

STRONGSVILLE

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

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STRONGSVILLE

Transcribed by Laura Hine

When Settled — Its Surface — Its Early Owners — J. S. Strong, Agent - The First Pioneers — First Woman and Child — The Survey — Unwelcome Intruders — An Indian Visitor — The Second Family — Going after Grain — First Marriage — First Birth — Emigrants of 1817 — Progress — First Church — Township Organization — First Officers — The First Physician — Emigrants of 1818 — Underbrushing the Road — First Framed Building — First Death — Emigrants of 1819 — First Tavern and Gristmill — Arrivals of 1820 — Panther vs. Owl — Good Health — Indians — Second Gristmill — A Check on Emigration — The Vote of 1824 — Scarce Money — "Black Salts " — A Potash Campaign — First Store Building — The Town House, Etc. — Log Raisings — Bark Torches — A Bear Hunt — Settlement at Albion — Flush Times — Carding Machine, Woolen Factory, Etc. — The Borough of Albion — Extinct Churches — The Great Fire - Subsequent Business - Final Decline - The Quiet Center — The War for the Union — Since the War — List of Official and Professional Men — The Free Congregational Church — The List of Township Officers.

This township, which in the survey of the Western Reserve was number five, in range fourteen, though it was sold by the Indians in 1805, and though its boundaries were surveyed in 1806, as related in the general history of the county, was not settled by white men until the close of the war of 1812. Situated on the southern line of Cuyahoga County, its twenty-five square miles were composed chiefly of high, dry land, covered with beech, maple, oak, elm, etc., somewhat broken, but not too much so for tillage, and nearly all capable of being converted into excellent farms. Through it meandered, in a northwesterly direction, the east branch of Rocky River, with several small creeks, all finding their way into that stream.

In the allotment of the western part of the Reserve among the members of the Connecticut Land Company as individual owners, number five, in range fourteen, was assigned to Hon. Oliver Ellsworth, an eminent Connecticut statesman. Governor Caleb Strong, of that State, and to two other gentlemen who owned only extremely small fractions. The shares of Mr. Ellsworth and Governor Strong were about equal. The former owning to the amount of \$13,673, and the latter to that of \$12,000, while both the other shares amounted to only four hundred and fourteen dollars. Mr. Ellsworth having died, his interest passed to his heirs, William W. and H. L. Ellsworth. In 1815, the owners appointed John Stoughton Strong, an enterprising citizen of Connecticut, already arrived at middle age, but full of the vigor and courage of youth, to act as their agent in the sale and settlement of number five.

It was in the month of February, 1816, that the first band of settlers, having made their tedious way from Connecticut in sleighs, entered the territory afterwards known as the township of Strongsville. It was led by John S. Strong, the gentleman just mentioned, a small, active, nervous man, full of untiring energy, well suited to the task of opening a new country, and was composed, besides him, of Elijah Lyman, Guilford Whitney, William Fuller, Obadiah Church, and Goodell. Mr. Strong selected a point only a few rods northwest of the center of the township, where the village of Strongsville is now located, as the place for his own residence and the headquarters of the infant colony. Axes were speedily ringing in the forest, and a log house was soon erected to serve the party for shelter while surveying the township into lots.

To that cabin in the forepart of March, 1816, came John Hilliard, accompanied by his wife (the first white woman who ever resided in Strongsville Township), and his young daughter, Eliza. Mrs. Hilliard took up her residence in the log mansion and became the housekeeper of the party. A surveyor was obtained from Newburg, and the work of subdividing the township into lots was speedily begun. Whitney, Goodell, Church and Fuller acted as chainmen. The lots were made half a mile square, thus containing a hundred and sixty acres each. Had the townships been just five miles square, as was originally intended, there would have been just a hundred lots of that size. A hundred lots were actually surveyed, but the five miles east and west did not quite hold out, and the lots in the westernmost tier were only about a third of a mile wide. They were numbered, beginning with number one in the southwestern corner, thence running north to number ten, in the north, western corner, thence back in the next tier on the east to number twenty, and so on forth and back, closing with number one hundred in the northeastern corner.

The survey was the principal business of the season, though two or three small clearings were made. Mrs. Hilliard, who was then only twenty-one years old, was the only woman in the township throughout the spring and summer, and had her share of the adventures natural to such a situation. One morning after breakfast, while sweeping the rough floor of the cabin, she heard a sharp rattle and saw a large snake lying on the warm hearth, whither it had just crawled from under the floor. She called some of the men who were working near the house, who speedily came in and dispatched the intruder. It was found to be an enormous specimen over five feet in length. After it had been duly examined and then thrown out of doors, the men returned to their work and Mrs. Hilliard resumed her sweeping. Ere it was completed she heard another angry rattling beneath the floor. The men were again summoned, the loose floor was opened and another large rattlesnake, the mate of the former, was killed and dragged out.

Indians frequently came wandering over their former hunting grounds. One day during the summer in question, while the men were all gone to a raising in the adjoining township of Columbia (now in Lorain County, but then a part of Cuyahoga), a huge warrior, armed with gun, knife and tomahawk, sauntered into the cabin where Mrs. Hilliard was alone with her little daughter and gruffly asked: "Where is the man?" She answered indefinitely that he was not at home. The visitor made no hostile demonstrations, but the numerous stories of Indian atrocities during the recent war were enough to make any mother's heart beat with unwonted quickness under such circumstances. The warrior, unbidden, seated himself in a chair, when the little girl, with all the fearlessness of infancy, toddled up and offered him the piece of bread and butter which she was eating. He promptly accepted it, and, while eating, took the little one upon his knee and caressed it. The mother looked on with trembling, but, after finishing his bread and butter, the savage soon left the house to her very great relief.

About the first of October, another family was added to the little settlement; Guilford Whitney then bringing from Connecticut his wife and his four children, Plavel, Jubal, Vina and Betsey—also a young lady named Charlotte Wallace. Later in the same month Abial Haynes, then a young man, came from the same "land of steady habits," to examine the locality. His report must have been favorable, for a year later his father, Ahijah Haynes, Sr., located in the new colony with his family including a younger brother, Ahijah Haynes, Jr. Both Abial and Ahijah Haynes, Jr., still live at Strongsville Center, being two of the very oldest surviving residents of the township.

Not only was there no grain in the new settlement, but it was extremely scarce in the older localities around, owing to the cold summer of 1816. Mr. Abial Haines mentions that in January, 1817, he was compelled to go as far as Harrisville, (now on the south line of Medina County) some thirty miles distant from Strongsville, to obtain wheat. The road could, with difficulty, be traveled by a yoke of oxen with a sled; the wolves came in sight after dusk, showing their angry teeth, but declining to come in reach of young Haines stout club, and after he arrived in Harrisville, he had to thresh his wheat and winnow it with a "hand-fan" before he could get it. The price was a dollar a bushel.

During the winter of 1816-17 the first marriage took place in the township; the groom being Hollis Whitney and the bride being the Miss Charlotte Wallace before mentioned as accompanying Guilford Whitney's family the preceding autumn.

Early in 1817 came Chipman Porter, whose son Edwin, born shortly afterwards, was the first white child born in town. John Hilliard 's eldest son, Frank, who came into the world only a few days later, was the second one.

The other immigrants of this year, so far as known, were George P. Gilbert, James Nichols, David Goodwin, Seth Goodwin, Wheeler Cole, Thatcher Avery, James Bennett, Thaddeus Ball, and John and James Smith. This was a large immigration for a single township, and great prosperity was expected. People came much more readily to the high, but dry and healthy, land of number five than to the more level, but damper, ground of Middleburg. Axes were heard in every direction, and log houses rose in various parts of the township in quick succession. John Bosworth cleared fifty acres for Mr. Strong, thirty of which were sown to wheat that fall. Numerous smaller clearings were made, many tracts were sown to wheat, and the township bade fair to be speedily independent of the outer world, so far as food was concerned. The religious habits of old Connecticut were imported by the colonists, and on the 10th of October the First Congregational Church was organized, of which a separate sketch is given a few pages farther on.

Such rapid progress incited the principal men to apply to the county commissioners to erect number five into a separate civil township. Their petition was granted, and the name of Strongsville was given to the new township, in honor of its most prominent citizen, John S. Strong. On the 18th day of February, 1818, the first election was held for the purpose of organizing the township. It was presided over by Ephraim Vaughn, Esq., a justice of the peace of Middleburg. The judges of election were James Nichols, David Goodwin, and Chipman Porter. The following officers were elected: Trustees, John Dinsmore, James Nichols, James Smith; clerk, Seth Goodwin; treasurer, Guilford Whitney; fence-viewers, James Bennett, Benjamin G. Barber; constables, Jas. Nichols and G. F. Nichols; supervisors of highways, John Bosworth, John Dinsmore, and B. G. Barber. The last-named official declined, and Abial Haynes was appointed in his place. At a special election the following June, James Nichols and Ahijah Haynes, Sr., were elected the first justices of the peace.

In the spring of this year, Mr. J. S. Strong brought his family from Connecticut—except those who, having reached man's estate, had already emigrated to Strongsville. The whole list embraced the names of Warner C, Lyman W., John, Chipman, Emery, Beuda, Franklin, and Lavinia. Another large family which settled in Strongsville this year was that of Joseph Olds, among the members of which were Edson B. Olds (afterward celebrated in Ohio politics), G.L., L.W., O.N., and Dr. Benj. B. Olds. The last-named immediately began practice at "the center," becoming the first physician in Strongsville. Still other emigrants of 1818 were Liakim Lyon and family, Josiah Carpenter and family (including his sons Caleb, Zachary, David and Eufus); Zara D. Howe and family (including Manser, A. P. and Z. D.); Otis and N.D. Billings, Mrs. McNeil, Mrs. G.G. Olds, and Apollo S. Southworth. A young man named Ansel G. Pope also came the same year, and established the first blacksmith shop in the township. Mr. Pope, sixty-one years later, still resides at Strongsville, in a remarkably hale and vigorous old age.

One of Eliakim Lyon's family, D. S. Lyon, then a boy of eleven, is also still a resident of the township. He says that when he came there was hardly a stick of timber cut between Strongsville and Cleveland. The same autumn of their arrival the main road, which afterward became the turnpike, was "underbrushed out" four rods wide, all the brush and saplings under six inches in diameter being cut away. As for the larger trees, travelers were expected for a year or two more to make their way between them. Mr. Eliakim Lyon settled a mile west of the present residence of D. S. Lyon, and about a mile from the south line of the township. The Goodwins and a Mr. Bennett were all who had then penetrated thus far to the southwest. Mr. Lyon for a long time occupied Mr. Bennett's house. The wolves were so thick and so saucy around them, that one evening when Mr. Lyon, tired of their howling, let his big dog out into the woods, in hopes to scare them away, they quickly chased him back, almost to the very threshold of the cabin.

During the same summer Mr. J. S. Strong erected a framed barn, the first framed building in the township. The raising was a great event, attended by all the men of Strongsville, and probably by some outsiders from Middleburg and Columbia. When the work was completed, the men ranged themselves on one of the plates, in accordance with the ancient custom, passed a bottle of whisky from mouth to mouth until all had partaken, and then gave three rousing cheers, while the last man flung the bottle as far as his arm could send it.

The celebrated "Hinckley hunt" occurred in December of this year, in which nearly all the men of Strongsville took part, but as there were also numerous participants from several other townships of Cuyahoga County, we have given a description of it in the general history.

The expenses of "running" the new township were very light, but the resources were still more meager. At the March meeting of the trustees in 1819, the expenditures for the past year footed up \$16.50; the collections \$8.30.

In the month just named occurred the first death in the colony, that of Stoughton Strong, at the age of nineteen. The second was that of Polly, wife of Lyman Strong, who died on the 8th of May, 1819, at the age of twenty-one.

The newcomers of this year were Jonathan Pope and family, Ebenezer Wilkinson and family, Seth Bartlett and family, James Waite, Moses Fowle, David E. Hier, Luther, Samuel and Elijah Bosworth, Chester G. and Ezra Tuttle, Jr., John Colton and family, and Jeduthan Freeman and family.

During the summer a Methodist society was organized at the house of Jonathan Pope, by Revs. Ira Eddy and Billings O. Plympton. The first traveling Methodist preachers were Revs. M. Goddard and Charles

Waddell. The same season a log structure was erected at the center, designed to serve the triple purpose of townhouse, schoolhouse and meetinghouse. It was thus used for six years. In 1830, the first tavern was erected by J. S. Strong; a frame building which is still used for that purpose at Strongsville Center. This was the first framed residence in the township.

Up to this time, the people had generally got their grinding done at Vaughn's mill in Middleburg, or at Hoadley's in Columbia. When these were dry, the hungry citizens were compelled to travel as far as Tallmadge, Chagrin River, or even Painesville, to procure the needed work. That enterprising pioneer, John S. Strong, now thought it time that his township should have a mill of its own. In the fall of 1820, he accordingly erected a gristmill on Rocky River, at the point now called Albion. E. Lyman was the millwright and A. J. Pope did the iron work. Thaddeus Lathrop (father of Mrs. Benjamin Tuttle) came from Middleburg and boarded the hands who worked on the mill, and was afterwards the first miller in the new structure. A sawmill was built about the same time as the gristmill.

