, Joseph Smith; treasurer, James Towsley.

1859. Trustees, James Ferris, Sardis Edgerton, S. H. Stewart; clerk, Joseph Smith; treasurer, James Towsley.

1860. Trustees, Charles Bangs, Edwin Wilcox, James Ferris; clerk, Joseph Smith; treasurer, James Towsley.

1861. Trustees, John Tompkins, W. W. Stockman, Zara Sarles; clerk, Jos. Smith; treasurer, James Towsley.

1862. Trustees, John Tompkins, W. W. Stockman, Zara Sarles; clerk, Jos. Smith; treasurer, O. C. Gordon.

1863. Trustees, B. S. Tyler, John Tompkins, Ransom Walling; clerk, Jos. Smith; treasurer, O. C. Gordon.

1864. Trustees, B. S. Tyler, Stillman Tupper, Geo. Johnson; clerk, Jos. Smith; treasurer, O. C. Gordon.

1865. Trustees, Chas. Bangs, Chas. Robinson, O. H. Claflin; clerk, Geo. S. Morrell; treasurer, L. S. Sarles.

1866. Trustees, Chas. Bangs, Chas. Robinson, O. H. Claflin; clerk, J. M. Wilcox; treasurer, L. S. Sarles.

1867. Trustees, Orville Bangs, John Tompkins, Wm. Ferris; clerk, M. G. Billings; treasurer, L. S. Sarles.

1868. Trustees, John Tompkins, Thos. Bolton, Wm. Spencer; clerk, Farnum Gibbs; treasurer, L. S. Sarles.

1869 and 1870. Trustees, T. S. Bolton, Simon Wilkinson, Hamlin Miller; clerk, Farnum Gibbs; treasurer, L.

S. Sarles.

1871. Trustees, Geo. Matthews, G. H. Stewart, O. Taylor; clerk, Farnum Gibbs; treasurer, L. S. Sarles.

1872. Trustees, Geo. Matthews, G. H. Stewart, Oliver Taylor; clerk, A. E. Akin; treasurer, L. S. Sarles.

1873. Trustees, George Matthews, G. H. Stewart, Wm. Tompkins; clerk, A. E. Akin; treasurer, L. S. Sarles.

1874. Trustees, Geo. Matthews, Wm. Tompkins, Freeman Norton; clerk, Joseph Smith; treasurer, L. S. Sarles.

1875. Trustees, Oliver Taylor, Geo. Matthews, Freeman Norton; clerk, Joseph Smith; treasurer, L. S. Sarles.

1876. Trustees, Oliver Taylor, Geo. Matthews, Freeman Norton; clerk, A. E. Akin; treasurer, L. S. Sarles.

1877 and 1878. Trustees, Geo. Matthews, Freeman Norton, Sardis Edgerton, Jr.; clerk, Joseph Smith; treasurer, Oliver Taylor.

1879. Trustees, Sardis Edgerton, Geo. Matthews, Joseph Turney; clerk, Joseph Smith; treasurer, Oliver Taylor.

POST OFFICE.

Down to 1825 the people of Royalton had to go to Cleveland for their mail, except that some of them bargained with J. W. Weld to bring their letters and papers to them for a small compensation - fifty cents weekly from each person thus served. In 1825 Smith Ingalls was appointed postmaster, but as he resided in the western part of the township, he deputized S. K. Greenleaf, living near the center, to transact the business. Since Mr. Ingall's time the Royalton post-masters have been William Towsley, Tristram Randall, Lorenzo Hopkins, W. W. Stockman, Charles W. Foster, S. W. Chandler, Lewis Granger, Joseph W. Smith, Charles Bangs, M. S. Billings, Byron Babcock and Thomas Coates; the last named being the present incumbent.

ROYALTON CENTER.

Royalton Center, the only village in the township, occupies a pleasant and healthful elevation whence the eye has a very fine view of the surrounding country. The village contains the town hall, three stores, three churches, an Odd Fellow's lodge, and a handsome cemetery. A majority of the residents of the township do their trading at this point, and it is therefore the seat of considerable business, while it is also made attractive by the presence of many elegant rural homes.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

Rev. Henry Hudson, an early settler in Royalton, who was a doctor as well as a minister, was among the early preachers to the Baptists of Royalton. Prior to 1878, the members of that denomination used to assemble frequently for prayer and other public devotional exercises. In that year the First Baptist Church was organized. The first members were the following: Henry Hudson, Priscilla Hudson, James Teachout, William Dyke, Elizabeth Dyke, William, Lydia and John Teachout, Relief Austin, Merrick Rockwell and Clarissa Teachout. The first deacon was William Dyke.

The stone church at the center was the first one built, and was erected in 1850, services, previous to that time, having been held in school-houses and the town-house. Thomas Rederup, Francis Norton and John Edgerton were the building committee which superintended its erection. The church had a membership of forty-five.

Mr. Hudson was the pastor until his death, and served for a period of about twenty-five years - his annual salary rarely exceeding fifty dollars. There was a division in the church in 1838; and later, during Rev. Mr. Conley's time, a second one, but the organization is now prosperous, and contains sixty members. The pastor is Rev. S. S. Watkins.

FREE-WILL BAPTIST CHURCH.

The early records of this church have been lost, and the date of its organization is fixed, therefore, by conjecture at about 1836.

Worship was first held at the Center, but in 1843 the location was changed to Coates' Corners. * Public services were held there in a school-house until 1850, when, after a protracted discussion which had lasted several years, the present church-edifice was erected.

On the 1st of August, 1879, the church membership was thirty-eight. The pastor was Rev. J. H. Baldwin; the trustees were George Kendall and Francis Miner, and the deacons, George Kendall and Francis Bark.

THE DISCIPLE CHURCH.

In the year 1828 Ezra Leonard invited Mr. Hayden, a Disciple preacher, to visit Royalton and hold religious services for the few of that faith who then resided there. Mr. Hayden responded promptly, and preached his first sermon in the house of John B. Stewart. Soon afterward Edward Scofield, formerly of the Baptist Church, moved into town, and with Mr. Hayden preached occasionally to the Disciples. Mr. Hayden preached in Mr. John Ferris' barn in June, 1829, and on that occasion baptized a number of converts. In the autumn of 1829, a church organization was effected. The elders then chosen were Jewett M. Frost, John B. Stewart, Adin Dyke and William Buck. The deacons were Almon Eastman and Henry Bangs. The original membership of thirty has steadily increased until there are now one hundred and eight names on the roll. The elders in 1879 are Charles Johnson, Abel Bennet, William S. Greene and John B. Stewart, and the deacons are Clark Gibbs and Justin Bark. William Moody, of Lafayette, preaches to the congregation once a fortnight. The society owns a handsome church edifice at the center, and is in the enjoyment of decided prosperity.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This body was organized about 1836, but until 1859 worship was held in school houses and the town-house. In the latter year the present church-building was erected. The organization was originally located in the southeastern portion of Royalton, and, for a time, the Stewart school-house was used as a house of worship. Revs. Hugh L. Parish and _____ Fitch, who organized the church, were the first preachers, at which time the charge was included in the Brooklyn circuit. Subsequently the church was attached successively to the Brunswick, Hinckley and Brecksville circuits, in which the latter it still remains. The first class-leader was Hiram Sarles, who was one of the most prominent members of the church. The present class-leader is James Ferris, and the trustees are John Hall, William Babcock and James Ferris. There are now twenty-six members. The pulpit is without a regular pastor, depending upon occasional supplies.