During the season Timothy Clark brought on a stock of goods, small, but somewhat larger than those previously brought by J. S. Strong, E. Lyman and John Bosworth. All the three last named, and we believe Mr. Clark, sold their goods in their houses, as was the custom in early times almost everywhere. The other new arrivals for 1820 were Moses O. Bennett, Jesse Root, Benjamin Schofield, Cyrus Harlan and Nathan Britton and family.

Though the "Hinckley hunt" had, to some extent, broken up one haunt of wild animals, they were still numerous throughout the woods. Venison was to be had for the shooting, while mutton was an almost impossible luxury, because the wolves were apt to get ahead of the butcher. Bears were by no means uncommon, and occasionally the unearthly scream of the panther was heard by the dwellers in the scattered cabins, causing every mother to look hastily around to see if all her children were safe from that fiercest of forest roamers.

It would seem, however, that the panther's yell could sometimes be imitated by less dangerous screamers. Mr. Abial Haynes relates how he and his father's family were startled one night by a dismal noise, which those who claimed to be experts declared to be the shriek of a panther. The next night the same sound was again heard not far from the cabin. Abial took his rifle and proceeded in the direction of the noise until he saw a pair of glaring eyes a short distance in front of him, about the right height from the ground for a panther's head. Between these he aimed his rifle, fired, and the eyes dropped to the earth. Further examination the next morning discovered a big owl lying cold in death behind the log on which it had sat. It is possible that some other accounts, by belated travelers, of dismal shrieks and glaring eyes, would have had an equally harmless ending, if the supposed monster had been slain and examined.

The Indians frequently came during the first few years of settlement, and stopped a few weeks in temporary camps to hunt the game which abounded in the forest. Mr. Haines mentions the existence, at various times, of a camp near Albion, another on "East Hill," and another larger one, which numbered some fifty inmates, at Strongsville Center.

From one great pest of new countries the pioneers of Strongsville were comparatively free. There was much less sickness than is usual during the period in which the wilderness is subjugated. There was a little ague along the banks of Rocky River, but the high, dry, rolling ground, of which the township is principally composed, was almost entirely free from this and other forms of sickness.

In 1821 or '22, J. S. Strong built a distillery near his mills, at what is now Albion. In the latter year occurred the death of Dr. B. B. Olds, the first physician, who had meanwhile married a daughter of Mr. Strong. Rev. Luke Bower, the first resident minister and school teacher, came this year. The same year Mr. Strong, having sold his property at Albion, proceeded to build another gristmill on Rocky River, nearly two miles east of the center. There could hardly have been business enough for two gristmills in the thinly-settled township, but Mr. S. was of so enterprising a temperament that, as Mr. Haines says, "He couldn't keep still. He also built an ashery at the center, where he manufactured pot and pearlshes for many years.

In 1823, Ezra Tuttle, father of Benjamin Tuttle, now of Albion, came into the township; Benjamin, however, did not come till several years later. Ebenezer Stone settled with his family a mile west of the center, one of the members being Marvin E. Stone, who is still living at Albion. Mr. Stone bought out Ebenezer Pomeroy, who had been there a year or two and was about the first settler west of the center. Curtis Stone also came about the same time; one of his sons being Walter F., since a judge of the supreme court of Ohio.

Down to this time, as will have been observed, the settlement of the township had been quite rapid, and the proprietors thought they could safely raise the price of the land from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per acre. But about the same period Congress perfected its system of surveys, and instead of selling land as before to wealthy men in large tracts, began offering it to everyone in quarter-sections at a dollar and a quarter an acre. Emigration to Strongsville quickly fell off before this competition, and for several years was very light; the proprietors being at length compelled to reduce their prices to \$3.00 per acre in order to sell their land. The number of residents qualified to vote for presidential electors must have been very small, for, according to the record, there were only twenty-four votes cast for those officers in 1824. Of these, twenty-three were for Henry Clay and one for John Quincy Adams.

Food was now plentiful, but grain was so low as hardly to pay for carrying it to market. Money was extremely scarce, and about the only means of obtaining it was by the sale of the "black salts" made by boiling down the ashes obtained in clearing the farms. Generally, the "salts" were sold to be manufactured at Strong's ashery, but sometimes the farmers themselves made them into pearlash. The Stones were about the only ones who made their salts into potash.

When made, the potash or pearlash had to be hauled to Cleveland. By this time, the main road through the township, where the turnpike was afterwards made, had been cut out, but the others were mere paths through the woods. Even the main road was almost impassable through the low ground of Middleburg. When men went to Cleveland two generally journeyed together so as to help each other through the bad places; each having two yoke of cattle, a sled or wagon, an axe, an augur, several days' provisions and a jug of whisky, as if he was starting on a campaign. Mr. M. E. Stone states that he has been four days making the fifteen miles to Cleveland and back. Two barrels of potash, holding from four to five hundred pounds each, were considered a good load for two yoke of cattle. It brought at Cleveland from four to five dollars per hundred.

The first store in the township which occupied a separate building was established by Emory Strong about 1834. In 1835 the present framed townhouse and schoolhouse combined took the place of the old log building which had previously been used for that purpose.

Dr. Olds was succeeded within a year or two after his death by Dr. William Baldwin, who practiced at the center ten or twelve years. During this period the increase of population was moderate, there being eighty-nine householders in 1826.

There was plenty of friendliness among the pioneers, and newcomers were always cordially welcomed. When there was a log house to be raised, nearly every man in the township would be on hand. After working all day, they would start off at night and travel two, three, and four miles to their homes, lighted on their darksome paths by torches of hickory bark, which were found to be just the thing for holding flame a long distance. Mr. Stone says a handful of hickory bark three feet long would last three miles.

When the people met in the schoolhouse for "evening meeting," or spelling-school, or singing-school, one might see a dozen or more long bunches of hickory bark, each neatly tied together, leaning against the wall. When the exercises were over, each pioneer gallant would light his rustic torch and set forth to escort his chosen fair one to her home, the flashing lights flinging fantastic shadows among the giant oaks and elms which shaded the forest pathways.

The wild beasts still roamed with great freedom close to the houses of the settlers, and numerous were the fatal shots fired at the deer, not only in their forest retreats but even in the edge of the clearings. Mr. M. E. Stone speaks of killing thirty or forty in a year. Other game afforded still more excitement. Late in an afternoon in 1825, a she-bear and two cubs were seen crossing the road about half a mile south of the tavern at Strongsville Center. The news quickly spread from cabin to cabin, and in a brief time more than twenty men and boys were out with rifles, shotguns and occasionally an old revolutionary musket, hurrying along on the track of the devoted animals, while the woods rang with the voices more or less melodious of an equal number of dogs, of various breeds and sizes. The bears were moving at a leisurely gait, and had only gone a short distance east from the road when the sounds of pursuit broke upon their ears. They hastened their movements, but the cubs were incapable of rapid traveling, and the old bear would not desert her young—and was herself given rather to waddling than to racing.

Just at dark they were overtaken about a mile east of the road. The old bear turned at bay and the dogs gave back from her savage teeth and Herculean paws. But the foremost hunters speedily came up, leveled their guns, and in an instant the devoted mother lay stretched in death. Meanwhile one of the cubs had hurried away into the fast-darkening forest, and the other had climbed the most convenient tree. The former escaped from its enemies; the latter only postponed its fate. The hunters built a fire near the tree, and stood guard by turns all night over—or rather under—the unfortunate cub. When daylight revealed his hiding place among the branches, he too was shot, and the citizens around had an opportunity of comparing the merits of old bear meat and young bear meat for several days afterwards.

By 1830, however, the deer and bear were becoming scarce. Some lingered for a few years longer, but by 1840 there was hardly one to be seen. If one appeared, it was probably a straggler from the low grounds of Middleburg, where they stayed till a still later date. By 1830, the log houses of the first pioneers had begun to be exchanged for frames, and in the course of the next decade the exchanges had generally taken place, and the township had put on the general appearance of a civilized district. By 1830 there was a small settlement at the lower mill on Rocky River (since known as Albion), but there was yet no hotel or store there. Mr. M. E. Gallup, who came into town, a boy, in 1833, says that at that time Ebenezer Prindle was keeping tavern at Strongsville Center. Emory and Warner Strong were then selling goods on the corner and old Mr. Strong about the same time established a store in a new brick building.

Emigration was now brisk, and so was business of all kinds. These were the celebrated "flush times," when paper money was issued in unlimited quantities, by irresponsible banks, and everybody appeared to expect to get rich in a few months. About 1834, Benjamin Northrop, commonly called Judge Northrop, came from Albion, New York, located at the lower mill, and built a carding machine and fulling mill there. The people around were anxious to have such an establishment in town and readily furnished supplies of timber and other material on credit; taking their pay afterwards in cloth and work. The settlement there rapidly increased, Mr. Northrop was recognized as the principal man in it, and in honor of his former residence he named it Albion.

Two or three years later Judge Northrop built a woolen factory in connection with his carding works. Albion rapidly increased; several stores and other places of business were erected, and the new village went entirely ahead of its more staid competitor, Strongsville Center. Even the great financial crisis of 1837, which brought ruin upon a large majority of the business men of the United States, did not stop the growth of Albion. When they were short of money for small change the "borough," for the place was incorporated under that title, issued scrip, signed by Judge Northrop as mayor, which passed current in the immediate vicinity.

A Baptist church, which was at first also used as a schoolhouse, was built at Albion as early as 1835. It was occupied with more or less regularity until 1871, when it was removed to Berea.

An Episcopal church was also organized at Albion, and a church edifice erected in 1841. There was likewise a Methodist church in a flourishing condition; of these three, the Methodist church alone remains.

In the forepart of 1843, probably in February, a fire occurred in Albion, which not only destroyed a large part of the village, but inflicted a blow on its prosperity from which it never recovered. There were then six stores, three or four blacksmith shops, several other shops and thirty or forty dwellings. These were mostly on the main road on the top of the hill, while the mills, the factory, the distillery, etc., were on the creek below. The fire began on the flat, and the wind drove it rapidly up the hill and along the street to the southward, destroying nearly all the business part of the village, and rendering fourteen families homeless.

The decline of the place dated from this time, but the fire was not immediately fatal. Some houses were rebuilt, and some places of business were reestablished. The travel still continued brisk along the old turnpike, and this, of course, made business for the taverns and, to some extent, for the stores. Trask and Tuttle built a tannery in 1844, which did a good business for many years. Mr. H. B. Bradley says that when he came in 1849, Albion was still quite a prosperous place. Many four-horse and six-horse teams traveled the road, drawing big wagons with tires six inches wide, heavily loaded with farm produce destined for Cleveland, or with articles from that place for use in the country. But when the railroad was built through Middleburg in 1851, a large part of this travel left the turnpike, and the glory of Albion faded slowly but steadily away.

Meanwhile, Strongsville Center continued on a more even tenor. Even while Albion was most prosperous, the voting place for the township continued to be at the center, and after the decay of the former village, the center still continued to be the common gathering place for the farmers around, and the trading place for those who did not go outside of the township for that purpose.

Judge Northrop sold the woolen factory at Albion in 1849, to Dr. St. Clair, and removed to Cleveland. Dr. St. Clair ran the factory several years, and sold it to Lester Miles, who made a gristmill of it, though he still kept up the carding works. The mill was burned in 1860. Mr. Miles rebuilt it, and operated it several years. He was succeeded by Milo Haynes who did a large business for a time; but business finally dropped away, and now little remains save the frame to tell of the busy times of old.

When the war for the Union called the youth of our country to arms, Strongsville promptly responded to the cry, and her sons, through four years of conflict with the foe, showed that they, too, could meet hardship and danger as readily as had their sires in the struggle to subdue the wilderness. Their names will be found with their respective regiments and batteries in the general history of the county.

During the war, the old turnpike, which for thirty years "had been one of the principal highways of this part of the country, was surrendered to the public by its owners, and the gates were permanently removed.

Since the close of the war, the career of Strongsville has been that of a quiet country township, where prosperous farmers, year after year, gather and market the produce of a fertile soil, and where healthful breezes invigorate the sturdy inhabitants, but where there is known but little of the excitement which agitates the great centers of business.