ST. MARY'S (CATHOLIC) CHURCH.

In 1854 there were nine Catholic families in Royalton, and in response to their request Bishop Rappe came out from Cleveland and held services at the house of Thomas Montague at the center. Afterward Fathers Hannan, John and Halley were sent out to preach occasionally, and during the time of the latter, in 1858, the members of the congregation purchased the building now used as a church. The first trustees or councilmen of the church were Patrick Flynn, William Manny and James Morris. The present trustees are Patrick Manny and Bartholomew Lyons. About twenty-five families now attend the church, to whom Father Zarency, of Berea, preaches once a month, performing mass, however, every week.

SCHOOLS.

Authorities differ as to who was the first teacher in Royalton. Oren Abbott and Wm. Towsley have both been named as such, but the weight of evidence is in favor of Eunice Stewart. The school-house in which her labors were pursued was located upon the northeast corner of section five; and there, also, John B. Stewart - the second teacher in the township - taught shortly afterwards.

A log school-house was put up in section nineteen at a very early date, in which Wm. Towsley was the first teacher. After him, Abial Cushman was the pedagogue. The teachers of that day were perhaps imperfectly supplied with knowledge, but it is generally agreed by those whose memory extends to that time that they were an energetic, painstaking and industrious class of men and women.

In 1830, when the township was set off into four school districts, there were thirty-five householders in District No. 1, twenty-two in District No. 2, sixteen in District No. 3, and seventeen in District No. 4. The township is now supplied with nine excellent schools, at which the average daily attendance is 244, out of a school enumeration of 335. The township tax for school purposes in 1879 was \$1,378.

INDUSTRIES.

About 1866 James Wyatt introduced the manufacture of cheese as a regular business into Royalton, and for a few years did a thriving business. In 1869 Charles Bangs and L. S. Sarles began operations, and carried them forward in company until 1871 when they dissolved, and Bangs removed to his present location, and has since then been engaged in the business to a considerable extent. After a partnership with A. E. Aikens of three years and continuation on his own account until 1877, Mr. Sarles retired from the business, leaving the field to Mr. Bangs.

Royalton was at one time esteemed a famous dairy town, and produced a great quantity of milk, but latterly this branch of farming has declined in proportion to others, although still receiving no small share of the husbandman's attention. Capital is likewise invested in nurseries of which several send to market annually a valuable list of trees, plants, etc.

General farming is, however, the main dependence of the people, and as the country contains a fruitful soil, the agricultural interests are exceedingly prosperous; the farmers being usually in comfortable, and often in affluent circumstances.

EMPIRE LODGE, I. O. O. F.

Empire Lodge, No. 346, I. O. O. F., was instituted in July, 1950, with twelve charter members, viz: Charles Bangs, Orville Bangs, Joseph W. Smith, John Marcellus, William Frost, Thomas S. Bark, Wesley Pope, J. T. Akers, Edwin Bangs, George Johnson, Charles Heath and L. S. Sarles.

The lodge owns a large framed edifice at the center (built in 1864) in the upper portion of which is a well-appointed and commodious lodge room; the lower part being used as a store. The membership in August, 1879, was forty, although in 1878 twenty members withdrew upon the formation of a lodge in Brecksville. The present officers are Geo. Mathews, N. G.; John Kirkland, V. G.; D. C. Marcellus, T., F. Lesser, R. S.; Joseph W. Smith, P. S.

CEMETERIES.

The first public cemetery in Royalton was laid out at the center, a tract of five acres having been bought from John Watkins for that purpose. Upon that tract the town hall, the Baptist church and the cemetery are located. The latter is now a neglected, weed-choked and most unsightly spot. The first death in the township was that of Catherine, wife of Charles Coates. She was buried in a family burial place upon the Coates farm. There are several cemeteries in the township, of which the finest in appearance is the one at the center adjoining the Disciple church. It is prettily adorned, and its neatly kept walks, graceful foliage, and beautiful monuments, are well calculated to relieve the sad thoughts which naturally associate themselves with the homes of the dead.

*An entry upon the records under date of February 18, 1843, sets forth "that the brethren in Royalton met in monthly meeting, had a good time but under some trials; received three members, J. Bunker, M. Varny and S. Horton, and moved the church down to Coates' Corners."

Royalton 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/98/mode/2up

We have referred to the passing of the township, that political subdivision of the county, lowest in the scale of authority, yet closest to the people. Adapted to the needs of a sparsely populated people in a limited area, fitting in with the neighborly fraternity that characterized the pioneers, it has stood until broken into by the village and city governments. These changes have come as the natural requirement of increased population, wealth and industries, when, as Goldsmith expresses it: "Trade's unfeeling train usurp the land." And he adds, "And thou, sweet poetry! thou loveliest maid, still first to fly." There is a glamor of the romantic and the poetic that clings to these first organizations formed in the woods of the Western wilderness, while yet the trail of the Indian is visible and the mounds of their predecessors, the Eries, or Mound Builders, are unexplored. Royalton and Strongsville are the only townships of Cuyahoga County whose territory and political entity remain the same as when first formed. A description of Cleveland, England, the north Riding of York, from a history published in 1808, would seem to describe quite accurately these early township organizations. From Cleveland, England, came the ancestors of Moses Cleveland and also a number of the early settlers of Royalton, who did not come here direct, but stopped for some time in the East. We quote from the history of Cleveland, England:

"Farmers form a very respectable class of society and deservedly rank high among their fellows in any part of England. They are generally sober, industrious and orderly; most of the younger part of them have enjoyed a proper education and give a suitable one to their children, who, of both sexes, are brought up in habits of industry and economy. Fortunately, this country is purely agricultural and the inhabitants, solely cultivators of the earth, are endowed with the virtues of their profession uncontaminated by the neighborhood or vices of manufactures. Justice is impartially administered and thereby the good order and comfort of individuals and the general happiness and prosperity of the country are invariably consulted and promoted." The Arcadian atmosphere of Royalton must have been conducive to long life, for an inscription on the tombstone of John Shepherd, standing in the cemetery at the Center, who died in 1847, shows his age to have been one hundred and eighteen years, nine months and eighteen days. And Mrs. Eleanor Jacox, one of the early settlers of Royalton, who died there in 1888, was lacking a few days of ninety-nine years of age at the time of her death. She was the mother of eleven children and had eighteen grandchildren, twenty-four great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren when she died.

This township number 5 in range 13 is bounded on the north by Parma, east by Brecksville, south by Medina County and west by Strongsville. There are no streams of size in the township, hence little mill power. A branch of the Cuyahoga, the Chippewa Creek, rises in the township, and a branch of the Rocky River flows through one corner. The first settlement was made by a Mr. Clark in the southeast part in 1811. This was near the home of Seth Paine, the first settler in Brecksville, who had authority as a land agent to sell, and it is probable he bought from him. Clark died and in 1816 his widow married Lewis Carter, who took up his residence on the Clark farm. Lorenzo Carter, a son of Lewis, was the first white male child born in the township. He died in 1860. Henry A. Carter, another son, was born on this farm originally taken up by Meizer Clark, in March, 1819. Another son named Louis died in infancy. Almira Paine or Payne (the name is spelled either way), who married Melzer Clark, and with her husband had the distinction of being the first settlers, after bearing him three children as we have named, lost her second husband, who died when Henry A. Carter was but five years of age. She afterwards married

Henry L. Bangs and they had several children. Henry A. Carter married in 1844 Martha S. Frost and they had two children, Bertha E. Carter and Elwin L. Carter. Bertha married Erwin Paine, a descendant of the first settler of Brecksville, Seth Paine. Thus, the lines of first settlers crossed. Henry A. Carter lived the later years of his life on the old farm and was succeeded at his death by his son Elwin L., who was married in 1879 to Amanda Snow of Brecksville, and they have resided on the old farm, the original settlement. By an unfortunate accident in the woods Mr. Carter was injured and died in 1923. He is survived by four children, all highly esteemed and successful, fit representatives of those who began, in toil, the building of a new civilization.