Before passing to our sketches of the existing churches, we will mention some of the prominent men, and members of the various professions, who in their youth were residents of Strongsville, and who have "graduated," so to speak, from its borders. The names of resident representatives in the legislature, however, are given in the chapter of the general history devoted to the higher officers of the county, while those of township officials succeed the sketches of the churches. The official and professional gentlemen formerly of Strongsville, are, according to a published list, as follows:

Judges, Walter F. Stone, Benjamin Northrop, Perry Bosworth; physicians, Henry Parker, Jonathan Pope, C. B. Tapper, Albert Southworth, Calvin Pomeroy, John P. Whitney and R. S. Hubbard. To these maybe added the resident physicians. After Dr. Baldwin, before mentioned, or about the time he left, which was near 1830, came Dr. Boswell Trask, who stayed nearly twenty years, and died in the township. Dr. H. L. W. Leonard came somewhat later, and survived Trask. He died in Strongsville only a few years ago. The present physicians are Dr. Hudson, Dr. Berghoff, and Dr. McConnel. Ministers, Thomas W. Pope, David Warwick, George A. Stone, D.D., Wm. O. Rodgers, Stanley G. Pope, Calvin O. Freeman, Hiram Brooks, Cyrus Colton, Lyman Freeman, Plavel Brittan, Levi Sabin.

Lawyers, L. L. Bowen, Sidney Strong, George H. Foster, Henry E. Foster, Carlos M. Stone, Myron Sabin, Erastus F. Miles.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL (NOW PRESBYTERIAN) CHURCH OP STRONGSVILLE.

This church was organized at Strongsville Center on the 10th day of October, 1817, Reverend Messrs. William Hanford and Luther Humphrey being present. The first members were Seth Goodwin and Deborah, his wife; Ahijah Haynes and Jerusha, his wife; Guilford Whitney and Anna, his wife; Hollis Whitney and Barincey Hilliard. Guilford Whitney was the first deacon, and Ahijah Haynes the second.

For two years the church was unable to employ a regular minister, or build a church edifice. Services, however, were held with great regularity at the houses of members, sermons being sometimes read by

one of the congregation, while at other times traveling ministers, with rude but fervid eloquence, held forth the promises of the gospel to the assembled listeners.

In 1819, the church, in connection with the township, erected a log building at the center, which, as before stated, served as schoolhouse, townhouse and church. Six years later a framed building was erected which was equally well employed for the three purposes mentioned. On the 12th of January, 1835, the Rev. Simon Woodruff was installed as the first settled minister of this church. He served until 1834; the church meanwhile steadily increasing with the growth of the township. In the last-named year, Mr. Woodruff was succeeded by the Rev. D. C. Blood, who remained three years. The Rev. Myron Tracy was installed in 1837.

At this period the church was in a very flourishing condition, and had over a hundred members. In 1842 what has been known as the Second Congregational, or Free Congregational Church, separated from the first church, considerably reducing its membership. In 1843, Rev. D. O. Blood was recalled, remaining until 1850. He was succeeded by Rev. Timothy Williston, and he, in 1853, by Rev. Elias Thompson; though the latter was not formally installed until 1854. Mr. Thompson was succeeded in 1860 by Rev. Charles Adams, who closed his services in 1861. Rev. Harvey Lyon preached for a short time after that, though not regularly installed. In July, 1862, Rev. Amzi B. Lyon began his ministerial services, which continued until 1864. The next year, 1865, Rev. A.W. Knowlton was called to the pastorate, which he occupied for twelve years, closing in 1877, after the longest term served by any minister for this church. He was succeeded by Rev. James W. Turner, the present incumbent.

In 1871, this church, retaining its ancient creed, (which is held in substance by both the Congregationalists and Presbyterians), adopted the Presbyterian form of organization, and became a member of the Presbytery. It is still, however, more commonly called by its early name, the First Congregational Church of Strongsville. At the time the writer visited the township, the elders of the church were Abial Haynes, D. M. Strong and Lorenzo Strong; the trustees of the civil organization were Benoni Bartlett, William Heazlit, Porter Lyman and Merrick Strong.

THE FREE CONGHEGATIONAL CHURCH.

This church, frequently called the Second Congregational, was formed from the First Congregational in 1842; its organization being completed on the 16th day of July in that year, under the direction of Rev. James A. Thorne, a professor at Oberlin College. Services were held with varying regularity until 1852. During this time the pulpit was frequently supplied temporarily by professors or pupils of Oberlin; Rev. Uriah T. Chamberlain regularly in 1843 and '44, and the Rev. Mr. Moore for two or three years subsequently.

On the 28th of June in that year, Rev. Gideon Dana became the pastor. A marked improvement was soon manifested in the vitality of the church, and on the 17th of August following, the corner stone of a new brick church edifice was laid at Strongsville Center. The work was pushed rapidly forward; the legal organization of the society being completed meanwhile by recording the necessary papers in the office of the county recorder on the 19th of October in that year. On the 27th of January, 1853, the newly erected church was duly dedicated with appropriate ceremonies, but little more than five months having been occupied in its construction.

Mr. Dana's labors continued until October, 1855. In February, 1856, Rev. O. W. White succeeded to the vacant pastorate, which he occupied until the latter part of 1863. On the first of January, 1863, Rev.

William Bacon became the pastor; remaining until 1867. He was followed by Rev. Lucius Smith. This gentleman preached part of the time at Berea; occupying the pulpits alternately until 1873. After the close of Mr. Bacon's services, Messrs. Burr and Miller preached occasionally during the remainder of 1873 and the beginning of 1873. During the latter year Rev. C. S. Cady was installed as pastor, continuing in that relation until November, 1875. No regular minister was employed until January, 1877, when Rev. J. W. Turner was installed as pastor of this church, as well as of the First Congregational, or Presbyterian church. Mr. Turner has served both churches from that time till the present. The deacons of the Free Congregational church are Isaac I. Gifford and Elijah Lyman; the trustees of the society are I. I. Gifford, E. Lyman and Richard Gibbons.

LIST OF TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

1818. Clerk, Seth Goodwin; trustees, David Goodwin, Jno. Dansmore, Jas. Nichols; lister, Chipman Porter; appraiser, Thad Ball; justices of the peace, Jas. Nichols, Ahijah Haynes.

1819. Clerk, Seth Goodwin; trustees, Jno. S. Strong, Jas. Nichols, Wm. Fuller; lister, Emory Strong; appraiser, Chipman Porter.

1820. Clerk, Benj. B. Olds; trustees, Josiah Carpenter, Eliakim Lyon, Henry Wait; lister, Elijah Lyman; appraiser, Jas. Wait.

1821. Clerk, Emory Strong; lister, Lyman Strong; appraiser, Elijah Lyman; justices of the peace, Elijah Lyman, Henry Wait.

1822. Clerk, Timothy Clark; trustees, Jas. Smith, E. Bosworth, A. J. Pope; treasurer, Guilford Whitney; lister, Guilford Whitney; appraiser, Lyman Strong.

1823. Clerk, Timothy Clark; trustees, Eliakim Lyon, Joseph Olds, Thad. Lathrop; treasurer, Guilford Whitney; lister, Guilford Whitney; appraiser, Chester Tuttle.

1824. Clerk, Timothy Clark; trustees, E. Wilkinson, Eliakim Lyon, Luke Bowen; treasurer, Guilford Whitney; lister, Philo Millard; appraiser, H. W. Sabin; justices of the peace, Elijah Lyman, Timothy Clark.

1825. Clerk, Timothy Clark; trustees E. Wilkinson, Leonard Peabody, Jas. Wait; treasurer, Ebenezer Stone; lister, Philo Millard; appraiser, Zara P. Howe.

1826. Clerk, Warner Strong; trustees, E. Wilkinson, Leonard Peabody, Jeduthan Freeman; treasurer, Ebenezer Stone; lister, Philo Millard; appraiser, Zara D. Howe.

1827. Clerk, Warner Strong; trustees, E. Wilkinson, Jno. Billiard, Curtis Stone; treasurer, Ebenezer Stone; lister, Philo Millard; appraiser, Zara D. Howe; justices of the peace, Elijah Lyman, Timothy Clark.

1828. Clerk, Timothy Clark; trustees, Asa Drake, Wm. Fuller, Abraham Conyne; treasurer, Ebenezer Stone; lister, Philo Millard; appraiser, Zara D. Howe; justice of the peace, Jno. S. Strong.

1829. Clerk, M. E. Stone; trustees, Ebenezer Stone, Guilford Whitney, E. Lyon; treasurer, Curtis Stone.

1830. Clerk, M. E. Stone; trustees, Ebenezer Stone, Guilford Whitney, E. Lyon; treasurer, Curtis Stone; justice of the peace, Timothy Clark.

1831. Clerk, M. E. Stone; trustees, David Harvey, Jno. Fuller, A. J. Pope; treasurer, Lyman Strong.

1832. Clerk, M. E. Stone; trustees, E. Wilkinson, Harmon Stone, Heman Coltrin; treasurer, Ebenezer G. Woodward.

1833. M. E. Stone; trustees, Jno. Fuller, Richard Wetherbee, Jno. Pope; treasurer, Eliakim Lyon; justices of the peace, Harmon Stone, J. Fuller. 1834. Clerk, Ebenezer Prindle; trustees, David Harvey, David Fish, Jno. Hilliard; treasurer, Lyman Strong.

1835. Clerk, M. E. Stone; trustees, Timothy Clark, Ebenezer Pomeroy, Thos. Copper; treasurer, Lyman Strong; justice of the peace, Harmon Stone. 1836. Clerk, M. E. Stone; trustees, Norton Briggs, Asa Drake, Avery Sprague; treasurer, Lyman Strong; justice of the peace, Jas. Fuller.

1837. Clerk, M. E. Stone; trustees, Norton Briggs, Asa Drake, Avery Sprague; treasurer, Lyman Strong.

1838. Clerk, David Harvey; trustees, Flavel Whitney, Marcus Moe A. Conyne; treasurer, Lyman Strong; justice of the peace, Norton Briggs.

1839. Clerk, David Harvey; trustees, A. Conyne, Flavel Whitney, Asa Drake; treasurer, Lyman Strong; justice of the peace, Harmon Stone.

1840. Clerk, David Harvey; trustees, A. Conyne, Flavel Whitney, Philander Pope; treasurer, Lyman Strong.

1841. Clerk, David Harvey; trustees, Philander Pope, Alanson Pomeroy, Buben Haynes; treasurer, Lyman Strong; assessor, Ebenezer Merrill; justice of the peace, Warner Strong.

1842. Clerk, Ansel J. Pope; trustees, Alanson Pomeroy, Asa Drake, Roswell Trask; treasurer, M. E. Stone; assessor, Ebenezer Merrill; justice of the peace, Myron A. Whitney.

1843. Clerk, Montraville Stone; trustees, Roswell Trask, Asa Drake, Eliakim Lyon; treasurer, M. E. Stone; assessor, Harmon Stone.

1844. Clerk, Montraville Stone; trustees, Roswell Trask, Asa Drake, H. G. Spencer; treasurer, M. E. Stone; assessor, Roswell Trask; justice of the peace, Dr. H. L. W. Leonard.

1845. Clerk, Banford Gilbert; trustees, Eliakim Lyon, Chas. Tupper, M. Stone; treasurer, M. B. Stone; assessor, Roswell Trask.

1846. Clerk, David Harvey; trustees, Roswell Trask, Abial Haynes, Flavel Whitney; treasurer, Warner Strong; assessor, Jno. Watson.

1847. Clerk, David Harvey; trustees, Abial Haynes, Flavel Whitney, Philander Pope; treasurer, Warner Strong; assessor, Roswell Trask; justice of the peace, Alanson Pomeroy.

1848. Clerk, David Harvey; trustees, Abial Haynes, Flavel Whitney, Philander Pope; treasurer, Warner Strong; assessor, Augustus P. Howe; justice of the peace, Harmon Stone.

1849. Clerk, Montraville Stone; trustees, Cyrus Parmenter, David Heazlit, P. Pope; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, E. Merrill.

1850. Clerk, M. Stone; trustees, Philander Pope, Alanson Pomeroy, Francis Bryant; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, O. H. Hoyt; justice of the peace, Alanson Pomeroy.

1851. Clerk, M. Stone; trustees, P. Pope, A. Pomeroy, Francis Bryant; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, O. H. Hoyt; justice of the peace, Dr. J. J. St. Clair.

1852. Clerk, M. Stone; trustees, A. Pomeroy, Ahijah Haynes, Chas. Ashley; treasurer, Jubal Whitney; assessor, O. H. Hoyt.

1853. Clerk, M. Stone; trustees, A. Pomeroy, Ahijah Haynes, Chas Ashley; treasurer, Jubal Whitney; assessor, O. H. Hoyt; justice of the peace, John Miller.

1854. Clerk, M. Stone; trustees, A. Pomeroy, Ahijah Haynes, Chas. Ashley; treasurer, Jubal Whitney; assessor, O. H. Hoyt.

1855. Clerk, M. E. Stone; trustees, Caleb Carpenter, D. S. Lyon, Benj. Tuttle; treasurer, Warner Strong; assessor, A. P. Howe.

1856. Clerk, M. Stone; trustees, A. Pomeroy, W. H. Ashley, A. T. Sanderson; treasurer, Abial Haynes; assessor, O. H. Hoyt.

1857. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, M. E. Stone, Wm. Heazlit, E. H. Reed; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, C. T. Rogers.

1858. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, E. H. Reed, M. Stone, Wm. Heazlit; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, C. T. Rogers; justice of the peace, M. Stone.

1859. Clerk, Alson H. Pomeroy; trustees M. E. Gallup, M. Stone, Jehiel Dunham; treasurer, Milton Gallup; assessor, O. H. Hoyt.

1860. Clerk, Milo S. Haynes; trustees, Abial Haynes, J. Dunham, Wm. Heazlit; treasurer, Milton Gallup; assessor, O. H. Hoyt; justice of the peace, Lester Miles.

1861. Clerk, A. H. Pomeroy; trustees, E. H. Reed, H. S. Dewey, Abijah Haynes; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, Lester Miles.

1862. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, H. S. Dewey, D. S. Lyon, E. A. Carpenter; treasurer, E. H. Reed; assessor, Edward Haynes.

1863. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, H. S. Dewey, D. S. Lyon, R. A. Carpenter; treasurer, E. H. Reed; assessor, Edward Haynes; justice of the peace, Lester Miles.

1864. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, W. H. Ashley, A. T. Sanderson, G. W. Dunn; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, Milton Gallup; justice of the peace, M. Stone.

1865. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, R. A. Carpenter, W. H. Ashley, W. H. Strong; treasurer, E. H. Reed; assessor, M. S. Haynes.

1866. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, W. H. Ashley, G. B. Strong, Jubal Whitney; treasurer, E. H. Reed; assessor, E. H. Wing; justice of the peace, Lester Miles.

1867. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, D. K. Drake, Wm. Heazlit, E. A. Carpenter; treasurer, E. H. Reed; assessor, M. S. Haynes; justice of the peace, M. Stone.

1868. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, Hazen Lathrop, Wm. Heazlit, R. A. Carpenter; treasurer, E. H. Reed; assessor, Henry P. Miles.

1869. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, Hazen Lathrop, Wm. Heazlit, S. T. Gibson; assessor, M. S. Haynes; treasurer, E. H. Reed; justices of the peace, Lester Miles, R. A. Carpenter.

1870. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, Edward Clement, Wm. Heazlit, S. T. Gibson; treasurer, E. H. Reed; assessor, D. K. Drake.

1871. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, D. M. Strong, M. Gallup, E. Clement; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, D. K. Drake.

1872. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, D. M. Strong, O. D. Pomeroy, E. Clement; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, D. K. Drake; justice of the peace, Lester Miles.

1873. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, D. M. Strong, O. D. Pomeroy, E. Clement; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, D. K. Drake; justice of the peace, D. K. Drake.

1874. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, D. M. Strong, O. D. Pomeroy, E. Clement; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, D. K. Drake.

1875. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, D. M. Strong, O. D. Pomeroy, Jas. Preston; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, D. K. Drake; justices of the peace, F. J. Bartlett, D. K. Drake.

1876. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, D. M. Strong, O. D. Pomeroy, Jas. Preston; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, D. K. Drake; justice of the peace, David E. Hier.

1877. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, O. D. Pomeroy, Lorenzo Strong, Henry M. Whitney; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, O. H. Hoyt.

1878. Clerk, O. H. Hoyt; trustees, O. D. Pomeroy, H. M. Whitney, E. H. Reed; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, O. H. Hoyt; justices of the peace, F. J. Bartlett, Henry W. Merrick.

1879. Trustees, O. D. Pomeroy, E. H. Reed, William Richards; clerk, M. S. Haynes; treasurer, M. E. Gallup; assessor, B. B. Heazlit.

ALANSON POMEROY.

The late Alanson Pomeroy, whose name is held in high esteem by the people of Strongsville, was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, February 20, 1805. He was the son of Ebenezer and Violaty (Thayer) Pomeroy, and was the fifth of a family of eight children, consisting of five sons and three daughters. Ebenezer Pomeroy left Northampton about the year 1817, and removed to Onondaga County, New York, where he remained five years. He then pushed forward to what was considered the "Far West," and in 1822 settled in Strongsville, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was accidentally killed in August, 1835, by falling from a wagon.

The subject of this memoir remained in the paternal home until the death of his father. His advantages for schooling were quite limited, but he possessed an active mind with a faculty for picking up scraps of knowledge in his daily life, and thus learned many practical lessons which were never forgotten. The first years of his residence in Strongsville were spent in helping to clear up his father's farm, and to make it a comfortable home. In addition to his farming, he after a while engaged in the mercantile business at Strongsville Center, in partnership with Mr. Benjamin Northrup, and subsequently with Mr. Whitney. Beginning with nothing but his own industry, skill, and integrity, by dint of perseverance and good management he gradually acquired a considerable property. In 1870, his health becoming very poor, he retired from active business. He, however, received no permanent benefit from so doing, and died in the seventy-second year of his age, on the 4th day of January, 1877, after a painful and lingering illness.

In all local affairs Mr. Pomeroy took an active and prominent part. For many years he held the office of justice of the peace. He also was one of the incorporators of the First National Bank of Berea, which he assisted in organizing, and of which he was a director until his decease.

He was a member of the Congregational Church of Strongsville, and his circumstances enabled him to take the lead in supporting it. He also contributed liberally to the American Missionary Association, the Western Book and Tract Society, and other Christian organizations. He increased materially the funds of Western Reserve College, of Baldwin University, and of Berea College, Kentucky, and gave several thousand dollars to Oberlin.

Mr. Pomeroy's acquaintance in business circles was quite extensive in different sections of the State where he had capital invested. He was particularly noted for his sterling integrity and business tact. What he performed was always thoroughly done. He was very tenacious of his reputation for fidelity to engagements of all kinds, suffering nothing to deter him from keeping an appointment or agreement. He was a strong believer in the duty and dignity of labor. With the industrious poor he always sympathized; often helping them out of pecuniary difficulties. Every branch of what he considered true reform drew forth his active and hearty support. He possessed a warm heart and generous disposition, but was reserved and shrank from public notoriety. He was very careful not to wound the feelings of any one, and his counsel and advice was sought for by many. The news of his death was received with sensations of profound sorrow, and his loss will long be felt in the community in which he had resided over half a century.

Mr. Pomeroy was married on the 9th day of January, 1831, to Miss Kezia Pope, daughter of Jonathan and Kezia Pope, of Strongsville. Mrs. Pomeroy was born in 1809, and is still living in Strongsville, surrounded by an affectionate family and esteemed by all who know her.

Mr. and Mrs. Pomeroy had nine children: The two eldest, Hollish L., born November 26, 1833, and Lorency, born April 10, 1834, died in infancy; A. H., born March 7, 1836, is cashier of the First National Bank of Berea; Orlando D., born January 7, 1839, resides near Strongsville, engaged in farming; Elizabeth C., born November 29, 1840, is the wife of Henry K. Day, of Elyria, Ohio; Vienna, born July 3, 1843, is the wife of O. W. D. Miller, of Berea; Hollis C., born March 12, 1846, died in infancy; Perlina M., born August 19, 1849, married W. W. Smith, of Strongsville; Harlan, born June 27, 1853, now at home, is a graduate of the Cleveland Homoeopathic College.

Strongsville 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/110/mode/2up

If Strongsville had no other claim, two men that she has furnished to this community would give her a prominent place in our history. Judge Carlos M. Stone, than whom while he lived no man in the county was better or more favorably known, and Dayton Clarence Miller, professor of physics at Case School of Applied Science, author of many works. Carlos M. Stone was born in Strongsville March 27, 1846. A child in the district schools, a student at Oberlin, graduate. at the Ohio State and Union Law College, admitted to the bar, at the age of twenty-five we find him prosecuting attorney of Cuyahoga County. This was in 1871. His term of two years expiring we find him practicing law in the firm of Brinsmade and Stone and then in the firm of Stone and Hessenmueller. In 1879 he is again prosecuting attorney and is reelected in 1881, His total service in that office covering a period of seven years, he resumes the practice of law in the firm of Stone, Hessenmueller and Gallup. In 1885 he began a long service as judge of the Common Pleas Court While serving on the bench, at the earnest solicitation of his party friends who believed him to be the strongest candidate that could be named, he contested for the office of mayor of the City of Cleveland. Defeated, he again ran for reelection as judge and won by his old-time majority. As a judge he was not considered the most able of an especially strong bench of associates, but he was rarely reversed by the higher courts. His evident fairness in the conduct of trials so impressed the parties in controversy that few appeals were taken.

Dayton Clarence Miller, born in Strongsville, is the author of many works on physics. One hears the very comprehensible tide of "The Science of Musical Sounds." He is considered a great authority on sound and the leading man in that line in this country, if not in the world. Like most men of genius, he has a hobby. In his childhood he delighted to play with the fife his father used in the Civil war. He is a collector of flutes, a hobby in line with his study of musical sounds. In an interview in the News and Leader recently he was asked: "What is occupying your attention at present?" His reply was: "Finding out why some sounds are pleasant and why others are unpleasant. I am trying to make photographic records of sounds which shall be finer than the phonograph. I am working to find the scientific causes of tone quality. I study sounds through the flute." "His laboratory at Case School," said the News Leader, "is one of the scientific show places of the world where he is 'canning' sound to last 15,000 years, and where he photographs the human voice." His titles are Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and Doctor of Science.

Before it was named, this township was number 5 in range 14. It is the most southwestern township in the county and contains about twenty square miles or 12,800 acres, being not fully five miles square. It was ceded to the Connecticut Land Company by the Indians in 1805 and was surveyed as a township in 1806. It was not settled by the white man until after the War of 1812, when settlements began to be made slowly. It was purchased from the Connecticut Land Company in four parcels and is particularly distinguished by the high character of the original purchasers. In the division by the company, Hon. Oliver Ellsworth took the largest part, paying into the company \$13,673 and Governor Caleb Strong nearly the same territory for which he paid \$12,000. Two smaller purchasers were assigned the balance for which they paid \$414. The principal purchasers, Ellsworth and Strong, were men of distinction. Oliver Ellsworth was born at Winsor, Connecticut, April 29, 1745. He was a statesman and jurist of national repute. He was United States senator from the State of Connecticut from 1789 to 1796, beginning his service with that of Washington as president, was appointed by Washington chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, serving as chief justice until in 1799 he was appointed envoy extraordinary to

France. Caleb Strong was born at Northampton, Massachusetts. January 9, 1745. He was a leading patriot in the Revolution, a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Federalist United States senator from Massachusetts 1789 to 1797 and governor of Massachusetts 1800 to 1807 and 1812 to 1816. William Wolcott Ellsworth, a son of Oliver, also served as governor of Connecticut, 1838 to 1842. These distinguished purchasers did not come to the West, but appointed John Stoughton Strong to act for them as land agent and he came from Connecticut with a stag party consisting of Elijah Lyman, Guilford Whitney, William Fuller, Obadiah Church and Mr. Goodell in 1816. Strong was a small, active, energetic, nervous man, a good business manager, but not a typical pioneer. This party drove from Connecticut in sleighs. Strong located his headquarters a little northeast of the Center and all hands went to work on the log house, which was to serve as residence and business headquarters for the land agent of Ellsworth and Strong. The township had not been surveyed into lots and as soon as the headquarters was established and their bachelor's hall in running order the survey began. Strong was not a surveyor, but he engaged a surveyor from Newburgh, and Whitney Goodell, Church and Fuller acted as chain men. Without any information to the contrary, we will assume that Lyman acted as cook at the headquarters.

The township was surveyed into lots half a mile square containing 160 acres of land. The western tier of lots, however, were not full, as the township is not five miles square. These lots were numbered beginning with number 1 in the southwest corner, then numbering north and south until number 100 in the northeast corner concluded the survey. As in all the townships of the county the setting of corner stones by the original surveyors was carefully and thoroughly done. Once set, these monuments have been rarely disturbed. "Cursed be he that moveth a corner stone," was adopted by the pioneers as an injunction to be regarded. In the early days this act was looked upon as the basest of all criminal acts. The survey was the principal business at first, but two or three small clearings were made and some crops planted, when in March, 1816, John Hilliard and wife and a little daughter, Eliza, came from Connecticut. They immediately took up residence in the log mansion and Mrs. Hilliard, then only twenty-two years of age, with her little daughter to care for, became the housekeeper for the colony, the only woman in the township. Bachelor's Hall was transformed. She had her pioneer shocks and housekeeping drawbacks. After breakfast, while sweeping the floor, she was startled by a sibilant rattle and discovered a large rattlesnake on the hearth. She called in the men, who killed it, and found it to be over five feet in length. She continued her sweeping, when another warning sound was heard. The men pulled up the loose floor and killed another rattler, the mate to the first. These incidents, while common in pioneer life, were naturally disquieting to a lone housekeeper in the wilds of Strongsville in 1816.