On June 2, 1816, the second settlement was made, five years after Melzer Clark and wife located. Robert Engle and family and with him his father-in-law, John Shepherd, came from New York State and located on a farm half a mile from the Center. We have referred to Mr. Shepherd and the great age to which he lived. Mr. Shepherd had served as an attendant to a French officer under Braddock in his unfortunate Indian campaign and was present at the memorable defeat, was familiar with the historic interview when Washington, who knew of the dangers of Indian warfare, then a volunteer aide de camp to General Braddock, attempted to advise that gentleman. "High time," said Braddock, "high time when a young stripling can teach a British officer how to fight." Robert Engle was quite famous as a hunter and trapper and when he died his daughter married Simpson Enos, or the marriage may have been before his death, but the couple remained on the farm. Up to the time when this farm was occupied, for five years, the Clark family were the only white people in the township. In 1816, Thomas and Henry Francis, brothers, settled on adjoining farms half a mile north of the Center. Both spent their lives on their farms. Rhoda Francis, a daughter of one, was the first white child born in the township. In December of the same year, 1816, John Coates came with his family from Geneseo, New York, and settled on section 21. He built a house of round logs and the next year replaced it with a double log house. He was familiarly known as "Uncle Jackie Coates." He bought 3,500 acres of land, known as the Coates tract, and the house was located near what is now called Walling's Corners. The double log house was built by Boaz Granger, who took his pay in land. It was the first house in the township to have a cellar and was regarded as an aristocratic mansion. It was located on a high ridge overlooking a large area of the new purchase. Jane Elliott Snow in a history published in 1901 gives this interesting sketch of this Royalton settler of 1816: "John Coates was born in Yorkshire, England, and in early manhood was known as a sportsman. He kept his pack of hounds and was a Nimrod of the true English type. He owned an interest in a valuable trotting horse, and at one of the races bet all that he had on the fleetness of his horse. Fortunately for his family he won. A member of the family says he won a fortune of many pounds. At a later period in his life his tastes changed and his interest in the fast horse was exchanged for the nucleus of a library. The possession of books inspired him with a desire to learn their contents, and soon the careless sportsman was changed to the thoughtful student. He became thoroughly well read and in his later years was noted as a man of scholarly tastes and acquirements. For Shakespeare he had an excessive fondness, and his volumes of that work, still preserved, bear marks of careful reading. On coming to this country, he brought many of his works with him, and here in the wilderness of Ohio they were looked upon as a library of no little value. Oscar O'Brien, also a pioneer, said he often visited the Coates' home, and to his boyish fancy that little library equaled in magnitude the famous Alexandrian library of ancient renown. Living as he did to witness the long struggle between England and her American colonies, his heart went out in sympathy for the scourged, bleeding, yet triumphant sons and daughters of liberty across the sea. He was a great admirer of Washington and it is related of him that at a dinner party he proposed a toast to that hero, and so offended some of his friends that he was to a certain extent socially ostracized. He then declared that he would not live in a country where he could not honor so good a man as George Washington. With his wife and family of two sons and one daughter, the eldest son John coming with wife and two children, he sailed for America in 1803. Thirteen years

later, there being then four heads of families, all came to Royalton, Ohio. Environment changed and fashions changed, but 'mine host' in the double log house continued to wear the short breeches and shoe buckles that were the style in his youth."

"Uncle Jackie" was sixty-seven years old when he came to his tract of wild land in Royalton, past the age when he would be expected to engage actively in the clearing of the wilderness. He had sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, who became typical pioneers. His interest it would seem was tinged with sentiment. The topography of the Cuyahoga Valley is strikingly similar to that of the Leven in Cleveland, England. Call Lake Erie the North Sea, take away the great city which has arisen since he came, and you have Cleveland, England. The writer in 1910 visited Cleveland, England, to verify the striking similarity in soil and topography of the two Clevelands. In coming to this locality John Coates located his purchase and built his home where he could survey a section very like his beloved Cleveland, England, but in a country whose government accorded with his democratic opinions. He died at the age of eighty-one. A long line of descendants have been farmers in Royalton. Catherine (Coates) Teachout, daughter of John Coates 2d, was the second white female child born in the township.

In 1817 Jonathan Bunker came from New York. He had traded fifty acres of land near Palmyra, New York, for 150 acres in Royalton. Bunker belonged to that historic family that gave its name to Bunker Hill. Two of his brothers fought in the battle on Breed's Hill, nearby, June 17, 1775, one being killed and the other badly wounded. Ephraim Moody, a neighbor, accompanied Bunker to the West. They came in a sleigh drawn by a pair of horses. It must have been a well-balanced trip for each one owned a horse. Some neighborly deal must have been consummated, however, for Moody stopped before reaching Royalton and Bunker completed the trip alone. He reached the new farm in the morning and by night had a shanty built. For eight months he worked and when his family came, they found a comfortable log house, a clearing, and crops well advanced. In all this intervening time Bunker had worked in solitude, often disturbed by wild beasts. Like others he hunted and trapped for recreation and profit. He was an expert rope maker and for some time in his early residence in Royalton furnished Cleveland with about all the white rope used there. For its manufacture he used flax raised on his own farm and hemp bought of Mr. Weddell in Cleveland. He started the first nursery in Royalton and the orchards that were planted over the town were largely from his stock. In the year previous came Chauncey A. Stewart, John Ferris, Solomon and Elias Keys. Boaz Granger, already mentioned, came in 1817. He was a neighbor of Bunker in New York and it seems likely that he brought Bunker's family with him, as he boarded at Bunker's for some time after arriving. He bought land of John Coates on section 11, and in part payment built the double log house referred to and later built for him a frame building for a barn, which was the first frame building in Royalton. In this year of 1817 there were a number of new arrivals. Samuel Stewart, a surveyor, who located on the State Road, and was agent for Gedeon Granger for his Royalton land, Eliphalet Tousley, David Sprague, Francis Howe, Abial Cushman, Warren P. Austin, John Smith, Israel Sawyer, David Hier, Knight Sprague, Benjamin Boyer, Mr. Claflin and Mr. Hayes came that year. Samuel Stewart voted at the first election in 1818 and was the first clerk of the township. Was justice of the peace with Lewis Carter in 1819. Tousley settled in the southwest part of the township where his son James had made a clearing. James went back to school in New York and later returned to Royalton. The father resided in Royalton until his death. James removed to Brooklyn, where he died in 1879. David and Knight Sprague, brothers, came from Royalton, Vermont. Knight Sprague was blind, having lost his sight while working in a blacksmith shop in Vermont. He was astonishingly energetic and seemed to make up for his loss of sight by energy and some natural instinct. He was thought by his neighbors to locate objects as well as those who could see. An old record of the township recites the fact that in 1821 Mr. Sprague was elected fence viewer. How successful a blind man could be in that position we leave to the imagination, but it is a fact that he built the first town hall owned by Royalton. His activity and sagacity

must have been unusual. It is related of him that at the organization of the township he succeeded in having it named Royalton, after his native town, Royalton, Vermont. He stated afterwards that it cost him a gallon of whiskey to get the designation. Just how the payment was made we also leave to the imagination. He died on the farm where he first lived. His brother David removed to Middleburgh. John Smith came from Vermont and was killed by a falling tree in 1823. His farm was located on section 7. Of the Hier brothers, who came in 1817 and located near the Strongsville line, John Hier died in Hinckley and David at Bennett's Corners.