Another menace aside from wild beasts was the Indians. They were supposed to be friendly after the War of 1812, but the tales of their atrocities so vividly told made their presence even singly a secret tenor. One day in that first summer the men had all gone to a raising in Columbia. Lorain County, leaving Mrs. Hilliard alone with her little girl. A huge Indian armed with gun, knife and tomahawk entered the cabin and gruffly demanded, "Where is the man?" She told him that the men were not at home, answering truthfully. The Indian made no hostile demonstration, but without asking helped himself to a chair and sat down. The little girl with the fearlessness of childhood and that child instinct that detects the harmless and the harmful in human kind walked boldly up to him and gave him a piece of bread and butter which she was eating. The peace offering was a success. The Indian took the little girl on his lap and fondled her while he ate the bread and butter. The mother inwardly fearful looked on, but breathed a sigh of relief when the big warrior, shortly after, left without any parting salutation.

About October 1st of this year, 1816, another family was added to the Strongsville colony. Guilford Whitney came with his wife and children, Havel, Jubal, Vina and Betsey and a young lady, Charlotte

Wallace. Miss Wallace was led to the western wilds by some attraction that flesh is heir to, for she was the bride in the first marriage that was solemnized in the township. This wedding occurred the following winter and Hollis Whitney was the other party to the contract. Abial Haynes came prospecting this month of October, 1816, and returned to New England to report. His report was favorable, for he returned with his father, Ahijah Haynes, Sr., his mother and their other son, Ahijah Haynes, Jr. In 1880 these sons were the oldest settlers in Strongsville. In 1817 there was a great shortage of grain in the township owing to the cold summer of 1816. In January, 1817, Mr. Haynes was compelled to go as far as Harrisville, now on the south line of Medina County, to get wheat. The distance was thirty miles and the drive was made with an ox team and sled. After dusk the wolves prowled around but did not come near enough to feel the club which Haynes carried for protection. Arriving at Harrisville, Haynes had to thrash with a flail and winnow by hand the wheat and then pay \$1 per bushel for the same, but it was food for the family and he was glad to get it.

In 1817 other families had arrived and the colony was augmented by births. Chipman Porter, the son of Edwin, was the first white child born in the township and a few days later Frank Hilliard, the eldest of John and Mrs. Hilliard, was born and was the second birth among the pioneers. Before the year closed many families had taken up land in the township. The people came more readily to the high, dry and healthy farms of Strongsville than to the level but wet ground of Middleburgh with its richer soil. Among the heads of families may be noted George F. Gilbert, James Nichols, David Goodwin, Wheeler Cole, Thatcher Avery, James Bennett, Thaddeus Hall and John and James Smith. This was a large immigration for one year. Axes were heard in all directions and log houses arose like mushrooms in the field. John Bosworth cleared fifty acres for Mr. Strong and thirty were sown to wheat. And many small clearings were made, and sown to wheat so that the township became independent of the outer world for food. In this situation Mr. Strong decided he could now bring his family and you can see that the food supply was important as the family aside from his wife consisted of Warren C., Lyman W., John. Chipman, Emery, Benda, Franklin and Lavania. These came from Connecticut in 1818. The Olds family came this year. Among them Edson B. Olds, who in 1842 and 1843 served as a member of the Ohio General Assembly, then living in Pickaway County. There was G. L., L. W., C. N. and Dr. Benjamin B. Olds. The last named began the practice of medicine immediately on his arrival and had the distinction of being the first doctor in the township. This year also came Liakim Lyon and family, Josiah Carpenter and family, including Caleb, Zackary, David and Rufus, Zara D. Howe and family, including Manser Howe, A. P. Howe and Z. D. Howe, Otis and N. D. Billings, Mrs. McNeil, Mrs. G. C. Olds and Apollo S. Southworth. Ansel G. Pope came this year and opened the first blacksmith shop. He lived in the township to a ripe old age. We have thus enumerated the first settlers, the first woman resident, the first marriage, the first birth, the first doctor and the first blacksmith. D. S. Lyon said that when he came there was hardly a stick of timber cut between Strongsville and Cleveland. The main road, afterwards the turnpike, was marked out four rods wide. The underbrush and saplings were cut but the large trees remained and the roadway wound about them. Liakim Lyon settled about a mile from the south line of the township. The Goodwins and Bennetts were the only near neighbors. Lyon occupied Bennett's house for a time. He said they were often disturbed by the howling of the wolves at night. At one time, annoyed by the wolves, he attempted to drive them away by setting his dog upon them, but the dog was quickly driven in with his tail at half-mast. In the summer of 1818 John S. Strong built a frame barn, the first frame building built in the township. At the raising all of the men in Strongsville and some from Middleburgh and Columbia assisted. When the frame was raised, in accordance with some ancient custom, the men ranged themselves on one side of the plates and a bottle of whiskey was passed from mouth to mouth, as in the later custom of passing the loving cup in celebrations. When the last man was reached, he imbibed the last of the contents and threw the empty bottle as far as he could.

The peopling of the township was now progressing so rapidly that application was made to the county commissioners for the erection of a township to include the territory of number 5, range 14. A town meeting was called and the name Strongsville chosen in honor of John S. Strong. On February 2, 1818, the first election was held. It was presided over by Ephraim Vaughn of Middleburg. The judges of election were James Nichols, David Goodwin and Chipman Porter. John Dinsmore, James Nichols and James Smith were elected trustees; Seth Goodwin, clerk, and Guilford Whitney, treasurer. The fence viewers chosen were James Bennett and Benjamin G. Barber; constables, James Nichols and G. F. Nichols, and the superintendents of the highways, John Bosworth, John Dinsmore and Benjamin G. Barber. Barber declined to serve and Abial Haynes was appointed in his stead. In June the election for justices of the peace was held and James Nichols and Ahijah Haynes, Jr., elected. Like the City of Cleveland in some of its history, Strongsville did not always keep within its income as to expenditures. At the March meeting of the township trustees, held in 1819, the expenditures were reported as \$16.50, while the receipts were only \$8.30.

At the time of the organization of the township of number 5, range 14, now given the name of Strongsville, thus to remain, with territory at the present as at first formed, the two most important questions before the officials of the State of Ohio were education and highways. The message of Governor Thomas Worthington to the Legislature which adjourned January 30, 1818, was devoted largely to these subjects. In the previous Legislature a large number of turnpike companies were authorized and incorporated and more than 100 public roads ordered opened and improved out of the three per cent United States funds. Governor Worthington in a previous message had urged that the state join with individuals and private corporations in the construction of turnpikes and pointed out that the state's share of the tolls collected would reduce the tax rate. This method of providing better transportation became general and Strongsville was blessed with a turnpike toll road. Incidents regarding the difficulties of early travel will show what a step in advance this must have been. In the year 1819 the settlement was augmented by the coming of Jonathan Pope and family, Ebenezer Wilkinson and family, Seth Bartlett and family, James Waite, Mosel Fowle, Chester G. Tuttle and Ezra Tuttle, Jr., John Colton and family and Jeduthan Freeman and family. Two deaths occurred in this year, of young people, the first since the settlers came, Stoughton Strong, aged nineteen, and Polly Strong, wife of Lyman, aged twenty-one. A log house was built at the Center to serve as town house, schoolhouse and meeting house. This building served as a meeting house for all denominations of religious belief. The settlers transplanted their New England religion as a crop to be planted early. In 1817 the first church of Congregationalists was organized. Rev. William Hanford and Rev. Luther Humphrey brought this about. The first members were Ahijah Haynes and Jerusha, his wife, Guilford Whitney and Anna, his wife, Hollis Whitney and Barincey Hilliard. Guilford Whitney was the first deacon and Ahijah Haynes the second. There was no regular minister. Sermons were read and occasionally a traveling minister preached, the meetings being held in houses until the town house was built. This log house was replaced in 1825 by a frame building, which was used as was the former building for a schoolhouse, town house and church. In this year the First Congregational Church engaged a settled minister, Rev. Simon Woodruff. He served till 1834 and was followed by Rev. D. C. Blood and he by Rev. Myron Tracy. In 1842 a division occurred and a free Congregational Church was formed and in 1853 a brick church was built. This was called the second Congregational Church. Among the Congregational pastors of Strongsville have been Revs. Elias Thompson, Timothy Williston, Charles E. Adams, Harvey Lyon, Amzi B. Lyon, A. W. Knowlton, James W. Turner, Gideon Dana, William Bacon, Lucius Smith and C. S. Cady. During the summer of 1819 a Methodist society was organized at the house of Jonathan Pope by Rev. Ira Eddy and Rev. Billings O. Plympton. The first circuit pastors were Rev. M. Goddard and Rev. Charles Waddell.

To continue chronologically, in 1820 the first tavern was opened by John H. Strong. It was in a frame

building built by Mr. Strong and was the first frame residence building, if it might be so called, in the township. Up to this time grinding had been done for the settlers at Vaughn's mill in Middleburg or Hoadley's in Columbia. Sometimes the water power gave out and the people had to go to mill as far as Tallmadge or Painesville on the Chagrin River. Strong, the promoter, the energetic, the bundle of nerves, decided that this must not be. In the fall of 1820. he built a gristmill on the branch of Rocky River at a point, later, the site of Albion, of poetic memory. E. Lyman was his millwright and A. J. Pope did the iron work. Thaddeus Lathrop, father of Mrs. Benjamin Tuttle, came from Middleburg and boarded the hands, who worked on the mill and was the first miller. A sawmill was built there about the same time. At the Center the only mercantile establishments were stores of small stocks of goods sold from the homes by John S. Strong, E. Lyman and John Bosworth. In this year Timothy Clark opened a store at the Center with a larger stock of goods and perhaps should be called the first merchant of the town. His stock was, however, not large. Other arrivals this year were Moses O. Bennett, Jesse Root, Benjamin Schofield, Cyrus Harlan and Nathan Britton and family.

At this time the Hinckley Hunt, referred to in another chapter, had thinned the wild animals, but venison was common and mutton scarce. An expert with the rifle would shoot forty or fifty deer in a season, but the wolves were still in sufficient numbers to get the sheep ahead of the butcher. There was still that lurking fear of wolves and panthers. This gave rise to some jokes on the settlers that became the theme of conversation in the store and blacksmith shop. Abial Haynes related how his father's family were disturbed for several nights by the screams of a panther. Finally, this became so terrifying that one night he sallied forth with rifle in hand to end or be ended. Discovering a pair of shining eyes in the woods which he decided were the panther's, he fired and hastily retreated to the home fortress. The next morning on visiting the scene of the night's adventure he found a dead owl, whose screams had been silenced by his shot. Indians frequently came in bands of hunting parties and would stay for a week or two in camp hunting game. One band made camp at Albion on the river, another on the "East Hill," and at one time a band of fifty red men on a hunt camped at the Center. They were friendly and not more unwelcome than the gypsy bands that appear to this day.

The Strongsville settlers were comparatively free from sickness. The high, dry and rolling ground was free from the ailments that many of the settlers contended with. There was some fever and ague along the river. In the treatment of this disease there were some standing remedies. Petroleum V. Nasby, in his humorous articles about the "Confederate Cross Roads," says the Negroes took quinine and whiskey for the ague and the Whites took the same remedy for the same disease, which they took omittin' the quinine. Be that as it may, it is an historical fact that John S. Strong, the virile, built, in 1821, a distillery down on the river near his gristmill and operated it for a short time. In 1822 came the third death in the township. Dr. B. B. Olds, whom we have mentioned as the first physician and who married a daughter of Mr. Strong, died this year. We should note the arrival of Rev Luke Bowen, the first resident minister and school teacher. Of note this year also was the sale by Mr. Strong of his Albion property. He immediately built another gristmill on Rocky River, two miles east of the Center. As someone expressed it, there was not business for two mills, but Mr. Strong was of such a temperament that he could not keep still. This stir, quite considerable for the little pioneer settlement, caused a boom in prices and land went up from \$3 an acre to \$5, and this at an unfortunate time. Congress had just changed the plan of selling government land in large tracts to large buyers and began offering it in quarter sections at \$1.25 per acre. The emigration to Strongsville fell off and finally the boom fell off and land was reduced to two dollars an acre in order to get buyers. Thus in 1824 there were only twenty-four votes cast for president in the township. Of these Henry Clay received twenty-three and John Quincy Adams one.

At this time the clearings had increased in size and crops were correspondingly large, but grain was so low in price as to hardly pay for marketing. Money was extremely scarce. Again, we see the active mind of John S. Strong at work. One commodity which the settlers could produce was much in demand in Cleveland and had a ready sale, potash and pearlash. Mr. Strong built an ashery at the Center and operated it for many years. The ashes of the monarchs of the forest brought relief to the people. The product in so condensed a form overcame the handicap of transportation. When hauling to Cleveland it was customary for two men with two four ox teams to drive in company with sled or wagon, so that they could assist each other on the way. A trip was a campaign. They usually carried an axe, refreshments, which included a jug of whiskey, and sleeping robes or blankets. The round trip occupied four extremely long days. Two barrels of potash holding from 400 to 500 pounds each was a load for two yokes of oxen. It brought, in Cleveland, from \$4 to \$5 a hundred. The only money the settlers got for some time was from this product. They would boil down the lye from ashes into what were called black salts and this product was sold to Strong for the manufacture of potash.

Some scattering families came to the township before 1825 which have not been mentioned, Ezra Tuttle and son Benjamin, Ebenezer Stone, who bought a mile west of the Center, and Ebenezer Pomeroy, who was the first settler west of the Center. Walter F. Stone, a son of Ebenezer, was Common Pleas judge in the '60s and '70s. In 1825 a frame town house, or townhouse, schoolhouse and meetinghouse, replaced the log building that was first so used. Dr. William Baldwin came this year and filled the place vacated by the death of Doctor Olds. He practiced in the town for about twelve years. In 1826 there were only eighty-nine householders in the township.

Torches made of hickory bark were used by those who were out in the evening. Young people were often compelled to walk a long distance through the woods after an evening at the spelling school, the singing school or the geography school, and the torch had a double mission, that of furnishing light on the way and of frightening away wild beasts of the woods. They were constructed so as to burn for a long time. A torch three feet long would burn during a walk of three miles. They were good for a mile for each foot in length. At one of these evening meetings a long line of torches would be leaning against the walls of the schoolhouse and at the close the gallant would pick his best girl, light his torch and see her home, the flame perhaps suggestive of that inner flame that told of love's sweet dream.

By 1830 wild game was getting scarce and early settlers soon were relating to their children the story of the last bear hunt. A female bear with two cubs was discovered and followed by some twenty men. The old bear while turning to defend her cubs was shot, one cub took to a tree and the other escaped in the darkness. The men waited all night by the tree containing the cub and at daybreak it was shot. The other cub was never seen again and no further bear stories could be told. Now log houses began to disappear and frame houses took their places. In 1833 Ebenezer Prindle was keeping tavern, and there were two stores at the Center, one kept by Emery and Warner Strong and a brick store with John S. Strong as proprietor. New arrivals were many, times were flush, paper money was abundant and Strongsville Center was thriving.

In 1834 a rival to John S. Strong, in enterprise, came to the settlement from Albion, New York, Benjamin Northrop. He located at the lower mill on the east branch of the Rocky River and built a carding and fulling mill. He seemed at once to have the respect and good will of the people. For his building the settlers sold him timber on credit. Later he built a woolen factory in connection with his carding factory and again the settlers assisted in the same way, taking their pay later in cloth and work. This settlement was named Albion in honor of Mr. Northrop's native town. A large number of houses were built. There were several stores and shops and the new settlement went ahead of the Center. A Baptist Church, an

Episcopal and a Methodist were located here. Albion was incorporated as a borough. In the financial crisis of 1837, the growth of Albion continued unchecked. It issued script signed by Benjamin Northrop as mayor, which passed current, and tided over the difficulty. In 1843 it had six stores, four blacksmith shops and several other shops and about forty dwellings. The dwellings were on the main road on top of the hill overlooking the mills, factories and the distillery on the river below. To paraphrase from Goldsmith, we might say:

Sweet Albion! loveliest village of the plain,
Where health and plenty cheered the laboring swain,
Where smiling Spring her earliest visit paid,
And parting Summer's lingering blooms delayed.
Sweet, smiling village, loveliest of the lawn,
Thy sports are fled, and all thy charms withdrawn.

In this year of 1843 the first calamity came. A fire destroyed a large part of the village. Starting in the mills on the river the wind drove it up the hill and many houses were burned. Fourteen families were made homeless and others had great loss. The decline of the village did not begin at once from this loss. Some houses were rebuilt and some lines of business reestablished. Travel on the turnpike was brisk and made business for the tavern and stores. Trask and Tuttle built a tannery on the river and did a thriving business for some years. Four and six horse teams drove through to Cleveland with big wagons carrying produce for the market. Albion seemed to be regaining its past prestige, when in 1851 the railroad was built through Middleburg. Then travel left the turnpike and "the glory of Albion faded away." The Center, its rival, continued on the even tenor of its way. While Albion was at its best, the voting place was at the Center and it remained the capital. In 1849 Benjamin Northrop, the founder of Albion, sold his woolen factory to Dr. St. Clair and moved to Cleveland, having been the previous year elected by the Legislature, associate judge of the Common Pleas Court.

Among those who served in the first half century and more of the organized existence of the township, and the list represents capable men, are trustees, David Goodwin, John Densmore, James Nichols, John S. Strong, William Fuller, A. J. Pope, Liakim Lyon, Henry Wait, Thad Lathrop, Luke Bowen, E. Wilkinson, James Smith, E. Bosworth, Joseph Olds, Leonard Peabody, Asa Drake, Ebenezer Stone, Boswell Trask, Charles Tupper, Caleb Carpenter, E. H. Reed, D. S. Lyon, James Preston and William Richards; clerks, Seth Goodwin, Benjamin B. Olds, Warner Strong, Ansel J. Pope, Emery Strong, M. E. Stone, Montraville Stone, Ebenezer Prindle, Timothy Clark, David Harvey, Banford Gilbert and Milo S. Haynes; treasurers, Ebenezer Stone, Lyman Strong, Curtis Stone, M. E. Stone, Warner Strong, Jubal Whitney, M. E. Gallup, E. H. Reed; justices of the peace, James Nichols, Ahijah Haynes, Henry Wait, Timothy Clark, John S. Strong, Harmon Stone, James Fuller, Norton Briggs, Warner Strong, John Miller, M. E. Stone, Lester Miles, D. K. Drake, David E. Heir, F. J. Bartlett, Henry W. Merrick and Alanson Pomeroy; assessors, Chipman Porter, James Wait, Lyman Strong, Chester Tuttle, Zara D. Howe, A. P. Howe, Ebenezer Merrill, A. H. Hoyt, Roswald Trask, C. T. Rogers, John Watson, Edward Haynes, M. S. Haynes and B. Rosal. Heazlit. The present officers of the township are trustees, A. L. Sanderson, L. E. Bedford and Carl Lyman; clerk, R. W. Frank; treasurer, J. A. Frank; assessor, J. F. Pierce; constable, George J. Seidel, and justice of the peace, Grant G. Atkinson.

The district schools, like those over the county, are no more. The schoolhouses, once used for all kinds of assemblies, have been removed or diverted to other uses and three buildings now house the pupils of the township, a high school building and two grade school buildings nearby at the Center. There are 14 teachers employed and 375 pupils enrolled. The present superintendent is F. C. Gilmore and he is under the direction of the county superintendent of schools, A. G. Yawberg, who has held that position for nine

years. The high school building is being enlarged for the better accommodation of the schools. The new addition to the high school building is up to date, with a fine auditorium and school rooms and equipment of the best. Not having a water system in that township, the building will be served by a pressure tank and motor engine. The auditorium besides having the usual comfort, cloak, and dressing rooms, is equipped with an operating room for moving pictures.

Strongsville furnished seventy soldiers in the Civil war. Among them Carlos Stone, whom we have mentioned; E. J. Kennedy, now of Berea, of whom we will speak in the chapter on Middleburg; George H. Foster, lawyer and legislator; George A. Hubbard, orator and clergyman, chaplain of his regiment, and James E. Wyatt, philosopher, who, when the Old Seventh Ohio was surprised at breakfast, filled the pockets of his blouse with roast pork, notwithstanding the excitement, and, when the battle of Cross Lanes was over, deliberately pulled out his prize to the astonishment of his hungry compatriots; Samuel A. Carpenter, who lost an arm in a rather unexpected campaign with Sherman, from Atlanta to the sea, and Frank Cunningham, father of Wilbur Cunningham of Cleveland. No Grand Army post has ever been formed in the township, the men eligible preferring to join the Berea and other posts in the county. Samuel A. Carpenter is the only soldier of the Civil war now living in the township. He was a member of Company A of Col. Oliver Payne's regiment, the One Hundred and Twenty fourth Ohio. In command of his company was Captain William Wilson. Although nearly eighty, Mr. Carpenter and his good wife are active in seeing that the graves of the soldiers are remembered with flowers on Decoration Day each year. In 1822 there was a reunion of the surviving members of the One Hundred and Twenty fourth Ohio, Mr. Carpenter's regiment, at Strongsville. There were fifteen present and some letters were read from absent ones.

This chapter is written of a quiet agricultural community, a section of the county in an extreme corner, away from the busy whirl. It has had no canal and no railroad and few exciting local events. The settlers transplanted here the sterling virtues of the Puritans, without their austere severity. They set up the school, the church, and civil authority early. They did not forget the precept of their Puritan mothers nor the God of their Puritan fathers in the woods of the western wilds. Graduated from this township have been three Common Pleas judges, Benjamin Northrop, who served in the '40s; Walter F. Stone, who served as Common Pleas judge before and after the Civil war, and Carlos M. Stone, judge of the same court in later years. Of its lawyers, aside from these, may be mentioned L. L. Bowen, Sidney Strong, Myron Sabin, Erastus F. Miles and George H. Foster. Of its literary characters, Henry E. Foster, editor and miscellaneous writer, is a notable example. Of its legislators are Edson B. Olds and George H. Foster. It has produced a scientist of unusual attainments in Dayton Clarence Miller.

Thus, in closing we are reminded of the lines that were so often declaimed in the "Little Red Schoolhouse":

"What constitutes a state?
Not high-raised battlements or labored mound,

Thick wall or moated gate;
Not cities proud with spires and turrets crowned,

Not bays and broad armed ports,
Where, laughing at the storm, rich navies ride;

Not starred and spangled courts,
Where low-browed baseness wafts perfume to pride-

No-men, high-minded men
With powers as far above dull brutes endued,

In forest, brake, or den,
As beasts excel cold rocks and brambles rude."

Strongsville 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/StrongsvilleTwpPWWR.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>

Strongsville

Some fifteen miles from Cleveland in a southwesterly direction, out what is known as the Wooster pike, lies Strongsville (being called after John S. STRONG), a township like many another in this Western Reserve, almost wholly given up to agriculture. Although it can boast of one railroad - the Cleveland, Lorain & Wheeling - on its western border, running from north to south through the township. True, will see here and there a mill, shop or factory, and at splendid distances from each other may be observed the general store, where the wisdom and genius of the township congregate to talk over public matters and learn the latest news.

Passing through the township now, and observing the thrift and prosperity of its inhabitants, the comfort of all, and the affluence of many, one would hardly imagine that this was once a dense forest, whose slumbering echoes were awakened by the scream of the panther, the howl of the wolf, and the whoop of the savage.

To glide along at almost lightning speed on that prince of modern pleasure inventions, the bicycle, over the many smooth and obstructionless roads that stretch their endless lines through and across this region, and then realize that much less than a century ago, to cover the same distance which you have made in one short hour, meant days and perhaps weeks of tedious toil and danger. We meet the aged and infirm old settlers and smile at their quaint and primitive ways and sayings, but we never realize what it really signified to be a pioneer of this region in our grandfather's day.

Much of the history of those early days has never been written, save by the recording angel in that great Book of Remembrance which God keeps, and whose pages will never be scanned by mortal eye until that day when we shall see the King in His beauty. To write even a sketch of the people without singling out here and there individual persons would be at least a difficult task.

In February, 1816, Mrs. John HILLIARD (Bernica WHITNEY) came to Strongsville with her husband and father and little daughter, Eliza, and a company of men who came to survey the township, from near Marlboro, Vermont. They built their log cabin a little southeast from the center, and commenced life by clearing a few acres of land and planting it to corn that spring.

During the spring and early summer of that year Mrs. HILLIARD, then only twenty-one years old, was the only woman in Strongsville township, and, with her little daughter, consisted the entire female society of

this town; and it is not saying too much for them to assert that they were very largely the leaders of fashion.

Did Mrs. HILLIARD ever have callers? Oh, yes. One bright summer morning after she had swept the floor, covered the fire - for they had no matches in those days - and dusted the stone hearth, she heard a strange noise, and, turning towards the fireplace, saw a huge rattlesnake stretched at full length on the warm hearthstone and rattling "to beat the band." She ran to the door and called her husband, who came and dispatched the creature, which measured over five feet in length.

The husband returned to his chopping and she to her work, but soon she heard a similar noise behind the hearth stone. Again, her husband was summoned, and the mate to the first snake was dragged from his hiding place and sent to bear the other one company.

Again, during the summer, while her husband and all the rest of the men who came west with them were gone to Columbia to a raising, leaving Mrs. HILLIARD and little Eliza alone, and the only inhabitants of the township, as they supposed, the door to their log cabin was unceremoniously pushed open and a big Indian, with gun, knife and tomahawk, walked in and asked where the men were.

As soon as she could catch her breath, which her beating heart seemed to have sent after the men, she told him in trembling tones where they had gone, expecting herself and child to be murdered, of course. Mr. LO walked along and took a seat. Little Eliza, not thinking of harm, went up to him and offered him the piece of bread she happened to be eating at the time. He took it, began eating it, and took her on his knee. Soon after he got up and left, without making known his business or even leaving his card, and Mrs. HILLIARD neglected to ask him to call again.