In 1818 there were new additions to the Royalton colony. Among them, Henry Hudson, a doctor, fanner and Baptist preacher; James Baird, Asa and Samuel Norton, Kersina and John Watkins, Smith Ingalls and O. C. Gordon. Mr. Baird was one of Jonathan Bunker's neighbors in New York, and what should be more appropriate than that he should locate next to Bunker here, which he did. To make the neighborly bond more close, he married Bunker's oldest daughter. They moved away in 1827. Asa Norton bought land of John Coates and paid for it in days' work. The only time he had to devote to his own land, until it was paid for, was nights and Sundays. Samuel Norton earned his way as a teamster between Cleveland and Medina and then took up a farm on section 11. Both Nortons lived out their lives in the town they had helped to found. Smith Ingalls settled for life on a farm next to David Sprague's. He had the distinction of being the first postmaster of Royalton. The first store was opened at the Center by Royal Taylor in a ten by twelve log house about 1827. Later he moved to Brooklyn and his brother Benjamin took the store and in addition to his duties in connection therewith practiced medicine. Located near the Center at this time were William and James Towsley, Kersina and John Watkins and a Mr. Bostwick. Meanwhile the clearings grew larger, grain ripened in the fields, the sickle and the flail were in capable hands, the orchards were bearing, some propagated from the nursery of Jonathan Bunker, and some grown in part from seed brought with care by the settlers from the East. The flocks and herds had grown. Gardens flourished in the new soil and flowers were about the homes of the pioneers.

In the log house days wrestling and other feats of strength came in as recreation and amusement for the hard-working pioneers. A man's ability to lift and wrestle beyond his fellows was a distinction that gave him prominence. Scuffling in a good-natured way was one of the off-duty recreations. Mrs. Snow gave me this Royalton incident illustrative of the ministering hand of woman in certain emergencies. At the Annis home, a log house, two or three sons and the hired man slept in the loft. In a scuffle before retiring one man's trousers were thrown into the fire and were burned. As a result of this accident, the wardrobes of those days not being so complete as in later years, the owner of the lost trousers stayed in bed all day while Mrs. Annis made him a pair out of an old military cloak. The days of the sewing machine had not arrived.

In 1828, York Street was laid out, and on it, Mr. Briggs, William Ferris, William Gibson, John Marcellus, Page Claflin, John Tompkins, James Bunker and George Abrams built houses. In the west part of the township Samuel Gibson built a sawmill and afterwards Thomas and James Goss built another. These were steam sawmills, there being, as we have said, little water power, but the abundance of timber made them profitable. In the southeast part of the township, in 1830, Harvey Edgerton built a steam sawmill and here located Sardis and Harvey Edgerton, Barlow Brown, Mr. Akins, John Edgerton, Lewis Miller and Otis Billings. The first marriage in the township was that of Asa Norton to Lovey Bunker. The knot was tied by Squire J. B. Stewart, and this was that officer's maiden effort in that line. He, no doubt, became hardened to the ordeal with a larger experience, but the justice of the peace in Royalton who held the record as the marrying justice was Squire Edwin Wilcox, whose record exceeded all others. He married for himself Jane, a daughter of John Coates II.

There was no gristmill in Royalton in the early days and the nearest was Vaughn's log gristmill, the site now included in the boundaries of Berea. Vaughn was an enterprising fellow, and, as the way led through a dense forest, he would meet his customers half way. Freeman Bunker used to relate how he went to mill with three bushels of corn on horseback and how the wolves had gathered around him at the tryst and how they would scatter as he halloooed for Vaughn. He said bear and deer were plentiful and wild turkeys too common to notice. There was no frame dwelling in the township until 1827. This was built by Jonathan Bunker. In 1821 was held the first Fourth of July celebration. There are no minutes as to the speakers but we will assume that the Declaration of Independence was read and listened to with interest. The first tavern was kept at the Center by Francis Howe. It is claimed by some that the first tavern kept in the township was one operated by Charles Coates. This was in the north part of the township and on the site for so many years occupied by the Asper House. Across from the hotel was the Sherwood home. Here Judge W. E. Sherwood, familiarly known as Ned Sherwood, was born and spent his boyhood. He was a rare soul. After serving in various public positions in Cleveland he was in 1889 elected to the Common Pleas bench and served but a short time when death called. The writer remembers him when he began his work upon the bench and until his death was in close relationship. In his presence the social thermometer always went up. He had a personality most charming, a rare gift of expression, and as a judge was frank, knightly and fair. Gallant, gifted, brilliant Ned Sherwood! Too soon the summons came.

Until 1825 the people of Royalton had to go to Cleveland for their mail. This was usually worked out by changing accommodations. One person having an errand to Cleveland would bring the mail for the rest. Finally, James W. Weld of Richfield established a sort of mail route, entirely unofficial. He brought letters and papers to different residents for fifty cents per week, making his trips to and from his home in Richfield, Summit County. In 1825 a post office was established and Smith Ingalls appointed postmaster, but as he lived in a part of the township away from the Center, he deputized S. K. Greenleaf, who lived there, to transact the business of the post office. A weekly mail was established, and with the letters came the weekly newspaper, by reading of which the pioneers were well posted in real news. Among the early postmasters were William Tousley, Tristram Randall, Lorenzo Hopkins, W. W. Stockman, Charles W. Foster, S. W. Chandler, Lewis Granger, Joseph W. Smith, M. S. Billings, Byron Babcock and Thomas Coates.

Royalton being elevated so much above the sea level, being the highest territory in the county, a signal station was established here by the Government, when this system was first put in use in connection with the Weather Bureau. The station was located north of the Center and because of its height and the mystery of its operation was an object of interest for some time. It has been abandoned for many years.

The Teachouts came to Royalton in 1837 and Abraham Teachout, Sr., was the first man to do away with liquor at raisings. Mr. Teachout had entered into a partnership with Robert Brayton to build a sawmill. At the raising the usual whiskey was expected. After the neighbors had put the sills in position they called for the whiskey. They were informed that this was to be a temperance raising. This was thought to be impossible. Church brothers offered to buy the whiskey, arguing that the frame could not go up without it. Teachout mounted a log and delivered an eloquent temperance address, concluding by informing the men that if they were not willing to do the work without liquor they could go home. They finally, after much consultation, decided to try it out. Many argued that there was danger that someone would get hurt, as whiskey was supposed to supply the necessary strength at critical moments and thus avoid accidents. It is a historical fact that the frame went up and no one was injured. In place of the whiskey a fine feed was given the men and after a game of ball the men went home to relate the novel experience. This mill was completed and put in operation November 10, 1845. The son, Abraham Teachout, Jr., followed in the footsteps of his father on the temperance question. While in Royalton and after

removing to Cleveland, where he built up the great industry still operated under the name of A. Teachout and Company, he was an unswerving advocate of prohibition. He was at one time a candidate for mayor of Cleveland on the prohibition ticket and received the largest vote ever given a candidate for that office on that ticket.