In the fall of that same year Guilford WHITNEY, Mrs. HILLIARD's father, returned to Vermont and brought his wife, Annie, and five children back to this western home, and with them came Mr. Thaddeus LATHROP and family and Miss Charlotte WALLACE, also Retire Grove STRONG, a young unmarried man. May we not hope that in the fond embrace of that loving mother, who also came with the family, and whose heart had throbbed with a thousand fears for her girl who had gone out from the old home to make for herself a new one, away on the Western Reserve, and the sisters' and brothers' presence and affection were more than compensation for all her heretofore solitary glory?

This year was one fraught with great interest to Strongsville, for we find recorded that during the winter Charlotte WALLACE, who accompanied Mr. WHITNEY and his family back to Ohio, was married to Hollis WHITNEY. I am half inclined to think that that was premeditated and that she came all the way from Vermont to break the previous record of this township, and to inaugurate a custom which, it seems, has prevailed here quite extensively ever since.

We are not informed as to who issued the marriage license, whether it was Moses CLEAVLAND or John FARLEY, but be that as it may, nothing is said in the record, so far as we can find, as to what the bride wore, who gave her away, whether the bridal party were showered with rice, or anything else of importance that occurred at the wedding. Evidently the record from which we take the above facts was kept by a man that didn't know the difference between point lace and a rag carpet, or he would not have neglected all the important features of the occasion.

In 1823 Polly TOWSLEY was married to Elijah BOSWORTH and moved to Strongsville. Like most of the young women of her day she was expert with the spinning wheel and loom, and well she might be, for

on the deftness and swiftness of the fingers of the housewife rested very largely the comfort and happiness of the family in those days. Think of the infinite difference there is now from what it was when the hatcheling, carding, spinning, weaving, cutting and making all had to be done by hand, and often by one pair of hands, and that, too, the hands of the mother! And this was not for herself alone, but for her husband and little ones growing up in the household, with its constant cares and many wants. Yet with all these duties pressing upon her, she found time to let her light so shine that it is lovingly said of Polly TOWSLEY "she was a devoted Christian woman."

In the year 1825 Mira BOSWORTH was born, and when eighteen years of age she taught a district school at seventy-five cents a week and boarded herself. The next year she was married to John Flemming HEAZLET, and died in 1859.

In 1817, Ahijah HAYNES settled in Strongsville with his wife and family, of which were Theodocia, Susan and Lucy. What privations that journey from Sudbury, Mass., brought to those sturdy people one can but imagine.

Susan HAYNES (Mrs. Caleb CARPENTER) was born 1801. She was one of the six children of Ahijah HAYNES, and, being one of the oldest of the family, had her part in the care, labor and privations which belong to pioneer life, Beside the housework, which fell to all, she was teacher in district school. In 1833 she married Caleb CARPENTER and commenced housekeeping in a log house he had built on his farm about three years before, one mile east of the center.

Here she faithfully performed the duties of wife and mother. To be a pioneer needed courage; in this she was not deficient. Her home was a mile from any neighbor, but she remained alone with her children, caring for home and stock when it was necessary for her husband to make a three days' trip to Newburgh with wheat and corn for the family's bread.

At one time while alone, a bear made a raid on the pigpen near the house and carried off a young pig, one which sent back a shrill squeal in the dead of night. There is now standing on the place an apple tree which sprang from the core planted by Mrs. CARPENTER in front of the log house, from an apple Mr. CARPENTER was lucky enough to bring home on one of his trips to Newburgh, being the first fruit she had seen since coming from her eastern home.

Mrs. CARPENTER, like most of the women of her time, was expert at spinning and weaving, and provided the family with wearing apparel. She was a member of the Congregational Church of Strongsville. Her influence was always felt for good in family and neighborhood.

She had five girls and three boys; twice the mother of twins. She died where she lived, in 1841. The lumber for the frame house now standing on the CARPENTER place, was ready for the builder at her death, but she was never to see the new home she had waited for and hoped to enjoy. Do we often think of the privations and hardships our predecessors suffered, to prepare the present comforts and luxuries for our use?

Deborah FISHER, of Canton, Mass., married Apollos SOUTHWORTH and moved to Strongsville in the year 1820, where, with her family, she lived and died, leaving a record behind enshrined in the hearts of those who knew her, of a life well spent and full of good works.

Asa DRAKE came to Strongsville in the year 1820, walking all the way from Stoughton, Mass., bringing with him his wardrobe in a knapsack swung across his back with a cane which had been handed down four generations - the cane still remains in the family. He purchased 170 acres of land in the southeastern part of the township; the next year returning to Stoughton as he came, stopping at Pompey, N.Y., to visit an uncle where he became acquainted with a Miss Charlotte DEAN, whom he afterwards married, bringing her to Strongsville in 1820, with all their wealth stowed away in an ox wagon.

The following is an extract from a letter written by them to his father in December, 1820 (now in possession of their only daughter, Mrs. Thomas BRODIE):

“We left Pompey, N.Y., the 10th of October, and had a prosperous journey, although it rained nearly every day till we arrived at Buffalo, which was the 19th. The roads were muddy but not very deep. After that the weather was very pleasant, but through the beech woods for about 30 miles it was very unpleasant traveling. Through the blessings of God, we enjoyed the comforts of health, which we never can be thankful enough for. We arrived at Strongsville the 30th of October, found Apollos SOUTHWORTH and family well; they have a very fine daughter (Deborah), born the 4th. We expect to leave here in a few days, as our house is nearly ready. Charlotte says she is very well contented and likes the situation of the place, and that is a great consolation to me to have her so contented. You wished me to tell you how the oxen stood the journey. They traveled very well and proved to be tough, hardy yoke of cattle. One of the spokes worked loose in the felly, which appeared to be some rotten, but answered to get here with. We had the good fortune not to leave or lose anything, but found a sixpence, a whip and some old iron, which I sold for two shillings. This from your affectionate children. Charlotte and Asa DRAKE.”

We do not need to be told of the labors and joys and triumphs, the griefs and burdens that fell to the lot of Charlotte DRAKE ere the Master said to her “It is enough; come up higher.”

Mrs. John TARRY (Rosaline CLARK) came to Strongsville in 1820 with her father's family, Timothy CLARK. They came with an ox team from Westerfield, Conn. She, like others of that time, lived in the modest log cabin, remaining in the township seventy-five years. She is now living at Litchfield, Ohio, with a sister's son, Mr. Charles STONE. Suffice it to say she identified herself with this community very early in the period of its existence, and rightfully claims a place for her name in the list of Strongsville pioneers. Relief NEWTON was married to Ebenezer FULLER, July, 1810, and moved to Strongsville in 1826, purchased a farm in the southwestern part of the township which was then a wilderness, and raised twelve children. Was a kind and loving mother, strictly religious, and friendly to all.

Sally DURFEE was married to Oliver Hicks, and in 1834 moved to Strongsville. They built a little log cabin on the western town line, where, it is significantly said, “They could hear the beach nuts rattle down the small, low chimney as the wind swayed the overhanging branches.”

She had to content with sickness, misfortune and poverty, as her husband's health failed, leaving much of the care of clearing away the forest and caring for a family of eleven children upon her hands. She remained in this place until the year 1852, when they sold their farm and moved to Clinton County, Michigan.

Susan HICKS (Mrs. Lyman COBB) came to Strongsville in 1833, at the age of six months, and remained here for twenty years. She was a golden-haired, curly-headed girl, chuck full of fun and mischief. She, like the rest of her neighbors, was poor, but she says of herself, “I was contented and happy.” She received

her education in a little log school house, where, at times, she frankly admits, she was compelled to sit upon or under the cross-legged table for some violation of rules.

She was taught when quite young to do all kinds of housework, such as spinning, weaving, carding and knitting of flax and wool. Think of it, O ye girls of today, who do all your spinning on a pneumatic tire over faultless roadways! How would you like to change places with the girls of long ago?

She moved to Michigan in 1852, where she now resides, and although her brow is furrowed, and the golden hair which once adorned her head is fast giving place to the silver gray, her heart is young, and her mind wanders back to the days of her childhood, where, with her father and mother, brothers and sisters, she lived in the old log house.

Betty Ann BRAINARD married Franklin STRONG in 1835, and settled in the southern part of the township, on what is known as "Stone Hill" where she lived for over fifty years. Even as late as the time of her coming there were to be found deer, bear, and wild turkeys in abundance. She was early left a widow with the care and training of five small children, and she, too, struggled with cares, hardships and privations. A member of the church and always ready to help her neighbors in times of trouble and sickness. She died at the age of 77 years. "And thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Mary HITCHENS married Thomas REED at Sithney, England, and died in this country in 1872, shortly after the birth of their youngest child. Mr. REED came to this country in the year 1837; located in Strongsville, where later on, he was joined by his wife and twelve of their thirteen children; the eldest, Thomas REED, Jr., remaining in the old country. Who can doubt but that her life, too, like those other noble women, was spent in usefulness and Christian love and fortitude?

Hannah, daughter of Wheeler COLE, married Edward Hitchens REED. She was born in Strongsville, 1825, and died 1857, leaving one daughter, Florence, now Mrs. H.K.W. STEBBINS of Youngstown, Ohio.

Mrs. Marvin STONE (Hannah WEST) was born in Ludlow, Mass., and died at Berea 1893. She was married at Strongsville to Marvin STONE in 1834.

Mrs. STONE was a woman of rare gifts and most definite and interesting personality. She inherited a cheerful, courageous spirit, which had been disciplined by trial, united to a clear Christian faith, which did not falter in times of darkness. Her home was always open to friend and stranger, and her hospitality was a characteristic recognized by all who knew her, leading people of all denominations to seek the social joys of her home.

The whole community in which she lived bear willing tribute to her usefulness, which was devoted to its highest public interest, and her kindness and sacrificial spirit as a neighbor and friend. In early times, before the day of professional nurses, she was ever ready to leave her home to watch by the bedside of the sick, or in other ways to minister in sympathy or service.

In the hard time when the farm was not paid for, she wrought to win the day of freedom from debt, and with nine children, all of whom lived to maturity, she fought a good fight, and rejoiced at last in victory. Miss Rosaline Clark STONE was born in Strongsville in 1838. She was married to Rev. Wm. M. INGERSOLL, 1861, and died at Washington, D.C., in 1878. Mrs. INGERSOLL was a woman of rare grace of character and decided conviction as a Christian believer. She won the affection and confidence of all classes as a

pastor's wife, and has left in the places of her husband's pastorate a memory long cherished by those who came under her influence.

Dorothy BRETT came to Strongsville in 1831, when a piece of land they settled upon was a wilderness. She married Stephen ASHBY. By their untiring efforts that wilderness farm was transformed into a home of comfort. She was an invalid for many years, being afflicted with palsy, and, prior to her affliction, a woman of unusual energy and ambition. She was tenderly cared for by her daughter Jane through all her declining years.

Betsy, the oldest daughter, who married Russell FREEMAN in 1838, at the age of 18, settled on a farm in this township where she lived for over fifty years.

Jane ASHBY, another daughter, married Jonathan Hubbard HANCOCK. She was a consistent Christian and lived in Strongsville for over fifty years. She was a model housekeeper and a true friend.

Judith A. POTTER, the wife of William BARBER, arrived in Strongsville 1841, where she still resides. She was a good nurse, a kind and sympathetic woman.

Mrs. Daniel DRAPER (Sarah SAVERY) came to Strongsville with her husband and four children from Wantage, Eng. There were six weeks crossing the ocean and two weeks coming from N.Y., arriving here July, 1837, where seven more children were born. She lived here until the time of her death, which occurred September, 1881.

Achsah COLBURN, wife of Elijah LYMAN, came to Strongsville in 1846. She was a woman of fine, Christian and educational attainments. Her life was a very busy one and very helpful to those under her instruction. In her early years at Strongsville, she was more or less engaged in literary work, being for some years a paid contributor to the "Rural America," published at Utica, N.Y.; also, to the "Guide to Holiness," a monthly magazine, published at Boston, Mass., and an occasional contributor to the "Oberlin Evangelist," and "Christian Press," of Cincinnati. When the "Ohio Farmer" first came out in Cleveland, the first paper in the state that was entirely devoted to the interests of farmers and their families, she adopted it at once, as did also her husband, and contributed to its columns quite frequently as long as the first editor (Thomas BROWN, Esq.) remained in charge.

Mr. and Mrs. Thaddeus LATHROP (Betsy EASTMAN) and family came to Strongsville in 1819, from Connecticut. The journey in those days was a slow and tedious one, the hardships of pioneer life which they encountered would appear to the younger generation almost incredible.

Did you ever visit a cemetery and there give reign to your thoughts? Go with me, if you will, to that little spot where death laid his first victim. If you need the inscription on the stone that loving hands have since raised over the spot, you will simply read that on such a day, Polly, wife of Lyman STRONG, died; and as you mark the ever-increasing number of those mounds, and read the bare statement that on such a day this one or that one fell, you will get all the English language can convey of those sad events.

Susan LATHROP (Mrs. Benjamin TUTTLE), daughter of Thaddeus LATHROP, on one occasion, while employed as a teacher, saw a huge rattlesnake stretched at full length across the threshold. Instantly a small boy was out at an opening in the wall, which served as a window, and ran to a field where some men were working, who came and dispatched the snake before school could be resumed.

Asher SELOVER and wife (Ruth BAKER) came to Strongsville in 1841, purchased a farm on what is known as the Berea Road. Mrs. SELOVER was a daughter of Capt. Peter BAKER, one of the old Revolutionary soldiers, who suffered with hunger, lacerated feet and little clothing on that long, cold winter at Valley Forge. Mrs. SELOVER died some years ago, leaving a large family, most of whom are living in Ohio.

Mrs. Nathan FOSTER, nee Betsey HULET, was born in Lee, Berkshire County, Mass., April, 1811. In 1816 her father's family removed to Brunswick, Medina County, O., and suffered many dangers, hardships and privations.

November, 1832, there was a double wedding in John JULET's home, when his daughters, Jane Terena and Betsey, were married, the first becoming Mrs. Aaron PORTER, and Betsey, Mrs. Nathan FOSTER. The ceremony was performed by Rev. John JANES, of precious memory. His wife and infant daughter, now Mrs. Mary B. INGHAM, of Cleveland, were present.

Soon after marriage the young couples located in Albion, living in the same house. There Jane, Mrs. FOSTER's eldest child, was born. Mr. FOSTER purchased a farm one half mile east of Albion and built, in the then thick woods, the log house which, as the years sped past, became too small for the growing family, and was abandoned for the new brick house erected a little east of the old cabin. Mrs. FOSTER is the mother of three sons and five daughters; all except the youngest, Fannie, who died in infancy, are still living. Jane married Frederick J. BARTLETT, and resides at Cedar Point, this county. Mary became the wife of Mitchell CLARK and was widowed in early life. She subsequently married J.T. HULET; her home is in Berea. Hanna A. lives with her parents; and Emily M., wife of Rev. J.P. MILLS, owing to her relation to the itineracy, has "here no continuing city."

Two daughters and the three sons are college graduates. Mrs. FOSTER's father was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, as were three of her uncles. Her eldest brother served in the war of 1812, and George H., her eldest son, in our civil war. Mrs. FOSTER, at eighty-six, is bright and active, both in home duties and the various church and reform societies of which she is a member. As a "real" daughter of the American Revolution she was recently presented with an elegant souvenir spoon, from Washington, D.C., through the "Western Reserve" Chapter, Cleveland, of which she is a member. Well posted on the vital questions which are stirring society, and with mental powers still forceful, she is spending her sunset days in her pleasant Berea home.

Hanna A. FOSTER, daughter of Betsey HULET FOSTER, should not be omitted from this memorial, originated and sponsored by Cleveland women, with whom she has long been intimately associated, and by whom she is admired and loved. A valued member of the Ohio Woman's Press Club, a poet of more than local reputation, gentle, refined, and unselfish to the degree of immolation, her life has been one of devotion to others. At the celebration of Cleveland's Centennial birthday, she easily won the prize offered for the best written ode for the occasion. As non de plumes were signed to all the poems, the judges had no idea to whom they belonged until after a decision had been reached.

Miss FOSTER's dainty verse and prose have not only graced the pages of print, but have contributed much to the pleasure of church anniversaries and college reunions in the town in which she resides. Lucy A. WHITMAN (Mrs. Lucy A. MERRICK) was born at East Haddam, Conn., 1817, and her girlhood days were spent in Connecticut and New York. At the age of twenty years, she came with her father's family to Brunswick, Medina County, Ohio, and two years later, 1839, married Edgar M. MERRICK, and migrated to Strongsville, settling on a farm. Mrs. MERRICK had two sons, J.E. and H.W. MERRICK, who are still

residents of the town. The father, Edgar M. MERRICK, died September 1889, at the ripe old age of eighty-three years, their wedded life being a period of fifty years and two days.

Mrs. MERRICK has been a resident of Strongsville for fifty-seven years, and during that time has seen the city of Cleveland grown from a mere village to a mighty city, second to none in the great state of Ohio. Rosanna BOSWORTH, wife of Russell HARRIS, was born in Herkomer County, N.Y. 1796, married in Perrington, N.Y. Coming to Ohio about 1821, rode most of the way in a sleigh on the border of Lake Erie and settled on Strongsville.

She had ten children, the first child born 1818, in Monroe County, N.Y.

Mrs. HARRIS died in Cleveland, August 23, 1878, and was buried in Riverside cemetery. She would have been 100 years old had she lived this centennial year. A daughter of John BOSWORTH, Baptist minister, she was a member of the Baptist Church all her life, a good, Christian woman; and her daughter, Mr. M.A. HAMMOUR, resides on Case Avenue, Cleveland.

Among the first settlers in Strongsville township were Jonathan POPE and wife (Kezia June), with their family of four sons and four daughters, one daughter remaining in New Bedford, Mass., from whence the family emigrated.

The oldest son came a year in advance of the rest of the family, and upon his departure from home his mother made for him a knapsack, which, when filled weighted twenty-five pounds. Curious to know the contents, he began to investigate, and almost the first thing that met his eye was, as he termed it, the "family chart," the precious Bible, which made such an impression upon him that even in his last years he often referred to it.

Her family were remarkable for their piety. She brought her strong faith and trust in God with her to her wilderness home, and always made religion paramount to everything else. A Methodist church was organized at their house soon after their arrival, and she did much toward molding the religious sentiment of the community.

She cheerfully and bravely bore the burdens and hardships of pioneer life, and in every way possible, by her industry and frugality, helped to sustain and rear her family.

To her latest day every philanthropic and Christian work received her hearty sympathy and support. She lived to a ripe old age, respected by everyone.

Her children emulated her example and carried out in their lives the principles which were taught and practiced by her.

They all now have left the shore of time, but their influence is still felt, and the world is the better for their having lived in it.

Of her descendants two grandchildren, Dr. Harlan POMEFOY and Mr. Frederick D. POP, and four great-grandchildren, Mr. F.T. POMEROY, Mrs. Ida POPE McKINSTRY, Miss Hattie L. POP, a teacher in the High Schools, and Miss Julia POPE, are residents of Cleveland.

Mrs. Kezia POPE POMEROY came from New Bedford, Mass., with her father's family in the year 1819, at the age of ten years, to make a new home in the forests of Ohio. They settled in Strongsville. The hardships of pioneer life only helped to develop the noble self-sacrificing character that has left a lasting influence upon all with whom she came in contact. She was married in January, 1831, to Alanson POMEROY, and proved indeed a helpmate in the truest and highest sense of the word. Always interested in her husband's line of business she was a continual strength to him. The love and devotion she always gave her family was most beautifully returned to her by both her sons and daughters.

Wise in her counsel she helped and uplifted all who came in her presence. She and her husband were strong forces in building and maintaining the town that was their home for many years, giving liberally of their means as God had prospered them. No weary heart or empty hand ever appealed to her in vain. Many a weary one has been cheered by her kindly remembrance. Of the nine children that blessed their home six are still living. Her three daughters are Mrs. Henry DAY, Elyria, O., Mrs. C.W.D. MILLER, formerly of Berea, now living in Santa Barbara, Cal.; Mrs. W.W. SMITH, Litchfield, O.

In June, 1819, Guilford WHITNEY's second daughter, Vina, married Retire Grove STRONG, the young man who had accompanied the family from Vermont. Thirteen children were added to this home, only seven living to maturity. Her life work was finished at the age of forty years. (She must have suffered the pangs and perils of maternity, added to that of pioneer life oftener than every two years).

At one time she was very ill, and help was needed. Her husband's brother, Lyman STRONG, who was a cripple, having lost one leg, took a tallow candle in his hand and started through the woods on his crutches, going from the STRONG homestead to Albion, one mile distant, not over brick pavement, but over logs, through the dense forest, and wading the river. Had his feeble light gone out he would have been obliged to remain just where he was with the wolves howling around him.

Her eldest daughter, Marcia A., born in 1823, became the wife of Robert M. ASHLEY, and died in 1853. Her second daughter, Mary D., born in 1825, married William H. ASHLEY, in 1849. Her death occurred in September, 1854. Her third daughter, Harriet E., born in 1832, married Chipman STRONG. He lived but a few years. After his decease she married Edward H. REED, with whom she lived happily sixteen years, when the angel of death called her home in November, 1880, after many months of intense suffering. To know her was to love her, for she was a noble Christian woman, always ready to do her part in every good work. During the civil war she was one of the leading workers who sent help to the soldiers. Her life and work long will be remembered.

The fourth daughter, Vina W., born in 1834, married Leland SPENCER, and removed to Wisconsin, 1870. Their second son, D. Merrick STRONG, married Miss Almira BRYANT, daughter of Francis S. and Betsey E. BRYANT, who came to Strongsville from Coshocton County, Ohio, in 1844, but formerly from Nelson, New Hampshire. Mrs. BRYANT died in 1865, an active member of the Baptist Church, then existing in Albion. Almira B. STRONG and husband still live on the old homestead where they have lived together for over 42 years, can tell many interesting things in regard to the early days of Strongsville.

Ann E. BRYANT, her eldest sister, married Laban HEAZLIT in 1836, and removed to Strongsville the same year from Coshocton County, and lived here until 1865, when she was called home.

Mrs. Charles DRAKE, nee Elizabeth BEAHAM, was born in Worcestershire, England, in 1840. When she was eleven months of age her parents started with her to America. Upon reaching Liverpool they wanted to do some shopping, and, as the captain of the steamer assured them of two or three hours before

starting, they left little Elizabeth with some friends and went on a shopping tour. Imagine their surprise and grief to find, on their return, the boat had gone and their babe with it! The captain, however, tried to make amends for his blunder by being as generous as possible in every way, furnishing the milk for the little one. After being four weeks on the water they reached New York, and then were obliged to wait three weeks for the mother, who found her little one just alive. They remained in New York a few days, while the babe recuperated, and then started for Cleveland, and finally found their way to Strongsville, Ohio, where they settled. Mrs. DRAKE's mother was a Methodist preacher.

Very early in the history of this township we find that the good people were laying the foundation for more than the present life, for as early as 1817 the First Congregational Church was organized with a membership of eight persons. They were: Seth GOODWIN and Deborah, his wife; Ahijah HAYNES and Jerusha, his wife; Guilford WHITNEY and Anna, his wife; Hollis WHITNEY and Barnicey HILLIARD. Of the noble men and women who got the first religious training (outside of their home) in this church, it is not in our province to speak. The list of ministers, judges, physicians, lawyers and soldiers would reach a score.

But these pages are devoted to women only, and hence their names and deeds, be they ever so brilliant and honored, must seek a record elsewhere; but that they need to be commemorated by a free and prosperous people, I pause from my present task just long enough to inscribe right here, in honor of the "pioneer women," whose blood coursed through their veins, the fact that no less than twenty of this township's noblest and best young men answered to their country's call in her hour of its greatest distress; eleven of that number have answered their last "roll call," and others bearing about in their bodies the marks of their loyalty, are waiting with lowered heads and listening ears, for the bugle call for the last muster out.

Names of other noble women who came to this township as late as 1846 have been handed us; to give but the most meager sketch of all their lives would require more time and space than a work like this would warrant; and, besides, Strongsville could hardly have been said to be a pioneer town as late as 1846. That much as has been left out in the story of the lives of those women whose names appear in these pages, no one is more conscious than the writer. The most that could be looked for would be just a word here and there, and the reader must fill in the space and be able to read between the lines.

What part those women took in the shaping of the thoughts of today, we shall never fully know in this life. How much of the spirit that was in them was bequeathed to their offspring, and served them well as they followed their country's flag in after years through bloody conflicts, some to prison and some to death, and others with stricken bodies, back to their peaceful walks of life, is hid away in the bosom of God. But that a nobler harvest has been gathered and multitudes of noble men and women trained and fitted for the varied duties of life have gone forth from those Strongsville homes to add to the wealth and worth of other homes and other lands, we are sure.

Looking back over all these years, and contemplating the fruit of their hands, the outcome of their undertakings, and the possibilities of the future, we would stop with reverence beside their tombs; and summing up all our respect and admiration and wonder and love for them into one word, we would write on the marble slabs that silently mark their resting place, pioneer.

Mrs. Elizabeth BARTLETT CANNIFF
Historian

Committee, Mrs. Mary Jane HENDERSHOT BARTLETT, Mrs. Hattie STRONG CLARK, Miss Tamzen HAYNES,
Mrs. Minnie WINTERBURN LATHROP, Mrs. Orilla CROSS GRAVES, Mrs. Eva CURTIS WARD