Before 1819 Royalton was under the jurisdiction of Brecksville and in that year, October 27th, the county commissioners set off number 5 of range 13 as a separate township. The first election was held at the house of Robert Engle, November 9, 1818. Robert Engle and David Sprague were chosen judges and Chauncey A. Stewart, clerk of election. The officers elected were: Trustees, David Sprague, Francis Howe and Elias Keys; clerk, John B. Stewart; treasurer, Chauncey A. Stewart; fence viewer, Benjamin Boyer; appraisers, Robert Engle and Elias Keys; superintendent of roads, Abial Cushman; justices of the peace, John B. Stewart and Samuel Norton; constable, Abial Cushman. Through some lack in procedure the election of justices of the peace was set aside as illegal and a new election ordered. At this election John B. Stewart and Lewis Carter were elected and their commissions were dated August 10, 1819. At this first township election in which David Sprague was elected trustee and preceding which, in town meeting, the blind brother as well as David had been active in securing the name of Royalton in honor of their native town, Royalton, Vermont, we notice that David was also judge of election. The Spragues were active in township affairs for many years. In the Brooklyn Bridge Beacon, a small local paper published by the Union Trust Company, we quote a recent item reciting the death of a descendant, Calvin Sprague, who was well known over the county: "Mr. Calvin Sprague of Broadview Road, one of Brooklyn's Civil war veterans, died on September 13th. He was born July 24, 1837, in Royalton, Ohio, and lived there until his enlistment in the Union army in 1861. He was one of the first men to enlist from Royalton. He saw service with the Sixth Ohio Cavalry. Mr. Sprague returned to Royalton and married Miss Sarah Garlock of Parma. He operated the old Pearl Street House fifty years ago, afterwards being connected with the old Brooklyn car line under Tom L. Johnson. Interment at Royalton."

Since the death of Mr. Sprague, Justin Bark of West Thirty third Street, Cleveland, Ohio, is the oldest living of the early residents of Royalton. He related to the writer an incident of his early childhood in which the joke is most assumedly on the preacher. Death and destruction were preached more in those days than the sunny side of religion. While a very young child Mr. Bark was permitted to attend the funeral of Boaz Granger. Other children had told him that at a funeral you could see the corpse. In his seat in the church by his mother he peered in all directions but no corpse was visible. Finally, from behind the pulpit a fallow austere countenance arose to begin the service. The little fellow was all excitement, his curiosity had been rewarded. "Oh, Ma!" he cried aloud, "there's the corpse."

Among those who have served as township trustees were David Sprague, James Bird, Francis Howe, Eliphalet Tousley, Elias Keys, John Ferris, Lewis Carter, John Smith, Jonathan Bunker, Parley Austin, Israel Sawyer, Ezra Leonard, Isaac Isham and Isaac Isham, Jr., Samuel Norton, Jr., C. A. Stewart, Boaz Granger, Smith Ingalls, William Teachout, James Tousley, John Watkins, James W. Wild, Edward Schofield, W. D. Eastman, R. K. Tousley, C. Brunson, Zara Searles, John Coates II, Ebenezer Bostwick, John B. Stewart, O. C. Gordon, Harvey Edgerton, J. B. Stewart, Robert Wilkinson, Francis Bark, Edwin Wilcox, William Farris, Daniel A. Miner, Rowley Leonard, Joseph Teachout, Asa Varney, S. M. Wilcox, Rufus D. Gibson, Thomas Bark, Thomas B. Coates, Sardis Edgerton, John Marcellus, Charles Bangs, John Tompkins, Henry Akins, W. W. Stockman, B. S. Tyler, Charles Robinson, O. H. Claffin, Orvill Bangs, Thomas Bolton, William Spencer, Simon Wilkinson, Hamlin Miller, George Mathews, Oliver Taylor, Freeman Norton, Joseph Turney and Justin Bark.

The spelling of some of the family names has changed with the years. Searles was originally written

Sarles and old silver in the possession of the family is marked Serls. Howe was written How and Tousley, Towsley. Among the clerics of the township have been J. B. Stewart, James Tousley, Charles Teachout, Abram Teachout, Joseph Smith, William Hodlkinson, Thomas Coates, George S. Morrell, John M. Wilcox, M. G. Billings, Farnum Gibbs and A. E. Akins. Among the treasurers have been C. A. Stewart, Thomas Francis, Parley Austin, John B. Davis, John Watkins, Francis Howe, O. C. Gordon, H. M. Munson, Lewis Howe, Edwin Wilcox, Alonzo Searles, William Searles, Martin S. Billings, James Tousley, L. S. or Lambert Searles and Oliver Taylor. In the history of the township there have been no defalcations. After L. S. Searles had held the office of treasurer for twelve consecutive terms it was charged that he had appropriated township funds and was short in his accounts. On that rumor he was defeated for reelection, but when the new treasurer, Oliver Taylor, took office Mr. Searles turned over to him at once the funds of the township, to a penny, in currency, leaving that gentleman a little worried for the time being as to their safe keeping. The present officers of the township are trustees, Thomas Hurst, J. E. Thompson, G. H. Edgerton; clerk, B. W. Veber; treasurer, E. C. Cerney; assessor, Jan Dolezel. As to the justices of the peace, L. W. Craddock was elected, as shown by the books of the county auditor, but the records of the county clerk show only O. D. Clark as acting justice at the present time. The constable is J. H. Brunner.

The first church organized in the township was the Baptist. Rev. Henry Hudson was the organizer and pastor until his death some twenty-five years later. It was formed in 1818. The first members were Henry and Priscilla Hudson, William Dyke, James, William, Lydia, John and Clarissa Teachout, Relief Austin and Merrick Rockwell. William Dyke was the first deacon. Reverend Hudson served at an annual salary that rarely exceeded \$50. Rev. S. S. Watkins followed Mr. Hudson for a long period. Reverend Conley was the third pastor. For a long time, the meetings were held in schoolhouses, but in 1850 a building committee consisting of Thomas Redrup, Francis Norton and John Edgerton was appointed and the stone church at the Center built. The Disciples were the next in order. On invitation of Ezra Leonard, Reverend Hayden held services at his house in 1828. Others came and preached in houses and barns. At one time services were held in the barn of John Ferris and a number of converts were baptized. In 1829 a church was organized in a schoolhouse by the efforts of Reverend Hayden, with Jewett M. Frost as elder. This church now has a building at the Center Next in order came the Free Will Baptist and the Methodist Episcopal churches. The Free Will Baptists began meetings at the Center in 1836. In 1843 the place of meeting was changed to Coates' Corners (now Walling's Corners). An entry on the church records reads as follows: "February 18, 1843, Brethren in Royalton met in monthly meeting, had a good time but under some trials. Received three members, J. Bunker, M. Varney and S. Horton, and moved the church down to Coates' Corners." Services there were held in a schoolhouse until 1850, when the church was built north of the Center. Thirty years later the pastor was Rev. J. H. Baldwin; trustees, George Kendall and Francis Miner; deacons, George Kendall and Francis Bark. The Royalton Methodist Episcopal Church began its meetings, like the rest, in a schoolhouse. The first meetings were held in 1836. Rev. Hugh L. Parish and Reverend Fitch, circuit riders, were the first preachers. This church has never had a settled pastor, being on a circuit, first the Brooklyn Circuit, then Brunswick, then Hinckley and then Brecksville. The first elders were Jewett M. Frost, John B. Stewart, Adin Dyke and William Buck; deacons, Almon Eastman and Henry Bangs.

Mrs. Jane Elliott Snow, who was born in Royalton and lived there until her marriage, in writing of her early life says:

"On Sundays we were all carefully dressed and taken to a church some three miles distant. In those days James A. Garfield, then a student at Hiram College, and others of his classmates came there to preach, and such audiences as there were. People came from many miles around. They filled the seats, the

aisles, the vacant space around the pulpit, they crowded at the door, and, in summer, they crowded outside the open door to listen to the eloquent sermons that were being preached. In those days of the Disciple Church none but able men, eloquent men and men zealous for the cause were chosen to expound their doctrine. Not all the religious meetings in country towns in those early days were as interesting and profitable as those I have mentioned. Many of the preachers were wholly uneducated and some of them exceedingly noisy. As there were two schools of churches in town, one Calvinist, the other Free Will Baptist, the question of the future state of the soul was a prolific theme of discussion. It was not unusual to see groups of men standing outside of the schoolhouse during recess at religious meetings. I learned as I grew older that they were discussing the question. Whether or not a man could work out his own salvation? One argued that if a man was born to be saved, he would be saved and if he was born to be damned, no earthly power could save him. Occasionally, a Universalist minister would conduct services in the little schoolhouse. At that time, I was familiar with a Child's History of the United States, that was well filled with bright colored pictures representing various scenes and incidents in our country's history, among them being one of Mr. Dustin and his family escaping from the Indians. As the savages advanced nearer and nearer to the fleeing family. Mr. Dustin thought he would sacrifice one child to their fury, with the hope of saving the rest. But which child could he spare? Alas, none! For he loved them all alike. This was the illustration the Universalist minister, Rev. Mr. Hull, used to prove his doctrine. This sermon created a general discussion throughout the neighborhood, which continued for some weeks.

As all the churches in the town believed in immersion for baptism, and as none were equipped with an artificial font, the ceremony had to be performed in some natural reservoir. A pond of clear water located in the midst of a wood belonging to my uncle, Thomas Coates, and at least a quarter of a mile from his house was the place frequently chosen for these spiritual washings. Winter was the time usually chosen for the ceremony, and though the person baptized had to ride in a lumber wagon or sled, to the house with nothing but a quilt or blanket over their wet clothes, it was the claim of the believers that no serious effects had ever resulted from the ceremony. People were baptized in this pond when the ice had to be broken and the water constantly stirred with a rake to prevent its freezing before all the candidates were immersed. Besides theology, two other questions in my childhood days occupied the public mind, one was temperance, the other slavery. In my tenth year I attended the exercises at the close of a term of school in an adjoining neighborhood, when song and recitations bearing upon these two subjects made up the programme."

In 1854 there were nine Catholic families in Royalton. At their request Bishop Rappe came out from Cleveland and held services at the house of Thomas Montague at Royalton Center. Others followed in similar meetings, Fathers Hannan, John and Rally. In 1868 the building now used as a church was purchased. The first trustees were Patrick Flynn, William Manny and James Morris.

July 5, 1859, Empire Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Royalton, was instituted. The charter members were Charles and Orval Bangs, Joseph W. Smith, John Marcellus, William Frost, Thomas S. Bark, Wesley Pope, J. T. Akers, Edwin Banks, George Johnson, Charles Heath and L. S. Searles. In 1864 the lodge built a building at the Center with lodge room above and room for a store below. In 1878 twenty of the members withdrew to form the Brecksville Lodge. This is the only fraternal order now represented in the town. The Grand Army Post has gone with the years, and the Good Templars Lodge with the trend of events.

And now as to the schools and the first teachers, William Tousley and Oren Abbott have both been mentioned as the first teacher. The consensus of opinion however gives the honor to Eunice Stewart,

who taught in the northeast corner of section 5. John B. Stewart was the second teacher there. In a log schoolhouse put up on section 19, William Tousley was the first teacher and Abial Cushman the second. In 1830 the township was divided into four school districts, number one with thirty-five families, number two with twenty-two, number three with sixteen and number four with seventeen families. Later the number increased to nine districts. Fractional districts were established in many parts of the county to better accommodate the pupils. These including portions of several townships, were located according to the demands of the settlers. The woods, the heavy roads and the winter snows made them necessary. The fractional district at Bangs' Corners was made up of territory from four townships and at one time there were pupils attending the school from four townships and three different counties. The advent of good roads which has made possible and brought about the use of school busses and the centralizing and classification of the schools has not been fully taken advantage of by the township, owing to the lack of buildings. There are still some schools operated in the "Little Red Schoolhouse." There is a high school at the Center and the town hall is used for school purposes. In November of 1922 a bond issue for \$90,000 was voted by the people for additional school buildings. Plans are being drawn by Fulton, Taylor and Cahill of Cleveland for the enlargement of the high school building at the Center to include larger facilities for the high school and grade schools as well. Among the teachers of the early days Sam Chandler is well remembered as a disciplinarian of so vigorous a type that he has left a lasting memory. In 1880 the school enumeration of the township was 365.

In 1866 James Wyatt opened a cheese factory in the township and in 1869 Charles Bangs and L. S. Searles continued in the same enterprise. Mr. Wyatt removing to Brecksville to continue the same business there, left the field to the latter firm. In 1871 Bangs went out of the firm and started a factory of his own and Mr. Searles formed a partnership with A. E. Akins, which continued for three years, whereupon he continued alone until 1877. Royalton being a dairy section, these industries were important until the demands of the City of Cleveland for milk warranted their discontinuance.

The first death in Royalton was that of Catherine Coates, wife of Charles Coates, mentioned as the first tavern keeper. She was buried on the family lot on the tract at Wallings' Corners and later was removed to the cemetery at the Center.

Like all the townships, Royalton has made its contribution to the county. We have referred to Judge W. K. Sherwood and to Jane Elliott Snow, author, lecturer, student and biographer. Another comes to mind as we close the chapter, Albert E. Akins, the apostle of dean politics, who served in various capacities in the courthouse and then as county auditor, was the first president of the Tippecanoe Club, after its incorporation, one of the builders of the Cleveland & Southwestern Railway, he devoted his life to its service and gave it. Still another, Abraham Teachout, whom we have mentioned, who built up in Cleveland the great industry in sash, doors and blinds, that has been a part in the great industrial life of Cleveland.

Royalton 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/RoyaltonTwpPWWR.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>

Royalton

Royalton is twelve miles south of Cleveland. It is still untouched by steam railroad or trolley lines. However, it has several pike roads and its nearness to a large commercial and manufacturing district greatly enhances the value of real estate in the township.

Some of the early settlers in search of good farming land looked with contempt upon the swamps, marshes, and barren sand hills of what is now the great city of Cleveland. But they lived to regret their lack of appreciation of its future as a lake port.

The first clearing made in Royalton was started in the southeastern corner of the town by a man named CLARK, who soon after moved his family upon it, in 1811. It was then a veritable "forest primeval." Indians and wild beasts roamed at will. For five years this family was the only one in the township. Could the veil that covers the past be lifted and the life of the wife and mother of that household be revealed, it would show hours of solitude in that wilderness, days and nights of weary watching and waiting, hardships and even gaunt famine.

Mr. CLARK (Christian name unknown) died before 1816, for in that year, his widow married Lorenzo CARTER, possibly related to the famous Cleveland pioneer of that name. A son, also called "Lorenzo," was the first white child born in Royalton.

The year 1816 brought a number of accessions to the population. Among them the families of Robert ENGLE, Thomas and Henry FRANCIS, John COATES with his sons John and Charles and families, Samuel STEWART and Boaz GRANGER.

All came from New York except the STEWARTS. The COATES family had previously lived in New England and probably some of the others.

The first deaths recorded were those of Mrs. Charles COATES and Mary GRINNELL. The first girl born was Rhoda, daughter of Thomas FRANCIS, the second one Catherine, daughter of John and Ann BEST COATES.

Catherine became Mrs. Joseph TEACHOUT and was early left a widow with four young children whom she reared to maturity with the greatest effort and care. One son, George TEACHOUT, enlisted in the Union army while attending college in Hillsdale, Mich., and was instantly killed in battle. The death of this

son nearly broke his mother's heart, but with Christian fortitude she rallied and was long noted for her tender ministrations to the sick, her hospitality and kindness. She ended her days with her sons James and Abram in Iowa. Her daughter, Mary TEACHOUT (Mrs. Lorenzo TUPPER), is still a resident of Royalton, a useful and much-admired woman.

Besides Catherine, John and Ann COATES had several daughters who were counted among the belles of that day. On one occasion a certain young man rode seven miles on horseback to visit one of these girls. Upon his arrival he removed the saddle from the animal and hid it under the porch of the house. While visiting with the young lady, her mischievous brother slipped out and unhitched the horse, which at once started for home.

The young gallant, unmindful of the trick played upon him, prolonged his stay until the "wee sma' hours," and was obliged to return on foot through the dense woods carrying on his shoulders the heavy saddle. Needless to add that that courtship was nipped in the bud and opportunity for a similar trick to be played upon him was never given, in that house at least.

Another funny story connected with the same family was of a valuable and much prized calf. One evening, at a gay merry-making in their home, where nearly all the young people of the neighborhood were gathered, one of the party rushed into the house with the announcement that a panther was in the barn yard devouring the calf. The whole company rushed to the rescue armed with everything handy with which to assail the beast, while the household rifle was brought into play. It was fired twice in the direction of the "painter" and then Mr. COATES found only the calf with two bullets through its hide, and quite dead. The story intimates that there had been no panther at all.

Margaret COATES became Mrs. Miller WILCOX and was the mother of several sons, two of whom became quite distinguished. John M., lately deceased, was editor of a popular Cleveland daily newspaper, and Frank N. is a well-known lawyer of the same city.

Eleanor COATES married James WELD, the "Esquire WELD" of this sketch, who later removed to Richfield and with the assistance of his excellent wife advanced the interests of the old Richfield Academy. Their daughters Charlotte WELD (Mrs. Schuyler OVIATT) and Louise (Mrs. Elijah HAMMOND) live in Cleveland, honored and beloved.

Elizabeth COATES (Mrs. R.C. ELIOTT) died young, leaving several children. One daughter, Cornelia ELIOTT, was long a teacher in Royalton and adjacent towns. Scores of her pupils now living will attest to her worth.

Jane COATES (Mrs. Edward WILCOX) passed her long life in Royalton beloved by all who knew her. Her daughter Eleanor (Mrs. Francis MINER) also resides here in a home where the most generous hospitality ever presides.

Mary Ann COATES never married, but became the good angel of her brothers' and sister' families during her useful life of over three score and ten.

Charles COATES married, secondly, Amanda, daughter of John TEACHOUT who moved in some time in the '30s. She was noted for her piety and Christian virtues. Her daughter, Clarissa (Mrs. William WILCOX) lives in Cleveland.

John SHEPHERD of Geneva, N.Y., was one of the most remarkable of the early pioneers in that he lived to be 118 years old. In his one-hundredth year he passed through a severe fit of sickness, and afterward built a loom that was long in use among his descendants. The maiden name of his wife is not given, but she had five daughters: Margaret, Mrs. Robert ENGLE; Jane, Mrs. Abner BEALS; Rebecca, Mrs. BURROUGHS; Isabella, Mrs. John MACK; Sarah, Mrs. William GORDON.

Mrs. Robert ENGLE was noted for her kindness and skill in caring for the sick. At one time she was sent for to visit a woman very ill living over two miles distant. There had been a heavy rainstorm and in order to reach the place she had to pass through a swamp. The only way over this was on logs and fallen trees all wet, slimy and slippery. She took off her shoes and stockings, crossed over bare-footed, and thus reached the bedside of her sick friend. She was also one of those many pioneer women who, in the absence of her men folks, chases away a bear from the calf he was attacking. In the darkness of the night, she heard the calf piteously bleating its fright.

Mrs. ENGLE's six daughters were Margarett, Mrs. Azaiah REMINGTON of Bedford; Emily, Mrs. DE LONG of Copley; Adaline, Mrs. Joel LAWRENCE of Berea; Fidelia, Mrs. LAWSON of Los Angeles; Amoret, Mrs. Simeon ENOS and Laura ENGLE of Royalton.

Jane SHEPHERD, Mrs. Abner BEALS came with her husband in 1820 and remained five years, then removed to Parma, Ohio. Mrs. BEAL's leading characteristic was an unwavering trust in God. She was much given to prayer and believed implicitly that He would answer. Her daughter, Mrs. Julia HODGEMAN of Parma, though well advanced in years, is following closely the footsteps of her mother. She is a model mother, neighbor and friend.

Mrs. Solomon SHERWOOD, Orilla BIGELOW, was a direct descendant of a sister of General Ethan ALLEN, the famous revolutionary hero. Orsemus SHERWOOD, one of her sons, has in his possession some household articles that once belonged to Ethan ALLEN.

Mrs. SHERWOOD had many rare qualities of mind and heart. She was well educated, a fine reader, and a good penman. Esquire WELD, one of the early justices of the peace, partially lost his eyesight for several years, and for two years of that time Mrs. SHERWOOD did all his writing, daily walking for that purpose to and from her home nearly a mile distant from his office.

She was the mother of eight daughters and three sons. The late Judge SHERWOOD of Cleveland of honored memory was her grandson. Her son Oresmus is still living in that city at an advanced age. Two daughters, Mary (Mrs. SPRAGUE) and Elizabeth, the wife of Dr. BAKER, are residents of Berea, Ohio. Rev. Henry HUDSON, M.D., was for many years a marked character among the pioneers. He was honored and beloved as well. Being both pastor and physician, he was present at births, marriages and deaths. Long years after his own death, old settlers would tell of his comforting ministrations in afflicted households.

His wife equally was noted for her eccentricities as he was for his excellencies. She appears to have been a woman of superior intellectual abilities and acquirements, but her environment was unfavorable to cultivate them. It is said that she would carry on the greatest variety of household work and one and the same time of any known woman: cooking, washing, ironing, spinning, weaving, dyeing, etc., and all of these industries, perhaps in one room.

Mrs. Daniel ANIS (Catherine DARRELL) once gave a tea party at which a number of friends were invited. A large iron tea kettle served first to bake the biscuit, and afterward for the making of the tea. But is recorded that both biscuit and tea were excellent, and the guests had a most enjoyable time.

Lucinda, daughter of Boaz GRANGER came with her parents from New York state in an ox wagon. She was then fifteen years old. The GRANGERS lived for some years in a log house, the chamber floor of which did not extend entirely across the room, but left a space directly over the edge of the fireplace below. The boys, of whom Milton CURTIS (father of J.M. CURTIS of Cleveland) was one, slept in this room and every night before retiring had a frolic. Upon one such occasion, young CURTIS' trousers were thrown down into the fire and burned up. As they were the only pair he possessed, there was no alternative but to remain all the next day while Lucina and her sister made him a pair out of an old military overcoat.

Lucina became Mrs. Francis BARR and lived to a good old age. She left a family of sons and daughters that were an honor to her and a blessing to the community.

Olive GRANGER, Mrs. John ANIS, yet lives at an advanced age in the home she has occupied for over sixty years. She has been a helpless invalid for several years, tenderly cared for by her daughter Jane. Her sons John and Everett live with her. The whole life of Mrs. ANIS has been marked by ministrations of love, and it must have been of such that the poet Lowell wrote:

"She doeth little kindnesses
Which most leave undone of despise,
For naught that sets one heart at ease,
And giveth happiness and peace,
Is low esteemed in her eyes."

The first marriage in Royalton was that of Asa NORTON and Lovey BUNKER. Esquire J.B. STEWART performing the ceremony. The bride belonged to the family after whom Bunker Hill was named. She must have been a handsome bride for even in old age she was fair to look upon.

During the '30s, the TEACHOUT and TOUSLEY families moved in and proved a most valuable accession to the population. These families were foremost in all educational, religious and temperance movements. Abraham TEACHOUT, Jr., started the first meeting of the latter in the old red school-house at the Center, and it was there that he met his first wife, Julia TOUSLEY. She was a fine looking woman and always a lady. Her son Albert is a highly respected and influential business man of Cleveland. Mr. and Mrs. William TEACHOUT, the latter Lydia TROOP, reside in New York City.

Mrs. James TOUSLEY (Julia GREEN) was remarkable for her thrift and neatness. She was long the town milliner and active in all good works. She lived to be aged and died at the home of one of her children in Brooklyn, Ohio. Her son William TOUSLEY is a Cleveland attorney and a grandson, Charles, is an architect of much promise.

Mrs. William TOUSLEY (Maria BOSTWICK) was a beautiful woman, a perfect lady, dearly beloved of all who knew her. The family lived in a house at the Center, built sometime in the '40s, and considered quite an aristocratic mansion. Mr. TOUSLEY was a successful business man. Emily TOUSLEY became Mrs. Francis HOWE, and her daughter Maria (Mrs. William TUPPER), who lives in Cleveland, is a lady of superior ability and worth.

At a still later day, a large number of English families settled in Royalton, nearly all of whom proved excellent citizens, thrifty and industrious. Among them were TOMKINS, AKERS, KENDALS, and the families of John and James SCARR. The KENDAL children were very musical and great singers for those days. The daughter of John SCARR, Mrs. Emma SCARR BOOTH, is a Cleveland writer of note. She has written a volume of poems and several novels.

Mary, daughter of John TOMKINS, became Mrs. Abram TEACHOUT, of Shenandoah, Iowa, and is a most excellent woman.

The TUPPER family were well known people of this community. The daughters, Philomela and Leonora, taught school in both Royalton and Parma. The latter married a TEACHOUT and lives in Oberlin. The former became Mrs. Francis NORTON and died young, leaving two sons, who became honorable and useful citizens of a far western state.

The EGERTON families, several in number, did a thriving lumber business in town. For many years, their wives and daughters were active in church work, and several Cleveland public school teachers are descendants of these families.

Mrs. George CHICKERING was among the early pioneers. She helped her husband clear their farm, and, doubtless, packed the dozen eggs in his hat that were carried in that way to market. The story is that Mr. CHICKERING walked to P.M. WEDDELL's store in Cleveland, twelve miles distant, with a box of butter in one hand and a pail of eggs in the other. He informed Mr. WEDDELL that he had so many eggs, but when the merchant counted them one dozen was lacking. At his look of inquiry, the farmer made a low bow, and took his hat off which contained the missing number in good condition.

A noticeable addition to Royalton was the very early arrival of the STEWART family 1816. Among the revolutionary soldiers of 1776 whose presence in Ohio stood for patriotism of the loftiest type, was Sergeant Samuel STEWART, a hero of Bunker Hill, of the battle of Bennington and other momentous conflicts for American freedom.

He was the son of Samuel and Alice HUTCHINSON STEWART, born in Londonderry, N.H. in 1794 and in his infancy taken to Cohasin, Mass. His father's farm was divided by a stream of water which to this day is called "Stewarts Brook." At the close of the war, he removed to New York, and again to Vermont and lastly to Royalton, Ohio.

His wife was Elizabeth ABBOTT of Paulet, Vt. Like her husband, she was a born pioneer, possessed of an equal amount of resolution and courage. Not many pioneer women of the Western Reserve came to it with such a record for daring and intrepidity.

At the time of the battle of Bennington in 1771, her parents were living within sound of the firing. Her father and brothers were taking their part in the conflict, and women of the household took refuge in flight. A sister was ill with measles. Hastily yoking the oxen and putting a few valuables in the cart, she bade a slave drive the animals while she harnessed the horses. Placing a bed in the wagon, she helped her feeble mother and sick sister in, while she drove. The road led to within sight of the battlefield and then diverged into a marshy one, deep with mud. The ox cart became mired and stuck fast in it. The slave, doubtless piqued because not allowed to drive the horses, made no effort to assist her. Elizabeth

alighted and seizing some rails laid them across the mud, then hitching the horses in front of the oxen, with one long pull the cart was extricated and the party proceeded to safety.

Her daughter, Phoebe, married Isaac ISHAM of Royalton and died leaving no children. Eunice (Mrs. VAUGHN) had a son Samuel S. VAUGHN, state senator of Wisconsin, and left two daughters and a son. Polly STEWART, the first white child born in Bristol, Vt., married Captain Jehiel SAXTON. She survived her husband and died in the old SAXTON homestead in Cleveland. Her daughter Josephine, who married Col. J.R. AMMON, was a gifted woman, and her grand-daughter, Hattie AMMON COWING, is a wide-awake little woman and a prominent member of the Western Reserve Chapter of the D.A.R.

Mrs. Samuel STEWART also had three sons, Chauncey, John and Samuel.

Lois, daughter of Jonathan BUNKER, was a successful school teacher and possessed of much literary talent. Her sister, Mrs. MORRELL, was a fine scholar and music teacher.

Many lives besides those mentioned should be recorded in this testimonial to the pioneer women of Royalton, but space forbids. It is a large subject to handle in a few pages.

Jane ELIOTT SNOW
Chairman and Historian

Royalton Committee: Mrs. Lorenzo TUPPER, Mrs. Nancy TOUSLEY, Roddie HODGMAN, Orsemus SHERWOOD, Abraham TEACHOUT, Sr.